

COST Action E43 on Harmonisation of national forest inventories in Europe:
Techniques for common reporting

**Work plan for the WG1 STSM from 7 March to 24 March 2005
in Birmensdorf, Switzerland**

The participants of the short-term scientific mission (STSM) will be briefed and supported on site by the Deputy Leader of Working Group 1 (WG1) of Action E43, Dr. Adrian Lanz.

The below listed routing is intended, and in conformance with the work plan of WG1:

- a. Review and analysis of the individual NFI descriptions collected by WG1 in autumn 2004 (check for completeness, correctness and consistency, make enhancement if possible);
- b. Review and analysis of the individual NFI questionnaires collected by WG1 in February 2005 (check for completeness, correctness and consistency, make enhancement if possible);
- c. Comparison of NFI systems in Europe based on these NFI descriptions and NFI questionnaires, primarily with respect to definitions and measurement techniques relevant to the outcome of total volume estimates;
- d. Analysis of existing standards and definitions (TBFRA2000, FRA2005, and others);
- e. Finding differences between international and national definitions and threshold values, and evaluation of their impacts on forest area and volume estimates;
- f. Proposal of references for common reporting, and identification of data needs from individual countries in order that high-quality forest inventory statistics can be compiled for these references at the European level;
- g. Elaboration of methods to assess the quality of estimates at the national and mainly international level (errors and biases);
- h. Calculation of examples of harmonised statistics and comparison with existing tables;
- i. Proposal for case studies in individual countries enhancing the quality of harmonised tables;
- j. Preparation of a written report and a oral presentation of the work and results achieved during the STSM for the attention of the WG1 at its meeting in April 2005 in Vienna;
- k. Finalisation of the individual scientific reports to the Chair of the Action as required by the Guidelines for the implementation of a COST STSM.

Steps a-f and j-k are must-haves; g-i nice-to-haves (first attempts, proposals, ideas for next steps of WG1).