

www.ricercaforestale.it the Italian web portal of the forest sector

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The Italian portal on research and practice in forestry, was built to establish a permanent scientific network for the entire Italian scientific and non-scientific community. The portal is part of a project which:

- cover all scientific and technical topics of the sector;
- promote and increase communication between researchers, technical personnel, stakeholders and amateurs;
- re-organise acquired knowledge within each discipline and make it exploitable through easily accessible and continuously upgraded databases;
- provide experts a new working tool;
- bridging the gap between science and public.

In the web portal www.ricercaforestale.it provide a directory of experts and practitioners, the who's who and whereabouts on a given topic and an interdisciplinary library with 'grey literature' documents. Moreover a research projects database, a commented collection of rules, the state-of-the-art and the update on the progress in each discipline were implemented.

Also a system to facilitate knowledge transfer and data exchange in the forest management sector and towards the public opinion was developed. The system, which has a user-friendly interface, produces web pages containing cartography, alphanumerical data and some queries on the forest management data of the Trentino Region (North-eastern Italy).

We used free software so as to produce a cheap and flexible tool that could be easily used by any forest administration. Data are encoded in XML files so they could be available in output formats such as web page, text document and electronic spreadsheet. The XML standard also provide high compliance with different systems and machines.

In the future this could be the first step for a possible standard for data exchange in Italian Forestry and it may be useful at European scale too.