

FOREST TO LIVE: THE ECO-SUSTAINABLE FRUITION OF THE  
REGIONAL FOREST PATRIMONY

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### Abstract

The Regional Agency for the Services to Agriculture and Forests (ERSAF) of the Lombardy Region manages the Regional Forest Patrimony (Forests of Lombardy) extended for beyond 23.000 hectares and divided in twenty districts mainly displaced along the alpine and pre-alpine belt. Since 2003 ERSAF together with the Lombardy Region has started a series of actions for the valorisation, the promotion and the environmental and tourist improvement of the forest patrimony by which it stands out the initiative *Forests to live*. This is a composite set of cultural events, educational and recreational ones which draw up citizens to the nature and environmental topics. In fact, the growing demand for amusement and use of green areas by the Lombard citizens has addressed in the last years forest management politics, matching the environmental protection and safeguard with a sustainable use of wood, but especially with a witting tourist and recreational fruition.

In order to give run to the change, ERSAF is in charge of the organization and management of this events in synergy with the local partners. All that represents an opportunity of economic and cultural development for the involved areas, therefore helping and stimulating local communities to promote and use the precious environmental resources through a ethic and sustainable approach.

In the past editions a large participation of audience has been recorded, with the realization of more than 300 events and 60.000 attendances, which have enabled the development of promotion and dissemination side-activities; the creation of a web site: [www.forestedavivere.it](http://www.forestedavivere.it), press and journalistic issues, structural and infrastructural actions which will improve accesses and good fruition to the Forests of Lombardy.

*Forests to live* represents an example, probably improvable but still very meaningful, of how it is possible to work upon a commitment: the protection of the territory, up to transform it in an opportunity of sustainable approach and utilisation.

The apparent contrast finds its solution in the ethical practice, illustrated and promoted into the *Paper of the Forests* and pursued in a shared way between Lombardy Region, ERSAF, local Agencies, Municipalities, partners and stakeholders.

### Key Words

Forest, recreation, urban, amusement, events