

Mediterranean
Model Forest Network

Innovations and networking
in European Forestry

ONEforest
Final Conference



18-19 April 2024
VALLADOLID



Model Forest Istria

Main activities and achievements

Speaker: Josip Marino Šimić, vice president of MF Istria

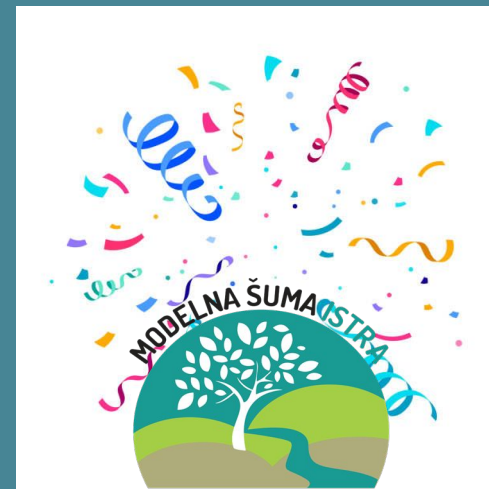


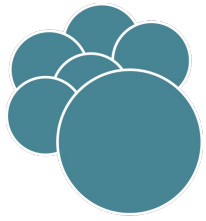
Mediterranean
Model Forest Network



*Model Forest Istria is a member
of the Mediterranean Model
Forest Network since 2014*

*This year we celebrate 10th
anniversary of MF Istria*





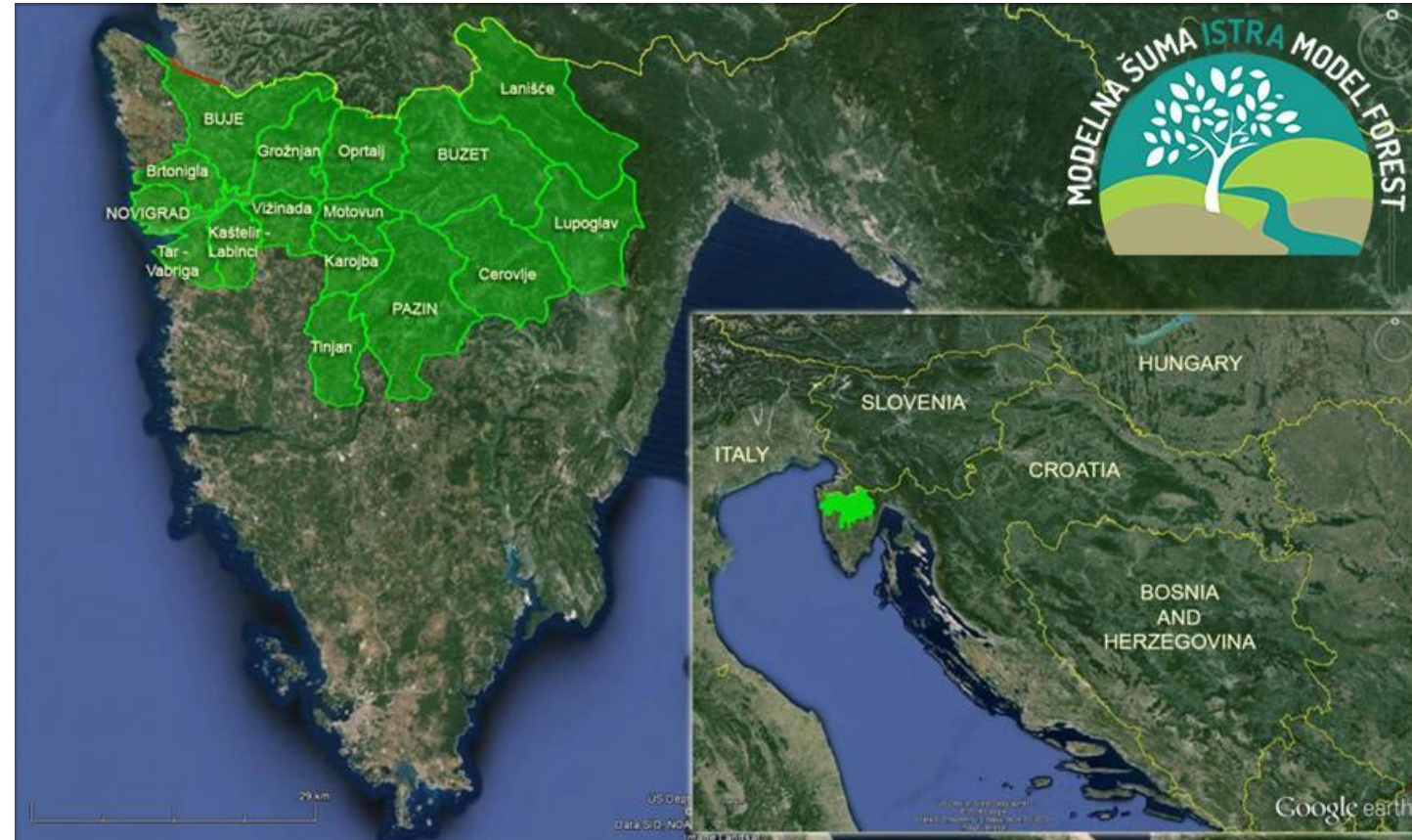
Map of the Model Forest Istria

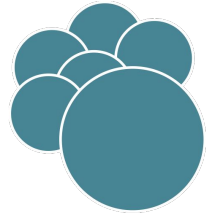


- It covers the entire north and a good part of central Istria

- The area includes; Mediterranean, Continental and Mountain forests plus agricultural areas, towns and villages

- 4 cities and 12 municipalities represent the territory of the Model Forest of Istria



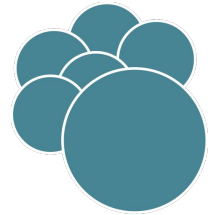


Model Forest Istria implemented projects



- Protection and valorization of truffle habitats in river Mirna basin and Motovun Forest : „**Strategy for sustainable truffle management in Istrian Region**” 2014
- Valorization of non wood forest products of the territory: „**Traceability of the products in MF Istria**” 2015
- Program „**Forest Pedagogy in Istria**” 2018 – Trainings, workshops, publications in forest pedagogy
- Published a book „**Mushrooms of the River Mirna Basin**” – Description of 173 mushroom species 2020
- **Erasmus+ projects:**
 - „Education for sustainable development in Mediterranean MF”
 - „Cooperation and education as keys to sustainable development” 2020 - 2022
- „**Festival of Forests and Forest Fruits**” 2022 – An event promoting forests and their benefits at the territory of the MF Istria

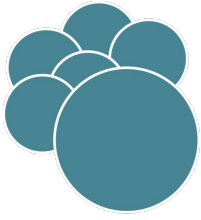




The goals of the Festival of Forests and Forest Fruits

- Development of the Municipality of Lanišće - cooperation with the local community and residents of the mountain area
- Improvement of the production of local and natural products (food, herbal products and cosmetics, useful and artistic items, handicrafts...)
- Enrichment of the rural tourism through innovative services and local products **"from the forest"**
- Education for rural development - promotion of forestry and model forests
- Keeping people in rural areas through the realization of additional incomes **„from the forest”**
- We promote Istria as a region of healthy life through innovative practices – **as forest therapy and forest pedagogy**





Ongoing EU projects in MF Istria



- **ERASMUS+ „ In the Forest as in the Classroom „**

2024 - 2025 MF Istria is a lead partner

Partners: Slovenian Forest Institute, Public Open University, Elementary school, Kindergarten

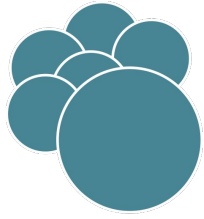
Aim of the project:

- Exchange of good practices in forest pedagogy between Slovenian and Croatian partners
- Training of educators in forest pedagogy
- Development of Training Modules for training of educators in forest pedagogy (e- book)

- **HORIZON 2020: DigiMedFor** – *Digital tools and technology systems for the sustainable management of Mediterranean forest resources 2023 – 2026*

Model Forest Istria is a replication site for tool testing





New cooperations and initiatives



• FSC International-Adria-Balkan region

Development of „Educational material for children and young adults”

The aim of the material:

Children and young adults develop:

- *understanding of the forest and it's many uses*
- *ecologic and economic role of the forest*
- *and the importance of sustainable forestry*

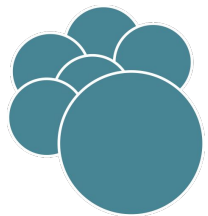


Duration: until the end of 2024

Outputs:

1. Gather Information on how other organizations tackle similar topics
2. Create comprehensible & relevant teaching materials for age group 12 -17
3. Present information in appealing way (printed & digital)
4. Test toolkit in educational facilities & gather feedback
5. Offer & promote to educational staff

Cooperation with high schools in Istria and other parts of Croatia



Main projects in the MF Istra



1

Erasmus + „ In the Forest as in the Classroom „

- Development of Training Modules for educators in forest pedagogy

2

Festival of Forest and Forest Fruits

- Values and benefits of forests and forest resources for all generations

3

Forest Pedagogy in Istria

- Workshops for children
- Trainings for adults
- Educational materials



Thank you for
your attention!



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Model Forest Network



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