

# StarTree Newsletter 1-2013

*StarTree is an EU FP7-Collaborative Project exploring the use of Multi-Purpose Trees (MPT) and Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP) for innovative forestry in rural areas. The StarTree Newsletter brings the latest findings, trends, and activities related to MPT & NWFP to your inbox.*

## Welcome to StarTree!



StarTree is a new project that will show how Multi-Purpose Trees (MPT) and Non Wood Forest Products

(NWFP) can be used to strengthen and diversify economic activities in rural areas.

StarTree is based on an integrated approach, identifying challenges and proposing solutions to enhance the management, product development, innovation, multi-stakeholder dialogue and marketing of MPT and NWFP.

StarTree brings together key research organisations and specialised small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on MPT and NWFP throughout Europe to ensure and speed up the transfer of research and innovations to markets.

StarTree is funded by the European Union through the European Commission's FP7 Cooperation Work Programme.



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## StarTree General Assembly in Lisbon, Oct 28–30, 2013



The 3<sup>rd</sup> StarTree General Assembly (GA) took place in Lisbon, Portugal, 28–30 October 2013. Hosted by the [Instituto Superior de Agronomia \(ISA\)](http://www.isa.ucp.pt), this biannual gathering of the StarTree partners was attended by 48 representatives.

Highlights were the field trip to Coruche county to explore stone pine and cork oak stands, the visit of cork stopper production in Europe's largest cork mill, Amorim, and the Knowledge Exchange Event in the Coruche Cork Observatory.



More news at:

<http://www.star-tree.eu>



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## Bringing people together: Regional Stakeholder Groups

StarTree is strongly rooted in applied research to provide better understanding, knowledge, guidance and tools to support the management, production and marketing of NWFP. For this purpose we need to communicate with our stakeholders directly. Our main target groups are forest owners, resource managers, enterprises, decision makers, and other public and private entities.



Regional Stakeholder Groups (RSGs) are formed to identify and address stakeholder needs, and amalgamate the latest scientific knowledge with practical demands.

StarTree RSGs have been formed in 14 regions across Europe. This issue gives a short overview of the first stakeholder events.

### Catalonia, Spain

21 representatives of public and private institutions concerned with non-wood forest products met in Barcelona to launch the expert panel for Catalonia. The discussion was mainly focused on the production, picking and marketing of mushrooms. Also developing new concepts for mycotourism and advanced silvicultural techniques were brought up.

[Read more on Catalonia](#)

### Waldmärker Region, Germany

Waldmärker, the Northern German case, welcomed 10 participants in its RSG. The discussions focused on the potential of decorative material for floristic products. They also concluded that in the absence of regional value chains, new ways of commercialisation have to be developed to render NWFP competitive.

[Read more on Waldmärker](#)

### Bursa Province, Turkey

The first Bursa regional stakeholder workshop was held with great enthusiasm. Huge opportunities are seen in new concepts of multi-use forest management and expansion of NWFP production, e.g. with chestnut.

[Read more on Bursa](#)

### Šumadija and Western Serbia, Serbia

Representatives of 13 private and public institutions active in the NWFP sector attended the first Šumadija and Western Serbia stakeholder meeting in Belgrade. The discussion focused on the importance of cooperation of public and private sector in the domain of NWFP.

[Read more on Šumadija and Western Serbia](#)



## North-Karelia, Finland

The North-Karelian RSG meeting in Joensuu, Finland, noted that mushrooms and berries play a vital role in the region. For supporting NWFP business, market and product development were widely discussed as one demand towards StarTree. Needs for innovation and trans-boundary cooperation were highlighted.

[Read more on North-Karelia](#)

## Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy

Two RSG meetings were held for the Italian case study in Trentino-Alto Adige. There were discussions with both forest authorities and private sector representatives to set the stage for common innovation potentials. The case study region focuses on the production and marketing of mushrooms, truffles, and chestnuts.

[Read more on Trentino-Alto Adige](#)

## West Wales and the Valleys Region, UK

Better marketing of NWFP was among the main topics of RSG meeting in Wales. Earlier, during the Royal Welsh Show, the biggest agricultural show in Europe, stakeholders and members of the general public had visited the StarTree stand and shown great interest in the project. Trade shows are a great way to disseminate information in your region, so check for events in your area!

[Read more on West Wales & The Valleys](#)

## Province of Valladolid, Spain

The RSG in Valladolid, Spain discussed synergies between wood and non-wood products. As a follow-up, a field trip brought stakeholders of the region together to explore the future potential of Stone pine and pistachio nut as novel nut crops in the Spanish interior.

[Read more on Valladolid](#)

## Osrednjeslovenska Region, Slovenia

The RSG of the Osrednjeslovenia region in Ljubljana discussed the potential role of StarTree in supporting new business ideas. Hot topics were mushroom picking, cultivation of truffles, and climbing consoles made of low-quality timber using new technologies.

[Read more on Osrednjeslovenia](#)

## And more RSG enrolled recently

And finally, in recent weeks, we heard that a lot of other RSGs kicked off. We will highlight the focus of discussion there in one of our next issues. Congratulations to all the local actors, we look forward to hearing more from you!

[Read more on Suceava case study \(Romania\)](#)

[Read more on Styria Region case study \(Austria\)](#)

[Read more on Alentejo Region case study \(Portugal\)](#)

[Read more on the Eastern Scotland case study](#)

[Read more on the Latvian case study](#)

