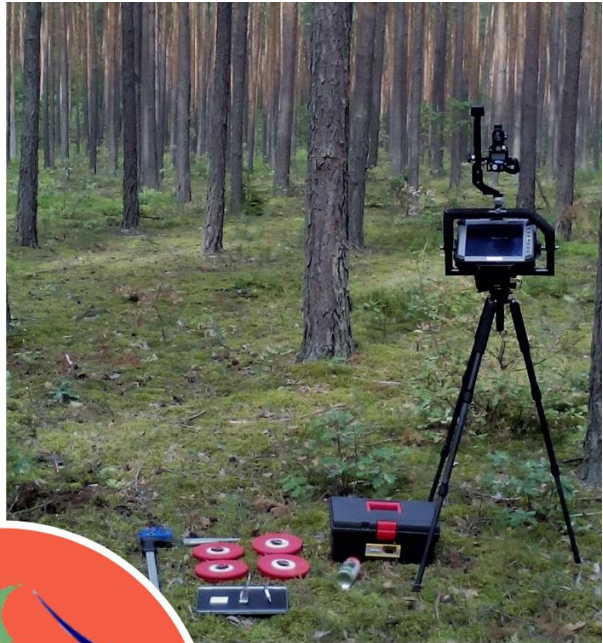


# FORZA Annual Report 2022



FORZA ANNUAL REPORT 2022

<https://forza.org.ua/>

FORZA NGO is 13 years old. This means more than 13 years of working towards the promotion of sustainable development of the Carpathian region of Ukraine in the economic, environmental, and social aspects of natural resource management and community development (FORZA mission).

Due to the Russian aggression aimed at destroying Ukraine as an independent state in 2022, we had to adjust our work to martial law and changed conditions. During this year, our work was driven by the idea that we should do the maximum to support our citizens, enhance their capacities, continue and finalise our projects to the best possible extent.

We believe the post-war reconstruction should ensure sustainable economic and community development using the best available international experience, technologies, and practices, which we continued to explore in various projects and initiatives.

## PROJECTS

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FORZA in 2022 was active in many projects, particularly in Horizon 2020 and European Neighborhood Instrument, but also US Forest Service programs, relating to four groups of topics:

### FORESTRY, INNOVATIONS and DIGITALIZATION

[Rosewood4.0](#): EU network of Regions On Sustainable WOOD mobilization ready for Digitalization  
Horizon 2020 project is a network of EU regions promoting sustainable wood mobilisation & connecting forestry stakeholders across Europe. FORZA has led the Central East Europe Regional Hub and provided input into the extensive dissemination of best practices feeding directly into the Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) in forestry.

[iTree4UA](#): Transparent and participatory system of green areas inventory in Ukraine: supported by local volunteers, FORZA made an inventory of 200+ trees in Uzhhorod. Using a special software called iTree, we assessed and widely publicized the benefits and ecosystem services the trees provide the city, including in monetary terms. The project was a collaboration of several NGOs and communities in Ukraine supported by the US Forest Service.

[Tricolor](#) is a collaboration between Sweden, Ukraine, and Estonia to strengthen the multi-actor interregional network for the use of biomass for sustainable heat or electricity production (funded by the Swedish Institute).

**Provision of technical support for selected laboratories for testing wooden windows in Ukraine and SMEs' awareness:** UNIDO, Bern University of Applied Sciences, and FORZA are working on building technical capacities of selected Ukrainian testing laboratories to strengthen quality and standards compliance services of wooden windows.

### FORESTRY and NATURE SOLUTIONS

[Roads to healthy forests](#): this ENI CBC HUSKROUA project, supported by the European Union, aims at transforming the damaged forests into more sustainable multispecies forests and species able to adapt to changing climate in the Slovak-Ukrainian cross-border region. In Ukraine, two forest roads to the climate-affected forest sites have been built; construction of a forest nursery is in full swing, and set up of the Demonstration and Information Center "Forest and Climate" has started. On top of that, in 2023, we will concentrate on the study tours and field training of forestry practitioners on managing resilient and climate-adapted forests in Ukraine and Slovakia.

[INSITU: Local Nature-based Solutions In flood-affected communities](#) is a response to the devastating flood of June 2020 that was one of the worst in Ukraine and Carpathian communities. With the financial support of the Swiss Government, we trained the communities and equipped them with so-called “alert boxes” to be better prepared for future floods and emergencies. The highlight of the project is the community mobilization around building bio-based river embankment enforcement based on the “nature-based solutions” approach to protect households (120 m in length) and developing a community emergency flood management plan.

[Watershed condition classification – transfer of United States Forest Service experience to Ukraine](#) project focuses on the improvement of the forest management methods in the Ukrainian Carpathians in line with watershed-based management of natural resources. We worked on the recommendations for watershed condition assessment for practical foresters of Ukraine as a basis for management decisions on watershed health.

[US Forest Service Water quality best management practices for Ukraine](#) is a collaboration project with the US Forest Service that aims at delivering technical and practical knowledge on the watershed condition classification and best forest management practices to Ukrainian forestry researchers, forest inventory specialists and engineers, forest roads engineers, chief foresters and forest managers. Due to the Russian aggression to Ukraine and associated safety and security risks the training by the USFS experts is postponed to 2023 and will be held on-line.

[Forza Wildland Fire Support Program](#) is running already for several years. It supports capacity building for institutions and emergency responders in Ukraine to reduce the growing risks of wildland fire in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone and outside. With technical support from the U.S. Forest Service experts, many efforts were targeted at the training and capacity development of foresters and emergency services personnel in Ukraine. Good progress was made in anchoring the After Action Review in the daily practice of emergency services by the facilitators earlier trained by U.S. experts. The staff of the EOC created for the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone learned on the functions, tasks and composition of an EOC. However, due to the strain of the war in Ukraine, the project has accelerated into assistance to address the critical supply and equipment gaps Ukrainian emergency response agencies are facing due to destruction and/or theft by Russian forces, including generators, fire hoses, safety and other equipment. Those are meant for Kyiv, Dnipro, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhka regional SESUs.

## **FORESTS and SOCIETY**

[Fem4Forests](#) (Forests in Women's Hands) project of the Danube Transnational Program involves partners from 10 Danube countries and aims at strengthening the forestry sector in the Danube region through greater involvement of women. The project allowed us to study and compare the role of women in the Danube Region, to develop tools (e.g. training and mentoring programs) and to transfer examples of good practices among countries (e.g. forest walks). The highlight of the project is that in 2022 together with 5 other countries, we have co-funded an international umbrella association WOFO (Women in Forestry International).

**Creating an educational and training platform for professional and personal development of women in the forest sector of Ukraine** project supported by the Ukrainian Women's Fund goes hand in hand with the Fem4Forest and aims at creating a virtual (FB) network of women who work in forestry. The topics for Women in Forestry FB group are related to mutual assistance, education, training, inspiring role models, exchange of best practices, exchange of information about career / professional opportunities for women in the forestry industry of Ukraine.

**Forest-related Knowledge Sharing System in Ukraine** is a new project within the Cooperation in Forest Research Ukraine-Switzerland 2021-2024 that has just started in 2022 in partnership with Swiss Federal Research Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape WSL. We want to create a deeper understanding of the main players and processes in forest-related knowledge sharing in Ukraine with a focus on the Carpathian region.

[Youth Green Conference](#). We are always happy to invite youngsters to engage in a dialogue on the topic of a sustainable green future for Europe and spend quality time in nature. In 2022 it was possible as part of a successful week-long youth conference where young people from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Ukraine worked on a joint Charter 'Sustainable Green Europe' (Erasmus+ project).

## SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

[SUMCITYNET](#): cities towards increasing accessibility and sustainable climate-proof urban mobility is a cross-border collaboration project of Poland, Belarus (until 24.02.2022) and Ukraine within the ENI CBC Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2014-2020 with the support of the European Union. The project is important because it improves the accessibility of urban areas and provides solutions to sustainable and effective mobility and transport. Two Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans and the introduction of innovative solutions in project partner cities serve to advance the accessibility and comfort of citizens in their mobility needs. The planning documents are supported with sustainable mobility infrastructure improvements, e.g. in Uzhhorod, covered bicycle parkings, parklets at the main city hubs, uplifted pedestrian road crossings, sidewalk pavement depressions, and tactile pavings for visually impaired people.

In [Bike Accent: Bicycle Accessibility Networking Territories](#) the project partners from Ukraine and Slovakia worked together to improve cycling infrastructure in the cross-border area of the two countries. Elaboration of 2 important documents - long-distance cycling routes concept for Zakarpattia region and technical design documentation for cycling infrastructure from Uzhhorod to M. Selmenci was supported with small infrastructure, capacity building, and promotion activities. Among those to be mentioned are the training on planning and signing cycling routes for stakeholders from Zakarpattia and Ivano-Frankivsk region, the handbook for cycling route managers, establishment of bike points along the signed and marked cycling route from Uzhhorod to border crossing point in M. Selmenci, promotional cycling rides along the border with Slovakia. All these activities were implemented with the support of the European Union within the ENI CBC HUSKROUA 2014-2020 program and made an important input on promoting cycling as an eco-friendly and climate-proof mode of transport in Kosice, Presov, Zakarpattia and Ivano-Frankivsk regions.

## EVENTS

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- Series of events focused on Women in Forestry included the gender marathon for foresters, capacity-building activities on effective communication, leadership, and management for female foresters, Forest Walks, female foresters' role models (workshop recordings [here](#))
- We were surprised to see that Tree mapping (ITree) received a lot of attention from the local people and students: in addition to the inventory of trees in the Rotary park (Uzhhorod), the city inhabitants also initiated the same tree mapping in other city areas
- We have started the discussion on Sustainable Urban Mobility in Uzhhorod through face-to-face meetings with more than 10 stakeholder groups whose voice is essential and whose needs shall be addressed in the plan.
- We trained future forestry professionals from the forestry college on the adaptation of forests to climate change and the close-to-nature forestry

- On-line trainings on After Action Review, a tool for assessing what happened during an emergency and whether any lessons from it would help in the future, were held by Ukrainian facilitators for the SESU personnel in Kyiv, Lviv, Zaporizhzhia, and Dnipro regions.

## PUBLICATIONS

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1. **Knowledge Platform for Regional Forest Innovation** [www.forestinnovationhubs.rosewood-network.eu](http://www.forestinnovationhubs.rosewood-network.eu) is an open platform that collects more than 260 factsheets with the most outstanding practices and innovations in the forest sector from more than 15 European countries  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6640410>)
2. **Innovative approaches and advanced solutions for forest-based biomass for energy** presents 18 useful cases, initiatives, best practices, and projects from all around Europe in a publication. These examples from 14 European countries might serve as examples and inspire organizations and companies to change and reduce the use of fossil fuels.  
<https://forza.org.ua/en/innovative-approaches-and-advanced-solutions-forest-based-biomass-energy>
3. **Current situation and position of women in forestry in Danube region** presents a comprehensive picture on the status of women in the forest sectors of 10 different countries. Report developed within Danube Transnational Program project Forests in Woman's Hands  
<https://rgdoi.net/10.13140/RG.2.2.11907.02088>
4. **ROSEWOOD4.0 Central-Eastern Hub Roadmap**. The ROSEWOOD4.0 project has developed different roadmaps addressing stakeholders throughout Europe for facilitating the transfer of knowledge and collaboration between partnership regions of Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia and Romania. The main objective of the roadmaps on Hub level is to strengthen the regions through transfer of the gathered knowledge, experiences and circumstances. The roadmap represents the collection, analysis, and strategic direction of the results from the Central-Eastern Hub, including their validation.  
<https://zenodo.org/record/5849624#.YuerCnZByUl>
5. **UKRAINE Strengthening the quality and standards compliance services for wood and processed wood. Value chain study**. The publication was produced in order to strengthen quality and standards compliance services for Ukrainian wood and processed wood SMEs' and to promote the use of those services among the value chain participants to ultimately facilitate market access (UNIDO project 180245)  
[https://hub.unido.org/sites/default/files/publications/UKRAINE\\_VALUE%20CHAIN%20STUDY\\_GQSP%20Ukraine.pdf](https://hub.unido.org/sites/default/files/publications/UKRAINE_VALUE%20CHAIN%20STUDY_GQSP%20Ukraine.pdf)
6. **The "Catalogue of Nature-based Solutions"** is a guide to 25 ideas that will be useful for communities to adapt to heat waves, intense precipitation, and flooding, support local biodiversity, and rational use of resources. <https://ucn.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Catalog-POR-2021.pdf>

## VIDEOS

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Why women choose to work in the forest in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#)

Electronic timber tracking in Ukraine: example of digital tools in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)

ROSEWOOD4.0 Training Programme is now available on-line, is completely free, and is offered in 13 European languages. Register <https://rosewood-network.eu/resources/training/> to take the three courses in the field of digitalization for forestry available in micro-learning pills:

- Digital support for efficient harvesting operations;
- Digital tools for climate-adapted silviculture; and
- Managing Hardwood – Perspectives for new forest owners.

We have prepared a **series of educational cartoons** on the close to nature forestry that will help all interested to learn the basics of this approach in an appealing and easy way (available [here](#) in early 2023).

## LAST, BUT NOT LEAST

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Our team remains in Ukraine; it is in the same composition and even growing. Right now, we are 5 females and 2 males in the office in Uzhhorod.

This year volunteering has been an essential part of our lives.

At the beginning of Russian invasion we supported female foresters with their children and elderly relatives that fled away from the war.

In May 2022, we co-founded and have been part of the international campaign #BikesForUkraine where we collect money, new and used bikes and hand them over to volunteers, social workers, and workers of critically important communal services. The bikes help to increase their mobility and make humanitarian and other help more accessible to those who need it most. As a result of our joint efforts with other 5 Ukrainian NGOs, by mid-December 2022, we managed to hand over 800 bikes to 31 communities in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, and other regions that struggle with damaged roads, interrupted public transportation, and lack of fuel. We do not stop and continue to communicate this initiative further.

FORZA is getting more active on social media: our key communication and exchange channel [Forest and Climate](#) is used by almost 500 active members and organizations in Ukraine, and we have started a new Facebook group, Women in Forestry <https://www.facebook.com/groups/642146584178495> to make women in the natural resource sector in Ukraine more visible.

Combined with a broader reach out of project results and publications on the European level, FORZA is getting increasing visibility in the forest sector and beyond.

## AND FINALLY

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From FORZA, we want to express our sincere gratitude to our donors and everyone who made the donation and help us to help the people in need who left their homes.

We are sincerely grateful to our partners and experts for their cooperation and input in the resolution of valuable issues of sustainable development of our region and country and to donor organizations, volunteers, and friends – for financial and moral support, which enables us to fulfill our ideas and projects.