

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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## Is employment in the forest sector automatically a green job? A systematic literature review

T4.34 Work and employment in the forest sector: challenges and opportunities

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**Abstract:** Employment in environmentally friendly and green economies are potentially green jobs. However, these jobs can only be called “green” if they provide good and decent work. The forest sector performs essential environmental services and manages vital natural resources, therefore is a green economy. But clear evidence about the quality of these jobs is lacking. Is employment in the forest sector automatically a green job? To answer this question, a systematic literature review was carried out, following the Reporting standards for Systematic Evidence Synthesis (ROSES). Science Direct and Google Scholar (first 100 search results) were the search engines utilized to capture topic-related literature written in English, German, Spanish and Portuguese. Only studies reporting employment in the forest sector and green jobs in the American and pan-European regions were considered. After a systematic search, two additional “inclusion criteria” were applied to select the final literature sample. One question aimed to identify (1) if there are indicators to recognize green jobs in the forest sector. Another question sought evidence (2) if there are incentives to foster green jobs in the forest sector. Only the literature fulfilling at least one of the inclusion criteria was considered in this review study.

A total of 43 documents were systematically reviewed and showed that the forest sector has great potential to provide green jobs. An emerging forest sector with cross-sectoral enterprises has provided good jobs in alternative forest-related economies. However, there is no clear evidence that employment in the traditional or emerging forest sector is automatically a green job. At the present moment, no indicators for identifying or assessing forest-related green jobs’ quality are available. Forest certification was appointed as a “shade” of green for forestry jobs, because it follows labour standards, ensuring minimal working conditions. It was observed, that political actions aiming at developing rural employment or improving working conditions created jobs in the forest sector. However, no information about the quality of created jobs was available. In conclusion, it is highly recommended to collect data on job quality to design solutions that guarantee increasingly forest-related green jobs.