

The RN21 Integrated Project Supervisory Board met to present the results of each measure and analyse agenda items

Vila Real, March 4, 2024 - The RN21 Integrated Project's Supervisory Board (COF), the highest body in the consortium's structure, met on 28 February at Espaço Inovação Mealhada to discuss various issues relating to the management of the Integrated Project. CoLAB ForestWISE®, the leader of this aggregating consortium, hosted the meeting at which the first ordinary session of the Advisory Board also took place.

The session was opened by Mealhada Municipal Executive Councillor Ricardo Santos, Project Director Rogério Rodrigues and CoLAB ForestWISE® CTO Carlos Fonseca, who emphasised the **"importance of showing what good is being done in this consortium, which is essential to share with the partners who accompany us"**.

This was followed by the presentation of more than 20 measures, which form part of the three pillars on which the RN21 Integrated Project is based, namely: promoting the production of national natural resin (pillar I); strengthening the sustainability of the processing industry (pillar II); and the positive differentiation of Natural Resin and derived products (pillar III).

"Training and Professionalisation of the Resin Extractor" was one of the measures presented for Pillar I, the main aim of which is to develop an Academy capable of training resin extraction professionals.

For Pillar II, one of the measures presented was the "Transition to renewables and efficient use of water and energy", which aims to draw up a study and roadmap on best practices in the sustainable use of these resources, with a view to reducing environmental impacts.

The meeting also analysed the state of play of the "Creation of a "seal" and technical dissemination of the entire value chain", as part of pillar III, which arose from the need to affirm Natural Resin as a product of renewable origin that can replace oil derivatives and become one of the successful examples of the Bioeconomy in Portugal. The first phase of branding began in the last half of 2023 and the meeting presented some of the next steps in this initiative.

To promote natural resin to consumers and business decision-makers, communication and marketing actions have been carried out, with some results already evident, namely the podcast and the biannual publication of Resinae® magazine.

The meeting also analysed the Mid-Term Technical Monitoring Report for the RN21 | 2023 Integrated Project, carried out by the Portuguese Environment Agency, which describes the progress made by the Integrated Project in terms of the performance indicators - KPIs, and the work carried out in each of the measures defined in the project up to the reporting date. From the analysis carried out, it was concluded that the project is progressing as planned, considering the developments described for the 22 measures included in the project.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Advisory Board, made up of three external personalities of recognised merit and independence, which will meet annually to comment on the activities carried out, propose corrective measures, and promote partnerships. The Advisory Board includes Aida Rodrigues Garcia, currently coordinator of various projects related to non-timber forest products; Álvaro Picardo, Technical Coordinator of the SMURF Horizont Europe project, on "Sustainable Management Models and Value Chains for Forests"; and Rui Miguel Rosmaninho, Director of the Public Forest Areas Management Department of the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, IP.

About CoLAB ForestWISE®

CoLAB ForestWISE® - Collaborative Laboratory for Integrated Forest and Fire Management is a private, non-profit organisation with legal personality. Its aim is to promote integrated forest and fire management through (co)research, innovation and the transfer of knowledge and technology with a view to contributing to more sustainable forest management in Portugal, increasing the value of forest products and services, reducing the negative consequences of major rural fires, increasing the competitiveness of the Portuguese forestry sector, boosting sustainable development in low-density areas and promoting scientific employment. CoLAB ForestWISE acts as a unifying element between industry, academia and public administration, leveraging existing knowledge in research centres and applying it to solve concrete, current and emerging problems in companies and in the forestry and fire domains, meeting the major societal challenges.

www.forestwise.pt/en

About RN21:

The RN21 Project - Innovation in the Natural Resin Sector to Strengthen the National Bioeconomy is supported by Component 12 - Sustainable Bioeconomy of the Recovery and Resilience Plan and aims to support the modernisation and consolidation of the industry through the creation of new value chains and greener industrial processes in the Natural Resin sector in Portugal, accelerating the production of high added value products from biological resources as an alternative to fossil-based materials.

The RN21 Integrated Project - Innovation in the Natural Resin Sector to Strengthen the National Bioeconomy, is co-financed by the Environmental Fund through Component 12 - Promotion of the



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Resilience Mechanism (RRM) of the European Union (EU), as part of Next Generation EU, for the period 2021 - 2026.

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