

## **Forest EcoValue: with the fifth project meeting the work in the living labs enter into hearth**

The **fifth Forest EcoValue meeting**, of which **Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente** is one of the **Italian partners**, was held from **22nd to 24th October** in **Ormea (CN)**.

The meeting brought together partners from Italy, France, Germany, Austria and Slovenia in the small town in the Tanaro Valley, where the Italian living lab is located.

**The aim of the meeting** was to **assess the progress of the project** in the five Living Labs, the pilot territories where ideas for new markets and business models are being tested. In particular, the coordinators of the five areas described the different forest ecosystem services that they will be dealing with, ranging from the valorisation of forest products to ecotourism, passing through the development of green chemistry and many other areas that offer potential new growth opportunities for local economies.

**FLA's role**, among those responsible for the activities of the second work package, was to **define the participative approach to be followed in order to support and guide the coordinators of the pilot areas in data collection**. In a subsequent phase, with a view to continuous dialogue with the territories, FLA will analyse and re-elaborate the data to arrive at the crucial phase of defining specific frameworks for each living lab. At the same time, **the Foundation is working closely with the other partners** to involve local and transnational policy makers in order to identify good practices and common strategies for the valorisation of forest ecosystem services.

Activities included a field visit, during which the natural resources of the Tanaro Valley were explored, the main management practices analysed and current challenges addressed, with the aim of improving common strategies and increasing the involvement of local stakeholders.

The meeting concluded with the intervention of the lead partner, **Finpiemonte**, who provided guidance on communication and coordination aspects in view of the start of the new semester of work, which will be focused on intensive activities in the living labs.