***SciVie – Sciences de la Vie from the past and for the future***

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**Highlights:** We report the launching process of a multi-institutional repository (SciVie) to broaden access to published work and grey literature in forest research. We describe the digitalization process and the strategies used to accomplish this goal.

**Key words** Project EUFORINNO, repository, SciVie, digitalisation, open access, life sciences

Changes in scientific communication due to European Commission requirements and global demand are pushing authors towards open science, in particular making publications and data available to all communities. These shifts are also reflected in the publishing activities of the Slovenian Forestry Institute (SFI). With the financial support of the project EUFORINNO we have started the open access repository SciVie.

The repository SciVie (derived from ‘Science de la Vie’), with its open access materials, provides more efficient use and re-use of past research, and the promotion of research results, researchers and institutions. This may help in increasing citations and recognition of scientific works, training future scientists for open access, increasing the number of potential users and giving the general public the opportunity to improve their lives based on research findings. The repository SciVie was launched on a base of the EPrints 3 software as a multi-institutional repository in the fields of natural and life sciences. It is intended for storage of articles, monographs, databases and other works, with the aim of meeting the requirements of EU co-financers. Therefore it has been entered in the databases OpenDOAR, RAOR and OpenAir. Currently, several institutions already contribute to SciVie, including the Slovenian Forestry Institute, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, National Institute of Biology and Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, Department of Wood Science and Technology. Efforts were put into developing a policy strategy and copyright requirements that meet Slovenian and EU policies, when creating? the graphical design and home page.

In addition, a three-stage digitalization process for already published works (dating from the establishment of the Slovenian Forestry Institute in 1950) was set up. First 643 articles from the Zbornik gozdarstva in lesarstva (now Acta Silvae et Ligni) were digitalized and entered into SciVie. In the second stage, 324 study reports were digitalised from the grey literature, where the only copy (usually) exists only in the Forestry library. This second task has been a challenge for the chosen digitalizing company, since materials were on different paper formats, old or damaged paper, and printed or typed in a diverse quality. Another special challenge has been the digitalization of supplementary maps and other outsized material, and finding a way to disseminate digitalized copies to the public (via SciVie) in files of a manageable size. The third stage, the digitalization of a set of study reports and other similar material published by the Slovenian Forestry Institute, is under way.

With these activities, we aim to enable the use and re-use of new and old research materials that might otherwise not be readily accessible, and we thus support the advancement of forest research and development.

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