

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911109600703321
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Titolo	Forest Related Perspectives for Regional Development in Europe / / Hyttinen, Niskanen, Ottisch, Tykkyläinen, Väyrynen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden; ; Boston : , : BRILL, , 2002
ISBN	1-280-46499-2 9786610464999 1-4175-7793-2 90-474-0116-6
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (140 pages) : illustrations
Collana	European Forest Institute Research Reports ; ; 13
Disciplina	338.1/749/094
Soggetti	Forests and forestry - Economic aspects - Europe Rural development - Europe
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Executive Summary; Introduction; Theories; Quantitative and Qualitative Methods; References
Sommario/riassunto	Most of the less-favoured regions in Europe feature large areas of forestland. The location of these areas - often far from political and economic centres, and in many cases in adverse climatic or terrain conditions - have been problematic for agriculture as well as for many other economic activities. Because of this unfavourable relationship between forest cover and the regional development opportunities of non-forest sectors, forest resources are an important factor for regional employment and income in many less-favoured regions. Higher utilization of existing wood and non-wood forest resources and services is expected to contribute to regional development by increasing the employment opportunities and welfare. The FORWARD (Forest Resources for Work Opportunities and Regional Development) project at the European Forest Institute was initiated to investigate the opportunities for rural areas to generate employment and income based on forest resources. The four-year study concentrated mainly on 11 case areas located in the border regions of Europe. In addition, analyses on the overall situation of the potential of forestry to

contribute to regional development in Europe were conducted. The findings of the project are presented in this report.
