



IMPACTS REPORT

DISCOVER THREE YEARS OF BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS
AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEFORESTATION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS



Co-funded by
the European Union

Coordinated by



E | T | I | F | O | R
valuing nature



EUROPE AT A TURNING POINT

Tropical forests regulate the climate, sustain biodiversity, secure water resources and support the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people. Yet **deforestation and forest degradation remain among the leading global drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss**, fuelled primarily by the expansion of agricultural land for the production of forest risk commodities such as soy, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, rubber, bovine products, and wood.

The **European Union (EU)**, as one of the **world's largest consumers of these commodities**, is responsible for an estimated 16% of tropical deforestation linked to international trade. That makes it the second largest share globally after China^[1].

Through the European Green Deal and the Deforestation-free Products Regulation (EUDR)^[2], the EU has committed to ensuring that products placed on its market are both free of deforestation and legally produced. Regulation alone, however, is not enough. Delivering on this ambition requires a skilled workforce and collaborative action across all Member States, capable of translating policy into practice and supporting the transition towards more sustainable and responsible global supply chains.

WATCH



EMMA4EU
official video



youtu.be/V7A4yTjNCp0



Soy



Palm oil



Cocoa



Coffee



Rubber



Bovine products



Wood

EMMA4EU: AN ALLIANCE FOR SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION

Co-funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Programme, EMMA4EU (emma4eu.eu) was conceived to **close the critical education and training gaps that stand between EU policy ambition and practical implementation**. By combining education, research, innovation, stakeholder engagement and international cooperation, the project sought not only to **develop high-quality learning opportunities** but also to create lasting structural changes in the way knowledge on deforestation-free supply chains (DFSC) is generated, shared and applied across the EU.



Coordinated by **Etifor | Valuing Nature**, the consortium brought together **ten partners** from **Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Uganda**, including universities, vocational education and training (VET) providers, businesses, and NGOs. Together, they pursued complementary objectives, implemented through three interconnected phases over the project's **three-year duration**:



JOIN

Connect stakeholders across sectors and countries to foster collaboration, dialogue and knowledge exchange on DFSC.



LEARN

Generate and promote knowledge by developing research, educational resources and innovative curricula.



TRAIN

Equip students and professionals with the knowledge and skills to support EUDR implementation and advance DFSC and CSR practices.

^[1] WWF (2021). Stepping up: The continuing impact of EU consumption on nature worldwide. Available via [wwf.eu](https://www.wwf.eu).

^[2] Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation. Available via environment.ec.europa.eu.



FROM RESULTS TO LASTING IMPACTS

EMMA4EU's contribution is best understood not only through what it produced, but through what those outputs have enabled: **enhanced professional competences, stronger cooperation between education and practice, increased institutional capacity, and a growing international community** committed to DFSC.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR THE TRANSITION TOWARDS DEFORESTATION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS

The project's most immediate impact has been the development of a new generation of professionals equipped with the interdisciplinary competences required to support EUDR implementation and broader sustainability framework to promote DFSCs. This emerging professional profile has been defined as the **Deforestation-free Supply Chains Manager**.

Drawing on the results of a [Training Needs Assessment](#) involving more than 160 stakeholders, EMMA4EU identified the most pressing knowledge and skills gaps related to DFSCs among organisations, students and professionals. These findings directly informed the design of the project's curricula, educational content and training opportunities, ensuring that the learning offer responded to real labour market needs and prepared participants for this emerging professional profile.

Through **three complementary learning pathways**, EMMA4EU equipped 400 students and professionals, from more than 25 countries, with the expertise and networks required to support the transition towards DFSC. The programme addressed the regulatory, technical, environmental, social, economic and governance dimensions of DFSC, covering topics such as due diligence requirements and value chain assessments, geospatial technologies, sustainability standards and accountability frameworks, trade data analysis, and stakeholder engagement. By incorporating perspectives from forest-risk commodity-producing countries, participants also gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with this transition.

Teaching was jointly delivered by academics, businesses, NGOs, public organisations and certification bodies from both EU and key producing countries. Staff mobility between partner institutions further strengthened this collaborative approach by facilitating knowledge exchange and the co-development of educational materials.

WATCH



What does it mean to be a Deforestation-free Supply Chains Manager?





Two editions of the online learning course trained **275 participants** from more than 20 countries, almost double the original target of 150 learners.

The flagship four-week **Specialisation Programme**, delivered in person in the University of Padova, brought together **25 students and professionals** from 13 nationalities. Alongside advanced multidisciplinary training, participants took part in field visits to companies in the leather, timber and paper sectors, gaining first-hand insight into real supply chains while learning alongside international peers.

As part of the Specialisation Programme, nine participants completed **internships** hosted by companies, NGOs and certification bodies. These internships enabled participants to apply the acquired knowledge in practice by working on due diligence systems, sustainability strategies, certification processes, remote sensing and responsible sourcing. Host organisations consistently praised interns' technical competence and ability to contribute to ongoing activities, in some cases leading to long-term employment opportunities.

Seven in-person **VET courses** delivered across Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark provided practical, tailored training to **132 professionals**, ensuring that learning could be immediately applied within participants' organisations.

Importantly, these pathways were never conceived as stand-alone training activities. Their curricula, materials, and methodologies were designed to feed into the continued offerings of partner institutions, embedding DFSC competences into mainstream EU education long after the project's completion.

ONLINE LEARNING

275

participants
(project target: 150)

2

editions

The course has been an incredible opportunity not only to deepen my understanding of the EUDR regulation, but also to gain broader insight into the overall direction Europe is taking in terms of sustainability, forest governance, and supply chain transparency.

F. S.,
Online course participant

SPECIALISATION PROGRAMME

25

participants
(project target: 25)

9

internships

Before taking the EMMA4EU course and doing this traineeship, I had not really considered a career in supply chain management. (...) Now, I have seen how my experience and skills could fit with a career in supply chains, risk management, and due diligence. This experience has broadened my horizons and opened new possibilities.

William Dosset,
Specialisation Programme participant

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

132

participants
(project target: 80)

7

editions

The course helped me clearly understand how to start a concrete path toward integrating sustainability into procurement, paving the way for a "deforestation-free" supply chain. The trainer managed to convey a practical and hands-on method that supported me in identifying and managing suppliers based on green and sustainability-related criteria.

Corrado P.,
VET course participant

A distinctive feature of EMMA4EU was the close integration between education and the labour market. Companies, NGOs, certification bodies and public institutions were involved throughout the project as lecturers, internship providers, case-study contributors and strategic partners, ensuring that participants developed competences **aligned with real market and policy needs**.

WATCH



Video testimony

Victoria Foligno,
Specialisation
Programme participant





A KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION FOR DEFORESTATION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS

EMMA4EU has significantly contributed to strengthening the EU's knowledge base on DFSC, by producing one of the first comprehensive EU frameworks dedicated to this emerging field. The project generated a coherent set of complementary resources that bridge **research, policy and practice**.

Together, these openly accessible resources strengthen the human capital available to EU research and innovation in supply chain sustainability, and foster the open diffusion of knowledge across academia, private and public sectors.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES



Report on Training Needs Assessment

160+

stakeholders consulted across and beyond the EU

60+ downloads [READ >>](#)



Innovation Report on DFSC

43

case studies on responsible supply chains & EUDR implementation; 5 languages

1,700+ downloads [READ >>](#)



WATCH



Case study videos

20

videos showcasing practical DFSC solutions

1,000+ views



Roadmap to Commitment

5

target groups guided by a tailored framework; 5 languages

180+ downloads [READ >>](#)

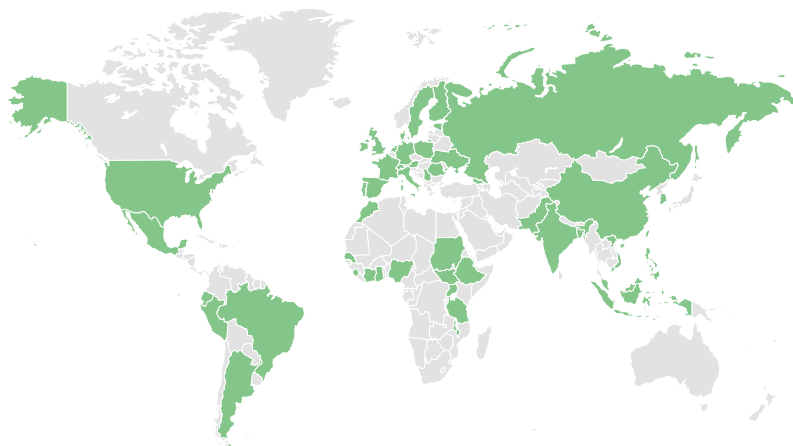




AN ALLIANCE POWERING THE TRANSITION

The EMMA4EU Alliance is one of the project's most distinctive legacies. More than a digital platform, the Alliance has evolved into an international community of more than **350 members from 54 countries** representing **220 organisations**. Through online spaces, in-person events and training sessions, Alliance members exchanged experiences, practical challenges, ideas and professional opportunities across sectors and borders.

GEOGRAPHIC REACH OF THE EMMA4EU ALLIANCE

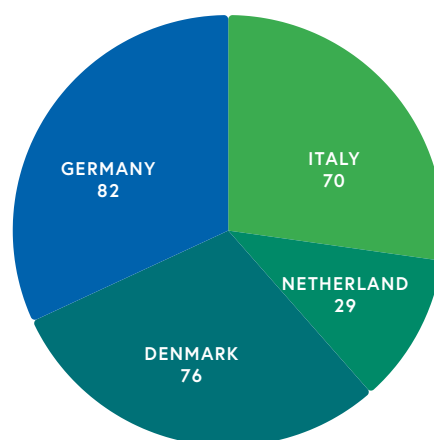


At national level, **four in-person Workshops** in Germany, Italy, Denmark and the Netherlands convened **more than 250 participants** from academia, business, public institutions and civil society. These workshops translated EU policy ambitions into national dialogues and local action, empowering domestic actors to address deforestation in their specific contexts, while fostering a more consistent understanding of responsible sourcing across the EU.

By bringing together such a diversity of stakeholders, EMMA4EU contributed to overcoming some of the key challenges associated with the transition towards DFSC: **strengthening engagement, dialogue, trust and cooperation both across and within supply chains**. At the same time, through the development of a shared knowledge base, common training approaches and learning materials, and opportunities for cross-border knowledge exchange, the project fostered **shared understandings** and promoted more **harmonised approaches to education and training across EU Member States**. In doing so, EMMA4EU contributed to a more consistent and effective implementation of the EUDR across the EU.

In line with the Erasmus+ priority on inclusion and diversity, the project monitored gender participation across its training and Alliance activities: 40% of participants identified themselves as female, 32% as male and 28% as non-binary or not declared.

DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS ACROSS PARTNER COUNTRIES



PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER



REACH BEYOND THE ALLIANCE

Beyond the participants directly engaged in project activities, the consortium also increased awareness of forest-risk commodities, EUDR and corporate social responsibility among an estimated audience of more than **100,000 people** through attending dissemination activities. This was further amplified through digital communication, media engagement and the project's online channels, including a LinkedIn community of more than **1,300 followers** and over **660 newsletter subscribers**.



LOOKING FORWARD: SUSTAINING THE TRANSITION

Although the project was **formally concluded in May 2026**, its impacts are designed to continue growing well beyond its lifetime. The research outputs developed will **remain freely available through the project website**, continuing to support research, policymaking and professional practice beyond the project's lifetime.

The relaunch of the online course for its third edition - the second delivered as a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) - will further expand the reach and long-term impact of the educational materials developed. In parallel, partner institutions will further integrate the curricula, teaching methodologies and learning materials within their educational programmes, contributing to the long-term strengthening of capacities in higher education institutions and VET providers.

Beyond its educational legacy, the international network established through EMMA4EU will remain active through the relationships and collaborations fostered during the project. By connecting stakeholders from different sectors and countries, EMMA4EU created lasting channels for knowledge exchange, innovation and cooperation that are already generating new partnerships, joint research initiatives, educational activities and practical collaborations. Consortium partners are building on these foundations through scientific publications, policy papers and new collaborative initiatives, while maintaining strong links with EU and international networks working on sustainable supply chains, responsible sourcing and nature-positive transitions.

Ultimately, EMMA4EU's legacy lies not only in the tangible outputs it delivered, but in the lasting capacity it has helped build. By **strengthening institutional capacities, developing innovative educational approaches and fostering international collaboration**, the project has created foundations that will continue supporting the transition towards deforestation-free supply chains long after its formal completion.



The 3rd edition of our online course will be launched soon.

Stay tuned to our channels for updates!





EMMA4EU: PROJECT AT A GLANCE



THE PROJECT AND ITS CONSORTIUM

10

Partner
organisations

5

Countries

3

Years



TRAINING

3

Learning
pathways

10

Courses delivered (2 online, 1
Specialisation Programme, 7 VET)

400+

Students & professionals
from over 25 countries



THE ALLIANCE

350+

Alliance members
from 54 countries

220+

Organisations
represented



KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION

160+

Stakeholders
consulted



DISSEMINATION & OUTREACH

100k+

People reached through
dissemination activities

1,3k

Linkedin
community

2k+

Resource
downloads

FIND OUT MORE ON WWW.EMMA4EU.EU

EMMA4EU Partnership:



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DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



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aid
environment



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LEARNING ECOSYSTEM

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