

Progetti internazionali/europei su bando competitivo

VELUX STIFTUNG (SUISSE)

Bridging traditional animal logging and modern forestry needs

ANILOG

RIASSUNTO

Forests face increasing demands for sustainable management, yet the forestry sector is overwhelmingly focused on digitalisation and heavy mechanisation. This overlooks a practice that has been part of European forestry for centuries, animal logging. Horses, mules, and oxen remain vital in many regions due to their ability to work in steep, fragmented, or ecologically sensitive areas with lower carbon emissions and cultural value preservation. However, without innovation, animal logging risks disappearing, despite its environmental and socio-economic benefits. The AniLog project proposes a pioneering approach to revitalise animal logging by integrating it with modern forestry technologies and practices. Through three representative case studies in Italy, Switzerland/Germany, and Poland, AniLog will: (1) develop and test a prototype “smart” pack saddle equipped with scales, GPS, and traceability tools to improve efficiency, animal welfare, and integration with mechanised systems; (2) directly compare the sustainability and competitiveness of horse logging against emerging low-impact mechanised alternatives such as mini forestry crawlers; and (3) introduce soil trafficability mapping as a planning tool to further reduce ecological disturbance in sensitive areas. By combining applied research, innovation, and strong stakeholder involvement, AniLog will deliver practical guidelines, prototypes, demonstration events, and peer-reviewed publications. Its outputs will provide forest managers and practitioners with evidence-based tools to modernise animal logging, making it a viable and attractive option within contemporary wood supply chains. AniLog is not about preserving a relic of the past, but about transforming animal logging into a forward-looking solution that meets ecological, economic, and cultural needs. By bridging tradition and innovation, this project has the potential to redefine sustainable forestry in Europe and beyond, ensuring that animal logging evolves into a symbol of modern, effective, and environmentally responsible forest management.

Codice Identificativo: CUP CIPE J83C26000780005

Costo totale del progetto: 398000 €

Costo totale DAFNE: 144000 €

Ruolo DAFNE: Partner scientifico

Responsabile Scientifico DAFNE: Rodolfo Picchio

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Data inizio: 01/10/2026

Data fine: 30/09/2030

LINK

Ancora da generare

PARTERNARIATO

Partenariato: Institute of Dendrology Polish Academy of Sciences, Italian Biomass Association, UNITUS-DAFNE.