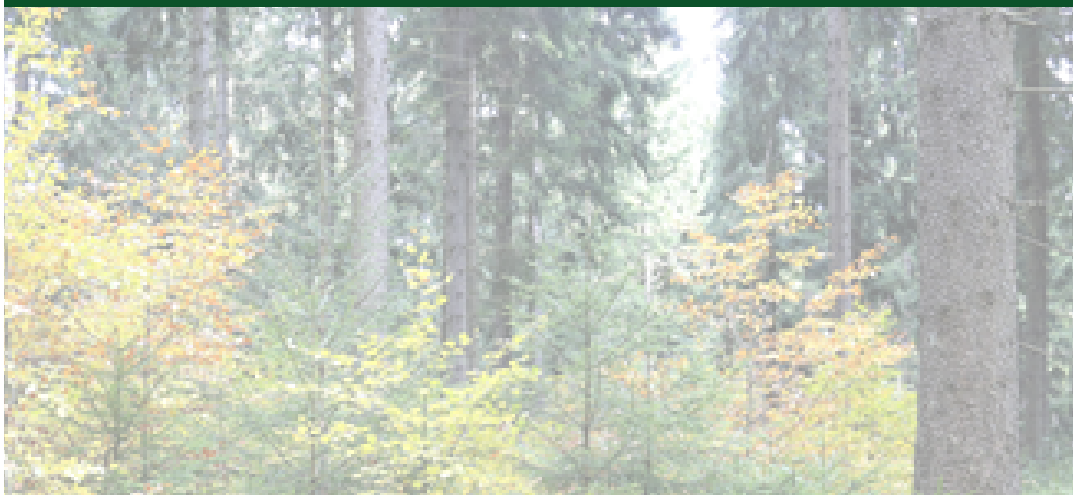




**Horizon Europe
Grant Agreement
N°101087262.**



ERA Chair: Striving for Excellence in the Forest Ecosystem Research

This is the 1st newsletter of the EXCELLENTIA project, WHERE YOU CAN:

- Find out what EXCELLENTIA is all about
- Get information on communication activities and upcoming events

WHAT IS EXCELLENTIA?

The five-year project aims to create a **top interdisciplinary research group in forest ecosystem research.**

The main scientific goals are:

- Determination of soil properties and their influence on the water table
- To study tree roots and root pathogens
- To focus on the reaction of trees to stress and to observe the response of mixed stands identifying and meeting the needs of society

The new centre is establishing research and outreach programmes for the coming years and encourages forest scientists worldwide to collaborate in research and communication activities - building a true “EXCELLENTIA” centre for Central European forestry - drawing on the multidisciplinary expertise of global experts.

Follow us!

Website: excellentia.lfd.mendelu.cz

Twitter / X: [@Excellentia_HE](https://twitter.com/Excellentia_HE)

FOREST ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH GROUP



Douglas L. Godbold
Era Chair

Professor Douglas L. Godbold has nearly 30 years of experience in researching soil-plant interactions in forest ecosystems. His primary focus has been on soil processes including fine roots, mycorrhizae and carbon dynamics. He has worked in boreal and temperate forests, as well as in the dry tropical forests of Ethiopia. He has extensive experience in experiments to adjust factor variables such as atmospheric CO₂ increase, drought stress and tree species diversity in forest ecosystems. This professional experience has also led to successful project management at national and international levels.



Boris Rewald
Senior Researcher

doc. Dipl. Biol. Dr. rer. nat. Boris Rewald's research focuses on the ecophysiology of plants - especially roots and their symbionts - and how plant species adapt to environmental stress and influence the carbon cycle together with their symbionts. He has been a PI or WP leader in many national and international projects. He is the author or co-author of more than 70 original scientific papers published in renowned international journals, and chapters in specialised monographs. From 2020 to 2023 he served as editor-in-chief of *Frontiers in Plant Sciences*, Section "Functional Ecology".

Open positions

[Read more:](https://excellentia.ldf.mendelu.cz/open-positions)

<https://excellentia.ldf.mendelu.cz/open-positions>

Research field:

- plant ecophysiology
- ecological stability of trees and stands
- root pathogens
- ecosystem and forest functions

PROJECT COMMUNICATION EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2023

KICK-OFF MEETING**22 May 2023****PROJECT LOGO DESIGN****May - August 2023**

EXCELLENTIA
Forest Ecosystem Research

Eva Vlasová, a Bachelor's degree programme student in Furniture Design and Production, designed the winning logo. **Our sincere congratulations to the winner!**

RESEARCHERS' NIGHT**6 October 2023**

EXCELLENTIA participated in the programme:
Mysteries of the underground

Visitors across all generations were entertainingly introduced to the amazing world of mycorrhizal fungi.

PUBLIC LECTURE**FFWT MENDELU****10 November 2023**

The lecture was held in the meeting room of the FFWT Dean's Office with the participation of academic staff, researchers and students of the FFWT.

SEMINAR**UNIVERSITY FOREST ENTERPRISE, KŘTINY****13 December 2023**

The seminar aimed to discuss EXCELLENTIA's cooperation with UFE, clarify the project's needs, and select suitable research sites in the UFE.

OPEN THESIS TOPICS MSc BSc

- Do you want to cooperate with the Forest Ecosystem Research Group?
- Do you have an interesting topic of your own that you would like to work on?

[READ MORE](#)

„CHALLENGES IN FOREST ECOLOGY“ – FFWT Seminar Series

Would you like to know more about:

- The latest in forest ecology research?
- How does cutting-edge science contribute to the practical and sustainable use of natural resources?
- The hidden half of forest ecosystems, right under our feet?

The Challenges in Forest Ecology seminar series, featuring top scientists from around the world, provides a unique opportunity to discuss the state of the art in forest ecology from different perspectives and approaches with the leading experts in the field.

EXCELLENTIA
Forest Ecosystem Research

Challenges in Forest Ecology

FFWT Seminar Series

Monthly - 1. / 2. Wednesday ~4 pm CET

Policy to Practice
Root tips to Global fluxes
Canopy to Mycorrhiza

Guest Speakers
+ Programme

Hybrid - Programme online

MENDELU Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology
Funded by the European Union

Launch: 10 January 2024 at 16:00 CET / CEST (GMT+1/+2)

Please get in touch with Mrs Alena Šamonilová,
alena.samonilova@mendelu.cz if you have questions or would like to suggest a seminar topic / invite a guest speaker on topics related to forest diversity and functioning above and below ground.

**EXCELLENTIA TEAM WISHES YOU
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

