

FWF National Member and Stakeholder Meetings (in European countries)

Objectives

National member and stakeholder meetings in European countries are an integral part of FWF's multi-stakeholder structure. Regular discussions and exchange with NGOs, trade unions and business associations in European countries where FWF member brands, their customers and consumers are based, are critical to ensure FWF's credibility and legitimacy as a multi-stakeholder initiative. In addition, these meetings provide a platform for knowledge-sharing and peer-to-peer learning.

Case studies and recent developments in the industry serve as input for discussion during the meetings. These topics help foster better understanding of the positions of different participants. As such, the meetings are a platform for improving dialogue among the participating stakeholders and members in European countries. Also, they contribute to strengthening buy-in from relevant stakeholders for continued positioning of FWF as a credible and relevant organisation.

National member and stakeholder meetings can also serve as a platform to discuss new issues and policies from FWF, and allow for the involvement of FWF stakeholders and members in this process. Even though the main purpose is the same for all of these national meetings, each has a slightly different set-up that takes into consideration national characteristics and developments.

In addition to these national member and stakeholder meetings, there is an annual international stakeholder meeting in Amsterdam, usually the day before the FWF Annual Conference. However, this international meeting focuses more on policy and strategic dialogue between FWF and relevant international stakeholder organisations. The sharing and learning with and among all member brands takes place during the annual conference.

Requirements and structure

Participants in national meetings are FWF members, relevant NGOs, trade unions and business associations. In some cases, qualified prospective companies may participate before actually joining FWF. This is decided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the progress of the prospective company.

The meeting is hosted by either a FWF member brand or a stakeholder organisation. The host covers all issues relating to venue and catering. FWF prepares the content, in consultation with the host and other participants.

Even though the governance structure of FWF does not foresee a formal role of the national member and stakeholder meetings, it should be ensured that recommendations and concerns from national meetings are channelled to the relevant FWF staff, the Committee of Experts or the FWF Board depending on the issue.

These are the requirements that must be met if FWF, its member brands or stakeholders in a given country want to start a new national members and stakeholder meeting:

- There must be at least 5 FWF members based in that specific country



- Representatives from at least two of the three FWF stakeholder groups (trade union, business association, NGO) must be willing to participate with the aim to have all the stakeholder groups represented
- One member brand or stakeholder organisation must be willing to organise and host the meeting
- In case the meeting is requested by members or stakeholders in a specific country, FWF needs to be informed about that interest before October of a year to start the necessary procedures to approve and set-up the meeting for the following year

Existing meetings:

Germany: since 2005

Switzerland: since 2007

Sweden: since 2010

The Netherlands: since 2017