



## Startree – Briefing note

**Llais y Goedwig** is now a regional partner in a European funded project called “Startree.” The project focuses on “non-wood forest products” and will run for three and a half years. Llais y Goedwig is hosting a project coordinator to facilitate the project in Wales. This briefing is an introduction to the project, detailing what it means for Llais y Goedwig, and for community woodlands and for Wales.

Non-wood forest products or NWFP are products and materials gathered and harvested from woodlands and forests not including timber or firewood. Examples of NWFP are berries, bark, sap, mosses, mushrooms and other products that can be gathered from and sourced in woodlands or forests. NWFP provide an opportunity for rural enterprise development and income generation for small to medium businesses and woodland owners and managers. The Startree project will bring together stakeholders in Wales and across Europe to map and develop the NWFP sector.

The project focuses on NWFPs and their importance across European regions for securing income, sustaining livelihoods, maintaining traditional knowledge, and fostering the competitiveness of rural economies. Despite this importance, NWFP in Europe are widely undocumented, little analysed and systematically misunderstood. The project aims to provide better understanding of the sector by developing innovative approaches for increasing the marketability and profitability of NWFP for a more competitive rural economy.

There are clear indications that NWFP play a significant role for a sustainable forest management in Europe and globally. However, scientific evidence, integral management and marketing concepts are widely missing. STAR TREE focuses on knowledge generation in management and marketing of NWFP, investigation of business models, and national, European and global business and trade patterns. Unraveling new potentials and identifying pathways towards diversified and coherent use of natural resources will be beneficial in a broader socio-economic context – for the forest owner, the entrepreneur, the consumer and the policy-maker in the context of latest European development goals.

In order to fulfil the objectives of Startree, the project coordinator will bring together a group of stakeholders from across Wales and facilitate the production of a region case study. This case study will document the current state of the NWFP sector in Wales and open channels for development and innovation. The project is a collaboration of partnership organisations across Europe and will enable cross boarder knowledge transfer and support in order to develop the knowledge and techniques in gathering, processing and production of NWFPs and also the marketability of products.

The project will work within Wales and across Europe to bring together public and private organisations, academics, businesses, policy makers and most importantly, woodland and forest managers. Startree could be an opportunity for community woodlands groups to begin to develop new income streams from harvested products. The project presents several opportunities for groups or businesses engaged in or preparing to develop NWFPs, to travel to Europe to experience best practice in harvesting, processing and production of NWFPs. If you would like to find out more information on Startree and the possibilities that it presents for community woodland groups and other organisations, please get in contact with **Maria Wilding** on **07981138620**, or visit the project website: **[www.star-tree.eu](http://www.star-tree.eu)**



Multipurpose trees and non-wood forest products, a challenge and opportunity [www.star-tree.eu](http://www.star-tree.eu)



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