



COST Action FP1201

Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management And Policy (FACESMAP)

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Forest ownership is changing across Europe. In some areas a growing number of so-called “new” forest owners hold only small parcels, have no agricultural or forestry knowledge and no capacities or interest to manage their forests, while in others new community and private owners are bringing fresh interest and new objectives to woodland management. This diversity and change creates implementation problems for forest-related policies including biodiversity conservation, timber and renewable energy supply, climate change mitigation, or recreation.

Objectives

The Action aims to provide European scale insights into the differentiated and changing forest ownership patterns, to scrutinize their consequences and to explore new approaches for policy and forest management :

- (1) To analyse the attitudes and constraints of different forest owner types in Europe and to map in qualitative and quantitative terms the ongoing changes of forest ownership.
- (2) To explore innovative management approaches for the properties of new forest owner types with respect to the provision of goods and services and under the constraint of the socio-economic frame conditions.
- (3) To study the impacts of governance approaches and policy instruments on the development of ownership structures, and to assess the consequences of new ownership patterns on forest-related policy goals (sustainability, multifunctionality, recreation, nature conservation, climate change, renewable energy, innovation and rural development).
- (4) To draw conclusions and recommendations from the synthesized knowledge for forest-related policies, forest management practice, education and research.

Main Achievements

The scientific advancements are expected through: **i)** documenting the state-of-the-art in theoretical and methodological approaches; **ii)** carrying out comparative studies using existing knowledge from national studies as well as case studies; **iii)** collecting a Pan-European database and map of forest ownership; and **iv)** in a new inter- and transdisciplinary work method. **The practical added-value** will be provided by **i)** the excursions and workshop discussions with researchers from different fields as well as the affected policy-makers and stakeholders; **ii)** the work on different scales (national-regional and European); and **iii)** the various targeted dissemination activities in the course of the Action.

Forests, their Products and Services (FPS)

Participating countries

AT, BA, BE, BG, CH, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, MK, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SI, SK, SE, TR, UK

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FACESMAP Training School on “Stakeholder Interaction”, Solsona (Spain), October 30/13 (photo by Ivana Zivojinovic)



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Working Group activities

WG 1 - Forest ownership types and motives

- Leader: **Dr. Gun Lidestav**, Swedish University of Agricultural Science (gun.lidestav@slu.se)

Deliverables: Overview articles on research approaches, typologies and motives; a database, meta analysis and map of European forest ownership, property rights and forest owners' attitudes towards their forests.

WG 2 - New forest management approaches

- Leader: **Dr. Diana Feliciano**, Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen (diana.feliciano@abdn.ac.uk)

Deliverables: Critical assessment of management models, including silvicultural, organisational, planning, communication, business and marketing concepts; comparative articles on innovative approaches; case studies.

WG 3 - Forest owner related policies

- Leader: **D.Sc. Teppo Hujala**, Natural Resources Institute Finland (teppo.hujala@luke.fi)
- Deliverables: Literature survey; case studies; comparative articles on governance models, policy instruments, stakeholder perceptions, and policy impacts.

Synthesis and conclusions

Deliverables: Stakeholder workshops; synthesis articles; proposals for refined data collection guidelines with international organisations; proposals for action with policy-makers and interest groups; final conference and book publication/or special issues of international peer-reviewed journals.

TRAVELLAB - new transdisciplinary research method

A specific new transdisciplinary research method is employed which uses the regional WG meetings for participatory research. The method includes excursions and focus group discussions, which are methodically used for our research. The tasks include: **i)** assessing the regional-specific problem situations, **ii)** gaining knowledge about applied forest management approaches, **iii)** collecting experiences from practice regarding policy implementation and the application of tools to reach different forest owner groups, **iv)** facilitating focus group discussions between the interdisciplinary research group and the representatives from practice, and **v)** jointly developing new solutions. The systematic use of the expertise of the international research group, the hands-on experiences of the practice representatives, as well as the direct interaction between the two groups will allow a robust assessment of the problem situations and to generate innovative solution approaches.

Practice participation

The interaction with practice target groups have started in the frame of **EU stakeholder workshop „Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Policy and Practice Issues“**, which was organized at the European Forestry Week in Rovaniemi (FI) in December 2013. Some of practice partners that took part in workshop are: UNECE, FAO, CEPF, ENFE, EUSTAFOR, CEPI, METLA, FSC, BirdLife, MTK.

Tangible medium term socio-economic impacts are expected through the **cooperation with UNECE-FAO** in the planned joint "Private Forest Ownership Survey in Europe" which has been preliminary agreed upon. Further partners in this activity shall be **CEPF** as practice partner and **EFI** as technical support partner in the analysis and dissemination (forest ownership map).



Field discussion with private forest owners in Solsona (Spain), October 2013 (photos by Ivana Zivojinovic)



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