

Policies indirectly affecting new forest owners in Europe

- Teppo Hujala^{1*}, Julie Urquhart², Sonia Quiroga³, Ivana Zivojinovic⁴, Gerhard Weiss⁴
- ¹Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke);
²Imperial College London, UK;
³University of Alcalá, Spain;
⁴EFICEEC-EFISEE, c/o BOKU, Vienna, Austria
*teppo.hujala@luke.fi
- FACESMAP Final Conference,
7-8 September 2016
Vienna, Austria

Outline

Introduction and objectives

Methodological approach

Illustrative examples

Inferences and conclusion

Introduction

Policies and forest land ownership have mutual relations

- Policies affect ownership patterns
- Ownership issues inform and shape policies

Public policies primarily address societally important issues (such as timber supply, water quality, or biodiversity) rather than the changing forest owner types

Influences of policies on the new, emerging forest owner types are often indirect and have rarely been addressed in research

Objectives

1

What kind of indirect policy effects on new forest owners can be outlined?

2

Which particular policies with obvious indirect effects can be found in Europe?

3

How could the analysis of impact logic add comprehension of policy effects?

Methodological approach

1

- Analytical reasoning to create a simple classification to frame the empirical analysis

2

- Scanning of FACESMAP Country reports
- Classifying policies, identifying similarities in different countries

3

- Applying a simple model of logic diagrams adapted from program theory evaluation...
 - Rationale, aims, means, prime and side effects of a policy
 - ...to create illustrative examples to discuss

Identified policy categories (indirect impact types)

Policy category	Numerical interpretation of effect's direction and strength (-9...+9)	Hypothetical example
prohibitive	-9	Minimum holding size: no "hobby owners"
hampering	-3	Tax easements for inheritance situations
enabling	+1	Electronic wood trading: helps urban owners
encouraging	+5	Training courses for new forest owners

The numerical interpretations are estimates to illustrate that the negative and positive categories are not symmetrical

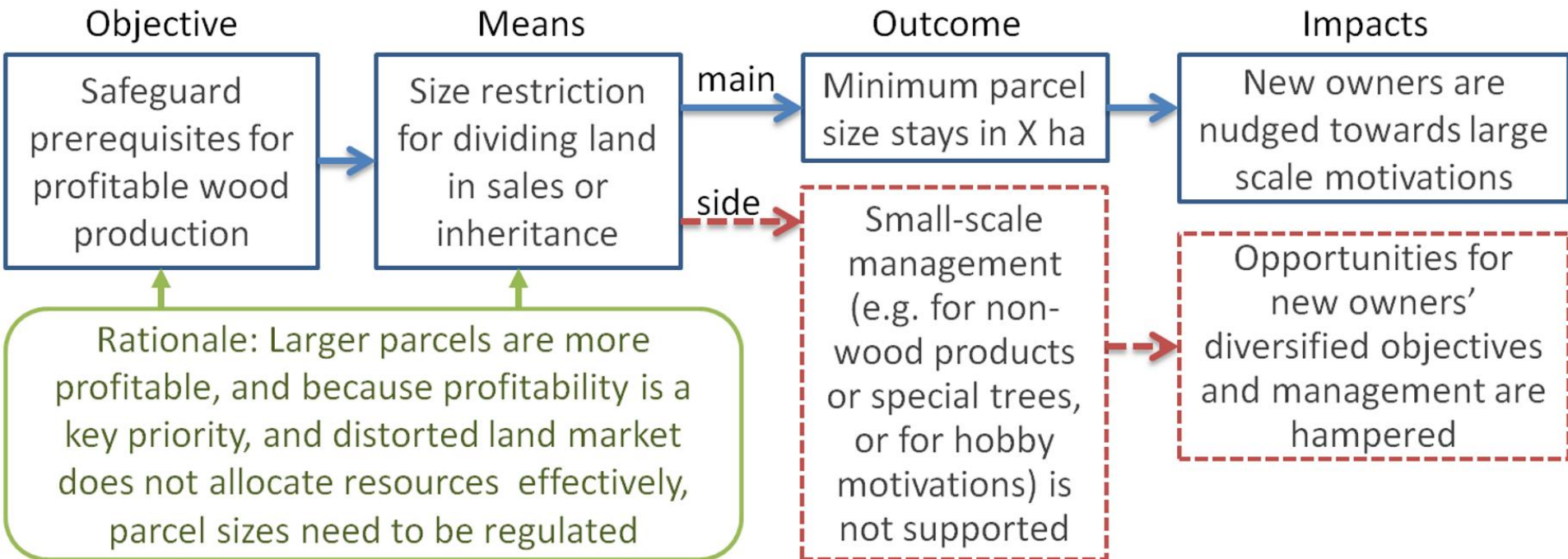
Identified real-life policies in Europe with negative effects on new forest owners

Policy (instrument)	Main aim	Indirect effect	Example countries
Inheritance rule to the eldest offspring	Prevent parcelization	Prohibiting non-traditional ownership	Austria, Norway, Spain
Land purchasing priority to neighbours	Prevent parcelization	Hampering: difficult to become an owner	France, Lithuania, Slovenia
Land division size restriction or extra payment	Prevent parcelization, safeguard profitability	Hampering small-scale ownership motivations	Austria, Slovakia, Sweden

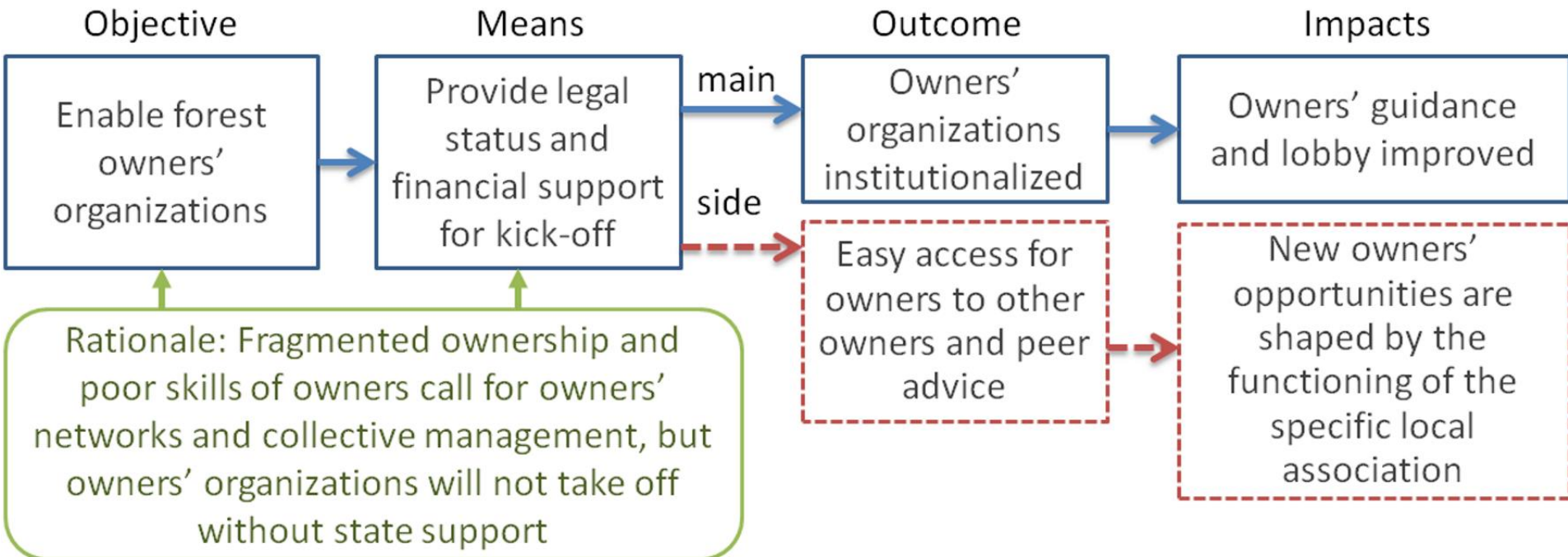
Identified real-life policies in Europe with positive effects on new forest owners

Policy (instrument)	Main aim	Indirect effect	Example countries
Subsidies to afforestation	Sustainable land-use	Enabling new people to become owners	Belgium, Ireland, Romania
Establishing new legal forms of ownership	Achieving multiple societal gains	Enabling new goals and management	Belgium, UK
Legal and/or financial support to forest owners' organizations	Knowledge transfer, active management	Encouraging to acquire peer advice	Czech Republic, Croatia, Latvia, Norway
Activities to provide online advisory services	Modernizing forestry in the information society	Encouraging, in particular urban, younger owners	Finland, France

Example 1: Impact logic of restricting land division and obvious indirect effects on new forest owners



Example 2: Impact logic of supporting forest owners' associations and obvious indirect effects on new forest owners



General insights

New forest owner types are in many ways indirectly influenced by policies

- Variety of influence types exists

Examples can be found practically from all European countries

- Similar examples from different regions

Sometimes effects are easy to identify

- Not necessarily easy to mitigate

Some effects are hidden and take place by shaping the opportunities of could-be owners

Conclusion

Even relatively simplistic logic diagrams might help policy makers distinguish potential non-intended side-effects

Understanding indirect effects of current policies on the changing forest ownership patterns is a key to reasoned future-oriented policy innovations

Careful *ex ante* -evaluation of new or altered forest policies from the viewpoint of indirect effects on land ownership patterns is recommended

Thank you!

Brousselle, A., Champagne, F. 2011. **Programme Theory Evaluation: Logic Analysis**. Evaluation and Program Planning 34, 1, 69-78. doi: 10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2010.04.001

Funnell, S.C., Rogers, P.J. 2011. **Purposeful Program Theory: Effective Use of the Theories of Change and Logic Models**. Wiley. 576 pp.