

Role of Forest Owners Associations in Eastern Europe

Forest ownership changes in Europe: trends, issues and needs for action
FINAL CONFERENCE of the COST Action FP1201 FACESMAP

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Content

- Background information
- FOAs in CEE and SEE region
- Services, responsibilities and tasks of FOAs
- Ways of participation on forest policy formulation
- Perception of effectiveness
- Factors affecting the influence of FOAs in the policy-making process



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Intro info

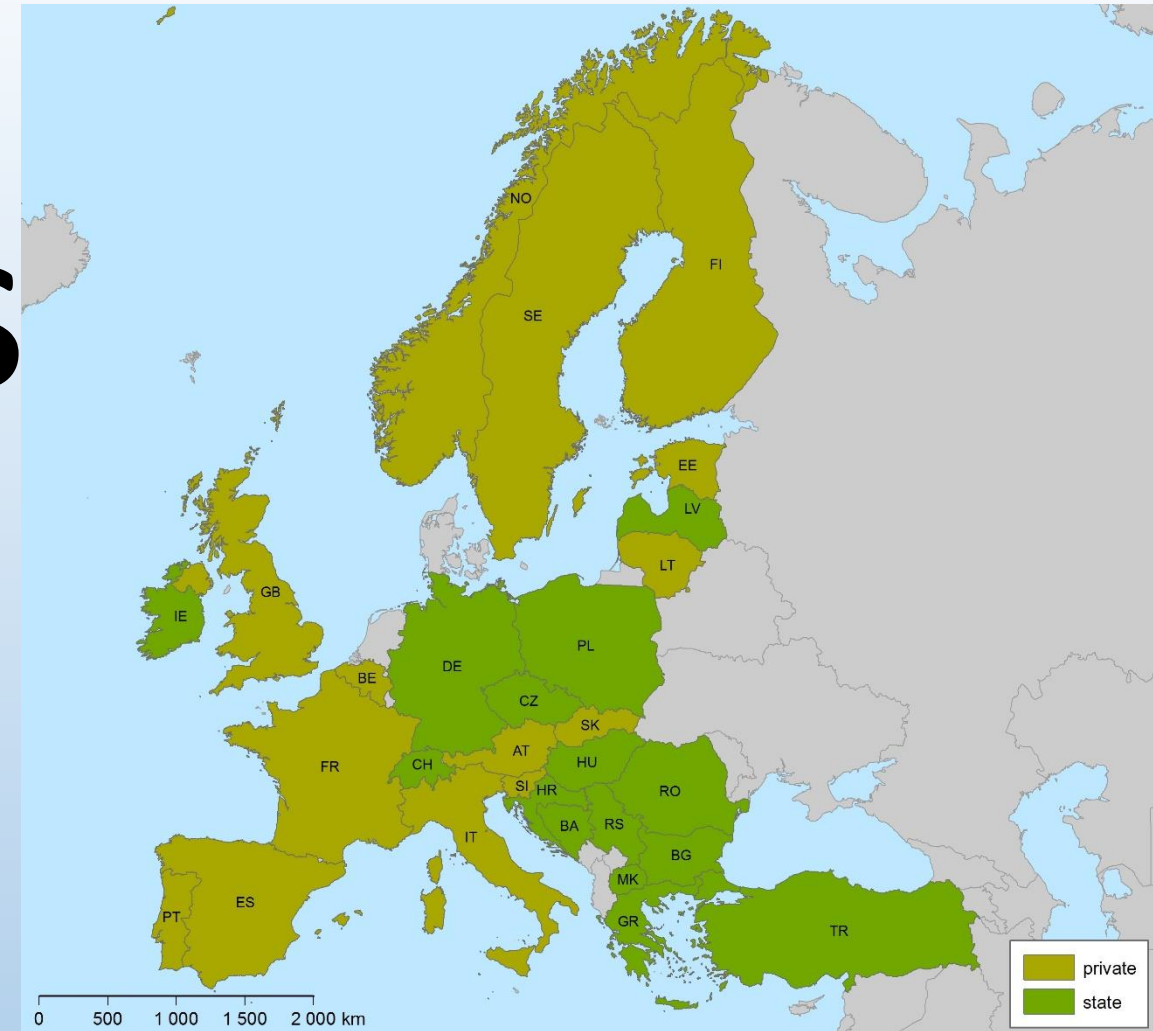
Since beginning of 1990s:

- socio-political changes,
- land reforms,
- restitution,
- privatisation,
- transformation of the state forest enterprises...

FOAs

Private forestry in the region:

- very small-scale individual properties,
- fragmented or joint ownership structure,
- unmanaged forests,
- lack of information and financial sources,
- reactive and unstable legal environment...



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FOAs in the region

- FOAs creation was influenced by political change (restitution)
- FOAs should protect and represent the common interests of private forest owners
- FOAs are operating on a voluntary basis
- FOAs founding had support from state, research or international projects
- FOAs have problems to maintain their activities, reach representativeness and survive during the time

FOAs tasks, responsibilities, offers:

Offered services for members	Significance / occurrence
- represent the interest of forest owners	***
- lobbying in policy processes	***
- education	***
- information shearing	***
- international cooperation	**
-consultancy	**
- excursion	**
- advisory services and consulting	**
- joint purchase of equipment /forest material	**
- joint business mechanisms /supplier-customer relations/ wood market	**
- forest certification	*
- maintenance of forest roads	*
- forest pedagogy , promoting actions	*

Investigated FOAs in the region

Country	FOA	Case study
Bosnia-Herzegovina	FOA "Naša Šuma"	Forest strategy of Republic of Srpska
Croatia	Croatian Union of Private Forest Owners' Associations	Act on Forests
Czech Republic	Association of Municipal and Private Forest Owners	National Forest Program
Estonia	Estonian Private Forest Union	Forest Law
Hungary	Federation of Private Forest Owners and Managements	Forest Law
Lithuania	Forest Owners' Association of Lithuania	Act on Forests
Macedonia	National Association of Private Forest owners in Republic of Macedonia	Strategy for Sustainable Development of Forestry in Macedonia
Poland	Polish Union of Forest Associations	National Forest Program
Romania	FOA "Nostra Silva"	Forest code
Serbia	Serbian Federation of Private Forest Owners' Associations	Forest Law
Slovakia	Council of the Non-state Forest Owners' Associations	Act on Forests
Slovenia	Slovenian Federation of Forest Owners Associations	Act on Forests

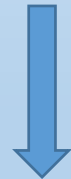
Ways of participation

Interest groups strategies and tactics	Use in %
Taking part in parliamentary and governmental meetings	99
Communication with government officials and presentation of ideas	98
Informal meetings with government officials at meetings and events	95
Building coalitions with other stakeholders	90
Discussing policy alternatives in press and media	86
Consultation with government officials because of planning legislative strategy	85
Help government officials when drafting legislation	85
	84
Influential contacts in legislative offices, institutions which draft law	80
	20

Effectiveness / Success perception

- evaluation of specific types of **outcomes**: socioeconomic or environmental (Conley and Moote 2003)
- evaluation of **process** - efforts go through predictable stages: planning/problem setting, planning/direction setting and implementation or keeping participants involved, achieving process goals, coming to agreement, implementing projects, creating change... (Bentrup 2001, Margerum 1999, Selin and Chavez 1995)

Measurement is limited by the availability of information about given group's activities, outputs and accomplishments



Methods: document review, interviews, case studies

Factors possibly related to the success of FOAs in the policy-making process

- **political** (legitimate power, standard comment procedure, lobbying)
- **financial** (lack of own capital and/or subsidies)
- **social** (power of the state sector, reluctance of owners to organize themselves, limited knowledge and information share, weak leaders)

Internal	External
FOA size	History (ownership, property rights, interest of cooperation)
Participant knowledge	Regulations
Structure and organizational principles	Formal enforcement mechanisms
Trust, motives and honesty	Demographic and socio-economic settings
Funding	State of forest resources
Fairness of process	Influence of other groups
Cooperation, information sharing	Time pressure
Focus on goals	

Role, activities and barriers for FOAs

- FOAs are acting as an important inventive actor in policy processes
- The rule making continues to be a primary concern of FOAs trying to influence forest policy
- FOAs are unsatisfied with their visibility and achievements
- FOAs use mostly official meetings and formal mechanisms to promote their interests
- FOAs are still rather inert in lobbying for improvement of their position in forest policy arena
- FOAs suffer lack of financial resources, effective form of leadership and stabile countrywide organizational structure
- FOAs are developing fast in changing CEE-SEE region

Thank you for your attention!

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