

The main obstacles and supporting factors in the forest policies for the forest owners

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AIM OF THE STUDY

- To analyze discourses about changes in forest policy
- To show the main obstacles and supporting factors within forest policies for the forest owners on examples of Germany, Finland and Spain

INTRODUCTION

- There is a **deliberate shift in responsibilities away from centralised to the private sector**. It was done through entrusting the local communities with the implementation of forest management plans, establishing partnerships with the private sector and NGOs (FAO, 1999)
- There are **changes in the institutional framework for the management of forests**. It happened for adjusting to social demands and new trends, such as globalisation, decentralization and new public management (Berkes, 2009)
- **Forest and environmental policies have undergone large-scale changes** to overcome conservation conflicts and to encourage stakeholders to take part in policy-making (Berkes, 2009)



Changes to the forest policy and management

METHOD

- Data were collected within COST Action FP1201 – Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management And Policy (FACESMAP)
- A new transdisciplinary research method – **TRAVELLAB**. It includes excursions and focus group discussions
- Presented conclusions are based on the interviews results from field trips: **Solona, Spain (2013), Helsinki, Finland (2014) and Freiburg, Germany (2014)**.



Source: <http://facesmap.boku.ac.at/>

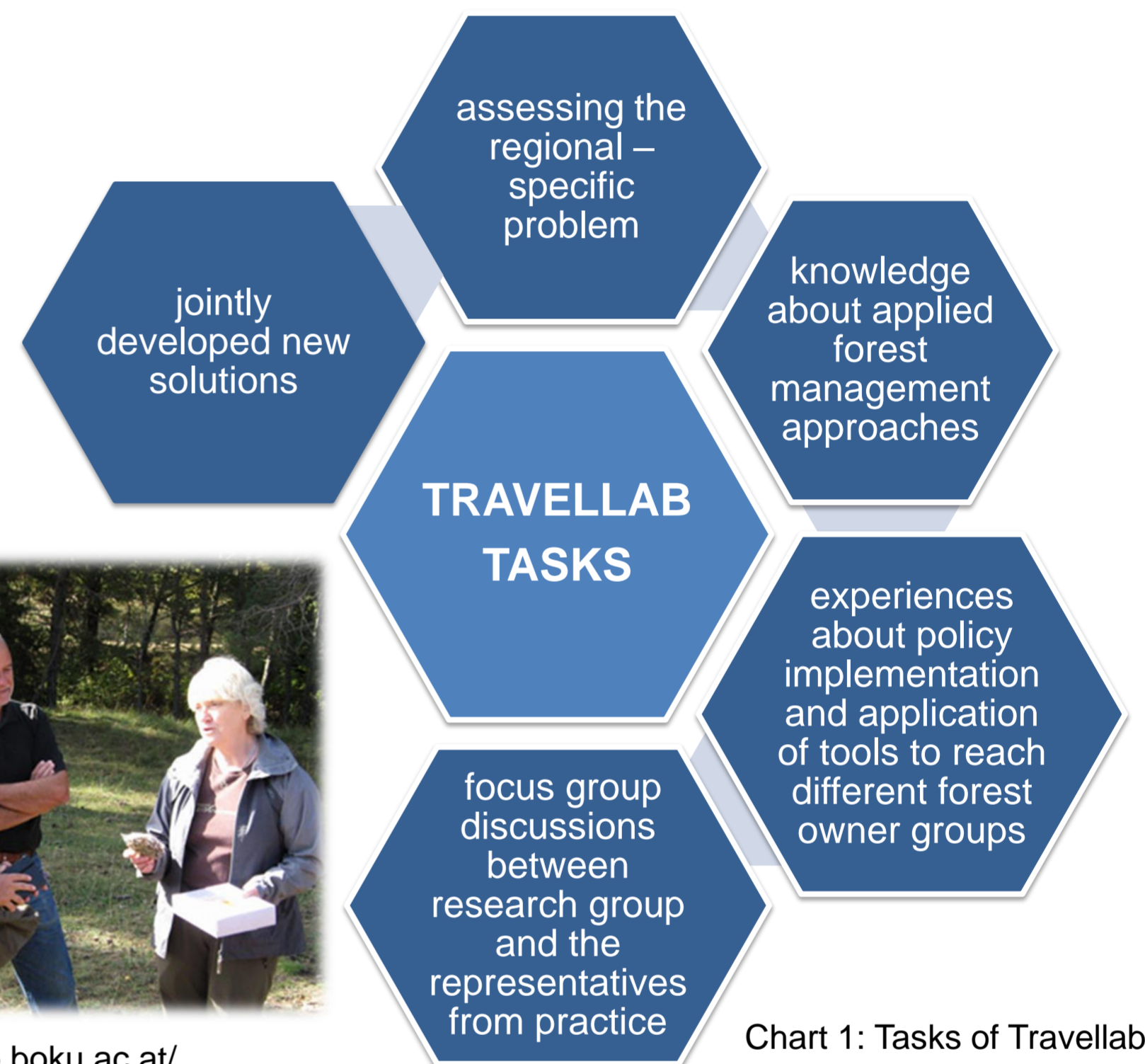


Chart 1: Tasks of Travellab

RESULTS

	OBSTACLES	SUPPORTING FACTORS
GERMANY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservation issues (e.g. the foresters are not allowed to build new forest roads, wind turbines) • three level policies EU, Berlin, and Stuttgart (EU level policy, state and federal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • renewable energy brings interest into fuelwood market • possibility to create forest area larger than 75ha and rent it for huntings • within Natura2000 area some management activities are subsidized
FINLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low timber prices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the production of non-timber forest products • bio-economy can increase demand for timber
SPAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservation issues - "If I manage my forest for high biodiversity: who will pay for it?" • low timber prices • lack of regulations for non-timber products and services (eg. Mushroom picking) • Payment for environmental services are not included in the forest policy • "Forest fires will manage our forests if we don't" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • payments for ecosystem services and other public goods may shape the forest management and policy • development of biomass use

CONCLUSIONS

- There are **some misunderstandings and misleading** in the way how forest area should be treated and what can be done there.
- FAO: "forest policy is widely understood as a **negotiated agreement ...**" **BUT** owners emphasize a **dialog between stakeholders should be improved** and to be developed better **participatory approach**.
- Goods as a timber and fuelwood remain important one. But there is a progress in the integration of **conservation and biodiversity policy** into the forest sector as well as **PES and NWFP**. But forest owners still do not except this completely, at least in the way it is done now.

REFERENCES:

- Berkes, F., 2009. Evolution of co-management: role of knowledge generation, bridging organizations and social learning. Journal of Environmental Management 90, 1692–1702.
- FAO. 2010. Developing effective forest policy.