

STSM Report
Diana Feliciano

Proposed title for the STSM: Private owners' perceptions on forest management across Europe: differences and similarities

Period: 2014-10-27 to 2014-10-31 (1 week)

Host Institute: Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of Alcala, Spain

Hosts: Dr Sonia Quiroga and Dr Cristina Suarez

Purpose of the STSM

The purpose of the STSM was to design a structure for the research paper "private forest owners' perceptions on forest management across Europe" that has been developed by the sub-group led by Diana Feliciano under Working Group 2 – New management types of COST Action FACESMAP. This sub-group currently has 9 active participants who have committed to undertake a survey on their own countries. This survey asks private forest owners to indicate how much they agree with 19 individual definitions of forest management on a scale of 1 to 5 (1- completely disagree, 5-completely agree). Figure 1 exemplifies one of the definitions and possibilities of response:

Figure 1: Forest management is preserving the forestland for future generations

- Variable to explain: Forest management is preserving the forestland for future generations (Y):
 1. Strongly disagree
 2. Disagree
 3. Indifferent
 4. Agree
 5. Strongly agree

- $Y=f(\text{Age, Gender, Level of studies,...})$
- Method: Y has an ordered outcome then ordered probit regression

After estimation and test the model validity....

Currently the following has been reported from active participants:

- Portugal has collected 142 responses from private forest owners (FORESTIS, the Forest Association of Portugal has been in charge of conducting the questionnaire in Portugal);
- Slovakia has collected 80 responses so far;
- Slovenia has collected 1000 responses through telephone survey, for a previous project;
- Greece has collected 15 responses so far;
- France, Spain and Austria were committed to undertake their questionnaire until the end of January.

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

During the STSM only the data from Portugal was analysed using the software *Stata* (<http://www.stata.com/>). We started analysing this data and structure a research paper entitled: Private forest owners' perceptions on forest management in the Northern and Central Portugal. The decision to analyse the data from Portugal was taken because it was the only dataset available at the time of the STSM. We intend that this first paper will help in the design of the structure of the cross-country study paper we aim to write as a sub-group.

The main work carried during the STSM was:

- Analysis of the data from Portugal with software *Stata*;
- Discussion on how to present and interpret results;
- Writing parts of the introduction;
- Writing parts of methodology.

Description of the main results obtained

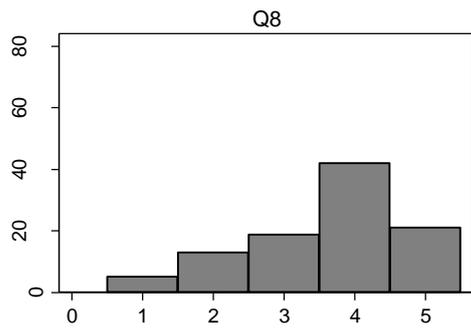
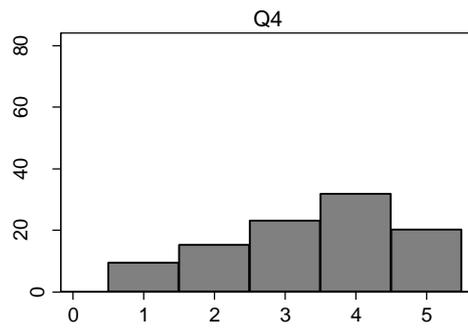
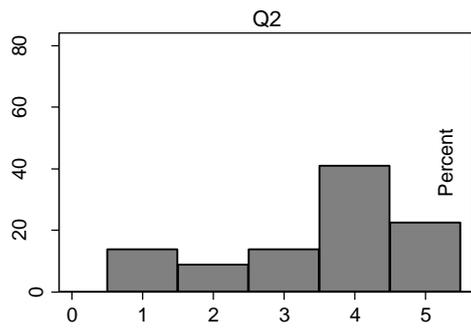
1) The questions were grouped in the following way:

Topic	Question	Rationale
Financial benefits	Q2, Q4, Q8	Questions related to management of capital, asset, business, revenues, money.
Silviculture	Q3, Q12, Q15, Q19	Questions related to harvesting, removal of trees and preservation of trees, forest works.
Forest protection	Q5, Q6, Q11, Q18	Questions related to the improvement of forest health, forest resilience, and imitation of natural processes.
Affection to land	Q7, Q10	Questions related to preserving land from ancestors and to future generations.
Beauty	Q14, Q17	Questions related to the maintenance of the beautifulness and attractiveness of forest.
Other	Q1, Q9, Q13, Q16	Other questions which main topics do not fit in the previous categories. These include the application of knowledge, leisure, producing of goods for own consumption, subsidies.

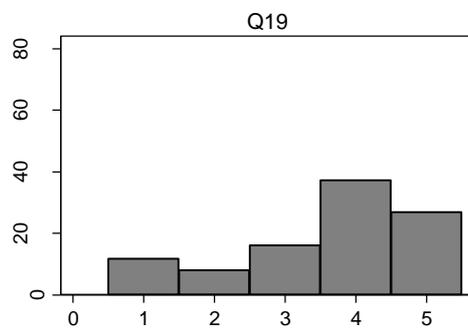
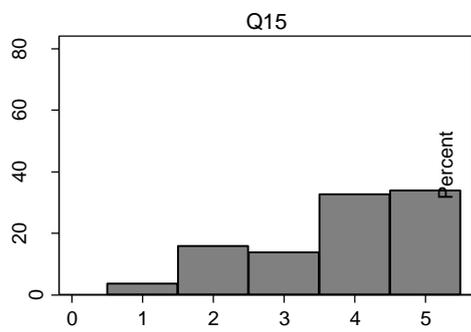
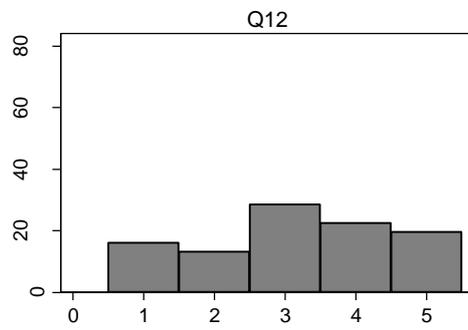
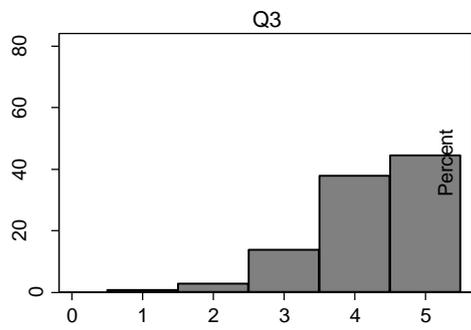
2) Preliminary results (descriptive statistics) of our analysis are:

Figure 1:

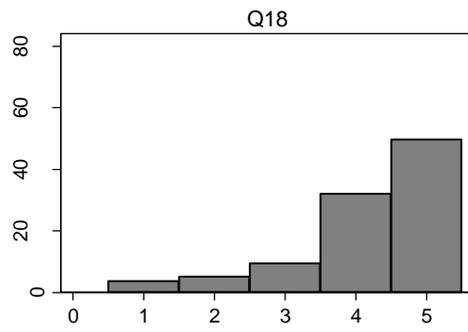
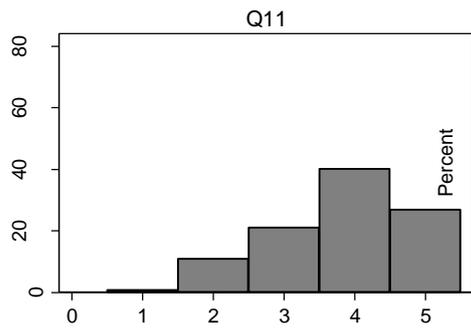
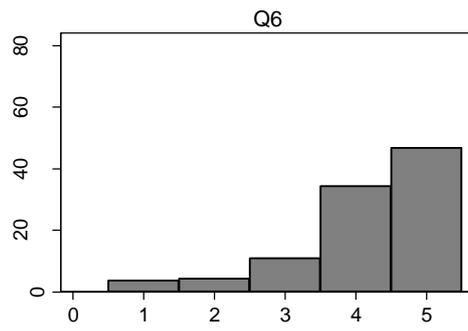
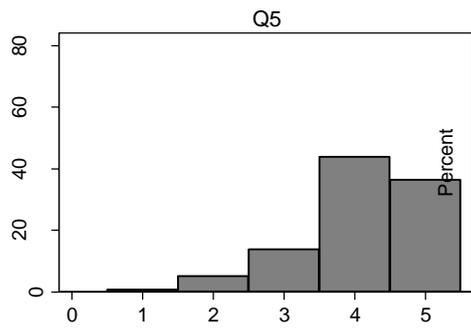
a) Financial benefits



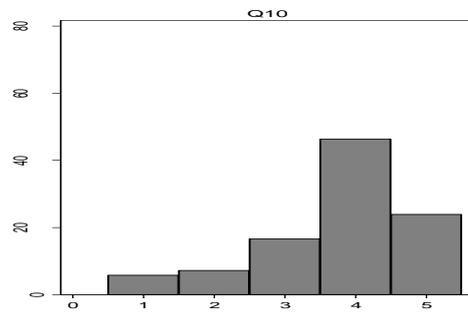
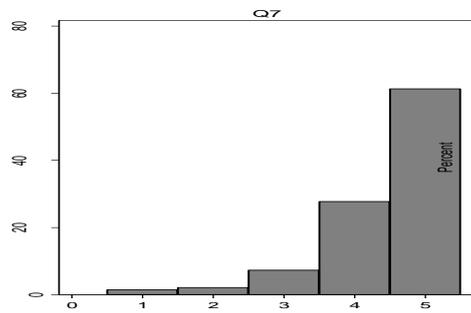
b) Silviculture



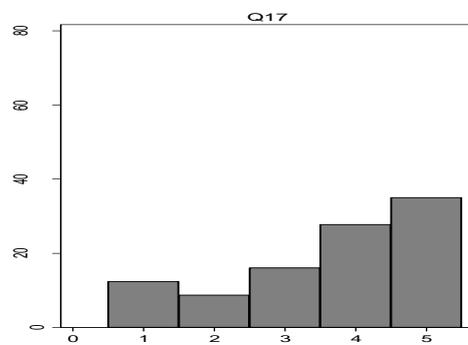
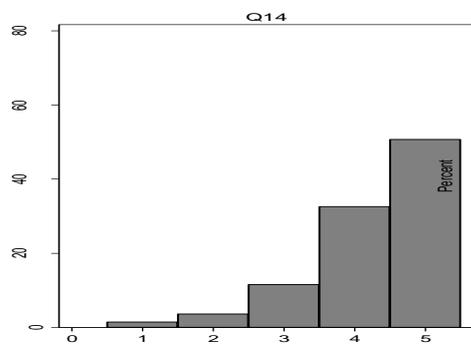
c) Forest protection



d) Affection to land



e) Beauty



f) Other

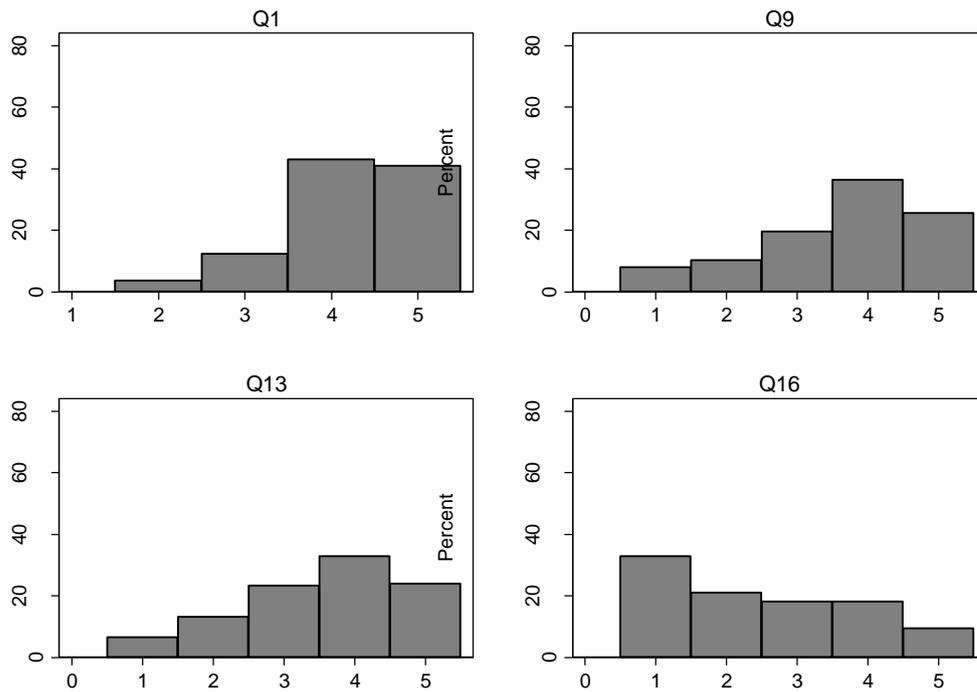


Table 1: Descriptive statistics

Name	Rationale	Description	Unit	Mean	Std Dev.
Ag_i	Age		Number of years	54.01	15.49
Gen_i	Gender		Male	81.20	
FA_i	Forest Area		ha	17.88	35.82
Pl_i	Plots		Number of forest plots owned by the same person but legally separated	8.68	13.12
Ed_i	Education level		1 = primary school	24.06	
			2 =secondary school	42.11	
			3 = university	33.83	
Pr_i	Proximity		1 living <2 km from the forest	35.34	
			2 from 2 to 10 km	36.84	
			3 from 11-20 km	15.79	
			4 >20 km.	12.03	
Ded_i	Dedication		1 no direct management,	40.60	
			2 part time activity, 3 full time activity	51.13	
				8.27	

We also employed ordered probit models to characterize the main forest management goals in response to forest owner’s socio-economic characteristics.

Data analysed was not described yet we are still testing different ways of analysing and presenting the results.

Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)

We are collaborating in the sub-group as well to further investigate the perceptions of private forest owners on forest management across in Europe.

We also would like to write an article comparing Portugal and Spain but this will depend on success of data collection in Spain. It would be interesting to compare data from these two countries (North and Central Portugal and Galicia) with similar forest culture (small scale forestry, eucalyptus) but with different policy contexts (regional vs centralised policies).

Foreseen publications/articles resulting or to result from the STSM (if applicable)

Title: Private forest owners' perceptions on forest management in the Northern and Central Portugal

Potential journals to be submitted: *Forest policy and economics or small-scale forestry.*

Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM

Already obtained.

Other comments (if any).

Draft of the article attached.