

# FP1201 Short Term Scientific Mission Report

## Grantee:

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**STSM reference:** FACESMAP – COST Action FP1201

**Action Working Group:** WG3: Forest owners related policies

**Host:** Prof. Dr. Ulrich Schraml, Albert Ludwigs University, Faculty of Environmental and Natural Resources, Institute of Forest and Environmental Policy

**Title:** Sources of information for private forest owners – comparative analysis between Germany, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina

**Period:** 26/01/2014 - 09/02/2014

**Reference code:** COST-STSM-ECOST-STSM-FP1201-260114-039843

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## Purpose of the Short Term Scientific Mission

In the context of changing political, economical and social environment related to forest management, policy and ownership changes in Europe, particularly several challenges facing private forests owners, the purposes of this STSM were as follows:

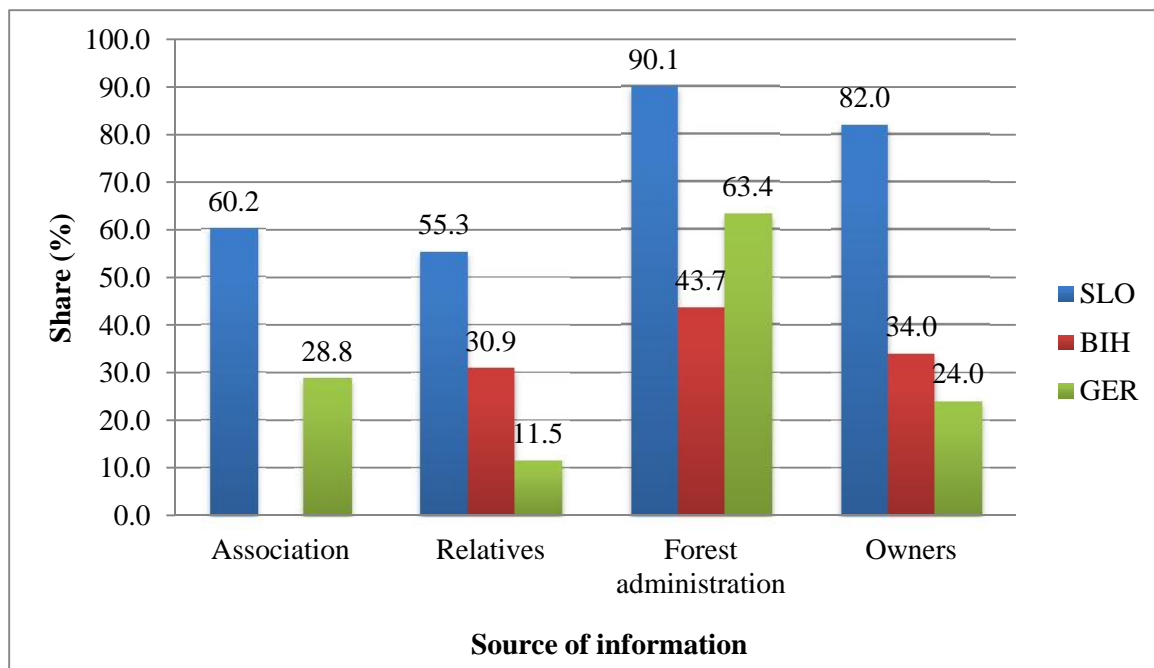
- To analyze private forest owners' needs and demands for information in Germany, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina,
- To analyze sources of information for private forest owners,
- To assess private forest owners' characteristics and how these affect what sources of information owners are most likely to use,
- To identify a correlation between sources of information for private forest owners and their readiness to cooperate in interest associations and
- To conduct cross-country comparison of obtained results between private forest owners in Germany, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

By doing so, this STSM would support transfer of scientific experiences and knowledge between EU and non-EU countries but also contribute to the aims and specific objectives of FACESMAP – COST Action (e.g. the awareness and access of new forest owners to information, advice and support, and possibilities for improvement) and overall activities within WG3 (Forest owner related policies).

### **Description of the main results obtained**

Based on the data obtained from several research projects on private forest ownership issues conducted in Germany, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially those on willingness of private forest owners for cooperation and establishing their interest associations, the informational sources that private forest owners are most likely to use were identified. The surveys conducted within those projects have questioned private forest owners about a range of issues related to their social-demographical characteristics (gender, age, education, and type of ownership), property characteristics, management behaviour, information sources (management and policy) and cooperation (e.g. readiness, reasons, and expected services from interest associations). Surveys in all three countries were conducted with similar sample design concepts. The data have been summarized by descriptive statistics, frequency distributions, and selected measures of location and dispersion (mean and standard deviation). Multivariate logistic regression (logit model) was used to assess how certain forest owners and management characteristics influence what information sources owners are likely to use. By applying this methodology it was better understood how and through which channels or institutions private forest owners obtain several data useful for management of their forests such as opportunities for subsidies, dynamics of timber market, changes in forest-related legislation etc. It was interesting to examine these issues in the context of cross-country comparative analysis between Bosnia-Herzegovina (potential candidate for EU), Slovenia (relatively new EU country) and Germany (well established EU country) due to different experiences in management of private forests and using several sources of information for private forest owners.

During the STSM, the appropriate literature was reviewed, necessary databases have been prepared and selected variables coded, statistical analysis conducted and draft version of the paper has been prepared. The preliminary results show that in all three countries, public forest administration is identified as the most frequently used source of information for private forest owners (see next Graph). Apart of this, in Slovenia and Germany, private forest owners quite frequently use other owners and private forest owners associations as main source of information. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, where private forest owners associations are not developed yet, the most preferred source of information after forest administration are other private forest owners and relatives. This comparison clearly indicates the differences between analyzed countries with respect to informational sources due to different organizational structure of national forestry sector and different level of cooperation between owners. The obtained results will be compared with the results of similar previous research (Hodges et al. 2010), who found that the most often sources for private forest owners are professional books/magazines, friends, relatives and neighbours.



The logistic regression models are also developed to better reflect sources of information that private forest owner's use in each of analysed countries. Two models were statistically significant in Slovenia (Model 3: Forest administration and Model 4: Owners), one in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Model 3: Forest administration) and all four models in Germany (Model 1: Associations, Model 2: Relatives, Model 3: Forest administration and Model 4: Owners). All evaluated independent variables (age, education, forest property size, fragmentation, harvesting) except gender, were statistically significant in at least one model. These results would help researchers to confirm or reject some initial assumptions about influence on private forest owners' characteristics to their sources and types of information.

### Future collaboration with host institution

During the Short Term Scientific Mission period, it was established close cooperation with some researchers at the Institute of Forest and Environmental Policy within the Faculty of Environmental and Natural Resources at Albert Ludwigs University. The research on sources of information for private forest owners in Germany, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina was done in cooperation with Prof. Ulrich Schraml and Dr. Špela Pezdevšek Malovrh. However, this cooperation will be extended in the field of private forest policy, FACESMAP – COST Action and beyond. In order to establish future links with forest and environmental policy research community in Freiburg, the presentation on “Corruption in forestry and the EU's policy against illegal logging: a perspective from the Balkan“ has been prepared (in cooperation with Dr. Špela Pezdevšek Malovrh) and presented to wide auditorium of students and researchers, within the series “Freiburgs talks on International and European Forest Policy”. The presentation was well received and generated intensive discussions between the participants. Apart of this, number of connections has been established with colleagues from the Institute of Forest and Environmental Policy related to cooperation and building consortiums for eventual project applications in the future (e.g. H2020).

### **Foreseen publications/articles resulting or to result from the STSM**

Together with Prof. Schraml and Dr. Pezdevšek Malovrh, we plan to complete an article on sources of information for private forest owners in Germany, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and to publish it in some internationally recognized and peer reviewed research journals. The decision on journal is not done yet.

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

As attachments to this report, I submit the Confirmation of the successful execution of Short Term Scientific Mission, signed by Prof. Ulrich Schraml as well as the Confirmation on giving the presentation on the series “Freiburgs talks on International and European Forest Policy”, signed by Dr. Georg Winkel.

### **Other comments**

I use this opportunity to express my genuine gratitude to all persons (responsible colleagues in FACESMAP – COST Action FP1201, researchers and staff at the Institute of Forest and Environmental Policy, Faculty of Environmental and Natural Resources, as a host institution and management of the Faculty of Forestry University of Sarajevo) for making this Short Term Scientific Mission possible.

Sarajevo, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Prof. Dr. Mersudin Avdibegovi





To whom it may concern

## Confirmation Freiburg Talk on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear Sir or Madame,

This is to confirm that Mersudin Avdibegovic has given a joint presentation with Špela Pezdevšek Malovrh on February, 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, within the series "Freiburgs talks on International and European Forest Policy". The title of their talks was "Corruption in forestry and the EU's policy against illegal logging: a perspective from the Balkan". The duration of the talk was 30 minutes followed by ca. 30 minutes of discussion. The talk was well received by students and faculty.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in case you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

  
Dr Georg Winkel



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### Chair of Action FP 1201

### Confirmation of the successful execution of STSM, by Mersudin Avdibegović

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir or Madam,

By this letter I confirm that the Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy, Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources, Albert Ludwig University, (Freiburg, Germany) hosted Prof. **Mersudin Avdibegović** during his COST FP 1201 FACESMAP, STSM mission. Prof. **Mersudin Avdibegović** worked together with Professor Ulrich Schraml on a cooperation project for a period of two weeks (26.01.2014 – 09.02.2014) and fulfilled the obligations of his STSM. Prof. **Mersudin Avdibegović** was active particularly in the research work but also gave a presentation within the series „Freiburg's talk on International and European Forest Policy“. Together with professor Schraml he finished a manuscript related to the Information needs of small scale forest owners. The mission was beneficial to both, fulfilling the COST FP 1201 FACESMAP STSM mission and adding to his research work which belongs to the same subject.

With kind regards,

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Schraml