

UNECE /FAO /MCPFE Enquiry on Private Forest Ownership (*PFO*)

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PFO Enquiry main features

- Method – detailed questionnaire (*8 Tables with some 270 variables / questions, T&D, guidelines*)
- Coverage – MCPFE countries...
- Organization – JWP guidance, countries' support, NCs network, partnerships (*organizations/ associations*), transparency, testing ...
- Great interest / Great importance vs. shortage/ lack of data/ information ...



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PFO Enquiry Focus

Issues

Specification

Forest ownership

Private

Public

Other

Individuals / families/ institutions

State / provincial / communal

Private holding structure

Total area of holdings

Total number of holdings

by size classes

Socio-economic data

Forest Products

Individual owners

Volume Value

Age +
Gender

Occupation

Residence

Objectives

Trends

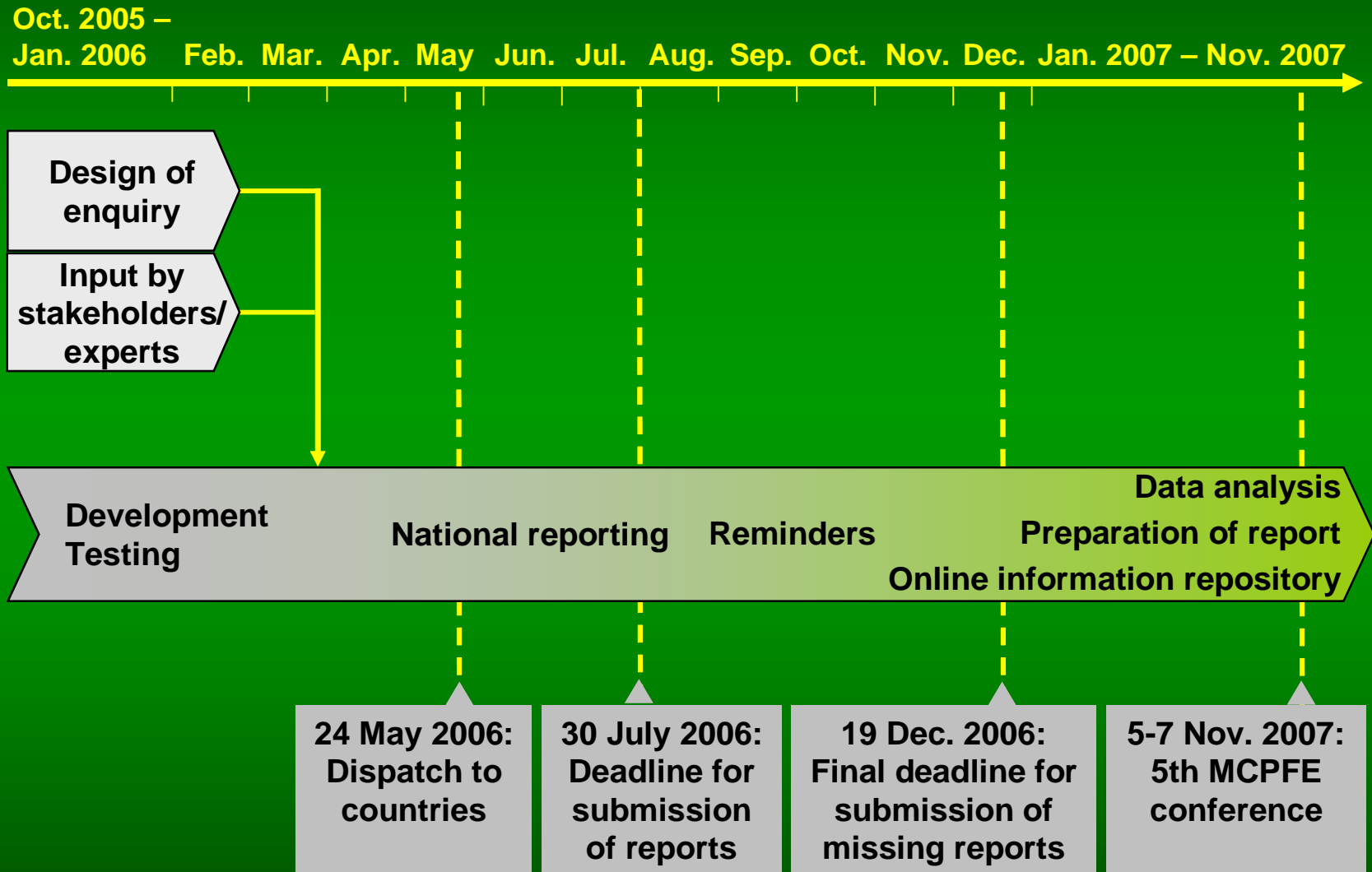
Restitution / Privatisation, Policy trends
Changes in past 15 years (area, No. of owners)
Organisation in FOAs, Fragmentation



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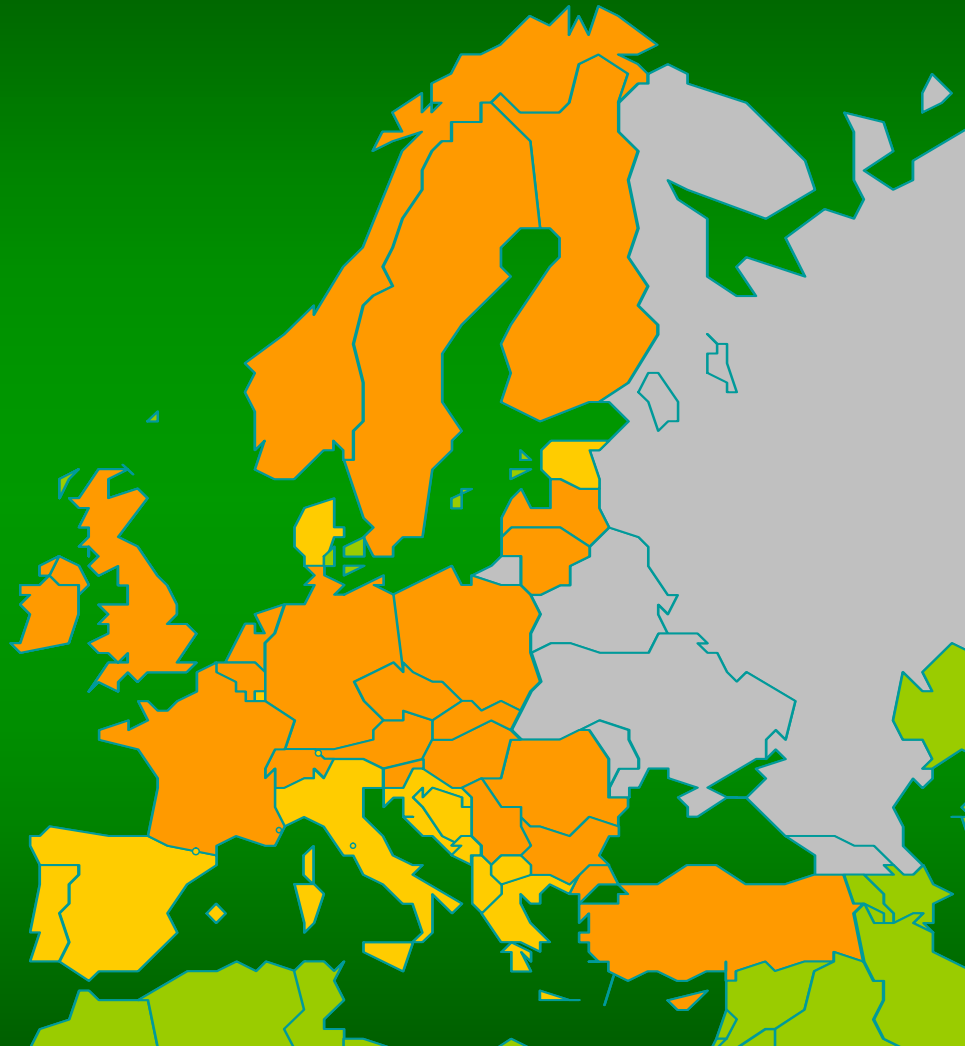
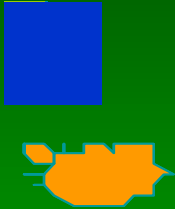
Enquiry Timetable



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Geographic coverage



38 MCPFE
countries:

Countries that participated

Countries that did not participate

Countries not addressed

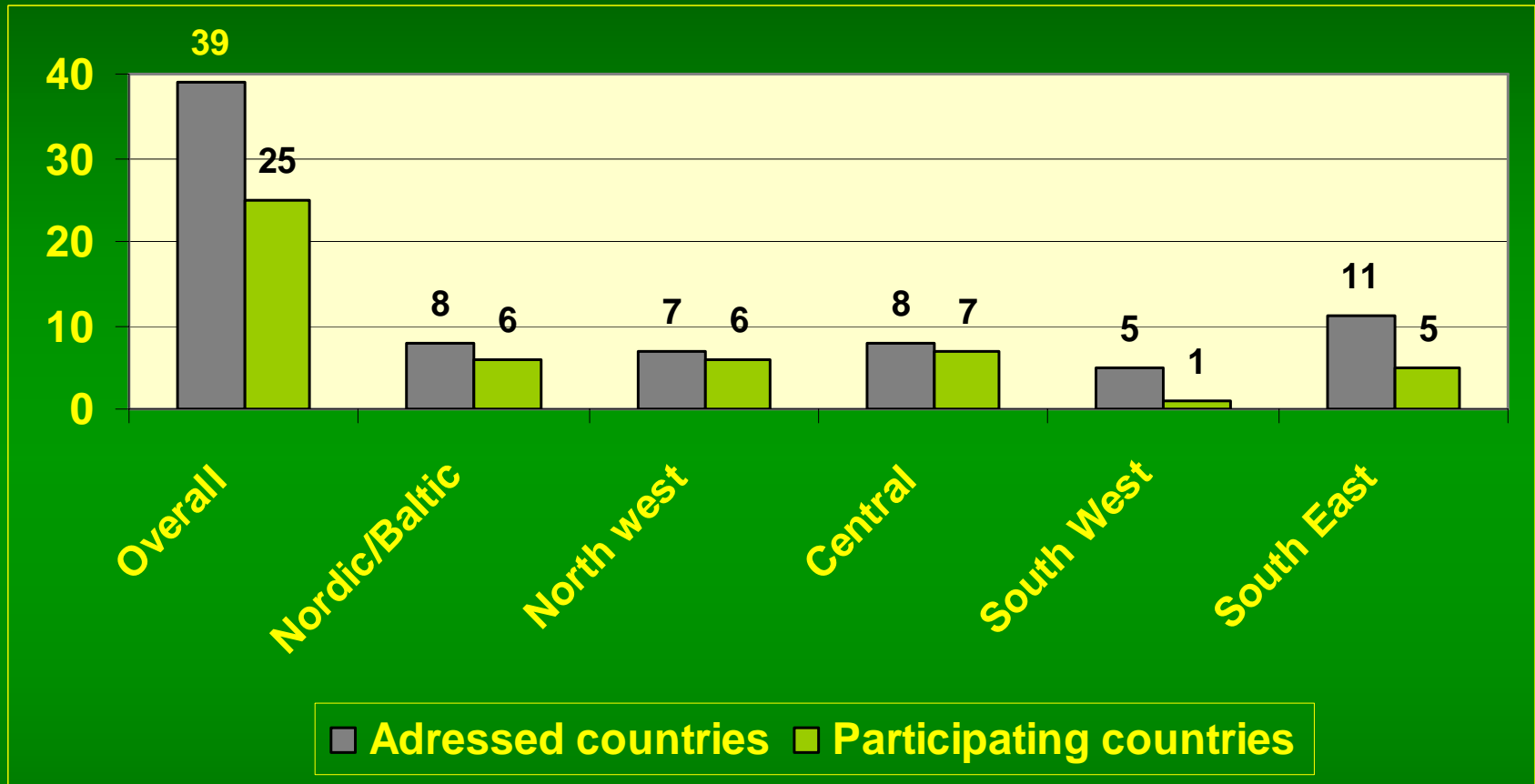
Non-MCPFE member countries



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Participation: 2/3 of countries



Overall participation 65,8 %

→ significant subregional differences, broader participation desired

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PFO Enquiry Status

- Under completion / validation
- Input into MCPFE-2007 report *“State of Forests and SFM in Europe 2007”*...
- Country information to be made available online ...

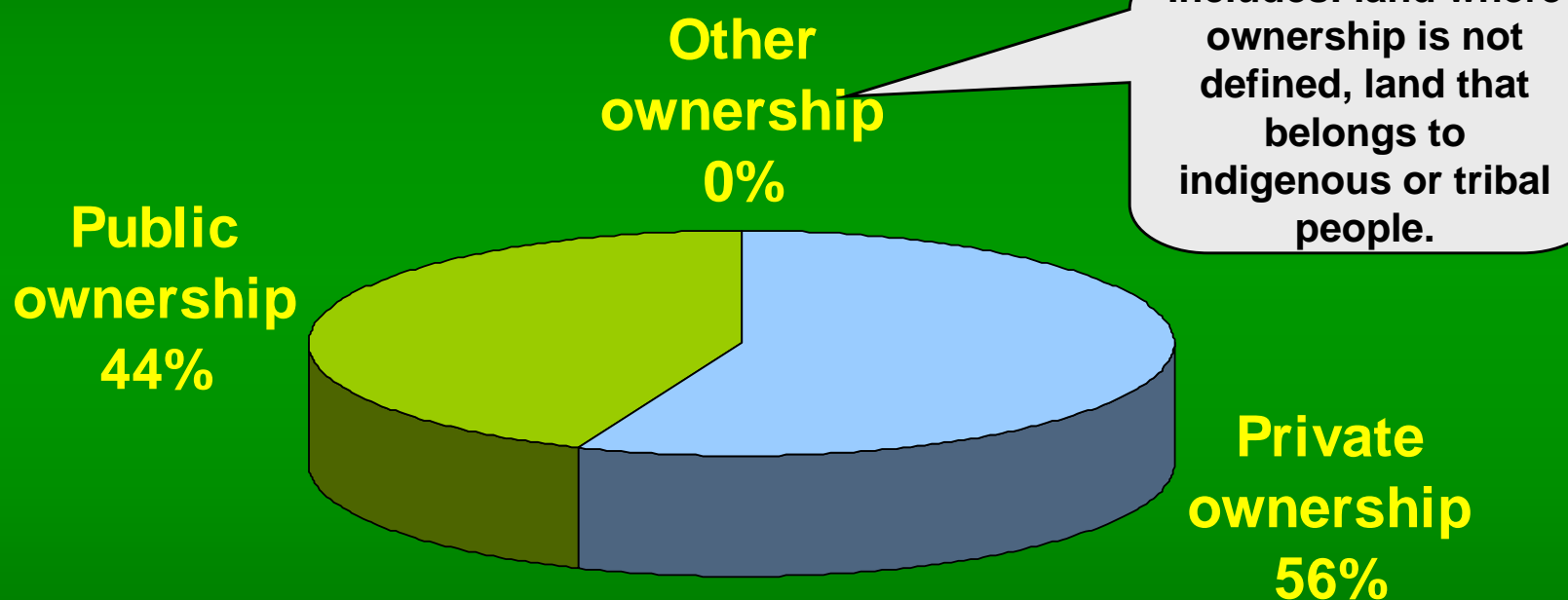


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Ownership categories (a)

Share [%] in area of FOWL in Europe, as reported by
19 countries in the Private Forest Ownership Enquiry



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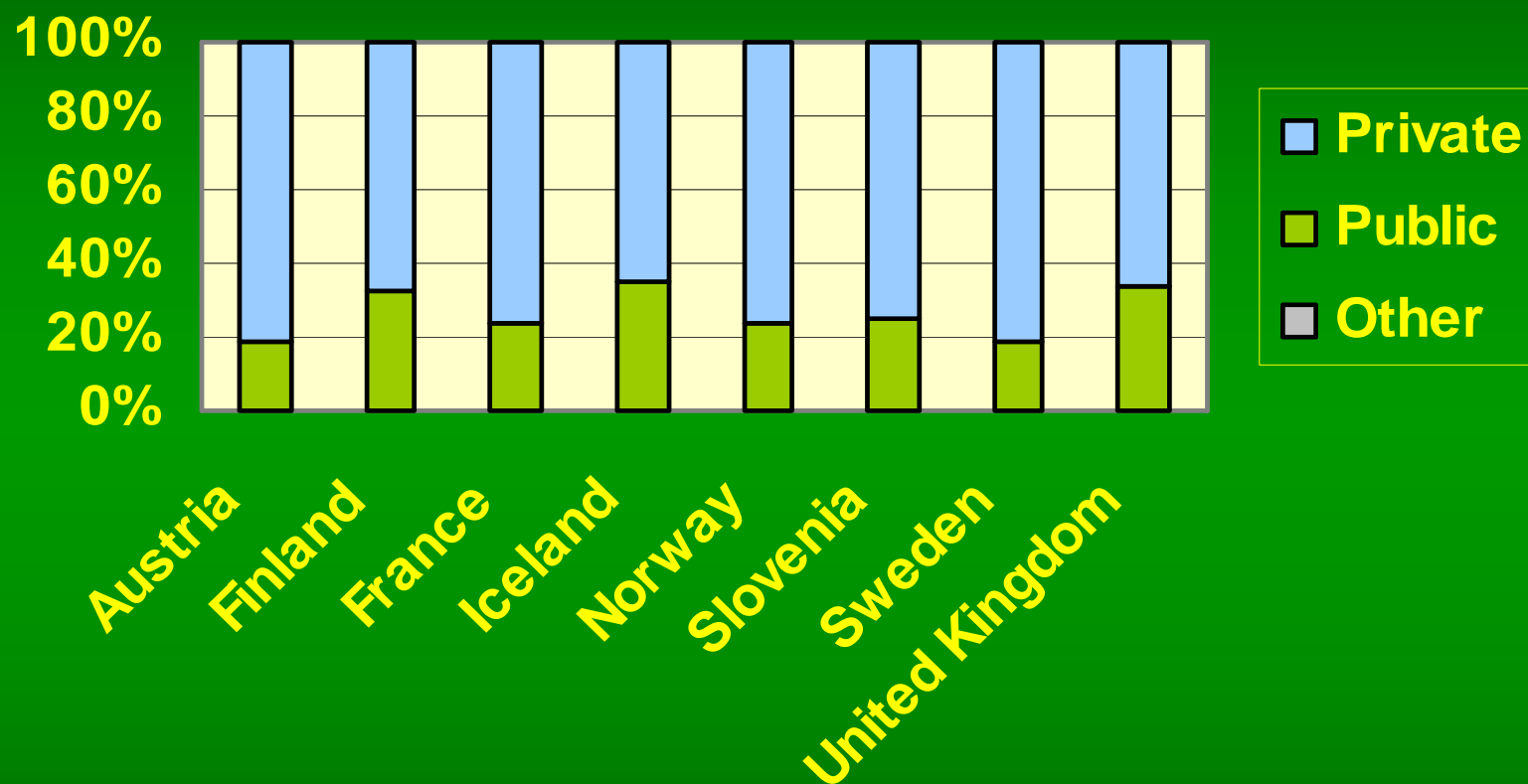


Ownership categories (b)

- Significant share of forest areas (56 %) are in private ownership ...
- ... but the great variation, e.g.:
 - PL, BG < 20% is PFO ...
 - AT, FR, NO, SE, SL: > 75% private forest area



Ownership categories (1)

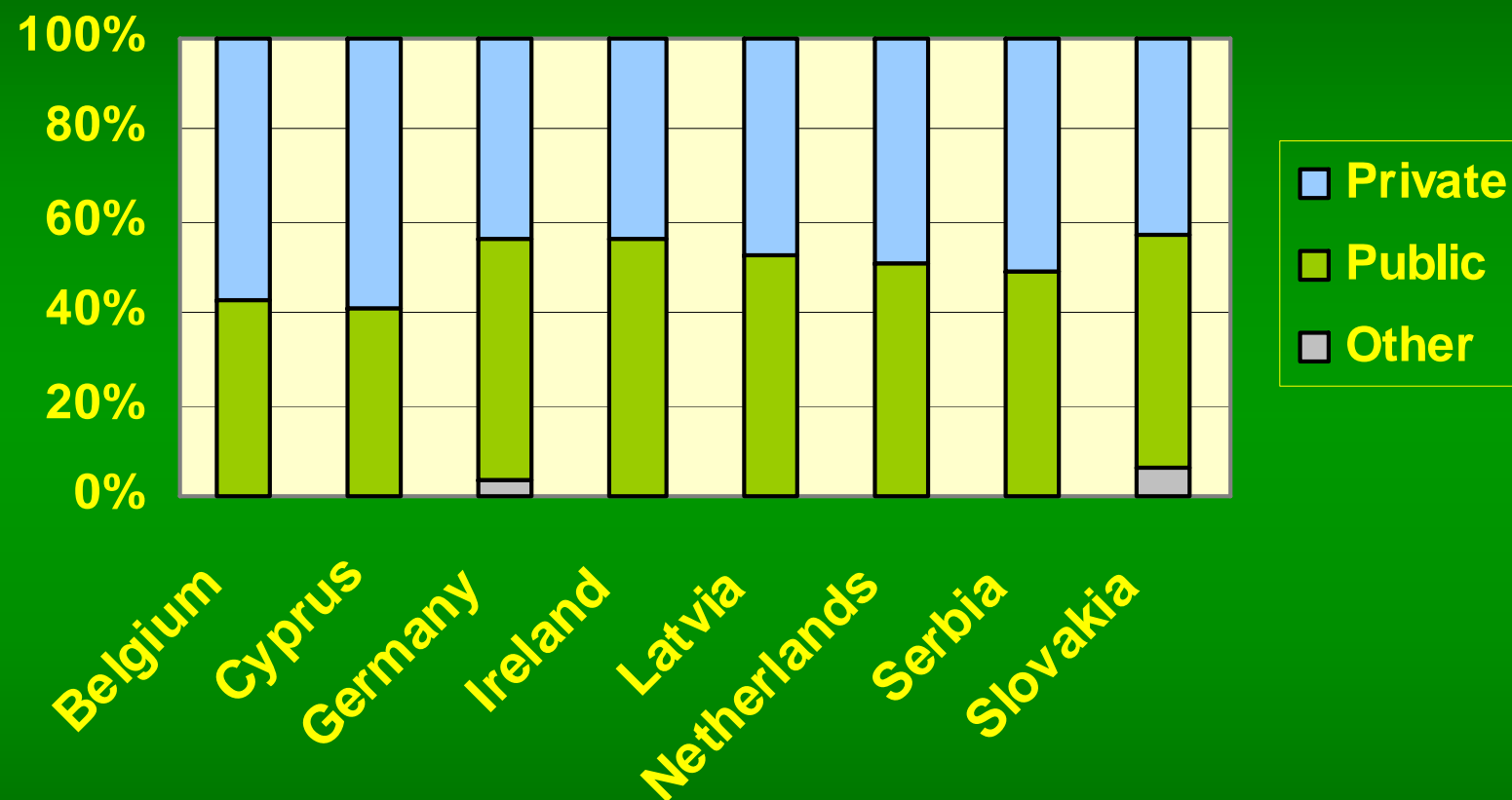


- Countries with predominance of PFO -

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Ownership categories (2)

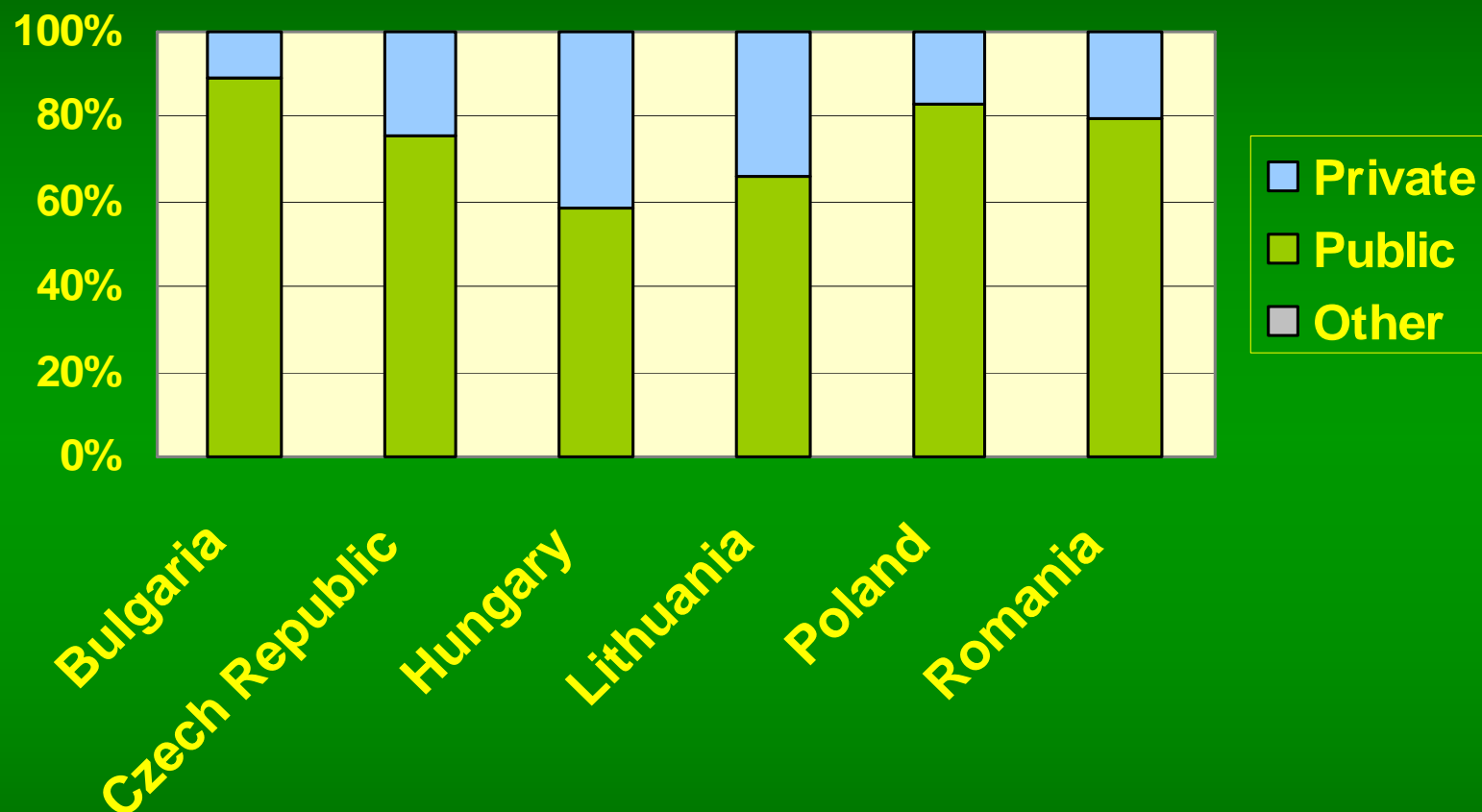


- Countries with balanced structure -

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Ownership categories (3)



- Countries with public forests predominance -

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PFO structure

- Diverse Ownership Structure within Private & Public:
 - Public: *mostly State owned ...*
 - Private: *mostly individuals/families ...*

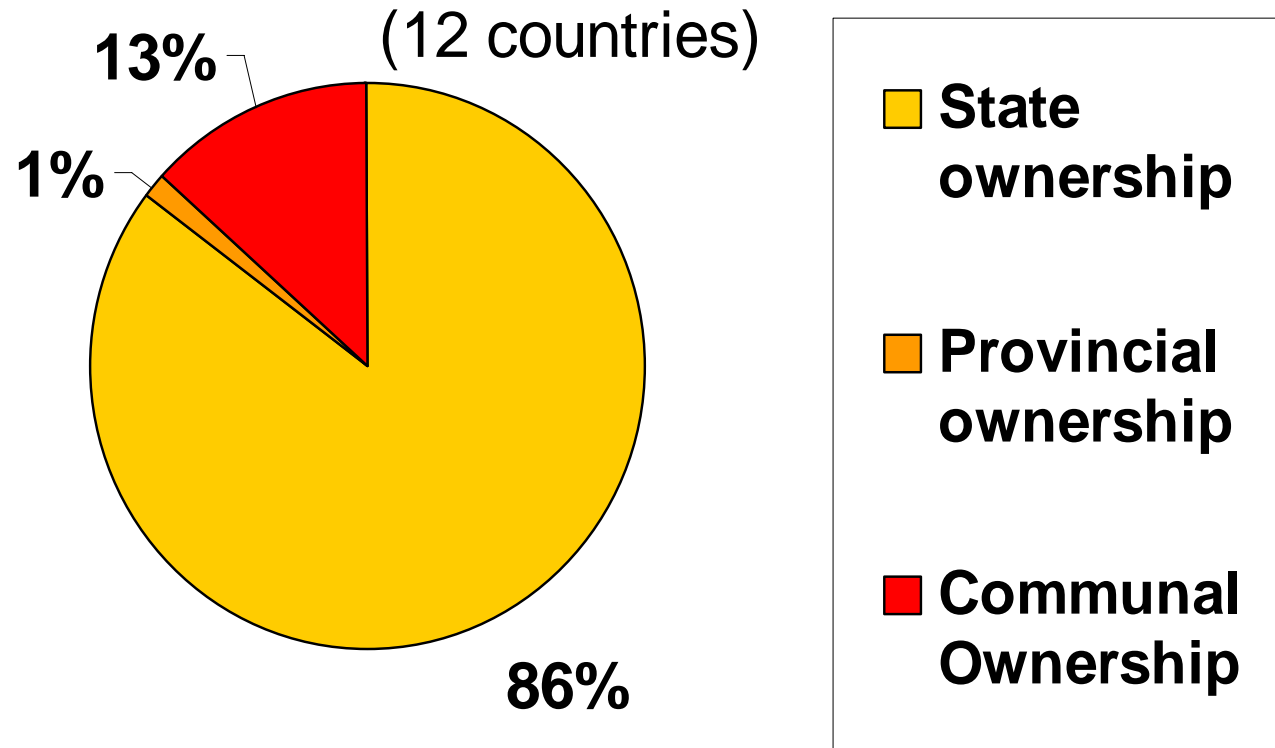


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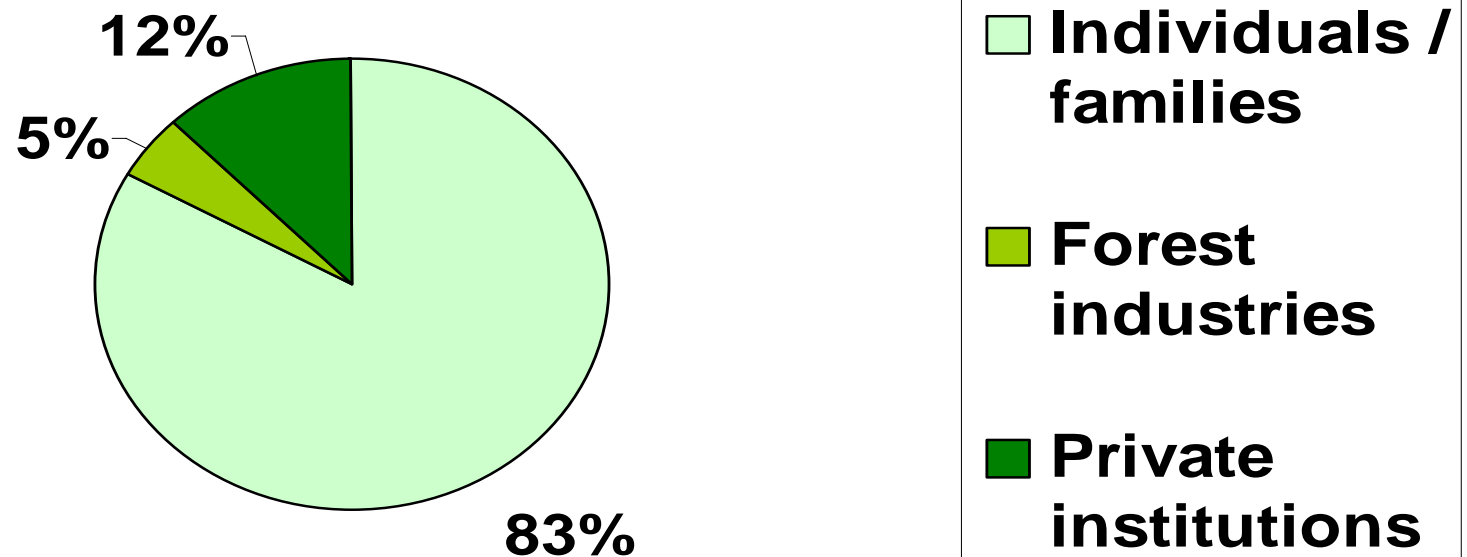
Structure of public forests

Public ownership structure in Europe
according to share in FOWL area (%)
(12 countries)



Structure of private forests

Private Forest Ownership structure in Europe according to % share in FOWL area (12 countries)



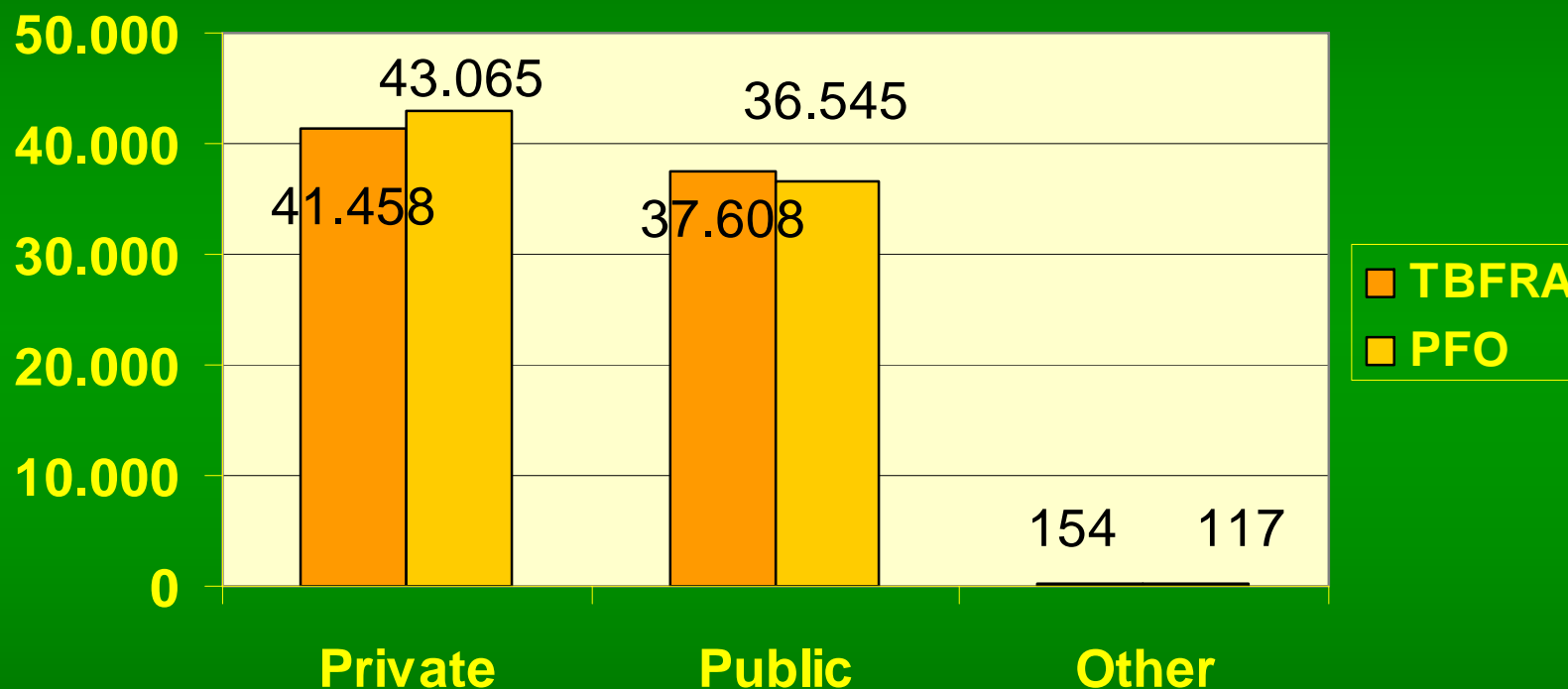
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Private ownership trend



Trends in FOWL tenure in Europe (in 1000ha)

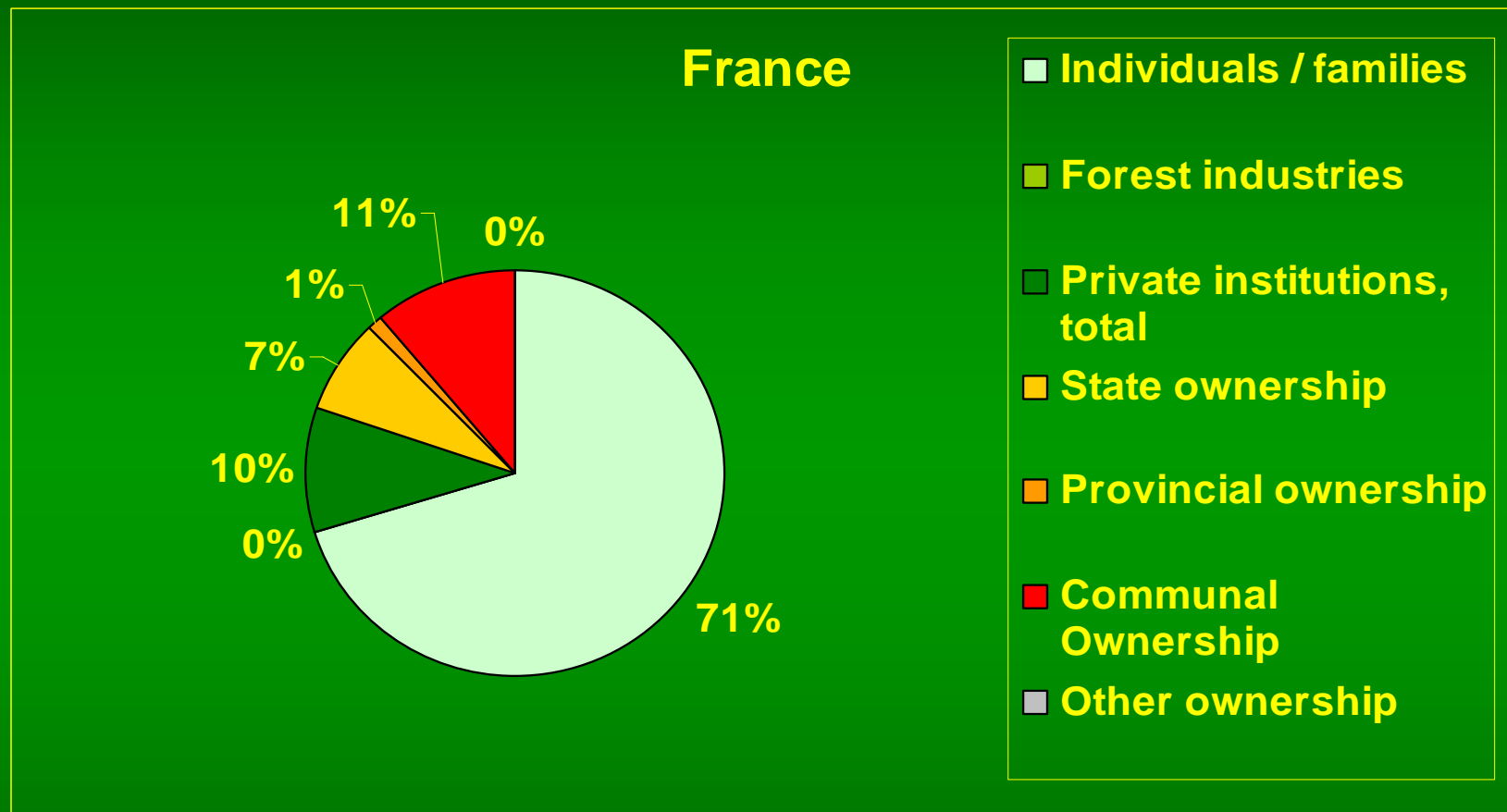


Since TBFRA-2000 → Increase in private forest area

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Country level structure (1)

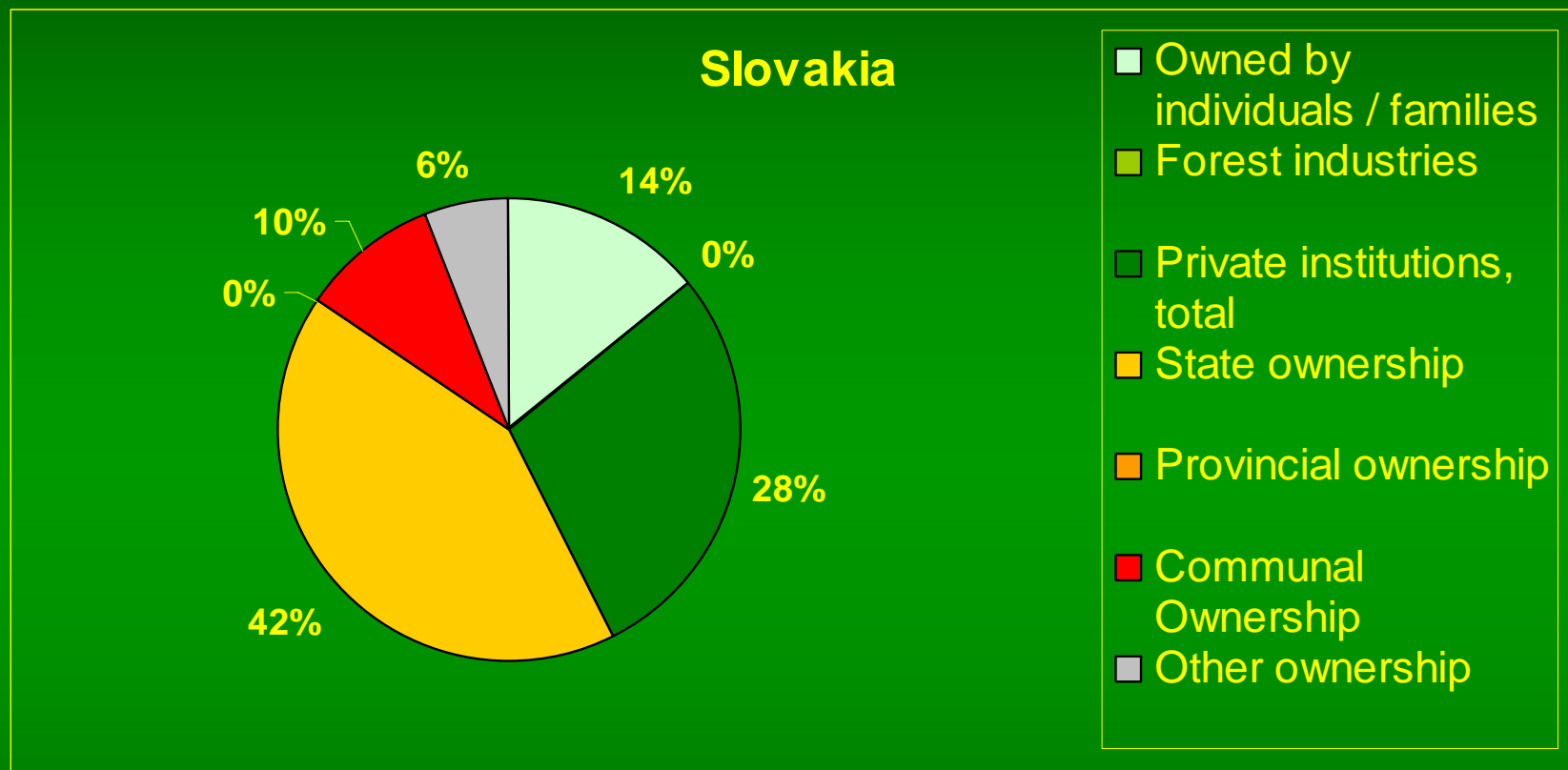


→ Predominance of individual / family owners

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Country level structure (2)



→ Restitution / privatisation towards individuals / families and private institutions



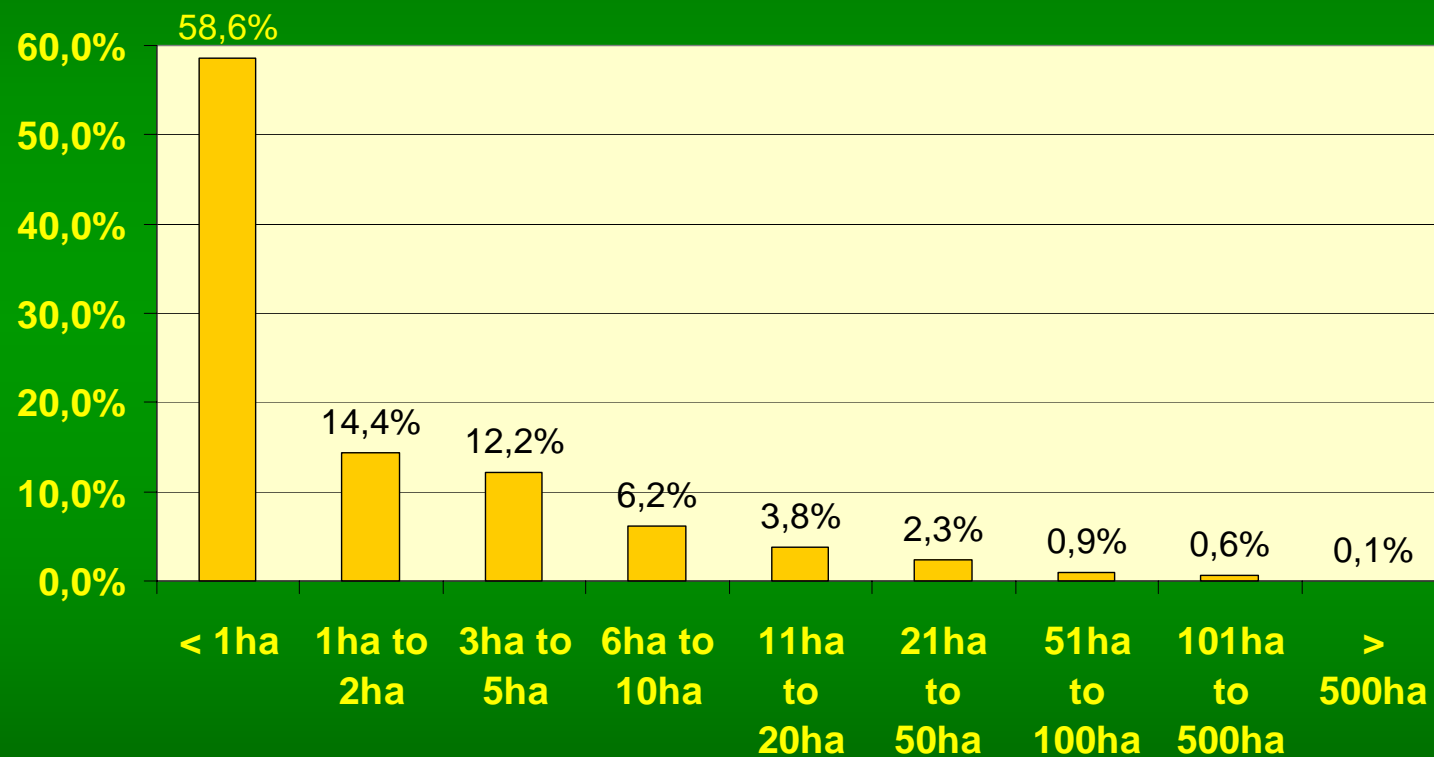
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Structure of PFO holdings (1)



**Total number of holdings [%] according to size classes
(19 countries)**

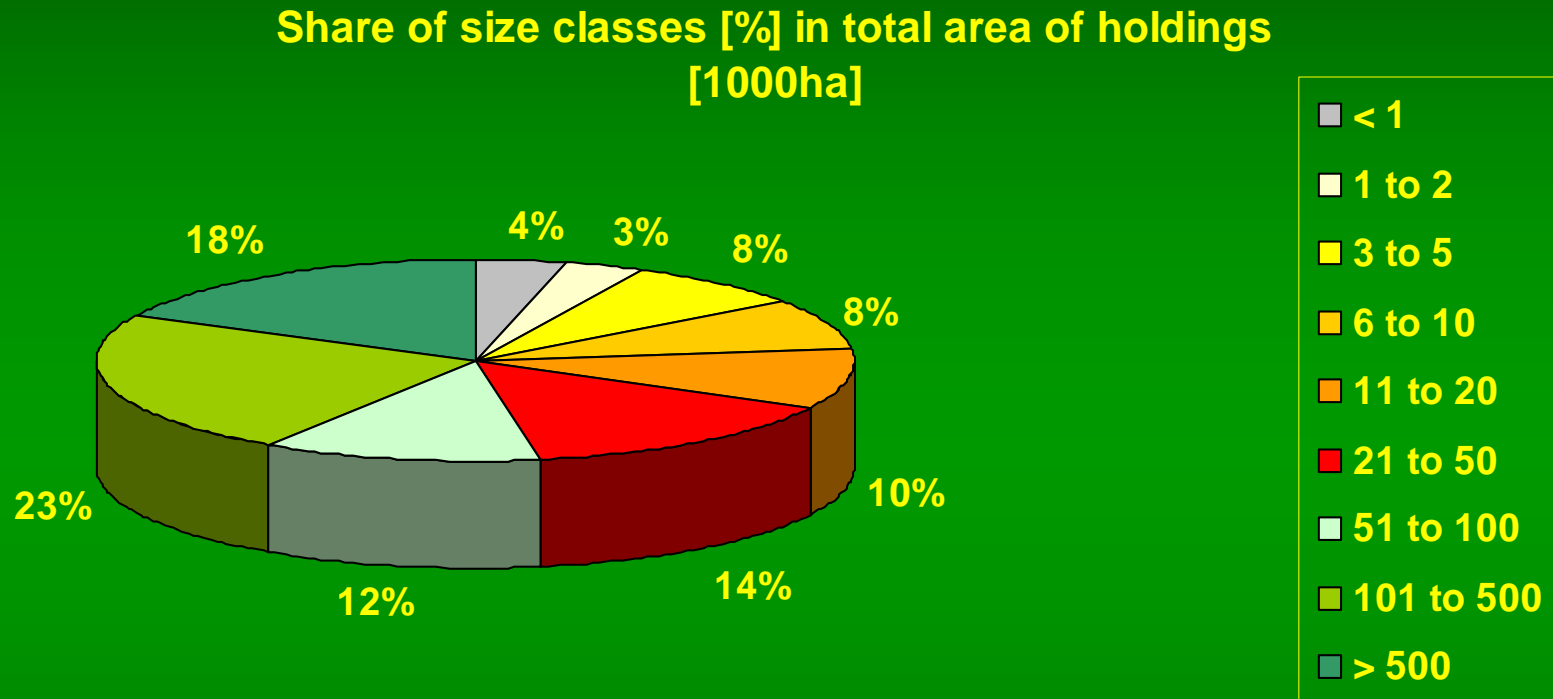


85% of holdings are smaller than 6 ha...

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Structure of PFO holdings (2)



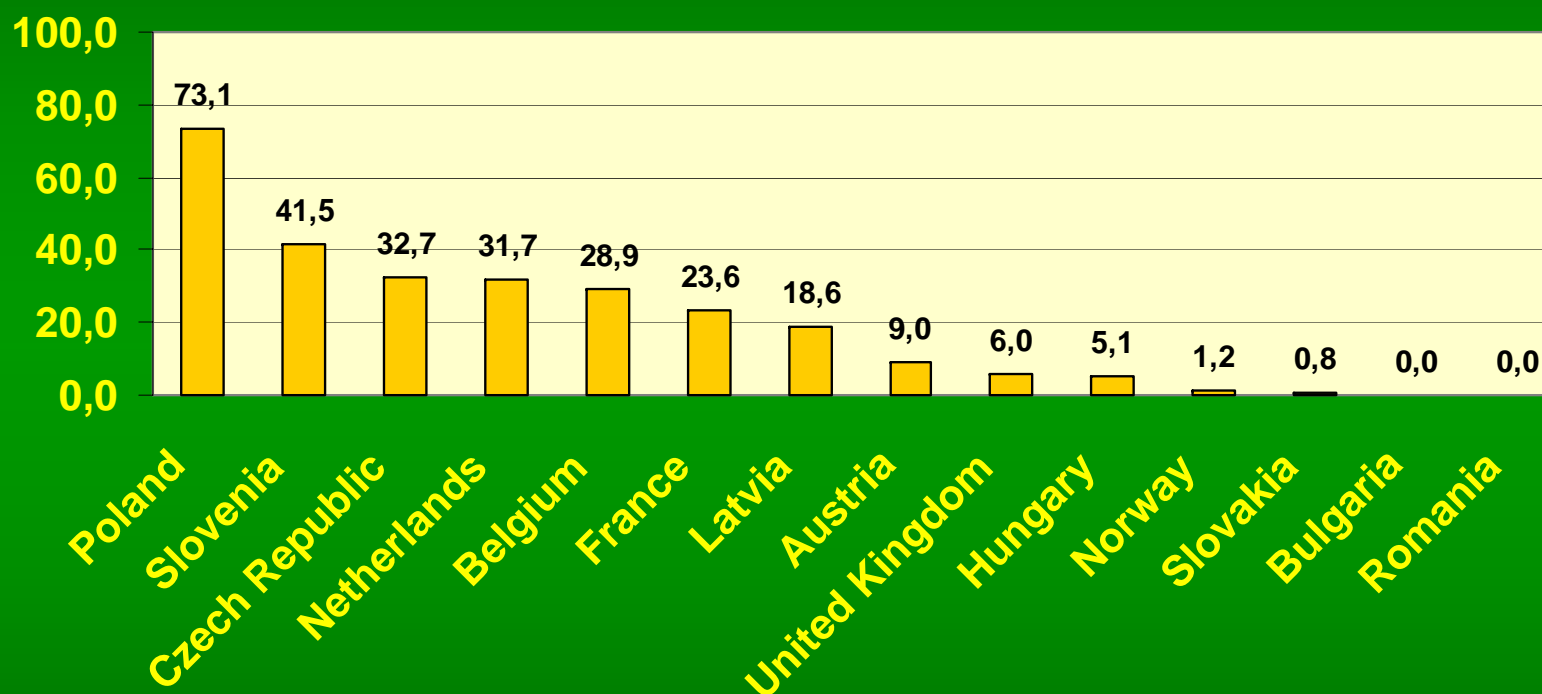
...however: small holdings have lower share in area ...

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Structure of PFO holdings (3)

Share (%) of holdings < 6ha in total area of private holdings

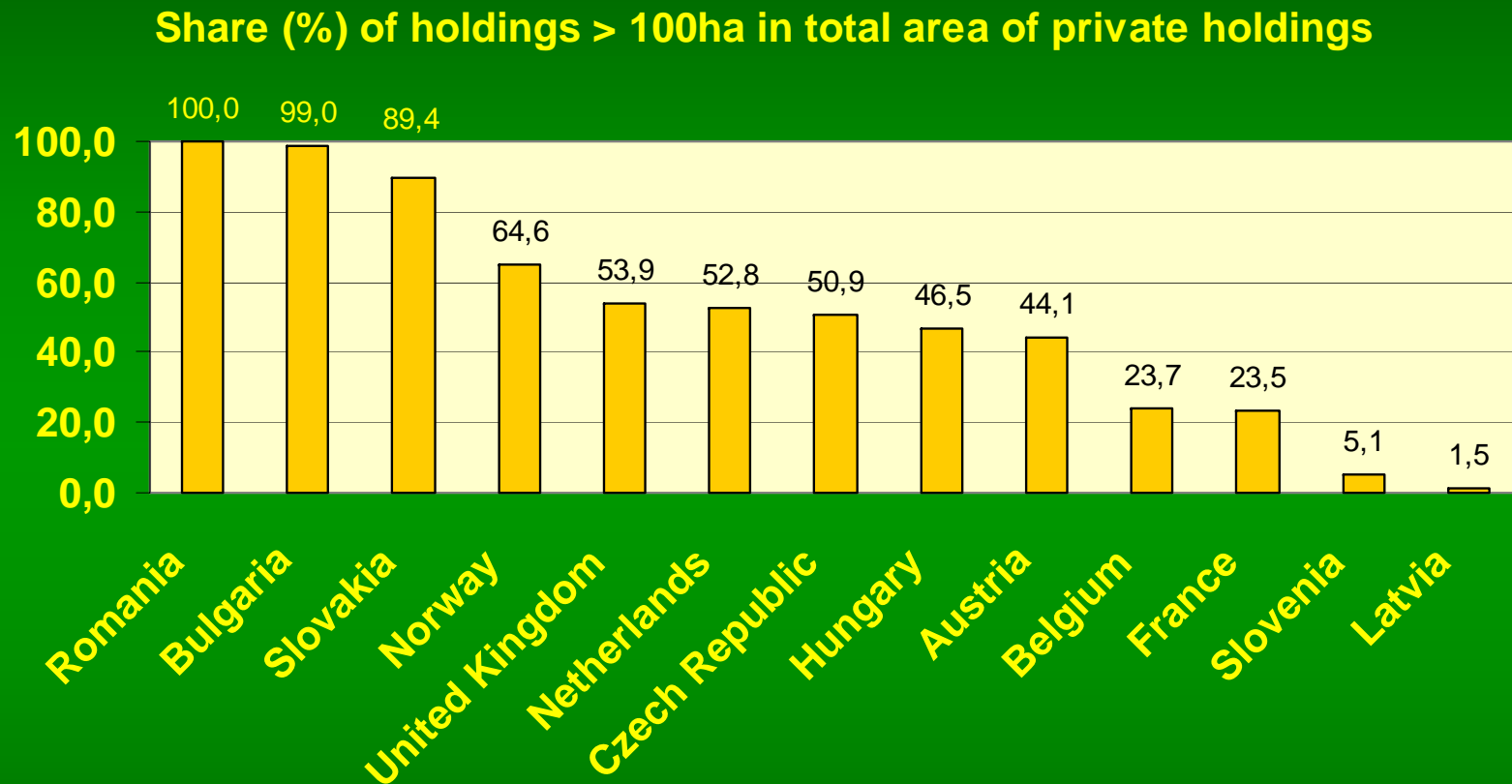


...and large variations at country level

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Structure of PFO holdings (4)



...and large variations at country level

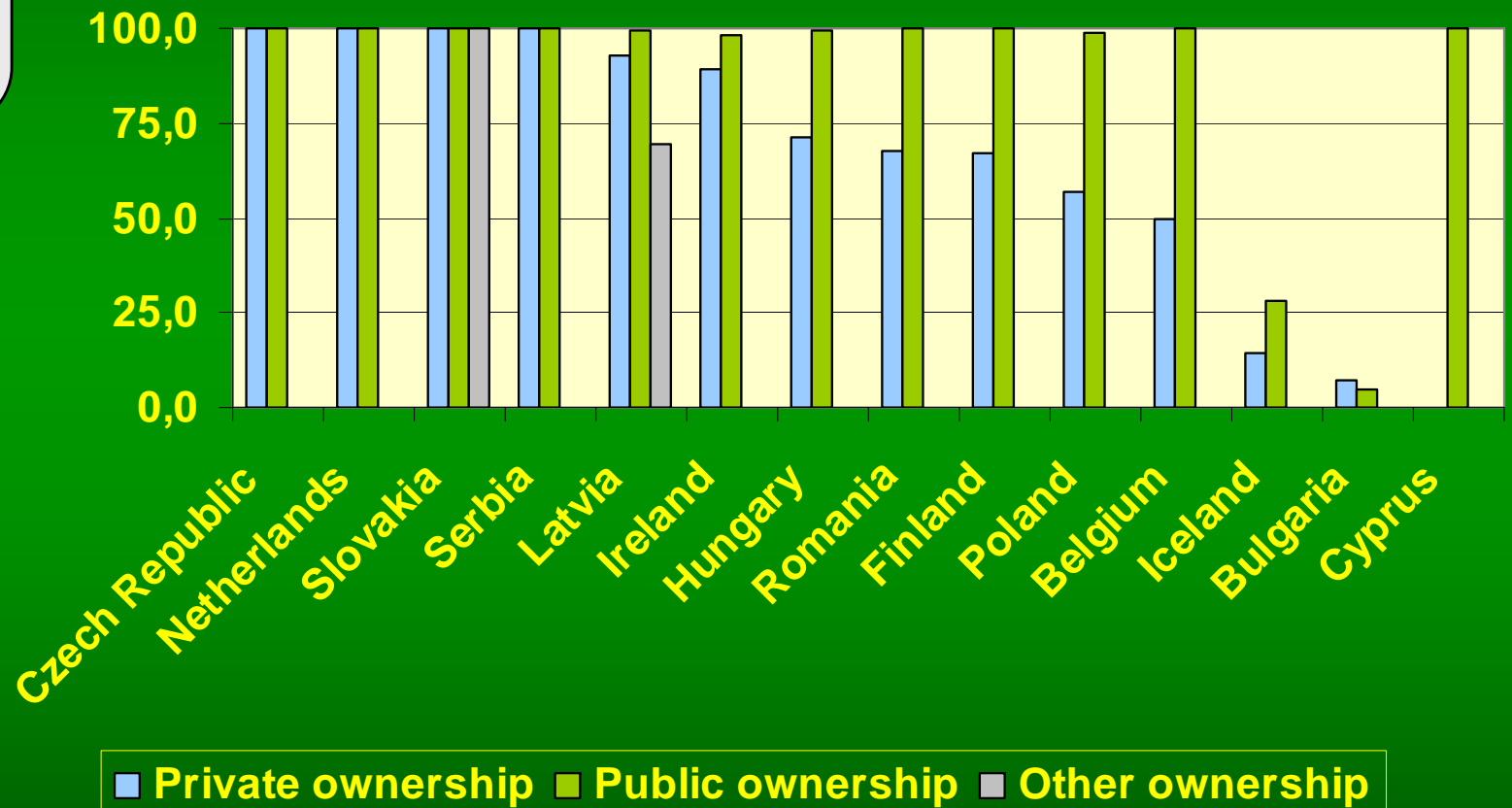
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Management status

Managed area:
Forest and other
wooded land
managed in
accordance with a
formal or an
informal plan.

Share of managed area [%]



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Some preliminary findings (1)

Issues

Findings

Ownership structure

Overall share of public forests: 55,5 %
PFO share in forest area 44,6%
→ But: Great variance, e.g. AT 82%, BG 11%, TR 0,1%
Increasing number of private forest owners and area

Restitution / privatisation in CEEC

PFO shifts in Central and Eastern Europe:
→ in 4 countries completed, in 7 ongoing

Holding structure

Small-scaled PFO:
→ 50% of forest holdings smaller than 3 ha in size
→ But with an overall low share in total area

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Some preliminary findings (2)

Issues

Findings



**Ownership
and
increment/
fellings**

Higher fellings in public forests despite often lower increment rate

**Fragment
ation**

In > 50% of countries: Fragmentation of private holdings hinders SFM

Trends

**Increasing urbanisation, ageing of owners
(=> new owners arise)
CEECs: completion of restitution / privatisation
within upcoming years**



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PFO data availability

Subject

Specification



**Higher
Availability**

Public Ownership
Superordinate level (PFO total, public forests total)
Area and Management status, Holding structure
Inventory data (growing stock, annual increment)

**Lower
Availability**

Private Ownership categories
Demographic information (gender, age)
Social background (knowledge, motivation)
Small-sized holdings
Economic data (volume/value of forest products)
Value of NWFP



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Preliminary conclusions/ observations ...

- Restitution/ Privatization → towards small holdings in some countries (PL, SL, CZ)
- Fragmentation → problems for SFM ...
- Shift in the Ownership Structure in Central and Eastern Europe continues ...
- Better data for understanding ownership in Europe is needed ...



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Expected use of PFO data/info

- UNECE/FAO contribution to MCPFE Report *State of Forests and SFM in Europe 2007*
- Stimulate national PFO research and statistics
- Develop policies for European PFO sector
- Forest policy making at national levels ...
- Contribution to further „broad contents“ studies on the subject (FAO Forest Tenure)...

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Expected implication

- Enhance PFO Data Availability and Information ... Determine Trends and (Sub) Regional Best Practices
- Help/ stimulate / empower private forest owners to form “clusters” (cooperatives, associations)
- Facilitate cooperation and servicing professional units, such as cooperatives; Policy makers could facilitate cooperation among forest owners and servicing professional units/ cooperatives/ associations
- Enhance Capacity Building in cooperation among Forests Owners (public and private)
- Provide information for educational programming, especially for „new“ and absentee forest owners ...

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Many thanks to all partners!!!



Comments ?

Questions ?

FOR MORE INFO

[*http://www.unece.org/trade/timber*](http://www.unece.org/trade/timber)

[*http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra*](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra)

[*info.timber@unece.org*](mailto:info.timber@unece.org)



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