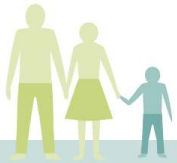




Confederation of European Forest Owners



International workshop: Introduced tree species in European forests



Confederation of European Forest Owners

www.cepf-eu.org

5 December 2016

European Forestry House, Brussels

CEPF – the voice of European Private Forest Owners



- Founded in Luxembourg in **1996**, but with roots back to early 60's
- Registered as an association sans but lucratif (asbl) in Belgium since 2012
- The **umbrella federation** of family forestry in Europe
- Represents and promotes the **common interests of private forest owners in Europe**
- CEPF serves the interests of the approximately **16 million forest owners**. They are **private individuals, families and cooperatives that take care of about 60% of Europe's forests.**



European Forestry House

Centre of competence and expertise in forestry and wood related issues



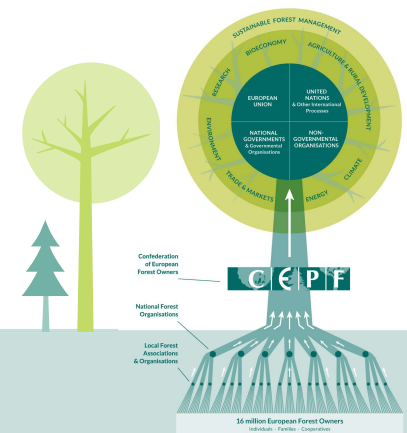
Forest-Based Sector
Technology Platform



CEPF – from roots to crown

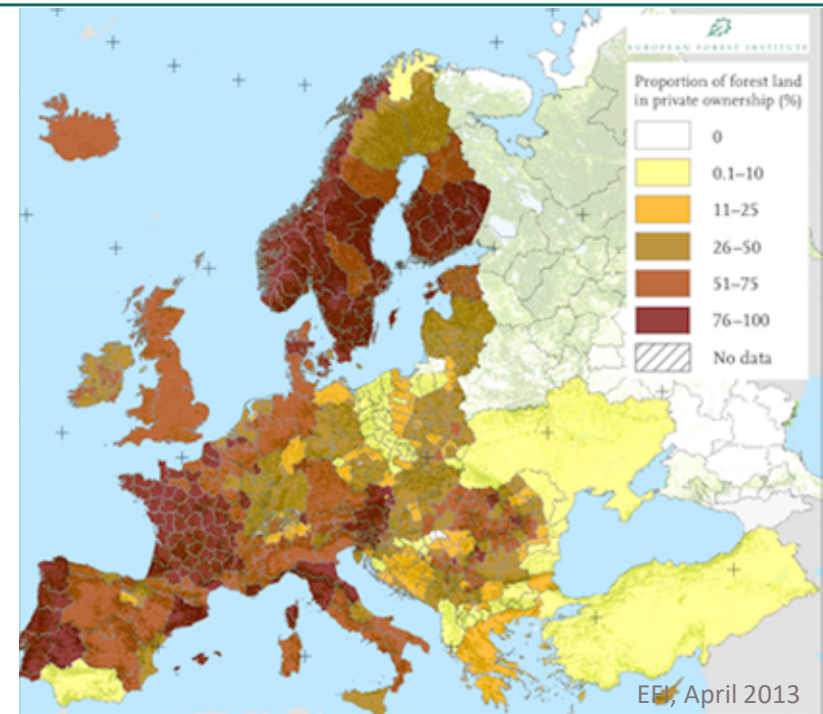
Core principles

- **Sustainable forest management** and **multifunctionality** of forests and other wooded land
- Acknowledgement of **ownership rights**
- **Economic viability** of the forest holding as well as **competitiveness** of the forest and forest-based sector



Diversity of private forest ownership

- 16 million forest owners
 - 50-60% of forests privately owned
 - Small scale forest holdings
 - average size within EU: 13 ha
 - but most own 2-5 ha
 - 1/3 large, 2/3 small



European forests

- 38% of land in EU is covered by forests » 157 mio ha
 - variety among countries
 - » Ireland ~ 11% – Finland ~ 73% coverage
 - EU forest area increased by 500.000* ha per year
- The European forest ecosystems are classified in fourteen forest types.
 - (EEA Technical report No 9/2006)

» Large variety of forests across Europe

*Those are net changes and resulted from afforestation, natural forest expansion and deforestation.



Forest Owners and introduced/invasive trees

- Importance of introduced species
 - Since centuries in Europe
 - Part of the European landscape and nature
 - Contribution to income from forests
 - timber production
 - Climate change?!



Used definitions

- Introduced tree species
 - Tree species occurring outside their natural vegetation range
 - Sometimes also referred to as non-indigenous, exotic or alien species
- Invasive (alien) tree species
 - Tree species whose introduction and consequent spread cause socio-cultural, economic and/or environmental harm



Introduced tree species – invasive tree species



of European forests are dominated by introduced tree species



of Europe's forests are occupied by tree species that are considered to be invasive



Trends

- Total area of introduced tree species remained relatively stable over the last 25 years
 - Slight decrease observed in Central-West Europe over the past decade
 - Changes in forest management paradigms and emphasis being placed on native species
 - Only marginal changes occurred in the extent of the area dominated by invasive tree species

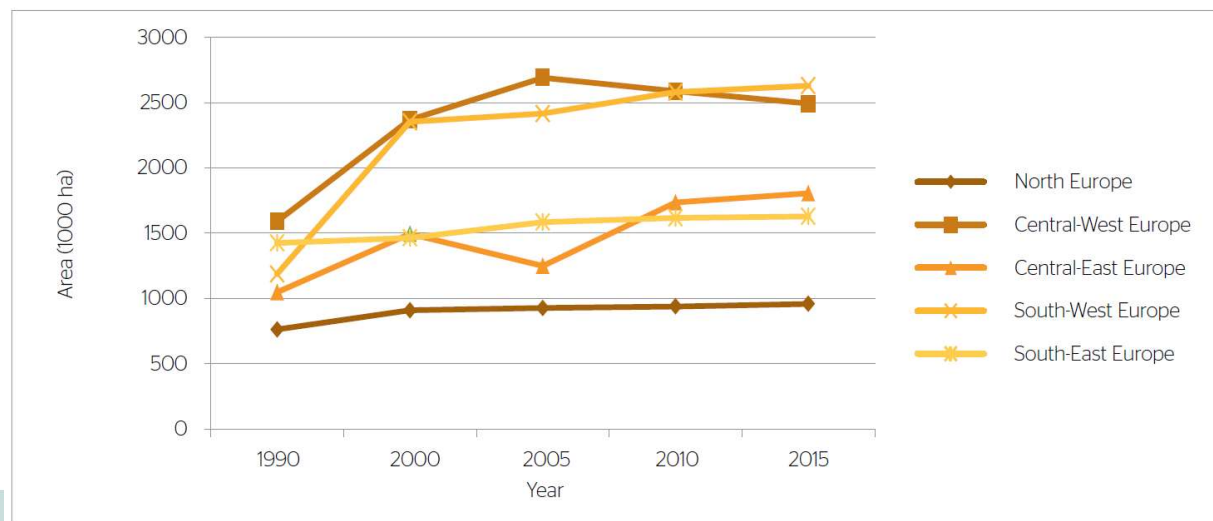


Figure 68. Area of introduced tree species in individual European regions



Examples introduced tree species

- Douglas fir [*Pseudotsuga menziesii*]
 - Widely planted in most parts of Europe since more than 150 years
 - Characteristics
 - High production and quality timber
 - Less susceptible to heat and drought damage compared to spruce for example
- Eucalyptus spp.
 - Particularly in South-West Europe (Spain)
- Larix spp. and Populus spp.
 - In all parts of the European continent



Examples introduced/invasive tree species

- Black locust tree [*Robinia pseudoacacia*]
 - Most common in Central-East and South-East Europe country groups
 - Used for various purposes
 - Ornament, timber, firewood
 - Re-vegetation of dry land and
 - Provision of nectar for honey production



Challenges

What to do in times of climate change?



Climate change

- Paris agreement
 - “to aim to limit the increase to **1.5C**, since this would significantly reduce risks and the impacts of climate change”
- Climate is definitely changing
 - Hotter and drier future is expected
 - Not every region in Europe will be impacted in the same extent
 - Native tree species will be affected by climate change



Introduced tree species

- Need to look into new possibilities is inevitable in view of climate change
 - Tackle climate change with the biggest possible variety of trees
 - Make our forests more resilient and keep their productivity
 - New tree species that might not be native to a site can be a chance
 - Increasing importance for adaptation of forests to challenges of climate change



Climate change

no 'one size fits all' solution



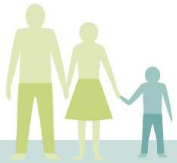
Introduced/invasive tree species

- Active and sustainable forest management (SFM)
 - Adaptive management approaches suited to local conditions
 - Balancing the different economic, social and environmental dimensions
- National regulations and legislations – national policy instruments
- Involvement/participation of forest owners in various processes
- Realistic assessments of future climate developments
 - need of resilient forest systems with regard to adaptation to climate change
- Research
 - Long-term research on how invasive trees can be managed and maybe eradicated – innovative measures with regard to cost-effectiveness





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Thank you!



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