

# Governing Europe's forests for multiple ecosystem services: challenges and policy response options

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Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Working Group of the  
European Parliament Intergroup on 'Climate Change, Biodiversity & Sustainable Development





# Background for this talk

Extract of policy paper: “Governing Europe’s forests for multiple ecosystem services: opportunities, challenges, and policy options”, at :

<https://zenodo.org/record/6393968#.YkL-jjdBzxo>

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ERA-NET Cofund – Innovating the forest-based bioeconomy



Project NOBEL is supported under the umbrella of ERA-NET Cofund ForestValue by BMLFUW (AT), ANR (FR), FNR (DE), Vinnova (SE), MINECO-AEI (ES), RCN (NO) and FCT (PT).

ForestValue has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°773324.

SINCERE (Spurring INnovations for forest eCosystem sERVICES in Europe) advances innovative mechanisms, including novel policies and business models, which support the provision of Forest Ecosystem Services across Europe and beyond.

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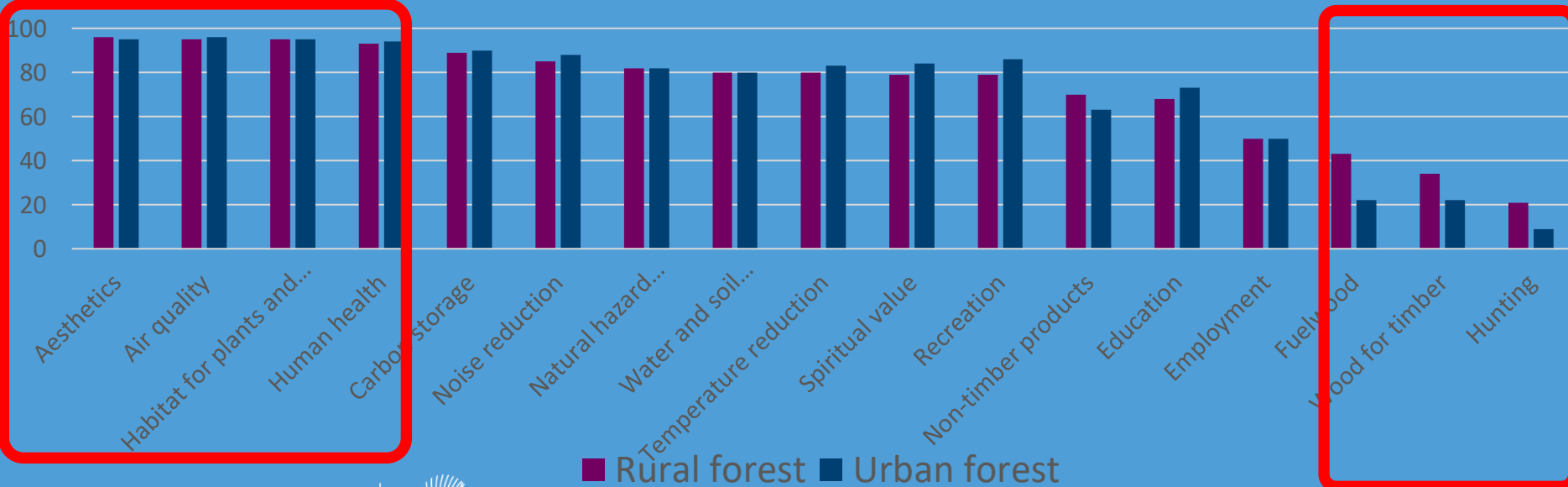


# Challenges

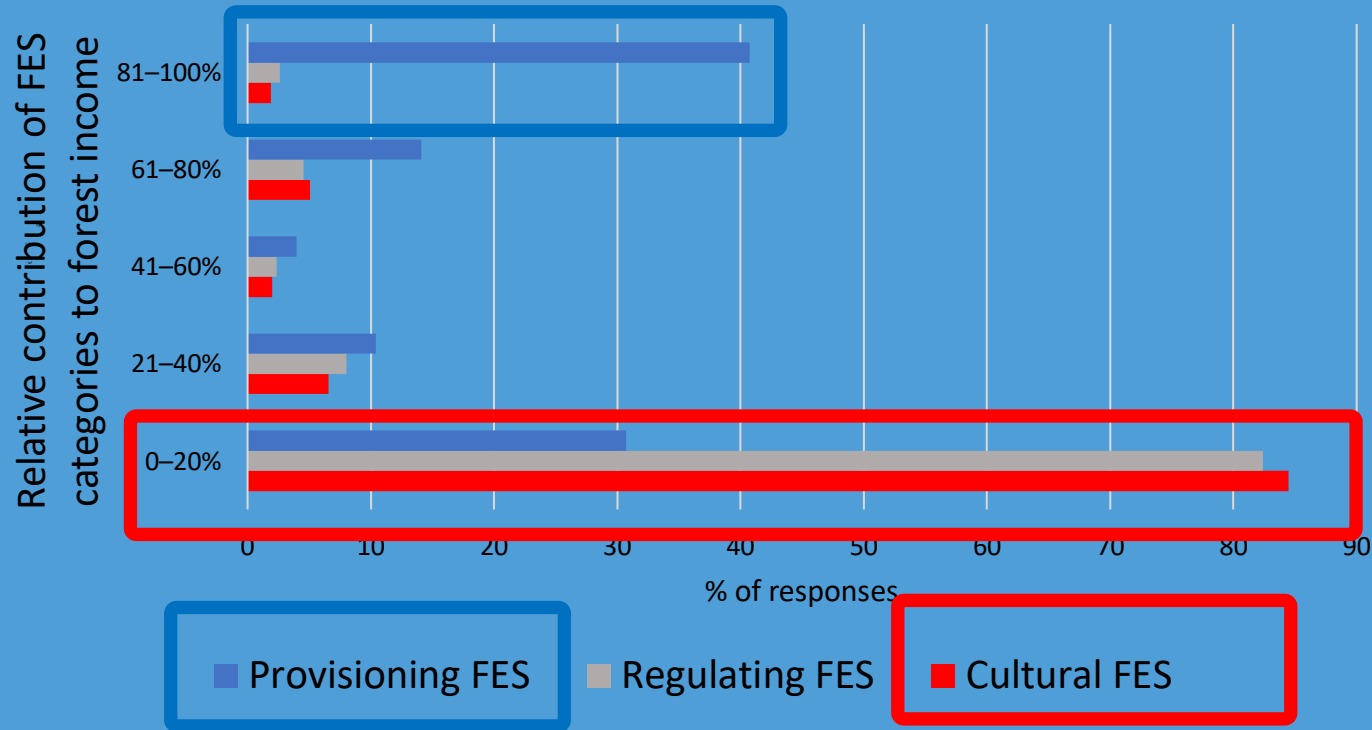
1. Insufficient alignment of forest ecosystem services provision and demand
2. Political polarization relating to forests
3. Regulatory framework inhibiting ecosystem services innovation
4. Lacking information on ecosystem services provision and demand
5. Climate change adaptation
6. Diversity of forest situations in Europe

# Challenge 1: Align ecosystem services demand & supply...

**“Demand”:** European wide household survey conducted in the H2020 CLEARING HOUSE project (Roitsch et al, in prep): Importance of different forest ecosystem services for European citizens; Scale: 0=not at all important; 100=very important; N urban forests 3362; N rural forests 3631



# ...vis-à-vis income possibilities for forestry



**“Supply”:** Relative importance of income from provisioning, regulating and cultural FES – as reported by 1707 surveyed European forest owners and managers (Torralba et al, 2020)



# Challenge 2: two distinct perspectives on EU forest policy

Forestry & Wood	<i>Dimension</i>	Nature Conservation
Renewable natural resource	<i>View of Forest</i>	Ecosystem with irreplicable biodiversity
Bioeconomy, sustained timber use	<i>Major policy goals</i>	Nature, conserve biodiversity
Sustainable forest management	<i>Resource management paradigm</i>	Conservation & “closer to nature forestry”
Support forest producers; market governance, incentives for ecosystem services	<i>Main policy focus</i>	Protect forests, regulation, incentives for ecosystem services
DG Agri, forest rich member states (FIN, AUT, SWE), Forestry NGOs and forest departments	<i>Actors</i>	DG Env, forest poor / urbanized member states (NL, DK, BEL) Env. NGOs, Env. departments

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# Policy Response 1 - Better information

# Provide robust data and increase transparency

- Develop European forest monitoring approach that provides **policy relevant information** and makes it **publicly available**
- **Combine** different available data sets and methods and **resolve disagreements** on data
- Include ecosystem services **demand** by society



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# Policy Response 2 – Policy Integration

# Integrate policies and people

- Acknowledge **importance** of **different forest related objectives** and seek **alignment**
- Increase “**horizontal**” **policy integration** (specifically connect targets and (financial) instruments)
- Increase “**vertical**” **policy coordination** across policy levels and define (participatory) processes for **(regional) priority setting**

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# Policy Response 3: Payments for Ecosystem Services

# Consider EU-wide PES (support) system

- Develop **European PES system(s)** to align ecosystem services demand and supply (and support EU forest related policy objectives by financial instruments)
- Focus on **key ecosystem services** but give flexibility for **national/local priority setting**
- Dare **new approaches** to implementation (e.g. reverse auctions)

# Policy Response 4 – Bottom-up participation and innovation



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# Enable participation and innovations bottom-up

- Public land: **participatory planning**
- In all forests: incentivise **innovative business models**
- Facilitate **exchange and learning** across different local contexts



# Thank you very much!



- To our funders in SINCERE, NOBEL, and related work
  - To our many collaboration partners and European forest owners, policy stakeholders and citizens, for great collaboration and responding to our many questions!
- Check out the policy paper: <https://zenodo.org/record/6393968#.YkL-jjdBzxo>

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