

Sustainable Innovative Mobilization of Wood – profile for LATVIA: results from SIMWOOD

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***Workshop: The role of the forest residues mobilization
within the bioenergy sector: sustainability evaluation
from Latvian and Swedish perspectives***

Contents

- SIMWOOD project
- Regional profile and status-quo of knowledge about wood mobilisation in Latvia
- Comparison with other EU Countries
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SIMWOOD project

About the project

- **SIMWOOD: Novel practices and policies for sustainable wood mobilisation in European forests**
- From 01.11.2013 till 31.10.2017
- Project coordinator: **Bavarian State Institute of Forestry (LWF)** , Germany.

- 11 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)
- 2 European organisations (EFI and JRC)
- 1 project support organisation
- **RTU involved only as consulting organization**

- 
1. Bavaria, Germany
 2. North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany
 3. Auvergne, France
 4. Grand-Est, France
 5. Yorkshire & North East England, UK
 6. Lochaber, UK
 7. Southern and Eastern Ireland
 8. Castile and León, Spain
 9. Catalonia, Spain
 10. Nordeste Transmontano, Portugal
 11. Alentejo, Portugal
 12. Overijssel & Gelderland, the Netherlands
 13. Slovenia
 14. Småland, Sweden
 15. North-east Romania
 - 16. Latvia**
 17. Eastern Finland

17 regions across Europe, selected for their high relevance to Europe's wood mobilisation challenge

Aims and main activities

- Background: big amount of **unused wood potential in European forests**. Most of this is 'locked' in forests that belong to an estimated **16 million private forest owners**.
- The SIMWOOD project aims to **mobilise these owners**, promote **collaborative forest management** and ensure **sustainable forest functions**, promoting **collaborative wood mobilisation** in the context of multifunctional forest management across European forest regions

← → ↻ 🏠 simwood.eu

SIMWOOD

Sustainable Innovative Mobilisation of Wood

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Save the Date - Solutions for Wood Mobilisation in Europe

12-13 October 2017 - Final Conference of the SIMWOOD project in Paris

- Lessons learned from more than 20 pilot projects
- Experiences shared by SMEs
- Demonstration of tools and products to support wood mobilisation
- Panel discussion

Forests are a major natural resource, covering 100 million hectares or 31% of Europe's land area (Eurostat 2013). They have multiple ecological, economic and social functions - preserving diverse landscapes, ecosystems, natural cycles and biological diversity and providing a multitude of forest products, employment and services.

Forecasts for the coming decades predict an increasing demand for wood - wood energy plays a critical role in Europe's future renewable energy supply and the achievement of climate protection objectives.

How can we ensure we meet this demand?

There is lots of unused wood potential in European forests. Most of this is 'locked' in forests that belong to an estimated 16 million private forest owners.

The SIMWOOD project aims to mobilise these owners, promote collaborative forest management and ensure sustainable forest functions.

Find out more about the project, its objectives and the project partners.

Read the latest issue of our project newsletter: Issue 8 - November 2013

- Focus on Overijssel & Gelderland
- Focus on North-Rhine Westphalia
- Focus on Lower Saxony
- Catch up on the regional news and events

Aims and main activities

- **Focus on multifunctional forest management** in order to **integrate** forest **ecosystem functions and to balance** the economic, ecological and social **impacts** of any proposed wood mobilisation measures
 - **Strong potential and need for wood mobilisation**
 - **What are the main barriers to wood mobilization?**
 - **What are the main opportunities?**

- More info at <http://simwood.efi.int/>

RTU activities in SIMWOOD



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Latvia

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- Finalization of the ***regional profiles and status-quo*** of knowledge on the five domains of wood mobilisation (*governance, ownership, management, functions and harvesting*)
- ***Meta-analysis of sources*** (i.e. statistical databases, forest information and decision support systems as well as published research findings and grey literature)
- **Overview of data/knowledge** relating to **wood mobilisation** in Latvia
- **Identification of existing knowledge gaps** for specific focus studies

Regional profile and status-quo of knowledge about wood mobilisation in Latvia

Productive forests in Latvia: key characteristics (1)

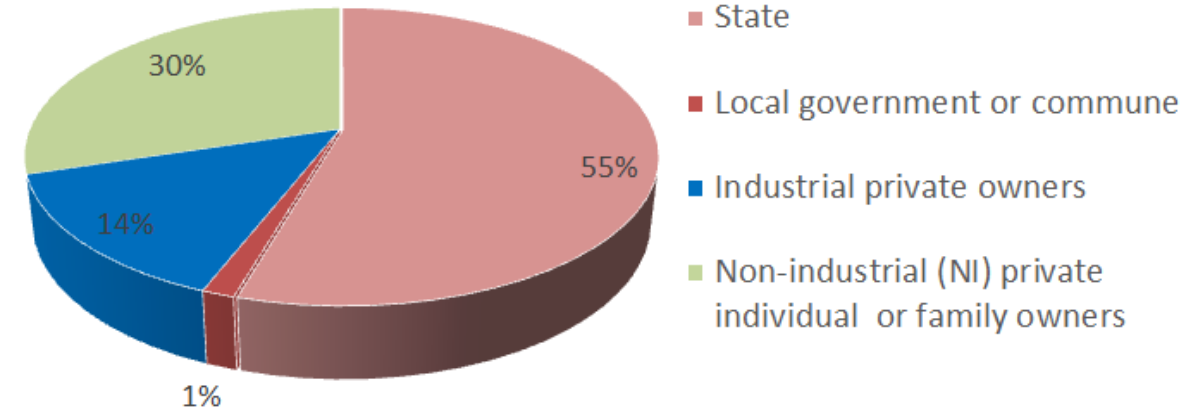
Forests in Latvia

Total land in Latvia:

- 6.45 mil. ha



Ownership categories in Latvia
(in % of forest and other wooded land area)



Ownership type	Area (hectares)	%
State	1 720 907	55
Local government or commune	44 869	1
Industrial private owners	448 597	14
Non-industrial private multiple ownership		
Non-industrial (NI) private individual or family owners	940 248	30
Other categories relevant to your region		
Total	3 154 620	100

Source: State Forest Service statistics, year 2013

Number of holdings:

- Private owners: around 160 000
- State and local governments: 15 000

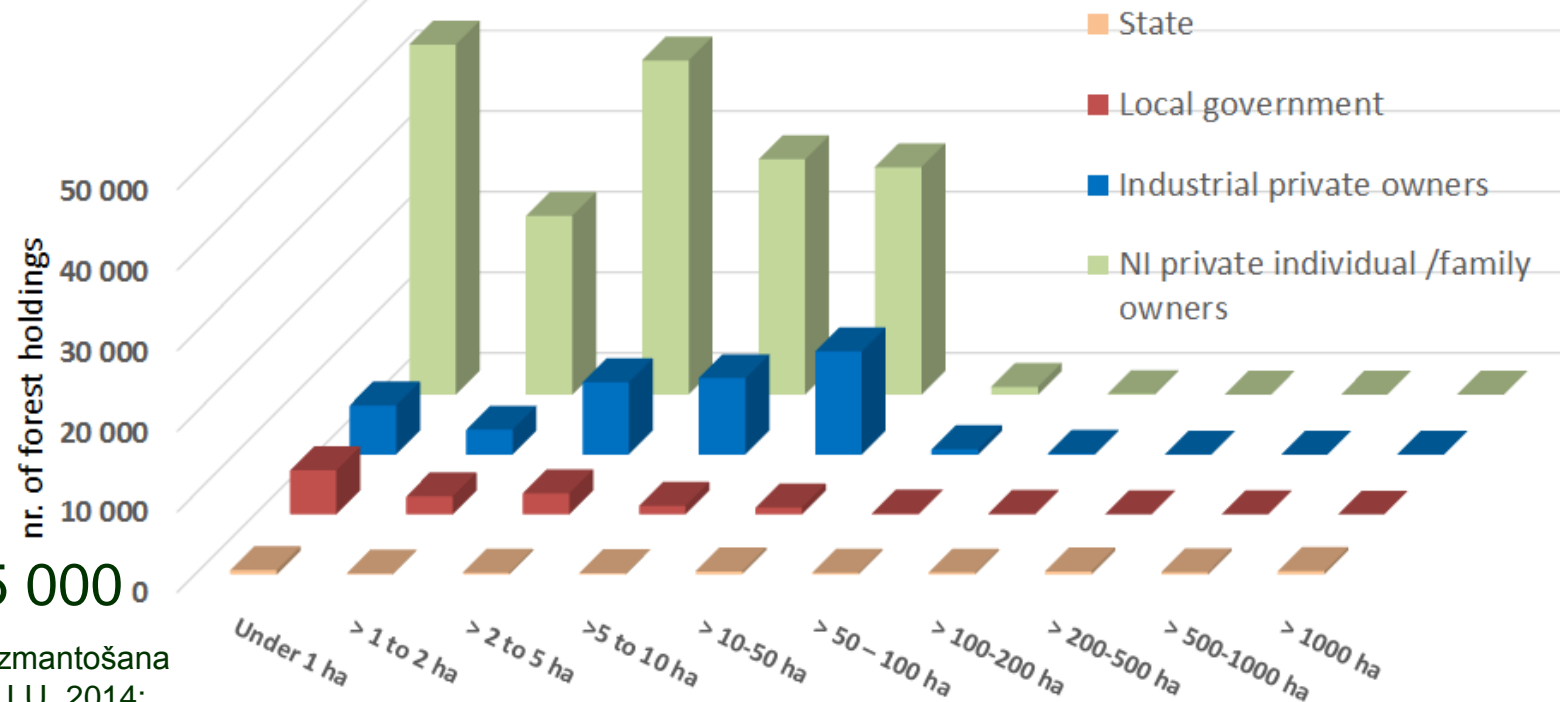
Source: Zemes ekonomiski efektīva, ilgtspējīga un produktīva izmantošana lauksaimniecības un mežsaimniecības produkcijas ražošanai, LLU, 2014; Forest cadastre of the State Land service of Latvia, year 2015

Productive forests in Latvia: key characteristics (2)

Average size per private holders:

- Non industrial Private: around 6 ha
- Industrial: around 11 ha

Number of forest holdings in Latvia
comprising forest and other wooded land



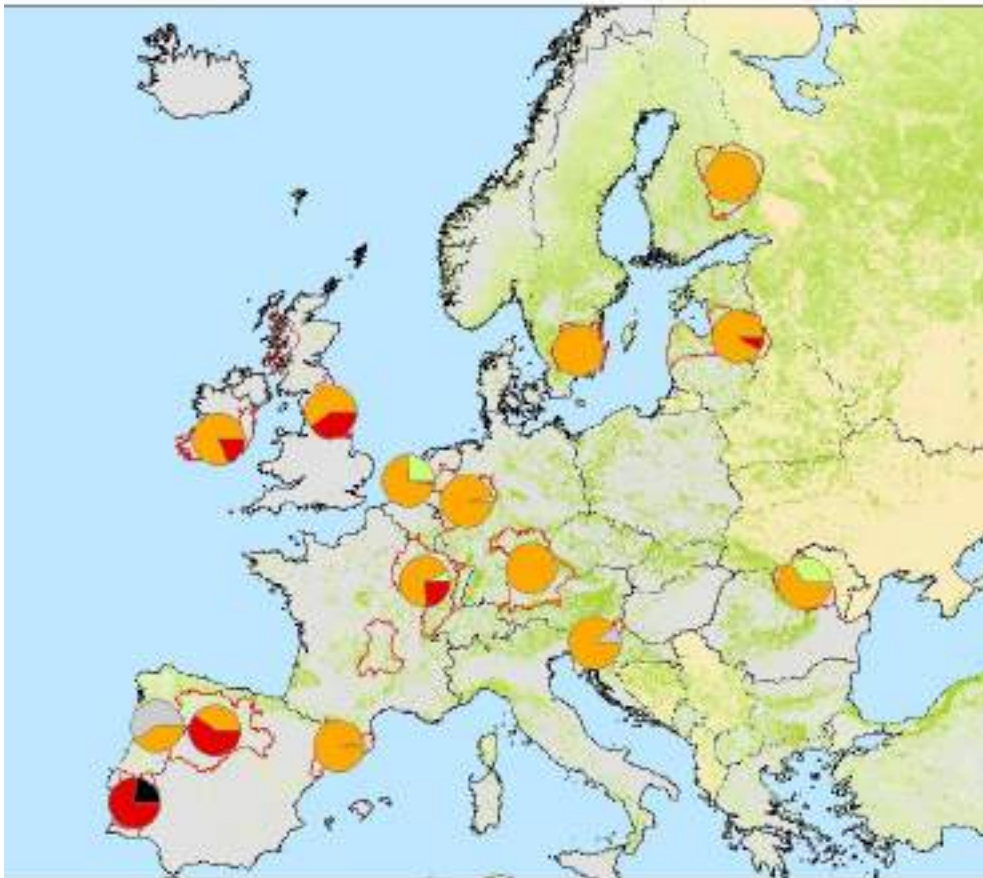
Number of holdings:

- Private owners: around 160 000
- State and local governments: 15 000

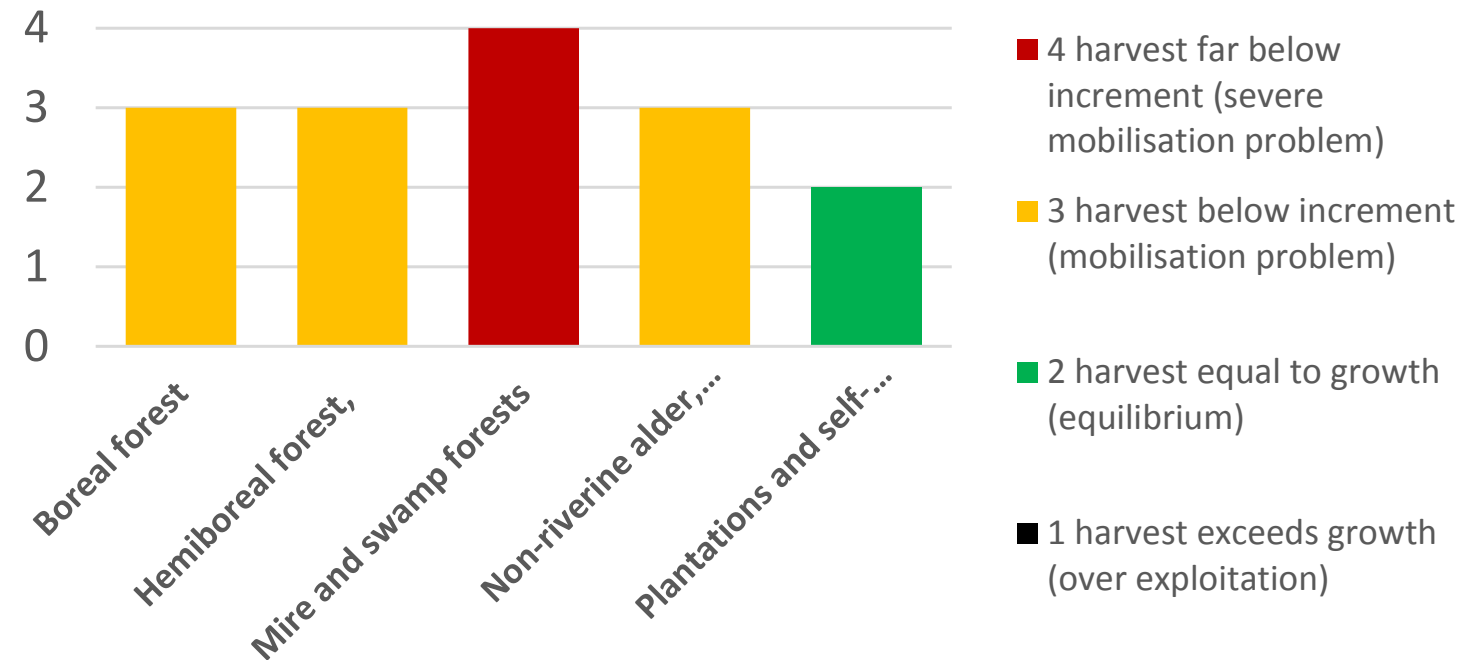
Source: Zemes ekonomiski efektīva, ilgtspējīga un produktīva izmantošana lauksaimniecības un mežsaimniecības produkcijas ražošanai, LLU, 2014;
Forest cadastre of the State Land service of Latvia, year 2015

Comparison with other EU Countries

Mobilisation level

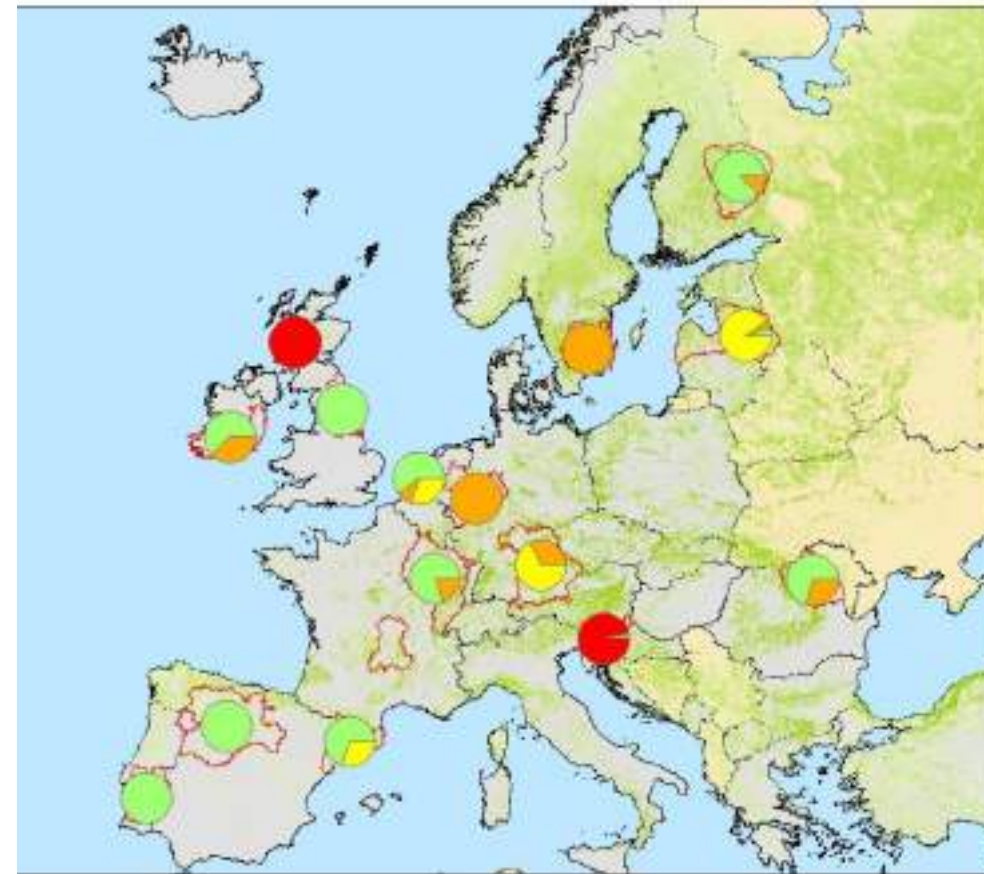
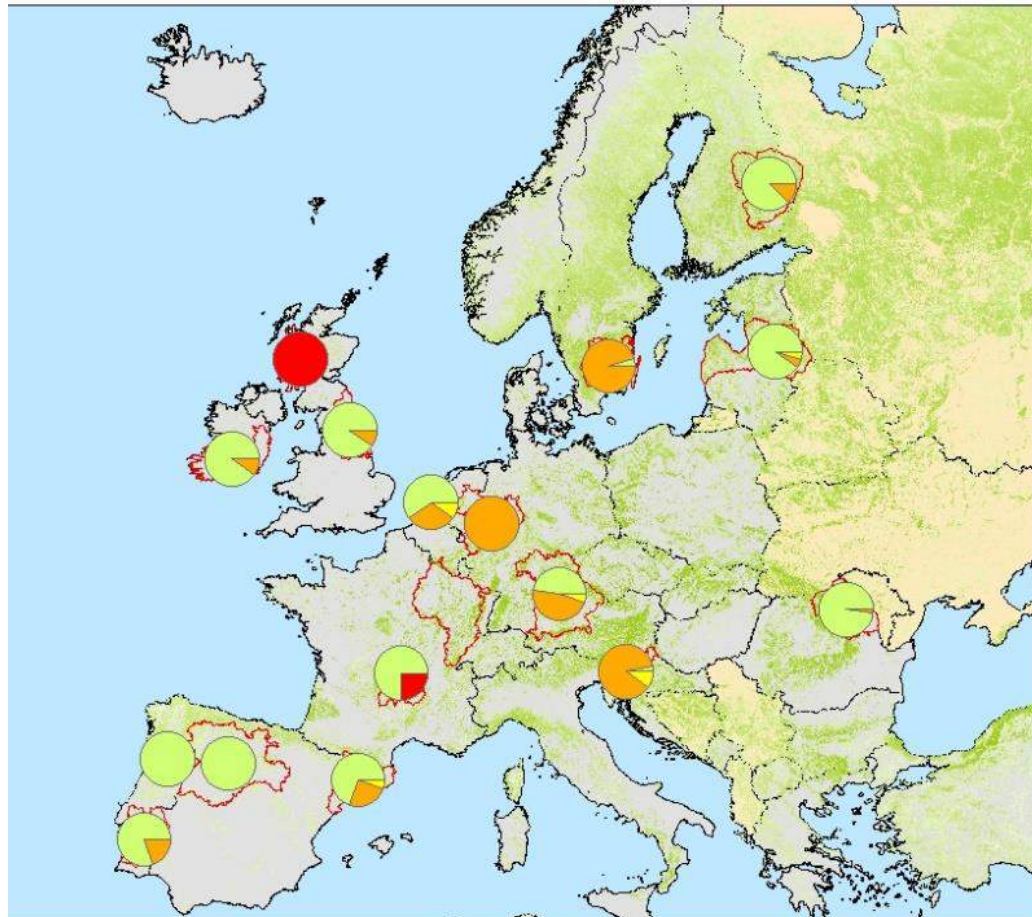


4.1 Mobilisation of wood per forest type in Latvia



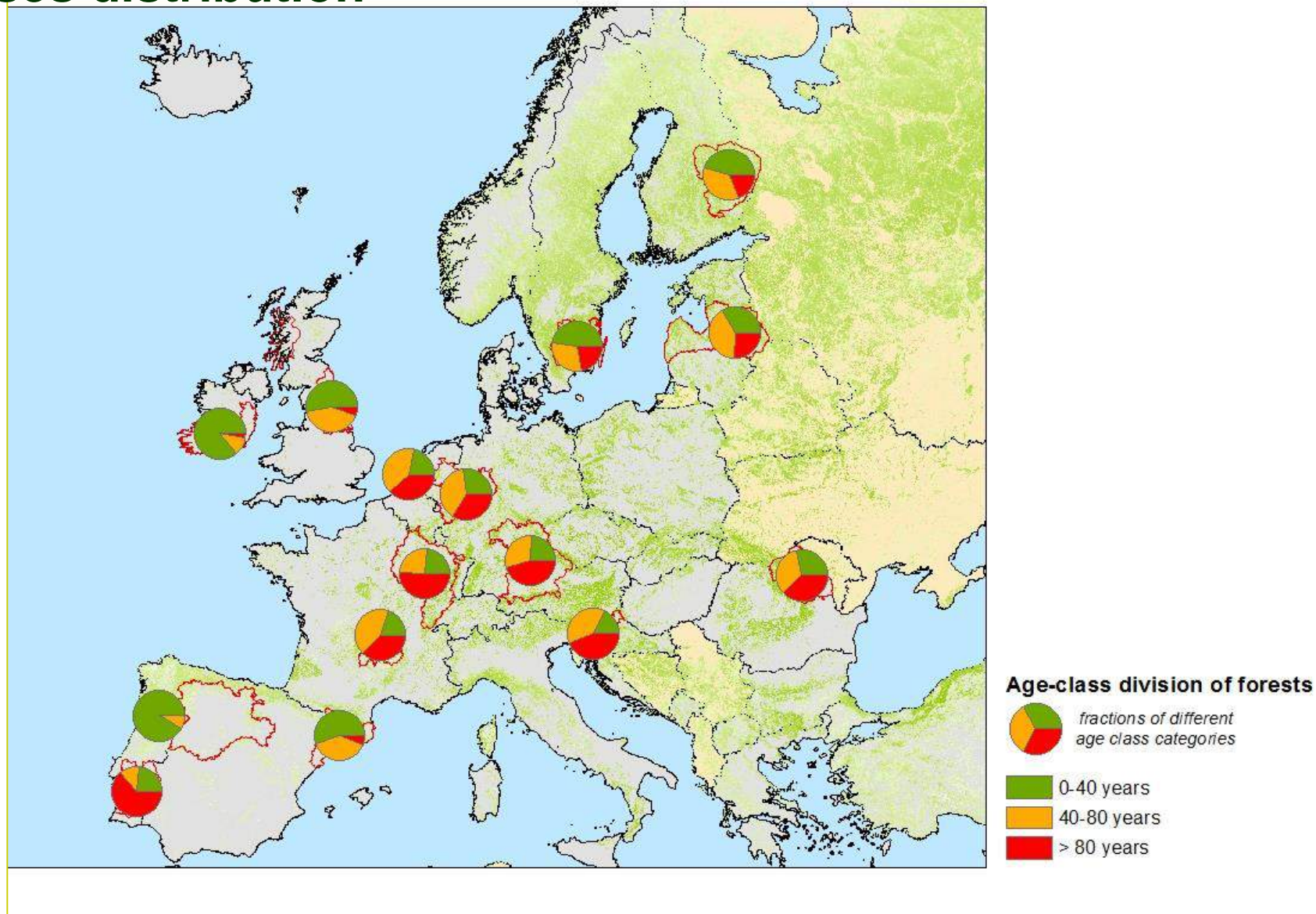
Source: SIMWOOD project - <https://forestwiki.jrc.ec.europa.eu/simwood>

Timber sale methods, private



Timber sale methods, public

Age classes distribution



Identified research/policy gaps

Gaps

- Research/Policy & ***Engagement*** - mobilisation of people and productive forest resources
- Research/Policy & ***Bioeconomy markets*** - demand and supplies
- Research/Policy & ***Capacity building*** - harvest constraints; mobilisation of wood & innovation of equipment
- Research/Policy & ***Forest management including multipurpose management*** - Ecosystem services

Identified research gaps at EU level (1)

Reccomandations for Research & Engagement

- Support to set-up innovative forest cooperative actions (i.e. facilitation of forest owner associations with joint management and marketing)
- Support or evaluate groups representing owners of small private forests

Reccomandations Research & Bioeconomy markets

- Investigate innovative bioeconomy markets for remaining wood shares

Identified policy gaps at EU level (1)

Reccomandation for policy & Bioeconomy markets, including bioenergy

- Make better contract conditions and set up of web platform for this purpose
- Provide incentives afforestation/reforestation (marginal lands) and create safeguards for existing forest (sustainable forest management)
- Promote use of wood in construction
- Support use of wood for local energy use

Conclusions

Successful initiatives for wood mobilisation implemented in Latvia are:

- ❑ Formation and operation of **forestry co-operatives** make it possible for the **small forest owners** to engage in a more efficient and higher quality timber resource management
- ❑ An active research towards the **development of new wood and non-wood forest resource products** in order to provide Latvian-produced products with high added value (**bio-tech-economy principles**).
- ❑ Gradual replacement of the forestry work provider equipment with a more modern and efficient equipment
- ❑ Promoting the **forest certification for private forest owners** (i.e. having forest certification should not be the exception)

Thank you for your attention!

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