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MANAGING STATE FORESTS RESPONSIBLY

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FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES COMMUNES FORESTIERES
EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG GEMEINDLICHER WALDBESITZERVERTRETUNGEN

CEPF
Confederation of European Forest Owners

State of Forest Ownership in the UNECE Region – main findings

Anna LAWRENCE

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Seminar on
State of Forest Ownership in the UNECE Region
trends – opportunities – challenges

14 December 2018
Brussels, European Forestry House

What is new about this study

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- Based on information provided by national experts from UNECE member States
- Including more detailed information from 28 European countries
- Includes more detailed categories of ownership
- Covers ownership, use, policy support, organisations, forest management, as well as services and products.

The meaning of forest ownership

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The FAO Forest Resources Assessment defines forest ownership as:

"the legal right to freely and exclusively use, control, transfer, or otherwise benefit from a forest. Ownership can be acquired through transfers such as sales, donations, and inheritance" (FAO, 2018).

Compare / contrast with the property rights framework (Schlager and Ostrom, 1992):

1. **Access** rights (rights to enter forest land);

2. **Withdrawal** rights (rights to harvest or remove timber, firewood and NWFPs);

3. **Management** rights (rights to plan internal forest activities and transform the forest);

4. **Exclusion** rights (rights to prevent others from accessing and harvesting wood or NWFPs);

5. **Alienation** rights (rights to sell forestland and forest products as well as to lease or sell management and exclusion rights).

Categories of forest ownership

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Public	Private
• Public ownership by the State at national level	• Private ownership by individuals and families
• Public ownership by the State at sub-national government scale	• Private ownership by private business entities
• Public ownership by local government	• Private ownership by private institutions
	• Private ownership by tribal and indigenous communities
	• Other private common ownership
Unknown	

Comparing UNECE region with the rest of the world

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- Very little customary tenure
- Higher private ownership – except in Canada and Russian Federation
- Fragmentation a particular issue in much of Europe
- But great diversity within the UNECE region

The public-private split (a simplistic measure but nevertheless a useful start)

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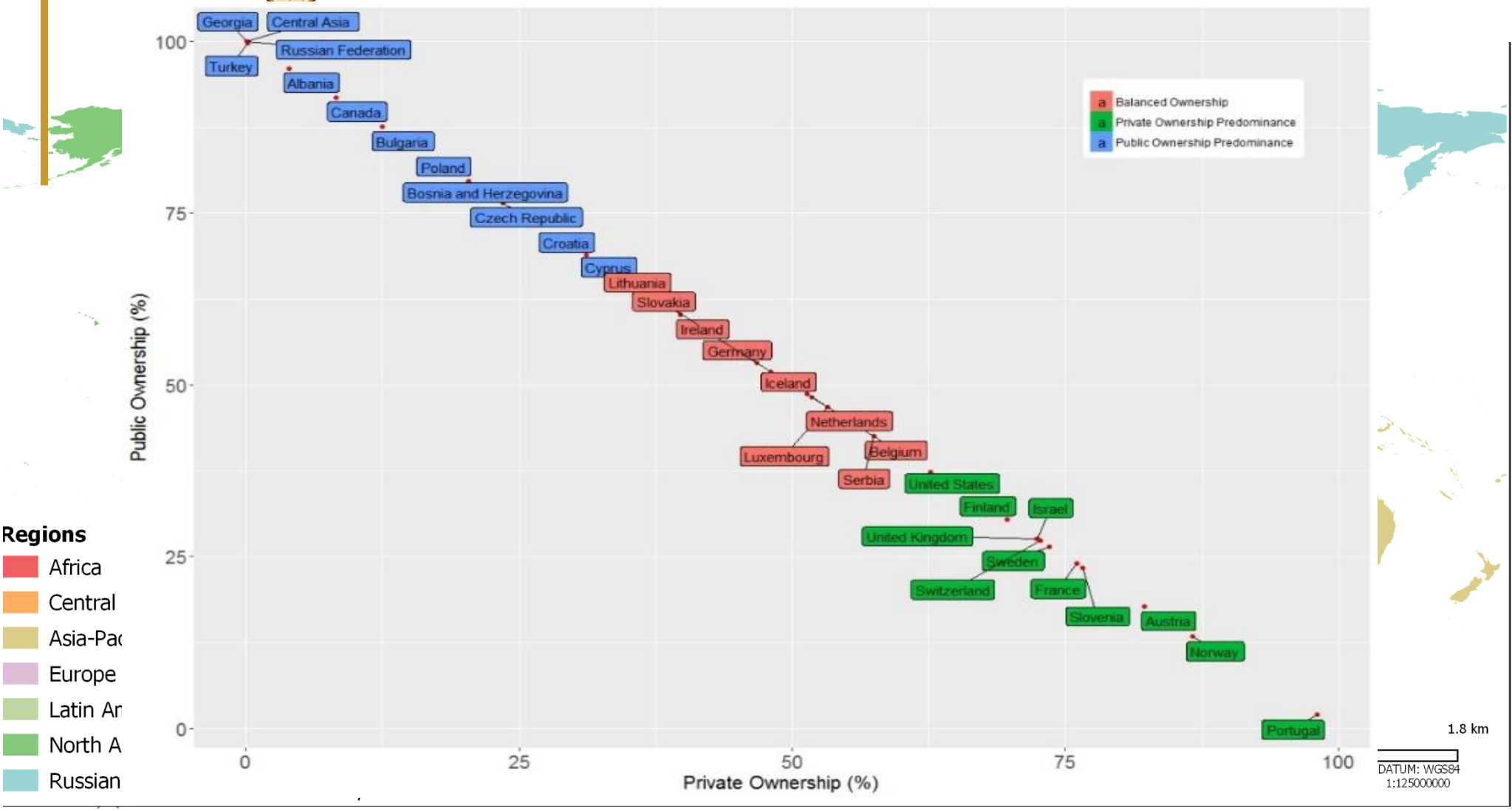
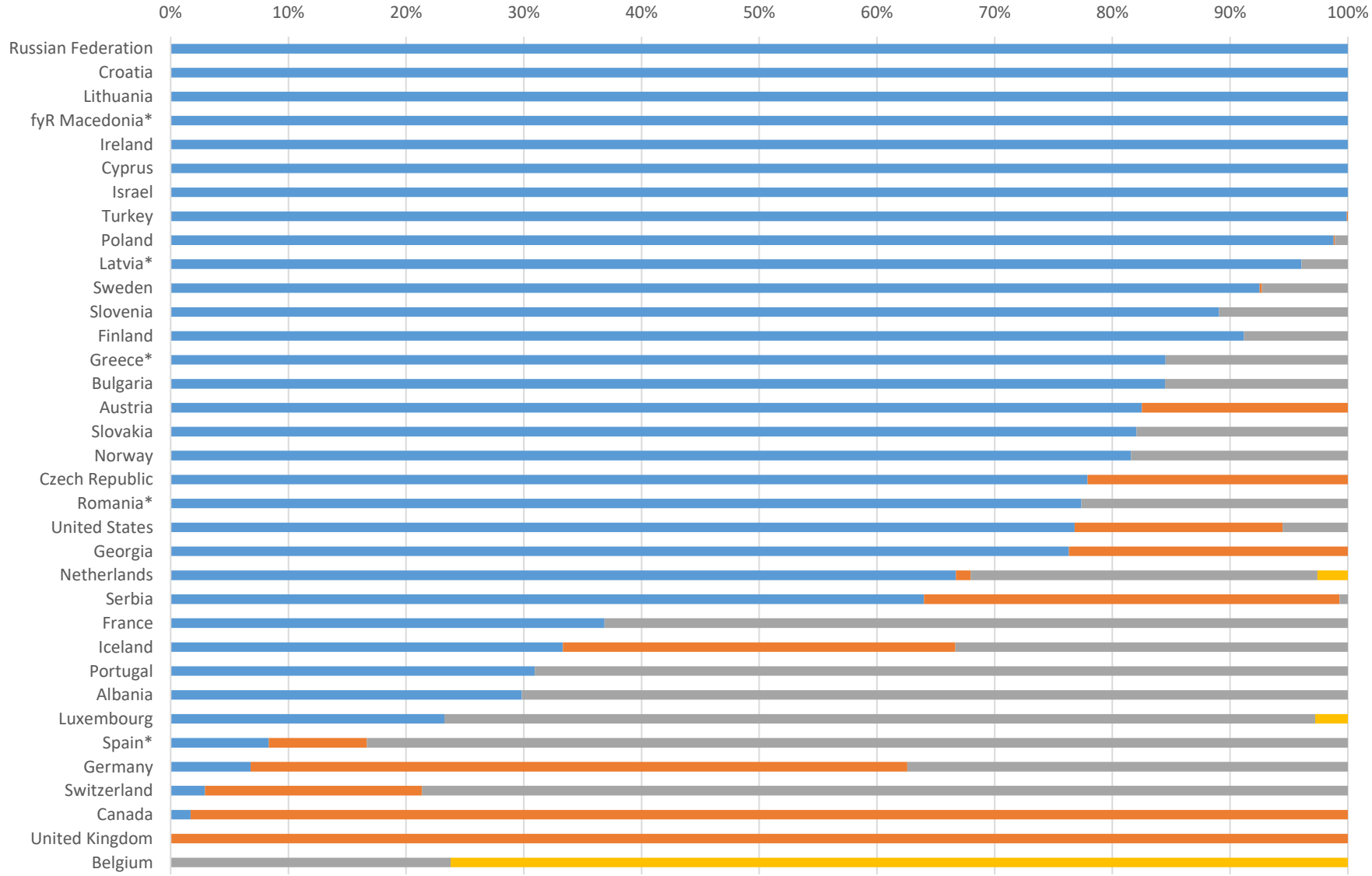


Public ownership: more detail



Private ownership: more detail

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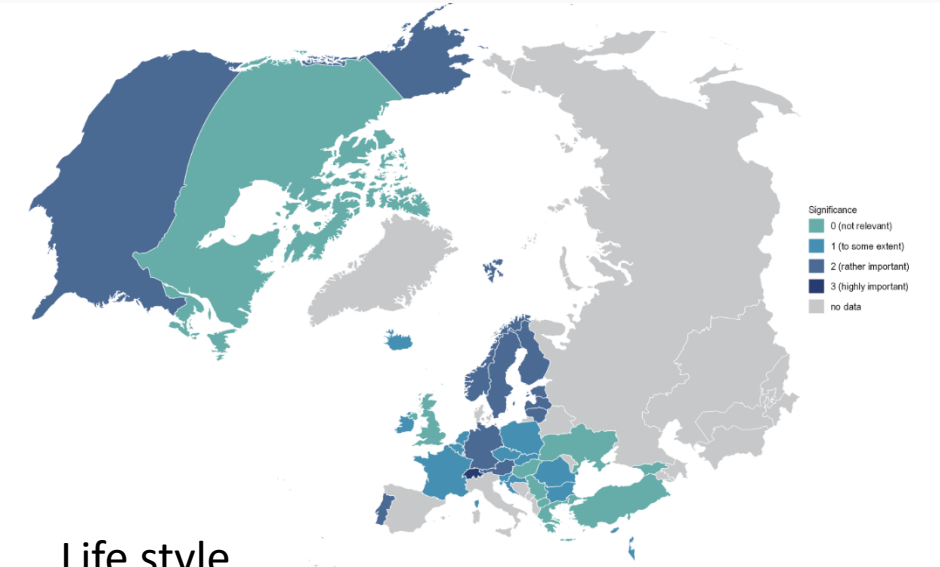
Changes in forest ownership affected by:

- Afforestation/deforestation
- Restitution, privatization and nationalization of forest land
- Fragmentation and consolidation (inheritance)
- Lifestyle changes



Life style

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Impact of forest ownership on SFM

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Forest management depends on

- forest categories
  - public owners - in line with national policy and society's needs
  - private owners – very diverse
- Owners' values and motives
- Policy tools: regulation, incentives, advice, organisation

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Objectives of private owners

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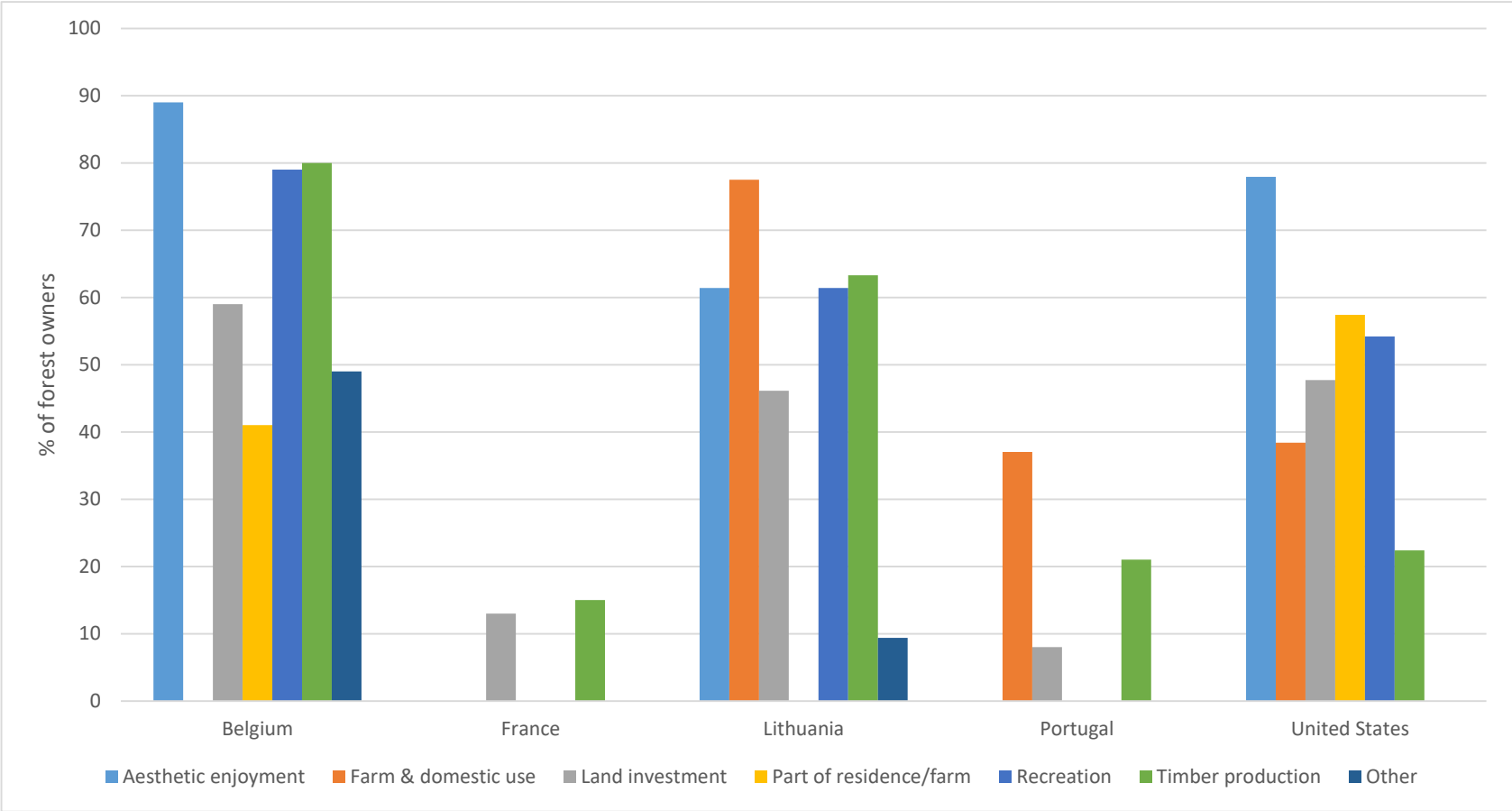

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Comparing public and private

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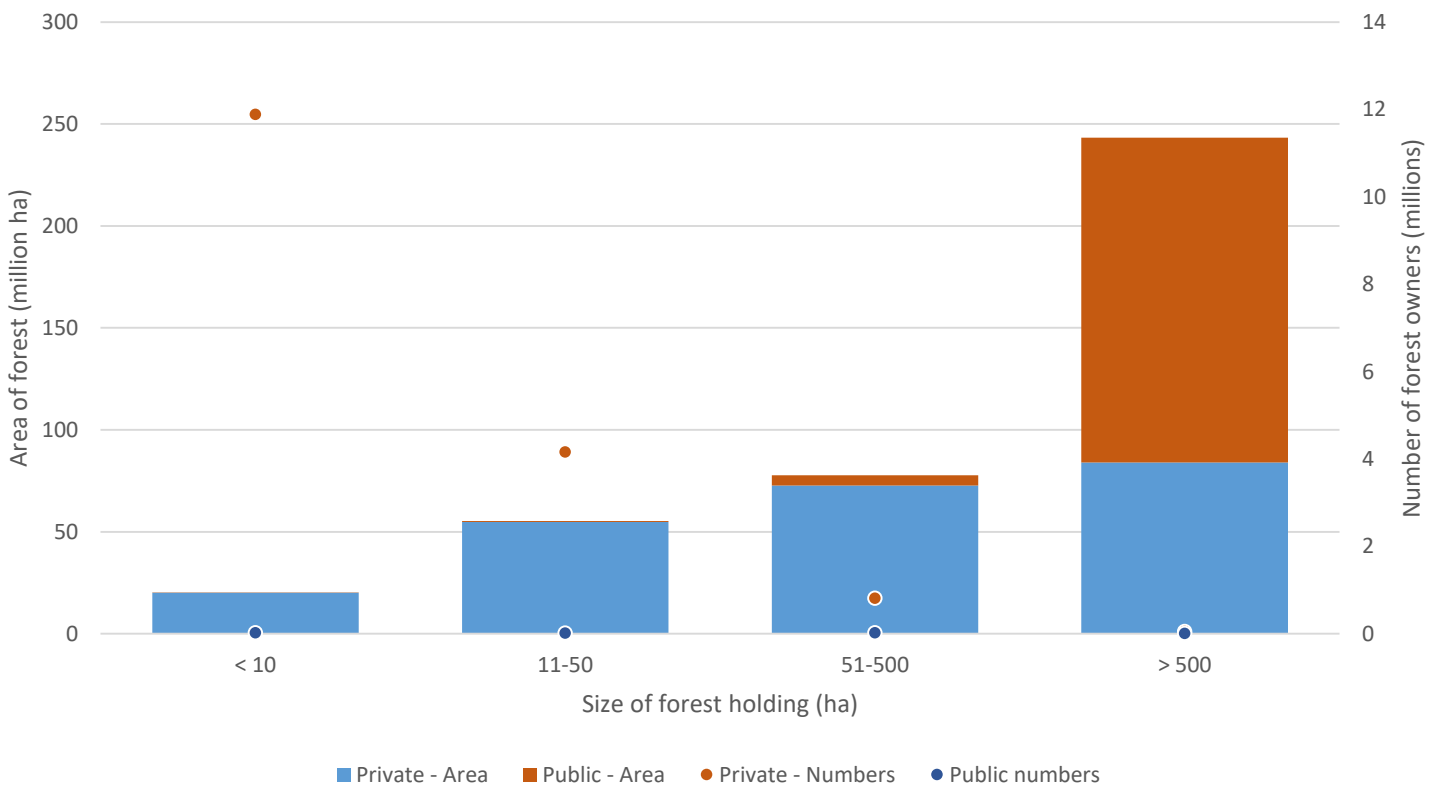

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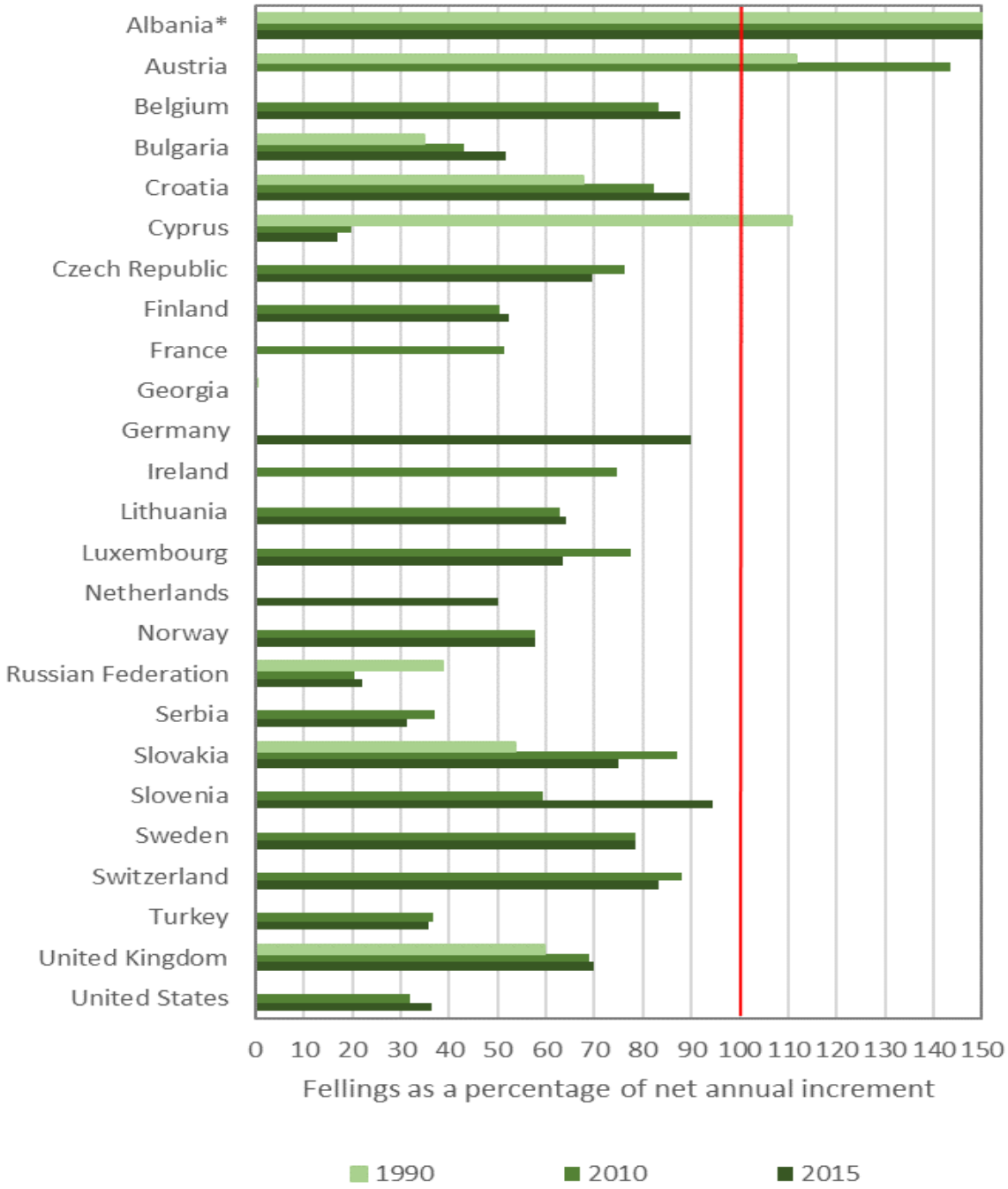
Utilisation rate in public forests



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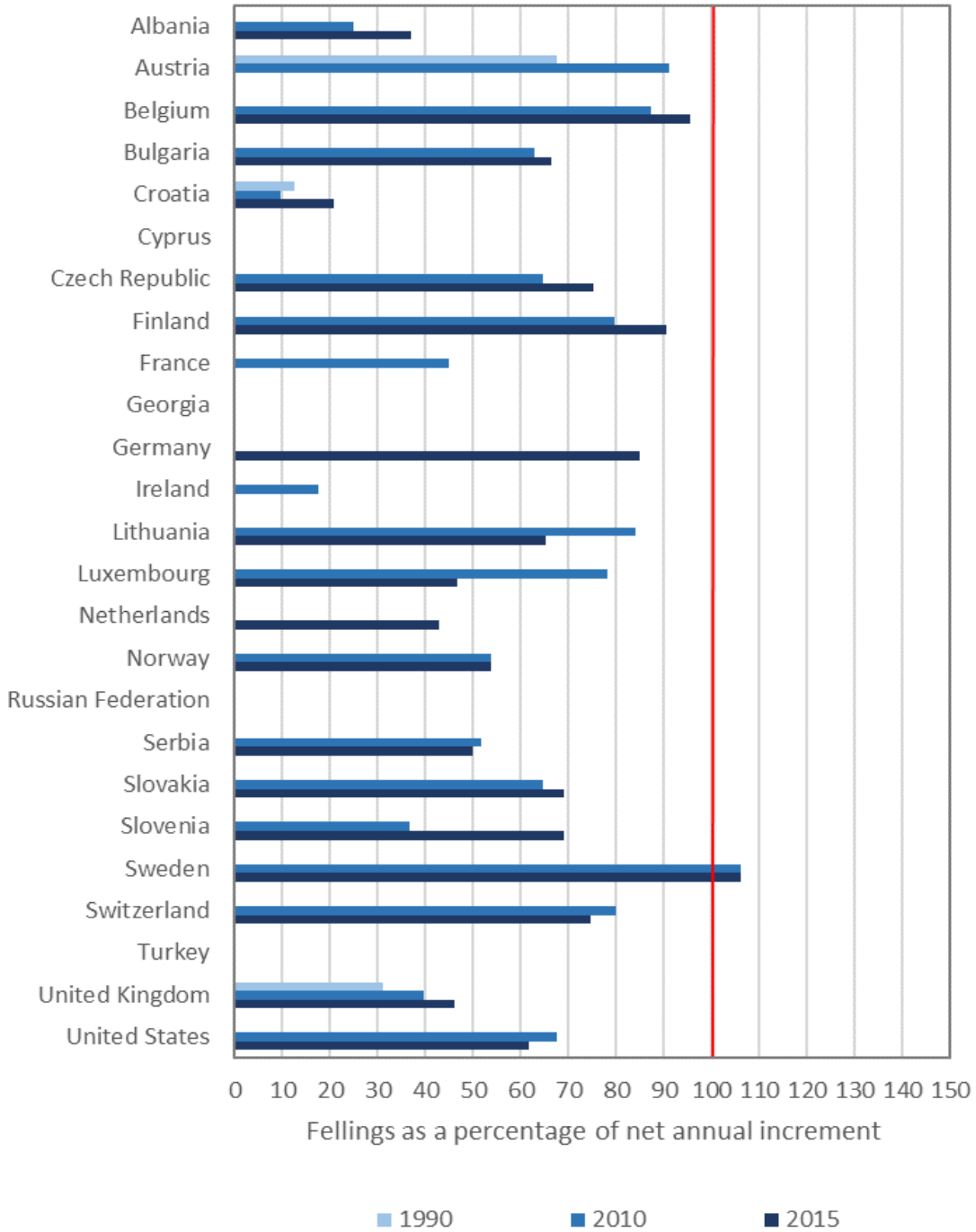
Utilisation rate in private forests



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Public forest management

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Management *decisions* compared with management *operations:*

- decisions about management of public forests, whatever the scale, are almost entirely made by the forest owner
- only a few countries reported that State-owned forests are managed by 'others', including State-owned companies, private management companies, and NGOs
    - NOTE contrast with global trend
- in most countries, municipal forests are more like private forests – more free to operate autonomously
- operations are undertaken by agency staff or by private contractors.

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Public forest management

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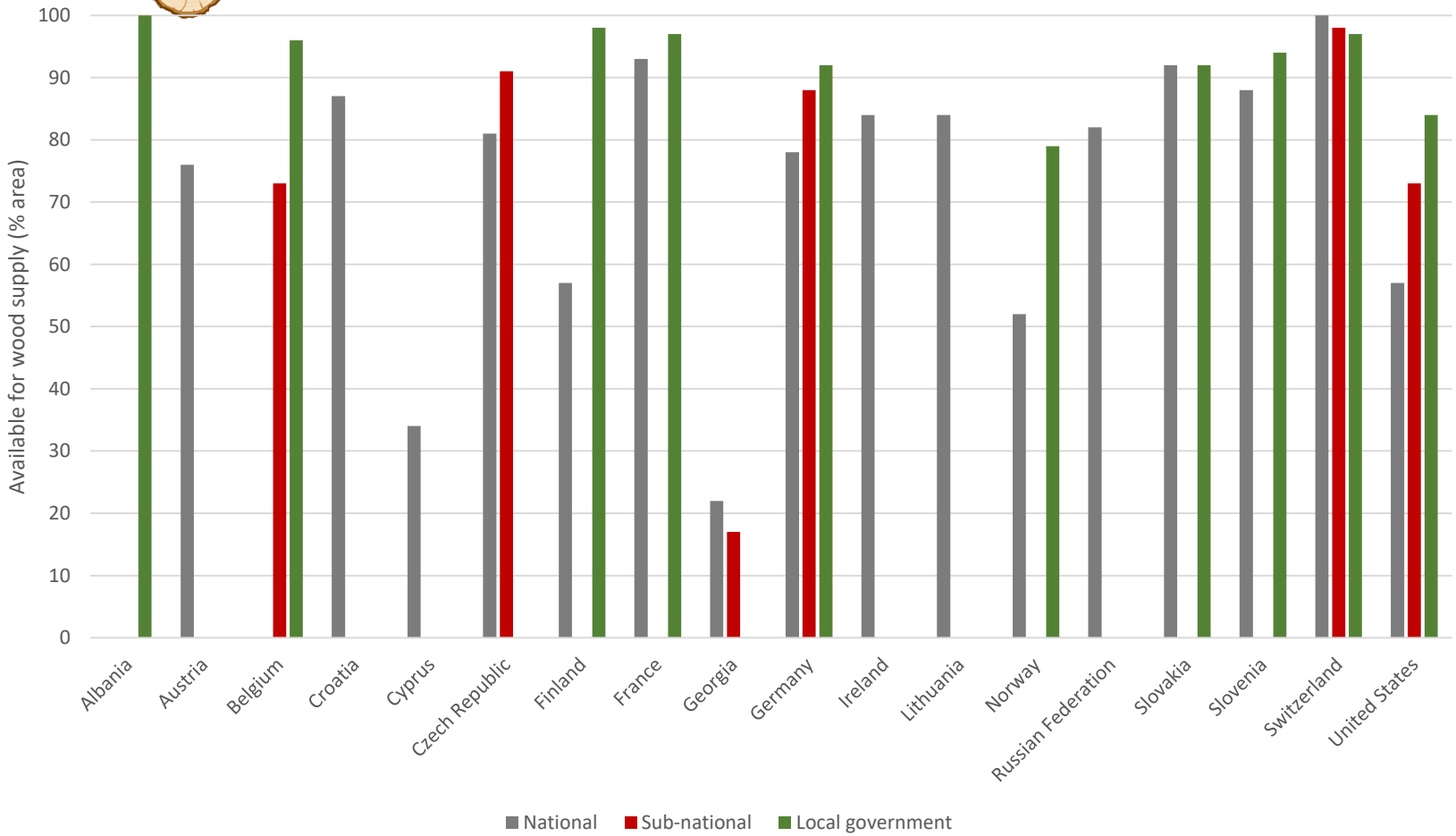

Proportion of public forest available for wood supply in 2015.

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Private forest management

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- Small-scale owners generally undertake the work themselves;
- Medium to large-scale owners usually outsource operations to other companies.
- New owner types generally have limited forest skills and usually outsource the forest works to companies or become members of forest owners' associations;
- In some Central and Eastern European forest works are mainly undertaken by the forest owners while in some Western European forest work is mainly carried out by forest contractors

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Private forest management

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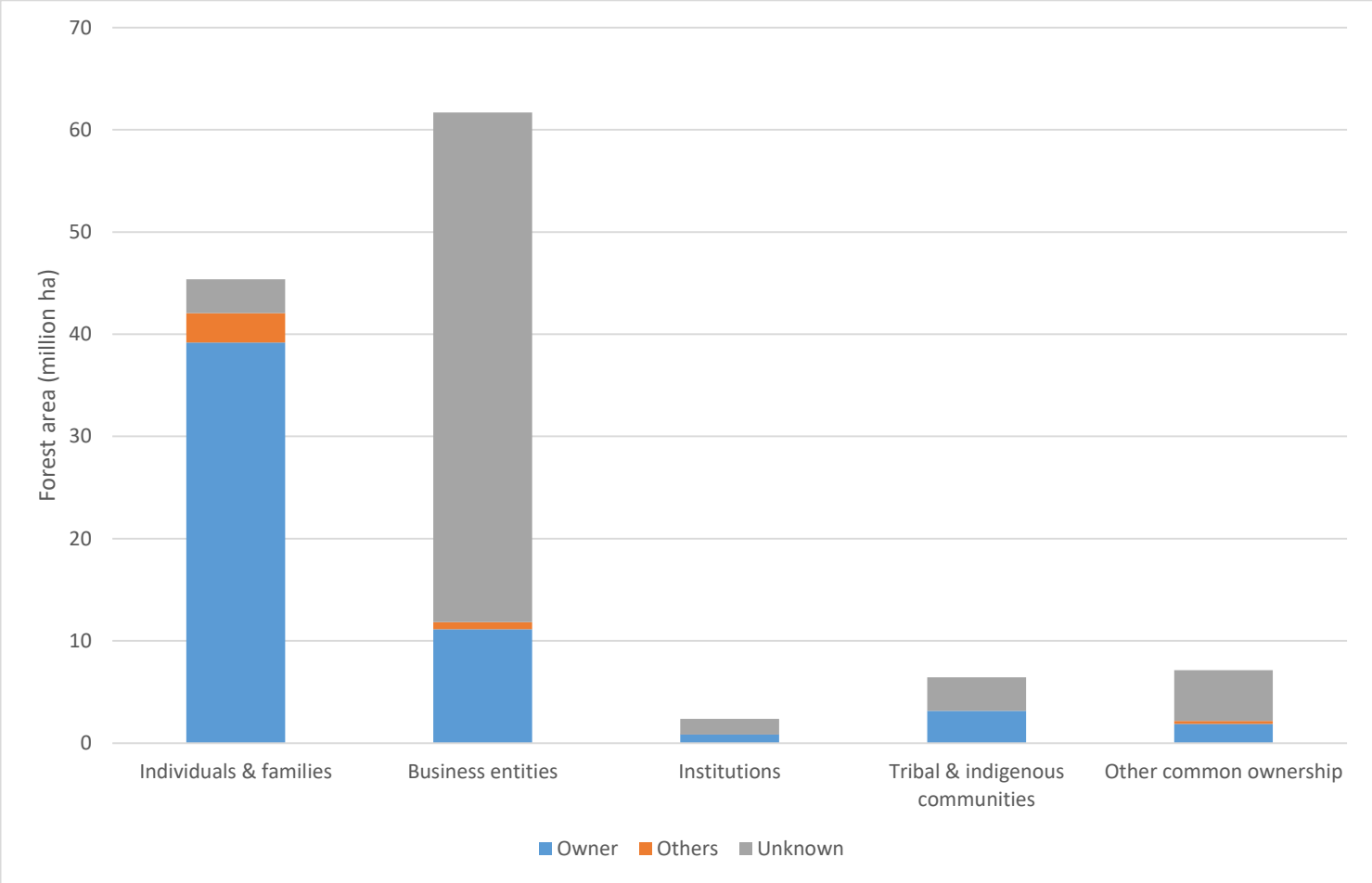

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Private forest owners' organisations

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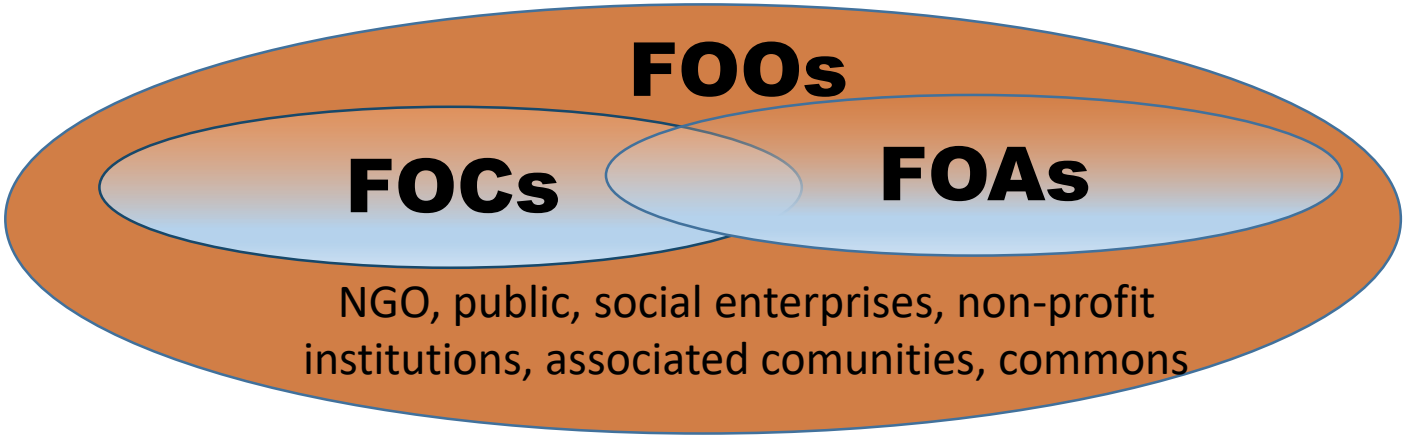
- **FOOs -** diverse group of organizations that have the common objective of *facilitating* forest ownership and management and *representing* forest owners
- From individual forest owners to municipalities and commons to large scale forest enterprises.
- Voluntary/mandatory; bottom up/top down formed; different levels; legal forms; size, scope, aims...



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Thank you!

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14 December 2018, Brussels