

Introduction to the 35 Country Reports

Alicia Unrau, Peter Buckley, Dagnija Lazdiņa and Valeriu-Norocel Nicolescu

The following chapters feature elements on the past, present and future of coppice forests in 35 countries. They are a compiled of multiple, individual reports that were originally published in 2017 and have since been reviewed and updated.

The 35 countries covered in this chapter

The countries featured here were members of COST Action FP1301 EuroCoppice: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom (Figure 1). Many key countries for coppice were involved from the beginning, while others joined later, when national experts became interested in the Action. Any country showing interest in the Action was encouraged to participate.

Of the 35 countries, two are not within the geographical boundaries of Europe, namely Israel and South Africa, while Turkey can be considered a transition country to Asia. Compared to the countries listed in the “State of Europe’s Forests (SoEF) 2015” by FOREST EUROPE (2015), this chapter encompasses all of the countries who contributed 2010 data to Table 27 on coppice statistics, with the exception of Montenegro. Other countries in Europe that could be expected to have some coppice, despite not having submitted data on that type of forest to the SoEF 2015, but are not addressed in this chapter are: the Russian Federation, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Luxemburg.

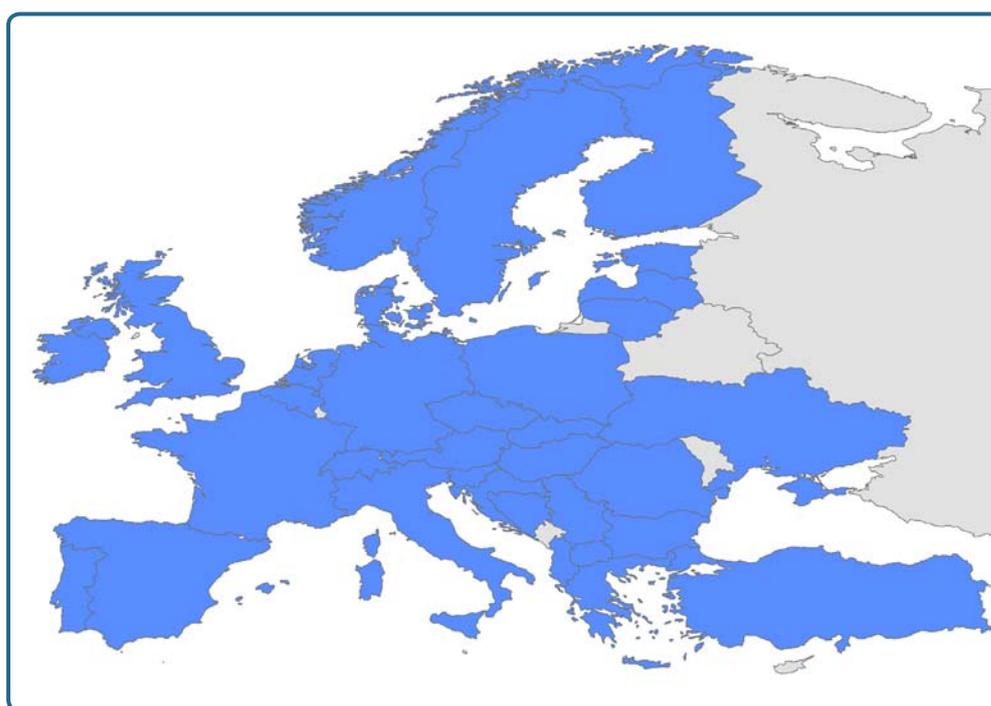


Figure 1. Map of the 33 European countries included in this chapter (in blue); it excludes two countries from outside of Europe; Israel and South Africa.

Encompassing the majority of European countries, this very broad base covers a range of coppice situations, for example: a long history of coppice, or none at all; different sizes and importance of current coppice area; active or neglected coppice; different environmental, social and economic functions; and various ways of governing coppice.

There are four sections in these country reports to which coppice forest researchers, practitioners and experts could have contributed: facts and figures, map, description and forestry regulations. Each country had different resources, expertise, and extent of coppice, so their reports vary in length and may not include all sections. The sections began as separate contributions, often by different authors - the details of this process are described in the following.

A compilation of separate reports from COST Action FP1301 EuroCoppice

In order to have a broad spectrum of information on coppice forests for the countries involved in COST Action FP1301, different themes were covered by Working Groups (WGs). Three of the five WGs independently collected information from EuroCoppice Members and/or their colleagues on most or all of the 35 EuroCoppice countries and published their results in separate booklets for each theme; they are the basis for the sections of the country reports that follow in this chapter.

Each of the original publications had its own group of editors and authors, which makes combining contributions a delicate matter. The main editors of the reports are the authors in this article, while all of the original editors are listed below. The country report authors appear under their respective section, but also as a group under the country title. The default policy was to list the authors as a group in the order of their appearance in the four sections. This policy was followed unless otherwise agreed upon by all authors. We are very thankful for the cooperation of the authors and the editors on this point.

When compiling the country reports, the contents of the original theme-related booklets were reviewed by editors and authors, proof-read and harmonised where necessary. There is still some overlap between sections within some countries, but the data or information should not be contradictory. Some of the most important aspects have been summarised in tables in the last article of this chapter.

Linking country report sections to original publications and editors

Of the four sections in the country report, three of them were originally published as individual booklets. To understand which sections were linked to which specific booklet, the original names and editors of the booklets are given here, along with some background information on each.

Section: Facts and Figures

Original title: National Factsheets on Coppice Forests

Original editors: Dagnija Lazdina and Santa Celma

Main Working Group: WG1 Definitions, History and Typology

Working Group Leader: Dagnija Lazdina, dagnija.lazdina@silava.lv

The authors were originally asked to fill in fields in an excel sheet, which was later compiled into a document by the editors. The responses in this section are, thus, often bulleted and brief, rather than descriptive. It is important to keep in mind that statistics on forest are difficult to compose in the first place, particularly so in the case of coppice. Many of the national forest inventories do not even collect data on coppice or hold relevant records. Furthermore, the definition of coppice greatly influences any data to be collected and/or interpreted.

Section: Map

This section was added after the end of the Action; all country report authors were offered the opportunity to submit a map for the updated country reports. Most countries do not have an official map of coppice, in some cases there simply is no data, so the maps included here are unique to each country and do not necessarily show coppice per se. Sometimes, for example, a map will illustrate the distribution of tree species that have the potential to be coppiced, such as in the Latvian report.

Section: Description

Original title: National Perspectives on Coppice from 35 EuroCoppice Member Countries

Original editors: Valeriu-Norocel Nicolescu, Debbie Bartlett, Peter Buckley, David Rossney, Patrick Pyttel and Alicia Unrau

Main Working Group: WG2 Ecology and silvicultural management

Working Group Leader: Valeriu-Norocel Nicolescu, nvnicolescu@unitbv.ro

The authors of this section were given a great amount of freedom concerning the contents of their texts. This way they were flexible to choose topics that are important in their respective region. While describing coppice in their country, they were requested to keep to a limit of up to ca. two pages. Any overlap between this section and the first, Facts and Figures, was shortened if the repetition is quite lengthy, but was otherwise left in.

Section: Forestry Regulations

Original title: National Forestry Regulations Affecting Coppice Management in 27 EuroCoppice Member Countries

Original editors: Jenny Mills and Peter Buckley

Main Working Group: WG4 Services, protection and nature conservation

Working Group Leader: Peter Buckley, peterbuckleyassociates@gmail.com

This section is a compilation and evaluation of legal documents relating to the specific rules and legislation affecting coppice forests, including conservation and biodiversity issues. The text is frequently quite technical because of the content involved. In some cases, there is a little overlap with other sections, but these are typically only a few sentences in the introduction of the section.

References

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eurocoppice@fob.uni-freiburg.de
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