EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Coppice utilization and products

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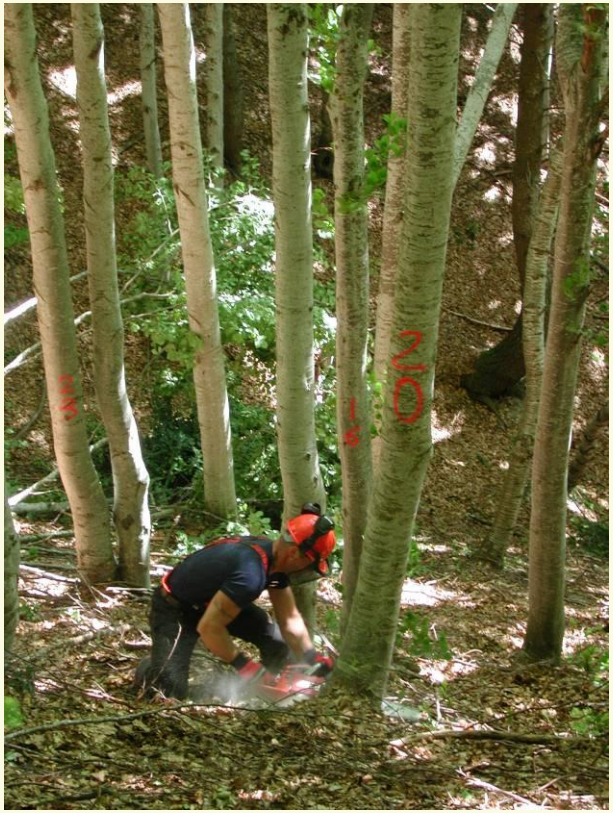
Innovative management and multi-functional utilization of traditional coppice forests
Cost Action FP1301 - Florence, 26 Feb 2014

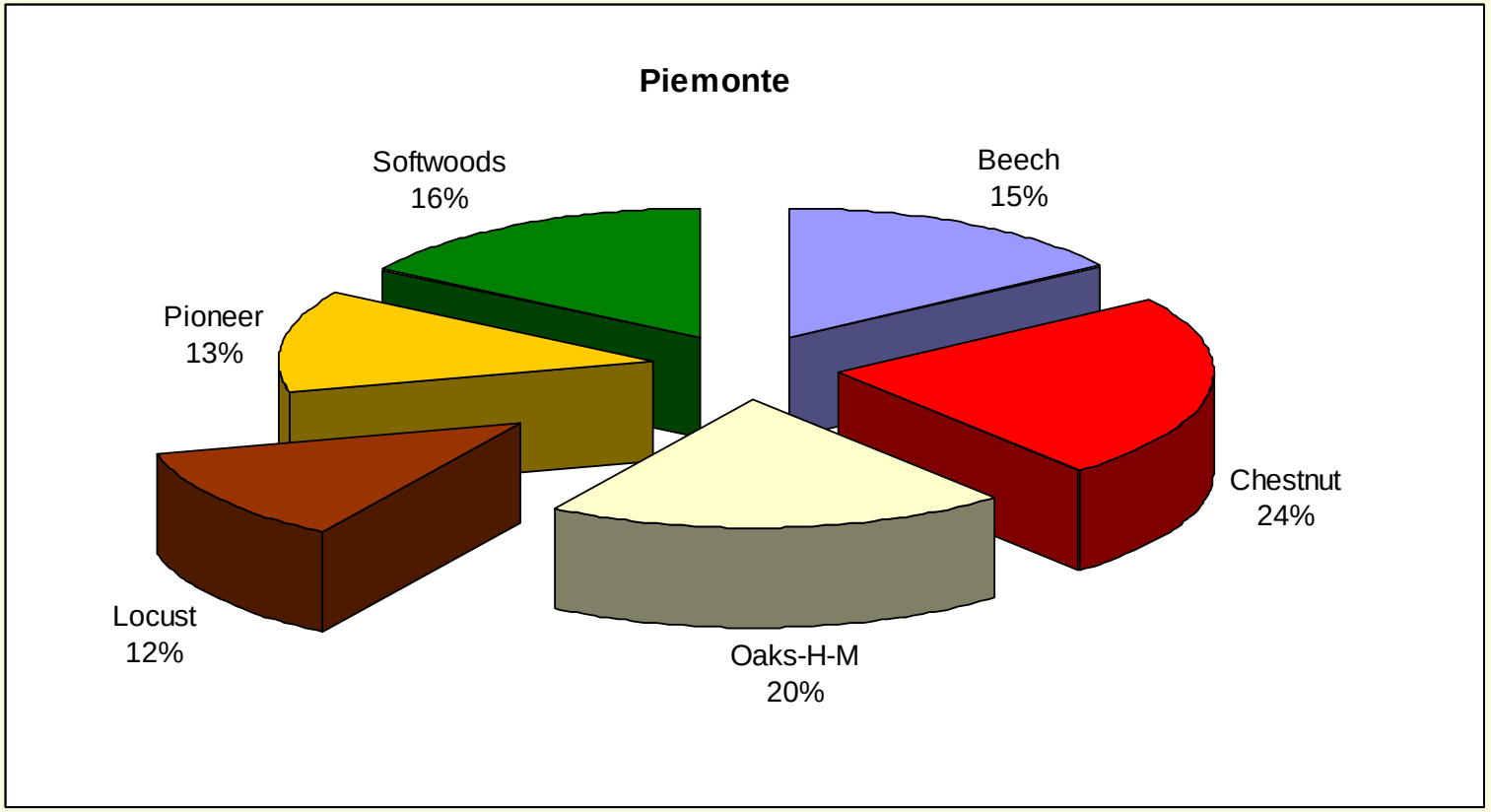
Traditional coppice

- Oak, Chestnut, Beech etc.
- 15 to 40 years rotations
- 12-30 cm DBH
- 70-250 m^3/ha



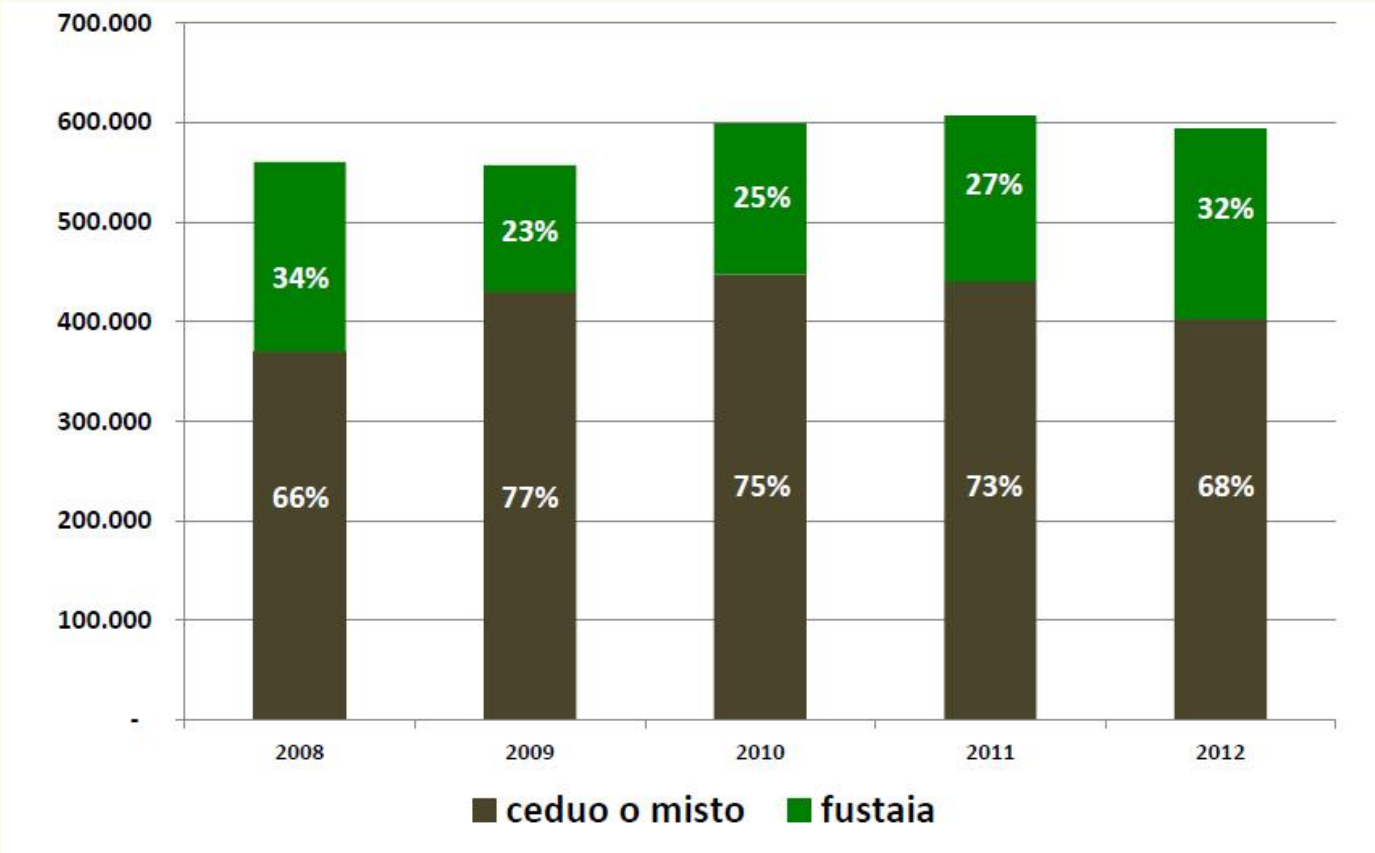
A most widespread forest type

- In Northern Italy, Alps



An important economic role

- In Northern Italy, Alps (Lombardia)



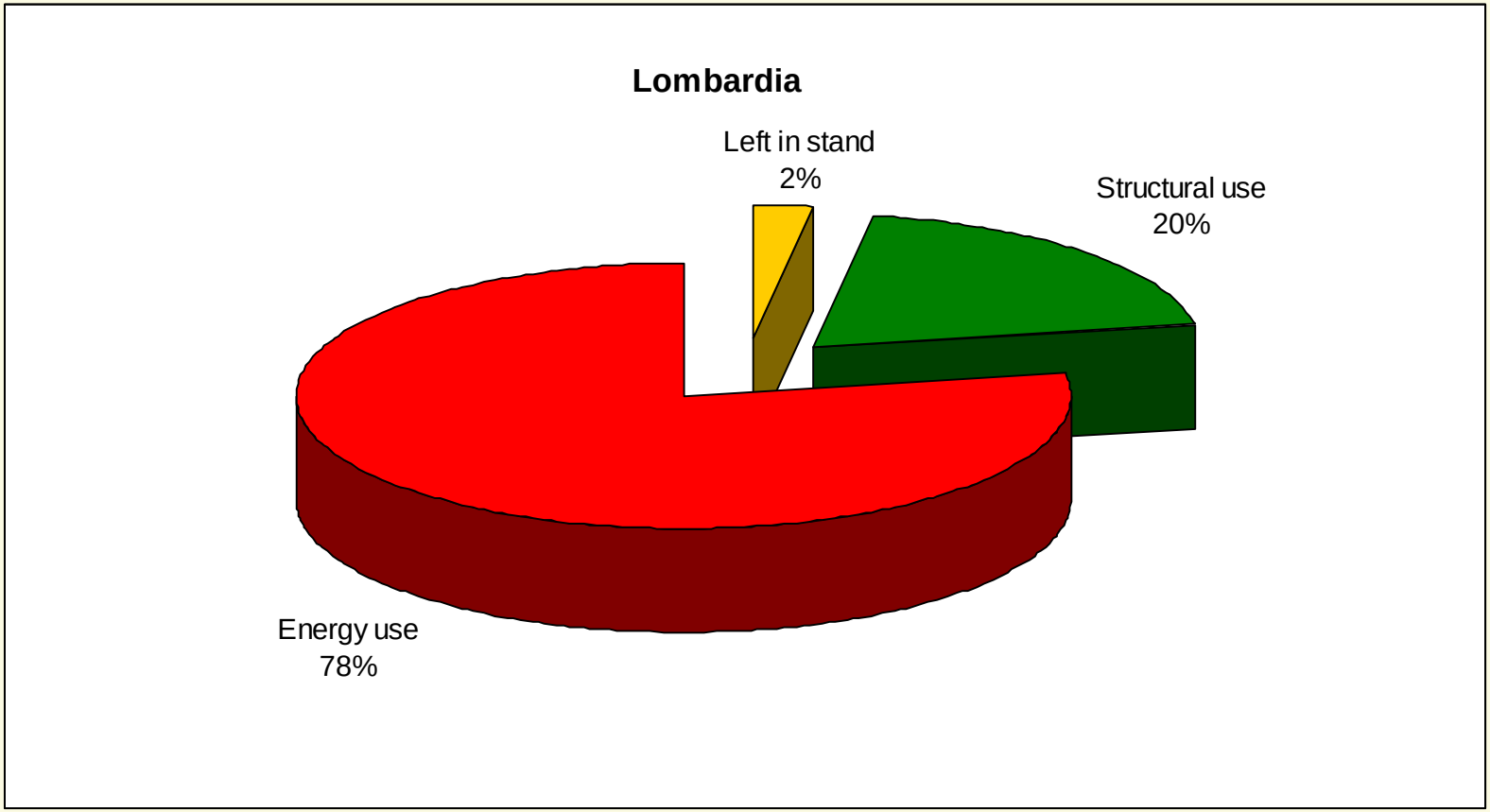
Many possible products

Product choice

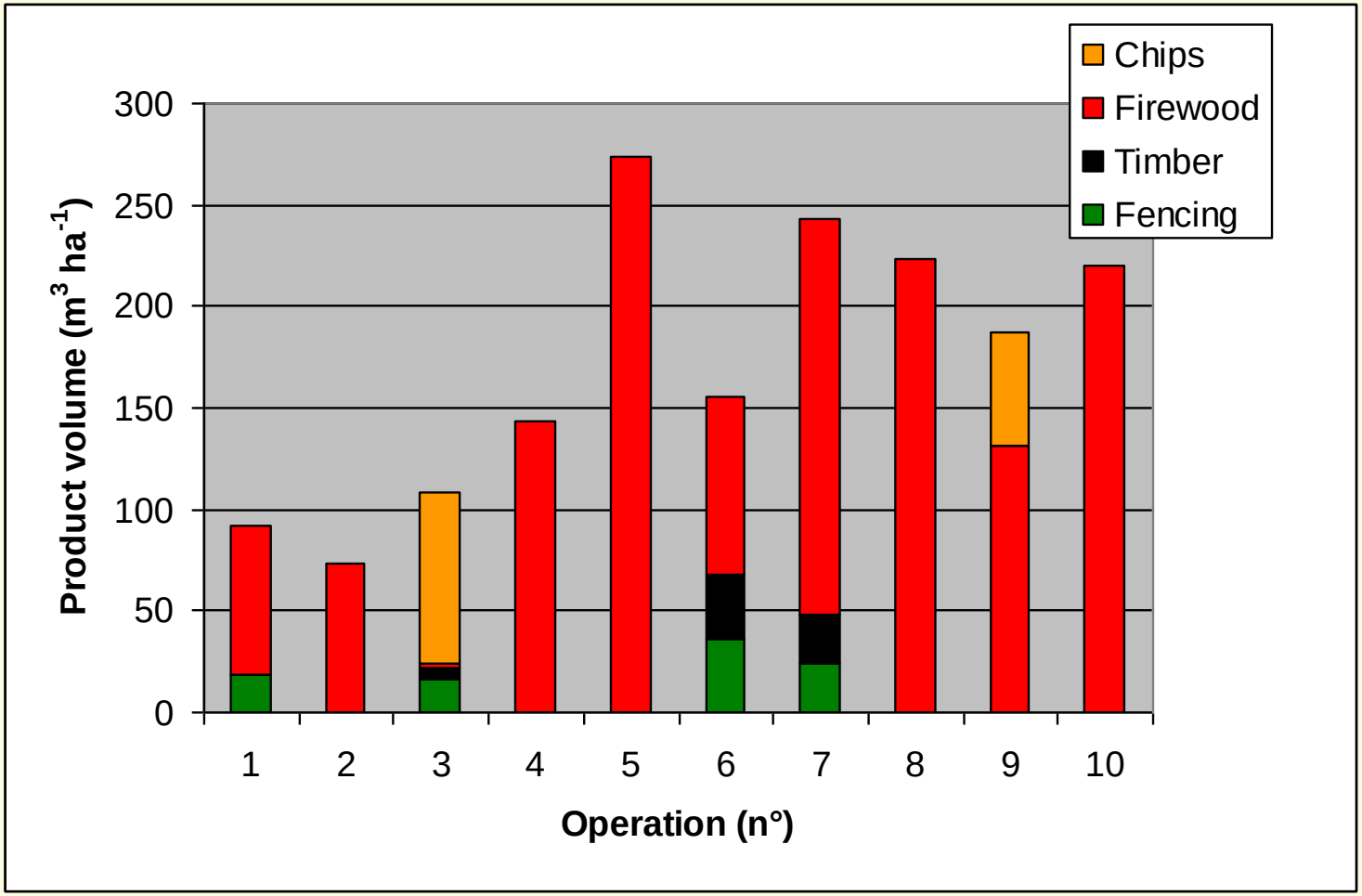
- Price - Conditions
- Absorbed volumes
- Distance to market

The winner is…

- In Italy, at least



In more detail…



Prices & Demand

- 18M t firewood, 3M t chips (Italy)

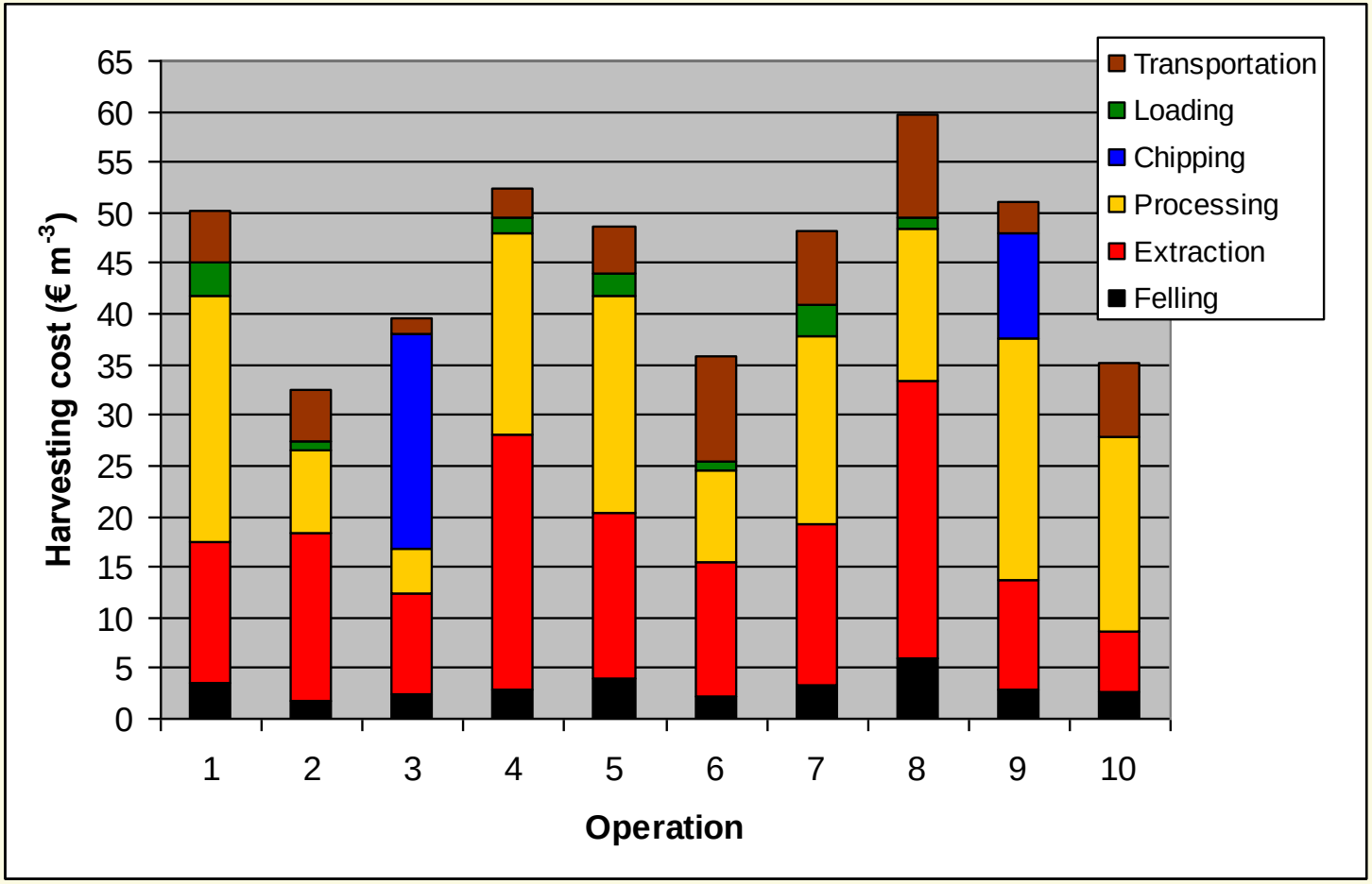
Operation	Fencing	Timber	Firewood	Chips	Stand
1	70	-	67	-	Chestnut
2	-	-	73	-	Chestnut
3	55	100	65	75	Chestnut
4	-	-	77	-	Beech
5	-	-	80	-	Beech
6	65	-	73	-	Chestnut
7	80	98	59	-	Chestnut
8	-	-	80	-	Beech
9	-	-	80	55	Beech
10	-	-	48	-	Chestnut

Harvesting: traditional

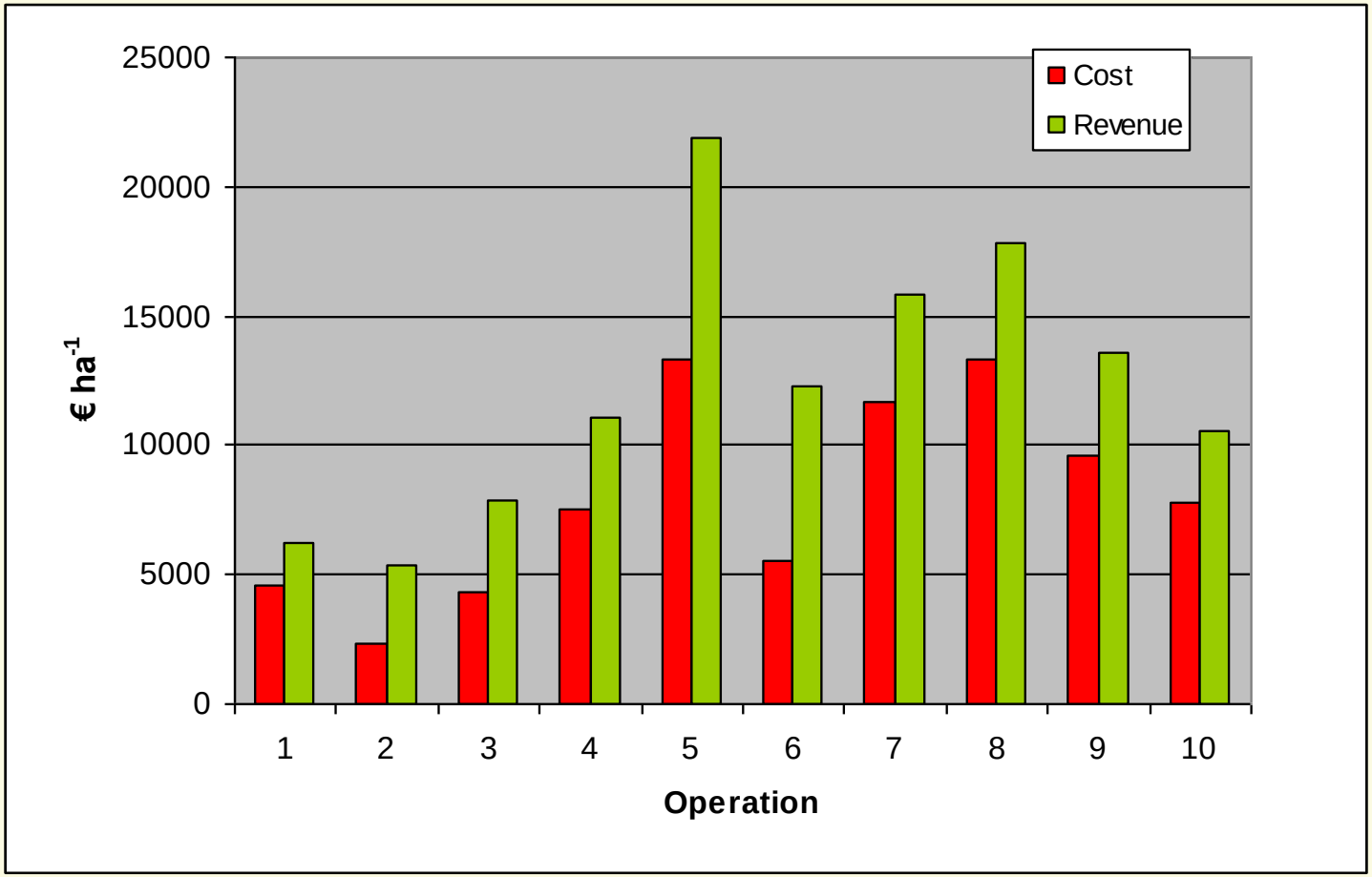
Harvesting: today

Small-scale options

Harvesting cost

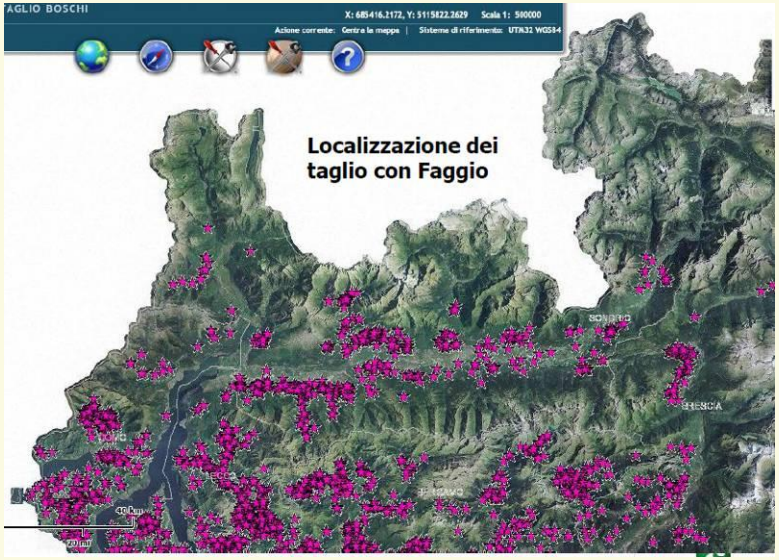


Economically-viable operations



Increase economic reach

- Operations develop along roads (Lombardy 2012)
- The problem is most severe with beech (altitude)
- ⇨ Build roads



Technical challenges

- Mechanized processing?

Real technical challenge

Real technical challenge

The best bet?

Conclusions

- Large economic potential
- Maxime value recovery
- Reduce cost
- Mechanization, biomass
- Firewood