

# Traditional Coppice Management - Legacy and Potential -



## Conclusions of the European COST Network 'EuroCoppice'

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*Session 82 a/b - IUFRO 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congress, Freiburg, Germany*

*"Traditional coppice: ecology, silviculture & socio-economic aspects"*

*Tuesday Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

# Coppice...

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# Coppice (Coppicing): Traditional forest management

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- broadleaf
- vegetative regeneration (shoots / suckers)
- multi-stem trees
- grow vigorously
- short rotation cycles
- small sized timber
- sustainable



*Unrau (University of Freiburg)*

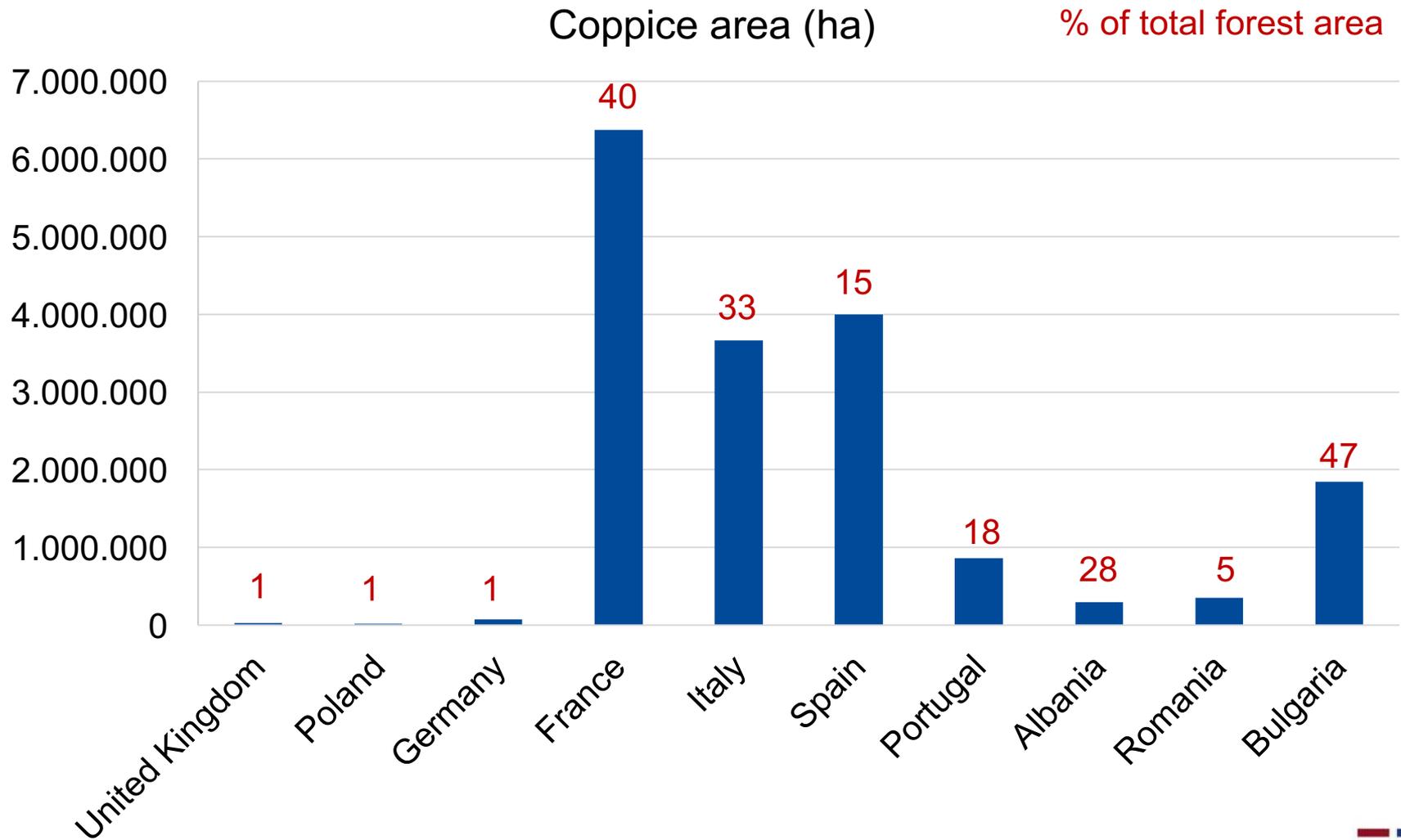


*Suchomel (University of Freiburg)*

## Regional variation:

- species
- eco-physical conditions
- historic development
- socio-economic framework

# Coppice in Europe



Problems: Definition of coppice, inconsistent NFI methods, outdated statistics...<sup>4</sup>

# Coppice in European Policy and Legislation Documents

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Search for Coppice in 35 Forest and Forest-related Policy Documents

- European Forest Convention
- The Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020
- Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy
- State of Europe`s Forests 2011 & 2015
- ....

*\*\*\* (Brief) mentions of traditional coppice in only **2 of the 35** documents \*\*\**

*→ State of Europe`s Forests 2011 & 2015*

# COST Action FP1301 EuroCoppice

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“European Cooperation in Science & Technology”

4 years: Nov 2013 – Oct 2017

35 countries

150+ researchers and experts

5 Working Groups (WGs)

5 International Conferences

5 Training Schools

43 Short term scientific missions

Scientific publications

Dissemination material

→ [www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de](http://www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de)



*Aminti (IVALSA)*



*Spinelli (IVALSA)*

# EuroCoppice Working Groups

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WG1 Definitions, History and Typology

WG2 Ecology and silvicultural management

WG3 Utilization and products

WG4 Services, protection and nature conservation

WG5 Coppice forests ownership and governance

# Coppice in Europe:

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Lessons from the past – guidelines for the future



*Spinelli (IVALSA)*

# Historic starting point

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- Rural communities
- Fuel wood
- Community / private / public ownership



Harvesting simple coppice in Germany



Year 1903. Photo taken by Anders Beer Wilse; copy - of the original belonging to Norsk Folkemuseum, Hardanger, Hordaland, Norway

# Early industries

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Metal and coal mining, bricks, porcelain, glass, salt, leather...



*Unrau (Uni Freiburg)*



Porcelain in Limoges, France,  
Museum "Four des Casseaux"

Gero Becker – C



Fonds Boudes  
Collection BFM Limoge

# ... Resulting situation

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*Spinelli (IVALSA)*

# Conversion - Croatia

Successive conversion of helm oak using the uniform shelterwood system



2003



2008



2011



2014 *Dubravec (Sumins)*

Coppice

# Modern coppice management



All photos: Spinelli (IVALSA)



# Nature conservation, protection functions, biodiversity...



*Barti (University of Brasov)*



*Hornea (University Timisoara)*



*Sucomel (University of Freiburg)*



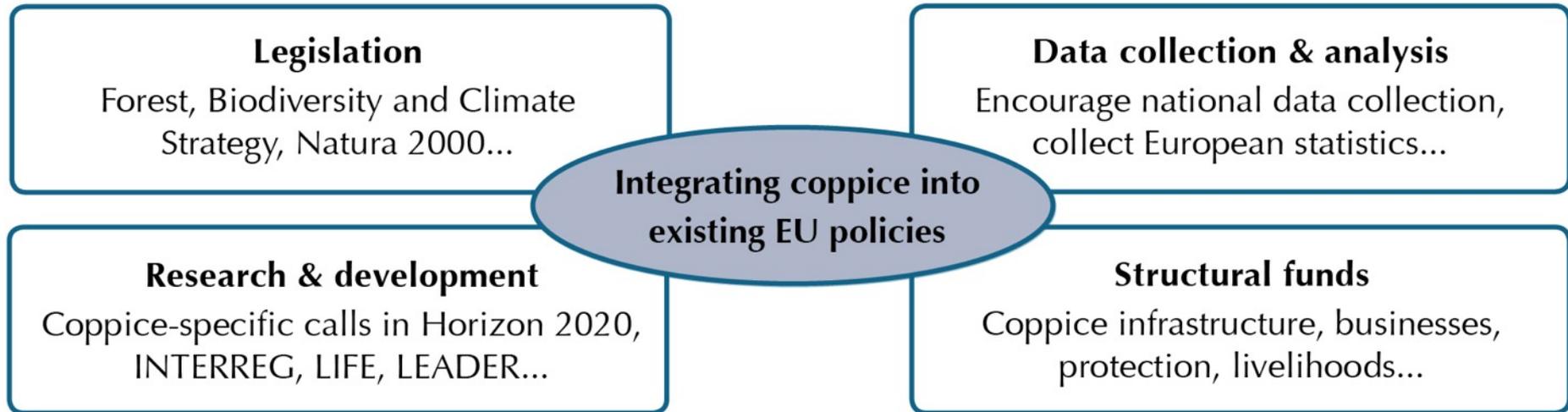
*Sucomel (University of Freiburg)*



*Sucomel (University of Freiburg)*

# Coppice in European Policy

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# Consequences for future coppice strategies

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1. Regions with active rural private landowners  
→ information, infrastructure and incentives for a “modern”  
**small scale rural coppicing**
2. Regions with large underused/abandoned coppice forests  
→ “**zoning**” according to site quality, terrain and ownership;  
**conversion / “industrial coppice concepts” / protection**
3. Regions with little remaining coppice  
→ **protect and re-activate** as part of nature conservation  
(Natura 2000...)

# Research gaps

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- Definitions and statistics
- Ecology and silviculture (rotation cycle, size of coupes, resprouting of old stools, growth and yield tables)
- Biodiversity, compared to high forest
- Climate change (carbon balance, resilience)
- Protection functions (infrastructure)
- Adapted harvesting systems
- Contribution to rural economies
- Stakeholder's connotation (negative / positive)
- Role in forest legislation
- Short rotation coppice: similarities and differences

# ... And expand coppice knowledge globally

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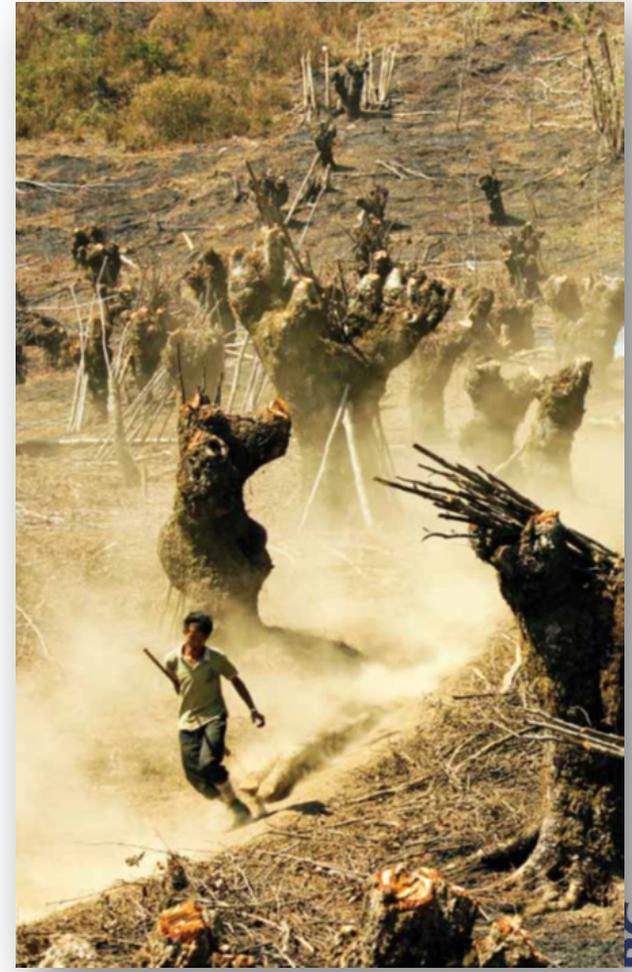


*Hornea (University Timisoara)*



Pollard trees  
in Romania

**IUFRO Unit 1.03.01**  
Traditional coppice:  
ecology, silviculture and  
socioeconomic aspects



Alder pollards in North-East India  
(slash & burn; shifting cultivation)

# COST Action FP1301 EuroCoppice

Innovative management and multifunctional utilisation of traditional coppice forests – an answer to future ecological, economic and social challenges in the European forestry sector

*... Thank you!*

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