

Traditional Coppice Management - Legacy and Potential -



Conclusions of the European COST Network ‘EuroCoppice’

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Session 82 a/b - IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress, Freiburg, Germany
“Traditional coppice: ecology, silviculture & socio-economic aspects”
Tuesday Sept. 19th, 2017

Coppice...



Coppice (Coppicing): Traditional forest management

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



Unrau (University of Freiburg)

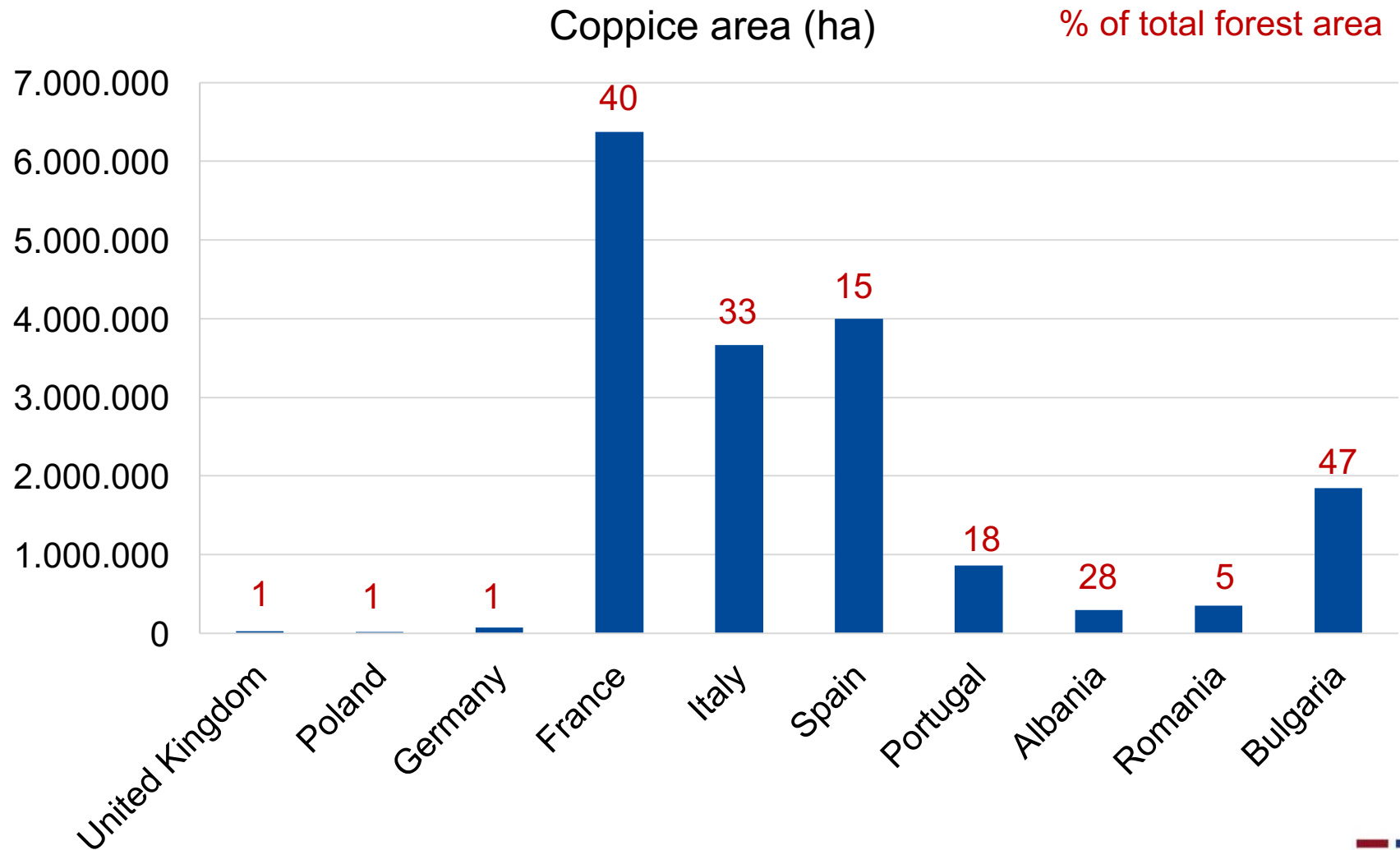


Suchomel (University of Freiburg)

Regional variation:

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

Coppice in Europe



Problems: Definition of coppice, inconsistent NFI methods, outdated statistics...⁴

Coppice in European Policy and Legislation Documents

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

“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

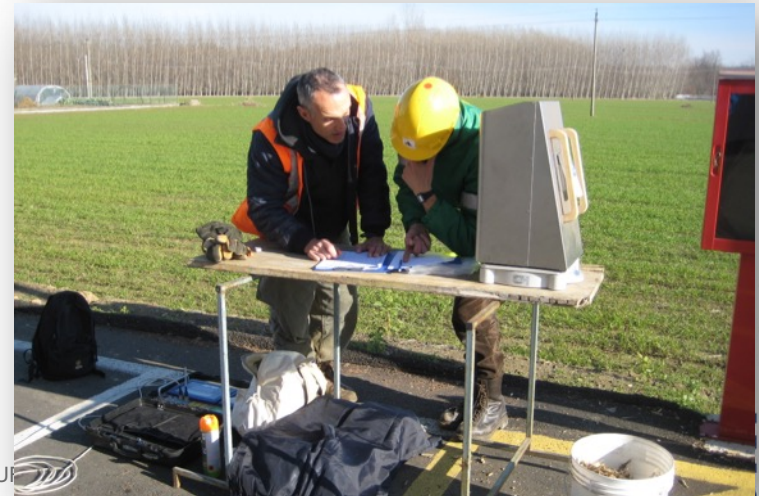
Scientific publications

Dissemination material

→ www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de



Aminti (IVALSA)



Spinelli (IVALSA)

EuroCoppice Working Groups

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:

Lessons from the past – guidelines for the future



Spinelli (IVALSA)

Historic starting point

- 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

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

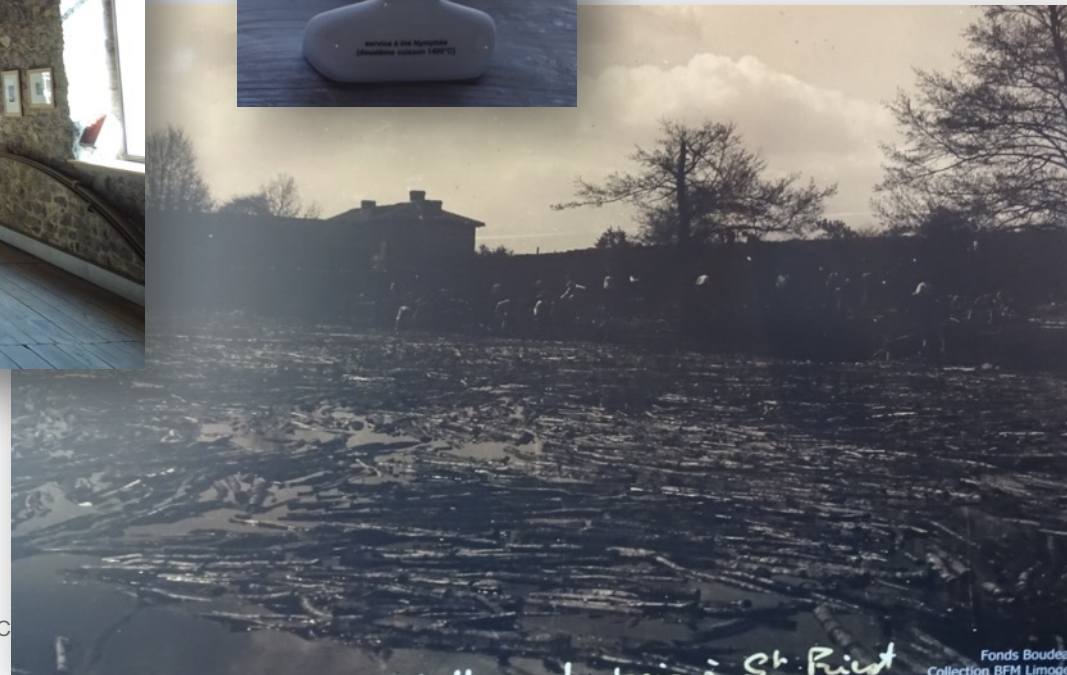


Unrau (Uni Freiburg)



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

Gero Becker – C



Fonds Boudes
Collection BFM Limoges

... Resulting situation



Spinelli (IVALSA)

Conversion - Croatia

Successive conversion of helm oak using the uniform shelterwood system



2003



2008



2011



2014

Dubravac (Sumins)

Coppice

12

Modern coppice management



All photos: Spinelli (IVALSA)



Nature conservation, protection functions, biodiversity...



Barti (University of Brasov)



Hornea (University Timisoara)



Suchomel (University of Freiburg)

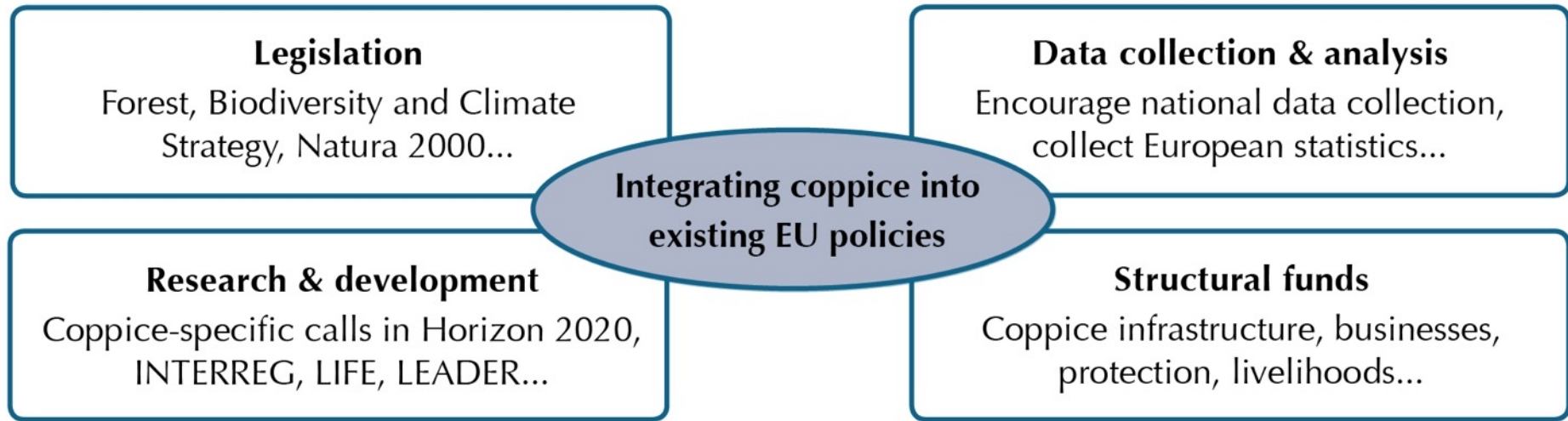


Suchomel (University of Freiburg)



Suchomel (University of Freiburg)

Coppice in European Policy



Consequences for future coppice strategies

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

- 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



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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