The potential barriers to persistence and development of small scale coppice forest management in Europe

EuroCoppice Working Group 5
EuroCoppice Working Group 5
Coppice forests ownership and governance

MISSION:
• Consider governance regimes across countries
• Determine the extent to which coppice is included in regulations
• Find out who makes decisions about whether a forest is managed as coppice or not
• Identify the main factors influencing this
• Evaluate the potential impacts of change on continuation of coppice management.
Investigating governance issues

Discussion during the first EuroCoppice conference, held in Florence, Italy, in February 2014 generated lots of ideas.
‘People and Coppice’
Chatham, England, November 2014

5 Mechanical harvesting cost
4 Low product price
4 Small ownerships
4 Cost compared to fossil/nuclear fuel
2 Lack of knowledge

AGAIN: no real consensus
Green sheets: what did they tell us?

Session 1
The Resource

Session 2
Access to the Resource

Session 3
The People Involved
NAME: Conedera Mars
COUNTRY: CH

Session 1: The Resource

31.00: Keith Kirby
Kepplers of Time
Origins and historical context

How is the heritage value of coppice taken into account in your country?

A tradition is kept between 1660 and 1900, but it is now continuing strong especially in central forest due to the need of products such as poles and energy wood.

11.20: Christine Bass
Protection of Coppice for Biodiversity
Legislative protection

What is the biodiversity/natural heritage value of coppice taken into account in your country?

There is an increasing awareness that coppice has the potential of highly contributing to biodiversity both at the stand and landscape level.

Coppice in the landscape

What is your attitude to coppice as part of the landscape and local economy?

At the beginning of the 21st century, the coppice is in the south part of the

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Tired of writing or lack of knowledge?

Many favourable comments regarding the inclusion of woodland workers
Fact sheet – narrowing it down

In depth case studies:
Croatia   England   Germany
Italy   Serbia   Spain

Revealed:
• significant areas of uncertainty,
• lack of robust statistics on area of coppice and active management.

That key issues were:
• coppice ownership,
• markets for coppice products and
• the coppice workforce

https://www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de/intern/pdf/deliverables/socio-economic
Potential interventions

Markets for Coppice Products

- Firewood markets are generally good
  - But in some countries coppice biomass is not viable without subsidies
- There are some specific markets e.g. fencing and poles
- Some require certification - cost is an issue for some owners.
- Low price for coppiced forest compared to agricultural land or high forest (except where small plots are sold for recreation)

The Coppice Workforce

- Cutting can be by State owned or private companies; some cutters work alone or in small groups
- Limited by seasonal restrictions (e.g. nature conservation, hunting season, or fire risk) so need alternative employment
- Small owners, particularly farmers, produce firewood for personal consumption
- Lack of skilled workers can be a limiting factor, particularly in England and Germany.
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

• What affect does conversion to high forest have on small private owners?
• Will this trend be influenced by availability of funding?
• Is lack of coppice specific national policy originate in the regional distribution?
• How significant is the demand for fire/fuel wood and specialist products?
• To what extent is NTFP provision a factor?
• What effect will the increasing interest in ecosystem services have on coppice?
• How effective are knowledge transfer networks across the supply chain (between owners, coppice workers, extension services and consumers)?
Next steps:
1) Modelling the impact of interventions

Agent Based Modelling: class diagram representing the coppice industry (Gomez-Martin 2017)
Accurate figures for the current situation are needed to develop scenarios
2) Social Network Analysis

- How does information travel?
- Who are the key players?
- How effective is collaboration between:
  - Owners
  - Workers
  - Customers?
- Is there competition?
- What interventions would be most appropriate?
- Where will these be most effective?
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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