

# **European Forest Institute**



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# **The politics of FES in Europe:** *Changing societal perceptions and conflicting policy views*

SINCERE – NOBEL Final Conference

“Incentives for Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) in Europe:  
connecting science, practice and policy”

Georg Winkel and Helga Pülzl, EFI

# Structure

- 1. Which ecosystem services do European citizen demand?***
- 2. What is the importance of policy for forest ecosystem services provision/innovations?***
- 3. What can be concluded for EU forest policy making?***

# 1. Which ecosystem services do European citizens demand?

Forest ecosystem services												
	Wood production	Fuel production	Other products	Clean air & water	Preserve plants & animals	Hazard protection	Mitigate climate change	Recreation opportunities	Source of employment	Part of culture	Access to knowledge	Beautiful
AT	5.34 (0.08) d	4.97 (0.09) d	4.52 (0.01) a	5.82 (0.04) c	5.64 (0.05) a	5.78 (0.45) b	5.47 (0.07) bc	4.96 (0.09) a	4.95 (0.09) c	4.54 (0.09) a	4.60 (0.09) a	5.28 (0.07) a
CAT	3.86 (0.08) a	4.13 (0.07) b	5.08 (0.05) c	5.58 (0.03) a	5.65 (0.03) a	5.14 (0.05) a	5.39 (0.05) a	5.11 (0.05) a	4.23 (0.06) a	4.85 (0.05) b	5.04 (0.05) b	5.47 (0.04) a
DE	4.40 (0.07) b	4.07 (0.08) b	4.78 (0.06) b	5.61 (0.05) b	5.54 (0.05) a	5.04 (0.07) a	5.44 (0.06) c	5.20 (0.06) b	4.38 (0.07) a	4.76 (0.07) b	4.78 (0.07) ab	5.32 (0.06) a
RU	3.96 (0.13) a	3.29 (0.14) a	5.14 (0.09) d	5.80 (0.05) c	5.75 (0.05) b	4.67 (0.12) a	5.38 (0.08) abc	5.24 (0.08) b	4.03 (0.12) a	4.77 (0.11) b	5.13 (0.10) c	5.60 (0.06) b
SE	5.05 (0.06) c	4.67 (0.06) c	5.15 (0.05) d	5.51 (0.04) a	5.48 (0.04) a	4.98 (0.06) a	5.33 (0.05) ab	5.21 (0.05) b	4.74 (0.06) b	4.94 (0.05) b	4.82 (0.06) ab	5.25 (0.05) a
$\chi^2$	<b>235.49***</b>	<b>137.35***</b>	<b>52.21***</b>	<b>68.00***</b>	<b>25.58***</b>	<b>101.49***</b>	<b>14.65**</b>	<b>25.93**</b>	<b>66.12***</b>	<b>14.80**</b>	<b>35.32**</b>	<b>24.16**</b>
	<i>Provisioning</i>			<i>Regulating</i>				<i>Supporting</i>		<i>Cultural</i>		<i>Services</i>

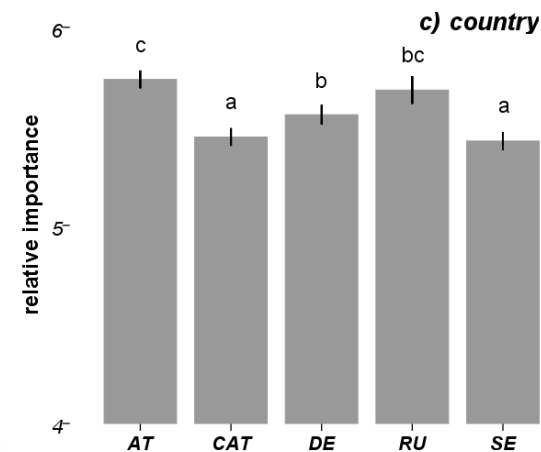
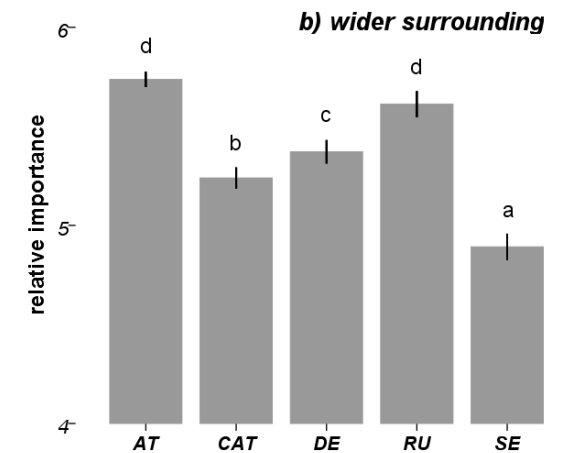
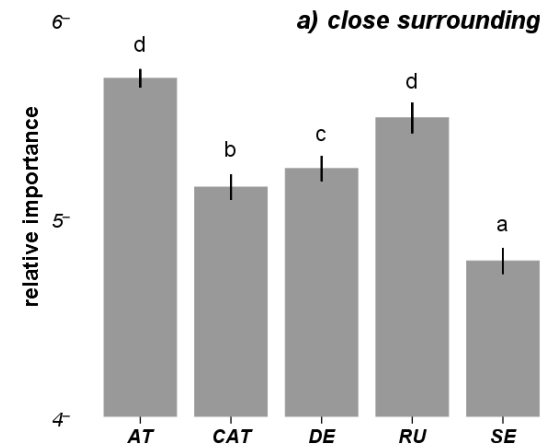
~1700 respondents

**Highest:** provision of clean air and water & preservation of plant and animal species, mitigation of climate

**Lowest:** wood and fuel production, employment

# Zooming in: Importance of forests

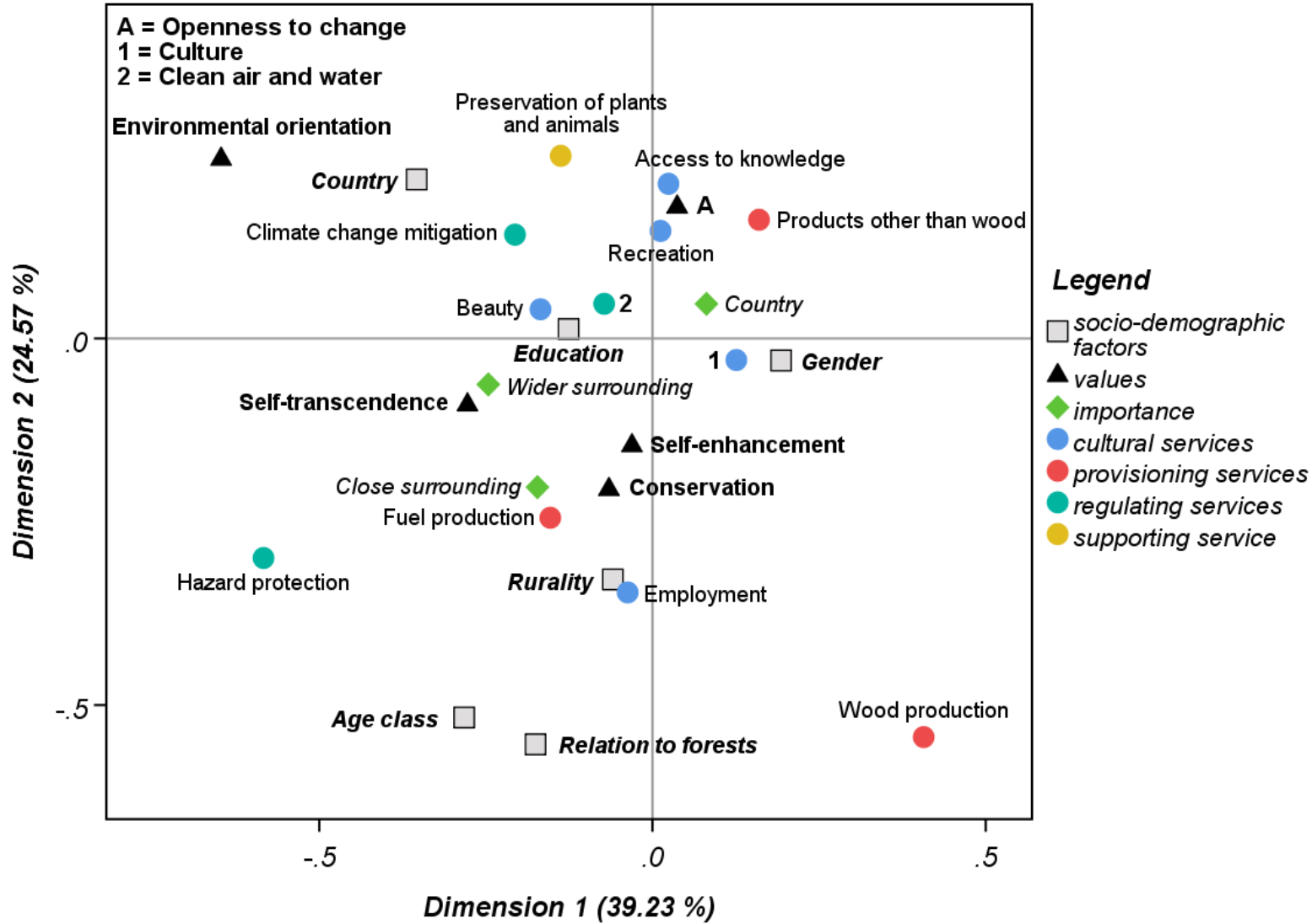
- **AT + RUS respondents** => forests significantly more important than **CAT + SE**; all perceived forests in country/ region most important
- **Gender:** Female respondents perceived forests as significantly more important ( $p < 0.001$ )
- **Age:** respondents between 45-54 years perceived the importance of forests in wider surroundings + country more => overall importance of forests increases with age



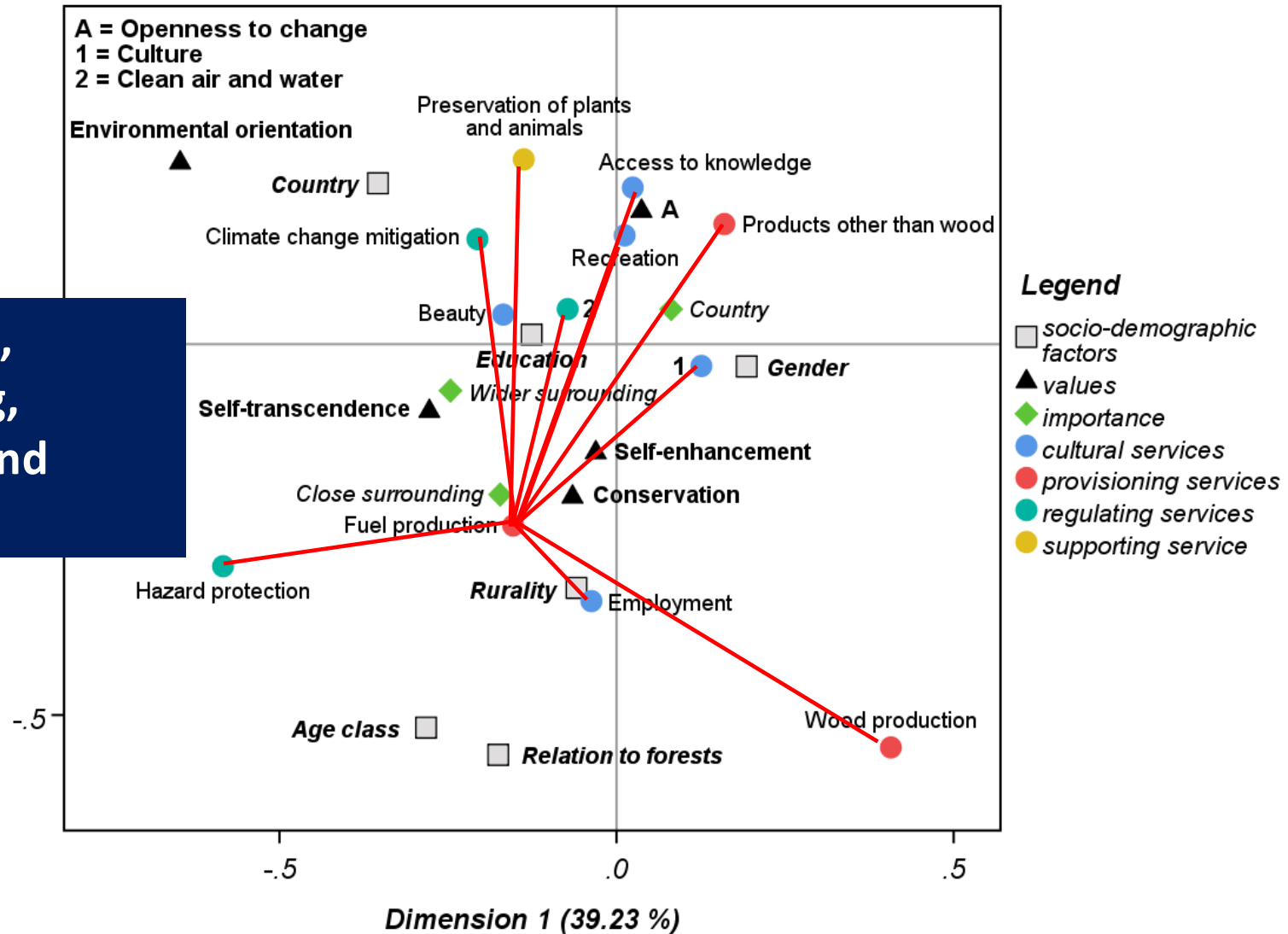
## Results: Importance of FES

- 'Clean air and water', 'Preserving plants and animals', 'Mitigating climate change' and 'Beauty'  
=> most important for all respondents
- Age and the respondent's relation to forests strongest predictors of 'Wood production', 'Fuel production' and 'Source of employment'.
- Country/region of origin, education and gender => impact on the types of FES that were prioritized..... **BUT**

# Results: Canonical correlation analysis



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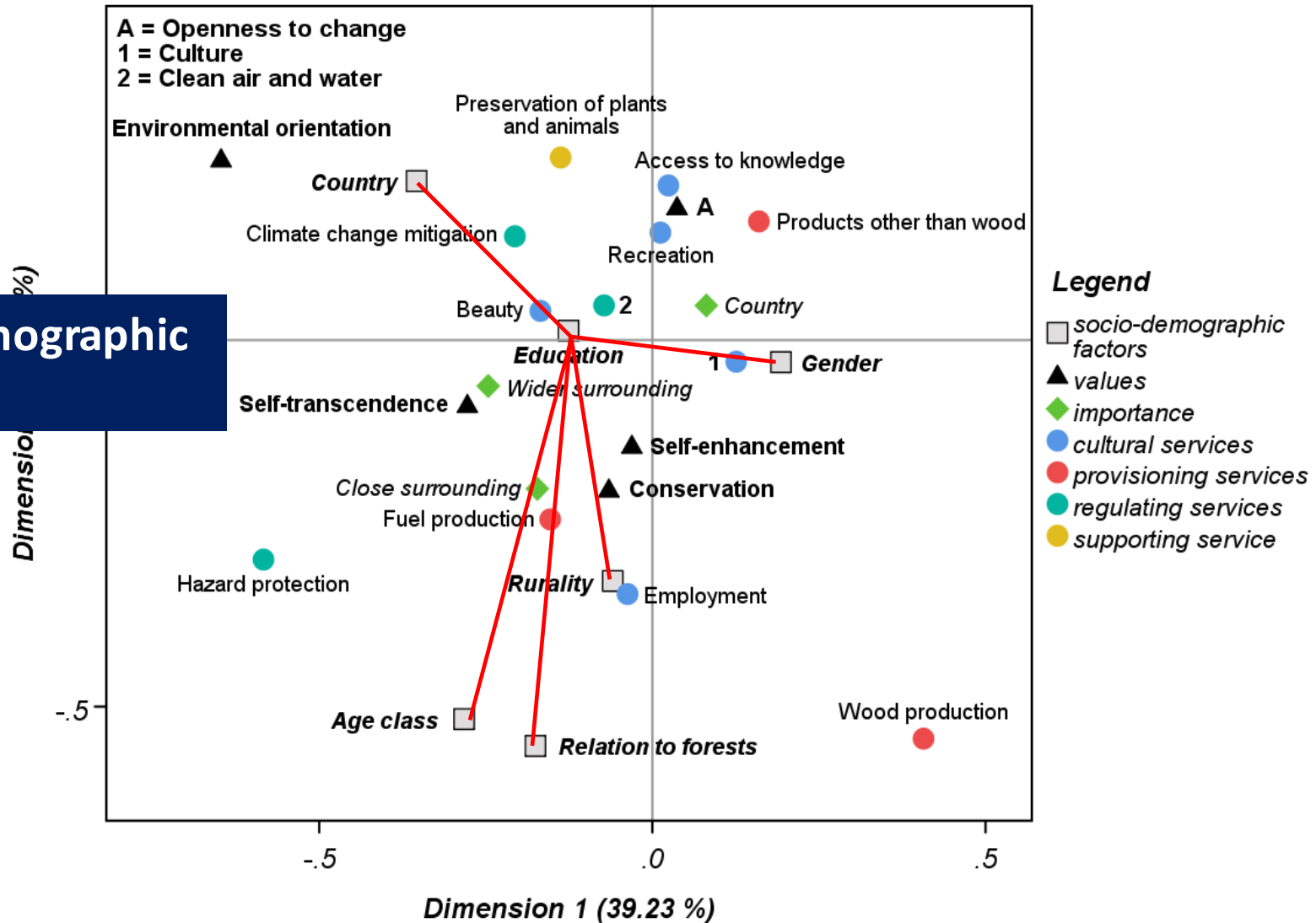


**FES: cultural, provisioning, regulating and supporting**



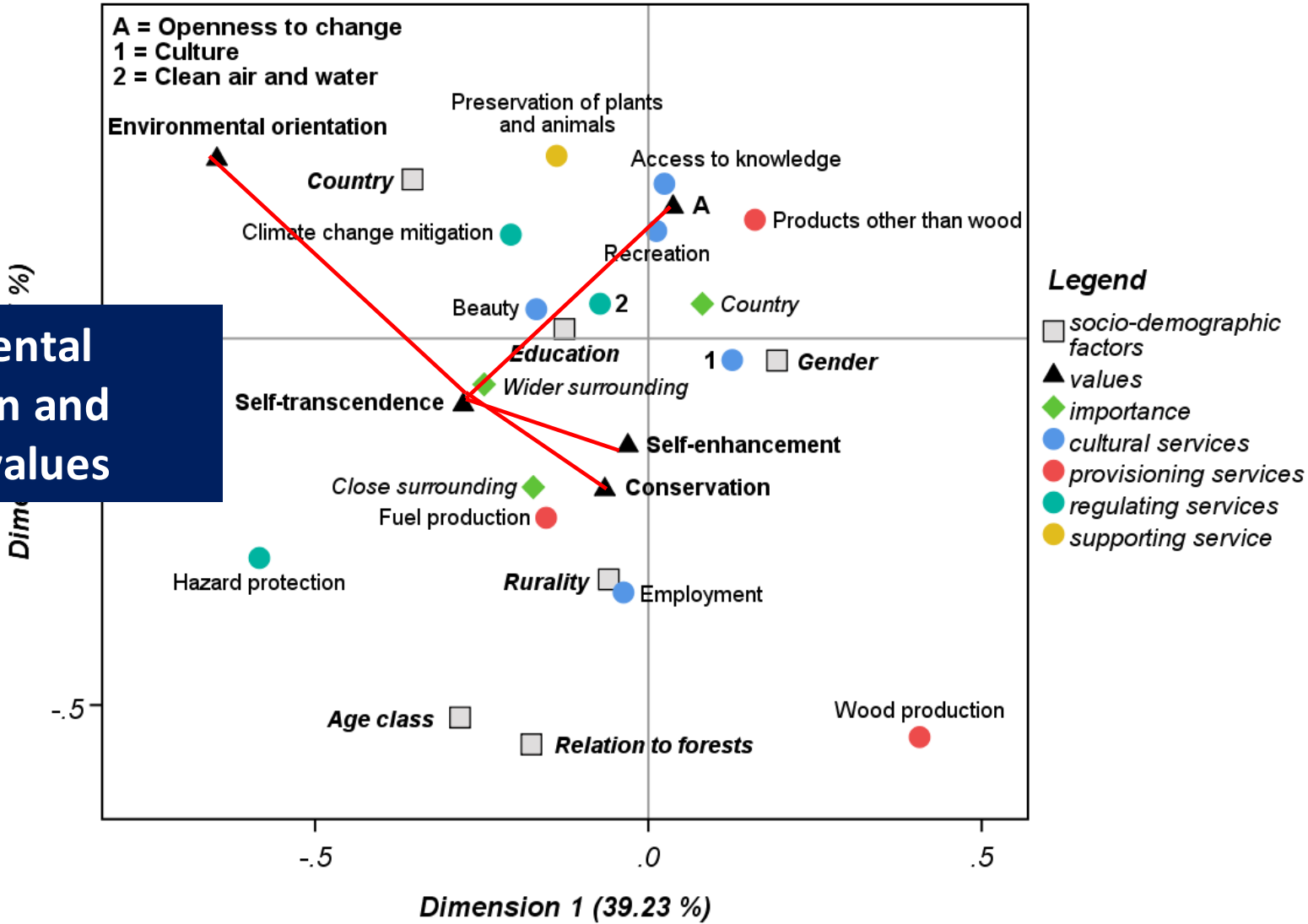
# Results: Canonical correlation analysis

Socio-demographic factors



# Results: Canonical correlation analysis

**Environmental orientation and personal values**

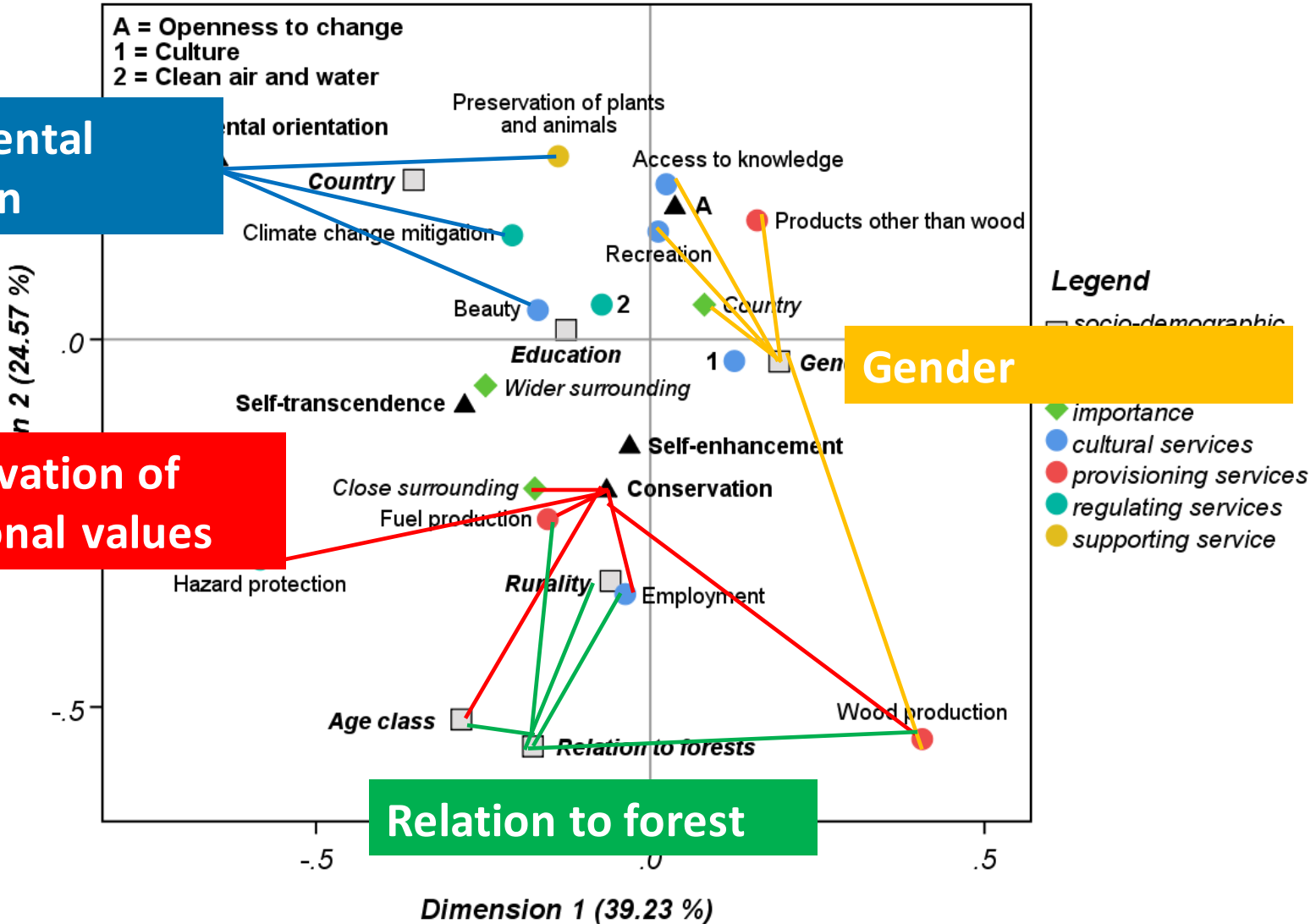


# Four examples...

**Environmental orientation**

**Conservation of traditional values**

**Relation to forest**



# Results: Canonical correlation analysis

## Environmental & personal values MATTER!!

- **Female respondents** and/or those **with high environmental orientation** and **self-transcendence** are more related to 'climate change mitigation' and 'preservation of plants and animals'
- **Older, conservative respondents**, living in rural areas and with a direct relation to forests => 'wood production', 'fuel production', 'hazard protection' and 'employment'
- **Urban citizens** more open to change => 'recreation', 'access to knowledge', 'products other than wood' and the 'preservation of plants and animals'

## 2 What is the importance of policy for forest ecosystem services provision/innovation?

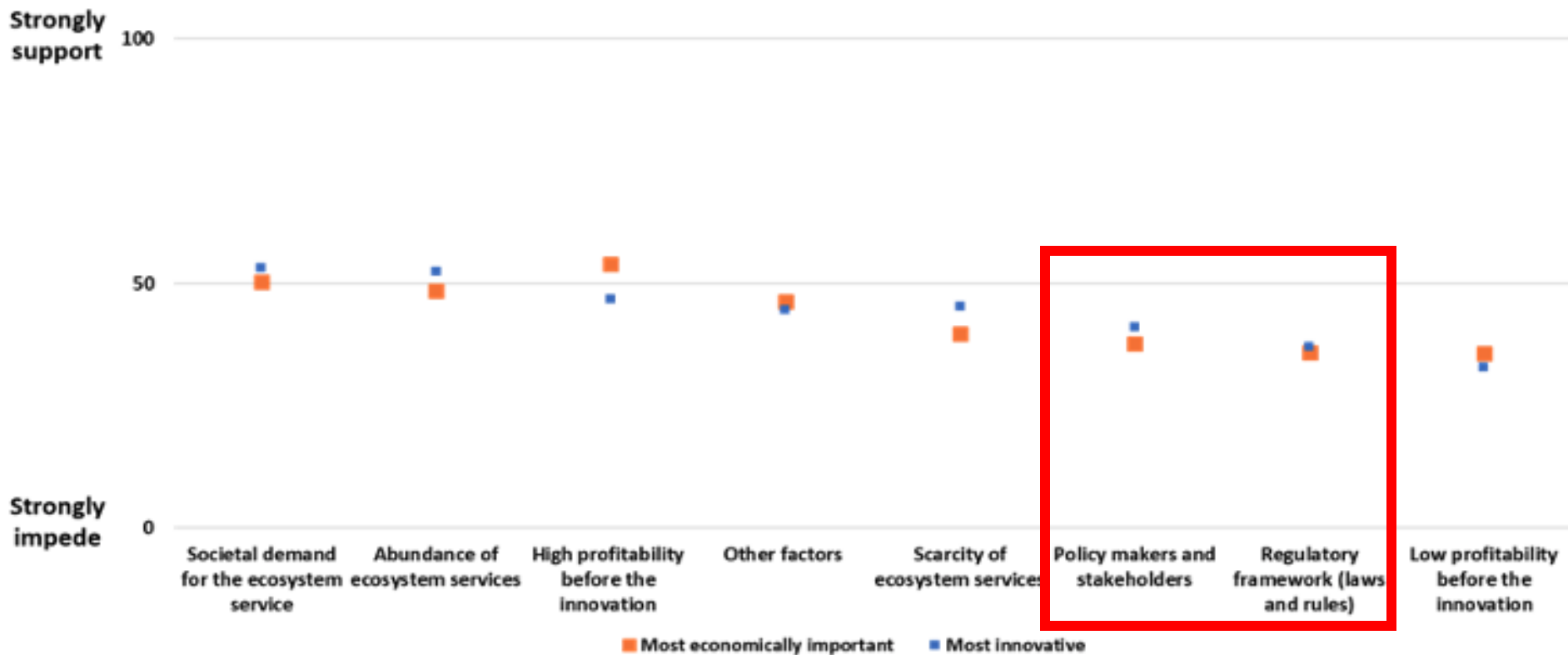


Source: Milad et al. (2013)

# Importance of policy for FES provision/innovation

- Policies matter!
  - Institutional framework enables and prevents FES innovations
  - Conflicting demands/interests amongst stakeholders score prominently as “preventing” factors for ecosystem services related innovations...

# Enabling and hindering factors related to the "most economically important"/"most innovative" FES innovations in European forests



Survey with 1707 European forest owners and managers, question:

To what extent do the following factors support or constrain the FES related innovations you have been developing?

Response type: scale from very strongly constrain (0) to very strongly support (100)

# Importance of policy for FES provision/innovation (ctd.)

- Policies matter!
  - Institutional framework enables and prevents ecosystem services related innovations
  - Conflicting demands/interests amongst stakeholders score prominently as “preventing” factors for ecosystem services related innovations
- Policy trade-offs: unavoidable due to different interests and underlying world views/societal demands
- EU level: major dichotomy “biodiversity versus bioeconomy” – climate “in between”



# Analyzing EU Forest Policy – ideological dichotomy

## Two distinct perspectives on forests in the European policy debate

Source: SINCERE T3.3 interviews, Winkel & Sotirov, 2016, adapted

Forestry & Timber	<i>Dimension</i>	Nature Conservation
Resource to be used sustainably	<i>View of Forest</i>	Ecosystem with irreplicable biodiversity to be conserved
Competitiveness of innovative forest sector	<i>Major policy goals</i>	Increase biodiversity and naturalness
Sustainable forest management	<i>Resource management paradigm</i>	Conservation & “closer to nature forestry”
Support forest owners and producers; market governance, incentives	<i>Main policy focus</i>	Conserve forests, regulation and incentives
DG Agri, forest rich member states (FIN, AUT, SWE) and forest departments	<i>Actors</i>	DG Env, forest poor / urbanized member states (NL, DK, BEL) Env. NGOs, Env. departments

# Analyzing EU Forest Policy – ideological dichotomy (2)

## Consequences for forest ecosystem services provision

- Disagreement about policy goals + allocation of (FES) rights (owner versus state/society)
- “Payment for Eco. Services” supported, but mutual reservations regarding...
  - Objectives/thresholds for funding
  - Durability of funding and “redirecting effect”
  - Funding sources and redistribution effect



# Importance of policy for FES provision/innovation (ctd.)

- Policies matter!
  - Institutional framework enables and prevents ecosystem services related innovations
  - Conflicting demands/interests amongst stakeholders score prominently as “preventing” factors for ecosystem services related innovations
- Policy trade-offs: unavoidable due to different interests and underlying world views/societal demands
- EU level: major dichotomy “biodiversity versus bioeconomy” – climate “in between”
- Member state level: great diversity of forest policy and management objectives and traditions

### 3 What can be concluded for EU forest policy making?



Source: Milad et al. (2013)

# Conclusions for EU forest policy making

## **Overall objective: match ecosystem services supply and demand**

1. Set “holistic” EU policy level framework acknowledging importance of different FES
2. Promote dialogue to jointly agree on “European boundaries” for FES provision
3. Jointly agree on transparent FES priority setting (members state levels/ regions)
4. Provide for meaningful financial incentives for FES (policy integration)
5. Diversify communication



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# Thank you!

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