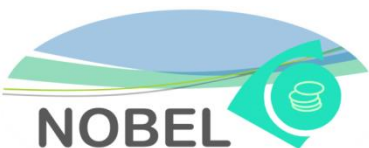


Governing Europe's forests for multiple ecosystem services: opportunities, challenges, and policy options



Key points of the SINCERE-NOBEL policy paper

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ERA-NET Cofund – Innovating the forest-based bioeconomy



Project NOBEL is supported under the umbrella of ERA-NET Cofund ForestValue by BMLFUW (AT), ANR (FR), FNR (DE), Vinnova (SE), MINECO-AEI (ES), RCN (NO) and FCT (PT).

ForestValue has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°773324.

SINCERE (Spurring INnovations for forest eCosystem sERvices in Europe) advances innovative mechanisms, including novel policies and business models, which support the provision of Forest Ecosystem Services across Europe and beyond.

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Aim of the policy paper

→ Present selected research findings and evidence of both projects and beyond, suggest “pathways” for future European policies to support the provision of multiple forest ecosystem services

Paper is available at: <https://zenodo.org/record/6393968#.YkL-jjdBzxo>

Comments welcome!

Structure of the policy paper

Three Opportunities...

Diversity of ownership, Innovation potential, Climate mitigation potential and bioeconomy

Six Challenges...

FES demand and supply, political polarization, “ownership” of FES, lacking information on FES, climate change, diversity within Europe

Pathway 1:
Monitoring

Pathway 2:
Policy
Integration

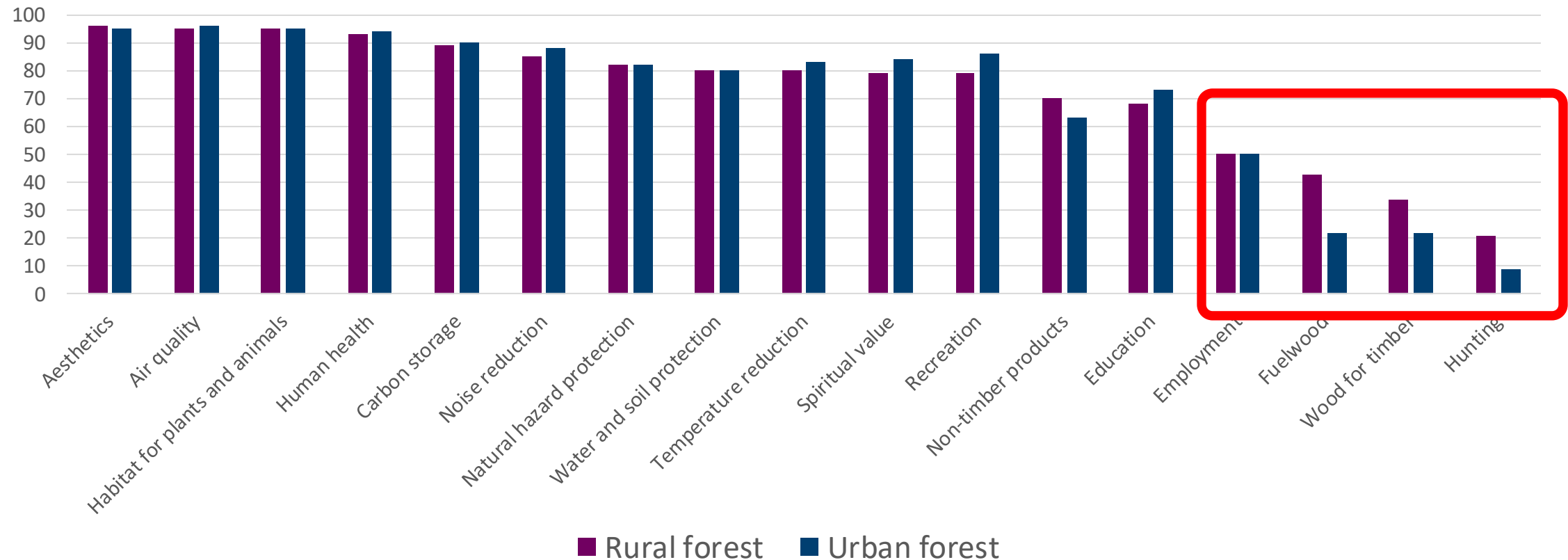
Pathway 3:
PES

Pathway 4:
Bottom-Up
Participation

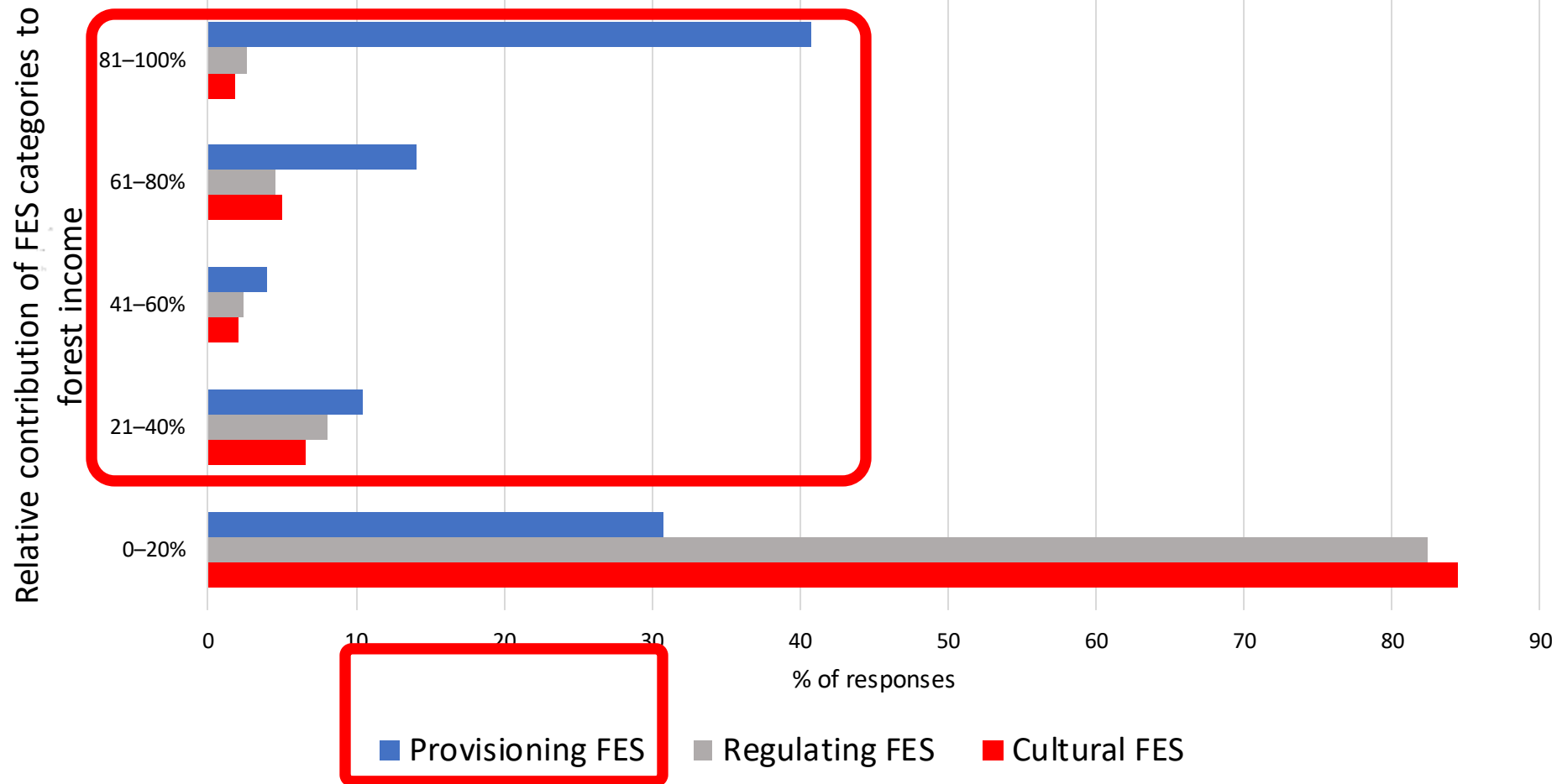
Challenge 1: Forest Ecosystem Services: societal demand...

European wide household survey conducted in the H2020 CLEARING HOUSE PROJECT (Roitsch et al, in prep): Importance of different forest ecosystem services for European citizens

- Scale: 0=not at all important; 100=very important; N urban forests 3362; N rural forests 3631



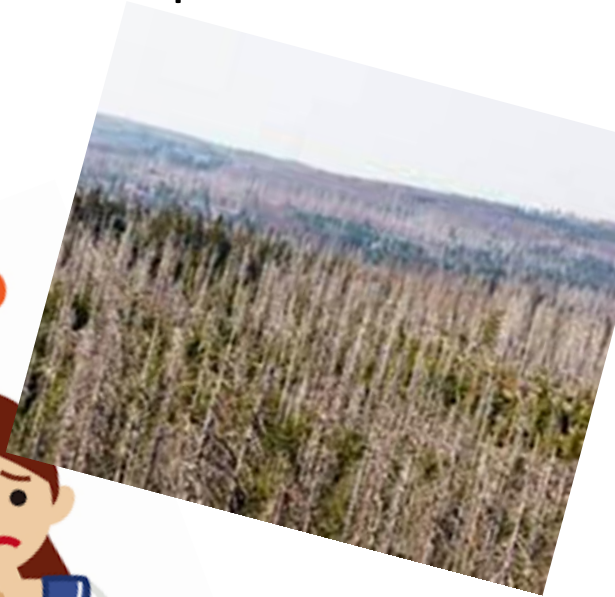
...vis-à-vis income possibilities for forestry



Relative importance of income from provisioning, regulating and cultural FES as reported by European forest owners and managers (N: 1708); SINCERE – INNOFOREST survey with 1707 European forest owners and managers (Torralba et al, 2020)

Challenges

1. Insufficient alignment of FES provision and demand
2. Political polarization relating to forests
3. Regulatory framework inhibiting FES innovation
4. Lacking information on forest ecosystem services provision and demand
5. Climate change adaptation
6. Diversity of forest situations in Europe



... and opportunities

- Diversifying societies are reflected in diversifying objectives of forest managers and land-owners
- Some “niche markets” for cultural forest ecosystem services develop dynamically
- “Niche markets” for regulating FES: carbon farming plus overall bioeconomy development



Pathway 1 - Better information: Monitor FES supply and demand broadly



You can't manage what you can't measure – therefore...

- Develop **European monitoring approach** for FES
- Combine **different available data sets and methods** – from remote sensing to inventories and participatory mapping – in an effective manner
- Include **FES demand** by society
- Find the **right balance** between a) **costs & benefits** and b) **harmonization and flexibility** for diverse forest settings
- Ensure that policy makers and forest managers/owners have the **information they need for decision making**

Pathway 2 – Policy Integration: coherently align EU forest objectives and policy instruments



Integrating targets and people

- Acknowledge **importance of different forest related objectives**
- Increase “**horizontal**” **policy integration** (specifically align targets and (financial) instruments) and **transparency**
- Increase “**vertical**” **policy coordination** across policy levels and define **(participatory) processes for (regional) priority setting**
- **Science-Policy-Practice dialogue** and **stimulation of public debate** => to tackle problems together and increase legitimacy

Pathway 3: Payments for Ecosystem Services: towards a European PES system? → Presentation Sven Wunder!



Pathway 4 – Bottom-up participation: enable participation and encourage learning amongst FES innovators



Work locally/regionally bottom up in creating FES innovations and management strategies

- To **raise awareness** amongst stakeholders (common understanding of management options and possible trade-offs)
 - To include **different types of knowledge** and **distinct stakeholder preferences** in (participatory) forest planning
 - To reach consensus/compromises and enable implementable **forest management strategies for multiple FES**
- Also facilitate **exchange and learning** across different local contexts



!Thank you very much!



- To our funders in SINCERE, NOBEL and further related work
- To our many collaboration partners and many European forest owners, policy stakeholders and citizens for great collaboration and responding to our many questions!

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