



# **„Actionable Knowledge“ for Forest Owners Associations in Slovakia**

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The Knowledge That Counts – Analyzing Science Policy  
Interactions In Forest Policy

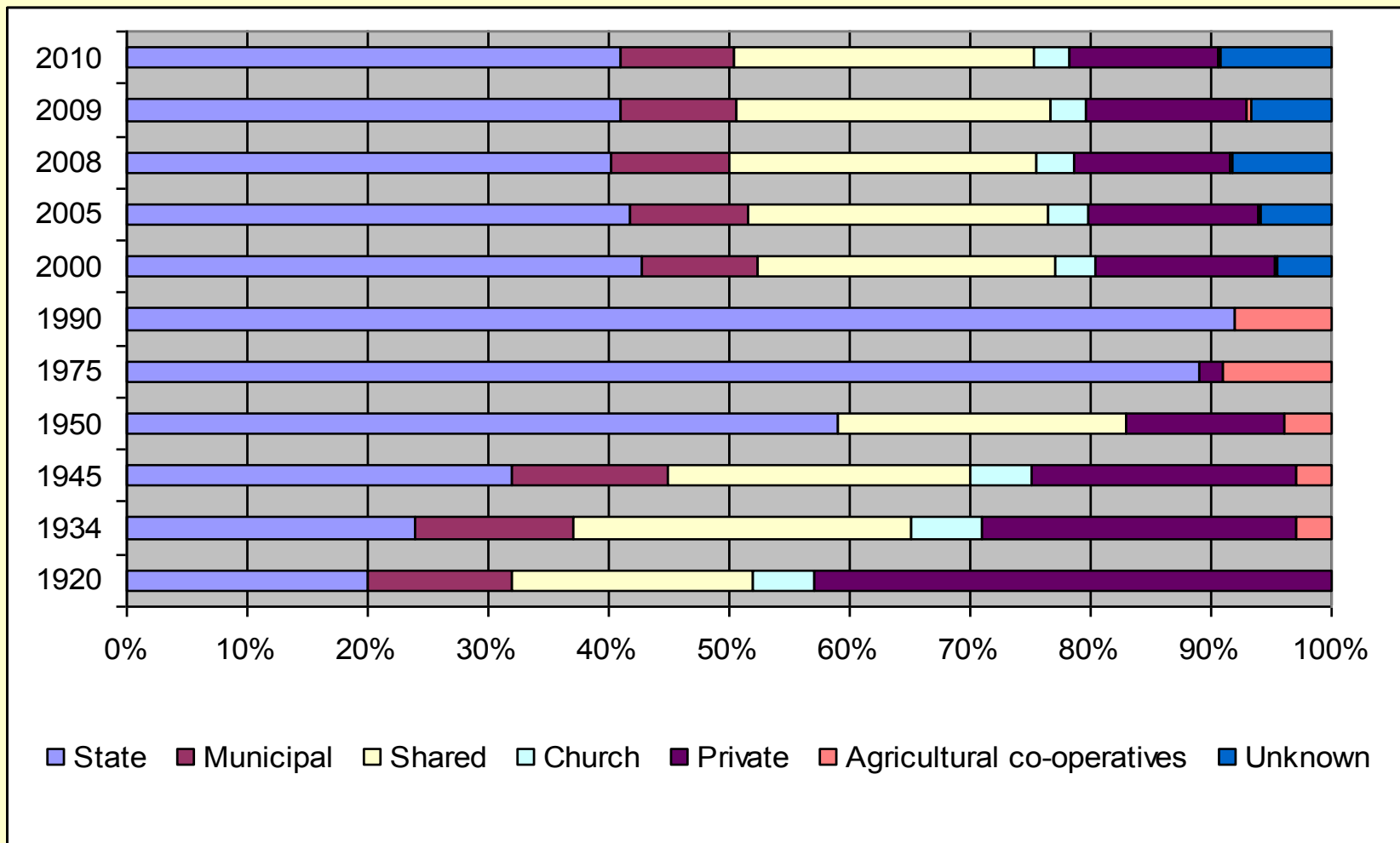


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# Forest ownership in Slovakia





# Forest owners associations - overview

**1991**

Reprivatisation a  
restitution

Umbrella  
association of  
forest owners

Top down

**1998**

Church forest  
association  
and other  
Regional  
associations  
of community  
and private  
forests

Bottom up

**2006**

Council of non-  
state forest  
owners  
associations in  
Slovakia

Top down

**1994**

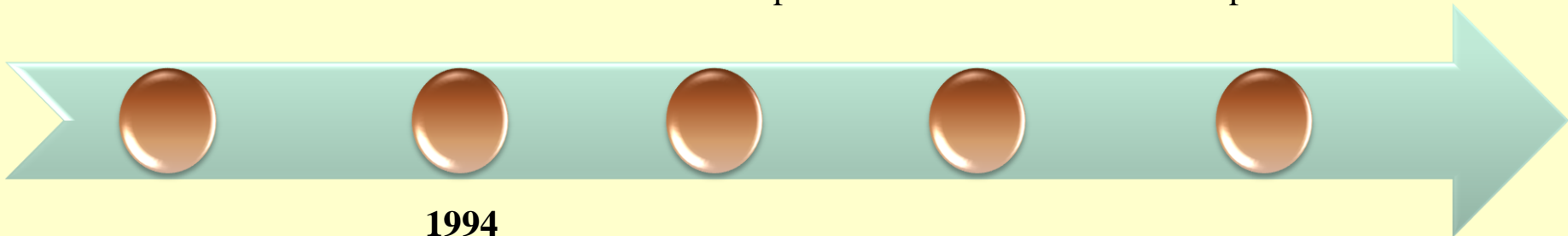
Association of  
municipal  
forests  
and other  
Regional  
associations of  
community  
and private  
forests

Bottom up

**2004**

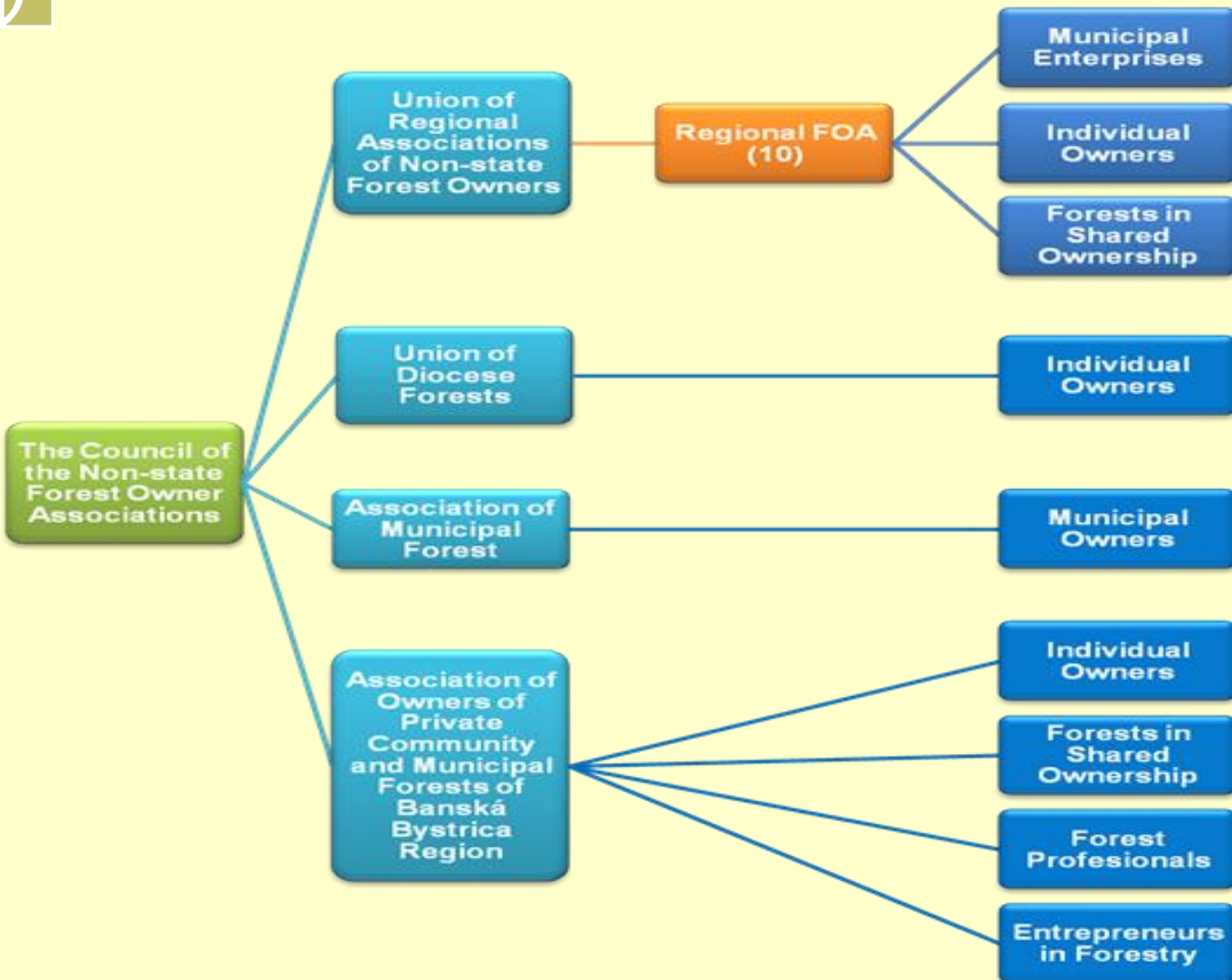
Union of  
Regional  
associations of  
community  
and private  
forests

Bottom up





# Forest owners associations - overview





# Research of the impact of non-state forest ownership on forest related policies

## The project of applied research aims:

1. to analyze the current situation of the structure of non-state forest owners and their interest groups, including the identification of their priorities, motives, attitudes and goals,
2. to analyze the forest owners associations as project beneficiaries and their political power, strategies and tactics,
3. to describe the impact of non-state forests ownership on forestry related policies (forest policy, nature conservation and rural development policy),
4. to formulate conclusions and recommendations for non-state forest owners and relevant policies.



# Research of the impact of non-state forest ownership on forest related policies

## Methodological approach of the project is based on

- the triangulation of research, using the mutual verification of the results of individual methodological procedures through (Denzin 1978) :
  - finding the relevant theories (governance, public policy theory, theory of collective action and theory of interest groups, theories of actors power...),
  - verification of the formal elements by analyzing available database, or relevant primary and secondary documents,
  - verification of informal elements using participatory observation, questionnaires, standardized interviews with experts, workshops, conferences with actors (beneficiaries),
- the model of recursive political (policy) advice (Weingart 2001) using the feedback of forest owners associations as beneficiaries.



## Research of the impact of non-state forest ownership on forest related policies

*Phase 1. Analysis of the current structure of owners, including their priorities, motives, attitudes and goals:*

- Initial workshop with interested beneficiaries, complementing and incorporating comments on the research draft.
- Analysis of database of forest owners and managers, processing of theoretical knowledge and preparation of standardized interviews with experts and questionnaire survey.
- Realization of the standardized interviews with experts, questionnaires, processing of empirical data, statistical analysis.
- Middle term workshop with beneficiaries.





# Research of the impact of non-state forest ownership on forest related policies

## *Phase 2. Analysis of selected policies in relation to non-state forest owners*

- Elaboration of a methodological framework for case studies.
- Analysis of the documents, carrying out interviews.
- Conference with a presentation of partial results.
- Complementing and incorporating the comments on the initial results of the research, interviews and data processing.

## *Phase 3. Synthesis of results and recommendations for forest owners*

- Elaboration of synthesis of results - a draft.
- Conference with the presentation of the draft synthesis.
- Complementing and incorporating the comments.
- Formulation of conclusions and recommendations.



## **Networks and Ongoing Research Projects**

**Regional Office of European Forest Institute for Central and Eastern European Countries in Vienna (2010 -)**

**Innovation and sustainability of forestry in Central and Eastern Europe: Challenges and Perspectives (2010-2012), Ministry of Agriculture, Austria**

**Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management And Policy (2012-2015), COST Action, FP1201**

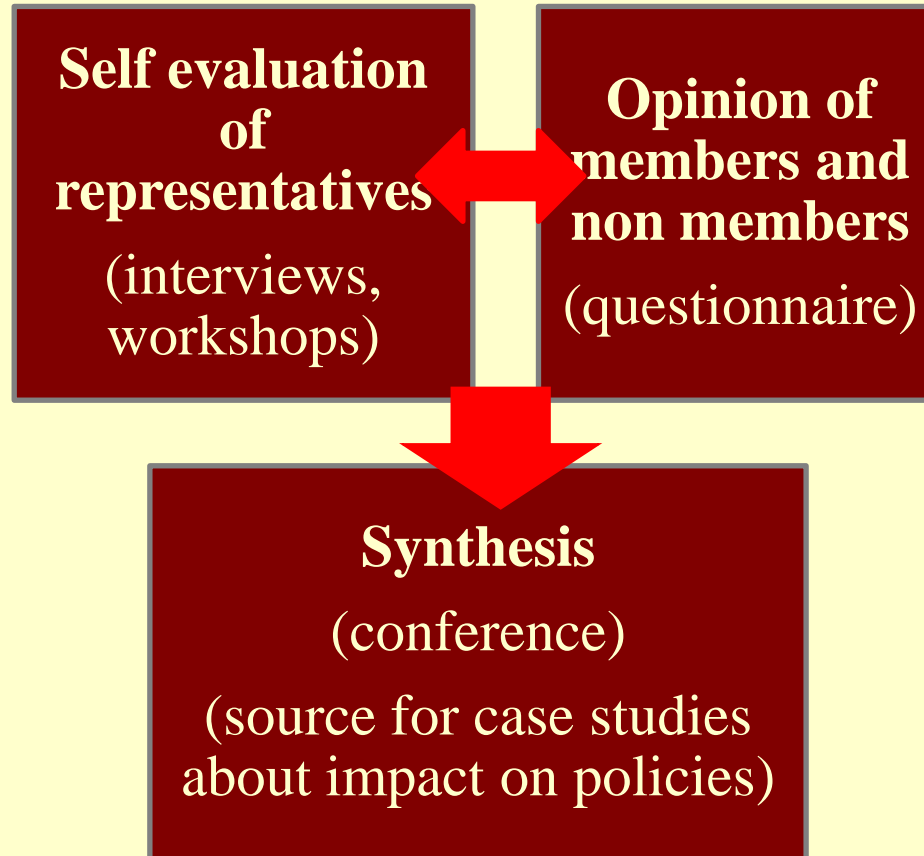


# Preliminary results I – SWOT analysis of non-state forest ownership in Slovakia

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very strong forest owners associations with accepted leaders</li><li>• Non-state forest owners manage 52.3% of forests in Slovakia</li><li>• Attractive forest property for multiple use</li><li>• Values and beliefs of forest owners</li><li>• High efficiency and flexibility of forest management</li><li>• .....</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fragmented forest ownership and insufficient cooperation among forest owners</li><li>• Insufficient public relation</li><li>• .....</li></ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong forestry expertise for non-state forest owners in Slovakia</li><li>• Rising demand for wood and ecosystem services</li><li>• Financial support for forest owners from public sources</li><li>• Payment for ecosystem services from the market</li><li>• .....</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Socialistic view on non-state forest ownership from society, NGOs and state administration</li><li>• Insufficient public financial support, high bureaucracy costs, unstable forest law</li><li>• Economic crisis and unstable markets for forest products and services</li><li>• .....</li></ul>



## Preliminary results II – Research on political power of forest owners associations





## Preliminary results III

*Survey of identification of priorities, motives, attitudes and goals of forest owners regarding forest management and their collective action in associations (based on Glück et al. 2010)*

- Involvement of beneficiaries in distribution and collection of questionnaires.
- Very low response rate (20%).
- Complementing using a face to face method.



## Preliminary results IV – Factors of political power of forest owners associations

	<b>Internal</b>	<b>External</b>
<b>Formal</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Internal rules and democratic agenda setting</li> <li>2. Financial sources for associations actions</li> <li>3. Services for association members</li> <li>4. Support for joint forest management of members</li> <li>5. Representativeness</li> <li>6. Expertise knowledge</li> </ol> <p>.....</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Constitutional and legislative rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to advocate their economic and social interests</li> <li>• to establish associations</li> <li>• to participate in political decision-making</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Obligatory membership</li> </ol> <p>.....</p>
<b>Informal</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leaders and large members</li> <li>2. Common ideology and beliefs</li> <li>3. Cooperation of forest owners associations in Slovakia</li> </ol> <p>.....</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Relationships with other associations</li> <li>2. Lobbying in parliament, government, public administration and in international institutions</li> <li>3. Social status of forestry</li> <li>4. Public relations</li> </ol> <p>.....</p>



## Preliminary conclusions

1. *Low interest of (small) forest owners in research*
2. *Influence of representatives of forest owners associations on research results trough (Böcher 2007, public choice theory):*
  - *legitimation of own approved strategies and tactics,*
  - *„fig leaf strategy“ (covering up own interests),*
  - *persuasion of other actors using the research results.*



**Thank you for your attention**