



From science to practice, what can be learned from interdisciplinary research in relation to future ecosystem services of Mediterranean forests?

Zagreb, May 9th

# Is public spending through the Rural Development Policies supporting an increased resilience of Southern Europe forests?

Giulia Corradini and Davide Pettenella

TESAF Department, Università di Padova, Italy

# Outline

- Context
- Aim and methods
- Results
  - By RDP measure
  - Overview
- What's next

# 1.Context

# Mediterranean region

## 4. NWM

North-West  
Mediterranean  
Sub-region

## 3. NEM

North-East  
Mediterranean  
Sub-region

- 21 countries
- 4 sub-regions

## 2. EM

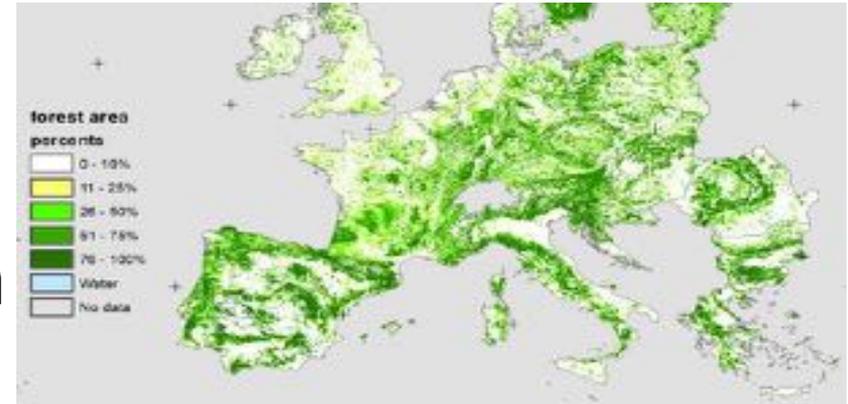
East  
Mediterranean  
Sub-region

## 1. SM

South  
Mediterranean  
Sub-region

## Focus on the Southern European Forests

- A tight link of the forest-based sector with other areas in which EU has shared competences with MS (e.g. environment, climate, biodiversity)



➔ strong involvement of the EU on forest-related policies

- Forest Action Plan, EU Forest Strategy (2008), the new EU Forest Strategy (2013), the next Forest Strategy, EU forest communication strategy

- The Common Agricultural Policy and the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) **provide the majority of the funds for the European forests**



- Each Member State (or region) adopts the measures considered strategic and co-finance them with national public funds

# EU priorities in RDP

- Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
- enhancing the viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and **sustainable forest management**;
- promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture;
- **restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems** related to agriculture and **forestry**;
- promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors;
- promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

**Commitments on adaptation**

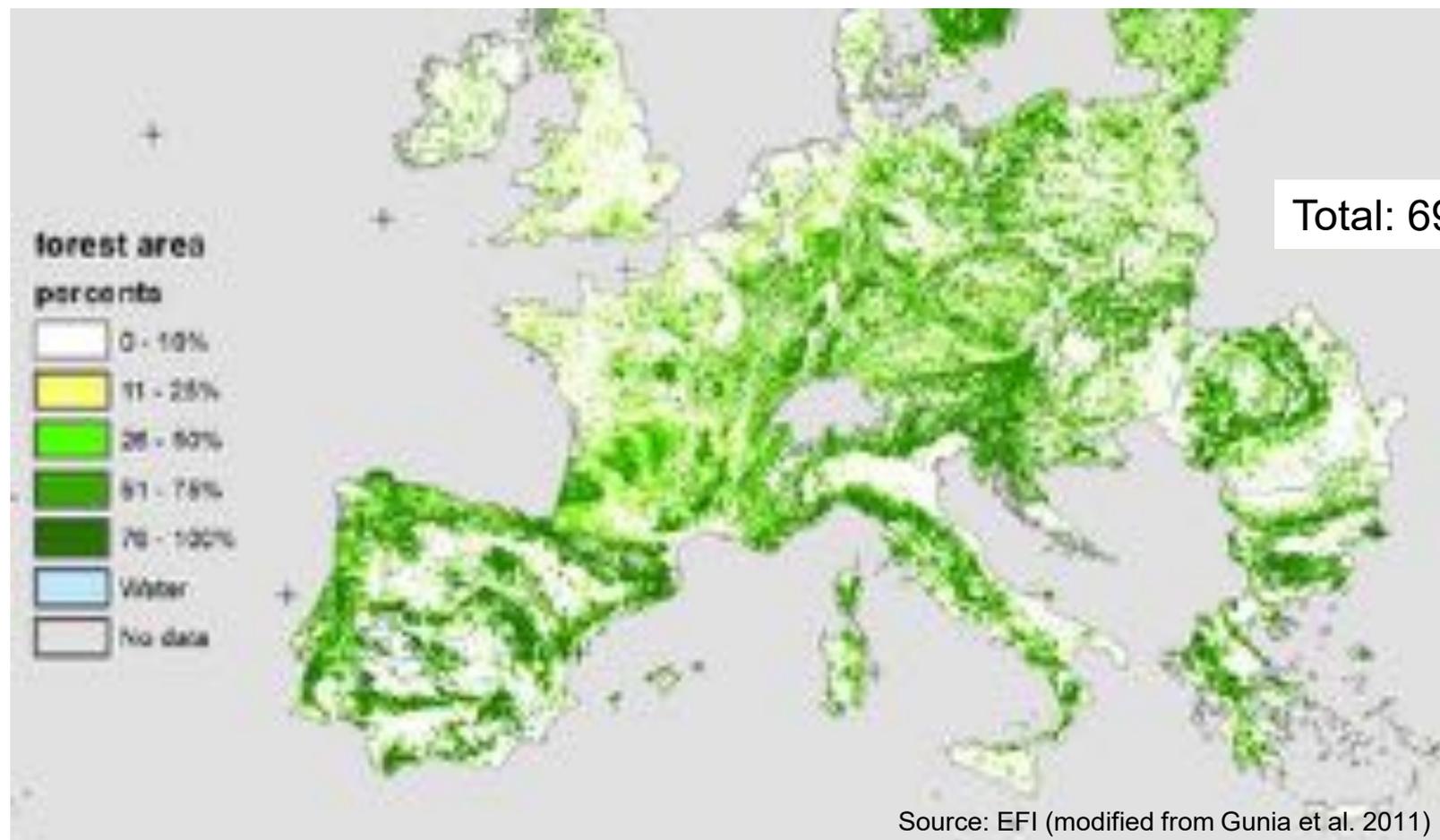
## 2. Aim and method

- How much is spent for forestry through RDP?
- How much for increasing the resilience?



Ph. G. Matthews

## Geographical scope- Southern European countries



The forest cover in the EU has been increasing for the past 60 years mainly as a result of the **abandonment of farming or grazing**

# RDP 2007-2013

## AXIS 1

Improvement of the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

- 111 - Vocational training and information actions
- 112 - Setting up of young farmers
- 113 - Early retirement
- 114 - Use of advisory services
- 115 - Setting up of management, relief and advisory services
- 121 - Modernisation of agricultural holdings
- 122 - Improvement of the economic value of forests
- 123 - Adding value to agricultural and forestry products
- 124 - Cooperation for development of new products and processes in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector
- 125 - Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry
- 126 - Restoring agricultural production potential
- 131 - Meeting standards based on EU legislation
- 132 - Participation of farmers in food quality schemes
- 133 - Information and promotion activities
- 141 - Semi-subsistence farming
- 142 - Producer groups
- 143 - Providing farm advisory and extension services
- 144 - Holdings undergoing restructuring due to a reform of a common market organization

## AXIS 2

Improvement of the environment and the countryside

- 211 - Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas
- 212 - payments to farmers in areas with handicaps other than mountain areas
- 213 - Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC (agriculture)

214 - Agri-environment payments

215 - Animal welfare payments

216 - Non-productive investments

221 - First afforestation of agricultural land

222 - First establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land

223 - First afforestation of non-agricultural land

224 - Natura 2000 payments (forestry)

225 - Forest-environment payments

226 - Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions

227 - Non-productive investments forestry

## AXIS 3

Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

## AXIS 4

Implementation of LEADER approach

8 measures specifically addressed forestry

## Need of adaptive strategies (forest planning and silviculture) and practices



- Managing stand density
- Maintenance/restoration natural composition of forests
- Maintaining and restoring habitat features which enhance ecosystem resilience
- Pay/compensate those that, with management, produce positive externalities

122 - Improvement of the economic value of forests

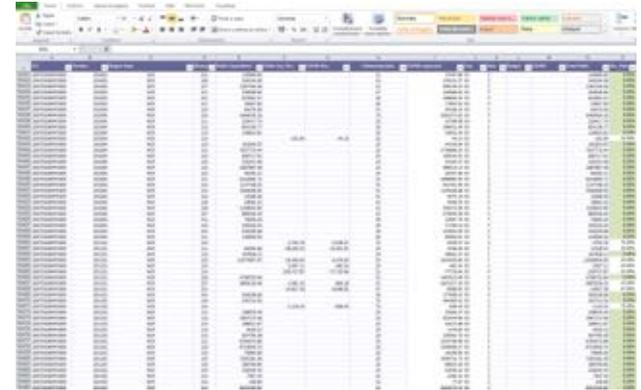
224 - Natura 2000 payments (forestry)

225 - Forest-environment payments

226 - Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions

227 - Non-productive investments forestry

Database with the public expenditure per country per measure



A screenshot of a spreadsheet application, likely Microsoft Excel, displaying a large table of data. The table has multiple columns and rows, with some cells highlighted in green. The data appears to be organized by country and measure, as indicated by the text on the slide.

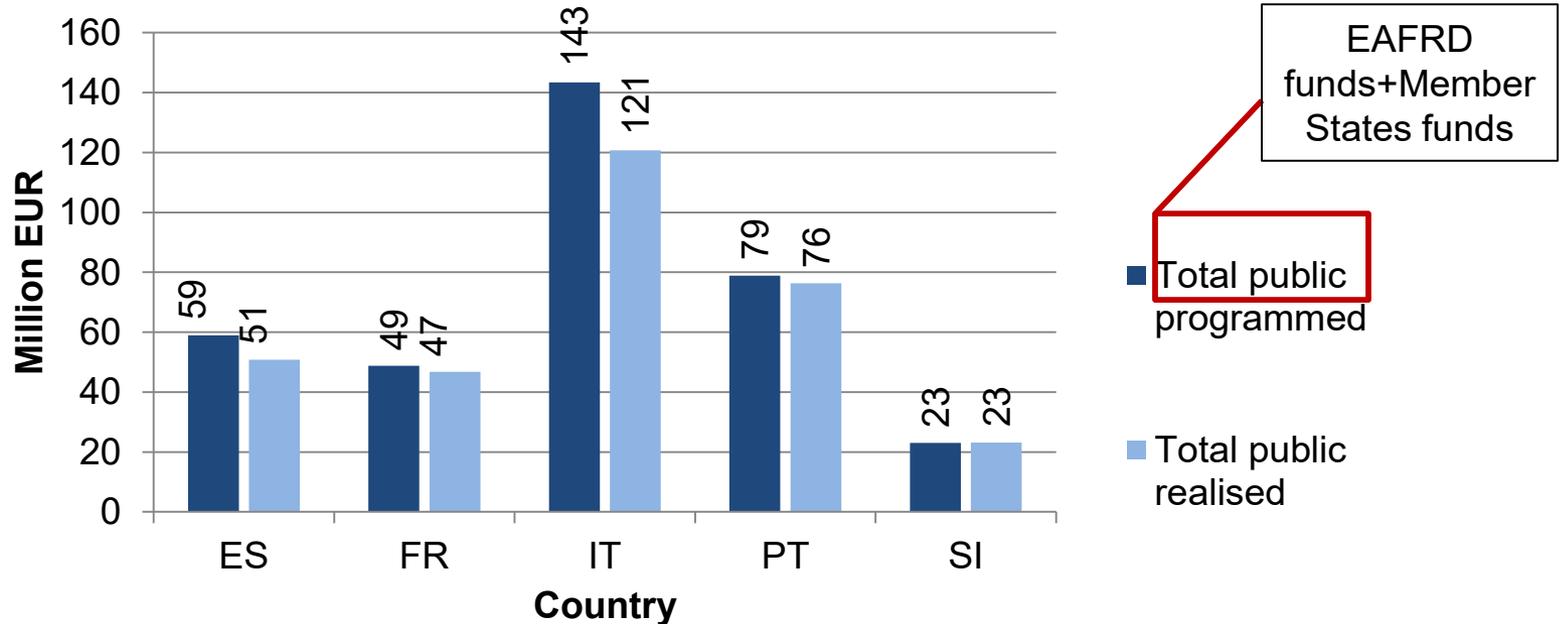
Not only Mediterranean forests → the forests of the EU  
Med countries



# 3.Results

# Measure 122 - Improvement of the economic value of forests

Investment support is granted for forests owner.  
Investments are based on forest management plans for forest holdings above a certain size defined by the MS



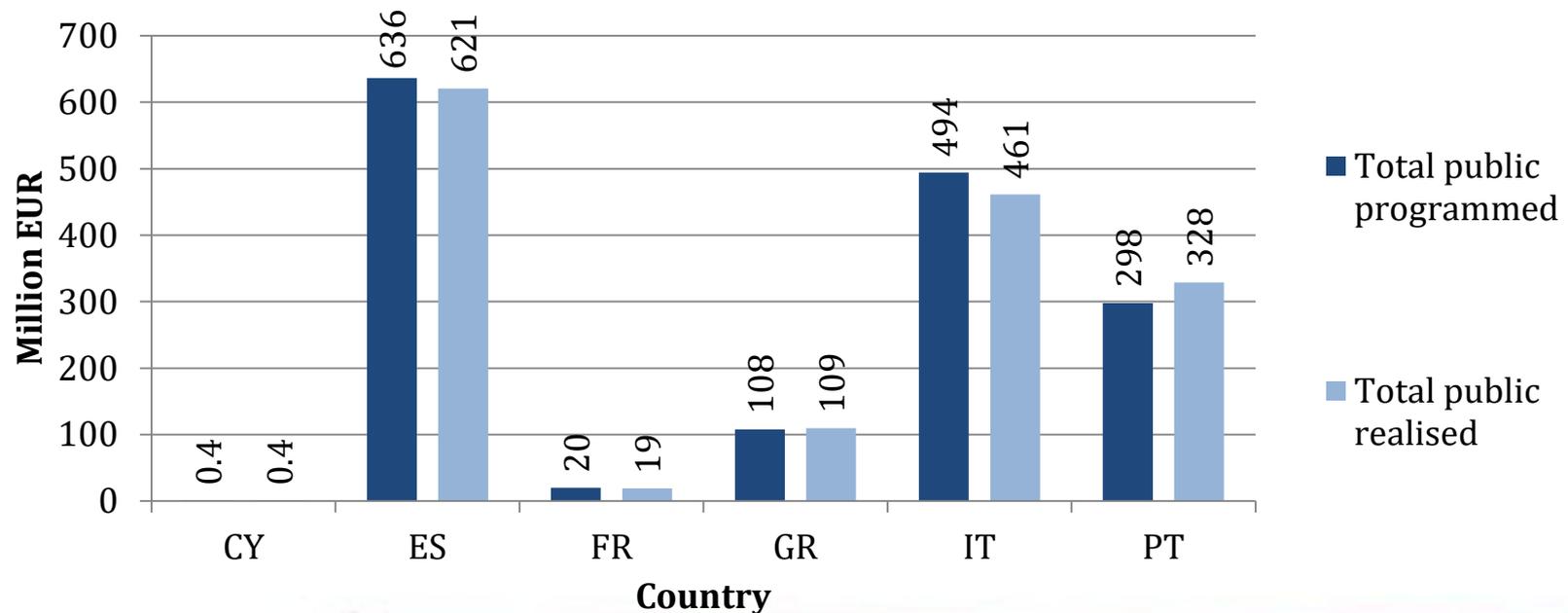
- General decrease from what programmed and what spent

## Measure 221 – First afforestation on agricultural land

It covers:

- establishment costs
- annual premium for max 5 of years
- annual premium per ha to contribute to covering loss of income resulting from afforestation (for max 15 years, only private persons and entities)

For fast-growing species for short-term cultivation, establishment costs only

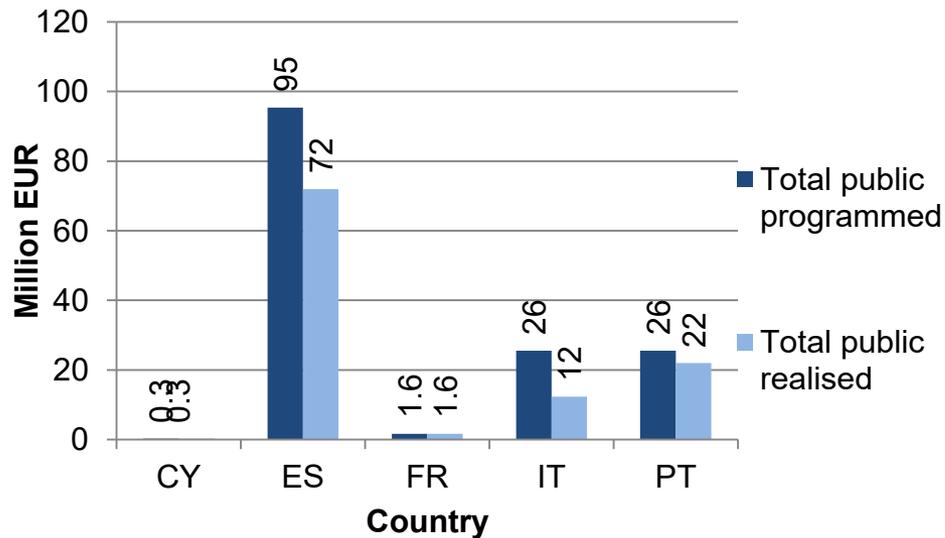


In total more than **63,000ha** of new forest planted (1/3 of the surface planted in the EU)  
~10,000 beneficiaries  
Spain planted the wider area (41,8k ha)



## Measure 223 - First afforestation of non-agricultural land

It covers the establishment costs. In the case of abandoned farmland, support also covers an annual premium



- In total **33,500 ha** (half of the EU)
- 72% with conifers
- 1,122ha with fast growing species

- Most of the surface in Spain (27,6k ha, with more than 1,900 beneficiaries)



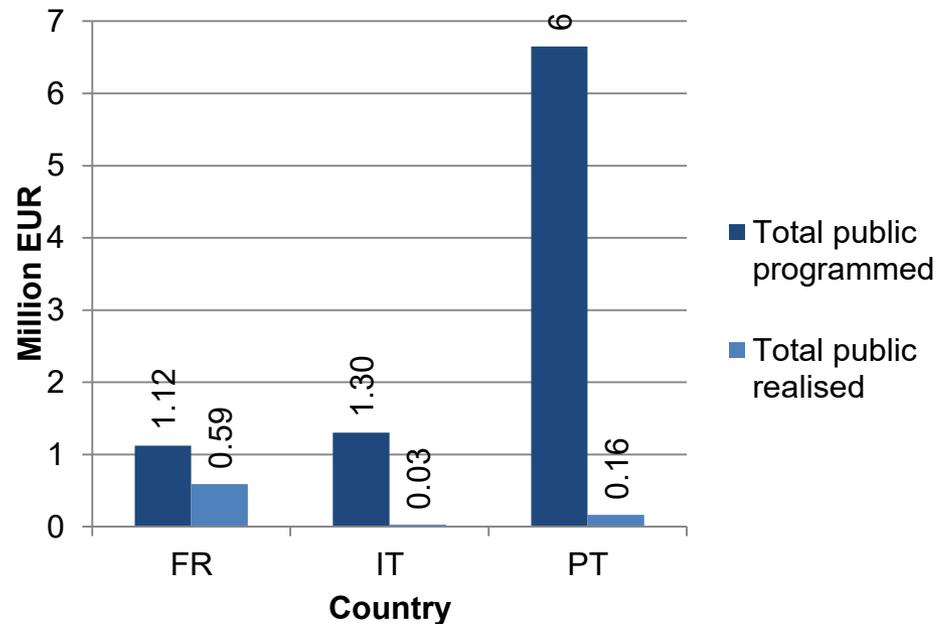
Plantation in Spain ([www.forestarparaganar.blogspot.it](http://www.forestarparaganar.blogspot.it))

## Measure 222-First establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land

It covers the establishment cost of agroforestry systems (trees that grow in combination with agriculture on the same land).

Plantation of fast-growing species for short-term cultivation is excluded

- Only activated by 3 countries
- The total public financing totally reduced (~-98%)
- In PT 3 applications, in IT 2
- Only 417 ha in total, scarce application also at EU level



## Measure 224-Natura 2000 payments (forests)

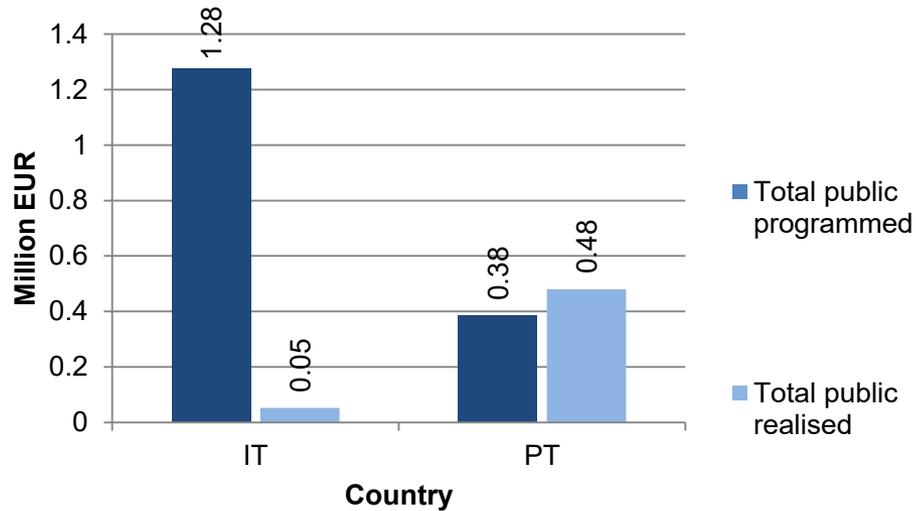
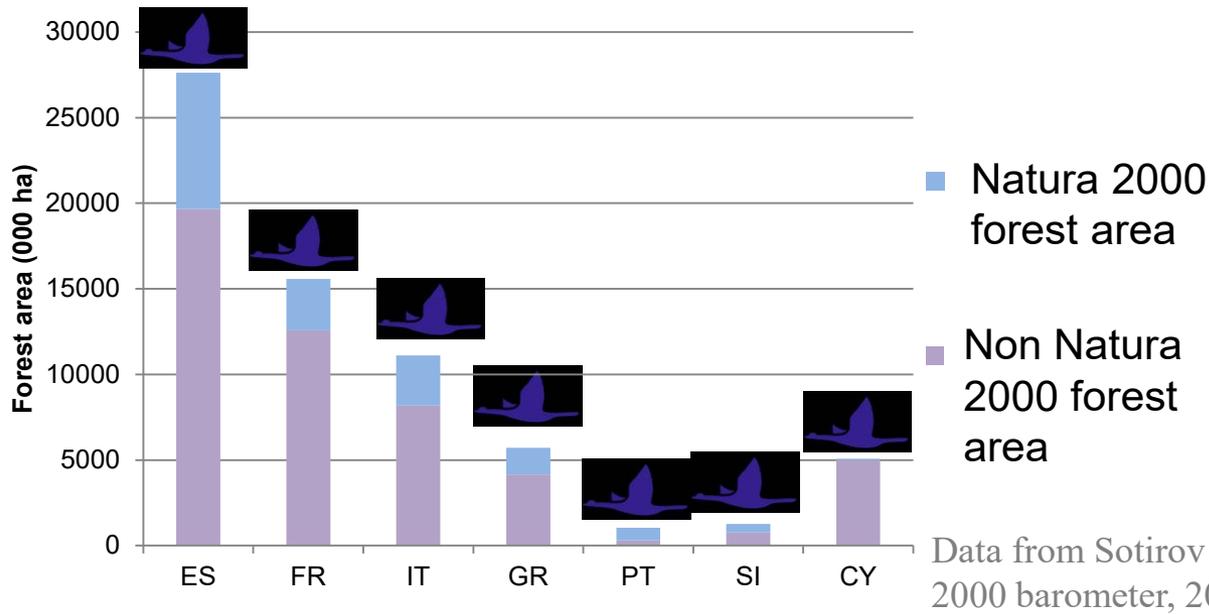
Support is granted annually and per hectare of forest to privates or associations thereof for compensating for costs incurred and income foregone resulting from the restrictions on the use of forests and other wooded land due to the implementation of Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC in the area concerned.



Natura 2000 Network,  
status 2012

■ Natura 2000 sites  
(under the Birds and  
Habitats Directives)

Sotirov (ed). 2017



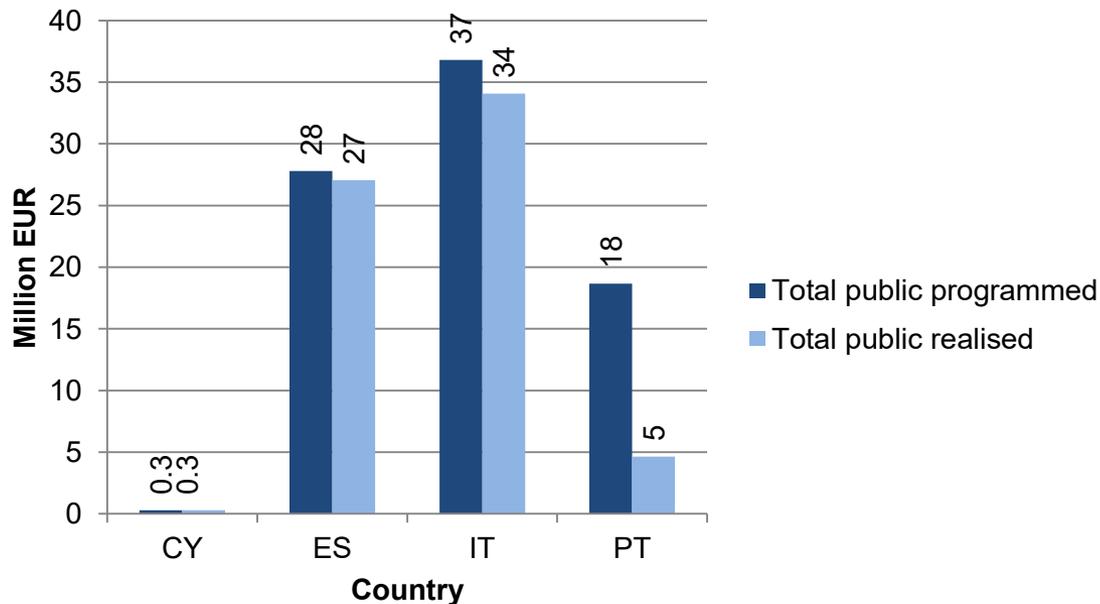
- The less implemented measure
- Only Italy and Portugal, with a small programmed budget

 -95% of the planned budget; 52ha

 +25% of the planned budget; 832ha

## Measure 225 – Forest environmental payments

Payments to beneficiaries who make forest-environmental commitments on a voluntary basis and beyond the mandatory requirements. Commitments shall be undertaken for a period of 5-7 years. Where necessary and justified, a longer period shall be determined



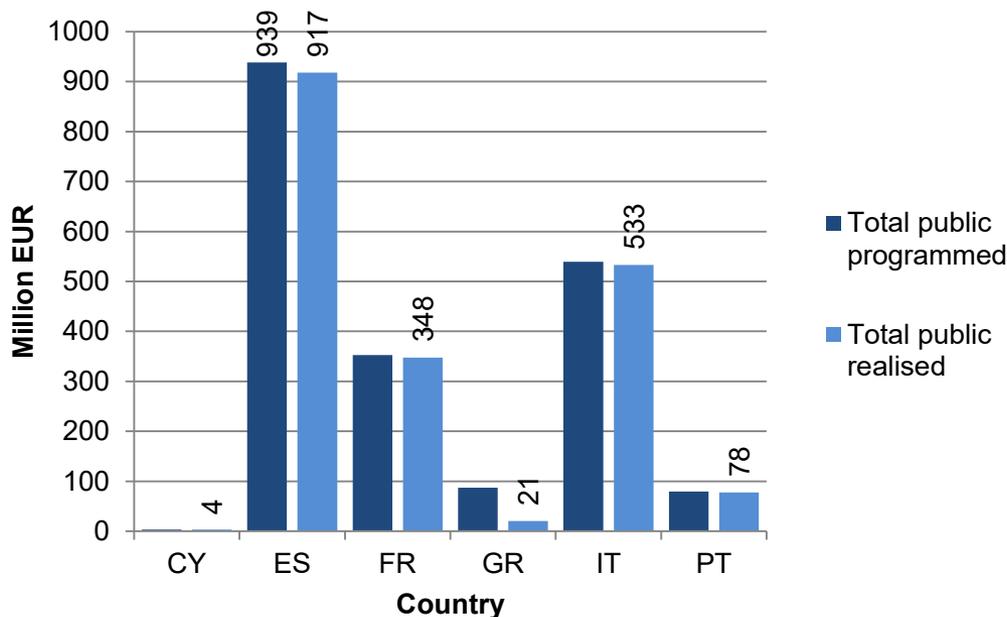
- Low budget
- Large area interested: 87,277 ha

# Measure 226-Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions

Support for restoring forestry potential in forests damaged by natural disasters and fire and for introducing appropriate prevention actions



Forest fires in Portugal- ph A. Franca



Activated by most of the countries

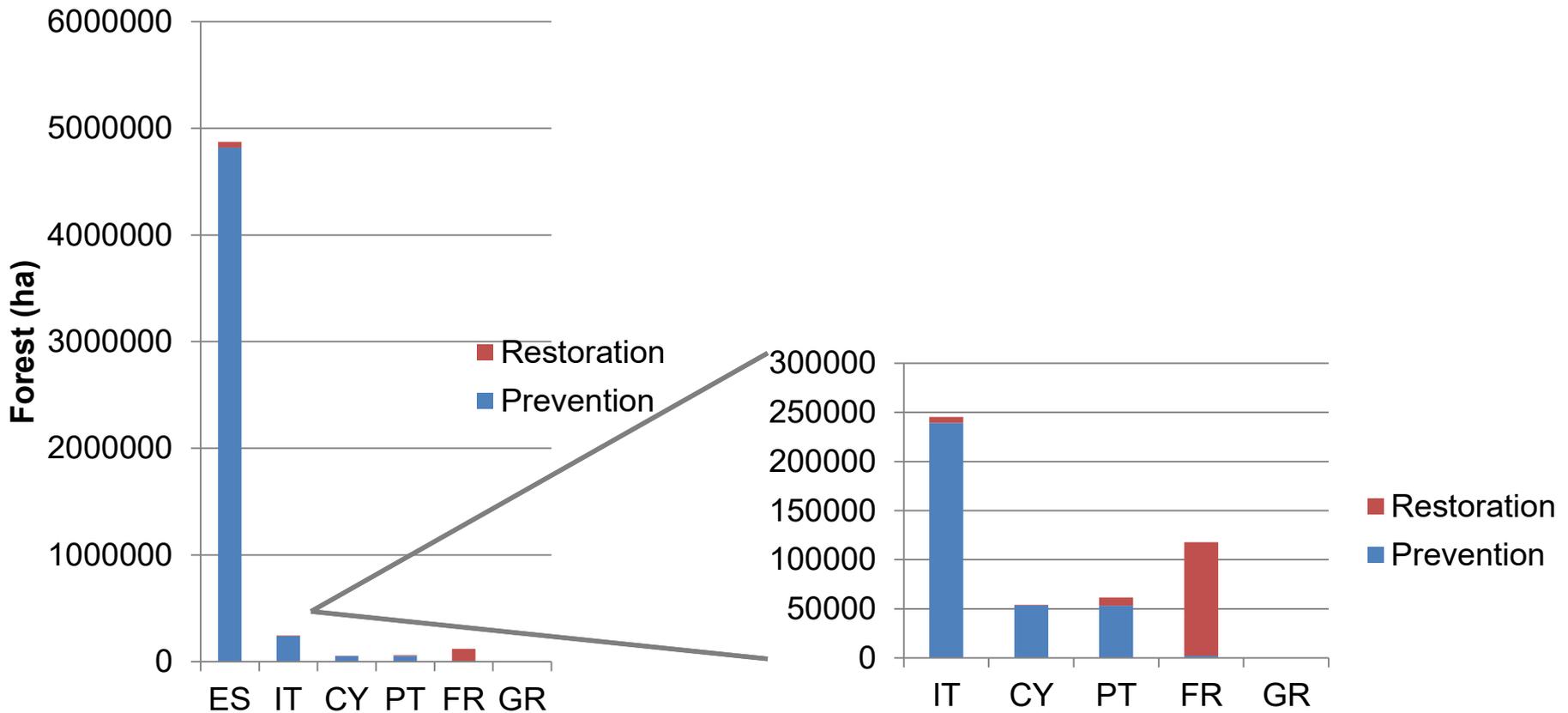


Programmed and realised the most



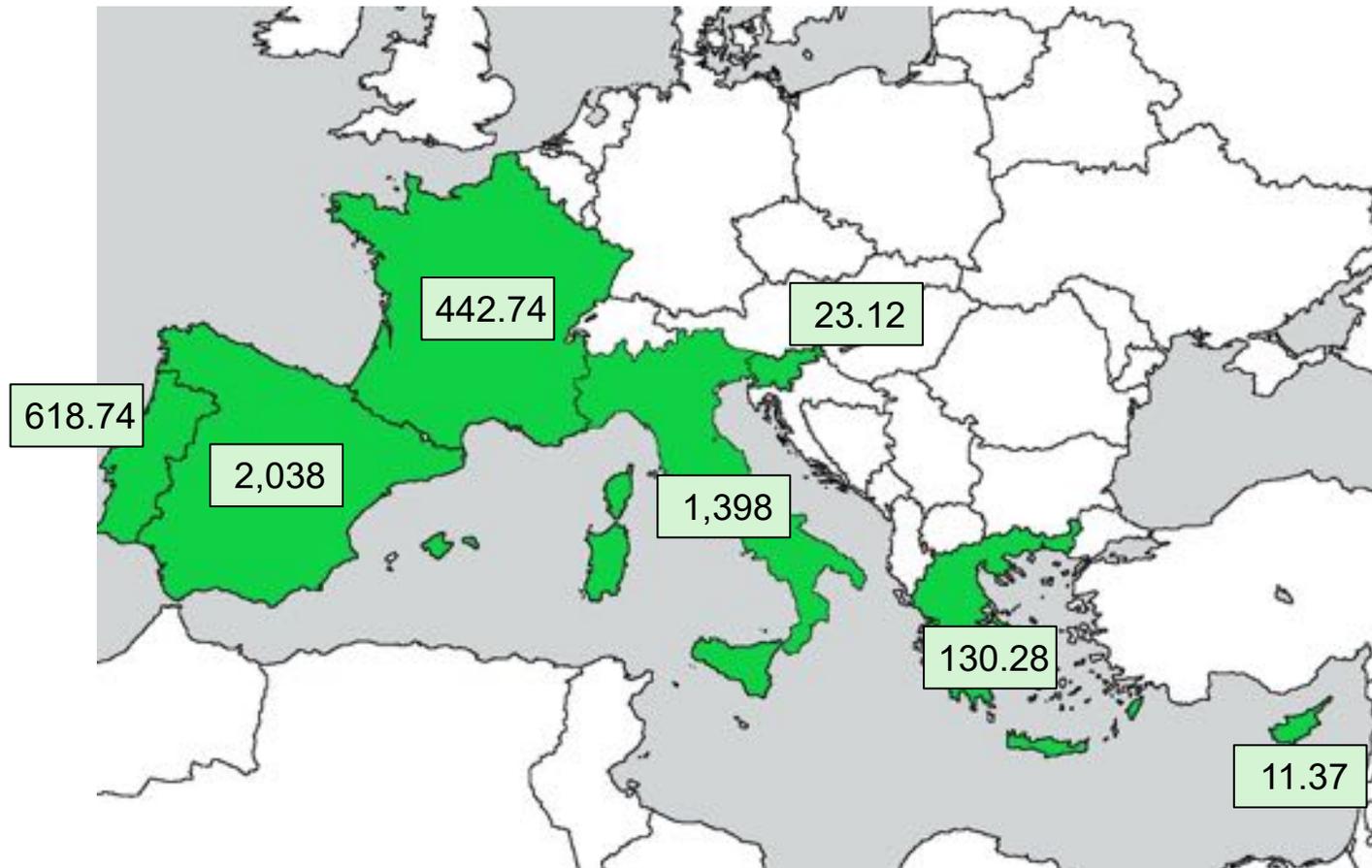
Drastic decrease (-76%)

- Wide area invested: **5.2M ha, 61% of this in Spain**
- 70% of the forests belong to private forest owners



# 3.Overview

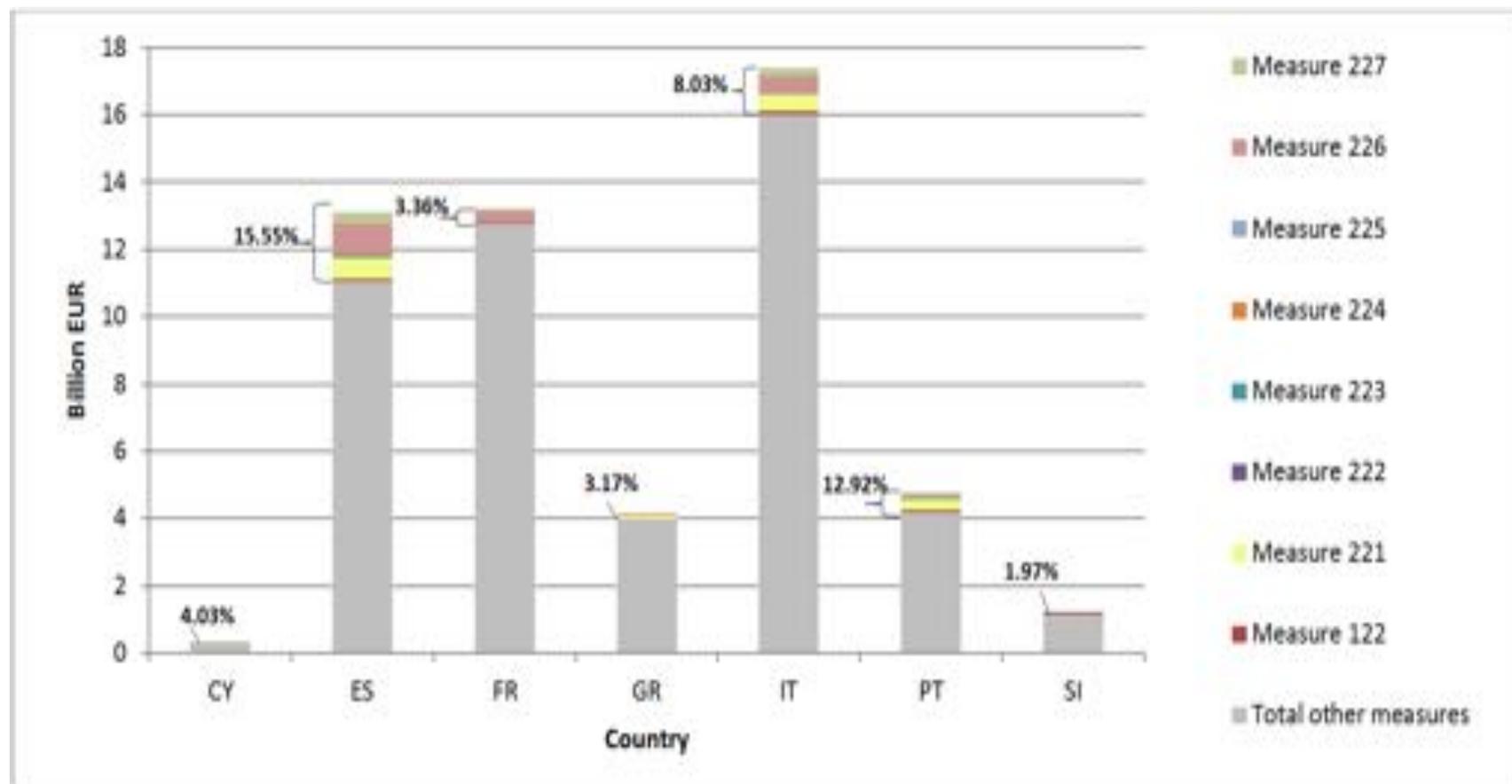
In total, in the RDP period 2007-2013, in the Mediterranean countries **4.66 Billion EUR** were spent for forestry measures



Total public expenditure for all forestry measures (M EUR)

In general a **reduction** of the expenditure from what programmed and what spent, reaching peaks of -80 and -90% for some measures in some countries

However, comparing the total figure that each country spent for the RDPs for all measures, **forestry measures account for a small part**





N°	Name
221	First afforestation of the agricultural land
223	First afforestation on non-agricultural land
222	First establishment of agroforestry system on agricultural land

1.65Bha

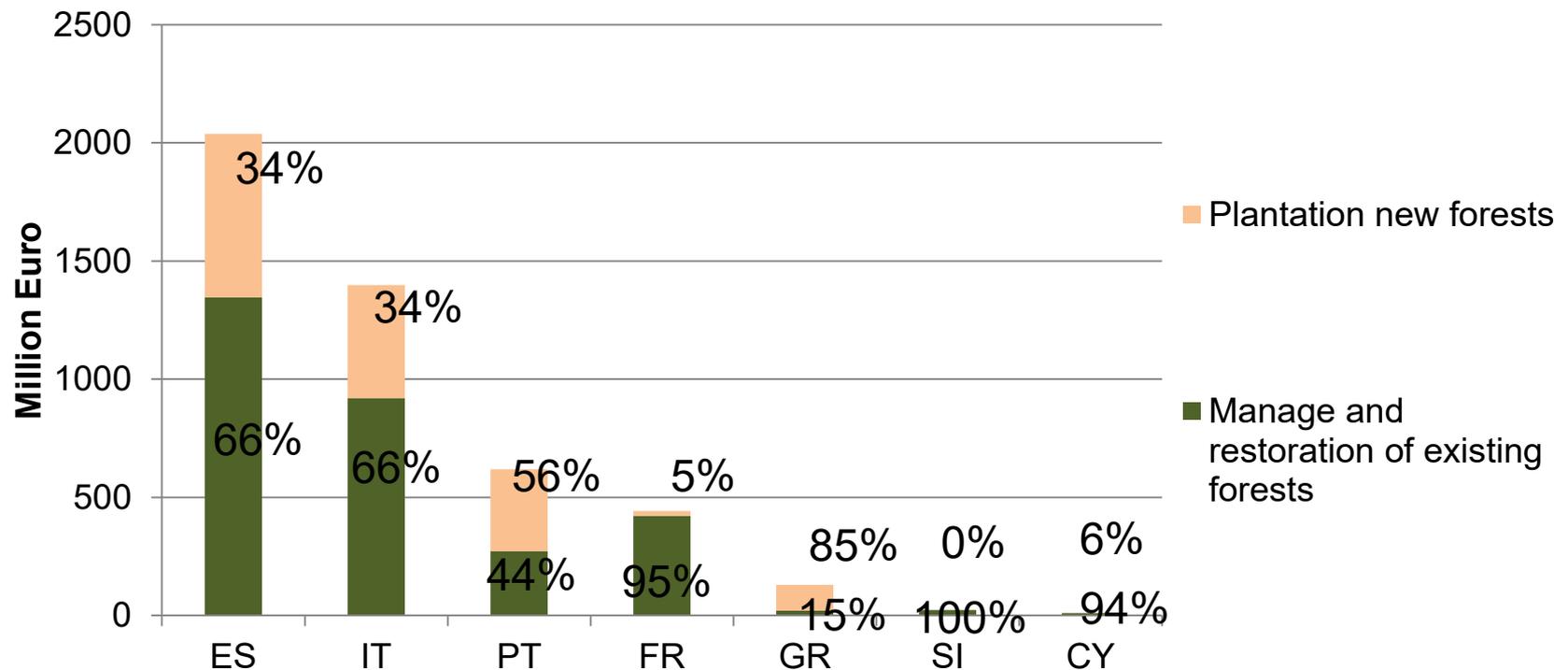
Country	Total public expenditure (M EUR) and % over the total expenditure for forestry
ES	692.77 (34%)
IT	477.94 (34%)
PT	345.89 (56%)
FR	21.09 (5%)
GR	109.78 (85%)
SI	0
CY	0.66 (6%)

A relatively high amount of the forestry budget was invested **for new forests**: more than 1/3 in Spain and Italy, more than 1/2 in Portugal and 85% in Greece

# Management and restoration of existing forests

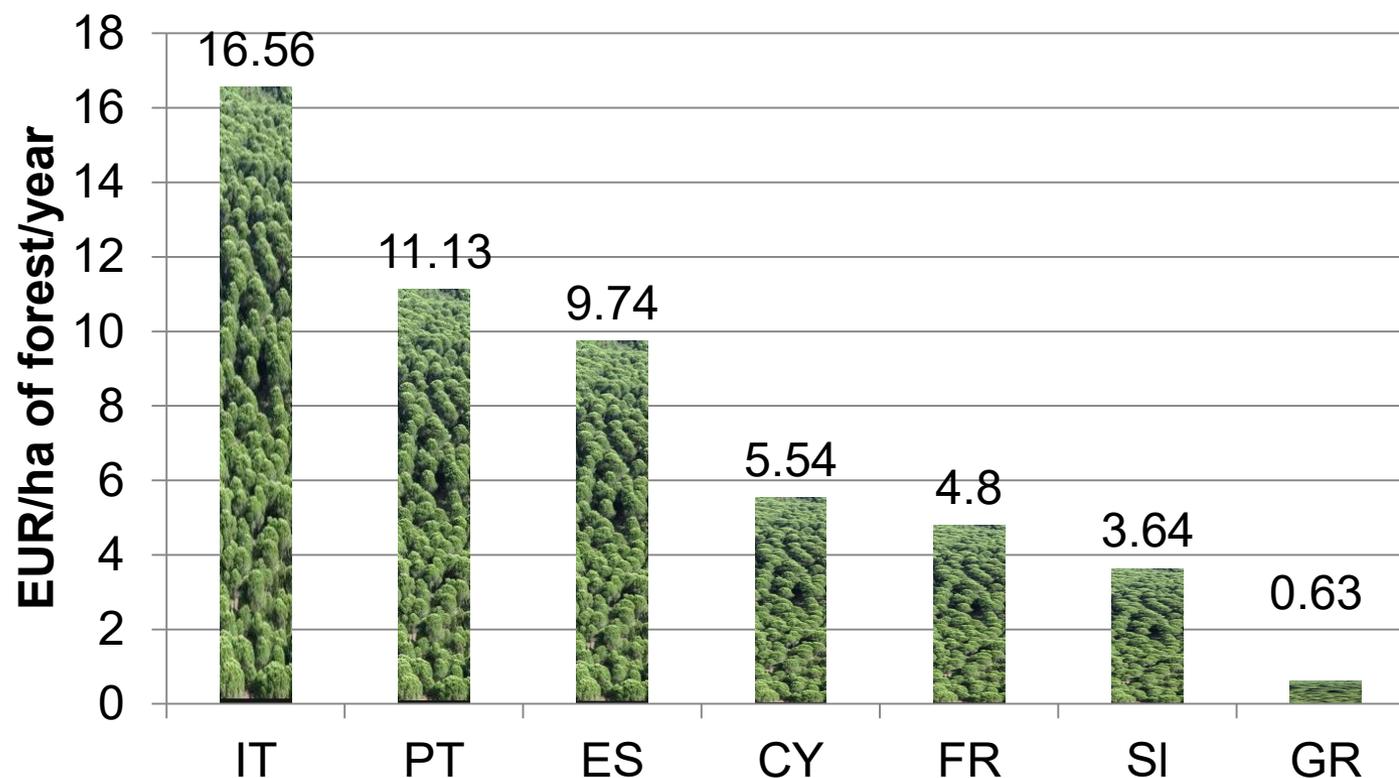
→ could contribute to increase the resilience

122	Improvement of the economic value of forests
226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions
227	Support of non-productive investments (forestry)
224	Natura 2000 payments
225	Forest environment payments



## Total public expenditure for the management and restoration of existing forests:

- on average **7.43 €/year per ha of forests** (high variation)



# 4. What's next

# RDP 2014-2020

## M8

Forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests

- M8.1. Support for afforestation/creation of woodland
- M8.2. Support for establishment and maintenance of agroforestry systems
- M8.3. Support for prevention of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events
- M8.4. Support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events
- M8.5. Support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems
- M8.6. Support for investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products

## M15

Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation

- M15.1. Payment for forest-environmental and climate commitments
- M15.2. Support for the conservation and promotion of forest genetic resources

Plus others not specific



## Evaluation study of the forestry measures under Rural Development

Final report

ALLIANCE ENVIRONNEMENT 8833  
September 2017

*Alliance Environnement*  
European Economic Interest Grouping

Evaluation study on the current RDP. Based also on the appreciation of the previous. Expenditure for all EU28.

[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/forest/publications/pdf/eval-study-forestry-measures-report\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/forest/publications/pdf/eval-study-forestry-measures-report_en.pdf)

## Afforestation (M8.1)

31% of the total planned public expenditure for the FM at EU-28 level. More broadleaves. Fast-growing species marginal, with less than 2 % of the EU-28 forest area

*“A key measure affecting land use in the past programming period”*

## Establishment of agroforestry (M8.2)

- Only in ¼ of the RDPs and 2% of the expenditures.
- Lack of familiarity, significant change in the farming system.
- Why it does not support the maintenance and restoration of existing systems?



## Productive investments (M8.3 and 8.4)

11% of the planned expenditure. Key measure, mobilising forest products, rise competitiveness → evaluators consider the budget surprisingly low



## **SPECIFIC MEASURES: improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems (M8.5) and management for environmental and climate services and forest conservation (M15.1)**

- **M8.5:** 20% of the public expenditure
- **M15.1:** only 4% of the funds



far below the scale of implementation required for MS to meet their legal obligations under Natura2000 and birds directives

Only 15% of Nat 2000 Annex I forest habitats are in favourable conservation status (EEA 2017)

- Forest policies in the Med region must deal with an increasing need to value ES, which are increasingly threatened by climate change
- Need of adaptive strategies and practices
- Forestry: relatively small amount of the RDP. Decreased budget from what planned and what implemented
- In 2007-2013 interventions has remained linked to the previous program
  - need of so big budget for afforestation?
  - low specific attention/budget to sustainability/biodiversity
- New RDP some changes but still some gaps: 11% is low for competitiveness, Natura 2000 and payments for environmental services far from EU statements



A photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees. Sunlight is filtering through the canopy, creating a warm, golden glow. The text "Thank you" is overlaid in the center in a light yellow font.

Thank you