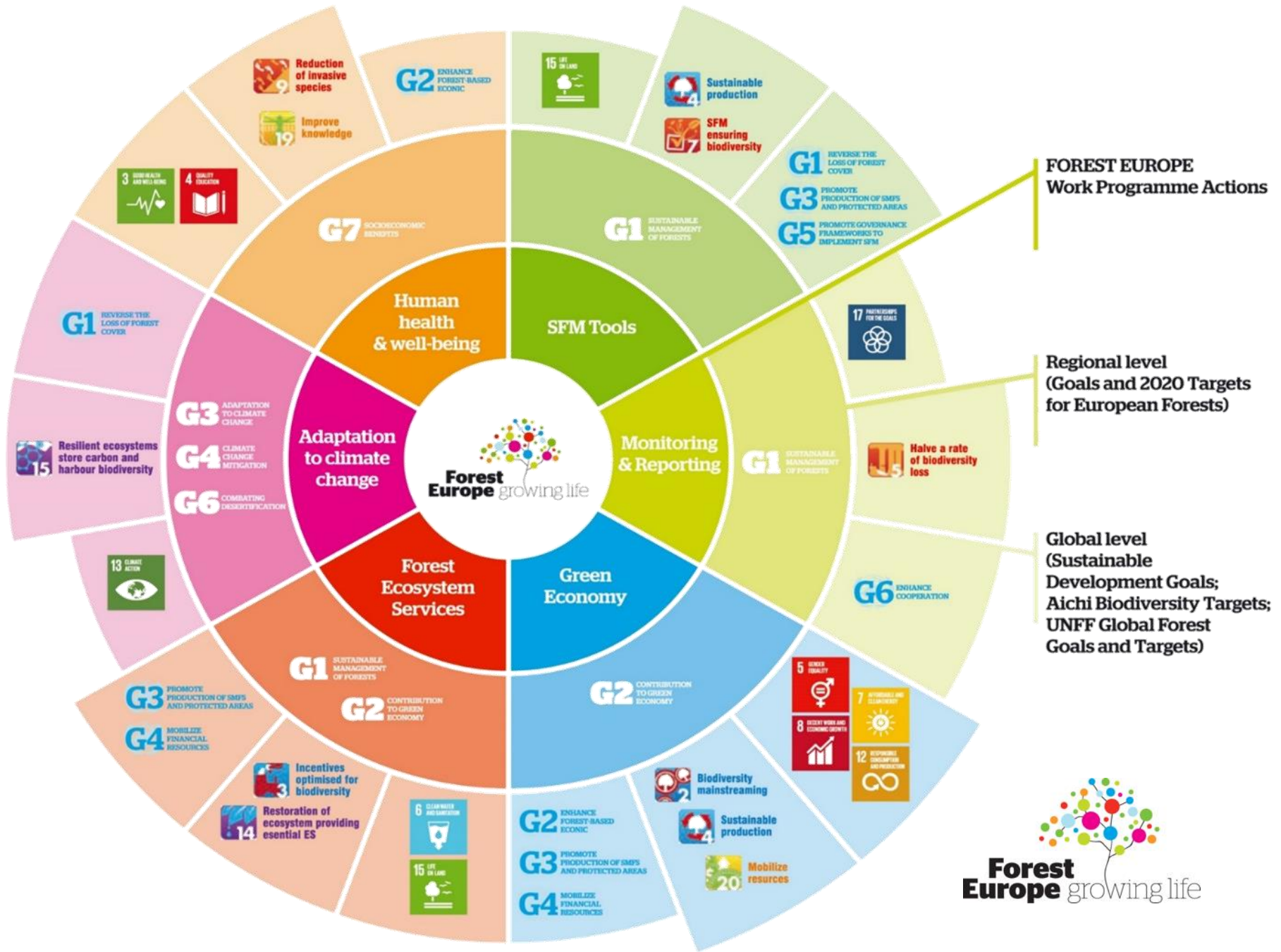


FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

Progress report

*Expert Level Meeting, 19-20 March 2019,
Bratislava, Slovakia*





Relevance of the topic



It is time to act now!

What can we do to make European forests better adapted to climate change?

- Forest management needs to be adapted to climate change to sustain functions and resources
- Adaptive measures need to be implemented
- Experience, good practice examples and knowledge should be shared through trans-national collaboration
- Up-to-date information on the status of climate adaptation from FOREST EUROPE signatories is needed



**Adaptation policies are pivotal
to initiate actions**

Working together towards European approaches to adaptation of forests to climate change

FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on adaptation to climate change

Countries' voice is important!



Due to transboundary character, the issue should be tackled in collaborative manner!

Expected outcomes and achievements

- Collect and analyse **existing resources on adaptation measures** to climate change in SFM- **in progress**
- **Questionnaire survey** on the current state of implementation of adaptation measures to climate change - **first results available**;
- **Publication** „Integration of adaptation measures into SFM in Europe“ comprising available knowledge and work done in the region - **in progress**;
- Identify **best practices and recommendations** for the integration of adaptation measures into SFM in the region - **in progress**
- Steer and contribute to preparations for **two workshops – first workshop organised, the second in progress**



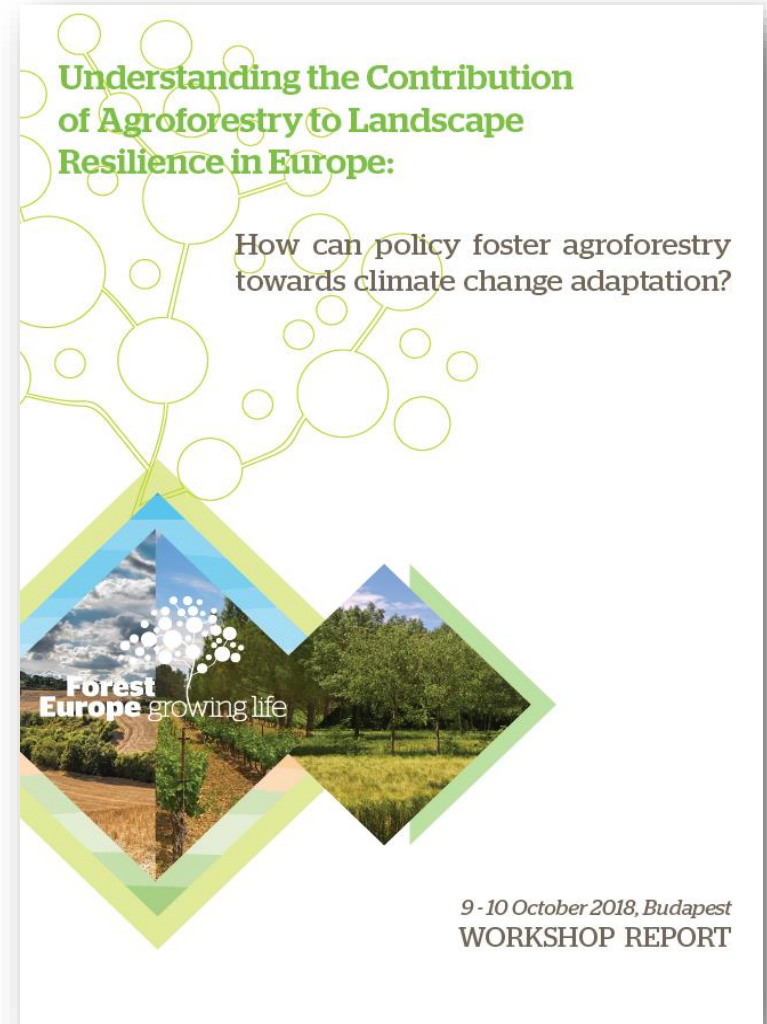
Questionnaire survey on the current state of implementation of adaptation measures to climate change

Based on a questionnaire survey, the expert group shall prepare a publication "**Integration of adaptation measures into SFM in Europe**" comprising:

- State-of-the art knowledge base and **work done** in the region,
- **approaches** to adaptation of forests to climate change,
- identifying **good practice examples** (and how to integrate adaptation measures into SFM).

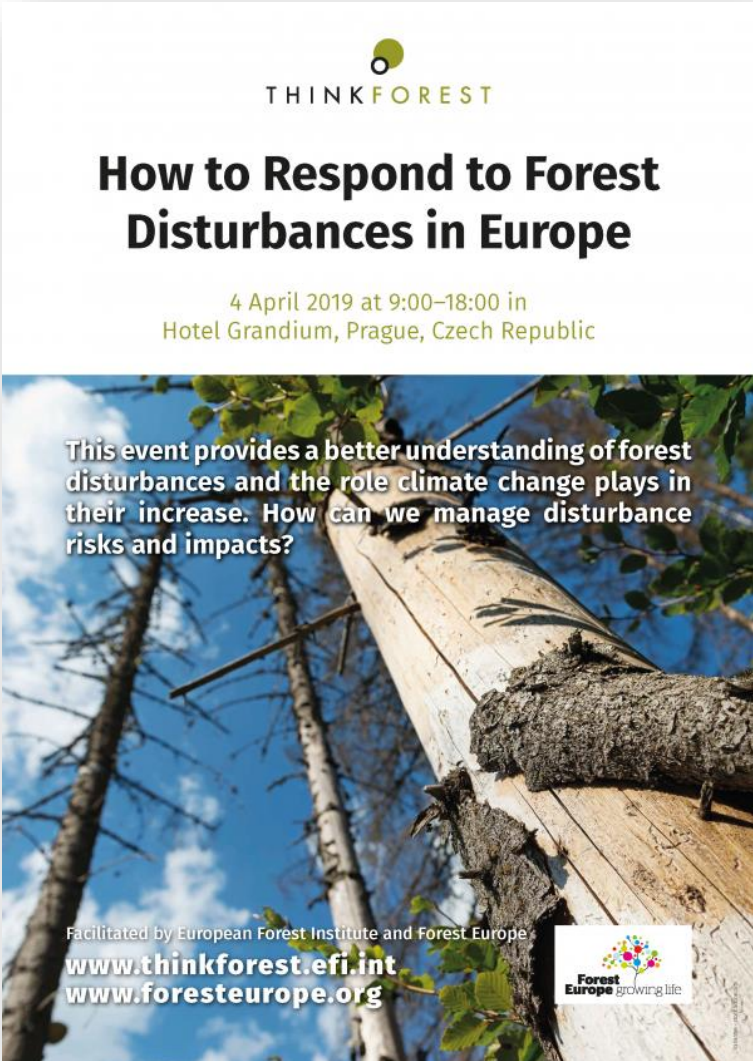
Achievements...

- Workshop: „**Understanding the contribution of Agroforestry to landscape resilience in Europe**“ **organised**
- Final report **elaborated**



Next meetings...

- **3-5 September, Istanbul:**
Workshop: *„Management of forests to combat climate-change-driven risks: Policies and measures for increasing forest resilience and climate change adaptation in Europe“*



THINKFOREST

How to Respond to Forest Disturbances in Europe

4 April 2019 at 9:00–18:00 in
Hotel Grandium, Prague, Czech Republic

This event provides a better understanding of forest disturbances and the role climate change plays in their increase. How can we manage disturbance risks and impacts?

Facilitated by European Forest Institute and Forest Europe
www.thinkforest.efi.int
www.foresteuropa.org

Forest Europe growing life

Next steps...

- Analyse the survey responses in more detail for the publication “**Integration of adaptation measures into SFM in Europe**”
- Adaptive measures need to be discussed, tested and impacts monitored
- Promote the identified adaptation measures for different biogeographical regions in Europe
- Illustrate the extent of recent climate change & disturbances impacts on European forests
- Identify knowledge gaps

Preliminary results of the questionnaire survey on the current state of implementation of adaptation measures to climate change

28 questionnaires returned, of which

- 23 signatory countries (of 46)
- European Commission
- 6 sub-national regions
 - Spain: the whole country and 4 of its autonomous communities
- EFI involved to the analysis of the answers

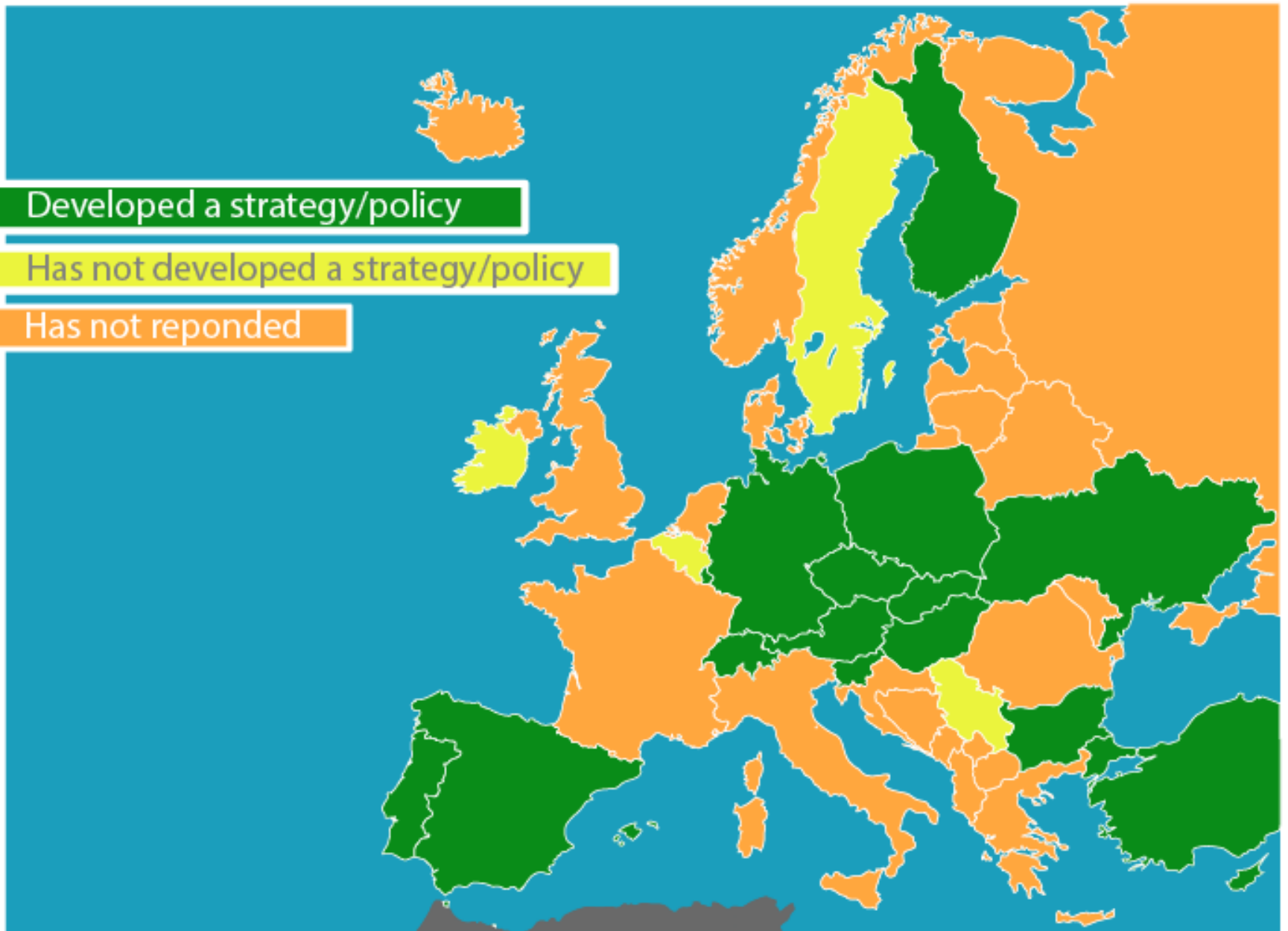
Structure of the questionnaire

- Two parts:
 - general parts (policies, tools)
 - description of particular measures
 - explicitly mentioned in the documents
 - not explicitly mentioned but believed to be beneficial
- A "hidden" objective: to distinguish between really new approaches and the continuation of the previous management

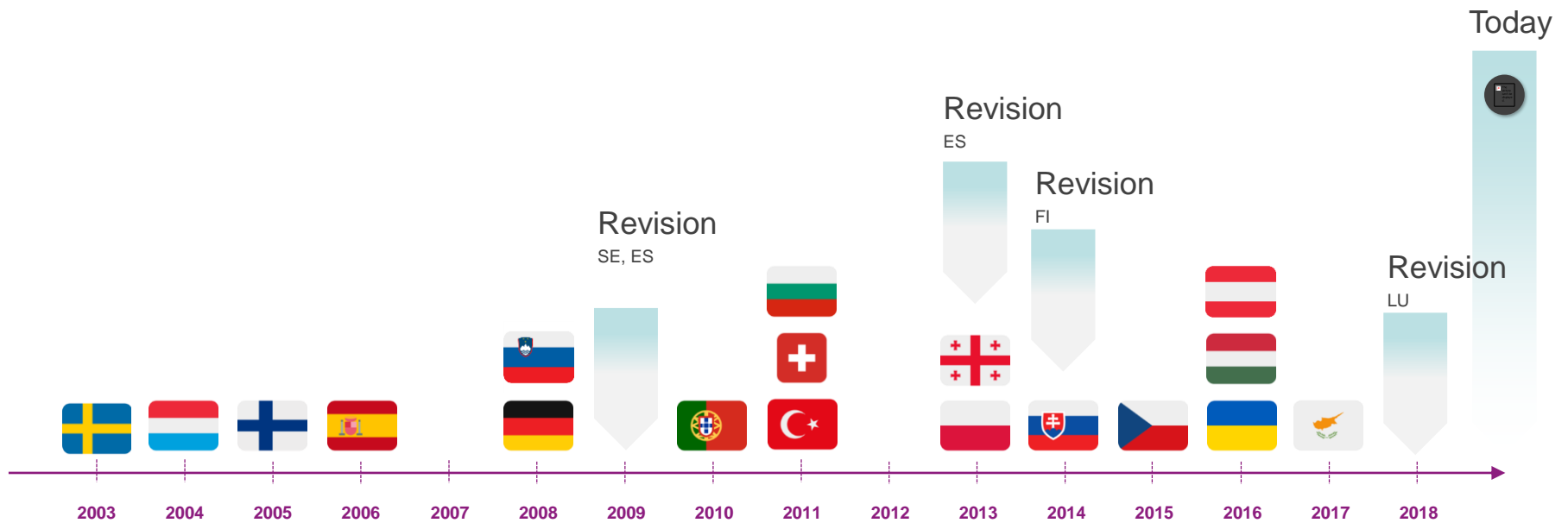
Developed a strategy/policy

Has not developed a strategy/policy

Has not reponded



Timeline of adaptation strategy/ programme adoption



How do signatories implement or stimulate implementation of adaptation measures?

- **Only a half** of the respondents having an adaptation policy/strategy also have **an effective framework** for its implementation
- **Financial mechanisms** (e.g. subsidies or tax reliefs) are **crucial** to support the implementation of adaptation measures

Preliminary analysis of adaptation measures

The **underlying climate adaptation related problem** identified by the signatories showed problems related to:

- **Forest** (e.g. composition, degradation, low diversity in tree species and stand structures)
- **Climate** (e.g. extreme climate events and their consequences such as outbreaks of pests and plagues)
- Insufficient **information** (e.g. lack of structural monitoring of extreme climate events and corresponding damages)

Question 12: Does your country prefer the close-to-nature approach (e.g. natural regeneration, use of natural tree species) to climate change adaptation or the intensification approach (e.g. shortening rotations of threatened species, use of introduced tree species, replacement of declining forests by plantations)

Close-to-nature	Intensification	Both	Not defined
10	0	11	3

- Close-to-nature management is more popular than opposite approaches
- A wide range of measures is considered close-to-nature management
- It is not sufficiently known if these measures are effective for climate change adaptation

Climate change adaptation measures

The respondents shared a total of 114 measures. The range of these is quite wide. We assigned them to the following 16 clusters (measures can be in multiple categories).

Afforestation (6)	Protection of local (site adapted) genetic material (6)
Restoration/recovery/resilience (9)	Water retention/natural water regime restoration (4)
Conversion to site-/future climate-adapted species (9)	Monitoring (9)
Conversion to bark beetle resistant species (6)	Soil protection (5)
Use of permanent cover forestry (2)	Forest biodiversity increase (4)
Increased stand stability measures (7)	Decrease game populations (2)
Increased urban forestry (3)	Close to nature forestry (6)
Others (26)	Natural regeneration (6)

Expert questionnaire (March 2019)

Ahead of the **forthcoming 3rd Expert Group meeting**, national experts were asked to subjectively evaluate recent forest disturbances' impacts as well as suitability (and limits) of existing adaptation measures:

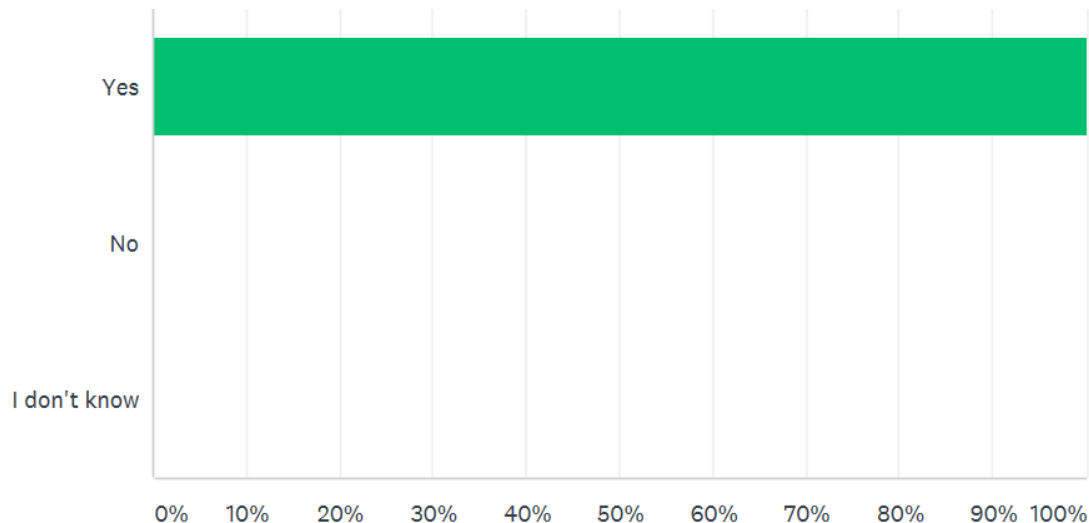
- Has climate change and disturbance impact increased over the past decade?
- Has knowledge on climate change adaptation developed in this time period?
- Are the currently adopted measures suitable to deal with the observed changes?

Expert questionnaire (March 2019)

Has climate change and disturbance impact increased over the past decade?

Have you noticed an increase in the observed climate change impacts on forests and forestry in your country?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 2

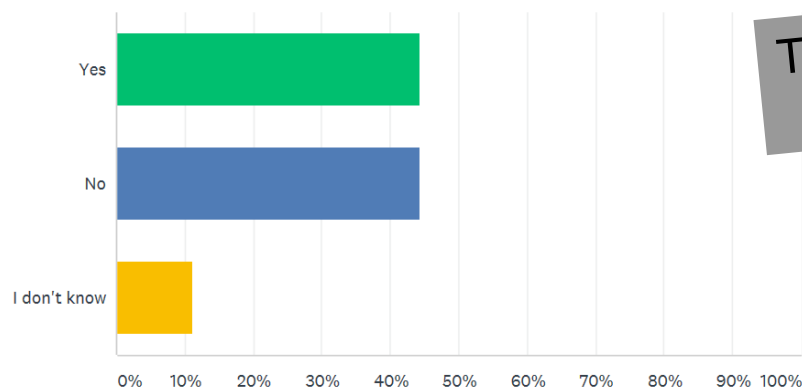


Expert questionnaire (March 2019)

Are the currently adopted measures suitable to deal with the observed changes?

Are the measures currently implemented in your country suited to deal with the observed climate change impacts on forests and forestry?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 2



To be further discussed in the 3rd EG meeting on April 5th in Prague



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