

Added value from 22 Pilot Projects and perspective from evaluation with engaged stakeholders



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Added-value from the Pilot Projects

- Our SIMWOOD approach to wood mobilisation project management: theory of change as the backbone
- Methodological tool kit
- 22 Pilot Projects implemented over 3 years in the regions
- Achievements: changes evidenced with engaged stakeholders
- How success was achieved: perspective from the evaluation



Step 1 Target

- Regional profiling methodology to ensure that the social, economic and environmental context is understood & taken into account when **choosing a target**
- (Optional) further investigation through focus study to secure the target with an additional piece of knowledge or information
- Validation of target with stakeholders at 1st RLL

Step 2 Co-production

- Implementation of chosen measures through a Pilot project (i.e. implementation plan, actions, possible adjustments, feedback collection, dissemination of outputs)
- Continuous involvement of stakeholders (RLL)

Step 3 Evaluation

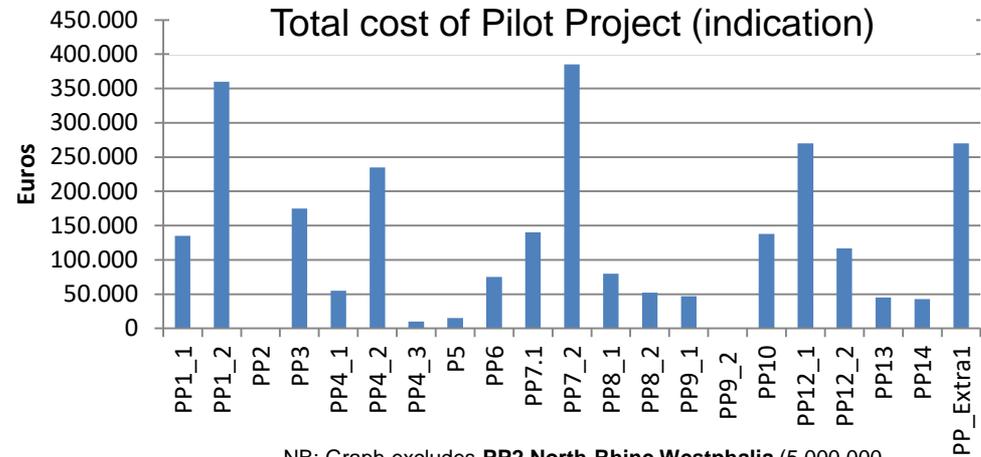
- Evaluation of the outcomes and impacts of the pilot project → Lessons learnt for the Region, SME & stakeholders
- Impact of broader adoption of the lessons learnt (e.g. enlarged target group; other regions in EU)

- **Initial diagnosis:** choosing a target to address identified bottlenecks
 - Regional profile + optional focus study
 - Stakeholders inter-relationships and willingness to change
 - Reports on past experiences
- **Regional Learning Labs** (RLL) to encourage stakeholders engagement
- Learning and reflecting thanks to our adaptable **Evaluation Framework**
- Cross-regional dialog

PP diversity in the SIMWOOD regions



→ Full stories (reports) available in SIMWOOD information system



NB: Graph excludes **PP2 North-Rhine Westphalia** (5,000,000 Euros) and **PP9_2 Catalonia** (1,800,000 Euros)

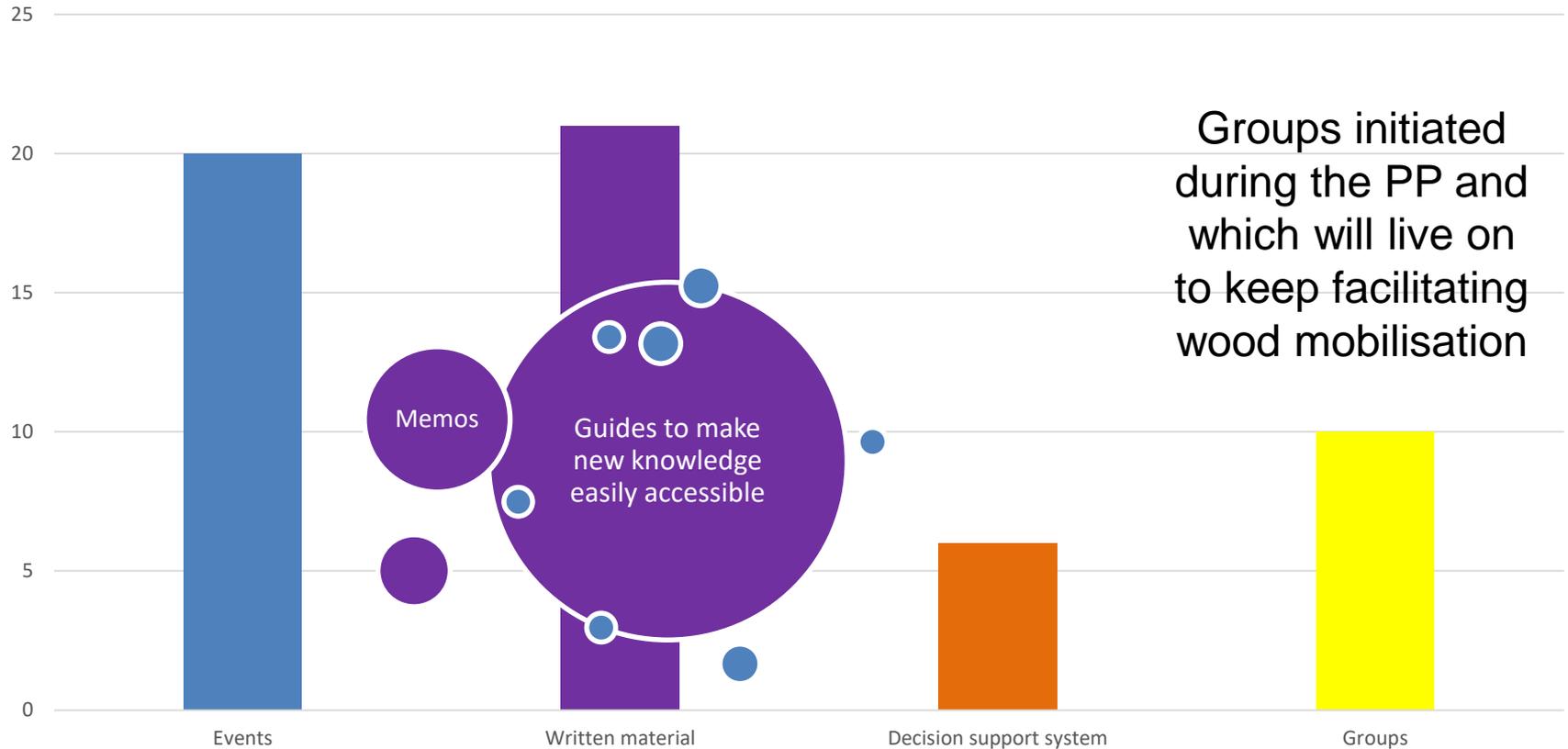
- n°1 objective = **Mobilise more wood and meet market demand**
- Multiple co-benefits

Typology

Timeframe for gains	Enabling context to start with in the region	Target group and foreseen change	Pilot Projects
Short term	<p>Market-pull is high</p> <p>Professional practitioners are ready to act swiftly if know-how is validated</p>	<p><u>Professional practitioners</u> targeted so that they can improve their capacity and know-how to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manage the forest they are responsible for (whatever the forest owner profile) - Operate harvest and related logging aspects in a more efficient way, even when extra challenges (slope, soft soils, new system...) contribute to make additional mobilization more difficult than usual business (what is mobilized now) - Engage forest owners who are not yet delegating forest operations (Management, Harvesting...) to a professional service provider and whose forest is inactive in terms of sustainable forest management and wood mobilization 	<p>→ <i>Grand Est, Castille y Leon</i></p> <p>→ <i>Auvergne, Grand Est, Ireland, Smaland, Overijssel/Gelderland,</i></p> <p>→ <i>Bavaria, Grand Est, Ireland, Slovenia, Lower Saxony</i></p>
Medium term	<p>Market-demand likely to increase</p> <p>Possibility exists to facilitate framework conditions</p> <p>Possibility exists to improve governance</p>	<p><u>Multi-stakeholders communities</u> who need to reach a common understanding on their forest-based strategy to make wood mobilization a sustainable business in the region.</p>	<p>→ <i>Yorkshire North East England, Lochaber, Catalonia, Nordeste, Alentjo, Latvia, Bavaria</i></p>
Long term	<p>Possibility of contributing to stable improvement of framework conditions</p>	<p><u>Decision makers</u> who could enable the implementation of a relevant framework instrument if they were convinced of its positive impact and cost-benefit performance</p>	<p>→ <i>North Rhine Westphalia</i></p>

- **Inputs** – the **investments** into the project, primarily of staff time and money.
- **Outputs** – the **tangible deliverables** of the project, e.g. demonstration events, guidance booklets, decision support systems, cooperative groups, equipment made accessible, etc.
- **Outcomes** – **changes to knowledge, skills, attitudes, aspirations and practices** of people who participate in the project and have access to its outputs. It covers the ‘mobilisation of people’ necessary for the ‘mobilisation of wood’.
- **Impacts** – **changes to wood mobilisation** and delivery of other **ecosystem services**, and changes to risks and uncertainties. It also includes unintended impacts.

Outputs from the Pilot Projects



N=21

Outcomes

- Changes were evaluated by the PP leaders together with engaged stakeholders

	Forest managers	Contractors	Extension agents	Forest owners	Policy makers
N=21					
Knowledge	18	10	8	17	8
Attitudes	15	8	5	17	8
Connections	13	11	7	15	8
Plans	13	8	5	12	5
Practices	13	7	5	11	6
Total (out of a potential 105)	72	44	30	72	35

1. What changed as a result of the project?

- Outcomes and impacts?
- Unintended consequences?

2. What caused these changes?

- Factors within the project?
- Factors beyond the project?

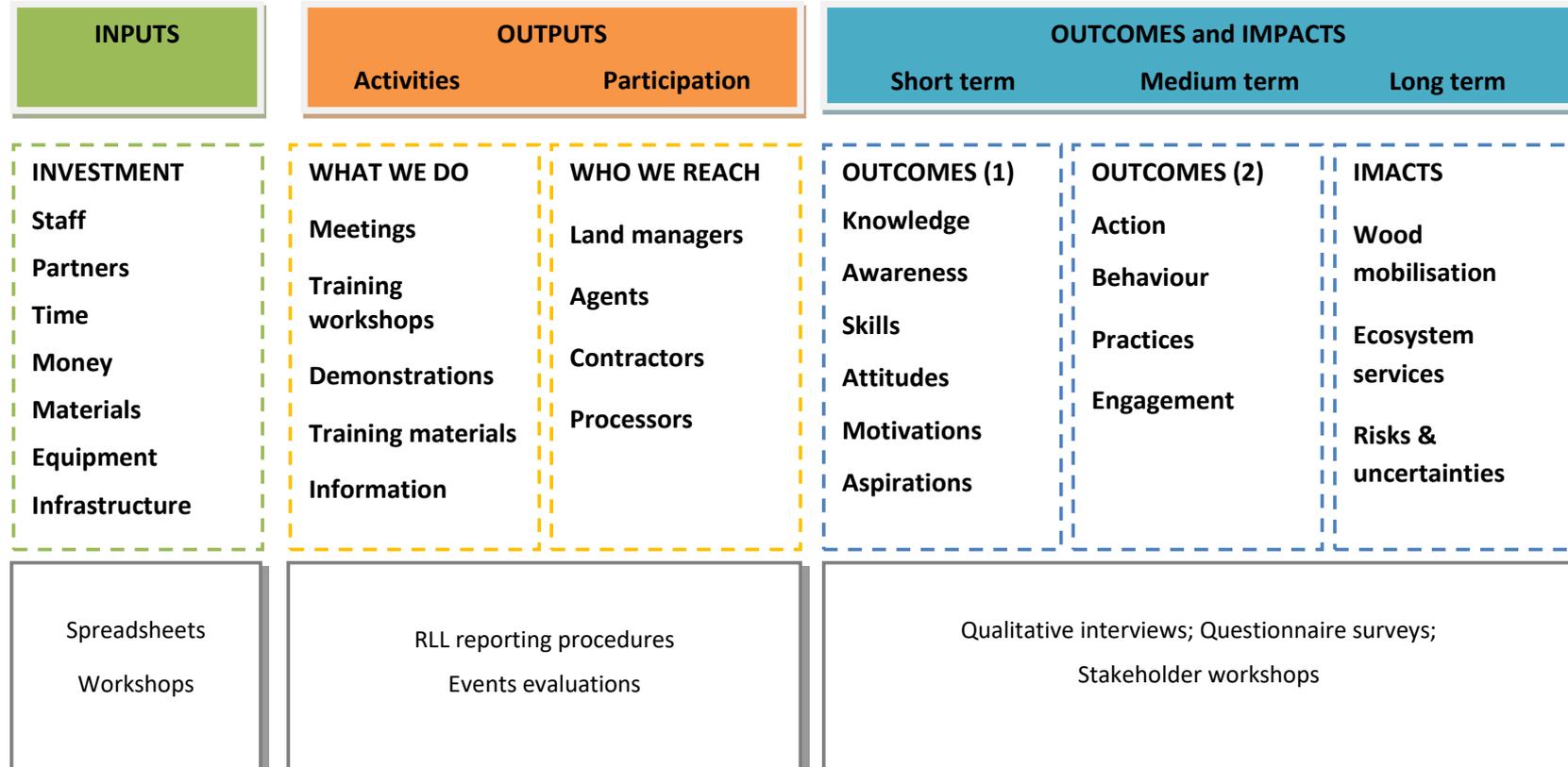
3. What lessons can be learned?

- What could we have done better?
- What should we do in the future?

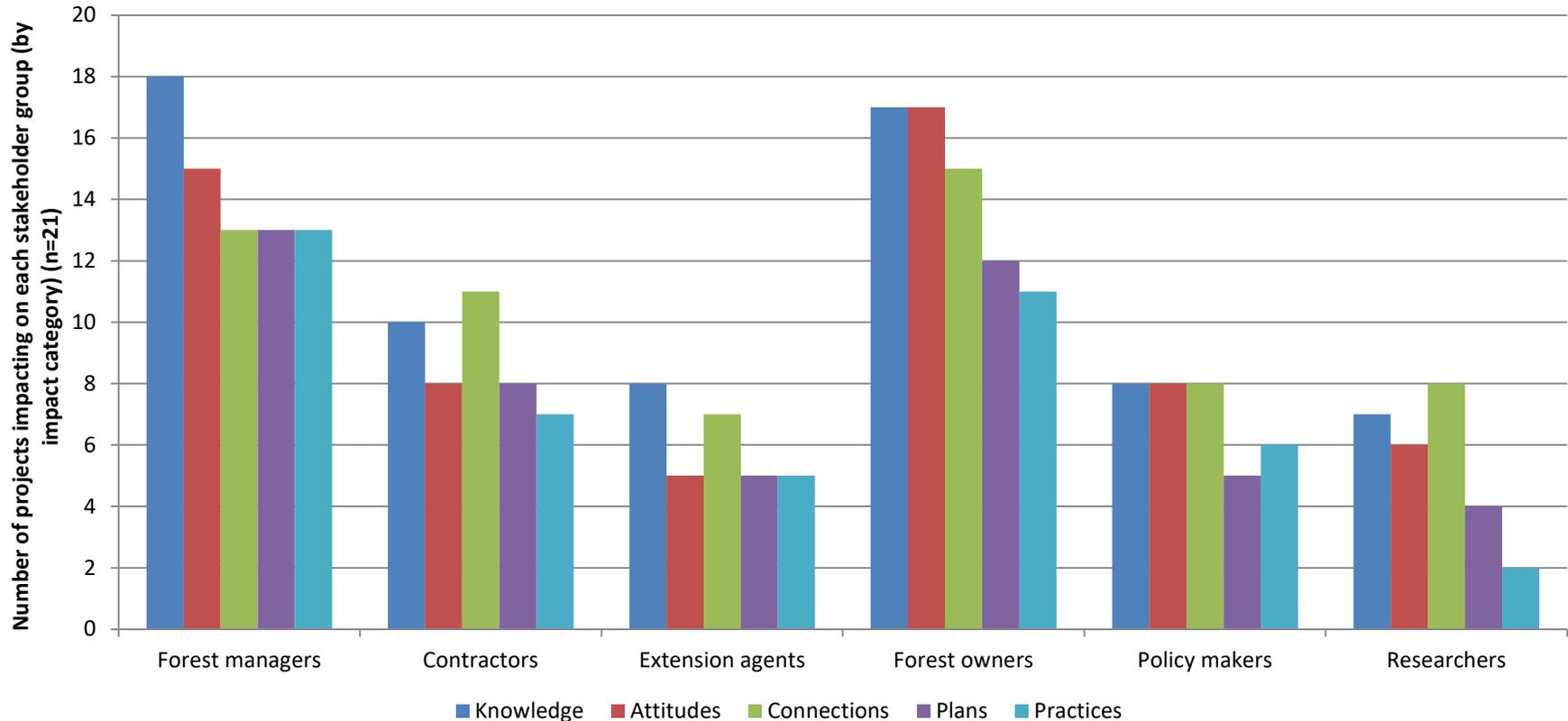
What did the Pilot Project team want to know...?

Evaluation criteria

Simwood Pilot Project Evaluation Framework



Influence of Pilot Projects on stakeholder groups



Bavaria (1.1, 1.2) – Activation of woodland owners

- Potential additional roundwood: 2.5 m³/ha/year; 110,000 m³ over next 50 years (Grünten)

North Rhine-Westphalia (2) – Land consolidation

- Major impact on several hundred owners and hectares of forest

Auvergne (3) – Capacity of forestry professionals to manage steep slopes

- New capacity to act, whenever the market demand justifies harvesting on steep slopes

Grand Est (4.1, 4.2, 4.3) – Knowledge to manage difficult sites; communication platform

- Significant increase in development and use of skid trails on sensitive soils (4.1)
- Owners know how to harvest on limestone sites; ready to respond to price increases (4.2)
- Forest managers have new knowledge, but impacts will be longer term (4.3)

Yorkshire & NE England (5) – ‘Grown in Britain’ Group marketing scheme

- Aim to increase group members’ wood mobilisation by 20% by 2019

Lochaber (6) – Mobilising a ‘sleeping resource’

- Cooperative developed out of SIMWOOD will have significant impact on region

Ireland (7.1) – Integrated harvesting technology

- Potential increase in biomass of 40-95% (making 1st thinning viable) across 9,000 ha

Ireland (7.2) – Producer cooperative and market development

- 59,000 m³ harvested to date by the project, plus 8,500 m³ forecast by end of 2017
- 95% of participants in field events chose to commence active management of forests

Castile y Leon (8.1) – Thinning and mushroom production

- Changes to knowledge and practices of thinning for mushrooms and wood

Castile y Leon (8.2) – Knowledge of thinning practices

- Changes to knowledge and plans about potential for mobilisation from young mixed stands

Catalonia (9.1) – Protocol to manage ‘singular forests’

- Potential wood mobilisation from 1/3 of singular forest area (3,200 ha)

Catalonia (9.2) – Biomass storage, new boilers and logistics centre

- Major increase in boiler capacity (up to 3000 t/yr) increasing managed forest (10,000 ha over next 20 yrs), 26 jobs

Nordeste Transmontano (10) – DSS development and dialogue with cooperatives

- Early days, but potential increase of around 25% in the next 4 years

Alentejo (11) – Simulations of maritime pine and eucalyptus

- Changes in attitude towards the viability of wood mobilisation of new species

Netherlands (12.1) – GIS biomass module

- Potential increase of 4,000 m³/year in the next 5 years if the module is applied

Netherlands (12.2) – Collective planning and harvesting

- Potential increase of 15,000 m³/year for the whole region in the next 5 years if rolled out

Slovenia (13) – Information platform for cooperatives and capacity building

- Changes to knowledge and attitudes among 400 foresters and 4000 members of 30 owners' associations

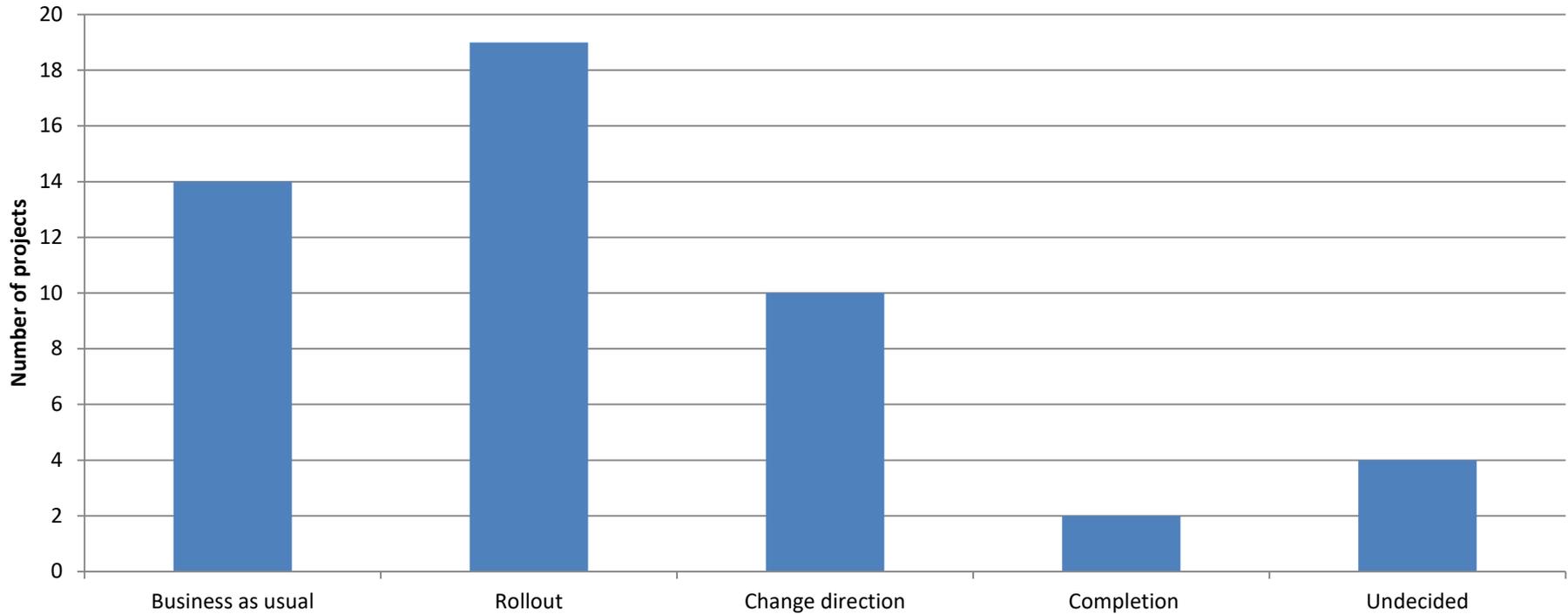
Smaland (14) – Extraction of forest residues

- Potential additional 2GWh bioenergy (if 2% increase in Smaland wood mobilisation due to the project)

Lower Saxony (15) – Forestry exhibition and show

- Hard to assess. Changes in knowledge and connections of foresters, owners and others

Future plans of projects (n=21)



	Reasons for success	Average score (1-5)
Barriers to mobilisation:		
1	The problem/barriers were solvable	3.8
PP management:		
2	The solution was practical and well planned	3.9
3	Project management was effective	4.1
SIMWOOD support:		
4	Guidance and support from SIMWOOD (WP and Domain Leaders, etc.) was helpful	4.0
Inputs:		
5	The resources were adequate	4.2
6	The staff were capable	4.4
Outputs:		
7	The outputs were useful and accessible	4.2
Engagement:		
8	Dialogue between stakeholders was sufficient and effective	4.0
9	Dissemination was targeted and effective	3.9
Social:		
10	Beneficiaries were willing to engage with the project	4.0
11	Specific stakeholders acted as 'champions' for the project	3.7
Context:		
12	Incentives or regulations supported engagement with the project or use of outputs	3.0
13	Biophysical conditions or geographical location were suitable for the solution	3.1
14	The political climate was supportive	3.4
Other:		
15	Please specify (e.g. staff changes, weather, etc.)	-

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How PPs ranked the importance of each type of support [n=21]

	Types of support	Very important (5/5)	Not important (2/5)	Average score
1	The RLL meetings	12	0	4.4
2	RLL protocol document and training sessions	6	0	3.7
3	The process of writing and rewriting PP descriptions + written feedback	6	1	3.9
4	Evaluation framework document, plus presentations at meetings	9	1	4.2
5	Workshops and discussions at consortium (and Executive Board) meetings	5	2	3.6
6	Dialogue with other members of the consortium (meetings, email, phone)	3	2	3.5
7	Other (specify below)	-	-	-

1. Context

- **Price & demand**
 - Decline in woodchip price reduced impact [Grand Est 4.1]
 - Changes to timber prices and exchange rates => imports expensive [Yorkshire]
 - The establishment of a massive biomass boiler created demand [Catalonia 9.2]
 - Increase in maritime pine and eucalyptus demand over last decade [Alentejo]
 - Biomass boom in the region [Smaland]
- **Biophysical conditions**
 - Major natural disasters (ice break + spruce beetle attack) producing wood and a supportive political climate [Slovenia]
- **Forest sector development**
 - Strong tradition of wood mobilisation in the region [Castile y Leon 8.2]
 - Disengaged sector, forestry of little importance, undeveloped markets [Nordeste]
- **People**
 - Key local stakeholder pulled out – real handicap [Grand Est 4.3]
- **Regulations**
 - UKFS and Renewable Heat Incentive require evidence of SFM [Yorkshire]
- **Politics and culture**
 - Protocol development very dependent on political good will [Catalonia 9.1]
 - Bad memories of former Yugoslavia cooperatives [Slovenia]



2. Engagement

- **Right stakeholders selected for RLLs**
 - Careful selection of members of RLLs ('we were among peers') [Auvergne, Yorkshire, etc.]
 - Strong willingness and commitment [Grand Est 4.1, Lochaber, Catalonia 9.1]
 - Not so willing to engage [Slovenia, Grand Est 4.3]
 - Engagement not strong; negative, disengaged sector; regional forest councils crucial [Nordeste]
- **Right partners**
 - Good partnership with contractor who was willing to experiment [Ireland 7.1]
 - Close cooperation with one of the 3 largest forest owning organisations [Netherlands 12.1]
 - Well established collaboration between regional stakeholders [Smaland]
- **Good relations and trust**
 - Forest owners need to be 'touched' several times to generate knowledge and trust [Ireland 7.1]
 - Videos show the goodwill of all parties – key to success [Ireland 7.2]
 - Good atmosphere created in RLL meetings [Castile y Leon 8.2]
- **Working together**
 - Co-produced action plans [Auvergne]
 - Co-production of scenarios informed the model outputs [Alentejo]



3. Objectives and approach

- **An integrated / holistic approach**
 - Multiple measures addressing different parts of the forestry-wood chain [Ireland 7.1]
 - Diverse range of stakeholders involved [Bavaria]
 - Subsidised roads + silvic support, as well as land consolidation [NRW]
 - Comprehensive understanding of the sector [Yorkshire]
 - Shift from ‘discussion group’ to ‘commercial producer group’; developed good relations with entire FWC – pivotal [Ireland 7.2]
- **A focused / targeted approach**
 - Steep slopes, widely agreed problem, available solution [Auvergne]
 - Real solution for environmentally friendly logging [Grand Est 4.1]
 - Logistics centre for biomass consumption [Catalonia 9.2]
 - Research focus, e.g. DSS development [Alentejo]
 - Biomass module for CMSi management system [Netherlands 12.1]
 - Targeted ‘push’ factors (owners and practitioners). Need to address ‘pull’ factors as well [Smaland]



4. Innovation and adaptation

- **Innovation and adaptation**

- Filled gap in insurance cover; shift from whole tree harvesting; contracting arrangements; extended drying time – premium price for better biomass; network of small depots for processing [Ireland 7.2]
- Quite risky group certification, potentially transformative; surveys of attitudes and skills [Yorkshire]
- Shift to calorific value rather than volume – changing a ‘framework condition’; very focused problem solving research (GIS to show where safe to thin) [Ireland 7.1]
- Innovative biomass module, didn’t know if it would work; analysed soil damage & modified extraction methods; leave tops in forest to reduce drying times; new kind of stacking [Netherlands 12.1]
- Organic, ‘a journey’, ‘waking up a sleeping resource’: operating at different levels [Lochaber]
- Analysed dialogue in discussion groups – agreements and disagreements [Catalonia 9.1]



5. SIMWOOD Support

- **Regional Learning Labs**
 - RLLs were very important [most PPs]
 - First RLL meeting led to a complete change in focus - towards 1st thinning [Ireland 7.1]
- **Focus studies**
 - “Results showed that we needed to amend the focus of our Pilot Projects to better engage with those more open to increased mobilisation.” [Yorkshire]
- **PP descriptions**
 - The requirement to measure outcomes helped shape direction of the project [Yorkshire]
- **Evaluation**
 - Generated feedback, informed stories, provided confidence to roll out a solution [Auvergne]
 - Encouraged constant evaluation, prioritising, developing new initiatives [Ireland 7.2]
- **Cross-regional dialogue**
 - Ireland [7.2] used FCBA tool; adopted Yorkshire factsheets; supported Lochaber



5 tips for success

1. **Context**: be clear about the local/regional/national/European context of the need for increased wood mobilisation.
2. **Objectives**: define a clear, realistic objective for your project and ensure it conforms to the norms of sustainable forest management.
3. **Engagement**: develop strong links with local stakeholders from the start, who will help define bottlenecks, ensure they are solvable, and help implement and disseminate the results of the project.
4. **Innovation**: be flexible, and look for new, practical solutions to barriers throughout the forestry-wood chain that you encounter along the way.
5. **Evaluation**: consider how you will evaluate the outcomes and impacts of your project; reflect on whether you are on track; regularly seek feedback; allocate time to this because it is worth the effort.

Thank you!



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