

Forests in Common: learning from diversity and evolution in Europe

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EXAMPLES

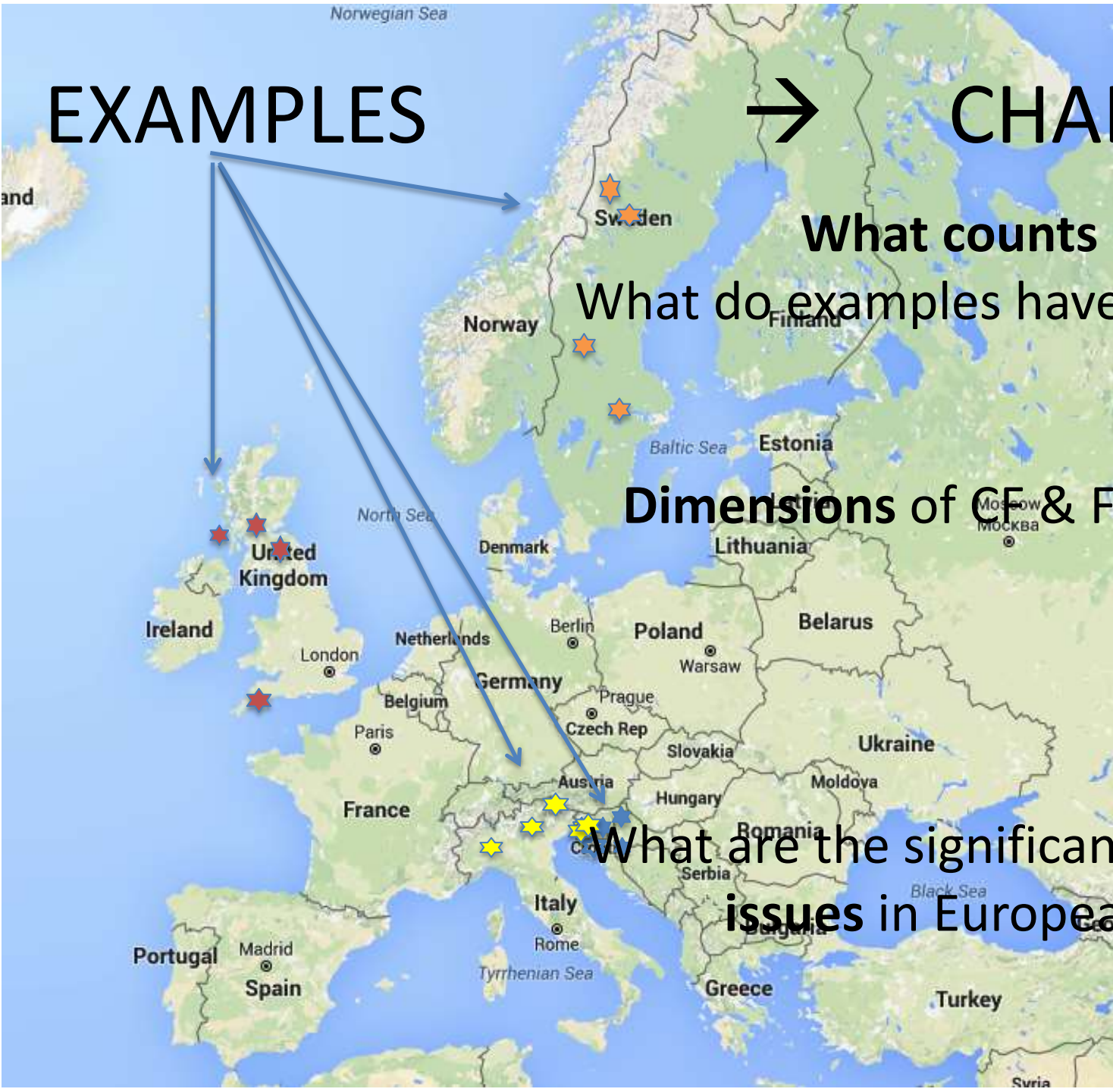


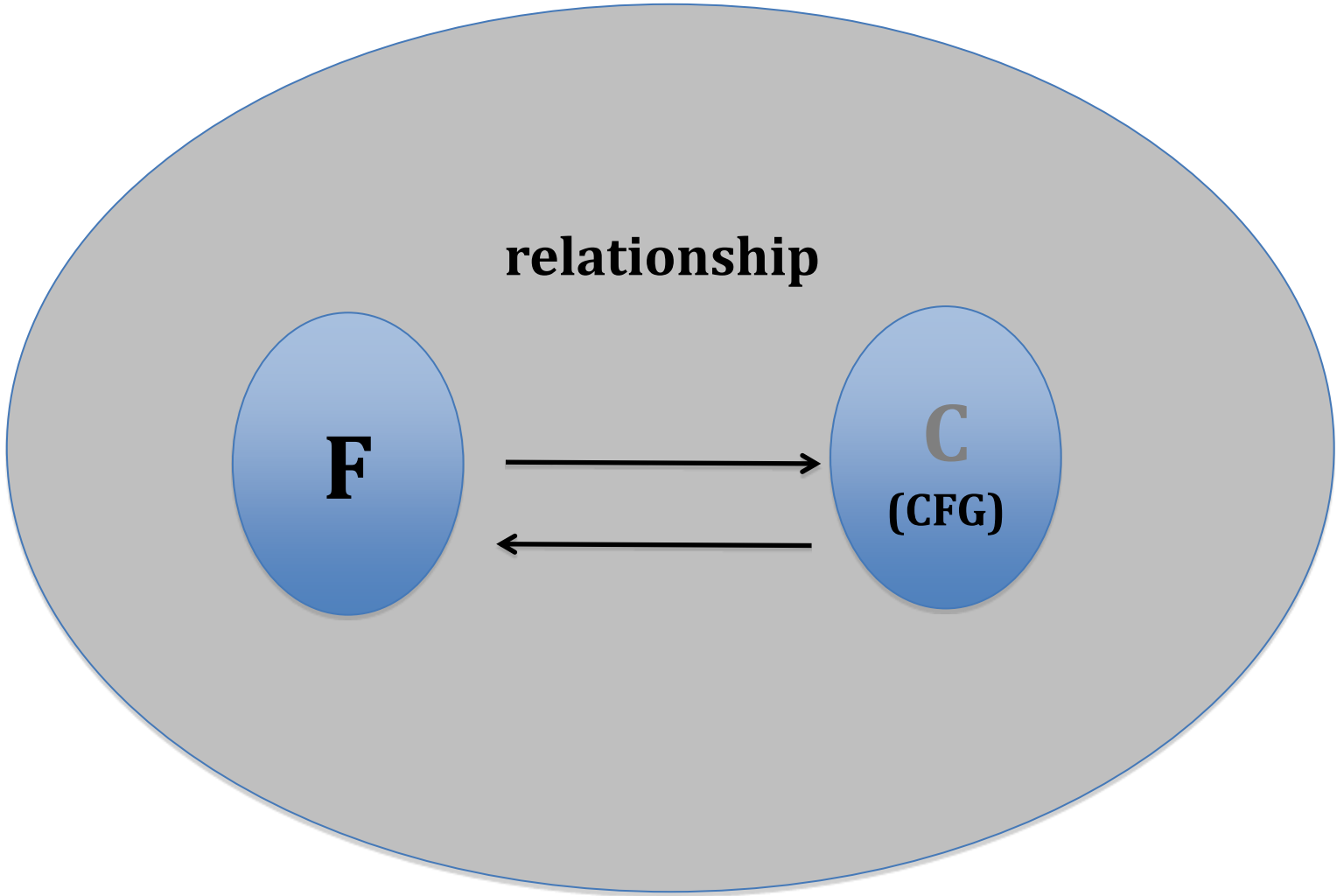
CHALLENGES

What counts as a CF or FC?
What do examples have in common?

Dimensions of CF & FC for Europe?

What are the significant themes and issues in European community forestry?





The research questions

- What **lessons** can we draw from community forestry institutions and their diversity across Europe?
- What is the **added value** (if any) of FC/CF?
- What are the **wider implications** of self-organization and (sustainable) resource management ?

DIVERSITY 1 – of contexts
DIVERSITY 2 – of examples
COMMON features, common interest



Systematic approach.

Methods

- Learn by sharing experiences
- **Reflexive, iterative development of indicators**
 - **Coding of case studies**
 - **Frequency analysis**
- **Extracting** similarities, variations and themes.

Start by describing ...

Sure about - definitely community forests or forest commons:

- Something which we believe is **really a CF**
- Something which might be **different** from all the other country cases
- Something which might be **similar** to another country

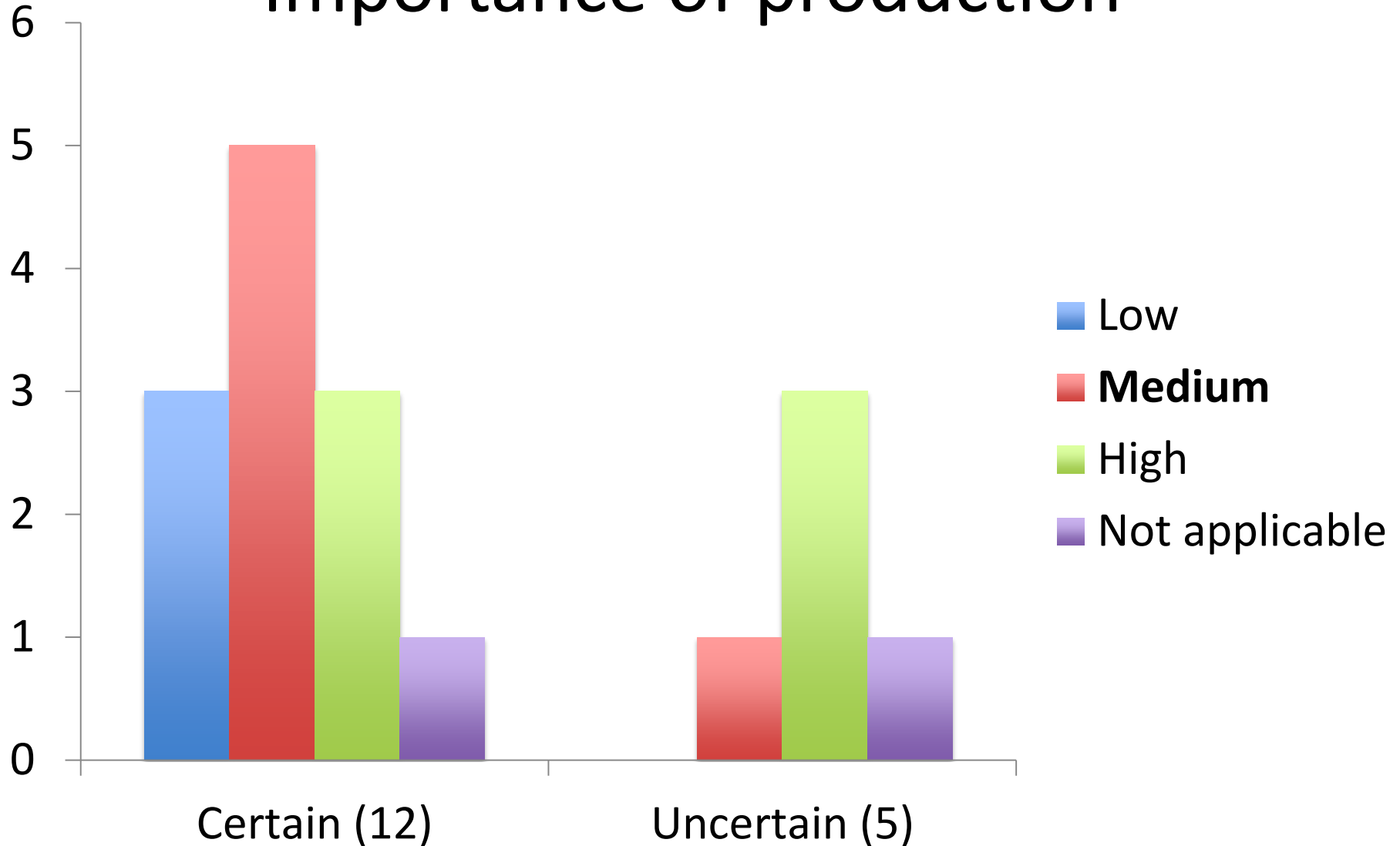
Not sure about „cases“ Test the boundaries, our understanding, give us fresh perspective

Dimensions identified in an iterative process

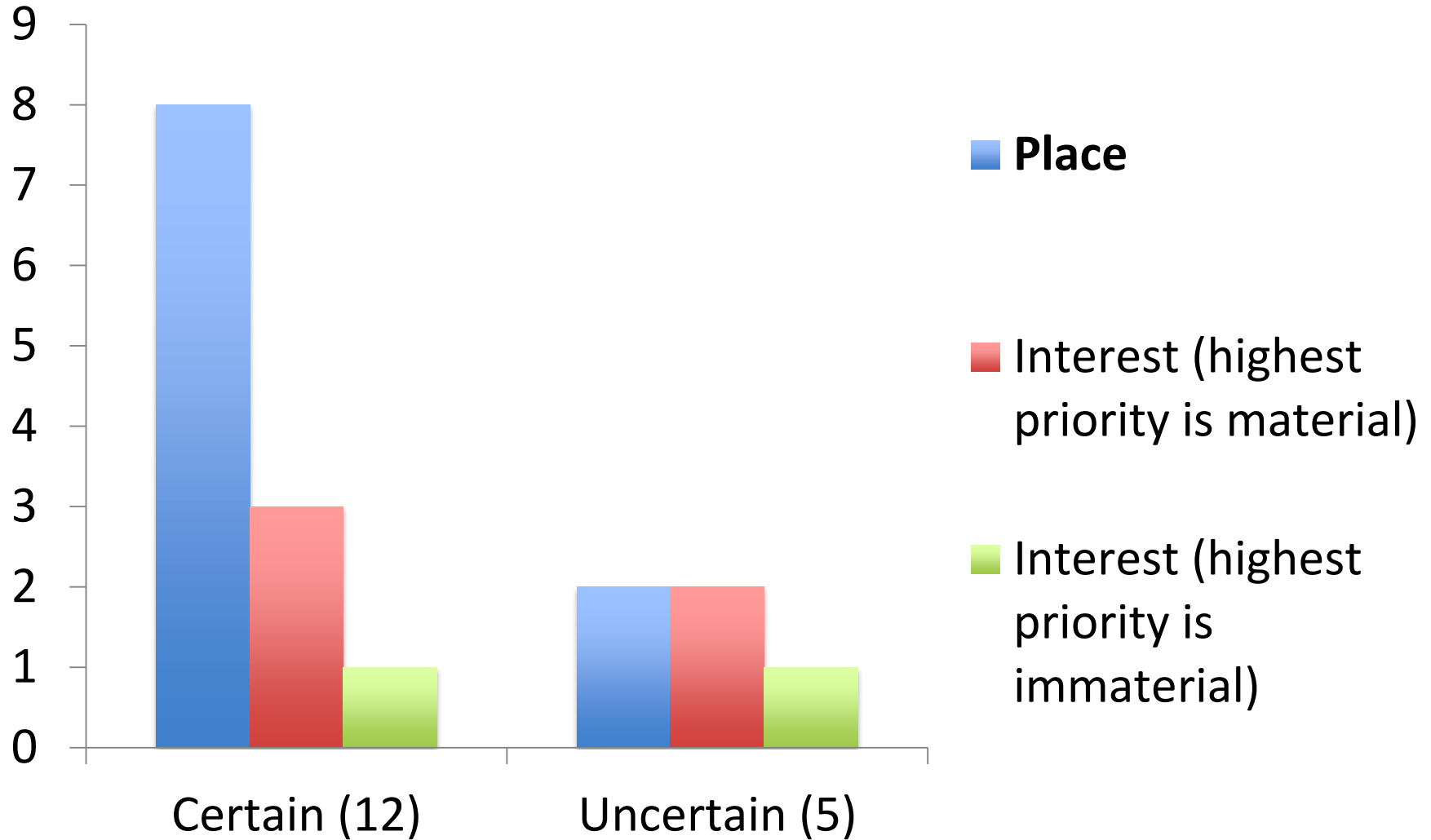
- Forest (6)
- Community forest group = CFG (15)
- Relationship between CFG and forest (13)
- Relationship between CFG and outside world (10)

FOREST

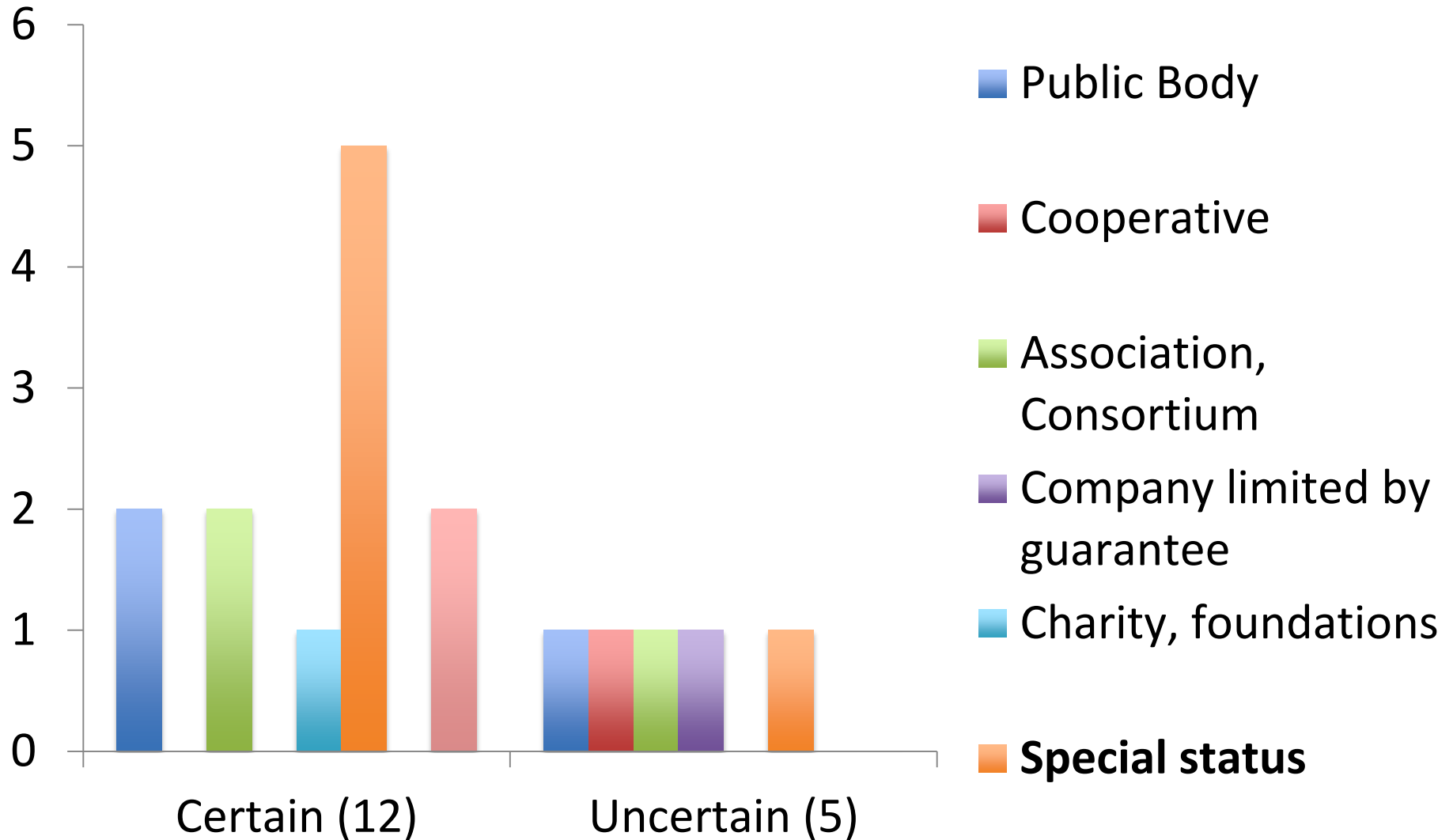
Importance of production



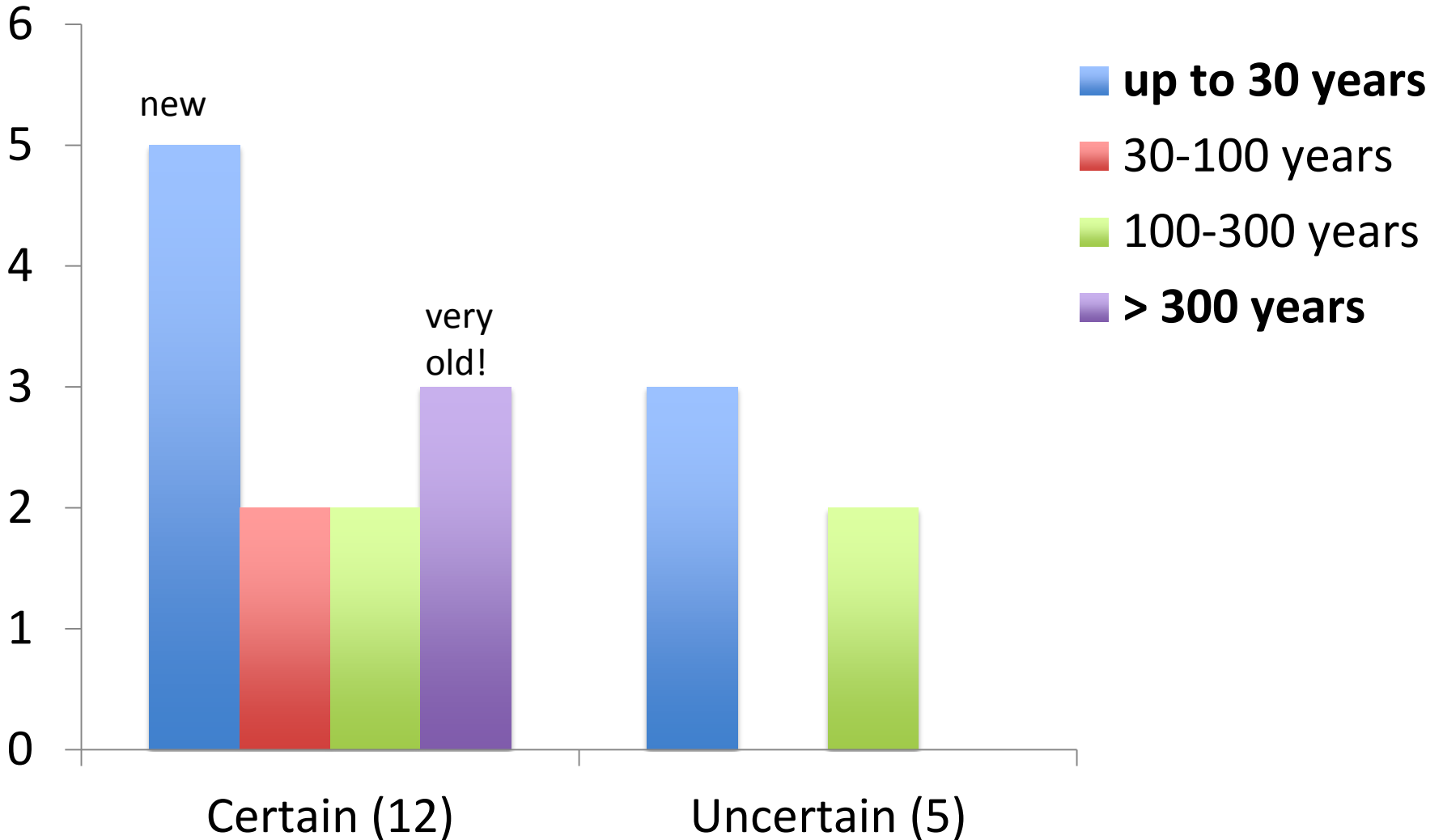
CFG (community forest group) is presently predominantly based on



Legal form of CFG

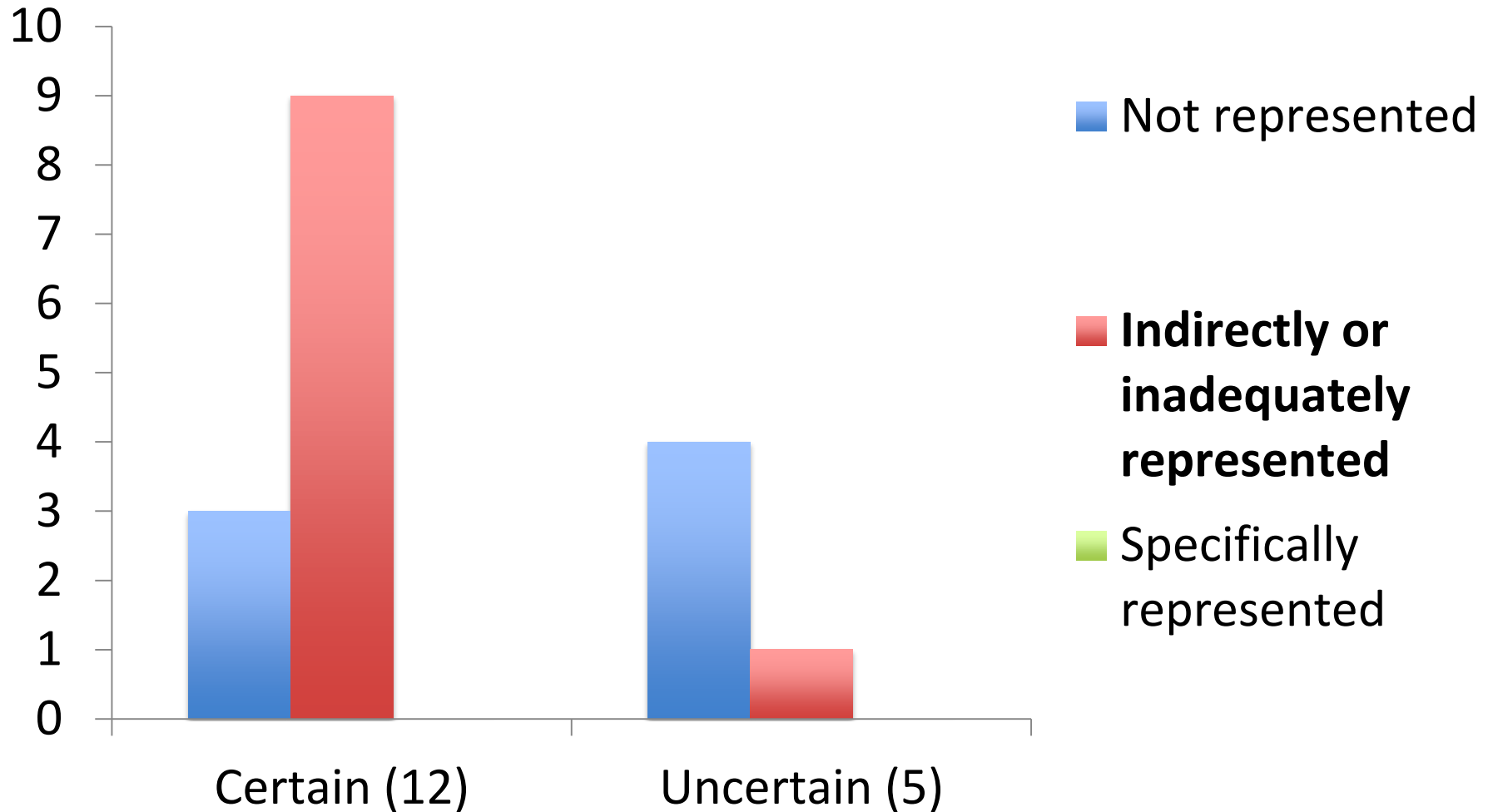


Time of existence



EXTERNAL VISIBILITY

CFG in country official statistics



Certain cases are characterized with ...

**dominance of forests in the total CFG area (→ FC!),
rural/remote location**

are more usually

place-based,

have a **specific legal status,**

are **older and regulate permanence** than uncertain cases

report

an accent to **democratic participation** to CFG functioning

a generally higher **sense of attachment** of its members to FC/CF,

more **land ownership and jointly held rights,**

**lack distribution of dividends in favour of (common) livelihood
objectives**

mechanisms for involving local society in decisions for its functioning;

Significant themes

1. history, change and innovation

- particularly important in the **European context**
- most of those which have survived or newly appeared, have had to **adapt and innovate** to do so

2. 'ownership'

- more **complex** than 'bundle of rights'
- **comes with responsibilities / duties as well as rights**

3. multi-level governance

4. poor visibility → **potential** of these forms **underused**

Lessons ? Added value of FC/ CF ?

- FOREST
 - *Per se* insignificant resource can be referential at the landscape context
 - Provides public roles
- CFG is an **intermediary body** BUT not yet a community itself
 - **Members**
 - are usually **attached but also detached**
 - can function **also without full ownership**
 - **Focus** to the local livelihood, intergenerational ties
 - **Conflicts** due polarization **can be and are mediated.**
 - **A model of self-organization and SFM ?**

Conclusions

- Methods for making sense of diversity and a platform for comparative and reflective research
- Results
 - high **diversity** both between and within 4 EU countries
 - their **added value** is at least in
 - **Multifunctional roles of forest**
 - **Internal mediation of conflicts in a CFG**
 - Time and historical **contexts are crucial**
- Survival of CF/FC is not unproblematic but poorly explored potential.

A photograph of three people standing in front of a wooden building. The person on the left is wearing a white knit hat, sunglasses, and a dark jacket with a fur-lined hood. The person in the middle is wearing a red knit hat, glasses, and a dark jacket. The person on the right is wearing a dark fur-lined hat and a bright blue puffer jacket. The building has horizontal wooden siding and a dark gutter. A stack of firewood is visible on the left side of the image.

PAOLA

Thank You for attention

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and

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