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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 26.8.2010
SEC(2010) 978 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

on the implementation of the Forest Focus scheme according to Regulation (EC) No 2152/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 concerning monitoring of forests and environmental interactions in the Community (Forest Focus)

accompanying document to the

report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Forest Focus scheme according to Regulation (EC) No 2152/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 concerning monitoring of forests and environmental interactions in the Community (ForestFocus) - Final report

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1. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The financial overview of the initial commitments and the final expenditure of the Forest Focus scheme is shown in table 1. The breakdown of the scheme has been done in two main blocks: the monitoring activities, forest fires prevention activities and studies included in the national programmes for 2003 and 2006 and what is considered as the "other use of the Forest Focus budget". This second block includes the mid term review of the Forest Focus Regulation, the experts meetings, the administrative arrangement with the joint Research Centre, the agreement between ICP-forests and the European Commission, the report from the UNECE on the state of forests in Europe 2007 and the conferences organised by the Commission on the results of the demonstration projects and studies.

Table 1. Total budget allocations and final payments¹

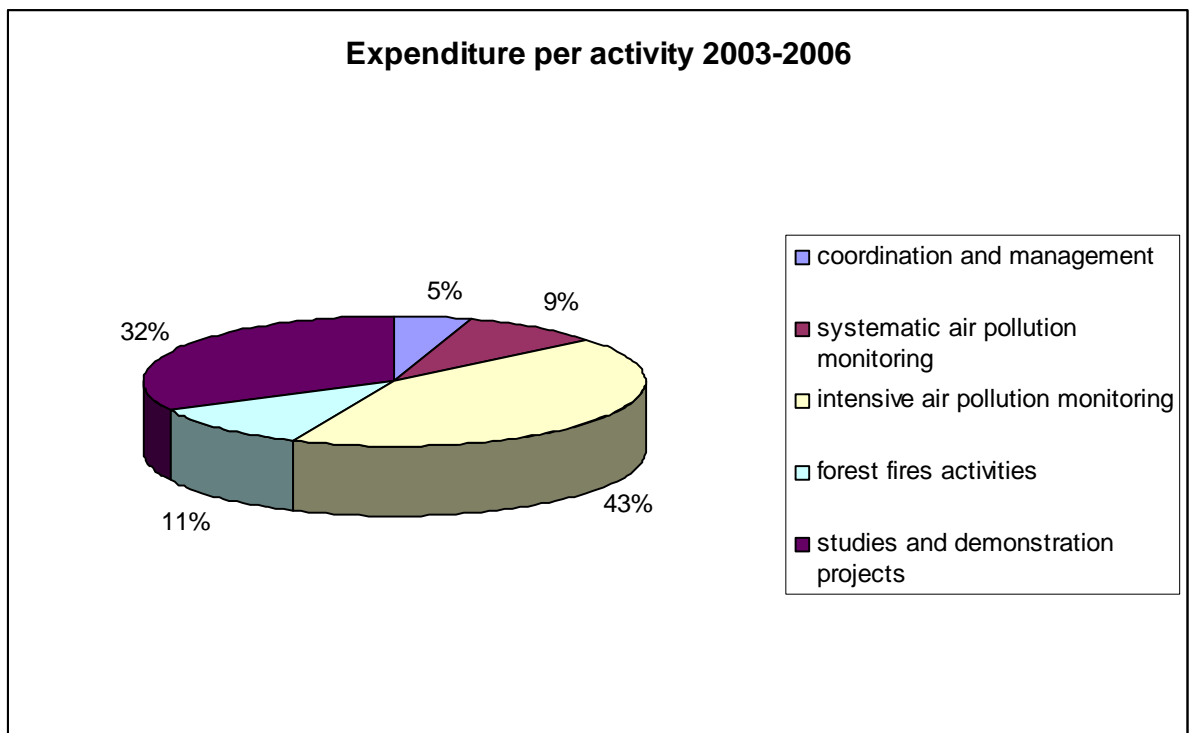
Monitoring Activities and studies from all NP 2003-2006	€committed	€paid
A activities – coordination and management	3.890.786	2.325844,63
B1 – Level I monitoring network	4.682.896	4.009.735,70
B2 – Level II intensive monitoring plots	21.526.698	19.566.344,86
B3 – forest fire prevention activities and EFFIS	9.364.283	5.055.365,85
C – studies and demonstration projects	17.003.559	14.815.015,06
Subtotal 1, allocation for monitoring activities 2003-2006	56.468.222	45.772.306,10
Other use of the Forest Focus budget		
Mid term review of the Forest Focus regulation	326.000,00	326.000,00
Expert meetings on forest monitoring	79.585,80	29.087,71
Administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre: scientific co-ordination body	6.382.000,00	6.382.000
Agreement between ICP-forest and the European Commission	750.000,00	747.067,91
Report from the UNECE on state of forests and sustainable forest in Europe 2007	50.000,00	40.000
Conferences on the results of the C-Studies 2003-2004 & Biosoil	46.093,37	46.093,37

¹ The financial analysis of the scheme has been done in March 2010, considering the results of the French financial audit for the 2003-2004 national programme. It has to be considered that further audits may be undertaken at any time and up to five years after the final payments of the EU contribution to the national programmes.

project		
Subtotal 2, amount committed for agreements and grants	7.587.586	7.570.248,99
Total (subtotal 1 + subtotal 2)	64.055.808	53.342.555,09

Figure 1 shows the rate of expenditure in percentage of each of the activities as grouped within the National Programmes. 43% of the expenditure went to the intensive air pollution monitoring in the 820 selected plots followed by a 32% for the studies and demonstration projects, 11% was spent in forest fires related activities and a relative low rate of the systematic air pollution monitoring in the 6000 level I plots. A 5 % was spent for the coordination and management of the national programmes.

Fig.1. Rate of expenditure per activity for the 4 year period 2003-2006

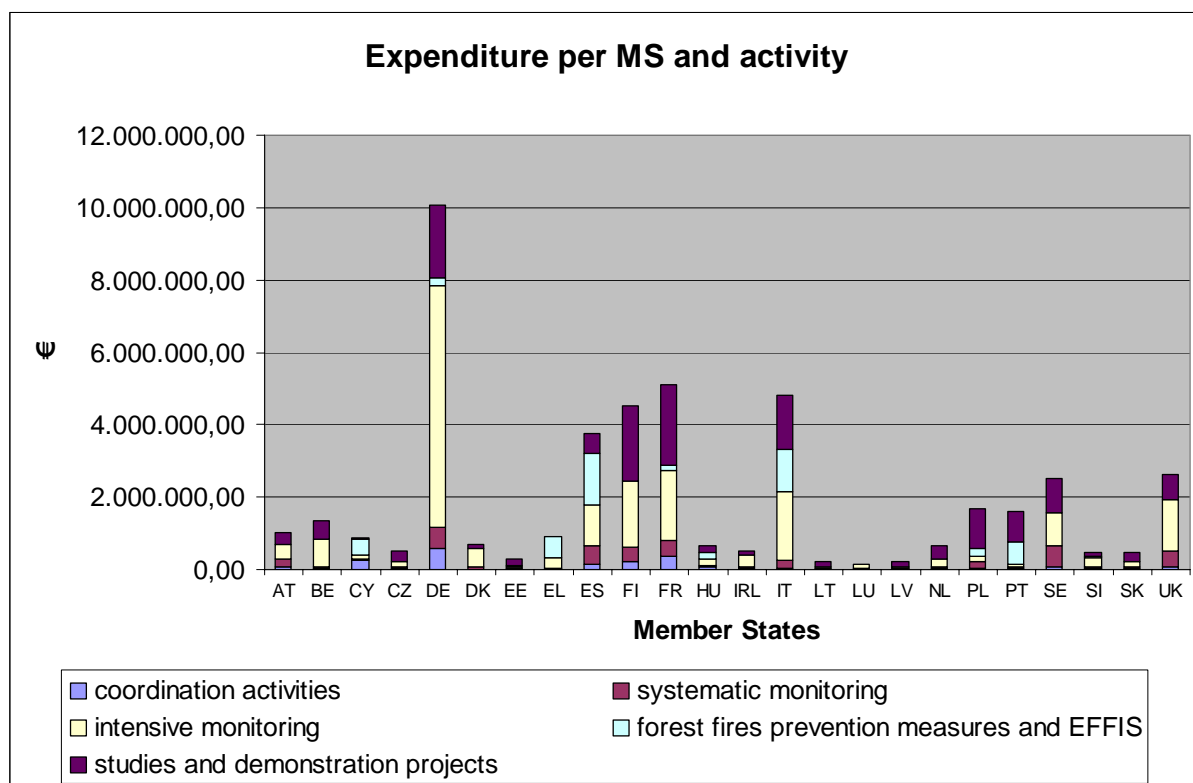


Absolute final expenditure per MS and activity

The final expenditure by Member State and by activity included in the national programmes is shown in figure 2. Most of the MS spent higher amounts in the intensive monitoring and less in the 16 x 16 km systematic network. Several MS used as well a considerable part of the budget for drafting studies and demonstration projects.

The higher absolute amount for a MS reached the 10 million € meanwhile, the minimum was a bit more than 130,000 € and the average around 1.9 million €

Figure 2. Expenditure per MS and activity.



Studies and demonstration projects

The studies and demonstration projects can be grouped into 3 main categories; Biosoil, forest fires studies and other studies. The Biosoil demonstration study included two modules: the biodiversity module and the soil module with data from both the level I and level II networks.

Other studies include studies on genetic diversity, biodiversity indicators, carbon, pest management etc.

Table 2. Breakdown of the costs for the studies and demonstration projects.

C studies	€committed	€paid
Biosoil	10.698.409,00	10.014.338,89
Forest fire studies	2.327.587,00	1.208.019,37
Other studies (biodiversity, climate change, genetics, etc)	3.977.565,00	3.592.656,80
Total	17.003.561	14.815.015,06

Forest fires activities

Forest fire related activities such as preventive works, awareness raising campaigns, trainings etc were performed in 13 MS. 5 million € have been spent in fire prevention measures, awareness raising campaigns, special trainings and EFFIS activities at the same time more than 1.2 million € has been spent in studies on forest fire causes, dynamics as well as on their impacts as shown in figures 3 and 4.

Figure 3. Forest fires related expenditure.

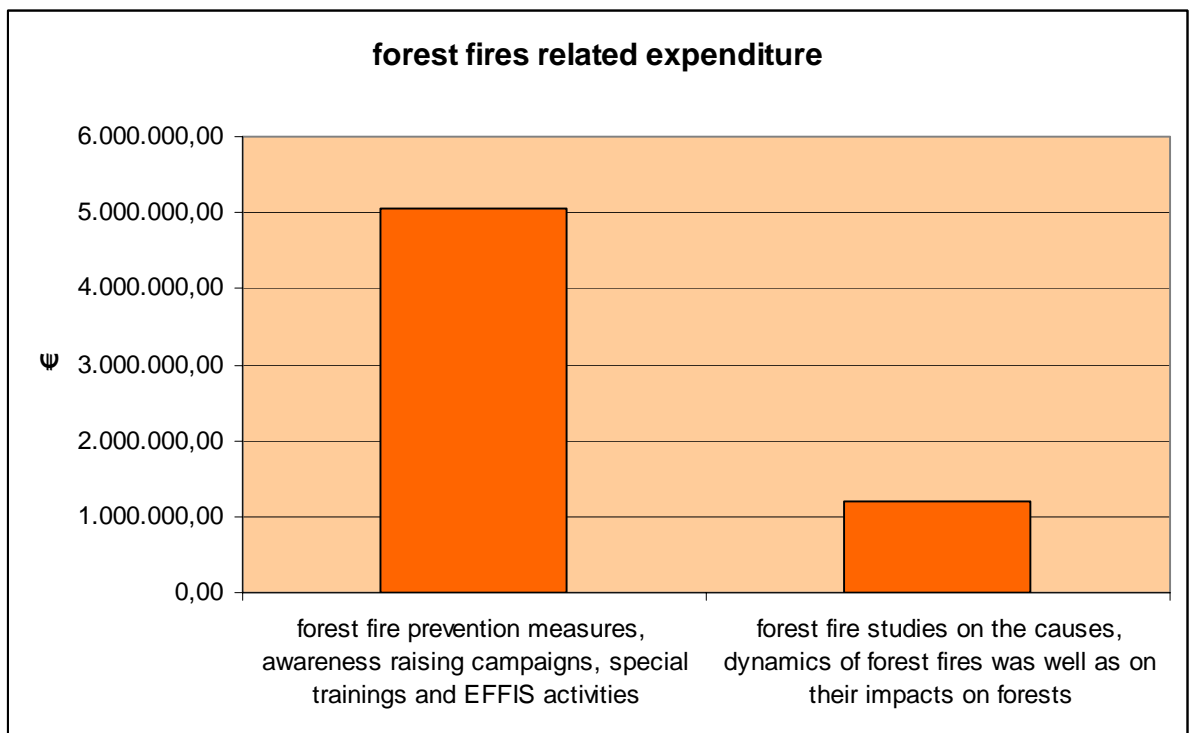
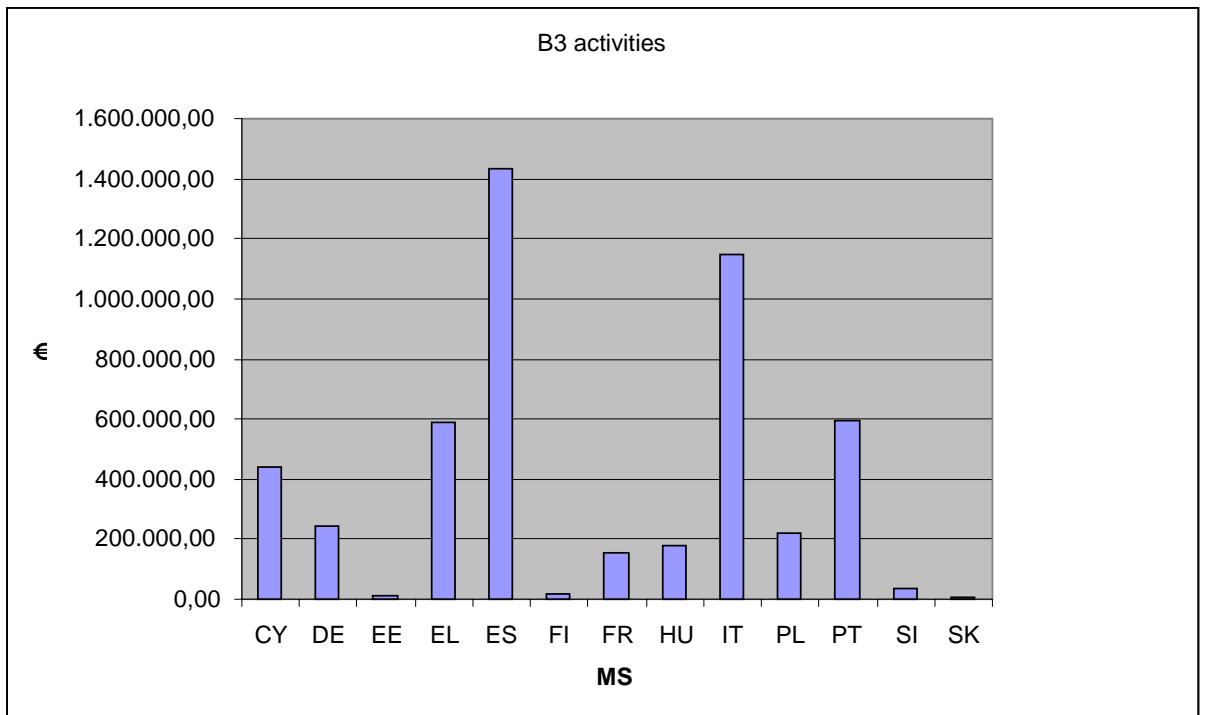


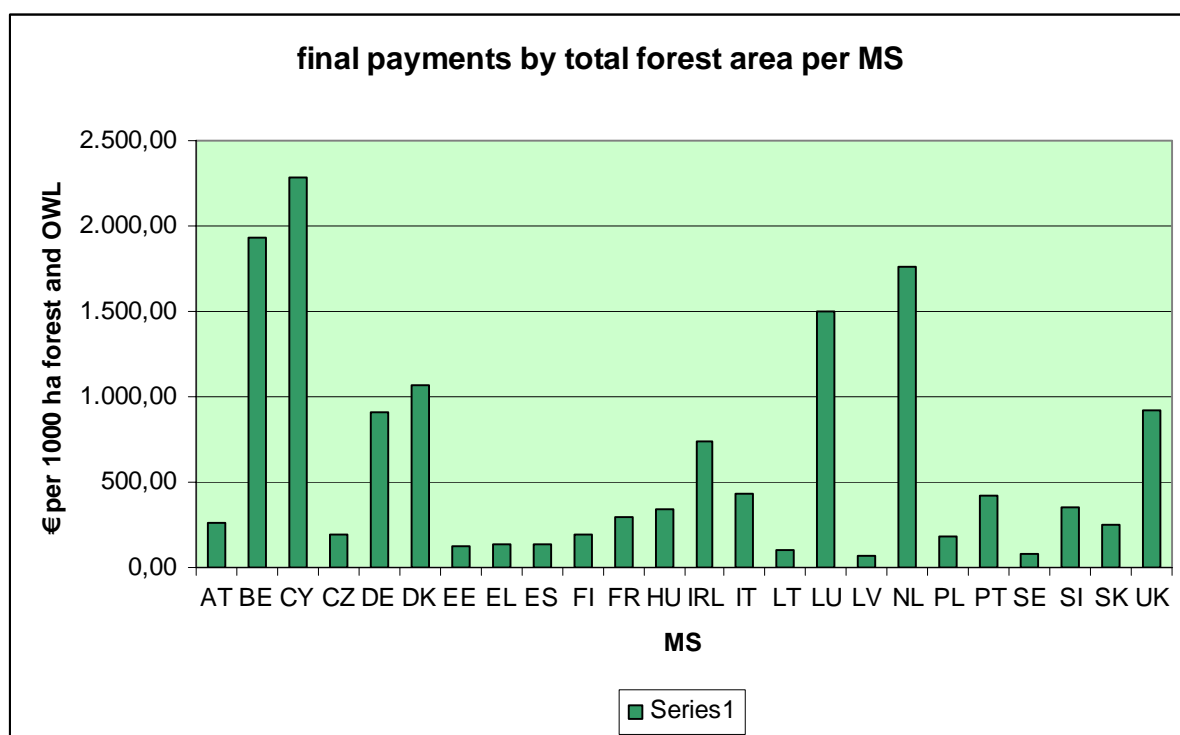
Figure 4. Expenditure by MS for the forest fire prevention activities 2003-2006



Final consumption per 1000 ha of forest and other wooded land

An assessment of the final consumption per MS divided by each MS forest and other wooded land area² per 1000 ha is shown in figure 5. The total expenditure of the national programmes show that the higher amounts spent per 1000 ha of forest and other wooded land reached 2,250 € in Cyprus and the minimum amount accounted for less than 500 € in 16 MS.

Figure 5. Final payments by 1000 ha of forest area per MS.

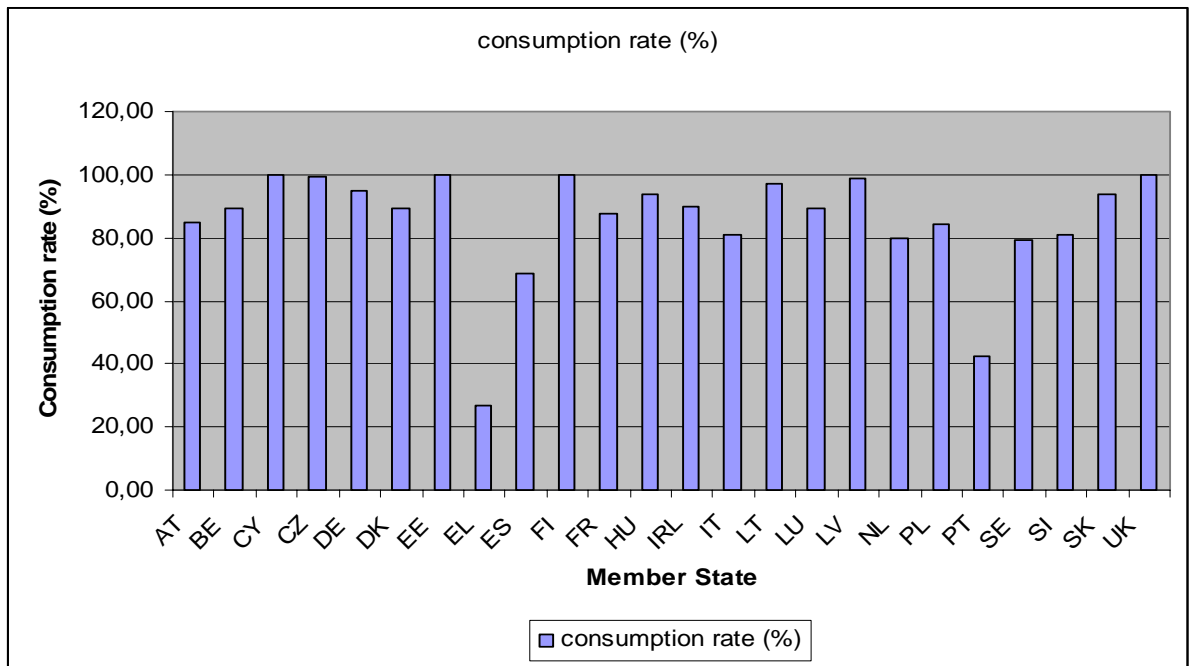


Consumption rate

The consumption rate, calculated as the final expenditure over the initial commitment, shows a high rate of implementation of the scheme and a proper use of the committed funds. A considerable number of MS had a rate above an 80% meanwhile only 2 MS performed below the 50%.

² Key figures taken from the Green paper on forest protection and information SWD: SEC (2010) 163

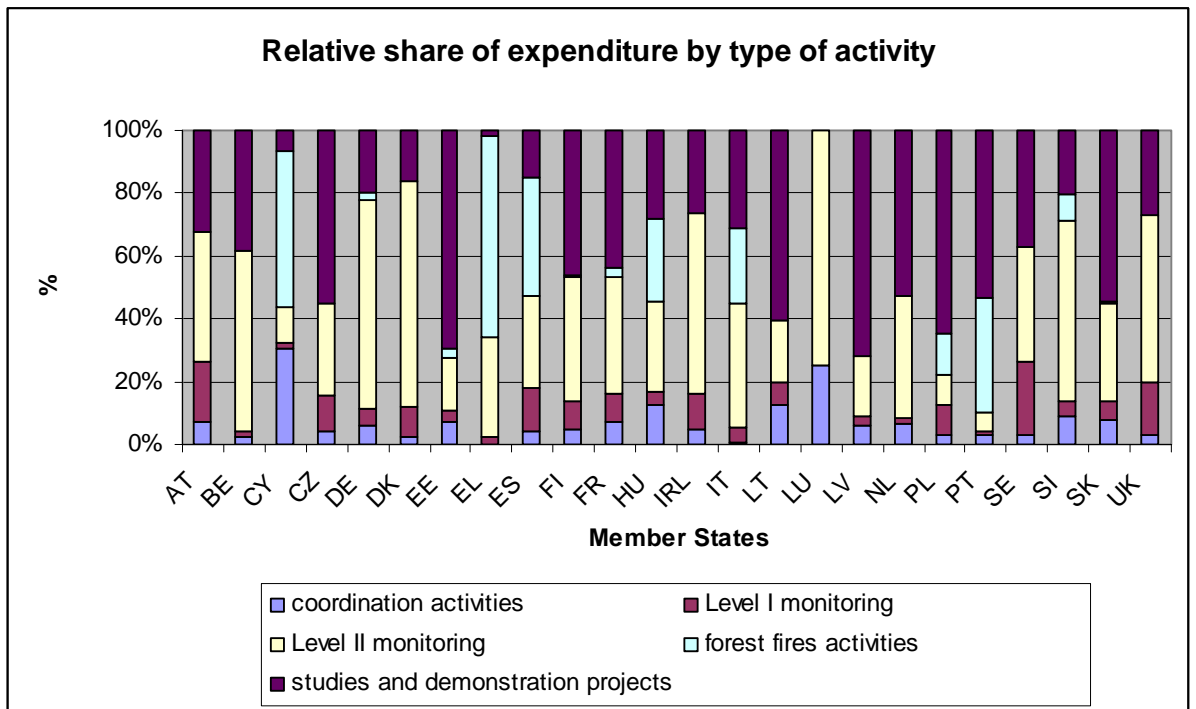
Fig 6. Consumption rate of the national programmes by Member State 2003-2006



Relative share of expenditure

The analysis of the relative share of expenditure per type of activity and MS is shown in figure 7. It is observed that from the activities included in the national programmes the intensive monitoring with the studies and demonstration projects took a great part of the funds. Only some MS used the Forest Focus scheme for forest fires related activities but for some of them it constituted a very important part of their national programmes (i.e. Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Hungary, Italy and Portugal).

Fig. 7. Relative share of expenditure by type of activity.



Annex 1. National codes used in Forest Focus as designated by the Member States.

MS	Country	Region	MS	Country	Region
AT	Austria	National	EL	Greece	National
BE-FL	Belgium	Flemish Region	ES	Spain	National
BE-WL	Belgium	Walloon Region	FI	Finland	National
CY	Cyprus	National	FR	France	National
CZ	Czech Republic	National	HU	Hungary	National
DK	Denmark	National	IE	Ireland	National
DE-BFH	Germany	Federal Level	IT	Italy	National
DE-BB	Germany	Brandenburg	LT	Lithuania	National
DE-BE	Germany	Berlin	LV	Latvia	National
DE-BW	Germany	Baden-Württemberg	LU	Luxembourg	National
DE-BY	Germany	Bayern	NL	The Netherlands	National
DE-HE	Germany	Hessen	PL	Poland	National
DE-MV	Germany	Mecklenburg - Vorpommern	PT-AZ	Portugal	Azores
DE-NI	Germany	Niedersachsen	PT-C	Portugal	Continent
DE-NRW	Germany	Nordrhein-Westfalen	SE	Sweden	National
DE-RP	Germany	Rheinland- Pfalz	SI	Slovenia	National
DE-SAAR	Germany	Saarland	SE	Sweden	National
DE-SH	Germany	Schleswig Holstein	SK	Slovakia	National

DE-SN	Germany	Sachsen	UK	United Kingdom	National
DE-ST	Germany	Sachsen-Anhalt			
DE-TH	Germany	Thüringen			
EE	Estonia	National			

Annex 2 List of Forest Focus studies and demonstration projects 2003-2006:

MS	Description
DK	Forest Biota (Forest Biodiversity Test-phase Assessments) http://www.forestbiota.org/
DK	Synthesis of litterfall monitoring in Denmark 1985-2006
SE	Biodiversity indicators in national forest inventories http://www.resgeom.slu.se/resana/projekt/common/default.htm (Com Mon) comparison and evaluation of methods for monitoring of deadwood, vegetation, epiphytic lichens and stand structure in European forests
SE	Collection of precipitation in winter
AT	Soil-bio-Params – analysis of basic soil parameters, effects on soil storage
AT	Biodiversity indicators in national forest inventories - review and monitoring and assessing forest structure as an indicator of biodiversity in NFI
EL	Forest Biota
FI	monitoring biodiversity in boreal forests
FI	Monitoring changes in the carbon stocks of forest soils
FI	The role of under-storey vegetation, forest litterfall and forest floor in the carbon and nitrogen fluxes of boreal coniferous forest ecosystems
FI	Laboratory ring test for deposition and soil solution
FI	Forest Biota
ES	Ozone monitoring coordination - website of ozone injury on European forests ecosystems: http://www.ozoneinjury.org/
ES	Forest Biota
ES	Forest fire causes, motivation of forest arson fires in Spain http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/sevilla-2007/contributions/doc/SESIONES_Tematicas/ST4/Barroso_Gonzalez_SPAIN_EURAL.pdf

IT	forest fire causes
IT	Canadian fire weather index
IT	Ozone flux
IT	Working ring test
IT	HARMODEPO
IT	ForestBiota
IT	GMO and Biodiversity
IT	Biorefugia - response of tree species to climate change
IT	Carbon flux
PT	forest fire causes in continental Portugal
PT	Implementing an operational methodology for biodiversity monitoring in Portuguese forests http://www.isa.utl.pt/ceabn/content/2/155/implementing-operational-methodology-biodiversity-monitoring-portuguese-forests/
PT	Forest Biota
UK	Use of tree nurseries for monitoring visible ozone injury
UK	Quality assurance - crown condition
UK	Improvement of modelling of catchment water dynamics
D-BFH	ForestBiota
D-BY	Soil respiration
D-BY	genetic characterisation of beech forest stands
D-BW	carbon stocks - soil
D-BW	Small scale variability of humus types
D-BB	Simulation model carbon balance
D-BB	Regionalization of soil change due to a lowering of the water table
D-BB	Fine root inventory on soil profile pit

D-BB	genetic diversity
D-NW	monitoring epiphytic lichens
D-NW	carbon stocks monitoring
D-HE	genetic diversity - beech stands
D-HE	litterfall and carbon cycles
D-HE	carbon stocks - soil
D-NI	carbon stocks - soil
D-NI	carbon flux
D-NI	working ring test
D-SH	epiphyte monitoring
D-SN	regionalisation of soil data
D-SN	epiphyte monitoring
D-SN	forest fire - ecological and economic impacts
D-RP	remote sensing - habitats and structures
D-RP	genetic diversity - beech stands
NL	Assessment of the relative importance of N deposition, climate change and forest management on the sequestration of carbon by forests in Europe (predicting changes in forest growth and carbon sequestration)
FR	forest fire - moisture content of Mediterranean wildland fuels
FR	forest fire - fire ignition
FR	fungal pathogens
FR	integrated pest management through monitoring
FR	humus sampling
FR	forest soil biodiversity
FR	fungi and lichens monitoring

FR	Working ring test
BE-VL	forest soil biodiversity
BE-VL	forest soil survey design and harmonisation
BE-WA	ENFIN - National Forest Inventories
EL	Economic evaluation
FR	Moisture content wild land fuels
FR	Valorisation geographical Information
FR	Forest fires and biodiversity
HU	Development of public relations
IT	Identification causes, dynamic
IT	Assessing fire risk Molise
IT	Methodology fire dynamic
PL	Assessing fire risk and spread
PL	Prevention by road firebelts
PT - cont	Forest fire prevention
	Biosoil soil module
	Biosoil biodiversity module

Annex 3. Studies coordinated by the Joint Research Centre

Studies coordinated by the JRC
Support to the technical coordination of the Biosoil project and central laboratory
Climate change impact and carbon sequestration in European forests
Development of a simple and efficient method field assessment of forest fire severity
Use of National Forest Inventories to downscale European forest diversity spatial information in five test areas, covering different geo-physical and geo botanical conditions

Harmonizing NFI in Europe
Development of harmonised indicators and estimation procedures for forests with protective functions against natural hazards in the alpine space
Linking and harmonizing the forests spatial patterns analyses at European, National and Regional scales for a better characterization of the forests vulnerability and resilience
Elaboration of a field guide of the forest monitoring in the context of the F Focus Reg. and evaluation of the field sampling schemes

<http://forest.jrc.ec.europa.eu/studies-a-research-projects/forest-focus>