

PRIVATE FOREST OWNER EXPECTATIONS OF INTEREST ASSOCIATIONS: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN SLOVENIA AND BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

OČEKIVANJA PRIVATNIH ŠUMOPOSJEDNIKA OD INTERESNIH UDRUŽENJA:
KOMPARATIVNA ANALIZA IZMEĐU SLOVENIJE I BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE

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ABSTRACT: Private forests in Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are important resources for national economic development. Based on differences in the proportion of private forests, the countries differ substantially with regard to the role of private forest owners, as well as the conditions of owner interest associations in the forest policy processes. Since private forest owners are so diverse, there is a need to better understand their expectation for interest associations. Surveys were conducted in 2008 on random samples of private forest owners in Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to examine the factors affecting their expectations. The study examined seven categories of expectations: silvicultural advice, harvesting advice, information about timber markets, information about legal regulations, information about strengthening entrepreneurship, support of forest road construction/maintenance and forest management training. Seven models were developed to examine the factors affecting each category of expectations. The results reveal that socio-demographic characteristics of private forest owners, ownership structure, and property conditions were associated with expectations. Three models (silvicultural advice, strengthening entrepreneurship and support of forest road construction/maintenance) were statistically significant in both countries. The strongest factor that influences the expectations for Slovenian private forest owners was education while in Bosnia-Herzegovina it was property size. Gender did not influence expectations of private forest owners in either country. Understanding the underlying factors influencing private forest owner expectations could aid in developing appropriate forest policy instruments to support owner cooperation within interest associations and improve private forest management.

Key words: private forests, interest associations, private forest owner expectations, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina

INTRODUCTION – Uvod

Global processes such as transitioning to a market economy and democratization have affected the forestry

sectors in South-East European countries during the past few decades. These countries faced an unprecedented scale of socio-political changes in a relatively short period. Some, such as Slovenia, passed through the transition with relative ease and already have consolidated their positions within the EU. Conversely, countries like Bosnia-Herzegovina are still struggling to overcome the challenges associated with the new social, economical, and political realities. All countries endeavouring to become members of the EU must adapt their institutions

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and legal matters to European standards, including forestry. Due to the fact that more than one-half of Europe's forests are privately owned, significantly contributing to wood supply, private forest ownership has a central position in almost all European forest policy debates (Schmithüsen and Hirsch, 2010).

The long period of centrally planned economies in South-East European countries hindered the development of scientifically-based knowledge on private forest issues. During the period of socialism, private forests largely were unattended and even abandoned by both national forest policy makers and forest owners. With political change and the associated processes (e.g., privatisation, restitution, denationalisation), private forest ownership now is an emerging topic in national forest policy. At the same time, the complexity of international forest policy processes resulted in new modes of forest management in which private forest owners are mobilised as a very strong interest group at the national and international levels. The demands of society on forests, including those in private ownership, are changing rapidly, increasing the urgency for improved forest conditions. Thus, the formation of interest associations is one among the solutions for private forest owners but also a logical reaction to the increasing societal demands on private forests. However, private forest owners have not established interest associations in some South-East European countries; their fate still rests mainly with public forest administration. This is not in accordance with Pluralistic theory, according to which interests groups are reflection of the society with the various interests of its members (Truman, 1951). This theory also does not explain why private forest owners are not organized in these countries. According to the Theory of Collective Action (Olson, 1965), rational behaving individuals support an organisation that works for the interest of its members. On the other hand, if the number of potential members (in this case private forest owners) is very large, individuals behave quite rationally if they do not join interest associations – they simply benefit as “free riders”. The phenomenon of membership in private forest owner interest associations and particularly the expectations that members have from such associations is a core research problem discussed in this paper.

Compared to central and western Europe, few studies have addressed this problem in South-East European

countries. A number of analysts have compared private forests in several European countries, presenting different aspects of private forest ownership, management, and policy, including the issue of private forest owner interest associations (Grayson, 1993; Niskanen and Väyrynen, 2001; Hirsch et. al., 2007; Hägglund, 2008; Schmithüsen and Hirsch, 2010 *ibid.*).

More recently, several authors have explored the issue of private forest owner associations in South-East European countries, including the preconditions for establishing independent interest associations and member expectations (Pezdevšek Malovrh et. al, 2011; Nonić et. al, 2011; Avdibegović et. al, 2010a; Avdibegović et. al, 2010b; Glück et. al, 2010a; Glück et. al, 2010b, Pezdevšek Malovrh et. al, 2010a; Pezdevšek Malovrh, 2010b; Milijić et. al, 2010; Pezdevšek Malovrh, 2006; Pezdevšek Malovrh, 2005). Nevertheless, a significant lack of knowledge on private forest ownership persists in these countries, particularly knowledge gained from comparative studies. Specific deficiencies in previous studies include understanding the expectations of private forest owners regarding interest associations (e.g. advices, services, lobbying etc.) and the socio-demographic characteristics affecting their expectations.

Private forests are important resources for national economic development for both Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly in rural areas. Based on the differences in the share of private forests (roughly 70 % of all forests in Slovenia and only 20 % in Bosnia-Herzegovina), the experiences with private forest owner associations are quite different. Slovenian private forest owners are relatively well organized by associations, while private forest owners in Bosnia-Herzegovina are poorly represented in national forest policy deliberations due to the lack of independent interest associations. Comparing the demands of private forest owners on their interest associations in Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina can offer important information for key national forest policy actors, public forest administration, and private forest owners (particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina). Thus, the purpose of this paper is to identify the expectations of private forest owners for their interest associations in these two countries as well as understand how socio-demographic characteristics, ownership structure, and property conditions affect these expectations.

METHODS OF RESEARCH – Metode Istraživanja

Similar quantitative surveys were administered to private forest owners in Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina with some variation to account for country-specific conditions. The surveys questioned owners about a range of issues related to private forest owners and management: gender, age, education, ownership struc-

ture, property size, fragmentation, harvesting activities, and expectations of their interest associations. The data were obtained from personal face-to-face interviews with randomly selected private forest owners.

The surveys were conducted with some basic sample design concepts:

- Because the majority of private forest owners in Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina neither play an important role in national forest policy processes nor have a strong economic interests in managing their forests, the target population consisted of all private forest owners, not only the so called “active” ones.
- Personal data about private forest owners (name, address, attributes of their property, etc.) were identified from the Land and Property Register in Slovenia and from local forest authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- Sample size was adequate to achieve a 5 % sampling error at the 95 % confidence level.

A systematic random sample was developed for the entire private forest owner population of Slovenia, although the primary focus was on selected forest management units of the Slovenian Forest Service where private forest owner associations exist. In order to identify 690 owners for interviews, owners were divided in strata according to property size (up to 0.99 ha, from 1 to 4.99 ha, from 5 to 9.99 ha, from 10 to 29.99 ha, and more than 30 ha). The sample within strata was disproportionate to the property structure of Slovenian private forests (Forest management plans for regional units 2000–2010). Within each stratum, owners were divided into two groups of equal size: owners who were members of interest associations and those who were not. The questionnaire was pre-tested in 2007 and the survey was conducted from May 2008 through May 2009. The sample used in the analyses consisted of 322 owners, or a response rate of 46,6 %. (Pezdevšek Malovrh, 2010b *ibid*).

The random sample for the door-to-door survey in Bosnia-Herzegovina was drawn from overlapping areas with the highest percentage of forest areas and the highest share of private forests. This ensured that the bulk of private forest owners were included. All municipalities in Bosnia-Herzegovina were ranked by these two criteria, so the most representative municipalities (five in the Republic of Srpska and four in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina) were identified. In order to identify 350 respondents to be interviewed, the list of all local communities (settlements), within 9 selec-

ted municipalities was created. In total, 35 settlements were randomly chosen from the list of all local communities (settlements) within the 9 aforementioned municipalities. We cooperated closely with the public forest administration and forest guards in the field to create lists of all private forest owners in each settlement, as well as to contact 10 per settlement once they were randomly selected from the lists. The questionnaire was pre-tested in March 2008 and the survey was conducted in May and June 2008.

All data were summarized by descriptive statistics, frequency distributions, and selected measures of location and dispersion (mean and standard deviation). Multivariate logistic regression (logit models) (Hosmer and Lemeshow, 2000) was used to assess how certain forest owners and management characteristics were related to their expectations of interest associations, by means of the Enter algorithm (Field, 2009). The following expectations of private forest owners from their interest associations were evaluated as dependent variables: (i) silvicultural advice, (ii) harvesting advice, (iii) information about timber markets, (iv) information about legal regulations, (v) information about strengthening entrepreneurship, (vi) support of forest road construction/maintenance and (vii) forest management training. Each dependent variable had binary (dichotomous) responses (1 = owners expect service from interest association; 0 = owners do not expect service from interest association). Separate logistic regression analyses were conducted for each dependent variable. The following independent variables were evaluated in logit models: (i) gender, (ii) age (less than 50, more than 50), (iii) education (primary school or less, high school, university or more), (iv) forest property size (less than 1 ha, more than 1 ha), (v) fragmentation (consolidate, fragmented), (vi) form of ownership (sole holder, joint ownership) and (vii) harvesting activities (harvest, do not harvest). Before running the analysis, we assessed the data for multicollinearity, using variation inflation factors (VIFs), which ensure that no high correlations exist when one independent variable is regressed on the other. The results of the diagnostics revealed that collinearity was not significant (no VIF exceeded 10).

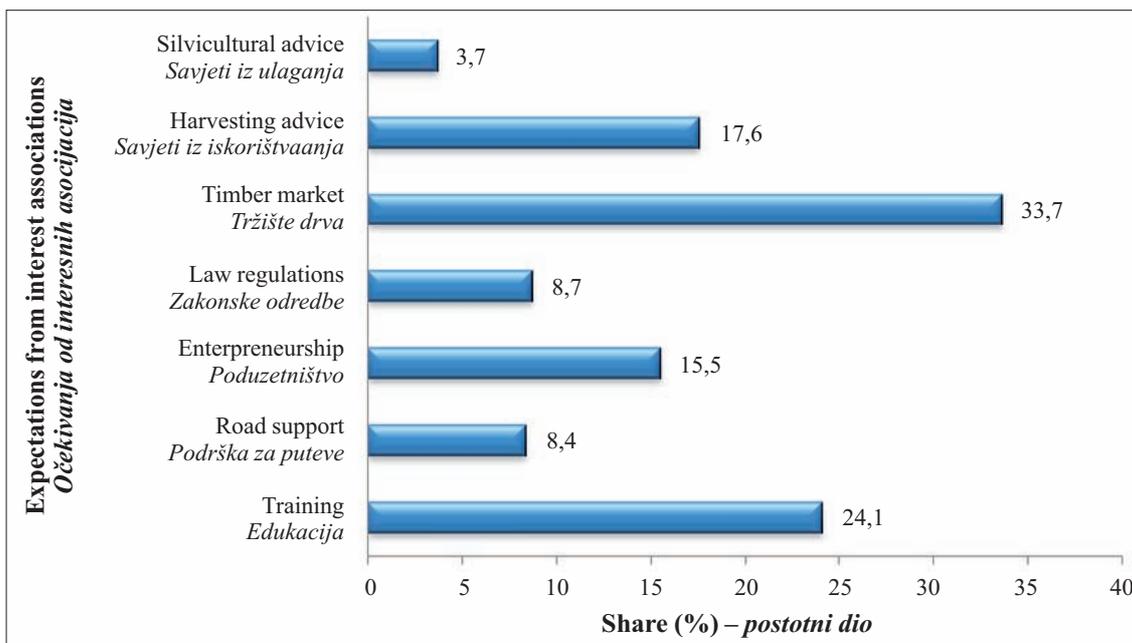
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION – Rezultati i diskusija

Expectations of private forest owners of interest associations

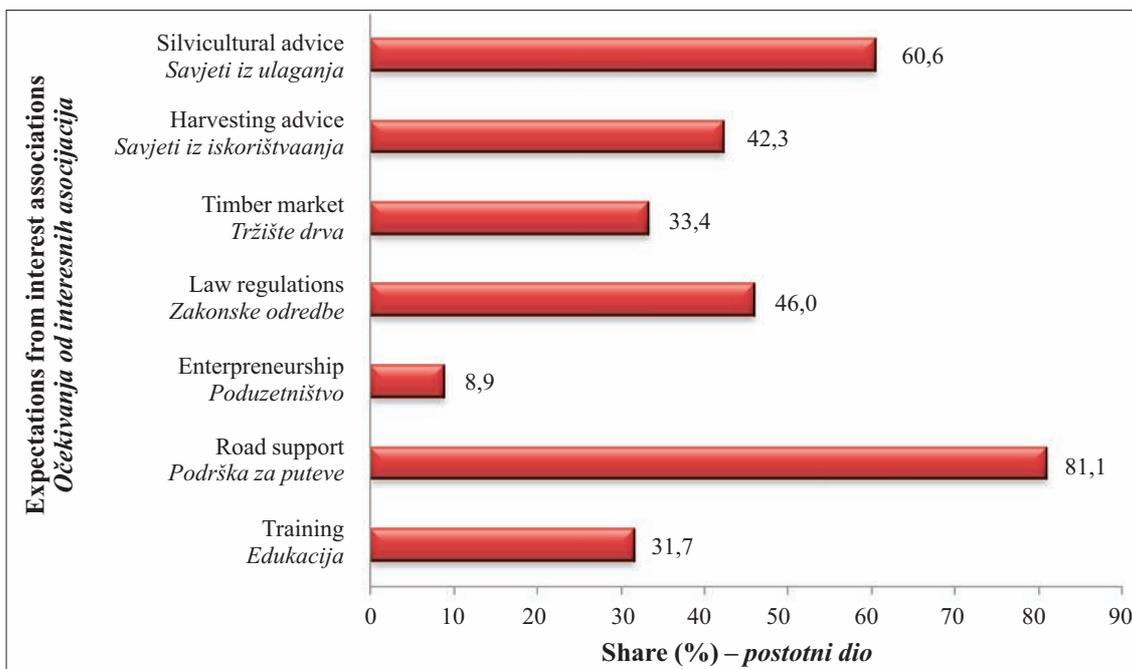
Očekivanja privatnih šumoposjednika od interesnih asocijacija

The results show that private forest owners in both countries have very clear expectations of their interest associations. The expectations vary by country, however (Graph 1 and 2), not only because of differences in private forest owner preferences but also due to the different type of question used in country-specific questionnaires. Slovenian owners were asked “From which institutions do you expect the services/advice (e.g., sil-

vicultural and harvesting advice, training etc.)”, while private forest owners in Bosnia-Herzegovina were asked “Which service/advice do you expect from private forest owner interest associations”. In general, this has led to the lower absolute value of the results in Slovenia compared to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In both cases, multiple answers were obtained.



Graph 1. Expectations of private forest owners in Slovenia of their interest associations
Grafikon 1 Očekivanja privatnih šumoposjednika u Sloveniji od njihovih interesnih asocijacija



Graph 2. Expectations of private forest owners in Bosnia-Herzegovina of their interest associations
Grafikon 2 Očekivanja privatnih šumoposjednika u Bosni i Hercegovini od njihovih interesnih asocijacija

Slovenian private forest owners were most interested in information about timber markets and forest management training; private forest owners in Bosnia-Herzegovina were most likely to expect support for forest road construction and maintenance as well as silvicultural advice. The most pronounced expectations of Slovenian private forest owners can be explained by the fact that the traditionally powerful Slovenia Forest Service is focused mainly on supporting forest management planning, harvesting, and silviculture. Private forest owners, therefore, are mainly oriented to the as-

sociations as a source of additional support on timber markets and training. Because of the extremely low density of forest roads in Bosnian forests, the expectation of private forest owners for support in forest road construction and maintenance is quite reasonable. Relatively high interest for silvicultural advice can be explained by the prevailing pattern of services offered to private forest owners by the Public forest administration (forest offices), which consists mainly of facilitating the necessary administrative procedures related to forest utilization.

Multivariate logistic regression – Multivarijantna logistička regresija

The results of the multivariate logistic regression *p value* are presented in Table 1 for Slovenia and in models reflecting expectations of private forest owners Table 2 for Bosnia-Herzegovina toward interest associations including *b coefficient* and

Table 1. Results of multivariate logistic regression – Slovenia
 Tablica 1 Rezultati multivarijantne logističke regresije – Slovenija

Variables/Varijable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7
Coefficient/Koeficijent							
Constant/Konstantan	0,096	0,544	-	-	1,073	-0,253	-
Gender/Spol							
Male/Muški	-0,467	-0,323	-	-	-0,424	0,298	-
Female/Ženski	1,000	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Age/Starost							
Less than 50/Manje od 50	0,486**	-0,486***	-	-	-0,082	-0,106	-
More than 50/Više od 50	1,000	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Education/Obrazovanje							
Primary school or less Osnovna škola ili niže	1,000	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
High school/Srednja škola	-0,913**	-0,887**	-	-	-0,876**	-0,174	-
University or more/Fakultet ili više	-0,548	-1,060**	-	-	-0,864**	-0,828**	-
Form of ownership/Tip vlasništva							
Sole holder/Jedan vlasnik	0,918***	0,702***	-	-	0,065	0,325	-
Joint ownership/Zajedničko vlasništvo	1,000	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Property size/Veličina posjeda							
Less than 1 ha/Manje od 1 ha	0,717	-1,539**	-	-	0,081	0,633	-
More than 1 ha/Više od 1 ha	1,000	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Fragmentation/Fragmentiranost							
Consolidate/U jednom komadu	-0,051	-0,206	-	-	-0,143	-0,487**	-
Fragmented/Fragmentiran	1,000	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Harvesting/Sječa							
Harvest/Sijeku	-1,193***	0,337	-	-	-0,614**	0,162	-
Do not harvest/Ne sijeku	1,000	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Statistics/Statistika							
χ^2	57,438	37,609	6,070	13,940	19,725	21,045	12,451
p value/p vrijednost	0,000	0,000	0,639	0,083	0,011	0,007	0,132
Observations correctly predicted (%) Korektno predviđene observacije (%)	63,0	61,9	-	-	57,5	58,3	-
R ² (Cox & Snell)	0,111	0,083	-	-	0,044	0,044	-
R ² (Nagelkerke)	0,155	0,111	-	-	0,059	0,059	-

** Variables are significant at $p < 0,05$; *** Variables are significant at $p < 0,001$
 ** Varijable su signifikantne kod $p < 0,05$; *** Varijable su signifikantne kod $p < 0,001$

Four models were statistically significant in Slovenia – Model 1: silvicultural advice (correctly predicted 63,0 %), Model 2: harvesting advice (correctly predicted 61,9 %), Model 5: strengthening entrepreneurship (correctly predicted 57,5 %) and Model 6: support of forest road construction/maintenance (correctly predicted 58,3 %). All evaluated independent variables except gender were statistically significant in at least one model. On the other hand, education as the independent variable was statistically significant in all models. These models were relatively weak, however, with R² ranging from 0,059–0,155.

Results of the *silvicultural advice model* (Model 1) for Slovenia reveal that private forest owners with high school were less likely to expect silvicultural advice than owners with primary school or less. Private forest owners with university education were indifferent; therefore, it cannot be concluded that education level influenced expectations of silvicultural advice. Owners managing their forests actively were less likely to expect advice, due possibly to the prevailing, small-scale forest ownership pattern which results mainly in short-term, if any, economic interests of the owners. Younger owners who are more open to advice and independent

decision makers were more likely to expect silvicultural advice, as were sole holders.

The *harvesting advice* model (Model 2), indicate that private forest owners with higher levels of education were less likely to expect advice in harvesting, as well as owners who were younger and owned less than 1 ha of forest. Educated and younger people are more likely to live in urban areas, so they do not have specific interests for their forests or advice, such as that associated with forest harvesting (Pezdevšek Malovrh, 2010b *ibid*). Small-scale forest property owners do not have strong economic interests in managing their forests. Conversely, sole holders were more likely to expect harvesting advice compared to those who share ownership. In these cases, management of private property is less demanding as it does not involve coordination of interest among the joint owners (Pezdevšek Malovrh et al., 2010a *ibid*).

Results of the *strengthening entrepreneurship* model (Model 5) indicate that owners who actively manage their forest were less likely to expect that kind of information from interest associations as were more educated owners. Education is often linked to higher incomes and therefore, fewer expressed entrepreneurship characteristics related to their forests. The same explanation applies to *support on forest road construction/maintenance* (Model 6), where the owners with higher levels of education (university or more) were less likely to expect such a support from interest associations. Those private forest owners who have consolidated forest property were also less likely to expect support in forest road construction/maintenance, which might be the result of relatively high openness (density of forest roads) of their forests.

Table 2. Results of multivariate logistic regression – Bosnia-Herzegovina
 Tablica 2 Rezultati multivarijantne logističke regresije – Bosna i Hercegovina

Variables/Varijable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7
Coefficient/Koeficijent							
Constant/Konstantan	-0,670	-	-2,753	-	-38,313	1,447	-1,064
Gender/Pol							
Male/Muški	1,066	-	0,606	-	18,570	0,132	-0,248
Female/Ženski	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Age/Starost							
Less than 50/Manje od 50	0,058	-	-0,110	-	-0,112	-0,373	0,011
More than 50/Više od 50	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Education/Obrazovanje							
Primary school or less Osnovna škola ili niže	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
High school/Srednja škola	-0,282	-	0,399	-	0,021	-0,091	0,52
University or more/Fakultet ili više	0,211	-	0,386	-	0,354	0,132	0,961**
Ownership/Vlasništvo							
Sole holder/Jedan vlasnik	0,532**	-	-0,561**	-	-0,621	-0,516	0,124
Joint owners/Zajedničko vlasništvo	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Property size/Veličina posjeda							
Less than 1 ha/Manje od 1 ha	-1,199***	-	-0,481	-	-2,196***	-1,739***	-0,898***
More than 1 ha/Više od 1 ha	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Fragmentation/Fragmentiranost							
Consolidate/U jednom komadu	0,481	-	-0,850**	-	0,669	0,884**	0,861**
Fragmented/Fragmentiran	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Harvesting/Sječa							
Harvest/Sijeku	0,349	-	1,896	-	18,084	1,382**	0,057
Do not harvest/Ne sijeku	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Statistics/Statistika							
χ^2	30,610	15,414	36,908	13,780	32,248	43,077	25,625
p value/p vrijednost	0,000	0,052	0,000	0,088	0,000	0,000	0,001
Observations correctly predicted (%) Korektno predviđene observacije (%)	63,4	-	67,0	-	91,4	82,0	70,2
R ² (Cox & Snell)	0,086	-	0,103	-	0,091	0,119	0,073
R ² (Nagelkerke)	0,117	-	0,143	-	0,205	0,194	0,102

** Variables are significant at $p < 0,05$; *** Variables are significant at $p < 0,001$
 ** Varijable su signifikantne kod $p < 0,05$; *** Varijable su signifikantne kod $p < 0,001$

Five models provided statistically significant results for Bosnia-Herzegovina – Model 1: silvicultural advice (correctly predicted 63,4 %), Model 3: information about timber markets (correctly predicted 67,0 %), Model 5: strengthening entrepreneurship (correctly predicted 91,4 %), Model 6: support of forest roads construction/maintenance (correctly predicted 82,0 %) and Model 7: training in forest management (correctly predicted 70,2 %). All independent variables evaluated except gender and age were statistically significant in at least one of the models. Although these models were stronger than those for Slovenia, with R^2 ranging from 0,102–0,205, they were still relatively weak.

Results of the *silvicultural advice* model (Model 1) in Bosnia-Herzegovina point out that sole holders were more likely to expect advice compared to those who share in forest ownership. Small-scale private forest owners were less likely to expect such advice. As small-scale and joint forest ownership dominates in Bosnia-Herzegovina, effective advising in silviculture offered by private forest owner interest associations implies some preconditions such as clarifying forest ownership rights and enlarging individual private forest estates.

As concerns the *information on timber markets* model (Model 3), sole holders who have less fragmented forest properties were less likely to expect this service from their interest associations. They are proba-

bly more independent and market oriented than the average owner, having adequate information on prices, channels of distributions, and potential buyers. Following this, one could conclude that level of harvesting activity as independent variable would be statistically significant for Model 3 also, but this was not a case.

Results of the *strengthening entrepreneurship* model (Model 5) indicate that owners with smaller properties (less than 1 ha) were less likely to expect this kind of support from their interest association. Very small private forest properties can preclude strong economic interests and prevent entrepreneurship by the owners. The same rationale can explain the low interest of small-scale owners for *support in forest roads construction/maintenance* (Model 6). Conversely, owners who have clear economic interests (those who actively manage their forest and have consolidated estates) were more likely to expect such support from interest associations.

Owners with smaller property size were less likely to expect *forest management training* (Model 7), while those who are more educated (university or more) as well as the owners whose estate is consolidated were more likely to expect forest management training from their interest association.

CONCLUSIONS – Zaključci

The logistic regression models provide interesting results regarding the variables related to private forest owners' expectations of their interest associations. Moreover, these models help compare the expectations of private forest owners for their interest associations in Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as how owner socio-demographic characteristics, ownership structure, and property conditions influence those expectations. The results suggest that information about timber markets and forest management training were the most popular expectations in Slovenia, while in Bosnia-Herzegovina the most popular were support in forest road construction and maintenance as well as silvicultural advice. The variable with a strongest influence in predicting expectations of Slovenian private forest owners was education while in Bosnia-Herzegovina it was property size. Gender has no detectable influence on owner expectations of interest association in both countries.

Only three of expectations examined (silvicultural advice, strengthening entrepreneurship, and support of forest road construction/maintenance) were statistically significant in both countries. Furthermore, form of ownership was the only variable that influenced expectation silvicultural advice in both countries. Private for-

est owners who are sole holders were more likely to expect silvicultural advice compared to those who share in forest ownership. These findings suggest that effective advising in silviculture offered by private forest owner interest associations implies some preconditions such as clarifying forest ownership rights. The only variable that influenced expectations for support of forest road construction/maintenance in Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina was the fragmentation of estates. Private forest owners in Slovenia who have consolidated forest property were less likely to expect support for forest road construction/maintenance; in Bosnia-Herzegovina owners were more likely to expect this kind of support. This suggests that differences in forest road density have an effect on this expectation.

Private forest owners who manage their forests more intensively were less likely to expect any kind of support from interest associations. It might be explained by prevailing economical interests – they simply want to harvest their forests and for this purposes they do not need any institution to advise them. Moreover, they see all external influences (including both interest associations and public forest administration) as a constraint on the use of their forests. Considering all of this, as well as the fact that intensive management is possible prima-

rily on larger forest estates, interest associations are much more important for small-scale private forest owners. Findings of this research demonstrate that de facto small-scale forest owners should be the main focus of interest association activities. Without organizing in interest associations, it is difficult to mobilize great number of small private forest owners.

In Slovenia, where a traditionally well organized public forest service offers different types of support to private forest owners, the functions of interest associations might be limited mainly to those services not provided by the public forest service (e.g. timber marketing activities). Considering the Slovenian experience with associations as well as the fact that interest associations are poorly developed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the role of the public forest service in supporting small-scale private forest owners in Bosnia-Herzegovina is crucial. The public forest service (including public forest companies) traditionally has held a strong position in the eyes of private forest owners and the rural population in general. All forest policy actors in Bosnia-Herzegovina agree that private forest owners can manage their forests in a sustainable way only if they are strongly supported financially and with technical assistance, and therefore unanimously support the formation of independent interest associations for private forest owners. However, the public forest service supports mandatory, not voluntary, membership. In

fact, the idea of obligatory membership is supported not only by public forest service but also by the most of private forest owners (Glück et. al, 2010b *ibid*).

Private forest owners are a diverse set of individuals who own significant proportions of the forests of Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Understanding their expectations and demands will play a critical role in determining the development of private forest owner interest associations. The results of this research offer meaningful insights into private forest owner expectations and provide important information for key national forest policy actors, public forest administration, and private forest owners. The results may also provide useful inputs for developing policy instruments that will better cater to private forest owner needs. Further research needed on this topic includes a better overview of the expectations of interest associations and consistent comparative analysis between countries, which might be possible by developing the surveys with similar questions. A larger sample size would increase the predictive power of the model. Further research also needs to examine how one expectation of interest associations affects the decision to engage in other activities offered by these associations. Furthermore, clustering private forest owners according to their expectations could be very helpful in targeting policy instruments to specific population subgroups rather than applying the same approach for all private forest owners.

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SAŽETAK: Zbog činjenice da je više od polovice europskih šuma u privatnom vlasništvu, problematika privatnog šumoposjeda ima značajno mjesto u europskoj šumarskoj politici. Zbog političko-ekonomskih okolnosti kroz koje su prolazile zemlje jugoistočne Europe, ovom tipu vlasništva se u prethodnom razdoblju nije pridavao odgovorajući značaj. Međutim, s političkim promjenama i procesima koji su ih pratili (privatizacija, restitucija, denacionalizacija i sl.) problematika privatnog šumoposjeda postaje sve više aktualna i u ovim zemljama.

Iskustva u organiziranju privatnih šumoposjednika kroz interesne asocijacije različita su u Sloveniji i Bosni i Hercegovini. U svrhu komparativne analize očekivanja privatnih šumoposjednika od interesnih asocijacija u ove dvije zemlje, kao i utjecaja različitih čimbenika na ta očekivanja, provedena su kvalitativna istraživanja primjenom metoda intervjuiranja slučajno izabranih ispitanika – privatnih šumoposjednika. U cilju ocjene veze između karakteristika šumoposjednika/šumoposjeda i njihovih očekivanja od interesnih asocijacija, korištena je multivarijantna logistička regresija. Očekivanja su grupirana u sedam kategorija (ovisnih varijabli) a rezultati multivarijantne logističke regresije su za svaku zemlju prikazani kroz odgovarajuće modele. Kao neovisne varijable korištene su socio-demografske karakteristike ispitanika (spol, dob i stupanj edukacije) te određene karakteristike njihovog šumoposjeda (veličina, fragmentiranost, tip vlasništva i stupanj korištenja šume).

Rezultati istraživanja pokazuju da šumoposjednici u Sloveniji od interesnih asocijacija najviše očekuju informacije o tržištu šumskih drvnih sortimenata i različite vidove edukacije o gospodarenju šumama. Šumoposjednici u Bosni i Hercegovini su najviše zainteresirani za podršku u izgradnji i održavanju šumskih puteva te savjetima koji se odnose na uzgajanje šuma. Četiri modela (savjeti glede uzgajanja šuma, savjeti glede korištenja šuma, savjeti glede jačanja poduzetništva i podrška u izgradnji i održavanju šumskih puteva) su statistički značajni za slovenske šumoposjednike. U svim ovim modelima, stupanj edukacije kao neovisna varijabla je bio statistički značajan. U Bosni i Hercegovini je identificirano pet statistički značajnih modela (savjeti glede uzgajanja šuma, informacije o tržištu, savjeti glede jačanja poduzetništva, podrška u izgradnji i održavanju šumskih puteva i edukacija o gospodarenju šumama). Veličina šumoposjeda je statistički najznačajnija varijabla

koja utječe na očekivanja šumoposjednika u Bosni i Hercegovini. Spol ispitanika nije bio statistički značajan ni u jednom od modela u obje zemlje. Statistički značajna zajednička očekivanja privatnih šumoposjednika u obje zemlje odnose se na savjete glede uzgajanja šuma, savjete glede jačanja poduzetništva i podršku u izgradnji i održavanju šumskih puteva. Rezultati istraživanja pokazuju da je postojanje jasnih vlasničkih pravi preduvjet za učinkovito savjetovanje glede uzgajanja šuma koje bi šumoposjednicima bilo ponuđeno od strane interesnih asocijacija. Pored toga, utvrđeno je djelovanje interesnih asocijacija važnije za sitne šumoposjednike ukoliko se želi unaprijediti gospodarenje privatnim šumama. Kad je u pitanju podrška privatnom šumoposjedu, uloga javne šumarske administracije u obje zemlje je izuzetno važna. To se posebno odnosi na Bosnu i Hercegovinu u kojoj je djelovanje interesnih asocijacija još uvijek vrlo skromno.

Razumjevanje potreba i očekivanja privatnih šumoposjednika je važno za razvoj i djelovanje interesnih asocijacija. Rezultati ovih istraživanja rasvjetljavaju ta očekivanja i predstavljaju korisne informacije za ključne aktere nacionalnih šumarskih politika, javnu šumarsku administraciju i privatne šumoposjednike u Sloveniji i Bosni i Hercegovini.