

The Project

The TREES Project (Timber Regulation Enforcement to protect European wood Sector from criminal infiltration) is a 23 months transnational initiative funded by the European Commission (HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/FINEC/4000005240) - aiming at enforcing the EU Timber Regulation (N°995/2010) - EUTR - as an instrument to fight corruption as facilitator of organized crimes activities.

- 1) Check the vulnerability of the system to corruption
- 2) Exploit the anti-corruption potential of EUTR and its application case by case
- 3) Investigate the capacity of private companies, business intermediary organisation, and LEAs to identify and mitigate the risk of corruption and criminal infiltration in EU timber market
- 4) Reduce timber market vulnerabilities to corruption and organised crime by means of new **tools/experiences/best practices** of risk mitigation
- 5) Transfer knowledge to private operators and LEAs (both EU and extra EU) about EUTR and DDS with a special focus on risk mitigation
- 6) **Share** knowledge among relevant EU stakeholders (LEAs, private operators, Monitoring Organisations)

Purposes and Activities

Some numbers from the project

SURVEY
211
Respondents
(158 operators, 53 LEAs)

COUNTRIES INVOLVED
21

PARTICIPANTS AT TRAINING/SEMINARS/WEBINAR
300
Participants

MAIN DRIVERS OF CORRUPTION IN FORESTRY SECTOR

1. Poor ethics in the **timber** market
2. High gains from the illegal **timber** market
3. Low risks for criminals
4. High demand for illegal timber
5. Lack of education/training of people **involved** in the supply chain
6. **Lack of or inadequate control mechanisms**
7. **Lack of or inadequate sanctions**
8. **General diffusion of corruption in some Countries**

EUTR'S GENERAL VULNERABILITIES

- ▶ EUTR is still in an early state of implementation and important gaps are present when it comes to interpretation and enforcement by the different Countries
- ▶ Effective, efficient and uniform penalties and sanctions at a national level are still a challenge (illegal timber flows toward Countries with lower sanction)
- ▶ Lack of clear guidelines for exerting due diligence and risk assessment
- ▶ Lack of a clear definition of "negligible risk", especially about "corruption"

DDS' VULNERABILITIES TO CORRUPTION

1. Lack of standard procedures at international level
2. Risk of corruption often neglected
3. Limits in Companies' liabilities and efforts
4. Limited risk assessment mechanisms
5. Only perception-based indicator (i.e. CPI) is taken into account
6. Absence of alternative risk mitigation strategies

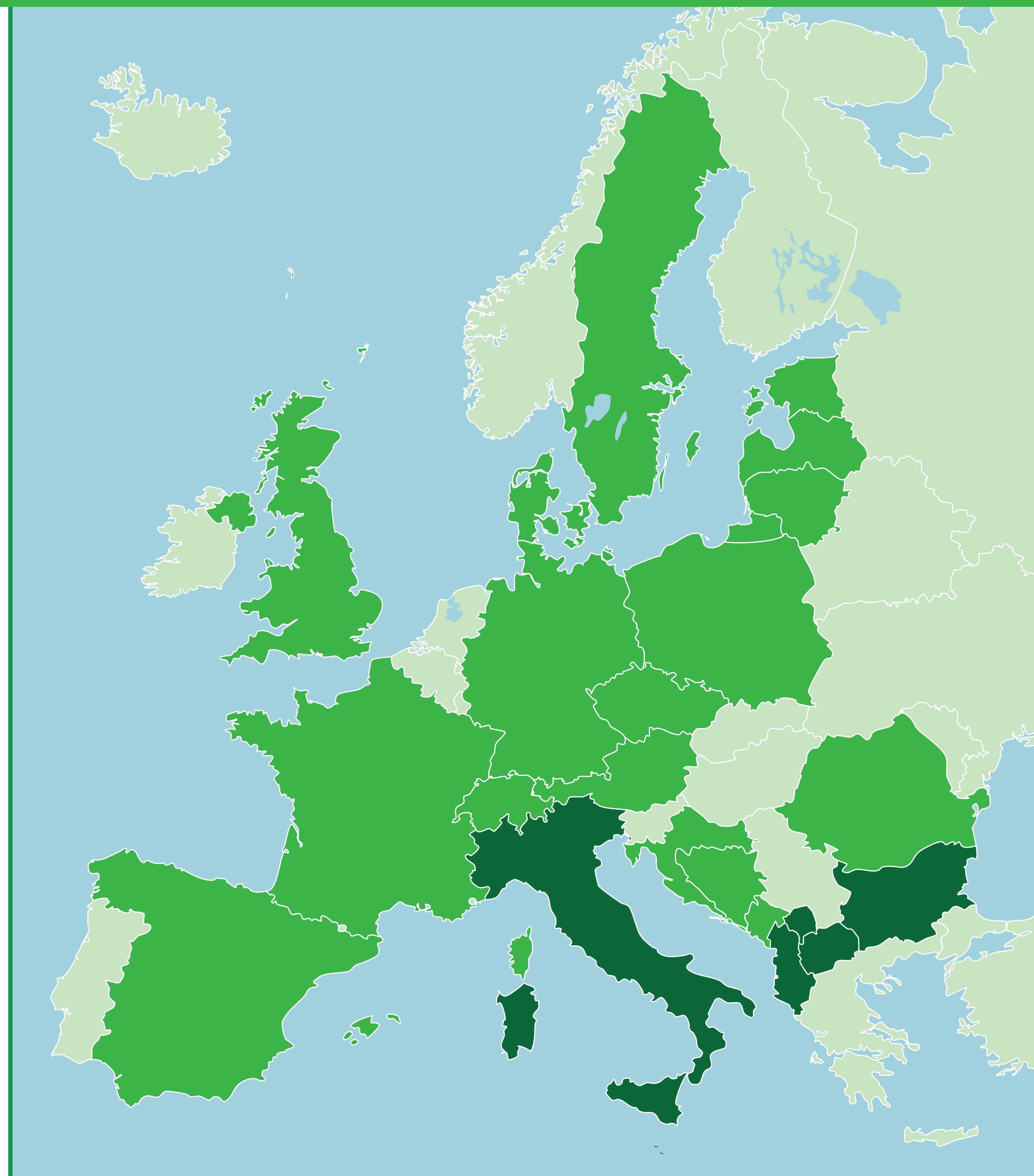
WHAT IS PROMISING?

The potential of **traceability systems** to:

- ▶ Increase risks of detection for bribers (e.g. GPS alert/recording system when a truck is stopped by the road police)
- ▶ Reduce opportunities for hiding the timber origin (e.g. Nano-particel invisible markers)
- ▶ Provide evidence for law enforcement

The potential of open **data/shared information** to:

- ▶ Increase capacity of communities and NGOs to real time monitoring of licences/harvesting
- ▶ Tracking legal/illegal routes of timber (ship and trucks)



www.trees-project.eu