Forestry services market in neighboring Italy



Raffaele Spinelli - CNR Italy

Regional partners



REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA













Presentation

- 1 Survey of logging companies in Northern Italy
- 2 Analysis of their perspectives and challenges
- 3 Online database of logging companies

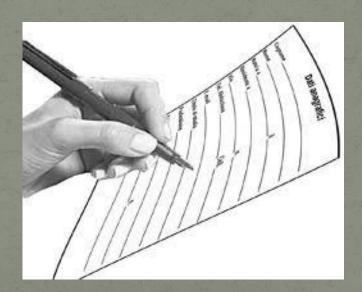
Definition: logging company

1 – Survey of companies



Survey methods

- Analysis of registers of certified companies
- Filled up by the companies (self-declaration)
- Supplied by regional offices



- Interviews on a sample (320 companies or 25%)

Limits of this survey

- Some (few) companies are not included
- Accuracy of self-declarations
- Etherogeneity of regional databases



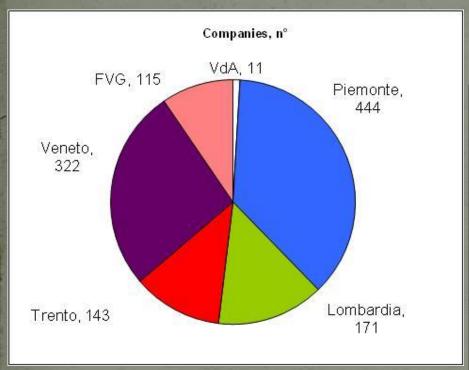
Overview

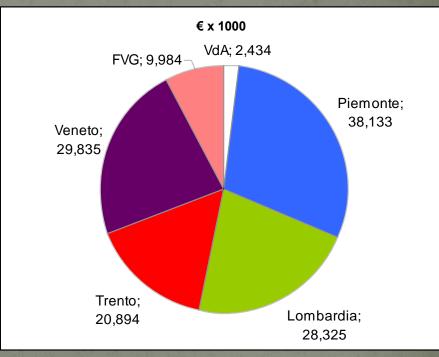
- Italian Alps only
- VdA, Piemonte, Lombardia, PAT, Veneto, FVG



Companies	1206
Workforce	3563
Annual cut m3	1,919,766
Tractors	1872
Yarders	359
Processors	56
Current value €	130,000,000

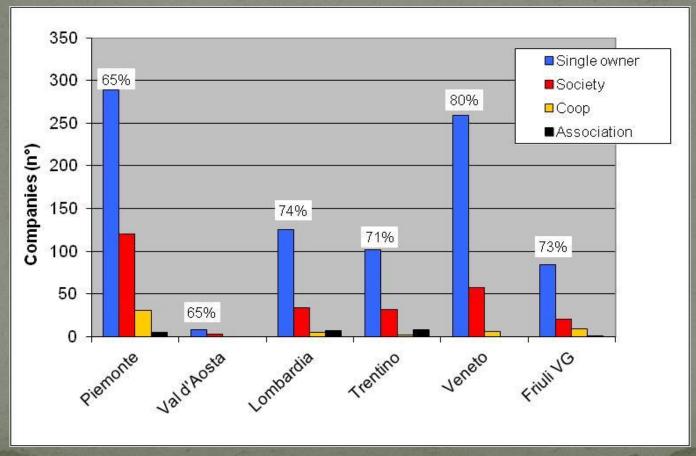
By the Region





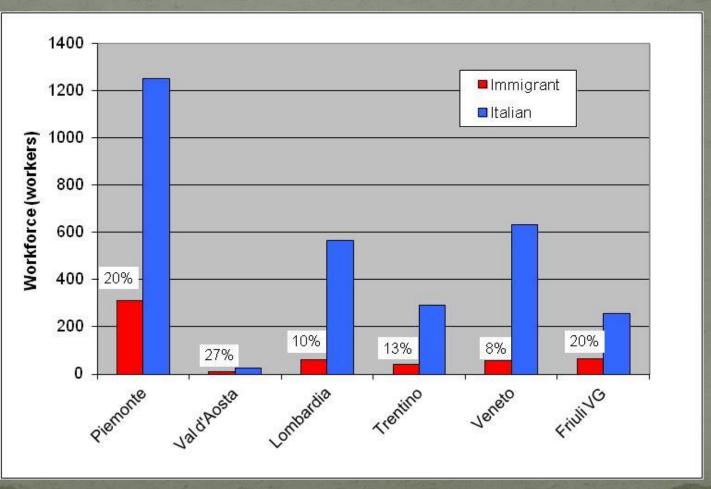
Company type

- Single owner: ¾ number, ½ cut volume 1.8 workers vs. 4.8, 2000 m³/years vs. 5200



Workforce

Mean age of owner 45 years (PAT, 38 years), \mathbb{Q} 4%



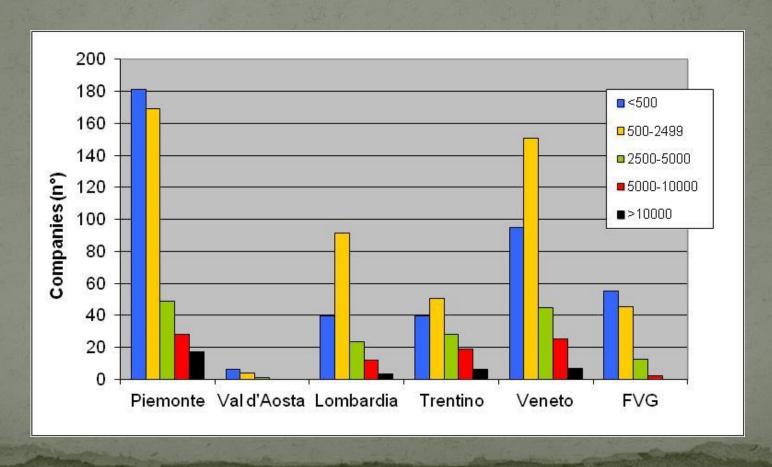
What do they cut

- Smallest sales in VdA, mostly private owners
- PAT Conifers, contracting

	Conifers	Hardwood	Ş	Sale size - m3		Private	Contracting
	%	%	Lower Q	Mean	Upper Q	%	%
Piemonte	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Val d'Aosta	45	70	118	312	507	65	60
Lombardia	45	57	253	447	642	NA	NA
Trentino	93	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	67
Veneto	50	51	410	789	1169	38	40
Friuli VG	57	56	215	508	802	38	27
NORTHERN ITALY	57	55	300	603	907		

How much do they cut

- Piemonte & PAT ~ 4000 m3/a, rest 1-2000
- $\frac{3}{4}$ companies <2500 m³/a, 10% > 5000 m³/a



How do they cut

- Chainsaw and tractor
- 2/3 of chainsaws are manufactured by Stihl
- Tractors with winch and/or trailer





Farm tractors

- 1.5 farm tractors per company
- 12% tracked (20% in Veneto)
- Mean age: 11 years tired, 15 years tracked
- Mean power: 85 CV tired, 60 CV tracked
- 45% SDF, 20% CNH





Winches and trailers

- Winches : 3P & bolted, the latter the older
- Twin-axle trailers 6-12 t, with loader
- 10-15 years old (newer in PAT)
- Mostly IT brands: Bernardi, Galvagni, PZ etc.





Yarders

- Much competence, in all Regions
- 1 company in 4 is able and equipped
- Towers (35%) are newer (6 vs. 15 years)
- IT brands 70%
- Companies with yarder cut 4100 vs 2300 m³/a

		Piemonte	VdA	Lombardia	Trentino	Veneto	Friuli VG	N. ITALY
All yarders	n	60	8	105	73	68	45	359
Sled-mounted	n	34	6	78	39	45	28	230
Towers	n	26	2	27	34	23	17	129
Towers	%	43	25	26	47	34	38	36
Companies with Y	%	11	55	44	41	19	31	24
Age sled-mounted	anni	11	6	17	17	22	14	15
Age towers	anni	4	4	5	4	7	12	6

Advanced mechanization

- 70 companies (<6%), who cut 560k m³ (30%)
- Cut 4 times the grand mean (8200 vs. 2300 m³/a)...
- ...on sales that are not significantly larger
- Employ more workers (4.6 vs. 2.9)





Biomass

- 14% owns a chipper (2% FVG, 25% Piemonte)
- 1/3 chippers with capacity < 30 cm
- Trends towards drums (4 vs. 8 y, 37 vs. 23 cm)
- Industrial biomass managed by other companies



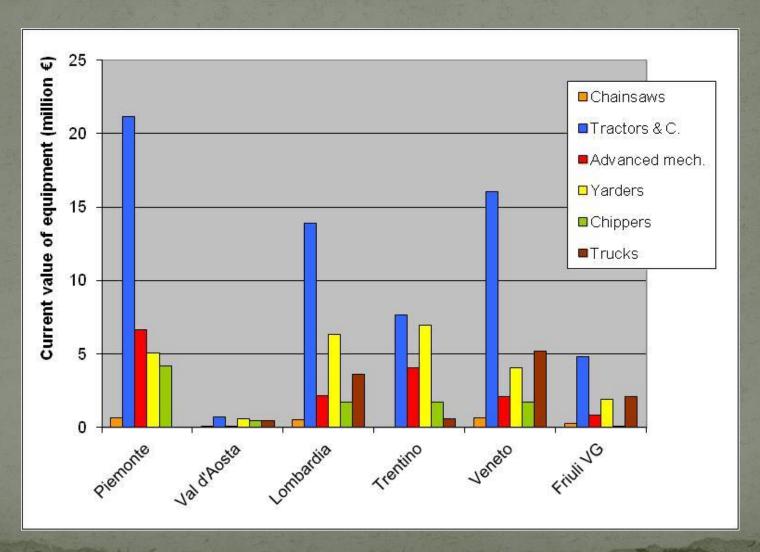


Hauling

- 1/4 equipped with trucks
- 8% PAT
- Old trucks (mean 13 years, UQ 20 years)
- 1/3 Iveco, 1/3 Man + Mercedes, 1/3 other



Capital invested in equipment

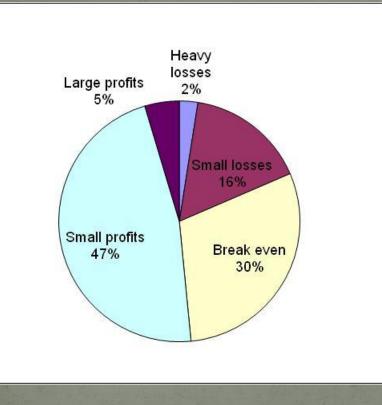


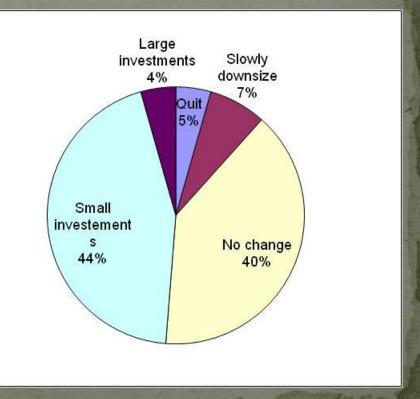
2 – Challenges and perspectives



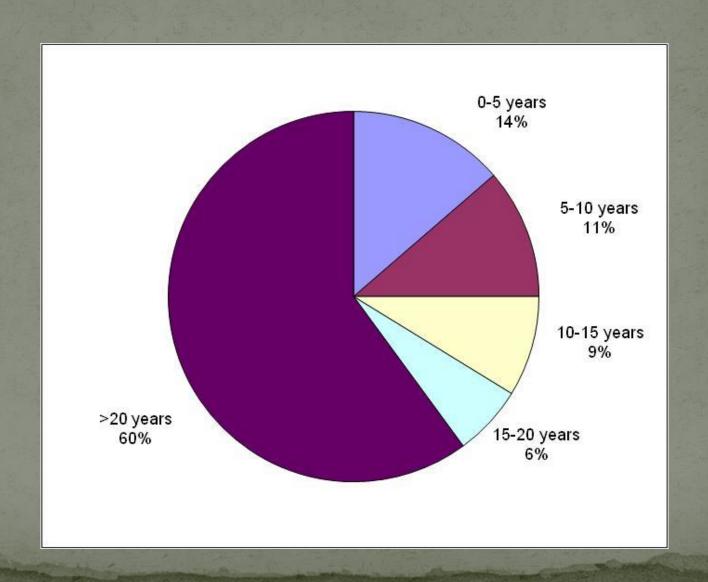
Revenues and plans

Things are not too bad...

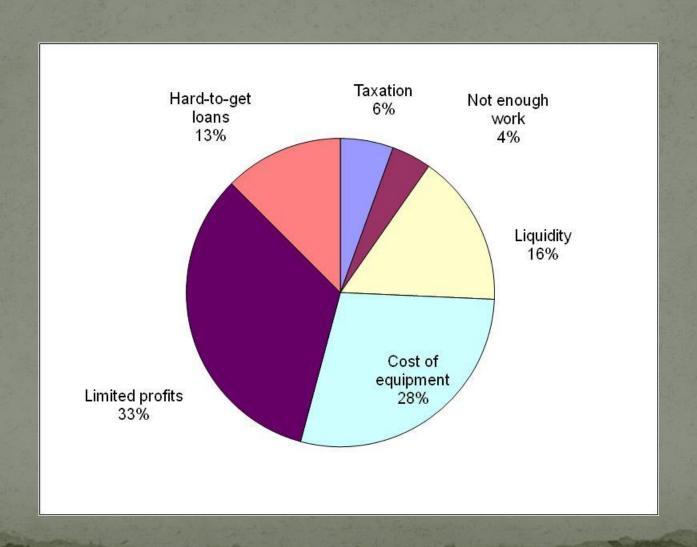




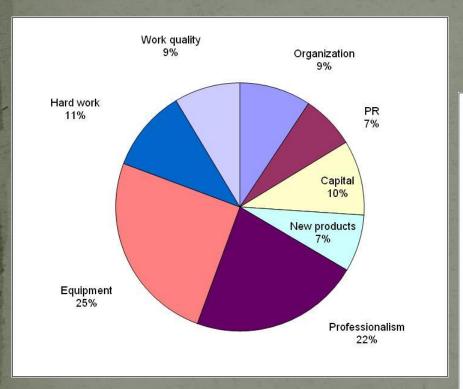
Continuity – a forecast

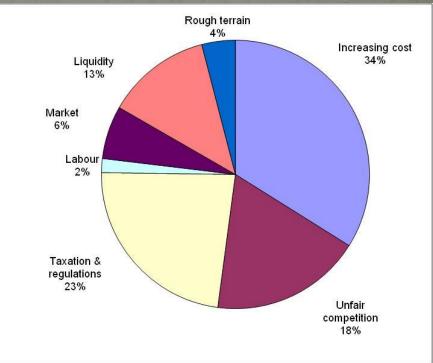


...But over half (55%) cannot modernize their fleet



Success factors and challenges





Regional differences

	10/		DAT	
	West	Lombardy	PAT	East
FUTURE				
0-5 years	17%	9%	10%	15%
5-15 years	21%	13%	17%	32%
>15 years	62%	78%	73%	53%
CHALLENGES				
Unfair competition	19%	10%	20%	21%
Taxation & regulation	20%	28%	23%	22%
Increasing cost	38%	38%	31%	29%
Liquidity	13%	8%	13%	16%
Market, labor etc.	10%	16%	13%	12%
OPPORTUNITIES				
Organization	9%	11%	6%	11%
PR	6%	9%	1%	13%
Capital	13%	2%	19%	4%
New products	14%	4%	3%	4%
Professionalism	18%	32%	20%	20%
Equipment	27%	21%	30%	21%
Hard work	8%	17%	6%	14%
Work quality	6%	3%	15%	13%

Contracting

- 2 groups: $\leq 50\%$ CT (11%) e >50% CT (90%)
- 101 respondents divided 75/25

	≤ 50%	>50%
Losses	23%	19%
Break even	37%	12%
Profits	41%	69%
Quit or downsize	20%	6%
No change	56%	23%
Invest and expand	24%	71%

Again on contracting

- indicator: equipment replacement capacity (suggestive only: p = 0.101)

	≤ 50%	>50%
Can replace	35%	54%
Cannot replace	65%	46%



Work volume, m3/a

	<1000	1000-5000	>5000
Losses	14%	26%	14%
Break even	41%	18%	35%
Profits	45%	56%	51%
Quit or downsize	16%	16%	17%
No change	32%	60%	37%
Invest and expand	52%	24%	46%

Yarders

	Tractor	Yarder
Organization	6%	15%
PR	8%	7%
Capital	10%	4%
New products	7%	4%
Professionalism	19%	27%
Equipment	27%	23%
Hard work	13%	14%
Work quality	10%	6%



Other comparisons

- Public vs. private forests nsd
- N° of workers nsd
- Advanced mechanization nsd



3 – Online database (Piemonte)

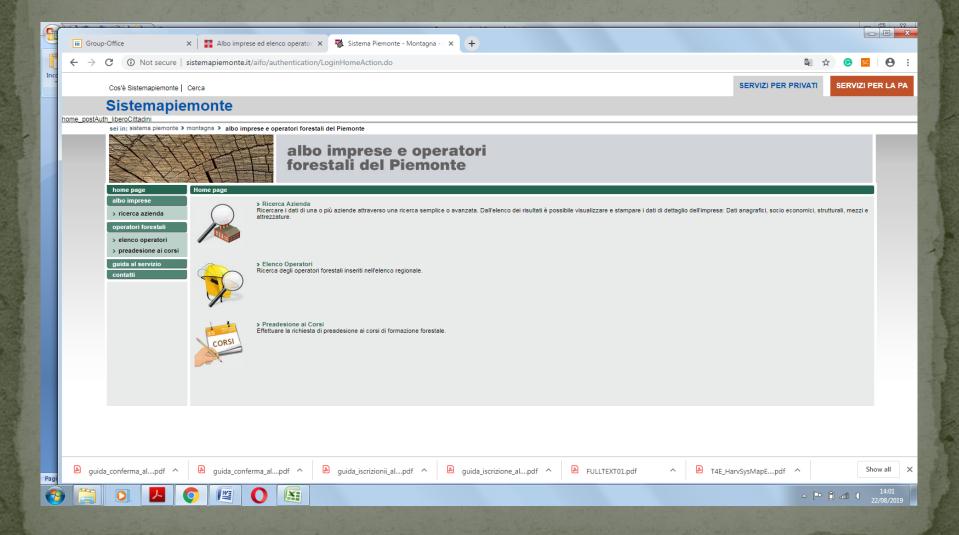


Albo Imprese ed Elenco Operatori forestali (AIFO)

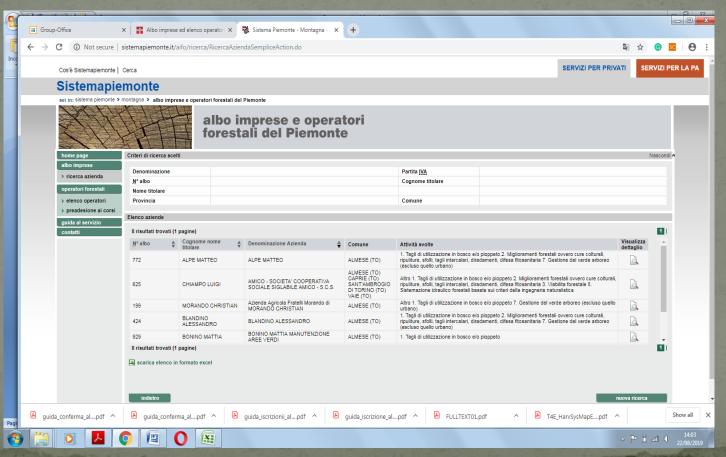
- EU programmes Informa and InformaPlus
- Operational since 2010
- Updated and integrated: launch 2 October 2019 ...now with VdA, Liguria, Rhone-Alpes & PACA



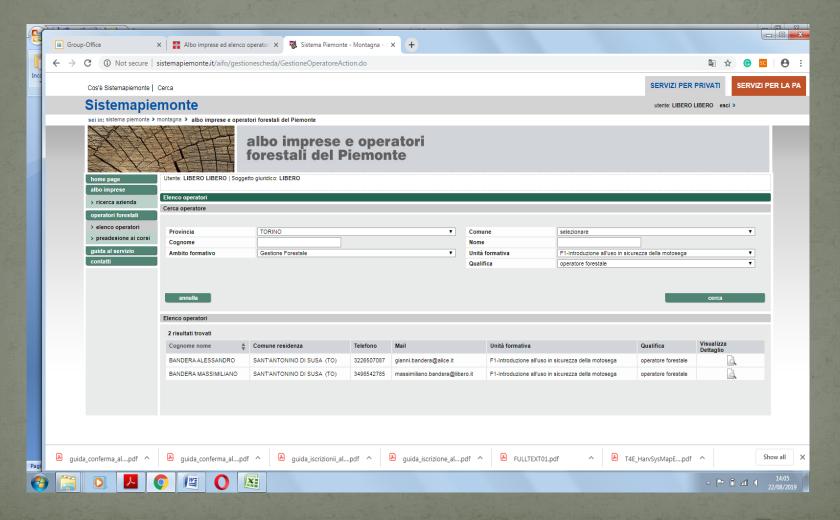
Simple interface



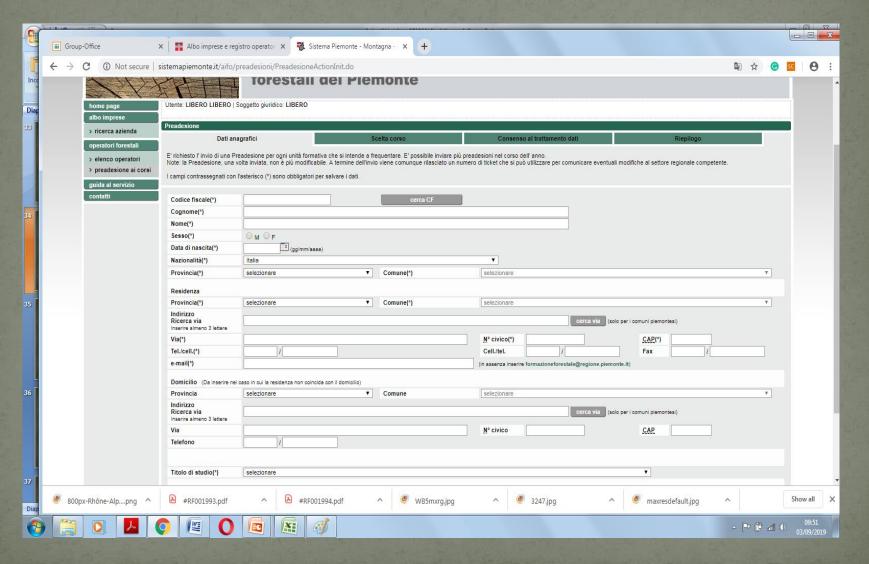
Find companies with specific competence, equipment etc. in a specific province



Find operators with specific training and competence



Apply for a training course



Training in Piemonte



- The leader in Italian forest operator training
- 329 courses from 2007 to 2015
- 4935 participants
- 2500 unique individuals
- 420 achieved full qualification
- 8 M € investment
- ...more from 2015 to now!



Training Courses

Cour se	Topics	Duration	Outcome
F1	Introduction the chainsaw safety	4 hrs theory, 12 hrs practice	Prerequisite
F2	_Safe use of chainsaw in processing operations	4 hrs theory, 20 hrs practice	Prerequisite
F3	Safe use of chainsaw in felling and processing operations	8 hrs theory, 32 hrs practice	Qualification
F4	Safe use of chainsaw in felling and processing operations: Advanced level	4 hrs theory, 36 hrs practice	Qualification
F5	Work and safe application of equipment in forest operations	4 hrs theory, 20 hrs practice	Qualification
F6	Work safety and health, injury prevention, emergency management, and environmental and forestry rules	16 hrs theory	Qualification

Conclusions

- Know the sector first, then target improvemenst
- From regional to interregional
- Transborder to West
- An idea for East?
- Let me know your ideas/questions

