

Who is an Estonian Forest Owner / Forest Manager

29. september 2021

Indrek Jakobson
Estonian Private Forest Centre



Competition for the best forest managers

- Estonian Private Forest Centre and NGO Estonian Private Forest Union organize every year a competition for the best forest managers
- The best forest owners are recognized for the prudent and sustainable management of their forests
- The competition evaluates the candidates' forestry work in recent years and other activities related to different forest values.



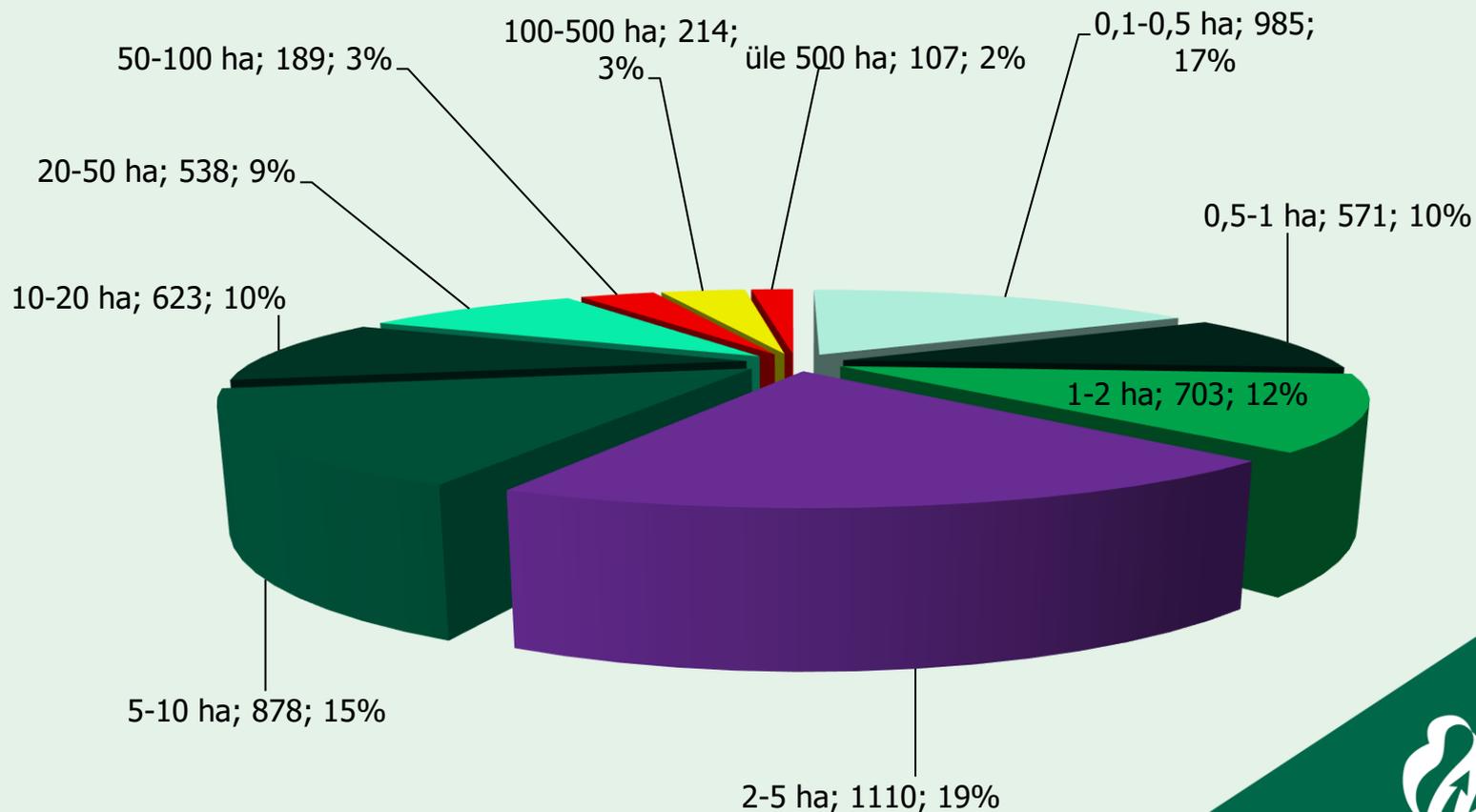
Video about the competition



ERAMETSAKESKUS

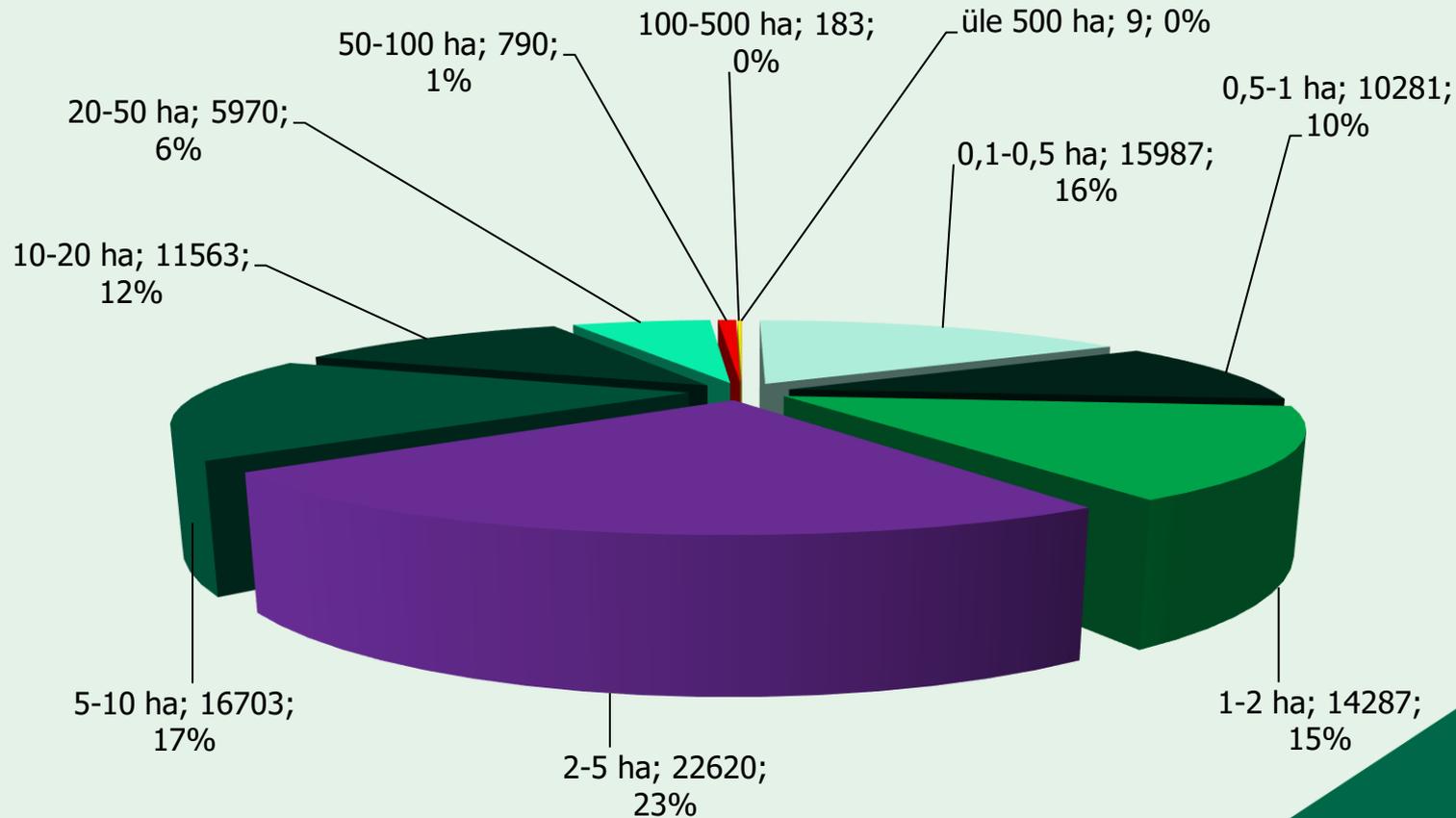
Distribution of the number of private forest owners by the **size** of forest ownership by owner type in 2019

Legal persons 2019

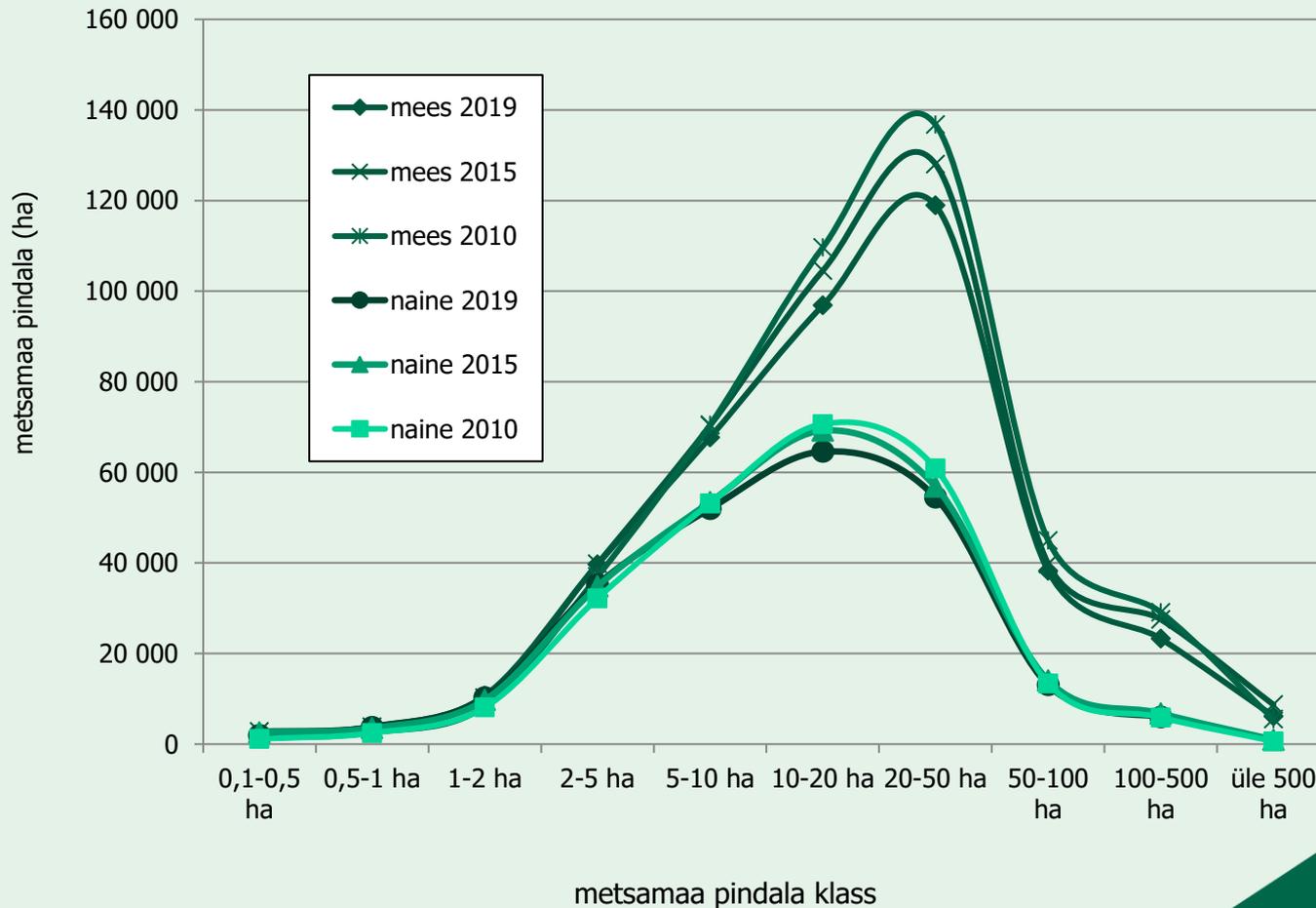


Distribution of the number of private forest owners by the **size** of forest ownership by owner type in 2019

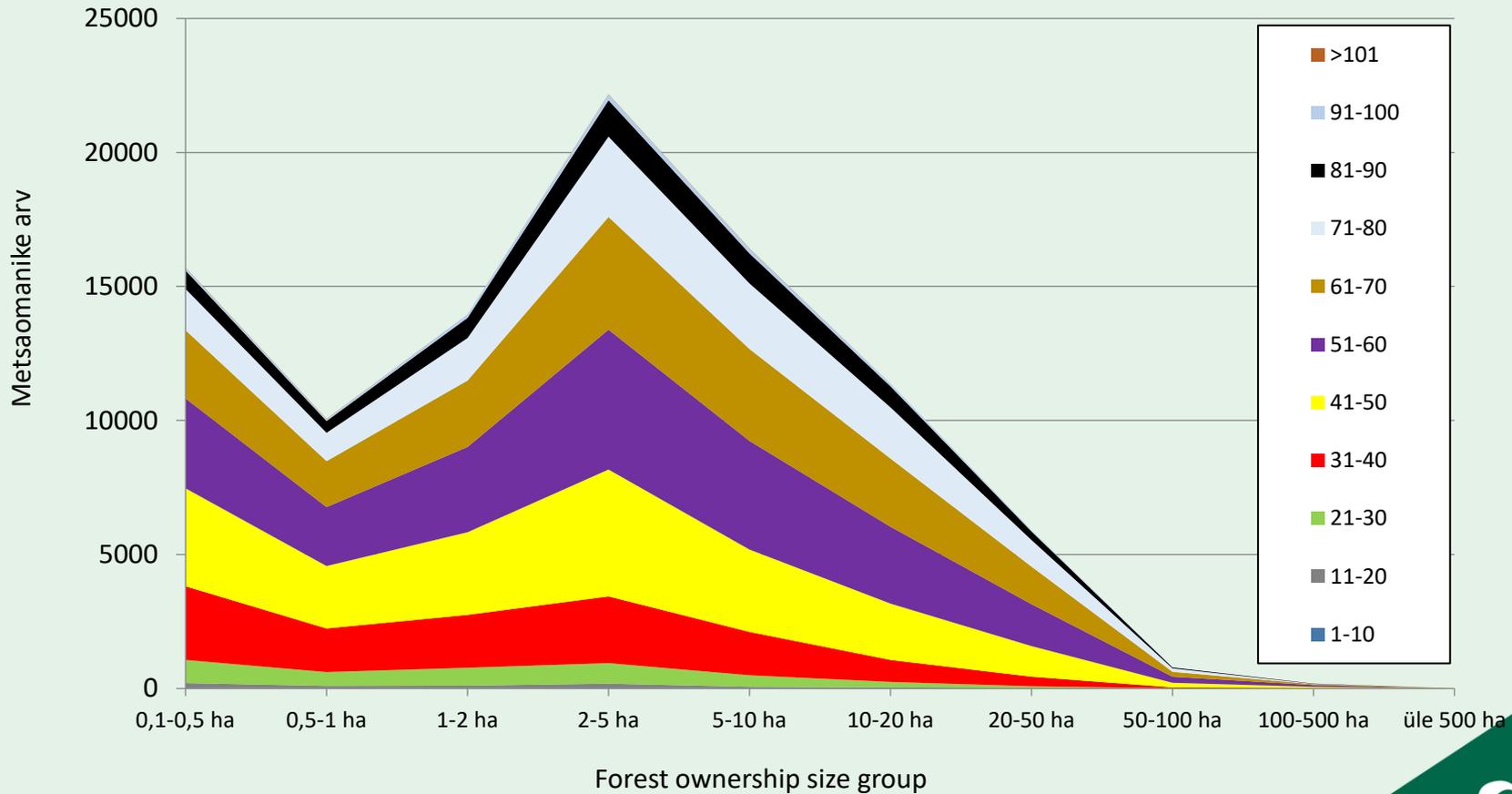
Private persons 2019



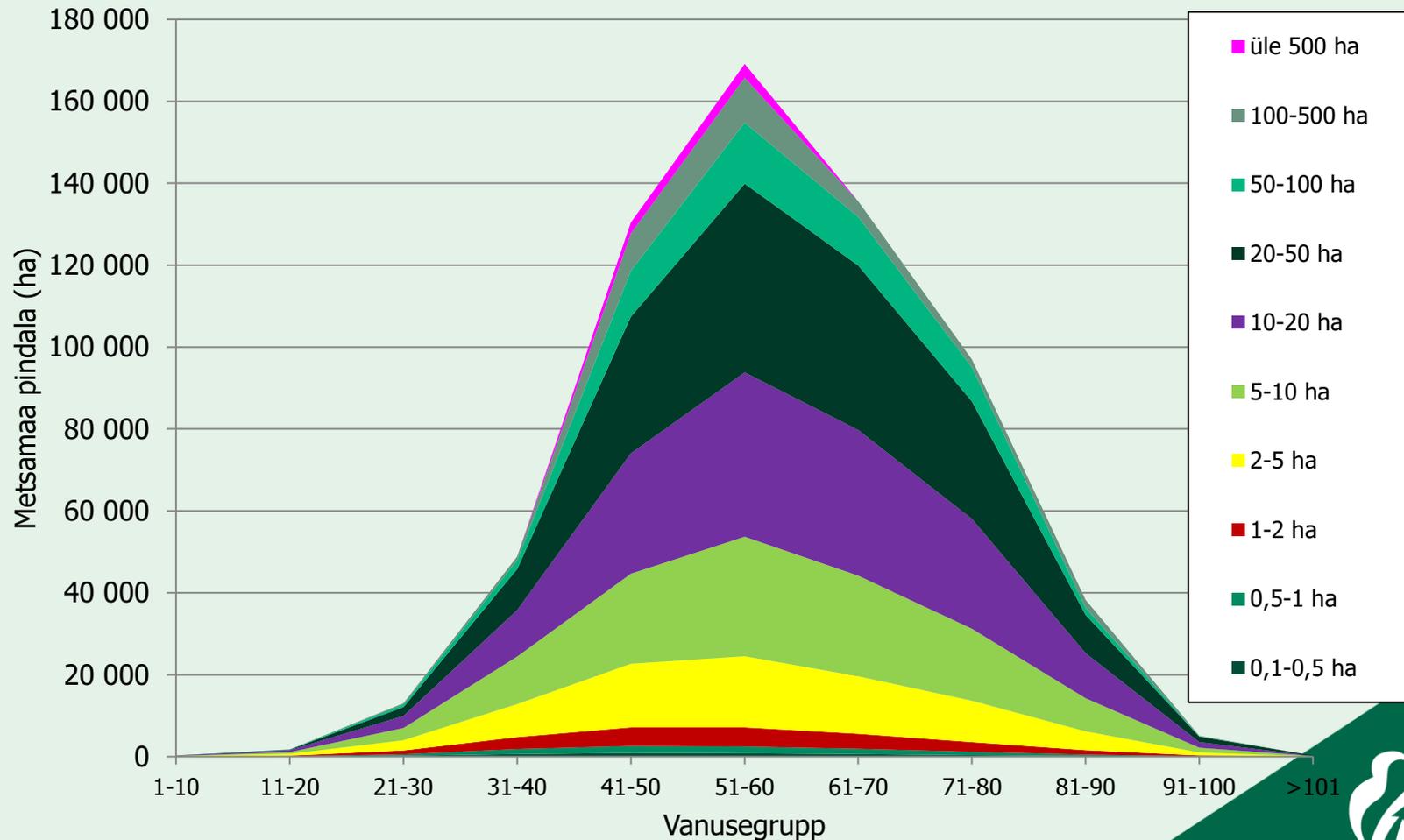
Distribution of forest land area of self-employed private forest owners by size group of forest ownership and **sex** of owner in 2010, 2015 and 2019



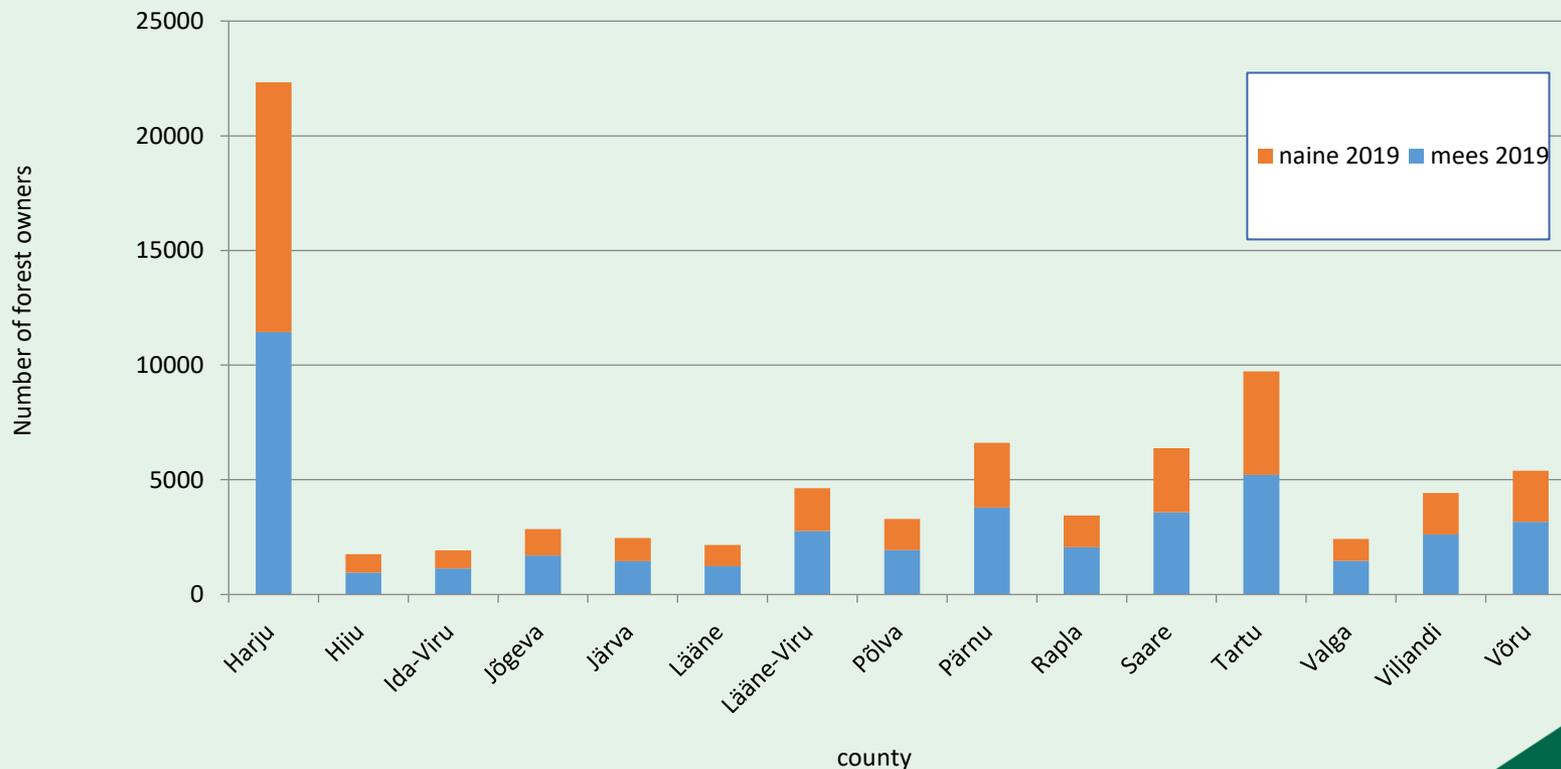
Distribution of the number of private forest owners by **age** and size of forest ownership in 2019



Distribution of forest area of private forest owners by age and size of forest ownership in 2019 (population pyramid)



Number of forest owners by owner 's **place of residence** and **sex** in 2019



A brief overview of the results:

Survey of private forest owners 2019



ERAMETSAKESKUS

Survey of private forest owners 2019

Client - Estonian Private Forest Centre

Executor - Tallinn University, Turu-Uuringute AS

Funded by the Ministry of the Environment

The main goal of the study:

Providing input for the development of the forestry development plan 2021-2030, including the creation of a profile of the average private forest owner, finding out his or her attitudes and intentions

The deadline for the study was 30.09.2019

The main results

- Profile of private forest owners;
- Activities and intentions in forest management;
- Use of forest-related sources of income;
- Values in forest management and willingness to contribute into nature conservation;
- Awareness and attitude of forest owners' advocacy organizations and forest cooperatives;
- Assessments and expectations for the state's activities in promoting private forestry.



Methodology

- The target group of the survey was Estonian private forest owners. (approximately 78,300 private forest owners with managed forest land, of which 94% are natural persons and 6% legal persons).
- The sample of the survey was formed by random sampling from the forest register. 10,000 natural persons and 567 legal forest owners were included in the sample.
- Data collection took place in the period from May 20 to June 19, 2019 by a combined method of web and telephone survey - the person included in the sample was contacted either by e-mail or telephone



Methodology

- The planned number of respondents was 1,000 and the actual number of respondents was 1008. 85% of the respondents filled in the questionnaire online and 15% answered by phone.
- When generalizing the results, the maximum sampling error at the 95% confidence level is 3.1% (when generalizing for smaller groups, the sampling error may be higher).
- After the completion of the survey, the data were weighted based on the background information obtained from the register data on the legal status of the sample persons (natural or legal person) and the area of forest land ownership.



Methodology

- According to the Estonian Private Forest Centre, about 16-17% of forest owners belong to forest associations. The share of forest owners belonging to forest cooperatives was slightly higher in the sample (22% in the unweighted sample, 21% in the weighted sample).
- As the sample database did not contain register-based background information on sample persons about their membership in forest associations, the data were not weighted based on this characteristic.



Methodology

- According to the Estonian Private Forest Centre, about 16-17% of forest owners belong to forest associations. The share of forest owners belonging to forest cooperatives was slightly higher in the sample (22% in the unweighted sample, 21% in the weighted sample).
- As the sample database did not contain register-based background information on sample persons about their membership in forest associations, the data were not weighted based on this characteristic.



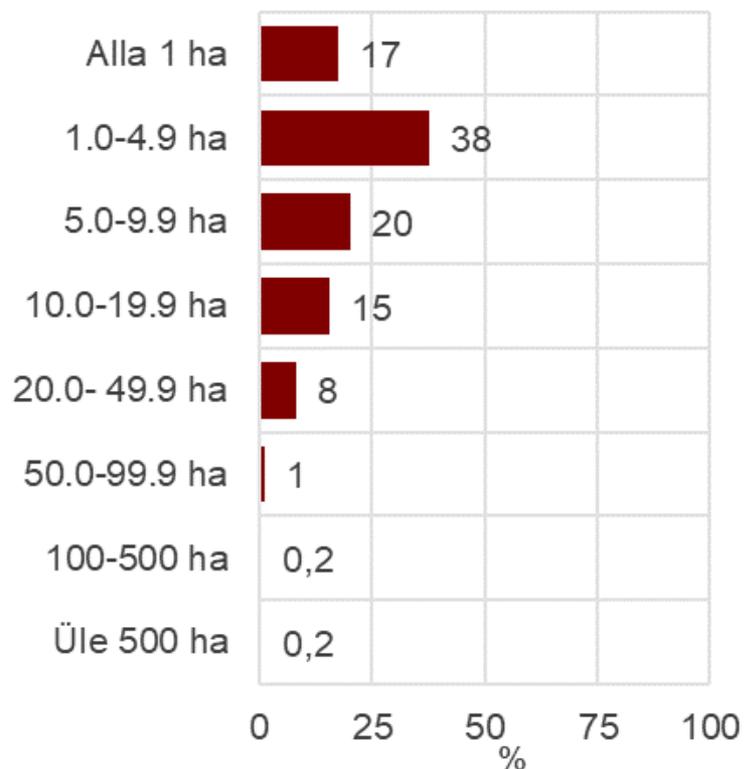
Who is an average forest owner?

- The average forest owner is a 56-year-old Estonian man
- has a 2nd level education,
- works and lives in a rural settlement in the immediate vicinity of his forest land;
- doesn't belong to forest association.
- The majority of Estonian private forest owners are forest owners who own less than 20 hectares of forest.

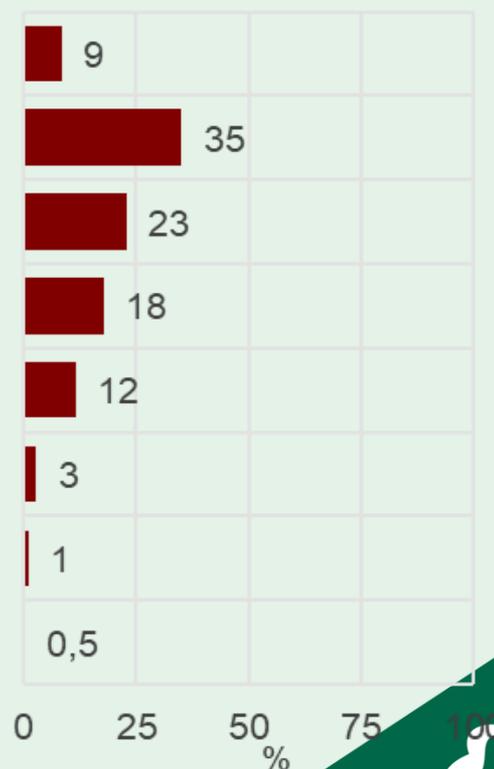


Distribution of forest owners by the size of forest land, comparison of register data and answers given in the questionnaire

Register data



Answers in questionnaire



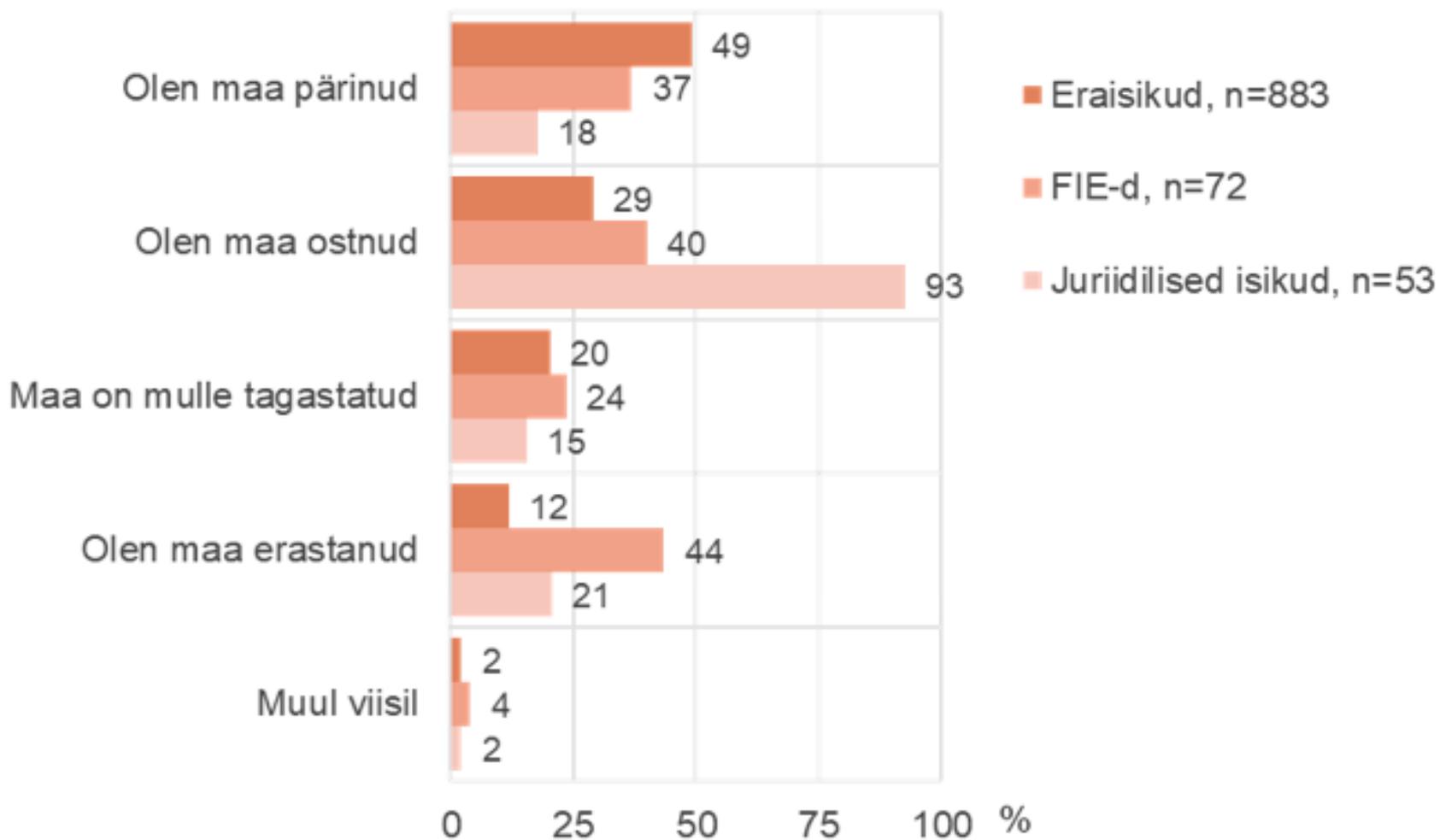
Distribution of forest owners on the basis of forest **land acquisition** method

In the case of private forest owners, the most common is the acquisition of forest by inheritance (49%), while the majority of legal forest owners have purchased the forest (93%).

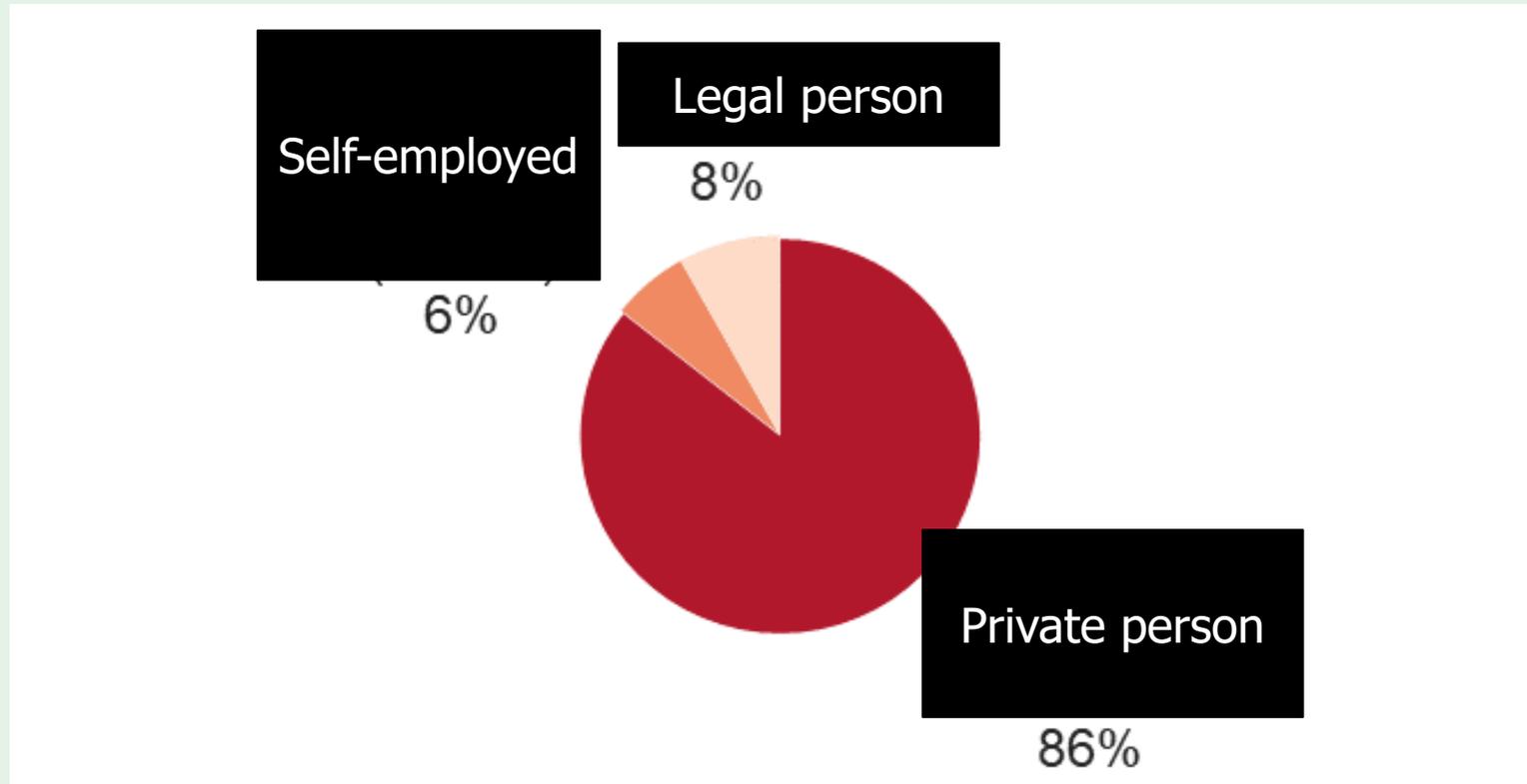
In the case of forest owners who managed their forests as self-employed, one clearly dominant option was not distinguished - privatization (44%), purchase (40%) and inheritance (37%) were mentioned relatively equally.



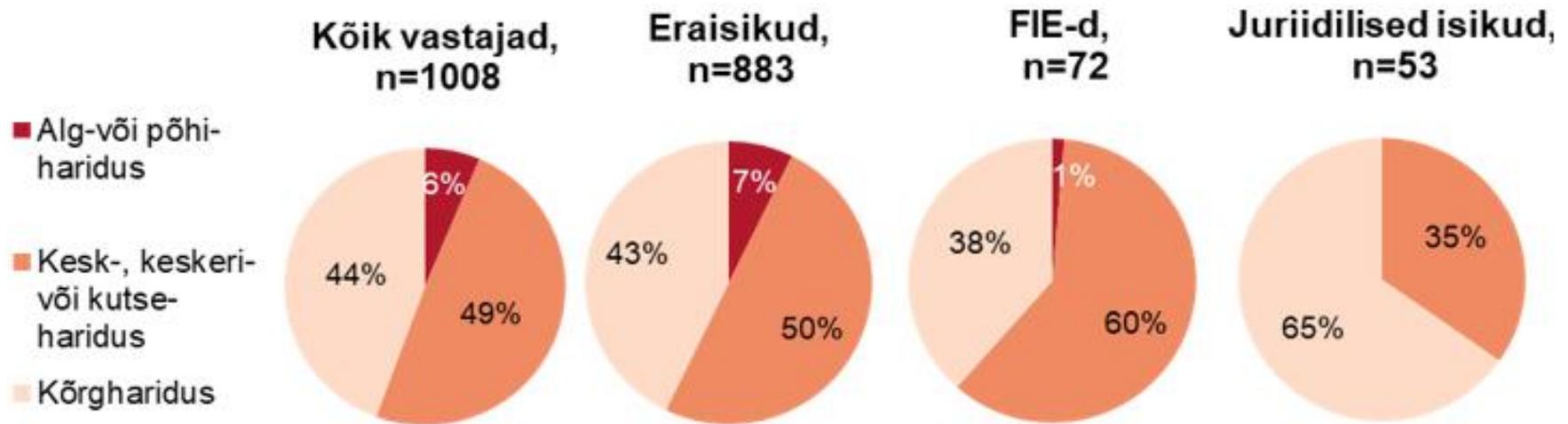
Distribution of forest owners on the basis of forest **land acquisition** method



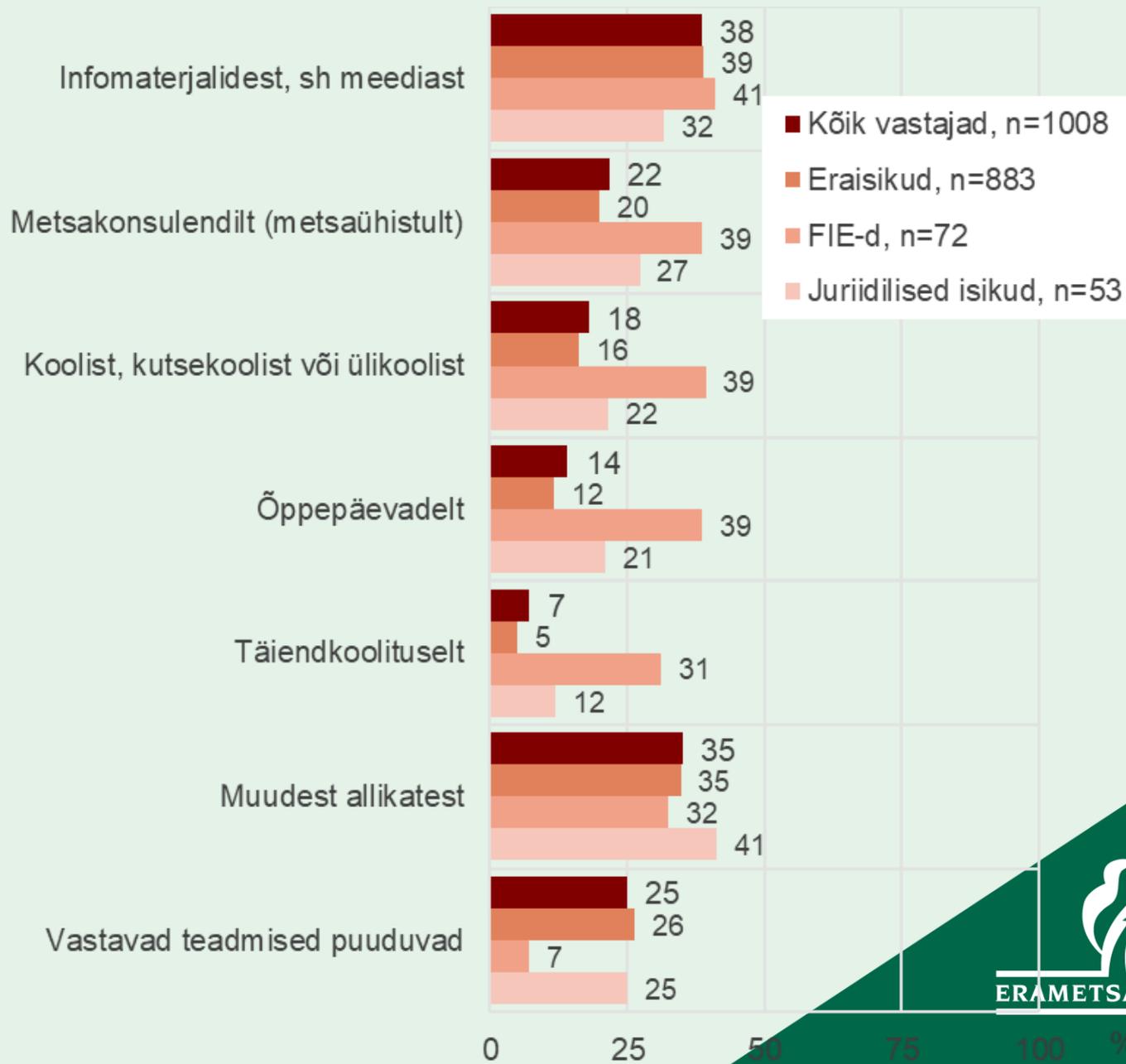
Private forest owners manage their forests differently



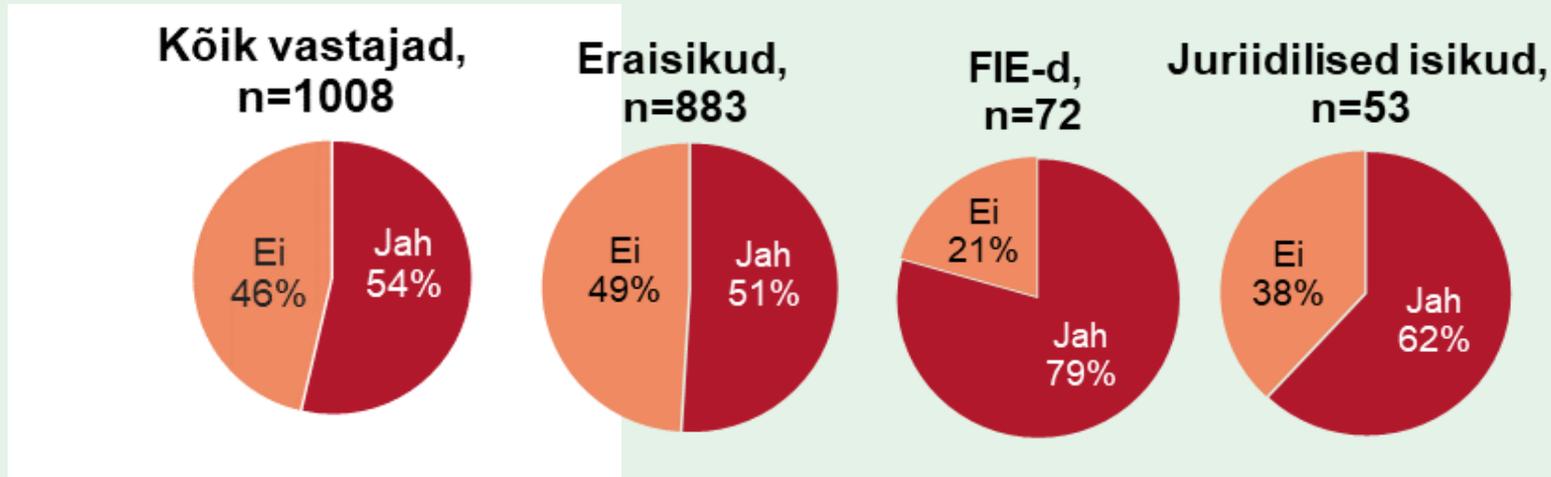
Educational distribution of forest owners



Acquisition of forestry knowledge

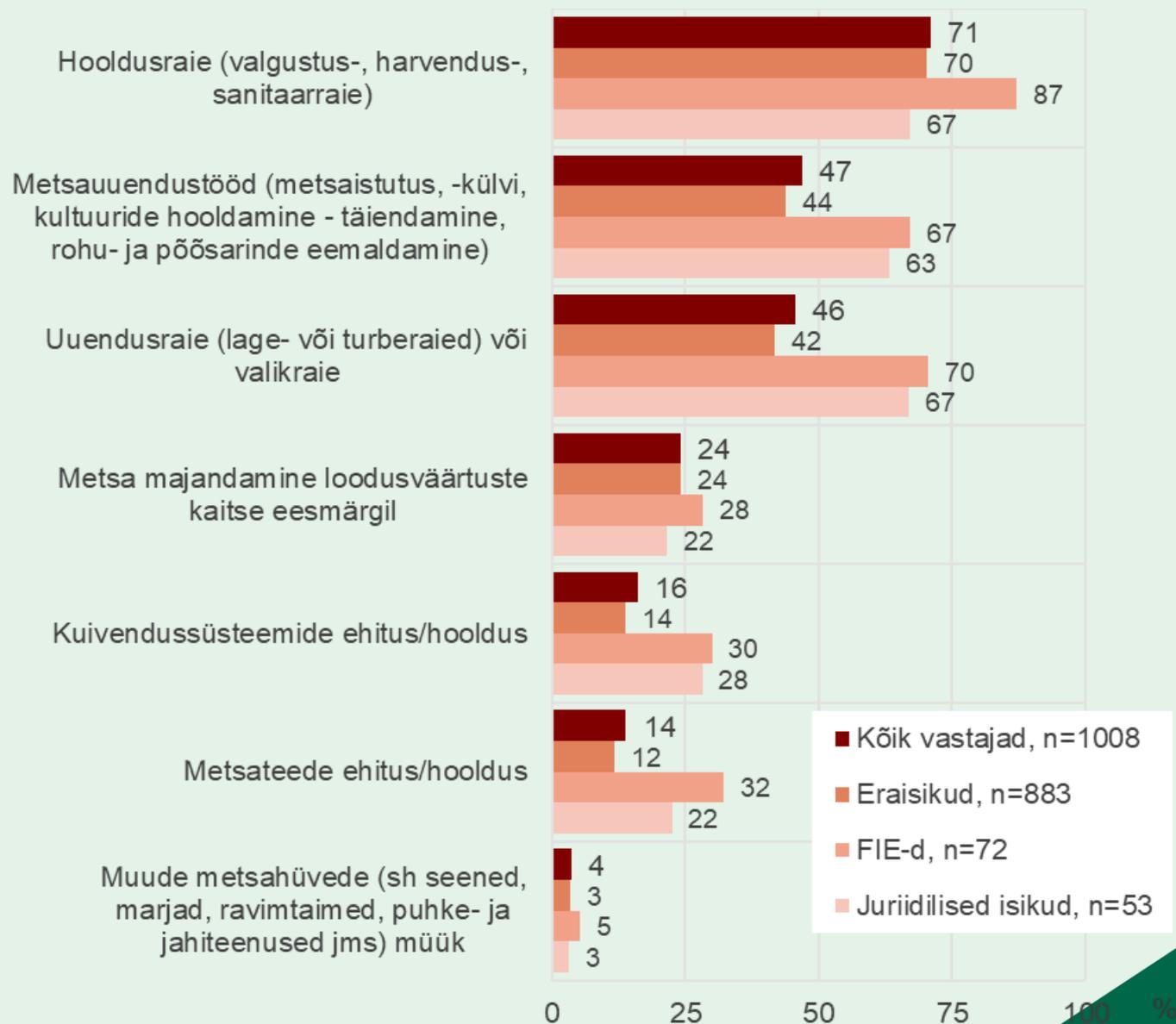


Regular management of own forest (incl. planting, maintenance, felling)



- In the last 10 years, 85% of forest owners have carried out forest-related work;
- 70% of forest owners have used the sources of income related to forest ownership;
- 26% of forest owners have applied for forestry-related subsidies;
 - 23% have also received support.

Works in the forest during the last 10 years

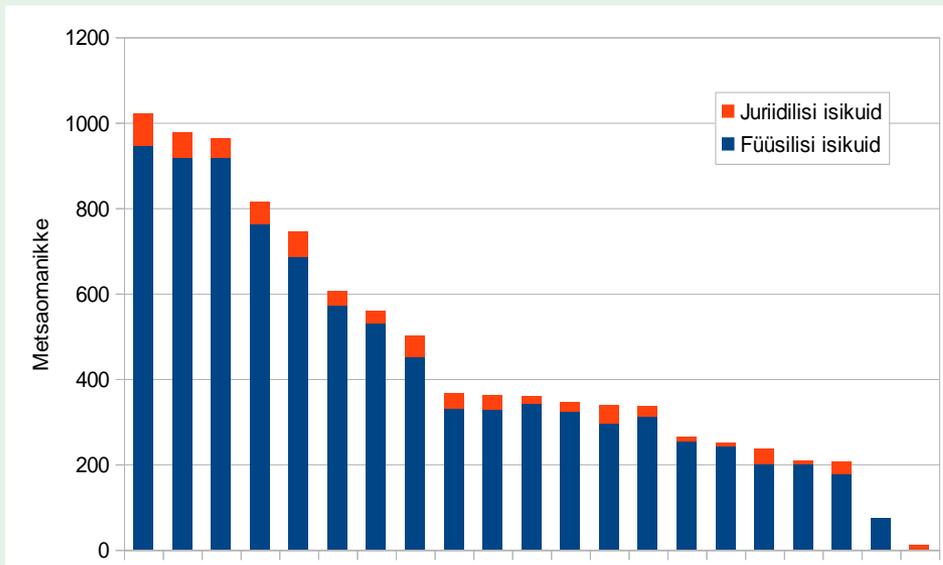


Proportion of forest owners who performed works

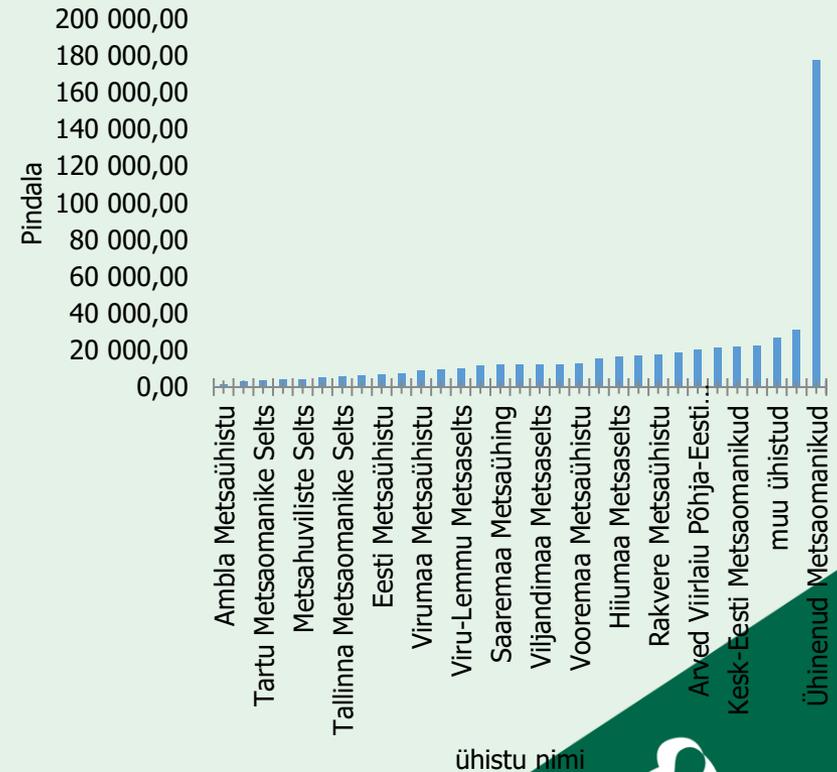


ERAMETSAKESKUS

The number of forest owners and the area of forest land differ in forest associations



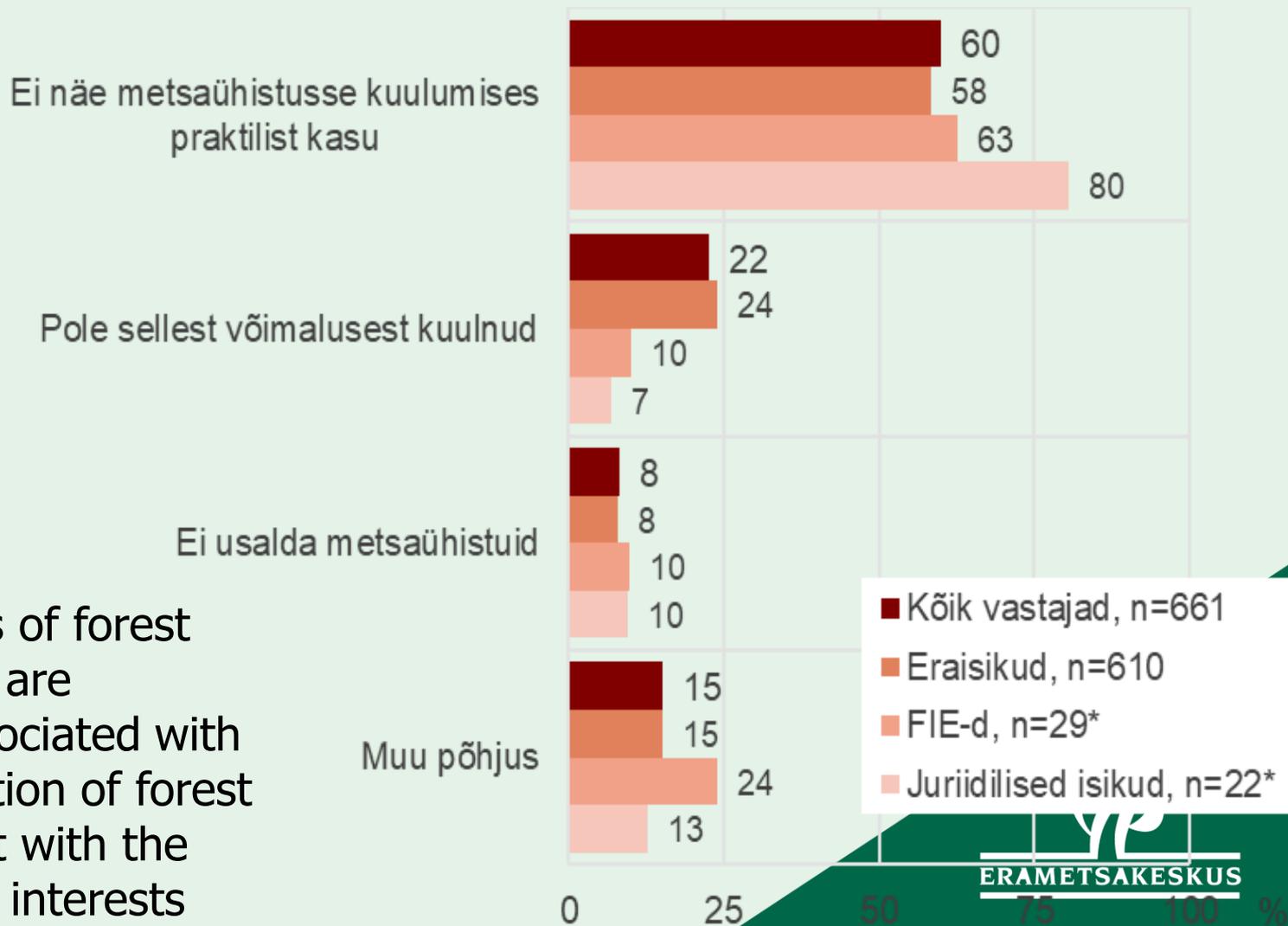
Pindala vs. ühistu nimi



ühistu nimi

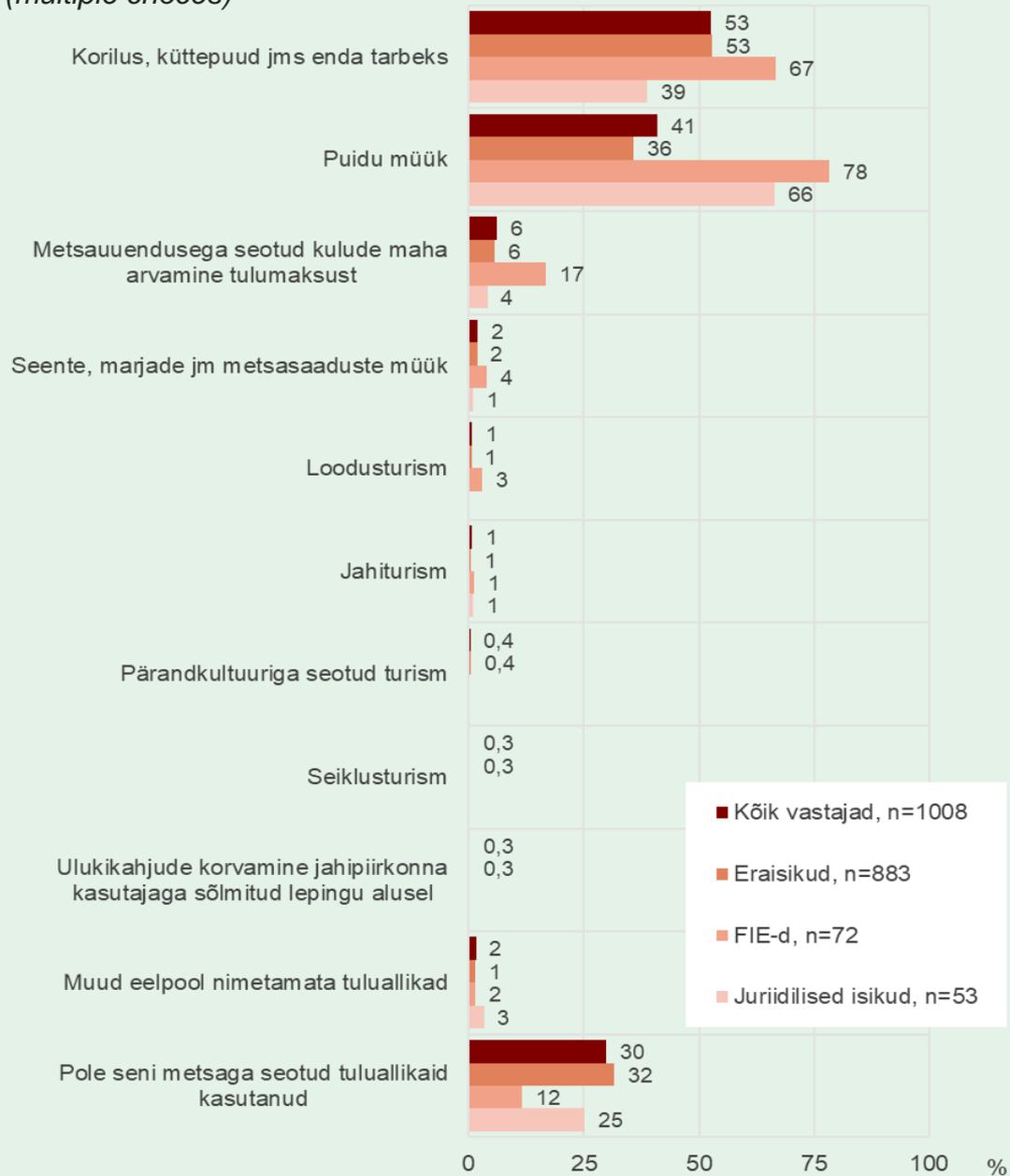
21% of the forest owners who participated in the survey belong to a forest association and 12% plan to join a forest association. More than half (67%) of forest owners do not belong to forest cooperatives and do not plan to join. **WHY?**

The activities of forest cooperatives are primarily associated with the organization of forest work and not with the protection of interests

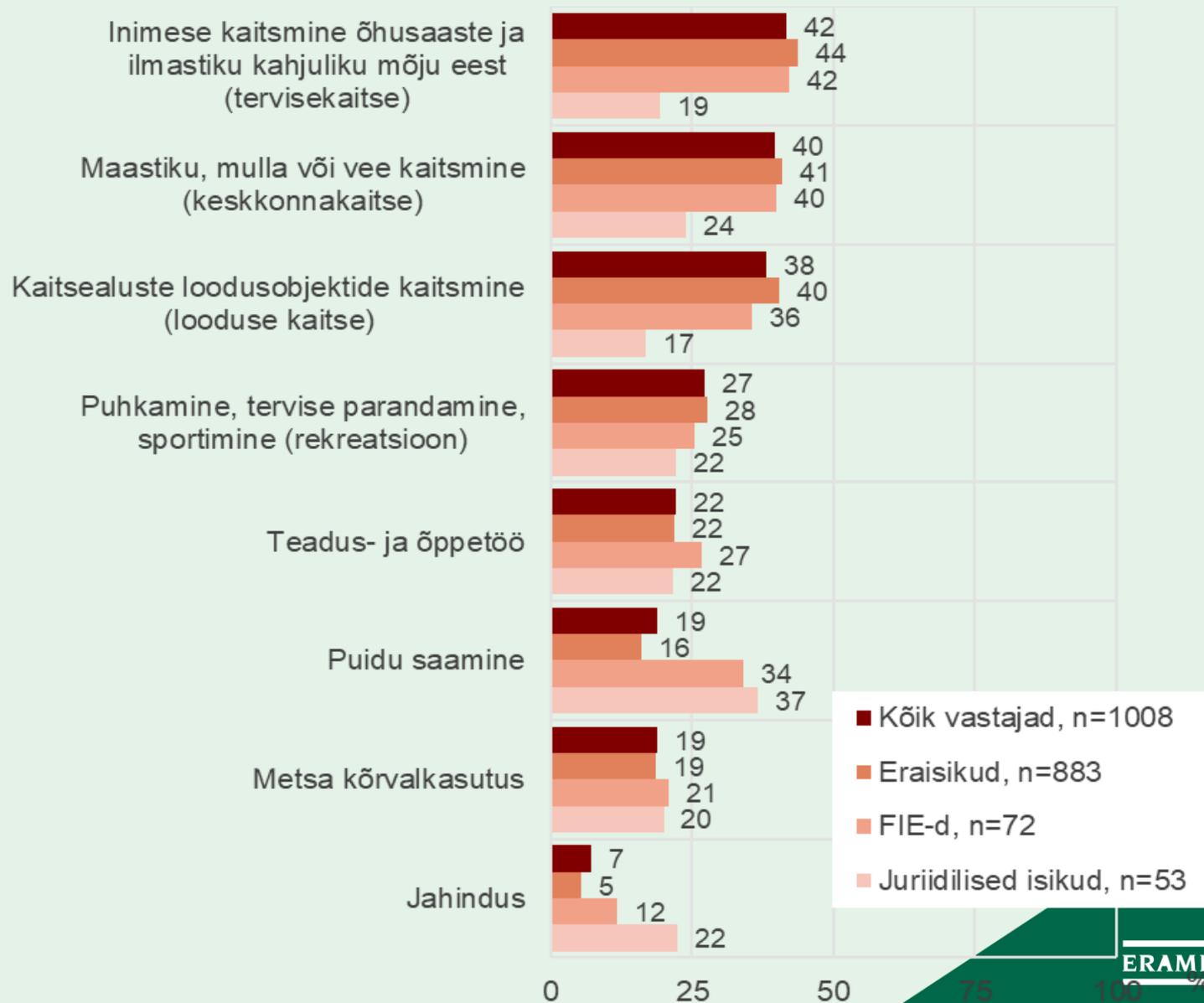


Sources of income related to forest ownership

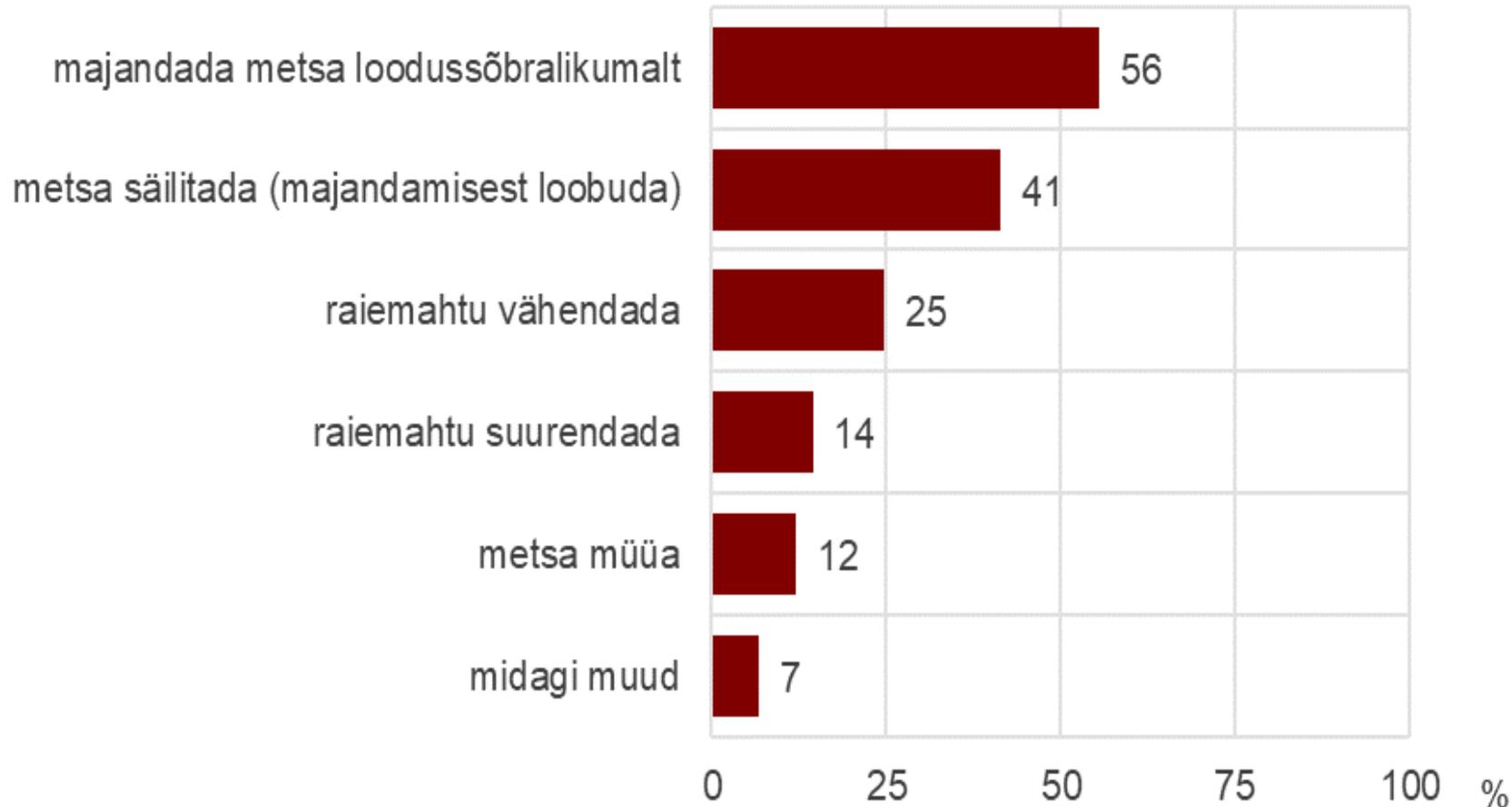
(multiple choices)



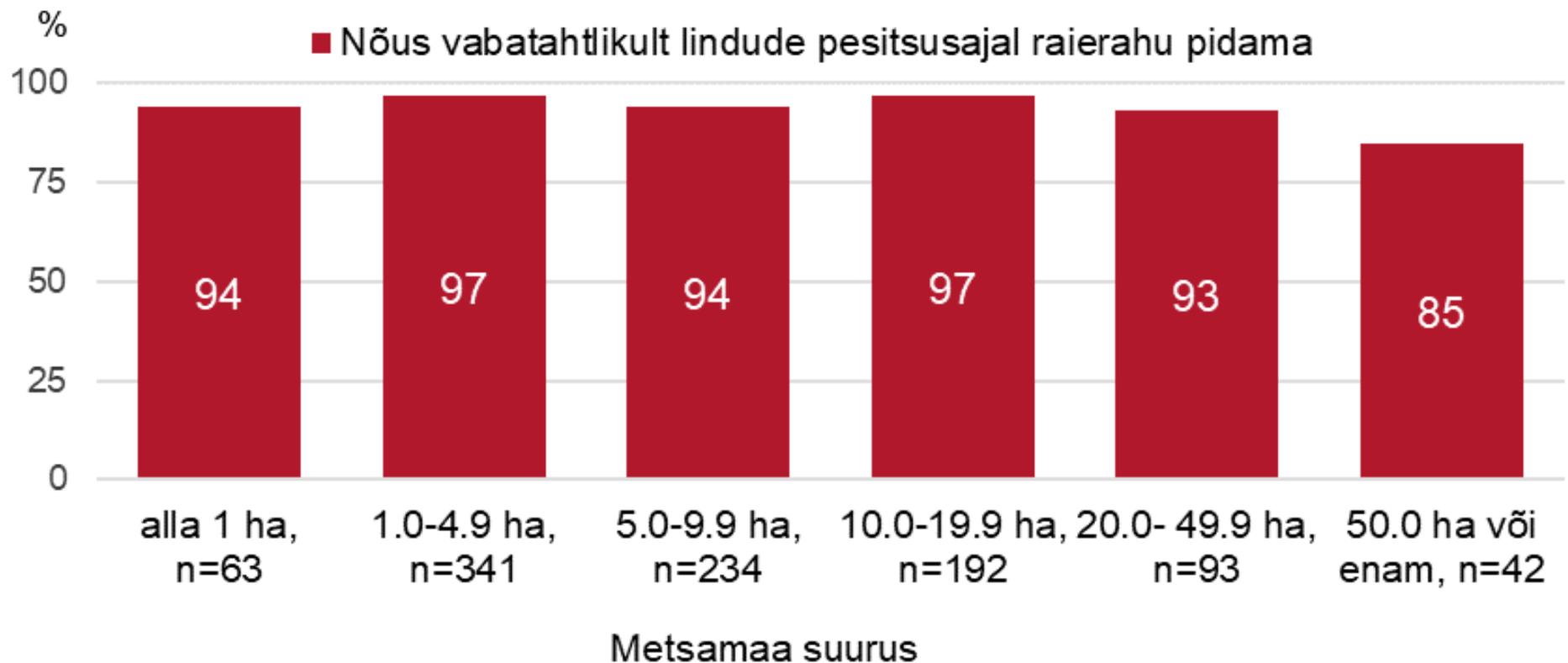
Objectives considered very important in the use of forest ownership *(the proportions of respondents rated "very important")*



The impact of the public debate on forestry on the behavior of forest owners



Willingness to keep logs voluntarily during bird nesting *(Percentage of respondents who agree to keep a logging harvest voluntarily)*



The main problems of the forest sector and expectations for 2030 according to the average forest owner

- Unreasonable forest management:
 - Increased state control and voluntary logging
- A lot of of ignorant opinions (from extreme conservationists) and media noise that creates a negative image of the forestry industry:
 - More (true) information and nature education through the media!
 - Listen to scientists!



The main problems of the forest sector and expectations for 2030 according to the average forest owner

- Unfair taxation of private forest owners:
 - ➡ Treat natural and legal persons equally.
- Legislation is changing too fast:
 - ➡ More stability needed;
- A quarter of the forest land is under protection:
 - ➡ It's a good caliber. The content of this protection is important!

It is important to clarify that the status of the Estonian forest is actually good!

Tänan!



Euroopa Maaelu Arengu
Põllumajandusfond:
Euroopa investeeringud
maapiirkondadesse

10/1/2021