



# **THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF HUNTING IN THE EU**

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**FACE President**

# The Economic Value of Hunting

- ▶ Hunting has to fulfil a number of tasks, not least the management of wildlife and reducing damages caused by game.
- ▶ But not only that, hunting represents also an enormous economic factor.

# From an economic perspective, hunting has a significant importance for rural areas in Europe /1

- ▶ In 2015, hunting in **France** was worth € 3.6 billion and supported 25,800 jobs
- ▶ The 850,000 **Italian** hunters spend annually € 3.26 billion and hunting is estimated to provide nearly 43,000 jobs.
- ▶ In the **UK**, a recent study found that hunting contributes to the British economy £ 2.5 billion (€ 3.2 billion). £ 250 million (€ 295 million) are spent each year for conservation measures by shooting provides. Such conservation activities are labour intensive and are approximately worth 3.9 million working days, equivalent to 16,000 full-time jobs.

From an economic perspective, hunting has a significant importance for rural areas in Europe /2

- ▶ A study in **Ireland** (2007) shows that hunters contribute to the national economy € 111.6 mil.; 80-90% was spent in rural areas.
- ▶ Through their national confederation, **Greek** hunters finance the activities of 400 Game Guards in environmental management and the tackling of illegal activities estimated at €7 million annually.

# Annual expenditure

Dogs	30%
Transport / travel	25%
Lease of hunting grounds	15%
Firearms	11%
Legal expenses	10%
Other	5%
Equipment	4%

**Average      2.400 EUR**

# The economic value of Hunting

*In Europe, there are a total of 6.7 million hunters who provide an economic output estimated at EUR 16 billion.*

*65% of our European countryside is managed by hunters in a variety of forms.*

*The European hunter spends an average of € 2,400.*

**65%**

**€ 2.400**

**€ 16 Bn.**



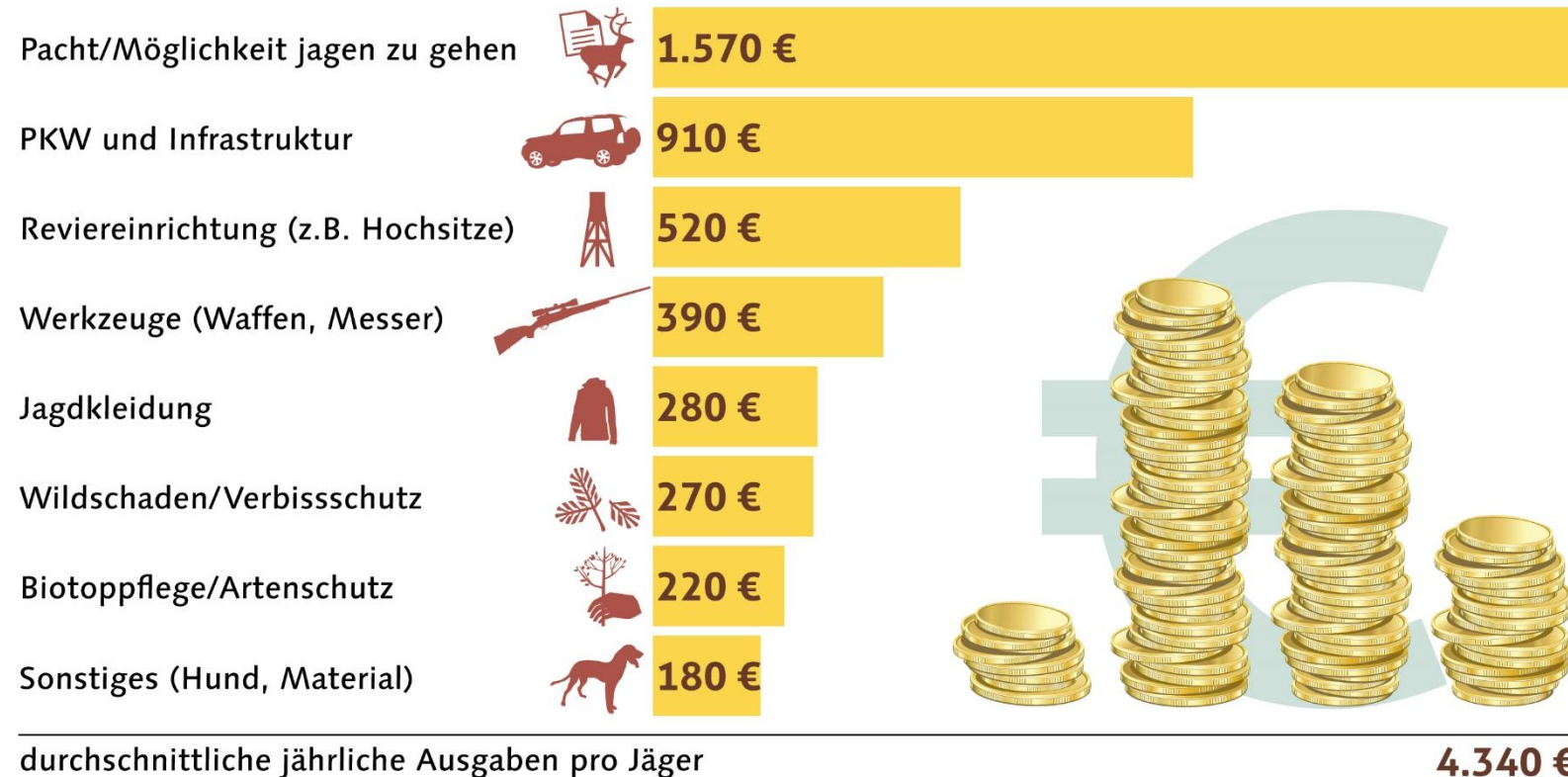
# Austria

- ▶ 123.283 Hunters
- ▶ spending 475 Million / year
- ▶ Average: € 3.853 / year / hunter
- ▶ A projection based on 6,7 million hunters:
- ▶  $\text{€ } 3.853 * 6.700.000 = \text{€ } \mathbf{25,8 \text{ Bn}}$

Source : Niederösterreichischer Landesjagdverband, 2015

# Wert und Kosten der Jagd

Jährliche Ausgaben für ... (Durchschnittswerte in €)



Jäger in Deutschland geben jährlich **1,6 Mrd. €** für die Jagd aus.

Für Biotoppflege und Artenschutz geben Jäger **82,5 Mio. €** jährlich aus.





# Germany

- ▶ German Hunters spend on average **€ 4.340** /year.
- ▶ Hunters in Germany spend annually **€ 1,6 Bn** for hunting.
- ▶ Hunters in Germany give **€ 82,5 million** each year for habitat and wildlife conservation initiatives.
- ▶ A projection based on 6,7 million hunters:
- ▶  $\text{€ } 4.340 * 6.700.000 = \text{€ } 29 \text{ Bn}$

# Hunting provides jobs

Dealers of hunting firearms;

Professional hunters and gamekeepers;

Dog trainers and pet food;

Manufacturing of firearms and special items;

Manufacturing and sale of clothing and accessories, etc.

The hunting sector in Europe provides **102.581 jobs**.

# Nature Conservation /1

Voluntary work hunters to protect nature (ecosystem services). The work of a hunter can be summarized in the following points:

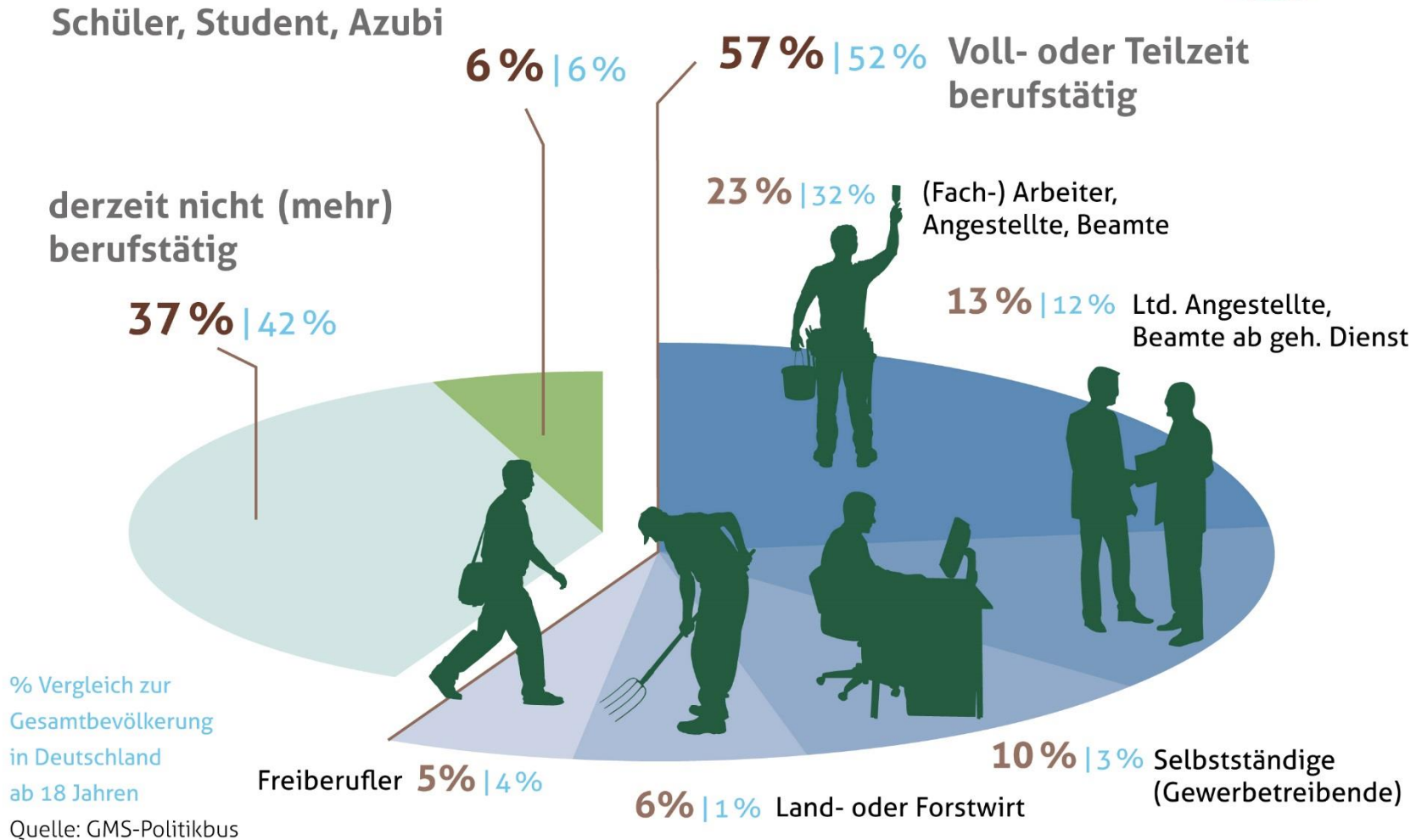
- ▶ Wildlife management (population management);
- ▶ Predator and invasive alien species control;
- ▶ Maintenance of forests;
- ▶ Conservation/restoration of habitats;
- ▶ Conservation of wildlife corridors;
- ▶ Creation / maintenance of coverage for game;
- ▶ Creation / maintenance of fences,
- ▶ Hedges, ponds, etc. ;

# Nature Conservation /2

Voluntary work hunters to protect nature (ecosystem services). The work of a hunter can be summarized in the following points:

- ▶ Creation / maintenance of winter quarters;
- ▶ Winter feeding of wild animals;
- ▶ Reforestation activities (e. g. browsing protection);
- ▶ Biodiversity conservation;
- ▶ Set-aside of agricultural land in the EU:
- ▶ 2.9 million hectares of habitat are managed for wildlife in the EU (65%);
- ▶ These areas are mostly maintained and monitored in countless hours of work by hunters.

# Ausbildung und Berufstätigkeit





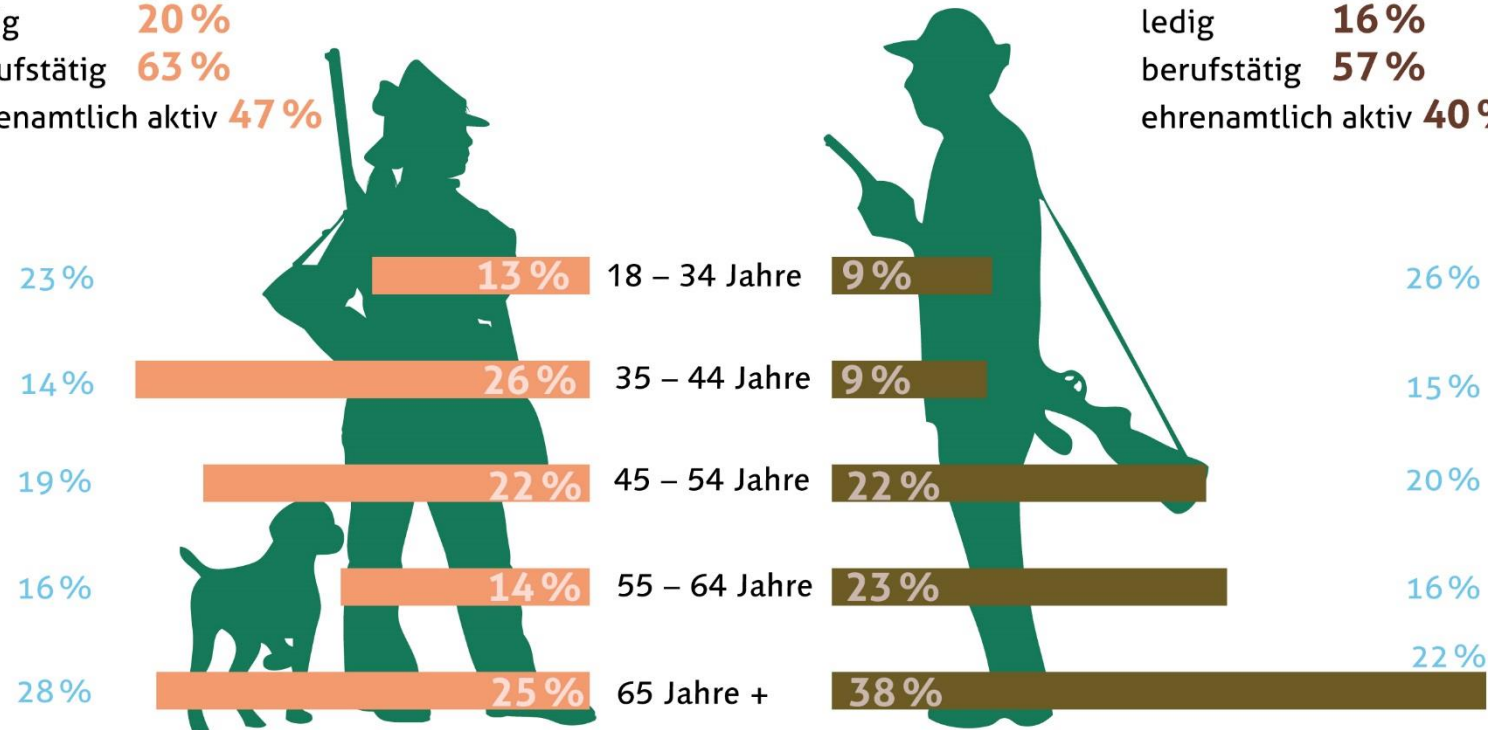
# Soziodemografie der Jäger



verheiratet **58 %**  
ledig **20 %**  
berufstätig **63 %**  
ehrenamtlich aktiv **47 %**

Altersklassen

verheiratet **77 %**  
ledig **16 %**  
berufstätig **57 %**  
ehrenamtlich aktiv **40 %**



■ : Anteil in % in der Jägerschaft | %-Werte: Gesamtbevölkerung in Deutschland ab 18 Jahren Quelle: Destatis

**7 % | 52 %**

Jägerin ø 51 Jahre

**93 % | 48 %**

Jäger ø 57 Jahre



# Rural development needs a new approach

## **Cork declaration - A living countryside (1996)**

- *Recalls that agriculture and forestry are no longer predominant in Europe's economies; that their relative economic weight continues to decline, and that, consequently, rural development must address all socio-economic sectors in the countryside;*

→ Rural areas need hunting as an additional driving economic factor.

# Hunting and EU policy

EU environmental policy considers nature as capital. Ecosystems provide services worth billion of euros. But these benefits cannot be measured only in monetary terms.

Hunting is also an ecosystem service.

- ▶ In order to identify ecosystem services the European Commission is carrying out the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES) process;
- ▶ Recently, FACE and other stakeholders have called for the establishment of a working group on Cultural Ecosystem Services within MAES.
- ▶ FACE calls on the EC for the recognition of Cultural Ecosystem Services.

# Hunting as ecosystem service /1

Economic surveys do not capture the complexity of values that can be derived from hunting activities, e. g. :

- ▶ Direct economic benefits - hunting fees, equipment, travels, etc.
- ▶ Environmental benefits - these include aspects related to conservation activities, ecosystem retention and management.
- ▶ Social benefits - hunting is often a very important social and cultural activity in many rural areas which has value in binding communities as well as offering useful social integration tools.

# Hunting as ecosystem service /2

Economic surveys do not capture the complexity of values that can be derived from hunting activities, e. g. :

- ▶ Future bequest benefits - hunting helps retain a link to rural areas and an understanding of ecosystem functioning that serves to retain cultural knowledge and understanding for future generations.
- ▶ Opportunity costs – these are related mainly to the costs that would be incurred by Governments in managing wildlife populations and paying for damages incurred by these populations.



# Hunting as ecosystem service /3

The promotion of rural areas needs to increasingly focus on a variety of economic development approaches. In this sense, the role of hunting represents a particularly relevant socioeconomic factor for rural development policies.

- ▶ Production of game meat;
- ▶ Conservation of natural and cultural landscapes;
- ▶ Protection of biodiversity;

# Hunting as ecosystem service /4

The promotion of rural areas needs to increasingly focus on a variety of economic development approaches. In this sense, the role of hunting represents a particularly relevant socioeconomic factor for rural development policies.

- ▶ Jobs creation;
  - ▶ Improving the economic viability of rural areas;
  - ▶ Improving quality of life.
- Hunting contributes to rural development!

# Hunting as an incentive to conservation

- ▶ Sustainable hunting represents an incentive for the conservation of habitats and wildlife
- ▶ Hunters contribute to the goals of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 : The FACE Biodiversity Manifesto gathers and evaluates hundreds of cases.
- ▶ Conservation and management of ecosystems by hunters provides multiple advantages for society.

# The value of volunteer work by hunters

- ▶ Hunters spend millions of work days on conservation
- ▶ A simple projection based on a recent French study : **€ 16** billion

Need to better calculate these statistics and integrate them in EU economic data.

# What is needed?

- ▶ *Recognition from EU policy makers of the benefits that hunting and shooting bring to the rural economy.*
- ▶ *Cultural Ecosystem Services must be defined and be included in the MAES process.*
- ▶ *EUROSTAT is urged to survey, at five-year intervals, the economic impact of hunting, fishing, watching and gathering wild species as an EU indicator of sustainable use for assessing the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.*
- ▶ *A common EU methodology for the measuring of the economic value of hunting.*





**Thank you !**

**Hon. Michl EBNER  
FACE President**