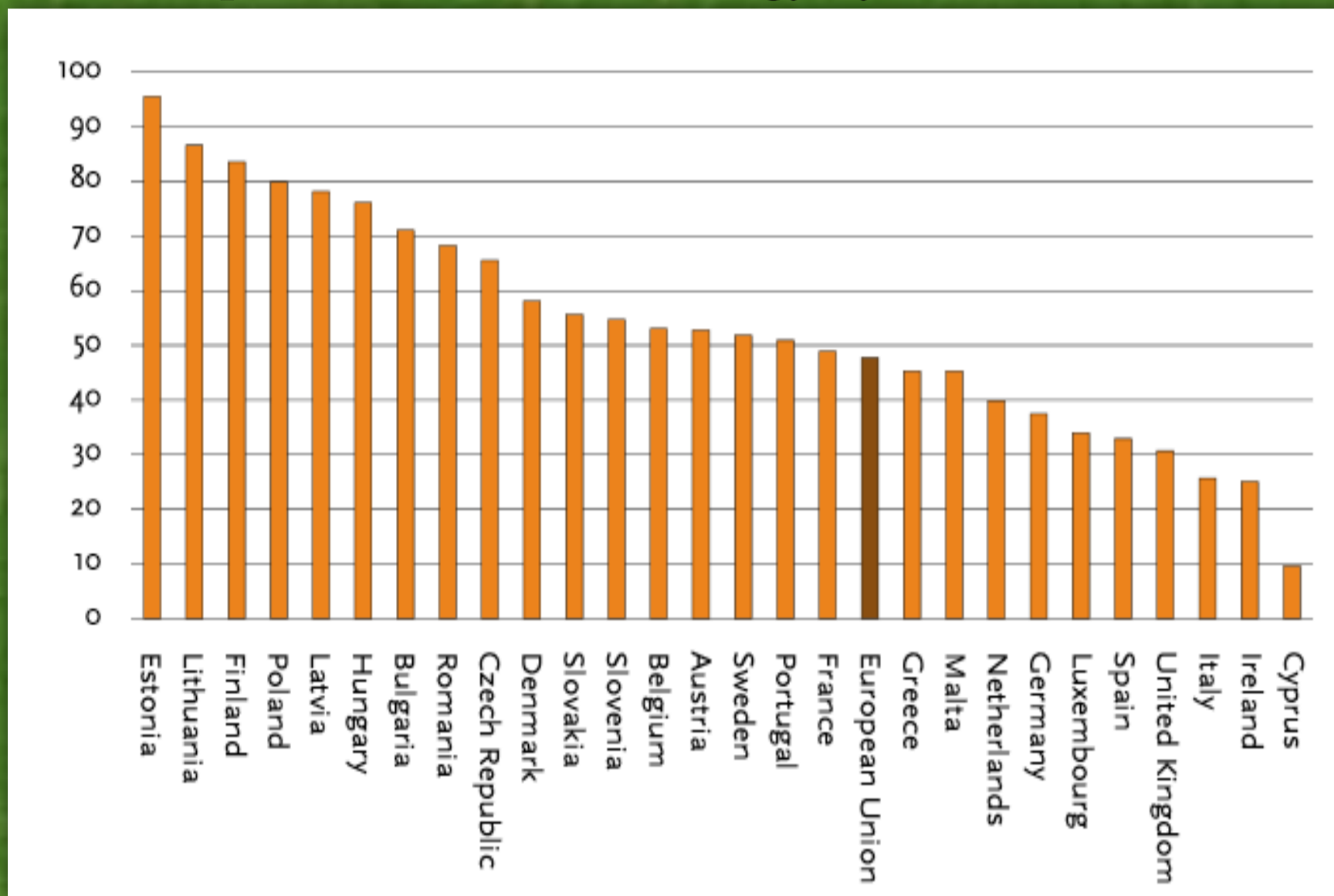


BIOENERGY FROM EUROPEAN FORESTS

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Bioenergy, also Biomass Energy, is renewable energy from biomass. This includes any organic material which stores sunlight in form of chemical energy. As wood from forests is still the largest biomass energy resource, we necessitate forests. We need them not only as material resources, but as a carbon sink as well.

Fig 1. Share of wood and wood waste in gross inland consumption of renewable energy by EU member states.



PROS:

- Offers hope of rural regeneration
- Does not depend on fossil fuels
- Promotes energy independence
- Keeps farming land cultivated
- Produces greenhouse gases
- Converts waste into fuel
- CO₂ neutral
- Renewable

CONS:

- Large area of land is needed
- Limited by the geography of a country
- If it is overused, then deforestation and other environmental problems can develop. This has happened in less developed countries
- Materials may not be available year-round



IMPORTANCE:

- Energy production
- Heat production by burning wood
- Plentiful sources

SPECIALITY:

- Energy, economic, environmental benefits
- Helps to solve economic problems
- Several types of materials can be used

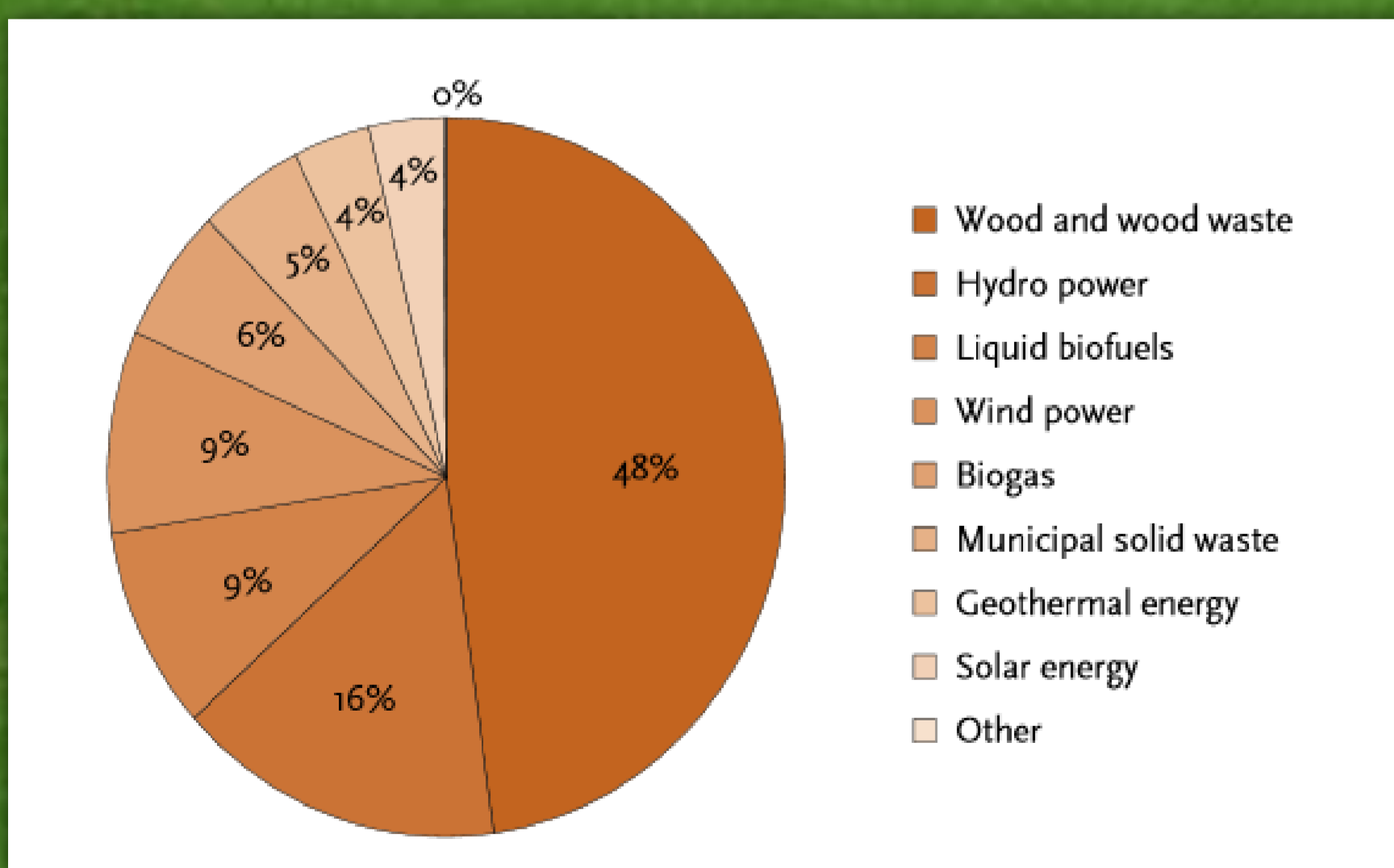
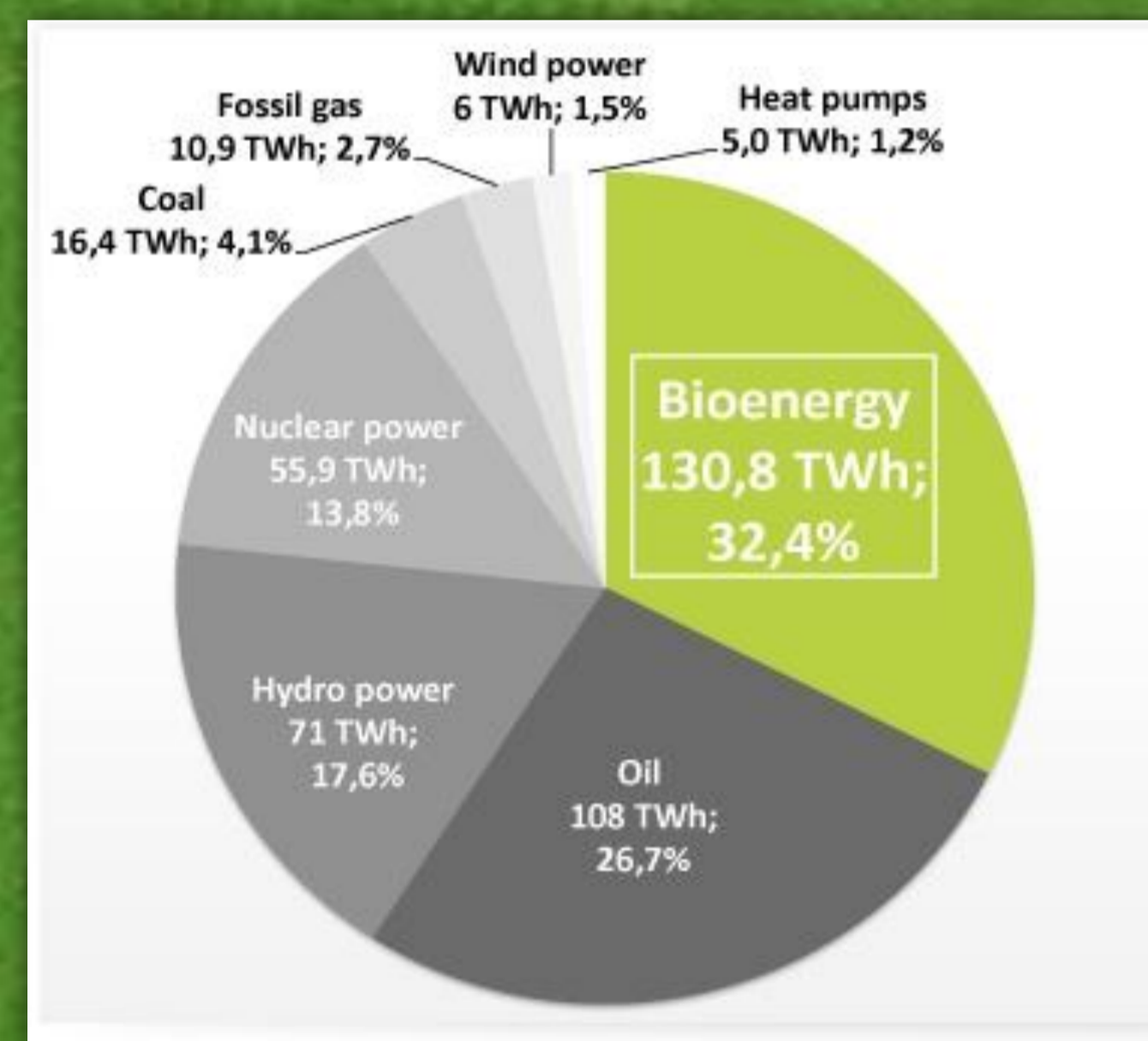


Fig 2. Share of renewable energy sources in gross inland consumption of renewable energy in the EU.

OUR OPINION:

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- Environmental and economic sustainability gains
- Large variety of sources and qualities, end products and markets
- Rural regeneration

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- Questionable biodiversity impacts
- Deforestation
- Burning generates CO₂

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