

# Baltic Peat Producers Forum 2022

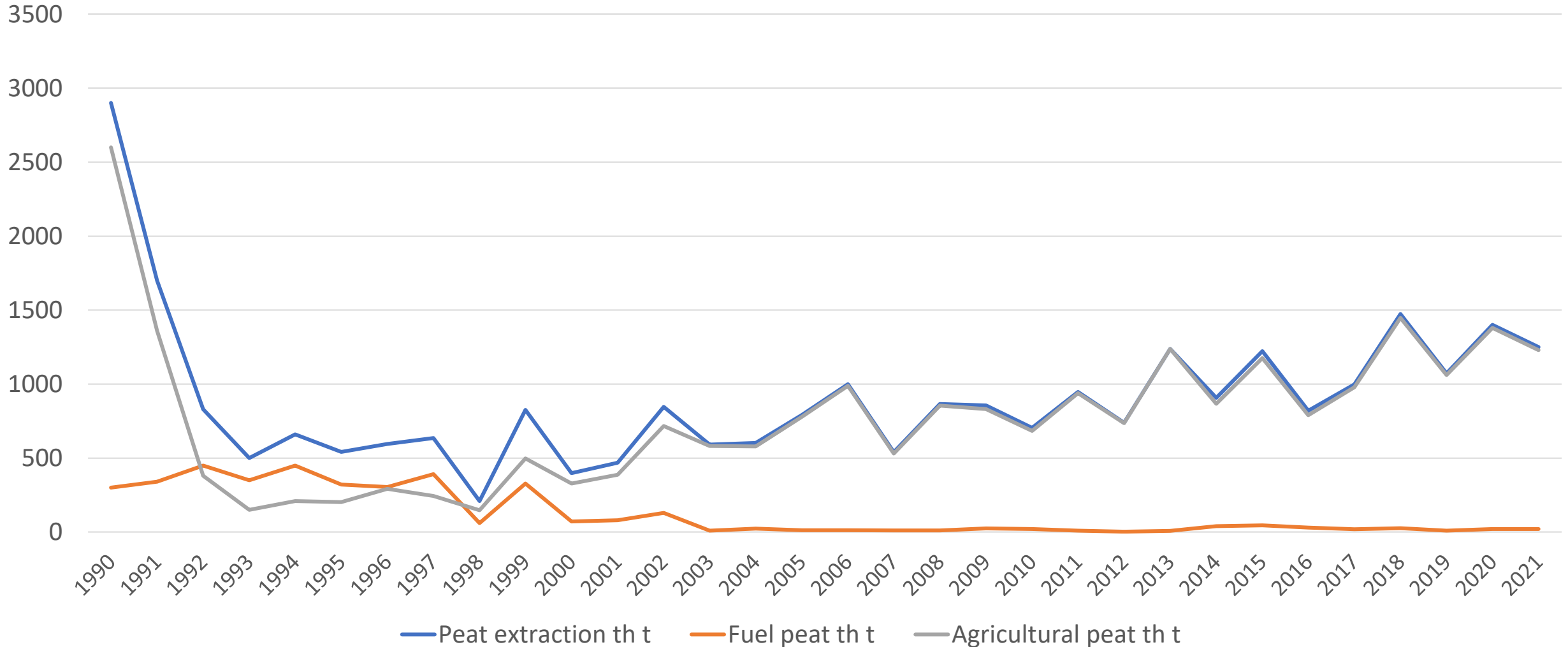
Ingrīda Krīgere  
member of the board  
Latvian Peat association

15.09.2022



# Peat use in Latvia 1990-2021

LVGMC, CSP



# Peat from Latvia

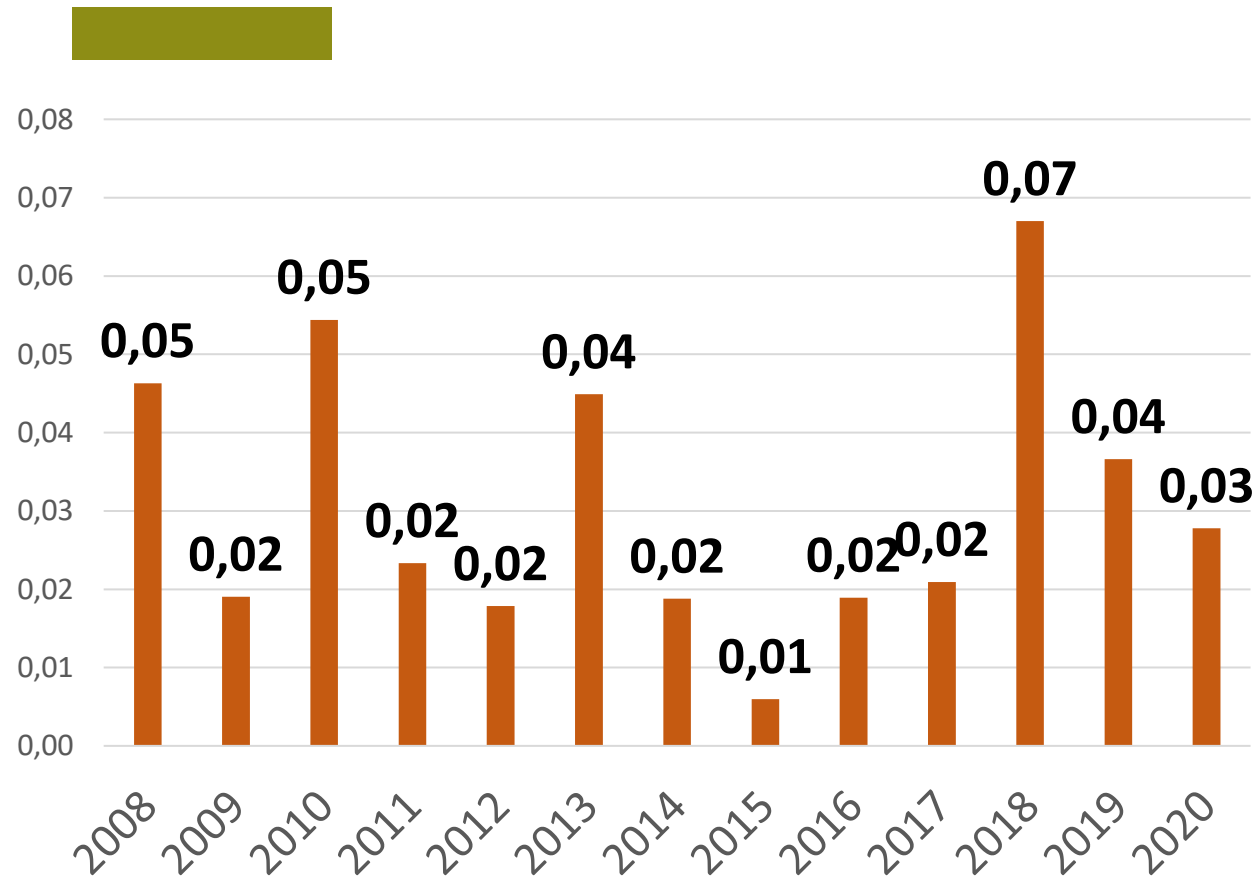


**97-98% used for horticulture**

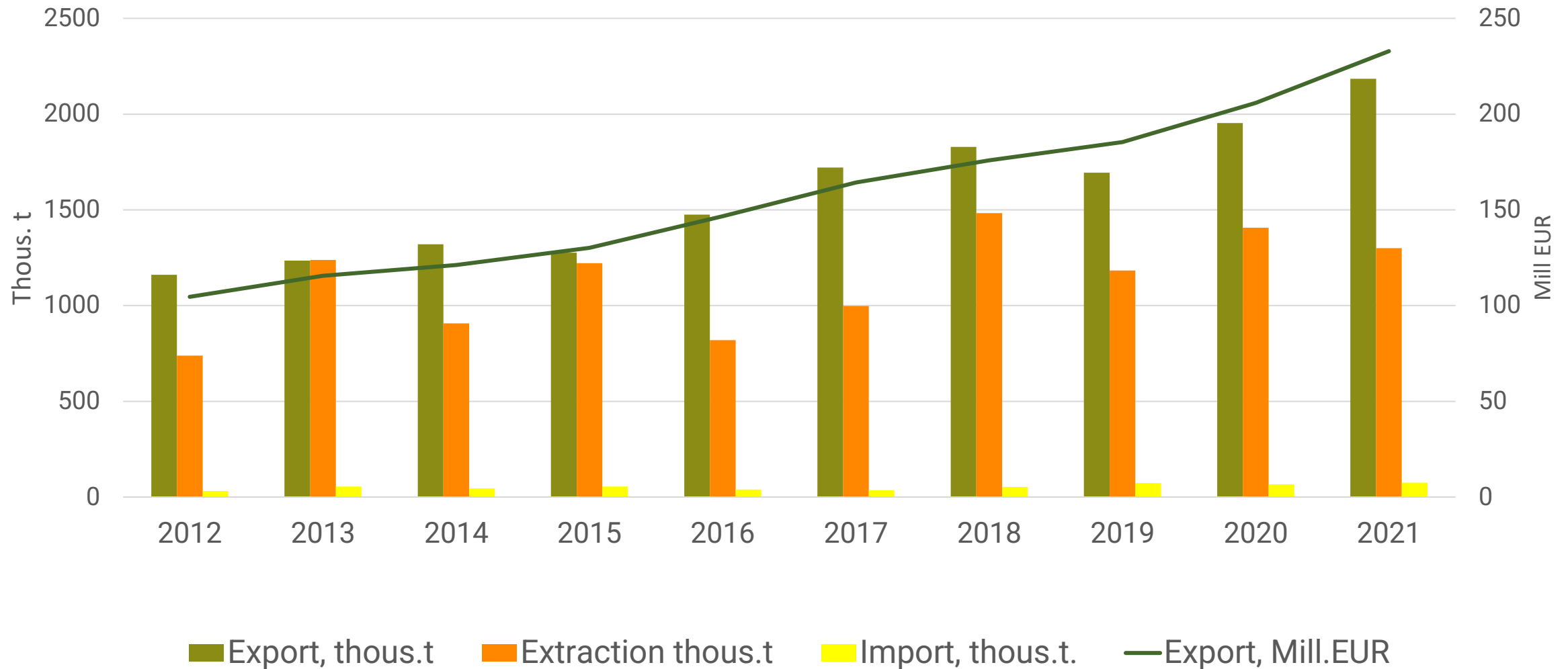
**1% for energy**

**93% export**

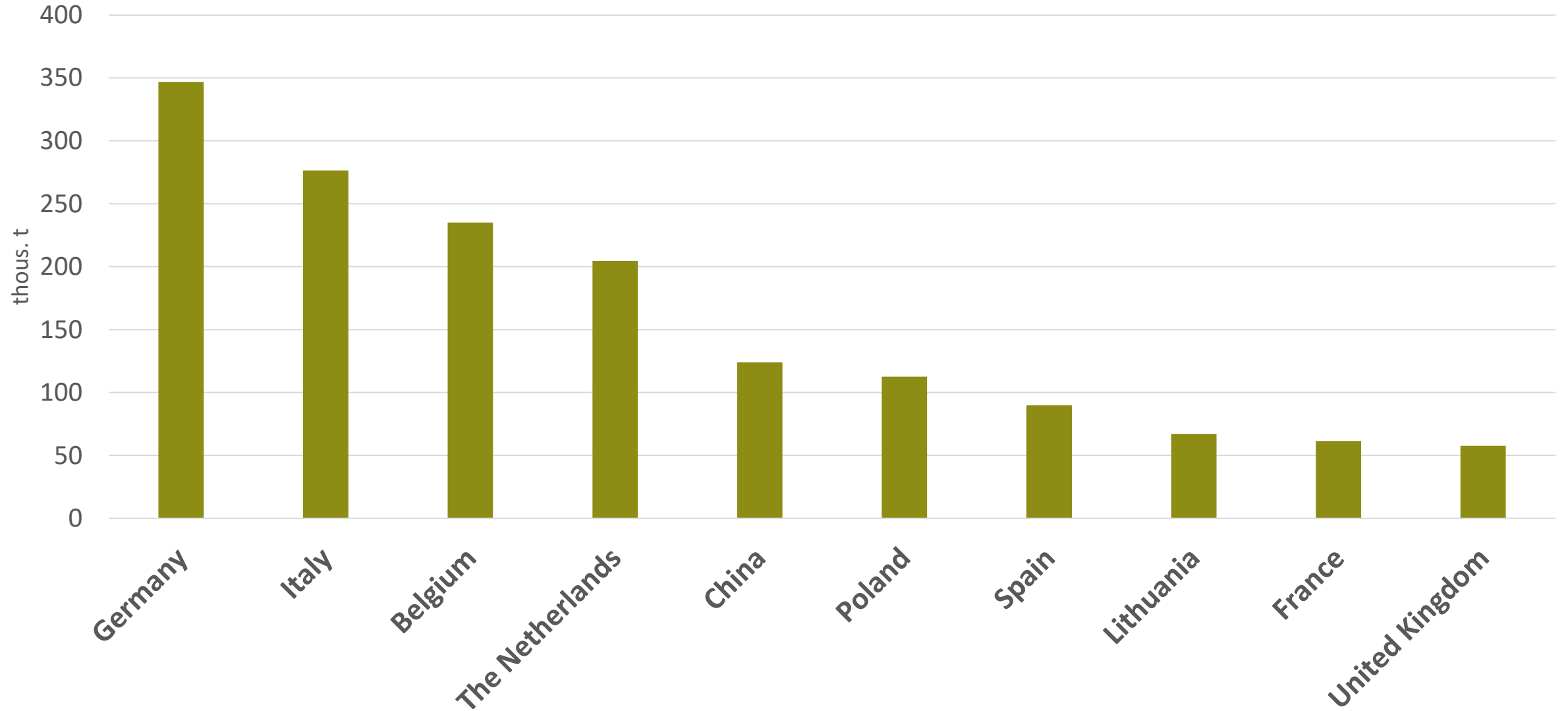
# Peat in Latvian energy balance%



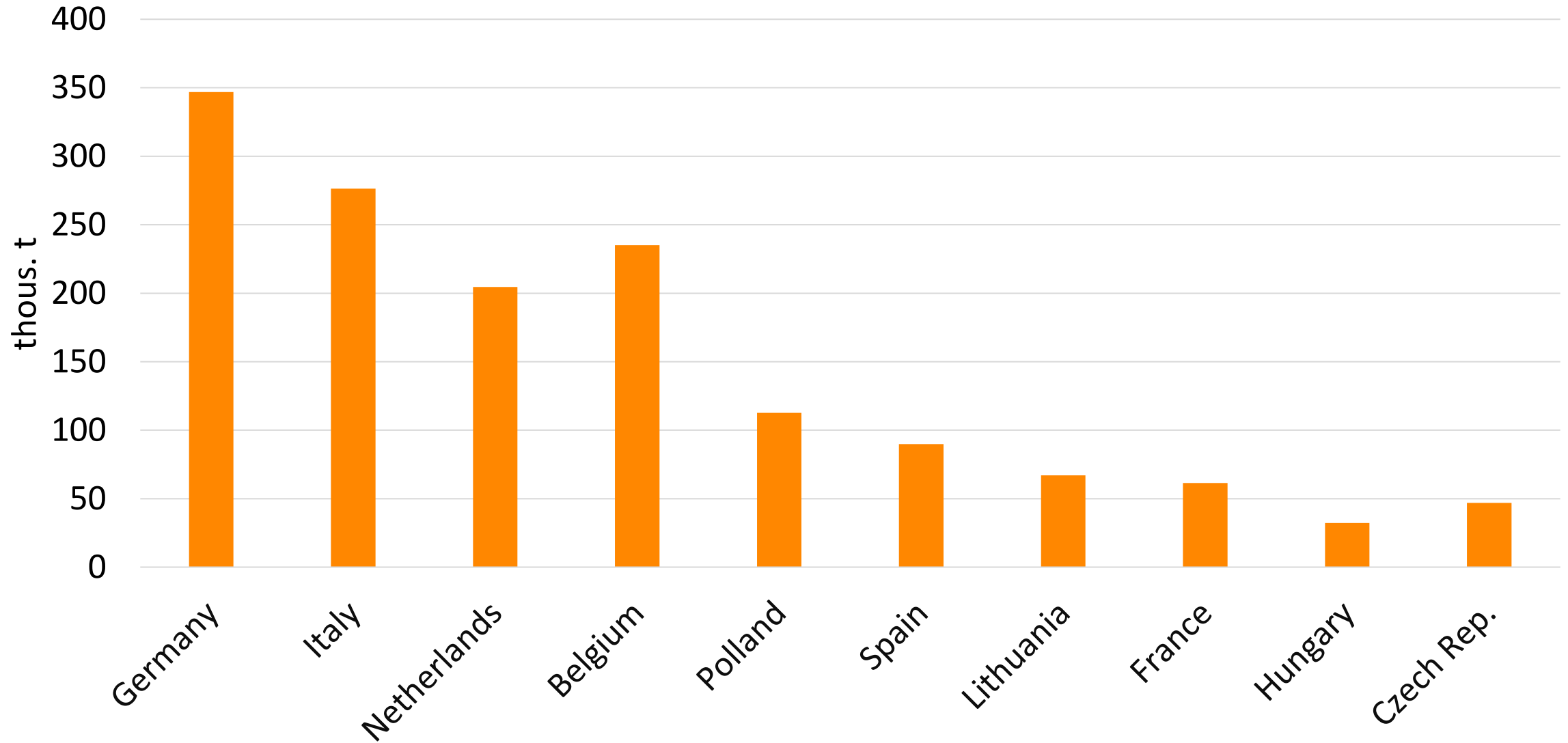
# Extraction, export, import thousand tons, export million EUR 2012 - 2021



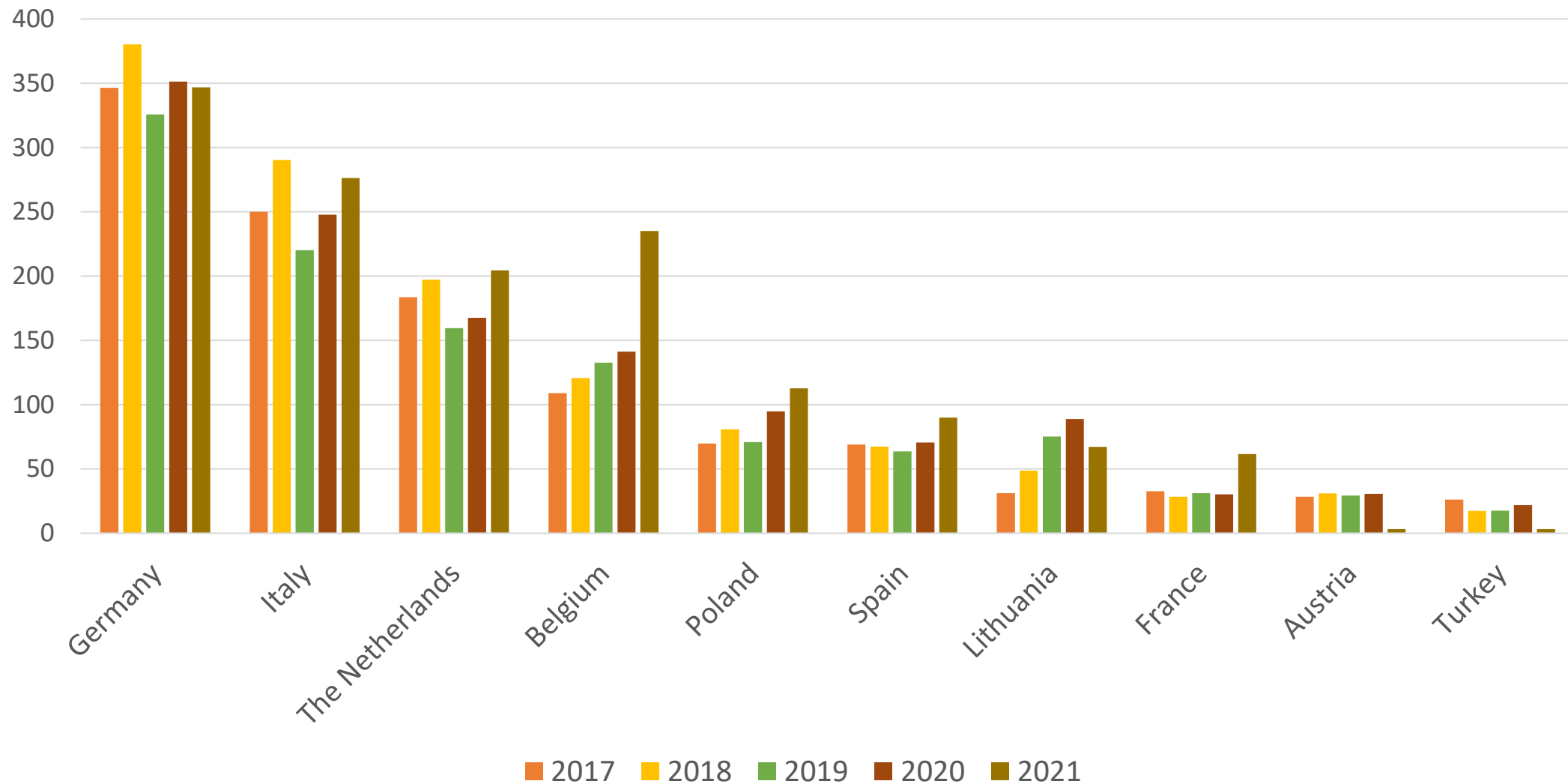
# PEAT EXPORT 2021 TOP10, th.t, mln EUR



# PEAT EXPORT EU 2021 TOP10, th.t, mln EUR

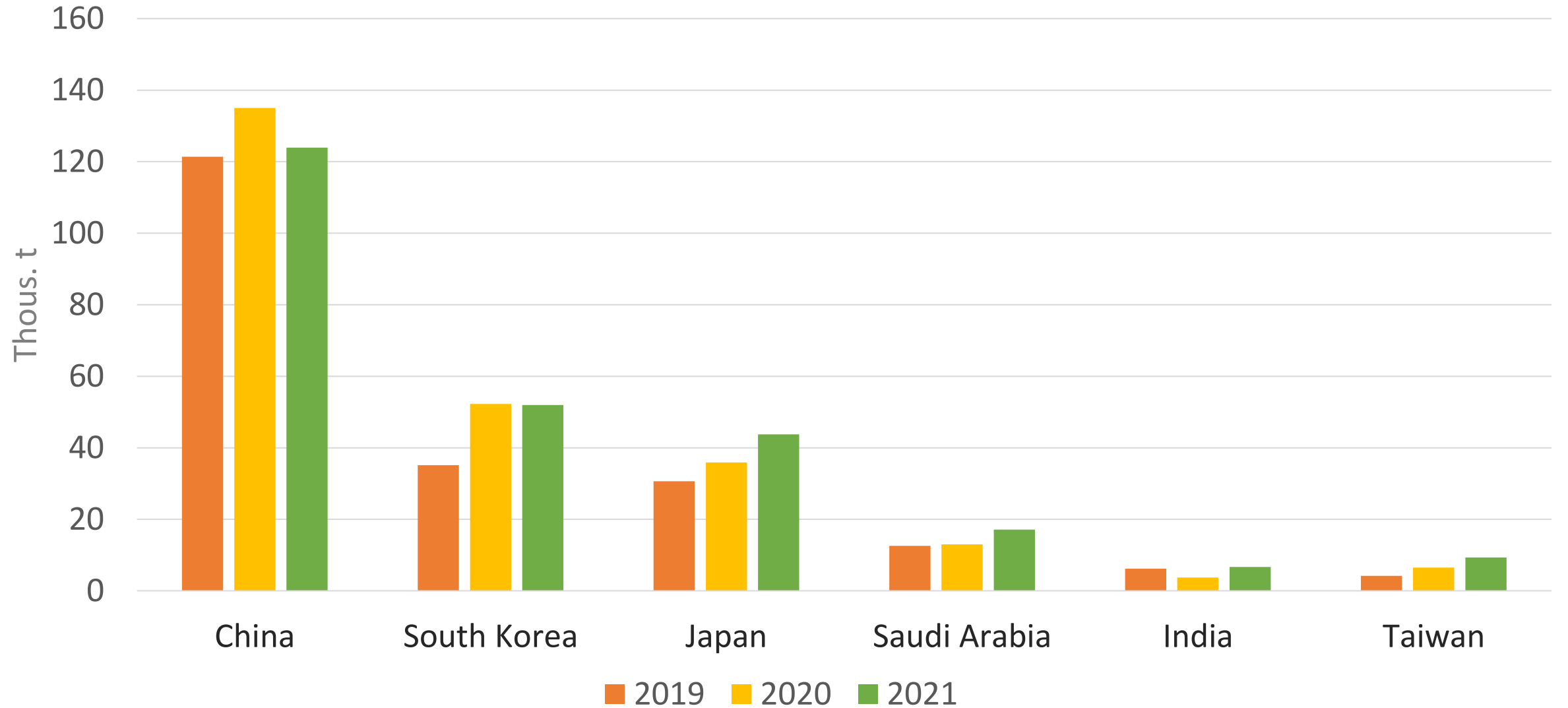


# PEAT EXPORT EUROPE top 10, 2017-2021, th.t





# PEAT EXPORT 2019-2021 TOP6 ASIA, th.t




# The role of horticulture peat

- The use of peat in horticulture in the EU results in:
  - 42 EURbillion in annual turnover
  - 502 500 jobs

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- Latvia exports 1.4 mln. tons of peat products to EU per year ;
- The use of Latvian peat in horticulture in the EU creates a turnover of 12.6 billion euros and 150 750 jobs

Source: GME



**Some of our arguments  
In the professional  
horticulture  
70% are peat  
substrates**



**Now only individual activities are evaluated**

**The process as a whole is not evaluated**





**1 m<sup>3</sup> of peat**  
**7000 seedlings**  
**16 tons of cucumbers**

**Extraction of 1 m<sup>3</sup> of peat  
emits 0.0018 t of GHG**



**16 t**



**1 m<sup>3</sup> of peat**  
**7000 seedlings**  
**16 tons of tomatoes**

**Extraction of 1 m<sup>3</sup> of peat  
emits 0.0018 t of GHG**



**32 t**

**1 m<sup>3</sup> of peat =  
7000 seedlings =  
2.8 ha forest**

**2.8 ha of forest in 70  
years attracts 1232 t CO<sub>2</sub>**

**Extraction of 1 m<sup>3</sup> of peat  
emits 0.0018 t of GHG**



**2,8ha**




# Current in Latvia



# Latvian Peat Strategy

adopted by Cabinet of  
Ministers November 17, 2020



**Promises stability for the  
industry: the same amount  
(1,2 mill.t/y) and territory  
(26 000 ha) until 2030**





## Just Transition Fund

# Just Transition Territorial Plan for Latvia

LV promises refuse the use of peat for energy from 2030

Total funding for Latvia 184 237 327 EUR

34 911.058 EUR are provided for the abandonment of the use of peat in energy (

this includes restoration (recultivation) of historical peat extraction sites, replacement of boilers, where peat is used for fuel and)

5 083 937 EUR are planned for education,

288 615 EUR for habitat restoration.

Note from the Cabinet of Ministers – Latvia will leave the possibility to use peat for energy after 2030 in case of crisis



## Mapping of biotopes

- Mapping of biotopes is completed in Latvia
- General conclusion – raised bogs are not endangered

# Activities

LCA study RTU

New products

Organic soils





# Concerns regarding EU legislation drafts

# EU Taxonomy and Delegated acts

List of environmentally sustainable activities and technical screening criteria for each environmental objective

## Activities:

Crop production

Animal production

Manufacture of food products and beverages

“Do no significant harm (‘DNSH’)”;

No use of peat or peat containing product or material e.g., as growing medium, fertilizer, animal bedding, etc.”

Peat used in agriculture continues to contain carbon. When used to grow plants, it contributes to GHG sequestration.

# EU legislation drafts

## EU Soil Strategy for 2030

- EC moves towards a mandatory requirement to restore all carbon-rich ecosystems – threshold values should be set
  - The climatic zone must be taken into account - where precipitation exceeds evaporation and bogs (peatlands) are forming
  - Requirement to restore managed and drained peatlands contradicts with GHG reduction targets. Studies show: restoration, rewetting of bogs increases emissions, emissions can be reduced by choosing afforestation, perennial berry plantations.
  - The distinction between organic soil and peatland (bog) should be set.
- 
- Different geographical conditions in the MS must be taken into account
  - Horticulture peat continues to contain carbon. Methodology needs to be developed to extend the same approach as harvested wood products.

—  
LULUCF

- At least 30% of the land and 30% of the sea should be protected in the EU
- Strictly protect at least a 10% of the EU, including all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests.



## **EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030**



# Nature Restoration Law

– draft

For drained peatlands **under agricultural** use, Member States shall put in place, without delay, restoration measures, including rewetting, on at least:

- (a) 30% of such areas by 2030 of which at least a quarter is rewetted;
- (b) 50% of such areas by 2040 of which at least half is rewetted;
- (c) 70% of such areas by 2050 of which at least half is rewetted.

It is not stated what this regulation calls 'peatlands'.

- For the forest ecosystems:
- Member States shall achieve a continuously improving trend ... (f) stock of soil organic carbon in forest land.

It is not stated what is considered “forest land”





The Latvian Peat Association  
met with EC Directorates:

- DG Regio,
- DG Envi,
- DG Clima

# Our activities

- 
- Meeting with the Ambassador of Latvia to the European Union
  - Individual meetings with Latvian attachés in Brussels
  - Regular cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Regional Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Finance

# Our activities

# **Future and example of communication**

**Don't miss the opportunity**

**Meet with officials, ask a  
questions, explain importance  
of horticulture peat.**

**React quickly**

**Chain of activities and cooperation lead  
to common result**

- Example - we participated in the farmers' meeting with the EC Commissioner for Agriculture in Riga, we asked questions, we realized that it was the first time he was forced to think about horticultural peat
- German initiative, Communication with the Ministry of Agriculture before the Council of Ministers of Agriculture, Active action of our country's representative and support of the Commissioner of Agriculture

**The future depends on our  
ability to work together**

# What we can do

- Cooperation in different studies
- Communication between the organizations (Associations, GME, PA, IPS)
- Proactive action - explanation
- To educate officials – peat is used for growing media (food, forest, ornamental greenery)
- Peat is part of the circular economy (growing media – improve soil, zero waste )
- To compare peat based growing media with other growing media





## RAINFALL MAY-AUGUST 2022

May 65,5 mm = 30% above the norm (50.4 mm)

June 73,1 mm = 4 % above the norm (70,1 mm)

July 79,2 mm = 5 % above the norm (75,7 mm)

August 76,4 mm = 1 % below the norm



# THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE MAY-AUGUST 2022

**MAY = 9,9 C°**



1,5 C°  
below

**JUNE = 16,9 C°**



1,7 C°  
above

**JULY = 17,6 C°**

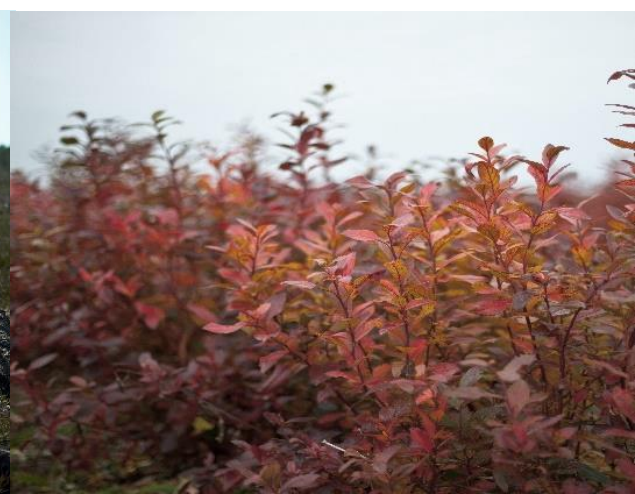


0,2 C°  
below

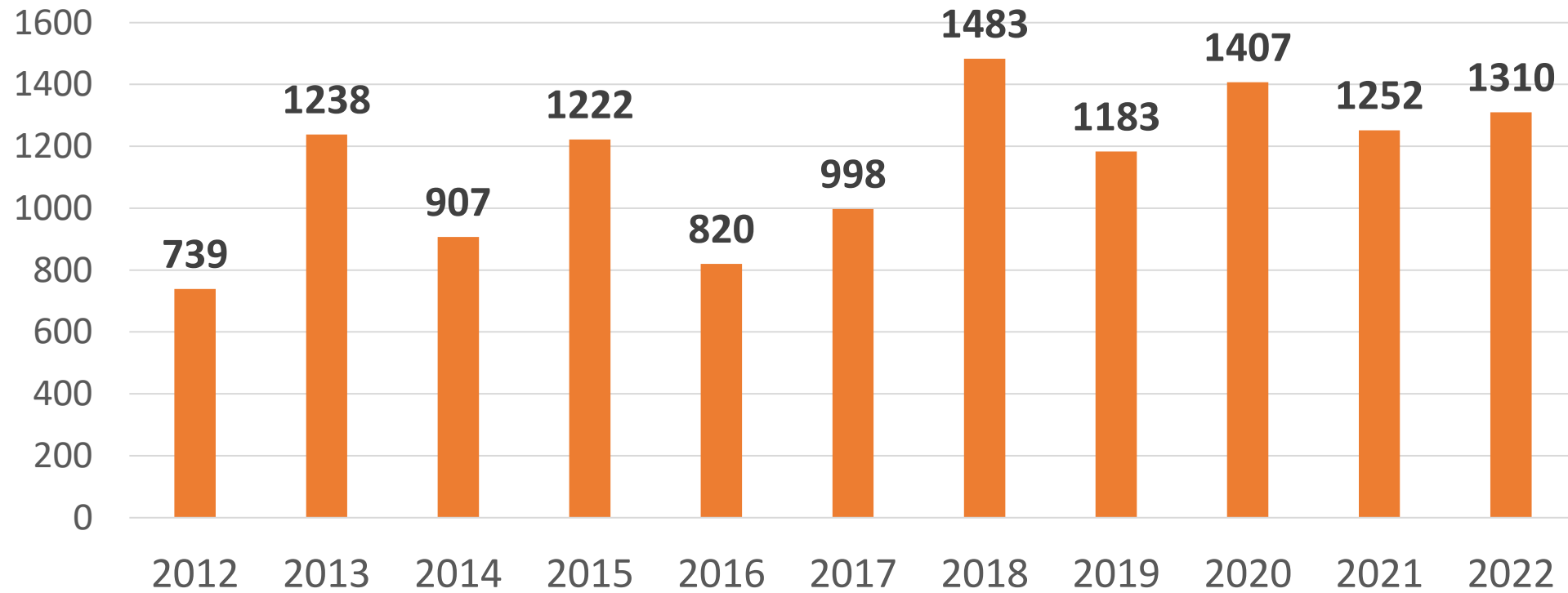
**AUGUST = 19,8 C°**



2,9 C°  
above



# Peat extraction th t 2012 - 2022



# Peat in Latvia

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[www.peat.lv](http://www.peat.lv)

2022.09.15



Latvijas Kūdras  
asociācija

