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Title of the paper: **CORK FLOORING MARKET IN SELECTED SEE NON-EU COUNTRIES:
OPPORTUNITIES AND BARRIERS TO DEVELOPMENT**

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CONTENT:

METHODOLOGY

Eurostat database:

Chapter 45: “Cork and cork products”

4504: “Agglomerated cork, with or without a binding substance, and articles of agglomerated cork”).

HS: 45041091: “tiles of any shape, blocks, plates, sheets and strip, solid cylinders, incl. discs of agglomerated cork, with a binding substance (excl. corks and stoppers).

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/comext/newxtweb/setupdimselection.do#>

INTRODUCTION

- Cork: “protective layer of bark which, periodically, can be harvested from the trunk and branches of the cork oak (*Quercus suber* L.) constituting the raw material for cork products” (ISO 633:2019);
- In Europe: Portugal, Spain, Italy and France (65% of global cork production, 35% in North Africa);

1. The Portuguese Association for the Promotion of the Cork Products Manufacturing Industry – APCOR (<https://apcor.pt/>);
2. The Cork Forest Conservation Alliance (<https://corkforest.org/>);
3. The European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute – ERFMI (<https://erfmi.com/>);
4. The European Floor Coverings Association – EUFCA (<https://eufca.org/>);
5. The National Floor Covering Association of Canada (<https://www.nfca.ca/>).

CORK FLOORING belongs to the group of elastic flooring!!!

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- types and properties of cork flooring:
 - cork tiles;
 - cork floor panels;
- supply of cork flooring to the EU market the role:
 - EU intra countries;
 - EU extra countries;
- Portugal's role in supplying the cork flooring market in SEE non-EU countries;
- SEE countries; **Serbia; Montenegro;** Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; North Macedonia.

TYPES OF CORK FLOORING

Cork tiles



Image source
<https://www.designsindetail.com/articles/an-architects-guide-to-cork-flooring>



Image source: <https://www.musicar.rs/pluta/pluta-ploce/>

- square (150/200/300/600 mm);
- rectangular (L=230/300/460/600 mm; W=150/230/300/460 mm; T= 3-10 mm);
- self-adhesive; installation by gluing (fixing to the subfloor);
- with or without surface treatment;
- used with underfloor heating.

Cork in rolls



- underlay or floor covering;
- sound insulator,
- density of 190-210 kg/m³

Image source: <https://uradi-sam.rs/unutrasnja-oblaganja/pluta-u-rolni-25m2-5mx05mx4mm.html>

Cork floor panels (engineered flooring)

- a protective layer
- a cork veneer
- a compressed cork layer
- HDF pannel
- click-lock system
- a compressed cork underlay

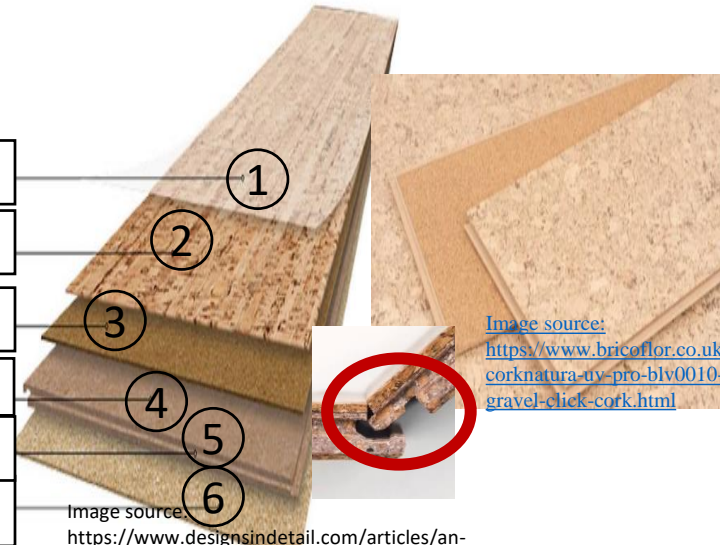


Image source:
<https://www.designsindetail.com/articles/an-architects-guide-to-cork-flooring>

Image source:
<https://www.bricoflor.co.uk/cortex-corknatura-ty-pro-blv0010-spurt-gravel-click-cork.html>

- rectangular: W= 190/300 mm; L = 900 mm; T = 11/13 mm;
- click-lock system without adhesives and fixing to the subfloor (floating system);
- surface-treated product;
- for bedrooms, living rooms, children`s room, kitchens, staircases, commercial facilities (10 or 15-year guarantee for domestic use; a 5-year for commercial flooring).



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Cork floor panels (engineered flooring)



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STANDARDS

EN 12104: 2023: "Resilient floor coverings – Cork floor coverings – Specification";

EN ISO 20326: 2018: „Resilient floor coverings – Specification for floor panels/assembly for loose laying”.

ISO 10874:2009 - "Resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings - Classification".

EN 15398:2016: "Resilient, textile, laminate and modular mechanically interlocked floor coverings (MMF) - Standard symbols for floor coverings - Complementary element".



www.floorsymbols.com

Cork flooring:

- for households: 21, 22 and 23 classes (21 for rooms with moderate/light use - bedroom, 22 for rooms with general/medium use - hobby room, 23 for rooms with intensive use - living room);
- for commercial facilities: 31, 32, 33 and 34 classes (small offices, schools, hospitals and post offices.
- industrial use: 41, 42 and 43 classes.



Image source: <https://biogateway.efi.int/ecolabelling/>

- the technical specification of the product (technical data sheets);
- the environmental product declaration (EDP);
- the safety data sheets (SDS).

Construction Products Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011 (CPR 305/2011)



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Supply of cork flooring to the EU market (SH: 45041091)

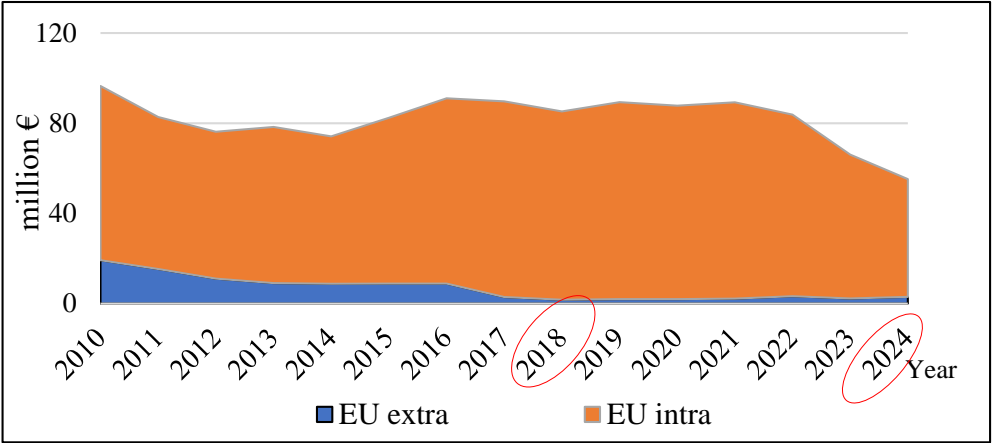


Figure 1. Value of total EU imports of cork flooring in the period 2010-2024 (source: Eurostat, June 2025)

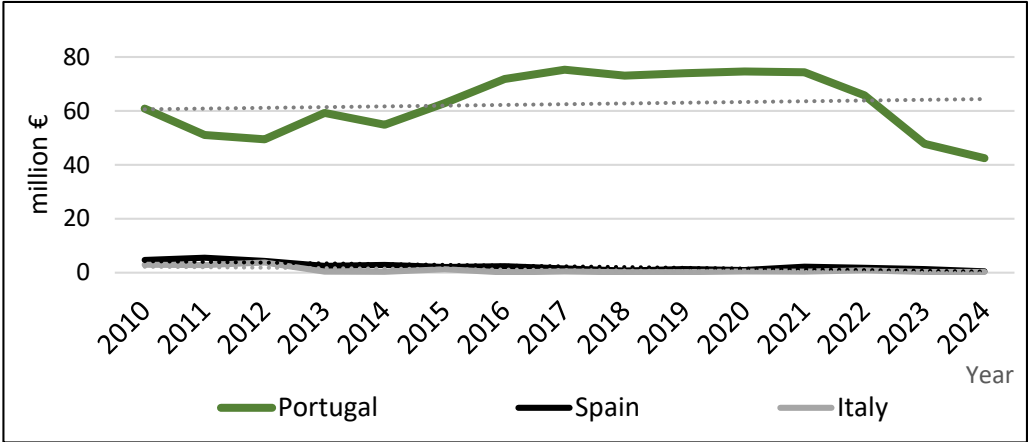


Figure 2. Value of EU imports of cork flooring from Portugal, Spain and Italy in the period 2010-2024 (source: Eurostat, June 2025)

Total EU (intra EU+ extra EU):
2010: 96.5 million € (Eurostat, 2025);
2024: 55.2 million € (Eurostat, 2025).

Extra EU:
2010: 19.3 million € (Eurostat, 2025);
2018: 1.7 million € (Eurostat, 2025);
2024: 3.0 million € (Eurostat, 2025).

Intra EU:
2010: 77.0 million € (Eurostat, 2025);
2019: 87.3 million € (Eurostat, 2025);
2024: 52.2 million € (Eurostat, 2025).

EU import from Portugal:
2010: 60.9 million € (Eurostat, 2025);
2017: 75.3 million € (Eurostat, 2025);
2024: 42.5 million € (Eurostat, 2025).

EU import from Spain:
2011: 5.5 million € (Eurostat, 2025).
EU import from Italy:
2012: 3.7 million € (Eurostat, 2025).

The biggest EU importers from Portugal:
1. Germany;
2. Poland;
3. Denmark;
4. France.

The biggest non-EU importers from Portugal:
1. USA;
2. Russia.

Portugal's role in supplying the cork flooring market in SEE non-EU countries

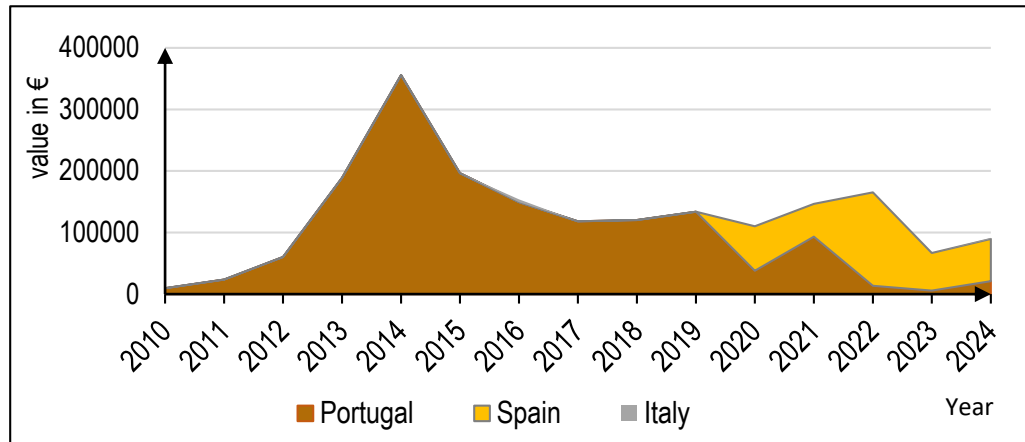


Figure 3. Supply of cork flooring from Portugal, Spain and Italy to the Serbian market in the period 2010-2024 (source: Eurostat, June 2025)

The import of Serbia from:

1. Portugal: € 356 000 (2014) - € 6 000 (2023) (Eurostat, 2025);
2. Spain: € 152 000 (2022) (Eurostat, 2025);
3. Italy: only in 2016 (€ 4768) and 2024 (€ 1275) (Eurostat, 2025).

MONTENEGRO:

Portugal: € 6325 (2024) (Eurostat, 2025).

Spain: € 23330 (2017) (Eurostat, 2025).

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA:

Portugal: only in 2020.

ALBANIA:

Italy: only in 2012, 2014, 2021;

Portugal: only in 2021.

NORTH MACEDONIA:

Portugal: € 6495 (2024) (Eurostat, 2025).



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CONCLUSIONS:

- Except in Serbia and, to some extent, Montenegro, the markets for cork flooring in other SEE countries remain underdeveloped;
- All technical standards for cork flooring have been adopted as national standards in Serbia;
- The properties of cork flooring are insufficiently known among market participants;
- Exclusive emphasis on cork`s properties as an ecological material is insufficient;
- Greater emphasis should be placed on the use of pictograms.



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**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!**

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