



INNOVAForONE

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Connecting forestry and agroforestry partnerships
across Europe

FOREST4EU: overview & midterm results

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ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY



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Project name:

European innovation partnership network promoting operational groups dedicated to forestry and agroforestry

Project acronym: FOREST4EU

Call: HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01

Topic: HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01-13

Type of action: HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions

Project starting date: 1 January 2023

Project end date: 31 December 2025

Project duration: 36 months

Financial recived: 2 006 668.50 € (100%)

General information		
Programme Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)		€ Budget overview
Call Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal (HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01)		
Type of action HORIZON-CSA HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions	Type of MGA HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based [HORIZON-AG]	Closed
Deadline model single-stage	Opening date 28 October 2021	Deadline date 10 March 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time



Multi-actor approach for forestry and agroforestry sector

FOREST4EU - European Innovation Partnership Network promoting Operational Groups dedicated to forestry and agroforestry - is a coordination and action support project financed by the Horizon Europe programme, which aims to link existing Operational Groups (OGs) in different European countries in order to foster the transfer of knowledge and good practices between experts in the field.

Forestry and agroforestry in the EU



Around Europe, there are hundreds of Operational Groups: small projects promoted by groups of farmers, forest managers and local communities.



They all share the same goal: advancing innovation and good practices in forestry and agroforestry sector.



However, OG results struggle in crossing national borders: innovations and best practices tend to remain in the local environment and do not reach the EU level.



Aims at connecting dozens of OGs around Europe

With the main aim of favouring the transfer of knowledge and best practices between forestry and agroforestry experts in 9 member states.



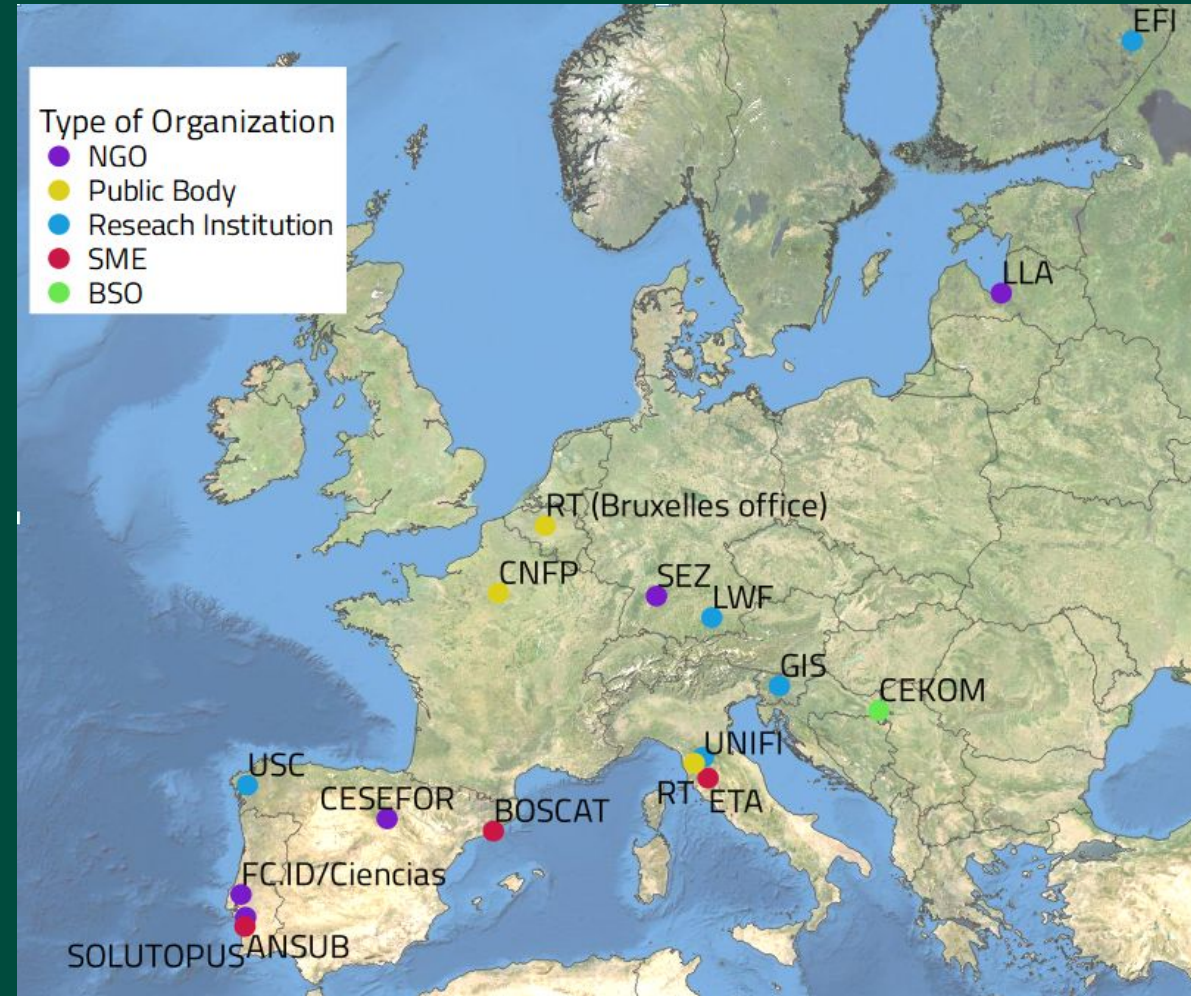
What are OGs?

OGs are multi-actor projects promoted by the PEI-AGRI, financed at national or local level through the RDP that aim to bring together farmers, researchers, advisors, technicians, environmental groups, consumers, interest groups and NGOs to promote innovation in forestry and agroforestry.



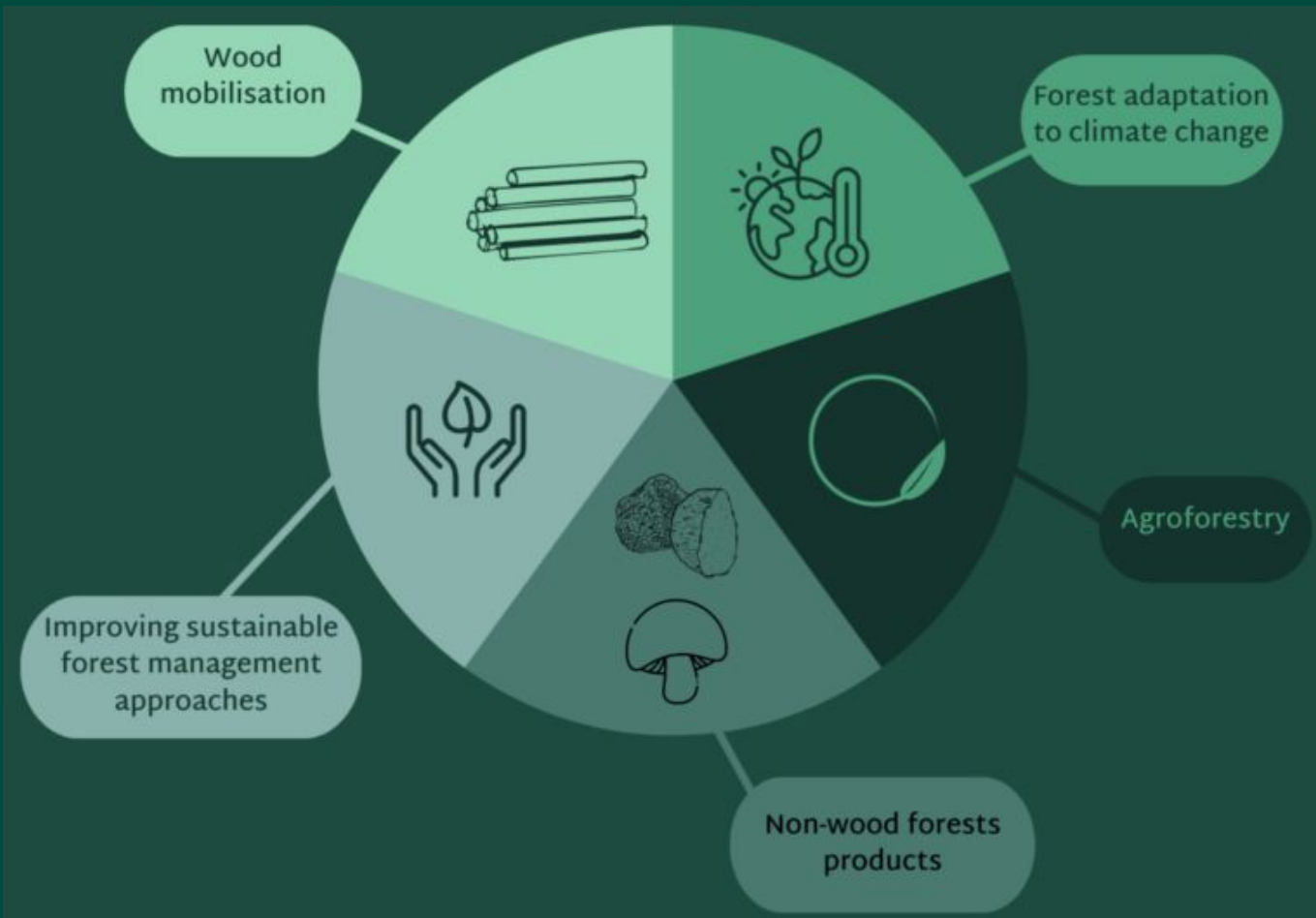
FOREST4EU Partners

COORDINATOR **PARTNERS**



Innovation Topic Hubs - ITHubs

FOREST4EU established 5 multi-actor EU cross-countries Innovation Topic Hubs (ITHubs) related to 5 identified topics in forestry and agroforestry sectors.



What is innovation?

Innovation is a new idea successfully implemented, then adopted and disseminated. Innovation can be based on new but also traditional practices in a new geographical or environmental context.

Types of innovation:

- Technological,
- Process,
- Product,
- Organisational
- Social
- Service

Guidelines on programming for innovation and implementation of EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability, (2013).

The project's activities will lead to the implementation of:

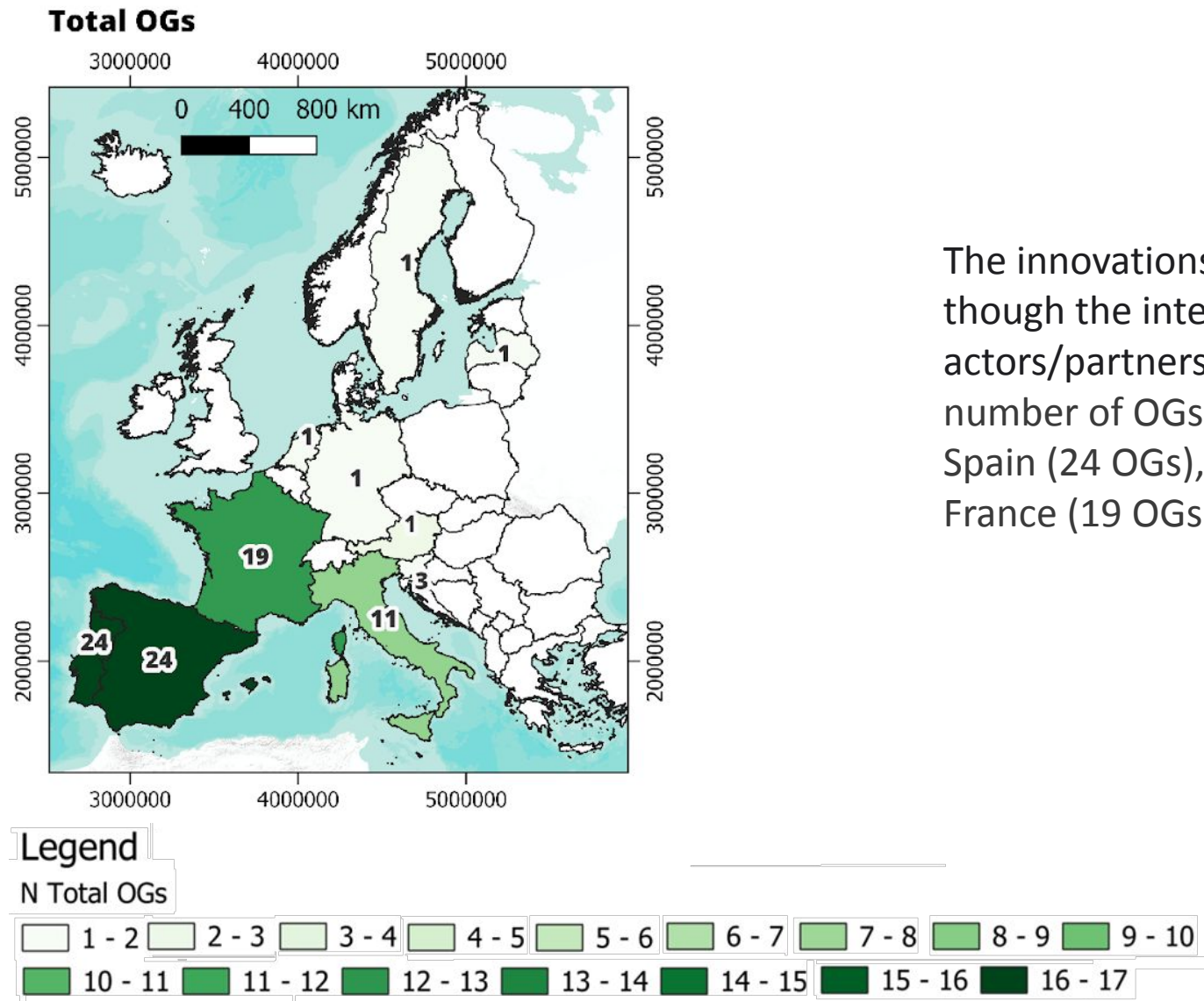
- European dissemination of knowledge through dedicated material (e.g. factsheets accessible on selected existing platforms, practice abstracts, etc.);
- Capacity building materials developed according to identified regional needs;
- Recommendations on how to refine regional policies, funding opportunities and CAP specific measures for advancing innovation in forestry and agroforestry.



Results of the analysis of forestry and agroforestry OGs in Europe and collected Innovations



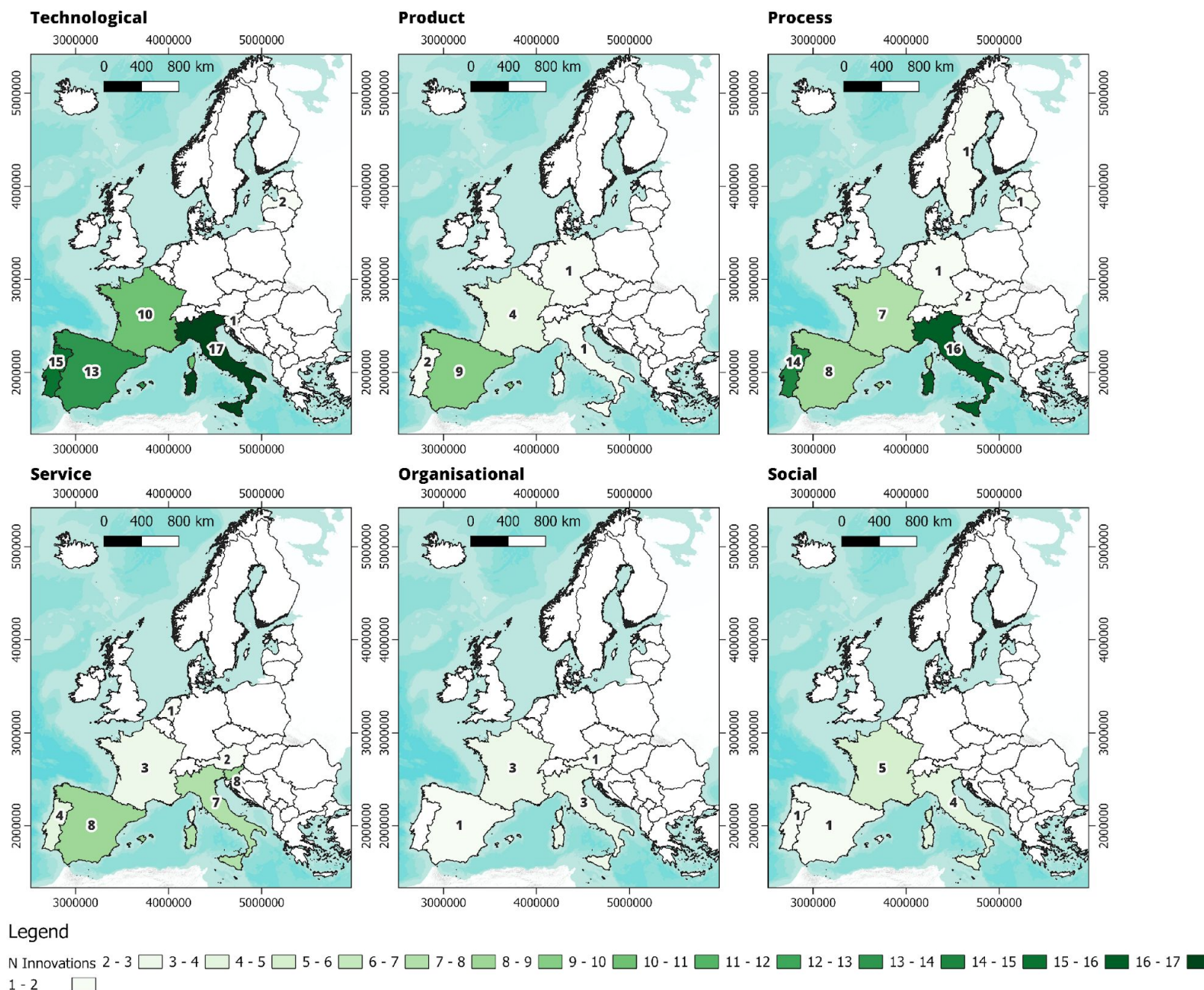
Operational Groups in forestry and agroforestry in Europe



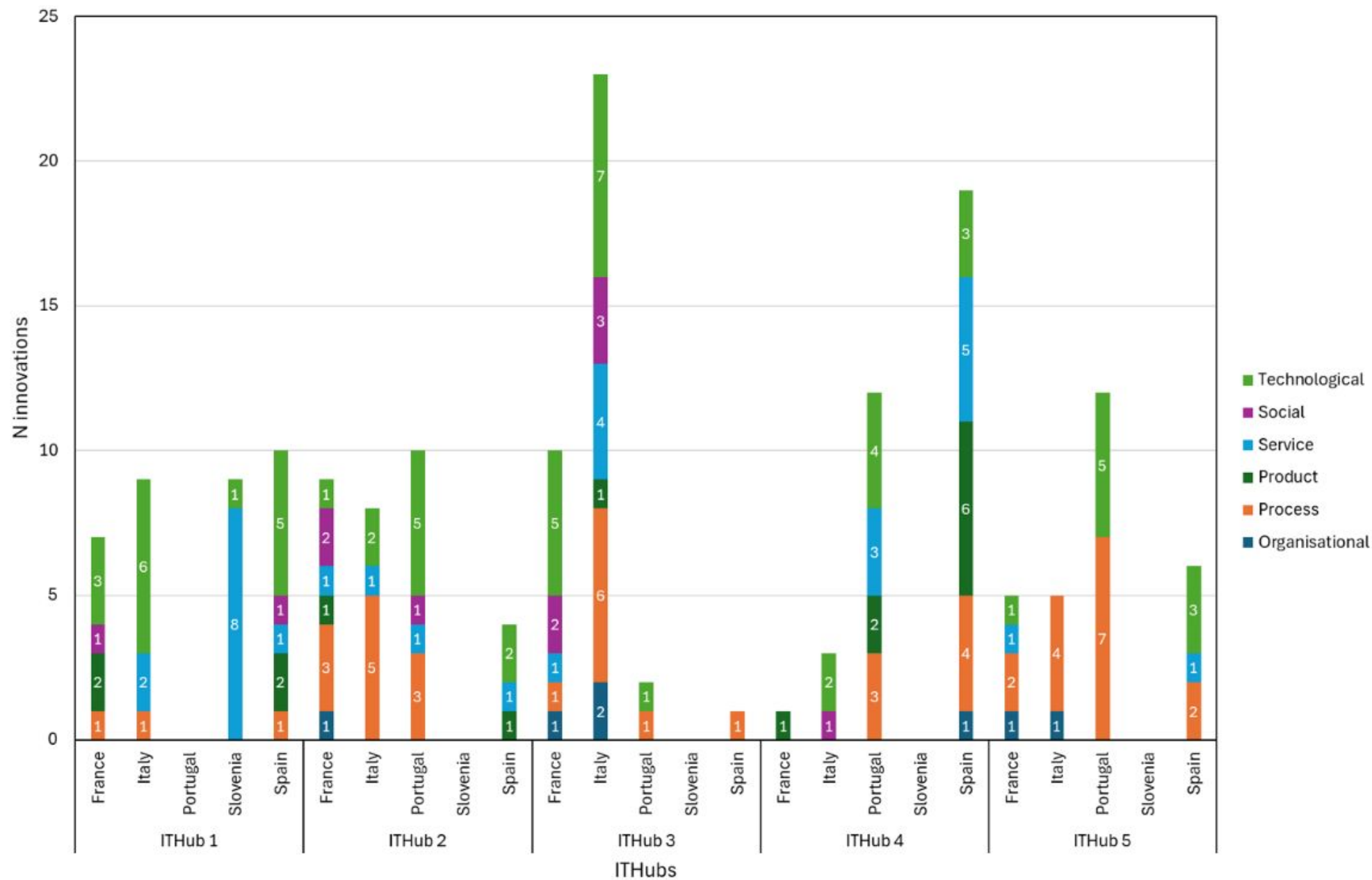
The innovations were collected through the interview the actors/partners of 86 OGs. The larger number of OGs were/are located in Spain (24 OGs), Portugal (24 OGs), France (19 OGs) and Italy (11 OGs).

Innovations

A total of 175 innovations in forestry and agroforestry were collected through the interviews in the form of Extended Summaries.



Innovations by ITHub and Country



Examples of collected innovations

GO FOSFORO
(Portugal)



Spatio-temporal modelling of pasture quality based on NDVI time series in the Montado ecosystem
Technological innovation

GO ECOMONTADOXXI
(Portugal)



Use of the Keyline system for planting cork and holm oaks in agroforestry systems
Process innovation

GO FORESTCELTA
(Spain)



Development of an autonomous and digitised feeding system for Celtic pigs in Atlantic broadleaf forests
Technological innovation

GO PS NEWTON
(Italy)



LCA in semi-extensive agro-sylvo-pastoral systems
Process innovation

GO Agroforst in
Österreich (Austria)



Creation of the multi-actor 'Agroforestry in Austria' network
Organisational innovation

GO ARBRE
(France)

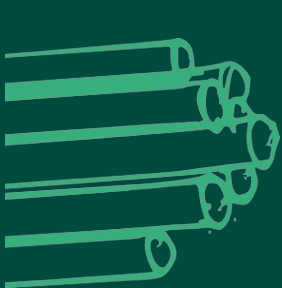


Raising awareness and testing of assisted hedge regeneration
Service innovation



Focus on ITHubs innovations, keywords, challenges and needs





ITHub 1

Wood Mobilization

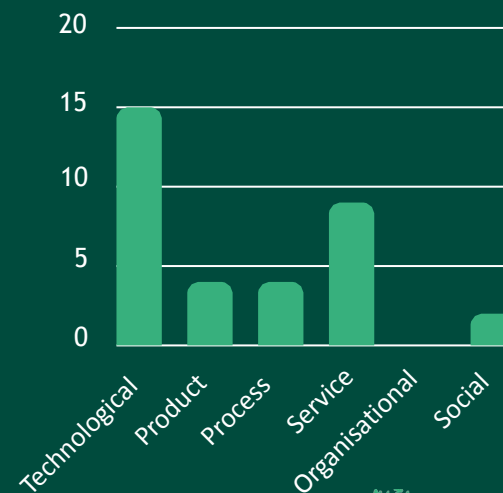
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Extended Summaries

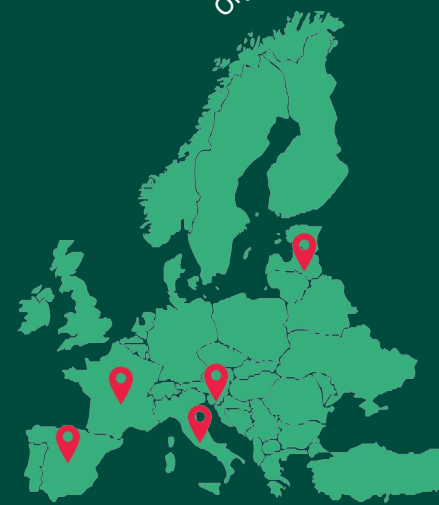
Most used keywords
(n > 5, with decreasing frequency)

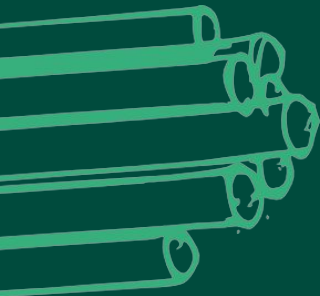
Wood mobilization, forestry, decisional support system, digital platform; supply chain, market and consumption; remote sensing data, sustainable forest management, forest industries

ITHUB 1 Innovations



Number of Operational Groups per Country





ITHub 1

Wood Mobilization

Challenges & needs

- Growing disconnection of owners to their forests;
- Lack of forestry knowledge and skills among owners;
- Existence of markets for timber and volatile markets for softwood and hardwood;
- Significant income from timber harvesting;
- Logistics and lack of efficiency in logging systems/enterprises;
- Better interaction among industries and forest operators for increasing efficiency of value chain;
- Forest management affecting wood mobilisation (composition and structure of forest; silvicultural schemes; hazard risks);
- Forest governance affecting forest management (lack of forest owner associations; ineffective communication;
- Fragmented forest ownership.



ITHub 2

Climate Change adaptation and mitigation

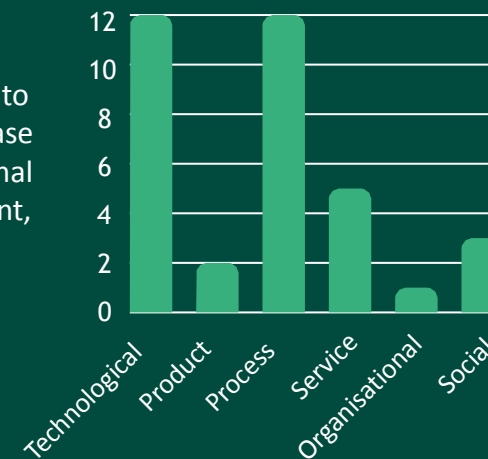
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Extended Summaries

Most used keywords
(n> 5, with decreasing frequency)

Forestry, non-wood forest product, adaptation to climate change, wood mobilization, pest/disease control, climate and climate change, decisional support system, sustainable forest management, landscape/land management

ITHUB 2 Innovations



Number of Operational Groups per Country





ITHub 2

Climate Change adaptation and mitigation

Challenges & needs

- New adapted silvicultural practices;
- Abiotic risk management (storm, fire, drought);
- Biotic risk management (monitoring and crisis management);
- Financial tools and incentives allowing foresters to adapt their forests;
- Data collection of experimentations for better practical knowledge;
- Raise climate change awareness among actors.





ITHub 3

Sustainable forest Management and Ecosystem Services

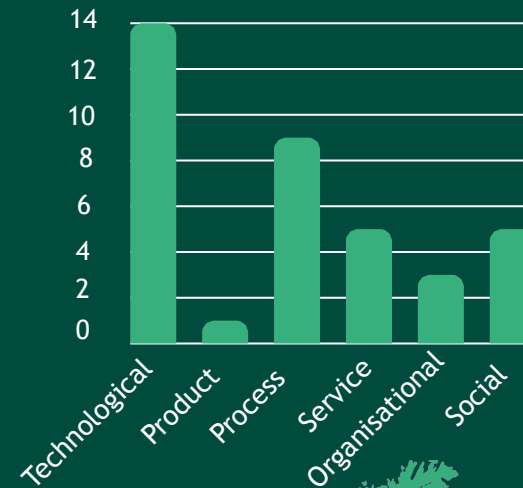
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Extended Summaries

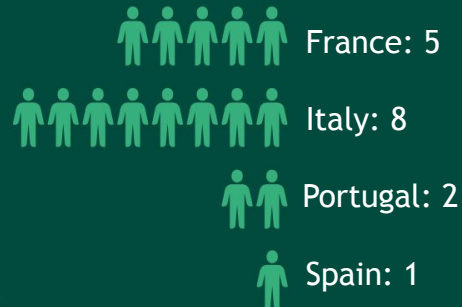
Most used keywords
(n > 5, with decreasing frequency)

Sustainable forest management,
decisional support system, forestry,
silviculture, farming/forestry
competitiveness and diversification,
ecosystem services, cooperation,
multifunctional forest management

ITHUB 3 Innovations



Number of Operational Groups per Country





ITHub 3

Sustainable Forest Management and Ecosystem Services

Challenges & needs

- Absent forest ecosystem services markets;
- Few examples of standardized methods to quantify Forest Ecosystem Services;
- Improve information to monitor FES supply and demand
- Closer collaboration of research and practice;
- Support innovation and experimentation through bottom-up participation;
- Digital solutions for the monitoring of FES;
- Enhance policy integration to align policy targets and financial needs;
- Small forest proprietaries can increase the abandoned of forest;
- Flexible and adaptive education system to teach new siviculture system/approaches with attention for full range of FES;
- Missing political support for FES incentives.





ITHub 4

Non Wood Forest Products

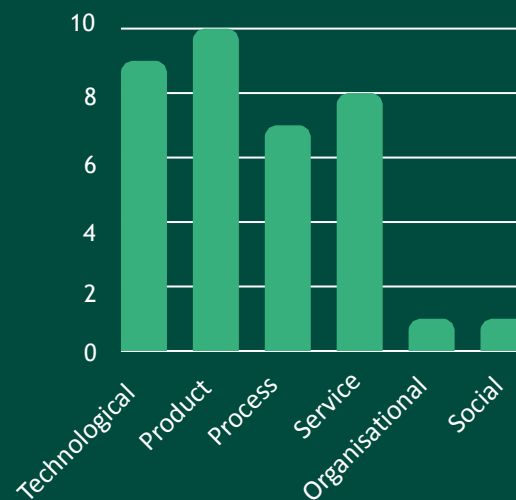
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Extended Summaries

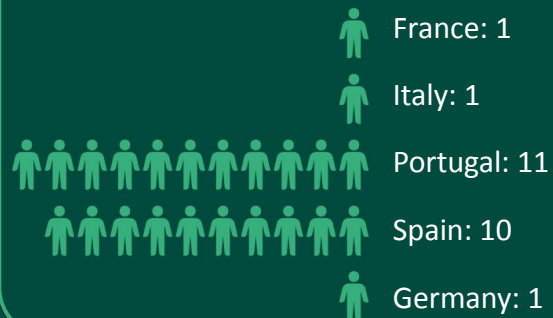
Most used keywords
(n > 5, with decreasing frequency)

Non-wood forest product; supply chain, market and consumption; multifunctional forest management, circular bioeconomy

ITHUB 4 Innovations



Number of Operational Groups per Country





ITHub 4

Non Wood Forest Products



Challenges & needs

- Securing the conservation and sustainable supply of NWFP;
- Set up and improve monitoring systems and inventories, facilitate access to data and market information for all the stakeholders;
- Building competitive and equitable value chains;
- Increase policy coherence across all relevant policy domains, design and adopt innovative fiscal and labour regimes;
- Ensure traceability and encourage innovative labelling
- Improve visibility of NWFP ;
- Simplify administration / procedures related to production, processing and export
- Foster innovation, knowledge transfer and extension capacity locally, regionally, nationally and between regions in Europe and outside Europe;
- Improve financial support.



ITHub 5 Agroforestry systems

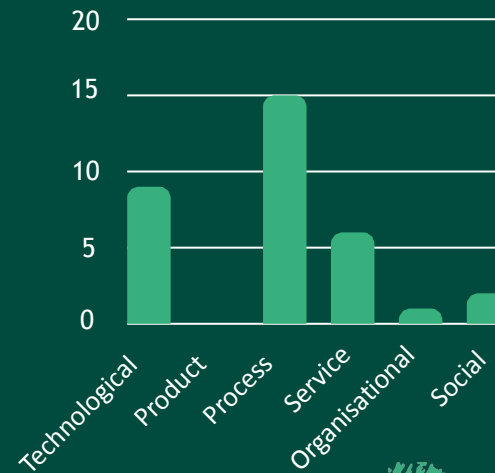
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Extended Summaries

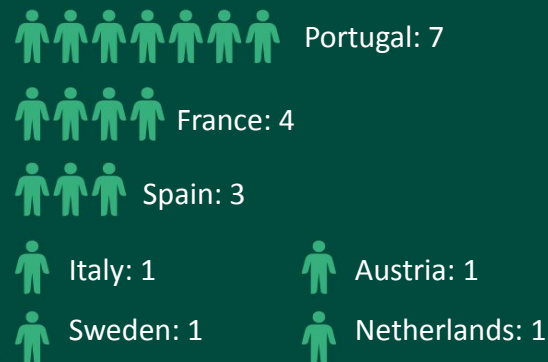
Most used keywords
(n > 5, with decreasing frequency)

Agroforestry, soil management/functionality, remote sensing data, climate and climate change, agricultural production system, farming practices

ITHUB 5 Innovations



Number of Operational Groups per Country





ITHub 5

Agroforestry

Challenges & needs

- Soil conservation;
- Optimization of the relationship between agriculture and forest;
- Climate changes adaptation;
- Increasing value in diversification of agro-forestry products;
- Find suitable business models to accommodate a multifunctional farm;
- Labor availability and management;
- Tools for innovation uptake, including scientific knowledge and management techniques ready to be used by farmers.



Stakeholders

Are you interested in being part of the FOREST4EU stakeholder database?
Fill in the form below:

Please confirm you would like to be included in the FOREST4EU stakeholders' database *

- Please confirm you would like to be included in the FOREST4EU stakeholders' database

Please confirm you would like to hear from us by email *

- Please confirm you would like to hear from us by email

FOREST4EU actually
registered 248 stakeholders



Methodology for prioritizing innovations





National Prioritization Workshops

The main aim of FOREST4EU national workshops is to implement an open discussion with national experts and local stakeholders in order to identify:

- the most relevant selected innovations and good practices for the forestry/agroforestry sector,
- the best channels for disseminating capacity building material.

So far, they've taken place in 7 out of 9 Project Countries, with the participation of numerous stakeholders in each country:

Italy: 52 Germany: 24
 France: 30 Slovenia: 48
 Latvia: 21 Croatia: 16

191
 stakeholders
 in the
 NWs



National workshop France



28 March 2024 - online event
Centre national de la propriété forestière (CNPF)

Register here:
<https://www.forest4eu.eu/national-workshops/>



National workshop Germany



21 March 2024 - Resource wood & forestry entrepreneur day - Maximus-von-Imhof-forum 685354, Freising

Register here:
<https://www.forest4eu.eu/workshop/forest4eu-national-workshop-germany/>



National workshop Spain



19 April 2024 - Instituto para la Competitividad Empresarial, C/ Jacinto Benavente, 2, Valladolid

Register here:
<https://www.forest4eu.eu/national-workshops/>



National workshop Finland



16 April 2024 - Online

Register here:
<https://www.forest4eu.eu/national-workshops/>

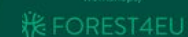


National workshop Slovenia

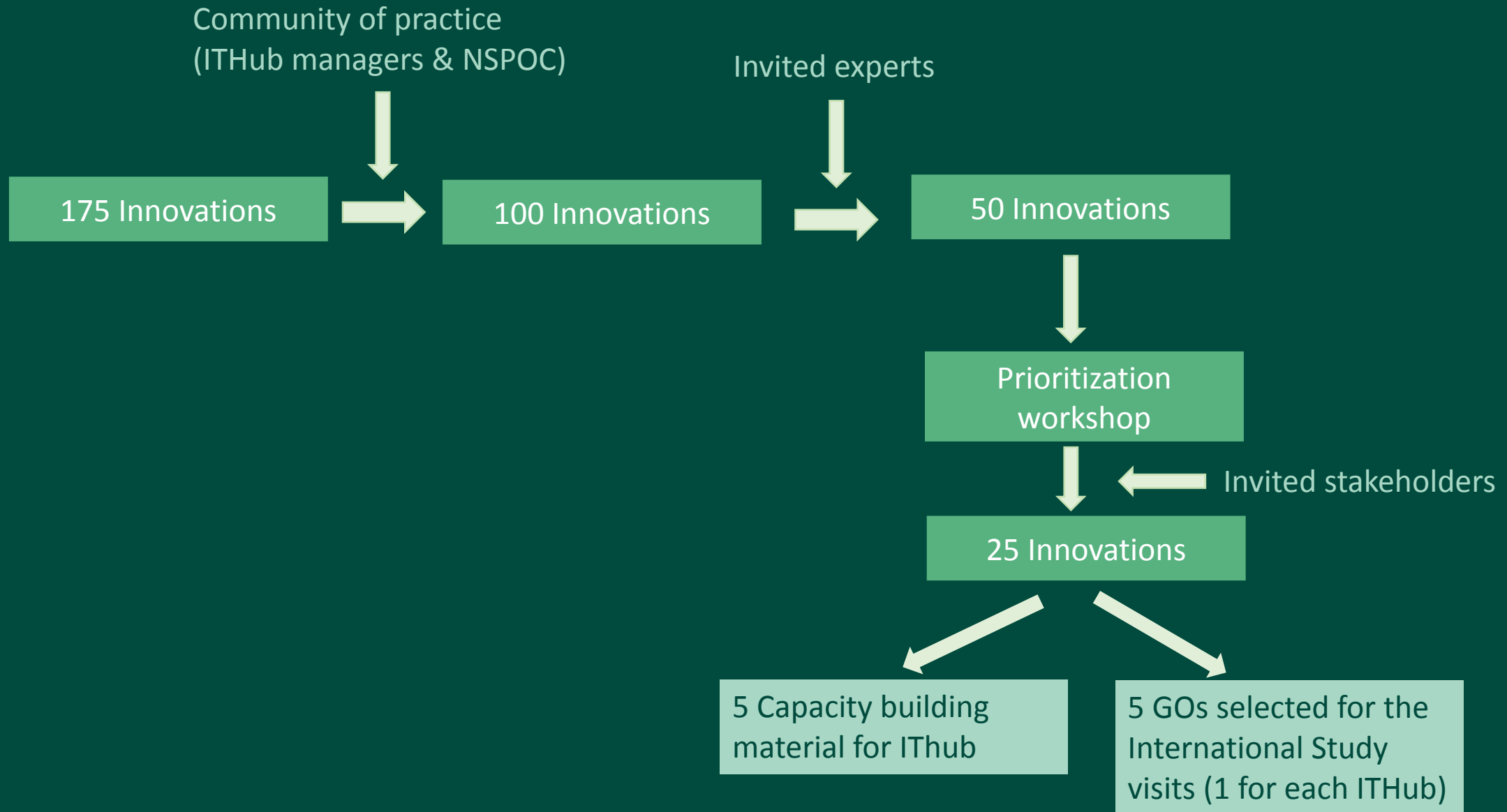


26 March 2024 - Slovenian Forestry Institute, Večna pot 2, 1000 Ljubljana

Register here:
<https://www.forest4eu.eu/national-workshops/>



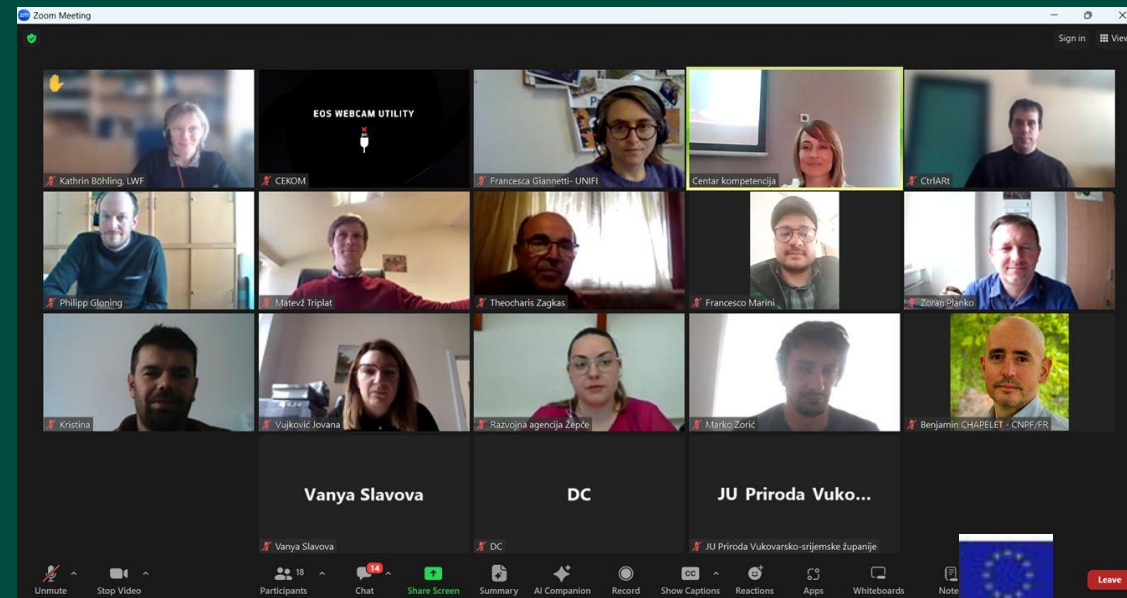
Methodology for prioritizing innovations



Policy Focus Groups

The policy focus groups in FOREST4EU seek to improve the framework conditions for innovation in forestry and agroforestry. In recognition of the vast differences between the forested regions across Europe and the available resources in the project, three different groups have been created:

- **Central Europe** (Germany (South and Central), Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania) – Lead: Kathrin Böhling, Bavarian State Institute of Forestry (LWF).
- The first PFG took place on 13th of march, 2024, with 21 participants on a hybrid event.
- **South-East Europe** (Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Greece) – Lead: Danijela Šarić Bartolović, Centar Kompetencija d.o.o za istraživanje i razvoj (CEKOM)
- The first PFG took place on 27th of march, 2024, with 17 participants on a hybrid event.
- **South-Ouest Europe** (Spain, Portugal, France, Netherlands, Italy) – Lead: Rosa Maria Mosquera Losada, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (USC).
- The first PFG will take place on 29th of April, 2024, online.





Next steps

- 85 Practicals Abstracts will be submitted in the first batch of the Deliverable D1.3 on the CAP portal at the end of March;
- Capacity building materials will be developed on the basis of the innovations selected in the Prioritization National Workshops;
- B2B events with OGs and interested stakeholders will be specifically organised to enhance the diffusion of the innovations **OGs interactive innovation approach.**



FOREST4EU

Thank you!

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FOREST4EU Project

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