



# Connecting forestry and agroforestry partnerships across Europe

ERIAFF2024 - Thematic Session 1 on Resilience

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SEINÄJOKI



-  Forestry and agroforestry systems cover more than the 47% of the Europe's total land area (EU-28) and are considered essential for the health and well-being of all Europeans
-  EU forest and agroforestry systems are a significant part of the continent's landscape.
-  EU forests are essential to its ecological health and economy.

## Europe's forests face various challenges that affect their resilience.

- **Climate Change and Extreme events e.g. windthrow, forest fires, landslide**
- **Abandoned of Forest Managmets**



Within this framework, the EU aims to strengthen **cooperation and networking** between researchers and practitioners, and to promote innovations among the more than 16 million European landowners who manage around 60% of these systems.



Collaboration between different stakeholders, including researchers and practitioners, is **promoted to develop innovative solutions** for the bioeconomy, climate change adaptation ( including resilience), valorization of ecosystem services, multifunctionality, and social inclusion by means of various support measures

## 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.

## 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.

86 OGs -175 Innovation

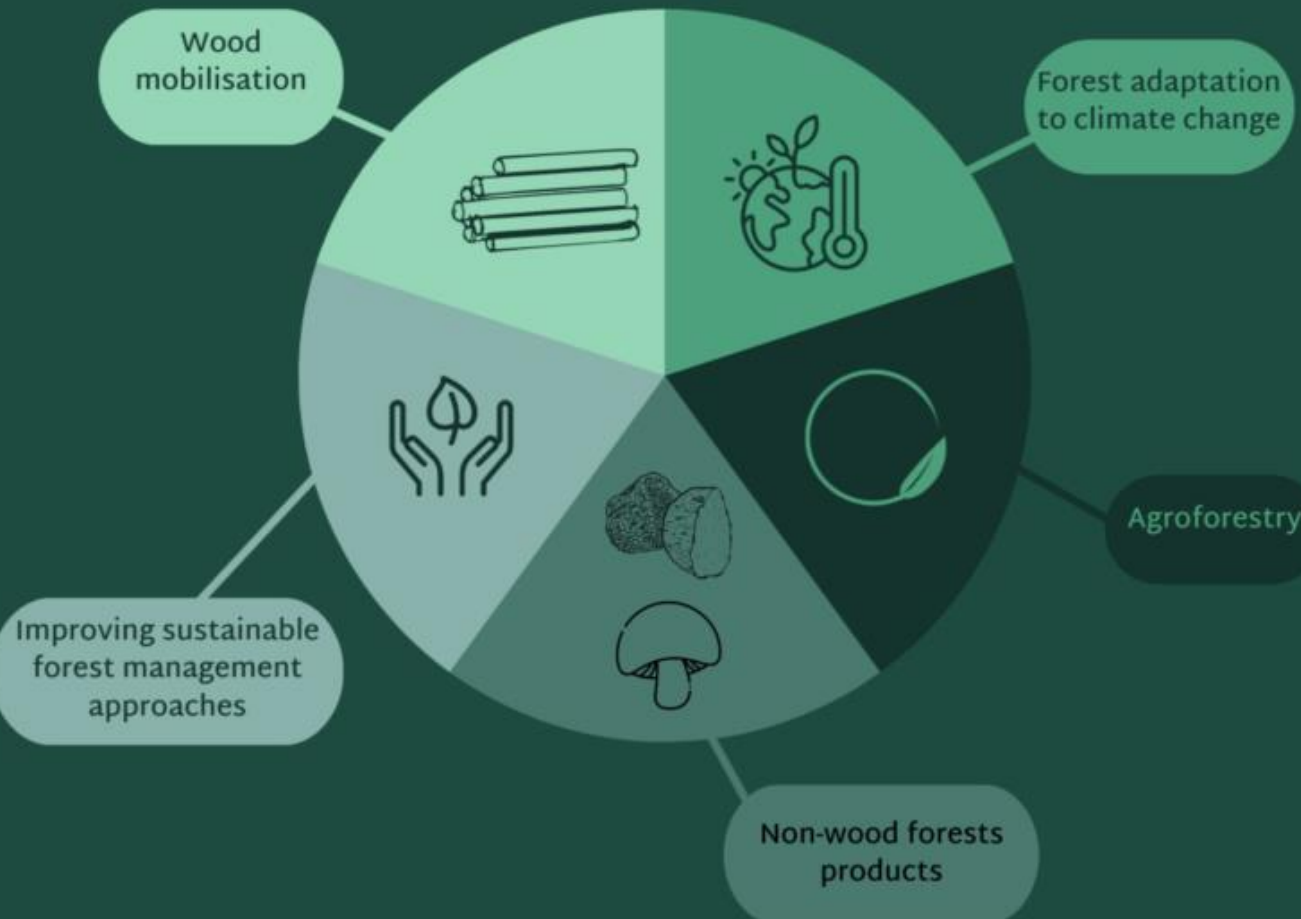
**ITHub 1:** Wood mobilization focuses on forest management, supply chain efficiency, and digital platforms.

**ITHub 2:** Climate change adaptation emphasizes new silvicultural practices and risk management.

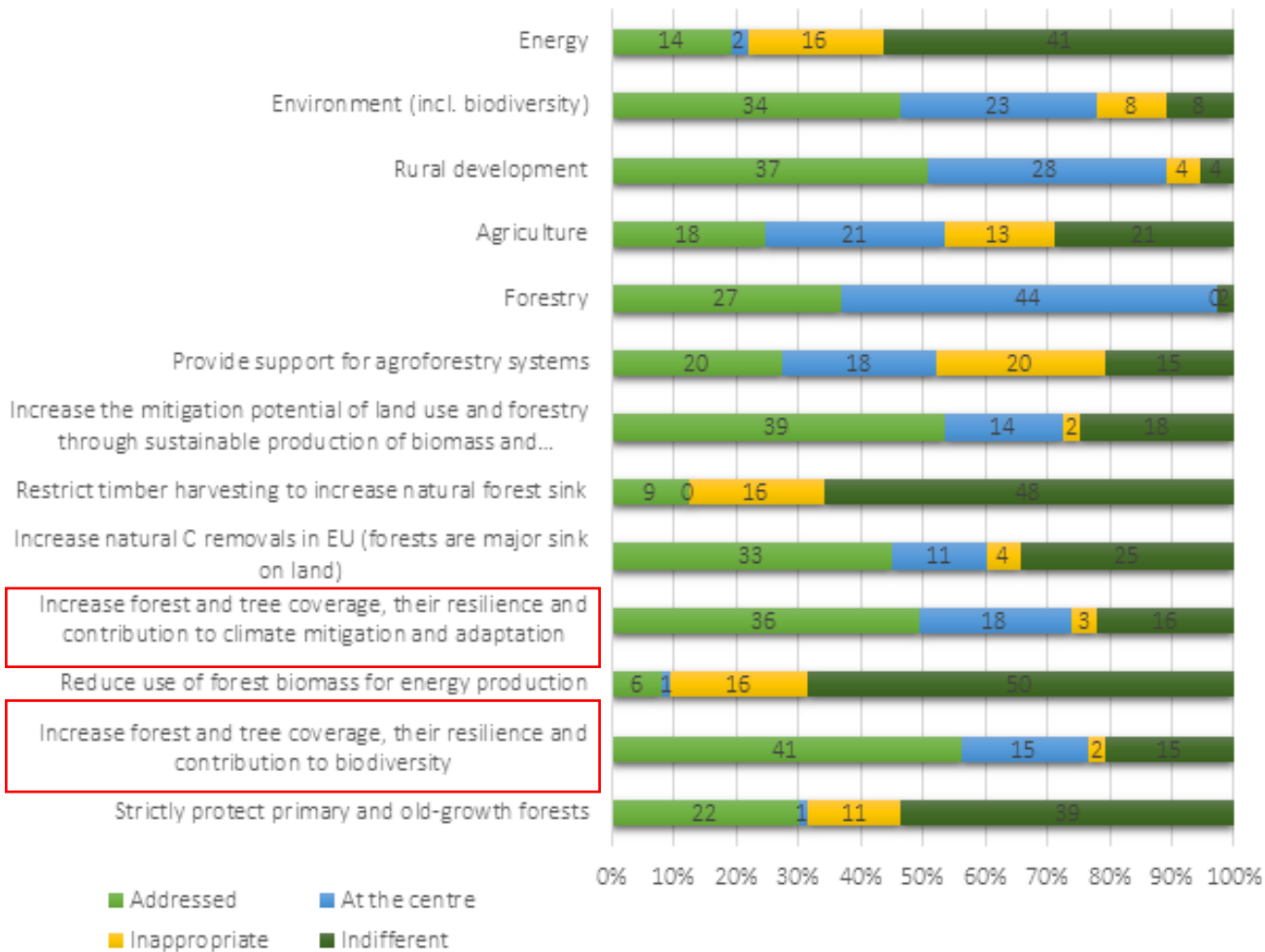
**ITHub 3:** Sustainable forest management targets competitiveness, diversification, and ecosystem service monitoring.

**ITHub 4:** Non-wood forest products concentrate on value chains, market access, and data utilization.

**ITHub 5:** Agroforestry emphasizes soil management optimization and multifunctional farm models.



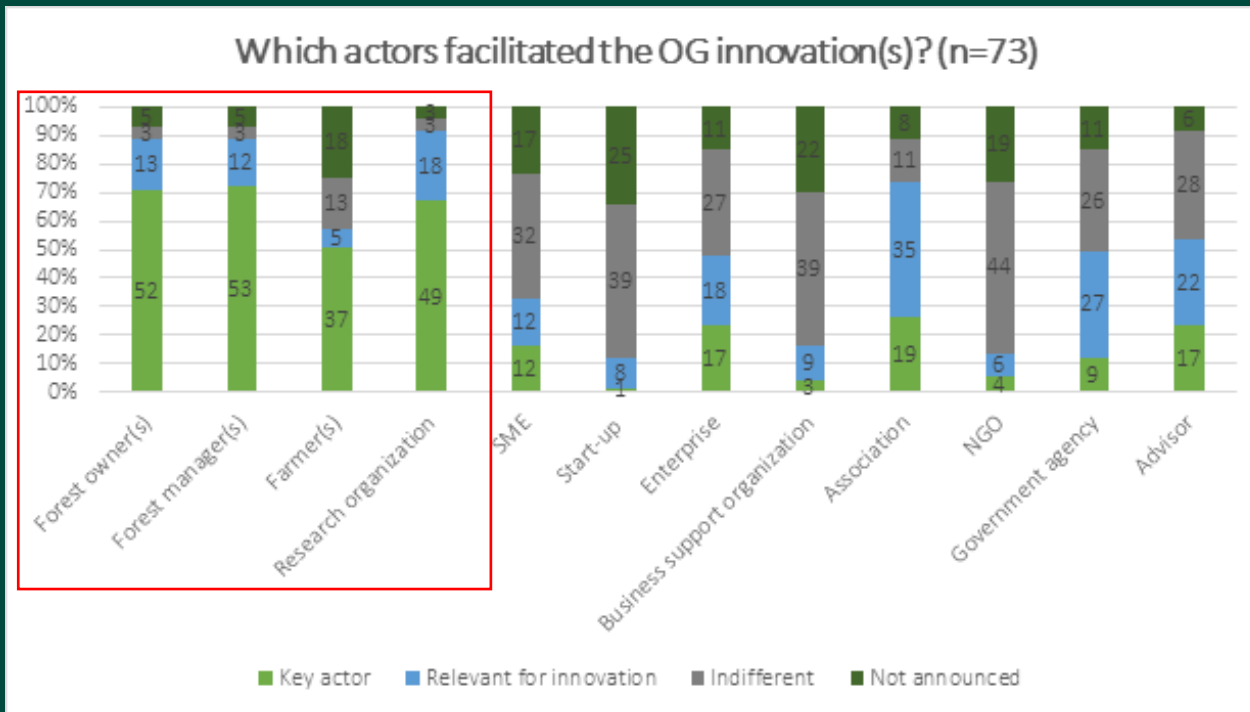
Are OG innovations related to policy targets? (n=73)



# Resilience at the Center or addressed for the OGs Connected to FOREST4EU

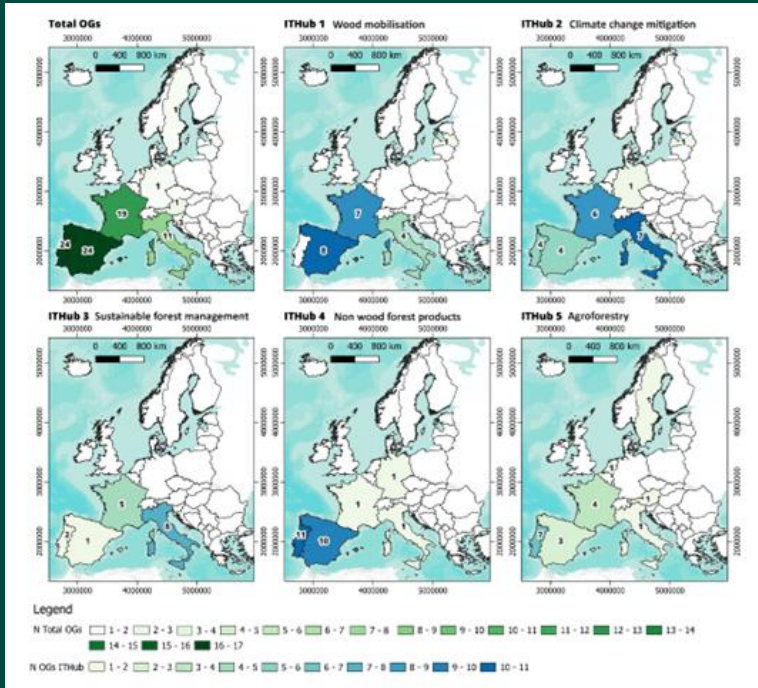


## Which actors facilitate the innovation



**Collaborative multi-actor approaches drive sustainable practices, Supporting solution for resilience forests And support EU strategies and rural bioeconomy.**

## Take Home Message



- OGs are good project to support resilience of Forest ecosystem trough co-creating innovations.
- Forestry and agroforestry OGs are less funded compared to agriculture
- in some EU countries forestry OGs are not financed
- Innovation types vary by country, reflecting national priorities and strengths.
- Collaborative multi-actor approaches drive sustainable practices, supporting EU strategies and rural bioeconomy.



# FOREST4EU

Thank you!

[forest4eu.eu](http://forest4eu.eu)



FOREST4EU Project

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FOREST4EU Project

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