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FOREST4EU: OG engagement strategy deployed

“The future of EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: challenges, opportunities and existing support services”

Francesca Giannetti, University of Florence

Coordinator

Online, 14/05/2025

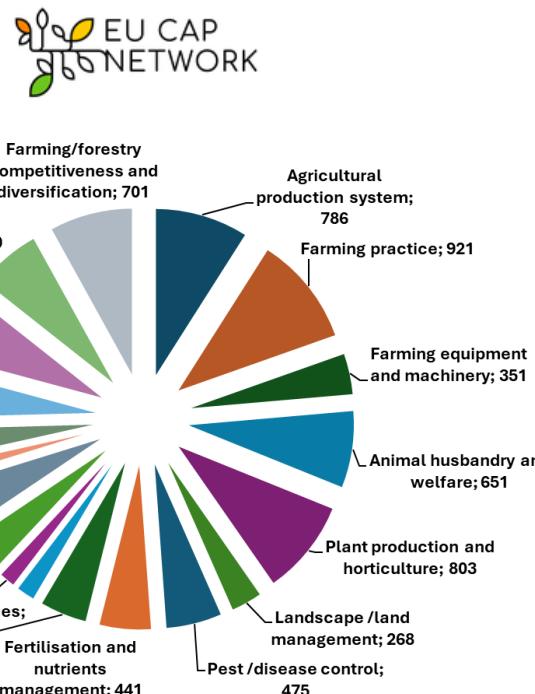


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- Multi-actor approach for forestry and agroforestry sector

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.



Number of OGs with Keyword

Fruit: 181 OGs
Wine: 131 OGs
Dairy: 208 OGs

Forestry and agroforestry OGs in EU



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

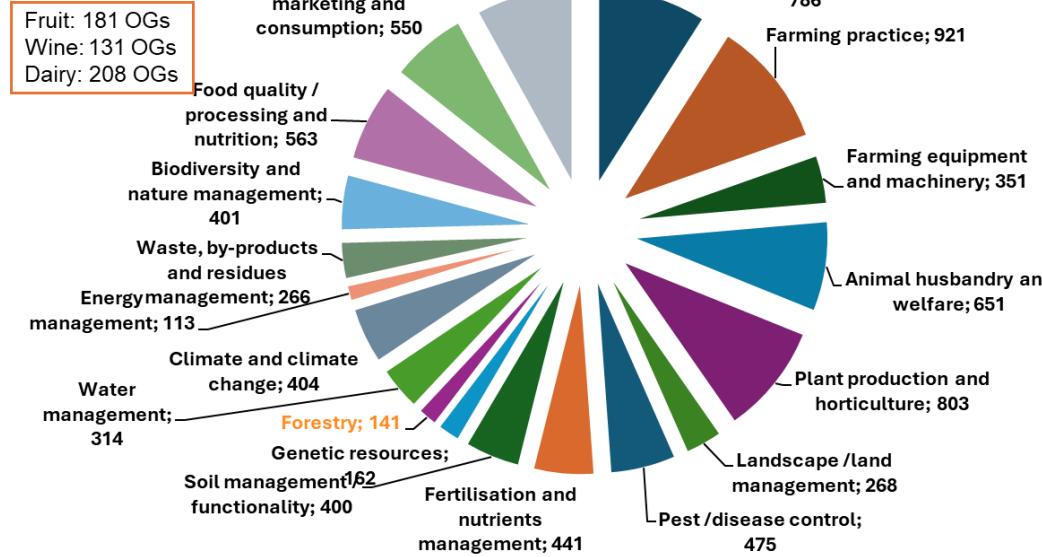


They all share the same goal: advancing innovation and good practices in forestry and agroforestry sector.



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.

Number of OGs with Keyword



Source: Pacôme Elouna Eyenga - Team Leader EIP-AGRI SF, 2023.

Table 4: Keywords and relative proportion in OG projects

Keyword	No. OGs	Relative proportion of all keywords	Proportion of OGs containing keyword
Farming practice	1157	11%	33%
Plant production and horticulture	971	9%	28%
Agricultural production system	967	9%	28%
Animal husbandry and welfare	793	8%	23%
Farming/forestry competitiveness and diversification	786	8%	23%
Food quality/processing and nutrition	729	7%	21%
Supply chain, marketing and consumption	646	6%	19%
Pest/disease control	572	5%	17%
Fertilisation and nutrient management	547	5%	16%
Climate and climate change	498	5%	14%
Soil management/functionality	477	5%	14%
Biodiversity and nature management	437	4%	13%
Farming equipment and machinery	402	4%	12%
Water management	358	3%	10%
Waste, by-products and residues management	330	3%	10%
Landscape/land management	298	3%	9%
Genetic resources	193	2%	6%
Forestry	163	2%	5%
Energy management	147	1%	4%
Total	10 471	100%	

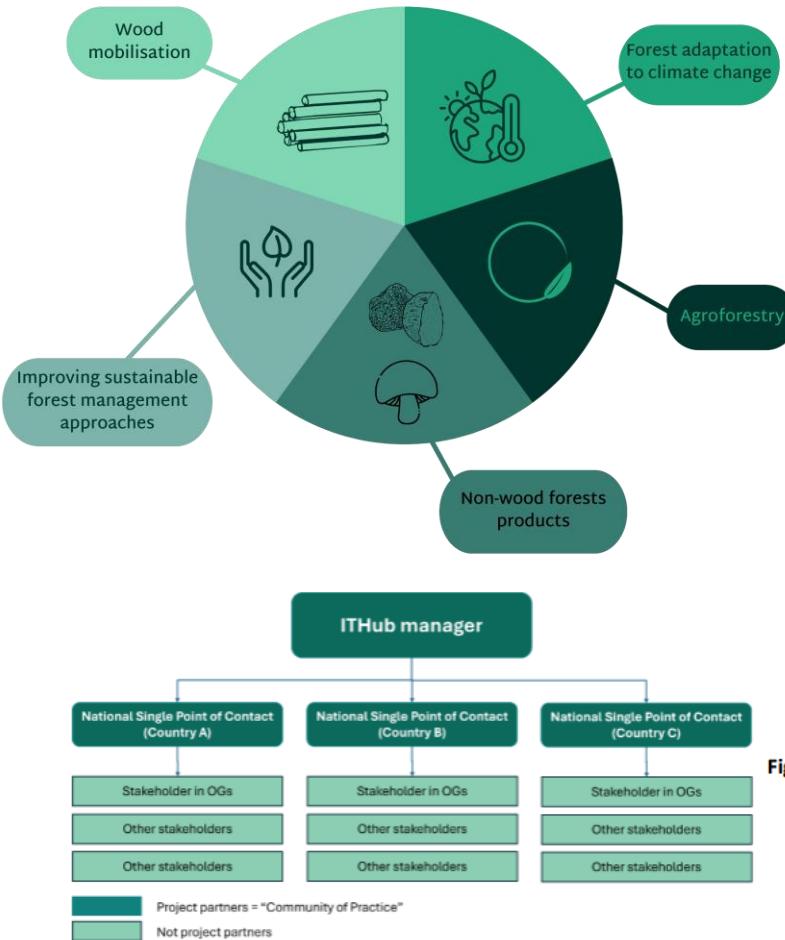


Figure 2: Overview of the structure of the ITHubs.

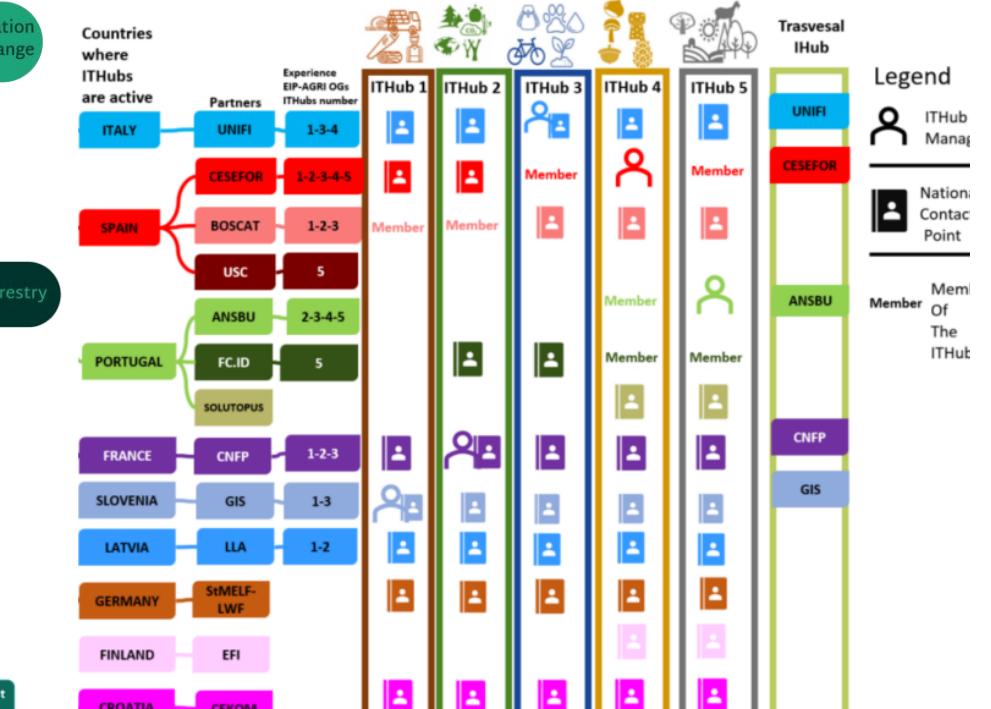


Figure 3: Structure of the ITHubs in the FOREST4EU project including the name and role of each project partner.

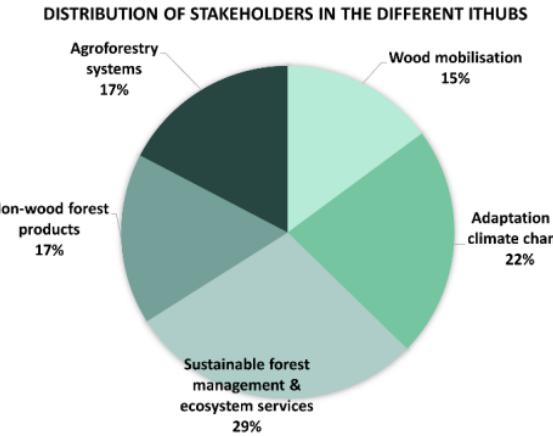


Figure 5: Overview of the distribution of the stakeholders across the ITHubs.

Innovation Topic Hubs – ITHubs - OGs

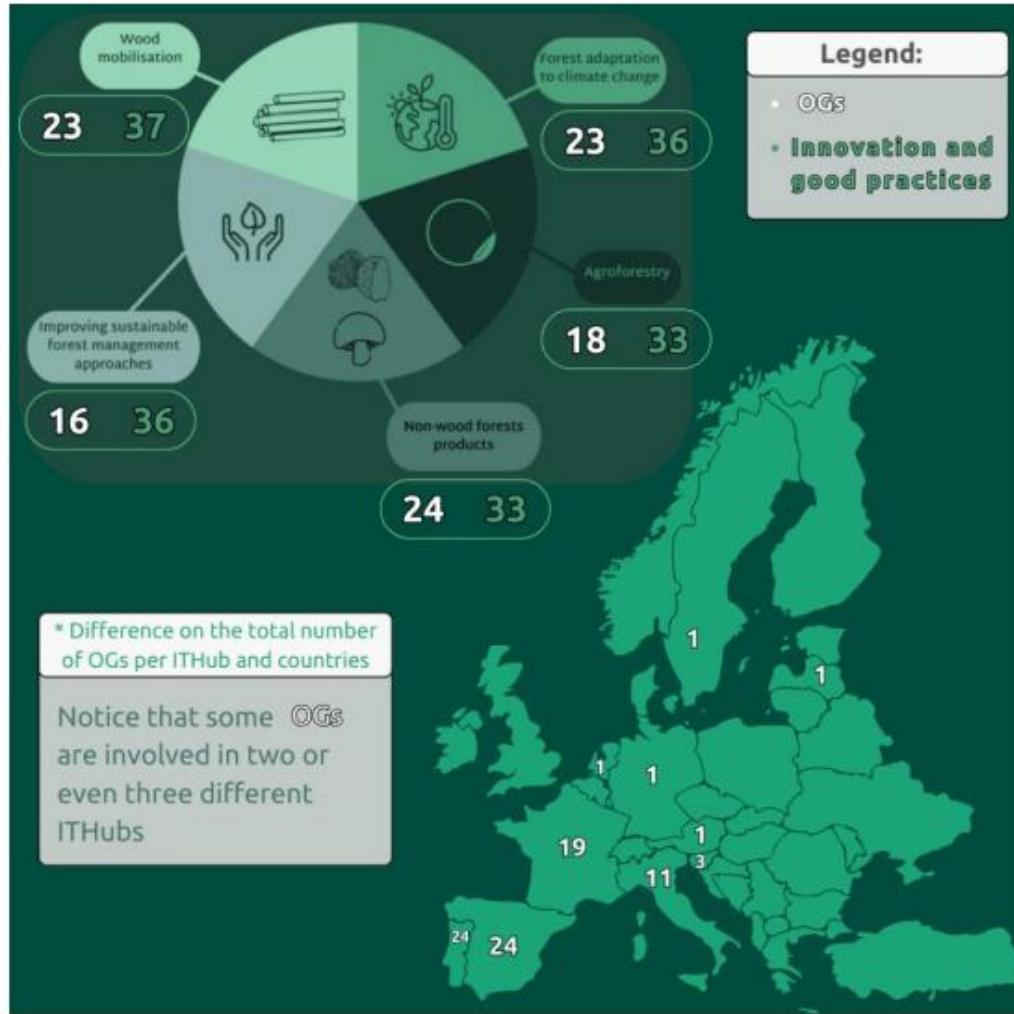
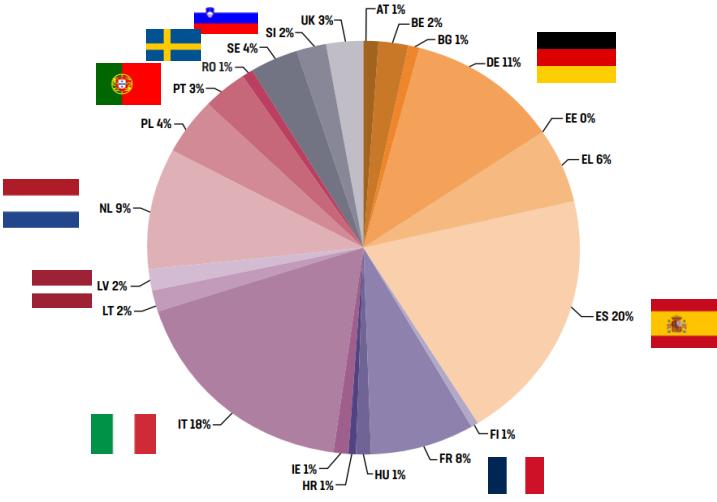
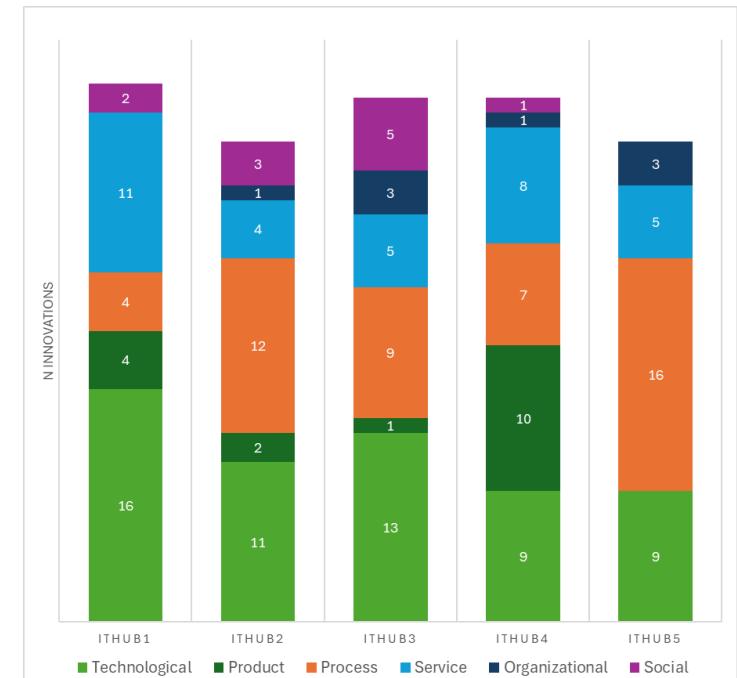
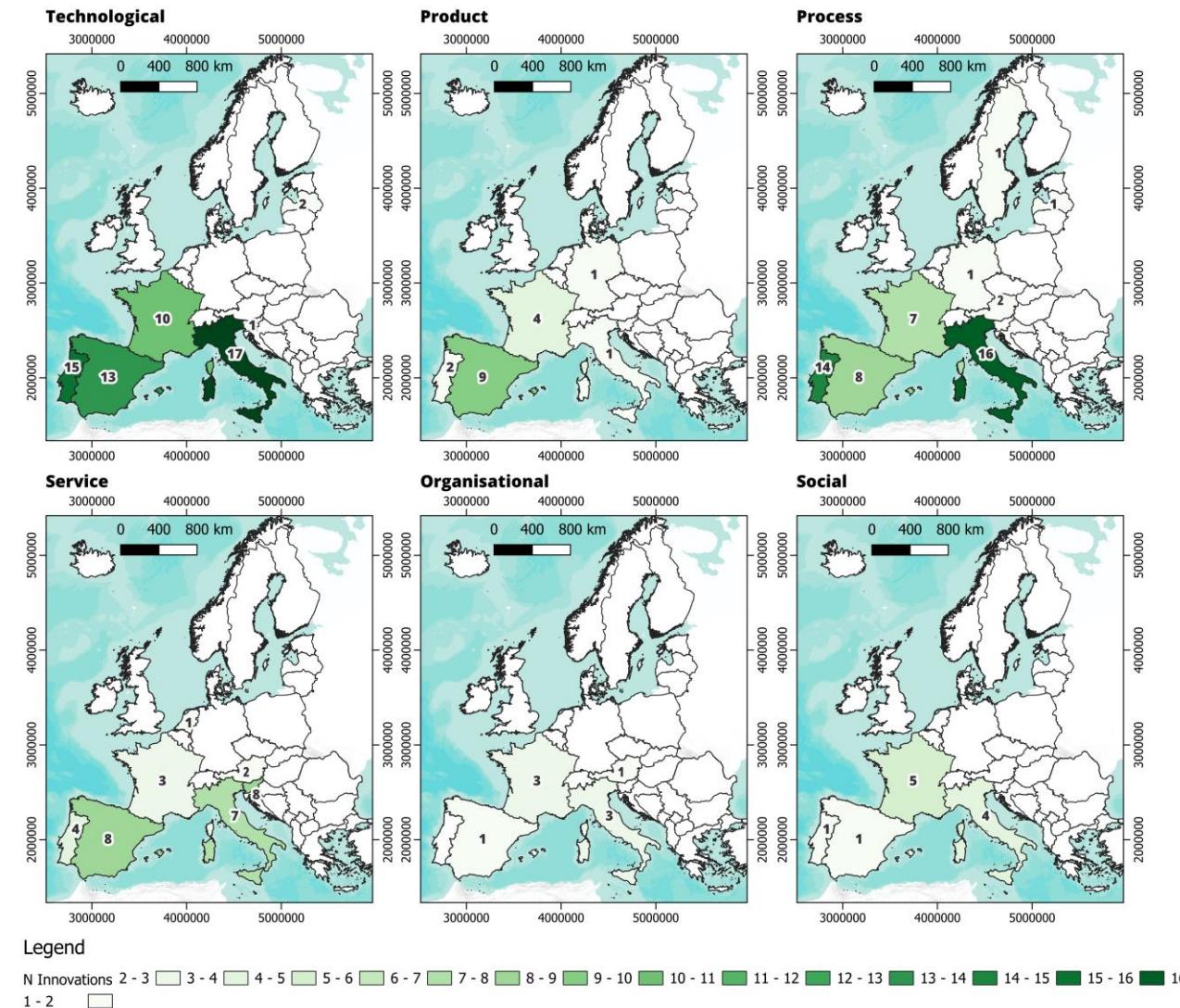


Figure 2: Distribution of OG projects by Member State (%)



Source: DG AGRIFIS elaboration based on SPC data [updated 29/02/2024], N=3 438





Multi-actor approach for prioritising innovations

Community of practice
(ITHub managers & NSPOC)

Invited experts

Invited stakeholders

33 Innovations

20 Innovations

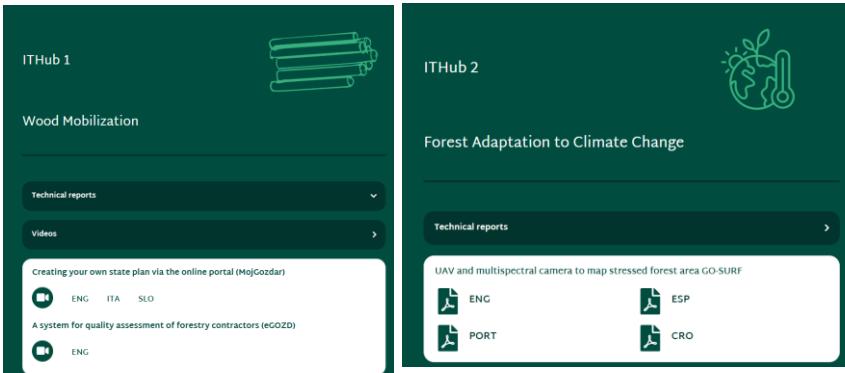
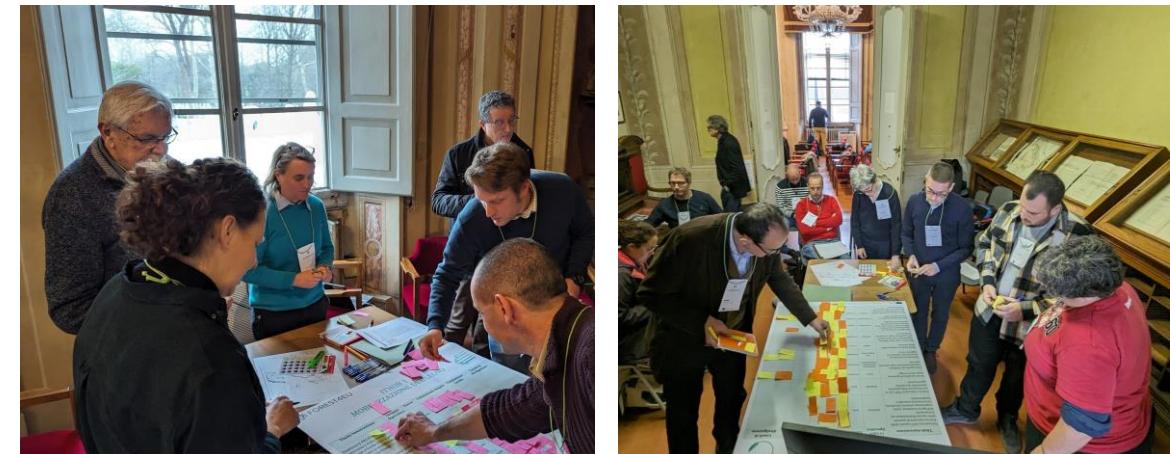
10 Innovations

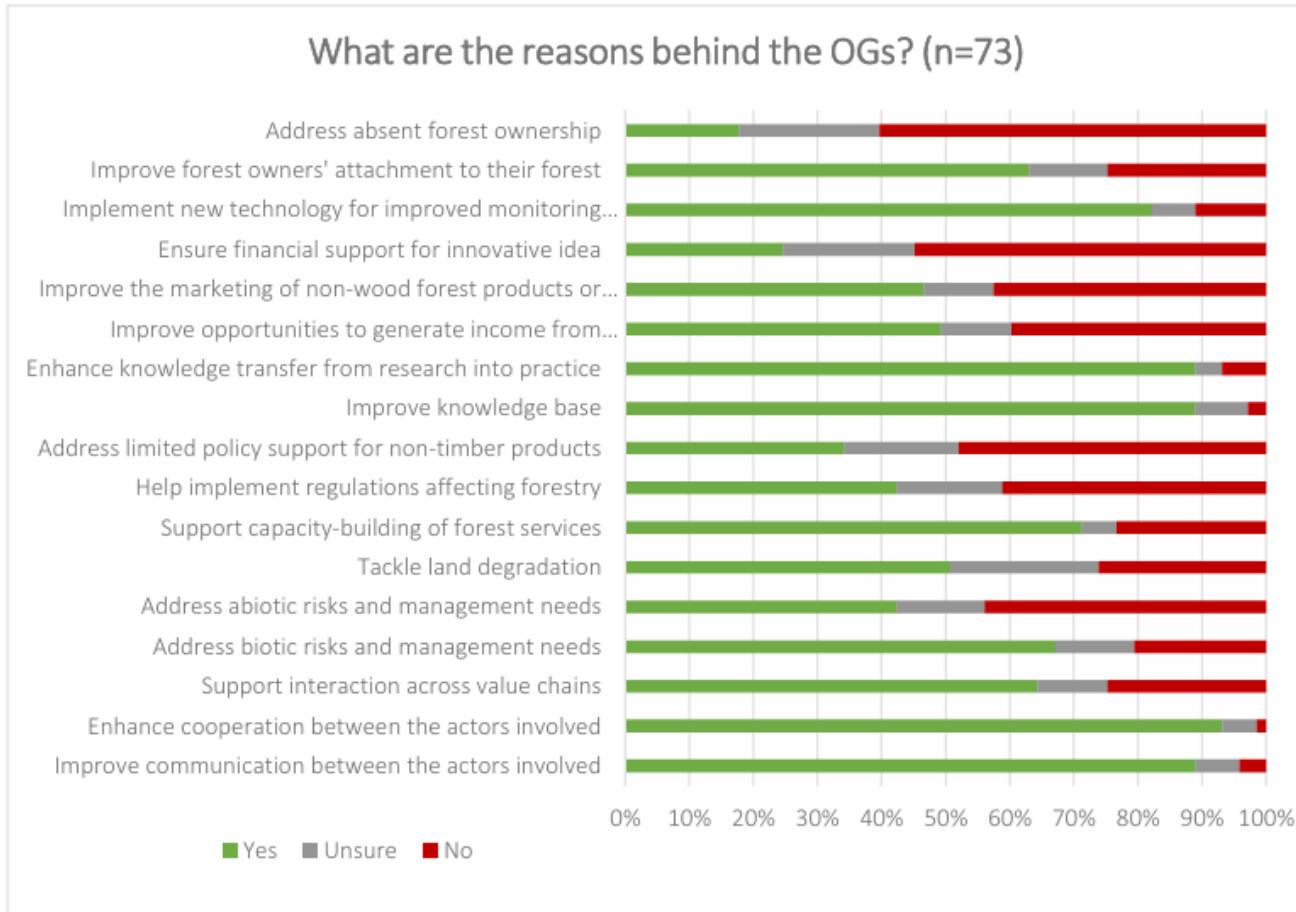
National
Prioritization
workshops

5 Innovations

3 OGs for
study visits

1. Present innovations to stakeholders
2. Facilitate open discussion and feedback
3. Apply evaluation criteria (relevance, feasibility, impact)
4. Collect stakeholder preferences and suggestions

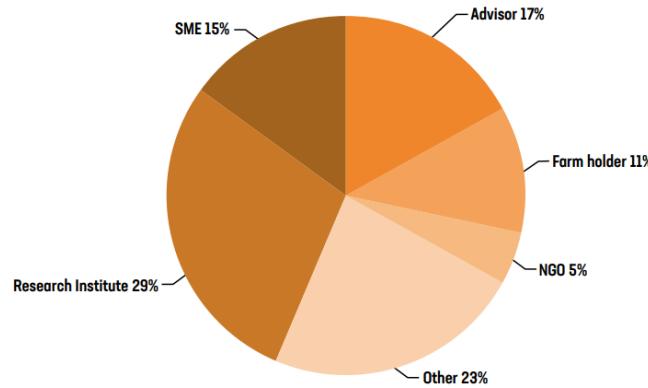
A major result is that the selected OGs reflect the funding requirement of EIP Agri to stimulate and cooperation based on a bottom-up approach (see Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, Art. 127, p. 130).

- $\geq 90\%$ enhance cooperation and communication
- Roughly 90% facilitate knowledge transfer and improve knowledge base
- $> 80\%$ help implement new technology for improved monitoring and decision-making.

Figure 5: Reasons behind OGs

FOREST4EU Which actors facilitated the OGs innovations?

Figure 8: Number of lead partners by category (% on total number of OGs)



Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP based on SFC data (updated 29/02/2024)

Which actors facilitated the OG innovation(s)? (n=73)

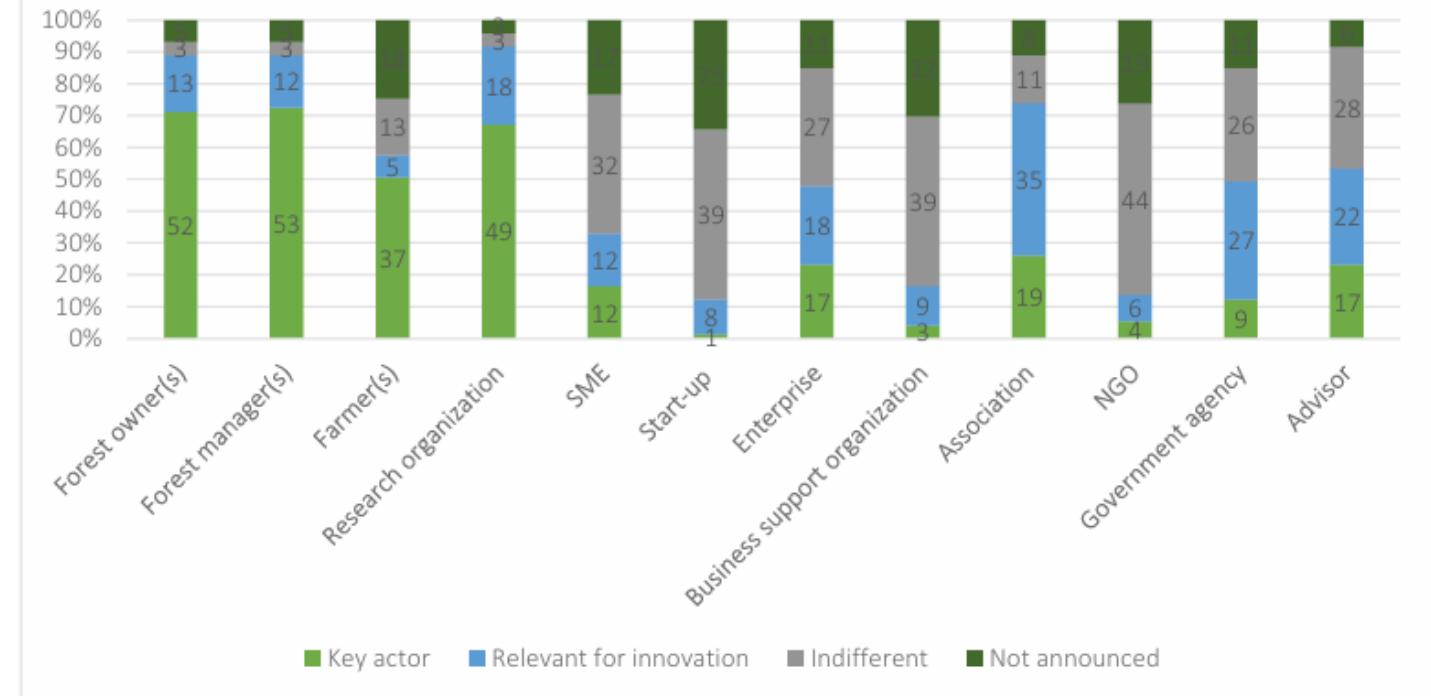


Figure 2: Actors of innovation in OGs (numbers in bars represent absolute numbers)

Collaboration in Action: Unlocking the Potential of OGs



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info@forest4eu.eu

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COORDINATOR



PARTNERS



Thank you!



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