

Agroforestry Map of Europe – a database and map for direct user engagement

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Objective

To promote the concept of agroforestry – such as alley cropping, forest farming, silvopasture, riparian buffers, and windbreaks – as a promising land use system and to convince farmers by learning from the experience of their peers, an interactive map was envisioned.

The aim of the Agroforestry Map of Europe should be to implement a specific database to collect, summarize, visualize and explore the various forms of agroforestry in the EU.

Method

The variety of stakeholders from the up- and downstream sector, farms, educational/scientific organisations and interested parties (currently thinking or planning agroforestry systems), are collected through activities in Living Labs in eleven countries within Europe (Figure 1).

While the regional approach using the native language as GUI is essential, standardized categorizations and a uniform database structure together with the use of botanic names and English translations allow for a coherent display on the EU map. To capture the experience of various mappings, an interactive online document to develop the map categories was set up and commented on by the participants. By using the latest programming technique, an advanced online map was created and its use promoted among national agroforestry associations (Figure 2).

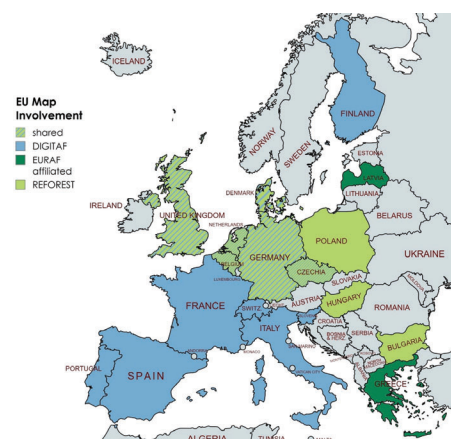


Figure 1: Country map of Europe highlighting the involvement of EU-project partners in DIGITAF and REFOREST in developing the Agroforestry Map of Europe.

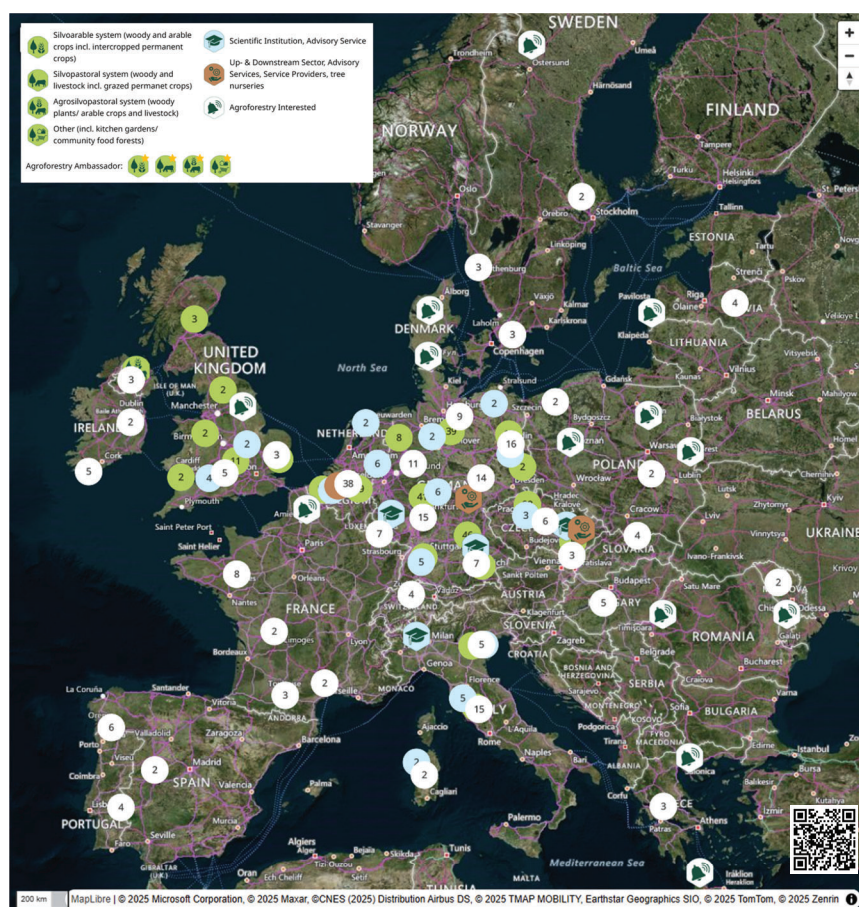


Figure 2: Agroforestry Map of Europe (URL: <https://euraf.map.agroforestry-map.eu/>, access date: 30.06.2025)

Conclusion

The Agroforestry Map of Europe features several improvements, for both user and admins. It offers enhanced user experience through a straightforward GUI and various possibilities for searching, filtering, and viewing.

It marks a significant contribution to make this form of land use more visible across Europe, allowing practitioners to find examples in their neighbourhood or across Europe. At the same time, the data collection allows for a more detailed analysis of the variety of agroforestry. Politics may draw insights relevant for current and future policies like the CAP, the CRCF, national implementation strategies of the Nature Restoration Regulation and other relevant activities under development.

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