



ENFIN NETWORK AND ASSOCIATION, 20 YEARS HARMONISING FOREST INFORMATION

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1. ENFIN Network and Association. Context

- Increasing pressures from climate change and biodiversity loss
- Increasing information requests
- Need of comprehensive forest monitoring

National Forest inventories have a long tradition (1919) and evolved from focusing primarily on wood resources to multi-source and multi-objective monitoring systems capable of informing a wide range of forest-related policies in Europe (core forest information source)

- The **European National Forest Inventory Network** (ENFIN) was established in 2003 to improve the harmonisation of forest information (voluntary basis).
- Building on ENFIN, to strengthen the role that ENFIN has played for many years in developing science, technology and governance at European level, a formal **ENFIN Association** was founded in 2024.



1. ENFIN Network and Association. Context

■ Expertise

- Network of 34 different institutions from 31 European Countries
- Involves experts with different fields of knowledge
- Participation in several EU and transnational projects aiming to improve forest information
- > 50 Publications



2. National Forest Inventories in EU

100%



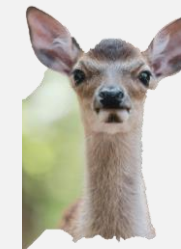
- Plot location
- Accessibility
- Land use
- Forest type (national)
- Stand structure (tree layers)
- Age classes/development stages (national)
- Forest management (national)



- Species
- Diameter/height
- Health status - Spatial distribution (diff apr.)
- Social class
- Timber quality (diff apr.)



- Diameter/height-length
- Categories
- Decay class
- Species/sp group

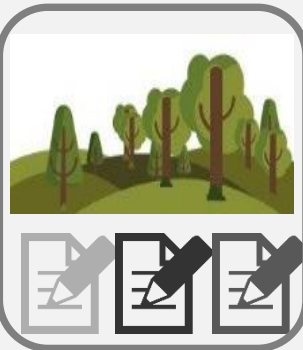


3. Harmonisation

Comparability needed for EU estimates: Information based on NFIs have different spatial and temporal designs, definitions, and reporting systems

Harmonisation vs standardisation:

Standardisation requires uniform application of definitions and sampling protocols
Harmonisation allows for the conversion of local data (existing systems) to a common reference definition (flexibility in data collection)



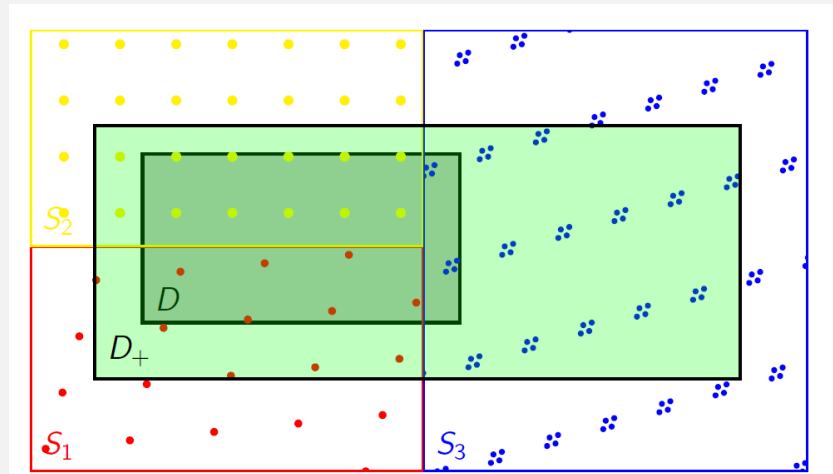
Harmonisation of forest information allows for fulfilling national and subnational needs while keeping the original forest definitions and maintaining the time series.



TRANSFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL TO EUROPEAN SCALE



4. Latest harmonisation efforts examples



nFIESTA (new Forest Inventory, Estimation and Analysis framework)

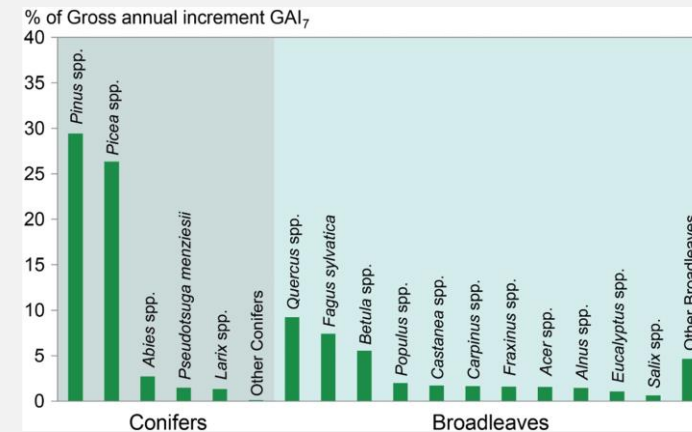
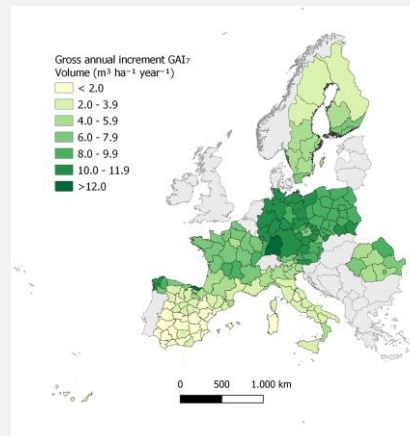


<https://gitlab.com/groups/nfiesta/-/wikis/home>

Volume and biomass increment: NAI-GAI



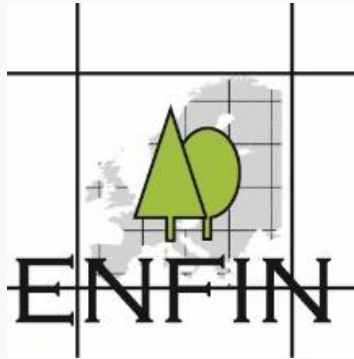
Gschwantner et al., 2024



5. Moving forward...

- ✓ **Full coverage** of EU MS with continuous NFI
- ✓ **Continuation** of the **harmonisation process** of all relevant forest information
- ✓ **Harmonised NFI & remote sensing based estimates** for key forest information
- ✓ **Harmonised map products** including reliability information
- ✓ **Governance**





Thank you!

On behalf of ENFIN

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