



EUFORE

Roadmap for the EUFORE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)



Funded by
the European Union

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	03
1. Introduction	04
2. Priority Research & Innovation Themes	06
3. Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)	10
4. Funding Instruments	11
5. Implementation Timeline (2026–2030)	12
6. Strategic Alignment across Regions and EU	13

ANNEX I

R&I Themes Identified as Common Priorities across the Regions	14
---------------------------------------------------------------	----

List of Figures

Figure 01.	SRIA themes and subthemes	04
Figure 02.	Overview of Crosscutting R&I Themes at the Regional Level	07
Figure 03.	The six European regions in which the EUFORE Regional Stakeholder Workshops were implemented	08
Figure 04.	Overview of Crosscutting R&I Themes at the European Level	09

Citation

EUFORE (2025). Roadmap for the EUFORE Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

Contributing authors

Jan Schmidt, Ophelia Kwakye Acquah

Date of publication

09.02.2026

Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the kind contributions of the anonymous reviewers together with all those who have participated during the SRIA Roadmap co-creation process.

Further information

The European Forest Research and Innovation Ecosystem (EUFORE) is a Horizon Europe project funded by the European Union and coordinated by the European Forest Institute.

Project no. 101081788

www.eufore.eu

Disclaimer

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) roadmap was developed under the EUFORE project. It provides a comprehensive framework for aligning forest-related research and innovation (R&I) across Europe, and is designed to guide the implementation of the European Partnership for **FO**rests, forestry, and the forest-based sector: **RE**search and innovation for a **S**ustainable **T**ransition (**FOREST**) (2026–2030).

The roadmap identifies common priorities, technology readiness levels (TRLs), suitable funding instruments, and implementation timelines.

The roadmap is the result of extensive stakeholder engagement, including regional and European consultations, numerous thematic workshops, and an online survey of 266 experts. **Ten cross-cutting R&I themes have emerged as top priorities at regional level and six at European level**, reflecting urgent challenges in forest health, climate change adaptation, biodiversity, digitalization, and bioeconomy development.

By establishing a common direction, the roadmap fosters a harmonized, science-based response to forest-related challenges and supports the transition toward sustainable and resilient forest ecosystems across Europe.



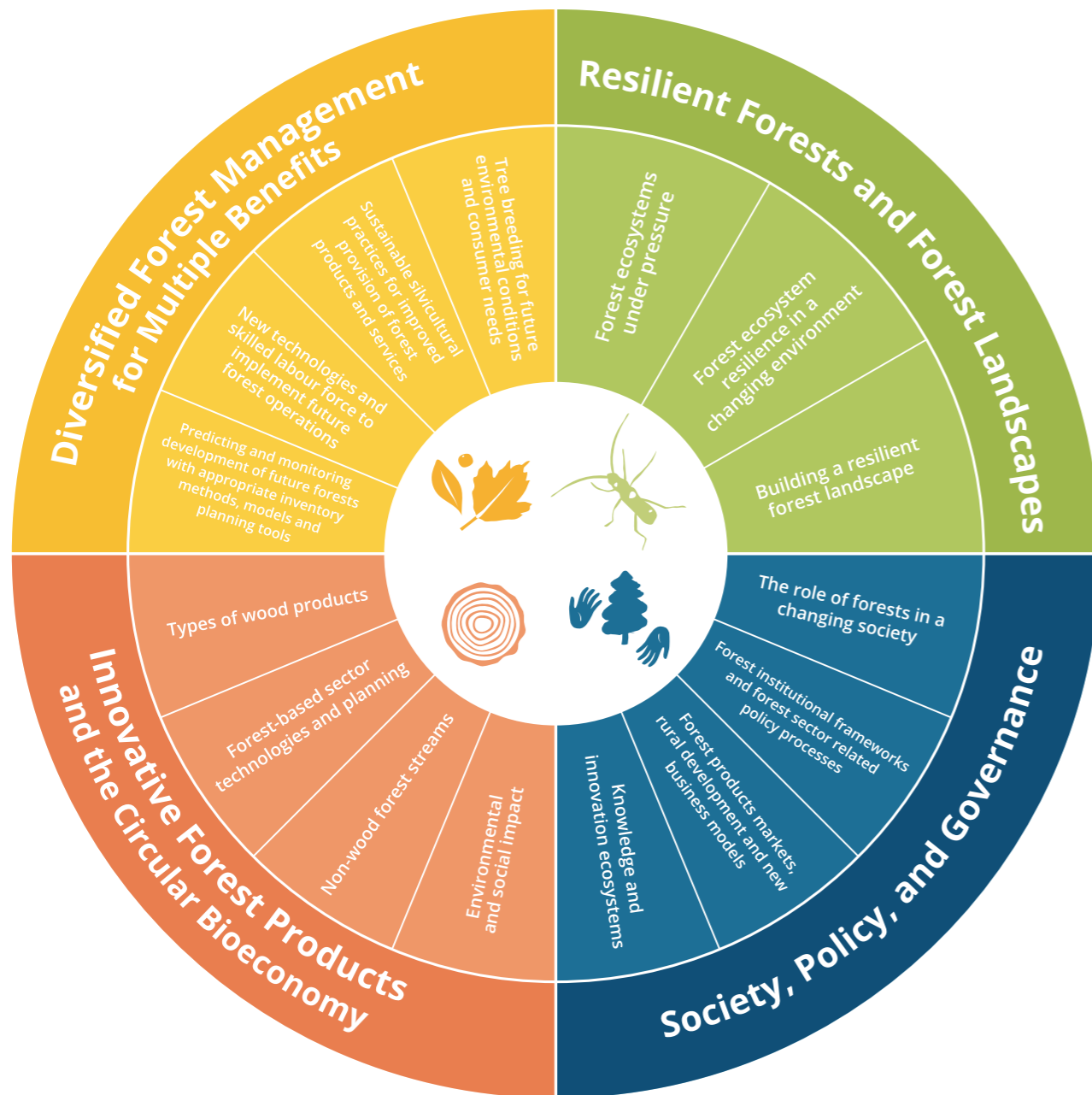
1. INTRODUCTION

The roadmap is based on the EUFORE project's [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA).

The SRIA identifies priority areas where scientific excellence and innovation can support evidence-based policymaking, enhance cross-sectoral collaboration, and enable Europe's forest-based sector to deliver long-term ecological, economic, and social value.

The SRIA is divided into **four thematic areas**, containing in total 108 research and innovation priorities.

Many different stakeholders from the sectors of policy and administration, research and academia, business and industry as well as civil society jointly developed the SRIA, providing their thoughts, needs and expectations. They participated via a variety of formats, including 12 regional and two European stakeholder workshops, four Thematic Working Groups, an online consultation and many discussions and meetings. More than 300 stakeholders shaped the SRIA: their ideas, thoughts and findings were condensed within the four main themes of the SRIA, in which 108 different Research & Innovation priorities are presented.



From these 108 R&I themes, this SRIA roadmap presents the 10 that were indicated as the most important and urgent by regional and European stakeholders.

This document integrates their perspectives, developed via thematic workshops, online consultations, and thematic working groups. It seeks to provide an approximate orientation framework that supports future funding decisions and activities within the European Partnership FOREST.



Figure 01
SRIA themes and subthemes

2.

Priority Research & Innovation Themes

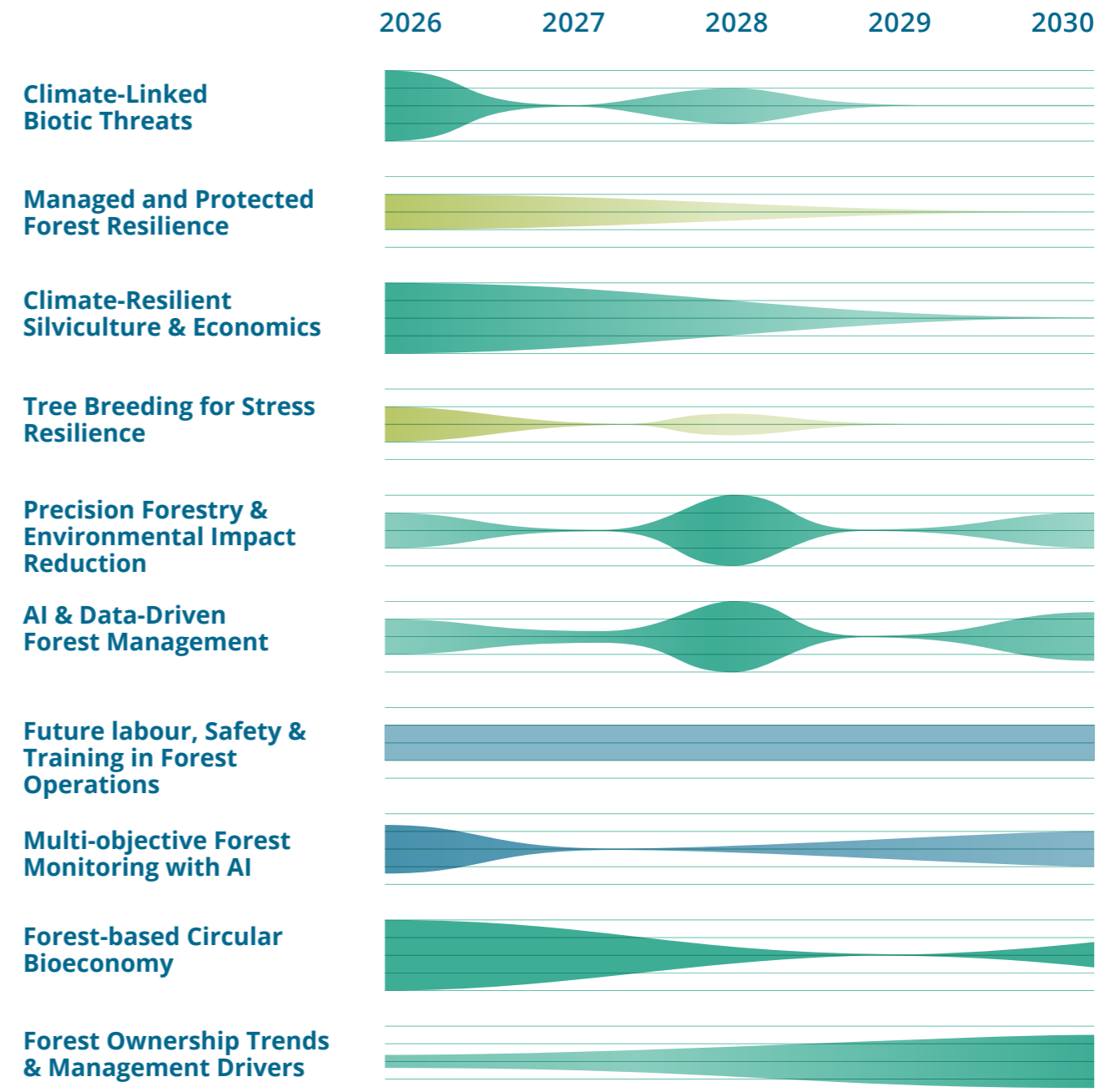
Figure 02 shows the ten Research & Innovation Themes (R&I Themes) identified on a **regional** level as priority areas for future research and innovation (R&I) activities.

For a detailed breakdown of each R&I theme for each region, funding instruments, and regional endorsement, please refer to the table in Annex I.

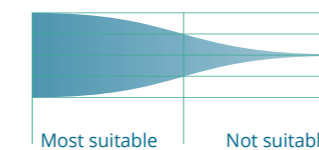
To assess the priorities, a survey was distributed to all registered EUFORE stakeholders in August 2024. In this survey, participants were asked to rank the individual R&I themes within each sub-chapter of the SRIA based on their perceived importance / relevance. A total of 266 individuals across the six European regions (Figure 03) participated in the survey. Based on their responses, the R&I themes identified as the most important / relevant were determined.

During Regional Stakeholder Workshops, participants discussed and agreed on the Technology Readiness Level as well as on a suitable timeline for the implementation of each R&I theme. The Regional Stakeholder Workshops took place between September and October 2025 in all six European regions (Figure 03).

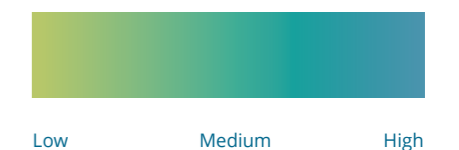
Figure 02
Cross-Cutting R&I Themes at the Regional Level



Timeline Suitability



Technology Readiness Level
(Strong consensus level)



The same approach was applied during a European Stakeholder Meeting, held in Brussels in November 2024 which addressed representatives of European initiatives and institutions. The results of the analysis at a **European** level are displayed in Figure 04. Six Research & Innovation Themes (R&I Themes) were identified on a **European** level as priority areas for future research and innovation (R&I) activities. These six themes had the highest reasonable number of participant priority interest.

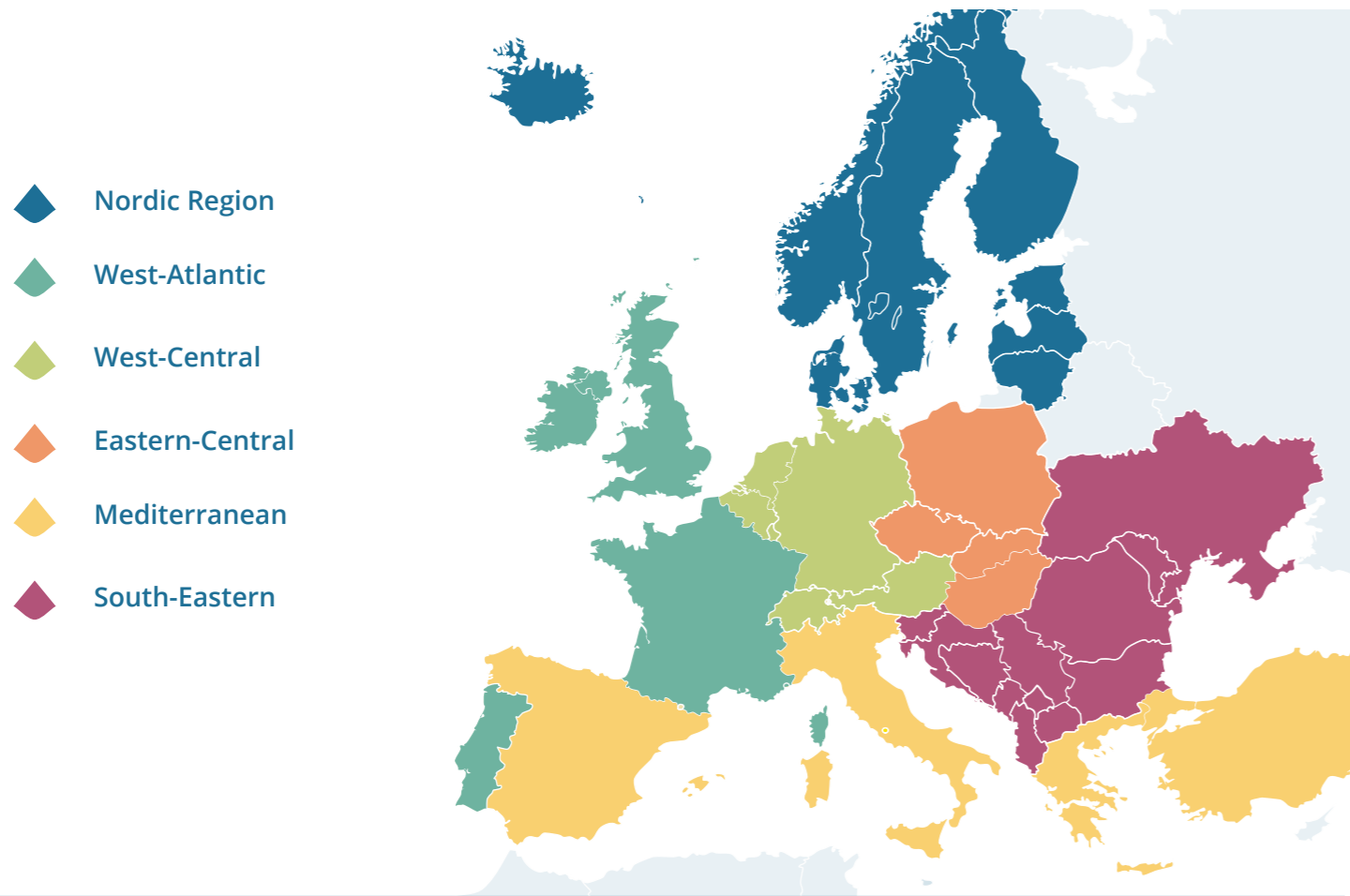


Figure 03
The six European regions in which the EUFORE Regional Stakeholder Workshops were implemented.

Figure 04
Cross-Cutting R&I Themes at European Level



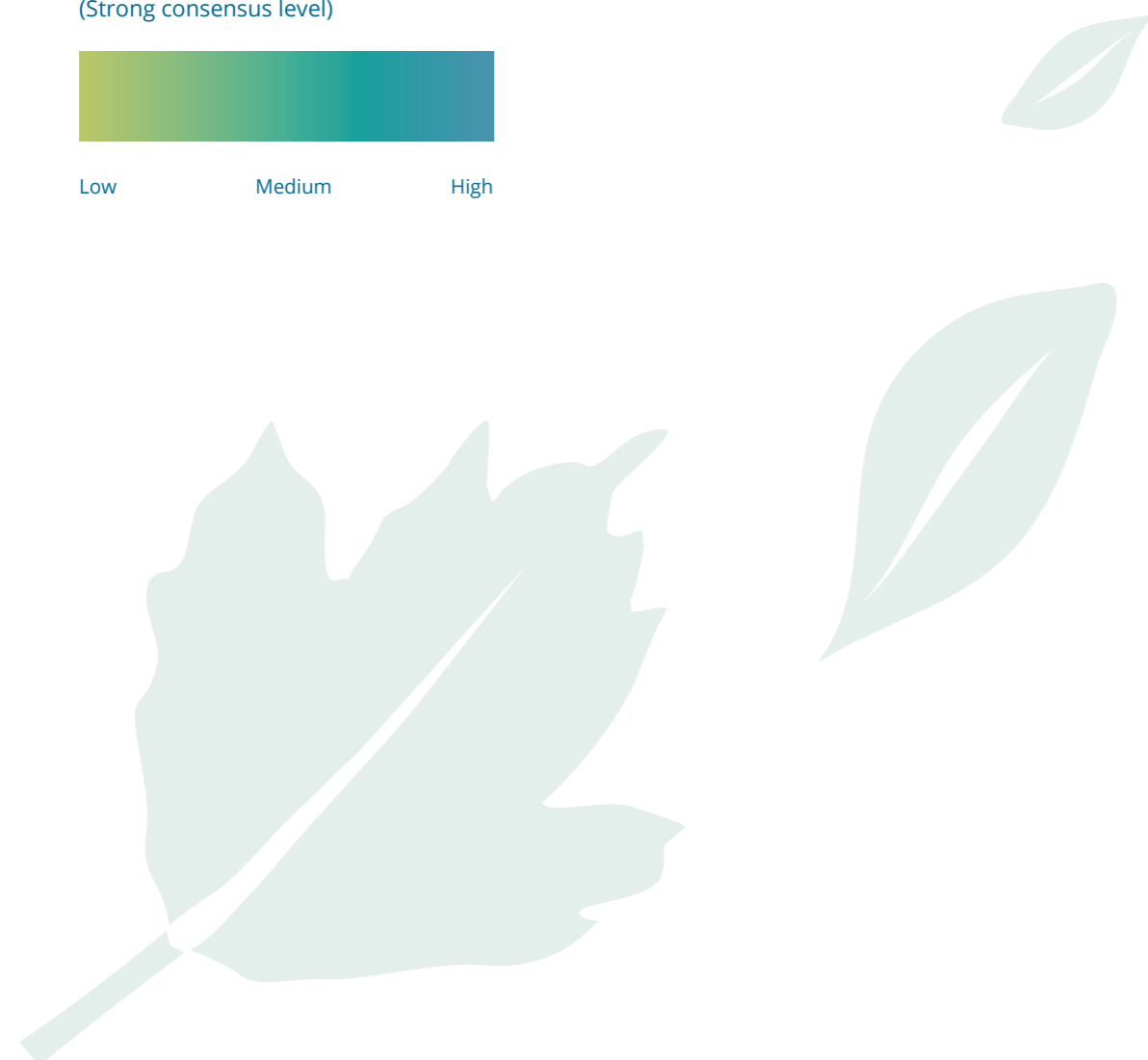
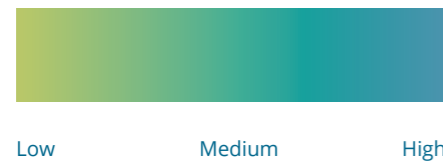
3.

Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)

The readiness of each theme for implementation has been assessed based on TRL indicators. Themes with low or medium TRLs reflect basic research requirements, while high TRLs suggest closer proximity to deployment.

Figures 02 and 04 indicate the level of agreement on the readiness of each theme for implementation or deployment. A colour gradient ranging from light green to blue indicates low, medium, and high TRLs, respectively.

Technology Readiness Level
(Strong consensus level)



4.

Funding Instruments

The TRLs of the R&I themes also serve as an indicator for which [funding instruments](#) could be suitable for implementation.



LOW TRL

R&I themes with a low TRL are interpreted as less developed, indicating that basic research activities are required to acquire more in-depth knowledge. Adequate funding mechanisms would need to address this need for basic research activities, for example the **Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)** under the Horizon Europe Programme.



MEDIUM TRL

R&I themes with a medium TRL can be understood as being further developed but still needing further research activities. They may benefit from an **Innovation Action (IA)**, provided by the Horizon Europe Programme.



HIGH TRL

R&I themes with a high TRL are suitable for **Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)**, and market uptake initiatives as they can be interpreted as quite advanced and well researched.

These instruments facilitate the entire R&I cycle, from early-stage exploration to applied implementation. The logic follows the funding activities as proposed by the Horizon Europe Programme. There are also funding activities and mechanisms that are suitable to address the R&I themes.

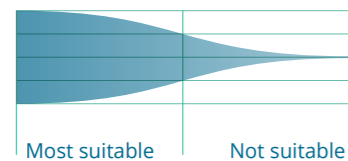
5.

Implementation Timeline (2026-2030)

Figures 02 and 04 indicate appropriate timelines for implementing research and innovation activities, allowing stakeholders to determine the most suitable year for the rollout and implementation of each R&I theme.

The thickness of the wave (thicker = most suitable; thinner = less suitable or not suitable) represent consensus on appropriate implementation timelines among stakeholders who participated in the prioritization exercise at both regional and EU levels.

Timeline Suitability



6.

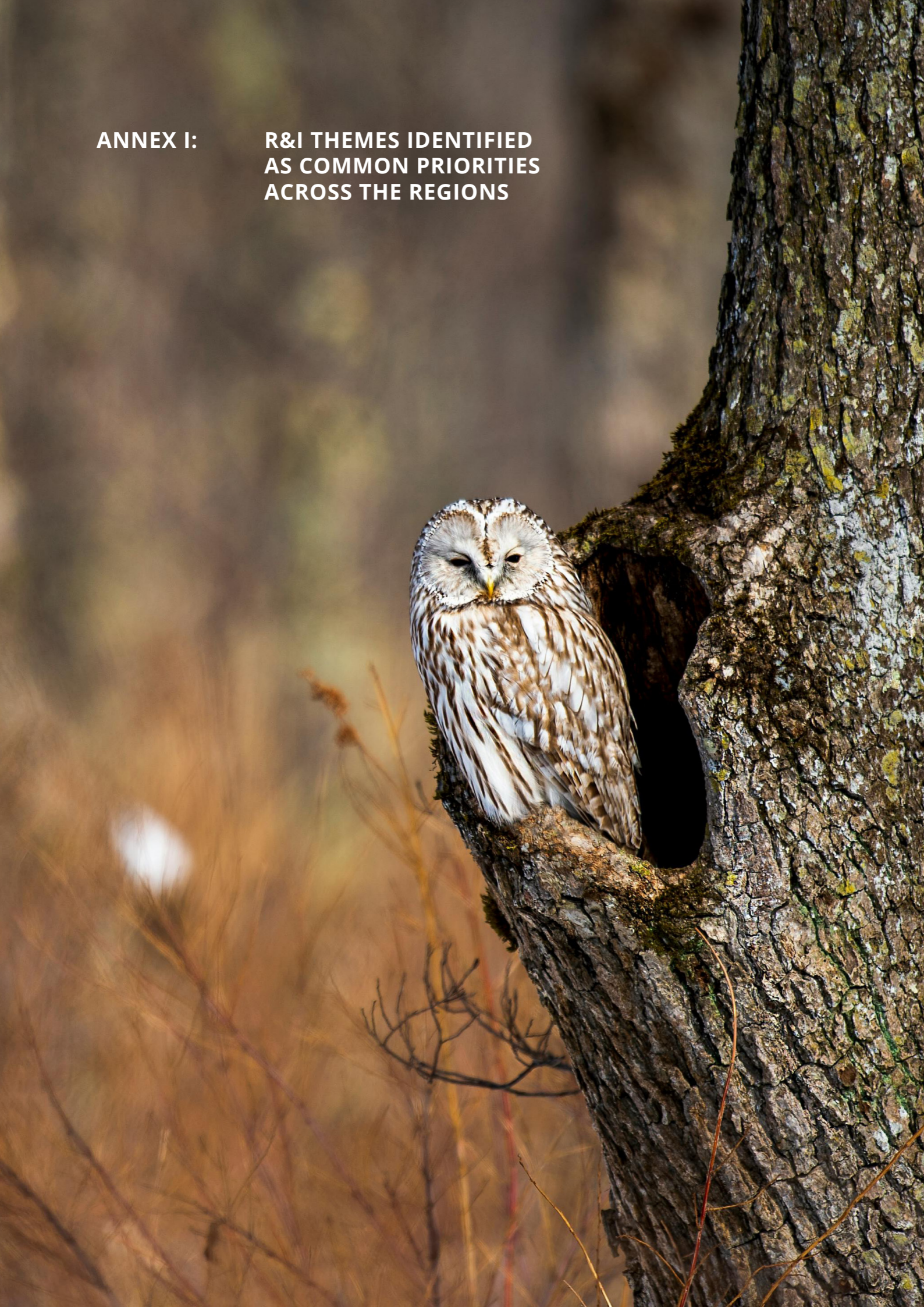
Strategic Alignment across Regions and EU

Analysis revealed strong alignment between regional and EU-level R&I priorities. Notably, six of the top themes at the European level were also among the ten most cited themes regionally.

This underscores the potential for streamlined funding, joint programming, and shared evaluation metrics.
















ANNEX I:





R&I THEMES IDENTIFIED AS COMMON PRIORITIES ACROSS THE REGIONS



R&I Themes Identified as Common Priorities across the Regions

Region	R&I Themes	Technology Readiness Level	Time horizon	Funding Instruments
◆ CENTRAL EUROPE	A.I.3 Characterize pests and pathogens that emerge and spread due to climate change and their impact on forest functioning.	medium	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ NORDIC EUROPE		low	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE		medium	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ WEST-ATLANTIC EUROPE		low	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE		medium/ low	2029	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ MED-EUROPE	A.II.2 Characterize the resilience and biodiversity of forests with different protection status, management and disturbance regimes.	medium	2026/2027	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE		low	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE		low	2027	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ WEST-ATLANTIC EUROPE		low/medium	2028	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ NORDIC EUROPE		low	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ CENTRAL EUROPE	B.II.1 Development and economic evaluation of silvicultural practices and adaptation strategies that improve resilience to extreme weather conditions (e.g. fire and drought).	medium/high	2027	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
◆ SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE		medium	2027	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ WEST-ATLANTIC EUROPE		low	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ MED-EUROPE		medium	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE		medium/ high	2026-2028	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
◆ NORDIC EUROPE		low	2026/2028	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
◆ WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE	B.I.4 Increasing resilience of trees and forests against biotic and abiotic stresses and disturbances in changing environment via tree breeding and timely forest management.	high	2026	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
◆ WEST-ATLANTIC EUROPE		low	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE		low/medium	2026/2027	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ MED-EUROPE		low	2028	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ CENTRAL EUROPE		low/medium	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
◆ NORDIC EUROPE		low	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>

Region	R&I Themes	Technology Readiness Level	Time horizon	Funding Instruments
 MED-EUROPE	B.III.1 Developing forest operations for diversifying silvicultural practices, precision forestry aiming for efficiency improvements and smaller-scale environmental impacts, in particular in soil health and water quality.	high	2026/2027	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE		medium/high	2026	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE		medium	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
 WEST-ATLANTIC EUROPE		medium	2028	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
 NORDIC EUROPE		medium	2030	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
  CENTRAL EUROPE	B.III.2 Digitalization, AI and efficient use of data in planning and implementing forest operations.	high	2026/2028	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 NORDIC EUROPE		medium	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
 SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE		medium	2030	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
 MED-EUROPE		medium/high	2028	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 WEST-ATLANTIC EUROPE		medium	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
 WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE		high	2026	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE	B.III.3 Identify and analyse the impact of forest work – namely new technologies, IT applications - on workers' health and safety, work satisfaction and their competence needs.	high	2027	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 MED-EUROPE		medium/high	2026-2029	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 WEST-ATLANTIC EUROPE		medium	2029	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
 NORDIC EUROPE		high	2028	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE		high	2026	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>

Region	R&I Themes	Technology Readiness Level	Time horizon	Funding Instruments
 WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE	B.IV.1 Development of forest inventory and monitoring methods to cover a variety of ecosystem services, forest health and biodiversity as part of multi-objective forest inventories in different scales, including use of AI.	high	2027	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 WEST-ATLANTIC EUROPE		low	2030	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
  CENTRAL EUROPE		medium	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
 SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE		high/medium	2028	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 MED-EUROPE		high	2026	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 WEST-ATLANTIC EUROPE	C.IV.1 Promotion of forest products and support of regional circular bioeconomy hubs, considering overall ecological impact, feasible business models and mitigation of climate change effects.	medium	2026	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
 WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE		medium	2026/2028	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
  CENTRAL EUROPE		medium/high	2027	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE		medium/high	2027	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 MED-EUROPE		high	2028	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 MED-EUROPE		D.II.1 Investigate trends, drivers, and changing patterns of forest ownership and forest owner motivations, their implications for forest management and related barriers and opportunities for the adoption of new management approaches.	low	2027/2030
  CENTRAL EUROPE	low/medium		2027	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
 WEST-CENTRAL EUROPE	medium		2029	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>
 SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE	high		2027	CSA <i>Coordination and support action</i>
 NORDIC EUROPE	medium		2026/2027	RIA <i>Research and innovation action</i>

Photography Copyrights

Cover

© Matias Malka, Pelayo Arbues, Unsplash

Page 2

© Matias Malka, Unsplash

Page 12,

© Klub Boks, Pexels

Page 17,

© Qamar Mahmood, Unsplash

Graphs and Illustration Copyrights

© Silvia Robertelli

**This document has been updated on
February 17, 2026**

