

ASL Laye Lauzon communicates about its role within the European SMURF project

Here is a summary of the messages we have shared on our LinkedIn account:

[Our LinkedIn page](#)

Some posts were published in French, others in English.

1) Post 1: (8th oct 2025)

The Laye-Lauzon forestry association is committed to the sustainable management of small forest properties in Europe

ASL Laye-Lauzon partner of the SMURF program

With 16 million forest owners in Europe, 90% of whom own less than 10 ha, forest fragmentation is an obstacle to the implementation of reasoned and economically viable methods of maintaining and improving these forests.

The European SMURF project aims to identify the levers to overcome these difficulties.

The ASL GF Laye-Lauzon is participating in this European project with 34 other associations from 16 different countries. For France, 4 organizations are participating in the project:

- the CNPF, a national public institution in charge of the development of sustainable management of private forests (3.5 million owners for 12.6 million hectares)
- Les Forestiers d'Alsace, which brings together 3,000 owners for 10,000 ha, in the form of a federation of 20 forestry union associations.
- The departmental federation of forestry groups of the Hérault, which brings together 42 forestry groups of small holders for about 6,300 ha.
- The ASL Laye-Lauzon, the small thumb of this project, with 35 small owners covering about 1,200 ha spread over 9 municipalities

We are honored to have been selected and aware of our responsibility to make the specificities of our small forests in the Mediterranean area heard in the SMURF project.

In May, we were able to participate in the plenary conference of the SMURF project (Rome, 20-22 May 2025) bringing together 300 participants from some thirty countries.
The French delegation at the SMURF conference in May 2025 in Rome.

From left to right:

C.HOH (Forestiers d'Alsace) ; Mr. CLOPEZ (Féd des Groupements Forestiers de l'Hérault); [R.DELARY](#) (DG of the CNPF); B.CHAPELET (CNPF - European Officer); L.BOUVAREL (European Confederation of Forest Owners); PL. GASTINEL (ASL Laye-Lauzon)



2) Post 2 : (8th oct 2025)

Who are the small forest owners on the southern slope of the Montagne de Lure (04)?

90% of the 16 million European forest owners possess less than 10 hectares.

The first task of the SMURF project was to characterize these small forest owners: who are they? How do they use their forests? What resources do they have to manage these forests from a forestry, economic, environmental, and social perspective? Do they know their forests?

As a partner in the SMURF project, our association surveyed 15 forest owners on the southern slope of the Montagne de Lure, using a questionnaire common to the 35 participating European associations.

These 15 individual cases will be added to the more than 500 cases surveyed in 16 other European countries to provide an idea of the diversity of these European forest owners.

We conducted an investigation among both members and non-members of the ASL.

Our 15 surveys already reflect a wide diversity of situations:

- 7 women, 7 men, and 1 couple
- Average age: 70 years
- 11 inherited these forests, 4 purchased them
- 7 live in the same municipality as their forest, 7 live more than 100 km away, including 3 who live more than 500 km away
- 2 own more than 80 hectares, 6 own less than 6 hectares
- 6 harvest firewood for their own use, 3 sell firewood (occasionally), 6 have not harvested any wood for 10 years.

[hashtag#SmallForestHoldings](#) [hashtag#LaurusNetwork](#) [hashtag#SMURFProject](#)

crédit photo: Bastien Nascimento



3) Post 3 : (24th oct 2025) Tree marking is an essential prerequisite for any forestry project. (Video)

Here, an explanation of "abandoned" and "reserved" marking is provided to establish a partitioning and carry out light thinning in a stand of downy oak coppice.

Here, the marking was carried out by Avisilva (Forest management office) according to the principles of Close to Nature Silviculture.

Close-to-nature forestry is encouraged by the SMURF project, a European project in which the Laye-Lauzon forestry association is a partner.

Comments are by Pierre Heurley, woodcutter. Images are by Maurice Toutevoix.

[hashtag#SmallForestHoldings](#) [hashtag#LaurusNetwork](#) [hashtag#SMURFProject](#)

4) Post 4 (24th oct 2025) How to remove wood without causing too much damage? (Video)

Removing cut wood without damaging other trees is one of the goals of Close to Nature Forestry.

This video explains what was done on a recent project by the Laye-Lauzon association, and the usefulness of the partitions created here in a coppice of white oaks.

Close-to-nature forestry is encouraged by the SMURF project, a European project in which the Laye-Lauzon forestry association is a partner.

<https://lnkd.in/dCStSicN>

The explanations are by Bastien Nascimento of the Avisilva forest management office (04 - Pierrevert). The images are by Maurice Toutevoix.

[#hashtag#SmallForestHoldings](#) [#hashtag#LaurusNetwork](#) [#hashtag#SMURFProject](#)
[#hashtag#Avisilva](#)
[#hashtag#SMURFteam](#)



5) post 5 : (25th oct 2025) **These photos illustrate our association's various activities:** (with a galerie of 10 photos)

- Helping member landowners implement natural forest management methods
- Contributing to the training of future forestry technicians by opening our forests for educational tours and field exercises
- Organizing the "Laye-Lauzon Forest Meetings" illustrating Close to Nature Forestry. These meetings are open to all (member and non-member landowners, elected officials from local authorities, forestry technicians, and the general public interested in sustainable development and the future of forests).
- Promoting awareness of the European SMURF project

6) Post 6 : (8th oct 2025)

Laye-Lauzon Forestry Meeting 2025 : From the Local to the European Level

The Laye-Lauzon Forestry Association, a partner of the European #SMURF project, organized its 2025 Forestry Meeting on October 1st, followed by its General Assembly, in the superb municipal hall of Limans, with the support of Avisilva.

#SMURF is a European project that aims to identify innovative ways to encourage sustainable management methods for small forest properties.

With this in mind, the field visit illustrated a method of intervention in a downy oak coppice stand, carried out by two members of the Laye-Lauzon Forestry Association in the municipalities of Limans and Ongles. A similar project was carried out in the municipality of St. Etienne-les-Orgues. These projects received a grant from the 04 Departmental Council to assist with tree selection and marking, based on an irregular high forest management approach. This work consisted of:

- Identifying existing logging lines and boundaries and creating new ones if necessary
- Marking selective thinning in the remaining wooded interstrips to benefit the most vigorous and highest-quality trees

- Identifying, conserving, and cultivating heritage trees as well as those with significant biodiversity benefits (minority species, trees with dendromicrohabitats, very large trees, etc.)

This example of intervention among three small forest owners, which is made possible by the grouping effect within an ASL, is part of the testimonies our association provides as part of the European hashtag [hashtag#SMURF](#) project.

In addition to members and regular local supporters, the presence of several representatives from local authorities, institutions, and technical partners demonstrates the interest in our association's activities: representatives from the municipalities of Limans and Fontienne, the Regional Natural Park, the Natura 2000 network, the International Network for Scientific Tourism, the French Office for Biodiversity, and Avisilva, not to mention the many partners who were unable to attend and who apologized and expressed their support (hashtag [hashtag#CNPF](#), Montlaux and Revest St. Martin town halls, ASL des Brousses, etc.).

The general meeting provided an opportunity to explain the objectives of the SMUF project and the reasons for our participation:

- To share experiences and practices adapted to small forest properties
- To ensure that the specific characteristics of small forest properties in the Mediterranean are taken into account in the future directions of European and national forest policies.

More information on the [hashtag#SMURF](#) project: <https://lnkd.in/dCStSicN>



[SMURF project, EU's Forest Strategy - Smurf project](#)
smurfproject.eu



Claude GILLI (treasurer of the ASL Laye-Lauzon) and Bastien NASCIMENTO (forestry engineer of the SCOP Avisilva) Photo credit M.Toutevoix.

7) Post 7 : (10th Aug 2025)

The Laye-Lauzon Forestry Association was present at the 42nd Ongles Agricultural Fair (04230): as a continuation of the SMURF project

Association for Forest Management of the Laye and Lauzon
84 followers August 10, 2025



This is an opportunity to explain to the general public, forest owners, elected officials, and anyone curious about what local associations like ASL Laye-Lauzon and ASL des Brousses are doing to promote sustainable forest management in our region (the southern slope of the Montagne de Lure in Haute-Provence).

Our small contribution to the initiatives of dozens of European associations of small forest owners that contribute to the SMURF program.

The SMURF project website: <https://www.smurfproject.eu/the-project/>

In particular, in synergy with the initiatives of the three other French participants in the SMURF project:

- The Hérault Departmental Federation of Forestry Groups (www.fedegf34.fr) brings together 42 small-scale forestry groups representing approximately 6,300 hectares.
- Foresters of Alsace represents 3,000 landowners with 10,000 hectares and is a federation of 20 forestry and land management associations.
- The CNPF (National Center for Forest Ownership) is the national public institution responsible for developing sustainable management of private forests: 3.5 million owners with 12.6 million hectares.

8) Post 8 : (18th oct 2025)

Who are the small forest owners on the southern slope of the Montagne de Lure (04)?

90% of the 16 million European forest owners own less than 10 hectares.

The first task of the SMURF project was to characterize these small forest owners: who are they? What uses do they make of their forests? What means do they have to manage these forests from a forestry, economic, environmental, or social perspective? Do they know their forests?

As a partner in the SMURF project, our association surveyed 15 forest owners on the southern slope of the Montagne de Lure, based on a questionnaire shared by the 35 participating European associations.

These 15 individual cases will be added to the more than 500 cases surveyed in 16 other European countries to provide an idea of the diversity of these European forest owners.

We surveyed both members and non-members of the ASL.

Our 15 surveys already reflect a wide variety of situations:

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hashtag [#SmallForestHoldings](#) hashtag [#LaurusNetwork](#) hashtag [#SMURFProject](#)



9) Post 9 : (25th Nov 2025) **The LAURUS network: a product of the SMURF project**

One of the first "deliverables" to emerge from the European project [hashtag#SMURF](#) is the launch of the LAURUS network, which is intended to support forest owners' organisations to promote better profitability and sustainability at the scale of small properties.

Open to all European technical teams in the forestry sector, Laurus wants to rely on innovation, training and exchange.

The Laurus Network offers specialized hands-on training and webinars on knowledge enhancement and decision support tools.

It is a place to share innovative approaches, business models and opportunities to strengthen the profitability and sustainability of forest management.

All network resources will be available in multiple languages

Laurus provides a space for exchange between colleagues, allowing technicians from various organizations and countries to share experiences, learn from each other and drive innovation in forestry.

In order for the experience of forest managers, owners and technicians from our mid-mountain Mediterranean regions (and in particular from the South-East of France) to participate in these exchanges of experiences, we invite you to register (free of charge) on the website https://lnkd.in/dYKi_PPZ

You will be informed of upcoming initiatives, training, webinars and you will be able to exchange with your counterparts in other countries.

Be wise, be innovative, be brave, be Laurus



10) Post 10 :

By [Pierre-Louis GASTINEL](#) 1/6/2025

Our association has been selected (along with 3 other French forestry organizations and 33 forestry organizations from 16 European countries) to participate in the European SMURF project. The aim of this project is to identify best practices in sustainable forest management adapted to small forest owners in Europe.