

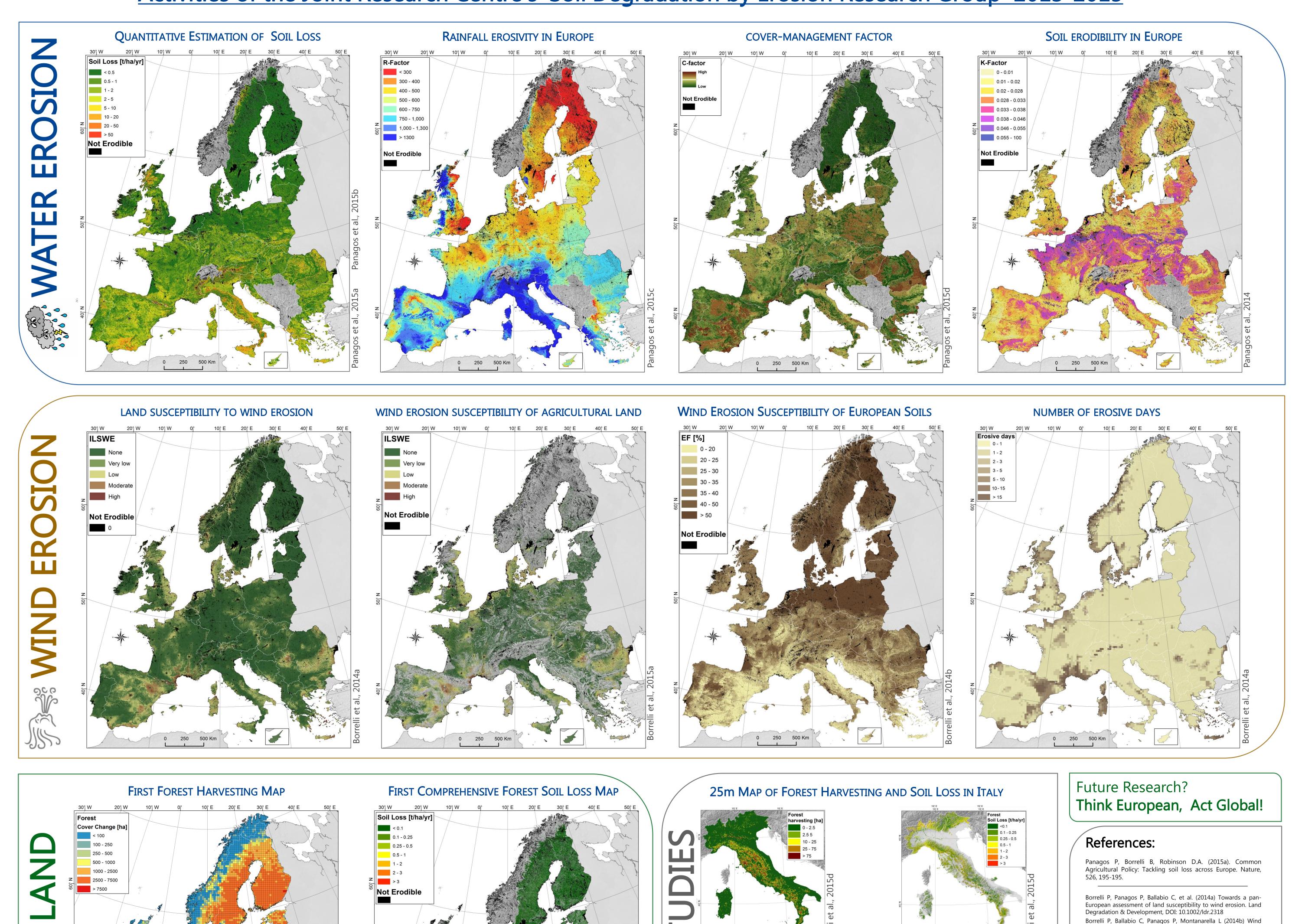
## Soil Erosion in Europe

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Soil degradation is a serious problem in Europe. It is driven or exacerbated by human activity such as inadequate agricultural and forestry practices, industrial activities, tourism, urban and industrial sprawl and construction works. These activities have a negative impact, preventing the soil from performing its broad range of functions and services to humans and ecosystems. This results in loss of soil fertility, carbon and biodiversity, lower water-retention capacity, disruption of gas and nutrient cycles and reduced degradation of contaminants. In the Communication of the European Commission entitled 'Towards a Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection' (COM(2006) 231) 8 main threats to soil were identified. The information presented here give a brief overview of the results archived on soil erosion (i.e., first threat).



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