



WHITE PAPER · COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Mapping your IT in 2026: where does UrbaHive fit?

An objective positioning of UrbaHive against Enterprise Architecture platforms and IT mapping tools — written for CIOs and IT decision-makers.

2026 Edition · verified and cited sources

Intended audience

CIOs, CISOs, architecture leads, SMEs & mid-market

Competitors analysed

12 solutions · 3 market categories

Date

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1. Executive summary

The IT-mapping market has polarised. On one side, global **Enterprise Architecture (EA) platforms** — powerful but expensive, built for large organisations with dedicated teams. On the other, more accessible **IT mapping tools**, often French, tailored to SMEs and mid-market companies.

UrbaHive sits deliberately in the second camp, with a clear stance: deliver collaborative mapping that is **useful within days**, at a **transparent price** (free, then €29 and €99/month), **hosted in the EU**, with **ready-to-use NIS2 / DORA compliance views**. Its singularity: an **MCP (Model Context Protocol) server** that opens the map to AI agents — an angle no direct competitor exposes today. It is not an exhaustive EA platform — and this white paper owns that.

In one sentence: UrbaHive is not "a cheaper LeanIX" — it is *a different product for a different need*: pragmatic IT mapping for organisations that have neither the need, the team, nor the budget for a full EA suite.

2. Method & objectivity principle

This document is published by UrbaHive. To keep it useful to a decision-maker, we applied three rules:

1 · Separate facts from estimates

Product characteristics (target, hosting, compliance, pricing model) come from vendor sites and third-party sources (Gartner Peer Insights, trade press), cited at the end. **Total-cost ranges** are flagged as *illustrative estimates*: EA pricing is largely quote-based and not public.

2 · Credit competitors' strengths

Each competitor is presented with its real advantages. A comparison that only criticised others would not serve a CIO — it would make them distrust it.

3 · State where UrbaHive is not the right choice

Section 8 explicitly lists the cases where another solution is preferable.

Transparency: UrbaHive is a recent product (launched in 2025). Its maturity, connector library and analytical depth are below those of vendors established for 10–30 years. This is built into the analysis rather than hidden.

3. The 2026 market: two worlds, one need

Three dynamics shape today's market:

Rising regulatory pressure

The **NIS2** directive and the **DORA** regulation require a growing number of European organisations — including mid-market companies and their subcontractors — to document their IT estate, dependencies and critical flows. Mapping moves from "nice to have" to obligation.

Consolidation at the top

The EA segment is concentrating: **SAP acquired LeanIX** (completed 8 November 2023), and **Bizzdesign merged with MEGA International** (September 2024), bringing together Horizzon, HOPEX and Alfabet (~€110M revenue, ~2,000 customers). The result: more powerful suites, but also more expensive and more enterprise-oriented.

Technical complexity & Shadow IT

"Shadow IT" — the apps and services adopted outside the IT department's control — is estimated by Gartner at **30 to 40% of IT spending** in large enterprises (CIO-panel estimate, order of magnitude). It creates security risk and waste, and stays invisible without an up-to-date map.

A blind spot for SMEs / mid-market

Between six-figure EA suites and drawing tools (Visio, draw.io) — quickly outdated and lacking analytical depth — many organisations of 50 to 2,000 people have no fitting tool. This is the space targeted by UrbaHive, the French mapping vendors and open-source solutions.

Two categories not to confuse

	EA platforms	IT mapping tools
Promise	Drive end-to-end transformation	Make the IT estate visible & shared, fast
Target	Large enterprises, dedicated EA teams	SMEs / mid-market, versatile IT teams
Rollout	Several months, consulting often required	Days to weeks, self-service
Examples	LeanIX, Ardoq, Bizzdesign/MEGA, Sparx	UrbaHive, myCarto, Carto-SI, Optim-SI, WinDesign, Ekialis, Uncia + open source (Mercator)

4. Vendor landscape

Category: ■ Global EA platform · ■ IT mapping (FR / SME-mid-market) · ■ Specialised / open source

UrbaHive

IT mapping · EU

Collaborative IT-mapping SaaS, launched in 2025, EU-hosted. Target: SMEs & mid-market (50–2,000 employees).

Strengths

- Transparent pricing: free (25 apps), €29, €99/month, then Enterprise
- Pre-configured NIS2 / DORA views from week one
- Fast onboarding, designed for non-specialists
- ArchiMate, APM scoring (TIME), SSO, REST API, multi-site

Limits

- Young product, ecosystem and recognition still building
- Smaller connector library than the leaders
- "Simplified" ArchiMate, less deep analytics
- Not suited to very advanced EA/GRC needs

Differentiator — AI & MCP server. UrbaHive exposes its repository via a **Model Context Protocol server**: AI agents (Claude, Cursor...) can query the IT estate in natural language, populate or maintain the map from source code, and automate documentation. No direct competitor in this analysis currently offers an equivalent agentic connector — EA leaders rely on classic cloud/ITSM connectors.

SAP LeanIX

EA platform

A global EA reference, in market since 2012, acquired by SAP (2023). Target: large enterprises.

Strengths

- 50+ connectors (ServiceNow, Jira, AWS/Azure/GCP, SAP...)
- Advanced analytics, obsolescence management, roadmapping
- Native SAP integration, an asset for S/4HANA migrations
- Analyst validation (Gartner/Forrester), proven maturity

Limits

- High cost; quote-based, frequent renewal increases
- Multi-month deployment, consulting often required
- Over-sized for an SME (adoption often <20% of features)

Ardoq

EA platform

A "data-driven" EA platform built on a graph engine, transformation-oriented.

Strengths

- Graph model ("digital twin"), real-time impact analysis
- Unlimited users included, per-application pricing
- Natural-language querying, dynamic dashboards

Limits

- Enterprise / "digital-first" positioning and budget
- Learning curve to exploit the data model

Bizzdesign / MEGA HOPEX

EA platform + GRC

The group formed by the 2024 merger (Horizzon, HOPEX, Alfabet). Co-creator of the ArchiMate language. Strong GRC depth.

Strengths

- Unmatched GRC / operational-risk depth (banking, insurance)
- Full ArchiMate support; historic vendor of the notation
- End-to-end EAM + SPM + BPM + GRC coverage

Limits

- High complexity and cost; regulated sectors and large accounts
- Post-merger integration uncertainty (3 products to converge)

Sparx Enterprise Architect

Modelling

A very widespread desktop modelling tool (UML, BPMN, SysML, ArchiMate), perpetual licence.

Strengths

- Affordable perpetual licence (\approx \$245–750 / seat)
- Extremely rich modelling, ArchiMate 3.1 certified
- De-facto standard for architects / engineers

Limits

- Geared to expert modelling, not lightweight collaboration
- No shared SaaS repository or ready-made compliance views

myCarto

IT mapping · FR

By AB+ Software (formerly Solu-qiq), 200+ CIO customers. Highly configurable no-code metamodel, strong public-sector presence (listed on UGAP, CAIH, RESAH).

Strengths

- No-code, flexible metamodel, entry plan for IT teams <15 people
- Public-procurement listing (UGAP/CAIH), public to private sector

Limits

- Less "real-time" / agentic than UrbaHive (no AI/MCP connector)
- Limited recognition outside France

Optim-SI URBA

IT mapping · FR

An urbanisation platform tailored to SMEs/mid-market, published by Proféci (advisory since 2007).

Strengths

- "IS cadastre" approach before transformation, all-in-one
- Associated business advisory (application-portfolio analysis)

Limits

- Project/consulting logic; less immediately self-service

WinDesign

Modelling / mapping · FR

A French suite covering business processes, urbanisation, and functional, application and infrastructure mapping.

Strengths

- Single module covering BPM + urbanisation + mapping
- "Space-time" view of the architecture

Limits

- Geared to tooling rather than lightweight collaboration

Carto-SI

IT mapping · FR

A collaborative operational-mapping solution (business / application / infrastructure), for all company sizes.

Strengths

- Multi-layer mapping, real-time dependency analysis
- ITSM integrations (GLPI, iTop), Excel/CSV import & REST API
- Compliance & security module (sensitive data, critical flows)

Limits

- Centred on operational simplicity & GDPR; ArchiMate/TOGAF not covered as in UrbaHive
- "Ops/inventory" positioning rather than a standardised EA approach

Ekialis Explore

IT mapping + Risk · FR

A French IT-mapping suite oriented to risk management: BIA, ISO 27005, continuity plans (BCP/DRP), ANSSI & GDPR compliance.

Strengths

- Highly developed business impact analysis (BIA) and failure simulation
- Global view (buildings, servers, VMs, apps, flows, contracts)

Limits

- More risk/continuity-oriented than agile infrastructure visualisation
- No AI/agent layer

Uncia

Auto-documentation / TAD · FR

A French platform that automatically generates architecture documentation (Technical Architecture Documents) and interactive C4-model diagrams from forms.

Strengths

- Automates TAD production; fights documentation obsolescence
- Direct competitor on the "assisted documentation" angle, SME target

Limits

- Scope centred on technical documentation (TAD/C4) more than broad urbanisation
- No comparable packaged NIS2/DORA compliance views

Mercator

Open source · ANSSI

Open-source tool (GPL, Laravel/PHP) directly implementing the ANSSI guide's metamodel; 7 views, GDPR register. OW2 "Best Open Source Project" Award 2024.

Strengths

- Free, native ANSSI alignment, ideal NIS2 prep for autonomous technical teams
- Adopted in healthcare, public sector, critical infrastructure

Limits

- Self-hosting & in-house skills required (no turnkey SaaS)
- Collaboration, support and UX behind a commercial offering

5. Comparison at a glance

Legend: ● strong / native ◐ partial / simplified ◑ absent / out of scope. UrbaHive rows highlighted.

	UrbaHive	LeanIX	Ardoq	Bizzdesign/ MEGA	Sparx	myCarto	Carto-SI
Primary target	SMEs / mid-market	Large enterprise	Enterprise	Regulated large enterprise	Architects	SME → LE	All sizes
Model	SaaS	SaaS	SaaS	SaaS / on-prem	Desktop	SaaS	SaaS
Entry price	Free → €29/ mo	~5–6 figures/yr*	Quote*	Quote*	≈\$245/ seat	Tiered	Quote
Time-to-value	● days	◑ months	◐ weeks	◑ months	◐ variable	● fast	● fast
EU hosting	●	◐ option	◐	◐	n/a	●	●
NIS2 / DORA views	● pre-config.	◐ to configure	◐	● via GRC	◑	◐	◐ module
Native collaboration	●	◐	●	◐	◑	●	●
ArchiMate	◐ simplified	● full	◐	● full	● certified	◐	◐
GRC / risk depth	◐	◐	◐	● very strong	◑	◐	◐
Connector ecosystem	◐ API/import	● 50+	●	●	◐	◐	● GLPI/ iTop
SSO / REST API	●	●	●	●	◐	◐	●
AI / automation	● MCP / agents	◐ cloud conn.	◐ NLP query	◐	◑	◐ import	◐ ITSM

* EA platform prices are largely quote-based and not public. Orders of magnitude rely on third-party sources and market estimates; they are indicative and vary widely by application volume and negotiation.

Zoom — French & open-source field

	Type	Specificity	Preferred target	Angle vs UrbaHive
UrbaHive	SaaS · EU	Collaborative mapping + MCP/AI server	Agile SMEs / mid-market	—
myCarto	SaaS · FR	No-code metamodel, public procurement (UGAP/CAIH)	Public & private	UrbaHive: real-time + AI
Carto-SI	SaaS · FR	Operational simplicity, GDPR, ITSM (GLPI/iTop)	Ops, all sizes	UrbaHive: ArchiMate/TOGAF
Ekialis Explore	SaaS · FR	Risk (BIA, ISO 27005), BCP/DRP	CISOs, continuity	UrbaHive: infra agility
Uncia	SaaS · FR	Auto-generation of TADs, C4 model	Architecture docs	UrbaHive: broad urbanisation
Mercator	Open source	ANSSI metamodel, free (GPL), NIS2	Autonomous technical teams	UrbaHive: SaaS & support

6. UrbaHive positioning: strengths & acknowledged limits

Where UrbaHive is objectively relevant



Where others do better (to be acknowledged)



An honest read: UrbaHive wins on *time-to-value*, cost and accessibility; it does not claim to rival the EA/GRC depth or ecosystem breadth of established leaders. For the SME/mid-market target, these strengths matter more than these limits; for a regulated large enterprise, the reverse is true.

Cost estimate (illustrative). For an SME, a large-enterprise EA suite often represents several tens of thousands of euros in licence per year, plus integration and administration — a first-year cost markedly higher than a mapping subscription of a few thousand euros. These ranges are market orders of magnitude, to be validated by quote against your scope.

7. Key use cases

Three situations where UrbaHive mapping creates measurable value for an SME/mid-market organisation.

NIS2 / DORA preparation

Pre-configured compliance views help quickly identify undocumented zones and unsecured flows, and produce a map presentable to an auditor within the first weeks — without a prior consulting engagement.

Accelerating Cloud projects

Before a migration, visualising critical dependencies between applications, servers and flows reduces the risk of service disruption by making the impact of a move or an outage visible.

Technical onboarding

An up-to-date interactive map shortens the integration of new joiners: they understand the IT estate autonomously rather than through word-of-mouth handovers. The vendor cites onboarding reduced from several weeks to a few days.

Reading note: the time savings cited (mapping in ~2 weeks, onboarding reduced to a few days) are vendor indications, to be tested against your context during a trial. They depend on scope, input-data quality and team involvement.

8. Decision grid: when to choose what

Your situation	Most rational choice
SME/mid-market (50–2,000), versatile IT team, NIS2/DORA deadline approaching	UrbaHive — or a French mapping vendor (myCarto, Carto-SI, Optim-SI)
Need a shared map fast, constrained budget, adoption is the priority	UrbaHive , Carto-SI, myCarto
Large enterprise, dedicated EA team (3+ FTEs), advanced roadmapping & analytics	LeanIX or Ardoq
Banking/insurance/regulated sector where EA and GRC converge in one team	Bizzdesign / MEGA HOPEX
Significant SAP landscape, S/4HANA project	LeanIX (native SAP integration)
Expert modelling (UML/BPMN/SysML/ArchiMate) by architects	Sparx Enterprise Architect
Priority on risk management, BIA and business continuity (BCP/DRP)	Ekialis Explore
Need centred on producing/maintaining technical architecture documents (TADs)	Uncia
Autonomous technical team, zero software budget, strict ANSSI alignment	Mercator (open source)
You want to query/feed your IT estate through AI agents (LLMs)	UrbaHive (MCP server)

9. Conclusion

The "best" tool is not the richest, but the one that delivers the most value relative to your budget, your team's capacity and your actual needs. Global EA platforms remain excellent products for organisations that have the use and the means for them.

UrbaHive exists for the other majority: SMEs and mid-market companies that must **make their IT estate visible, shared and compliant — quickly and without overspend**. If that is your situation, the free trial lets you build a first map in minutes, with no commitment.

Usage recommendation: shortlist 2 solutions from the same category (don't compare an EA suite and a mapping tool on the same criteria), then decide on the real time-to-value measured during a trial, not on the feature list.

10. Sources

Consulted in June 2026. Product characteristics come from the vendors; market and pricing elements from third-party sources (analysts, press) where applicable.

- UrbaHive — Site & pricing: urbahive.com/en/ · urbahive.com/en/pricing/
- UrbaHive — vs LeanIX comparison (vendor blog): urbahive.com/en/blog/urbahive-vs-leanix-cartographie-si-pme/
- SAP — Completion of the LeanIX acquisition: leanix.net/en/company/press/leanix-is-now-part-of-sap
- TechTarget — "SAP acquires enterprise architecture vendor LeanIX"
- LeanIX — Pricing: leanix.net/en/enterprise-architecture/pricing · Gartner Peer Insights (EA Tools)
- Ardoq — Platform & pricing: ardoq.com · ardoq.com/blog/enterprise-architecture-cost-in-2025
- Bizzdesign — Merger with MEGA International (Horizzon, HOPEX, Alfabet): bizzdesign.com · Forrester (EA tool market, 2025)
- MEGA — HOPEX (EA + GRC): mega.com · Gartner Peer Insights
- Sparx Systems — Enterprise Architect (ArchiMate, licences): sparxsystems.com · Capterra
- myCarto (AB+ Software): my-carto.com · about-us — Optim-SI URBA: optim-si.fr/urba/ — WinDesign: win-design.com — Carto-SI: carto-si.com
- Ekialis Explore: ekialis.com/solutions/ekialis-explore — Uncia: uncia.io — Mercator (open source, GPL): github.com/sourcentis/mercator · sourcentis.com
- Shadow IT (30–40% of IT spend, large enterprise): Gartner estimate, widely cited (e.g. Auvik, CIO.com)
- MCP (Model Context Protocol): open standard for interconnecting AI agents, exposed by UrbaHive over its repository
- UGAP / CAIH — public-procurement listing (myCarto, Carto-SI): ugap.fr
- ANSSI — IT system mapping guide (regulatory context)

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