

LIFE Platform Meeting: Agriculture for the Benefit of Biodiversity

How can results-based payment schemes address the biodiversity crisis?

Leuven, Belgium – 9th to 11th October 2024

Wednesday 9 th October 2024 venue Dirk Boutsgebouw (VAC Leuven)		
08:00	Registration	At the Registration and Help Desk at the main entrance
08:45 – 11:00: Plenary session 1: Inspirational Welcome and Introducing the RBaPS Panel Session Chair: Neil Wilkie (ELMEN)		
08:45	Event Opening Organisation, programme and housekeeping rules	Neil WILKIE (ELMEN) (Chairperson)
08:50	Inspirational message: Putting results-based payment schemes at the heart of national agricultural policy	<i>Speaker:</i> Mr Charlie McCONALOGUE Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland
09:00	Plenary 1: Environment, Conservation and Agriculture – challenges and opportunities	<i>Speaker:</i> Humberto DELGADO ROSA Director for Biodiversity, DG Environment, European Commission
09:15	Plenary 2: Agriculture policy framework for nature friendly farming	<i>Speaker:</i> Antonia LUETTEKEN Policy Officer, Horizontal Unit for Environmental Sustainability, DG Agriculture, European Commission
09:30	Plenary 3: Ireland's RBaPS journey over the last 20 years	<i>Speaker:</i> James MORAN Atlantic Technological University and the RBaPS Network (IE)
09:45	Plenary 4: Challenges of implementing RBaPS at the national level	<i>Speaker:</i> Heinrich BELTING Lower Lower Saxony Water Management, Coastal and Nature Protection Agency (DE)
10:00	Plenary 5: Innovative Contract Approaches to Improve the uptake and Effectiveness of Agri-environmental Measures. H2020	<i>Speaker:</i> Sven DEFRIJN Coordinator, Boerennatuur Vlaanderen and RBaPS Network (NL)
10:15	Plenary 6: Operating a results-based payment scheme in Spain LIFE Olivares Vivos +	<i>Speaker:</i> Carlos RUIZ LIFE Project Coordinator, SEO BirdLife (ES)
10:30	Plenary 7: RBaPS from a landowner perspective	<i>Speaker:</i> Harm SCHOTEN, Director Eurosite – the European Land Conservation Network
10:45	Plenary 8: RBaPS - opportunities and challenges for farmers	<i>Speaker:</i> Colm GAVIN Wild Atlantic Nature farmer (IE)
11:00	Coffee break	



11:45 – 13:00 Plenary Session 2: Question Time – your chance to ask questions of our panel of experts on our themes	
Session Facilitators: Lynne Barratt (ELMEN)	
	Opening Address for the Panel Session <i>Speaker:</i> Goedele Van der Spiegel (CEO of Agency of Nature and Forests)
11:45	<p>Panel composition: Humberto DELGADO ROSA (DG Env), Antonia LUETTEKEN (DG Agri), James Moran (IE), Heinrich BELTING (DE), Sven DEFRIJIN (NL), Carlos Ruiz, (ES), Harm SCHOTEN (EU) and Colm GAVIN (IE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions submitted by the participants in advance – read out by the participant and directed to a specific panellist • Facilitators ask the targeted panellist to respond – panellists will have the questions in advance of the meeting to allow time to prepare answers • Other panellists will then be asked to join in (facilitators will check in advance that others have an opinion on the topic) • Facilitators will go back to the questioner for a response and invite the audience for supplementary questions • We will make sure every panellist has one question directed at them as the main speaker • We will ask a lighter (possibly topical) question at the end of the session • Panellists will be asked to end on their policy message
13:00	Lunch Break and networking



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14:00 – 15:30 Plenary Session 3: Case Studies from across Europe		
Session Chairperson: Jan SLIVA (ELMEN)		
14:00	Plenary 9: Using RBaPS to Deliver Large-Scale Restoration in Ireland LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature IP (LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002)	<i>Speaker:</i> Gary GOGGINS Public Awareness Manager, LIFE Wild Atlantic Nature, (IE)
14:20	Plenary 10. Results oriented management (EBW) 2023 to 2029 in Austria.	<i>Speaker:</i> Erika DEPISCH Project Manager, Suske Consulting. (AT)
14:40	Plenary 11: Pilot results-based agri-environment schemes at landscape scale in Transylvania HNV farmland	<i>Speaker:</i> Christi Gherghiceanu Fundatia Adept (RO)
15:00	Plenary 12: The ACEM experience in France	<i>Speaker:</i> Jean-Yves Vansteelant Fédération des Parcs Naturels Régionaux (FR)
15:20	Q& A Session	
15:30	Coffee break and networking	

16:00 – 17:30 Plenary Session 4: Our Knowledge Market	
Session Facilitators: Neil WILKIE and Jan SLIVA	
16:00	<p>‘Elevator Pitch’ knowledge market session to get a brief insight into as wide a range of projects as possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4’ short offering from each presenter • Timing will be VERY strict! • Estimated 20 projects presenting • Presentations will be targeted towards one of the 4 themes • Participants have been given a template to follow • Use this opportunity to match faces to projects and find people later you may be interested in networking with • Workgroup presenters will also be giving you a taster of what they will be presenting in the workgroup sessions • Participants have been asked to end on their policy message
17:30	Closing remarks and instructions for the field trip
18:00	Drinks Reception



Thursday 10th October 2024 – Fun Field Day		
NOTE: All timings are approximate except for the start time, embarkation to buses, due to traffic etc		
08:45	Please report to the assembly point – please be prompt! Please take the first available seat we are not counting people in and out! More details are in the field trip notes on the website. Emergency number is available in case you get left behind!	Assembly point (to be confirmed)
09:00	Busses will depart promptly	
10:00	Arrive Option 1: Port of Antwerp (Flanders)	The ‘Double Goal’ project where the government is working together with local farmers to increase biodiversity by using innovative approaches. Farmers carrying out measures in favour of biodiversity in this area, they have an advantage to manage public land as well. This serves as an example how government can provide incentives to have a more nature friendly farming.
10:00	Arrive Option 2: Leuven and Hoeleden (Flanders)	In Leuven there is an innovative project ongoing where the city of Leuven provides an area of 16 ha to local food suppliers (farmers). This site ‘Herpendalvallei’ is set up in the frame of the local food strategy of the city. The main objective is to farm local products for the local market, all organic farming (perhaps a good example of the farm to fork strategy). A second stop would be in Hoeleden. This is a farmer with a local breed of cattle (wit-blauw). They work together with the local nature conservation NGO to manage some parcels of land. This farm is being transformed into a nature inclusive farming (adapted grazing schemes, grassland, hedges, orchards, etc.).
10:30	Arrive Option 3: Farm in Ramilies (Wallonia)	During this visit the different AECMs will be explained and how it works in Wallonia. Also several parcels will be visited to demonstrate the results / practices of these AECMs
16:00	Depart for Leuven	
18:30	Arrival at Leuven, free time	



Friday 11th October 2024 – Working Groups
 venue [Dirk Boutsgebouw \(VAC Leuven\)](#)

All **groups** will run simultaneously. There will be **three rounds** during the day allowing each participant the opportunity of joining three workshops on a rotational basis, we expect to have around 20 participants in each round and that the participants in each working group will change during the day.

Each Working Group will occupy one room for the whole day. Each round will start with one project presentation focusing on a specific issue within the thematic focus. There will be 4 workgroups dealing with four themes:

- **Working Group I: Effective Stakeholder Engagement**
- **Working Group II: Selecting meaningful indicators as a proxy for biodiversity**
- **Working group III: Linking payment schemes to indicators – Farming for Nature – the role of results-based payments**
- **Working group IV: Building capacity for upscaling**

There will be one workgroup presenting a range of these topics

- **Working Group V: Indicators, Payments and Upscaling**

The final session will be in plenary when we will hope to provide some feedback on the issues discussed.

Each Working Group will have a dedicated Facilitator to guide discussion and foster inclusion and Rapporteur to accurately record the main points of the discussion. Each session will be interactive with audience participation throughout – we encourage all participants to bring along their own results to share during the sessions.

There will opportunities for bi-lateral and small group networking, private conversations, and destressing in the coffee area outside the workgroup rooms! Posters will also be on display in this common area.

Each round:

- Presentation project (approx. 15' content) to stimulate discussion.
- Can be presented over the whole duration of the workgroup session with interaction from the participants
- Presenters will be provided with speaker notes and suggestions for how the presentation should flow and there will be a video briefing
- Discussion
- Conclusions and drafting recommendations

Working Group I: Involving stakeholders**Facilitator: Jan SLIVA (ELMEN)**

09:00	Round 1	LIFE NATUREMAN (DK) – The farmer as a manager of Nature: (LIFE16 IPE/DK/000006) - Focus: Aiming at a favourable conservation status for Natura 2000 site by making nature management a sound branch of farming. Speaker: Jørgen BIDSTRUP Project Coordinator, LIFE Natureman
10:15	Coffee break – Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	LIFE B4B (BE) – Stakeholder engagement at the scale of an integrated project – Focus: Setting up a stakeholder collective AECM in Wallonia Speaker: Pierre RAULIER B4B Partner Natagriwal
12:15	Lunch break – Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	LIFE-IP LatViaNature – Optimising the governance and management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia - Focus: Stakeholder engagement of the Living Forest. Speaker: Girts BARANOVSKIS Compenstation Team Leader, LatViaNature
14:45	Coffee break – Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap up	Debrief in Plenary Closing Statement: Sylvia BAROVA (CINEA)
16:00	Delegates depart	

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Working group II: Selecting meaningful indicators

Facilitator: Neil WILKIE (ELMEN)

09:00	Round 1	<p>LIFE Atlantic Crex Improving Corncrake conservation status in Ireland by enhancement of the SPA network and surrounding farmland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: Setting indicators for species <p>Speaker: John CAREY Project Manager, LIFE Atlantic Crex, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, (IE)</p>
10:15	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	<p>LIFE HUNVIPHAB: Viability Improvement of Hungarian Meadow Viper Populations and Habitats in the Pannonian Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: Setting indicators for habitats <p>Speaker: Balint HALPERN Project Coordinator, MME Kétéltű- és Hüllővédelmi Szakosztály, (HU)</p>
12:15	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	<p>LIFE IP All4Biodiversity - All together for Biodiversity - Biodiversity recovery approach for N2000 sites and surrounding, in cooperation with agricultural and other land users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme: selecting meaningful indicators (NL) - Focus: Presenting a pilot in the province of North Brabant, Brabants Bodem: the Brabant Dairy Biodiversity Monitor and the associated KPI point system, which can earn up to €5,000 annually for a participant. <p>Speakers: Francisca DEMMENDAL-WIT and Marjon KROL Project Manager, Provincie Zuid-Holland and ZLOT</p>
14:45	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap-up	<p>Debrief in plenary Closing Statement: Sylvia BAROVA (CINEA)</p>
16:00	Delegates depart	



Working group III: Linking payments to indicators

Facilitator: Maud LATRUBERCE (ELMEN)

09:00	Round 1	LIFE SYSEL – Conservation of the European Ground Squirrel (<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>) at the northwestern border of its range - Focus: Unintentional development of an a-e scheme- developed during the project and continued after – problems and solutions. Speaker: Katarina TUHARSKA Project Coordinator, LIFE Metamorphosis, BRATISLAVSKE REGIONALNE OCHRANARSKEZDRUZENIE (SK)
10:15	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	LIFE Lough Carra - Improving ecosystem resilience & reducing nutrient pollution in Lough Carra, one of Europe's premier SAC marl lakes - Focus: To address the issues of excessive nutrient run-off from agricultural land and the ongoing conversion of land to improved grassland Speaker: Siobhan Ward Farm Advisor, Lough Carra LIFE, Mayo County Council (IE)
12:15	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	LIFE PAF-NATURALIT (LT) - Optimizing the management of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania - Focus: The project is facilitating the coordinated use of complementary funding, from EAFRD in particular. Speakers: Žymantas MORKVĖNAS and Justas GULBINAS Baltic Environment Forum (LT)
14:45	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap Up	- Debrief in plenary - Closing Statement: Sylvia BAROVA (CINEA)
16:00	Delegates depart	

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NATURA 2000

Working group IV: Critical resources for upscaling

Facilitator: Sara BARCELO (ELMEN)

09:00	Round 1	<p>Irish Acres Scheme - Hen Harrier Programme Ltd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: Operating at the next scale under the Acres scheme in Ireland. Movement into structural phase, IT systems, institutional support, changing the minds of institutions, getting people paid – all need to get the supporting structures right. <p>Speaker: Fergal MONAGHAN ACRES Manager. Hen Harrier Programme Ltd (IE)</p>
10:15	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	<p>LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand project: Adaptive community-based management of forest and farming landscapes to improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats and species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: Upscaling pilots to the next level <p>Speaker: Annaliisa KAAREMAA Project Coordinator, Ministry of Climate (EE)</p>
12:15	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	<p>EIP project: Farming for the Conservation of Species-Rich Grasslands with Knowledge Transfer to Farmers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: Developing the work of a LIFE project by upscaling into the CAP Strategic Plan. <p>Speaker: Nika DEBELJAK RBaPS contact point, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for nature conservation (SV)</p>
14:45	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debrief in plenary - Closing Statement: Sylvia BAROVA (CINEA)
16:00	Delegates Depart	



Working group V: Indicators, Payments and UpscalingFacilitator: **Lynne BARRATT (ELMEN)**

09:00	Round 1	LIFE-IP LatViaNature – Optimising the governance and management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme: Linking Indicators to payments - Focus: Blooming meadows: linking payments to grassland biodiversity indicators; Speaker: Maija MEDNE Grassland Habitat Expert, Nature Conservation Agency, (LV)
10:15	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitats - conservation of wet grassland breeding bird habitats in the Atlantic region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme: Linking indicators to payment schemes - Focus: Implementing a pilot project, the business model “Result based payments for Grassland breeding Bird Habitats” in Lower Saxony Speaker: Heinrich BELTING Lower Saxony Water Management, Coastal and Nature Protection Agency (DE)
12:15	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	The Irish Acres Scheme – Burren Aran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme: Upscaling - Focus: Operating at the next scale under the acres scheme in Ireland Speaker: Patrick MCGURN Regional Manager, ACRES Burren Aran (IE)
14:45	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debrief in Plenary - Closing Statement: Sylvia BAROVA (CINEA)
16:00	Delegates Depart	

