**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**

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| **Wednesday 9th October 2024 venue** [Dirk Boutsgebouw (VAC Leuven)](https://www.vlaanderen.be/vlaamse-overheid/gebouwen/dirk-boutsgebouw-vac-leuven) |
| 08:00 | Registration | At the Registration and Help Desk at the main entrance |
| **08:45 – 09:00 Inspirational Welcome****Session Chair: Neil Wilkie** |
| 08:45 | Event OpeningOrganisation, programme and housekeeping rules | Neil WILKIE (ELMEN)(Chairperson) |
| 08:50 | Inspirational message: Putting results-based payment schemes at the heart of national agricultural policy  | *Speaker:* Mr Charlie McCONALOGUE Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, IrelandPre-recorded message |
| **09:00- 11:00: Plenary session 1: Introducing the RBaPS Panel** |
| 09:00 | Plenary 1: Agriculture policy framework for nature friendly farming | *Speaker:* DG AGRITBC |
| 09:15 | Plenary 2: Environment, Conservation and Agriculture – The EU policy framework and what the EU Restoration Law may mean for agriculture | *Speaker:* Mr Humberto DELGADO ROSA Director, Directorate General for Environment |
| 09:30 | Plenary 3: Challenges of implementing RBaPS at the national level | *Speaker:* Jürgen LUDWIG Lower Saxony State for Water, Coastal and Nature Conservation (DE)  |
| 09:45 | Plenary 4: Ireland's RBaPS journey over the last 20 years | *Speaker*: James MORANAtlantic Technological University and the RBaPS Network (IE) |
| 10:00 | Plenary 5: Innovative Contract Approaches to Improve the uptake and Effectiveness of Agri-environmental Measures.HORIZON 2020 PROJECT CONTRACT 2.0 | *Speaker:* Sven DEFRIJINCoordinator, Boerennatuur Vlaanderen (NL) |
| 10:15 | Plenary 6: Operating a results-based payment scheme in SpainLIFE Olivares Vivos + Increasing the Impact of Olivares Vivos in the EU (LIFE20 NAT/ES/001487) | *Speaker:* Carlos RUIZLIFE Project Coordinator, SEO BirdLife (ES) |
| 10:30 | Plenary 7: RBaPS from a landowner perspective | *Speaker:* (TBC) |
| 10:45 | Plenary 8: RBaPS - opportunities and challenges for farmers | *Speaker:* Colm GAVIN, Wild Atlantic Nature farmer |
| 11:00 | Coffee break  |

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| **11:45 – 13:00 Plenary Session 2: Question Time – your chance to ask the panel of experts questions on our themes** **Session Facilitators: Lynne Barratt** |
|  | Opening Address for the Panel Session*Speaker:* Goedele Van der Spiegel (CEO of Agency of Nature and Forests)*Confirmed* |
| 11:45 | **Panel composition : DG Agri, DG Env, Member State Authority (Germany), James Moran Ireland,** RBaPS network (NL or FR), Ramon Alberto Diaz-Varela Spain**, Jurgen Tack ELO, A farmer*** 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 the 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 use something like Slido to connect with in house and on line audiences for voting on issues
* 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
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| 13:00 | Lunch Break and networking |

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| **14:00 – 15:30 Plenary Session 3: Case Studies from across Europe****Session Chairperson: Lynne Barratt (ELMEN)** |
| 14:00 | Plenary 9: Critical needs for implementing RBaPS in IrelandLIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature IP (LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002) | *Speaker*: Gary GOGGINSPublic Awareness Manager, LIFE Wild Atlantic Nature, (IE) |
| 14:20 | Plenary 10. Results oriented management (EBW) 2023 to 2029 in Austria.  | *Speaker*: Erika DEPISCHProject Manager, Suske Consulting. (AT) |
| 14:40 | Plenary 11: Pilot results-based agri-environment schemes at landscape scale in Transylvania HNV farmland | *Speaker:* Răzvan POPAFundatia Adept (RO) |
| 15:00 | Plenary 12: The ACEM experience in France | *Speaker:*  Jean-Yves VansteelantFédération des Parcs Naturels Régionaux (FR) |
| 15:20 | **Q& A Session** |
| 15:30 | Coffee break and networking  |

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| **16:00 – 17:30 Plenary Session 4: Our Knowledge Market****Session Facilitators: Lynne BARRATT and Jan SLIVA** |
| 16:00 | **‘Elevator Pitch’ knowledge market session** to get a brief insight into as wide a range of projects as possible* 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
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| 17:30 | Closing remarks and instructions for the field trip |
| 18:00 | **Drinks Reception** |

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| **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 |

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|  **Friday 11th October 2024 – Working Groups****venue** [Dirk Boutsgebouw (VAC Leuven)](https://www.vlaanderen.be/vlaamse-overheid/gebouwen/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 two workgroups presenting a range of these topics

* **Working Group V: *Effective Stakeholder Engagement and Building Capacity for upscaling***
* **Working Group VI: *Selecting meaningful indicators as a proxy for biodiversity & linking payment schemes to indicators***

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: Ben Delbare**

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| 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 BIDSTRUPProject 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: TBCB4B 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 BARANOVSKISCompenstation Team Leader, LatViaNature |
| 14:45 | Coffee break – Networking and Poster Session |
| 15:15 | **Wrap up** | Debrief in Plenary |
| 16:00 |  | **Delegates depart** |

**Working group II: Selecting meaningful indicators**

Facilitator: Neil Wilkie

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| 09:00 | **Round 1** | **LIFE Atlantic Crex Improving Corncrake conservation status in Ireland by enhancement of the SPA network and surrounding farmland*** Focus: Setting indicators for species

Speaker: John CAREYProject Manager, LIFE Atlantic Crex, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, (IE) |
| 10:15 | Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 10:45 | **Round 2**  | **LIFE HUNVIPHAB: Viability Improvement of Hungarian Meadow Viper Populations and Habitats in the Pannonian Region** * Focus: Setting indicators for habitats

Speaker: Balint HALPERNProject Coordinator, MME Kétéltű- és Hüllővédelmi Szakosztály, (HU) |
| 12:15 | Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 13:15 | **Round 3** | **BioMonitor4CAP: Advanced biodiversity monitoring for results based and effective agricultural policy and transformation (Horizon Europe)*** Focus: Setting indicators for policy

Speaker: Vitaly KrupinIRWIR PAN, Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development, (PL) |
| 14:45 | Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 15:15 | **Wrap-up**  | Debrief in plenary |
| 16:00 |  | **Delegates depart** |

**Working group III: Linking payments to indicators**

Facilitator: Maud Latruberce

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| 09:00 | **Round 1** | **LIFE SYSEL – Conservation of the European Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*) 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 TUHARSKAProject 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 Louch Carra, one of Europe's premier SAC marl lakes*** To address the issues of excessive nutrient run-off from agricultural land and the ongoing conversion of land to improved grassland

Speaker: Siobhan WardFarm 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.

Speaker: Žymantas Morkvėnas and Justas GulbinasProject Manager, Environmental Projects Management Agency (LT) |
| 14:45 | Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 15:15 | **Wrap Up** | * Debrief in plenary
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| 16:00 |  | **Delegates depart** |

**Working group IV: Critical resources for upscaling**

Facilitator: Sara Barcelo

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| 09:00 | **Round 1** | **Irish Acres Scheme - Hen Harrier Programme Ltd*** 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. Land parcel needs to tie in with

Speaker: Fergal Monaghan & Caroline SulivanACRES Manager. Hen Harrier Programme Ltd (IE) |
| 10:15 | Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 10:45 | **Round 2**  | **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*** Focus: Upscaling pilots to the next level

Speaker: Annaliisa KaaremaaProject Coordinator, Ministry of Climate (EE) |
| 12:15 | Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 13:15 | **Round 3** | **EIP project: Farming for the Conservation of Species-Rich Grasslands with Knowledge Transfer to Farmers*** Focus: Developing the work of a LIFE project by upscaling into the CAP Strategic Plan.

Speaker: Nika DebeljakRBaPS contact point, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for nature conservation (SV) |
| 14:45 | Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 15:15 | **Wrap-up** | * Debrief in plenary
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| 16:00 |  | **Delegates Depart** |

**Working group V: Stakeholder Engagement and Upscaling**

Facilitator: Jan Sliva

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| 09:00 | **Round 1** | **Fabulous Farmers (INTERREG North West Europe)*** Theme: Stakeholder engagement
* Focus: Reduce the reliance on external inputs, like chemical fertilisers and pesticides, by encouraging the use of methods and interventions that increase the farm’s Functional AgroBiodiversity (FAB).

Speaker: Sven DefrijnCoordinator, Boerennatuur Vlaanderen (BE) |
| 10:15 | Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 10:45 | **Round 2**  | **LIFE Maronesa – Market Awareness Raising for Opportunities in Needed Extensification and Soil Friendly Agriculture*** Theme: Stakeholder Engagement at Scale
* Focus: Peer-to-peer knowledge transfer among cattle breeders and local population

Speaker: João OliveiraProject Coordinator, AguiarFloresta - Associao Florestal e Ambiental de Vila Pouca de Aguiar (ES) |
| 12:15 | Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 13:15 | **Round 3** | **The Irish Acres Scheme – Burren Aran** * Theme: Upscaling
* Focus: Operating at the next scale under the acres scheme in Ireland

Speaker: Patrick McGurnACRES Manager, the Burren Scheme (IE) |
| 14:45 | Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 15:15 | **Wrap up** | * Debrief in plenary
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| 16:00 |  | **Delegates Depart** |

**Working group VI: Indicator selection and linking indicators to payments**

Facilitator: **Lynne Barratt**

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| 09:00 | **Round 1** | **LIFE-IP LatViaNature – Optimising the governance and management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia*** Theme: Indicator Selection
* Focus: Favourable reference values at a national level both for all terrestrial and freshwater habitat types (59) and species (115) of EU importance;

Speaker: Ieva SALENIECEProject Coordinator, 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.** * 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 BeltingProject Manager; Niederschsisches Ministerium fr Umwelt, Energie, Bauen und Klimaschutz (DE) |
| 12:15 | Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 13:15 | **Round 3** | **LIFE IP All4Biodiversity - All together for Biodiversity - Biodiversity recovery approach for N2000 sites and surrounding, in cooperation wit agricultural and other land users*** Theme: Linking indicators to payments (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.
* Speaker: Ed Weijdema

Project Coordinator, Provincie Zuid-Holland (NL) |
| 14:45 | Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session |
| 15:15 | **Wrap-up** | * Debrief in Plenary
 |
| 16:00 |  | **Delegates Depart** |