

LIFE PLATFORM MEETING

Agriculture for the Benefit of Biodiversity

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

9th to 11th October, 2024, Leuven, Belgium

WORKGROUP HOST NOTES – WORKGROUP SESSION DAY 3

Thank you for agreeing to be a workgroup host (or speaker!) at our conference. We have compiled these notes to help you understand how the workgroup sessions will run. Please take a look at the content and feel free to raise any questions or outstanding issues either in the video briefing session or on our dedicated email address rbaps@elmen-eeig.eu

1. There will be six workgroup themes running simultaneously throughout the day. While these will be parallel sessions, they are organised so that every participant can attend one of the workgroup sessions.
2. Each workgroup theme will have the same facilitator throughout and will be based in the same room for the day.
3. Each workgroup theme will have three rounds of 1hour 15 minutes each. The audience for each round will be different but we expect groups to be no more than 20 people.
4. Each round will commence with a presentation from one of our workgroup hosts. We expect content of between 15 and 20 minutes which does not have to be formally presented. Your facilitator might stop you after you make an important point to get comments from the rest of the participants. Feel free to take questions from the floor during your presentation. The purpose of the presentations is to provide stimulus (food for thought) for the discussion group. You can make the presentation last for the duration of the whole session if discussion is lively and fruitful!
5. Presentations will lead to open discussion led by the facilitator with contributions from the speakers and plenary speakers from Day 1. The point of these sessions is to be interactive with the audience.
6. At the end of each discussion the facilitator will summarise the main conclusions and highlight any recommendations – these will be agreed by the participants in that session.
7. All the findings will be collected at the end of the day and presented as main recommendations to the whole group during the feedback in the final plenary session. The aim is to ratify the recommendations before submitting them to the EU policymakers.
8. **IMPORTANT – we will be holding a video briefing session via TEAMS before the event to introduce you to the other presenters in your workgroup, your facilitator and the Platform Coordinator. We will use this opportunity to explain a bit more about how the session will run. Please do respond to the Doodle Poll invitation which is circulated with this email.**
9. Please check the timings and the presentation title on the version of the agenda which accompanies these speaker notes. If you would like to make any changes, please let us know by return email, or during the video briefing session, as we will be finalising the agenda very soon. If we do not hear from you by 30h September we will assume you are happy with the title.
10. Please do send us your presentations in advance – **but by Friday 4th October at the latest in PPTX format** - so that we can load them to systems and check that they can be accessed without issues. We will have technical assistance on hand to help in the event of any difficulties.

11. This is particularly important if you intend to use any video with sound as we will need to check the specifications to make sure it works!
12. We intend to make the presentations available to all the participants after the event in PDF format. Please can you let us know if you do **not** wish to have your presentation made available to everyone.
13. You are very welcome to join in with any other workgroup during the day – we do not expect presenters to remain in the same workgroup all day! We appreciate that you will have a lot to contribute to the different topics.
14. Each presenter should now consult the bullet points below specific to their session and presentation. Please, in your presentation do spend a few minutes telling us about your project's aims and results. We want to hear your own stories but try to address some of the bullet points below – this way we hope to have a coherent flow through the meeting and make the presentations as informative as possible. **Please do think about your key message – if you could just say one thing what would it be?**
15. Please do tell us about your problems and issues (including any policy conflicts) and let us know how you resolved them - of course any success stories are most welcome!
16. All speakers are copied into this document so that you can see how the proceedings will unfold. We are trying to avoid too much repetition between the rounds of presentations and aiming to discuss different aspects of the theme in each round.
17. **We would also like to extend an invitation to everyone to take part in the 'elevator pitch' of projects on Day 1.** This would be an ideal opportunity to give the audience a taster of what you will say so that they can choose which workgroup sessions to attend on Day 2. It will help with networking and will give the on-line audience some information about your project. We will be sending out the template to everyone who registered an interest in the knowledge market soon. If you have registered already but did not tick the knowledge market box please let us know and we will make sure you get the template.

Working Group 1 – Involving stakeholders

Facilitator: Facilitator: Jan SLIVA (ELMEN)

Suggested topics to explore:

- Balancing food production with biodiversity objectives
- Addressing the traditional mindset of making land more productive eg drainage, reclamation
- Engaging with stakeholders – communication, language, knowledge sharing, training
- Demonstrating successful schemes to landowners
- The role of champions and/or ambassadors
- Best practices (with proven success), failures and the reasons, different (also innovative) techniques and approaches, regional differences and common challenges.

Round 1: LIFE NATUREMAN – *The Farmer as a Manager of Nature* (DK) – Speaker Jørgen BIDSTRUP

- Incentivising farmers to manage for nature
- Developing a result-based support schemes targeting livestock farmers
- Creating markets for nature conservation meat
- Farmer skills development
- Key messages

Round 2: LIFE B4B – *Belgium for Biodiversity* (BE) – Pierre RAULIER

- Stakeholder engagement in the AECM system in Wallonia,
- Developing a collective AECM targeting farmland birds
- Developing a result-based support schemes targeting soil quality
- Collaborating with farmers to find solutions to biodiversity loss in rural areas
- Key messages

Round 3: LIFE-IP LatViaNature - *Optimising the Governance and Management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia* (LV) – Speaker: Girts BARANOVSKIS

- Providing forest owners with consultative and individually calculated financial support based on a methodology developed by experts.
- Also providing training seminars on supporting biodiversity for forest owners, as well as consultations by a certified forest experts to produce forest management plans individually developed to conserve and improve biodiversity in the forest
- Getting the opinions of forest and grassland owners on the possibilities of contributing to biodiversity and the willingness to perform it in their properties, as well as the needed support measures
- Key messages

Working Group 2 – Selecting meaningful indicators

Facilitator: Neil WILKIE (ELMEN).

Suggested topics to explore:

- The role of indicators in assessing environmental quality
- The process of selecting indicators
- What makes a good indicator?
- Ensuring consistency among scorecard assessors
- Is the scorecard the best method for assessing indicators? Does this fit all situations?
- Is the scorecard system too complex which could limit up-scaling?
- Engaging with the dairy sector

Round 1: LIFE Atlantic Crex (IE) – Speaker: John CAREY

- Background to the Corncrake LIFE project and issues being addressed
- Identifying opportunities and synergy
- Developing a results-based agri-scheme for a species
- The importance of results driven by actions- a hybrid approach
- Key messages

Round 2: LIFE HUNVIPHAB (HU) – Speaker: Balint HALPERN

- Setting indicators for habitats
- Availability and effectiveness of methods which metrics are appropriate to assess habitat condition in grasslands
- Overcoming other environmental variables
- Analysis of current CAP payment systems and CAP policy recommendations
- Key messages

Round 3: LIFE IP All4Biodiversity - All together for Biodiversity - Biodiversity recovery approach for N2000 sites and surrounding, in cooperation with agricultural and other land users (NL) -

Speakers: Francisa DEMMENDAL-WIT and Marjon KROL

- Nature-inclusive dairy farming and combination of forestry and agriculture
- Presenting a pilot in the province of North Brabant, Brabants Bodem: the Brabant Dairy Biodiversity
- Encouraging dairy farmers to take measures that improve biodiversity on their land by rewarding them for the efforts they make.
- What are the right indicators to select - does everyone agree?
- Monitor and the associated KPI point system, which can earn up to €5,000 annually for a participant
- Key messages

Working Group 3 – Linking payments to indicators

Facilitator: Maud Latruberce (ELMEN)

Suggested topics to explore:

- The process of linking payments to indicators – how are payment levels calculated?
- How are participating farmers supervised / advised? Advisor capacity?
- Farmer empowerment
- Ensuring consistency among scorecard assessors
- Is the scorecard system too complex which could limit up-scaling?
- Issues with multiple schemes (eg Ireland: LIFE, EIP, ACRES)
- Engaging with the dairy sector

LIFE19 NAT/SK/001069 LIFE SYSEL: *Conservation of the European Ground Squirrel at the northwestern border of its range* - Speaker: Katarina TUHARSKA

- Developing an a-e scheme from scratch
- Problems and solutions of the long term scheme
- How to make a scheme beneficial to the landowners
- Role of the State Agencies - cooperation and compromises
- Outline of schemes and how payments are linked to indicators
- Key messages

Round 2: LIFE Lough Carra (IE) – Speaker: Siobhan WARD

- Addressing the issues of excessive nutrient run-off from agricultural land and the ongoing conversion of land to improved grassland
- Background to the project and issues being addressed
- Establishing scorecards for use in assessing farm habitats and developing annual farm plans
- Lessons to date on administering the scheme
- Key messages

Round 3: LIFE PAF-NATURALIT (LT): *Optimizing the management of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania* – Speaker(s): Žymantas MORKVENAS and Justas GULBINAS

- Developing a results-based scheme to preserve the remaining natural flowering meadows in Lithuania
- Facilitating the coordinated use of complementary funding, from EAFRD in particular
- Design of the scheme and how payments are linked to indicators
- Identifying new agri-environmental measures
- Lessons to date on administering the scheme - proposing new ways of working
- Key messages

Working Group 4 – Critical resources for upscaling

Facilitator: Sara Barcelo (ELMEN)

Suggested topics to explore:

- How many member states are ready to upscale?
- The key lessons from those that have, and are going through, the process
- Where and how can we lever more financial support – can the CAP ever deliver HNV farming and is there a role for the private sector?
- Can we afford it? Is the cost of conservation beyond the capacity of the public sector purse?
- Tying this in with the Nature Restoration Law
- Monitoring a luxury or necessity?

Round 1: ACRES CP: Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (IE) – Speakers: Fergal MONAGHAN

- The development of results-based payment schemes in Ireland
- Outline of the scheme and how it is administered
- Lessons so far on critical resourcing
- Farmer feedback – main issues being raised
- Key messages

Round 2: LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand project (EE): Speaker: Annaliisa Kaaremaa

- Testing the first results-based support concept with payments made to landowners for managing meadows
- Thoughts on how the scheme can be upscaled to reach more farmers
- Lessons to date on administering the scheme
- Farmer feedback – main issues being raised
- Key messages

Round 3: Conservation of Grasslands (SL) – Speaker: Nika Debeljak

- LIFE to grasslands: Improving species rich grasslands conservation status in Slovenia – an initial engagement of farmers
- How this is being further developed as part of the three-year EIP project Farming for the Conservation of Species-Rich Grasslands with Knowledge Transfer to Farmers
- How this has been built into the CAP Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2027 (outline of scheme and how it is administered)
- Farmer feedback
- Extent of the scheme to date
- Key messages

Working Group 5 – Indicators, Payments and Upscaling

Facilitator: Lynne Barratt (ELMEN)

Suggested topics to explore:

- The process of linking payments to indicators – how are payment levels calculated?
- Is the scorecard system too complex which could limit up-scaling?
- How do we improve the uptake of results-based payment schemes?
- The challenges for implementation of scheme at scale
- Are all member states ready to upscale?
- The key lessons from those that have, and are going through, the process
- Tying this in with the Nature Restoration Law

Round 1: LIFE-IP LatViaNature - *Optimising the Governance and Management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia (LV)* – Speaker: Maija MEDNE

- Helping landowners who manage perennial grasslands to reach the status of grassland habitats of European Union importance through voluntary involvement in a results-based pilot scheme
- Creating result based pilot-scheme for Latvia: testing new approach in cooperation with landowners, building stepping-stones for grassland biodiversity
- Running the Blooming meadows - linking payments to grassland biodiversity indicators
- Key messages

Round 2: LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitats - conservation of wet grassland breeding bird habitats in the Atlantic region (DE) - Speaker: Heinrich BELTING

- Implementing a pilot project, the business model *Result based payments for Grassland breeding Bird Habitats* in Lower Saxony
- Outline of the scheme and how it is administered
- Building blocks for payment
- Options for financing business model
- Key messages

Round 3: ACRES CP: Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (IE) – Speaker: Patrick McGURN

- Outline of the scheme and how it is administered
- LIFE=> EIP=> CAP Strategic Plan
- The locally-led approach to stakeholder engagement
- Farmer feedback – main issues being raised
- Key messages