

# 6<sup>th</sup> ESP Europe Conference 2026

Advancing Ecosystem Services Knowledge for Achieving a People and Nature Positive Europe

18–22 May 2026

Prague, Czechia

#esp26europe

## SESSION DESCRIPTION

**ID: T4a**

FAIRy tales: Opening up ES spatial tools, code, data and maps

**Hosts:**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<b>Host (s):</b>	Louise Willemen	University of Twente	<a href="mailto:l.l.willemen@utwente.nl">l.l.willemen@utwente.nl</a>
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### **Abstract:**

Mapping ecosystem services has gone well beyond producing yet another figure for a report. In line with the momentum for open data practices, this session will showcase ways of sharing and re-using spatial information on ecosystem services, with Open Science as a starting point. We will address FAIR practices in sharing spatial tools and codes, alongside challenges such as ensuring usability of open data, overcoming hurdles faced by stakeholders, and determining how to keep data updated and usable in the long-term (hence replacing outdated ones)

In parallel with the push toward open science, the growing availability of open datasets could raise important issues of consistency, transparency, and interpretation. Inconsistencies in data exchange and coding approaches, coupled with the risk of misinterpretation, can easily undermine trust and lead to poorly informed decisions. By bringing these issues together, the session aims to highlight not only the opportunities of open practices rooted in FAIR principles, but also to discuss the responsibilities needed to ensure that ecosystem service mapping supports well-grounded outcomes.

We welcome presentations and shared experiences that illuminate our path towards FAIR practices in ecosystem services mapping. Not only success stories, but also lessons learned from challenges, setbacks, or work in progress are encouraged. We especially welcome contributions engaging with the rapidly expanding landscape of open datasets (e.g. Copernicus, GBIF) and their application in FAIR ecosystem services research and practice.

### **Goals and objectives of the session:**

1. FAIRytales, share opportunities and challenges of opening up ecosystem services spatial tools, code, data, and maps, with a focus on usability, transparency, and long-term accessibility.
2. Explore how FAIR we are. Assess to what extent the ecosystem services community has adopted FAIR principles in their daily mapping practices.
3. Build a FAIR roadmap. Distil lessons learned and promising practices into practical steps to guide the ecosystem services mapping community.

### **Planned output / Deliverables:**

TBD, possibly a joint article

### **Session format:**

Standard and short presentations and scientific debate.

**Voluntary contributions accepted:**

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

**Related to ESP Working Group:**

TWG 4 – Mapping ES