# SESSION DESCRIPTION

## ID: T4a

National & large scale MAES projects in Europe - road towards policy uptake and implementation

## Hosts:

| | Title | Name | Organisation | E-mail |
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## Abstract:

The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (Target 2 Action 5) called the EU member states to map and assess ecosystems and their services (ES) in their territory. Following this initiative, numerous national and subnational MAES projects and initiatives have emerged all over Europe, and similar projects are on their way in many other regions of the world too. We want to provide a forum to the researchers engaged in such national or large-scale MAES projects, and open up possibilities to exchange upon challenges and lessons from the different countries' MAES projects. While many MAES projects have already delivered a wide range of results, many indicated (e.g. in last year's European ESP Conference session on national MAES) that steps towards synthesising results and policy uptake lie still ahead. The synthesis of results is essential to formulate clear and well-balanced messages towards decision making, but it also has its own pitfalls. Also, formulating these messages is one step, but achieving actual implementation - conserving ecosystem services, biodiversity, or 'nature' in general - is even more complex. Reflecting on barriers to policy uptake as well as on good practices of implementation might add to achieve the goals. The efficiency of policy uptake and implementation depends on a number of features, starting from how easily the used models can be understood, the 'palatability' of results presented, differences in spatial scales that need to be bridged for implementation, the perceived reliability of results, the commitment of

specific decision makers, or the wider policy landscape in which new policy items should be integrated. We would especially welcome contributions reflecting on the uptake of MAES results. Nevertheless,  we also want to give an opportunity to introduce any updates or progress from large-scale MAES projects and their recent findings to a wider audience – and learn from these. This session aims to give an opportunity for MAES-related projects to interact, share good practices, and discuss challenges arising through e.g. the level of involvement or commitment from decision makers, methodological difficulties of synthesising results, or spatial scales. Also, the session hopes to discover and analyse commonalities and divergences, and to synthesise valuable lessons for future MAES assessments as well as for how to make progress towards real-world implementation.

## Goals and objectives of the session:

We want to facilitate experience sharing & joint knowledge production among MAES project coordinators and participants. We also aim to catalyse collaborations for co-authoring scientific manuscripts on the shared experiences. For this reason we invite talks and posters that:
 - present recent results or progress in national or large-scale MAES assessment.
 - reflect on issues that enable or hinder the process to policy uptake and implementation.

## Planned output / Deliverables:

We plan to create a discussion on the insights that we can derive from the different MAES processes, possibilities to overcome difficulties and the way towards successful implementation and policy uptake. Further possible outputs could be a joint paper.

## Session format:

Standard session (presentations)

## Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

## Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

Thematic Working Groups: TWG 4 - Mapping ES