

Commissioning and designing ecosystem service assessments that matter

WHAT

According to the IPBES Values Assessment and recent research, made by the Horizon Europe SELINA project (project-selina.eu), uptake of ecosystem service (ES) science in policy, planning and management has been limited. This training session addresses this gap by providing decision-makers with a tool to communicate their needs effectively, ensuring that fit-for-purpose ES assessments don't get 'lost in translation'. By the end of this training, you will have a tool at hand to structure a Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Tender, enabling you to commission ecosystem service assessments that are both practical and scientifically robust. **What not?** We will not train in ES assessment methods, although we will point you to useful guidance.

WHO

You can expect to share your interests and experiences with 10-30 participants from diverse professional and academic backgrounds. You are a potential Commissioner or a practitioner who is expecting to be contracted to carry out applied ES assessments. You may be in public planning & management, or private business project development. You could also be a graduate student, planning to work with applied ecosystem service assessment. You could be an experienced commissioner looking to update your institution's ToR guidelines and coach your early-career colleagues.

HOW

Participate in an interactive training session by stepping into the role of a Commissioner, using an online tool for designing ES assessment tenders. Practical exercises designing a ToR will focus on key are:

- Framing & Scoping
- Methodology
- Evaluation Criteria

Even if your institution already has standard guidelines for writing ToRs, you can complement it with tools we have designed based on SELINA's [Guidelines for enabling uptake in project and policy cycles](#).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the training you will be able to (i) use a tool to structure a Terms of Reference (ToR) for a tender, so your Contractors design ES assessments that are fit for purpose, (ii) identify and understand the key features of an ES assessment that improve the clarity of a tender and increase likelihood of uptake for decision-making, (iii) understand the Commissioner and Contractor roles and differences in needs, (iv) critically reflect on the key challenges inherent in ecosystem service assessments to ensure that the ToR are reasonable in balancing resources – relevance – reliability considerations. Your feedback will help us improve the content for future training of young professionals.

REGISTRATION

Registration through the ESP 2026 conference website here: esconference.org/europe2026/registration-page



WHEN

Monday,
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WHERE

Karolinum in the Old
Town of Prague

ENQUIRIES

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