

6th ESP Europe Conference 2026

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Prague, Czechia

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

#esp26europe

SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T6a

Monetary and non-monetary / plural valuation of ecosystems & services: apparently practiced or inherently paradoxical?

Hosts:

| | Name | Organisation | E-mail |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Host (s): | Carlotta Quagliolo | University of Aveiro | carlotta.quagliolo@ua.pt |
| Co-host(s): | Vince van 't Hoff | Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) | vince.vanthoff@fsd.nl |
| | Peter Roebeling | University of Aveiro | peter.roebeling@ua.pt |
| | Conor Kretch | Cohab Initiative Secretariat | conor.kretsch@cohabinitiative.org |
| | Luiz Magalhães-Filho | University of Aveiro | luizlacerda@ua.pt |
| | Jarumi Kato-Huerta | University of Trento | jarumi.katohuerta@unitn.it |
| | Erik Gómez-Bagethun | Norwegian University of Life Sciences | erik.gomez@nmbu.no |

Abstract:

To transform current decision-making processes and spatial planning, nature must be mainstreamed across both private sector and public policy instruments. This need is underscored by the IPBES Nexus Assessment (Bio-water-food-health-climate), which highlights (1) the increasingly interwoven nature of society's major crises, (2) the tightly interlinked character of social-ecological systems and (3) the risks and negative consequences of siloed decision frameworks. At the same time, the IPBES Values Assessment promotes plural valuation as crucial for capturing diverse ways people and institutions value nature. This contributes to a stronger support for conservation/restoration actions, helps to prevent conflict, and produces more comprehensive ecosystem services assessments.

ES science offers a wide array of conceptualizations and valuation methods — from market-based, revealed preference and stated preference monetary valuation methods to participatory, social-media and multi-criteria non-monetary valuation methods. Despite extensive methodological developments, there remains limited empirical research that explicitly integrates multiple valuation methods (monetary & non-monetary) while linking these to socio-economic, health and well-being outcomes, distributional effects and governance choices.

This session will focus on methodological advances and empirical applications that align and integrate monetary and non-monetary / plural valuation methods. We seek contributions that demonstrate how plural valuation can be operationalized for policy, accounting (e.g. SEEA-consistent reporting), finance and planning — and that reflect the cross-cutting nexus highlighted by IPBES and Values Assessments. By bringing together examples that combine monetary and non-monetary valuation methods and applications, the session will advance practical pathways to make plural valuation actionable for decision-makers.

Goals and objectives of the session:

Researchers are invited to present their latest findings showcasing research which specifically combines both monetary and non-monetary / plural valuation methods and applications. Specifically, the goal is to:

- Showcase methodological research and empirical studies that combine monetary and non-monetary / plural valuation methods, including examples that link these valuations to socio-economic, health and well-being outcomes, distributional impacts and governance contexts.
- Highlight lessons from stakeholder co-production and deliberative processes that enhance legitimacy, capture cultural values, and reveal distributional concerns alongside monetized indicators.
- Discuss how plural valuation outputs can be integrated for uptake by different user communities — decision makers (at EU, national and sub-national levels and in the private sector), ecosystem accounting practitioners (SEEA), and financial actors.

Planned output / Deliverables:

Journal Special Issue on methodological advances and empirical applications that align and integrate monetary and non-monetary / plural valuation methods.

Session format:

Between 1½ - 2 hours.

10-minute pitches/presentations and 5 minutes for questions.

Workshop format to discuss advances, integration challenges and links to the science-policy interface.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

Related to ESP Working Group:

TWG 6 – Integrated valuation of ES