BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

I.   SESSION DESCRIPTION

II.   SESSION PROGRAM

I.   SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: O5

Communities of practice – how to make them truly transformative?

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Inge Liekens	VITO	Inge.liekens@vito.be
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Co-host(s):	Dieter Cuypers	VITO	Dieter.cuypers@vito.be
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Abstract:

Transformative change. The term is heard everywhere, but what does it mean? And how can you integrate it in your networks? A lot of countries have national networks or communities of practice on ecosystem services science, nature restoration, and biodiversity conservation. But although important to share knowledge with peers, a lot of them lack participants outside the specific science, missing valuable practices in other fields. This session aims to let the participants explore what transformative change is about and how to bring this within your networks Central to our discussion will be an in-depth examination of the EU Horizon SELINA project's "communities of practice," utilizing the metaphor of mycelium to illuminate pathways towards transformative action. Through a dynamic eye-opener workshop , we will search together for the best ways to make communities more transformative and translate knowledge into actionable strategies, fostering the growth of Communities of Practice dedicated to advancing transformative change in ecosystem services.

Goals and objectives of the session:

By combining theoretical insights with practical strategies and fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, this session aims to empower participants to become catalysts for transformative change within the ecosystem services domain.
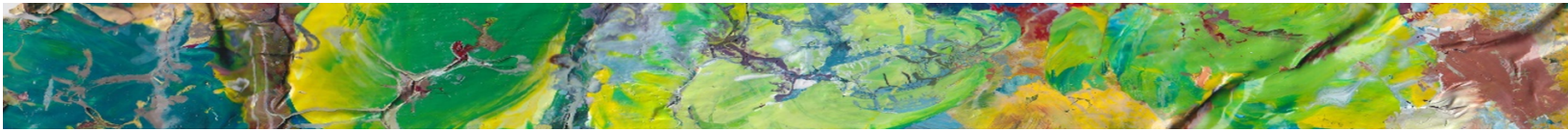
Provide an insight on what transformative change is about

- Showcase why National networks or Communities of Practice can play an important role in initiating transformative change

- Explore together what is needed to foster dialogue and collaboration among researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders committed to advancing transformative change.
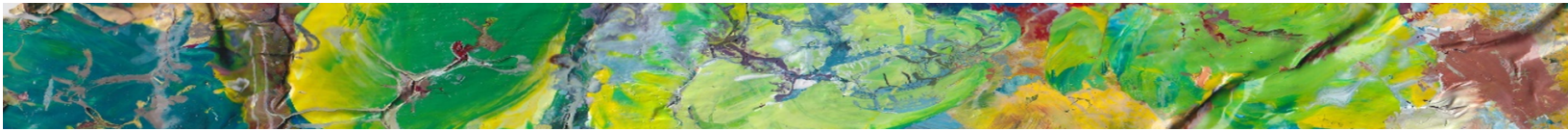
Specific objectives:

- Explore key concepts and theories underpinning transformative change

- Identify barriers and challenges hindering transformative change efforts within communities of practice and strategies for overcoming them.

- Let participants taste of an eye-opener workshop to learn from each other and translate lessons to actions in their respective contexts.

- Facilitate interactive discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions to foster cross-disciplinary collaboration and learning.

Planned output / Deliverables:

- Understanding transformative change

- Framework for establishing and nurturing Communities of Practice focused on transformative change

- Compilation of workshop outputs, including action plans, resource guides, and collaborative initiatives

Session format:

1. Introduction (15 minutes): Overview of session objectives and structure.

2. Presentations (75 minutes):

a. What is Transformative change about?

b. Mycelium Metaphor: Navigating Pathways to Transformation

c. Communities of practice and their possible role in transformative change

3. Workshop (45 minutes):

a. Breakout Groups: Small group discussions and activities.

b. Knowledge Sharing: Reporting back and synthesizing insights.

c. Action Planning: Identifying next steps and collaborative opportunities.

4. Closing Remarks (15 minutes): Reflections on key takeaways and future directions.

II.   SESSION PROGRAM

Room: Expert Street 9

Date of session: 20th of November 2024

Time of session: 13:30 – 15:30