

# 4th ESP Europe Conference

'Ecosystem services empowering people and societies in times of crises'

[www.espconference.org/europe22](http://www.espconference.org/europe22)

10-14 October 2022, Heraklion, Crete, Greece



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### SESSION TITLE

'Making local knowledge count: Co-design principles and practices for agri-Environmental programmes & instruments''

### SESSION ABSTRACT

The intensification of agriculture and rapid expansion of large scale farming enterprises has had a significant impact upon the environment over the past century. Meanwhile, many farmers across Europe continue to struggle to maintain the economic viability of their farms, and are facing serious trade-offs between short-term profitability and sustainable production. Agri-environmental contracts (AEC)/Payments for Environmental Services (PES) schemes are promoted as mechanisms to reduce these trade-offs: they provide farmers with the means and incentives to deliver a combination of private and public goods that better reflect society preferences for more environmentally-conscious agricultural production.

However, the present contracts are being criticised on multiple fronts: conservation organizations maintain that many AEC are too inefficient to reach environmental goals, and farmers remain deterred by complex agreements with high administrative demands and cumbersome controls that are not well-suited to the farming practices and challenges. Meynard et al. have highlighted that agricultural practices "leave the farmer's private sphere to become subjects of public debate, of negotiations, standards and regulations" (2012). However, this highlights the pressing need for more meaningful and sustained 'bottom-up' participation from farmers and land managers (Asah & Blahna, 2020).

In this session, we invite short papers from researchers and practitioners to discuss contemporary co-design methods and processes for developing agri-environmental/PES programmes with farmers and land managers. One of such methods is the living lab approach, utilized in the H2020 project Contracts2.0, which creates an open and user-centred atmosphere to initiate meaningful dialogue and co-creation between various types of actors (Bergvall-Kareborn and Stahlbrost, 2009). We conceptualize agri-environmental programmes more broadly than government-led contracts or schemes, and encourage also to submit papers which focus on bottom-up co-design processes for PES, nature-based solutions and other innovative interventions for sustainable land management

### SESSION FORMAT

Presentations: the 90-minute session will make the most of an in-person and interactive format where **short, image-based presentations** (of 7 minutes or less) are followed by a 40 minute discussion between participants and the audience. These presentations may follow a more standard format, or alternatively focus upon particular 'stories' reflecting the perceptions and experiences of particular individuals or groups who have been involved in innovative co-design practices.

### SESSION GOALS

The main goal of the session is to learn from a diverse range of transdisciplinary experiences on how to co-design contracts and other arrangements for a more effective and land manager supported supply of biodiversity and ecosystem services. There are three specific objectives related to this goal: (1) to share insights on co-designing and co-producing approaches which include diverse stakeholders and knowledge forms, (2) to initiate a joint reflection process among researchers, on-the-ground practitioners and policy-makers about enabling factors and constraints of co-design activities, and (3) to discuss perceptions of policy makers/administrators on bottom-up developed policy options.

### SESSION HOSTS

Francis Turkelboom*	INBO, Belgium	<a href="mailto:francis.turkelboom@inbo.be">francis.turkelboom@inbo.be</a>
Eszter Kelemen*	ESSRG, Hungary	<a href="mailto:kelemen.eszter@essrg.hu">kelemen.eszter@essrg.hu</a>
Christian Albert	Ruhr University, Germany	<a href="mailto:christian.albert@rub.de">christian.albert@rub.de</a>
Jennifer Dodsworth*	University of Aberdeen, UK	<a href="mailto:jennifer.dodsworth@abdn.ac.uk">jennifer.dodsworth@abdn.ac.uk</a>
Solen Le Clec'h*	Wageningen University, Netherlands	<a href="mailto:solen.leclech@wur.nl">solen.leclech@wur.nl</a>

\*Our multidisciplinary team includes several researchers from the H2020 project Contracts2.0. Find out more at <https://www.project-contracts20.eu/>



### SUBMISSION DETAILS

Session ID: T14b. This session is a part of Thematic Working Group (TWG) 14: 'Application of ES in Planning & Management', Thematic Session Number 14b. Sign up for our session [here: https://www.espconference.org/europe22/wiki/759349/call-for-abstracts](https://www.espconference.org/europe22/wiki/759349/call-for-abstracts)

Deadline for Submissions: 31 July 2022  
Please feel free to contact us for more details or to  
discuss your submission