The role of the Ecosystem Services Partnership In South East Europe

Worldwide network that connects over 2700 people and 40 organizations from more than 85 countries to enhance the science, policy and practical application of ecosystem services

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* With additional information provided by Dolf de Groot and Iskra Konovska
ESP introduction

- Nearly 200 paying members worldwide and 45 member organisations
- Website with community portal to facilitate discussion and communication among members
- 18 active Thematic working groups, 9 Biome Working groups, and 9 Sectoral working groups
- Regional chapters and National Networks in many countries
- A community of over 2700 people who receive our monthly updates
- Organised 8 global ESP conferences so far
- Regional conferences in 2016 and 2018
ESP governance structure
ESP Conferences

The Ecosystem Services Partnership aims to facilitate discussion and cooperation amongst those working in the field of ecosystem services, and its members especially.
Upcoming Conferences

9th ESP World Conference
11-15 December 2017
Shenzhen, China

2018: Regional Conferences: 10 pre-proposals

Europe: Spain, Turkey, Serbia? Greece? SEE?
Middle East: Jordan
W. Asia: Iran
C. Asia: India, Nepal
W. Africa: Benin
E. Africa: Rwanda
Latin America: Argentina, Brazil
ESP Services

1. Networking & Capacity building (incl. conferences)
2. Case studies & show cases
3. Databases & Knowledge sharing
4. Training & Education
5. Guidelines & Toolkits
6. Dissemination (e.g. websites, Update, journals, conferences)
7. Cooperation & Funding opportunities
8. Young ES Specialists

There are 5 service teams that work on the development of certain ESP services. (Networking, case studies, knowledge sharing, training & education, guidelines)
(1) Networking & Capacity Building

1) **ESP Member Directory** [now > 45 inst., > 200 indiv., >2700 friends]
   Future: Ecosystem Services Expert Directory (IUCN, WRI, WBC-SD)

2) **Associated Organisations and Related networks** (liaison via Advisory Board)

3) Facilitate input in global assessments/policy advice etc
   eg. **IPBES** (Stakeholder status), **Future Earth** (MOU), Nat **TEEB** Assessm

4) Organisation of **annual (World) conferences**
   Future: Also regional conferences as of 2016 => World conference bi-annual

Ecosystem Services Partnership
(2) Case Studies & Showcases

• **Collect information** on projects, programs, networks that focus on the development of case studies on ecosystem services assessment and implementation

• Develop and maintain a searchable **Data base of Case Studies** on ecosystem services assessment and implementation [“CaseBase”]

• Stimulate the development of **long-term case studies through the Biome Expert Groups**

• Select and actively support so-called **“Show Cases”** that can serve as blue-prints for research, training and implementation of the Ecosystem Services Approach (ESA).
(3) Data bases on ES & Values

**ESVD**: Ecosystem Service Valuation Database (ESP/FSD)

> 1350 unique value-points
(initially developed for TEEB, 2010)

**ESP**

The Ecosystem Services Partnership Visualization tool

www.es-partnership.org

Ecosystem Valuation Tool

www.eartheconomics.org/

esp-mapping.net
(4) Training & Education

Aim: “use the knowledge generated by the ESP Working & Expert groups, and other ESP-activities, and translate that into educational material and training packages..."

Through:
- development of materials (ppts, films, games*, etc.) & curricula
- organisation of workshops, summer schools, etc.
- tool-based trainings (e.g. on modelling, valuation and GIS),
- development of, and access to online courses
- general awareness and outreach activities

YESS – group:
Young Ecosystem Service Scientists (PhD-network)

Pre-/Post Conf. Trainings:
- TEEB
- InVEST/SGA-Network
- GIZ-VALUES

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www.es-partnership.org
(5) Guidelines & Toolkits

Aim: use the knowledge generated by the Working Groups and other ESP-activities, and translate that into concrete, and ‘certified’ guidelines and toolkits. The yearly ESP World Conferences provide an ideal Platform to discuss new guidelines and tools and engage the Membership to further develop them.

Some important existing initiatives are, e.g. (not complete):
- SGA-toolkit & Guidelines (follow-up Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)
- GIZ-Values project
- Environment Canada work on Guideline-development
- Benefit Transfer Tool Earth Economics

Other: please send your suggestions to the ESP Support Team
ESP-related Journals

- **Elsevier**
  - Leon Braat
  - ESP members: 30$ / year
  - Impact Factor: 4.3

- **Taylor & Francis**
  - Rudolf de Groot
  - Open access as of Sept. 26, 2016

- **Pensoft**
  - One Ecosystem
    - Ecology and Sustainability Data Journal
  - Fully Open Access
  - Online since 2016
  - Innovative formats and writing tool
  - Discounts for ESP members & ESP Conference presenters

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ESP

www.es-partnership.org


Website & Social media

www.es-partnership.org

Members enjoy the functionalities of the portal

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- **Group discussion**

- **Document sharing**

- **Emailing within group**
Biome Working Groups

Worldwide network to enhance the science and practical application of ecosystem services

Activities of Thematic Working Groups:
- Collect, synthesize and exchange information on the WG theme and related application on that topic.
- Stimulate collaboration between the main organizations involved in the topic.
- Organize workshops during ESP-regional and global conferences and related reporting.
- Publish (joint) papers.
- Develop guidelines for ecosystem services assessment.
- Contribute to international assessments e.g. TEEB National studies, SUB Global Assessment (follow-up MA and IPBES).
- Contribute to international assessments such as TEEB National studies, SUB Global Assessment and IPBES.

Join an ESP thematic working group:
- Contact the thematic working group lead team, or the biome working group cluster coordinator.


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Sectoral Working Groups

Worldwide network to enhance the science and practical application of ecosystem services

Activities of Thematic Working Groups

- Collect, synthesize and exchange information on the WG theme to foster science and application on that topic.
- Stimulate collaboration between the main organizations involved with the WG theme.
- Organize workshops during ESP regional and global conferences.
- Develop guidelines for Ecosystem Services Assessment.
- Contribute to international assessments e.g. TEEB National studies, Sub Global Assessment (follow-up MA), IPBES.
- Contribute to international assessments such as TEEB National studies, Sub Global Assessment and IPBES.

Join an ESP thematic working group

- Contact the thematic working group lead team, or the biome working group cluster coordinator.

Ecosystem Services Partnership

ESP

www.es-partnership.org
Regional Chapters & National Networks

Regional chapters and National networks

ESP hosts ten regional chapters: they all contain various national networks. Regional Chapters and National Networks exchange information, discuss ideas and experience on ecosystem services assessment and implementation at Regional and National levels.

Regional Chapters

- North America
- Central America & Caribbean
- South America
- Europe & Russia
- West & Central Africa
- East & Southern Africa
- West & Central Asia
- East Asia
- South & South-East Asia
- Oceania

→ Several NN exist in SEE
Active National ESP Networks

- **Austria**: contact Hermann Klug, University of Salzburg, Austria
- **Belgium**: contact Hans Keune, INBO, Belgium
- **Bulgaria**: contact Stoyan Nedkov
- **Croatia**: contact Josip Jagust, SEEDEV, Croatia
- **Cyprus**: contact Ioannis Vogiatzakis
- **France**: contact Natalia Sirina, CREIDDD, France
- **Greece – HESP**: contact Jeroen Arends, SEEDEV
- **Germany**: contact Bettina Matzdorf, Leibniz-Center for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) and Leibniz University of Hannover
- **Italy**: contact Davide Geneletti, University of Trento, Italy
- **Macedonia (FYROM)**: contact Natasha Nikodinoska
- **Malta**: contact Mario Balzan, Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology, Malta
- **Montenegro**: contact Jeroen Arends, SEEDEV
- **Poland**: contact Małgorzata Stępniewska, Poland
- **Portugal**: contact Tiago Domingos IN+/IST or Cristina Marta-Pedroso CIMO/IPB, Portugal
- **Serbia – SESPI**: contact Jeroen Arends, SEEDEV, Serbia
- **Spain**: contact Fernando Santos Martin, Dpt. Ecology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain
- **Switzerland**: contact Richard Philip Witt
- **The Netherlands**: contact Simon Moelenaar or Linda Scholten
- **Turkey**: contact Esra Basak

NOTE: There are many active ESP-members in this region but we are still in the early days of the development of the National ESP Networks. If you want to establish a National ESP Network please contact Emmanuelle Cohen-Shacham.
Characteristics of ESP NN in SEE

• The NN are relatively young and small
• Greece is the largest and is going through a process of formalization
• But most don’t have a formal structure or have formalized strategies, etc.
• Most members are from academia, either institutionally or individually
• Few members from government, conservation organizations, NGO, park management, businesses, etc.
• Strong focus on research, little on application and inclusion of ES in policies
• In these countries ES research has been conducted by NN members
• No national assessments, valuations and maps have been made
• Networking and capacity building activities have been conducted
• Limited budgets and access to funds
Role of ESP NN in SEE is to:

• Provide a platform for collaboration between researchers, practitioners, decision makers, CSO, businesses, etc.
• Promote the concept of ES in research, application and decision making
• Reach out to potential new members and extend the national network and regional cooperation
• Stimulate capacity building activities and transfer of knowledge
• Support the organization of national and regional conferences, workshops and other events
Further roles of ESP NN in SEE

Mid and longer term goals

• Develop methodologies, indicator sets, repositories, action plans, etc.
• Conduct ES research and make assessments, valuations and maps
• Work towards inclusion of ES into policies and regulatory frameworks
• Apply the concept of ES in restoration efforts and management of PA with inclusion of local stakeholders
ES assessment and valuation studies (ESAV) in SEE region

- First theoretical explorations were conducted in the 1990’s

- Early 2000’s, first scientific research conducted in Greece. Broad definition of ES is used

- Until the year 2006, the number of ESAV studies in Greece and other SEE countries is limited. However, the year 2006 marks a turning point....
**ESAV in SEE countries**

**2006: Turning point**

- In Greece (2006-2013):
  

- 2014-2016:
  
  
  - Kontogianni et al (2014): *The social cost of coastal erosion: eliciting beach users’ willingness to pay for protecting European beaches from beachrock processes*;
  
  - Etc.

- This is in line with global trend on ESAV

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In Greece, most studies focus on MCES:
- Energy and climate change;
- Environmental Management;
- Resource Management

Most studies use WTP as contingent valuation method (questionnaires, interviews)

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(based on Latinopoulos 2015 and Arends 2016)
ESAV in SEE countries

Other countries are catching up....

Turkey:

2009 Identification and Valuation of Ecosystem Goods and Services in the Yıldız Mountains area  European Commission, Agrer, Agrin, Agriconsulting

2009 Kaçkar Mountains Sustainable Forest Use and Conservation Project - Assessment of Ecosystem Values Former Min. of Environment and Forestry European Commission, TEMA, METU Esra Başak

2010 Developing a Business Plan for Küre Mountains National Park and its Buffer Zone Min. of Environment and Forestry GEF, Min. of Environment and Forestry, UNDP

2011 The economic analysis of Foça Special Environmental Protection Area. Min. of Environment and Forestry - GDNAP GEF, UNDP Camille Bann & Esra Başak

2012 Pilot Study on Valuation of Sultansazlığı National Park and Social Impact Analysis Min. of Forestry & Water Works - General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks Adem Bilgin

2013 Economic Assessment of Kaş-Kekova Special Environmental Protection Area’s Effects on the Sustainability of Local Development. Economic study of the impacts of marine and coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean. Esra Başak

2015 Valuing Forest Products and Services in Turkey: A Pilot Study of Bolu Forest Area. Min. of Forestry & Water Works World Bank Bahar Çelikkol Erbaş

Many of these studies conducted by Ministries or Development agencies, not so much by Academia
ESAV in SEE countries

Serbia:

- 2007 Study on forest valuation and financing in Serbia: Forest sector valuation sub study” (Helsinki University- Department for Forest Economics: Rekola M., Stamatović S., Petrović N.;
- 2009 Natural and manmade capital of Special Nature Reserve Zasavica. Faculty of Ecology, Singidunum University;
- 2009 Danube PES (WWF/GEF/UNDP/EC) project explored the needs and feasibility of PES in Serbia;
- 2012 ‘Eco services and the role of functional regions in Serbia’, Stojkov Dobričić
- 2013 Assessment of wood resources and NTFP in Kapoanik NP;
- 2013. ‘GreenNest Cities for Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Well-being in Europe’
- 2013 WWF BioREGIO Carpathian project conducted a socio-economic assessment of the Serbian Carpathian. Assessed tourism, agriculture, forest management, game management, NTFP, fisheries and energy;
- 2014 WWF BioREGION Carpathian project ES assessment of Djerdap NP conducted by the Institute for Nature Conservation;
- 2012 ‘Mapping ecosystem functions and services in Eastern Europe using global-scale data sets’. Carried out by Dutch Environmental Assessment Agency;
- 2009-2013. ‘Local Biodiversity Action Planning for Southeastern Europe’ and the implementation of the Project ‘Biodiversity and ecosystem services for local sustainable development in the Western Balkans’
- 2012-2014. Within the ‘Dinaric Arc Parks’ project;

Few academic studies, most studies conducted by development agencies or public enterprises
ESAV in SEE countries

Bulgaria:


- Zevurdakis, M., Rashev, B., and Germer, C., 2007. Review of the ecosystem services and the values they provide. Rhodope project, UNDP.


**ESAV in SEE countries**

**Albania**
- 2007 Some assessments conducted connected to a carbon sequestration project between World Bank and Albanian government. Status unknown.
- 2014 The Role of Property Rights and the Local Context in Implementing Payment for Environmental Services: The Case of Tomin Commune, Albania
- 2016 “First contingent valuation method evaluation of the biodiversity of Lake Ohrid”, Zdraveski et al. → cross border with Macedonia

**Macedonia (FYROM)**
- 2008 The study “Valuation of natural values of Shar Planina and estimation of their market value”, (Melovski & Hristovski 2008).
- 2013 The economic case for long-term protection of the Ezerani Nature Park, financed by a GEF/UNDP/MEPP.
- 2016 “First contingent valuation method evaluation of the biodiversity of Lake Ohrid”, Zdraveski et al. → cross border with Albania

**Montenegro**
- 2005 A study carried out by WWF on the value of the Tara River
- 2007 A review undertaken by Arcadis Ecolas and IEEP on the benefits of compliance with the EU environmental acquis
- 2011 Work conducted by UNDP/ISSP on the value of protected areas (Emerton et al 2011).
- 2011 A case study “Putting a price tag on the Multi-Functional Use of Eco-System Services: The case of Morača River and Skadar Lake in Montenegro”
ESAV in SEE countries

Characteristics of the studies

- Mostly regional studies (national, not cross border). No national studies have been conducted. So far only Greece has taken the initiative but have put plans for MAES on hold;
- A variety of actors conducted ESAV, including Academia, development agencies and public enterprises;
- ESAV varied in angle, size, scope and duration;
- Some were theoretical explorations, some focused on a single or a bundle of ES (mostly provisioning), others explored more ES;
- Some made calculations of values, others only identified and described ES; Few mapping studies
- The studies used a variety of approaches and methods of assessment including: direct use/market values (provisioning ES), WTP, benefit transfer, questionnaires/surveys, statistical method of trend analysis/regression and correlation analysis, global sets of land use data.
Challenges for ESP NN in SEE

In general there is:

- Lack of knowledge of and confusion about the concept of ES within Government, Academia, conservationists, NGO, businesses
- Scepticism and ‘old school’ thinking still present among some Academia and conservationists
- Lack of understanding what ES can do for the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources
- Steep learning curve. Literature on ES is expanding rapidly. New concepts are developed. Trends in research show increased incorporation of complex models
- Lack of ES assessments and indicator development, lack of adoption of ES in policy making (also EIA), regulatory frameworks and management of natural resources, lack of funds for ES assessments.

Challenges are also opportunities! How can we improve the situation and how can NN contribute?
Knowledge on ES

Positive side:

- Long tradition of biodiversity research and nature conservation
- Many researchers and NGOs committed to biodiversity and nature conservation and open to new approaches
- Much information and data sets on biodiversity, land use maps, soil type maps, hydrology maps, etc. is available. Statistical information on agriculture, production and consumption, environmental pollution and emissions, etc.
- Eagerness to learn new concepts and put them into practice
Through their activities the ESP and the NN in SEE can help to

- Better understand the relation between the structure and processes of biodiversity and ecosystems with the delivery of ES in SEE
- Make apparent to decision makers, conservationists, the wider public, the importance and value of ecosystems and their services in the region
- Prevent further ecosystem degradation by highlighting threats and make recommendations to improve ecosystems’ conditions and the delivery of ES
- Reduce damages to society by increasing abilities of ecosystems to prevent or mitigate effects of disasters (flood protection, protection against extreme weather events, erosion control, effects of climate change, etc.)
- The ESP and the NN can help in advancing sustainable development and equitable use and management of natural resources;
Thank you for your attention!

www.es-partnership.org

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Look for Ecosystem Services via the Ecosystem Services Partnership
ESP subregion South East Europe
Invitation to join us as ESP member
ESP member benefits

• Full access to all online material including publications, funding opportunities & databases
• The opportunity to join ESP working groups
• The opportunity to join the National networks and Regional chapters
• Unlimited access to all features of the ESP member portal
• Reduced fees for ESP conferences
• Discounts on ESP related journals
• Facilitation in developing collaborations and joint project proposals
• The right to post announcements on the news, events and vacancies webpage, at no charge.
• The right to organize activities such as discussion groups and workshops under the ESP banner
ESP member fee

- **Individual membership fee – 50 euro per year**
  We also offer a number of reductions:
  - 50% reduction students & PhD candidates
  - 50% reduction for employees of full institutional members
  - 20% reduction for IALE members

- **How?**
  - Mail [info@es-partnerhip.org](mailto:info@es-partnerhip.org) or use contact form on the website
## ESP member organisation fee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of organization (# of employees)</th>
<th>Full institutional membership fee (annual)</th>
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<td>&lt; 10</td>
<td>€ 125</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 – 25</td>
<td>€ 250</td>
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<td>26 – 50</td>
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