BEeS

The LifeWatch ERIC Biodiversity & Ecosystem eScience Conference

Heraklion, 30 June - 3 July 2025

2 July 2025 | 13:05

BEeS Heraklion
30 June - 3 July 2025

LifeWatch ERIC

hcmr ΕΛΚΕΘΕ

iMBBC ΙΘΑΒΒΥΚ

Session: Biodiversity Observatory: Smart Systems for a Living Planet Revolutionising Biodiversity Monitoring with Automation

2 July 2025 | 11:30-13:00

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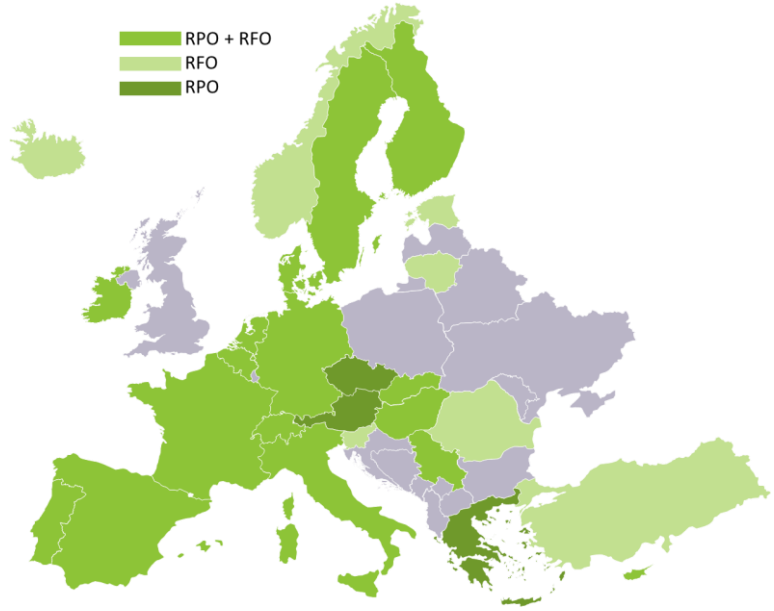
Towards a Monitoring System for Agroecology in Europe: Results form Expert Consultations

Presenter: *Salvador* ***Fernández*** *(LifeWatch ERIC)*

Authors: *Iria* ***Soto***, *Ana* ***Mellado***, *Amy* ***Worten***, *Sinead* ***O'Keeffe***, *Marc* ***Caulfield***, *Anne* ***Vandoorn***, *JM* ***Ávila***

Agroecology in a nutshell

Team-up and unlock the transition to agroecology so that farming systems are resilient, productive and prosperous, place-sensitive, as well as climate, environment, ecosystem, biodiversity and people-friendly by 2050



Jan 2024 to Dec 2033

Horizon Europe co-funded partnership in Cluster 6
Phase 2 for AGROECOLOGY is approaching (see WP2025)

Pool resources of EU and states/regions

Mobilisation of 300 Mio € (50% co-funded)

In-kind: research and networking activities

In-cash: up to 7 transnational calls for proposals

72 partners from 26 states/regions

RFOs: National/Regional Authorities, ministries, Funding agencies
RPOs: Research performing organisations

Visit us: https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/
Coordination: Project Management Juelich (DE)
ptj-agroecology-secretariat@fz-juelich.de
Co-coordination: ANR (FR)

Introduction & Objective

Objective:

- Capitalize on the **expert knowledge** that has been generated by previous experiences monitoring agroecology across various scales and domains
- Identify **lessons learned, challenges, limitations and opportunities** encountered by experts in previous efforts to monitor agroecology across various scales and domains.

Outputs:

- Challenges and opportunities
- Recommendations

Methodology

WS 1

Agro-environmental

WS 2

Economic

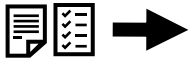
WS 3

Sociocultural
Governance

Workshop proceedings

Online
½ Day
Oct-Nov 24

Experts (Scientific/Technical)
Policy (DGAGRI + DGJRC)



Proceedings Common Challenges, lesson learned

Other project results
(conceptual framework + monitoring plan)

Bringing together (end users)

Issues & gaps
Needs
Recommendations to overcome challenges

Onsite
1-2 Day
End 2025 – Beginning 2026

Policy (DGAGRI)
Living Labs representatives
Farmers & associations
Advisors

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Methodology

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Literature review

Methodology

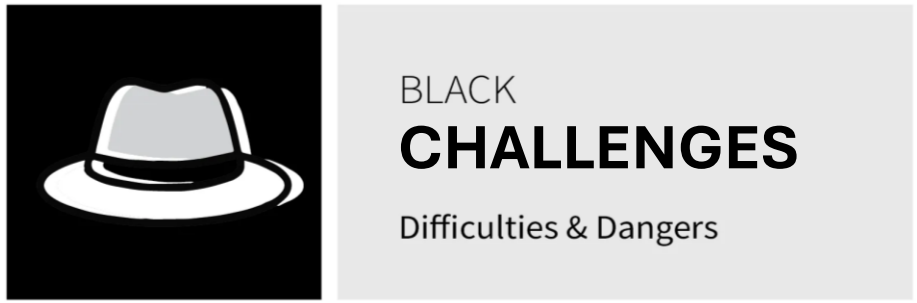
Literature review

Identification of experts

Methodology

Six Thinking Hats (de Bono, 1985) framework for structured thinking and group discussion.

Methodology



Six Thinking Hats (de Bono, 1985) framework for structured thinking and group discussion.

Methodology

BLACK
CHALLENGES
Difficulties & Dangers

YELLOW
OPPORTUNITIES
Potential & Uses

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YELLOW
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BLUE
PROCESS
Planning & Action

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WHITE
DATA & FACTS
Information & Data

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DATA & FACTS
Information & Data

GREEN
CREATIVITY
Possibility & Alternatives

RED
FEELINGS
Intuition & Gut Instinct

Only if time allowed

Six Thinking Hats (de Bono, 1985) framework for structured thinking and group discussion.

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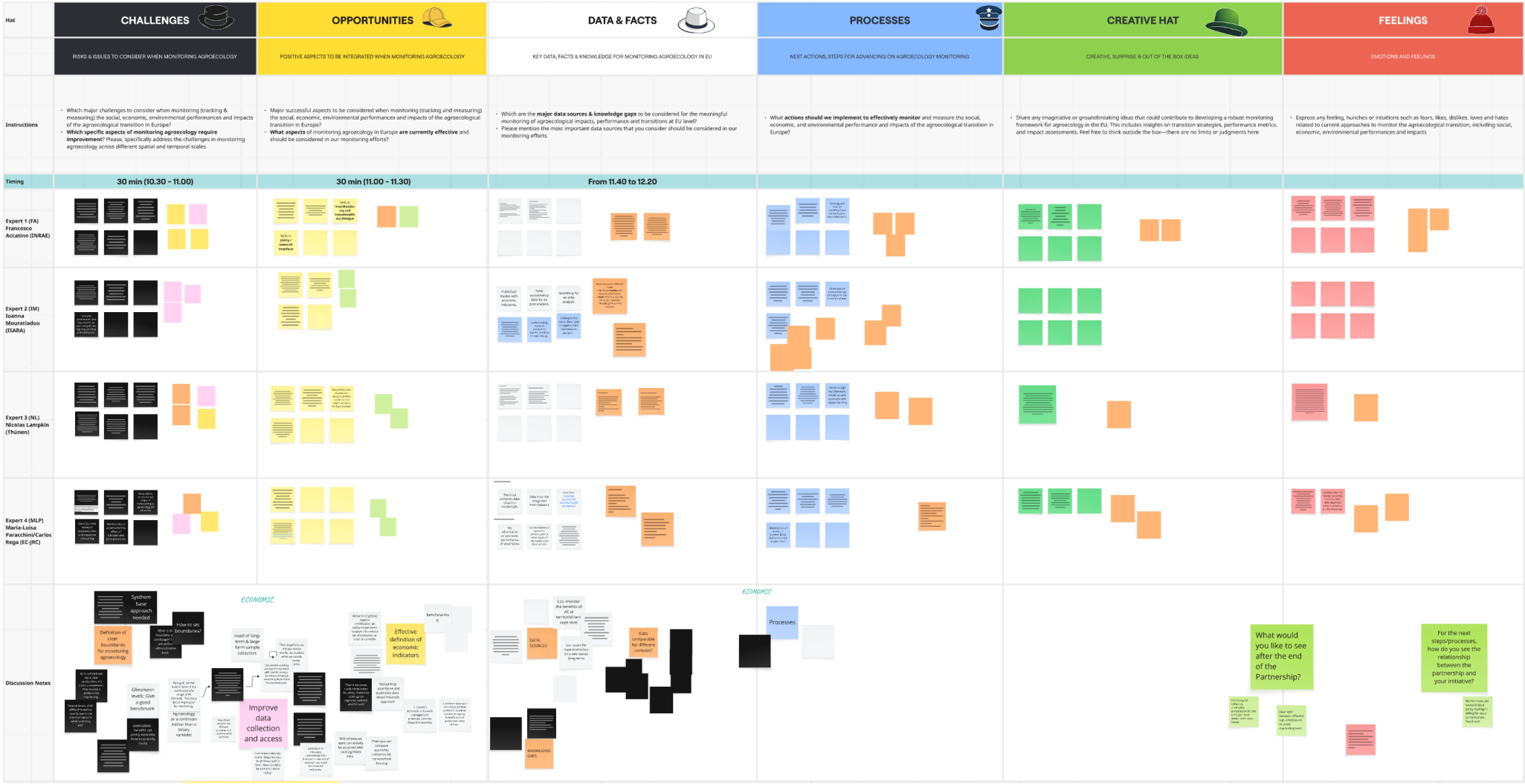
Methodology



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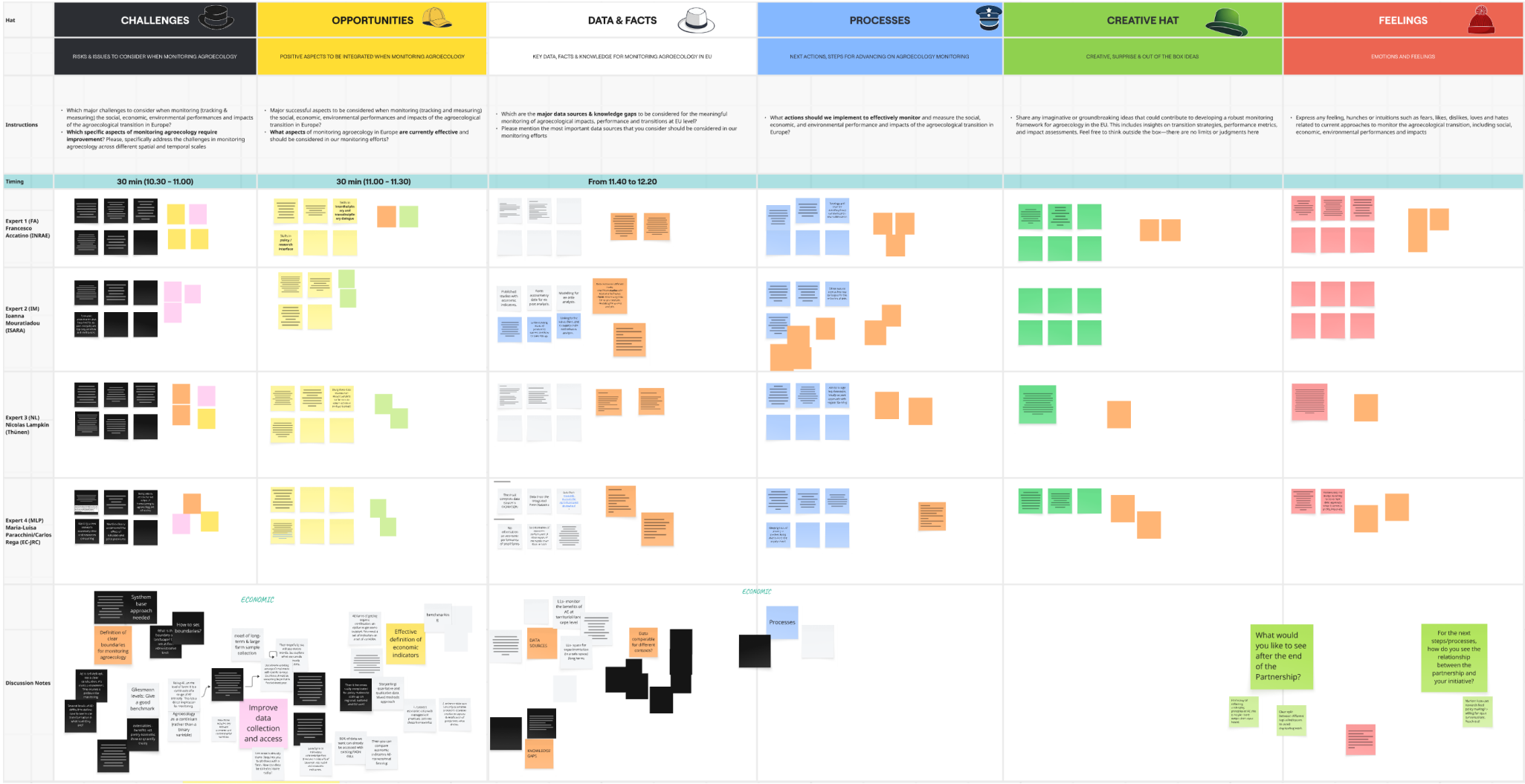
Methodology

Expert inputs (ppt)



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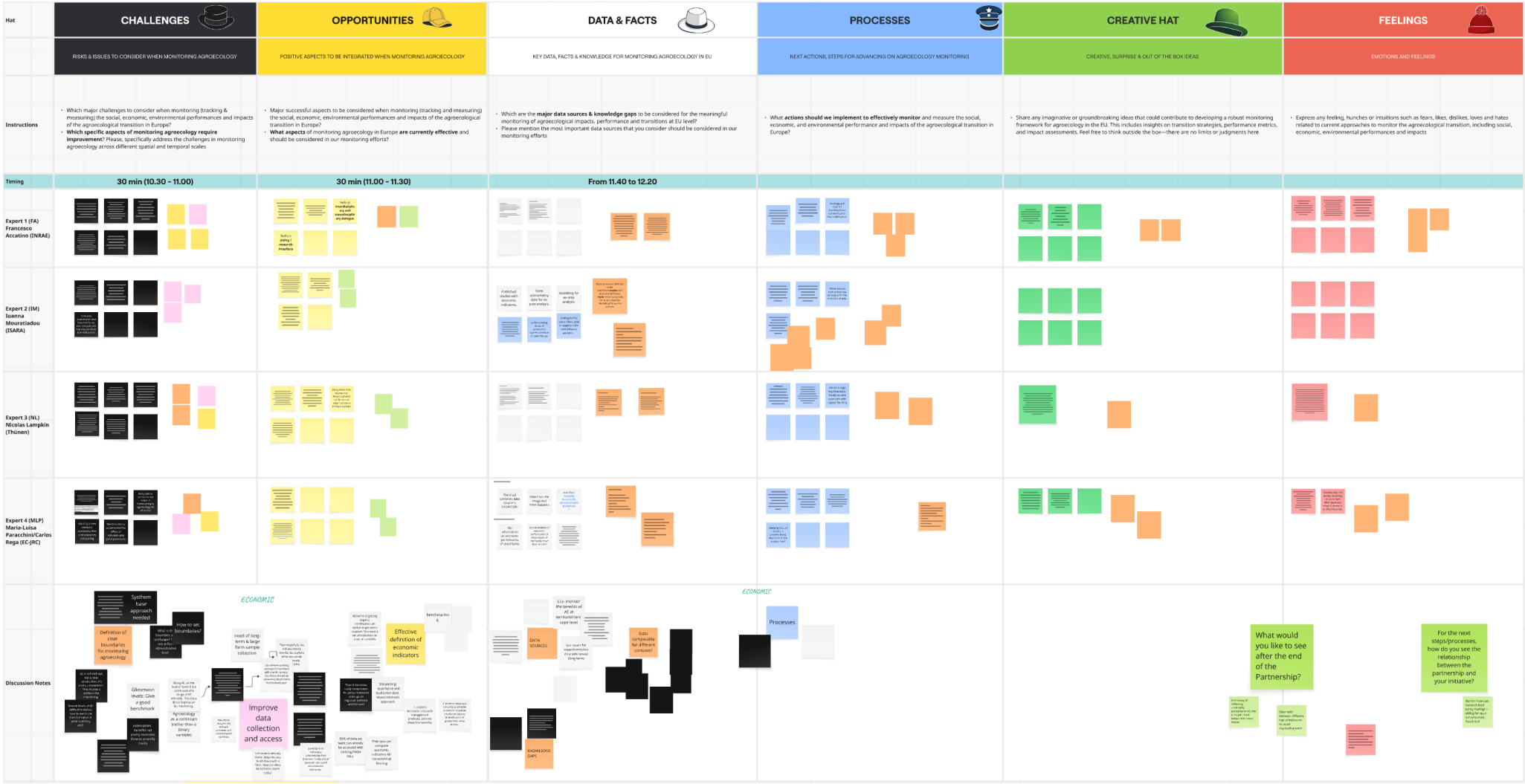
Methodology

Expert inputs (ppt)

Cluster (facilitators)

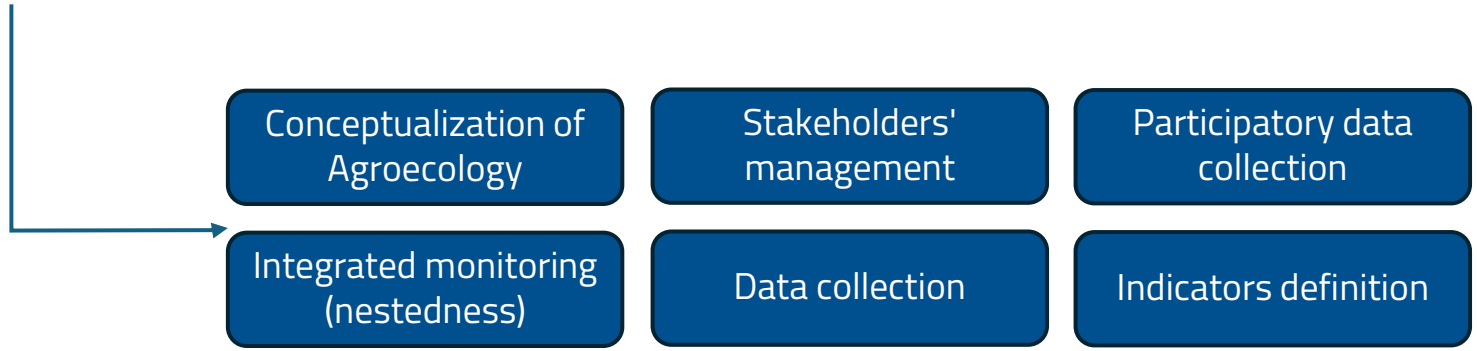
Discussion prompts



Methodology

Data analysis:

- Session's transcripts
- Notes captured in experts ppts and Miro Board
- Written observation (note-takers)
- Organized by discussion prompts



Results: main challenges & opportunities

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- **Existing successful experiences** treating agroecology as a continuum rather than a binary category (i.e. “Agroecology / Non-Agroecology” label)

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- **Indicators:** Traditional farm-level economic indicators can be **derived from existing** EU administrative databases at different scales (FSDN)

Results: recommendations

- **Build on previous experiences such as organic-farming** (similarities at farming level) or **existing agroecological monitoring frameworks** (instead of creating new whole sets).

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- **Generate recommendations for the Farm Sustainable Data Network (FSDN)/Statistical inclusion**. Identify how best agroecology data can be included in statistical databases such as **FSDN.**

Results: recommendations

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- **Generate recommendations for the Farm Sustainable Data Network (FSDN)/Statistical inclusion**. Identify how best agroecology data can be included in statistical databases such as **FSDN.**
- **Avoid rigid definitions of Agroecology or any Agroecology framework that forces the agroecological transition to demonstrate very specific outcomes.**

Take home messages

Early **expert engagement** validates frameworks, develops community and surfaces unpublished knowledge.

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Qualitative data is not complementary—it's foundational to understanding and knowledge creation.

Thank you!

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Questions?
salvador.fernandez@lifewatch.eu