



RECOMS

Deliverable 1.2

Training Event 1: Resourcefulness and Resilience Event Report



The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 765389.



RECOMS First Training Event on Resilience, Resourcefulness, Positionality and Vulnerability

16-21 September 2018, Vaasa, Finland

Event report

RECOMS first training event took place between 16-21 September 2018 in Vaasa, Finland. Co-organized by LUKE and Coventry University all the newly recruited early stage research fellows participated in the event, together with their supervisors from all the beneficiaries, representatives from the four Partner institutions, and expert presenters in various topics (please see annex 1 for the participant list). The event focused on introducing RECOMS key concepts of resilience and resourcefulness while highlighting one of the key communication methods, photography. The training was also centred around ethics, vulnerability and positionality, as well as giving some insights on leadership, project management and the key information on RECOMS (please see annex 2 for the agenda). Being the first training of RECOMS, it was especially important to build the bond among the fellows and mentors, hence getting to know each other activities with various non-formal methods were a key part of the event.

The event started on the evening of 16th September with a informal personal narrative based introduction to 'life' as an MSCA ESR fellow, whereby two fellows - Siri Pisters and Angela Moriggi - of another MSCA network (SUSPLACE) presented their experiences and provided tips and learnings for the RECOMS fellows for the upcoming three years. Their talk was preceded by an informal welcome dinner and free space for social networking.

The next day started with an icebreaker on memorizing names and some key facts about each other. This was followed by a formal welcoming, overview of the week and housekeeping, by LUKE and the Project Coordinators.

Moya Kneafsey, Coventry University welcomed the participants and provided a general scientific introduction to RECOMS. She stated that RECOMS will train fifteen Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) in transdisciplinary approaches to supporting resourceful and resilient community environmental practice. She opened up some critical questions on the core concepts of RECOMS, which, as she emphasised, would be equally confusing and challenging from time-to-time and thus, there is a need of "safe space" where "we all can share ideas, ask questions, challenge each other in a way that is constructive and helps us all to learn and grow as people".

During her presentation, Moya explained what social scientists mean by resilience (the responsiveness of individuals, organizations or systems to shocks), community





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resourcefulness: “the capacity of any community to work towards positively adapting or transforming their relationship with their natural resource base in a manner that enhances community resilience” (Franklin 2018: 267)), community environmental practice (forms of environmental practice which, although potentially displaying a wide variation of approach, rationale and ambition, nevertheless commonly support the situating of environmental action within the spaces and places of everyday community life). She also opened up some questions for discussion for the three research groups, giving the fellows and mentors time to reflect jointly on these key concepts.

First Group Discussion Questions:

1. What are the limitations of ‘resilience thinking’ in relation to transformations for sustainability and social justice within communities?
2. Can you think of an example from your own knowledge or experience where a community has been limited in its capacity to ‘be/become resilient’?
3. In what ways does ‘resourcefulness’ help us to think about resilient communities? To what extent are the communities you know of ‘resourceful’? What do you understand by the idea that resourcefulness is ‘relational’?
4. Can you provide examples of community environmental practice from your own experience? To what extent is social justice apparent in the examples you are aware of? Could it be made more central, and how?

Box 1

Alex Franklin, Coventry University, provided the second part of the introduction to the science of RECOMS, presenting on RECOMS aims and approaches. She started by explaining that the delivery of RECOMS is centred around the training of 15 ESR Fellows in advanced scientific, professional, personal and transferable skills, such that they can become experts in enabling and supporting resourceful and resilient community environmental practice. She continued by saying that over the course of the next three years and beyond, RECOMS will also deliver on a parallel external aim of achieving transdisciplinary impact: academic, policy, societal impact. Accordingly, delivery of RECOMS is also centred around the production creation and communication of a wide range of individual and collective consortium outputs, including written, visual and oral mediums of delivery such as; academic papers, doctoral thesis’, reports, conferences, toolkits, presentations, a book, a MOOC, educational film clips, exhibitions and more besides.





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RECOMS Research Questions

1. How can the inherent potential for resourceful community practice be 'un-locked', amongst even the most vulnerable environmental settings and community groups?
2. How can resourcefulness be practiced in a just, empowering and restorative way in its adaptation and transformation of local resource relationships?
3. How can stakeholders be engaged in co-producing resourceful and resilient community practice?
4. How can resourceful and resilient community environmental practice be creatively and effectively visualised and communicated to stimulate transformative thinking?

Box 2

Alex also provided an introduction to the RECOMS overarching research questions (see box 1) and presented on the scientific and training rationale of the three sub-research groups (Research Group no 1 - Unlocking and Empowering, Research Group no 2 - Adapting and Transforming and Research Group no 3 - Connecting and Collaborating - of which a poster (see annex 3) was also exhibited in the meeting rooms). Furthermore, she introduced RECOMS' key pillars (collaborative practice, transdisciplinary science, participatory action research and visual and creative methods and modes of communication), emphasising in parallel the concept of collective individualism as a scaffold for supporting simultaneous group work and joint learning. Alex ended with sharing the intended learning outcomes (see box 2) of the first training event, and inviting the participants to jointly reflect on their thoughts in their sub-groups.



The training event continued after a short coffee break with a session on vulnerability run by Katriina Soini and Hilkka Vihtinen. They introduced the concept ("Vulnerability is the state of susceptibility to harm from exposure to stresses associated with environmental and social change and from the absence of capacity to adapt" (Adger 2006)), as well as the connecti-





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ons between vulnerability, intersectionality and co-producing vulnerability along with the three types of transdisciplinary. After the presentation each fellow presented her/his reflections on vulnerability, which was followed by group reflections on co-producing vulnerability.

RECOMS' First Training Event Intended Learning Outcomes:

1. Critically engage with key concepts & theories of resilience, resourcefulness, vulnerability and intersectionality
2. Critically reflect on and discuss their own positionality and 'gaze'
3. Develop professional and transferable skills in the application of photography - inclusive of developing an understanding of associated scientific and ethical rationales for guiding the collection and selection of photographic subjects/ objects
4. Critically reflect on photography as a visual & creative method
5. Develop an increased appreciation for effective and inclusive practices of leadership
6. Understand the role and importance of: i) project management, ii) career development planning, and iii) reflective practice, as a basis for setting and realising (current and future) professional goals

Box 3

Keeping in mind that RECOMS has a key focus on visual and creative methods of communication, a task was then set for the fellows to visualize RECOMS and their research projects and present the outcomes in 2 minutes to the general audience. This task provided a bridge between the concepts and the practical communication tool on the next session, photography.



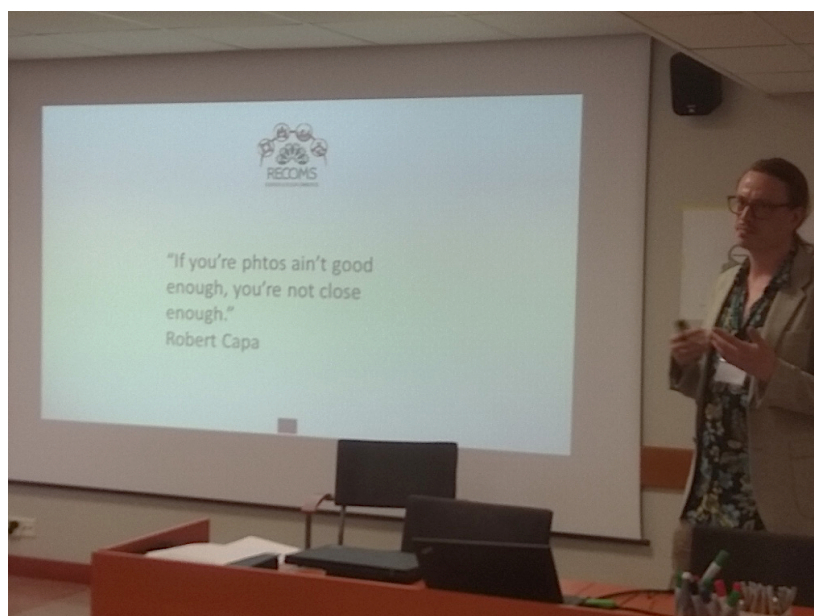


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In the next session, Moya Kneafsey presented about the general ethics principles, examples of ethical dilemmas as well as research ethics of taking photos. Her presentation was followed by Janne Saukkonen, professional photographer, who provided insights to photography principles, major artists and their styles as well as some tips and tricks.

After his presentation, the research groups received their tasks in a role play format. Each group was asked to work on a different scenario, the completion of which required communicating research arguments visually, through a critically informed selection of photos, to different stakeholders. The first group needed to convince the local neighbourhood to work out and make steps for adapting to climate change, the second group - being the sustainability unit of a local council - needed to persuade the mayor and other key city decision makers to invest in vulnerable communities and sustainable for long-term solutions, while the third group consisted of local community leaders visiting the next Climate Agreement Conference of Parties to influence the USA to sign the Paris Agreement¹.



¹ The groups had various time slots during the week to take photos and compile their presentations, while they also had the chance to ask advice from the photography expert, the mentors and the partners throughout the week. They needed to prepare a final presentation on the fourth day afternoon, allowing them not only to sharpen their photography skills but also their presentation techniques.





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After the intensive day, a new group distribution was made to enable the event participants to continue getting-to-know each other, whilst also discovering more about the geographical setting of the training event (Vaasa), as well as to practice photography with a treasure hunt quest. The small groups had to find locations and take photos of them, based on pre-set riddles. The treasure hunt ended with a joint dinner.

The following day, the RECOMS team explored the Kvarken Archipelago, the nearby UNESCO World Heritage site with a local guide, Ann-Sofi Backgren. In parallel to guiding us around the area, Ann-Sofi also provided lectures on vulnerability, leadership and local communities. Our first station was the local harbour village of Bjorkoby, where Ann-Sofi introduced the archipelago, its history and the local communities, and where we also had the chance to explore the environment on foot. We further explored the area, visiting the local visitor's centre, a local brewery and additional settlements, where the opportunity was given to further master the photography skills.





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The next day started with an extended presentation by Deepa Joshi, Coventry University on positionality and intersectionality. During the session identity, gender and intersectionality were reflected on through a mixture of expert lecture, small and large group discussions, with participants also exploring how intersectionality could be investigated through the example of a case study from India. The presentations were followed by a reading group discussion scrutinizing also various readings on the topics which the fellows had been encouraged to read in advance of attending the first training event.

After the session with Deepa, the group work on the photography role play exercise continued, the focus here being on the task of selecting the photos for use in the final presentation from the ones taken during the previous day. This session was facilitated by Janne Saukkonen the expert photographer.

After a break for lunch, a presentation by Alex Franklin, Coventry University followed next to provide an insight on RECOMS as a project, its timeline and its deliverables. First each research group of fellows was asked to compile a memorandum of understanding with 5 key principles based on how the research group will operate and work. To enable the groups to also map the various skills and contribution to different deliverables, everybody was provided with a sheet on the deliverables as an aid for reflecting on their existing skills and those which they would like to improve. In immediate follow on, everyone was then asked to identify the deliverables they would like to work on the most, that would allow their personal growth, or sharpen their skills. Finally, the research groups were also requested to spend some time working on initial identification of any additional deliverable, in case they have some creative ideas to have their research outputs.

After the group work on deliverables, the RECOMS partners (Bavarian Forest National Park, Green City Projekt, PeerGroup and Shared Assets) presented their work. Opportunities were provided for the fellows to follow up with the partners further, including inquiring about secondment options.

The following day started with Petri Rinne (an international expert on leadership and an EU expert of LEADER principles) presenting on leadership and project management. Petri provided an expert experience-led presentation on key leadership principles, as well as some international climate change adaptation projects where such principles were employed. The presentation ended with time for questions and answers.





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Following the presentation, the partners and fellows were provided with an hour to discuss in smaller groups about the skills that are needed to work in practice and to dwell further on practices on leadership and project management.

After a break for coffee the fellows had their first ESR Committee meeting, inclusive of identifying issues for the two ESR representatives to deliver during the Supervisory Board meeting later on that day. In parallel to this the RECOMS Steering Committee held its own meeting².

After lunch, the afternoon began with another parallel session format. The Supervisory Board held its meeting, while the fellows (apart from the two ESR representative) continued their preparation for the afternoon presentations of the group work, supported once again by the expert photography trainer.

The formal training was closed for the day with the group presentations, ESR where each group presented in an actual role play. Apart from the presenters, further volunteers (comprising mentors, ESRs, Partners) took part as the panel to which the presentations were to be addressed, making the experience more realistic inclusive of asking challenging questions to the presenters. After each presentation, the presenting ESR team members provided a rationale about the photo selection and reflected on their experience about the group work and the task in general. The audience was also asked to give constructive feedback, whilst the photography expert also evaluated the photos and the selection.



² Both the Steering Committee and Supervisory Board Meeting notes will be uploaded to the EU portal.





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The last day of training event one started with Alex Franklin presenting on the reflective learning portfolios and a homework task aimed at enhancing reflective practice amongst the ESRs. The focus on the homework was to reflect on the photo exercise. She also further explained the next steps, deliverables of the project, secondments, and briefly introduced both the next training event to take place in Coventry in February 2019, and the mid-term review event in Brussels. She also called for ideas for the next training event from the fellows.

Ina Horlings, University of Groningen then presented the Career Development Planning and the Training and Supervision Plan explaining the general processes, formats and elements of both documents. She emphasised and detailed the role of the mentor during the supervision in general, and also during the filling out of these documents. Partly related to these, the fellows were asked to write a postcard to their future selves about their feelings, reflections as well as plans for the next six months as an MSCA fellow.

The event was closed with thanking the organizers and a general feedback session, where participants were asked to mark how they felt during the event.



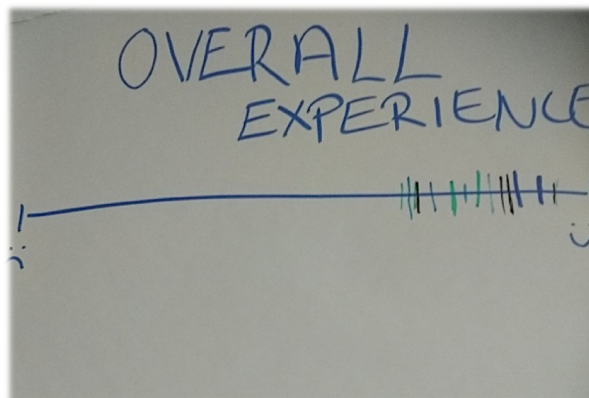


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An anonymous feedback form was also distributed among the participants with the following outcomes.

Based on the 18 filled out anonymous feedback form:

- All deemed the meeting site excellent (14) or good (4)
- All deemed the presentations and programs quality excellent (4) or good (14)
- All deemed the program very (13) or fairly (5) useful.



Additional feedbacks provided suggestions on the need for less intense programme, more time for individual self-reflections, more time outside, less group work and more energizer activities. These comments will be taken into account during the planning of the next training event.

Some reflections on describing the training from the anonymous feedback form:

- “Intense, fun and educational”
- “Busy, informative and well-planned”
- “Deeply thought provoking, challenging”
- “A good start to get to know each other”
- “Inspiring but exhausting”





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Annex 1 - Participant list

Name	Institute	Email
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Agnes Zolyomi	Coventry University	ac8659@coventry.ac.uk
Petri Rinne	ELARD	
Janne Saukkonen	Freelancer	
Ann-Sofi Backgren	Freelancer	
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Annex 2
AGENDA

16th September, Sunday

Arrivals



19: 00 - Storytelling from MSCA fellows and getting to know each other with pizzas

17th September, Monday

Breakfast served from 7:00



8:45 - 9:00 Start and icebreakers

9:00-9:30 Welcome on behalf of our hosts - Hilikka Vihinen and Katriina Soini, LUKE

Welcome on behalf of the coordination team and housekeeping - Alex Franklin and Agnes Zolyomi, Coventry University

9:30 - 9:50 Introduction to the science of RECOMS - Moya Kneafsey, Coventry University

9:50 - 10:20 Group exercise based on RECOMS three research groups. Group chairs are Ina Horlings (Unlocking and Empowering), Christof Mauch (Adapting and Transforming) and Joost Dessein (Connecting and Collaborating)

10:20 - 10:40 RECOMS aim and approach - Alex Franklin

10:40 - 11:00 Group exercise and discussion

Session chaired by Agnes Zolyomi

11:00 - 11:15 Coffee break



11:15 - 12:15 Vulnerability in RECOMS - Hilikka Vihinen and Katriina Soini, LUKE

12:15 - 13:00 General introduction on ethics with a group discussion - Moya Kneafsey, Coventry University





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13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:15 Basic communication exercise

14:15 - 15:00 Basics of photography and how it helps to explore and communicate vulnerability - Janne Saukkonen, photographer

15:00 - 15:10 Research ethics as regards of taking photos - Moya Kneafsey, Coventry University

15:10 - 16:00 Group work based on the three research groups with the photographers and role play preparation (here they receive the role-play description and the task they need to work on).

Session chaired by Alex Franklin

16:00 - 17:00 Coffee break and resting



17:00 - 19:00 Treasure hunt in Vaasa

19:00 - Dinner at 1HK restaurant Hovioikeudenpuistikko 13A, 65100



18th September, Tuesday

8:15 Fieldtrip to Finnish archipelago (Bjorkoby, UNESCO World Heritage site Kvarken Archipelago, Bock's Corner Village and brewery) with local expert, Ann-Sofi Backgren

With group work on photographing vulnerability

Dinner at local brewery



19th September, Wednesday

8:45 - Start and warming up

9:00 - 9:15 Introduction and group exercise





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9:15 - 10:00 An overview of intersectionality - Deepa Joshi, Coventry University
Discussion

10:00 - 10:15 Short break

10:15 - 11:00 Applying intersectionality in practice - a case study from research - Deepa Joshi, Coventry University
Discussion

11:00 - 11:15 Coffee break



11:15 - 12:00 Intersectionality reading group discussion

Session chaired by Alex Franklin

12:00 - 13:00 Group work on photographing vulnerability (selection of photos from the fieldtrip)



13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:40 Visioning RECOMS: working together, identity, deliverables and impacts - presenting the RECOMS project milestones and deliverables - Alex Franklin, Coventry University

14:40 - 16:00 Thinking jointly about RECOMS deliverables by exploring RECOMS skills

16:00 - 16:20 Coffee break



16:20 - 17:00 Partners presentations and Q and A

17:00 - 18:00 World Café with partners and external supervisors

Session chaired by Agnes Zolyomi

Free time



20th September, Thursday

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 765389.





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9:00 - 10:00 A practitioner's presentation on leadership - Petri Rinne
10:00 - 10:45 Carrousel discussion on RECOMS impacts and the skills to reach impacts with the partners

10:45 - 11:00 - Coffee break

11:00 - 11:30 ESR Committee Meeting (Fellows)

11:00 - 12:30 Steering Committee Meeting (Mentors)

11:30 - 12:30 Fellows and Partners: Photography work and presentation preparation



12:30 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 Group photo

13:30 - 14:50 Fellows: Final Preparations for presentation

Mentors and Partners: Supervisory Board Meeting

14:50 - 15:00 Coffee break



15:00 - 17:00 Presentation of group works with roleplay
Reflections on presentation

Session chaired by Alex Franklin

19:00 Joint dinner and Pub Quiz at Strampen, Rantakatu 6, 65100 Vaasa

21st September, Friday

9:00 - 9:50 Learning portfolios, Virtual Learning Environment (VLA) - Alex Franklin, Coventry University

9:50 - 10:45 Career Development Planning - Ina Horlings, University of Groningen

10:45 - 11:00 Coffee break



11:00 - 11:30 Reflections and feedbacks





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11:30 - 12:00 Introduction to the Coventry training event and the mid-term review event
Session chaired by Agnes Zolyomi

12:00 - Lunch and departure





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Annex 3 - Research Groups and Fellows Poster exhibited



RESEARCH GROUPS AND TOPICS

UNLOCKING AND EMPOWERING



Title: ESR 2 - Urban Agroecology for Health and Wellbeing

Institute: Coventry University

Researcher Name: Mai Abbas

Objectives: This research focuses on women in transition to motherhood or with pre-school age infants to investigate how women's engagement in resourceful practices of urban agroecology can impact on their approach to health and wellbeing and wider environmental knowledge and behavior.

Title: ESR 3 - Co-creating Urban Waterways as Socially Diverse Spaces

Institute: Coventry University

Researcher Name: Sofia De la Rosa Solano

Objectives: This study explores how the restoration of inner city waterways can be used as a 'bridge' for building connections between the differing communities of individuals that live alongside and how community-led and co-creative approaches can safeguard the future of inland waterways and the resilience of adjacent communities.

Title: ESR 5 - Perceptions of Risk: Adaptive Community Strategies

Institute: University of Groningen

Researcher Name: Scott Davis

Objectives: This project investigates how people deal with situations of environmental volatility, uncertainty and opacity and how they cope and adapt to risk in dynamic and unsettled situations characterized by unequal power relations between and within communities specifically targeting vulnerable groups such as elderly people.

Title: ESR 4 - Citizenship and Responsive Governance

Institute: University of Groningen

Researcher Name: Stephen Leithner

Objectives: Society as a whole is witnessing the 'rise' of individuals, groups and collectives, while also connecting sensitively to environmental spaces and places, to related groups and to different types of information. This project will analyse citizen-ship and the 'crisis' in representative democracy, exploring how a more responsive planning can enable these societal dynamics.

Title: ESR 14 - Environmental Justice through Resourceful Engagement

Institute: Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO)

Researcher Name: Sara Smaal

Objectives: This project will explore how attention to environmental justice can enhance the resilience of LFS in (peri-)urban food systems in the densely populated region of Flanders, Belgium. Employing a transdisciplinary, participatory approach it will co-design and test innovative mechanisms of community-based decision making, involving an intentionally broad range of social groupings.

Title: ESR 1 - Transforming Urban Environments: a Collaborative Approach

Institute: Coventry University

Researcher Name: Sergio Ruiz Cayula

Objectives: The active engagement of a wide range of stakeholders supports the building of resourceful and resilient communities. This study investigates the mechanisms by which collaborative forms of management are being pursued, with particular emphasis on ex-industrial and urban brown field sites.

Title: ESR 8 - Nature Based Cultures in Vulnerable Communities

Institute: Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)

Researcher Name: Viola Haikurainen

Objectives: Local culture can be a critical asset for building community resilience. This project will explore local culture as an asset in local social-ecological adaptation and transformation processes in environmentally and socially vulnerable communities. Special emphasis will be given to issues of environmental justice and stakeholder relations.

Title: ESR 10 - Transforming the Bavarian Forest: Historical Perspective

Institute: LMU Munich, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society

Researcher Name: Lauren Golie

Objectives: The establishment of the Bavarian "primeval forest" park in 1970 led to a drastic change in regional livelihoods. As the environment transformed, local communities were able to reinvent themselves as well. The Bavarian Forest showcases transformations in social practice with ecological change, leading to a high degree of community resilience.

Title: ESR 11 - Transformation and Restoration: Portland and Munich

Institute: LMU Munich, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society

Researcher Name: Talita Reitz

Objectives: Portland, Oregon, once a highly industrialized and polluted city, is today celebrated as the US' "most sustainable" city. Political arrangements and institutional circumstances are different in Portland from Germany's "green city" Munich. To identify specificities community practices and political initiatives will be compared in this study.

Title: ESR 12 - Farms as Coupled Social-Ecological Systems

Institute: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)

Researcher Name: Natalie Leung

Objectives: Family farms are a cornerstone of rural resourcefulness. This project applies a relational understanding of resilience, with farms conceptualized as coupled social-ecological systems, embedded in specific community and environmental contexts to emphasize change and adaptability, as well as the need to root entrepreneurial initiatives locally.

ADAPTING AND TRANSFORMING



Title: ESR 4 - Building Coalitions: Socio-Spatial Planning

Institute: University of Groningen

Researcher Name: Imogen Humphris

Objectives: Communities can be considered as action arenas where varied stakeholders hold different opinions and values on how to develop adaptive strategies for building resourceful communities. The objective of this project is to provide insight in the role of planning in building coalitions to support resourcefulness and to analyse the implications of new engagements and innovative arrangements from a planning and governance perspective.

Title: ESR 7 - Climate Adaptation and Socio-Spatial Planning: Waterways

Institute: Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (RWS)

Researcher Name: Maria Alina Radulescu

Objectives: InnovAS8 is a large-scale experimental environment assigned to test innovations in relation to the attainment and development of a sustainable environment. One challenge is to combine different waterway functions (recreation, flood protection, nature, mobility) in an overall climate adaptive solution. The project analyses innovations being co-created with businesses, public authorities and civic society groups.

Title: ESR 9 - Green Economies and Ecosystem Services

Institute: Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)

Researcher Name: Ruben Vezzani

Objectives: This project will explore the way in which communities in isolated and sparsely populated areas address the interdependence of and convection of green economies and ecosystem services over time and space through enterprising forms of collaborative and resourceful practice. The research will investigate economic mechanisms which support community-led environmental action, especially social investment.

Title: ESR 13 - Managing Social-Ecological Systems for Resilience

Institute: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)

Researcher Name: Jingjing Guo

Objectives: Who has access to the local natural resources and who benefits from them is often unequally distributed in the community, along gender lines, age groups and ownership structures. This project explores barriers and opportunities for collective entrepreneurial action. Particular emphasis will be given to the impact of gender roles in inhibiting innovative ideas and reflexive questioning of traditions.

Title: ESR 15 - Participatory GIS - Community Management of Open Space

Institute: Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO)

Researcher Name: Nohemi Ramirez Aranda

Objectives: This project will use participatory GIS as a tool to stimulate community management of open space in a context of urbanisation pressure and how to integrate/ preserve its diverse functions (biodiversity, recreation, food production, flood protection (etc.)), especially in the context of climate change. GIS and maps will be used to stimulate collaborative dialogue on "open space" and solutions to local resource issues.

CONNECTING AND COLLABORATING



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