



OPERAs  
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# Resource Hub Community of Excellence

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- starting the discussion

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# Objectives (from proposal)

- Understand user needs across a range of constituencies
- Design/develop Resource Hub (RH) to meet these
- Define process and strategy for long-term resourcing/maintenance
- Build constituencies of support for ES/NC implementation logics
- Contribute to capacity development among policy makers, spatial planners, practitioners, ecosystem managers, researchers, etc..
- Secure stakeholder engagement in RH design, development, use

# Centrality within OPERAS (1)

Resource Hub (RH) and Communities of Excellence (CoE) are central to the consortium approach to addressing challenges of dissemination, communication, and achieving lasting (continuing) impact...

# RH within OPERAS

Resource Hub (RH) responds to an identified gap in ES/NC science and practice:

- Gap: Need for innovative methods and for the application of existing methods that use new knowledge about synergies and trade-offs in alternative ES/NC management strategies
- Response: Develop a RH to collect, harmonise, synthesise and tailor/adapt instruments and data for the multiple demands of different user groups in managing ES/NC

# CoE within OPERAS

Similarly for the CoE...

- Gap: ES/NC knowledge is dispersed throughout multiple research networks and initiatives in Europe and World
- Response: Support CoE that are able to take stock and make use of outputs developed in OPERAS and in different networks that also focus on ES/NC; e.g. ESP, Altnet, GLP, IPBES, etc..

# Centrality within OPERAS (2)

RH and CoE development process is planned to be consistent with OPERAS design principles:

- Dynamic delivery throughout project
- Co-designed/developed with stakeholders to meet identified user needs
- Planned for perennity (post-project access, maintenance, use)
- Communities of Excellence (Communities of practice) to be co-established alongside the RH

# Resource Hub: access

- Web-based portal
- Part of a network of hubs to promote collaboration for ecosystem-based management (alongside others, such as ESP, Alternet, GLP, IPBES)

# Resource Hub: functionality

- Resources (open access)
  - Data sets; new & improved tools, instruments and methods
  - Documentation, user guidance, manuals, technical assistance for these
  - Good practice examples
  - Links to other hubs and sources
- Support functions/services (potential revenue streams)
  - Knowledge brokerage, knowledge sharing, conferences
  - Networking (bringing policymakers, spatial planners, ecosystem managers, companies, organisations, practitioners together)
  - Young researcher training (programmes, courses, materials, qualifications)
  - Practitioner training
  - Quality control/Accreditation



# Resource Hub: customisation

- Tailored content: reflecting different interests in and perspectives on the development and implementation of the Ecosystem Service and Natural Capital concepts, different user needs/requirements, etc..
- Tailored communication: language/communication, level of detail (hierarchical structure), multi-media (video, webinar, animation) etc.. Novel approaches possible: e.g. RSA ANIMATE - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDZFcDGpL4U>

# Resource Hub: interface with CoE

- Interactive collaborative platform to support development and sharing of best practice, cross-community cooperation in development and implementation of ES/NC concepts in ecosystem management, professional standards of excellence among user communities
- Range of user communities: policymakers, spatial planners, practitioners/consultants/advisors, tool users, tool developers, market makers, regulators, investors, ratings agencies, ecosystem managers, NGOs and interest groups, etc..
- RH is main interface between project outcomes and practitioner/user communities – Communities of Excellence

# CoE: relevance

## Relevant in contexts when:

- Many parties have an interest in a topic, each comes to it from a different perspective, each has something to contribute to understanding or action, each only has a part of what is needed for understanding and action
- The topic or problem and understanding of it is unstructured or only partly-structured
- The intent is for a community to form to develop the frameworks needed to structure/handle the topic, which includes developing shared concepts, theory, tools, methods, data, insights
- These are co-produced and co-developed using and testing commonly agreed framings/protocols
- Knowledge sharing and integration and the development of new, improved knowledge are implicit

# CoE: link to practice

In the process, the topic and understanding of it becomes structured with the possibilities that concepts, theory, tools and methods that have been developed, tested and refined can be formalised. They become 'good practice' and can be mainstreamed, allowing possibilities for:

- Communities of good practice to be developed around shared standards/protocols, shared data/tools, etc..
- Develop professional standards, professional societies
- Offer quality control and accreditation of data, tools, protocols, standards, professionals
- Offer training programmes
- Provide assurance of consistency and quality

# CoE building in OPERAS

As a basis for post-project perennity and to optimise saliency/relevance of outcomes and maximise long-term impact on sustainable development, the green economy, etc., the project phase of OPERAS includes:

- Identifying stakeholders
- Profiling communities and constituencies (in terms of their roles, perspectives, interests and needs)
- Starting to build communities of excellence and assured good practice

# RH and CoE links to other WPs

WP2,3,4 all contribute outcomes and reports to the Resource Hub:

- Knowledge: Novel metrics/methods for quantification/valuation of ES, decision trees for selecting appropriate quantification and valuation methods, etc..
- Practice: Good practice examples; evidence achieved through exemplars
- Instruments: Tools and instruments; guidance on choice and application of these

Outreach activities contribute to establishing RH and COE

# OpenNESS Clearing House

- OPERAS and OpenNESS projects running in parallel
- OPERAS RH to be developed alongside OpenNESS CH
- Both to be developed outside their projects, to be interoperable and ultimately to merge
- OPERAS' deliverables now include:
  - periodic tests and reports on interoperability of RH and CH (joint working group established)
  - interim market analysis and scoping exercise for business plan
  - final business plan
  - fully operational RH
  - policy brief on the RH

# Practicalities

- Development throughout project (M1-M60)
- Lead: WCMC (also includes: Lund, Edin, Prospex, UFZ, TIAMSAG, ALU, OBU, ECM, DENKSTATT, CIFOR)