



# AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP



## TERMS OF REFERENCES

### Enlarged Stakeholder Board



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## 1. Definitions and Abbreviations

Term and Abbreviation	Definition
<b>Coordination Team</b>	The Coordination Team is led by the Coordinator and includes all staff from Work Package 1 <sup>1</sup> .
<b>Governing Board (GB)</b>	The Governing Board is the decision-making body on strategic and political issues to the consortium.
<b>Partnership Assembly (PA)</b>	The Partnership Assembly is the decision-making body of the Consortium dealing with contractual issues (Grant Agreement).
<b>Preparatory Group (PG)</b>	This group consists of the Operational Team, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the GB and chairpersons of the SciSAB. The Preparatory Group prepares the GB meetings including documents to enable the decision-making during GB meetings.
<b>Scientific and Stakeholder Advisory Board (SciSAB)</b>	The SciSAB consists of high-level scientists and of key stakeholders in the remit of the Partnership with the task of providing advice and suggestions on strategy and the main activities of the AGROECOLOGY Partnership.
<b>Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)</b>	The overall purpose of the SRIA <sup>2</sup> is to define the general framework for strategic research and innovation activities to be undertaken under the AGROECOLOGY Partnership. The document will be updated twice during the lifetime of the Partnership.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 Summary of the AGROECOLOGY Partnership

AGROECOLOGY, the European Partnership ‘Accelerating Farming Systems Transition: Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures’, is an ambitious, large-scale European research and innovation endeavour between the European Commission (EC) and 31 Member States (MS), Associated Countries (AC) and Third Countries. The AGROECOLOGY Partnership has kicked off in January 2024 and will support over a planned duration of 10 years an agriculture sector that is fit to meet the targets and challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, food security and sovereignty, and the environment, while ensuring a profitable and attractive activity for farmers.

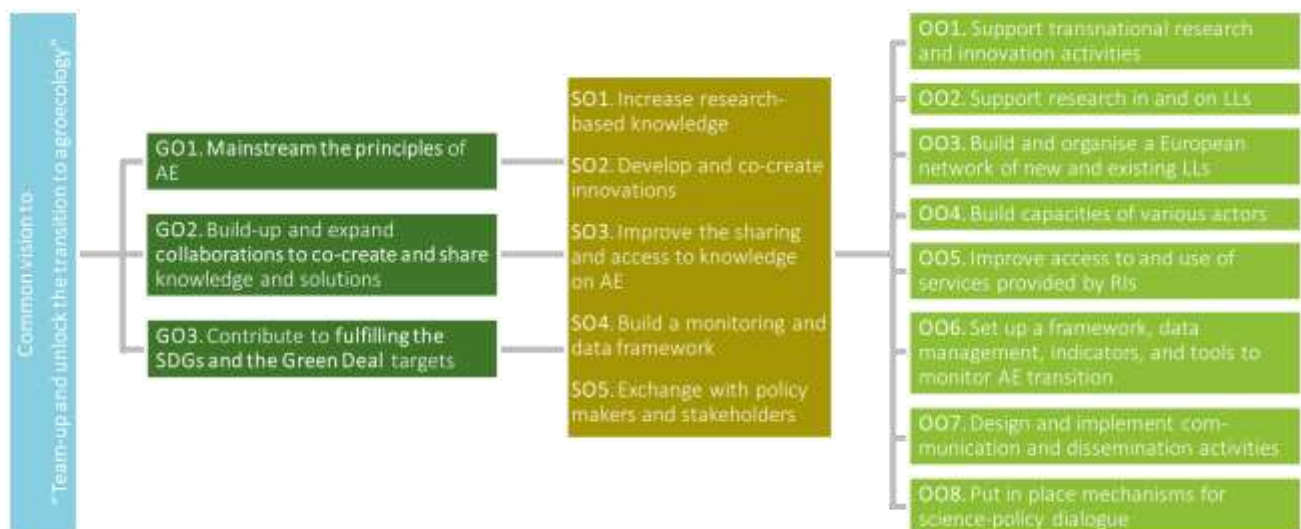
<sup>1</sup> WP1- Coordination, administration and management

<sup>2</sup> <https://ilvo.vlaanderen.be/uploads/documents/Agroecology-Partnership/240726-FECYT-TheAgroecologyPartnership%E2%80%99sSRIA-v6-DIGITAL-1.pdf>

A paradigm shift is needed in science, policy and practice to make the agriculture sector more sustainable, resilient and responsive to economic, societal and policy demands. Agroecology builds on natural, biological interactions while using state-of-the-art science, technology and innovation based on farmers' knowledge and scientific evidence. As real-life testing and experimentation environments, living labs are an appropriate instrument to accelerate the agroecology transition. Research infrastructures will also contribute to making scientific knowledge on agroecology available for this transition. Together, these instruments will allow for ambitious experimentation at different scales, merging science and practice, to provide science-based evidence on the effects of novel approaches and to accelerate the agroecology transition in Europe and beyond. AGROECOLOGY will pool the resources of the EC and the states involved to fund high-level research generating appropriate knowledge and innovation aligned with the core themes described in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, while also implementing a series of supporting activities to inform, consult, advise and educate different stakeholders to build capacities, raise awareness and manage and exchange the knowledge and data created.

## 2.2 Objectives of the partnership

AGROECOLOGY builds in particular on the SRIA with the following intervention logic (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Intervention logic of the AGROECOLOGY Partnership

The Partnership will achieve this by focusing on five Specific Objectives (SO) to be delivered by the end of the Partnership, 2030-2035:

- **SO1.** Increase research-based knowledge on the benefits and challenges of AE and its potential for farming, food, climate, ecosystem services and environmental impacts reduction as well as resource use and societal impacts; this implies research on e.g. AE benefits and trade-offs for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- **SO2.** Develop and co-create innovations to reduce and share the risks of transition for both individuals and collectives. Living Labs (hereafter LLs), by definition, bring together actors to co-create innovation in real life conditions while reducing risks for both the individual farmer (or other actors) and the collective.
- **SO3.** Improve the sharing and access to knowledge on AE, as well as reinforce the agricultural knowledge and innovation systems for AE across Europe, considering culture, gender, and youth aspects; this will be achieved through a network of LLs and Research Infrastructures (hereafter RIs), as well as targeted communication to different actors; this also includes removing the current barriers and lock-ins that prevent the engagement of scientists, advisors and farmers in AE transition.

- **SO4.** Build a monitoring and data framework to measure progress of AE transition and improve data valorisation and sharing; harmonised methods and a set of common indicators will be developed to measure progress, integrating currently fragmented data repositories, including those of research infrastructures, and making them available.
- **SO5.** Exchange with policymakers (research and sectoral) and stakeholders on AE transition and mainstreaming of AE practices to contribute to improved governance, policies, and institutions, based on evidence and to provide supportive mechanisms; in order to achieve impact, the involvement of policymakers and stakeholders is needed and policies and governance adapted to support AE transition.

### 3. Enlarged Stakeholder Board (ESB)

#### 3.1 Role

The main role of the Enlarged Stakeholder Board (ESB) is to inform the Stakeholders about the main activities and outputs of the AGROECOLOGY Partnership. In addition, the ESB will provide inputs to the AGROECOLOGY Partnership, in particular regarding the research and knowledge needs relevant for unlocking, accelerating, and scaling the agroecology transition. In this regard, **the members will, in their own field of expertise, contribute:**

- **to the identification and co-building of research** needs to be addressed by the partnership.
- to improve **science-based transfer** towards practical innovation on the ground.

#### 3.2 Composition

The ESB is organised into 7 thematic colleges, representing a broad range of stakeholders from farm to fork:

- **College of Farmers' Organisations** (e.g.: regional or national representatives, unions, non-profit organisations)
- **College of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)** (e.g.: public and private advisory services, extension services)
- **College of Economic Activities and Actors of Value Chains** (e.g.: up/downstream value chain actors, innovators)
- **College of Civil Society** (e.g.: citizen organisations, NGOs)
- **College of Policy Actors** (e.g.: policy design and/or implementation at regional, national, international levels)
- **College of Living Labs and Research Infrastructures** (from local, regional, national, European or international levels)
- **College of Sister Initiatives** (e.g.: HEU Soil Mission, HEU Partnerships, international initiatives)

The number of ESB members is non-limited.

#### 3.3 Chairs and Vice-chairs of the ESB

Each of the seven ESB thematic colleges elects a representative (Chair) and – if necessary – a deputy representative (Vice-Chair) to be member of the Science and Stakeholder Advisory Board (SciSAB) of the AGROECOLOGY Partnership. In the SciSAB, each College Chair (and Vice-Chair) acts as representative of its respective ESB college. To be member of the SciSAB, it is mandatory to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (see Annex).

## 4. Terms of office

An [Open Call to to join the ESB](#) will be published by the AGROECOLOGY Partnership and all relevant organisations are invited to apply. Membership is granted at the organisational level for the duration of the AGROECOLOGY Partnership, with each organisation free to designate one representative. All ESB member organisations and their respective representatives will be publicly listed on the AGROECOLOGY Partnership website.

The members of the ESB will be selected through a shortlisting process led by the AGROECOLOGY Partnership's Coordination Team at the end of each quarter.

## 5. Meetings of the ESB

### 5.1 Meeting frequency and attendance

The ESB will meet at least once a year, generally by video conference. Meeting dates will be fixed 45 days in advance.

Regular attendance and participation to meetings, working groups, etc. is expected.

### 5.2 Preparation of meetings

The Coordination Team of the AGROECOLOGY Partnership will propose an agenda and prepare the relevant material for information to be sent to the ESB members at least 15 calendar days prior to each ESB meeting.

### 5.3 Meeting conclusions

The Coordination Team the AGROECOLOGY Partnership will produce written conclusions of each ESB meeting. The Coordination Team will send these electronically in draft form to all of its members after the meeting. The final conclusions will be shared with the entire AGROECOLOGY Partnership (including Partnership Assembly (PA) and Preparatory Group (PG)), the Governing Board, Funders Board and SciSAB for consideration.