

Ecosystem services on the ground - promises and pitfalls

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The concept of ecosystem services (ESs) has risen to prominence in science and policy discourses. As ESs are being recognized, assessed and applied widely in sustainability approaches, the connotations and values associated and the applicability of the ESs framework are continuously being debated. How ESs are perceived in a real-life world by different actors? How society aspirations influence the perception and application of ESs concept? What can the specific CEE view provide to the Western European academia and practice? Can ES be our magic tool or should we rather start a search urgently for a new one?

Our keynote speakers represent conservation biology and ecological economics disciplines. As experienced trans- and interdisciplinary researchers, Tibor and Eszter will share their perspectives and on-the-ground experiences with the challenges of using the 'ES language' among local communities and regional policy makers. The plenary will cite case studies and include stories from the rapidly changing Central and Eastern European landscape, giving a strong CEE focus.