

Living Labs for Landscape Research: Concept(s) and potentials for implementation

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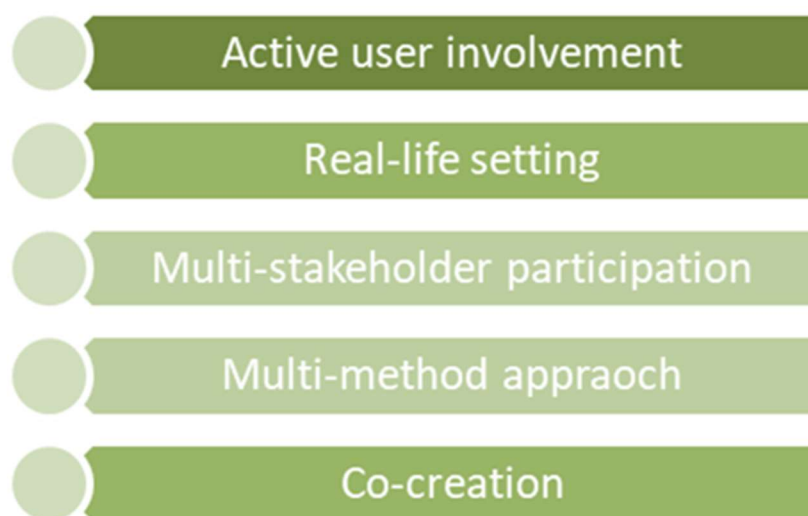
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Common Elements of Living Labs

Agricultural landscapes and land use are characterized by many social, environmental and economic challenges. Societal pressure is growing to initiate sustainability-oriented change, amongst them approaches for diversification of agricultural landscapes. In this context, a new and intervening role for science in real-world environments is increasingly being discussed. Transformative and action-research approaches such as Living Labs, real-world labs and niche experiments are considered as particularly promising. These labs can be regarded as facilities that enable experimentation and co-creation with users in real-life environments. Originating in socio-technical innovation research, to date, these transformative research approaches are predominantly discussed and applied in the context of urban developments. The objective of this master class is to initiate a reflection on the potential of the Living Labs concept for linking or advancing inter- and transdisciplinary natural and social sciences research in their pursuit to contribute towards the transformation of agricultural landscapes into more resilient, sustainable social-ecological systems.

We invite participants from different world regions to share their experiences and to discuss whether and how Living Labs are suitable to prototype and test approaches for diversification. In particular we aim to:

- Shed light on Living Labs and alike concepts as an emerging model for interdisciplinary and transformative research;
- Reflect on the core elements, conditions, potentials and challenges for the adaptation of the Living Labs concept for research in agricultural landscapes;
- Sketching out an implementation plan for a Living Lab on a landscape level.

Session format:

We invite researchers at any level and from multiple disciplines, various stakeholders and decision makers that are interested in developing an approach for Living Labs in agricultural landscapes. We start off the master class with 3-5 short input presentations covering conceptual background, their place in the EU research agenda and experiences with their implementation in different settings. This will be followed by a World Café on core elements, conditions and potentials for the adaptation of the Living Labs concept in agricultural landscapes research. We finalize the class with a structured group work on a conceptual implementation plan.

Maximum number of participants: 30