

June 4, 2025

#EU
GREEN
WEEK

THE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS: BUILDING RESILIENCE TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Partner Event

Advancing Interdisciplinary Capacity through the Nexus EXCELLENTIA Mentoring Programme

Giannis Adamos¹, Tamara Rađenović²

¹ Department of Civil Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Thessaloniki, Greece

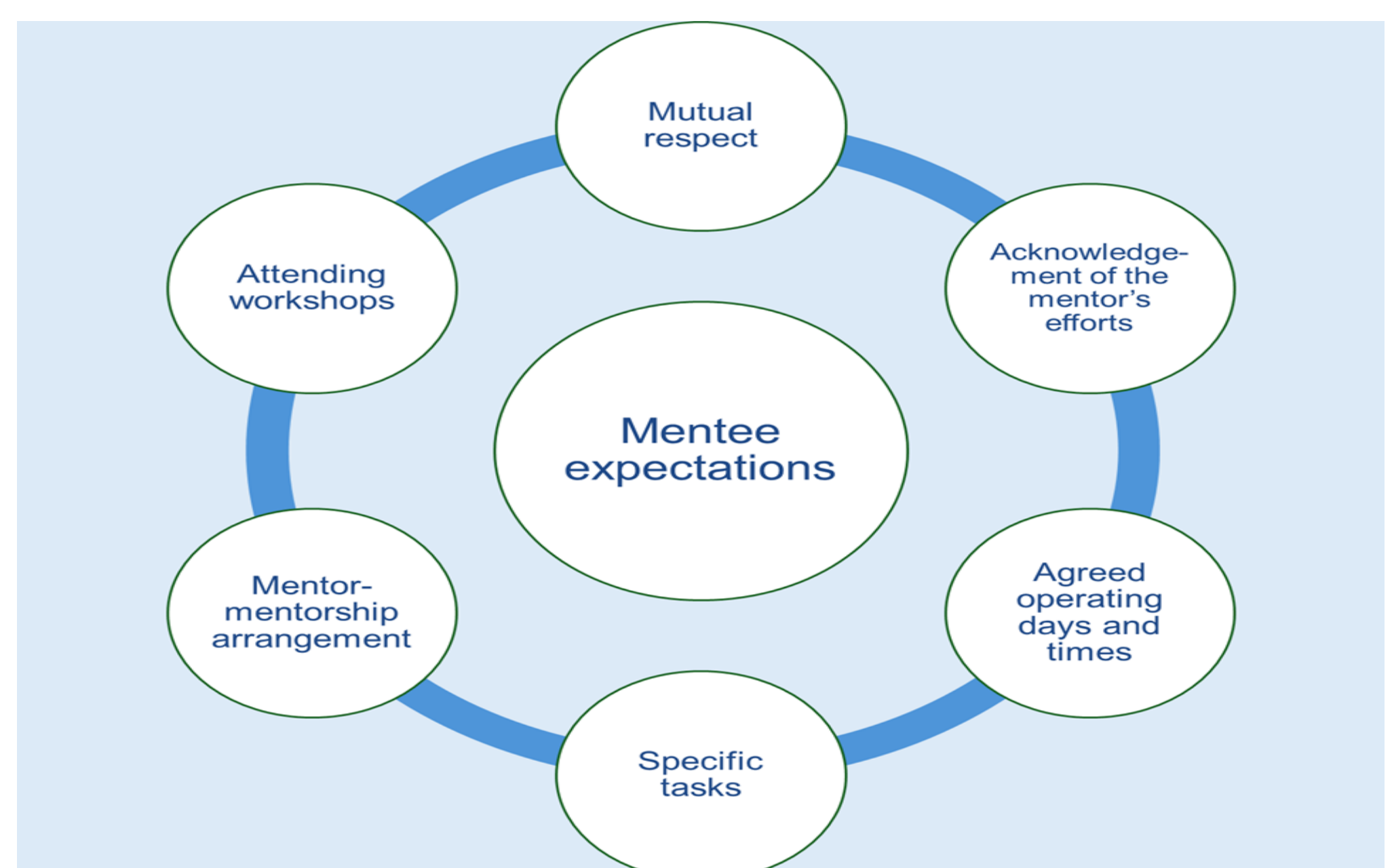
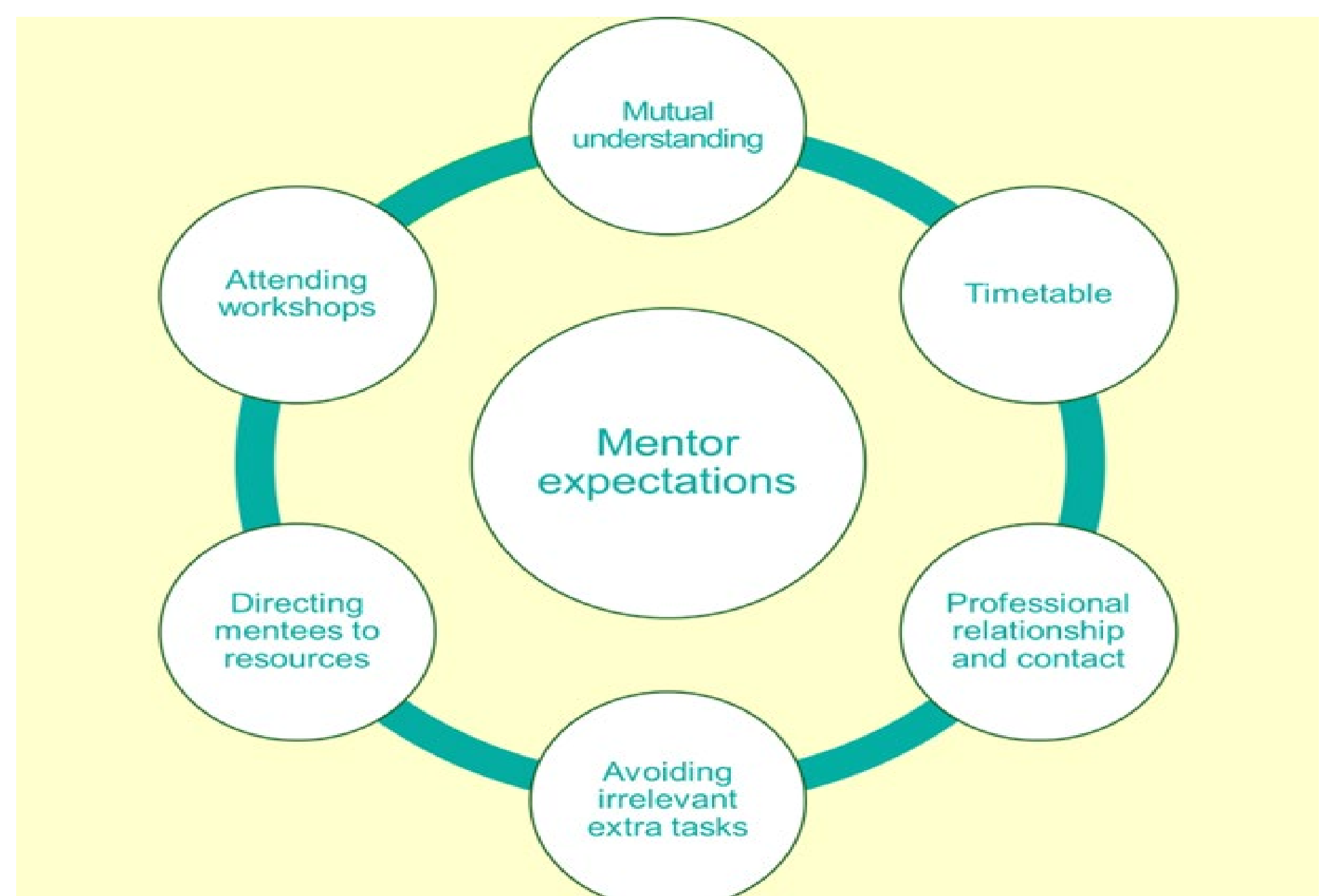
² Faculty of Occupational Safety, University of Niš (UNI), Niš, Serbia

Addressing complex sustainability challenges within the Water-Energy-Food+ (WEF+) Nexus requires a transdisciplinary research framework and enhanced collaboration across generations and sectors. Despite increasing recognition of these needs, structured opportunities for capacity development, especially for early-career researchers, remain insufficient across European and international research communities.

To bridge this gap, the COST Action CA20138 NEXUSNET has launched **Nexus EXCELLENTIA**, a formal mentoring programme designed to foster intergenerational exchange, strengthen interdisciplinary skillsets, and support early-career integration into the Nexus research landscape.



- February 2024 - Call to join the mentoring programme
- April 16, 2024 - **Kick-off of the Nexus Excellentia**
- All participants developed their 'trees' reflecting personal info, education, achievements, skills, work experience, hobbies, and needs.
- Matched **18 mentoring pairs** from diverse academic and policy backgrounds, based on shared research interests and professional goals



Initial feedback indicates enhanced research productivity, improved access to collaborative networks, and increased engagement of mentees in Nexus-related COST activities, such as short-term scientific missions (STSMs), virtual mobilities (VMs) and working group outputs. Beyond advancing competences, the programme has fostered mutual learning, trust-building, and long-term cooperation opportunities.

