



# COST Action | CA20138 | NexusNet

## Network on Water-Energy-Food Nexus for a low-carbon economy in Europe and beyond

### Nexus EXCELLENTIA: the NexusNet mentoring program Kick-off meeting | 16.04.2024

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# The concept

- ✓ Gather all young researchers & innovators of NexusNet in one group
- ✓ Organize activities attached to pre-scheduled events of NexusNet
- ✓ Offer mentoring opportunities to members of the group
- ✓ Support funding opportunities for research and mobility
- ✓ Open new opportunities to join other groups/networks, i.e. SDSN Youth Networks, EU research projects, other COST Actions
- ✓ Offer “access” to working on scientific papers and briefs
- ✓ Train young professionals – skills improvement for career development
- ✓ Promote their work in wide audience

# Active participation in NEXUSNET

## Working Groups

**1. Monitoring & modelling the Nexus**

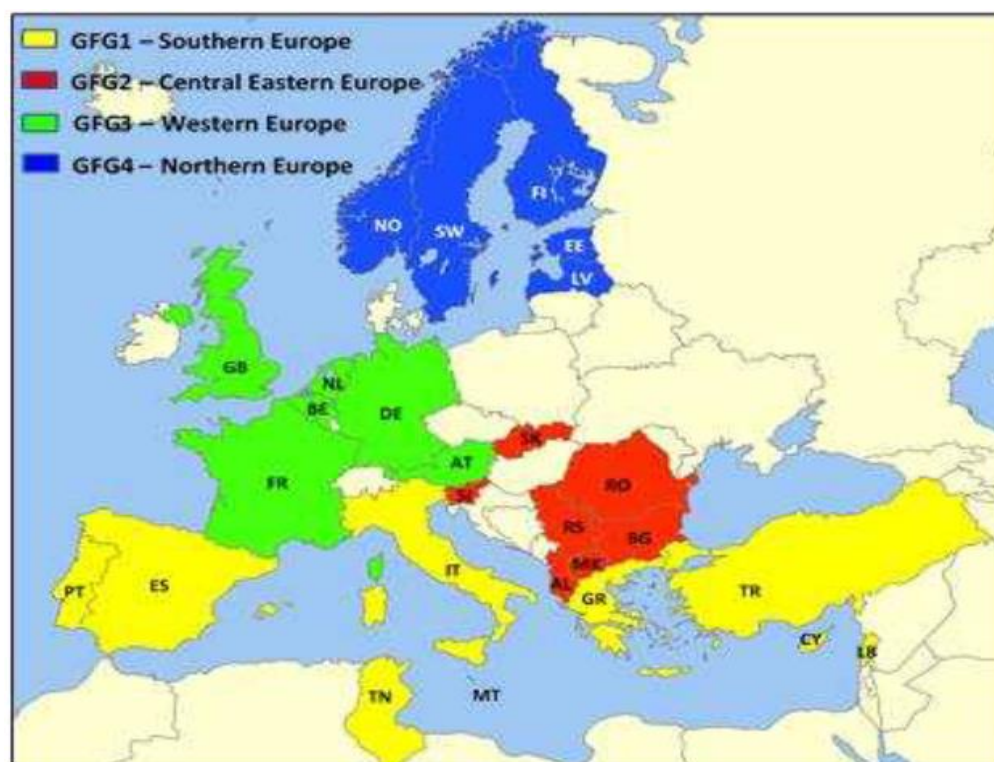
**2. Nexus applications**

**3. Policy measures**

**4. Outreach**

**5. Organization & monitoring of events**

**6. Stakeholder coordination**





# Activities

- ✓ Development of a detailed database of the Network's members (background, interests, PhD or MSc in progress, etc.)
- ✓ Establishment of mentor-mentee “relationships” and co-work
- ✓ Involvement in “international level” days, i.e. “International Day of Women and Girls in Science”, “Global Biodiversity Day”, etc.
- ✓ Organization of PhD Workshops (or grants provision to join such workshops)
- ✓ Organization of Academia Brokerage Events
- ✓ Preparation of blogs to be distributed via NexusNet communication channels
- ✓ Development of **NexusNet Virtual Career Office** (special session in NEXUSNET website)



# Develop skills

- ✓ **Methods for Nexus research**
  - Scenario analysis
  - Life cycle assessment
  - Tradeoff analysis
  - Input-output analysis
  - Economic modelling
  - Multi-criteria analysis
  - Questionnaires/surveys
  - Interviews
  - Sectoral modelling, i.e. hydrological modelling
  - Use of Artificial Intelligence methodologies/tools
  - Systems analysis
  - Geospatial analysis



# Develop skills

- ✓ **Stakeholder engagement**
  - Build democracy and trust
  - Provide fair and balanced information
  - Educate them
  - Develop solutions that incorporate their knowledge and reflect their expectations
  - Empower their role in decision making
- ✓ **Stakeholder identification in Nexus related research processes**
- ✓ **Impact analysis and evaluation**
- ✓ **Enablers and gaps**



# NEXUSNET Virtual Career Office

- ✓ Mission
- ✓ European research policies and regulations
- ✓ Research sources
- ✓ Universities' research regulations, policies and guidelines
- ✓ Toolkit (guidelines for scientific writing, plagiarism, spelling and grammar checking)
- ✓ Career (planning – cv, reference letters, vacancies and researchers' mobility, current jobs offers)



# Expectations for mentors

- ✓ Time that are able to commit to the mentee – mutual understanding
- ✓ Arrangement of meetings with the mentee - Timetable / Calendar
- ✓ Direct mentees to resources
- ✓ Attendance of mentoring program workshops
- ✓ Not to give mentee extra tasks irrelevant to their work
- ✓ Professional relationship and contact





# Expectations for mentees

- ✓ Clarity of mentees' purpose
- ✓ Participation in meetings and preparation of specific questions
- ✓ Agreed operating days and times
- ✓ Mutual respect / Professional conduct / Relationship
- ✓ Acknowledgement of the mentor's efforts
- ✓ Mentor-mentorship arrangement – Supervisors
- ✓ Specific tasks
- ✓ Participation in workshops



# Sectors

## WEFE +

- ✓ Climate
- ✓ Forestry
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Tourism
- ✓ Transport
- ✓ Energy supply
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Wastewater management
- ✓ Water supply
- ✓ Land use planning
- ✓ Biodiversity conservation
- ✓ Economic development



# Funding

- ✓ NexusNet
- ✓ Seek for scholarships & internships
- ✓ MC members via their organizations to offer funding/mobility opportunities
- ✓ Other programs: ERASMUS+





# Actions

- ✓ *Open Call to join Nexus EXCELLENTIA*
- ✓ *Evaluation of applications*
- ✓ *Selection of mentors-mentees*
- ✓ “Pairwise matching”
- ✓ Work plan
- ✓ Milestones
- ✓ Visibility