



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

Dr. Giannis Adamos

Assistant Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece



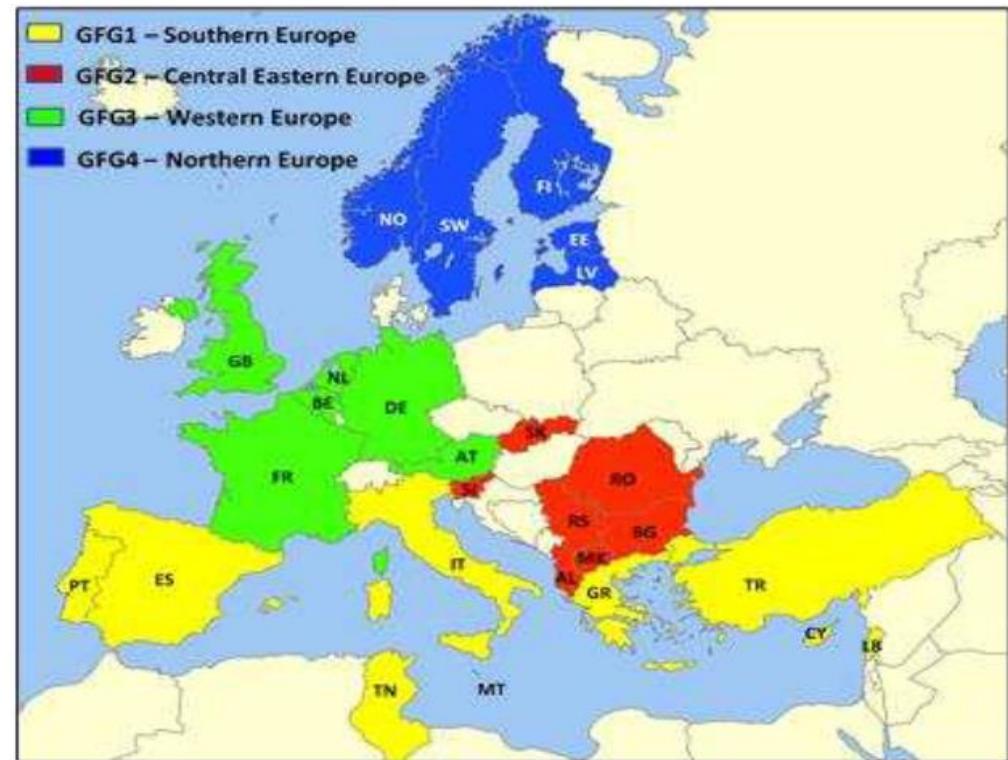
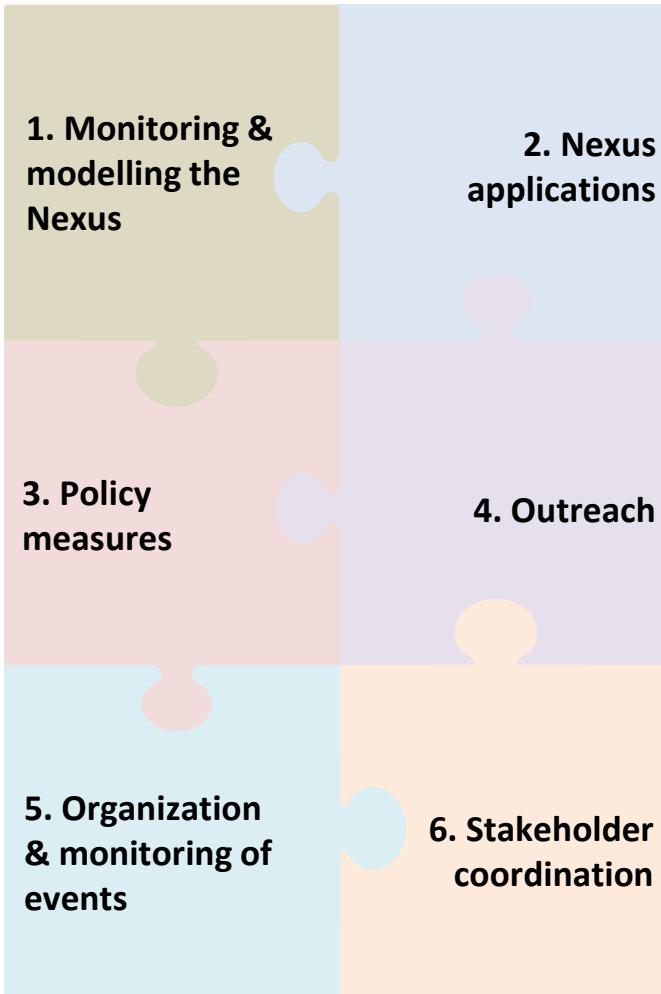


The concept

- ✓ 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





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