BALANSED

Biomass **A**ssessment of **L**and **a**n**d** **S**ea for **E**ngagement and **D**eliberation

Funded by the European Union

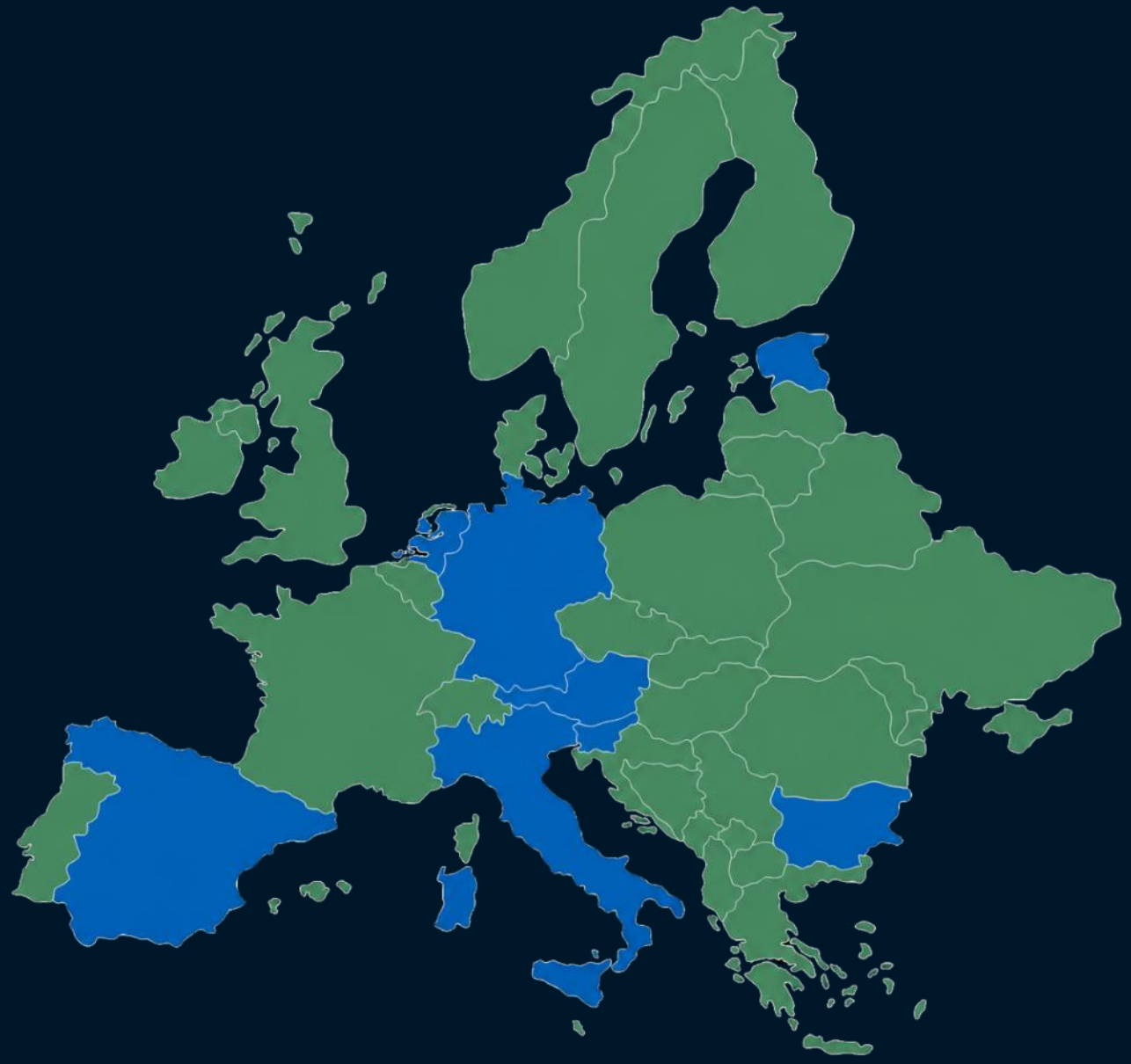
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About the project

- Grant Agreement Number: 101296065
- Funded under: Horizon Europe
- Call: HORIZON-CL6-2025-03-GOVERNANCE-05
- Duration: 54 months (1 June 2026 – 30 November 2030)
- Keywords: public deliberation, citizen engagement, biomass assessment, biodiversity, climate adaptation, evidence-based policy

The consortium

- 11 partners
- 8 EU countries
- 4.5m € funding



Partners

The core issue

- Land and sea use decisions involve real trade-offs between different groups' needs.
- These groups rarely have the chance to discuss those trade-offs together before a decision is made.
- It is important to translate different views and groups’ needs into quantitative assessments that inform policy makers.
- BALANSED ensures these assessments are rooted in regional realities rather than one-size-fits-all solutions.

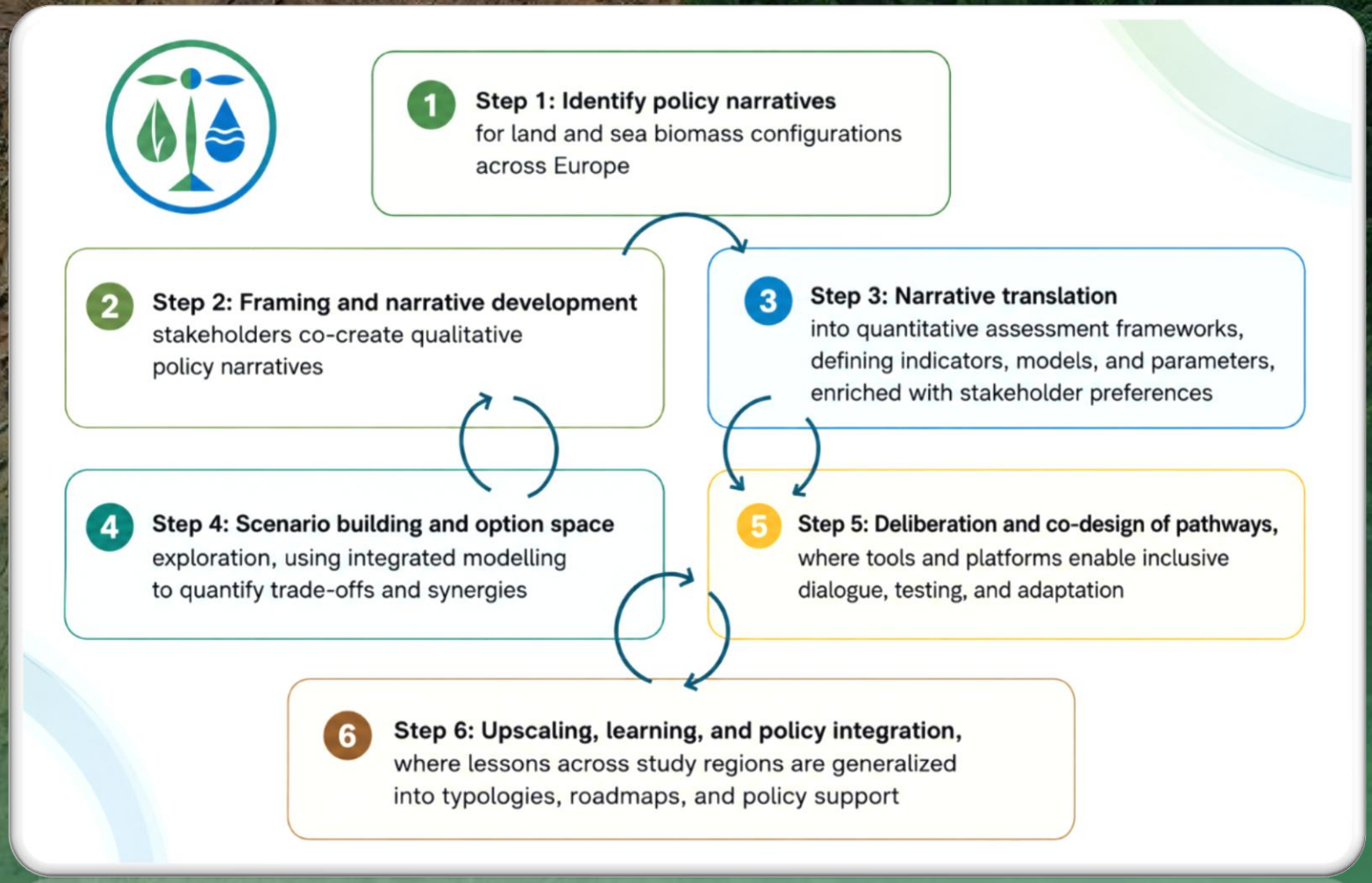


Objectives

BALANSED links deliberation with science, so regions can choose land, sea and biomass futures that are feasible, viable and socially desirable

- Map what exists - the policies and real-world cases shaping land, sea and biomass use across the EU
- Test it where it counts - applying our tools in 6 local regions and 2 cross regional study cases through genuine feedback loops
- Build real deliberation - inclusive processes, co-designed and tested across 8 study regions
- Leave something Europe can reuse and further refine - a deliberation protocol, a public Toolkit, and policy briefs for any EU region
- Turn narratives into evidence - translating community input into quantitative, comparable and modelled assessments
- Build lasting partnerships - connecting BALANSED to Europe's wider research and policy landscape

The BALANSED approach

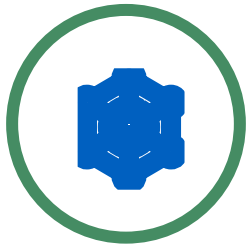


Chosen methodology



Quantitative modelling

Integrated modelling partners (like WR, IIASA, OGS, WU) calculate the real limits of land and sea biomass



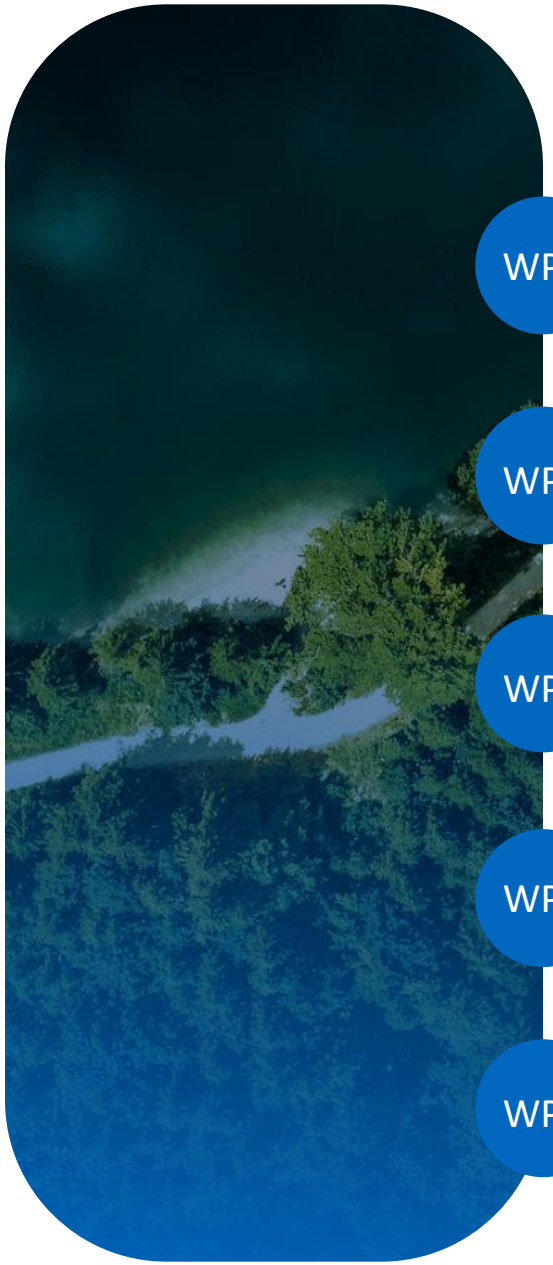
Deliberation

Regional partners set up deliberation processes in 6 local study regions across Europe to get real human input



Policy (co-design)

Translating the results into resilient, adaptive policy scenarios that align local decisions with the EU Green Deal



Work Packages

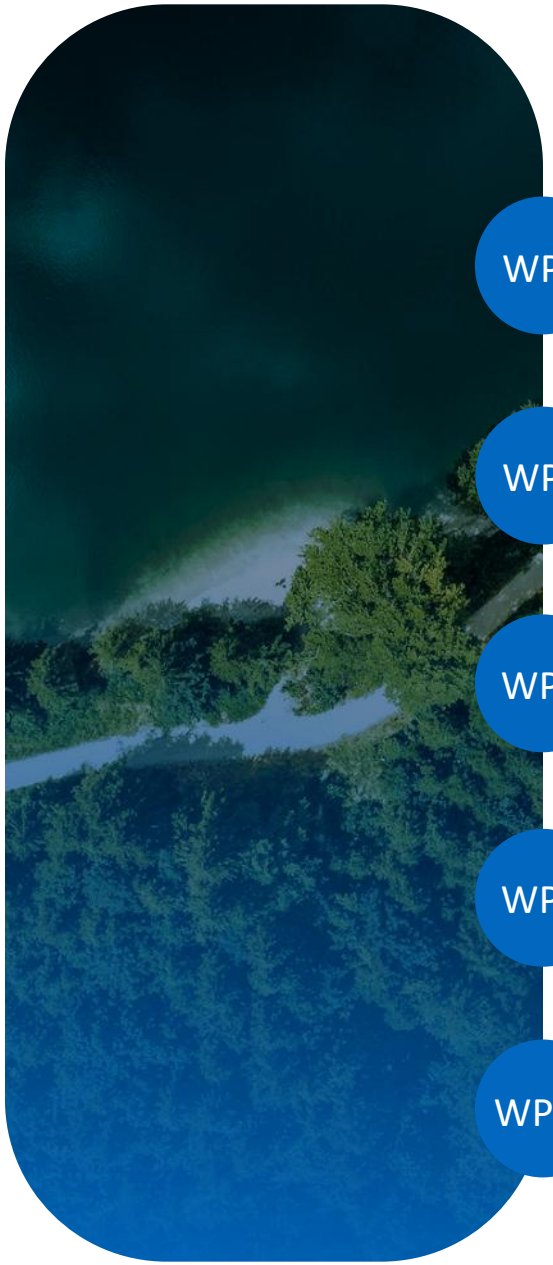
WP1 Reviewing today's policies and mapping 40+ real-world use cases

WP2 Mapping and building on the deliberation already happening in our study regions

WP3 Putting proven tools - QUICKScan and Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping - into stakeholders' hands

WP4 Building a harmonised, open set of 40+ land and sea indicators

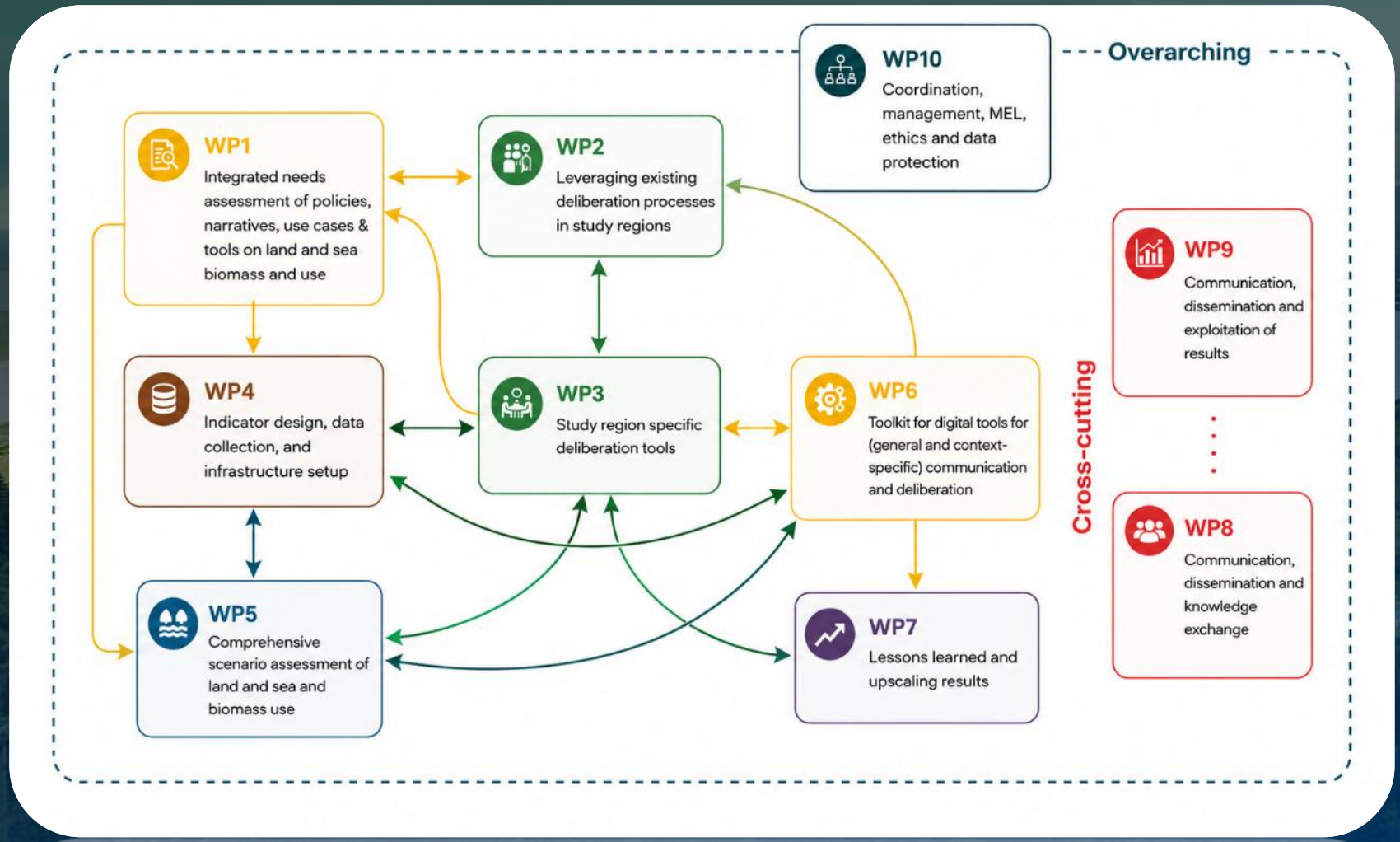
WP5 Linking established models into one integrated land-sea-biomass framework



Work Packages

- **WP6** Delivering the public BALANSED Deliberation Toolkit
- **WP7** Turning local lessons into a European roadmap and policy briefs
- **WP8** Building BALANSED's identity, website and early outreach
- **WP9** Sharing results and building partnerships that outlast the project
- **WP10** Coordinating the consortium, ethics and data protection throughout

BALANSED WP interlinks



Study Regions



La Mancha, Spain

Arid farmland choosing between food, energy and a shrinking water supply



Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Fertile plains balancing farm growth against biodiversity and soil carbon



Slovenia

A forest nation coordinating timber, carbon, biodiversity and recreation across thousands of owners



The Adriatic

A warming, productive sea shared across three governance systems

Study Regions



Võru,
Estonia

Small farms testing whether organic agriculture can pay, not just protect



Castilla y León &
Castilla-La Mancha

An ageing countryside exploring new crops and land uses



The
Mediterranean
Sea

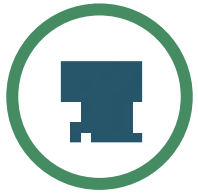
Scaling Adriatic lessons to seven countries and one shared basin



EU27

Bringing every region's lessons together into one European picture

Expected outcomes & exploitable assets



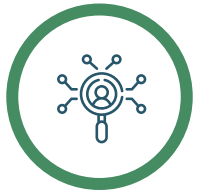
Integrated modelling framework: Provides a developed and validated, high-resolution, spatially explicit modelling framework integrating land-sea biomass, ecosystem dynamics, and techno-economic optimisation



Online Deliberation Toolkit for the study regions: Rollout of study-region-specific online stakeholder engagement platforms all grounded in user feedback loops between online and offline deliberation processes



Scalable pan-European public Deliberation Toolkit: Online platform on the BALANSED website

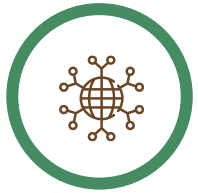


Indicator framework for trade-off analysis of policy mixes: Initial cross-sectoral indicators incorporating initial KPIs for trade-off assessment, with documented roles for terrestrial and marine contributions

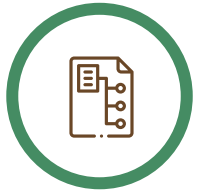
Expected outcomes & exploitable assets



Post-project exploitation roadmap for datasets and indicators: Detailing how datasets, indicators, and scenario outputs can be maintained, reused, and expanded beyond the project lifetime



Central database containing all BALANSED use case assessment results: Provides environmental, economic and social indicators on regional, national and EU-level, including spatial outputs



Roadmap for deliberation processes: Consolidates learnings from WP2 and WP3 into a roadmap to be used as guidance for setting up new deliberation processes in other regions

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