



BESTMAP Newsletter: Latest from the project

Since the beginning of BESTMAP: an update of the project's achievements

Along the way of fulfilling BESTMAP's goal, the project members have created a collection of deliverables, which gives an overview of the projects' activities and achievements. Whilst the project is actively working towards significant outcomes, the deliverables delineate the path to reaching the project's objectives.

You can find below the list of submitted deliverables. Following approval by the commission, each deliverable will be available on the BESTMAP website.

Submitted Deliverables		
D1.2	February 2020	Data Management Plan
D6.3	April 2020	Communication & Dissemination Plan
D6.1	August 2020	Analysis of needs and capacity of different audiences including policy makers, expert practitioners and other modellers
D1.3	October 2020	Guidelines and protocols harmonizing activities across case studies
D3.1	November 2020	Case study base layer dataset for each of the case studies
D3.4	November 2020	Summaries of data, obstacles and challenges from interview campaigns
D2.2	December 2020	Conceptual framework design & architecture
D1.4	February 2021	Data Management Plan (update 1)
D3.2	February 2021	European base layer
D3.5	June 2021	Farm System Archetypes (FSAs) for each CS

[Read more](#)

BESTMAP workshop: Improving the environmental and social capacity of EC impact assessment tools

In July 2020, BESTMAP held a workshop entitled "Improving the environmental and social capacity of EC impact assessment tools" in an entirely online environment. The event was divided into plenary sessions and three thematic breakout discussion groups. The workshop has been attended by 37 external members, including [European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development \(DG AGRI\)](#), the [European Commission's Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#), DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG SANTE and members from the AGRIMODELS Cluster.



[Read more](#)

BESTMAP participated in the GEO BON Open Science Conference & All Hands Meeting

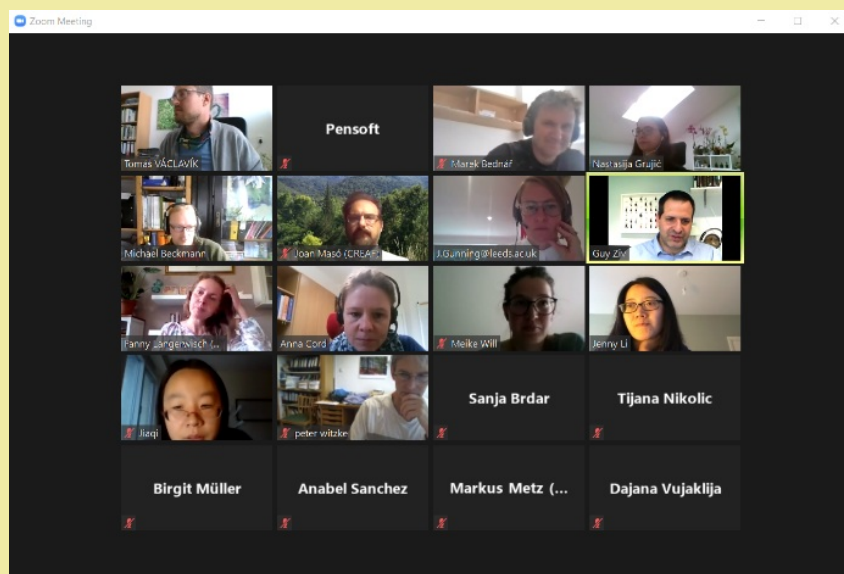
The concept, aims and expected outcomes of the BESTMAP project were presented during the poster section of the GEO BON online conference in July 2020.



[Read more](#)

BESTMAP's Second annual meeting

The project's second annual meeting was held online on 21-23 September 2020. All of the BESTMAP partners gathered to discuss the project's achievements over the past year, along with upcoming tasks and their vision for the future of the project.



[Read more](#)

The AGRIMODELS cluster raises awareness towards

agricultural sustainability

A press release on the AGRIMODELS Cluster has been published in the online science news portal EurekAlert! and the European Commission's news and events service CORDIS Wire. The announcement informs about the collaboration between the three EU research projects - AGRICORE, BESTMAP and MIND STEP in their common goal to design modelling capabilities in the agricultural sector, while at the same time contributing to the creation of a new agenda of the agricultural policies within the European Union.



[Read the full press release](#)

BESTMAP enters the UK Government

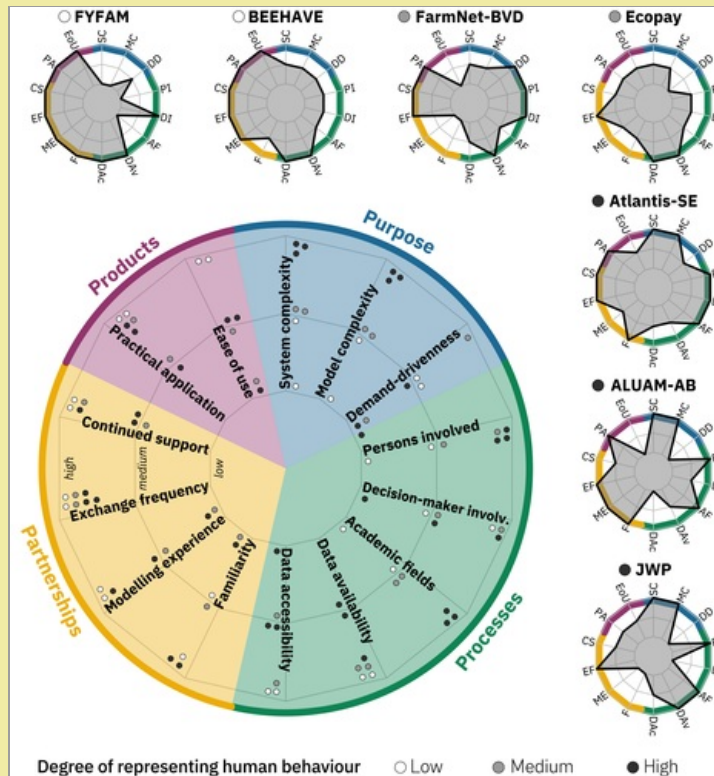
BESTMAP is delighted to share that the project's coordinator, Prof Guy Ziv, has been invited by the United Kingdom's government to serve as a member of the Environmental Land Management Modelling Expert Panel (MEP)! Prof Ziv has been selected for this role in recognition of his coordination of BESTMAP and his broader expertise on the Common Agricultural Policy. Via this panel, he will provide independent review and scrutiny of the UK government's Modelling Strategy and recommendations to inform modelling decisions.



[Read more](#)

The first BESTMAP study investigates how can socio-environmental modelling support policy and management

The first BESTMAP-supported research paper is now available in the People and Nature journal. The study investigates the possible ways of making socio-environmental modelling more prominent to support policy and management and has been conducted with the involvement of the BESTMAP experts Meike Will (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig, Germany) and Brigit Muller (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig, Germany).



[Read more](#)

The AGRIMODELS cluster is attended the 16th Congress of the European Association of Agricultural Economists

The AGRIMODELS Cluster, formed by the Horizon 2020 projects BESTMAP, AGRICORE and MIND STEP participated in the sixteenth congress of the European Association of Agricultural Economics (EAAE), which took place on 20 - 23 July 2021 in an entirely virtual environment.

XVI EAAE Congress

“Raising the Impact of Agricultural Economics: Multidisciplinarity, Stakeholder Engagement and Novel Approaches”

[Read more](#)

The BESTMAP Leaflet: What does the European agriculture sector need from policy makers

In pursuit of the goal to establish ecological and socio-economic tools for modelling agricultural policy, which will enhance the sustainability of agricultural landscapes, while ensuring farmers' livelihoods, BESTMAP wants to share key achievements with policy and decision makers.

To achieve this, the project created a summary leaflet, presenting the twelve Brussels-based interviews with representatives of agricultural producers, inputs industry, environmental NGOs and expert think tanks. The interviews were aimed to establish the drivers of change and the trade-offs in European Agriculture policy.



BESTMAP
BEHAVIOURAL, ECOLOGICAL & SOCIO-ECONOMIC
TOOLS FOR MODELLING AGRICULTURAL POLICY

What does the European agriculture sector need from policy makers?

As part of Horizon 2020 BESTMAP project, we interviewed 12 Brussels-based representatives of agricultural producers, inputs industry, environmental NGOs and expert think tanks, on the drivers of change and the trade-offs in European Agriculture policy.

Their feedback showed support for four key objectives for the future policy development of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):

- **A fairer distribution of value in the food chain**
- Moving away from direct payments and income support to public funds for public goods
- Less policy uncertainty and **better understanding and consideration of trade-offs**, especially with regard to land use
- Policy that **considers the food system as a whole**

Transitioning the CAP from a policy for income support to a policy for public goods

- A majority of interviewees suggested an overhaul of the current CAP should focus primarily on shifting away from direct payments and income support, to a policy that looks at the food system holistically, and/or compensates only public goods.
- Focused investment in agricultural innovation.

Distribution of value

- Interviewees argued for a fairer distribution of value in the food chain; stronger social policies to deal with necessary increase in food prices.

Explore the BESTMAP leaflet

Latest news from the AGRIMODELS cluster

**MIND
STEP**



Highlights from MINDSTEP project

- MINDSTEP's second Stakeholder workshop was held online on 22 April 2021. The event was focused on the relevance of the MINDSTEP indicator framework to estimate the impacts of the selected policy scenarios and the ability of the MINDSTEP toolbox to model the scenarios. Read more [here](#).
- On invitation by the ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk MINDSTEP was presented at the Good Practice online Workshop, 'Improving data management and information systems for the purpose of CAP evaluations' 16-17 March 2021. Read more [here](#).

Learn more about MINDSTEP



Highlights from AGRICORE project

- AGRICORE held successfully the first review meeting on the 8th of June, achieving one big milestone of the project!;
- AGRICORE will participate at the [179th EAAE Seminar](#) organized in Crete, Greece by the group of Prof. Mattas (leading one of AGRICORE's academic partners) on the 8-9th of September 2021 presenting the main results of the Synthetic Population Generation;
- AGRICORE will attend the [EU Conference on modelling for policy support: collaborating across disciplines to tackle key policy challenges](#) held on 22-26th of November 2021.

Learn more about AGRICORE

The AGRIMODELS cluster is online!

We are part of the AGRIMODEL Cluster between [#BESTMAP](#), [#AGRICORE](#) and [#MINDSTEP](#).

We have joined efforts for the common goal - to enhance agricultural models and practices!



Learn more about the AGRIMODELS cluster

Comming up next

- The next annual meeting of all BESTMAP partners will take place in early November and will concentrate on our vision for the next stage of the project.
- BESTMAP will present at several conferences including [Landscape 2021](#) in Berlin, 20-22 September 2021, International Biogeography Society [Early Career Conference - Amsterdam](#) 22-24 October 2021 and the [IALE 2022 European Landscape Ecology Congress](#) in Warsaw, 11-15 July 2022.
- Work has now commenced on the upscaling component of the project and this will continue to be a focus in the next months. Activities on biophysical modelling of ecosystem services is well underway and is expected to conclude in February 2020.

In addition to the above, two other significant research activities will take place, as below:

Farmer survey

During the Autumn of 2021, BESTMAP will conduct a large scale quantitative survey of farmers in the case study regions to further understand their motivations and barriers to adopting agri-environmental schemes. The data collected from this activity will help to inform the agent-based models we are developing.

Co-design sessions

In early 2022, BESTMAP will conduct co-design sessions with policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders in the case study regions to look at how the dashboard we are developing will work and how we can ensure its usefulness to them.



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