



MANAGING RESILIENT NEXUS SYSTEMS THROUGH
PARTICIPATORY SYSTEMS DYNAMICS MODELLING

Deliverable 7.7 – Nexus e-dialogues

WP7 – PATHWAYS TO IMPACT

www.rexusproject.eu

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1. Introduction: Nexus e-dialogues

As analysed in D7.1 Communication & Dissemination Strategy, the REXUS project places strong emphasis on building Learning and Action Alliances in pilot areas as a means of bridging the gap between Water-Energy-Food-Climate-Ecosystems Nexus scientific research and policymaking. However, while it can be assumed that the scientific community understands and accepts the validity of the Nexus approach, this is not the case with end-users and stakeholders, such as farmers, and often policymakers. For many of the latter, the Nexus may be an unknown concept, or at best a theoretical construct which they cannot relate to their own experience and agenda. REXUS recognizes that many of the stakeholders it will engage will initially not see themselves as stakeholders of an integrated Nexus approach.

It is key to consider that for local stakeholders, Nexus will be the *end state* of affairs, rather than the starting point. The project's communication approach needs to build understanding from the ground up – not seeking to impose its own concepts on reality on the ground, but gradually connecting the evolving reality in the pilot sites developing reality to the Nexus framework.

REXUS stakeholders sitting together for the first time, jointly discussing and analyzing challenges will feel they are enriching their viewpoint by seeing things from a different vantage point. Being able to jointly devise solutions and overcome barriers for their entire basin systems will provide them with the best 'experiential proof' of the value of the Nexus approach.

The Nexus e-dialogues are a communication tool aiming precisely to boost this experiential process. They take the form of video and audio broadcasts which will lay out, in simple and concrete ways and using practical examples, the Nexus challenges of the pilot areas. They will discuss the challenges involved with the building of effective Learning and Action Alliances, also sharing best practices and lessons learned. Nexus e-dialogues will also discuss how the project can offer solutions that are relevant and useful from the local stakeholder's perspectives, rather than from a strictly scientific viewpoint.

The Nexus e-dialogues will engage members of the project's consortium, as well as stakeholders from pilot areas, to give their own accounts in a manner that is sincere and direct, without hiding the challenges and difficulties from view, and also sharing the members' personal visions and aspirations.

2. The Nexus E-dialogues

2.1 REXUS project vision

This Nexus e-dialogue takes the form of a video with testimonies from the project consortium members and members of the Advisory Committee, and was shot at the project's second plenary meeting, 27-29 April 2022 in Spain. The participants discuss what makes the REXUS project different and give concrete examples of tools being developed by the project which can help stakeholders address their local Nexus challenges.

Link: [YouTube](#) / [Sharepoint](#)



José González Piqueras
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REXUS Project Coordinator

The main novelty in the understanding of REXUS

2.2 Peninsular Spain pilot

In this Nexus e-dialogue, recorded on 9 February 2022, the Project's coordinator, Professor José González Piqueras, gives a radio [interview on Spanish radio](#), describing why an integrated Nexus approach is necessary in order to address Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems and Climate challenges, giving examples from the current practices in agricultural Spain and outlining how the REXUS project can provide new avenues for coordinated action across sectors.

Link: [YouTube / Sharepoint](#)



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Science and nature



2.3 Pinios river basin pilot

This Nexus e-dialogue captures the point of creation of a Learning and Action Alliance in the Pinios river basin pilot, Greece, and was shot at the first Stakeholder's workshop on 17 May 2022. The video presents the views of stakeholders, who discuss their first experience with the Learning and Action Alliance, interacting with other stakeholders from across sectors and jointly mapping and analysing the region's challenges. They express their vision and aspiration for REXUS to provide much-needed tools to increase the effectiveness of policymaking and help address perennial challenges in the basin.

Link: [YouTube](#) / [Sharepoint](#)



2.4 Isonzo/Soča pilot

This Nexus e-dialogue analyses the conclusions after the pilot's first transboundary stakeholder workshop held on 14 July 2022 in Italy. The meeting's coordinators discuss in detail the factors that led to the workshop's success, by helping break the ice, boost engagement, and create a collaborative climate in which all members felt they could be heard and make their contribution on an equal basis. This led to a creative and dynamic workshop environment, liberated from the confining structure of a formal meeting.

Link: [YouTube](#) / [Sharepoint](#)

