

Transformative governance for food systems and biodiversity

Introduction to the programme



Marin Rose – University of Copenhagen

Marin Rose champions inclusive food system transformation. She believes meaningful change comes from diverse voices working together toward a fairer, healthier, and more sustainable future.

As an Assistant Professor at the University of Copenhagen and co-coordinator of CLEVERFOOD, she brings a cross-cutting perspective from academia, the public sector, SMEs, and partnerships.

Welcome address



Bo Jellesmark Thorsen – University of Copenhagen

Bo Jellesmark Thorsen is Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Copenhagen and Professor of Applied Economics at the Department of Food and Resource Economics. With a PhD and Dr.agro in forest and natural resource economics. His research spans decision-making under uncertainty, environmental valuation, and ecosystem service regulation.

Opening session: Shaping a resilient and competitive future for agriculture, food systems, and biodiversity



Christian Bugge Henriksen – University of Copenhagen

Christian Bugge Henriksen is Associate Professor and Research Group Leader at the University of Copenhagen, where he is coordinating the Horizon Europe project CLEVERFOOD.

He is a visionary and motivating leader passionate about bringing together research, education, and innovation to maximize societal impact and contribute to an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable future



Jacob Jensen – Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark

Jacob Jensen has been a member of the Danish Parliament since 2005 and has served as Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries since 2022.

He holds a master's degree in business law from Copenhagen Business School, comes from a farming family, and lives with his family near the family farm in the Holbæk area of Zealand.



Esther de Lange – European Commission



Paula Harrison – UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

Paula Harrison is Principal Natural Capital Scientist and Professor of Land and Water Modelling at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

Paula serves as Co-Chair of the IPBES Nexus Assessment on interlinkages between biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change. An internationally recognised expert in scenarios and modelling, she specialises in working across sectors and disciplines to integrate diverse sources of knowledge for supporting holistic decision-making.



Jacqueline Broerse – Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

From vision to implementation: Aligning policies for change – three parallel policy sessions:

Agriculture and food systems: EU policies, strategies and regulation (Main auditorium)



Thom Achterbosch – Wageningen University and Research

As program leader at Wageningen Social and Economic Research I establish European research programs on food systems transformation, across local to global scales.

I engage in action and transdisciplinary research on food policy, innovation policy and finance.

I currently lead the Food System Observatory under the EU partnership FutureFoodS and develop knowledge networks on food systems science.



Joanna Drake – Planet, People and Science for Policy & Clean Planet, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

Entirely dedicated to the European Union, Joanna Drake's career has been propelled by her relentless energy and passion for the project and the values the EU stands for.

She has contributed to the EU in several roles at the national and European level. Since 2021, she has been the Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General (DG) for Research and Innovation (DG RTD). In this role, she provides overall assistance to the Director-General in the management of the DG, contributing to the definition, coordination and implementation of strategy and policy orientation. She currently serves as Acting Director for the Clean Planet Directorate.



Richard Zaltzman – EIT Food

Richard has held different roles in the European innovation arena, and is now Chief Executive of EIT Food, Europe's largest food innovation community.

Creating a sustainable future is foundational to Richard's work. He has studied and worked on the complex systemic issues which need to be tackled if we are to achieve a sustainable future for people and the planet, and his work at EIT Food is focussed on bringing innovation to tackle the environmental and societal challenges at the heart of the food system.



Diego Canga Fano – DG AGRI

Diego Canga Fano have worked in DG Agriculture (DG AGRI) in the European Commission since 2014. At present, he is acting Deputy Director-General and Director responsible for Outreach, Research and Geographical Indications.

Mr. Canga Fano has been working in the European Union since 1991. He has worked in the Council Legal Service for more than a decade. He has also been twice Head of Cabinet, first of the European Commissioner of Industry and Entrepreneurship (2012-2014) and afterwards of the President of the European Parliament (2017- 2019). Mr Canga Fano is a Spanish national and lawyer by training, with a good experience of litigation before the European Court of Justice with more than 60 cases pleaded.



Christine Chemnitz – Agora Agriculture

Christine Chemnitz has been co-director of the Berlin-based think tank Agora Agriculture since May 2022.

She previously headed the Department of International Agricultural and Food Policy at the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation for 16 years.

From vision to implementation: Aligning policies for change – three parallel policy sessions:

Biodiversity: Global and European strategies and regulations (Small auditorium)



Lars Dinesen – IPBES in Denmark

Coordinator at IPBES in Denmark - the science policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services - supported by six Danish universities (AAU, AU, CBS, DTU Aqua, UCH and SDU) and the Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment. Biologist and Ornithologist by education and with a career in the private sector and in the Ministry of Environment and advisor for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the last seven years based at the University of Copenhagen. Long track record in global environmental conventions and EU-nature directives. Have undertaken biological fieldwork in different parts of the world from the High Arctic to the tropics.



Carsten Rahbek – University of Copenhagen

Carsten Rahbek is professor at the University of Copenhagen and director of Centre of Macroecology Evolution and Climate and Chair of IPBES Steering Committee in Denmark.

Carsten has for more than 35 years undertaken research on what determines the distribution of biodiversity on Earth from evolution and speciation to extinctions. He has professorships in UK and China as well as Southern Danish University. Carsten has also been active in bridging biodiversity-related science and policy and taken part in several EU and national commissions and councils including the Danish Biodiversity Council.



Alexandra Vakrou – DG ENV, Green Knowledge & Research Hub, LIFE

Alexandra Vakrou is currently Head of Green Knowledge and Research Hub, LIFE Unit in the Directorate for General Affairs, Knowledge and Resources at the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) in the European Commission.

She leads teams in charge of the management of the LIFE programme, the coordination of work with the European Environment Agency and the JRC, the co-creation activity of Cluster 6 of Horizon briefings, as well as environmental knowledge and foresight. Ms Vakrou has worked for nearly three decades in European affairs and environment holding various positions in DG Environment and DG Climate Action.



Paula Harrison – UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

Paula Harrison is Principal Natural Capital Scientist and Professor of Land and Water Modelling at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

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The Danish Green Tripartite Agreement: Collaboration and coordination (Room 15A.0.13)



Signe Skjoldborg Brieghel – University of Copenhagen

As an early career environmental humanities scholar, my work is oriented towards more-than-human histories of landscape and agrarian change in Denmark and beyond.

In particular, I explore how historical ecologies and modes of governance intersect in wet landscapes (i.e. coastal zones and wetlands) and to what effect.



Henrik Vejre – University of Copenhagen

Professor in Landscape Management. Expert in land use strategies, spatial planning and multifunctional landscapes. PI of the TRANSFORM project on green transformation of the Danish landscape



Birgit S. Hansen – KL, Local Government Denmark

Birgit S. Hansen is a former mayor and now representative of Local Government Denmark in the Green Tripartite.

In her work, Birgit works to ensure that the municipalities are delivering on the big responsibility given to the municipal level in the Green Tripartite Agreement for 2024. From 2014 to 2024, she served as Mayor for Frederikshavn Municipality. She was first elected to the municipal council of Frederikshavn in 2002.

Birgit S. Hansen holds a nursing degree from Aarhus Municipal Hospital's School of Nursing in 1992.



Anna de Klaumann – The Danish Ministry for Green Transition

From Knowledge to Impact: Building Coherent Pathways for Transformation - choose one of ten parallel workshops from across the three tracks:

TRACK I: How can we develop evidence-based policies on agriculture, food systems and biodiversity using a whole systems approach?



Kris Kok – Athena Institute, VU Amsterdam

Kristiaan Kok is an assistant professor of Politics and Governance of Sustainability Transitions at the trans-disciplinary Athena Institute of the VU in Amsterdam.

He is interested in both understanding and contributing to societal transformation. His research focuses on the role that governments and (innovation) policies can play in transitions, mostly in the domain of agri-food systems.

IA: What exactly is transformative governance for agriculture, food systems, and biodiversity?



Michelle Betsil – University of Copenhagen

Michele Betsill is a Professor of Global Environmental Politics at the University of Copenhagen. As a scholar of global environmental governance, her research contributes to understanding the role of non-state and sub-national actors and transnational forms of governance related to issues such as climate change, marine conservation, and natural resource extraction.

She is a founding member of the Earth System Governance research alliance, the world's largest network of scholars working at the intersection of governance and global environmental change and is currently associate editor of the Earth System Governance journal.

She received the 2023 Elinor Ostrom Career Achievement Award from the American Political Science Association's section on science, technology and environmental politics and the 2024 Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Studies Association's environmental studies section.

IB: How to apply food systems science to support transformative governance and evidence-based policymaking?

Stine Rosenlund Hansen



Kerstin Pasch – DIL Deutsches Institut für Lebensmitteltechnik e.V.

Kerstin Pasch is heading the DIL Network group including the EU Office.

Her experience ranges from initiating, managing and coordination of large European projects to several other roles as strategy development, consortium building, fund raising, project negotiation, and legal & financial issues in more than 25 European projects.

She studied and holds a PhD in Agrobiology.



**Ana Moragues Faus – University of Barcelona,
Food Action and Research Observatory (FARO)**

IC: Living labs and policy councils as enablers of transformative change in local food systems



Chiara Roticiani – Eurocities

Chiara Roticiani has over seven years of experience in the non-profit sector across several European countries and has been with Eurocities for more than five years.

She is currently a project coordinator on the food team, where she focuses on the Horizon Europe project CLEVERFOOD. In this role, she facilitates a peer-learning programme for food policy labs and food policy councils, and coordinates the FOOD 2030 Connected Lab Network, with a strong focus on bridging local initiatives and policymaking to foster the transition towards inclusive, healthy, and sustainable food systems.



Anna Kirkegaard Vaarst – International Center for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS)



Mette Frimodt-Møller – KU Green Solutions Centre

I work as a Living Lab (LL) Manager for three LLs: One focused on the transition to a more plant-based future, One on landscape and land-use changes as a consequence of rewetting peatlands, And one on Urban Green Transition.

All three are research-driven, and the ambition is to develop them into fully established Living Labs.

ID: Overcoming polarization and bridging the rural-urban divide on agriculture, food systems and biodiversity



Marin van Damme – The Protein Project

Marin co-founded The Protein Project to turn polarised food debates into practical collaboration.

Drawing on his work at McKinsey — including shaping Tanzania's national agri-strategy — and on his role on a cooperative farm board, he focuses on protein diversification that balances farmer income, strategic autonomy, environment, and health.



Katrien Martens – The Protein Project, KU Leuven University

TRACK II: How can we coordinate policies and regulations on agriculture, food systems and biodiversity with other policies across different governance levels?

Madeleine Coste – EUROCITIES



Madeleine is an expert on European food policies with over 8 years' experience in the field.

As the Head of Food Policy and Projects at Eurocities, she is responsible for advocating for cities' interests towards European institutions, engaging Eurocities' network of cities on urban food policy topics such as food waste, public procurement, citizens engagement, and promoting sustainable and healthy diets. In this role, she leads on Eurocities' role as a partner of the Clever-food project, work package leader on policy and governance.

She is also a partner of the European Urban Agenda food partnership. Prior to Eurocities, Madeleine was the director of advocacy at Slow Food, advocating for European policy to support agroecological food systems.

IIA: From policy to action - strengthening food security in times of uncertainty through approaches integrating One/Planetary Health & Biodiversity

Anant Jani – Heidelberg University



Anant is a Research Fellow at the Heidelberg Institute for Global Health and University of Oxford.

He focuses on understanding how we can improve population health by addressing social determinants of health.

He is coordinator of a Horizon Europe project called FEAST (feast2030.eu), which aims to make it easier for all people in Europe to eat delicious, healthier and more sustainable food.



Anna Bruen – ICLEI Europe

Anna is a Senior Expert in Biodiversity, Nature-Based Solutions, and Sustainable Food Systems at ICLEI Europe.

She currently leads ICLEI's contributions to several major Horizon Europe projects, including the development of the Urban Nature Plan framework under UNP+, the expansion of national and regional hubs for nature-based solutions through NetworkNature, the support of Food Policy Councils across Europe as part of FoodCLIC, and the inclusion of diverse voices in shaping an EU-level partnership for sustainable food systems through FoodPathS.



Jasmina van Driel – ZonMw / Healthy Diet, Healthy Life

After working for many years in the Global South on land and water management, climate adaptation and regreening I realised that I could make more of a difference focusing my efforts on the food system transformation in the Global North, with its social, economic and environmental footprint reaching the far corners of the globe. I am currently working as a senior international programme manager at ZonMw and I am also the deputy coordinator of Healthy Diet, Healthy Life. I am passionate about tasty and healthy food and especially about ensuring this is accessible to everyone. I enjoy working with others to create out-of-the-box solutions together and taking a holistic view of our societal challenges related to food and health. Outside of work I am active in an income and solidarity redistribution foundation (Collectief Kapitaal) where we challenge each other from all parts of society to reflect on our own role within the current (economic) system and what we can do to change this to create a more equitable and fair society.

IIB: Coordinating policies and regulations to shape food environments in favour of cultivated biodiversity



Yuna Chiffolleau – INRAE

Research Director at INRAE (National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, France) and specialising in economic sociology.

She coordinates the European DIVINFOOD project on the co-construction of short and mid-tier food supply chains valuing agrobiodiversity in healthy plant-based food.



Dalia Mattioni – University of Pisa

Dr. Mattioni has collaborated with the Rome-based UN agencies for over 20 years on topics related to sustainable food systems, and she currently collaborates with the Food Systems and Food Safety Division.

She is also a researcher at the University of Pisa where she carries out research on food systems and the linkages between food environments and healthy diets, and teaches at the American University of Rome.

Dr. Mattioni holds an MSc in Food Policy from City University London and a PhD from the University of Pisa.

IIC: Co-creating pathways for transformative food system innovation in Europe



Luka Gudek – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Luka Gudek is a PhD candidate at the Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

He is conducting research on the supranational and European sustainability transitions, with a focus on stakeholder engagement and politics of transitions.

He is a part of the CLEVERFOOD project, supporting the European food system transition.



Juliane Gleitze – ZonMw / HDHL

Juliane Gleitze is a Project Officer at ZonMw, working for the Healthy Diet, Healthy Life (HDHL) network, which brings together 14 European countries to advance research at the intersection of food, nutrition, and health.

In this role, she supports HDHL's activities and has worked on several European projects, including HDHL Food4Health, CLEVERFOOD, and FOODPathS. Juliane holds an MSc in Global Health from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

IID: Innovating coordination in European agrifood policies



Teis Hansen – University of Copenhagen

Teis Hansen is Professor at the University of Copenhagen. His research focuses on policies for sustainability transitions and the geography of transitions.

He serves as Vicechair of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency, and Editor-in-Chief of “Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions”, the core journal within the field of transition studies.

TRACK III: How can we advance ESG frameworks and investment strategies to restore biodiversity and support a fair, healthy and sustainable agriculture and food system?



Thom Achterbosch – Wageningen University and Research

As program leader at Wageningen Social and Economic Research I establish European research programs on food systems transformation, across local to global scales.

I engage in action and transdisciplinary research on food policy, innovation policy and finance.

I currently lead the Food System Observatory under the EU partnership FutureFoodS and develop knowledge networks on food systems science.

IIIA: Increasing investment in biodiversity and food systems transformation: a co-creation task for policy-science-industry-finance



Sabine Descka – Wageningen Social and Economic Research

Sabine Deczka has been engaged in international collaboration for the last 15 years. Her key topics are impact measurement, impact investment, risk and inclusive sustainable development. She works as senior coordinating researcher for impact impact investment at Wageningen social and Economic Research, part of Wageningen University and Research.

She is currently working on the Horizon Europe Project on “CLEVERFOOD” working in transitioning food systems actors towards sustainable business models, climate risk mitigation and impact for finance and innovation in multiple projects.



Irina Verweij-Novikova – Wageningen Research

Senior researcher and project coordinator with 20+ years of experience in economics of agri-food sector.

Specialist in integrated impact assessments, sustainability indicators, and value chain analysis.

Broad interest in research that also covers environmental footprinting and impact investment.

Thriving in multi-actor environments where evidence, dialogue, and system change come together.

IIIB: Blended finance and social innovation for agrifood business models that reward soil health and biodiversity



Erik Mathijs – KU Leuven

Erik Mathijs is full professor of agricultural and resource economics at KU Leuven, director of the Sustainable Food Economies Research Group (SFERE) and head of the Division of Bioeconomics.

With an MSc in Bioscience Engineering and PhD in Agricultural Economics (both KU Leuven), his research focuses on system-thinking in food and agriculture: transition pathways, sustainability metrics, local food systems and resilient supply chains.

He has advised EU expert groups and works on transforming agri-food systems in Europe toward sustainability and circularity