

Stakeholder engagement: challenges & lesson learned from Enfasys Horizon EU project

Symposium on Action Research in Food Systems

15 October 2024

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101059589

Enfasys project

Finding effective policy interventions and business strategies that can support farmers towards more

Sustainable Farming Systems

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Enfasys project

12 partners

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Enfasys project

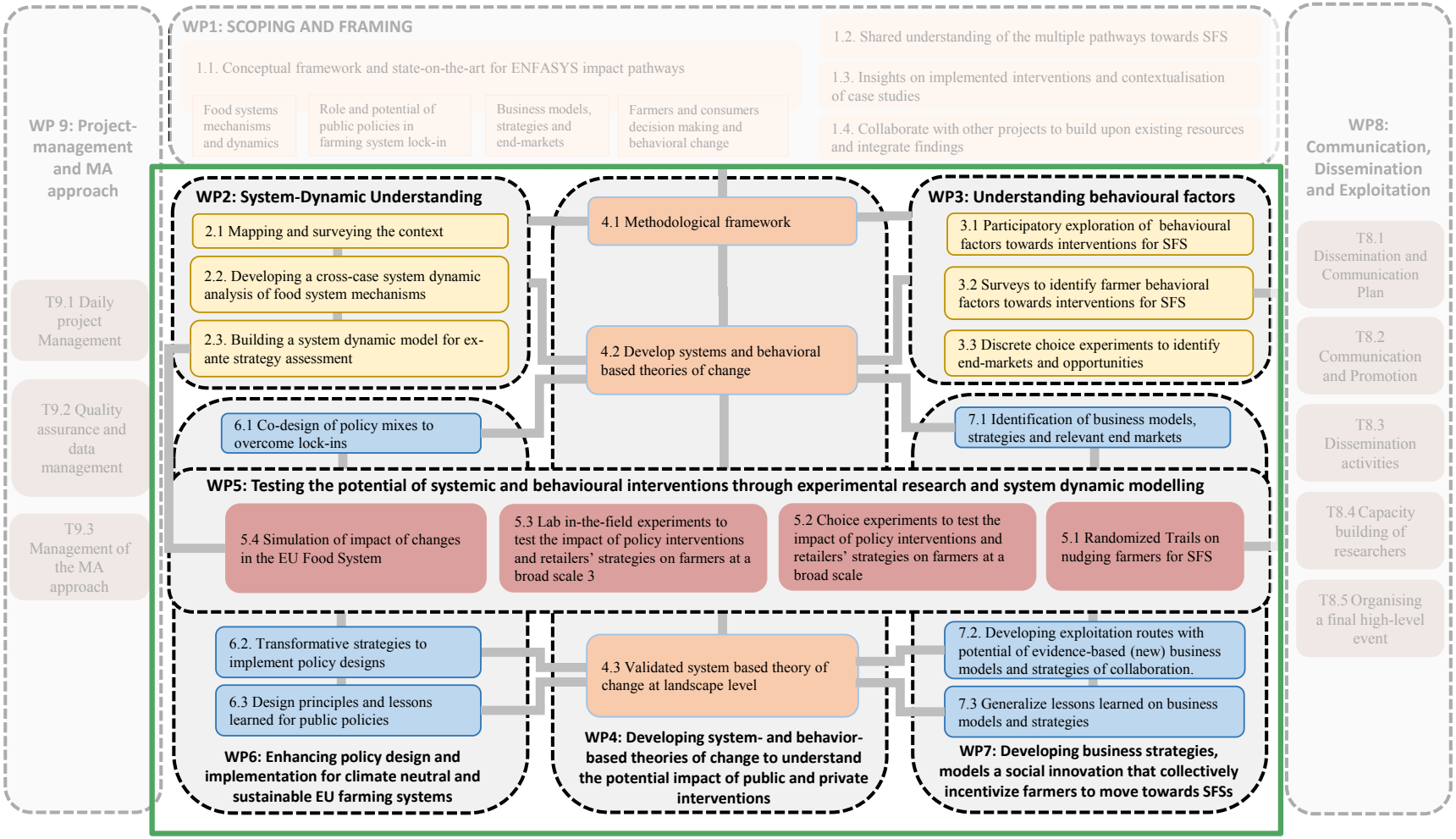
10 case studies



- The territorial implementation of biodiversity policy objectives in France and Belgium (France and Belgium)
- Regenerative Agriculture (Serbia, Vojvodina region)
- Goal oriented biodiversity promotion in Kanton Zürich (Switzerland)
- Developing the protein autonomy of dairy cattle farms in France (France)
- German ENFASYS case study (Germany)
- Shift to sustainable practices across the EU through consumer brands (Greece)
- Direct Selling in Slovenia (Slovenia)
- Enhancing profitability of organic wheat production in Italy (Italy)
- Irish organic dairy case study (Ireland)

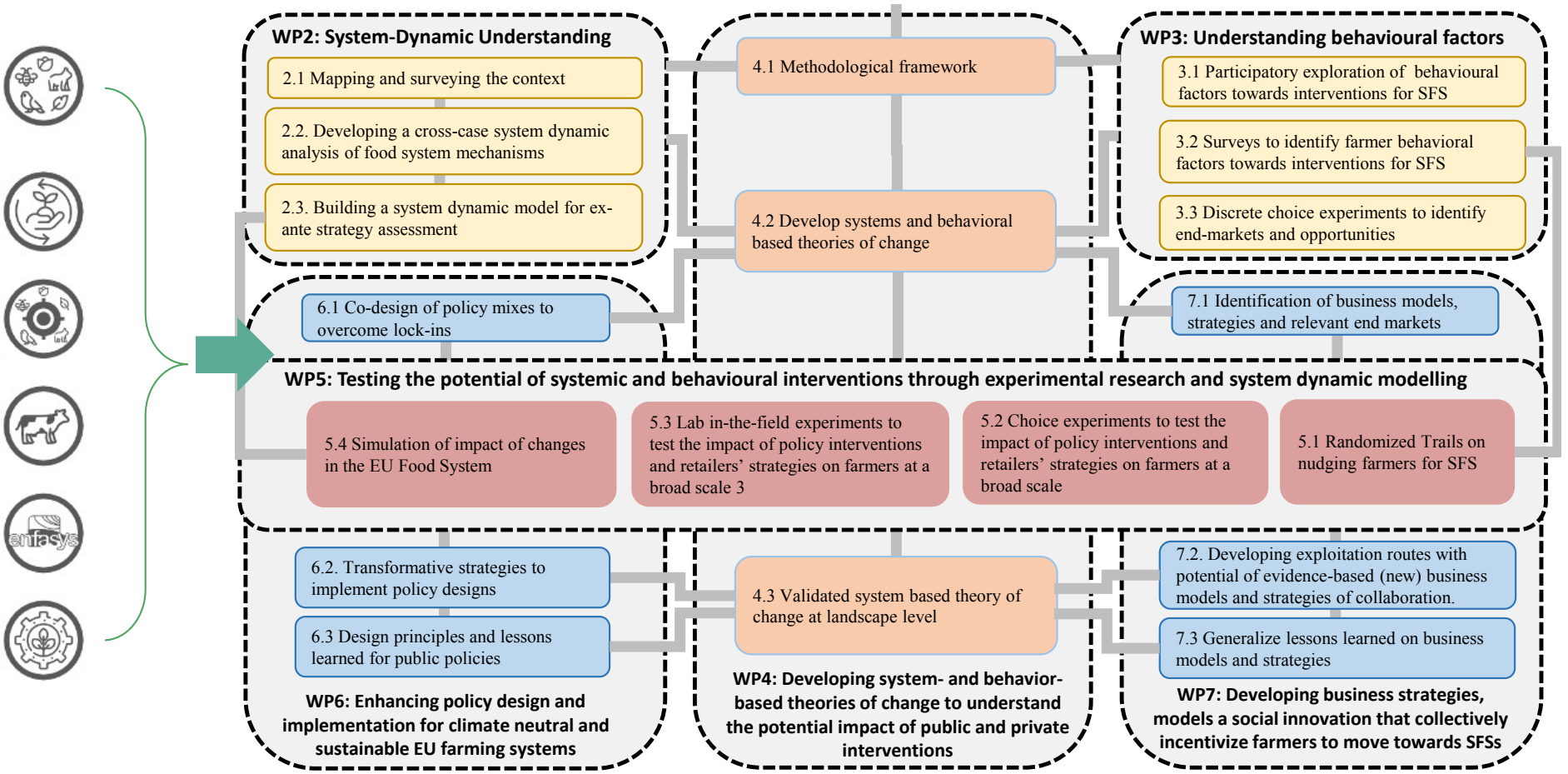
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Project framework



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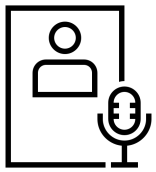
Project framework



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Type of interactions

- Semi-directive interviews
- Surveys
- Expert consultations
- Focus groups
- Workshops
- Seminars







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Challenges & lesson learned

- **Challenges** - bilateral exchanges with case study coordinators
- **Lesson learned** - derived from internal reflection at Sytra

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Key challenges

1. **At stakeholder level**
- Stakeholders' fatigue
- Stakeholders' motivation
- Inclusivity & diversity of stakeholders

2. **At project level**
- Heterogeneity of case studies
- Interdisciplinary setting

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At stakeholder level

Challenge 1 Stakeholders' fatigue:

- Many interactions planned
- '*The usual suspects*' syndrom
- Iterative design of data collection

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At stakeholder level

Challenge 2 Stakeholders' motivation:

- Complex research goal (i.e. long-term transformative change)
- No direct applicability of the research results at territorial level
- Indirect involvement of stakeholders in the project

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At stakeholder level

Challenge 3 Inclusivity & diversity of stakeholders:

- Specific knowledge targeted by WPs (e.g. policy-making, governance, business dynamics, systemic vision)
- Power dynamics across stakeholders

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At project level

Challenge 4 Heterogeneity of case studies:

- Heterogeneous geographical context
- Multiple thematics
- Different stakeholders' dynamics

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At project level

Challenge 5 Interdisciplinarity setting:

- Multiple visions on participatory approach & stakeholders' role across WPs
- Different knowledge types targeted by each discipline

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Lesson learned

- 7 key lesson learned
- Reflection derived from two years of ENFASYS
- Enriched by monthly discussion at the "*Community of Practices*" have amongst CS coordinators
- Touch both stakeholder engagement and project design

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Lesson learned

Stakeholder engagement strategies

1. Transdisciplinary partnerships at project level (e.g. increase regional stakeholders as project partners)
2. Efficient data collection design (e.g. complementarity as criteria in WP design)

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Lesson learned

Stakeholder engagement strategies

3. Feedbacks & 'giving back' strategy (e.g. as standing-alone WP?)
4. Higher investments in facilitation competences
5. Diversity of type of interactions should be justified

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Lesson learned

Project design

6. Case study selection criteria: *diversity* & *consistency*
7. Participatory framework

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