

Building Communities of Practice – a case study in Scotland

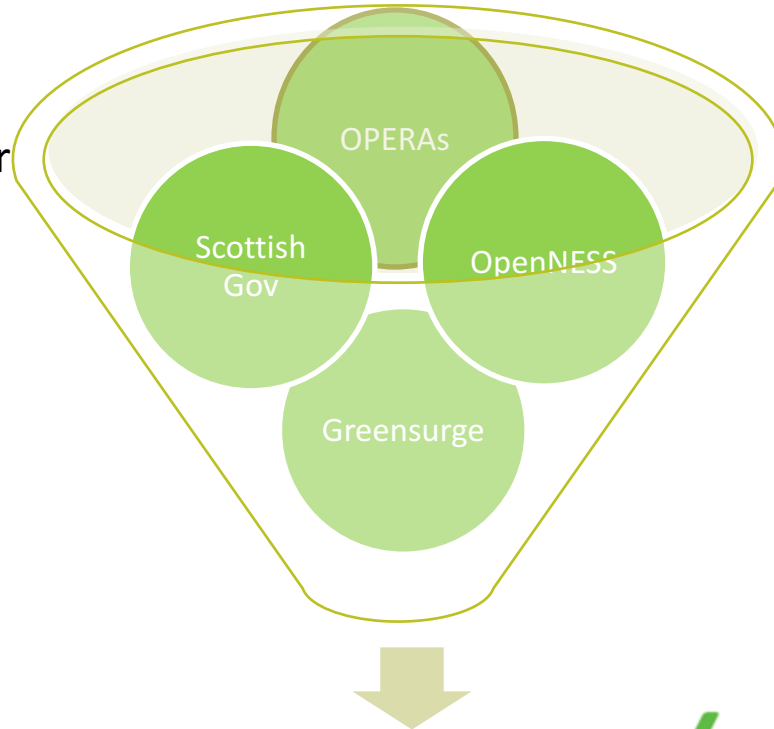


ESCom Scotland supports collaboration
between science, policy and practice to
better manage Scotland's natural resources

www.escom.scot

How was the ESCom formed

Secretariat funding
from OPERAs
CoP a deliverable for
that project



Three partners financed by
EU projects and a partner
funded by Scottish
government collectively
decided to establish a
community of practice in
2013



www.escom.scot

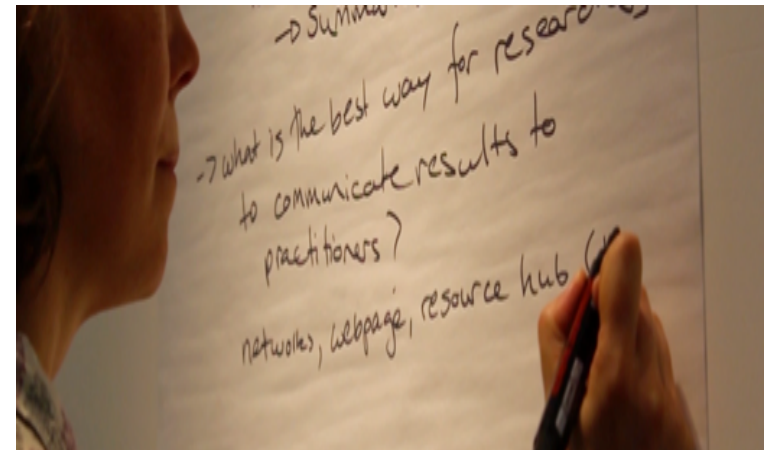
Launched in May 2013 with a two-day conference, attended by 90 delegates from across science, policy and practice; 98% surveyed supported the initiative.

Ecosystem Service Community Scotland

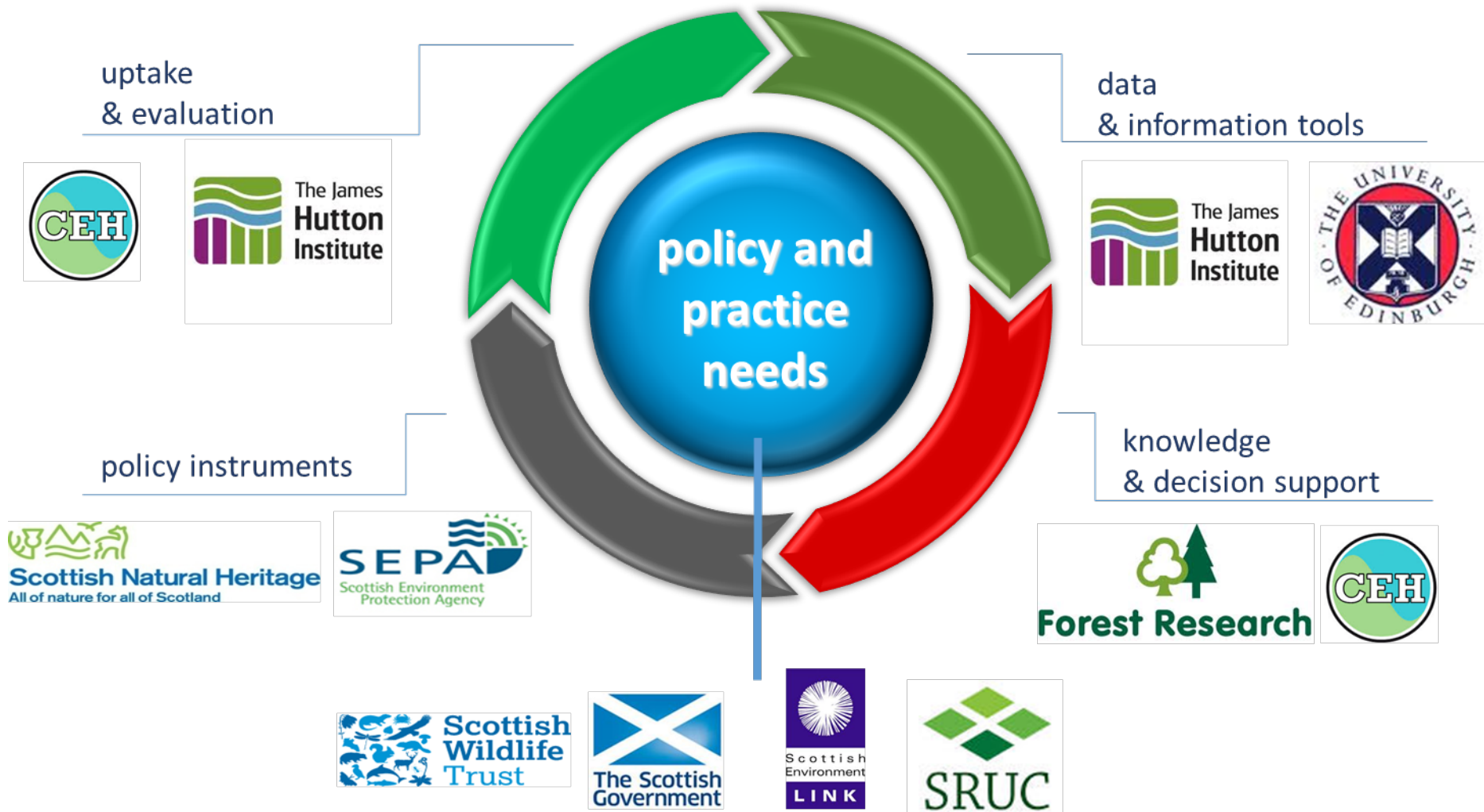
A community of practice for ecosystem services research, decision-making and natural resource management in Scotland.

AIMS

- Encourage dialogue between Science, Policy and Practice
- Align Scottish ecosystem services research
- Organise and promote events to support knowledge exchange

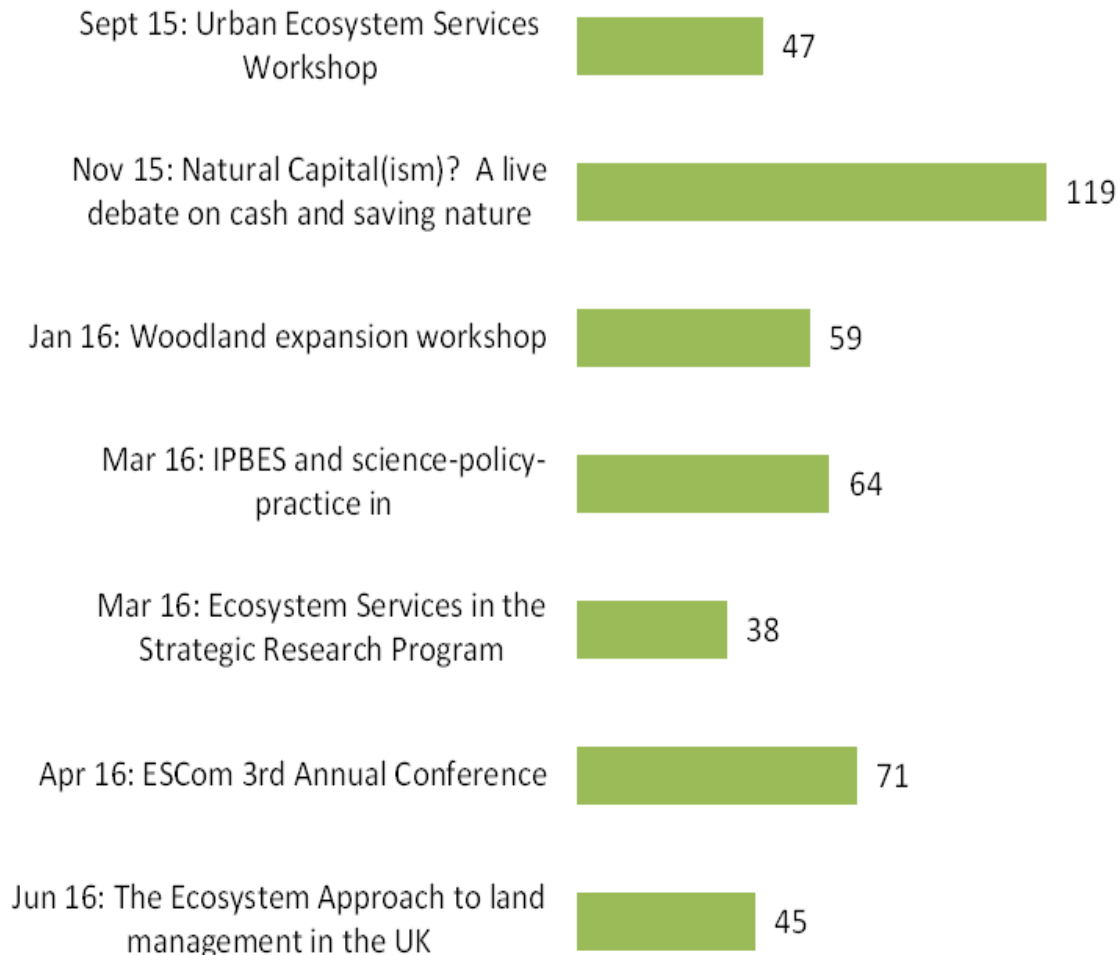


ESCom structure and process area actors



Four Process areas and ESCom Central the governing body

What has ESCOM achieved so far



A regular series of events, including workshops (5), seminars (3), annual conferences (3), 2 field trips and a debate

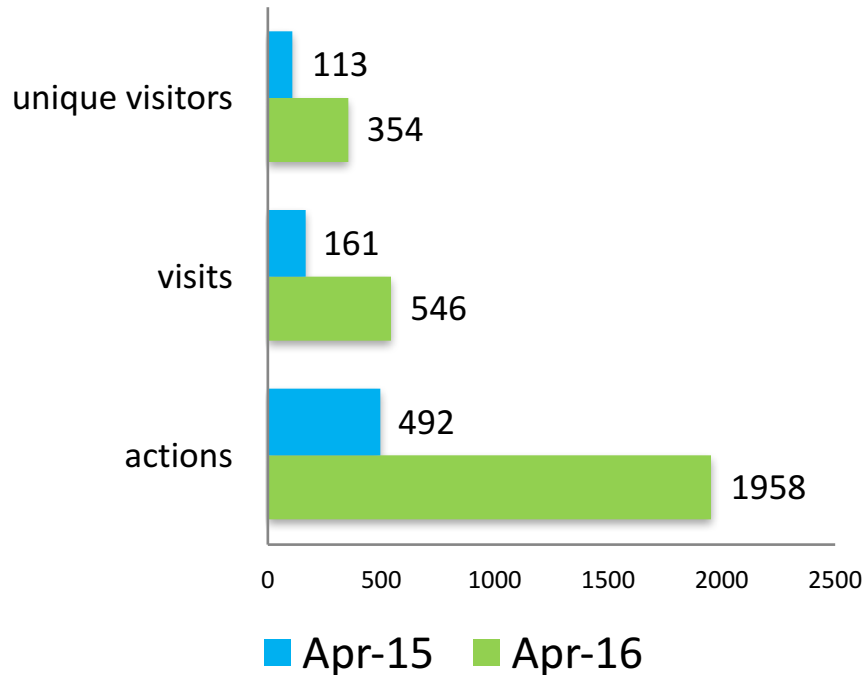
Initially focused in central Scotland but winter event planned for Cairngorms National Park



Communications summary June 2016

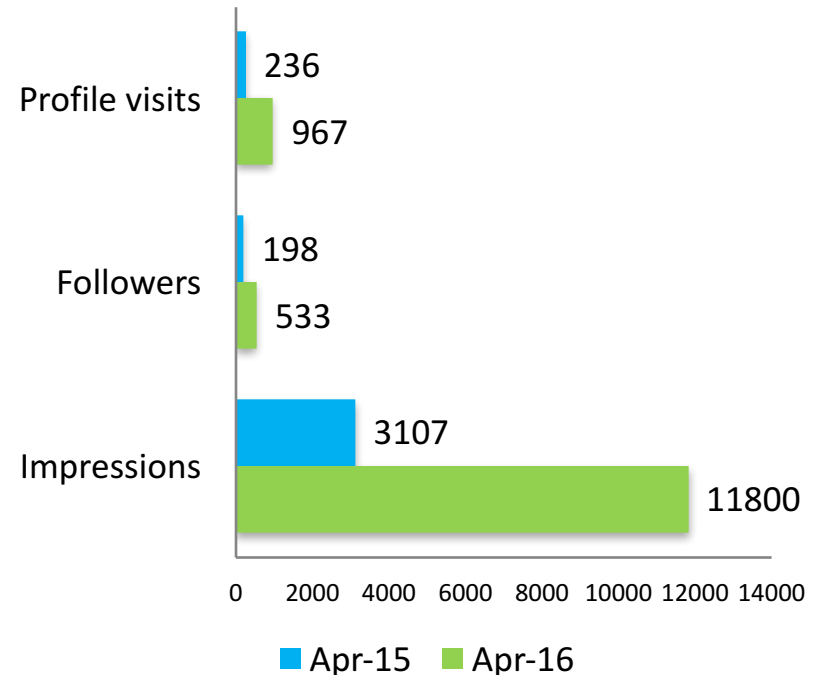
ESCom Website

Over 600 individuals on mailing list.
Subscribers from across science, policy and practice with the majority in research.



ESCom Twitter

Our followers top 4 interests are Science news 89%, Green solutions 78%, Geography 71% and Business news 70%



ESCom Resources

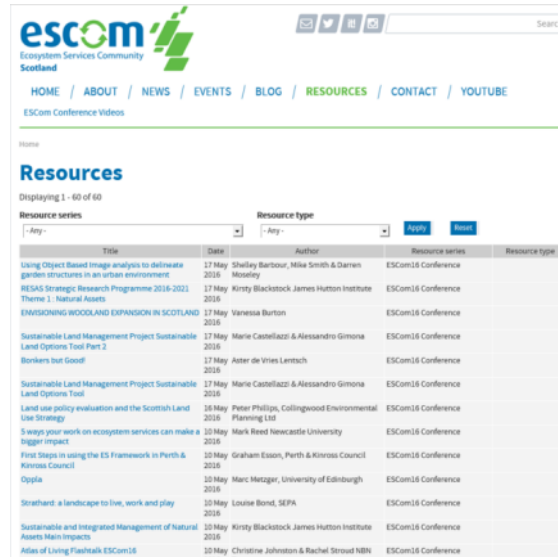
ESCom website

- 16 Blogs
- 22 News stories
- 2 newsletters

Presentations from events

YouTube channel

- 17 high quality videos of ESCom events



Questionnaire to ESCom Central

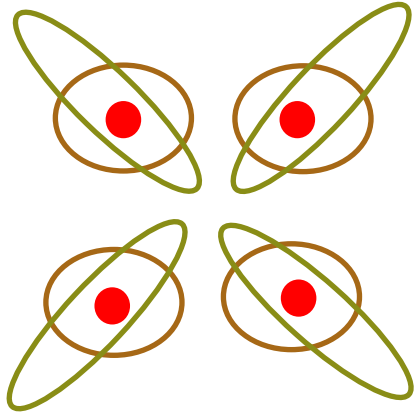
What is Positive about ESCom	What is negative about ESCom
Friendly and open	Too much happening need to video more
Good engagement between academics. NGO, government and agencies	Difficult to find enough time for role as Process area lead
Promotion of practical examples	Process area role not clear – leading or reactive to members?
Helps avoid duplication and encourage joint working	Relation between ESCom and Scottish Forum for Natural Capital not clear – potentially public/private sector split?
Conference and series of monthly meetings good	Lacking strong policy or business involvement
Getting overview of what is happening	Despite efforts, it still seems to be dominated by science
Willing to try different approaches to conference and events	Initially strong science focus but including other actors has resulted in less cohesion and momentum

Questionnaire to ESCom Central

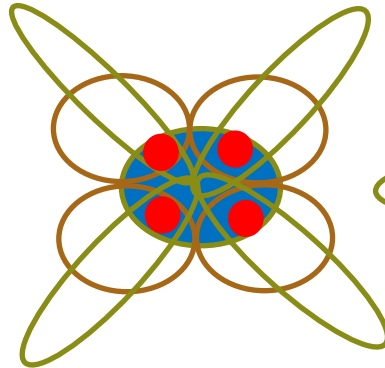
What direction would you like to see ESCom take in next 3 years	Do you think your institution will provide resources to support your involvement in next 3 years
Develop a self-sustaining model with shared contributions	In kind support, though financial only if linked to projects
Need financial support for secretariat	Can align ESCom and Scottish Strategic Research Program - ESCom offers useful Knowledge exchange conduit
Increased links with on-the-ground delivery projects to encourage research-practice links	Difficult because new CEO setting new direction
Keeping event programme and more 'working groups'	Have limited funds for events but would struggle to maintain secretariat
Would be good to facilitate a 'sharing of experiences between Las interested in trying to use ES approach	My job is only secure until the end of the year so hard to comment

How to develop a sustainable CoP

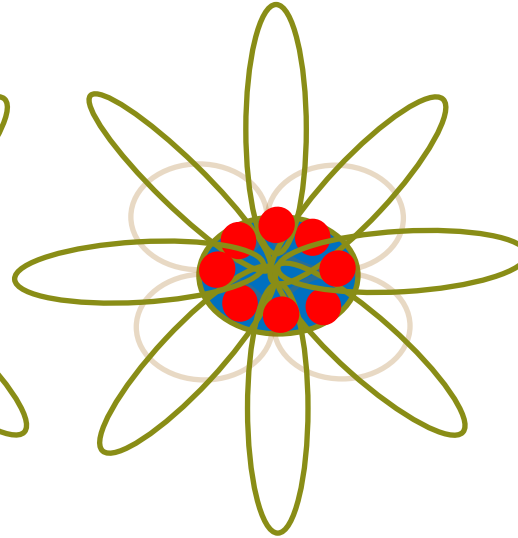
Separate institutions
and Projects



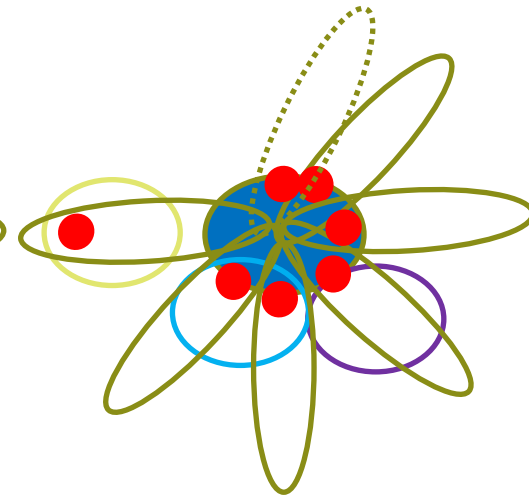
Strategic alliances to
create CoP



Building and
consolidating CoP



Transition to
durable CoP ?



Separate funded
institutions
collaborating in
time limited
projects

Strategic alliance
in a network or
CoP as
encouraged by
project funding

Additional partners
join CoP initial
projects become less
visible

But how to sustain
when initial funds
end and the
pressure of new
projects arise?

Individual Investigator

Organisation/Institution

Projects

ESCom

Linking with other networks



<http://naturalcapitalscotland.com>

The Scottish Forum on Natural Capital is an initiative bringing together public, private and voluntary sector organisations to protect and rebuild Scotland's natural capital.



oppla.eu/

Oppla is a new online platform, which aims to bring together knowledge about natural capital and ecosystem services from around Europe. A deliverable of the OpennESS and OPERA projects

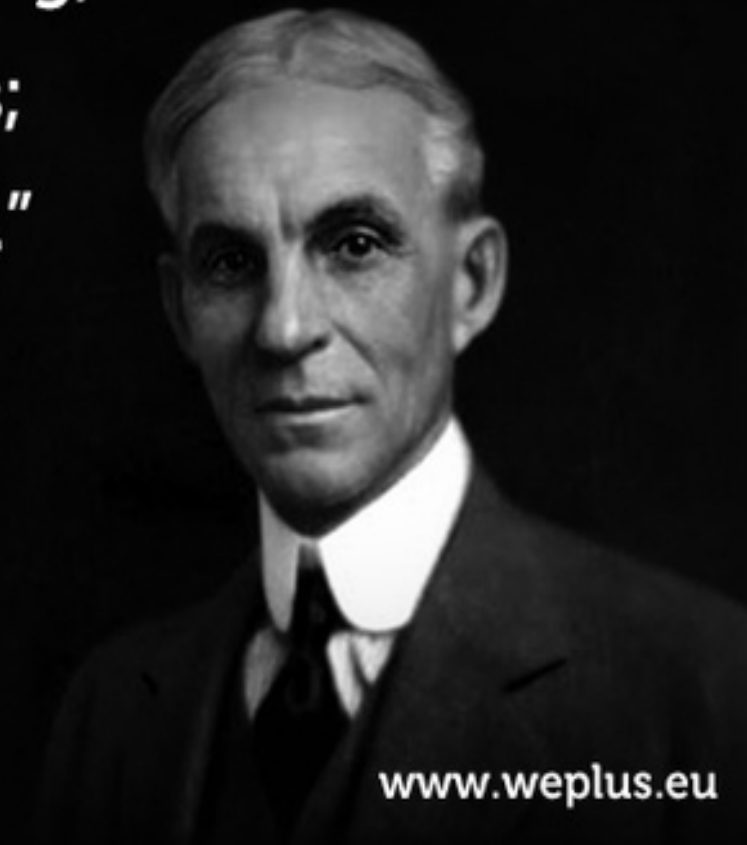


<http://es-partnership.org/>

ESCom members active across ESP working groups and contributing to the conferences!

**"Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success."**

Henry Ford



escom

Ecosystem Services Community
Scotland



@ESComScot

Visit our website at www.escom.scot for lectures, blogs
and resources from policy, science and practice
community in Scotland

