

Ghent Group Forum 2026

Tuesday November 3:

Preliminary conference programme.

Venue: Kosmopol, Fiolstræde 44, Copenhagen K

Ghent Group
Science-based Advice
in Agriculture and Environment



From	To		
08:30	09:00	Coffe and registration	
09:00	10:00	Session I: Setting the scene	
		Welcome address	Maria Sommer Holtze, Aarhus University
		Building Effective Science-Policy Interfaces in Europe: Navigating Environmental and Geopolitical Change	EEA (tbd)
		Visions of the Ghent Group: Better together	Niels Halberg, Aarhus University
		Four years of Ghent Group: Synergies and lessons learned	Giampiero Mazzocchi, CREA/FutureFoodS
10:00	10:10	Networking break	
10:10	10:55	Session II: Use of AI in science advice	
		Keynote: Insights from the OECD AI Capability Indicators for knowledge brokerage	Margarita Kalamova, OECD
		Fishbowl discussion: Reflections and shared learning	Faciliator: Lene Topp
10:55	11:15	Networking break	
11:15	12:45	Parallel sessions:	
		Main hall:	Parallel meeting room:
		Workshop: What Makes a Science-Policy Interface Effective? Towards a Common Framework for Assessing SPI Effectiveness	Contributed session: Knowledge Governance in Action: Experiences from Science-Policy-Practice Interfaces
		Sundus Saleemi, Shaswati Chowdhury (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF))	Silvia Baralla: Building a Multi-Level Knowledge Governance System: Lessons from the Italian National AKIS Coordination Body
		How can we assess whether science-policy interfaces (SPIs) effectively support evidence-informed policymaking and societal impact? This interactive workshop introduces a practical assessment framework based on established and emerging SPI effectiveness criteria. Participants will critically examine the proposed indicators, identify strengths and gaps, and contribute their own experiences from science advice practice. The session aims to refine and strengthen a common framework that can support transparent, low-cost, and systematic assessment of SPI effectiveness across contexts.	Eewoud Lievens: Experiences with introducing a charter on evidence-based policymaking in the Agency for Agriculture and Fisheries of Flanders (Belgium)
			Sara Lystlund Herni: Building Connections - Learnings from Facilitating a Science-Policy-Practice Forum in the SmartField Pro-ject
			Aur�lie Courcoul: Building effective science-policy relationships: two contrasting pathways from animal health expertise to na-tional decision-making
			Alisa Spiegel: Agricultural climate governance across the EU: An AI-assisted comparative analysis
			Hanna Keldkonen: Spatial targeting as a tool for climate action: identifying cultivated peatlands suitable for climate measures in Finland without compromising food security
			Carsten Paul: Challenges, objectives and solutions for agricultural soil health: the perspectives of European stakeholders
			Interactive discussion
12:45	13:30	Networking Lunch	
13:30	15:00	Parallel sessions:	
		Main hall:	Parallel meeting room:
		Workshop: National policy pathways and the challenge of international coherence	Workshop: Governance of Trans-European Collaboration in Science Policy Interfaces: Lessons from the FutureFoodS and Agroecology Partnerships
		Katharina B�uml�r (Th�unen Institute & Humboldt-Universit�t zu Berlin) and Alisa Spiegel (Th�unen Institute).	Niels Halberg (Aarhus University), Giampiero Mazzocchi (CREA), Roberto Henke (CREA)
		This interactive workshop explores how nationally tailored agricultural climate policies can be aligned with the need for international coherence. Drawing on insights from the MACSUR SciPolNet network, participants will discuss cross-border impacts, policy trade-offs, and opportunities for coordination. Through audience polling, peer exchanges, and facilitated discussion, the session will co-create practical principles for integrating an international perspective into policy development and science-policy advice.	How can science advice be effectively organised across countries, institutions, and governance cultures? This interactive workshop explores emerging approaches to Science-Policy-Society Interfaces (SPSI) within the FutureFoodS and Agroecology Partnerships. Participants will discuss governance models, quality assurance mechanisms, and the balance between shared principles and national diversity in science advice. The session will also co-design key elements of a new training programme for researchers and civil servants, helping translate SPSI principles into practical tools and competencies for policy engagement.
15:00	15:30	Networking break	
15:30	17:00	Session III: Learning Across Borders: Strengthening Science-Policy Interfaces Through European Collaboration	
		Keynote: Connecting Knowledge and Action: Lessons from the EU CAP Network on Peer Learning and Policy Implementation	David Lamb, EU CAP Network
		Building Science-Policy Collaboration Across Borders: Lessons from the NW European Policy-Science Working Group on Reducing Nutrient Emissions	Wibke Christel, Danish Ministry of Nature and Animal Welfare
		Keynote: Turning Scientific Collaboration into Policy Change: Lessons from the European Soil Monitoring Law	Claire Chenu, INRAE
		Fishbowl discussion: Reflections and shared learning	Faciliator: Lene Topp
17:00	17:30	Closing Session: Lessons for Action	
		Reflections and Next Steps for Advancing SPI	Faciliator: Lene Topp
17:30	19:00	Posters	
19:00		Dinner	

Ghent Group Forum 2026



Wednesday November 4

Ghent Group Forum 2026

Open Ghent Group Workshop: Preliminary workshop outline (draft)

Venue: Aarhus University Campus Emdrup in Copenhagen, Tuborgvej 164, Copenhagen NV

From	To	Tentative programme
08:30	09:00	Coffee and arrival
09:00	09:45	Opening: From Conference Insights to Collaborative Action in the GG: Reflections from day one as input to ongoing analyses and
09:45	10:15	Plenary Session I: Lessons from Diversity – Current overview of Science–Policy Interface Models: Presenting status and preliminary results from GGs literature review (coding effort), Surveys of SPI
10:15	10:45	Plenary Session II: Ideas for future activities in GG, future priorities, new working groups, funding options
10:45	11:15	Networking break
11:15	12:45	Workshop Session Ia: Ongoing Work on a Joint Paper – Review of SPIs, discussion of first review of coded papers
12:45	13:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	15:00	Workshop Session IIa: Ongoing Work on a Joint Paper – divide tasks and responsibilities, agree on draft outline for paper
15:00	15:30	Workshop session IIb: Continued and New activities in GG, formulation and planning
15:30	16:30	Networking break
16:30	17:00	Plenary Session III: Reporting from groups, Decision on Future Priorities and Collaboration in the Ghent Group, Continuation of Closing Session: Copenhagen Reflections on Science Advice 2026 (Draft)
17:00		End of workshop

Note: This is a preliminary workshop outline. Session formats and specific content will be developed in dialogue with participants, facilitator and the Ghent Group community