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The third VALOR newsletter is here, with new insights and updates from the project

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## VALOR's first Annual General Meeting



From 24 to 25 March, 2026, the VALOR consortium came together for the second part of the project's first Annual General Meeting in

Wageningen, the Netherlands.

Over two days, the meeting combined **ecological, economic and social research**, reflecting VALOR's **interdisciplinary** approach to understanding pollinators and their importance for ecosystems, agriculture and society.

The meeting's highlights include some exciting upcoming deliverables: Jagiellonian University's groundbreaking work on **non-crop pollinator dependencies**, University of La Laguna's **analysis of pollination vulnerabilities** across Europe's NUTS-2 regions, and the synthesis of **pollinator dependencies of global crops** produced by Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg and the University of New England.

[Learn more](#)

## VALOR carries Safe-Hub forward



Following the end of Safeguard, VALOR will take over the Safeguard Knowledge Exchange Hub (Safe-Hub) and host its outputs in a dedicated section. Expect to find **tools, project papers, datasets,** and **policy resources** on the Hub in the coming months.

Safe-Hub is a central platform that brings together knowledge on pollinators from national and European sources, offering **a one-stop resource** for data, information, and pollinator conservation toolkits. It draws on outputs from Safeguard alongside other relevant pollinator initiatives, and is built for a **wide range of users** - from researchers and policymakers to farmers, beekeepers, and citizens.

[Visit Safe-Hub](#)

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## A joint white paper calls for urgent action for pollinators



Eight EU projects release a roadmap for pollinator recovery

A new **white paper** from eight major EU-funded pollinator projects, including VALOR, warns that the resilience of **Europe's vital societal functions and food security are at stake** if the EU fails to halt and reverse wild pollinator declines, and to support managed pollinators. The report flags the **EU's siloed governance structures** and resulting **policy incoherence** as the major barrier to pollinator restoration.

Behind the report is an **interdisciplinary team of 135 leading researchers** with expertise ranging from ecosystem ecology, pollinator ecology, ecological economics, social science, environmental history, behavioural psychology, political science, and environmental law.

The white paper was released in collaboration between Butterfly, VALOR, PollinERA, WildPosh, AGRI4POL, ProPollSoil, RestPoll, and Safeguard.

[Learn more](#)

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## **Researchers flag risks in draft pesticide legislation**

## Researchers push back on EU's proposed pesticide reforms



Scientists from 27 European research institutions have raised serious concerns about the European Commission's proposed **Omnibus package**, warning that the draft legislation would **weaken safeguards in the pesticide approval process**. This could have serious **consequences** for both **human health** and the **environment**.

In an article published in the journal *Science*, the researchers warn that the package would **remove the periodic reassessment** of pesticide active substances, limit the role of current scientific evidence, and extend the period during which already-banned substances can remain in use.

[Learn more](#)

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**Imagining the future for pollinators**

One of VALOR's most unique pieces of work is our **narrative scenarios**.

Through collaboration with three other projects - PollinERA, WildPosh and our sister project, BUTTERFLY - we held a **narrative scenario workshop** in Turin, Italy where 12 stakeholders from business and policy helped us craft four plausible storylines for what farming in the EU might look like by 2050. These will form the cornerstone of VALOR's **scenario modelling work** in which we will explore the impacts that these different futures might have on pollinators, pollination and human well-being.

By working with other projects, our storylines will be further expanded to look at everything from how **pesticide regulation** might play out to how **ecoliteracy** will need to change to make sure we arrive at a more **resilient and sustainable future for pollinators**.

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## **Focal region update: Guadalquivir Productive Plains**



## VALOR research team studies pollinator habitat interdependence

Researchers from the Estación Biológica de Doñana (EBD-CSIC) conducted fieldwork at the border between Doñana National Park and the intensive **strawberry crops** grown under **polytunnels** in the surrounding area.

The team is recording **plant-pollinator interaction networks** across different habitat types - including the patches of lavender inside the park and the polytunnels outside of it.

The goal is to better understand **how wild plants and crops are affected when pollinator communities change** - and to develop tools to anticipate those changes before they happen.

[Learn more](#)

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**VALOR trifold brochure now available**



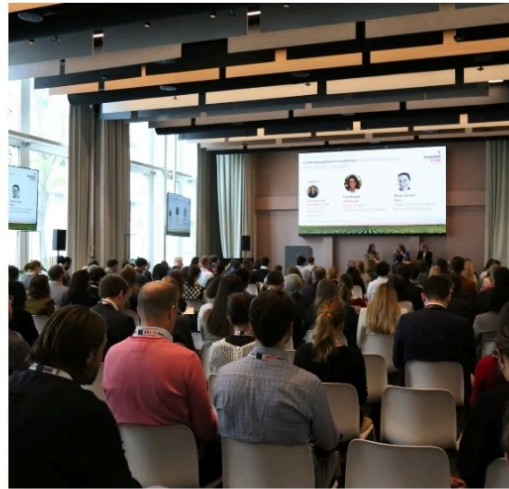
Want to share VALOR with colleagues or stakeholders? Our new project brochure is **now available to download** in the Media centre of the VALOR website.

The brochure offers an overview of the project's background, objectives, and planned actions. It will soon be available in the languages of the VALOR focal regions.

[Download](#)

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## VALOR-attended events



In the past 6 months, VALOR was presented at the Annual General meetings of several European projects including WildPosh, PollinERA, Safeguard, AGRI4POL, and Butterfly. The project was also represented at the Future of Food and Beverage Forum by partners from Wageningen University & Research.

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## **VALOR on social media: Partners campaign**

# Social Media Campaign by VALOR

## *Meet the partners*



VALOR brings together **thirteen institutions** spanning pollinator ecology, economics, sociology, stakeholder engagement and science policy. To introduce each partner and explain their role in the project, VALOR has launched a video campaign: ***Meet the partners.***

Watch the latest partner interviews on YouTube and our website!

[Watch here](#)

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## News from other initiatives



[Learn more](#)

## **ANTENNA**

The ANTENNA project has launched the Biodiversity Forecasting Challenge - an interactive web application that puts human ecological intuition head-to-head with state-of-the-art machine learning. Users predict the future abundance of insect species from historical time series graphs, with access to contextual data on temperature, location, humidity, and species characteristics.



[Learn more](#)

## **MAMBO**

MAMBO has developed a set of technologies designed to monitor different components of biodiversity - including an AMI-trap, insect camera traps, sound recognition models, high-resolution species and habitat maps, a Plant Quadrat Image analysis tool and an Airborne Laser Scanning tool.



[Watch here](#)

## **PollinERA**

PollinERA has launched its latest social media campaign, "Explaining PollinERA". This initiative aims to shed light on complex topics within the project and explain them in a simple way for a wider audience. The series is available on PollinERA's social media channels as well as on the project's website.



WildPosh

[Learn more](#)

## **WildPosh**

The WildPosh has started a series putting its early-career researchers in the spotlight. Each week, meet the young scientists working to understand and protect wild pollinators across Europe.

**Follow VALOR on social media**



## VALOR Project

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