

**Minutes – Informal meeting on the possibility to host the next PESC meeting (PESC-6) in Belarus –
29.04.2019**

Participants: Cecilia Lindblad (Sweden), Kristina Raab (Germany), Ruslan Novitsky (Belarus), Malte Timpte; Jorge Ventocilla (Belgium), Hilde Eggermont (Belgium)

There is an offer from Belarus to host the next PESC meeting at the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve (<http://www.berezinsky.by/en/>)

Belarus has a (free) visa waiver for EU passport holders, for those entering from the national airport. This does not apply for other ports of entry (bus/train) or for non-EU passports.

Offer from Belarus stand for this and next year. They would need to know 1 or 2 months before the actual event date. There is capacity to accommodate up to 150 people at the Reserve. Transportation can also be arranged. Food is also easily available and not expensive.

Participants expressed a preference to have the meeting next year (between July and September 2020. End of July there is a CBD Open-ended group meeting). This would allow for time to look for funding outside the ECA region, and wait for the 2nd order draft of the Values and Sustainable Use assessments – and maybe also the 1st order draft of the IAS assessment. Human capacity in the ECA-network is currently also a bit lower, and some platforms suffer financial insecurity. Postponing until 2019 would also be better in this respect.

Russian/English interpretation will be required, and will come at an extra cost

Planned for over 2 to 3 days. 3 days would allow to have an excursion (proposed to have it in day 1, to facilitate interaction and cohesion.

Should check with TSU (Norway), for capacity building opportunities. Should also check with Axel Paulsch whether there are opportunities to link up.

Presentations should be more colorful and scientific, adapted to the audience (some of whom will not know IPBES, but who would be important knowledge holders of the region for the ongoing assessments). Presentations could also include successful experiences in engaging stakeholders from Bosnia and Croatia.

Suggestion to work on a common google doc to assemble some first elements for a possible programme

ACTION POINTS:

Ruslan: To check on logistics, and financial needs

Malte: To check with Axel Paulsch for possibilities to link up

Kristina: To reflect on possibilities to link up with ongoing initiatives in Eastern Europe & Central Asia

Hilde: To set up a common google doc, so we can start assembling the key agenda items.

Hilde: to re-contact ECA members and potential new members to update contact information, national platform fiches