

ESRS

European Society For Rural Sociology



ESRS 2022 Satellite Event
“Just Rural Transitions: Opportunities and Challenges”
23rd of June 2022

*A transition towards a participatory society?
Exploring participation: strategies, challenges and solutions of
participation in
rural and urban Alternative Food Networks (AFN)*

***The implications of PGS designs: activism and
collective tools required***

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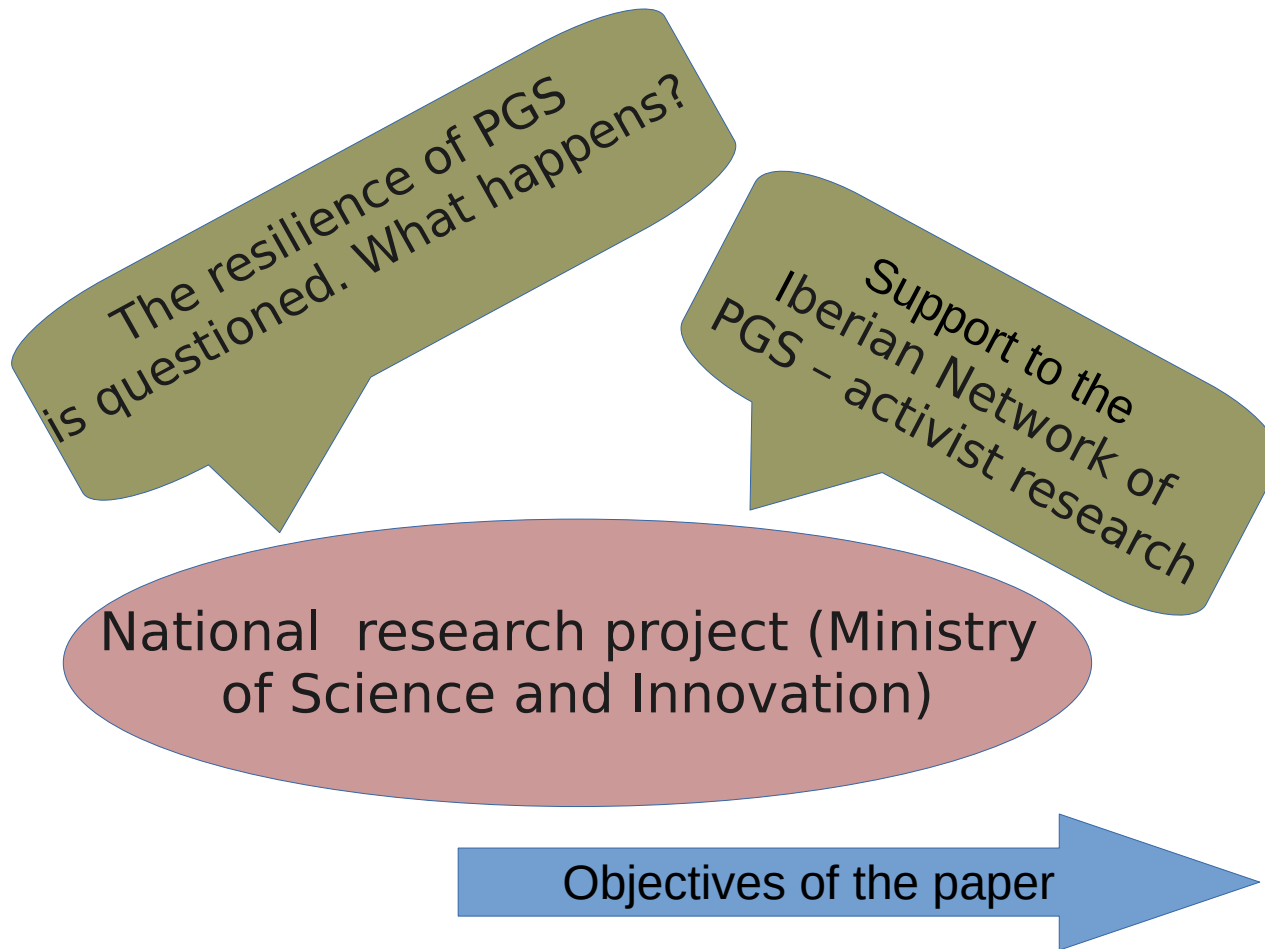
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Número de referencia del proyecto:
CSO2017-85660-R





Research framework and objectives



- Discussions around Participation as a criteria
- What helps and what difficults participation?
- Participation patterns vs PGS structure / governance



Methodology



- La Borraja (Sanlúcar de Barrameda - Cádiz)
- La Ortiga (Sevilla)
- El Encinar (Granada)
- Ecollaures (País Valenciá)

Semistructured interviews

Participation as a criteria:
Easy / difficult to consense

What tools / procedures
facilitate participation

What the difficulties for
participating

Learnings around
participation



Methodology



- La Borraja (Sanlúcar de Barrameda - Cádiz)
- La Ortiga (Sevilla)
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Social Network Analysis

Information
exchange fluxes

Tasks distribution

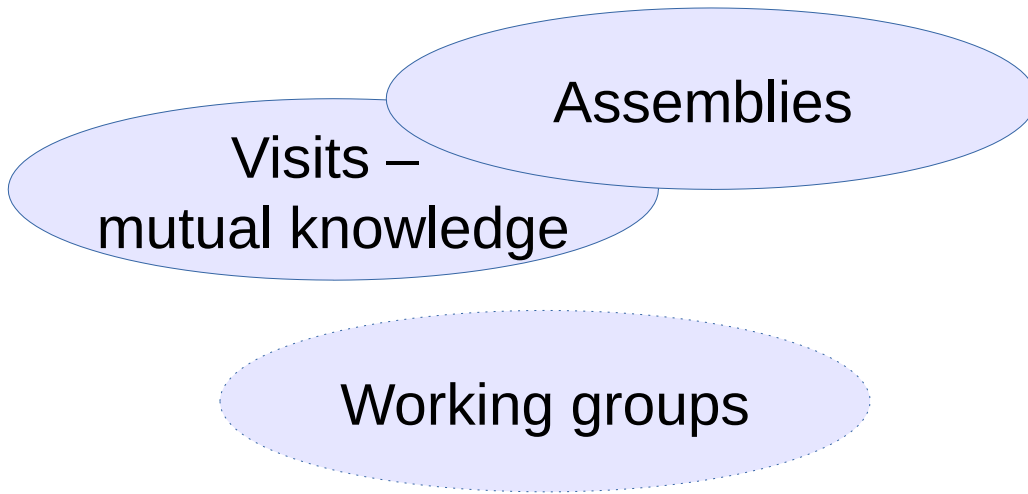




Discussions around participation as a criteria

No doubt about

But need to be careful about



Personal situations: dependents in care; Work situations,... - feminist perspective

Flexibility under explanations vs fairness

The aim of PGS – a selection tool





What helps participation?

Visits oriented to excursions – activities - meals

More than confidence:
debates, reflection
Meals, enjoyment, music

Tasks rotation

Public support – aids for activities (costs)



What helps participation? - Farmers

Consumers' participation

Recognition - logo

Clear orientation to a solid AFN

Visits and tasks planification and dynamization

More than confidence: knowledge sharing

Supporting technicians

Commercialisation and production collective planification

A realistic minimum compulsory under review



What helps participation? - Consumers

Awareness

Visits on WE

Incentives: free products, products tasting

Dissemination of visits through social networks



What difficults participation?

Farmers

Time availability

Precariousness – part time farming

Wear and tear over time: innovations?

Distances

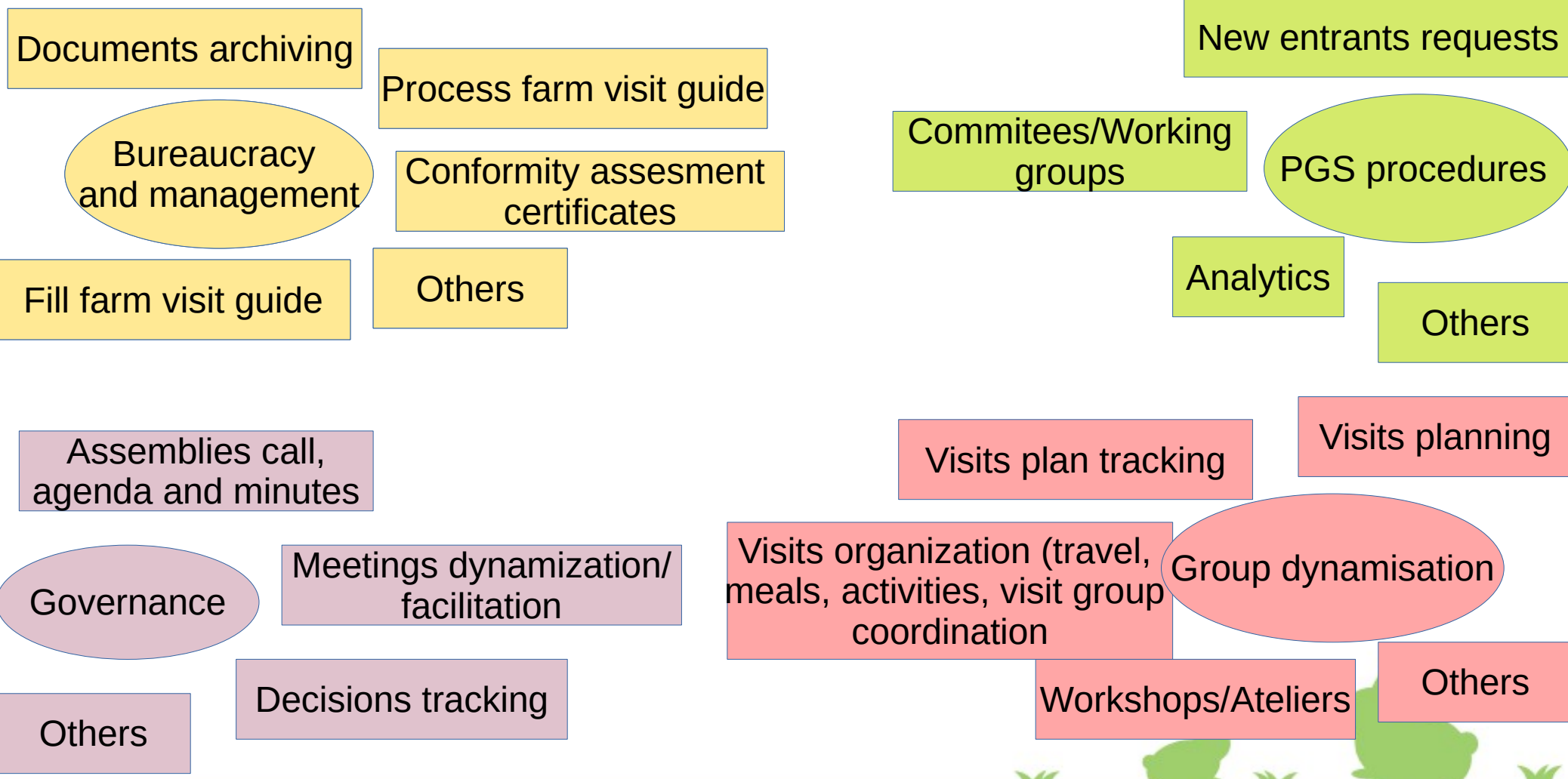
Consumers

Ignorance / insecurity: technical perception





What participation do PGS need?





What participation do PGS need?

Meals organization (visits, meetings)

Celebration, enjoyment

Picking up after the meal/visit/meeting

Common places maintenance (cleaning, order,...)

Conflicts management

Other organizations
Meetings attendance

PGS dissemination (web, social networks and media,...)

Visits dissemination

Group external representation

Participation in other organizations

Awareness activities (schools,...)

Awareness activities
PGS visibility

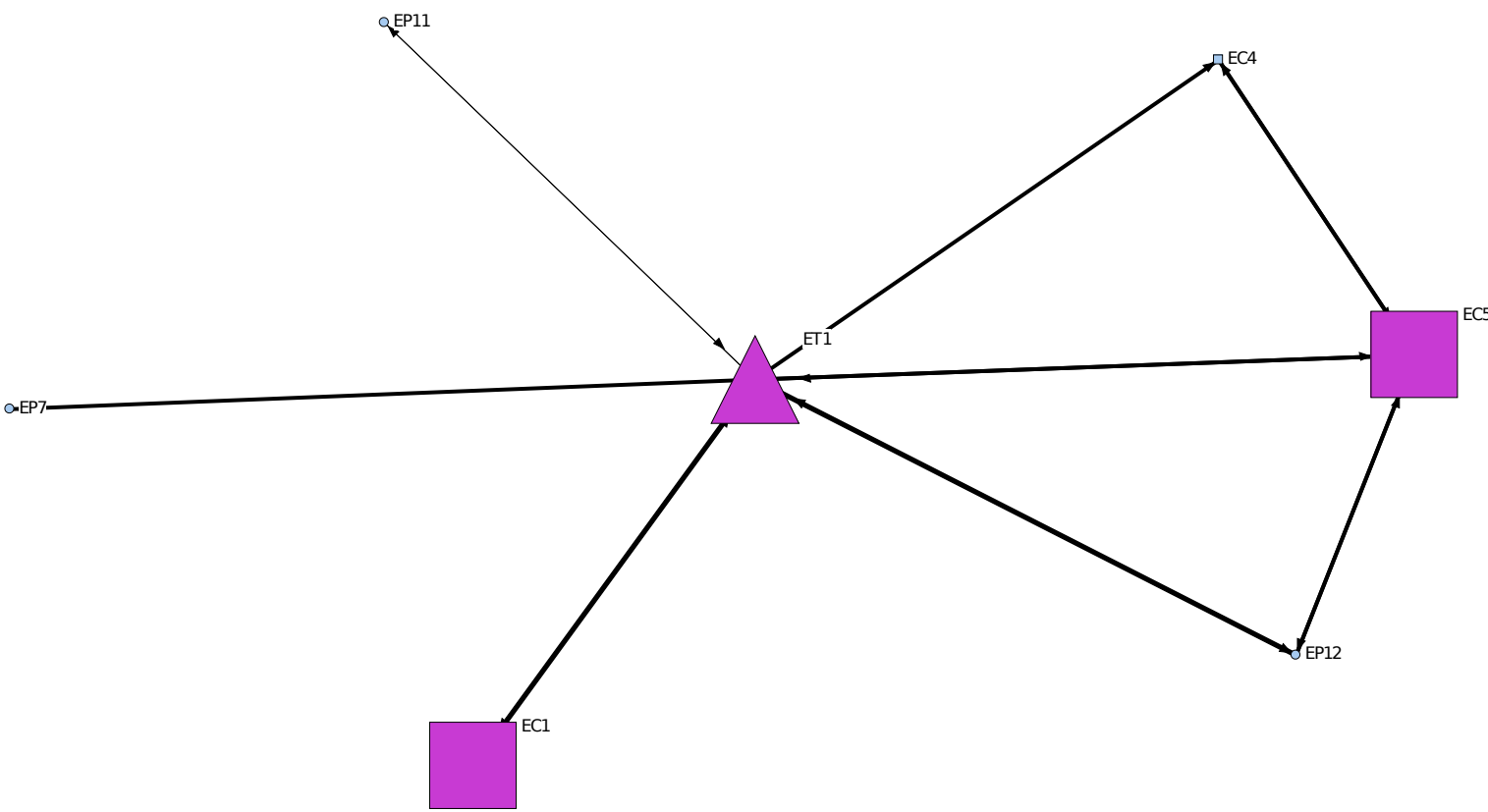
Others

Open farms as educational places

Others



How does it work? In a PGS with 17 active people

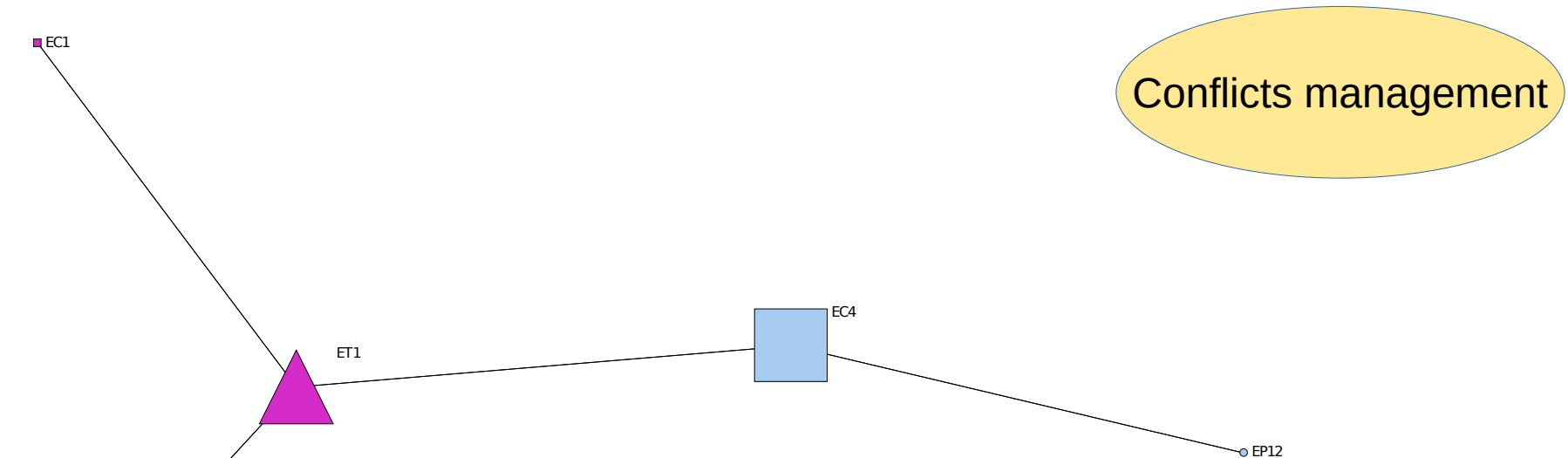


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How does it work? In a PGS with 17 active people

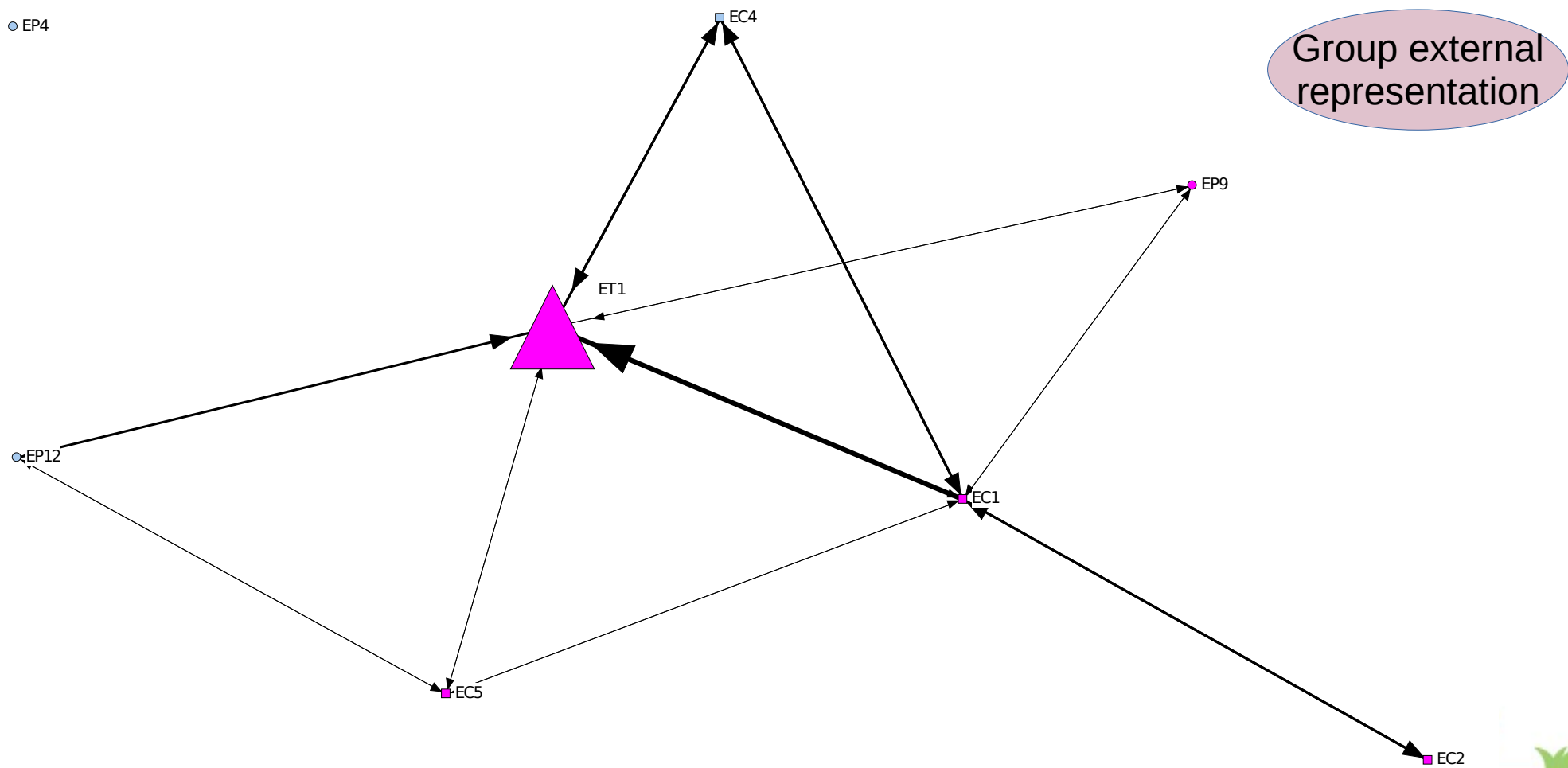


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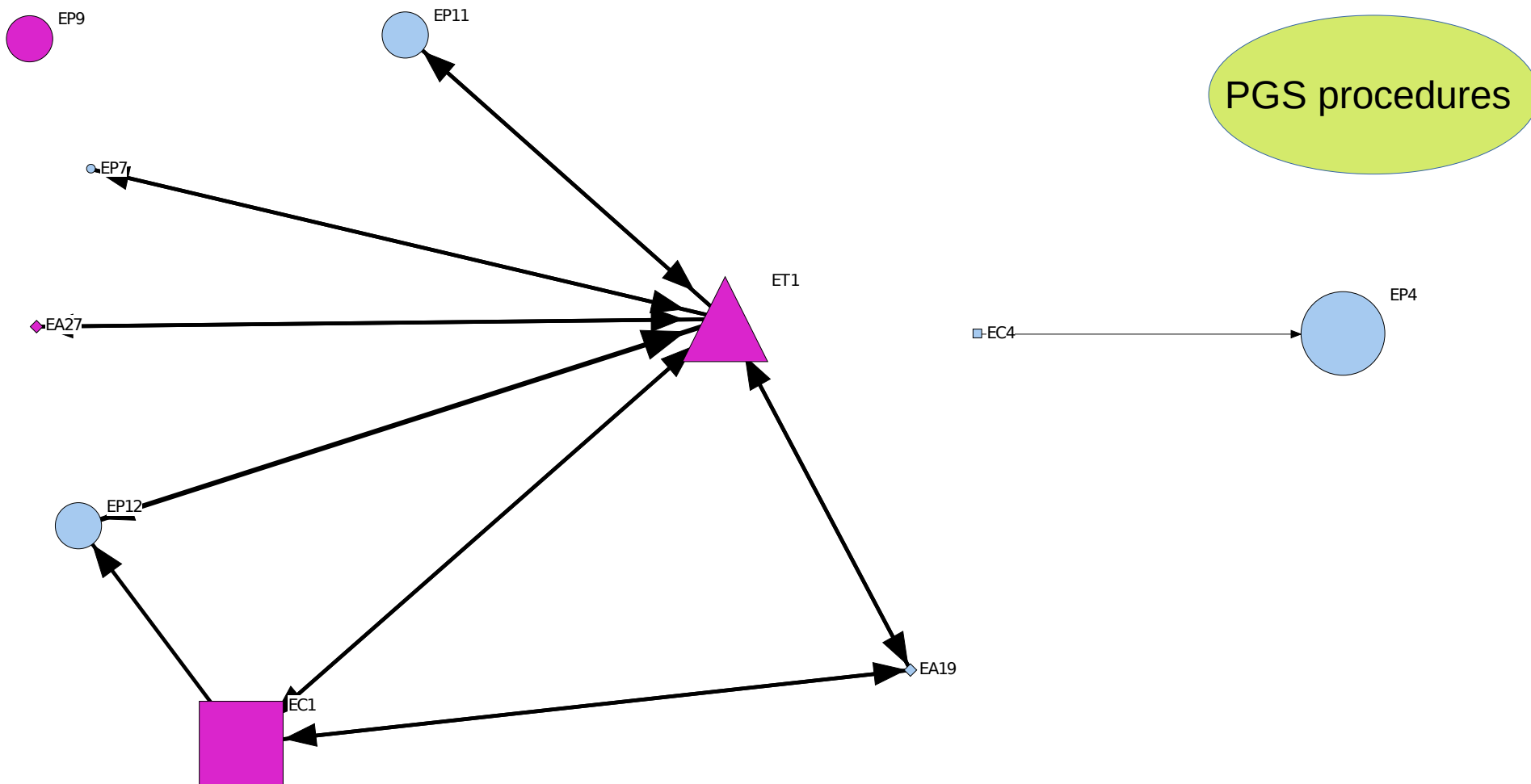


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How does it work? In a PGS with 17 active people



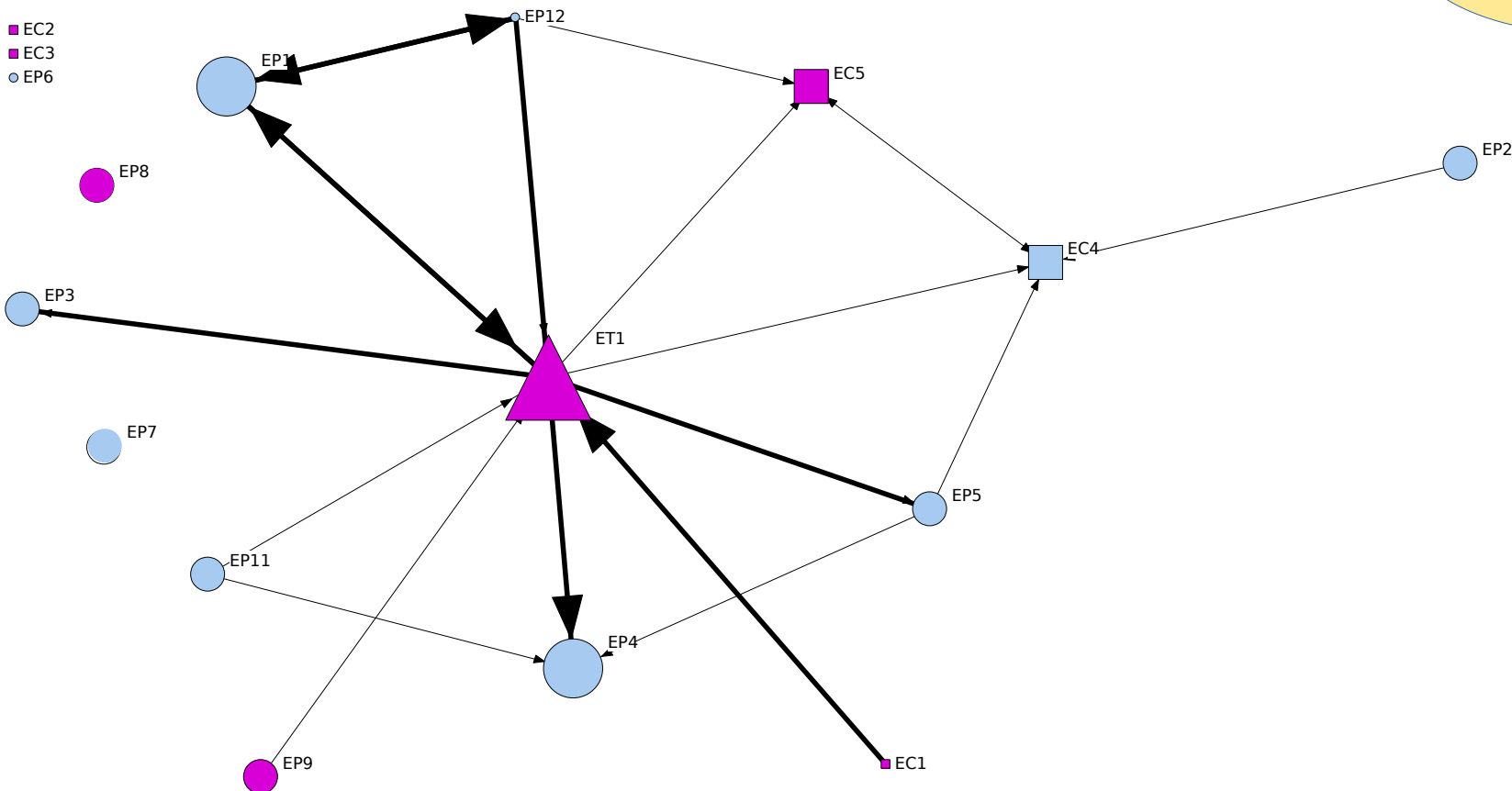
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How does it work? In a PGS with 17 active people

Bureaucracy
and management

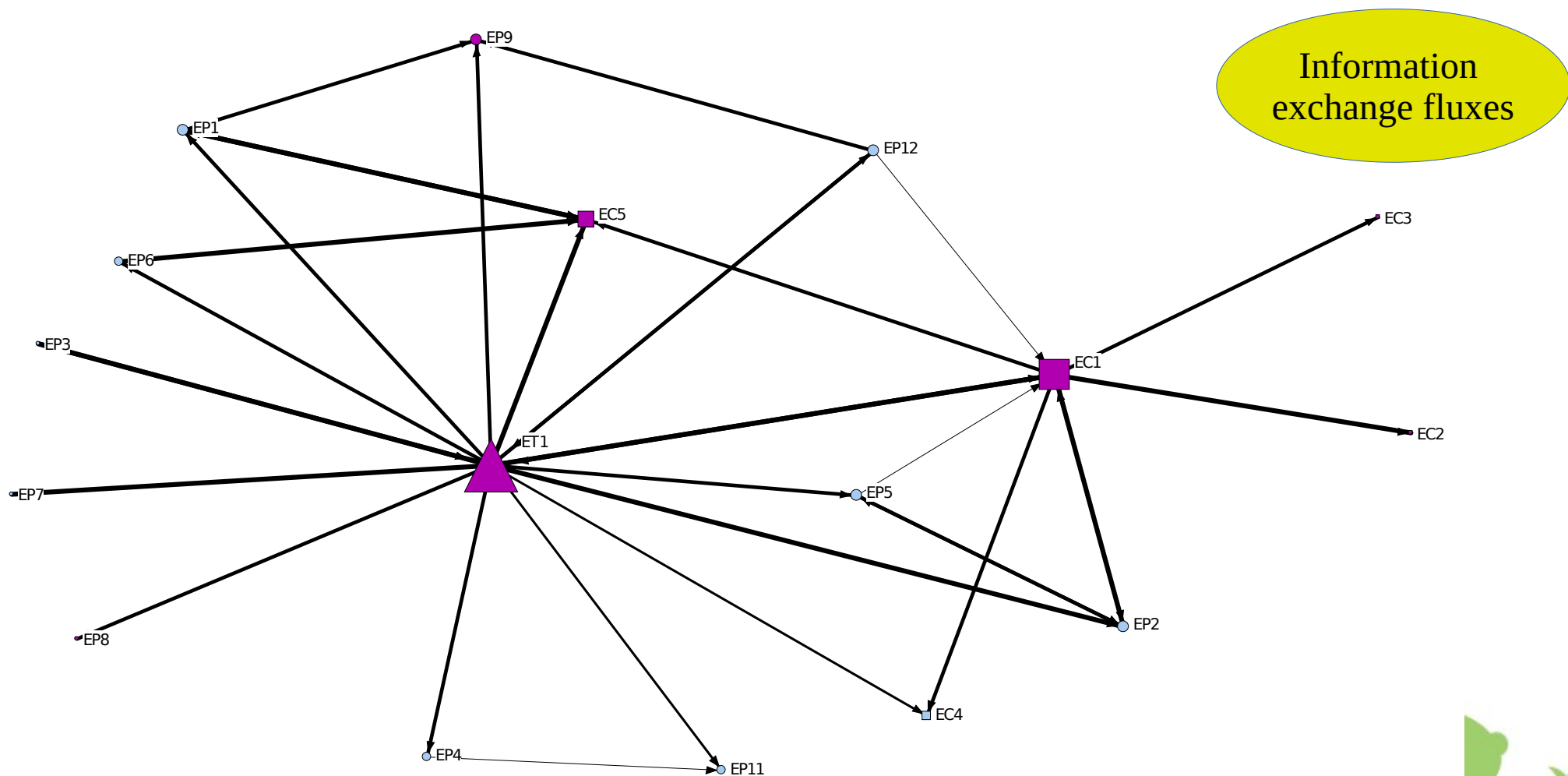


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How does it work? In a PGS with 17 active people



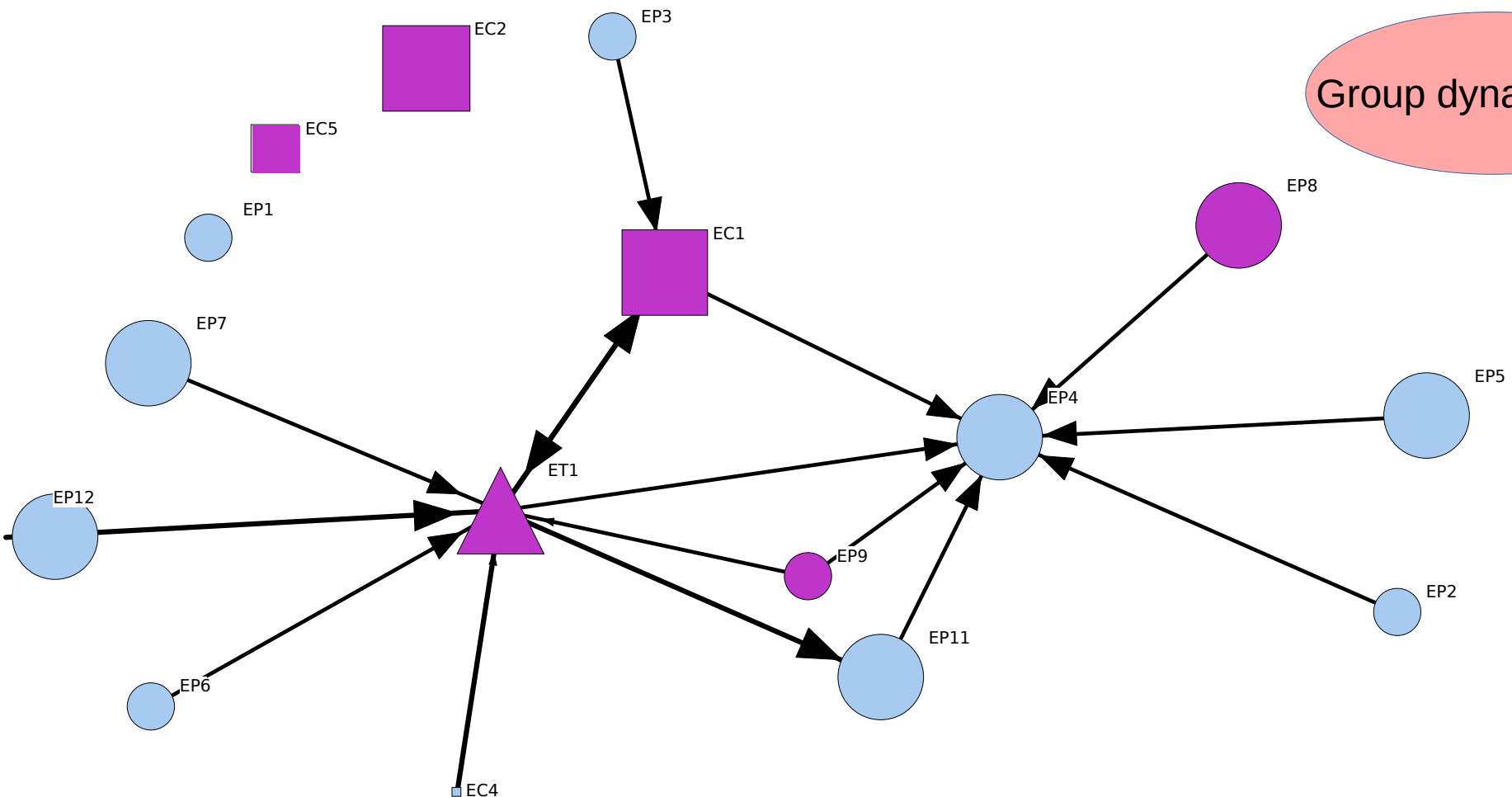
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How does it work? In a PGS with 17 active people

Group dynamisation

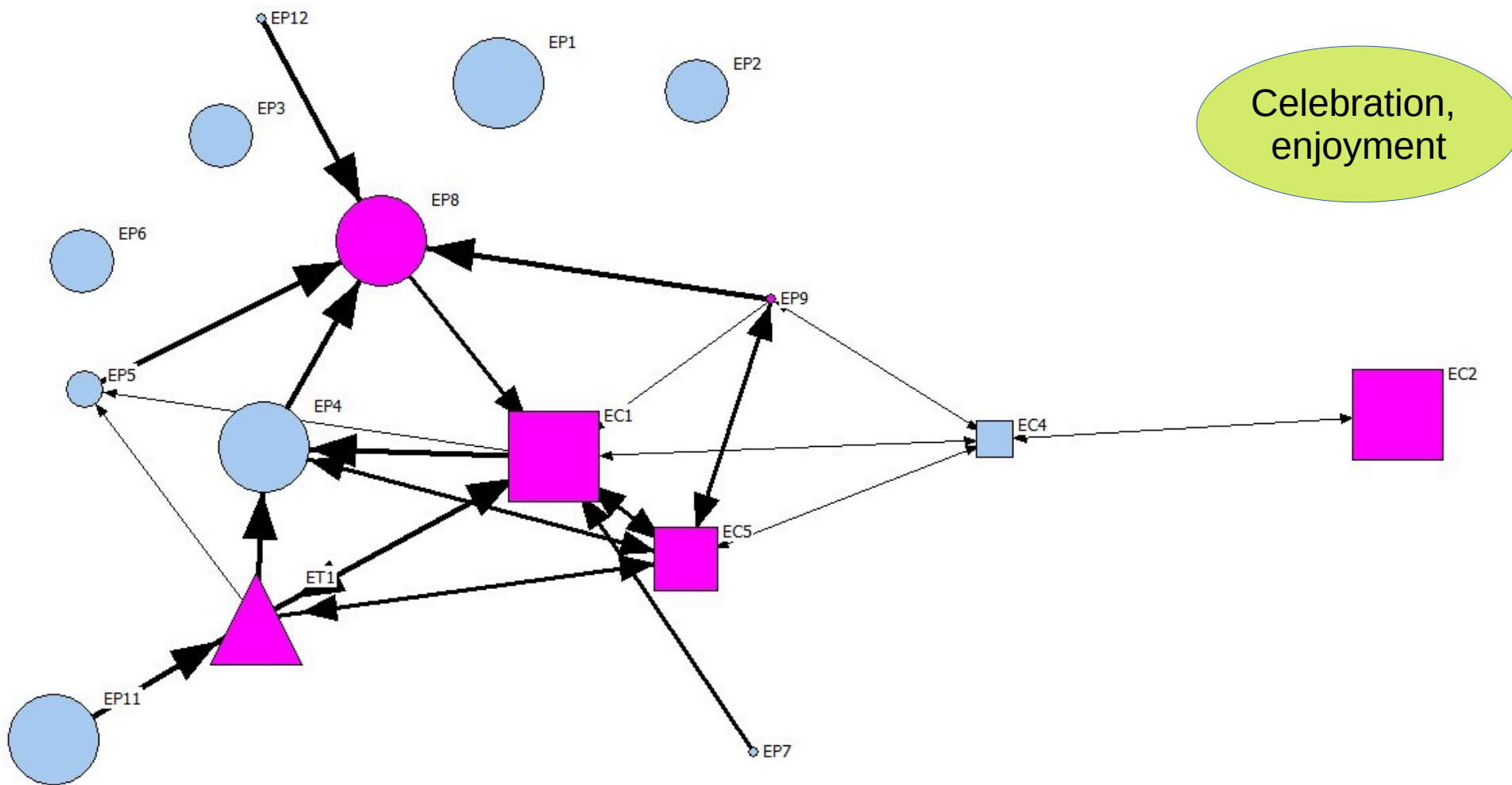


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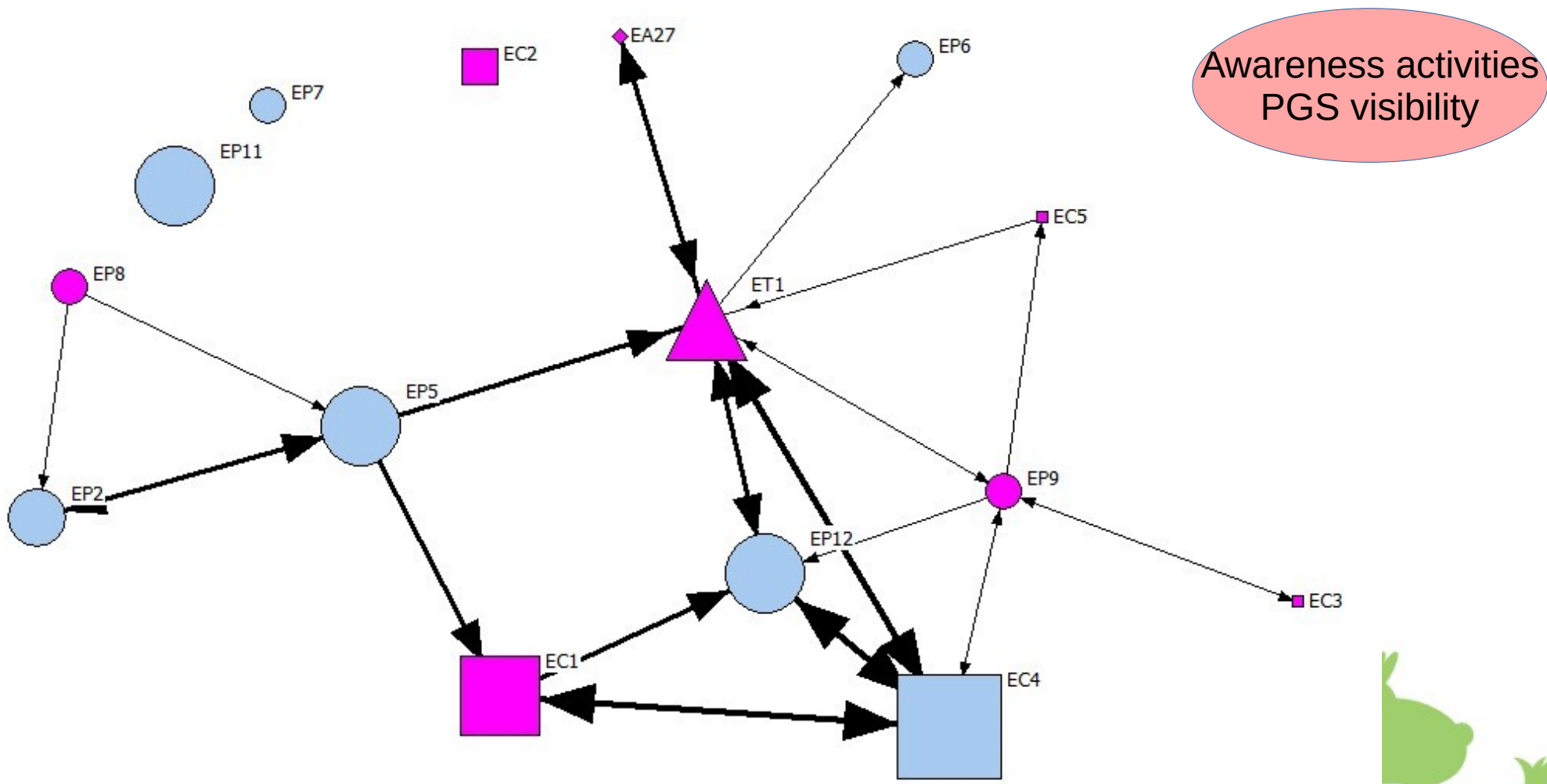


How does it work? In a PGS with 17 active people





How does it work? In a PGS with 17 active people





Conclusions

- Participation is a clear criteria for PGS
- Feminist perspective on care work (life in the center) easy to ignore
- Difficulties could be “solved” by:
 - technique support
 - stability of agroecological projects (solid AFN, public support/adaptation)
 - Design innovations
 - Beyond guarantee



Conclusions

- The role of technicians and participants involvement related to the nature of tasks:

- concentration New entrants requests

Comitees/Working groups

PGS procedures

Analytics

Others

Assemblies call, agenda and minutes

Other organizations
Meetings attendance

Conflicts management

Governance

Meetings dynamization/
facilitation

Group external representation

Participation in other organizations

Others

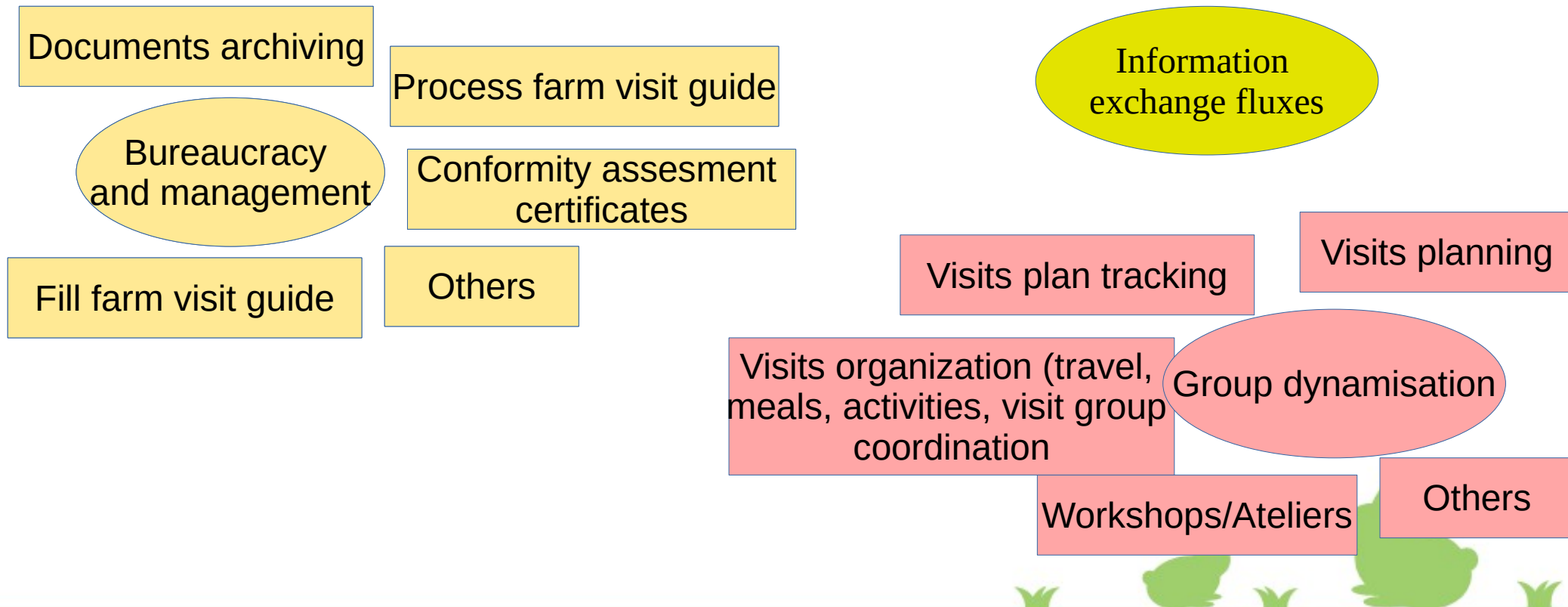
Decisions tracking

Others



Conclusions

- The role of technicians and participants involvement related to the nature of tasks:
 - Centrality





Conclusions

- The role of technicians and participants involvement related to the nature of tasks:
 - Horizontal sharing

Meals organization (visits, meetings)

Celebration, enjoyment

Picking up after the meal/visit/meeting

Common places maintenance (cleaning, order,...)

PGS dissemination (web, social networks and media,...)

Visits dissemination

Awareness activities (schools,...)

Awareness activities PGS visibility

Open farms as educational places

Others



Conclusions

- With the 4 PGS studied:
 - Complexity of participation (careful with critics)
 - Perspectives missing
 - Role of public support/aid
 - Role of technicians
 - Role of consumers and producers



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The implications of PGS designs: activism and collective tools required

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THANKS!

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