



## The SafeHabitus Communities of Practice: Advances research and collaboration on farm health and safety

*Tartu, Estonia - May 2026* - The SafeHabitus project hosted the 4th SafeHabitus Summer School in Tartu, Estonia. The three-day event brought together SafeHabitus project partners and Communities of Practice to share progress and good practices developed throughout the project. The key highlight of this year's Summer School was the collaboration with the Biosystems Engineering Conference, organised by SafeHabitus project partner the Estonian University of Life Sciences. The conference included dedicated SafeHabitus sessions focusing on farm health and safety research and innovation.

### Sharing project results with an international audience

The conference opened with a keynote presentation from the SafeHabitus Project Leader dr David Meredith (Teagasc), who gave an overview of the project's achievements to date and thanked the Estonian University of Life Sciences and the BSE2026 organising committee for the warm welcome, for an excellent conference, and for giving SafeHabitus such a generous platform.

Dr Meredith's plenary address stressed the need for treating working conditions and social sustainability as a central design consideration in European agriculture rather than an afterthought. Across the week, partners from the SafeHabitus consortium carried that argument into parallel sessions, posters, and a dedicated panel, presenting governance analysis, intervention design, and country-level good practice. This is exactly how a project like SafeHabitus moves the conversation forward: by bringing our findings into the rooms where the next generation of European agricultural systems and associated technologies is being designed.

Throughout the conference, SafeHabitus partners presented research and activities carried out across the project. Sessions explored a wide range of topics linked to farm health and safety, including farmers' health governance, climate resilience, digitalisation and mental health, survivor stories, and media reporting on farm accidents. Presentations also highlighted the role of the SafeHabitus Communities of Practice in identifying current and future priorities for farm safety and strengthening farm safety culture across different countries and farming sectors.

### Local actions towards safer farms across Europe

Alongside the conference, the Summer School hosted the Transnational Community of Practice (TCOP) meeting, bringing together the 11 SafeHabitus Communities of Practice to share experiences, and reflect on the progress achieved through multi-actor collaborations. Throughout the meeting, SafeHabitus CoP representatives exchanged lessons learned, discussed challenges encountered, and highlighted successes within their communities and countries.

“During the meeting in Tartu, we compared the outcomes and impacts on farm safety and health needs in each of the 11 countries. COP representatives from each country presented key highlights and discussed future steps to address these important needs. Improved safety and health risk management is an essential component of successful farm management in the EU”, said the Community of Practice work package leader Dr Jarkko Leppälä.

The discussions highlighted the diversity of approaches across the different Communities of Practice, ranging from well-established systems to the lack of safety culture requiring greater awareness raising. Despite these differences, all Communities of Practice demonstrated significant progress towards improving farm safety and wellbeing in their countries.

**More information:**

- [Community of Practice | SafeHabitus](#)

**About SafeHabitus:**

[SafeHabitus](#) project is a four-year project coordinated by TEAGASC Ireland, funded by the European Union as part of the Horizon Europe Programme, grant agreement number 101084270. This multi-actor project aims to strengthen Farm Health and Safety Knowledge Innovation Systems (FHS KIS) and support the EU transition to social sustainability in farming.

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