

# **EuroPLoP Shepherding: Where should we head for?**

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We will conduct a workshop to understand and shape the shepherding process and the role of shepherds at future EuroPLoP conferences.

## **Introduction**

Shepherding is the review process for submissions to EuroPLoP conferences. They are individuals with profound experience in pattern writing and reviewing who are assigned to paper authors (aka the sheep).



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The ultimate goal of any shepherd is to help authors improving their submission with expressed interest. Shepherds have a similar understanding of their role, draw from a bunch of proven practice, and share an affectionate mindset [Harrisson 1999]. Usually, shepherds learn by having been a sheep for at least once and started with shepherding themselves.

## **Challenge**

Shepherding is challenging in terms of cognitive and emotional capabilities. Valuable shepherding takes time, and needs means to build rapport with an author who are e.g. rookies or (although being mature experts) sometimes reject good faith advice. Nonwithstanding, good shepherds will remain open and turned towards their sheep.

The challenges to PLoP shepherding are multifold: Authors are eager to get shepherd coaching, but they are hesitate to become shepherds themselves. The important work of shepherds has low reputation. Sufficient education of shepherding skills is still lacking.

## **Approach & Outcome**

To address these problems, we will take look into the possible future of shepherding by building a couple of possible scenarios. After having created a shared understanding, we will collect specific ideas how to make shepherding a valuable experience in the future of EuroPloP.

## **Participation**

The workshop provides a working capacity of up to 60 people. It runs in two distinguished modules (ca. 120 min to take a systematic look into the future, ca. 60min to identify valuable strategies based on intermediary results) and includes a coffee break if the schedule permits. Depending on the number of participants we will facilitate subgroups to nurture valuable communication.