The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) „Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability“

Speeding up innovation

Cross-fertilisation event multi-actor projects – Brussels – 8 March 2018
Inge Van Oost & Fabio Cossu – EU Commission DG AGRI - R&I unit
1. The bigger picture of EIP-AGRI
"I not only use all the brains that I have, but all that I can borrow"

Woodrow Wilson – President of the USA, 1913-1921
Interactive innovation: Cross-fertilisation is key for tackling complex challenges and developing opportunities for innovation

Du choc des idées jaillit la lumière

Nicolas Boileau, French philosopher, 17th century

> Enlightenment comes when views collide
> From the clash of opposing minds, new ideas arise
Funding for interactive innovation projects

Rural Development (regional/national level)

- Funding for setting up of an “Operational Group” (OG): farmers, advisors, agribusiness, researchers, NGOs, etc) planning an innovation project (Art 35)

- Project funding for the Operational Group’s project (Art 35).

- Supporting innovation support services

Horizon 2020 (European projects)

- Research projects, to provide the knowledge base for innovative actions

- Interactive innovation formats: multi-actor projects and thematic networks genuinely involving farmers, advisors, entreprises, etc.... "all along the project"

Unique EU repository of contacts and practice abstracts

EIP networks MS/regions

Involvement of OGs is strongly recommended
EU added value: An EU wide EIP network, supported under Rural development policy Linking with H2020

Multi-actor project (MA)

National Rural Network (NRN)

Operational Group (OG)

Thematic Network (TN)
2. EIP-AGRI's Rural Development side
EIP Operational Groups 2014-2020

- The EIP implementation aims at a **flexible and open system** for the creation of a multiplicity of operational groups (OGs)

- **27 MS and 98 RDPs** are implementing the EIP in their 2014-2020 Rural Development programmes with **regular calls for Operational Group projects during this period**

- **3200 OGs** planned in 2014-2020, with cooperation in innovative activities such as the development of **new products or practices**, pilot projects, **supply chain cooperation**, **environmental projects or climate change actions**, cooperation in **biomass provision or renewable energy**, forest management and much more

- Thematic EIP workshops starting: 600-700 running OG projects are being connected with other OGs and **H2020 projects** in EIP workshops or by MSs’ events (mostly since 2017)…
Calls for Operational Groups (OG)
(informal state of play 25 January 2018)

1st call now open

1st call to open soon

OG projects finished, selected and/or being evaluated
Connecting H2020 MA projects with OGs, how?

1. **Innovation Support Services are emerging:**
   - **Brokering** function: finding partners and help building the proposal
   - **Coordination and facilitation of projects** as an intermediate between partners
   - Innovation advice and promotion
   - Coaching farmers towards innovation (Innovation Prize)
   - Brainstorming events and animation
   - Dissemination of innovative results
   - Connect with SMEs and other innovation services and funding

2. **National rural networks also can support:**
   - **National Rural Networks can help connect** H2020 consortia and EIP Operational Groups from their country
3. EIP-AGRI's H2020 research and innovation side

WP 2018-2020: More multi-actor topics/projects

500 mio Euro – another 100 MA projects (incl TNs)

In total 1 bio Euro H2020 Multi-actor projects in 7 years
H2020 Multi-actor approach - Key elements
EU interactive innovation projects

Multi-actor is not “The More The Merrier”

“End-users” are those that will use the results of the project
H2020 Multi-actor approach - Key elements
EU interactive innovation projects

The two most important (EIP) principles are (as in OGs):

- to **focus on end-users’ problems/opportunities** and develop innovative solutions which cover **real needs**. End-users like farmers, foresters or businesses will be more motivated to use the project results, because they were incorporated in generating them and therefore feel "co-ownership"

- to bring together the **most relevant partners** with the needed **complementary type of knowledge** which helps solving problems and tackling opportunities e.g.: farmers, advisors, researchers, suppliers, processors, agencies and/or other actors, who co-operate and co-innovate **in project activities from the beginning till the end**.

Detailed requirements in H2020 WP introduction p. 9

H2020 Thematic networks: Compiling knowledge ready for practice

- Multi-actor coordination action: Partners should **summarise, share and present existing scientific knowledge & best practices** that are not sufficiently known (and applied) by practitioners, **in an easy understandable concise way ready for practice**

- Themes to be chosen **bottom-up**, contributing to a more competitive sustainable agriculture and forestry

- Themes must **focus on the most urgent needs of agricultural or forestry production sectors**,

- Projects **involving those actors relevant for the chose theme** (e.g. researchers, farmers, advisors, enterprises, education, NGOs, administration, regulatory bodies, EIP project groups...)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic Network</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Focus Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CERERE</td>
<td>RUR 10 - 2016</td>
<td>Cereals: organic/low input cereal food systems for biodiversity and quality (production, processing, marketing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eu PiG</td>
<td>RUR 10 - 2016</td>
<td>Pig husbandry: health management, precision production, welfare and meat quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inno4Grass</td>
<td>RUR 10 - 2016</td>
<td>Productive grasslands: profitability and environmental services</td>
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<tr>
<td>SheepNet</td>
<td>RUR 10 - 2016</td>
<td>Improving sheep productivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winetwork</td>
<td>ISIB 2 - 2014</td>
<td>Wine diseases: Grapevine Trunk Disease and Flavescence dorée</td>
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<tr>
<td>OKNetArable</td>
<td>ISIB 2 - 2014</td>
<td>Organic agriculture - arable crops</td>
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<td>Hennovation</td>
<td>ISIB 2 - 2014</td>
<td>Animal welfare hens</td>
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<td>4D4F</td>
<td>ISIB 2 - 2015</td>
<td>Data and sensor driven decision making on dairy farms</td>
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<tr>
<td>EuroDairy</td>
<td>ISIB 2 - 2015</td>
<td>Practice-based innovations in dairy farming: resource efficiency, biodiversity, animal care, and socio-economic resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUFRUIT</td>
<td>ISIB 2 - 2015</td>
<td>Fruit: cultivar development, minimize residues, storage and fruit quality, sustainability of production systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>RUR 10 - 2016</td>
<td>SKIN</td>
<td>Stimulating innovation and good practices in short supply chains</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUR 10 - 2016</td>
<td>AFINET</td>
<td>Agroforestry: sylvoarable and sylvopastural systems' design, management and profitability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISIB 2 - 2014</td>
<td>Agri-Spin</td>
<td>Innovation brokering methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISIB 2 - 2015</td>
<td>AGRIFORVALOR</td>
<td>Valorization of biomass side-streams from agriculture and forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISIB 2 - 2015</td>
<td>Smart-AKIS</td>
<td>Smart Farming Technology: Management Information Systems, Precision Agriculture and Agriculture automation and robotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISIB 2 - 2015</td>
<td>HNV-Link</td>
<td>Support HNV farmlands through knowledge and innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER 4B - 2015</td>
<td>FERTINNOWA</td>
<td>Optimize water and nutrient use efficiency: database on innovative technologies and practices for fertigation of horticultural crops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A short film explaining how a thematic network works: [https://youtu.be/mVsW4--ex0M](https://youtu.be/mVsW4--ex0M)
### 2017 H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks (3)

another complementary set of themes
(cross-cutting themes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ENABLING</strong></th>
<th>Upscaling biomass production and pre-processing for bio-based value chains</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCREdible</strong></td>
<td><strong>Non Wood Forest Products:</strong> Cork, Resins and Edibles in the Mediterranean basin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEWBIE</strong></td>
<td><strong>New Entrant</strong> netWork: Business models for Innovation, entrepreneurship and resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OK-Net EcoFeed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Organic</strong> Knowledge Network on <strong>Monogastric</strong> Animal Feed (pigs, broilers, hens)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PANACEA</strong></td>
<td><strong>Non-food Crops’</strong> penetration path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INNOSEETA</strong></td>
<td>Best management practices <strong>Spraying Equipment</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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4. Synergies within H2020 Multi-Actor projects (MA), including Thematic Networks (TN) with OGs:

How can this go in practice?
Four main strands to link OGs (etc) to H2020 Multi-actor (MA&TN) projects

If partners from an OG project participate in an H2020 project (e.g. participate in workshops), could they receive funding?

1) The **full OG** can be a partner (="beneficiary") or a third party of the MA consortium if the OG is constituted as a legal entity.

2) **One OG partner**, established as a legal entity, can be included as a partner or third party bringing input from the OG and/or giving input to the OG. In order to convince evaluators, such inputs **should be clearly described** in the proposal, even if not fully defined yet.
3) Without an OG or an OG partner being a beneficiary or third party in the project, another type of connection with OGs can be made. In order to support certain activities, partners (beneficiaries) from the H2020 project can earmark budget under "other direct costs" to cover expenses for OG members to participate to project activities.

Again, it is important to **describe the planned activity and how it relates to the OG(s) mentioned**. For instance, OGs can be invited to workshops of the MA project or can be included in cross-visits organized across countries.
4) The cooperation can also relate to support provided on a voluntary basis (with **no impact on the MA project's budget**). Such support can include activities that OGs are willing to undertake, without financial support from the MA project, to maximise the multi-actor project's impact (e.g. stakeholder mobilization, enabling/strengthening the links with and between relevant OGs, activities with OG's networks).

In this particular case, since the control will not fall under the MA project control, **strong evidence is needed that the OGs will indeed undertake these activities**. For instance, the activities could be visible in the OG project plan as approved by rural development authorities, or a **cooperation agreement** could be made as annex to the H2020 proposal.
Please take into account that **MA projects cannot start up Operational Groups**. It is up to the regional or national Rural Development Programme managing authorities to select OG projects according to the calls they make.

As a general rule, funding through the MA project should **not duplicate funding** received from other sources (e.g. those OG project activities already supported under a rural development programme).
Where can you find more info?

- **EIP brochure on multi-actor projects**

- **EIP brochure on thematic networks & practice abstracts**

- **EIP common format for practice abstracts**
  - [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/eip-agri-common-format](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/eip-agri-common-format)

- **Videostreamed seminar on drafting practice abstracts**
  - [http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=33](http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=33)

- **Brochure ‘Collaborate to innovate – OGs networking across the EU’ - Publication Tuesday 13 March 2018**
“What stops us is the fear of change.
And nevertheless, it is on change that our salvation depends”

“Ce qui nous arrête, c’est la peur du changement.
Et pourtant c’est du changement que dépend notre salut”

Jean Monnet
Father of Europe
Speech on 12/05/1954
Having potential innovative knowledge is one thing, turning it into reality is another.

"The value of an idea lies in the using of it."

Thomas Alva Edison – inventor of the light bulb
Start building an EU AKIS

Speed up creativity and practice application

Better connectivity and quicker circulation of information
Innovation is: an idea put into practice with success!

Thank you for your attention

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