



EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP OPERATIONAL GROUPS: FIRST EXPERIENCES 20-21 APRIL 2016 - LEGNARO, ITALY



EIP-AGRI Workshop: “Operational Groups: first experiences”

20-21 April 2016
'Corte Benedettina', Legnaro, Veneto region, Italy

On Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 April 2016, DG AGRI is organising a **two-day workshop dedicated to exploring and sharing the practical experiences of the first Operational Groups (OGs), from setting up partnerships around concrete projects to implementing them.**

The workshop is organised in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies – Department for International, European and Rural Development Policies, the Veneto Region and the Veneto Agricoltura - Regional Agency for Agriculture, Forestry and Agri-Food Sectors.

A total of 3205 OGs are planned during the period 2014-2020 with funding available under Measure 16 of the rural development programmes (RDPs) of 94 Member States / regions. The OG concept is new, and RDP Managing Authorities are at different stages of launching OGs and of creating a supporting environment for them to flourish in.

As practical experiences of OGs begin to accumulate, it's a good time to bring together a number of **already established OGs** and **relevant stakeholders** from Member States and regions. The workshop will be a mixture of presentations and active discussions. The aim is to exchange ideas and learn from first experiences of setting up OGs and the early stages of project implementation.

The specific objectives of the workshop are:

1. To **further improve understanding** of the EIP-AGRI principle of interactive innovation
2. To **exchange ideas and learn** from initial experiences of OGs, regarding: a) setting up OG partnerships around concrete projects, tackling farmers' / foresters' needs and b) subsequently implementing these projects
3. To **identify initiatives that are useful** to help set up OG projects, including positive experiences of addressing the challenges and needs that the first OGs are facing
4. To **learn about the practical role** that EIP-AGRI network support units, MAs, advisers, innovation brokers, innovation support services and other networks have in creating a supporting environment for OGs
5. To **promote the widespread dissemination** of the first practical experiences from the OGs.

It is anticipated that the conclusions and lessons learned from the workshop will help to facilitate the on-going setting up of new OGs and the successful implementation of their projects.



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Draft Programme

Day 1: Wednesday, 20 April

08:15 – 09:00 Registration

Introduction and scope of the workshop

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome and opening address

09:30 – 10:00 Setting the scene, *DG AGRI*

Exchange of experiences I – setting up Operational Groups around concrete projects

10:00 – 10:45 Examples from Member States/regions: concrete experiences with setting up OGs

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break and networking

11:15 – 12:30 Breakout session 1 - discussing enabling factors, experiences, challenges and needs for setting up OGs

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

Exchange of experiences II – implementation of Operational Group projects

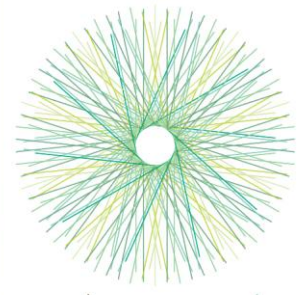
13:30 – 14:15 Examples from Member States/regions: concrete experiences with starting the implementation of OG projects

14:15 – 15:15 Breakout session 2 - discussing enabling factors, experiences, challenges and needs that the first OGs are facing

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee break and networking

15:45 – 17:30 Feedback from breakout sessions followed by an open interactive discussion

19.30 – 21.30 Networking dinner



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Day 2: Thursday, 21 April

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:30 Reflections on Day 1 and introduction to Day 2

Looking at the supporting environment

09:30 – 10:15 Concrete examples of creating a supporting environment - presentations in plenary

10:15 – 11:15 Breakout session 3 - discussing what kind of supporting environment is useful for OGs

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee break and networking

11:45 – 12:15 Feedback from breakout sessions

12:15 – 13:30 What have we learned from this workshop?

13:25 – 13:30 Closing of the workshop

13:30 Light lunch and depart