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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

EIP-AGRI SEMINAR MULTI-LEVEL STRATEGIES FOR DIGITISING AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS 12-13 DECEMBER 2018 - ANTWERP, BELGIUM



EIP-AGRI Seminar 'Multi-level strategies for digitising agriculture and rural areas'

12 – 13 December 2018
Antwerp, Belgium

Researchers, the farming community, rural actors and policy makers converge on the need for digital strategies to unlock the potential of digitisation, in order to face current and future challenges of the farming sector and of rural areas. The CAP Strategic Plans are a key element in the **EC legislative proposals on the Common Agricultural Policy post-2020**. According to the regulation proposal, these plans should include 'a description of the strategy for the development of digital technologies in agriculture and rural areas and for the use of these technologies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the CAP Strategic Plan interventions'.

This EIP-AGRI seminar builds upon the substantial groundwork undertaken by the European Commission to incentivise the digitisation of the farming sector and of rural areas, especially through the **EIP-AGRI network** and the **ENRD**. Ensuring that agriculture and rural areas are part of the strategic agendas for digitisation is a recurrent outcome of these activities.

However, in some Member States and regions the setting-up of digital strategies based on the specificities of the area concerned is still lagging behind. As a consequence, in these areas there is an insufficient response to the main challenges posed by the digital transformation, such as compatible software systems, data ownership, bandwidth, changes of business models and of farmers' way of life. Moreover, there is a need for improved coordination between the European, national and regional levels and across sectoral policies and funding instruments to support digital transformation.

The seminar aims at **promoting multi-level digital strategies for agriculture and rural areas** taking into account the specific regional context. It has the following specific objectives:

- To raise awareness about the role / importance of strategic planning to foster and steer the digitisation of agriculture and rural areas, also with a view to the future Strategic CAP Plans
- To inspire through existing examples of strategic planning and relevant digitisation initiatives across Europe
- To discuss and kick-start the process for developing digital strategies adapted to the local context and to local needs, by fostering mutual learning among actors, sectors and governance levels
- To showcase tools and initiatives developed at EU level to accompany the digital transformation in the farming and rural economy sectors



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Draft programme

Day 1: Wednesday 12 December 2018

9:00 – 9:30

Registration

9:30 – 10:00

Welcome & introduction

- Welcome by **Patricia De Clercq**, Secretary General of the Department for Agriculture and Fisheries of the Flemish Government
- Opening by **Maria Angeles Benitez Salas**, European Commission, Deputy Director General at DG Agriculture and Rural Development
- Introduction to the programme, and practicalities by **Ursula Caser**, EIP-AGRI Service Point

Session 1: Strategic planning to guide digitisation

10:00 – 10:45

EU in motion for digitisation: setting the scene

- Strategy for the Digital Transformation of the Agrifood Value Chain in Andalusia – **Ricardo Domínguez García-Baquero**, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development of Andalusia
- The European framework fostering digitisation of agriculture and rural areas – **Kerstin Rosenow**, European Commission, Head of Unit “Research and Innovation” of DG AGRI

10:45 – 11:15

Coffee break

11:15 – 12:30

Gallery walk: This is happening in Europe

Poster session presenting a diversity of initiatives of strategic planning for digitisation of agriculture and rural areas at national, regional and local levels

1. Lormes – Market Town of the Future, Clive Peckham
2. Digital road map for agriculture and food, François Moreau
3. Digital intersection agriculture / administration, Heinrich Terwitte
4. Cornwall/ Steps towards a rural digital region, Katharine Willis
5. ZLTO strategy & activities towards digitisation for the sake of Dutch farmers in European context, Peter Parea
6. FAIRShare: Findable, Available, Interoperable, Reusable and Shareable, Tom Kelly
7. Karpat Agri - Digital Agricultural Ecosystem in the Carpathian Basin, Zsofia Veres
8. Incubator of the Future Industry Leaders, Andrzej Soldaty
9. Digital Agriculture Strategy (DAS), Anett Fekete



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10. S3 High Tech Farming partnership, Fabio Boscaleri
11. Food Wise 2025 – Strategic actions Digitisation of Agriculture, Kevin Conolly
12. ICT-AGRI: transnational cooperation fostering digital agriculture, Niels Gøtke
13. Strategy for digital transformation of EU agriculture. The farmer's perspective, Daniel Azevedo
14. Project 'Support for broadband infrastructure (stage II)', Eglé Misiené
15. e-agriculture national strategy development, Sophie Treinen
16. Smart Countryside Lippe/Höxter, Steffen Hess

12:30 – 13:30 **Networking lunch**

Session 2: The building blocks of digital strategies for agriculture and rural areas

13:30 – 15:00 **Main issues, challenges and opportunities for setting up digital strategies for agriculture and rural areas: discussion**
Breakout session: parallel group discussion (1st round)

15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee break**

15:30 – 17:00 **Main issues, challenges and opportunities for setting up digital strategies for agriculture and rural areas: discussion**
Breakout session: parallel group discussion (2nd round)

17:00 – 17:30 **Main issues, challenges and opportunities for setting up digital strategies in agriculture and rural areas: results**
Plenary session with reporting back from breakout sessions

17:30 – 18:00 **Closing the day**
Main messages from Day 1 and preparation for Day 2

19:00 **Networking dinner**
Restaurant Felix Pakhuis
(transfer by bus from the venue and back is foreseen)

