



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar  
gyfer Datblygu Gwledig;  
Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
European Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development:  
Europe Investing in Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru  
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# Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

## European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Wales

## Innovation Support & Application Stages

## EIP- Innovation Support & Application Stages

- **Project idea** – Idea for project by individual farmer/forester, or groups of farmers/foresters.
- **Knowledge Exchange Hub** (KE Hub) contacted and **Innovation Broker** (IB) support can be requested
  - IB begins identifying potential actors/specialists taking into account input from the farmer/forester.
  - All potential innovation operational groups will consist of 2 categories of actors as a minimum
  - 1 category of actor to consist of a min of 2 active farmers/ foresters, who must be from separate businesses, as identified by registering with Farming Connect. (“Actors” within the Operational Group are a Category of partners e.g. Farmers/foresters, researchers involved in agriculture, food or forestry, Agri-food or forestry businesses involved in the supply chain.)
- **Information sources Review** undertaken by KE Hub
  - **Outside Scope\*** - the group will be supported to review their proposals, or directed towards other funding/support opportunities
  - **Within Scope\*** - and IB authorised to draft Project Outline Form

\*Scope can be defined as within the scope of the EIP Measure.
- **Feedback to the group** on recommendations on direction for the project. If no relevant information sources/literature has been identified, the KE Hub will still support the group to develop their “idea”. They will also identify other OG’s within Wales (or wider), any relevant Thematic Networks, or any other scheme/programme which could benefit the project and facilitate initial communication on their behalf.
- **Draft Project Outline form submitted** to KE Hub
- **KE Hub undertakes initial checks** on the draft project outline form. Advice given on initial structure of the concept

- **Outside Scope** - group asked to reconsider elements / structure
- **Within Scope** – IB authorised to complete final version of Project Outline Form
- **Submit Final Project Outline to KE Hub.**
- **KE Hub to refer project to Welsh Government** once all eligibility checks have been undertaken on potential group participants and project proposal.
- **Invitation to Apply** sent by Welsh Government to invite group to submit full application.
  - Group has a maximum of 6 months to submit the application
  - If approved, project can have between 6 months and three years to be delivered.
  - Innovation Broker can be used to facilitate project development at the group's request. The group may identify any other suitable facilitator if they require

### Summary of Terms.

**Knowledge Exchange Hub - The Knowledge Exchange Hub (KE Hub) is a joint collaboration between Farming Connect and the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS).** Its purpose is to provide an interface between researchers, advisory professionals and farmers / foresters, and for the purpose of EIP, can undertake information source searches to ensure that projects are evidence based.

**Innovation Brokers** - Innovation Brokers (IB) are independent, private sector consultants. All IB's have been identified as Technical Experts within their individual fields i.e. dairy, grassland. They are available to support the groups and facilitate the development of the projects, and guide them through the application process. They are also available as Project Facilitators if the group are successful in their application. It is not mandatory for any group to use the services of an Innovation Broker to develop and deliver their proposal. The group may identify any other suitable facilitator if they require, these can be self funded by the members or funded from the project itself as a "bought in" expertise.

**Information sources Review** - An information source Review is a critical analysis of information sources (practical info from third parties), or literature on a particular topic. It provides a summary of practice and possible research which has already been carried out on that topic. If the information sources review demonstrates that an innovation opportunity (problem solving or developing opportunity) has been identified, the group will be invited to complete a project outline form.

**Project Outline Form** - The Project Outline Form is the first step in the process which provides the KE Hub with a general overview of the proposed project including potential lead members; other group members and potential advisors to the group, such as academics, consultants, agri-businesses etc. An indication is also given on the proposed priority areas and focus areas addressed by the project; the anticipated length of the project; indication of the costs, and how they will be allocated; and also the anticipated outcome/benefit of the project. A more detailed description of the project, including the full objective of the proposal; the expected outcomes for the farmers/industry and identifying the roles of each member will be outlined at full application.

## **Selection Criteria and Scoring at Application Stage:**

The Innovation Hub facilitators work with potential beneficiaries to develop their ideas into either an Operational Group or an application to M16.1 for an EIP project.

The following components will be key elements for the Innovation Hub approach and selection criteria for applications submitted under M16.1:

1. Project objectives targeted to practical outcomes
2. The particular and targeted composition of the project partnership (OG) benefiting the specific project, making the best use of different types of knowledge in an interactive way
3. Composition of the group benefiting its outreach: to enhance spreading results
  - Are the appropriate actors involved with a view to encourage co-creation and interactivity during the implementation of innovation by (1) the end-users (farmer, farmers' organisation, etc.), (2) advisors, and (3) a researcher(s)/enterprise/NGO with the particular knowledge needed, etc.
4. Quality of the organisation of activities:
  - a. The degree to which the project is well designed
  - b. Whether the proposal incorporates the necessary levels of coordination
  - c. Good cost/benefit ratio
5. Elements illustrating the interaction between partners of the OG: a measurement of the quality and quantity of knowledge exchange between the actors.
  - a. Sufficient knowledge exchange activities organised,
  - b. Good quality of knowledge exchange organisation
6. Expected effect of the planned dissemination of project results via courses, networks, advising or permanent databases
7. Added value expected from the project compared with the available knowledge: so asking about the state of the art of knowledge in the field that the OG will tackle identifying explicitly what the OG will add to what is done already

More information on our EIP Programme can be found at <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020/european-innovation-partnership-wales-eip-wales/?lang=en>