



EIP-AGRI SEMINAR
NEW SKILLS FOR DIGITAL FARMING
5-6 FEBRUARY 2020 - ARANJUEZ, SPAIN



Speaker and facilitator CVs

Speakers – in the order of the programme

Louis Planas Puchades



Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain

Luis Planas is Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Spain since June 2018. Before joining the Spanish Government, he used to be Secretary General of the European and Economic social Committee in Brussels for four years (2014-2018). Previously, he was also regional Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment in the Spanish region of Andalusia (1993-1994 and 2012-2013) and Ambassador to the Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU (2010-2011) and to the Kingdom of Morocco (2004-2010). He has broad experience in EU-related issues, working as Chief of Cabinet of different EU Commissioners, Member of the European Parliament within two terms (1986-1993) and of the European Committee of the Regions (1994-1996). Minister Planas is fully aware of the relevance of the promotion and use of digital technologies and skills to achieve a smarter, more competitive and resource-efficient agricultural sector. This is one of the objectives of the Spanish Digitisation Strategy for the Agrifood and forestry sector and rural areas, adopted by his Ministry in 2019.

María Ángeles Benítez Salas



European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

María Ángeles has worked as Deputy Director General in DG AGRI since 16 March 2016. She is in charge of three directorates responsible for International, Quality, Research and Innovation, Outreach, Strategy, Simplification and Policy Analysis. Since 1 January this year she has been DG AGRI acting Director-General. A Spanish national, Ms Benítez Salas joined the European Commission in 1986 as Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Abel Matutes, responsible for SME policy, and subsequently External Relations. After a stint at the EU Delegation in Buenos Aires, she first became Head of Unit in 1998 and was a Director in DG AGRI between 2006 and 2013. Her previous position was Deputy Head of the European Political Strategy Centre, the European Commission's in-house think tank.

Esther Koopmanschap



EIP-AGRI Service Point

Esther Koopmanschap works for Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands (and for Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation in particular). From her 20 years professional experience, 18 years focussed on capacity development, training and facilitating learning trajectories of different stakeholder groups, mainly in the field of water, agriculture, rural development, fisheries & aquaculture and nature conservation. In the past 17 years she worked in the field of EU Enlargement. In August 2018 she finalised a 19-months EU Twinning project on the development of the cross-compliance mechanism in Turkey. She is motivated by participatory processes that lead to the sustainable use of land and water resources. She is looking forward to get to know you all better!



Emily Gray

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Emily Gray is an agricultural policy analyst and the thematic lead for Innovation and Digital Agriculture in the OECD's Trade and Agriculture Directorate. Since joining the OECD in 2015, Emily has worked on a range of issues including projects on risk and resilience in agriculture, innovation systems in food and agriculture, and reviews of policies to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in OECD countries and Southeast Asia. Prior to joining the OECD, Emily was at the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) where she carried out economic analysis and policy research on agricultural productivity and biosecurity policy. Emily has a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Sydney.



Ethan Cleary

Irish Farmers Association

Ag Tech Policy & Innovation Executive

Ethan comes from a 5th generation arable farm and is passionate about connecting agriculture with technology that benefits and supports the farmer.

He has worked as a developer, designer, product manager, technology consultant and strategist for over 15 years, across a range of industries, from large multinationals and the public sector to early stage start-ups. He is currently the Irish Farmers' Association's Technology and Innovation Executive responsible for the Association's overall technological development and strategic roadmap. From a policy perspective, his current focus is driving the innovation and digital agenda for Irish farmers at an EU and national level with the aim of ensuring farmers benefit from this era of rapid digital transformation. He is also a technology expert on Copa-Cogeca's agricultural technology workforce and is currently part of the DEMETER Horizon 2020 project which is a large-scale deployment of farmer-centric, interoperable smart farming-IoT (Internet of Things) based platforms, delivered through a series of 20 pilots across 18 countries.



Fabio Cossu

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Fabio Cossu works as policy officer at the European Commission, DG AGRI in the 'Research and Innovation' unit where he contributes to the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI), holding responsibility for communication activities of the EIP-AGRI Network.

Agronomist by academic background, he has been working in the field of rural development for over ten years, both as policy analyst and independent evaluator of EU rural development programmes, with a focus on investments in the agri-food sector.



Lotte Ipsen

Bygholm Agricultural College, Denmark

As Head of Education at Bygholm Agricultural College Lotte Ipsen is in charge of 20-25 teachers and the educational program for skilled farmers and farm managers. Bygholm Agricultural College is a self-governing institution under the Ministry of Education I Denmark. She has 25 years' experience in teaching, leadership of teachers and developing educational programs to keep up with new trends and technologies in both farming and teaching farming. She is the author of the textbook "Plant production", which is the main textbook used in the skilled farmer's education in Denmark on subjects concerning plant production. She has an academic background (degree in Agricultural Science, 1995) and a master degree in learning processes and educational leadership from 2018.



Miguel Cordero

University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Erasmus+ SFATE: Smart farming training for employment

Forestry Engineer, has participated in various projects of R & D + innovation in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applied to land management, rural development and management of natural resources at local, regional and international level.

Since 2004, he is the technical manager for USC's Territorial Information System (SIT) technology platform. He specializes in GIS, 3D capture and modeling of remote sensing data; terrestrial laser scanner, drones (with optical sensors and lidar) and ground penetrating radar. Works part-time on his PhD thesis about lidar and its application to forest management. In the training area of SIT, he organizes and gives courses in GIS and remote sensing. He participates in the Master on Sustainable Land Planning, lecturing in courses dealing with Geomatics and Techniques to Capture of Spatial Information. He has experience in the community management of communal forests, having been president and secretary of two of them, oriented to the production of wood, in the central plateau of Galicia. Recently worked on initiatives related to the transfer of innovation in agriculture and forest at European level such as SFATE (Erasmus + K2) and Agridemo-F2F (H2020).



Tetiana Pavlenko

University of Hohenheim, Germany

Educating for Technology Take-off (EIT Food)

M.Sc. Tetiana Pavlenko has done her diploma in Commodity Science and International Trade at Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics (Ukraine). She was working as an office manager/project assistant in the IT company. In 2017, she has completed a master's study in Organic Agriculture and Food Systems at the University of Hohenheim (Germany). During her studies, she took part in several projects, including digital technologies. Ms. Pavlenko was working as an intern on an organic farm, where she received knowledge in production and quality management of vegetables. In 2018, she joined the University of Hohenheim as a research associate. She is involved in a variety of projects (EIT Food, Horizon 2020, ICT AGRI Era Net) working with precision agriculture, sustainable practices, food systems, bioplastics, and innovative packaging technologies.



Hubert Gerhardy

EIP-AGRI Operational Group Pig Health Lern-Netzwerk, Germany

Hubert Gerhardy is a Market Researcher, Consultant, and Part Time Professor in agricultural sciences. Regarding to farm specific challenges he designed and coordinated innovation approaches to develop farm specific measurements in multi actor approaches. Based on his extensive experiences, interdisciplinary projects were initiated like "Development of a learning network to enhance the willingness to improve continuously health management in pig production", "Multivariate assessment of animal welfare on farm level", "Approaches to reduce the use of antibiotics", and "Assessments of Biosecurity on pig farms and of organs at abattoirs". To support digitising precision livestock breeding SmartPigProduction (EIP Agri) and SmartPigHealth (a part of SmartAgriHubs, Horizon 2020) were launched.



Jürgen Vangeyte

Living Lab – ILVO, Flanders

Dr. ir. Jürgen Vangeyte (M), is scientific director at ILVO, ILVO performs multidisciplinary, innovative and independent research aimed at economically, ecologically and socially sustainable agriculture and fisheries in a from farm to fork approach.

He is the head of the department Agrifood Technology. The group exists of more than 35 researchers supported by a technical staff. He organizes, coordinates, and manages the research and the technical activities to support the implementation of the research and innovation. He has a PhD in Bioscience Engineering at the Catholic University of Leuven, on the topic 'Development and validation of a low-cost technique to predict spread patterns of centrifugal fertiliser spreaders'. He coordinates national research projects and is work package leader in several large European projects, like IOF2020, Smart Agri Hubs and Cybele. Jürgen Vangeyte was an expert in the EIP-AGRI Focus Group 'Mainstreaming precision agriculture'. He is also a contributor to the " Smart Farming and Food Safety Internet of Things Applications – Challenges for Large Scale Implementations" report for AIOTI WG06 – Smart Farming and Food Safety. His department supports an active and mature Digital Innovation Hub, called Smart Digital Farming and an Enoll recognized Living Lab on Agrifood technology. Also the Flemish data sharing initiative DjustConnect is also developed and implemented by the same department.



George Beers

Wageningen University and Research, the Netherlands

Horizon 2020 SmartAgriHubs

Dr. George Beers is a Horticultural Engineer. He holds a PhD in Management Science with a thesis on project management. He is a specialist in strategic information management in agribusiness. His core competence is connecting different worlds. Dr. Beers works for Wageningen since 1991 in several research and management positions. He was Scientific Director of the co-innovation program Agri Chain Competences (1998-2001), founder and CEO of the Green Knowledge Cooperation on innovation of the Dutch agricultural education system (2004-2010). Between 1999 and 2004 Dr. Beers held the Chair ICT in Agribusiness at Wageningen University. From 2011-2014 he resided in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia initiating and implementing the Saudi Agricultural Information Centre. Currently he is coordinating large scale EU projects on the field of Future Internet in AgriFood. Since January 2017 he is coordinator of the H2020 Large Scale Pilot on Internet of Farm & Food (IoF2020) and a project on Digital Innovation Hubs for farmers (SmartAgriHubs).



Tom Kelly

Teagasc, Ireland

Horizon 2020 FAIRShare

Prof. Tom Kelly. M.Agr.Sc., Ph.D., MBA, Teagasc, Ireland

Tom Kelly is Director of Knowledge Transfer in Teagasc since 2010; He is an Agricultural Science graduate, with both Masters and Ph.D awarded by University College Dublin. He completed an MBA through University of Limerick in 1998. Tom has worked in range of roles in advisory and education. He currently leads the agricultural education and farm advisory services in Teagasc. He is a founding board member and former chairman of EUFRAS (European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services) 2013 -2019. He was appointed Adjunct Associate Professor of Agricultural. Extension at University College Dublin in 2017. In 2019 he was appointed an International Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy for Agriculture and Forestry. Participant in EU-EIP Assembly and innovation subgroup, EU research projects (Agrispin, LIAISON, FAIRshare and i2connect).



Thomas Engel

John Deere, Germany

Dr. Thomas Engel studied Agricultural Sciences at the Technical University München-Weihenstephan. After his graduation he stayed there as assistant professor and did research around the use of electronics and software in agriculture with focus on precision agriculture.

He then introduced the first precision farming products in the German market as Product Manager Precision Farming for Claas. In 2000, he joined John Deere, where he started as Engineering Manager for Agricultural Management Solutions. After that he led the Intelligent Solutions Group and did strongly grow the precision farming business in Europe. Since 2015 he is Manager Technology Innovation Strategy at the European Technology Innovation Center and is responsible to work with Universities and partner companies to develop new innovative solutions and services.



Beatrice Dingli

VIVEA – Blended digital training

I joined VIVEA, the Training Insurance Fund for agricultural business managers in 2001. Graduated with a master's in business Conduct and Strategic Management, I am VIVEA General Manager since 2012.

I work with 650 elected officials mandated by professional agricultural organisations in their strategic reflections on training policies for agricultural business managers. With my 72 collaborators, I encourage the development of training projects, and studies promoting innovation in order to allow agricultural business managers to respond to societal, economic and environmental challenges. Understanding and proposing to develop talents and perpetuate businesses are my daily driving forces.



Gintare Kucinskiene

EIP-AGRI Operational Group 'Gate of innovations'

Gintare Kucinskiene started as a veterinary surgeon in 1998. Later she was responsible for beef sector development as an adviser in the Chamber of Agriculture of Lithuania. Starting from 2007 G. Kucinskiene worked under the National Rural Development Programme 2004-2013 in the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania and was busy with best practice projects dissemination. From 2013 G. Kucinskiene started to work as an innovation development specialist in the Lithuanian Agricultural Advisory Service. For more than six years she has been leading the activities of international and innovations projects, and international and national cooperation between different organisations.



Hercules Panoutsopoulos

Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

Horizon 2020 EURAKNOS & EUREKA

Judith Hercules Panoutsopoulos is a Research Associate at the Department of Natural Resources Management and Agricultural Engineering of the Agricultural University of Athens. His work revolves around NoSQL storage systems design and development, as well as Natural Language Processing. Projects he is currently involved in are EURAKNOS (<https://www.euraknos.eu>), EUREKA and SHERPA (<http://www.rural-interfaces.eu>).

Hercules holds a BSc degree in Mathematics from the Department of Mathematics of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and an MSc degree in e-Learning from the Department of Digital Systems of the University of Piraeus. His interests revolve around Natural Language Processing, Social Network Analytics and Recommendation Systems. Hercules has been involved both as lead and co-author in a number of conference papers, book chapters and a journal paper.



Kerstin Rosenow

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Kerstin is Head of Unit 'Research & Innovation' in DG AGRI, European Commission where she is responsible for programming, managing and monitoring agricultural research and the European Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI). Previously she was Head of Unit in the EC Research Executive Agency (REA) managing the implementation of the project portfolio for Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 (food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime, and inland water research and the bioeconomy). She's been working in the EC for over 15 years after covering a managerial position in the German administration (Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU). For DG AGRI she coordinated negotiations with pre-accession and candidate countries and the preparation of the 2014-2020 CAP legislative framework.

Poster presenters (seminar day 1) – in alphabetical order



Knud Bay Smidt

Denmark

Knud has been a self-employed farmer since 1987. He has an arable farm (cereal, grass seed, oilseed, legumes and grass for hay) and applies no-till / conservation agriculture. Trading with used agricultural implement; export to Asia, Africa and within Europe. He is a member of the Global Farmer Network, a worldwide network of farmers, working for more free trade, open access to knowledge, gene technology and modern technology in general, with the target of improving the prosperity in the rural area, particularly in less developed nations. He is interested in culture, history and policy. Studies: agricultural college, complemented with economics- and management course. Speaks English, some German and a bit of French.

www.globalfarmernetwork.org

Twitter: [@BayKbs](https://twitter.com/BayKbs) | **LinkedIn:** [knud-bay-smidt](https://www.linkedin.com/in/knud-bay-smidt)



Boris Brestnichki

Bulgaria

Boris Brestnichki works as an agronomist in Geosemselect Ltd – a Bulgaria-based breeding and seed production company. He has worked on projects dealing with hydroponic growing of breeding material and hydroponic seed production. As part of the company he's had experience mainly with vegetable varieties for greenhouse growing. He's part of the company's team dealing with digitalising and standardising the collection and manipulation of data.



Miguel Cachão

Portugal

Miguel graduated as animal science engineer but since 2011 he only works with vineyards. Since 2017 he has a winery and makes wine from his 10 ha and from other grapes that he buys from his neighbours. Besides this, he also works on a grapevine growers association. In both situations, he tries to use technologies using Sentinel-2 images to create NDVI maps, remote traps for pests, soil mapping with electric conductivity, fluorescence sensors to detect nutritional needs besides other equipment that is challenging to test. He is doing a post-graduate course on enology in order to make better wine.



Saverio Delsante

Italy

I am the manager of my family dairy farm. I am 34 and I'm in the sixth generation of farmers. I run the farm still with my father. I studied Architecture at the University of Parma and I hold a Master's degree in Agribusiness and Food Management. My farm is located in Parma, we cultivate 120 ha with forages and cereals and we milk 140 dairy cows. The milk is collected in a small dairy plant called Caseificio San Pier Damiani producers of Parmigiano Reggiano cheese. I'm married and I have a baby. Outside of work I enjoy playing football with friends and travelling with my family.



Vincenza Ferrara

Italy

I am a small-scale olive farmer and extra virgin olive oil producer in central Sicily (Italy). I manage my olive orchards (made of both old century olive trees and relatively younger plants) according to the principles of organic agriculture and agroecology. My farm has been realised thanks to a project cofunded by the EU Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. It is 100% sustainable from an environmental point of view since we recycle all the leftovers from the olive oil production as biomass and fertiliser, and all the farm facilities are powered by renewable energy produced at the farm with our own solar panels.

I am also an historical ecologist and my main research interests are related to the investigation of olive agrosystems long term dynamics, with a focus on olives as biocultural refugia.



Laura Girdžiūtė

Lithuania

Dr. Assoc. Professor at Vytautas Magnus University

Chief accountant at the Public Institution Practical training and trial center of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences

Dr. assoc. prof. Laura Girdziute works in Vytautas Magnus university Agriculture Academy since 2009. Research area is integrated risk assessment and management in agriculture. From 2017 she is working as group leader in COST action CA16123 "Safety Culture and Risk Management in Agriculture" where the main research focus is on identifying effective measures for training and integrating vulnerable populations (including refugees) into the agricultural workforce. From 2017 she is working in Public Institution Practical training and trial center of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences as chief accountant, which gives her the opportunity to understand agricultural sector specifics and problems not only from a scientific but also from a practical point of view.



Geminas Kontrimavičius

Lithuania

Crop Farmer

Thirty years ago, my family started farming with 3 hectares of land. In the beginning it was a livestock farm, now our farm grows more than 600 hectares of crops like wheat, rapeseeds, barley, protein crops. I worked in the farm since childhood, but officially became a farmer in 2008 at the age of eighteen. Since 2009, I studied financial economics and in 2013 I got a Bachelor's degree in Economics. That same year I was a trainee at the Rural Development Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania. Later, I decided to study financial markets for a Master's degree in Economics (in 2016); all my studies were in Mykolas Romeris University. I am also a Member of the Lithuania Farmers Union since 2010 and a member of the board of Lithuania's Grain Growers Association since 2017. I am a co-founder and a chairman of the board of Cooperative "Jukagros" since 2019. This cooperative was established at the initiative of regional farmers.



Maja Kósa

Serbia

Maja Kósa is a young pig farmer from Vojvodina from Serbia. Since 2019, she has a farm with 31 sows and almost 300 piglets. Beside her agricultural activities, she is a Ph.D. student at the Doctoral School of Educational Sciences at the University of Szeged in Hungary. As a young researcher, she is extremely interested in digitalisation, first of all from an educational point of view. She would like to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to use modern technologies in feeding.



Aušrius Kučinskas

Lithuania

Aušrius was an expert on the Common Agricultural Policy for the Ministry of Agriculture (Republic of Lithuania) from 2012 tot 2017. Since 2017, he is adviser to the Methodology and Coordination Unit of the Agricultural Support Department, at the National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture in Vilnius (Lithuania). He has a Bachelor in Agricultural economics from Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Lithuania. Since the beginning of 2019, he is responsible for on-the-spot checks and remote sensing of Direct Support measures, including implementation of Sentinel satellite data for checks and development of the NMA Agro application.



Thomas Lagkas

Greece

Co-owner at the OLYMPUS CONSULTING company stated in Greece, which provides high quality services of sustainable forest management in public and private forest owners.



Juan Olivares

Spain

Juan is an oleologist and agricultural engineer. He's working as an oliviculture and oleology consultant (from 'farm to fork' philosophy), focusing on olive orchard management (implementation of IPM techniques, fertilisation and irrigation plans, harvesting planning, design of new olive orchards, precision agriculture), high quality olive oil production (plan, determination harvest time, quality management, professional olive oil taster). As an oleologist of an high-quality olive oil mill, he has developed a luxury brand of an extra virgin olive oil, from concept to launch, and has implemented brand strategies to increase awareness among clients. He is the manager of 280 ha of olive and almond orchards, and works on the design of olive mills.

LinkedIn: [Juan-Olivares-Fernández](#)



Yolène Pagès

France

Yolène Pagès, recently elected as chairman of Nuffield France, is interested in agroecology and the role that different farming systems can play in enhancing rural areas. And how these farming systems can become more sustainable, taking in account environmental, social and financial issues.

Yolène is a graduate of Purpan University in Toulouse and worked for many years as an agronomist for a technical institute in the South of France. She has facilitated a number of multi-actor projects involving groups of innovative farmers, researchers, technicians and locally elected representatives. These projects have mainly been in the National Parks of Grand Causses and Aubrac. She has also been involved in her family farm for many years where they produce for the Roquefort cheese (PDO), made with sheep milk. Yolène has traveled extensively in such places as Africa and America. Yolène is now developing a project with a group of farmers seeking to add value to sheep milk, including "terroir" values.



Agnès Papone

France

Agnès and Renaud Papone have been new entrant organic family farmers in the southern French Alps since 2010. They brought a long-abandoned subsistence family farm back to life and into production as a radical lifestyle change, from vastly different backgrounds. One of their first initiatives, at the behest of their consumers, was to create a local farmers' cooperative with other nearby organic farms and grow it into the present-day collective of nearly 50 farms and a handful of local artisans called Montagnes Paysannes. They built local consumer-supported agriculture networks and became tutors for other peers converting to farming from other careers. Curious by nature and technophiles, they started their farm without formal farming training and acquired their expertise from peers, YouTube, books, and are largely self-taught. Their approach to incubating other new entrants and sharing experiences as an open farm has helped launch many of their close collaborators into organic farming. Their unique perspective coming from diverse non-farming careers, their passion for working in collaboration with other farms to leverage farmers' reach and voices, have made for a fascinating, fulfilling and humbling experience.

Prior to becoming new entrant farmers, Agnès was an HIV researcher in Southern Africa and completed her studies in International Public Health in Sydney, Australia. Renaud managed local supermarkets in the Southern French Alps where he also pursued his passion for rock climbing and back-country skiing.

www.lavancia.com



Jolanda Raaijmakers

The Netherlands

Co-owner of Raaijmakers Arable Farming & Crop Protection

Board member of: Zuidelijke Land en Tuinbouw Organisatie (Farmers Union), Regional Development Board, Local Community Association; Hospice

Jolanda Raaijmakers Started her career in care (Intensive Care Nurse Diploma) and still works part time in domestic care. Together with her husband she owns an arable farm with crop protection contractor work, where she does the planning/management and administration. In their farm they started a centre for vocational education for farming and contractors work (machinery, soil & crop management) and for primary schools (introduction to agriculture); in cooperation with formal education (Helicon and local primary schools). She enhances innovations in many projects, f.i. on data management, new crops (soya in NL), education (Klasseboeren, etc).



Peter Parea

The Netherlands

Program Leader / Zuidelijke Land en Tuinbouw Organisatie

Member Working Party Research and Innovation, Copa-Cogeca / Member EUFRAS

Peter Parea (1956, Wageningen University) is program leader / project developer in agriculture, rural development and crossovers agri high tech. He has worked for 37 years in strategic advice, project- and programme management.

He links management strategies of farmers to their environment, in projects that foster the goals of farmers, clients, neighbours and society. He supports and combines the entrepreneurial efforts of stakeholders in innovations: relevant advisory services, scientists, ICT, mechanisation and farmers in regional, national and EU projects. He is involved in a number of projects enhancing use of farm data and ICT, like the FAIRshare project (H2020FAIRshare.EU): engaging, enabling and empowering the independent farm advisor community, through sharing of tools, expertise and motivations, so that the benefits of digitisation are available to the wider farming community.

ZLTO is one of the 3 farmers associations in Netherlands, together they represent the interest of 50.000 farmers. They are member of Copa-Cogeca, the European organisation of farmers and their cooperatives.



Gediminas Urbonavičius

Lithuania

Gediminas Urbonavičius is Deputy Director of Public Institution Practical training and trial center of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. He is leading work of Mechanisation, Construction, Crop and Livestock departments: organising their daily activities, ensuring operational efficiency of farm indicators. From 2017 Gediminas Urbonavičius is a PhD student at the Veterinary Academy of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. His research area is "Influence of genetic factors on the prevalence of nail diseases in Lithuanian dairy cows and genetic correlation with durability, productivity and other breeding traits". He is also an active member of the Lithuanian Black and White Cattle Breeders Association.

EIP- AGRI Service Point team – in alphabetical order



Margarida Ambar

Facilitator

Margarida Ambar is one of the Rural Development officers in the EIP-AGRI Service Point, and her main tasks are related to networking and knowledge exchange, and to management and facilitation of events.

Margarida Ambar studied Agricultural Engineering at the Technical University of Lisbon and has a master in Territorial Management and Urbanism, focusing on stakeholders' involvement. She worked for about 20 years for the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Prior to becoming part of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team, she had already gained experience in international cooperation projects and networks aiming at knowledge exchange.



Tine Defour

Communication officer

As part of the Service Point's communications team, Tine writes and coordinates brochures and other Service Point publications, and she is responsible for DG AGRI's yearly *Agrinnovation* magazine. She contributes to the content of the EIP-AGRI website and offers support for events. She loves whipping words into publishable shape.

Tine has an academic background, with a PhD in English linguistics. From 2003 to 2014 she was a researcher and lecturer at Ghent University, Belgium, allowing her to gain experience in international networking and in organising events. During that time she also worked as an editorial assistant and proofreader for an academic journal.

Twitter: [@TineDefour](https://twitter.com/TineDefour)

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Sergiu Didicescu

Facilitator

Born 1980, Romanian

Sergiu is educated in horticulture with a specialisation in oenology, as well as in agri-food economics. He started professional life as an oenologue in the 'Dealul Mare' area, Romania's largest vineyard. Later on, he worked for the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the European Commission DG AGRI. From 2013 he is farm practice and rural development officer at the EIP AGRI Service Point.



Pacôme Elouna Eyenga

Team leader

Mr Pacôme Elouna Eyenga is Belgian and was born in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He graduated as Agricultural Engineer in the field of rural economy and sociology, at Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech / Université de Liège in Belgium. Since July 2014, he is the Team Leader of the EIP-AGRI Service Point in which he was appointed Deputy Team Leader at its establishment in 2013 by the European Commission, namely DG AGRI.



Alexandre Morin

Facilitator and back-up to the task manager

Alexandre is a specialist in agricultural innovation projects. An environmental and hydrological scientist by academic background, he works on agronomic topics since 2004, focusing on sustainable practices at farm and territorial levels. He works part time for the EIP-AGRI Service Point, mostly on the organisation of Focus Groups and facilitation during EIP AGRI events. For the rest of his working time he is employed by the Chamber of Agriculture in western French region of Pays de la Loire, where he takes care of European partnerships and fundings for innovation projects.



Quico Ónega

Task manager

Quico is Research and Science Officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. He has been focusing on the digital transformation of agriculture as well as the sustainability of ruminant production systems. Besides, he works as researcher and lecturer at the Land Laboratory at University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia-Spain). He has practical experience in agriculture as he is part-time farmer (sheep farm).



Annika Suu

Facilitator

Annika has studied biology (BSc) and ecology (MSc) at the University of Tartu. She has worked with the applied research programme, and RDP measures for knowledge transfer and cooperation in the Ministry of Rural Affairs in Estonia. She works for the Estonian NRN and is the project coordinator for the Innovation Cluster for Plant Proteins. Since 2018 she works for the EIP-AGRI Service Point as a database unit officer and facilitator.



Ineke van Vliet

Facilitator

Ineke has broad experience in the field of agriculture and rural development. Working together in a team motivates her to create high quality products. She enjoys developing new ideas in interactive cooperation and has both analytical and creative skills to offer. She always carefully considers the institutional environment, the different stakeholders and the client's demand in her work.