



EIP-AGRI SEMINAR MOVING EIP-AGRI IMPLEMENTATION FORWARD



Speaker CVs

Speakers – in the order of the programme

Charalambos Kasimis



Secretary-General of Agricultural Policy and Management of European Funds – Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food

Charalambos Kasimis is Professor of Rural Sociology at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development of the Agricultural University of Athens. He has served as the Head of the Department (2013-2014) and as the Director of the Postgraduate Studies MSc. Programme "Integrated Rural Development and Management of Rural Space" (2010-2014). Between September 2014 and March 2015 he was appointed as Deputy Rector of the Agricultural University of Athens Research of Greece. He resigned from this position when appointed by the government Secretary General of Agricultural Policy and Management of European Funds. In the period 1986-2003 he served as a member of staff at the Department of Economics of the University of Patras (1986-2003) and as the Director of the Institute of Urban and Rural Sociology at the National Centre for Social (1995-2000). He is currently the President of the European Society of Rural Sociology (2013-2015).

His research interests focus on issues of rural transformation and development in Greece, the Balkans and the Mediterranean region and more particularly on family farming, employment and rural community change. Migration and, more precisely, the implications of international migration on rural regions have become one of his main research topics in the past years. Recently, he has turned his interest in the study of the implications of the economic crisis upon the rural areas and the 'return to the land' movement in Greece.

Alexander Bartovič



European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Alexander (Sasha) Bartovič joined the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) in 2004. He has been working for Rural Development for 4 years. At the beginning he managed a unit responsible for financial aspects of the Rural Development, including management of IT systems for RD. He has recently joined geographical unit responsible for RD programmes of Ireland, Greece, Cyprus and the United Kingdom. While at DG AGRI he also managed unit responsible for management of the Farm Accountancy Data Network. The team provided farm-level economic and financial analyses supporting policy monitoring and development.

Prior to joining the European Commission, Sasha held various positions in financial sector, mostly related to investment and risk management. He holds a Master's degree in Corporate Finance (focus on agriculture). Sasha is a CFA (Certified Financial Analyst) charter holder.



Inge Van Oost

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Inge Van Oost is policy officer at the European Commission, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). She has been setting-up and is now supporting the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" (EIP-AGRI), in particular as regards rural development and cross-cutting aspects in Horizon 2020. As member of the DG AGRI Taskforce "Research and Innovation" she was instrumental in shaping DG AGRI's research and innovation approach and Horizon 2020 work programmes, and developed the new concepts "multi-actor approach" and "thematic networks". In her former post at the Commission she was policy officer in the Direct Support Unit and the Cross Compliance Unit, responsible for cross-compliance, the Farm Advisory System and interlinking with the Rural Development policy.

Before working at the Commission Inge Van Oost was coordinator of the demonstration projects at the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Horticulture of the Flemish Region. There she drafted rural development measures and designed the farm advisory system. She was also evaluator of many agricultural research projects and member of diverse selection committees. In the former federal Belgian Administration for Agriculture she served the Secretariat-General as coordinator of the Horticultural Chain, dealing with chain management, food quality, traceability and safety, sustainability of production methods, communication with consumers and much more.

Before joining the administration, she worked as a farm advisor, and after a while as coordinator of the advisory team. Based in an applied research institute, the team did not only advise farmers, but also designed and implemented experiments and on-farm demonstration projects.



Sebastian Elbe

EIP-AGRI Service Point

Dr. Sebastian Elbe is managing partner of SPRINT – Scientific Policy Consulting (Germany) working since 2000 on national and EU level in research, evaluation and implementation projects for an active regional development. Since 2009 he is the team leader of the Monitoring and Evaluation Network EU Programs for Rural Development Germany (MEN-D). In addition, he is senior urban and regional planning adviser in spatial and land use planning with focus on integrated approaches. Co-ordinator of the Advisory Group for Oman National Spatial Strategy (Sultanate Oman) and engaged within UN Habitat, UN DP and MOMRA (Riyadh, KSA) for the Activation of Saudi National Spatial Strategy as well as for World Bank and Government of the Punjab Planning & Development Department as member of the Technical Committee of Experts for Punjab Spatial Strategy (Pakistan).



Timea Reszkető

Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture

Previously, as an expert, she has managed projects dealing with service development (e.g. nutrient management planning), information and education actions to farmers and advisors, and was involved in the design of the Hungarian Rural Development Programme and also in the formulation of calls afterwards (Measures 01, 02, 06, 16, 19). Recently, as the head of RDI unit, she is responsible for the planning and coordination of HCA's RDI focused activities (e.g. mapping the needs from practice, building bridge between practice and research, dissemination of research results, giving information on relevant news and project calls, engaging in RDI project with HCA itself). In this respect, she takes part also in the implementation of EIP both at national (in cooperation together with the Ministry of Agriculture, which is the Hungarian NSU) and EU level (as member of EIP-AGRI Subgroup on Innovation). She is the representative and contact person of HCA regarding RDI affairs.



Jaume Sió Torres

Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food – Generalitat de Catalunya

Jaume Sió is since 2006 in charge of the General Subdirection for Agrifood Innovation and Knowledge Transfer within the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food of the Catalan Government. He is in charge of the coordination and supervision of the Farm advisory system, the network of Agricultural Training Schools and the Agrifood laboratory. He coordinates actions to promote technology transfer, knowledge management and the creation and functioning of Operational Groups. He has a PhD in Agronomy by the University of Lleida. He started working for the Catalan government in 1987 as a technician dealing with plant health, soil fertility and water management. He was coordinator of the Plant Health Associations (2002-2004) and led the Technology Transfer Service from 2004 to 2006.



Liviu Popescu

Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Liviu Tudor Popescu works in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania, within the Managing Authority for the National Rural Development Program 2014-2020 (NRDP). He participated in the development of the NRDP 2014-2020, especially on the fruit growing sector, cooperation and association sector.



Els Lapage

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Flemish Government, Belgium

Els Lapage is director of the extension service at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Flemish Government, Belgium. She has a master in Agricultural Engineering. The extension service has several functions. It facilitates the access of farmers to knowledge (research results, policy decisions) in order to increase the sustainability of their production systems while taking into account economic viability.

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The extension service coordinates the practical research in Flanders (12 experimental stations) and it identifies the needs for agricultural research through its network. The extension service also gives advice to policy makers in order to allow them to create practically feasible policy. Els Lapage is also responsible for the measure 'demonstration projects' in the rural development program: sustainable production methods are demonstrated in order to stimulate farmers to apply them. Furthermore she's involved in the approval of operational programs of producer organizations in the framework of the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables.

Ronan O'Flaherty

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland



Ronan O'Flaherty works in the Agri-Environment area of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland, where he heads-up the Organics, Locally-Led and Market Supports Division. He was a member of the negotiating team for the Irish Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which introduced a wide range of agri-environment measures, including largescale action-based schemes, smaller result-based schemes, and locally-led schemes conceived as pilot-projects under the European Innovation Partnership framework. He has previously worked in the forestry, heritage and private consultancy sectors.

Lena Lind

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Sweden



Lena Lind is working at the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation where she is Deputy Director at the Division for Sustainable Rural Development. She has been working with the Swedish Rural Development Programme, e.g. with the implementation of the co-operation measure connected to EIP-Agri and monitoring and evaluation issues. Furthermore, she is also works with questions on how to enhance innovation in rural areas.

Alberto D'Avino

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development



Alberto D'Avino is the deputy head of the Research and Innovation Unit in DG Agriculture and Rural Development, holding this role since January 2017. He coordinates the activities of the team in charge of the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI) and contributes to the conception of EU agricultural research policy under the Horizon 2020 framework programme. He started his career at the European Commission in in 2000. Over the last years, he has had an extensive experience in various services of DG AGRI, notably in the domain of the economic analysis and the agricultural markets. Before the current position, he acted as deputy head of the unit in charge of the Analysis of Trade and International Policies, where he used to coordinate the economic analysis about multilateral and bilateral trade agreements negotiated by the EU.

Presentations from the Operational Groups – in alphabetical order per country and region

SOCROSense – Soil and crop sensing technologies | Belgium, Flanders



Koen Mertens

Precision agriculture research engineer at Flanders research institute for agriculture, fisheries and food (ILVO)

Koen is a precision agriculture researcher coordinating the ILVO ISense project. This project uses innovative sensor technologies to bring concrete innovations to the agriculture and food sector. He has wide experience in geo-ICT, remote sensing, image processing and data analysis. His team develops methodologies for crop sensing using an unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and different camera types.

Pig farmers, development and research structures: triple performance laboratories in pig farming | France, Occitania



Christophe Durand

MIDIPORC, Pork Inter-industry in Occitania

Agricultural engineer, specialisation in rural area planning and farm environment. Responsible for the environment of the pork inter-industry of Occitania.

Experience of more than 15 years in the pork industry, including 2 years in the implementation of a territorialised quality approach, followed by 13 years as an environmental engineer in the service of pig farming. Expertise of the classified installation files. Accompaniment of the farmers for the communication of the project and the relations with the institutional and associative partners, realisation of environmental balances of farming.

In charge of the EIP Project: global coordination of the project, animation of the Operational Group and impetus of the innovative aspect of the project.

Nutrition for human health: Aquaponic systems in Western-Pomerania | Germany, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern



Ulrich Knaus

Scientific officer, researcher at the University of Rostock, Dpt of Aquaculture & Sea Ranching, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Germany

PhD. He works as a scientific officer, lecturer and supervisor of Bachelor's and Master's thesis at the Department of Aquaculture & Sea Ranching, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (AUF), University of Rostock, Germany. He holds a diploma in aquaculture and fish biology and a doctor in aquaponics (aquaculture + conventional plant cultivation). He worked for six years at the "Institut für Fischerei" Rostock (IfF, LFA-MV), where he was particularly interested in the breeding of Zander (pike perch, Sander lucioperca) from larvae to the fingerling and adult. He then worked on the construction of the "FishGlassHouse", a 1.000 m² experimental aquaponic facility on the campus of the University of Rostock where he has been employed since 2013. Now, he is focused on working in the field of aquaponics with the cultivation of different plant species such as vegetables, culinary herbs, medicinal plants and ornamental plants.

PIG HEALTH – Development of a learning network to enhance awareness and willingness to improve health management in pig production to reduce the use of antibiotics | Germany, Niedersachsen and Bremen



Hubert Gerhardy

Market researcher and consultant

Hubert Gerhardy received his diploma (agricultural sciences) as well as the PhD and Venia Legendi from the George Augustus University of Göttingen, Germany, and stayed at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Food Marketing (University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK). He is Part time Professor and owns Marketing Service Gerhardy (MSG).

Hubert gained extensive experience as an official marketing research consultant for the English Government and in designing and coordinating large-scale initiatives related to the organization, sharing, and discovery of agricultural information for research, education and innovation. He supports the management of farmers, companies, institutions and organizations in the food supply chain in strategical planning.

Taking into account farm specific challenges and using interdisciplinary research approaches Hubert conducts research studies like "Development of a learning network to enhance the willingness to improve continuously hygiene and health management in pig production", "Multivariate assessment of animal welfare on farm level", "Approaches to reduce the use of antibiotics", "Assessments of Biosecurity on pig farms and of organs at abattoirs", and "Situation and perspectives of Halal lamb at the German market".

A new approach to fertilization and weed control in organic rapeseed production | Germany, Sachsen



Bernhard Jansen

Dresden University of Applied Sciences (HTW Dresden), Research Coordinator

Bernhard Jansen has been working as part of the research management team of the Dresden University of Applied Sciences since 2015. Coordinating, managing and administrating interdisciplinary and international research projects and the further development of the research structures of the University belong to his tasks. From 1992 until 2004 he worked as head of the organic farming section of the Saxonian Ministry for Environment and Agriculture. 2003 he founded the training and networking organization EkoConnect – International Centre for Organic Agriculture of Central and Eastern Europe and worked as its CEO until 2015.

ValorInVitis – Broadening and improving biodiversity for a more competitive and sustainable viticulture in the Colli Piacentini area | Italy, Emilia-Romagna



Matteo Gatti

Department of Sustainable Crop Production, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Piacenza, Italy

Associate Professor at the Department of Sustainable Crop Production at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Piacenza (Italy), from November 2013 to May 2014 has been invited scientist at the University of Auckland establishing "New Viticultural Trials on Central Otago Pinot Noir".

Author or co-author of 40 papers published in international, refereed journals and proceedings. His main research fields are: applied grapevine ecophysiology, traditional breeding, vineyard management, precision viticulture and viticultural zoning. Involved in different EU projects (FP7, Core organic II), he is participating to the Soil4Wine project (LIFE 2015 - LIFE15 ENV/IT/000641) as well as to the OG "ValorInVitis" and "Proviterre" funded by the Emilia Romagna Region (Italy).

He is lecturer at BSc and MSc level for the following topics "General and applied viticulture" "Viticulture and environment", "Precision farming".

Publications on his [Scopus profile](#).

Control of *Monilinia* spp. in stone fruit: use of prediction models and cultural practices | Spain, Catalunya



Rosa Altisent Rosell

Innovation manager at IRTA

PhD. Agricultural Engineer by University of Lleida. She is working as Innovation Manager, transferring the knowledge generated from the research done at IRTA to the companies and associations related to fruit and vegetables. She has actively participated in the preparation of EU and national funded projects tackling the sector (industry and farmers) needs. In addition, she is the responsible of establishing the private research contracts with companies. She is an associate lecturer, since 2009, participating in the Msc. 'Management and Innovation in the agro-food industry' at University of Lleida. During her PhD and research career, her main research fields were related to the postharvest of fruit and vegetables: controlled atmospheres, physiology of the fruits, sensory analysis, quality, minimally processed fruits and vegetables. She has collaborated in several national and international projects and has several publications on high-impact journals.

Planning tool for reindeer husbandry companies – technology development in reindeer herding | Sweden



Samo Grasic

Dálvadis economical association

Samo received his PhD from Luleå University of Technology, Department of Gender and Innovation, in 2014 where he focused on the development and deployment of the IT infrastructure Delay Tolerant Network (DTN) for sparsely populated remote Arctic regions. During his research, he worked with computer networks, energy harvesting, low power and software development as well as embedded systems. In addition, he focused on social aspects of IT deployments.

Prior to his academic career, Samo worked for more than six years as an engineer in Slovenia, developing hardware and software components for meteorological and radiological systems.

EIP- AGRI Service Point team



Margarida Ambar

Task manager

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

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 gained experience in international cooperation projects and networks aiming at knowledge exchange. She has organised and facilitated events at national and international level, and participated in advisory missions in CEE countries.



Sergiu Didicescu

Facilitator

Born 1980, Romanian

Sergiu is educated in agricultural and food economics and has a specialisation in oenology. At the start of his professional life he worked as an oenologist in one of Romania's wine producing areas. He then worked for the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the European Commission DG AGRI. From 2013 he is farm practice officer and rural development officer at the EIP AGRI Service Point.

Sergiu believes that innovation, or what he calls 'ideas being successfully applied in practice', is key for unlocking the potential of EU farming. The way forward is to implement the new EU-wide innovation model based on interactive participation of farmers, scientists and other actors along the value chain closely working together which will make it more likely and more often that innovations and research results are adopted by farmers and transposed into practice successfully.



Pacôme Elouna Eyenga

Facilitator

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. Before joining EIP AGRI Service Point, he has been working as European Affairs Officer from 2008 at VLM – Flemish Land Agency (Belgium) where he was dealing with European projects and policies especially rural development and cohesion policy, and networking.



Eike Lepmets

Facilitator

Eike holds a BSc in horticulture, currently she works at the Agri-Environment Bureau of the Ministry of Rural Affairs and at the Agri-environmental Monitoring Bureau of the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) in Estonia. She is also a part-time farmer growing organic vegetables. Eike has a lot of experiences in programming the agri-environment measures for the Rural Development Programmes. She has been initiating and leading different working groups, organising trainings for advisors and farmers and being an active member of many rural development and agri-environment discussion groups.



Alexandre Morin

Facilitator

Alexandre is a specialist in agricultural innovation projects, currently working for the Chambre d'Agriculture in western french region of Pays de la Loire. An environmental and hydrological scientist by academic background, he brings at outsider view in the agronomic fields since 2004, focusing on sustainable practices at farm and territorial levels. In his current position in the Chambre d'Agriculture he focuses on european fundings for projects and partnerships, and he also works part time for the EIP-AGRI Service Point.



Iiri Raa

Facilitator

Iiri holds a BSc in environmental sciences, currently she works as the head of Agri-environmental Monitoring Bureau of the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) in Estonia. She has more than fifteen years' experience of specialized and organizational work, including five years' experience working with soil amendments (primarily compost) and ten years' experience in RDP/agri-environment policy with ARC, with a special focus on evaluation RDP measures with environmental impact. Her field of activity in ARC is related to providing input with annual analyses on rural development practices and policies and organising workflow in the bureau.



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