

## EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP SMALL IS SMART 29-30 OCTOBER 2019 - BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



### Speaker and facilitator CVs

#### Speakers – in the order of the programme



##### **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.

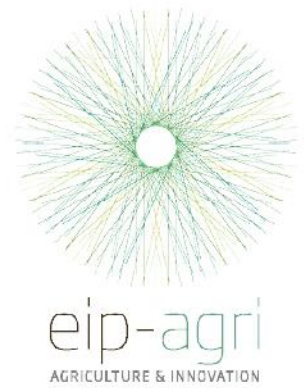
Before joining the administration, she worked as a farm advisor, and after a while as coordinator of the advisory team. Based in an applied research institute, the team did not only advise farmers, but also designed and implemented experiments and on-farm demonstration projects.

##### **Leanne Townsend**

##### **James Hutton Institute, UK**

Leanne is a Senior Social Scientist within James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen. Her interests lie in the social and economic impacts of digitalisation in rural settings. She has carried out research with diverse groups in the UK, Europe and Africa, including: rural communities; farmers and agricultural stakeholders; Gypsy-Traveller communities; traditional craftspeople; and subsistence farming communities. She is currently researching the implications of digitalisation for agricultural and rural communities in the UK and Europe, with a focus on small farms and their wider communities in remote settings. Leanne will talk about





## EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP SMALL IS SMART 29-30 OCTOBER 2019 - BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



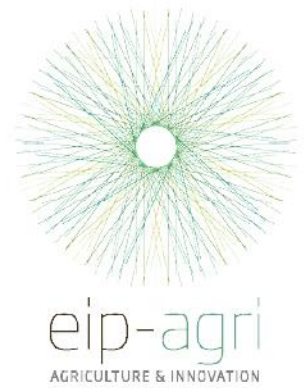
her research on the impacts of digitalisation in small farm settings. She will reflect on the opportunities digitalisation offers for rural resilience and growth, as well as the challenges presented when access to digital infrastructures is not adequate. She argues that digitalisation has the potential to either benefit these farms and their wider communities or further compound the problems that they face. This presentation will look beyond the urban-rural digital divide to consider divides within rural regions, and the importance of responsible digital innovation for these areas.



**James Gaffey**

### **Institute of Technology, Tralee, Ireland**

James is Principal Investigator in Bioeconomy at Shannon Applied Biotechnology Centre at Institute of Technology Tralee, and Academic Collaborator in the SFI BEACON Bioeconomy Research Centre. James is coordinator of Biorefinery Glas (2019-2021) co-funded by the EU and Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Biorefinery Glas is an EIP-Agri initiative and represents Ireland's first small-scale biorefinery demonstration project, supporting new business models and farmer diversification into the bioeconomy. James is also Scientific Coordinator & PI on the H2020 Biobased Industries (BBI JU) initiative ICT-BIOCHAIN (2018-2020) developing efficient supply chains for Ireland's National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen. ICT-BIOCHAIN represents the EU's first Digital Innovation Hub for Circular Bioeconomy. James is also a member of the BBI JU INGREEN project team (2019-2023). James was biorefinery specialist on the EU Horizon 2020 AgriForValor Project (2016-2018). James previously worked at NUI Galway (Technology Centre for Biorefining and Bioenergy) as part of the "Bio-Éire - a Bioeconomy for Ireland" team, including UCD, Teagasc and DIT. The results of Bio-Éire form a key part of the knowledge base currently being used by the Department of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister's Office) to develop a National Bioeconomy Policy Statement for Ireland. James has worked in the field of advanced biorefining since 2009 through work with Cellulac Ltd., Competence Centre for Biorefining and Bioenergy (NUI Galway), Sustainable Biopolymers Ltd., tcbb RESOURCE and Tralee Institute of Technology.



# EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP SMALL IS SMART 29-30 OCTOBER 2019 - BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



### Bavo Verwimp

#### The Kijfelaar, Belgium

Bavo studied agricultural engineering at the KU Leuven, Belgium, option animal husbandry. Later on, he completed a 'special degree' in agricultural economics at the UC Louvain La Neuve, Belgium. With this degrees he has been working as a teacher, counselor (Vlaams Agrarisch Centrum) and as an officer for the Flemish government (Vlaamse Landmaatschappij).

In 2008 he took over the farm from his parents in the Kempen, north eastern part of Flanders, a region with sandy soils . They changed the specialised dairy farm into a mixed organic farm (cattle, horticulture). They aren't any more specialised in a specific crop or product, but we're specialised in direct selling. In this way they succeeded in making their small farm profitable, but they created also a nice place to work and to live ([www.dekijfelaar.be](http://www.dekijfelaar.be))



### Stéphane Diard

#### National Federation of CUMA (Farm Machinery cooperatives) – Farmer, France

Stéphane Diard set up in 1998 as dairy farmer in the Western part of France, close to Angers. He also chose to develop direct selling on his farm and educational activities.

His Cuma gather 40 local farmers, who use 50 different agricultural equipment, from air seeder to striptill. Deeply involved in the cooperative life of this group, M. Diard is especially in charge of the silage activity.

Since 2008, he is administrator of the local federation of Cuma, and become in 2015 member of the Board of the regional federation (Union des Cuma des Pays de Loire). In 2016, he also joined the Board of the National Federation of Cuma.

<http://www.ferme-andard.com>

<http://www.france.cuma.fr>

### Răzvan Popa

#### Fundația ADEPT, Romania

Răzvan Popa has strong experience in working with rural communities, especially in integrated development (local products, environment, resources for local entrepreneurship), and a academic record: a PhD in biology, a masters in management. He trained in Germany in regional marketing (branding for products and regions), communication and moderation techniques, and has a certificate in "training the trainers".

He has over 12 years experience in working with Fundația ADEPT Transilvania, an organization that is very active in integrated rural development activities in Romania. He is vice-president of ADEPT. Răzvan has worked on the





## EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP SMALL IS SMART 29-30 OCTOBER 2019 - BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



development of new agri-environment measures that are applied by the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture; has designed and implemented training projects (including moderation, support for working groups, training); has participated in drafting of local strategies; has worked with farmers in the Târnava Mare area on environment and rural development issues; and was also involved in supporting the establishment of two associations of farmers in the Sibiu area. In addition he has played an important role in working groups developing management plans for Natura 2000 sites and in technical working groups at national level working on the National Rural Development Programmes 2007-13 and 2014-20. Răzvan speaks English and German fluently, as well as his native Romanian.



**Magdalena Mach**

### **European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development**

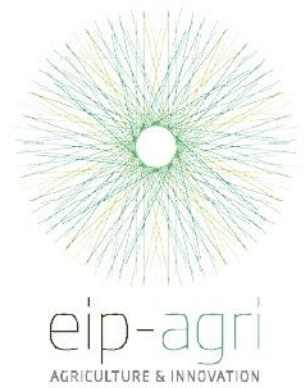
Magdalena Mach is a Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Research & Innovation Unit. She holds a Master's degree in International Relations. Before joining the EC she worked for the Agriculture and Fisheries Section of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union and Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development where for 6 years she was responsible for the implementation of LEADER approach under Rural Development Programme.



**Arianna Pasa**

### **European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development**

Arianna Pasa is a Research Programme Officer at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Research and Innovation Unit. She holds a Master's degree in Human Rights and Multi-level Governance and has previously worked on issues related to social inclusion in rural areas (DG Agri) and on the the right to food (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations). She was also part of the Italian Civil Peace Corps in Peru between 2017 and 2018.



## EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP SMALL IS SMART 29-30 OCTOBER 2019 - BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



### EIP-AGRI Service Point team



#### Pacôme Elouna Eyenga

##### EIP-AGRI Service Point

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.



#### Sergiu Didicescu

##### EIP-AGRI Service Point – Task Manager

Born 1980, Romanian

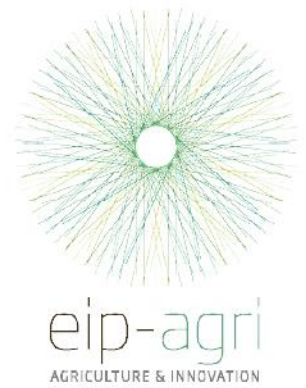
Sergiu is educated in horticulture with a specialisation in oenology, as well as in agri-food economics. He started professional life as an oenologue in the 'Dealul Mare' area, Romania's largest vineyard. Later on, he worked for the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the European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



#### Sarah Watson

##### EIP-AGRI Service Point – Main facilitator

Sarah Watson is the owner of Urban Growing a management consultancy which provides project and programme development, change management and communications support, specialising in conference and meeting facilitation (2012 – 2018). She runs the Sustainable Food City Partnership, a food charity based in her local area, promoting local and sustainable food, developing short supply chains and combating food poverty (2014 – 2018), and has been involved in short supply chain development and local governance work at a European level for over 15 years, through the LEADER Programme and the European Network for Rural Development.



## EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP SMALL IS SMART 29-30 OCTOBER 2019 - BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



### Margarida Ambar

#### **EIP-AGRI Service Point – 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

### Lotte Celis

#### **EIP-AGRI Service Point –Facilitator**

Lotte works part time at the EIP-AGRI Service Point as a Farm Practices Officer and supports in facilitation since early 2019.

She also works for the Rural Development Policy division of the Flemish Land Agency in Brussels.

She studied Bioscience Engineering at the university of Leuven (KU Leuven) in Belgium and holds a master's degree in agricultural sciences with a specialisation in plant production.



### Liisa Kübarsepp

#### **EIP-AGRI Service Point – Facilitator**

She is a member of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team in the Science and Research Sub-unit since 2017. Also, she is currently working for the Estonian Agricultural Research Centre and in the Estonian Crop Research Institute where she maintains the Potato Genebank which contains more than 450 varieties all over the world. She has previously worked in the Estonian University of Life Sciences as a junior researcher and continues her Ph.D. studies in the same university focusing on impacts of climate change on plant water relations and stomatal anatomy.



## EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP SMALL IS SMART 29-30 OCTOBER 2019 - BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



**Alexandre Morin**

### **EIP-AGRI Service Point – 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 an 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 funding for projects and partnerships, and he also works part time for the EIP-AGRI Service Point.



**Katrien Dejongh Audenaert**

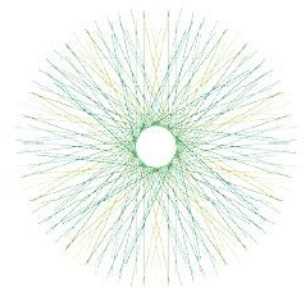
### **EIP-AGRI Service Point – Facilitator**

Katrien joined the EIP-AGRI Service Point in June 2019. She is a farm practices officer and supports the organisation of the meetings of the permanent Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Before, Katrien worked at the Flanders' Department of Foreign Affairs, Global Challenges division, as a policy advisor on private sector engagement in the SDGs. She managed Flanders development cooperation programmes on social innovation and entrepreneurship in South Africa, also in the agricultural sector.

Katrien has a long experience in sustainable agricultural practices, smallholder farms, agro-ecology, agricultural cooperatives and social enterprises, mostly in development countries. She has facilitated numerous change processes in that context.

Katrien is an Agricultural Engineer (sub) Tropical Agriculture from Ghent University, with post graduate training in Rural Development at the University of London (Wye College).



eip-agri  
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

## EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP SMALL IS SMART 29-30 OCTOBER 2019 - BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



### Sarah Beigel

#### Communication officer

As part of the EIP-AGRI Service Point's communication team, Sarah coordinates the EIP-AGRI newsletter and the Service Point standard email. She works on publications, contributes to the content of the EIP-AGRI website and offers support for events.

Sarah is British, currently living and working in France. She has a masters in International project management, and experience taking part in international cooperation projects aimed at knowledge exchange and she had organised a number of international meetings and events within her role as European project officer for AC3A (French Chambers of Agriculture).

