

4th Thematic Group meeting on Sustainable Management of Water and Soils

Collaborative and multi-actor approaches

Testing findings and recommendations for RDPs

Silvia Nanni / Kaley Hart

ENRD CP/IEEP

Turku, 15-16 May 2018

Mini seminar

Findings on collaborative and multi-actor approaches



Why multi-actor approaches for soil and water?

- Achieving **environmental improvements** requires coordinated action at river basin or landscape scale
- Dialogue and co-learning help leading to **improved understanding** and **behavioural change**

France

(Coop de l'eau 79)

The collective local contract for managing levels of water abstraction created the conditions for measuring water savings on a trial farm and reducing the use of water by farmers signed up to the local water cooperative.

Finland

(OSMO project)

Finnish farmers improved their understanding on the most pressing environmental challenges in the local area and learnt how to produce soil health management plans on their farm.

Rationale and approach to the analysis

Aim: Explore practical improvements to the design and implementation of RDPs, which could more effectively support sustainable water and soil management

Rationale

- Identify where collaborative and multi-actor approaches have been used for soil and water management in EU
- Identify enabling conditions and barriers
- Support TG discussions and inform recommendations on how 2014-2020 RDPs could be more effectively designed and implemented

Desk analysis

- Selected number of collaborative and multi-actor approaches
- RDP content
- Specialist articles

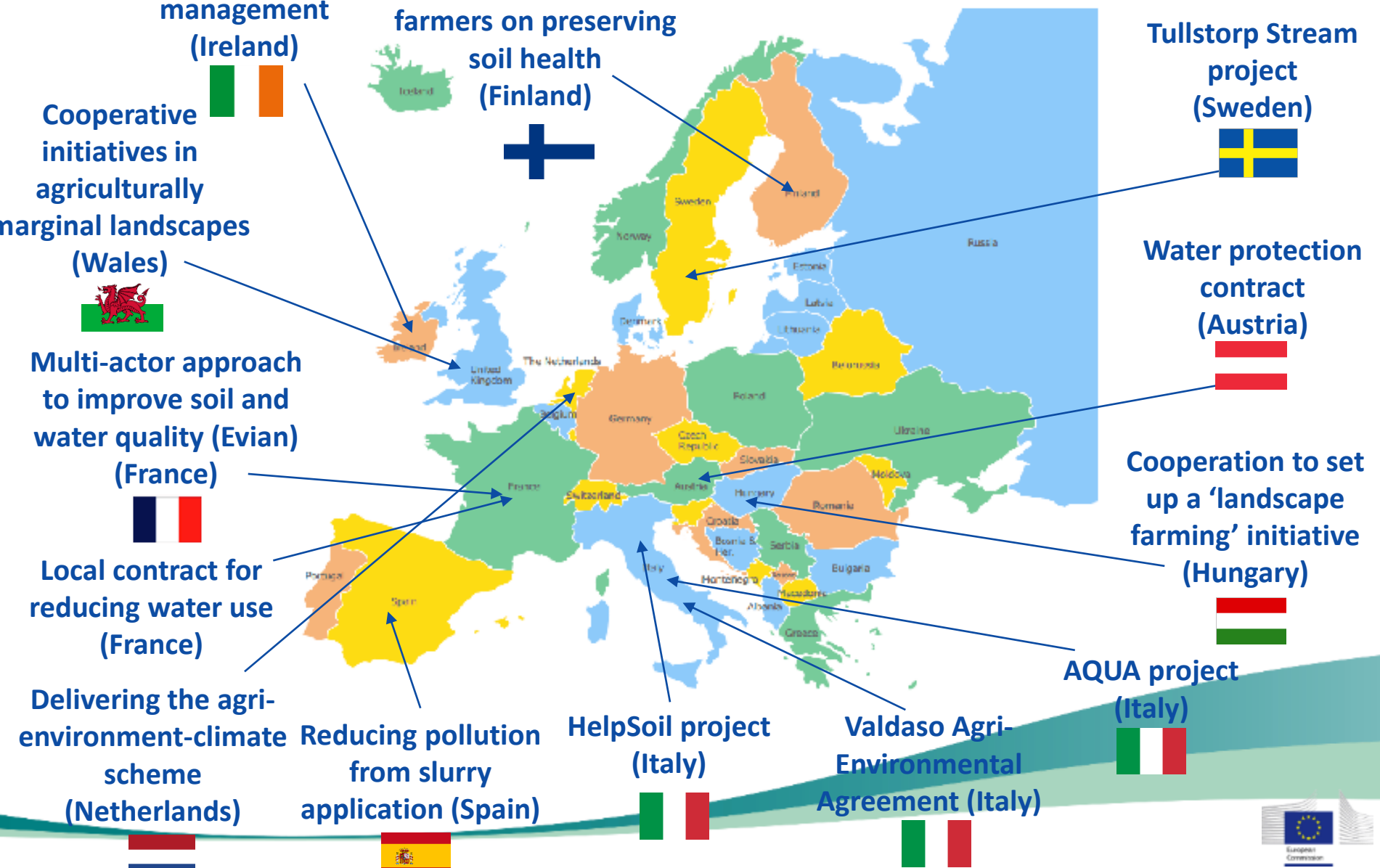
Interviews

- RDP NRN
- Beneficiaries
- Experts

Examples of collaborative and multi-actor approaches for soil and water management



A wide spectrum of approaches to soil and water management in Europe

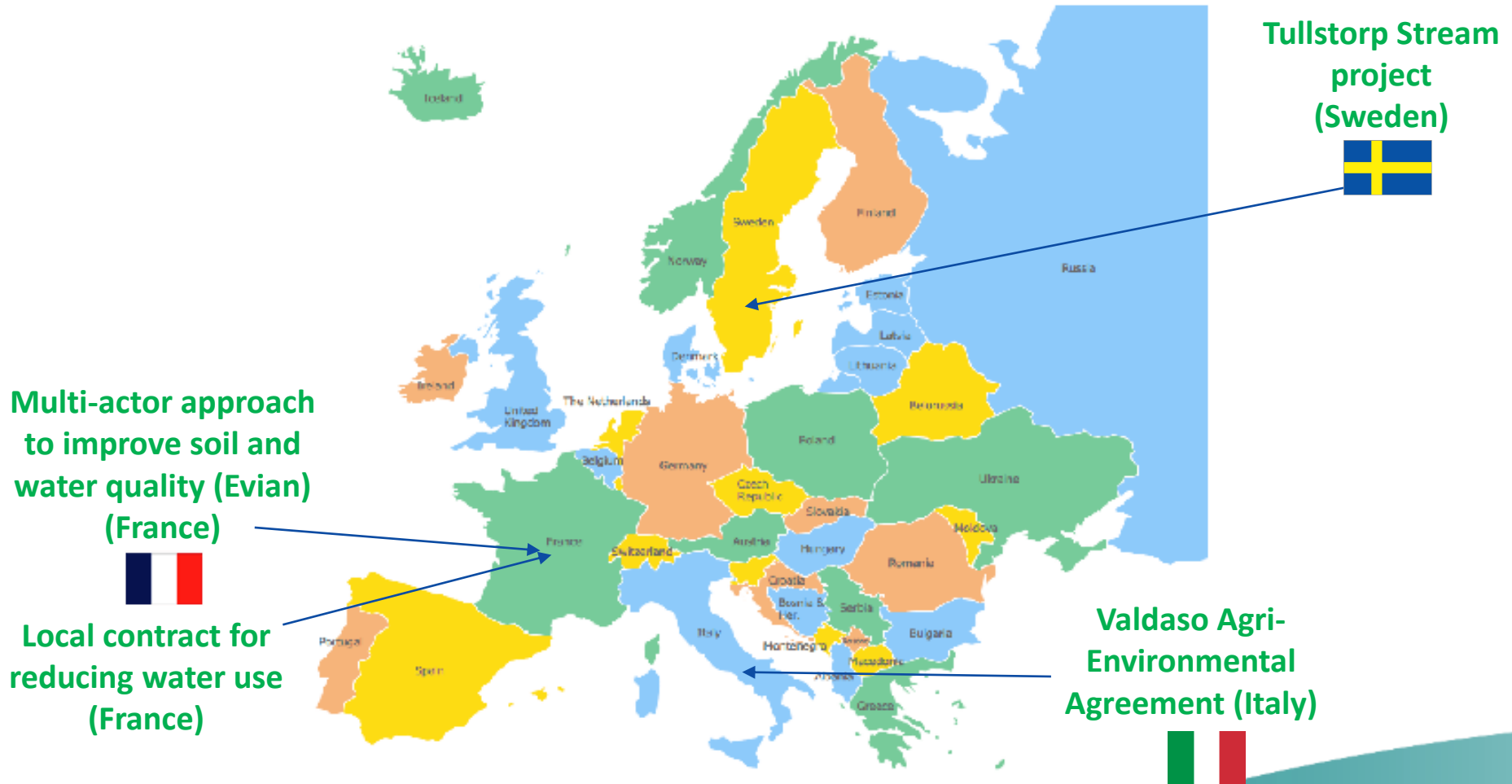


Collaboration via Measure 10 (Agri-environment climate)

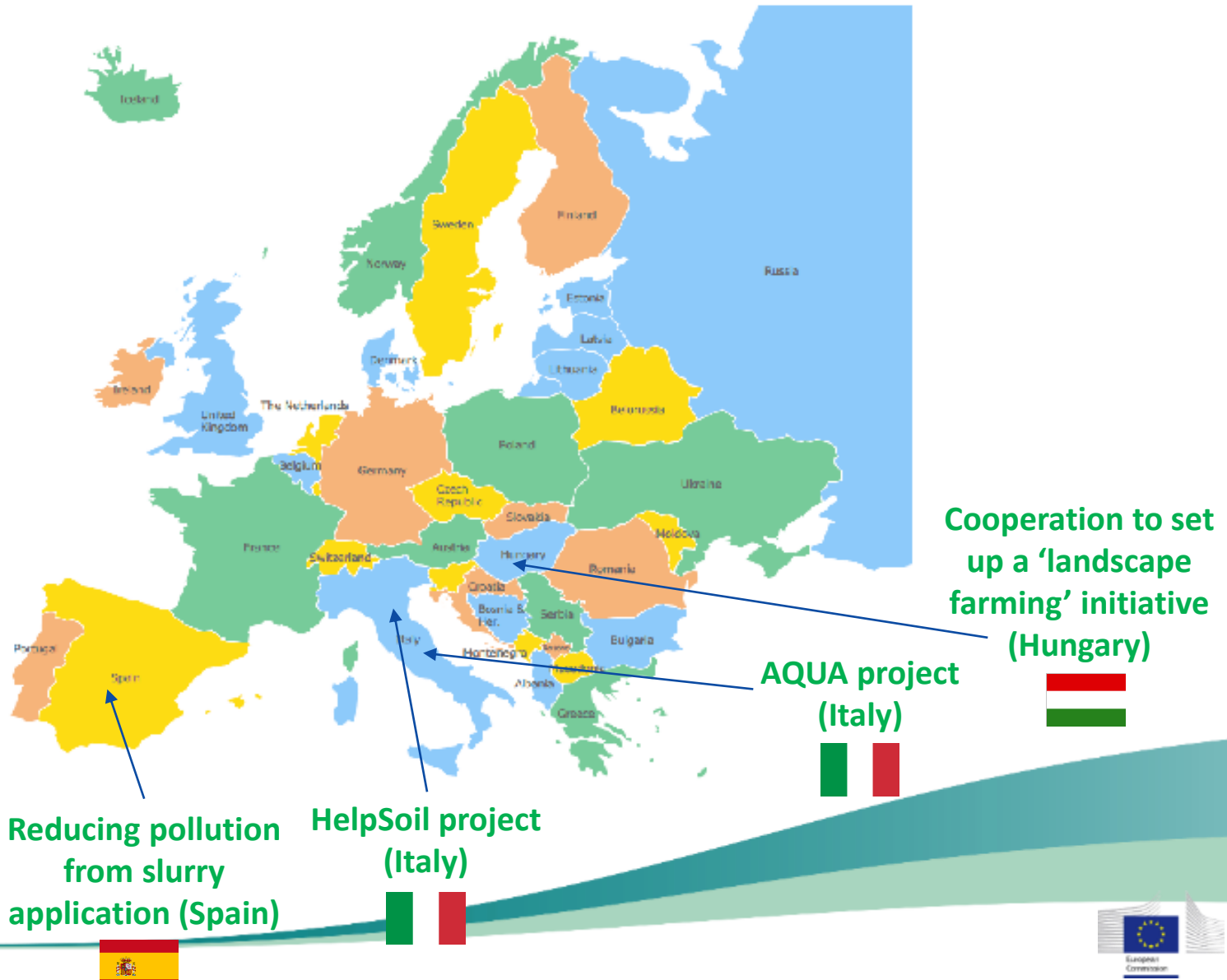
Collective AECM on
commonage
management
(Ireland)



Collaboration via a mix of RDP measures



Piloting collaboration



Enabling factors and barriers: Participation and leadership

Enabling factors

- Support for capacity building, training and on-farm advisory support
- Presence of local leaders or 'champions'
- Trustworthy relationships between farmers and local actors
- Portray environmental and private benefits to farmers and other actors involved

Barriers

- Complexities in organisation and facilitation
- Absence of a 'local champion'
- Challenges in relation to building trust among participants

Enabling factors and barriers: Governance & innovation; **Appropriate financing**

Enabling factors

- Local and managing authorities willing to innovate and experiment
- Track record of pilots and previous experience
- Flexible rules & requirements as to scope and delivery of approaches
- Use of up-front and ongoing funding

Barriers

- Limited administrative capacity
- Balancing local needs with EU, national and regional priorities and policy directions
- Higher transaction costs

ENRD TG meeting

Proposed recommendations on collaborative and multi-actor approaches for RDP design and implementation



Recommendations: Supporting participation and leadership

1. Member States should set out selection criteria in RDP measures that a) require the broad participation of (at least) farmers and rural actors (including local industry operators and thematic experts), and b) promote participation from collectives under the Cooperation (M16) or Agri-environment-climate measures (M10);
2. Greater resources to fund focused extension services, or training and knowledge upgrading for facilitators or initiators of collaborative and multi-actor approaches
3. Small, but flexible funding pots should be made available at the local level (perhaps via project facilitators) to fund the hire of meeting rooms, the provision of refreshments and the participation of actors in the discussions in the start-up phases of projects. Lighter touch to the application for and reporting on these small funds

Recommendations: Supporting good governance and innovation

4. Innovation should be encouraged and the fear of failure reduced:
 - Control requirements and associated penalties linked to RDP funding should be appropriate and proportionate;
 - The design of loans or other sources of finances should be investigated and build on examples already operating – e.g. loans only to be repaid if the project is successful;
 - The rules for piloting new approaches should be accessible and simple.

5. Collection and exchange of best practices and pilot projects on collaborative action should be further encouraged at EU level, i.e. through the role of existing bodies such as the ENRD CP, or through the creation of an appropriate European repository/hub.

Recommendations: Ensuring appropriate financing

6. A two-stage approach in the application for funding for specific RDP measures should be encouraged:
 - The first stage for funding to help setting up the partnership (via M16); the second stage provides financial support for putting into action the initiatives that are identified by the cooperation (other RDP measure as appropriate)
7. Member States should consider allocating higher proportions of transaction costs within the payment calculation to agreements involving groups of farmers/land managers, as is currently permitted;
8. Costs associated with facilitation should be supported for the entire duration of the agri-environment scheme;
9. Applications for funding under RDPs should target existing collectives or groups in an area (e.g. local associations, NGOs, LAGs).

Thank you!

snanni@ieep.eu

khart@ieep.eu

ENRD Contact Point

Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat, 38 (bte 4)

1040 Bruxelles/Brussel

BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Tel. +32 2 801 38 00

info@enrd.eu