

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) „Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability“

Speeding up innovation
Looking for connections and opportunities !



Connecting the different worlds of rural innovation

ENRD workshop Extending LEADER innovation - 22 February 2017 - Brussels

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1. What is innovation?

What is Innovation ?

In short: **"Ideas put into practice with success"**

- New, improved or successfully applied products, processes or services. Innovation may be **technological, non-technological, organisational, social**, etc.
- Innovation may be **based on new but also on traditional** practices in a new geographical or environmental context.
- Innovation is **more than dissemination of research** results: it occurs as a result of the creativity and interplay between actors for combining new and/or existing (tacit) knowledge
- In the end, it is **only when** a new creation really becomes more or **mainstream that it is called an "innovation"**

→ Interplay between actors is key

Interactive innovation: Cross-fertilisation is key for tackling complex challenges and developing opportunities for innovation

Du choc des idées jaillit la lumière

Nicolas Boileau, french philosopher, 17th century

- > Enlightenment comes when views collide
- > From the clash of opposing minds, new ideas arise

2. What are AKIS?

*Focus on **knowledge flows** to understand how underlying systems can **incentivise innovation***

Knowledge Systems incentivise innovation

- **AKIS = Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System**
- The AKIS concept aims at describing **knowledge infrastructures**: institutions, organisations and interactions
- **Parts of the AKIS** are: farmers, advisors, research, education/training, input suppliers, retailers, media, services, ministries, etc...: they all produce and need knowledge
- The AKIS concept aims at better **understanding knowledge flows** within the system, focusing on the issue of knowledge access for a diversity of actors (*Hall et al. 2006*)
- AKISs mostly work at a **national and/or regional scale**

Knowledge Systems incentivise innovation

- The various parts of the AKIS **influence** more or less daily on-farm **decisions**, depending on how knowledge exchanges are **organised**
- A dedicated Strategic Working Group (**SWG AKIS**) of the Standing Committee of Agricultural Research (**SCAR**) has been **reflecting** and exploring AKIS systems since 2008
- The linear "knowledge transfer" system is not sufficiently adapted to and ready to **solve new and complex challenges**
- Currently understanding AKIS is even more urgent: financial crises, global food security, the EU 2020 strategy: "Smart, sustainable, inclusive growth", **European Innovation partnership, CAP 2014-2020, H2020 opening up possibilities**

3. The EIP-AGRI supports the building of an EU AKIS



Stop
talking about the
PROBLEM.
Spend time
talking about the
SOLUTION
instead.





The EIP-AGRI in short

- 2010: European Innovation Partnerships want to speed up innovation through **cooperation and linking existing policies and instruments**
- EIP "**Agricultural productivity and sustainability**" (CAP + H2020) launched in 2012
 - "more and better from less"
 - "ideas, put into practice, with success"
 - impact by end-users becoming "actors" and motivated
 - Even more important now than before because of enhanced need for systems approach, e.g. in agri-food systems (FOOD 2030 objectives), for bioeconomy, circular economy etc

The EIP-AGRI in short

- The EIP-AGRI applies an overarching concept based on the **interactive innovation model** (applied in RD Operational Groups and H2020 Multi-Actor projects):

Collaboration between various actors to make **best use of complementary types of knowledge** (scientific, practical, organisational, etc) **in view of co-creation** and diffusion of solutions/opportunities **ready to implement in practice.**
- **EU wide EIP network** linking actors: communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs: EIP-AGRI animated by the EIP Service Point

"I not only use all the
brains that I have,
but all that I can
borrow"

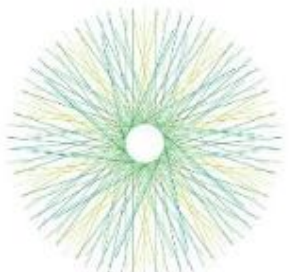
Woodrow Wilson –
President of the USA, 1913-1921



Funding for interactive innovation projects

Rural Development (regional/national level)

- **Funding for setting up of an "Operational Group" (OG)** : farmers, advisors, agribusiness, researchers, NGOs, etc) planning an innovation project
- **Project funding for the Operational Group's project**
- Supporting innovation support services (advisory services with a focus on innovation)



eip-agri
AGRICULTURE INNOVATION

EIP networks
MS/regions

Unique EU repository of contacts and practice abstracts

Health and Consumers

Horizon 2020 (European projects)

- **Research projects**, to provide the knowledge base for innovative actions
- **Interactive innovation formats: multi-actor projects and thematic networks** genuinely involving farmers, advisors, enterprises, etc.... "all along the project"

Involvement of OGs is strongly recommended

What is an Operational Group (OG) ?

- EIP operational groups funded under rural development programmes are multi-actor, project based and **tackle a certain practical problem or opportunity** which may lead to an innovation
- The operational group is tailored to this problem/opportunity and **makes the best use of different types of knowledge** (practical, scientific, technical, organisational, etc) in an interactive way.
- The operational group is composed of **those key actors** (farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, NGOs etc) which are in the best position to realize the project's goals and **to share experiences broadly.**
- A group with a project **becomes an OG if its project is selected** in a OG call organised by the regional/national RD managing authorities

Horizon 2020 Multi-Actor projects

- Multi-actor projects are **demand-driven interactive innovation** projects
- Beyond dissemination requirement and stakeholders' board
- Genuine and sufficient involvement of **various actors "all along the project"** and in the consortium, from the planning of work and experiments, up until their execution (co-owners)
- Demonstrate how project will how the project proposal's **objectives** and planning are **targeted to needs / problems and opportunities of end-users**
- Producing "**practice abstracts**" in EIP common format: easily understandable practical info

Thematic networks in H2020 calls 2014-2017

- **17 Thematic Networks**, a dedicated type of **multi-actor** project for **compiling knowledge ready for practice**
- On a variety of **themes proposed bottom-up** (2 mio projects)
- But themes must **focus on the most urgent needs of agricultural or forestry production sectors**
- Synthesising, sharing and presenting **best practices and research results** focusing on issues that are near to be put into practice, but not sufficiently known by practitioners
- **Link to OGs** working on similar subjects
- Further thematic networks planned in calls 2018-2020 and beyond, **all delivering practice abstracts**

An EU wide EIP network, supported under Rural development policy Linking with H2020

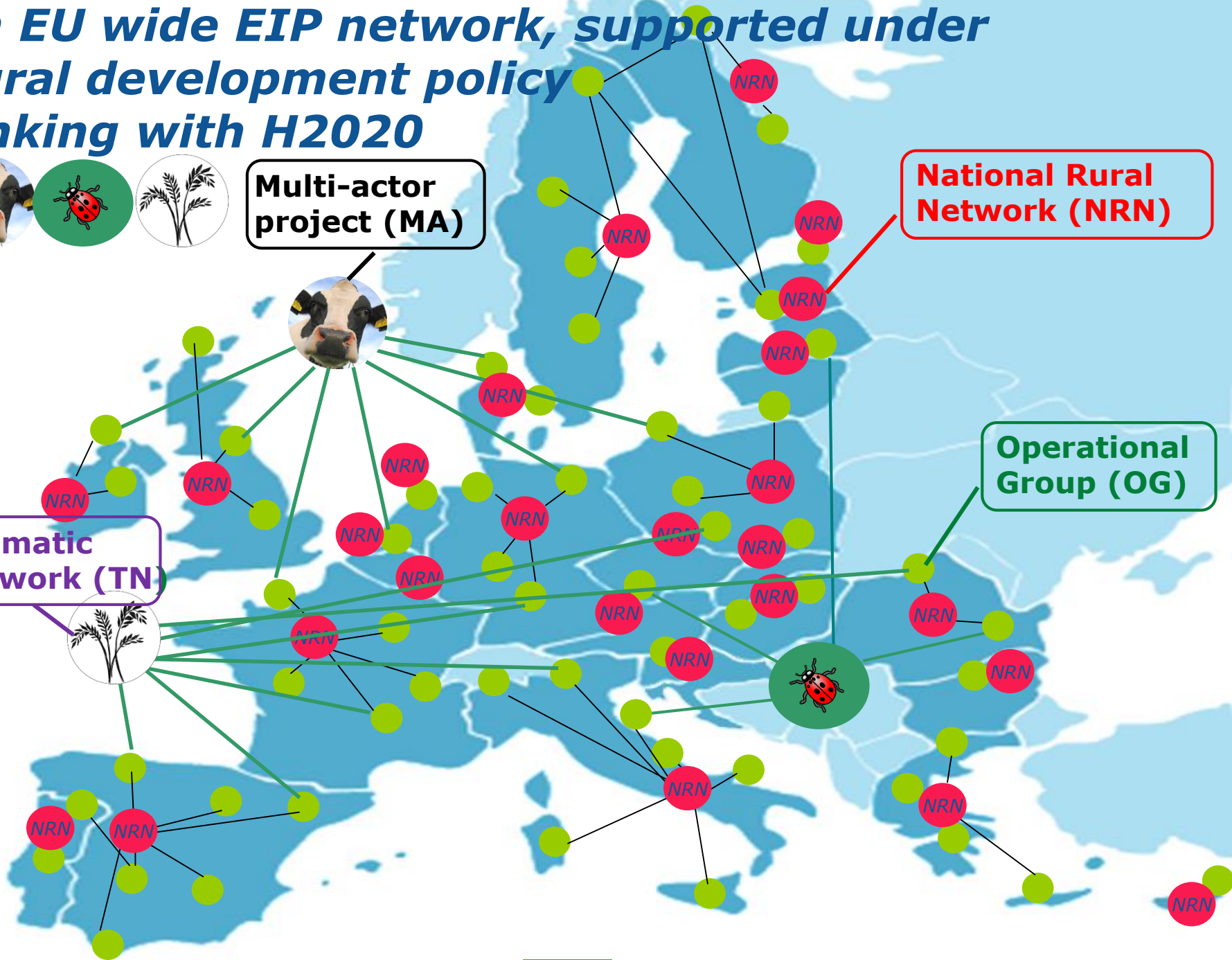


Multi-actor project (MA)

National Rural Network (NRN)

Operational Group (OG)

Thematic Network (TN)

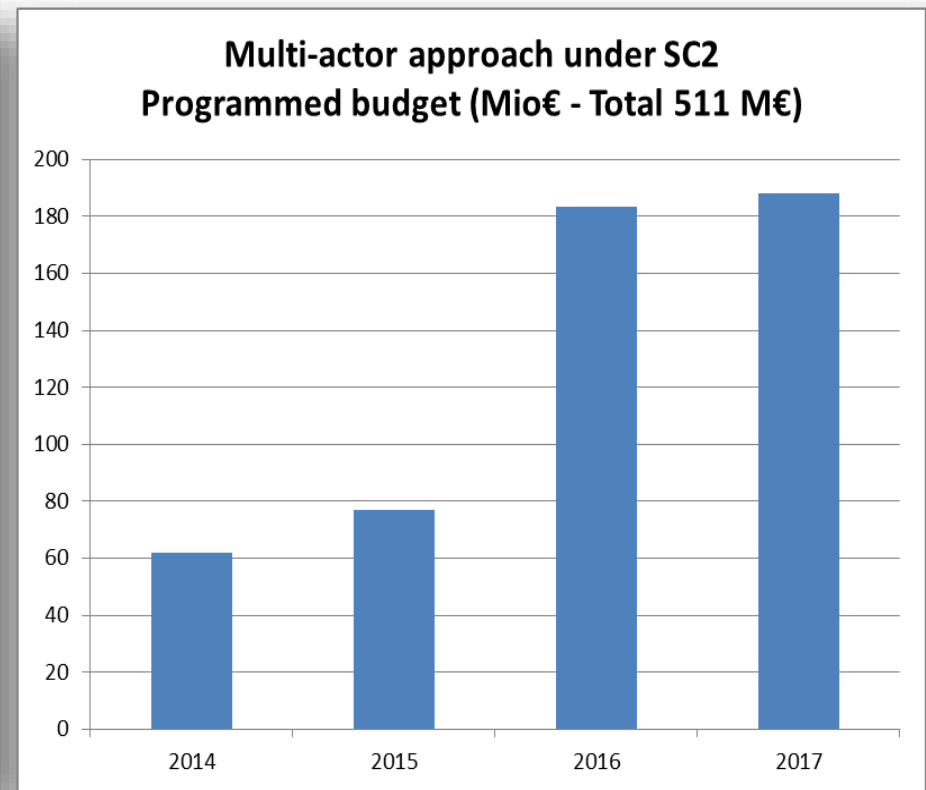
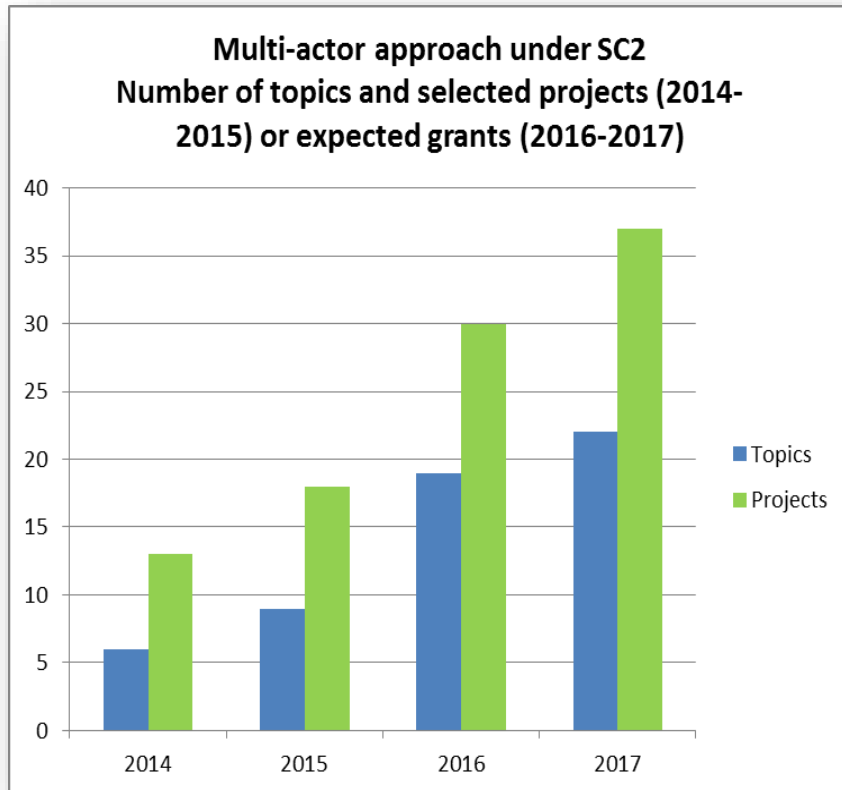


“The next big thing
will be a lot of small
things”

21 September 2016
(Thomas Lomme)

4. Where are we so far with the EIP-AGRI ?

Multi-actor approach in Horizon 2020 topics/projects 500 mio Euro 2014-2017





17 H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks so far (1)

calls 2014-2016 – **a complementary set of themes (sectors)**

RUR 10 - 2016	CERERE	Cereals: organic/low input cereal food systems for biodiversity and quality (production, processing, marketing)
RUR 10 - 2016	Eu PiG	Pig husbandry: health management, precision production, welfare and meat quality
RUR 10 - 2016	Inno4Grass	Productive grasslands: profitability and environmental services
RUR 10 - 2016	SheepNet	Improving sheep productivity
ISIB 2 - 2014	Winetwork	Wine diseases: Grapevine Trunk Disease and Flavescence dorée
ISIB 2 - 2014	OKNetArable	Organic agriculture - arable crops
ISIB 2 - 2014	Hennovation	Animal welfare hens
ISIB 2 - 2015	4D4F	Data and sensor driven decision making on dairy farms
ISIB 2 - 2015	EuroDairy	Practice-based innovations in dairy farming: resource efficiency, Biodiversity, Animal care, and Socio-economic resilience
ISIB 2 - 2015	EUFRUIT	Fruit: cultivar development, minimize residues, storage and fruit quality, sustainability of production systems



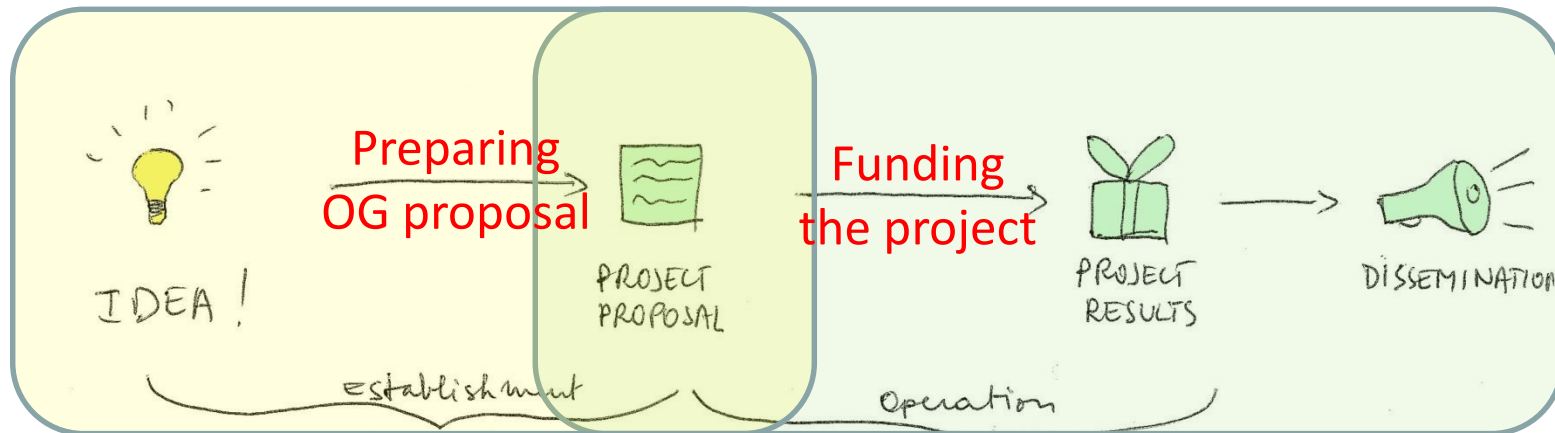
17 H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks so far (2) a complementary set of themes (cross-cutting themes)

RUR 10 - 2016	SKIN	Stimulating innovation and good practices in short supply chains
RUR 10 - 2016	AFINET	Agroforestry: sylvoarable and sylvopastoral systems' design, management and profitability
ISIB 2 - 2014	Agri-Spin	Innovation brokering methods
ISIB 2 - 2015	AGRIFORVALOR	Valorization of biomass side-streams from agriculture and forest
ISIB 2 - 2015	Smart-AKIS	Smart Farming Technology: Management Information Systems, Precision Agriculture and Agriculture automation and robotics
ISIB 2 - 2015	HNV-Link	Support HNV farmlands through knowledge and innovation
WATER 4B - 2015	FERTINNOWA	Optimize water and nutrient use efficiency: dbase on innovative technologies and practices for fertigation of horticultural crops

EIP Operational Groups in CAP Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020

- The EIP implementation via rural development programmes aims at a **flexible and open system** for the creation of a multiplicity of operational groups (OGs)
- **96 MS/regions (26 MS)** will be implementing the EIP in their 2014-2020 Rural Development programmes with **regular calls for Operational Group projects during this period**
- **3200 OGs planned in 2014-2020**, with activities such as the development of new products or practices, pilot projects, supply chain cooperation, joint environmental projects or climate change actions, cooperation in biomass provision or renewable energy, forest management and much more

New roles for innovation support services and farm advisors in interactive projects



operation of
SETTING UP
the OG
↑
submeasure 16.1

OG PROJECT
OPERATION
↑
submeasure 16.1

AND 16.2
or 16.4
or 16.5
or 16.6

or other depending
on the activities chosen
from the list under
Art 35(2)(a) to (k)

Funding

⇒ Funding of OG can be done via double subheading

*Having potential innovative knowledge is one thing,
turning it into reality is another.*

"The value of an
idea lies in the
using of it."

Thomas Alva Edison –
inventor of the light bulb

Start building an EU AKIS

***Speed up creativity
and practice
application***

***Better connectivity and
quicker circulation of
information***

***Innovation is: an idea put into
practice with success !***



***To an
„Agriculture of Knowledge“***
www.eip-agri.eu

Thank you for your attention!

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EIP seminar on Knowledge Systems and
Interactive Innovation – Dec 2015

https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/field_event_attachments/sem-knowledge-20151203-pres02-inge_van_oost.pdf