Specific requirements for Multi-actor projects

Inge Van Oost – DG AGRI
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" launched in 2012: "more and better from less", "ideas put into practice with success", impact by end-users becoming "actors" and motivated

- The EIP-AGRI applies an overarching "Open innovation" 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 (Open science)
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)

**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"

Unique EU repository of contacts and practice abstracts

Involvement of OGs is strongly recommended
"I not only use all the brains that I have, but all that I can borrow"

Woodrow Wilson – President of the USA, 1913-1921
Definition of the multi-actor approach under WP 2016 -2017:

In the introduction of the WP on p.11, first the rationale for multi-actor approach is explained ("To permeate the systems...")

Then the Work programme defines the multi-actor approach after the bullet ("The multi-actor approach aims at..."):

=> All conditions for a good multi-actor approach are on p.11 (so not repeated in each topic, but valid for all multi-actor topics)

Note: Multi-actor approach has nothing to see with multi-disciplinarity (combining different scientific disciplines), nor with applied research.

The multi-actor approach aims to improve impact through co-creation between different types of actors (scientific and non-scientific)

First experiences with 2014-2015 calls led to the new elements in WP 2016-17 indicated in green
IMPACT:
Demand-driven innovation in Multi-actor projects

- "multi-actor" is more than a strong dissemination requirement or a broad stakeholders' board
- "all along the project": a clear role for the different actors in the work plan, from the participation in the planning of work and experiments, their execution up until the dissemination of results and the possible demonstration phase.
- Project proposals should illustrate sufficient quantity and quality of knowledge exchange activities

Actor: a partner taking part in project activities, contributing to project outcomes

☞ Stakeholder: person expressing a view/stake at a certain moment(s) during the project
Multi-actor projects aim to produce impact:

A multi-actor project needs to demonstrate:

- how the project proposal's objectives and planning are targeted to needs / problems and opportunities of end-users
- complementarity with existing research and best practices
  
  [What is the project's added value? - Avoid recycling projects: repetition and continuation of former projects – more of the same]
  
- sufficient involvement of key actors with complementary types of knowledge (scientific and practical) should be reflected in the composition of the project consortium to reach the project objectives and make its results broadly implemented.

  [Include partners beyond scientists, such as farmers, farmers' groups, advisors, consumers etc - Don't forget to think about involving multipliers to strengthen impacts]
Multi-actor projects aim to produce impact:

A multi-actor project:

- **As a minimum**, should result in **substantial** easily understandable practical knowledge for broad dissemination in the **common EIP format**

  [focus on concrete and concisely written results (not project activities description): possibly some 100 EIP practice abstracts in a practitioners/end-users'/farmers' language, best practices resulting from the projects' work, qualitative audio-visual material, etc]

  Do not reinvent the wheel: use **existing** long term available dissemination channels for practitioners, lasting beyond the project period]

- Facilitation/mediation between actors and **involving** for instance **RD operational groups**, are strongly recommended

  [but don't make impossible promises and mix up funding sources and policies: e.g. **H2020 consortia cannot start up RD Operational Groups**]
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
EIP-AGRI:
'Innovation' is about 'modern' "system" changes, not narrowing down to primary agricultural production

- EIP Commission Communication: "The specific objectives of the EIP will be elaborated upon during its concrete implementation" = the text in the topics will help understanding who should be co-creating in a multi-actor project.
- Think about: 1) ideas, 2) put in to practice, 3) with success

Potential areas of innovative actions (non-exhaustive) = whole SC2:
- Increased agricultural productivity, output, and resource efficiency
- Innovation in support of the bio-based economy
- Biodiversity, ecosystem services, and soil functionality
- Innovative products and services for the integrated supply chain
- Food quality, food safety and healthy lifestyles (consumers' choices).
## Award criteria most relevant for Multi-actor approach in a RIA – stage 1:

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<tr>
<th>Excellence</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
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| • Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;  
• Soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed methodology;  
• Extent that the proposed work is beyond the state of the art, and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)  
• Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge. | • Extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to each of the expected impacts mentioned in the work programme under the relevant topic; |  |

### Scoring of multi-actor approach:

Mainly and first **Excellence**: soundness of the concept, and clarity and pertinence of the objectives; [*quality check*] + other indirectly (also impact and implementation)
More info on multi-actor projects?

See video-streamed presentation on Multi-actor approach and Thematic Networks in H2020 WP 2016-2017:
(from 0:53:00 till 01:47:00)

Basic info
+ questions & answers

Workshop "Interactive innovation in motion: multi-actor projects and thematic networks under Horizon 2020" 24/11/2015:

Event page:
**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 call organised by the regional/national RD managing authorities.
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** 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
An EU wide EIP network, supported under Rural development policy
Linking with H2020

Multi-actor project (MA)

Thematic Network (TN)

National Rural Network (NRN)

Operational Group (OG)
“The next big thing will be a lot of small things"

21 September 2016
(Thomas Lommee)
EIP-AGRI networking activities:
Supporting multi-actor encounters between EU partners, for instance:

- **Focus Groups** (20 experts - 2 meetings – a report)
- **Workshops** (80 participants – 1 meeting – a report)
- **Seminars** (150 participants – 1 meeting – a report)
Where can you find more info?

- **EIP brochure on thematic networks & practice abstracts**

- **Find the EIP common format for practice abstracts**:  

- **Videostreamed seminar on drafting practice abstracts**:  
  - [http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=33](http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=33)

- **Links to NRNs**: National Rural Networks can help in partner search between H2020 consortia and EIP Operational Groups  
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!

Thank you for your attention

www.eip-agri.eu

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