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# Fostering innovation in agriculture: the EIP and Horizon 2020 getting into action

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Agriculture  
and Rural  
Development

## ***The EIP-AGRI in short***

- Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (COM (2012)79)
- Overarching concept – funding in CAP-RD and H2020 Research funds
- Based on **interactive innovation model**:
  - linking up multiple actors for creation and diffusion of knowledge.
- Key entities: Operational Groups
- EU wide EIP network: communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs

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

Woodrow Wilson –  
President of the USA, 1913-1921

# How to use all brains?

## The Interactive Innovation model

- The EIP adheres to the "interactive innovation model" which focuses on forming demand-driven partnerships - using bottom-up approaches and linking farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, and other actors to implement concrete innovation projects in **Operational Groups**.
- Knowledge "exchange" between partners generates new insights and ideas and integrates existing tacit knowledge. The more focused solutions are put into practice more quickly thanks to the co-ownership generated during projects.
- This stimulates innovation from all sides and helps to target the research agenda (or part of it) towards practice needs.

## ***European Innovation Partnership***

### ***Rural Development***

- **Funding for setting up of an “Operational Group”**: farmers, advisors, agribusiness, researchers, NGOs, etc) planning an innovation project (Art 35)
- **Project funding** for the Operational Group’s project (Art 35). This co-operation could be combined with other measures (investment, knowledge transfer, advice)
- Supporting **innovation support services**



### ***Horizon 2020***

- Research projects, including on-farm experiments to provide the knowledge base for innovative actions
- Interactive innovation formats such as **multi-actor projects and thematic networks** genuinely involving farmers, advisors, enterprises,.... "all along the project"

## Process: where do we stand?

- **Horizon 2020** work programme 2014-2015 launched late 2013. Evaluations of proposals for WP 2014 taking place, launch of 2014 projects in 2015
- **Rural Development Programmes:** most draft RDPs have been communicated to the Commission, feedback from Commission ongoing. More than 90% of RDPs will implement the EIP – various approaches (more or less top-down, more or less specific in terms of themes, some mixing up with LEADER...).

# OPERATIONAL GROUPS

## ***Operational Groups in Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020***

- A group is implementing one concrete innovation project
- Combines the different competencies (practical and scientific: farmers, advisors, researchers etc), needed for the concrete project objectives
- The groups works action- and result-oriented, aiming to benefit from interaction for co-creation and cross-fertilisation (interactive innovation)
- Support for setting up the group and/or for the costs of the project of the group (Art 35)
- Obligation of dissemination of results

# ***Key Acting Entities Within the EIP***

## ***- Operational Groups -***



***"Operational Groups" are no stakeholder networks, no stakeholder boards, no thematic coordination groups, nor discussion groups***  
***An OG = actors working together in a project targeted at innovation and producing concrete results***

## ***Art 35 - "Cooperation measure" for OGs***

Support for Operational Groups (OGs) covers

- **setting up EIP OGs**
- **funding of their operations:**
  - Support for the development of **new** products, practices, processes and technologies
  - Support for "**pilot projects**", pursuing the **testing and adaptation** of technologies, processes etc. to "new" geographical/environmental contexts (i.e. contexts in which they have not yet been used).

The cooperation measure also supports many other activities which pursue the objectives of the EIP, e.g. **support for networks**, which bring together a variety of actors and by sharing needs and knowledge may initiate actions of OGs and/or support actions of existing groups.

- *New grouping, new project* ✓
  - *Existing grouping, new project* ✓
  - *Existing grouping, existing project* ✗
  - *OG doing only networking activities* ✗
- *Research has a role to play but OGs are not a new instrument to fund research*

# **SUPPORT TO NETWORKING AND WORKING OF AKIS**

# ***Support for Innovation & Knowledge Exchange***

Rural Development Policy provides support for:

- Article 14: Knowledge transfer and information actions (up to 80% EAFRD co-financing)
- Article 15: Advice for farmers, the setting up of farm advisory services, and training of advisors (up to 53% co-financing)
- Article 35: **Cooperation, operational groups and related projects** (up to 80% co-financing)
- Article 17: Investments (up to 53% co-financing + 20% increased aid intensity for EIP-related operations)
- Article 53 and 54: Establishment of networks to facilitate knowledge exchange, information flow and interaction

## ***Innovation Support Services***

- Promoting innovation and innovation funding formats
- Brainstorming events and animation of (thematic) groups
- **Brokering function** for setting up operational groups
- Coordination and **facilitation of projects** as an intermediary between partners
- Dissemination of innovative results
  
- The above can be implemented/supported through several RD measures (see Articles 15, 35 and 54), yet they are not so visible in Rural Development Programmes so far.

## ***Network Function of the EIP***

- **Collect** information (research and innovation projects etc.) and best innovation practices
- Effective **flow of information** (interactive website, databases)
- **Give advice** on opportunities within policies (helpdesk function)
- Sharing knowledge on concrete practical work and **connect actors**
- Systematic **feedback** to the scientific community about practice needs (Art.12 H2020)

## ***Focus groups***

(Focus groups form part of the **networking function** of the EIP:  
up to 20 experts - typically: scientists, farmers, advisors)

**Focus on practical knowledge in a particular field, and  
where to get that knowledge**, organised in 4 strands:

1. Take stock of the state of the art of practice (list of best practices), listing problems and opportunities
2. Take stock of the state of the art of research, summarizing possible solutions to the problems listed (incl. list of useful projects with the contacts)
3. Identify needs from practice: dissemination and propose further research where needed
4. Propose priorities for innovative actions, e.g. list of ideas for future OG projects

## ***Focus Groups 2013 - 2014***

1. Organic farming - optimizing arable yields
2. Protein crops
3. Animal husbandry – reduction of antibiotics use in the pig sector
4. Genetic resources co-operation models
5. Soil organic matter content in Mediterranean regions
6. Integrated pest management (IPM) – Brassica
7. High Nature Value (HNV) farming profitability
8. Mainstreaming precision farming
9. Profitability of permanent grassland
10. Fertiliser efficiency – focus on horticulture in open field
11. Optimising yields through Ecological Focus Areas
12. Alternative/innovative supply chains
13. IPM practices for soil disease suppression

# THE CONTRIBUTION OF HORIZON 2020 TO THE EIP

## ***How will Horizon 2020 boost interactive innovation ?***

- Fostering co-creation of knowledge in research and innovation projects through the so-called "**Multi-actor approach**"
- Fostering knowledge exchange through **Thematic Networks** producing end-user oriented material (Coordination and Support Actions)
- Participation of the EIP in the establishment of Horizon 2020 research and innovation priorities (Art. 12 H2020 Regulation)

## ***Multi-actor projects in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015***

Total budget for all multi-actor projects and thematic networks in the first Horizon 2020 Work programme: 148 mio euro

All multi-actor projects have the following sentence in the description of the topic:

*"Proposals should fall under the concept of multi-actor approach"*

and refer to footnote 1 on p.4 of the Work programme that describes the multi-actor approach as follows

## ***Multi-actor projects in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015***

- "multi-actor" is more than a strong dissemination requirement or what a broad stakeholders' board can deliver
- "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**

This should generate **innovative solutions that are more likely to be applied** thanks to the cross-fertilisation\* of ideas between actors, the co-creation and the generation of co-ownership for eventual results.

(\*legal base in Specific Programme)

## ***Multi-actor projects in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015***

A multi-actor project needs to take into account:

- how the project proposal's objectives and planning are **targeted to needs / problems and opportunities of end-users**
- the **composition of the project consortium** must get sufficient involvement of **key actors with complementary types of knowledge** (scientific and practical) to reach the project objectives and make its results broadly implemented.

Facilitation between actors and openness to involve additional partners in the project, for instance **relevant groups operating in the EIP context**, are strongly recommended.

## ***Which multi-actor projects in 2015?***

2 stage-call – topics for the call published 22 July 2014 (deadline for proposals 3/2/2015)

|         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
|         |   |  |
| SFS-1C  | Sustainable terrestrial livestock production:<br>Assessing sustainability of livestock production                         |  |
| SFS-2B: | Sustainable crop production: Assessing soil-improving cropping systems  |  |
| SFS-5   | Strategies for crop productivity, stability and quality   |  |
| SFS-13  | Biological contamination of crops and the food chain  |  |
| SFS-20  | Sustainable food chains through public policies: the cases of the EU quality policy and of public sector food procurement |  |
| WASTE 7 | Ensuring sustainable use of agricultural waste, co-products and by-products (Soc Ch 5)                                    |  |
| ICIP 4B | Improving the use of agricultural waste, co-products and by-products  |  |

## ***Thematic networks in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015***

- Projects **involving all concerned actors** (researchers, farmers, advisors, enterprises, education, NGOs, administration, regulatory bodies, EIP project groups...): no pure research networks
- **Projects must develop end-user material** for practice, such as info sheets in a common format and audio-visual material, that is long-term available and easy understandable, to be shared through the EIP (input for education and a research web-database for end-users)
- Partners should synthesise, discuss and **present existing scientific knowledge & best practices**, with a focus on: what do we have/what do we miss to be used

## ***Thematic networks in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015***

- **Themes** can be linked to products or sectors, e.g. arable crops, fruits, vegetables, pig,...etc) or a broad range of cross-cutting subjects, e.g. crop rotation, certain farming practices, energy, implementation approaches of a directive, eco-system services, social services, bio-based products, short supply chains,...etc
- As they bring together possible actors, thematic networks help the **connecting and building of EIP interactive innovation groups & multi-actor projects**

## ***Concluding comments***

- The vast majority of RDPs will implement the EIP, which was not for granted. Question mark regarding budget that will be made available. The Devil is in the details of implementation: **Keep it simple!**
- Horizon 2020: multi-actor approach taken seriously in project proposals; many proposals submitted for thematic networks

**LOOKS LIKE A NOT TOO BAD START!!**

**Many thanks for you attention**

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip>

*(new interactive EIP-AGRI website coming soon!!)*