



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

## Speeding up innovation



**Emilia Romagna Innovation Conference – Brussels – 11 April 2018**

Inge Van Oost – DG AGRI – Unit Research and Innovation

# 1. The bigger picture of EIP-AGRI

## *The EIP-AGRI in short*

- 2010: European Innovation Partnerships want to speed up innovation through collaboration and **linking policies and instruments: IMPACT!!!**
- The EIP-AGRI was launched by DG AGRI in 2012: COM (2012)79
- The EIP-AGRI applies an overarching "*Open innovation*" concept based on the **interactive innovation model** (applied in CAP 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*)

\* *In line with the main recommendation of the 2015 Milan Scientific Committee on impact: 'more research into practice'*

*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

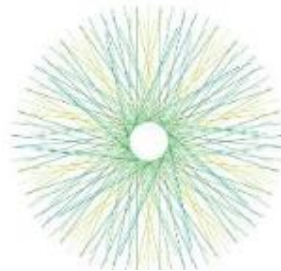


# Funding for interactive innovation projects

## Rural Development

(regional/national level)

- Funding for setting up of an **“Operational Group” (OG)** : farmers, advisors, agribusiness, researchers, NGOs, etc) planning an innovation project (Art 35)
- **Project funding** for the **Operational Group’s project** (Art 35).
- Supporting innovation support services



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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

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

Woodrow Wilson –  
President of the USA, 1913-1921

# EU added value : An EU wide EIP network, supported under Rural development policy Linking with H2020

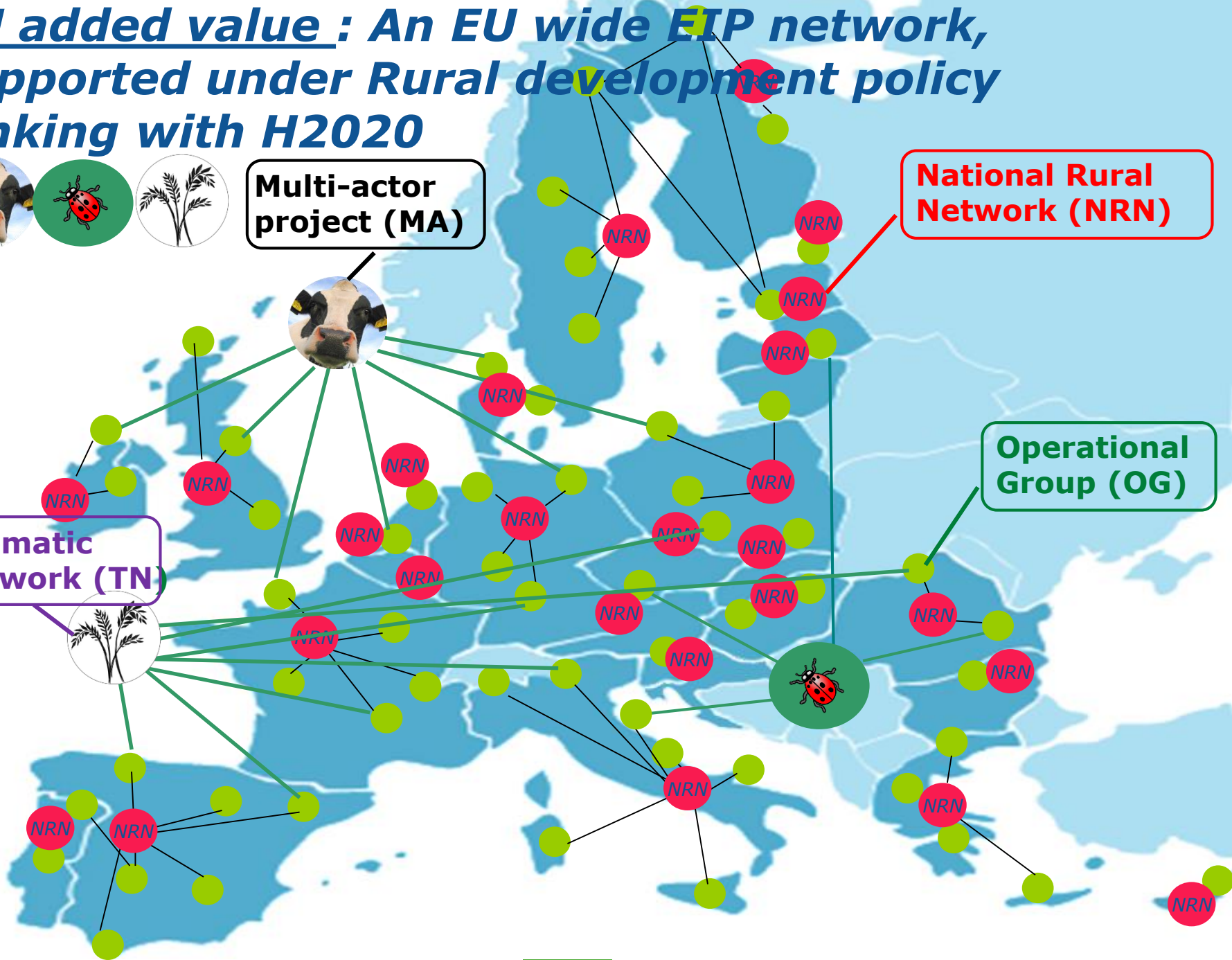


**Multi-actor project (MA)**

**National Rural Network (NRN)**

**Operational Group (OG)**

**Thematic Network (TN)**



# My EIP AGRI: tailored information at your fingertips



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SHARING KNOWLEDGE - CONNECTING PEOPLE - TACKLING CHALLENGES



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## My EIP-AGRI



### Thematic Networks

Thematic networks are multi-actor projects which collect existing knowledge and best practices on a given theme to make it available in easily understandable formats for end-users such as farmers, foresters, and advisors. All Thematic Network information available here.



### Welcome to My EIP-AGRI

This is an on-line resource developed to support your information/guidance needs. Simply select the type of project you are involved or interested in to access your portal to all the information you need.

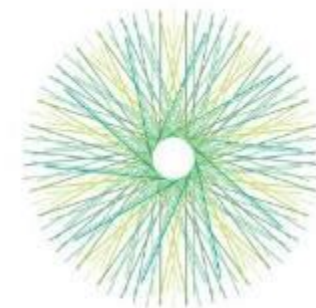


## **2. EIP-AGRI's Rural Development side**

## ***CAP: EIP Operational Groups 2014-2020***

- The EIP implementation aims at a **flexible and open system** for the creation of a multiplicity of operational groups (OGs)
- **27 MS and 97 RDPs** 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 cooperation in innovative activities such as the development of **new products or practices**, pilot projects, **supply chain** cooperation, **environmental** projects or climate change actions, cooperation in **biomass** provision or renewable **energy**, forest management and much more
- The EIP provides **unique opportunity for better cooperation projects** thanks the **supporting environment** and through the (possible) **funding of the preparation** process of a project

# OG projects: first indications

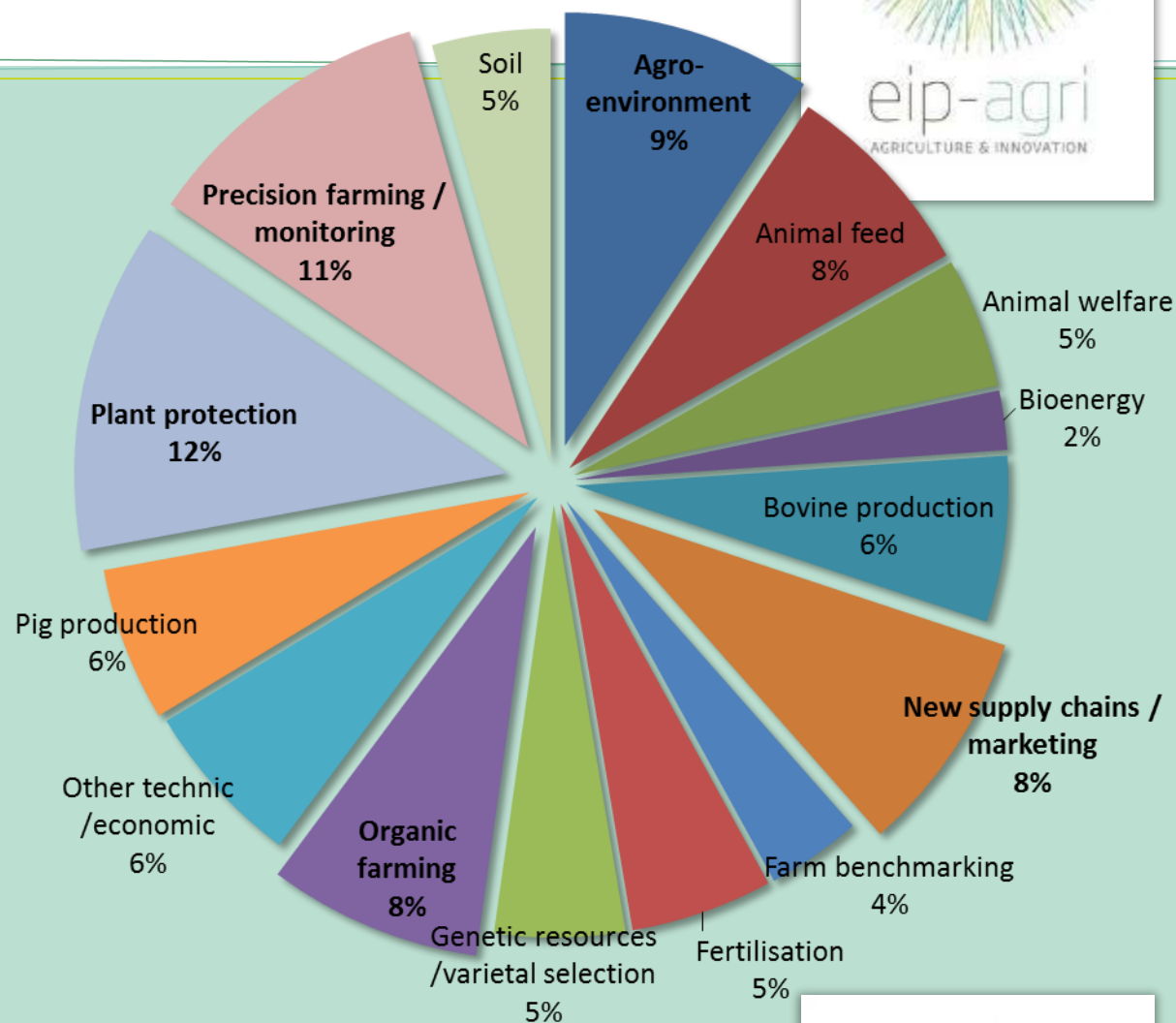


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In terms of **scope**:

Top 5

- **Plant protection**
- **Precision farming**
- **Agro-environment**
- **New supply chains**
- **Organic farming**

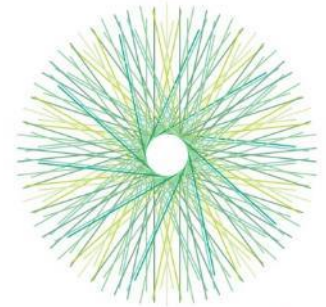


N.B. Initial clustering analysis covering 231 OGs – Oct 2016. New clustering starting now (Feb 2018)

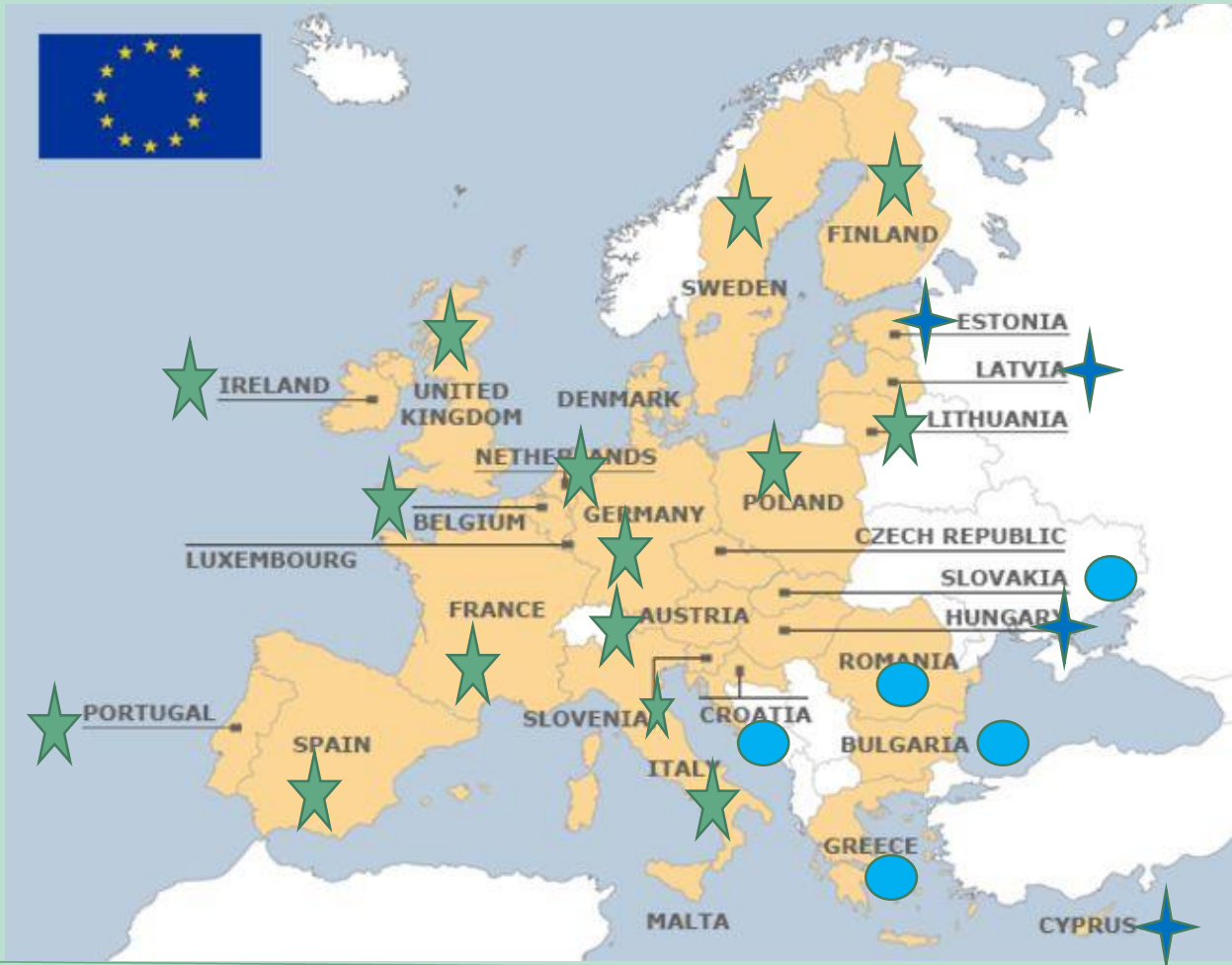


# Calls for Operational Groups (OG)

(informal state of play 25 January 2018)



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1<sup>st</sup> call to open soon



1<sup>st</sup> call now open



OG projects finished, selected and/or being evaluated

funded by



## ***Innovation Support Services emerging:***

- **Brokering** function (building a project and connecting partners)
- **Coordination and facilitation of projects** as an intermediate between partners
- Innovation advice (e.g. innovative investments)
- Innovation promotion
- Coaching farmers towards innovation (Innovation Prize)
- Brainstorming events and animation
- Dissemination of innovative results
- Connect with SME and other innovation services and funding

***EIP-AGRI creating EU added value: 500 to 700 OG projects are being connected with other OGs and H2020 (speeding up since 2017)... Some examples:***

**EIP-AGRI Workshop: "Innovation in the supply chain: creating value together" (Feb 2018)**

- 44 OGs and 9 MA H2020 project networking on New business models and new ways of organising the supply chain, New products and processes

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/event/eip-agri-workshop-innovation-supply-chain-creating>

**Various initiatives (events) being taken by MS and H2020 thematic networks to connect OGs:**

- DE, HU, SI, EL, etc meetings inviting OGs from other countries
- H2020 Thematic networks are very active in making connections: e.g. Sheepnet, Eurodairy, Inno4Grass etc
- Cross-border OGs in Estonia

# **3. EIP-AGRI's H2020 Research and Innovation side**

## ***H2020 Multi-actor approach - Key elements***

The most important principles :

- to **focus on end-users' problems/opportunities** and develop innovative solutions which cover **real farmers/foresters needs**.
- Co-creation: bring together a targeted mix of the **most relevant partners with the complementary type of knowledge** which helps solving problems and tackling opportunities e.g.: farmers, advisors, researchers, enterprises and/or other actors **in project activities from the beginning till the end**.
- End-users like farmers, foresters or businesses will be more motivated to use the project results, because they were incorporated in generating them and therefore feel "**co-ownership**"

Detailed requirements in H2020 WP 2018-2020 introduction p. 9

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-food\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-food_en.pdf)



## *H2020 Thematic networks :* ***Compiling knowledge ready for practice***

- **Multi-actor** 'coordination' projects
- Themes to be chosen **bottom-up**, contributing to a more competitive sustainable agriculture and forestry
- Themes must **focus on the most urgent needs of agricultural or forestry production sectors**
- Partners should **summarise, share and present existing scientific knowledge & best practices** that are not sufficiently known (and applied) by practitioners , **in an easy understandable concise way ready for practice**
- Disseminate through the **existing dissemination channels** most used by end-users + EIP network



## 23 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



## 23 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 sylvopastural 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

A short film explaining how a thematic network works:  
<https://youtu.be/mVsW4--ex0M>



**2017 H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks (3)**  
**another complementary set of themes**  
**(cross-cutting themes)**

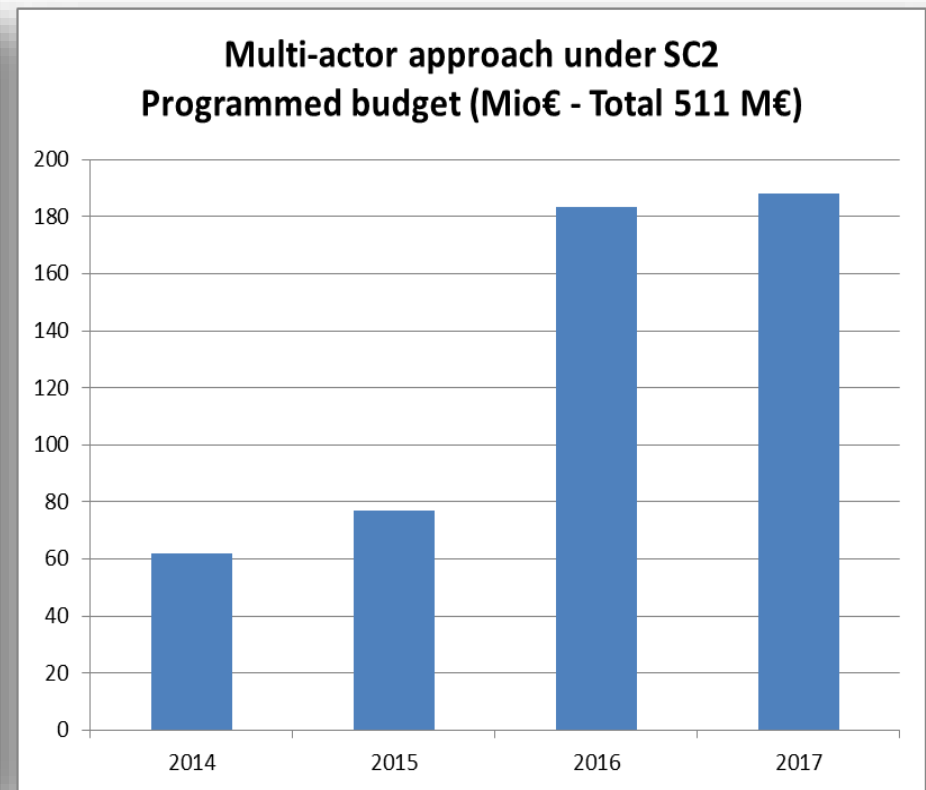
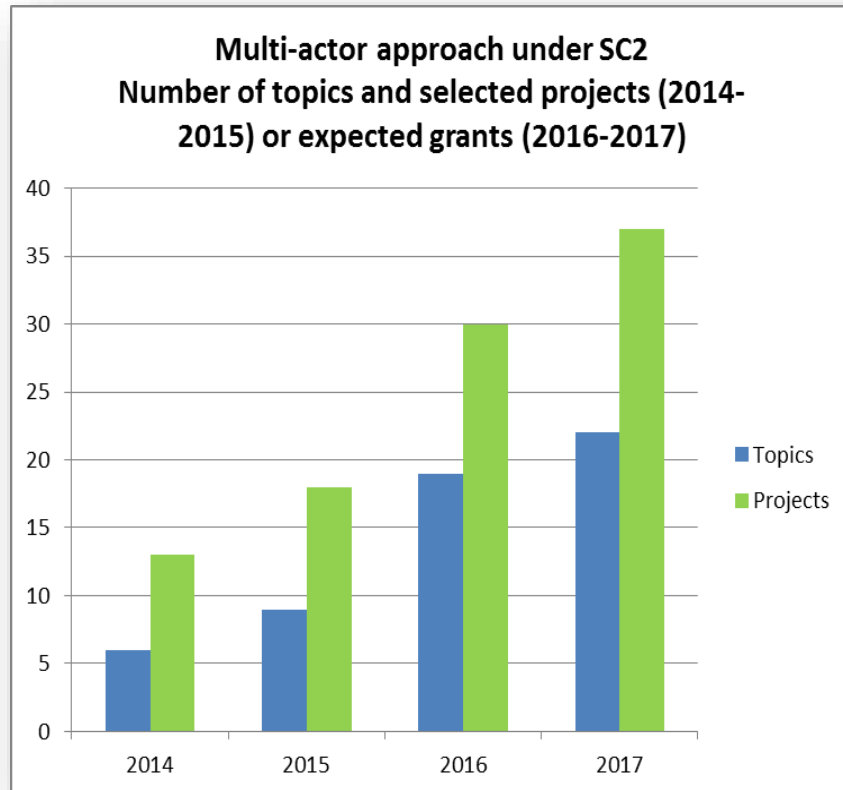
<b>ENABLING</b>	<b>Upscaling biomass production and pre-processing</b> for bio-based value chains
<b>INCREDible</b>	<b>Non Wood Forest Products:</b> Cork, Resins and Edibles in the Mediterranean basin
<b>NEWBIE</b>	<b>New Entrant</b> netWork: Business models for Innovation, entrepreneurship and resilience
<b>OK-Net EcoFeed</b>	<b>Organic</b> Knowledge Network on <b>Monogastric Animal Feed (pigs, broilers, hens)</b>
<b>PANACEA</b>	<b>Non-food Crops'</b> penetration path
<b>INNOSETA</b>	<b>Spraying Equipment</b> best management practices

WPs 2014-2017: 500 mio Euro – 80 Multi-actor projects

**WP 2018-2020: 500 mio Euro**

**another 100 Horizon 2020 multi-actor projects (incl TNs)**

**=> 1 bio Euro H2020 Multi-actor projects in total in 7 years**



# 4. Conclusions EIP evaluation study

Published February 2017, by 5 external contractors

[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/external-studies/2016/eip-2016/eval\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/external-studies/2016/eip-2016/eval_en.pdf)

## Conclusions:

- The EIP is a **unique funding** for innovative opportunities, highly appreciated also, because of **bottom-up** + coverage of **real needs/opportunities**
- This is demonstrated by the vast majority of Member States having prioritised and programmed this new and voluntary measure
- **The EIP flexibility allows it to be shaped to widely different circumstances** and innovation infrastructure, **tackling the gap between research and practice**
- Where EIP networks and National Rural Networks have been active in MS, they have strongly promoted the EIP

## Recommendations:

- **Avoid watering down** EIP's distinctive practical bottom-up approach
- Enable **advance payments** and innovation support services
- Create further **networking, multiplication and linkages** generating extra EU added value => connecting and widening EU AKIS (e.g. cross-visits, ...)



Jean  
Monnet  
Father of  
Europe  
Speech on  
12/05/1954



“Ce qui nous arrête, c’est la peur du changement.  
Et pourtant c’est du changement que dépend  
notre salut”

“What stops us is the fear of change.  
And nevertheless, it is on change that our  
salvation depends”



## 4. Future of the EIP-AGRI: What do we have and where do we go?

### **EIP evaluation study:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/external-studies/2016/eip-2016/eval\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/external-studies/2016/eip-2016/eval_en.pdf)

### **SWG SCAR-AKIS Policy Brief on the Future of Advisory Services:**

on advisor's competences, interconnections and future more interactive roles, etc

[https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/policy\\_brief\\_on\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_advisory\\_services\\_scar\\_akis\\_06102017.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/policy_brief_on_the_future_of_advisory_services_scar_akis_06102017.pdf)

### **SWG SCAR-AKIS Exchange of views on how to improve MSs' Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems**

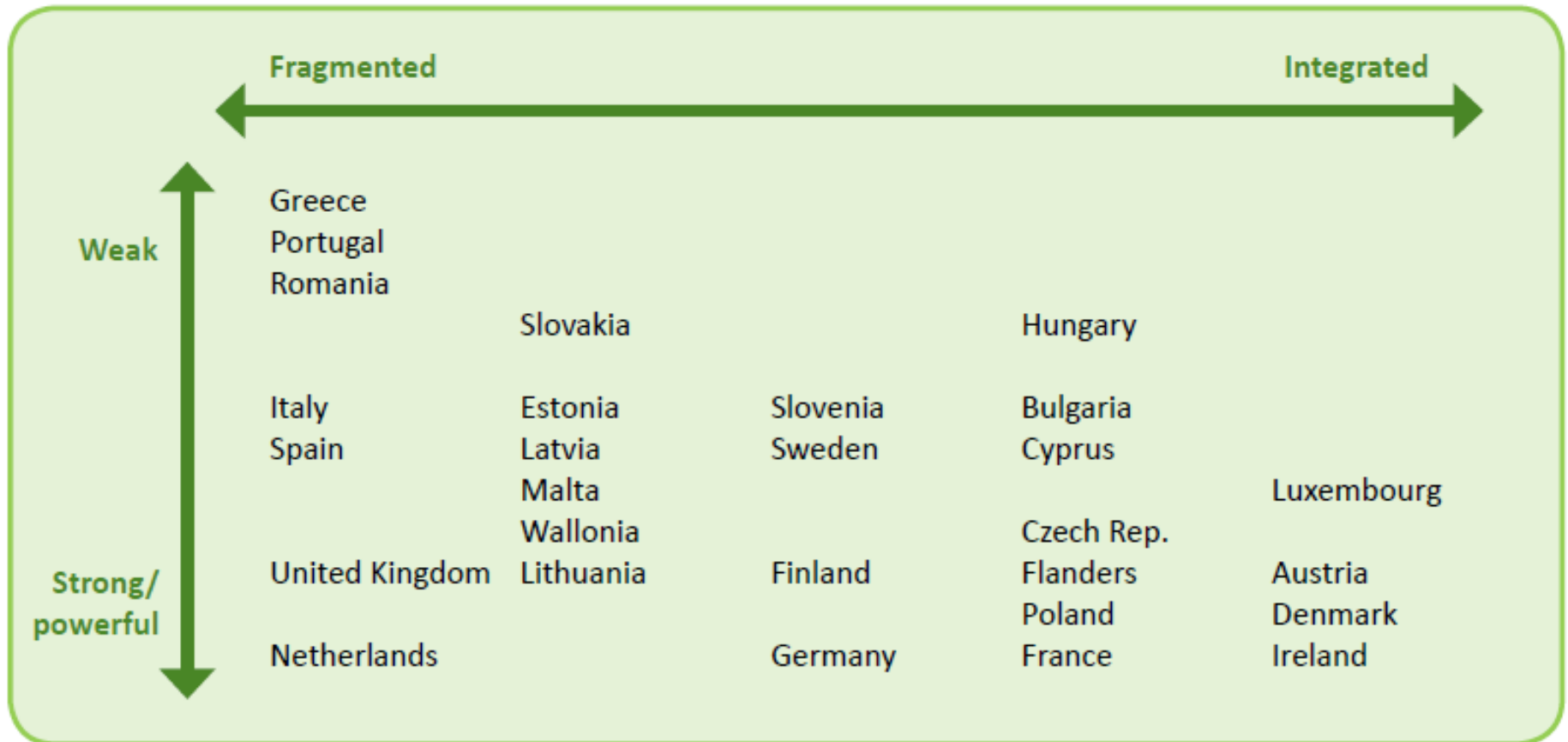
<https://scar-europe.org/index.php/akis-documents>



# Characterising MS' AKISs

- An overview of MS' AKISs (PROAKIS, 2014, [www.proakis.eu](http://www.proakis.eu))

=> fragmented or integrated, strong or weak



## ***Strengthening AKISs ? It is already happening...***

***EIP funding has induced recent evolutions of strengthened AKIS:***

***Examples*** Poland EIP network: A+N

- Hungary AKIS: R+A
- Ireland: R+A
- Slovakia: N + A
- France: R + A + N
- Wales Innovation Hub (EIP seminar May 2017):R+A
- Scotland Nov 2017 Innovation support service : R+A
- Etc...

*(R=research, A=advisor, N=networks)*



## CAP post 2020

## CAP Strategic AKIS plans

(cross-fertilisation in SWG  
SCAR-AKIS ongoing)



## **CAP post 2020 Communication "The future of food and farming": involves also the future for AKISs**

**"The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) and the European Innovation Partnership on Water have proven their value in mobilising the agricultural sector for innovation. It has funded multi-participant pilot projects and is networking across Europe to make new knowledge generally available. Its success depends on the combined performance of advisors, agricultural training and educational systems, researchers and farmer organisations often referred to as the **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)** which operates very differently from one Member States to another. The role of the farm advisor stands out as particularly important. **A modern CAP should support the strengthening of farm advisory services within the AKIS systems.** This should become a condition for the approval of **CAP Strategic plans.**"**

Read the Communication:

[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/future-of-cap/future\\_of\\_food\\_and\\_farming\\_communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/future-of-cap/future_of_food_and_farming_communication_en.pdf)

## ***CAP post 2020 – The future of food and farming – involves also the future for AKIS***

*The rationale for these sentences is that the efficiency and effectiveness of advisory services can best be upgraded by **improving their connections within the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems and sharing knowledge and innovative applications more intensively.***

*(See SWG SCAR-AKIS Policy Brief on the Future of Advisory services on advisor's future interactive competences, interconnections and roles)*  
[https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/policy\\_brief\\_on\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_advisory\\_services\\_scar\\_akis\\_06102017.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/policy_brief_on_the_future_of_advisory_services_scar_akis_06102017.pdf)

*To perform such an upgrade of advisory services, a **transition period is needed.** Such a **transition AKIS plan** will form a part of the **CAP Strategic Plans to be approved.***

## ***CAP post 2020 Communication – The future of food and farming – Clarification memo on AKIS (2)***

### **“How will this new approach function in practice?”**

*The **Union** should set the basic policy parameters based on the **objectives of the CAP**, ...the already agreed objectives and targets on for instance the environment, climate change (COP 21), and a number of sustainable development goals.*

*Each Member State should establish a "**CAP strategic plan**", which would cover interventions in both pillar I and pillar II. This plan will tailor CAP interventions to maximise their contribution to EU objectives taking better into account local conditions and needs, against such objectives and targets. At the same time, Member States would also have a greater say in designing the compliance and control framework applicable to beneficiaries (including controls and penalties).*

....

## **CAP post 2020 Communication – The future of food and farming – Clarification memo on AKIS (3)**

### **“How will this new approach function in practice?”**

*(continued)*

**These strategic plans would be prepared *not in isolation* but in the framework of a structured process and the **Commission would assess and approve such plans**.** This would maximise the contribution of the CAP towards the EU priorities and objectives and the achievement of Member States' climate and energy targets. It would also *enhance the EU added value and preserve a functioning agricultural internal market*.

While Member States should bear greater responsibility and be more accountable as to how they meet the objectives and achieve agreed targets, the new approach will continue to **ensure a level playing field**, preserving the common nature and the two pillars of the policy.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-17-4842\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-4842_en.htm)



## ***Why strengthening AKISs?***

- **Understand knowledge flows and the role of each part of the AKIS:** start with a SWOT of existing AKIS and rethink connections (save money?)
- Create ways for **better exchange** between Ministries, institutes and organisations on needs and solutions
- Move from linear to interactive innovation models: co-creating, reflect how to incentivise?
- **Public knowledge reservoirs**, feeding into the existing dissemination channels most consulted by end-users in countries: increased **sharing of practical knowledge**, made attractive, easily understandable and accessible
- **To benefit from all what is made available at EU level** (set of demonstration farms and activities, 2 advisory networks, 38 thematic networks, many OGs and MA project infos,...)

## ***How strengthening AKISs?***

- 1. Enhancing knowledge flows and strengthening links between research and practice** (e.g. creating an innovation environment, incentivise researchers for their impact beyond academia, demonstrations joining farmers and researchers, novel education approaches)
- 2. Strengthening farm advisory services within MS' AKISs:** capturing and sharing farmers' needs, acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, participating in and sharing knowledge from innovative projects, advisors' training, cross-visits (learning peer-to-peer), spend time with researchers...
- 3. Incentivising interactive innovation projects** (OGs, H2020 MA) + help connecting, facilitating cross-border calls/exchange, put innovation support services in place to develop projects
- 4. Support digital transition in agriculture** (repositories with agricultural data for multi-purposes, OGs on digital innovation, ...

*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

## ***Building an EU AKIS***

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

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



# Where can you find more info?

- **EIP brochure on multi-actor projects**

- [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri\\_brochure\\_multi-actor\\_projects\\_2017\\_en\\_web.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri_brochure_multi-actor_projects_2017_en_web.pdf)

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

- [http://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri\\_brochure\\_thematic\\_networks\\_2016\\_en\\_web.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri_brochure_thematic_networks_2016_en_web.pdf)

- **EIP common format for practice abstracts**

- <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/eip-agri-common-format>

- **Videostreamed seminar on drafting practice abstracts:**

- <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=33>

- **Brochure 'Collaborate to innovate – OGs networking across the EU'**

- <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-brochure-operational-groups-collaborate>

**New**

**New**

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



***Engage in a better connected  
European AKIS:  
To an  
„Agriculture of Knowledge“ .....***

***Thank you for your attention!***

*Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu*

[www.eip-agri.eu](http://www.eip-agri.eu)

# Videostreamed presentation on Multi-actor approach and Thematic Networks in call 2016: (from 0:53:00 till 01:47:00) <https://scic.ec.europa.eu/streaming/workshop-on-multi-actor-approach-and-thematic-networks-under-horizon-2020>

## Basic info + questions & answers

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

Event page:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/interactive-innovation-motion-multi-actor-projects-and-thematic-networks-under-horizon-2020>



# How to build a successful Horizon 2020 multi-actor project?



Target **real-life needs, problems or opportunities**



Choose consortium partners with **complementary types of knowledge and skills** (for "cross-fertilisation")



including **farmers, foresters or other end-users** to benefit from their entrepreneurial skills



# How to build a successful Horizon 2020 multi-actor project?



Involve **"multipliers"** - people who can bring in practical knowledge and help disseminate the results in the long term



Set up a plan with a **clear role for each of the different partners**



Organise **knowledge exchange activities** between the partners

# How to build a successful Horizon 2020 multi-actor project?



Bridge the gap between research and practice **by facilitating discussions**

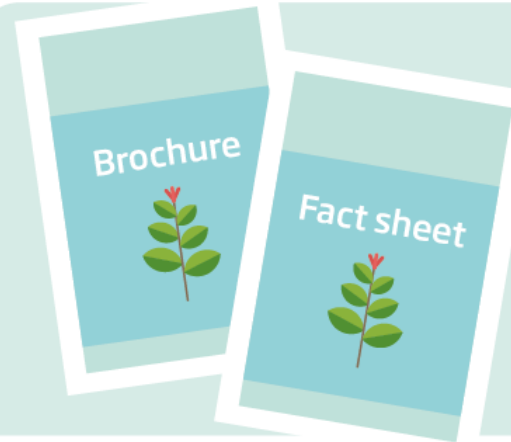


Involve interactive innovation groups such as **EIP-AGRI Operational Groups**



All partners must **co-create and co-decide** throughout the project

# How to build a successful Horizon 2020 multi-actor project?



# More Operational Group examples

A selection of OG projects presented at past EIP-GRI events



**EIP-AGRI Workshop**  
**Operational Groups: First experiences**  
20 – 21 April 2016

**OPERATIONAL GROUPS**  
**REPRESENTED AT THE WORKSHOP**



**EIP-AGRI Seminar**  
**"Moving EIP-AGRI implementation forward"**  
10 – 11 May 2017

**OPERATIONAL GROUPS**  
**REPRESENTED AT THE SEMINAR**



**EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP**  
**Organic is Operational**  
14-15 JUNE 2017

**Some of the Operational Groups and Innovative projects**  
**represented at the workshop**

