



Annual plenary meeting of AREPO

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Common office of Emilia-Romagna, Hessen and Aquitaine

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Implementation opportunities for operational groups working on quality in the RDP

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European Network of Regions for Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ERIAFF)



Regione Toscana





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1. Innovation in the new Rural Development policy

- Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas is one of the 6 Union priorities for RD
- Role of farm advisory services in collecting innovation needs
- RD measures as possible leverage for innovation: Investments, Knowledge transfer, Information, Advisory services, Farm and Business development, Setting-up of producer groups and organisations, Agri-environment-climate, Cooperation, Pilot and Demo projects
- European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for agricultural productivity and sustainability → Operational Groups (art.35) → EIP network (art. 52)



2. The Operational Groups (OGs) of the European Innovation Partnership Agricultural productivity and sustainability

The Europe 2020 flagship initiative "Innovation Union" specifies European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) as a new tool for fostering innovation

The aims

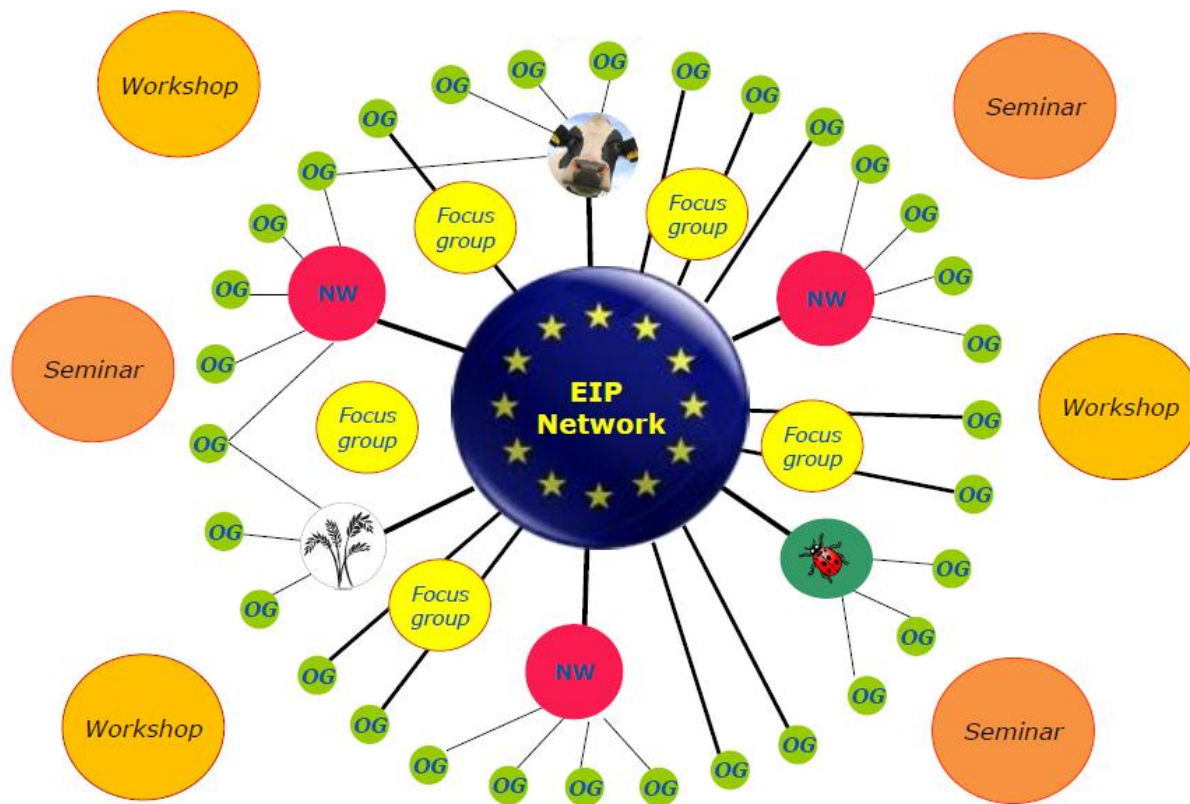
- ✓ **promoting** a resource efficient, economically viable, productive, competitive, low emission, climate friendly and resilient agricultural and forestry sector;
- ✓ **helping deliver** a steady and sustainable supply of food, feed and biomaterials, both existing and new ones;
- ✓ **improving processes** to preserve the environment, adapt to climate change and mitigate it;
- ✓ **building bridges** between cutting-edge research knowledge and technology and farmers, forest managers, rural communities, businesses, NGOs and advisory services



2. The OGs of the EIP AGRI

The interactive innovation model

*focused on forming partnerships - using bottom-up approaches and linking farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, and other actors in **Operational Groups***





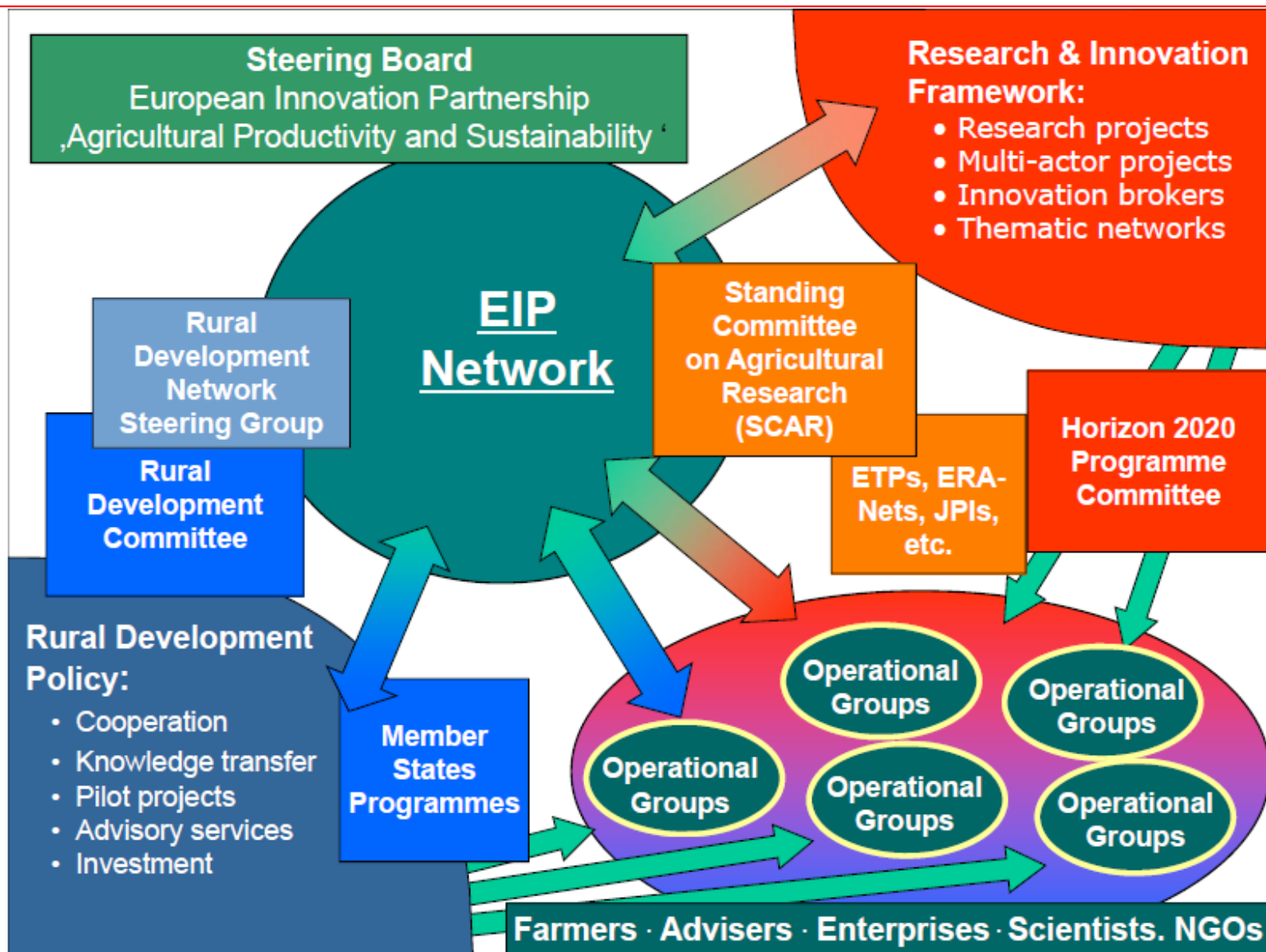
2. The OGs of the EIP AGRI

The tools

- ***EIP Network and the EIP Service Point***
- **Focus Groups** (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/focus-groups/index_en.htm)
 - Organic farming (optimizing arable yields)
 - Protein crops
 - Animal husbandry (reduction of anti-biotic use in the pig sector)
 - Genetic resources
 - Organic matter content of soils
 - Integrated pest management (IPM)
- **Operational groups**
- **Research projects:**
 - Clusters of innovation actions
 - Multi-actor
 - Thematic Networks
- **Support for innovation brokers and innovation centres**
- **On-farm experiments**



2. The OGs of the EIP AGRI





2. The OGs of the EIP AGRI

What's a Focus Group?

- up to 20 experts with the technical knowledge
- must set out a series of tangible deliverables:
 - List of practices/solutions for the problems/opportunities of the FG
 - List of useful projects (research, advisory etc) with the contacts
 - Audio-visual material if possible for the EIP website
 - Organise face-to-face meetings preferably on location
 - List of ideas for future interactive OG projects

Opportunities for Regions:

- Promoting the participation of regional experts to Focus Groups
- Creation of FGs on common/shared interest
- Getting involved in EIP Seminars and Workshops
- Taking up good ideas and experimenting synergies



2. The OGs of the EIP AGRI

What is an Operative Group?

- It builds itself around a concrete innovation project targeted towards finding a solution for a specific issue
- not necessarily being bound to a specific territory (interregional, cross-border dimension) or an upfront fixed strategy
- project implementation may be short (less than 7 years)

Key Acting Entities Within the EIP

- Operational Groups -



OGs are action and result oriented “hands-on” groups (no balanced representation needed) to maximise interaction for co-creation and cross-fertilisation.

OGs are a mixture of actors from possibly very different territories and in principle only exist for the aim of execution of the project.



2. The OGs of the EIP AGRI

• Setting up Operational Groups

General requirements:

- Presentation of a plan on expected outcomes
- Communication of results via the EIP Network (**dissemination**)

Prioritizing within RD programmes

- Eligibility criteria
- Selection criteria

Position within RD Programmes

- Relating to Priority 1 (Innovation & Knowledge Transfer)
- Agricultural character of EIP actions (Art. 61)
- Relationship to other "operational groups" and LAGs

• Funding Operational Groups (Rural Development)

- Establishment of operational groups (Art 36)
- Funding for projects (Art 36 (6))
- Investment aid in context of EIP (Art 18 (3))
- Animation and support for setting up operational groups:
 - technical assistance (Art 55 (2))
 - animation (Art 36 (5))
 - advisory services (Art 16 (1))

EC Guideline for programming innovation in Rural Development

Opportunities for Regions:

- Increasing the contribution level of the EU funding (possible top up of +20%)
- Cross-border dimension of OGs (EU added value – potential increased impact on Horizon 2020)
- Synergies with other Regional, National and European tools (ERDF, ESF, etc...)



The ERIAFF Network

ERIAFF Network is a platform to support EU Regions. It's based on voluntary contribution by adherent Regions. It's free of charge and without any statutory arrangement.

ERIAFF Partners are committed to:

Select common innovation priorities and act as promoters of close collaborations among their Operational Groups and other Regional Stakeholders

Develop a joint activity programme to support, maximize and add value to ERIAFF partners individual regional strategies in the field of rural research, development and innovation

Develop cross-border collaboration among Operational Groups



3. The ERIAFF Network

27 members + 16 observers from 11 Member States (BG, DE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IT, LV, NL, PL, UK)

Region	Status
1. Tuscany (IT)	Member
2. Alto Tâmega (PT)	Member
3. Andalusia (ES)	Member
4. Aquitaine (FR)	Member
5. Aragon (FR)	Member
6. Bavaria (DE)	Member
7. Bretagne (FR)	Member
8. Catalunya (ES)	Member
9. Castilla y Leon (ES)	Member
10. Centre (FR)	Member
11. Dubrovnik-Neretva (HR)	Member
12. Emilia-Romagna (IT)	Member
13. Euskadi (ES)	Member
14. Flevoland (NL)	Member
15. Istria (HR)	Member
16. Liguria (IT)	Member
17. Limbourg (NL)	Member
18. Marche (IT)	Member
19. North Karelia (FI)	Member
20. PACA (FR)	Member
21. Pays de la Loire (FR)	Member
22. Picardie (FR)	Member
23. South Ostrobothnia (FI)	Member
24. Satakunta (FI)	Member
25. Umbria (IT)	Member
26. Veneto (IT)	Member
27. Wales (UK)	Member

Region	Status
1. Abruzzo (IT)	Observer
2. Auvergne (FR)	Observer
3. Guadeloupe (FR)	Observer
4. Lazio (IT)	Observer
5. Lodzkye (PL)	Observer
6. Lombardia (IT)	Observer
7. Martinique (FR)	Observer
8. Noord-Holland (NL)	Observer
9. Nord pas de Calais (FR)	Observer
10. Norther Ireland (UK)	Observer
11. Piemonte (IT)	Observer
12. Poitou-Charentes (FR)	Observer
13. Puglia (IT)	Observer
14. Rhone-Alpes (FR)	Observer
15. Zemgale Planning (LV)	Observer
16. Zuid-Holland (NL)	Observer

+ Collaboration with other Networks:
ERRIN, AREPO, AREFLH, NEREUS,
CPMR, EUROMONTANA



3. The ERIAFF Network

Past activities

- Launching event – 19 September 2012, Florence
- Political meeting with the European Commission and a promotional reception with European Stakeholders – 19 February 2013, Brussels
- A Thematic workshop on protein self-sufficiency in animal husbandry – 6 June 2013, Nantes
- ERIAFF Conference – 2 October 2013, Brussels
- Contribution to the EC Conference on Programming innovation in rural development programming - 25-26 November 2013, Berlin
- ERRIN Brokerage events on Horizon 2020, 16 January 2014, Brussels
- 9 ERIAFF Technical meetings in Brussels



3. The ERIAFF Network

Incoming activities

- ERIAFF/EFI/CEPF Workshop on Forest-based innovation (Brussels, 9-10 April 2014 - tbc)
- ERIAFF Conferences 2014 (Finland early June)
- CoR NAT Committee External Conference on Bioeconomy (Florence, 18-19 September 2014 – under negotiation)
- European projects (brokering and promotional activities)



3. The ERIAFF Network

ERIAFF priorities to foster innovation

Governance related

- Associate applied research with the agricultural practice
- Facilitate the entrance of young farmers
- Encouraging lifelong education

Food related

- Increasing the effectiveness of input use in production / accurate control technologies in the food production chain, e.g. Precision Farming
- Increase the production of organic food
- Animal welfare without losing competitiveness
- New collaboration schemes among associations/producers for entering new markets or developing new products
- Development of product and service innovation processes

Energy related

- Programmes on co-generation (utilization of agricultural waste by biogas to produce electricity and heat production)
- Control of energy consumption/production



Thanks for the attention

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