



European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Programming

Malta's Rural Development Programme

2014-2020



10th EAFRD Monitoring Committee Meeting
Europe Investing in Rural Areas



What is the EIP?



- Concept established by Europe 2020 Strategy with aim of:
 - Enhancing interaction between science & practice;
 - Facilitating communication & networking among stakeholders;
 - Achieving synergies between different innovation-related measures and initiatives.



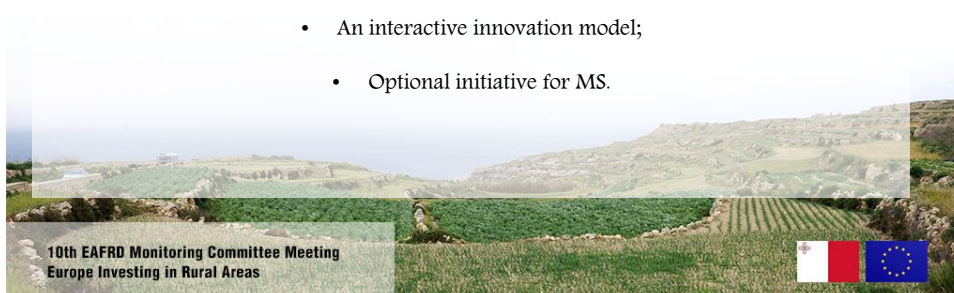
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EIP-AGRI



- Agricultural Productivity & Sustainability;
- Legal Basis: Art. 53, 55–57 EAFRD Regulation;
- Key approach – EU wide EIP network – communication, partnering, dissemination, diffusion of ideas, knowledge flows, collecting practice needs;
 - EIP aims to bridge gap between research & farming practice;
- Focus on real issues & research needs from the field & involving all innovation actors;
 - An interactive innovation model;
 - Optional initiative for MS.



Structure



- The structure of the EIP may be established as follows:
 - Part of the already existing & obligatory National Rural Network;
 - Setting up a separate EIP Network which is centrally managed & implemented by the Managing Authority;
 - Outsourced to external Managing Body acting as innovation broker.



Sources of Funding



- Article 51 – TA: setting up & operation of EIP network together with NRN, innovation support services;
- Article 35 – Cooperation: creation of clusters & networks, establishment & operation of OGs, etc.;
- Other EAFRD Articles related to knowledge transfer & training activities, investments, information actions, advisory services, etc.;
- Other instruments such as EU Research Policy Horizon 2020: funding research projects, on-farm experiments, etc.;
- Best approach dependent on nature of project.



Operational Groups (OGs)



- Concrete innovation projects targeted towards finding innovative solutions for specific challenges/new opportunities;
- Combination of different competencies (practical, scientific);
- Action & result-oriented “hands-on” groups;
- Composed by innovation actors – farmers, researchers, advisors, agribusinesses, NGOs.



Setup of OGs



- At least 3 partners to be involved as follows:
 - 1 SME/natural person engaged in agriculture/forestry, or processing/marketing either agricultural products listed in Annex I to the Treaty or forest products;
 - 1 association/cooperative/other legally recognised form of association operating in the agricultural/forestry/agri-food sector;
 - 1 public/private legal person operating in the R&D field (Other public/private entities operating in areas relevant to the action plan submitted).



OGs within EIP framework



- OGs are expected to:
 - Promote a resource-efficient, economically viable, productive, competitive, low emission, climate friendly & resilient agricultural & forestry sector;
 - Help deliver a steady & sustainable supply of food, feed & biomaterials, including existing & new types;
 - Improve processes to preserve the environment, adapt to climate change & mitigate it;
 - Work around priorities set out by Malta's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020...



Priorities for Malta's RDP

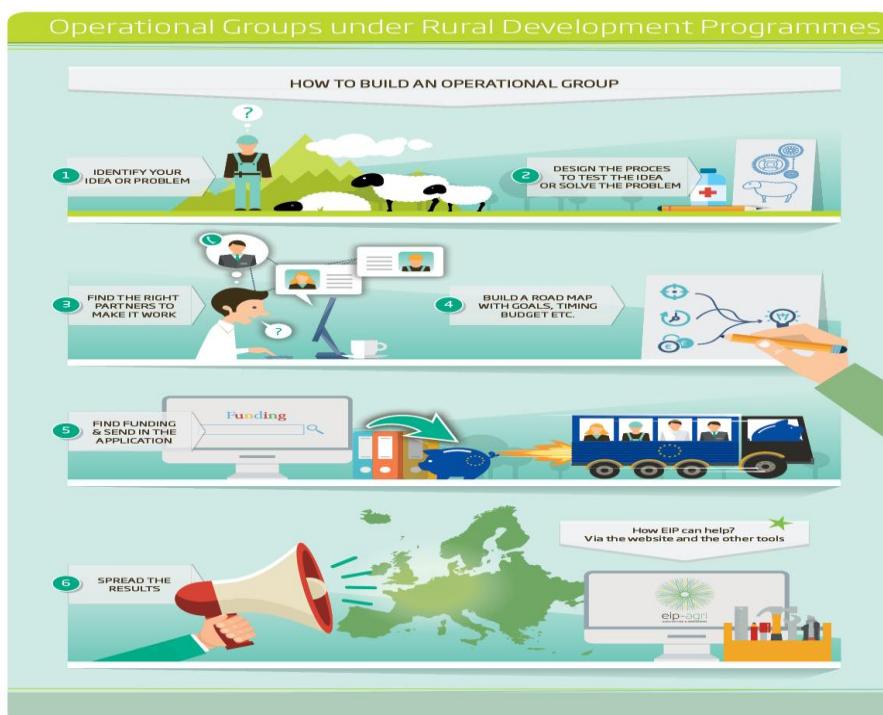
2014-2020



- Water, Wastes & Energy
- Maltese Quality Produce
- Sustainable Livestock
- Landscape & Environment
- Wider Rural Economy & Quality of Life

Links to strategic priorities set out by new EAFRD Regulation (EU) 1305/2013

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Process for Support Applications



- Partnership submits PA formalising the OG & obligations, duties, responsibilities of all stakeholders under the submitted Action Plan;
- Appoints OG managing body;
- OG submits Action Plan appropriately integrating RDP action goals and clearly identifying scope & activities of partnership & aims of proposed **INNOVATIVE** project;
- If MA approves Action Plan, OG may then apply for support for setting-up;
- OG partners allocate material & human resources required for implementation of Action Plan.

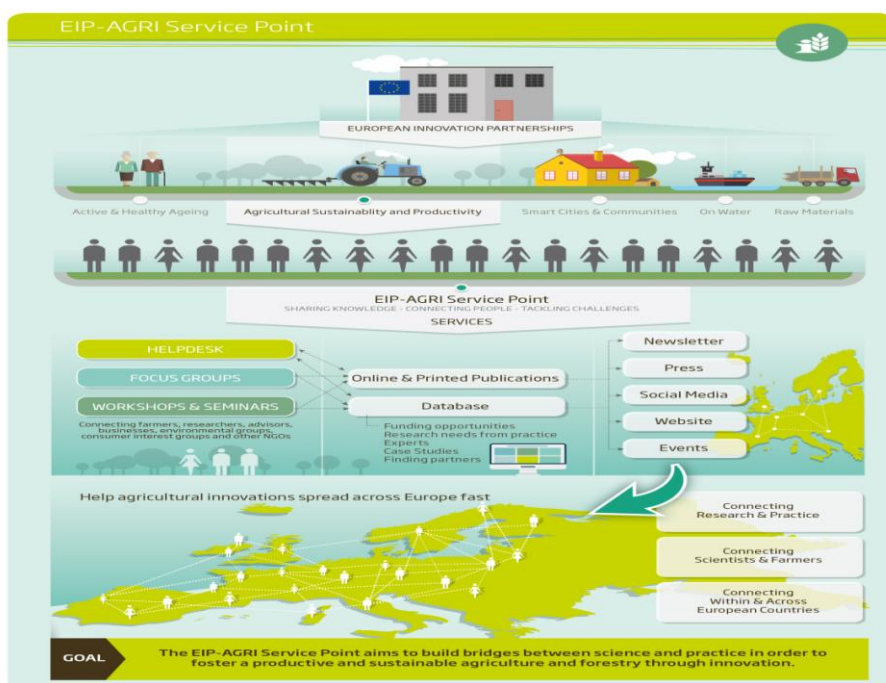


Drafting the Action Plan



- Problem/opportunity it proposes to address;
 - Baseline;
- Targeted goals, outcomes to be achieved, as well as potential recipients of expected results;
 - Method of approach;
 - Main constraints, risks involved;
- Schedule with planning & implementation timeframes;
 - Tasks to be performed & resources allocated by each partner;
- Budget, identification & securing of further sources of funding;
 - Demonstration/dissemination/distribution plan;
 - Monitoring & Evaluation plan.





http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/index_en.htm

EIP-AGRI Focus Groups



- Temporary group of selected experts focusing on a specific subject formulated by DG AGRI;
- Discusses & documents best practices & research results, exploring practical innovative solutions to the problems/opportunities in the field that were listed;
- Currently running focus groups on:
 - Organic Farming (optimising arable yields);
 - Protein crops;
 - Antibiotics in pig production;
 - Genetic resources – cooperation models;
 - Soil organic matter content in Mediterranean regions;
 - Integrated Pest Management – focus on Brassica species.



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Thanks,

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