



EIP-AGRI SEMINAR CAP STRATEGIC PLANS: THE KEY ROLE OF AKIS IN MEMBER STATES Speaker and facilitator CVs



Kerstin Rosenow

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Last 16 years **European Commission**

- Since March 2018: **Head of Unit B2 - Research and Innovation, DG Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)**: Establishing the research policy agenda, programming and monitoring of the agricultural research and innovation policy. Managing of 22 staff.
- 3 ½ years: **Research Executive Agency (REA), Head of Unit B2 - Sustainable resources for food security and growth**: Managing Horizon 2020 research projects worth 3 billion Euros in the area of agriculture, food and bioeconomy. Establishing the unit, staff and procedures, managing 60 staff.
- 3 years: **DG AGRI: Negotiator/Policy Coordinator**: rural development: Preparation of the new legislative framework for the Common Agricultural Policy/rural development including negotiations with Council and European Parliament.
- 7 years: **DG AGRI: Team Leader/Programme Manager**: Coordination of negotiation, setting up and implementation of rural development programmes with the Agriculture Ministries, FAO and World Bank in the pre-accession/candidate countries.
- 1 year: **Representation of the European Commission to Turkey, Ankara**: Project manager for institution building and accession preparations.

Five years - **German administration, Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU, Brussels**

- **Head of Unit for EU regional policy and rural development**: Management of a small team, informing and advising the Minister President as well as the Hessian Government of/on EU policy developments, communication, stakeholder information.

Studies of law, politics and administration in Marburg, Grenoble and Bruges

Inge Van Oost

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Inge Van Oost is policy officer at the European Commission, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). She has been setting-up and is now supporting the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" (EIP-AGRI), with responsibilities for the rural development programmes and strengthening linkages between research and rural development policies. As member of the DG AGRI Taskforce "Research and Innovation" she was instrumental in shaping DG AGRI's research and innovation approach in Horizon 2020 Work Programmes since 2012, and developed the new research project formats "multi-actor approach" and "thematic networks", for which she is still responsible. Meanwhile, one of her core tasks has become the development and implementation of the policy on Agricultural Knowledge and



Innovation Systems (AKIS) as part of the CAP post 2020, including some improvements related to the EIP-AGRI. In her former post at the Commission she was policy officer in the Direct Support Unit and the Cross Compliance Unit, responsible for cross-compliance, the Farm Advisory System and interlinking with the Rural Development policy.

Before working at the Commission Inge Van Oost was coordinator of the demonstration projects at the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Horticulture of the Flemish Region. There she drafted rural development measures and designed the farm advisory system. In the meantime, she was evaluator of many agricultural research projects and member of diverse selection committees. In the former federal Belgian Administration for Agriculture she served the Secretariat-General as coordinator of the Horticultural Chain, dealing with chain management, food quality, traceability and safety, sustainability of production methods, communication with consumers and much more.

Before joining the administration, she worked as a farm advisor, and after a while as the coordinator of the advisory team. Based in an applied research institute, the team did not only advise farmers, but also brokered and implemented multi-actor experiments and on-farm demonstration projects.

Wim Ceulemans

Innovatiesteunpunt, BE



Wim Ceulemans has been working for Boerenbond, the main Flemish Farmers Organisation, in different capacities since 1992. He has a master's degree on both International Politics and Business Economics. The common thread throughout his career has been 'project based rural innovation', including development and coordination of more than 60 projects, ranging from small-scale Leader projects up to transnational multi-actor Interreg North West Europe projects. He participated actively in writing several Local Development Strategies for Flemish Leader groups. Since 2013, he is responsible for the overall management of the Innovation Support Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development, the innovation support service and project development agency at Boerenbond, whose mission it is to incubate, develop and manage innovation projects on topics such as innovative rural business development, ecological and technological innovation, vibrancy and social cohesion in rural areas, and raising public awareness on sustainable agriculture.

Aniko Juhasz

Deputy State Secretary of Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, HU



Anikó JUHÁSZ is the deputy state secretary of Ministry of Agriculture from 2018. She was the general director of AKI (Research Institute of Agricultural Economics, Budapest, Hungary) between 2015-2018. Master's degree in Horticultural Engineering (1997) and PhD in Management and Business Administration (2010). Seventeen years of experience in food supply chains and related policy research, especially the relevance of short food supply chains and quality schemes in Hungary. Project and programme evaluator of FP7 and H2020 calls since 2012. Co-chair of the European Union's Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS SWG) (2018-).

Victor Falguera

AKIS International, ES



Lleida (Spain), 1985. Agricultural Engineer. Ph.D. in Agriculture and Food Science and Technology from the University of Lleida, and Ph.D. in Engineering and Advanced Technologies from the University of Barcelona. Author of more than 40 JCR-indexed journal articles and several extension articles and contributions to national and international congresses. Consultant and teacher / lecturer on territorial development strategies and technology for the agri-food sector.

Twice-awarded with the National Prize to Excellence in Academic Performance of the Ministry for Education of the Spanish Government (2006 and 2008), and with

the University of Lleida Ph.D. Extraordinary Award for his doctoral thesis (2012). Dr. Falguera has been Councillor for Education (2011-2013) and Mayor (2013-2018) of Albatàrrec (Lleida, Spain).

Founding member of the companies AKIS International (where he coordinates the RDi department), E-STRATOS Geosystems and Inaptek Automation. He is currently part-time lecturer at the University of Lleida, and member of the managing board of the Official Association of Agricultural Engineers of Catalonia. Dr. Falguera has been one of the members of the Spanish Ministry for Agriculture Focus Group on AKIS.

Tom Kelly

Teagasc, IE

Tom Kelly is Director of Knowledge Transfer in Teagasc since 2010; He is an Agricultural Science graduate, with experience in research, advisory and education. He leads the agricultural education and farm advisory services in Teagasc. He is the former chairman of EUFRAS (European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services) 2013 -2019. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Agricultural Extension at University College Dublin. He is a member of the Agricultural Science Association and the Irish Grassland Association. In 2019 Tom was awarded an International Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry.

Tom has participated in EU-EIP innovation subgroup and EU SCAR AKIS Strategic Working Group. He has experience of many EU funded research projects including AgriSPIN, LIAISON, FAIRshare, IPM Decisions, IPM Works and i2connect.



Kjell Ivarsson

Federation of Swedish Farmers and Copa-Cogeca, SE

Kjell Ivarsson has worked for the Federation of Swedish Farmers and part time for the Swedish Farmers' Foundation for Agricultural Research during the last 16 years. Since taking a degree in agronomy and later a licentiate degree in plant nutrition and soil fertility he has worked in different areas. For ten years he worked close to the field in the Swedish advisory service, followed by business development, sustainable production, crop production and research & development.

As a senior policy advisor he works with bioeconomy, crop production, and research & innovation in the food chain. In Brussels he is the vice chair for the Copa-Cogeca working party on research & innovation. As a Copa-Cogeca representative he was the vice chair of the Commission stakeholder panel for bioeconomy. Also, he is the chair of the national working group on European Innovation Partnership.



Carola Ketelhodt

Chamber of Agriculture in Schleswig-Holstein, EIP Agrar Innovation Office, DE

Carola Ketelhodt is head of the EIP Agri Support Service for Schleswig-Holstein on behalf of the Ministry in Kiel. Carola studied at Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel agricultural economics. After graduation as Agricultural Engineer she launched her career as trainer on an institution of rural adult education. From 1997 to 2013 she was managing director in northern Germany of "Bioland" an association of organic farmers. In 2013 Carola changed her employment and started working at the Chamber of Agriculture. Since July 2014 she is responsible for the innovation support unit. She is supporting the EIP process in SH, is working as advisor for innovators and Operational Groups and as innovation-network-manager. This includes as well information exchange, knowledge transfer, and active public relations within the EIP Agricultural Network in Europe.





Janusz Wojciechowski

EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

Member of the European Commission since 1 December 2019, responsible for Agriculture. Lawyer; Attorney.

Commissioner Wojciechowski grew up on a farm in Rawa Mazowiecka, a rural community in the Łódzkie region in central Poland. He holds a Master's degree in law, having graduated from the University of Łódź Department of Law and Administration. His professional career as a judge spanned different levels up to membership of the Supreme Court of Poland. From 1995 to 2001 he held the important post of President of the Polish Supreme Audit Office.

From 2001 to 2004, he represented the Łódzkie constituency as a Member and also Vice-Marshall of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland – the Sejm. From June 2004 until May 2016, he served three terms as a Member of the European Parliament. He sat as a Member of the European Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals from his first term and from 2014 to 2016 he was President of the Intergroup.

From May 2016 to November 2019, he was a Member of the European Court of Auditors.

Commissioner Wojciechowski has been the author and co-author of five comments on the Polish Penal Code, as well as the author of more than 100 articles and publications on criminal law in various Polish legal magazines. He also writes on socio-legal issues.



Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland, PL

Born on 1961 in Czernikowo near Toruń. In 1985 graduated from the University of Technology and Agriculture in Bydgoszcz, Faculty of Agriculture. Active in the Independent Students Association during the studies. Since 1983 has been running a farm together with his wife.

1992-2002: Deputy chairman of the National Agricultural Advisory Council.

1998-2002: Member of the regional council of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie province, on behalf of the Solidarity Electoral Action.

2003-2007: President of the National Council of Agricultural Chambers in Warsaw.

2005-2007: Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

2008-2010: Advisor for agriculture and rural development to the President of Poland, Mr. Lech Kaczyński.

2010-2011: Member of the regional council of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie province, on behalf of the Law and Justice party (PiS). Member of the Polish Parliament in the VII and VIII term. In the VIII term deputy chairman of the Committee for Agriculture, member of the Committee for Energy and State Treasury.

Since 20 June 2018 Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Awards:

- Honorary Award of Merit to Agriculture (2001)
- Golden Cross of Merit (2004)

Ryszard Kamiński

Undersecretary of State - Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland, PL

Ryszard Kamiński – since December 2019 Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Poland, where he is responsible for coordinating the implementation of national strategies and reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy, the Rural Development Programme, the system of direct payments, as well as supervising the Polish state agriculture advisory services and the research institutes supervised by the Ministry.



Before joining Government he worked for 14 years at the Kujawsko–Pomorski Agricultural Advisory Centre in Minikowo, first as Deputy Director, then as Director. He was responsible for a team of 150 field advisors and 100 specialists providing advisory services for farmers and rural communities in the technological, economic, and environmental aspects of farming. He prepared and implemented a number of projects for rural development – their topics involved rural entrepreneurship, farm diversification, local initiatives etc. He was responsible for providing services to 25,000 clients – farmers and members of rural communities, i.a. through 1000 training sessions and 40 professional conferences.

He is Assistant Professor (PhD) of the Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Science. His scientific research activity concerned local initiatives, non-governmental organisations and rural development. Between 2003-2018 his activities covered several scientific and research projects and publications on rural development and social capital in rural areas.

And the last but not least he is an active farmer.

Raquel Arroyo Palomares

Institute of Natural Resources and Agrobiology of Salamanca IRNASA, ES

Raquel Arroyo Palomares earned an agricultural engineering degree from the Technical University of Madrid (UPM). She is responsible of the experimental farm of the Institute of Natural Resources and Agrobiology of Salamanca (IRNASA) - a research center belonging to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)-. She participates in several european and national innovation and rural development projects and in the transfer of knowledge and technology to the agricultural sector, in order to get a more profitable and sustainable activity. She is the representative of ECOPIONET Operational Group.



Anton Jagodic

Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica Slovenije/KGZS/Chamber of agriculture and forestry of Slovenia/CAFS, SI

Anton Jagodic, Started working as an expert in field advisory work for 300 farms. Providing advisory service to farmers in the technological field (farming, field and fodder production, plant protection, fertilisation, animal husbandry and gardening). Experience in farm advisory daily work, 17 years on farm advisory field level. In December 2002 started working in Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia (CAFS) as a Head of advising in arable Farming, Fodder Production and Gardening, Cross compliance, then working on Organic farming and CAP implementation. Permanent work on improving knowledge transfer. Now responsible for Agricultural Advisory Service program in Slovenia within the framework of the CAFS cover 315 different type of advisors. Implementation of the service work program and prepare standards for programming and planning, implementation and reporting, then analysis of the service's work. Prepare advisory training programmes, working on support for agricultural policy measures, farm diversification etc.... Improving all types of advisory working methods. Implementing CECRA system for Slovenian advisors. Active role in creation EUFRAS and SEASN networks. Member many of associations, and member of the permanent Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability.



Razvan Popa

Adept Foundation, RO

I am a biologist, graduate and PhD student at Babes – Bolyai, Cluj University, Romania. My work is interdisciplinary, both biodiversity conservation and socio-economy. Since 2000 I am working in projects on rural development and biodiversity conservation, since 2008 with Fundatia ADEPT so I can apply my research and expertise. My work includes advisory services, short supply chains, branding/marketing, farmer training, agri-environment policy, result based payment schemes, innovative technology-based business solutions for extensive farming systems and stakeholder analysis.



Marleen Gysen

Innovatiesteunpunt, BE



Marleen Gysen has over 8 years of extensive experience in innovation in agriculture and advising farmers. She works as an innovation consultant at Innovatiesteunpunt (Innovation Support Center for Agricultural and Rural development), which is embedded in Boerenbond, the largest farmers' organisation in Belgium. Her main interest lies in the integration of renewable energy at the farm: matching energy demand and energy production. She tries to trigger farmers to think outside the box and to look for inspiration from other regions and other sectors. She supports them when setting up their innovative ideas and helps them with practical issues. Marleen was a member of the EIP Agri Focus Group on On-farm renewable energy production. She was WP leader in the H2020 project PLAID on on-farm demonstration and partner of the H2020 project LIAISON that aims to help unlock the potential of "working in partnership for innovation" in agriculture, forestry and rural business.

Krzysztof Janiak

Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów, PL



Krzysztof Janiak is working at the Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów which is a central public unit operating within the institutional framework of the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The organisation provides training and analytical support for agriculture and rural development. Mr. Janiak coordinates the implementation of the National Rural Network and Innovation Network in Agriculture and Rural Areas (EIP-AGRI network in Poland). He represents Poland in the Sub-group on innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability.

In the previous programming periods he was involved in implementation of the technical assistance of EU Fisheries Operational Programme 2007 – 2013 in Poland and was responsible for managing Leader initiative under EU RDP 2004 – 2006 in Poland.

During the years 2000 – 2005 he worked for the Project Coordination Unit for the Rural Development Project which was the World Bank programme to support the development of rural areas. In 90-ties he worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Poland) as project development specialist on a wide range of projects.

He has an extensive experience in cooperation with central administration, regional and local authorities, NGOs and other state and private entities in developing of the rural areas and agriculture sector.

Erika Frankhousen

Regiebureau POP, NL



Erika Frankhuizen is a senior advisor at the National Rural Network Unit in the Netherlands. After her master degree in Soil, water, atmosphere at the Wageningen University & Research (Netherlands), she has been working for several years as policy adviser in soil- and water management in the Netherlands. Erika has been active on a wide range of projects related to European Water and Groundwater Framework Directive. In 2017 she joined the Dutch NRN where she participates in the implementation of the European rural development programme.



Pieter Spanoghe

Ghent University, BE

Pieter Spanoghe is Professor and has been Head of the Department of Crop Protection Chemistry at Ghent University since 2012. The Laboratory, as part of the department of Plants and Crops, is highly skilled in the monitoring of pesticide residues in crops and foodstuff and environmental samples (soil, water and air), formulation work of active ingredients, and the study of possible side effects of pesticide usage and human and environmental risk assessment and risk management.

Prof. Pieter Spanoghe teaches on all aspects of Crop Protection Chemicals: major topics are the history of pesticides use, different types of pesticides, mode of action of pesticides: insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, analytical aspects of pesticides, application techniques, environmental fate and behavior, human exposure during and after application, food safety, mitigation strategies and risk assessment systems (risk indicators).

In May 2019 Pieter Spanoghe was the chairman of the 14th international IUPAC symposium on pesticides. All aspects of pesticides were addressed during this global conference.

Since January 1st, 2019 he coordinates a Horizon2020 Thematic Network project Euraknos: Connecting Thematic Networks as Knowledge Reservoirs: towards a European Agricultural Knowledge Innovation Open Source System. On January 1st, 2020 he started a second Horizon 2020 multi-actor project Eureka: European Knowledge Repository For Best Agricultural practices. Both projects aim to construct a sustainable EU wide electronic data platform collecting and centralizing data from all EU multi-actor Horizon2020 agricultural projects. The platform or 'farmbook' will store end-user material to enhance sustainability in agriculture.



Gintarė Kučinskienė

Lithuanian Agricultural Advisory Service, LT

Gintare Kucinskiene - Head of Innovation Support Service - started her carrier in the agricultural sector in 1998 and has extensive experience. She worked as an adviser for 4 years (Chamber of Agriculture of Lithuania). She was busy with best practice projects dissemination under the National Rural Development Programme 2004-2013 in the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania for 5 years. In 2013 G. Kucinskiene started to work as an innovation development specialist in the Lithuanian Agricultural Advisory Service. For more than seven years she has been leading the activities of international and innovation projects, and international and national cooperation between different organisations. At the moment, her activities are focused on the Innovation Support Service's interaction with the national AKIS.



Mugurel Jitea

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj Napoca, RO

Ionel Mugurel JITEA - Doctoral degree in applied economy, University Lille 3 Charles de Gaulle France; Doctoral degree in agronomy, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (UASVM) Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Full professor and habilitation in rural development in the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Research areas: agricultural policies and rural development; High Nature Value farming; agro-forestry sustainability; participatory research in agribusiness. Member of the EIP Agri High Nature Value farming profitability and Wildlife and agricultural production focus groups. Member in the regional stakeholder Interreg platforms for better R&D&I policies and Regional Smart Specialization Strategy S3. Promoter of alternative public policies targeting marginal agricultural areas. Trainer for farmers coming from marginal agricultural areas.



Agustí Fonts

Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology - IRTA, ES

Agustí is currently the coordinator of the Valorisation Team at IRTA and is responsible of managing the internal knowledge to facilitate that the results of the research reach the society in the most suitable way. He has a background of Agricultural Engineering by the Polytechnic University of Valencia, 10 years of experience as patent examiner in Life Sciences at the European Patent Office, and is one of the founders of the Social Innovation Lab Tech4Climate, hosted by the accelerator Ship2B in Spain targeting startups offering solution for a better planet. He is a member of the Focus Group of the EIP AGRI for Digitalisation and Big Data in the agrifood and forestry sectors and rural areas in Spain, setup by the Ministry of Agriculture.



Jean-Marc Gautier

Institut de l'Elevage (IDELE), FR

Department of Livestock Farming Technics & Environment and team leader for "Sensors-Equipment-Facilities".

Jean-Marc Gautier has an engineer degree on agriculture. He has 20-years experienced as project manager and he is involved in many projects either in small ruminants and cattle. He is the coordinator of the H2020 SheepNet EU thematic network project and is the innovation broker of the GO PEI Robustagno. For those 2 multi-actor projects, he is strongly involved to set methodologies to set good conditions for co-creation approach. He is also involved in other H2020 projects where the multi-actor approach is central such as TechCare and EURAKNOS. He leads a team of 10 engineer on topics related to "Sensors-Equipment-Facilities" for all ruminant species.



Jan Swoboda

National Rural Network Unit, DE

Geographer and Geoscientist PhD

1988 - 1996: working experience as an expert for land use planning in development aid (GTZ) and in technical consulting (Lahmeyer International) for infrastructure Projects (Energy, Water supply) in Europe and Africa.

1997 to now responsible for the German Network unit (DVS) starting with LEADER, expanded to EAFRD 2007 and since 2013 including EIP.



Jannes Maes,

President of CEJA

Jannes Maes was born in 1991 and grew up on a farm (dairy cattle and arable crops) in Aalter, Belgium. He has been passionate about farming and horticulture since childhood and holds a degree in agriculture. Jannes is currently President of CEJA, the European Council of Young Farmers. Prior to that he served as a CEJA Vice President and as international representative for Groene Kring, the Flemish young farmers' organisation. When not engaged in politics and representation, Jannes can be found working alongside his father and brother on the family farm.



Åsa Wolgast Broberg

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Department for Rural Affairs, Division for Agriculture and the Food Production, SE

The work with CAP at the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation is done in close cooperation with competences at the national authority Swedish Board of Agriculture. At the ministry I am responsible for AKIS, EIP, agrienvironmental schemes, CLLD and co-operation measures in the Swedish Rural Development Program and in the preparatory work for the national Strategic Plan for CAP. My background is a research degree in Agricultural sciences and many years of work in different parts of the Agricultural sector in Sweden.



Shane Conway

National Rural Network, IE

Shane is a Researcher in the Discipline of Geography's Rural Studies Unit at NUI Galway. Shane's research interests are in Rural and Agricultural Geography, with a particular focus on generational renewal in agriculture, the human side of farming and rural sustainability. Dr Conway has published widely in peer reviewed academic journals and is currently leading Ireland's participation in the International FARMTRANSFERS Project. He is also a member of the National Rural Network (NRN) research team at NUI Galway, where he has initiated and led the design, development and implementation of a number of multi-method communication strategies being employed by the NRN to highlight and promote projects funded under Ireland's Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), such as EIP-AGRI Operational Groups. Shane is a member of the European Network for Rural Development's (ENRD) Thematic Group on 'Smart Villages', and is Ireland's national expert on the new 'Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century' project. He is also on the judging panel of Ireland's National Farming for Nature Award. Shane is also a farmer, with a particular interest in breeding pedigree Charollais Sheep.



Hardi Tamm

Estonian Dairy Cluster (EDC), EE

Hardi Tamm has served several Estonian and international companies during his professional career, performing various managerial roles. Over the past 15 years he has worked for Estonian biotechnology companies, being responsible for business development and quality control. Implementation of new business models, along with long-term strategy, has been his favourite subject of interest. Apart from that, he has been serving as the Estonian expert and representative in the European Committee for Standardization since 2008.

Since October 2015 he has been the Chairman and CEO of NGO Estonian Dairy Cluster (EDC). The purpose of EDC is to find new opportunities for creating higher value added from the perspective of dairy production and the processing chain, improve the economic performance of sector enterprises, and increase global competitiveness through cooperation and various innovation activities. Along with successful innovation and R&D projects, EDC quickly expanded its cooperation network. European Innovation Partnership (EIP) group principles were implemented upon establishing EDC. EDC-EIP group coordinates two cross-border EIP cooperation projects with a Finnish EIP operation group (OG). This is the first instance of cross-border cooperation between EIP OGs.



Johanna Rohrhofer

Austrian Rural Network: Netzwerk Zukunftsraum Land, AT

Johanna Rohrhofer, MA is an innovation expert specialized in Open Innovation. She has practical experience in applying several Open Innovation methods as well as in the development of advanced innovation networks. In addition, not only does she possess extensive knowledge regarding a broad range of search strategies, but she also has longstanding expertise in bringing together different stakeholders. Due to her position as Innovation broker in the Austrian Rural Development Network “Netzwerk Zukunftsraum Land” she is highly familiar with the challenges in the agricultural sector. Since 2015 she has been supervising operational groups in all different project phases.



Pascal Bergeret

Director of CIHEAM-IAMM, the Mediterranean Intergovernmental Agronomic Institute – Montpellier, FR

Pascal Bergeret is Doctor in agricultural economics, Montpellier University (1986).

He worked in agricultural research and development programmes in Nepal, Cameroon, and Vietnam. He was Head, environment and sustainable development, for GRET, a French NGO involved in international development work, and was later appointed as Director, Innovation Department, in the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest.

He is presently Director of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute, Montpellier, one of the four institutes of the International Centre for Higher Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).

He is also co-chair of the SCAR AKIS SWG for its fifth mandate.



Rocio Wojski Perez

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, ES

Rocío is Head of Unit for Innovation and Digitisation at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. She is an Agricultural Engineer and Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering and Water Management, with expertise in hidrology and agricultural water management and irrigation, rural infrastructures, rural development and territorial policies. She has been as well working as a project supervisor, as an assitant at the Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU, and for the National RD Management Authority. She is now in charge of the implementation of the EIP-Agri in Spain through the National RDP, the organisational set-up of the AKIS within the CAP Plans and the development of the Ministry's Digitisation Strategy. She is a member of the EU Rural Development Networks General Assembly and Innovation Sub-Group and the SCAR SWG AKIS since 2017.



Andres Montero

University Carlos 3 of Madrid, ES

Holds a PhD on Agricultural Engineering (sp. Agricultural economics). He is fully committed in the development of open innovation ecosystems and the entrepreneurship in the agrifood sector and the rural areas, with more than 18 year's experience working both in private and public organisations.

He has been Co-chair and is member of the Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) of the SCAR committee. During the last years he has been involved in different initiatives related to AKIS in Spain and the EU, and has participated as lecturer in different conferences and events related.

He has as well been the Coordinator of the Focus Group on Advisory Services within AKIS, an initiative lead by the Deputy Directorate General for Innovation and Digitization of the General Directorate General for Rural Development, Innovation and Forestry Policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.



Joži Cvelbar

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, SI

Ms. Jožica Jerman Cvelbar started her career in the Slovenian Agricultural Advisory Service in 1990 as advisor for plant health. Between 1994 and 2013 she worked as Inspector Senior Counsel - Head of Phytosanitary Inspection Service, active involved in the process for the accession of the Republic of Slovenia to European Union in 2004 and the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia in 1998. From 2013 to 2019 she worked for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Agriculture Directorate, mostly on the area of plant genetic resources and plant variety protection as well as on the area of public services in Agriculture. From September 2019 to date, she is acting as Head of Agricultural Market Division. She is also actively involved in the preparation of Slovenian Strategic Plan for EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) for the cross-cutting objective of modernising the sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas, as head of internal working group of the Ministry for AKIS.



Helena Pärenson

Ministry of Rural Affairs, EE

Helena Pärenson is the Adviser for Knowledge Transfer at the Research and Development Department, Ministry of Rural Affairs, Estonia.

Her main area of responsibilities is related to the planning and programming of strategies and policies in the field of knowledge transfer, advisory services and AKIS in general.

Previously she has worked in the domain of agricultural research cooperation and innovation, acting as the National Contact Point and Governing Board member of several ERA-NETs, etc, coordinating national funding programmes for applied research. She has also gained a solid background in managing various international cooperation projects (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Interreg, FP7, etc).

She participates in SCAR AKIS working group, and is an ex-representative in the Subgroup on Innovation.



Jan van Esch

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, NL

Jan van Esch. Senior knowledge and innovation advisor at the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and food quality in the Netherlands. Member of the AKIS Strategic Working group under SCAR , SCAR plenary and preparation team for CAP in the Netherlands.

Jan van Esch works since 1992 at the ministry of Agriculture in the Netherlands in the field of Agriculture, knowledge and innovation, with focus on EU activities. Part of his work is to prepare the new CAP policy and CAP transition period concerning knowledge, innovation, network and digital strategy. Within the European Standing Committee on Agricultural research he is active in the AKIS working group and part of the team representing Netherlands in SCAR plenary and Horizon Europe program comity. In the Netherlands his task is to connect the research institutes better to the political needs. Specially in the field of European cooperation.

Jan van Esch graduated from Wageningen University in 1989 on phytopathology and 32 years of experience in knowledge and innovation in various position from the research lab to the field.



Wolfgang Burtscher

Director-General, DG Agriculture and Rural Development – European Commission

Wolfgang Burtscher has been Director-General of DG Agriculture and Rural Development since April 2020.

From 2009 to 2020 he was Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation and in that function responsible for a wide range of research and innovation policy development and implementation issues including research and innovation in the fields of agriculture, food and health.

From 2000 to 2009, Mr Burtscher was Director in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture where he was responsible for the provision of legal support to the CAP and quality policy and for the control of agricultural expenditure.

Before joining the European Commission in 2000, Mr Burtscher was representative of the Länder at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the EU.

From 1992 to 1996, Mr Burtscher was Director of European Affairs in the public administration of the Austrian Land Vorarlberg. Before that, from 1990 to 1992, i.e. at the time of the negotiations on the European Economic Area (EEA), he was a legal advisor at the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in Geneva. From 1983 to 1990, he was a lecturer in public international and European law at the University of Innsbruck.

Mr Burtscher holds a doctorate in law and a qualification from the Institut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales in Nice.



Magdalena Mach

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Magdalena Mach is a Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Research & Innovation Unit. She holds a Master's degree in International Relations. Before joining the EC she worked for the Agriculture and Fisheries Section of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union and Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development where for 6 years she was responsible for the implementation of LEADER approach under Rural Development Programme.

EIP-AGRI Service Point team



Margarida Ambar

Task Manager

Margarida Ambar is one of the Rural Development officers in the EIP-AGRI Service Point, and her main tasks are related to networking and knowledge exchange, and to management and facilitation of events.

Margarida Ambar studied Agricultural Engineering at the Technical University of Lisbon and has a master in Territorial Management and Urbanism, focusing on stakeholders' involvement. She worked for about 20 years for the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Prior to becoming part of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team, she had already gained experience in international cooperation projects and networks aiming at knowledge exchange.



Sergiu Didicescu

Deputy Task Manager

Born 1980, Romanian

Sergiu is educated in horticulture with a specialisation in oenology, as well as in agri-environmental economics.. He started professional life as an oenologue in the 'Dealul Mare' area, Romania's largest vineyard. Later on, he worked for the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the European Commission DG AGRI. From 2013 he is farm practice and rural development officer at the EIP AGRI Service Point.



Pacôme Elouna Eyenga

Team Leader

Mr Pacôme Elouna Eyenga is Belgian and was born in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He graduated as agronomist in the field of rural economy and sociology, at Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech / Université de Liège in Belgium.

Since July 2014, he is the Team Leader of the EIP-AGRI Service Point in which he was appointed Deputy Team Leader at its establishment in 2013 by the European Commission, namely DG AGRI.



Mark Gibson

Coordinating expert

Mark Gibson is currently director of the Teagasc ConnectEd Programme which supports the Irish AKIS through knowledge transfer programmes, networking and online tools. Mark is a member of the EU SCAR AKIS Working Group and is currently working with the EU Commission and EIP AGRI on AKIS guidelines. Prior to this, Mark worked as an Environment Specialist with Teagasc, where he led a number of national ICT projects supporting agri-environmental schemes. His work has also included the coordination of climate change and the water quality policy submissions and the development of sustainable knowledge transfer programmes. He is host of the popular "Signpost" farm sustainability webinar series which is broadcast on a weekly basis.

He is a graduate of University College Dublin and holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and a Masters in Environmental Resource Management.



Sarah Watson

Main facilitator

Sarah Watson is the owner of Group Facilitation, providing facilitation and moderation services, specialising in conference facilitation and developing & managing communities of practice. She works with a national UK charity providing enterprise diversification advice, promoting local governance and community integration, developing inclusion and combating social injustice. She believes in the power of people to make positive change, being involved in rural development and local governance work at a European level for over 20 years, through the Leader Programme and the European Network for Rural Development.



Willemine Brinkman

Deputy team-leader

Willemine Brinkman is the deputy team leader of the EIP-AGRI Service Point. Since 2007, she has worked in various executive agencies of the Netherlands Ministries of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. She previously coordinated the European Tropical Forest Research Network, bringing research closer to policy and practice. Ms Brinkman studied tropical forestry and agronomy at Wageningen Agricultural University, and worked as an advisor in forestry and agriculture in an integrated rural development project in the Philippines.



Céline Karasinski

Facilitator

At EIP-AGRI Service Point, Céline Karasinski is a part-time farm practices officer. Her main duties involve the organisation and facilitation of EIP-AGRI workshops and Focus Groups. She is agricultural specialist and she has over 20 years' experience in agriculture and rural development with a special focus on short food supply chains.

From 2012 to 2016, she worked as the leader of a group of regional rural networks for Consular Chambers. In this unit she was responsible for the organisation of meetings and conferences, the coordination of working groups and helped with cooperation projects of the Local Action Group. She participates in the French rural network's meetings and conferences.

Since June 2017, she has been managing a LEADER programme in her country and facilitates a Local Action Group.



Quico Ónega

Facilitator

Quico is part-time Research and Science Officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. He has been focusing on the digital transformation of agriculture as well as the sustainability of ruminant production systems. Besides, he works as researcher and lecturer at the Land Laboratory at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia-Spain). He is hands on in a grassland-based sheep farm.



Andrés M. García Lamparte

Facilitator

PhD Forest Engineer by the University of Santiago de Compostela. He has been working as research assistant in the Land Laboratory of the same university since 2007. Andrés main fields for research are land-use change models, spatial analysis and decision support tools. Andrés is working since 2014 at the EIP-AGRI Service Point as database officer and website administrator. He has participated as backup in several EIP-AGRI Focus Groups and as Task Manager for the EIP-AGRI Focus Groups on mixed farming systems and soil salinisation as well as for the EIP-AGRI workshop on new value chains from multifunctional forests.

Beatriz Guimarey

Facilitator

Grown up on a small family farm in Galicia region (NW Spain), Beatriz Guimarey is Forestry Engineer and has a Master in Sustainable Land Planning by the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). Since 2014 she is Science & Research officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. Her main duties involve organisation and facilitation of EIP-AGRI events (Workshops and Focus Groups), specially dealing with forestry or climate change, and communication with research institutions. Furthermore, at the University of Santiago de Compostela, she works as a researcher at Land Laboratory and Territorial Information System Platform. There, she participates in projects related to spatial planning, rural development and land use change.



Alexandre Morin

Facilitator

Alexandre is a specialist in agricultural innovation projects. An environmental and hydrological scientist by academic background (MSc), he focuses on sustainable practices at farm and territorial levels. In his current position in the Chambre d'Agriculture in western French region of Pays de la Loire, he deals with European partnerships and fundings. He is also working part time for the EIP-AGRI Service Point, taking part in the organisation and facilitation of EIP-AGRI workshops and Focus Groups.



Agnes Kivistik

Facilitator

Agnes is one of the Research and Science Officers at the EIP-AGRI Service Point since November 2019 and her main tasks are organization and facilitation of EIP-AGRI workshops, seminars and focus groups. Agnes has studied Gene technology (BSc, MSc) in Tallinn University of Technology. Before joining the EIP-Agri Service Point team, Agnes worked at the Estonian Crop Research Institute as a researcher in Biotechnology department, where her projects were mainly focused on plant breeding with molecular markers and genotyping Estonian potato genebank. She has practical experience in agriculture as her family farm is producing grape and other perennial plants for sale. As of last year, she is also producing local table grapes for Estonians.





Kevin Grauwels

Facilitator

Kevin is a part-time farm practices officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point, specialised in soil and nutrient management. Besides, he is working at the Vlaamse Landmaatschappij (VLM) on project development in the area of sustainable transition of the agri-food system, rural development and ecosystem services. Before he was long-time involved in the Flemish nutrient management policies, first as a policy officer at VLM and later on as an advisor for the Minister of Environment.



Liisa Kübarsepp

Facilitator

She is a member of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team in the Science and Research Sub-unit since 2017. Also, she is currently working for the Estonian Agricultural Research Centre and in the Estonian Crop Research Institute where she maintains the Potato Genebank which contains more than 450 varieties all over the world. She has previously worked in the Estonian University of Life Sciences as a junior researcher and continues her Ph.D. studies in the same university focusing on impacts of climate change on plant water relations and stomatal anatomy.



Katrien Dejongh Audenaert

Facilitator

Katrien is an Agricultural Engineer (sub) Tropical Agriculture from Ghent University, with post graduate training in Rural Development at the University of London (Wye College).

Katrien joined the EIP-AGRI Service Point in June 2019. She is a farm practices officer and supports the organisation of the meetings of the permanent Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Katrien has a long experience in sustainable agricultural practices, smallholder farming, agro-ecology, agricultural cooperatives, social innovation and social enterprises, mostly in development countries. She has facilitated numerous change processes in that context.



Zeus González Fernández

Technical helpdesk

Zeus works as a Systems Administrator at the Land Laboratory of the University of Santiago de Compostela (2013-). He deals with the management of the technological infrastructure, training of technical staff, software development, management of an e-learning platform, social media of the group's projects, and support for researchers.

At Service Point he manages the videoconferencing platforms to facilitate interactive online meetings

Sarah Beigel

Communication officer

As part of the EIP-AGRI Service Point's communication team, Sarah coordinates the EIP-AGRI newsletter and the Service Point standard email. She works on publications, contributes to the content of the EIP-AGRI website and offers support for events.

Sarah is British, currently living and working in France. She has a masters in International project management, and experience taking part in international cooperation projects aimed at knowledge exchange and she had organised a number of international meetings and events within her role in EIP-AGRI and also as European project officer for AC3A (French Chambers of Agriculture).



Ina Van Hoye

Communication officer

Ina Van Hoye is communication officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. She is responsible for the communications strategy, press contacts, social media, dissemination of the communication tools and events coordinator. Ina Van Hoye is a communication expert who has more than 15 years communication experience. Previously she was involved in several regional and European projects for the Flemish Government, Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV to support them in their communication for several Sigma Plan projects.

