

Progress of the EIP IMPLEMENTATION in ESTONIA

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Progress in EIP implementation

- Situation autumn 2014 (focus on the bottlenecks identified):
 - Lack of coherence between single projects
 - Entrepreneurs needed more integrated solutions
 - OG-s needed more strategic thinking
 - Need for a new management scheme in advisory services
 - Upon research evaluation, it is the basic research and cited articles that bring excellent results - applied science lacks motivation for researchers
 - Insufficient involvement of early-stage researchers

Based on these considerations, Estonia chose to implement two different RDP measures for supporting innovation cooperation

Progress in EIP implementation

- Changes during the last year:
 - In order to promote a more strategic approach, the opportunity to participate in **Innovation clusters (16.2; 16.3; 16.5; 16.9; 16.0)** has been provided. Innovation clusters deal with the sectoral issues by means of several innovation actions, offering thereby a more sustainable format for cooperation and helping to decrease fragmentation among different actors within the sector
 - Single innovation projects (e.g., addressing a single issue of a single enterprise) are supported by the RDP measure **16.2: Support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies**. Under this measure, it is also possible to apply for funding for a cross-border EIP OG. Furthermore, if necessary, it is even possible to announce a call exclusively for cross-border EIP OGs

Progress in EIP implementation

- Successes
 - Two RDP measures implemented, which target the innovation cooperation - one for co-funding single projects, the other for clusters
 - Clusters enable to create more coherence between single activities, more strategic approach, and provide more integrated solutions to entrepreneurs
 - New management scheme in advisory services implemented
 - Great interest for both measures among stakeholders, including for a longer-term cooperation
- Problems
 - State aid differences for projects/activities covered by Annex I and those not covered by Annex I
 - Enterprises have a keen interest for cooperation with researchers, but the related paperwork holds them back
 - The administrative burden sets a limit to the number of projects an enterprise/farmer is willing and/ or able to carry out
- Plans for the future
 - The funded projects under the two RDP measures begin their activities
 - It is necessary to work out an efficient communication and dissemination strategy, so that the EIP information available on EU level would be easily accessible and available in Estonia, e.g., info flow between EIP-AGRI and the national rural network

Call for Operational groups

- 1st Call for single projects for developing new products and technologies was held in September 2015
- Very many project applications, the requested budget exceeded remarkably the planned budget for this Call
- In the so-called single projects, the minimum requirement for the applying enterprise is to involve at least one research and development institution. EIP OGs are eligible for cross-border projects
- The 1st Call for clusters planned for October 2015
- There will be one evaluation panel (not yet formed) both for the single projects as well as the clusters. It will involve representatives of MA, CA, representatives of the farmers' associations, and other stakeholder representatives

Linking the OG's to the broader EIP framework

- Estonia has an existing national rural network and EIP network
- The network is managed by Estonian Rural Network Support Unit (NSU) **NSU = EIP Service Point on national level**
- Estonian research organisations are well involved in the rural network and EIP network. The representatives of R&D organisations take actively part in discussions with advisors and entrepreneurs
- The projects that get funded under the RDP innovation cooperation measures are encouraged to disseminate their project results via EIP-Agri website and must keep the NSU informed of their project activities
- NSU translate and distribute the EIP Agri information (incl. Newsletter) in Estonian language

Brokering, networking and monitoring

- Monitoring contributes to an essential part of RDP implementation
- Mainly based on quantitative data collected by CA (applications, payments, general statistics, etc) and analysed by MA and/or Estonian University of Life Sciences
- EULS is responsible for permanent external evaluation of the RDP implementation