

PROGRESS OF THE EIP IMPLEMENTATION IN PORTUGAL

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Bottlenecks and Best Practices

- Main bottlenecks in the uptake of the interactive innovation model with operational groups:
 - ✓ How to increase the **innovation capacity** in the agro-forestry sector (products, processes and techniques)?
 - ✓ How to overcome the **obstacles to innovation** faced by small companies (limitations in money, knowledge, dimension,...)
 - ✓ **How to promote a response of the R&D system** to the needs of the agro-forestry sector?
 - ✓ **How to strengthen the connections** between the business sector, particularly the SMEs, and the R&D technological units and the knowledge dissemination?
 - ✓ How to promote **cooperation and networking** among the productive sector, concerning consultancy and scientific knowledge to improve knowledge transfer and promote innovation?
 - ✓ **How to involve companies** with qualified HR in demonstration and dissemination of knowledge?

Bottlenecks and Best Practices

Best practices to share in introducing the Interactive Innovation model and operational groups in the RD Plans

- ✓ **Focus** on the support of RDP/FEADER to innovation and development of innovation projects by Operational Groups.
- ✓ **Disclose the support incentives** to the Operational Groups **as earlier as possible** (internet, public sessions, targeted sessions) and promote the discussion among the stakeholders (workshops, seminars, etc.. organized by the National Rural Network, by INOVAR (Thematic network), by INIAV, e and many other public and private organizations.
- ✓ **Inform and promote among stakeholders the financing potential, complementary and synergies** of the innovation incentives (FEADER/RDP, HORIZON 2020, Operational Programs/other FEEI funding) through information co-sessions targeted to the agronomic, agro food and forestry sectors.
- ✓ **Open consultation to the stakeholders** on the design of the support criteria to Operational Groups and thematic areas being covered.

Bottlenecks and Best Practices

Best practices to share in introducing the Interactive Innovation model and operational groups in the RD Plans

- ✓ **Enhance the role of the national Rural Network** disclosing EIP (meetings, digital platform, Newsletter)
- ✓ **Enhance the role of the national Rural Network** creating Operational Groups, networking among OG and disclosing their results. (increasing the availability and access to knowledge)
- ✓ **Focus on the scope of the OG activity**, within the EPI priorities, national priorities for Rural Development (selectivity) by identifying thematic areas
- ✓ **Establishing a minimum partnership for the setting of the Operacional Group** making it compulsory to include “companies” and “association” type partners from the agricultural, forestry or agrifood sector and R&D partners (avoid fragmentation)
- ✓ **Establishing the characteristics of the plan of action to be presented by the OG** and monitoring its development (not repeating same procedures again and again and allow to revise the procedure)

Bottlenecks and Best Practices

Best practices to share in introducing the Interactive Innovation model and operational groups in the RD Plans

- ✓ **Including a disclosure and dissemination plan in the application** - enhance innovation to all potential stakeholders (positively evaluated during selection)
- ✓ Including **selection criteria of the applications** focusing on the quality of the action plan, partnership and disclosure and dissemination plan.
- ✓ Establishing that all partners of the Operational Groups are members of the National Rural Network
- ✓ Establishing an application process in two dependent steps – 1) setting up of the OG and 2) presenting the Action Plan, where the first step may be paid after the approval of the Action Plan.

Bottlenecks and Best Practices

Best practices to share in introducing the Interactive Innovation model and operational groups in the RD Plans

Still open issues:

- Concerning the operacionalization model for support and payment to the partners of the OG;
- Conciliation between the obligation to disclose the results and the need of confidentiality concerning intelectual property registration (patents).

National / regional EIP network

- Will there be a national/regional EIP network?
- The National Rural Network will ensure a permanent thematic area associated to innovation and EIP, which will be used for Dissemination, Interchange among OG and their partners to disclose results, using its digital platform and promote events on the subject.
- Who will manage this network?
- A NRN has a **technical coordination** (from the DG of Agriculture and Rural Development), a **strategic coordination** (from the National Coordination Commission of FEADER) and a financing fund (FEADER) through the 3 Portuguese RDP. The specific coordination of the thematic area of Innovation will be defined in the Plan of Action of the Rural Network.

National / regional EIP network

- What will be the network's tasks?
- In the thematic area of INNOVATION of the NRN the tasks are concerning the boosting the stimulation of the OG in the scope of the EIP and support their initiatives of innovation, sharing, disclosure and dissemination of results, as well as the dissemination of the information on this subject.
- Are Advisory Services involved in RD to promote innovation?
- In Portugal technical advisement is mostly provided by the producer's organizations of the sector. Therefore one of the partners within the OG must be a producers association from the thematic domain of the OG activity.
- Are research organisations well involved in the rural network / EIP network?
- Yes. They are members of the National Rural Network and its involvement may happen in several ways, but also as members of the OG.

Interaction with Research

- Has the organisation or programming of research in your country been influenced by the EIP ?
- Yes. The financing authorities are aware of the OG and the subject calls are well related.
- Do the Operational Groups have access to the research system in your country?
- Most of the partners within the OG are R&D organisms within the national research system.
- Are there incentives for researchers to participate in Operational Groups?
- Universities and Research Institutes managers often encourage their researchers to join such OG

Interaction with Research

- Were research organisations from your country active in proposals for Thematic Networks and Multi-actor projects in H2020?
- Yes. The main difficulty has been to attract the private sector and the reduce the scope of action, since all the partners want to see their own particular issues represented in the objectives of the project