

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) „Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability“

Demand driven innovation under H2020: Multi-actor approach / Thematic networks



SWG AKIS III – Lisbon- 13 November 2014

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Multi-actor projects in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015

Total budget for all multi-actor projects and thematic networks in the first Horizon 2020 Workprogramme: 148 mio euro

All multi-actor projects have the following sentence in the description of the topic:

"Proposals should fall under the concept of multi-actor approach"

and refer to footnote 1 on p.4 of the Work programme that describes the multi-actor approach as follows

Multi-actor projects in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015

- "multi-actor" is more than a strong dissemination requirement or what a broad stakeholders' board can deliver
- "all along the project" *: **a clear role for the different actors** in the work plan, from the participation in the planning of work and experiments, their execution up until the dissemination of results and the possible demonstration phase.
- Project proposals should illustrate sufficient quantity and quality of **knowledge exchange activities**

This should generate **innovative solutions that are more likely to be applied** thanks to the cross-fertilisation* of ideas between actors, the co-creation and the generation of co-ownership for eventual results.

(*legal base in Specific Programme)

Multi-actor projects in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015

A multi-actor project needs to take into account:

- how the project proposal's objectives and planning are **targeted to needs / problems and opportunities of end-users**
- the **composition of the project consortium** must get sufficient involvement of **key actors with complementary types of knowledge** (scientific and practical) to reach the project objectives and make its results broadly implemented.

Facilitation between actors and openness to involve additional actors/group of actors in the project, for instance relevant groups operating in the EIP context, are strongly recommended.

Thematic networks in H2020 WP 2014-2015

Topic ISIB 2 – 2014: 10 Mio Euro

Networks in the range of 2 mio Euro on specific themes to be proposed bottom-up

Up to one network on innovation support services shall be funded

Main aim:

- Synthesise, share and present best practices and research results **focusing on themes and issues that are near to be put into practice**
- **Material for practitioners**

Thematic networks in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015

- **Projects must develop end-user material** for broad dissemination to practice (such as info sheets in a common format and audio-visual material) that is long-term available and easy understandable, to be shared through the EIP network (impact on "skills": input for education and a research web-database for end-users)
- Projects **involving a wide range of actors as relevant for the specific themes:** researchers, advisors, ISS, farmers/farmers' groups, EIP project groups, [enterprises, education, NGOs, administration, regulatory bodies, ...]: no pure research networks, include tacit "non-formalised" knowledge from practitioners, user groups, farmers etc -> innovation management

Thematic networks in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015

- **Themes** can be linked to products or sectors, e.g. arable crops, fruits, vegetables, pig,...etc) or a broad range of cross-cutting subjects, e.g. crop rotation, certain farming practices, energy, implementation approaches of a directive, eco-system services, social services, bio-based products, short supply chains,...etc
- As they bring together possible actors, thematic networks help the **connecting and building of EIP interactive innovation groups & multi-actor projects** (footnote m-a)
- **Thematic networks are not:** research or demonstration projects, networks preparing the research agenda, awareness raising groups (best practice & knowledge for practitioners!)

Multi-actor projects in the 2014 call – first experiences

- A new concept already successfully taken up in most proposals and well appreciated by experts in the best proposals
- MA approach supports stronger dissemination efforts (in particular now without negotiation in H2020, BUT NOT ONLY THAT)
- Various approaches for integrating actors:
 - As a partner in the consortium: most appreciated by the experts, as they can see the operational capacity of the actor (CV)
 - As a sub-contractant (actor is less sure to be involved due to call for tender processes)
 - Research partners explaining they have an existing network, letters of intent

Multi-actor projects in the 2014 call - evaluations

*"all along the project" *: a clear role for the different actors in the work plan, from the participation in the planning of work and experiments, their execution up until the dissemination of results and the possible demonstration phase.*

Project proposals should illustrate sufficient quantity and quality of knowledge exchange activities.

This should generate innovative solutions that are more likely to be applied thanks to the cross-fertilisation of ideas between actors, the co-creation and the generation of co-ownership for eventual results.*

- Under **excellence** – in particular sub-criterion "soundness of the concept" since it is related to project objectives and construction of the proposal (*feasibility, robustness, level of concreteness, coherence, is it solid and realistic*)
- And of course: demonstrate knowledge of *state of the art and added value of the project*

Multi-actor projects in the 2014 call – first experiences

So, a sound "multi-actor" concept would explain

- why the chosen objectives outlined in the proposal are indeed relevant for end-users,
- how the research proposal will take into account tacit/grey knowledge,
- how "sufficient quantity and quality of knowledge exchange activities" will be tackled and demonstrated in the proposed concept,
- how it is planned to make the results better implemented by involving actors of type XYZ (certain type of enterprises, advisors), etc

Multi-actor projects in the 2014 call - evaluations

Proposals need to take into account:

- how the project proposal's objectives and planning are **targeted to needs / problems and opportunities of end-users**
 - the **composition of the project consortium** must get sufficient involvement of **key actors with complementary types of knowledge** (scientific and practical) to reach the project objectives and make its results broadly implemented.
-
- So score also under **Implementation** sub-criteria (*logic and clear workplan, effectiveness deliverables, which partners exactly: skills, profile, best allocation of tasks, feedback loops, coordination if possible quantitative, reasonable costs*)
 - *Etc (impact)*

Multi-actor projects in the 2014 call – first experiences

The details on the participation of actors in the consortium (the precise partnership in the consortium, or the details in the work packages related e.g. subcontracting, meetings etc) are checked under criterion 3 "implementation", so take care:

- are the chosen partners A,B,C the best ones to propose,
- is the work plan realistic on the involvement of actors D,E,F,
- is sufficient time foreseen to produce deliverables 1,2,3,
- are actors paid sufficiently to expect they produce the deliverables foreseen in the proposal in a qualitative way, etc

Multi-actor projects in the 2014 call – some points of attention for consortia

1. Improve the state of the art section to indicate better how the project will be going beyond e.g. former projects: demonstrate you know existing research work and best practices, and what would be the added value of this project (which are the key problems to tackle)

Multi-actor projects in the 2014 call – some points of attention for consortia

2. Note the difference between multi-disciplinarity (combining various scientific disciplines) and multi-actor approach.
Footnote: *"involving key actors in the project with complementary types of knowledge (scientific and practical) to reach the project objectives and make its results broadly implemented and project objectives targeted to needs/opportunities of practice"*
3. "Trans-disciplinary" is not multi-actor neither, it concerns the presence in the proposal of different disciplines relevant to the topic, e.g. agronomy, soil sciences, plant physiology, agri-engineering, irrigation management, ICT, satellite technologies, etc...
4. Multi-actor vs multi-sector

Multi-actor projects in the 2014 call – some points of attention for consortia

5. Even if not obligatory, don't hesitate to take up non-research actors in the consortium and show which actors will be beneficiaries and project partners (CV, role, budget, signature)
6. This may result in 25-30 partners instead of 15
7. Therefore structured coordination efforts are appreciated: evidence (quantifiable if possible) of how knowledge exchange will be organized, e.g. matrix structure including meetings between various actors within a MS + meetings for a specific type of actors across MS
8. This does not mean the management cost for the coordinating partner should be high, all partners play part of the role

Multi-actor projects in the 2014 call – some points of attention for the evaluation process

- Prepare experts as early as possible on how to appreciate the multi-actor approach: make a briefing at the start of the evaluation process, provide concise documentation
- Difference between multi-disciplinarity and multi-actor approach etc (nomenclature)
- Differentiate between evaluating the soundness of the MA approach (in general terms, linked to the description of the objectives and the state of the art) and the evaluation of the implementing consortium (e.g. an institute with a close contact to practitioners)
- R&I Action: Clarify difference between innovation potential (as part of the criterion excellence) and "innovation capability" (as part of the criterion impact)

Innovation is an idea put in practice with success

"The value of an idea lies in the using of it."

Thomas Alva Edison –
inventor of the light bulb

More info on Multi-actor projects and Thematic networks in WP 2014-2015:

EIP workshop 14/1/2014 on multi-actor projects and thematic networks

Multi-actor projects and thematic networks:

<http://vimeo.com/84381196>

Proposal submission and evaluation:

<http://vimeo.com/84381198>

Multi-actor project example:

<http://vimeo.com/84385119>

Video, including Q & A session, and presentations on

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/events/eip-research-workshop-2014_en.htm

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More info on Multi-actor projects and Thematic networks in WP 2014-2015:

Info on EIP formats under Horizon 2020:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/pdf/fact-sheet-horizon-2020_en.pdf

Looking for partners in Horizon 2020 multi-actor projects or thematic networks?

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Partner-Search-Horizon-2020-Food-7416906>

Follow the EIP website (newsletters, info, examples, and for **common EIP formats for the output of thematic networks**):

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

factsheet on innovation support:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/events/berlin-11-2013/innovation-support-services_en.pdf

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"Ideas put into practice with success"***

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Thank you for your attention!

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"I not only use all the
brains that I have,
but all that I can
borrow"

Woodrow Wilson –
President of the USA, 1913-1921