

PROGRESS OF THE EIP IMPLEMENTATION IN IRELAND

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Bottlenecks and Best Practices

- Fear of bureaucracy and high levels of administration/regulation:
Need for MS level service point/support office
- Potential partners need to be educated on objectives and requirements otherwise those who are experiencing the problems that should be addressed via OG's may miss out.
 - What evaluation criteria will be used? Who will evaluate?
 - How long can a project last? Can finance be drawn down in phases?
- The business model for private agricultural consultancy is generally not compatible with best practice innovation support through peer to peer learning.
- Many existing networks and collaborative innovation support projects are excluded – need to re-invent project mid stream

Bottlenecks and Best Practices (2)

- Need a highly streamlined application process. A two stage process could be used whereby initial outline application is made. If successful further details can be requested.
- The concept needs to be promoted and advertised to all potential partners.
- Potential for OG's to promote a broader range of disciplines and stakeholders.
- The description of operational groups in RD is very broad, the role of lead actors and their function and responsibility is uncertain.
- General calls for operational groups through competitive processes is likely to lead to diverse projects with significant overhead and admin burden so the unsuccessful groups will be at a loss.

National / regional EIP network

- **Will there be a national/regional EIP network?**
 - Ireland's small size, allied to its tradition of cooperation and the networks already in place augurs well for the creation of operational groups.
- **Who will manage this network?**
 - Expectation = no formal EIP network, the paying authority will manage the local operational groups
 - Dissemination through NRN?
- **What will be the network's tasks?**
 - Provision of information
 - Dissemination of best practice

National / regional EIP network (2)

- **Are Advisory Services involved in RD to promote innovation?**
 - Teagasc will actively promote interactive innovation through operational groups, however, our ability to engage intensively will be constrained by staff resources.
- **Are research organisations well involved in the rural network / EIP network?**
 - To some extent. Teagasc sees EIP's as an excellent opportunity to promote integration between our Knowledge Transfer and Research Directorates.
 - These networks need professional support from research and from advisers who will support the particular innovation challenge.

Interaction with Research

- **Has the organisation or programming of research in your country been influenced by the EIP ?**
 - Strategic Research Agenda's already published and being implemented.
 - Not Yet. KPI's will need to be reviewed to promote engagement by research in OG's.
- **Do the Operational Groups have access to the research system in your country?**
 - Yes
- **Are there incentives for researchers to participate in Operational Groups?**
 - Not specifically, but existing relationships will be beneficial

Interaction with Research

- **Were research organisations from your country active in proposals for Thematic Networks and Multi-actor projects in H2020?**
 - Yes
- **If yes: did they experience difficulties due to the character of such projects?**
 - e.g. involving other types of actors as a partner or subcontractor?
 - No
 - e.g. difficulties to find operational / interactive groups?

Thanks/questions