

EIP IMPLEMENTATION IN ITALY

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State of the art in Italy

Regionalized system

- 1 Partnership Agreement
- 21 Regional RD Programmes
- 1 National RD Network, including EIP National RD Network
- 1 National Operational Programme

Multilevel and Inclusive Strategic Planning

- Co-definition of a **Common Strategic Framework**: the National Strategic Multiannual Plan on R&I (needs' assessment on AKIS systems):
- Ministry of Agriculture on coordinating the **Innovation** and **Research agenda** along with Innovation actions being carried out at RDPs level
- National and **European/International perspective** on key issues
 - The National EIP
 - Common vision and Cross-Regionality on the OPs: National Guidelines on the implementation
 - Participation to H2020
 - Interaction with other Policies: EraNets, ETPs, JPIs ...

How is the EIP and issue of innovation taken up in RD-plans? ⁽¹⁾

Emphasis, Interests and Expectations on the EIP

- Great focus on the OGs: risk to not look at the variety of potential pathways for innovation: individuals and collective/interactive; others then the OGs.
- Lack of a **systemic view** on KT&I actions (measures 1, 2, 16).

Difficulties and Bottlenecks

- **Procedural** issues for OGs selections: two-step procedure? Cross-regional procedures?
- Which **selection criteria**: Any definition for innovation? how to ensure the interaction between the partners and other policies? How to assess the project quality? How to deter Research-driven projects?
- AKIS: need for a major **self-acknowledgement** on roles and functions for cooperative innovation
- **Payments** system: global import or package of measures? How to set the financial commitments?
- Matching **controls** and payments systems: on single investments or on the project as a whole?

How is the EIP and issue of innovation taken up in RD-plans?₍₂₎

Interactions research- agricultural administrations

- **Co-decision** and **reciprocal involvement** into the respective activities.
- Involvement of the **Interregional Network of Research** and of **Services**

Interaction with other EU policies

- On **strategic** issues: **pre-partnership agreement** through multilevel thematic working meetings
- Regional **Smart specialization** as a reference ...
- Promoting the use of existing instruments: EraNets, ETPs, JPIs

Is the concept of Operational Group taken up in RD-plans ?

Common vision among the regions

- Strong role of the Interregional Networks of Administrations on Agricultural Research and Services: location for **exchange of views**
- **National** RD Network to provide **guidelines** on: coordination and animation, selection procedures; Innovation and Research e-platform; coordination with other MS; M&E; I&R e-platform; linkages at EU level (European EIP and Horizon2020)
- **Few** differences between the Regions: duration of the OGs; **themes** of the OGs.

Cross-regional collaboration and/or with other MS

- **Desirable** by the Regions but **not particularly required**, **to run** afterwards: **themes** of common regional interest?;
- **Complex**: synchronization of the selection procedures? Equal selection criteria? interregional selection committee?
- **ERIAFF**: European Regions for Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Forestry to act as facilitators of information flow and links between stakeholders across the EU; to develop interregional OGs

Did you take actions to connect operational groups better to your AKIS?

- **YES:** National Guidelines and Strategic Programming
 - **Wide Involvement** of the AKIS into the National Strategic Plan for R&I and into the regional swot and needs assessments analyses of the RDPs
 - **Extension and (Applied) research:** active partner in RDP design process.
 - **Private Advisory** services: scarcely participative; recent involvement into the National Strategic Plan for R&I process.
 - **Education:** No specific actors; high education mainly provided by Research and Advisors; low degree of secondary education; widely commanded to the ESF: not really seen as playing part into the OGs
 - **Innovation brokers:** Not present in Italy. Confusion on the “entity”. To be financed only as part of the OGs; Tentative of the POs to affirm their role as innovation brokers.
 - AKIS in **other regions:** cross-regional OGs; networking activities.
 - AKIS at **EU** level: no

Interlinkages between relevant networks

Relation between the OG and the national EIP network/ National Rural Development Network

- **N-EIP Network** as part of the NRD Network
- **Animation** and **networking** to connect and support the setting-up of the OGs;

The view on the relation between the existing AKIS actors and the National Rural Development Network

- A variety of AKIS actors are partner of the NRDN: **Producer Organizations** and others **associations** (**cooperatives**, Parks, Breeders, AIAB, consumers); National federation of agro-forestry **advisors**; labor **unions**.
- **Communities of practices** to be implemented by the NRDN.

Improving flows within MS' AKIS

- No actions, really: **scarse international view** and **fragmentation** of the AKIS regional systems are deterrents.

Interaction with the European level/other MS

- **European EIP**
- **ERIAFF**

How will measures aimed at OG be monitored?

- Indicators and Methods of the RDPs
 - Still at an **early** stage
 - EC **Common** indicators seem to be the only option.
 - Wide recognition on the **lack of completeness** of common indicators
- Indicators and methods to monitor broader innovation measures
 - National **guidelines** (NRDN): monitoring, evaluation and benchmarking of the agricultural innovation systems.
 - A comprehensive **list of common indicators & benchmarks** (meso-analysis is a need): profiling the innovators: targeting policies.
 - Methodological **document on minimal information** for monitoring systems (quantitative, qualitative and relational aspects), focus on: projects, partnership, innovations and animation/dissemination.
 - Coordination with the **paying agency** (data provider)
 - **E-Platform** for sharing monitoring information