



# Promotion of Cooperation for Innovation and Knowledge Transfer

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN THE  
WESTERN BALKANS: TOWARDS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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# Pre-history

- ✓ EU Rural Development Programme 2014-2020: Sub-measures 16.1 - Support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability – and 16.2 - Support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies
- ✓ Study on Research, innovation and technology transfer capacities in the Western Balkans – Phase I
- ✓ Workshop on Agricultural Research and Knowledge Transfer in Western Balkan countries on 23-24 November 2020
- ✓ Feedback from visits to the Western Balkan countries

# Aims

- ✓ To bridge the gap between research and practice by using an interactive innovation model in the form of **EIP-AGRI type Innovation partnership (IP) Operational Groups**
- ✓ To develop, adapt or test new innovative products, processes and **technologies** with particular focus on environmentally friendly technologies and farming methods in **agriculture, forestry, aquaculture or food processing**

# The Process

The measure will combine two-stages:

- ✓ The first stage – pre-selection - an initial call for the submission of ideas/concepts for IP Operational Groups. Successful first stage applicants will then be requested to compile and submit a complete IP Operational Group plan
- ✓ The second stage – implementation - selected IP Operational Group will be established to implement the plan and examine, evaluate, develop or trial the selected concept

# Recipients

- ✓ The IP Operational Groups comprising **at least three actors from different groups**, for example, farmers, advisors, researchers, NGOs, forest owners and agri-businesses and operating in agriculture, forestry, aquaculture or food processing
- ✓ For sound financial and sustainability purposes - the IP Operational Group either have to **register as a legal identity** or have a **documented rules** attributing liability among the members of the operational group
- ✓ The entities could use an innovation support service / **innovation broker** (advisory, innovation agency etc.) to help establish the IP Operational Group

# Eligible expenditure - examples

- ✓ Running costs of the IP Operational Group
- ✓ Cost related to joint capacity building activities
- ✓ Cost of studies (including feasibility) and of drawing up a plan
- ✓ Investment costs linked to the implemented project/test/method
- ✓ Costs of promotional activities
- ✓ Costs of research activities linked to and accompanying project/s under the plan, etc.

# Financial conditions

- ✓ Aid intensity under the measure is:
  - ✓ for new IP Operational Group – 100% of the total eligible cost
  - ✓ for established IP Operational Group – 75% of the total eligible cost
- ✓ EU contribution rate is 85% of the public support

Where the project implemented under the plan can be implemented under another IPARD measure (particularly, investment measure), **the maximum relevant aid intensity of that measure shall apply**



# Specific elements

- Exceptionally, support can also be provided to already established IP Operational Groups in the IPARD countries (still needs to be pre-selected)
- A lead-entity must be identified – it will have the responsibility for administration of payments
- The process of implementation shall be transparent, incl., results – disseminated
- No stand alone research/study eligible
- Each country sets relevant specific eligibility criteria and selection criteria

# Link with other measures

## IPARD III Measures:

- ✓ Improvement of skills and competences (demarcation)
- ✓ Advisory services (brokering)
- ✓ Technical Assistance (brokering)

Clear complementarity and demarcation shall be ensured with support provided by **the European Innovation Council** and **other EU funded programmes** (e.g., Horizon Europe)

# Expected benefits

- ✓ Established strong and sustainable cooperation links between stakeholders in agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, incl., farmers, forest managers, rural communities, businesses, NGOs and advisory services
- ✓ Increased application of innovative, more efficient and environment friendly practices, methods, technologies etc. in sectors
- ✓ Increased allocation of funding for research and development
- ✓ Improved cooperation at Western Balkan and interregional level
- ✓ Improved quality of applications for attracting the EU and other funding for IP OG

# Thank you for the attention!

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