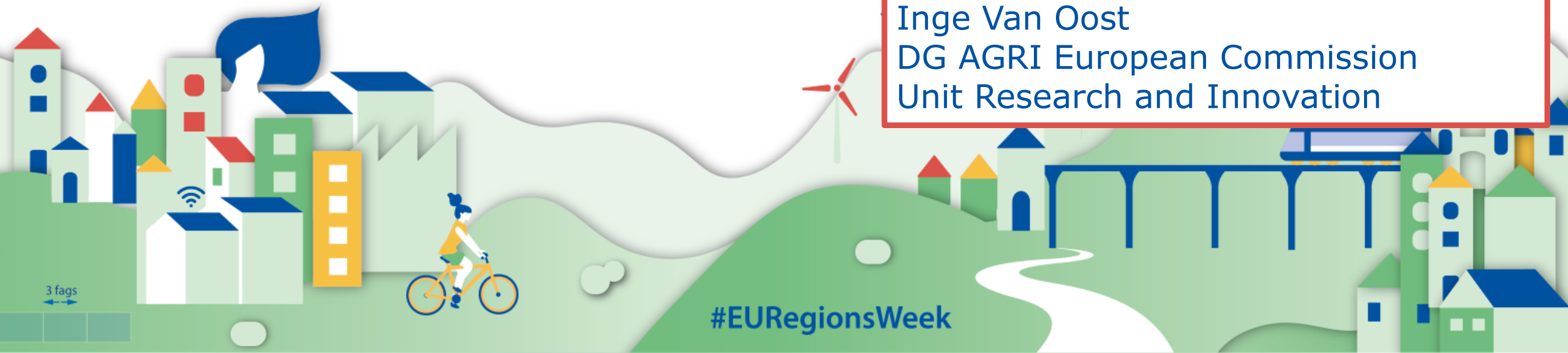


**18<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN WEEK** of  
**REGIONS** and **CITIES**

12-15 OCTOBER 2020 | BRUSSELS

**The Horizon Multi-actor-  
Approach projects &  
Thematic Networks  
enhancing co-creation and  
speeding up innovation**

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DG AGRI European Commission  
Unit Research and Innovation



European Committee  
of the Regions

Protection area



European  
Commission

Protection area

## How it started: the Standing Committee for Agricultural Research (SCAR) and the Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

- 1974: Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR): **Representatives of Member States and associated Countries** that advise the European Commission and Member States on coordination of agricultural research started "Foresight" exercises in 2005: to “include **questions of advisory services, education, training and innovation**”
- 2007 - 1st SCAR Foresight: “The mounting challenges facing the agri-food and rural sectors in Europe calls for a **review of the links between knowledge production and its use to foster innovation**”
- 2009 – The 2nd SCAR Foresight shed a rather crude light on the current state of Agricultural Knowledge Systems in Europe: “currently unable to absorb and internalise the fundamental structural and systemic shifts that have occurred. **The remaining publicly funded AKIS appear to be locked into old paradigms based on linear approaches and conventional assumptions.**”

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- 2010: European Innovation Partnerships want to speed up innovation through **cooperation and linking** existing policies and instruments
- **EIP "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability"** launched in **2012**: "more and better from less", "ideas put into practice with success", impact by end-users becoming "actors" and motivated
- The EIP-AGRI applies an overarching "*Open innovation*" concept based on the **interactive innovation model** (applied in RD Operational Groups and H2020 Multi-Actor projects):  
Collaboration between various actors to make **best use of complementary types of knowledge** (scientific, practical, organisational, etc) **in view of co-creation** and diffusion of solutions/opportunities **ready to implement in practice.**
- **EU wide EIP network** linking actors: communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs (*Open science*)

# The bigger EIP picture

## Funding for interactive innovation projects

### CAP Rural Development (National/regional projects)

- Funding for setting up of an “Operational Group” (OG) : farmers, advisors, agribusiness, researchers, NGOs, etc) planning an innovation project
- Project funding for the **Operational Group’s project**
- Supporting innovation support services (advisory services with a focus on innovation)



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eip-agri

EIP networks  
MS/regions

Unique EU  
repository of  
contacts and  
practice abstracts

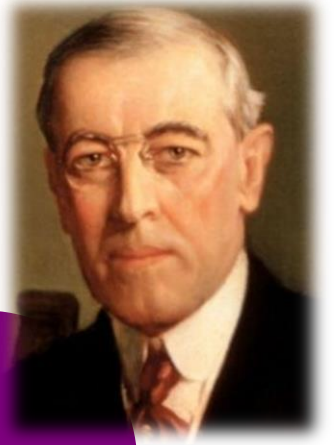
### Horizon 2020

(European projects)

- Research projects, to provide the knowledge base for innovative actions
- Interactive innovation formats: **multi-actor projects and thematic networks** genuinely involving farmers, advisors, enterprises, etc.... "all along the project"

**Involvement of OGs is strongly recommended**





*Co-creation:*

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

Woodrow Wilson –  
President of the USA, 1913-1921



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## H2020 Multi-actor approach: **clear definition** Key elements (as in EIP OGs):

1. **Focus on end-users' problems/opportunities** and develop innovative solutions which cover real needs. End-users like farmers, foresters or businesses will be more motivated to use the project results, because they were incorporated in generating them and therefore feel "co-ownership"
2. Bring together the **most relevant partners with the needed complementary type of knowledge** which helps solving problems and tackling opportunities e.g.: farmers, advisors, researchers, suppliers, processors, agencies and/or other actors
3. Partners co-operate and **co-innovate** in project activities **from the beginning till the end** => sufficient knowledge exchange should be illustrated in proposals & clear roles.
4. The project should result in practical knowledge made easily understandable and accessible, which **feeds into the existing dissemination channels** most consulted by end-users **in countries**.
5. For **EU wide communication**, this knowledge should also be assembled into a substantial number of 'practice abstracts' in the **EIP common format**
6. **Connect with regional and national** innovative projects "EIP Operational Groups" working on similar topics.



Interactive innovation: **Cross-fertilisation** is key  
for tackling complex challenges and developing  
opportunities for innovation

Du choc des idées jaillit  
la lumière

Nicolas Boileau, french philosopher, 17th century

- > From the clash of opposing minds, new ideas arise
- > **Enlightenment comes when views collide**



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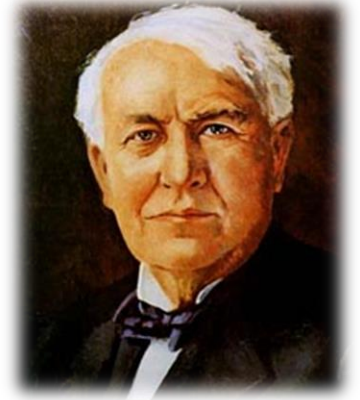




## Thematic networks: compiling knowledge ready for practice

- Much of the existing research findings and best practices stays unused
- **TNs summarise, share and present - in a language that is easy to understand and is targeted to farmers and foresters - existing best practices and research findings that are near to being put into practice**, but not sufficiently known or used by practitioners.
- Themes must **focus on most urgent needs of end-users** (which is not necessarily the same as policy needs) – to be chosen bottom-up
- Should pay attention to **cost-benefit aspects** of each practice presented
- Show added value of the subject by a comprehensive description of what has been done already (state of play) – **avoid duplication**
- End product should be substantial **"appealing" end-user knowledge** (e.g. some 100 EIP Practice Abstracts, + **photos, videos, demos** etc) - multi-actor project





Having potential innovative knowledge is one thing,  
**turning it into reality** is another.

The value of an idea lies in  
the using of it

Thomas Alva Edison – inventor of the light bulb



# Improving MSs' AKIS = Building an "EU AKIS"

*Speed up creativity and  
practice application*

*Better connectivity and quicker  
circulation of information*

# **H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks**

## **How? Learn from experience calls 2014-2020**

### **A short film:**

One of our thematic networks (Hennovation) explains how the interactive innovation model works in their project

<https://youtu.be/mVsW4--ex0M>

**Helps to build capacity for AKIS actors on how to innovate together**

# Thank you for your attention

EIP brochure on thematic networks & practice abstracts:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri\\_brochure\\_thematic\\_networks\\_2016\\_en\\_web.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri_brochure_thematic_networks_2016_en_web.pdf)

EIP-AGRI brochure on multi-actor projects:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-brochure-horizon-2020-multi-actor>

SWG SCAR AKIS 4 report:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26_en)

**EIP seminar on CAP post 2020 policy on AKIS:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-cap-strategic-plans-key-role-akis>

