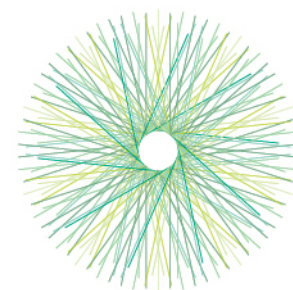


# Press article

## Forestry – social innovation

DECEMBER 2020



eip-agri  
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

### Press article long

#### Social innovation for sustainable forest management

#### Operational Groups across Europe find ways to spread solutions and best practices for active forest management

**Access to professional advice and cooperation between different actors can help improve forest management. This is where 'social innovation' comes into play, focussing on people, fostering innovation by improving cooperation and skills. A series of Operational Group projects (OGs) across Europe are finding ways to bring people together to improve the social, economic and environmental performance of forests.**

Nearly half of all European forests are privately owned and many of these holdings are small. These diverse and complex ecosystems are difficult to actively manage in a way that allows them to reach their full potential, both economically and environmentally.

Innovative technical solutions for sustainable forest management have emerged in recent years supported, for instance, by the EU Forest Strategy. However, several factors limit uptake of these solutions, such as the wide range of forest types, owner profiles and the diversity of regional forest-based sectors. So finding ways of spreading best practices, in particular to smallholdings, is now crucial. There are several OGs doing just this, contributing to the EU achieving its environmental targets set out by the European Green Deal. Like these three.

In the Pistoia Mountains (Tuscany), woodland ownership is very fragmented. Francesco Benesperi from the Operational Group ForLEAVEs says: "Smallholders in the area have insufficient information about the market, value chain and alternative uses (recreational, environmental, educational). We also don't have a network of smallholders and local stakeholders which could help us share information on forest management based on shared goals of local development and sustainability." This OG will create an inventory of possible uses of land and their potential value (€/ha per year). The partners will also create a 'Community of the Forest' and a 'Forest School'.

A Slovenian OG is developing an online system for the electronic management of forest holdings. Matevž Triplat from the OG tells us: "We believe that through the use of innovative technologies and a better understanding of the players in the forest value chain, we can develop a practical e-commerce system for everyday use." The system will offer new, simplified digital options for planning and monitoring, connecting supply and demand and increasing the forestry services market transparency. Triplat continues, "It will reduce the administrative burden and give tremendous insight into the data on forests and new management possibilities".

The French OG RAISON is setting up a demonstration network for the management of Douglas fir evergreen trees in Normandy. "The renewal of Douglas fir stands is a challenge, as they will become mature in the next 30 to 40 years," says Jean-Baptiste Reboul from the OG. By adapting the management to the new situation, over the years the trees will be able to cope better with the expected environmental changes and related threats such as pests and diseases which may be favoured by these new conditions. Possible management practices include planting at different stages on the same stand, and cutting trees later than usual to encourage natural regeneration. Reboul continues: "We will create a network of references and demonstration activities."

## Press article short

### Social innovation for sustainable forest management

#### Operational Groups across Europe find Ways to spread solutions and best practices for active forest management

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## Background information

### Project information

#### Italian OG ForLEAVEs

- Contact: Mr. Francesco Benesperi
- Mail: [f.benesperi@ucap.it](mailto:f.benesperi@ucap.it)
- Project sheet in the EIP-AGRI database: [Forests – Local Enhancement and Added Value of Environment and Education \(ForLEAVEs\)](#)

#### Slovenian OG

- Contact: Mr. Matevž Triplat
- Mail: [matevz.triplat@gozdis.si](mailto:matevz.triplat@gozdis.si)
- Website: <http://wcm.gozdis.si/splosno/eip-agri-elektronsko-poslovanje-kmetijskih-gospodarstev-z-izrazito-gozdarsko-dejavnostjo>
- Project sheet in the EIP-AGRI database: [Electronic management of agricultural holdings with emphasis on forestry activity](#)

#### French OG RAISON

- Contact :Mr. Pierre Gauthier
- Mail : [pierre.gauthier@crpf.fr](mailto:pierre.gauthier@crpf.fr)
- Website : <https://normandie.cnpf.fr/n/projet-raison/n:3803>
- Project sheet in the EIP-AGRI database: [Sustainable and efficient silviculture for Brittany](#)

## Pictures

Click on the pictures to download the pictures. The pictures are free for use.



**Operational Group Raison in Normandy, taking care of the Douglas fir evergreen trees.**



**Italian OG ForLEAVES: View of Valle Del Sestaione F. Abetone (Uff. Forestazione Adriano Sichi)**

## EIP-AGRI contact

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## More information on forestry

### EIP-AGRI networking activities

- [EIP-AGRI Focus Group Agroforestry: introducing woody vegetation into specialised crop and livestock systems](#)
- [EIP-AGRI Focus Group Sustainable mobilisation of forest biomass](#)
- [EIP-AGRI Focus Group New forest practices and tools for adaptation and mitigation of climate change](#)
- [EIP-AGRI Workshop 'New value chains from multifunctional forests'](#)
- [EIP-AGRI Workshop 'Opportunities for Agriculture and Forestry in the Circular Economy'](#)
- [EIP-AGRI Workshop "Small is smart" - Innovative solutions for small agricultural and forestry holdings](#)

### EIP-AGRI publications

- [EIP-AGRI Brochure on Creating diverse forests with multiple benefits](#)
- [EIP-AGRI Brochure Innovation for European forestry](#)

### Forestry in the EIP-AGRI spotlight

- A social media campaign on Twitter and LinkedIn launched early December 2020, highlights important EIP-AGRI activities on forestry. [Follow #EIPagriForest](#).
- The [EIP-AGRI Newsletter from December 2020](#) was dedicated to forestry.
- The [EIP-AGRI Youtube channel playlist on forestry](#) collects videos on forestry created by EIP-AGRI network members.
- Forestry has been the theme for many EIP-AGRI Service Point and network activities and actions. Read a summary at the [EIP-AGRI website](#).

### EU forestry explained

Find out more on how the European Union supports forestry, in particular through the common agricultural policy at the European Commission website:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/forestry/forestry-explained\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/forestry/forestry-explained_en)

### Forests – new EU strategy

Under the European Green Deal, the Commission has announced a new EU forest strategy that will build on its biodiversity strategy, cover the whole forest cycle and promote the many services forests provide. The strategy will aim to ensure healthy & resilient forests that contribute to biodiversity, climate goals & secure livelihoods, and that support a circular bioeconomy. It will focus on EU forest protection, restoration & sustainable management, and on world forests where not already covered. The Commission adoption on the new forest strategy is planned for the first quarter of 2021. [More information](#)

### Other Operational Groups focussed on social innovation in forestry

Operational Group	Country
<a href="#">Electronic management of agricultural holdings with emphasis on forestry activity</a>	Slovenia
<a href="#">Design, development and implementation of a system and a service to support and stimulate the forest resource on a local scale in a network.</a>	Spain
<a href="#">Operational Group PROMINIFUN: Innovative management models to improve productivity in smallholder areas</a>	Spain
<a href="#">governance of dehesas for a human and economic development with environmental sustainability</a>	Spain
<a href="#">Innovative tools for collaborative forest management</a>	France
<a href="#">EURO FORNORM 14-50-61 Emergence and animation of an innovative and operational network of Normandy forest territories</a>	France
<a href="#">"FPP-EGG Private and Public Forests - Group Management Test"</a>	France
<a href="#">RAISON Network of Adaptations, Innovations Sylvicoles Originales de Normandie</a>	France
<a href="#">Sustainable and efficient silviculture for Brittany</a>	France
<a href="#">Decision support to sustainable forest planning - SURF</a>	Italy
<a href="#">Forests – Local Enhancement and Added Value of Environment and Education (ForLEAVEs)</a>	Italy
<a href="#">AGRI-FORESTER Guidelines for sustainable management, enhancement of ecosystem services and carbon sequestration in the Emilia-Romagna forest system</a>	Italy

<a href="#"><u>Technical innovation and carbon capture on management of state-owned forests of Alto Appennino Modenese</u></a>	Italy
<a href="#"><u>Inishowen Upland Farmers Project</u></a>	Ireland
<a href="#"><u>Forestation of Agricultural Land with More Value</u></a>	Portugal

## More EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects working on forestry systems

Almost 120 Operational Group projects (update 14 December 2020) focus on finding innovative solutions for forestry. Check them out on the [EIP-AGRI database through this link](#).

- [Austria](#): 1
- [France](#): 11
- [Germany](#): 2
- [Ireland](#): 1
- [Italy](#): 25
- [Latvia](#): 3
- [The Netherlands](#): 3
- [Portugal](#): 27
- [Slovenia](#): 5
- [Spain](#): 32
- [UK](#): 2

## Other Horizon 2020 projects working on forestry

Thematic networks:

- AGRIFORVALOR - Bringing added value to agriculture and forest sectors by closing the research and innovation divide to valorize and exploit sidestream biomass resources from agriculture and forestry: [website](#) - [CORDIS](#) (Thematic Network – 03/2016-08/2018)
- AFINET - Agroforestry Innovation Networks: [website](#) - [CORDIS](#) (Thematic network – 01/2017-12/2019)
- ROSEWOOD4.0 - EU Network of Regions on sustainable wood mobilisation ready for digitalisation: [website](#) - [CORDIS](#) (01/2020-12/2021)
- INCREDIBLE, Horizon 2020 thematic network - [link](#)

There are many Horizon 2020 multi-actor projects on forestry: see [EIP-AGRI, making EU agriculture future-proof since 2013](#) to get to know them

[Multi-actor projects](#) are projects in which end users and multipliers of research results such as farmers and farmers' groups, advisers, enterprises and others, are closely cooperating throughout the whole research project period.

[Thematic networks](#) are multi-actor projects which collect existing knowledge and best practices on a given theme to make it available in easily understandable formats for end-users such as farmers, foresters, advisers etc.

## EIP-AGRI

The European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI) has been launched by the European Commission in a bid to promote rapid modernisation of the sectors concerned, by stepping up innovation efforts. The EIP-AGRI aims to foster innovation in the agricultural and forestry sectors by bringing research and practice closer together – in research and innovation projects as well as via the EIP-AGRI network.



Also grassroots ideas from farmers get developed into innovations through the so-called Operational Group innovation projects.

The EIP-AGRI aims to streamline, simplify and better coordinate existing instruments and initiatives, and complement them with actions where necessary. Two specific funding sources are particularly important for the EIP-AGRI: the EU Research and Innovation framework, Horizon 2020, as well as the EU Rural Development Policy.

### [EIP-AGRI Brochure on the EIP-AGRI Network](#)

(EN – BG – DE – ES – FR – GR – HU – IT – PT – RO)

## EIP-AGRI Operational Groups

- 98 Rural Development programmes provide support to EIP Operational Group innovative projects \*
- Over 3200 Operational Groups are planned to be established under the approved RDPs (2014 – 2020)
- Around 2000 Operational Groups projects have been selected for funding and are currently ongoing (or already finished)\*. Member States will still start more Operational Group projects which may run until 2023.

\* Information officially submitted to the European Commission by RDP managing authorities (November 2020)

EIPAGRI Operational Groups **are groups of people who work together in an innovation project funded by rural development programmes (RDPs)**. They bring together partners with complementary knowledge. The composition of the group will vary according to the theme and specific objectives of each project. Farmers, advisers, scientists, businesses or other relevant partners work together to find practical solutions for specific problems or opportunities for European farmers and foresters. Farmers and foresters need to be cooperating throughout the project to ensure that the innovative solutions are practical and likely to be quickly applied in the field. Read the [basic principles](#), [Innovation support services](#) (including advisers with a focus on innovation), and in particular innovation brokering, can therefore play a crucial role in getting worthwhile projects off the ground by facilitating contacts.

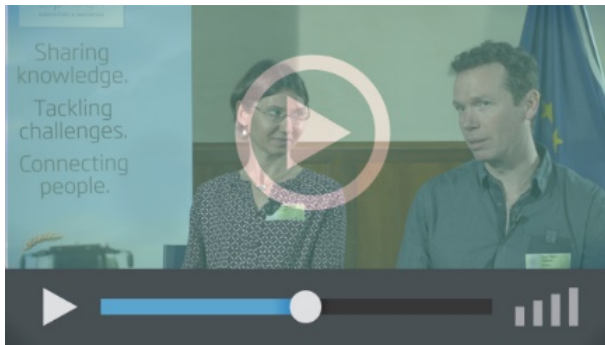
Find out more in the [EIP-AGRI brochure on Operational Groups](#). The brochure on Operational Groups is available in English, Bulgarian, Czech, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian and Spanish.

Operational Groups can benefit from networking and collaborating with organisations from outside their partnership and from other regions and countries, such as other Operational Groups, research projects, farmers' organisations or local authorities and European knowledge networks. Read the [EIP-AGRI Brochure 'Operational Groups – Collaborate to innovate'](#). It shows some examples of successful collaboration. It provides Operational Groups with inspiration and tools for further knowledge exchange within the EIP-AGRI network. This brochure is available in English, Latvian, Romanian and Slovenian.

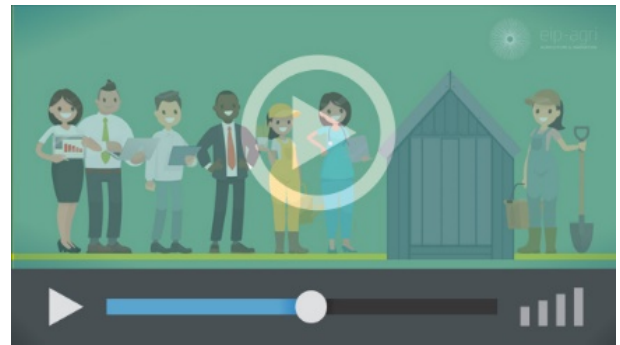
Check out the ['Operational Groups'](#) dedicated section on the EIP-AGRI website, including:

- More than 1600 Operational Groups available in the database
- detailed information on how to set up Operational Groups, on supporting networks and relevant EIP-AGRI seminars and workshops
- links to results and contact details of ongoing Operational Groups in the [EIP-AGRI database](#)
- a [list of all RDP Managing Authorities](#)

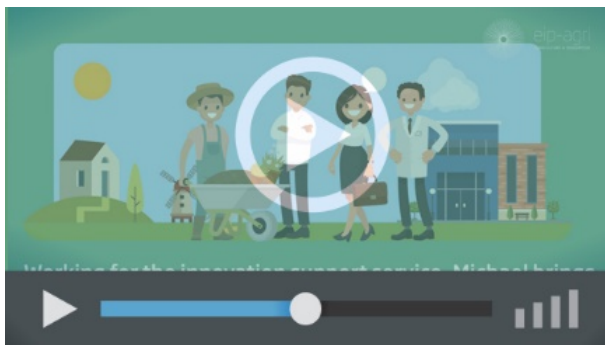
## EIP-AGRI videos



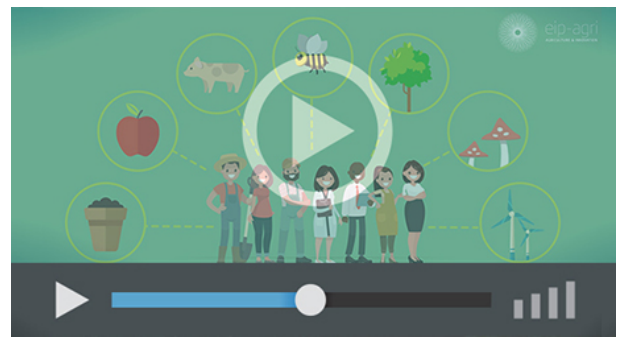
**Operational Groups – first experiences**



**Operational Groups – collaborate to innovate**

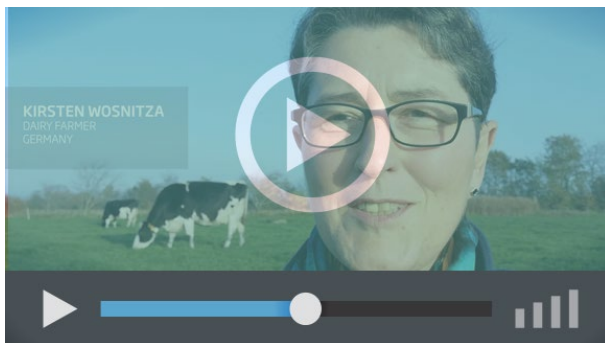


**Innovation Support Services, supporting innovation in EU farming and forestry**

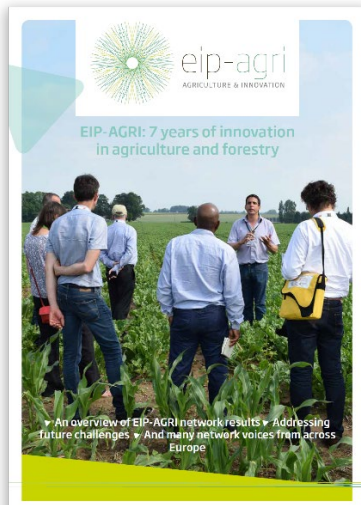


**EIP-AGRI Focus Groups, sharing knowledge to inspire innovation**

**EIP-AGRI, 7 years of innovation**



The enthusiasm of the EIP-AGRI network members is essential to the success of the EIP-AGRI, and in ensuring that everyone can benefit. **Watch this EIP-AGRI video** to hear researchers, farmers, advisers, managing authorities and national rural networks about how the EIP-AGRI has helped them over the past 7 years.



Since 2013, the EIP-AGRI has been promoting interactive innovation to make EU agriculture and forestry more sustainable, productive, and fit for the future. This report shows how the EIP-AGRI network has grown into a thriving network. [Read the report](#)