Speakers' CVs

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION EIP-AGRI SEMINAR 'PROMOTING CREATIVITY AND LEARNING THROUGH AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND INTERACTIVE INNOVATION' – DUBLIN, IRELAND

In order of the programme



Aldo Longo

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural DevelopmentAldo Longo is Director responsible for "General aspects of rural development and research" at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development.

After graduating as an agronomist at the University of Naples, he started his career in the Cabinet of the Italian Minister for Agriculture. He joined the European Commission in 1984 and has held positions of increasing responsibility. He has experience in all the main areas of the Common Agricultural Policy, notably agricultural markets, international affairs, management of resources and rural development, being a key player in horizontal and sectorial agricultural policy developments.



Gerry Boyle

Teagasc — the Agricultural and Food Development Authority for Ireland

Professor Gerry Boyle was appointed Director of Teagasc – the Agricultural and Food Development Authority for Ireland – on 1st October 2007. Teagasc conducts research on agriculture and food; provides extension services to Irish agriculture; and is the sole provider of vocational education programmes to the sector and is also a provider of courses in higher education. Gerry is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the National University of Ireland (NUI), Maynooth and former Head of its Economic Department. He also holds an Adjunct Professorship at the University of Missouri, Columbia. He was previously a Senior Research Officer with the Agricultural Institute and an Economist with the Central Bank of Ireland. From 1995-1997 he served as Economic Adviser to the Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister), Mr. John Bruton T.D.. Prior to his position at Teagasc he was a Senior Associate with Farrell Grant Sparks Consulting and a Senior International Consultant, specialising in agricultural policy, with the World Bank on a number of their projects in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Tajikistan. Professor Boyle is a past President of the Irish Economic Association and of the Agricultural Economics Society of Ireland. He has also served as Editor of the Economic and Social Review, the European Review of Agricultural Economics and the Irish Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. Professor Boyle has published an extensive range of papers and reports on public policy issues in national and EU media. He was recently elected a Member of the Royal Irish Academy (M.R.I.A.).





Brid Cannon

Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Brid has spent her career in the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food
and the Marine, working in a broad range of areas dealing both with
policy development and policy implementation. She was business project
leader in the development of Ireland's bovine animal identification and
tracing system and more recently headed the EU and International
Division of the Department. Since June 2015, she is the Assistant
Secretary General with responsibility for policy on EU and International
Trade, Economic Planning and Development, Climate Change and BioEnergy and Rural Development.



Inge Van Oost

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development
Inge Van Oost is policy officer at the European Commission, Directorate
General Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). She has been
setting-up and is now supporting the implementation of the European
Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" (EIPAGRI), in particular as regards cross-cutting aspects and rural
development. As member of the DG AGRI Taskforce "Research and
Innovation" she was instrumental in shaping DG AGRI's research and
innovation approach and Horizon 2020 work programmes, and developed
the new concepts "multi-actor approach" and "thematic networks". In her
former post at the Commission she was policy officer in the Direct
Support Unit and the Cross Compliance Unit, responsible for crosscompliance, the Farm Advisory System and interlinking with the Rural
Development policy.

Before working at the Commission Inge Van Oost was coordinator of the demonstration projects at the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Horticulture of the Flemish Region. There she drafted rural development measures and designed the farm advisory system. In the meantime she was evaluator of many agricultural research projects and member of diverse selection committees. In the former federal Belgian Administration for Agriculture she served the Secretariat-General as coordinator of the Horticultural Chain, dealing with chain management, food quality, traceability and safety, sustainability of production methods, communication with consumers and much more.

Before joining the administration, she worked as a farm advisor, and after a while as coordinator of the advisory team. Based in an applied research institute, the team did not only advise farmers, but also designed and implemented experiments and on-farm demonstration projects.





Katrin Prager

The James Hutton Institute

Katrin Prager is an interdisciplinary social scientist with a background in landscape planning, environmental management, and participatory agrienvironmental policy making. She has worked in Germany and Australia before moving to Scotland on diverse topics such as community based natural resource management, soil conservation policies, citizen science, policy evaluation, collaborative and participatory approaches. Her work centres on the human dimensions of land management. She uses mixed-method approaches (qualitative and quantitative) to understand problems around landscape management and governance at different scales, and the links between policies and actions on the ground. Katrin was involved in various European projects (SoCo, PROAKIS) and national research projects. In addition to publishing research in academic journals, she captures insights in blogs (e.g. Children as Researchers, an inventory of agricultural advisory services, and measuring interdisciplinarity.



Pawel Szabelak

Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Since graduating Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW his professional career is dedicated to agriculture. Starting with work in Centre of Information on Ecological Farming a Branch of EKOLAND Ecological Food Producers Association, than managing the orchid production in Mexico. Since 1999 he started work for the Ministry of Agriculture. Main areas of his tasks were related to programming and monitoring of the implementation of Rural Development Programmes. Mostly he is involved in practical issues connected to public intervention for development of agricultural production and processing sector. Since 2013 Mr. Szabelak is responsible for planning and implementation of activities promoting better cooperation between farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs, authorities and all stakeholders who could help to implement innovation and progress in rural development in a sustainable way.









EIP-AGRI Service Point

Mark Redman is a free-range rural development enthusiast and expert with over 25 years of experience in research, consultancy and teaching. He has a background in practical agriculture, with a PhD in Soil Science (1991) from the University of Edinburgh, UK. Since 1999 he has supported the development of agri-environment schemes, environmental legislation and Rural Development Plans in over 15 countries, both pre- and post-EU accession. He has worked closely with the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) and several national rural networks since 2009, and as a lead facilitator / independent expert with the EIP-AGRI Service Point since 2013. Born and bred in the pastoral landscapes of south-west England, he now lives in the mountains of southern Transylvania, Romania.

Tom Kelly

Teagasc

Tom Kelly is Director of Knowledge Transfer in Teagasc; he leads the Agricultural Education and Farm Advisory Services in Teagasc, Teagasc advisory programmes are contracted to service 40,000 farmers and the vocational education programme trains equivalent to 2,750 full time students. Teagasc is an independent state agency with responsibility for the development of Agriculture and Food in Ireland.

Tom has a primary degree in Agricultural Science (1977) and a research based Masters and PhD from the National University of Ireland, University College Dublin.

Tom completed a corporate MBA at the University of Limerick. He was recently appointed Adjunct Associate Professor of Agriculture Extension by University College Dublin.

Tom has many years of experience in the provision of education and advisory programmes and has a specific interest in improving the effectiveness of knowledge transfer in Agriculture. In particular, the development of peer to peer learning through discussion groups and joint development programmes with industry stakeholders. Tom is inaugural president/chairman of the recently formed EUFRAS (European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services)



John Bell

European Commission, Directorate-General Research and

John Bell is Director for Bioeconomy, DG Research & Innovation. He has been a European Commission official since 1993. During his career he has worked in external relations on financial aid assistance programmes in the former Yugoslavia, public administration reform in Central and Eastern Europe and on Poland's accession to the EU. Dr. Bell was a member of the Cabinet of Commissioner David Byrne with responsibility for enlargement, public health and global health security issues, including bioterrorism. He was Head of Cabinet to European Commissioner Meglena Kuneva on Consumer Affairs and to Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn on Research and Innovation. He completed his Doctorate at St John's College, Oxford University in 1993.



European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development



Rob Peters

Rob Peters joined the European Commission in 1988 and has mostly worked on policy analysis, development and implementation in the field of agriculture and rural development in DG AGRI. Since 1st of January 2014 he is head of the newly created Research and Innovation unit, AGRI-H5, with responsibility for agricultural research and the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability



Aniko Seregelyi

Anikó Seregélyi is policy officer at the European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) Research and Innovation unit.

She started her career at the European Commission DG TAXUD in 2007. In March 2015 she joined DG AGRI Research and Innovation Unit, European Innovation Partnership team. She is currently dealing among others with the activities of the EU-wide EIP-AGRI network (Focus Groups, workshops, seminars) and the EIP-AGRI work programme.

Prior to joining the Commission in 2007, she worked from 2004 till 2007 as EU project manager responsible for research supporting projects in the 5th and 6th RTD Framework Programme in Hungary.

Anikó Seregélyi studied Geography at the Eötvös Loránd University Budapest and has a master in European Studies, Aachen University, Germany.



Sirpa Karjalainen

Sirpa Karjalainen works as policy officer at the European Commission, Directorate General for agriculture and rural development in the 'Research and Innovation" unit. Agronomist and economist by academic background, she has been working on rural development-related issues since 1988 in Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Since 1994 as planning and managing EU rural development programmes with the responsibility of national legislation and measures which concern business aid, investments and development projects as well as Leader —approach included in the RDP of mainland Finland. The responsibilities have been rural strategy planning, legislative work, co-operation in the governmental and regional level concerning especially the Partnership Agreement comprising all ESI funds. She has been a member of the Bureau of the working party on territorial Policy in Rural Areas, OECD 2009 – 2012. As of September 2015 she joined the European Commission, holding responsibility for interaction with the MA within the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI).



EIP- AGRI Service Point team



Willemine Brinkman

Facilitator

Willemine Brinkman is the deputy teamleader of the EIP-AGRI Service point. Since 2007, she has worked in various executive agencies of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs, formerly the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation. She previously coordinated the European Tropical Forest Research Network, bringing research closer to policy and practice. Ms Brinkman studied tropical forestry and agronomy at Wageningen Agricultural University, and worked as an advisor in forestry and agriculture in an integrated rural development project in the Philippines.



Koen Desimpelaere

Facilitator

Koen Desimpelaere is farm practices officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. He works since 1997 for the Flemish Land Agency. During this period he was involved in water protection in agriculture. From 2003 he was head of the Unit Manure Policy within the Manure Bank department. In this unit he was responsible for the policy support in relation to the nitrates directive and the NEC-directive, for the tendering of scientific research in relation to sustainable fertilization and improved water quality and for creating reports in the framework of European and Flemish legislation. In this function he also led a team of 30 farm advisors.

In the nineties he was a representative for a mixed feed producer. He was responsible for the sale of mixed feed and for the support of farms in relation to the nutrition of the livestock and the management on pig and cattle farms. Koen Desimpelaere studied Agricultural Science at the University of Ghent (Belgium)



Emilie Gätje

Task manager

Emilie Gätje is a nutrionist, who qualified from the Justus Liebig-Universität, Gießen in 2000.

Before joining the EIP AGRI Servicepoint she worked several years as scientific officer for the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) in Berlin and the Federal Office of Food and Agriculture (BLE) in Bonn - mainly in the field of health-related consumer protection. Within the service point she works as Innovation and EU Research Policy officer and was involved in the organisation of the focus group on "Animal husbandry, reduction of antibiotic use in the pig sector" and the preparation of several EIP AGRI brochures. She is also task manager of this seminar.







Facilitator

Vincent Tiel Groenestege is advisor on sustainability & stakeholder involvement. Since 1998 he has worked in various executive agencies of the Netherlands Ministery of Economic Affairs, formerly the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation. During this period he was involved in several regional development projects in the Netherlands and abroad to advise and faciliate in participatory processes. He is co-author of 'the first Aid Kit to public participation(2007) wich was published in 5 languages. Since 2008 he is inspired bhy the sustainablity concept Cradle to Cradle. In 2009 the publication 'Cradle to Cradle as inspiration for sustainable regional development'appeared (in Dutch) of which he was the editor. He also regularly acts as lead facilitator/moderator at national and international conferences



Communication officer

Ina Van Hoye is communication officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. She is responsible for the communications strategy, press contacts, social media, dissemination of the communication tools and events coordinator. She coordinates the communication team. Ina Van Hoye is a communication expert who has more than 15 years communication experience. Since 2009, she works for the communication agency JusBox, who is a consortium partner in the EIP-AGRI Service Point. Previously she was involved in several regional and European projects for the Flemish Government, Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV to support them in their communication for several Sigma Plan projects. She was involved in the final phase of a clear stakeholder strategy through public information and engagement activities. Before that she worked five years for the Flemish Sports Federation and seven years for Verhaert, a Flemish product development company active in industrial and space technology, as communication officer, coordinating newsletters, publications, website and events. media relations and website.

