

Announcement of the ESEE workshop as part of the EUFRAS / IALB meeting in Mosonmagyaróvár

“EIP agri and H2020 multi-actor approach: linking science and advisory services effectively?”

Two sessions on cases on multi actor approaches, convened by Andrea Knierim, Simona Christiano, Tom Kelly, Patrizia Proietti and Eelke Wielinga

Background on ESEE and the joint workshop

ESEE (European Seminar on Extension (and) Education) is the professional network of scientists studying extension and education, as well as innovation processes in the field of agriculture. Also, ESEE is a biennial event organized in rotation by European countries, that is, universities and research centers involved in training and research on agricultural and rural extension.

EUFRAS and ESEE are seeking closer collaboration, especially after a successful conference last summer in Crete, Greece, combining the 22nd bi-annual ESEE conference and the final seminar on the EU/EIP thematic network project AgriSpin on multi actor processes in supporting innovations at farmers' level. It was concluded that both networks could profit more from each other's activities. With this intention, we will conduct the workshop with the aim to identify common lines of curiosity, professional interests and future research concerns among the various participants and the bodies they are representing.

The workshop theme: linking science and advisory services effectively

With the latest EU policy reforms, two new instruments were introduced in order to enhance relevant innovations for the agricultural sector: the EIP agri, substantially funded through the Rural Development regulation (EC 1305/2013) and the multi-actor approach, which is an essential structural component of many H2020 projects related to the sector.

Both instruments are based on the observation that, although manifold innovations have been developed by scientists all across the EU, their relevance and thus application by farmers and other professional communities is far from satisfying (EU SCAR 2012, 2013). Thus, more than 90% of the RDP across the EU member states as well as an important share of the project calls in the EU H2020 research programme structurally foresee a support to multi-actor networks whereby innovations are generated, implemented and tested, adjusted and disseminated in the respective professional communities. Through this parallel strategy, many cases of science-practice cooperation have been incited with agricultural advisors being involved in many roles and with various tasks and functions. Due to this experimental bottom-up approach, experiences are not yet widely documented but exist mostly from single cases and with anecdotic evidence.

Therefore, we propose to study the first experiences in an interactive dialogue format with short inputs, role reflections and discussions through 2 subsequent sessions.

Call for abstracts

In order to prepare these two sessions, we call for **short contributions** on the topic, describing and illustrating examples for successes and failures of linking science and advisory services in EIP Agri operational groups (OG) and/or in H2020 multi-actor approaches. In order to organise the sessions well, please send your contribution (up to 1000 words) to andrea.knierim@uni-hohenheim.de until 20th of April. Depending on the number and the scope of contributions, you will be invited to give a 10 minutes input or to present a poster.