



**WORKSHOP** ESTABLISHING OPERATIONAL GROUPS  
**21-22 MAY 2014** - PARIS, FRANCE



## Workshop: "Establishing Operational Groups Under Rural Development Programmes"

**21 – 22 May 2014**

**Organised by the European Commission and hosted by the French Ministry of Agriculture, at IBIS HOTEL CDG in Paris, France.**

The European Innovation Partnership on "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" (EIP-AGRI) works to foster competitive and sustainable farming and forestry throughout the EU. It aims to contribute to ensuring a steady supply of food, feed and other biomaterials that is produced in harmony with the essential natural resources on which farming and forestry depends.

One important approach used by the EIP-AGRI is to encourage the bottom-up formation of so-called "Operational Groups". Operational Groups are partnerships that link farmers, researchers, advisors, businesses, NGOs and other actors to implement innovative projects that can be funded through rural development programmes.

During February – May 2014, DG AGRI is organizing **a series of workshops focused on the practical aspects of establishing Operational Groups under Rural Development Programmes (RDPs)**. The fifth workshop will take place in Paris, France, on 22 May 2014. It will be kindly hosted by the French Ministry of Agriculture and participants from Belgium, France, Italy, Luxemburg and Romania will be invited. The Workshop will take place in English with French interpretation provided for by the host.

The workshop aims to give stakeholders practical information on how to set-up Operational Groups. The specific objectives of the workshop are:

- To introduce the **key principles** for practical implementation of the EIP-AGRI, with a specific focus upon setting-up Operational Groups with RDP funding
- To provide **existing examples** of: a) innovative projects relevant to Operational Groups, and; b) relevant Innovation Support Services
- To facilitate the **exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas** between workshop participants – the "*EIP multipliers*"
- To identify **practical next steps** for workshop participants – the "*EIP multipliers*" - to stimulate / promote the practical implementation of the EIP-AGRI
- To **facilitate and strengthen** the EIP-AGRI Network by connecting workshop participants with each other and with the EIP-AGRI Service Point.



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## Draft Programme

### 21 May

- 18:00 – 18:30 Registration of Participants at IBIS HOTEL CDG
- 18:30 – 23:30 Social event: Paris en Scène – Dîner Croisière (Bateau-mouches)

### 22 May

- 08:30 - 09:00 Registration for participants arriving on the day
- 09:00 - 09:30 Welcome and Introduction
- 09:30 - 10:30 Setting the Scene
- General principles and practice of the EIP-AGRI, including the setting-up of operational groups (by DG AGRI)
  - Specific state of play with RDP / EIP programming in France (by the French Ministry of Agriculture)
- 10:30 - 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 13:00 Putting Principles into Practice  
Concrete examples for inspiration and discussion
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30 Think tanks (country group discussions)  
Country groups will be guided through a set of questions focusing on the setting-up of operational Groups
- 15:30 – 16:00 Break
- 16:00 – 16:45 Feedback and Practical Next Steps  
Conclusions from discussions in groups with the aim of identifying common key issues, reinforcing important messages and highlighting practical next steps
- 16:45 – 17:00 Keeping in touch with the EIP-AGRI Service Point  
What the EIP-AGRI Service Point can do for you (by the Service Point)
- 17:00 End of workshop