



European Innovation Partnership (EIP) in Finland

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Main principles of EIP in Finland

- Objective is to enhance productivity, efficiency and sustainability of primary production
- Primary production includes **agriculture, forestry, Annex I food processing** and **bioeconomy** when related to these
- EIP group (operational group) aims at solving a specific problem, developing an innovation and bringing it into the market
- Both the results and the process of the work of the EIP group is to be published nationally and in the EU.



EIP Group (operational group)

- **Minimum of 2 partners:**
 1. **Farmers** and/or businesses in primary production (agriculture, forestry Annex I, bioeconomy)
 2. **Experts** needed to solve the specific problem/ help to create new innovation (e.g. from research, advisory, associations)
- Farmers must always be an active part of an EIP group, not just following the process.



Beneficiaries

- In Finland, the EIP group is in a form of **development project**
- The lead-applicant/ lead-partner of an EIP group is most often a body governed by public law (but not necessarily)
- Other members of the EIP group may be **bodies governed by public or private law**, such as farms, SMEs, research institutes, educational institutes, development organisations, foundations, municipalities, associations.



Selection criteria for EIP groups

- contribution to the programme strategy objectives and to solving a specific problem (25 %)
- potentiality to develop new business (25 %)
- project idea is based on identified needs, the best expertise is used for building of the EIP group, commitment of the group members (25 %)
- quality, cost-efficiency and feasibility of the project plan (25 %)



EIP funding in the RDP Mainland Finland



- Objective is to finance **in total 10 EIP groups** during the programming period 2014-2020
- **8 EIP groups approved** so far

- Total funding for EIP (sub-measure 16.1) is **3 MEUR**
- Total public funding for the whole Cooperation measure (M16) is **160 MEUR**
- EIP is not the only funding source for innovative projects, as innovation is a cross-cutting objective of the RDP.



More about EIP groups

- The EIP project is **national** or **inter-regional rather than regional**
- It may also be **trans-national** or contain a transnational part
- Maximum support rate 100 %
- Possibility to an increase of 20 % in support-rate when investment application is related to the work of the EIP group (investment to be applied separately)
- Duration of an EIP project up to 3 years.



Approved EIP Groups from the first round



- Plant nutrients, energy and industrial and commercial activity for rural areas by a biogas plant
- Identification of common wild oat and other weeds from drone photographs
- Production of quality oats and benefiting the mass of side products with the help of thermomechanical process
- Agricultural business development with intelligent data analytics
- Development of moisture removal process, energy consumption and control of a grain dryer



Approved EIP Groups from the second round

- "Digital bale" (bale tracking system)
- SMART FEED – Smart measurements in cattle feeding and health
- KuNa – Thermal imaging of cattle





Transnational cooperation in the Rural Development Programme

Transnational cooperation in RDP



- Rural Development Programme Mainland Finland 2014-2020 allows transnational cooperation in measures M01 (Training) and M16 (Cooperation)
- It is possible both to implement a full transnational cooperation project or to implement a transnational activity as a part of a national project
 - also possible for EIP groups
 - not many examples yet outside Leader-measure



Transnational cooperation projects

- Basic rules set (e.g. for EIP) nationally apply also in transnational cooperation
- The Finnish Rural Development Programme may only finance the activities of the Finnish project partners (similar system to transnational Leader projects)
- The transnational cooperation partners may receive their part of funding from any European or national funding source, not necessarily from RDP.



Transnational cooperation may be

- joint planning;
- joint financing and/or
- joint implementation of the project or activities

=> related to a common objective of trans-national partners



Transnational cooperation in measure M16



The projects may promote:

- practically oriented research;
- product development;
- preparation and deployment of innovations;
- quality, logistics and cost-effectiveness as well as
- more efficient production processes and better functioning of the markets, for example, by building up expertise and co-operation across national borders and various sectoral boundaries.



Examples of cooperation projects; measure M16



Projects in Measure 16 may contain:

Horizontal and vertical co-operation between value chain actors and across sectoral boundaries,

for example in order to find new links required to promote bio-economy and to develop innovations, products, services and new technologies, or market-driven promotion of organic production throughout the chain of operation.



Thank you!

