

EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP: COMPARING EXPERIENCES OF THE REGIONS AND PERSPECTIVES FOR PROGRAMMING 2021-27

FILA POLICY PAPER

7. Suggestions and ideas for the future programming

1. To promote the movement and application of knowledge by stimulating the participation of the players of the innovation chain. To this end, it is proposed to implement a “*Rural Open Innovation Lab*” in blended mode (onsite and online), as a public tool for knowledge exchange and effective transfer, pursuing the following objectives:
 - To give businesses a key role in the innovation processes;
 - To stimulate the emersion of the business needs and facilitate the search for possible solutions (analyses/indicators at the macro/system level; on-farm and inter-farm diagnosis tools);
 - To work for bringing together business innovation needs and research results research both through the online platform and other computerized tools and onsite meetings (living Lab, tailored consultancy, demonstration actions);
 - To promote the creation of (formal and informal) collaborative multi-stakeholder contexts and tools to connect the players of the innovation chain; to make a public *back office* available to strengthen the movement of knowledge through specialized professional profiles (knowledge transfer manager).
2. To encourage researchers to participate in collaborative multi-stakeholder innovation processes, by improving the current assessment systems of public research both in their general set-up and in the applications at the institutions. To this end, it is proposed:
 - Envisaging provision of incentives and adequate recognition of roles and function to the researchers involved in the innovation transfer;
 - Development of innovation-oriented research methods for businesses and rural areas;
 - Promotion of the validation and testing of research results to make them readily transferrable to the operating environment.
3. To encourage the adoption of innovations through setting up a structured consultancy service system and sustainable over time that may guarantee an expert support to the business fabric of the agri-food and forestry sector. To this end, it is proposed:
 - To develop specific training paths within the institutional educational paths;
 - To define methods and instruments for certifying the skills of the professionals in charge of consultancy services.

4. To promote the qualification and operation of new professionals to support AKIS (innovation manager, innovation broker, innovation coach, research-business cooperation) taking care of its specific training paths.
5. To define an institutional and regulatory process for the recognition (at the European, national and regional level) of the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) also by the establishment of an AKIS Board for the coordination and connection among various components of the system, including businesses.
6. To support networking among EIP-AGRI Operational Groups and other (formal and informal) innovation initiatives to share results, favour the emersion of further needs/opportunities and promote new knowledge (*Virtuous circle of knowledge sharing "From the transfer to the creation of new knowledge"*).
7. To strengthen collaboration for innovation in the Public Administration, overcoming the current divisions based on sectorial expertise: agriculture, industry and services, economic development, rural development, active employment services, land and environment management, promoting integration between operational programmes, and continuous dialogue with all the players of the knowledge system (research organizations, service and consultancy facilities, training institutions, businesses, and so on).
8. To innovate administrative procedures for the implementation and financing of partnership projects to promote innovation, supporting the central role of businesses and the involvement of all related players on a specific theme.
9. To improve monitoring and assessment systems of public initiatives that provide incentives for innovation, through analysis methods of global sustainability performance, especially focused on the social one.
10. To reinforce specialized infrastructures for agri-food innovation (Hub) equipped with adequate, qualified and certified instruments and laboratories to favour:
 - Innovation and technological transfer processes to agri-food businesses;
 - Development of innovative solutions starting from business challenges/needs (open innovation programme);
 - Support to the creation of new youth entrepreneurship.