

Practice Abstract #20

Best practices in creating new knowledge or data in multi-actor projects

The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) uses the multi-actor (MA) project approach to bridge the gap between science and practice. Such MA projects are funded under both a) the Horizon research and innovation programme and b) the second (rural development) pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union.

This MA approach foresees a process of co-creation and co-ownership of project outputs with the end-users of these outputs. The EUREKA project (www.h2020eureka.eu) studied MA projects and identified the following best practices for co-creation and co-ownership processes:

- Establish an emphasis on innovation and not just research;
- Maintain a constant exchange of knowledge with stakeholders;
- Be clear from the outset about what is being offered to practitioners;
- Use participatory approaches to improve the engagement of practitioners in the creation of knowledge;
- Consider the meaning and usability of knowledge outputs and present them in a structured manner;
- Provide open access to all knowledge outputs and ensure their validation and interoperability so that people can re-use them with confidence;
- Provide simple explanations for all scientific outputs, including metadata for the re-use of data;
- Work with easy-to-use digital tools to provide straightforward access to knowledge outputs;
- Farmers increasingly use social media and project communication channels should therefore be adapted accordingly;
- Develop and disseminate packages of ready-to-use advice for farmers;
- Remember that much of the value of a knowledge object is in the learning experience associated with creating it.

