

Practice Abstract #30

How to involve different actors in the knowledge/data generation process?

One hundred and twenty-nine multi-actor projects (including thematic networks) of the H2020 programme were analysed in terms of the involvement and role of different actors in the creation of data and knowledge. Actors from the research sector (universities and research institutes) were the prevalent actors, followed by the business sector actors (including multinationals and SMEs). The participation of other types of actors such as advisory services to farmers, education/training institutions (other than universities) or consumer organisations was low. In general, research actors were the initiators of projects and had the role of coordination and project management (> 90%). In projects of coordination and support action type, such as thematic networks, research actors were less often (~60%) in the coordination role, although remaining important. Advisory services were better represented in thematic networks than in other types of multi-actor projects. In line with the rationale of the multi-actor approach, tasks were distributed according to the competences of the actors and the nature of the project. It was observed that research partners continue to be the main producers of research results, deliverables and publications, while other types of actors were rarely involved in research and data creation. They were mainly involved in activities related to validation and exploitation of results, innovation and demonstration and in project communication. In terms of geographical representation, the participation of the Eastern part of the EU is disproportionately low, especially given the need to increase the innovation potential of agriculture in this part of Europe.

