

## Practice Abstract #45

### Using an expert thematic working group (TWG) to support the development of an agricultural knowledge reservoir

The aim of the EUREKA project (<https://www.h2020eureka.eu/>) was to test the feasibility of building an EU-level open-source agricultural knowledge reservoir for making the results of EU-funded research and innovation projects, especially multi-actor projects (MAPs), in food, agriculture and forestry more widely accessible.

One of the challenges encountered was concerns about the quality of knowledge objects originating from the MAPs. A series of thematic working groups (TWGs) was therefore organised to validate the outputs of a representative sample of MAPs.

The first step was to identify relevant themes for the TWGs, and various approaches were considered based on experiences of the EIP-AGRI and FAO (UN Food and Agricultural Organization).

The next step was the recruitment of experts for each TWG. This was crucial for the success of the groups, and the EUREKA project used existing knowledge networks to identify experts and reach out to them. To ensure a balanced combination of expert types and categories in each TWG, the following factors were considered:

- Working field (Dairy, arable crops, forestry etc.)
- Profile (Researcher, advisor, policymaker etc.)
- Age
- Country

When contacting the experts, it was essential to make clear the precise objective of the TWGs and what was expected from their participation as experts. Direct contact with every expert and personalised letters and other communication was appreciated and enhanced their motivation to participate.

Because of the COVID–19 pandemic, the TWGs were organised using an online webinar format of 90-120 minutes. Agendas were sent well in advance to give the experts time to evaluate the knowledge objects and elaborate their opinions before the webinars.

