



EU CAP Network Brokerage event 'Get involved in Horizon Europe advisory networks'

17-18 January 2023
Sofia | Bulgaria



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Brokerage event: 'Getting involved in Horizon Europe advisory networks'
17-18 January 2023 | Sofia, Bulgaria



Tips and tricks from the Horizon 2020 EU Advisory Network i2Connect

Sylvain Sturel, APCA, France



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Some insights and tips from the Horizon 2020 EU Advisory Network i2connect

Sylvain Sturel, French Chambers of Agriculture

EU CAP Network Brokerage Event “Get involved in EU advisory networks”, 17-18 January 2023, Sofia, Bulgaria

i2connect
INTERACTIVE INNOVATION



THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED
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“Connecting advisors to boost interactive innovation in agriculture & forestry”

The project in brief

- **General objective:** to foster interactive innovation to support the transition of agriculture and forestry
- **Specific objectives :**
 - Strengthen the skills of individual advisors
 - Strengthen the role of advisors in the wider AKIS
 - Create a European network of innovation advisors
- **Partnership:** 42 partners (incl. 4 EU networks), from 21 countries
- **Duration:** November 2019 - October 2024

Benefits of participating in a EU advisory network such as i2c?

- Learn by *exchanging with peers*, technically, socially & culturally
- Expand & diversify *professional networks*
- Better understand *advisory services & AKIS*
- Better understand *interactive innovation processes* & skills needed
- Draw inspiration from *practical examples & good practices*
- *Raise awareness* about interactive innovation
- Jointly develop new *training contents + methods & tools* for advisors
- *Train* a significant number of trainers, advisors, managers & students

Tips for preparing a project proposal

- Analyse carefully the *call text*
- Assess the *topic's relevance* to your organisation, **ensure your manager's support**
- **Identify what has already been done on this specific topic, to make sure that the new project will bring a real added value**
- Brainstorm with colleagues & partners, to come up with a *project concept*
- Build a *core group of partners*, who can dedicate time to the project preparation **and implementation, and have the skills to write**
- Identify *partners with complementary profiles and skills*, drawing on generic or specialised networks, EIP Focus Groups, previous Horizon projects, i2connect database & country reports...
- Avoid setting up consortia that are *too large*
- **Therefore, to engage with a large number of advisors, plan open activities instead, which will allow involving participants from outside the consortium.**
- Start writing the proposal *as soon as possible*
- *Be realistic*, imagine the project implementation in practice

Tips for the project implementation

- Devote substantial efforts to *communication & dissemination*, its importance is often underestimated. Highlight benefits as broad as possible
- Identify content that is relevant and useful to *different target audiences*, both to the project partners and to other organisations.
- Examples of activities often appreciated by advisors:
 - Short & interactive *training courses*
 - *Follow-up exchanges* between the trainees *after the training*: which difficulties met & which solutions found...
 - *Study visits* abroad
- How to maintain the energy and enthusiasm within the consortium?
 - Make sure all partners *feel involved*
 - *From time to time meetings in person* are needed, to have social moments and stronger human interactions
 - Use *facilitation methods* that allow all partners to express themselves, *even if shy persons*
 - Be aware of *language issues*: need to also plan activities in *national language*

Contacts

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Website

<https://i2connect-h2020.eu>

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All information on the workshop is available
on the [EU CAP Network website](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/eu-cap-network-brokerage-event-get-involved-horizon-europe-advisory-networks-2023-01-17_en)

On the event webpage:

[https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/
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