

Speaker and facilitator bios

Plenary speakers (in order of the programme)

Update 9 May 2023

The EU CAP Network Workshop 'Animal welfare and innovation' will start in the afternoon of Tuesday 9 May 2023 with field visits.



Riccardo Da Re

**Support Facility for Innovation & Knowledge exchange |
EIP-AGRI
Main facilitator**

Riccardo Da Re is the Facilitator, Good Vibe & Culture Manager in Etifor srl. He achieved a master degree in Statistics for the Demographic and Social Sciences, and a Ph.D. in Real Estate Appraisal and Land Use Economics. He has been Postdoctoral Researcher at TESAF Department, University of Padova, for 8 years, involved in two EU H2020 projects. After the doctorate he deepened the study of participatory processes used in governance and rural development, and in 2019 he completed a Master's degree in facilitation held by Genius Loci. During the participatory processes he adopts different participatory techniques, both in-person and online, chosen according to the objectives of the individual projects where he gets involved.



Klavdija Ramsak-Noemi

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural
Development**

Klavdija Ramsak-Noemi is a Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit D.1 Rural areas and networks, EU CAP Network / EIP-AGRI team. She joined European Commission, DG AGRI, in 2005. As a programme manager she managed the approval negotiations and implementation of the Rural Development Programme for Slovenia 2007-2013 and contributed to the preparation of the Partnership agreement with Slovenia 2014-2020. At DG AGRI she worked on German Rural Development matters as well as financial management. She has held a socio-economic researcher position in Switzerland. She studied economics in Ljubljana and holds a Master's degree in Human Ecology from Free University of Brussels.





Valerio Abbadessa

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Valerio Abbadessa is a Research Programme Officer at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Research and Innovation Unit (F2) where he follows the scientific and policy developments in the livestock sector. He has been scientific officer at ENEA, Italy, and at the European Commission, DG RTD, as seconded national expert. Prior to this, he worked as researcher in the agro-food sector at ENEA and as an independent consultant for some international organizations in developing countries, within the fields of veterinary medicine and animal production. He studied Veterinary Medicine in Italy and UK.



Paolo Ferrari

**Support Facility for Innovation & Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI
Coordinating expert**

Paolo Ferrari (PhD) is senior researcher and project manager at CRPA - Research Centre for Animal Production, focusing his research activities on welfare and housing systems for livestock animal, welfare assessment of transported animals, welfare assessment of broilers before slaughter, biosecurity of livestock farms, socio-economic implications of measures and initiatives to promote animal welfare, rearing systems and technologies for organic and free-range poultry production, microclimate control in livestock houses; manure and waste management in livestock farms. He was involved in a number of animal welfare related EU research projects (i.e. Welfare Quality®, HealthyHens, EconWelfare, EUWeINet, FreeBirds, SusPigSys, Animal Transport Guides; High Quality Control Post, Healthy Livestock, mEATquality), EU thematic networks for the innovation in the pig and poultry sectors (i.e. EUPig, BroilerNet) and Operational Groups (i.e. AntibioticFree, SALCASA). He is speaker and tutor in the BTSF training courses on pig and poultry welfare on farm and on welfare of transported animals for the Competent authorities of the EU Member States. He is a fellow of the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering (CIGR), the European Society of Agricultural Engineers (EurAgEng), the Italian Society of Agricultural Engineering (AIIA) and the Italian Council of Doctors of Agronomy and Doctors of Forestry (CONAF).





Mariana Couto
ECOVALIA

Mariana Couto is an International Projects Officer of organic livestock farming at Ecovalia Association and a private consultant in Holistic Management and agroecology practices in livestock farms. She is currently in charge of communication for Best Practice Hens (www.bestpracticehens.eu) and *mEATquality* (H2020: www.meatquality.eu) projects at Ecovalia Association. Also, she supports and promotes rural development projects in the village where she lives: short commercialisation channels for sustainable food, co-founder of a renewable energy cooperative, and yoga classes for all ages.

She holds a master’s degree in veterinary medicine at the University of Lisbon and a master’s degree in One Health with a specialisation in Public Health at the University of Zaragoza. Mariana presents a portfolio with a broad background in organic agricultural production, from the field to project management and implementation. She is on the board of CERAI, a public utility NGO working on the practical application of agroecology for a fair, sustainable, and sovereign agri-food system in Spain and international cooperation.



Antoni Dalmau Bueno
Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA)

PhD in Veterinary Science from the UAB in 2005 and since then working in the Animal Welfare Program of IRTA in Spain. Since 2016 diplomate from the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine. Specialized on behaviour and welfare, with a main interest in understanding in deep detail how farm animals behave, not only for improving their welfare, but as well for the benefits that this knowledge could have in other species, including humans, within the concept of one health, one welfare. 89 scientific publications, 3 books and 36 book chapters. More than 2800 hours of training for professionals, including participation as an expert/tutor in more than 30 BTSF courses. Member of the EU reference centre for the animal welfare of poultry and other small species and the Spanish reference centre for the animal welfare of farmed species. Coordinator of the Welfare Quality Network.





Janneke Aelen

Better Life Label (Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals)

Janneke Aelen is a senior Policy Officer for the Dutch Better Life label, an animal welfare label owned by the NGO the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. In this role, she is responsible for criteria development for dairy cows, beef cattle and veal calves, and cow-calf contact. Janneke holds a Master's degree in Animal Sciences and specialized in animal welfare throughout her studies and career. Before joining the Better Life Label, Janneke worked for the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) where she was developing fish welfare criteria to be incorporated into this global environmental aquaculture certification scheme.



Katja Brase

Netzwerk Fokus Tierwohl, Chamber of Agriculture

Dr. Katja Brase is a veterinarian. She studied in Budapest, Hungary and Hannover, Germany. She worked for 16 years as a practitioner for horses, cattle and she is specialised in pigs. Followed by 5 years of pharmacological research at Boehringer Ingelheim in Hannover, after which she started with Fokus Tierwohl in 2020.

EU CAP Network Team

1. Support Facility 'Innovation & Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI' team



Ana Pires da Silva

Task manager

Ana is a Smart Farm Practices & Rural Development Officer in the EIP-AGRI Support Facility Team. She studied Agricultural Engineering at the Technical University of Lisbon and has a Master degree in Organic farming and Integrated Pest Management. Worked for 10 years at the National Support Unit of the Portuguese National Rural Network (NRN) having been responsible for LEADER and Rural Development at national and international level. She is currently working at the Portuguese National Institute for Agricultural and Veterinary Research (INIAV).





Liina Ulm
Co-Task Manager

Smart Farm Practices & Rural Development Officer within the EIP-AGRI Support Facility team. I grew up on a small farm in rural Estonia, have a BSc in animal agriculture from the Estonian University of Life Sciences, and have several years of hands-on experience working with cattle in the dairy and beef industry.



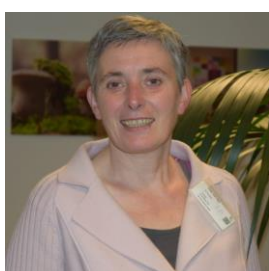
Beatriz Guimarey Fernández
Co-Task Manager

Grown up on a small family farm in Galicia region (NW Spain), Beatriz is Forestry Engineer and holds a Master in Sustainable Land Planning by the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). At the EU CAP Network | EIP-AGRI she contributes to the organisation and facilitation of networking events, screening and analysis of innovative projects and provides content for communication products, mainly dealing with the socio-economic fabric of rural areas (e.g. bioeconomy, forestry, societal demands, business development). Furthermore, she works as a researcher at the University of Santiago de Compostela, in projects related to innovation in rural development, land use change or bioeconomy.



Sergiu Didicescu
Facilitator

Sergiu has a background in oenology and agri-environmental economics. He started professional life as an oenologist in the 'Dealu Mare' area, one of Romania's largest wine producing regions. Later, he joined Romania's Rural Development Managing Authority where he was responsible for programming the agrienvironmental measures for Romania's first RDP. Since 2013 Sergiu works for the EIP-AGRI Support Facility currently as Head of Division C "Environment and Climate".



Ineke van Vliet
Facilitator

Ineke has broad experience in the field of agriculture, rural development and energy transition.

She regularly works in coordinating positions with lots of short term mile stones. Working together in a team motivates her to



develop high quality products. She enjoys developing new ideas in interactive cooperation and has both analytic and creative skills to offer. While working she always considers well the institutional environment, the different stakeholders and the client's demand.

Ineke joined the EIP-AGRI Support Facility from the end of 2017 and performed tasks like facilitator, co-task manager and task manager of workshops, seminars and the subgroup on innovation. Since 2021 Ineke works as well as an artist in liberal arts: ceramics, installations and mixed media.



Tine Defour
Communications

As part of the Support Facility's communication team, Tine writes and coordinates brochures, press articles and other publications, including the yearly *Agrinnovation* magazine. She loves whipping words into publishable shape. She contributes to the contents of the website and the EU CAP Network newsletter on Innovation & Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI, and she offers support for events.

From 2014 to 2021, she was a full-time member of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team. Tine has an academic background, with a PhD in English linguistics. From 2003 to 2014 she was a researcher and lecturer at Ghent University, Belgium, where she gained experience in international networking and in organising events. During that time she also worked as an editorial assistant and proofreader for a peer-reviewed academic journal.

2. Communications and Events Support



Sophie Plattard
Travel & logistical support

Sophie is an experienced event professional with a strong interest in communication and international politics. Based in Brussels, she joined the EU CAP Network – Communication and Logistical Support – in May 2022 as an event organiser. She holds a Master of Arts in Conflict, Security and Development, as well as a Bachelor's degree in German and History.

Curious about meeting new people and culture, Sophie has lived in Austria, England and Germany. In her spare time, she loves swimming and going for walks in the forest.





Francesco Aiello
Travel & logistical support

After years working on making events happen on the ground as a steward, Francesco joined the EU CAP Network - Communication and Logistical Support Team. He also brings with him the volunteer experience at the International Short Movie Festival CinemàCinemà as part of the event organisers and as Art Director.



