

## Speaker and facilitator bios (in order of the programme)

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### Marta Iglesias

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, D.1 Rural areas and networks**

Marta Iglesias is a senior Policy Officer at the European Commission with over two decades of experience working on research, innovation and economic growth in agricultural and rural areas, leveraging opportunities steaming from the EU Common Agricultural Policy and the EU Research and Innovation programmes.



### Natalia Brzezina

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, F.2 Research and Innovation**

Natalia Brzezina is a research programme officer who contributes to setting up the EU agricultural research and innovation strategy, implemented through two policies, i.e., Horizon Europe (Cluster 6) and Common Agricultural Policy, working in synergy under the umbrella of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI). In her role, she focusses on strengthening Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) at EU level through Horizon Europe. Before joining the European Commission, she did a PhD at the KU Leuven exploring food systems in the European context within the EU-funded project TRANSMANGO. In addition to her scientific background, she managed a family farm and gathered professional experience in agri-food industry.



### Astrid Guiffart

**European Research Executive Agency (REA), European Commission**

Astrid Guiffart works as a project officer in the European Research Executive Agency on grant management in the area of Cluster 6 of the Horizon Europe R&I programme. She has been working with the multi-actor approach since its introduction in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme. She follows the PREMIERE project on proposal preparation using the multi-actor approach and the CARE4BIO one supporting Cluster 6 National Contact Points.





**Lisa van Dijk**  
**University of Applied Research Eberswalde, Germany**

Lisa is has 25 years of experience in knowledge exchange, learning and innovation with farmers and rural communities. She has long-standing experience in facilitating multi-actor/stakeholder collaborative learning and co-creation processes. Currently she works for the University for Sustainable Development (HNEE) in Eberswalde, Germany and Highclere Consulting in Romania and is involved in the PREMIERE and EU-FarmBook project. Prior to her academic career, she worked for over 15 years in the international development sector in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Apart from her research, facilitation, training and project management activities, she is also a passionate practising sheep farmer.



**Mark Redman**  
**Highclere Consulting, Romania**

Mark Redman has 35 years of experience in research, consultancy, teaching and training activities in environmental policy-making and rural development, including 25 years of working and living in rural Eastern Europe. Mark is the Director of Highclere Consulting SRL (HCC), a privately owned consultancy company based in southern Transylvania, Romania. Since 2016, HCC has gained experience as a non-academic SME partner in a total of 11 H2020/Horizon Europe projects with a broad range of responsibilities, especially for stakeholder engagement and DEC activities. They currently lead the knowledge networking activities in the Horizon Europe EU-FarmBook project (<https://welcome.eufarmbook.eu/>).



**Walter Rossing**  
**Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands**

Walter Rossing is interested in transdisciplinary approaches for ecological intensification and agro-ecology. Using 'co-innovation' as the umbrella concept, in the ongoing Agroecology-TRANSECT project they build spaces for transformative learning with researchers in work packages and Innovation Hub actors across Europe. Aiming to reveal the potential of agroecology for climate change adaptation, biodiversity restoration and socio-economic resilience, the project adopts a reflexive learning approach at different levels, with promising effects for the science-society interface already after one year.





**Giulia Martino**  
**Ecorys, Belgium**

As a consultant at Ecorys, Giulia Martina is involved in a wide range of activities related to agriculture and rural development policy. Specifically, she was part of the project team of the H2020 project SHERPA, whose objective was to establish multi-actor approach (bringing together science, policy and society) to discuss topics related to rural development based on outputs of EU research.



**Maria del Mar Delgado-Serrano**  
**University of Cordoba, Spain**

Maria del Mar Delgado Serrano is a Full Professor at the Higher School of Agriculture and Forestry Engineering (ETSIAM), University of Cordoba (Spain), specialising in sustainability sciences. With a PhD focused on European policies for rural areas, her research delves into the relationships between social and natural systems for sustainable development, emphasising the social and human dimensions of environmental challenges. Her work encompasses governance, perception, resilience, sustainable development, and community-based management, and she possesses extensive professional experience across Europe and Latin America. She possesses experience in European projects, both as a Project Coordinator and a dedicated researcher and evaluator. She coordinates 2 Horizon 2020 projects (MOVING: Mountain Valorisation through Interconnectedness and Green Growth and IN-HABIT: Inclusive Health and Wellbeing in Small and Medium Size Cities). and coordinated an FP7 one. She also participates in other projects



**Susana Gaona-Saez**  
**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, F.2 Research and Innovation**

She is a research policy and programme officer at DG AGRI of the European Commission.



**Michael Wolf**

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, F.2 Research and Innovation**

Michael Wolf is a research policy officer in DG AGRI, responsible the research portfolio related to forestry and bioeconomy.

**Valerio Abbadessa**

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, F.2 Research and Innovation**

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 second national expert. Prior to this, he worked as a 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 the UK.

**Gisela Quaglia**

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, F.2 Research and Innovation**



Research Programme Officer at the European Commission

**Matthias-Leonhard Maier**

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, F.2 Research and Innovation**

Research Programme Officer in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, focusing on R&I in relation to climate and soil.





**Arianna Pasa**

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, F.2 Research and Innovation**

Arianna Pasa is Research Programme Officer in the Research and Innovation unit at the European Commission - DG Agriculture and rural development (DG AGRI). She contributes to the development and implementation of DG AGRI's overall research and innovation strategy within the framework of Horizon Europe and the Common Agricultural Policy in general, and she is responsible for the rural research portfolio in particular. She is also part of the Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' Secretariat where she works on the programming and implementation of the Mission activities related to soil literacy, communication and citizen engagement. Before joining the Commission in 2018, she was part of the Italian Civil Peace Corps in Peru and she worked both in the private and public sectors, including at FAO. She studied international studies and holds a 2-year masters' degree in Human rights and multilevel governance. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Bologna with a thesis on rural regeneration through the valorisation of cultural heritage.

## DG Agriculture and Rural Development



**Aniko Seregelyi**  
**Policy officer**

Anikó Seregélyi is Policy officer at the European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. Since 2015, she works in the EIP-AGRI team that defines and coordinates the European level networking activities of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability; since October 2022 under the European CAP Network Innovation strand. In the past years, she was responsible for numerous EIP-AGRI Workshops, Seminars and Focus Groups mainly related to the sustainable management of natural resources and capacity building activities.

Prior to joining the Commission, she worked as EU project manager in Hungary responsible for research supporting projects in the 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> RTD Framework Programme and for researchers' mobility issues. She studied Geography, European Studies and Science management in Budapest, Freiburg, Aachen and Speyer.





## EU CAP Network Team

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



**Barry Caslin**  
**Lead facilitator**

Barry Caslin is a graduate in Agricultural Science from UCD. As a Teagasc employee he has been involved in advisory and later as a Specialist on Energy and Rural Development. Barry have been involved in energy research and knowledge transfer for many years, first with energy crops and biomass heating systems. He coordinates numerous events on renewable energy technologies including the Energy and Farm Business Show at Gurteen Agricultural College. He participates in European Horizon 2020 projects on renewable energy. He coordinates the Teagasc national Farm Business Options programme which aims to give individuals a good understanding of how to turn an idea into a viable business. Barry is also represents Teagasc on the EU CAP Network.



**Tajana Radic**  
**Task manager**

Tajana Radić is a Head of Division D “Strengthening the Socioeconomic fabric of rural areas” in EIP-AGRI. Her main work is coordination of the activities that aim to attract young farmers, promote employment, local development including bioeconomy and sustainable forestry and to improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, as well as animal welfare policy. She holds a Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Science and 12 years of experience in the field of agriculture and rural development as a Head of the Policy, Innovation and International Cooperation Department of the Croatian Chamber of Agriculture. She was managing the projects funded by the European Commission (Information measures relating to the Common Agricultural Policy Programme) “CAP for you” and “CAP for us” that were focused on showing the benefits of the Common Agricultural Policy and synergy among stakeholders.





### Remco Schreuder

#### Co-task manager

From 2013, Remco Schreuder is involved in supporting the previous EIP-AGRI network and the current EU CAP Network with special attention to Focus Groups. He is working from RVO in the Netherlands with a focus on the CAP.



### Ina Van Hoye

#### Event communication officer

Ina Van Hoye is communication manager at the EIP-AGRI Support Facility, coordinating the communication unit. She is responsible for the communication action plan, contributes to all communication tools, including social media and press, and takes up the role of event communication officer. Ina Van Hoye is a communication expert who has more than 20 years communication experience. From 2013 until 2021 she was the coordinating communication officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. She was the communication manager for the SCAR Support Team that organises the SCAR workings groups for the European Commission, DG RTD from 2022 to 2023.

She is founding board member of a cooperative regenerative farm Pomona Puur Natuur and founding board member of the non-profit organisation Pomona vzw to promote regenerative farming and to support farms in setting up cooperative regenerative farms. Previously she was involved in several regional and European projects for the Flemish Government, Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV to support them in their communication for several Sigma Plan projects.



### Pacôme Elouna Eyenga

#### Team Leader

Pacôme Elouna Eyenga is Belgian and was born in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He graduated as agronomist in the field of rural economy and sociology, at Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech / Université de Liège in Belgium. Since July 2021, he is the Team Leader of the Support Facility for 'Innovation & Knowledge Exchange | EIP-AGRI. From 2013 until May 2021, he has been Deputy Team Leader and then Team Leader of the EIP-AGRI Service Point established by the European Commission - DG AGRI.





**Martin Jamrich**  
**Facilitator**

Martin is a Smart Farm Practices & Rural Development Officer at the EIP-AGRI Support Facility team. He has a Master's degree in Quantitative Methods in Economics and a PhD degree in Economics and Management of Agriculture and Food Processing. His research was focused on household consumption and unfair trading practices in the dairy supply chain in Slovakia. Martin has experience with the analysis of data in agriculture, forestry, food and rural development. Since 2021 he has been a project and public manager focusing on coordination, enhancing communication and cooperation between farmers, foresters, researchers, advisors, national networks, organisations, administrations and rural innovation actors.



**Antanas Maziliauskas**  
**Facilitator**

Antanas Maziliauskas is as from March 2023 the Deputy Team Leader of Innovation and Knowledge exchange/ EIP-AGRI Support Facility and coordinating linking the research and practice. He started working in the EIP-AGRI SF since 2021. As task manager he was coordinating the Focus Group in the topic of biodiversity on farmland. As co-task manager he was working with the Focus Group on nature based solutions for water management. Also contributed to other activities especially dealing with climate change, natural resources, and biodiversity.

He has a professional background and PhD in environmental engineering with a focus on water management. Before joining the EIP-AGRI SF he was having many leading and expert positions in academic and public institutions and business (i.e. was rector of university for 8 years, was heading Department of Agriculture and Food at the Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture for 4 years, he was CEO of consulting company "Projektų gama" for 7 years, etc.), but what he really enjoys are the projects and missions related to natural resources, water management in Baltic Sea region, also in Africa (Algeria, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Niger), Latin America (Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti) and Asia (Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan).







**Szabolcs Vago**  
**Facilitator**

Szabolcs Vágó is a Research & Innovation Officer and Head of Division B: Fostering a smart and resilient agricultural sector and food security. His main task is to monitor and evaluate innovation development related to farmer's income and resilience, competitiveness and their position in the food value chain. He holds PhD degree in Management and Business Administration Sciences. Before joining EIP-AGRI he worked for the Agricultural Economics Nonprofit Kft. (AKI) in Hungary for more than 20 years in different positions. He was responsible for official Agricultural Statistics, lead and participated in several research projects mainly related to agricultural economics and later on innovation and information sharing in Agriculture. He has been participated in several international capacity building projects regarding statistics, Agricultural Information Systems and Data Management in different countries, such as Kosovo, Turkey, Moldova, Montenegro and Azerbaijan. Lately, as a Director's Advisor his main task was managing international research projects (Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe), and he has been also responsible for data protection issues as a Data Protection Officer. He has numerous scientific and informational publications about the economy of agriculture and food industry.

## 2. Communications and Events Support



**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.



