



**Subgroup on Innovation &
Knowledge Exchange (SolKE)
4th meeting**

Brussels
27 October 2023



Funded by
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Nordic-Baltic TNC EIP cooperation

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Finnish Rural Network & Swedish Board of Agriculture

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Tuija Kallio, Finnish Rural Network
Jenny Taylor, Swedish Board of Agriculture

SolKE meeting 27.10.2023

ruralnetwork.fi



A hand holding a glowing lightbulb with a DNA helix inside, symbolizing innovation and cooperation.

**Previous cooperation between Estonia
and Finland (2017-2018)**

Estonia

National workshops
2014-2016

Need for
international
expertise

EIP call
requiring
transnational
cooperation
partner

Reach out to
potential
partner
countries
(SE/FI/ITA), calls
were not
synchronized

Applicants
contact
potential
partners and
agree on
cooperation
-Letter of intent
- Call closed
26/01/2018

Funding
decisions
March 2018

Finland

National EIP call,
applicants
selected for 2.
round
Summer/autumn
2017

Applicants
contact potential
partners and
agree on
cooperation
-Letter of intent
In Finland,
application DL
22th of Sept,
2017

Funding
decisions
12/2017

Two TNC established:
Finnish ÄLYREHU OG
collaborated both with Estonian
MAVAS OG and Estonian
Automatic body
conditioning scoring and
biosensors in dairy herd
management OG

How was the cooperation implemented administratively?

- The collaborating EIP Operational Groups had national RDP funding for their own actions
 - Estonian main beneficiary had some funding for coordination of transnational cooperation
 - Finnish EIP Operational Group had travel budget for field trip to Estonia
- Main beneficiaries of collaborating EIP OGs were responsible for the project implementation and functioning of their EIP OG → no risk if other country's EIP OG did not work etc
- The paying agencies (PA) in both countries instructed about their own country's regulations, administration, acceptable costs etc
 - Estonian PA published a list of potential partners on their webpage (*e.g. Finnish applicants accepted from idea-phase to 2nd round*)
- The transnational actions were reported alongside other project actions

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**Network to innovate cooperation between
Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Sweden
2023-**

Activities so far

- Virtual kick-off meeting on January 10 with Estonian, Finnish and Latvian MAs, PAs and NNs → discussion to invite also Sweden
- Second virtual meeting on April 25 with Estonian, Finnish, Latvian and Swedish MAs, PAs and NNs
 - joint wish to increase TNC within EIP measure
- Meeting in Helsinki June 12 with Estonian, Finnish, Latvian and Swedish MAs, PAs, NNs and AKIS coordination bodies
 - discussions about proceeding of TNC and joint calls within EIP measure
 - In preparation for the meeting, **a thorough survey** was carried out, and the results were presented at the meeting. The results are also used for further work.
- Virtual meeting on September 26
 - prioritization of activities in 10/2023→
 - initial goal to have joint TNC EIP call in 2025

Conducted survey

Responses collected from Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Sweden from MA, PA and NNs

1. Questions for managing authorities and general questions

- Budget •Calls (thematic, transnational, continuous etc.)
- Project topics in the previous programming period
- Transnational OG experiences
- Bottlenecks

2. Questions for paying agencies

- Application process
- Changes in the new programming period
- Feedback from applicants
- Possible difficulties for TN OGs

3. Questions for national networks

- Networking between OGs
- Dissemination of results
- Facilitating uptake by farmers
- Other kind of support in the EIP process



Differences between countries

A hand holding a glowing lightbulb, symbolizing an idea or innovation. The lightbulb is illuminated, casting a warm glow, and the hand is positioned as if presenting the idea. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

1. Topics covered / funded by EIP measure in each country
2. Total budget for EIP measure in each country
3. The use of preset focus areas / thematic calls to target the funding to national priorities
4. The approving process for applications (duration, who is involved)

Possible bottlenecks from different countries

1. The timing for calls of applications in different countries is different
2. National requirements and legislation may be different
3. Lack of joint budget for transnational project
4. Traceability issues
5. Cooperation is required on MA and PA level as well
6. Lack of experience



New roles for NNs in regard to the TNC

- Facilitating the communication between different stakeholders (e.g. MA, PA in different countries) to make the transnational calls feasible
- Plan to organise brokerage events before the TN calls – to help find project partners in other countries before the call and start with first project ideas.



Future plans (1/2)

- Next virtual meeting in December
- Prioritization of activities by each country
 - Most urgent ones included in the action plans 2024 of NNs



What communication and cooperation activities needed from the MA and PA?

Communication tools

A guide for PA:s and applicants with needed information
 PA:s contacts database
 Clear communication between member states
 Structured (short) database
 Copy Leader – for a/forum for TN Projects
 Mapping information of calls. What and when?
 Knowledge database, EU-Farm Book, to use all the platforms
 National contact points
 Common calendar (with communication)

Methods

Understanding and opening up differences - this group is small enough to be a pilot. If others are interested the only problem is to organize.
 Sometime it's difficult to use examples from different countries because the situations are different (local, nature etc)
 Advisors etcetera goes abroad and can share their knowledge and to help applicants.
 Homework to research the local situation – what farmers need to find common topics.
 The interest should come from entrepreneurs - Should find those who would want that.
 Try to postpone TNC project calls to 2025 or if you have clear system.
 Preliminary road map for calls – schedule - synchronized project calls.

Involve EIP in AKIS

Direct involvement in AKIS activities. AKIS systems including network
 AKIS should be visible for everyone. Inform everyone about AKIS (Branding, how we can operate in it).
 AKIS system can collect ideas and to find others – entrepreneurs - MA has no time for that. In AKIS system there is ISS also.

Continuous gatherings

Perhaps monthly meetings, calls for understanding each other situations, or meeting face to face each year.
 Meetings (Zoom) – makes informal contacts available (PA-PA, MA-MA)
 Building strong network to innovate (regular meetings, homework, study visits)
 Sharing best practices (MA & PA)
 Study visits

Communicate benefits with cooperation

Partnership benefits
 Similar challenges
 Get new expertise in the group
 Better atmosphere in the project
 Achieve more by working together

Cooperation activities

Developing further on existing knowledge
 Enable complementary knowledge
 Testing ideas in another environment (also from other countries)
 Farmers involved also transnationally

What makes the transnational cooperation interesting for the applicants?

Simple and easily accessible information for applicants

AKIS provided structure for cooperation and organization.
 Application forms – transnational added value for project
 Timetable for calls – how to communicate – (marketplace?)
 National contact point for transnational cooperation
 List of contact points on EIP-Agri website
 Database of companies who are interested in collaboration
 Translation of at least project results
 Results “Googleable”
 Make a scandal!

Interest in learning, development and collaboration

Searching for extended network/farmers
 Peer to peer learning
 Benchmarking
 Increase understanding of potential markets
 Curiosity is driving innovation
 We make transnational if no competencies at home

Regular meeting to share information between national contact points
 Workshops

To find the persons who are interested and help to organize (networking, informative events, thematic groups, communicate with NGOs...)
 NRNs – CAP Networks
 Advertising at agricultural fairs and other events
 Information via agricultural farmers/entrepreneurs, advisers/consultants, Admin personnel, Researchers contacts/Network, Farmer organizations, relatives – EIP-group
 Offer bigger market for final producer
 Inform about ORG – need broader vision, experience, advisers etc
 Inform that group size matters -not make them too small.

Future plans (2/2)



2024 meetings within different groups (MA, PA etc) discussing how to overcome possible obstacles, and how to facilitate and practically implement common calls. For example:

- Common administration
- Opening of calls
- Topics for thematic calls
- National Networks organize innovation camps for possible project actors to network and develop ideas further

2025 - The first synchronized calls for Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Sweden. The different groups from MA, PA etc are ready to collaborate.

Possibilities for support?

HE Coordination and Support Action (CSA)

- HORIZON-CL6-2023-GOVERNANCE-01-18: Broaden EIP Operational Group outcomes across borders by means of thematic networks to compile and share knowledge ready for practice
- Could there be something similar to support transnational cooperation of EIP Operational groups at earlier phase of EIP process?



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All results and presentations are available on the event webpage:
<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/subgroup-innovation-and-knowledge-exchange-4th-meeting>

