

REGULATION (EU) 2021/2115 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013-

## Recitals

### *Recital 50*

Member States should ensure that there are **farm advisory services tailored to the various types of production** for the purpose of improving the sustainable management and overall performance of agricultural holdings and rural businesses, covering economic, environmental and social dimensions, and of **identifying the necessary improvements as regards all measures at farm level** provided for in the CAP Strategic Plans.... Advice should also be available on the management of risks and **innovation support for preparing and implementing emerging EIP operational group projects, whilst capturing and making use of grassroots innovative ideas**. In order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the advice, Member States should integrate all public and private advisors and advisory networks within the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS), in order to be able to **deliver up-to-date technological and scientific information developed by research and innovation**.

### *Recital 51*

In order to **support both the agronomic and the environmental performance of farms, information on nutrient management, with focus on nitrogen and phosphate** which are the nutrients that from an environmental perspective can pose particular challenges and therefore deserve particular attention, should be provided with the help of **a dedicated electronic Farm Sustainability Tool made available by the Member States to individual farmers**.... should provide **on-farm decision support**...

### *Recital 52*

In order to better inform and advise farmers on their obligations towards their workers with regard to the social dimension of the CAP, the farm advisory services should inform about the

requirements regarding the provision, in writing, of the information referred to in Article 4 of Directive (EU) 2019/1152 and on the health and safety standards which are applicable on farms.

*Recital 69*

Types of **intervention in certain sectors**... the establishment of specific interventions is deemed to have beneficial effects on the achievement of some or all of the general and specific objectives of the CAP pursued by this Regulation..... those benefits **should be promoted to farmers through, inter alia, the farm advisory services.**

*Recital 83*

**Support should enable the establishment and implementation of cooperation between at least two entities with a view to achieving the objectives of the CAP.** It should be possible for such support to entail all aspects of such cooperation, such as ... **operational group projects within the EIP local development projects, .....**

*Recital 84*

It is important to **support preparation** of certain kind of cooperation, **in particular for EIP operational groups, ....**

*Recital 85*

The communication on ‘The Future of Food and Farming’ refers **to the exchange of knowledge and focus on innovation as a cross-cutting objective for the new CAP.** The CAP should continue to **support the interactive innovation model,** which enhances the collaboration between actors to make best use of complementary knowledge with a view to spreading solutions ready for practice. **Farm advisory services should be strengthened within the AKIS.** The CAP Strategic Plan should provide **information on how advisors, researchers and the national CAP network will work together.** Each Member State or region, as appropriate, in order to strengthen its AKIS and **in line with its AKIS strategic approach should be able to fund a number of actions aimed at knowledge exchange and innovation,** as well as facilitate the development by farmers of farm-level strategies to increase the resilience of their holdings, **using the types of intervention developed in this Regulation. ...**

*Recital 102*

The intervention strategy should also **highlight complementarity both between CAP tools and with the other Union policies**. In particular, each CAP Strategic Plan should take account of the relevant environmental and climate legislation, **and national plans** emanating from that legislation should be described as part of the analysis of the current situation ('**SWOT analysis**'). ...

*Recital 106*

Considering the importance of the **specific objective of modernising agriculture and rural areas, and in view of its cross-cutting nature**, it is appropriate that Member States **include in their CAP Strategic Plans a dedicated description of the contribution that those CAP Strategic Plans will make to achieving that objective**,...

*Recital 115*

In a context where Member States will have much more flexibility and subsidiarity in the design of interventions to reach common objectives, networks are a key tool to drive and steer policy and to promote stakeholder engagement, knowledge sharing and capacity building for Member States and other actors. ... **A single Union-level CAP network** should ensure better coordination between networking activities at the Union and at the national and regional levels. The European and national CAP networks should replace the current European Network for Rural Development and the EIP-AGRI Network at Union level and the national rural networks, respectively. The European CAP network should contribute to the activities of the national CAP networks to the extent possible. The networks should provide a platform for promoting increased exchange of knowledge in order to improve the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plans and **capture the results and added value of the policy at Union level, including the Horizon Europe policy and its multi-actor projects**. In the same perspective of **improvement of the exchange of knowledge and innovation, the EIP assisted by the European and national CAP networks should support the implementation of the interactive innovation model in accordance with the methodology outlined in this Regulation**.

# TITLE I

## SUBJECT MATTER AND SCOPE, APPLICABLE PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS

### *Article 3*

#### *Definitions*

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

- (9) **‘AKIS’ means the combined organisation and knowledge flows between persons, organisations and institutions who use and produce knowledge for agriculture and interrelated fields (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System);**

# TITLE II

## OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS

### *Article 5*

#### *General objectives*

In accordance with the objectives of the CAP set out in Article 39 TFEU, with the objective to maintain the functioning of the internal market and a level playing field between farmers in the Union and with the principle of subsidiarity, support from the EAGF and the EAFRD shall aim to further improve the sustainable development of farming, food and rural areas and shall contribute to achieving the following general objectives in the economic, environmental and social spheres, which will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

- (a) to foster a smart, competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector ensuring long-term food security;
- (b) to support and strengthen environmental protection, including biodiversity, and climate action and to contribute to achieving the environmental and climate-related objectives of the Union, including its commitments under the Paris Agreement
- (c) to strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas

### *Article 6*

#### *Specific objectives*

1. The achievement of the general objectives shall be pursued through **the following specific objectives**:
  - (a) to support viable farm income and resilience of the agricultural sector across the Union in order to enhance long-term food security and agricultural diversity as well as to ensure the economic sustainability of agricultural production in the Union;
  - (b) to enhance market orientation and increase farm competitiveness both in the short and long term, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation;
  - (c) to improve the farmers' position in the value chain;
  - (d) to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy;
  - (e) to foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency;
  - (f) to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes;
  - (g) to attract and sustain young farmers and new farmers and facilitate sustainable business development in rural areas;
  - (h) to promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry;
  - (i) to improve the response of Union agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including high-quality, safe and nutritious food produced in a sustainable way, to reduce food waste, as well as to improve animal welfare and to combat antimicrobial resistance.
2. The objectives set out in paragraph 1 shall be **complemented and interconnected with the cross-cutting objective of modernising agriculture and rural areas by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas** and by encouraging their uptake by farmers, through improved access to research, innovation, knowledge exchange and training.

3. When pursuing the specific objectives set out in paragraphs 1 and 2, Member States, with the support of the Commission, shall take appropriate measures to reduce the administrative burden and ensure simplification in the implementation of the CAP.

#### *Article 6*

#### *Indicators*

1. Achievement of the objectives referred to in Articles 5 and Article 6(1) and (2) shall be assessed on the basis of common indicators related to output, result, impact and context as set out in Annex I. Those common indicators shall include:
  - (a) **output indicators** relating to the realised output of the interventions supported; L 435/28 EN Official Journal of the European Union 6.12.2021
  - (b) **result indicators** relating to the specific objectives concerned referred to in Article 6(1) and (2), and which are used for the establishment of quantified milestones and targets in relation to those specific objectives in the CAP Strategic Plans and for assessing progress towards those targets; result indicators relating to environmental and climate-related objectives may cover interventions which contribute to the fulfilment of the commitments emanating from the Union legislative acts listed in Annex XIII;
  - (c) **impact indicators** related to the objectives set out in Article 5 and Article 6(1) and (2) and used in the context of the CAP Strategic Plans and of the CAP;
  - (d) **context indicators** referred to in Article 115(2) and listed in Annex I.
2. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 152 amending Annex I to adapt the common output, result, impact and context indicators. Those delegated acts shall be strictly limited to addressing technical problems experienced by Member States regarding the application of those indicators.

## **TITLE III**

# **COMMON REQUIREMENTS AND TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS**

## SECTION 4

### FARM ADVISORY SERVICES

#### *Article 15*

#### *Farm advisory services*

1. Member States shall include in their CAP Strategic Plans a system **providing services for advising farmers and other beneficiaries of CAP support** on land management and farm management ('farm advisory services'). Member States may build upon existing systems.
2. The farm advisory services **shall cover economic, environmental and social dimensions, taking into account existing farming practices, and deliver up-to-date technological and scientific information developed by means of research and innovation projects**, including as regards the provision of public goods.

Through the farm advisory services, appropriate **assistance shall be offered along the cycle of the farm development**, including for the setting-up for the first time, conversion of production patterns towards consumer demand, innovative practices, agricultural techniques for resilience to climate change, including agroforestry and agroecology, improved animal welfare, and where necessary safety standards and social support.

**Farm advisory services shall be integrated within the** interrelated services of farm advisors, researchers, farmer organisations and other relevant stakeholders that form **the AKIS**.

3. Member States shall ensure that the **advice given is impartial and that advisors** are suitably qualified, **appropriately trained and have no conflict of interest**.
4. **The farm advisory services shall be adapted to the various types of production and farms** and shall cover **at least the following**:
  - (a) all requirements, conditions and management commitments applying to farmers and other beneficiaries set in the CAP Strategic Plan, including requirements and standards under conditionality and conditions for interventions, as well as information on financial instruments and business plans established under the CAP Strategic Plan;
  - (b) the requirements laid down by Member States for implementing Directive 92/43/EEC, Directive 2000/60/EC, Article 55 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council (5), Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (6), Directive 2009/128/EC, Directive 2009/147/EC, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council (7), Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the

Council (8) and Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council (9);

(c) farm practices preventing the development of antimicrobial resistance as set out in Commission communication of 29 June 2017 entitled ‘A European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)’;

(d) risk prevention and management;

**(e) innovation support, in particular for preparing and for implementing the projects of the EIP operational groups referred to in Article 127(3);**

(f) digital technologies in agriculture and rural areas as referred to in Article 114, point (b);

(g) sustainable management of nutrients, including at the latest as from 2024 the use of a Farm Sustainability Tool for Nutrients, which is any digital application that provides at least:

(a) a balance of the main nutrients at field scale;

(b) the legal requirements on nutrients;

(c) soil data, based on available information and analyses;

(d) data from the integrated administration and control system (IACS) relevant for nutrient management;

(e) conditions of employment, employer obligations, occupational

(h) health and safety and social support in farming communities.

## CHAPTER IV

### TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

#### SECTION 1

#### TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS

##### *Article 73*

##### *Investments*

1. Member States may grant support for investments under the conditions set out in this Article and as further specified in their CAP Strategic Plans.
4. Member States shall limit the support to one or more rates not exceeding 65 % of the eligible costs.



The maximum support rates may be increased:

- (a) up to 80 % for the following investments:
  - (i) investments linked to one or more of the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1), points (d), (e) and (f) and, as regards animal welfare, in Article 6(1), point (i)
  - (ii) investments by young farmers who fulfil the conditions provided for by Member States in their CAP Strategic Plans in accordance with Article 4(6);
  - (iii) investments in the outermost regions or the smaller Aegean islands;
- (b) up to 85 % for investments of small farms, as determined by Member States;
- (c) **up to 100 % for the following investments:**
  - (i) afforestation, establishment and regeneration of agro-forestry systems, land consolidation in forestry and non-productive investments linked to one or more of the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1), points (d), (e) and (f), including non-productive investments aimed at protecting livestock and crops against damage caused by wild animals;
  - (ii) investments in basic services in rural areas and infrastructure in agriculture and forestry, as determined by Member States;
  - (iii) investments in the restoration of agricultural or forestry potential following natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events and investments in appropriate preventive actions, as well as investments in maintaining the health of forests;
  - (iv) non-productive investments supported through community-led local development strategies set out in Article 32 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and the projects of EIP operational groups as referred to in Article 127(3) of this Regulation.**

#### *Article 77*

#### *Cooperation*

1. **Member States may grant support for cooperation under the conditions set out in this Article and as further specified in their CAP Strategic Plans to:**
  - (a) **prepare and implement the projects of the EIP operational groups referred to in Article 127(3);**
  - (b) prepare and implement LEADER;
  - (c) promote and support quality schemes recognised by the Union or by the Member States and their use by farmers;
  - (d) support producer groups, producer organisations or interbranch organisations;

- (e) prepare and implement smart-village strategies, as determined by Member States;
  - (f) support other forms of cooperation.
2. Member States **may only grant support under this Article to promote new forms of cooperation, including existing ones if starting a new activity.** That cooperation shall involve **at least two actors** and **shall contribute to achieving one or more of the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1) and (2).**
  3. Member States **may cover under this Article the costs related to all aspects of the cooperation.**
  4. Member States may grant the support as an overall amount under this Article covering the costs of cooperation and the costs of the operations implemented, or they may cover only the costs of cooperation and use funds from other types of intervention for rural development, or from other national or Union support instruments, to cover the costs of the operations implemented.

Where support is paid as an overall amount, Member States shall ensure that the **operation implemented complies with the relevant rules and requirements laid down in Articles 70 to 76 and 78.**

5. Member States **shall not support through this type of interventions cooperation solely involving research bodies.**

#### *Article 78*

##### *Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information*

1. Member States may **grant support for knowledge exchange and dissemination of information** under the conditions set out in this Article and as further detailed in their CAP Strategic Plans with a view to **contributing to achieving one or more of the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1) and (2)** while specifically targeting the protection of nature, environment and climate, **including environmental education and awareness actions** and the development of rural businesses and communities.
2. Support under this Article may cover the **costs of any relevant action to promote innovation, training and advice and other forms of knowledge exchange and dissemination of information,** including through the drawing up and updating of plans and studies **with the aim of knowledge exchange and dissemination of information.** Such

actions shall contribute to achieving one or more of the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1) and (2).

3. Support for advisory services shall only be granted for advisory services that comply with Article 15(3)
4. For the **setting up of advisory services**, Member States may grant support in the form of a fixed amount of a **maximum of EUR 200 000**. They shall ensure that support is **limited in time**.
5. Member States shall ensure that **actions supported under this type of intervention are based on, and are consistent with, the description of the AKIS provided in their CAP Strategic Plans in accordance with Article 114, point (a)(i);**

## TITLE IV

### **FINANCIAL PROVISIONS** By way of derogation from paragraphs 1 and 2,

#### *Article 91*

#### *EAFRD contribution rates*

1. The CAP Strategic Plans shall establish, at regional or national level, a single EAFRD contribution rate applicable to all interventions.
2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the maximum EAFRD contribution rate shall be:
  - (a) 85 % of the eligible public expenditure in less developed regions;
  - (b) 80 % of the eligible public expenditure in the outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands;
  - (c) 60 % of the eligible public expenditure in transition regions within the meaning of Article 108(2), first subparagraph, point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060;
  - (d) **43 % of the eligible public expenditure in the other regions;**

The minimum EAFRD contribution rate shall be [20 %].

3. **By way of derogation from paragraphs 1 and 2, the maximum EAFRD contribution rate** shall, if the rate set in the CAP Strategic Plan in accordance with paragraph 2 is lower, be:

- (a) 65 % of the eligible public expenditure for payments for natural or other area-specific constraints under Article 71;
  - (b) **80 % of the eligible public expenditure** for payments under Article 70, for payments under Article 72, for support for non-productive investments referred to in Article 73, **for support for the projects of the EIP operational groups under Article 77(1), point (a), ...**
  - (c) 100 % of the eligible public expenditure for operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in accordance with Articles 17 and 103
4. The minimum EAFRD contribution rate shall be 20 % of the eligible public expenditure.
  5. The eligible public expenditure referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 shall exclude the additional national financing referred to in Article 115(5).

## TITLE V

### CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

#### CHAPTER II

#### CONTENT OF THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

##### *Article 107*

##### *Content for the CAP Strategic Plans*

1. **Each CAP Strategic Plan shall contain sections on the following:**
  - (a) the assessment of **needs**;
  - (b) the intervention **strategy**;
  - (c) the elements common to several interventions;
  - (d) the direct payments, interventions in certain sectors and interventions for rural development specified in the strategy;
  - (e) target and financial plans;

- (f) the **governance and coordination system**;
  - (g) **the elements that ensure modernisation of the CAP.**
  - (h) where elements of the CAP Strategic Plan are established at regional level, a short description about the Member State's national and regional set-up, and in particular which elements are established at national and at regional level;
2. Each CAP Strategic Plan shall contain the following annexes:
- (a) Annex I on the ex-ante evaluation and the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) referred to in Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (17);
  - (b) Annex II on the SWOT analysis;
  - (c) Annex III on the consultation of the partners;
  - (d) where relevant, Annex IV on the crop-specific payment for cotton;
  - (e) Annex V on the additional national financing provided within the scope of the CAP Strategic Plan;
  - (f) where relevant, Annex VI on transitional national aid.
3. Detailed rules for the content of the sections and the annexes of the CAP Strategic Plans referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 are laid down in Articles 108 to 115.

*Article 114*

*Modernisation*

The section on the elements that ensure modernisation of the CAP referred to in Article 107(1), point (g), shall **highlight the elements of the CAP Strategic Plan that support the modernisation of the agriculture and rural areas and the CAP, and shall contain in particular:**

- (a) **an overview of how the CAP Strategic Plan will contribute to the achievement of the cross-cutting objective set out in Article 6(2), in particular through:**
  - (i) **a description of the organisational set-up of the AKIS**

- (ii) **a description of how advisory services as referred to in Article 15, research and the national CAP network referred to in Article 126 will cooperate to provide advice, knowledge flows and innovation services and how the actions supported under interventions pursuant to Article 78 or other relevant interventions are integrated into the AKIS;...**

*Article 115*

*Annexes*

1. Annex I to the CAP Strategic Plan referred to in Article 107(2), point (a), shall include a summary of the main results of the ex-ante evaluation referred to in Article 139 and the SEA referred to in Directive 2001/42/EC and how they have been addressed or a justification of why they have not been taken into account, and a link to the complete ex-ante evaluation report and SEA report.
2. Annex II to the CAP Strategic Plan referred to in Article 107(2), point (b), shall include a SWOT analysis of the current situation of the area covered by the CAP Strategic Plan.

**The SWOT analysis shall be based on the current situation** of the area covered by the CAP Strategic Plan and **shall comprise, for each specific objective set out in Article 6(1) and (2)**, an overall description of the current situation of the area covered by the CAP Strategic Plan, based on common context indicators and other quantitative and qualitative up-to-date information such as studies, past evaluation reports, sectoral analyses and lessons learned from previous experiences.

Where relevant, the SWOT analysis shall include an analysis of territorial aspects, including regional specificities, highlighting those territories specifically targeted by interventions, and an analysis of sectoral aspects, in particular for those sectors that are subject to specific interventions or programmes.

In addition, that description shall, in particular, highlight in relation to each general and specific objective set out in Article 5 and Article 6(1) and (2):

- (f) strengths identified in the CAP Strategic Plan area;
- (g) weaknesses identified in the CAP Strategic Plan area;
- (h) opportunities identified in the CAP Strategic Plan area;
- (i) threats identified in the CAP Strategic Plan area.

For the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1), points (d), (e) and (f), the SWOT analysis shall refer to the national plans emanating from the legislative acts listed in Annex XIII.

For the specific objective set out in Article 6(1), point (g), the SWOT analysis shall include a short analysis of access to land, land mobility and land restructuring, access to finance and credits, and access to knowledge and advice.

**For the cross-cutting objective set out in Article 6(2), the SWOT analysis shall also provide relevant information about the functioning of the AKIS and related structures.**

3. Annex III to the CAP Strategic Plan referred to in Article 107(2), point (c), shall include the outcomes of the consultation of the partners, and in particular the relevant authorities at regional and local level, and a brief description of how the consultation was carried out.

...

5. Annex V to the CAP Strategic Plan referred to in Article 107(2), point (e), shall contain the following:

(a) a short description of additional national financing for interventions in rural development laid down in Title III, Chapter IV, which is provided within the scope of the CAP Strategic Plan, including the amounts per intervention and indication of compliance with the requirements under this Regulation;

(b) an explanation of the complementarity with the CAP Strategic Plan interventions;

(c) an indication as to whether the additional national financing falls outside the scope of Article 42 TFEU and is subject to State aid assessment; and

(d) the national financial assistance in the fruit and vegetables sector referred to in Article 53.

6. Annex VI to the CAP Strategic Plan referred to in Article 107(2), point (f), shall contain the following information as regards transitional national aid:

(a) the annual sector-specific financial envelope for each sector for which transitional national aid is granted;

(b) where relevant, the maximum unit rate of support for each year of the period;

(c) where relevant, information as regards the reference period modified in accordance with Article 147(2), second subparagraph;

(d) a brief description of the complementarity of the transitional national aid with CAP Strategic Plan interventions.

### **Article 126**

#### **National and European CAP networks**

1. Each Member State shall establish a national network for the common agricultural policy **(‘national CAP network’)** for the networking of organisations and administrations, advisors, researchers and other innovation actors, and other actors in the field of agriculture and rural development at national level **at the latest 12 months after the approval by the Commission of the CAP Strategic Plan.** The national CAP networks shall build on the existing networking experience and practices in the Member States.
2. The Commission shall establish a European network for the common agricultural policy **(‘European CAP network’)** for the networking of national networks, organisations, and administrations in the field of agriculture and rural development at Union level.
3. Networking through the national and European CAP networks shall have the following objectives:
  - (a) **increase the involvement of all relevant stakeholders** in the implementation of CAP Strategic Plans and, where relevant, in their design;
  - (b) accompany the Member States’ administrations in the implementation of CAP Strategic Plans and the transition to a performancebased delivery model;
  - (c) contribute to **improving the quality of implementation of CAP Strategic Plans;**
  - (d) contribute to the **information of the public and potential beneficiaries on the CAP** and funding opportunities;
  - (e) **foster innovation in agriculture and rural development and support peer-to-peer learning and the inclusion of, and the interaction between, all stakeholders in the knowledge-exchange and knowledge-building process;**
  - (f) contribute to the **dissemination of CAP Strategic Plans results;**
4. **The tasks of the CAP Networks** for the achievement of the objectives set out in paragraph 3 shall be the following:



- (a) **collection, analysis and dissemination of information on actions and good practices implemented or supported under CAP Strategic Plans** as well as analysis on developments in agriculture and rural areas relevant to the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1) and (2);
  - (b) **contribution to capacity building for Member States** administrations and of other actors involved in the implementation of CAP Strategic Plans, including as regards monitoring and evaluation processes;
  - (c) **creation of platforms, fora and events to facilitate exchanges of experience between stakeholders and peer-to-peer learning**, including where relevant exchanges with networks in third countries;
  - (d) **collection of information and facilitation of its dissemination as well as networking of funded structures and projects, such as ... EIP operational groups** referred to in Article 127(3) of this Regulation and equivalent structures and projects;
  - (e) **support for cooperation projects between EIP operational groups referred to in Article 127(3) of this Regulation**, ..., including transnational cooperation;
  - (f) creation of **links to other Union-funded strategies or networks**;
  - (g) **contribution to the further development of the CAP and preparation of any subsequent CAP Strategic Plan period**;
  - (h) in the case of national CAP networks, participating in, and contributing to, the activities of the European CAP network;
  - (i) in the case of the European CAP network, cooperating with, and contributing to, the activities of the national CAP networks.
5. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts setting out the organisational structure and operation of the European CAP network. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 153(2)

#### Article 127

#### European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability

1. The aim of the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP) shall be to **stimulate innovation and improve the exchange of**

**knowledge.** The EIP shall support the AKIS, by **connecting policies and instruments to speed up innovation.**

2. The EIP shall contribute to achieving the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1) and (2).

It shall in particular:

(a) create added value by better linking research and farming practice and encouraging the wider use of available innovation measures;

(b) connect innovation actors and projects;

(c) promote the faster and wider transposition of innovative solutions into practice, including farmer-to-farmer exchange; and

(d) inform the scientific community about the research needs of farming practice;

3. EIP operational groups supported under the cooperation type of intervention referred to in

Article 77 shall form part of the EIP. **Each EIP operational group shall draw up a plan for an innovative project to be developed or implemented. The innovative project shall be based on the interactive innovation model which has as key principles:**

(a) **developing innovative solutions focusing on farmers' or foresters' needs while also tackling the interactions across the whole supply chain where useful;**

(b) **bringing together partners with complementary knowledge such as farmers, advisors, researchers, enterprises or non-governmental organisations in a targeted combination as best suited to achieve the project objectives; and**

(c) **co-deciding and co-creating all along the project.**

**EIP operational groups may act at transnational, including cross-border, level. The envisaged innovation may be based on new practices, but also on traditional practices in a new geographical or environmental context.**

EIP operational groups **shall disseminate a summary of their plans and of the results of their projects, in particular through the national and European CAP networks.**