

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



### **Roberto Berutti**

**Member of Cabinet of Commissioner for Agriculture, European Commission**

Mr Roberto Berutti is a Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner for Agriculture - Janusz Wojciechowski at the European Commission. His main responsibilities in this role include Stakeholders, Direct Payments (I Pillar), Rural Development (II Pillar) and Horizon Europe/research. In the past he worked among others as Regional expert seconded to the Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU, and Member of the Board of Directors of the Cassa di Risparmio Torino Foundation and for Piedmont Region (Cabinet of the Presidency of the Executive - International and Community Affairs Direction). He holds a degree in Business Economics (Specialization in "Organization of PA") from the L. Bocconi University of Milan.



### **Markus Stadler**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions, Water Management | Expert, Deputy Head of Unit**

Since 2007 Ministry of Agriculture, Vienna: 2007-2019 expert in Managing Authority for Austrian RD programme (programme management and horizontal coordination of CAP-measures); 2020-2022 agricultural attaché at Austrian Permanent Representation of Austria to the European Union, Brussels; since 2023 responsible for CAP-measure agricultural advisory services and AKIS Coordination Body



### **Aine Mackenwalsh**

**Coordinating expert**

Áine Macken-Walsh uses sociological insights to support participatory co-design of policy and extension interventions. She is a sociologist with a background in the research and application of rights-based approaches to development and the 'multi-actor approach'. She has worked in agriculture and rural development for over 20 years, and has collaborated within 16 EU research and innovation consortia to date. Áine worked in Central and Eastern Europe, focusing on the transposition of EU rural development policies to new socio-cultural contexts during the accession period. Currently, Áine



is a sociologist in Teagasc, Ireland, where she has led transdisciplinary processes to address societal challenges relating to human cooperation, gender, animal health, climate change, and the bioeconomy.



**Florian Herzog**

**Austrian Chamber of Agriculture | Advisory Services & Training Coordinator**

For now more than a decade Florian Herzog is working as advisory services coordinator at the Austrian chamber of agriculture, currently as head of the unit 'knowledge transfer & innovation'. Since 12/2023 Florian is also Managing Director of the Chambers Rural Further Training Institute (LFI) applying his expertise in methods and instruments of knowledge transfer and promoting interactive innovation, his current focus of interest lies on farm business management and the functioning and further development of the agricultural knowledge and innovation systems.



**Hanna Tamsalu**

**Maaelu Teadmuskeskus, Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge**

Working as an AKIS development manager, to support and connect the actors of Estonian Agricultural (and Rural) Knowledge and Innovation System. Leader of Knowledge transfer program for Estonian agriculture, food systems and rural economics, including the knowledge platform [www.pikk.ee](http://www.pikk.ee). CECRA trainer of advisory methodology, innovation support services and networks. Still maintaining the connections with Estonian National Rural/CAP Network in topics related to innovation support services. Decade of experience in Ministry of Agriculture of Estonia, regarding advisory system, knowledge transfer and farm relief services. MSc in Agricultural Sciences (animal husbandry). Participating in Horizon Europe projects PREMIERE, modernAKIS, ClimateFarmDemo, Climate Smart Advisors, EUFarmBook (EURAKNOS and EUREKA).



**Donald Aquilina**

**Agrinnova Malta Ltd | Director**

Donald Aquilina is graduated in agriculture and rural development and currently is the Director of an Advisory Service Company, Agrinnova Malta Ltd which operates in Malta and beyond providing technical support in the field of agriculture and rural development. Before that he was at the helm of the Maltese Managing Authority and National Rural



Network. As a consultant he has been involved in numerous projects involving the establishment, restructuring and implementation of advisory systems and services in various countries such as Malta, Cyprus, North Macedonia, Albania and Uzbekistan amongst others. In between travel and work, he tends to an olive grove which he has set up to nourish his passion for farming.



**Patrick Pasgang**  
**Boerenbond Projects vzw (ex-Innovatiesteunpunt)**

Patrick Pasgang holds an Economic Degree and MBA in Marketing and International Business. He is a Senior Innovation Consultant for Short food supply chains, multifunctional agriculture & new business development for Belgian farmers. After more than 22 years of management experience within the food retail business, he currently works at Boerenbond Projects. Boerenbond is the biggest farmers union in Flanders/Belgium representing 16.000 member farmers. He helps regional nonprofit organisations & cooperations in establishing Local Food Hubs, organizes and facilitates external advisory committees to help farmers with independent business advice and helps start-ups with the development of their new business-concepts. Patrick Pasgang represents Boerenbond in different Strategic Platforms and was an expert in the EIP Agri Focus Group on SFSC Management and the ENRD network on accelerator programs dedicated to farmers. Patrick Pasgang was involved in building The COREnet project. He was also involved in Farmwell, SKIN and other projects like Newbie and Cocoreado.



**Carola Ketelhodt**  
**Chamber of Agriculture in Schleswig-Holstein, EIP Agrar Innovation Office**

Carola Ketelhodt is head of the EIP Agri Support Service for Schleswig-Holstein on behalf of the Ministry in Kiel. Carola studied at Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel agricultural economics. After graduation as Agricultural Engineer she launched her career as trainer on an institution of rural adult education. From 1997 to 2013 she was managing director in northern Germany of "Bioland" an association of organic farmers. In 2013 Carola started working at the Chamber of Agriculture. Since July 2014 she is responsible for the innovation support unit. She is supporting the EIP process in SH, is working as advisor for innovators and Operational Groups and as innovation-network-manager. This includes as well information as exchange, knowledge transfer, and active public relations within the EIP Agricultural Network in Europe.



Carola believes in the bottom-up approach to identify practice-relevant innovation ideas for and with agriculture. Carola is convinced that working with multi-stakeholder groups is particularly suitable for implementing innovations.



### **Natalia Brzezina**

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

Natalia Brzezina is a programme officer working in the Research and Innovation Unit of DG AGRI. She 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.



### **Inge Van Oost**

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

Inge Van Oost is policy officer at the European Commission, DG AGRI. She has initiated the agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI), with innovation projects strengthening linkages between research policy and rural development policy. As member of the Taskforce "Research and Innovation" she was instrumental in shaping DG AGRI's research and innovation approach in Horizon 2020 Work Programmes since 2012, and developed the new interactive research project formats "multi-actor approach", "thematic networks" and "advisory networks". Meanwhile, one of her core tasks has become the development and implementation of the policy on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) as part of the CAP 2023-2027, including essential improvements related to the EIP-AGRI. In her former post at the Commission she was policy officer responsible for cross-compliance, the Farm Advisory System and interlinking with the Rural Development policy. Before that, Inge Van Oost was coordinator of the Flemish demonstration projects, drafting rural development measures and designing the farm advisory system. She was evaluator of many agricultural research projects and member of diverse selection



committees. She served the Belgian Secretary-General as coordinator of the Horticultural Chain, dealing with chain management, food quality, traceability and safety, sustainability of production methods, linkages with consumers and much more. Before joining the administration, she worked as a farm advisor, and as the coordinator of the advisory team. Based in an applied research institute, the team did not only advise farmers, but also brokered for innovation and implemented multi-actor projects and on-farm demonstrations.



**Giorgio Trentin**  
**Veneto Region | Head Of Unit "quality, Knowledge And Innovation In Agriculture And Agrofood Sector"**

Since 2004 Giorgio been the Director of the Unit, at Veneto Region, responsible for planning and implementing interventions aimed to promote innovation and exchange of knowledge for the agricultural sector. Giorgio is also responsible for programming and supporting training courses for advisors. In the Programming period 2023-2027, Giorgio coordinate AKIS in Veneto. Giorgio has many years of experience in ERFD cooperation projects, also in the selection process, and as a teacher in courses for farmers and consultants. Giorgio is a member of the EU CAP Network Subgroup Innovation and Knowledge Exchange representing AREPO, the Association of European Regions for Product of Origin. Giorgio represents Veneto Region in ERIAFF, the Network of European Regions for Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Forestry.



**Doreen Verbakel**  
**Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality**

Doreen Verbakel works at the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality as policy advisor and maker on the topics of lifelong learning, skills development, green education, labour market connection- and information. She is for example involved with the professionalization of agricultural advisory services through the development of a permanent education system. Skills anticipation and development, particularly on topics related to the agricultural transition and innovation, are a priority to further improve the AKIS system with the aim to foster a much needed lifelong learning culture in the agricultural sector. Embedding a skills oriented mindset in the relationship between farmers, training providers and advisory services takes a pioneering approach with much



experimentation and research to understand what is needed and how learning can best be stimulated and facilitated.



**Dimitar Vanev**

**NAAS project teams for ModernAKIS, Climate Farm Demo and ClimateSmartAdvisors Horizon Europe projects**

Dimitar Vanev has been working in the field of rural development for 19 years. He holds a post-graduate specialty: “Economics and Management of agro-industry”. He is specialized in Strategic management, Sustainable Rural Development and Agricultural policy development. Dimitar Vanev worked for nine years at the Rural Development Directorate to the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Most of his tasks were related to CAP and the development, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of the Bulgarian rural development strategic plans and programmes supported under the European Agricultural Rural Development Fund and other CAP and national schemes. Since 2010 Dimitar Vanev works at the Bulgarian National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS). He has about 40 publications concerning strategic management in Agriculture and Food Processing, Supply Chain Management and Rural Development. He was short-term and middle-term expert as well as Key expert and Team leader under different EU Twinning and TAIEX projects related to Rural Development and CAP. Also, he was the leader of work package 7 “Communication on demo-farm activities and dissemination of practical-oriented outcomes” under Horizon 2020 project NEFERTITI. He is also involved in Climate Farm Demo, ClimateSmartAdvisors and modernAKIS.



**Effie Lazaridou**

**New Agriculture New Generation**

Effie is leading the non-profit organization New Agriculture New Generation (NANG) since its inception in 2018, (founding grant: Stavros Niarchos Foundation), and through its outstanding evolution into becoming an EU Best Practice; trusted partner of international institutional organizations; and acknowledged stakeholder of the Greek agrifood sector, with 30.000+ beneficiaries to date. Effie was recognized for her work as an NGO leader in Kathimerini’s “Women Leaders” publication. She is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Smart Agro Hub Competence Center S.A., as well as: “Agrotechnology Committee”, Greek-American Chamber of Commerce; “AgriBusiness Committee”, Greek-German Chamber of Commerce; “Agricultural Development



Committee”, International Chamber of Commerce Women, Hellas; and “Greek Nutrition 2.0” Committee, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food. She frequently contributes with opinion articles & as speaker on capacity building, women entrepreneurship, and empowerment in the agrifood sector. She is an experienced marketing strategist with a proven track record in delivering complex international projects in SE Europe, leading multinational, multi-disciplinary teams; multistakeholder groups; and nationwide bodies. Among others, she projects such as Destination Greece’s brand and marketing strategy, the largest communication consultancy project ever initiated in the country, and Greece’s Wine Sector’s first ever international branding & strategic marketing plan, mobilizing hundreds of professionals across the country to participate in think tanks and task groups. She holds an Integrated Master in Chemical Engineering (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), a Master of Arts in Cultural Management (City University. London) and a Professional PGDip in Marketing (Chartered Institute of Marketing. London).



**Magdalena Mach**

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

Magdalena Mach is a Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Rural Areas & Networks Unit. She holds a Master’s degree in International Relations. Before joining the EC she worked for the Agriculture and Fisheries Section of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union and Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development where for 6 years she was responsible for the implementation of LEADER approach under Rural Development Programme.

## DG Agriculture and Rural Development



**Elin Johnsson**

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

Policy Officer in the European Commission, DG AGRI, unit D.1 - Rural areas and networks. Part of the team working on innovation and knowledge exchange/EIP-AGRI within the EU CAP Network. In the European Commission since 2022, started in the environmental sustainability unit of DG AGRI. Agronomist with an MSc in Rural Development and Natural Resource Management, originally from an organic family farm in the north of Sweden.



## EU CAP Network Team

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



**Riccardo Da Re**  
**Lead 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.



**Aleksandra Zlateva**  
**Task Manager**

Aleksandra Zlateva is a member of the Seminar organising team, representing the EU CAP Network and more specifically the EIP-AGRI Support Facility. Her background in environmental sciences and sustainable development studies has only added to her curiosity and drive in improving socio-environmental dynamics, including in the field of agriculture. Her role here is to support the implementation of this Seminar, so please reach out for any questions, comments or concerns.



**Quico Onéga Lopez**  
**Co-task manager**

Quico is Science and Research Officer at the Support Facility of the EIP-AGRI. During the last years he has been focusing on the digital transformation of agriculture as well as the sustainability of ruminant production systems. Besides, he works as researcher and lecturer at the Land Laboratory at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia-Spain). He co-manages an organic grass-based sheep farm.







**Sarah Beigel**  
**Communications**

As part of the Support Facility’s communication team, Sarah coordinates the EU CAP Network Innovation and Knowledge exchange newsletter. She also works on publications, contributes to the content of the website and offers support for events. Between 2013-2021, Sarah was also Communications officer for the EIP-AGRI Service Point. Sarah has a master’s in international project management, and experience in international cooperation projects aimed at knowledge exchange and she had organised a number of international meetings and events within her role in EIP-AGRI and also as European project officer for AC3A (French Chambers of Agriculture).



**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.



**Margarida Ambar**  
**Facilitator**

Margarida Ambar is one of the Knowledge and Innovation officers in the EIP-AGRI Support Facility, and her main tasks are related to AKIS, networking and stakeholders management. Margarida Ambar studied Agricultural Engineering at the Technical University of Lisbon and has a master in Territorial Management and Urbanism, focusing on stakeholders’ involvement. She worked fulltime as part of the EIP-AGRI Service Point from 2013 until 2021, and worked for over 20 years for the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Prior to becoming part of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team, she had already gained experience in international cooperation projects and networks aiming at knowledge exchange.





**Remco Schreuder**  
**Facilitator**

From 2013-2021 he was a member of the EIP-AGRI Service Point, he continues his role as farm practices officer in the Support Facility team on the topic of smart and resilient agricultural sector and food security.

Since 2014 working for the Dutch Agency for Entrepreneurs as an (policy) advisor on Agricultural issues, mainly rural development (agro environment and climate) and CAP. Spend 20 years at several Applied Research units of Wageningen University focusing on farm economics and sustainable farm development.

Experienced in applied research on dairy farming, arable farming, bulb production and flowers, ornamental trees and fruit. Touching economics, entrepreneurship, manure treatment, crop protection, feeding, grassland management and many others.



**Beatriz Guimarey Fernández**  
**Facilitator**

Bea grew up on a small family farm in Galicia region (NW Spain), she is a Forestry Engineer and holds a Master in Sustainable Land Planning by the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). For 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.





**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.



**Elisabeth Klingbacher**  
**Facilitator**

Elisabeth is a part-time research and innovation officer at the EIP-AGRI Support Facility. She completed her agricultural studies at the University of natural resources and life sciences as well as agrarian pedagogy at the University College for Agrarian and Environmental Pedagogy in Vienna (Austria).

Elisabeth has a broad experience in organic agriculture with a focus on organic knowledge transfer and knowledge exchange. She is an employee at the Research Institute of organic agriculture (FiBL Austria) in the department of sustainable food systems.



## 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.



**Anne-Fleur Labbé**  
**Travel & logistical support**

Anne-Fleur, Managing Partner at Phrenos, is a multilingual professional with 15+ years of experience in events and communication. She is currently the Project Director of the “European Green Capital and European Green Leaf Awards’ Secretariat and Network Support” (DG ENV) and the Events Team Leader for the Logistical & Communication Support for Networking Activities of the CAP (Lot 4) for DG AGRI. She is also the Account & Event Manager of the “Professional Event Management Services Framework contract” for BERECA, and for a Communication & Events Services Long Term Agreement for UNICEF.

She graduated from the London School of Economics with a MSc in History of International Relations, and from Université Paris II – Panthéon Assas with a MSc in Banking & Finance. In 2020, at INSEAD, she completed a certification in “Design Thinking and Creativity for Business”, as well as one in “Leadership in a Crisis”. She speaks French, English, Italian, and German.

