

Speaker and facilitator bios (in order of the programme)



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. Before joining the Commission in 2022, she worked with rural development with a special commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action. Agronomist with an MSc in Rural Development and Natural Resource Management, originally from an organic family farm in the north of Sweden.



Diego Intrigliolo

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

Diego is a senior scientist at the Desertification Research Center (CIDE) (CSIC-UV-GVA) and has spent his career working on applied aspects of irrigation and applied water relations of woody perennial crops with the aim of improving on-farm irrigation efficiency, plant water use efficiency and indeed water productivity. Diego always tries also to emphasise how the individual processes are integrated in the whole plant. From 2012, he had had part-time contract with the Spanish Ministry of Science as a scientific consultant following the PRIMA Joint Programme “Partnership for research and innovation in the Mediterranean area” and the European Joint Soil Programme on Agriculture Soils. In PRIMA, Diego acted as the chair of the Science of the Scientific Advisory Committee.



Luis Sánchez Alvarez

DG Agriculture and Rural Development, F.2 Research and Innovation

Luis Sánchez joined DG Agriculture and Rural Development (Unit F.2 ‘Research and Innovation’) in January 2023, as part of the EU Mission Soil team at DG AGRI that he now coordinates. Luis is Agricultural Engineer and holds a PhD in the field of water and nutrient management in arable crops. Before joining the European Commission in 2017 (DG Research and Innovation), he worked for almost 20 years in agricultural policy and R&I in the Madrid Government.





Aniko Seregelyi

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

Anikó Seregélyi is Policy officer at the European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. She joined the European Commission in 2007; since 2015 she has worked in the EIP-AGRI team. In the past years, Aniko has been responsible for numerous EIP-AGRI Workshops, Seminars and Focus Groups mainly related to the sustainable management of natural resources, among others, water related EIP activities.

Prior to joining the Commission, she was managing research supporting projects in the 5th and 6th RTD Framework Programme and coordinated researchers' mobility issues within the ERAMORE network in Hungary.

Aniko studied Geography, European Studies and Science management in Budapest, Freiburg, Aachen and Speyer.



Eriona Canga

Wateragri project, Austria

Dr. Eriona Canga is a researcher at alchemia-nova in Vienna, which is a interdisciplinary research group dedicated to circular economy principles for more than 20 years. Eriona's expertise is in water and wastewater treatment using constructed wetlands and nature-based solutions. She is a team leader in Wateragri project and works in several other EU projects focused in water, soil, ecological services and circular economy. She holds a PhD in Agroecology from Aarhus University (2014) where she worked also afterwards as post-doc, researching innovative solutions for agricultural water treatment. She was a Lecturer and researcher at POLIS University in Albania from 2018-2021. Eriona has 13 years of international experience in academia and research in Denmark, Italy, Albania, and Austria, with competences in: EU Water Framework directive, water management, hydro-geochemical properties of different filter materials, sustainable environmental eco-technologies, (waste)-water treatment, pharmaceuticals, phosphorus and nitrogen, etc. Since 2009, her research focuses in wastewater treatment using constructed wetlands. Expert in hydro-geochemistry of filter materials that optimise phosphorus and nitrogen removal from polluted waters of various sources. Interested in nature-based solutions for circular cities. She has published several peer reviewed papers, and participated in numerous conferences.





Annette Dietmaier
Innovative project Smart-SWS, Germany

With a background in physical geography, Annette shifted her focus to deep hydrology and the sustainable use of deep geothermal waters in central Europe for Ph.D. Annette is now working in the field of shallow groundwater, managed aquifer recharge, and nature-based stormwater management. Annette is passionate about climate science and developing strategies to mitigate our contribution to climate change, and to adapt to climate change-related challenges.



Peter Bleyen
Life ACLIMA project, Belgium

Peter Bleyen is a researcher at the Experimental Poultry Centre (EPC) in Geel, Belgium. The EPC is the provincial research institute for applied poultry research with laying hens and broilers. They conduct open and neutral research, testing and demonstrating theoretical knowledge under field circumstances. Their focus is on the efficiency of the poultry industry and economic sustainability, addressing public concerns about animal welfare and environment. Peter is currently involved in national and European projects dealing with water availability in the poultry sector, circularity, and the reduction of emissions.



Eleanna Pana
PRIMA project Mara-Mediterra, Greece

Geologist with a MSc in Ecological Water Quality and Management. More than 15 years I have been working on agri-environmental issues in cooperation with the scientific community, decision makers and rural stakeholders. The result of my activities was, and still is, translated in the development and implementation of over 30 projects related to agriculture and environment, promoting the use of NbSs for sustainable water management at watershed and farm level. Member of EU EIP-AGRI focus group on NbSs in water management. Currently, Project Manager of the PRIMA project “Mara-Mediterra”.



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.



Céline Karasinski
Task Manager

Céline started in June 2014 as policy officer for the European innovation partnership 'Agricultural productivity and sustainability'. She has managed all the EIP-AGRI events related to water management.

Céline is an agricultural engineer, specialist of environment and ecology.



Ineke van Vliet
Co-task Manager

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.





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).



Antanas Maziliauskas
Deputy Team Leader

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).





Tiina Köster
Facilitator

Tiina Köster (facilitator). Tiina has bachelor degree in agronomy and MSc in soil science from Estonian Agricultural University. She has been working as a researcher and lecturer of soil science and environment in Estonian Agricultural University. She also worked in Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) covering different topics related to the soil like soil monitoring, lecturing about soils for farmers, investigating the properties of Estonian agricultural soils in agri-environmental program. She worked also as agronomist in Võru Variety Testing Centre (in ARC) focusing mostly on oilseed rape trials. Currently she works at the Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge as a policy analyst/ farm & rural development officer of EIP-AGRI Support Facility for European CAP Network and as a specialist of soil science.



Iiri Raa
Facilitator

Iiri Raa is working in the fields related to agri-environment with a passion for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation. Iiri has actively contributed to various projects, collaborated with both governmental and non-governmental organisations, participating in initiatives that bridge the gap between farming communities and ecological sustainability.



Sergiu Didicescu
Facilitator

Sergiu has a background in oenology and agri-environmental economics. He started professional life as an oenologist in the 'Dealul 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".



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.

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.

Irene Sánchez Valdovinos

Travel & logistical support

Irene Sanchez Travel & logistical support Irene started her journey at Phrenos as an Events Intern in September 2023. She holds a Bachelor's in Protocol, Events organisation and Corporate Communication (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos Madrid). She moved to Belgium for her Erasmus program and decided to stay there to continue her professional career. Before working at Phrenos she worked as an Events Planner at NH Collection Brussels Center. In her spare time she enjoys dancing bachata and salsa, travelling and enjoying the sun in a terrace with friends and family

