

EU CAP Network team bios

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



Sasha Twining
Main moderator – Day 1

Sasha Twining is a journalist and TV/radio presenter (former BBC and Sky News) now working as a professional moderator and independent debate facilitator across Europe. She works in sectors including renewable energy, technology, agriculture, retail, finance and manufacturing.



André Vizinho
Main facilitator – Day 2

André Vizinho has a PhD in the climate adaptation of agriculture and forestry in the Mediterranean Climate Regions, a master in the economy of Montado agroforestry systems and a graduation in environmental engineering. He work as facilitator, consultant, participatory-action research and teaching. He has been working for more than a decade as researcher in the university of Lisbon, leading projects, work packages, case studies, research and demonstration work in FP7, H2020, LIFE, EEA Grants and other fundings. He works regularly as main facilitator with EU CAP Network. Presently he is working especially with farmers as a consultant in landscape regeneration design and implementation, in the context of the agro-forestry landscapes of the south of Portugal.



Margarida Ambar
Conference Task manager

Margarida Ambar is part of the EU CAP Network support unit for Innovation and Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI, and is the Head of the Division dealing with the EU-AKIS and general stakeholders management. She has been working with EIP-AGRI since 2013. She studied Agricultural Engineering at the Technical University of Lisbon and has a master's degree in Territorial Management, focusing on stakeholders involvement. Margarida is the Task Manager for this conference.





Elisabeth Klingbacher
Conference Co-task manager

Elisabeth is a part-time research and innovation officer at the Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange including EIP-AGRI. 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.



Tine Defour
Conference Communication officer

Within the EIP-AGRI Support Facility's communication team, Tine writes and coordinates brochures and other publications, including the yearly [Agrinnovation magazine](#). She loves whipping words into publishable shape. Tine contributes to the contents of the EU CAP Network website and the newsletter on Innovation & Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI, and offers support for events.

From 2014 to 2021, she was a member of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team. Tine has an academic background, with a PhD in English linguistics. From 2003 to 2014 she was a researcher and lecturer at Ghent University (BE), where she gained experience in international networking and organising events. During that time she also worked as editorial assistant and proofreader for a peer-reviewed academic journal.



Aleksandra Zlateva
EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards Task manager

Currently a Knowledge and Innovation Officer in the EIP-AGRI Support Facility, Aleksandra has a background in environmental sciences and sustainable development studies which has only added to her curiosity and drive in improving socio-environmental dynamics, including in the field of agriculture. During the conference, Aleksandra is part of the organising team for the EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards - please reach out with any points regarding the Awards, or in any case she is always happy to help!





Sergiu Didicescu
EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards Co-task manager

Sergiu is Romanian and has a masters degree in rural development. He is the head of division "Environmental care and climate action" at the Support Facility for 'Innovation & knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI' of the European CAP Network.



Sarah Beigel
EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards Communication officer

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.



Ina Van Hoyer
Communication manager

Ina Van Hoyer is business owner of WETA, a full-service communication agency. She is a communication expert with more than 20 years communication experience. From 2013 until 2021 she was the coordinating communication officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. Currently, she is communication manager at the EU CAP Network's 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. 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 the cooperative restoration agriculture farm Pomona Puur Natuur (Belgium) and founding board member of the non-profit organisation Pomona vzw to promote restoration agriculture and support farms in setting up cooperative regenerative farms. Previously she was involved in several regional and European projects (Interreg and Life) for the Flemish Government, De Vlaamse Waterweg to support them in their communication for several Sigma Plan projects.



Maurine Van haesendonck
Admin coordinator

Maurine is Admin coordinator at the EIP-AGRI Support Facility, supporting all administrative, financial and logistical aspects of the Support Facility. She has a Master of Science in Applied bio-science engineering and has over 10 years of experience in applied research roles.

Support team workshop 1 ‘Starting from an innovative idea: developing it into an Operational Group project proposal’ (‘START’)



Martin Jamrich

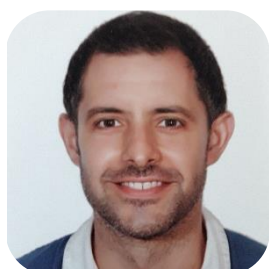
Martin is a Smart Farm Practices & Rural Development Officer at the EIP-AGRI Support Facility team. He has a Master’s degree in Quantitative Methods in Economics and a PhD degree in Economics and Management of Agriculture and Food Processing. His research was focused on household consumption and unfair 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.





Tiina Köster

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.



Quico Ónega

Since April 2013 Quico works part-time as Science and Research Officer at the EIP-AGRI Support Facility (previously Service Point). He has been dealing with topics related to the AKIS and the digitalization of agriculture as well as sustainable ruminant production systems. Besides, he works as project manager at the Land Laboratory of the University of Santiago de Compostela in the realm of spatial planning and land and rural policies. Together with his wife, he runs an organic sheep farm in Galiza (North-West Spain).

Support team workshop 2 ‘Facilitating: ensuring a smooth-running Operational Group project’ (‘FACILITATE’)



Antanas Maziliauskas

Since March 2023, Antanas Maziliauskas has been the Deputy Team Leader of the Innovation and Knowledge exchange/EIP-AGRI Support Facility, coordinating linking research and practice. He is part of the the EIP-AGRI SF since 2021. As task manager, he has coordinated the Focus Group on Biodiversity on farmland and as co-task manager he has worked with the Focus Group on Nature-based solutions for water management. He 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 has had many leading and expert positions in academic and public institutions and businesses (i.e. was rector of Aleksandras



Stulginskis university in Lithuania, was heading Department of Agriculture and Food at the Lithuanian ministry of agriculture, was CEO of consulting company “Projektu gama”, etc.), but what he really enjoys are the multiple projects and missions related to natural resources, water management, irrigation and drainage, water supply and wastewater treatment in the Baltic Sea region (Lithuania, Latvia, Sweden) also in Africa (Algeria, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, Uganda, Ivory Cost, Niger), Latin America (Bolivia, Ecuador) and Asia (Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan).



Bea Guimarey Fernandez

Grown up on a small family farm in Galicia (NW Spain), Beatriz is Forestry Engineer and holds a Master in Sustainable Land Planning by the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC). At the EU CAP Network | EIP-AGRI she contributes to organising and facilitating networking events, screening of innovative projects and provides content for communication. Within this team she’s devoted to topics related to forestry, bioeconomy, societal demands or business and rural development. Furthermore, Bea is researcher at USC on projects dealing with innovation in rural development and land use change.



Liina Ulm

I grew up on a small farm in rural Estonia, have a BSc in animal agriculture from the Estonian University of Life Sciences, and have several years of hands-on experience working with cattle. Today I work for The Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge as innovation specialist as well as Smart Farm Practices & Rural Development Officer within the EIP-AGRI Support Facility team.

Support team workshop 3 ‘Involving farmers and foresters from start to finish: ensuring that end-users are benefitting’ (‘CO-CREATE’)



Ineke Van Vliet

Ineke has experience in the field of policy implementation concerning agriculture, rural development and energy transition. She holds positions between facilitator, coordinator and task manages. She is most effective in projects with lots of short term mile stones. Working together in a team motivates her to create 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. Besides, Ineke is a visual artist.



Céline Karaskinski

I started in June 2014 as policy officer for the European innovation partnership 'Agricultural productivity and sustainability' (EIP-AGRI Service Point).

I work since 2009 for Chamber of Agriculture network in France. I was involved in rural development and research and innovation.

From June 2017 to March 2020, I managed a LEADER programme in her country and facilitated a Local Action Group. From 2018 to 2021, I worked as facilitator for the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Rural Network. In this unit, I was responsible for the organisation of meetings and conferences, coordination of working groups and help to the cooperation projects of the Local Action Group. I participated in the French rural network's meetings and conferences.

I am Agricultural engineer, specialist of environment and ecology; I studied at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agronomie of Toulouse (France).



Pedro Naves

Pedro Naves is a research and innovation officer within the EIP-AGRI Support Facility team. Biologist, working as a scientific researcher in the fields of plant protection, pest control, and taxonomy of agricultural and forest insects and mites, participating in scientific projects and author of scientific publications. Other activities include training and technical/scientific assistance, consulting and dissemination, organization of technical and scientific events, and education.

Support team workshop 4 'Creating an enabling environment to support Operational Groups throughout the project' ('ENABLE')



Rasa Pakeltiene

Rasa is a Knowledge and Innovation Officer at the EIP-AGRI | Innovation, and knowledge exchange Support facility. She is working as an associated professor at the Bioeconomy Development Faculty of Vytautas Magnus University (VMU), as well as AKIS activities coordinator at the Business and Social Partnership Center of VMU. Furthermore, she is secretary-general of the Association for European Life Science



Universities, representing over 50 higher education institutions in the fields relating to the circular bioeconomy, the sustainable use of natural resources, the protection of the environment, and rural development. Rasa is an expert on national and international research and study projects and is an active member of scientific associations and other thematic networks.



Carla Brites

Senior Researcher in Food Science & Technology, specializes in developing appealing and healthy cereal-based products at INIAV, the Portuguese Institute for Agrarian and Veterinarian Research. With extensive research project management experience, leads the TRACE-RICE PRIMA/H2020 project and contributes to the Agroecology and FutureFoodS European partnerships. Actively contributed for shaping European research policy within H2020-SC2 and SCAR committees, and serves as an expert for Cluster 6 in Horizon Europe. Within European CAP Network acts as a Researcher & Innovation officer in the Innovation & Knowledge Exchange EIP-AGRI team.



Tajana Radić

Tajana Radić is a Head of Division D “Strengthening the Socio-economic 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 13 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.



Support team workshop 5 ‘Sharing results for better uptake by practice, during and beyond the lifespan of the project’ (‘SHARE’)



Remco Schreuder

Since April 2013 non-permanent member of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team now the EIP-AGRI Service Facility as Farm Practice Officer. Based at the Dutch Agency for Entrepreneurs at the Paying Agency as an (policy) advisor on Agricultural issues, mainly CAP (ecoscheme) rural development (agro environment and climate). 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, manure treatment, crop protection, feeding, grassland management and many others.



Xurxo Loureiro Veira

Xurxo is Research and Innovation Officer at the EIP-AGRI Support Facility. He has a doctorate in sustainable land and territory management, with academic background in forest engineer and agri-food business management. He has previously worked in land consolidation projects, wildfire service, and as export manager. Xurxo is currently working as associate researcher in the Land Laboratory (University of Santiago de Compostela) on several topics, including food systems and food security, sustainable land planning, forestry resilience, biogovernance, ecosystem services and rural development.



Iiri Raa

By academic background she has degree in environmental sciences. In her current position in Centre of Estonian Rural research and Knowledge as head of agroecology unit she has gained long-term experience in CAP/RDP/agri-environment policy with a special focus on evaluation of interventions with environmental impact. She has performed in several conferences, workshops, been lecturer in trainings for farmers and advisors, facilitating workshop discussions. She has been also actively involved in different organizing teams for several events like workshops, conferences, etc.



Support team workshop 6 ‘Inspiring Operational Groups to collaborate with other innovative projects’ (‘COLLABORATE’)



Szabolcs Vágó

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 a lot of international capacity building projects regarding statistics, Agricultural Information Systems and Data Management in different countries. Lately, as a Director’s Advisor his main task was managing international research projects (H2020, HE). He has numerous scientific and informational publications.



Sergiu Didicescu

Sergiu is Romanian and has a masters degree in rural development. He is the head of division "Environmental care and climate action" at the Support Facility for ‘Innovation & knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI’ of the European CAP Network.



Anne Kinsella

Anne Kinsella is an economist working with Teagasc, the Food and Agricultural Development Authority in Ireland. She specialises in area of production economics and farm level agricultural economics research. Some of her research interests include farm succession/inheritance policy drivers, pension provisioning, collaborative farming structures, land mobility and farm safety. She has developed a hypothetical land access/succession model designed to deal with various farm scenarios and to compare potential income streams under various policy and agricultural conditions. She is the Irish representative on the OECD International network for farm level analysis and the Irish representative on agribenchmark international network for beef and sheep. She



is a member of a number of national advisory groups and steering committees, in addition to being the Teagasc representative on three boards of directors. She is chairperson on Galway Rural Development clg Board of directors, which is the largest local development company in Ireland and also sits on executive committee of three other boards. She is the principle investigator on a number of EU projects, including EU Horizon FLIARA project. Prior to working in Teagasc, she worked in the area of International Capital Management and corporate banking.

Support team workshop 7 ‘Fostering transnational Operational Groups’ (‘TRANSNATIONAL’)



Liisa Kübarsepp

Liisa is working in the EIP-AGRI Support Facility since 2022, mainly focusing on the stakeholder’s database, website and event organisation. She previously worked in the EIP-AGRI Service Point from 2017-2021 as facilitator in different events and task manager for the Focus Groups on soil contamination and plastic use in agriculture as well as task manager for the workshop on shaping the EU Soil Mission and co-task manager for the seminar on soil health. She has a masters’ degree in plant biology from the University of Tartu and is currently pursuing PhD in agriculture in the Estonian University of Life Sciences. She also works in the Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge innovation service where her task is to foster innovation in the agricultural sector in Estonia.



Ana Pires Da Silva

Ana is a Smart Farm Practices & Rural Development Officer in the EIP-AGRI Support Facility Team. She studied Agricultural Engineering at the Technical University of Lisbon and has a Master degree in Organic farming and Integrated Pest Management. Worked for 10 years at the National Support Unit of the Portuguese National Rural Network (NRN) having been responsible for LEADER and Rural Development at national and international level. She currently works at the Portuguese National Institute for Agricultural and Veterinary Research (INIAV) where she is a senior board advisory.





Barry Caslin

Barry Caslin works as a Knowledge Officer with the EU CAP Network through the EIP Agri Support Facility. He specialises in organising and facilitating events on behalf of the CAP Network, focusing on agricultural innovation and sustainability. He endeavors to connect stakeholders and share knowledge to foster positive change in the farming community.

2. Communications and Events Support



Francesco Aiello
Event organiser

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.



Mathieu Blanchart
Director

Director in charge of live streaming for the awards.



Tommaso Codazzi
Project manager

Tommaso holds a master's degree in European Studies (King's College London) and a bachelor in Politics and International Relations (University of Bath), which demonstrate his interest in European politics and international affairs. Being a student in England during the Brexit debates, Tommaso developed a strong attachment to the EU. While the UK was leaving the EU, he decided to leave the UK.

Before joining the EU CAP Network in 2021, Tommaso had experiences in the European Parliament and at UNESCO and UNICEF, working both on communication and research projects. Tommaso firmly believes that empowering younger generations is crucial to build a better world. He thus has extensive experience in working with teenagers and is a certified English teacher.





Marcello De Giorgi
Communications manager

Marcello is leading the EU CAP Network comms team since its launch. Before joining the Network, Marcello worked as a communication professional with UNCDF, the University of Venice as well as in private companies.



Nicolas Esgain
Team leader

Nicolas has more than 25 years of experience in exhibition, communication and event management and has led numerous high-profile events and summits, and communication campaigns on behalf of the European Commission (DG Regio, DV DEVCO, DG ENV), including the European Development Days (EDDs), the European Union Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo, and other clients like UNICEF, ITC, EU Delegations. Before founding Phrenos in 2010 Nicolas also worked in the cultural sector and managed many exhibitions in Europe. His experience has taken him to implement communication and event activities in many countries across Europe and beyond: Algeria, Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, UK, Finland, Estonia, Poland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Brazil, Senegal, and China. Nicolas holds a master's in History from UCLouvain, an Advanced Management Certificate from ICHEC-Entreprises, and a certification in Design Thinking and Creativity for Business from INSEAD.



Anne-Fleur Labbé
Events team leader

Anne-Fleur, Managing Partner at Phrenos, is a multilingual professional with 15+ years of experience in events and communication. She is the Events Team Leader for the Logistical & Communication Support for Networking Activities of the CAP (Lot 4) for DG AGRI.

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.





Cécile Mayeres
Communication officer

Cécile joined Phrenos in 2023 as a Communication Officer after working at the European Parliament in Luxembourg. Passionate about languages and discovering new cultures, she is also fond of music and literature. She first gained experience in translation in Spain and in intercultural communication in France before focusing on European matters.

Involved in various communication activities, Cécile is very enthusiastic about social media strategies and producing creative content.

She holds a Bachelor and a Master's Degree in Translation and Cross-Cultural Communication from ISIT Paris with a specialization in European mobility. Languages: French, English, Spanish



Agathe Moreau
Project coordinator

Agathe became a valuable asset to the EU CAP Network in 2022, starting as an Event Assistant and swiftly growing within the company. In 2023, she took on the role of Project Coordinator Assistant, where she was responsible for the European Green Capital and European Green Leaf Awards' Secretariat. Agathe then moved to the management of the DG AGRI project, dealing with publications coordination and establishing communication processes with stakeholders. Her enthusiasm for European Affairs is evident, infusing a genuine sense of optimism in this field.

Agathe's academic background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in European Studies, both earned from Université de Lille.



Sophie Plattard
Event organiser

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.



**Irene Sánchez Valdovinos****Event assistant**

Irene started her journey at the EU CAP Network as an Event Assistant 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. In her spare time she enjoys dancing bachata and salsa, travelling and enjoying the sun in a terrace with friends and family.

**Stefania Succi****Artistic Director**

Artistic creative director with more than 20 years experience. I have been working for Dragone (Cirque du Soleil), I realised hundreds of event for festival, corporate, private and Institutional client. At latest I was engaged as creative director of all edition of New European Bauhaus, and ARIA Ceremony Award.

