

Speaker and facilitator bios (in order of the programme)

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Klavdija Ramšak-Noemi

Policy officer, DG AGRI, European Commission

Klavdija Ramšak-Noemi is a Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit D.1 Rural areas and networks, EU CAP Network / EIP-AGRI team. She joined European Commission, DG AGRI, in 2005. As a programme manager she managed the approval negotiations and implementation of the Rural Development Programme for Slovenia 2007-2013 and contributed to the preparation of the Partnership agreement with Slovenia 2014-2020. At DG AGRI she worked on German Rural Development matters as well as financial management. She has held a socio-economic researcher position in Switzerland. She studied economics in Ljubljana and holds a Master's degree in Human Ecology from Free University of Brussels.



Antonia Gámez Moreno

Head of Unit D.1 'Rural areas and networks' , DG AGRI, European Commission

Antonia Gámez Moreno has a Spanish national lawyer's background complemented by postgraduate studies in European law at the College of Europe in Brugge. After 4 years in the private sector with a clear focus on EU competition law, consumer policy and internal market issues, she joined the European Commission in 1993. At DG Health and Consumers Affairs (SANTE), she worked on legal aspects of consumer protection. In 2000, she joined DG Agriculture and Rural development (AGRI) where she held various positions, dealing with State Aid control in the agricultural sector, US and Canada desk officer, assistant to the Deputy Director-General in charge of International Trade Relations. In 2014, she was appointed Head of Unit for "Enforcement of EU legislation, relations with the Ombudsman and Access to Documents" and from 2017 onwards, she has been Head of Unit responsible for trade relations in the agri-food sector with "Asia and Australasia". From January 2021 she is the Head of Unit D.1 in DG AGRI dealing with Rural Areas and CAP Networks.





Niels Rump

Main facilitator, EIP-AGRI Support Facility

Independent facilitator and consultant in support of interactive multi-actor innovation processes. Organic farmer for more than 35 years. MSc in Biology and Agronomy



Maša Žagar

Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

Maša Žagar is a Director General in the Directorate of Agriculture. She has long-term experiences related to Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, 2014-2020, Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 and within the framework of EU institutions. She was counsellor for agriculture at Permanent representation of Slovenia to the EU from 2015-2020



Saorla Kavanagh

Coordinating expert, EIP-AGRI Support Facility

Saorla is currently the Farmland Biodiversity Research Officer in Teagasc, Ireland. Between 2019 and 2023 she was the project manager of the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP. She worked with 40 farmers to identify different farmland landscape features that benefit biodiversity, and do not negatively impact on farm productivity. In this project they identified small actions that farmers can take that will allow biodiversity to coexist within a productive farming system. They developed a whole farm pollinator scoring system that uses results-based payment structure. In 2022 Saorla coordinated the Farmer Moth Monitoring EIP project. Through this project they developed a robust and scientifically rigorous farmer led moth monitoring scheme. This is a new and innovative approach to nature conservation on farmland. She worked on the EPA-funded POLLIVAL project, which involved developing and accessing methodologies to evaluate pollination services in an economic context. Saorla completed her PHD in 2018 on "Honey chemical constituents from apiaries in different landscapes in Ireland". She is a beginner beekeeper with expertise in the fields of chemistry, ecology, and farmland biodiversity.



**Andreas Gumbert****Policy officer, DG ENV, European Commission**

Andreas is working in DG Environment on the implementation of the EU Pollinator Initiative. This includes addressing drivers of pollinator decline on farmland.

**Marina Hadjiyanni****Policy officer, DG AGRI, European Commission**

Marina Hadjiyanni is working on the issue pollinators for the last two years, as a policy officer in the Environmental sustainability unit in DG AGRI. She is also dealing with other aspects of Biodiversity in agriculture, such as landscape features and organic farming. Marina has a long experience in the EU Institutions, Commission and Parliament, where for the last 18 years she has worked in different positions. This makes her a true believer in the EU project. Today, she is ready to discuss with you and collect ideas in view of the future policy.

**Anikó Seregélyi****Policy officer, DG AGRI, European Commission**

Anikó Seregélyi is Policy officer at the European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. Since 2015, she works in the EIP-AGRI team that defines and coordinates the European level networking activities. In the past years, she was responsible for numerous Workshops, Seminars and Focus Groups supporting the successful implementation of EIP-AGRI mainly related to the sustainable management of natural resources and capacity building activities. Prior to joining the Commission, she worked as EU project manager in Hungary responsible for research supporting projects in the 5th and 6th RTD Framework Programme and for researchers' mobility issues. She studied Geography, European Studies and Science management in Budapest, Freiburg, Aachen and Speyer.





Neus Rodriguez Gasol

Researcher, Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet

Neus is a postdoctoral researcher. Currently her work is focused on the evaluation and optimisation of flower strips to promote above (pollination and biological control) and below-ground (decomposition and promotion of beneficial/detrimental nematodes) ecosystem services in arable crops, strawberry fields and apple orchards. Drawing from prior research, she offers valuable insights into hoverfly ecology based on a literature review she conducted. Neus also discusses how agricultural intensification, by the addition of crop irrigation in almond orchards, can impact wild bee and hoverfly communities.



Rachel Creighton

Farmer, Newtown farm

A graduate of Natural Sciences from Trinity College Dublin, I initially pursued a career in ex situ conservation through my work in Dublin Zoo. I subsequently changed profession into the agricultural world and now attempting to find the best ways to continue viable dairy farming, while simultaneously having direct positive impacts on our farm's biodiversity. I am currently studying with the Sustainable Farming Academy in University College Cork, sponsored by our milk processor, Tirlán. The 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators' has played a highly influential part in how I see the running of our farm and I hope to help carry that influence to others.

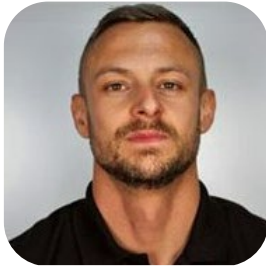


Ben Mehedin

Advisor, Fundatia ADEPT Transilvania

Graduated in macromolecular chemistry, Ben has worked in community and rural development projects in Transylvania, specialising in farmer training, food production, food branding, hygiene and marketing including farmer's markets, and cultural tourism. Ben represented ADEPT Foundation when received the award for CAP Communication awards in 2012 offered by EC for 'Communication to Stakeholders'. He strengthens community ties especially through organising and running small workshops/ seminars on environmental education, Geographical Indication products and rural tourism.





Vincent Tchedry

Research Programme officer, DG AGRI, European Commission

With an agricultural and environmental academic background, Vincent worked as an R&D agronomist and research analyst before joining the Commission. He started at DG AGRI in the Economic Sustainability unit, where he followed incentives to increase protein crops and legumes, before moving on to the R&I unit, where he handles the Mission Soil and biodiversity portfolio under Horizon Europe, including pollinators.



Antanas Maziliauskas

Deputy Tema Leader, EIP-AGRI Support Facility

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).



EU CAP Network Team

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



Xurxo Loureira Veira
Task manager

Xurxo is a research and innovation officer in the EIP-AGRI Support Facility. He has a doctorate in sustainable land management, with academic background in forest engineer and agri-food business. 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.



Pedro Miguel Navas
Co-task manager and facilitator

Pedro is a research and innovation officer within the EIP-AGRI Support Facility team. Pedro has a PhD in Biology/Entomology, working as a scientific researcher in the fields of plant protection, pest control, and taxonomy of agricultural and forest insects and mites. Author and co-author of scientific publications, other activities include training and technical/scientific assistance, consulting and divulgation, organization of technical and scientific events, and education.



Kaat Van Royen
Event communication officer

As part of the European CAP Network's EIP-AGRI Support Facility's communication team, Kaat Van Royen, is responsible for the video production and website content management, and contributes to social media. She also contributes to other communication projects at WETA (communication agency), such as awareness raising campaigns, workshops and podcasts. Kaat recently obtained a master in Sociology focusing on international development, and experience as production officer and event manager for socio-cultural events.



**Sergiu Didicescu****Facilitator**

Sergiu 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.

**Iiri Raa****Facilitator**

In her current position she has gained long-term experience in RDP/agri-environment policy with a special focus on evaluation of RDP measures/CAP 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 organising teams for several events like workshops, conferences, etc. At the same time, her professional interest has also been into agri-innovation partnerships.

**Aleksandra Zlateva****Facilitator**

Currently a Knowledge and Innovation Officer in the EIP-AGRI Support Facility, Aleksandra has a background in environmental sciences, completing her thesis on the topic of pollinator ecology in the urban environment. Combined with her further studies in sustainable development and her current role, this experience has only nurtured her curiosity and drive in improving socio-environmental dynamics, including in the field of agriculture.



2. Communications and Events Support



Young Mi Lamine
Travel & logistical support

Young Mi is an all-rounded events organiser. Having worked for many years in and for European Institutions.



Anne-Fleur Labbé
Travel & logistical support

EU CAP Network Events Team Leader.

