

Speaker and facilitator bios



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.



Anne Hurand

Chambre of Agriculture, Normandy

Anne worked for a long time in the social and solidarity economy. Now she is manager at the Chambre of Agriculture. She is strongly interested in local development.





Stéphanie Davenel
Chambre of Agriculture, Normandy

I have been working at the Chambre of Agriculture for 14 years now, first promoting local products and agritourism. Since 2019, I aim to increase the local products in collective caterings through different actions: product sourcing, public market, B to B events, logistics, culinary challenge, and promotion of European school fruit and milk program.



Guillaume Lebon
Normandy Region

I am a project manager in charge of local food, short supply chains, logistics, food democracy, food education, monitoring of territorial food projects and local supply of school catering.



Ana Patricia Lopez Blanco
**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural
Development, F.2 Research and Innovation**

Research programme officer at DG AGRI.



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



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.



EU CAP Network Team

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



Emilia Pellegrini

EU CAP Network - Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange including EIP-AGRI

I obtained a PhD in Agricultural Economics in 2020 at the University of Padua, and I am currently a Research Fellow at the University of Bologna, Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences. Throughout my academic and professional journey, I have participated in various multi-actor projects focused on actively engaging stakeholders in agricultural policy development. This experience sparked my passion for public participation and facilitation, leading me to pursue training as an expert facilitator. Since 2020, I have facilitated numerous workshops with stakeholders from diverse backgrounds within the agricultural sector and contributed to the delivery of several position papers and deliverables.



Felix Arion

EU CAP Network - Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange including EIP-AGRI

He is an economist specialising in agricultural and rural management, as well as rural development strategies. He serves as the General Director of AgroTransilvania Cluster, a Gold-labeled cluster, and is the Head of the Department of Economic Sciences of the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca (USAMV CN). He holds a Ph.D. from the USAMV CN, with a focus on consulting for agricultural and rural enterprises. His expertise extends to managing a wide array of international research and development projects, funded by the European Union, the World Bank, and other sources. With extensive experience in international collaborations, he has worked with partners across Europe, the United States, and beyond. He has been actively involved in initiatives aimed at enhancing supply chains for both domestic producers and international agri-food companies, fostering stronger connections between Europe, Asia, and other regions.



**Paul Sergiu Didicescu****EU CAP Network - Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange including EIP-AGRI**

Deputy team leader at the EU CAP Network - Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange including EIP-AGRI.

**Bavo Verwimp****EU CAP Network - Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange including EIP-AGRI**

My name is Bavo Verwimp. I have been working for more than 20 for the Flemish Government (Flemish Land Agency) as an agricultural economist. Since 3 years, I became member of the EU CAP Network - Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange, including EIP-AGRI. This is for me a part time job, as I am also working as organic farmer in Flanders, Belgium.

**Elisabeth Klingbacher****EU CAP Network - Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange including EIP-AGRI**

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. At the Research Institute of organic agriculture (FiBL Austria) she works in the department of sustainable food systems.



**Liina Ulm****EU CAP Network - Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange including EIP-AGRI**

I work at the EU CAP Network Support Facility for Innovation & Knowledge Exchange, supporting knowledge sharing and collaboration in agricultural and rural innovation. I facilitate networking between stakeholders, helping to connect researchers, farmers, advisors, and businesses to foster impactful partnerships. My focus is on practical solutions that enhance sustainability, digitalisation, and resilience in agriculture and rural areas.

**Quico Ónega López****EU CAP Network - Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange including EIP-AGRI**

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.

**Laurien Goovaerts****EU CAP Network - Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange including EIP-AGRI**

Laurien is passionate about communication, sustainability and international relations. She has a master's degree in both Corporate Communications and European Studies, with a focus on external relations and EU Climate and Energy policy. Laurien joined the EU CAP Network in April 2024, under the EIP-AGRI Support Facility, as Communication Officer.



Communications and Events Support



Francesco Aiello

EU CAP Network - Communication and Logistical Support Team

Francesco joined Phrenos over two years ago, bringing with him a solid background in on-the-ground event support. Since then, he has been involved in the logistical planning and execution of events across Europe, from intimate gatherings to major conferences.

At Phrenos, he ensures that every event runs smoothly — coordinating travel and accommodation logistics, managing on-site operations, and supporting participants with precision and care. His ability to stay calm under pressure and anticipate needs makes him a go-to person for seamless event delivery. Before joining Phrenos, Francesco volunteered with the CinemàCinemà International Short Film Festival, where he was part of the organising team and worked as Art Director, cultivating a strong sense of aesthetics and attention to detail. Discreet and observant, yet always ready with a witty comment, Francesco prefers to let his work speak for itself. Outside of events, he's passionate about cycling, experimenting with ice cream recipes, and catching up on quality TV series.



Eva Brixy

EU CAP Network - Communication and Logistical Support Team

I am currently an intern with the EU CAP Network Communication and Logistical Support Team, where I have been working since February 2025. In this role, I contribute to the organisation and logistical coordination of events. Alongside my internship, I am pursuing a Master's degree in Event Management in Brussels.

