



# Subgroup on Innovation & Knowledge Exchange (SolKE) 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

5 June 2025



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# **EU CAP Network – Innovation and knowledge exchange including EIP-AGRI Updates**

**Hugo Almeida**  
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**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development**

Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (SolKE) | 9<sup>th</sup> meeting | 5 June 2025



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# EU CAP Network – Innovation and knowledge exchange including EIP-AGRI Updates June 2025

Two men are standing in a vineyard, looking at a tablet. One man is wearing a blue shirt and suspenders, and the other is wearing a checkered shirt and a hat.

**Hugo Almeida**  
Deputy Head of Unit D.1 Rural areas and networks



## Study on simplification and administrative burden for farmers and other beneficiaries under the CAP

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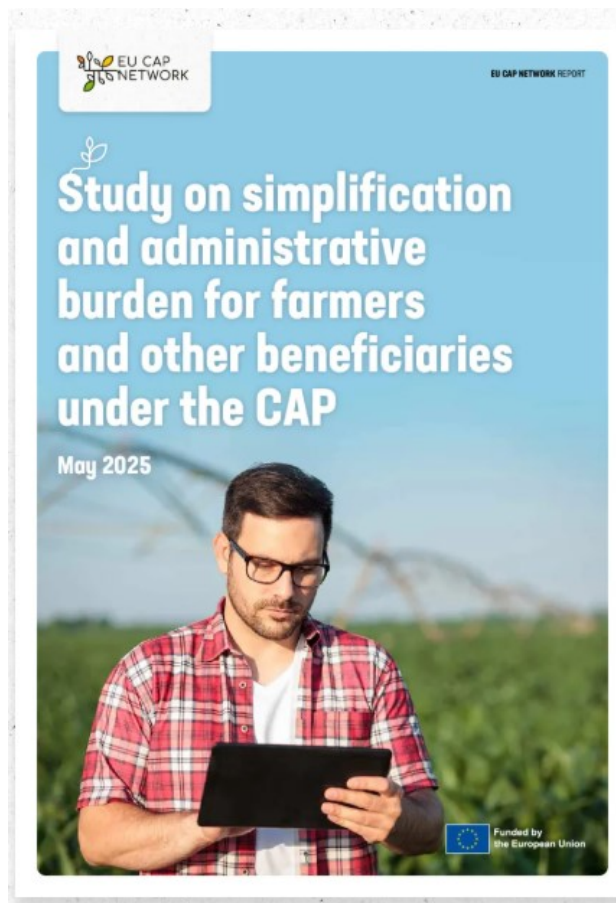

**Administrative burden** emerged as a concern for many OGs.

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Administrative burden **varies based on OGs diverse structures, team sizes and project scopes.**

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EIP OGs reported **perceived lack of support from authorities - support provided by MAs and innovation support services to the OGs during the preparation and application stages is crucial to achievement of good project results.**



## EIP-OGs main sources of burden - burdensome reporting on the justification of costs incurred by the project

**Numerous and detailed information** (e.g. action plans, budgets, timelines, indicators, communication plans) required by the administrations

**Documents and evidence collection:** detailed information, proofs, notarial deeds, cost calculation and justification and personnel costs

In some cases, the above are aggravated by **paper-based procedures or non-functioning online tools.**



## EIP-OGs – other sources of complexity

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long payment times

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reduced use of simplification tools, such as SCOs – Stakeholders ask for a larger application of SCO

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difficulty in providing co-financing

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lack of flexibility related to project modifications

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complexity in demonstrating innovative features

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dissemination actions

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barriers to cooperation due to the nature of projects, including resource constraints, limited administrative capacity and difficulties in networking and cooperation/coordination.



## Main reasons for not using external advice

- › sufficient internal expertise and collaboration within networks, which provide the necessary knowledge and support;
- › high costs /lack of funding
- › efficiency concerns, as onboarding external consultants can be time-consuming;
- › limited availability of specialised external resources.



## Horizontal solutions for simplification suggested

1. Improved digital tools and systems, integration and interoperability;
2. Clarity, simplicity and flexibility in rules and conditions;
3. Simplification of procedures and reporting;
4. Enhanced advisory and support services:
  - Expanding free advisory services tailored to different farm sizes and needs.
  - Strengthening regional advisory networks for hands-on support.
  - Using trusted, independent advisors for personalised and actionable advice.

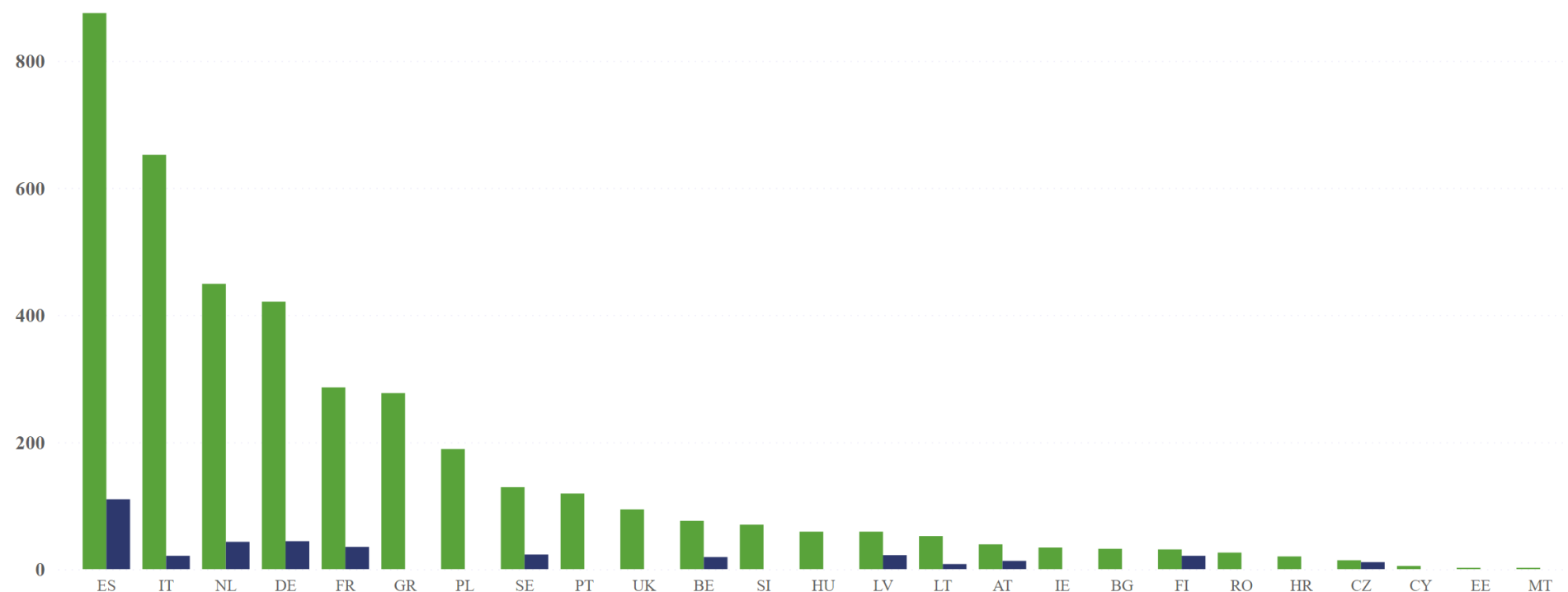
Study also highlighted the need for better sharing of information on experiences and good practices across EU countries.





# OG project – state of play

Number of OG projects per Member State (both periods)



Number of OG projects (2014-2022)

Number of OG projects (2023-2027)

Total OG projects

4,012

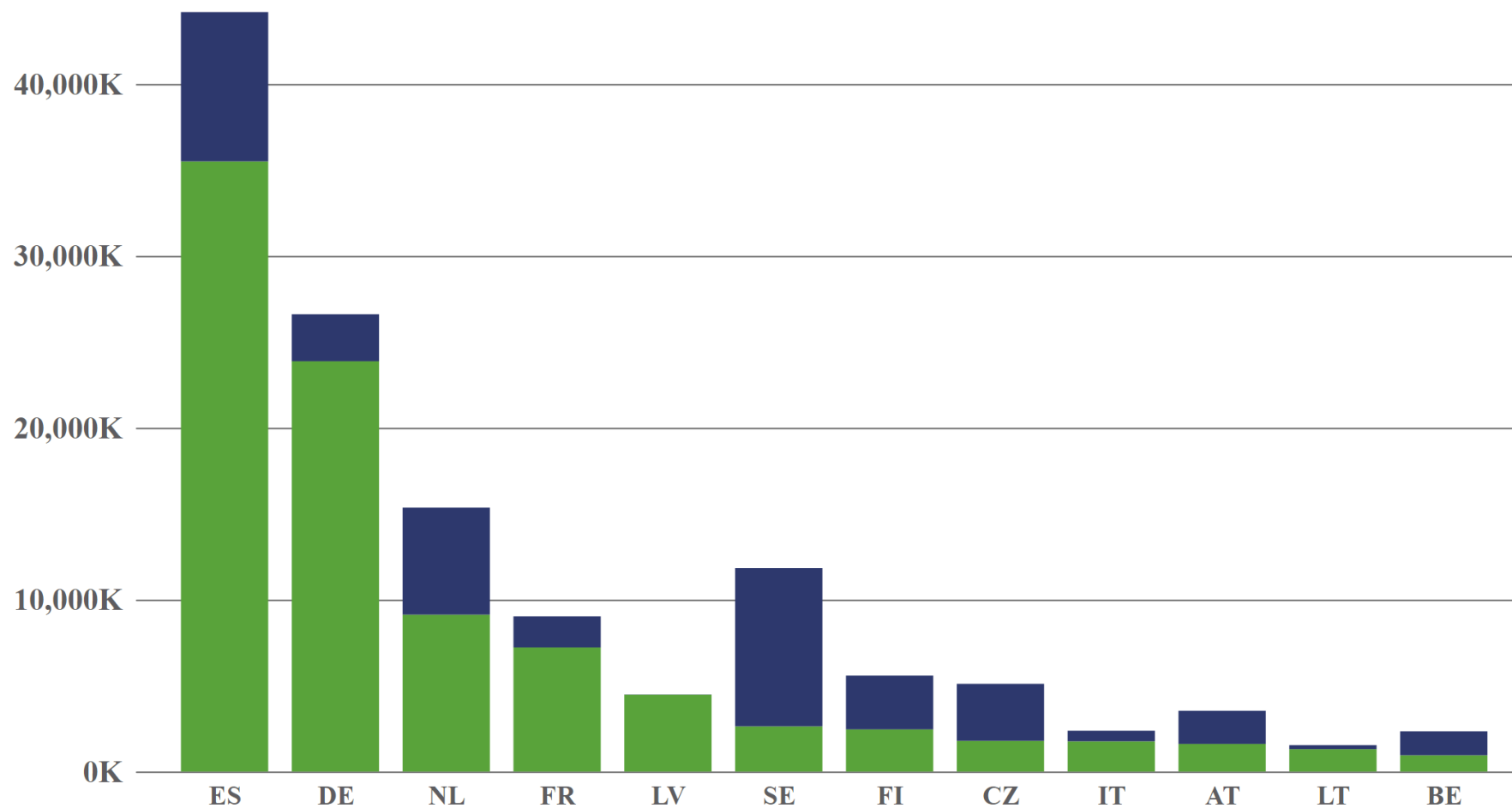
370

4,382

# OG project – budget per MS

## Budget per MS (2023-2027 )

● EAFRD (EUR) ● National co-financing (EUR)





# EU CAP Network cross-visits - May 2025

## Cross-visit '**Monitoring animal welfare**'

Bologna, Italy | 08 – 09 May 2025

- **26** participants
- **14** EIP-AGRI OGs
- **7** countries



## Cross-visit '**Honeybees and other pollinators**'

Cluj-Napoca, Romania | 07 – 08 May 2025

- **22** participants
- **9** EIP-AGRI OGs
- **8** countries



## Cross-visit '**Irrigation - optimising water use practices in annual (and perennial) crops**'

Thessaloniki, Greece | 07 – 08 May 2025

- **19** participants
- **12** EIP-AGRI OGs
- **8** countries



## Recent publications

- › [Brochure: Funding opportunities under Horizon Europe Calls 2025](#)
- › [Factsheet: Turning ideas into reality: EU innovation funding opportunities for farmers and foresters](#)
- › [Agrinnovation magazine – Issue 11](#)
- › [Press article: An apple a day keeps climate change away](#)
- › [Press article: Bridging local solutions and market potential in the forestry bioeconomy](#)
- › [Report: Research needs from practice 2023](#)
- › [Video: EIP-AGRI Challenge: Robotics and artificial intelligence in farming and forestry](#)



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A photograph of a vast vineyard under a warm, golden sunset sky. In the lower-left foreground, two men are standing among the grapevines. One man, wearing a grey cap and a light blue shirt with suspenders, is looking at a tablet held by the other man. The second man is wearing a white hat and a checkered shirt. The vineyard rows stretch far into the distance, and a line of trees is visible on the horizon.

**Thank you for  
your attention!**





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