

1. Ueberblick ueber die Umsetzung von EIP-AGRI in Slowenien
Overview about the implementation of EIP-AGRI in Slovenia

Short history overview

EIP-AGRI concept was launched by EU Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) in 2012.

As RDP 2007-2013 was already in place EIP-AGRI was designated to be part of the next RDP, thus EIP-AGRI in Slovenia began its »life« as part of Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 which was officially confirmed by European Commission on 13th of February 2015.

Preparations for EIP-AGRI framework and it's incorporation into Slovenia's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 officially started in 2014 with 2-day workshop on establishing operational groups organised by the European Commission and hosted by Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of agriculture and the environment and supported by Chamber of agriculture and forestry.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF) and Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia (CAFS) organized several public presentation of EIP-AGRI concept across the county in October 2017.

Next stage in preparations for EIP-AGRI framework was international seminar on EIP-AGRI as part of RDP 2014-2020; the seminar delivered theoretical and practical experiences from Germany, Austria and Hungary with additional value represented by organized workshops.

By the end of the year (December 2017) MAFF organized first workshop on establishing EIP partnerships, followed by additional three workshops: one in January 2018 and two in February 2018 with broad spectrum of participants.

First two public tenders were published in February 2018. To assist potential applicants in order to clarify and explain tenders specifics and application protocol the MAFF organized a public presentation of first two tenders.

This represents begining of the EIP-AGRI implementation in Slovenia.

Background description

For better understanding of how EIP-AGRI framework is implemented in Slovenia I would like to briefly describe goverment and public framework in Slovenia.

Majority of universities reside within public domain as is true for most research institutes as well. Public funding plays a crucial role, directly or indirectly, in the research arena.

Governing body is MAFF (also National Authority and Managing Authority) and Paying Agency is Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development (AAMRD) which resides within MAFF.

Besides faculties and institutes from agriculture and forestry field an important role plays Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia (CAFS), part of which is also public agricultural advisory service (PAAS), mainly (80%) funded by MAFF.

EIP-AGRI implementation in Slovenia

That being said EIP-AGRI is implemented as part of RDP 2014-2020 within Measure 16 – Cooperation.

Slovenia's RDP 2014-2020 as a whole carries 14 individual Measures. Within Measure 16 – Cooperation we have 4 sub-measures, 2 of which are dedicated to EIP-AGRI, namely:

- sub-measure 16.2 - Support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies
- Sub-measure M16.5 - Support for joint measures aimed at mitigating climate change or adapting to climate change and for joint approaches to environmental projects and permanent environmental practices

Legal basis for RDP 2014-2020 represent EU and Slovenian legal document, most important of which are EU 1305/2013 and Rural Development Programme of Republic of Slovenia 2014-2020 followed by many others.

Specifically for Measure Co-operation legal basis represents Slovenian's Decree on the implementation of the "Cooperation Measure" pursuant to the Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia 2014–2020.

For all measures, more precisely all individual sub-measures within RDP 2014-2020 the ministry (MAFF) issues public tenders in consecutive order.

After the tender is issued by MAFF the Paying agency takes over. All participants who apply to the tender must do so through the Paying Agency AAMRD which also checks and approves/denies the claims.

From the beginning the EIP in Slovenia was set to bring in practice through 4 phases:

1. Identification of needs
2. Prioritization of needs
3. Public tender
4. Dissemination/Knowledge transfer

We are very pleased how EIP-AGRI implementation worked in Slovenia as we now see more and more interest which is reflected in number of EIP Projects and Pilot Projects.

We strongly believe the future is in co-operation and most importantly in obtaining new knowledge and transferring it in effective manner to agriculture field.

Overview of public tenders for RDP 2014-2020 and EIP-AGRI framework

MAFF has issued 80 public tenders up until end of August (31.08.2020).

Current plan for public tenders until end of 2020 includes additional 7 public tenders.

In total that sums up to 87 public tenders, 7 of which are dedicated to EIP-AGRI (3 for sub-measure 16.2 and 4 for sub-measure 16.5), EIP-AGRI representing 8 % of all issued tenders.

The first two tenders for sub-measures 16.2 and 16.5 were published in the beginning of 2018 (02.02.2018).

Timeline of tenders for sub-measures for EIP-AGRI:

- 02.02.2018: 1.st public tender for sub-measure 16.2 - Support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies
- 02.02.2018: 1.st public tender for sub-measure 16.5 - Support for joint measures aimed at mitigating climate change or adapting to climate change and for joint approaches to environmental projects and permanent environmental practices
- 28.12.2018: 2.nd public tender for sub-measure 16.2 - Support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies
- 28.12.2018: 2.nd public tender for sub-measure 16.5 - Support for joint measures aimed at mitigating climate change or adapting to climate change and for joint approaches to environmental projects and permanent environmental practices
- 08.11.2019: 3.rd public tender for sub-measure 16.2 - Support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies
- 08.11.2019: 3.rd public tender for sub-measure 16.5 - Support for joint measures aimed at mitigating climate change or adapting to climate change and for joint approaches to environmental projects and permanent environmental practices
- 13.12.2019: 4.th public tender for sub-measure 16.5 - Support for joint measures aimed at mitigating climate change or adapting to climate change and for joint approaches to environmental projects and permanent environmental practices

Sub-measure	Public tender	Date	Funds	Approved Funds	
16.2	1. st	02.02.2018	up to 5.000.000 €	1.395.646,01 € 523.671,62 €	
16.5	1. st	02.02.2018	up to 3.000.000 €	1.456.323,15 € 0 €	
16.2	2. nd	28.12.2020	up to 5.000.000 €	3.982.882,10 € 819.732,96 €	
16.5	2. nd	28.12.2020	up to 3.000.000 €	1.219.604,61 € 134.696,90 €	
16.2	3. rd	08.11.2019	up to 1.550.000 €	1.393.472,86 € 149.658,75 €	
16.5	3. rd	08.11.2019	up to 590.000 €	249.954,42 € 0 €	
16.5	4. th	13.12.2019	up to 2.466.875 €	In progress	

Structure of EIP-AGRI implementation in Slovenia

For better insight into EIP-AGRI implementation in Slovenia I have prepared structural analysis of issued public tenders based upon agriculture and forestry domain:

1. AGRICULTURE

- EIP projects
 - 1. st PT for 16.2: 4 EIP projects with 45 partners (approved funds: 1.395.646,01 €)
 - 1. st PT for 16.5: 6 EIP projects with 34 partners (approved funds: 1.456.323,15 €)
 - 2. nd PT for 16.2: 12 EIP projects with 157 partners (approved funds: 3.982.882,10 €)
 - 2. nd PT for 16.5: 5 EIP projects with 62 partners (approved funds: 1.219.604,61 €)
- Pilot projects
 - 1. st PT for 16.2: 7 Pilot projects with 44 partners (approved funds: 523.671,62 €)
 - 1. st PT for 16.5: 0 Pilot projects with 0 partners (approved funds: 0 €)
 - 2. nd PT for 16.2: 11 Pilot projects with 74 partners (approved funds: 819.732,96 €)
 - 2. nd PT for 16.5: 3 Pilot projects with 28 partners (approved funds: 134.696,90 €)

2. FORESTRY

- EIP projects
 - 3. rd PT for 16.2: 4 EIP projects with 48 partners (approved funds: 1.393.472,86 €)
 - 3. rd PT for 16.5: 1 EIP project with 12 partners (approved funds: 249.954,42 €)
- Pilot projects
 - 3. rd PT for 16.2: 2 Pilot projects with 19 partners (approved funds: 149.658,75 €)
 - 3. rd PT for 16.5: 0 Pilot projects with 0 partners (approved funds: 0 €)

3. Wie funktioniert die Vernetzung der OGs in Slowenien?

How does support and networking of the OGs in Slovenia take place?

As mentioned earlier first EIP-AGRI projects launched in Slovenia in year 2018 with first two tenders being issued.

In Slovenia there are no dedicated Innovation Brokers per se, rather we rely on CAFS and its public agricultural advisory service consisting of 8 regional agricultural and forestry institutes with 315 advisors covering almost 60.000 active farms. The PASS cover vast majority of the “market”, remaining part being covered by individual “private” advisors.

Specifics of Slovenian agriculture field leave little room for type of professional such as Innovation Broker.

Building on previous experience and objective situation it was decided to establish for purpose of EIP-AGRI implementation a so called »One-Stop-Shop« dedicated to EIP-AGRI within Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020: it is named »EIP Vem točka« (EIP knowledge point).

EIP-AGRI as such is closely connected to RDP 2014-2020 and Slovenian Rural Network.

MAFF played a very crucial role in implementing EIP-AGRI and connecting all the partners with support of Slovenian Rural Network.

For this reason it was given an EIP sub-page within official webpage for RDP 2014-2020:

- <https://www.program-podezelja.si/sl/2017-08-11-12-07-35>
- <https://www.program-podezelja.si/en/>
- <https://www.program-podezelja.si/sl/>

The EIP subpage represents the whole package with information about EIP-AGRI, published calls for public tenders, list of tender-approved presentations and presentations of most interesting EIP projects and Pilot projects, useful links, etc.

There is also contact information for One-Stop-Shop, which in close collaboration with Slovenian Rural Network manages EIP subpage, organizes events and informs public about interesting events and other important information regarding EIP projects in Slovenia and abroad.

One-Stop-Shop established a specific online tool intended solely for EIP-AGRI purpose to connect farmers and advisors/researchers and establish possible future collaborations and EIP projects/Pilot projects: Exchanger of ideas.

Exchanger of ideas is an open web platform targeted towards farmers and advisors/researchers.

It is available to anyone and offers two aspects:

- One can post a short description of a problem or a challenge that he/she encounters on it's farm
- One can post a short description of a solution to the problem/challenge that he/she invented

Part of the Exchanger of ideas are also active lists of all problems/challenges and solutions to problems/challenges; in this effective manner one can check if his/her problem was already solved and what solutions were proposed and if not he/she can still post an open request.