



Inno4Grass: A thematic network for productive grasslands funded under H2020



SCAR SWG AKIS Athens meeting
- 28th of February 2018 -



Who we are:

Centre for Grassland



Grassland Center Lower Saxony / Bremen



- Registered association (e.V.) since 2012 emerged from two-year project phase (45 members)
- Platform for cooperation and innovation transfer Objective: To valorise the multifunctionality of grassland
- Board (12 + 1), from various stakeholders of the grassland: agriculture dairy (producers and processors), water, nature and coastal protection, water management dairy and Lower Saxony with permanent guest role
- 12 employees, based in Ovelgönne (Lower Saxony)
- Currently 7 national / international projects (Vol. Approx. 8 Mio Euro)



Inno4Grass

Presentation

Thematic networks funded under Horizon 2020 calls 2014-2016

Thematic network	Topic	Website
4D4F	Data and sensor driven decision making on dairy farms	www.4d4f.eu
AFINET	Agroforestry in	
AGRIFORVALOR	Increasing the value of food from agriculture	
AgriSpin	Innovation broker practices for innovation	
CERERE	CEreal REnaissance embedding diverse food systems	
EUFRUIT	Fruit - cultivar selection, residues, storage and sustainability of	
EU PIG	EU-wide network for pig production and sustainable	
EuroDairy	Practice-based innovations in dairy production for resource efficiency, biodiversity and socio-economic	www.eurodairy.eu
FERTINNOWA	Water management in irrigated crops - water conservation, use efficiency, environmental impact	www.fertinnowa.com
HENNOVATION	Smart systems - reducing injurious pecking and dealing with end-of-lay hens	www.hennovation.eu
HNV-Link	Supporting HNV farmlands through knowledge and innovation	www.hnvlink.eu
Inno4Grass	Shared Innovation Space for Sustainable Productivity of Grasslands in Europe	www.inno4grass.eu
OK-Net Arable	Organic arable cropping - increasing productivity and quality	www.ok-net-arable.eu
SheepNet	SHaring Expertise and Experience towards sheep Productivity through NETworking	www.sheepnet.network
SKIN	Short supply chain Knowledge and INnovation	www.shortfoodchain.eu
Smart AKIS	Smart farming technology - Farm management information systems, precision agriculture and agriculture automation and robotics	www.smart-akis.com
WINETWORK	Wine growing - controlling / fighting diseases	www.winetwork.eu

Inno4Grass is a **3 year project** from

➤ Jan. 1st 2017 – Dec. 31st 2019

➤ We are in month 14/36



currently 17
networks

www.inno4grass.eu/eip/agriculture/sites

[Inno4Grass magazine 4 2017 en](#)

The last 5 TN are starting
this winter 2017/18

RUR-10-2016-2017	CSA	774632	INCREdible
RUR-10-2016-2017	CSA	773911	OK-Net EcoFeed
RUR-10-2016-2017	CSA	773501	PANACEA
RUR-10-2016-2017	CSA	772835	NEWBIE
RUR-10-2016-2017	CSA	774578	ENABLING



Overview of the Inno4Grass (I4G)Project



The overall goals of Inno4Grass are

- to close the gap between practice and science
- to ensure the introduction of innovative systems on productive grassland
- to strengthen the profitability of European grassland farms and
- to preserve the environmental values.



Overview of the Inno4Grass (I4G) Project

20 partners from 8 MS in the project:

Participant No	Participant Organisation Name	Short Name	Country
1 Coordinator	Grünlandzentrum e.V.	GLZ	Germany
2	TEAGASC – Agriculture and Food Development Authority	Teagasc	Ireland
3	Wageningen UR Livestock Research	WUR	The Netherlands
4	RHEA Research Centre	RHEA	Belgium
5	French Livestock Institute	IDELE	France
6	Assemblée Permanente des <u>Chambres d'Agriculture</u> (French Chambers of Agriculture)	APCA	France
7	Chamber of Agriculture Lower Saxony	LWK	Germany
8	Institute of Grassland Science, University <u>Göttingen</u>	UGOE	Germany
9	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique	INRA	France
10	<u>Tr@me srl</u>	TRAME	Belgium
11	Association Wallonne de l'Élevage asbl	AWE	Belgium
12	CAH <u>Vilentum</u> University of Applied Sciences	CAH	The Netherlands
13	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	SLU	Sweden
14	Northern Dutch Farmers Association	NLTO	The Netherlands
15	<u>Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche</u>	CNR	Italy
16	Poznan University of Life Sciences Department of Grassland and Natural Landscape Sciences	PULS	Poland
17	<u>Wielkopolska</u> Chamber of Agriculture	WIR	Poland
18	<u>Svenska Vallföreningen</u>	SV	Sweden
19	<u>Associazione Italiana Allevatori</u>	AIA	Italy
20	<u>Centro di Sperimentazione Agraria e Forestale Laiburg</u>	LRC	Italy



Overview of the project Inno4Grass (I4G)

Inno4Grass has 3 objectives

Objective 1

Enabling the capture of innovative ideas from practice through case studies, networks and the Internet

Objective 2

Establishment of a multi-stakeholder network for collaboration and exchange of information, creation of new knowledge and demand-driven innovation

Goal 3

Implementation of large-scale structures in order to permanently bundle know-how and innovations and to distribute and train them sustainably



Overview of the Inno4Grass (I4G)Project



What do we want to achieve in practice?

Key issues as a starting point:

- Improving the **profitability and competitiveness** of grassland-based **dairy, beef and sheep farming.**
- Providing high-quality **local feed for grazing animals** that transform grassland vegetation into high-quality products for human consumption.
- **Improving the sustainability of grassland systems:** Efficient manure management with **reduced N emissions in waters,** ecosystem services as a **contribution to biodiversity, landscape conservation and carbon storage.**
- **Efficiency of multi-species green fodder and fodder legumes** with particular focus on sustainable fodder production: **optimization of grazing and cutting systems, reduction of operational costs and production costs.**



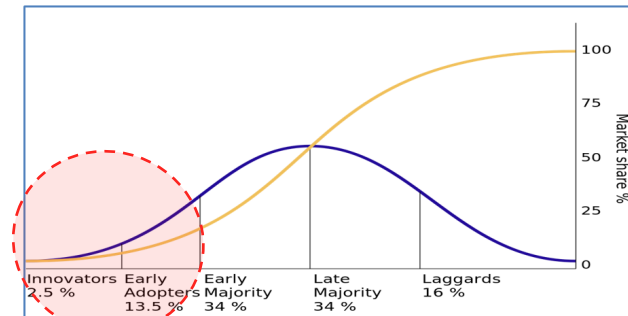
Overview of the Inno4Grass (I4G)Project



Three specific I4G - Objectives:

Specific Objective 1: Enabling the capturing of innovative ideas from practice via case studies, networks and internet

- Creating new methodologies for effectively tapping innovations by **identifying innovative farmers (“innovators & early adopters”)** within partner networks through interviews
- **Scanning (seeking) and recording of innovative practices or innovative ideas** through interviews
- Setting up of **electronic discussion groups and farmer’s networks** to **share innovations** and foster **cross-border flow**.
- **Establishment of a set of case study farms** to contribute to **capturing, exchanging and adaptation** (implementation) of innovations related to grassland.



Inno4Grass aims at capturing innovations from farmers, belonging to the ‘innovators’ group and to reinforce dissemination to farmers groups organised around farmers belonging to the ‘early adopters’ group. The composition of the Inno4Grass consortium makes it possible to identify both groups across the participating countries.



Overview of the Inno4Grass (I4G) Project



Three specific I4G - Objectives:

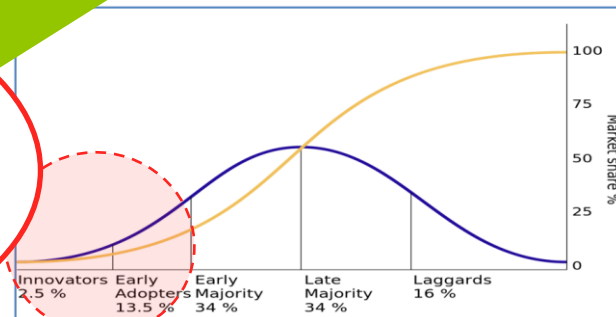
Specific Objective 1: *Enabling the capture of case studies, networks and internet*

Numbers of **case study farms** (most innovative farms)

- Will be connected to I4G by agreement
- Will be visited regularly (up to 4 times/year)
- Provide the basis for data collection

Numbers of **innovative farmers** per country to be selected for interviews

Country	Farm types	Number of interviews	Number of case study farms
Belgium	Dairy, beef	20	10
France	Dairy, beef, sheep	30	15
Germany	Dairy, beef	20	10
Ireland	Dairy, beef	20	10
Italy	Dairy, sheep	20	10
Poland	Dairy	20	10
Sweden	Dairy	20	10
The Netherlands	Dairy	20	10
Total		170	85

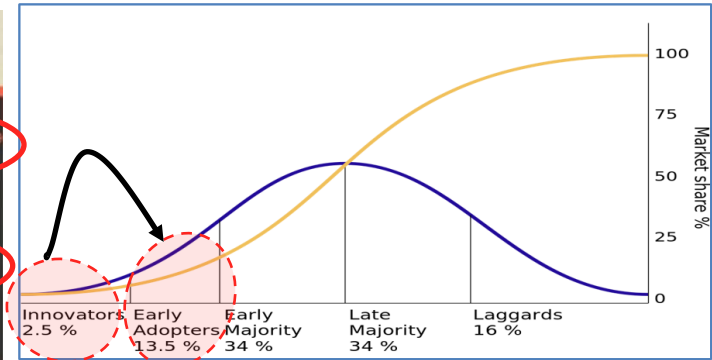


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contribute to the development and adaptation (implementation) of innovations related to grassland.



Overview of the Inno4Grass (I4G)Project



Inno4Grass aims at capturing innovations from farmers, belonging to the 'innovators' group and to reinforce dissemination to farmers groups organised around farmers belonging to the 'early adopters' group. The composition of the Inno4Grass consortium has identified these groups through its network in the participating countries



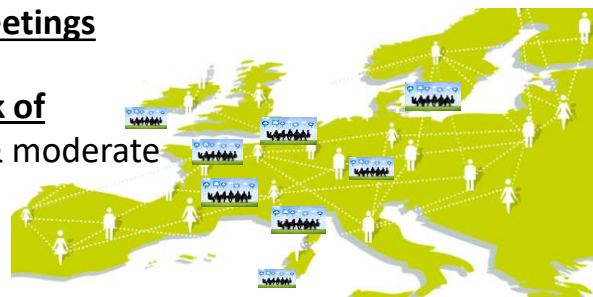
1. Overview of the Inno4Grass (I4G)Project



Three specific I4G - Objectives:

Specific Objective 2: Establishment of a multi-stakeholder network for cooperation and exchange of information, creation of new knowledge and demand-driven innovation

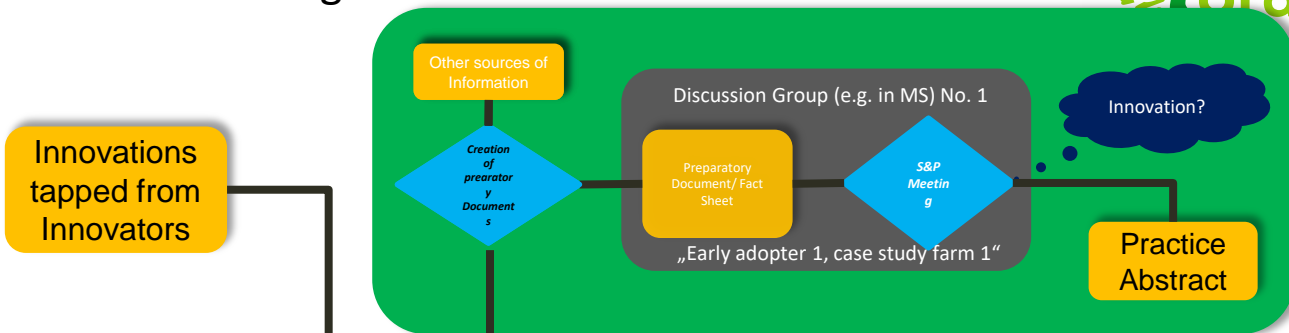
- Development of a **demand driven research agenda**
- Identification and analysing of **drivers** and **barriers for innovation**
- **Inventory of brokering systems** (“Brokers”) related to grasslands in partners MS
- **Electronic discussion groups** (moderated farmers’ groups) to consolidate knowledge
- At least **144 face-2-face practice-science meetings**
- Implementation of an international **network of 16 Facilitator Agents** (2 per MS) to initiate & moderate regional and cross-border discussions



	Facilitator Agents							
Member State	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Partner 1	01 GLZ	02 Teagasc	04 RHEA	05 IDELE	12 CAH	13 SLU	15 CNR	16 PULS
Partner 2	07 LWK		11 AWE	06 APCA	14 NLTO	18 SV	20 LRC	17 WIR



A core element: Organisation of at least 144 practice-science meetings

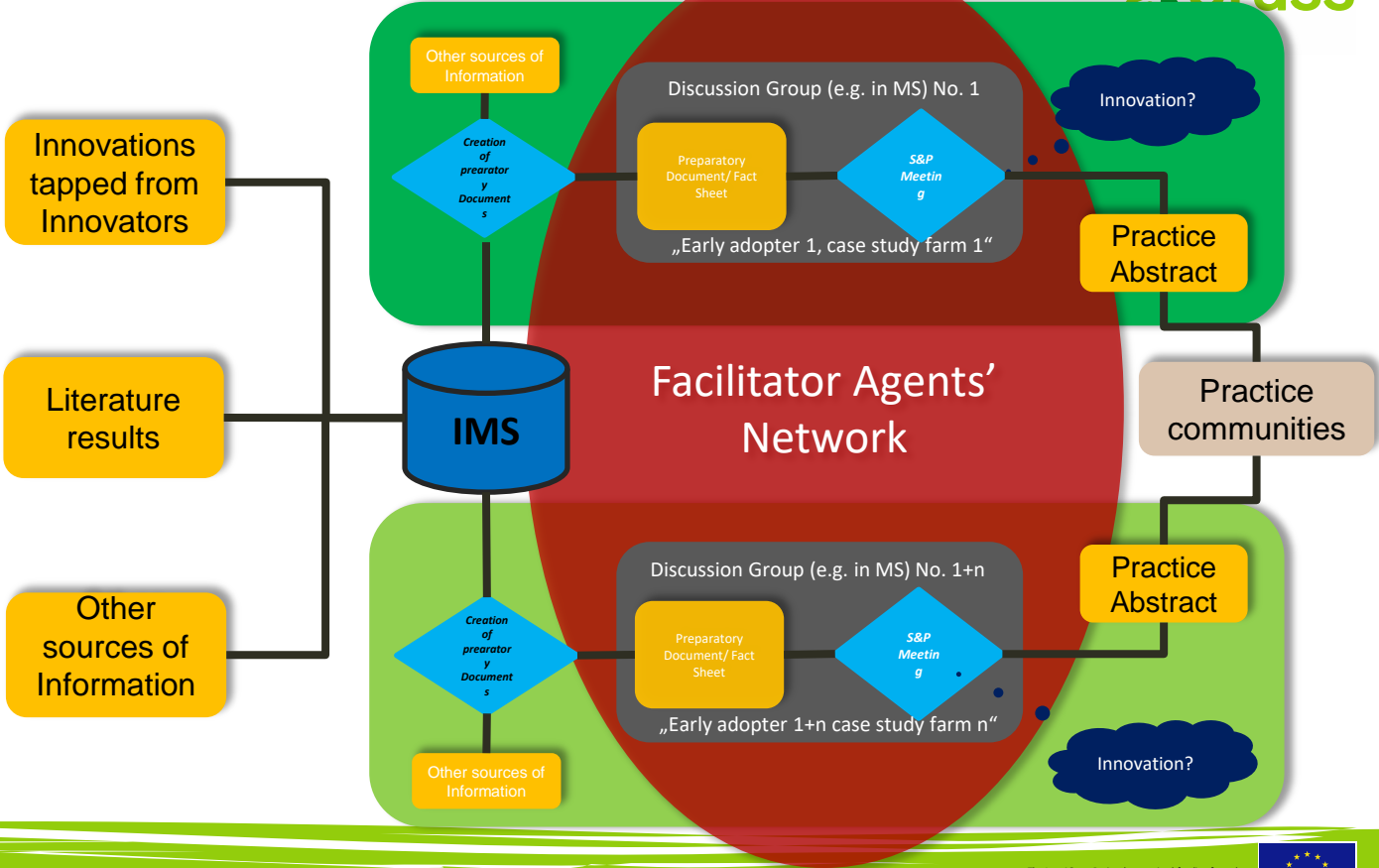


144 Practice & Science meetings

- Initial guidelines to conduct meetings
 - Preparatory documents to prepare meetings
 - Output expected to be a “practice abstract”
 - Approx. 10 people (young to old) stemming from various stakeholders (farmers, extension service, NGO, local administration, research, industry, others), Duration approx. 2-4 hours
- 10 Meetings were held in 2017:** > Analysis and planning 2018 & 2019 meetings, soon.



A core element: Organisation of at least 144 practice-science meetings





The core mission of Facilitator Agents (FAs) is

1. to **support in interconnecting** the farming and practice community, industry, researchers and all other stakeholders and **to enhance communication and adoption of innovations** and to seek for hands-on solutions for the farming community with special emphasis on win-win relations
2. **to act as a starting group** for consolidating knowledge through moderated electronic discussion groups (Task 2.4) open to all stakeholders and in doing so **to trigger fruitful discussions** stimulating the further participation of stakeholders (especially the practice community),



Another core element: Creating Facilitator Agents Resources



The core mission of Facilitator Agents (FAs) is

3. **to link the discussion groups and their main outcomes** within the participating Member States (MS) (task 3.4) and especially **across the MS borders** and hence to facilitate innovation transfer and

4. to **act as (innovation) brokers between the science and practice communities** thus shortening the impact pathways from science community to hands-on innovation needs.



Inno4Grass Facilitator Agents (FAs) will basically be supplied by the staff of the participating organisations. (...)

Their personal skills will be improved within the Inno4Grass network e.g. through

- exchange programs (task 5.3),
- exchange of experiences within the 6 GPA –meetings (task 1.1) &
- bilateral or intermediate exchanges of experiences by phone, skype or any other telecommunication means.

All these methods will basically target towards the goal that Inno4Grass FAs will **evolve** from pure “**transmitters of information**” to real multi-actor integrators of knowledge and knowledge-sharing **for boosting innovation.**

1. Overview of the Inno4Grass (I4G)Project



Three specific I4G - Objectives:

Specific Objective 3: Establishment : Implementation of large-scale structures in order to permanently bundle know-how and innovations and to distribute and train them sustainably

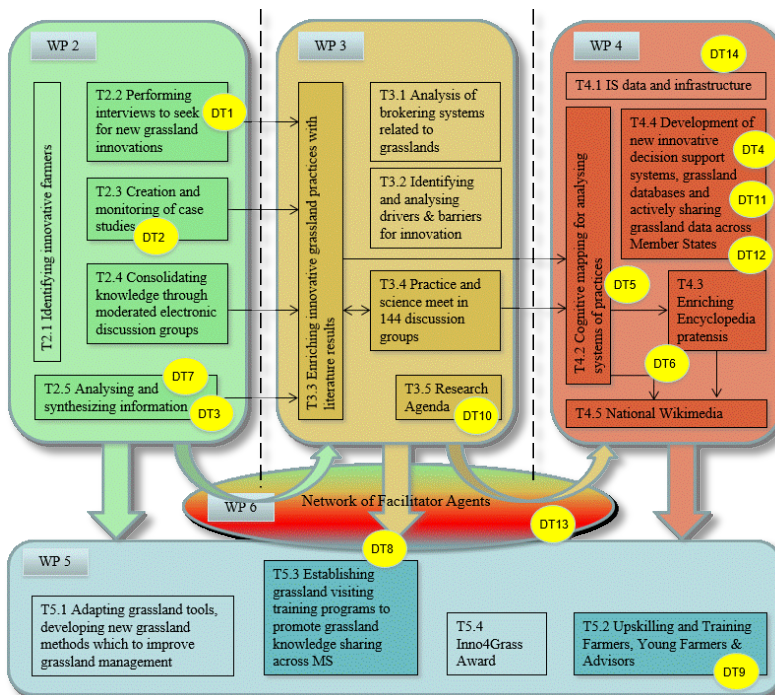
- Implementation of an international **web-based information management system(IMS) including Wikimedia** to store and to deploy all knowledge and dissemination material
- Development of **decision support systems** and grassland databases for sharing data
- Implementation of **special education & study programs**
- Establishing grassland visiting training program (**“I4G Erasmus –Programme”**)
- Substantial amounts of dissemination materials, such as **practice summaries** defined in the EIP Agri format, **videos**, (**web-based**) **tools** and **end user education plans** (especially farmers), including operational groups (OGs);



1. Overview of the Inno4Grass (I4G)Project



Overview of the of the I4G dissemination materials



ID	Type of dissemination	Amount	Farmers	Advisors	Industry	Scientists	Teachers	Students
DT1	Summary of farmers' interviews available as a source of inspiration and a tool of innovation transfer from farmer to farmer.	170	x	x				
DT2	Network of case study farms, including their description by indicators, available through the IMS.	85	x	x			x	x
DT3	Technical leaflets on best innovative practices found in WP2 (minimum 6 per country) available in national languages for farmers and advisors, edited in a user-friendly way and practice-oriented. They will be adapted to regional contexts, used in the practice science meetings of WP3 and sent to the IMS and the EIP.	48	x	x				
DT4	Identification of grassland parameters most useful for farmers and dissemination through Twitter/Facebook (WP4).		x	x			x	x
DT5	Practice abstracts according to the recommendation of the EC ²⁹ and associated materials to be downloaded in English onto the EIP service point (WP4).	100	x	x			x	
DT6	Practice abstracts and associated materials translated into the 7 working languages of the consortium (WP4) to be downloaded from the web.	100	x	x			x	
DT7	Video clips (at least 13 per country) on innovative farmers' testimony or innovative practices in native languages and some translated in English, promoted during regional training sessions and the web.	104	x	x			x	x
DT8	Network of cross-fertilisation knowledge for practitioners by visits and exchanges.	1	x	x				
DT9	Training programs and teaching material for (young) grassland farmers and advisors will be available on the IMS, translated in 7 languages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific grassland syllabus (pages) 4 Power Point presentations on grassland plant, animal, management, economy and ecosystem services per country (slides). 	200 300	x	x			x	x
DT10	Demand-driven research agenda for increased productivity and sustainability of European productive grasslands. It will be presented on the IMS facility unit, and sent to the EIP and the project network.	1			x	x		
DT11	Upgraded versions of decision support systems for a better estimation of grassland DM production and better decisions by farmers will be presented on the IMS facility unit, and sent to the EIP and the project network.	1	x	x			x	x
DT12	Identification of grassland parameters and tools most useful for farmers. They will be presented on the IMS facility unit, and sent to the EIP and the project network.	1	x	x			x	x
DT13	Network of Facilitator Agents acting on best practice guidelines based on experiences and recommendations to be extended after the project term.	1	x	x				
DT14	One-stop open inventory of relevant stakeholders of European grasslands available through the IMS and connected with the EIP.	1	x	x	x	x	x	x



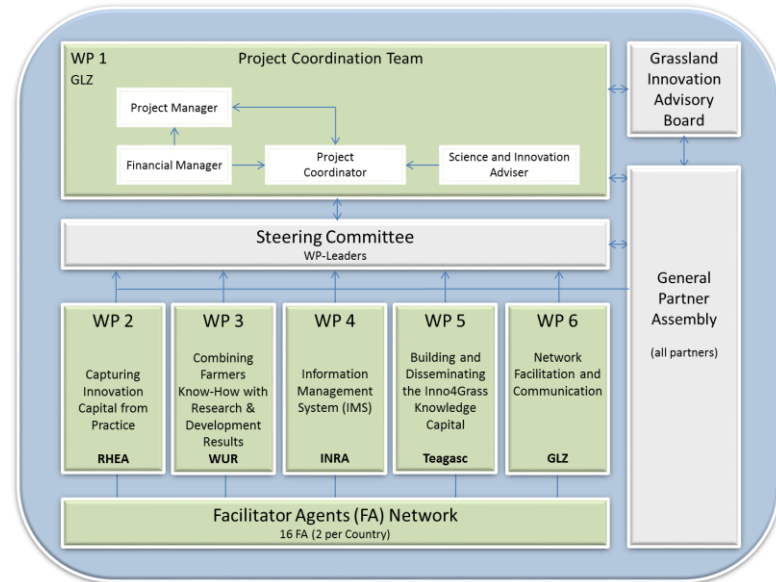
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Inno4Grass Management Structure

In total six types of bodies:

1. Project Coordination Team
2. Steering Committee
3. General Partner Assembly
4. Grassland Innovation Advisory Board
5. Set of six work packages
6. Network of 16 Facilitator Agents





grünland
zentrum

NIEDERSACHSEN | BREMEN

**Thank you for
your attention**

Contact:

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Electronic Discussion Groups



Objectives

- Spread novel, realistic and practical ideas from the project directly via the discussion groups
- Let farmers be part of the technological development of exciting decision support tools on grasslandmanagement.
- Motivate more farmers into embracing new ideas into tangible and meaningful results

There are 4 themes to be launched on the different electronic discussion groups plateforms for each country:

1. Innovation through seeding grass mixtures, legumes, unusual species, herbs
2. Innovation through different grazing systems
3. Innovation through the production (transformation) and marketing of grassland based animal products
4. At choice of the I4G partner

▪ The FA's are in charge of moderating the discussions

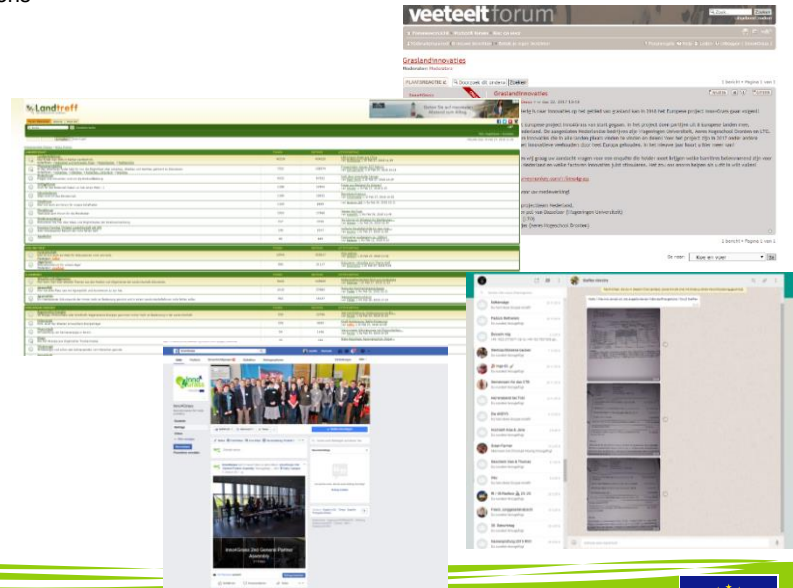
- asking questions
- proposing ideas
- delivering information
- stimulate debates

▪ Communication Tools

- Facebook,
- Whats App
- Slack
- Website Forum
- Google Groups
- Other

▪ Participation

- Farmers
- industry
- science
- government
- education
- advice



Until June 2019, every 4 months, we will reach out to each country to gather the reports of the discussions they already led.

Report Template

1. Country, partner and FA names:
2. Name of the discussion groups on which the subject was launched:
3. Links:
4. Start date of the discussion:
5. End date of the discussion:
6. Approximate total number of persons that actively participated in the discussion:
7. Types of participants (if possible): Farmers, experts, industry, government...
8. How was the question formulated (copy and paste here):
9. Global outcome of the discussion (at least 5 lines):
10. Which aspects have been mentioned during the discussions? Explain briefly (also specifically regarding the farmer's needs):
 - o the political aspect of the innovation(s)
 - o the Economical aspect
 - o the social aspect
 - o the technological aspect
 - o the legal aspect
 - o the environmental aspect
11. Other innovations that have been mentioned during the discussions:
12. Additional comments:

Challenge

The transfer of knowledge between research and agricultural practice is inadequate

- Despite the continuous generation of knowledge through scientific projects, research results in agricultural practice are often underused and exploited, innovative ideas and methods from practice are not recorded and disseminated.

Not sufficiently connected in all sectors

- The national and sectoral agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS) are not sufficiently interconnected to fully meet this challenge.

The gap between research and practice at EU level

- In order to promote economically viable and sustainable agriculture and forestry, it is important to bridge the gap between research and practice and to act at EU level.

Strengthening cooperation between the entire value chain

- Increased cooperation between researchers, advisors, farmers / foresters and other actors in the supply chain is needed to foster knowledge sharing, to optimize resource use and facilitate the transition to knowledge-based agriculture.

Key element in the implementation of EIP Agricultural

- Thematic networks are a key element in the implementation of EIP's Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) to foster cross-border knowledge sharing, and they can facilitate links with and between rural-funded EIP-AGRI working groups.