

Synergies among EU funds in the field of Research and Innovation in Agriculture

Draft results

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- Case study snapshots
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AIM AND METHODOLOGY

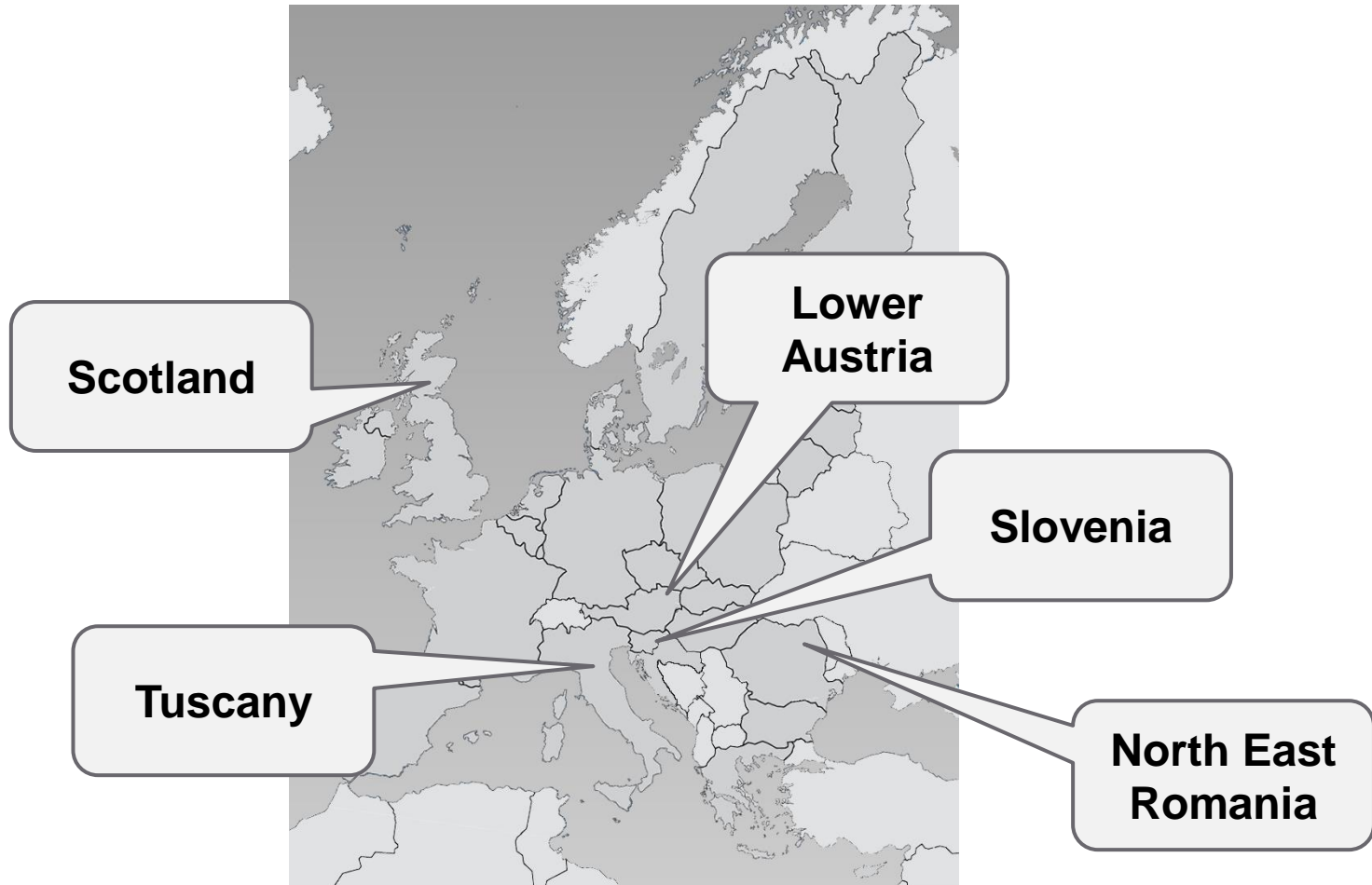
Aim and methodology

“To provide a better understanding of the potential and the use of synergies among EU funds in the fields of research and innovation in the agri-food sector”

- **Good practices, success factors, barriers**
- Focus: **Horizon 2020, EAFRD** (incl. EIP-AGRI), **ERDF**
- **EU- and MS-level**
- **Interviews**
 - DG AGRI, DG RTD, DG REGIO, DG ENV, ENRD, JRC
 - Member State level: Fund/instrument managers, researchers, other policy-makers

Methodology

Member State level research



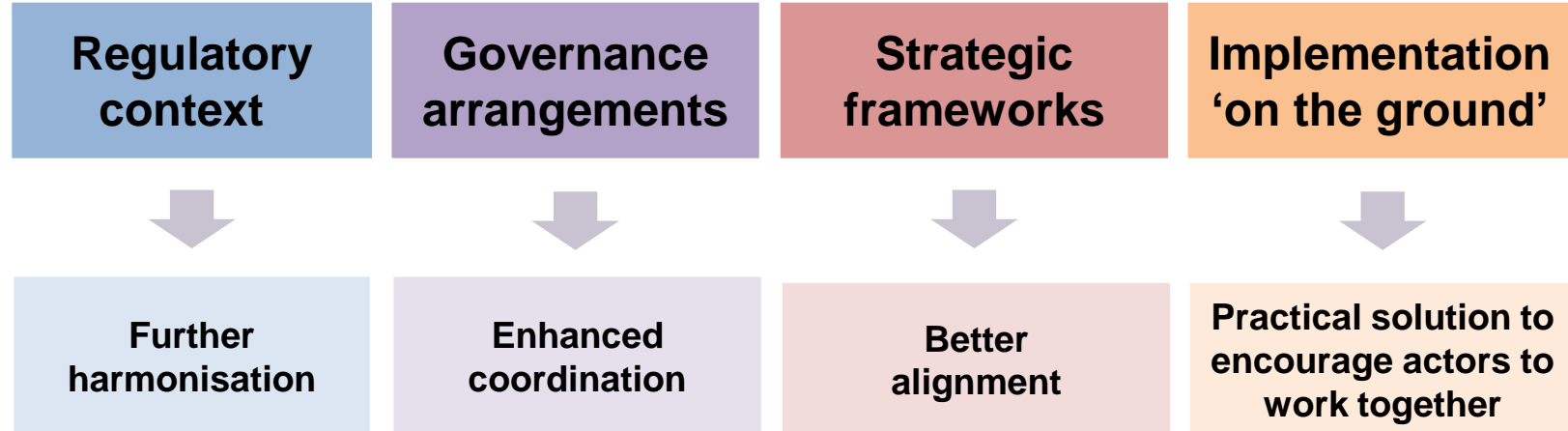
...but gather evidence from across the EU28!

Methodology

Lessons from previous research

2016 study for the EP's REGI Committee:

- ***Maximisation of synergies between ESIF and other EU instruments***
- Main messages:



Synergies

What are the success factors?

Harmonisation

...of rules – simplification?

Strategies

...priorities, objectives

Trust

...amongst actors

Incentives

...make synergies worth the effort

Enablers

...coordinate, know the system

Transparency

...knowledge about other projects

Culture

...of cooperation and innovation

...?

...?

**SUPPORT ENVIRONMENT
FOR AGRICULTURAL
INNOVATION**

Key funding for agricultural innovation

Different forms of management

A) Direct management

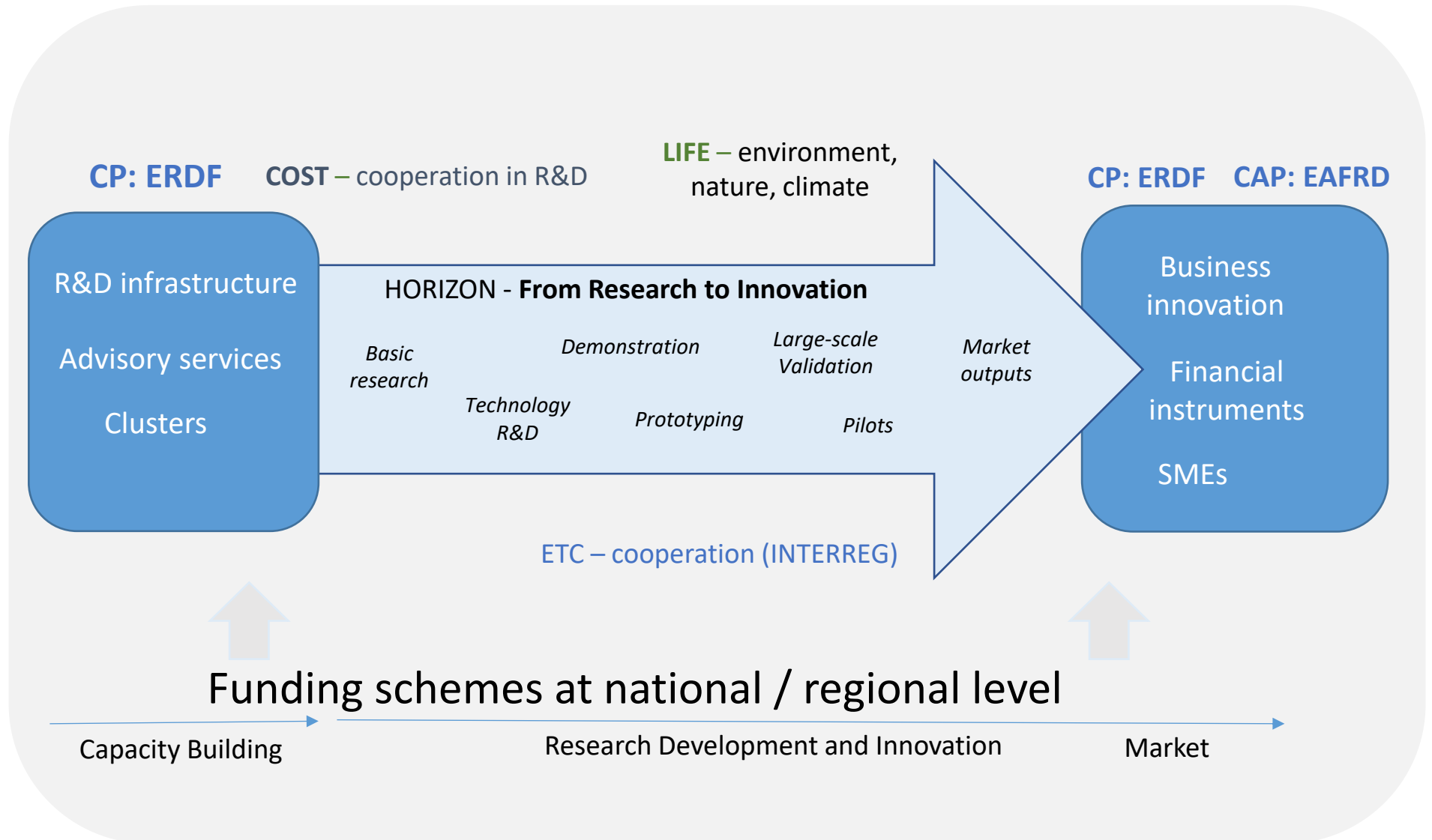
- Horizon 2020: full innovation chain
- COST: stimulating cooperation in science & technology
- LIFE: environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects

B) Shared management

- EU Cohesion Policy:
 - ERDF: investments, infrastructure and businesses, innovation
 - ERDF-ETC: transnational / cross-border cooperation
 - ESF: training, life long learning, labour market
- CAP - EAFRD: investments in agriculture and rural development
- EMFF: investments in maritime and fishery

C) Funding schemes at national and regional level

Full innovation chain is covered!



EU programmes for agricultural innovation

Agricultural innovation particularly covered by:

- **Horizon 2020** (e.g. food security, sustainable agriculture, bioeconomy)
 - **Rural development policy**
 - EIP-AGRI OGs
 - LEADER
 - **Cohesion policy**
 - INTERREG (e.g. biobased-economy, eco-innovations etc.)
 - ERDF (e.g. S3 platforms, clusters, R&D centres)
 - **LIFE** (e.g. demonstration projects)
-
- Large number of agri-innovation projects in a **wide range of policy areas**
 - In EAFRD OPs the focus on R&D/innovation seems to be comparatively modest

LEADER: HopfeNO3

Maintaining hop productivity whilst protecting groundwater resources

LAG Landkreis Kelheim (Germany)

Period: 2009-14

EU funding: €94,000 EAFRD-LEADER



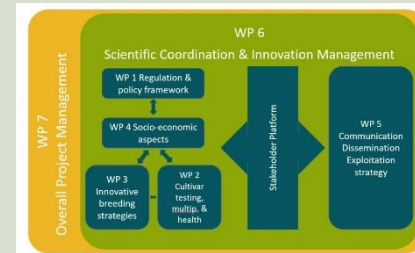
Horizon 2020

Develop cultivars adapted to organic systems

34 partners in 14 MS

Period: 2017-21

EU funding: €910,250 Horizon 2020



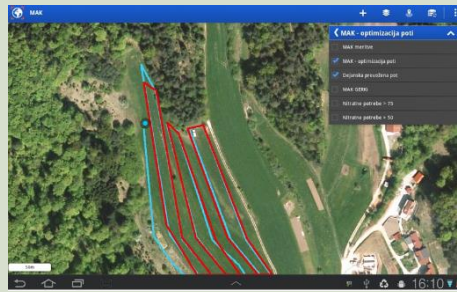
ERDF: Mobile Applications for the Agricultural Economy

Collection of farm data using smart phones

Slovenian Ministry of Public Administration

Period: 2012-14

EU funding: €285,647 ERDF



LIFE+: Coop 2020

Demonstrate viability of business model for agricultural cooperatives that integrates energy savings and renewable energy

6 partners in Spain (5) and Greece (1)

Period: 2014-18

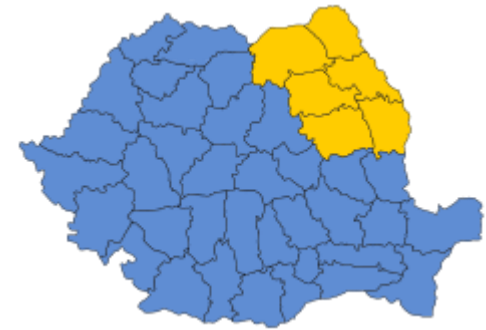
EU funding: €1,228,535 LIFE+



CASE STUDY SNAPSHOTS

Case study North-East Romania

- Highest share of agricultural employment in EU (39.4%)
- Ageing farming population
- Very poor innovation culture



Weak cooperation between

- universities and business environment
- agricultural actors and business-related bodies
(mirrored in weak coordination EAFRD-ERDF)

“Often, the preparation phase of projects would be funded through a combination of ERDF and EAFRD. But when it comes to the main funding source for the implementation of projects it’s just one of the two.”

(Expert at North-East RDA)

Case study North-East Romania Regional Development Agency

Regional Development Agency North-East

- works on basis of regional RIS3
- only Romanian RDA with a Brussels office
- focus on ERDF – insufficient cooperation with EAFRD - silos remain
- involved in several Interreg and Horizon 2020 projects



RETRACE – A Systemic Approach for REgions TRansitioning towards a Circular Economy

- E.g. roundtables with farmers and local businesses looking at potential uses of coffee waste and olive pips
- Interreg Europe 2016-20, €1.2 ERDF
- RDA as “**Enabler**”



Case study Slovenia

Increasingly active in Horizon 2020, incl. as coordinator
Makes use of Teaming Initiative



Domestic policy silos:

- Ministry of Science – research funding, infrastructure
- Ministry of Agriculture – knowledge transfer, advisory services
- Govt. Office for Cohesion Policy – CP, lead on smart specialisation

Mechanism for coordination:

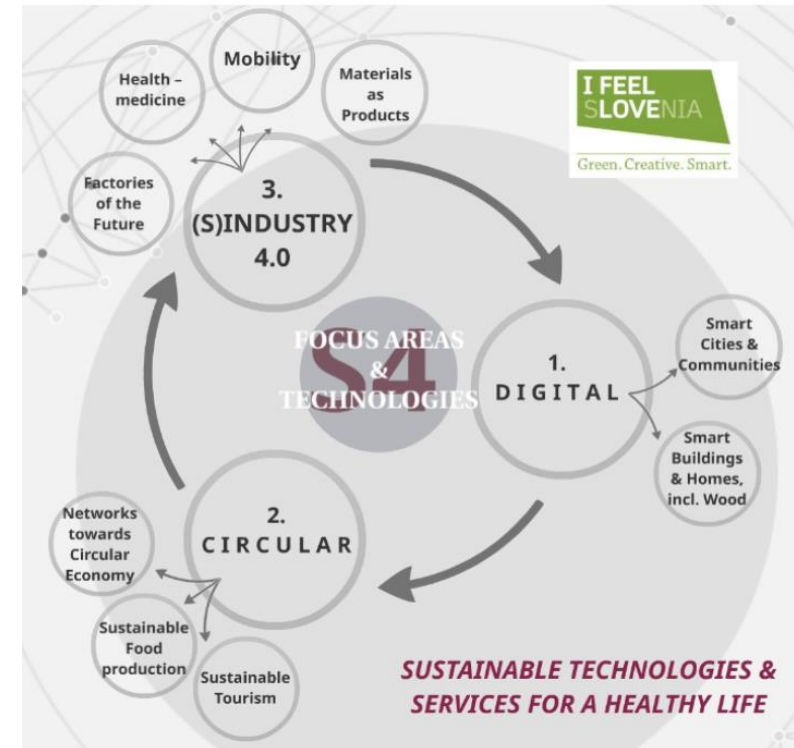
- S4 (Slovenian Smart Specialisation Strategy) = RIS3
- launched in 2015



Slovenia

Strategic framework at the centre

- 9 Priority Domains (≈ thematic clusters)
- Implemented via **Strategic Research and Innovation Partnerships (SRIPs)**
 - > long-term partnerships (quadruple helix)
- Aims:
 - Pool investments and intellectual potential
 - Create a comprehensive innovation ecosystem
 - Improve Slovenia's position in global value networks



SRIP Sustainable food production

SRIP HRANA (“Sustainable food production”)



SRIPHRANA

- One key facilitator (chamber of commerce, incl. agricultural and food enterprises)
 - Action Plan setting out priorities
 - Agri-food system & value chains
 - New marketing models
 - Development of HR and competences
 - Target for 2022: €95 million investments
-
- **“Strategy” / “Enabler”**
 - Challenge: insufficient coordination between S3 and rural development – Impression that “...S3 is really something for the ERDF, not for rural development.”

Case study Scotland

Two main recent initiatives to strengthen agricultural innovation

1. Rural Innovation Support Service (RISS)

- launched Feb 2018, EAFRD funding (£750,000)
 - bottom-up rural innovation, addressing land managers' needs
 - getting the right people together to explore (practical and sustainable) solutions
 - so far 9 OGs approved (summer 2018)
-
- “Enabler”



Scotland

Support services enabling synergies

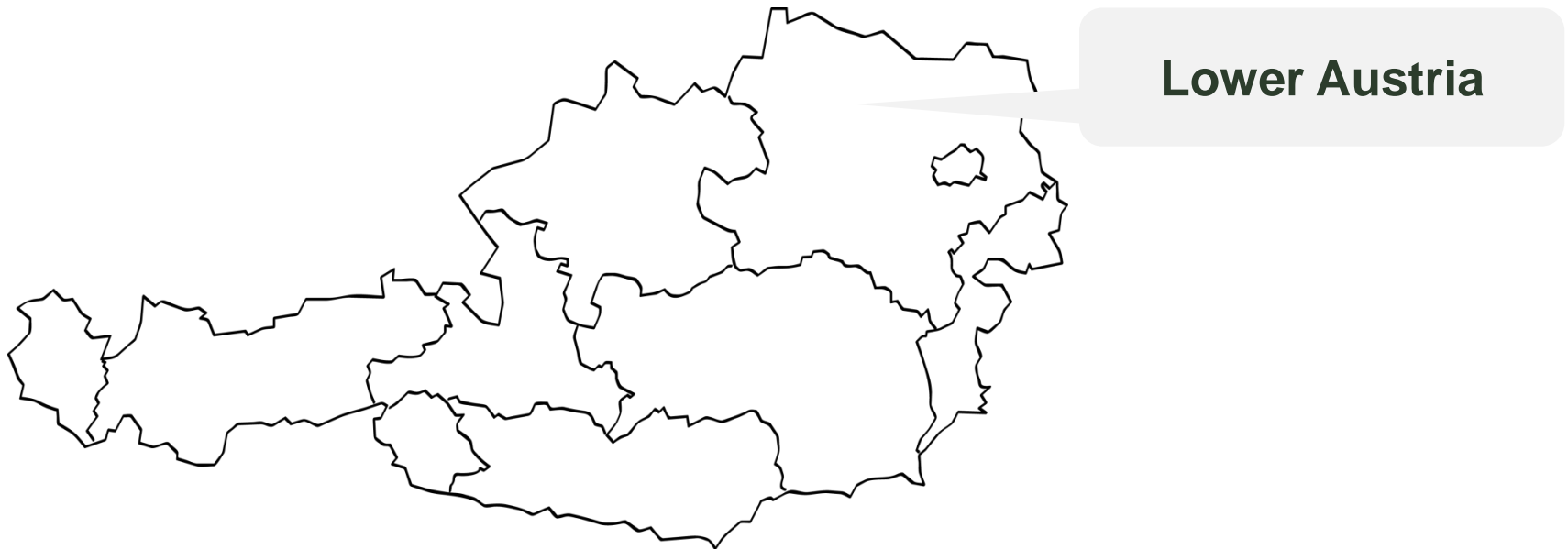
2. Scottish Environment, Food and Agriculture Research Institutes Gateway (SEFARI)

- launched Mar 2017, funded from Scottish Government
- gathers the 6 leading Scottish institutes in the area
- knowledge exchange and impact hub
- Aim: *“improving the flow of research and expertise, ensuring it gets to the right people, at the right time, in the right format”*
- **“Transparency”**



Case study Lower Austria

- Lower Austria is 1 of 9 Austrian federal states (“*Länder*”)
- Lower Austria is located in the east of Austria. It surrounds the federal capital of Vienna, with major research and educational institutions



Lower Austria

RIS3-Strategy (smart specialisation)

RIS3-Strategy (smart specialisation)

Agri sector in RIS3 Strategy

- Bio-based economy (Technopol Tulln agricultural and environmental technology)
- Food Production and Safety (Food Cluster Lower Austria, LMC)
- Agricultural technology (Technopol Wieselburg)

Lower Austria Agri-innovation system



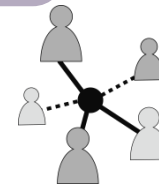
(Higher) Education

R&D organisations

Enablers:

Competence Centre
FFoQSI (Feed and Food
Quality Safety and
Innovation)

Cluster organisation
LMC
(Lebensmittel Cluster
Niederösterreich)



Businesses:



Farmers & Associations:



Domestic Financial Support Instruments

Lower Austria Enabler LMC

Cluster organisation: Food Cluster Lower Austria (LMC)

Co-funded by ERDF

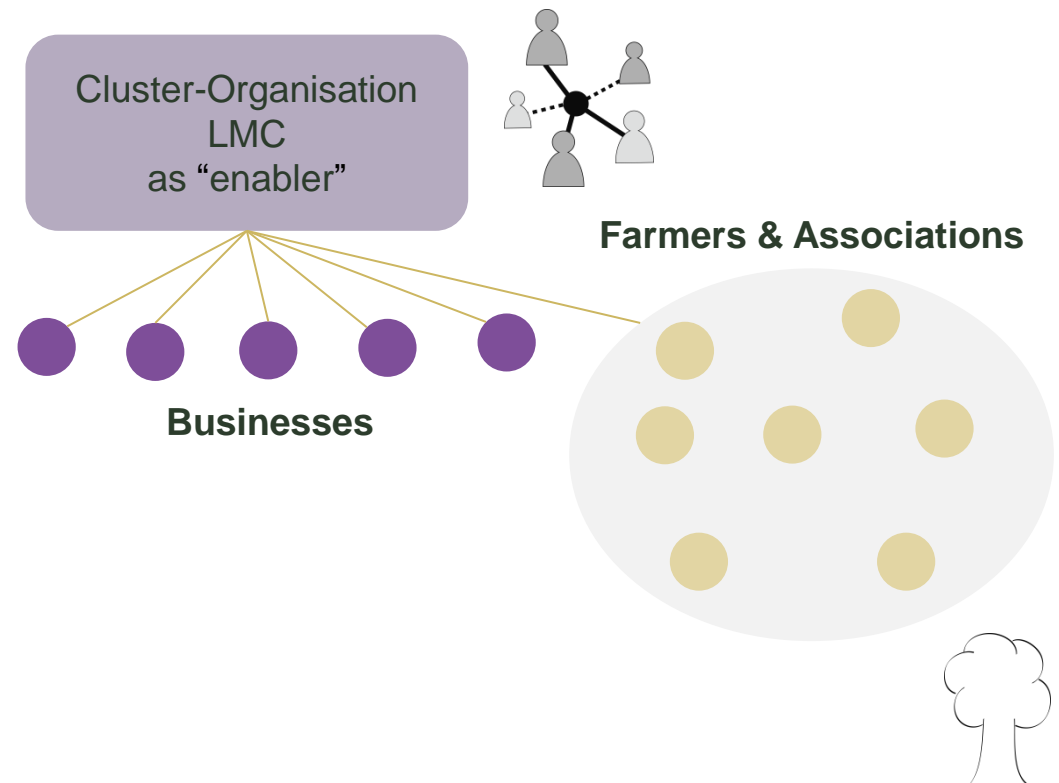
3 FTE cluster employees

Members:

- 105 firms and organisations

Tasks:

- community building
- identifying the needs / trends
- development of cooperative innovation projects
- cooperative trainings

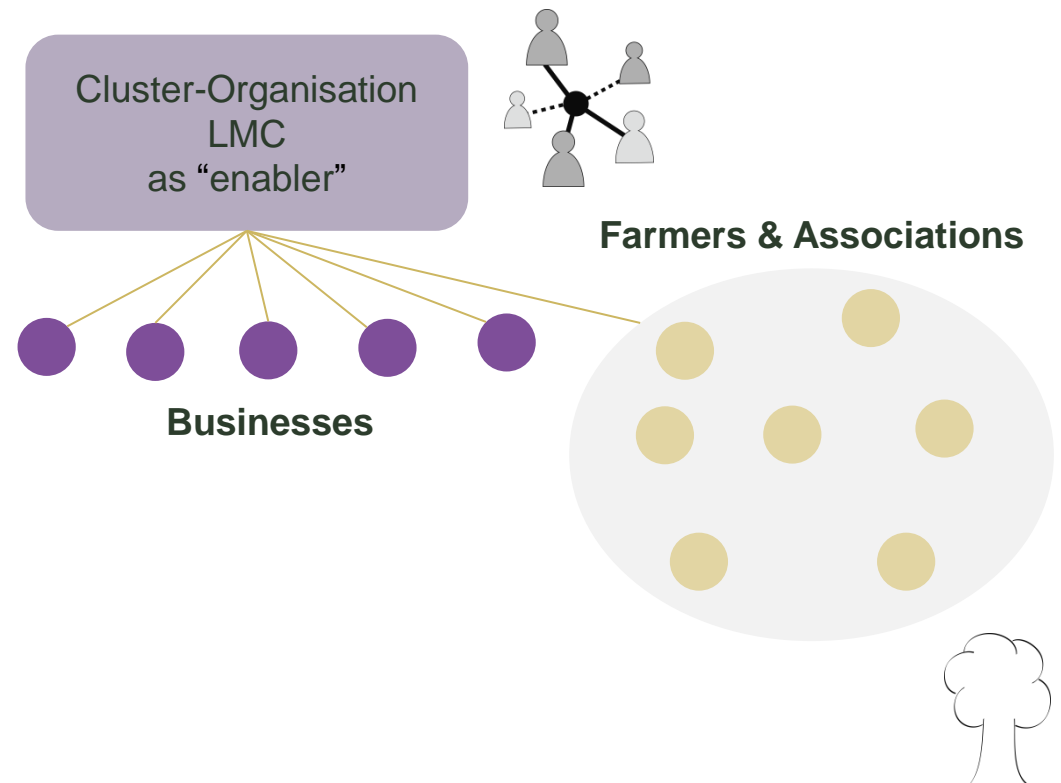


Lower Austria Enabler LMC - successes

Success

product development in a
M-A-A:

**10 major innovation
projects** with **80 different
actors** as well as numerous
training measures in 3 years.
2 projects under the EIP-
AGRI



Lower Austria Lessons so far

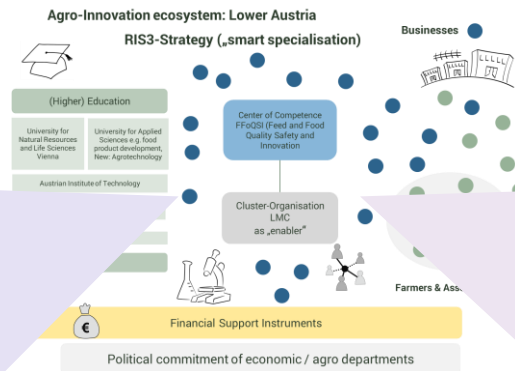
Obstacles for synergies

Small size of farms and businesses

Lack of trust between actors

Complex funding conditions, especially of EU programmes

“Red line” between **agriculture** and the up-/downstream processing **industry** in innovation support



What can we learn?

Community Building and **Trust** as a fundament

“Enablers” as crucial success factor

Simple **financial incentives** for **multi-actor projects** as a must

Strategic approach & political **consensus**

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions

- There is **wide range of support forms available** for agricultural innovation, both at EU- and Member State-level



- There are **many good projects** dealing with agricultural innovation – funded in a wide range of policy areas, e.g.

- R&D policy (Horizon 2020)
- Agricultural policy (EAFRD – incl. EIP-AGRI & LEADER)
- Regional policy (ERDF)
- Environmental policy (LIFE)



European Union
European Structural
and Investment Funds

- **Synergies have to be supported proactively**

Synergies

What are the success factors?

Harmonisation

Supporting factor

Strategies

Trust

Supporting factor

Incentives

Enablers

Transparency

Supporting factor

Culture

Supporting factor

Conclusions

Key factors for synergies

Enablers

Strategies

Incentives

Transparency
Harmonisation – Culture – Trust

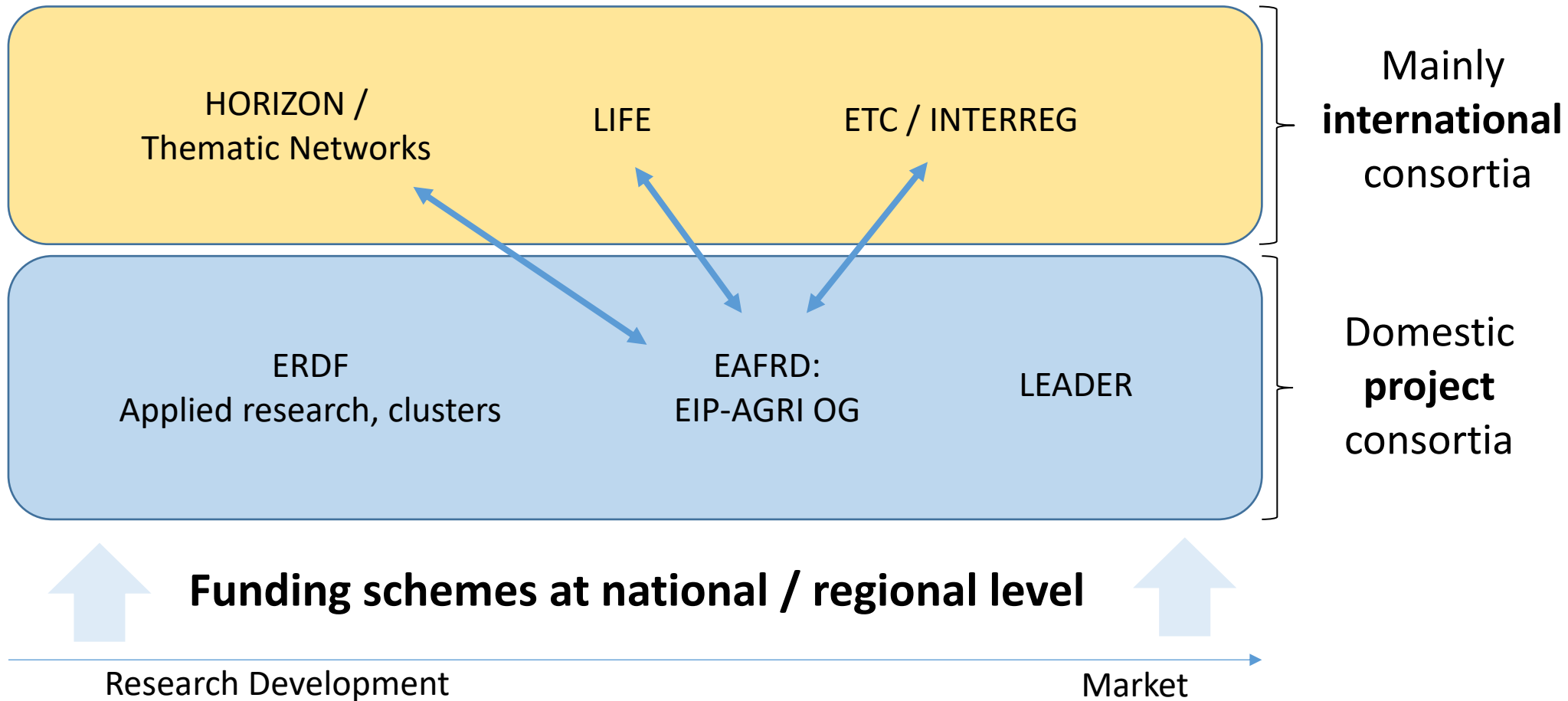
Conclusions

Key factors for synergies

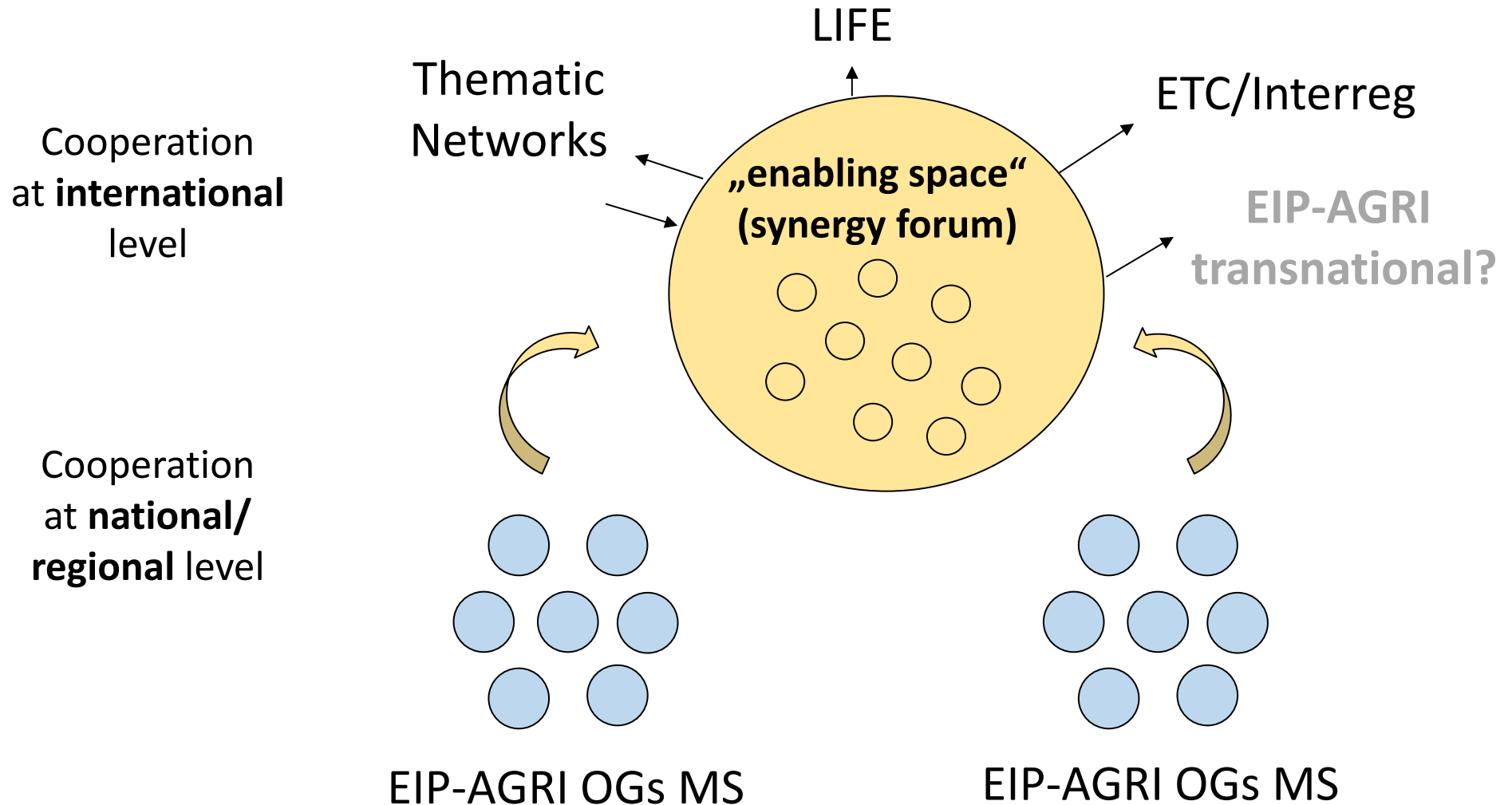
- **Strategies** as frameworks for aligning and focusing resources
- **Enablers** to stimulate cooperation, build trust, manage the complexity
- Financial **incentives** to stimulate cooperative projects
- Time to build **trust** among the actors and create an innovative **culture**
- **Transparency** of information to identify opportunities for synergies
- **Harmonisation** of regulations as much as possible

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO
IMPROVE SYNERGIES IN EU
PROGRAMMES WITH
COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES**

Synergy arena for multi-actors: How to bridge the gap?



Enabling and generating synergies



Enabling and generating synergies

Preconditions

- Sufficient number of actors/OGs
- Consolidated OGs => OG need settle / organise themselves before they can start with international cooperation

⇒ Synergies need time

Learn from LEADER

- LEADER transnational cooperation measure
- But avoid challenges of shared management, with funding coming from different EAFRD OPs – Consequences:
 - Different conditions in each MS
 - Different time frame, different call themes, etc.

Recommendation

- Set up a **“transnational EIP-AGRI scheme”** under direct EC management

**Set up a “transnational EIP-AGRI
scheme” under direct EC management**

Thank you for your attention

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