



WORKSHOP

Cross-border cooperation in agro-food
Regional good practices and lessons learnt

Pilot project AGROPOL

Development of a European cross-border
agribusiness model region

Aim & Agenda

Main theme

Contribution of cross-border or interregional cooperation to stronger, more sustainable and more innovative agro-food sectors and rural regions

- ▶ Different approaches regions have adopted in cross-border or interregional cooperation in agro-food;
- ▶ Essential issues in the organization, structuring and implementation of strategic cross-border or interregional cooperation in agro-food;
- ▶ Institutional framework and conditions favoring successful cross-border or interregional cooperation in agro-food

Aim & Agenda

Time	Item
09.00	Registration, coffee
09.30	Welcome, purpose and structure of the workshop, Agropol project team The AGROPOL project: objective, approach and state-of-play, Agropol project team
09.45	Introduction: The role of cross-border & interregional cooperation in agrorural development, Agropol project team
10.00	Presentations of four cases of cross-border or interregional cooperation Cooperation Alentejo/Centro (PT) - Extremadura (ES) - <i>Paulo Silva (CCDRAlentejo), Francisco Hinojal (CICYTEX) and Teresa Jorge (CCDRCentro)</i> European Cooperation in the aromatic and medicinal plants sector - <i>Clara Lourenço, ADC Moura</i> Cooperation Carinthia (AT) – Slovenia - <i>Michael Eichhübl (Department of Agriculture Carinthia) & Tadeja Kvas Majer (Ministry of Agriculture Slovenia)</i> The ERIAFF network and the Smart Specialisation Agro-food platform - <i>Fabio Boscaleri (ERIAFF network)</i>
11.00	Coffee
11.20	'Fish bowl' panel discussion, Sirpa Karjalainen (DG Agri), Prof. Artur da Rosa Pires (University of Aveiro), Clara Lourenço (ADC Moura), Fabio Boscaleri (ERIAFF), Michael Eichhübl (Department of Agriculture Carinthia), moderated by Agropol project team
12.20	Closing remarks and look forward
12.30	End of the event

Approach and state-of-play



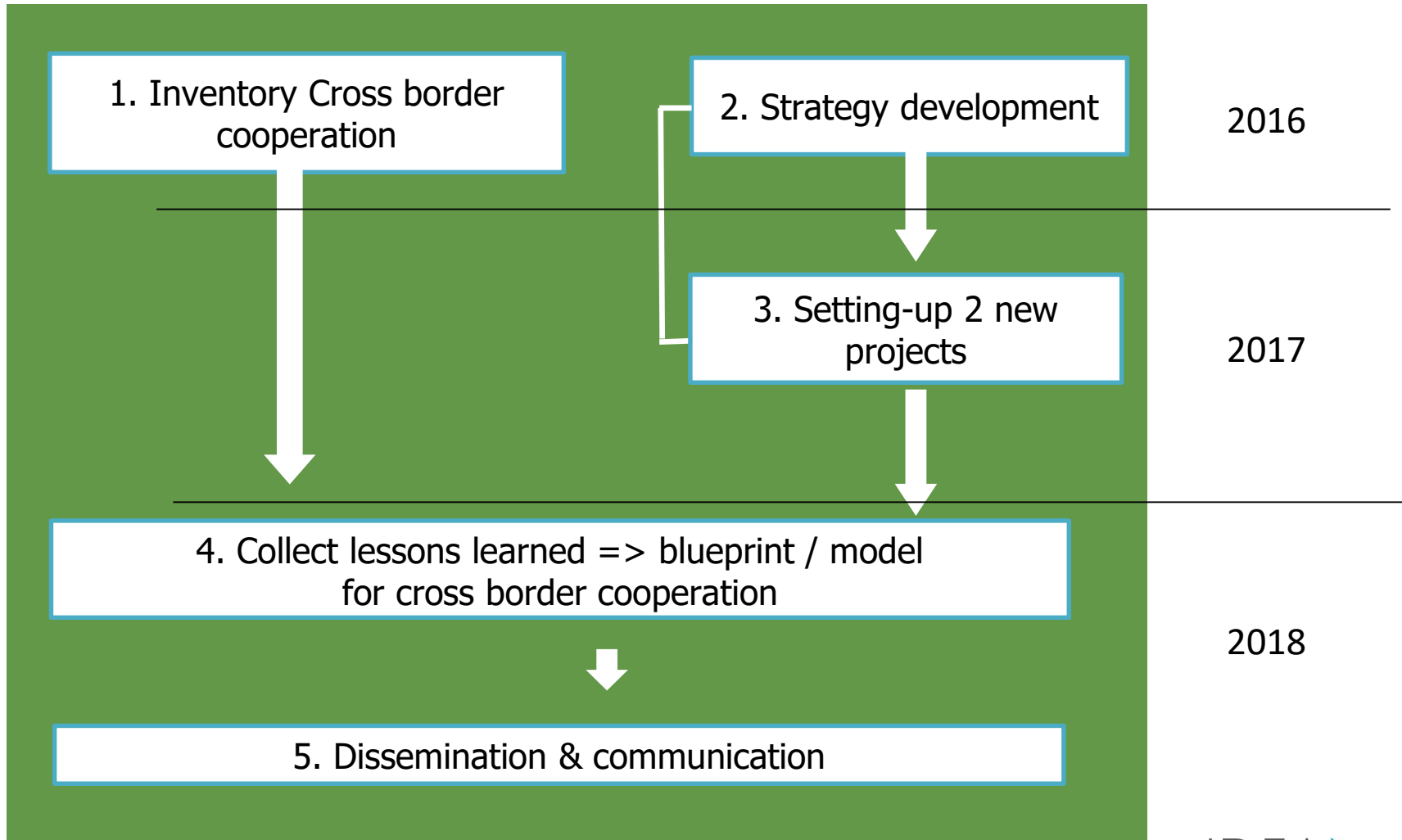
AGROPOL (2016-2018)

Pilot project and in-depth study aiming to provide practical know-how on cross border co-operation in the agricultural sector



Learning
by doing...!

Overall work plan



Cross-border strategy and projects

Cooperation in two cross-border areas

- ▶ Carinthia-Slovenia
- ▶ EURO-ACE: Alentejo-Centro-Extremadura



lk Landwirtschaftskammer
Kärnten

Skupni odbor Slovenija-Koroška
Gemeinsames Komitee Kärnten-Slowenien

Arbeitsgruppe "Landwirtschaft und ländliche Entwicklung"
Delovna skupina "Kmetijstvo in razvoj podeželja"



IDEA

CONSULT thinking ahead

Blueprint

- ▶ Target group: regional administrations and management authorities with competence in agro-food
- ▶ Show potential and provide inspiration of cross border cooperation for agro-food and rural development
- ▶ Practical handbook, based on real-life experiences, with direct utility to actors aiming to set up cooperation
- ▶ As much as possible adapted to regional needs



Blueprint

Structuring in stages of cooperation

- ▶ Demonstrated and illustrated by practical examples, tools/tips,...
- ▶ Important preconditions/points of attention for successful CBC



Cross-border & interregional cooperation in agro-food



CBC in agriculture & food

Objectives & approach

Objectives ↓	Approach →	Economic agrofood cluster development	Joint physical/IT infrastructure/tools	Research/tech transfer cooperation	Network approach: info exchange/mutual learning
Business support & competence development	North-West & Central Europe				
			South-West Europe		
Improving resource (eco-)efficiency in agri-food		Rhine Area, Central Europe			
Branding/marketing and quality assurance of local products		Alpine region, South-East Europe			
Stimulating rural tourism					
Land use, biodiversity, bio-economy		South-West Europe			

CBC in agriculture & food

State-of-the-art

- ▶ Interreg as main mechanism, also for agro- and rural development
- ▶ EARDF does not provide similar mechanisms
- ▶ Project-based, often initiated by specific sector organisations or research/competence centres
 - ▶ Rarely embedded in coherent regional strategy
- ▶ Structural transregional cooperation networks only recently emerging (ERIAFF)

CBC in agriculture & food

Role of cooperation

- ▶ Potential for cross-border and interregional cooperation
 - ▶ Scale: joint organisation of production, labour and marketing more efficiently in one cross-border rural area (integrated agribusiness)
 - ▶ Critical mass: joint strengthening of external position of (emerging) rural niche activities/sectors
 - ▶ Value chains: combining and connecting complementary local assets, e.g. to speed-up market-oriented innovation and deployment in new value chains

CBC in agriculture & food

Rural vs regional

- ▶ Rural dimension lacking in regional development and innovation framework (with urban bias)
 - ▶ Classic (regional) innovation strategies: R&D investments and high-tech entrepreneurship
 - ▶ Rural innovation: socio-cultural development, diversification and social innovation
- ▶ Integrated projects/initiatives between agriculture/rural domain and regional & innovation domain are rare

CBC in agriculture & food

Rural innovation & smart specialisation

- ▶ Rural innovation approach: beyond the usual realms of research, technology and efficiency
 - ▶ Rural ≠ agrifood
 - ▶ Innovation ≠ research & technology
 - ▶ Compensate for lack of density of knowledge infrastructure and business networks
- ▶ Smart specialisation as facilitating framework for innovative rural development
- ▶ Opening the field for cross-border and interregional cooperation

CBC in agriculture & food

Institutional environment

- ▶ Interreg: joint coordination Regional and Rural development
- ▶ LEADER: framework for targeted CBC on the level of LAGS
 - ▶ Small-scale – link to regional RIS3?
- ▶ EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: possible vehicles for strategic cross-border/interregional cooperation
 - ▶ At this moment limited in cross-border setting
- ▶ Thematic S3 Platform Agro-food
- ▶ Combining financial channels (EARDF, ERDF, H2020, EIB...)

CBC in agriculture & food

In practice

Practical issues in the cases:

- ▶ Building trust and urgency around a joint need
- ▶ Based on a broad, reliable, stable partnership
- ▶ Involvement of entrepreneurs
- ▶ Role of public authorities
- ▶ Joint structures of management of cooperation

Thanks for your attention!

IDEA Consult
Brussels

www.ideaconsult.be

Steven Knotter

Steven.knotter@ideaconsult.be



University Ghent

www.ugent.be

Evelien Lambrecht

Evelien.Lambrecht@UGent.be



METIS GmbH
Vienna

www.metis-vienna.eu

Isabel Naylor

naylor@metis-vienna.eu

