modernAKIS — Together for Systems' Innovation

CAP networks and Knowledge hub

AKIS-in-Practice! 4.4

The Italian Database of OGs

Keywords/Tags

- Innovation
- Interactions
- Actors
- Evaluation
- CAP
- Database

Potential users

- Policy makers
- Advisors
- Farmers and foresters
- Researchers
- Evaluators

RATIONALE

The CAP Networks are essential for promoting the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and innovations within the agricultural sector. With the introduction of the EIP-Agri initiative, particularly through the Rural Development Programs (RDPs) for 2014-2022, there has been an intensified focus on fostering collaboration among Operational Groups (OGs).

In a regionalized country like Italy, the risk of information dispersion among the various OGs is considerable. Each region may develop its unique innovations and practices, which can lead to a fragmented understanding of practices and resources.

This fragmentation may hamper effective knowledge sharing and limit the potential for collaborative learning across regions. A national database to centralize information about OGs is essential to mitigate these issues, enabling stakeholders to access comprehensive data on projects, results, and innovations. By fostering a more integrated approach, such a database would not only streamline communication but also enhance the overall effectiveness of the CAP Networks and the EIP-Agri initiative.

SOLUTION

The Italian OG database has been set up by the Italian NRN to collect information since the OGs 2014-2022 at national level, by avoiding the dispersion of information about partnerships and innovations. Its searchable features, which include project details and participant information, allow for effective knowledge sharing and informed decision-making, ultimately strengthening the agricultural sector's innovation capacity. The database also supports transparency and accountability by documenting all project materials and outcomes.

IN PRACTICE

The database enables users to apply various filters for enhanced searchability, including Region, project title/acronym, partner name, keywords, innovation topics, sector/value chain, focus area, programming period, project status, and timing. This functionality ensures that users can easily find specific information relevant to their interests and needs.
The database for Operational Groups (OGs) has been developed based on the Italian "**NRN common format'**" for practice abstracts (PAs). This excel format not only aligns with the information requested by the **EIP-AGRI common format** but also integrates additional data categories to ensure a holistic view of each project (Table 1). By capturing a broader spectrum of information - including partner details, project objectives, innovation descriptions, and impacts - this database enhances the capacity for knowledge sharing of innovative practices across the sector.

Table 1: Information requested in the Italian NRN common format for OGs PAs

Partner	Full Name
	Type of partner (NRN classification)
	Sector/Value chain
	ATECO Code - Classification of Economic Activity.
	Contact point (person)
	Legal Full address
	Operational full address
	Previous experience in OGs/other Research projects.

Innovation	Description of Innovation (free text)
	Innovation sector (list of statistical classification)
	Objective of the innovation 1, 2, 3, (list of possible objectives)
	Problem Area (list of problem areas of USDA classification)
	Main characteristics of innovations
	Typology (list: agronomic, animal husbandry, biological, transformation, biotech, chemical, genetic, informatic, biochemical, …)
	Potential recipients of innovation (free text)
	Productive, economic, environmental and social effects
	Effect 1, 2, 3, 4: (list of categories ± linked to FADN indicators: productivity improvement, increase of quality product, commercialization increase, improvement of profitability margins, diversification of products, improvement of quality soil, quality water, quality air, biodiversity prevention, energy safe, water safe, …)
Actions	List of actions: Preparatory activities, coordination and facilitation, adaptation of the innovation, dissemination, monitoring, …
	List of products and number by action: minutes of the meeting, field visit, report, communication material, …
Interactions	List and number of type of event: project meeting, labs, tests, demonstration events at farms, advisory, …
	Description: free text
	Participants: list of typologies
Material	Typology/Description/link to the website
Costs	Public contribution, Private co-financing share, Total project cost
	Total project cost by partner
	Total project cost by cost category (personnel, dissemination, travel, advisory services, ect…)
	Total project cost by type of intervention (training, advisory services, investments, …)

It is worth noting that this additional information is not recorder neither by AGRIDATA.

The database collects also the material (pdfs) of the OGs, including videos, events and workshops materials and the final reports of the OGs projects where available.

The database is updated through the submission of OGs PAs by Regional MAs. Once the OGs are selected, the Regional MAs send the relevant PAs to the CAP Network. This mechanism ensures that crucial information about the activities and innovations of the OGs is systematically collected and integrated into the database. Due to privacy issues, some of the data can be directly downloaded from the website by the users.

The data collected in the database are downloadable for every OG in pdf format, and are automatically elaborated to create graphical representations, statistical summaries, and tables such as the following examples:

• Statistics of the OGs.
• Graphics of the OGs.
• Informative factsheets of the OGs.

Moreover, the collected information is also used to prepare periodic reports by the CAP Network on the progress of the implementation of Operational Groups at regional and national level.

The database will continue to be maintained throughout the 2023-2027 programming period and will be updated with new Italian Operational Groups.

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR REPLICABILITY

- Procedures and timelines for the transmission of the PAs need to be established at both the national and EU levels to ensure updated information.
- Define a set of information that aligns with the EU common format to avoid duplication of efforts in data collection.
- Integrate the common format into the call for applications for OG support interventions to ensure that data on OGs is collected from the outset.

BENEFITS

- **Centralized information** reduces the risk of information dispersion among Operational Groups (OGs) by centralizing data at the national level.
- **Facilitation of knowledge sharing** and collaboration across regions, promoting innovation and best practices.
- **User-Friendly** access allows users to filter and search for specific information, enhancing the relevance and utility of the data.
- **Enhancement of the transparency and accountability.**
- **Support for M&E and reporting** useful for OGs, policy makers and program evaluators

FURTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Italian OGs Database (IT).

Italy

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