



Bundesanstalt für  
Landwirtschaft und Ernährung



# **Implementation of EIP Agri in Germany & first steps to set up Operational Groups**

**Innovations in Bulgarian Agriculture:**

**First steps towards EIP-AGRI**

**25. February 2016 Bulgaria, Plovdiv**

**Bettina Rocha**

**German National Rural Support Unit**

# Federal Office for Agriculture and Food - BLE



Bundesanstalt für  
Landwirtschaft und Ernährung

Selected Divisions of BLE

**BLE**  
**internal**  
**Exchange**

Funding agencies of BLE



**National Rural  
Support Unit &  
EIP Agri  
Support Unit**

Head  
Dr. Swoboda



Projektträger Bundesanstalt  
für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung

**Innovations  
facilitation &  
DIP**

Head  
Dr. Stöppler-  
Zimmer



Projektträger Bundesanstalt  
für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung

**Agricultural  
Research**

Head  
H. Fink



Projektträger Bundesanstalt  
für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung

**EU Research**

Head  
Dr. Saggau

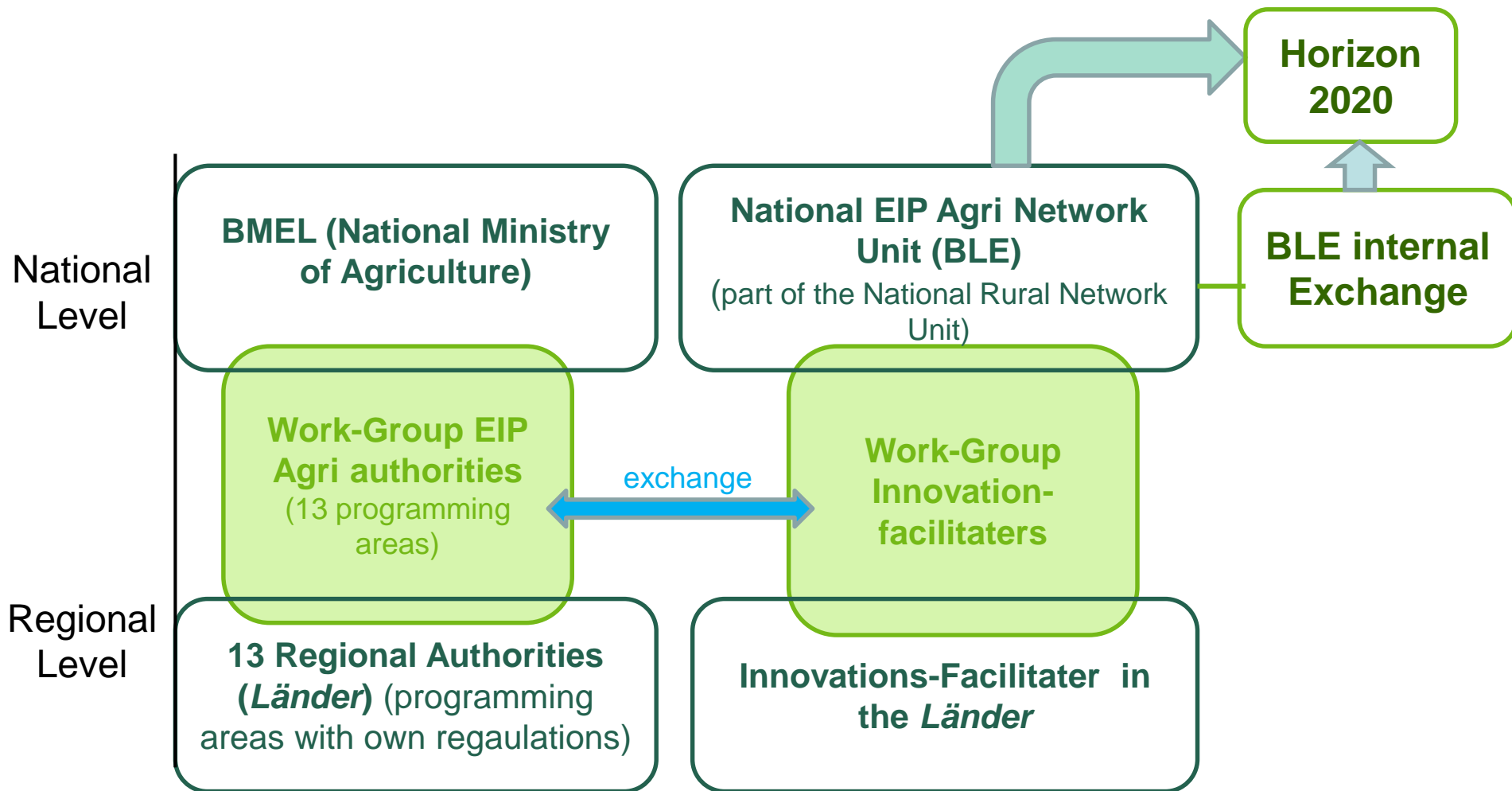
**BÖLN**

Bundesprogramm Ökologischer Landbau  
und andere Formen nachhaltiger  
Landwirtschaft

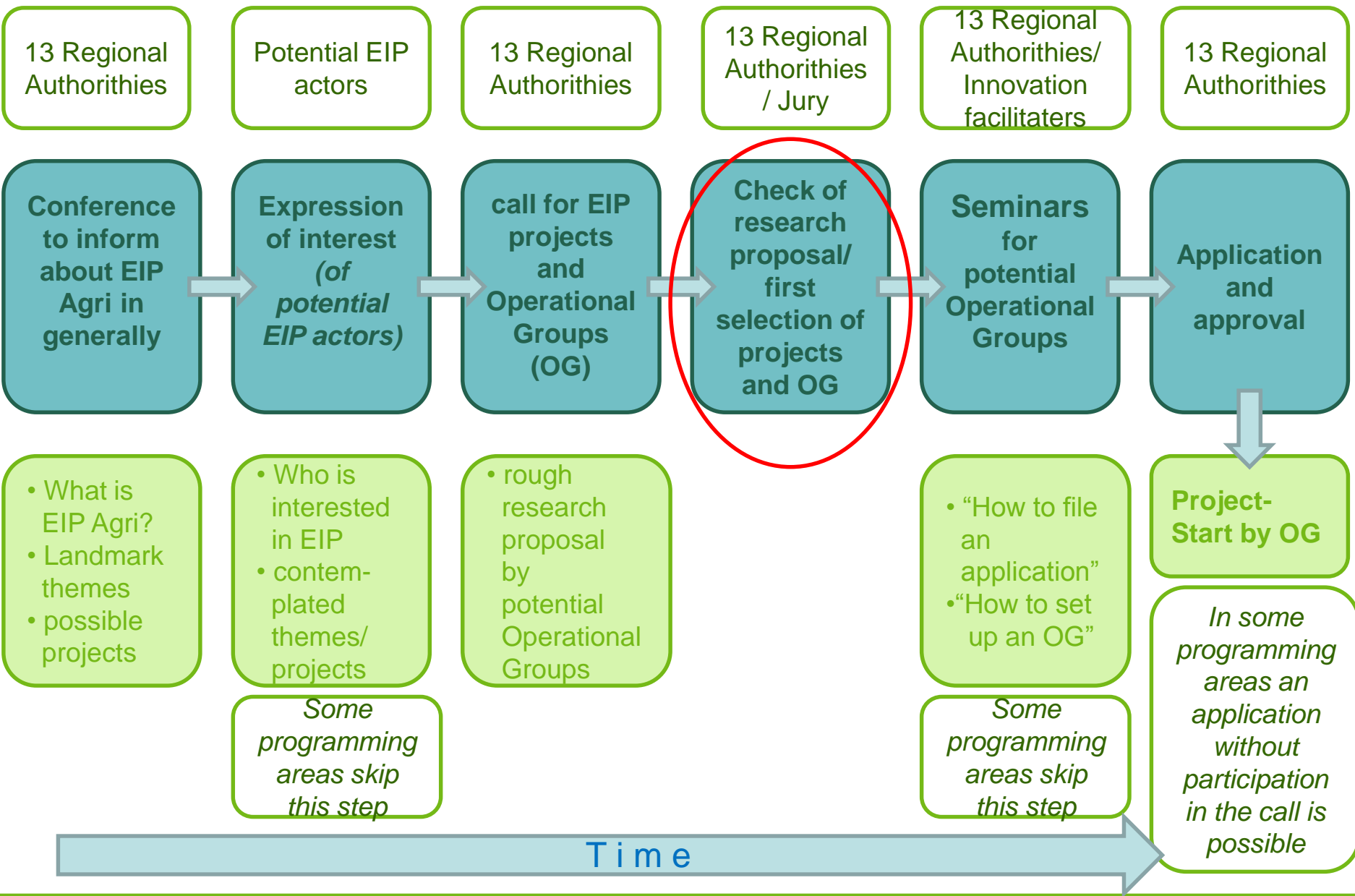
**Federal scheme  
for organic  
farming and other  
types of  
sustainable  
agriculture**

Head  
M. Backes

# Network-structure to support EIP Agri in Germany



# Steps of implementation of EIP Agri in the programming areas



# Check of research proposals/ selection of projects

## Frame for EIP Agri projects:

- Landmark-themes (e.g.: fostering biodiversity in agriculture, animal welfare, reduction of emissions, mixed orchards ....)  
or
  - concert themes (Paludie-culture in marsh-land)  
or
  - themes of EAFRD-Regulation
- ⇒ *Every programming area has different themes, potential Operational Groups have to **set up an innovation project** under the themes given in their programming area.*
- ⇒ *After the call the potential OG formulates a rough **research proposal**.*

# Check of research proposals/ selection of projects

## First Step: Check by regional authorities:

- Was this (or a similar project) already fostered in Germany? (BLE offers a check to the regional authorities)
- Is the research proposal in accordance to the regulations/ landmark-themes in its programming area?
  - Selection criteria fulfilled? *“Is it innovative and useful in its area?”*



**First selection of projects as a proposal to the jury**

## Second step: selection of projects by a jury



## Third step: OGS of selected projects are requested to apply to be fostered



**Check of application => approval or refusal of the project**

# Examples of approved EIP Agri projects

## Finally approved, OG started to work:

- Optimized grazing-management “smart-grazing”
- Animal welfare for hens, extension of life-time after moult
- Thermic soil-treatment
- New milking-system for animal welfare

## Selected by a Jury, but not approved yet

- Online-decision-making-tool for irrigation vegetables
- value-chain soy in Germany
- Drainage-filter to minimize nutrient contamination in surface-water
- Feeding pigs with local protein-crops

## Network to support EIP Agri

**Networking is an element of interactive innovation at 4 stages:**

- a) Establishing the OG.
- b) Support OG work in progress.
- c) Dissemination of the results.
- d) Link partners and themes of OG to EIP Agri under Horizon 2020 and to other research institutions/networks.



# Network to support EIP Agri

## a) Establishing the OG with its specific project.

### “Big scale”- Networking:

- Seminars about the EIP Agri to inform potential actors and encourage them to form a OG.
- Workshops about specific EIP-themes to find appropriate partners.

Organized by the managing authorities in the programming areas and by the innovation-facilitators (IF) and the National EIP Agri Network Unit since 2013.

### “Small scale”- Networking:

Direct contact of IF to farmers and farmer´s organisations to identify the specific problems and develop ideas of farmers that might lead to an innovative project. Matching partners by the IF.

*comment: A close connection between IF and advisors was very successful in Germany to find promising practice orientated themes.*

# Network to support EIP Agri

## **b) Support OGs work in progress**

- General support to run the OG.
- Workshops about “how file an application”.
- Events for OGs and leadpartners in one programming area to exchange experience.
- Workshops for IF for knowledge-exchange and capacity-building (since 2015)
- offer thematic Workshop for all OG in Germany (probably not before 2017)

## **c) Dissemination of the projects results.**

- provide a EIP Agri free-access database with all OG-projects in Germany (soon)
- offer excursions to OG projects to everybody (autumn 2016)
- report about EIP-projects in media

## **d) Motivate actors to link Horizon 2020 and Rural Development**

- link Multi actor projects / thematic network (Horizon 2020) to OG
- link ERA-NET projects to OG

## First experiences in Germany:

- It needs time to bring the right partners together to find a common language and to build trust.
- Innovation-facilitators play a important role to support EIP Agri. There is a need for a permanent structure and platform, which encourages interested parties to form an Operational Group.
- The spirit of the Operational Group must be driven by a practical (and economic) rather than a scientific interest in order to find a solution that really works = is really innovative.
- There is a need for constant exchange and knowledge transfer in order to create an enabling environment for innovative approaches.

**Thank you very much for attention**

**Bettina Rocha**  
**German Rural Network Unit/BLE**  
**0049 2286845 3882**  
**Bettina.rocha@ble.de**



- Legal basis in EAFRD-Regulation:

Article 55 ff in accordance with Art. 35 (Cooperation Measure)  
= Support for the establishment and operation of **operational groups** (Note: Art. 35 is not for EIP AGRI only)

-> Combination with other RD measures possible Article 53 = EIP AGRI Network