



**Subgroup on Innovation &
Knowledge Exchange (SolKE)
4th meeting**

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Cross-visits between Operational Groups: the EU CAP Network experience (June 2023)

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What are EU CAP Network cross-visits?

- › A networking and knowledge exchange activity between Operational Group projects (OGs) working on similar and/or complementary subjects
- › Focus on a specific theme
- › Include OGs from at least two EU Member States
- › Involve up to 25 participants per cross-visit
- › One-and-a-half-day event
- › Take place on the premises or the geographical area of one (or more) of the participating projects



Why organise cross-visits between Operational Groups?

- › Enable peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange on the innovations that the involved projects address and on their multi-actor approach, allowing a deeper understanding of the innovation processes, providing further inspiration to participants and fostering synergies between projects;
- › Discuss common challenges, research needs from practice, inspirational ideas and potential solutions;
- › Exchange and further disseminate project findings across the EU;
- › Create opportunities for potential future collaborations and partnerships.



EU CAP Network cross-visits – June 2023 edition

- › Two cross-visits between multiple Operational Groups
 - Circular and organic soil management – Basilicata, Italy – 21 participants from 8 OGs
 - Organic farming supply and value chain optimisation – Tuscany, Italy - 19 participants from 9 OGs
- › Variety of actors involved – farmers, advisors, innovation brokers, researchers, others
- › Volunteer ‘host’ OGs – field visits and organisational support
- › Role of regional MAs and NSUs – organisational and overall support



EU CAP Network cross-visits: the process

› Prior to the cross-visit:

- Identification the cross-visit topics
- Preparation and dissemination of a call for OG participants and OG hosts
- Support by the regional MAs and NSUs during this process
- Selection of participants and hosts
- Get-to-know opportunities – OG profiles, individual participant profiles...



EU CAP Network cross-visits: the process

› During the cross-visits:

- networking opportunities for Operational Groups
- discussions around complementarities, synergies, possible collaborations
- two field visits per cross-visit
- support from regional MAs during the cross-visits – introduction to the region and collaborating during the whole programme of the cross-visit
- evaluation and participant feedback



Positive outcome: some OGs are currently in touch with each other regarding Horizon project calls



EU CAP Network cross-visits: learning points

- › Finding common ground between participating OGs prior to the cross-visits is important
- › Participants must already have enough information about each other prior to the cross-visit
- › Involving practitioners is key, but not always straight-forward
- › NSUs and MAs have a key role in supporting the cross-visits





Thank you for your attention!



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All results and presentations are available on the event webpage:
<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/subgroup-innovation-and-knowledge-exchange-4th-meeting>

