

# EU CAP Network Catch-up

April 2024

We're sending this EU CAP Network Catch-up to recap what happened during April 2024, and to inform you about upcoming events and activities!

## Young LEADER Forum

A huge thank you to NNs for helping to spread the word about this event to young people! Thanks to you, we were able to collect a big number of expressions of interest, and we will have 26 Member States represented at the Forum.

We will be in touch with all the participants soon with more information about the meeting and some preparation activities. So, if you're registered for the event, please keep an eye on your inbox! And anyone interested can check the agenda on the [event page](#).

## The public favourite vote for the EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards is still open!

The wider European public can still vote for their favourite candidate for the EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards at the EU CAP! The **public vote will close 3 May**. [Discover the Nominees](#) and don't forget to promote the public favourite in your country.

The awards ceremony takes place on 7 May 2024, as integral part of the [EU CAP Network Conference 'EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: Innovation in practice'](#) taking place 6-8 May 2024 in Estoril (Portugal).

## ARIA 2024: 'Empowering young people'

The submission period for [Agricultural and Rural Inspiration Awards \(ARIA\)](#) is open **until 25 July 2024!** You can find all the information about the competition and further guidance (including the application template) on the [ARIA page](#).

On 25 April, the main contact person responsible for ARIA 2024 from your MS received by email the access to the shared space for submitting the applications together with



a user guide. The email also provides information related to the online **Capacity Building sessions for ARIA**. They will take place on 13 and 17 May, from 11am to 1pm (Brussels time) and you can [register online](#) by **6 May COB**. If you did not receive it, please, get in touch with us at [aria@eucapnetwork.eu](mailto:aria@eucapnetwork.eu).

We invite you to share the news with your colleagues and follow updates on the competition via our social media using the hashtag #ARIAwards24.

## Transnational cooperation (TNC) opportunities for LAGs

You can check TNC opportunities in a shared folder [here](#). We will update this folder with TNC opportunities monthly, until the cooperation partner search tool for LAGs is available on the EU CAP Network website.

If you search for a partner for a transnational cooperation project, please get in touch with [leader@eucapnetwork.eu](mailto:leader@eucapnetwork.eu).

## Wanted: national experts for the ad-hoc national expert group meeting

The EU CAP Network is establishing a pool of national voluntary experts with a focus on innovation, knowledge exchange and EIP-AGRI across EU Member States.

We are currently looking for experts that can provide input during the ad-hoc national expert group meeting on 12 June 2024, to prepare the call text of three upcoming Focus Groups on the following themes:

1. New plant protein sources / production of protein or leguminous crops under climate change
2. Local plant genetic resources in view of climate change and biodiversity loss
3. Alternative strategies for sustainable livestock systems

Help us identify suitable candidates by sharing this information with your network and ask interested experts from your country to provide us with their CVs. Deadline for application is 14 May, the meeting will be held 12 June 2024.

[All information on the event webpage](#)



## Updates on Thematic Work

### Thematic Groups on Implementation

1. [TG on Supporting the Mental Health of Farmers and Farming Communities](#)
  - The [first meeting](#) took place on 27 February 2024. Presentations and highlight report are now available on the [event page](#). The second meeting will take place on 28 May.
2. [TG on Green Architecture: Designing Green Strategies](#)
  - The [first meeting](#) took place on 11 April. Presentations and pictures are now on the [event page](#). The second meeting will take place on 4 June.
3. [TG on CSP: Monitoring Committees](#)
  - The [second meeting](#) took place online on 25 January 2024. Presentations and highlights report from the day are available on the [event page](#).
4. [TG on the Design and Implementation of Eco-schemes in the new CSPs](#)
  - The [second meeting](#) took place in Brussels on 20 February. Presentations and highlights report from the day are available on the [event page](#).
5. [TG on Nurturing Skills for a Thriving and Sustainable Agricultural Sector](#)
  - The [second meeting](#) took place in Brussels on 16 January. Presentations and highlights report from the day available on the [event page](#).
  - Other outputs available from the TG on the website:
    - [Action-oriented recommendations - Upskilling and reskilling the EU agricultural workforce](#)
    - [Examples of approaches to encourage skills development in agriculture](#)
    - [Good practices in nurturing agricultural skills](#)

**Evaluation Thematic Working Groups** have started their activities:

- [Assessment of sectoral support within the CAP](#)
- [Assessment of results based interventions](#)
- [Assessment of CAP contributions to sustainable productivity](#)

## Upcoming events

- [EU CAP Network conference 'EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: Innovation in practice'](#) – 6-8 May 2024 in Portugal
- [EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards 2024 - Awards ceremony](#) – 7 May 2024 in Portugal
- [2nd meeting of the Steering Group](#) – 15 May 2024 in Brussels
- [Focus Group 'Crop associations including Milpa and protein crops' - 2nd meeting](#) 29-30 May 2024 in France
- [Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange \(SolKE\) - 6th meeting](#) – 6 June 2024 in Brussels



- [Young LEADER Forum](#) – 11-13 June in Vierumäki, Finland
- [EU CAP Network workshop 'Promoting pollinator-friendly farming'](#) – 18-19 June 2024 in Slovenia
- [EU CAP Network cross-visit 'Climate adaptation on the ground'](#) – 26-27 June 2024 – location TBC
- [EU CAP Network cross-visit 'Use of agricultural and forestry residues'](#) - 26-27 June 2024 – location TBC

## New online resources

### Implementation

- Policy insight - [Water efficiency for rural Europe](#)
- Outputs from the [TG on Nurturing Skills for a Thriving and Sustainable Agricultural Sector](#) available from the TG on the website:
  - Action-oriented recommendations - [Upskilling and reskilling the EU agricultural workforce](#)
  - [Examples of approaches to encourage skills development in agriculture](#)
  - [Good practices in nurturing agricultural skills](#)
  - [Highlights report](#) of the second meeting

### Innovation

- [Agrinnovation Magazine - Issue 10](#): the new magazine highlights innovative solutions for the sustainable and circular use of natural resources in agriculture, forestry and rural communities.
- [Press article: 'Promoting gender equality in European agriculture and rural areas'](#) – Horizon Europe project SWIFT seeks to make the importance of women in agriculture more visible.
- [Brochure on EIP-AGRI Operational Groups - Collaboration and funding opportunities](#) - This brochure highlights examples of collaboration, funding opportunities, support platforms and activities that can inspire National CAP Networks, Operational Groups and other innovators to connect and boost innovation across the EU.
- Innovation & knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI Newsletter – [April](#) edition

### Evaluation

- [Evaluation Glossary](#)
- New Member States Evaluations from [Spain](#), [Italy](#), [Sweden](#)

A new edition of the [EU CAP Network Newsletter](#) has been published. To subscribe, click [here](#).



Be sure to follow **@eucapnetwork** on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn to be updated on all the activities and available resources from the EU CAP Network!

Do you know about our online [Stakeholders' kit](#)? It's a free-to-use collection of sources and materials to enable you to best communicate about the activities and initiatives of the EU CAP Network, as well as instructions on how to spread the word about your own actions more easily.

We are planning to send the EU CAP Network Catch-up PDF every month. Please feel free to forward it to your colleagues or anyone in your network who you think would find it useful. If you would not like to receive these monthly updates, please write to us at [nn-meetings@eucapnetwork.eu](mailto:nn-meetings@eucapnetwork.eu).

