



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara**  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# European Innovation Partnerships

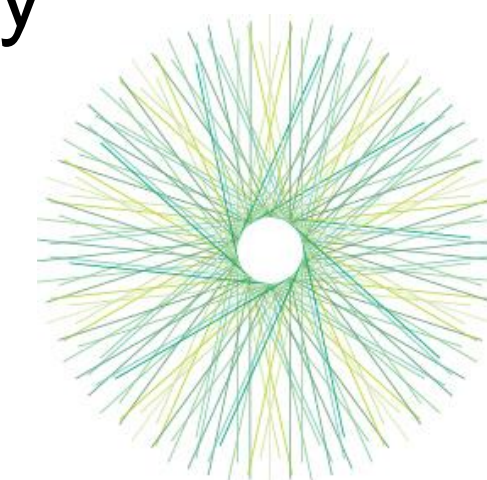
## Operational Group Guidance

Locally-Led Division  
10th July 2024

# What is an Operational Group under European Innovation Partnerships?



- EIP's are locally led environmental schemes, developed and led by Operational Groups acting collaboratively for a common goal.
- Operational Groups are made up of stakeholders such as farmers, researchers, advisors, NGOs, foresters, community groups and businesses with a shared interest in achieving the objectives of the EIP project.
- The Project Plan should set out clearly all the actors who will be members of the OG.
- It must also set out what the role and contribution of each OG member will be and must identify the Lead Partner, who has the responsibility for ensuring that the other partners are aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- Any change to the make-up of the OG during the project should be notified immediately to the Department's EIP section.



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# Service Level Agreement



- A service Level Agreement and a Protocol for Implementation is put in place between DAFM and the OG outlining what DAFM expects from the OG.
- These documents address the obligations of DAFM and the OG under the relevant regulations, covering such areas as:
  - Service to be provided (Guidelines + Project Plan)
  - Payments process and management of funds requirements
  - Confidentiality and Data Protection
  - Dealing with problems/conflicts/disputes/termination
  - Governance framework to be adopted
  - Record keeping and reporting
  - Dissemination of outputs and learnings

# The Operational Group Agreement



- As a requirement of the Protocol, An Operational Group Agreement is put in place between all the members of the OG to make clear the roles and responsibilities of all partners of the Operational Groups.
- The provisions of the Project Plan, including its annexes, are directly applicable to the Operational Group Agreement.
- The signatories of the Operational Group Agreement understand and accept their joint responsibilities to implement the Project Plan.

