

High Level Forum on e-agriculture
“2gether 4 Strong Digital Agriculture”
18-20 April 2018
Sofia, Bulgaria

Wednesday, 18 April

09.00 – 17.00

Farm visit (s) outside of Sofia (Lunch included)

Participants: Farmers, academia, rural advisors, EIP operational groups, NGOs and private sector representatives from EU and Western Balkans.

In the morning the participants will visit the farm „Elite 95“ltd, situated in Popovica village, Plovdiv region.

The *lunch* will be in a restaurant in the city of Plovdiv.

In the early afternoon participants will visit two farms - „Dimitrovi 2002“ltd in the Town of Ihtiman and „Variety seeds and plant protection“ltd in the village of Kubratovo, Sofia region.

After the visits and interaction with the host farmers in the late afternoon the participants will be invited to share their impressions through a moderate discussion that may include the following questions:

- What do you take back from the visit?
- What are your needs (issues) that could be supported by ICTs?
- What would you need as support from the government?

Venue: Hotel Novotel Sofia

Thursday, 19 April

08.30 – 10.00

Registration, welcome coffee and exhibition of ICT solutions, initiatives and projects on e-agriculture

The most promising good practices on e-agriculture, based on the [FAO call for Europe and Central Asia](#) will be exhibited and validated by the participants. All participants are required to be present at 8.30 h.

- AgroSense, Serbia
- GaiaSence, Greece
- IrringNet, Serbia
- Smart Insect Trap, Hungary
- Automated pest control spraying in viticulture, Portugal
- MANNER-NPK, UK

Venue: Hotel Novotel Sofia

10.00 – 10.15

Welcome speeches by the organisers

10.15 – 11.15

Introductory presentations on the e-agriculture and agricultural innovation concepts

Purpose: Provide the audience with a broad background on e-agriculture, its opportunities, challenges and regional context, as well as the concept and initiatives of agricultural knowledge and innovation systems.

- The role of e-agriculture in the context of global and regional challenges (Nevena Alexandrova-Stefanova, FAO)
- Digital agriculture in Europe, state of play (Louis Mahy, DG AGRI, EC)
- Status of implementation of e-agriculture in Europe, including Western Balkans (Dr. Mihály Csótó, National University of Public Service, Hungary)
- EIP-AGRI innovation approach: (Pacome Eyenga, Team Leader EIP-AGRI Service Point)

11.15 – 11.30

Discussion

11.30 – 12.00

Exhibition tour and voting

During the exhibition, each participant will be requested to rank the presented solutions, based on the FAO call for good practices on e-agriculture, according to their innovation and upscaling potential.

12.00 – 13.00

Lunch break

13.00 – 14.00

Side event presentations (each presentation will be 15 min in room Paris)

- UniCredit BulBank
- NIK Agro
- Improving sustainability of field crop production by integrating remotely collected data - Assoc. Prof. Bojin Bojinov – Head of Department of Genetics and Plant breeding, Agricultural University of Plovdiv

14.00 – 15.30

Interactive session: *How to boost the agricultural innovation through digital technologies ?*

EU Operational groups (Finland, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain) and other projects will present result-oriented initiatives, which aim to enhancing agricultural innovation through digitisation in different regional or country contexts.

Each presenter will have the possibility to make 10 minutes power point presentation.

The participants will form country groups and after each round of presentations, will discuss the factors of success for digital innovation in agriculture in their country context (such as infrastructure, tools, approaches, policies and funding instruments, others) as well as the implementation challenges of the digital innovation.

Purpose:

- Get informed about the potential of digital innovation in agriculture

- Identify good practices and implementation challenges in (digital) innovation projects

EIP Operational Groups:

- Software to improve management in livestock cooperatives, Spain
- Precision Irrigation: Control of additional water use in crop production – situational, site-specific and automated, Germany
- SEMS: Smart Economic Monitoring Systems of production and operation costs related to precision and high mechanisation, Italy
- Increasing the viability of sown biodiverse pastures through optimisation of phosphate fertilisation, Portugal
- Agricultural business development with intelligent data analytics, Finland

Other innovative projects and initiatives:

- Regional platform on e-agriculture for Europe and Central Asia: Dr. Laszlo Papocsi, Hungary
- Forestry information system in Kosovo: Naser Krasniqi, FAO-Kosovo
- ReCAP - organic production and certification platform: Grigoris Chatzikostas, Innosense

15.30 – 15.45

Coffee break

15.45 – 17.00

Country reporting on the interactive session, conclusions and evaluation

18.00 – 18.30

Transfer of delegates from Hotel Novotel to National Historical Museum

18.30 – 19.00

Transfer of Ministers/Heads of Delegations, FAO Regional Representative and FAO Regional Programme Leader from the Hotel Marinela to the National Historical Museum

19.00 – 22.00

Gala Dinner

Venue: National Historical Museum

Dress code: Business casual

Friday, 20 April

- 08.00 – 08.30** Transfer from hotels to the National Palace of Culture
- 08.30 – 09.00** Ministers, Commissioner, FAO Regional Representative and FAO Regional Programme Leader arrivals and doorstep
- 09.00 – 09.10** **Welcome address** *on behalf of Bulgarian Presidency*
- Mr. Tomislav DONCHEV - Deputy Prime Minister
 - Mrs. Lilyana PAVLOVA - Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of EU 2018
- 09.10 – 09.20** **Opening address** - Vladimir RAKHMANIN, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, *UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*,
- 09.20 – 09.30** **Opening speech** - Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society
- 09.30 – 11.00** **High-level ministerial panel discussion:** *Enabling environment for digital agriculture-policy options and strategic frameworks for digital transformation in agriculture in Europe*
(moderated panel discussion with ministers of agriculture from EU, Turkey and Western Balkan countries, including EC and FAO with several opportunities for questions from the audience)
Moderator:
- Raimund JEHLE, FAO Regional Programme Leader for Europe and Central Asia
- Confirmed participants:
- Bulgaria: Mr. Rumen PORODZANOV, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

- European Commission: Mr. Tassos HANIOTIS, Director DG AGRI
- France: Jean-Philippe GRELOT, Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Hungary: Mr. Zsolt FELDMAN, Deputy-State Secretary for Agrarian Affairs
- Slovak Republic: Mr. Gabriel CSICSAI, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Albania: Mr. Ilir HALILAJ, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Dusan NESKOVIC, Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
- Kosovo¹: Mr. Mr. Isni Kilaj, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
- Montenegro: Mr. Duro ZUGIC, State secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Ljupcho NIKOLOVSKI, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
- Turkey: Mr Ahmet Esref FAKIBABA, Minister for Food Agriculture and Livestock

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 13.20

Expert panel discussion: Learning from experience: How to unleash the innovation potential of the digital technologies? (moderated panel discussion with practitioners from academia, farmers, business and civil society from EU, Turkey and Western Balkan countries, including EC and FAO with several opportunities for questions from the audience)

Moderator:

- Svetlana Boyanova, Chairperson of Institute for Agrostrategies and Innovations

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and on ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Panelists:

- Ana Cuadrado Galván, European Commission, DG AGRI
- Mr Herve Dupuy, Deputy Head of Unit in DG Cnect, European Commission, Wifi4EU initiative
- Mr. Jan Droge, Director at Broadband Competence Offices Support Facility
- Mr. Grigoris Chatzikostas, IoF2020 project
- Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General, COPA-COGECA
- Prof. Dimitar Trajanov, Head of Department of information systems and network technologies" at Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering - ss. Cyril and Methodius University –Skopje, Social Innovation Hub, TFYR Macedonia (TBC)
- Prof. Petrit Dobi, Single Window service for farmers, Albania
- Dr. Nikola Trendov, Godollo University, Hungary: A regional V4 project on digital skills
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13.20 – 14.00

Discussion and concluding remarks - Assoc. Prof. Bojin Bojinov – Head of Department of Genetics and Plant breeding, Agricultural University of Plovdiv

14.00 – 15.00

Buffet lunch

Departure

