



Programming Innovation in Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 SLOVENIA

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PROGRAM
RAZVOJA
PODEŽELJA

Republike Slovenije
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www.program-podezelja.si



Content of the presentation

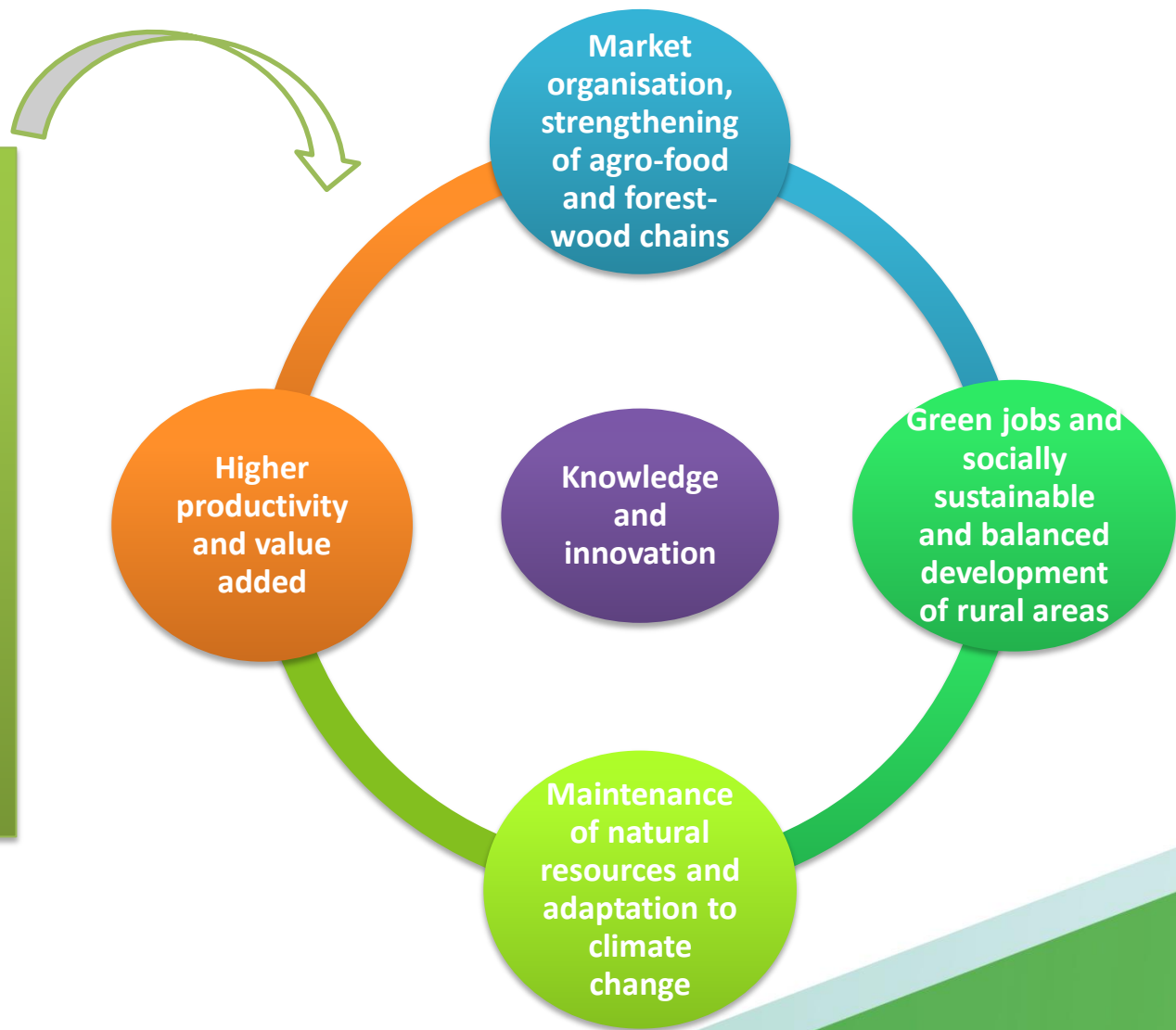
- I. PROGRAMMING OF INNOVATION IN THE RDP 2014-2020
- II. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS – PRELIMINARY IDEAS
- III. OPEN QUESTIONS

I. PART

PROGRAMMING OF INNOVATION IN RDP 2014-2020

Central place of innovation and knowledge transfer in Slovenian RDP 2014-2020

- Compared to RDP 2007-2013 innovation and knowledge transfer now set in the centre of national priorities for RDP 2014-2020.
- Key measures: Art. 14, 15 and 35.
- Possible linkages to investment measure under Art. 17.
- Direct linkage to Art. 14 – demonstration activities.



Central place of innovation and knowledge transfer in Slovenian RDP 2014-2020 – WHY?

- ❑ Lagging behind the EU-27 average in agricultural productivity.
- ❑ Due to a small market – farmers exposed to volatile prices and severe competition from internal and third markets. CAP payments becoming increasingly important within the factor income structure.
- ❑ Technology gap & knowledge gap increasing – lack of specialized knowledge.
- ❑ Public advisory service preoccupied with administrative tasks related to efficient fund absorption.
- ❑ Lack of technological advice.
- ❑ Availability of applicative research results & knowledge limited. Researchers' incentives governed by career progression criteria. Increasing gap between the needs of agricultural practice and research.

Central place of innovation and knowledge transfer in Slovenian RDP 2014-2020 – WHY?

- ❑ Lack of coordination among all institutions /actors involved in the agricultural knowledge and innovation system resulting into less efficient flow of knowledge & innovation.
- ❑ Different actors (institutes, faculties, advisory service...) are governed by different incentives. They primarily want to legitimize their own existence...competing among each other for the same part of (public) funding...public funding is getting more and more scarce...future?
- ❑ Linear flow of knowledge and innovation from research to end users via advisors recognized as insufficient form of a diffusion of latest knowledge. Who actually creates knowledge? Traditional knowledge producers (faculties, institutes) coping with the knowledge demand?
- ❑ Most advanced farmers– acknowledged as more and more important in the knowledge and innovation transfer system.

Programming of innovation - COOPERATION

- ❑ Key measure related to innovation = COOPERATION (Art. 35 of Regulation 1305/2013/EU) , in particular through **support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability**.

- ❑ EIP operational groups are expected to focus primarily (not exclusively!) on:
 - pilot projects and
 - development of new products, practices, processes and technologies.
= DEVELOPMENT

- ❑ BUT innovative projects may, however, come also from **other forms of cooperation**, not just EIP operational groups, and also **other fields** of cooperation: MARKET (local markets...), ENVIRONMENT (joint approaches to climate change, environmental issues...), SOCIAL issues (farming diversification).



Agricultural holdings / subjects who participated in Art. 35 could demonstrate new technologies, products via Art. 14 = demonstration projects.

Expectations of EIP and innovation in RDP 2014-2020

What do we expect from EIP?



- Closing the technological gap.
- Effective cooperation among institutions, organisations and agricultural practice.
- Transfer of knowledge and innovation into practice.
- Development of a network of demonstration farms.
- Increase in competence of the farmers and stronger information flow.

What we will try to avoid?



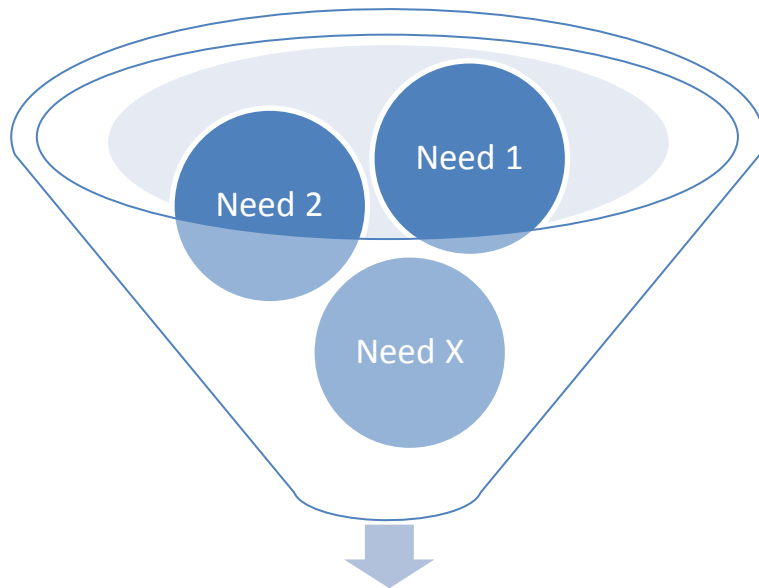
- “Rent-seeking”
- “Dead-weight” projects which:
 - won’t develop, test and introduce directly applicable knowledge,
 - won’t include final users of this knowledge,
 - Won’t have clearly defined relations among actors,
 - Won’t be targeted in achieving clear results,
 - Won’t disseminate knowledge...

II. PART
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS –
PRELIMINARY IDEAS

How to bring EIP in practice?

NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

1. Identification of needs of agricultural practice (call for expression of interest)



2. Prioritization of needs to be included in the tender (experts)

PROJECT

3. Public tender

Evaluation, ranking & selection of projects

Project implementation

Project finalisation

DISSEMINATION

**4. Dissemination/
Knowledge transfer**

Project database

1. PHASE: Needs identification

❑ ASSUMPTIONS:



- The ideas must come from the needs of agricultural practice.
- Research institutions advisors are losing touch with the needs of the practice.
- Research projects have under-use value for practice.

❑ DILLEMAS:

- How to transfer information about the needs of agricultural practices by a bottom-up approach, i.e. how to ensure that end-users - farmers, agribusinesses are interested and have the ability to identify the topic of the project?
- When & how often do the needs identification and in what way?

❑ POSSIBLE APPROACHES ANALYSED

- Rural Network
- Innovation brokerage
- Call for expression of interest (pre-proposals)
- Workshops

2. PHASE: Needs prioritization

❑ ASSUMPTIONS:



- Budgetary resources are limited.
- Needs prioritization requires expertise which administration does not have.
- Needs prioritization has to be impartial – conflict of interest has to be avoided.

❑ DILLEMAS:

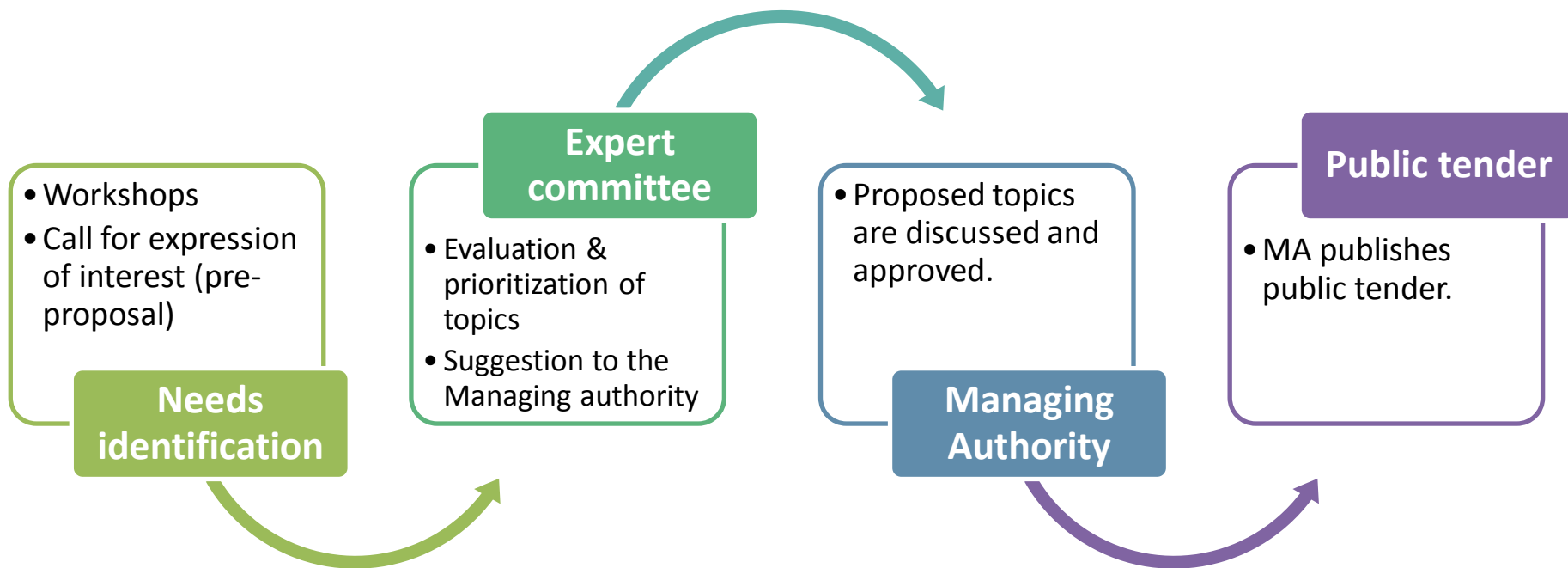
- Disinclination towards establishment of a new “quasi- political” structure.
- Possibility of a conflict of interest.
- Rigidity.

❑ POSSIBLE APPROACHES ANALYSED

- Establishment of an expert committee = committee of experts from different spheres: academics, researchers, advisors...

2. PHASE: Needs prioritization

□ Expert committee and its possible linkage to Managing Authority



3. PHASE: Public tender

❑ ASSUMPTIONS:



- Public tender focuses on topics selected.
- Evaluation of project proposals requires expertise which administration does not have.

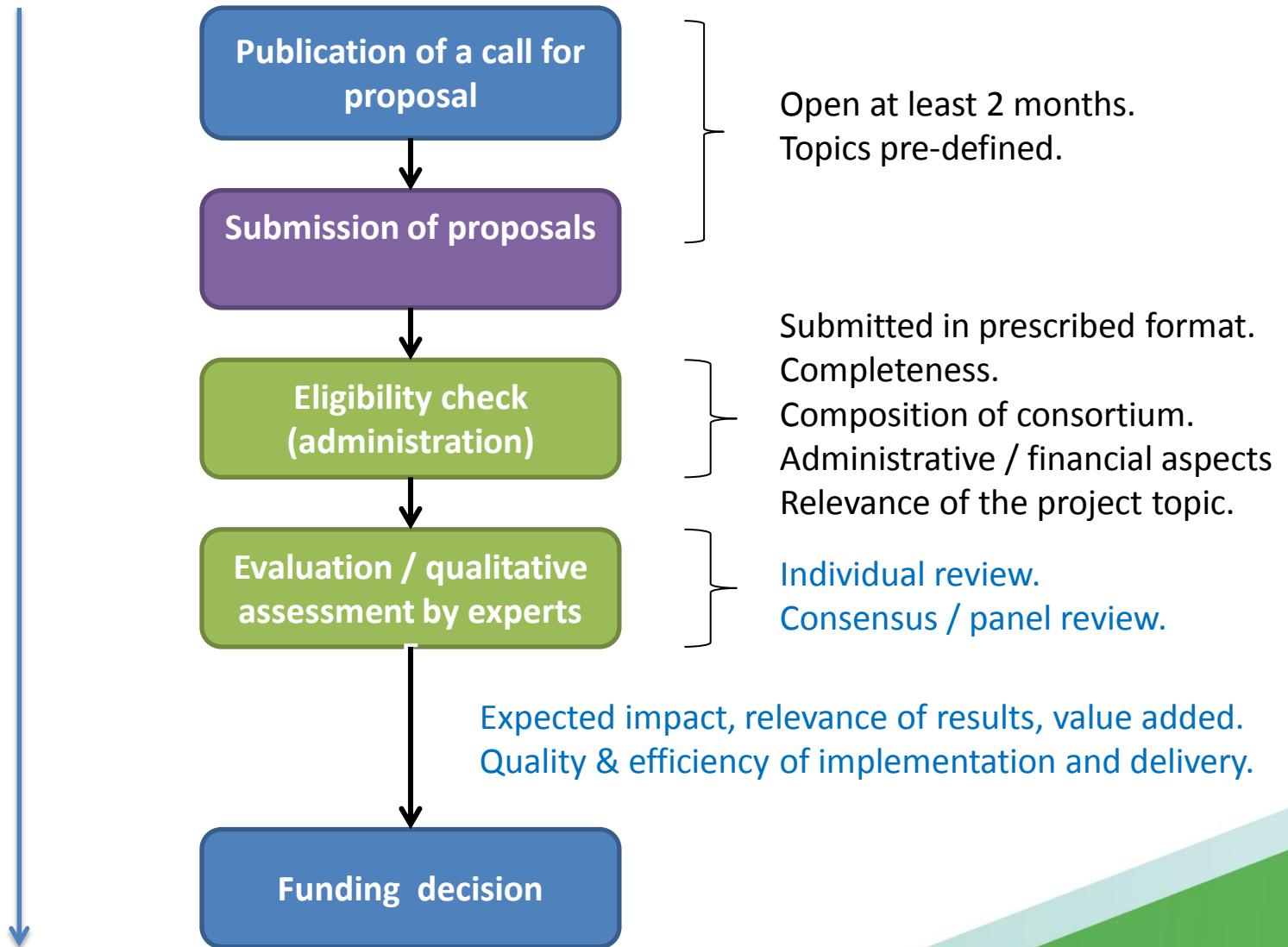
❑ DILLEMAS:

- Are the topics selected a “closed” list or could a public tender offer a possibility to apply a project not fitting the pre-selected topics?
- Use of qualitative evaluation?

❑ POSSIBLE APPROACH ANALYSED

- Qualitative evaluation = inclusion of experts in the evaluation.
- Similar approach as for research projects (see Horizon 2020).

3. PHASE: Public tender / call for proposal



4. PHASE: Dissemination of project results

❑ ASSUMPTIONS:



- Each projects needs to include a demonstration phase and knowledge dissemination.
- MA needs to assure that results are not “lost” after the finalisation of the project.

❑ DILLEMAS:

- Sustainability of projects?
- Dissemination of results?

❑ POSSIBLE APPROACHES ANALYSED

- Role of Rural Network – database on the website, brochures, events.
- Linkages with measure “Knowledge transfer and information” (Article 14) = demonstration projects.

TIMELINE

15. 11. 2013

- RDP 2014-2020 sent to EC for informal consultation

February 2014

- Several workshops on Art. 35

April 2014

- Call for expression of interest – identification of needs

May 2014

- Formal submission of RDP 2014-2020

September/Oct. 2014

- Approval of RDP 2014-2020

November 2014

- First calls for proposals (also for EIP)

Throughout the year: animation, information activities...

III. PART

OPEN QUESTIONS ENCOUNTERED



INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION - OPEN QUESTIONS

- ❑ **How should EIP groups be separated from other forms of cooperation?**
 - Who shall designate these groups as EIP groups?
 - Are they to be appointed/approved by a competent authority?
 - Can the status of an EIP group be revoked; if yes, in what cases?
- ❑ **Cost of setting up individual forms of cooperation (including EIP OG): costs of setting-up usually incur before a project applies to calls for proposals.**
 - Are these back-dated costs eligible “per se”?
 - Is it necessary to publish a prior call for proposals that would award rights for reimbursement of setting-up costs of partnerships which would later on eventually be granted support for their projects?
- ❑ **State aid arrangement due to diversity of actors within the cooperation groups.**
- ❑ **Will the existing institutional set-up simply try to use the measure as a way of financing their “usual functions”?**
- ❑ **Will farmers really be interested in cooperation? Will they see the opportunities in it?**

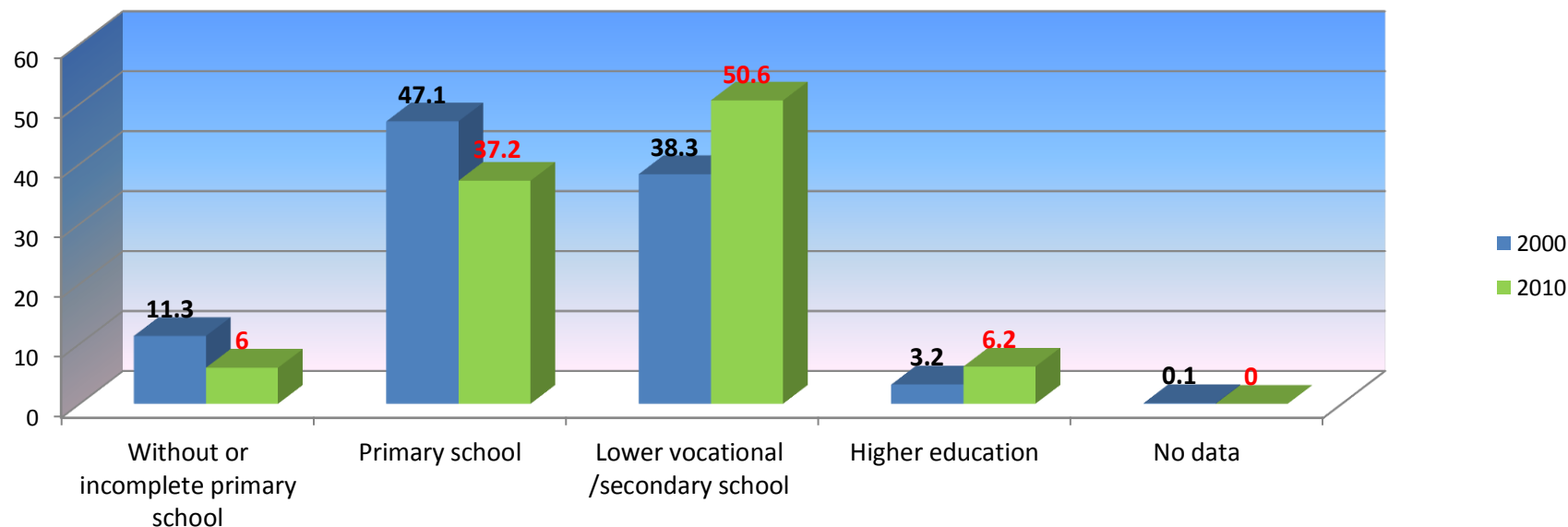
INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION - OPEN QUESTIONS

Who is our target group for innovation?

Setting the EIP in a broader socio-economic context

- Unfavourable average age structure of farmers = 57 years.

FORMAL /GENERAL
EDUCATION



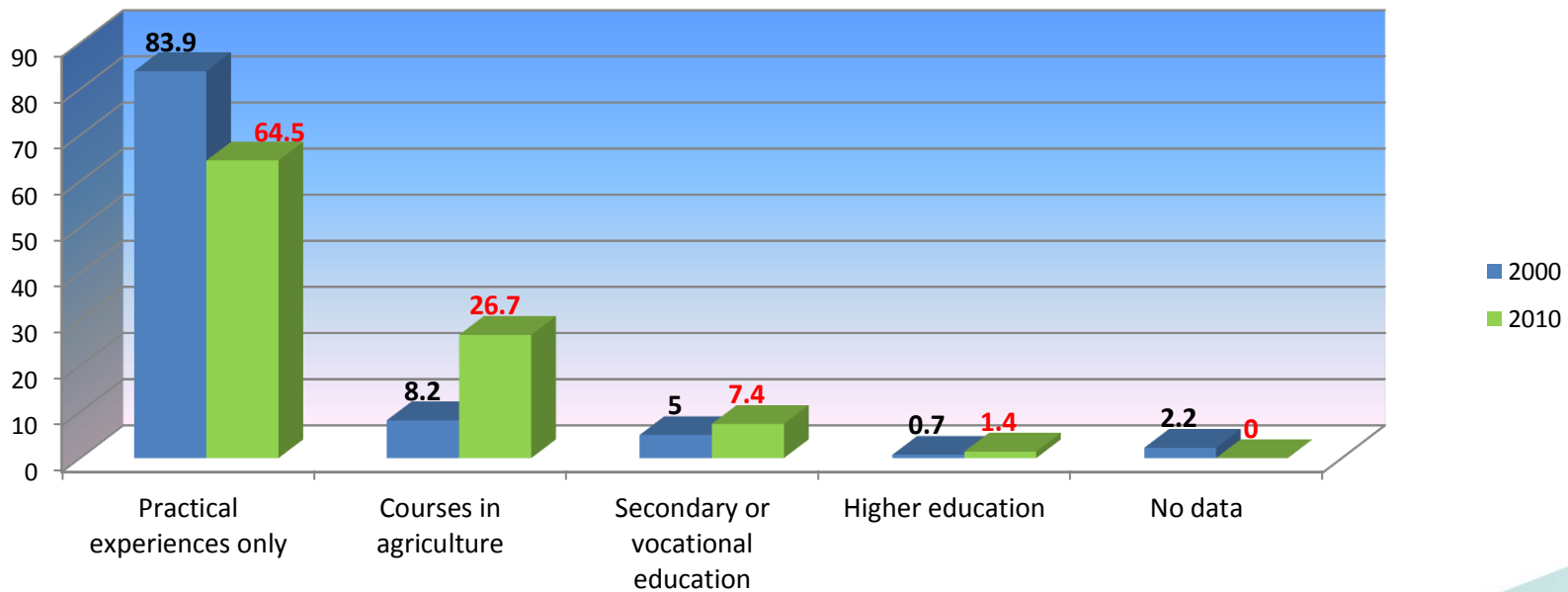
INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION - OPEN QUESTIONS

Who is our target group for innovation?

Setting the EIP in a broader socio-economic context

- Unfavourable average age structure of farmers = 57 years.

FORMAL AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!



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