Agriculture & Rural Inspiration Awards 2023: Boosting skills for rural Europe

GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY SUBMISSION

Agriculture and Rural Inspiration Awards (ARIA) 2023 focus on good practice projects supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) that promote the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas and the Rural Pact as well as this year's theme which is the European year of Skills.

ARIA objectives

› Increase visibility of the EU agri-food sector and EU rural areas.
› Demonstrate innovative solutions affecting EU rural economies and communities.
› Promote reskilling and upskilling in rural Europe.
› Assist National Networks' (NNs) work, in the following tasks:
  › the collection of examples of projects and good practices.
  › their contribution to the work of the EU CAP Network.
  › facilitating thematic and analytical exchanges.

ARIA thematic categories

1. **Smart & competitive agriculture**: CAP-funded projects that contribute to a smart, competitive, resilient, and diversified agricultural sector ensuring long-term food security.
2. **Environmental protection:** CAP-funded projects that strengthen environmental protection, including biodiversity, tackle climate change, demonstrate sustainability, and/or contribute to green recovery.
3. **Socio-economic fabric of rural areas:** CAP-funded projects that demonstrate their contribution to strengthening the economic resilience of rural Europe, address social aspects in an innovative manner, demonstrate a sustainable approach to advancing the benefits of digitalisation in farming and for rural communities, contribute to the inclusiveness and resilience of rural society, and/or support rural entrepreneurs and businesses in an innovative way.
4. **Rural stakeholder skills (inspired by 2023 being the European year of skills):** CAP-funded projects that showcase lifelong learning, empower people and companies to contribute to green and digital transitions and support innovation and competitiveness.

Popular vote

The **popular vote** will award one of the 24 shortlisted CAP-funded projects and it will be available for a public vote.

Funded by
the European Union

ARIA award criteria

The **award criteria** will include the following:

› Advancement of skills in agriculture and rural areas (this criterion applies across all categories).
› Direct benefits e.g., job creation, environmental benefits, market advantages, policy uptake, demonstration of sustainability or resilience, etc.
› Networking benefits e.g., added value synergies, links to other projects, connection to NN activities/priorities, stakeholder participation.
› Contributions to other EU policies.
› Transferability potential (geographical, sectoral, organisational, etc.).
› Innovative aspect in creating new or significantly improved processes, services, products and/or technologies.
› Equality good practices such as integration of priority groups and advancing social inclusion of young people, women, and minorities (including disabled people, refugees, etc.) in rural areas.

Applications can be awarded extra points if their value is clearly explained in terms of involving young people and/or women in the project design or implementation, or a clear advancement of skills.

Eligibility criteria and process

› The projects may only be submitted by NN/NSUs.
› All projects must have been funded by the CAP during the 2014-2022 period.
› Projects should, as a general rule, be completed. Exceptions are made for land management actions under annual/multi-annual commitments (e.g., agri-environment, forestry) or long-term infrastructure initiatives or where finalisation steps were not completed due to COVID-19 related delays. For entries by ongoing projects, these must already be sufficiently advanced to be able to demonstrate impact or transferability.
› Up to eight (8) projects can be submitted per NN/NSU, this may include up to two (2) LEADER projects.
› Each NN/NSU can submit entries for any or all of the four themed categories and is responsible for nominating projects to the most appropriate category. One project can be nominated in only one category!
› The templates must be submitted in **English**.
› CAPI CP will offer consultation about the templates from 1 June to 1 August (in the form of online consultation meetings or through feedback on submitted drafts).
› NN/NSUs can submit outlined draft templates to be screened for suitability during the consultation period.
› All final project nominations by NNs/NSUs must be submitted to the CAPI CP by 18 August 2023. This date will only be communicated to NSUs, who can select their own deadlines for project submission.

› Evaluation will start in September and further information about the applications will be shared in November.
› There will be 24 shortlisted candidates and 5 prize winners.
› No previously shortlisted RIA entries may be (re)submitted.

Please submit your entries and ask any questions to: aria@eucapnetwork.eu.

Agriculture & Rural Inspiration Awards 2023

ENTRY TEMPLATE

Competition category
Please assign only one category from the drop-down menu.
Choose an item.

Project title

Reason for submission
Give us three reasons (in 3 bullet points) why this project is relevant to the chosen category.

> ›   …..
> ›   …..
> ›   …..

Context (max. 250 words)
Please give some background information about the beneficiary, the situation, and other information to understand why this project was needed.

Aims & Objectives (*max 100 words* in bullet points)
*In response to the context set out above, what did the project/action hope **to achieve** (e.g reduce GHG emissions, increase the number of jobs in an area)? Do not list planned activities here, they will be covered below.*

> ›   …..
> ›   …..
> ›   …..

Activities of the project *(max.400 words)*
When it is a complex project (funded from multiple sources), please explicitly indicate which activities of the project were funded by the CAP.

Please list and explain the activities undertaken in the project in chronological order.

> ›   …..
> ›   …..
> ›   …..

Who/which stakeholders are or were involved?

Results (max. 200 words)
By completing the boxes below, you will ensure you provide us with information that contributes to your final score.

What did the project/action achieve? Please answer up to 5 bullet points in the boxes below (quantitative/qualitative) and consider the direct benefits mentioned below which relate to the thematic category of your application.

> **Direct benefits**
> - *Climate and environmental benefits (e.g. reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing carbon sequestration and conservation, contribution to climate adaptation and resilience reduction of environmental impact, biodiversity conservation, etc.)*
> - *Economic benefits (e.g. job creation, increased revenues, etc.)*
> - *Societal benefits (e.g. foster gender equality, generational renewal, etc.)*

Quantitative benefits

> › …..
> › …..
> › …..

Qualitative benefits

> › …..
> › …..
> › …..

Networking value (max. 100 words)
Describe how the project can be considered an example of good networking.

Describe any new networking/cooperation opportunities that have been created as a result of the project.

Provide a list of the different stakeholders involved and the connections between them.

Transferability (max. 100 words)

How is the initiative transferable to other areas facing the same issue?

Tell us if it has been replicated already elsewhere in your region, country or abroad.

Synergies with other EU policies

Have other sources of EU funding been used for this initiative?
Choose an item.

If yes, which funds?
Choose an item.
If *other, please state*

Does the project contribute to the objectives of other EU policies? Choose an item.

If yes, which ones?
Choose an item.
If *other, please state*

Innovative aspect (max. 100 words)

Can the project be considered innovative? Choose an item.

If yes, did it create new or significantly improved processes, services, products and/or technologies?

How did the project demonstrate innovation in a local, regional or broader context?

Integration of young people (max. 100 words)

Please describe how young people (under 40 years old) have been involved in the project.

What has been the benefit for them?

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Integration of women (max. 100 words)
Please describe how women have been involved in the project

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What has been the benefit for them?

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Integration of minority groups (disabled people, refugees, etc) (max. 100 words)
Please describe how minority groups have been involved in the project

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What has been the benefit for them?

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Advancement of skills (max. 100 words)
Please describe how rural stakeholders developed new skills because of the project (e.g. did they receive specific training, did the skills acquired help them create new enterprises or sustain existing ones did the project provide training courses that had not been available before?).

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Lessons and recommendations (max. 200 words)

What have been the lessons learnt from implementing this project?

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What has been interesting about implementing this project?

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What would you recommend to anyone considering implementing a similar project?

Summary description of project/action (max. 200 words)
Please summarise briefly what the project/action is about. The summary should indicate i) what was the opportunity, and ii) what were the project activities and iii) what they achieved.

Project general info (all fields obligatory)

Name (project title)	
Dates (Indicate both start and end dates)	
Member State (or region if regionalised RDP)	
Type of beneficiary (public/SME/farmer/EIP OG/NGO, etc.)	
Measure (or measures) **/ Intervention**	
Priority & Focus Area	

Funding in EURO [1] (obligatory and make sure that the values provided sum up)

Total project budget (i)+(ii)+(iii) =	
+ (i) CAP support (a)+(b)	
+ (a) *EAFRD/EAGF (EU) contribution*	
+ (b) *National / Regional contribution*	
+ (ii) Private / Own funds	
+ (iii) Other funding sources	

Contact details

Project beneficiary name/organisation	
Contact person	
Contact Email	
Telephone	
Address of beneficiary or implementing body	
Other contact details	

Further information

Website	
Additional info sources, links	

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[1] In case more than one measures were used then please provide the above financial date for all measures involved

Quotes from beneficiaries/project participants

These are very helpful if available as they help to grab the reader's attention and bring the project to life through a key message of the project

Project/action photos and/or videos with information on copyrights

A number of photos and/or videos, as available. <u>Photos should be 3MB or larger</u>. Copyrights may be the name of the photographer or in general, the owner of the material's copyrights as indicated by the provider of the project's content. A maximum of 3 photos will be used in the final entry

I have read, understood, and provide my consent for the information I am submitting to the EU CAP Network to be processed according to the privacy statement explained below. Read the privacy statement. *(please tick the box below)*

Yes☐

For more information about privacy, please contact us at privacy@eucapnetowk.eu.