



BRIEFING

European Plant Science Organisation

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Briefing on the EIP on “Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability” for EPSO Members

Brussels, 18.06.2014.

This document is relevant for scientists who want to work more closely with farmers to help them address their issues in agriculture.

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1. EIP Overview

1.1 The EIP-AGRI represents a new way for scientists to work with farmers and other stakeholders at the local, regional, national and EU levels

The establishment of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on “Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability” represents a new approach to advance innovation by linking existing policies and using existing funding instruments.

The EIP-AGRI is implemented and funded through two existing EU policies:

- The Rural Development Policy (for national or regional activities through “Operational Groups” see chapter 2)
- Horizon 2020, The EU Research and Innovation Policy (for EU-wide actions through “Thematic Networks” and “Multi-actor Projects” see chapter 3)



The EIP-AGRI does not replace funding programmes but provides a platform for cooperation, by bringing together public and private stakeholders for a better link between science and practice at the regional, national and EU level.

The EIP aims to go beyond the “linear innovation model” from laboratory to practice, and will implement an “interactive innovation model” which focuses on creating partnerships in the form of Operational Groups, multi-actor projects, thematic networks or other forms of collaborations. The groups will use bottom-up approaches and link researchers, farmers, businesses, and advisors together. Innovation under the EIP-AGRI may be technological, non-technological, organisational or social.

1.2 High Level Steering Board published a Strategic Implementation Plan

EPSO was an invited member onto the High Level Steering Board and Sherpa Group involving key stakeholders from the agricultural research area and representatives from Member States. EPSO was represented by Karin Metzloff in the High Level Steering Board and by Astrid Sneyers in the Sherpa Group.

A [Strategic Implementation Plan](#), which identifies priority areas for the EIP-AGRI, was drafted by the Sherpa Group, approved by the High Level Steering Board, and published by the European Commission in July 2013.

EIP-AGRI has two main targets by 2020:

- Promoting productivity and efficiency of agriculture; reversing the trend of diminishing productivity gains.
 - Promoting sustainability of agriculture; in particular securing the productive capacity of soils and their role in climate change mitigation and ecosystems' stability.
- Plant scientists should use the [Strategic Implementation Plan](#) as reference for their EIP proposals.

The main chapters are:

- (1) Introduction; (2) Meeting the challenges; (3) Policy context; (4) Implementing mechanisms
- (5) Valorising diversity throughout the value chain
- (6) Challenge resource efficiency
- (7) Challenge Provision of public goods
- (8) Challenge: Establishment of a sustainable consumption and supply chain
- (9) Innovation culture
- (10) Conclusion

2. Operational Groups through Rural Development Programmes

2.1 The first step is for the EIP to be integrated into local policies

It is important to note that the EIP-AGRI, in relation to the setting up of operational groups, is implemented by the national or regional (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom) authorities through the European [Rural Development Regulation](#) and therefore will function differently depending on the decisions of each member state or region.

Within the Rural Development Regulation there are a variety of measures that can be taken up by Member States or regional authorities in their 2014-2020 Rural Development programmes. Therefore, programming authorities are free to select those measures that they consider to be most suited to meet their objectives.

► Therefore now (summer 2014) is a crucial time to contact your managing authorities, dealing with the programming of rural development programs, to encourage them to implement the EIP and to see how EIP-AGRI is implemented in your country or region. Contact details are in Chapter 7.

The Member States or regions submit their Rural Development plans to the Commission (DG Agriculture and Rural Development), who will assess them to ensure that they are balanced and all objectives are met.

2.2 How are Operational Groups formed?

An operational group is a group of people who come together to work on concrete, practical solutions to a problem or innovative opportunity and whose project is funded by the EU Rural Development policy. An Operational Group consists of several partners with a common interest in a specific, practical innovation project and the people involved should be from a diverse combination of practical and scientific backgrounds. For example: scientists, farmers, an agri-business and others.

Each group should consist of the partners that are needed to reach the specific objectives of the project, this means that the type of people involved can vary depending on the theme and objective of each project.

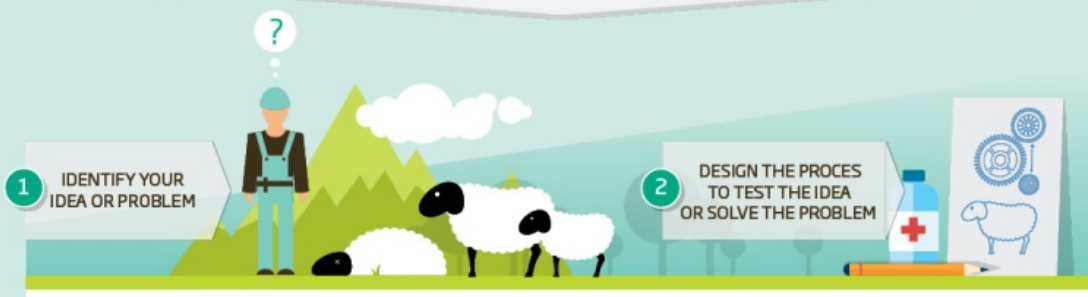
All partners in the Operational Groups should have an active role in carrying out the innovative project and all tasks and responsibilities need to be clear.

More information on the setting up of operational groups can be found in the EIP Document: [EIP-AGRI Operational Groups Turning your idea into innovation](#)

► We encourage plant scientists interested in collaboration with farmers, companies, extension services to set up Operational Groups.

Operational Groups under Rural Development Programmes

HOW TO BUILD AN OPERATIONAL GROUP



2.3 How are Operational Groups funded?

The EU [Rural Development Policy](#) will provide particular opportunities for setting up Operational Groups in the period 2014-2020. Rural Development Programmes are normally applied within a specific national or regional scale, (whilst research policy through Horizon 2020 must go beyond this scale by co-funding innovative actions at the cross-regional, cross-border, or EU-level). Additional sources of funding may come from National or Private Funds.

Funding is only available for new projects, existing projects are not eligible.

Member States or regions shall decide within the framework of their own programmes which measures they select to support the Operational Groups.

Article **35** of the Rural Development Policy is key for the implementation of the EIP-AGRI. Through this measure support can be sought for both the creation and running of Operational Groups.

The funding of the setting up and running of Operational Groups may be combined with support under other rural development measures, which may allow for the funding of direct project costs.

Article **17** allows supporting investments in physical assets. Other articles that allow support for Operational Groups are **14** (Knowledge transfer and information activities), **15(1)b** (Advisory services), **19** (Farm and business development), **27** (Setting-up of producers groups), and **54(2)** National rural network.

► We encourage plant scientists and their collaborators to identify the best combination of financing for their Operational Group. The first step will be to encourage local authorities to implement the EIP articles and within your Operational Group identify the best combination of funding available in your regional or national level.

2.4 Workshops on Setting Up Operational Groups

A series of workshops have taken place in order to introduce the EIP-AGRI and provide guidance on the setting up of operational groups. Material from the workshops can be accessed through the links below:

27/02/2014, Lisbon. For countries; Portugal, Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Malta

[Regional Workshop on "Establishing Operational Groups under Rural Development Programmes"](#)

25-26/03/2014, Ljubljana. For countries; Slovenia, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Croatia

[Regional workshop on setting up Rural Development Operational Groups in Slovenia](#)

02-03/04/2014, Tallinn: For countries; Estonia, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Denmark, Sweden

[Regional workshop on setting up Rural Development Operational Groups in Estonia](#)

06-07/05/2014, Prague. For countries; Czech Republic, UK, Netherlands, Ireland, Bulgaria, Slovakia

[Regional Workshop on "Establishing Operational Groups under Rural Development Programmes"](#)

21-22/05/2014, Paris. For countries; France, Italy, Romania, Belgium, Luxembourg
[Regional Workshop on "Establishing Operational Groups under Rural Development Programmes"](#)

► Plant scientists should look at the workshop presentation relevant to their country to find more information and links.

3. EIP actions within Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 provides for partnership oriented formats such as "[multi-actor approach](#)" and "[thematic networks](#)" which will "ensure interactions between researchers, businesses, farmers/producers, advisors and end-users".

Horizon 2020 support will be established via the annual work programmes and calls for proposals. This will involve projects integrating a continuum from basic to applied research and demonstration, multi-actor approaches, cross-border initiatives such as thematic networks, as well as supporting innovation brokers and innovation centres as intermediates to connect farmers and other actors with research.

A budget of over €3.8 billion is allocated for the Societal Challenge 2 "Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research, and the bioeconomy".

For a full overview of Horizon 2020, you may consult our Horizon 2020 Briefing in the [Members Section](#) of the EPSO website.

During a workshop held on 14/01/2014 in Brussels : [EIP-AGRI Workshop on the first call of Horizon 2020](#) the EIP-AGRI concept in Horizon2020 was explained. All presentations are recorded and can be found [here](#).

► Plant scientists should follow the EIP logic of initial interaction with farmers when applying to a Horizon 2020 theme which requires a multi actor approach.

4. Focus Groups

[Focus Groups](#) are established to share knowledge and practical experience from innovative projects.

Focus groups are temporary groups of selected experts which explore innovative solutions to problems or opportunities in the field, and draws on experience derived from related useful projects. The focus groups also discuss and document research results, best practices and identify the implications for further research activities that will help to solve practical problems in the sector. These may be related to production, processing, consumption, transport or other issues.

Each Focus Group prepares a final outcome report that:

- formulates specific issues that could be taken up by operational groups in the sense of Article 56 of the rural development regulation 2014 – 2020.
- summarises the gathered knowledge and best practices
- lists its sources, lessons learnt, audio-visual material, further recommendations, ideas for dissemination etc.

The EIP-AGRI Service Point (see chapter 5) can organize workshops on the outcomes of the focus groups once they have finalised their work.

[The charter](#) of the EIP-AGRI focus groups provides more details on their functioning.

The following groups are finished or in a final stage (dd. June 2014):

- [Organic farming \(optimizing arable yields\)](#)
- [Protein crops](#)
- [Antibiotics in Pig Production](#)
- [Genetic Resources - cooperation models](#)
- [Soil organic matter content in Mediterranean regions](#)
- [Integrated pest management \(IPM\): focus on Brassica species](#)

Groups started during 2014:

- [High Nature Value \(HNV\) farming profitability](#)
- [Mainstreaming precision farming](#)
- [Profitability of permanent grassland](#)
- [Fertiliser efficiency](#)

Call for experts on 9 July 2014 for 3 new Focus Groups:

- Optimising yields through Ecological Focus Areas
- Alternative/innovative supply chains
- IPM practices for soil disease suppression

► Plant scientists are encouraged to apply as expert to a relevant focus group call, pointing out your multi-actor experience and time available.

► EPSO, industry and farmers will give feedback to the EC on focus group reports relevant to them.

5. EIP Service Point

The EIP-AGRI Service Point, established by the European Commission (DG AGRI) acts as a mediator within the EIP-AGRI network, enhancing communication and cooperation between all actors.

The Service Point collects and shares information on innovation-related policy measures, relevant research activities, funding opportunities, and lessons learned from practice-oriented projects.

The Service Point interacts using channels such as seminars, conferences, publications, website and social media. More information can be found [here](#). You can contact or visit the EIP-AGRI Service Point if you need further information:

EIP-AGRI Service Point

servicepoint@eip-agri.eu

+32 2 543 73 48

EIP-AGRI Service Point
Avenue de la Toison d'Or 72
1060 Brussels
Belgium

Subscribe to the Service Point [Newsletter](#) if you want to be updated in the latest news on the EIP-AGRI.

6. EIP Work Programme 2015 and Timeline of Next Steps

EIP Work Programme 2015

The deadline for input from EIP actors is 1 October 2014 on the following areas:

- Topics for Focus Groups
- Topics for Workshops
- Topics for Seminars
- Needs for Website or other needs or suggestions

A specific form to express a topic for a focus group is available on the [EIP-AGRI website](#).

DG AGRI will then prepare the first draft based on input from the EIP-AGRI network, the Rural Development Steering Group will be consulted, and the final work programme will be adopted in December 2014.

► We encourage plant scientists to send their suggestion to EPSO to provide input to the EC. In addition, you may submit individually.

Timeline of next steps

- Summer 2014 – New Website Launch: with database and networking features
- June 2014 - First meetings of Focus Groups: *HNV farming, precision farming, permanent grassland, horticulture fertilizer efficiency*
- June 2014 - EIP stakeholder consultation on work programme for Horizon 2020
- July 2014 - Call for experts for 3 new Focus Groups (deadline currently unknown)
- December 2014 - EIP Seminar and networking event
- December 2014 - 2015 EIP Work Programme will be adopted

7. Managing Authorities for EIP Operational Groups

Managing Authorities for EIP Operational Groups (this is done at the national / regional level):

Further contact details can be found at the end in the [fact sheet on operational groups](#).

Note: These are often the authorities that administer the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Rural Development Funds

At briefing at the European Commission on the 28th April the current situation in a number of nations was reported, and is listed where possible. However these are only early indications and at the time of writing the situation is unclear in most cases and subject to change.

AT [Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft, Sektion II/6](#)

Reported situation at 28 April 2014: one national programme, EIP included (Art. 35)

BE [Flemish Government-Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Departement Landbouw en Visserij](#)

BG [Ministry of Agriculture and Food](#)

CY [Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture](#)

CZ [Ministerstvo zemědělství CR](#); T: +420 221 811 111

DK [Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri ved Direktoratet for Fødevarerhverv](#); T: +45 3395 8989

EE [Põllumajandusministeerium](#); T: +372 625 6101

Reported situation at 28 April 2014: Art 35 to be implemented, concentration on certain themes

FI [Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö](#); T: +358-295-16 001

[Government of Åland](#); T: +358 18 25 000

Reported situation at 28 April 2014: *Art 35 to be implemented, details not yet clear*

FR Hexagonal: [Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche](#); T: +33 149 554436

Corse: [Collectivité Territoriale de Corse](#); T: +33 495 516426

Guadeloupe: [Préfet de la région Guadeloupe](#); T: +33 590 993900

Guyane: Préfecture - [SGAR de la Région Guyane](#); T: +33 594 296374

Martinique: [Le préfet de la région Martinique](#); T: +596 596 394960

Réunion: [Le Préfet de la région Réunion](#); T: +33 262 407777

DE Reported situation at 28 April 2014: Regionalised country with 13 rural development programmes for 16 "Länder". 11 Länder programmes will include the EIP, 1 Land does not plan to implement, 1 still considering

[Bundesministerium für Ernährung und, Landwirtschaft](#), Ref. 413, EU-Programme zur Entwicklung ländlicher Räume – ELER; T: +49 228 529 0

Baden-W.: [Ministerium für Ländlichen Raum und Verbraucherschutz](#), Abt. 2 Landwirtschaft; T: +49 711 1260

Bavaria: [Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten](#); T: +49 89 21820

Brandenburg, Berlin: [Min für Infrastruktur und Landwirtschaft des Landes Brandenburg](#) Referat 11; T: +49 331 866 8896

Hamburg: [Behörde für Wirtschaft und Arbeit](#)

Hessen: [Hessisches Min für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz](#) ; T: +49 611 8150

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania: [Min für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz Meckl-Vorp.](#)

Lower Saxony, Bremen: [Nieders. Min für den ländlichen Raum, Ernährung, Landwirtschaft, Verbraucherschutz](#), Ref. 304.2; T: +49 511 120 21 36/37/38

NRW: [Min. für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft und Natur- und Verbraucherschutz des Landes NRW](#), Ref. IIA1 ; T: +49 211 4566 279

Rhineland-Palatinate: [Min. für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft, Ernährung, Weinbau und Forsten](#) ; T: +49 6131 160

Saarland: [Ministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz](#), Referat B/4; T: +49 681 4100

Saxony: [Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft](#), Referat 23; T: +49 351 5640

Saxony-Anhalt: [Verwaltungsbehörde im Min. der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt](#); T: +49 391 567 2045

Schleswig-Holstein: [Min. für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und ländliche Räume des Landes S-H](#) ; T: +49 431 988 4919

Thuringia: [Thüringer Min. für Landwirtschaft, Forsten, Umwelt und Naturschutz](#), Referat 37; T: +49 361 379 00

GR [Diaxiristiki Arxi P.A.A.](#) ; T: +30 210 5275203-4, +30 210 5218102-3, +30 210 5275100
Reported situation at 28 April 2014: *EIP included, details and budget not yet clear*

HU [Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development](#) ; T: +36 1 301 4000

IE [Department of Agriculture and Food](#) ; T: +353 01 607 2000

IT
[Direzione Sviluppo Rurale](#) - Ufficio POSR2; T: 0646655056 | 0646655057

Abruzzo: [Regione Abruzzo](#) ; T: +39 085 7672 958

Bolzano: [Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano](#) ; T: +39 0471 415010

[Emilia-Romagna](#) ; T: 39 051 5274257

Friuli Venezia Giulia : [Servizio affari generali, ammin e politiche comunitarie della Direzione centrale risorse agricole, naturali, forestali e montagna della Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia](#) ; T : +39 0432 555311

Lazio: [Direzione Regionale Agricoltura](#) ; T: +39 06 51683105

Liguria : [Settore Politiche Agricole della Regione Liguria](#) ; T : +39 010 548 5528

Lombardia: [Direzione Generale Agricoltura](#); T: +39 02 67653793

Marche: [Servizio Agricoltura, Forestazione e Pesca](#) ; T: +39 071 8063786

Piemonte : [Direzione Generale Agricoltura](#) ; T : +39 011 432 2223

Toscana : [Direzione Generale Agricoltura](#) ; T : +39 055 4383761

Trento : [Dipartimento Agricoltura e Alimentazione della Provincia Autonoma di Trento](#) ; T : +39 0461 494 903

Umbria : [Direzione regionale agricoltura e foreste](#) ; T : +39 075 5045041

Valle d’Aosta : [Servizio pol. comunitarie – Ass. Agricoltura e risorse naturali d. Reg. VdA](#) ; T : +39 0165 275 400

Veneto: [Direzione Piani e Programmi Settore Primario - Regione Veneto](#); T: +39 041 2795409

Molise : [Direzione Generale II Politiche Agricole e Forestali](#) ; T : +39 0874 424310

Sardegna : [Direzione Generale dell’agricoltura e della riforma agro-pastorale](#) ; T : +39 070 606 6330

Basilicata: [Dip. Agricoltura, Sviluppo Rurale ed Economia Montana della regione Basilicata](#); T: +39 0971 668 660

Calabria: [Settore sviluppo rurale- Dipartimento Agricoltura, Foreste e forestazione](#); T: +39 0961 853069

Campania: [Giunta Regionale, AGC Sviluppo attività settore primario](#) ; T: +39 081 796 7543

Puglia: www.regione.puglia.it

Sicilia: [Dipartimento Regionale Interventi Strutturali – Assessorato Agricoltura e Foreste](#); T: +39 091 7076237

NL [Minister van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit](#); T: +31 30 275 6909

PL [Ministerstwo Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi](#); T: +48 22 623 10 00

Reported situation at 28 April 2014: *EIP included, details and budget not yet clear*

PT Mainland: [Gabinete de Planeamento e Políticas \(GPP\)](#)

Reported situation at 28 April 2014: *Art 35, Operational Groups (both setting up and project implementation)*

RO [Min. of Agriculture & Rural Dev.](#) – Gen. Dir. for Rural Dev. Monit. Authority for NPRD; T: +40 213078565

SK [Ministerstvo pôdohospodárstva SR](#); T: +421 2 59 266 275

SI [Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food](#); T: +386 1 478 9000

Reported situation at 28 April 2014: Art 35, both setting up and implementation of projects

ES

Reported situation at 28 April 2014: *unclear, potentially EIP in a national programme*

Red Rural Nacional: [Dir. Gen. de Desarrollo Sostenible del Medio Rural Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino](#); T: +34 91 347 15 03

Andalucía : [Dirección General de Fondos Europeos y Planificación. Consejería de Economía, Innovación y Ciencia. Junta de Andalucía](#) ; T : +34 955 06 50 15

Aragón: [Dirección General de Desarrollo Rural. Departamento de Agricultura, Ganadería y Medio Ambiente Gobierno de Aragón](#); T: +34 976 71 46 45

Asturias : [Dirección General de Ordenación Agraria y Forestal Consejería del Agroganadería y Recursos Autóctonos Principado de Asturias](#) ; T : +34 985 10 53 48

Baleares: [Dirección General de Medio Rural y Marino Consejería de Agricultura, Medio Ambiente y Territorio Gobierno Balear](#); T: +34 971 17 61 14

Canarias : [Dirección General de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural. Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Aguas. Gobierno de Canarias](#) ; T : +34 922 47 65 32

Cantabria: [Secr. Gen. Consejería de Ganadería, Pesca y Desarrollo Rural. Gobierno de Cantabria](#); T: +34 942 20 78 47

Castilla y León : [Secr. Gen. Consejería de Agricultura y Ganadería. Junta de Castilla y León](#) ; T: +34 983 41 98 92

Castilla-la-Mancha : Secr. General Consejería de Agricultura. Junta de Castilla-La Mancha ; T : +34 925 24 87 47

Cataluña : [Dir. Gen. de Desarrollo Rural. Dep. de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Natural. Generalitat de Cataluña](#) ; T : +34 93 304 67 00

Extremadura : [Dir. Gen. de Finan. Autonómica Consejería de Econ. y Hacienda Junta de Extr.](#) ; T: +34 924005671

Galicia: [Secretaría General. Consejería del Medio Rural Xunta de Galicia](#). T: +34 981 54 47 18

Madrid: [Dir. Gen. del Medio Ambiente Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio. Comunidad de Madrid](#); T: +34 91 438 26 35

Murcia: [Dir. Gen. de Regadíos y Desarrollo Rural Consejería de Agric. y Agua Reg. de Murcia](#) ; T: +34 96836 2713

Navarra : [Dirección General de Desarrollo Rural Departamento de Desarrollo Rural, Industria, Empleo y Medio Ambiente Gobierno de Navarra](#) ; T : +34 848 42 61 26

País Vasco : [Departamento de Medio Ambiente, Planificación Territorial, Agricultura y Pesca. Viceconsejería](#)

[de Agricultura y D.R. Gobierno Vasco](#) ; T : +34 945 01 96 46

La Rioja : [Dirección General de Calidad, Investigación y Desarrollo Rural. Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería y Medio Ambiente. Gobierno de La Rioja](#) ; T : +34 941 29 11 00

[Comunidad Valenciana Agencia Valenciana de Fomento y Garantía Agraria Consejería de Agricultura, Pesca, Alimentación y Agua. Generalitat Valenciana](#) ; T : +34 96 342 46 27

SE [Swedish Board of Agriculture/ Jordbruksverket](#); T: +46 36 15 50 00

Reported situation at 28 April 2014: *EIP included, details not yet clear*

UK

England: [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(DEFRA\)](#); T: +44 20 7238 6951

Northern Ireland: [Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development \(Northern Ireland\) \(DARDNI\)](#); T: +44 28 9052 4999

Scotland: [Scottish Executive](#); T: +44 8457 741 741

Wales: [Welsh Assembly Government](#); T: +44 845 010 3300