

The AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem

What is an Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)?

What: *AKIS is the organisation and interaction of persons, organisations and institutions who **use** and **produce knowledge and innovation** for agriculture **and interrelated fields**. (def)*

Who: *The main players of the AKIS are: farmers/foresters, advisors, researchers, (farmer) organisations, NGOs, networks, retailers, media, services, various ministries...: they all produce and need knowledge!*

Why: *The aim is to create a **regional/national innovation ecosystem** by enhancing **knowledge flows** between the AKIS players as well as strengthening links between research and practice.*

Brief "What is AKIS": https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/building-stronger-akis_en.pdf

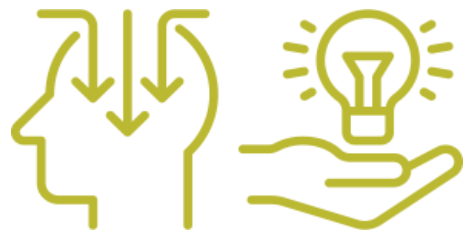
AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem =>

Cross-cutting CAP support to Systematically share

Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture and rural areas

including **in whatever farming and rural activities**

automatically relate to (= environment, climate, biodiversity, landscape, consumers and citizens, food and non-food systems including transformation and distribution chains, etc)

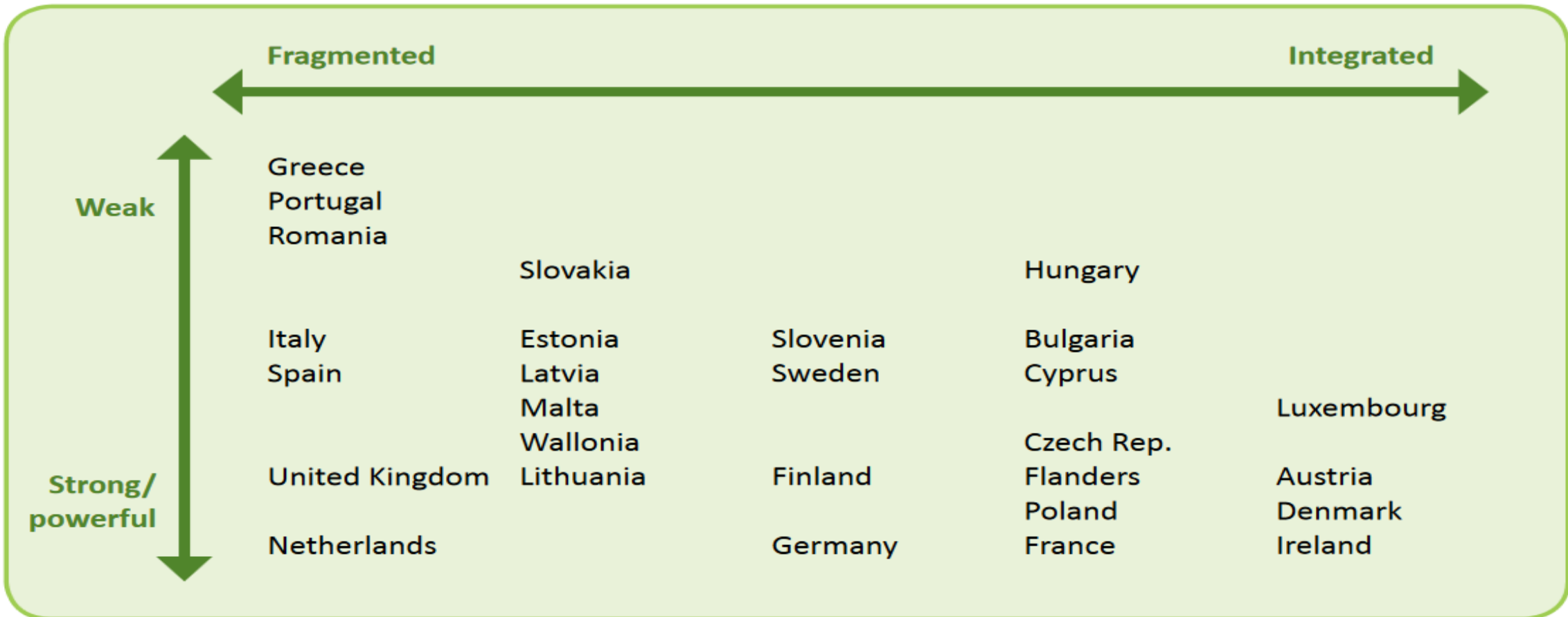


Where does the AKIS policy come from?

*In their 2008 declaration, the researchers of the Standing Committee of Agricultural Research (SCAR) stated that the **classical linear research model does not function anymore** to have real impact in the field. The current CAP AKIS policy and potential interventions can make use of the current formats and experiences from MS. Experts from about 24 MS from the SCAR Strategic Working Group collected this in the AKIS4 report, and based it on their discussions and own practical experiences. In the report much about AKIS in all its aspects is explained and a long series of possible types of interventions and concrete examples given. The report is available on the Europa "Future CAP" website and is called "Report: preparing for future AKIS in Europe". You can download it here: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap#innovation> or ask to you a paper copy*

PROAKIS study: Characterising MS' AKIS

An overview (2014)



WHY focus on AKIS? A reinforced AKIS integrates all AKIS actors and ensures knowledge flows inside Member States & across borders



A good AKIS strategy will bring actors together on a structured and regular basis, creating continuous interaction to speed up knowledge exchange, knowledge flows, innovation and most of all: implementation in practice

**From EIP-AGRI 2014-2020
to AKIS Strategic Plans post 2020 &
Green Deal relevance:
We need continuation + change....**



Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



EIP-AGRI – What did we achieve?

- ✓ *27 Member States, 98 rural development programmes implementing EIP Operational Group “innovative projects”*
- ✓ *Around 3 200 OGs planned in 2014-2020; more than 2000 OGs running or finished (still 4,5 years to go)*
- ✓ *190 multi-actor projects under Horizon 2020 (two thirds of total projects) for 1 bio Euro*
- ✓ *A growing and thriving network*

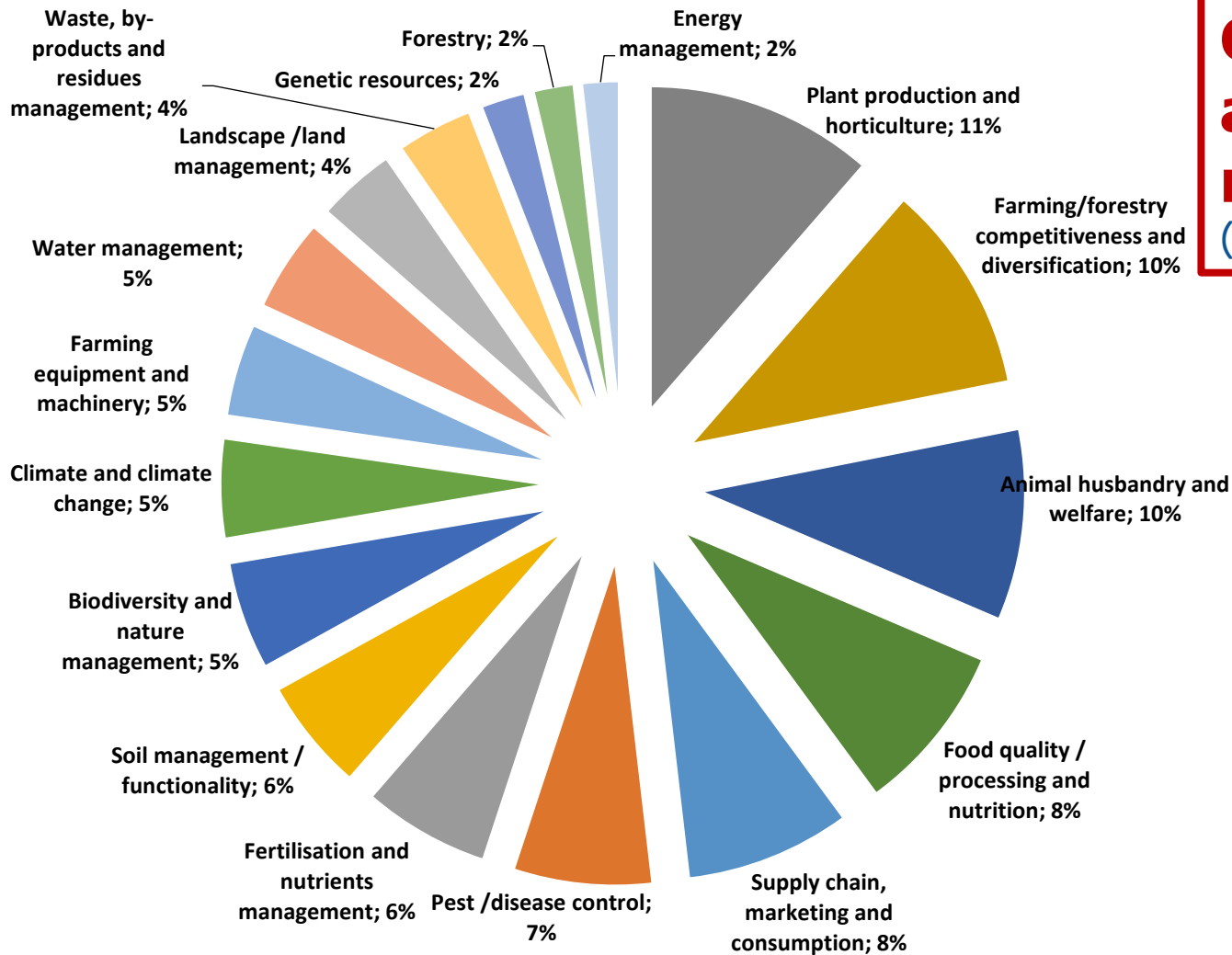


www.eip-agri.eu

An increasing volume of practice-oriented knowledge !

A wide variety of OG project subjects:

Green Deal 'avant la lettre': already about 65% of OGs on environmental-climate issues



OG projects even act as a test bed for CAP measures

(see IE example - EIP seminar Sep 2021)

Focus on environment & climate (65%)

- Sustainable pest/disease control
- Smart fertilisation / Soil quality
- Animal and plant health
- Supply chain innovation
- Biodiversity management
- Organic farming productivity
- Digital-based solutions
- ...and more

Source: European Commission – official data in SFC (May 2021)

Note: dissemination obligation only after the project finished, so not all running projects are included

Provisions on modernisation in the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation post 2020

Funding innovative projects.....

**.....will now be supported by a whole
innovation ecosystem systematically
interlinking people and projects (AKIS)**

Connecting policies: the bigger EIP picture: How to find each other? => AKIS needed

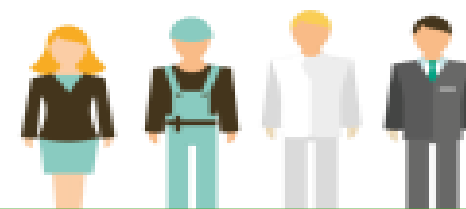
CAP/Rural development
(regional/national level)



- ✓ **OG preparation**
- ✓ **OG projects**
- ✓ **Innovation support services**

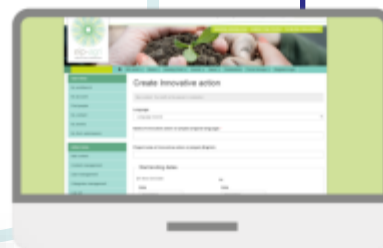


Research projects
Multi-actor projects
Thematic networks (interactive innovation)



OPERATIONAL GROUP

**Involvement of OGs
is strongly recommended**



**Unique EU knowledge repository
of contacts and practice abstracts**

**Spread
the results**





THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES

OG projects will cover all 9 CAP objectives



The EIP-AGRI in short: same principles in AKIS



- The EIP-AGRI applies an overarching "*Open innovation*" concept based on the **interactive innovation model** (applied in RD Operational Groups and H2020 Multi-Actor projects):

Collaboration between various actors to make **best use of complementary types of knowledge** (scientific, practical, organisational, etc) **in view of co-creation** and **quick spreading** of solutions/opportunities **ready to implement in practice.**

- **EU wide EIP network** linking actors: communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs (*Open science*)

AKIS in CAP Strategic Plans (Art.102)

The CAP Strategic Plans shall contain:

1.Their contribution to the cross-cutting objective related to fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation, notably by describing:

- **The (future) organisational set-up of the AKIS:** *which organisational improvements are needed? (based on a SWOT)*
- How advisors, researchers and CAP networks will work together within the framework of the (future) AKIS, and
- **How advice and innovation support are provided**

2.A description of the strategy for the development of **digital technologies** in agriculture and rural areas

Farm advice organised within the AKIS structures in CAP Strategic plans

- ✓ *Advising farmers and other beneficiaries of CAP support to be included in the CAP plans*
- ✓ **All advisors shall be integrated within the AKIS in an inclusive way, to be able to cover economic, environmental and social dimensions and to deliver up-to-date technological and scientific information developed by R&I**
- ✓ *Advisors must be impartial and be able to provide Innovation support, in particular for preparing and implementing Operational Group projects of the EIP AGRI*

The CAP post 2020 – starting 1/1/2023

- Trilogues almost finished (EP, Council, EC), AKIS elements all agreed
- **The CAP Strategic Plans regulation provides many new or improved tools for AKIS** under the Cross-cutting objective:
 - **Farm advice** (Art. 13): MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I
 - Support for **knowledge exchange** and information events (Art. 72), including for advice, **demo and training**,
 - Obligation for **innovation support for OGs**
 - **CAP networks** (Art. 113): will connect existing OGs & interact with **Horizon Europe NCPs** (seminar June 2021)
 - EIP Operational Groups (Art. 114): 80% cofinancing instead of 43%, advance payments and State Aid derogation
- **CAP Strategic Plans** to be submitted formally to the Commission by 1/1/2022

Potential actions related to AKIS Strategic Approach

1. **Enhancing knowledge flows and strengthening links between research and practice:** incentivise researchers for their impact beyond academia, e.g. in their careers, by making practice ready outputs, meet practitioners frequently/thematic events, organise on-farm demonstrations where farmers and researchers meet and talk, education for researchers on interactive innovation approaches etc
2. **Strengthening farm advisory services within MS' AKISs:** capturing and sharing farmers' needs, acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, participating in and sharing knowledge from OG innovative projects, advisors' training and thematic events to update knowledge, cross-visits (learning peer-to-peer), spend time with researchers,...
3. **Incentivising interactive innovation projects (OGs, H2020 MA):** help connecting actors, facilitating cross-border and transnational calls/knowledge exchange, establish innovation support services to develop projects and capture farmers' foresters needs and innovative ideas, support intergenerational renewal by experts' collaboration...
4. **Support digital transition in agriculture:** EIP OGs on digital innovation, build, interlink and make use of knowledge reservoirs for practice, digital skills development,...

How can CAP networks help strengthening innovation and knowledge exchange on all 9 CAP objectives?

1. **Collect and share outcomes** of 3200+ EIP OGs from current CAP, and of 190 H2020 multi-actor projects + future Horizon Europe MA proj. (+ filtering & translating)
2. Make use of the EIP website + knowledge reservoirs being prepared under H2020
3. **Connect OGs with Horizon projects** = great added value. The Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe (HE) dimension of the EIP-AGRI induces the need for intensifying CAP innovation networking and **regular and efficient interaction** with Horizon Europe National Contact Points. **Keep your inventory of OGs and advisors up to date!**
4. All this **material provides great input for local AKIS actors** (farmers, advisors, education, trainers, media, businesses, researchers,..): training for farmers and for advisors, peer-to-peer events, demonstrations, website, e-learning, ISS etc
5. **Organising events to link and network AKIS actors for future cooperation**
6. **Start now**, already testing future interventions under the current period and **brainstorm in AKIS coordination platforms** (using transitional funds)

Interaction within the Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe (HE) dimension of the EIP-AGRI

1. The synergies organized between Horizon projects and EIP Operational Groups induces the need for **intensifying innovation networking with Horizon Europe National Contact Points**: a monthly encounter could be useful
2. **Promote and make OGs visible**: database with all OGs in the MS + contacts + thematic categorisation
3. **Follow the yearly Horizon Europe calls and be pro-active**: present the topics to your OGs, make a brokering event with your OGs, advisors and researchers, think about cross-border events around specific topics in the call where OGs could join. Horizon consortia mostly do not find the OGs they would like to have in their project
4. Also when **Horizon projects are running, OGs or their partners may still be invited** to events of their interest: give them support

AKIS & EIP-AGRI – preparing for EU knowledge reservoir(s) for practice serving advisors’ back-offices for innovation support and advice

- ✓ MS already creating **dbases (EIP-AGRI in DE, FR, NL, back-office and ISS in LT etc): interoperable within EU**
- ✓ **EURAKNOS** project (Thematic Network of Thematic Networks, midterm Jan 2020)
- ✓ **EUREKA** project (feasibility EU knowledge reservoir for practice, kick-off Jan 2020)



=> Making **at EU level** an increasing volume of practice-oriented knowledge easy accessible and searchable, multilingual, interactive and attractive!

EURAKNOS & EUREKA: The 'FarmBook'



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The title of this interesting article

January 12, 2018

By **Joseph Stevens**, **Katherine Youth** and **Forest advisment**

Smart-Akis

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EUREKA



EURAKNOS

Horizon Europe call 2021

State of play



The Horizon Europe Workprogramme 2021 will provide support

Publication: June 2021, deadline early Oct 2021 – around 9 bio Euro for the 7 years' period

Multi-actor approach now useable across the whole cluster 6: same principles kept but type of actors broadened => even more practice info will come in

Following destinations have been designed within Cluster 6 - MA projects:

1. Biodiversity and ecosystem services
2. Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption
3. Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors
4. Clean environment and zero pollution
5. Land, oceans and water for climate action
6. Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities
7. **“Fostering Innovative governance, ...as enabler - including projects on AKIS co-creation and networking among all MS/ how to develop innovation support/ finish, test, finetune and promote the EU Knowledge reservoir together with all MS' AKIS/ Thematic Networks/ Thematic Networks growing from OGs/ and an advisory network on short supply chain (more to come).**

What post 2020 ?

Jean
Monnet
Father of Europe

12/05/1954



“Ce qui nous arrête, c’est la peur du changement. Et pourtant, c’est du changement que dépend notre salut”

“What stops us is the fear of change.
And nevertheless, it is on change that our
salvation depends”

Further info:

SWG SCAR AKIS 4 report https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26_en

See in particular sections 1.2 What is AKIS?, 1.3 Multi-actor projects, 1.4 national thematic networks, 1.5 possible actions for CAP AKIS Strategic Plans) and chapter 4 (Advisors and advisory instruments and functions)

AKIS animated infographic:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news/new-animated-video-akis-building-effective>

June 2021 webinars on EIP-AGRI website <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en>

Info: EIP Seminar on AKIS strategies in CAP Strategic Plans

16-18 September 2020 (the full seminar was recorded and can be seen again)

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-cap-strategic-plans-key-role-akis>

- Inspiration from an experienced **innovation support service**, followed by a **panel discussion on AKIS policy**.
- Opening speeches from **Commissioner Polish Ministers of Agr.**, one very inspiring and **Rural Inspiration Award OG** + an **overview on the basic elements of AKIS + Q&A**.
- Section on advice: intro + 3 diverse examples of **advisory services**
- Section on role of the **national CAP network for innovation**, again with good examples
- **Online discussions** which happened in the weeks before the seminar (on advisory services, on CAP networks and on the CAP plans), summarised by **Mark Gibson**
- **10 good examples of nice AKIS interventions**
- **4 Member States presenting their CAP plans**, already full of content
- after the breakout sessions, **our Director General Burtscher** closed with a very nice **summary on the interactive discussions** and expresses how he sees the future & AKIS.

Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



Thanks for your attention

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European
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Questions?



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Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP at MS level:

CAP networks, impartial advisors and researchers at MS level to improve collaboration within the AKIS for increased innovation and knowledge flows:

1. MS' CAP networks tasks and objectives:

- Provide for more **learning (=filtering, translating, summarizing)** from all 3000 EU OGs and MA projects on EU EIP website => knowledge exchange **among MS**
- Organize a variety of knowledge events between in your country between AKIS actors **including all** in the knowledge-exchange and knowledge-building process
- Be more active on **linkages between OGs and the Horizon Europe projects:** capture the results and added value of the policy at European level (HE NCPs)
- **Foster innovation: support to OGs within the MS and across borders**

2. Researchers to be **more closely involved in the AKIS:** (inter)acting on farmers' needs/opportunities, and to be rewarded to do so. Researchers to join specific "multi-actor" activities and publish for practice and advisors' back-offices too. "Partnership agreement" of Agri Ministries in particular with research and innovation ministries.

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP at MS level:

- 3. More, more frequent and more diverse EIP Operational Group calls** because **EIP now covers all 9 CAP specific objectives**: mixing bottom-up calls with thematic calls to have a “**family of EIP measures**” (e.g. OGs on bottom-up grassroots ideas + on specific environmental challenges, on piloting digital tools & measures, on social innovation). Also initiate **cross-border OGs** and the possibility for collaboration between OGs (national CAP network task in coordination with the Man. Authority).
- 4. Advisors** to become **more competent** on economic, environmental and social issues & up-to-date knowledge and innovation. **Simplification** of the administrative system for advisors: no more rules on certification or public procurement, **transparency** via public website on the advisors available, vouchers. MS must have **impartial** advisors and **innovation support services**.
The AKIS system must integrate all advisors, public and private: no more silos or separated FAS (Farm Advisory System). Holistic and interactive advice, **mobility** budget for advisors.

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP at MS level:

5. A financial envelope is needed in a globally more commercialized, world full of public good related challenges, **to protect public knowledge & knowledge flows, and incentivize publicly shared innovation => AKIS.**

- **emerging knowledge reservoirs at national level, national thematic networks**
- **public back-offices (“knowledge hubs”)** with **specialist advisors** closely interacting with field advisors, research and CAP networks
- National and **EU advisory networks**
- **Public digital advisory tools** reducing maintenance costs: H2020 project Fairshare
- Face-to-face multi-actor thematic events, on farm demonstrations etc.
- **Soft ways** also improve knowledge flows e.g. **co-location of research, advice and networks** (+education, farmers' organization, food cluster, etc.): co-location is cheap, efficient and informal
- An **AKIS coordination body**, interacting as a spider in the web of the country

2 main instruments for future AKIS:

1. **Innovation support service** –
"Innovation hub" Art 13(4)
2. **Back-office for advisors** –
"knowledge hub"

section 4.2 of the SCAR AKIS 4 report

More info:

- An animated infographic on innovation support services:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTV6kLH0ykg>
- A practical example of an innovation support service on page of the SWG SCAR AKIS report **page 105-106**:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/report-preparing-for-future-akis-in-europe_en.pdf
- Brochure on innovation support services:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-brochure-innovation-support-services>

