



# EU CAP Network Brokerage event 'Get involved in Horizon Europe advisory networks'

17-18 January 2023  
Sofia | Bulgaria



Funded by  
the European Union

Brokerage event: 'Getting involved in Horizon Europe advisory networks'  
17-18 January 2023 | Sofia, Bulgaria



# National agricultural advisory service and international cooperation

Dimitar Vanev

National agricultural advisory service





**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**BULGARIAN NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY**  
**SERVICE (NAAS)**



# **Bulgarian National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS) and international cooperation**

**Dr. Dimitar Vanev**

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17.01.2023

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICE (NAAS)



- ❑ The National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS) is a legal entity budget funded with headquarters in Sofia, Bulgaria. It started its activities in October 2000;
- ❑ NAAS is subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and territorial units in the country.

# NAAS STRUCTURE

- \* Headquarter in Sofia;
- \* 27 Regional District Offices;
- \* 28 Mobile Municipal Centers (offices)
- \* Center for vocational training /CVT/.
- \* Analytical laboratory

# Target group of farmers



➤ **Farmers** who have already begun their farming activities, with the share of small farms dominated in this group;

➤ **Persons who want to start farming,** but are not yet;

➤ **Other people living in rural areas,** including **forest owners.**



# Participation NAAS in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects



Peer-to-Peer Learning: Accessing Innovation through Demonstration — **PLAID** under Horizon 2020 (January 2017 – June 2019)



Networking European Farms to Enhance Cross Fertilisation and Innovation Uptake through Demonstration" (**NEFERTITI**) (January 2018 – September 2022)



Connecting Advisers to Boost Interactive Innovation in Agriculture and Forestry (**i2connect**) (November 2019 – October 2024)

# Participation NAAS in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects



modern  
**AKIS**  
Together for  
Systems' Innovation

- Project “Modernisation of Agriculture through more efficient and effective Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems” (modernAKIS), Start: 01.09.2022, Duration - 84 months - 7 years
- Project “A European-wide network of pilot farmers implementing and demonstrating climate smart solutions for a carbon neutral Europe” (Climate Farm Demo) ”, Start: 01.10.2022, Duration - 84 months - 7 years
- Project “Connecting and mobilizing the EU agricultural advisory community to support the transition to Climate Smart Farming” (ClimateSmartAdvisors)
  - Start: 01.04.2023, Duration - 84 months - 7 years

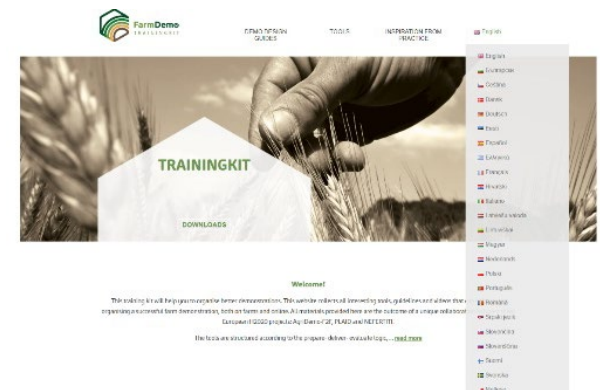


# Relevance from NAAS participating in Horizon multi-actor projects for the quality of the work of advisors in Bulgaria

- Enhance advisors' **personal skills** (for example through I2Connect trainings)
- **Technical knowledge:** Exchange of experience and good agricultural practices between advisors through their participation in networks on specific issues
- New **tools** and acquired knowledge to **support peer to peer learning and knowledge transfer to farmers**, e.g. Farm Demo Training Kit (<https://trainingkit.farmdemo.eu/>)
- Easy **access to new knowledge** permanently coming in through networking with (ex-) project partners

## Good Practice Guidelines for Virtual Demonstration

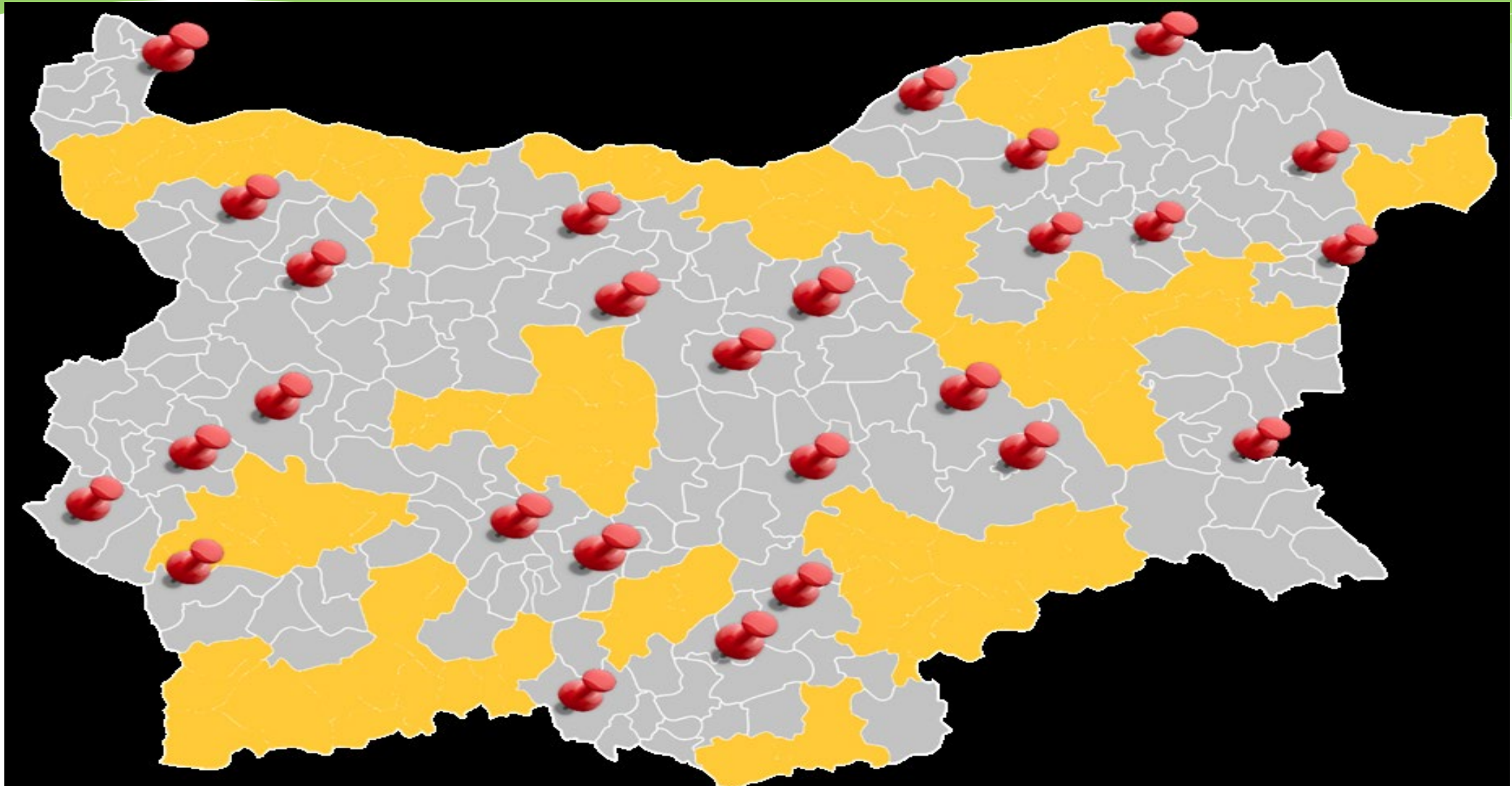
WP4 : Increasing Access through Virtual Demonstration



# NAAS Mobile Municipal Centers (Offices) for providing advisory services

- **28 Mobile Municipal Centers** (offices) (MMCs) for advisory services, 2 advisors in every mobile municipal centers; 6 coordinators at regional level and 2 coordinators at the national level;
- Establishment of MMCs will:
  - **provide access to advisory services to a larger number of farmers, especially small farmers** and those from the more remote and hard-to-reach settlements of Bulgaria.
  - **improve the process of transfer of knowledge and innovations from science to practice** and increase the qualification and management skills of farmers, their awareness and improvement of risk management in their holdings.
- **We use CAP support under RD sub-measure 2.2** "Support for the setting up of ...farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services". The project value is € 5 323 593 with a decreasing percentage of eligible costs for each year of project implementation (100%, 95%, 90%, 85%, 80%). The implementation runs until September 2025.
- **CAP support under RD sub-measure 2.1** "Advisory services...., "is also used to fund the uptake of the advice by farmers, foresters and rural entrepreneurs
- We planned continued **similar support under the CAP strategic plan for the future period 2023-2027.**

# NAAS Mobile Municipal Centers (Offices) for providing advisory services



## The NAAS Mobile Municipal Centers (Offices) are providing the following advisory services

### **CAP 2014-2022 project: planned indicators:**

- **Total: 70 000 consultations** (average 2.500 per office) ;
- **8 400 “mobile” visits to the villages** (300 on average per office);
- **16 800 farm visits** (600 on average per office);
- **8 400 outside office meetings with farmers for providing personnel advice** (average 300 per office);
- **280 information and training events** (not including outside office meetings with farmers for providing personnel advice) (10 on average per office);
- **400 information materials** (over 140.000 copies).

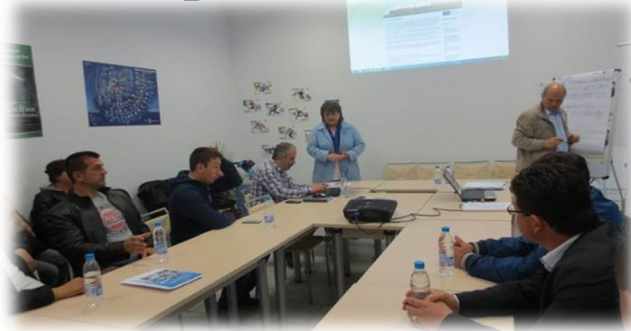
# Thanks to NAAS participation in the different projects the variety of advisory approaches applied by NAAS for dissemination of new experiences and knowledge is now enlarged

- ✓ Face to face advice: **on farm visits**
- ✓ Face to face advice: **in the office**
- ✓ **Outside office** meetings with farmers for providing **personnel advice**
- ✓ **Seminars and information meetings** including virtual and physical demo events
- ✓ Developed and printed **information materials**
- ✓ **Internet and social media**
- ✓ **Other:** articles for various agricultural paper and electronic media; giving interviews in the national and local press; participation in radio and TV broadcast programs (in national and local media).
- ✓ **Farming circles** linked to every district office: .....
- ✓ **Unofficial consultative councils** linked to every district office



# Seminars/training: Activities to improve the relationship "research - farming advice - agricultural business"

- ✓ The NAAS **works closely with** various universities, research institutes, research organizations and other organizations to transfer scientific knowledge and achievements in practice.
- ✓ Seminars' **subjects are mainly proposed by farmers**
- ✓ **Joint information meetings** - seminars with universities, research institutes, research-applying organizations and other institutions, organizations and experts.
- ✓ **A variety of experts and expertise is mobilised:** in addition to the NAAS territorial offices experts, also leading Bulgarian scientists from the scientific institutes, various associations and unions in the agricultural sector, processors and other organizations are lecturers



# Farming circles



- ✓ **The purpose of "Farming circles" is to spread among farmers from the region of the respective NAAS office useful information and to promote best practices** in the field of agriculture and the application and implementation of projects under the RDP as well as to increase the efficiency of advisory services provided by the NAAS for these farmers.
- ✓ **In Farming circles active farmers from the relevant region are involved.** These farmers are three main types: **pioneer farmers**, farmers who like to work as **volunteers and for public cases**, and **farmers who are well known in region** where they live and who **have many contacts with other farmers** (of course some farmers fall into more than one category). These farmers disseminate information and innovation news among other farmers from their regions and discuss it. Also, these farmers collect information from other farmers about their needs from advisory services including related to innovation support and they inform NAAS offices.
- ✓ **The NAAS territorial office experts send information to farmer circles' participants** about important issues for farmers, including for the forthcoming opening of measures under the RDP 2014-2020 and other national and European schemes as well as for upcoming trainings, seminars, information events, agricultural exhibitions, meetings with experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Bulgarian Food Safety Agency, forthcoming consultancy days and others events. Information is sent by e-mail and / or by phone

# Unofficial consultative councils



- ✓ There is a **non-formal advisory council linked to each NAAS district office**

**The aim is to discuss** with the farmers, agricultural associations and representatives of local public structures the activities of the respective NAAS office in order to better address the needs of the farmers and improvement service of the farmers.
- ✓ Discussing and making **suggestions about the office's activities**
- ✓ Discussing **issues in the field of agriculture**
- ✓ Participants are active farmers working in the region, representatives of local branch organizations, representatives of scientific institutes, representatives of local public organizations and state structures (Regional Directorate for Agriculture, regional structures of the State Fund Agriculture, The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BSAF), etc.)
- ✓ These Councils will become the **future district AKIS centers.**







**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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All information on the workshop is available  
on the [EU CAP Network website](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/)

On the event webpage:  
[https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/  
news-events/events/eu-cap-network-  
brokerage-event-get-involved-  
horizon-europe-advisory-networks-  
2023-01-17\\_en](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/eu-cap-network-brokerage-event-get-involved-horizon-europe-advisory-networks-2023-01-17_en)

