



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

17-18 January 2023
Sofia | Bulgaria



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



Contribution of the EU Advisory Networks to Member States' CAP AKIS Plans

Inge Van Oost
European Commission, DG Agriculture
and Rural Development



COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

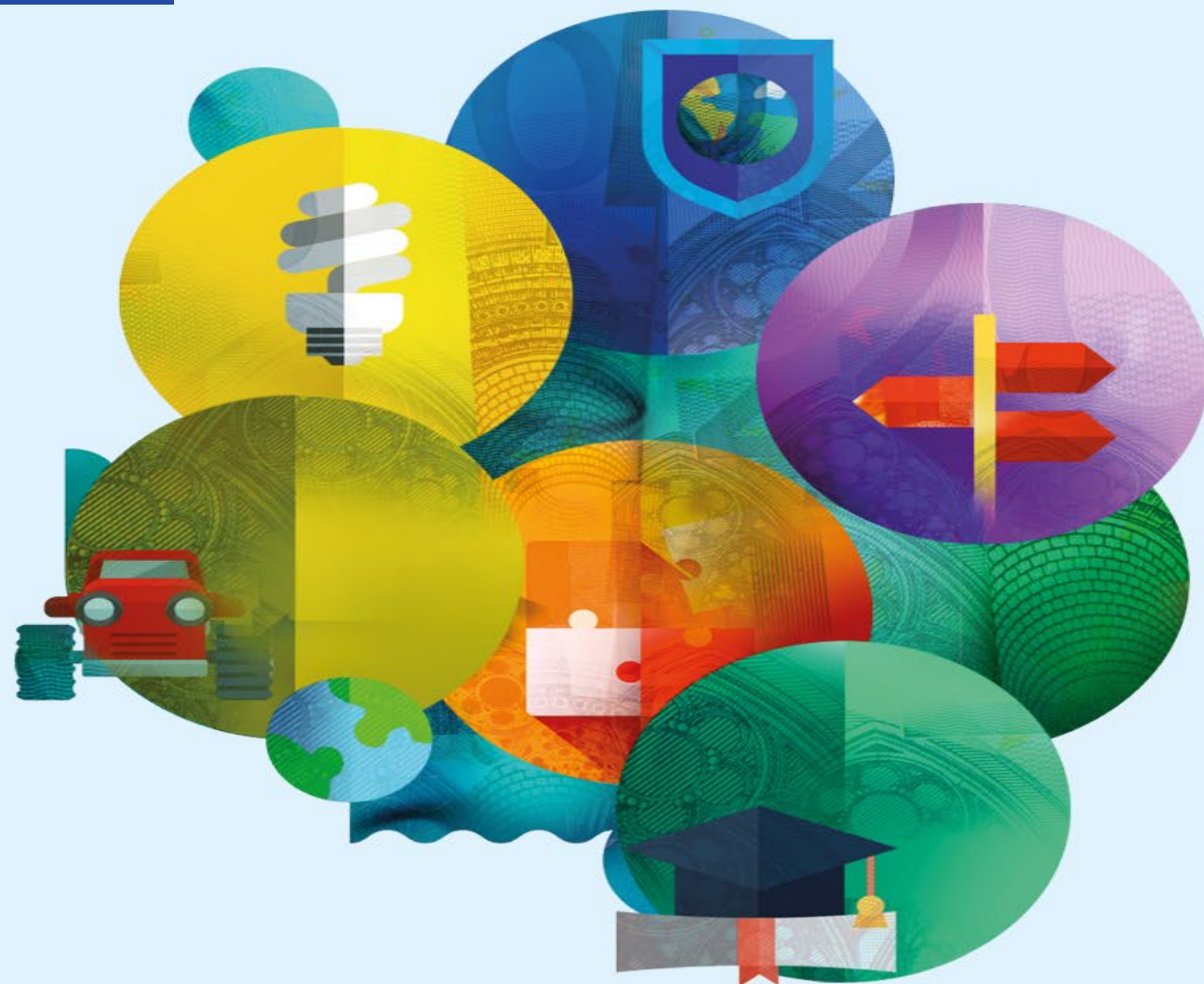
2023-2027

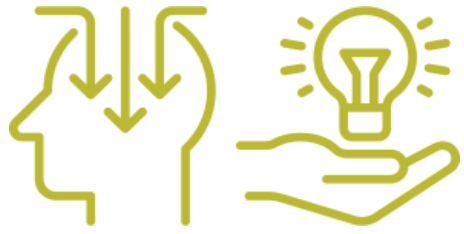


Contribution of the Horizon Europe EU Advisory Networks to Member States' CAP AKIS plans

Inge Van Oost - DG AGRI
European Commission
17 January 2023
CAP Network

**Knowledge exchange and innovation
Brokerage event - Sofia**





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

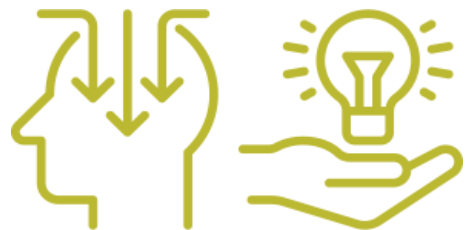
AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem =>

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*

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



A good CAP 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

Connecting policies: the bigger EIP picture: How to share knowledge and innovation?

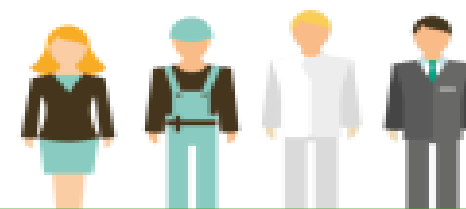
CAP/Rural development
(regional/national level)



- ✓ 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 EIP-AGRI in short: same principles in AKIS



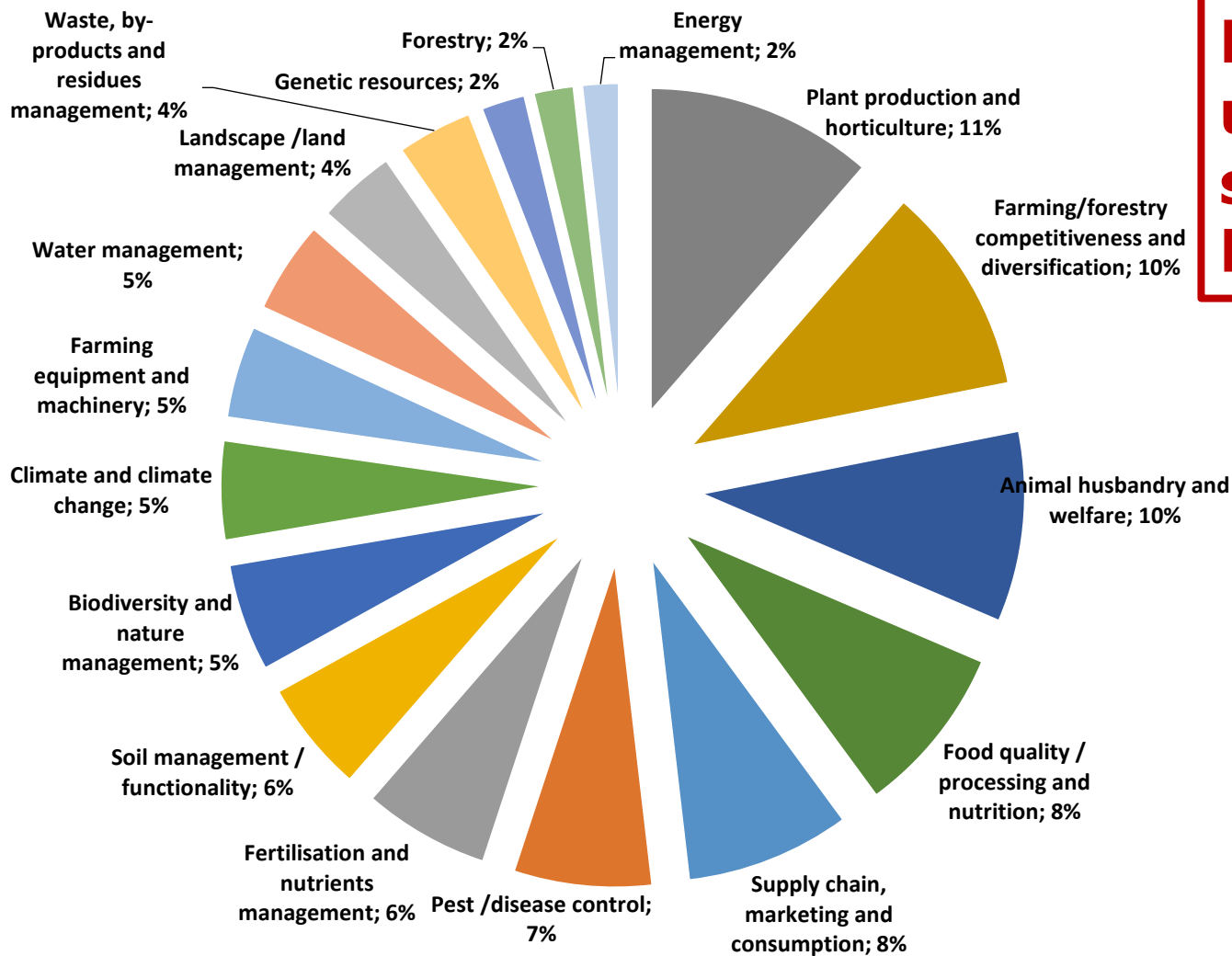
- The EIP-AGRI applies an overarching "*Open innovation*" concept based on the **interactive innovation model** (applied in RD Operational Groups and H2020 Multi-Actor projects):

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*)

A wide variety of OG project subjects:

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



Many OG projects can be used as information source for EU Advisory Networks

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)

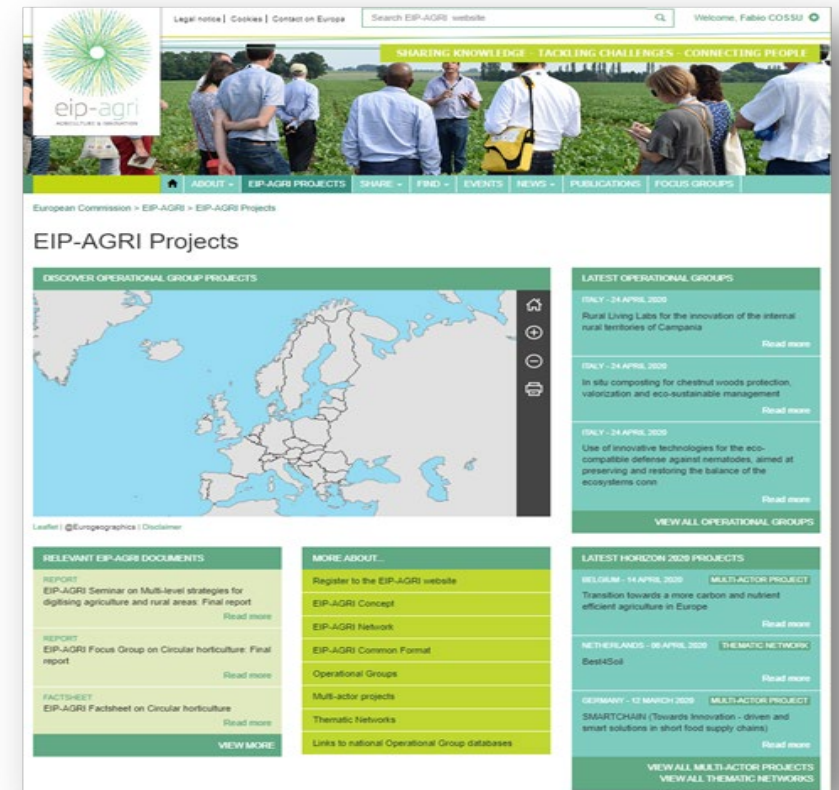
Note: dissemination obligation only after the project finished, so not all running projects are included

Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



EIP-AGRI – What did we achieve?

- ✓ 26(27) Member States, 98 rural development programmes implementing EIP Operational Group “innovative projects”
- ✓ **in 2014-2022** (7 years) more than 3000 OGs (still 3 years to go) – **1 bio €**
- ✓ **2023-2027 CAP plans: 6631 OGs for only 5 years**
- ✓ **190 multi-actor projects** under Horizon 2014-2020 (two thirds of total projects) for **1 bio Euro** – again many more to come.... => A growing and thriving network:



An increasing volume of practice-oriented knowledge to be managed!

www.eip-agri.eu

The new CAP regulation: **AKIS in CAP Strategic Plans (Art.114)**

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 (art 78 & 15)

✓ *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 (“qualifying” advisors)

✓ *Advisors must be impartial and be able to provide Innovation support, in particular for preparing and implementing Operational Group projects of the EIP AGRI*

✓ *Obligatory training for advisors*

MSs' farming practices are very different and advisors not well connected across the countries=> EU-wide Advisory Networks ensure learning from each other

EU Advisory Networks so far:

- ✓ *Digital Advisory Tools (DATs)*
- ✓ *Short food supply chains*
- ✓ *Organic farming*
- ✓ *Pesticide use and reduction*
- ✓ *Fertiliser use*
- ✓ *Forestry*
- ✓ *Sustainable livestock*
- ✓ *.....?*

Contribution of EU Advisory networks to MSs' AKIS: (1)

- ✓ Input for **advisors' on-farm one-to-one advice** on economic, environmental and social dimensions, of delivering up-to-date technological and scientific information (very broad scope)
- ✓ Input for **specialist advisors** on a certain theme ("**back-offices**")
- ✓ Input for **individual innovation support** (= capturing grassroots innovative ideas and accompany the preparation and implementation of an EIP OG) innovation brokers to learn from each other
- ✓ Input for (obligatory yearly) **training of advisors** on **themes**, or learning new approaches and **skills** (e.g. social farming, digital, short chains, ...)
- ✓ Input for **advisors who provide training to** farmers, farm workers etc
- ✓ Advisors **joining/organising knowledge exchange events** with researchers, farmers etc, help making research workprogrammes by **exchanging practical needs**

Contribution of EU Advisory networks to MSs' AKIS: ...(2)

- ✓ **Advisors writing** in easy understandable language for farmers in agricultural journals, websites, social media, newsletter, EIP event coordinator
- ✓ Advisors leading a **multi-actor thematic network** (e.g. RMT in FR) at national/regional level: to collect and spread practice knowledge
- ✓ Advisors **organizing a farm demonstration**, a fair, another type of event
- ✓ Advisors as **partner in an EIP OG**, MAA Horizon project, communication event,...
- ✓ **Advisor going abroad to learn and come back to train and disseminate** new knowledge (“**advisor mobility budget**”) thanks to new contacts made

=> Result:

Advisors become better integrated in their MS' AKIS system

2 main adv. instruments for future AKIS:

1. **Innovation support service** –
"Innovation hub" Art 15(4)
2. **Back-office for advisors** –
"knowledge hub" Art 114(a)

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>



Main AKIS action points CAP 2023-2027 at MS level:

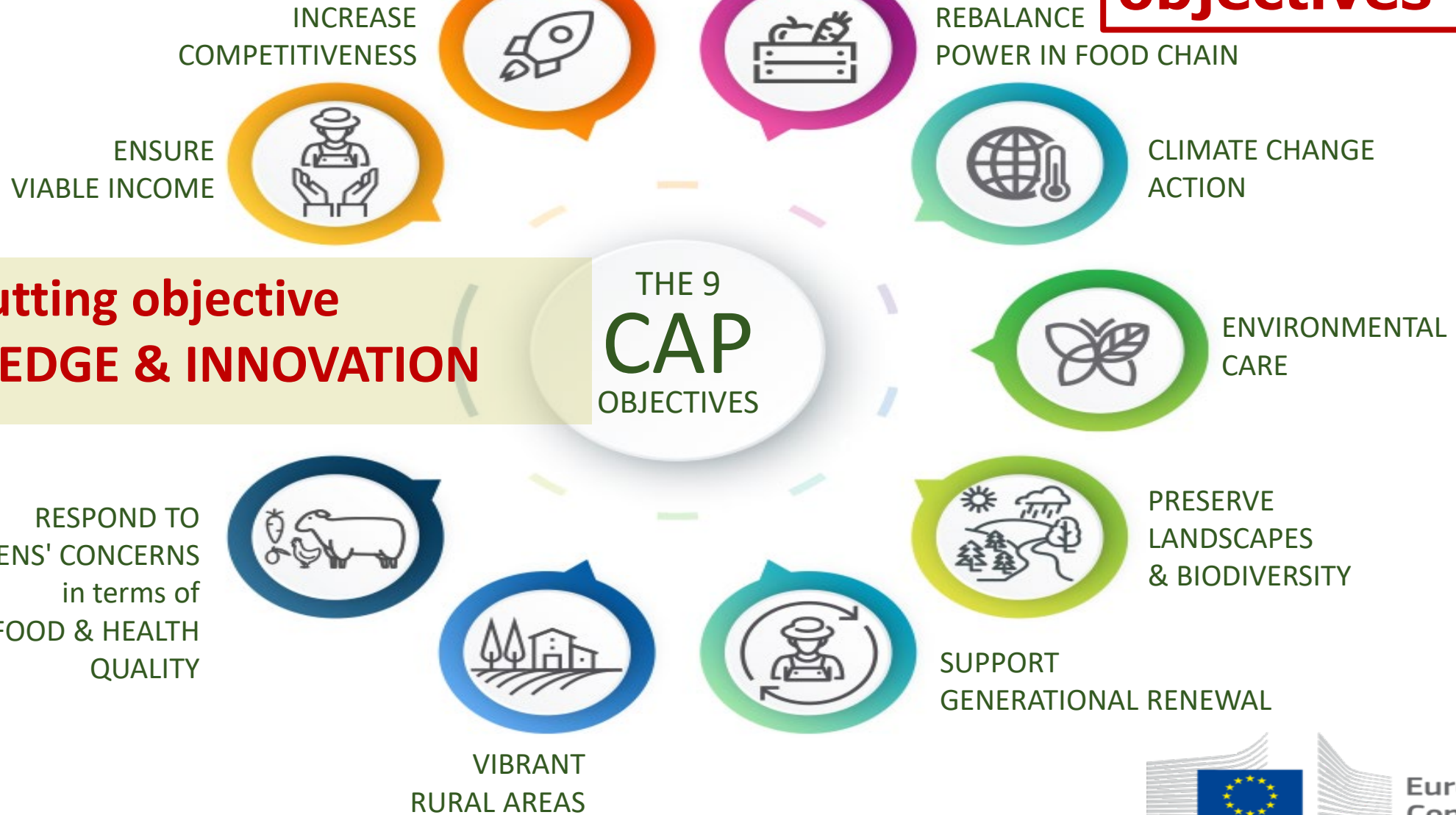
A well-functioning AKIS is needed in a globally more commercialized, world full of public good related challenges, **to protect public knowledge & knowledge flows, and incentivize publicly shared innovation.**

- **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 in each MS**, (inter)acting as the **spider in the AKIS web of the country, interconnecting all key AKIS influencers**



THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES

OG projects will cover all 9 CAP objectives



**Cross-cutting objective
KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION**

How will **AKIS Coordination Bodies** and **CAP networks** support advisors to help valuing the innovation and knowledge from and to EU advisory networks? => “*use local AKIS connections*”

1. **Collect and share outcomes** of the many OGs funded by the CAP, and Horizon multi-actor projects (+ filtering & translating) => Make use of the EIP website + knowledge reservoirs being prepared
2. **Keep MS’ inventory of OGs and advisors up to date! (AKIS bodies have a list of local advisors)**
3. All 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**
4. **Organising events to link and network AKIS actors for future cooperation**
5. Register in the **I2Connect advisors’ database** to be found by other advisors for a consortium. Don’t forget to mention your expertise/specialisation

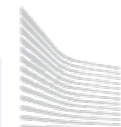
Horizon Europe Cluster 6 = 9 bio € for 7 years,
half are multi-actor (MAA) projects with
synergies with EIP OG innovation projects.

Advisors have a key role to play in all these
MAA projects and this will help AKIS Knowledge
flows



AKIS & EIP-AGRI – prepare an EU knowledge reservoir for practice which will help the advisors' back-offices for innovation support and more competent advice

- ✓ **FARMBOOK**: (2022-2029) MS plan or already have **knowledge databases**, we need to ensure they become **interoperable**, to save costs and avoid duplication through cooperation!
- ✓ **MODERNAKIS** project (2022-2029): helps MS learn from each other how to build a **well-functioning AKIS** and what are good AKIS interventions (exchanging experiences and train new actors)
- ✓ **ATTRACTISS** project (2022-2027) helps the building of **innovation support services** across the EU and shares the related knowledge
- ✓ **EU advisory networks, EU thematic networks, EU thematic networks built on at least 5 OGs** from 3 MS



'EU-FarmBook': an EU wide knowledge reservoir for practice, you can use and contribute to it



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Active smart search filters

RETURN TO OVERVIEW

554 likes

0 comments



The title of this interesting article

January 12, 2018

By Joseph Stevens, Katherine Youth and Forest advisment

Smart-Akis

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More info

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Link one

Interaction: building practice communities



EUREKA



EURAKNOS

The 5 EU Advisory Network topics in call 2023-2024 all need a majority of partners who are advisors with frequent field experience

Advisors are often not well known to their own government/authority. Advisors are not well connected within and across Member States

=> make yourselves visible, take contact with the AKIS coordination bodies and with managing authorities, start up interaction within your country's AKIS by proposing to offer them knowledge for trainings, to train the local advisors and farmers with material from your project.

**Systematic
connecting with
advisors abroad
is a novelty**

Jean
Monnet
Father of Europe

12/05/1954

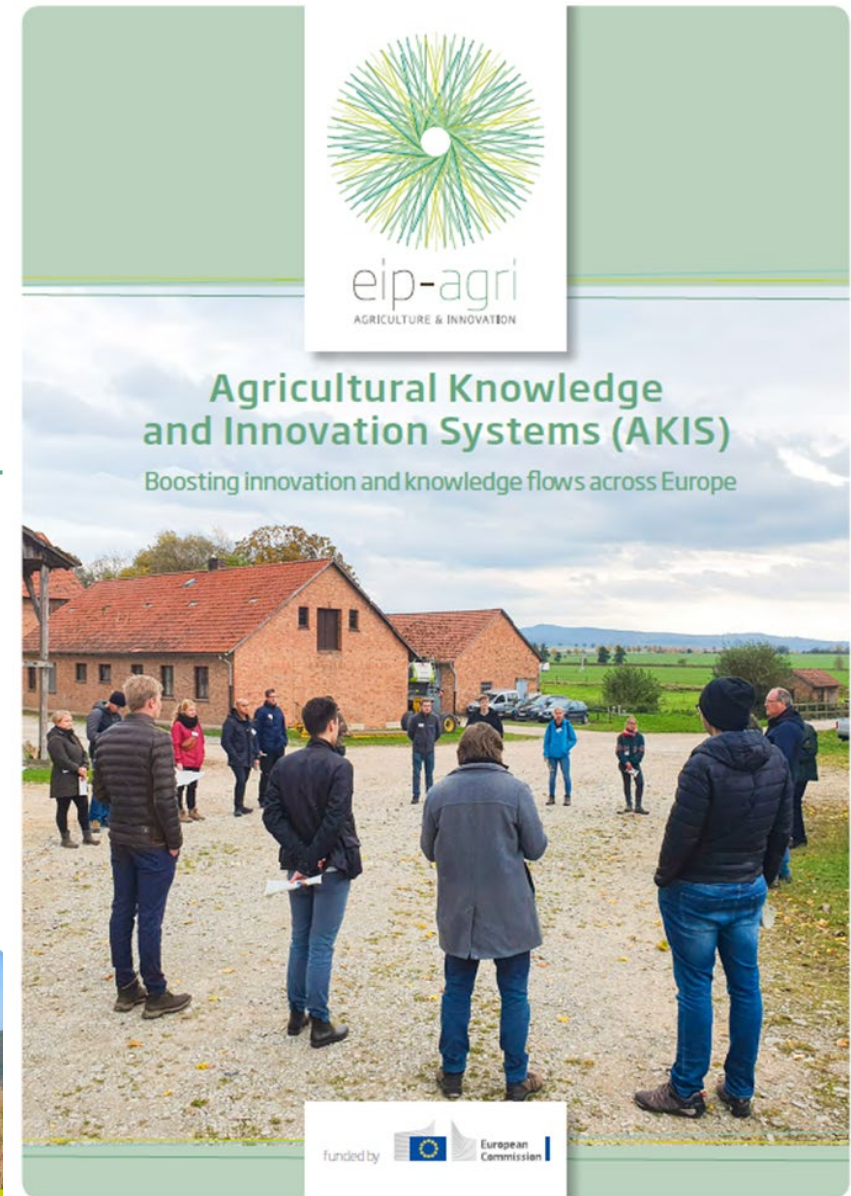


“Ce qui nous arrête, c’est la peur du changement. Et pourtant, c’est du changement que dépend notre salut”

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

AKIS communication

- A **Thematic webpage on AKIS + new AKIS brochure** is created:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/about/akis-eip-agri-spotlight>
- **Press article on advisory Back-Office in Slovenia feeding into Innovation support and the whole AKIS:**
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news-events/press-media/press-release/slovenia-integrates-advisors-its-national>



Building and linking AKISs across the EU

*Speed up creativity and
practice application*

*Better connectivity and
quicker circulation of
information*

https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/support/innovation-knowledge-exchange-eip-agri_en

Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



Thanks for your attention

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Questions?



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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)

