



Seminar
‘Fostering an effective and integrated AKIS
in Member States’

Vilnius, Lithuania
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The role of advisors as integrated in the AKIS

Summary of Google Documents

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Q1. What is foreseen in your CAP Strategic Plan to further integrate advisors into the AKIS in your country?

- › In Luxembourg measures are planned to integrate advisors, including tailored calls (advisors +farmers), funding for demos, and motivation to join international networks like EUFRAS and YEUFRAS. Events and collaboration between advisors, researchers, and farmers are being organized.
- › In Italy, AKIS-related interventions focus on systemic and regional approaches, aiming to improve knowledge flows and collaboration among AKIS actors. Training activities, support services, and networking actions are envisaged to strengthen cooperation.
- › Other measures listed quality assurance of advisors using lifelong learning system, events organized by thematic workgroups, tailored calls, and funding for demonstration events with evaluations.



Are there Innovation Support Services in your country?

- › Various services and organizations provide educational events for agricultural advisors, which can be checked and approved by the Life Long Learning board for Permanent Education points.
- › In Luxembourg efforts are being made to establish dedicated innovation brokering by having a person focused on grouping people and mediating during project preparation.
- › Innovation support services exist in different regions, including Sardinia, Portugal, Germany, and Italy, aimed at providing training, technical assistance, and advice to farmers and promoting interactive innovation in the agricultural sector.



Sardinia

- › Mainly public innovation support services exist in Sardinia.
- › In the **area of transferring research results**: the regional agency for agricultural research (AGRIS) has 5 experimental/demonstration farms and 1 experimental cork farm.
- › It frequently organises dissemination seminars and carries out research projects with the involvement of many regional AKIS players;





Q3. How are advisors organised in your country? How will farmers/ foresters / rural entrepreneurs be informed about the available advisors, their competences and fields of expertise, and how will they be able to contact them? How are advisors made visible to farmers / foresters / rural entrepreneurs?



- › In several countries, there is a mix of state-funded and private advisory services available to farmers, with varying levels of contact and accessibility for farmers.
- › Public advisory services are often organized within agricultural chambers or other public entities and are well-known and utilized by farmers in some regions.
- › Many countries maintain databases or lists of registered advisors to provide farmers with information about available services and to ensure quality and expertise.
- › Professional associations and organizations play a significant role in supporting and coordinating advisory services, and there is a diverse range of consultants and experts involved in providing agricultural advice.



Lithuania

- › In order for the advisory system to be more open, flexible and responsive to the needs of farmers in the new period, a list of Independent Agricultural Advisors has been created. The aim is to bring together the widest possible circle of advisors, which include not only advisors, researchers, but also specialists/experts in their specific field, with both - specific knowledge or international experience.
- › Conditions are also created for the farmer to choose consultations with the advisor that best meets his individual needs and to give the feedback about the quality of this service.



Q4. Are advisors provided with a regular training, including brokering for innovation?

- › Agricultural advisors are required to participate in FAS training to maintain their registration and improve their qualifications.
- › Training activities are overseen by relevant authorities, such as the Department of Agriculture and the Order of Agronomists and Foresters, and typically include both general knowledge and specialized skills.
- › The training programs vary in duration, format, and topics covered, and can be provided through national training catalogs, external bodies, public structures, and professional associations.
- › Efforts are being made in some countries to identify and meet the specific training needs of advisors, including in the areas of innovation and digitalization (i2Connect and CECRA).



Portugal

- › In the future, within the scope of the AKIS Monitoring Group, to be created, one of the tasks will be to identify training needs and define a training plan that can be in different formats and duration.



Tell us about your back-offices/specialist advisors and knowledge reservoirs for practice in your country, and how they are organised?

- › In Italy the Innovarurale portal serves as a valuable tool for Italian consultants, providing information and support for the agricultural sector.
- › Estonia developed a digital knowledge platform in 2000 and is updated regularly. They are currently recruiting specialists to provide backoffice support.
- › Teagasc utilizes a network of specialists to bridge the gap between research and advice, offering support and dissemination activities to advisors and AKIS actors.



Q6. Is there a system of vouchers for the use of advice/knowledge actions in your country?

- › Most countries do not have a voucher system in place for agricultural advisors however, many are planning to adopt this approach in the coming period.
- › In the Netherlands, there are various voucher systems available for farmers to redeem with FAS-registered advisors, including innovative advice, farm transition, and long-term courses.
- › In Italy, there is a voucher measure for consultancy in innovation, supporting technological and digital transformation processes in SMEs and business networks.
- › In Croatia all services of public advisory service are free for the registered agricultural producers.



Interactive session 4

Capturing good examples on roles and tools supporting advisors in the AKIS in Member States

- › What concrete examples do you have of:
 - › Innovation Support Services
 - › Back-offices for advisors
 - › Ways for rural actors to find AKIS advisors
 - › Organising training for advisors



EU CAP Network seminar

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All information on the seminar is available on the event webpage:

https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/fostering-effective-and-integrated-akis-member-states_en

