



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

Vilnius, Lithuania  
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# CAP 2023-2027 – AKIS coordination in practice: Fostering an effective and integrated AKIS in Member States

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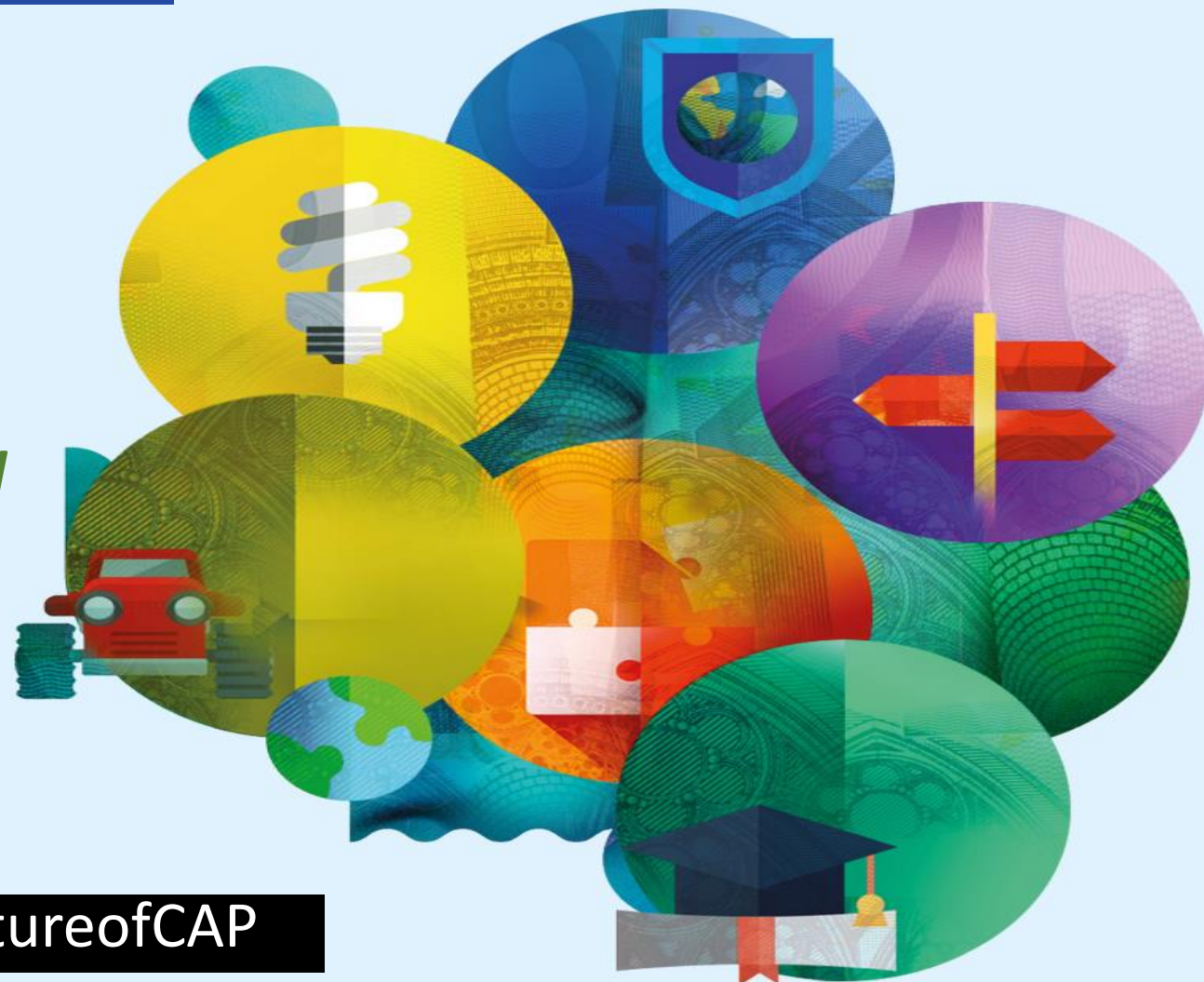


# COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

2023-2027

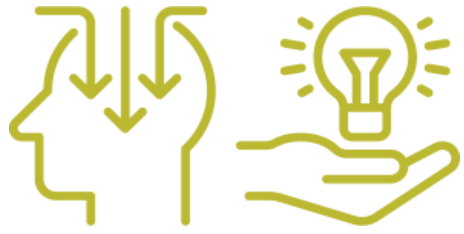


**AKIS coordination in practice:**  
*Fostering an effective and integrated  
AKIS in Member States*



Inge Van Oost - DG AGRI  
European Commission  
Vilnius - AKIS CAP network seminar  
14 June 2023

**#FutureofCAP**



## 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://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-04/building-stronger-akis\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-04/building-stronger-akis_en_0.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*





# AKIS Coordination Body – Overall tasks

**The AKIS coordination body (CB), should be (inter)acting as the spider in the AKIS web of the country, interconnecting all key AKIS influencers**

- The AKIS coordination body is the contact point for all AKIS related issues towards the European Commission: let us know the precise person/unit please.
- It should cooperate with AKIS related platforms across the geographical levels in the country, and should be following qualitatively and quantitatively day-to-day AKIS interventions and actions, to know exactly how AKIS is going forward
- **The AKIS CB has the main responsibility and should be in a position to ask a modification of the CAP plan if needed**, while continuously supporting interaction & implementation of the AKIS Strategic plan. Make AKIS interventions as attractive and effective as possible, so that they become successful.
- The AKIS CB should **keep an overview on the progress and performance** foreseen in the CAP plan, through monitoring and evaluation, in particular using the CAP **indicators** (Annex I CPR – CCO/AKIS tool, see Section 2.6), and other indicators (see guidance on **AKIS evaluation of the Evaluation helpdesk**).



# AKIS Coordination Body- Organising advice

**The AKIS coordination body should be (inter)acting as the spider in the AKIS web of the country, interconnecting all key AKIS influencers**

- It is the task of the AKIS coordination body to **organise the advice and advisors** according to the **new advisory approach** in the CAP 2023-2027, offering advice in a **transparent** way (website with advisors on public Min. website) – Art 15(1)
- The AKIS CB should ensure advisory support stays open for **all expertise of impartial public and private advisors**, in particular the most trusted ones.
- Ensure frequent and effective **training of advisors** by competent experts.
- And to ensure coverage of all (obligatory) **fields in Art 15(2) and (4)** in a smooth way which does **not produce overly administrative burden** (**ensure fresh inflow of expertise** to cover any aspect of sustainability and competitiveness & limit unnecessary selection/eligibility criteria). – see ex day 2.



## E.g. Simplified administrative burden for knowledge exchange and advice :

- 1) **Vouchers for knowledge actions** (R.2021/2115 - Art. 78): see examples BE & NL at the June 14-15 AKIS Seminar in Vilnius day 2
- 2) **Building knowledge reservoirs for practice:**
  - use :
    - Technical Assistance (up to 4% of EAFRD total amount Art. 94),
    - An OG building a knowledge hub (Art 127)
    - A knowledge exchange intervention (Art 78 – e.g. setting up of advisory services)

*The EU-Farmbook project is in the hall to explain **connection to the EU knowledge reservoir for practice***

## E.g. Simplified administrative burden for OGs :

- 1) Simplified costs: **one lump sum for the whole OG project if decided at selection phase** (Art 83(2)(b) R.2021/2115). Need to justify the calculation in the project proposal => support for preparation of OGs is useful to help calculation. Under the old RDP budgets idem but only up to 100.000 Euro max (R.1303/2013 - Art. 67(5))
- 2) **No notification for State Aid necessary up** until 500.000 Euro per project (new ABER Reg 2022/2472 - Art.40) thanks to broad communication on the project
- 3) **Advance payments up to 50% of the project** (R. 2021/2116 - Art 44(3))



# Simplified administrative burden for

## Innovation support services:

- Often part of **EIP interventions (Art 77 & 127)**: using simplification = lump sums for **preparation**: 4000-9000 Euro depending how big the group. Still very much OK and frequently used, but in combination with indicating who is responsible for capturing ideas
- **Advisory interventions (Art 78): the CAP plans in this period** now more and more include **innovation advice as a separate advisory package**
- **Technical assistance** budget (Art. 94) is also used, possibly for outsourcing, because the task is too intensive for the national CAP networks. Typically also for regions in regionalized MS.

# AKIS in CAP Strategic Plans (Art.114 - R.2021/2115)

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**, e.g. *ensure regular knowledge exchanges among them, possibly developing national knowledge hubs/reservoirs*
- How **advice and innovation support are provided**, e.g. *developing advisory back-offices with specialised advisors and innovation support services*



# AKIS Coordination Body – Networking and collaboration

- In particular, **better collaboration between advisors, researchers and the CAP network** must be ensured by specific initiatives (Art 114)
- The above responsibilities make it most likely that the AKIS coordination body is **situated in the RD Managing Authority** of the Ministry of Agriculture,...
- But **supported by (existing) networks/platforms/competence centres** etc: do not reinvent the wheel, make the wheels role and the car move !! Make actors/organisations collaborate (**spider in the web picture**)
- Make up a **roadmap, action plan, targets**, etc

=>>>>> CONCLUSION:

- Take steps according to what fits best to your AKIS, focus & work solution oriented but keeping the ultimate goal of more knowledge flows always in mind
- Frequent **NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION** related to K&I

# Background document: Tool on AKIS

## CAP tool on CCO: AKIS

[8.1 tool for modernisation - akis and digital technologies - on circabc 7 oct 2021.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

- Main new elements in the post 2022 CAP related to AKIS and EIP
  - Obligations
  - Opportunities
- Cornerstones for an AKIS fit for the future
  - EIP-AGRI Operational Group (OG) innovative projects - Art. 77 & 127
  - CAP networking for innovation post 2022 - Art. 126 and Art. 114
  - New and more interactive functions for advisors, innovation support
- How reflect the AKIS Strategic Approach in the CAP plan?



# Tool on AKIS

## CAP tool on CCO: AKIS

- Legal references and their interaction
- Why do we need well-functioning AKIS?
- How to shape an AKIS fit for the future?
- Strengthen knowledge flows and links between research and practice
- Fostering all farm advisors' knowledge and strengthen their interconnections within the AKIS
- Enhancing cross-thematic and cross-border interactive innovation
- Making effective use of information and communication technologies to improve knowledge sharing

# Tool on AKIS + ANNEXES

## CAP tool on CCO: AKIS + Annexes

[8.1 tool for modernisation - akis and digital technologies - on circabc 7 oct 2021.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

- AKIS related impact, result and output indicators
  - Impact indicator (Article 7, Annex I of the SPR)
  - Output indicators (Article 7, Annex I of the SPR)
  - Main Result indicator (Articles 7, 97 and Annex I of the SPR)
- Guidance questions for the assessment of the AKIS strategic approach
- **Annexes – very useful !!!**
  - I. Background information on AKIS
  - II. Why do we need well-functioning AKIS?
  - III. Basics on EIP Operational Groups
  - IV. Innovation related **CAP networking elements** to be brought to the MS' attention when developing their CAP plan
  - V. **Good practices to integrate advisors in the AKIS**
  - VI. Links to Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects
  - VII. Common format for the output of EIP OG projects



# Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



**Driving force: AKIS Coordination Bodies**

# Building and linking AKISs across the EU

*Speed up creativity and  
practice application*

*Better connectivity and  
quicker circulation of  
information*



# Questions?



# Thank you for your attention

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# What activities for AKIS Coordination Bodies in practice?

**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: connect OGs within the MS and across borders**

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

# What activities for AKIS CB in practice:

- 3. More, more frequent and more diverse EIP Operational Group calls.** The EIP now covers all 9 CAP specific objectives: mixing bottom-up calls with thematic calls to have a “**family of EIP calls**” (e.g. OGs on bottom-up grassroots ideas + on specific environmental challenges, on piloting digital tools & measures, on social innovation). New OG types: networks, knowledge hubs, innovation support services, result-based projects. Also initiate **cross-sectorial** and **transnational OGs** and the possibility for **collaboration between OGs within the MS** (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 + provide training to advisors**. **The AKIS system must integrate all** advisors, public and private: no more silos or separated FAS (Farm Advisory System). Holistic and interactive advice, targeted and on-farm. **Mobility** budget for advisors.

# What activities for AKIS CB in practice:

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



## Actions related to AKIS Strategic Approach: **KNOWLEDGE FLOWS**

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,...

# CAP plans post 2020 – main new AKIS issues

-The CAP Strategic Plans regulation provides **many new or improved tools for AKIS** under the Cross-Cutting Objective:

- Farm advice**: MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I, **obligatory training**
- Support for **knowledge exchange** and information events, including for advice, demo and training, **thematic and cross-sectorial events**
- Obligation to provide **innovation support for OGs - from grassroots ideas**
- CAP networks** (Art. 126): will connect **existing OGs to collaborate** & interact with **Horizon Europe NCPs** (seminar June 2021: see EIP website, next seminar AKIS 14-15 June 2023)
- EIP OG projects (Art. 127): **80% cofinancing instead of 43%, whole project lump sums. Advance payments up to 50%** for OGs will help initiatives of smaller partners.
- State Aid derogation till 500.000 Euro project for OGs** (new ABER)
- 100% support for non-productive investments for OGs**

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

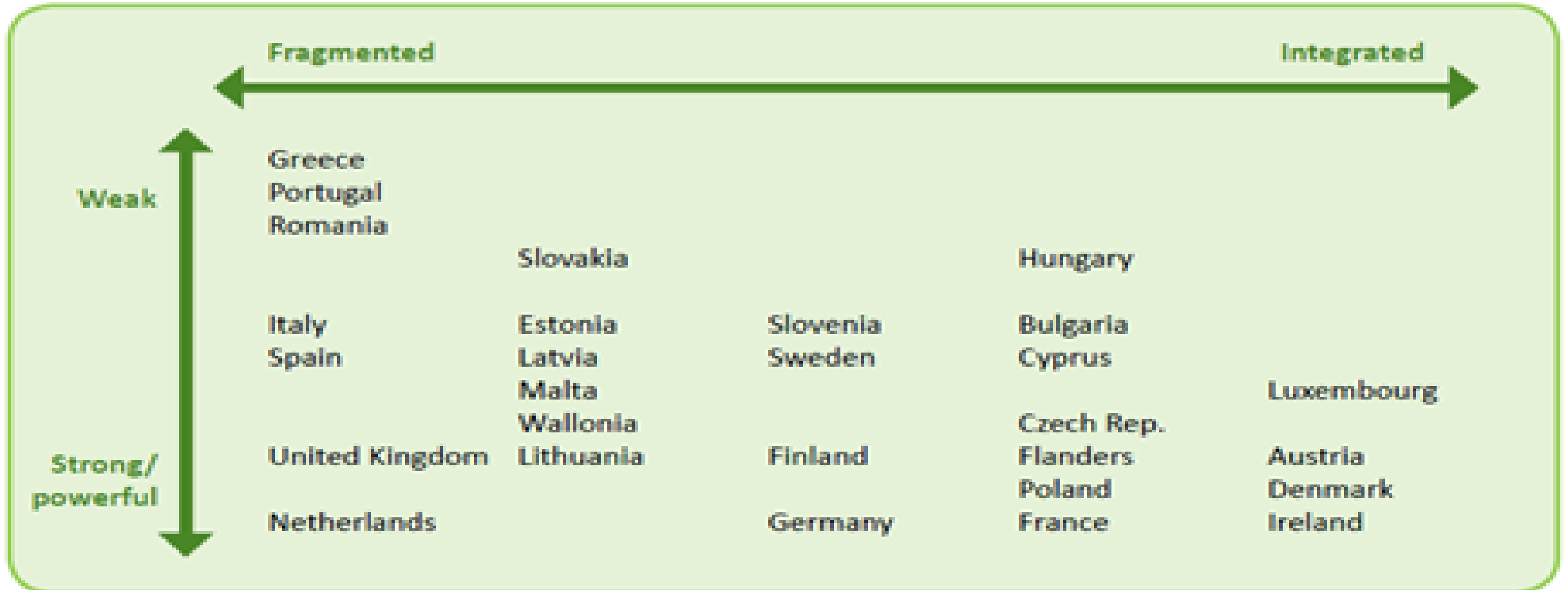


**A good AKIS strategy will bring actors together on a structured and regular basis, creating continuous interaction to speed up knowledge exchange, knowledge flows, innovation and most of all: implementation in practice**



# PROAKIS study: Characterising MS' AKIS

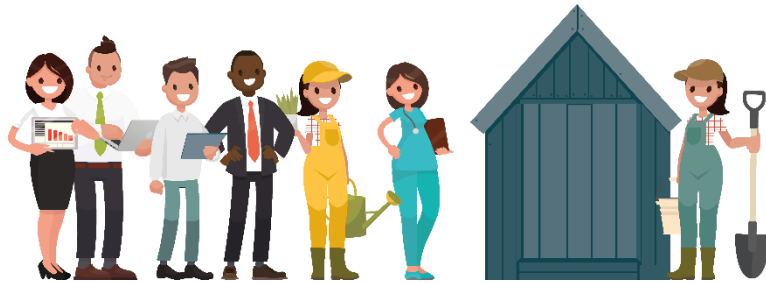
An overview shows the huge diversity,  
thus flexibility needed



# EIP-AGRI

## Connecting policies: the bigger picture

Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)  
(national/regional level)



### Operational Group

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



National CAP Networks

Unique EU knowledge repository  
of contacts and practice abstracts



Spread  
the results



Horizon 2020/Europe (EU level)

- Research projects

**Multi-actor projects, e.g.**

- **Thematic networks**
- **Advisory Networks**



**Involvement of OGs  
strongly  
recommended**

## 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), see **Art 127(3)**:

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 knowledge and innovation network** linking actors: communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs (*Open science*)

"I not only use all the  
brains that I have,  
but all that I can  
borrow"

Woodrow Wilson –  
President of the USA, 1913-1921



**From EIP-AGRI 2014-2020  
to AKIS Strategic Plans 2023-2027 &  
Green Deal relevance:  
We need continuation + change....**





# THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES

**OG projects will cover all 9 CAP objectives and can prepare for CAP measures**



**Cross-cutting objective  
KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION**

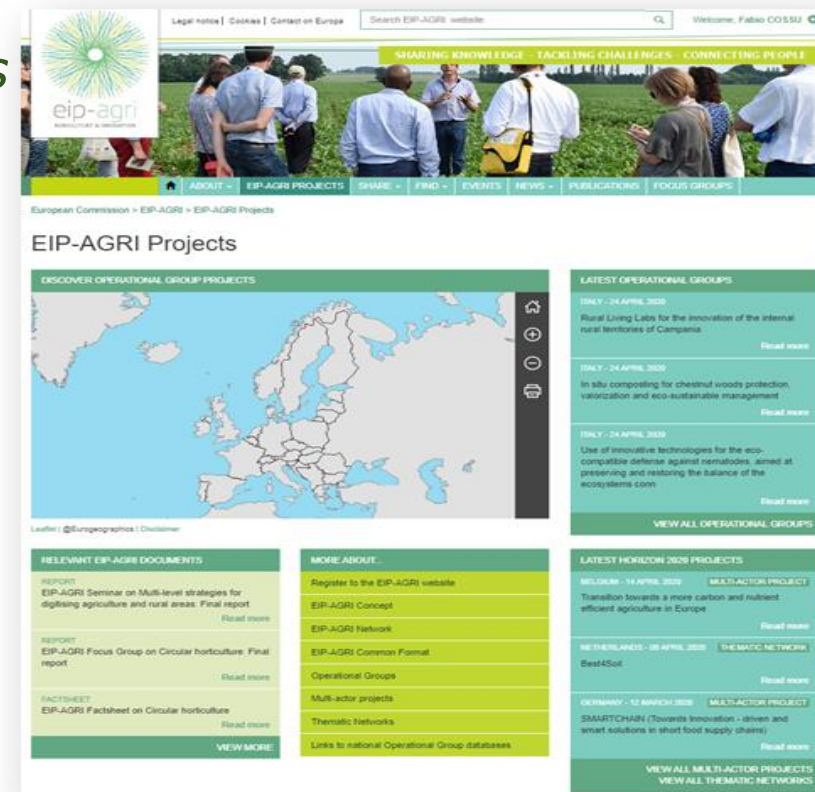


# Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



## 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 running or finished (still 2,5 years to go) = **> 1 bio €**
- ✓ **Next CAP draft plans: almost 3 x more OGs for only 5 years + more variety in interventions** (not only “Agricultural productivity & sustainability”)
- ✓ **Total H2020 & HE: 352 MAA projects** (~49% till 2024)
- ✓ 190 multi-actor projects under Horizon 2014-2020 (two thirds of total projects) for **1 bio Euro** – many more to come.... => A growing and thriving network:



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

[www.eip-agri.eu](http://www.eip-agri.eu)



# **EU CAP Network seminar**

## **‘Fostering an effective and integrated AKIS in Member States’**

14-15 June 2023

Vilnius, Lithuania

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

