



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

Vilnius, Lithuania  
14-15 June 2023



Funded by  
the European Union



# AKIS Coordination Bodies – Examples collected during the ModernAKIS project

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Horizon project 'ModernAKIS'





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# AKIS Coordination Bodies Some examples collected during the modernAKIS project

modernAKIS Consortium  
and selected AKIS Coordination Bodies (Bulgaria, Finland, Austria)



# AGENDA

1. Needs of AKIS Coordination Bodies and key AKIS actors
2. Selected AKIS Coordination Bodies identified
3. Next steps planned



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# 1 Needs identified

# 1 Identifying needs of AKIS Coordination Bodies: the process until now

09/22

11/22

03/23

## Online KOM

- Project partners
- **AKIS CBs not yet appointed**
- Several CAP SPs under evaluation or finalization

## KOM

- Project partners
- **Some AKIS CBs already officially appointed**
- Some CAP SPs approved, some still under evaluation

## AKIS CB GA

- **AKIS CBs officially appointed**
- Key AKIS actors (88 participants)
- All CAP SPs approved, steps towards implementation in place

# 1 Needs identified: A selection

Topic	9/22	11/22	03/23
<b>Role and attributions of AKIS CBs</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>How to concretely support AKIS</b></li> <li>▪ <b>How to effectively implement the AKIS CB</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Overcoming challenges for the AKIS CBs</b></li> </ul>	X	X	X
<b>AKIS</b>	X		X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understanding essence of AKIS and translating the term „AKIS“ in national languages</li> <li>▪ Deepen the understanding of AKIS and value for key AKIS actors</li> <li>▪ How to communicate about AKIS and its practical relevance (to trigger cooperation, overcome cultural barriers, motivate participation)</li> </ul>			
<b>AKIS governance, implementation and evaluation</b>	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Framework for countries with different levels of AKIS coordination</li> <li>▪ Tools and methods to assess interaction between actors and judge the progress of AKIS development; characteristics of a well-functioning AKIS</li> <li>▪ Benchmarking indicators, good practice examples from other countries</li> </ul>			



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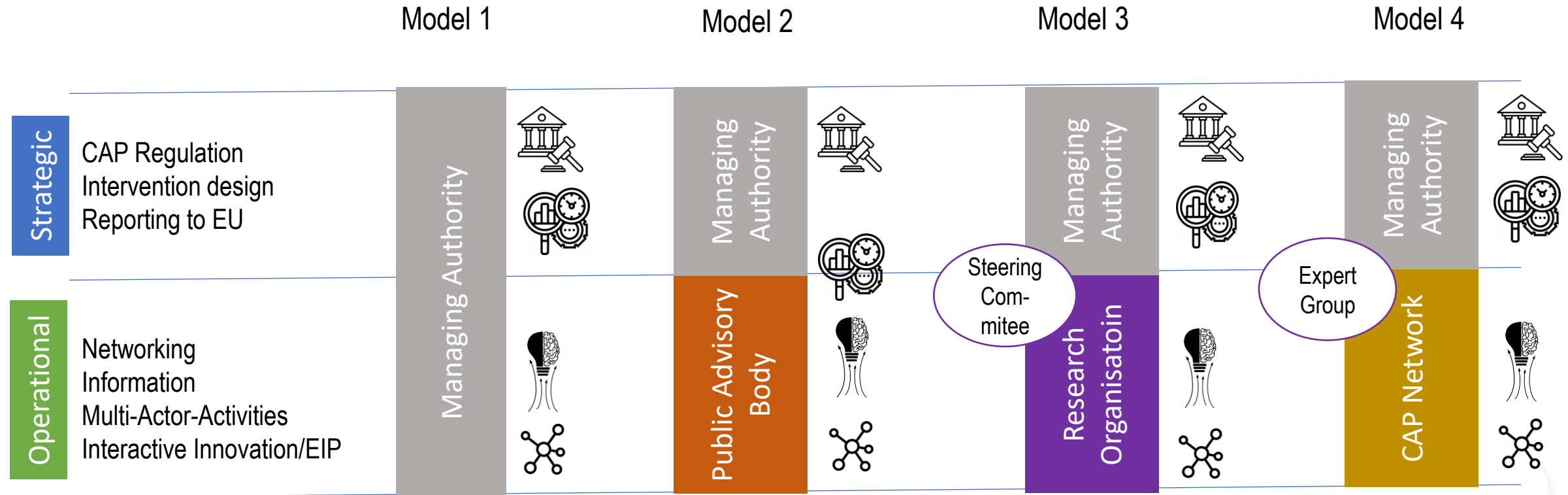
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## 2 AKIS Coordination Body Examples



## 2 AKIS Coordination Bodies: Models identified\*

\* does not include regionalized countries (Italy, France, Spain, Germany)



Formal procedures between strategic and operational level not identified yet

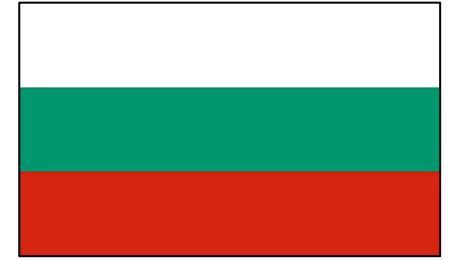
## 2 AKIS Coordination Bodies: Models identified as examples

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Numbers by country	1	1	1	1
Level	national/regional	national	national	national
Type of operational body	not identified	public	public	open (ongoing tender procedure)
Single person/collective unit (contact for EC)	not collected	single person	single person	single person

**Note:**

Questions mentioned in the following slides, have not yet been explored by the project; they may however be already answered/put in place by the AKIS of the respective country.

### 3 Model 2 – AKIS Coordination: Cooperation between Managing Authority and Advisory Service



**AKIS  
Coordination  
Body**

**Affiliation**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry  
Department of Rural Development  
Unit of Knowledge Transfer

**Operational Responsibilities**  
Coordination of the Rural Development Programme / CAP Strategic Plan

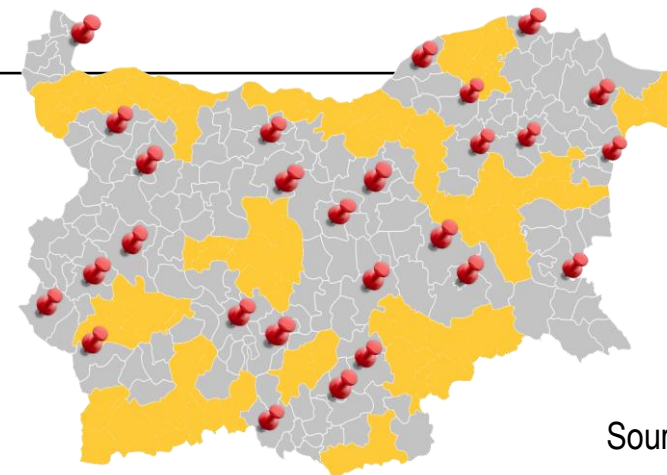


**AKIS  
CB Support**

**Affiliation**  
National Advisory Service

**Operational Responsibilities**

- Support AKIS activities in cooperation with AKIS Coordination Body
- Foster innovation, join EIP OGs
- Provide farm advice



27 regional offices  
28 mobile offices

#### Questions:

*What does the CAP network do for AKIS? What is their role?  
What are researchers doing for AKIS? Are they sufficiently interacting with this AKIS CB/AKIS support duo?  
Is there enough staff/resources for the AKIS coordination?  
(applies to all examples)*

Source: CAP SP Bulgaria, Chapter 8



# 3 Model 2: Cooperation between Managing Authority and Advisory Service

## Priority Areas/Activities

- 1) Disseminate knowledge and innovation that plays a critical role in helping farmers and rural communities address current and future challenges
- 2) Create and foster an interactive online information platform to connect different AKIS stakeholders and support them with knowledge/information materials and links to innovations
- 3) Work closely with EPI-AGRI to support interactive innovative projects at local and transnational levels
- 4) Stimulate, develop and deploy innovative projects, in particular in the field of digital technologies, and disseminate, exploit and maximise the application of their results.
- 5) Combine efforts of agricultural policy institutions, farmers, scientists, extension agents, agricultural and industry associations and the media to support the development of new knowledge and innovative solutions
- 6) Create an enabling environment for more efficient dissemination and implementation of innovations and for better use of existing knowledge to achieve the objectives of the Common

Source: CAP SP Bulgaria, Chapter 8

### 3 Model 2: AKIS Coordination: Cooperation between Managing Authority and Advisory Service

#### **Role and responsibilities/activities of the Managing Authority:**

- steer the implementation of a targeted information campaign related to the promotion of the interventions
- systematize and maintain the information produced and collected by AKIS through the interactive online information platform
- organize thematic working groups involving interested parties in the process of developing CAP programs and measures
- finance activities supported by technical assistance related to the transfer of knowledge and innovation organized by AKIS participants

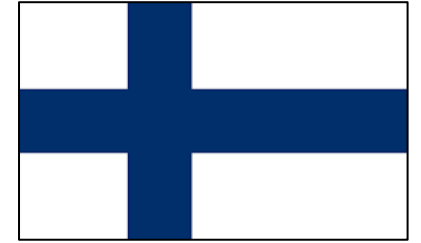
#### **Role and responsibilities/activities of the Public Advisory Service:**

- Implement information services, conferences, working groups
- Create and maintain a networking platform for AKIS participants
- Collect grassroots innovation needs of farmers/practice and create links with other AKIS actors to foster innovation projects, practice-oriented research etc.

**Resources:** CAP interventions and technical assistance

Source: CAP SP Bulgaria, Chapter 8

### 3 Model 3 – AKIS Coordination: Cooperation between Managing Authority and Research Organisation



**AKIS Coordination Body**

**Affiliation**  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland  
Department: Rural Development Unit

**Operational Responsibilities**  
Coordination of Rural Development Programme

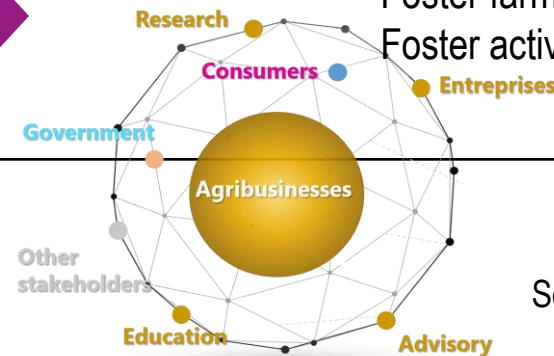
**Steering Committee**  
Since beginning of 2023, there are committed stakeholders in financing and steering the work of AgriHubi  
Farmer’s unions’, advising, research organizations, education, business actors  
Steering group and annual meetings for action planning.  
Enlargened coordination team with HAMK University of Applied Sciences and Ylä-Savo vocational educator.

**AgriHubi**

**Affiliation**  
Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke).

**Structure**  
Collaborative network of research, education and advisory, business, government and other stakeholders.

**Operational Responsibilities**  
Support AKIS activities  
Foster farmer participation in RDI projects  
Foster activities to support farm profitability



Source: Lahnamäki-Kivelä Susanna (LUKE)



### 3 Model 3: Cooperation between Managing Authority and Research Organisation AgriHubi Priority Areas/Activities

#### Question:

*Who does the CAP networking?*

*What is their role for AKIS?*

*Are they independent from this AKIS  
CB/Agrihubi CB duo?*

*How do the advisors fit in and what  
responsibility do they take for AKIS  
knowledge flows?*

**Priority areas:** profitability, farm business management, smart farming, and agricultural data

#### **Activities:**

- strengthening farmers', horticulture entrepreneurs', and their stakeholders' farm business management skills and capacities,
  - enhancing smart farming adopting into the Finnish food system,
  - supporting data sources' and data resources' efficient use for farm management.
- support AKIS–work (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System) in Finland.
- working groups focusing on different issues such as smart farming, education, project planning, AKIS – work, communication.
- continuous discussion with different stakeholders of Finnish AKIS
- strong bond with CAP-network Finland (Maaseutuverkosto) and common activities

Source: Lahnamäki-Kivelä Susanna (LUKE)

# 3 Model 3: AKIS Coordination: Cooperation between Managing Authority and Research Organisation

## AgriHubi

### Role and responsibilities/activities:

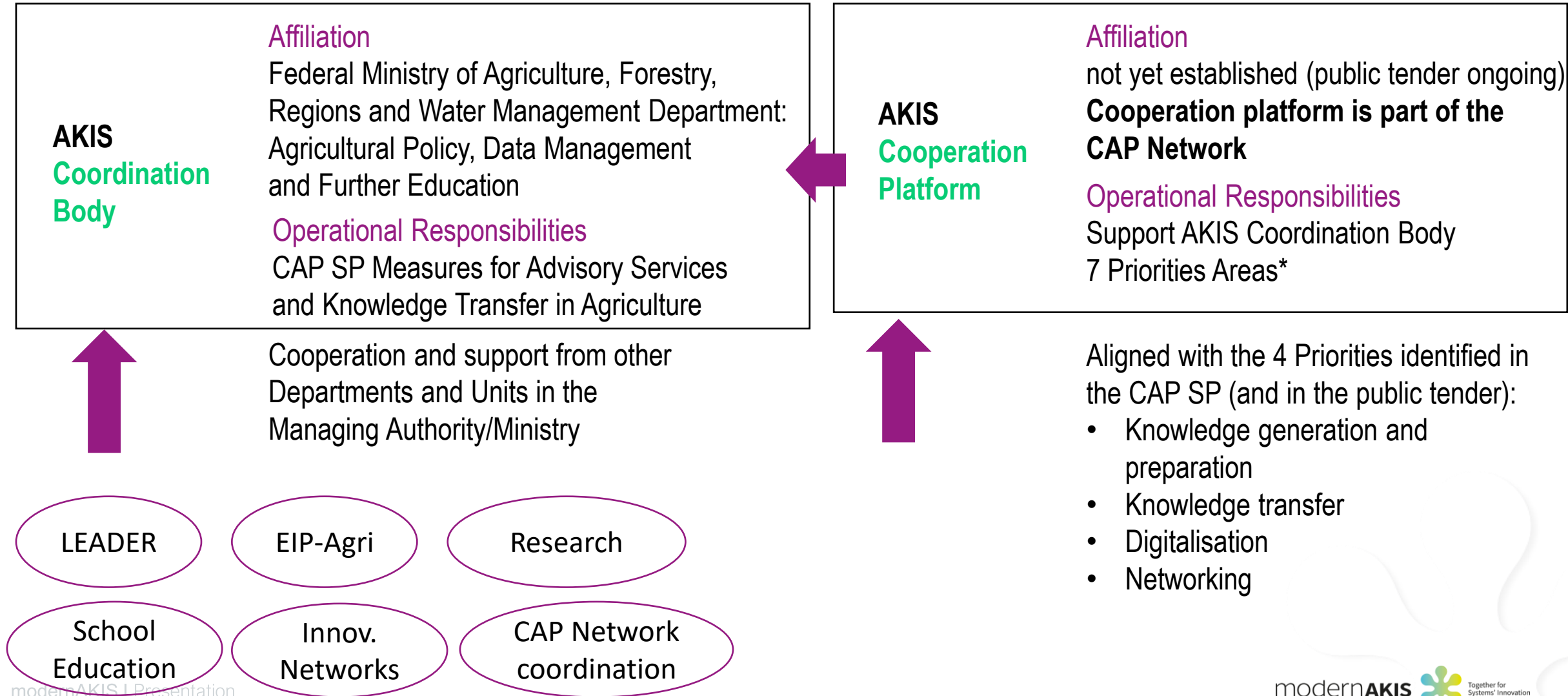
- generate and coordinate cooperation among actors and build new connections on the following topics
  - Business management
  - Data sources and resources
  - Smart farming
- supports farmers participation to RDI – projects → innovations for and with practice
- fosters and develops an open network

### Resources:

- coordination team has coordinator, communications specialist and senior scientists and a professor to run and discuss of the daily basis work
- 2021 - 2022: Financing through Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- 2023 – 2025: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of Education financing operations among committed stakeholders

Source: Lahnamäki-Kivelä Susanna (LUKE)

### 3 Model 4 – AKIS Coordination: Cooperation between Managing Authority and CAP Network





### 3 Model 4: AKIS Coordination: Cooperation between Managing Authority and CAP Network AKIS Cooperation Platform: Priority Areas\*

Questions:

*Where do researchers fit in?*

*What roles, how connected to knowledge flows?*

- Communicate/disseminate the function and benefits of an effective AKIS
- Improve exchange between AKIS actors, for example keep advisors as obligatory partner in EIP OGs
- Promote research and innovation needs from practice, even if the collection may often be done by advisors, who meet farmers on a daily basis
- Provide support in opening up the research and innovation process
- Increase knowledge transfer into practice: more tools and channels, beyond what advisors are already doing)
- Increase participation in national and international research and innovation activities
- Strengthen networking and exchange with relevant actors and initiatives at European level

\*Source: „A sustainable knowledge and innovation system for Austrian agriculture, Idea paper for the development of the Austrian AKIS”, Part of public tender call documentation

### 3 Model 4: AKIS Coordination: Cooperation between Managing Authority and CAP Network AKIS Cooperation Platform\*

#### **Role and responsibilities/activities:**

- support AKIS Coordination Body in defined priority areas
- closely cooperate with key AKIS actors to create synergies (“integrate, don’t duplicate!”)
- closely coordinate with EIP-Agri Broker (also part of the CAP Network) and the CAP network to create value for farmers, foresters and AKIS-stakeholders
- execute activities according to a yearly plan, prioritized from key AKIS actors’ needs and approved by the Managing Authority/AKIS Coordination Body

#### **Resources:**

- Efforts aligned with the approved activities in the yearly CAP network plan (subject to approval; processes of the CAP Network)
- Financing from CAP Technical Assistance funds

\* Source: „A sustainable knowledge and innovation system for Austrian agriculture, Idea paper for the development of the Austrian AKIS”, Part of public tender call documentation

### 3 Model 4: AKIS Cooperation Platform: Competences explicited\*

#### **Technical expertise (not comprehensive)**

- a. Deep understanding of AKIS infrastructure, knowledge and innovation processes, co-creation methods for interactive development of novel solutions
- b. Understanding and knowledge of the future-relevant system areas of AKIS, including essential topics in agriculture and forestry, rural development, education and training as well as extension and research, digitalisation and climate protection.
- c. Very good knowledge of the AKIS in Austria and its functioning as well as of the central AKIS actors.

#### **Knowledge of methods (not comprehensive)**

- a. Expertise, experience and competences related to active networking.
- b. Expertise and experience in targeted support of innovation and participation processes (Open Innovation Competence).
- c. Expertise and experience in the context of knowledge transfer for e.g. educators, advisors,...- methodical-didactical as well as technical.

#### **Network to relevant AKIS actors (not comprehensive)**

- a. Established interface with good connections to national and international AKIS, interface and experience in cooperation with the administrative bodies responsible for AKIS.
- b. Access to AKIS-relevant national and international committees, networks and experts, especially in those areas that are currently not or only slightly active in AKIS.
- c. Access to a network of experts in order to implement activities in specific CAP-relevant fields.

\*Source: „A sustainable knowledge and innovation system for Austrian agriculture, Idea paper for the development of the Austrian AKIS”, Part of public tender call documentation





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# 3 Next steps to support AKIS Coordination

## 4 Next steps in modernAKIS to support AKIS Coordination Bodies

- Systematically collect on AKIS Coordination Body structures, functions and processes in Europe through the modernAKIS partners and provide information to the AKIS CBs
- Facilitate experience and knowledge exchange on coordination activities at the AKIS Coordination Bodies General Assemblies (next one **November 2023**)
- Create and provide a capacity development event on governance of AKIS, especially the coordination

# 5 Acknowledgement

We would like to thank

Hristo Todorov, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Bulgaria

Tiina Hartman, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, Finland

Susanna Lahnamäki-Kivelä, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), Finland

Markus Stadler, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria

for supporting the modernAKIS project in collecting the information for this presentation.



Proudly say  
**Thank you**

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# **EU CAP Network seminar**

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

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

