



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

Vilnius, Lithuania  
14-15 June 2023



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# AKIS coordination in Estonia

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REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS

AKIS coordination in Estonia

# Helena Pärenson

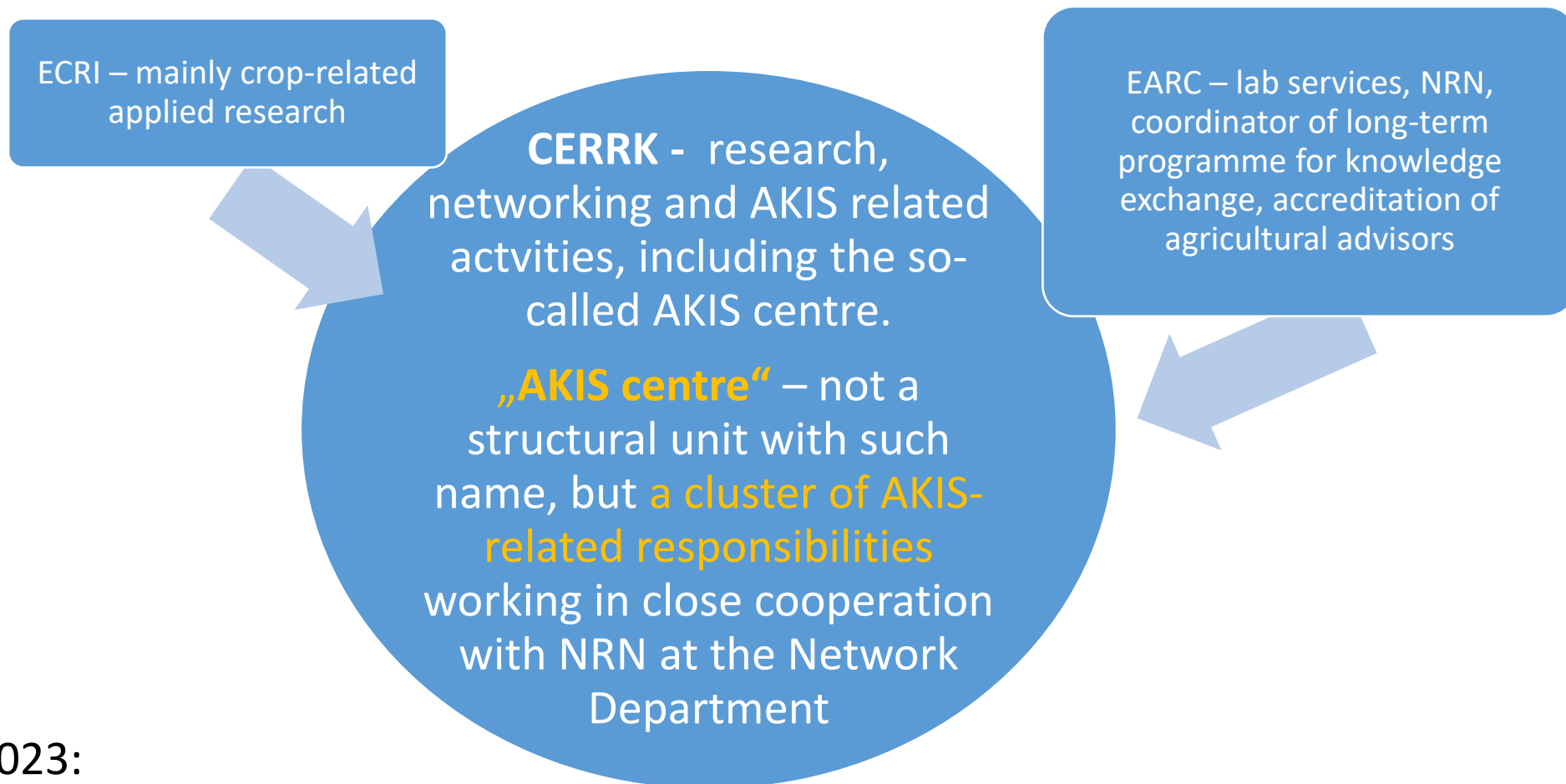
## Research and Development Department

EU CAP Network seminar  
Vilnius, 14-15 June 2023

# National vs regional

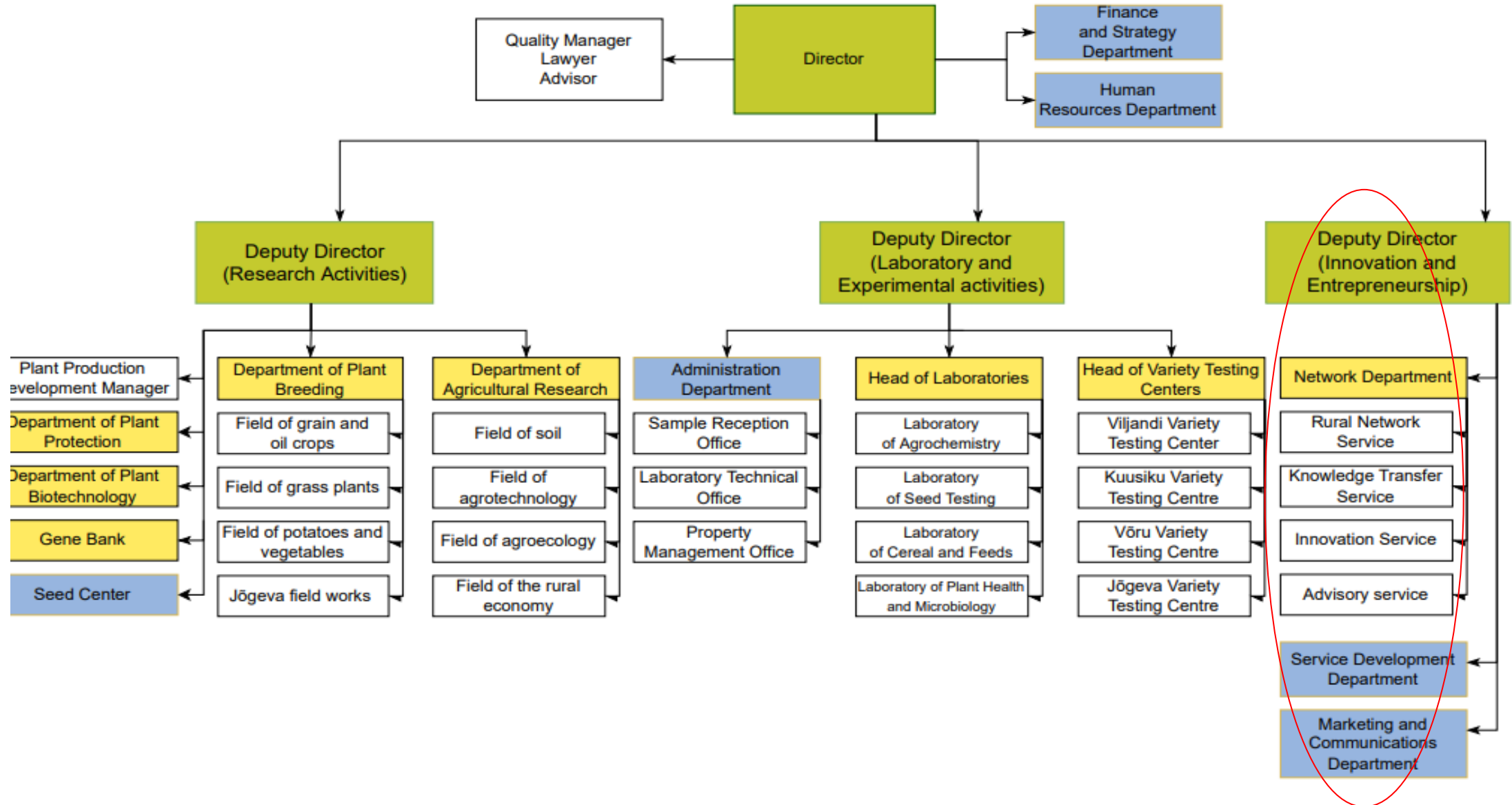
- Estonian CAP SP– one national-level strategy
- AKIS organisation based on the **one door** principle
- However, regional specifics need to be considered (accessibility, topics, language)
- Knowledge reservoir, online trainings etc ICT tools help to level out regional disadvantages (remote areas)

## Institutional reform towards AKIS in 2023

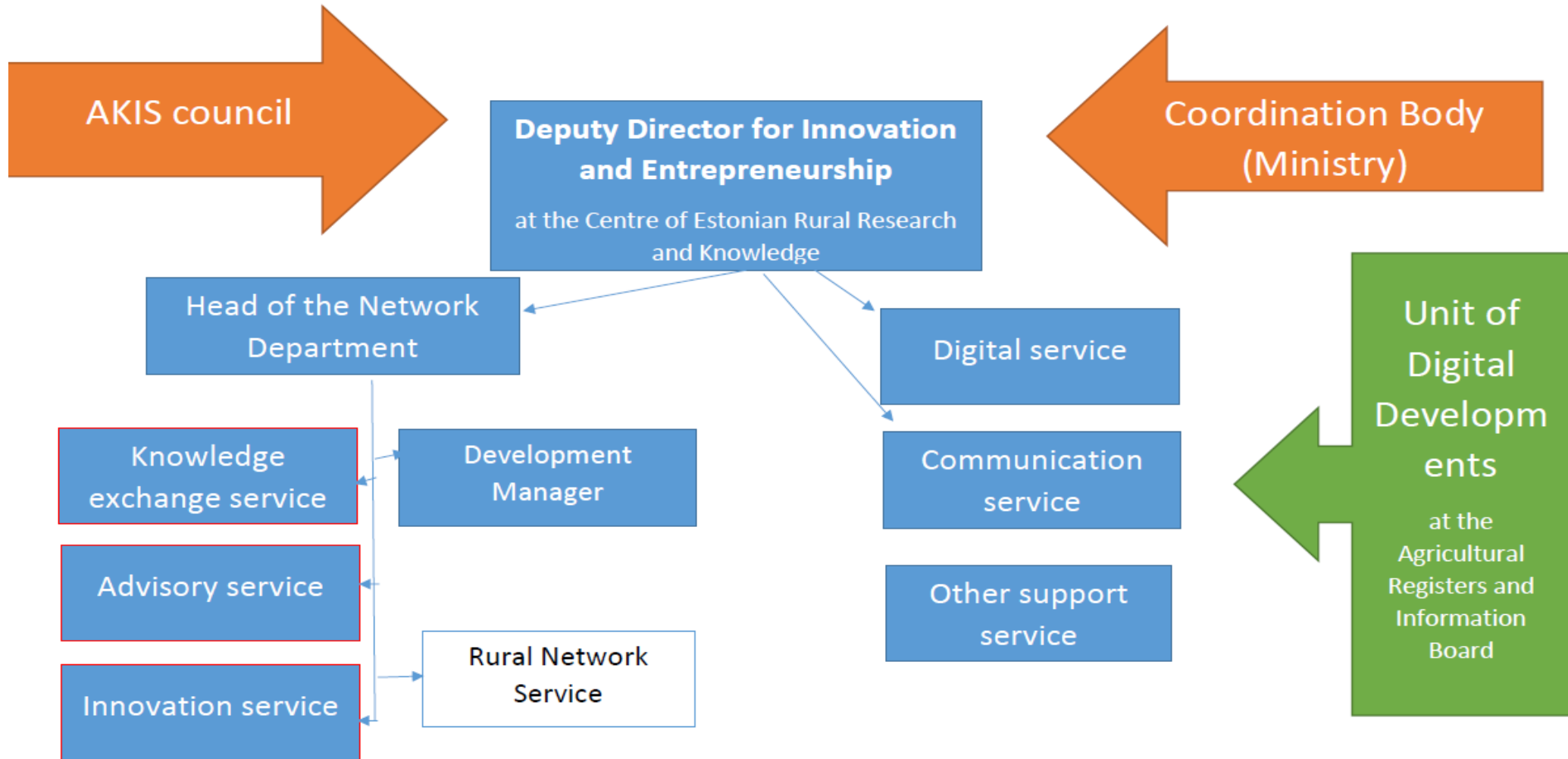


Jan 2023:

Estonian Crop Research Institute and Estonian Agricultural Research Centre were merged into the Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge



One door principle – the structure of the „AKIS centre“



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- AKIS centre is the **implementing body** for AKIS activities and responsible for coordinating the advisory services, knowledge exchange and innovation support.
- Input and strategic guidance for the AKIS centre derives from two directions – the **AKIS council** (stakeholders, the sector's interests) and the **CB** at the Ministry (strategic guidance, national and EU perspective)
- The staff at the AKIS centre is not necessarily the advisor, the trainer, the lecturer at a seminar, etc – the emphasis is on the **coordination. Cooperation** and *ad hoc* involvement of the university staff, independent advisors, experts, leading farmers, etc is essential.
- The work related to ICT development is carried out by the experts at ARIB in close cooperation with the AKIS centre.



# Intervention 0.1: Developing AKIS - the functions of the AKIS centre

## **AKIS development**

- Analyses Estonian AKIS as a whole
  - Maps the development trends
- Promotes the KT and A services
  - Facilitates cooperation in Estonia and abroad

## **Advisory Service**

- Manages the rendering of supported advice
    - Assures quality of the service
  - Maintains the database of advisors
  - Filters research information for field advisors
  - Plans and organises training of the existing as well as new advisors
- Networking of advisors

## **Knowledge Exchange**

- Coordinates and organises various activities for knowledge transfer and information exchange
- Monitors the needs for information and training
- Manages the distribution of AKIS vouchers (incl reporting)

## **Digital Solutions**

- Maintaining and updating the Knowledge Reservoir
  - Helpdesk for other units, advisors, etc AKIS actors on using digital solutions

# Intervention 0.1: Developing AKIS

- Some highlights in **knowledge transfer** activities:
- More **diverse formats of training** activities possible, such as:
  - advisor/researcher work shadowing programmes
  - joint study trips for **mixed group** of farmers/advisors/researchers
- AKIS **vouchers**
- **Knowledge reservoir** as a multifunctional online portal for AKIS-related information (one gate to access information, events calendar, training handouts, etc).
- Special attention: new entrants in agriculture (currently, some prior experience is needed to be considered eligible for trainings)
- The goal is **better cooperation, better coordination, better responsiveness to feedback**

## Intervention 0.1: Developing AKIS

- Some highlights in **advisory services coordination**:
- Coordination of the services will be part of the AKIS centre (0.1), while 0.2 (Advisory Services) will cover the cost of the advice provided to the client.
- **Diversified formats**: individual advice, group actions (discussion groups), online consultations, mentoring, self-service in knowledge reservoir, vouchers, ....
- **Collaboration** (mixing advisors with researchers), **integration** with other AKIS players.
- Attention to next generation of advisors → a scheme for **new advisors**, involving retired advisors as mentors for the beginners.
- Need to nurture the motivation of the existing advisors; various types of (obligatory) **training**.
- **Promoting** advisory and knowledge exchange services to clients.



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Thank you for your attention!

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

