





## Knowledge e-wallet: Voucher system for training and advice

Els Lapage Flemish Government, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries





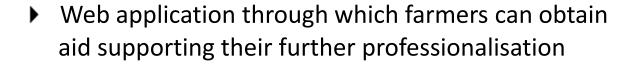
### "Knowledge e-wallet" Voucher system for training and advice

Els Lapage,
AKIS Coordination Body
Managing Authority
Flemish Government,
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries





#### Knowledge e-wallet?





- Fixed budget that farmers can spend on advice and/or training during a certain period
  - Training: with the aim of improving the current or future operation/functioning of the farm
  - Advice: one-to-one targeted advice
- Active farmers have access
  - Training can be attended by the farmer, his employees and/or family members living on the farm
- Aid is obtained when purchasing advice and/or training provided by registered service providers = advisors and trainers

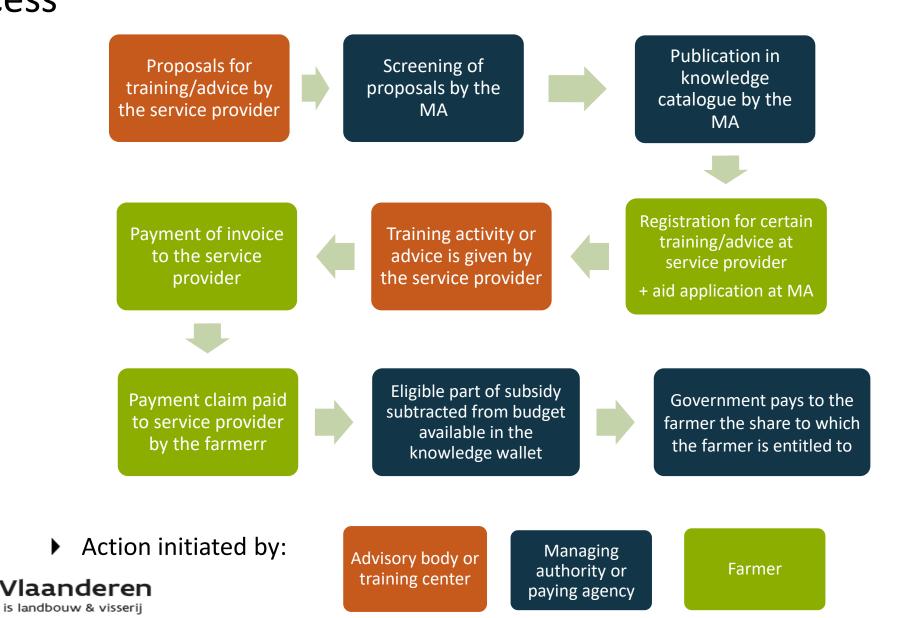


#### Knowledge e-wallet?

- ▶ Farmers can choose freely how to spend the subsidy budget whether on advice and/or training
- ▶ Farmers free to choose their <u>preferred</u> service provider
- ▶ Training/advice about ecological, economical and social topics
- One fixed aid percentage
  - Will be evaluated
- Selection criteria for registration of service providers
  - Same registration system as for advisory bodies and training centers providing services to SMEs. Criteria:
    - × Activity: professional approach for organization training/advice
    - × <u>Experience</u>: knowledge and skills needed to provide services: the specific expertise is in house or may be hired in
    - × A system is used to measure <u>customer satisfaction</u>
    - × Integrity: service providers comply with laws and regulations
  - Advisors have no conflict of interest and are <u>impartial</u>



#### **Process**



#### Knowledge e-wallet - Remarks

#### Farmer = initiator and beneficiary

- × Tailored to the farm
- × Makes him more critical towards the services provided
- × <u>All</u> farmers in Flanders have <u>equal</u> right to a knowledge wallet with the same amount

#### Market/competitive forces improve ratio price/quality

× Providers will be chosen by farmers: they will have to demonstrate they are delivering high quality services for a reasonable price

#### Distribution of the budget between farmers over CAP period

- × Difficult to predict what farmers will spend
- × Close monitoring planned. Modifications of AKIS budget in the CAP plan may be needed in the future if the intervention has more success than budget.
- Flexibility in themes, formats => work load for Managing Authority
  - × Only one aid percentage
  - × Self-check for Service providers



#### Knowledge e-wallet - Remarks

 Vocational training = combination of 2 interventions, one demanddriven and one organised topdown

|                             | Knowledge e-wallet                        | Vocational training program  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
|                             | Demand-driven                             | Topdown  |
| Who decides on the content? | Farmer (who pays to the service provider) | Vocational training centers based on request from MA   |
| Application                 | Per training/advisory activity            | Yearly call  |
| Type of training            | More specialized, targeted                | Low threshold, pro-active themes   |
| Aid percentage              | > 70%                                     | 100%   |
| Participants                | Farmer, family members, employees         | Farmers, family members, employees, starters, advisors registered for the Knowledge e-wallet, teachers |





# Thank you for your attention!

Questions? Els.lapage@lv.vlaanderen.be



# 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

