



1st European CAP Network workshop 'National networking for innovation'

Tallinn, Estonia
30 November – 1 December 2023

European CAP Strategic Plan framework for National CAP Networks' role in AKIS

Inge Van Oost
DG AGRI, D.1 Rural areas and networks, European Commission

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Post-2020

**European knowledge and innovation
strategy in agriculture and rural areas**

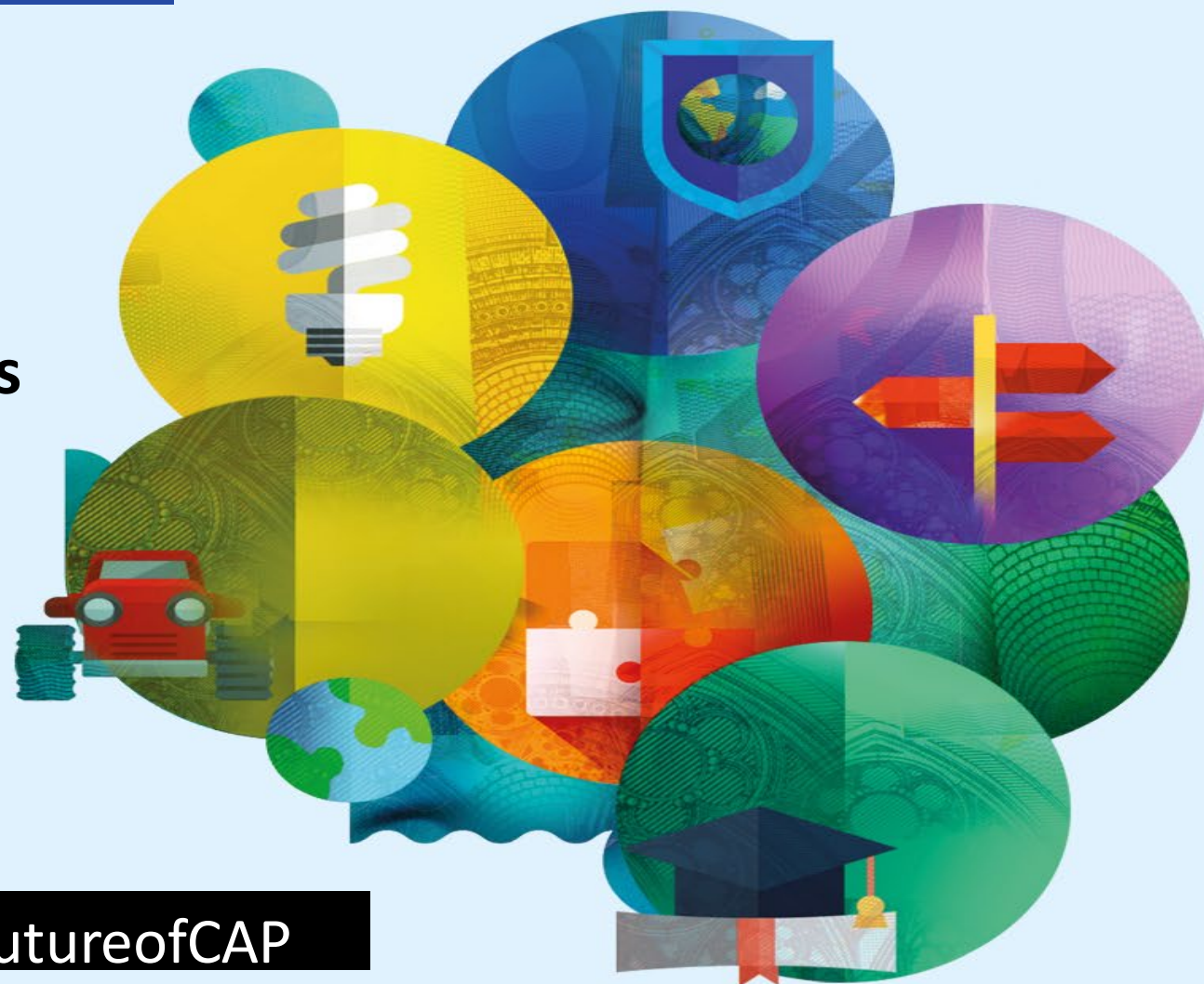
*European CAP Strategic Plan
framework for National CAP
Networks' role in AKIS*

Inge Van Oost

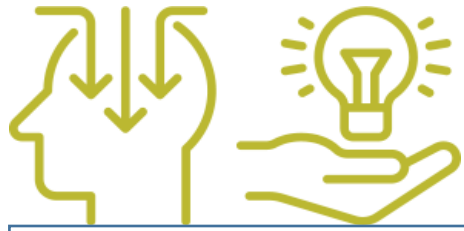
European Commission - DG AGRI

National CAP Networks' workshop on AKIS

30 November- 1 December 2023



#FutureofCAP



The AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem

Today's BO1 – what is AKIS and how NN stimulate knowledge flows

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

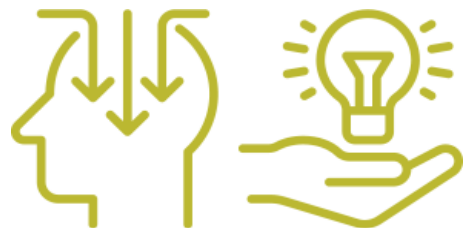
AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem =>

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)



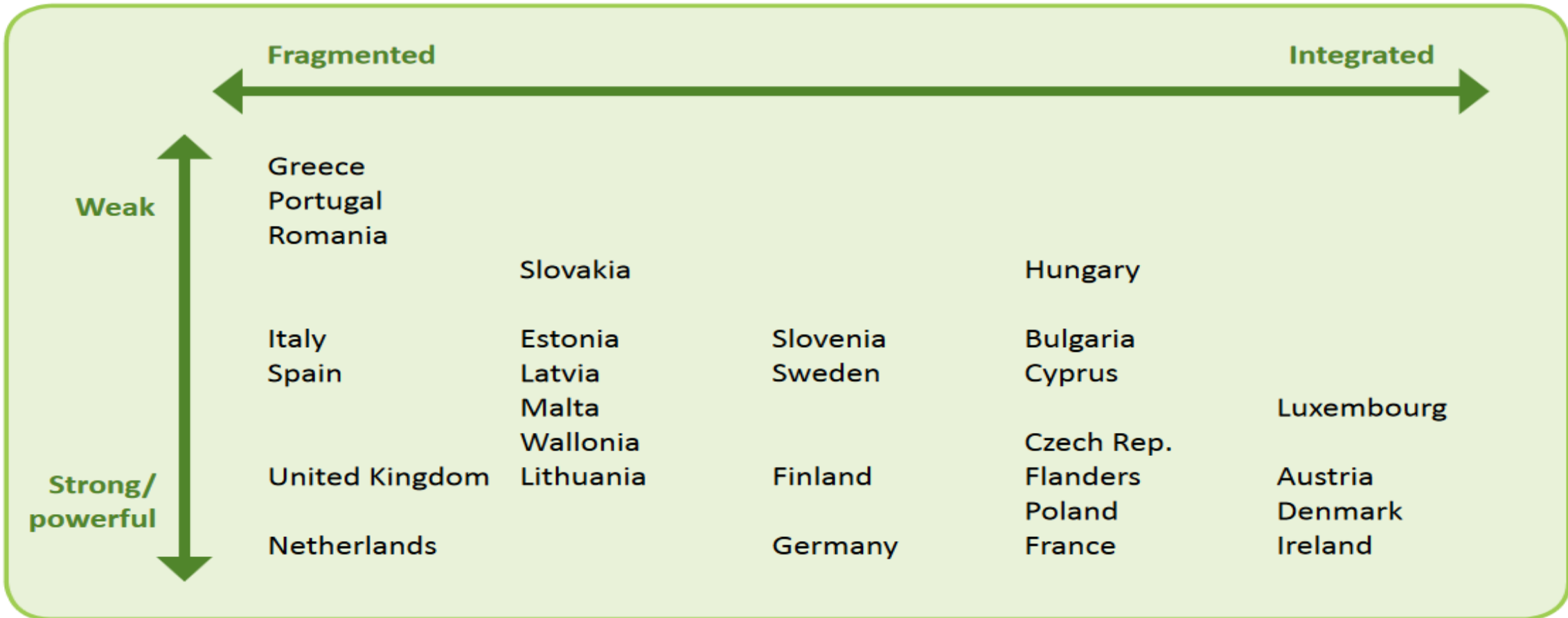
Where does the AKIS policy come from?

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 or ask to you a paper copy:

https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-10/report-preparing-for-future-akis-in-europe_en_0.pdf

PROAKIS study: Characterising MS' AKIS

An overview (2014)



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

What types of knowledge can we differentiate?

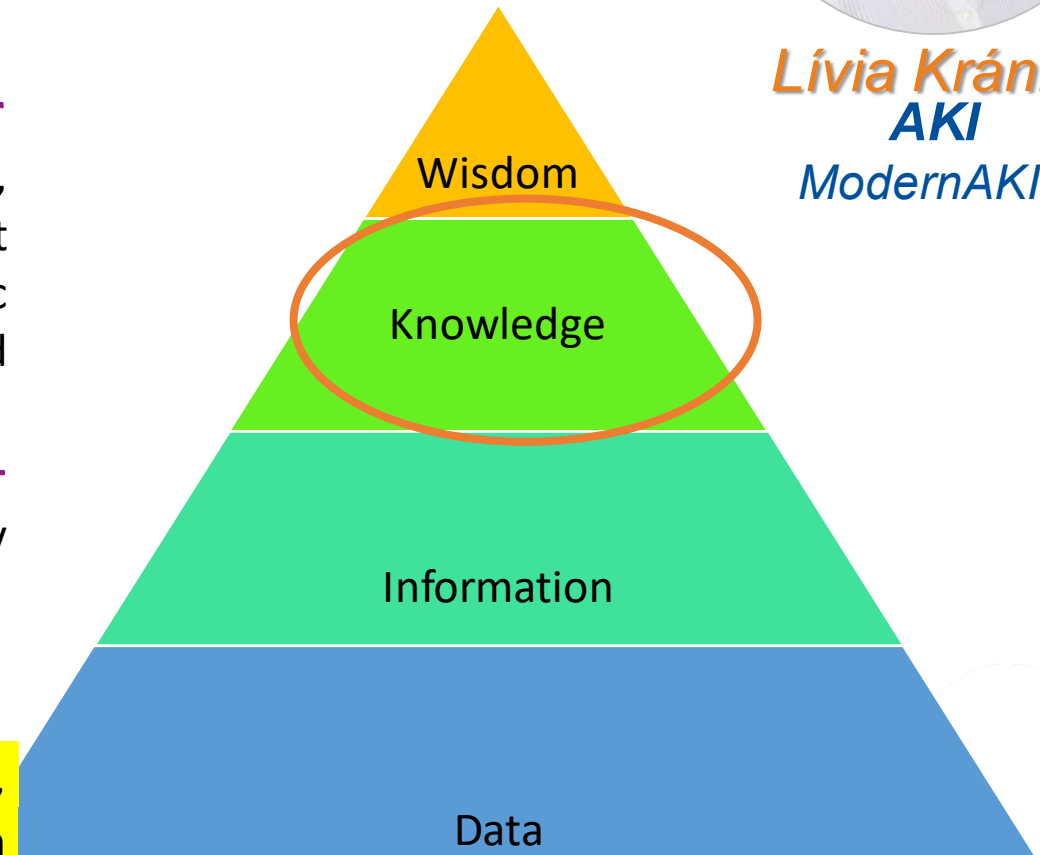
Two main types of knowledge (Klerkx and Proctor (2013)):

Scientists' knowledge (codified or explicit knowledge or know-what and know-why): is a standardized knowledge, which can be systematized, written, stored and transferred. It can be reported and documented (e.g. through scientific reports), although it may require translation into more adapted knowledge, suited for practical application.

Farmers' knowledges (implicit, tacit knowledge or know-how): as implicit, local, context-dependent, inherently intangible and results from talents, experience and abilities.

The two different forms of knowledge are **complementary**, and one knowledge form may **transform** into another form through **different types of interaction**.

DIKW pyramid



Livia Kránitz
AKI
ModernAKIS

Different terminologies

	KNOWLEDGE FLOW	KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE	KNOWLEDGE SHARING	KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER
Definition	Encompasses the movement of knowledge across people, organizations, places, and time, reflecting changes and applications with a multi-dimensional perspective (Nonaka, 1994).	Involves the dynamic processes of generating, sharing, and utilizing knowledge tailored to the context and participants involved (Fazey et al., 2013).	The process of encouraging individuals to collectively appropriate knowledge through open sharing and discussion, without insisting on absolute truth (Sylvian et al., 2022).	A linear model of knowledge uptake that requires effective packaging and communication of knowledge. (Pütz & Brassel, 2021). Knowledge transfer primarily focuses on the one-way flow of information, where one party (the source) imparts knowledge to another party (the recipient).
Purpose	To visualize and manage the diverse dimensions of knowledge and enabling effective circulation across global organizations and contexts (Nissen, 2007).	Enable effective sharing, coproduction, and management of knowledge among participants, promoting collaborative learning and decision-making, innovation (Fazey et al., 2013).	The purpose of knowledge sharing is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge among individuals and within organizations (Wang & Noe, 2010).	Generate, share, and effectively utilize knowledge across various contexts and participants (Szulanski & Jensen, 2004). The goal is for the recipient to acquire and apply the knowledge effectively.

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

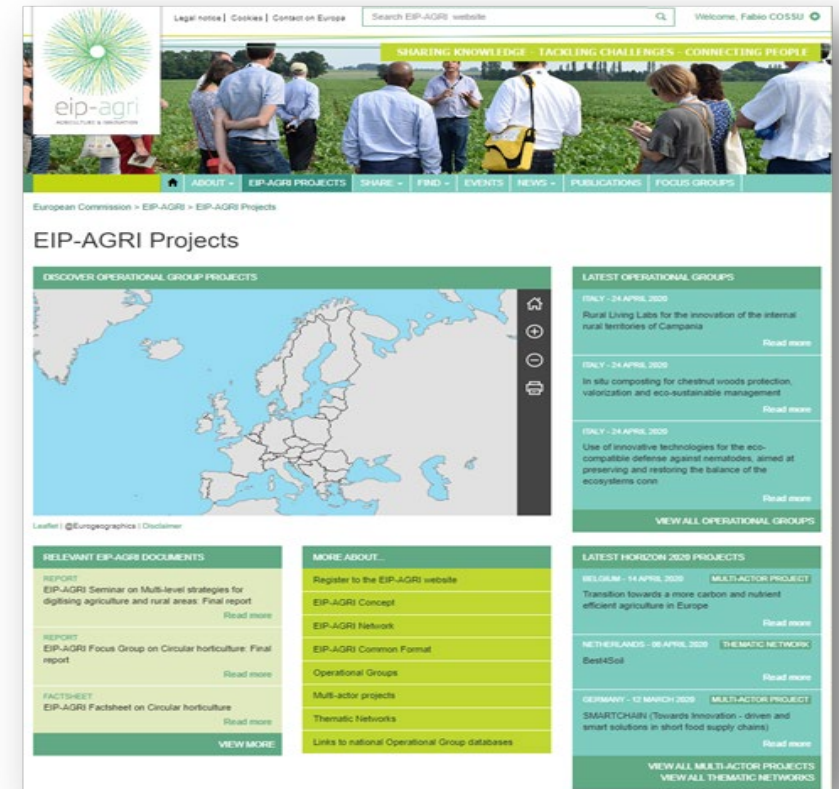


Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



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 3200 OGs running or finished (still 2 years to go): **>1 bio €**
- ✓ **Next CAP draft plans: 6631 OGs for only 5 years= tripling the number of OGs per year + more variety in scope** (not only “Agricultural Productivity and sustainability”)
- ✓ 190 multi-actor projects under Horizon 2014-2020 (two thirds of total projects) for **> 1 bio Euro** – again many more to come.... => A growing and thriving network
- ✓ **Total H2020 & HE: 352 MAA projects** (~49% **till 2024**)



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

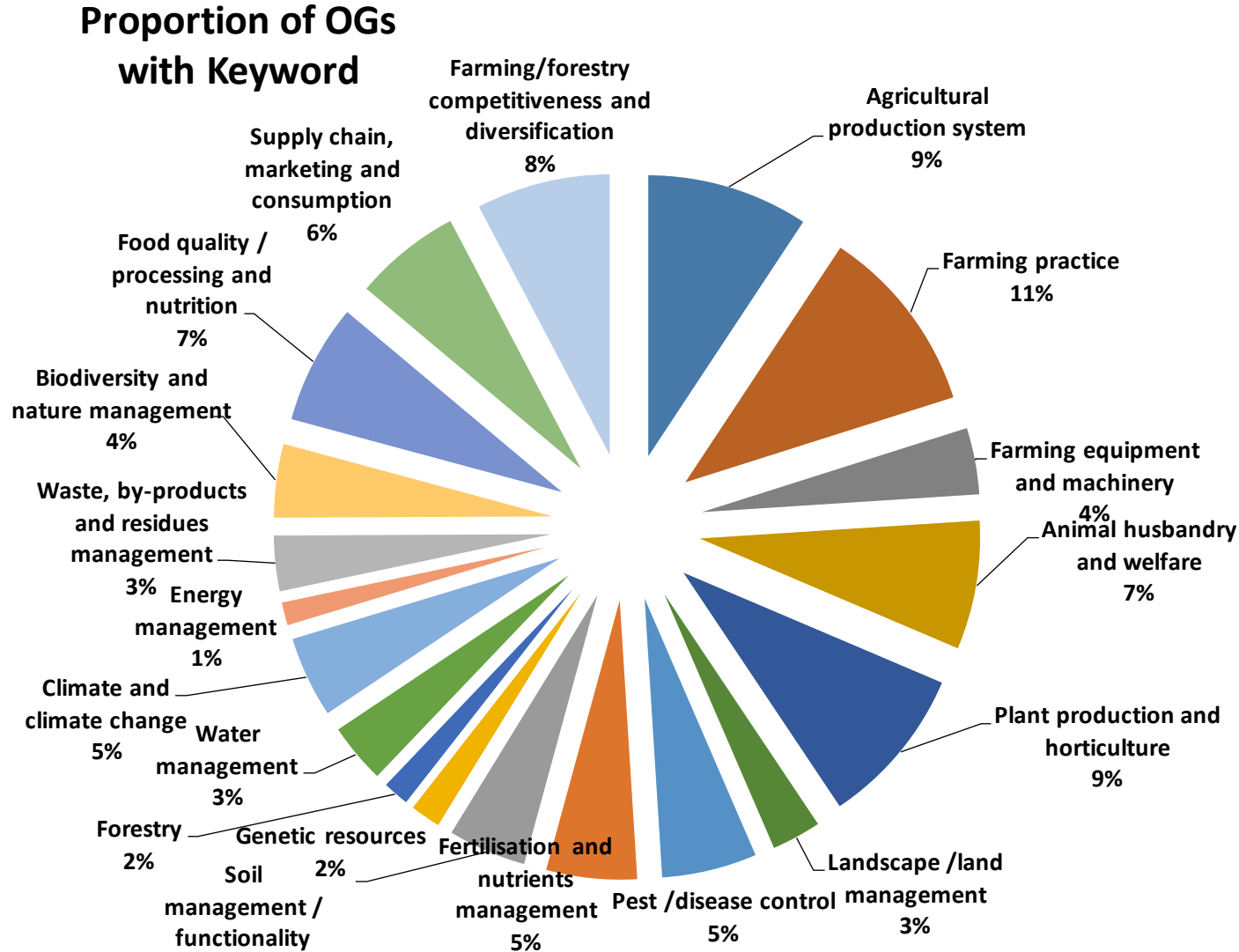
www.eip-agri.eu

A wide variety of OG project subjects:

Green Deal 'avant la lettre': many OGs on environmental-climate issues

OG projects even act as a test bed for CAP measures

(see IE example - EIP seminar Sep 2021)



Focus on environment & climate

- Sustainable pest/disease control
- Smatr fertilisation / Soil quality
- Animal and plant health
- Supply chain innovation
- Biodiversity management
- Organic farming productivity
- Digital-based solutions
- ...and more

Source: European Commission – official data in SFC (Oct 2023)

Note: dissemination obligation only after the project finished, so not all running projects are included

Provisions on modernisation in the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation post 2020

Funding innovative projects.....

**.....will now be supported by a whole
innovation ecosystem systematically
interlinking people and projects (AKIS)**

EIP-AGRI is connecting policies: the bigger picture (How to find each other? => AKIS needed)

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



Operational Group

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



National CAP
Networks

Horizon 2020/Europe
(EU level)

- Research projects

Multi-actor projects, e.g.

- Thematic Networks (some built on OGs)
- Advisory Networks



Unique EU knowledge repository
of contacts and practice abstracts

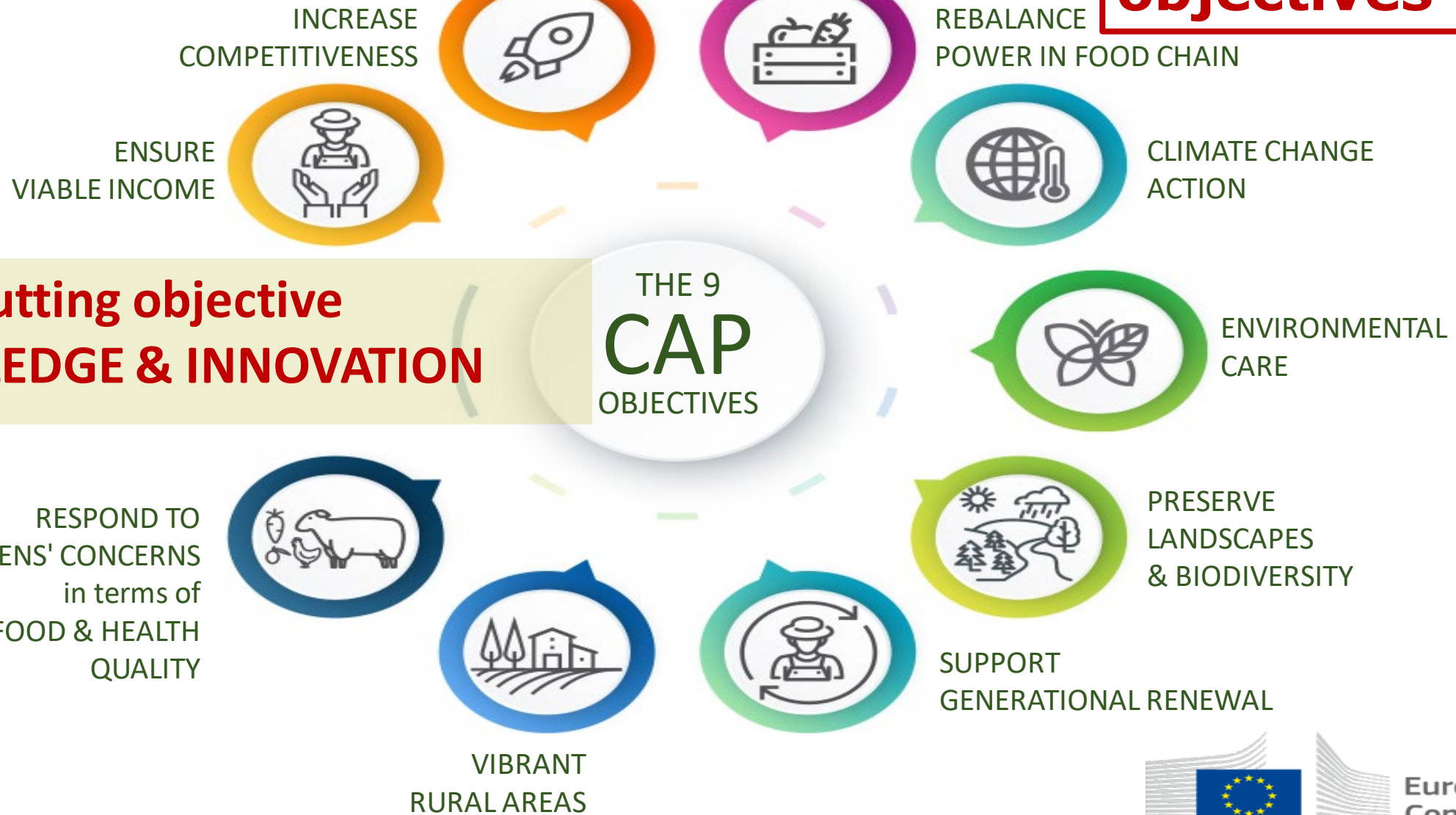


**Involvement of OGs
strongly
recommended**



THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES

OG projects will cover all 9 CAP objectives



**Cross-cutting objective
KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION**

Same principles in AKIS as in the EIP-AGRI



- Apply the overarching "*Open innovation*":

The AKIS concept is based on the **interactive innovation model** (applied in RD Operational Groups and H2020 Multi-Actor projects):

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

Legal provisions - background document

1) AKIS in CAP Strategic Plans (Art.114)

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, and
- **How advice and innovation support are provided**

2. A description of the strategy for the development of **digital technologies** in agriculture and rural areas

2) Farm advice organised within the AKIS structures in CAP Strategic plans (art 78 & 15) – fundamental changes

- ✓ *Advising farmers and other beneficiaries of CAP support to be included in the CAP plans (Art 15(1) => importance of sharing the public list of impartial advisors and their specialisations / expertise on the Nat. Networks'/Ministry's website (also for synergy with Horizon MA projects, enabling them to find the advisors for their consortium)*
- ✓ ***All advisors shall be integrated within the AKIS in an inclusive way (Art 79), to be able to cover **economic, environmental and social dimensions** and to **deliver up-to-date technological and scientific information** developed by R&I (“qualifying” advisors)***
- ✓ *Advisors must be **impartial** and provide Innovation support, in particular for preparing and implementing Operational Group projects of the EIP AGRI*
- ✓ *Obligatory regular **training** for advisors*

3) CAP rules 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 Knowledge&Innovation, **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(4)(e)): will connect **existing OGs to collaborate** & make AKIS actors interact, including with **Horizon Europe multi-actor projects and NCPs** (inspiration in AKIS seminar 2020 & 2023, AKIS NN wkshop Nov 2023)
 - EIP Operational Groups (Art. 127): **80% EU-cofunding instead of the normal 43%**
 - 100% support for non-productive investments for OGs**
 - Advance payments up to 50%** for OGs
 - State Aid derogation till 500.000 Euro per OG project: no notification needed**

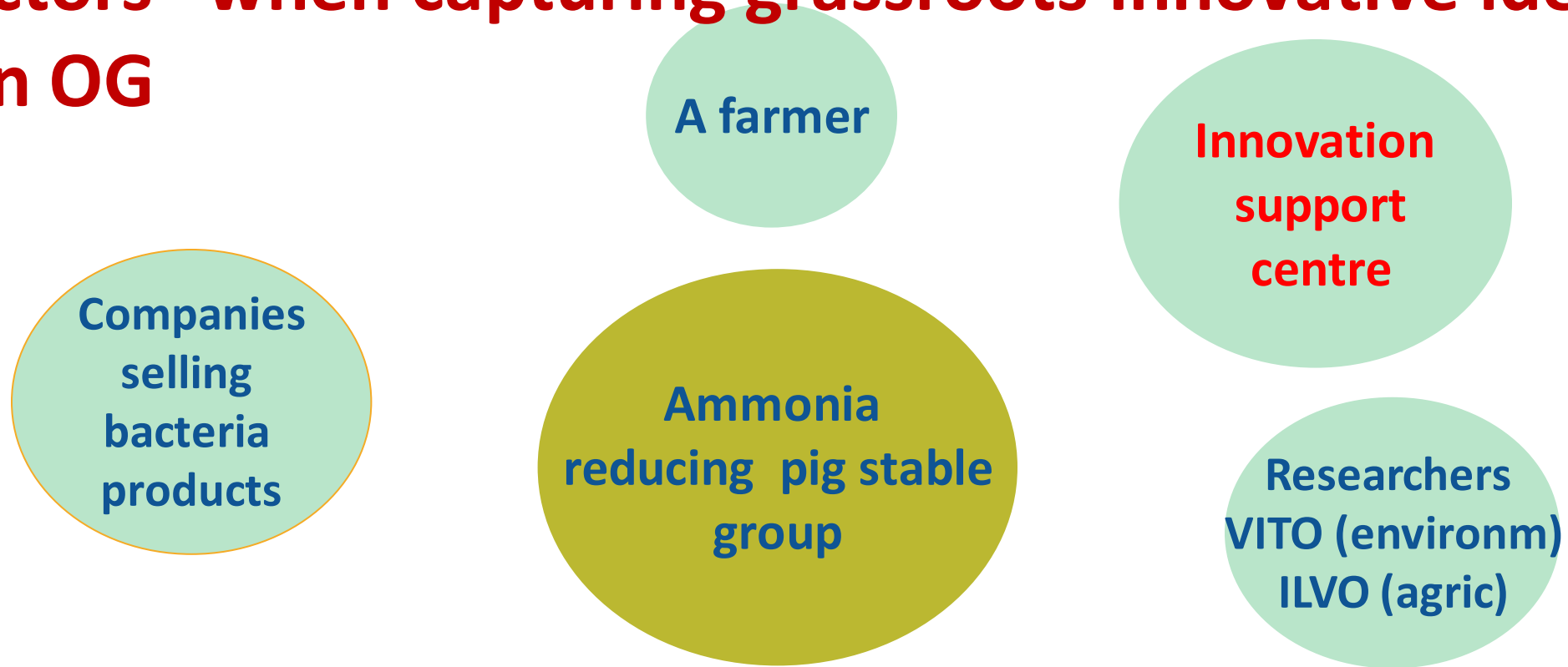
Legal basis for the obligation to provide **innovation support services** starting by capturing individual grassroots innovative ideas:

- ✓ *Art 15(4)(e): Advisors must be ... able to provide innovation support, in particular for preparing and implementing Operational Group projects of the EIP AGRI*
- ✓ *Recital 50: ...Advice should also be available on ...innovation support for preparing and implementing emerging EIP operational group projects, whilst capturing and making use of grassroots innovative ideas*
- ✓ *Art. 114: “Describe... how advice and innovation support are provided”*

Take care not to mix concepts of innovation support and innovation networking

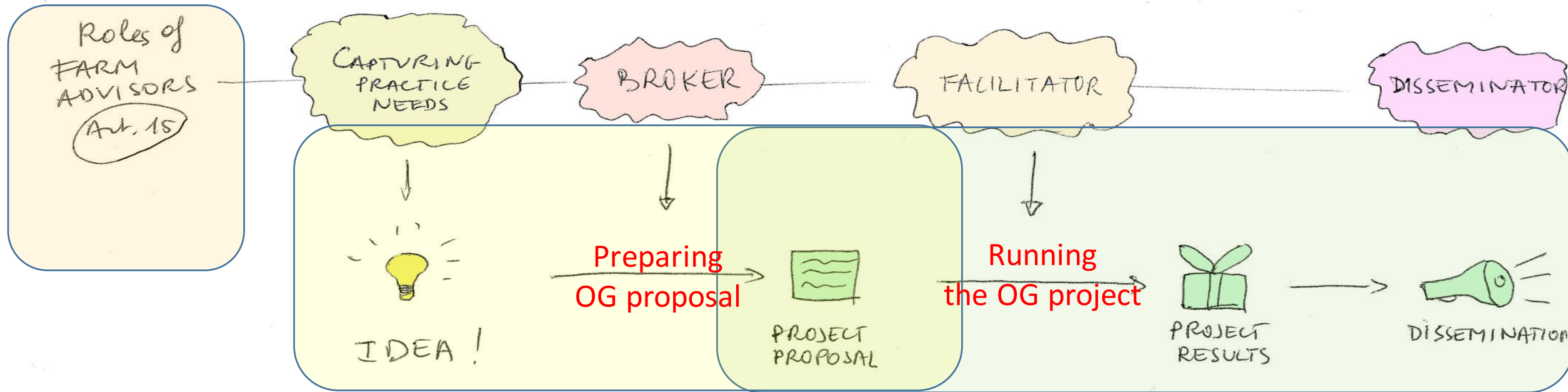
- 1) individual “innovation support services” (as already funded in some MS in 2014-2022 period, activities oriented to the individual idea owner to support him with its emerging OG, mostly done by advisors)
 - 2) broader group “innovation networking” mostly done by the national **CAP networks/NRNs/regional innovation networks** as already is happening in 2014-2022 period: are **more group actions** to incentivize innovation, support calls, bring together OGs etc
- **Do not underestimate the efforts and budget** needed for the ISS process from individual idea to project proposal (4.000 - 9.000 Euro per project)
 - We appreciate synergies but understanding the difference between the following 2 approaches is essential

Art 15(4) = OBLIGATORY Innov.Support Services: one to one innovation brokering: illustration of the “relevant actors” when capturing grassroots innovative ideas for an OG



Project objective: develop a pig stable reducing ammonia emissions by 50 % in a more cost-efficient way than existing stable systems (idea from a farmer, brokered by the BE-FI Innovation Support Centre)

New roles for farm advisors in interactive innovation projects



Farm advisors/ **innovation support services**' role in interactive innovation processes:

- Capture practice needs
- Broker to set up interactive innovation projects
- Facilitate interactive innovation projects
- Disseminate newly generated knowledge
- +

2 main & linked instruments for AKIS:

1) Back-office for (specialist) advisors –
"knowledge hub" Art 114(a)

2) Innovation support services (ISS)

Art 15(4): helping single actors with an idea which might have difficulties in finding the adequate partners to build an OG project
(See section 4.2 of the SCAR AKIS 4 report)

More info:

- An animated infographic on innovation support services: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTV6kLH0ykg>
- A practical example of an innovation support service on page of the SWG SCAR AKIS report **page 105-106**: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-10/report-preparing-for-future-akis-in-europe_en_0.pdf
- Brochure on innovation support services: https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/publications/eip-agri-brochure-innovation-support-services_en



PREPARING FOR FUTURE AKIS IN EUROPE

Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR)
4th Report of the Strategic Working Group on
Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

Actions serving the AKIS Strategic Approach – many of them can be incentivized by National CAP Networks

- 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 knowledge flows in agriculture:** EIP OGs on digital innovation, build, interlink and make use of knowledge reservoirs for practice, digital skills development,...

How can CAP networks help strengthening innovation and knowledge exchange on all 9 CAP objectives?

(Today's BO2 – knowledge sources & inputs for NNs to incentivise knowledge flows)

1. **Collect & share outcomes** of >3200 EIP OGs from 2014-2022, and of 190 H2020 multi-actor projects + 2021-2024 Horizon Europe MA projects => filtering & translate
2. Make use of the EIP OG dbase + knowledge reservoirs prepared under Horizon
3. **Connect OGs with Horizon projects** = great added value. The Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe (HE) dimension of the EIP-AGRI induces the need for intensifying CAP innovation networking and **regular and efficient interaction** with Horizon Europe National Contact Points. **Keep your inventory of all OGs and advisors up to date!**
4. All this **material provides great input for AKIS events** for farmers, advisors, education, trainers, media, businesses, researchers,..): **training for farmers and for advisors, peer-to-peer events, demonstrations, website, e-learning, ISS** etc
5. **Organising events to link and network AKIS actors** **for future cooperation**
6. **Testing** future AKIS and other interventions (e.g. ecoschemes, agri-env-clim interventions: using OGs for developing and M1, M2 and Art 78 actions for sharing)

Interaction within the Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe (HE) dimension of the EIP-AGRI

Tomorrow's BO3 – how NN can stimulate knowledge flows across borders and look for synergies

1. The synergies organized between Horizon projects and EIP Operational Groups induces the need for **intensifying innovation networking with Horizon Europe MA projects and National Contact Points**: a monthly encounter could be useful
2. **Promote and make OGs visible**: database with all OGs in the MS + contacts + thematic categorization. **Make your impartial advisors visible** in list, adding their experience and expertise (CV)
3. **Follow the yearly Horizon Europe calls and be pro-active**: present the topics to your OGs, make a brokering event with your OGs, advisors and researchers, think about cross-border events around specific topics in the call where OGs could join. Horizon consortia mostly do not find the OGs nor the advisors they would like to have in their project
4. Also when **Horizon projects are up and running**, **OGs or their partners may still be invited** to events of their interest: give them support to join meetings

"Auf Veränderung zu hoffen, ohne selbst etwas dafür zu tun, ist wie am Bahnhof zu stehen und auf ein Schiff zu warten."

~Albert Einstein

Message to all MS'NNs

(roll up your sleeves):

"Hoping for change, without undertaking any action yourself, is like standing at the trainstation and waiting for a ship to come"

Albert Einstein

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 how the 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, interactive 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 or equivalent) – 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).

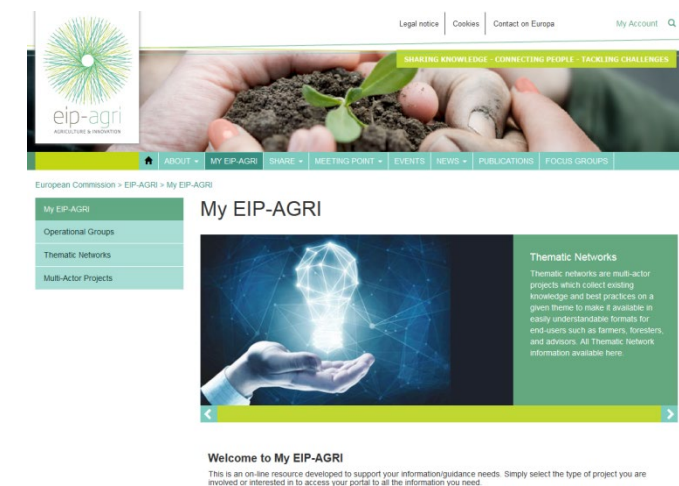
AKIS Knowledge flows: Horizon Europe Cluster 6
9 bio € for 7 years, half are MAA projects
with synergies with EIP OG innovation projects



AKIS & EIP-AGRI – prepare an EU knowledge reservoir for practice which will help the advisors' back-offices for innovation support and more competent advice

- ✓ **FARMBOOK:** (2022-2029) MS plan or already have **knowledge databases**, we need to ensure they become **interoperable**, to save costs and avoid duplication through cooperation across the EU !
- ✓ **MODERNAKIS** project (2022-2029): helps MS learn from each other on how to build a **well-functioning AKIS** and what are good AKIS interventions (exchanging experiences and train new actors)
- ✓ **ATTRACTISS** project (2022-2027) helps the building of **innovation support services** across the EU and shares the related knowledge
- ✓ **EU advisory networks + EU thematic networks + EU thematic networks built on at least 5 OGs from 3 MS**

Tomorrow's BO3 + poster session: Horizon MA projects on AKIS are there to help you and connect with



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SHARING KNOWLEDGE | CONNECTING PEOPLE | TACKLING CHALLENGES

European Commission > EIP-AGRI > My EIP-AGRI

My EIP-AGRI

Operational Groups

Thematic Networks

Multi-Actor Projects

My EIP-AGRI

Thematic Networks

Thematic networks are multi-actor projects which collect existing knowledge and best practices on a given theme to make it available in easily understandable formats for end-users such as farmers, technicians, and advisors. All Thematic Network information available here.

Welcome to My EIP-AGRI

This is an on-line resource developed to support your information/guidance needs. Simply select the type of project you are involved or interested in to access your portal to all the information you need.

Tool on AKIS + ANNEXES (background document)

CAP tool on CCO: AKIS + Annexes

https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-06/EUCAPNetwork_AKIS%20SEM_Tool%20AKIS%20Strategy_interventions_Update%2006062023.pdf

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

Building and linking AKISs across the EU

*Speed up creativity and
practice application*

*Better connectivity and
quicker circulation of
information*

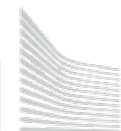
Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



Thanks for your attention (see more info on the next slides)

Inge Van Oost – European Commission DG AGRI – Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu

Questions?



European
Commission

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP plans at MS level:

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 3400 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: support to 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 interact in advisors' back-offices too. "Partnership agreement" of Agri Ministries in particular with research and innovation ministries.

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP at MS level:

- 3. More, more frequent and more diverse EIP Operational Group calls** because **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). Also initiate **cross-sectorial** and **cross-border OGs** and the possibility for **collaboration between OGs** (national CAP Network task in coordination with the Managing 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 all available advisors and their qualification, knowledge vouchers as simplified payment. 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, **mobility** budget for advisors.

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP at MS level:

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** => build an effective AKIS strategy.
- **Emerging knowledge reservoirs at national level, national thematic networks**
 - **public back-offices (“knowledge hubs”)** with **specialist advisors** closely interacting with field advisors, research and national CAP networks
 - National and EU **advisory networks**, national and EU **thematic networks**
 - **Public digital advisory tools** reducing maintenance costs: H2020 project Fairshare
 - Face-to-face multi-actor thematic events, discussion groups, on-farm demonstr. 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**

Integrating advisors within the AKIS: some examples...(1)

- ✓ Advisor giving **holistic on-farm one-to-one advice** on economic, environmental and social dimensions, capable of delivering up-to-date technological and scientific information developed by R&I (very broad scope)
- ✓ **Specialist advisor** on a certain theme, on-farm or off-farm (**“back-offices”**)
- ✓ Provide **individual innovation support**: capture grassroots innovative ideas and accompany the preparation and implementation of an EIP OG (CAP networks can bring innovation brokers together to learn from each other)
- ✓ **(Obligatory yearly) training of advisors** on themes, or learning new approaches and skills (eg social farming, digital, short chains, ...)
- ✓ **Advisors can provide training** farmers, farm workers etc (eg IPM)

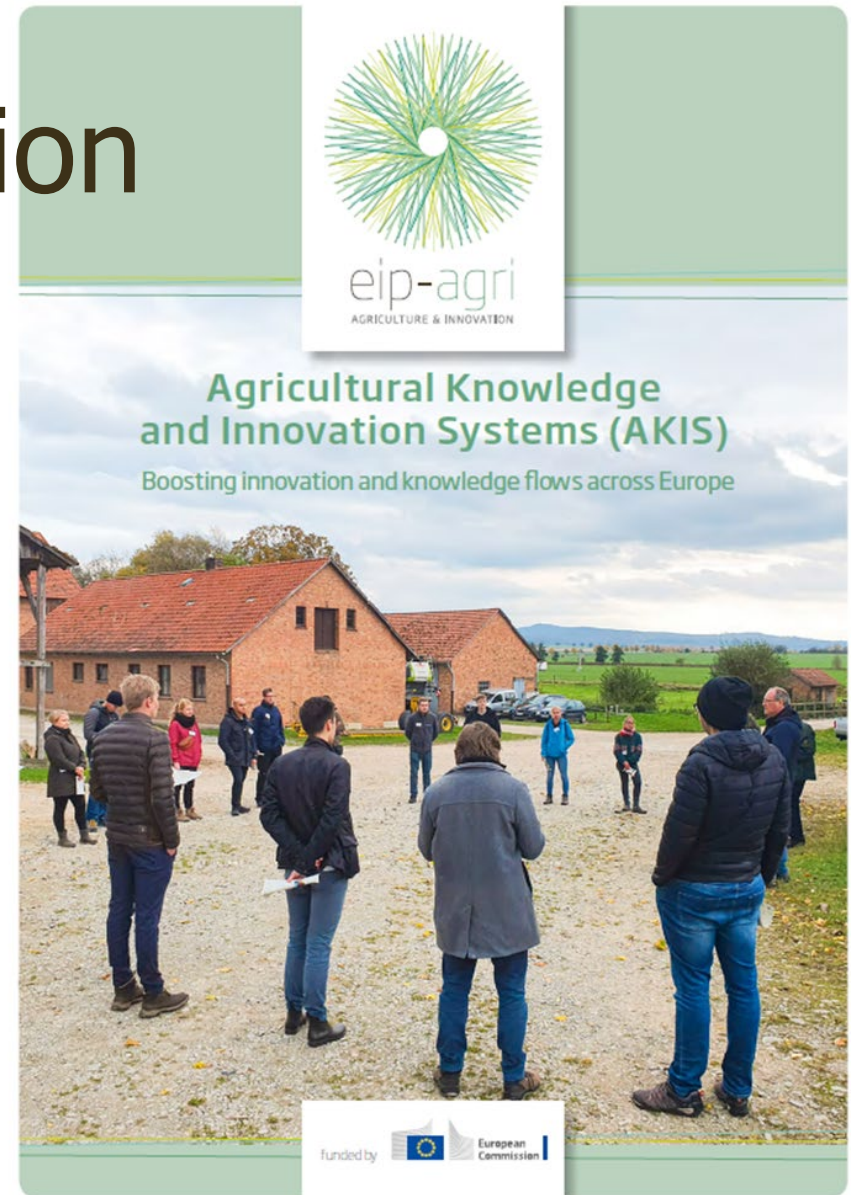
CAP networks can help providing info or organising events for many of these interventions/tasks

Integrating advisors within the AKIS: some examples...(2)

- ✓ Advisors *joining/organising knowledge exchange events with researchers, farmers etc, making workprogrammes, exchanging practical needs*, Advisors writing in agricultural journals, websites, social media, newsletter, acting as EIP event coordinator
 - ✓ Advisors leading a multi-actor thematic network (e.g. RMT) at national/regional level
 - ✓ Advisor organizing a farm demonstration, a fair, another type of event
 - ✓ Advisor as **partner in an EIP OG**, research project, communication event,...
 - ✓ Advisor going abroad to learn and come back to train and disseminate new knowledge (“**advisor mobility budget**”)
- => Result: advisors are integrated within the AKIS system (in a fully integrated manner, serving and making use of all kind of interventions)**

EIP-AGRI AKIS communication

- A **Thematic webpage on AKIS + new AKIS brochure** is created:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/about/akis-eip-agri-spotlight>
- **Press article on advisory Back-Office in Slovenia feeding into Innovation support and the whole AKIS:**
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news-events/press-media/press-release/slovenia-integrates-advisors-its-national>



Tool on AKIS

CAP tool on CCO: content on AKIS strategic approach and interventions

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

- 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

CAP tool on CCO: AKIS

- 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. 71 and 114
 - CAP networking for innovation post 2022 - Art. 113 and Art. 102(a)
 - 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 + Annexes

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

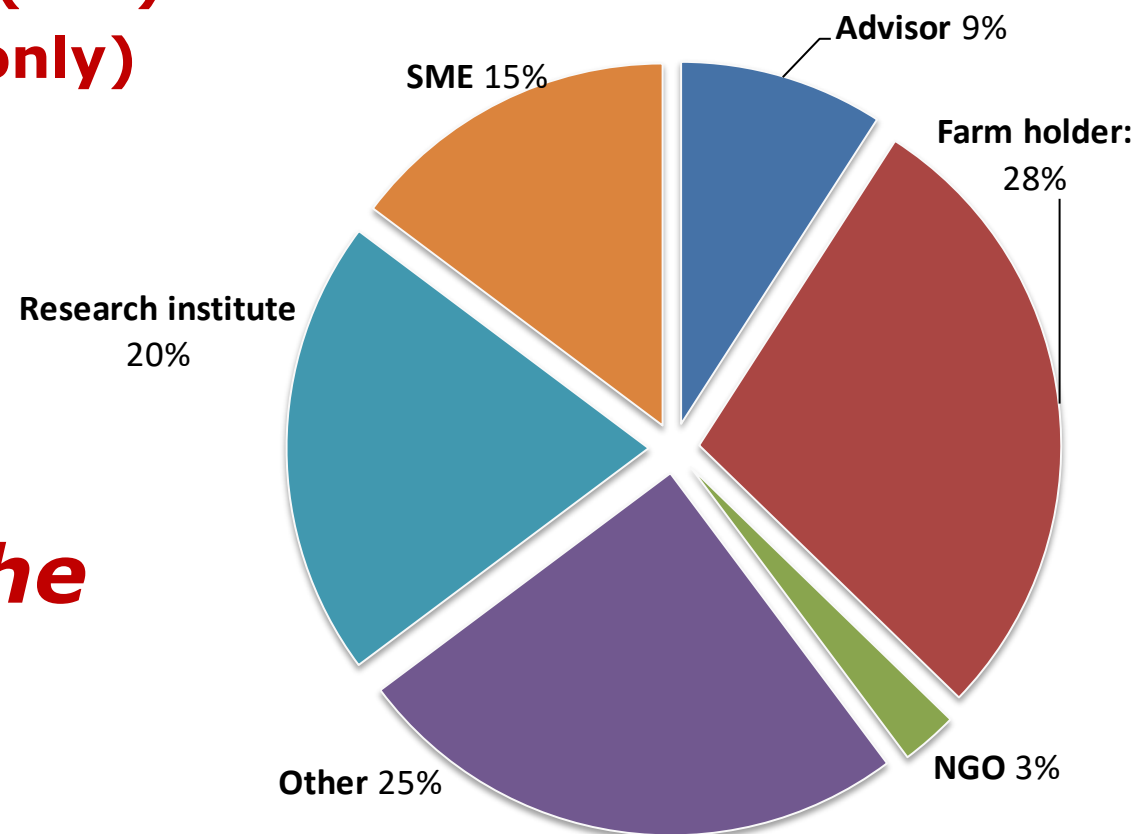
- AKIS related impact, result and output indicators
 - Impact indicator (Article 7, Annex I of the SPR)
 - Output indicators (Article 7, Annex I of the SPR)
 - Main Result indicator (Articles 7, 97 and Annex I of the SPR)
- Guidance questions for the assessment of the AKIS strategic approach
- **Annexes – 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

Outcome of study on innovation support for OGs

Advisors and innovation support services (ISS) should be more involved:
now often missing in EIP OGs (**9% advisors only**)

Number of partners per category (%
on total number of OGs):

***Be aware that advisors are the
best multipliers***



Advisors and ISS (= inn. facilitators) can have an important role in interactive innovation processes:

- **Capture** practice needs
- **Broker** to set up OG's interactive innovation projects (obligation post 2020)
- **Facilitate** interactive innovation projects (obligation post 2020)
- **Disseminate** newly generated knowledge already during the project
- **Make bridges** between CAP and Horizon programmes as innovation support service

Innovation brokering function - How to capture ideas?

- **Capturing bottom-up ideas from the grass-roots level**
- **Getting an innovation project ready to start** by acting as a go-between: helping single actors which might have difficulties in finding the adequate partners.
- **A close connection with and understanding of agriculture is important.**
- **A cross-cutting approach** beyond existing sectors, regions, initiative and institutes brings added value
- **Helping to formulate Practice abstracts and web tools/pages**
- Different approaches may be useful e.g. vouchers etc ("**simplified cost**") for easier use and reduction of administrative burden – **Art 78**

Info: EIP Seminar on AKIS strategies in CAP Strategic Plans

16-18 September 2020 (the full seminar was recorded and can be seen again)

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-cap-strategic-plans-key-role-akis>

- Inspiration from an experienced **innovation support service**, followed by a **panel discussion on AKIS policy**.
- Opening speeches from **Commissioner Polish Ministers of Agr.**, one very inspiring and **Rural Inspiration Award OG** + an **overview on the basic elements of AKIS + Q&A**.
- Section on advice: intro + 3 diverse examples of **advisory services**
- Section on role of the **national CAP network for innovation**, again with good examples
- **Online discussions** which happened in the weeks before the seminar (on advisory services, on CAP networks and on the CAP plans), summarised by **Mark Gibson**
- **10 good examples of nice AKIS interventions**
- **4 Member States presenting their CAP plans**, already full of content
- after the breakout sessions, **our Director General Burtscher** closed with a very nice **summary on the interactive discussions** and expresses how he sees the future & AKIS.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/preparing-cap-strategic-plans-role-innovation>

Use Communication material from the EIP-AGRI at EU level: filter, translate, and spread knowledge from abroad

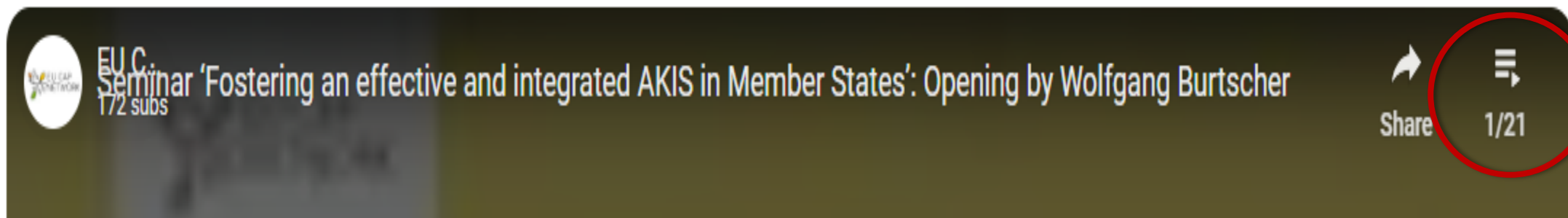
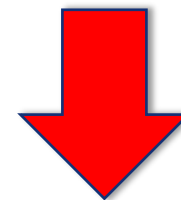
- Use the Database of OGs to connect OGs etc within and beyond the country/region
- AKIS animated infographic: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news/new-animated-video-akis-building-effective>
- Updated overview of the Focus Groups: https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/focus_groups_state_of_play_november_2020_update.pdf
- List of EIP-AGRI Events 2013-2020: https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri_factsheet_overview_eip-agri_events_2020_en.pdf
- Animated infographics: [Innovation Support Services](#), [Soil Salinisation](#), [Focus Groups](#) , etc
- [Agrinnovation magazine](#) on soil – Sept. 2020
- Monthly newsletter, press articles, Brochure on climate-smart agriculture, Thematic campaigns (social media, newsletter): animal welfare, soil, forestry, Operational Groups and new farmers

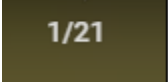


2023 Seminar on AKIS strategies in CAP Strategic Plans

- How to find the videos:
- Follow the link: https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/fostering-effective-and-integrated-akis-member-states_en

Playlist: AKIS Seminar presentations



- Click on  to get the playlist of all 21 youtube videos of the presentations

Playlist: AKIS Seminar presentations



Inge Van Oost
DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

AKIS Seminar - Presentations
by EU CAP Network • 3/21

- 1 Seminar 'Fostering an effective and integrated AKIS in Member States': Opening by Wolfgang EU CAP Network
- 2 Day 1 AKIS Seminar: Rimtautas Petraitis EU CAP Network
- ▶ Day 1 AKIS Seminar: Inge Van Oost EU CAP Network
- 4 Day 1 AKIS Seminar: Natalia Brzezina - 1 EU CAP Network
- 5 Day 1 AKIS Seminar: Elena Teodora Miron EU CAP Network
- 6 Day 1 AKIS Seminar: Helena Pärenson EU CAP Network
- 7 Day 1 AKIS Seminar: Monika Csonkova EU CAP Network
- 8 Day 1 AKIS Seminar: Ewa Grodzka EU CAP Network

Short report

- Short report with main issues is here:

https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-06/EUCAPNetwork_SEM_AKIS_Short_report.pdf

- **MS' AKIS strategy has gained traction since the approval of MSs' CAP plans last year.** Understanding of Authorities has clearly improved and is further improving as time goes by and more and more AKIS actors become fully involved.
- **Member States authorities illustrated their AKIS coordination model in the presentations as well as in the breakouts.** Interesting comments were exchanged from which they will learn (see on the website).
- **MS' AKIS coordination models vary greatly, from implementation mainly being done by the Ministry, or by the public advisory body, or by the CAP network, or by a research organisation.**
- **The Horizon Europe project ModernAKIS is systematically following these evolutions and, at a later stage, will deliver us a report on the state of play. Not easy to quantify and classify AKIS models.** The project coordinator did an already very interesting introductory presentation in the first part of the event.

Short report

- The **AKIS coordinating body should work as a spider in the web**, was the message of DG AGRI's first presentation, actively driving knowledge flows and innovation, while reaching out to all existing knowledge and innovation organisations and networks.
- The fact that **AKIS coordination bodies should try to work as much as possible with existing networks**, ensuring to connect stronger the essential parts of the AKIS, while not reinventing the wheel and **adding where needed only**, seems to be well understood.
- MS also discussed how to tackle **hurdles** they encounter, such as the **involvement of researchers, which are often not rewarded for their efforts for impact for practice**, since the research system is based on production of scientific abstracts, with which farmers or other practitioners are not reached. The few MS who found solutions were very well listened to.

Short report

- A number of MS have already **thoroughly restructured their knowledge, research and innovation landscape**, for instance by merging certain AKIS related bodies (research institutes, advisory bodies, CAP networks, related administrations).
- By being together in one organisation/body, the **knowledge flows can better be organised** and pushed.
- **Co-location of research, advice and networks** (+education, farmers' organization, food cluster, etc.) is cheap, efficient and helping knowledge flows in an informal way.

Further info:

SWG SCAR AKIS 4 report: [Documents \(scar-europe.org\)](https://scar-europe.org)

See in particular sections 1.2 What is AKIS?, 1.3 Multi-actor projects, 1.4 national thematic networks, 1.5 possible actions for CAP AKIS Strategic Plans) and chapter 4 (Advisors and advisory instruments and functions)

SWG SCAR AKIS 5 report is ready for handover early next year:

Again plenty information on AKIS

AKIS animated infographic (3 min):

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news/new-animated-video-akis-building-effective>

1st European CAP Network workshop 'National networking for innovation'

30 November – 1 December 2023
Tallinn, Estonia

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

https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/eu-cap-network-workshop-national-networking-innovation_en

