



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

Tallinn, Estonia
30 November – 1 December 2023

AKIS & the Flemish Rural Network

Margo Weckx
FLEMISH CAP NETWORK, BELGIUM

AKIS & the Flemish Rural Network

www.vlaamsruraalnetwerk.be



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Flemish Rural Network



- ▶ 5 team members
- ▶ Coordinator: Ariane Van Den Steen
- ▶ One person responsible per theme:
 - LEADER (Alexander)
 - Environment and Climate (Peter)
 - Biodiversity (Peter)
 - Young farmers (Ingrid)
 - Sustainable business (Margo)
 - **Knowledge and innovation (Margo)**
 - × Responsible for supporting AKIS.
 - × **Very clear who is working on it. This way, supporting AKIS does not fade into the background.**
- ▶ Having one person responsible for a theme has many advantages:
 - Easier to establish a network,
 - Communication expert in one theme,
 - Tasks are clear for everybody.



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AKIS Coordination Body in Flanders

- ▶ In Flanders the AKIS coordination body consists of:
 - A representative of the Managing Authority,
 - A research policy advisor of the Ministry of Agriculture,
 - A representative of the CAP Network (Flemish Rural Network) responsible for AKIS.
- ▶ The AKIS CB has meetings every 6 weeks:
 - Keep each other informed of developments that may be of interest for the other,
 - Discuss activities to provide day-to-day support to AKIS interventions and initiatives.
- ▶ AKIS CB is part of the Flemish multi -actor Platform for Agricultural and Food Research,
 - Linking the different AKIS actors (universities, public applied and practical research organizations, farmer associations,...)
 - Meets 4 times a year
 - Policy advisor = organizer



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Importance for the CAP-network to be a partner in AKIS CB and have regular meetings

- ▶ Aim regular meetings:
 - Keep each other informed of developments that may be of interest for the other,
 - Discuss activities to provide day-to-day support to AKIS interventions and initiatives,
 - Evaluate finalized activities
 - × What was good / What can be improved
- ▶ Transparency, open communication and close cooperation between 3 representatives
- ▶ Cooperation and clear division of tasks between the various partners an the AKIS CB
 - E.g. Information day for operational groups of new EIP projects in January 2024
 - × Determine the programme: CAP network + MA
 - × Content, presentations: MA
 - × Facilitation: meeting room, invitation, contact with speakers,...: CAP Network
 - E.g. Operational groups
 - × Determine good examples of OG: MA
 - × Communication of these OGand other good practices: CAP Network



MS' CAP networks tasks and objectives (AKIS CB)

1. Provide for more learning (= filtering, translating, summarizing) from all 3000 EU OGs and MA project on EU EIP website → knowledge exchange among MS
2. Organize a variety of knowledge events in your country between AKIS actors including all in the knowledge-exchange and knowledge-building process
3. 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)
4. Foster innovation: connect OGs within the MS and across borders

1. Provide for more learning (= filtering, translating, summarizing) from all 3000 EU OGs and MA project → knowledge exchange among MS

- ▶ Sharing information, good practices, calls (interventions CAP + HE)
 - Digital: newsletter, website, social media ...
 - Physical: seminars, field trips ..
- ▶ OG in the final of ARIA's
- ▶ Website
 - Projectdatabase (OG, Horizon, LEADER ...).
 - [Video's](#) about different projects and interventions.
- ▶ Future: Cross border visit(s) OG on specific theme(s)



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Projecten

Zoek

Maatregel

Thema

Partners

Gemeente

Toepassen

2. Organize a variety of knowledge events in your country between AKIS actors

- ▶ Website:
 - Events in our calendar.
- ▶ Webinars about different CAP interventions
- ▶ 2/6/2023: facilitate field trips Agri-Research conference
 - Provided interesting OG linked to the conference topics.
- ▶ 19/6/2023: Mental Health of farmers
 - Together with Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
 - Morning: farmer testimony, short introductions on the different projects (OG, demonstrationprojects, Horizon 2020,..).
 - Afternoon: group session on different projects.
 - Target group: research institutions, farmers associations, advisors, MA ...

06
DEC
2023

BEURS

Agribex

[Lees meer](#) →

06
DEC
2023

INSPIRATIESESSIE

Startavond Leader Noord-West-Vlaanderen

[Lees meer](#) →

11
DEC
2023

STUDIEDAG

Fix the Mix op landelijke wegen

[Lees meer](#) →



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2. Organize a variety of knowledge events in your country between AKIS actors

- ▶ 3/10/2023 Excursion eco-schemes and agri-environmental interventions
 - Based on preliminary results some eco-schemes had less success than expected.
 - Organized together with Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
 - Morning: theory about interventions.
 - Afternoon: field visits with explanation from farmers.
 - Target group: farmers and advisors.
- ▶ 6/12 – 10/12 Agribex: main Flanders' agricultural fair



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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)

▶ Close contact with HE NCPS

- Horizon calls
 - × Specific topics are communicated to OG.
 - × Events Horizon Europe are distributed amongst stakeholders.
- E.g. CAP network organized an event on precision farming
 - × Contact with MA and NCP to check EU projects about precision farming → not to reinvent the wheel → excursion to the Netherlands.
 - × Target group: MA, researchers, advisors, farmers ...



4. Foster innovation: connect OGs within the MS and across borders

- ▶ Website : collaboration platform where actors can look for and find each other for creating an OG
 - Will have to be promoted, to be kept alive to work.
- ▶ Information day for operational groups of new EIP projects in January 2024
 - Presentation EIP projects (composition, OG, aim,..).
 - Information on the conditions for payments.
 - Workshop on soft skills and facilitating groups (by Innovatiesteunpunt – ATTRACTISS and i2Connect).
 - Information about EU CAP Network and Flemish Rural Network.
- ▶ Kick-off demonstration projects in January 2024
 - Similar to information day for operational groups.



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Thank you for listening. Are there any questions?



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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

