



STUDY ON MEMBER STATES (MS) AKIS IMPLEMENTING TOOLS TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND PRACTICE. VERY PRELIMINAR RESULTS

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AKIS Study participants

1	AUSTRIA	11	ITALY
2	BELGIUM	12	LITHUANIA
3	BULGARIA	13	THE NETHERLANDS
4	CROATIA	14	POLAND
5	ESTONIA	15	PORTUGAL
6	FINLAND	16	ROMANIA
7	FRANCE	17	SLOVAK REP.
8	GREECE	18	SLOVENIA
9	HUNGARY	19	SPAIN
10	IRELAND	20	SWEDEN

Main objectives of the study to be developed in 20 EU Member states are to:

- ▶ 1. Provide an overview of the situation with regard to AKIS and knowledge flows in the countries.
- ▶ 2. Provide an inventory of existing good practices and scenarios which could improve knowledge flows within countries/regions' AKIS. This inventory will focus on the identification of good practices for incentivising implementation of old and new knowledge and for discovering the needs of end-users (farmers, advisors etc);
- ▶ 3. A major awareness and common understanding of the MSs on the AKIS concept and actors and the possible approaches for AKIS planning, monitoring and assessing;
- ▶ 4. Collect and compare the various possible AKIS strategic approaches, while inspiring and supporting Member States for their implementation. In this regard, a methodology guidance will be provided to support the organization of interactive sessions aimed at AKIS strategic co-planning in MSs.
- ▶ 5. Explore relevant indicators to monitor and assess the AKIS, in line with the Strategic AKIS plans for the future CAP;
- ▶ 6. Identify of bottlenecks with regard to interactions between key actors and processes (programming applied research, implementing research and innovation projects, communicating and disseminating; advisory activities, demonstration activities);
- ▶ 7. Improve impact of R&I, through the provision of recommendations and guidance aimed at capitalising knowledge and enhancing knowledge flows between the AKIS components.
- ▶ 8. Provide recommendations for Horizon Europe: Financial (Type of projects and amount of Funding), and Legal and administrative (funding instruments, type of participation,...).

Plans for enhancing knowledge flows and links between research and practice in future AKIS

Lessons Learned from the 14 Dublin MS presentations

- ▶ **BE-FL:** a.o. targeted support for innovation at every stage of the innovation process, interventions on the needs of specific target groups, demonstration of already proven sustainable practices, vocational training, etc.
- ▶ **BG:** increasing farmers' access to K&I through demonstration activities, introduction of various AKIS platforms on knowledge transfer, event matching and networking
- ▶ **DK:** limited scope for specific interventions, continuation of national funding instruments and fostering collaborative research
- ▶ **FI:** a national innovation platform for new interactive public-private cooperation aiming at designing integrated RD&I, avoiding fragmentation

Plans on enhancing knowledge flows and links between research and practice in future AKIS

Lessons Learned from the 14 Dublin MS presentations:

- ▶ **FR:** efficiency of animation of the AKIS network, support for innovation support services, enhancing a cross-cutting culture for research and advice
- ▶ **HU:** establishing the National Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Council, national support for extension services by research institutes, reorganisation of EIP and strengthening EIP-NSU
- ▶ **IE:** more focus on discussion groups around real farming problems
- ▶ **IT:** too early to identify the operational interventions, depends on political choices, need for an integrated coordinated strategy
- ▶ **NL:** stimulate interaction between FAS and researchers, organise living labs and demonstration projects

Plans on enhancing knowledge flows and links between research and practice in future AKIS

Lessons Learned from the 14 Dublin MS presentations:

- ▶ **RO:** presented a best practice on a free information service for farmers (SMS Family Farms) who regularly receive a personalised text (SMS) message suited to their needs
- ▶ **SP:** linked to the National Digital Strategy for the agri-food and forestry sector and rural areas
- ▶ **PL:** building a sustainable community with structural links between research, advice and farmers based on the farmer's needs and inclusion of (vocational) education in the system
- ▶ **SE:** resources are required for field trials and demonstration farms
- ▶ **SL:** specific interventions are still under discussion (the MAFF is also reorganising), a.o. policy interventions on protection of IPRs and financial means to strengthen research

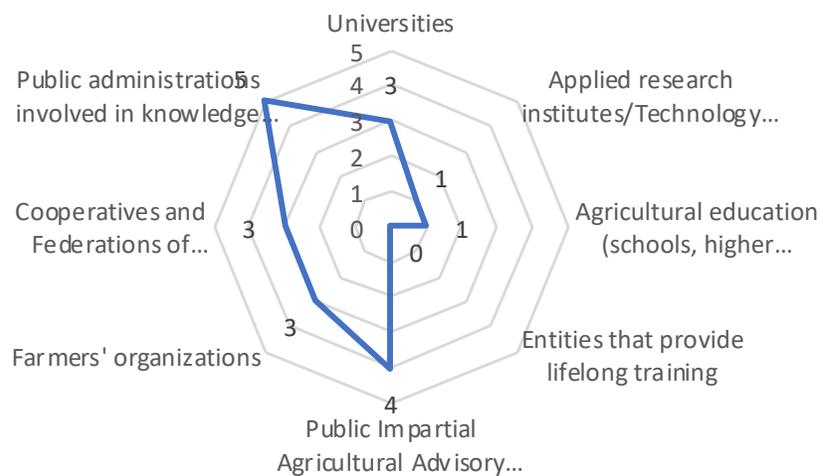
Questionnaire circulated among identified experts

- 1.-In relation to AKIS settings in the MMS
- 2.-In relation to the future strategic development of AKIS
- 3.-In relation to the Improvement of the integrated approach within the European AKIS and implementation of the EIP-Agri.
- 4.-In relation to the consideration of challenges and future changes in relation to EU R+I framework program Horizon Europe and the interlinkages with CAP policy.

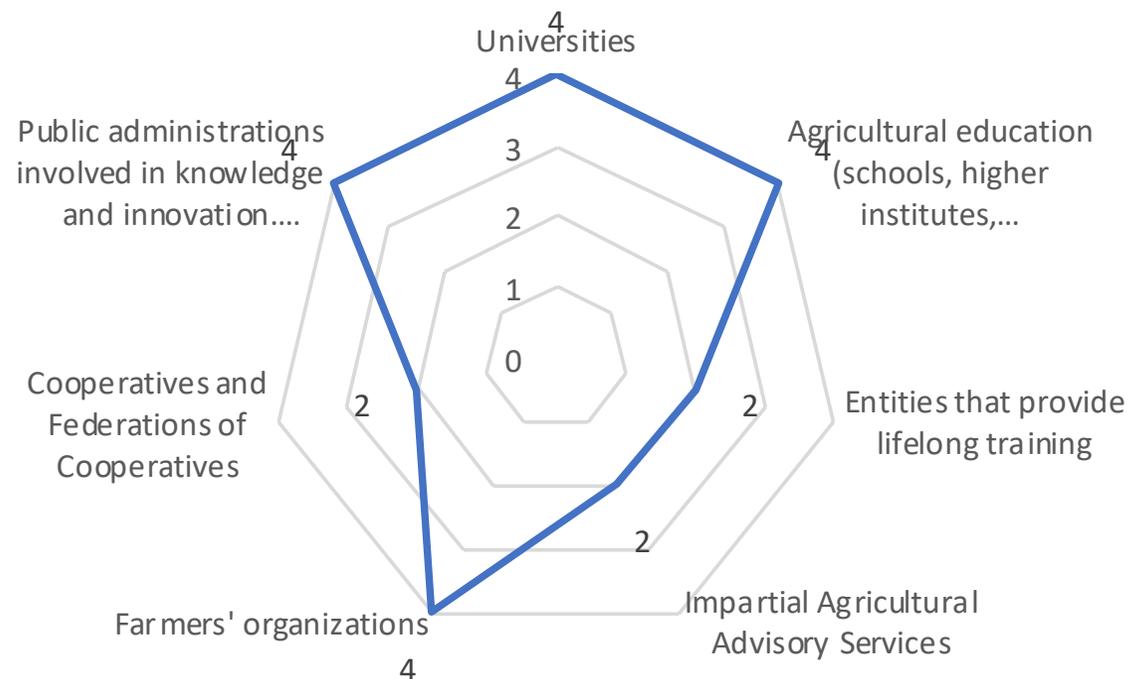
In relation to AKIS settings in the MMS

-Connection of AKIS actors

Research institutes (PL)

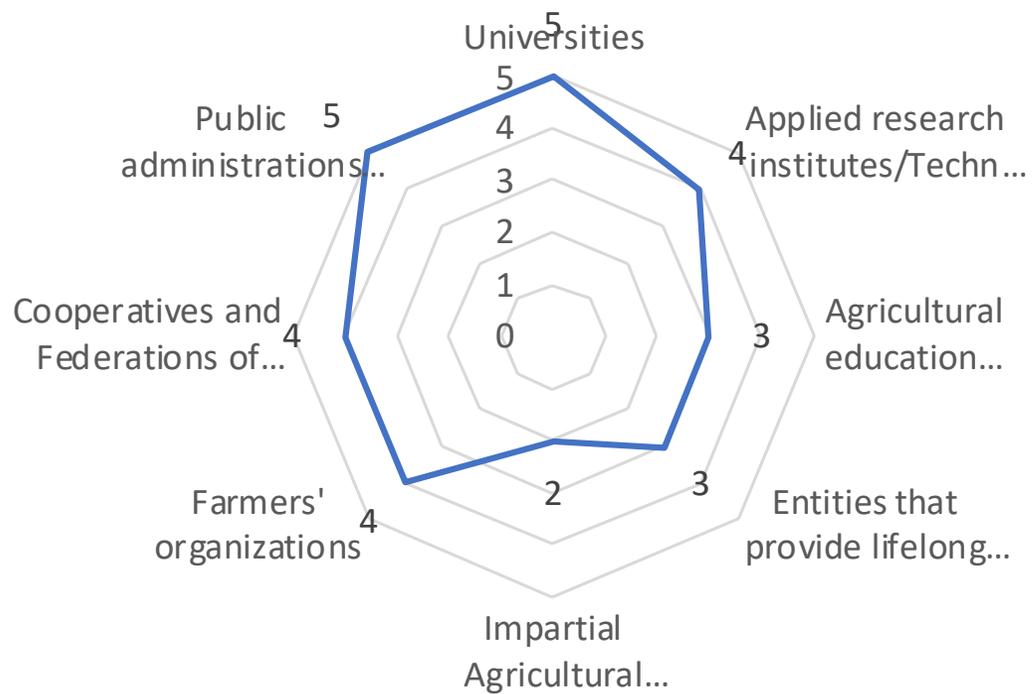


Research institutes (BE)

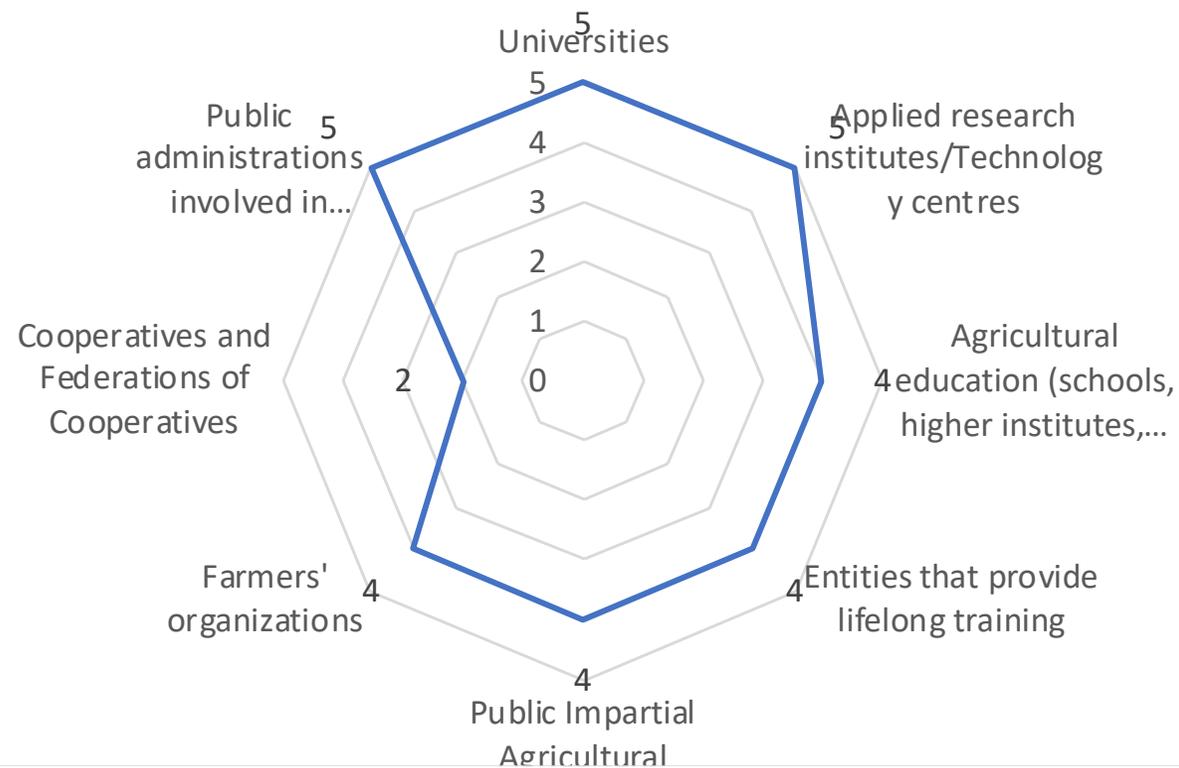


In relation to the connection of AKIS actors

Research institutes: Wageningen Research a.o.

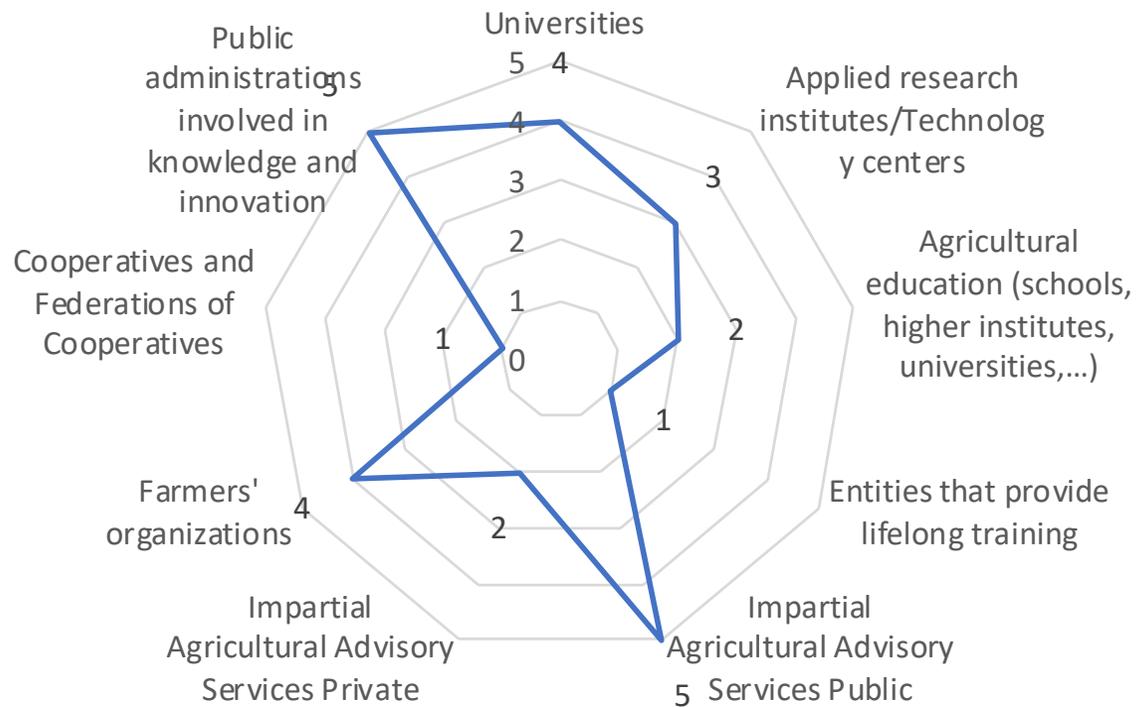


Research institutes (BG)

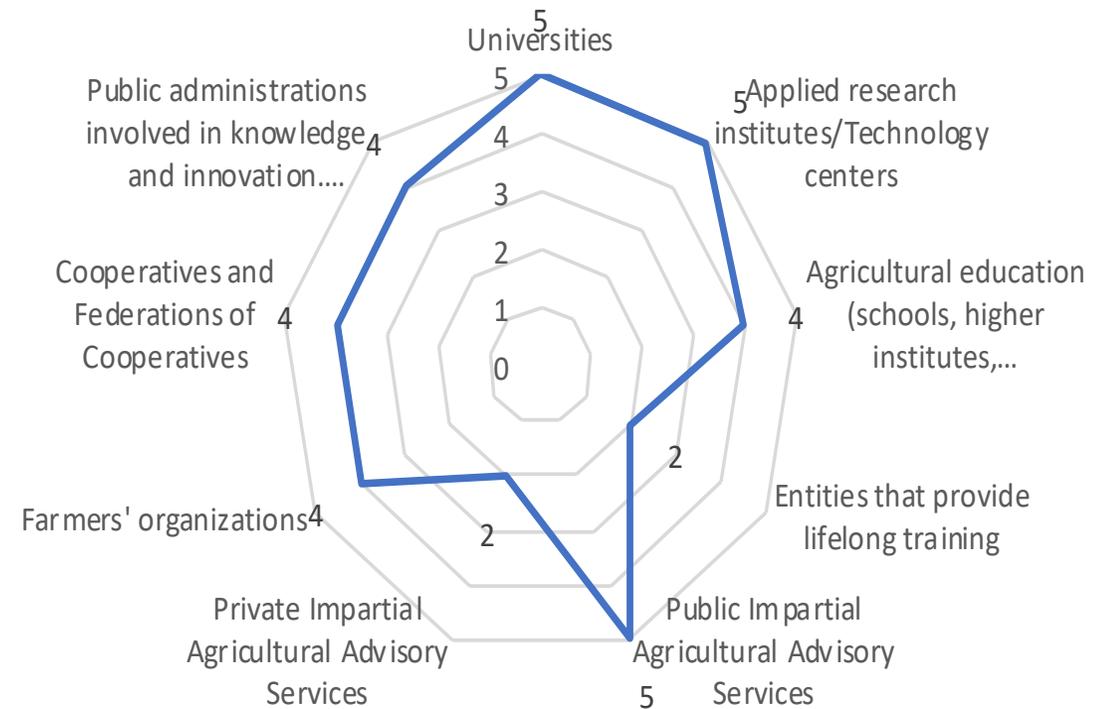


In relation to the connection of AKIS actors

Research institutes (HU)



Research institutes (IE)



In relation to the future strategic development of AKIS -Pre-Assessments for the CAP Strategic Plans

Pre-Assessments on Needs, Structures and knowledge flows

- ▶ Needs assessments already carried out in few MSs (e.g. SW;)
- ▶ Support by the evaluators, NRN, Research institutes, RDP's TA, specific core working groups (e.g. SI; IT; IE; EL;HU)
- ▶ Specific studies, SWOTs and evaluations (e.g. AT; IT;)
- ▶ Widely, PROAKIS project results at the basis of AKIS pre-assessment.

In relation to the future strategic development of AKIS -Pre-Assessments for the CAP Strategic Plans

Approaches, methods and tools to strategic Planning:

- ▶ A multitude of AKIS' actors with different degree of involvement:
 - ▶ Co-development processes versus public debates, advisory groups & stakeholders consultations
 - ▶ Skype webinars; workshops; local events; focus groups; Surveys
- ▶ Development of common visions on AKIS:
 - ▶ System approach mostly applied – joint working groups
 - ▶ Focus groups and strategic sessions (LI); Common processes for context, SWOT and needs analyses (IT); Platform for Agricultural Research (BE-FL);
- ▶ Few MSs already defined possible indicators for AKIS functionality:
 - ▶ n. of OGs, n. of advisors and advisory services; n. of group discussions; n. focus group meetings;

In relation to the future strategic development of AKIS

Towards the CAP Strategic Plans

Planned types of interventions: *still under definition (September)*

- ▶ Cooperation for innovation, vocational training & Use of advisory services; Lifelong learning
- ▶ Key actors: NRNs, professional organizations, farmers unions, research institutes and their networks
- ▶ Higher interconnectivity between measures/interventions
- ▶ Rapid dissemination of innovative and practical solutions
- ▶ Strengthening awareness, demonstration activities on farms and advice
- ▶ Simplification: Attractive and simple instruments; Quick and easy procedures guarantee an accelerated implementation of innovations;
- ▶ make use of various digital Knowledge reservoirs

Synergies and complementarities among the different tools of the EIP-Agri

- ▶ joint events

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements: *Participatory Approaches:*

- ▶ Meetings and workshops/Surveys on farmers
- ▶ Number of events for transfer of knowledge and innovations including demonstrations
- ▶ Number of provided consultations;
- ▶ N. technologies and/or processes brought to market
- ▶ Number of operative groups under AGRI-EIP;
- ▶ Number of different actors involved
- ▶ Creation of networks for development and distribution of knowledge
- ▶ Share of the sector's enterprises participating in innovation cooperation activities, out of the total number of the sector's enterprises (%)

In relation to the future strategic development of AKIS -Integration of the Advisory services within the AKIS

Integration, Participation and functionality within the AKIS: *active involvement in AKIS Strategic Planning*

- ▶ National Agricultural Advisory Service in place in some MSs & committed to specific activities: training; cycles of farmers; newsletter; webpage; contracts with research institutes (BG;
- ▶ Key role Agricultural Chambers in some MSs
- ▶ Networking events and arrangements by the advisors;
- ▶ PPPs among advisors

Contents of Advisory services: beyond regulatory frameworks

- ▶ Digital competences

Approaches to Art. 72: early stage to be defined

Transparency or certification approaches

- ▶ Periodic reports
- ▶ Level of Education for advisory services

Training of advisory services

- ▶ Compulsory in many MSs

Approaches to ensure impartiality

- ▶ Availability to perform free of charge advice to farmers;
- ▶ Not linkages to a company selling products
- ▶ Public advisory service
- ▶ process of certification

In relation to the Improvement of the integrated approach within the European AKIS and implementation of the EIP-Agri.
-Structuring and enabling the AKIS

AKIS governance and actors

- ▶ Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Affairs, ...
- ▶ National/Regional Research Institutes as key (widely)
- ▶ Agricultural chambers
- ▶ NRN
- ▶ Public K&I bodies
- ▶ AKIS platform

In relation to the Improvement of the integrated approach within the European AKIS and implementation of the EIP-Agri.

-Structuring and enabling the AKIS

Strengthening of the knowledge exchange between AKIS actors

- ▶ (IE) The New ASSAP programme which is funded by the Department of the Environment and Housing with the active involvement of the Environmental Protection Agency and the local County Councils, Teagasc and several dairy co-operatives aim to improve the water quality in several catchments.
- ▶ (PL) Network for innovation in agriculture and in rural areas (SIR) has been created in order to enhance the knowledge transfer between science and agricultural practice. The network is open; it can be participated by all actors involved in the development of agriculture and rural areas. Functioning of the organisational structure of SIR and its tasks are financed under the Technical Assistance of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.
- ▶ (NL) Better linkages with EIP Service Point (related to EIP). The innovation support unit organises workshops, masterclasses etc. to connect AKIS actors. There is a strong interest from AKIS actors to join the OG's. Only problem is the financial risks etc. The national coordination point for EIP-Agri (part of the network support unit for the national rural network) supports the provinces in opening up RDP measures for innovation. For example, consideration has been given to the method of assessing innovative projects.
- ▶ (BE-WAL) The Walloon Rural Development Network has set up the Route de l'innovation (a process that has brought together different categories of actors around the theme of innovation in agriculture



More to come soon...

Many thanks