

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Post-2020

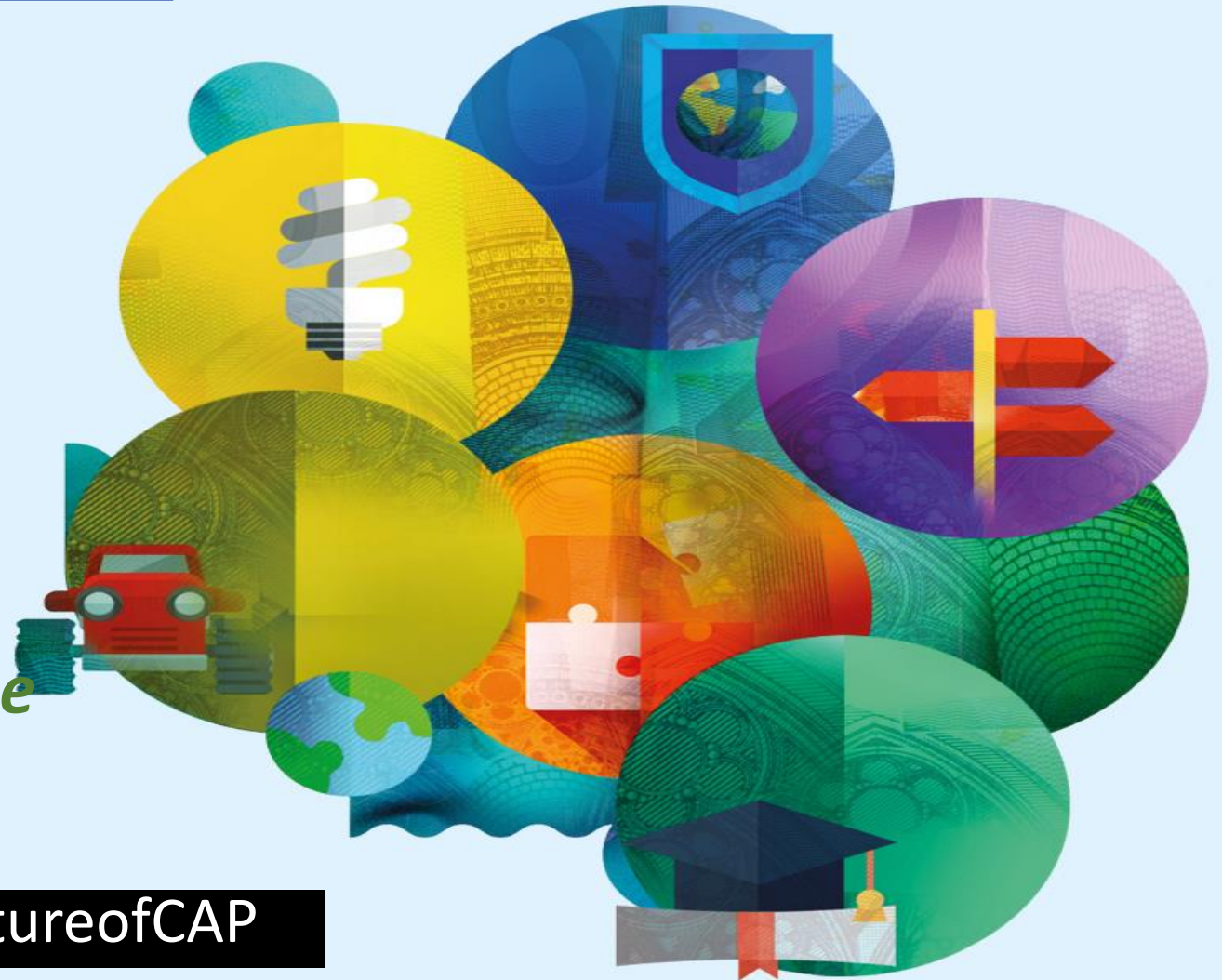
*CAP Strategic Plans post 2020:
Implementation of AKIS strategies
linked to CAP interventions
Continue EIP AGRI & Horizon Europe*

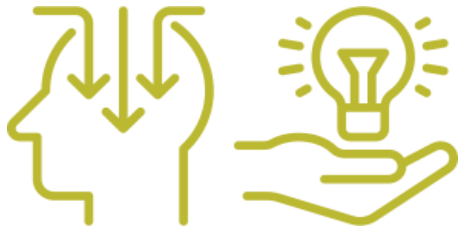
Inge Van Oost - DG AGRI
European Commission

Unit B2 – Research & Innovation

15 September 2021 – SWG SCAR AKIS

#FutureofCAP





The AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem

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://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/building-stronger-akis_en.pdf

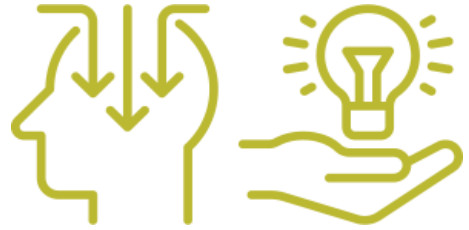
AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem =>

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)

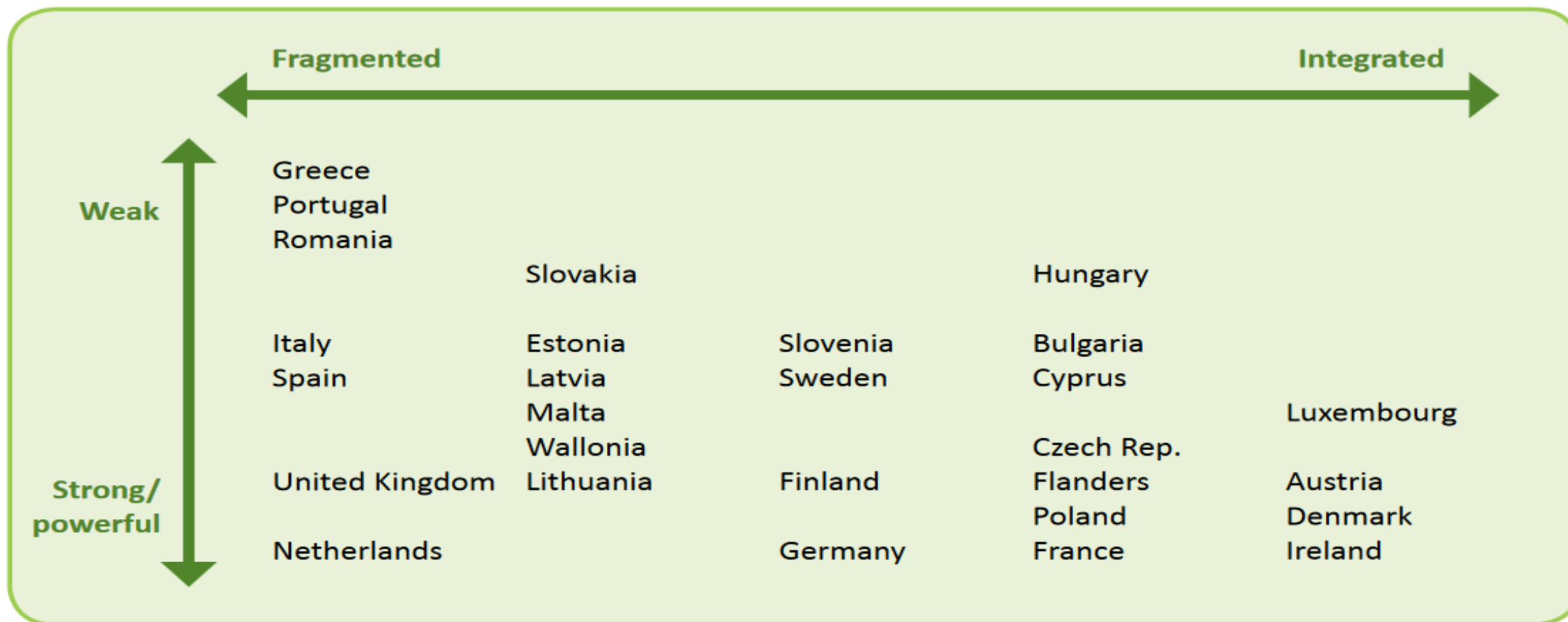


Where does the AKIS policy come from?

*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: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap#innovation> or ask to you a paper copy*

PROAKIS study: Characterising MS' AKIS

An overview (2014)



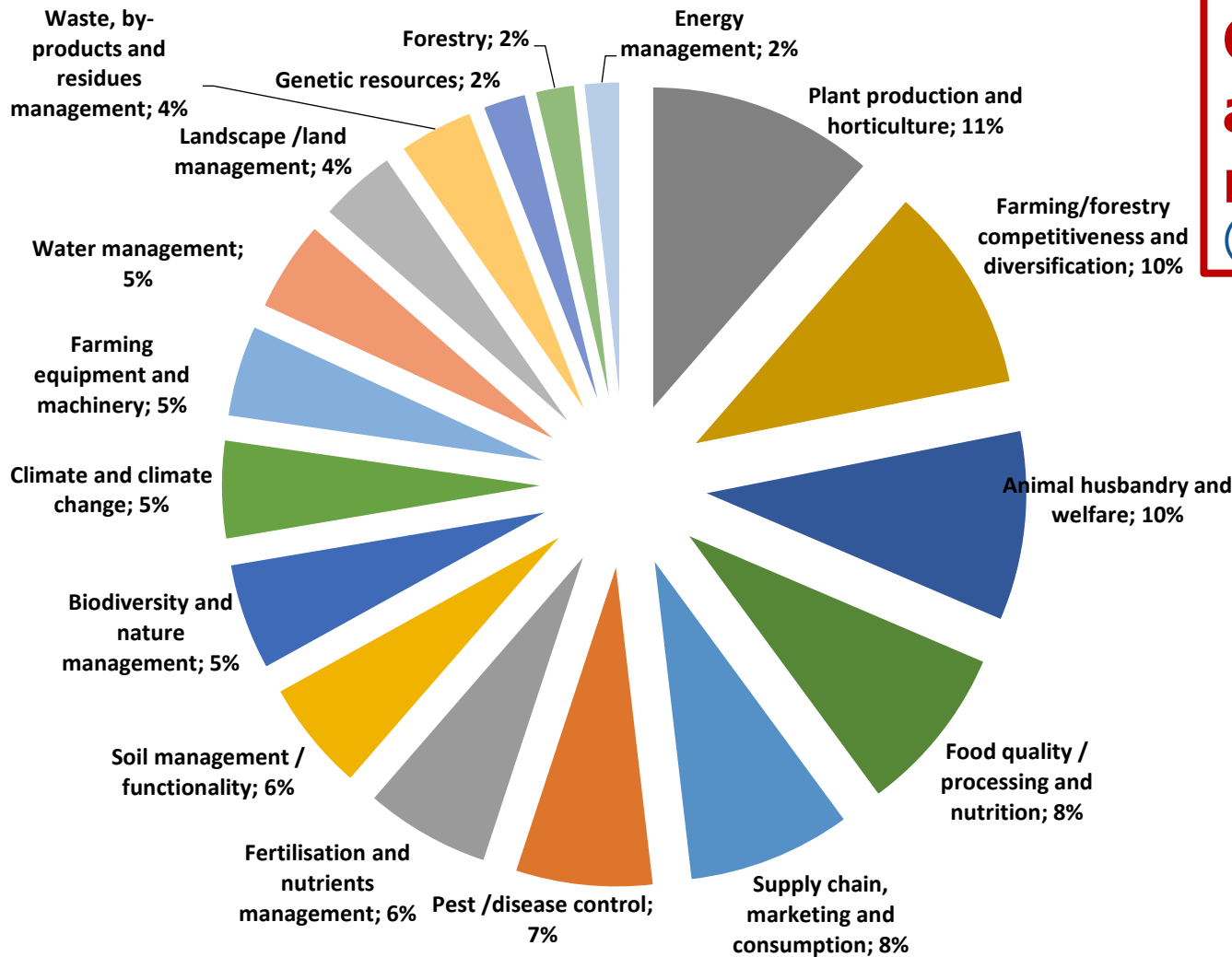
WHY focus on AKIS? A reinforced AKIS integrates all AKIS actors and ensures knowledge flows inside Member States & across borders



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**

A wide variety of OG project subjects:

Green Deal 'avant la lettre': already about 65% of 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 (65%)

- ☐ Sustainable pest/disease control
- ☐ Smart 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 (May 2021)

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

Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



EIP-AGRI – What did we achieve?

- ✓ *27 Member States, 98 rural development programmes implementing EIP Operational Group “innovative projects”*
- ✓ *Around 3 200 OGs planned in 2014-2020; more than 2000 OGs running or finished (still 4,5 years to go)*
- ✓ *190 multi-actor projects under Horizon 2020 (two thirds of total projects) for 1 bio Euro*
- ✓ *A growing and thriving network*



**An increasing volume of
practice-oriented knowledge !**

www.eip-agri.eu

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



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)

Connecting policies: the bigger EIP picture:

How to find each other? => AKIS needed

CAP/Rural development
(regional/national level)



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



Research projects
Multi-actor projects
Thematic networks (interactive innovation)



Involvement of OGs
is strongly recommended



Unique EU knowledge repository
of contacts and practice abstracts

Spread
the results





THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES

**AKIS and EIP
OG projects will
cover all 9 CAP
objectives**

INCREASE
COMPETITIVENESS



REBALANCE
POWER IN FO



CLIMATE CHANGE
ACTION



ENVIRONMENTAL
CARE



PRESERVE
LANDSCAPES
& BIODIVERSITY



SUPPORT
GENERATIONAL RENEWAL



VIBRANT
RURAL AREAS



RESPOND TO
CITIZENS' CONCERNS
in terms of
FOOD & HEALTH
QUALITY

ENSURE
VIALE INCOME



**Cross-cutting objective
KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION**

THE 9
CAP
OBJECTIVES



European
Commission

The EIP-AGRI in short: same principles in AKIS



- The EIP-AGRI applies an overarching "*Open innovation*" concept 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*)

Potential actions following AKIS Strategy: listed in AKIS tool (MS in Sep)

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

Autumn 2021: From EIP-AGRI 2014-2020 to AKIS Strategic Plans post 2020 Trilogues finished: From regulation to CAP Plan actions....



CAP post 2020 – Recommendations to Member States, dec 2020

The Commission (DG AGRI, in consultation with other DGs) - together with the Member States in bilateral meetings - finalised a number of **recommendations for CAP Strategic plans in Dec 2020**.

The Commission provides recommendations for each Member State **based on an analysis of their agricultural sector and rural areas**. These recommendations are **linked to the nine CAP specific objectives that touch upon environmental, social and economic challenges + the crosscutting objective (CCO) on knowledge, innovation and digitalisation**.

In addition, the recommendations take on board the European **Green Deal** ambitions and more specifically six quantified **Farm to fork and Biodiversity targets**. They aim to show the direction that the CAP strategic plans need to take to fulfil these objectives and targets by identifying key issues that need to be tackled by Member States and how to address them.

To do this, the recommendations also **provide a state of play in terms of Green Deal objectives**. For example, the attached [map](#) shows the emissions from livestock per hectare for each Member State.

For instance, to achieve the 25% organic farming target, the Commission has recommended to a large majority of Member states to develop the necessary food supply chain structures, identify the local potential of organic production, promote the consumption of organic products and ensure support for conversion to and maintenance of organic farming through rural development.

Recommendations to Member States

https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-strategic-plans_en#documents

Press release

Link: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2473

Short URL for twitter: <https://europa.eu/!HH89my>

Q&A

Link: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_2481

Short URL for twitter: <https://europa.eu/!Bm83bx>

- ⇒ **Ongoing: SWOT analysis, in context of MS recommendations, coherence SWOT summary with SWOT analysis seems to be a problem**
- ⇒ **Intervention logic based on needs currently emphasised**
- ⇒ **Several MS already discussing concrete CAP plan interventions with the Commission.**
- ⇒ **SWOT tool and 8.1 AKIS tool will be handed over to MS in September 2021**
(see EIP AGRI seminar September 2020 for a good overview and examples)
- ⇒ **These tools are the guidance for assessing SWOTs and draft CAP plans**

AKIS in CAP Strategic Plans (Art.102)

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

AKIS in CAP Strategic Plans (Art.102)

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

1. Enhancing knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice

- Further development and better funding of the EIP CAP networks: Member States' CAP networks should **filter, summarize and translate (!!!) all info relevant for their country** about OGs, H2020 MA projects, other relevant EU or national (research) projects (source: material on EIP website: practice abstracts, videos, photos, links to useful websites and projects etc.).
- Create knowledge centres, platforms and digital knowledge reservoirs
- **Specific incentives for researchers** very much needed: share results easy understandable in **dissemination channels for farmers**
- **Funding:** Technical Assistance fund & Art 72 for actions and national funding, re-organisation of tasks within research bodies.

1. Enhancing knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice

- **National thematic networks** can deliver for training and education (see 1.3), while also interlinking a mix of actors. Organise bottom-up calls and do efforts to disclose the needs of farmers, be it in group or one-to-one (role of advisors): regular **face-to-face** exchange **thematic events**,...
- **CAP networks** should organize on a regular basis meetings between research, farmers and advisors: Researchers to share their work with practice, learn researchers to work interactive and listen to farmers' and advisors' concerns
- **Soft ways** can 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

Farm advice organised within the AKIS structures in CAP Strategic plans (art 72 & 13) – trilogues strengthened integration within AKIS

- ✓ *Advising farmers and other beneficiaries of CAP support to be included in the CAP plans*
- ✓ **All advisors shall be integrated within the AKIS** in an inclusive way, to be able to **cover economic, environmental and social dimensions** and to **deliver up-to-date technological and scientific information** developed by R&I (suitably “qualifying” advisors)
- ✓ *Advisors must be **impartial** and be able to provide **Innovation support**, in particular for **preparing and implementing Operational Group** projects of the EIP AGRI*
- ✓ **Obligatory: “appropriate” training for advisors**
- ✓ **Advice should become more targeted to the farm & farmer situation: Art. 13:** must offer “appropriate assistance along the cycle of the farm development, conversion of production patterns towards consumer demand, innovative practice...”. **Recital 24:** ensure farm advice “tailored to the various types of productions, ... identify the necessary improvements as regards all measures at farm level.....including digitalisation”
- ✓ **All interventions under Art 72 (and other relevant actions) must be based on and coherent with the AKIS strategy**

How to integrate advisors' within the AKIS: with which interventions/tasks?

- ✓ 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 (linked with knowledge hub)
- ✓ Provide **individual innovation support**: capture **individual** innovative ideas and accompany the preparation and implementation of an EIP OG (linked with innovation hub)
- ✓ **Training of advisors** on themes, or learning new approaches and skills (eg social farming, digital, SSC, ...)
- ✓ **Advisors who are training** farmers, farm workers etc (eg IPM)
- ✓ Advisors **joining/organising knowledge exchange events** with researchers, farmers etc, making workprogrammes, exchanging practical needs, Advisors writing in agricultural journals, websites, social media, newsletter, EIP event coordinator
- ✓ Advisors **leading a multi-actor thematic network** (e.g. RMT) at national/regional level
- ✓ Advisor **organizing farm demonstration**, fair, other type of event
- ✓ Advisor as **partner in** a research project, communication event,...
- ✓ Advisor going abroad to learn and come back to train and disseminate new knowledge (**advisor mob. budget**)

=> advisors are **integrated within the AKIS** system (in a fully integrated system, serving and making use of all kind of interventions)

2. Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- 95% still understands advising as linear knowledge "transfer": make clear that advising should also be **listening and interactive (skills training)**
- Make sure that **field "advisor"** delivers **holistic advice targeted to the farm's and farmer's context** (don't replace it with training/digital only)
- No public procurement of advisors: there is no real market working
- **Innovation support must** be available: advisors acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, capturing needs and sharing outcomes
- Participating in and sharing knowledge from **OG innovative projects**
- **Advisors' training** (specific amount of days **obligatory** per year), especially on innovative techniques and outcomes of OGs/MAA and soft skills
- Invest in **tools for advising and innovation support** (e.g. measurements, digital)
- After the privatization wave, **give advisory services again a public role.**

2. Strengthening farm advice within the AKIS

- Enable farmers to find the advisor which can help him best: **public registers with info** on education, experience, continuous professional development, cross-border exchanges, various thematic focus, membership of advisory platforms, etc
- **Regular interaction with researchers**, e.g. in workshops, (bi-) annual meetings, exchanges during on-farm demo, being located in the same building helps informal contacts
- A **back-office with specialist advisors** who have thematic focus (not only sectorial focus!) is the best investment to support field advisors
- **Region/country wide advisory networks for all advisors** to share newly generated knowledge e.g. from innovation projects or after visits abroad, as well as sharing (digital) tools and instruments (photo on next slide) – national thematic networks can help

2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- Linking different forms and methods of advisory work (individual advice, groups, discussion groups, provide training, workshops, demonstration, etc.)
- Strengthen support from the AKIS for advisors (e.g. back-office)
- Cross-visits (learning peer-to-peer from other advisors / abroad)
- Freedom for new advisory themes and instruments (e.g. whole value chain approach, bio-based chains, dialogue with society,...)
- Spend time with entrepreneurs and researchers: link innovative investments or research facilities to advice (e.g. food pilot)
- Ensure regular participating in and sharing knowledge from OG innovative projects

2. Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- Support advisors' **internships and placements** in experimental research centres and training facilities, in cooperation with (inter)national partners
- Thematic or cross-cutting events to **update advisors' knowledge**,
- **Dedicated actions to involve private advisors:** not only training but other information flows e.g. use of common advisory tools, concentrate your back-office support for all advisors public and private.
- **Support digitization of advisory work:** fund establishment and maintenance cost of an IT knowledge platform, containing knowledge reservoirs, to be shared by several advisory bodies even across borders
- **Simplify** administration and avoid dense control systems, rather manage the competences of advisors

2. Strengthening farm advisors' services within the AKIS



Setting up of farm advisory services (Art 72): e.g. mobile advisory units and measurement tools can help advising



Innovation Support Service functions

<http://www.innovatiesteunpunt.be/en/projects/agrispin-innovation-brokership>

1. **Brokering** function
2. Coordination and **facilitation** of projects as an intermediate between partners
3. Innovation **promotion** and **awareness** raising
4. Coaching farmers towards innovation (individual advice)
5. **Brainstorming** events and thematical animation
6. Biannual **innovation prize**: 150 candidates, 10 final prizes, one winner - and a lot of communication in the farm journals promotes innovation
7. **Dissemination** of innovative results
8. Connect with SMEs and other innovation services and funding bodies
(see example of innovation project "Distrikempen" **video** from **Agrispin H2020 project**)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbiAGzlf3IA> *logistic innovation short supply chain*

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

1. **Collect and share outcomes** of 3200+ EIP OGs from current CAP, and of 190 H2020 multi-actor projects + future Horizon Europe MA proj. (+ filtering & translating)
2. Make use of the EIP website + knowledge reservoirs being prepared under H2020
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 OGs and advisors up to date!**
4. All this **material provides great input for local AKIS actors** (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. **Start now**, already testing future interventions under the current period and **brainstorm in AKIS coordination platforms** (using transitional funds)

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

1. The synergies organized between Horizon projects and EIP Operational Groups induces the need for **intensifying innovation networking with Horizon Europe National Contact Points**: a monthly encounter could be useful
2. **Promote and make OGs visible**: database with all OGs in the MS + contacts + thematic categorisation
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 they would like to have in their project
4. Also when **Horizon projects are running**, OGs or their partners may still be **invited** to events of their interest: give them support

2 main instruments for future AKIS:

1. **Innovation support service** –
"Innovation hub" Art 13(4)
2. **Back-office for advisors** –
"knowledge hub"

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://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/report-preparing-for-future-akis-in-europe_en.pdf
- Brochure on innovation support services:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-brochure-innovation-support-services>



The CAP post 2020 –in force on 1/1/2023

- The CAP Strategic Plan regulation (currently under legal scrubbing) provides many new or improved tools for AKIS under the Cross-Cutting Objective:
 - **Farm advice**: MS must have all impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS able to cover all 3 sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I => well « **qualified** » advisors
 - Obligatory **training** for advisors
 - Support for **knowledge exchange** and information events, including for advice, demo and training, thematic and cross-sectorial events, support for networks
 - Obligation to provide **innovation support** (« hub ») **for OGs** => helping **bottom-up individual grassroots ideas** to be developed into an OG project proposal
 - **CAP networks**: connect **existing OGs** & interact with **Horizon Europe NCPs** (seminar June 2021 on EIP website)
 - EIP Operational Groups: **80% EU cofinancing** instead of 43%. Interactive innovation principles mandatory. **Advance payments up to 50%. State Aid derogation till 350.000 Euro project** (published July 2021).
- **CAP Strategic Plans** to be submitted formally to the Commission by 1/1/2022

CAP Plan template



CAP Plan template – section 2

- Interventions can now be planned in particular for the CCO (now in Art 6), possibly with additional specific objectives if useful.
- Adding specific objectives could be done ex-post during the calls, according to the needs emerging during the 5 year period
- Common selection criteria across MS are possible: those describing the interactive innovation model in Art 114: this will help compliance + enhance cross-border possibilities:

Principles of interactive innovation now explicit in regulation (as in 2014 EIP guidelines):

- 1) focus on practical farmers' needs
- 2) co-creation and co-decision all along the project
- 3) complementary knowledge in the OG necessary: farmers' involvement is key (and/or other end-users of project results, depending on the aim of the OG and the specific objective tackled)

CAP Plan template

AKIS related impact, result and output indicators

Impact indicator

I.1 Sharing knowledge and innovation: Share of CAP budget for knowledge sharing and innovation

Output indicators

O.1 Number of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational group projects

O.2 Number of advice actions or units to provide innovation support for preparing and implementing European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Operational Group projects

O.29 Number of supported training, advice and awareness actions or units

CAP Plan template

1.7 AKIS related impact, result and output indicators

Main Result indicators

R.1 Enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation: Number of persons benefitting from advice, training, knowledge exchange or participating in European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups supported by the CAP in order to enhance sustainable economic, social, environmental, climate and resource efficiency performance

R.2 Linking advice and knowledge systems: Number of advisors receiving support to be integrated within Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

R.24 Environmental-climate performance through knowledge and innovation: Number of persons benefitting from advice, training, knowledge exchange or participating in European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups supported by the CAP related to environmental-climate performance (sub indicator of R.1).

Several other result indicators will also be targeted by specific AKIS interventions.

CAP Plan template – section 2

- **Interventions can now be planned for the CCO (now in Art 6), possibly with additional specific objectives added if useful. Adding specific objectives could be done ex-post during the calls, according to the needs emerging during the 5 year period**
- **An output should never be split between result indicators. The same operation (1 output) may contribute to several result indicators when justified by the design of the intervention and the project in question. An operation and its output will always contribute to the relevant result indicator(s) in full** (no half contributions etc.). Note that not all supported operations within an intervention necessarily contribute to all result indicators linked to the intervention. But IF an operation contributes to a result indicator, it always contributes in full.
- Where different actions or commitments are included within a single intervention, **the different parts of this intervention may be attributed to different RI**, depending on their specific conditions. All parts of the intervention must however be **attributed to at least one RI. In some cases, the range of operations which may be implemented within an intervention is very broad.** This is particularly the case for EIP OGs etc. In these situations, individual operations within the intervention may contribute to different RI. When drafting the CAP Strategic plan the intervention as a whole (or the intervention/unit amount) is attributed to the relevant RI, although not all operations might contribute to each of the selected RI. However, when reporting, operations should be assessed individually and attributed (**ex-post**) to the relevant RI as appropriate.

CAP Plan template

4. 4. Elements common to several interventions

4.4. Technical Assistance

- Objectives
- Scope and **indicative planning of activities**
- **Beneficiaries**

4.5. CAP Network

- Summary overview and objectives of the National CAP Network, **including activities to support knowledge flows within the AKIS**
- **Structure, governance and operation of the National CAP Network**

CAP Plan template

Section 7. Governance systems and coordination systems

7.1 Identification of governance and coordination bodies

Body	Contact details
Competent Authority	
Managing Authority	
Paying Agency (ies)	
Coordinating Body (if applicable)	
Certification Body	
Monitoring Committee	
Other delegated and intermediate bodies not laid down in the Regulation, with a description of their role	
AKIS coordination, including farm advice	
Relevant coordination body(ies) for the AKIS	

Whenever the draft Regulation provides for the possibility to establish governance bodies at regional level, and Member States make use of this possibility, this Chapter will include information on all these bodies.

CAP Plan template

Section 8. Modernisation and Simplification

8.1 Modernisation: AKIS and digital technologies

How the CAP Strategic Plan will contribute to the **cross-cutting general objective related to fostering and sharing knowledge and innovation**, including:

- Identification of the **needs**, based on the evidence from the **SWOT** analysis, in relation to the cross-cutting objective related to fostering and sharing of knowledge innovation and digitalisation, including relevant information from the SWOT analysis about the functioning of the AKIS and related structures;
- Overall **organisational set-up of the AKIS**, including **planned actions to improve** knowledge flows in particular between advisors, researchers and CAP networks;
- Description of the **farm advisory services provided**, which shall cover economic, environmental and social dimensions and deliver up to date technological and scientific information developed by research and innovation;
- Description of **how advisory services, research and CAP networks will work together** within the framework of the AKIS, and **how advice and innovation support services are provided**;

CAP Networks:

The innovation strand has started



The CAP network innovation strand has started:

Partners in the consortium =>

AWP Autumn 2021:

- Workshop on farmer generated data
- Seminar on forestry

2022

- 3 Focus groups + ...

Public agencies	
VLM - Vlaamse Landmaatschappij / Group Leader	Belgium
RVO - Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland	The Netherlands
CDR - Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów	Poland
TEAGASC - Agriculture and Food Development Authority	Ireland
ETRT - Ente Terre Regionali Toscane	Italy
Research institutes	
ARC - Agricultural Research Centre	Estonia
NAIK AKI - Research Institute of Agricultural Economics	Hungary
FiBL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture	Austria
INIAV - National Institute of Agrarian and Veterinary Research	Portugal
Universities	
USC - University of Santiago de Compostela	Spain
VMUAA - Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy	Lithuania
Non-Governmental Organisation	
Institute for Agrostrategies and Innovations	Bulgaria
Private non-profit Organisations	
AC3A - Association des Chambres d'Agriculture de l'Arc Atlantique	France
CCA - Croatian Chamber of Agriculture	Croatia
Small & Medium Enterprises	
PROUNION a.s.	Slovakia
AMBAR Consultancy	The Netherlands
DIDICESCU Consulting	Belgium
WETA	Belgium

EIP-AGRI webinars

“Preparing the CAP Strategic Plans – the role of innovation networking in the Member States”

3rd, 8th & 10th June 2021

EIP webinar "Preparing the CAP Strategic Plans – the role of innovation networking in the Member States" - Southern cluster

01:16:42

Recording has started. This meeting is being recorded. By joining, you are giving consent for this meeting to be recorded. [Privacy policy](#)

Aim of the event

We believe in successful future innovation networking, to support all 9 CAP Specific Objectives. Therefore we need:

- ✓ Understanding of AKIS and of the **potential of the innovation strand of the CAP network** to improve the AKIS functioning
- ✓ Find out how to develop **better linkages** among EIP OG innovation projects, **research** and with the Horizon Europe projects, to **improve**

01:25:31

Where are you from?

Mentimeter

04:58:36

01:45:26

The AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem

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://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/building-stronger-akis_en.pdf

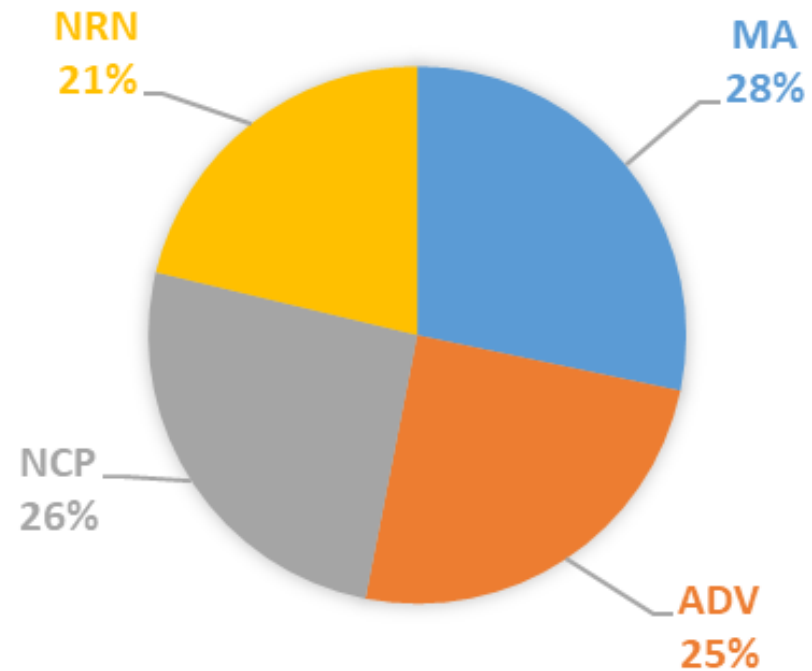
European Commission

Participants

- 3 clusters:
 - Northern Europe
 - Southern Europe
 - Central&Atlantic Europe
- 25 Member States

MA	32	28%
ADV	28	25%
NCP	29	26%
NRN	24	21%
TOTAL	113	

TOTAL NO. OF PARTICIPANTS



Programme

Introduction + Q&A:

The innovation strand of the CAP Network within the AKIS

Discussion #1:

Role of the CAP Networks in the AKIS Strategic Approach

Discussion #2:

How can CAP Networks help facilitate integration of advisors in the AKIS

Discussion #3:

How can CAP Networks create and strengthen linkages with research (especially between H2020/Horizon Europe and OGs)

Reporting

All webinars' documents:

- final report
- presentations
- videos

available soon on EIP-AGRI website

The screenshot displays the EIP-AGRI website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Legal notice', 'Cookies', 'Contact on Europa', a search bar, and 'My Account'. Below this is a large banner image of a group of people in a field, with the text 'SHARING KNOWLEDGE - TACKLING CHALLENGES - CONNECTING PEOPLE'. The main navigation menu includes 'ABOUT', 'EIP-AGRI PROJECTS', 'SHARE', 'FIND', 'EVENTS', 'NEWS', 'PUBLICATIONS', and 'FOCUS GROUPS'. The page content is divided into several sections: a 'Join the conversation' section with social media links, a 'Spotlight News' section featuring a report on 'EIP-AGRI: 7 years of innovation in agriculture and forestry', and a 'Latest Publications' section listing various reports and seminars. The EIP-AGRI logo is prominently displayed in the center of the page.

Horizon Europe call 2021

State of play



The Horizon Europe Workprogramme 2021 will support AKIS

Deadline 6 Oct 2021 – around 9 bio Euro for the 7 years' period

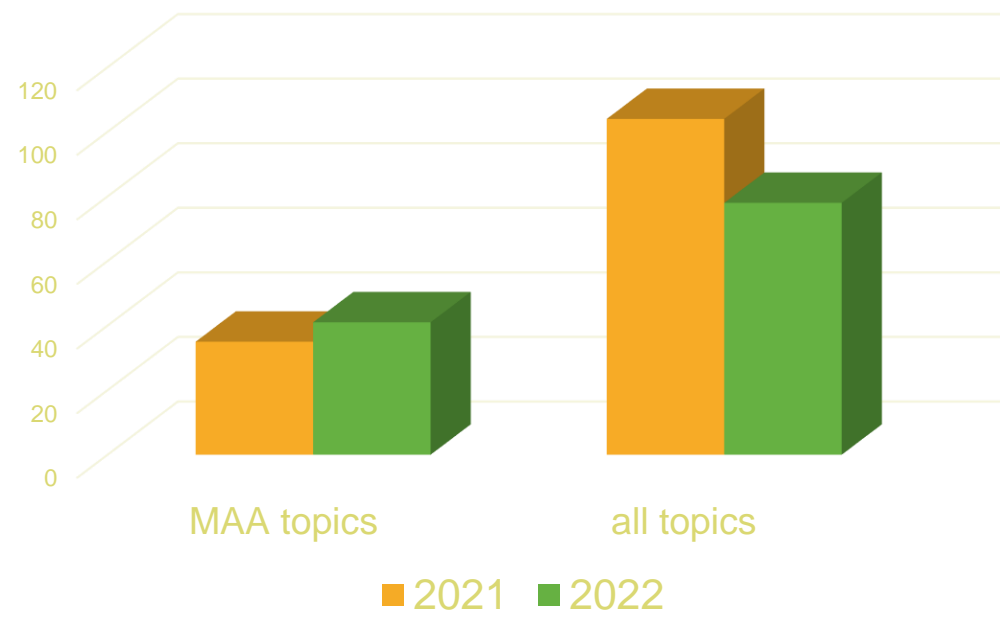
Multi-actor approach now useable across the whole cluster 6: same principles kept but type of actors broadened => even more practice info will come in

*Following destinations have been designed within Cluster 6 - **MA projects** (new concept and half of all projects already MA):*

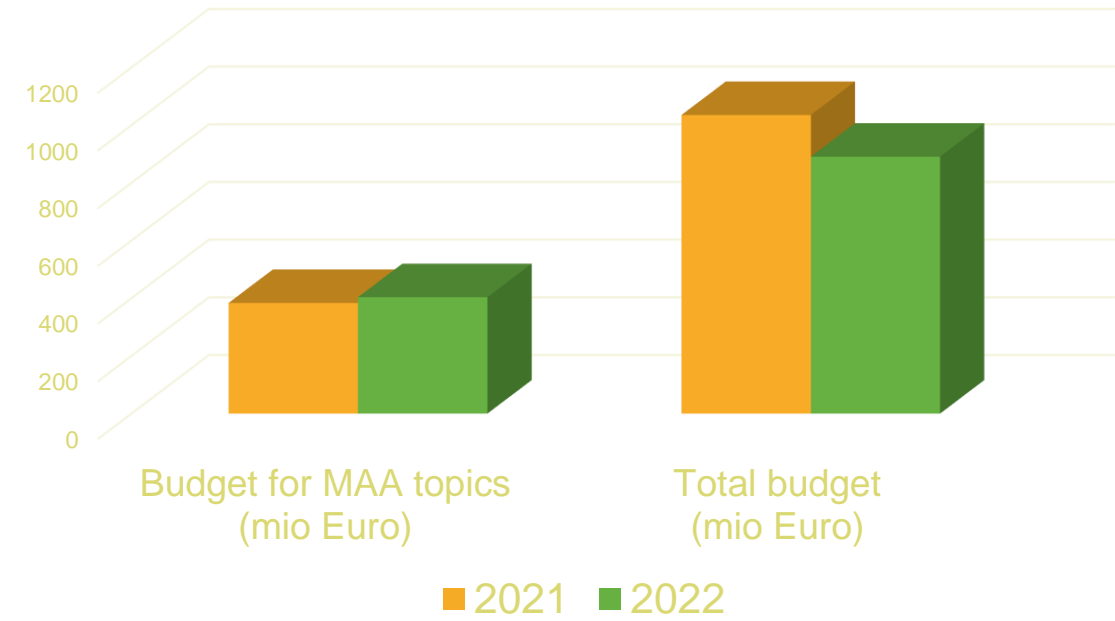
1. Biodiversity and ecosystem services
2. Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption
3. Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors
4. Clean environment and zero pollution
5. Land, oceans and water for climate action
6. Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities

Budget and number of Multi-Actor Approach topics

Number of topics



Budget for MAA projects



	Number of MAA topics	MAA Topic share	Total number of topics	Budget MAA topics (mio Euro)	MAA Budget share	Total budget (mio Euro)
2021	35	34%	104	383,5	37%	1035,3
2022	41	53%	78	403,5	45%	890,64
Total	76	42%	182	787	41%	1925,94

The Horizon Europe Workprogramme 2021 will support AKIS

7. Destination “Fostering Innovative governance, ...as enabler for AKIS - including following multi-actor project topics (Gov 23-28):

- On AKIS co-creation and networking among all MS
- On how to develop innovation support – collect best practices
- Finishing, testing, finetuning and promoting the EU Knowledge reservoir together with all MS’ AKIS
- Thematic Networks, compiling knowledge ready for practice (min 3 years, 3 mio)
- Thematic Networks growing from common elements in OGs, also compiling knowledge for practice (at least 5 OGs from 3 MS)
- An EU advisory network on short supply chains (more advisory networks to come).

INTERACTIVE INNOVATION: **CROSS-FERTILISATION** IS KEY FOR TACKLING COMPLEX CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATION

Co-creation:

"I not only use all the brains that I have, but all that I can borrow"

Woodrow Wilson –
President of the USA, 1913-1921



Multi-Actor Approach (MAA) in Cluster 6

NEW

Multi-Actor requirements can be found on:

[wp-9-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#) page 19-21

1. The MAA is an **integral part of the topic text** and is counted as **criterion for excellence**:

- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives (*=> focus on needs and opportunities of end-users of project results*)
- Soundness of the proposed methodology, including open science practices including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate (*=> focus on working according to MAA and plenty of broad communication and dissemination, in particular to end-users of project results*)

2. The MAA = **eligibility criterion** as indicated in the topic table: « proposals must use the MAA »

3. IMPACT of MA project: outcomes are **more demand-driven**, reliable and **relevant to society**

4. End-users/practitioners and intermediates are to be involved, **not as a study-object**, but to use their practical and local knowledge and/or entrepreneurial skills to develop solutions and **create 'co-ownership' of results for (end-) users and practitioners**

~~APPLIED RESEARCH~~

5. This will **speed up the acceptance and take-up of new ideas, approaches and solutions** developed in the project

The Multi-Actor requirements (can also be used at national level)

1. Project objectives must be targeting the needs and opportunities of end-users of results
2. The project concept and composition of the consortium must reflect a balanced choice of key relevant actors with complementary knowledge, able to ensure broad implementation. All actors actively involved all over the whole course of the project as from the planning phase
3. Cross-fertilisation during the project must integrate tacit and practical knowledge
4. Use methods to facilitate the multi-actor engagement process
5. Demonstrate added value: how does the project complement existing research and best practices?
6. Results must be practical, easily understandable and feed into the most used dissemination channels for end-users at national and regional levels
7. For EU wide communication: “practice abstracts” in the common EIP format
8. Involve as much as possible local interactive innovation groups (EIP-AGRI Operational Groups under the CAP)

What post 2020 ?

Jean
Monnet
Father of Europe

12/05/1954



“Ce qui nous arrête, c’est la peur du changement. Et pourtant, c’est du changement que dépend notre salut”

“What stops us is the fear of change.
And nevertheless, it is on change that our
salvation depends”

Further info:

SWG SCAR AKIS 4 report https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26_en

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)

AKIS animated infographic:

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

June 2021 webinars on EIP-AGRI website

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en>

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

Main 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.

Report published: including a table of examples of SWOTs of MS and planned actions

How to improve AKIS in practice? 1+1=3

SWOT: We have many good organisations and institutes as components of AKIS in many MS.

The main challenge = how to create structured knowledge flows and interaction between them to help innovation grow and support competent advice?

1. How to **use the increased flexibility (and ensure sufficient financing)** to create integrated innovation support and ensure competent advice on the many (innovative) fields?
 2. **Where do we start** to build this interlinked AKIS? The EIP-AGRI is often a strong cornerstone with well functioning mechanisms and actors, such as the innovation facilitators and the EIP network.
 3. How can your **existing structures** (chambers of agriculture, innovation facilitators, applied research stations, advisory networks, universities,...) play a role in this?
 4. Innovation facilitators are advisors and advisors are facilitators. **How can we network them?** How to learn among them and from abroad? **Back-offices? Strategic dissemination, how?**
 5. Innovation facilitators can gather EIP OG project results **in** their region, exchange with others and strengthen dissemination. They can bring new ideas **to** their region and bridge to the others in AKIS.
 6. Finally, turn this into a number of **meaningful CAP supported interventions**
-

Building and linking AKISs across the EU

***Speed up creativity and
practice application***

***Better connectivity and
quicker circulation of
information***

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 3000 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 to be **more closely involved in the AKIS:** (inter)acting on farmers' needs/opportunities, and to be rewarded to do so. Researchers to join specific "multi-actor" activities and publish for practice and 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 **more frequent calls** (open calls or min. every year) **cross-sectorial** and **cross-border OGs** and the possibility for **collaboration between OGs** (national CAP network task in coordination with the Man. 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 the advisors available, vouchers. 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 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 => AKIS.**

- **emerging knowledge reservoirs** at national level, **national thematic networks**
- **public back-offices** (“knowledge hubs”) with **specialist advisors** closely interacting with field advisors, research and CAP networks
- National and **EU advisory networks**
- **Public digital advisory tools** reducing maintenance costs: H2020 project Fairshare
- Face-to-face multi-actor thematic events, on-farm demonstrations 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**

Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



Thanks for your attention

Inge Van Oost – DG AGRI Unit B.2 – Research and Innovation

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European
Commission

AKIS strategies in the post 2020 CAP: Seminar Sep 2020

Summary to take home:

- 1. Improve AKIS systems:** make all **advisors, researchers and CAP networks cooperate** to provide for comprehensive innovation ecosystems at Member States' level delivering qualitative services. Interministerial agreements needed.
- 2. Step up advisors' competences through their integration and interaction within the AKIS system to enable them to give much broader advice,** on economic, environmental and social dimensions, and to deliver up to date technological and scientific information developed by research and innovation.

Summary to take home:

- 3) Request advisors to take up also a more interactive role and serve as innovation support services**, helping to **discover farmers' needs** and to **prepare and facilitate innovative projects** of EIP Operational Groups.
- 4) Use AKIS and thus EIP OGs as testing ground for various CAP interventions**, motivating future beneficiaries through co-ownership of the co-developed interventions, resulting in an increased take-up of improved schemes (example: IE nationwide OG to protect the Hen Harrier = next period AECM intervention).

Summary to take home:

- 5) Open up farm advisory services to include within the AKIS 2.0 the trusted advisors who have real impact on farmers' decisions.** Make a new “advisory” start to empower people on the ground to design their own solutions to the problems they face. Do not look back to the past.
- 6) Promote investment in the innovation strand of the CAP networks** to share all existing and innovative knowledge created in the many European innovation and research projects.

Summary to take home:

- 7) Enhance all kinds of cross-border**, from finding info abroad, to learning for advisors and farmers by exchange visits, to setting up cross-border OGs but also incentivising cooperation between OGs from different countries and regions
- 8) Profit from the simplification we offer, do not start again with certification of advisors**, keep the AKIS system open, new advisors must be welcomed and all advisors inclusively drawn into the AKIS. **Use simplified costs as much as possible**, avoid checking invoices. Think about vouchers, giving power to the receivers of services

Summary to take home:

- 9) Give power to the receivers of services** and make it transparent to the example of booking.com. Think about **vouchers, giving power to those making use of advice or training.**
- 10) Instead of certification** (= closing out possibly the most valuable advisors who do not need you to make a living), make **transparency through websites with lists of advisors** who attended the (obligatory) trainings, put their cv online,... : the market will work. All EU obligations related to advisors have been taken out (minimum size of the advisory service, minimum experience, separate FAS system etc)

Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



Thanks for your attention

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Questions?



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