

Meeting of the SWG SCAR AKIS Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

Feedback on the voucher meeting

Timea Reszketo
NAK

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research



First: THANK YOU for the presentations

BE - Flanders



Els Lapage
Maxime Bolle

NL - Netherlands



Esch, ir. J.W.J. van (Jan)
Haverkamp, D.C.T. (Daniela)
Naarden, C.C.G. van (Chris)
Hondebrink, R. (Richard)

HU - Hungary



Anikó Juhász
me 😊

Why a voucher system?

BE - Flanders



A voucher system is **easy to be managed** once it is set up. We believe it is the **most flexible way** to organise supported knowledge exchange.

Appropriate tool to provide both the farmers and the advisors a **low threshold for participation**.

NL - Netherlands



We have a **high level of research, but low uptake**.

There is a need to **activate private advisors** toward helping farmers also to face societal challenges.





HU - Hungary



We would like to **motivate farmers** to go for knowledge exchange services.

It can be a **simple and fast** electronic system, a **‘one stop shop’** where they have **free choice** of services with **no prefinancing**.

Scope of the system

	Flanders (current) 	Flanders (plans) 	Netherlands (current) 	Hungary (plans) 
Scope	advisory services	advisory services and vocational trainings	advisory services	advisory services and trainings
Topics	14 topics	wide range of topics, but not unlimited	10 topics (6 technical, 4 social-economic)	wide range of topics, service providers can come up with them
Content	predetermined templates	demand-driven, there may be some minimum requirements	demand-driven, but sometimes there are content checks	demand-driven







,template advice is **limited to be up-to-date and flexible**'

,to ensure service is given in **priority topics**, we:

- **set requirements** at certification process
- **generate demand** by setting knowledge exchange as an obligation as part of other proposals
- **support setting up** of certain services'

Selection of service provi

,to accredit services we must look at the potential outputs (improved skills / professional results) that would be assessed somehow'





	Flanders (current) 	Flanders (plans) 	Netherlands (current) 	Hungary 
Service providers	private advisors	private advisors and training centers	private advisors	private advisors and training centers
Selection	public procurement	certification of the organisation	certification of the advisor	certification of the organisation and the advisor + accreditation of service
Criteria	price and quality <div>,quite a big administrative burden, a limited number of companies were interested'</div>	not set yet	impartiality, experience, motivation etc. -> existing registry (BAS)	impartiality, experience, education, relevant membership (if needed for the activity) -> existing registries



An **interview** is also part of the process!







Subject of the support

	Flanders (current) 	Flanders (plans) 	Netherlands (current) 	Hungary (plans) 
Supported ADVISORY service types	single advice 1 farmer - 1 advisor	single advice(s) 1 farmer - 1 advisor or more multidisciplinary advisors group of farmers - 1 advisor (area-specific challenges) +possibility of follow-up moments	one advisory service contract note: a group of farmers can have supported advice by collecting their vouchers in a common pot, or by asking a project subsidy (praktijknetwerk)	single advice(s) 1 farmer - 1 advisor +possibility of follow- up moments
Supported TRAINING types	-	classical, e-learning, blended learning	-	classical, e-learning, blended learning





,farmers appreciated the system
so we integrate trainings'

How much to pay for the service





	Flanders (current) 	Flanders (plans) 	Netherlands (current) 	Hungary (plans) 
Price of service	fixed price/advice (can be different per company, based on public procurement)	fixed price based on evaluation OR market price (+maximum price/advice to help the estimation of unit cost)	market price	market price (but: maximum support is set)
Support rate	100%	contribution from the farmer is needed -> how big? differentiation to prioritise certain topic?	100%, but next period considering contribution from farmer	100%



Voucher availability

	Flanders (current) 	Flanders (plans) 	Netherlands (current) 	Hungary (plans) 
Platform (virtual wallet)	part of other platform of the Ministry used for subsidies (connected to farmers' registry)	the previous platform will be improved	part of other platform of PA used for taxes and subsidies	online platform developed for this purpose (connected with PA, advisory and training data registries)
1 voucher =	1 advice (no price tag)	1500 EUR/year 4500 EUR/period	1500 EUR	1000 EUR
Voucher gaining	automatically awarded to active farmers (1 voucher/topic, overall 14 vouchers)	same automatition but not decided: equal amount to all farmers or benefits to certain types of farmers	can be asked for on a " <i>first come first served</i> " basis (eligibility check is integrated)	can be asked for on a " <i>first come first served</i> " basis through DP application platform in case the applicant had winning proposal (=eligibility check) last year





Voucher usability

	Flanders (current) 	Flanders (plans) 	Netherlands (current) 	Hungary (plans) 
Voucher redeeming	,first come first served' approach (it could happen that a farmer had a voucher but couldn't use it)	a part is reserved (according to the cost of the service, valid: for 3 months)	the whole amount should be used for one advisor	a part is reserved (according to the cost of the service)
Validity	whole period	whole period, there is a threshold/year	one year, can be extended for another 6 months in case of vis maior	one year

,regarding trainings it is an **issue** how to guarantee that service providers can get the payment if **farmer does not accomplish** the course... we will provide **contract templates'**



Quality of service

	Flanders (current) 	Flanders (plans) 	Netherlands (current) 	Hungary (plans) 
Quality control	at public procurement phase	may be based on farmers' review	regular quality checks (taking a sample of advices) for advisors: 20 education points/year	based on farmers' review for advisors: compulsory courses, 10 education points/year






„quality control is a **big challenge**“

Common:

Certification is already a screening

There is a belief that **market** will also do its job

Overall frame of the system

	Flanders (current) 	Flanders (plans) 	Netherlands (current) 	Hungary (plans) 
Budget	...	11,65 million EUR	2020 Nov: 3,0 million EUR 2021 May: 6,6 million EUR sold out on the first day!	
Goal	8% of population reached not sufficient	more, but not decided yet	10% of population reached (next period: the plan is to reach more)	~5-10% of the population
Financing the operation of the system	technical assistance budget*	technical assistance budget*	national money	technical assistance budget

some farmers were very satisfied
some were rather critical: 'only
advisors profit from it'

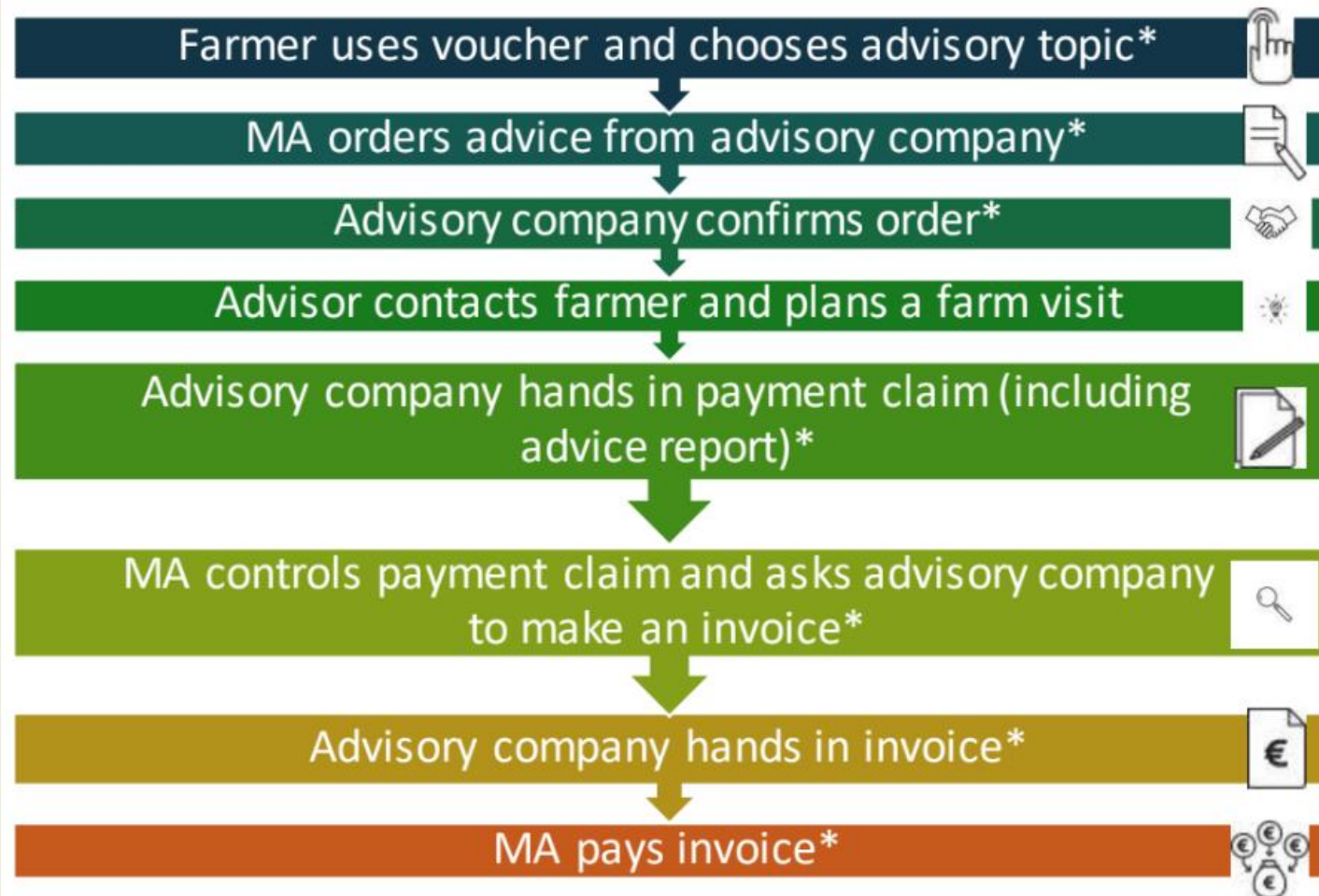
Some charts
for those who are deeper interested afterwards...

FLANDERS system (current)

BE - current



Procedure



* = step performed on web application

FLANDERS system (plans)

BE - plans



Procedure

Farmer activates voucher + selection of topic, provider and cost



Farmer pays his part of the cost to the service provider



Farmer receives advice or attends training course



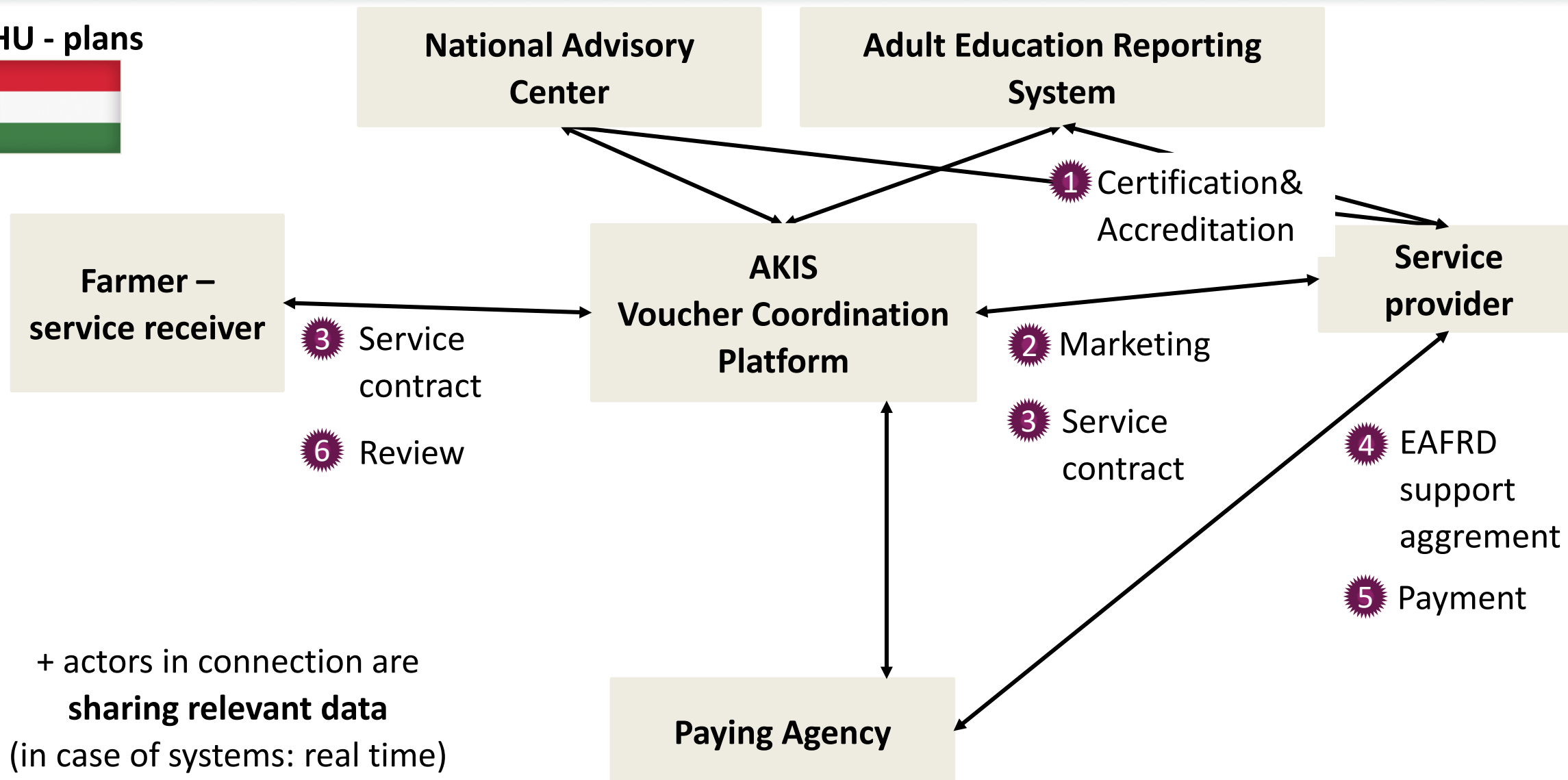
Advisory company/training center hands in payment claim to obtain the payment of the subsidy



MA pays subsidy to the advisory company/training center

HUNGARIAN system (plans)

HU - plans



Discussion:

All comments, questions and suggestions very welcome!



SCAR

AKIS

Agricultural Knowledge
and Innovation Systems

**Thank you for your
attention!
and for your active participation
and commitment!**

Report available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26_en (more paper copies can be asked to Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu)

