

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

Social Innovation in the AKIS

24 November 2021 - Member State:

SLOVAKIA

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research



A) Context & Need

- **Is social innovation recognized and acknowledged in your Member State as a real need in agriculture, forestry and rural development?**

As part of the SWOT analysis of the agricultural sector and forestry and rural development for the CAP strategic plan does not specifically identify the need for social innovation, but the need to develop capacity, cooperation at local level to jointly address local problems, efficient use of local resources, provision of services and job creation is identified. Social innovation as a topic is addressed cross-sectionally, while within the individual specific objectives of the CAP there is room for support, for example, social enterprises in the agricultural sector

A) Context & Need

- **In your expert opinion, what are the main rural sectors / contexts/areas in which social innovation is needed in your Member State?**

Especially in terms of maintaining rural employment and integrating marginalized groups. These topics are addressed by general partners from the European Social Fund

A) Context & Need

- **What are the main obstacles that currently exist in your Member States for fostering social innovation in these rural sectors / contexts?**

The biggest obstacle is **the rural depopulation** of young people who goes to the cities for opportunities. The history of family business in agriculture is missing. Less interest of young people in agriculture and manual work.

B) Existing good practice for fostering social innovation

- **Is it possible to identify existing good practices for the fostering of social innovation in your Member State?**

The main target is to bring, in comparison with the available alternatives, better solutions to social problems (ie more efficient, effective, sustainable, fairer), to fulfill urgent social, resp. social needs while creating new social relationships and cooperation in the development of society, region, city and municipality

B) Existing good practice for fostering social innovation

- **What are these existing good practices? How are they supported? Who is implementing them?**

The Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (MIRRI) is the central state administration body for the regional development, including coordination of the preparation of regional development policies. Social innovations form an integral part of regional development and are part of the preparation of integrated territorial strategies in Slovakia, at least developed districts, the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic as well as the Partner Agreement of the Slovak Republic and the Operational Program Slovakia.

B) Existing good practice for fostering social innovation

- **To what extent have these existing good practices for fostering social innovation been supported to-date by the CAP (notably rural development measures)?**

They have not been funded yet. Specific social innovation projects were not funded by the Rural Development Programme (RDP). However, the RDP makes a **significant** contribution to maintaining employment mainly through investment support.

C) Strengthening the AKIS for social innovation

- Is the SWOT mentioning social aspects that need to be tackled

The SWOT analysis mentions in part specific objective 8:

- An **opportunity** has been identified: supporting women, young families and the elderly in rural areas by increasing the knowledge and skills that can be applied in the labor market in rural areas;
- **Threats** are identified: low interest of the rural population in public affairs, social isolation in the end rural villages.

C) Strengthening the AKIS for social innovation

- **Is the need for fostering social innovation identified in your draft CAP Strategic Plan?**

In particular, this need is not identified.

C) Strengthening the AKIS for social innovation

- **What concrete AKIS interventions are proposed for strengthening the fostering of social innovation in your Member State?**

Interventions to strengthen social innovation are not specifically designed, but several interventions contribute to capacity building and stimulate interest in actively addressing societal problems.

Under the LEADER: Development of Municipalities, Social and Community Life support, support will also focus on human resources in rural areas through active community and youth activities to activate local human resources, strengthen local identity and build community.

C) Strengthening the AKIS for social innovation

Fulfilling community interest through positive social impact will be possible by supporting soft actions in connection with innovative forms of education and leisure (such as youth clubs, clubs for the elderly, leisure centers, folk creativity clubs, maternity centers, theme camps, cultural activities, etc.).), amateur, theater, folklore, raising the educational level of the population, informing and shaping the attitudes of the population in the field of environment, building environmental awareness, nature protection, environmental education, landscaping, preservation of traditions, etc., disseminating examples of good practice to support craft skills , processing of local production, etc., realization of permanent exhibitions for the presentation of historical, cultural, technical monuments and elements of folk art, etc. Achieving activities is to achieve a positive social impact on disadvantaged or vulnerable people, the elderly, young families, women and young people.

C) Strengthening the AKIS for social innovation

One of the objectives of the above support will be the readiness of the labor market for agriculture and rural development, taking into account individual skills. Also the social cohesion of community projects under Priority 3, which involve various social groups in activities implemented to improve the quality of interpersonal relations in rural areas. An example may be e.g. educational activities on existing farms, craftsmen, etc. The activities have an educational, enlightening, activating character and have an impact on life in the community of rural areas.

Discussion:

All comments, questions and suggestions very welcome!



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

