

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research



SCAR
AKIS
Agricultural Knowledge
and Innovation Systems

SWG SCAR-AKIS

Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

**Dublin Meeting
15 to 17th April 2019**

Slovenia

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FOOD

1. Introduction on Art 102 on AKIS

Article 102 Modernisation

The description of the elements that ensure modernisation of the CAP referred to in point (g) of Article 95(1) shall highlight the elements of the CAP Strategic Plan that support the modernisation of the agricultural sector and the CAP and shall contain in particular:

(a): an overview of how the CAP Strategic Plan will contribute to the cross-cutting general objective related to fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation and encouraging their uptake set out in the second subparagraph of Article 5, notably through describing....(i) and (ii)

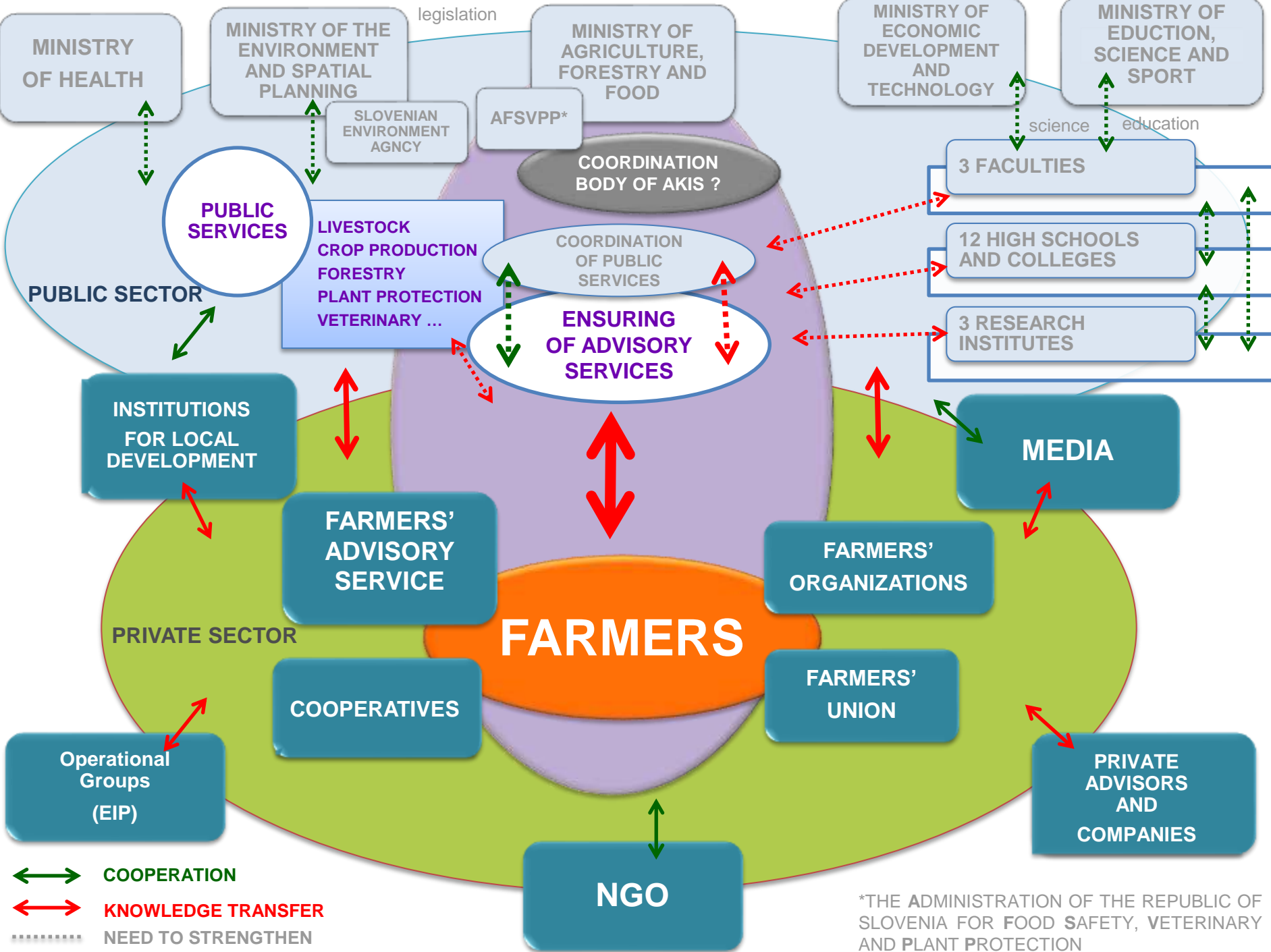
➤ (i) the **organisational** set-up of a well-functioning AKIS in your country

- The structure of the institutions that form AKIS in Slovenia is **diverse, fragmented** and it **varies** from traditionally strong cooperation to more declarative cooperation. Although AKIS structure is set up, it needs to be **further improved** and **strengthened**.

The organisational set-up of AKIS in Slovenia is presented schematically on the following figure

(based on the preliminary results of the SWOT analysis, Dec 2018)





↔ COOPERATION
 ↔ KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER
 NEED TO STRENGTHEN

*THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA FOR FOOD SAFETY, VETERINARY AND PLANT PROTECTION

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- (ii) how this organisation helps to **deliver services**: better advice, more innovation and improved knowledge flows

- **OPERATIONAL GROUPS** (EIP projects) → 9 on-going OGs and 7 non-EIP related projects (M16)



First public call launched on
2 Feb 2018
(open until 25 May 2018)

Second public call launched on
28 Dec 2018
(open until 19 April 2019)

- **M1 and M2**
- **LEADER (M19)**

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- (ii) how this organisation helps to **deliver services**: better advice, more innovation and improved knowledge flows



Other actors
↓
Food processing industry
Companies
Individuals
Cooperatives
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

Triangle of knowledge
(set up of the OGs)

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- (ii) how this organisation helps to **deliver services**: better advice, more innovation and improved knowledge flows
- **FARMERS' ADVISORY SERVICES (FAS)** working closely with farmers, organizing various events (field trips, congress, round tables, individual advising ...)
- FAS is well recognized by the farmers (tradition)
- It consists of **8 territorial institutes** and **59 local units** and employs **over 300 advisors** with different type of specialization (it is very accessible to all farmers, especially to small)
- Advisors are also **involved** in the **project activities** in several **national** and **international projects**.

A) Characteristics of your AKIS (SWOT)

- What are the **main characteristics of your national AKIS** (strength, weakness, main actors, knowledge flows that characterize your AKIS)?
- **STRENGTHS:** good regional cover of FAS and educational/research institutions, advising and public services are free of charge, FAS provides specialized advising, education is free of charge, strong tradition of FAS, well developed information system for data collection, active involvement of researchers in the international cooperation, availability of private specialized advisory service.
- **WEAKNESSES:** weak peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge, lack of mentorship, inefficient communication between the institutions (e.g. research and FAS), lack of soft skills, lack of coordinated actions among the Ministries, insufficient financing for the research projects, weak transfer of knowledge and innovation into practice, weak identification of farmers' needs, weak development of scientific disciplines (e.g. digitization), lack of interest for the agricultural and related studies, lack of highly specialized FAS in specific areas (e.g. natural resource protection, climate change), obsolete infrastructure and equipment, the lack of interest of end-users for the research results.

A) Characteristics of your AKIS (SWOT)

- What will be the **main changes** to implement if you compare with the current situation?
 - **Strengthen the cooperation** between the actors in the AKIS
 - **Fostering applied research** in agriculture, forestry and food
 - Improve the infrastructure and equipment (e.g. specialized demonstration centers-farms)
 - **Stronger cooperation between the ministries** (MAFF and MESS)
 - Improve the **mobility of farmers, advisors** (and researchers)

The main changes are still under the discussion within the preparation of new CAP Strategic plan (reorganization of MAFF is currently in place).

A) Characteristics of your AKIS (SWOT)

- Main **barriers and bottlenecks** hindering knowledge flows in your AKIS.
 - Some actors are **not well informed** about the AKIS
 - **Lack of communication** (knowledge sharing) between some actors
 - Research is mainly “basic research”, **lack of applied research**
 - FAS is over occupied by the **administrative burdens** and is not well equipped with the **latest knowledge on specialized areas** as well as the **knowledge on soft skills**
 - **Agricultural holdings** are not considered and advised in a holistic approach
 - Lack of **appropriate financial instruments** for the investments in research equipment
 - **Slow adaptation of education system** to the needs of business sector and societal needs (all education levels)

A) Characteristics of your AKIS (SWOT)

- How to **overcome** them?
 - Foster the **improvement of communication** and **knowledge transfer** between actors
 - Encourage the **cooperation between ministries** (memorandum of cooperation between the MAFF and MESS is in preparation)
 - The establishment of the **Ministry Council for the research development** and knowledge transfer in agriculture, forestry and food (planned to be officially established in May 2019)

A) Characteristics of your AKIS (SWOT)

- How is the **process** of discussion on AKIS going in your country?
- The process of discussion on AKIS has been present for a while (public debates, presentations), lately it has been better recognized by FAS



- **Internal working group** on AKIS at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food has been set up at the end of 2018 (*reorganization of MAFF is currently in place*)

B) Future CAP AKIS Strategic plans

- ▶ (i) how the **organisational set-up of the AKIS**, and in particular **advisory services as referred to in Article 13, research and CAP networks**, will improve cooperation and the sharing of knowledge in an integrated manner
- ▶ (ii) how they will provide **advice, knowledge flows and innovation support services**
 - Active participation in OGs (**EIP projects**) and others
 - **Dissemination of knowledge** throughout the organization of practical workshops, field demonstrations (open farm days) and interactive lectures and seminars using digital tools when appropriate
 - **Better use of media (international and national)** in informing the end-users about the practical application of research results
 - More efficient use of **National Rural Network (future CAP Network)** in relation to innovation and digitalization topics in agriculture, forestry and food

C) interventions planned in your future AKIS

- a. Enhancing knowledge flows and **strengthening links between research and practice**
- Specific interventions for the future AKIS are still under the discussion (together with the MAFF reorganization process)
- **POLICY INTERVENTIONS:** continuation of M1, M2, M16 and M19 measures (maybe some additional cross-cutting intervention in CAP 2020?) → taking into account the protection of IPRs
- **FINANCIAL INTERVENTIONS:** various financial instruments (MAFF, Slovenian Research Agency, others) in order to strengthen the agricultural, forest and food research

C) interventions planned in your future AKIS

- b. **Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS**
 - The system of **FAS** needs to be **improved** (life-long learning of farmers' advisors, international exchange, enhancing individual specialized approach, vouchers for specialized technological advisory services, specialized advisors for RDP measures)
 - Encouraging **better communication** with researchers (more **effective translation of farmers' needs** to researchers and back) → key role of **innovation broker** (has not been implemented in Slovenia)

C) interventions planned in your future AKIS

- c. **Strengthening interactive innovation**
 - **Active involvement of all actors** all along the innovation and research process → implementing MAA (multi-actor approach)
 - **Financial incentives** for research and innovation development in SMEs and start-ups (through Regional Development Agencies and Technology parks)
 - Further development of **Rural Innovation Networks** (regional FabLab Networks) and DIH (Digital Innovation Hub) in strong cooperation with the University of Ljubljana and other actors → in relation to foster the digital transition in agriculture
 - Further development on the cooperation with DIH-AGRI FOOD (Innovation Technology Cluster) → in relation to foster the digital transition in agriculture

C) interventions planned in your future AKIS

- d. Supporting **digital transition** in agriculture
 - MAFF is supporting digital transition in agriculture at the **declarative level** → a declaration on “A smart and sustainable digital future for European agriculture and rural areas” has been signed in Brussels on 9th Apr (Digital Day 2019)
 - MAFF is planning to prepare *Digital strategy* and *Action plan* in order to support digital transition in agriculture at the **strategic level** → all the documents need to be harmonized with already existing European and national documents on digitalization in urban and rural areas
 - MAFF is planning to co-finance the **OECD study** on “Enhancing rural innovation in rural areas” (financial distribution: MAFF, MEDT* and Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy) *MEDT=Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
 - Implementing “**digital vouchers**” for the SMEs and other (innovative) business (launched in Apr 2019, by the Slovene Enterprise Fund) 1. Voucher for digital marketing, 2. Voucher for the preparation of digital strategy, 3. Voucher for raising digital competences



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**