

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) „Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability“

Moving Innovation in Agriculture Ahead !



Outcomes AKIS plans first steps – AKIS Sicily – 17 June 2019
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Outcomes of first steps towards CAP AKIS plans

*As presented in the Dublin SWG SCAR AKIS meeting
15 – 17 April 2019*

Congratulations, well done!

You are the AKIS ambassadors in your country !

Common for most/all: AKIS policy needed

- Connection between (1) all advisors and (2) OG innovative projects and research insufficiently exploited
- New approach for advice envisaged: impartial, away from FAS and public procurement, towards more interactiveness with farmers and other actors and providing innovation support
- Training for advisors to be improved (going abroad, interactive role), developing advisory tools to use knowledge (“back-office”)
- Rethinking of OGs: more types of calls, smaller scale/bigger, continuous calls, cross-border,...
- Discovery of potential of on-farm demonstration for many purposes: demonstration, validation, place to meet, follow-up encounters with individual advice,...
- Lack of international connections and knowledge flows

- Extra efforts planned/wanted for specific groups: young farmers, small farmers, hard-to-reach farmers,
- First thoughts about building knowledge reservoirs for practice
- Challenges for (semi)“regionalised” countries tackled in various ways: coordination between national and regional levels sought
- Simpler administration: vouchers, ...
- AKIS coordination very much needed but with use of existing well-functioning instruments, also bringing in new actors which not part of the traditional system (e.g. consumers)
- AKIS mapping necessary first, then reflection and collaboration
- Need for sufficient funding
- => AKIS policy needed



**SWG SCAR-AKIS
Dublin Meeting
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1st Typology:
Relatively well-developed AKIS,
further ambitions

AT, BE, NL, IE, CAT, FI, FR,

1. Introduction on Art 102 on AKIS

- What are the **main characteristics of your national AKIS** (strength, weakness, main actors, knowledge flows that characterise your AKIS)?
 - Well integrated, little number of **actors** (e.g. Chamber of Agriculture, their training service, organic farmers organisation) **that cooperate well, knowledge flow takes place (slowly), AKIS from public funding**
- What will be the **main changes** to implement if you compare with the current situation?
 - Less bureaucracy, **higher interconnectivity between measures/interventions** (e.g. information and advisory services, cross link **training (basic information followed by individual advice)**), and an **improving network between advisory services and researchers**

A) Characteristics of your AKIS (SWOT)

- Main **barriers and bottlenecks** hindering knowledge flows in your AKIS.
 - **Lack of interconnectivity of measures**
 - **Limited possibilities and resources for transfer of existing excellent research results into practice** (knowledge transfer organisations should be more targeted) – „knowledge generation“ an „need for solutions“ have too long been separated
 - **limited capacity to engage in or connect to international projects;**
 - single mindedness and parallel initiatives; **no systematic coordination between practical needs and research activities** of all involved parties (Research facilities, advisory service and agriculture)
 - Lack of long term solutions and **communication beyond the project**
 - Governments work in silos, networks work in silos

A) Characteristics of your AKIS (SWOT)

- How to **overcome** them?
 - **Advisors** need awareness raising/should **be supported to proactively engage in research activities, make new knowledge ready and available for practice;**
 - **improve interconnectivity** between measures; **seed funding for r&d project development+engagement,**
 - **using networks and clusters to improve communication and coordination** (AKIS cluster), NRN vs EIP networks, regular NCP-EIP connections?);
 - **More bottom-up approach** and better **coordination of relevant research activities, increasing the impact**
 - Aftercare for innovation projects, **long term availability of results**
 - **Better coordination of funding from different ministries**

B) Future CAP AKIS Strategic plans

- **please explain:** (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**; and
 - ▶ **Advisory services** should be enabled & supported to play the **coordinating role**
 - ▶ Implement a **national platform (AKIS cluster?) led by Advisory Services**, where all relevant actors interact, identify needs and define projects together, steer the further development of AKIS
 - ▶ AKIS platform, subdivided **in focus groups on thematic level (using already existing cooperations)**
- ▶ (ii) how they will **provide advice, knowledge flows and innovation support services**
 - ▶ Advice and innovation support as before, but **better coordinated on an institutional basis, including also the EIP innovation broker: „network advisors“**

C) interventions planned in your future AKIS

What are the main CAP interventions you may plan for your national AKIS?
Keep the wide diversity of AKIS-related Interventions/measures, but improve interconnectivity and set up own rules

- a. Enhancing knowledge flows and **strengthening links between research and practice**
 - **EIP-Agri (use more measures** than in current period) (in M16, also M1, M2)
 - **Seed funding** for r&i project development+engagement (M?)
 - Funding support to **knowledge transfer organisations to proactively make new knowledge ready and available for practice** (M1, M2) **BACK-OFFICE**
 - **New learning methods (videos from OGs and demo, podcasts, ...)**
 - **Innovative investments + accompanying advice**
- b. Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS
 - **Funding for advisory services** , more **focus for advice** on & for innovation
 - **Training of advisors** for involvement in OGs
 - Interconnectivity of themes for an **holistic advisory approach**
 - **Coaching to consolidate different advisors from different angles**
 - Set up **on-farm demonstration events**, possibly followed by advice visits

C) interventions planned in your future AKIS

What are the main CAP interventions you may plan for your national AKIS?

- c. **Strengthening interactive innovation**
 - **EIP-Agri (use more measures than in current period) (M16)**
 - **Instalment of an AKIS Platform**
 - **Open** existing formats (platforms, conferences) for advisors and researchers
 - Organise **international exchange of advisors** (maybe via IALB and EUFRAS)
 - Increase and intensify further **training of advisors and teachers/trainers**
 - **Meet & greet farmers/researchers:** stimulate platforms that bring together farmers and other actors
- d. Supporting **digital transition** in agriculture
 - uptake of new technology as a focus area **in all measures** (M1, M2, M16, ...), Cluster digitisation (M16)
 - Set up **Demonstration farms for digital** agriculture
 - Central **platform for knowledge sharing**



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2nd Typology:

Relatively less-developed AKIS,
major effort needed

HU, BG, RO

A1.1. Strengths (HU)

- ▶ Under the umbrella of Ministry of Agriculture a **research network** was established – with diverse palette of topics which main profile is applied research and innovation
- ▶ **RDI working group** was set up – regular meetings ensure some basic knowledge flow between policy, research, rural network and advising (this latter pillar is weaker)
- ▶ **Thematic unit and subunit work** in Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture which ensure knowledge transfer in thematic tissues
- ▶ The **network of advisory service providers** with transparent registered advisors is accessible – number of registered advisors is 1300
- ▶ **BIOEAST initiative** which mobilize the national actors by thematic working groups and ad hoc meetings

A1.2. Weaknesses

- ▶ The main **focus of advisory service is on administrative support** – the emphasis on technological advising is low
- ▶ The Ministry of Agriculture has **no direct contact to agricultural universities**
- ▶ The call content for advisory services and EIP was too complicated and the evaluation is delayed – **loss of confidence** is now experienced
- ▶ **Research topics are not transparent** for advisors and farmers
- ▶ The **knowledge flow** between RDI actors is **on a case-by-case basis**
- ▶ There is **no national agricultural research strategy** – the priorities and goals are not defined – there are **no allocated financial resources** to support agricultural research
- ▶ The **agricultural vocational training system** is strongly **short of resources**
- ▶ The **EIP NSU cannot work properly** because the department did not receive the necessary licenses for the activity

A2. What will be the **main changes to implement** if you compare with the current situation?

- ▶ **Establishment of NAKIT (National Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Council)**
 - ▶ ensure the transparency of research activities and results
 - ▶ determining **research priorities which are in parallel with the need from practice**
 - ▶ **ensure the knowledge flow** from research to advisors and farmers.
- ▶ **Learn from period 2014-2020:** working out a **more efficient EIP call**, speeding up evaluation process.
- ▶ Launch of the **evaluation system for advisors.**
- ▶ Formalize **advisory services provided by research institute.**
- ▶ Establishment of **working groups between ministries** to have a continuous **dialogue** and harmonized operation regarding RDI policy (BIOEASTsUP project)

A3. Main **barriers and bottlenecks** hindering knowledge flows in your AKIS.

- ▶ **Low motivation from the part of farmers** to gather new knowledge
- ▶ **Advisors's knowledge is limited**
- ▶ **Researchers overwhelmed**, they have no time to provide extension service
- ▶ Research institutes/universities have **no financial resources for knowledge transfer** (toward advisors, farmers)
- ▶ **Difficult to maintain regular and formalized forums** to ensure knowledge flow, rather the participation on conferences and events work well
- ▶ **Lack of centralised and unified knowledge reservoir**

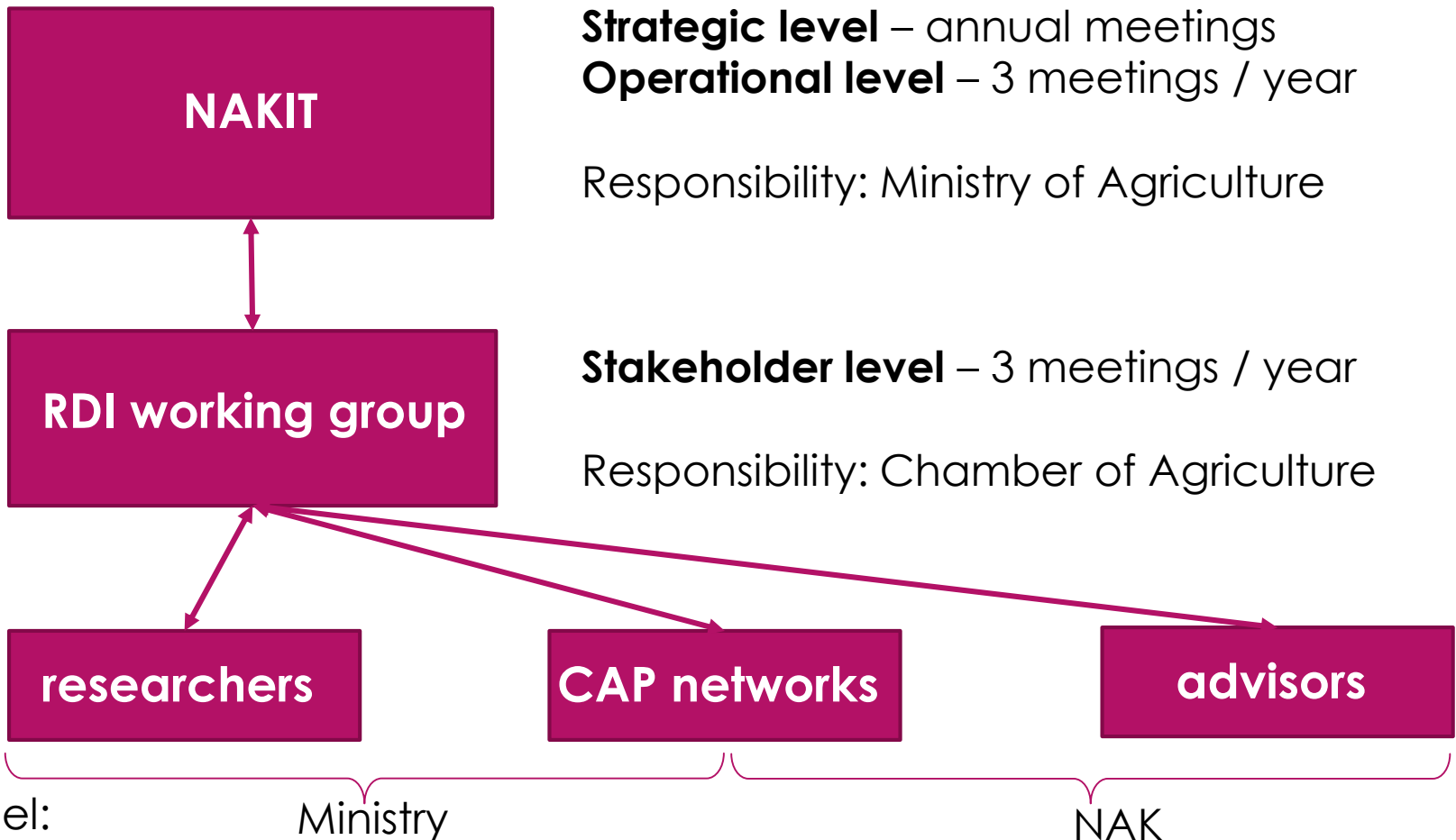
A4. How to overcome them?

- ▶ Introducing new knowledge in an attractive way – creating a **knowledge reservoir**
- ▶ Ensuring **advisors' knowledge and skill development**
- ▶ Creating a separate **department for extension services in research institutes**
- ▶ Allocating **financial resources** or working out a **support scheme** for research institutes to be able to operate extension services
- ▶ Establishing **thematic working groups** with clear objectives

A5. How is the **process** of discussion on AKIS going in your country?

- ▶ An **AKIS working group** will be established to create a concept, write the plan, determine rules. It will involve all the relevant actors.

B) Future CAP AKIS Strategic plans – organisational set up



B) Future CAP AKIS Strategic plans – knowledge flows

Actors	Provision of advice, knowledge flow, innovation support
Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In each institute separate department for extension services (research and extension activities, so as the people in charge, are separated, but working close) ▪ Provision of demonstration activities to spread research results ▪ Research results are also fed into a country-wide, publicly available knowledge reservoir (KR)
Advisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service development due to better education, trainings, mentor program (shift from administrative advising) ▪ Efficient financing by a voucher system ▪ Good practices are fed into the KR
CAP networks	<p>Main intermediary = advisors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhancing information and knowledge flow (booklets, events, KR) ▪ Connecting providers-clients by making available expert lists, communicating existing services (demonstration, advisory)

C) interventions planned in your future AKIS

What are the **main new CAP interventions** you may plan for your national **AKIS?** With regard to:

- a. Enhancing knowledge flows and **strengthening links between research and practice** by (1) establishment of NAKIT and using NAK as channel (2) national supports for extension service of research institutes (3) complemented with formalized and regular meetings (4) reorganisation of EIP (5) strengthening EIP National Support Unit.
- b. **Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS:** (1) ensuring training possibilities, (2) empowering the formal relationships between advisors and researchers
- c. **Strengthening interactive innovation:** Demonstration farms for knowledge transfer and research implementation (2) improving innovation aspects in national R&D resources (3) rethinking EIP call.
- d. Supporting **digital transition** in agriculture: Demonstration farms for better practical knowledge transfer.



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**3rd Typology:
“In between” AKIS,
further effort wanted**

EE, ES, IT, PL,