



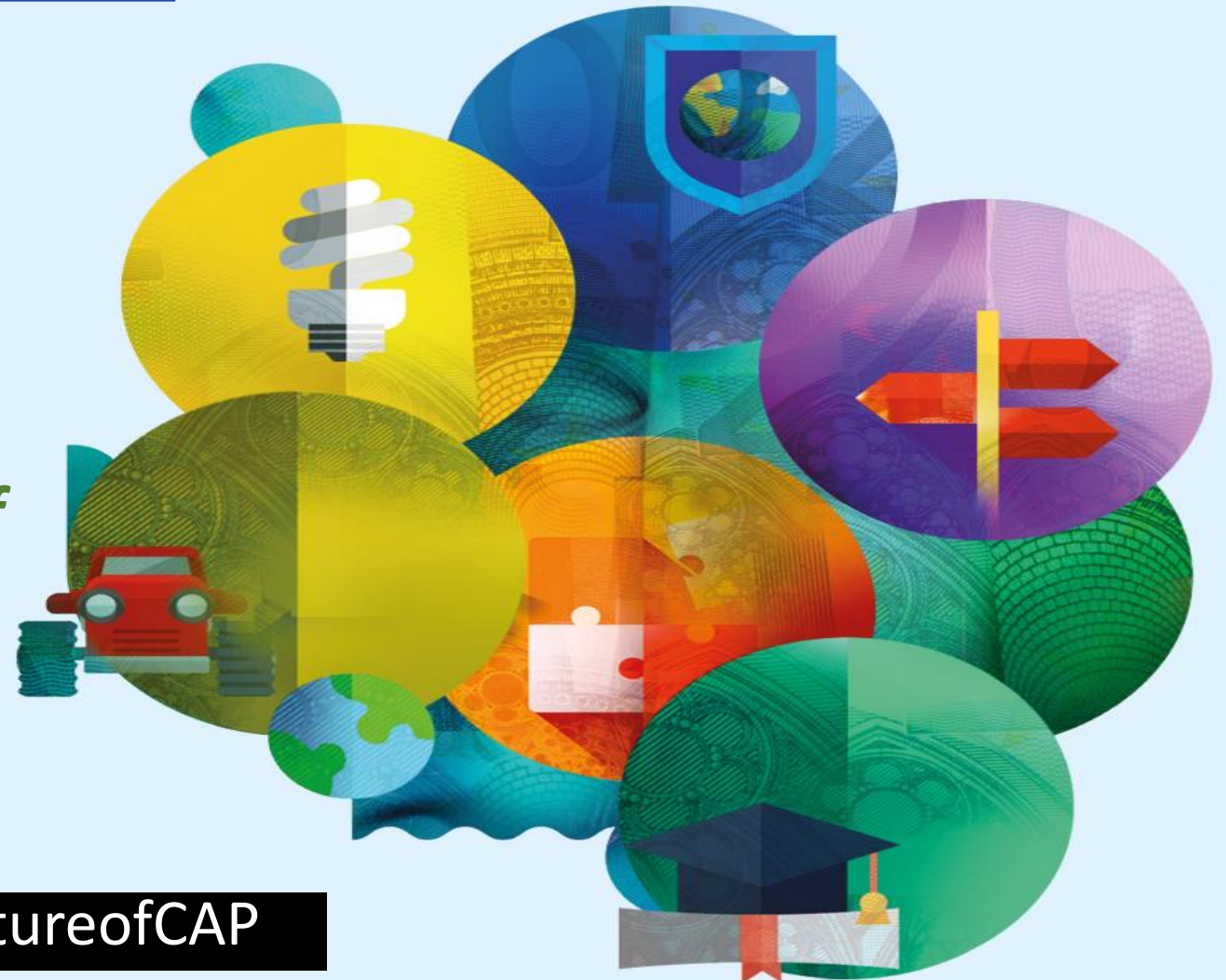
COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Post-2020

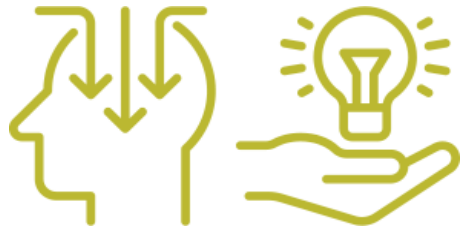
***CAP Strategic Plans post 2020:
AKIS and the innovation strand of
the CAP networks within the AKIS
strategic approach***

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European Commission

Unit B2 – Research & Innovation
3, 8, 10 May 2021 – EIP webinars



#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

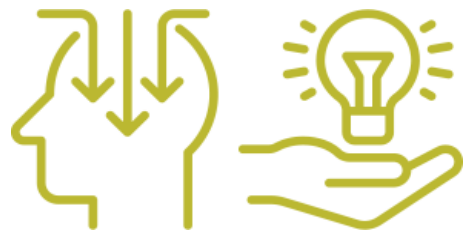
AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem =>

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 (= landscape, environment, climate, biodiversity, consumers and citizens, food and non-food systems including transformation and distribution chains, etc)

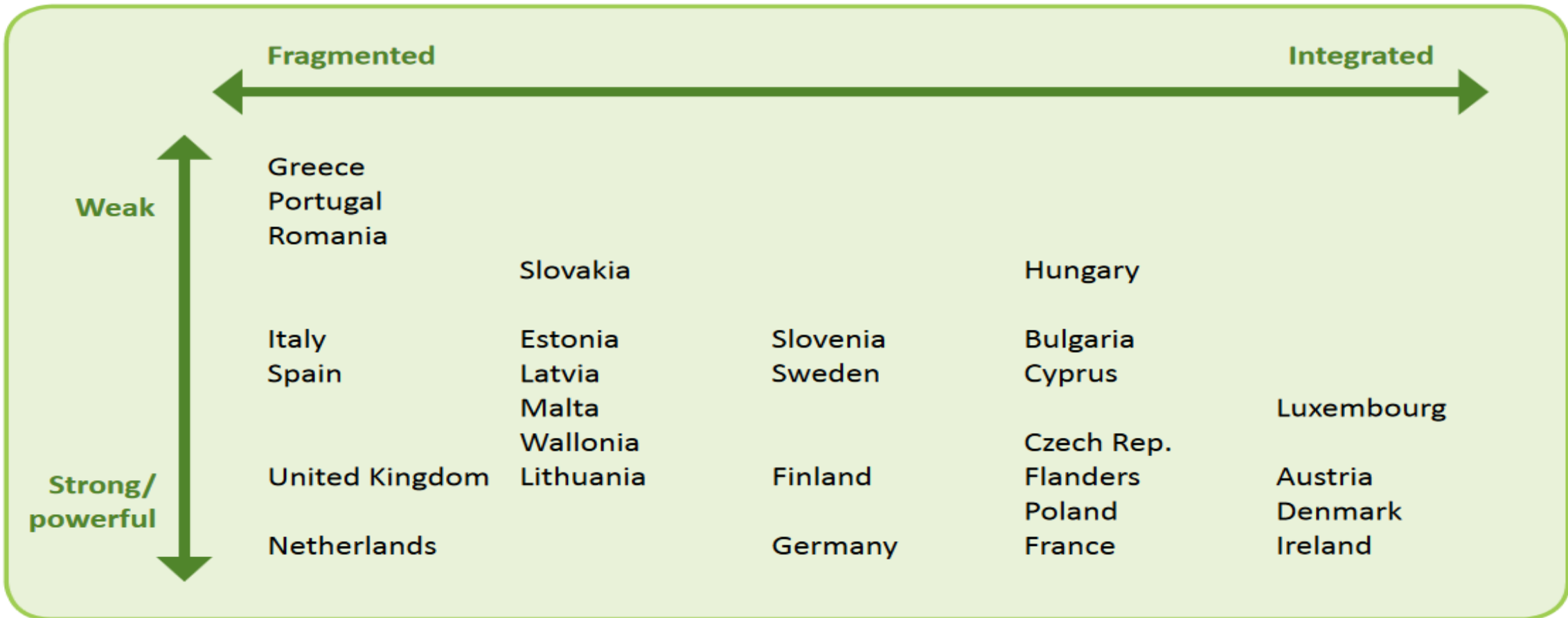


Where does the AKIS policy come from?

*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 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

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.**

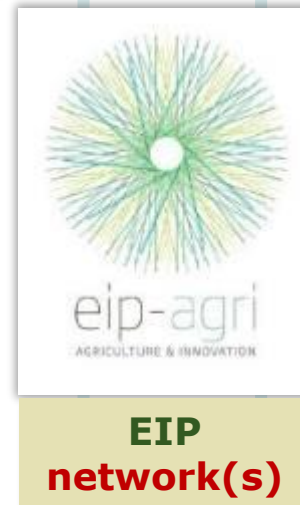
- **EU wide EIP network** linking actors: communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs (*Open science*)

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



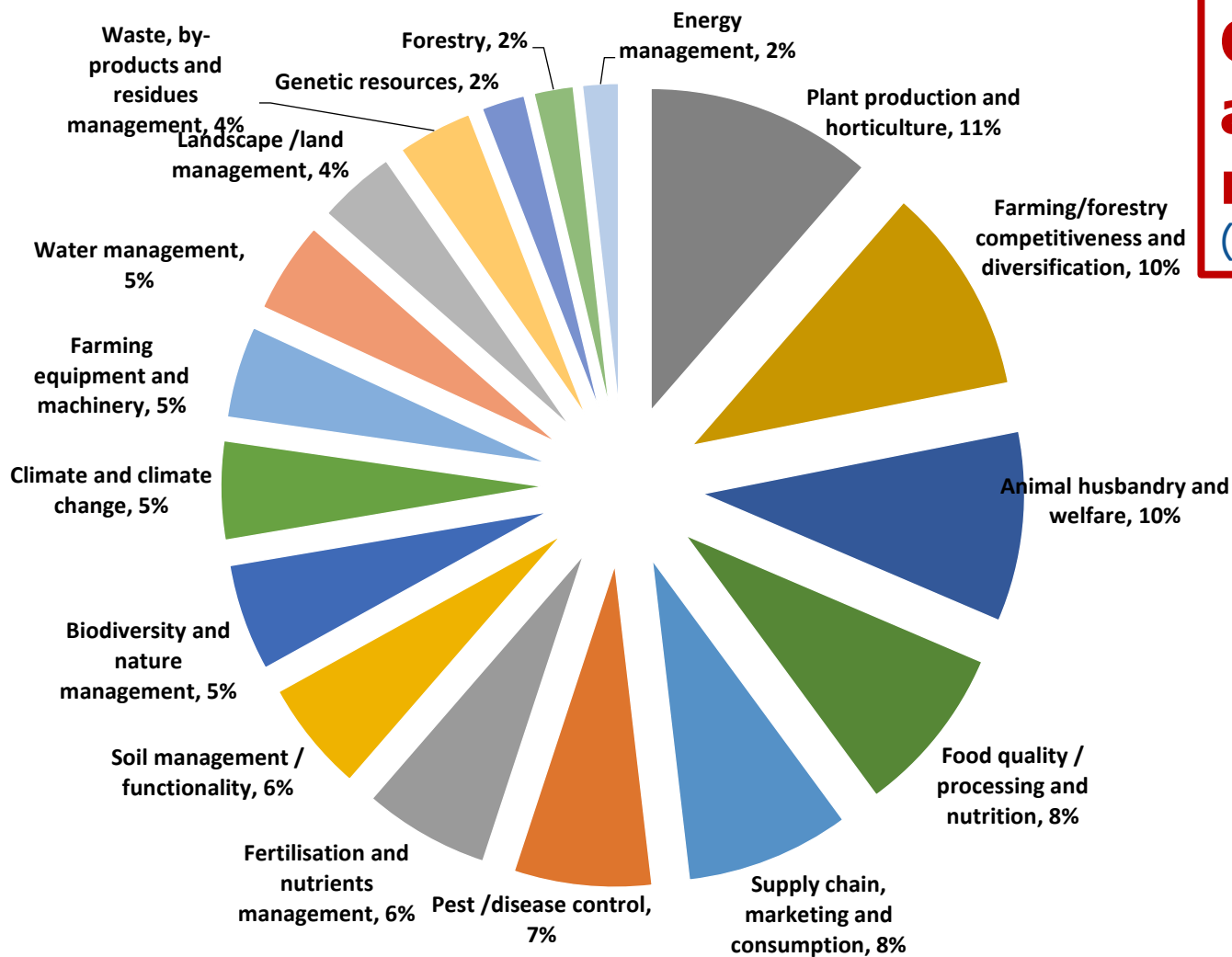
Unique EU knowledge repository of contacts and practice abstracts

Spread the results



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

**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)**



THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES

INCREASE
COMPETITIVENESS



REBALANCE
POWER IN FOOD CHAIN

ENSURE
VIABLE INCOME



CLIMATE CHANGE
ACTION

**Cross-cutting objective
KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION**

THE 9
CAP
OBJECTIVES



ENVIRONMENTAL
CARE

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



PRESERVE
LANDSCAPES
& BIODIVERSITY



VIBRANT
RURAL AREAS



SUPPORT
GENERATIONAL RENEWAL



European
Commission

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 needed? (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

Overview of relevant provisions for modernisation, innovation and digitalisation

Art 5
Cross-cutting objective of modernisation, knowledge sharing, innovation and digitalisation



Strategic approach to plan CAP interventions

Art 102 Modernisation in CAP Strategic Plans:

Well-functioning AKIS:
research + advisors + CAP networks +... working togetherand digitalisation

Tools = targeted CAP interventions to support the strategy:

Art 72

Funding for knowledge exchange, advice and information

Art 71

Cooperation:
Funding for preparing and implementing EIP OG projects

Art 13

Details on Advice and Innovation support to be given

Art 114

Details on EIP and OGs,
Interactive innovation model

Intervention shall only be CAP funded if
« *based on and consistent with* » the
AKIS strategy

Art 113
CAP networks:
Fostering innovation and knowledge exchange

Potential actions related to AKIS Strategic Approach

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,...

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP 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 measures**” (e.g. OGs on bottom-up grassroots ideas + on specific environmental challenges, on piloting digital tools & measures, on social innovation). Also initiate **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**.
The AKIS system must integrate all advisors, public and private: no more silos or separated FAS (Farm Advisory System). Holistic and interactive advice, **mobility** budget for advisors.

Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS



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



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

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP at MS level:

6. An AKIS coordination body (part of the MA) should

- **Follow up overall progress** on the AKIS strategic approach, interlinking regularly to be supported by the (many) AKIS platforms and networks in the MS, and of course with the innovation strand of the CAP network
- **Interconnect the regional AKIS** and their coordinators and related networks
- Seek **which interventions work** well and which may need improvement: connect with the involved actors and fine-tune where you can. Interact with the Managing Authority on **CAP plan modifications if needed**. A CAP plan is not static: each year (justified) modifications are possible (as in the current Rural Development Plans)
- Take responsibility in the new delivery model for **reaching targets and result indicators**, by informal contacts and regular monitoring and evaluating actions
- **Find new ideas for AKIS interventions**, supported by the networking between Member States in the 2021 Horizon Europe AKIS project. Don't stick to M1, M2 and M16
- **Be the spider in the AKIS web of your country !**

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>



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”

The CAP post 2020 – state of play

- Trilogues ongoing (EP, Council, EC), but AKIS elements almost all agreed
- **The CAP Strategic Plans regulation provides many tools for AKIS:**
 - Cross-cutting objective (Art 5)
 - Farm advice (Art. 13): MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I
 - Support for knowledge exchange and information (Art. 72), including for advice, demo and training coherent with the AKIS strategic approach described in Art,102
 - CAP networks (Art. 113)
 - EIP OGS (Art. 114)
- **CAP Strategic Plans** to be submitted formally to the Commission by 1/1/2022

CAP post 2020 – AKIS, EIP, advice and innovation – negotiations (1)

MS are overall happy with Commission proposal, including:

- Continuation of support for preparing and implementing OG innovative projects, as well as for EIP networking (Art 113,114)
- **State Aid derogation** for all OGs published in June-July 2021, and immediately in force
- **Advance payments** up to 50% and **80% EAFRD funding** instead of the usual 43% for other measures, such as the cooperation measure
- **Principles of interactive innovation now explicit in regulation (idem 2014 EIP guidelines), can serve as common selection criteria for instance for cross-border OGs:**
 - 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

(identical as those for Multi-actor approach, Horizon 2020 WP page 11-13, and Horizon Europe)

=> Do not underestimate the entrepreneurial creativity of farmers in OG projects for innovation, e.g. IE example of an OG testing and preparing an Agri-Environmental measure (AKIS report: see box page 63)

CAP post 2020 – AKIS, EIP, advice and innovation – negotiations (2)

- EIP OG projects now cover all CAP objectives
- Obligation to integrate and **update advisors' competences through connections within the AKIS** (Art 13), e.g. on up-to-date R&I and economic, ecological and social domains
- **Obligation and funding to provide innovation support** (Art 13)
- Broad CAP support for almost **any type of knowledge exchange and advice** (Art 72)
↔ limitations in former FAS, and in Art 15 advisory support in current RD regulation

A number of further improvements since June 1018:

- Art. 3: **definition of AKIS**: including whatever farming and rural activities automatically relate to (= environment, climate, landscape, biodiversity, consumers and citizens, food and non-food systems including transformation and distribution chains, ...)
- Art 72: **coherence** btw support for knowledge exchange & advice and AKIS strategies
- Art. 114: introduction of **funding cross-border OG projects** (as from the start)
- Art.113: introduction of the **possibility for existing OGs to cooperate**,
funded by Technical Assistance or Art 72 => CROSS-FERTILISATION

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.



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)

EIP-AGRI website <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en>

Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



Thanks for your attention

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Questions?



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