

The role of innovation networking in CAP Strategic Plan in Poland

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Rural networks and agricultural advisory services in Poland

- The Polish Rural Network and the EIP-AGRI innovation network are coordinated by the Agricultural Advisory Centre (CDR) in Brwinów and they are implemented by the Regional Agricultural Advisory Centres (WODR) and by regional governments.
- The agricultural advisors are integrated into those networks and they play an important role in facilitating the networking among farmers, researchers, cooperatives and rural communities.

Agricultural Advisory Service in Poland

Agricultural advice is provided through different institutions and organizations:

- public agricultural advisory services,
- farmers' associations,
- private advisors, including:
 - processing companies, dairy and meat factories, seed companies, machinery/equipment dealers, etc.
 - private consulting services (mostly impartial).

The public agricultural advisory service is playing a dominating role in Poland. It is available for all farmers through **Agricultural Advisory Centre (CDR) in Brwinów** and by **16 Regional Agricultural Advisory Centres (WODR)**. In general the advice is for free.

PUBLIC AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY IN POLAND



- **CDR Brwinów**
- **CDR Branches in Poznań, Kraków, Radom and Warszawa**
- **WODR Headquarters in 16 regions**
- **WODR Branches**

The tasks of the NRN and EIP networks

- **Identifying stakeholders** (farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers, advisors and other actors) for creation of a networking system.
- **Exchanging knowledge**, farmers' needs and good practice among all members of the network.
- **Offering a wide range of tools and services** (webpages, databases, publications, distribution of infomaterials, etc.) that facilitate networking activities and support dissemination of information to foster cooperation through seminars, workshops, conferences with intensive use of social media.
- **Encouraging all stakeholders** into different activities and **joint actions** that may encourage to start projects for instance: on-farm demonstration, Operational Groups, study tours and working/thematic groups.

NRN and EIP AGRI networks specifics

- **The Polish Rural Network** is running an annual small grant competition for network partners to prepare events, tours, conferences, seminars, festivals, etc....
- The NRN further carries out its own networking activities, currently focusing on Smart Villages, agri-tourism and women in rural areas.
- **The EIP-AGRI Innovation network** is focused on assistance in building partnerships and starting up national innovation projects, and in the creation of OGs.
- The implementation is dependent on innovation brokers experienced in working with farmers, entrepreneurs and researchers. The most important step was to create and then maintain a group of brokers who work in each region.

The new CAP network post 2020

- The networking system exists but it requires transformation !
- The creation of a network integrating agriculture innovation, rural development as well as CAP Pillar I.
- Building a clear organisational structure using the benefits of the existing networks such as:
 - organisational potential and nationwide structure,
 - experienced and impartial staff, including innovation brokers,
 - contacts with all farmers and rural inhabitants,
- Creation of consultative and support bodies with all key stakeholders.
- **Supporting the AKIS strategic approach.**

Integration of advisors - challenges

- The system of agricultural advisory services is well developed but it requires improvement;
- A group of well qualified people, understanding the need for integration and innovation;
- Advisors acting more as facilitators (not instructors);
- Balance between public and private advisory providers - impartiality (not only economic but environmentally and social issues);
- Motivation for advisors and other partners to actively participate in networking activities (cooperation on OGs, HORIZON Europe and other projects). The outcomes of OGs need to be broadly shared across the country.
- The international dimension is not a goal on itself but will help to capture knowledge that can be shared in Poland

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THANK YOU, DZIĘKUJĘ ZA UWAGĘ

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