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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

**WORKSHOP ENABLING FARMERS FOR
THE DIGITAL AGE: THE ROLE OF AKIS
26-27 APRIL 2018 - JŪRMALA, LATVIA**



funded by

EIP-AGRI Workshop 'Enabling farmers for the digital age: the role of AKIS'

Thursday 26 April – Friday 27 April 2018
Baltic Beach Hotel, Jūrmala – Latvia

Digital technologies can support European farmers in providing safe, sustainable and quality food. Not only do they help farmers "produce more with less", they also address the sustainability challenges lying ahead for the agricultural sector.

The EIP-AGRI Network has undertaken substantial groundwork to incentivise a digitised and data-empowered farming sector¹. A number of activities contributed to identifying opportunities, bottlenecks and future needs for the European farming sector to embrace the digital revolution. These activities highlighted that while today many farmers are already benefiting from digital technologies, there are still barriers to realise their full potential. The majority of farmers especially need support to understand and take up new technologies and to make decisions on the use of ICT, adapted to their specific needs.

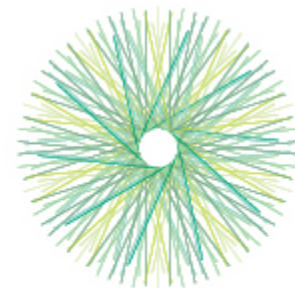
This is also reflected in the EC Communication on "[The Future of Food and Farming](#)" which acknowledges the huge potential of technological development and digitisation in addressing the farming sector's current and future challenges. However, the uptake of new technologies "remains below expectations and unevenly spread throughout the EU, and there is a particular need to address small and medium-sized farms' access to technology." (COM(2017) 713)

The combined performance of advisers, agricultural training and educational systems, researchers and farmer organisations - often referred to as the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (**AKIS**)² - stands out as particularly important to support farm innovation across Europe benefiting from the digital transformation opportunities. Agricultural education, research and in particular advisory services, together with the other AKIS actors, should embrace the digital revolution to help farmers in placing and orienting themselves in the digital landscape. In this respect the EC Communication foresees "strengthening advisory services within the AKIS systems" and attaches great importance to knowledge, skills, advice and innovation.

Digitisation also poses challenges and opportunities for national and regional AKIS themselves which need to update their own functioning and embrace the potential of new data flows and technological advances. There are needs and opportunities to upgrade communication within and between national and regional AKIS systems. Many existing and new data and knowledge flows could fulfil multiple uses and could be brought to a higher level through improved ICT applications in a mix of face-to-face and digital applications. Making AKIS actors work together to this aim is a matter of urgency.

¹ See the EIP-AGRI brochure: '[Shaping the digital \(r\)evolution in agriculture](#)'

² The concept of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) is used to describe how people and organisations join together to promote mutual learning, to generate, share, and use agriculture-related knowledge and information. A great diversity of people needs to be involved in creating agricultural knowledge.



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How can AKIS meet the challenges raised by the digital revolution, both in terms of better performance and support to farmers? **What new opportunities and innovative tools do digital technologies offer, especially to advisers?** How can digital tools be better understood and more accessible to farmers?

Objectives of the workshop

Overall aim of the workshop

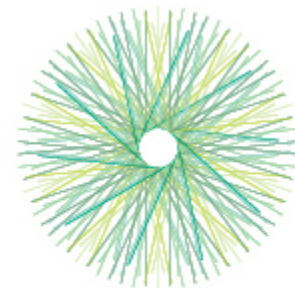
To explore and strengthen the role of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (with a particular focus on **advisers and rural networking**), **supporting the understanding and use of digital technologies at farm level.**

Specific objectives

- To exchange experiences on how knowledge and innovation can support the digital transformation of agriculture, especially reflecting on the role of advisory services and national and regional rural networks
- To identify and share effective tools and methods to communicate digitisation opportunities to farmers, especially in small and medium-sized farms, across all sectors
- To gain insight into how digital technologies can transform AKIS and the opportunities they offer for improved AKIS performance – advice in particular – by identifying good and innovative practices
- To promote networking among advisers and the other AKIS actors across the EU, to exchange resources and help them make the transition to digital agriculture

More information?

All information from the event will be updated on the [event webpage](#). Information for participants will be made available on the collaborative area, which you will be able to access after having registered to the website.



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Programme

Participation to the workshop is by invitation only.
Please note that this workshop will be held in English only.

Day 1 – Thursday, 26 April 2017

12:00 – 13:30 **Registration and buffet lunch**

13:30 – 13:45 **Welcome & introduction**

- Opening by **Jānis Dūklavs**, Minister of Agriculture of Latvia
- Opening by **Dušan Chrenek**, Head of Unit, European Commission – DG AGRI
- Introduction to Day 1 programme, **Antonio Carlos Ruiz Soria** – EIP-AGRI Service Point

13:45 – 14:45 **Knowledge exchange and innovation supporting the digital transformation of the farming sector: who is doing what?**
Carousel of inspiring examples

1. State supported services for digitalisation of Estonian agriculture – **Pille Koorberg** and **Leho Verk** (Estonia)
2. Gaiasense smart farming system – **Theodoros Zografos** (Greece)
3. IBERS Distance Learning – **Neil MacKintosh** (United Kingdom)
4. SC-TRACE project – **Gaëlle Cheruy** (France)
5. eServices for Forest Owners and Service providers - Metsään.fi – **Markku Granander** (Finland)
6. Digital tools supporting Farm Machinery Cooperatives – **Stephane Diard** (France)
7. Focus group on digitization and big data in the Agri-food & Forestry sectors and rural areas – **Rocío Wojski** and **Andrés Montero** (Spain)
8. ReCAP: Reinforcing CAP – **Machi Simeonidou** (EU)
9. The Single Application – **Greet Pauwels** (Belgium)
10. Precision Farming with Elements of Geoinformatics "AGRO e-learning" – **Przemyslaw Kupidura** (Poland)

14:45 – 15:00 **Introduction and preparation for the breakout session**

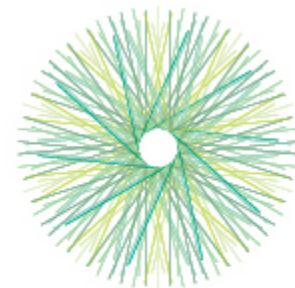
- Introduction of AKIS, **Inge Van Oost** – European Commission – DG AGRI
- Introduction to breakout session

15:00 – 16:00 **Breakout session 1**

Strengthening AKIS connections to meet the digitisation challenges

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30 – 16:40 **Introduction and preparation for the interactive session**

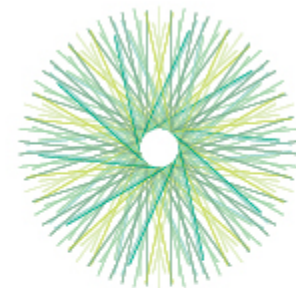


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- 16:40 – 17:55 Digital technologies stepping up advice and transforming AKIS**
- API-AGRO: data and services platform for AKIS – **Samy Ait Samar** (France)
 - Digitization improving AKIS – **Jussi Juhola** (Finland)
 - **Breakout session 2**
- 17:55 – 18:00** Wrap-up and introduction to next day
- 19:30 – 22:00** Social dinner



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Day 2 – Friday, 27 April 2017

9:00 – 9:20 Welcome to Day 2

Outcomes Day 1 and introduction to Day 2 agenda

9:20 – 10:30 Enabling farmers to the digital era: tools and practices Carousel of inspiring examples

1. LimburgAgrofood: supporting agri-digital community – **Frans Broeders** (Netherlands)
2. Smart-AKIS. European AKIS towards innovation-driven research in Smart Farming Technology: the Smart Farming Platform – **Spyros Fountas** (EU)
3. Education Project “Digitization in agriculture & forestry” – **Martin Hirt** (Austria)
4. IoT-catalogue - Supporting IoF2020 Ecosystem – **Bruno Almeida** (Portugal)
5. Digital Start-up advisory service (4D4F) – **Andrew Lazenby**
6. PLAID Virtual Farm – **Claire Hardy** (EU)
7. SEMS – Smart Economic Monitoring Systems of production and operation costs related to precision and high mechanization – **Aldo Bertazzolli** (Italy)
8. MIKÄ DATA – Operational Group – **Petri Linna** (Finland)

10.15 – 10.30 Mini Quiz about Farmers' Information Needs

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:15 Understanding and accessing digitisation opportunities: what farmers need

EKONmod milk – **Miroslav Záhradník** and **Josef Kanoš** (Slovak Republic)

- Introduction to breakout session
- **Breakout session 3**

12:15 – 12:45 Results of working groups and general reflections

12:45 - 13:00 Closing of the workshop

13:00 - 14:00 Light lunch and goodbye