



SWG AKIS Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

Presentation of the SWG AKIS 4 Report

Kaunas, 19/11/2019

SWG SCAR AKIS group

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research



A bit of History.....

AKIS 1

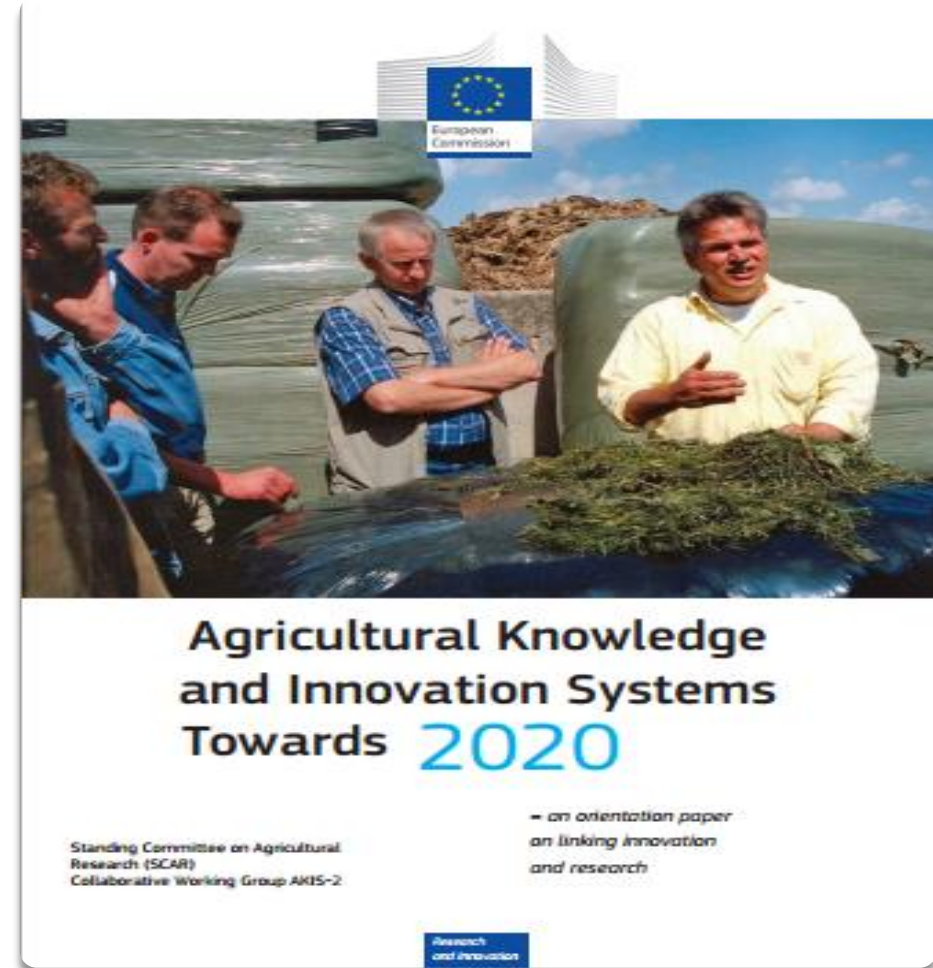
- a reflection paper
- Looking into the national AKISs structuring



A bit of History.....

AKIS 2

- Towards 2020
- Developing Multi-Actor Approach
- Developing Thematic Networks
- In support of Horizon Europe Workprogrammes



A bit of History.....

AKIS 3

- a Foresight paper
- 3 scenarios
- Conclusions:
 1. need to act quickly to avoid privatisation of knowledge
 2. Need to interlink knowledge produced in the different MS and regions, reducing costs and overlap



4th mandate of SWG SCAR AKIS

- 2016: Launching of the 4th Mandate
- The EIP-AGRI is launched since 2014 (EIP-AGRI Service Point – NRNs, ENRD)
- The first generation of H2020 Multi-Actors projects launched from 2014
- All Rural Development Programmes up and running: more than 1000 OGs already finished or ongoing and many more to come (2020 + n+3)



Some figures and outcomes from the 4th mandate

- 11 meetings
- 8 countries visited
- 6 AKIS side events
- More than 20 presentations of AKIS 4 'mandate activities in EU conferences
- More than 70 experts participating to the meetings
- Experts coming from around 30 countries
- More than 40 projects presented and discussed throughout the mandate
- 3 Policy Briefs, 5 studies through CASA
- A lot of learning peer-to-peer between countries and regions, and between actors

The Final AKIS 4 REPORT

An easy to read report:

- Results from SWG SCAR AKIS work and discussions
- Quotes to emphasis key elements (dark green boxes)
- Good examples from practice (pale green boxes)
- Use of outcomes of many projects and studies, as interpreted and discussed by the group
- Clear impact on policies

1 – Setting the scene and Empowering AKIS

- Preface DDG Plewa DG AGRI
- **1. 1 Setting the scene**
 - 1.1.1 The genesis of the AKIS concept (2008)
 - 1.1.2 Implementation of the interactive innovation model (2014-2020)
 - 1.1.3 Post-2020 EU programming period (2021-2027)
- **1. 2 Empowering AKISs in Europe** (*=> understanding the basics*)
 - 1.2 AKIS brief with rationale and main 4 strands to improve countries' AKISs
 - 1.3 Description of the Multi-Actor Approach, useable at all levels
 - 1.4 Description of Thematic Networks, useable at all levels

=> (useful for local, regional, national, EU R&I HE, Leader, HE partnerships, Interreg, LIFE project etc etc)

2 The SCAR and its SWG AKIS

1.5 Improving the structuring of MSs' AKISs –

Designing Strategic CAP AKIS Plans post 2020 => *sharing good examples*

- 1.5.1 Enhancing knowledge flows within the AKIS & strengthen links between research and practice
- 1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within MS' AKISs
- 1.5.3 Incentivize interactive innovation projects
- 1.5.4 Support digital transition in agriculture
- 1.5.5 General remarks related to coordination of the Strategic CAP AKIS plans

2. SCAR building insights on AKIS

- 2.1 The Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR)
- 2.2 The Strategic Working Group of SCAR on AKIS
- 2.3 The 4th mandate of SWG SCAR AKIS

3 – The principles that makes AKIS work: how to enhance interactive innovation

- 3.1 Designing Multi-Actor Consortia for interactive innovation
- 3.2 Reducing administrative burden and drafting project proposals
- 3.3 Knowledge dissemination and communication
- 3.4 Assessment study of Operational Groups
- 3.5 Implementing Operational Groups in EU regions and linking to MA projects
- 3.6 Cross-border cooperation among OGs
- 3.7 Recommendations and conclusions from SWG SCAR AKIS discussions on the interactive innovation approach

=> Have led to constant improvement of the phrasing of the Multi-Actor Approach and the better management of projects, including the regulation for post 2020 (CAP and HE)

4 – Advisory services post 2020

4.1 SWG SCAR AKIS Policy Brief on the Future of Advisory Services

4.1.1 Future roles of advisory services

4.1.2 Criteria for advisors

4.1.3 An advisory system ready for the future

4.1.4 An enabling environment to connect practice and science

4.1.5 Researchers and advisors together help knowledge flowing and stay public

4.1.6 Structure, funding and training of long-term interactive advisory services

4.1.7 Towards modern advisory services in MSs

4.1.8 The adequate geographical levels to incentivize modern advisory services

=> Have led to better understanding of the multiple roles of advisors, including for innovation, and the better management of projects, leading to the CAP reform post 2020

4 – Advisory services post 2020

4.2 Two main instruments to integrate advisors within the AKIS and get them involved in interactive innovation processes

4.2.1 The “**Back-office**” for advisors – **integrating advisors within the AKIS**

4.2.2 Innovation support services

4.3 **Zooming in on interactive innovation processes**

4.3.1 Why do innovation processes need **facilitation**?

4.3.2 AKIS setting an enabling environment for facilitators

4.3.3 What is **innovation brokering**?

4.3.4 Skills for innovation brokers

4.3.5 What are **Innovation Support Services**?

4.3.6 Examples of innovation support processes

5 – The actors that make AKIS work

- 5.1 Recommendations for on-farm demonstrations
- 5.2 Policy brief on programming R&I for improved impact
- 5.3 Policy brief on agricultural education systems
- 5.4 Views from Agri-food SMEs

6 – The enabling factors that make AKIS work

- 6.1 Lessons learnt on possible funding synergies for AKIS
- 6.2 Lessons learnt on research and innovation infrastructures for AKIS
- 6.3 Lessons learnt on innovation evaluation
- 6.4 Lessons learnt on communication for AKIS
- 6.5 AGRISPIN project's analysis of innovation support functions

7 – Digitisation in support for AKIS

- 7.1 Agri-digitalisation in the EU, a state of the art
- 7.2 Examples of digitalisation in 8 MS
- 7.3 Data access – vision of the farmers
- 7.4 Knowledge reservoirs
- 7.5 Conclusions
- 7.6 Recommendations

8 – Towards the 5th mandate of SWG SCAR AKIS

As approved in the SCAR:

1. AKIS policies creating further synergies between policies (agriculture, food, bioeconomy, research, innovation, education etc)
2. MAA implementation, follow-up of evolution in interactive innovation projects
3. The role of Education and training
4. Social innovation and inclusiveness
5. Digitalisation and E-infrastructures for knowledge exchange
6. + cross overs with other SWGs wherever useful

CONCLUSION FOR ALL

We need you at this unique moment of building CAP AKIS Strategic plans post 2020:

- How can SCAR AKIS members be ambassadors to help in **improving national/regional AKIS** ?
- **Which concrete actions to push improved AKIS actions** would they propose and how to influence the drafting of CAP Strategic Plans?
- How do you see the **composition of the AKIS coordination body** in your country, with a view to effectively include those actions in the plans?
- Who of you is already involved at this very moment in CAP plan building?

CONCLUSION FOR RESEARCH – help needed!!!

We need you at this unique moment of building CAP AKIS Strategic plans post 2020, knowing that in particular bridging CAP & research may be difficult:

- How can SCAR members involved in research policy help in **improving national/regional AKIS** and in particular for **bridging the gap between science and practice in their country?**
- **Which concrete actions** would they propose and support from the research side in the framework of CAP Strategic Plans? How to push them?
- How do you see the **composition of the AKIS coordination body** in your country, with a view to effectively include those actions in the plans?

How strengthening AKISs in countries?

(SWG SCAR-AKIS Athens, Tallinn) <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/akis-documents>

- 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 and use repositories with agricultural data for multi-purposes, digital skills development,...

To all readers:

All comments and suggestions very welcome!



SCAR
AKIS

Agricultural Knowledge
and Innovation Systems

Report available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26_en (more paper copies can be asked to Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu)

Handover AKIS4 report to Commissioner Hogan on 26 Sep 2019



Phil Hogan
@PhilHoganEU

How can we get farmers & rural communities the information & advice they need to build a modern, innovative & sustainable future? The 4th Agriculture Knowledge & Innovation Systems report is a great place to start! An important moment for the [#FutureofCAP](https://twitter.com/FutureofCAP) europea.eu/!my44Tp

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EU Agriculture
@EUAgri

Follow

Today, @PhilHoganEU welcomed the 4th report on agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS)!

We should involve all actors, from farmers to researchers, in developing knowledge and innovation. This is the only way we can meet today and tomorrow's challenges!
[#FutureofCAP](https://twitter.com/FutureofCAP)



Official handover of your AKIS 4 report today

Thank you for your attention
and for your active participation
and commitment over the past
years...and we hope in the future!

