

Meeting of the SWG SCAR AKIS Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

Good practices & challenges of knowledge
exchange activities in the **current** period
+ plans for the **future** e.g. in
CAP AKIS Strategic plans

Kaunas, LT, 19-20/10/2019

Member State: **Estonia**

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research



Which knowledge exchange activities are possible?

Examples of some of our knowledge exchange activities:

- All AKIS players are active in knowledge exchange– multitude of formats and sources (events, webpages, e-newsletters, digital knowledge reservoirs, etc.);
- Thematic Knowledge transfer Long-Term Programmes (LTPs) include various elements for knowledge exchange (farmer to farmer, demos, training, mentoring, clustering, etc);
- Direct mailing to reach the practitioners works the best, plus infoletters, online databases, etc;
- Exchange visits (but there is demand for more);
- No knowledge exchange measure addressing directly the consumer and society, but there are websites addressed to wider public and, e.g., the blog of the Ministry of Rural Affairs,
- Dedicated networking activities of the EIP networks/NRNs, e.g. translating relevant info about OGs, H2020 MA projects, other relevant EU or national (research) projects ;
- Various cooperation formats to bridge the gap from research to practice (innovation clusters, EIP OG, LTPs, advisory);
- Research results disseminated through various channels – by universities (e.g. Open University activities), NRN, LTPs, etc

Which good practices for knowledge exchange activities work well in your country/region?

Which good practices of knowledge exchange activities work well in the current period ?

1. The **long-term knowledge transfer programmes** bring together the key actors of a given thematic field.
2. To promote the networking and interaction of the cooperation projects, the Innovation Network has organised the so-called **roundtables**, in which the successful applicants of the submeasure get together to exchange experiences, and , if needed, consult the representatives of Paying Agency and/or Managing Authority on the concerns they are facing, etc. One part of the roundtable usually includes the presentations of some of the projects, which can be webstreamed to make it available for a wider audience.
3. The innovation network is translating the EIP-Agri newsletter into Estonian and circulates it regularly. The information about the relevant Horizon 2020 news is also often included to promote the opportunities for multi-actor activities across different funding sources.

Which challenges for knowledge exchange activities do you see in your country/region?

Which are the challenges for the knowledge exchange activities you listed ?

1. Advisory service providers are aging → how to guarantee the existence of new, qualified generation of advisers?
2. There are thematic gaps in training of advisors/trainers → specific topics are not covered by advice;
3. Information overload, fragmented information flow due to multitude of formats and sources (EIP OGs, research organisations, advisors, newsletters, trainings, events, webpages, media ...) → need to filter out the useful/relevant info;
4. Insufficient funding for agricultural research → lack of no new knowledge to get transferred

Which challenges for knowledge exchange activities do you see in your country/region?

Which are the incentivising factors that make it work? How is the funding and the organisation managed?

- There is a coordinating unit established to manage and develop the subsidised advisory services;
- Possibilities for professional development for advisors require special attention (attractiveness of the job);
- Training programme for advisors is provided;
- Thematic Knowledge transfer long-term programmes (LTPs) to be coordinated by the „Mega-LTP“ (which will pool together the knowledge and experiences across all LTPs);
- Digital solutions will improve access to knowledge, incl. providing better access to the data gathered by the state;
- It is necessary to seek ways to increase agricultural research funding as well as increasing the investment capacity of agricultural enterprises in RD+I,

Which knowledge exchange activities would you like to see planned in the CAP AKIS plan of your country/region?

Which knowledge exchange activities would you like to see planned in the CAP AKIS plan of your country/region? Why?

- More wholesome and more flexible advisory system (e.g., processors provided with access to advice);
- More cooperation between advisors and innovation projects;
- Making more use of ICT in knowledge transfer, e.g. establishing a digital knowledge reservoir;
- Consumers included in the target group of knowledge transfer;
- The LTP system to be turned more bottom-up (its activities to be coordinated and steered by the sector representatives, not by regulations) → more systematic approach, more responsibility on the sector;
- Making more use of simplified cost options

Discussion:

All comments and suggestions very welcome!



SCAR

AKIS

Agricultural Knowledge
and Innovation Systems

**Thank you for your
attention!
and for your active participation
and commitment!**

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)

