

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

- 1) Social innovation and inclusiveness in AKIS
- 2) Modern and interactive advisory services post 2020

Online meeting

24-25/9/2020

Member State: Estonia

**SCAR**  
Standing Committee  
on Agricultural Research



# 1) Social innovation and inclusiveness in AKIS

- **What are your country's needs?**

Two over-arching crucial issues:

- Aging population
- Shrinking population

... which means:

- lack of staff, lack of tax payers (**lack of resources**)
- **increased need for resourcefulness**, including the necessary infrastructure, ICT solutions, collaboration (AKIS!), flexibility to recognise individual needs

# 1) Social innovation and inclusiveness in AKIS

- **Which measures for social innovation and inclusiveness** (funded by EU, national, regional or other, or non-funded) are being taken already?
  - National support measure for temporary replacement of an agricultural producer in case of illness, caretaking of a child under 12, during pregnancy and maternity leave, holidays, or in case of death. Support rate 100%. Normally livestock etc, in COVID times also crops.
  - In RDP, innovation cooperation measures (e.g., EIP OGS); advisory services (certificate in community development); LAGs, ...
- **Which measures for social innovation and inclusiveness** (funded by EU, national, regional or other, or non-funded) are being planned post 2020?
  - The existing RDP measures remain available, but will be slightly modified – more flexibility, more tailor-made approach, better access for new entrants in agriculture, consumers as the target group for knowledge transfer

## 2) Modern and interactive advisory services post 2020

- **What are your country's needs?**
  - To combat the insufficient **number of advisors**
  - Fighting the two evils – aging and lack of motivation
  - More **flexibility** needed in the system
- **Which measures for modern and interactive advisory services, integrated within the AKIS, are being taken already (funded by EU, national, regional or other, or non-funded)?**
  - Supported advice (Art 13) provided
  - Rural Development Foundation as the coordinating institution supporting advisors, acting as the contact point for clients/advisors (national level)
  - Training programmes for advisors

## 2) Modern and interactive advisory services post 2020

- **Which measures for modern and interactive advisory services**, integrated within the AKIS, are being planned post 2020 (funded by EU, national, regional or other, or non-funded)?
  - The existing support measures continue to be available, but with some modifications
  - To grow the **next generation of advisors** → targeted support scheme for new advisors (headhunting + training), retired advisors as mentors for newbies, etc
  - To **motivate the existing advisory staff** → motivation, career path, various types of (obligatory) training (work shadowing, joint study trips/bus seminars for farmers/advisors/researchers, CECRA).
  - **Coordination and support structure** for advisory services, promoting advisory services to clients
  - **Collaboration** (mixing supported+not supported advisors, advisors+researchers, etc), integration with other AKIS players
  - **Diversified formats**: individual advice, group actions (e.g. discussion group), online consultations, mentoring, vouchers, self-service in knowledge reservoir,....
  - **Special attention: new entrants in agriculture** (relaxed eligibility requirements).
  - Advice on processing will be available



## Discussion:

All further comments and suggestions very welcome!



**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](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](mailto:Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu))

