

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

The role of education and training in the EU AKIS

Webinar

20/1/2021

Member State: **Estonia (EE)**

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research



The role of education and training in the EU AKIS

- **What are the links between Education/Training and the AKIS in your country at the moment? (1)**
- Vocational and higher **education** in the field agriculture/food/fisheries **well available**, many continue their studies on the next level → **qualified sector open to innovations**;
- **National support** for RD+I, knowledge transfer, advisory services etc activities - contributes to Green Deal, digitisation objectives, as well as to lifelong learning and overall competitiveness of the sector;
- There are a number of people who are active both as **advisors/teachers**, advisors/researchers, etc;
- Vocational and higher education policy=Ministry of Research and Education; CAP support for knowledge transfer= Ministry of Rural Affairs. But....:

The role of education and training in the EU AKIS

- **What are the links between Education/Training and the AKIS in your country at the moment? (2)**
- MoRA advises MoE in policy making, in negotiating the state-commissioned education, participates in various committees etc;
- Schools/universities involve representatives of MoRA, sector, farmer organisations and other AKIS players in their advisory bodies/steering committees;
- Schools/universities are involved in devising AKIS interventions, CAP steering committee, M1 Long-term Knowledge Transfer Programme consortia, training the trainers/advisors;
- MoRA supports some activities organised by vocational schools, e.g., professional championships for students. Currently planning to extend the M1 target group to the students of agricultural schools;
- The national level strategic agenda is defined in [Agriculture and Fisheries Strategy 2030](#), [bringing together all these aspects](#).

The role of education and training in the EU AKIS

- **Can you give illustrative examples?**
- Participation of the various AKIS players (and ministries) in the **school advisory bodies** (direct input in curricula etc);
- Participation of **school/universities in** devising **CAP** measures and being involved in CAP activities (e.g. Teachers as lecturers in M1);
- Possible widening of the **M1** target group to the **students of agricultural schools** would provide additional opportunities to attract young people into the trade

E:g: In M1, support for demonstration and information activities for these students, such as vocational competitions, combined competitions, ploughing competitions, etc.

The role of education and training in the EU AKIS

- **What are the priorities of change for the future?**
- Special attention: **new entrants in agriculture** and **better integration** of vocational and higher education in AKIS.
- **More cooperation** between research and development institutions, enterprises/farmers, vocational schools and the schools of general education in the following aspects:
 - carrying out introductory courses (e.g. the 8-graders get an overview of the professional training opportunities and a take on the profession);
 - Integrating the vocational and higher education curricula (e.g. advisory skills);
 - in vocational education and training, involving researchers and entrepreneurs to include the latest research information on the one hand, and the practical entrepreneurial mind-set, on the other, in the curricula (incl internships);
 - Joint use of infrastructure for hands-on training;
 - Using and developing the expertise of the teaching staff (schools, universities).

Thank you for your attention!

**Helena Pärenson, Adviser
Research and Development Department
Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
www.agri.ee**



**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)

