

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

20/01/2021

Member State: Spain

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?**

Education is a regional competence so the situation varies depending on the region, some example

Extremadura and other regions:

They miss training specialised training in regional demands (corkage, pig management)

Madrid:

- University lacks of know-how knowledge
- Vocational training is focussed only in food industry
- The regional research centre (IMIDRA) has some courses focussed on farmers needs, that build bridges between farmers and researchers

Murcia:

Need of improve the connection between research and vocational training and, if possible, among research, advisory services, vocational training and dissemination centres

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- **What are the links between Education/Training and the AKIS in your country at the moment?**

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Andalucía:

1. Training sessions on R&D project results dissemination.
2. Projects on technology transfer and cooperation
3. Program of Advisor's training
4. Apps for farmers to promote innovation such us: RIEGO BERRY (irrigation), APP - IFAPA GUÍA (pests management),

Castilla y León:

- Measure 1 (training, vocational training and demonstration activities) and Measure 2 under RDP 2014-2020
- Rural Innovation Network in Castilla y León (rural innovation broker)

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In Catalonia

- **Active participation of researchers and specialists from AKIS in education and training activities** teaching in courses and seminars and the preparation of education materials.
- **Collaboration between AKIS and education centres in the publication of technical papers and newsletters.** Examples are '*Dossier Tècnic*', '*Fitxes tècniques*', newsletter of '*Oficina del regant*'.
- **Partnership between AKIS and education centres (*Escoles Agràries*) in offering advising services.** Example, '*Oficina del regant*' provides advice on watering strategies from *Escola Agrària de Tàrrega* and IRTA.
- ***Escoles Agràries* act as innovation demonstration platforms:** Education centres embrace AKIS demonstration activities (i.e. machinery demonstration, trials of new crops, variety collections...)
- **Strong feedback between advising services and *Escoles Agràries*:** Advisors provide and receive training in these centres.
- **Students from *Escoles Agràries* conduct practice stages in research centres (IRTA), associations or trade unions (UdP) and companies (Vall Companys, Grup Alimentari Guissona, ...)**

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Illustrative examples:

Extremadura



'GO SUBER: project on corking modernisation and mechanisation, manuals and work safety manuals. (CAT)

Madrid



- OG projects
- Workshops on research results dissemination
- Publications

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Murcia

a) Training centre Torre Pacheco: vocational training centre (also know-how training)
b) There are a network of centre of vocational training on agrarian training and experiences, with know-how training and which enhance the participation in European projects on innovation and entrepreneurship.

c) Measure 1 on RDP knowledge and information transfer, measure 2 advisory services, and measure 16 cooperation

There has been several OGs which have developed dissemination activities link to innovation-training-dissemination concept

Andalucía

Platform for Services and technical Advisory

- Public, and free of charge focussed on knowledge transfer
- Objective: boost the implementation and use of new technologies through the training
- Search engine. Documents classify in 9 thematic
- Expert advisory service through a web form answered by e-mail

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Illustrative examples: Castilla y León (1/2)



Technological Transfer Plan (ITACYL)

- Advance of new technologies, regulations and trends
- Living labs
- Exchanges
- Know-how trainings
- Pilot activities for workshop on information, training, ideas exchange, ideas for future projects



‘Workshops and know-how trainings tailored according to enterprises’ and associations’ needs

Cooperation measure

Regional OG project: “Prudent and rational use of antibiotics in pig production”. Training session for vets

‘Pilot projects and new products, processes and technologies development: Analytical tools development for standardisation of sensory analysis carried out by Wine degustation Committees of the PDOs of Castilla y León

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Illustrative examples: Castilla y León (2/2)

Rural Innovation network
(training and education)

Agreement among the Regional Department of Agriculture and the Universities from Castilla y León (Valladolid, León, Burgos) to develop the bio economy in the Agri-food sector in Castilla y León

1.2. ¿Cómo trabaja la Red de Innovación Rural?



- ❖ Focussed on sector's needs: study of needs on field
- ❖ Search of technologies,
- ❖ Training and mentoring
- ❖ Knowledge and information transfer workshops

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Illustrative examples: Catalonia (1/2)



'*Dossier Tècnic*' is a technical journal with monographic issues written in a collaborative way by experts on each topic coming from AKIS, advising services, companies and *Escoles Agràries*. (CAT)



'*Oficina del Regant*', is an advising and training service run by *Escola Agrària de Tàrrrega* with the collaboration of IRTA. (CAT)



Escola Agrària de Solsona acts as demonstration platform hosting the hop experimental plantation conducted by IRTA. (CAT)

Illustrative examples: Catalonia (2/2)

Course on pre-prepared products for entrepreneur farmers in *Escola Agrària de l'Empordà*.

Stage 1. On-line and in-person lectures.

Stage 2. Farmers develop their own projects in the lab. Learning by doing.



New challenges arising from farmers' projects are addressed with the collaboration of researchers from IRTA, which develop new solutions and technologies.

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Priorities of change for the future

Extremadura: support the projects' results, for example by new specialised schools for corking

Madrid:

- Approaching university to producers supporting brokers/liaisons
- Strengthening advisors and adapting agrarian extension offices
- Discussion forums at regional, national, EU level
- AKIS research to deepen on microAKIS characteristics and AKIS knowledge

Murcia: continue working and deepening on the existing measures

Andalucía:

- Boost public-private collaboration on knowledge transfer knowledge
- Expand the program of advisors' training
- Foster the apps and use of TIC in agri-food sector

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Priorities of change for the future

Castilla y León:

- Fundamental that training will be organised in two directions:
 - From the agri-food sector: on sectors' needs, by sector, focussed, specific and specialised
 - From the research community: novel research themes, technologies, regulation to allow the sector to anticipate to future trends, opportunities and needs.

Catalonia

- Strengthen the role of *Escoles Agràries* as meeting point of stakeholders in AKIS, education, advising and production: Incorporation of a networker/relationship builder profile to enhance collaborations between stakeholders.
- Become a living lab for technology testing and transfer.
- Provide lifelong training adapted to farmers needs at different stages of their career, and strengthen the accompaniment to young farmers.
- Attend the demand of new profiles in the agricultural sector regarding digitalisation, bio-economy and sustainability.
- Close the gap between formal education and the actual needs of the agricultural and rural sector.

Discussion:

All 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 (more paper copies can be asked to Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu)

