

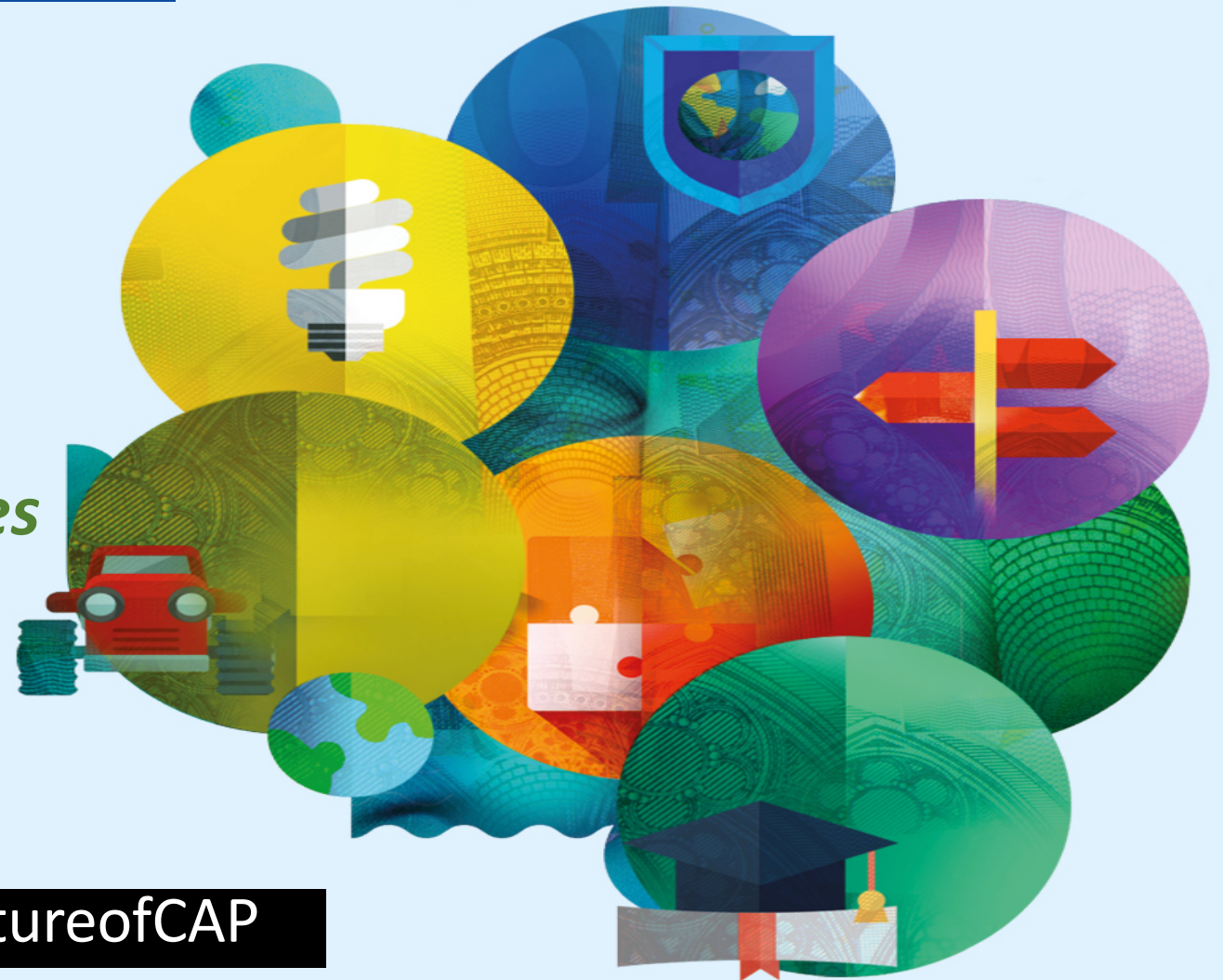


COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

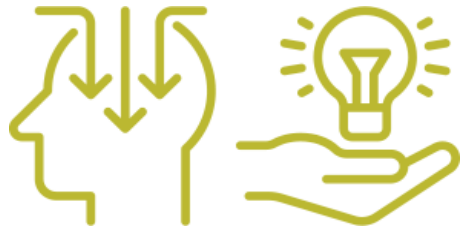
Post-2020

*CAP Strategic Plans post 2020:
Implementation of AKIS strategies
and interventions, how?*

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European Commission
Unit B2 – Research & Innovation
26 March 2021 – SWG SCAR AKIS**



#FutureofCAP



The AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem

What is an Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)?

What: AKIS is the **organisation and interaction** of persons, organisations and institutions who **use** and **produce knowledge and innovation** for agriculture **and interrelated fields. (def)**

Who: The main players of the AKIS are: farmers/foresters, advisors, researchers, (farmer) organisations, NGOs, networks, retailers, media, services, various ministries...: they all produce and need knowledge!

Why: The aim is to create a **regional/national innovation ecosystem** by enhancing **knowledge flows** between the AKIS players as well as strengthening links between research and practice.

Brief "What is AKIS": https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/building-stronger-akis_en.pdf

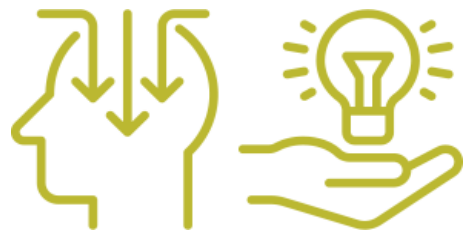
AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem =>

Cross-cutting CAP support to Systematically share

Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture and rural areas

including **in whatever farming and rural activities**

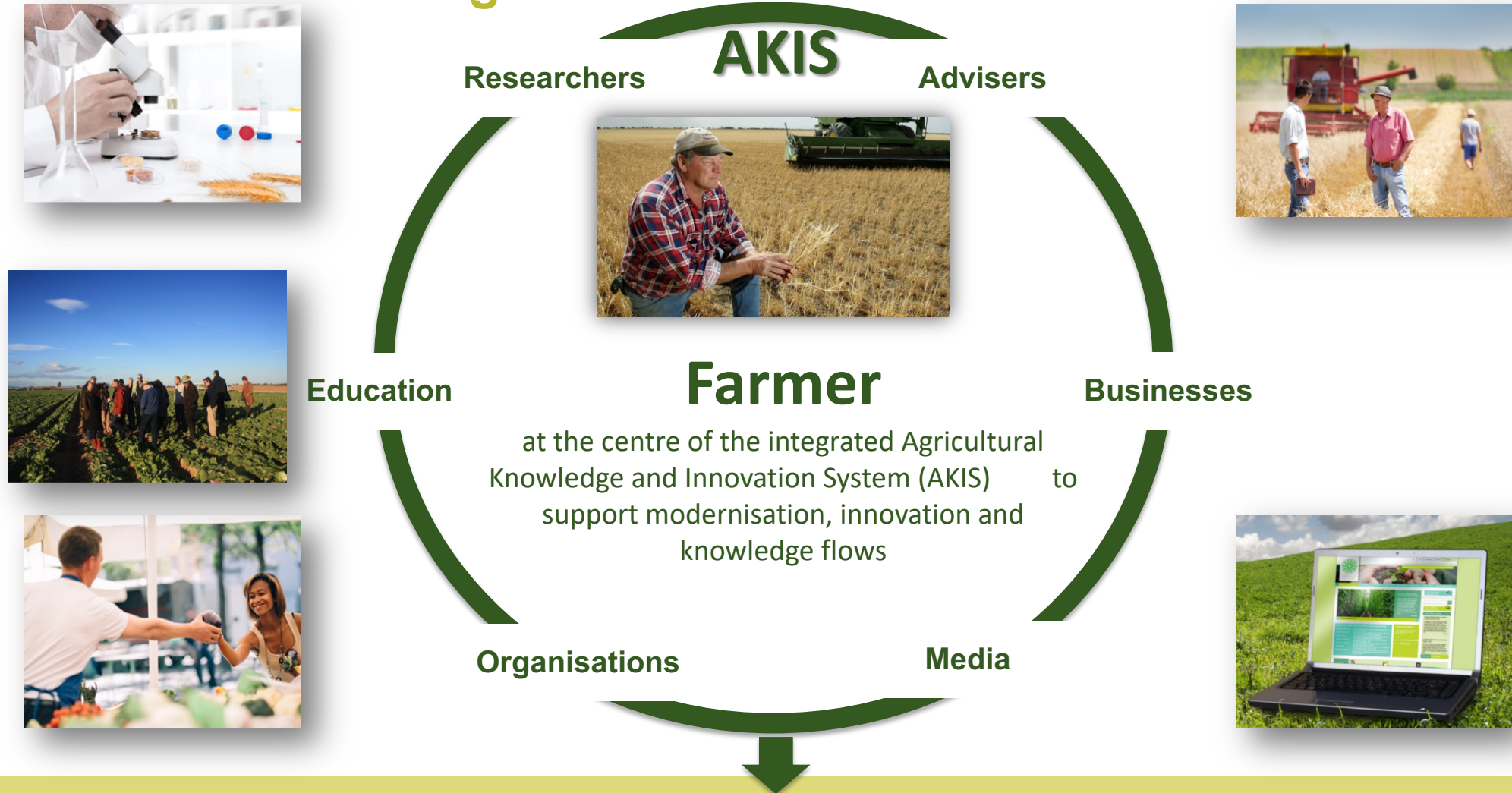
automatically relate to (= landscape, environment, climate, biodiversity, consumers and citizens, food and non-food systems including transformation and distribution chains, etc)



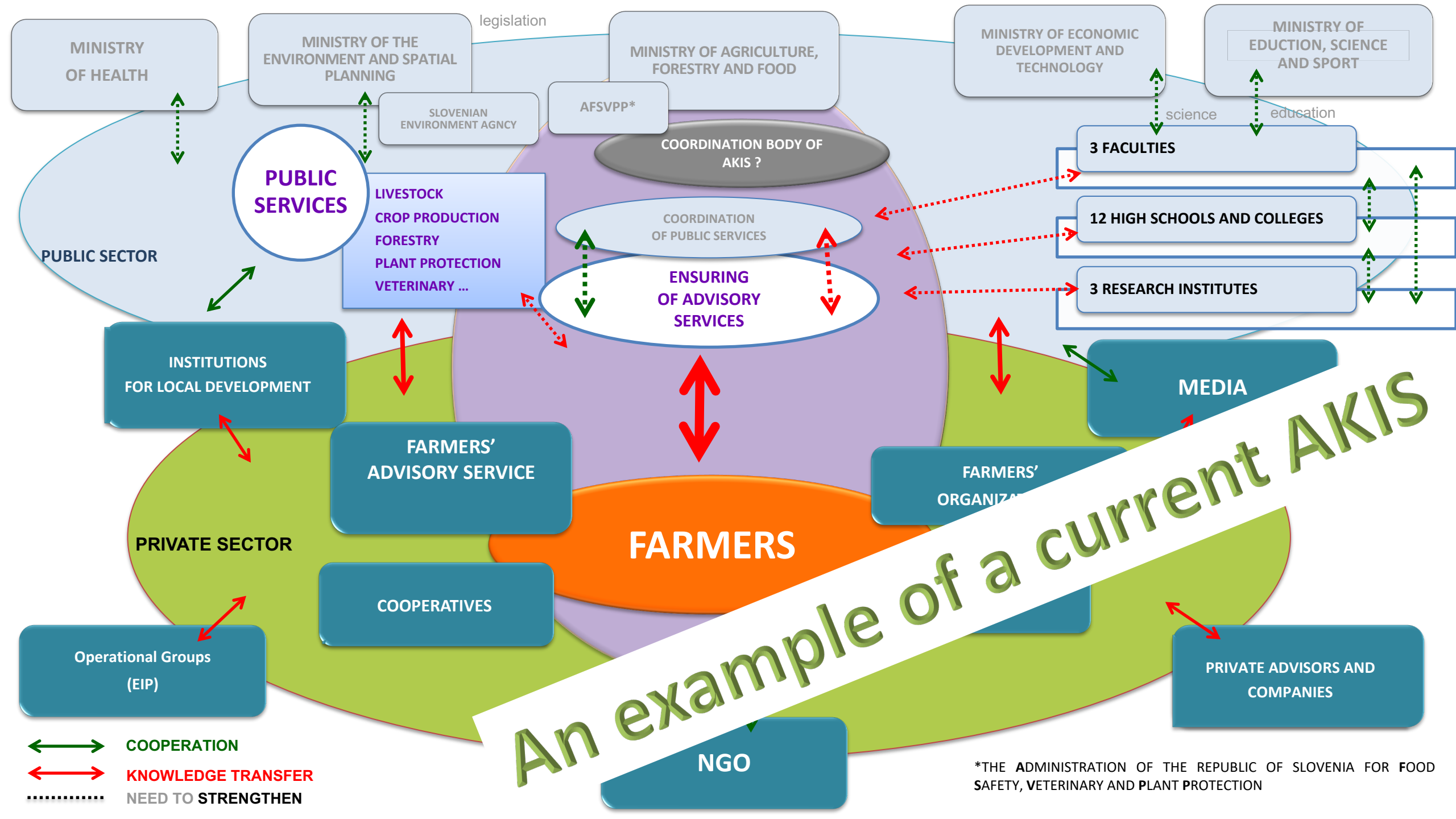
Where does the AKIS policy come from?

*In their 2008 declaration, the researchers of the Standing Committee of Agricultural Research (SCAR) stated that the **classical linear research model does not function anymore** to have real impact in the field. The current CAP AKIS policy and potential interventions can make use of the current formats and experiences from MS. Experts from about 24 MS from the SCAR Strategic Working Group collected this in the AKIS4 report, and based it on their discussions and own practical experiences. In the report much about AKIS in all its aspects is explained and a long series of possible types of interventions and concrete examples given. The report is available on the Europa "Future CAP" website and is called "Report: preparing for future AKIS in Europe". You can download it here: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap#innovation> or ask to you a paper copy*

WHY AKIS? A reinforced AKIS integrates all AKIS actors and ensures knowledge flows inside MS & across border



AKIS coordination will bring actors together on a structured and regular basis, creating continuous interaction to speed up knowledge exchange, knowledge flows, innovation and most of all: implementation in practice (=> Cross-Cutting Objective on « Modernisation »)



The EIP-AGRI in short: same principles in AKIS

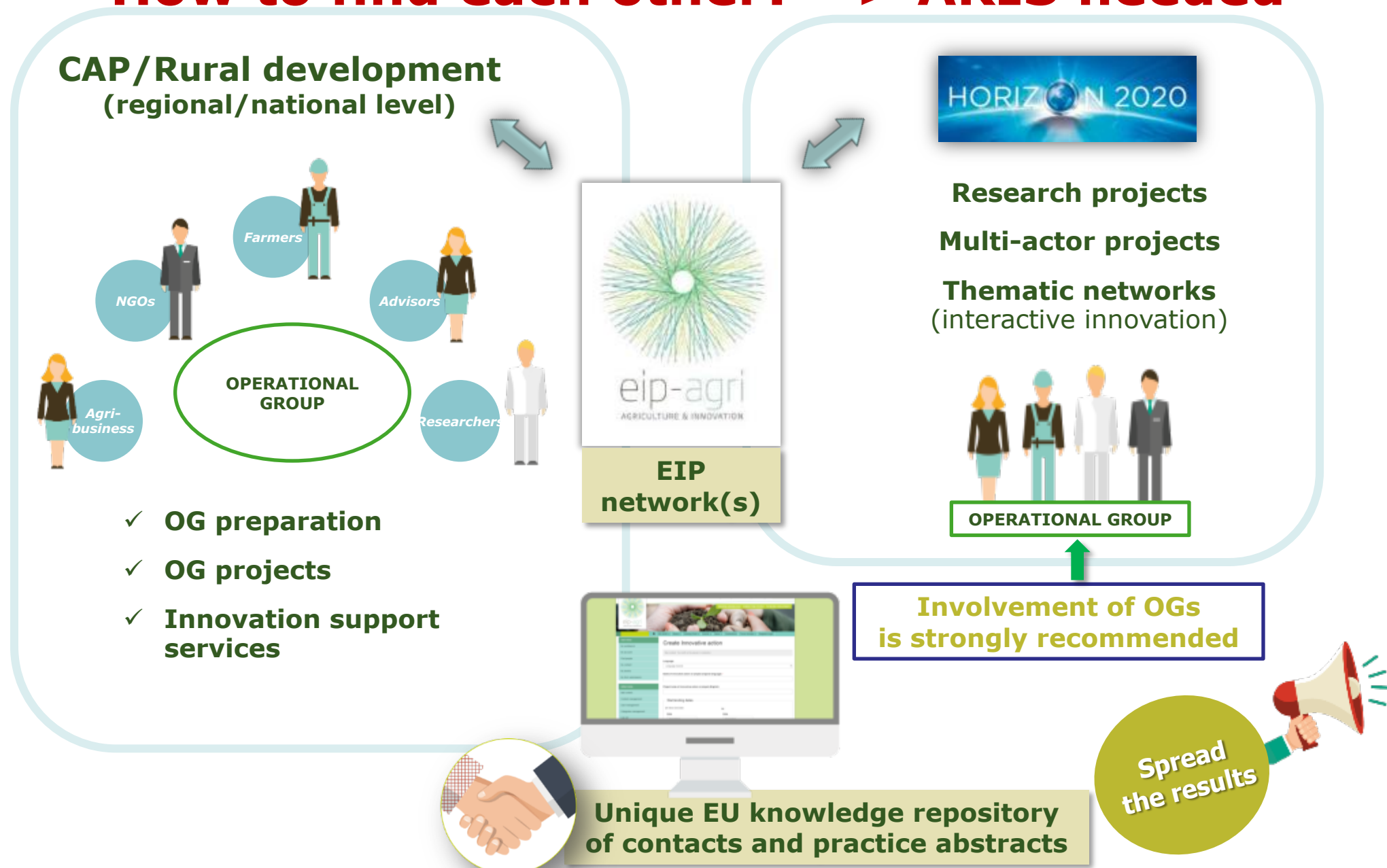


- The EIP-AGRI applies an overarching "*Open innovation*" concept based on the **interactive innovation model** (applied in RD Operational Groups and H2020 Multi-Actor projects):

Collaboration between various actors to make **best use of complementary types of knowledge** (scientific, practical, organisational, etc) **in view of co-creation** and **quick spreading** of solutions/opportunities **ready to implement in practice.**

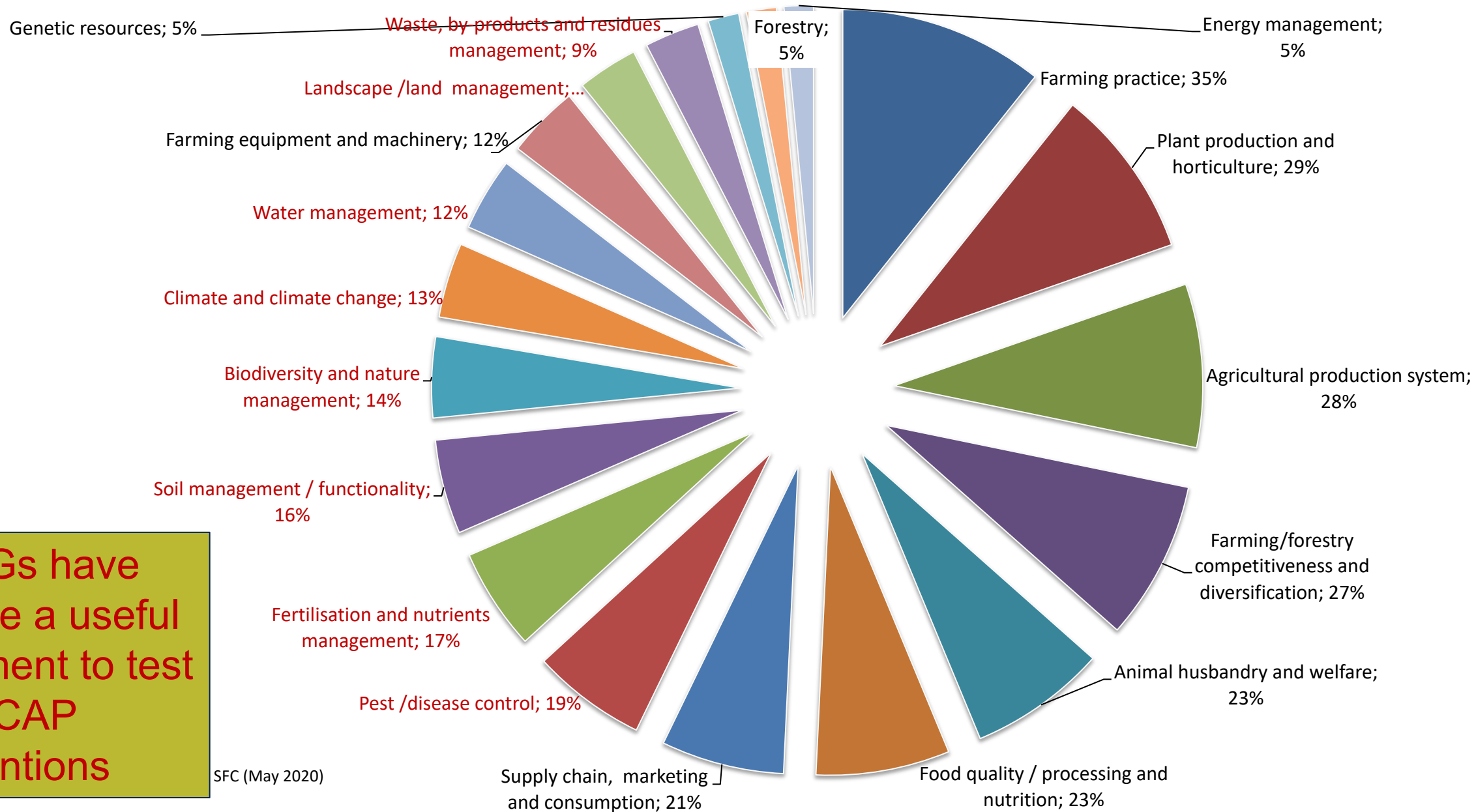
- **EU wide EIP network** linking actors: communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs (*Open science*)

Connecting policies: the bigger EIP picture: How to find each other? => AKIS needed



A wide variety of OG project subjects:

Green Deal 'avant la lettre': already about 65% of OGs on environmental-climate issues



EIP OGs have become a useful instrument to test future CAP interventions

SFC (May 2020)

Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



EIP-AGRI – What did we achieve?

- ✓ 26(27) Member States, 98 rural development programmes implementing EIP Operational Group “innovative projects”
- ✓ Around 3 200 OGs planned in 2014-2020; more than more than 2000 OGs already running or finished (still 5 years to go)
- ✓ 190 multi-actor projects under Horizon 2020 (two thirds of total projects) for 1 bio Euro
- ✓ A growing and thriving network

An increasing volume of practice-oriented knowledge to be managed!

The screenshot shows the EIP-AGRI website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Legal notice | Cookies | Contact on Europa' and a search bar. Below the navigation bar is a banner image of people in a field. The main content area is titled 'EIP-AGRI Projects' and includes a map of Europe with a 'DISCOVER OPERATIONAL GROUP PROJECTS' overlay. To the right of the map, there are three project highlights under 'LATEST OPERATIONAL GROUPS', each with a date and a brief description. Below the map, there are sections for 'RELEVANT EIP-AGRI DOCUMENTS', 'MORE ABOUT...', and 'LATEST HORIZON 2020 PROJECTS'. The 'LATEST HORIZON 2020 PROJECTS' section includes three projects: 'Transition towards a more carbon and nutrient efficient agriculture in Europe', 'Best4Soil', and 'SMARTCHAIN (Towards Innovation - driven and smart solutions in short food supply chains)'. At the bottom right, there are links for 'VIEW ALL MULTI-ACTOR PROJECTS' and 'VIEW ALL THEMATIC NETWORKS'.

www.eip-agri.eu

**From EIP-AGRI 2014-2020
to AKIS Strategic Plans post 2020 &
Green Deal relevance:
We needed continuation + change....**



Provisions on modernisation in the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation post 2020

Funding innovative projects.....

**.....will now be supported by a whole
innovation ecosystem systematically
interlinking people and projects (AKIS)**



THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES

INCREASE
COMPETITIVENESS



REBALANCE
POWER IN FOOD CHAIN

ENSURE
VIABLE INCOME



CLIMATE CHANGE
ACTION

**Cross-cutting objective
KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION**

THE 9
CAP
OBJECTIVES



ENVIRONMENTAL
CARE

RESPOND TO
CITIZENS' CONCERNS
in terms of
FOOD & HEALTH
QUALITY



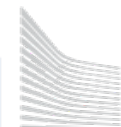
PRESERVE
LANDSCAPES
& BIODIVERSITY



VIBRANT
RURAL AREAS



SUPPORT
GENERATIONAL RENEWAL



European
Commission

Overview of relevant provisions for modernisation, innovation and digitalisation

Art 5
Cross-cutting objective of modernisation, knowledge sharing, innovation and digitalisation



Strategic approach to plan CAP interventions

Art 102 Modernisation in CAP Strategic Plans:
Well-functioning AKIS:
research + advisors + CAP networks +... working together ...and digitalisation

Tools = targeted CAP interventions to support the strategy:

Art 72
Funding for knowledge exchange, advice and information

Art 71
Cooperation:
Funding for preparing and implementing EIP OG projects

Art 13
Details on Advice and Innovation support to be given

Art 114
Details on EIP and OGs,
Interactive innovation model

Intervention shall only be CAP funded if « based on and consistent with » the AKIS strategy

Art 113
CAP networks:
Fostering innovation and knowledge exchange

AKIS strategy in CAP Strategic Plans (Art.102 - modernisation)

The CAP Strategic Plans shall contain:

1. Their contribution to the cross-cutting general objective related to fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation, notably by describing:

- **The organisational set-up of the AKIS** (*which adaptations after SWOT?*)
- How **advisors, researchers and CAP networks will work together within the framework of the (*future*) AKIS**, and
- **How advice and innovation support services are provided**

2. A description of the strategy for the development of **digital technologies** in agriculture and rural areas

Art 13: Farm advice organised within the AKIS structures in CAP Strategic plans

- ✓ *Advising farmers and other beneficiaries of CAP support **to be included in the CAP plans***
- ✓ ***All advisors shall be integrated within the AKIS in an inclusive way, to be able to cover economic, environmental and social dimensions and to deliver up-to-date technological and scientific information** developed by R&I*
- ✓ *Advisors must be **impartial** and be able to provide **Innovation support, in particular for preparing and implementing Operational Group projects of the EIP AGRI** (+ other obligatory fields)*

Art 72: “Knowledge exchange and information” organised within the AKIS strategies in CAP plans

- ✓ *72(2): “Under this type of interventions Member States may cover costs of **any relevant action** to promote innovation, access to training and advice and exchange and dissemination of knowledge and information which contribute to achieving the specific objectives set out in Article 6.” + Art 5*
- ✓ *72(6): Member States shall ensure that actions supported under this type of interventions be **based on and be consistent with** the description of the AKIS provided in the CAP Strategic Plan in accordance with point (i) of Article 102(a).*

=> Includes training, advice, setting up advisory services, innovation support, mobility budget, farm exchange, studies preparing training and advice, mentoring, demonstration farms and all related networking activities, etc... **Ensuring quality assurance and competence through the interconnection within the AKIS (see next slide)**

Advisors within the AKIS: which interventions/tasks?

- ✓ Advisor giving **holistic on-farm one-to-one advice** on economic, environmental and social dimensions, capable of delivering up-to-date technological and scientific information developed by R&I (very broad scope)
- ✓ **Specialist advisor** on a certain theme, on-farm or off-farm
- ✓ Provide **individual innovation support**: capture innovative ideas and accompany the preparation and implementation of an EIP OG
- ✓ **Training of advisors** on themes, or learning new approaches and skills (eg social farming, digital, SSC, ...)
- ✓ **Advisors who are training** farmers, farm workers etc (eg IPM)
- ✓ Advisors **joining/organising knowledge exchange events** with researchers, farmers etc, making workprogrammes, exchanging practical needs, Advisors writing in agricultural journals, websites, social media, newsletter, EIP event coordinator
- ✓ Advisors leading a **multi-actor thematic network** (e.g. RMT) at national/regional level
- ✓ Advisor **organizing farm demonstration**, fair, other type of event
- ✓ Advisor as **partner in** a research project, communication event,...
- ✓ Advisor going abroad to learn and come back to train and disseminate new knowledge (**advisor mob. budget**)

=> **advisors are integrated within the AKIS system** (in a fully integrated system, serving and making use of all kind of interventions)

1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

(from the 2017 SWG SCAR AKIS Policy brief on future advising)

- 95% still understands advising as linear knowledge "transfer": make clear that advising should also be **listening and interactive (skills training)**
- Make sure that **field "advisor"** delivers **holistic advice targeted to the farm's and farmer's context** (don't replace it with training/digital only)
- No public procurement of advisors: there is no real market working
- **Innovation support must** be available: advisors acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, capturing needs and sharing outcomes
- Participating in and sharing knowledge from **OG innovative projects**
- **Advisors' training** (specific amount of days obligatory per year), especially on innovative techniques and outcomes of OGs/MAA and soft skills

1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- **Advisors' training: sufficient amount of days obligatory per year**, as for other professions, especially on innovative techniques and outcomes of OGs/MAA and soft skills; make it attractive and qualitative, e.g. use of common advisory tools, back-office support for all advisors
- **Enable farmers to find the advisor which can help him best: public registers with info** on education, experience, continuous professional development, cross-border exchanges, various thematic focus, membership of advisory platforms, etc
- Invest in **tools for advising and innovation support** (e.g. measurements, digital)
- After the privatization wave, **give advisory services again a public role.**

1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- Linking different forms and methods of advisory work (individual advice, group advice, discussion groups, provide training, workshops, demonstration, etc.)
- Thematic or cross-cutting events to update advisors' knowledge,
- Strengthen support from the AKIS for advisors (e.g. back-office)
- Cross-visits (learning peer-to-peer from other advisors / abroad)
- Freedom for new advisory themes and instruments (e.g. whole value chain approach, bio-based chains, dialogue with society,...)
- Spend time with entrepreneurs and researchers: link innovative investments or research facilities to advice (e.g. food pilot)

1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- **Region/country/EU wide advisory networks for all advisors** to share newly generated knowledge e.g after visits abroad (thematic networks can help)
- Support advisors' **internships and placements** in experimental research centres and training facilities, in cooperation with (inter)national partners
- **Dedicated actions to involve private advisors:** not only training but other information flows e.g. use of common advisory tools, concentrate your back-office support for all advisors public and private.
- **Support digitization of advisory work:** fund establishment and maintenance cost of an IT knowledge platform, containing knowledge reservoirs, to be shared by several advisory bodies even across borders
- **Simplify** administration and avoid dense control systems, rather manage the competences of advisors

Art 72: Setting up farm advisory services within the AKIS

e.g. mobile advisory units and measurement tools can help advising, or **networks of demonstration farms**



Examples of interventions contributing to R.2 result indicator Knowledge exchange and information under rural development (Art 72):

	R.1	R.2	R.3	R.24
Examples of interventions contributing to integration of advisors within the AKIS (R.2)	Modernisation Farm	Number of advisors integrated within AKIS	Digitisation Farm	Env/clim performance through knowledge
1. Training of advisors (O.29)	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Back-office work (=specialist support collecting practice knowledge) by advisors (O.29)	(✓)	✓	(✓)	✓
3. Advisors' mobility budget (O.29)	✓	✓		(✓)
4a. Providing innovation support for OG on social care farming (O.2 or O.1)	✓	✓		
4b. Providing innovation support for OG on short supply chains in HNV areas (O.2 or O.1)	✓	✓	(✓)	✓
5. Advisors leading thematic networks compiling knowledge for practice (O.29)	(✓)	✓	(✓)	(✓)
6. Advisors leading on-farm demonstration events (O.29)	✓	✓	(✓)	(✓)

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP at MS level:

Impartial advisors, researchers & CAP networks at MS level to improve collaboration within the AKIS for increased innovation and knowledge flows:

“**AKIS coordination body**” helped by AKIS platforms/networks to drive the transition

1. Advisors to become **more competent** on economic, environmental and social issues + up-to-date knowledge and innovation. **Simplification** of the administrative system for advisors: no more rules on certification or public procurement, **transparency** via public website on the advisors available, vouchers. MS must have **impartial** advisors and **innovation support services**.

The AKIS system must integrate all advisors, public and private: no more silos or separated FAS (Farm Advisory System). Holistic and interactive advice, **mobility** budget.

2. Researchers more closely involved in the AKIS: (inter)acting on farmers' needs/opportunities, and to be rewarded to do so. Researchers to join specific “multi-actor” activities and publish for practice and advisors' back-offices too. “partnership agreement” of agri Ministries in particular with research and innovation ministries.

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP at MS level:

3. MS **CAP networks** tasks and objectives:

- Provide for more **learning** (=filtering, translating, summarizing) from all EU OGs and H Europe MA projects on EU EIP website & knowledge exchange **among MS**
- Organize knowledge events between AKIS actors **including all** in the knowledge-exchange and knowledge-building process
- Be more active on **linkages between OGs and the Horizon Europe projects**: capture the results and added value of the policy at European level (HE NCPs)
- Fostering innovation: **support coordination of OGs in and outside your MS**

4. **More, more frequent and more diverse EIP Operational Group calls because EIP now covers all 9 CAP specific objectives**: mixing bottom-up calls with thematic calls to have a “**family of EIP measures**” (e.g. OGs on bottom-up grassroots ideas + on specific environmental challenges, on piloting digital tools & measures, on social innovation). Also initiate **cross-border OGs** and the possibility for collaboration between OGs (national CAP network task in coordination with the Man. Authority). Using OGs as testbed for CAP measures and for generational renewal.

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP at MS level:

5. In a globally more commercialized world full of public good related challenges, **a financial envelope** is needed **to protect public knowledge & knowledge flows, and incentivize publicly shared innovation** => SWG SCAR AKIS 3 Foresight study
 - **emerging knowledge reservoirs at national level, national thematic networks**
 - **public back-offices (“knowledge hubs”)** with **specialist advisors** closely interacting with field advisors, research and CAP networks
 - National and EU **advisory networks**
 - **Public digital advisory tools** reducing maintenance costs (Fairshare)
 - face-to-face multi-actor thematic events, on farm demonstrations etc.
 - **Soft ways** also improve knowledge flows e.g. **co-location of research, advice and networks** (+education, farmers' organization, food cluster, etc.): co-location is cheap, efficient and informal

2 main instruments for future AKIS:

1. **Innovation support service** –
"Innovation hub"
2. **Back-office for advisors** –
"knowledge hub"

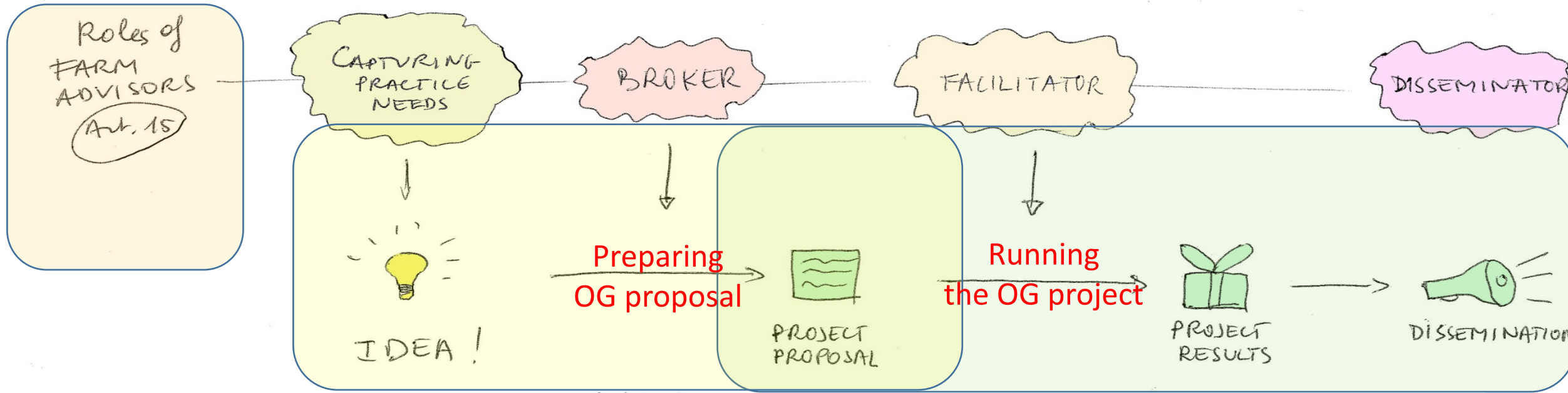
section 4.2 of the SCAR AKIS 4 report

More info:

- An animated infographic on innovation support services:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTV6kLH0ykg>
- A practical example of an innovation support service on page of the SWG SCAR AKIS report **page 105-106**:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/report-preparing-for-future-akis-in-europe_en.pdf
- Brochure on innovation support services:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-brochure-innovation-support-services>



New roles for farm advisors in interactive innovation projects



Farm advisors/ **innovation support services**' role in interactive innovation processes:

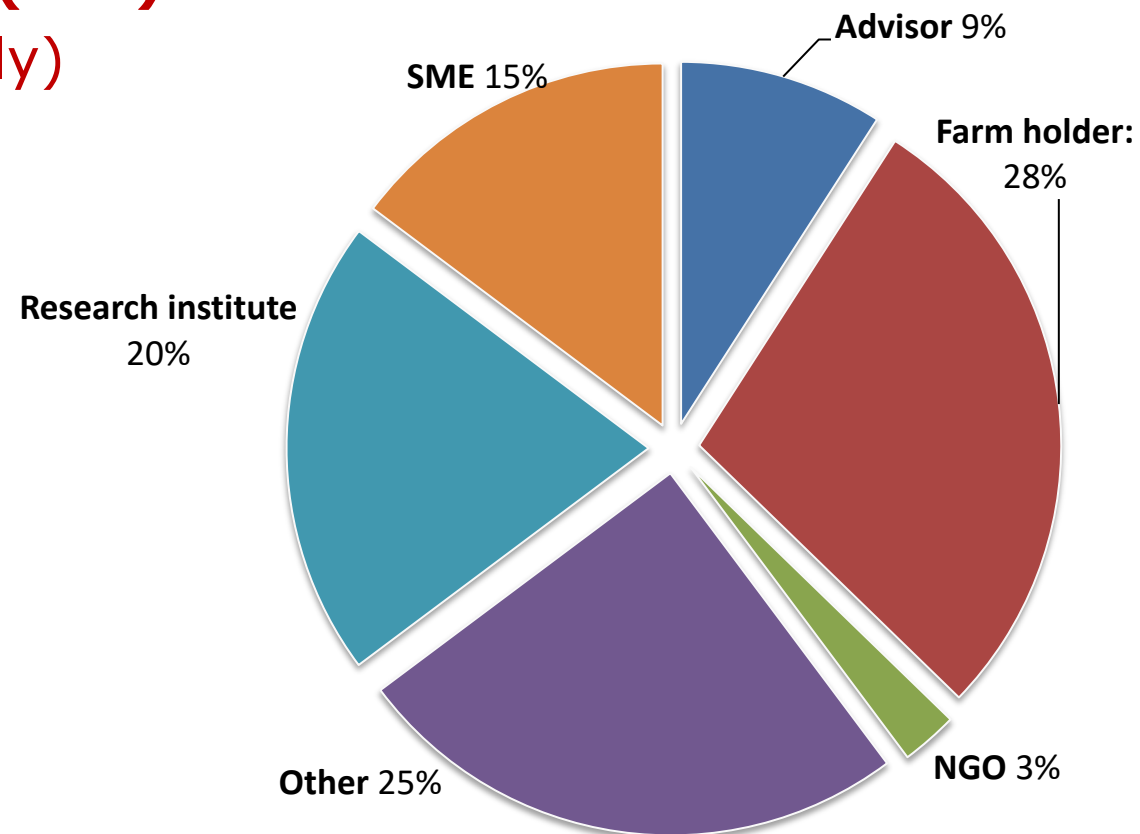
- Capture practice needs
- Broker to set up interactive innovation projects
- Facilitate interactive innovation projects
- Disseminate newly generated knowledge
- +

Outcome of study on innovation support for OGs

Advisors and innovation support services (ISS) should be more involved:

now often missing in EIP OGs (9% advisors only)

Number of partners per category (% on total number of OGs):



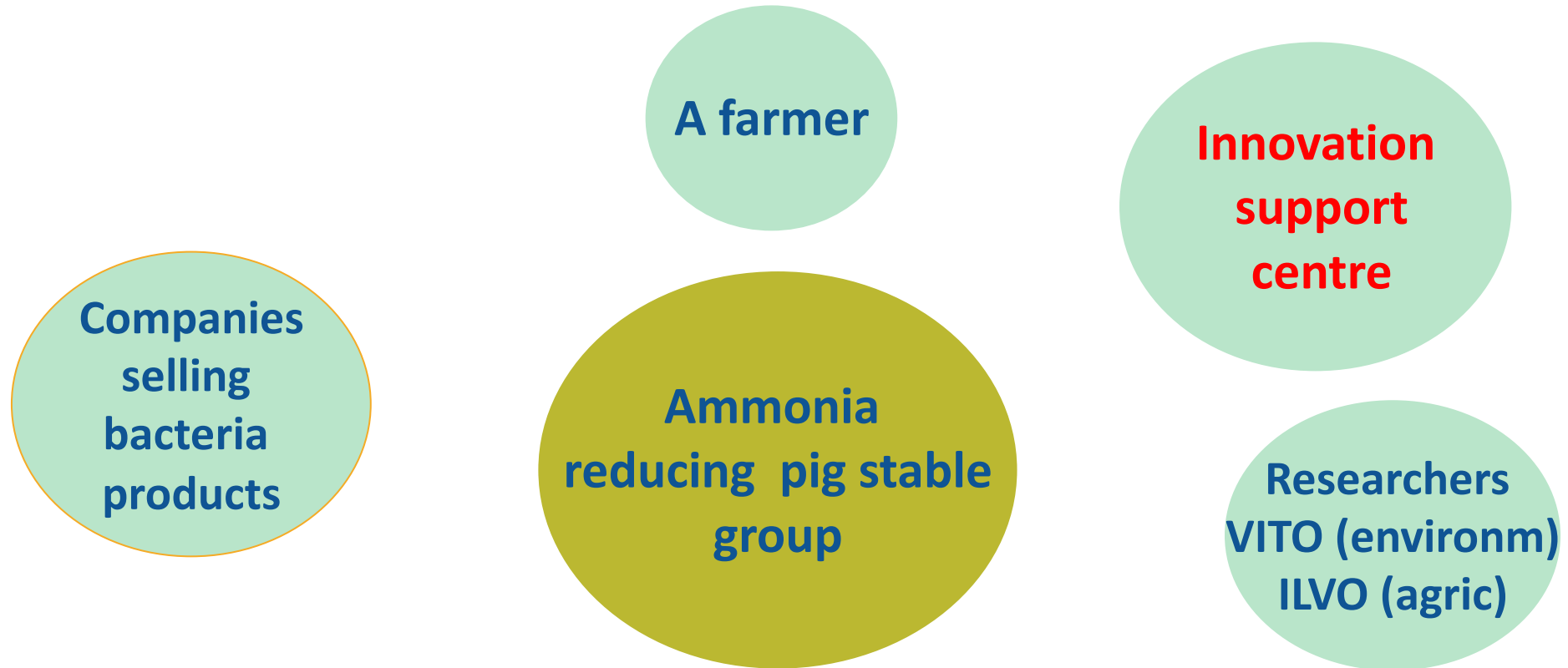
Advisors and ISS (= inn. facilitators) can have an important role in interactive innovation processes:

- **Capture** practice needs
- **Broker** to set up OG's interactive innovation projects (obligation post 2020)
- **Facilitate** interactive innovation projects (obligation post 2020)
- **Disseminate** newly generated knowledge already during the project
- **Make bridges** between CAP and Horizon programmes as innovation support service

Innovation brokering function - How to capture ideas?

- **Capturing bottom-up ideas from the grass-roots level**
- **Getting an innovation project ready to start** by acting as a go-between: helping single actors which might have difficulties in finding the adequate partners.
- A close connection with and **understanding of agriculture is important.**
- A **cross-cutting approach** beyond existing sectors, regions, initiative and institutes may bring added value
- Different approaches may be useful e.g. vouchers etc ("**simplified cost**") for easier use and reduction of administrative burden – **Art 77**

Example of an Innovation Support Service: one to one innovation brokering



Project objective: develop a pig stable reducing ammonia emissions by 50 % in a more cost-efficient way than existing stable systems (idea from a farmer, brokered by the Innovation Support Centre)

Innovation Support Service functions

<http://www.innovatiesteunpunt.be/en/projects/agrispin-innovation-brokership>

1. **Brokering** function
2. Coordination and **facilitation** of projects as an intermediate between partners
3. Innovation **promotion** and **awareness** raising
4. Coaching farmers towards innovation (individual advice)
5. **Brainstorming** events and thematical animation
6. Biannual **innovation prize**: 150 candidates, 10 final prizes, one winner - and a lot of communication in the farm journals promotes innovation
7. **Dissemination** of innovative results
8. Connect with SMEs and other innovation services and funding bodies
(see example of innovation project "Distrikempen" **video** from **Agrispin H2020 project**)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbiAGzlf3IA> *logistic innovation short supply chain*

AKIS & EIP-AGRI – preparing for EU knowledge reservoir(s) for practice serving advisors' back-offices for innovation support and advice

- ✓ *MS already creating **dbases (EIP-AGRI)** in DE, FR, back-office and ISS in LT etc)*
- ✓ ***EURAKNOS** project (Thematic Network of Thematic Networks, midterm Jan 2020)*
- ✓ ***EUREKA** project (feasibility EU knowledge reservoir for practice, kick-off Jan 2020)*



Making at EU level an increasing volume of practice-oriented knowledge easy accessible, interactive and attractive!

What post 2020 ?

Jean
Monnet
Father of Europe

12/05/1954



“Ce qui nous arrête, c’est la peur du changement. Et pourtant, c’est du changement que dépend notre salut”

“What stops us is the fear of change.
And nevertheless, it is on change that our
salvation depends”

Help from Horizon projects = input for national actions and for the EIP AGRI website at EU level

- **AGRIDEMO, PLAID and NEFERTITI:** will deliver **an inventory of demonstration farms in the EU for the EIP AGRI website**
- **EURAKNOS & EUREKA** will serve emerging **knowledge reservoirs at national level with content and strategic advice on interoperability**
- From this **EU Knowledge Reservoir for practice** will profit all national thematic networks (**EURAKNOS guidance document**) and the **EIP-AGRI website**, as well as **public back-offices (“knowledge hubs”)** where **specialist advisors** (or applied researchers) are closely interacting with field advisors, research and CAP networks
- **I2CONNECT:** will deliver **an inventory of all advisors, interoperable with national and EU advisory networks**
- **FAIRSHARE** will reduce maintenance costs collecting **public digital advisory tools**
- **LIAISON** works on **multi-actor methodology**
- 10 more AKIS topics to come in calls 2021 and 2022

Info: EIP Seminar on AKIS strategies in CAP Strategic Plans

16-18 September 2020 (the full seminar was recorded and can be seen again)

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-cap-strategic-plans-key-role-akis>

- Inspiration from an experienced **innovation support service**, followed by a **panel discussion on AKIS policy**.
- Opening speeches from **Commissioner Polish Ministers of Agr.**, one very inspiring and **Rural Inspiration Award OG** + an **overview on the basic elements of AKIS + Q&A**.
- Section on advice: intro + 3 diverse examples of **advisory services**
- Section on role of the **national CAP network for innovation**, again with good examples
- **Online discussions** which happened in the weeks before the seminar (on advisory services, on CAP networks and on the CAP plans), summarised by **Mark Gibson**
- **10 good examples of nice AKIS interventions**
- **4 Member States presenting their CAP plans**, already full of content
- after the breakout sessions, **our Director General Burtscher** closed with a very nice **summary on the interactive discussions** and expresses how he sees the future & AKIS.

3 types of advisory services presented at the seminar:

1. A fully-fledged advisory service (Anton Jagodic, SI)
2. An NGO delivering advice starting from a specific purpose (Razvan Popa, RO)
3. A fully-fledged regional innovation support service including all functions (Marleen Gysen, BE)

Of course, other options possible, depending on the Member State's context and existing organisations. Multiple solutions may co-exist. However, keep your mind open and try to enable as many advisory functions as possible and coordinate them, avoid overlap. Do not forget openness for new advisors and new themes (e.g. short supply chains, ecosystem services, digital, etc.)

CAP Plan template

Section 8. Modernisation and Simplification

8.1 Modernisation: AKIS and digital technologies

How the CAP Strategic Plan will contribute to the **cross-cutting general objective related to fostering and sharing knowledge and innovation**, including:

- Identification of the **needs**, based on the evidence from the **SWOT** analysis, in relation to the cross-cutting objective related to fostering and sharing of knowledge innovation and digitalisation, including relevant information from the SWOT analysis about the functioning of the AKIS and related structures;
- Overall **organisational set-up of the AKIS**, including **planned actions to improve** knowledge flows in particular between advisors, researchers and CAP networks;
- Description of the **farm advisory services provided**, which shall cover economic, environmental and social dimensions and deliver up to date technological and scientific information developed by research and innovation;
- Description of **how advisory services, research and CAP networks will work together** within the framework of the AKIS, and **how advice and innovation support services are provided**;

CAP Plan template

Section 7. Governance systems and coordination systems

7.1 Identification of governance and coordination bodies

Body	Contact details
Competent Authority	
Managing Authority	
Paying Agency (ies)	
Coordinating Body (if applicable)	
Certification Body	
Monitoring Committee	
Other delegated and intermediate bodies not laid down in the Regulation, with a description of their role	
AKIS coordination, including farm advice	
Relevant coordination body(ies) for the AKIS	

Whenever the draft Regulation provides for the possibility to establish governance bodies at regional level, and Member States make use of this possibility, this Chapter will include information on all these bodies.

CAP Plan template

4. 4. Elements common to several interventions

4.4. Technical Assistance

- Objectives
- Scope and **indicative planning of activities**
- **Beneficiaries**

4.5. CAP Network

- Summary overview and objectives of the National CAP Network, **including activities to support knowledge flows within the AKIS**
- **Structure, governance and operation of the National CAP Network**

How to improve AKIS in practice? 1+1=3

SWOT: We have many good organisations and institutes as components of AKIS, for example in Germany.

The main challenge = how to create structured knowledge flows and interaction between them to help innovation grow and support competent advice?

1. How to **use the increased flexibility (and ensure sufficient financing)** to create integrated innovation support and ensure competent advice on the many (innovative) fields?
 2. **Where do we start** to build this interlinked AKIS? The German EIP-AGRI is a strong cornerstone with well functioning mechanisms and actors, such as the innovation facilitators and the EIP network.
 3. How can your **existing structures** (chambers of agriculture, innovation facilitators, Lehr und Versuchsanstalte, Beratungsringe, universities,...) play a role in this?
 4. Innovation facilitators are advisors and advisors are facilitators. **How can we network them?** How to learn among them and from abroad? **Back-offices? Strategic dissemination, how?**
 5. Innovation facilitators can gather EIP OG project results **in** their region, exchange with others and strengthen dissemination. They can bring new ideas **to** their region and bridge to the others in AKIS.
 6. Finally, how to turn this into **meaningful CAP supported interventions?**
-

Questions?



European
Commission

Potential actions related to AKIS and digitalisation

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,...



SWG SCAR AKIS 4 report https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26_en

See in particular sections 1.2 What is AKIS?, 1.3 Multi-actor projects, 1.4 thematic networks, 1.5 possible actions for CAP AKIS Strategic Plans) and chapter 4 (Advisors and advisory instruments and functions)

EIP-AGRI website <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en>

CAP post 2020 – AKIS, EIP, advice and innovation – state of play negotiations (1)

Council Working : AKIS related discussions finalised:

MS are overall happy with Commission proposal, including:

- Continuation of support for preparing and implementing OG innovative projects, as well as for EIP networking (Art 113,114)
- **Higher than normal EU co-funding** for OG projects (**up to 80%**), (OGs in average 150-200.000 euro)
- Possibility of **advance payments** for OG projects (**up to 50%**)
- **Principles of interactive innovation now explicit in regulation** (as in 2014 EIP guidelines):
 - 1) focus on practical farmers' needs
 - 2) co-creation and co-decision all along the project
 - 3) complementary knowledge in the OG necessary: farmers' involvement is key

(Idem Horizon 2020 WP page 11-13, and Horizon Europe)

=> Do not underestimate the entrepreneurial creativity of farmers in OG projects for innovation, e.g. IE example of an OG testing and preparing an Agri-Environmental measure (AKIS report: see box page 63)

CAP post 2020 – AKIS, EIP, advice and innovation – state of play negotiations (2)

- Obligation to integrate and **update advisors' competences through connections within the AKIS** (Art 13), e.g. on up-to-date R&I and economic, ecological and social domains
- **Obligation and funding to provide innovation support** (Art 13)
- Broad CAP support for almost **any type of knowledge exchange and advice** (Art 72)
 - ↔ limitations in former FAS, as well as in Art 15 advisory support in current RD regulation

A number of further improvements since June 1018:

Art 3: definition of AKIS

Art 72: **coherence**: linking the support for knowledge exchange & advice with AKIS strategies

Art 114: introduction of **funding cross-border OG projects** (as from the start)

Art 113: introduction of the **possibility for existing OGs to cooperate**,
funded by Technical Assistance or Art 72 => CROSS-FERTILISATION

European Parliament: compromise amendments voted on 2/4/2019: no substantial changes. New Parliament: positive, no substantial changes

State Aid derogation on its way (Apr-May 2021) supporting also non-Annex I projects 100%

AKIS strategies in the post 2020 CAP: Seminar Sep 2020

Summary to take home:

- 1. Improve AKIS systems:** make all **advisors, researchers and CAP networks cooperate** to provide for comprehensive innovation ecosystems at Member States' level delivering qualitative services.
- 2. Step up advisors' competences through their integration and interaction within the AKIS system to enable them to give much broader advice,** on economic, environmental and social dimensions, and to deliver up to date technological and scientific information developed by research and innovation.

Summary to take home:

- 3) Request advisors to take up also a more interactive role and serve as innovation support services**, helping to **discover farmers' needs** and to **prepare and facilitate innovative projects** of EIP Operational Groups.
- 4) Use AKIS and thus EIP OGs as testing ground for various CAP interventions**, motivating future beneficiaries through co-ownership of the co-developed interventions, resulting in an increased take-up of improved schemes (example: IE nationwide OG to protect the Hen Harrier = next period AEEM intervention).

Summary to take home:

- 5) Open up farm advisory services to include within the AKIS 2.0 the trusted advisors who have real impact on farmers' decisions.** Make a new "advisory" start to empower people on the ground to design their own solutions to the problems they face. Do not look back to the past.
- 6) Promote investment in the innovation strand of the CAP networks** to share all existing and innovative knowledge created in the many European innovation and research projects.

Summary to take home:

- 7) Enhance all kinds of cross-border**, from finding info abroad, to learning for advisors and farmers by exchange visits, to setting up cross-border OGs but also incentivising cooperation between OGs from different countries and regions
- 8) Profit from the simplification we offer, do not start again with certification of advisors**, keep the AKIS system open, new advisors must be welcomed and all advisors inclusively drawn into the AKIS. **Use simplified costs as much as possible**, avoid checking invoices. Think about vouchers, giving power to the receivers of services

Summary to take home:

- 9) Give power to the receivers of services** and make it transparent to the example of booking.com. Think about **vouchers, giving power to those making use of advice or training.**
- 10) Instead of certification** (= closing out possibly the most valuable advisors who do not need you to make a living), make **transparency through websites with lists of advisors** who attended the (obligatory) trainings, put their cv online,... : the market will work. All EU obligations related to advisors have been taken out (minimum size of the advisory service, minimum experience, separate FAS system etc)

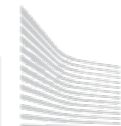
Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



Thanks for your attention

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