



Update on EIP-AGRI and AKIS

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SWG SCAR AKIS, 6 April 2022, s'Hertogenbosch



1. EIP-AGRI and AKIS

New Focus Groups

- FG 44: Sustainable ways to reduce the use of pesticides in pome and stone fruit production
- FG 45: Digital tools for sustainable nutrient management
- FG 46: Water: Nature-Based Solutions for water management under climate change



Upcoming EIP-AGRI networking activities (Autumn 2022)

- NRN event in Kufstein (AT): half day on AKIS for CAP networks
- AKIS seminar end of autumn 2022 (SoI)
- EIP workshop TBD



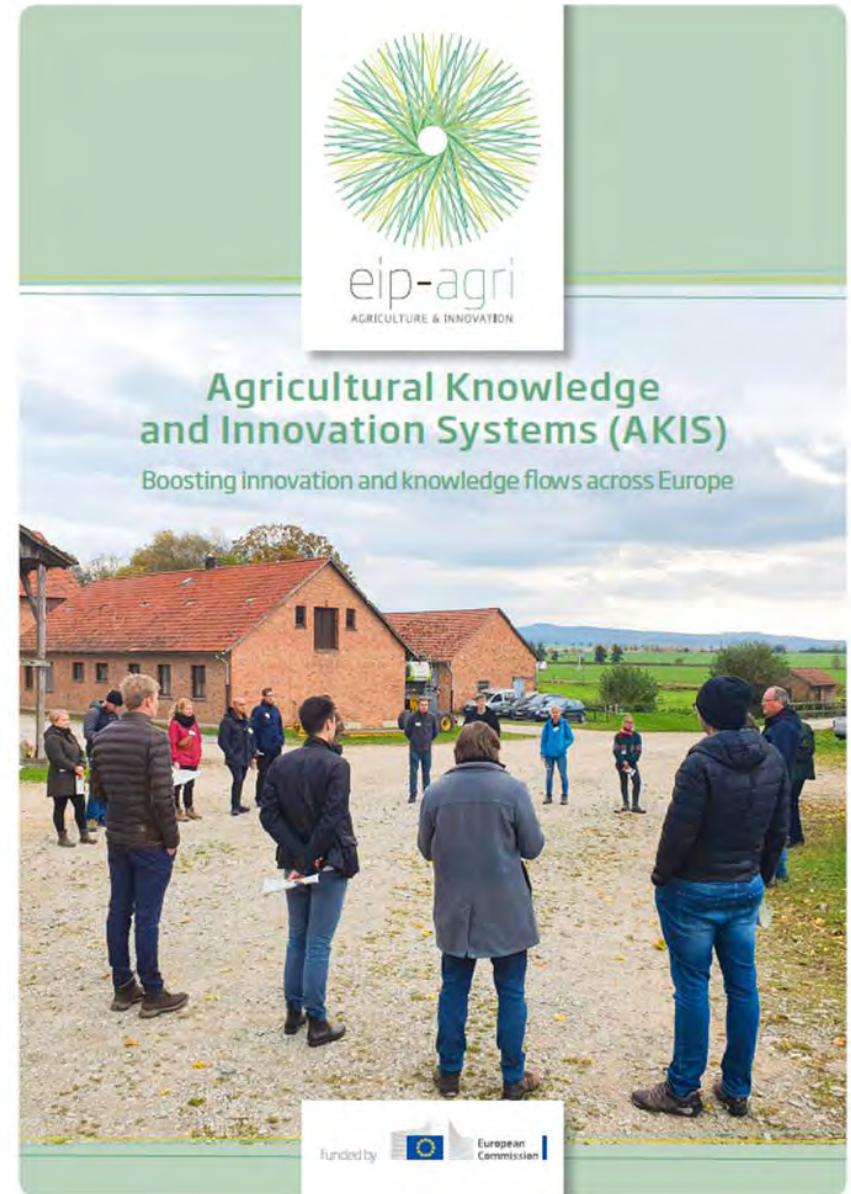
Upcoming EIP-AGRI networking activities (May/June 2022)

- EIP-AGRI workshop on conversion to organic farming **22-23 June 2022** (call = open)
- EIP-AGRI brokerage activity linked to the work programme of EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe (8-9 June TBC)

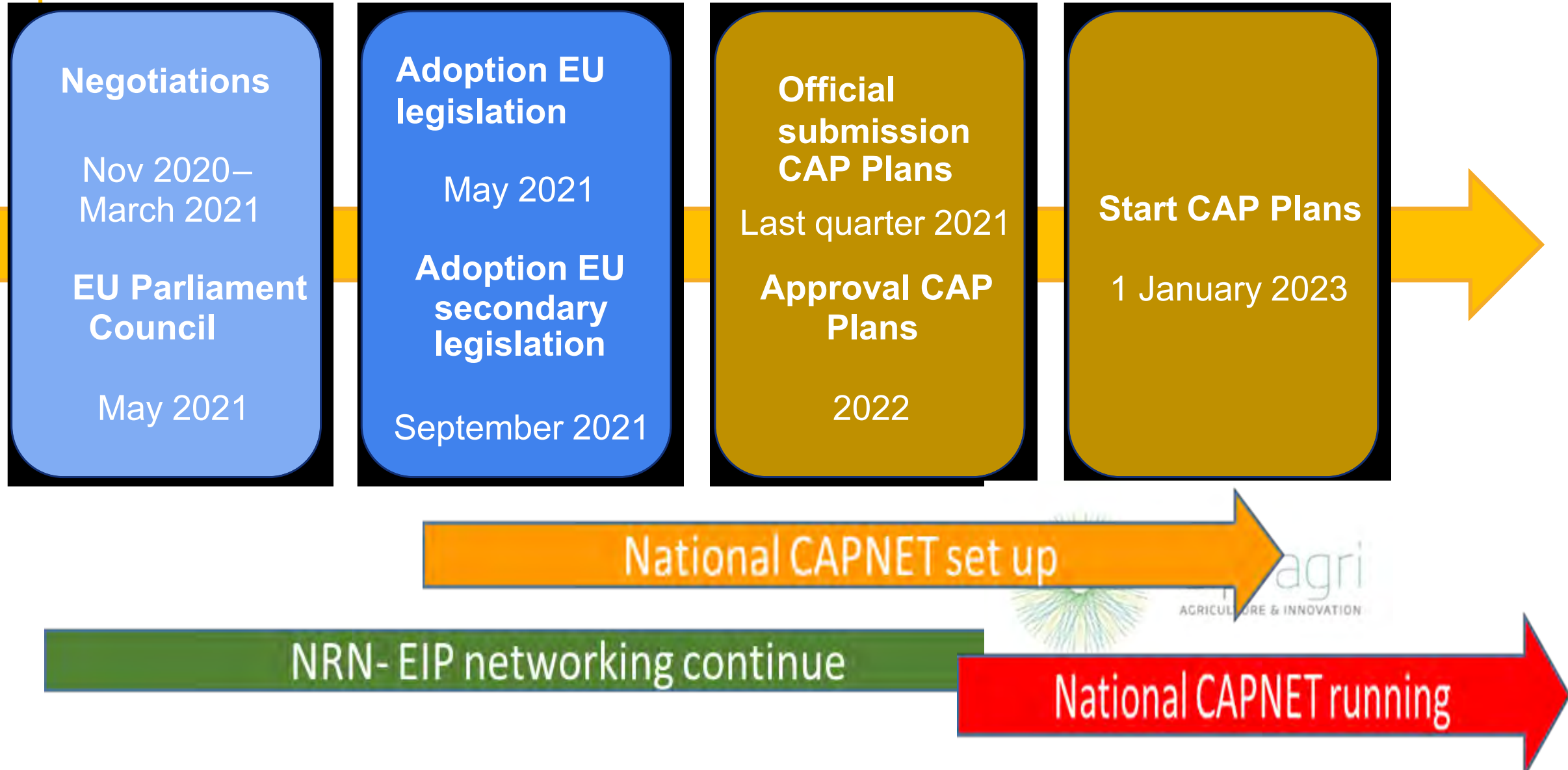
EIP-AGRI communications

- A **Thematic webpage on AKIS** + **new AKIS brochure** is created: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/about/akis-eip-agri-spotlight>
- **Press article on advisory Back-Office in Slovenia feeding into Innovation support and the whole AKIS:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news-events/press-media/press-release/slovenia-integrates-advisors-its-national>



State of play CAP reform proposals – provisional timeline(2023-2027)





2. Horizon Europe

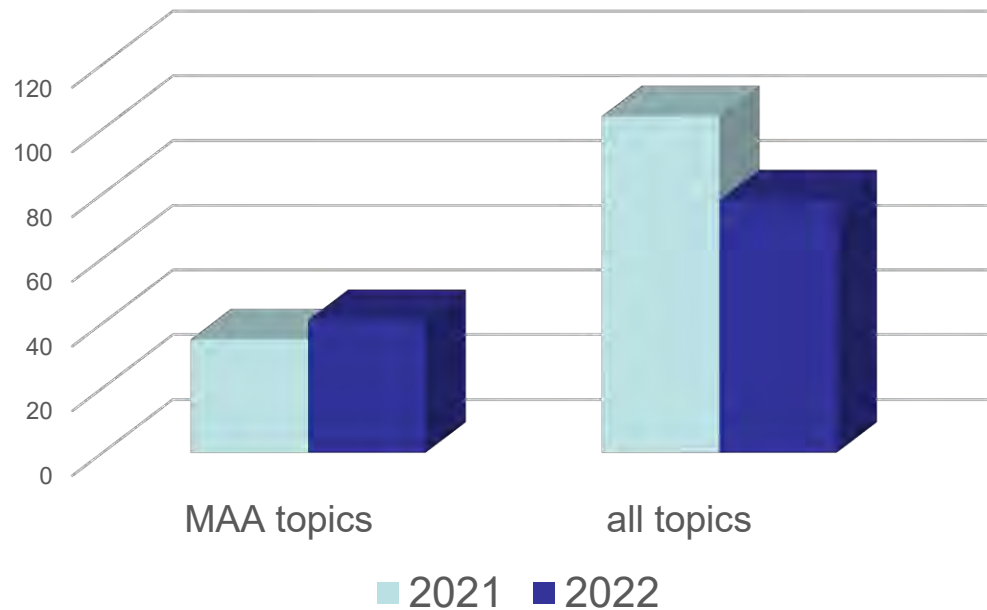
Cluster 6 meeting 1/4/2022

- Refinement of MAA definition
- Programming Committee on 2nd draft WP 2023-2024 soon
- Final draft end April
- WP 2022: “*MA project preparation: how more interactive?*” => discussion in final conference Diverimpacts

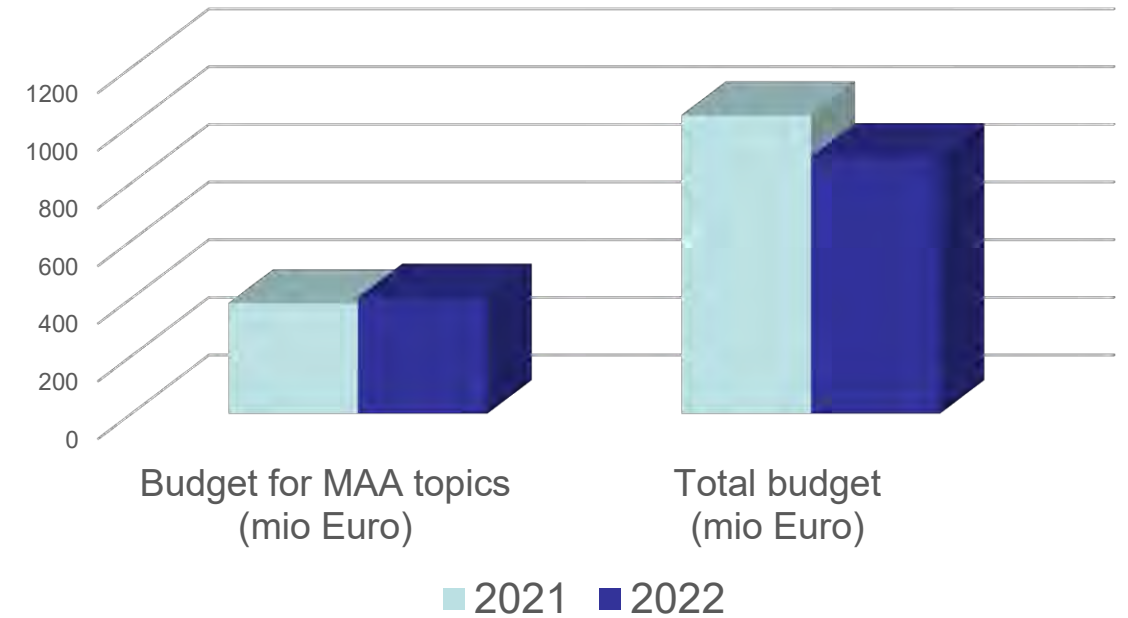


2021-2022 budget and number of Multi-Actor Approach topics under Horizon Europe

Number of topics



Budget for MAA projects



	Number of MAA topics	MAA Topic share	Total number of topics	Budget MAA topics (mio Euro)	MAA Budget share	Total budget (mio Euro)
2021	35	34%	104	383,5	37%	1035,3
2022	41	53%	78	403,5	45%	890,64
Total	76	42%	182	787	41%	1925,94

Find EIP Operational Groups: How? (1)

- **For cross-border OGs**
- **For Horizon Thematic Networks built on OGs in WP 2023-2024 (5 OGs from 3 MS minimum): annual call**

European Commission > EIP-AGRI > About EIP-AGRI > Operational Groups

Operational Groups

Operational Groups are intended to bring together advisers, businesses, environmental groups, innovation in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

Learn more about Operational Groups:

- [What is innovation?](#)
- [Concept EIP-AGRI Operational Groups](#)
- [Video: Operational Groups, first experiences](#)
- [Operational Groups database](#)
- [Innovation support services](#)
- [How to evaluate innovation?](#)
- [Contact Managing Authorities](#)
- [Links to national Operational Group databases](#)

Find EIP Operational Groups: How? (2)

Projects - Operational groups

Fulltext search

Contains any of these words

Geographical location

Choose some options

Keywords

Choose some options

Search

Reset

 [Brexit content disclaimer](#)

Projects found: 247

Published on

Title

Geographical location

07/02/2018

Biodiversamente Castagno: "Guidelines for the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity the chestnut in Emilia Romagna"

Italy

07/02/2018

Agroecological Cover - Cover crops to increase soil organic matter and reduce weeds

Italy



3. CAP post 2020

Implementing Act ready for vote begin
July
on EIP OG data collection

Summary CAP plans post 2020 – main new issues

- **The CAP Strategic Plans regulation provides many new or improved tools for AKIS** under the Cross-Cutting Objective:
 - **Farm advice**: MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I, obligatory training
 - Support for **knowledge exchange** and information events, including for advice, demo and training, **thematic and cross-sectorial events**
 - Obligation to provide innovation support for OGs - from grassroots ideas
 - **CAP networks** (Art. 113): will connect existing OGs & interact with **Horizon Europe NCPs** (seminar June 2021 on EIP website)
 - EIP Operational Groups (Art. 114): 80% cofinancing instead of 43%
 - Advance payments up to 50%
 - State Aid derogation till 350.000 Euro project
- **CAP Strategic Plans** to start formally on 1/1/2023, all 28 plans received

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

Overall: very good descriptions of substantially improved AKIS with more knowledge flows, very good AKIS strategies. Interministerial agreements not sufficiently developed. Interventions not always coherent with each other or with the strategy: CAP plans appear to be made hasty and seem « unfinished ». **19 Observation letters sent on 31 March. Bilateral meetings and clarifications ongoing.**

- Last MS under assessment (BE, SK, RO, BG, DE, CZ)

Farm advice: MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS within the CSP (Art 15(1)), covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I, and should be trained obligatory: Technical assistance can pay for making the advisors' list, all advisors to be selected on equal basis:

- Support for advice substantially raised and available in all MS except one.
- Involvement of advisors in EIP OGs well taken up.

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

Farm advice: MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I, and should be trained obligatory:

- **Not all advisors treated equally**, sometimes based on lack of understanding of the more flexible new delivery model and **keeping old unnecessary obligations**: improvement needed, however without losing existing well-functioning organisations, which may grow into a back-office for the whole country and serving all advisors.
- Misunderstanding on the **Art 15(4) obligatory fields: not per advisory body but for the whole MS**. This can be **checked through a public list** of impartial advisors which all have **equal rights** to be trained.
- Unclear if sufficient training is given to advisors: clarifications asked
- **Back-offices** or CAP networks ensuring updating on latest K&I: positive but doubts on capacity of the CAP networks for this task
- **Obligation to provide advice under the CSP not well understood (Art 15(1))**

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

Farm advice: MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I, and should be trained obligatory:

- CAP networks very supportive for AKIS and knowledge flows, which may conflict with other tasks. Engineering of spillovers and synergies within the CAP network needed.
- Not much technical details if the knowledge databases will be made interoperable with the EU EIP website and EU knowledge reservoir for practice (FARMBOOK project starting mid 2021)

Support for **knowledge exchange** and information events, including for advice, **demo** and training, **thematic and cross-sectorial events**

- Many MS organise on farm demonstrations which involve farmers, advisors and researchers: great opportunity for knowledge flows and AKIS formation

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

Obligation to provide innovation support for OGs - capturing grassroots ideas to develop into EIP OGs

- Regularly forgotten or misunderstood (detailed in recital)
- Where organised, **risk of lack of capacity** if calls are not continuously open
- Focus on group activities to discuss themes or farmers' needs, or raise awareness.

CAP networks (Art. 113):

- Will do many efforts to connect existing OGs & make them visible.
- **Interaction with Horizon Europe NCPs could be better.**
- Proposals rather to have an own Contactpoint under the CAP network with Horizon, as the NCPs for Cluster 6 are overloaded

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

EIP Operational Groups (Art. 114):

- already more than double with still 6 plans to be submitted
- 6200 OGs planned in 24 MS' first draft CAP plans – for only 5 year period instead of the current 3200 for 7 years (2014-2020): is x 2,7
- **More MS pay for preparation actions** than in the current period

Advance payments up to 50%:

- Yes, but less than expected: probably **not sufficiently known yet?** The relevant article is not in the CSP regulation, but Art. 44(3) of the financial regulation R.2021/2116 => **possible ignorance on this article.**

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

State Aid derogation till 350.000 Euro project:

- **Not sufficiently known** but essential for some of the 9 CAP specific objectives which really need 100% support (social innovation, energy, biomass etc), as no private actor is willing to pay a contribution to develop new approaches in many non Annex I themes

Main reasons besides simplification to chose for the EIP OG format instead of any kind of non-EIP cooperation:

- 80% EAFRD EU contribution instead of 43%, **automatic State Aid derogation (R.2021/1237)**, profiting from preparation aid to make better project proposals (Art 77(1)), can allow 100% support rate for non-productive investments, flexibility to cover 9 CAP SOs, count for R.1 indicator on K&I, can cover traditional « new » practices, can take network-alike approaches between peers, work **also without researcher** etc etc... => **room for simplification with other cooperation interventions on any of the 9 SOs**

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

Difference with non-EIP cooperation (continued):

Importantly, non-EIP cooperation projects **reduce AKIS building and knowledge flows within and across the MS:**

- cannot be found in the EU EIP database, so
- do not profit from joining or making Horizon Europe MA projects
- nor from cross-border OGs,
- nor from CAP network support for existing OGs to cooperate (Art 126(4)),
- do not involve advisors /intermediates to bring in practice knowledge and spread the better useable outcomes to end-users, etc...

AKIS Coordination Body

The AKIS coordination body, (inter)acting as the spider in the AKIS web of the country, interconnecting all key AKIS influencers

- The AKIS coordination body is the **contact point for all AKIS related issues towards the European Commission.**
- It should **cooperate with AKIS multi-actor platforms across the geographical levels in the country**, following day-to-day AKIS interventions and actions,
- **asking for modification of the CAP plan if needed**, while continuously supporting interaction and implementation of the AKIS plan.
- The body should **keep an overview on the progress and performance** foreseen in the CAP plan, using a dedicated framework for monitoring and evaluation, in particular those related to the CAP indicators (Annex I of the AKIS tool, see Section 2.6).

AKIS Coordination Body

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- The above responsibilities make it most likely that the AKIS coordination body is situated in the RD Managing Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture
- It is the task of the AKIS coordination body **to organise the advice and advisors**, ensuring coverage of all obligatory fields in Art 15 in a smooth way which does not produce overly administrative burden, and
- keeps advisory support open for all public and private advisors, in particular the most trusted ones

Tool on AKIS

CAP tool on CCO: AKIS

- Main new elements in the post 2022 CAP related to AKIS and EIP
 - Obligations
 - Opportunities
- Cornerstones for an AKIS fit for the future
 - EIP-AGRI Operational Group (OG) innovative projects - Art. 71 and 114
 - CAP networking for innovation post 2022 - Art. 113 and Art. 102(a)
 - New and more interactive functions for advisors, innovation support
- How reflect the AKIS Strategic Approach in the CAP plan?

Simplification of Costs (SCO) for EIP OGs, training and advice:

- Much used already as from **2017 EIP seminar**. The classics: Flat rate for indirect costs and staff costs (25% if based on calculation or comparison), 15% of direct staff costs without calculation, flat rate on direct staff costs if already used in Union policy, lump sums for OG preparation, training etc:
https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/field_event_attachments/19_sem-athens-2017_intro_interactive_session_inge_van_oost.pdf
- **Addition in 2018**: lump sums **above** 100.000 Euro, draft budget agreed ex ante by the MA in case the project is less than 100.000 Euro (expert judgement, no exact calculation needed), flat rate of up to 20% of the direct costs other than staff costs (no need to perform a calculation to establish the applicable rate), no certificate of an independent body needed anymore, 40% of « remaining » costs, other than direct staff costs (this can cover both indirect and direct costs) => a flat rate up of 40% of direct staff costs, see ppt Marina Hadjijanni with additional types of SCO:
https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/field_event_attachments/eip-agri_sem-spoletto-2018_marina_hadjijanni_new_options_with_scos_in_eafrd.pdf

Tool on AKIS

CAP tool on CCO: AKIS

[8.1 tool for modernisation - akis and digital technologies - on circabc 7 oct 2021.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

- Legal references and their interaction
- Why do we need well-functioning AKIS?
- How to shape an AKIS fit for the future?
- Strengthen knowledge flows and links between research and practice
- Fostering all farm advisors' knowledge and strengthen their interconnections within the AKIS
- Enhancing cross-thematic and cross-border interactive innovation
- Making effective use of information and communication technologies to improve knowledge sharing

Tool on AKIS

CAP tool on CCO: AKIS

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Tool on AKIS

CAP tool on CCO: AKIS + Annexes

[8.1 tool for modernisation - akis and digital technologies - on circabc 7 oct 2021.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

- AKIS related impact, result and output indicators
 - Impact indicator (Article 7, Annex I of the SPR)
 - Output indicators (Article 7, Annex I of the SPR)
 - Main Result indicator (Articles 7, 97 and Annex I of the SPR)
- Guidance questions for the assessment of the AKIS strategic approach
- Annexes – very useful !!!
 - I. Background information on AKIS
 - II. Why do we need well-functioning AKIS?
 - III. Basics on EIP Operational Groups
 - IV. Innovation related **CAP networking elements** to be brought to the MS' attention when developing their CAP plan
 - V. **Good practices to integrate advisors in the AKIS**
 - VI. Links to Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects
 - VII. Common format for the output of EIP OG projects

Building and linking AKISs across the EU

*Speed up creativity and
practice application*

*Better connectivity and
quicker circulation of
information*

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

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Questions?



Thank you for your attention