LIAISON: Presentation of two draft Policy briefs for the 5th Mandate report

SCAR AKIS Meeting in Lugo, 20/6/2022

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SCAR AKIS SWG 5th Mandate
Lugo, Spain 20 June 2022

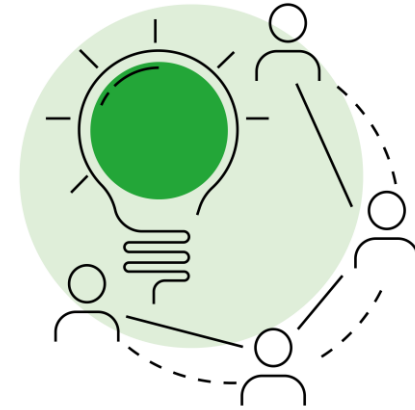# LIAISON - Better Rural Innovation: Linking Actors, Instruments and Policies through Networks

1. About LIAISON and its evidence bases
2. Policy Brief "Common Framework for Capacity Building to improve interactive innovation"
3. Policy Brief "Strengthening the enabling environment for multi-actor facilitation"
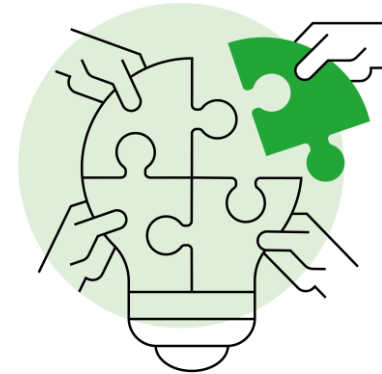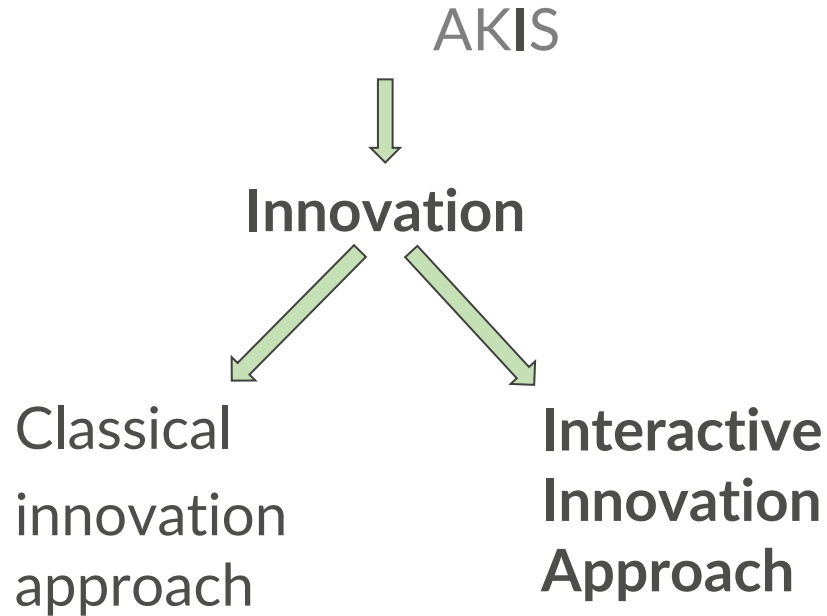4. Discussion

Aims of LIAISON (5/2018 – 4/2022)

Why do some partnerships have the ability to organise themselves, to capture new ideas, to nurture them and create something new?

The project aimed to

- Understand better what makes a successful partnership for innovation,

- Encourage more of these successful partnerships for innovation,

- **Develop recommendations to those providing the enabling environment for the implementation of such co-innovation projects.**

Focus on the `I´ - Innovation

AKI**S**

⬇

Innovation

↙ ↘

Classical innovation approach
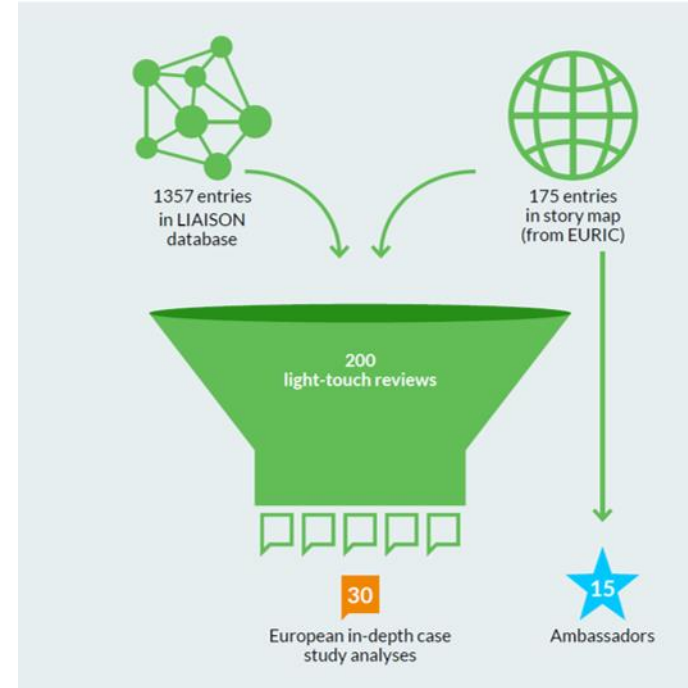
Interactive Innovation Approach

LIAISON's evidence base

Light-touch reviews (200) and In-depth case studies (32): various types of multi-actor projects
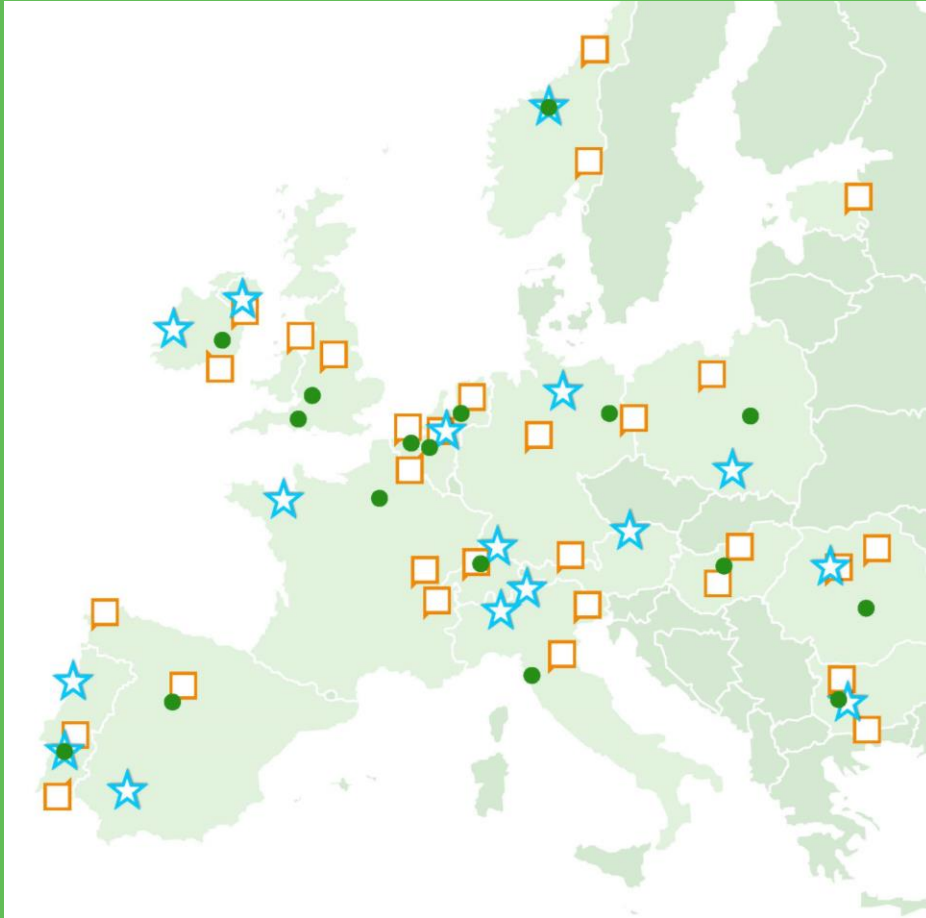
- Under the H2020/HEU programme (RIA, IA, CSA),

- Rural Development Plan (OG, networks);

- Other project consortia, funded and/or ‚under the radar'

➡ Working in a co-creative way -> co-innovation (`interactive innovation´)

1357 entries in LIAISON database

175 entries in story map (from EURIC)

200 light-touch reviews

30 European in-depth case study analyses

15 Ambassadors

Actors and stakeholders in LIAISON

● Consortium partners (17 partners from 14 EU Members States and NO, CH, UK)

▢ 30 In-depth case studies from across Europe plus 2 international case studies - Living Labs Canada and CDAIS Africa
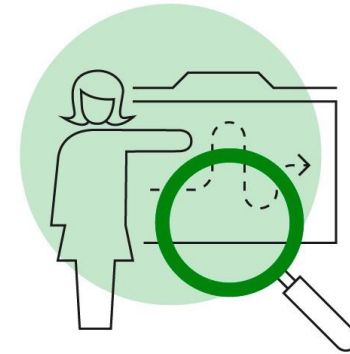
★ 15 Rural Innovation Ambassadors

LIAISON world café with the SCAR-AKIS group (S'Hertogenbosch, April 2022)

„Roadmap to levelling up the EIP-AGRI - a Common Framework for functional Capacity Development in EU MS" (LIAISON Policy Brief2)

- It's evident, lots of progress has been made with the EIP-AGRI implementation since 2012.

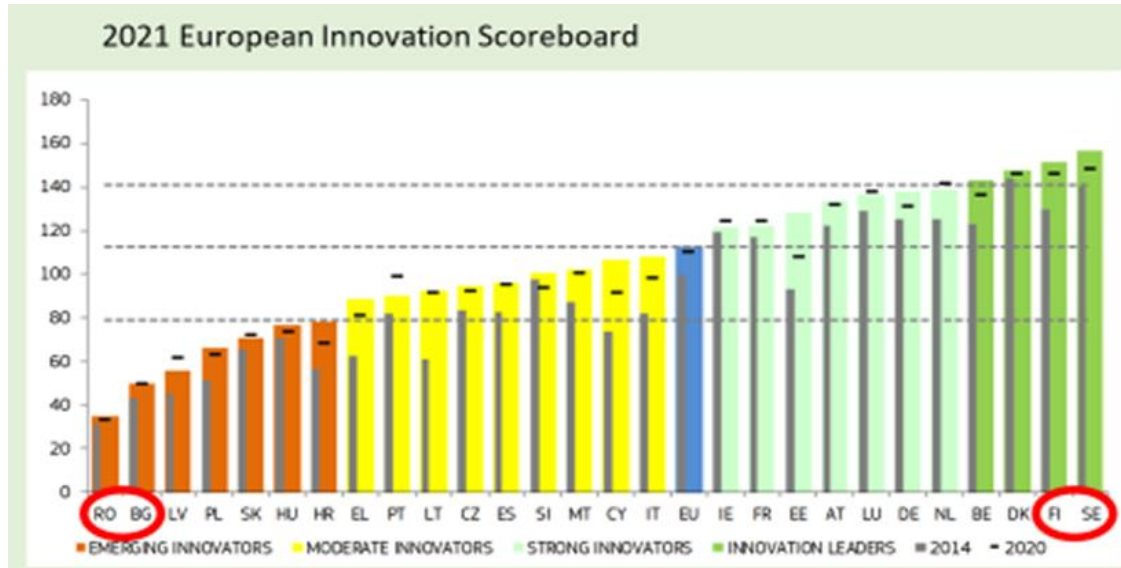- But we are realising that several improvements remain challenging.

- LIAISON's insights from its field work and the work on the Common Framework on CD show that we need to **think bigger and keep an eye on the complexity of the EIP-AGRI implementation,** and the related **functional capacities** of all actors involved.

Innovation gap in the EU

- The innovation performance of many MS is lagging significantly behind the 'innovation leaders'!

- With more support for the 'good' or 'medium performers', the risk of a further increasing 'innovation' gap grows!

2021 European Innovation Scoreboard

Varying innovation capacities in MS

- Political and institutional history, integration maturity, social and cultural context and level of decentralization differ substantially.

- Distinct and targeted CD intervention for individual MS are needed to speed up innovation.

- LIAISON teams recommend to develop Capacity Development as a core policy concept for implementation in the Post-2020 CAP.

Five key Principles for optimising interactive innovation and the related capacities

ENHANCE NETWORKING & COLLABORATION

EMBRACE DIVERSITY

PROMOTE FAIR GOVERNANCE ON MULTIPLE LEVELS

5 PRINCIPLES FOR OPTIMISING INTERACTIVE INNOVATION

CREATE SPACE & ABILITY TO ACT

FOSTER REFLECTION & LEARNING

- Capacity to **network** and collaborate (P1)
- Capacity to work with **diversity** (P2)
- Capacity to engage and **act** (P3)
- Capacity to **reflect, learn** and adapt (P4)
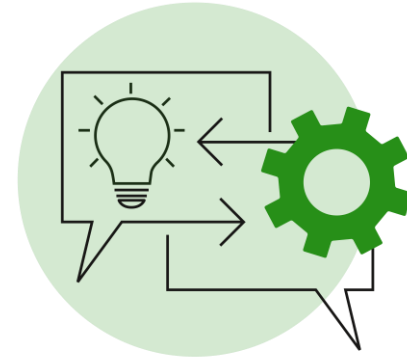- Capacity to develop, translate and **implement responsive policies** based on need (P5)

LIAIS N

World café results (11th meeting, April 2022)

P1: Networking and effective collaboration is a key 'enabling capacity for innovation'; it requires teamwork and trust.

P2: To tackle societal problems, actors needed are different, multi-level, and add multiple frames of reference, complementary knowledge, diverse range of policy options.

P3: Co-innovation requires 'room for maneuvering' e.g. flexibility, taking risks, fail, learn, try again.

P4: (Self-)reflection and reflexivity to improve structures and processes is central.

P5: Fair and interconnected governance on multiple levels sets the frame for an enabling environment.

CD support exists but ...?

- Which and where is CD support available?

- Who has access? How to know the support is provided? For whom? Transparency? Evaluation?

- How suitable is the use of CSAs for well-known CD needs? ... new CSAs will provide support for NCPs, ISS, AKIS or Advisory bodies ...but others?

- What is already out there and works for the CD for co-innovation? Towards Green Transition and other policy areas – maybe transfer to agriculture?

- What about their flexibility to MS' needs and contexts?
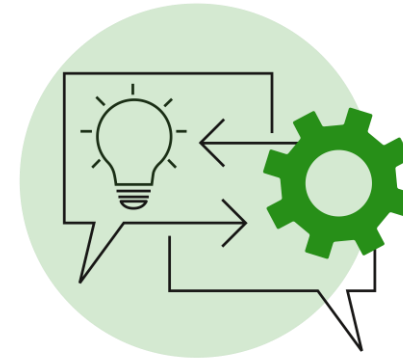
LIAISON workshop: 4 tables & 2 online groups

World café with the SCAR–AKIS group (S'Hertogenbosch, April 2022)

"Strengthening the enabling environment for multi-actor process facilitation" (LIAISON Policy Brief 1)

- CAP Strategic Plans Regulation (SPR)
- Article 102 "Modernisation" –> Stronger AKIS!
  - Support farmers and their transition to more efficient and sustainable production systems
  - Connect ALL relevant AKIS actors systematically and intensively to create a well-functioning AKIS
  - Ensure co-innovation for new solutions and products, in particular co-design processes between practice and research

Aim - Highlight opportunities for optimising the enabling environment for co-innovation

- Main focus is on the strengthening of the **innovation process management.**

- Policy programmes, administrative rules and procedures, including the tasks official innovation support services are commissioned to provide, shape the enabling environment.

- Target groups for this LIAISON Policy Brief:
  - Policy makers
  - Officials (agriculture, forestry, rural development)
  - Associated innovation support service providers, etc.

Facilitation – Management of co-innovation processes and facilitation of a group events
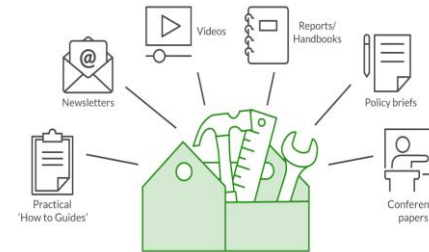

LIAISON How-to-Guides (5)

- Coming Together
- Good Planning
- Healthy Partnerships
- Connected Partnerships
- Achieving Impact

Tool box Guides (2)

- Participatory Methods for Facilitating Co-innovation Projects
- Evaluation and Impact Assessment of Co-Innovation

Enhancing the enabling environment (1)

- Funding of independent support services that help

  - to shape an idea, to build a multi-actor partnership or the preparation of a project application

  - to find suitable partners (brokering)

- Appointing funding guides that point the way through the programme jungle

- Institutional funding for established networks

- Enriching education and training courses to build interpersonal, technical and functional skill needed for innovation process facilitation; and to teach more than only one professional language

Enhancing the enabling environment (2)

- Advising officials to engage as key AKIS players to help with e.g. stakeholder mapping, provision of knowledge and information, conference organisation

- Funding for coordinators to sign up for ‚classical' project management trainings

- Funding for coordinators or dedicated partners to sign up for faciliation trainings, or for the contracting of external facilitators

  ❗ In most cases, providers of innovation support services working under a tender for the Ministry are not able to help with the project management and project-related facilitation tasks.

Joint planning for the further development of the policy briefs (5th Mandate report)

Proposition of the draft Common Framework for CD for the improvement of interactive innovation

Recommendations for the enabling environment for co-innovation facilitation

Incorporation of the feedback from the SCAR-AKIS group members (coming months)

Do we aim to focus on key areas of interest?

LIAIS✷N
Optimising interactive innovation

Thank you!

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https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSwCCZQ
ECphqki10TZxJZmqNK6jj2fLl4

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