



Update on EIP-AGRI and AKIS

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DG AGRI, European Commission

SWG SCAR AKIS, 25 October 2022, Budapest



1. AKIS and EIP-AGRI within the EU CAP network

EU CAP NETWORK GOVERNANCE

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/1864 of 5 October 2022 setting out the organisational structure and operation of the European CAP network and repealing Implementing Decision 2014/825/EU

ASSEMBLY

STEERING GROUP

PERMANENT SUBGROUPS

EU CAP Network ASSEMBLY

- to promote **exchange and networking** among public and private entities active in agriculture and rural development, in innovation related to specific objectives of the CAP and in monitoring and evaluation in agriculture and rural development;
- to ensure **coordination between the thematic strands** of the European CAP network;
- to provide the strategic framework and guidance for the activities of the European CAP network, including the thematic works;
- to ensure **appropriate monitoring and assessment of the activities of the European CAP network**;
- to **propose the members of the Steering Group**

EU CAP Network ASSEMBLY

- National CAP networks
- CAP Strategic Plans national **Managing Authority**
- CAP Strategic Plans **Paying Agency**
- LEADER Local Action Group
- **Farm advisory services** active in innovation support services **linked to European Innovation Partnership** for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP) operational groups projects **(to be refined)**
- **Research institutes** active in innovation activities **linked to EIP** operational groups projects
- Union-wide **non-governmental organisations**, registered in the Transparency Register, who have been appointed members of the civil dialogue groups on the common agricultural policy (CAP)
- Union-wide organisations **representing regional or local authorities** active in agriculture and rural development

EU CAP Network STEERING GROUP

Operational SG with tasks:

- preparing and **following-up the activities** of the European CAP network, in accordance with the strategic framework provided by the Assembly;
- **coordinating the thematic strands** in accordance with the framework provided by the Assembly and following-up its implementation;
- assessing on an on-going basis the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities of the European CAP network;
- ensuring the **coordination of the work of the Assembly** with that of other relevant expert groups and committees
- **reporting to the Assembly** as regards its activities
- more active than before

EU CAP network STEERING GROUP

Members:

- eight members from the Assembly;
 - **four members from each of the permanent sub-groups established by the Assembly;**
 - two members from the expert group on the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation, related to monitoring and evaluation.
- appointed by the AGRI DG following a proposal of the Assembly, reflecting the geographic and thematic diversity of the members of the European CAP network and based on the voluntary commitment of the proposed members.

EU CAP Network Subgroups

In agreement with the Commission, the Assembly may set up sub-groups on specific thematic strands related to the objectives and the tasks of the European CAP network, including permanent sub-groups on:

- **Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (SolKE);**
 - LEADER and territorial development; and
 - CAP Strategic Plans.
- Sub-groups shall **carry out thematic works** on the basis of a mandate defined by the Assembly.

NEXT STEPS - PLANNING

- Invitation to MS to nominate their permanent representatives in the Assembly (Q4 2022): **letter to the permanent representatives !!**
- Public call for selection of **Union-wide organisations** in the Assembly representing regional or local authorities active in agriculture and rural development (Q4 2022)
- Following selection process of **CDG members**, invitation to selected NGOs to nominate their representatives in the Assembly (Q4 2022 – Q1 2023)

NEXT STEPS - PLANNING

- First meeting of the EU CAP network Assembly (**Q1 2023**): **adoption of rules of procedure** (on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for expert groups adopted by the Commission), **agreement on the permanent subgroups** and Assembly's representatives in the Steering group
- Invitation **to Assembly's members to nominate their organizations' representatives** in the permanent subgroups (Q1 2023)
- Meetings of permanent **subgroups: selection of their representatives in the Steering group** (Q1/Q2 2023)
- First meeting of the new Steering group (Q2 2023)
- **Transition mode**: the current members of the subgroups will meet under the new name



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New Network, New Identity

Innovation (yellow = optimism, energy, happiness, creativity of mind, intellect)

Evaluation



Blooming together

EU CAP network launch event - Innovation workshop

- Snapshot on EIP-AGRI & the Support Facility + interactive discussions on '**How can we further strengthen networking for innovation and knowledge exchange in the next years?**'
- Addressed topics: networking activities, the gap between research and practice, engagement in the CAP Network, key issues at national /regional level and cross-border cooperation.
- Some highlights:
 - **Demonstrate the added value of networking for innovation**
 - Enhance **accessibility of project results in understandable language**
 - Involve new stakeholders due to broader scope, along the supply chain
 - Look for influencers/initiators to mainstream knowledge transfer, involve advisors
 - Organise **marketplace for cross-border cooperation** and **foster synchronized calls in MSs**
 - Linking CAP funding with other policies and funds can be a successful strategy for sustainable innovation





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New EU CAP Network website = a platform



EN English

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EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Network

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Optimising the flow of information, knowledge and rural policy within the EU is what the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Network is all about.

[About the EU CAP Network >](#)



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1st Meeting of the
Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange

Newsletter | Innovation, Knowledge Exchange and EIP-AGRI (all CAP objectives)



**Successor of
newsletter on
Agriculture and
innovation**

#SoIKE



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@eucapnetwork

Optimising the flow of information about agriculture and rural policy within the EU.
Powered by @EUAgri - Previously: @EIPAGRI_SP, @ENRD_CP & @ENRD_Evaluation

📍 Brussels 🗓️ Joined September 2022

993 Following 336 Followers

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EU CAP Network @eucapnetwork · Sep 26

The #EUCAPNetwork launch event is just around the corner 🗓️

400+ people will come to Brussels to celebrate our new network, participate in workshops & discover the winners of the #RIAwards22 🏆

Vote before 4 October ➡ bit.ly/3DuDdqt

📺 Stay tuned for the livestream



EU CAP NETWORK
6 October 2022
Brussels
EU CAP Network
LAUNCH EVENT
Funded by the European Union

Focus Groups - finishing

- 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
- **Final reports** and factsheets coming soon

Videos:

- nature-based solutions for water management
- sustainable pome and stone fruit



New Focus Groups

Closed applications 19/9/22

First meetings Jan/Feb, second meetings Apr/May, reports June 2023

- FG 47: Enhancing biodiversity on farmland through high-diversity landscape features
- FG 48: Social farming and innovations
- FG 49: Recovery of abandoned agricultural lands

Support Facility for Innovation & Knowledge Exchange | EIP-AGRI

Indicative calendar of networking activities (July 2022-June 2023)

July

August

September

October

November

December

**EU Rural Networks'
Assembly**
05/10/2022

EU CAPNET launch
06/10/2022

**1st Subgroup on
Innovation &
Knowledge Exchange**
20/10/2022

**European CAP
Network Steering
Group**

Team week 1
03-07/10/2022

**Workshop Young
Innovative
Entrepreneurs**
30/11 - 01/12/2022

**Seminar Smart
circular farming to
address high energy
and fertiliser prices**
06-07/12/2022

2022



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Support Facility for Innovation & Knowledge Exchange | EIP-AGRI

Indicative calendar of networking activities (July 2022-June 2023)

January

1st meeting
Focus Group 48
Social farming & innovations
25-26/01/2023

1st meeting
Focus Group 49
Recovery of abandoned agricultural lands
24-25/01/2023

Stand-alone brokerage activity on Horizon EU advisory networks

February

1st meeting
Focus Group 47
Biodiversity on farmlands
01-02/02/2023

Ad-hoc expert group meetings (TBC)

2nd Subgroup on Innovation & Knowledge Exchange

European CAP Network Steering Group (TBC)

March

Workshop Food Security

April

2nd meetings
Focus Groups 47, 48 and 49

Workshop Sustainable use of pesticides

Cross-visits

May

Workshop animal welfare

Research conference
31/05-01/06/2023
+ field trips (TBC)

European CAP Network Steering Group (TBC)

June

Seminar AKIS
14-15/06/2023

3rd Subgroup on Innovation & Knowledge Exchange

2023



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Workshop “Young Entrepreneurs – Engines of Innovation in Rural Areas” – Main points

Date: 30th of November and 1st of December 2022

Location: Dublin, Ireland



Closed call: From 4th till 14th of October - 192 applications received

Participants: 80 (ongoing selection process) + 20 SF and DG Agri

Field visits: Included

Workshop “Young Entrepreneurs – Engines of Innovation in Rural Areas” - Content

Overall aim - to support young entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems and their actors in rural areas by showcasing good practices from EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, Horizon projects and other EU-funding programmes, leadership figures from local communities, and other examples of leadership and innovators moving into rural communities.

Topics:

Building and exchanging practical knowledge on rural entrepreneurship:

- innovative approaches to boost entrepreneurship;
- business plans for applying innovative ideas;
- interaction and networking with all stakeholders along the value chain (“from farm to fork”);
- challenges on the way of implementing innovative business ideas;
- research, advisory support and training for young entrepreneurs and start-ups: **AKIS**.

Specific objectives:

- **Showcase** innovative business and start-ups led by young entrepreneurs in rural areas.
- **Explore opportunities** offered under the CAP and HE to support young entrepreneurs and start-ups in rural areas.
- **Identify the needs** and barriers from young entrepreneurs to develop new businesses in rural areas.
- Promoting young entrepreneurship **ecosystems within local rural communities**.
- To activate networking among stakeholders for innovation and young entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Seminar ‘Smart circular farming to address high energy and fertiliser prices’

Date: 6-7 December 2022

Location: Porto, Portugal

Context

Considering the challenging situation of higher energy and fertilisers costs, the seminar will focus on finding innovative solutions for resilient farming and food systems through **smart circular economy approaches**.

Overall aim

Find innovative solutions in response to the accessibility and affordability of energy and fertilisers by building resilient farming and food systems through smart circular economy approaches at farm and local level to safeguard food security and climate objectives.



Seminar ‘Smart circular farming to address high energy and fertiliser prices’

Specific objectives

1. Exchange knowledge on successful practices, opportunities and tools relevant for maintaining and enhancing energy security and fertilisers availability and affordability through a circular approach, and specifically on:
 - a. Increasing self-sufficiency;
 - b. Increasing resource efficiency and sustainability;
 - c. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
 - d. Enhancing **cooperation** at both farm and local level;
2. Identify challenges caused by lack of energy security and explore potential solutions;
3. Identify needs from practice and possible knowledge gaps and possible directions for further research;
4. Promote networking among EIP-AGRI Operational Groups and other innovative projects and relevant stakeholders.



Seminar ‘Smart circular farming to address high energy and fertiliser prices’

Brokerage event

Following the seminar, an additional ‘Idea and project exchange market’ will be organised in the afternoon of 7 December.

This will involve more one to one interaction and opportunities for individuals and projects to network and exchange ideas to accelerate the uptake of best innovative practices.

Target Group

The seminar will be interactive and will focus on exchange of information on good practices and initiatives in EU Member States. There will be a diverse range of participants including farmers, advisors, researchers, circular economy specialists, energy specialists, industry, NGO...





2. Horizon Europe



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New Horizon Europe projects relevant for the AKIS - KickOffs ongoing



modernAKIS

ATTRACTISS

EU-FarmBook: supporting
knowledge exchange between all
AKIS actors in the European Union

Start date: 01/08/2022
End date: 31/07/2029

[Grant agreement ID: 101060382](#)

Modernisation of Agriculture
through more efficient and
effective Agricultural Knowledge
and Innovation Systems

Start date: 01/09/2022
End date: 31/09/2029

[Grant agreement ID: 101060527](#)

AcTivate and TRigger ACTors to
deepen the function of Innovation
Support Services

Start date: 01/10/2022
End date: 31/09/2028

[Grant agreement ID: 101061060](#)



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1st Meeting of the
Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange

New Horizon Europe projects relevant for the Innovation strand of the EU CAP Network

Oper8

CLIMED-FRUIT

New projects from the topic
2021:

Broaden EIP **Operational Group** outcomes across borders by means of **thematic networks**, compiling and sharing knowledge ready for practice

European **Thematic Network** for unlocking the full potential of **Operational Groups** on alternative weed control (20 OGs)

Start date: 01/10/2022
End date: 30/09/2025

[Grant agreement ID: 101060591](#)

Adaptation to climate change and mitigation for perennial crops in Mediterranean Area.

Start date: 01/10/2022
End date: 31/09/2029

[Grant agreement ID: 101060474](#)

#SoIKE



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1st Meeting of the
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New Horizon Europe projects relevant for the Innovation strand of the EU CAP Network

B-THENET

Best practices and innovations for a sustainable beekeeping

Start date: 01/09/2022

End date: 31/08/2026

[Grant agreement ID: 101059812](#)

BROILERNET

Practice and Science Broiler Production Innovation Network

Start date: 01/08/2022

End date: 31/07/2026

[Grant agreement ID: 101060979](#)

Grazing4AgroEcology

European Network to promote grazing and to support grazing-based farms on their economic and ecologic performances as well as on animal welfare

Start date: 01/09/2022

End date: 28/02/2026

[Grant agreement ID: 101059626](#)

#SoIKE



Cluster 6 Work Programme 2023-2024: timeline



- The **Inter-Service Consultation** took place during the Summer.
- Currently the **final version** of the work programme is being developed.
- The **adoption and publication** are foreseen by end of November.
- **Calls 2023 will be open** for proposals immediately after publication.
- **Save the date: 13 and 14 December Cluster 6 Infodays and 19 December Cluster 6 Brokerage event.**
- **EU CAP Network brokerage event: Advisory networks**



Co-fund partnerships

- D1: European Biodiversity Partnership: Biodiversa+*
- **D2: European partnership on accelerating farming systems transition: agro-ecology living labs and research infrastructures**
- **D2: European partnership on animal health and welfare**
- **D2: European partnership on safe and sustainable food systems for people, plant and climate**
- D5: European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All)*
- D7: European Partnership for a climate-neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy*
- **D7: European Partnership of Agriculture of Data**
- (*): kick-started with WP 2021-2022
- **bold**: to start in WP23-24

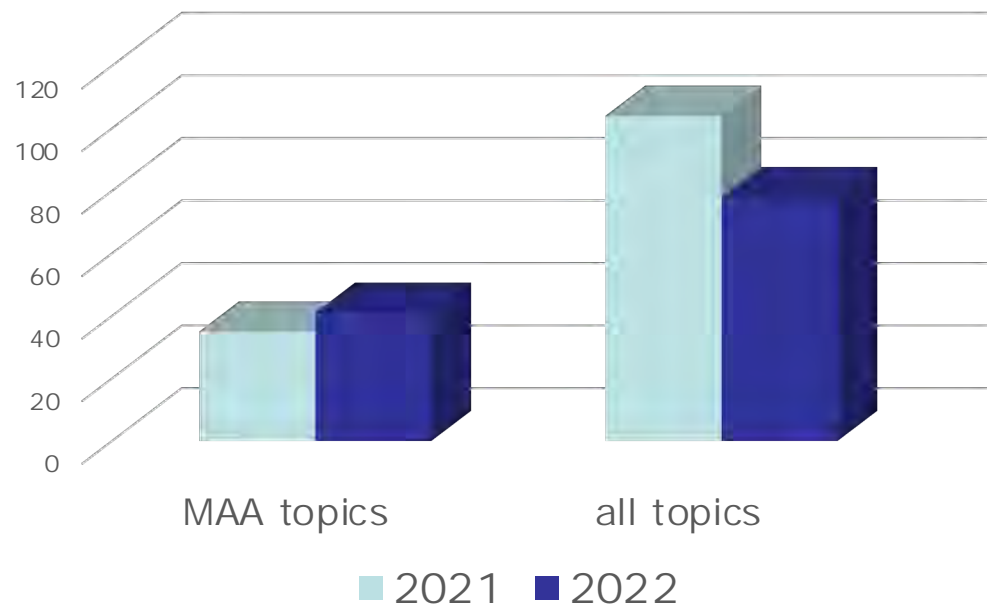
Call 2023-2024

- Publication end November 2023
- Deadline calls for EU advisory networks and all types of EU thematic networks March 2023
- Work planned with the NCP network project on Multi-actor Approach
- A dedicated project from call 2022 will start in January to improve the preparation of Multi-actor projects, as the preparation phase of EIP OGs: *Première*

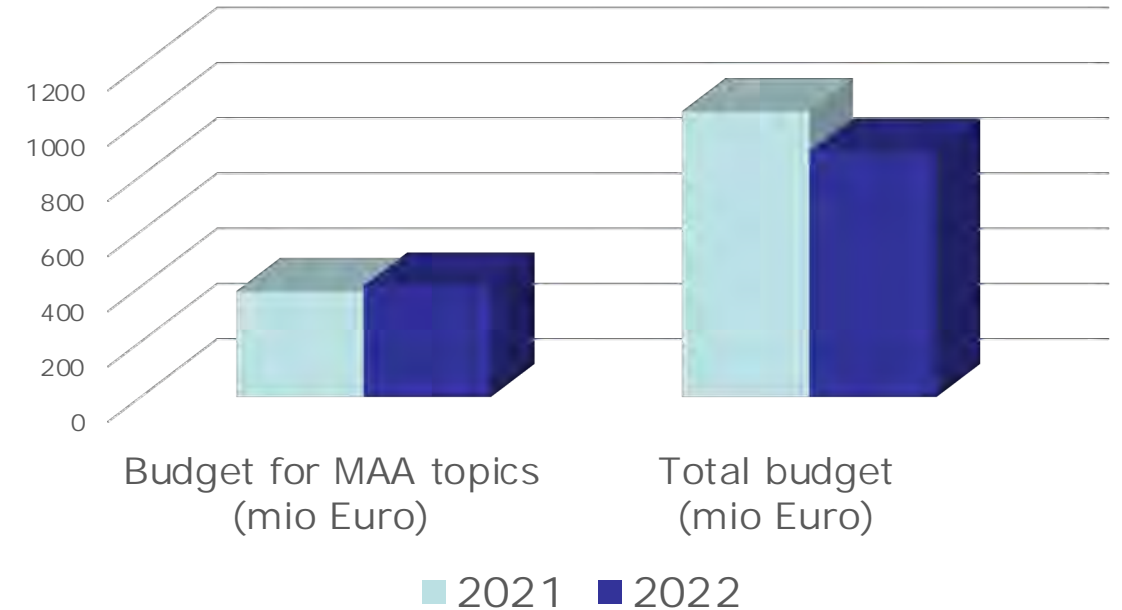


2021-2022 budget and number of Multi-Actor Approach topics under Horizon Europe

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

Cap network website: current situation after CAP network launch (1): https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/eu-cap-network/about-european-cap-network_en

EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Network

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EU CAP Network

About

Welcome to the EU CAP Network! Optimising the flow of information about agriculture and rural policy within the EU is what the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Network is all about.

CAP overview

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is central to the European Green Deal and its Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

Governance

European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Network governance

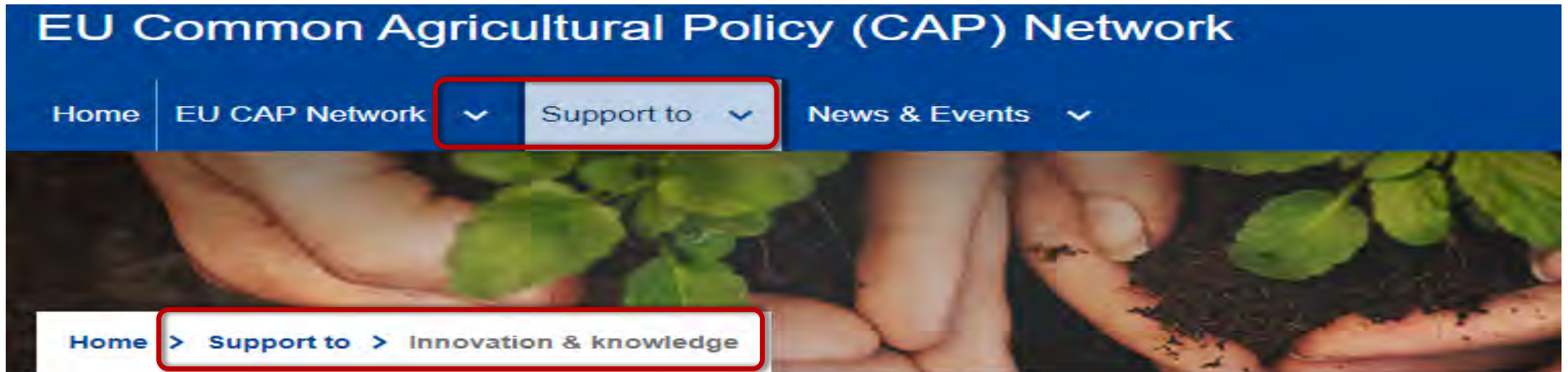
National CAP Networks

Networking at EU Member State level in the 2023-2027 programming period will mirror European level networking. In practice, this means that each Member State has been given the task of establishing a national network that includes stakeholders from all areas of the

Cap networks: current situation after CAP network launch (2)



EIP/AKIS: current situation after CAP network launch (3)



Innovation & knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI

Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge exchange including EIP-AGRI

The 'Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge exchange including EIP-AGRI' is a key part of the EU CAP Network. Its role is to facilitate communication and cooperation between those with a keen interest in sharing knowledge and innovative ideas for sustainable agriculture, forestry and rural areas.

It connects farmers, foresters, advisors, researchers, business representatives, environmental groups, NGOs, consumer interest groups and other innovators in the EU CAP Network. Its ultimate aim is to help build up robust flows of knowledge and speed up innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas.



EIP/AKIS: current situation after CAP network launch (4)



European Commission > EIP-AGRI > About EIP-AGRI > AKIS in the EIP-AGRI spotlight



- About
- Europe 2020 strategy
- Funding streams
- Operational Groups
- Horizon Europe
- Horizon 2020
- Multi-actor projects
- Thematic networks
- AKIS

AKIS in the EIP-AGRI spotlight

What is AKIS?

Knowledge and innovation play a crucial role in helping farmers, foresters and rural communities meet current and future challenges. To make sure that relevant people get connected, and that knowledge is shared between everyone who uses and produces it, effective **'Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems' (AKIS)** are needed across the EU. This will further support the development of innovative solutions that work in practice.

Watch the EIP-AGRI animated video **'AKIS: Building effective knowledge flows across Europe'** to see what AKIS stands for, and how it can help tackle current and future challenges for farmers, foresters, rural communities and many others.





EIP/AKIS: current situation after CAP network launch (5)

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Operational Groups

Operational Groups are intended to bring together multiple actors such as farmers, researchers, advisers, businesses, environmental groups, consumer interest groups or other NGOs to advance 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](#)

EIP/AKIS: current situation after CAP network launch (7)

AKIS

Digital agriculture

EIP-AGRI projects database

EIP-AGRI Operational Groups

Events

30-01
NOV-DEC

2022

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

EIP-AGRI workshop "Young entrepreneurs - Engines of innovation in rural areas"

06-07
DEC

2022

CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

EU CAP Network Seminar 'Smart circular farming to address high energy and fertiliser prices'

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

About
Europe 2020 strategy
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Multi-actor projects
Thematic networks
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EIP-AGRI Support Facility
EIP-AGRI multiplier toolkit

Operational Groups

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Find EIP Operational Groups: How? (2)

Projects - Operational groups

Fulltext search **Geographical location** **Keywords**

Contains any of these words

 *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

EU-FarmBook: launched 19 October 2022



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0 comments



The title of this interesting article

January 12, 2018

By **Joseph Stevens**, **Katherine Youth** and **Forest advisment**

Smart-Akis

>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Enim neque volutpat ac. Curabitur blandit tempus porttitor. Donec id elit non mi porta gravida at eget metus. Aenean lacinia bibendum nulla sed consectetur.



More info

Integer posuere erat a ante venenatis dapibus posuere velit aliquet. Duis mollis, est non commodo luctus, nisi erat porttitor ligula, eget lacinia odio sem nec elit.

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multilingual

Quantifiable (Likes)

↑ 554 likes ↓

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Interaction



EUREKA



EURAKNOS

1. EU 'FarmBook': What does DG AGRI expect of EU-FarmBook?

- Our intention when deciding to grant this project was to **preserve on the longer term the knowledge generated in so many projects**, be it Horizon multi-actor projects funded under the European Research Policy, or EIP Operational Group innovative projects funded under the Common Agricultural Policy. Most often, such projects **produce a lot of material**, videos, leaflets, reports, photos, fiches, etc. That information is ready to apply in practice for farmers and foresters. Unfortunately often this material and knowledge disappears shortly after the project ends. This is a **huge waste of investment and budget**. Therefore we decided **to fund one single EU knowledge reservoir for practice**. All actors in the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System can then use it for as long as possible.
- Mind you, the "A" of AKIS stands for a very wide range of subjects, not just for "narrow" agriculture. The "AKIS" abbreviation stems from 2008. Although we want to keep it to avoid confusion, in reality, meanwhile AKIS has broadened its remit very much. That means that not only farmers and advisors will profit, but **all actors engaged in whatever farming, forestry and rural activities automatically relate to, such as people involved in environment, water, climate, biodiversity and landscape, consumers and citizens, food and non-food systems and including transformation and distribution chains**, etc. We notice that even policy makers are interested to learn about the good practices produced by the projects. They want to use that information for funding of for instance eco-schemes or agri-environmental climate measures.
- **BUT: KEEP IT PRACTICE ORIENTATED !**

2. What is most challenging during the EU-FarmBook project?

- *We have seen many projects who have already done efforts to set up databases, for instance on demonstration farms, or on listing advisors from the various MS, or on collecting best practices to reduce pesticide use. **The recurring problem is always how to keep these sometimes very useful databases alive after the project ends.***
- *We hope that a good collaboration will grow between the many projects and this unique EU knowledge reservoir for practice, EU Farmbook. Therefore, project owners should be willing to **share their results** as widely as possible by means of this single EU database for practitioners. We see this as the duty of all project owners. After all, their projects were all financed with public funding, and thus should serve any taxpayer. **The resulting knowledge should stay public and reach as many people as possible, through the one-stop-shop EU Farmbook will become.***
- *A last challenge I see, is to **keep the content of the Farmbook user-friendly and really oriented to practical applications, ready to use and nice to read.** So many knowledge databases are not used because they stick too much to pure research outcomes, instead of focusing on real impact on the ground.*

3. How would you see AKIS evolve as an exchange system in the future and how can EU-FarmBook play a role in this?

- *Under the new CAP rules, Member States are obliged to improve the functioning of their AKIS. Their innovation and knowledge ecosystems should increase knowledge flows between the many actors. **Almost all Member States intend now to make databases to collect knowledge** in their country and share it. EU Farmbook can - for free - help to fill those databases with a huge amount of interesting material coming from all over Europe. Countries should of course ensure they use the right IT standards for their database, so that they are interoperable with EU Farmbook, which can save them a lot of money. And vice versa, Farmbook can broadcast national outcomes on a wider scale. Thus, everybody will be able to learn from everybody and this will bring huge knowledge sharing into action.*
- *Moreover, the **Farmbook material will connect many AKIS actors** who did not know they were working on similar issues. They can learn from each other and use each other material. Well-functioning AKIS are also meant to **provide training material and input to the advisors** which now must be integrated into the AKIS to become more competent. **The material can also serve education institutes**, from secondary schools up to universities. Farmbook again has a huge role to play here.*

4. What role could DG Agri play in supporting EU-FarmBook?

- *We hope Farmbook partners do a good job. It will also be your pride to be part of such an important initiative for the EU.*
- *We are confident that **the translation of practical information in all 23 EU languages will be key to reach all practitioners and AKIS actors across the EU.** We heard so many times that language is the key barrier for practitioners to learn from other EU countries.*
- *We also see that the Artificial Intelligence search function will become smarter than any other database or knowledge reservoir. That will be key as in the next period we will have many more EIP projects under Horizon and under the CAP, and the practice oriented material is exploding.*
- *We will help Farmbook to **connect with all AKIS coordination bodies in the Member States**, to promote the material for use in their country. Hopefully we, as DG AGRI, will be able to use it in the next CAP period.*
- *It will be an **excellent tool to expand our knowledge exchange and innovation services under the European CAP network** and give stimulus to implement all that knowledge into practice. We are under high expectations, this should be the first and only....*

We need your help =>

"Having potential innovative knowledge is one thing, turning it into reality is another."

"The value of an idea lies in the using of it."

Thomas Alva Edison –
inventor of the light bulb



3. CAP post 2020

Implementing on EIP OG data collection
Act voted begin July 2022
Guidelines on the way

Current situation approval CAP plans

- 9 CAP plans officially approved, 5 on the Europa website in native language, all very supportive for AKIS and knowledge flows:



- https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/cap-my-country/cap-strategic-plans_en#approved-cap-strategic-plans

Current situation approval CAP plans

- 9 Approved plans, but for AKIS: almost all MS finalised
- Most MS made considerable progress in the understanding of why we need AKIS and on how they can improve its functioning and use the CAP support to do so
- We were surprised to see the remarkable power of the EIP and the **many planned EIP OGs**. In particular their **diversity is striking**: besides the classical EIP OGs for productivity and sustainability, there are often **several OG interventions per MS**. We now also have **networks** for creating knowledge hubs or for **putting in place innovation support services**, OGs focusing on **short supply chains**, OGs specifically dedicated to **biodiversity conservation by farmers**, OGs on **regional rural innovation** etc.
- OGs are also more and more used as a way for **preparing the ground to test out and introduce other CAP schemes**, such as Eco schemes and Agri Environmental Climate commitments
- All this creativity is resulting from the new CAP rules which make explicit that an OG can cover each of the 9 CAP objectives.

Current situation approval CAP plans

- Whereas the advisory measure was starting to fade away in the CAP rural development programmes, with the changed advisory approach in the new CAP, **big efforts are now made for reinstalling support for advice and making advisors more visible**. Farmers are supported to **take advice in a variety of ways**, for instance by using knowledge **vouchers**. Advisors now must be impartial and must be integrated within the AKIS. They must follow regular **training** and will become more competent. Also **demonstration, training, exchange visits to learn abroad are in almost all CAP plans**.
- **Knowledge hubs** are being created by setting up **back-offices where specialist advisors interact with researchers on a very regular basis** covering specific themes and collecting all practice-ready knowledge. They put this at disposal for the field advisors, for training, and to any AKIS actor or even policy maker who can use it.
- **Also researchers are much more involved** in many actions, from knowledge hubs over demonstration projects and knowledge exchange events, and other approaches.

Challenges in new CAP plans, which need time

- Main issues were the little EU **requirements for selection of providers of advice and training** (compared with the past), which sometimes do not fit with national legislation thus will need to be adapted => time needed
- General obligation during selection to **treat beneficiaries equally** in Art 79
- Often **misunderstanding of Innovation Support Services (ISS, Art 15(4)(e) and recital 50)**, which is capturing grassroots innovative ideas, refining the objectives, looking for the relevant partners, preparing a project proposal on which all actors want to engage and drafting a cooperation agreement.
- As a consequence more frequent organization of **EIP OG calls is needed**
- Remember: **Obligatory training for advisors: can include** methodology on innovation support, e.g. help from Horizon I2CONNECT project

Current new CAP plans

Variable financing of ISS in the CAP plans:

- 1) Usual for EIP interventions: lump sums for preparation step: 5000-8000 Euro depending how big the group
- 2) Advisory interventions: more ISS in the current CAP plans than in the past, more and more include innovation advice
- 3) Technical assistance budget also be used, possibly for outsourcing (e.g. RISS), because the task is too intensive for the national CAP networks

Reinforcing of knowledge flows within the AKIS was needed:

- Sometimes only repetition of M1, M2 and M16 EIP initially in the draft plans, while all these interventions have changed and broadened in the regulation. **Bilateral meetings have been extremely useful to interconnect the different measures**

So far, many MS have often worked topdown in the choice of themes for OG calls. Now this will be complemented with **grassroots entrepreneurial innovative ideas, which ISS will capture**



I'll be happy to give you innovative thinking.
What are the guidelines?



A plan & team for an innovation project



Searching for possible support program



Searching for adequate partners



Finding the idea & refine it

The innovation brokering process:

innovation support services acting as a mediator

Matchmaking, including the marriage contract

To complete the innovation networking ecosystem in the new CAP: a new obligation for all MS to organize individual **innovation support services (ISS)**

- **Do not underestimate the efforts and budget** needed for ISS (3.000 - 8.000 Euro per project)
- We appreciate synergies but keeping the difference between is essential:
 - 1) individual **“innovation support services”** (as in some MS already funded in this period, activities more oriented to the individual idea owner and its emerging OG, mostly done by advisors)
 - 2) broader **“innovation networking”** by the **CAP networks/NRNs** as already is happening in this period, **more group actions** to incentivize innovation, support calls, bring together OGs etc

Monitoring and support for CAP plans

- A mapping exercise is planned on the approved CAP plans (Jan-July 23), including the CCO and AKIS
 - Rather general questions in this mapping exercise by the Evaluation Helpdesk
 - Evaluation guidelines for AKIS will become available end of this year
 - Our AKIS Seminar on 14-15 June: the SolKE asked mainly for 3 issues:
 - 1) CAP AKIS coordination body governance and related AKIS actions
 - 2) The new advisory approach
 - 3) Relation CAP OGs – Horizon projects
- We will also start with a thorough analysis of CAP plans on the AKIS issues
- OECD study on EU AKIS ongoing

Current situation approval CAP plans

- Almost all MS plan practice knowledge reservoirs/AKIS databases, some as advisory intervention, or setting up of advisory services, some as OG backoffice, some as part of the work do the national CAP network
- Not much technical details **if the national knowledge databases will be made interoperable with the EU EIP website and EU knowledge reservoir for practice (FARMBOOK project starting mid 2021).**
- Therefore, a dedicated meeting for exchange will be planned, using templates, **to learn from each other and see if some common elements can be found** (e.g. advisors' list, AKIS actors' list, demonstration farms' list, events, OG project list, etc)

Innovation support services: You are not alone....

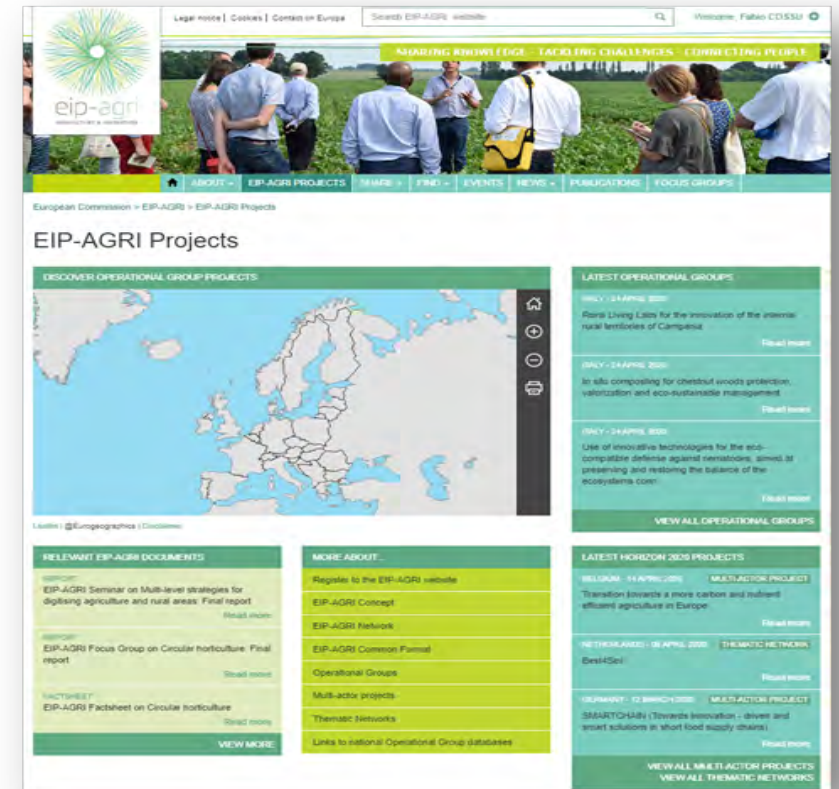


Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



EIP-AGRI – What did we achieve?

- ✓ 26(27) Member States, 98 rural development programmes implementing EIP Operational Group “innovative projects”
- ✓ in 2014-2022 (7 years) more than 2500-3000 OGs running or finished (still 3,2 years to go) – 1 bio €
- ✓ **Next CAP draft plans: 6500 OGs for only 5 years**
- ✓ 190 multi-actor projects under Horizon 2014-2020 (two thirds of total projects) for 1 bio Euro – again many more to come.... => A growing and thriving network:



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

www.eip-agri.eu

AKIS & EIP-AGRI – prepare an EU knowledge reservoir for practice which will help the advisors' back-offices for innovation support and more competent advice

- ✓ MODERNAKIS project (2022-2029): helps MS learn from each other how to build a **well-functioning AKIS** and what are good AKIS interventions (exchanging experiences and train new actors)
- ✓ FARMBOOK: (2022-2029) MS plan or already have **knowledge databases**, we need to ensure they become **interoperable** worden, to save costs and avoid duplication through cooperation!
- ✓ ATTRACTISS project (2022-2027) helps the building of **innovation support services** across the EU and shares the related knowledge
- ✓ **EU advisory networks, EU thematic networks, EU thematic networks built on at least 5 OGs from 3 MS**



Questions on synergies between the Horizon AKIS projects and the AKIS CAP networking

- The 3 main AKIS projects, Attractiss, EU-FarmBook, and Modernakis will work in synergy. Their kick-off meetings focused on this as a main aspect
- Also the knowledge and innovation section of the EU CAP network will work in synergy with those projects, which are being organised during those kick-offs (e.g. the meeting on national knowledge reservoirs of EU-FarmBook/REA/DG AGRI, WP5 of ATTRACTISS serving MS without ISS/DG AGRI, etc)
- The 14-15 June AKIS seminar will build on the outcomes of the first year's work of the 3 key AKIS projects

Confusion between the title of the EIP and the content of the regulation: covering all 9 CAP objectives

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), now 500.000 Euro per project in new ABER**
- 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...

Confusion between the title of the EIP and the content of the regulation: covering all 9 CAP objectives

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 national/EU EIP database, so lack of knowledge flows within the AKIS ⇔ Strategic AKIS approach
- 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

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

- The above responsibilities had as result that the AKIS coordination body is situated in the RD Managing Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture
- **Helped by** “AKIS support units”, “AKIS networks”, “AKIS platforms” etc
- 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
- Task of the AKIS Coordination body is to **keep advisory support open** for all public and private advisors, in particular the most trusted ones, and to ensure that all obligatory fields are covered in the country/regions

Building and linking AKISs across the EU

practice application

*Better connectivity and
quicker circulation of
information*

Questions?



Thank you for your attention

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP plans at MS level:

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

1. MS' CAP networks tasks and objectives:

- Provide for more learning (=filtering, translating, summarizing) from all 3000 EU OGs and MA projects on EU EIP website => knowledge exchange among MS
- Organize a variety of knowledge events between in your country 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)
- Foster innovation: support to OGs within the MS and across borders

2. **Researchers** more closely involved in the AKIS: (inter)acting on farmers' needs/opportunities, and 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. **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 calls**” (e.g. OGs on bottom-up grassroots ideas + on specific environmental challenges, on piloting digital tools & measures, on social innovation). Also initiate **cross-sectorial** and cross-border OGs and the possibility for **collaboration between OGs** (national CAP network task in coordination with the Man. Authority).
4. **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 + provide training to advisors. 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 for advisors.

Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP at MS level:

5. A financial envelope is needed in a globally more commercialized, world full of public good related challenges, to protect public knowledge & knowledge flows, and incentivize publicly shared innovation => AKIS.
 - 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: H2020 project 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
 - An AKIS coordination body, (inter)acting as the spider in the AKIS web of the country, interconnecting all key AKIS influencers

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 (500.000 planned in next ABER)**

Info: EIP Seminar on AKIS strategies in CAP Strategic Plans

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<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**
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- 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.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/preparing-cap-strategic-plans-role-innovation>

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

- 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?

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

Potential actions related to AKIS Strategic Approach

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, interlink and make use of knowledge reservoirs for practice, digital skills development,...

Integrating advisors within the AKIS: some examples...(1)

CAP networks can help providing info or organising events for many of these 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)
to take a closer look at how the EIP OGs calls and interactions may (are) change(ing) in next period, through their widened scope (all 9 CAP objectives) and their new role within the AKIS (more possibilities to share their outcomes through AKIS interventions such as training and advice, and through improved AKIS functioning and re-structuring, including also new entrepreneurial topics coming in via innovation support) and with all its possibilities in the new CAP, including the CAP network and the strengthened synergies with Horizon projects (e.g. Farmbook, CAP network dedicated actions).
And to try to learn from this analysis
- ✓ **Specialist advisor on a certain theme, on farm or off farm (“back-offices”)**
- ✓ Provide **individual innovation support**: capture grassroots innovative ideas and accompany the preparation and implementation of an EIP OG (CAP networks can bring innovation brokers together to learn from each other)
- ✓ **(Obligatory yearly) training of advisors** on themes, or learning new approaches and skills (eg social farming, digital, short chains, ...)
- ✓ **Advisors can provide training farmers, farm workers etc** (eg IPM)

Integrating advisors within the AKIS: some examples...(2)

- ✓ 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 a farm demonstration, a fair, another type of event
 - ✓ Advisor as **partner in an EIP OG**, research project, communication event, ...
 - ✓ Advisor going abroad to learn and come back to train and disseminate new knowledge (“**advisor mobility budget**”)
- ⇒ **Result: advisors are integrated within the AKIS system (in a fully integrated manner, serving and making use of all kind of interventions)**

How can CAP networks help strengthening innovation and knowledge exchange on all 9 CAP objectives?

1. **Collect and share outcomes** of 3200+ EIP OGs from current CAP, and of 190 H2020 multi-actor projects + future Horizon Europe MA proj. (+ filtering & translating)
2. Make use of the EIP website + knowledge reservoirs being prepared under H2020
3. **Connect OGs with Horizon projects** = great added value. The Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe (HE) dimension of the EIP-AGRI induces the need for intensifying CAP innovation networking and **regular and efficient interaction** with Horizon Europe National Contact Points. **Keep your inventory of OGs and advisors up to date!**
4. All this **material provides great input for local AKIS actors** (farmers, advisors, education, trainers, media, businesses, researchers,..): **training** for farmers and for advisors, peer-to-peer events, **demonstrations, website, e-learning, Innovation Support, education...**
5. Organising **events** to link and network **AKIS actors** for future cooperation

Interaction within the Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe (HE) dimension of the EIP-AGRI

1. The synergies organized between Horizon projects and EIP Operational Groups induces the need for **intensifying innovation networking with Horizon Europe National Contact Points**: a monthly encounter could be useful
2. **Promote and make OGs visible**: database with all OGs in the MS + contacts + thematic categorisation
3. **Follow the yearly Horizon Europe calls and be pro-active**: present the topics to your OGs, make a brokering event with your OGs, advisors and researchers, think about cross-border events around specific topics in the call where OGs could join. Horizon consortia mostly do not find the OGs they would like to have in their project
4. Also when **Horizon projects are running, OGs or their partners may still be invited** to events of their interest: give them support

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Further info:

SWG SCAR AKIS 4 report on the Europa website: [report-preparing-for-future-akis-in-europe_en_0.pdf](#)

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

AKIS animated infographic (3 min):

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news/new-animated-video-akis-building-effective>

June 2021 webinars on EIP-AGRI website <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en>

Use Communication material from the EIP-AGRI at EU level: filter, translate, and spread knowledge from abroad

- Use the Database of OGs to connect OGs etc within and beyond the country/region
- AKIS animated infographic: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news/new-animated-video-akis-building-effective>
- Updated overview of the Focus Groups: https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/focus_groups_state_of_play_november_2020_update.pdf
- List of EIP-AGRI Events 2013-2020: https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri_factsheet_overview_eip-agri_events_2020_en.pdf
- Animated infographics: [Innovation Support Services](#), [Soil Salinisation](#), [Focus Groups](#) , etc
- [Agrinnovation magazine](#) on soil – Sept. 2020
- Monthly newsletter, press articles, Brochure on climate-smart agriculture, Thematic campaigns (social media, newsletter): animal welfare, soil, forestry, Operational Groups and new farmers



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>

