

# Meeting of the SCAR SWG AKIS

Experiences with EIP Operational Groups in current Rural Development programme 2014-2022  
and Plans for the OG calls in the future CAP plan 2023-2027

Member state: **Hungary**

25-26/10/2022



# 1. Experiences with EIP OGs in 2014-2022

- ✦ **Objective:** implementing projects to improve the productivity and environmental efficiency of the agricultural economy, with a particular focus on resource efficiency and adaptation to climate change.
- ✦ **Financial support:**
  - joint innovation activities of OGs
  - investment needed to implement the operational groups' projects, which may be:
    - investment in agriculture
    - investment in food processing, winemaking
    - investment in forestry

- ✦ **Target areas:**

- Innovation activity related to agricultural activity
  - Innovation activities related to food processing and winemaking
  - Short supply chain innovation activity
  - Innovation activities related to forestry
- ✦ Expected number of projects supported: **73**
  - ✦ The area where the projects are implemented: **Hungary**



# 1. Experiences with EIP OGs in 2014-2022

## ➤ **Mandatory activities** to be carried out:

- project preparation activities
- establishment of agricultural innovation OGs
- development of an agricultural innovation project plan
- implementation of the project plan (knowledge building)
- continuous operation of the cooperation, with particular regard to the innovation activities that are part of the project carried out by farmers and professional support for investments
- sharing project progress publicly, making results available (knowledge sharing)
- providing information and publicity

- The OG shall be made up of **at least five natural or legal persons** carrying out economic activities, which are economically and legally independent of each other.
- Projects' **innovative content** can be product, service, process or technological development in the agricultural, food processing and forestry sectors.
- It is important to ensure that the innovative solutions developed in the projects answer **questions that arise in practice**.
- The results of the project should be **applicable** and **freely usable** by a wide range of farmers.

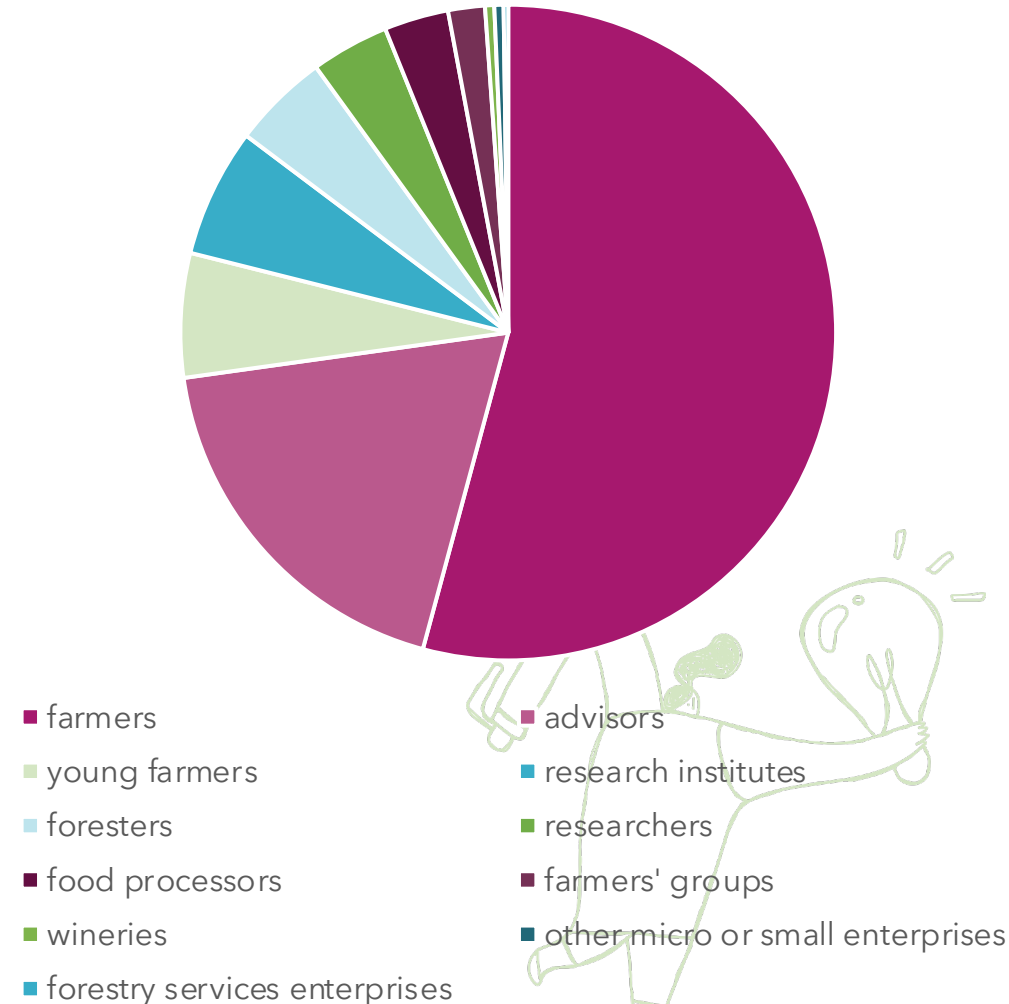


# 1. Experiences with EIP OGs in 2014-2022

- ✦ A total of **169 applications** for support were submitted under this call.
- ✦ Up to 2022, **82 EIP-AGRI projects** have received positive decisions for funding.
- ✦ Average size of projects: 889 383 EUR (1 EUR = 365 HUF)
- ✦ Average financial support intensity: 60%
- ✦ There were 11 cases where the support was finally refused and in 6 cases, the Managing Authority withdrew the support. According to our experience, implementation of these projects has typically not even started.
- ✦ The OGs receiving support have a total of **441 members**.

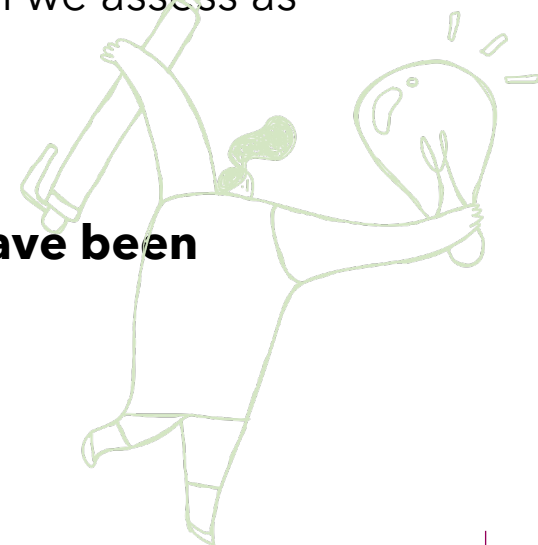
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# 1. Experiences with EIP OGs in 2014-2022

- The projects provide innovative solutions in the fields of arable crops, horticulture, viticulture, forestry, food and livestock, too.
- A significant part of the projects involved **reducing environmental impact**, for example through sustainable soil management, plant protection, frost protection, precision farming and the use of circular models.
- The submission of payment requests for the projects under implementation is ongoing. So far, there are few projects that are close to completion.
- During the implementation of the programme, we observed the following, which we assess as the impact of the implementation of EIP-AGRI:
  - We saw **openness to cooperation** from both farmers and researchers.
  - The same was true for innovation.
  - Thanks to EIP-AGRI, **cooperations** have been established that **would not have been possible without it.**



# 1. Experiences with EIP OGs in 2014-2022

- Learning from the unfavorable experiences of the current period, it is absolutely necessary to **rethink the call and the management of the entire program**, as there is a need for a structure that is **much simpler** from an administrative point of view, but at the same time takes **more professional aspects** into account.
- Based on these experiences, it is necessary:
  - **assistance in developing innovative ideas**
  - **rationalization of the decision-making process**
  - **simplifying the financing of project elements**
  - **assistance in dissemination activities**



## 2. Plans for EIP OGs/O.1 projects in 2023-2027

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✦ **2 target areas** within the EIP intervention:

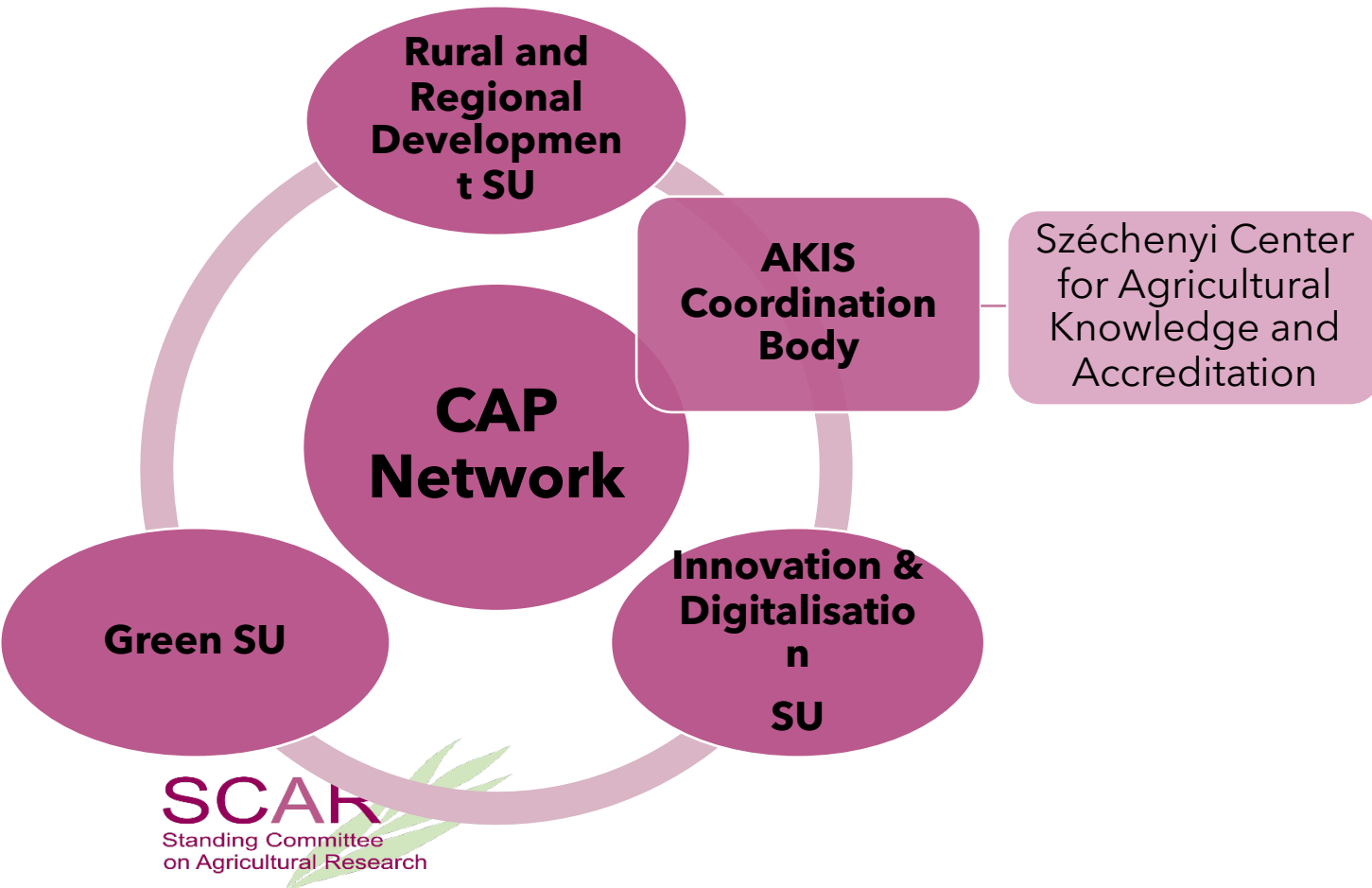
**1. Green innovative solutions** (innovations supporting the achievement of professional policy goals) (**new**) - Themes:

- soil
- plant protection, organic farming
- air protection, GHG
- water protection
- animal welfare, AMR
- coordination of forest management with wildlife management and social needs

**2. Innovation initiatives from below**

✦ A maximum of **1 international partner** can be involved in EIP cooperations.

## 2. Plans for EIP OGs/O.1 projects in 2023-2027



### **Innovation & Digitalisation Support Unit:**

- encouraging cooperations and knowledge transfer
- participation in the tender preparation of cooperations
- after the application, following the progress of the OGs
- communication and publication of the results of cooperations
- building synergies
- evaluation of digitalisation efforts and monitoring of Digital Agricultural Strategy
- carrying out NCP tasks, promoting participation in the international arena for innovation and digitalisation, e.g. Horizon Europe



## 2. Plans for EIP OGs/O.1 projects in 2023-2027

- How will you develop AKIS synergies with advisors, trainers?
- We aim to strengthen the links between researchers, trainers, advisors, producers and other rural actors through **targeted support instruments** and **centrally coordinated events and cooperation initiatives**.
  - Interventions** to strengthen AKIS cooperation in the CAP Strategic Plan:
    - Training and demonstration programmes
    - Advisory services\*
    - EIP
    - Information services\*\*
  - AKIS coordination and CAP Networking tasks** to strengthen AKIS cooperation
    - Advisors and researchers meeting twice a year
    - Forwarding advisors' questions to researchers
- We plan to launch the **FaST** (Farm Sustainability Tool) digital service platform from 2024.



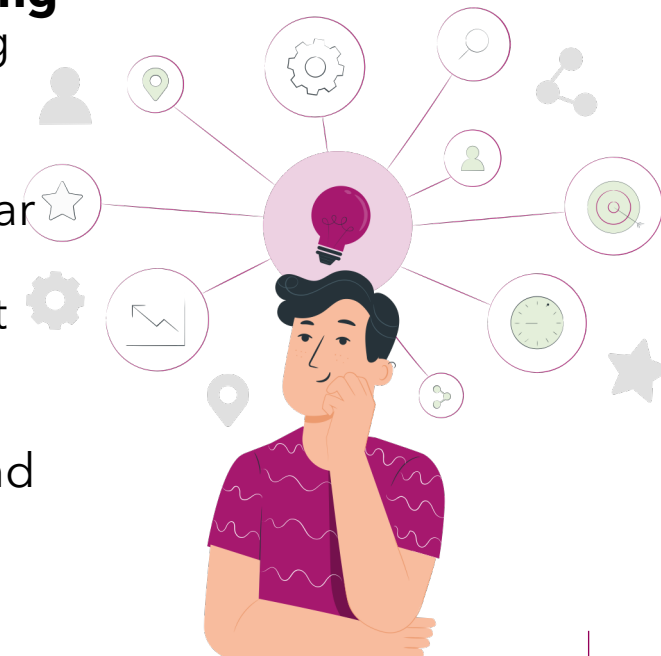
## 2. Plans for EIP OGs/O.1 projects in 2023-2027

### ✦ \***Advisory services** with 2 target areas:

- Launch of a new advisory service:
  - Establish **new independent advisory services** in priority thematic areas (e.g. strengthening environmental and climate change awareness, generational renewal) covering the mandatory elements set out in the Regulation.
- Advisory services:
  - Providing farmers with solutions to the problems they face on their farms, **carrying out independent professional advisory activities**

### ✦ \*\***Information services**:

- providing customer-oriented **information points** for actors of agriculture, forestry, food and rural development
- providing general **learning opportunities** according to their needs
- specific forms of information with particular attention to the current professional and support policy knowledge, the agricultural regulatory issues and the current and new legislation



## 2. Plans for EIP OGs/O.1 projects in 2023-2027

How will you develop AKIS synergies with Horizon projects?

- The **CAP Network** provides specific **innovation-oriented networking activities** that involve and facilitate interaction between all stakeholders
  - to increase knowledge flow within the AKIS
  - to encourage the creation of EIP OGs
  - to encourage participation in international knowledge flows.

- The **Innovation and Digitalisation SU**, which is part of the CAP Network, is tasked with encouraging participation in the international innovation and digitalisation arena.
  - It will enter into a **formal agreement** with the NCP of Horizon Europe, the National Research, Development and Innovation Office, the Express Innovation Agency and the BIOEAST initiative.
    - This cooperation will be the basis for building synergies between the CAP and Horizon Europe.
  - It will organise **regular information days/events** where national actors and OGs can find out about - among other things - Horizon Europe calls.
    - joint events, information days with the department responsible for Horizon Europe Cluster 6 within the National Research, Development and Innovation Office
  - It will operate an **information website** and a **newsletter service** to keep OGs informed about the most important events and project results of Horizon Europe.



### 3. Any further comments/suggestions

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- It would be great if in the future there could be more opportunities for OGs, AKIS actors and professional decision-makers to learn about the EIP-AGRI projects in other Member States.



# Discussion

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**All further comments and suggestions are very welcome!**



# Thank you for your attention

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