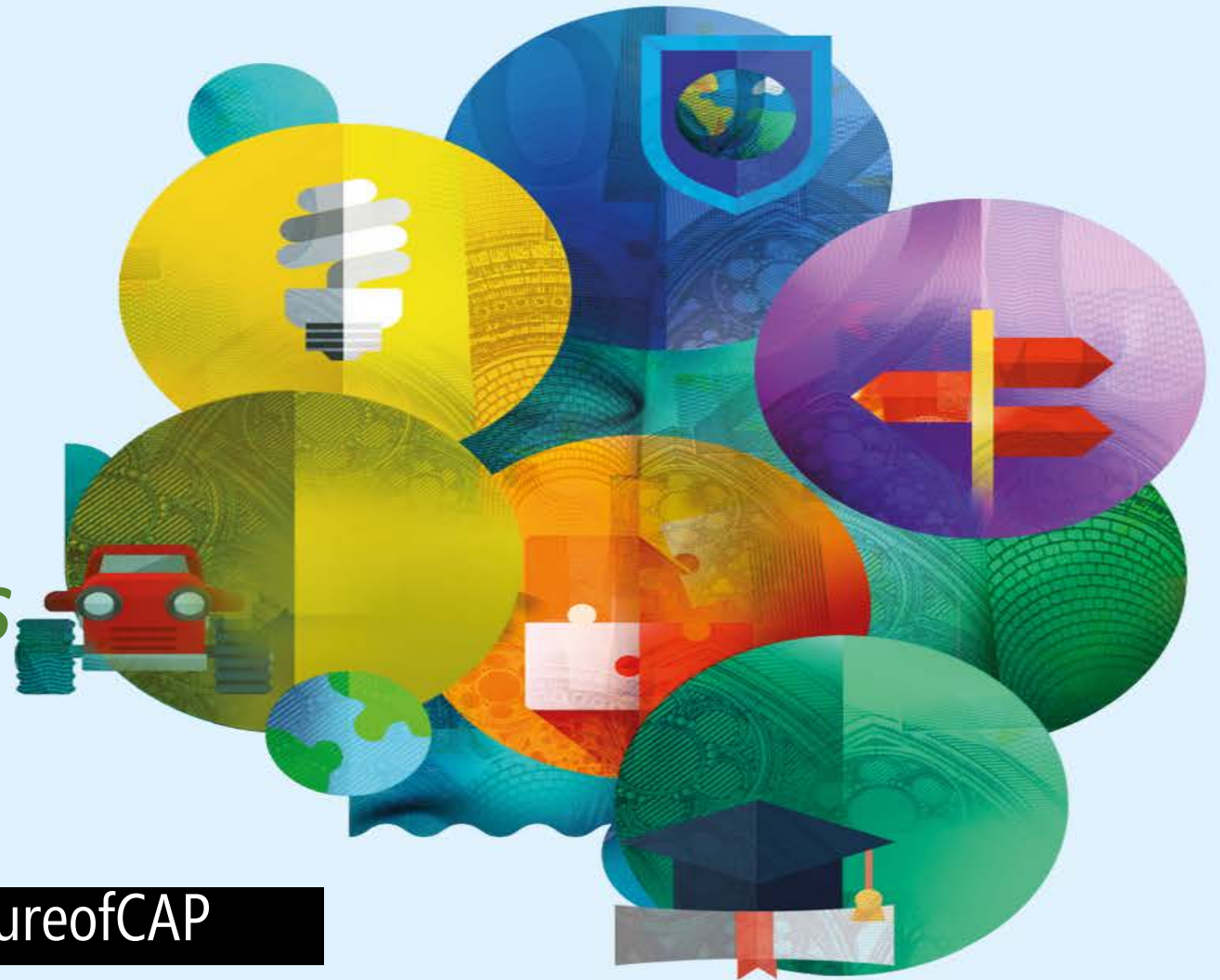




# COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Post-2020

*Elements of a well-functioning  
AKIS, including EIP-AGRI and  
advisors integrated within AKIS*



**Inge Van Oost - DG AGRI**  
**Unit B2 – Research & Innovation**  
**DVS Innovation Dienstleister**  
**8 December 2020**

**#FutureofCAP**



## The AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem

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

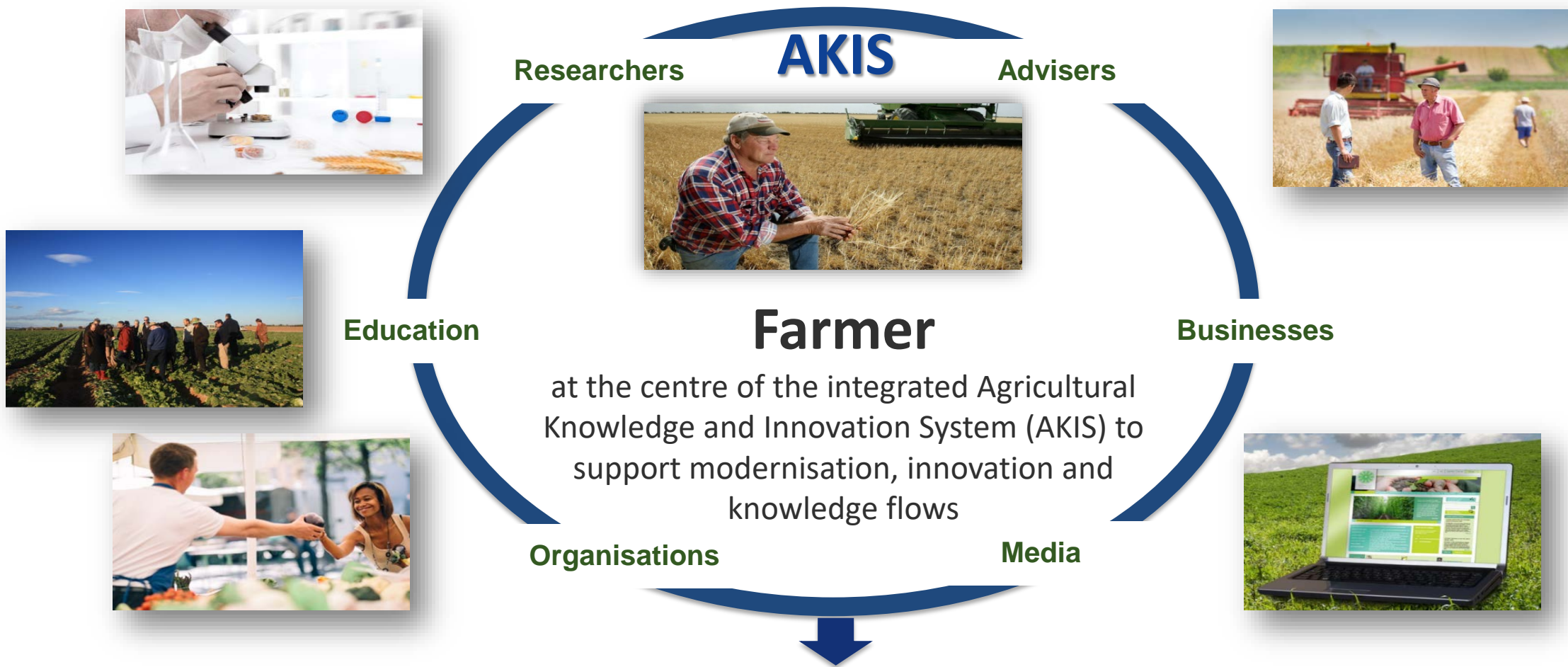
**What:** AKIS is the organisation and interaction of persons, organisations and institutions who **use** and **produce knowledge and innovation** for agriculture **and interrelated fields**. (def)

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

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

***Brief "What is AKIS":*** [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key\\_policies/documents/building-stronger-akis\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/building-stronger-akis_en.pdf)

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



**AKIS coordination and structuring will bring actors together on a structured and regular basis, creating continuous interaction to speed up knowledge exchange, innovation and implementation in practice => Great support for EIP-AGRI, capturing innovative ideas for OGs**



# THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES, supported by AKIS and EIP-AGRI

INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS



REBALANCE  
POWER IN FOOD CHAIN

ENSURE  
VIABLE INCOME



CLIMATE CHANGE  
ACTION

**Cross-cutting objective KNOWLEDGE  
& INNOVATION**

THE 9  
**CAP**  
OBJECTIVES



ENVIRONMENTAL  
CARE

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



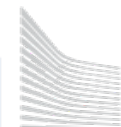
PRESERVE  
LANDSCAPES  
& BIODIVERSITY



VIBRANT  
RURAL AREAS



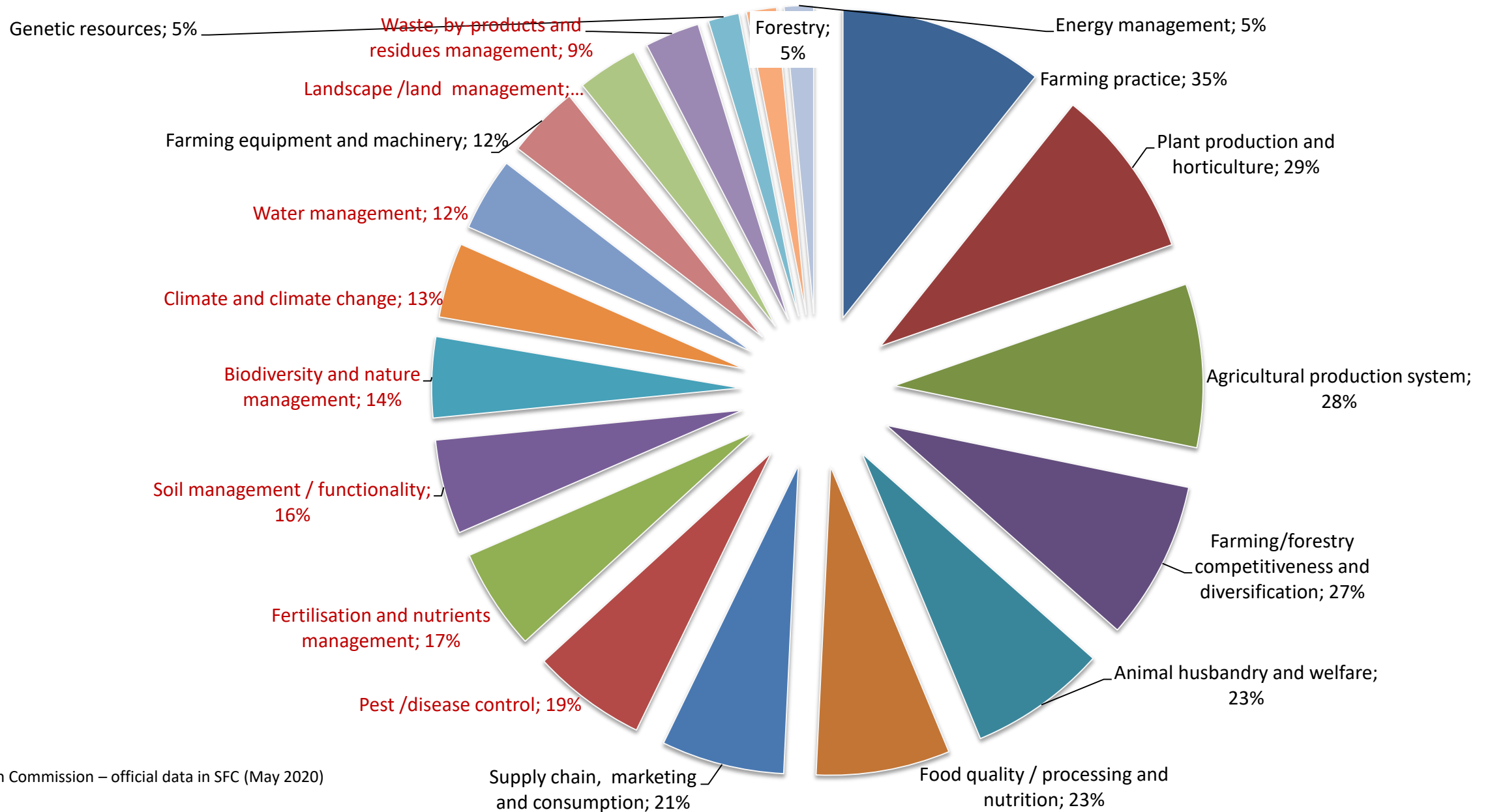
SUPPORT  
GENERATIONAL RENEWAL



European  
Commission

# A wide variety of OG project subjects:

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



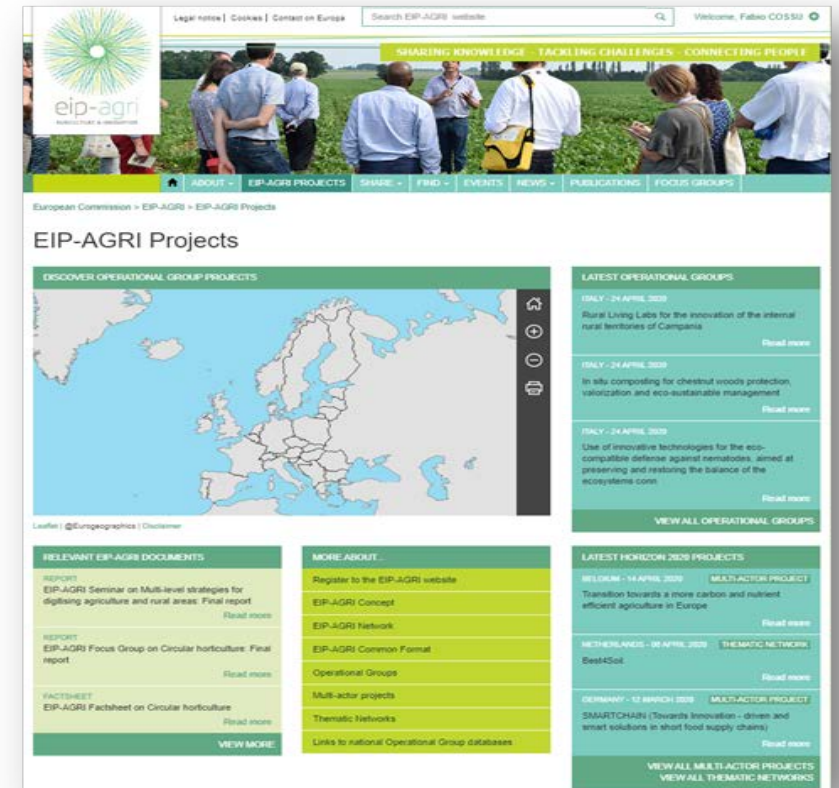
# Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



## EIP-AGRI – What did we achieve?

- ✓ 27 Member States, 98 rural development programmes implementing EIP Operational Group “innovative projects”
- ✓ Around **3 200 OGs** planned in 2014-2020; more than 1700 OGs already running or finished (still 5 years to go – 2 years transition and  $n+3$ )
- ✓ **190 Multi-actor projects** under Horizon 2020 (two thirds of total projects) for 1 bio Euro
- ✓ A growing and thriving network

An increasing volume of practice-oriented knowledge !



[www.eip-agri.eu](http://www.eip-agri.eu)



# Connecting policies: the bigger EIP picture

## CAP/Rural development (regional/national level)



- ✓ OG preparation
- ✓ OG projects
- ✓ Innovation support services

## H2020/Horizon Europe (European level)

Research projects  
Multi-actor projects  
Thematic networks  
(interactive innovation)



OPERATIONAL GROUP

**Involvement of OGs  
is strongly recommended**



**EIP  
network(s)**



**Unique EU knowledge repository  
of contacts and practice abstracts**

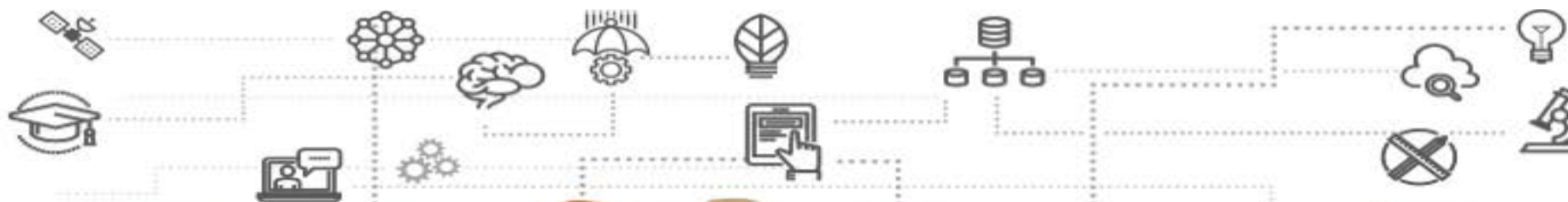
**Connect &  
spread  
the results**





# TOOLBOX FOR A KNOWLEDGE- BASED AGRICULTURE

- **Cross-cutting objective** on knowledge, innovation and digitalisation (CAP Art. 5)
- Each **CAP strategic plan** will include a section on how to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and innovation & digital technologies in agriculture (CAP Art. 102)
- **Strengthening of MSs'/regions'** Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (**AKIS**)
- **Support** for advice, training, innovation and knowledge exchange in Rural Development (CAP Art. 71,72,13,... )
- Specific budget of EUR 9 billion in **Horizon Europe** for food, agriculture, rural development and the bio-economy.



➤ Continuation of the agricultural **European Innovation Partnership** (CAP Art 113, 114)





**From EIP-AGRI 2014-2020  
to AKIS Strategic Plans post 2020 &  
Green Deal relevance:  
What is changing?**



# Provisions on modernisation in the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation post 2020

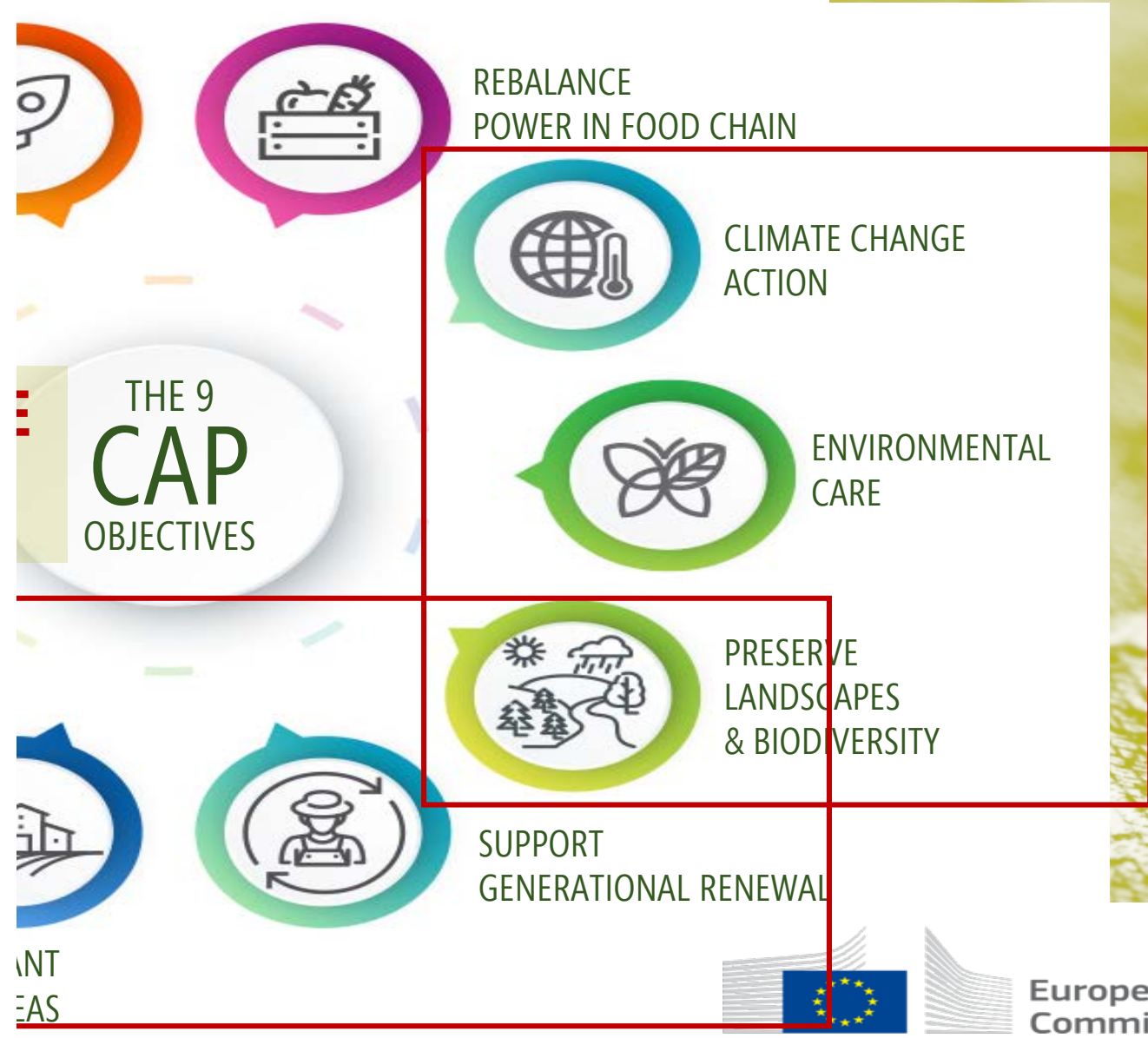
**Funding innovative projects.....**

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



# THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES **APPLICABLE FOR ALL EIP OGs**

- **Continuation of support for preparing and implementing OG innovative projects, as well as for EIP networking (Art 113,114), contributing to ALL 9 specific objectives, including the Green Deal and the Farm-To-Fork Strategy**



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

The CAP Strategic Plans shall contain:

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

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

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



# Overview of relevant provisions for modernisation, innovation and digitalisation

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



**Strategic approach to plan CAP interventions**

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

**Tools = targeted CAP interventions to support the strategy:**

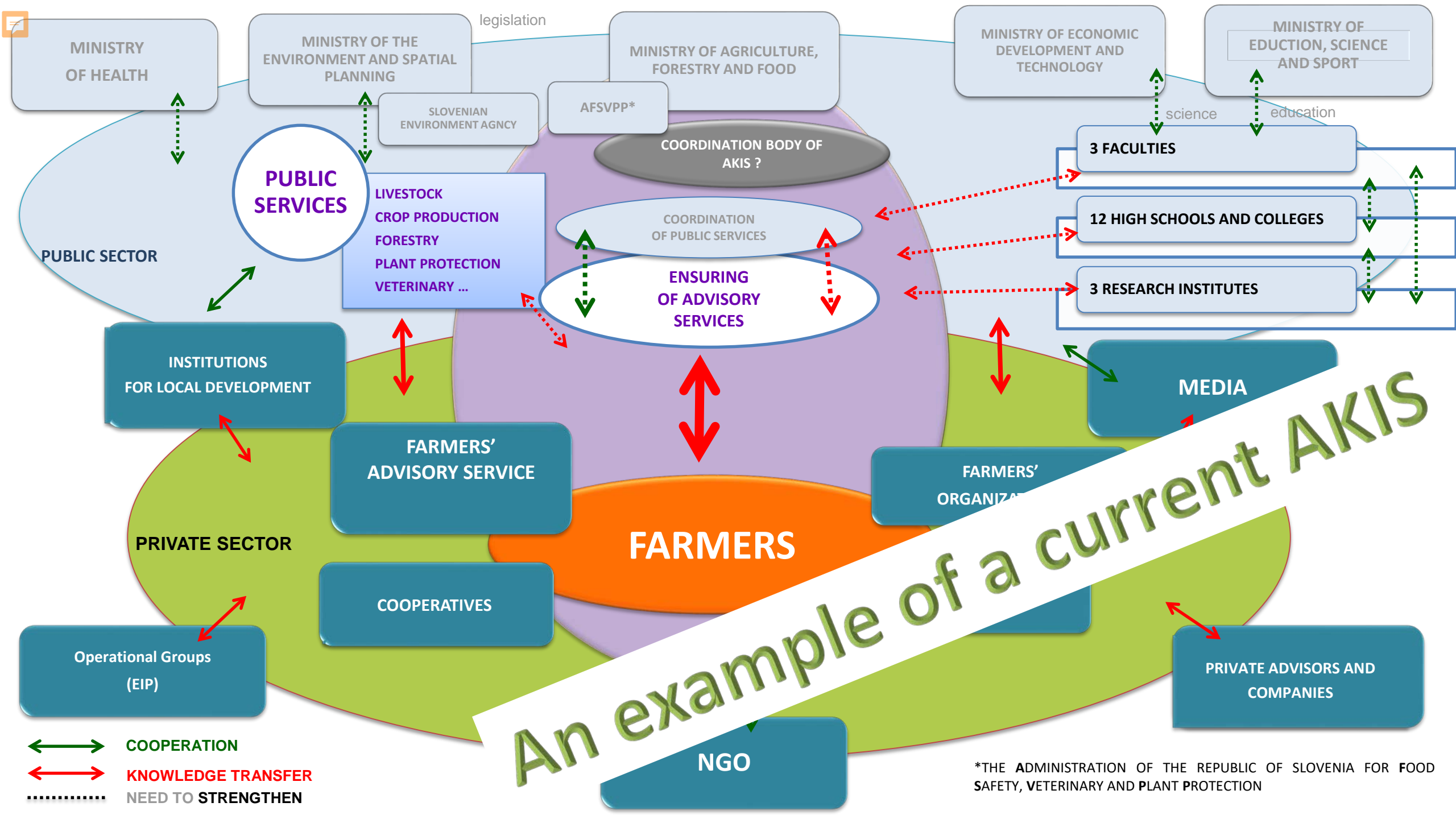
**Art 72**  
**Funding** for knowledge exchange, advice and information

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

**Art 13**  
Details on Advice and Innovation support to be given

**Art 114**  
Details on EIP and OGs,  
Interactive innovation model

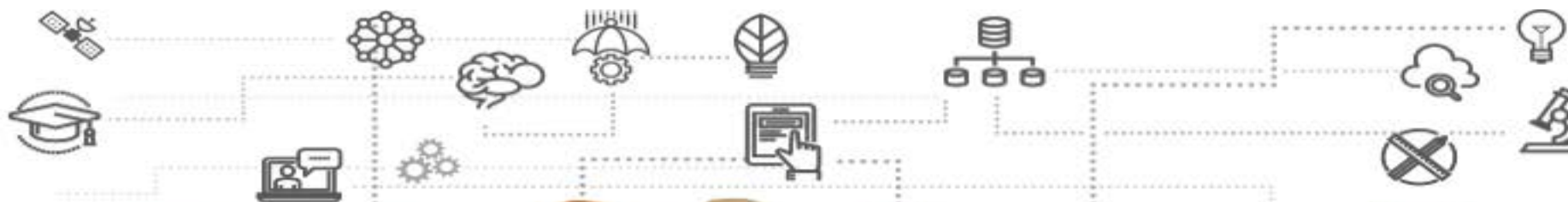
**Art 113**  
**CAP networks:**  
Fostering innovation and knowledge exchange





# TOOLBOX FOR A KNOWLEDGE- BASED AGRICULTURE

- **Cross-cutting objective** on knowledge, innovation and digitalisation (CAP Art. 5)
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➤ Continuation of the agricultural **European Innovation Partnership** (CAP Art 113, 114)

# Examples and ideas for CAP AKIS Strategic plans of MSs (SCAR AKIS members) , as collected in the AKIS 4 report

section 1.5 of the SCAR AKIS 4 report







## 4 strands of elements supporting AKIS and digitalisation

1. **Enhancing knowledge flows and strengthening links between research and practice:** incentivise researchers for their impact beyond academia, e.g. in their careers, by making practice ready outputs, meet practitioners frequently/thematic events, organise on-farm demonstrations where farmers and researchers meet and talk, education for researchers on interactive innovation approaches etc
2. **Strengthening farm advisory services within MS' AKISs:** capturing and sharing farmers' needs, acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, participating in and sharing knowledge from OG innovative projects, advisors' training and thematic events to update knowledge, cross-visits (learning peer-to-peer), spend time with researchers,...
3. **Incentivising interactive innovation projects (OGs, H2020 MA):** help connecting actors, facilitating cross-border and transnational calls/knowledge exchange, establish innovation support services to develop projects and capture farmers' foresters needs and innovative ideas, support intergenerational renewal by experts' collaboration...
4. **Support digital transition in agriculture:** EIP OGs on digital innovation, build and use repositories with agricultural data for multi-purposes, digital skills development,...

## 1.5.5 General remarks about Strategic CAP AKIS plans

- **A financial envelope is needed**: a certain proportion of the CAP budget should be spent on the various ways of improving the AKIS (strands 1-4 in the Break-out groups) to ensure that the issue is taken seriously and that the plan is implemented with real actions. For instance "**target**"/**ringfence** a dedicated part of CAP funding to knowledge and innovation, e.g. **10%**
- We need **public knowledge, coherence** & the flexibility to make it happen.
- Develop the strategic AKIS plan in a **transformative process together with different stakeholders**. Beyond researchers, advisors and networks, have also farmers and rural actors participating in the formulation of the plans, as well as the younger generation, e.g. of researchers (up to 10 years after PhD), they are more transition enthusiastic or help in innovation projects as stage or thesis

## 1.5.5 General remarks about Strategic CAP AKIS plans

- For the approval of a functioning AKIS plan, different ministries need to coordinate in an **AKIS coordination body**: sign a **collaboration agreement between the institutions involved** (gives responsibility and also visibility).
- Adopt a **National Partnership Programme of all AKIS' related organisations**, promoted and financed by the MS' respective ministries.
- A **coordination unit** could be made responsible for day-to-day AKIS actions and stakeholder relations and for supporting implementation
- A **specific framework for reporting, evaluation and control practices is needed**, see the potential qualitative indicators for the 4 strands of AKIS actions

## 1.5.1 Enhancing knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice

- Further development and better funding of the EIP CAP networks: Member States' CAP networks should **filter, summarize and translate (!!!) all info relevant for their country** about OGs, H2020 MA projects, other relevant EU or national (research) projects (source: material on EIP website: practice abstracts, videos, photos, links to useful websites and projects etc.).
- Create knowledge centres, platforms and digital knowledge reservoirs
- **Specific incentives for researchers** very much needed: share results easy understandable in **dissemination channels for farmers**
- **Funding:** Technical Assistance fund & Art 72 for actions and national funding, re-organisation of tasks within research bodies.

## 1.5.1 Enhancing knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice

- **National thematic networks** can deliver for training and education (see 1.3), while also interlinking a mix of actors. Organise bottom-up calls and do efforts to disclose the needs of farmers, be it in group or one-to-one (role of advisors): regular **face-to-face** exchange **thematic events**,...
- **CAP networks** should organize on a regular basis meetings between research, farmers and advisors: Researchers to share their work with practice, learn researchers to work interactive
- **Soft ways** can 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

## 1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

See part II –  
Main  
building  
blocks of  
advice and  
innovation  
support





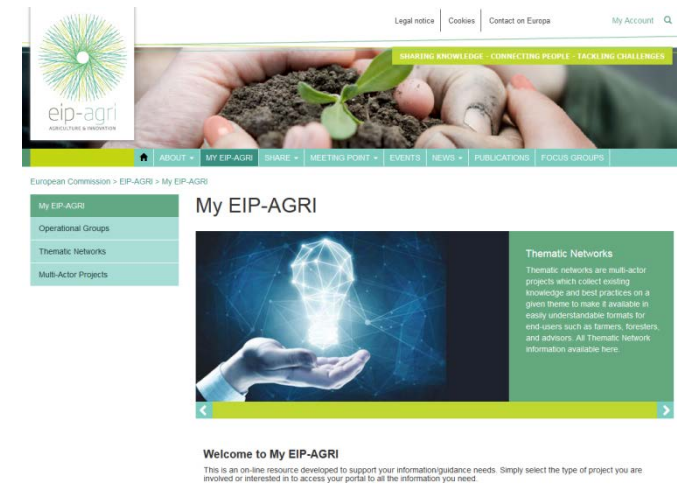
# How can CAP networks help strengthening innovation and knowledge exchange on all 9 CAP objectives?

1. **Collecting and sharing outcomes** of 3200+ EIP OGs from current CAP, and of 190 H2020 multi-actor projects + future Horizon Europe MA proj. ( + filtering & translating)
2. EIP website + knowledge reservoirs being prepared under H2020
3. **Connecting 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
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, ISS etc
5. **Organising events to link and network AKIS actors** for future cooperation
6. **Start now**, already testing future interventions under current period and **brainstorm in AKIS coordination platforms**

# AKIS & EIP-AGRI – preparing for EU knowledge reservoir(s) for practice

**=> serving advisors' back-offices for advice and innovation support**

- ✓ MS are already creating knowledge dbases (EIP-AGRI in DE, FR, back-office and ISS in LT etc)
- ✓ EURAKNOS project (EU Thematic Network of Thematic Networks, Jan 2019 - March 2021)
- ✓ EUREKA project (EU feasibility study on an EU knowledge reservoir for practice, Jan 2020-Dec 2021)



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



## 1.5.3 Incentivize interactive innovation projects

- Foresee **sufficient funding for continuous OG calls**, think about a **set of calls**: keep a bottom-up call & add further "suggestive" calls
- Enable **advance payments** and paying of farmers, **state aid** derogation
- Ensure involvement of **advisors in EIP OGs and Horizon multi-actor** projects, and give them multiple roles (see next slide)
- CAP networks and knowledge reservoirs should help facilitate **cross-border OGs** (within one country and between countries)
- **Ensure a substantial budget for communication** in each project and for dissemination in various ways, **use existing channels** which are most used
- **Peer-to-peer learning**: organize cross-border visits for OGs or for specific actors who can incentivize (ISS, advisors, farmers' groups, ...)

## 1.5.3 Incentivize interactive innovation projects

- Involve education and young people
- OGs



### - COMMUNICATION

- Reflect on a "**before**" life (platforms where actors regularly meet, funding for preparation) and an "**after**"-life (e.g. connect with other OG/MA projects)
- Design e.g. a **specific fund for after-project** communication of innovative projects. We still not share enough the results of OGs.
- **Ensure sufficient coordination within MS** and ensure that learning from each other (e.g. other regions) is possible

## 1.5.4 Support digital transition in agriculture

- **Interlink all public data** to enable additional services, e.g. Lithuania RECAP app, Estonia GIS/LPIS based layers combining soil fertility, erosion zones, spreading harmful organisms etc, irrigation needs
- Set up **platforms to discuss how to manage** the digital **transition**, find the most urgent needs (Austria)
- Finance OGs on useful free of charge **digital applications and make them publicly available**, e.g. for pest management, recognising weeds, etc
- Organise **training on digital skills** for farmers, advisors etc
- Build **knowledge reservoirs** that are interactive and quality checked (eg LT, EURAKNOS), and **use common standards** as much as possible
- Share **digital advisory tools**, reducing the maintenance cost

# What post 2020 ?

Jean  
Monnet  
Father of Europe

12/05/1954



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

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

# The SWG SCAR AKIS4 report will help....

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26_en)



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

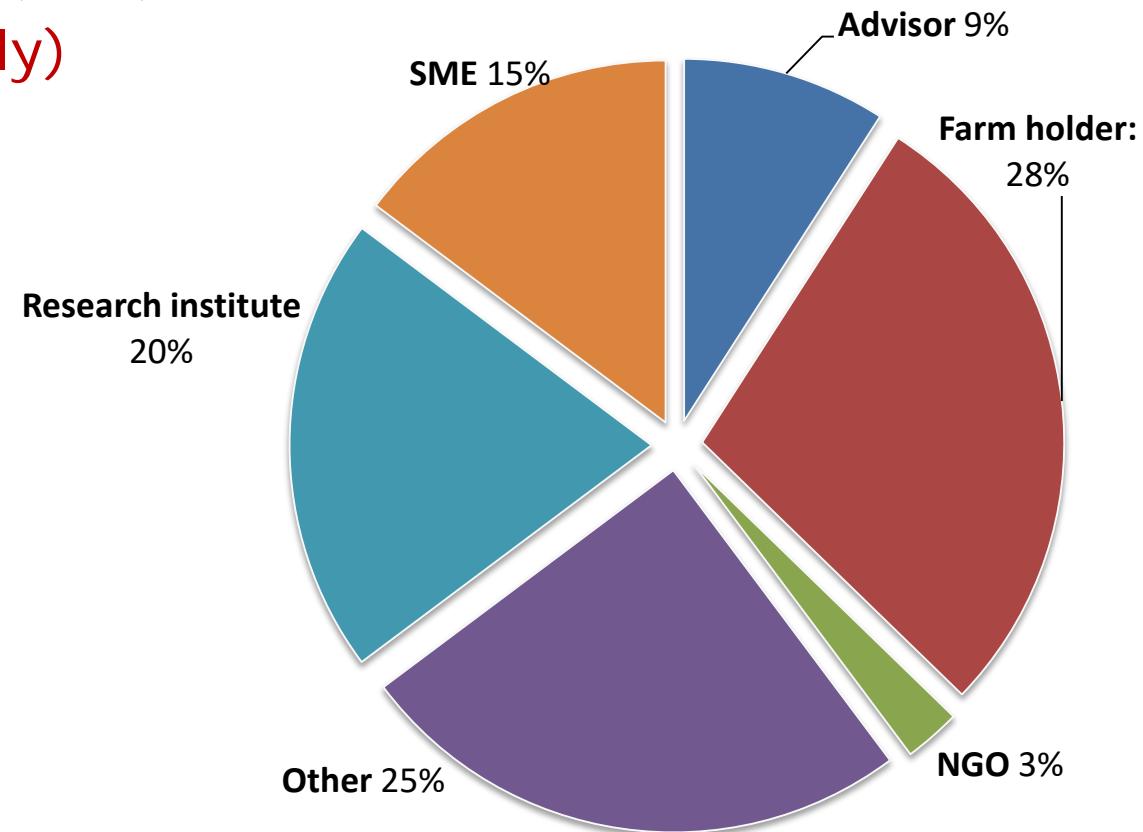




# Main action points for innovation support

**Advisors and innovation support services (ISS) should be more involved:**  
now often missing in EIP OGs (9% advisors only)

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



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

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



# Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP

1. **Advisors** to become **more competent** on economic, environmental and social issues + up-to-date knowledge and innovation.  
=> Impartial and **integrated** within the AKIS system, no more separated FAS (farm advisory system). No rules on certification, **include all** advisors, public and private.
2. **Researchers more closely involved in the AKIS** and (inter)acting on farmers' needs, and to be rewarded to do so
3. MS **CAP networks** tasks and objectives:
  - Provide for more **learning** & knowledge exchange **among MS**
  - Be more active on **linkages between OGs and the Horizon Europe projects**: capture the results and added value of the policy at European level
  - **Fostering innovation (support to OGs) and supporting the inclusion of all stakeholders** in the knowledge-exchange and knowledge-building process
4. **Impartial advisors, researchers & CAP networks at MS level to improve collaboration within the AKIS**

# Info: EIP Seminar on AKIS strategies in CAP Strategic Plans

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

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



# Questions?



## Part II. Strengthening farm advisory services and innovation support within the AKIS



# Advisory Services under the CAP post 2020

## CAP

- **One CAP regulation:** All advisory **services** to be included in the AKIS System and Strategy as an essential part of CAP Strategic plans (Art 13(1))
- **One Cross-cutting objective on Knowledge and Innovation** in support of all CAP 9 specific objectives (Art 5)
- **Funding** for farm advisors and various knowledge exchange activities **in Art 72**
- Art 13(3): **Impartial** advice (no conflict of interest)
- Art 13(2): **Advice must be available on a wide range of issues** such as:
  - Economic, environmental and social dimensions
  - Up to date technological and scientific information developed by R&I
  - Therefore advisors to be integrated within the AKIS for upskilling & training
- Art 13(4):
  - List of **fields to cover** within the Member State, including innovation support
- **Support for advisors from CAP networks' actions for innovation**



# Art 13 and 72: Farm advice organised within the AKIS structures in CAP Strategic plans

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

## 1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- 95% still understands advising as linear knowledge "transfer": make clear that advising should also be **listening and interactive**
- Make sure that **field "advisor"** delivers **holistic advice targeted to the farm's and farmer's context**
- No public procurement of advisors: there is no real market working
- **Innovation support must** be available: advisors acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, capturing needs and sharing outcomes
- participating in and sharing knowledge from **OG innovative projects**
- **Advisors' training** (specific amount of days obligatory per year), especially on innovative techniques and outcomes of OGs/MAA and soft skills
- Develop **tools for innovation support and advising** (e.g. digital)

## 1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- Advising should be **listening and interactive**
- Deliver **holistic advice targeted to the farm's and farmer's context**
- **Advisors' training:** sufficient amount of days obligatory per year, as for other professions, especially on innovative techniques and outcomes of OGs/MAA and soft skills; make it attractive and qualitative, e.g. use of common advisory tools, back-office support for all advisors
- **Enable farmers to find the advisor which can help him best:** public registers with info on education, experience, continuous professional development, cross-border exchanges, various thematic focus, membership of advisory platforms, etc
- Invest in **tools for advising** (e.g. measurements, digital)

## 1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

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

## 1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

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



## 1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS



Setting up of farm advisory services (Art 72): e.g. mobile advisory units and measurement tools can help advising



## 1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- **Innovation support must** be available: advisors acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, capturing needs and sharing outcomes
- **Regular interaction with researchers**, e.g. in workshops, (bi-) annual meetings, exchanges during on-farm demo, being located in the same building helps informal contacts
- A **back-office with specialist advisors** who have thematic focus (not only sectorial focus!) is the best investment to support field advisors
- Ensure regular participating in and sharing knowledge from **OG innovative projects**
- **Region/country wide advisory networks for all advisors** to share newly generated knowledge e.g from innovation projects or after visits abroad

## 2 main instruments for future AKIS:

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

section 4.2 of the SCAR AKIS 4 report

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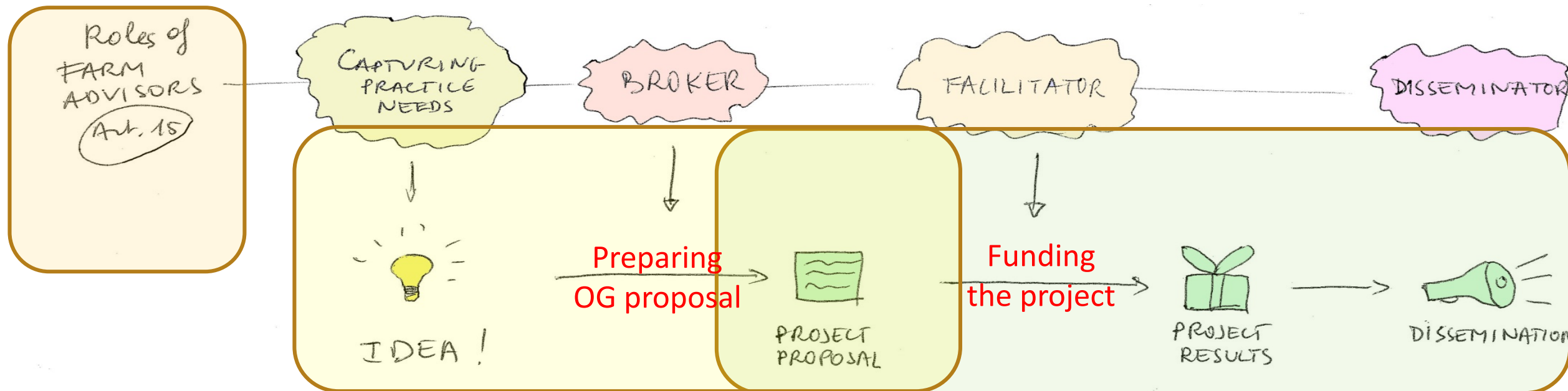
### More info:

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





# New roles for farm advisors in interactive projects, e.g. EIP OGS



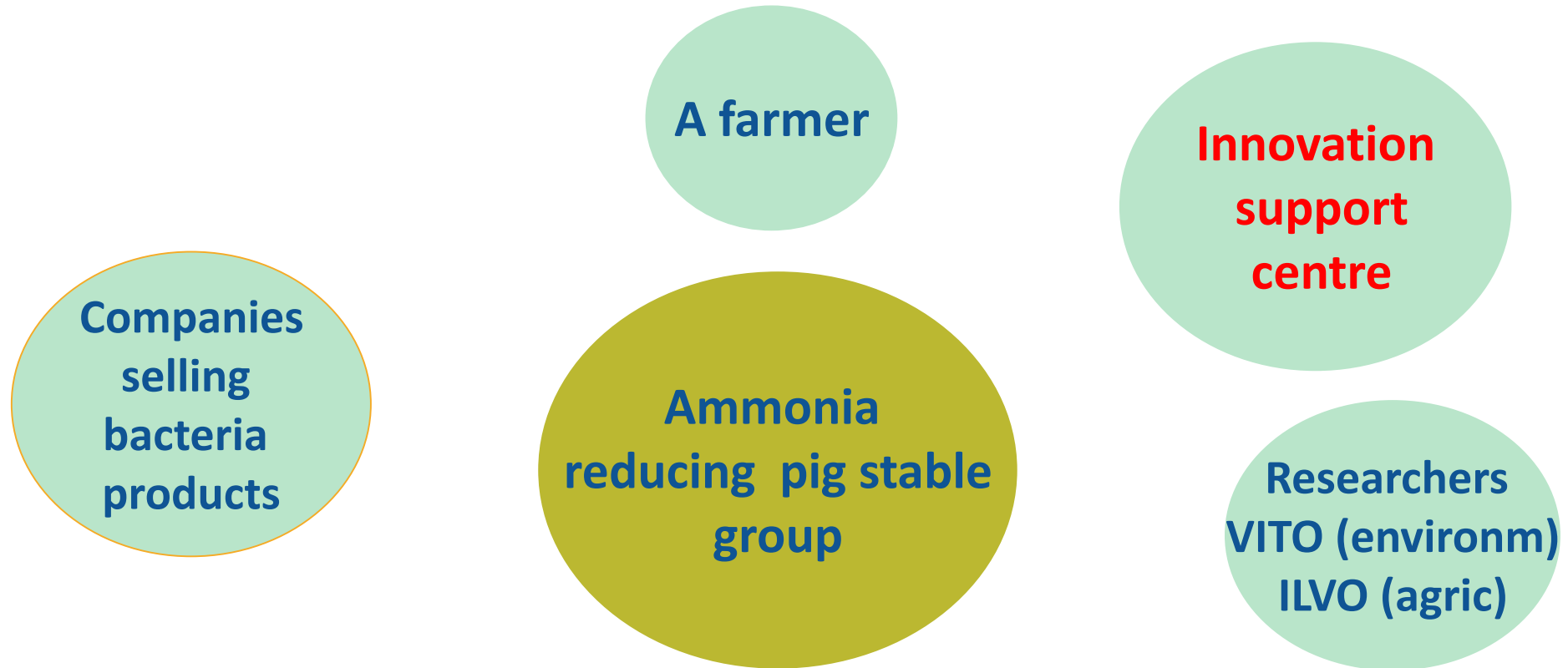
## Farm advisors/innovation support services' role in interactive innovation processes:

- **Capture** practice needs
- **Broker** to set up interactive innovation projects
- **Facilitate** interactive innovation projects
- **Disseminate** newly generated knowledge
- **Bridge** between CAP and Horizon programmes as innovation support service?

# Innovation brokering function - How to capture ideas?

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

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



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

# Innovation Support Service functions

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

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

# Skills for Innovation brokers

1. Be able to **listen** to understand exactly the problem/opportunity and the context
2. Be capable to **analyse** the problem/opportunity: how can it be tackled in the best possible way (costs, actors, funding source etc)?
3. Have a good **network to find** people and information
4. Have **intermediating skills** to seek compromises where needed
5. Be **quality orientated**: plans made have to work out eventually, responsibilities taken, don't create audit problems
6. Where useful, **think out of the box** and do not defend your own position/research





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

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

## Our 3 Speakers

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

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

# Reflexions & challenges: 1+1=3

We have many good organisations and institutes as components of AKIS in Germany.

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

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

# Building and linking AKISs across the EU

*Speed up creativity and  
practice application*

*Better connectivity and  
quicker circulation of  
information*

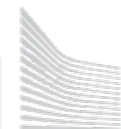
# Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation 2.0



**Thanks for your attention**

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European  
Commission

# Questions?



European  
Commission

# From EIP-AGRI 2014-2020 to AKIS Strategic Plans post 2020

## Further information



## The EIP-AGRI in short



- 2010: European Innovation Partnerships want to speed up innovation through **cooperation and linking** existing policies and instruments
- EIP "Agricultural productivity and sustainability" launched in 2012: "more and better from less", "ideas put into practice with success", impact by end-users becoming "actors" and motivated
- The EIP-AGRI applies an overarching "*Open innovation*" concept based on the **interactive innovation model** (applied in RD Operational Groups and H2020 Multi-Actor projects):
  - Collaboration between various actors to make **best use of complementary types of knowledge** (scientific, practical, organisational, etc) in view of **co-creation** and diffusion of solutions/opportunities **ready to implement in practice**.
- **EU wide EIP network** linking actors: communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs (*Open science*)



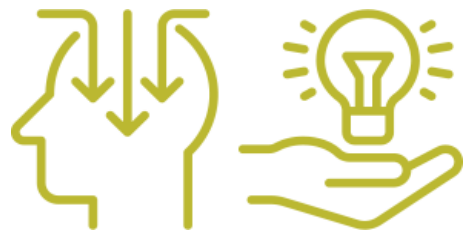
**AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem =>**

**Cross-cutting CAP support to Systematically share**

**Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture and rural areas**

including **in whatever farming and rural activities**

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

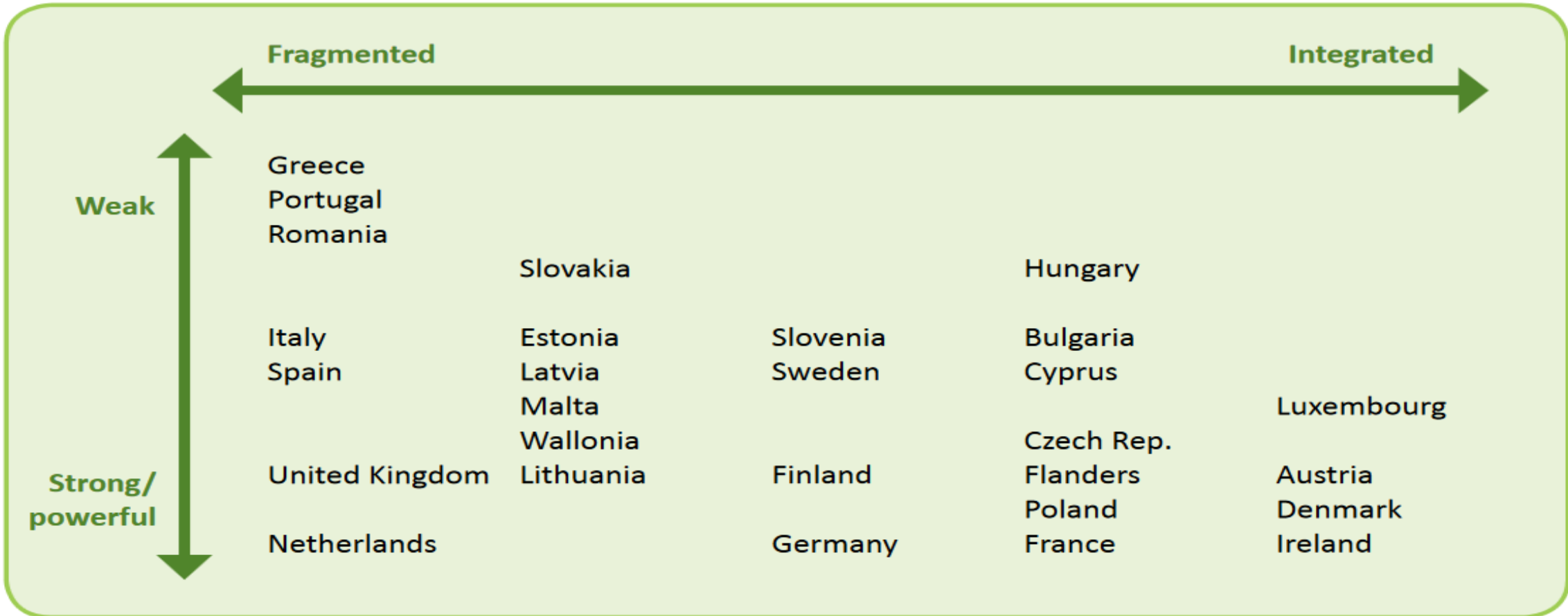


## **Where does the AKIS policy come from?**

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

# PROAKIS study: Characterising MS' AKIS

An overview (as of 2014)



# Important actions for Rural Networks to foster innovation:

1. Know **all your OGs + those in other countries** which have useful info for your country: past, current as well as those to come in 2020-2027. This includes filtering the most useful ones for your country and (google) translating. Advisors may help.
2. Know all H2020 and Horizon Europe **multi-actor projects**: idem
3. Know all 34 Horizon **Thematic Networks** (+ possibly future national/regional TNs): idem
4. Know all your **national/regional applied research projects**, EFRD, LIFE, Interreg, etc: idem
5. **Connect to Horizon National Contact Points on a regular (monthly basis):**  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>
6. Organise **brokering events** between OGs and current/future Horizon projects, in particular consortia preparing their project
7. Brainstorm on how research and advisors could better interact with you as rural network on a regular basis (Art 102): how can you **improve collaboration to collect knowledge and innovation to share?**



# In total 34 H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks (1)

calls 2014-2016 – a complementary set of themes (**sectors**)

RUR 10 - 2016	<b>CERERE</b>	Cereals: organic/low input cereal food systems for biodiversity and quality (production, processing, marketing)
RUR 10 - 2016	<b>Eu PiG</b>	Pig husbandry: health management, precision production, welfare and meat quality
RUR 10 - 2016	<b>Inno4Grass</b>	Productive grasslands: profitability and environmental services
RUR 10 - 2016	<b>SheepNet</b>	Improving sheep productivity
ISIB 2 - 2014	<b>Winetwork</b>	Wine diseases: Grapevine Trunk Disease and Flavescence dorée
ISIB 2 - 2014	<b>OKNetArable</b>	Organic agriculture - arable crops
ISIB 2 - 2014	<b>Hennovation</b>	Animal welfare hens
ISIB 2 - 2015	<b>4D4F</b>	<b>Data and sensor driven</b> decision making on dairy farms
ISIB 2 - 2015	<b>EuroDairy</b>	Practice-based innovations in dairy farming: resource efficiency, Biodiversity, Animal care, and Socio-economic resilience
ISIB 2 - 2015	<b>EUFRUIT</b>	Fruit: cultivar development, minimize residues, storage and fruit quality, sustainability of production systems



# H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks (2)

a complementary set of themes (**cross-cutting themes**)

calls 2014-2016

RUR 10 - 2016	<b>SKIN</b>	Stimulating innovation and good practices in short supply chains
RUR 10 - 2016	<b>AFINET</b>	<b>Agroforestry</b> : sylvoarable and sylvopastoral systems' design, management and profitability
ISIB 2 - 2014	<b>Agri-Spin</b>	Innovation brokering methods
ISIB 2 - 2015	<b>AGRIFORVALOR</b>	Valorization of biomass side-streams from agriculture and forest
ISIB 2 - 2015	<b>Smart-AKIS</b>	<b>Smart Farming Technology</b> : Management Information Systems, Precision Agriculture and Agriculture automation and robotics
ISIB 2 - 2015	<b>HNV-Link</b>	Support HNV farmlands through knowledge and innovation
WATER 4B - 2015	<b>FERTINNOWA</b>	Optimize water and nutrient use efficiency: dbase on innovative technologies and practices for fertigation of horticultural crops



# Call 2017 H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks (3)

## another complementary set of cross-cutting themes

<b>ENABLING</b>	<b>Upscaling biomass production and pre-processing</b> for bio-based value chains
<b>INCREDible</b>	<b>Non Wood Forest Products:</b> Cork, Resins and Edibles in the Mediterranean basin
<b>NEWBIE</b>	<b>New Entrant</b> netWork: Business models for Innovation, entrepreneurship and resilience
<b>OK-Net EcoFeed</b>	<b>Organic Knowledge Network on Monogastric Animal Feed (pigs, broilers, hens)</b>
<b>PANACEA</b>	<b>Non-food Crops'</b> penetration path
<b>INNOSETA</b>	<b>Spraying Equipment</b> best management practices



# Call 2018 H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks (4)

## another complementary set of cross-cutting themes

<b>DISARM</b>	<b>Reduction of antibiotic resistance</b> in livestock farming
<b>NUTRIMAN</b>	Best practices for <b>N/P nutrient management/recovery</b> from un-exploited resources of raw materials (CE)
<b>SuWaNu Europe</b>	<b>Re-use of treated wastewater</b> in agriculture
<b>BEST4SOIL</b>	Best practices for the <b>control of soilborne diseases</b>
<b>EURAKNOS</b>	<b>Widening existing thematic network outputs</b>
<b>Legumes Translated</b>	Innovation in <b>grain legume-supported cropping systems</b>



## Call 2020 - H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks (5)

<b>FARMWELL</b>	<b>Social innovation practices</b> that can help improving the <b>social wellbeing of farmers</b> and farming families
<b>NETPOULSAFE</b>	Enhance <b>biosecurity</b> measures for a sustainable production in <b>poultry</b>
<b>SmaRT</b>	<b>Innovate small ruminant systems</b> , incl. precision livestock farming and digital technologies for sheep and goat
<b>R4D</b>	Reinforcing the <b>sustainability of wood mobilisation</b> in forest value chains
<b>BRANCHES</b>	Innovative technologies and best-practice cases for bioeconomy solutions in integrated <b>forest and agricultural biomass supply chains</b>





# H2020 bottom-up Thematic Networks

## How? Learn from experience

A short film explaining how a thematic network can work (Hennovation):

<https://youtu.be/mVsW4--ex0M>

Overview with links to all Thematic Networks until now:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/about/thematic-networks-%E2%80%93-closing-research-and>

The EURAKNOS and EUREKA projects are collecting material and info from all Thematic networks, to keep it for the longer term

## H2020 EU Advisory networks

- 1) **Fairshare:** Farm Advisory digital Innovation tools (nov 2018- oct 2023) – making an inventory of digital knowledge tools  
<https://www.h2020fairshare.eu/>
- 2) **I2Connect:** Empowering advisors to engage and support farmers and foresters in interactive innovation processes". (nov 2019 – oct 2024) – making an inventory of advisors  
<https://i2connect-h2020.eu/>
- 3) More to come under Horizon Europe

# How does this translate to the drafting of the CAP Strategic plans and indicators?



# CAP Plan template

## Section 8. Modernisation and Simplification

### 8.1 Modernisation: AKIS and digital technologies

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

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

# CAP Plan template

## Section 7. Governance systems and coordination systems

### 7.1 Identification of governance and coordination bodies

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

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

# Milestones of Advisory Services under the CAP

## CAP

### Pillar I

**2003** (introduction cross compliance)

**2007** **Obligatory "Farm Advisory System"** (FAS) all MS must make up a list of dedicated advisory services in support of cross-compliance as a package

**2014** FAS moved into horizontal legislation (Art 12-15 R. 1305/2013) covering both CAP pillars

**2021** **AKIS system replaces** FAS standalone system (simplification)  
=> Cross-cutting objective on Knowledge and Innovation for the **whole CAP**

### Pillar II

**2007-2013:** Support for vocational training and advisory services

**2014-2020:** Knowledge and advisory measures further developed (e.g. training of advisors, only specific elements to be advised on, not the full CC package)

**2021-2027:** **"Farm Advisory Services"** = RD support for **all advisors to be integrated in the AKIS according to** Art 102 strategy + Art 72 interventions (incl SCO Art 77) to be designed in coherence with CAP AKIS Strategic Plan (Art.102) made after SWOT (Art.103)

# Advisory Services under the CAP post 2020

## CAP

- **One CAP regulation:** All advisory **services** to be included in the AKIS System and Strategy as an essential part of CAP Strategic plans (Art 13(1))
- **One Cross-cutting objective on Knowledge and Innovation** in support of all CAP 9 specific objectives (Art 5)
- **Funding** for farm advisors and various knowledge exchange activities **in Art 72**
- Art 13(3): **Impartial** advice (no conflict of interest)
- Art 13(2): **Advice must be available on a wide range of issues** such as:
  - Economic, environmental and social dimensions
  - Up to date technological and scientific information developed by R&I
  - Therefore advisors to be integrated within the AKIS for upskilling & training
- Art 13(4):
  - List of **fields to cover** within the Member State, including innovation support
- **Support for advisors from CAP networks' actions for innovation**

# CAP Plan template

## 4. 4. Elements common to several interventions

### 4.4. Technical Assistance

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

### 4.5. CAP Network

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



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

## Council Working : AKIS related discussions finalised:

MS are overall happy with Commission proposal, including:

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

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

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

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

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

## A number of further improvements since June 1018:

Art 3: definition of AKIS

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

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

Art 113: introduction of the **possibility for existing OGs to cooperate**,

funded by Technical Assistance or Art 72 => CROSS-FERTILISATION

**European Parliament**: compromise amendments voted on 2/4/2019: no substantial changes

New Parliament: positive, no substantial changes

# AKIS strategies in the post 2020 CAP :

## Summary to take home:

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

# Summary to take home:

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

# Summary to take home:

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

# Summary to take home:

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

# Summary to take home:

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

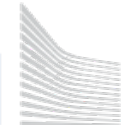
# Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



## Thanks for your attention

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