



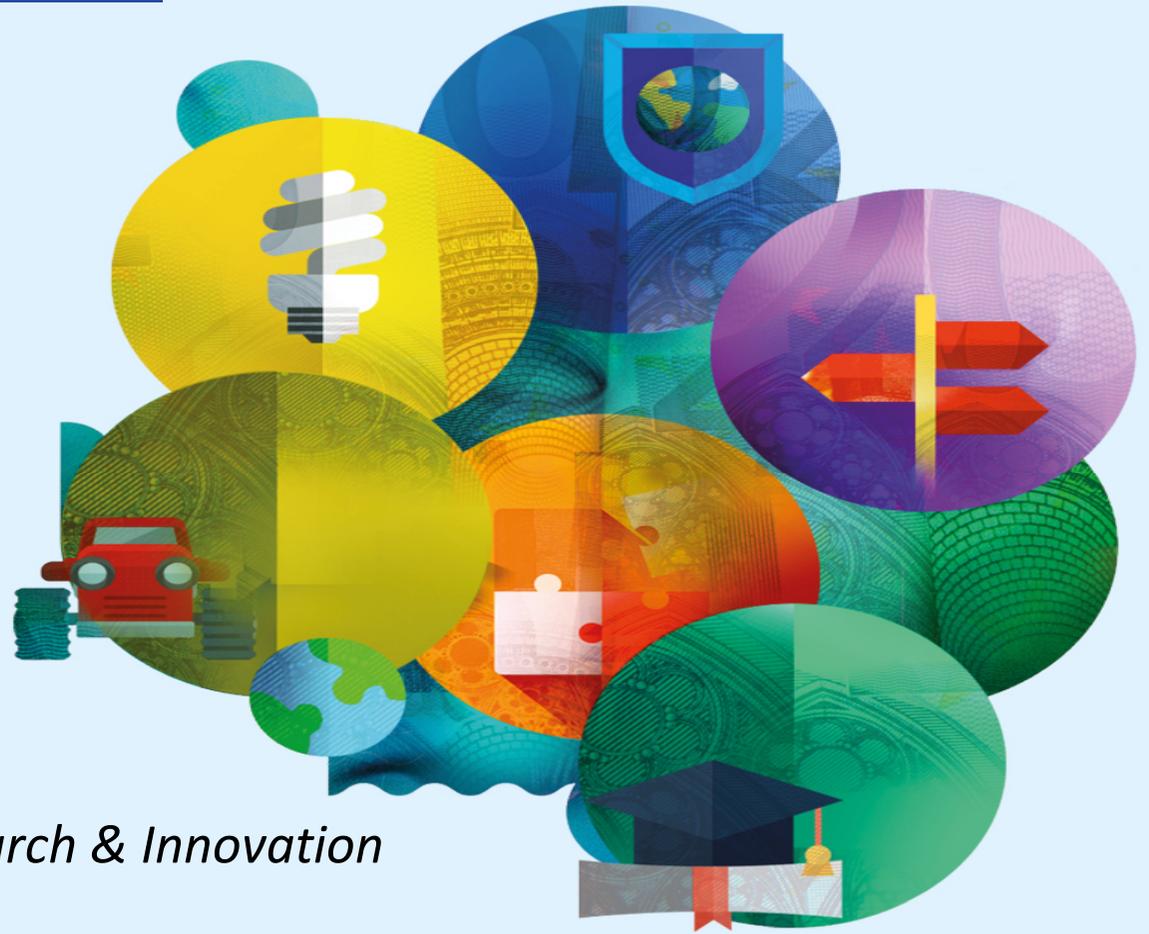
COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Post-2020
Legislative proposals

*Designing CAP Strategic Plans to
improve the structuring of AKIS
26 November 2019, Lasko, SI*

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#FutureofCAP



Empowering AKISs in Europe: increase knowledge flows and innovation

Brief "What is AKIS":

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/building-stronger-akis_en.pdf

=> What is AKIS, why and how?

section 1.2 of the SCAR AKIS 4 report + presentation November 2018 in Slovenia

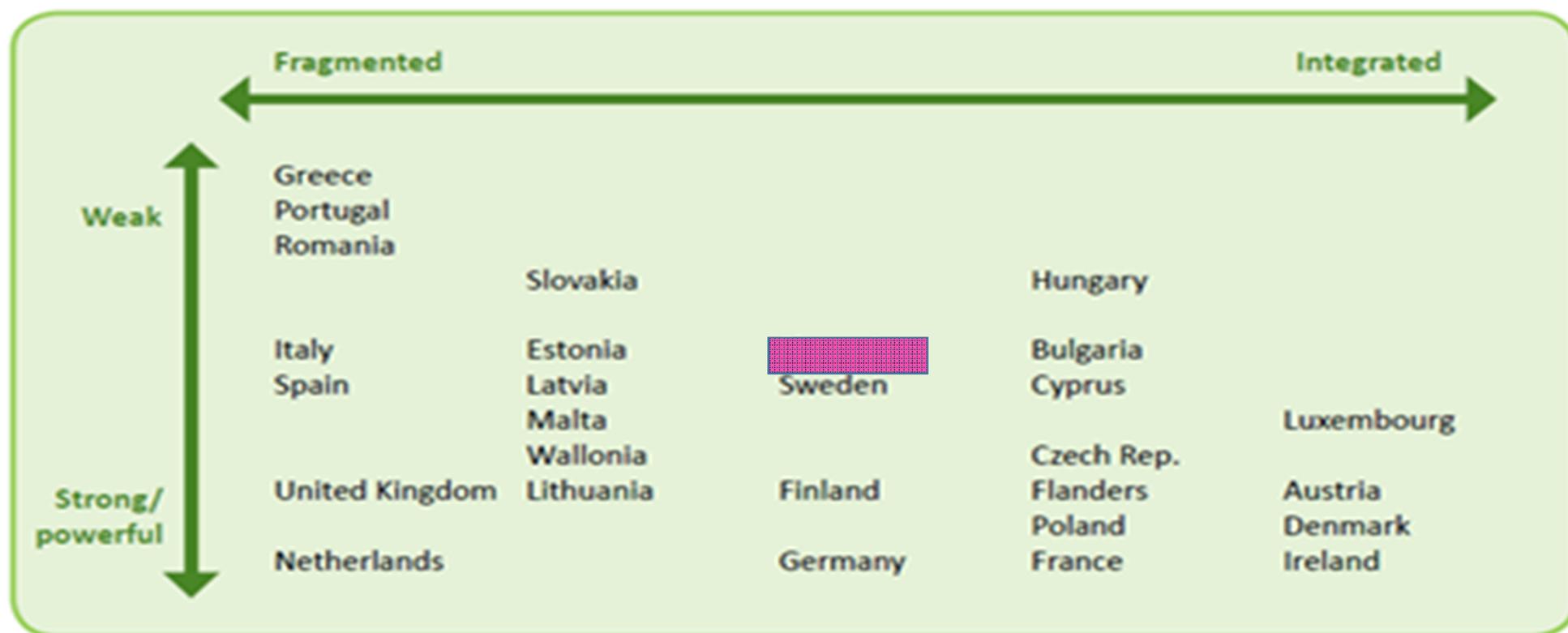


Provisions on modernisation in the CAP Plan Regulation

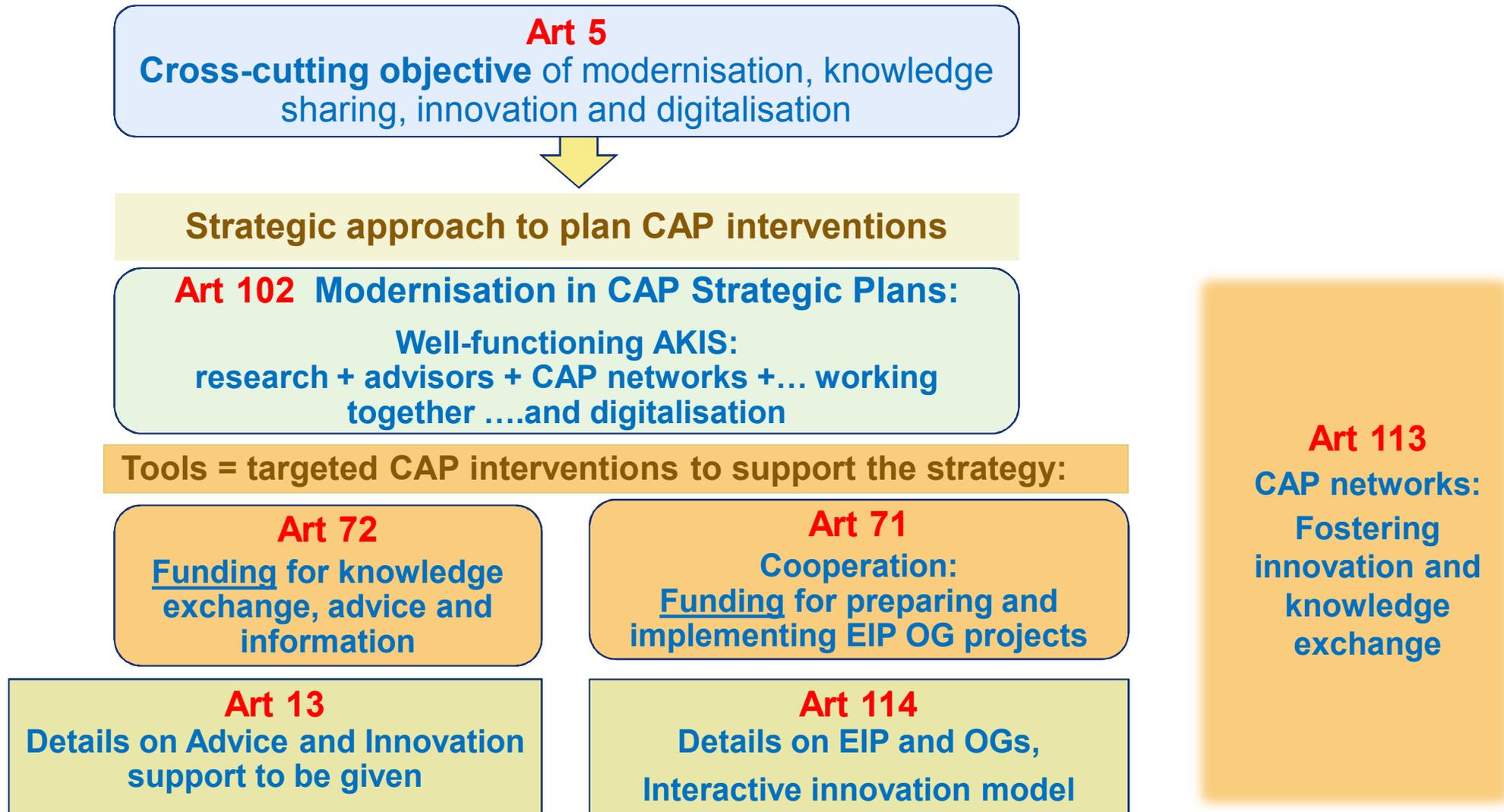
**From funding innovative projects.....
.....to a whole innovation ecosystem**

PROAKIS study: Characterising MS' AKIS

An overview (as of 2014)



Integrated approach for modernisation, innovation and knowledge flows: Overview of relevant AKIS provisions



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



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 hereafter) to ensure that the issue is taken serious 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 stake-holders**. Beyond researchers, advisors and networks, have also farmers and rural actors participating in the formulation of the plans, as well as the younger generation of researchers (up to 10 years after PhD), they are more transition enthusiastic

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

- Strengthening knowledge flows by **requesting involvement of researchers** to the research authorities at high level (difficult for the Min. of Agr) – *Example 2018 UK: rewarding academics and researchers for (1) the quality of outputs (e.g. **publications, performances, and exhibitions**), (2) their impact beyond academia; (3) the environment that supports research.*
- Demonstration on-farm is an excellent tool for informal contacts and knowledge exchange for all actors (farmers, researchers, advisors)



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

- Organise **farmer-to-farmer exchange** (branch organisations can also help)
- 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
- To this effect they need **sufficient funding** (Technical Assistance fund & Art 72 for actions and national funding, re-organisation of tasks within e.g. research bodies).

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

- Organise **farmer-to-farmer exchange** (farmers/branch organisations can also help)
- Regular **face-to-face** exchange stays important, **thematic events**,...
- Don't count too much on digital/e-learning alone
- **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)
- **Specific incentives for researchers** very much needed: share results easy understandable in dissemination channels for farmers

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

- Mandatory education for young farmers
- Problem based learning in education, learn researchers to work interactive
- Improve communication with society and include people from outside the sector
- Researchers need to share their work with practice: CAP networks should organize on a regular basis meetings between research, farmers and advisors
- 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

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

1. Collecting and sharing outcomes of 3200+ EIP OGs
2. Collecting and sharing outcomes of 180 H2020 multi-actor projects +HE
3. Both continuing post 2020 and more project results coming – EIP website + knowledge reservoirs being prepared under H2020
4. **Connecting OGs with Horizon** projects gives great added value
5. All this **material provides great input for organising local knowledge exchange for all AKIS actors** (farmers, advisors, businesses, researchers,..): training for advisors and farmers, peer-to-peer events, website, e-learning etc
6. Organise **events to link and network AKIS actors** for future cooperation on certain themes. Discovering farmers' needs. Selecting and translating info. Make good use of targeted actions supported under Art 71 and 72 for such actions.
7. **Start now**, already testing future interventions and **brainstorm in AKIS coordination platforms – FORESEE SUFFICIENT FUNDING to profit from cross-country knowledge flows**

1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS



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**
- **Describe** the term "advisor" in the broad sense of the word
- 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



- **Mobile** advisory units and measurement tools



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 wide advisory networks for all advisors** to share newly generated knowledge e.g after visits abroad
- Support advisors' internships and placements in experimental research centres and training facilities, in cooperation with international 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

1.5.3 Incentivize interactive innovation projects

- Involve education and young people in OGs

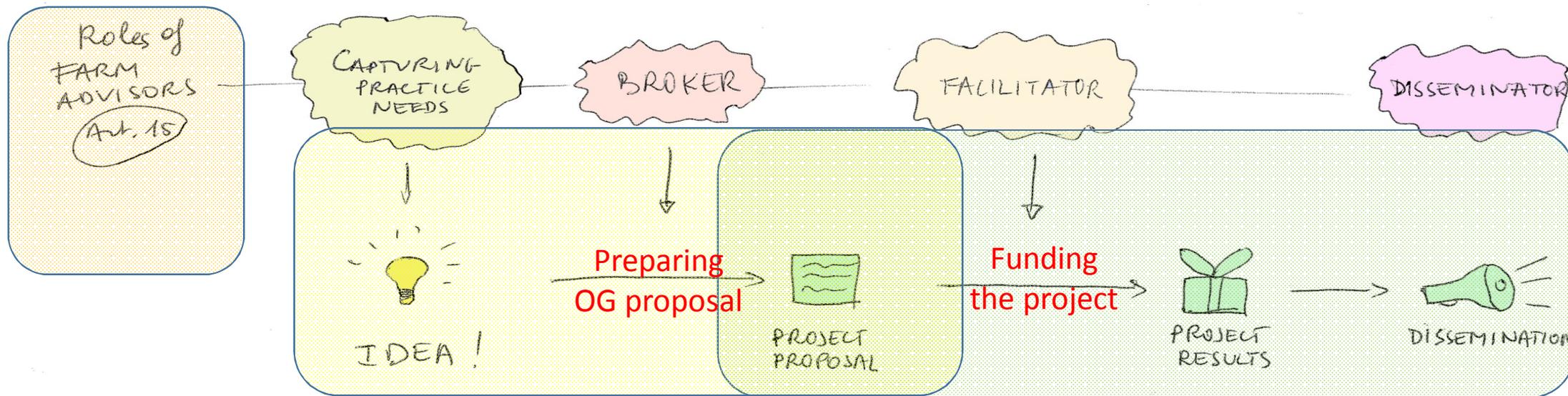


- Reflect on a "before" life (platforms where actors regularly meet, funding for preparation) and an "after" life (connect with other OG/MA projects)
- Design a specific fund for after-project communication of innovative projects
- Ensure sufficient coordination within MS and ensure that learning from each other is possible

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
- 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, ...):

New roles for farm advisors in interactive projects



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?

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 needs (Austria)
- Finance OGs on useful **digital applications and make them publicly available** for free, 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

Summary: how strengthening AKISs in countries?

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,...

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



Example (BE): Innovation Support Service

<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

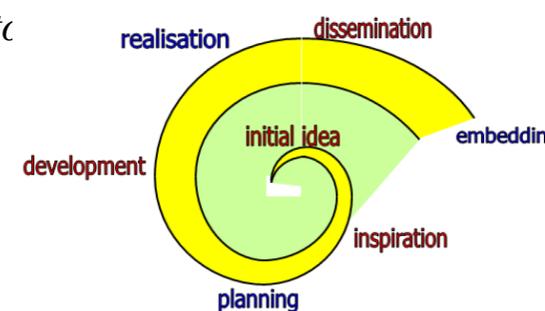
Example (LT): An Innovation Support Service combined with Back-office - Lithuanian Advisory Service Department of Innovation

4 specialists: Head of Innovation Support Service; 2 Project

Management Specialists; Interpreter. * Specialists of other departments are asked to take part in project activities only when expert knowledge is needed.

Functions:

- collect and store information;
- organize various activities;
- initiate writing of proposals and take part in implementation of projects;
- administer projects;
- find human resources needed for implementation of projects;
- co-ordinate dissemination of the results of innovation projects implemented;
- co-ordinate collaboration among institutions.



E. Wielinga, 2016



Information System of Applied Research Results TITRIS - Free, Bilingual (LT/EN) Information System - Open Access

Information Database of the Backoffice



- It **collects, publicizes and compiles data** on applied innovation research and innovations in the sector of agriculture in Lithuanian and English.
- **Object:** non-commercial scientific **research** and practical **innovations** that have or might have influence on sustainable agricultural production.
- Administrator: **Innovation Support Service.**

<https://titris.lzukt.lt>

Kiekviena detalė svarbi!



Process of Data Submission and Publication in TITRIS

Information is sent by data provider



Information is evaluated by LAAS specialist



Information is reviewed by language editor



Information is published in TITRIS

- An intensive **search** for information to complete TITRIS **database** is in progress at the moment.
- All published information is available in a **newsletter** subscribed (in Lithuanian or English).

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CAP Plan template

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	
AKIS coordination, including farm advice	
Relevant coordination body(ies) for the AKIS	

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.

CAP Plan template

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**;

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 AKIS4 report will help....

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

See in particular sections 1.2, 1.5 (What is AKIS & possible actions for CAP AKIS Strategic Plans)
and chapter 4 (advisors and advisory instruments and functions)



Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



Thanks for your attention

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