

Fostering an effective and integrated AKIS in Member States

14-15 June 2023

Over the last decade, the need to look at the concept of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) in a broader context, emphasising the importance of agricultural knowledge and innovation exchange, has become stronger. The cooperation between researchers, advisors, farmers, and other types of actors, as well as the exchange of agricultural knowledge and the need for innovative solutions are gaining momentum, namely through the EIP-AGRI.

As emphasised in the [EU Communication on the Future of Food and Farming](#), access to reliable, relevant, and new knowledge varies widely across the EU, impacting the overall competitiveness and development potential of the agricultural and forestry sectors and rural areas. Therefore, the exchange of knowledge and the focus on innovation is a cross-cutting objective for the new CAP: a well-functioning AKIS will contribute to all the objectives of the CAP and ensure a high flow of knowledge among its actors, creating significant added value for the sector.

Within this context, advisors will be of relevance, as in the new CAP they are called to have new roles and they need to 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.

The overall aim of this seminar is to support Member States (MSs) in the implementation of their AKIS Strategic Plans, namely by promoting efficient knowledge and innovation flows across the EU, starting by the national level, and going beyond. The seminar will focus on exchanging experiences and inspiring examples, as well as sharing plans in organising and supporting effective knowledge creation and exchange between the different AKIS actors.

The specific objectives of the seminar are to discuss the various approaches of AKIS Coordination Bodies in supporting a well-functioning AKIS. The event will also discuss the new roles of advisors, including as innovation support providers, and what is needed for their integration in AKIS, learning from already existing experiences with the implementation of related CAP interventions.

Draft agenda

Update 16 March 2023

Interpretation from / to English, French, German, Italian and Spanish will be available in the plenary sessions.

Timing	Agenda item
Tuesday 13 June 2023	
19.00 – 20.00	<i>Welcome reception, offered by the seminar host – Lithuanian AKIS Cluster</i>

Day 1: Wednesday 14 June 2023	
08.15 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.20	Welcome by the Lithuanian AKIS Cluster and DG AGRI
09.20 – 09.50	Setting the scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU AKIS policy context • AKIS in CAP Strategic Plans : An overview of AKIS implementation in Member States
09.50 – 10.00	Getting to know each other
10.00 – 11.00	Concrete examples of various AKIS coordination models in Member States
11.00 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>

AKIS coordination in practice

11.30 – 13.00	Interactive session on AKIS coordination practices in Member States Questions for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is AKIS coordination organised in MSs? Who is included in the AKIS coordination and how do they relate to each other? • How are AKIS actors organised and how will they give input to the AKIS Coordination Body (CB)? How are already existing structures and networks integrated in AKIS? • What tools, instruments, structures are developed to support AKIS CBs?
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13.00 – 14.00	<i>Networking lunch</i>
14.00 – 16.00	<p>Interactive session on the involvement, roles and interactions of key actors to ensure a well-functioning AKIS</p> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you do well, and what needs to be improved to integrate advisors in the AKIS? • What is the role of the national CAP Networks in supporting AKIS? • How are researchers and Horizon National Contact Points integrated in AKIS? • Other actors?
16.00 – 17.30	<p>Interactive session on interlinkages between AKIS interventions</p> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which AKIS interventions are or could be planned in your country? • Which interlinkages between various interventions are currently organised to improve the knowledge flows within the AKIS? • What possible improvements do you see?
17.30 – 18.00	<p>Reporting back from the interactive sessions</p> <p>Wrapping up Day 1</p>
19.30 – 22.00	<i>Networking dinner</i>

Day 2: Thursday 15 June 2023	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:05	Introduction to Day 2
The role of advisors as integrated in the AKIS	
09:05 – 09:30	Setting the scene: New roles of advisors within the AKIS – DG AGRI
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Inspiring examples on the roles and tools supporting advisors in the AKIS in Member States</p> <p>Inspiring examples focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation Support Services (“Innovation Hubs”): Key features and good practices • Regular training for advisors (including brokering for innovation) • Advisors leading on-farm demonstrations and trainings • Tools and activities supporting advisors – e.g. back-offices with specialist advisors, interactions researchers-advisors, knowledge reservoirs for practice, etc.
10:30 – 12:00	<p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What CAP interventions / actions support the integration of advisors in the AKIS, including interlinkages among these interventions / actions? • Are there any ‘Innovation Hubs’ in your country, and how are they organised (approaches and good practices)? • Are there any back-offices and knowledge reservoirs for practice (“Knowledge Hubs”) in your country, and how are they organised (approaches and good practices)? • How to organise training for advisors – approaches and good practices? • How to ensure equal treatment of public / private advisors and increased inclusiveness of all advisors in the AKIS?
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Reporting back from the interactive sessions
13:00 – 13:30	Evaluation and closing remarks
13:30 – 14:00	<i>Networking lunch</i>
14:00	End of the seminar