



EIP-AGRI Workshop 'Enabling farmers for the Digital Age: The Role of AKIS'

26-27 April 2018
Jūrmala, Latvia

All information of the workshop
available on www.eip-agri.eu
at the event webpage

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/event/eip-agri-workshop-enabling-farmers-digital-age>



EIP-AGRI Workshop 'Enabling farmers for the digital age: the role of AKIS

Thursday 26 April 2018 – Jūrmala, Latvia

13:30 – 13:45 Welcome & introduction

13:45 – 14:45 Knowledge exchange and innovation supporting the digital transformation of the farming sector: who is doing what?
Carousel of inspiring examples

14:45 – 15:00 **Introduction and preparation for the breakout session**

- **Introduction of AKIS, Inge Van Oost – European Commission – DG AGRI**
- Introduction to breakout session

15:00 – 16:00 Breakout session 1 Strengthening AKIS connections to meet the digitisation challenges

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 16:40 Introduction and preparation for the interactive session

16:40 – 17:55 Digital technologies stepping up advice and transforming AKIS

- Inspiring examples
- Breakout session 2

17:55 – 18:00 Wrap-up and introduction to next day

19:30 – 22:00 Social dinner

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) „Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability“

Moving Innovation in Agriculture Ahead !



Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

26-27 April 2018 – EIP workshop - Riga LV

Inge Van Oost - DG Agriculture and Rural Development

1. What is AKIS?

AKIS: Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

- **AKIS: Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System**
- The AKIS concept aims at describing **knowledge infrastructures**: institutions, organisations and interactions
- **Parts of the AKIS** are: farmers, advisors, research, education/training, input suppliers, retailers, media, services, ministries,...: they all produce and use knowledge
- The AKIS concept aims at better **understanding knowledge flows** within the system
- AKISs mostly work at a **national and/or regional scale**

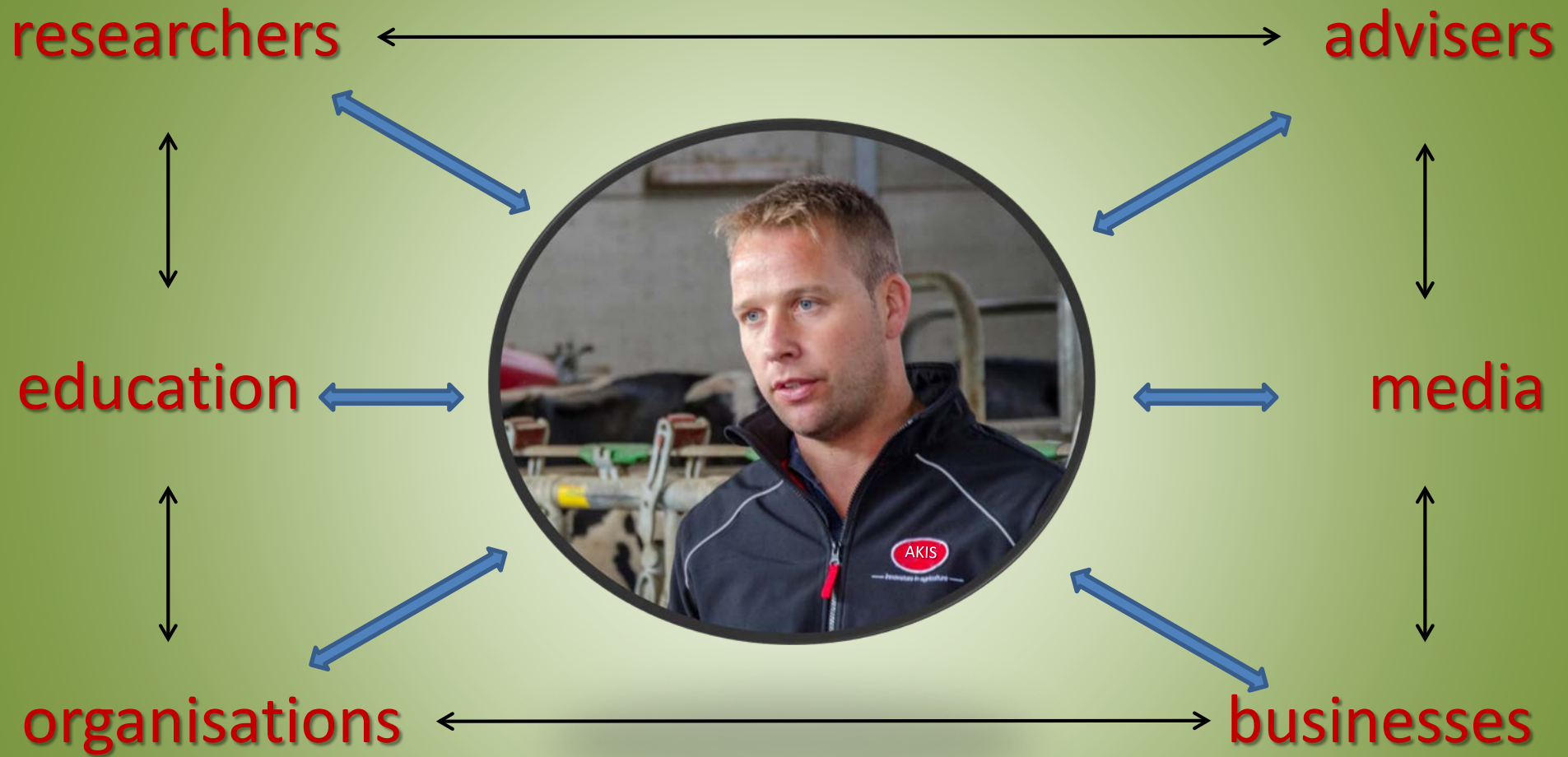
AKIS: Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

- The various parts of the AKIS **influence** more or less daily on-farm **decisions**, depending on how knowledge exchanges are organised
- A dedicated Strategic Working Group (SWG AKIS) of the Standing Committee of Agricultural Research (SCAR) has been **reflecting** and exploring AKIS systems since 2008
- The linear "knowledge transfer" system is not sufficiently adapted to and ready to **solve new and complex challenges**

Thinking about AKIS: the SWG SCAR-AKIS

- 1974: **Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR)**: Representatives of Member States and associated Countries that advise the European Commission and Member States on **coordination of agricultural research**
- 2006, Krems (Austria): " [SCAR to] **include** questions of advisory services, education, training and innovation in their discussions"
- 2007 - 1st SCAR Foresight: " *The mounting challenges facing the agri-food and rural sectors in Europe calls for a **review of the links between knowledge production and its use to foster innovation***"
- **2009** – The 2nd SCAR Foresight shed a rather crude light on the current state of Agricultural Knowledge Systems in Europe: "*currently **unable to absorb and internalise the fundamental structural and systemic shifts that have occurred. The remaining publicly funded AKIS appear to be locked into old paradigms based on linear approaches and conventional assumptions.***"

What is AKIS? Actors and Knowledge flows

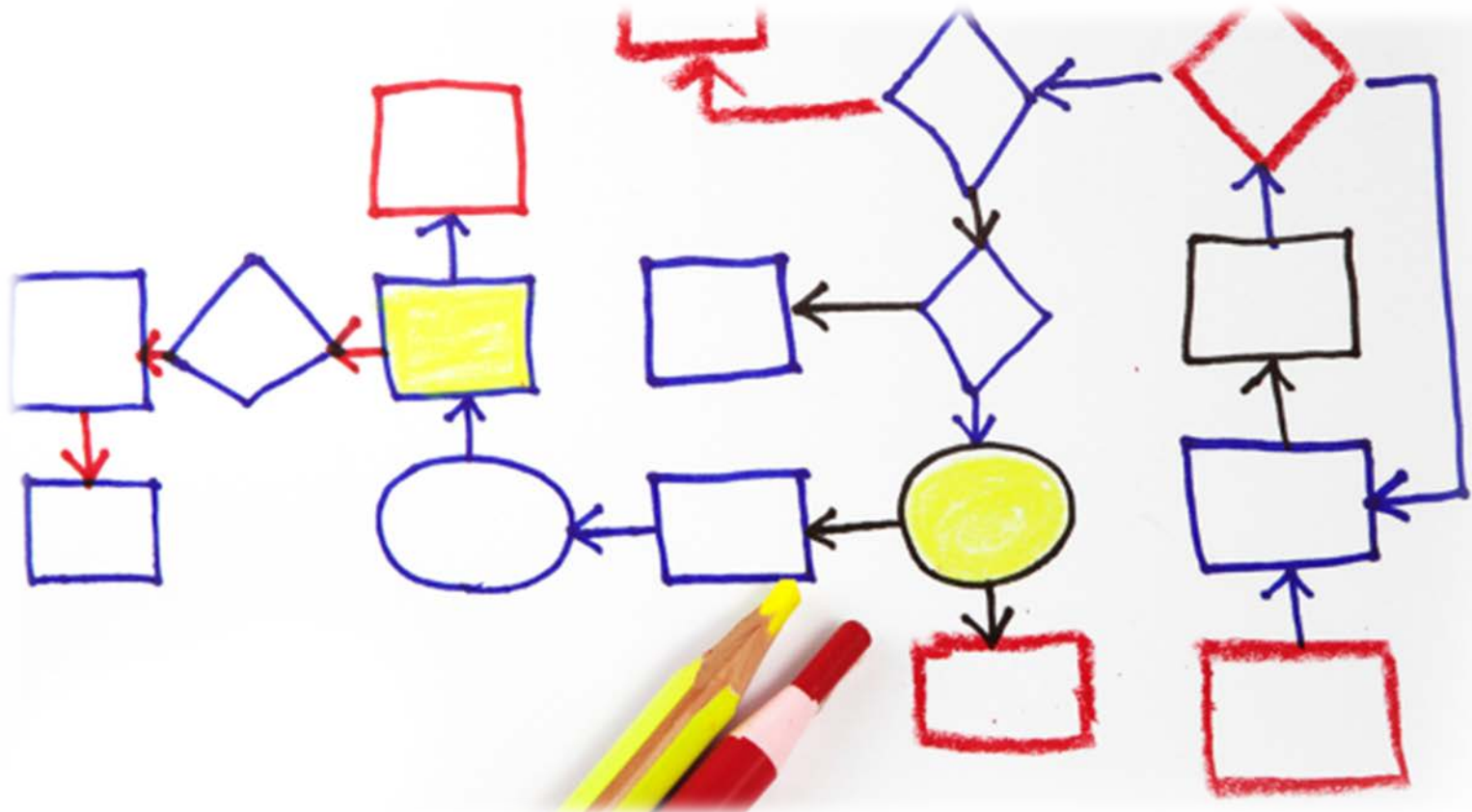


*Interactive innovation: **Cross-fertilisation** is key for tackling complex challenges and developing opportunities for innovation*

Du choc des idées jaillit la lumière

Nicolas Boileau, french philosopher, 17th century

- > **Enlightenment comes when views collide**
- > From the clash of opposing minds, new ideas arise



***Thinking about AKIS knowledge flows:
What's the process?***

*A recent pilot project informs us on young
Farmers knowledge management:*

- **What ?**

What kind of knowledge do they need?

- **Where ?**

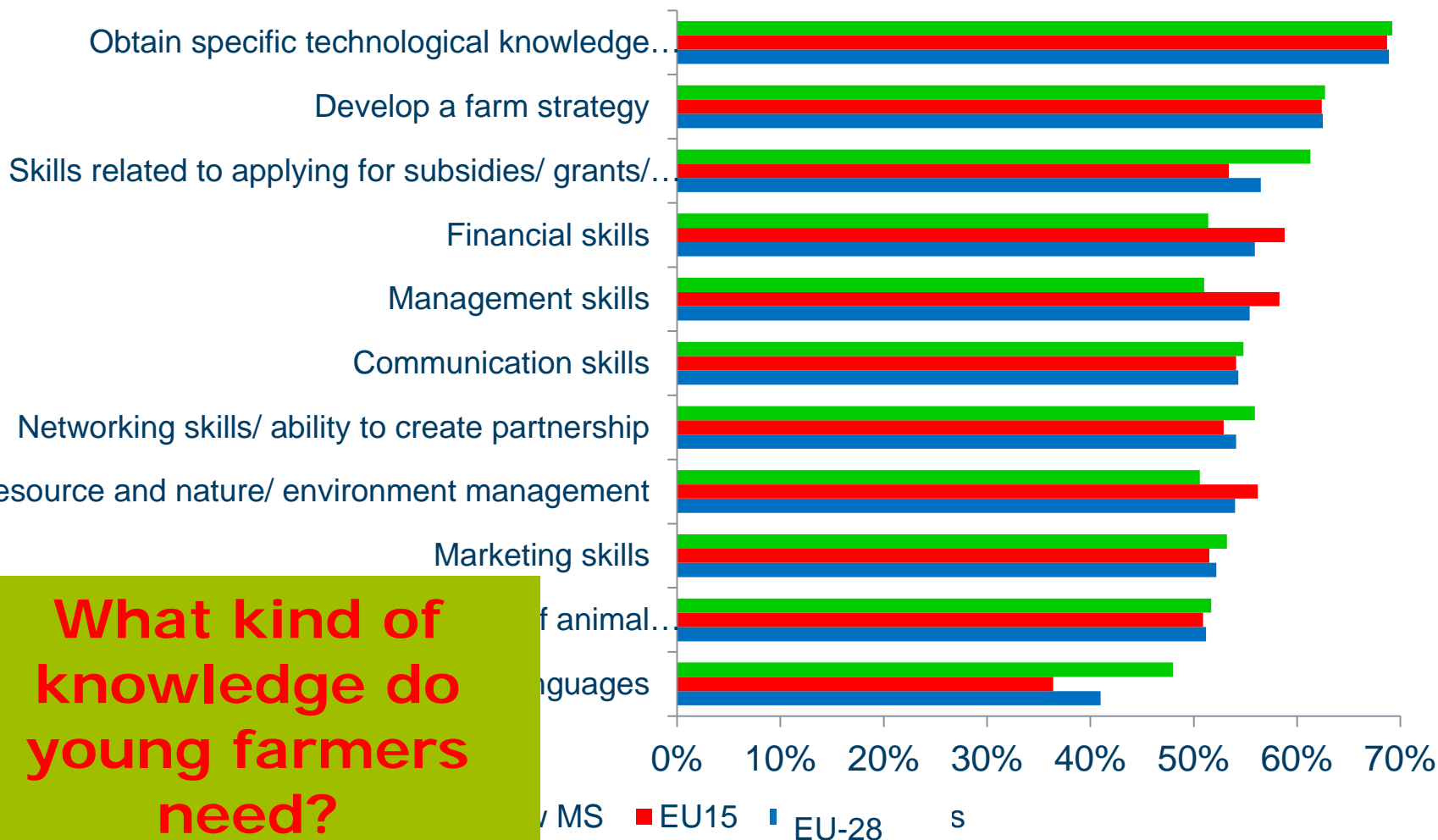
Where are young farmers searching for it?

- **Who ?**

Who provides them the knowledge?

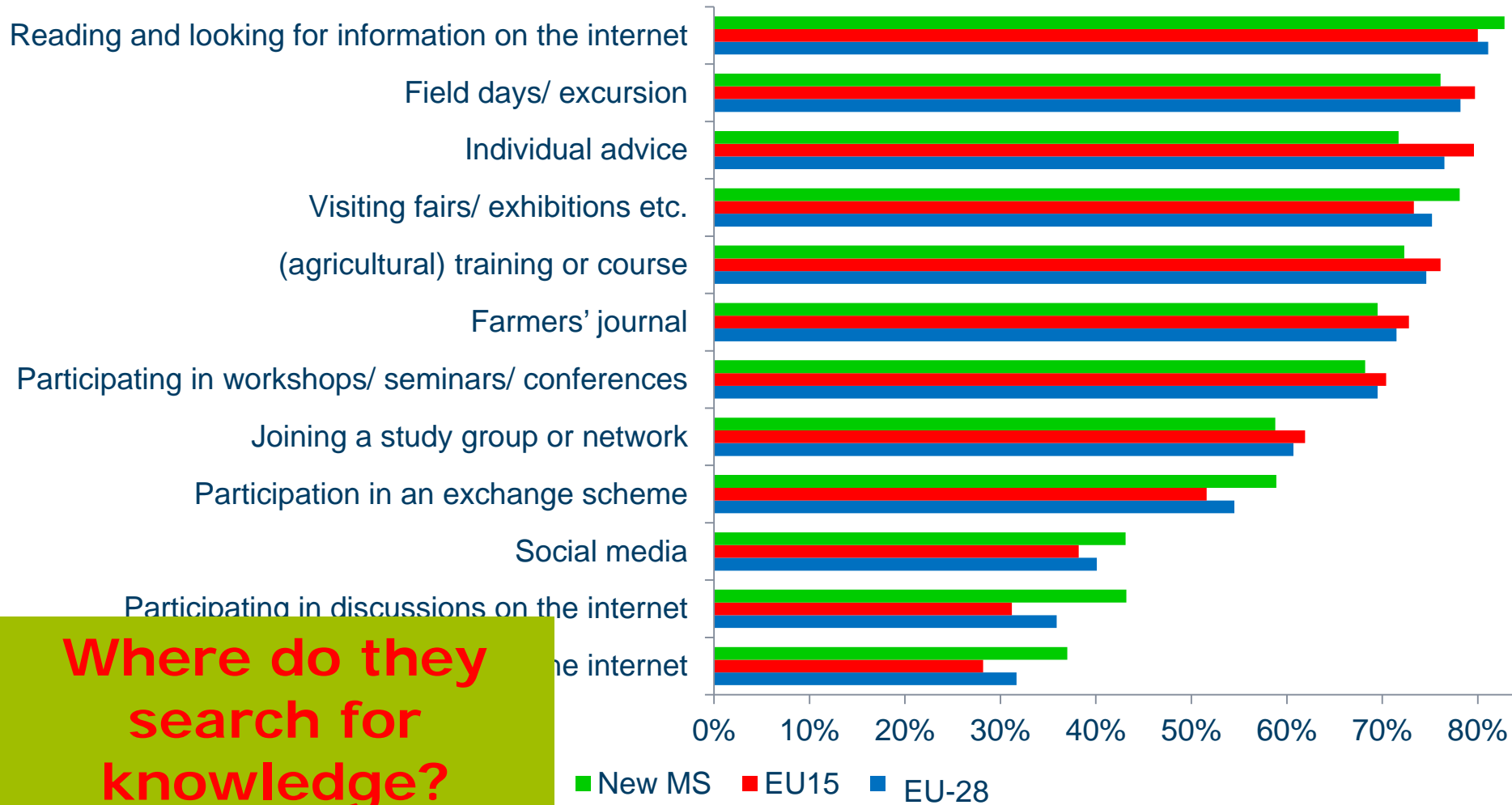
(interviews and focus groups with 2200 young farmers in the EU 28, done in 2015 by Ecorys)

Knowledge needs of interviewed young farmers



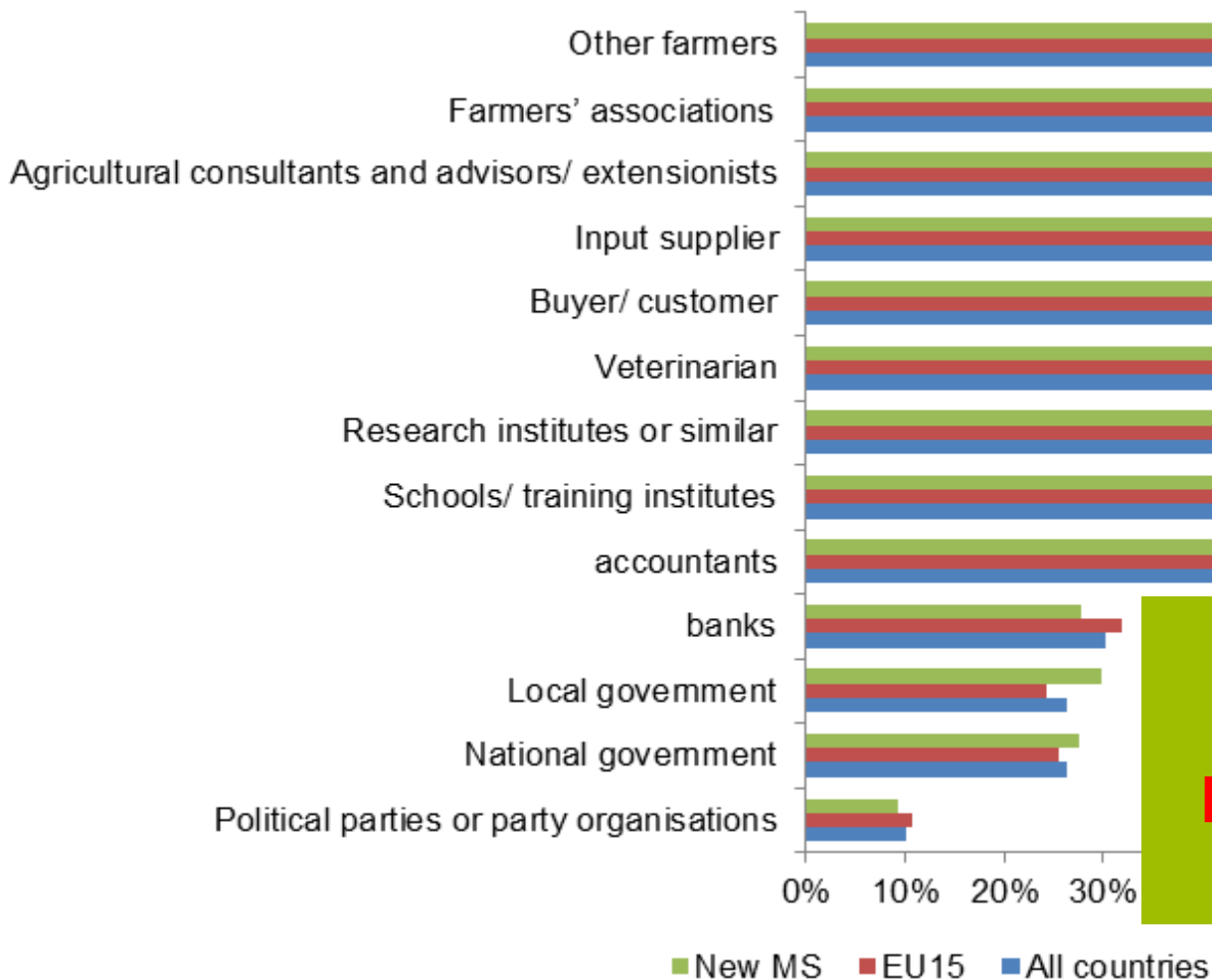
What kind of knowledge do young farmers need?

Knowledge sources used by the interviewed young farmers



Where do they search for knowledge?

Information sources for young farmers



Who provides them the knowledge they really use?

Findings from the Pilot project on knowledge flows supporting young farmers

- **What** kind of knowledge do they need most?
First of all technological knowledge
- **Where** do they search for knowledge?
Internet, field days and individual advice are most popular
- **Who** provides them the knowledge?
First: **other farmers**
Then: **farmers' organisations, advisors and commercial actors**
- *Lack of time is most important hindrance to obtain information.*

Conclusions from the Pilot project on knowledge flows of young farmers

- Young farmers still have a **technological focus/are production oriented**.
- Online training or e-learning, joining discussions on internet and social media are **less important**.
- Important factors influencing knowledge needs of young farmers are: the **knowledge infrastructure/educational system**, the possibility of getting **'real' independant advice** and the **quality of the knowledge available**
=> RUR 13-2018 EU digital advisory network starting end of the year
- The study indicates **knowledge should be tailor-made** and **tuned to the specific needs** of the farm and the farmer

What a farmer most needs...



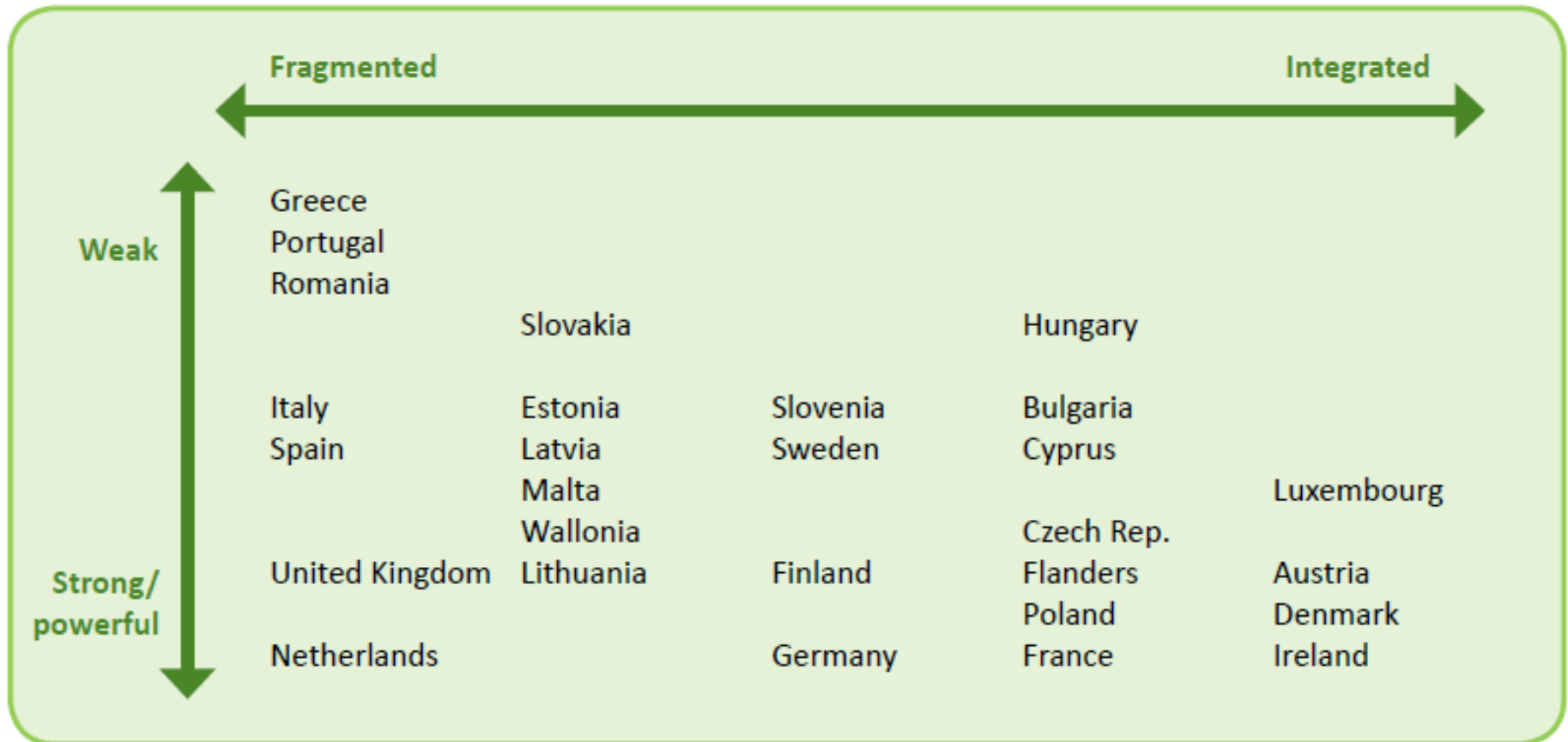
is a good AKIS



Characterising MS' AKISs

- An overview of MS' AKISs (PROAKIS, 2014, www.proakis.eu)

=> fragmented or integrated, strong or weak





Jean
Monnet
Father of
Europe
Speech on
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”

Strengthening AKISs ? It is already happening...

EIP funding has induced recent evolutions of strengthened AKIS:

Examples (*R=research, A=advisor, N=networks*):

- Poland EIP network: A+N
- Hungary AKIS: R+A
- Ireland: R+A
- Slovakia: N + A
- France: R + A + N
- Wales Innovation Hub (EIP seminar May 2017):R+A
- Scotland Nov 2017 Innovation support service : R+A
- Etc...

CAP post 2020 Communication "The future of food and farming": involves also the future for AKISs

*"The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) and the European Innovation Partnership on Water have proven their value in mobilising the agricultural sector for innovation. It has funded multi-participant pilot projects and is networking across Europe to make new knowledge generally available. Its success depends on the **combined performance** of advisors, agricultural training and educational systems, researchers and farmer organisations often referred to as the **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)** which operates very differently from one Member States to another. The role of the farm advisor stands out as particularly important. **A modern CAP should support the strengthening of farm advisory services within the AKIS systems.** This should become a condition for the approval of **CAP Strategic plans.**"*

Read the Nov 2017 Commission Communication:

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/future-of-cap/future_of_food_and_farming_communication_en.pdf



CAP post 2020

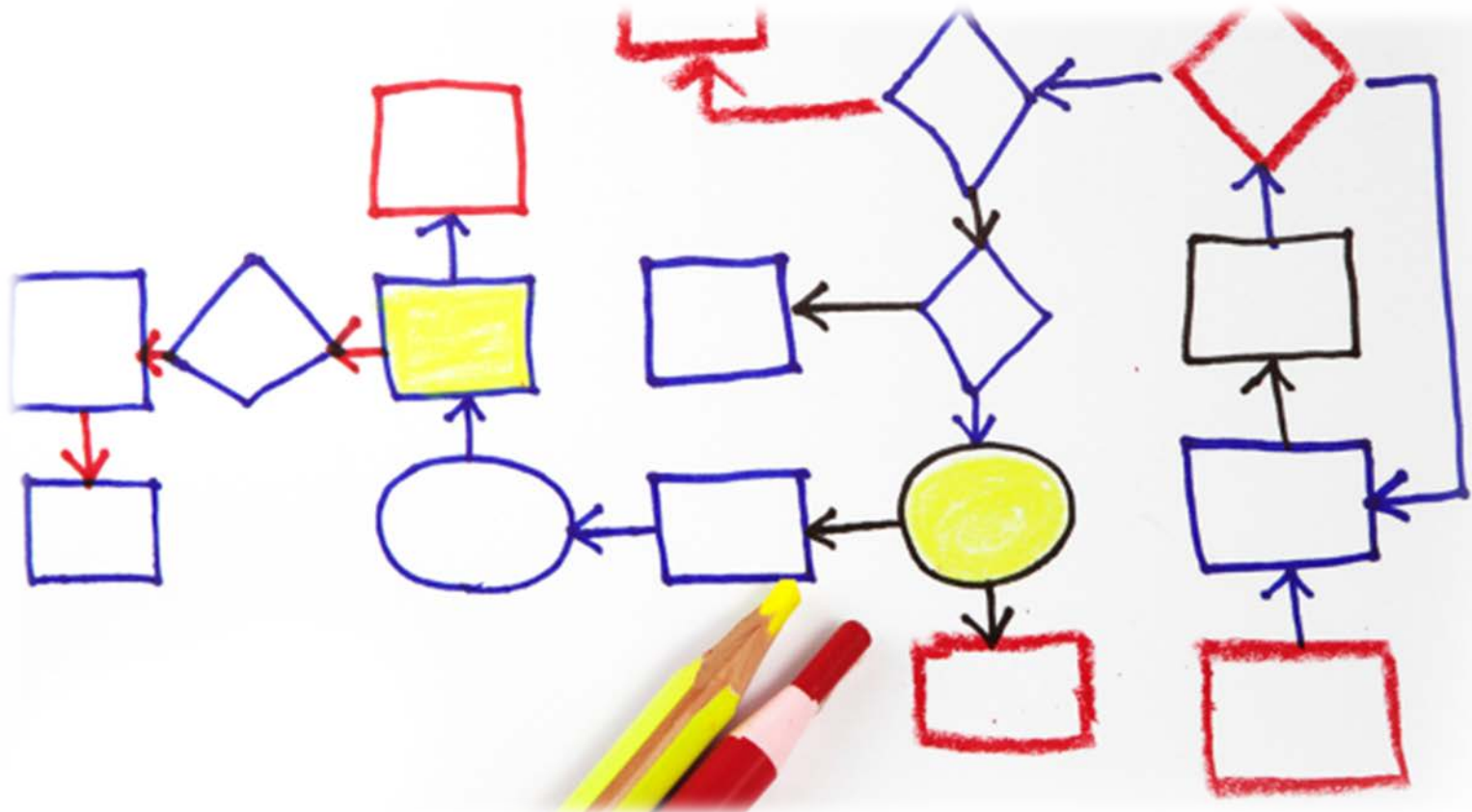
CAP Strategic AKIS plans

(cross-fertilisation in SWG
SCAR-AKIS ongoing)



Strengthening AKISs:

- **To understand knowledge flows and the role of each part of the AKIS:** start with a SWOT of existing AKIS and rethink connections (save money?)
- To create ways for **better exchange** between Ministries, institutes and organisations focusing on needs and solutions
- To move from the linear to **interactive innovation model:** co-creating, reflect how to incentivise?
- **To create synergies in public knowledge reservoirs,** feeding into the existing dissemination channels most consulted by end-users in countries: increased **sharing of practical knowledge**, made attractive, easily understandable and accessible
- **To benefit from all what is now made available at EU level** (EU set of demonstration farms and activities, 2 EU advisory networks, 38 EU thematic networks, info from 3000 OGs and 180 MA projects, and more.



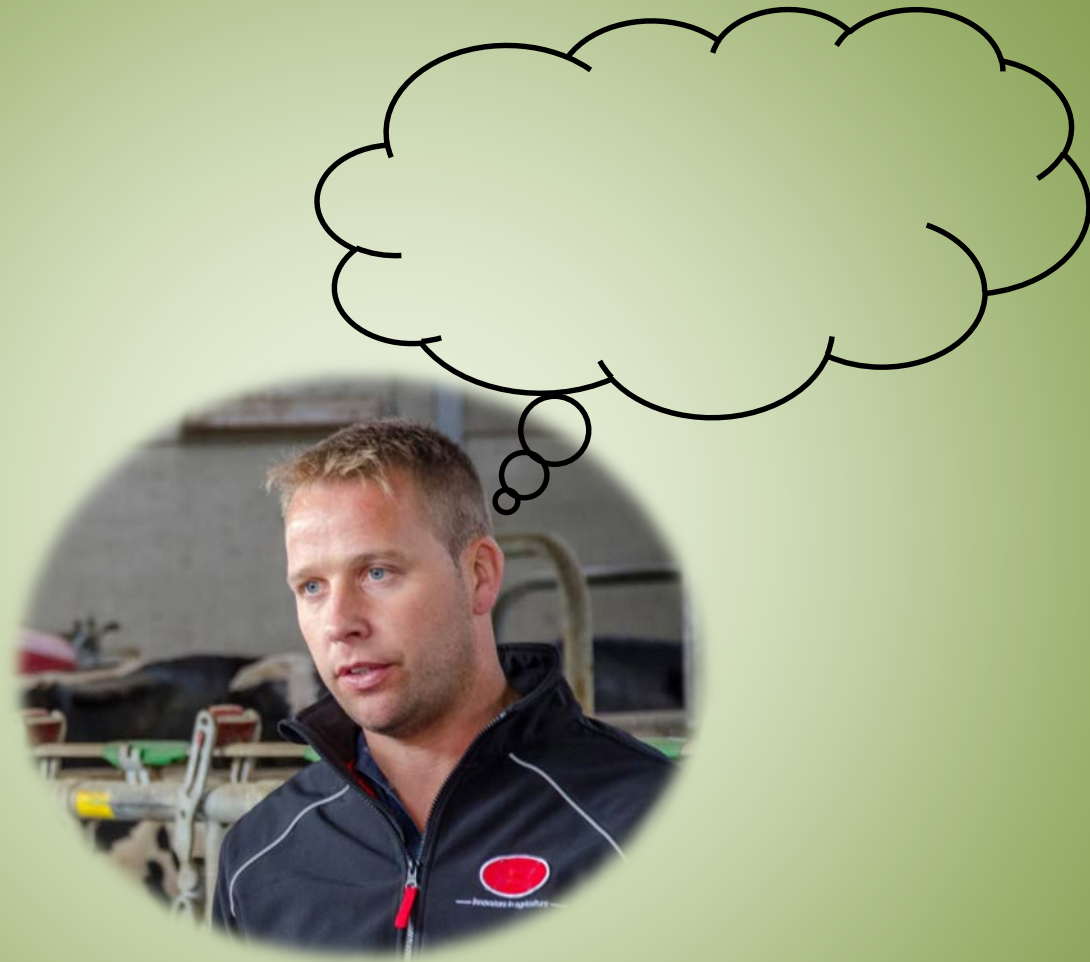
Strengthening AKIS knowledge flows:
What's the process?

How strengthening AKISs?

- 1. Enhancing knowledge flows and strengthening links between research and practice** (e.g. creating an innovation environment, incentivise researchers for their impact beyond academia, demonstrations joining farmers and researchers, novel education approaches)
- 2. Strengthening farm advisory services within MS' AKISs:** capturing and sharing farmers' needs, acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, participating in and sharing knowledge from innovative projects, advisors' training, cross-visits (learning peer-to-peer), spend time with researchers...
- 3. Incentivising interactive innovation projects** (OGs, H2020 MA) + help connecting, facilitating cross-border calls/exchange, put innovation support services in place to develop projects
- 4. Support digital transition in agriculture:** repositories with agricultural data for multi-purposes, OGs on digital innovation,

...

Also for digital transitions in agriculture



You need a good AKIS

*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



Where can you find more info?

- EIP brochure on **multi-actor projects**
 - https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri_brochure_multi-actor_projects_2017_en_web.pdf
- EIP brochure on **thematic networks & practice abstracts**
 - http://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri_brochure_thematic_networks_2016_en_web.pdf
- EIP common format for practice abstracts
 - <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/eip-agri-common-format>
- Videostreamed seminar on drafting practice abstracts:
 - <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=33>
- Brochure 'Collaborate to innovate – **OGs networking across the EU**'
 - <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-brochure-operational-groups-collaborate>

New

New

Building an EU AKIS

*Speed up creativity
and practice
application*

*Better connectivity and
quicker circulation of
information*

***Innovation is: an idea put into
practice with success !***



***Engage in a better connected
European AKIS:
To an
„Agriculture of Knowledge“***

Thank you for your attention!

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