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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION



16-17-18 September 2020
EIP-AGRI Seminar 'CAP Strategic Plans: the key role of AKIS in Member States'



Inge Van Oost

Policy officer – DG AGRI



16-17-18 September 2020

EIP-AGRI Seminar 'CAP Strategic Plans: the key role of AKIS in Member States'

Day 2: Thursday 17 September 2020

Part II: AKIS strategies - the basics

10:00 - 12:00

Understanding AKIS' essential elements

- **Opening address** – Janusz Wojciechowski, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
- **Inspirational speakers:**
 - Polish AKIS - Minister Ardanowski and Undersecretary of State Ryszard Kamiński, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Poland
 - EIP-AGRI Operational Group 'ECOPIONET' - Raquel Arroyo, Institute of Natural Resources and Agrobiology of Salamanca (IRNASA), ES
- • **What are the elements of a well-functioning AKIS + Q&A** – Inge Van Oost, DG AGRI

12:00 - 14:00

Lunch break



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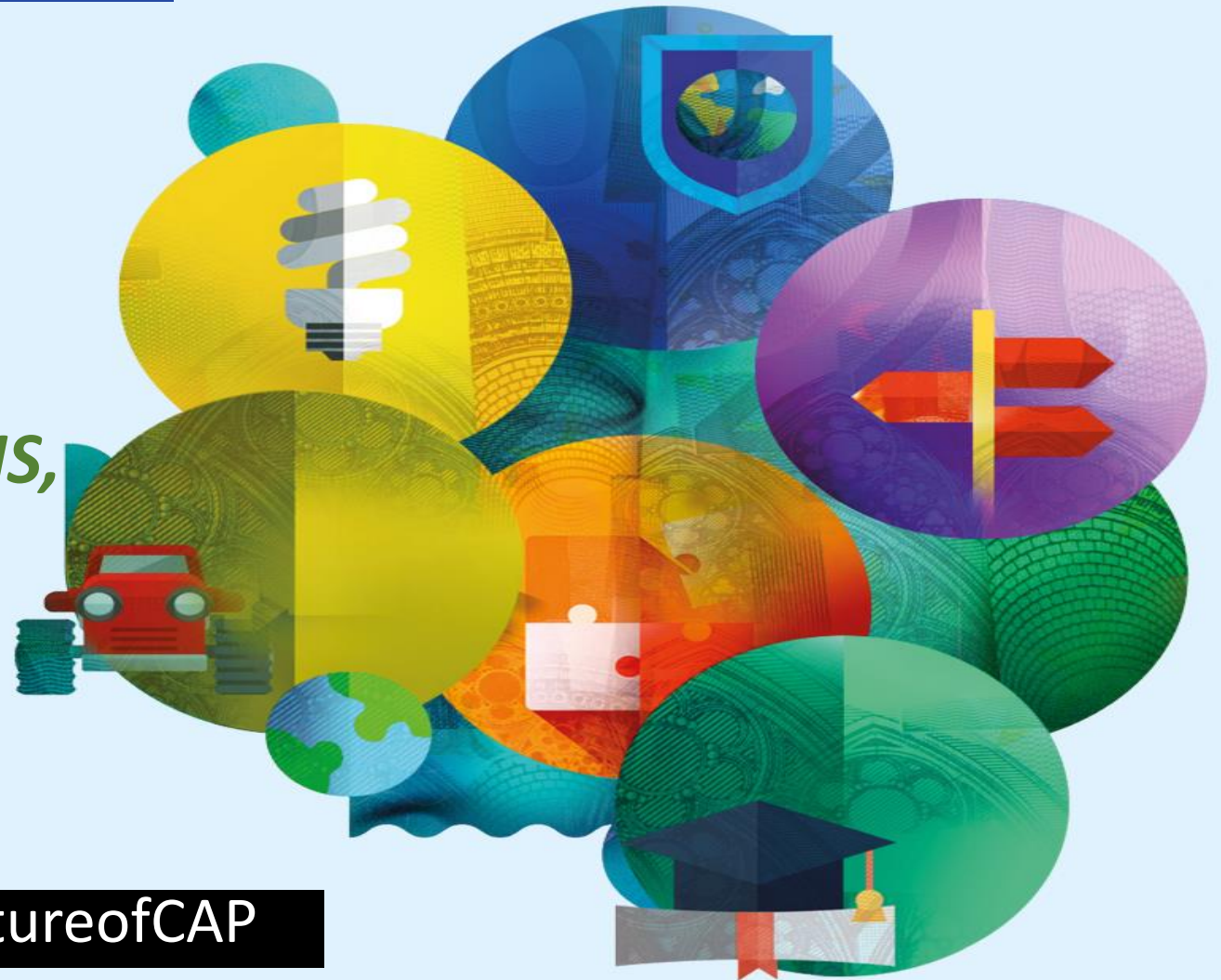
COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

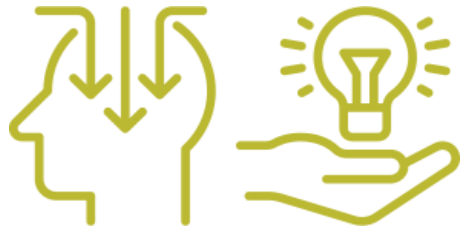
Post-2020

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

Inge Van Oost - DG AGRI
Unit B2 – Research & Innovation
17 September 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

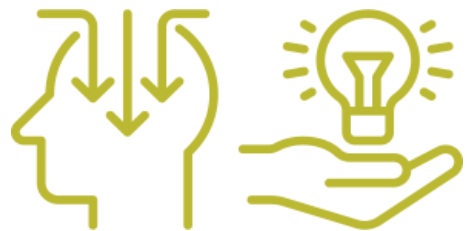
AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem =>

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

Handover AKIS4 report to Commissioner Hogan on 26 Sep 2019

How can we get farmers & rural communities the information & advice they need to build a modern, innovative & sustainable future? The 4th Agriculture Knowledge & Innovation Systems report is a great place to start! An important moment for the [#FutureofCAP](https://twitter.com/FutureofCAP) [europa.eu/!my44Tp](https://europea.eu/!my44Tp)

[Tweet vertalen](#)

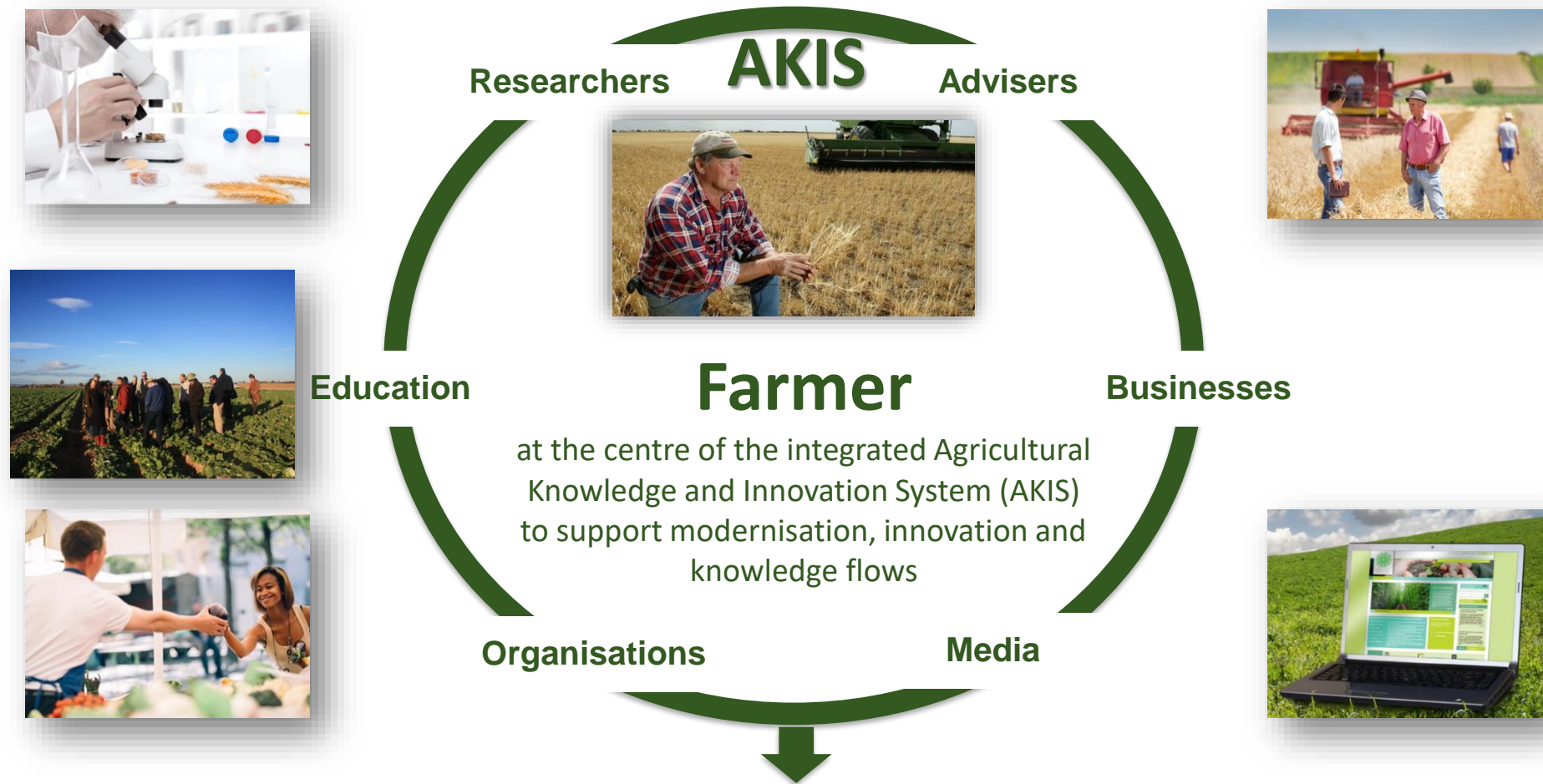


Today, [@PhilHoganEU](https://twitter.com/PhilHoganEU) welcomed the 4th report on agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS)!

We should involve all actors, from farmers to researchers, in developing knowledge and innovation. This is the only way we can meet today and tomorrow's challenges!
[#FutureofCAP](https://twitter.com/FutureofCAP)



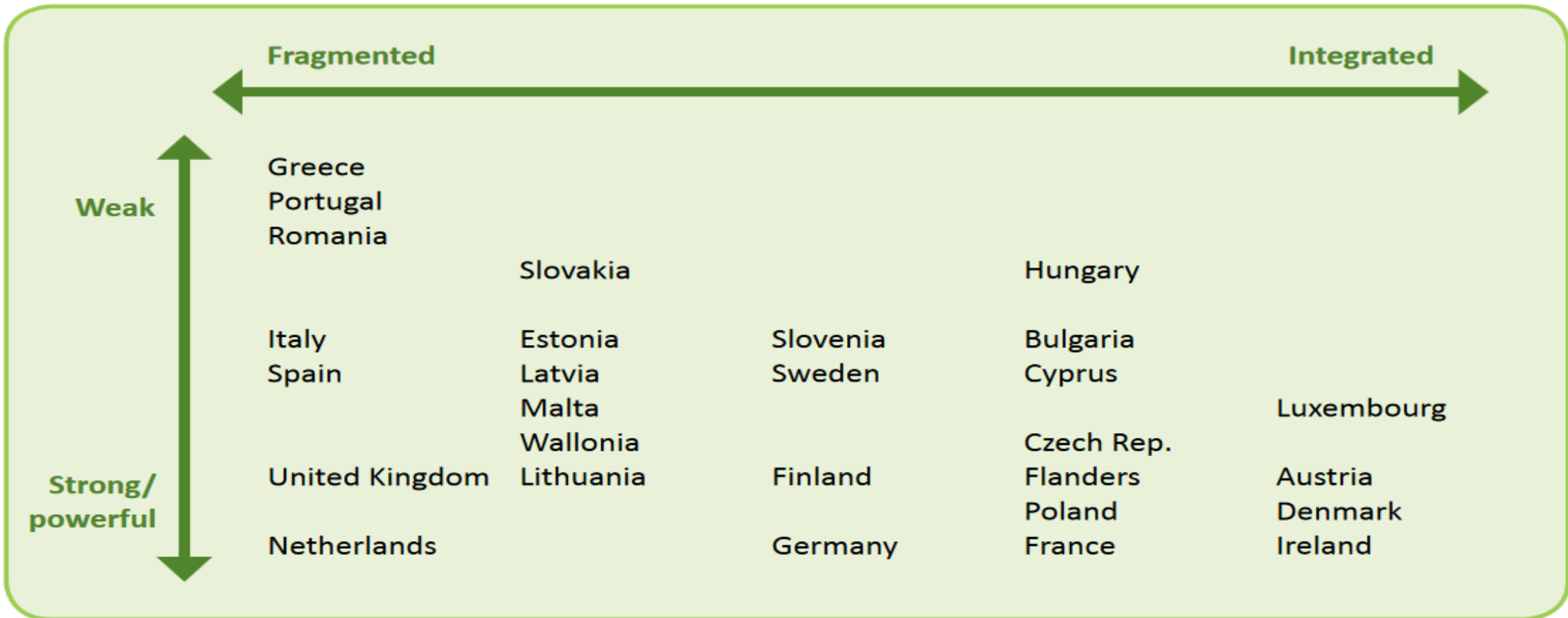
WHY AKIS? A reinforced AKIS integrates all AKIS actors and ensures knowledge flows inside MS & across border



AKIS coordination and structuring will bring actors together on a structured and regular basis, creating continuous interaction to speed up knowledge exchange, knowledge flows, innovation and most of all: implementation in practice (=> Cross-Cutting Objective on « Modernisation »)

PROAKIS study: Characterising MS' AKIS

An overview (as of 2014)

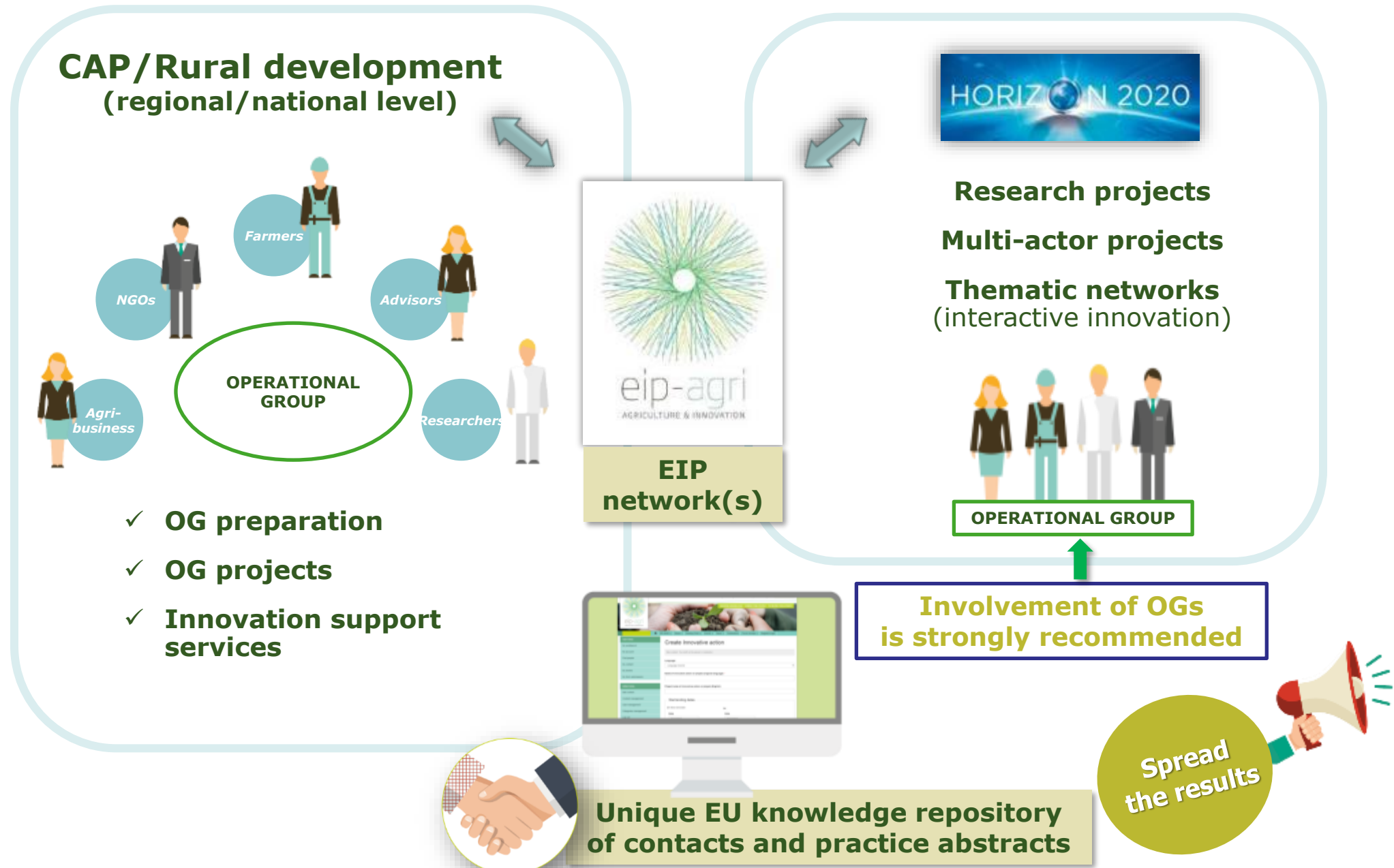


The EIP-AGRI in short



- 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*)

Connecting policies: the bigger EIP picture



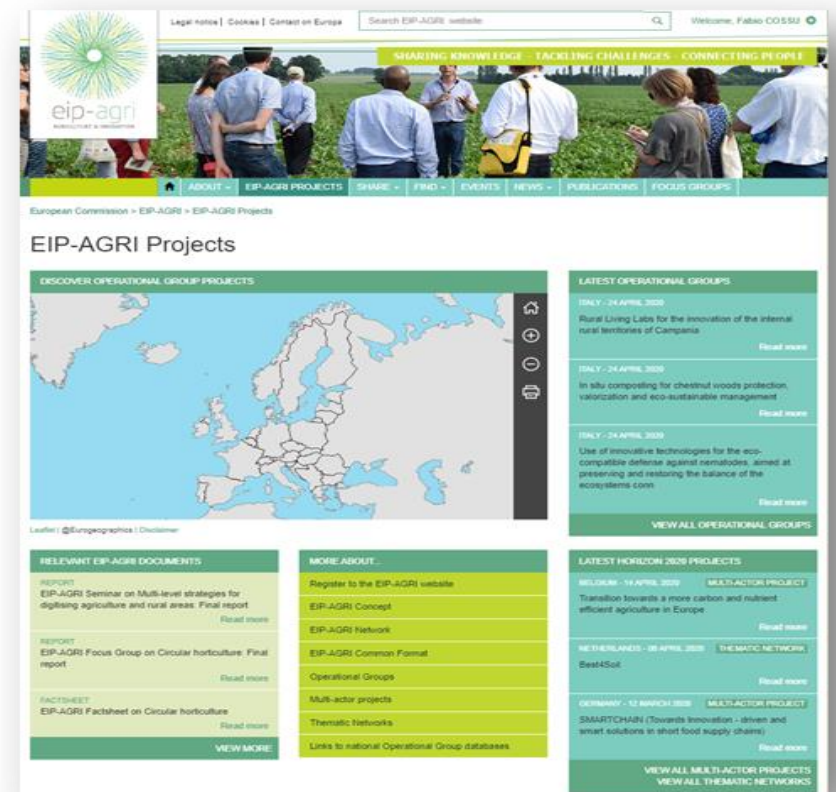
Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



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 1500 OGs already running or finished (still 4 years to go)
- ✓ 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

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



THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES

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

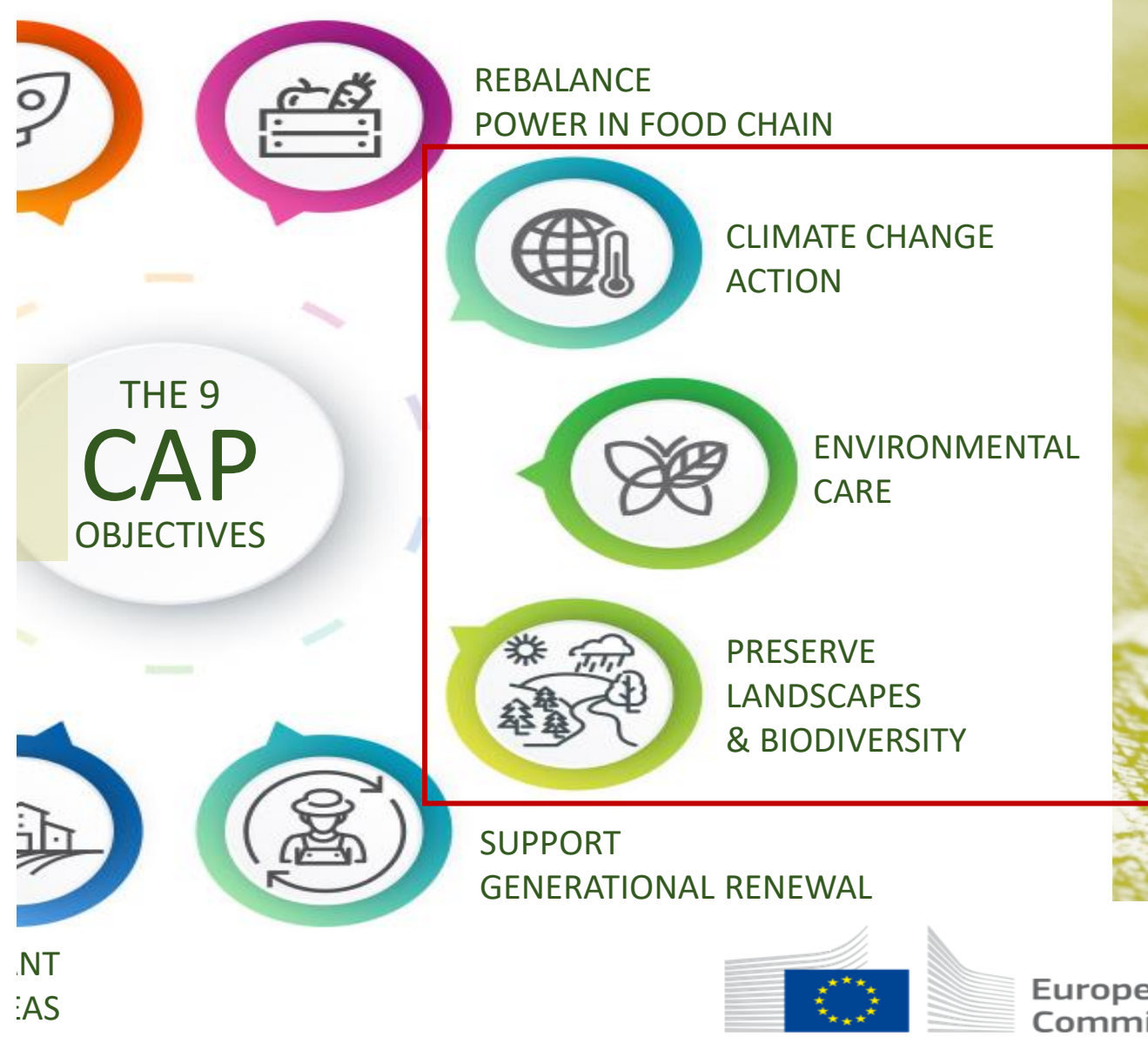


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THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES

- **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 togetherand digitalisation

Tools = targeted CAP interventions to support the strategy:

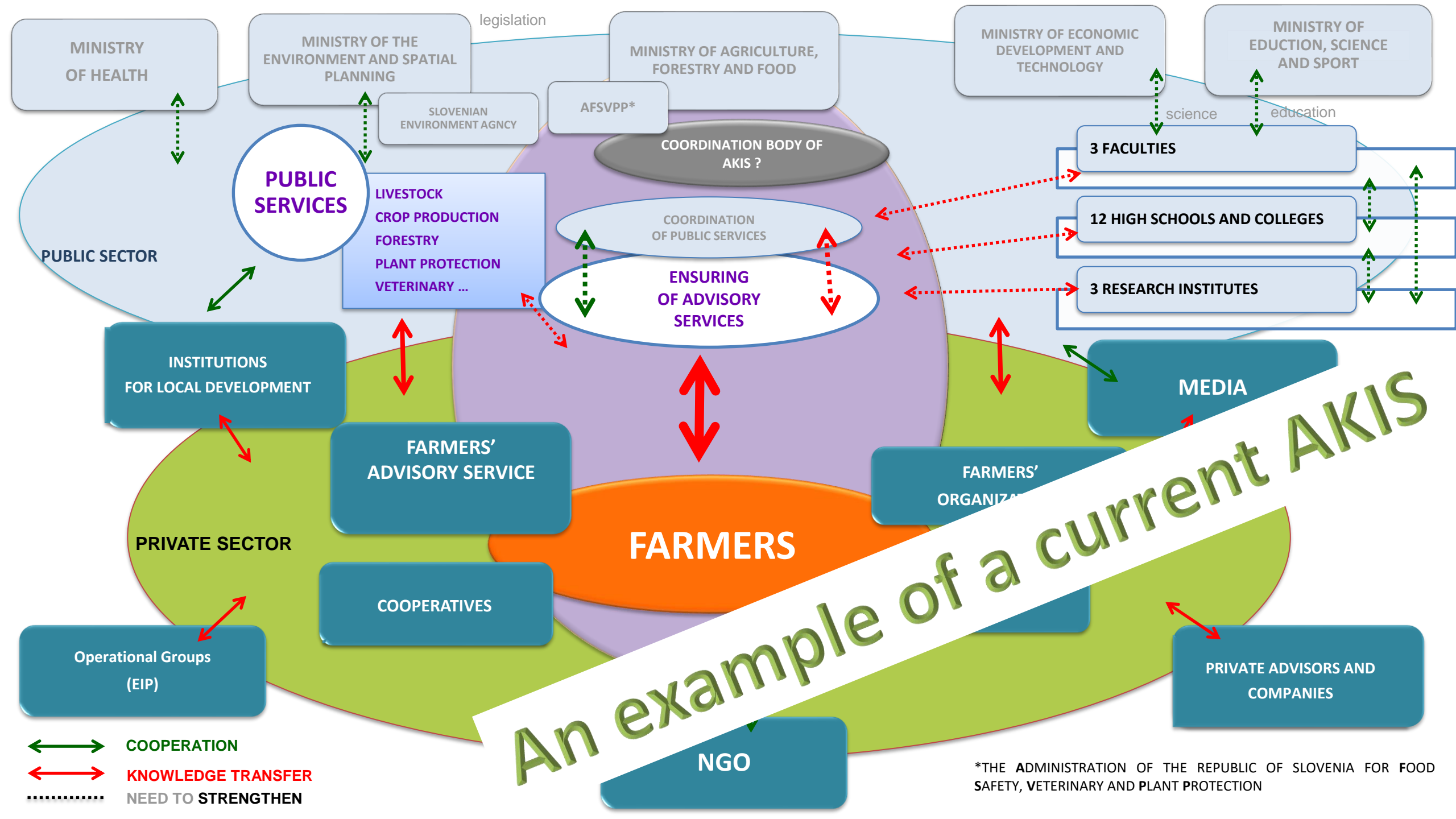
Art 72
Funding for knowledge exchange, advice and information

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

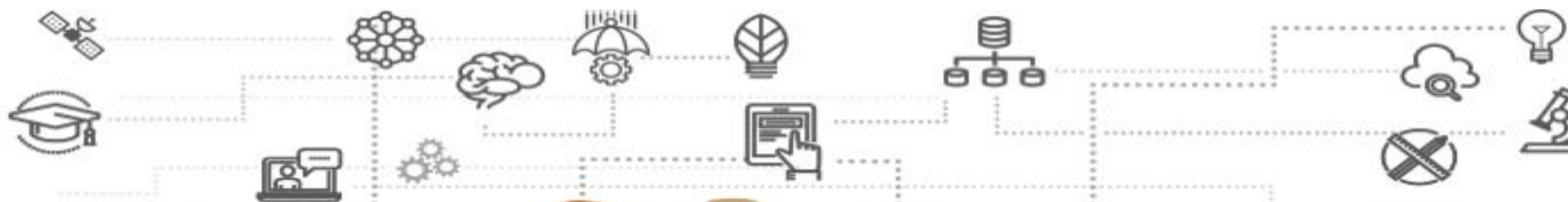
Art 113
CAP networks:
Fostering innovation and knowledge exchange





TOOLBOX FOR A KNOWLEDGE- BASED AGRICULTURE

- **Cross-cutting objective** on knowledge, innovation and digitalisation (CAP Art. 5)
- 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 10 billion in **Horizon Europe** for food, agriculture, rural development and the bio-economy.



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



Questions?

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

- 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

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

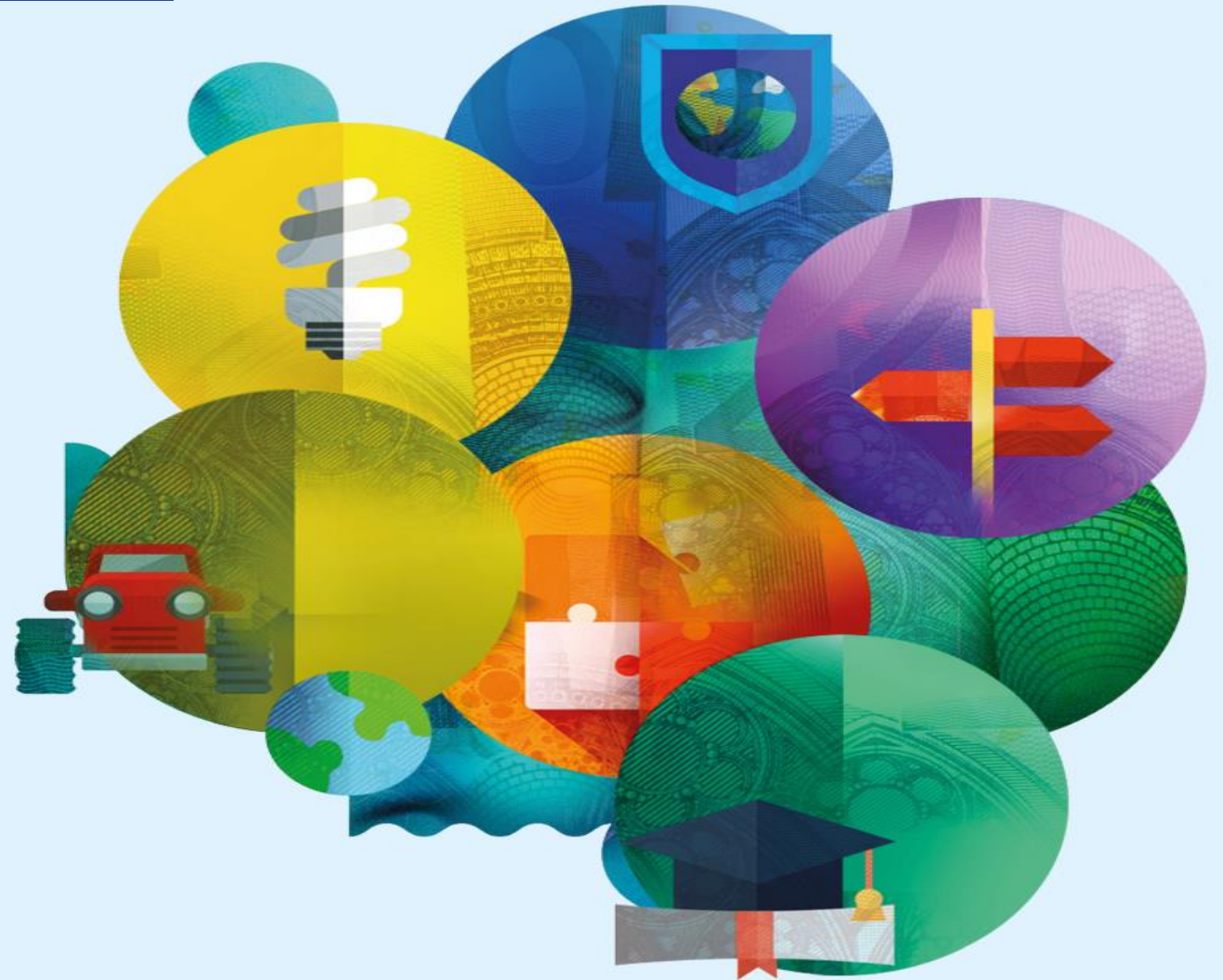
- **Innovation support must** be available: advisors acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, capturing needs and sharing outcomes
- **Regular interaction with researchers**, e.g. in workshops, (bi-) annual meetings, exchanges during on-farm demo, being located in the same building helps informal contacts
- **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

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
2. Collecting and sharing outcomes of 180 H2020 multi-actor projects + Horizon Europe
3. EIP website + knowledge reservoirs being prepared under H2020
4. **Connecting OGs with Horizon** projects = great added value
5. 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
6. Organising **events to link and network AKIS actors** for future cooperation
7. **Start now**, already testing future interventions under current period and **brainstorm in AKIS coordination platforms**

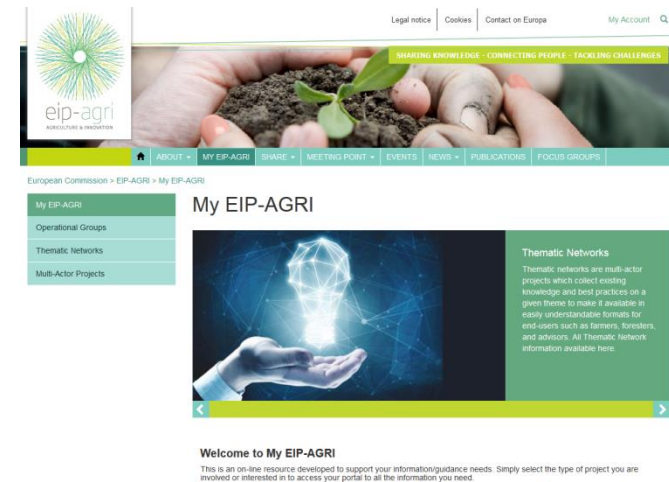


The Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe (HE) dimension of the EIP-AGRI => induces the **need for intensifying CAP innovation networking and efficiency of Horizon Europe National Contact Points**



AKIS & EIP-AGRI – preparing for EU knowledge reservoir(s) for practice **serving advisors' back-offices for innovation support and advice**

- ✓ *MS already creating **dbases (EIP-AGRI in DE, FR, back-office and ISS in LT etc)***
- ✓ ***EURAKNOS** project (Thematic Network of Thematic Networks, midterm Jan 2020)*
- ✓ ***EUREKA** project (feasibility EU knowledge reservoir for practice, kick-off Jan 2020)*



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



COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Post-2020
Legislative proposals

*Designing CAP Strategic Plans to
improve the structuring of AKIS:
Summary of ideas for interventions have
been collected in the SWG SCAR AKIS 4 report*

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Potential elements related to 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,...

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



1.5.1 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

Questions?

1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

See part III –
Main
building
blocks of
AKIS



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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, ...)

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 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



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)



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

Inge Van Oost – DG AGRI Unit B.2 – Research and Innovation

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EIP-AGRI seminar **'CAP Strategic Plans:** **the key role of AKIS in Member States'** **16-17-18 September 2020**

All information of the seminar available on
www.eip-agri.eu

on the event webpage
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-cap-strategic-plans-key-role-akis>

