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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'

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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

# Helena Pärenson

Ministry of Rural Affairs, Estonia



16-17-18 September 2020

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

# Day 3: Friday 18 September 2020

## Part V: AKIS strategic plans and AKIS interventions

14:00 - 14:10

### Resuming our journey

- Welcome back – Sarah Watson, EIP-AGRI Service Point
- **Introduction** to the topic – Inge Van Oost, DG AGRI

14:10 - 14:45

### Preparing the AKIS strategic plan and choosing the right interventions

- **Inspirational speakers:**
  - Preparing the **Spanish** AKIS strategy – Rocio Wojski and Andres Montero, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, ES
  - The **Slovenian** example – Joži Cvelbar, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, SI
  - AKIS interventions in the **Estonian** CAP plan: Helena Pärenson, Ministry of Rural Affairs, EE
  - The **Dutch** AKIS interventions in the CAP plan post 2020 – Jan van Esch, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, NL

14:45 - 15:35

### Designing AKIS interventions

- Inputs to the topic from participants: highlights from the **Google Document D** – Mark Gibson, EIP-AGRI Service Point
- Interactive session in **breakouts** – groups will be challenged to design a concrete AKIS and related interventions for their own country based on the examples presented and adapted to the country's own context

15:35 - 15:55

### Coffee break





REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS

# AKIS interventions: Estonia

Helena Pärenson

Research and Development Department

EIP-Agri seminar „CAP Strategic Plans: the key roles of AKIS in Member States“ , 16-18 September, 2020

# Timeframe of devising AKIS interventions

**Summer 2019:** SWOT and analysis of needs, including consultation with main stakeholders

**Autumn 2019:** general drafting of interventions (broad brush) based on the 9 special objectives.

**Oct 2019-June 2020:** discussing the future interventions in thematic working groups (TWGs), which included different stakeholders, relevant experts, MA and PA, etc.

➤ **AKIS TWG** had 4 meetings (Dec, Feb, March, June), each with a specific focus (AKIS as such; knowledge transfer; innovation; advisory services); + in August written feedback to the first draft of intervention descriptions.

**April-August:** Presenting and reviewing the intervention drafts within our Ministry

**Autumn 2020:** Presenting and discussing the intervention drafts with Steering Committee (stakeholder organisations etc) → elaborating interventions (budgets, etc)

# General aims for new programming period

CAP 2020+ for Estonia means an **evolution, not revolution**: current measures as building blocks to be rearranged into new interventions of **increased functionality**.

Some of the guiding considerations across AKIS 2020+ interventions:

- **More flexibility to accommodate different needs and occasions** (*vouchers*)
- **Fewer, but broader interventions, catering better to the individual specifics of the beneficiaries.** (*One single innovation cooperation intervention, but eligible applicants can be both a single agricultural producer to find solution to a single practical challenge, or a group setting up an innovation cluster project to implement a series of innovation activities together with researchers*)
- **Less bureaucracy and paperwork:**
  - **optimising reporting periods** (reporting timeline as proposed by the applicant)
  - **options for combining interventions** (one application form with several intervention boxes ticked, *e.g. investment + advice*)
  - **simplified cost options**, where possible

# Main changes compared to the current period: Advisory services

Advisors are the glue of the whole AKIS → **Checkpoint:** have we provided them with what it takes (knowledge, means, awareness of the role)?

- Need to pay more attention **to next generation of advisors** → targeted support scheme for new advisors (headhunting, motivating career, training for new and existing advisors), involving retired advisors as mentors for newbies, etc
- Coordination and support structure for advisory services (**back office to back them up**), **promoting** advisory services to clients
- Need to nurture the **motivation of the existing advisory staff** → motivation, career path, various types of (obligatory) training. Beginner vs experienced advisor – different wages possible. This is the task of the back-office coordination
- **Collaboration** (mixing supported with not supported advisors, mixing advisors with researchers, etc), integration with other AKIS players
- More topics: **processing** advice was much missed → will be available
- **Diversified formats:** individual advice, group actions (e.g. discussion group), online consultations, mentoring, universal AKIS vouchers, self-service in knowledge reservoir,....
- **Diverse roles** of advisors: classical advisor, mentor, innovation broker

# Main changes compared to the current period: Innovation cooperation

## Flexibility and combinability:

- Innovation cooperation support continues to be available, but instead of two innovation measures (M 16.1/16.2, and Innovation clusters) → one innovation cooperation intervention with multiple choices. These will include large/small projects, innovation clusters, EIP OGs, vouchers, etc. **Timing?**  
**Open calls?**
- **All-round AKIS vouchers** (ideally 😊) to be used for one or more AKIS interventions - can be used to get advice, training, information, expertise, research consultation, ..., etc, whatever the voucher holder will consider necessary. **But how to distribute the vouchers in a fair way, treating the potential voucher holders equally?**
- **Combinability beyond typical AKIS interventions:** Intervention „Investments to demonstrate valorisation technologies of bio-resources“ will combine productive investment for pilot plant + knowledge transfer + innovation cooperation (e.g., an OG, voucher, ..).



# Main changes compared to the current period: Knowledge transfer

- We continue supporting the [Long-term Knowledge Transfer Programmes \(M1; a consortium for training/knowledge transfer activities in a thematic field\)](#) as an overarching (and flexible) intervention. **Potential for channeling the output from OGS?**
- [Knowledge reservoir as a multifunctional online portal](#) for AKIS-related information (one gate to access information, events calendar, etc), future potential for an AI-advisor? 😊
- [AKIS vouchers](#)
- More [diverse](#) training activities, e.g.:
- [work shadowing](#) programmes (an advisor following a researcher during one week)
- joint study [trips/bus seminars for mixed group](#) of farmers/advisors/researchers to share information, gain new knowledge, build closer contacts
- [Special attention: new entrants in agriculture](#) (currently, some prior experience is needed to be considered eligible for trainings)

Thank you for your  
attention!

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

**Online 16-17-18 September 2020**

All information of the seminar available on  
[www.eip-agri.eu](http://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>

