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modernAKIS Together for Systems' Innovation

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List of abbreviations

AKIS – Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System

CB – Coordination Body

CSS – Cascading Style Sheets

DB – Data Base

ERD – Entity Relationship Diagram

MAA – Multi-Actor Approach

MVC – Model-Viewer-Controller

MVP – Minimum Viable Product

NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation

PHP – Hypertext Preprocessor

RDBMS – Relational Database Management System

SEO – Search Engine Optimization

SSR – Server Side Rendering

SSG – Static Site Generation

WP – Work Package

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Executive Summary

The present document at hand represents the Report on the networking platform AKISConnect, created for modernAKIS project in collaboration with ATTRACTISS (both EU-funded projects, and it can be found in the following link in https://akisconnect.eu/. The AKISConnect platform acts as a digital hub aiming to serve key AKIS actors in an EU-level dimension, aiming to facilitate the networking and capacity building activities, which are the main objectives of the modernAKIS project.

This report's purpose is to provide documentation of the platform's scope, functional and non-functional requirements, intended audience, user and software interfaces. These specifications and design elements were collected as part of *Task "T2.4: Knowledge exchange platform: design, moderation and operation"* and implemented in *Task "T5.2: Setting up the knowledge exchange infrastructure/platform"* of the project. Following the user needs collection process, providing an overview of the received results, as well as presenting the key insights acquired during this process it also describes the development process that followed as well as the next steps that will be applied in the short term, until its next revision in M36, in D2.10: Report on Networking platform operation: First Update.

This document is structured as follows: Chapter 1 introduces the AKISConnect platform and the background in which it was implemented. Chapter 2 provides an overview of the platform as a digital product and the process that led to its creation. Chapter 3 describes the digital platform's design and development methodology. The process of user input collection for making design- and development-related decisions is reported in Chapter 4, as well as all the necessary activities. User needs and platform requirements (functional and non-functional) are detailed in Chapter 5. Information on the software development of the platform is provided in Chapter 6. Chapter 7 presents in detail all the features and functionalities currently existing in the AKISConnect platform, released in February 2024. Some main features that are already being discussed are presented in Chapter 8, making reference to the second version of the platform to be delivered until M36. Finally, Chapter 9 provides some insightful conclusions regarding the development process, while focusing on the steps to be taken next regarding the platform's development, as well as an initial discussion on the AKISConnect digital platform's longevity and exploitation after the project's end.

As a living document, it is subject to changes throughout the project's lifetime, to reflect potential changes and alignments required to fulfil the project's vision.

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to document the work implemented in Task "*T2.4: Knowledge exchange platform: design, moderation and operation*" during the first 2 years of the modernAKIS project. WP2 aims to empower CAP Managing Authorities, AKIS Coordination Bodies (AKIS CBs) and key AKIS actors with networks, tools and activities, which facilitate improved knowledge flows by making information and knowledge more readily available and accessible. This WP frames the capacity building by setting up effective networking structures within Member States and internationally, both within the project but also together with other relevant actors at European level. AKISConnect.eu can be considered one of the main digital networking structures created for these purposes. The main objectives of the AKISConnect platform are to: serve as (a) the digital repository of the project concerning tools, methods and results, (b) the virtual interaction space between AKIS network members, (c) facilitate a support service based on the concept of “flying AKIS doctors”, and (d) deliver an online space for trainings for AKIS actors.

The AKISConnect.eu networking platform has been created by the AUA partner being in the lead of the *Task "T2.4: Knowledge exchange platform: design, moderation and operation"* and *Task "T5.2: Setting up the knowledge exchange infrastructure/platform"* involved in *WP2: "Framing and setting up a network of AKIS coordination bodies and other actors"* and *WP5: "Wider dissemination and engagement for impact"* respectively, as part of the work and effort related to the development of the modernAKIS networking platform.

The main audience of this document includes the project consortium, which comprises, among others, researchers, representatives of public authorities and administrations, advisors and advisory services, NGO representatives, and policymakers. Other stakeholder groups with an interest in the work presented in this report are project managers, software developers and architects, as well as service and product developers wanting to get insights into the platform implementation work (on top of details about the digital platform’s scope and content).

During joint meetings between modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS, it was decided that the AKIS knowledge exchange infrastructure would be a joint platform serving the two projects’ common needs, messages, and joined target audiences. Since then, most efforts related to the design and development of AKISConnect.eu have involved partners from both projects, who have been invited to give their insights, express their needs and expectations and provide feedback for the continuous improvement of AKISConnect.eu

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2. An overview of AKISConnect platform

The design phase included several steps, involving partners from both projects and each step was aiming at the final definition of AKISConnect as a digital product. Initially, AUA started with research on modernAKIS concepts and specific target audiences. All consortium partners were asked to answer an online survey and findings from the research as well as the survey outcomes were presented at an online meeting (June 26, 2023) to validate initial assumptions. The second online meeting (July 24, 2023) focused on creating user journeys based on real-word scenarios, asking users to actively describe their needs and pain points. Initial wireframes representing the main screens of the AKISConnect.eu platform, were being transformed to refined mock-ups, in an iterative process. During the third online meeting (August 28, 2023) users were provided with the interactive mock-ups and were asked to give feedback through a task-based virtual user-testing process.

The first joint physical meeting between the two projects took place in Lisbon, in October 2023 and this is where all high-fidelity mock-ups have been defined and delivered to the development team to launch the software development phase. Until December 2023, all partners were provided with templates facilitating the content upload process before the initial launch on February 29, 2024. The homepage of the first release is shown in Figure 1.

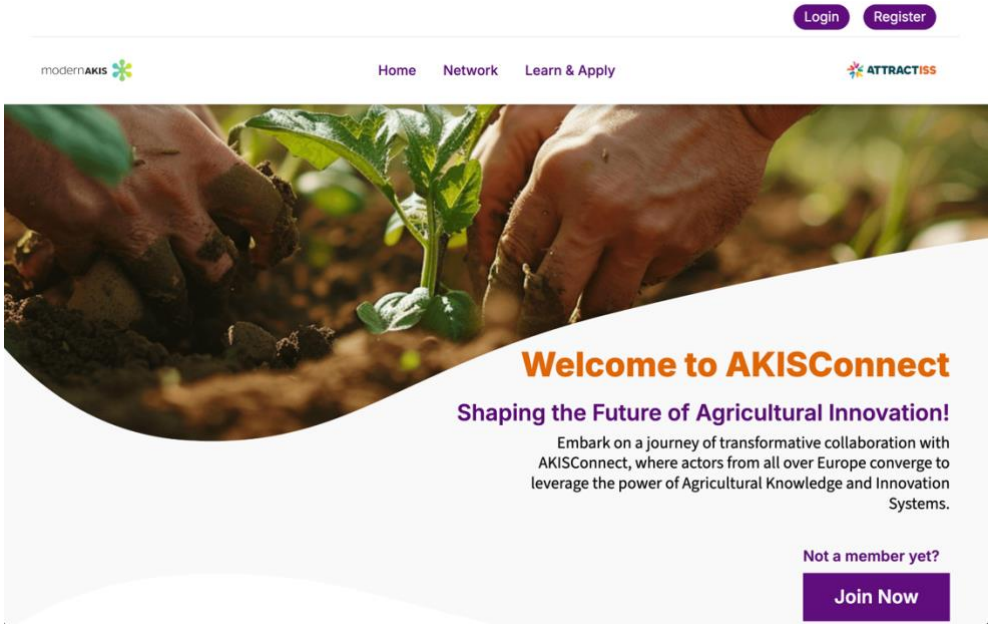

Figure 1: A part of AKISConnect platform's homepage

The platform has been developed using a standard technology stack (Next.js and React.js for the front end and Laravel and Maria DB for the back end), following the agile software development methodology. It can be easily "linked" to existing or future systems ensuring its sustainability and it's embedding in the project website developed also for this task.

One of the main goals for the AKISConnect platform since the beginning is to support the network expansion and this is the reason that the first version of the platform was released as early as possible in the course of the project, to facilitate the users' registration to the network. Since the release of the first version in February 29, 2024, up to August 29, 2024, right before the delivery of this report, the current number of the network members is 628, with a constant growing pace every day, as shown in Figure 2.

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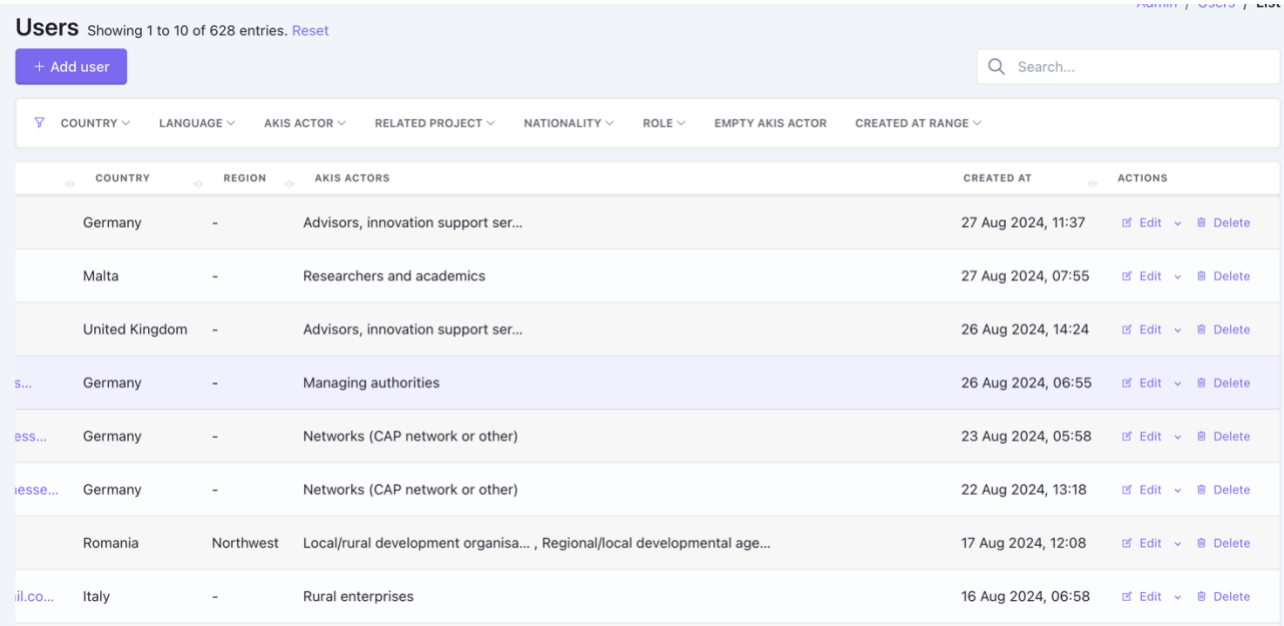

Figure 2: 628 Users already registered in AKISConnect since the launch on February 29, 2024

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3. Methodology

This section provides an overview of the networking platform's design and development methodology. The methodology follows the agile development approach[1], characterized as dynamic and responsive, and is the most prevalent methodology in software development. The traditional and agile methodologies for software development differ significantly in their approach to managing projects, development processes, and adaptability.

The traditional methodology, often referred to as Waterfall, follows a linear, sequential process where each phase—such as requirements gathering, design, implementation, testing, and deployment—must be completed before moving on to the next. This approach emphasizes a fixed scope, with detailed planning and documentation upfront, leading to longer delivery cycles where the final product is typically released at the end of the process. In contrast, agile methodology is iterative and flexible, breaking the development process into smaller, manageable cycles known as sprints. Each sprint delivers incremental updates, allowing for continuous feedback and adaptation of the project scope as needed. Agile emphasizes frequent delivery of functional product increments, fostering close collaboration among cross-functional teams and stakeholders. This approach leads to faster time-to-market and the ability to respond quickly to changing requirements, making it more suited to dynamic and evolving projects.

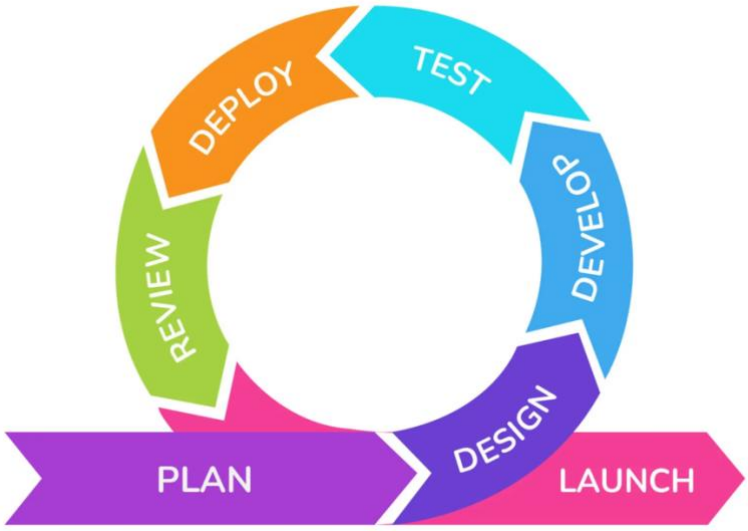

Figure 3: Schematic representation of the agile methodology.

As shown in Figure 3, iterative user feedback helps break down the design process into segments of requirements and features, resulting in functional increments of the platform. Communication and dedication to making improvements based on promptly gathered feedback allow for prioritizing changes and aligning with users' evolving needs and preferences. Maintaining a backlog of features, enhancements, and fixes for each iteration is crucial to ensure the platform progresses toward its intended goals. Developing a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) provides a foundational version of the platform, enabling

[1] Beck, K., et al. (2001) The Agile Manifesto. Agile Alliance. http://agilemanifesto.org/

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quick deployment and testing for frequent product releases that are highly adaptable and resilient to changing preferences and new insights.

Agile is the ideal methodology for a Multi-Actor Approach (MAA) project, as is modernAKIS because it provides the flexibility and iterative development needed to manage the complexities of involving multiple stakeholders (partners and AKIS actors) with diverse interests in the AKIS ecosystem. Agile's emphasis on continuous collaboration and feedback ensures that all actors can contribute and influence the platform's direction throughout its lifecycle. This adaptability is crucial in MAA projects, where requirements and priorities may shift as different actors negotiate and refine their needs. By delivering incremental improvements and allowing for ongoing adjustments, Agile ensures that the AKISConnect digital platform will remain aligned with the evolving expectations of all stakeholders, leading to a more responsive and sustainable digital product.

The agile methodology was adjusted and followed by AUA and participating partners throughout the design, development, and delivery process. Below, a brief explanation of the phases involved is provided:

- Phase 1 - Scoping: Examination of the scope of the networking platform to gain an in-depth understanding of what the digital platform is meant to achieve. For this phase, all documentation and deliverables have been examined thoroughly in order to identify the main vision for the platform and the value it would bring to the target users.
- Phase 2 - User needs identification: Activities performed to acquire input to identify user needs, including surveys and user-driven sessions to collect feedback.
- Phase 3 - Design: The design of the AKISConnect networking platform involved the process of "translating" the acquired user needs into functionalities for the platform.
- Phase 4 - Development: The process of implementing the functionalities and creating the features of the AKISConnect networking platform.
- Phase 5 - Deployment: Release and deployment of the platform in its existing form. The networking platform was initially launched on February 29th, 2023 in its MVP version.
- Phase 6 - Evaluation and feedback collection: The process of collecting input from users on the already established features of the platform, through surveys and user-driven sessions.
- Phase 7 - Prioritization of changes and adaptations planning: Identification of changes and adaptations to be made to the AKISConnect networking platform, as well as their urgency and implementation importance, following a process of internal feedback assessment (the internal review of the obtained feedback from the platform's development team).
- Phase 8 - Longevity and exploitation: The actions to be taken to ensure the platform stays operational even after the project's end.

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4. User needs collection and definition

4.1. User needs collection

This section reports the activities undertaken to better identify and frame the scope of the AKISConnect networking platform. For this purpose, inputs, and user feedback for the initial version of the platform were collected as part of the following activities. An overview of these activities is provided in Table 1 and detailed in the following subsections.

The initial survey was followed up with a series of workshops (4 online and 1 physical), inviting partners from modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS, to define an MVP version of AKISConnect to be delivered in February 2024. As the series of workshops evolved, with participants' strong engagement, the AUA team managed to refine iteratively the set of specifications and requirements for the platform and produce high-fidelity mock-ups that were used (i) as guidelines for the AUA development team as well as (ii) as a means of presenting the modernAKIS community platform's vision on any occasion AUA or other partners needed to.

Table 1: Overview of networking platform-related user input and feedback collection activities

Activity	Date	Mode/Place	Audience
User needs online survey	May 25 – June 7, 2023	Online survey	modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS partners
User needs identification session	June 26, 2023	Online workshop	modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS partners
User interaction paths using real scenarios based on online mock-ups	July 24, 2023	Online workshop	modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS partners
Prototype/MVP testing using online mock-ups	August 28, 2023	Online workshop	modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS partners
MVP validation and next steps in development	October 19, 2023	Joint modernAKIS & ATTRACTISS project meetings (Lisbon)	modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS partners

4.2. User needs identification session (May 25 - June 7, 2023)

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During this first step, feedback was collected from modernAKIS partners through an online survey, using the JotForm tool. Results were received from modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS partners from May 25th to June 7th, 2023. The total number of partners who answered the online survey was 25, all of whom constituted members of the two consortia, and the results are presented in Annex I. The survey questions revolved around participants' involvement in the AKIS ecosystem in terms of needs and expectations they would have from such a platform, as well as their current behaviour and feelings using existing AKIS-related platforms.

The items included in the survey allowed AUA to get insights into what partners consider should be taken into consideration for the design and development of the community platform's initial phase which was delivered in February 2024. Taking into consideration that most modernAKIS partners were also part of the broader AKIS network to be created, we asked for some initial views in order to ensure a common understanding with respect to the needs of the end-users and the value the platform will offer to them. These initial views helped us identify the most apparent and urgent user needs in order to translate them in a first set of requirements, specifications and platform designs.

The survey required approximately 20-30 minutes and was made up of four (4) sections. The list of questions asked is presented below:

SECTION 1: Information on the AKIS-related role of the respondents: The first section of the survey focuses on the collection of some generic information mostly related to the personal involvement of each respondent as an AKIS actor, taking into consideration that modernAKIS partners are also part of or related to an entity inside the modernAKIS network

1. Which of the roles listed below describes best your involvement in the modernAKIS project OR in the broader AKIS network? You may choose more than one option.
2. To which of the identified categories of AKIS network actors would you say you belong OR feel most related? (list of AKIS actors types)
3. Have you ever been involved in any AKIS-related group or activity before your participation in the modernAKIS project, and if so can you please describe your role and the context in which your participation took place?
4. As a partner of the modernAKIS project could you give some examples of what YOU seek OR what is your aim, when entering the modernAKIS community platform?

SECTION 2: Investigation of user needs regarding the content of the modernAKIS community platform: This section contained questions allowing the collection of important information, for making decisions on the most useful and relevant content to be hosted and served in the initial phase of the modernAKIS community platform (February 2024).

5. For which of the following AKIS actors' categories, do you consider the modernAKIS community platform to be most relevant? (list of AKIS actors types)
6. For any of the identified categories below, that you feel more familiar with, can you give some examples of what these users seek when entering modernAKIS community platform? Example: Researchers and academics: "they need to share new knowledge with AKIS actors" (list of AKIS actors types)
7. For any of the identified categories below, that you feel more familiar with, could you give some examples of content (e.g, regarding people, organizations, documents,

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events, trainings, etc.) that the respective category would like to have access to when entering modernAKIS community platform? (list of AKIS actors types)

8. Would you be willing to contribute to the creation and sharing of content/resources of the modernAKIS community platform? Can you please give some examples of this content?
9. Is there specific content/information that you would prefer to share in a private mode (e.g. forum with restricted access, discussion groups/channels, private group chats)? Can you give some examples of information that you would like to share in private mode and who would participate in these private interactions?
10. Are you aware of any digital platforms providing information on the AKIS concept, whether already existing in your country on a national level or that you have used on an international level?

SECTION 3: Investigation of functionalities of the modernAKIS community platform: This section contained questions allowing the collection of important information on the design and engineering of the functionalities and specific actions that users will be performing in the modernAKIS community platform.

11. In case you are aware of or have used any digital platform relevant to the AKIS concept in the past, could you let us know which they are? Use commas to separate one example from the other.
12. In your opinion, what are the major difficulties in using digital platforms related to AKIS concept? (You may choose more than one of the options available.)

SECTION 4: Investigation of modernAKIS community platform's interoperability with other EU-project platforms: This section contained questions allowing the collection of important information on the different manners in which the modernAKIS community platform could be connected with web platforms from related EU projects.

13. Which of the following EU projects listed below do you consider more relevant to modernAKIS and therefore should be interoperable or connected to the modernAKIS community platform?
14. Based on your level of involvement or familiarity with any of the above EU projects/platforms, can you please provide some examples, describing a case of interaction between modernAKIS community platform and one of the above listed projects, in terms of content or actors involved? (e.g, ATTRACTISS will collect ISS tools & methods which will be hosted in modernAKIS platform, OR some video recordings from modernAKIS activities could also be uploaded in EU-FarmBook, etc.)
15. Are there any additional insights that you wish to be captured at this stage, which have not been already covered?

4.3. User needs identification session (June 26, 2023)

In this 90-minute online session, the AUA team begun with a 10-minute introduction, outlining the design process and meeting goals. A 10-minute analysis of recent survey results followed where we presented and discussed participants' responses, including the types of content they are willing to share, reasons for private sharing, and challenges faced

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on other digital platforms. Additionally, AUA team presented insights from four EU projects, highlighting key outcomes, as shown in Figures 4a and 4b.

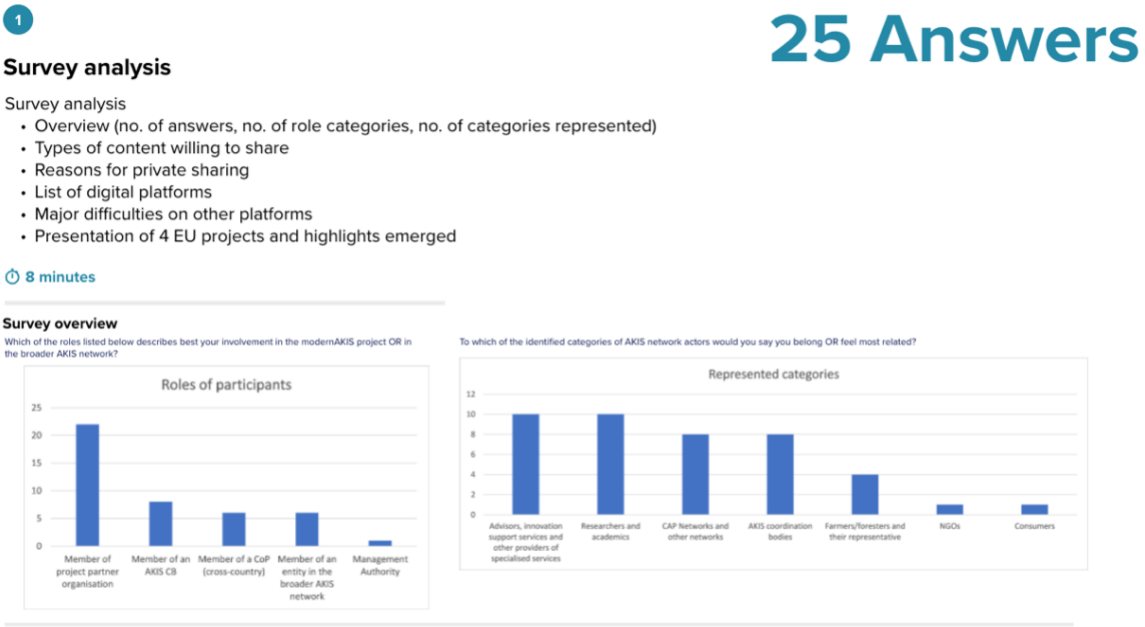

Figure 4a: Presentation of survey results during the online workshop, June 26, 2023

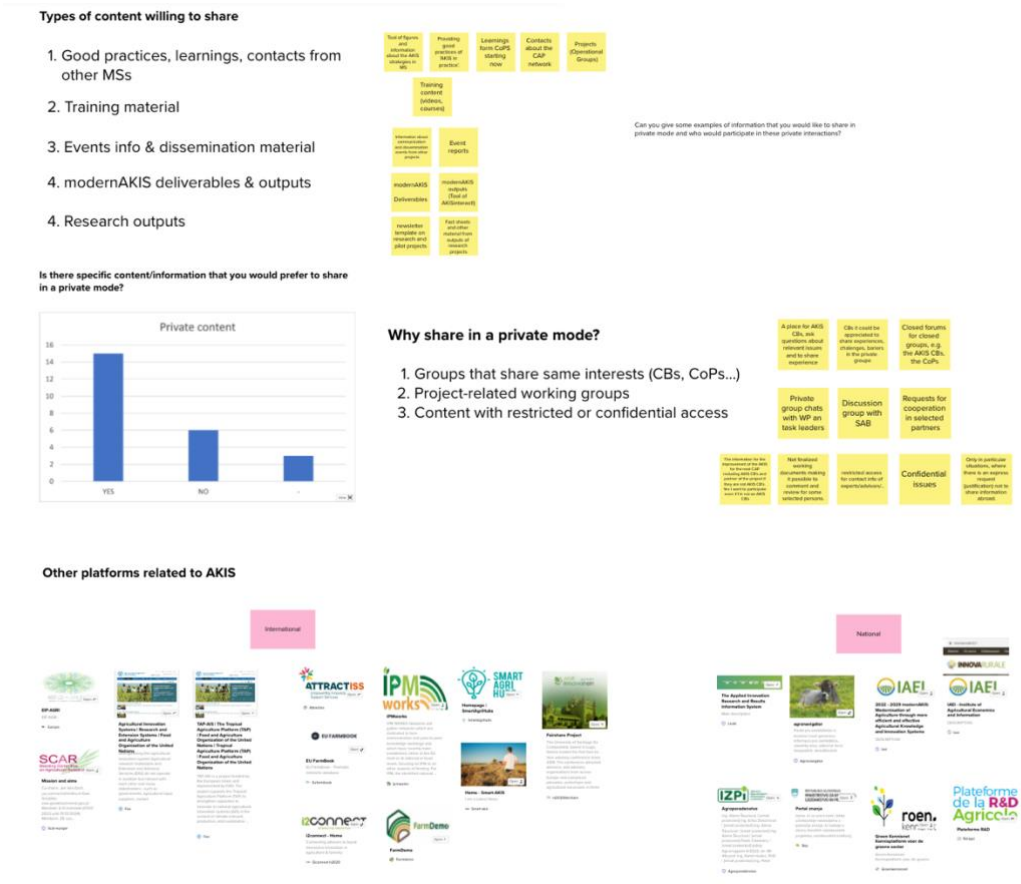

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Figure 4b: Presentation of survey results during the online workshop, June 26, 2023

The core of the session, lasting 50 minutes, focused on analysing open questions and discussing outcomes related to needs, networking, and content types. Firstly, the AUA team presented their conclusions regarding the identified needs per AKIS Actor type, as shown in Figures 5a and 5b.

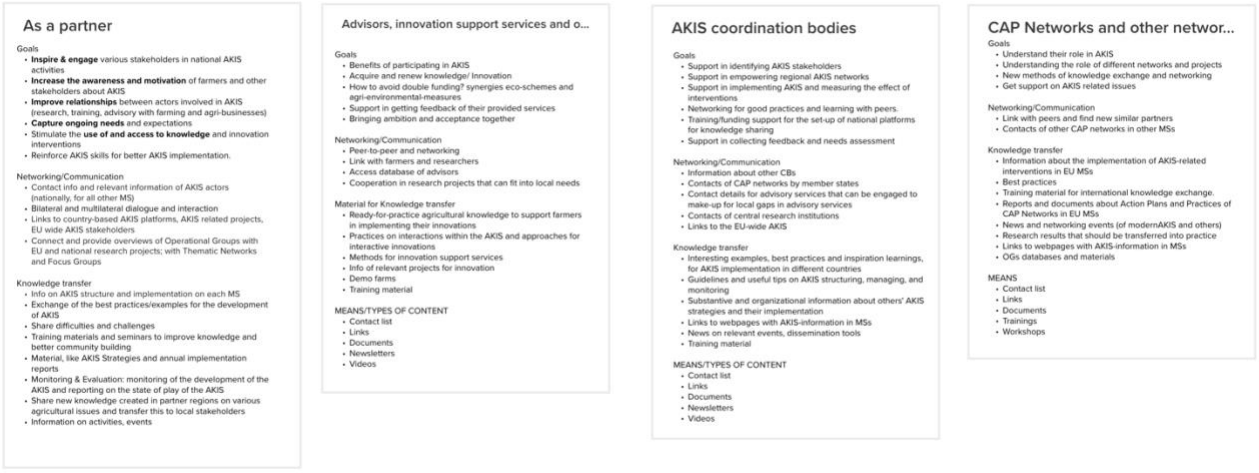

Figure 5a: Presentation of identified users' needs during the online workshop, June 26, 2023

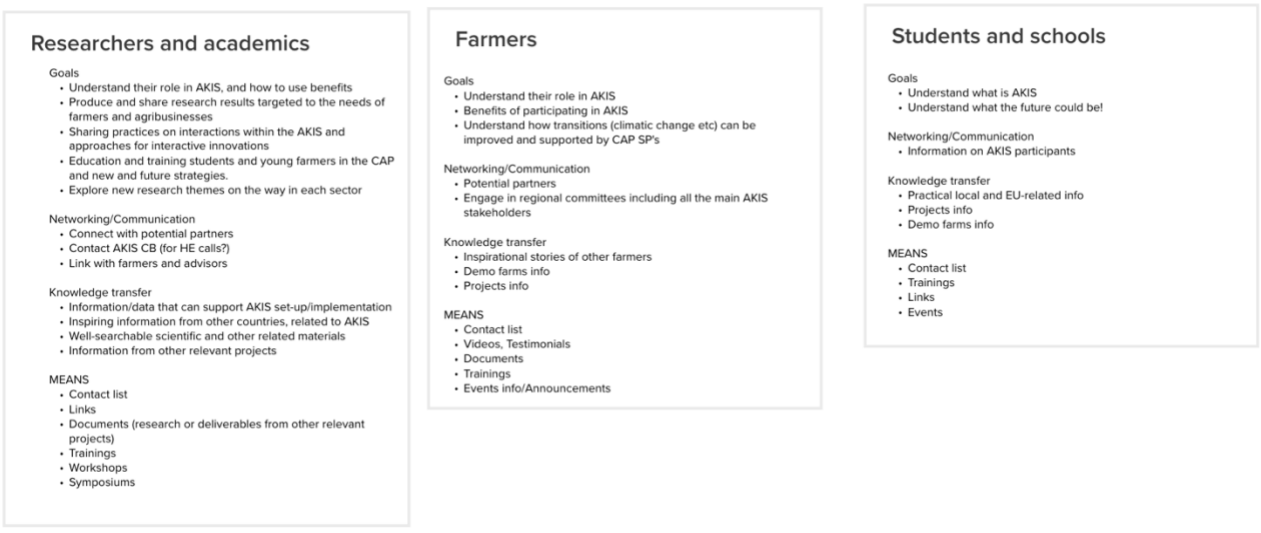

Figure 5b: Presentation of identified users' needs during the online workshop, June 26, 2023

Afterwards, the AUA team engaged the participants in collaborative activities, where they provided feedback, voted on preferred content and interaction types, and offered suggestions for improvement, as shown in Figure 6. All the results produced from this session are presented in Annex II.

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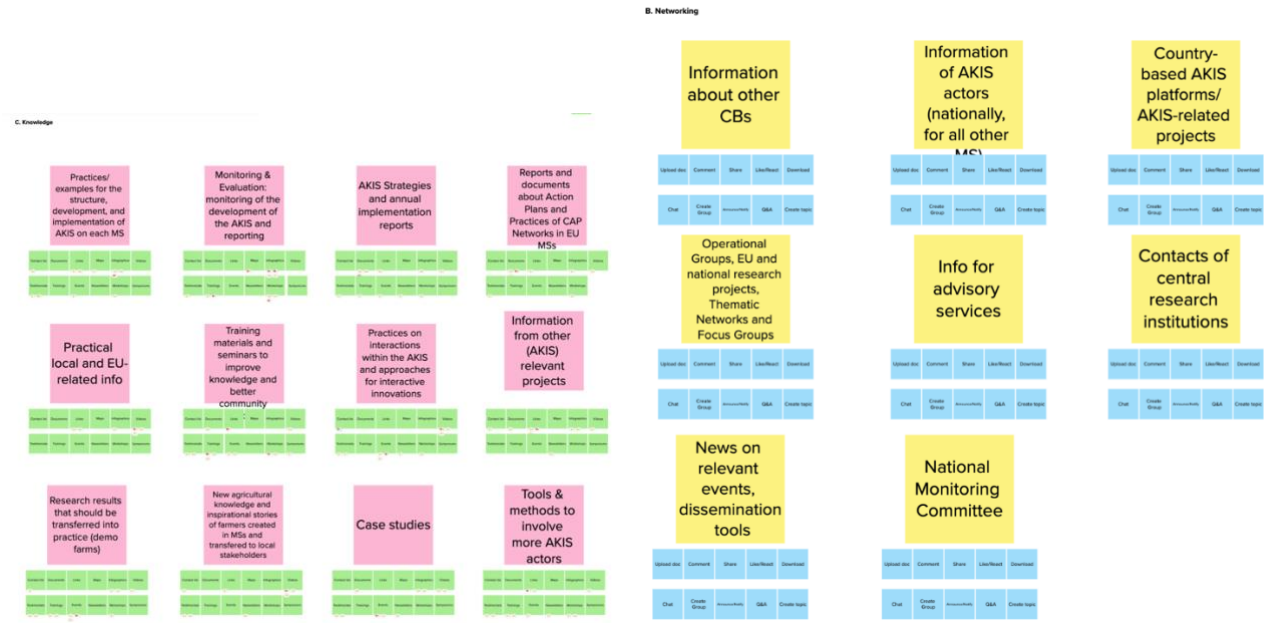

Figure 6: An example board for participants to vote and provide feedback during the online workshop, June 26, 2023

4.4. User interaction paths using real scenarios based on online mock-ups (July 24, 2023)

During the second co-design session, the AUA team created an interactive exercise based on the user scenarios method. The user scenario method is just one of the many user-centered design techniques, and it aims to ensure that the web application caters to the needs and expectations of its target users, resulting in a more user-friendly and effective product. By mapping out the different user journeys suggested by the participants, the AUA team was able to identify opportunities to enhance the user experience, streamline navigation, and improve specific features such as AKIS actor profiles, resources for download, the academy section with training materialas, as well as the networking capabilities. This understanding facilitated the design and development of the AKISConnect platform, ensuring it effectively serves the users' needs and enables them to find the support and resources they seek within the European AKIS network.

After a short presentation of the process and the objectives, the participants were divided into groups and their objectives were to agree on the basic needs the community platform is going to serve and co-create user journeys through the platform. Participants of each group were encouraged to describe systematically the journeys they are expected to follow in the platform, based on five most common scenarios from the previous workshop, as shown in the list below:

1. **AKIS actors:** *Users want to easily find and access information about actors in the European AKIS network.*
2. **Networking:** *Users want to engage in discussions and dialogue with other AKIS actors.*
3. **Knowledge flows:** *Users seek access to knowledge resources to enhance their understanding of AKIS strategies, interventions, good practices, testimonials, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting.*

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4. **Capacity building:** *Users are interested in AKIS-related practical knowledge, tools, and methods they can apply to their work.*
5. **Support:** *Users require assistance with AKIS-related topics and issues.*

Participants of each group were encouraged to describe systematically the journeys they are expected to follow in the platform, following the interactive mock-ups. Participants consisted of project partners whose level of familiarity with the platform's scope was variable:

- Some partners were already heavily involved in the project's WPs and tasks, acting more like the platform's "owners", meaning that during several processes they were providing ideas and content acting as inspiration for the platform's features and functionalities.
- Other partners were considered more like the platform's users, meaning that they needed more detailed explanations on how the platform is expected to serve their needs, and therefore required more motivation to provide their insights.

The aim for the AUA team was to get more insight into users' needs and expectations in order to refine the initial mock-ups and progress in designing the final set of mock-ups for the platform's MVP. An example of the several user journeys produced is shown in Figure 7. All the results produced from this session are presented in Annex III.

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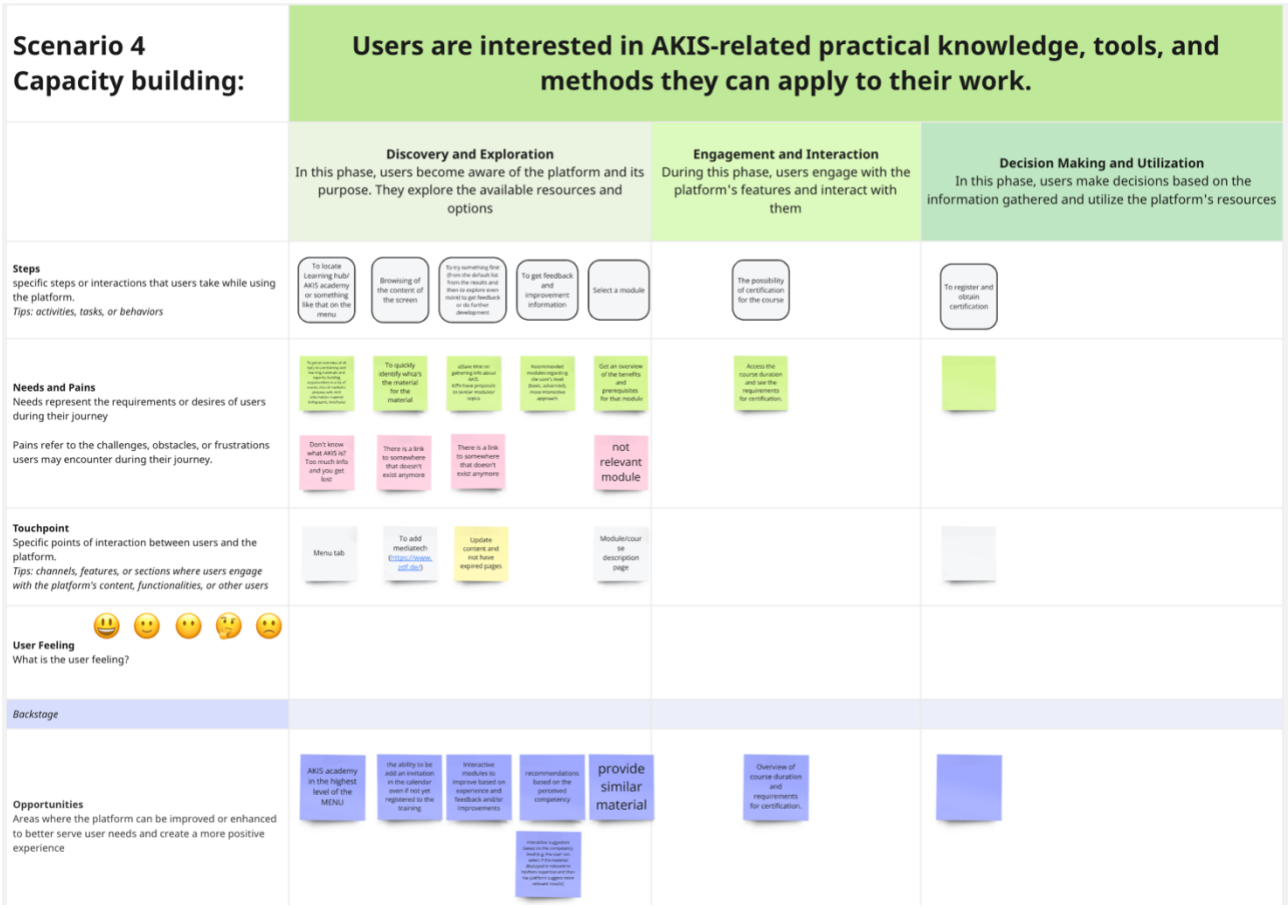

Figure 7: Example of a scenario building exercise during the online workshop, July 24, 2023

4.5. Prototype/MVP testing using online mock-ups (August 28, 2023)

A prototype for a digital platform is a functional and interactive representation of the user interface and user experience (UI/UX) of the platform. Unlike a static mock-up, a prototype allows users and stakeholders to interact with the interface, navigate between screens, and experience the flow of the platform as if it were a real product. Prototypes are used to test and validate design concepts, gather user feedback, and identify any usability issues before moving on to the development phase.

Before a full-fledged product as the MVP of modernAKIS community platforms launched its development phase, user testing was conducted on prototypes or minimum viable products (MVPs) to validate concepts and gather early insights. For this workshop, participants were given a presentation of the existing mock-ups of the platform through an interactive link. They were later given specific tasks to complete, and their ability to successfully complete these tasks was assessed. This helped in uncovering any roadblocks, bottlenecks, or confusion that users may encounter while trying to accomplish their goals.

The main elements which were tested were the following:

1. Visual Design: Layout, colour schemes, typography, and visual elements
2. Information Architecture: Content and its organization
3. Navigation and Flow: Clarity of menus, buttons, links, and overall flow of moving between pages

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4. Usability and Interactivity: Experience with interactive elements such as buttons, dropdowns etc.

A list of tasks was given to the participants in order to assess their interaction with the MVP prototype:

1. *A colleague of yours who is new to the AKIS concept would like to know more and understand what AKIS is. You want to explore if there is any educational content that would help you achieve this goal and in which way you could share this information with your colleague.*
2. *Part of your work duty is to implement specific parts of the CAP regarding AKIS in your country. However, you are new to these concepts, and you would like to take advice, ask, or follow discussions from more experienced people, especially on the topic of funding opportunities.*
3. *You want to explore if Greece as a Member State, already has a Coordination Body (CB) and who is in charge of it, and ideally contact someone from the CB.*
4. *You are searching for advisory services in Greece, which are part of the AKIS network. You would like to have an overview of this data as well as retrieve it, for future use outside the platform.*
5. *You have been asked to search if there is any documentation of practices related to AKIS implementation in your country on a specific topic and retrieve them.*

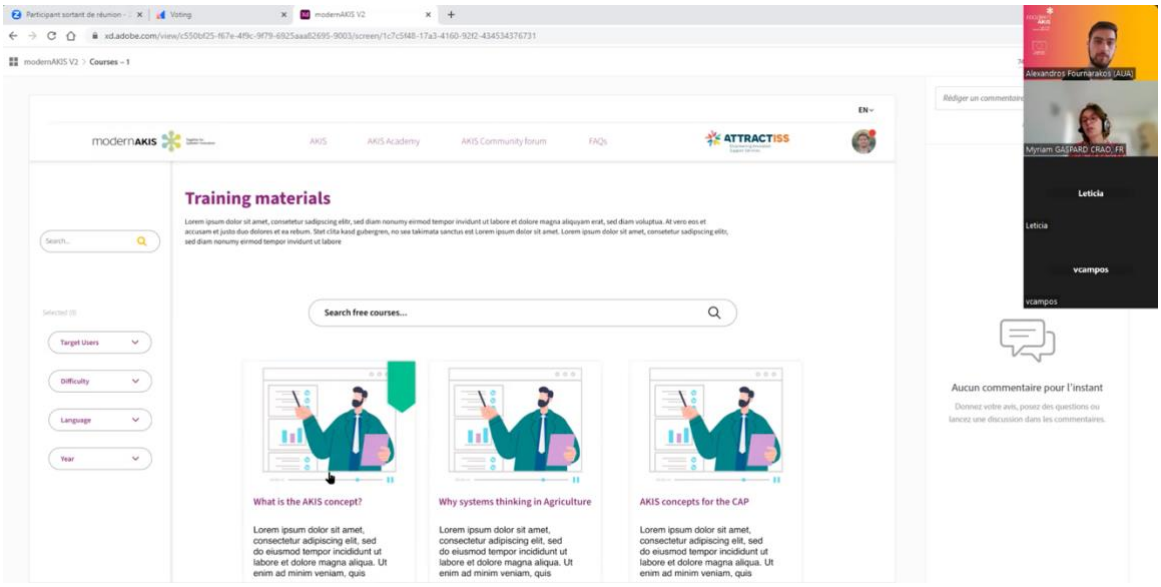

Figure 8: Example of a user testing session during the online workshop, August 28, 2023

After the testing phase, which was recorded, a second round followed where participants were asked questions through the Mentimeter online survey tool, regarding the navigation menu and the relevance of labels presented in the prototype, as shown in an example in Figure 9. All the results produced from this session are presented in Annex IV.

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Figure 9: Example of a feedback question on navigation menu, during the online workshop, August 28, 2023

4.6. MVP validation and next steps in development (October 19, 2023)

The primary goal of this collaborative session was to identify early adopters of the AKISConnect community platform while establishing a strong connection between their needs and pains and the platform features that have been designed so far. By fostering open discussion and teamwork, the AUA partner aimed to finalise the mock-ups of the community platform to cater to the specific requirements of our early adopters, for the first version launched in February 2024. The intention was to define a list with the most important and crucial features and functionalities to be included in the first version, which would allow the early adopters satisfy their basic needs and become the ambassadors of AKISConnect to the rest of AKIS ecosystem, catering for its growth and its establishment as the main networking platform for AKIS actors in EU level.

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Initially participants were presented with 3 lists:

List of Target Users	List of Needs & Pains	List of platform features
1. **Advisory service/advisors** 2. **Farmer / forester** 3. **Researcher / scientist** 4. **AKIS CBs** 5. **Innovation support service** 6. **CAP network or other network** 7. **SMEs and rural entrepreneurs** 8. **Consumers** 9. **Students /teachers/schools** 10. **Financial body** 11. **Governmental organisation / ministry**	1. Access to a safe space for direct discussion & collaboration 2. Make announcements, recognise issues and collaborate instantly 3. Join active network that provides up-to date activities 4. Track events and networking activities 5. Learn what others doing 6. Share experiences 7. Understand my role in AKIS network 8. Reinforce AKIS skills and knowledge for better CAP implementation 9. Find Information about MS's structure, practices, policy framework, funding opportunities 10. Explore opportunities and constraints for innovative interventions 11. Expand skills and personal toolkit	1. Public discussion forum 2. Private chat room 3. EU AKIS map 4. MS pages 5. Training modules 6. Practices collection 7. Events 8. Calendar 9. Innovation tools & methods 10. AKIS interactions 11. Swot analysis

In this session, participants voted in order to select early adopters from a target user list, identifying their needs and pains, and map these to platform features. Teams then crafted clear, actionable sentences for each early adopters and engaged in open discussions to refine their insights. An example of a board created in this session is presented in Figure 10.

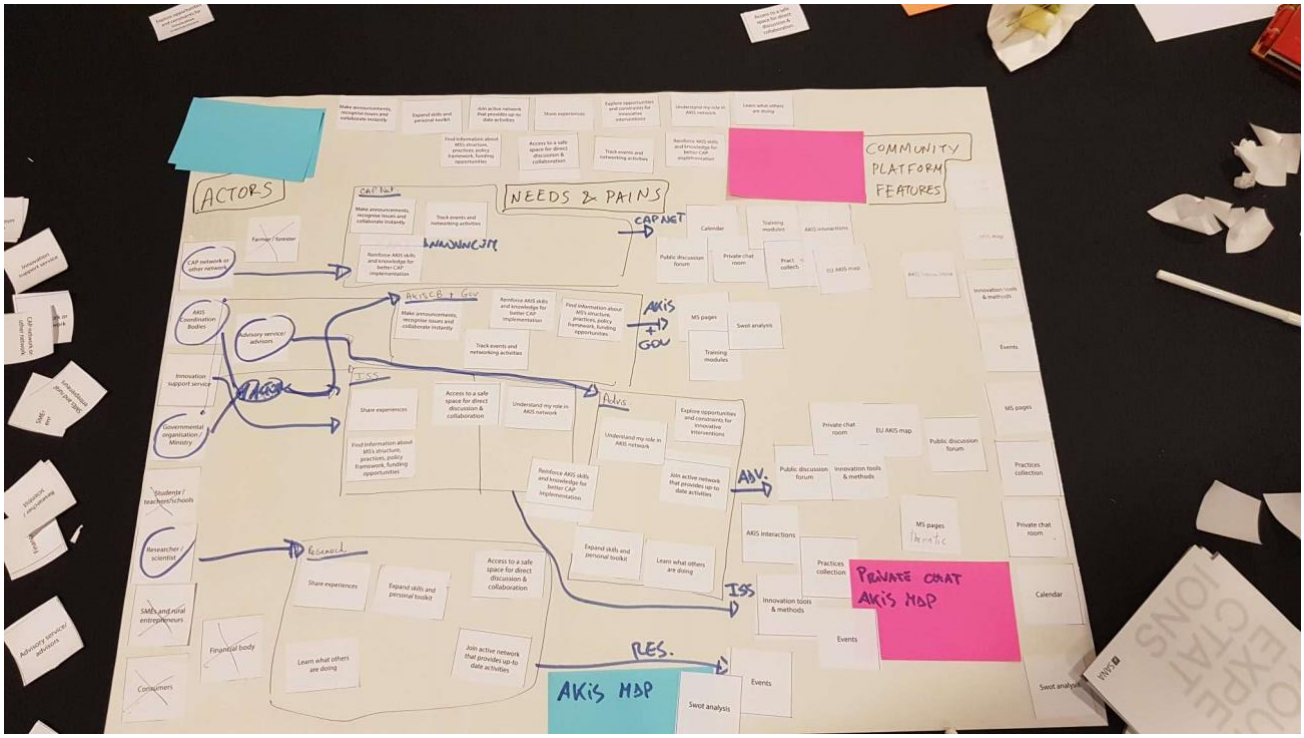

Figure 10: Example of a board created for the identification of AKISConnect MVP, during the physical workshop, October 19, 2023

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After this face-to-face workshop, which took place in Lisbon, during the joint modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS project meeting, the MVP of AKISConnect community platform was thoroughly defined and validated by the consortium of partners. The main functionalities, which were finally delivered in the first version, are described in the following sections, based on specific requirements produced from the design process. The features designed but not finalized, in terms of specific requirements, will be finalized gradually and incorporated in the next versions of the AKISConnect platform.

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5. AKISConnect networking platform requirements

5.1. Non-functional requirements

In this section, we list all the non-functional requirements that are essential for the background operations and conditions necessary for the AKISConnect networking platform to function smoothly and provide an optimal user experience.

According to the principles outlined in Karl Wiegers and Joy Beatty's book[2] "Software Requirements," non-functional requirements define the system's properties and constraints that must be presented to users. These requirements impose limitations on the development of the product, addressing aspects like performance, usability, reliability, security, and supportability. Essentially, non-functional requirements set the standards for the system's qualities, characteristics, and constraints; focusing on how the system should perform rather than on its specific functions or behaviours. In the context of the AKISConnect platform, this document explores non-functional requirements with a particular focus on performance and security considerations.

- **User Interface**

The UI/UX design adheres to the two project's branding guidelines and visual identity, including colour schemes, typography, and logos, as described in the respective styling guidelines of both modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS deliverables. It has been decided not to create an entirely new logo for AKISConnect, however the AUA design team has managed to combine the existing two logos to create a combination of both, to create a universal feel for the AKISConnect platform entity, as shown in Figure 11. The use of appropriate visual cues, such as icons and graphics, enhances the overall user experience and facilitates quick recognition and understanding.

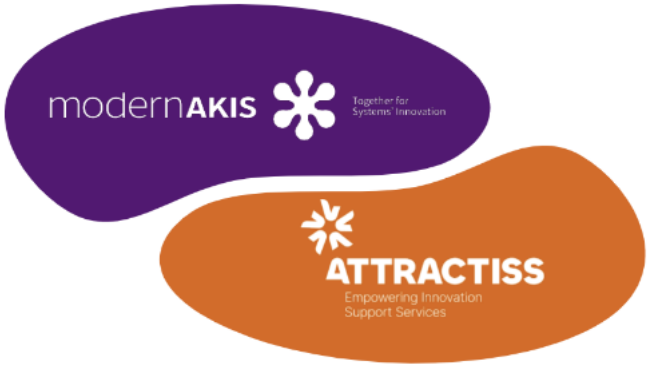

Figure 11: The AKISConnect logo created combining from modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS logos

The user interface is crafted with a responsive design, ensuring seamless functionality across various devices and screen sizes. The layout and content adjust automatically to deliver an optimal experience on desktops, laptops, tablets, and mobile devices. Accessibility was a key consideration in the UI design and development, following standards such as WCAG 2.0[3]. The design includes features like adequate colour contrast, resizable text, keyboard navigation support, and alternative text for images, making the platform compatible with specialized software that assists users with disabilities. Throughout the lifecycle of both projects, usability feedback mechanisms will be in place, allowing end-users

[2] Karl E Wiegers and Joy Beatty. 2013. Software Requirements 3. Microsoft Press, USA.
[3] https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/

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to provide input. This feedback is essential for identifying unclear features or areas needing improvement, ensuring the AKISConnect platform consistently meets user needs and expectations.

The AKISConnect platform follows the layout structure that divides the content into three distinct sections: header, body, and footer. This layout provides a clear and consistent framework for presenting information and elements on a web page.

The AKISConnect platform consists of several pages/screens and multiple components to provide all the features described in the Functional Requirements (Section 5.2).

- **Performance Requirements**

Performance requirements relate to the criteria under which the platform should operate. These criteria focus on the ability of the platform to perform its operations, within a specific operational environment, in an efficient and effective way.

Response time: Response time refers to the maximum allowable duration for the platform to react to a user's action or request. The AKISConnect digital platform is expected to function as a progressive web application, ensuring swift response times for various user interactions and tasks, including page loading, transaction processing, executing search queries, and more. The platform should have a maximum response time of 3 seconds and normal response time of 1 second and this can be validated through real-time monitoring of the requests on the production server.

Throughput: Throughput can be defined as the number of concurrent user requests the platform should be able to handle within a specified timeframe. The AKISConnect digital platform should be able to process a minimum throughput of 1,000 user requests per second. Load testing can be used to validate the throughput of the platform in the production server.

Resource Utilisation: Resource utilisation can be defined as the maximum allowed consumption of system resources in terms of CPU, memory, disk usage, and network bandwidth. The AKISConnect digital platform should ensure that utilisation of CPU will remain below 70%, memory utilisation below 80% and disk usage below 70% within normal operations. Resource utilisation can be validated via real-time system monitoring and performance testing.

Availability: Availability can be defined as the desired uptime percentage that indicates the amount of time the system should be accessible and operational for the end users. The AKISConnect digital platform should have a minimum availability of 99.9% during a calendar month. Availability can be validated via monitoring tools that record uptime and downtime events. Analysing these events can produce the actual availability percentage and compare it with the target requirement.

- **Security Requirements**

Authentication: The AKISConnect digital platform should implement an authentication mechanism to verify the identities of end-users and ensure that only authorised individuals can access specific operations of the system. Username and password will be requested for the authentication procedure, where strong hash algorithms should be used to safely store sensitive user information to the database.

Authorization and Access Control: Authorization and access control mechanisms allow for systems to restrict access to specific sets of functionalities/operations, data and or

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resources based on a set of rules and policies set by the system owner. The platform should enforce appropriate authorization and access control policies to restrict user access to specific functionalities, data, or resources based on their roles and privileges.

Data confidentiality: The platform should protect sensitive data by implementing appropriate encryption mechanisms, both during transit and storage. This includes using secure protocols (e.g., HTTPS) for data transmission and encryption algorithms (e.g., AES) for data at rest to prevent unauthorised access and data breaches.

Data integrity: The AKISConnect digital platform should ensure data integrity by implementing mechanisms to detect and prevent unauthorised or unintended modifications to data, ensuring its accuracy and reliability.

Secure coding practices: The source code of the AKISConnect digital platform should follow secure and best coding practices to avoid or at least mitigate common vulnerabilities (i.e., SQL injection, cross-site scripting etc.) and ensure the overall security of the system.

Access Logs: The AKISConnect digital platform should maintain extensive audit logs of user activities and events in a secure location. These logs should be monitored to detect and respond to security (or any other) incidents or suspicious activities.

Security Updates: The AKISConnect digital platform should regularly receive and apply security updates to address known vulnerabilities, software bugs, and emerging security threats. The updates should be obtained from reliable sources and applied in a timely manner to ensure the platform's security remains up to date.

5.2. Functional requirements

The functional requirements of the AKISConnect platform, defined for its MVP version, delivered on February 29, 2024, are presented in the following sections through screenshots from the live version of the platform. The main features and functionalities that have already been incorporated in the first version of AKISConnect.eu, released on March 1, 2024 include:

1. Users are presented with all relevant information from the homepage
2. Call-to-action buttons and prompts for redirection to inner pages, are present throughout the homepage
3. User registration as a network member
    a. Users have access to register/login/profile menus through the navigation bar
    b. Users are able to create their accounts
    c. Users are able to verify their accounts
    d. Users are able to receive 2 step verification emails
    e. Users can login into the platform
    f. Users can update their profiles, by editing their data
4. Interactive map presenting all registered AKIS actors across Europe
    a. Users are able to browse through the map and see number of AKIS actors per EU country

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   b. Users are able to use filters to view only specific AKIS actors type in the map
   c. Users are able to click on a country and select to see dedicated view for the selected country's AKIS network
   d. Users are able to see another user's public data in a short and a more detailed view
5. Interactive map presenting Member States' actions, regarding CAP interventions
   a. Users are presented with information related to CAP interventions in EU-level
   b. Users are able to browse through the map and select a country from the 27 Member States (MSs)
   c. Users are able to see a dedicated view for the selected an MS's CAP interventions, strategies and information about its Coordination Body
   d. Users are able to download an AKIS strategy document for the MS
6. Users have access to practical AKIS examples, as compiled for "*D1.3: Compendium of insightful new know-how and ready- for-practice solutions*"
   a. Users are presented with a list of AKIS practices to select from
   b. Users are able to use filters to view only specific AKIS
   c. Users are able to see a dedicated view for the selected AKIS practice and have access to relevant material and media
   d. Users are able to download an AKIS practice document
7. Users have access to a list of events and workshops, in the context of the 2 projects
   a. Users are able to see a list of past and upcoming events.
   b. Users are able to use filters to view only specific events
   c. Users are able to see a dedicated view for a selected event have access to relevant material and media
   d. Users are able to register to an event
8. Users have access to a list of ISS tools and methods, in the context of the 2 projects
   a. Users are able to browse through a list of ISS tools and methods.
   b. Users are able to use filters to view only specific ISS tools and methods
   c. Users are able to see a dedicated view for a selected ISS tool and methods and have access to relevant material and media
9. Users have access to a SWOT analysis tool, created in the context of ATTRACTISS project, serving both audiences
   a. Users are able to create an online SWOT analysis relevant to AKIS and ISS concepts

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b. Users are able to save as draft and submit the final version to the AKISConnect administrators.

10. Administrator users have an administration panel
    a. Administrators are able to update existing data models with new attributes
    b. Administrators are able to moderate update data provided from users.
    c. Administrators are able to upload new entries, including: events, AKIS practices, AKIS strategies, ISS tools & methods
11. Administrator users have access to a platform analytics mechanism (Google analytics)

All additional features and functionalities that have already been initiated in terms of discussion and preliminary design will be iteratively refined and incorporated into the existing AKISConnect platform. Their integration will be documented in a next version of this deliverable *D2.10: Report on Networking platform operation: First Update*.

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6. Software development of AKISConnect platform

For the software development of the AKISConnect digital platform, a stack of modern technologies and frameworks was used in order to develop this fully fledged web application, as shown in Figure 12. All relevant technologies are explained in the following sections.

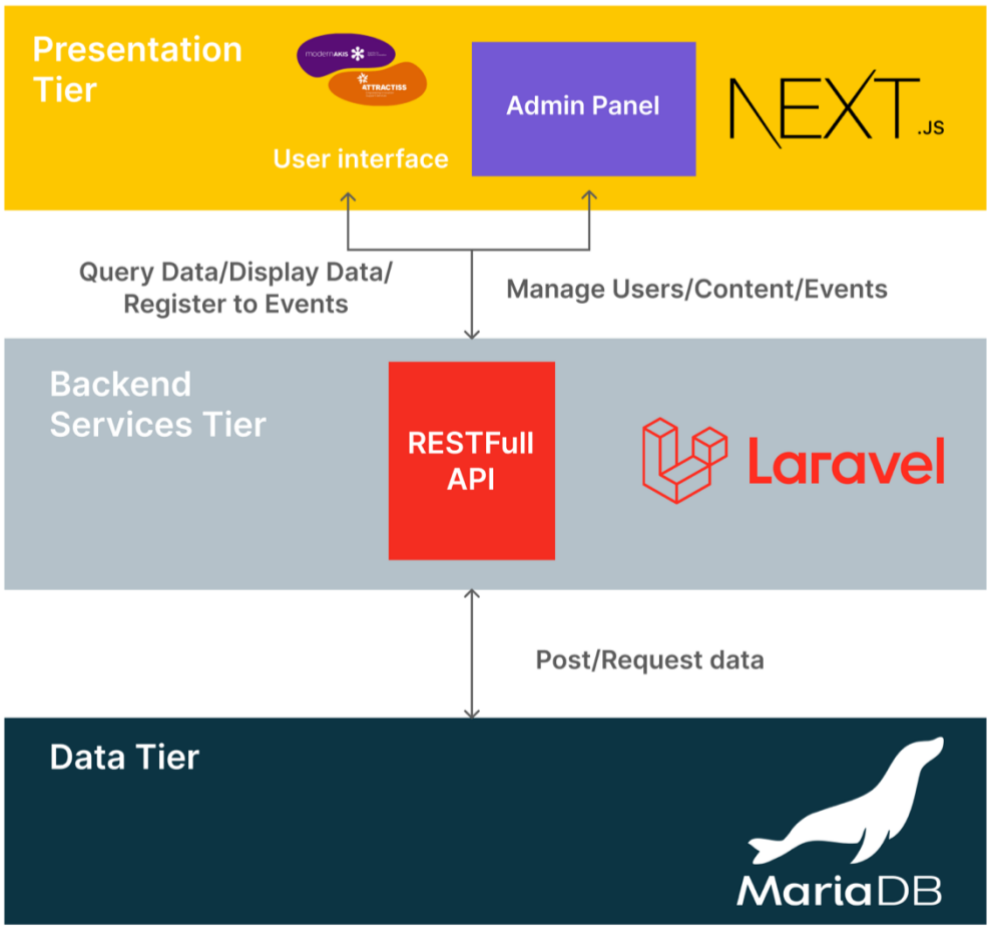

Figure 12: The technology stack used in AKISConnect platform

6.1. Backend development

The backend section of the platform was created using Laravel, and Maria daabase (DB).

- Laravel is a PHP web application framework and serves as the cornerstone of the AKISConnect platform's backend. It was used for routing and middleware, database management as well as authentication and security. Laravel is a robust PHP framework designed to simplify the development of web applications by providing an elegant syntax and a comprehensive set of tools. It emphasizes clean, readable code and follows the Model-View-Controller (MVC) architectural pattern, making it easy to build and maintain scalable applications. Laravel includes features like Eloquent ORM for seamless database interactions, Blade templating engine for efficient UI rendering, and built-in tools for routing, authentication, and testing. Its extensive ecosystem, including packages like Laravel Forge and Laravel Vapor, further enhances the development workflow, making Laravel a preferred choice for developers building modern, secure, and high-performing web applications.
- The database containing all data was designed using MariaDB. MariaDB is a highly popular open-source relational database management system (RDBMS), designed

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to efficiently maintain structured data, enhancing data integrity and availability, aiming to create a flexible and versatile database. MariaDB that evolved as a community-driven fork of MySQL. It is known for its reliability, high performance, and rich feature set, making it a strong choice for handling large-scale data operations. MariaDB offers advanced capabilities for synchronous multi-master replication, a variety of storage engines, and powerful tools for data analysis and management. It is designed to be fully compatible with MySQL, allowing for easy migration and integration with existing MySQL databases. With its focus on security, scalability, and performance, MariaDB is widely used in enterprise environments, providing a solid foundation for modern web applications and data-driven projects. Moreover, its fully open-source nature encourages open collaboration between developers, contributing to rapid development of new features and updates.

In order to effectively store and organize all the data available on the AKISConnect digital platform, a set of tables depicting their relationships were designed and illustrated in the following Entity Relationship Diagrams (ERD). Each table represents an individual entity in the database (e.g., AKIS actors, Events, AKIS practices, AKIS strategies, and more), interconnected with each other through relational tables, as shown in Figure 13. The design of the database follows the normalization principle, which dictates the organization of the data focusing on redundancy and dependency minimization for data integrity.

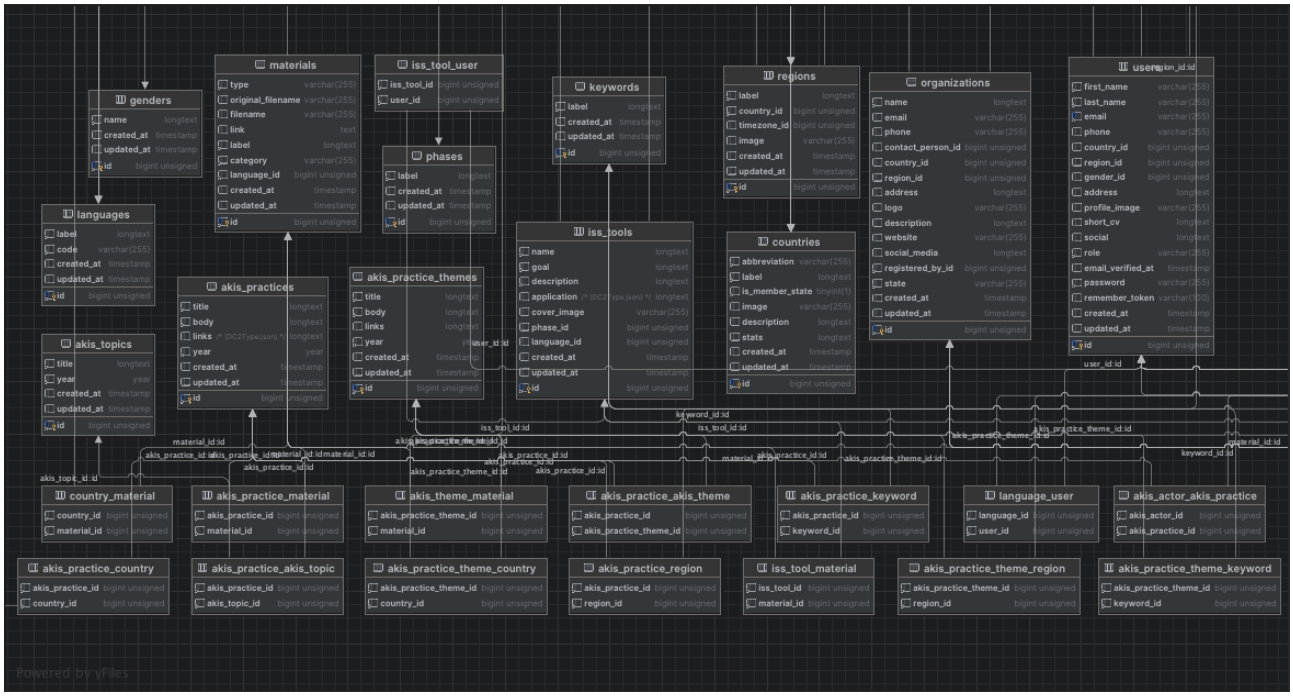

Figure 13: A screenshot from AKISConnect platform's ERD schema

Data aggregation and database population were based on the following principles:

- close collaboration with the partners responsible for the data collection;
- establishment of a data exchange framework (sharing tools, storage needs) to facilitate the data transfer;
- normalization of the data from its collection to final storage according to the data model; and
- final transformation and loading in the database

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6.2. Frontend development

The front-end development of the AKISConnect platform has been created using Next and Bootstrap

- Next.js is a powerful React framework that enables developers to build server-rendered and statically generated web applications with ease. It offers features like automatic code splitting, optimized performance, and seamless routing, making it an ideal choice for creating dynamic, fast-loading websites. With built-in support for server-side rendering (SSR) and static site generation (SSG), Next.js improves Search engine Optimization (SEO) and user experience by delivering pages quickly. Additionally, its developer-friendly environment simplifies the setup and deployment processes, making it a popular choice for both small projects and large-scale applications.
- On the other hand, Bootstrap is a responsive, CSS-based framework that simplifies the creation of visually appealing and user-friendly interfaces. Its pre-designed components, responsive grid system, and extensive library of CSS and JavaScript components accelerate front-end development while ensuring compatibility across various devices and screen sizes.

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7. AKISConnect platform features (Version 1)

7.1. Header

A header section, as shown in Figure 14, is prevalent and present in all application views and in all screen sizes, it is presented in a responsive way, shown as a vertical menu in smaller mobile screens. It includes the two project logos, the navigation menu as well as the authentication buttons (register, login).

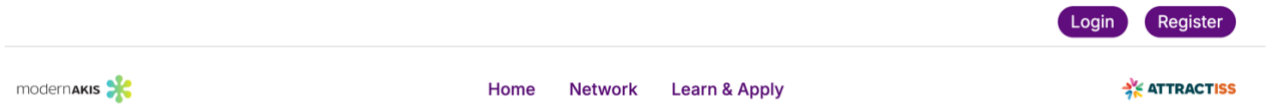

Figure 14: The header of AKISConnect platform

7.2. Footer

A footer section, as shown in Figure 15 is also present in all application views and in all screen sizes. It is also presented in a responsive way in smaller mobile screens. It includes the combined logo, all navigation menu items, links to the two projects' social media as well as links to the Privacy policy and the Cookies Policy.

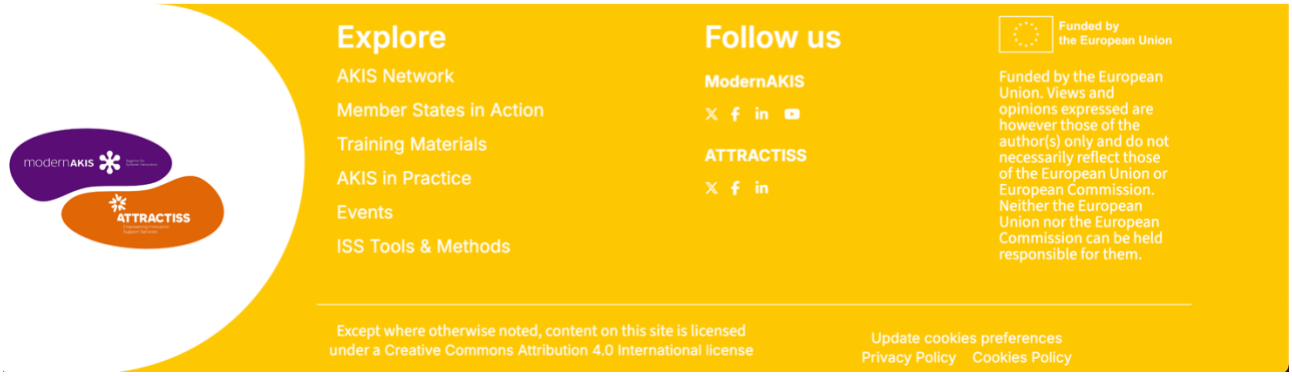

Figure 15: The footer menu of AKISConnect platform

7.3. Navigation Menu

A navigation menu section, is also present in all application views and in all screen sizes. It is expandable in three levels as shown in Figure 16 and includes links to all inner pages in the AKISConnect application.

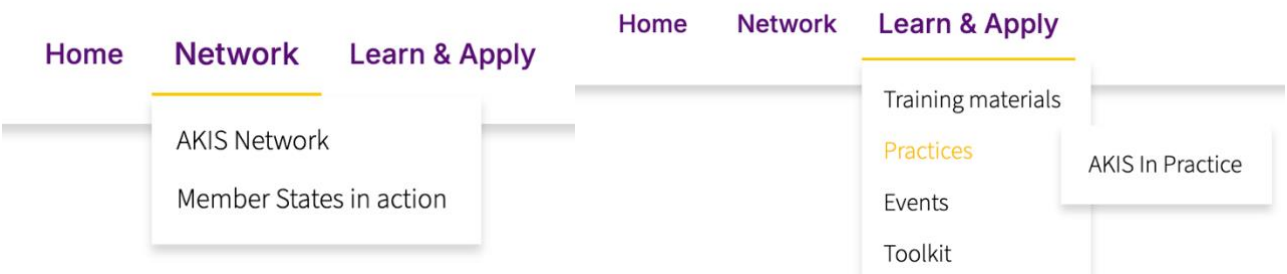

Figure 16: The navigation menu of AKISConnect platform

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7.4. Homepage

The homepage is the first page users see when entering the AKISConnect platform, as shown in Figure 17. It is aimed to welcome newcomers to this platform who land on the homepage without previous knowledge of the two projects, and present the main vision behind the platform, as well as provide quick access to all nested pages.



Figure 17: The homepage of AKISConnect platform

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Its purpose is to welcome the users, especially the newcomers, and have suitable content and CTAs (calls to action: buttons, links..) which (i) present in an easy and attractive way the common concepts and objectives of the two projects (modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS) and (ii) invite the user to perform some actions in the first seconds they enter the platform, for example: register in the network, explore the AKIS practices content, etc.

7.5. Registration to AKISConnect community platform

The user is able to create a profile/account in the AKISConnect community platform to receive a personalised user experience. A dedicated menu item is available to the users to access the registration form, shown in Figure 18. By accessing the registration form, users are asked to provide their email and preferred password. Validation mechanisms are present, forcing users to create strong passwords and ensuring no duplicate emails exist on the platform. Passwords are stored encrypted in the database.



Figure 18: The user registration page of AKISConnect platform

7.6. Logging in to AKISConnect community platform

The platform allows users to log into the AKISConnect platform by providing the appropriate email and password. A dedicated menu item is available in the header area of the platform, allowing users to access the login form, shown in Figure 19. When logged in, the section on the header area presents the name indicating the account under which the user is authenticated into the system, where a logout link is also present.

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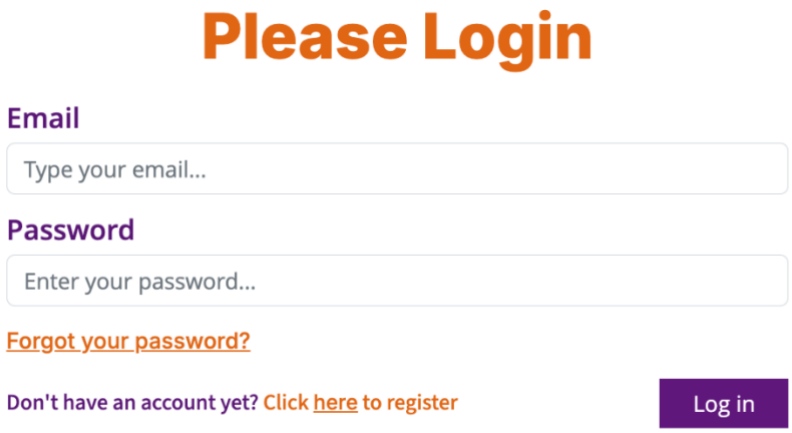

Figure 19: The login page of AKISConnect platform

7.7. Access to user profile

The platform allows authenticated users to access the profile page, shown in Figure 20, and modify the registered information about themselves. Authenticated users are able to access their profile page by selecting their email as shown in the header area. Validation mechanisms on the profile form should ensure that no required field is left empty, and the information provided by the users is valid.

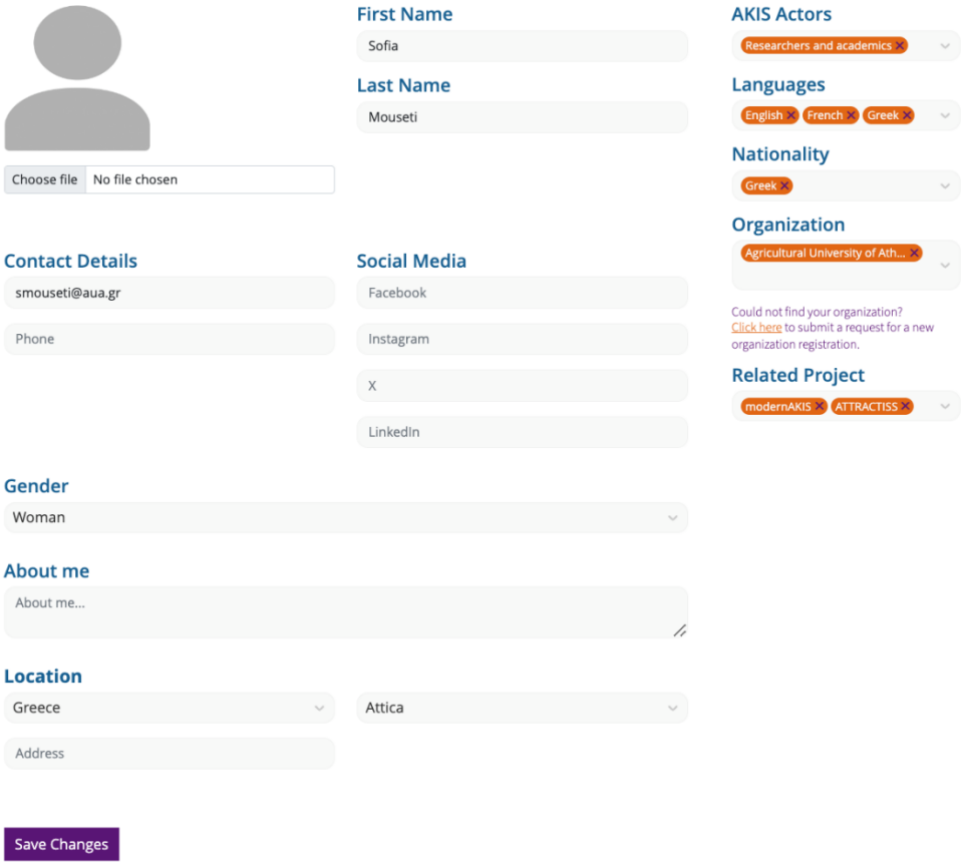

Figure 20: The user account page of AKISConnect platform

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7.8. Network > AKIS actors

"AKIS actors" is a page under "Network" where the main element is an interactive map of Europe presenting all registered AKIS actors (Figure 21). The user is able to see the map and select a specific country to view this registered country's AKIS actors or use filters in order to make a selection. For the MVP version, the only filter realized is the one about the types of AKIS actors.

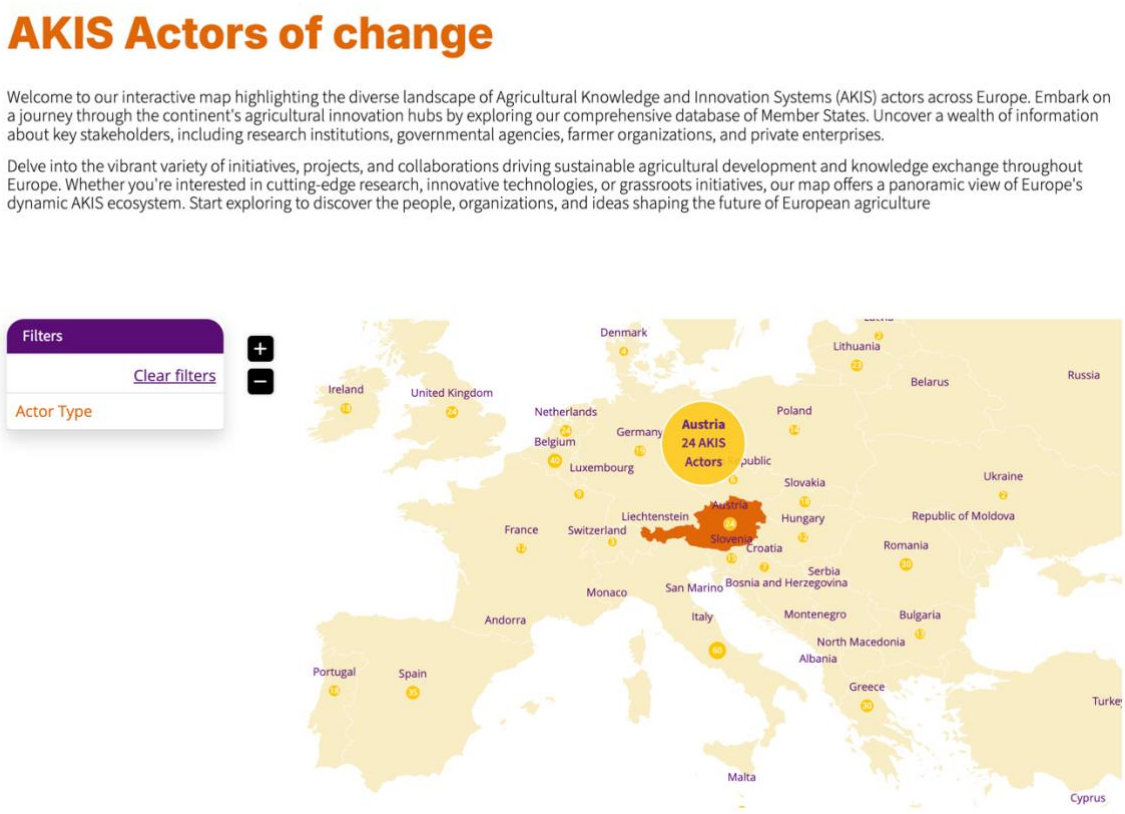

Figure 21: An interactive map of all registered AKIS actors

Once the user selects a specific country, the selection the users have made with the filters redirects them to the next country's detailed page, as shown in Figure 22.

Users can see the subset of AKIS actors, according to his/her selection, in a card-based layout

- to use the filters and change his/her selection
- to click on a specific actor in order to see more information

When users select a card, they are able to see an overview of the selected person (Figure 23). When the user clicks on the View more" button, they are able to see more info about the organization or specific people who work there, select one of them, and see their full profile (Figure 24).

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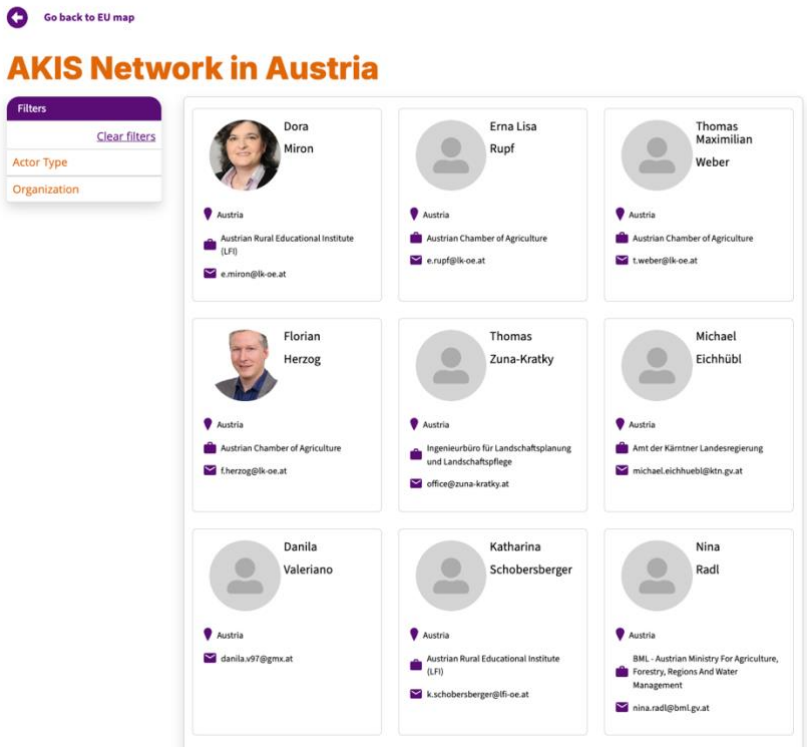

Figure 22: A card-based layout of each country's registered AKIS actors

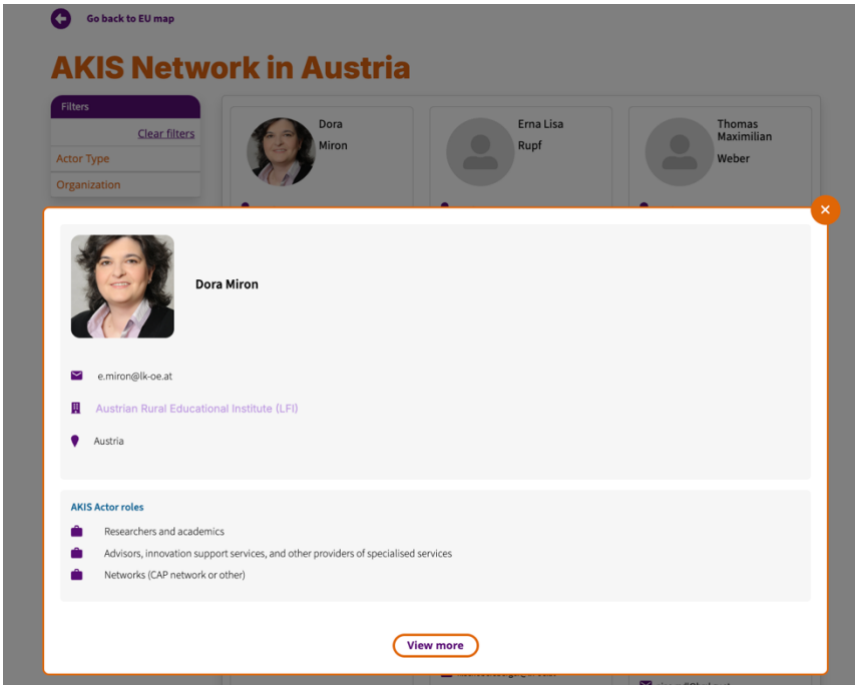

Figure 23: A short view of a user's profile card

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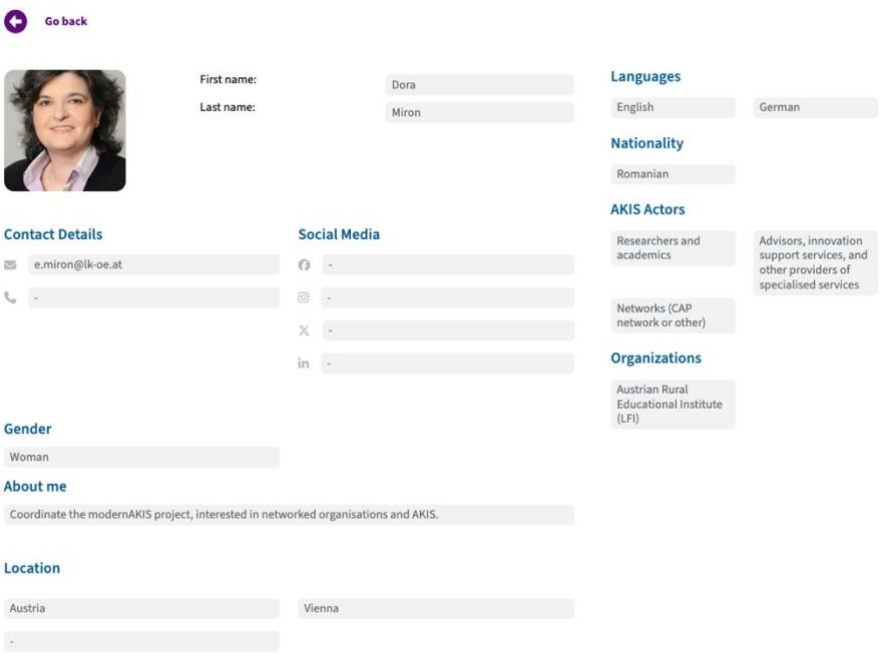

Figure 24: An extended view of a user's profile card

7.9. Network > Member States in action

"Member States in action" is a page under "Network" where the main element is also an interactive map of Europe linking to Member States dedicated pages including data on their AKIS strategies and interventions. In the first part, users are presented with an overview of all Member States (MS) and some statistics regarding the CAP interventions at EU level, as shown in Figure 25a. In the second part of this introductory page, users can see the EU map, Figure 25b, and select only in the Member States labels more information about each MS.

Figure 26 shows the detailed view of each Member State including a short description of the MS, a link to download the MS's AKIS strategy, tables with data on the interventions as well information about the MS's Coordination Body.

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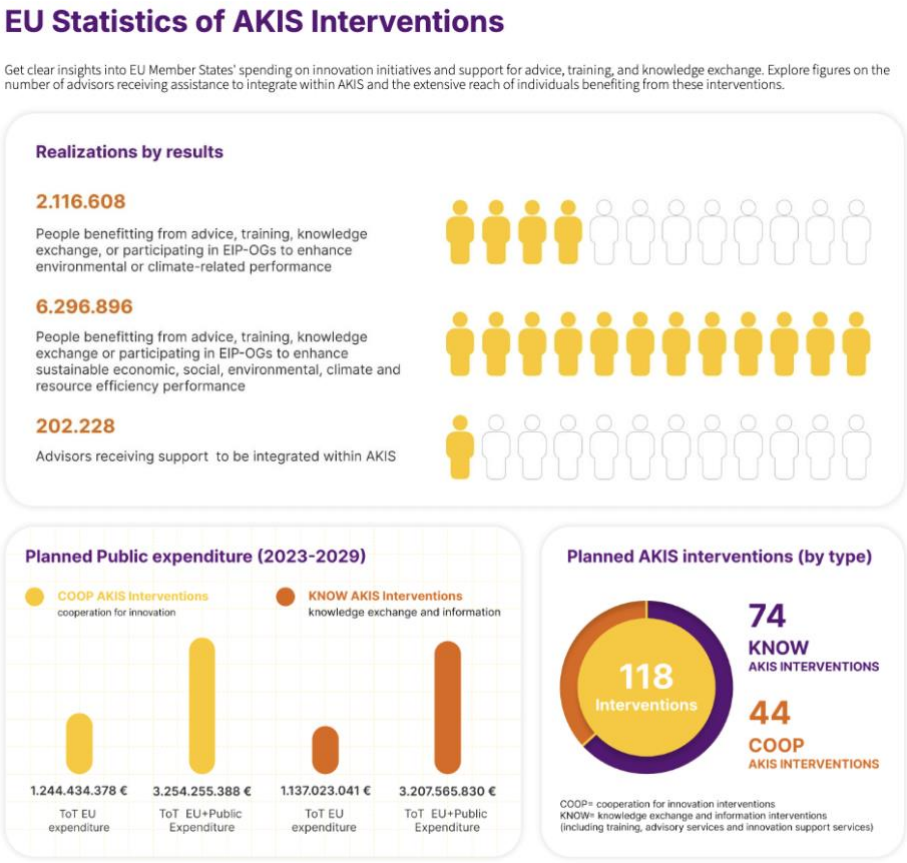

Figure 25a: The Member States in Action introductory page, 1st section

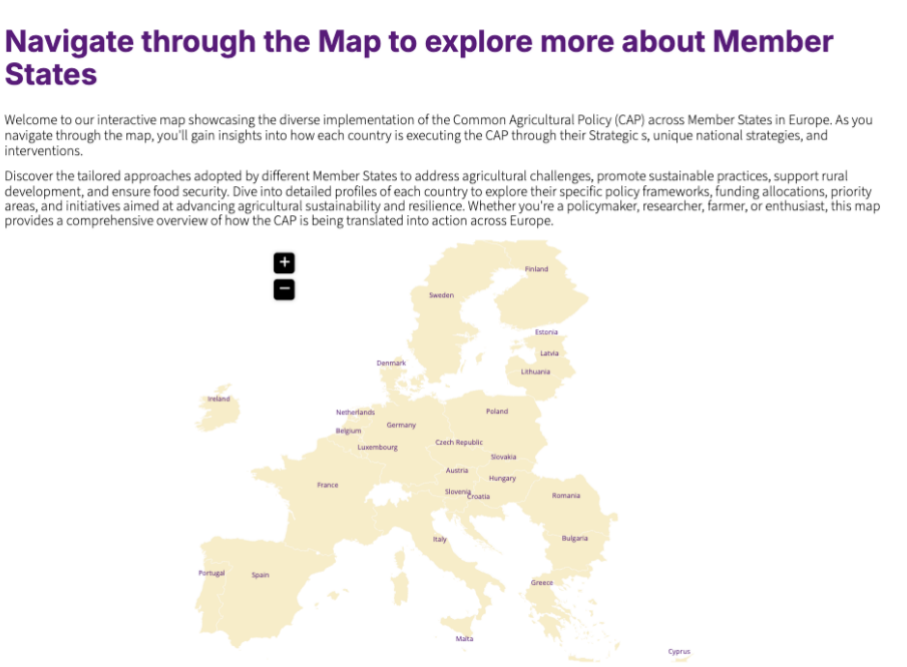

Figure 25b: The Member States in Action introductory page, 2nd section

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Figure 26: An example of a detailed page for a Member State in action (Slovakia)

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7.10. Learn & Apply > Training materials

"Member States in action" is a page under the "Learn & Apply" menu item, and it presents an overview (Figure 27) of the training materials created in the context of *WP3: Enabling AKIS Systems Thinking and AKIS conceptualization.* More training materials apart from the first set will be gradually integrated, also originating from ATTRACTISS project.

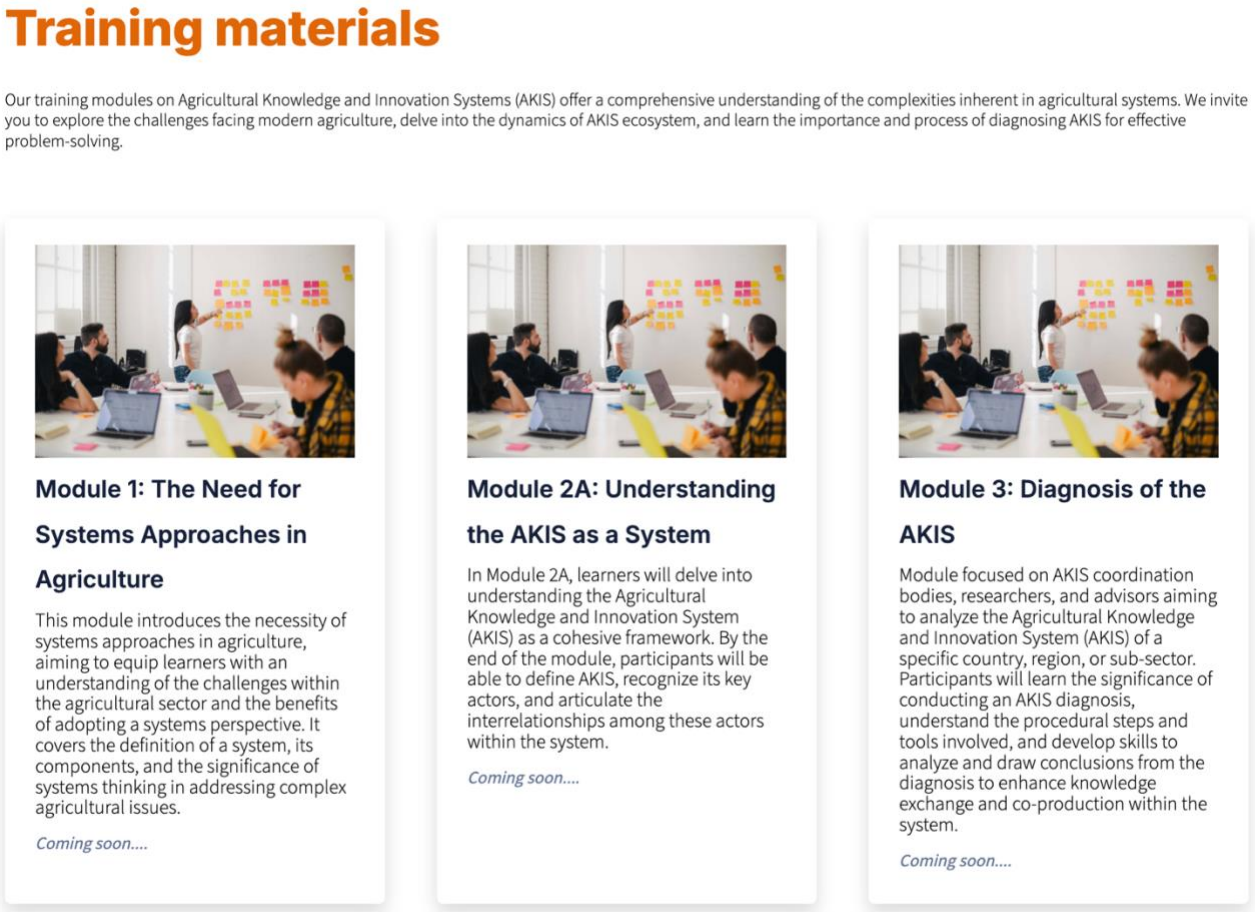

Figure 27: The page where training materials will be integrated

7.11. Learn & Apply > Practices > AKIS in Practice

«AKIS in Practice" is a page under "Learn & Apply > Practices". This is an on-line tool displaying the practice-oriented knowledge delivered by T1.2 on systematic basis. The AKIS-in-practice are individual modules focused each on one specific practice on relevant topics that demonstrate how AKIS (governance, models, supporting interventions) and actors support the achievement of the CAP specific and cross cutting objectives. The platform allows users to access a list of AKIS practices as shown in Figure 28. Users can click and select a specific AKIS practice or use a set of filters to narrow down their selection. As shown in Figure 29, the dedicated view for each AKIS practice presents a detailed description of a practice, in text and media, as well as links to valuable material. Users are also able to download the AKIS practice in a PDF format. Apart from the AKIS in practice details, dedicated pages also exist on AKIS themes, with similar structure and information, as shown in Figure 30.

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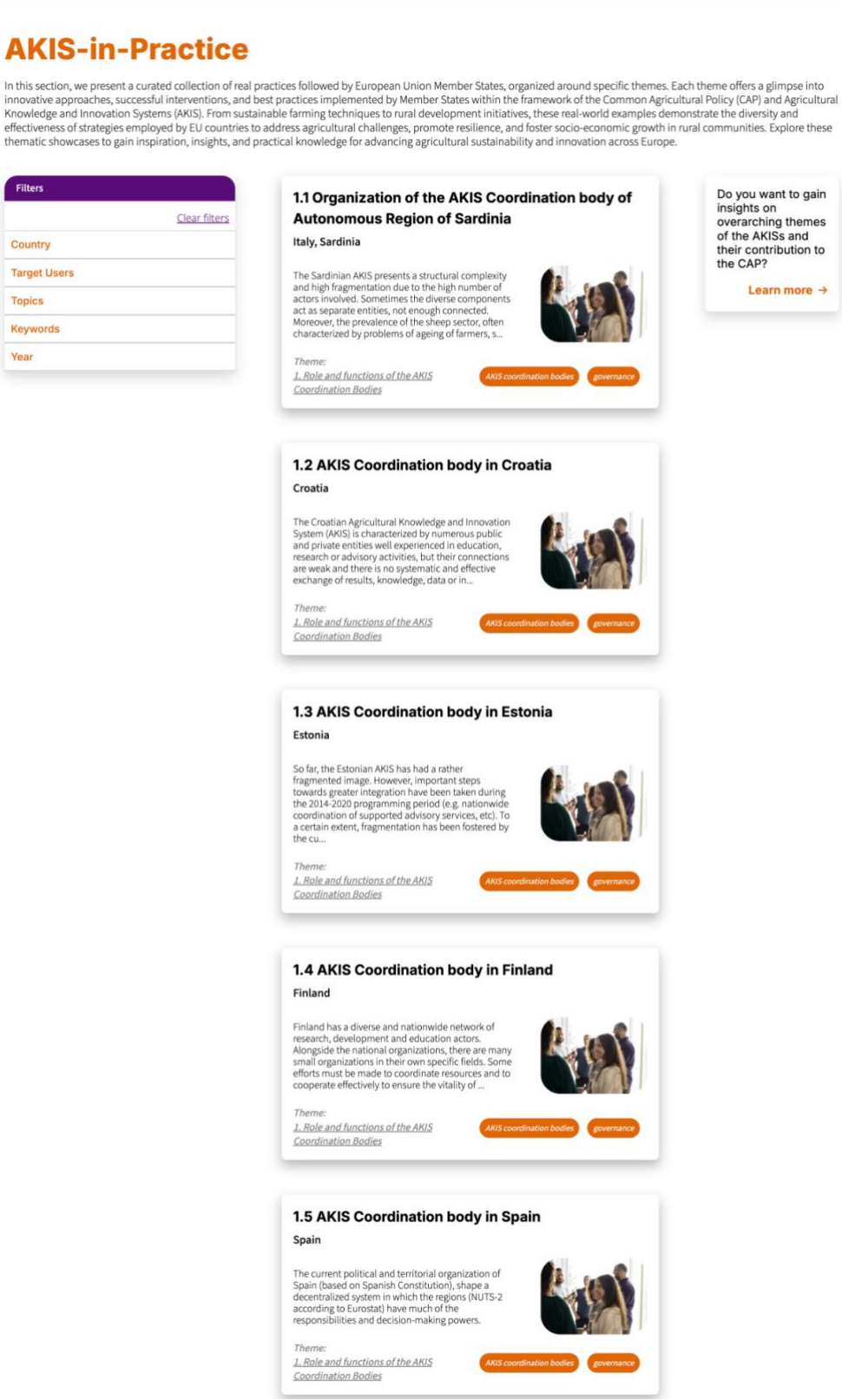

Figure 28: The list of AKIS in practice entries

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3.4 Cross visits: increasing capacities of advisors through peer-to-peer learning on interactive innovations

2023

interactive innovation | operational groups | peer-to-peer learning | advisor's training

Download AKIS Practice

Rationale

All advisors must be integrated within AKIS in an inclusive way, to be able to cover the economic, environmental and social dimensions and provide up-to-date technological and scientific information developed by R&I (art. 15 Reg. EU 2021/2115). To reach this goal, Managing Authorities had to define appropriate methods and approaches to better support advisors and innovation support services providers in their AKIS Strategies. Especially for innovation support services providers, in fact, there is a need for acquiring a set of capacities and skills that can be more effective if accompanied by experiential learning and exchanges. This kind of interaction seems to be much more productive in terms of learning than attending a seminar or a training course where lecturers try to transfer their wisdom.

Solution

Within the i2connect project a collaborative way of training for innovation support services providers has been realized through the organization of Cross Visits (CVs). The CVs consists of 2-3 days visit in which a group of advisors from different parts of Europe and with different backgrounds visit an interesting interactive innovation case with the aim to learn from how this has been developed and to assess each other contexts, practices and motivations. Visiting group consists of advisors, trained by i2connect training of trainers' courses (see 4.5 AKIS-in-practice!). The training course was focused on providing a set of analytical tools (e.g. the spiral of innovation; the triangle of co-creation; the circle of coherence; the network analysis) to help advisors, or whoever is involved in innovation processes, to recognize patterns that are behind these complex systems, to understand their logic, and to see options to act effectively in the situation.

The CVs approach promotes the exchange of experiences through peer-to-peer learning among trainees from diverse backgrounds. The primary objective is to comprehend the background of the innovation process and the role advisors play in it, with the overarching aim of transferring this knowledge to their professional settings and beyond. Essentially, CVs serve as a wellspring of inspiration, offering valuable insights, tools, and a shared language that prove beneficial when advisors resume their duties and confront challenges in the workplace.

At the moment, 42 courses of training of trainers have been carried on under the i2connect project, in 18 European countries (up-to-date at October 2023). Under ATTRACTISS (ACTivate and TRigger ACTors to deepen the function of Innovation Support Services) Horizon Europe project, more advisors will be trained and more European countries will be covered. This will allow to have a sufficient number of advisors trained to be involved in CVs. From a practical perspective, each i2connect CVs is based on the following 8 steps, which can be adapted to the context of the hosting country and innovation cases:

1. Kick off
2. Field visit - demonstration of innovation in field
3. Workshop - applying tools in practice
4. Reflection on the case
5. Social activity
6. Feedback session
7. Sharing of experiences between participants
8. Wrap up

Step 1: Kick-off (Day 1) The introduction session aims at knowing each other and create a space for team members to share experiences and discuss preconceptions.	**Step 2: Field Visit - Demonstration of Innovation (Day 2)** During the field visit the visiting team (10-12 advisors) studies a particular innovation case and analyze it using i2connect tools, learnt during the training of trainers. The main focus of the interviews are the following topics: innovation, innovation process, innovation support, actors and networks, environment, critical incidents, dissemination and future perspectives.
Step 3: Workshop - Applying Tools (Day 2) The aim of the workshop is to give each participant the opportunity to ask questions about the innovation process to each of the key actors. During the in-depth participants analyze the case studies choosing one or more tools.	**Step 4: Reflection on the Case (Day 2)** After the visit, the team takes time to share observations, reflect on them and formulate pearls, puzzles and proposals, based on what has been observed.
Step 5: Social Activity (Day 1 and/or 2) During the CV there it is recommended to meet create a socializing setting for informal connections and exchanges.	**Step 6: Feedback Session (Day 2)** Visiting team presents results, observations, and engages in discussion with host team and key actors.
Step 7: Sharing Experiences between Participants (Day 3) During this step, participants spend time on short case analyses of practical cases from their home countries, to allow them to successfully transfer the knowledge they received.	**Step 8: Wrap-up (Day 3)** The final stage is the wrap-up and feedback from the host and the participants.

In practice...

The cross visits can be funded under the CAP SPs 2023-2027, particularly, as part the vocational training aiming at enhancing competencies and create chance for knowledge exchanges between advisors and innovation support services providers (art. 78 Reg. EU 2021/2115).
To support this type of intervention it is necessary to carry out the following actions:

- Define a budget for the cross visits' implementation under article 78 Reg. EU 2021/2115 interventions.
- Provide a specific training about tools and methods to facilitate interactive innovation processes to a pool of advisors at a national/regional level. Alternatively, it is possible to benefit from i2connect trained advisors to be involved in the Cross Visit.
- Select a number of 10/12 trained advisors to attend the cross visit from different regions/countries to guarantee an exchange. It is not recommended a larger number of participants in order to allow a high level of interaction within the group and to be able to manage the administrative procedure related to organize the visit. It is appropriate trying to balance participants provenience in terms of country, gender and background.
- Identify at list two Operational Group to be visited.
- Foreseen a budget dedicated for the expenses (travel costs, transfer, accommodation, boards).
- In case of foreign participants be sure to have a translation (especially for farmers) or involve in the interviews people with a good level of English.

Benefits

- Inspire for enhancing the services provided and reflecting about solutions to similar problems.
- Promote competence and skills development through a peer-to-peer learning approach.
- Enhanced comprehension of innovation processes.
- Provide an approach to investigate innovation practices and the involvement of support service providers.
- Create a professional network of innovation support agents from all Europe

Further information

- Wielinga E. and Paree P. (2016): The Cross Visit Method, Deliverable 2.4: An Improved Methodologic Approach, AgriSpin project (EN)
- Kroon J., Wielinga E. and Paree P. (2020): Deliverable Number 4.1: Integrated Training, CV and Pilot Plan, i2connect project (EN)
- Triste L., Kuegler M., Cordeiro M. and Guichaoua A. (2019): Cross visit guidelines to on-farm demonstrations, NEFERTITI project (EN)
- FAIRshare cross visits (EN)

Materials

Videos

AKIS-in-practice! CV: increasing capacities of advisors through peer-to-peer learning

Figure 29: The detailed view of an AKIS in Practice

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1. Role and functions of the AKIS Coordination Bodies

AKIS coordination bodies governance

The AKIS Coordination bodies

Rationale

What are the AKIS coordination bodies?

The institute of the AKIS-CBs represent the first attempt, within the European policies, to identify an institutional structure in charge of creating an enabling environment for innovation. Indeed, the introduction of this institute comes along with the acquisition of policy dignity of the AKIS and their strategies, which main goal is to strengthen the agricultural systems in rural areas and contribute to more competitive and sustainable primary sector in Europe (Cristiano et., al, 2023; D1.1).

So that, AKIS coordinating bodies (AKIS-CB) are new governing actors of the CAP SPs 2023-2027, which responsible are identified under chapters 8 of the CAP SPs and which overall goal is to enable the environment for well-functioning AKISs, through fostering cooperation, effectively combining the interventions of the CAP Strategic Plans and satisfying the need for a quicker, more qualitative and more inclusive AKIS.

Approaches and roles of AKIS coordination bodies in CAP-SPs

Indeed, as it emerges from the study on the comparative analysis of the AKIS in EU (Fanos et al. 2023; D1.10), "the managing authorities play a pivotal role in strategizing the AKIS coordination and serving as the umbrella organization". While the strategic coordination tasks are taken up by the managing authorities, multiple approaches/models are observed across the CAP-SPs for the operational coordination tasks.

Firstly, the different institutional configuration of MSs, with some having the competence for the primary sector at national and some at regional levels makes some difference, by shaping more centralized or decentralized approaches to AKIS coordination. For example, "in MSs with a decentralized AKIS organization, particularly Germany, Italy and Spain, role of and facilitate knowledge exchange between the regions" (Birke et al. 2023; D1.10). AKIS CBs at the national level is dedicated to bringing regional or provincial AKIS coordination bodies together by setting up a working group or an advisory board in which the group proposes an overall strategy.

Which functions to ensure an overall AKIS Coordination

As a matter of fact, the only reference to the responsibilities and tasks of AKIS CBs is provided by the Tool 8.1 "Tool for the CAP Cross-Cutting Objective" (EC, 2021) that proposes the followings:

- Acting as the contact point for the Commission as regards the governance and coordination of the AKIS strategic approach.
- Organising the advice and advisors and all other related AKIS interventions.
- Keeping close and regular contact with the main AKIS (regional) coordinators and actors in the country by giving suggestions for encouragement of more effective knowledge exchange activities (advice, training, ...), including also the generation and co-creation of innovation (EIP OGs) and the broad sharing of it.

Box 1: AKIS governance levels across EU

The organisation of national AKISs and the degree of public sector engagement in the AKIS governance entail differences in how AKIS-CBs may implement their coordination tasks:

- *AKIS CBs in a centralized AKIS governance with strong engagement of managing authorities may have a more focused mandate at the national level with a well-defined hierarchical structure that also influences the coordination efforts.*
- *AKIS CBs in a centralized AKIS governance with medium or low engagement of managing authorities need to navigate their coordination by aligning between the state and non-state structures, which may be diverse and flexible.*
- *AKIS-CBs in a decentralized AKIS governance will need to facilitate coordination among diverse regional actors while aligning with the strategies at the national level.*
- *AKIS-CBs in a hybrid AKIS governance (centralized with a tendency for decentralization), similar to those in a decentralized AKIS need to facilitate coordination among regional actors while aligning to the strategies at the national level.*

(Birke et al. 2023)

However, beyond the institution and the identification of some tasks, the coordination of the AKIS is a strategic process of systems functioning and transformation. Consequently, governance models in MSs should be appropriately defined by including clear a definition of role, responsibilities, and approaches, along with capacity development strategies that would enable these bodies playing an overall process of coordination of the AKIS and their actors towards the good implementation of the respective strengthening strategies.

"The challenge lies in strategically aligning knowledge exchange and collaboration between diverse actors at various levels" (Birke et al. 2023; D1.10). All in all, the configuration of appropriate models of AKIS coordination bodies should consider that some key processes should be organized under their responsibility in view of enabling the environment for effective knowledge flows and innovation towards well-functioning AKISs (Cristiano et al., 2023; D1.1, Annex 2). Among them, the AKIS-CB should balance, according to the contextual situation of the AKIS, the roles of "player" with the one of "enabler" as shown in Table 1.

First insights from practices

The practices reported in this "Compendium" show a tentative to profile the AKIS coordination bodies, that certainly include the definition of the responsibility, the configuration of the (individual/collective) responsible body and some key functions. Still, the procedures and mechanisms for effectively operationalise the functions attributed to the AKIS coordination bodies are less defined, except that for the one case of pre-existing collective body (i.e. Sardinia Region).

A preliminary insight about the different organization models and functions described by the CAP SPs, and as deepened in the AKIS-in-practices' that are included in this Compendium, is that apparently, in general, two governance models are being applied (Figure 1: AKIS coordination bodies' models in EU):

- A **managerial model** characterizes those AKIS coordination bodies which responsibility, role and the functions are fully maintained at institutional level, under the responsibility of the MA of the SP. The coordination functions are all run by an already existing unit (e.g., research and innovation) or a new established unit, but still by public servants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Tasks applied under this model concern the simple translation, at the level of AKIS strategies, of typical functions of the MAs, such as the planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of AKIS interventions. Possibly, the functions of the AKIS coordination bodies are supported by technical assistance. In practice, the managerial model implies that the AKIS-CB collaborates with other institutional governance bodies of the SP (such as the responsible for communication, the monitoring and evaluation unit, paying agency, etc. in ch.7 of the CAP SPs) that are internal to the MA of the CAP SP or external (e.g., ministry of research). In these cases, the planned operational activities are varied and include networking, that is delegated to the CAP Network and to other bodies that remain external to the AKIS-CB, M&E, information for enable the access to the CAP SP, strategy formulation and implementation.
- **A networking/collaborative model**, that characterizes those AKIS coordination bodies which role and functions are almost or fully shared within, mostly new established, collective bodies, such as the CAP network, steering committees, working groups, etc. In these cases, in general, typical functions of strategy management and implementation are assigned to the institutional body, while other entities are assigned more operational functions that better suit their nature: research, territorial networking, advisory services, etc. The operational activities, are evidently focused on networking and capacity building activities (newsletters, conferences and discussion forums) and enabling access to knowledge particularly by the establishment of web platforms and innovation databases. This model is applied, for example, by the Region of Sardinia, whose AKIS coordinating body is a collegial body including institutional entities (i.e., the Minister and the Managing Authority) and non-institutional entities (Agencies) with a clear separation of their respective tasks: planning, programming and management, implementation, monitoring, payment and monitoring of interventions.

Figure 1: AKIS coordination bodies' models in EU (n./tot)

Source: own elaboration from CAP Strategic Plans

Food for thinking

The results of the observation on the first modelling and approaching the AKIS-CBs, brings some reflections on the needs for capacity building and networking activities that can be certainly considered in modernAKIS:

- How to configure best fitting models in each MS? Managerial versus Networking.
- How to organize procedures for monitoring of the AKIS strategies and connections with the paying agencies?
- How to organize procedures for fruitful collaboration within collective AKIS-CB? Which separation of tasks and how to coordinate knowledge flows and common goals between the different members of the AKIS-CB?
- Which organization in regionalized systems? Which coordination between the AKIS-CBs of different levels?
- Which support by the CAP Network?

How to follow-up with the results of collection of AKIS-in-practice!

- AKIS-CB identity cards. Short description of the key features of the AKIS coordination bodies in view to share information for knowledge and further interaction.
- Practice workshops, aimed at sharing practices, reflecting on experiences and views on the models applied, early functioning and further organization of coordination tasks.
- Peer-to-peer review, within the CoPs in view to allow comparison and mutual learning.
- Tailored capacity building to address both strategic aspects like planning and priority setting, as well as operational tasks such as collaboration facilitation and communication (Birke et al., 2023).
- Capacity building on exploitation of modernAKIS
- Capacity building on functional skills "to engage and align diverse actors to create a coordinated approach" (Birke et al., 2023).
- Training on fundamentals on AKIS concepts and principles, system thinking structure, infrastructures, processes, governance and coordination.
- Training on AKIS actor diagnosis, assessing interactions and benchmarking performance (Birke et al., 2023).

Table 1: Role of governance bodies to enable processes for AKIS well-functioning

Further information

- Cristiano et al., 2023 (D1.1 modernAKIS)
- EU SCAR AKIS (2019), Preparing for Future AKIS in Europe. Brussels, European Commission
- Fanos et al., 2023 (D1.10 modernAKIS)
- Fanos et al., 2022 (i2connect)
- Knierim A., Gerster-Bentaya M., Birke F., Bae S., Kelly T., 2020. Innovation advisors for interactive innovation process: Conceptual grounds and common understandings. Deliverable 1.1 i2Connect project

Figure 30: The detailed view of an AKIS theme

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7.12. Learn & Apply > Events

«Events" is a page under "Learn & Apply". In this section, the user is able to see a list of past and future workshops and events that are taking place in the context of both projects, as shown in Figure 31.

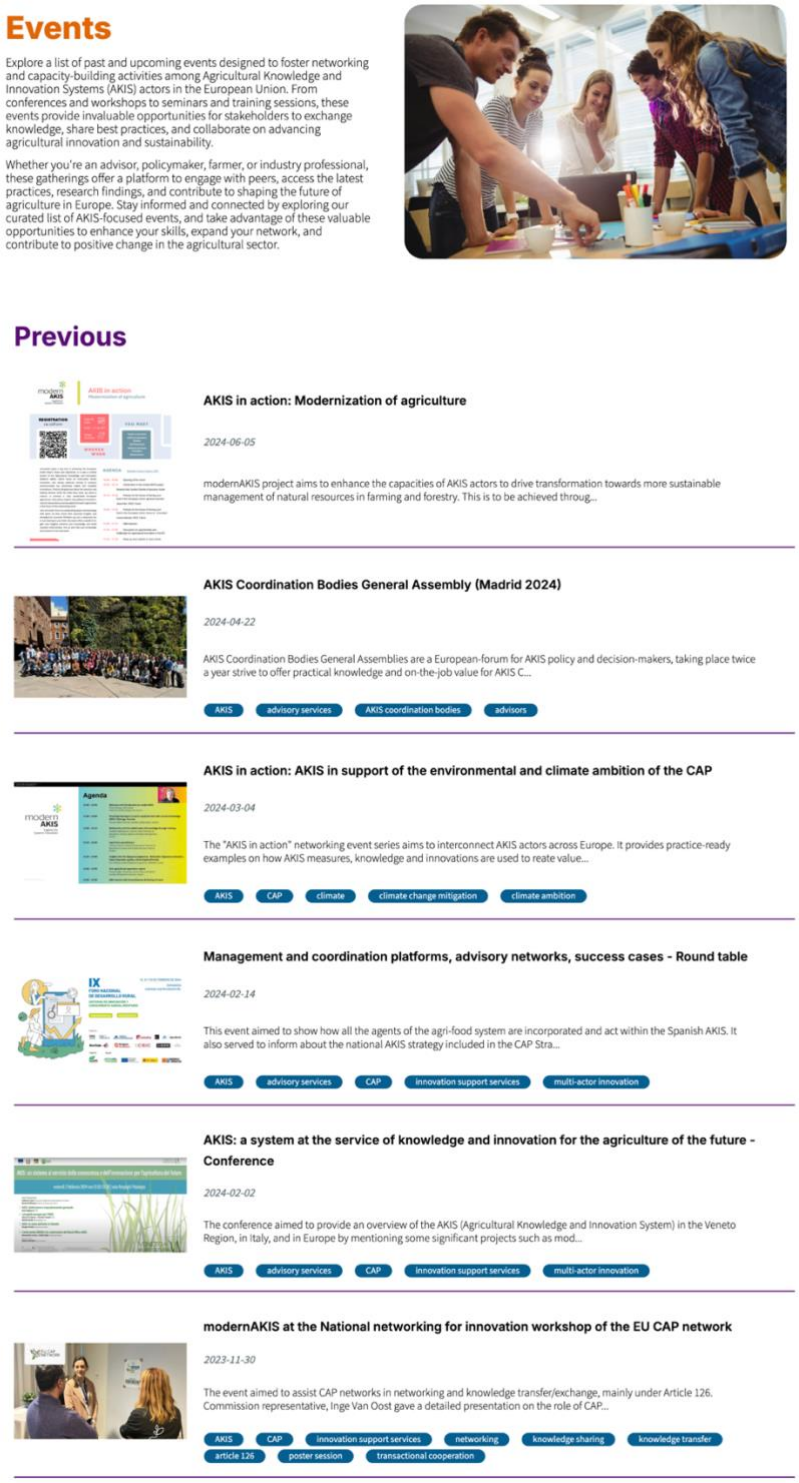

Figure 31: The list of past and upcoming events organised

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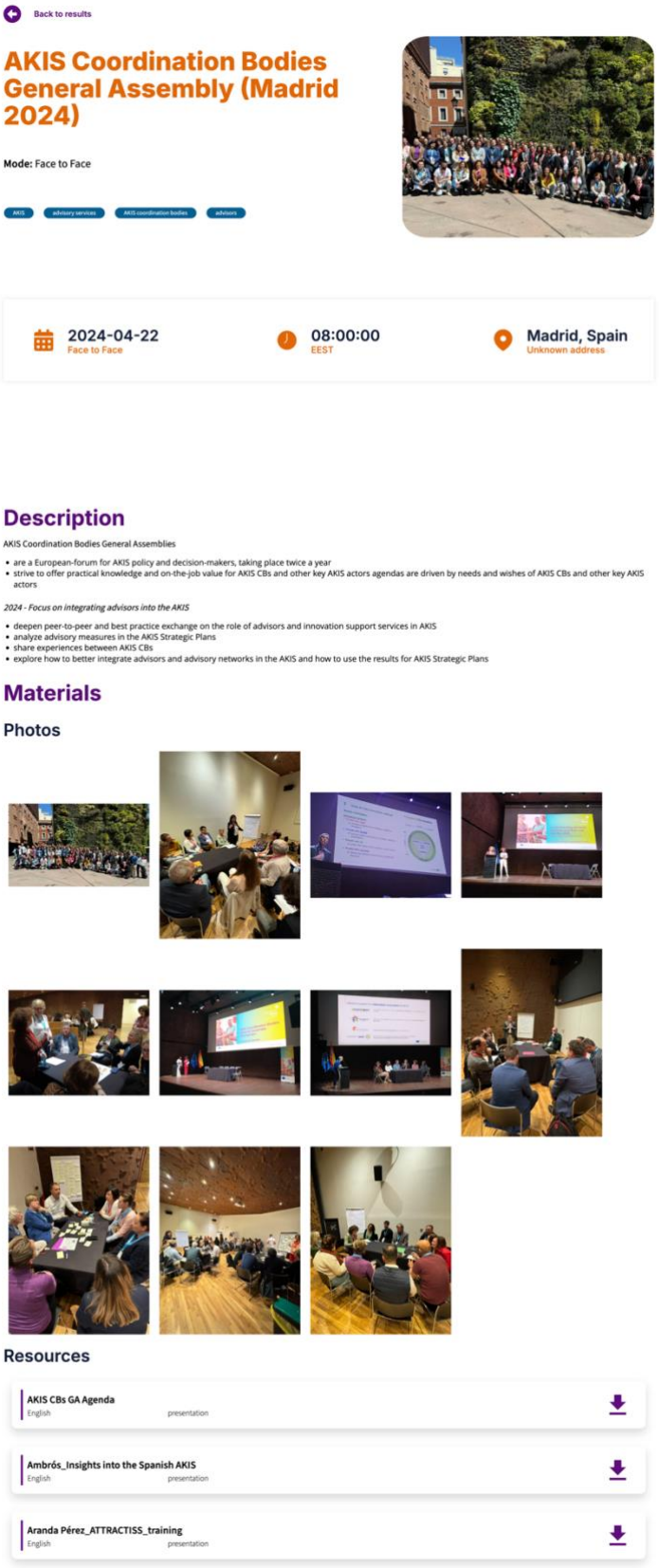

Figure 32: The detailed view of an event hosted in the context of modernAKIS

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As seen in Figure 32, when users select a specific event, they can see all valuable information, including title, organizers, date, mode and location, as well as useful accompanying material. For the upcoming events, a registration process is also going to be integrated in the upcoming version. Administrators will be notified with new registrations and will be able to modify the event's details, download participants list among other actions.

7.13. Learn & Apply > Toolkit > ISS tools & methods

«ISS tools" is a page under "Learn & Apply > Toolkit". A set of a minimum of 100 innovation support methods and tools, will feed the AKISConnect platform and will be the subject of capacity-building activities for ISSs in the context of ATTRACTISS. Users can access this list through a card-based layout as shown in Figure 33. In Figure 34, a dedicated view of each specific ISS tool or method is presented with valuable information and materials.

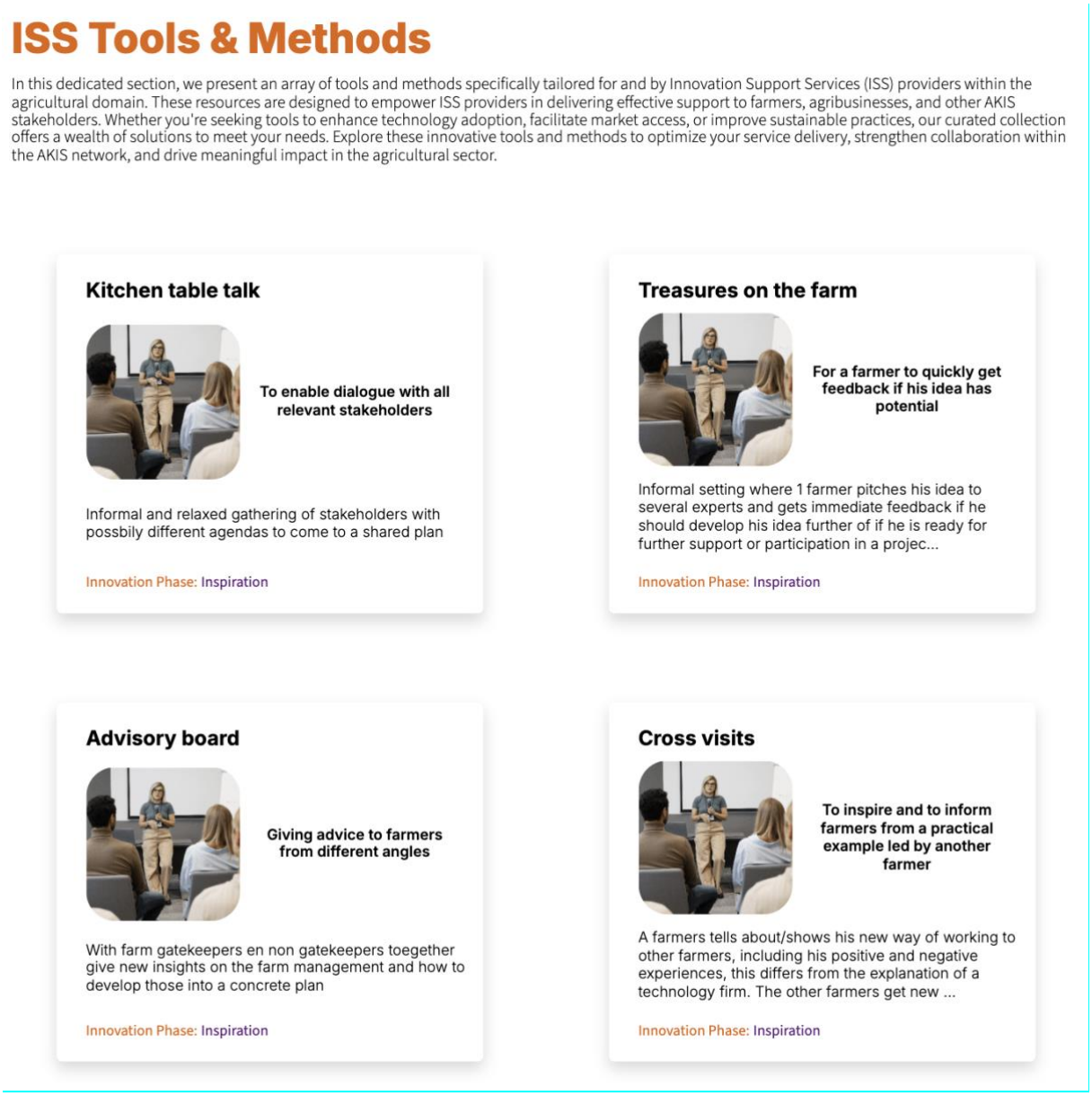

Figure 33: The list of ISS tools and methods hosted in the context of ATTRACTISS

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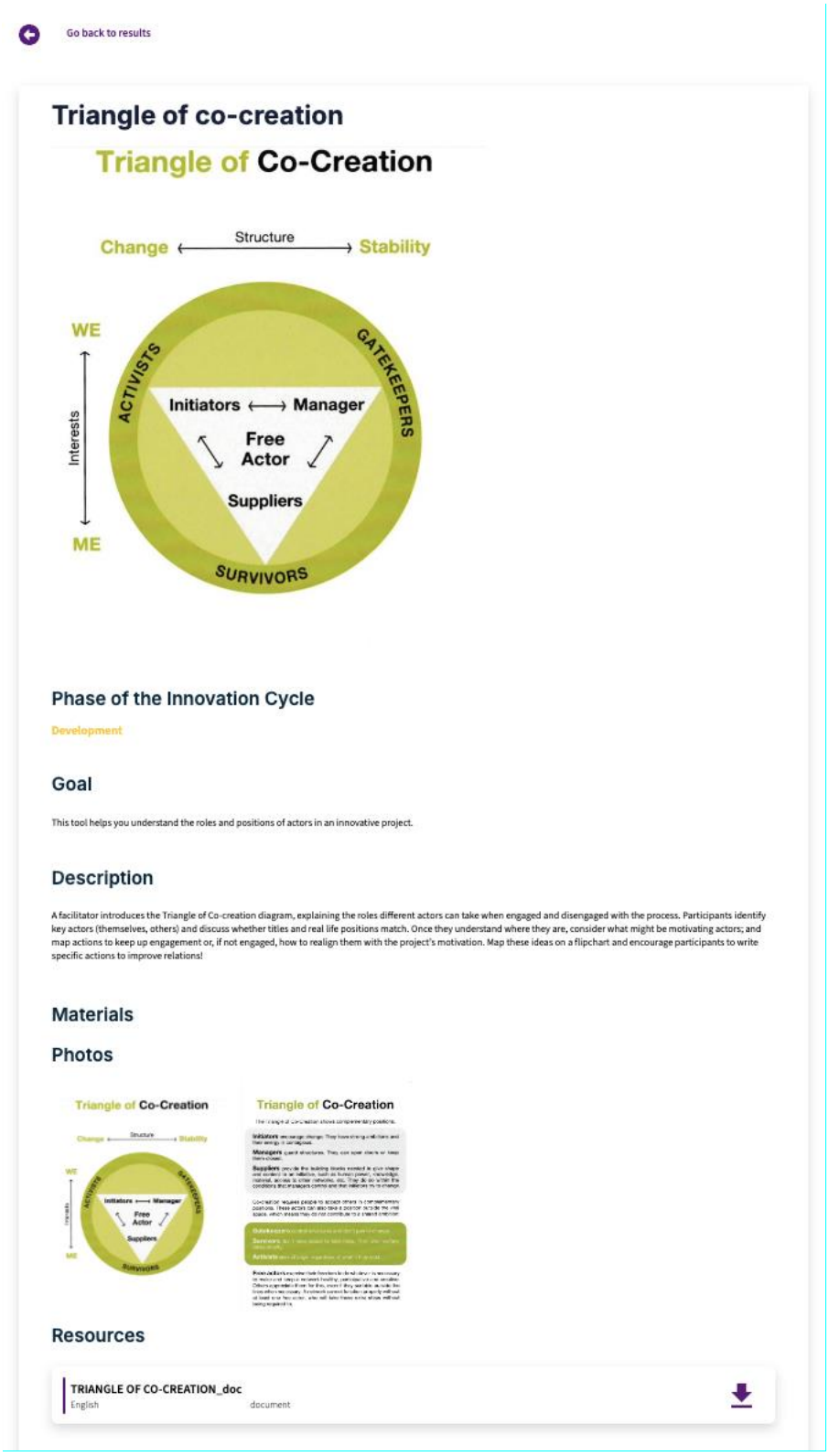

Figure 34: The detailed view of an ISS tools and methods hosted in the context of ATTRACTISS

7.14. Learn & Apply > Toolkit > SWOT analysis

«SWOT analysis" is a page under "Learn & Apply > Toolkit". Its objective is understanding of socio-economical context of Innovation Support Services (ISS) operation in all MSs and is created as an online form spanned in six steps. Figure 35 presents the introductory page

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where users can be informed on the objective and Figure 36 presents one of the steps a user has to follow before submitting the final SWOT. Users can save a SWOT instance as a draft and update it as many times as they prefer. Administrators are notified with new submissions of SWOT instances and are able to download the results in an excel file.

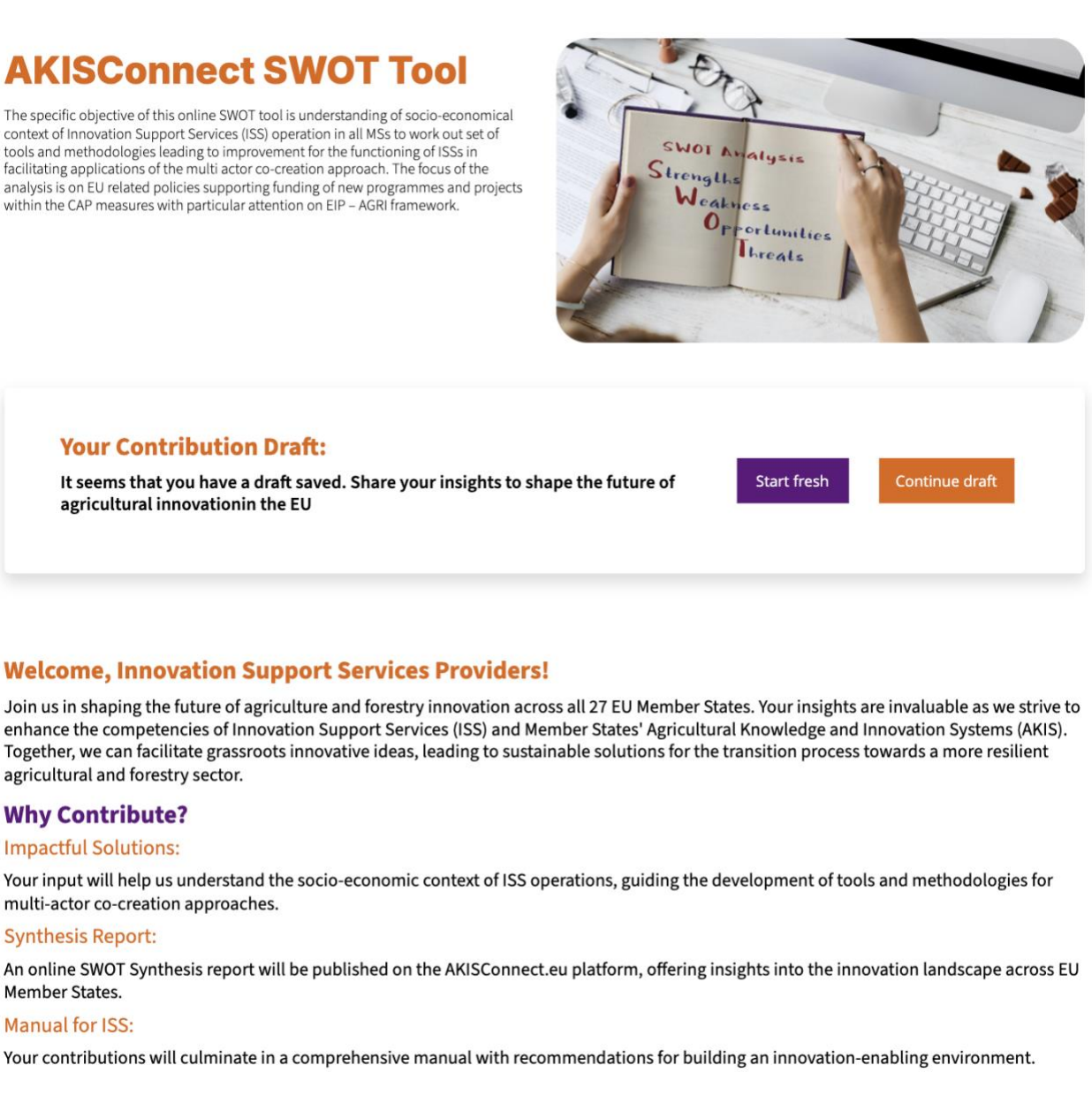

Figure 35: The introductory page of the SWOT analysis tool

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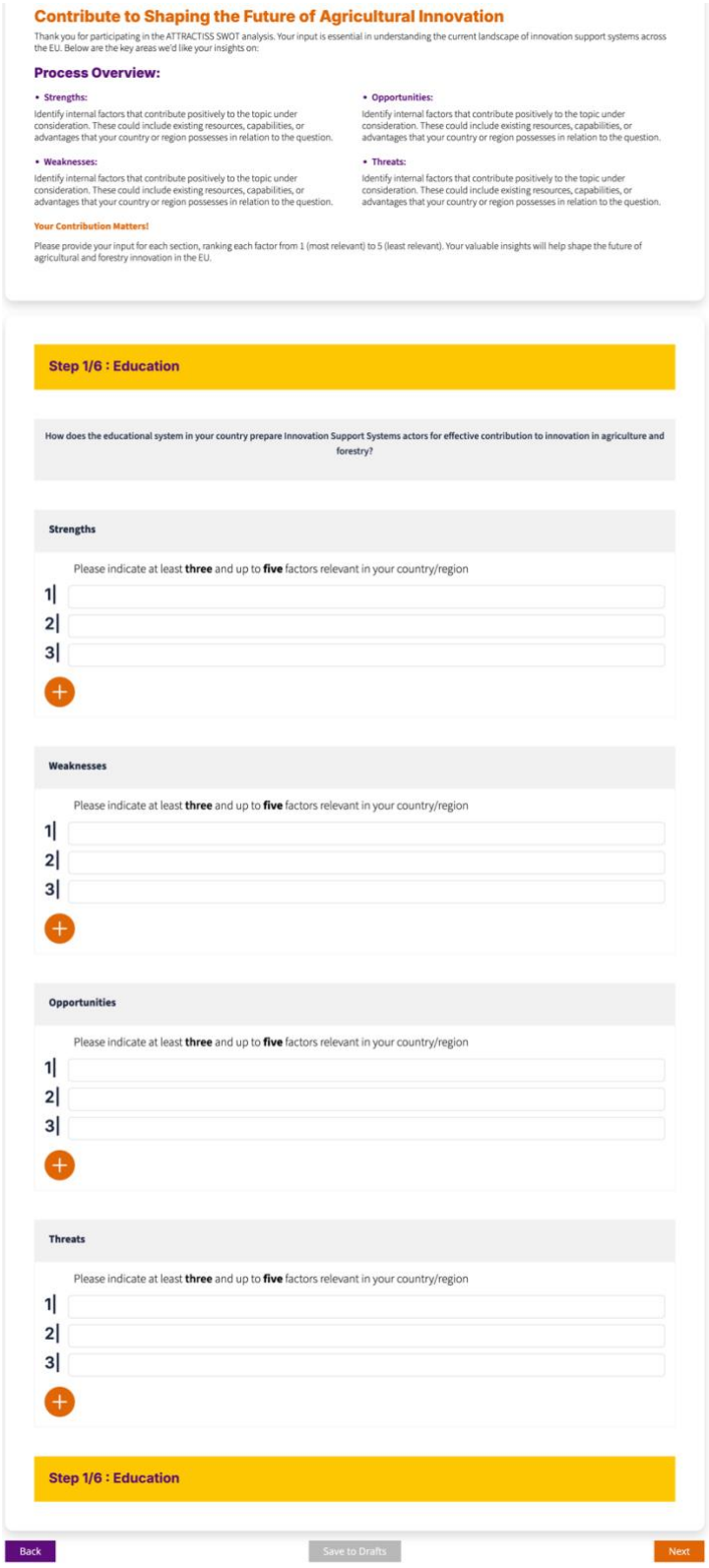

Figure 36: An example of a step in the course of the SWOT analysis

7.15. Administration Panel

Even before the initial launch of the AKISConnect platform, an administration panel (Figure 37) was created once the backend part was set up. The administration panel facilitated the

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data entry process, initially executed by the AUA team. In the following version of AKISConnect, administration rights will be given to more partners from the consortium, to ensure better flexibility and independence.

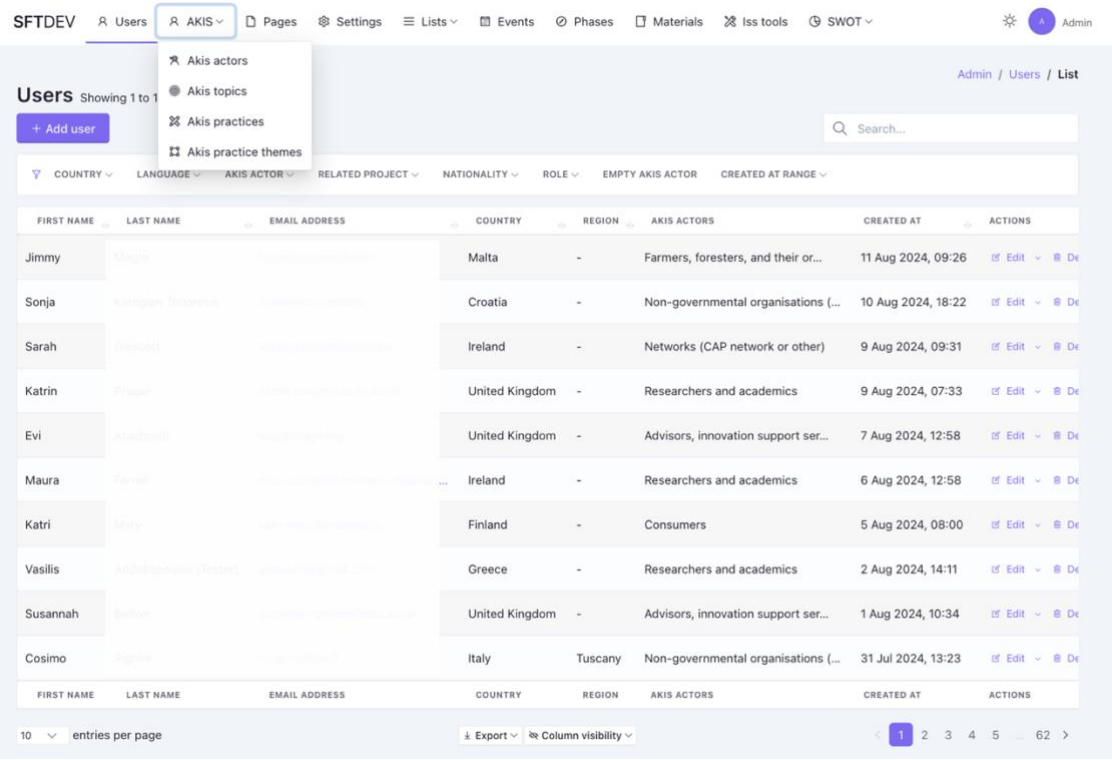

Figure 37: The administration panel of AKISConnect.eu

7.1. Google Analytics mechanism

For the analytics mechanism of AKISConnect, a Google Analytics account was created to ensure seamless tracking of the users' preferences, and their presentation for the project, as shown in Figures 38 and 39. The goal is to help in making informed decisions regarding the most valuable content and create more content or features that are valuable to them, according to their behaviour and preferences.

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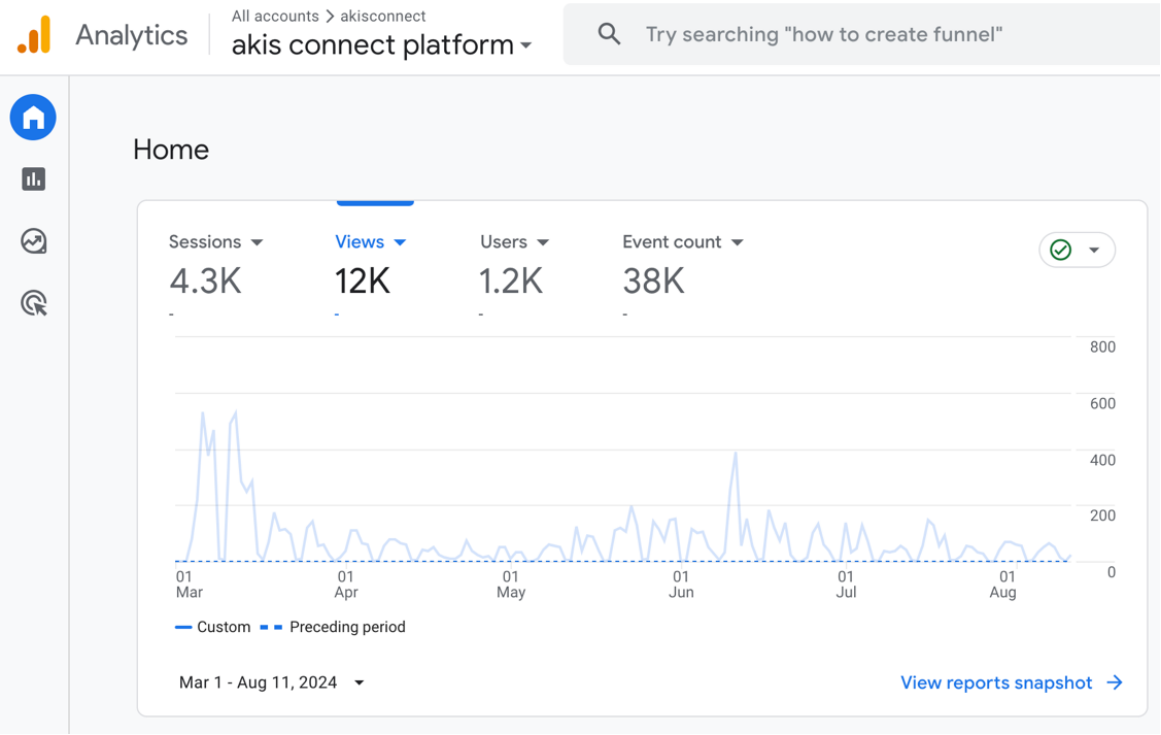
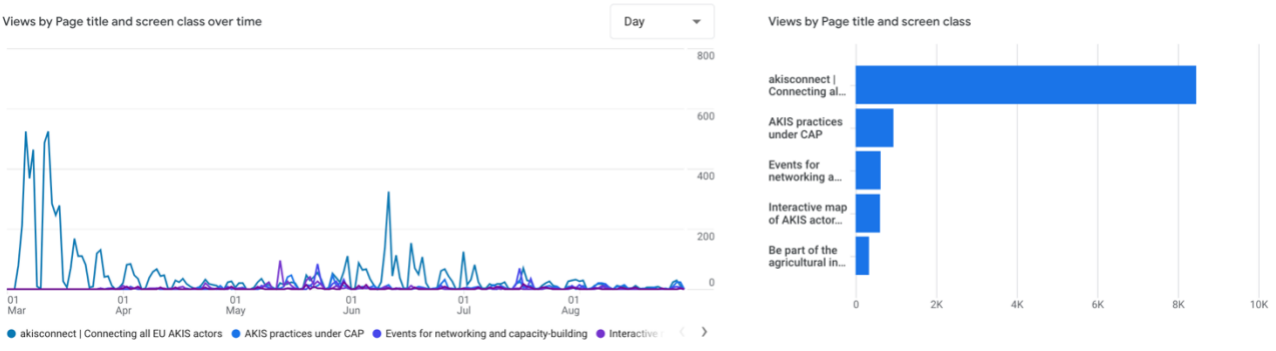


Figure 38: An overview of Google Analytics instance of AKISConnect application



Search...

Rows per page: 10 Go to: 1 1-10 of 119

	Page title and screen class	Views	Users	Views per user	Average engagement time	Event count All events	Key events All events	Total revenue
		12,103 100% of total	1,259 100% of total	9.61 Avg 0%	6m 30s Avg 0%	39,346 100% of total	0.00	€0.00
1	akisconnect | Connecting all EU AKIS actors	8,449	965	8.76	3m 48s	26,776	0.00	€0.00
2	AKIS practices under CAP	935	224	4.17	7m 11s	2,863	0.00	€0.00
3	Events for networking and capacity-building	619	115	5.38	4m 01s	1,862	0.00	€0.00
4	Interactive map of AKIS actors across Europe	601	231	2.60	2m 20s	1,844	0.00	€0.00
5	Be part of the agricultural innovation movement	332	274	1.21	1m 44s	1,485	0.00	€0.00
6	Log in to your account	248	160	1.55	1m 51s	1,282	0.00	€0.00

Figure 39: An overview of Google Analytics page traffic

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8. Next steps for AKISConnect platform

Following the methodology outlined in Section 3, the AKISConnect digital platform will undergo continuous enhancements and refinements, guided by the valuable feedback gathered from its user community throughout the project's lifetime. The development trajectory of the digital platform will prioritize the incorporation of new features and functionalities derived from the ongoing feedback collection processes. This commitment to evolution will persist, ensuring that the platform remains dynamic and responsive to the evolving needs of its users. Regular updates will be executed, and additional features will be seamlessly integrated into the platform's ecosystem, all the way up to the conclusion of the project.

Additionally, there are efforts to offer and make the AKISConnect platform available to other projects and networks and thus establish it as the most comprehensive networking tool for all AKIS actors in the EU (e.g. i2connect advisors database, HE advisor networks, etc). All outcomes from these efforts which may result to solid new functionalities and will lead to an updated version of AKISConnect.eu platform will be documented accordingly to the upcoming versions of this deliverable.

8.1. Iterative improvement and updates on AKISConnect platform

After the deployment of version 1 of the AKISConnect platform on February 29, 2024, the next steps refer to adaptability and prioritization of updates as well as the platform's longevity. Since the first launch of the platform, AUA has been conducting very frequent updates and modifications in the platform, which involved bug fixes, and improvements in specific features, as well as new content additions. To achieve this, AUA is collecting feedback having a constantly open communication with project partners from both projects, whether through the regular channels, meetings, the SharePoint etc, or through direct communication through emails or physical meetings, which enables them to react fast and modify the AKISConnect platform, whenever it is necessary. Table 2 shows a feedback template uploaded in the SharePoint of the two projects, which facilitated the partners into providing their feedback in a more consistent and streamlined manner. Additionally, apart from project partners, external users have been using several communication channels (emails, social media, support forms) to transfer their requests, expectations and insights, making the AKISConnect platform an agile digital product aiming to foster users' needs in real-time.

Table 2: A feedback form template provided to the two consortia partners.

Summary	Even though I am registered, I cannot see myself in my country's network
Reported by	Maria S.
When	7/3/2024
Platform page	Network page
Device (desktop/laptop/mobile)	All
Solution	Until a user fills in their profile (country & AKIS actor), they are not visible in the network. We have added "Undefined" value. User is motivated to rectify with an actual value.
Resolved	7/3/2024

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8.2. AKISConnect features (Version 2)

Some functionalities of the AKISConnect platform and its modules are currently being designed for the platform's next iteration. Namely, the features of interest are the following:

- **Translations**

In the next version of AKISConnect, AUA team will enhance user experience by incorporating comprehensive localization and internationalization features. This update will include translations of the interface and data, enabling users to interact with the application in their preferred languages, spoken in EU level. Leveraging advanced AI tools, AUA team will automate the translation process, ensuring accuracy and consistency across all supported languages. By localizing content and adapting the application to different cultural contexts, the goal is to make AKISConnect platform more accessible and user-friendly to an EU-wide audience, paving the way for broader adoption in the AKIS ecosystem.

- **Participants' registration in Events**

Events oraganised in the context of modernAKIS project are very crucial and it has proven to be a great way to attract the attention of AKIS actors. In order to leverage this interest and attract more network members to the platform, a functionality will be integrated, as shown in Figure 40, which will allow event organisers to enable users' registration in an event from within the AKISConnect platform, only after they create a personal account. This way participants in each event will continue to be part of the wider network, after the event is finished, and get engaged in future activities of relavant interest.

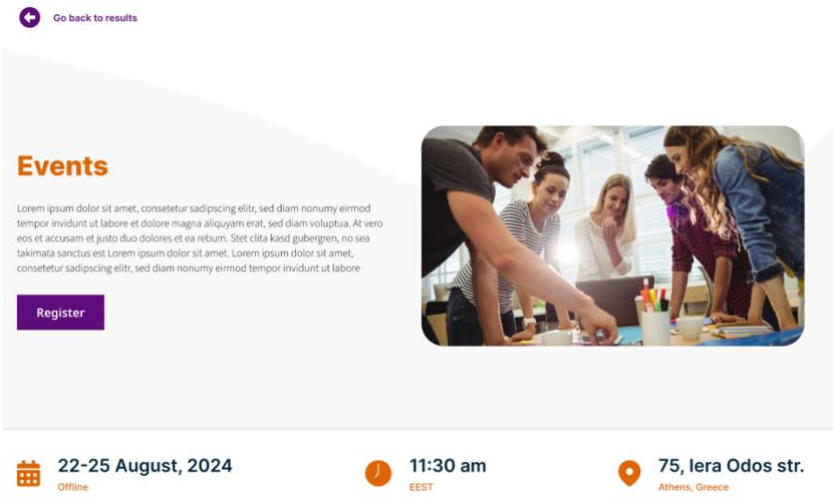

Figure 40: A detailed page for the event registration feature (mock-up screen)

- **Community Forum**

This is a forum where users can interact with each other. This feature is yet to be thoroughly described however in a conceptual level, there will be a list of predefined channels, or in case partners prefer, some types of users can suggest their preferred topics for new channels to be created. Users will be able to interact in predefined spaces, whether private or public. Specific user roles (admins, moderators, etc.) and their respective rights in the forum will be predefined by the two projects' partners. Some initial mock-ups for the community forum are presented in Figures 41, 42 and 43.

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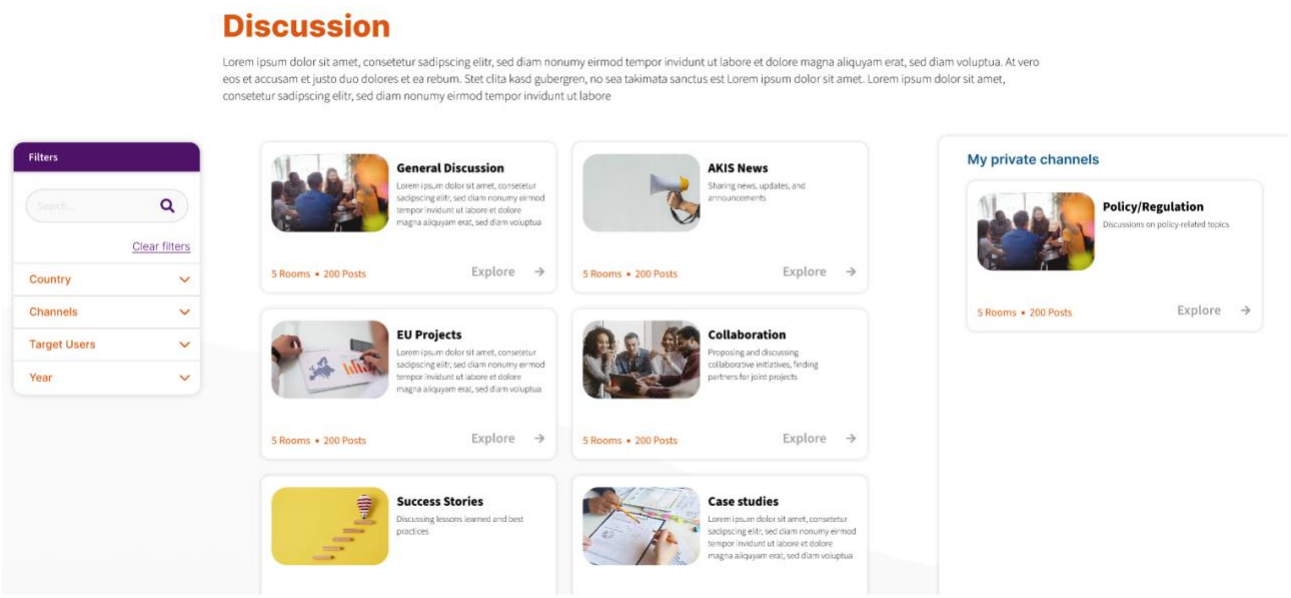

Figure 41: The introductory page of the community forum (mock-up screen)

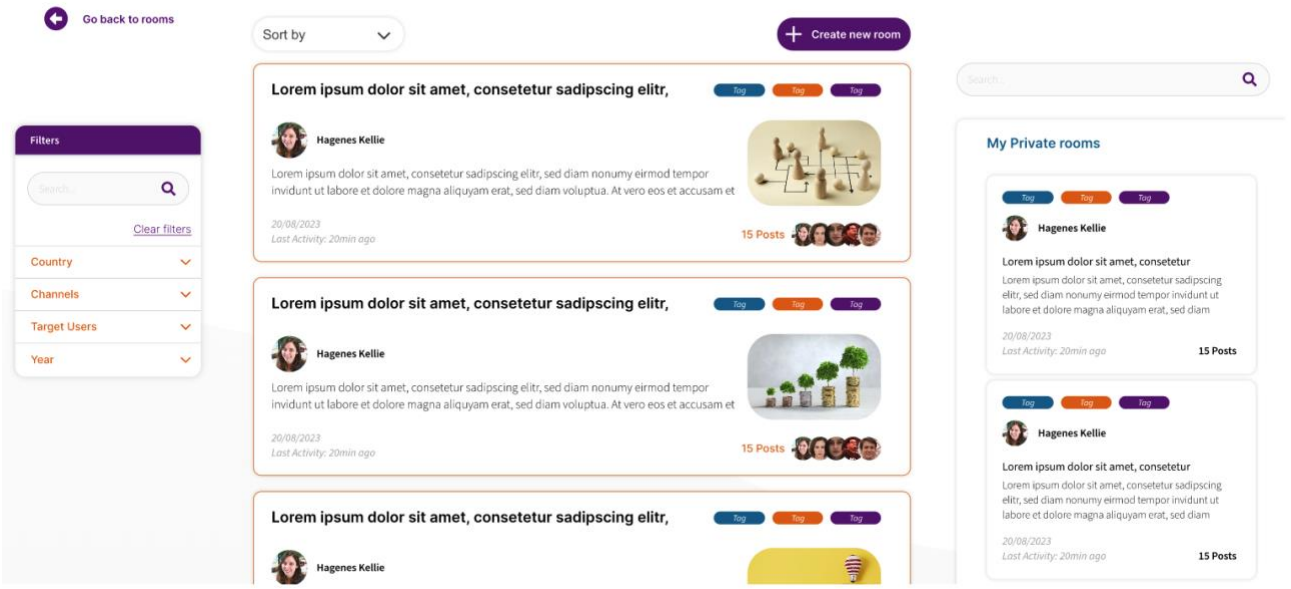

Figure 42: A list of posts in the community forum (mock-up screen)

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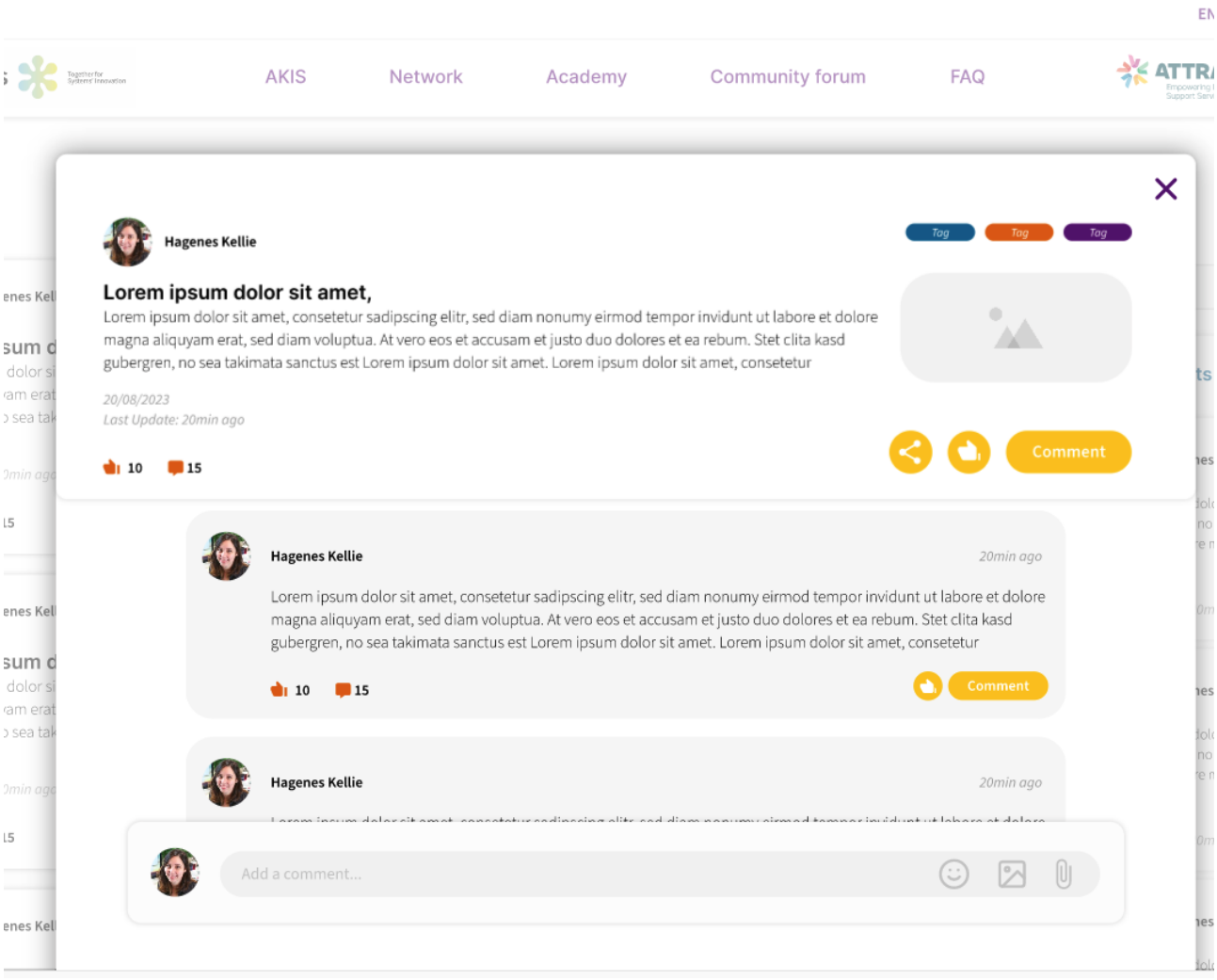

Figure 43: A detailed view of a post in the community forum (mock-up screen)

Apart from the above features, the need for additional features may arise until the next version in delivered, which will be documented in the updated version of this report D2.10, due M36 of the project.

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9. Conclusion

The aim of D2.9 “Report on Networking platform operation” was to describe the progress until the scheduled release of the first version of AKISConnect platform and the activities which preceded its launch before February 2024, as well as afterward, until M24 of the project, August 2024. The aim was to do so by detailing the progress behind the content and functionalities of the platform. This deliverable focuses on the development and deployment of the Milestone and Initial Version (Month 18 and Month 24, respectively), guided through the creation of the AKISConnect platform, as well as feedback and inputs from the project’s executive board and broader consortium. Careful consideration of the stack and the design of the platform were made, all validated by the project’s consortium.

In accordance with the project developments, the AKISConnect platform will undergo rigorous refinements, aiming to optimize the user experience and improve functionalities. A major focus after the launch of the initial version will be the continual evaluation of the platform, gathering feedback from all different user groups in the project’s ecosystem. An agile development framework will be supported by the continual assessments of user needs, aiming to ameliorate and enhance existing features based on user feedback, as well as consider further updates, committed to optimizing user experience.

The existing data will also be expanded to reflect the progress of the project’s inventory of AKIS in Practice, AKIS Strategy cards, events that will keep taking place, new sets of ISS tools and methods as well as the potential of an open discussion space for AKIS actors.

Moreover, the platform’s post-project longevity will be considered in a more detailed process in the following versions, once the platform has been well established and proven its necessity among AKIS actors across Europe, aiming to increase and sustain the platform’s activities even after the project’s lifetime. modernAKIS project partners will finally ensure that the main outcomes will be selected to feed the EU-FarmBook project’s repository under the topic “HE-CL6-2021-GOV-01-24”: EU-wide inventory”, further solidifying the platform’s sustainability potential.

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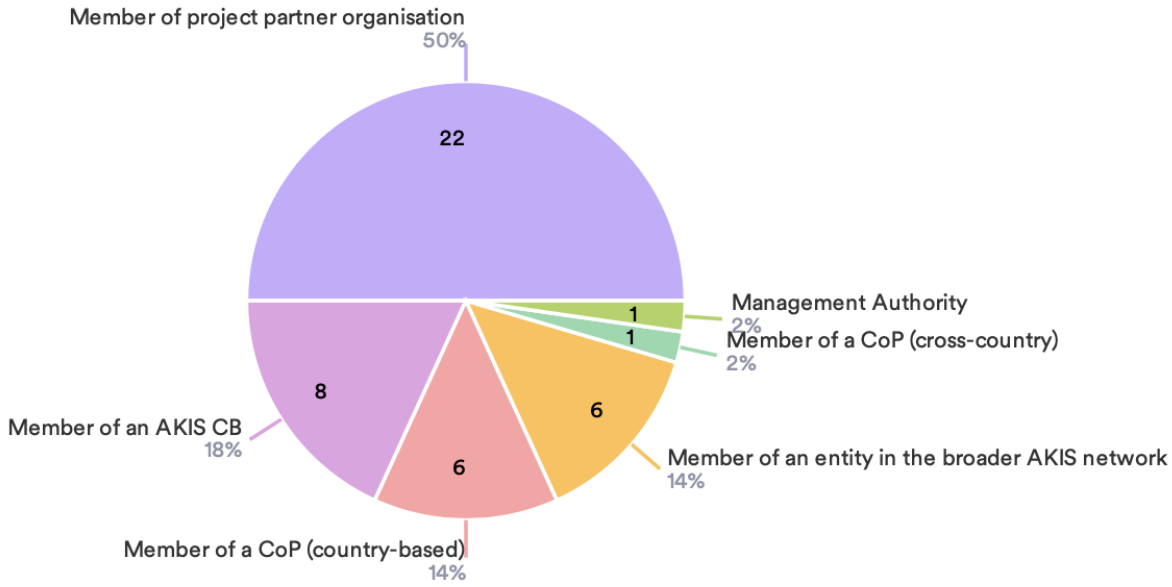
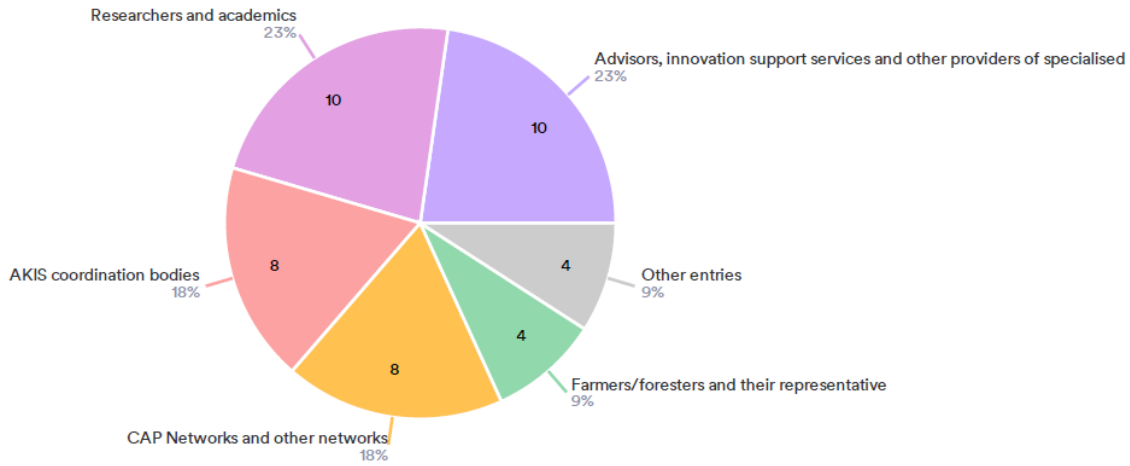
Annex I

The following section presents the answers provided by participants in the online survey which took place from May 25 to June 7, 2023 and is described in this document in Section 4.2.

1. Which of the roles listed below describes best your involvement in the modernAKIS project OR in the broader AKIS network? You may choose more than one option.



2. To which of the identified categories of AKIS network actors would you say you belong OR feel most related?



3. Have you ever been involved in any AKIS-related group or activity before your participation in the modernAKIS project, and if so can you please describe your role and the context in which your participation took place?

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No (x5)
I'm member of SCAR AKIS group. Also, i have participated in development of AKIS part of Bulgarian CAP 2023-2027 strategic plan
strategic working group SCAR AKIS
Manager of some european projects
Innovation broker in research funding projects
Starting in 2014 I regularly follow SCAR AKIS work and tried to participate in their events. In parallel, I was implementing national EIP projects that were connected with new services for agriculture and AKIS implementation. Based on experiences was created innovation sharing system for farmers TITRIS, an Innovation support service in Lithuanian Agricultural advisory service. Starting in 2020 I am working in the Development Service of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences as project manager. I was working on a national project that created a plan for a more effective and integrated AKIS in 2022.
Coordinator and organizer of the Pilot project for testing AKIS - Working Group for the transfer of knowledge and practices to implement agricultural and forestry measures to reduce the impacts of climate change and the consequences of drought (from 2020 till now) UZEI´s Department the Knowledge and innovation systems creates activities for AKIS support in Czech Republic
As part of the preparation of the strategic plan, I led the working group at the Ministry of Agriculture for the area of the AKIS horizontal objective.
SCAR AKIS - member i2connect - task leader
no, I have not been involved in any AKIS-related activity before my participation in the modernAKIS project
Participation in SCAR AKIS meetings, sharing experiences and good practices
I worked with the national planning process from the moment we started to create a structure for the AKIS coordination body. I am the AKIS coordination body.
I participated in H2020 projects, EURAKNOS, EUREKA to build a knowledge reservoir, and some others, like SHERPA. My employer, AKI operates agricultural information systems, providing useful information for the public. AKI also carry out research activities and shares its result with the public. AKI is a support unit of the national AKIS (digitalization and innovation). I participated in several capacity Building projects (EuropeAid, FAO, TAIEX, TWINNING).
I am involved in several networks related to AKIS, in my role as innovation coach at Swedish Rural Network, and part of AKIS CB in Sweden. I have also studied AKIS (mainly the Swedish) when I was a PhD-student (defended my PhD thesis in 2020).
My Organization ELGO-DIMITRA is a public entity that is involved in Greek AKIS, as it certifies advisors and is also in charge of training of farmers and knowledge transfer in

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the agricultural sector. As a researcher I have many years of experience in knowledge transfer of the outputs of my projects.
Yes, the national CAP-Network (Network Support Unit) organised activitities to support innovation (EIP-Agri) and knowledge dissemination. By the Rural Development Program in the former CAP-period many innovation- and knowledge dissemination projects were realised. Most of our activities were focused on making connections.
Previously I've been working as a project manager in farmers' additional education project. My responsibility was to active farmers to participate to various types of training and excursions and ofcourse, to organize these to fulfill farmers' needs.
SCAR AKIS Technical support teams for the group meetings
I coordinate the Farm advisory system for our network at the regional level.
AS CAP network we support different activites that are related to knowledge sharing. Among other we are managing the Knowleadge platform (web collection of reports, publications ...)

4. As a partner of the modernAKIS project could you give some examples of what YOU seek OR what is your aim, when entering the modernAKIS community platform?

To find easy contact points from other EU counties related to AKIS - coordination bodies, advisory services, implementation bodies, etc. To find good examples for development of AKIS To find for every EU country how AKIS system is organised and structured To find how are involved advisors in AKIS in other countries To find info anb contacts for other AKIS related projects
Networking Knowledge exchange
Reinforce our AKIS skills.
share new knowledge created in partner regions on various agricultural issues and transfer this to local stakeholders
For a long time following the SCAR AKIS activity, I saw a few people from Lithuania that were interested in this theme. I see my aim in this project to engage more different people in national AKIS activities and to show them how the system could help them to share information and to get feedback. In general, I think that effective and integrated AKIS can not be implemented by one institution. The implementation of national AKIS I see over a lot of partners' cooperation only. When people feel that they are awaited in these activities and they will get concrete positive feedback, I hope that the process will run furthermore smoothly.
inspiration for support of national AKIS activities, examples of good practices from other countries
Within the framework of the platform, I count on the fact that most of the important information in the field of AKIS will be collected in one place.
1. Contacts of AKIS actors from other MS 2. Bilateral and multilateral dialogue

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3. Material, like AKIS Strategies and annual implementation reports, taht I do not find anywherelse 4. Figures and information about the AKIS in MS and their comparison (interactive tools) 5. Interactive tools for a friendly visualization of insights, information and materials delivered by modernAKIS 6. Section open to continous dialogue for capturing ongoing needs and expectations, insights from AKIS actors
exchange of the best practice examples
Knowing what other partners are implementing in each MS. Learn and exchange experiences, difficulties, good practices. How to promote and improve relationships between actors involved in AKIS. What are the best methodologies / tools to transfer knowledge more effectively.
- User-friendly platform wherein information/data is easily located - A potential model for country-based AKIS platforms - Links to country-based AKIS platforms and EU wide AKIS stakeholders
- User-friendly platform wherein information/data is easily located - A potential model for country-based AKIS platforms - Links to country-based AKIS platforms and EU wide AKIS stakeholders
To find contacts and relevant information about other AKIS systems and the activities of AKIS coordination bodies.
I would wish for an interactive platform which invites to exchange with other people, to make it really easy to get in contact and to find relevant information on AKIS.
Results of the projects, events, contacts of AKIS players, training materials, other AKIS related materials
Inspiration and learnings from other members - and also to share our experience from Sweden.
Interaction with other members Toolbox Information on activities
- Contribute to establish the "AKIS ecosystem" in Greece - Include motivated people in this ecosystem and in supporting bodies, such as CoPs - Increase the awareness of farmers and other stakeholders about AKIS - Increase links between research, training, advisory with farming and agroi-businesses
AKIS in the Netherlands is strong but highly fragmented. Our aim is to strengthen the Dutch AKIS. What we do is: 1. Stimulating the use of and access to knowledge and innovation interventions within the NSP 2. Providing overviews: Operational Groups and knowledge projects are stored in the own and EU database. Overview of relevant players and initiatives in the AKIS. 3. Connecting Operational Groups with EU and national research projects; with Thematic Networks and Focus Groups 4. Knowledge dissemination: storing results of OGs on Groen Kennisnet (NL) and EU

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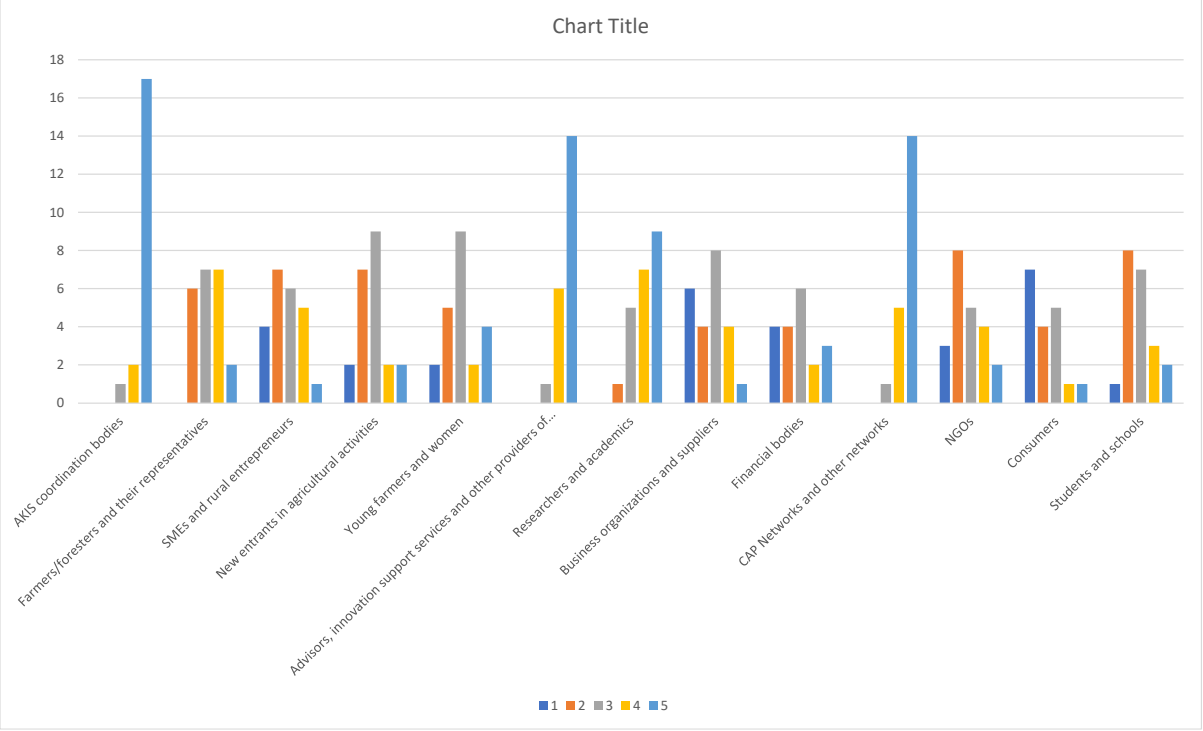
Farmbook 5. Monitoring & Evaluation: monitoring of the development of the AKIS and reporting on the state of play of the AKIS 6. Fulfilling our role regarding impartiality and competence development of both impartial and commercial organizations.
As a CB, I mostly keen on how to commit various stakeholders to the AKIS itself and how to build the farmers' motivation to participate for farm business management trainings.
info how you deal with community building on platforms
assisting in the best implementation of AKIS
SEEK/AIM : information coming from other country that have better involved the advisors in the AKIS, some issues that could be included in our CAP SP during the review.
- good practices - seminars to improve my knowleadge and skills related to informrn, promote and communicate

5. For which of the following AKIS actors' categories, do you consider the modernAKIS community platform to be most relevant? You can provide your rating from 0: Not relevant to 5: Extremely relevant



6. For any of the identified categories below, that you feel more familiar with, can you give some examples of what these users seek when entering modernAKIS community platform? Example: Researchers and academics: "they need to share new knowledge with AKIS actors"

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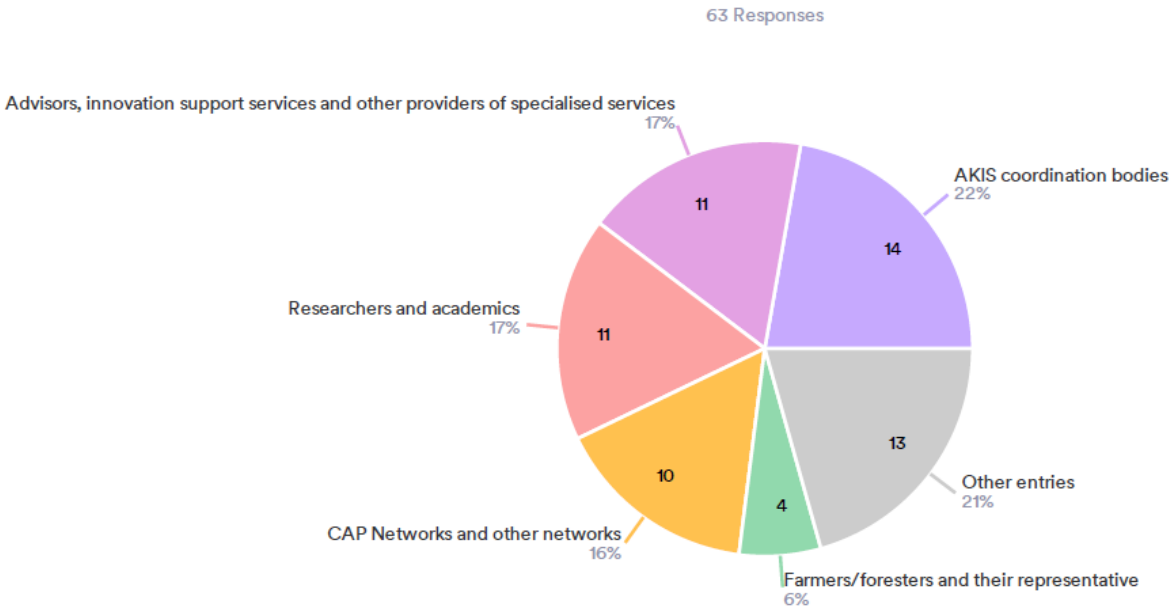

What "AKIS coordination bodies" seek:

other AKIS CB, good examples for AKIS structuring, how to identify AKIS stakeholders, how to make list with advisors
Governance
Networking for good practises
Relevant knowledge how to implement AKIS and measure the effect of interventions
contacts of other CBs, information about other CBs, substantive and organizational information related to AKIS
Peer-to-peer, needs assessment, information about others' AKIS strategies and their implementation
best practice examples
Learning with peers.
links to the EU wide AKIS stakeholders/processes (e.g. advisors/advisory services) for a better understanding of AKIS models in other countries
links to the EU wide AKIS stakeholders/processes (e.g. advisors/advisory services) for a better understanding of AKIS models in other countries
new contacts, potential partners and interesting examples
in-practice useful tips and good practices on how to manage and monitor the AKIS
Inspiration, learnings and best practise from other members.
Best practices, support

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What "Farmers/foresters and their representatives" seek:

what is AKIS, what is their role, which are their benefits to participate in AKIS, other similar partners, knowledge reservoir
potential partners, knowledge, example
Inspirational stories of other farmers
They need to know how can the dissemination of transition (climatic change and so on) can be improved and also supported by CAP SP's

What "SMEs and rural entrepreneurs" seek:	**What "New entrants in agricultural activities" seek:**	**What "Young farmers and women" seek:**	**What "Financial bodies" seek:**
0	**0**	**0**	**0**

What "Advisors, innovation support services and other providers of specialised services" seek:

what is their role, how to be included better in AKIS and how to use benefits from AKIS, other similar partners, knowledge reservoir, how better to link with farmers and researchers
new methods to support innovation, bringing ambition and acceptance together
Innovation
Cooperation in research projects that can fit into local needs
To have a database of advisors and a system for feedback of their provided services
Peer-to-peer and networking; Sharing practices on interactions within the AKIS and approaches for interactive innovations; Information about other relevant projects
Acquire and renew knowledge.
potential partners, knowledge
Ready-for-practice agricultural knowledge to support farmers in implementing their innovations, mainly technical knowledge on innovations
Colleagues they can connect with.
They need information about how they can interact in the AKIS when they are competitor on field for the link with the farmers

What "Researchers and academics" seek:

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what is their role, how to be included better in AKIS and how to use benefits from AKIS, other similar partners, knowledge reservoir, how better to link with farmers and advisors
find latest information and share new knowledge
Gathering knowledge on dynamics of AKIS across EU; Peer-to-peer; Sharing practices on interactions within the AKIS and approaches for interactive innovations; Information about other relevant projects
A platform of information/data that can support AKIS set-up/implementation
A platform of information/data that can support AKIS set-up/implementation
potential partners, to share knowledge
know about research needs and share knowledge
well-searchable scientific and other related materials
Produce reserarch results targeted to the needs of farmers and agribusinesses and find effective ways to communicate them and help stakeholders capitalize on them
Contact to AKIS CB (HE calls)
education and trainning student and joung farmers in the CAP and new and future strategies.

What "Business organizations and suppliers" seek:

what is AKIS, what is their role, which are their benefits to participate in AKIS, other similar partners, knowledge reservoir

What "CAP Networks and other networks" seek:

what is their role, how to be included better in AKIS , other similar partners, knowledge reservoir, how better to link other AKIS stakeholders
networking, information about implementation of AKIS related interventions in EU Memberstates
To exchange relevant information - what is going on? About what people in rural areas are talking/discussing
Peer-to-peer; Action plans and Practices of CAP networks
Learning with peers.
to disseminate information, find partners, gain knowledge
Understanding the role of different networks and projects, getting in contact with other actors in memberstates.
Best practices, support

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Knowledge of the AKIS activities
good practices; tools for communicating and networking

What "NGOs" seek:

what is AKIS, what is their role, which are their benefits to participate in AKIS, other similar partners, knowledge reservoir
What is NGO? (also related to previous question - please explane.

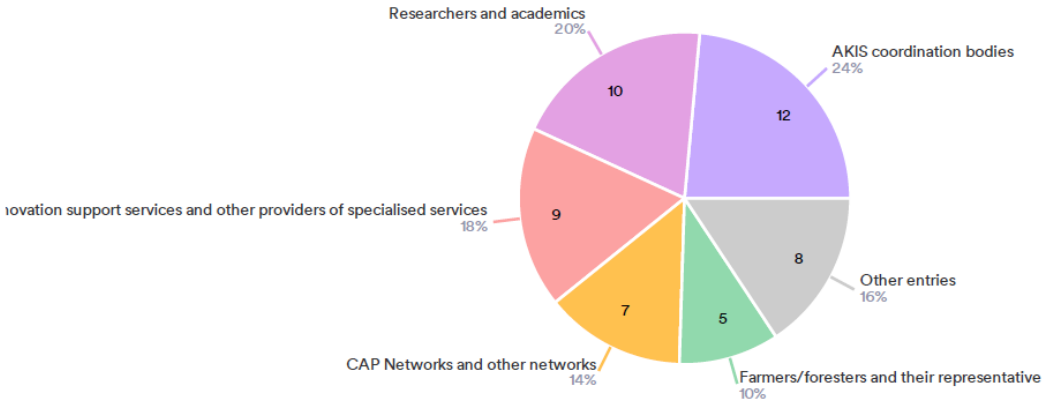
What "Consumers" seek:

Knowledge

What "Students and schools" seek:

what is AKIS, knowledge reservoir
Understand what the future could be!
info who is in the networks

7. For any of the identified categories below, that you feel more familiar with, could you give some examples of content (e.g, regarding people, organizations, documents, events, trainings, etc) that the respective category would like to have access to when entering modernAKIS community platform?



Examples of content useful to "AKIS coordination bodies"

Guidelines to manage akis actors
For different countries implement AKIS

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contacts of other Cbs, contacts of CAP networks by member states, contacts of advisory services, contacts of central research institutions by member states
News on relevant events (of modernAKIS and others); AKIS strategies and their implementation; practical insights for ongoing coordination of the AKIS strategies
how to empower regional AKIS networks; dissemination tools
Events, trainings, documents, projects
support service for advisors, contact details for advisory services that can be engaged to make-up for local gaps in advisory services, training/funding support for set-up of national platform for knowledge sharing
support service for advisors, contact details for advisory services that can be engaged to make-up for local gaps in advisory services, training/funding support for set-up of national platform for knowledge sharing
contacts of other AKIS coordination bodies, good examples, advisors, researchers, reports
Reports and documents about AKIS in other countries and in the EU. Links to webpages with AKIS-information in memberstates. Events and trainings for international knowledge exchange.
Best practices, support, tools,
Examples of best practices on activation of the stakeholders.

Examples of content useful to "Farmers/foresters and their representatives"

To see or to share information related to CAP implementation or other questions
Events, trainings, demo farms, projects
reports, contacts
Inspirational stories of other farmers
A regional committe including all themain stakeholders of the AKIS (education, research, advisor, business organization, Ministry and Regional authority) : speaking about R&D, how to put in place an organization for the climatic transition (eg) this committee is rule by the Chamber of agriculture.

Examples of content useful to "SMEs and rural entrepreneurs"

best practise videos

Examples of content useful to "New entrants in agricultural activities"

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Events, trainings, demo farms, projects

Examples of content useful to "Young farmers and women"

Events, trainings, demo farms, projects
reports, contacts, example

Examples of content useful to "Advisors, innovation support services and other providers of specialised services"

knowledge reservoir
synergies ecoschemes and agri-environmental-measures, how to avoid double funding?
Advisory tools
newsletters and videos of pilot projects for innovation
News on events (of modernAKIS and others); Training plans and courses; Practices on interactions within the AKIS and approaches for interactive innovations
how to efficiently provide an innovation support service
Events, trainings, documents, projects, demo farms
contacts, reports, knowledge
Training material

Examples of content useful to "Researchers and academics"

research papers based on an easy to find index
What new research themes are on the way in the sector, maybe to find a project partner
inspiring information from other countries, trainings, projects related to AKIS
Deliverables
training material to support the set-up of local certified training programs for advisors
training material to support the set-up of local certified training programs for advisors
contacts, reports, knowledge
documents, trainings
Communication tools, understanding of the importance of the use of effective methods of communication; Recording of training and advisory needs of farmers and agribusiness
workshop, simposium, training materials.

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Examples of content useful to "Business organizations and suppliers"

0

Examples of content useful to "Financial bodies"

I would ban this AKIS member from receiving certain information: detailed information about the intervention may increase the prices of some goods of agriculture

Examples of content useful to "CAP Networks and other networks"

New methods of knowledge exchange and networking, research results which should be transfered into practice
News on events (of modernAKIS and others); Contacts of other CAP networks; OGs databases and materials
Events, trainings, documents, projects
contacts, reports, knowledge
Reports and documents about AKIS in other countries and in the EU. Links to webpages with AKIS-information in memberstates. Events and trainings for international knowledge exchange.
Best practices, support, tools,
network events, in advance prepared material for communicating

Examples of content useful to "NGOs"

0

Examples of content useful to "Consumers"

reports, knowledge

Examples of content useful to "Students and schools"

Events, trainings, projects, demo farms
training, practical and local info but also EU-related info

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8. Would you be willing to contribute to the creation and sharing of content/resources of the modernAKIS community platform? Can you please give some examples of this content?

I wrote in previous replies
not yet
Training content
prepare a newsletter template on research and pilot projects undertaken in Cyprus
Yes, sure. The question is how it could be done. From previous practice, I know that some information providers (including ministries) are very sensitive to their information sharing. In this situation maybe would help to use concrete links and a tool, that can open the link in an attractive way. The second question is the criteria we are going to use for sorting information for sharing.
maybe we can offer our experience from our activities at the national level
Probably not, given the personnel capabilities
yes. Deliverables Tool of AKISinteract! Tool of figures and information about the AKIS strategies in MS Contacts about the CAP network
I would like to contribute to the creation and sharing of content of the modernAKIS community platform if needed
Yes. Projects (Operational Groups, and ?I&Di), Demo farms,
It is early to list potential contributions. However Malta's unique agricultural context can offer interesting content of local experience/challenges with agriculture innovation
It is early to list potential contributions. However Malta's unique agricultural context can offer interesting content of local experience/challenges with agriculture innovation
When we will have some events which could help to strengthen AKIS system we are ready to share them as short reports.
yes, but not yet able to provide examples of this content
Yes, the deliverables and other results coming from modernAKIS project
Yes. I can share our investigation and how we have developed our AKIS coordination body in Sweden. I can also share how we work with communication and AKIS-events.
Yes, by providing good practices of 'AKIS in practice'.
Yes - Fact sheets and other material from outputs of my research projects - Information about communication and dissemination events from my projects (or other relevant invitations)
Yes. We want to share the results of our activities in improving the AKIS and what we learn from the Communities of Practice we want tot start.

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Well, it highly depends where this platform will be integrated. Do we need any completely NEW platform or could this be integrated on some platform that already exists such as EIP-Agri or EUFarmBook? I highly suspect if completely new platform will find the required user volume as we have also national, regional and sectoral platforms already.
yes, by interoperability of EU-FarmBook platform and modernAKIS community platform
materials, like videos, courses, training programs
what is the link with WP1 in which their is a task in which we send our best practices for improving the AKIS... I think it could be interesting to put them in the platform. link with platform from other Horizon EU project could be also interesting and perhaps using the i2 connect one as a base for the advisory part ? a lot of platform will be build in the network of advisor (livestok, pesticides, organic, forestry, ATTRACTISS,...) and are available IPMworks, IPM decision..... That's too many form my point of view. modenAKIS could be the central one as farmbook is for the practice. Than as an advice I need to connect to only one and I find all my thematic there. As an example, you can go to rdagri in france which collect all the good pratices... (https://rd-agri.fr/) there is not only results coming from the resaerch but also guidelines in link with value chain, cooperation in territory and so on
/

9. Is there specific content/information that you would prefer to share in a private mode (eg. forum with restricted access, discussion groups/channels, private group chats)? Can you give some examples of information that you would like to share in private mode and who would participate in these private interactions?

No
not yet
Confidential issues
requests for cooperation in selected partners
From more than ten years of work with different projects, I can say that I would be ready for sharing information about AKIS in private mode. Why? I am willing to tell my colleagues that are not familiar with AKIS about these activities and my other friends. Such a tendency (to use private contacts) for sharing information about the job (representing the position or explaining one or another thing) I notice from other my friends on social media. I respect the person that believes in the things he is doing.
We can imagine that for e.g. CBs it could be appreciated to share experiences, chalenges, bariers in the private groupe
Yes it would be useful for exchange of information between CBs
1. private group chats with WP an task leaders 2. discussion group with SAB

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no
Only in particular situations, where there is an express request (justification) not to share information abroad.
All examples above
All examples above
Could be nice if there were a place for AKIS coordination bodies, where to ask a questions about relevant issues and to share experiance.
I think it would be good to have closed forums for closed groups, e.g. the AKIS CBs, the CoPs
Not finalized working documents making it possible to comment and review for some selected persons.
The same as above.
-
-
No
Do not know yet.
restricted access for contact info of experts/advisors/...
No as long I know.
The information for the improvement of the AKIS for the next CAP including AKIS CB's and partner of the project if they are not AKIS CB's. Yes I want to participate even if I'm not an AKIS CB's
/

10. Are you aware of any digital platforms providing information on the AKIS concept, whether already existing in your country on a national level or that you have used on an international level?

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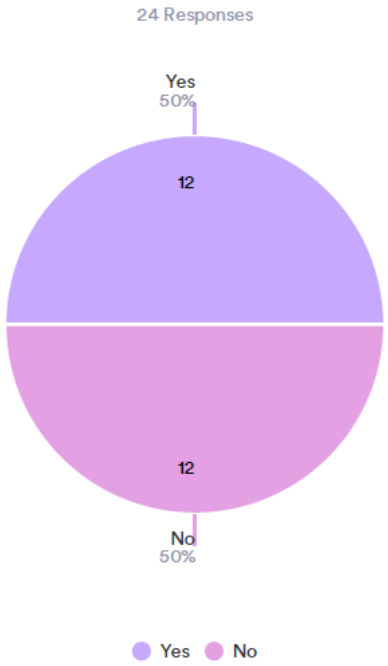

11. In case you are aware of or have used any digital platform relevant to the AKIS concept in the past, could you let us know which they are? Use commas to separate one example from the other.

CAP Network
https://titris.lzukt.lt/en - the system is unique for its ability to name what concrete effect in farms was reached when the innovation was embedded. This is very important. Based on this I see the system as a support tool for advisors and brokers.
instructional videos with practical examples, animated videos, workbooks and other printed materials for children and youth, webinars
access to videos, good practice examples, comments from users, multi-lingual content, interactive tools, reports, contacts, news of events
advanced search option
Access to videos, best practice examples, comments from users, multi-lingual content, online tools, rich stories & video tutorials, virtual reality training and explore tips & tricks
I used country reports and also advisory database.
See above answer. No relevant platforms.
Project information, activities/events, best practices, descriptions/logos etc.
best practice examples, Operational groups results, videos

12. In your opinion, what are the major difficulties in using digital platforms related to AKIS concept? (You may choose more than one of the options available.)

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It is not easy to spot and access relevant information. The navigation in the digital platform is difficult. User unfriendly interfaces/poor user experience.
It is not easy to spot and access relevant information. The navigation in the digital platform is difficult. User unfriendly interfaces/poor user experience. There is no advanced search option.
The information is outdated. There is only static information without any opportunity for interaction (comments, reactions, ratings). The navigation in the digital platform is difficult. There is no opportunity to interact with another user in any possible way User unfriendly interfaces/poor user experience. You need to create an account to get access to information. The search results that are being returned are not relevant.
There is only static information without any opportunity for interaction (comments, reactions, ratings). There is no opportunity to interact with another user in any possible way not dynamic navigation across AKIS in EU; no uptodate information about the AKIS in MS; no indicators
The navigation in the digital platform is difficult. no english version of the website
The information is outdated. Access to information is not available in the language(s) I speak. There is no opportunity to interact with another user in any possible way The platform interfaces are full of information that is not easy to comprehend. User unfriendly interfaces/poor user experience. You need to create an account to get access to information. There is no advanced search option.
It is not easy to spot and access relevant information. Access to information is not available in the language(s) I speak. The platform interfaces are full of information that is not easy to comprehend. You need to create an account to get access to information. There is no manual (or any other kind of platform use instructions) available.
It is not easy to spot and access relevant information. There is no opportunity to interact with another user in any possible way User unfriendly interfaces/poor user experience.
It is not easy to spot and access relevant information. The navigation in the digital platform is difficult.
It is not easy to spot and access relevant information. The information is outdated. Access to information is not available in the language(s) I speak. You need to create an account to get access to information. The search results that are being returned are not relevant.

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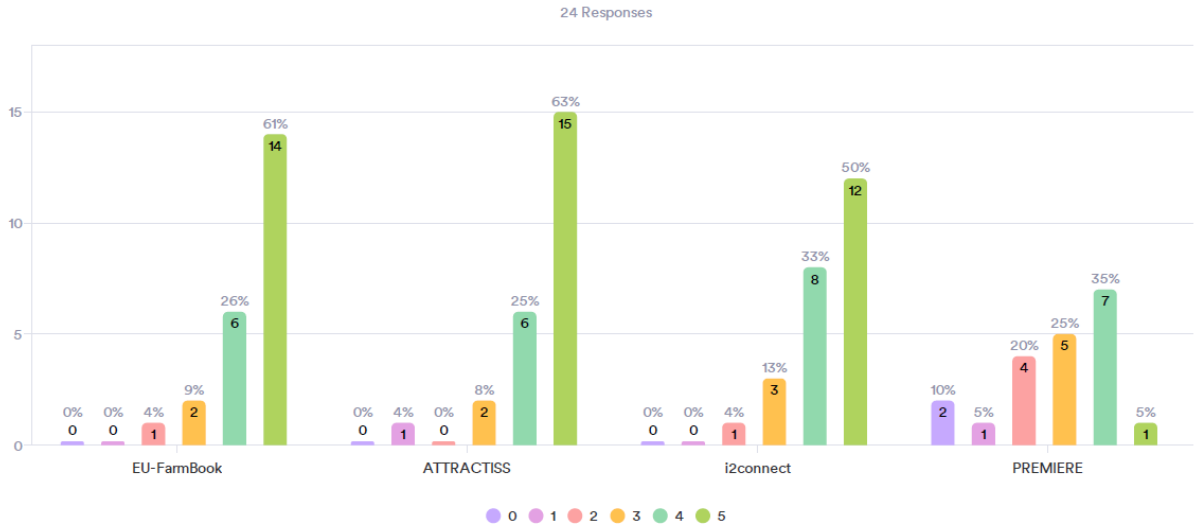
The information is outdated. The navigation in the digital platform is difficult. There is no opportunity to interact with another user in any possible way There is no manual (or any other kind of platform use instructions) available.
Access to information is not available in the language(s) I speak. User unfriendly interfaces/poor user experience. You need to create an account to get access to information.

13. Which of the following EU projects listed below do you consider more relevant to modernAKIS and therefore should be interoperable or connected to the modernAKIS community platform?



14. Based on your level of involvement or familiarity with any of the above EU projects/platforms, can you please provide some examples, describing a case of interaction between modernAKIS community platform and one of the above listed projects, in terms of content or actors involved? (eg, ATTRACTIS will collect ISS tools & methods which will be hosted in modernAKIS platform,OR some video recordings from modernAKIS activities could also be uploaded in EU-FarmBook, etc)

Only for I2Connect- their surveys snd proposal of AKIS in every EU country, their advisors date base, developed tools
EIP Agri, AKIS graphs, multiactor projects working in a co-creative way
CoPs. Too many of them.
I have little knowledge of these projects
Both of the projects (EU-FarmBook and Attractiss) I see as part of AKIS system. They are direct connected with AKIS implementation. i2connect was working with advisors. I am not so familiar with the results and final report.

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Joint work with Premiere can help better interconnecting AKIS actors for improving designs of Horizon projects ATTRACTIS and i2connect collect ISS tools & methods which can be hosted in modernAKIS platform, Joint work with ATTRACTIIS for some capacity building and networking activities on teh role of ISS in AKIS and their support to innovation Deliverables and other materials from modernAKIS activities could be uploaded in EU-FarmBook Some events of EU-Farm Book to train AKIS actors on how to use EUF platform
I2CONNECT data/information on advisory services can feature in modernAKIS platform
I2CONNECT data/information on advisory services can feature in modernAKIS platform
The AKIS country reports from i2connect should link with the platform. All the useful information about ISS should be available on AKIS platform. Could be good if EU-FarmBook connects all of the mentioned projects and from there is the possibility to go deeper with a link to the main webpage of the project.
ATTRACTISS and modernAKIS basically have the same target group (modernAKIS on a bigger and ATTRACTISS on a smaller scale) and we are having discussions to have one shared platform, which I would welcome very much. Thus all content, tools and methods produced both by modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS should be on the same platform. However, I think it is important that the platform is not a space where to put everything produced by the projects - this can be done on the projects' websites. I believe the platform needs to be selective and focus only on the content relevant for the specific target group of the platform.
The knowledge materials of EU Farmbook can be used for capacity building activities. The result of modernAKIS can be shared with wider public in EU Farmbook. The result of ATTRACTISS can be used in modernAKIS. The network of modernAKIS can be reached by EU Farmbook and Attractiss.
ATTRACTISS: recommendations and handbook for Managing Authorities regarding the embedding of ISS in their country/region.
Knowledge dissemination, improvement of advisory services,
all agricultural & forestry content-related documents/you tube movies/podcasts/... gathered on modernAKIS platform should be shared with EU-FarmBook. The chats, regulations, policy letter, ... among AKIS actors in the modernAKIS platform are less relevant and should not be incorporated in the EU-FarmBook platform. EU-FarmBook = collection of practice-oriented knowledge objects, for bridging the gap between research & practice, with a specific 'corner on the platform' for education & training. This 'knowledge based' platform should be the point of reference for practitioners when they are in need of info; it is a tool for supporting the AKIS actors in Europe. The modernAKIS platform is more the overall platform.
video recordings from modernAKIS activities could also be uploaded in EU-FarmBook
I don't know premiere and eu farm book very well, not engaged in. I'm ok with your proposal or ATTRACTISS and I think it could be useful if this will be done for the next proposal in which they mention the link with the AKIS (most of the governance ones).

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15. Are there any additional insights that you wish to be captured at this stage which have not been already covered?

No
Mapping AKIS properly
Last year, I noticed a strange trend in some actions on the subject of AKIS. I see that many activities are organized that are related to AKIS and may be good ideas, but the ultimate relevance of such activities is very questionable. For example, it is now fashionable to organize EIP project networks. The basic idea is nice and might be interesting if someone could argue the REAL benefit of such an action. How is it going: I see 7 - 9 EIP project presentations at one place (event) and very little interest from people (visitors). WHO has the final benefit of such actions? As I understand we do need not need to present innovations for each other (EIP projects implementations) but to embed already created innovation in practice. The action statically to present innovation is not working in practice. If there is a need to share experiences of project implementation between these projects - ok. But as I know, there is no knowledge limit of how to implement the next project.
I don't think so at this stage.
Ongoing search for other Horizon projects that are relevant: EU4Advice, CoreNet and others on food systems that have some focus of common interest
The daily/regular connection with AKIS key players should be ensured by the platform, a solution where they can quickly share information, can answer questions, connect with each other, comment on ideas, etc.
No
I believe there is a strong synergy between the EU-FarmBook and modernAKIS projects concerning setting-up the online community. We should work together and share experiences. Our social designer, Laurens van der Cryussen, who will develop the online community, will be informed about this survey & the plans for launch in February 2024.
no
Plenty of network with exchange of practice will be created we absolutely need that modenAKIS centralize the information and, I dream perhaps, the methodology of exchange the information between stakeholders (and also advisors themselves?). Otherwhise I feel that it 'll time-consuming, confusing at the national level (and for the AKIS coordinator).

Annex II

The following section presents some of the outcomes produced during the «User needs identification" session which took place in an online meeting, in June 26, 2023. Explanation of this session is found in Section 4.3 of this report.

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Section 3

Collaboration phase 1

Feedback (comments & suggestions)

- Needs
- Networking
- Material

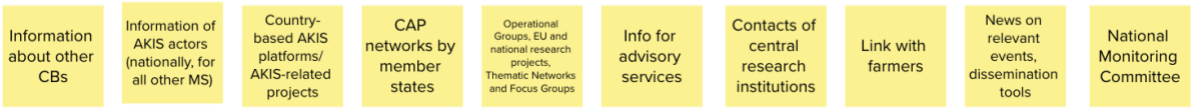
Final sorting

⏱ 50 minutes

A. Needs



B. Networking



C. Knowledge



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Example

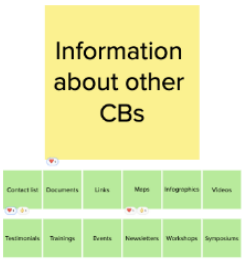


Section 3

Collaboration phase 2
Vote type of content/post-it
Elaborate on type of content (comment, suggest)

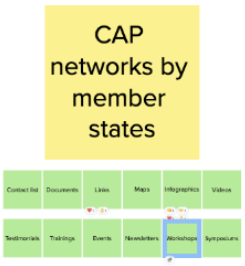
Here you can vote the most relevant type of content for each post-it

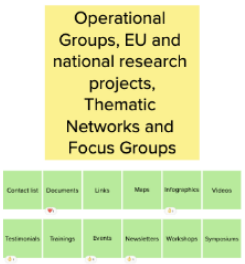
B. Networking





















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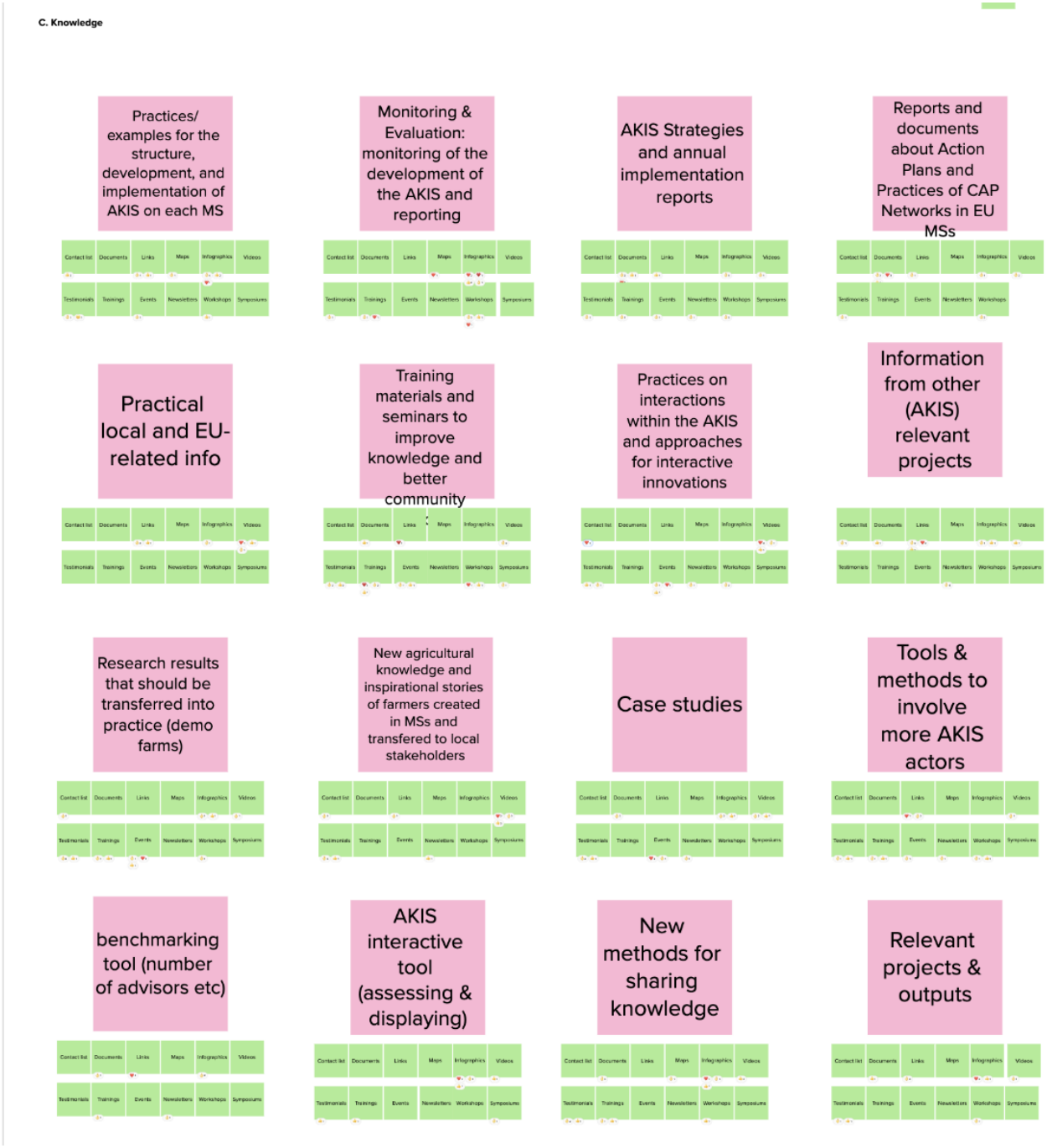

Annex III

The following section presents some of the outcomes produced during the «User interaction paths" session which took place in an online meeting, in July 48, 2023. Explanation of this session is found in Section 4.4 of this report.

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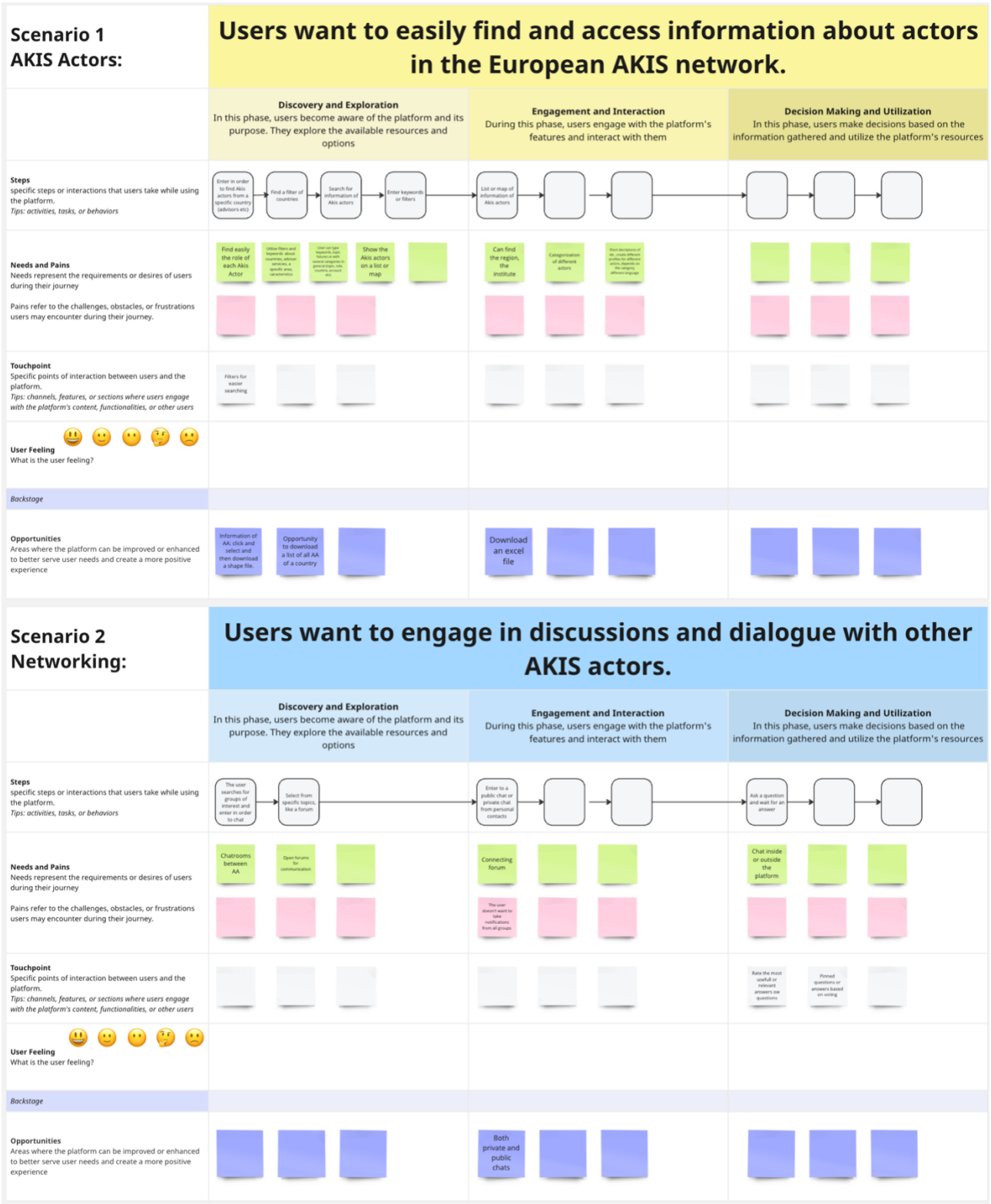

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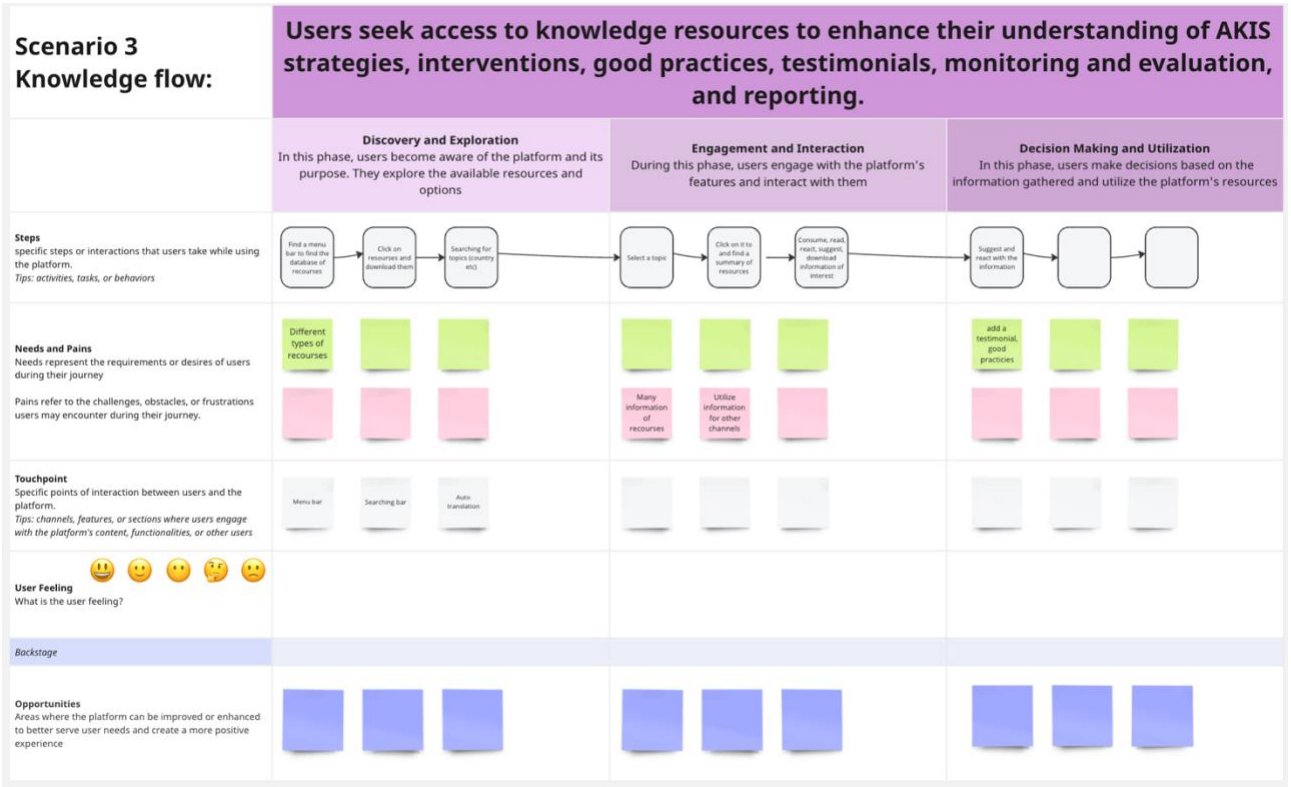

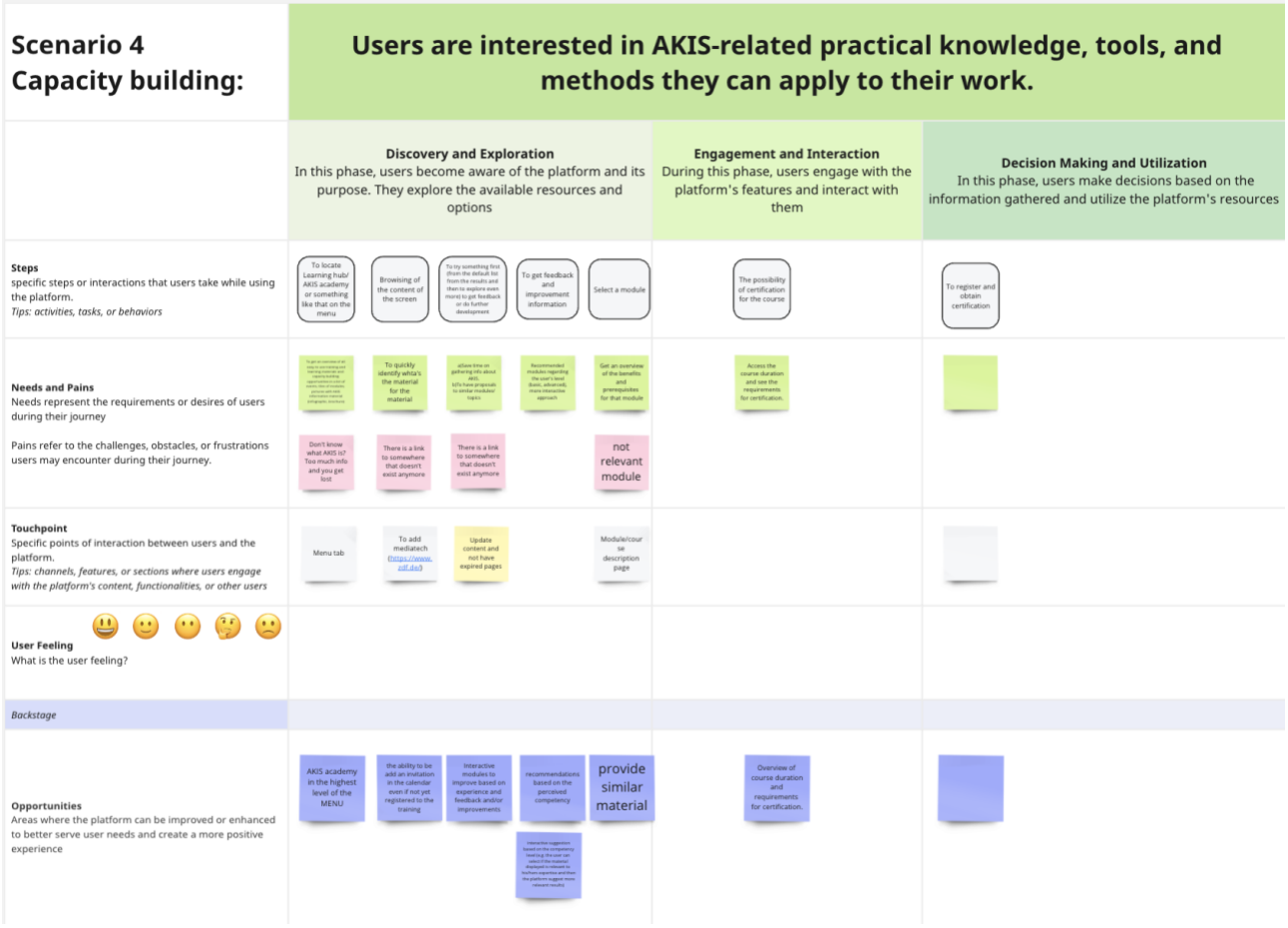

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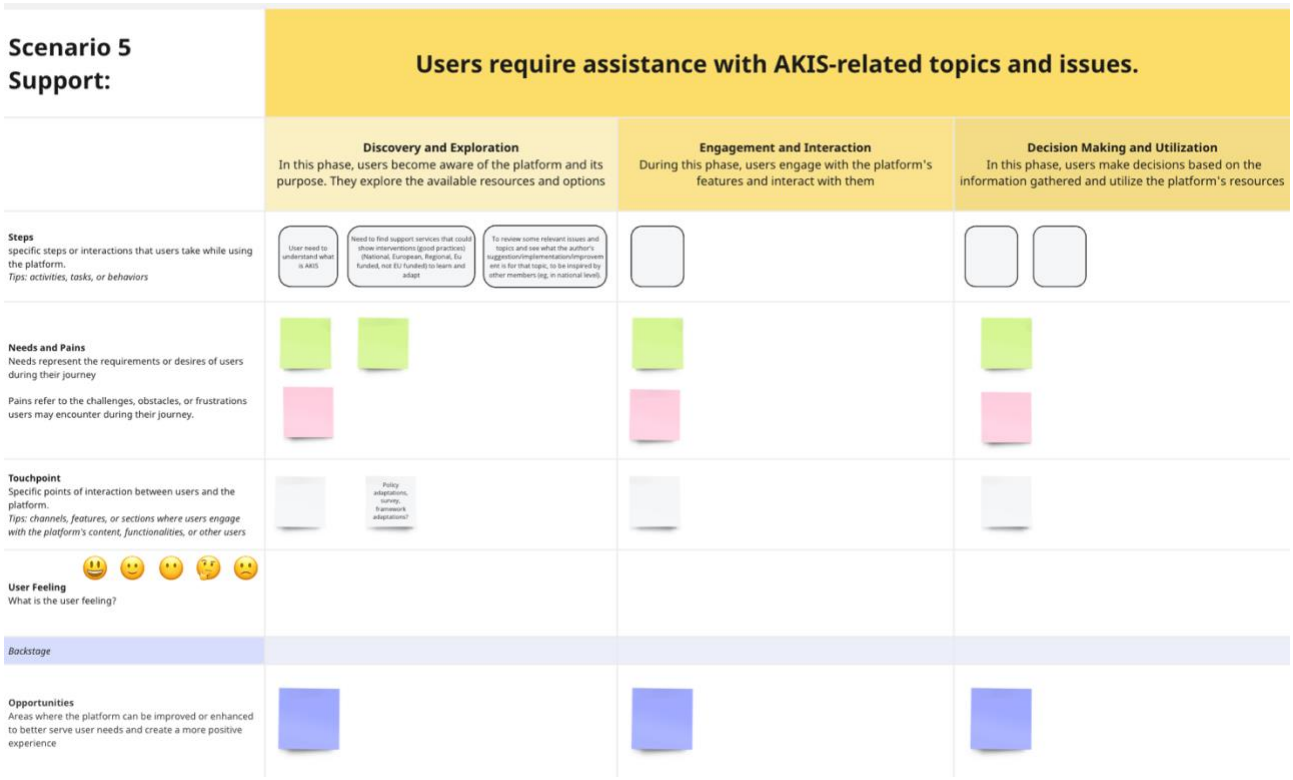

Annex IV

The following section presents some of the outcomes produced during the «User testing" session which took place in an online meeting, in August 28, 2023. Explanation of this session is found in Section 4.5 of this report.

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Type
Question: 1. What do you expect to see under the menu item "AKIS"?
Respondents
Responses
Definitions
explanation on AKIS
Advisory
what is AKIS
training
Events
information on the AKIS in the different countries
innovation
Infos about AKIS
Actor involved in innovation by country
an indepth description of what AKIS is history etc
Schema
Policy
list of members on AKIS
Explanations about what is an AKIS
Overview of AKIS in the different MS
Explanation,, benefit, definition
informationa about AKIS
A description of the AKIS systems accross Europe and links
glossary
Definitions, document report coming from i2c onnect and or modernAKIS
Scheme of each country's AKIS
AKIS venues
Contacts of AKIS
links to europa on AKIS info
Explanation of the initials, a reference to CAP 2023-27, an explanation that it involves advisory and multiple interactions
online trainings
AKIS players and network
project information
interaction with other AKIS Platforms
Definition & information about what it is, why is important, components-actors, state of the AKIS (by MS),
What is AKIS | The countries | The actors involved
AKIS per country
glossarycontact,scheme of the AKIS
Inforamtion on upcoming events
Visually explained with a map or interactive infography
Demos
Contacts of AKIS
International and national frame of AKIS
who are the key actors definition
Online trainings and courses
Learning material
I don't know what is AKIS academy ?
materials regarding how to improve and boost AKIS, success stories, different approaches... (practical knowledge items)

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Question: 2. What do you expect to see under the menu item "AKIS Academy"?
Respondents
Responses
trainings
Trainings offer
Training tools
Courses and training for AKIS actors
courses
online modules
Next session
training material
online trainings and learning material
trainings
courses
Open visit field cases
Movies, webinars, ...
Trainers contact from european project in each country
Knowledge
Definition, actors, possibilities
courses
Events about innovation
training materials
training material (videos, podcasts, graphics...)
Methodes and tools
upcoming in-person events with the possibility to register
Content to explain with is the target and training materials
members
Tools, handbooks... all kind of training material
short films
Publications, videos, links to Conferences
educational factsheets, videos, resources that are relevant to AKIS in general
contact points on instructors and networks who are in AKIS
what is it !? definition
Special Advisors contacts
courses by category | courses by problem | courses about digital and innovation
A list of teachers
training material
e-books and videos
What, why, how to use it, interaction
investigation reports

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Question: 3. What do you expect to see under the menu item "AKIS Community Forum"?	
Respondents	
Responses	
group discussion	
Forum to exchange with other actors	
Chats	
AKIS actors (including their profiles)	
Online chart	
Forum arranged by thematics, type of agriculture or project	
Members of the community, Mission, News. Opportunities, Platform for exchanges	
thematic approach with FAQexchange of good practice by thematic	
the AKIS's members	
channels where people that work on AKIS can network and exchange knowledge	
Contacts, forums, chats, groups, AKIS interactions	
Event organised about each topics to facilitate the community	
Dinamized community forum with Q&A	
forums by theme | forums by problem | the opportunite to create new forums	
moderation	
Categorised themes	
Members	
disscussion topics, chats	
Easy possibility to communicate	
exchange fora according to topic / actor type	
In this section is expected a forum, like a chat to share info, events, thematic networks, questions...	
chats, private and public	
online chats categoriezed in topics and suptopics	
Link with good practice	
trending topics	
Whos is connected	
Announcements on AKIS related info	
Discussion topics	
Forum where we can put information about project, ask question, disseminate knowledge, find contact, ...	
International aspect	
possibility to exchange privately and in a forum	
interaction with social media	
chats video podcast	
That needs on facilitator per subject / topics	
Networking possibilities	
To get promt answer	
can a Q&A be labelled by several categories? (e.g. actor, topic...)	
networking contacts	
The AKIS-LinkedIn	
search for themes or actors with common interests	
akis approach	
event information	

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Question: 4. What do you expect to see under the menu item "Member States in action"?
Respondents
Responses
should rather be called AKIS in Member States - expect information on AKIS in the different MS
27 member states
all of the countries that are in AKIS, the people or organizations that work on this in the country and contact points
Good practices on AKIS interventiond
good practices,events, videos, link with stakeholders website
which countries participate in the project
Event organised by AKIS members
the latest news from each member state
the map of the AKIS
Structure of the AKIS in each MS
Project and resultat from AKIS members
activities of AKIS actors
contact form
Link to the Strategic Plans of CAP
the latest innovations from each member state
Schema, what is typical for each state
a regionalized map included
AKIS in MS - how is the AKIS structured, who are the key AKIS actors, how is the AKIS CB set-up, how are the knowledge flows
This project partner who represent country + CB of each country AKIS
We are focusing now on AKIS in general, I'm not sure if peolple looking for ISS wil find it here.
Updated info of the evolution of AKIS in each MS
link with CAP network, EIP network National Rural Network, LEADER
interaction with the ACBs
contact people in charge of AKIS at national and regional level
AKIS structure and set-up
some key maps
MS factsheets: visual(MS AKIS diagram),main contact and briefing

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Question: 5. What do you expect to see under the menu item "AKIS Network"?
Respondents
Responses
a map with all akis networks and the access link to each one
Overview map
who are the actors of the network
Info on the members
Scheme of each country AKIS
Contact of AKIS
what characteristics has an AKIS actor
people contacts
a thematic division
To find the most active AKIS members in each country
This would be overlap with AKIS is important to distinguished between the two of them
map of the countries in the network
all the AKI's members and some information about them
Types of actors
aktivities
all of the actors, their progress and contact info
AKIS network should be a separate menu item to make it more visible - would expect to see network members (individual profil
events
map, actors, differents existing networks, link with the different theamtic of the AKIS
skills of each one of them
Types of interaction
Number, email, name about contact
This chapter should be more about members
Institutions by country that belongs to the network
sub groups of stakeholders
possibility to search for members by area of subject interest, by country - different filters shoul
at least main contact by MS, if there is possibility to build up linkedin, several contacts by topic...
level EU, MS Regions, language skills available

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Question: 6. What do you expect to see under the menu item "AKIS in practice"?
Respondents
Responses
practical knowledge objects
events, updates, articles, videos
Info on innovation support
Samples what is working very good
I'm afraid there is similarities between Members in action and AKIS in practice
good practices for the 5 themes of modernAKIS at least
courses/videos/documents showcasing practical examples of AKIS used in real life scenarios
demos
Not sure - sounds like a repetition to the AKIS in Member States
Project, results, information from AKIS actors
interactive training reports
Succesfull cases - Best practices - of AKIS in the different MS
Training, event, ... organised by AKIS
Short examples of practise + photos
manuals
short films
advisory material
There could be very concrete content
materials as testimonials, success stories, best practices, in short any materials generated on how to improve and boost AKIS
demonstration on farm spot
videos, podcast, guidelines, demos, module of training, global organisation between the thematic AKIS sub groups (eg organic, p
not very clear
good practices
the actors' interaction
maybe call it rather AKIS best practices
News on workshops, conferences and publications
call it: inspiration on AKIS
or inspiration on well-functioning AKIS
not very clear what this could be, there should be a short explanation on this on the page that pops up when klicking on AKIS in pr
actually i worry the content of some of the categories (AKIS in practice, trainign materials and akis toolkit) might overlap

Question: 7. What do you expect to see under the menu item "Training Materials"?
Respondents
Responses
videos
podcasts
thematic modules
contact for trainors
Tools and methods, available in every language and in the same frame
what the title says. training material?
simplified databases
videos, manuals, online training
educational section
presentation material
online courses
videos, factsheets, presentations
Material that can be used by others
Short video that explain the tools or the methods
Is it material that I can use to train others or is it material that would train me?
didactic games
Materials created to foster innovation in the agrifood sector
good practice examples
e-books, videos etc
practical guidelines
link with AKIS in practice to have some good examples and materials
Videos, podcasts, infographics
i2connect ressources

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Question: 8. What do you expect to see under the menu item "AKIS Toolkit"?
Respondents
Responses
not clear
Helpdesk
Material available for dissemination
it sounds like it is the same with the materials
Tools I can use to improve the AKIS
Same as AKIS training material or make one item AKIS Toolkit, where we can put training materials
Tools and methods, videos to explain
list of links for tools, applications, systems, regulations on AKIS related usage
Sounds like a special tool with a specific function, possibly the benchmarking tool
Materials about AKIS evaluation
AKIS Toolkit and Training material could be merged
Tools and methods regarding ISS
a path to get into AKIS world
glossaryanalysis of article 77 and 78 of the CAP SPANalysis from part 8 of the CAP SP
Tools to help AKIS to be able to be established rightly
somewhere where ators can put useful material?! not sure
AKIS training tools
guidelines for capacitation in ISS
Specific examples how to set up a good AKIS or improve existing structures
Policy briefs?
Combine all tool (training in other) in one item that we can specialised afterwords
tools to improve AKIS
what will be in practice , training ? tool ?
graphics
tools according to specific target groups
beware overlapping contents of the sections we are talking about (toolit, trainign materials, akis in oractice)

Question: 9. What additional information related to AKIS would you like to see when seeing the overview of a Member State?
Respondents
Responses
amount of advisors
Graph on the AKIS, reducing to four actors is too little
link with the website of the key actors with a contact for those stakeholders
CAP interventions data
The progress of AKIS in each coutry during last years
AKIS contacts, AKIS members, maps
most important AKIS actors
state of play : strength and weaknesses
Governance issues
Is this the Greece network or the Greek AKIS? - is not clear - is this under AKIS network or under AKIS in MS?
AKIS diagram, quite visual and very quick to have an idea of actors (more than 4), then the contacts displayed might be just the 4 deemed more relevant
Information about each AKIS actor and one contact in it
the implementaion on each countrie
some map about the information we got from AKIS and articels of the CAp in link with the CAP
Possibly already an insight how the AKIS is set-up, e.g. inwhich institution isthe AKIS CB situated?
Conditions for advisors - acreditation, certfication etc
The description presented is OK but it will need to be dynamic, because some numbers will be changing
type of actors more détailed than just research

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Question: 10. CBs are highly important for the AKIS network. What kind of information would you like to see for each one?
Respondents
Responses
Organization
Number of venues per year
The institution they are involved in as CB
Name, Organisation, Job position for individual profiles. However, AKIS CBs are organised differently in the different MS - overview of how the AKIS CB is or the cv of each representative
Membership
Responsibilities
Updated info to know that you can find the person
Organisation and responsible unit, contact person
who is in charge
professional background
name, function, in which organisation is it coming from
Farmers representation
Person, contact, email, job profil, organisation
What kind of information we can have from them
working procedure
Photo
language skills
again mixing AKIS network and AKIS - we should keep this clearly separate
Yes, photo
how is it organise with the CAP network the NRN network the EIP network
email, CV, publications, actions in the platform, contact buttom for the forum
it will be important to verify which personal information could be shared
proceude
quite important, so that we can compare the most rural areas in each country, for example

Question: 11. When in a Member State, how important is it to see information on AKIS actors in a regional level?
Respondents
Responses
Very important!
very very important
Depending on the country might be essential
yes very important at the regional level
very important
very important
I think it is more important in reagional clusters, not for international
I am confused about the navigation, it seems to not be clear yet what goes under AKIS in MS and what under AKIS network
with a map of the actors for example
There are regions bigger than some countries
High important, because it brings a "real life" and "close to the field" vision for people outisde the project
Yes in case of Spaoin is very important
Yes,essentional
I would expect detailled actors under AKIS network not under AKIS in MS
when there are regional AKIS CBs, there has to be clear who is the national CB
the contact of key actors
key in decentralized countries, if agri sector varies highly among regions within the country
AKIS in MS should be a description of the AKIS like in the i2connect reports
I would love to see a sentence with the reason he/she joined AKIS

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Question: 12. When seeing a user's profile, which type of information, do you consider to be most important?
Respondents
Responses
contact data
area of expertise
professional background and specific professional areas
short bio, AKIS network involvement
specific role in AKIS
Job profile, contact (tel email), thematics of work, project engaged, languages spoken
e-mail
Main role, short experience, thematic area...
Type of AKIS actor
network member since...
Name, Organisation, Job position, Contact details, subject areas of interest to this person, projects involved, discussion group of which this person is a memb
involvement in AKIS projects, contribution
A sentence that permit to the member to say what they want from the plateform and exchange
professional area, country, cv
Email, mobile tel., photo , field of work
in addtion of what is presented : skills, terriory covered, expertise, needs from their part (for what are they here ?)
professional background
social media profiles
Position (in terms relation with AKIS) and brief background. Phone not very useful
professional experience
Profile : facilitator, trainer, advisor, ...
Nationality
function in the organisation
interests
How long the person is working in agro sector
when this person was last active
Competences and knowledge that they have or they miss about innnovation processes
language skills

Question: 13. Additional to the folowing categorization of target users, do you expect to create further categories for each of these?
Respondents
Responses
teachers, students
Yes, working groups
Cooperative or econonmics actors
Management autorities
Project manager
national/regional CoPs and cross-country CoPs
or reference to national CoPs
Experimentation
add: farmer representatives
Association
in a regional level too
Agricultural development actors
farmers/foresters; advisors; research; training; economic actors,
change wording to: farmers/foresters
farmers
These groups should be opened for others also
students
Universities perhaps inside ISS or at same level as Research Institutes or put both categories at same line
innovation brokers
No second level, but revise if this list is complete
professional schools
Remarks : ISS is not yet very known by our audience. Not sure I would write "Innovation support services". I would prefer to put type of organisation as the cate
innovation offices

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Question: 14. Can you think of reasons or describe a context in which users should interact in a PRIVATE discussion room rather than a public?
Respondents
Responses
AKIS CBs might want to discuss politically sensitive issues with each other
Networking
some actor types want to discuss privately
Discussion on exchange visits
policy watch
private business
group discussion should be possible both privately and public
Job opportunities :-;
Making contacts or appointments for meetings
sensitive info included in chat
national or cross-country CoPs might want to discuss among them
specific question, or invitation to an event as speaker
Operational Groups preparation
We creat that platform for open discusions
Knowledge and skills exchange
funding issues
collaboration in other european projects
Both. Whenever you have a more specific doubt or whenever you seek advice from someone you know has already gone through the same
cocreation
policy implementation (CB's) ?
Very spectific exchange about project or the job
both modes but with the opportynity do turn it in private mode if the admin wants
Preparation of projects
knowledge exchange
network members should be able to create group discussion fora and decide whether public or private
how to use - navigate website

Question: 15. When you see a share button, by which means do you expect to share this piece of information and with whom?
Respondents
Responses
Presentation
to my colleagues, in an email or teamsto patners in order to share informationto a large audience on social media ou website
all communication apps on the phone (WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, Threema) and social meda (Instagram, Facebook), mail
pictures or films
email, social media (fb, insta, twitter, linkedin), chat apps (whatsapp etc)
With all people in this platform, that could be found in the certain chapter
social networks, email, whatsapp and other similar
to use the adress and send it by email,to put it in our website
the AKIS Forum members
Most likely Profesional reasons, most likely by email. But it could be a general shoutout in social media as well
Inside the platform with registered users and they could received a notification through their email
notification, newsletter
with other members, or in the forum, or with someone who we think that match with the platform, with SM, chats
relevant information about legislation changes e. g.
how can I become member of AKIS project?
why to be member of AKIS project?
Can I be an AKI's member if I am not from EU?

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Type
Question: 16. What kind of information do you expect to see in the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section, which cannot be located elsewhere?
Respondents
Responses
How to interact
Where find information
How to bring ressources in the plateform
glossary
that needs some thinking
How to give endorsements to other AKIS actors
How to applicate
Whom to contact
where is the information in the platform
How to get in touch with news of AKIS
a helpdesk
how to join groups, how to share
Key concepts of AKIS, role of AKIS, how to network
Where in the platform to find info
FAQs structured in topics and subtopics
funding issues in relation to AKIS
contact form, but could also be somewhere else
how to put the information in the platform
How to seach
questions on how to use platform
funding >> perhaps in the MS part
examples
requests for online modules (technical issues)
Requests for online courses on a specific topic (but I guess this is not planned in the project)
Question: 18. When searching in a discussion channel about specific information, which additional filters would you find useful?
Respondents
Responses
Topics
key words
thematic
topics divided by actors
topics level (member State..)
On-going discussions right now
Topic... what does"Channel" cover?
Topics : energy, methanisation, cover crop, soil, ...
EU, national, regional issues
Topic, Country, Keywords...
a map
most popular
Type of agriculture : crop, vineyard, breed, ...
date of the discussion, notification of the discussion
activity level of members - which discussions are the most active ones
Mapping
Time since were posted
frequently searched
hot topics
sort by most recent

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Question: Could you describe the community platform, as you have seen it in the prototype, with one (or a few) words?
Respondents
Responses
home page colour
colorful lovely edcational
functional visual easy to use
User Friendly Visual
more pics a window to clarify guidance
Good
Networking
appealing further work on navigatio
well done good concept
easy fundingpuzzling advisory service access
exciting extended user friendly
networking
AKIS academy is not clear the map at the beginning
education
user friendly appealing interesting
modenAKIS look
less menu items
big filters
community
access for eahc kind of p
intuitive
Knowledge
interaction between field
Network tab missing
Network tab

Question: Is there something, you really missed while browsing in the platform's mock-ups?
Respondents
Responses
searching bar
not clear what the section AKIS network is for
a search bar and relevant images
To early to say
search bar
Working only over the map
sub-headings on the side to have an overview while scrolling
AKIS academy : the definition is not clear
clear description category
AKIS academy not clear yet
where can I upload information?
level of information tbc
bigger font in the header, search bar
difference between AKIS in practice / training materials and AKIS toolkit (on first sight)
contact missing, who can I contact for technical issues?
AKIS Forum with transversal topics
Awaiting next steps
map when you are at the first page of MS
Training materials should include materials as well not only courses
is information validated by sources? or are authors mentioned?
a more clear home page
maps need to be bigger
ATTRACTISS look and content not so clear
training courses need to be easily tranlate in native langage
Mores such sessions!
Workshops / Events maybe put it separately, not under academy, particularly networking events would not necessarily b
Beautiful map
only one way to find the solution
a list for MS map to contact the right people

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Question: If you were asked to give a NAME (brand) to the commmunity platform, what would it be?
Respondents
Responses
AKIS community platform
EU AKIS in numbers as member states
AKIS network
Modisakis
AKIS in your real life
domain: akis.eu
atracakis
AKIS community
AKIS in modern way
Actorakis
ModAkisTice: A blend of 'Modern', 'Akis', and a play on 'Attract'.
Agrohub
Akis4you
NetAKIS
agrohub still exist
AgriTalk
I do not think it is useful to merge ATTRACTISS and modernAKIS in the brand name - think beyond projects
agrinetwork
AKIShub
localakis
AKIS4EU
Abstractis
AgriConvo
I like AKIShub
panorakis
AkisConvo
akishub.eu
akis4EU i like it
filterakis
akisnet

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