



Cross Visits Exchange in Action



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Cross Visits: exchange of knowledge, experiences and ideas



Different types of Cross Visit

- Farmer to farmer
 - AKISconnect.eu> learn&apply> toolkit> ISS tools & methods> Cross Visits
 - [Tools for Innovation Support Services \(akisconnect.eu\)](https://akisconnect.eu)
- Stakeholder to stakeholder
 - I2connect.eu> toolbox> extended toolbox> table of contents> Cross visits
 - [toolbox-portal-i2connect-18th-edition.pptx \(live.com\)](https://toolbox-portal-i2connect-18th-edition.pptx)

Goal

To inspire and to inform farmers from a practical example led by another farmer

Description

A farmers tells about/shows his new way of working to other farmers, including his positive and negative experiences, this differs from the explanation of a technology firm. The other farmers get new insights because they are away from their own context

Preparation time

0-2 hours

Execution time

0-2 hours

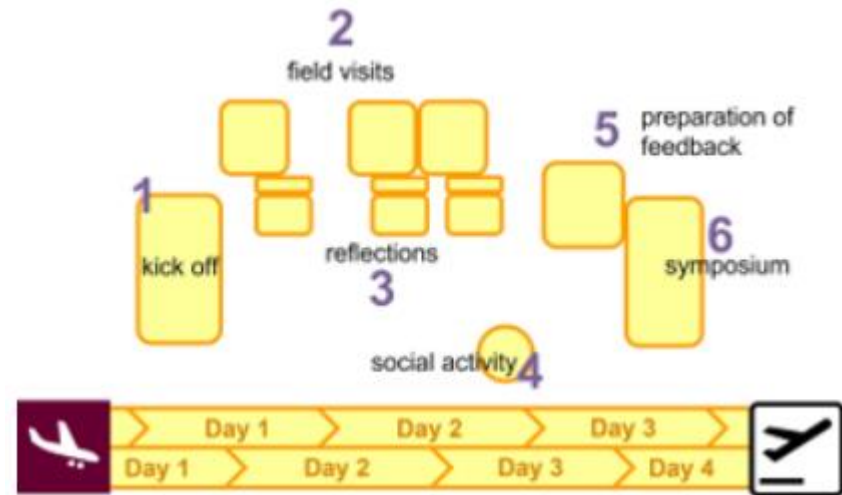
Resources

Videos

Dairy farmers go on an inspiration trip to (Northern) Ireland

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An opportunity to look beyond borders
The cross visits in the i2connect project are opportunities for selected advisors to go abroad, to meet colleagues from elsewhere, and to jointly study cases of interactive innovation in a certain area in Europe.

Who can join?
From every i2connect training two participants can join a cross visit, preferably within half a year after the training. Participants must be able to communicate in English, since this is the working language during the training. The trainers decide who will go.

What is expected from the participants?
The two participants from each training actively contribute to the analysis of the cases they visit during the cross visits. After their return, they share their experiences with their peer group that was created during the training.

Duration, number of participants and place
A cross visit takes 3 – 4 days.
10 participants can join a cross visit. One or two trainers may act as facilitators.
The first CV has taken place in Slovenia in March 2022.

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What will happen during a cross visit?

- Who is in the lead?** As experts from abroad, you explore one or more cases where interactive innovation is taking place (or has taken place). You are asking the questions, in order to understand what has happened.
- The host prepares the case.** Every cross visit is hosted by an i2connect partner organisation. This host selects the case, approaches key actors for their collaboration, and organises the visit (including the logistics).
- The key actors are informed about the nature of the CV.** They know that your questions are leading, rather than their own standard presentations.

Different length of Cross Visit

- 0-4 hours
 - On-site peer-to-peer consultation
 - Virtual Cross Visit (over 2 days)
- 12-12 (overnight)
 - Exchange on a selected issue on-site
 - Visitors: training, experience
 - Organisers: feed-back, external input
 - Comply to limitations of visitors
- 3-4 days: fly high, dig deep
 - Exchange on organization's work
 - Related issues, total overview



Do you have experience with/in Cross Visits?

18
On-site Peer2Peer

8
Virtual Cross Visit

5
12-12: Exchange Issue

12
2-4 days: Organisation

27
NO experience



Video: views on Cross Visit in France

[Conseillers
agricoles en Europe
: partageons les
méthodes
innovantes & les
pratiques
agroécologiques
\(youtube.com\)](#)



30-10-2024

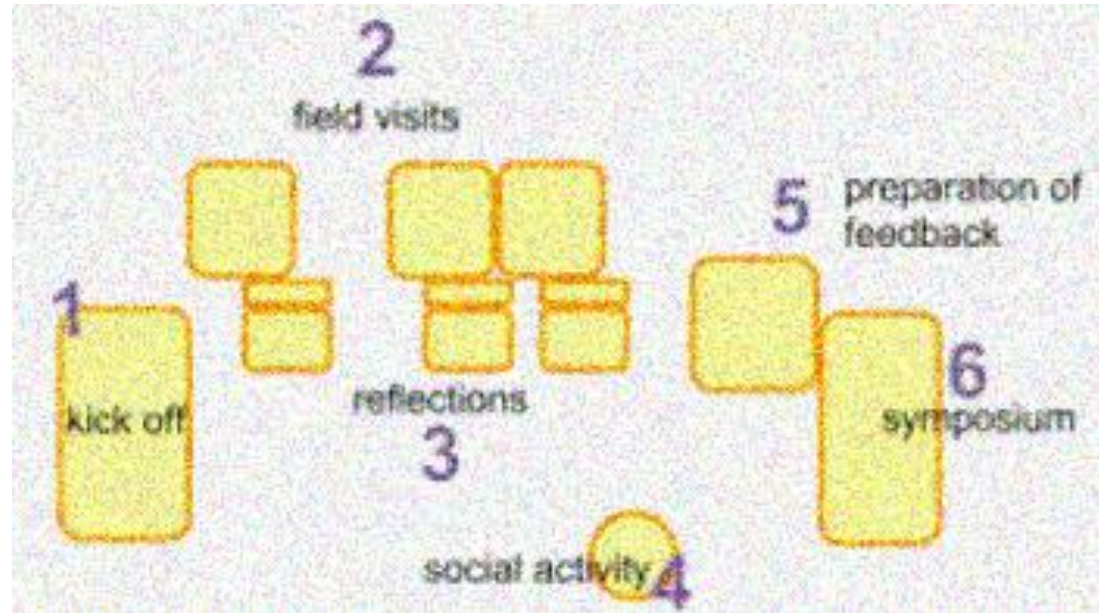


General outline of Cross Visit

Preparation

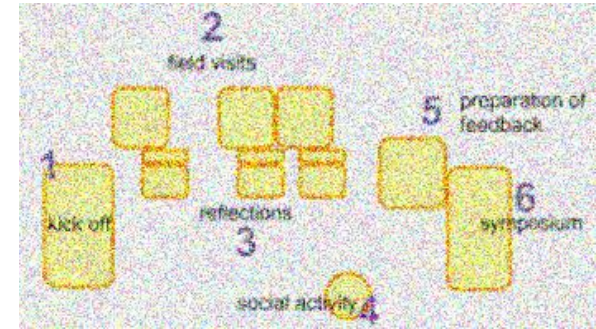
1. Kick off
2. Field Visits
3. Reflections
4. Social Activity
5. Preparation of Feedback
6. Symposium

Continue the Network



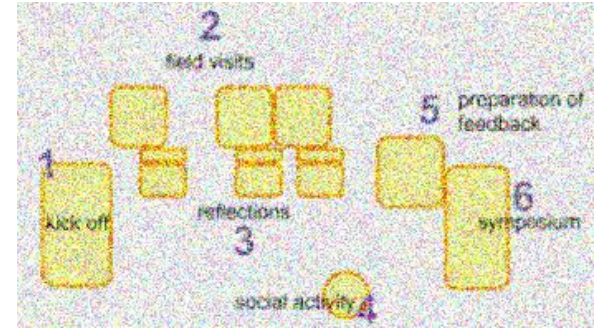
Preparation of Cross Visit

- Challenge for the organisers:
 - Focus in the subject
 - Field conditions; Timing
 - Team of hosts, presenters and organisers
 - Involvement of the farmer/advisor/organisation
 - Etc
- Visitors
 - Find time, connection to issues
 - Travel budget?
- Preparation meeting: online for understanding of programme



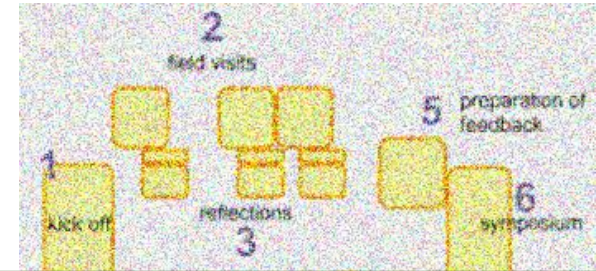
Kick off in the Cross Visit

- Meet up
 - Travel arrangements (last mile...)
 - Location: on-site or meeting place?
- Explanation of the programme
- Get to know each other
 - Visitors
 - Organisers
 - Hosts



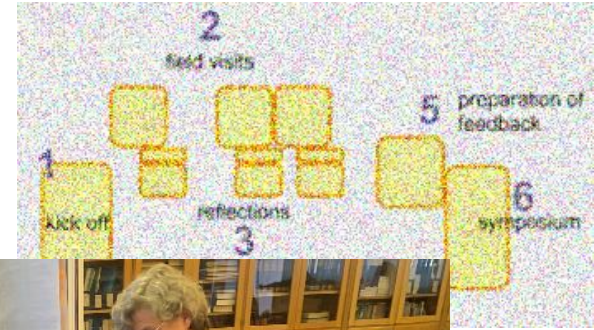
Field Visit(s)

- Most appreciated part of the Cross Visit (where possible)
- Practical organisation:
 - Location, connections, logistics
 - Visualisation, in the field!
 - Interaction: look, hear, feel, talk
 - Timing: weather, crop, time host
 - Questions in advance
 - etc



Reflections on the Field Visit

- First impressions
- Analyse (innovation spiral)
- Clarify open questions
- Context



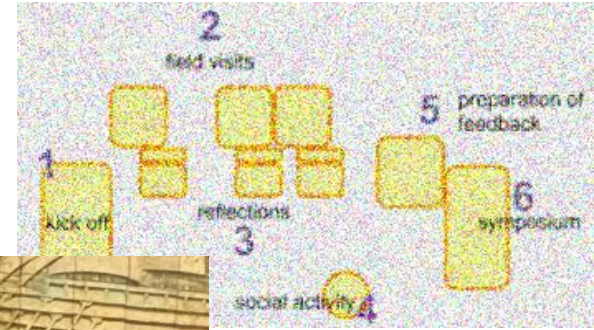
Social Activity in Physical Cross Visits

Know each other better

Know the region

Remember:

Network!

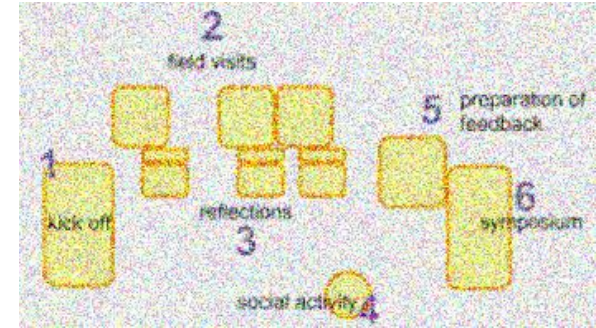


Symposium / Exchange

Respectful feedback

- Pearls
- Puzzles
- Proposals

(example FAIRshare)



Pearls

Farmers interest on digital tools, for

- Good atmosphere positive energy
- Fruitful exchange

Puzzles

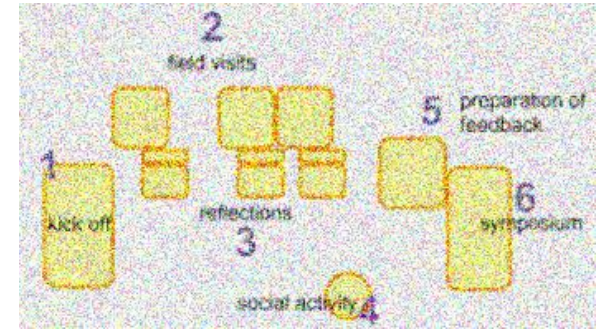
- Farmers digital skills, in heterogeneity of farms
- Time issues (entering data)

Proposals

- Focus on adult learning tools (on content, not the technology itself)
- Create easy to use tools, co-create functionalities

Continue the Networking

- Testimonials
- Exchange visits



Know people in the mass!



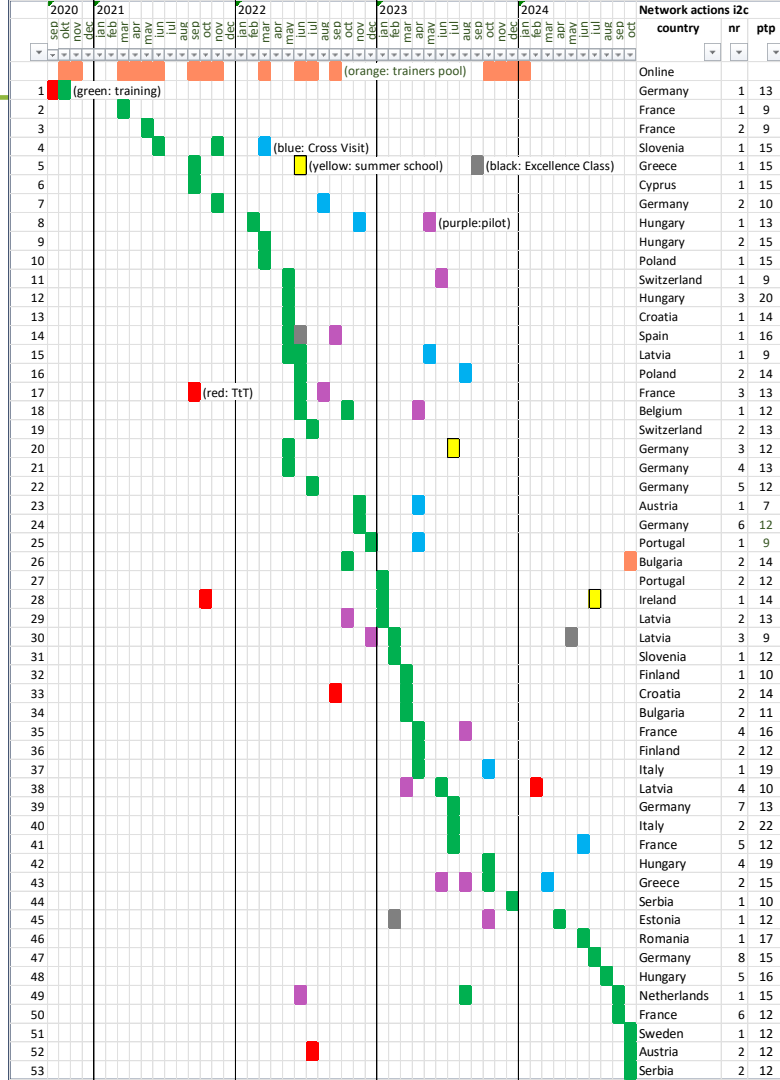
Cross Visits in their context: important contribution to Networking

Action	Role
Training	Training for trainers, advisors, farmers
Management	The best for Customers... Good Enabling Environment
Pilot Projects	Experiences tested in Pilot Projects
Education	Soft Skills in University Curricula for Future Advisors
Cross Visits	peer2peer exchange for organisers and visitors

Creation of networks in i2connect: synergy between the actions

Training, Management, Pilot Projects,
Education, Cross Visits make the networks
Reflective capitalisation, Good Practices,
TtT experiences; Learning Histories, Tools,
Practice Abstracts support this interaction

Not only learn about, but
experience the interaction
that supports innovation



Trainings as opportunity to start networking

- **Train the Trainers:** trainers are trained
 - Germany, France, Ireland, Austria, Croatia, Latvia
 - All partners have trainers
 - Connection between the trainers: 'trainers pool'
- More than 700 **advisors trained over Europe**
 - Experience tools for Interactive Innovation
 - Keep in touch with the other trainees
- Even in non-partner countries
 - Czech Republic, Estonia, Romania, Spain and Sweden; after the project: Denmark, Slovakia
- More trainings to come, in national AKIS and in other projects



Wider understanding of Interactive Innovation

EU wide growing awareness:

- Advisors play key role in innovation.
 - Need conditions to contribute
- = Support by *enabling environment*:
Managers and Managing Authorities
Are invited in **Excellence Classes**:
- To understand needs/requests of advisors
 - Place them in organisational context



Space for experiments: Pilot Projects

Adisors with bright ideas
Bring them into practice

Could be

- Trainings
- Tools
- Overviews
- Set of cards...

30-10-2024



Training the advisors of the Future

In addition to
their year round curriculum,
Students visit the Summer Schools
to experience interactive innovation
in an interactive way, to
take along in their career



Cross Visits for international network

After each training,
Visited by trainings' participants

Impact on:

Visitors:

- new approaches, networking

Organisers:

- open feedback, other settings

Inspiring!



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