



# modern **AKIS**

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*Modernisation of Agriculture through more efficient and  
effective Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation  
Systems*

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**HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions**

## Deliverable 4.4.

# AKIS interventions co-created and shared in the e-platform

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## Acronyms

ADV	Advisory services and technical assistance Interventions
AKIS	Agricultural and Knowledge Innovation Systems
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CB	Coordination Body
ccCoP	cross-country Communities of Practice
COOP	Cooperation Interventions
Dx.x	Deliverable x.x
D1.3	Compendium of insightful new know-how and ready-for-practice solutions
D1.4	Compendium of insightful new know-how and ready for-practice solutions
EIP	European Innovation Partnerships
EU	European Union
INO	Investments in tangible and intangible assets, Research and experimental and innovation Interventions
KNOW	Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information Interventions
MSs	Member States
O1	Output indicator 1: Number of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational group projects
O33	Output indicator 33: Number of supported training, advice and awareness actions or units
PMEF	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
R1	Result indicator 1: Number of persons benefitting from advice, training, knowledge exchange, or participating in European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups supported by the CAP in order to enhance sustainable economic,

	social, environmental, climate and resource efficiency performance
R2	Result indicator 2: Number of advisors receiving support to be integrated within Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)
R3	Result indicator 3: Share of farms benefitting from support for digital farming technology through CAP
R28	Result indicator 28: Number of persons benefitting from advice, training, knowledge exchange, or participating in European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups supported by the CAP related to environmental or climate-related performance
SWOT	Strengths      Weakness      Opportunities Threats
TRAIN	Training including coaching and exchange best practices Interventions
Tx.x	Task x.x
T2.2	Setting up the modernAKIS network and its operationalization
T2.3	National/Regional AKIS Communities of Practice.
XCO	Cross-cutting Objective
WPx	Work Package x
WP1	Impactful framework for transformative AKIS journeys
WP2	Framing and setting up a network of AKIS coordination bodies and other actors
WP3	Enabling AKIS Systems Thinking and AKIS conceptualisation
WP4	AKIS strategy, planning and implementation
WP5	Wider dissemination and engagement for impact

# 1. Executive Summary

## Context

This deliverable (D4.4) builds on the results of the activities carried out under T4.2.

The objective of T4.2 is to support the capacity development of AKIS CBs and the key AKIS actors to be more effective in co-designing and implementing new interventions in different areas related to AKIS, thereby increase the added value of such interventions as well as stimulate the wider use of available knowledge and innovation.

The logical framework presented in chapter 2.2 provides an overview of the correlations between the exploratory and synthesis work carried out within WP4 and the capacity development activities that have built on the results of this work.

The key activities in T4.2 include the synthesis of CAP Strategic Plans (CAP SPs) and the implementation of an extensive questionnaire to collect detailed information on the AKIS interventions across Member States.

## Methodology

The methodological approach of D4.4 focuses on two primary components:

### 1. AKIS Strategies Syntheses:

The syntheses of AKIS strategies data were conducted using the European Commission's Agri-food Data Portal.

Data processing ensured comparability across Member States and provided insights into public expenditure and expected results of the AKIS interventions.

A standardized approach was adopted to classify „AKIS-related“ and „other AKIS related“ interventions to be considered in the synthesis. The classification was based on the intervention codes, the result indicators associated to the intervention as well as the contribution to the cross-cutting objective (XCO) of the CAP SP.

Country-specific AKIS strategy cards were developed, including priorities, governance, key indicators, planned interventions, and funding allocations. The country-specific cards can be viewed on the [AKISconnect platform](#).

This activity was conducted in collaboration with WP1 (T1.2) with a view to provide a systematization of the AKIS strategies of MSs and contents to feed into the activities of WP4.

### 2. Questionnaire Implementation:

A comprehensive questionnaire was designed to gather information on AKIS interventions, covering topics such as advisory services, training programs, and funding mechanisms.

The survey targeted key stakeholders, including policymakers, advisors, and agricultural organizations, to understand the implementation dynamics and gaps in AKIS strategies.

The data was categorized by intervention type, selection criteria, and financial support structures to facilitate benchmarking and analysis.

The methodology was designed in close collaboration with project partners and stakeholders to ensure consistency and alignment with CAP evaluation frameworks.

## Results

Key findings from the synthesis and survey include:

### 1. AKIS strategies syntheses:

Member states assigned a total of 285 measures to the cross-cutting objective, XCO, with the highest number of measures contributed by Flanders, Portugal, Lithuania, Romania, and Italy. Of these, a total of 118 measures are implemented either through knowledge transfer (KNOW) or cooperation (COOP). This share is illustrated in the attached chart on the [AKISconnect](#) platform.

It is expected that 2,116,608 individuals will benefit from services such as advice, training, and knowledge exchange, or through participation in European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups (EIP-OGs), specifically targeting improvements in environmental and climate-related performance. The number shows considerable variation across EU member states. The highest anticipated figures are seen in Belgium-Flanders (8,090 beneficiaries per 1,000 agricultural holdings), Hungary (1,903), Ireland (1,804), Finland (1,096), and Germany (1,066). On the other hand, the lowest beneficiary rates are projected for Romania (14 beneficiaries per 1,000 holdings), Poland (19), Greece (127), Portugal (116), and Slovakia (117).

Additionally, 6,296,896 people are projected to access similar resources—advice, training, knowledge exchange, or EIP-OG participation—focused on advancing sustainable economic, social, environmental, climate, and resource efficiency performance.

This value also varies greatly among EU member states. Belgium-Flanders is expected to have the highest number of beneficiaries (15,720 per 1,000 agricultural holdings), followed by Austria (12,238), Finland (2,417), Ireland (2,300), and Bulgaria (2,185). In contrast, Romania (46 beneficiaries per 1,000 holdings), Poland (98), Portugal (149), France (355), and Italy (382) are expected to have much lower engagement.

Finally, 202,228 advisors will receive support to be integrated within the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS). This integration is expected to strengthen their role in the sector, allowing them to provide valuable expertise and drive innovation more effectively in agricultural practices. Estonia has the highest expected number (585 advisors per 1,000 holdings), followed by Belgium-Flanders (155), Lithuania (133), Poland (79), and Ireland (78). In comparison, Romania, Belgium-Wallonia, and Cyprus each have just one advisor per 1,000 holdings, while Germany and Latvia are expected to have only 4 advisors.

### 2. Questionnaire insights:

The results highlighted that most Member States have integrated advisory services into their CAP interventions, with significant variation in funding models and selection processes.

While some countries rely on simplified cost options (e.g., lump sum payments), others provide direct support through national and regional funding combinations.

The responses revealed gaps in cross-sector collaboration and the need for improved mechanisms to facilitate knowledge transfer between research institutions and practitioners.

The synthesized results have been shared via the **AKISconnect** platform and used to inform discussions at ccCoP meetings. The insights from the data have also been used to support the identification and development of best practices among Member States.

## 2. Introduction

This deliverable presents the exploratory and synthesis work processing the Member States' AKIS strategies.

It is based on two pillars:

- presenting the methodology and the results of processing Agri-food Data Portal' data for AKIS country cards
- presenting the methodology and the results of the comprehensive questionnaire surveying AKIS interventions in the different MSs

### 2.1. Context

The **overall objective of modernAKIS** is to enhance AKIS actors' capacities to leverage individual, organizational and systemic resources needed for the transformation towards more coherent, effective and efficient AKIS systems and the transition to a more sustainable management and use of natural resources in farming and forestry.

The **specific objective of the modernAKIS** project is to strengthen the capacity of AKIS Coordination Bodies through targeted capacity-building activities. To achieve this, the project integrates multiple methodological elements to facilitate the collection and presentation of knowledge related to AKIS interventions across Member States.

The **objective of WP4** is to enable key AKIS actors to enact their Transformative AKIS Journeys (WP1) through continuous improvement at different levels by dynamically involving the Communities of Practice (CoPs) (WP2) in capacity development along AKIS relevant CAP topics.

This deliverable (D4.4) builds on the results of the activities carried out under T4.2.

The **objective of T4.2** is to support the capacity development of AKIS CBs and the key AKIS actors to be more effective in co-designing and implementing new interventions in different areas related to AKIS, thereby increasing the benefit of such interventions as well as stimulate the wider use of available knowledge and innovation.

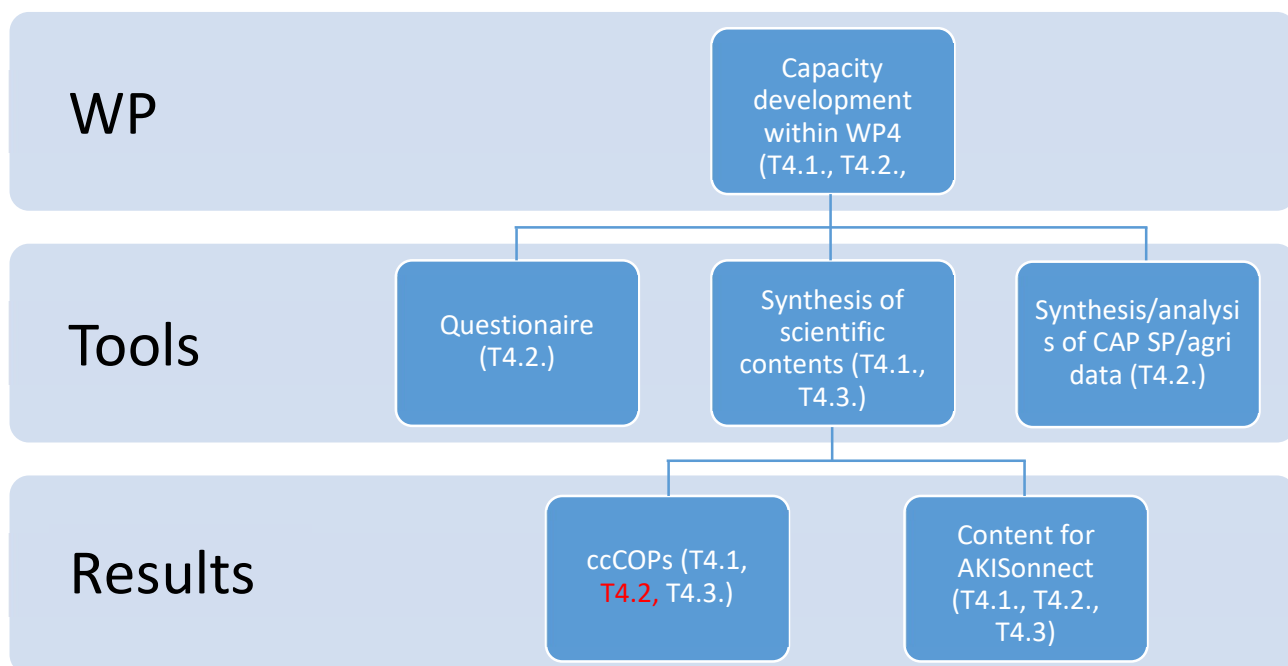
### 2.2. *Logical framework of capacity development activities within WP4*

The logical framework presented below provides an overview of the correlations between the exploratory and synthesis work carried out within WP4 and the capacity development activities that have built on the results of this work.

The logical framework covers the activities of T4.1, T4.2 and T4.3, given that within WP4 these three T

tasks serve directly the capacity development of the different AKIS actors. T4.1 results in capacity development under ccCoP1, while ccCoP2-5 is being implemented under T4.3. T4.2 provides different contents and tools for all ccCoPs.

**1. Figure: Logical framework of capacity development activities within WP4**



### 2.3. Structure and content of the ccCoPs in WP4

The following description of the ccCoPs is provided in the WP4 ccCoPs alignment working document:

**ccCoP 1: Policy, governance and CAP interventions** - AKIS Strategic Plans continuous improvement. Target group: CB, policy makers (others could be involved). This ccCoP is particular in that it originates from Task 4.1, and that Coordination Bodies are fostered by Task 2.2. Its interactions are therefore aligned from the get-go.

**ccCoP2: Advisors - integration of advisors into AKIS** and in particular the integration of innovation support. Target group: advisors. It is managed by T4.3.

**ccCoP3: Connecting research and practice** - informing research on needs from practice and finding ways to reward scientific for results usable in practice. Target group: farmers and researchers (other could be involved). It is managed by T4.3.

**ccCoP4: Knowledge access and knowledge flows - improving knowledge flows** by making information and knowledge more readily available and accessible. Target group: CBs, other intermediary agents. Also, farmers and researchers (other could be involved). It is managed by T4.3.

**ccCoP5: Education – exchanging best practices on life-long-learning education** and the engagement with the different stakeholders (educators, advisors, researchers...). Target group: trainers and potential future trainers at different levels (other could be involved). It is managed by T4.3.

## 2.4. Links with other tasks and work packages

The leadership of T4.2. is carried out by AKI (Agricultural Research Institute), with FEUGA (Land Use and Economic Development Association) fulfilling the co-lead role.

The capacity development activities within the task serves the objectives and activities modernizing AKIS governance to foster transition processes across EU. At the same time, the task is seamlessly integrated into the overall WP4 structure, with the previously mentioned ccCoP1 (*T4.1. Design, modelling and continuous improvement of AKIS Strategic Plans*) and other tasks within WP4, particularly T4.3 (*T4.3. Better integration of actors in the AKIS*), actively contributing to the development of the deliverable's content. T4.3. carries out cross-country Communities of Practice (CoPs) organised around topical areas pertinent to the CAP Strategic Plans of MS. Within T4.3., ccCoP2 is implemented as a capacity-building activity coordinated by CRAO, which supports the integration of advisors into AKIS. CRAO was responsible for creating the questionnaire and coordinating its completion and thus provided specific sections of the deliverable. The collaboration with the leadership (CREA) of T4.4. (*T4.4. Help the AKIS CB to monitor the CAP implementation*) is necessary in the development of AKIS related capacity development activities, given that monitoring and evaluation play a crucial role in understanding AKIS-related interventions.

Other tasks, which are contributing to the T4.2. activities

- *T1.1: Conceptual and Methodological Framework for transformative AKIS journeys:* This task sets the frame for the Transformative AKIS Journeys (TAJs) to be realized through all project activities, including the networking and knowledge exchange (WP2), the capacity development activities (WP3 and WP4) and the dissemination and exploitation activities of the project (WP5) and by engaging the AKIS coordination bodies and the other key actors of change of the AKISs in Member States. It provides the theoretical basis, the methodological approach and key overarching principles for the development of all project activities.
- *T1.2: Identification of insightful and ready-for-practice solutions:* This task will entail collecting and making practice-oriented knowledge (new know-how, insights and practical solutions) better available, shared and accessible and enabling policy makers and other AKIS actors improving knowledge flows and developing a well-functioning AKIS in their countries. So far, some of the AKIS-in-Practice! provided by the two deliverables [D1.3](#) and [D1.4](#) have been used to feed the activities of WP1, particularly during the ccCoP meetings.
- *T1.3: Comparative analysis of the various types of AKIS within the EU at national, regional and local levels and identification of benchmarks:* A comparative analysis examines the AKIS models of Member States based on various criteria, and the partial results of this analysis can provide input for capacity development activities.
- *T2.2. Setting up the modernAKIS network:* The General Assembly primarily addresses the AKIS coordination bodies and other key AKIS actors, and the CoP1s are organized within the framework of the General Assembly. Therefore, it is necessary to establish synergy with T2.2. Additionally, T2.2 is responsible for maintaining the list of AKIS Coordination Bodies and tracking personnel changes, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are included in the capacity-building activities.

- *T2.3. National/Regional AKIS Communities of Practice:* Within the framework of T2.3., organizations and individuals are designated as members of national CoPs. National CoP delegates represent their respective countries at cross-country CoPs. In this way, delegates ensure the creation of synergies between national and EU knowledge transfer.

## 2.5. Activities under T4.2 supporting capacity development

Within T4.2, the following two main activities served WP4's capacity development objectives:

1. A **comprehensive questionnaire** has been developed to survey AKIS interventions in the different MSs and showcase the operational mechanisms of AKIS Coordination Bodies. The entire WP4 team (FEUGA, CRAO, AKI, LKO) contributed to the development of the questionnaire, while CRAO and LKO coordinated and implemented the survey as well as the synthetisation of the results.
2. Additionally, AKIS strategic approach of the Member States' CAP Strategic Plans as well as AKIS-related data available on the EU dashboard have been processed and synthesised. The **synthesis of the CAP SP, including data processing from the Agri-food Data Portal**, was conducted by AKI. CREA contributed to the process by ensuring the aggregation of country data and ultimately the production of cards for each MS. AUA has continuously supported the process by providing ongoing information on the content that can be displayed on the website. The entire process was conducted collaboratively with the other partners. As a result of internal discussions, it was decided to publish the AKIS-specific country characteristics in the form of so-called AKIS cards on the AKISconnect platform.

This document mainly presents the methodology and results of the survey and the synthesis work on the implementation of the **CAP Strategic Plans**. It presents the insights gained from the analyses, providing a comprehensive overview of the development and achievements of the Member States' AKIS systems.

The task has a dual purpose:

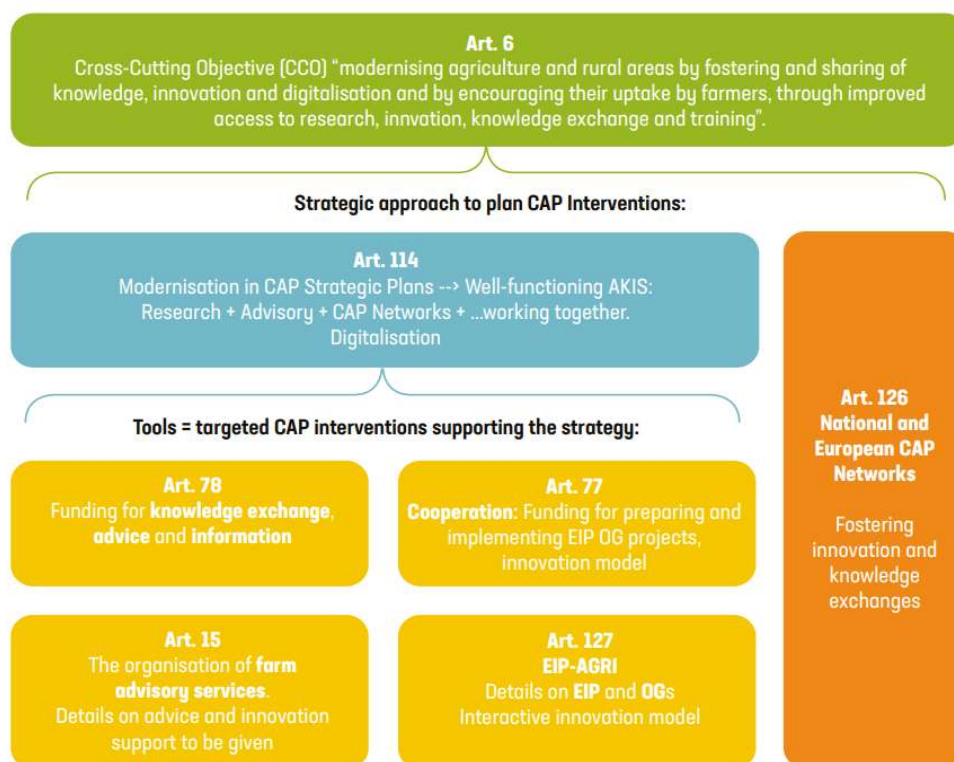
1. On the one hand, the synthesis conducted contributes to provide valid, comparable insights on the MS' AKIS during ccCoP events. Additionally, it allows the identification of best practices and country-specific examples that can be showcased by Member States delegates at these events.
2. Further purpose is to provide the AKISconnect and social media platforms with content in AKIS card format, offering material that engages and appeals to interested audiences.

## 2.6. AKIS as a strategic approach in the CAP strategic plans 2023-2027

Strengthening the AKIS is a mandatory requirement for all Member States in the CAP 2023-2027. According to the EC Regulation 2021/2015, in their CAP Strategic Plans, Member States must set up their AKIS strategic approach in line with the Cross-Cutting Objective (CCO) of modernisation, knowledge sharing, innovation, and digitalisation. To ensure that all 9 CAP specific objectives are served by the CCO, MSs had to define the organisational set-up of their AKIS as well as describe how advisory services, research, and the national CAP Networks will cooperate to provide advice, knowledge flows, and innovation services.

The AKIS strategy within the CAP SPs should be tailored to the specific contextual situation and policy objectives of the given MS. It must be based on a systems approach, to design the different types of interventions typically aimed at strengthening human and social capital in agriculture Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information; Farm advisory services; Operational Groups' (OG) innovation projects under the EIP (Figure 2).

**2. Figure: Overview of most relevant CCO provisions for knowledge and innovation (AKIS)**



Source: EUROPEAN COMMISSION – Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development – Unit A.3 (2023): Guidelines. Evaluating the AKIS Strategic Approach in CAP Strategic Plans.

The AKIS strategy must effectively combine the diverse types of interventions that have the potential to create an enabling environment for well-functioning innovation systems in MSs.

In practice, after the elaboration of a strategic AKIS approach based on the CCO SWOT, the prioritization of needs, and a sound intervention logic, the resulting AKIS

interventions will mainly fall under Articles 78 (funding advice, knowledge exchange, training and information), and Article 77 (funding EIP Operational Group innovation projects). The framework and details on farm advisory services are provided in Article 15, and for EIP and Operational Groups in Article 127.

All these knowledge and innovation interventions are complemented by the specific innovation activities of the national CAP network dedicated to speed up broad knowledge exchange and innovation (Art. 126).

In this context, the CAP networks, at national and EU levels, have been reinforced as bridging institutions that within and among AKISs have the duty to foster innovation and knowledge exchange.

The tasks of the national and European CAP networks to achieve networking objectives set out in Article 126(3) shall be:

- (a) collection, analysis and dissemination of information on actions and good practices implemented or supported under CAP Strategic Plans as well as analysis on developments in agriculture and rural areas relevant to the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1) and (2);
- (b) contribution to capacity building for Member States administrations and of other actors involved in the implementation of CAP Strategic Plans, including as regards monitoring and evaluation processes;
- (c) creation of platforms, fora and events to facilitate exchanges of experience between stakeholders and peer-to-peer learning, including relevant exchanges with networks in third countries;
- (d) collection of information and facilitation of its dissemination as well as networking of funded structures and projects, such as local action groups referred to in Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, EIP operational groups referred to in Article 127(3) of this Regulation and equivalent structures and projects;
- (e) support for cooperation projects between EIP operational groups referred to in Article 127(3) of this Regulation, local action groups referred to in Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or similar local development structures, including transnational cooperation;
- (f) creation of links to other Union-funded strategies or networks;
- (g) contribution to the further development of the CAP and preparation of any subsequent CAP Strategic Plan period;
- (h) in the case of national CAP networks, participating in, and contributing to, the activities of the European CAP network;
- (i) in the case of the European CAP network, cooperating with, and contributing to, the activities of the national CAP networks. (Reg. 2021/2015)

### 3. Methodological approach of D4.4

This chapter outlines the methodological background of **processing the AKIS strategies of the CAP Strategic Plans** as well as the **questionnaire carried out to AKIS interventions**.

#### 3.1. Common understanding of AKIS related interventions

In line with the legislative background described in chapter 2.6, AKIS strategic approach is put into practice through the following three interventions and their combination.

1. Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information (Article 78 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115) (KNOW)
2. Farm advisory services (Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115)
3. Operational Groups' (OG) innovation projects under the EIP (Article 77 (1) (a) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115) (COOP)

Therefore, these interventions have been examined more in depth in the work underpinning the capacity development activities of T4.2. Some sectoral interventions incorporate AKIS interventions (e.g. BEES, WINE, OLIVE), however due to lack of data on the allocated budget by MSs. these sectoral interventions were not analysed.

#### 3.2. Methodological background of the CAP SP synthesis

The draft concept for processing CAP Strategic Plans was discussed and agreed at the Executive Board meeting following **the AKIS Coordination Body General Assembly in Zagreb** (7-8<sup>th</sup> of November). During this meeting, AUA presented the development of the AKISconnect platform, initiating discussion on the types of content that is relevant to be presented on the platform. In the context of this debate, AKI representative proposed to process CAP Strategic Plans indicator data compiled on the Agri-food Data Portal as well as display the result on the AKISconnect platform in a country-specific card format. This approach helps to provide an AKIS-related overview of each MS's CAP Strategic Plan. The Executive Board has decided to have AKIS country cards created to the platform.

##### Background of the synthesis

The Agri-food Data Portal contains data on national and European agriculture and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), provided by the European Commission's agricultural and rural development department. The data is structured based on the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (PMEF). PMEF is the framework for accessing the performance and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the CAP 2023-27. It contains indicators along specific themes - e.g. AKIS. Member States planned their interventions towards the 9 CAP specific objectives and the cross-cutting objective in their CAP Strategic Plan using these indicators.

The portal dashboard provides the following content:

- Result indicators
- Catalogue of CAP interventions
- Financial allocations to CAP specific objectives

- Planned outputs by theme

The synthesis primarily based on processing the CAP intervention catalogue.

After downloading the data, criteria for ensuring consistency were defined. Interventions related to AKIS were identified according to the following approach.

- AKIS interventions are those classified as KNOW or COOP, which are associated with at least one of the result indicators R1, R2 or R28, and contribute to the cross-cutting objective. (COOP/KNOW + XCO+ any of R1, R2, R28)

Additionally, non-AKIS measures were identified on the dashboard, following a similarly defined organizing principle.

- Other AKIS related interventions are the NON "AKIS related interventions" classified as any type, which are associated with at least one of the result indicators R1, R2 or R28, and contribute to the cross-cutting objective (XCO + any of R1, R2, R28)

In addition to the above guiding principles, the following further aspects were discussed and agreed during the internal discussions:

- Interventions with an intervention code of ADV/TRAIN/INO that are linked to at least one of the result indicators (R1, R2, or R28) and contribute to the cross-cutting objective are also included.
- R3 indicator is specifically associated to digitalization and, as explained by the indicators fiche it might be associated to three types of interventions: AKIS interventions (COOP/KNOW), other physical (INV) interventions and sectoral interventions. Therefore, the R3 indicator alone does not guarantee that a given measure is related to AKIS; it must be interpreted in conjunction with other indicators.
- Sectoral interventions refer to those interventions linked to at least one of the result indicators R1, R2, or R28, and which contribute to the cross-cutting objective. Based on these criteria, the interventions in question are categorized as INV, TRAIN, and ADV types.
- Based on the purpose of the AKIS strategies cards, digital interventions (and R3) are only relevant if associated to COOP/KNOW and if it is connected to O.1 (OGs) or O.33 (Number of supported training, advice and awareness actions or units) indicators.
- INV and sectoral interventions, which, in any case are clearly associated with other than O1 and O33 indicators, were excluded.

## Structure of the cards

After several rounds of internal discussions, the structure of the AKIS cards was finalized, along with a shared understanding of its presentation.

Content:

Country name: AKIS Strategies Cards

- Strategic approach
- Public expenditure
- Planned AKIS Interventions
- Realizations by results

- AKIS coordination body (type of body, contacts);

Format:

For the format, it is essential to ensure a consistent and easily understandable presentation, and that the cards are available not only for online viewing but also as downloadable PDFs.

Each AKIS strategy card is drafted by the ad hoc team and validated by the project partner/AKIS coordination body of the pertinent MS.

### **3.3. Methodological background of the CAP SP questionnaire**

The questionnaire was built in link with the ATTRACTISS on-line survey to avoid overlap, to use the same criteria (for the funding part) and to be able to combine the results.

The questionnaire focuses on intervention based on articles 77 and 78 and in which advisors and/or ISS could be involved.

Diverse topics were addressed:

- The potential beneficiaries,
- The funding (European, national and/or regional in combination),
- The eligibles costs,
- The criteria of selection (if existing)
- The use of lump sum

To be able to make some comparisons, the interventions were classified by topic and as far as possible, multiple choice were used for each question. The topic was:

- EIP
- LEADER,
- Producers' groups,
- Short supply chains,
- Quality schemes,
- Agricultural products,
- Advisory services,
- Knowledge exchange,
- Knowledge acquisition,
- Training,
- Other

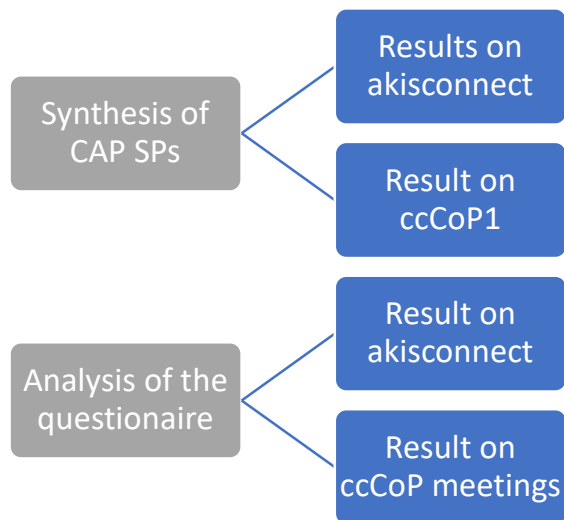
The work was carried out with LKO and CREA to be aligned with the Transformative AKIS Journeys (TAJ) and the Executive Board could make some feedback before the survey itself.

The interventions supporting advice out of the CAP measures were not analyzed. It's an on-going process that needs to be updated after the mid-term review in 2025.

## 4. Results

In presenting the results, the outcomes derived from the synthesis of the CAP SPs are reviewed separately, covering both their display on the website (AKISconnect) and their presentation/application during ccCoP1 meetings. Additionally, a dedicated chapter focuses on the findings from the questionnaire results.

**3. Figure: Structure of activities and results**



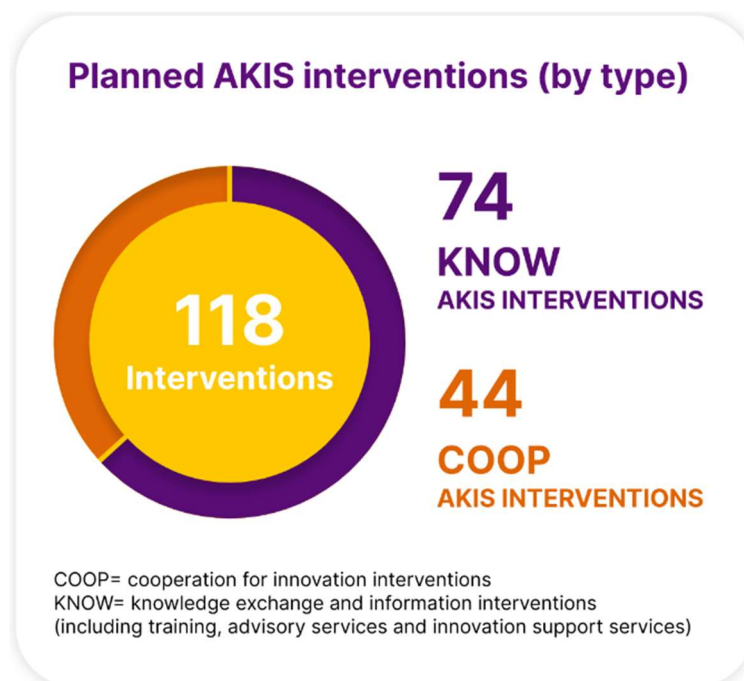
### 4.1. Synthesis of CAP SPs/AgriData indicators -results on AKISconnect

#### **Number of interventions by MSs and CAP objectives**

Member states assigned a total of 285 measures to the cross-cutting objective, XCO, with the highest number of measures contributed by Flanders, Portugal, Lithuania, Romania, and Italy.

Of these, a total of 118 measures are implemented either through knowledge transfer (KNOW) or cooperation (COOP). This share is illustrated in the attached chart on the AKISconnect platform.

#### 4. Figure: Planned AKIS interventions by type



Source: AKISconnect, based on AgriData CAP intervention catalog (February 2024)

Portugal takes the lead in implementing AKIS interventions, having put a total of 14 initiatives into action. Italy follows closely behind with 9 interventions, while Latvia also makes a notable contribution with 7 measures. Furthermore, Finland, Ireland, and Lithuania each add to the effort with 6 interventions.

#### Number of interventions by MSs and Result Indicators

As presented in the methodology section, the synthesis focused on processing the R1, R2, R3, and R28 indicators.

- R1: Number of persons benefitting from advice, training, knowledge exchange, or participating in European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups supported by the CAP in order to enhance sustainable economic, social, environmental, climate and resource efficiency performance
- R2: Number of advisors receiving support to be integrated within Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)
- R3: Share of farms benefitting from support for digital farming technology through CAP
- R28: Number of persons benefitting from advice, training, knowledge exchange, or participating in European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups supported by the CAP related to environmental or climate-related performance

The results show that the 26 member states, plus Wallonia and Flanders, assigned a total of 215 measures to the R1 indicator, 75 measures to R2, 108 measures to R3, and 146 measures to R28. Among these indicators, R1 allows the broadest scope, as it can

encompass any knowledge transfer-related measure, whether related to rural development or sector-specific initiatives.

It is expected that **2,116,608 individuals** will benefit from services such as advice, training, and knowledge exchange, or through participation in European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups (EIP-OGs), specifically **targeting improvements in environmental and climate-related performance**.

Additionally, **6,296,896 people** are projected to access similar resources—advice, training, knowledge exchange, or EIP-OG participation—focused on **advancing sustainable economic, social, environmental, climate, and resource efficiency performance**.

Finally, **202,228** advisors will receive support to be integrated within the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS). This integration is expected to strengthen their role in the sector, allowing them to provide valuable expertise and drive innovation more effectively in agricultural practices.

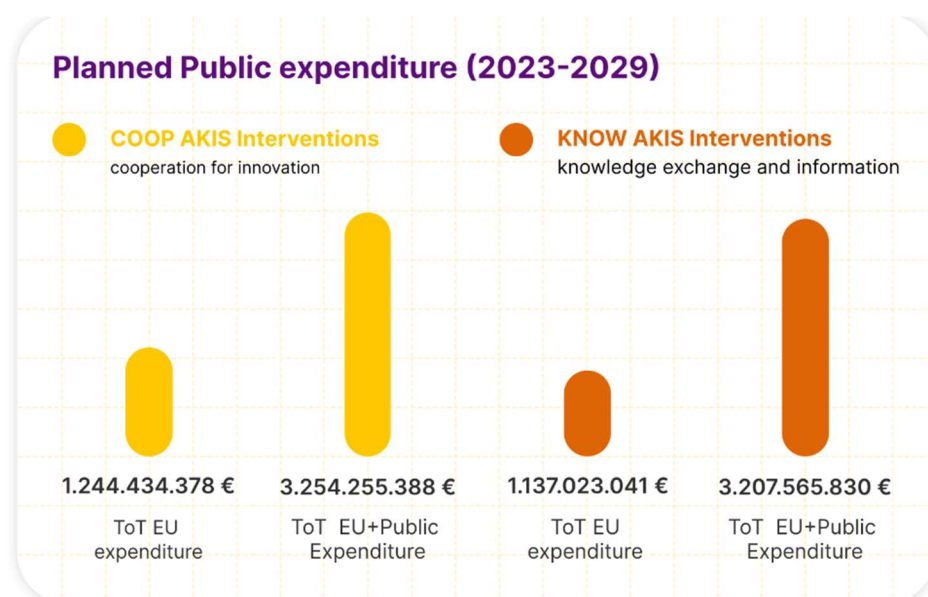
Belgium-Flanders has the highest number of interventions in the EU for R1, with 24 interventions supporting beneficiaries of advice, training, or knowledge exchange. Lithuania leads in R2 with the most interventions, totalling 5, aimed at supporting advisors within the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS). For R3, Portugal ranks highest, also with 24 interventions, providing support for digital farming technology. Finally, in R28, Belgium-Flanders again holds the top spot, with 22 interventions focused on environmental or climate-related advice and training.

### ***Planned public expenditure***

Total EU expenditure (2023-2029) refers to the EU's contribution to the intervention budgets through the relevant funds (EAGF or EAFRD) for the entire programming period. Notably, Member States have planned EAGF contributions until the financial year 2028 and EAFRD contributions until the financial year 2029.

While total public expenditure (2023-2029) represents the planned spending under EAGF and EAFRD, along with mandatory national co-financing, covering the entire programming period. The type of additional funding varies depending on the intervention type.

#### 5. Figure: Planned public expenditure for AKIS related measures (2023-2029)



Source: AKISconnect, based on AgriData CAP intervention catalogue (February 2024)

The planned public expenditure for 2023-2029 includes two types of AKIS interventions: COOP AKIS and KNOW AKIS.

- For COOP AKIS Interventions, which focus on cooperation for innovation, the total EU expenditure is projected at €1,244,434,378, while the combined EU and public expenditure, including mandatory national co-financing, amounts to €3,254,255,388.
- For KNOW AKIS Interventions, aimed at knowledge exchange and information, the total EU expenditure is estimated at €1,137,023,041. The total EU and public expenditure for this category reaches €3,207,565,830.

The Netherlands allocates the highest proportion of its total CAP budget to AKIS interventions, with 0.25%, amounting to €761 million. Following closely are Germany (0.21%, €628 million), Spain (0.21%, €619 million), and Italy (0.21%, €618 million) are among the top spenders when it comes to cooperation for innovation. In contrast, Malta (€10 million, 0.00%), Cyprus (€8 million, 0.00%), and Belgium-Wallonia (€3 million, 0.00%) allocate the smallest shares of their CAP budgets to AKIS interventions. The Netherlands, Spain, Ireland, and Italy are among the top spenders when it comes to cooperation for innovation. On the other hand, Germany, Greece, Poland, Austria, and Spain are the frontrunners in planned public expenditure for knowledge exchange.

#### 4.2. Synthesis of CAP SPs/AgriData indicators- Result on the ccCoP1

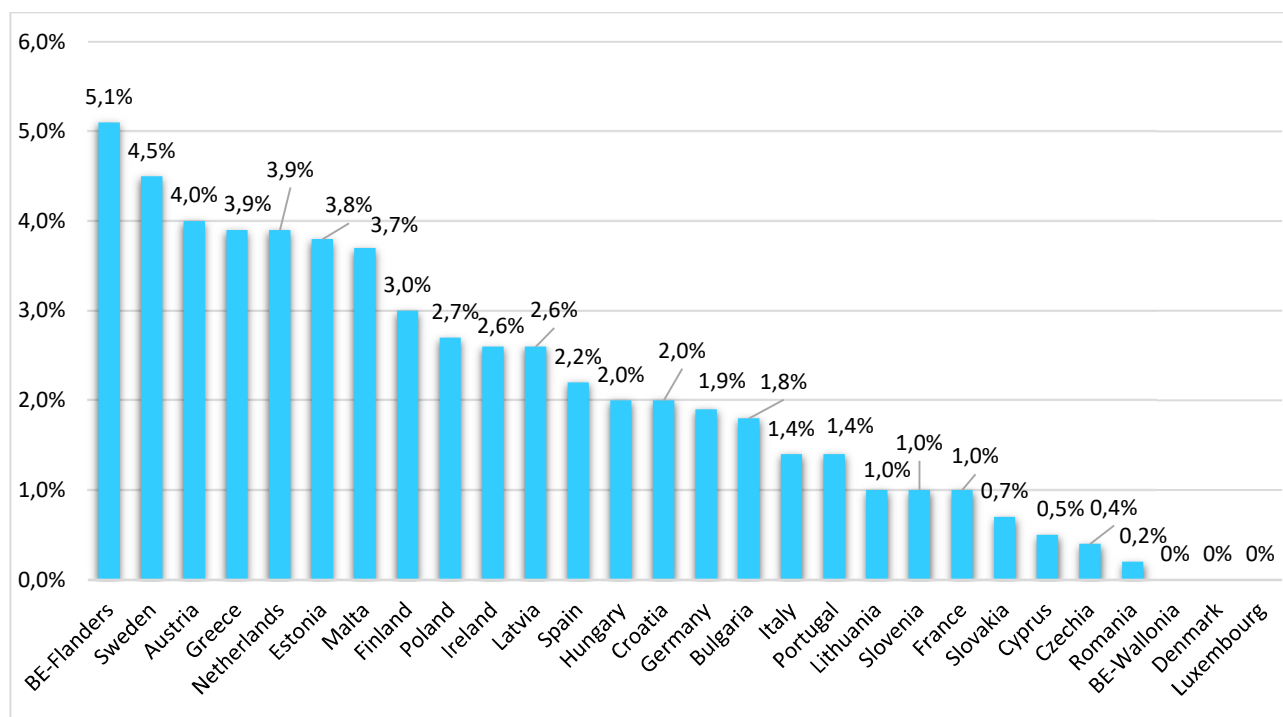
As previously presented, the activities of T4.2 feed into the content of the ccCoPs, with a particular focus on ccCoP1. The synthesis work completed under T4.2 has been utilized in the following ccCoP1 sessions.

## AKIS Coordination Bodies General Assembly – Zagreb

The AKIS Coordination Bodies General Assembly was held on November 7-8, 2023, in Zagreb, during which (on November 8) a joint capacity-building event for ccCoP1 & ccCoP3 took place. The event was titled *"How do they flow, the knowledge flows? Knowledge flow within and beyond the CAP."*

During the event, the results of Article 78 were presented, including the amount allocated per MS. This analysis highlighted the MSs and interventions of particular interest to the AKIS Coordination Bodies.

**6. Figure Art 78 – Total expenditures for knowledge exchange and information actions**



Source: AgriData CAP intervention catalogue (February 2024)

- **The Art 78 intervention forms an integral part of the Member State's AKIS**
- The knowledge exchange and information actions need to contribute to achieving one or more of the specific objectives
- The intervention is in particular important to **implement the cross-cutting objective on knowledge, innovation and digitalisation (Art. 6) providing funding for the various interventions under MSs' AKIS strategies.**
- Overall **greater freedom in choosing the service and the service providers** for knowledge exchange and information
- Member States are expected to modernise the sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge and innovation and encouraging their uptake by farmers.
- **MSs are not limited in terms of the form or content of the intervention**

Under Article 78, three main types of interventions are implemented at the MS level. This article funds (1) the provision of advisory services, (2) supports farm demonstration programs in several countries, and ensures (3) training for advisors, farmers, and other AKIS stakeholders.

Thanks to the synthesis work, specific interventions from MSs have become visible, as outlined below:

- Agri-environmental and Climate Knowledge - PT
- Back-office services for AKIS - IT
- Communication of information - FI
- Generational knowledge transfer - SI
- Information actions – IT, PT
- Information activities (upskilling of professional knowledge and skills) - LV
- Information services - HU
- Knowledge dissemination and information - NL
- Knowledge transfer - RO
- Knowledge transfer (knowledge, training, advice, plans and studies) for non-agricultural and forestry topics - AT
- Knowledge Transfer Programme - IE
- Rural business development - FI
- Specialised Technical Follow-Up — Knowledge Exchange - PT
- Support for the development of the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation System (AKIS) - EE
- Visits abroad - CY

This information can add value among others to the planning of networking events and capacity building events.

## **AKIS Coordination Bodies General Assembly – Madrid**

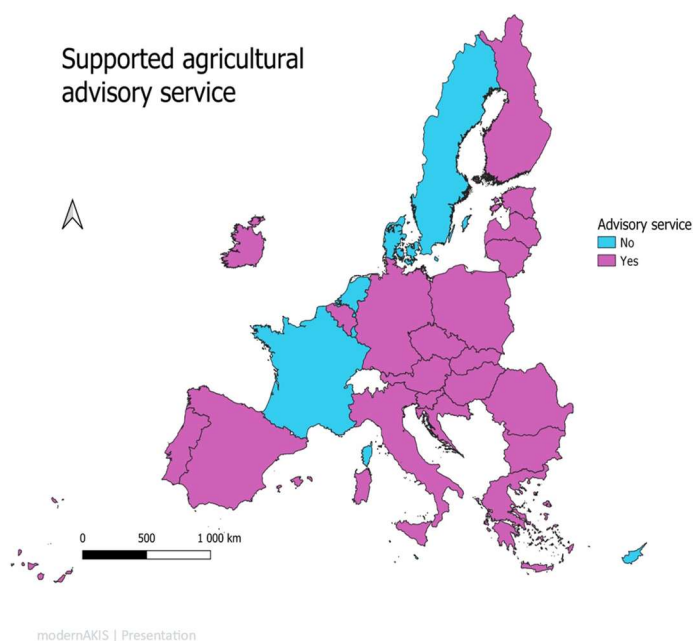
The AKIS Coordination Body General Assembly was held on April 22-23, 2024, in Madrid, with a main theme and focus on *Integrating Advisors into the AKIS*. As part of this event, a ccCoP1 session was conducted in synergy with the ccCoP2. Numerous elements and content from the synthesis work were utilized in presentations throughout the event.

The event not only analysed advisory services funded under Article 78 but also focused on member state obligations under Article 15. Member States (MS) are required to provide advisory services under Article 15(1) of the CAP Strategic Regulation within the framework of their AKIS system. In practice, this means that advisors (including public and private) must be mobilised to provide advice covering the economic, environmental, and social dimensions, as well as the areas indicated in Articles 15(2) and (4). The selection of the advisors eligible for support is up to the MS, as long as the advisors are suitably qualified, have no conflict of interest, and the advice is impartial (Article 15(3)). Regular training of advisors is also mandatory to ensure the provision of up-to-date

technological and scientific information developed by research and innovation activities.

The certification/administration of advisors is not required under the new legislation, but a transparent platform is proposed to be set up where all impartial advisors and their fields of expertise are visible/available.

### 7. Figure: Supported agricultural advisory service



- ✓ Out of the 27 Member States, 5 do not have a classical advisory support measure (at least in terms of the names of the measures) - including Cyprus, France, Malta, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

Source: AgriData CAP intervention catalogue

Based on the AgriData CAP intervention catalogue, the map shows which member states support advisory activities. In some countries, while advisors are beneficiaries, this is not explicitly stated in the intervention. In the case of France Art78 contains training, advisory services, dissemination actions, knowledge and information exchange under one measure. In contrary to the figure on the map above, some regions also support advisory services as well.

The table illustrates the types of measures each MS is implementing under Article 78.

## 8. Figure: Number of Art. 78 measures implemented by MSs

### The number of measures under Art. 78

Total 74 measures:

- 27 Advisory services
- 21 Training
- 15 Knowledge exchange
- 11 Other

	Advisory services	Training	Knowledge exchange	Other
AT	X	X	X	
BE-Flanders	X	X		X
BG	X	X		
CY		X	X	
CZ	X	X		
DE	X		X	
EE	X		X	
EL	X	X		
ES	X		X	
FI	X, X	X, X		X
FR			X	
HR	X		X	
HU	X	X		X
IE	X	X	X	X
IT	X	X, X		X, X, X
LT	X	X		X
LV	X, X	X, X	X	X
MT			X	
NL			X	
PL	X, X	X		X
PT	X, X, X, X, X	X, X, X	X, X	X
RO	X		X	
SE		X		
SI	X		X	
SK	X	X		

Source: AgriData CAP intervention catalogue (February 2024)

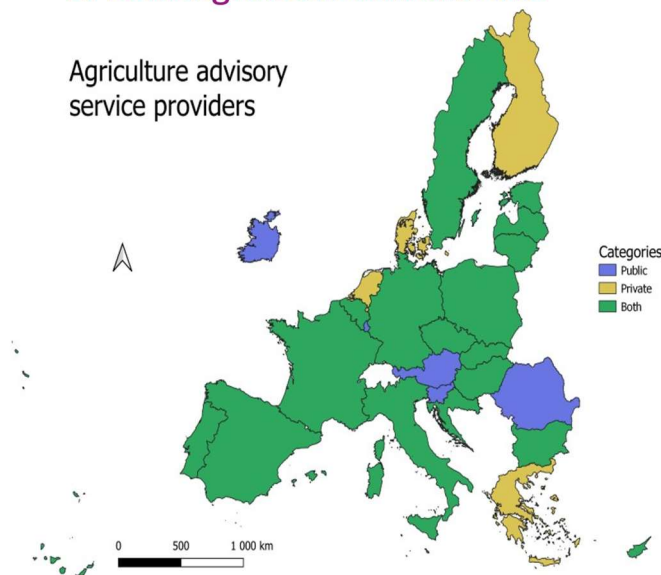
Member state designations have been categorized accordingly. Measures that do not directly facilitate knowledge exchange, or do so in a non-"traditional" form (at least not reflected in the name), are included in the "other" category. In certain Member States, multiple activities are combined under a single measure (e.g., France), in which case the measure is indicated with an "X" in Figure 8.

The map on Figure 9 it is based on the synthesized information obtained from the review of member states' CAP Strategic Plans. It illustrates the existence of publicly funded and private advisory services operating in each member state.


## 9. Figure: The existence of public and private advisory services


### 1. Beintegratedwithinthe AKIS


Agriculture advisory service providers



modernAKIS | Presentation

 The role of private advice providers is growing as demand for different types of services increases.

 There are purely private providers in Finland, the Netherlands and Denmark.

 Finland and the Netherlands have significant CAP resources in AKIS. While Denmark does not finance AKIS from the CAP.

modernAKIS  Together for Systems' Innovation

Source: CAP Strategic Plans

## 4.3. Results of the Questionnaire

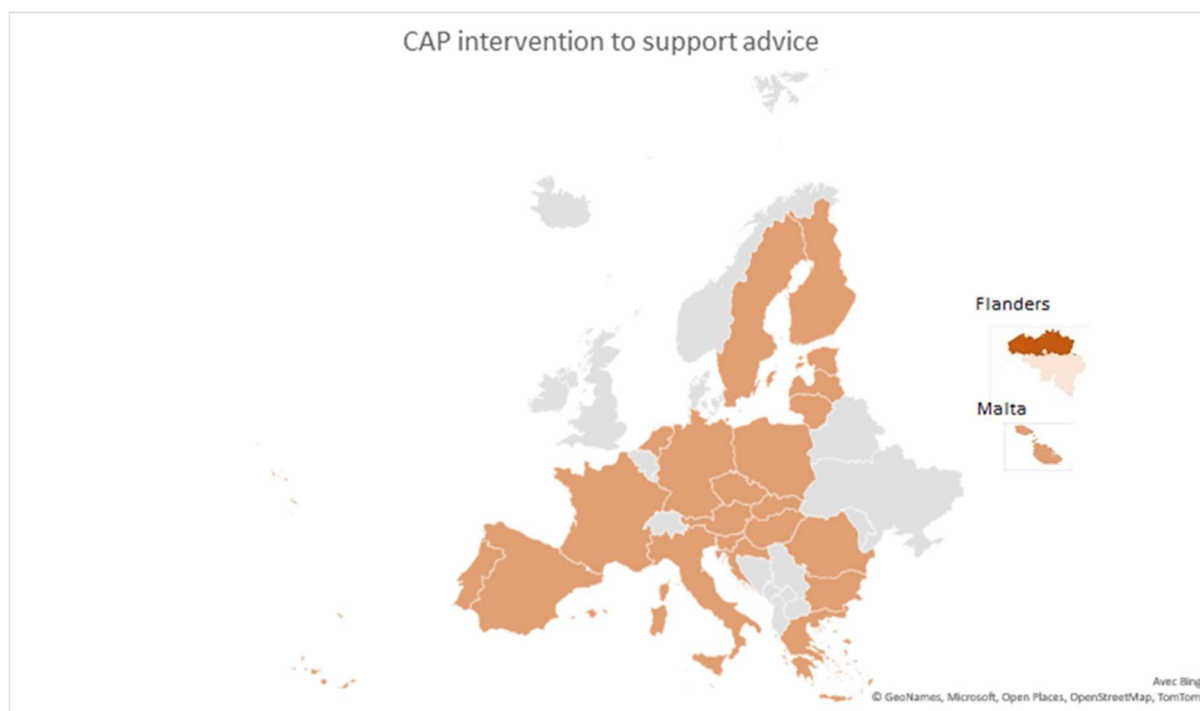
A first presentation of the results of the questionnaire has been provided during the AKIS GA in Madrid in April 24.

Other information has also been presented during the on-line meeting of the ccCoP2 (29th) 2023 and during the common online meeting with the short supply chain advisory network (EU4advice and CORENET)

For the KNOW interventions, lot of MSs used simplified costs with hourly rate and/or % for travel and accommodation costs and/or % for indirect costs.

For example, only 4 MSs don't have a dedicated CAP intervention for the advice (given) even if advisors can be supported if they received training.

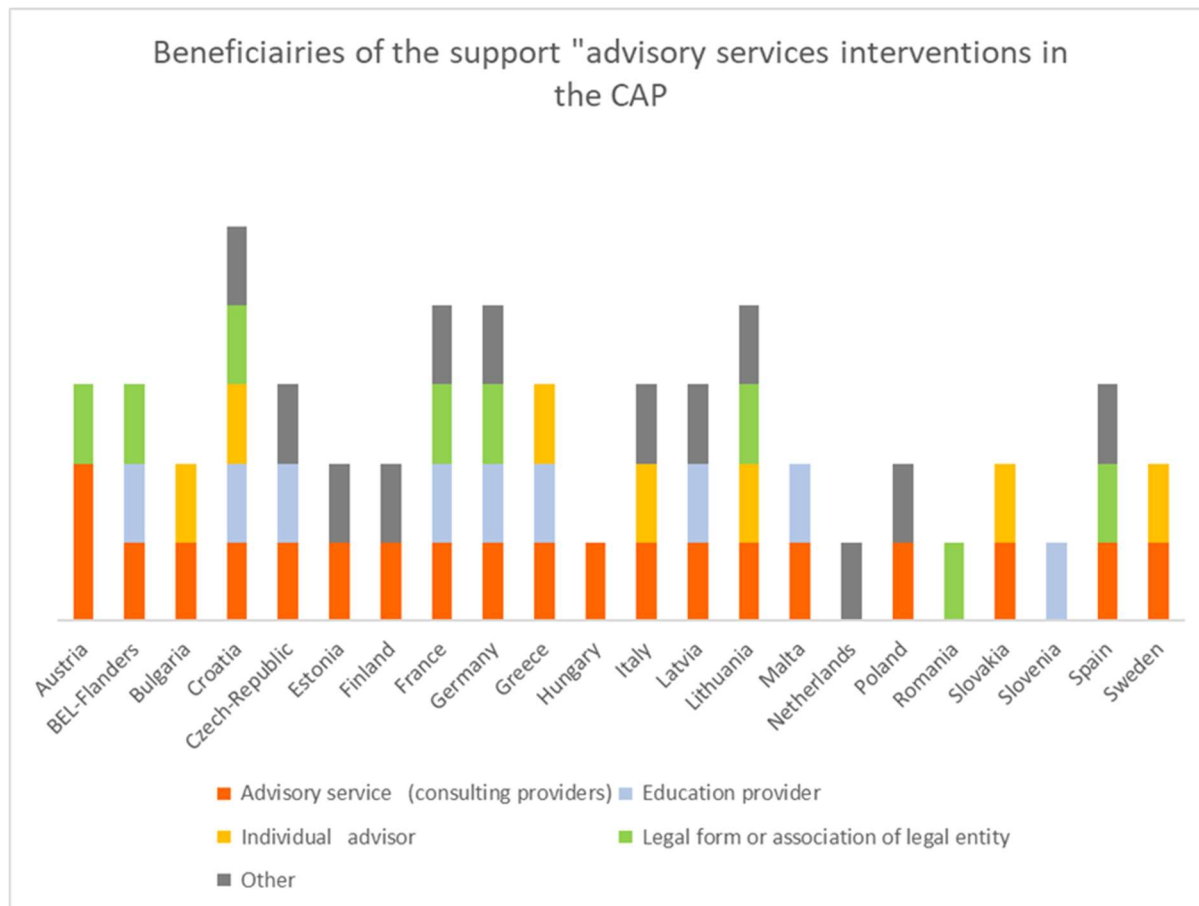
**10. Figure: Mapping of the MS supporting advice by CAP funding (Madrid, April 2024)**



Source: CAPSPs Analysis: Myriam GASPARD CRAO

In some member states (MS) there is not a dedicated intervention for advice but an intervention that combines advice +/- training +/- knowledge dissemination (eg France, Malta). In MSs with regional managing authorities, all the regional authorities may not open calls for advice even if it's opened at the national level (eg France, Italy, Spain, Germany). In this intervention we don't include the training for advisors (topic training) but only advice given by advisory services mainly.

### 11. Figure: Who receives the support?



Source: CAPSPs Analysis: Myriam GASPARD CRAO

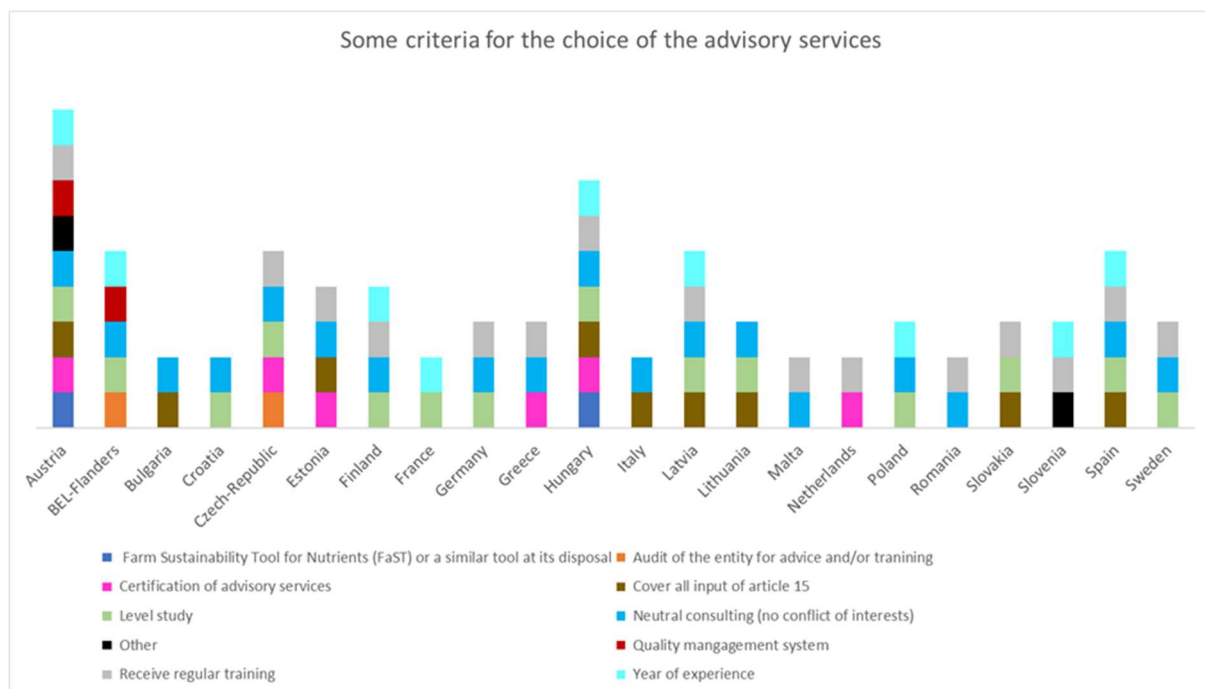
In the category "other" we might have a broad range of eligible actors like (extract of the CAP SP's):

- ✓ Cooperation in the legal form of a legal entity or association of persons without their own legal personality (Austria),
- ✓ Research organisations (Czech-Republic),
- ✓ Experts not qualified as consultants (lecturers, researchers, experienced practitioners, participants in the successor programme for counsellors), provided that the quality and impartiality of the services are guaranteed and they have completed the mandatory annual training (25 hours). (Estonia)
- ✓ Public and private entities involved in training, the dissemination of knowledge and information and consultancy (France),
- ✓ Providers and intermediaries of guidance services regardless their legal form, education providers and guidance providers regardless their legal form (Germany),
- ✓ Researchers, farmers' organisations and other relevant stakeholders forming AKIS (Reg. (EU) 2021/2115, Art. 15(2)) (Italy),
- ✓ Recognised agricultural cooperatives and associations of agricultural cooperatives (Lithuania),
- ✓ Any entity based on their experience in conducting advisory activities, their human resources, their organizational structure that ensures reaching out to the

individual farmer, the substantive facilities for advisors to provide advisory services in accordance with the latest knowledge, as well as the statutory authorization to carry out such activities, comprehensive advisory programs will be carried out by agricultural advisory centers (Poland),

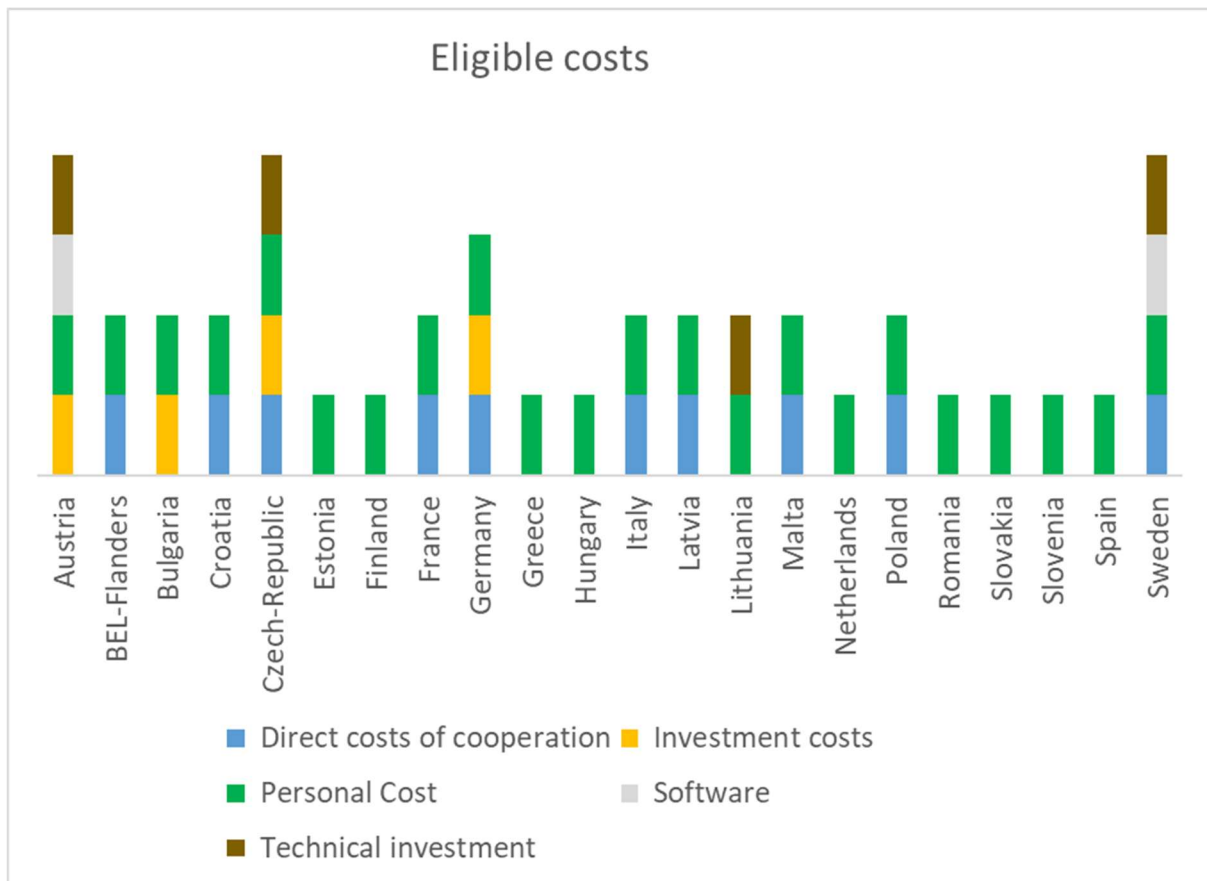
- ✓ Entity recognized in the Agricultural and Forestry Advisory System (Portugal),
- ✓ The providers of advice and the organisations for the improvement of advice providers authorized by the managing authority to train consultants (Slovakia),
- ✓ Public administration: through its own resources or a medium of its own, contracting the services of private companies, selecting collaborating entities, public or private entities, and providers will be chosen by a selection procedure open to both public and private bodies (Spain).

### 12. Figure: How they are selected?



Source: CAPSPs Analysis: Myriam GASPARD CRAO

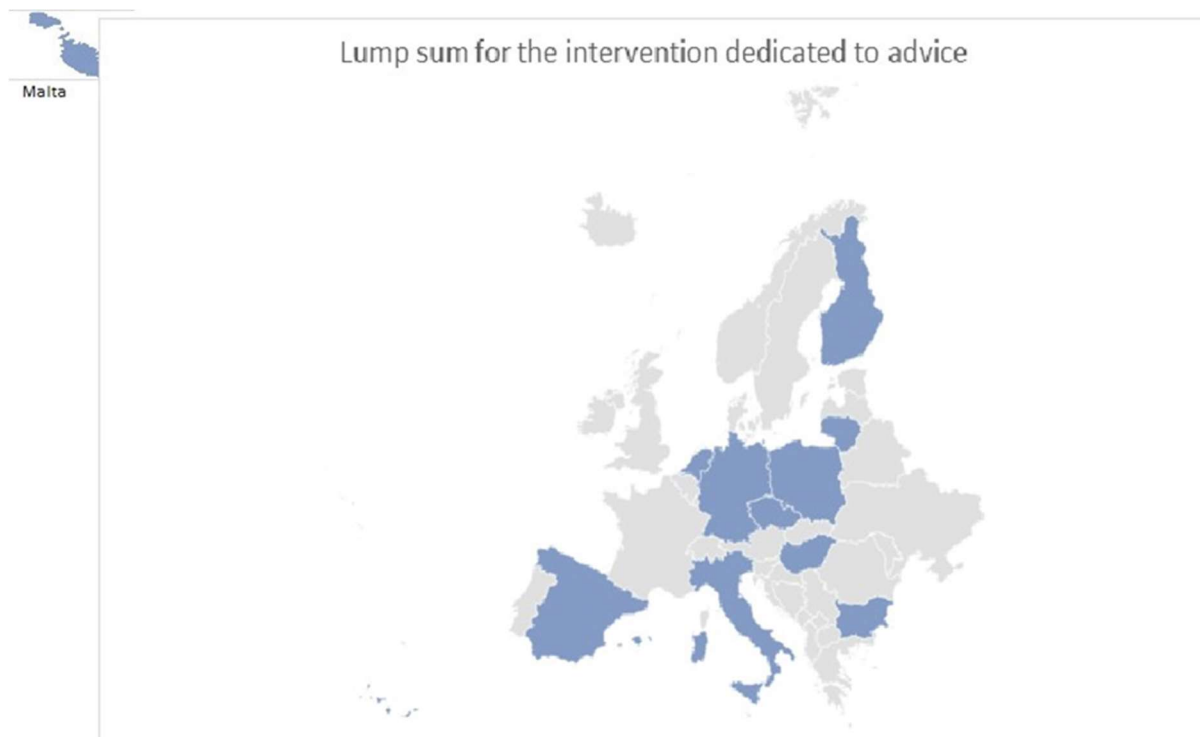
**13. Figure: What are the eligible costs?**



Source: CAPSPs Analysis: Myriam GASPARD CRAO

Most of the interventions include the direct costs of the intervention (personnel costs and all the costs directly needed for the implementation of the intervention. 7 members states cover only the staff costs (Austria, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Spain).

#### 14. Figure: Is there a lump sum?



Source: CAPSPs Analysis: Myriam GASPARD CRAO

Nota: this means that "lump-sum" is mentioned in the CAP SP as a possibility to be used and not that they have been used.

## ***Some simplification examples (Source: CAPSPs Analysis: Myriam GASPARD CRAO)***

### Application of lump sum in the implementation of advisory services: Bulgaria

12 advice package have been built and the selection of proposal wants to focus on advice for small farmers and/or young farmers.

1. Advice Package No 1 (AP No 1) Provision of advice aimed at young farmers to help them apply for the interventions for which they are eligible - €646;
2. Advice Package No 2 (AP No 2) Provision of advice aimed at small and very small farmers to help them apply for the interventions for which they are eligible - €646;
3. Advice Package No 3 (SP No 3) Provision of advice to foresters – 444 euro;
4. Advice Package No 4 (AP No 4) Provision of advice on climate change mitigation and adaptation and sustainable energy - €259;
5. Advice Package No 5 (SP No 5) Provision of advice to increase knowledge on sustainable management of natural resources (water, soil, air) and good agricultural practices in relation to natural resources - EUR 405;
6. Advice Package 6 (AP 6) Provision of advice to protect biodiversity, improve ecosystem services and protect habitats and landscapes - €231;
7. Advice Package No 7 (AP No 7) Provision of advice on the general principles of integrated pest management and good plant protection practice - €456;
8. Advice Package No 8 (AP No 8) Provision of advice on biosecurity standards on livestock farms, including raising farmers' awareness and knowledge of biosecurity on their farms, animal welfare and animal health - €259;
9. Advisory Package No 9 (SP No 9) Provision of advice on occupational and/or farm safety standards - €211;
10. Advice package No 10 (SP No 10) Provision of advice on sustainable farm development, including through cooperative farming - EUR 384;
11. Advice Package No 11 (AP No 11): Provision of advice aimed at young farmers, small and very small farmers to help them implement the projects under the interventions for which they have been approved (AP Nos 1, 2 and 7) - EUR 380.
12. Advisory Package No 12 (AP No 12): Provision of advice on opportunities for the creation, development and implementation of innovations, including through participation in operational groups within the EIP - EUR 3 000.

The advisory packages within the intervention cover the specific objectives addressed in the Strategic Plan. The intervention will also allow farmers and foresters to receive advice on topics and issues not covered by the advisory packages, in which case the value of the additional advice may not exceed 10 % of the value of the individual advisory package. It is envisaged that approximately 80 % of the persons to be advised will take the opportunity to ask additional questions.

In the case of simultaneous provision of more than one advisory package (AP), the simplified costs are reduced as follows: for two APs, by 5 % of the total amount for both APs, for three APs, by 7.5

% of the total for the three SPs, four by 10.0% of the total for the four SPs, five by 12.5% of the total for the five SPs and six or more by 15% of the total for the six and/or more SPs.

The calculations of the standard costs were carried out by an external person independent of the Ministry of Agriculture, with the necessary knowledge and competence. The calculations are adequate and accurate and are based on a fair, equitable and demonstrable method of calculation. The eligible operating costs foreseen for the operation of the mobile offices in support of activities related to the expansion of capacity to provide advisory services will be determined as a percentage of staff costs on an annual basis.

In the same approach, in Occitanie, there is a lump sum of 1500 €/farmer received by the body to finance individual time accompanying the farmer for his agroecological transition project.

The support and implementation of the Sustainable Agriculture Contract is carried out by one of the qualified structures selected by the Region.

The accompaniment is done in three stages:

- ▣ Step 1: Development of the Sustainable Agriculture Contract which includes the status and the global and systemic analysis of the operation, the trajectory and the five-year action plan. At the end of this stage, the Region analyses the agroecological transition project. If the project is approved, the support continues with steps 2 and 3 below.

Stage 2: interim assessment between the 2nd and 4th year

Stage 3: Final assessment in the 5th year.

## 5. Updating of the synthesis work

### 5.1. Updating of the synthesis of CAP SPs/data available AgriData portal

Given that the data available on the Agri-food Data Portal is updated based on MS' CAP Strategic Plans, annual data updates are conducted within T4.2 through the collaboration of AKI, CREA, and AUA. In this process, AKI is responsible for updating the Excel data, CREA for preparing the country cards, and AUA for displaying the information on the AKISconnect platform.

The update is carried out in the first quarter of each year, followed by publication on the platform to ensure that the data can effectively support the ccCoPs for that year with the required quality.

### 5.2. Updating of the Questionnaire

The update will be made during the mid-term review by sending a draft for each topic and asking an update by the modernAKIS partners. As they are thematic, the partners could ask for different experts to answer it.

This update will be used for the face-to-face meeting of the ccCoP2 in 2026.

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