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1. Executive Summary

The objective of Work package 1 is to track and engage key AKIS actors of change across the EU in Transformative AKIS Journeys (TAJ) to enable the development of appropriate and sound AKIS governance in MS interlinking AKIS, strategy designs and functioning. This WP will iteratively co-design, with the AKIS CBs and other actors of change (WP2), the overall conceptual and methodological framework for TAJs, provide ready to put in practice knowledge that will backstop and fuel continuous capacity building activities of AKIS CBs and the respective AKISs actors (WP3 and WP4) along with the wider engagement, dissemination and exploitation activities of the project (WP5).

The overall intervention logic of WP1 entails framing the TAJ (T1.1) and creating knowledge for backstopping their smooth and effective implementation (T1.2-T1.5), by

- Enabling and empowering AKISs' actors to start transformative system change, based on the conceptual and methodological framework for impactful AKISs journeys and adequate M&E processes and tools (T1.1)
- Achieving a wider use of the new know-how and already existing knowledge/practices across the EU to fuel the advancement in knowledge exchange within the AKISs (T1.2)
- Enabling AKISs actors to benefit from the diversity of AKIS models and strategies, from across the EU (T1.3)
- **Achieving an intensive integration of advisors, including innovation support services, and of researchers/academics within the AKISs (T1.4. and T1.5.)**

This deliverable relates to Task 1.4, which will develop a framework for the selection, collection and practical sharing/implementation of various ways and good examples of how advisors can be intensively integrated in AKIS, including as innovation support services.

The task will systematically monitor the impact of CAP interventions in relation to the integration of advisors in AKIS. Systematic collection of insightful solutions and practices, together with potential end-users engaged within the project network (WP2) and other EU projects (database of advisors of i2connect.eu project; ATTRACTISS; call-01-27-advisory network), on advisory and ISSs will draw in a periodic compendium (D1.12 - 1.15) and allow effective adaptation and put in practice through the capacity building activities (WP3; WP4) and dissemination (WP5).

2. Introduction

The purpose of this task is to track and report on ways and good examples that support the intensive integration of advisors in the AKIS. This task will report from month 6 of the project and will develop a framework for the selection, collection and practical sharing/implementation of various ways and good examples of how advisors can be intensively integrated in AKIS, including as innovation support services.

3. Practical Examples

This section contains 13 good examples of the intensive integration of advisors into the AKIS, categorised under the following headings:

- 3.1 Training measures
- 3.2 Networking and knowledge exchange measures
- 3.3 Policy and structural measures

3.1. Training Measures

3.1.1 *Continuing Training plan for agricultural educators and extension workers supports dissemination of current knowledge*

Issue/Barrier tackled

To combat the slow transfer of research results to practice and to try to help advisors keep up with the fast pace of knowledge development

Narrative

The nationwide continuing training plan for agricultural advisors and teachers, implemented by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Pedagogy (HAUP), is a key tool that supports lifelong learning, especially of agricultural and forestry educators and extension workers, anchored in the Austrian AKIS.

Every year, about 150 technical and methodological continuing education events are held with approximately 4,500 participants. The continuing education programme is planned annually together with representatives from consulting and continuing education based on knowledge needs. The program is implemented in cooperation with research institutes. In this way, the results and findings of research projects are quickly passed on to multipliers and, in addition, the exchange between education and training, advisory services and research is accelerated.

Implications for policy makers/administrations

Advisors update their knowledge on a regular basis and there is low threshold access to further training

Location: Austria - national

Example provided by: Florian Herzog (f.herzog@lk-oe.at)

3.1.2 Advisor Continued Professional Development (CPD)

Issue/Barrier tackled

Poor access to training by private sector agricultural consultants.

Narrative

All FAS registered advisors must complete annual Continuous Professional Development activities. These allow advisers to enhance their knowledge base on an ongoing basis and ensure that they are familiar with the latest techniques, technologies, and regulatory and scheme requirements in a rapidly changing agri-food sector. An online platform has been developed to deliver high quality professional training in a range of areas such as climate change (both mitigation and adaptation) and sustainable energy, air, soil and water quality, biodiversity conservation, organic farming, carbon farming, and the adoption of new technologies and best practice.

The planned unit amount €200,000 per training intervention delivered. It is estimated that the cost for the online platform will be €300,000 spread over 2023 and 2024.

Implications for policy makers/administrations

Advisors can upskill efficiently in their own time and plug into the public funded research and education infrastructure.

Location: Ireland - national

Example provided by: Mark Gibson (mark.gibson@teagasc.ie)

3.1.3 Teagasc Signpost Webinar Series

Issue/Barrier tackled

There was a lack of knowledge around the science of sustainable agriculture and the practical measures that can be introduced at farm level. The series provides knowledge and insights into good practice and latest research that is easily accessible. Teagasc funds the series through government funding.

Narrative

The Teagasc Signpost Webinar Series began as a series of funded training events for the Irish AKIS. The focus of the training events was Sustainable Agriculture with particular focus on Climate Action. In response to the COVID pandemic, the training events were transformed into a webinar series. Private and public advisors and the wider AKIS view the webinar across Ireland every Friday morning at 9.30 for one hour. The series has over 4,000 people registered with an average of 400 attending each week. The programme features talks from leading experts, scientists, farmers and policy makers in the area of Sustainable Agriculture. All webinars are made available afterwards on the Teagasc YouTube channel, as a Podcast. All presentations are available on the Teagasc website. Advisors use recordings as content for courses and training they provide.

Implications for policy makers/administrations

Viewers of the webinar have a much better understanding of sustainable agriculture and are much more engaged in the topic. All advisors can use the content in their work with farmers. The series attracts viewers from across the entire AKIS.

Location: Ireland - national

Example provided by: Mark Gibson (mark.gibson@teagasc.ie)

3.2. Networking and knowledge exchange measures

3.2.1 Mixed technological network

Issue/Barrier tackled

The lack of linkage among researchers /advisors/ training centres for new comers to agriculture to address their farming needs. National funding was used through calls for proposals.

Narrative

Mixed technological network involved advisors (e.g. from farmer-based organisations), applied researchers, agricultural learning centre (students to become farmers) and farmers to tackle questions such as soil and territory, agroforestry, climate. The aims of the network are valorisation of results coming from research; creation of decision tools, new systems of production, training modules; support and advice for farmers.

Implications for policy makers/administrations

The proposed solutions are suitable for farmers' needs. There are training module and tools available for the advisors. The tools can be used to directly support farmers.

Location: France - national

Example provided by: Myriam Gaspard (myriam.gaspard@occitanie.chambagri.fr)

3.2.2 Teagasc ConnectEd

Issue/Barrier tackled

One of the barriers to engagement with training is the cost of attending training. As private consultants are largely self-employed, attendance at training means they are away from their work. New methods of funding this training are being explored. Some training and events are offered for free while more intensive training is chargeable.

Narrative

The ConnectEd Programme was established in 2015 with the aim of providing training and education programmes, ICT Tools and communications for private advisors and the wider AKIS. The programme allows private advisors to sign up as members. They receive invitations to events, publications. Training programmes offered include CECRA, technical training. www.teagasc.ie/connected

Implications for policy makers/administrations

The ConnectEd Programme has improved the access of private advisors and innovation support services to the latest research and innovation outputs from Teagasc and other publicly funded research institutions thereby improving the quality of information being exchanged with farmers.

Location: Ireland - national

Example provided by: Mark Gibson (mark.gibson@teagasc.ie)

3.2.3 Operational Group project "Development of a decision support system for the management of leaf and ear diseases in winter wheat"

Issue/Barrier tackled

Promoting information exchange and collaboration to create new knowledge and share it among stakeholders.

Narrative

The aim of the project is to improve winter wheat growing technology and increase profitability by a more effective use of resources. For this purpose, a support system will be set up for restricting winter wheat leaf and ear disease that would be economically and technologically justified. To do so there was a close collaboration between public and private advisors, researchers and farmers.

The project was funded through EAFRD, measure 16.1

Implications for policy makers/administrations

It is possible to promote cooperation between public and private advisors and making it easier for them to get otherwise hard to source information.

Location: Latvia - national

Example provided by: Aiva Saulīte-Liniņa (aiva.saulite@lkc.lv)

3.2.4 Speeding up Innovation - Event Series for AKIS-Networking

Issue/Barrier tackled

The need to strengthen exchange and networking of science with education and extension; accelerate knowledge transfer between research and practice; initiate dialogue on effective knowledge transfer instruments in the field and to make concrete research project results usable for practice.

Narrative

Within the framework of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's jointly and the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, representatives of national research institutions and projects as well as of agricultural and forestry education and advisory institutions and training centres are specifically networked with each other. The aim is to further develop and accelerate the transfer of knowledge between research and practice in selected thematic areas (for example, animal husbandry, crop production, forestry and timber industry). Specific projects are used to discuss instruments and mechanisms for implementing results in agricultural and forestry practice.

Implications for policy makers/administrations

Events are kept very cost efficient with a very low budget; little national funding is involved; cooperation partners contribute their work as in-kind contribution.

Location: Austria - national

Example provided by: Florian Herzog (f.herzog@lk-oe.at)

3.2.5 Agricultural demonstrations

Issue/Barrier tackled

Promoting knowledge exchange and reducing fragmentation by including all AKIS actors in the initiative.

Narrative

The Ministry of Agriculture announces the procurement of agricultural and forestry demonstrations. In order to participate in the competition, applicants must prepare applications, including identifying the needs of the industry for the selection of topics. Both public and private consultants, as well as scientific institutions, can apply. The purpose of the event is to ensure the installation and implementation of a demonstration that practically demonstrates or demonstrably demonstrates the advantages of a new agro-technical technique, technological process, crop or animal breed, which has been tested in research and reflect at least two variants - the existing standard technique and the new technique. Both consultants and owners are actively involved in the process. Funding is provided via EAFRD with a maximum amount of €15,000 per one demonstration

Implications for policy makers/administrations

Knowledge exchange and involvement of all stakeholders. That is great opportunity for advisor to gain knowledge and to share knowledge with farmers, other advisors and researchers.

Location: Latvia - national

Example provided by: Aiva Saulīte-Liniņa (aiva.saulite@lkc.lv)

3.2.6 Analysis of the results of innovation projects

Issue/Barrier tackled

Improving the exchange of knowledge about completed innovation projects and providing education materials and opportunities for advisors.

Narrative

In order for advisors to be able to effectively perform their daily work, constant updating of knowledge is necessary, including about agricultural and forestry innovation projects. In order to facilitate the work of advisors, last year, Latvian ISS started to organize the analysis of the concluded innovation projects funded under Measure 16 and inform other advisors about the conclusions. One or two advisors, with relevant expertise evaluate the project and their conclusions are presented to the other advisors. All the information, such as the summary and slide deck, is available after the presentation.

Implications for policy makers/administrations

The benefit of gathering, analysing and presenting existing evidence to advisors in order to increase their knowledge base to better support their client - farmer needs.

Location: Latvia - national

Example provided by: Aiva Saulīte-Liniņa (aiva.saulite@lkc.lv)

3.3. Policy and Structural measures

3.3.1 European Innovation Partnerships

Issue/Barrier tackled

Gaps existed in the multi-actor approach to solving local and national issues. The proposed funding for the European Innovation Partnership allocation in Ireland's CSP is €36,120,000.

Narrative

European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) in Ireland provide support to locally led 'bottom-up' innovative projects that address specific challenges in the agri-food sector. Project themes are split into two categories. **Stream A** focusses on addressing issues relating to animal health and welfare challenges, and **stream B** focuses on issues relating to environmental and biodiversity challenges. Encouraging innovation in these areas simultaneously addresses the need to increase farmers' and advisors' understanding of climate change, air quality, water quality, soil health, animal health and welfare and biodiversity related challenges and opportunities at farm level, and the need to provide support for research and innovation in the agri-food sector; and encourage the application of findings at farm level. The multi-actor approach adopted in operational groups supports stronger integration of advisors within the AKIS.

Implications for policy makers/administrations

Multidisciplinary approach to developing solutions to local and national issues can be encouraged. Such partnerships facilitate the integration of AKIS actors and the piloting of measures that can be incorporated into future schemes and programmes.

Location: Regional within Ireland

Example provided by: Mark Gibson (mark.gibson@teagasc.ie)

3.3.2 Mandatory Participation of Advisors in EIP-OGs

Issue/Barrier tackled

The need to encourage cooperation between research and advisory services and practice; to speed up transfer from science to practice; to increase the practice relevance of research.

Funding is provided through CAP Intervention EIP-AGRI.

Narrative

In Austria, the participation of advisors in projects from operational groups (OGs) in frame of the EIP-Agri is mandatory. Advisors are part of the OG and can get respective funding for their contribution.

Implications for policy makers/administrations

Advisors are better integrated in the EIP-Agri and therefore advisors often take the lead of OGs. The administrative burden is taken from farmers and cooperation and networking between research and advisors is increased also way beyond the respective projects

Location: Austria - national

Example provided by: Florian Herzog (f.herzog@lk-oe.at)

3.3.3 Advisory and generation renewal

Issue/Barrier tackled

The lack of contact points and expert information for newcomers and young farmers.

Narrative

To support the young farmers in the CAP, the Region Occitanie selects network of advisors and advisors to support young farmers: support for the subsidies ("DJA"), the investment plan and so on. The selected advisors are experts in providing support for young farmers and newcomers to farming.

Implications for policy makers/administrations

A variety of different networks have been chosen and all kinds of agriculture can be supported at the same level

Location: France-Occitanie

Example provided by: Myriam Gaspard (myriam.gaspard@occitanie.chambagri.fr)

3.3.4 Simplified costs for advisory services participating in OGs

Issue/Barrier tackled

The delivery of the measure 2 of RDPs 2014-2023, since early, encountered some uncertainties about the financial resources to budget, when launching the call for applications for advisory services providers, and the diverse amount of fees that the advisors could have requested to the farmers.

The issue was to pre-determine a standard tariff that satisfactory and effectively could reflect the average fees applicable for the provision of advisory services by the beneficiaries of the measure.

Narrative

Based on a sounding methodology, the National Rural Development Network determined a standard cost that, in fact, reflects the fee applied on average for the provision of advisory services under the RDPs.

The methodology was developed in compliance with art. 67, p.5 of the EU Regulation 1303/2013 and the "EGESIF_14-0017 – Guidance on simplified cost options (scos) – European structural and investment (ESI) funds".

For the determination of the standard cost, the monitoring data sets of the managing authorities relating to the fees that were claimed by the advisors was used, as detailed by unit/days/hours, for the different types of services provided to farmers during the programming period 2007-2013 (measures 114 of RDPs 2007-2013).

The results of the data analysis showed that the advisory services provided could had been clustered into two main types of services: basic (e.g. cross compliance) and advanced (e.g. use of pesticide and fertilizers). Based on this one standard fee equal to the average fee applied by the advisors was determined and adopted by the managing authorities of the RDPs.

No distinction between the different types of services is made in order to not restrict the range of possible types and topics of advisory services that could be requested by farmers.

Besides, a minimum level of service provision was established by the call for applications (e.g. binding number of visits on the field, reporting of the services provided, minimal contents of the advisory services).

The benefit of this solution includes:

- Standard cost solved an incumbent barrier to the opening of the calls for application and favoured the use of advisory services under the RDPs,
- The established standard cost reflects an average fee applied in reality under the RDPs
- While leaving the choice of services to be provided to the relation between the farmer and the advisor, the managing authority of the RDP ensures that a minimum service is provided.

Implications for policy makers/administrations

- The call for applications must include a request of a detailed reporting about the types of services and the time spent by the advisor on providing the professional services to the farmer.
- Availability of data series of advisory fees;
- Limited differentiation of the amounts of the fees requested by types and topics of advisory services.

Location: Italy (various Regional Managing Authorities of RDPs)

Example provided by: Simona Cristiano (simona.cristiano@crea.gov.it)

4. The Process

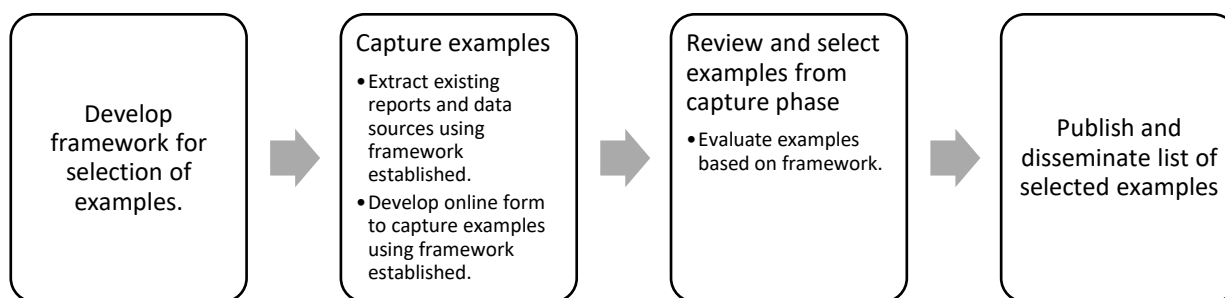


Figure 1. Overview of the process developed.

4.1. Development of the framework

The Task 1.4 team developed a framework, which aims to capture essential information about each example that is collected. The framework was developed based on the experience of other EU projects. It was decided that a short set of criteria is preferable. This helps ensure a greater number of examples and allows the team to follow up with individual examples if further information is required. The questions in Table 1 were developed to be used when capturing examples through existing reports and data sources as well as online.

Table 1 Framework for identifying examples of intensive integration of advisors.

Question	Rationale
Name of person providing example	In case further information is required
Email address	In case further information is required
Title of example	Identified for the example
Country where the example is from	Location and environment
Is this example included in your country's/region's CAP Strategic Plan	Enables tracking of examples appearing in CSP's
Please describe the example (100 words)	Rich picture of example.
What were the positive impacts of the action taken in this example	
What was the level of impact of this example	Local, Regional or National
What weakness in the AKIS were addressed in this example	Motivation for the action.
What funding model and costs were involved	Cost and understanding of how funding was directed.
Type of service involved	Public Advisory Service, Private Consultancy Service, Innovation Support Service
What other AKIS actors were involved?	

4.2. Capture of examples

The process of capturing examples of intensive integration of advisors and innovation support services has been divided into two sub processes:

- a) Extract existing reports and data sources using framework established.

This part of the process will be completed through the systematic review of CAP Strategic Plans, reports, proceedings and outcomes from other projects such as the EU i2connect Project. Examples will be included into a single database using the online form developed in capture method (b) below. This process will be completed by the Task 1.4 team and continue throughout the duration of the Task.

- b) Development of an online form to capture examples using framework established.

[An online form has been developed](#) in MS Forms using the criteria set out in Table 1 above. Guidance notes that accompany the form help submitters when completing the form. The guidance notes will be regularly reviewed and updated as required.



Integration of advisors and innovation support services in the AKIS.

As part of the EU ModernAKIS project we're building a list of practical examples of how Member States can support the intensive integration of advisors and innovation support services in the AKIS. This list will be shared with Member States. We invite you to add practical examples of how advisors and innovation support services can be intensively integrated in the AKIS. These examples may come from your country's CAP Strategic Plan or other sources.

Guidance

Types of examples of intensive integration of advisors/innovation support services:
As a guide, examples may include the provision of education and training, policy supports, funding, supporting networking, technology, removing bureaucratic barriers, involving advisors in networks and others.

What is the AKIS?
AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge Innovation System) is the organisation and interaction of persons, organisations and institutions who use and produce knowledge and innovation for agriculture and interrelated fields.

What is an innovation support service?
An innovation support service refers to a programme, service or organization that provides assistance and resources to farmers to help them develop and implement innovative ideas or practices.

There is no limit on the number of examples you can add (A separate form must be completed for each example).

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

Figure 2. Guidance notes as part of the online form.

A link to the form is being circulated to all project partners. The form will remain open for the duration of Task 1.4. Partners will be issued periodic reminders to fill in the form with examples from their own countries. Contributors from outside the project will also be encouraged to submit examples. This will be promoted through events and targeted communications.

4.3. Review and selection of examples

The process of reviewing examples will be conducted at 6-month intervals throughout the project. This review will be conducted offline by members of the Task 1.4 team. Each team member will assess the most recent examples using the following criteria:

- Relevance to the intensive integration of advisors and innovation support services
- Replicability in other countries/regions
- Long-term impact of the measures undertaken
- Clarity
- Innovativeness of the measures

Each example will receive a mark between 1 and 5. Only examples that receive a minimum marking (to be agreed) will be selected to move to the next stage, which is publication and dissemination.

4.4. Publish and disseminate selected examples

A compendium of examples that have been shortlisted by the review team will be published on the modernAKIS website following each review period. It is proposed that the online compendium will be searchable. The compendium will be publicised by WP5 using all appropriate communications channels. A further selection of examples will be used as case studies in other work packages. In particular, WP3 will use selected examples to support capacity-building activities within communities of practices.

5. Conclusion

This compendium will be further expanded over the coming months and will provide an important foundation for the development of capacity building activities.