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DEC	Websites, patent fillings, videos, etc.	☐	
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Acronyms

AKIS	Agricultural and Knowledge Innovation Systems
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CB	Coordination Body
C, D & E	Communication, dissemination and exploitation
CEJA	European Council of Young Farmers
CEMA	European Agricultural Machinery
Copa	Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations
Cogeca	General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives
DG	Directorate-General
Dx.x	Deliverable x.x
D1.1	Conceptual and Methodological Framework for transformative AKIS journeys
D2.1	Framework, methods and instruments for successful AKIS Communities of Practices and an international AKIS CB network
D2.2	Report on networking activities of AKIS
D2.13	Report on networking activities for widening the network
EC	European Commission
EUFRAS	European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services
EIP	European Innovation Partnerships
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation
IALB	International Academy for Rural Advisory
PM	Person month

SCAR	Standing Committee on Agricultural Research
Tx.x	Task x.x
T2.2	Setting up the modernAKIS network and its operationalization
T2.5	Widening the network and cross fertilization
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

This deliverable (D2.13) and the work in T2.5 strive to increase the impact of the project by creating synergies with other projects, organizations and institutions at European and national level. To achieve this objective, the project aims to widen its network by engaging in strategic cooperation and coordinating activities with wider network partners, integrating actors beyond the core network of AKIS Coordination Bodies and key actors of change¹.

The activities of the wider network are aligned and complementary to the structure and way of working of the modernAKIS network. Therefore, all activities are coordinated within WP2.

The wider network aims for cooperation activities both at:

a. European level

- i. **EC services** (e.g. DG Agri, CAP network, EIP Agri Service Facility, relevant Directorate-Generals other than agriculture, SCAR AKIS SWG, Civil Dialogue Groups)
- ii. **International networks** (e.g. advisor networks like EUFRAS and IALB, farmer & forester representatives like CEJA, Copa-Cogeca, research networks, agricultural machinery associations like CEMA, and education networks)
- iii. **International projects** (e.g. EU-funded research and application projects, other international projects from e.g. FAO, GFAR etc.)

b. National/Regional level

- i. **National/regional public administrations and managing authorities** not directly linked to agriculture (e.g. responsible for research, education, environment etc.)
- ii. **National/regional bodies and networks** (e.g. National contact points for Horizon Europe)
- iii. **National/regional projects** (e.g. AKIS-related projects, innovation projects like EIP operational groups, thematic agricultural projects)

Cooperation and interaction are specific to the respective cooperation partner, depending on the organisation's objectives and expected mutual benefits.

Potential cooperation activities include participation and/or speaking at events, organisation of joint activities, including capacity building activities, networking opportunities, knowledge exchange, joint communication of cooperation activities and events reaching a wider target audience, joining the AKIS community platform, participation in strategic advisory boards of other projects, etc.

Mutual benefits can be the reinforced knowledge exchange between various actors, increased visibility of modernAKIS in a wide network, actor engagement, enhanced dissemination channels, access to resources, infrastructure and bottom-up input on policy recommendations, avoidance of stakeholder fatigue, to name a few. Exploiting

¹ Key actors of change are defined in D1.1, [Conceptual and methodological framework for transformative/evolutionary AKIS journeys](#).

synergies is expected to benefit modernAKIS with an increasing number and diversity of AKIS actors involved and active in the modernAKIS network.

Other potential benefits for modernAKIS are presented in Figure 1 on a WP-level.

The management of the wider network is led by LFI and co-lead by CDA. An evaluation group, consisting of about 15 consortium partners, is actively involved in collaboratively identifying, evaluating and deciding on potential cooperation, together with the project coordinator.

LFI reports the activities for widening the network in D2.13 (M18), which will be updated every 18 months (M36, M54 and M78).

This deliverable describes how the wider network and systematic exchange with relevant actors is conceptualized and how this was implemented in the first 18 project months. Moreover, it includes a report on widening the networking activities and efforts made to expand the network as well as an outline of the networking goals for the further project duration. The deliverable updates reflect on the implemented activities and the chosen networking approach and present necessary adaptations to the concept and planned activities realised.

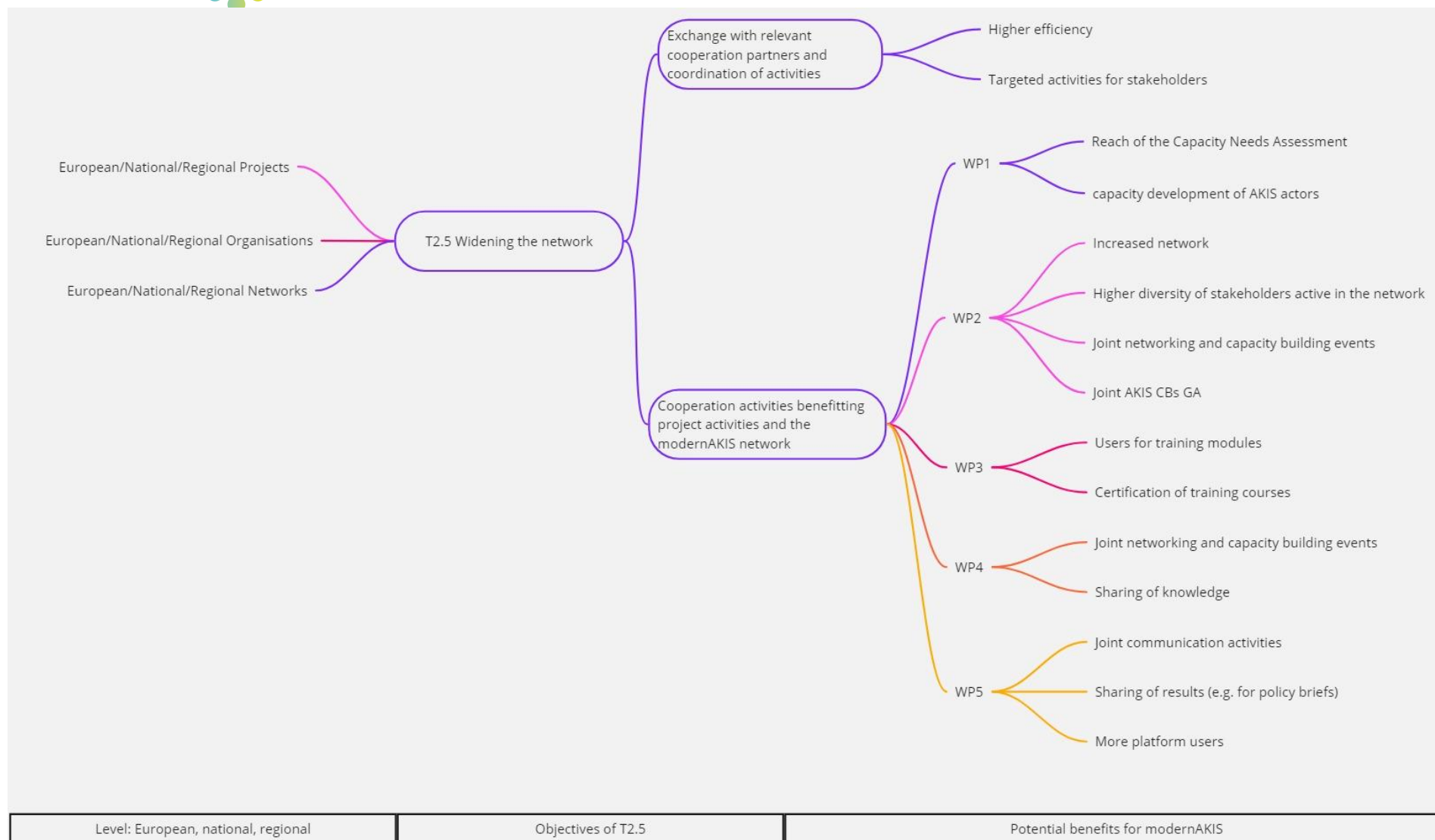


Figure 1: Visualisation of T2.5 objectives.

2. Introduction

2.1. Objective of the modernAKIS wider network

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.

To this end, modernAKIS builds a European network of key AKIS actors of change. Subsequently it strategically **widens its network**, at European and national level, **involving other relevant institutions, networks and projects, not initially targeted by the network building, exploits synergies, and creates opportunities for impactful partnerships and cooperation.**

Engaging a large and diverse group of key AKIS actors of change across the EU will therefore be a key focus of the modernAKIS network. Cross-sector collaboration will be encouraged to support the AKIS community with knowledge and practices, complementing their capacity development pathway. This interdisciplinary approach will address complex challenges related to the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Common Agriculture Policy across various sectors, including primary production, food systems, bio-economy and biodiversity.

2.2. Link with other tasks and work packages

Widening the network and cross fertilisation (T2.5) is part of work package 2, *Framing and setting up a network of AKIS coordination bodies and other actors*. Specifically, this document is linked to T2.1, *Impactful networking models*. modernAKIS strives to build a European network of at least 1.000 key AKIS actors, including AKIS coordination bodies and key actors of change from all EU Member States.

As described in D2.1², the network consists of three layers (see Figure 2):

- 1) **The AKIS Coordination Bodies** (CBs) are at the centre of the network.
- 2) **The key AKIS actors of change** are actual/potential protagonists in their AKIS and core members of the network.
- 3) A **wider network of key actors** involved in other EU relevant projects, networks as well as relevant ministries.

The third layer of the network, i.e. the wider network, is an open layer, meaning that relevant actors may join or leave the network over the course of the project. This open layer additionally aims to engage with actors not included in the modernAKIS network in the narrower sense, but who benefit the project and network. Actors of the wider network may register as regular members to the modernAKIS community platform and become part of the second layer – the one of “key AKIS actors of change”. All activities of the wider network aim at supporting and complementing the whole network, meaning that cooperation within the wider network will be coordinated with WP2.

²D2.1 [modernAKIS D2.1 Framework, methods and instruments for successful AKIS communities of practice and an international AKIS CB network](#)

Finally, the guidelines described in this document serve as input for engagement and interaction with the wider network.

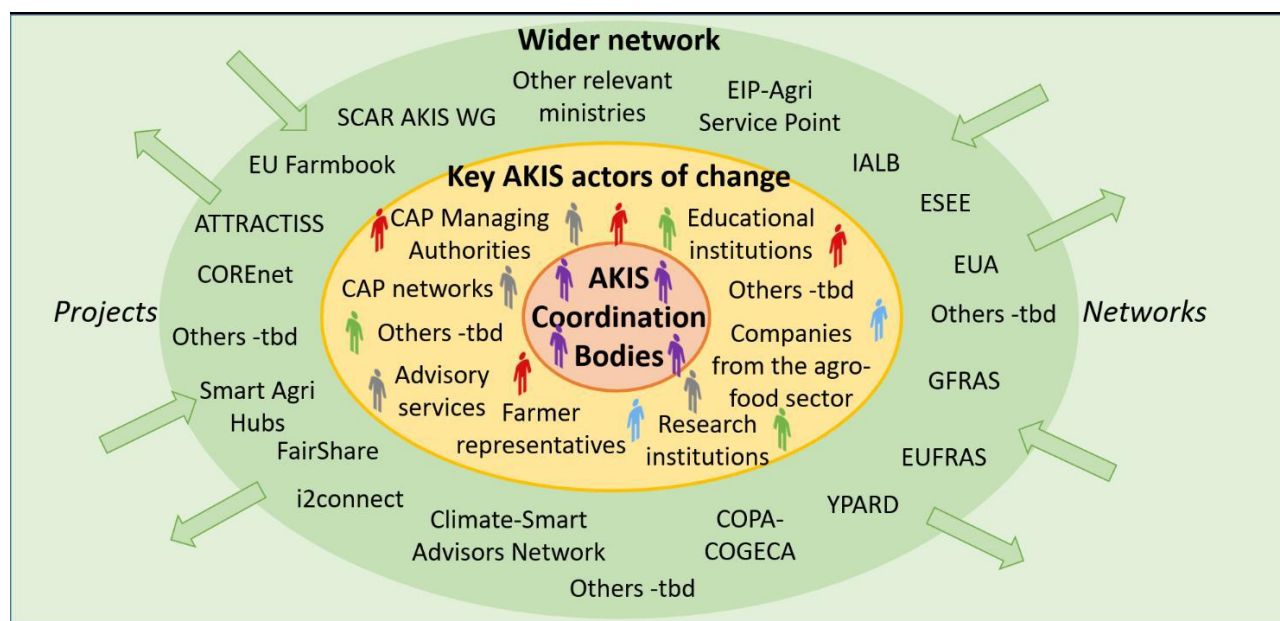


Figure 2: modernAKIS network layers. Source: D2.1.

Apart from WP2, activities aimed at widening the network within T2.5 are aligned with the overall project activities and support the objectives of other Work Packages.

Cooperation activities with institutions, networks and projects that have thematic expertise can increase the topics and knowledge covered, making them available for the AKIS community and providing input especially to WP4, capacity building on topical matters relating to the CAP strategic plans implementation and WP2 networking activities. Furthermore, a larger diversity of actors is addressed and can be reached, which potentially supports the organic growth of the network within WP2, facilitating knowledge exchange, as well as the capacity building developed by WP3, capacity building on system thinking, design, monitoring and evaluation of the AKIS. The communication and dissemination of public activities will be carried out by WP5, Wider dissemination and engagement for impact.

The modernAKIS project carries out a yearly Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) to identify topics of special interest for the AKIS community as well as the capacity development. The yearly CNA engages key actors of change through the modernAKIS network. Key actors of change consequently contribute to the prioritisation of topics and orientation of the project, tailoring the activities to the specific needs of key actors of change (also see D1.1³).

WP2 benefits of an ideally growing network that in turn fertilises activities of other WPs. Through targeted cooperation activities with relevant actors, e.g. certification bodies, the training within WP3 can be supported. Thematic expertise can be shared with network members by cooperation activities with

³D1.1 [modernAKIS D1.1 Conceptual and Methodological Framework for transformative/evolutionary AKIS journeys](#)

2.3. Methodological approach of D2.13

modernAKIS is a multi-actor project and therefore follows a participatory approach. Accordingly, this deliverable D2.13 is the co-creation result of several inputs.

To draft a first concept on how widening the network can be implemented, a first draft concept was shared with the modernAKIS Executive Board, i.e. WP and Task leaders, on August 3rd, 2023 and open for feedback until September 3rd, 2023.

The core of the deliverable, defining the target groups and identifying potential cooperation activities, is based on partners' input gathered during the consortium meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, on October 18th, 2023 within an interactive session of WP2 (cf. Figure 3). During this session, the objectives of T2.5 were introduced and afterwards, the project partners were invited to list projects, networks and organisations they find relevant to target for strategic cooperation with modernAKIS.



Figure 3: Interactive session during the modernAKIS project meeting in Lisbon, Portugal on October 18, 2023 to collect potential cooperation actors for T2.5.

The deliverable further benefitted of the partners' input within two co-creative sessions that took place online. The first meeting took place on November 15, 2023, 10:00-11:30 CET and contributed to extending the list of potential cooperation actors. Additionally, it was discussed how to deal with cooperation requests received and how the role of the EC services is perceived. The results are depicted in Figure 4. The second co-creation session on December 6, 2023, 10:00-11:30 CET, the guidelines for

identifying and selecting/prioritising potential cooperation actors were defined. The results are included in Table 1. Specific input for the integration of the country-based Communities of Practice (cb CoP) was defined in cooperation with Task 2.3 leads, responsible for managing the cb CoPs.

Based on this input, the deliverable was revised and shared with the partnership in January 2024. The feedback was incorporated and subsequently, the final deliverable was shared with the co-lead and the quality reviewers Marta Mrnušík Konečná (IAEI) and Krisztina Magócs (AKI).

Along this process, the deliverable lead (LFI) worked in close cooperation with the co-lead (CDA) via e-mail communication and bilateral meetings.

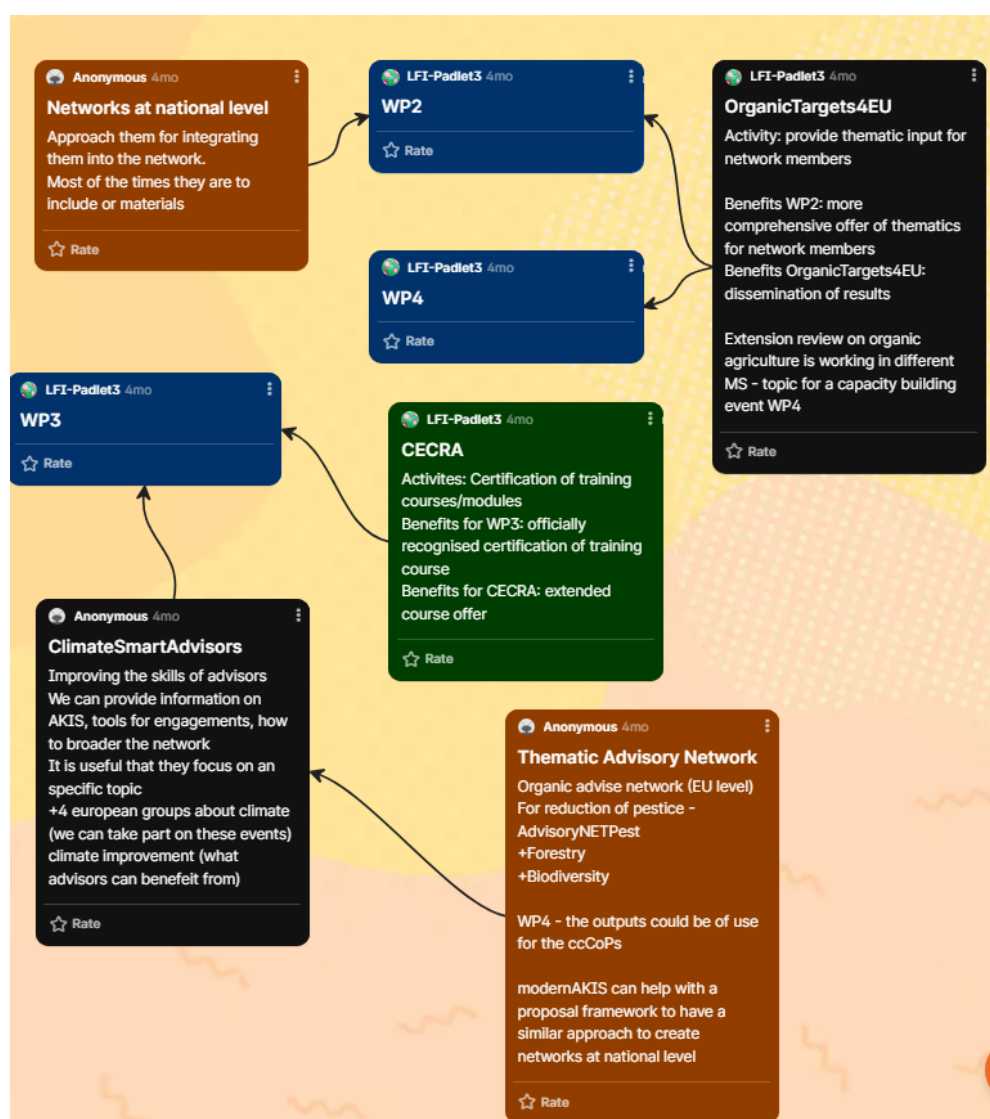


Figure 4: Results of the first co-creation session on November 15, 2023.

3. Objectives of the wider network

The overall goal of widening the network is **to increase the impact of the modernAKIS project, support the achievement of the project objectives by exploiting synergies with other projects, organisations and networks.**

Widening the network and integrating actors that are not part of the modernAKIS network in a narrower sense (D2.2⁴, e.g. other relevant projects, organisations, stakeholders and initiatives) and coordinating activities with them will therefore

- allow for increased synergies and good practice sharing across projects/actors.
- unlock efficiency potentials and provide leverage for the multi-actor project implementation.
- increase the visibility of modernAKIS and facilitate the access of the modernAKIS network to other networks targeting and engaging with actors on various levels.
- provide modernAKIS with access to more channels for dissemination and communication on various levels.
- provide access to content-related knowledge and expertise that can be used for the implementation of project activities with a focus on specific topics (T2.2, WP4).
- prevent the partially overlapping target groups from being overwhelmed by a high abundance of similar activities and events and therefore avoid the risk of stakeholder fatigue.

Overall, the wider network aims at creating win-win situations for modernAKIS and the cooperation partner (project, network or organisation) through targeted and specific cooperation, whereas the added-value depends on the cooperation partner and specific activity.

Strategic cooperation can be either reached actively through specific activities driven by modernAKIS (push-principle), or passively by accepting requests received by modernAKIS (pull-principle). The goal of modernAKIS must be that potential partners actively approach and seek networking with the project or are willing to exchange and interact with us. Simultaneously, it is important to align the extent of cooperation to the project's resources, hence focusing on targeted strategic cooperation with clear benefits.

⁴ D2.2 [Report on networking activities of AKIS](#)

3.1. Delimitation from other project activities

As the objectives and activities, especially between the core and wider network, will partly overlap with other project activities, coordination, transparent communication and distinction are necessary.

The elements and phases of the network set-up and operation are described in D2.1. Building the network includes

- defining the objectives, roles and responsibilities,
- inviting network members,
- designing its set-up (governance) and
- operationalisation.

The wider network will be aligned to the structures and way of working of the core network and its activities will complement them. While the network is open and welcomes all interested persons, the wider network focuses on creating impactful partnerships and collaboration with relevant actors of organisations, projects and networks, respecting the resources within T2.5. Accordingly, the primary objective is to build strategic alliances leading to mutually beneficial outcomes related to specific objectives, while supporting other work packages with related activities (e.g. contribute to the growth of the network and platform users, increase the range of the learning modules and surveys like the yearly Capacity Needs Assessment, widely share successful AKIS practices etc.)

Members of the wider network will support and cooperate with the core network of modernAKIS through their topical expertise (CAP relevant/topical AKIS subjects) for networking events or capacity development, policy expertise, their networks or contribute to communicating on events and results.

Any C, D & E activities are carried out across the whole project, involving the project partners. The communication strategy of modernAKIS is executed within WP5, *Wider dissemination and engagement for impact*, which provides C, D & E guidance and tools (e.g. project poster, presentation, project and network flyer, video, etc.) for this purpose. Project partners are invited to use these tools to communicate on the project's activities and results. The activities organised within the wider network may be included in the C, D & E activities, meaning T2.5 feeds into WP5. However, vice versa not all WP5 activities are linked to T2.5 activities, but are solely C, D or E activities (e.g. joint newsletter with sister projects, disseminating information on events of sister projects with the modernAKIS network etc.).

3.2. Benefits for members involved in the wider modernAKIS network

When pursuing a passive approach (pull-principle) to attract potential cooperation partners, it is necessary to communicate and create awareness about the benefits of the exchange with modernAKIS for the respective network partners. These benefits for network partners can include the following:

- Engage with the modernAKIS network, the AKIS coordination bodies and the key AKIS actors to better understand their needs,
- Join the modernAKIS community platform to access information on the development of AKIS, get access to events, disseminate own results to the network and engage with other key AKIS actors,
- Co-organise activities and events (networking or capacity building) with the modernAKIS project,
- Share own project results and exchange knowledge and expertise to a wider audience,
- Access new know-how and innovation collected/provided by modernAKIS,
- Align AKIS related activities to the needs and aspirations of AKIS stakeholders,
- Share evidence-based findings/policy recommendations to support the design and implementation of policy measures,
- Share project calls relevant for AKIS actors,
- Increase visibility of bodies, networks, services or projects to relevant actors,
- Increase actor engagement,
- Share resources and infrastructure for the joint organisation of events (financial and/or organisational),
- Contribute to tailored policies aligned to the specific needs of AKIS stakeholders,
- Collaborate on scientific research output,
- ...

4. Target groups to widen the network

The following Table 1 supports the identification of relevant cooperation partners that are critical for a successful project implementation.

Table 1: Guidelines for the identification and evaluation of cooperation partners.

Purpose related needs/guidelines	Actions
Win-win relations	Create cooperation with mutual benefits
Shared knowledge need	Common or overlapping goals and/or target group Provide added-value through cooperation
Common focus on target group(s)	Define target group(s) Convene the right people
Common purpose and principles	Clarify shared purpose
Actor related needs /guidelines	Actions
Mutual trust amongst all	Collective trust, avoid control
Enthusiasm, motivation and commitment to drive collaboration and increase synergies and knowledge sharing	Share common goals and objectives to work on
Background	Hold a relevant role in the AKIS at European or national/regional level
Diversity	Represent the diversity of geographical locations and AKIS stakeholders
Skills	Effective communication and networking skills, potentially have access to a network of AKIS actors and potential modernAKIS network members
Methodology	Share relevant methodological components (e.g. knowledge transfer, training of and integrating advisors in AKIS)
Cooperation related needs/guidelines	Actions
Joint capacity building and learning	Employ co-creative methodologies
Cooperation framework and methods	Coordinate activities within an enabling framework

Engagement of participants	Collaborate generously Facilitate exchange of knowledge and knowledge flow
Continuous interaction	Create nodes Establish regular communication ways Consistency of members involved
Complementary knowledge and capacities	Pooling of resources in terms of communication activities, infrastructure, expertise content-wise or methodological type, membership or network
Resources and infrastructure	Share resources and infrastructure to support the implementation of cooperation activities

Based on the guidelines and potential cooperation partners, the following target groups can be derived:

Table 2: Categories of the target groups and examples for the potential network members of the wider modernAKIS network. (This list is adapted over the course of the project).

	Target group categories	Examples of potential network partners
European level	EC services ⁵	• Relevant Directorates of the EC (e.g. DG Agri, R&I units, DG Connect, DG Research, DG Health, DG Environment, etc.) • EU CAP Network⁶, especially the Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange • EIP Agri Service Facility • DG Connect, DG Research, DG Health, DG Env, etc. • SCAR SWGs CWGs • Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs) • ...

⁵ The modernAKIS wider network includes the European Commission services. Because the EC is the granting authority of the project through one of these services, the project partners are aware of potential conflicts of interest and aim to avoid the corresponding risks.

⁶ The wider network targets the European CAP network as well. As immediate key AKIS actors, the members of the national/regional CAP networks are included in the second layer of the network.

		• Advisor networks: EUFRAS, IALB, SEASN, GFRAS • Farmer & forester representatives: Copa Cogeca, CEJA • Research networks: EUA, GFAR, ESEE • Agricultural machinery association (CEMA) • Education network (e.g. EUROPEA) • ...
		EU-funded projects with close thematic ties to AKIS interventions • EU-FarmBook • i2connect, ATTRACTISS • PREMIERE • Horizon Europe advisor networks (e.g. ClimateSmartAdvisors, CORENet, EU4Advice, FAIRshare, AdvisoryNetPest, ATTRACTISS, OrganicAdviceNetworks, FertilizerNetwork) ... Other AKIS related projects • Projects on agriculture related to thematic topics (including scientific projects, EIP projects, innovation projects, industrial and commercial projects, etc.) • Projects from e.g. FAO, GFAR etc. •
National/Regional level	National/regional public administrations and managing authorities	• Public administrations not directly linked to agriculture, e.g. responsible for education and research, rural development, tourism, environment, etc.
	National/regional bodies and networks	• National contact points (e.g. Horizon Europe) • Relevant national/regional networks
	National/regional projects	• AKIS-related projects (e.g. EIP Operational Groups and other innovative groups based on AKIS in practice) • Projects on agriculture related to thematic topics • Innovation projects

5. Operationalisation of the wider network

Expectations and aspirations of each potential partner (cf. Table 2) in the wider network are different. Based on the objectives of each target group and with regard to mutual benefits, ideas and suggestions for potential cooperation are outlined but must not be limited to the following.

5.1. Cooperation on European level

• EC services

Objectives of EC services:

- Designing modernised and simplified policy interventions within the CAP to support farmers and foresters to enhance food security in a sustainable way (European Commission, 2020a).
- Optimising the flow of information about agriculture and rural policy within the EU, connecting organisations, administrations, researchers, entrepreneurs and practitioners (European CAP network, s.d).
- Connecting stakeholders to speed-up innovation by engaging with EU wide networks (EIP-Agri, n.d).
- Enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, innovation, technology and digitalization (European Commission, 2020a).
- Design and implement a European research and innovation policy, aiming at delivering new knowledge and breakthrough innovation for the green and digital transformation (European Commission, 2020b).
- Interaction with a large set of stakeholders to deliver the EU mission in an open and transparent way (e.g. through the Civil Dialogue Groups) (European Commission, 2020a).
- Support relevant actors in the design, implementation and monitoring of the CAP and the strategic plans (European Commission, 2020a).

Potential cooperation:

- Strengthening knowledge exchange between various stakeholders and EU Member States by organising joint networking events
- Facilitating the access to and strengthening the use of knowledge reservoirs by increasing the capacities of AKIS actors
- Raising awareness for interactive innovation and other multi-actor approaches for research projects in the AKIS
- Capacity building events on strengthening knowledge flows (e.g. joint activities with the AKIS coordination bodies like the modernAKIS General Assembly, AKIS seminars, etc.)
- Capacity building events for reflective monitoring exercises for AKIS
- Regular exchange on AKIS activities to provide coherent activities for actors
- Provision of practice abstracts with good examples of practices

Mutual benefits:

- Strengthening knowledge flows between AKIS stakeholders and EC services
- Increased visibility of EC services and the modernAKIS project to relevant actors
- Contribution to increased actor engagement relevant to provide input on policy and CAP interventions
- Contribution to tailored policies aligned to the specific needs of AKIS stakeholders and facilitating evidence-based decision-making
- Sharing of knowledge and expertise on the implementation of the AKIS-related requirements in the CAP
- Extension of the network of AKIS stakeholders, reaching a wider audience

• **International networks**

Objectives:

- Advocacy for the interests and needs of their members, promoting enabling policies and programs
- Sharing of new knowledge and relevant projects with their members
- Facilitation of knowledge exchange and dissemination of best practices, innovations among their members (researchers, advisors, farmers)
- Enhance the capacity and skills of researchers, advisors and farmers
- Improving and advancing farming practices and technologies through collaborating with research networks, innovation support services and machinery associations
- Foster cooperation and networking among various stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, private sector entities and academic institutions
- Improvement of agricultural education and vocational training, contributing to the professional development of students and practitioners in the field

Potential cooperation:

- Organisation of joint events (e.g. General Assemblies, conferences, etc.) to support knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices
- Organisation of capacity building (e.g. workshops, trainings, etc.) and networking events
- Provision of analysis results, bench-markings and good practices for integrating stakeholders into the AKIS (e.g. interventions, financing, structure and competence of advisory services, models for cooperation, etc.) with relevance for advocacy
- Joint communication and dissemination activities (e.g. joint project newsletter)

Mutual benefits:

- Enlarging networks on European level connecting to a wider audience through the network of the cooperation partners

- Possibility for AKIS stakeholders to register to the modernAKIS community platform, increasing the visibility of national AKIS actors on the European level
- Increasing the visibility of international organisations and networks and creating awareness on their services
- Increasing actor engagement
- Sharing of resources and infrastructure for event organisation
- Sharing of project tools and results to facilitate evidence-based decision-making for EC services and national public administrations

• **International projects**

Objectives:

- Facilitating and enabling the inclusion of evidence-based solutions by formulating and providing policy recommendations from project results (European Commission, 2021).
- Supporting knowledge flows and exchange between AKIS stakeholders by creating new knowledge, concepts, instruments and frameworks (European Commission, 2021).
- Connecting AKIS actors across EU Member States (European Commission, 2021).
- Implement multi-actor projects to tackle complex challenges (European Commission, 2022).
- Sharing of scientific results, best practices and dissemination of evidence based project results towards their implementation into practice (European Commission, 2021).
- Catalisation of innovative solutions (European Commission, 2021).
- Identify and integrate topical areas into the AKIS as cross-cutting area.

Potential cooperation:

- Hosting of networking events and conferences that bring together representatives from various projects to promote collaboration and identify opportunities for joint initiatives (e.g. participation in AKIS events)
- Organisation of networking events with technical projects to share innovative solutions and evidence-based results and on their integration into the AKIS
- Organisation of capacity building events, e.g. on the integration of topical areas into the AKIS.
- Sharing of results between projects to support evidence-based decision-making, e.g. through participation of relevant projects in the bi-annual AKIS CBs General Assembly (like presenting results or participating in a small project fair as networking sessions), participation on annual conferences with contributions to AKIS, etc.
- Joint communication and dissemination activities (e.g. sharing project results within newsletters or social media channels, participation of modernAKIS in fairs and conferences, etc.)

- Participation of modernAKIS in strategic advisory boards of international projects
- Publishing of joint research articles

Mutual benefits:

- Possibility for project partners to register to the modernAKIS community platform to get access to information and events of the AKIS community and engage with other key AKIS actors
- Extension of the AKIS actor network, reaching a wider audience and strengthening knowledge flows
- Access to policy makers and key AKIS stakeholders for projects to present their policy briefs and relevant project results
- Increasing visibility of both the modernAKIS and cooperation projects
- Increasing actor engagement through the organisation of joint events, avoiding stakeholder fatigue
- Sharing of resources and infrastructure for event organisation

5.2. Cooperation on national/regional level

The modernAKIS project and network engages with the national level specifically through the country-based Communities of Practice (cbCoP). The objectives, concept and activities of the cbCoPs are described in D2.1. To widen the modernAKIS network, T2.5 engages the cbCoPs from their implementation phase earliest. In this phase, the cbCoPs meet regularly, give input to the AKIS CB and organise national and/or regional workshops. cbCoPs in this phase are invited to contribute to widening the network through identifying relevant national and/or regional projects and networks.

Widening the network activities of the CoPs could contribute to:

- Identifying regional/national networks which might be relevant and have not yet been identified
- Bring best-practice examples from the national/regional level to the European level in coordination with the modernAKIS project coordinator and the WP-leaders. modernAKIS aims to feature examples identified by cbCoPs following a geographical balance.

Through engaging in widening the network activities, cbCoPs benefit of:

- Bringing additional topical expertise to the cbCoP while valorising national/regional projects, networks or initiatives
- Sharing resources for the organisations of meetings, joint events, etc.
- Bringing national/regional best-practice examples at European level
- Being inspired by widening the network activities of other cbCoPs

Future widening the network activities of cbCoPs will be included in the annual action plan.

The collection of activities relevant for the wider network action plan will be carried out in coordination with T2.3 leads, who manage the Communities of Practice. To

continuously be informed on the composition, needs, topics and activities of each cbCoP, the cbCoP community managers regularly report this to T2.3 leads. In addition, it is foreseen to organise an annual meeting to discuss potentially planned widening the network activities of the cbCoPs with the community managers (also refer to chapter 7 and 8).

Generally, T2.3 monitors the composition, needs, topics and activities of each cbCoP. This serves as basis to collect best-practice examples that can be shared during the second round of the cbCoP community managers training, foreseen to take place during the implementation phase. To include and feature relevant cbCoP activities in T2.5, the task leaders work in close cooperation with T2.3 leaders.

• **National/Regional public administrations and decision boards**

Objectives:

- Integration of topical areas into the AKIS and vice versa
- Promoting innovative and environmentally friendly agricultural practices, diversifying rural economies towards sustainable rural development
- Contribute to improved knowledge exchange and cooperation between research, advisors, extension services and other AKIS stakeholders
- Support farmers, foresters and advisors with tailored education and training programmes
- Designing tailored policies for the specific needs of the respective public administration (e.g. enabling farming practices, attractive strategies for rural development and job creation, organisation of education and training programs, etc.)

Potential cooperation:

- Provision of analysis results, bench-markings and good practices for integrating stakeholders into the AKIS (e.g. interventions, financing, structure and competence of advisory services, models for cooperation, etc.), supporting evidence-based decision making
- Presentations during networking events to exchange best practices (e.g. organisational matters, design and implementation of policy interventions, interdisciplinary approach, etc.)
- Sharing of bottom-up information on necessities from actors of topical areas involved in the AKIS (e.g. participation in surveys)
- Participation in capacity building events (e.g. on the integration of topical areas into the AKIS)

Mutual benefits:

- Possibility to register to the modernAKIS community platform to get access to information and events of the AKIS community and engage with other key AKIS actors
- Participation in events organised by modernAKIS to be informed on AKIS practices and current developments

- Increasing the visibility of the diversity of actors and organisations involved or related to AKIS

• **National/regional bodies and networks**

Objectives:

- Support the implementation of programs on European or national level (e.g. NCPs, Horizon Europe, ESF)
- Advocacy for the interests and needs of their members, promoting enabling policies and programs
- Facilitation of knowledge exchange and dissemination of best practices, innovations among their members (e.g. researchers, advisors, farmers) towards their implementation into practice
- Enhance the capacity and skills of researchers, advisors and farmers
- Foster cooperation and networking among various stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, private sector entities and academic institutions
- Improvement of agricultural education and vocational training, contributing to the professional development of students and practitioners in the field

Potential cooperation:

- Sharing of open calls for AKIS-related or relevant topical projects on national level
- Presentations during networking events to exchange best practices (e.g. education strategies in rural areas)
- Joint communication and dissemination activities (e.g. sharing experiences on national levels via social media or an article in the newsletter)
- Provision of analysis results, bench-markings and good practices for integrating stakeholders into the AKIS (e.g. interventions, financing, structure and competence of advisory services, models for cooperation, etc.) with relevance for advocacy

Mutual benefits:

- Possibility to register to the modernAKIS community platform to get access to information and events of the AKIS community and engage with other key AKIS actors
- Access to the modernAKIS network and an increased audience for project calls
- Sharing of insights into challenges on national level and possible solutions
- Increasing actor engagement
- Sharing of project tools and results to facilitate evidence-based decision-making

- **National projects**

Objectives:

- Supporting knowledge flows and exchange between stakeholders by creating new knowledge, concepts, instruments and frameworks
- Sharing of scientific results, best practices and dissemination of evidence based project results towards their implementation into practice
- Catalisation of innovative solutions
- Identify and integrate topical areas into the AKIS as cross-cutting area

Potential cooperation:

- Sharing of open calls for AKIS-related or relevant topical projects on national level
- Sharing of results through joint communication and dissemination activities (e.g. sharing experiences and project results via social media or provide an article in the newsletter, active participation of modernAKIS in conferences or fairs) or networking events between projects (e.g. comparing results from national to European level)
- Sharing of results during networking events beneficial for AKIS actors
- Participation of modernAKIS in strategic advisory boards of international projects
- Publishing of joint research articles

Mutual benefits:

- Possibility to register to the modernAKIS community platform to get access to information and events of the AKIS community and engage with other key AKIS actors
- Access to the modernAKIS network and a wide audience for project dissemination activities (e.g. presenting policy briefs and relevant project results)
- Extension of the AKIS actor network, reaching a wider audience and strengthening knowledge flows
- Increasing visibility of both the modernAKIS and cooperation projects
- Increasing actor engagement through the organisation of joint events, avoiding stakeholder fatigue

6. Management of the wider network

Interaction with other relevant projects and activities not included in the core-network will allow for increased synergies and good practice sharing and will take place according to the structures and formats defined in T2.1.

Widening the network and cross-fertilisation (T2.5) is led by LFI with allocated 7 person months and co-lead by CDA with allocated 0.7 PMs, in coordination with the management and activities of the core network within WP2. Members of the project's executive board (CREA, FEUGA, ISP and TEAGASC) are involved according to their competences and network with 0.5 PMs allocated to each partner.

Furthermore, the identification and decision-making process of potential cooperation partners is supported by an evaluation group, consisting of about 15 project partners, that are identified by indicating interest in participation. The evaluation group

- meets ad-hoc to evaluate received and pending requests and/or potential cooperation partners modernAKIS should envisage to contact. The regularity of meetings is adapted to the needs of T2.5;
- is informed about pending requests and activities within T2.5 prior to every meeting;
- is appointed to take decisions on the prioritisation of cooperation and to decide, whether a cooperation is accepted/approached or not;
- May decide to invite individual project partners to the meeting to present suggestions for cooperation previously communicated to the project coordinator.

This process is visualised in Figure 5.

To facilitate the evaluation process, the consortium has jointly defined guidelines expected for collaboration (cf. Table 1).

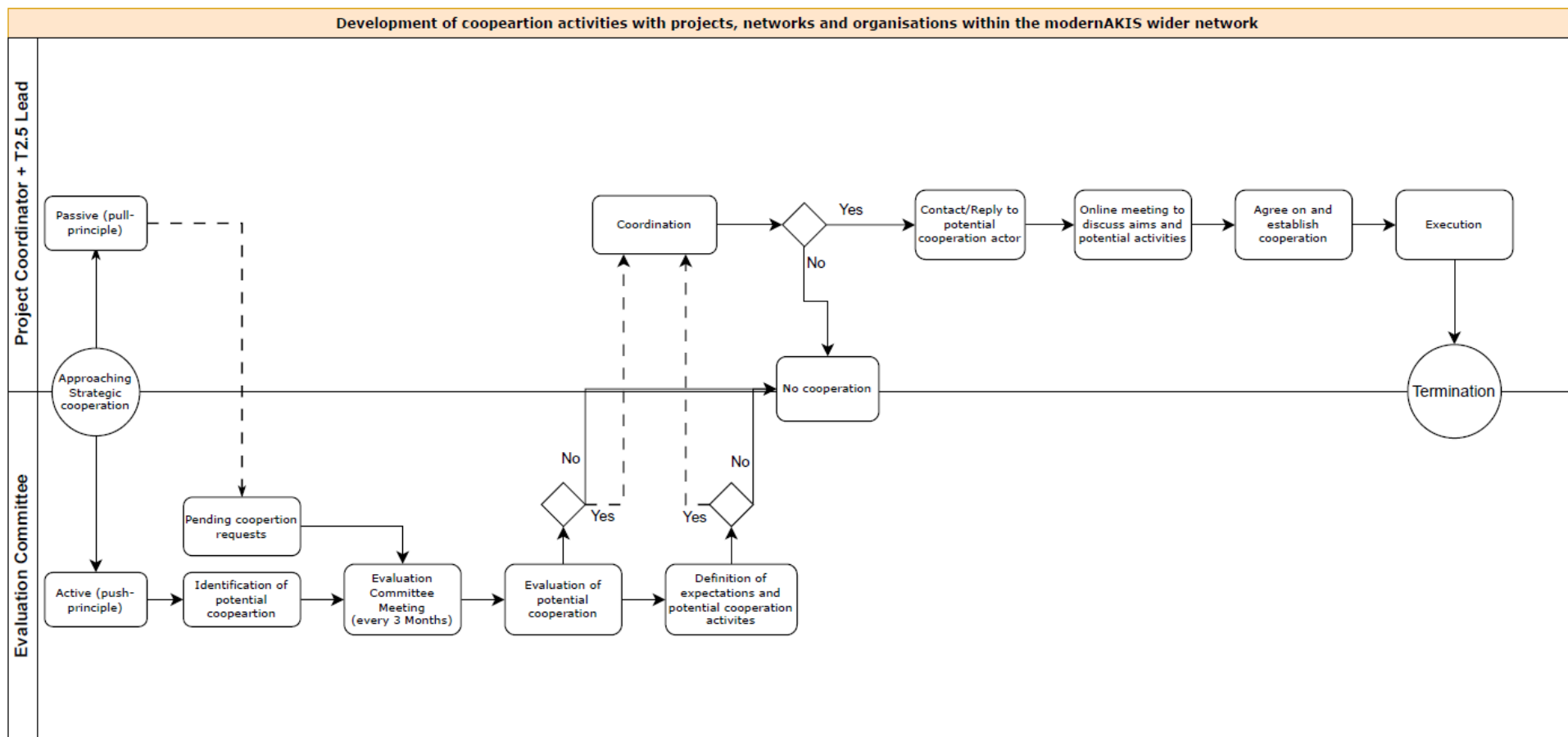


Figure 5: Decision-making process to evaluate and prioritize potential cooperation in T2.5.

7. Report on wider networking activities

The modernAKIS project strives to build a coherent strategy of interaction and cooperation with other organisations, networks and projects. This is ensured through regular reporting, including a continuously updated yearly action plan (cf. Chapter 8).

The activities for widening the network are described in the Deliverable *Report on networking activities for widening the network* (D2.13, M18) including regular updates of it (D2.14-D2.16 at M36, M54 and M78). The deliverables within T2.5 are led by LFI, following a co-creative approach.

This report provides information on the activities carried out and the efforts made to expand the network beyond the project boundaries. This activities encompass both the project level as well as the national/regional level as reported from T2.3 to T2.5 leaders, respectively the cbCoP community managers.

The project coordinator manages the activities of the wider network in accordance with WP2- and Task leaders of T2.2 and T2.3. The report (M18) describes how a systematic exchange has to take place and how this is already being implemented in the first 18 months of the project. Furthermore, networking goals for the further project duration are set within a yearly action plan. In the further course of the project implementation the report will be regularly (M36, M54, M78) updated and supplemented with the chosen networking approach in general and implemented activities and reflections on these.

Retrospectively looking at activities before project start and during the first year of the project (September 1st, 2022 – February 29th, 2024), the activities listed in Table 3 have been carried out/are ongoing for widening the network.

Table 3: Report on activities for widening the network prior to and during the first year of the project.

Date	Person	Target group	Activity
February 16 th , 2022	LFI	EC services	Presentation of the modernAKIS project at the SCAR AKIS WG
June 22 nd , 2022	LKO, TEAGASC, CDA	International networks	Workshop at the IALB conference: The AKIS for a modern and sustainable agriculture: the role of advisors, supporting CAP interventions and HE projects
June 2023	LFI	European projects	Membership in the Strategic Advisory Board of the HE-Funded project Sm@RT project
September 8 th , 2022	LFI	European networks and projects	EUFRAS networking event: ClimateFarmDemo, ClimateSmartAdvisors, EU-FarmBook, modernAKIS,

			ATTRACTISS and COREnet were presented
November 15 th , 2022	LKO	European networks	Presentation of advisory network and AKIS relevant projects at the IALB board meeting
June 14-15 th , 2023, Vilnius	LFI	European network: EU CAP network	Workshop during the AKIS conference of the European CAP network
October 2023	All partners	European projects	Joint project meeting with ATTRACTISS in Lisbon
November 22, 2023, Brussels	ISP	EC services; SCAR AKIS	Presentation of the outcomes of the 2 nd AKIS CBs GA meeting at the SCAR AKIS meeting
November 30-December 1, 2023, Tallin	AKI	European network: EU CAP network	Poster session at the EU CAP network workshop "National networking for innovation"
February 2024	CONSULAI, LFI	European network: EU CAP Network	Presentation of the modernAKIS meeting to the Atlantic Group of CAP Networks
February 21 st -22 nd 2024, Vienna	LKO, ISP	European network: EU CAP Network	modernAKIS poster presentation at the EU CAP Network Seminar 'Skills and lifelong learning for agricultural advisory and training service providers'
Regular >6 times/year	LFI	European projects	Regular exchange on and coordination of joint activities between modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS key members
Regular	LFI	European projects	Regular exchange with sister projects (modernAKIS, ATTRACTISS, EU-FarmBook and PREMIERE)
Regular	LFI	EC services	Regular exchange with EIP Agri
Regular	LFI	EC services	Regular exchange with and participation in SCAR AKIS meetings

8. Widening the network action plan

Within the yearly action plan, LFI outlines the planned and foreseen activities for widening the network, in accordance with the WP2 lead towards activities that are in line with and support the core network. The overall aim is to provide a roadmap of intended activities within one project year to facilitate planning and organisation. The yearly action plan for widening the network activities is based on the current stand of information on relevant events, projects and other activities and will be updated throughout the project year.

To facilitate a coherent reporting throughout the deliverables, keep track of and plan upcoming widening the network activities, an according table is provided (cf. Table 4) and coordinated by T2.5 leaders. This table will be included in this deliverable D2.13 as well as its updates. Contributors of this annual action plan are the project coordinator, evaluation group and the country-based CoP managers via T2.3 leaders. Additionally, project partners can be involved by providing suggestions for strategic cooperation with projects, networks and/or initiatives to the project coordinator. Subsequently, the relevant project partner may be invited to present the suggestion to the evaluation group.

Table 4: Yearly action plan with widening the network activities.

Date	Location	Person/Organisation modernAKIS	Target group	Activity
January 24, 2024	Online	Livia Kranitz (AKI), Lucia Brana (FEUGA)	European Projects: EU4Advice, CORENet	Joint event with CORENet, EU4Advice and modernAKIS, workshop on refining a common understanding on AKIS
April 2024	Madrid, Spain	Elena-Teodora Miron (LFI), Marleen Gysen (ISP)	European Projects: ATTRACTISS	Joint session at the AKIS CBs General Assembly
April 2024	Madrid, Spain	Elena-Teodora Miron (LFI), representatives of relevant advisory networks	European Projects/Networks: Advisory networks - COREnet - EU4Advice - AdvisoryNetPest - ClimateSmartAdvisors - i2connect - ATTRACTISS - Organic advisory network - Fertilizer advisory network	Joint session at the AKIS CBs General Assembly with advisory networks, focus on how to integrate advisors into the AKIS incl. exchange of experiences with AKIS Coordination Bodies
April/May 2024	Online	Elena-Teodora Miron (LFI)	European network: OECD	Study presentation and exploring potential cooperation activities
May 2024	Portugal	CONSULAI	European network: EIP Conference	Project presentation and networking with EIP OGs from around Europe

June 2024	Online	Elena-Teodora Miron (LFI)	European project: SM@ART Sm@RT: Small Ruminant Technology - Precision Livestock Farming and Digital Technology for Small Ruminants	Member of the Strategic Advisory Board; advising in relation to the integration of the project results into AKIS
September 10-13, 2024	Edinburgh, Scotland	Florian Herzog (LKO)	European network: IALB, EUFRAS, SEASN conference	Participation at the annual advisors network conference: poster or workshop session
Regular	LFI	Elena-Teodora Miron (LFI) Florian Herzog (LKO)	EC services: EIP Agri Service Facility	Regular exchange on and coordination of joint activities in bilateral meetings between modernAKIS and the innovation strand of the EU CAP network, and also regular participation in meetings of the subgroup of innovation and knowledge exchange.
Regular >6 times/year	LFI	Elena-Teodora Miron (LFI), Marleen Gysen (ISP)	European projects: ATTRACTISS	Regular exchange on and coordination of joint activities between modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS key members; from March 1, 2024 joint community platform www.akisconnect.eu
Regular	Online/Onsite	Various project partners and coordinator	SCAR AKIS WG Meetings	Presentation of ongoing project progress, networking and exchange with members on potential cooperation activities

9. References

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