



Linking research to practice: “the Speeding Up Innovation event series”

Example from Austria

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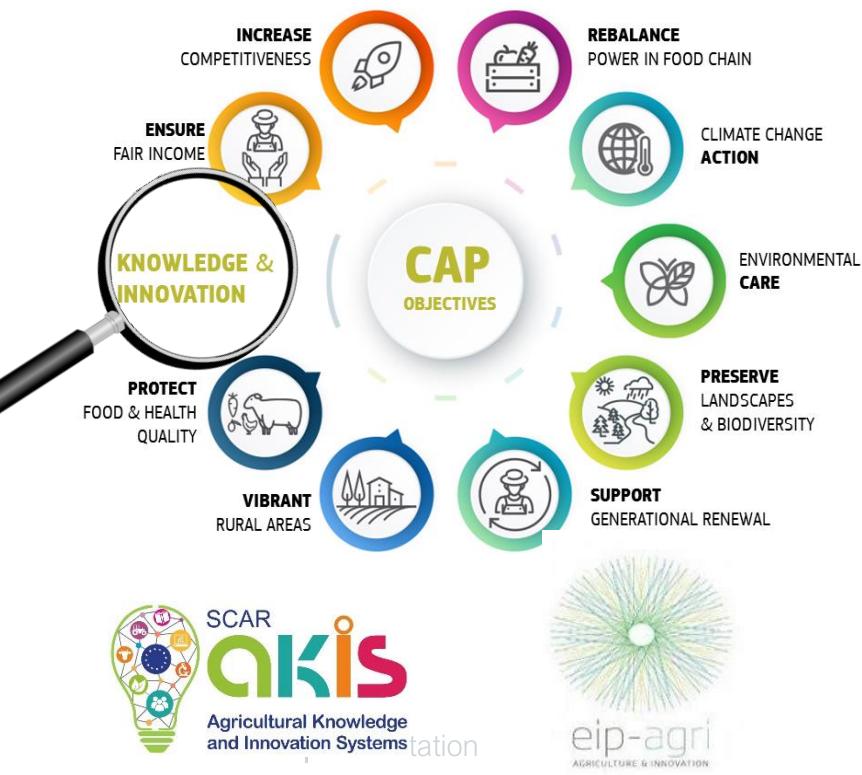
AGENDA



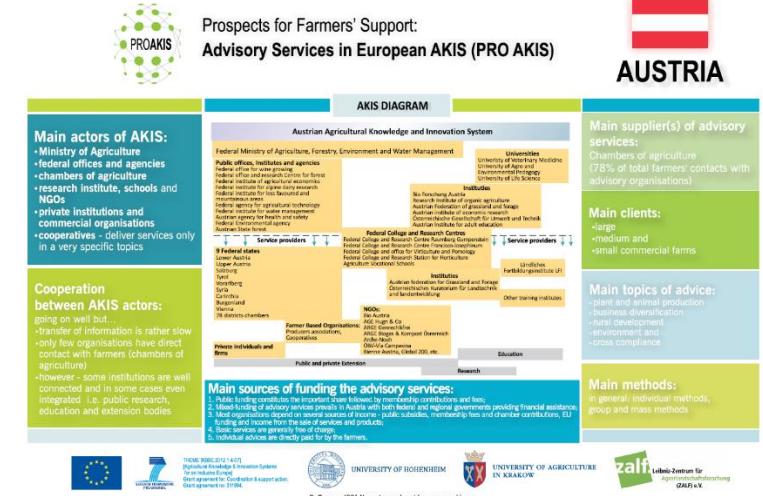
- 1. Background and Motivation to the event series**
- 2. Speeding Up Innovation – The Series**
 - Organisation, Objectives,
 - Format and Methods used in the Speeding up Innovation Event Series, Exemplary Event Program
 - Results - Evolvement of the Series 2021 -2023
- 3. Results & Lessons Learned**
- 4. Outlook 2024 and further development opportunities**

Background and Motivation to the event series “Speeding up Innovation”

Current state and effectiveness of the Austrian AKIS: overall well-functioning, strong & integrated, connections between established actors are good, **BUT:** Exchange of knowledge and especially transfer from research to practice could be faster! (see AKIS Country Reports, (ProAKIS 2015, i2connect 2020)



Fruitful and active participation in peer-learning/exchange events and discussions on strengthening innovation and AKIS in the EU and the Memberstates (events, fora and working groups, like e.g. SCAR AKIS, Subgroup Innovation, EIP-Agri SF Events, COPA WP Research&Innovation, AKIS-related Horizon projects, ...)



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INTERACTIVE INNOVATION

Innovation has come to stay

- No time to lose! Getting active right away, no need to wait for the final national AKIS plan (CSP Chapter 8)!
- Every actor should do everything possible in its own sphere of activity/influence to improve the functioning of the AKIS!

2 Speeding up Innovation (Event Series) Organisation & Financing

Event series for AKIS-Networking and linking research to practice

- Jointly organized by the **Chamber of Agriculture** (KT & innovation unit + Technical experts) and the **Ministry of Agriculture** (research department + Technical Experts) and the **University College for Agricultural Pedagogy** (institute for research and education of advisors and teachers)
- Depending on topic of the respective event further actors/organisations/experts are involved in preparations and in the organizing team

Bundesministerium
Land- und Forstwirtschaft,
Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft



Speeding up Innovation



Financing – combination of various sources

- national funds from the “Continuing Training Plan for Agricultural Advisors and Teachers” (covers costs for rooms, speakers, etc.)
- CAP Advisory Services funding: staff costs subsidy; eligible activity (as back-office & innovation support services)
- In-kind Contributions by organizers and participating organizations
- contributions from other projects or initiatives (research projects, CAP Network, modernAKIS, ...)

2 Speeding up Innovation (Event Series) Target Group and Objectives

Target Group

- Researchers, Advisors, Trainers, Teachers (not the farmers directly)

Overall Objectives

- **networking** of representatives from national research institutions with agricultural **advisory, training and education service providers**
- **further develop and accelerate the transfer of knowledge** between research and practice in selected thematic areas (is discussed in general and on the basis of specific selected examples of research projects)
- **initiate dialogue and discussion** on effective knowledge transfer instruments and the overall functioning and further development of the Austrian AKIS (and resp. thematic AKISs)



Speeding up Innovation (Event Series)

Formats and Methods used

Implementation as **full-day face-to-face events** (in Vienna)

Flexible use of methods depending on the topic, objective and size of the respective event

- **Plenary Sessions:** Introductory notes, Keynotes, Panel-Discussions, Impulses from diverse Actors groups (incl. farmers), ...
- **Interactive Sessions:** Break out groups and workshops (parallel or serial), Poster Sessions, World Cafè and other interactive innovation and co-creation methods, online tools, ...
- **Informal Networking:** welcome coffee, extended networking coffee and lunch breaks , closing with networking wine, ...

Documentation and Follow-up :

- online provision of summary report on results and all materials
- presentation and discussions of results with key stakeholders (sustainability!)



Speeding up Innovation (Event Series)

Exemplary event program (Sul – Plant Production)

- **Registration and Networking coffee**
- **Opening and Introduction** in the overall AKIS and Systems Thinking Approaches
- **Topical Keynote:** Climate Change - challenges and possible solutions in crop production (focus on innovation and Knowledge transfer)
- **3 Parallel Workshops:** 1 Climate-friendly, water-saving cultivation / 2 Measures for efficient plant protection / 3 Precision farming and agricultural technology → Presentation of (3-5) selected research projects in each WS and discussion on how results can be best transferred to the practice
- **Networking Lunch**
- **Impulse Statements & Panel Discussion:** Knowledge transfer from the perspective of the farmer, the advisor, the teacher, the researcher
- **Interactive Session:** → World Cafè with different stations for the Collection and prioritization of
 - Current knowledge and research needs in the area of plant production (incl. ideas for EIP projects) / Measures to improve the functioning of and cooperation within AKIS plant production / Effective Knowledge transfer activities and instruments
- **Closing and Networking Coffee / Wine**



3 Results & Lessons Learned Evolution of the Series 2021 -2023

Event series is well established

→ 7 events; > 500 participants; > 70 research projects presented and practice transfer of results discussed; knowledge and research gaps identified and prioritized; xxx recommendations for (thematic) AKIS further development and collected

2021: Kick-Off-Event “Sul in the Austrian AKIS” with focus on general AKIS System level, Introducing AKIS and Systems Thinking Approaches to Austrian key AKIS actors; (keynote Inge v. Oost)

2022: 3 thematical Events – “Sul in Livestock Production / Plant Production / Forestry and Timber”

2023:

- **1 Backstopping event “Sul in the Austrian AKIS”** with Austrian key AKIS actors, Focus on general AKIS System level, Updates on national CSP and AKIS Strategy (Priorities; AKIS CB; CAP Network, ...) and AKIS relevant activities on national and European level (e.g. modernAKIS, EIP-Agri SF, ...)
- **2 Events – “Sul in... Organic Agriculture / Short supply chains and direct marketing”**

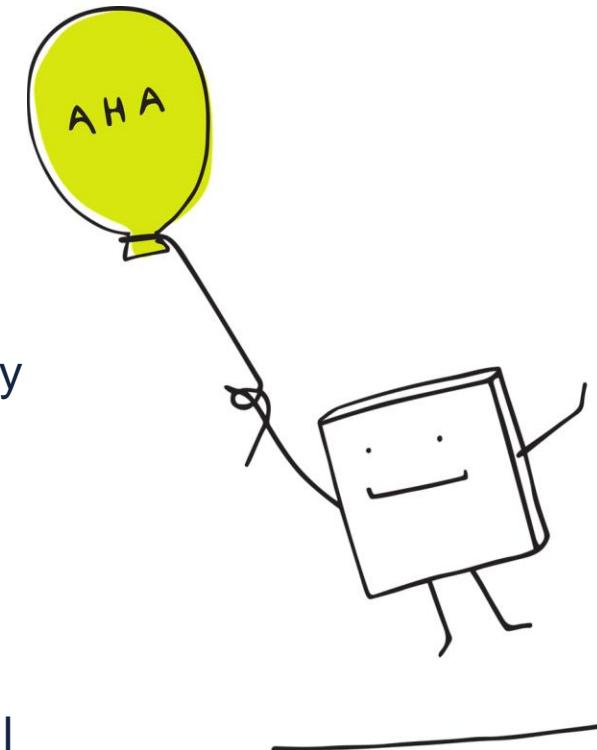


3 Results & Lessons Learned

Good Start & Results - Event series is established: interested actors are pro-actively requesting to have an event of the series for their sector/branch; event series established as a key tool in the Austrian AKIS for linking Research with Practice via Advisors/Trainers/Teachers

Success Factors / Lessons Learned:

- Promote AKIS and Systems thinking, but don't overload target group with theory → linking it to the thematic area of their interest!
- Branding and uniform appearance → increases recognition value, serves as quality seal
- Address the current challenges of the respective thematic area/AKIS: Flexible use of methods/formats and specific event objectives have proven their worth
- Work with those who want (Ownership), others will follow when they see success stories
- Don't duplicate if there is already an activity in an thematic AKIS that can fulfill the same function (cooperate!)
- Include key actors of the respective AKIS and experts from planning to implementation
- Plan enough time for informal networking (and professional exchange)!



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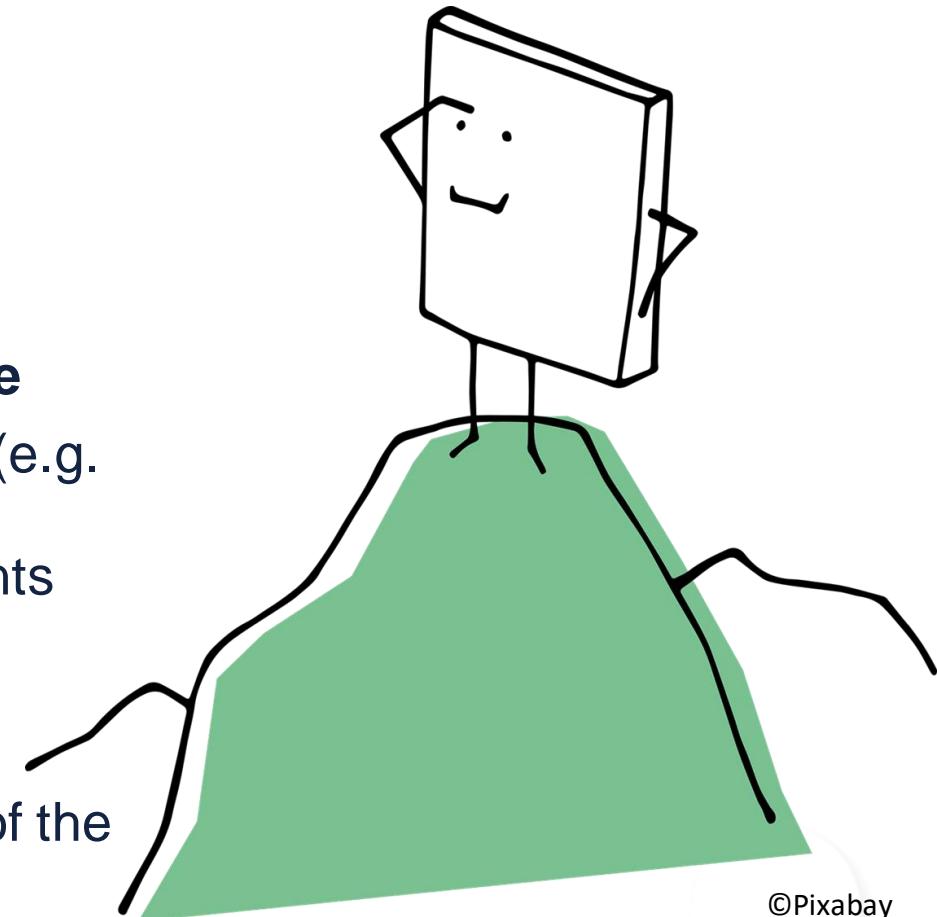
4 Outlook 2024 and further development opportunities

Outlook 2024: 3-4 Events planned

- Sul in ... vegetable and fruit production / Animal Health and Welfare/ Organic Agriculture/ Artificial Intelligence (in Agricultural Production and KT)

Further development opportunities to explore for the future

- Experimenting with new methods, online or shorter formats (e.g. Sul webinar series)
- More focus on Community Building - prior and after the events (e.g. via modernAKIS Networking Platform)
- more consequent Follow-Up of Implementation of results/recommendations
- Repetition of topics to accompany the further development of the respective thematic AKIS (e.g. Organic Agriculture; Organic AKIS CoP?)
- Integration in the overall Austrian AKIS strategy in accordance with the AKIS CB and the CAP Network (AKIS CoP)



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Proudly say
Thank you

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