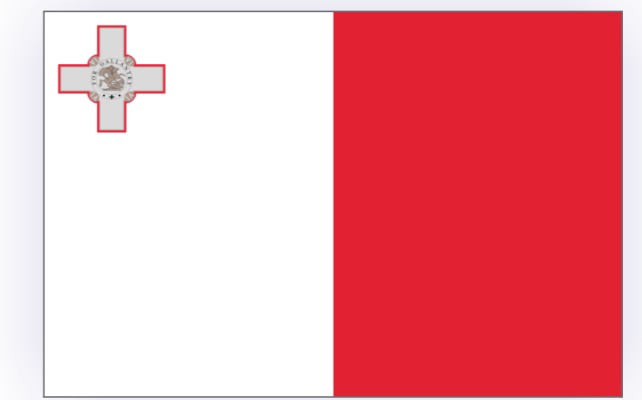


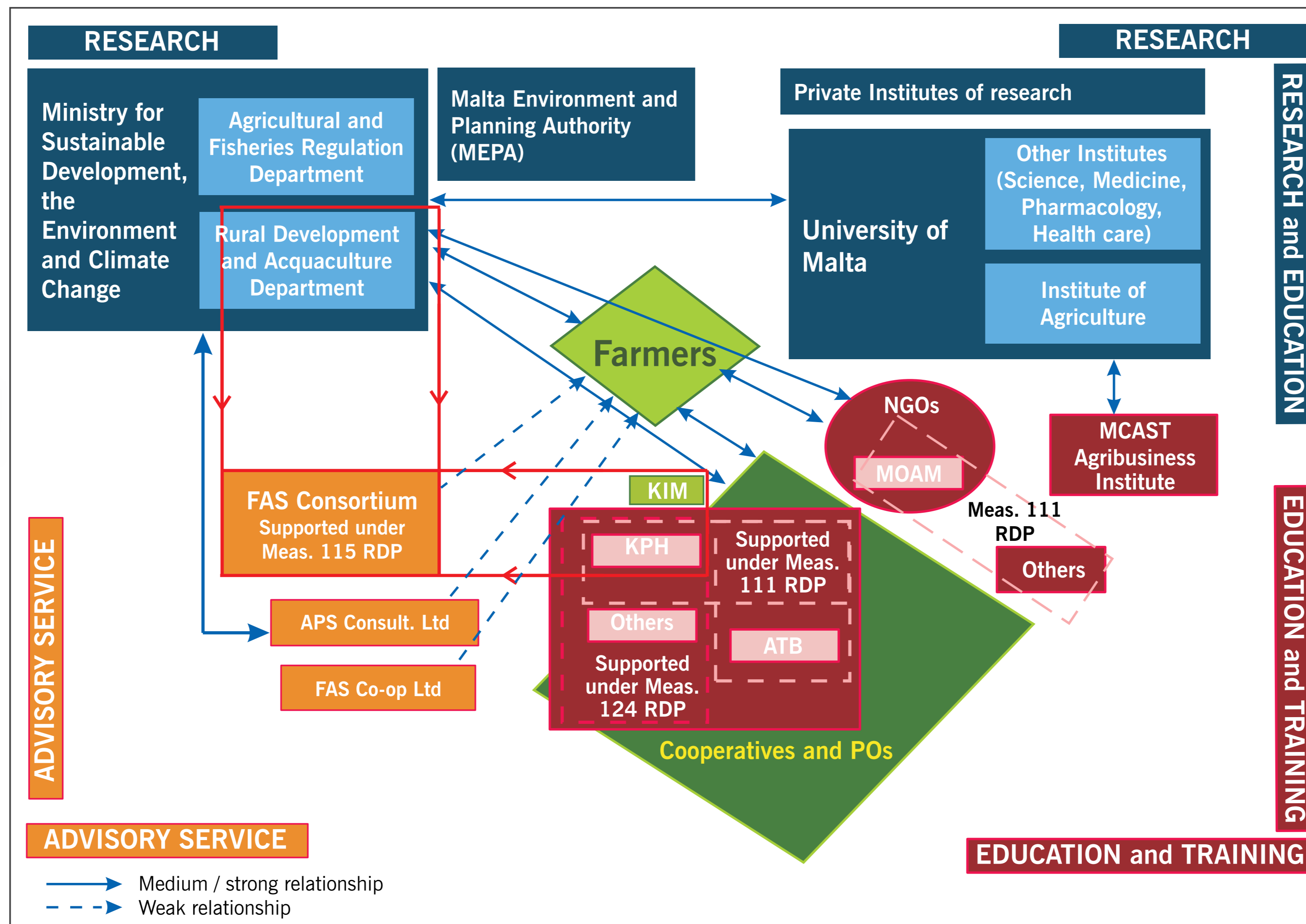


Prospects for Farmers' Support: Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



MALTA

AKIS DIAGRAM



Main actors of AKIS:

the Maltese AKIS consists of many actors:

- the FAS consortium is the only entitled to the farm advisory services;
- research is mainly carried out by public and non profit organizations;
- some cooperatives and other private companies provide technical assistance to farmers;
- the University and the College of Arts are responsible for higher education and agricultural research

Cooperation between AKIS actors:

the AKIS is characterised by a very low level of mainly informal coordination and interaction between the actors; the linkages of the FAS Consortium with the Ministry of Agriculture and other private associative bodies are set upon internal dependency; the producer organizations support the farmers on regular bases; the linkages between the other actors are based on project partnerships and lack of frequency

Main supplier(s) of advisory services:

The public bodies are mainly represented by governmental departments of the Ministry that operate through their own civil servants. The FAS Consortium is the only semi-public bodies and it's officially recognized as a FAS provider. The private (associative) entities or individuals provide services through their own staff and external advisors.

Main clients:

they can be basically categorized by: the users of the formal FAS, the members of associative bodies and the beneficiaries of RDP measures on capital investments and innovations

Main topics of advice:

cooperatives and PO/PGs deliver advice on marketing, innovation and internationalization; private providers deliver technical assistance and advices on book-keeping, taxes, renewable energies, waste and water management, RDP access and economic efficiency; the FAS CFAS delivers advice on cross compliance

Main methods:

the public bodies delivery mainly through wide-open information campaigns on common issues; the semi-public and private entities provide more targeted services through individual and groups methods

Main sources of funding the advisory services:

The funding schemes are mainly based on EU/RDP and National Public funds. The budget allocated on knowledge and information transfer is almost 3% of the total allocations on the RDP 2007-2013 of Malta. Very few private advisory companies are paid by farmers and, in some cases, are directly contracted by the Ministry. The associative bodies access to different sources of funding: the RDP, the membership fees paid by the associates, the ordinary national budget, the common marketing organisation (CMO) and the specific funding schemes applied only to POs, and the central cooperative fund (CCF). The FAS Consortium's setting up was supported under the measure 115 and its use is financed through the measure 114.



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