

Advisory services within national AKIS – concepts and empirical evidence from selected EU member states

Knierim, A., Boening, K., Caggiano, M., Cristóvão, A., Dirimanova, V., Koehnen, T., Labarthe, P. and K. Prager

Affiliations: University of Hohenheim, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD), University of Plovdiv, The James Hutton Institute (JHI)

Email corresponding author: andrea.knierim@uni-hohenheim.de

Abstract:

Recently, Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) have gained considerable attention in scientific and political fora in the EU. AKIS is considered as a key concept to identify, analyse and assess the various actors as well as their communication and interaction performances for innovation processes in the agricultural sector. Through qualitative expert interviews and with the help of an institutional mapping the appraisal of the national AKIS and especially the role(s) and functions of advisory services as one major actor within these systems have been investigated in selected EU member states (BG, DE, F, IRL, PT and UK). We will present the varied national conceptions of AKIS and compare them qualitatively with regard to the institutional settings, and their overall policy frameworks and coordinating structures. Specific attention will be given to agricultural advisory services and their integration within the respective national or country-wise AKIS. Conclusions are drawn with regard to the practiced conceptual and the methodological approach towards AKIS.