

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

EU FP 7 coordination and support action

A brief project presentation



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Introduction and objectives

Farmers are facing changing political conditions and a strong pressure from markets and citizens to adjust and to innovate. They need timely access to knowledge and information, to training and education and to facilitating and supporting services.

It is the overall purpose of PRO AKIS to contribute to the performance of advisory services within the European AKIS so that they can better provide relevant and reliable knowledge to farmers and other rural actors.



Definitions

We understand **advisory services** as the entire set of organizations that will enable the farmers to co-produce farm-related solutions by establishing service relationships with advisers so as to produce knowledge, exchange information, and enhance skills.

We understand **agricultural knowledge and information *or* innovation systems** as concepts that represent linkages between people and institutions to promote mutual learning and generate, share, and utilize agriculture related technology, knowledge, information and innovation.

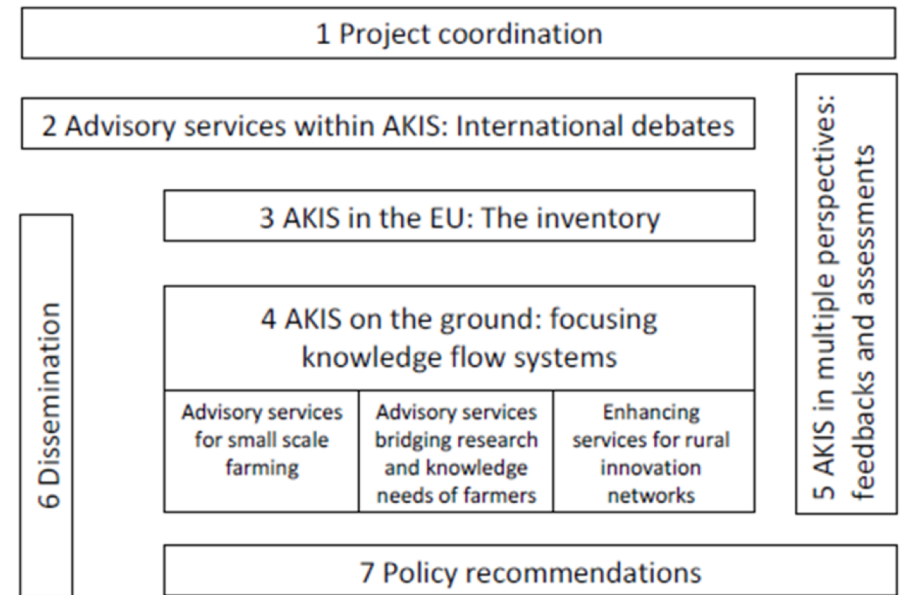
We use this concept with an infrastructural view to highlight the presence and interactions of actors and the infrastructures that govern the behavior of actors in knowledge exchange and innovation processes in the course of time.



Activities and work packages

PRO AKIS will

1. Develop a conceptual framework on advisory services within AKIS
2. Elaborate an inventory of AKIS institutions and interaction in the EU-27
3. Study and assess patterns of advisory services and knowledge flows, in particular
 - small-scale farmers' access to relevant and reliable knowledge
 - linkages and gaps between research systems and farming practices
 - scientific research and farmers' demands for knowledge
 - Rural networks to enhance innovation processes
4. Integrate expert panel's feedback and participatively assess project's outputs
5. Assure broad dissemination of findings and provide evidence-based policy recommendations



PRO AKIS work package structure

Brief project presentation



Topics and location of case studies

Topic of case study	Study sites	Synthesis seminar (02/15) organised in ... and by ...
1. Advisory services for small scale farming	UK Portugal Poland Bulgaria	in Bulgaria by ZALF, AUP, UTAD
2. Advisory services bridging research and knowledge needs of farmers	Germany France Poland Bulgaria	In Germany By ZALF, UTAD
3. Enhancing services for rural innovation networks	Germany UK France Portugal	In Portugal by ZALF, UTAD



Expected results

- a conceptual framework for the assessment of the manifold AKIS in Europe
- an inventory of AKIS institutions and interactions in the EU-27 as a searchable database
- comparative analyses and assessments of successes, strengths and weaknesses of specific knowledge systems through case studies
- increased international and inter-regional exchange of AKIS stakeholders on the performance of advisory services within the various AKIS in Europe and
 - policy recommendations for strengthening European agricultural innovation systems



The consortium partners

University of Agriculture, Krakow (UAK)

Knowledge Centre for Agriculture (VFL)

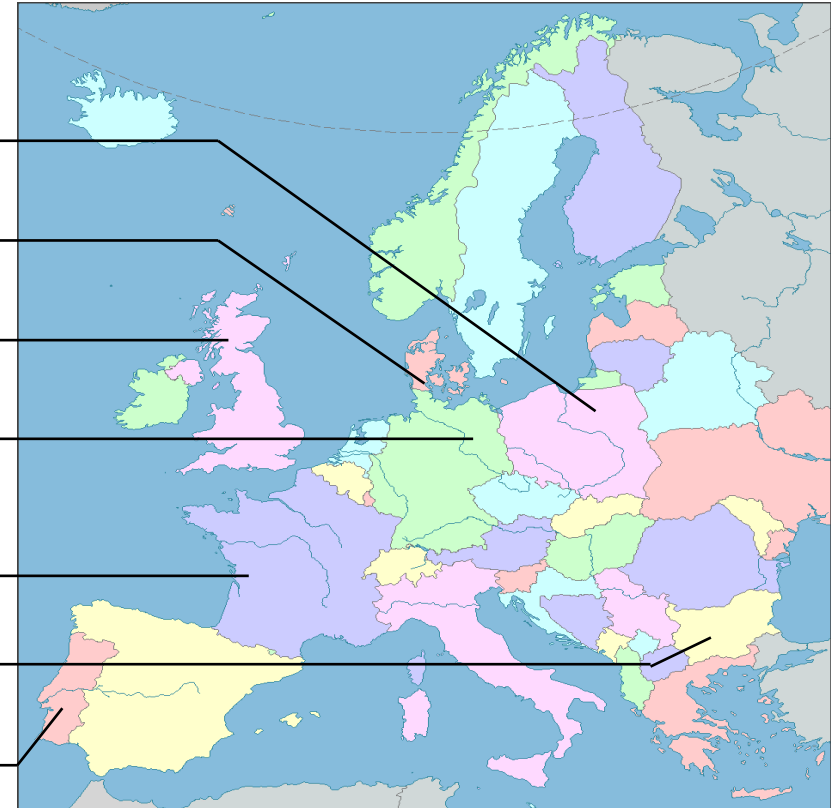
James-Hutton Institute (JHI)

Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) &
University of Hohenheim

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)

Agricultural University Plovdiv (AUP)

University Trás-o-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD)



The time line, main events

	2012												2013												2014												2015				
Project events	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5											
Steering committee		■					■					■			■													■				■									
Projects meetings		■													■																	■									
Policy Advisors Board							■								■													■				■									
International Stakeholder Board		■					■																					■	■			■									
Regional Workshops																■	■																								
Synthesis Seminars																												■	■												
Final conference																																■									

Face to face meeting
 Virtual exchange



Further information and contact

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