

ADVISORY SERVICES IN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM OF KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION IN POLAND

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Abstract

The main goal of the paper was analysis and evaluation of the Polish public advisory system and the process of its restructuring, as well as its role in Agricultural Knowledge and Information System. The base materials for analysis are: data of survey, which was conducted among 16 Provincial Advisory Centres (ODR) at the turn of 2012 and 2013, results of discussion panel of 16 ODR directors and the results of earlier research done by authors. The first part contains the overview of the development of the agricultural advisory system in Poland from the very beginning till 2013, its organizational structure as well as the structure of AKIS. The second part describes the financing mechanisms and funding schemes to cover advisory work, and the last part presents AKIS stakeholders in Poland. The agricultural advisory system in Poland is decentralized. This fragmented structure of advisory services has more disadvantages than advantages. Despite significant contribution of advisory systems in the implementation of the CAP instruments in 2007-2013, in the opinion of most ODR directors (2 of 16 persons) the effectiveness of advisory services would be greater if they were subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which allocates budgetary grant to advisory units, and almost everyone (15 of 16 persons) see the need for a central coordination unit of activity of 16 units of agricultural advisory services in our country.

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