

Position paper on AKIS in the CAP after 2020

The IALB supports the EU Commission's demand that knowledge transfer and innovation, as cross-cutting objectives, play an important role in achieving the objectives of the CAP after 2020 and must be taken into account in the strategic plans.

AKIS - Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System- allows the visualization of actors promoting the transfer of knowledge and innovations and their methods and networks. The IALB believes that with a strong and long-term AKIS in the Member States and networking across national borders with support from the EU (financially and organizationally through an AKIS-Desk), it is possible to maintain and further improve the quality of education, extension and innovation.

The aim of AKIS is to support the agricultural sector in the broadest sense in its economic development and in meeting societal challenges through knowledge transfer and innovation. The AKIS operates regionally, nationally, at member state level and also internationally. AKIS is a living system, as relationships and networking between people (inside and outside organizations) are constantly changing. Planning reliability is an important prerequisite here.

Knowledge transfer, information and innovation is carried out in many different ways by many actors, some of them supported by the Member States or with a significant economic interest in their activities. It is therefore not possible to present the AKIS in a comprehensive way.

A description of the AKIS can only include the most important actors, their activities and their interlinkages in the AKIS. An allocation to the following groups / organizations is possible:

- - Persons working in the agricultural sector
- -Advisory work: e.g. advisory organizations, consultants, training institutions for consultants, etc.
- - Education: e.g. institutions for vocational training, further education and continuing education
- - Research: e.g. universities, research institutes, etc.
- - GO: Administration at various levels
- - NGO: professional representation, associations, institutes, etc.
- - Institutional networks: IALB, EUFRAS, SEASN, operational groups, LEADER-Groups, model and demonstration farms,
- - commercial enterprises.

The list, which is only rudimentary here, already shows that, depending on the focus, organizations can be named as actors both in the field of advisory services and in the field of education or in other areas.

- The following activities to promote innovation are particularly important:
- - Advisory work,
- - Education,
- - information, public relations,
- - Cooperation, networking and

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- - Research.

The transfer of knowledge reaches the actors through various channels. Face-to-face, peer-to-peer, social networks, seminars, lectures, teaching, electronic media, social media and the Internet are only some of the channels through which knowledge and innovation are exchanged. The question of methodology is closely linked to the choice of the respective channel. Since an all-encompassing description of the AKIS is not possible in this area either, the information channel and the methodology should only be gathered for supported areas of the AKIS.

Important measures in AKIS, which are supported by the EU, are education and advisory activities.

For the implementation of these measures, the IALB demands that the following criteria for education and advisory work should be considered in the member states and that these requirements should be made binding by the EU:

- Education is knowledge transfer in general and consulting is applied knowledge transfer to generate different options for action in the agricultural enterprise, where the decision is up to the entrepreneur. The implementation of socially intended effects is therefore not a suitable indicator for the success of advisory activities.
- The control system is to be set up goal-oriented and not, as up to now, analogous to the investment measures.
- Knowledge transfer is also to be given its own financial position as a cross-cutting objective, with a minimum quota of 5% of the funds of the second pillar.
- Advice must
 - o remain voluntary,
 - o guarantee the protection of confidence. This also means that data collected during the consultation may only be passed on to the administrative authority in anonymized form.
 - o be neutral,
 - o also cover all topics important for farmers,
 - o be realized by methodically qualified consultants,
 - o be up to 100 % eligible for funding,
 - o also include process consulting and
 - o be plannable in the long term and easy to administer for all parties involved,
 - o be innovative in order to allow innovations to be implemented
- Education must
 - o cover the broad range of topics in the agricultural sector and social challenges, from entry-level training to high-level qualifications,
 - o with regard to the quality of the programs offered, they should be oriented towards technical content, goal orientation and not just economic criteria,
 - o be up to 100 % eligible for funding,
 - o be long-term and easy to administer for all parties involved.

- However, an establishment of an AKIS-Desk at European level, with simultaneous financing of the exchange on EU-level by the EU, would expand the cooperation and thus make an important contribution to the implementation, quality and further development of AKIS in the Member States.

Note: More detailed information can be found in the „Comments to the IALB position paper on the CAP after 2020“.

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