



## ***Agriculture and Rural Development in the context of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans: Overcoming the Impact of the Global Challenges***

# **Action plan for Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation systems (AKIS) in Albania**

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Implemented by:



# Structure

- Background
- Approach and structure
- Main objectives
- Action plan pillars
- Points for discussion.

# Bacground

- The RoadMAP described the main objectives for adopting, legitimising, and developing an AKIS in Albania
- National AKIS Action Plan Albania serves for presenting sequence-based description of specific objectives and relevant actions
- The Action Plan paves the way for the preparation indication (and objectives) of a possible regional plan perspective based on a specific theme for focused interventions.
- 4 main objectives, 10 specific objectives, 35 actions,

# Objectives

The main strategic objectives of AKIS are

- Action 1. A national strategic document to be prepared on ad hoc basis on innovation and knowledge transfer in order to formalise AKIS.
- Action 2. Create new AKIS structures and EIP like operational groups
- Action 3: Strengthen service provider to comply with the demand by carrying capacity building, introducing ICT components and implementing specific budgetary measures
- Action 4. Internationalisation and integration of Albanian AKIS in the region.

# **Pillar 1-A national strategic document to be prepared on ad hoc basis on innovation and knowledge transfer in order to formalise AKIS**

- A national strategic document should be prepared on ad hoc basis on innovation and knowledge transfer in order to formalize AKIS.
- The study should be formulated as a feasibility study with clear roles and several scenarios for legitimizing AKIS, especially the leadership part.
- Awareness and dialoguing event should be held, based on invitation of the MARD as a central agency.
- Actors should agree on the need for establishing a central agency for AKIS based on the scenarios.
- A final short synthesis can be endorsed and used as seed proposal and be for requiring legal and institutional adoption

Specified objectives	Required action	Milestones	Deliverables	Resources needed	Deadline
<p><b>1. Prepare a national strategic document on ad hoc basis on innovation and knowledge transfer in order to formalise AKIS.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish an expert advisory group</li> <li>● Prepare TOR for work</li> <li>● Draft a national study</li> <li>● Summarise the study into an executive summary</li> <li>● Use scenarios and agree with participants on the most feasible scenario.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expert advisory group established in the last quarter of 2022</li> <li>● TOR defined</li> <li>● Draft of the national study finalised</li> <li>● Preparation of an executive summary for being circulated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Key experts identified</li> <li>● TOR prepares</li> <li>● Report on the national study.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>MoARD</u>, Donors</li> <li>● Civil society</li> <li>● <u>Academia</u></li> </ul>	Short-term
<p><b>2. Prepare an awareness and dialoguing event and formalise a common position of the stakeholders.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Organise an awareness and dialoguing event</li> <li>● Present to stakeholders and collect comments and agree on a the concept of the national strategic document</li> <li>● Prepare a concept note and with the attached study endorse to central government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Awareness and dialoguing event organised in the first quarter of 2023 which involves main stakeholders and increase awareness on the reform required for AKIS</li> <li>● National strategic document for agriculture on second quarter of 2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Awareness and dialogue event prepared</li> <li>● Evaluation forms and list of participants filled.</li> <li>● Strategic policy document</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>MoARD</u>, Donors</li> <li>● Civil society</li> <li>● <u>Academia</u></li> </ul>	Short-term

## **Pillar 2-Create new AKIS structures and EIP like operational groups**

- A leading institution will be defined which coordinates the work of ATTCs and Universities.
- The preparation of the legal changes should be prepared based on the cooperation of regulatory bodies (mainly MoARD, and MoEF), the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MoEFA) which are also responsible for adopting budgetary changes to centralise the budget for agricultural research.
- A multi-institutional framework will exist in within 2023 and an AKIS coordination board will be finalized within 2023 in order to tackle institutional fragmentation and leadership issues.
- The preparation of the AKIS structure should be accompanied with the preparation of the structures at local level-operational groups and create an EIP like.
- Legislation for private advisory services is to be integrated.

Specified objectives	Required action	Milestones	Deliverables	Resources needed	Deadline
<p><b>3.A multi-institutional framework will exist in within 2023 and an AKIS coordination board will be finalised within 2023 in order to tackle institutional fragmentation and leadership issues.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Create a list of institutions</li> <li>● Nominate a leading agency</li> <li>● Prepare the legal base with accompanied RIA</li> <li>● Design a memorandum of understanding</li> <li>● Create an officially accepted AKIS coordination board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● List of institutions drafted</li> <li>● Leading agency defined</li> <li>● Memorandum of understanding finalised</li> <li>● Legal base finalised with RIA</li> <li>● AKIS coordination board nominated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● List of institutions</li> <li>● Nomination of leading agency</li> <li>● Memorandum of understanding formulated and signed.</li> <li>● AKIS coordination board terms of work defined</li> <li>● Nominate the AKIS coordination board members, terms of work and TOR for each member</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>MoARD</u>, Donors</li> <li>● Civil society</li> <li>● <u>Academia</u></li> </ul>	Short-term
<p><b>4. Establish operational groups and create an EIP like network in order to increase cooperation and involve better the private operators at local level.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Carry a stakeholder mapping and identify potential operational group</li> <li>● Formalise the groups by establishing semiformal meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stakeholder mapping and formation and formalisation of AKIS network within second quarter of 2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stakeholder analysis finalised</li> <li>● List of operational groups proposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>MoARD</u>, Donors</li> <li>● Civil society</li> <li>● <u>ATTCs and ANES</u></li> <li>● <u>Academia</u></li> <li>● <u>Donors</u></li> </ul>	Short-term



## **Pillar 3: Improve services to comply with demand by providing capacity building, introducing ICT components and implementing specific budgetary measures**

- Prepare the legal certifying process of the private advisors role and terms of work.
- Identification and definition of the list of private advisers groups to be enacted by an association of private advisors (in the form of nongovernmental non for profit entity).
- ICT based platform should be prepared for supporting the exchange of information and the recognition of the entity.
- Capacity building activities should be carried in order to create advisors' profile, train and increase governing capacity of the Association and also prepare the terms of work for the private advisors.
- Budgetary measure should be designed by using partly (without clashing) the previous funding used for ATTCs and other research institutions in the agriculture sector.
- Orient private advisory services to the already prepared EIP network and use budgetary measure based on competing criteria.

Specified	Required action	Milestones	Deliverables	Resources needed	Deadline
<b>5. Integrate private advisors in the AKIS (by prioritising sources from outside ANES and ATTCs) to foster the sharing of knowledge and innovation for agriculture and increase capacity building for service providers (both public and private) at AKIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Define legally the role and function of private advisors</li> <li>● Redefine the role of public advisory services</li> <li>● Establish the association of private advisors</li> <li>● Identify and expand the number of advisors</li> <li>● Create a list of adviser groups to be merged with operational groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Legal base for advisory services finalised</li> <li>● Association of advisers established</li> <li>● Pool of advisors with respective curricula listed within the third quarter of 2023</li> <li>●</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● List of advisers prepared</li> <li>● List of advisers diffused in a portal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>MoARD</u>, ATTC, ANES</li> <li>● Donors,</li> <li>● <u>Civil society</u></li> <li>● <u>Association of private advisory services</u></li> <li>● ATTC, ANE</li> </ul>	Short-term
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prepare terms of work for private advisors and develop innovation support services including innovation brokering, facilitation and innovation tools</li> <li>● Change the terms of work for the public advisory services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Terms of work and list of services formulate and tailor made by type of advisors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Terms of work prepared</li> <li>● Annual package of activities designed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>MoARD</u>, Donors,</li> <li>● ATTC, ANES</li> <li>●</li> </ul>	Short-term

Required action	Milestones	Deliverables	Resources needed	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Design a package of training for both public and private advisory services with focus on core problems</b></li> <li>● <b>Prepare training of trainers</b></li> <li>● <b>Create long term programme of education through the use of National Agricultural Training Scheme, financed by the Albanian Government.</b></li> <li>● <b>Use the upcoming centers of education and excellences which are planned to be created at the Agricultural University of Tirana, namely the the Experimental Didactic Farm.</b></li> <li>● <b>Establish a demonstration, experimental, research, educational Center of Precise Agriculture (Smart Agriculture)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Training material and programs formulate within 2025</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Training package finalised and diffused</b></li> <li>● <b>Training of trainers implemented and evaluation forms filled</b></li> <li>● <b>A curriculum of long term education programme is prepared</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><u>MoARD and Donors, Academia (AUT)</u></b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Short-term</b></p>

Specified	Required action	Milestones	Deliverables	Resource s needed	Deadli ne
<b>6. Establish ICT platform development and increase of the use of ICT tools in the exchange of knowledge and innovation by using the spread of internet in rural areas.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use ICT tools for raising the information flows and reduced institutional divisions</li> <li>Prepare videos and short materials to raise education and information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICT space created within 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICT platform established</li> <li>ICT platform populated with information inputs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>ATTCs</u> and <u>ANES</u></li> <li><u>Academia (AUT)</u></li> <li><u>Donors</u></li> </ul>	Short-term
<b>7. Support the AKIS by inserting a national budgetary measure in order to tackle the problem of funding fragmentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a national budgetary measure for ARDPF for supporting operational groups.</li> <li>Prepare the main criteria and budgetary limits</li> <li>Prepare the criteria and premium criteria for other investments measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budgetary measure prepared</li> <li>Criteria are prepared and introduced in the ARDPF programme</li> <li>Separate budgetary voice is provided in the planned ARDFP programme</li> <li>Call opened s pilot within 2024.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National budgetary measure drafted</li> <li>Criteria defined</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoARD, ARDA, NAGE, Civil society</li> <li>DG Agri</li> </ul>	Mid-term
<b>8. Implement the budgetary support measure in compliance with EU programming criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare open calls for Operational Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open calls carried in 2025.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call opened using Pilot financing by GIZ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARDA and GIZ</li> </ul>	Mid term

## **Pillar 4: Internationalisation and integration of Albanian AKIS in the region.**

- The fourth objective facilitates the integration of the National Action plan on a regional plan perspective.
- Regions which share boundaries with other countries, conditions for creation of cross-country support facility are planned.

### **Summarised option**

- Regions: Korca and Shkoder have ATTCs
- Topics: climate change and green agenda.
- Sectors: dairy and wine sector can be the sector for which exist also an internal demand, meaning that forces of development are linked with internal forces of trade rather than exporters strength.
- Further efforts should be done to extend Operational Group created in the targeted crossborder areas for enhancing activities of common interest.

Specified objectives	Required action	Milestones	Deliverables	Resources needed	Deadline
<p><b>9. Prepare the conditions for creation of cross-country support facility.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare the terms of work for the conditions, working objectives and organisaiton patterns of a croscountry support facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TOR prepared within 2025</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TOR and organisational framework design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SWG and Ministries</li> </ul>	<p>Mid term</p>
<p><b>10. Create regional AKIS framework to respond to regional concerns such as those related to climate change and green agenda.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sign a memorandum of understanding between Ministries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorandum signed within 2025</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorandum of understanding draft</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SWG and Ministries</li> <li>Academia</li> <li>Civil society</li> <li>DG Agri</li> </ul>	<p>Mid term</p>

# Points for discussion

- What is the best institution to lead AKIS-EU experience...?
- What will better to create EIP and than private advisory services or vice versa?
- Can EU measures on LAG and measure on advisory services used?
- Can CBI funding or interreg used?
- How to endorse and push the process with MoARD (process is similar to LAGs but with no support)
- Other points are welcomed...