

REAWG on AKIS

Working group 2:

Concluding remarks

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With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
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CONSULTING GROUP
General Agent BMLEH
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Germany – South East Europe



Regional
Climate Partnership
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Main Purpose of the WG

- A functioning **AKIS** system of knowledge, research and innovation exchange is considered as an **indispensable factor to help overcome the present challenges of agricultural competitiveness, food security, sustainable farm incomes and rural sustainability**
- The setting up of a network bringing together farmers, representatives of governments, research institutions and the private sector to establish a **functional AKIS structure** that would facilitate the dissemination of knowledge, innovation and technology as an **in-between mechanism acting top-down and bottom-up**
- The designation of a **national Roadmap strategic document and of a national Action Plan** for the implementation of the specified strategic objectives resulting from a SWOT analysis
- The development and application of **regional and/or sectoral or thematic AKIS Plans** aiming at fostering knowledge and innovation transfer in defined topic areas
- The development of **regional educational, training and accreditation structures** to support knowledge and innovation transfer



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Key Assets/Opportunities

1. The value of the methodological approach adopted and implemented
2. The development and implementation of two plus one parallel work paths:
 - **The formalization path**
 - **The 'experimental' path (sectoral or thematic) and,**
 - **The Contribution to the Knowledge Repository**
- 3. The richness of different regional experiences and paradigms
- 4. **AKIS awareness raising** amongst government officials/ other AKIS stakeholders and the initiation of AKIS formalization as a system
- 5. The legislative initiatives concerning other AKIS component parts
- 6. The **new team members' enthusiasm** and contribution to the groups work



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Key Barriers

- **Poor appreciation of the importance of AKIS** by some political structures and elites
- **Slow state bureaucracy responsiveness** to policy adjustment requests affecting the progress of adoption and implementation of AKIS. **Slow formalization**
- **Underperformed activation** of national representatives within the government/ministry structures
- **Limited financial and human resources** allocated
- **Uneven engagement of AKIS stakeholders** and especially of the farmers themselves
- **Weak functioning of the bottom up 'systems approach'** to help bridge the gap between science and practice
- Uneven team performances and missing substantive participation of some national teams
- **Continuing weaknesses** in the understanding of the role of interactive knowledge and innovation exchange system which brings together specific actors to work together and give either answers to specific questions or develop concrete opportunities



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Ways Forward

- Continuation of the work along the lines of the work paths
- Become more targeted, less maximalist and more interactive
- **Emphasis on the case study work.** Implementation of it independently of the progress of formalization
- Integration of our work into the **logic and prospects of accession and the role of AKIS** in the various facets of the new CAP policy proposal
- Deepen the **intergroup exchange** of knowledge and work experience
- Enhance the discussion on the different forms/layers of **AKIS governance and networking**
- Further integrate **climate as a crosscutting issue**
- Develop a functional cooperation with SCAR AKIS



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