

The AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem

What is an Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)?

What: AKIS is the organisation and interaction of persons, organisations and institutions who **use** and **produce knowledge and innovation** for agriculture **and interrelated fields**. (def)

Who: The main players of the AKIS are: farmers/foresters, advisors, researchers, (farmer) organisations, NGOs, networks, education, retailers, media, services, various ministries...: they all produce and need knowledge!

Why: The aim is to create a **regional/national innovation ecosystem** by enhancing **knowledge flows** between the AKIS players as well as strengthening links between research and practice.

Brief "What is AKIS": https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/building-stronger-akis_en.pdf

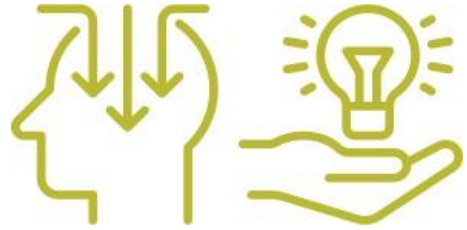
AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem =>

Cross-cutting CAP support to Systematically share

Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture and rural areas

including **in whatever farming and rural activities**

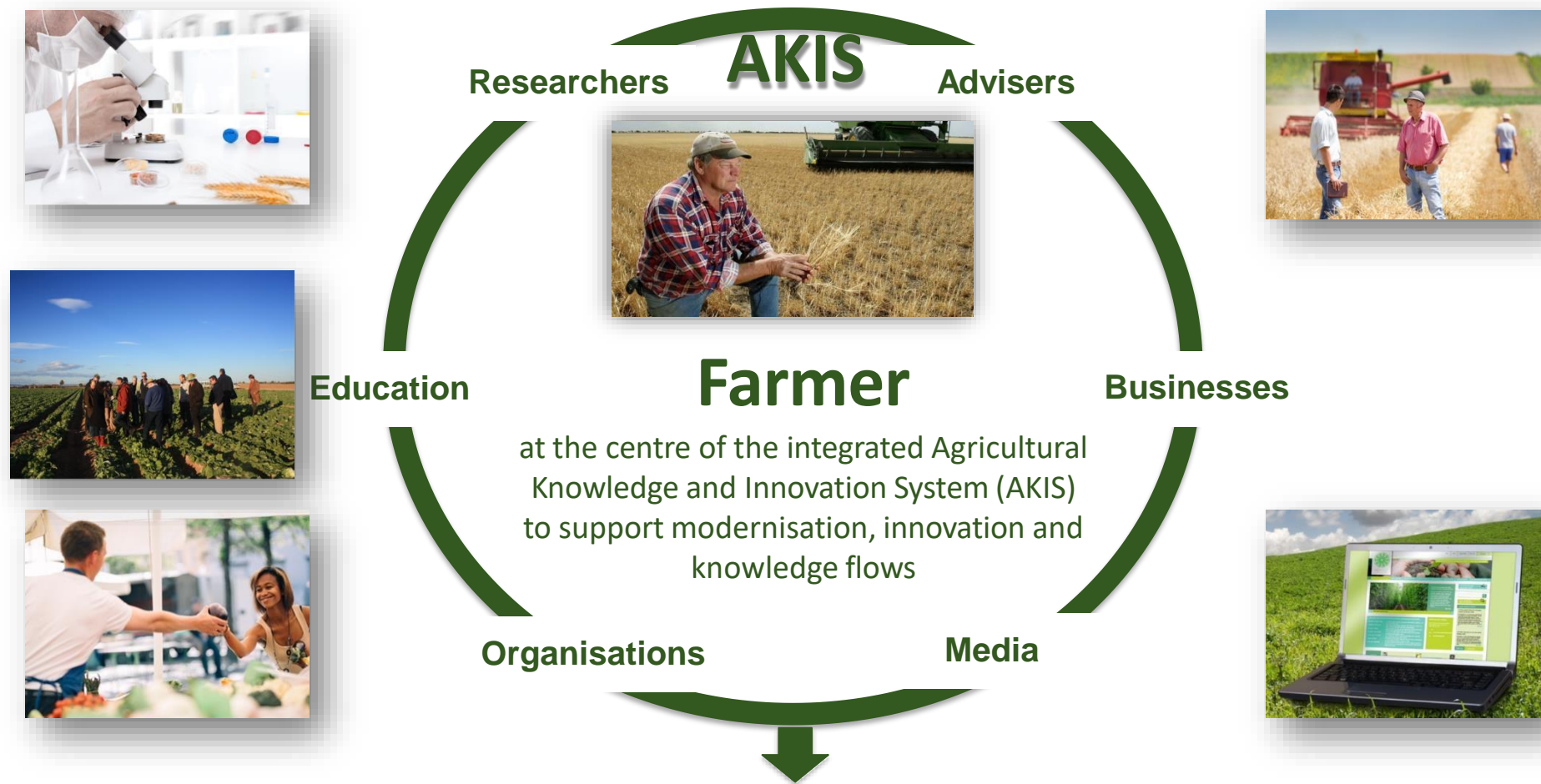
automatically relate to (= landscape, environment, climate, biodiversity, consumers and citizens, food and non-food systems including transformation and distribution chains, etc)



Where does the AKIS policy come from?

In their 2008 declaration, the researchers of the Standing Committee of Agricultural Research (SCAR) stated that the classical linear research model does not function anymore to have real impact in the field. The current CAP AKIS policy and potential interventions can make use of the current formats and experiences from MS. Experts from about 24 MS from the SCAR Strategic Working Group collected this in the AKIS4 report, and based it on their discussions and own practical experiences. In the report much about AKIS in all its aspects is explained and a long series of possible types of interventions and concrete examples given. The report is available on the Europa "Future CAP" website and is called "Report: [preparing for future AKIS in Europe](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap#innovation)". You can download it here: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap#innovation> or ask to you a paper copy

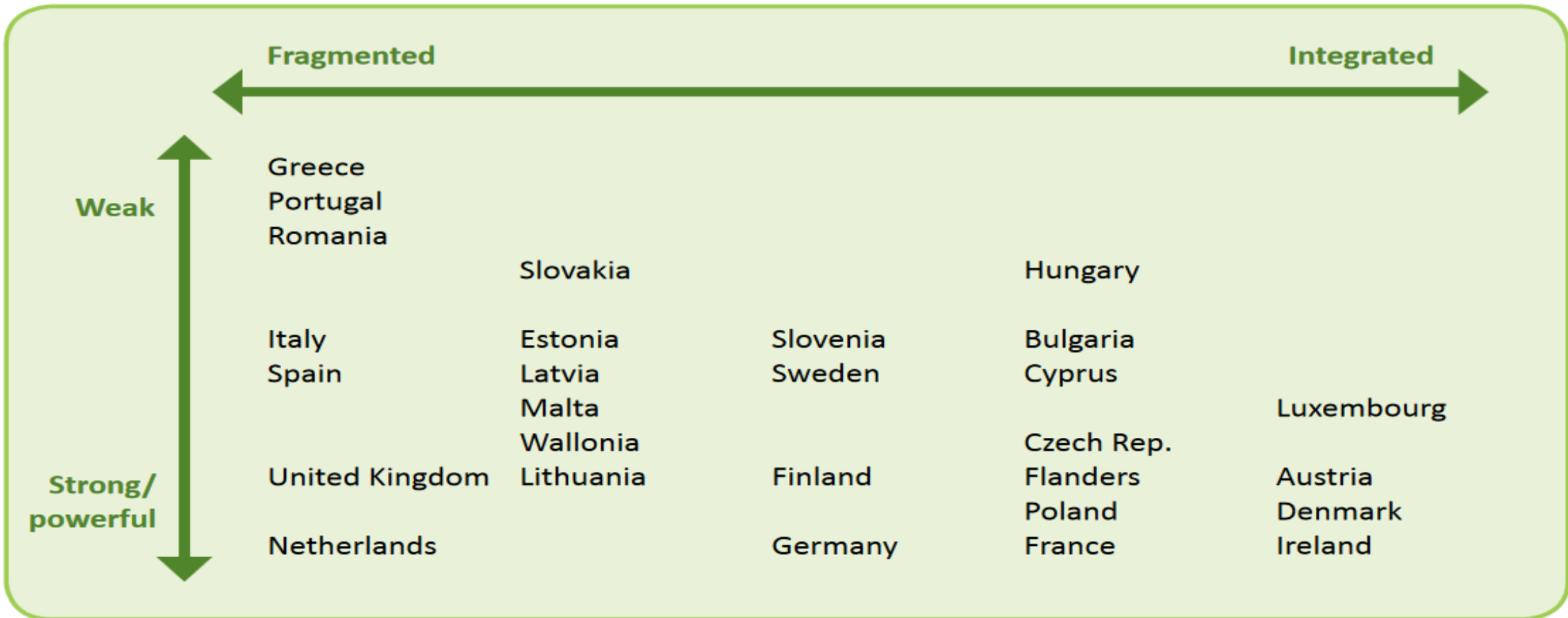
WHY AKIS? A reinforced AKIS integrates all AKIS actors and ensures knowledge flows inside MS & across border



AKIS coordination and structuring will bring actors together on a structured and regular basis, creating continuous interaction to speed up knowledge exchange, knowledge flows, innovation and most of all: implementation in practice (=> Cross-Cutting Objective on « Modernisation »)

PROAKIS study: Characterising MS' AKIS

An overview (as of 2014)

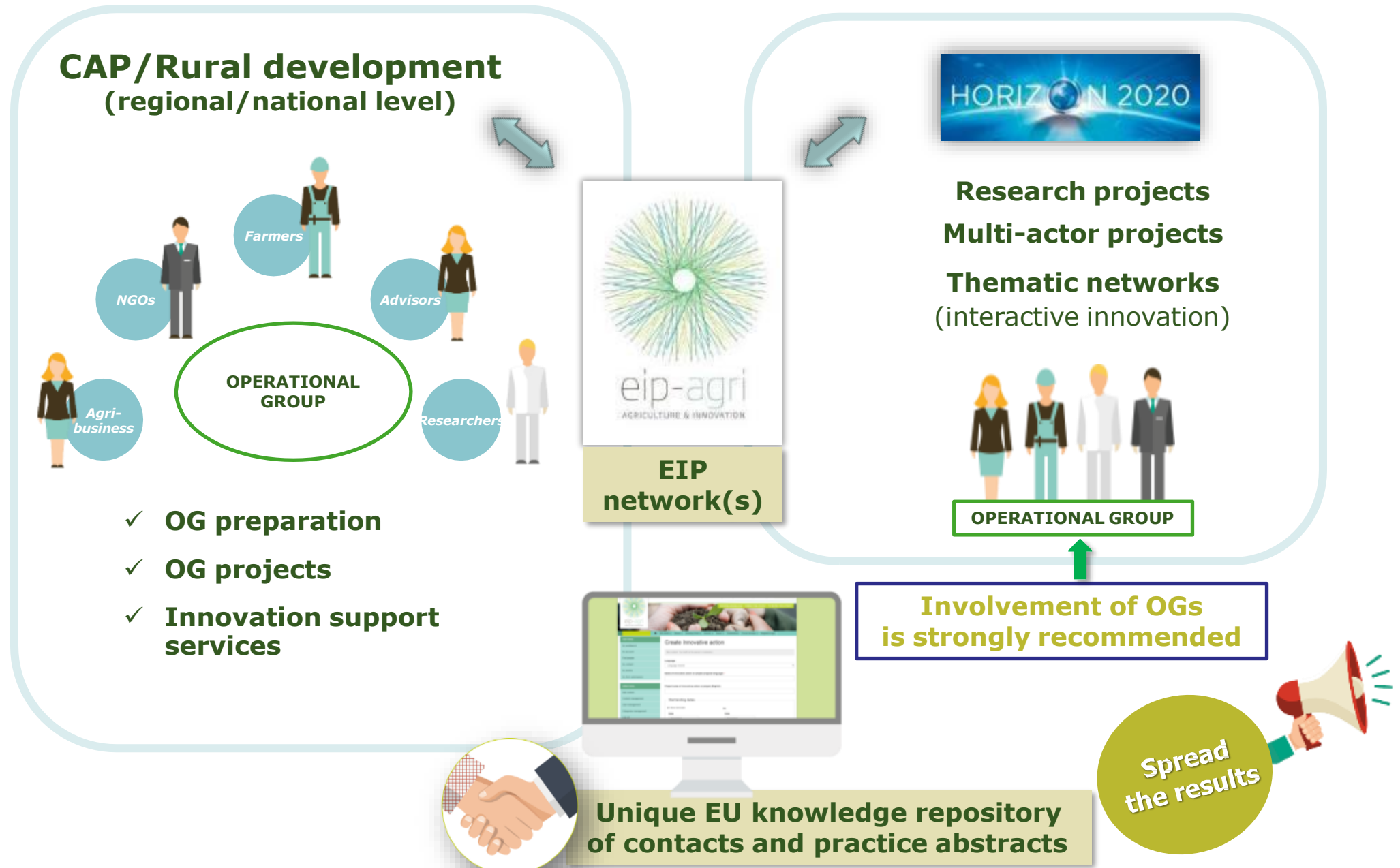


The EIP-AGRI in short



- 2010: European Innovation Partnerships want to speed up innovation through **cooperation and linking** existing policies and instruments
- EIP "Agricultural productivity and sustainability" launched in 2012: "more and better from less", "ideas put into practice with success", impact by end-users becoming "actors" and motivated
- The EIP-AGRI applies an overarching "*Open innovation*" concept based on the **interactive innovation model** (applied in RD Operational Groups and H2020 Multi-Actor projects):
 - Collaboration between various actors to make **best use of complementary types of knowledge** (scientific, practical, organisational, etc) in view of **co-creation** and diffusion of solutions/opportunities **ready to implement in practice.**
- **EU wide EIP network** linking actors: communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs (*Open science*)

Connecting policies: the bigger EIP picture



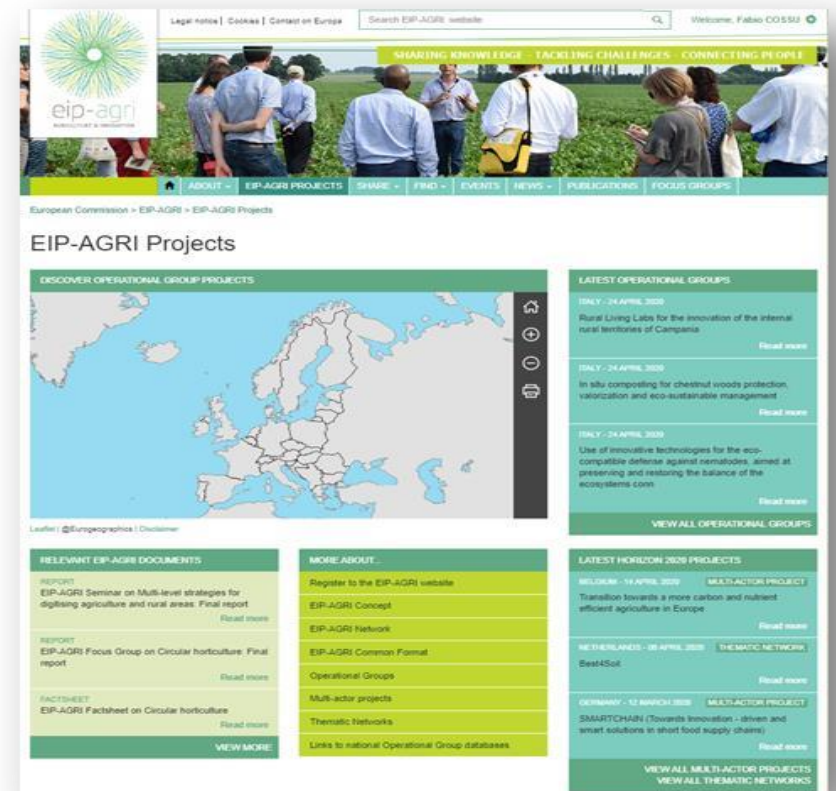
Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



EIP-AGRI – What did we achieve?

- ✓ 27 Member States, 98 rural development programmes implementing EIP Operational Group “innovative projects”
- ✓ Around 3 200 OGs planned in 2014-2020; more than 1500 OGs already running or finished (still 4 years to go)
- ✓ 190 multi-actor projects under Horizon 2020 (two thirds of total projects) for 1 bio Euro
- ✓ A growing and thriving network

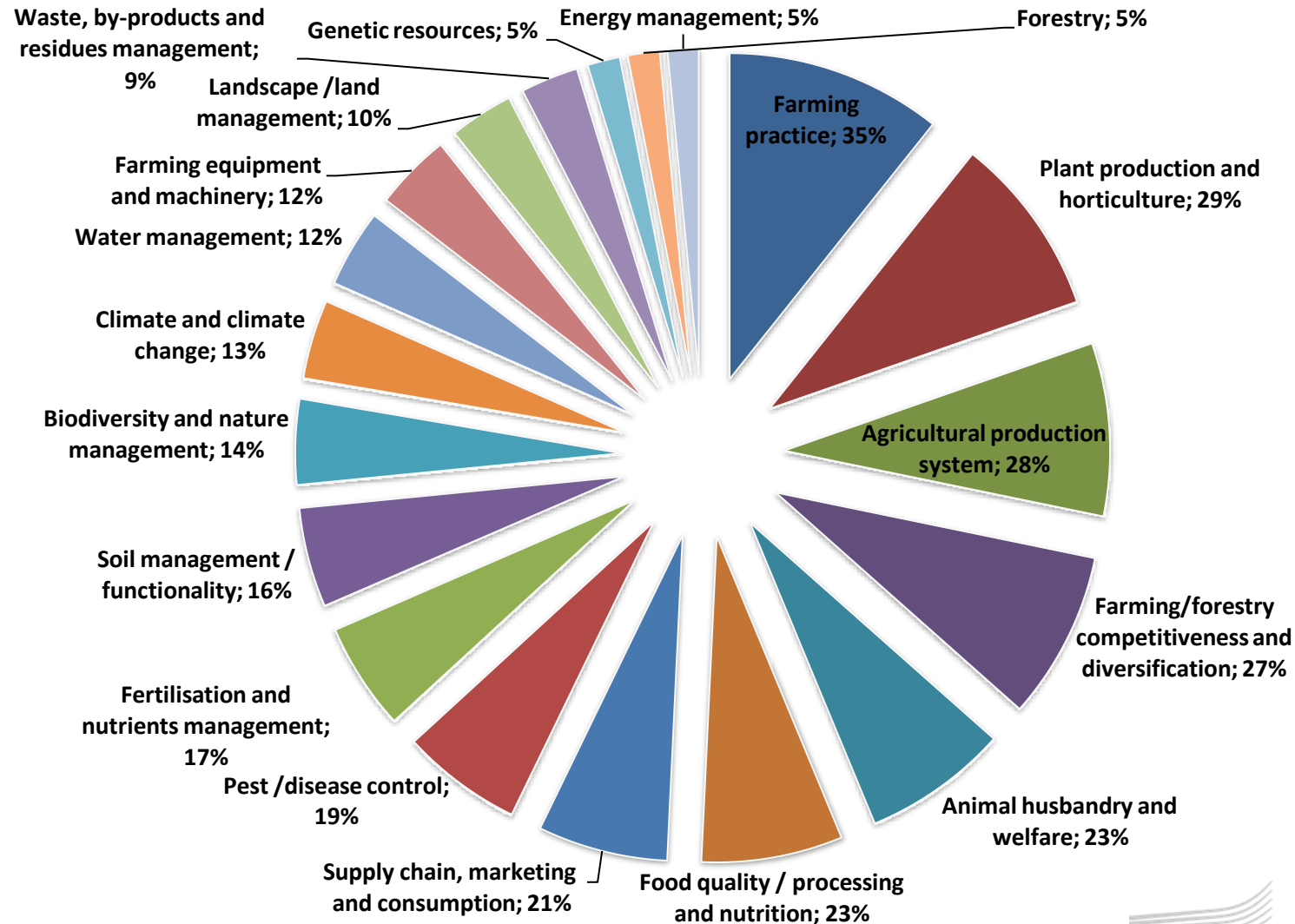
An increasing volume of practice-oriented knowledge !



www.eip-agri.eu

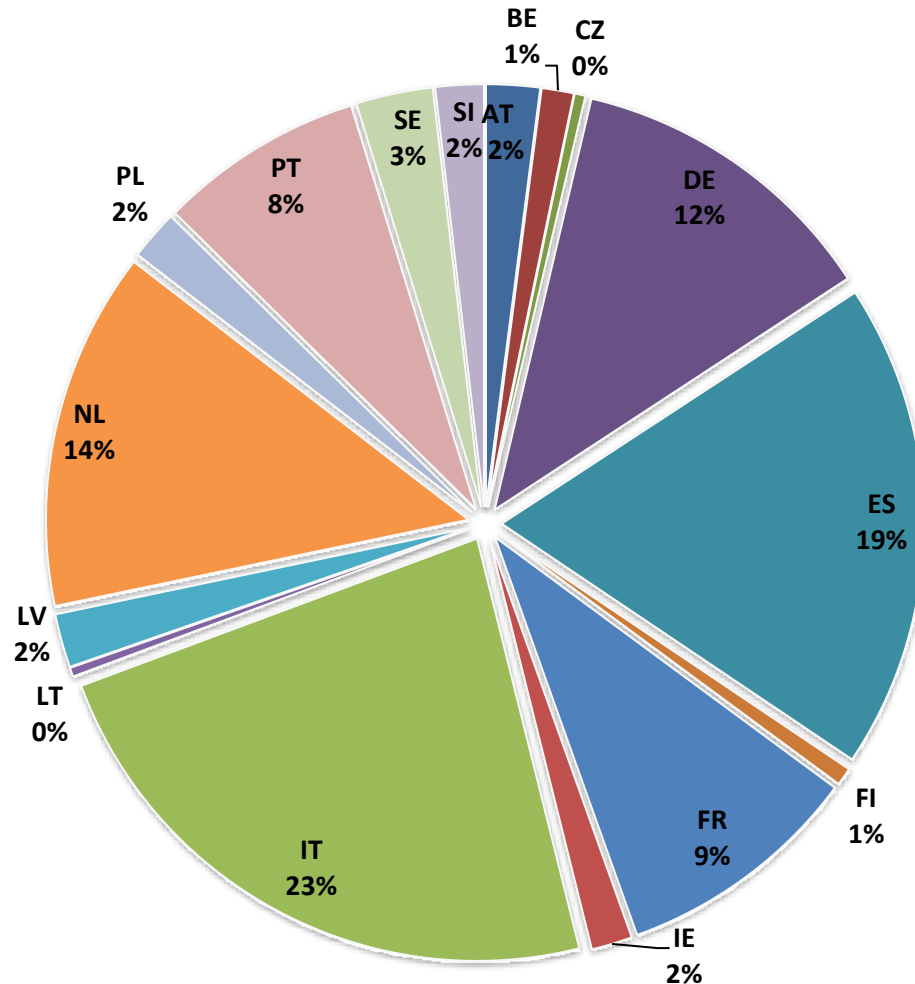
A wide variety of OG project subjects:

Green Deal 'avant la lettre': already about 65% of OGs on environmental-climate issues



Source: European Commission – official data in SFC (May 2020)

Operational Groups: distribution per MS



AT	30
BE	18
CZ	6
DE	177
ES	273
FI	10
FR	138
IE	23
IT	340
LT	5
LV	30
NL	201
PL	28
PT	115
SE	43
SI	27

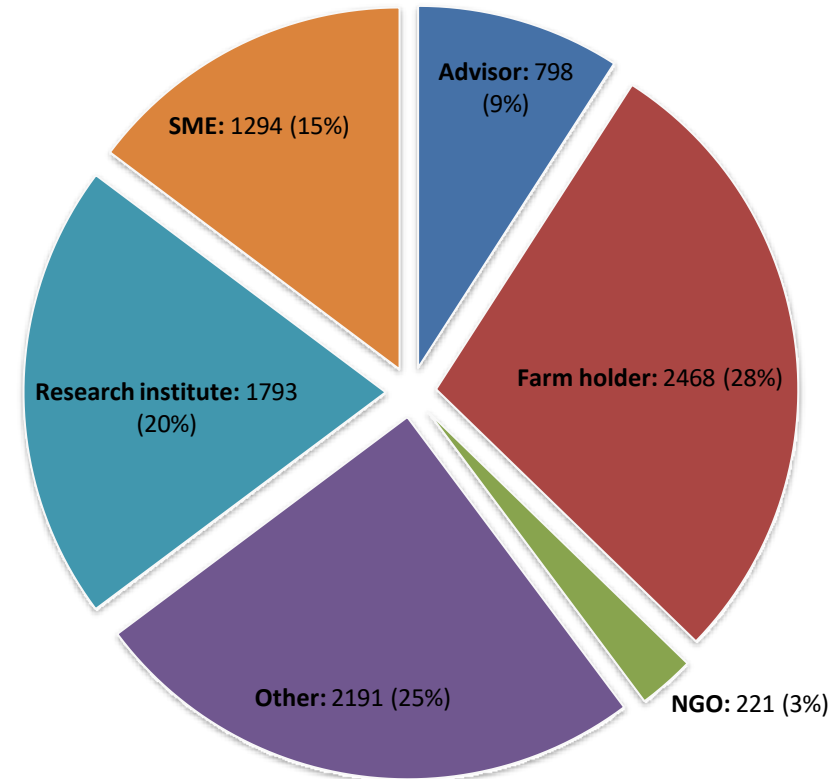
Total N° of OGs 1464

Source: European Commission – official data in SFC (May 2020)

Note: dissemination obligation only after the project finished, so not all running projects are included

Partners in OGs

Number of partners per category (% on total number of OGs):



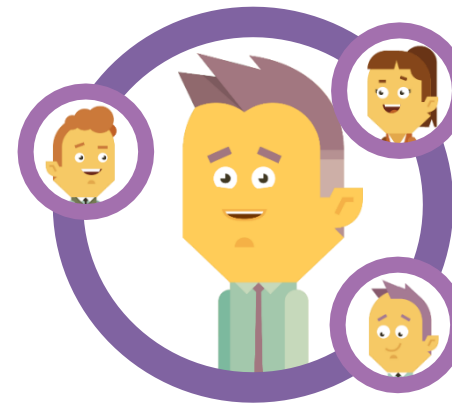
Advisors and ISS can have an important role in interactive innovation processes:

- **Capture** practice needs
- **Broker** to set up OG's interactive innovation projects (obligation post 2020)
- **Facilitate** interactive innovation projects (obligation post 2020)
- **Disseminate** newly generated knowledge already during the project
- **Make bridges** between CAP and Horizon programmes as innovation support service



We inspire

We 'bridge the gap'



farmer

research

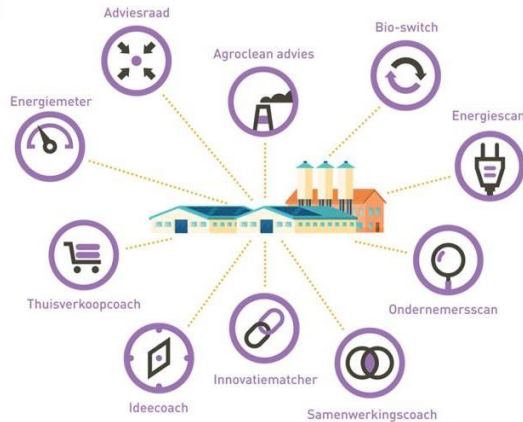
innovation partners

Innovation Support Centre

We give advice

We train 'action oriented'

Innoveren?
Wij adviseren
& begeleiden je!



European Commission

Provisions on modernisation in the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation post 2020

Funding innovative projects.....

**.....will now be supported by a whole
innovation ecosystem systematically
interlinking people and projects (AKIS)**

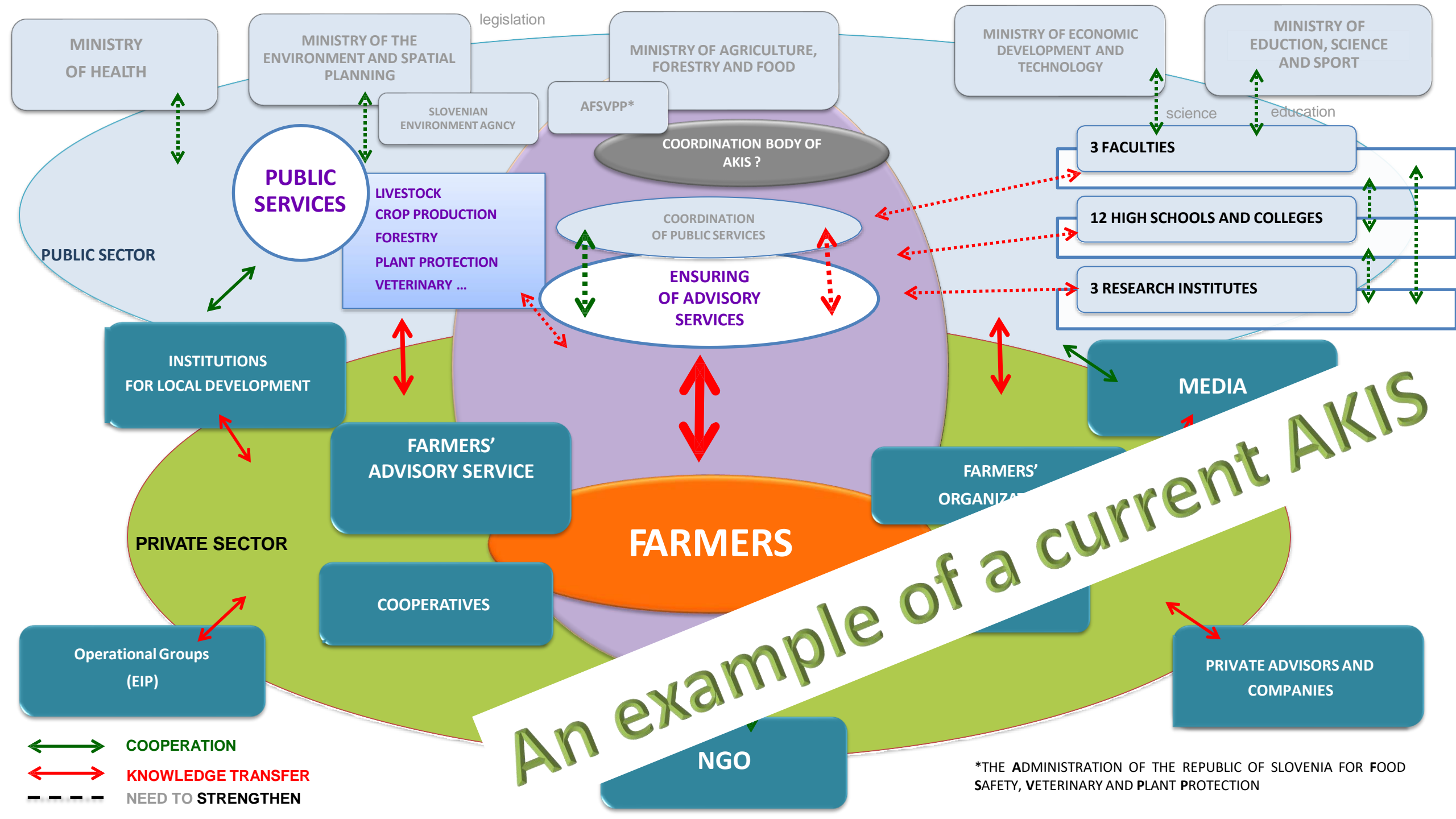
AKIS in CAP Strategic Plans (Art.102 - modernisation)

The CAP Strategic Plans shall contain:

1.Their contribution to the cross-cutting general objective related to fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation, notably by describing:

- **The organisational set-up** of the (*existing*) **AKIS** (=> *SWOT*)
- How advisors, researchers and **CAP networks** will work together within the framework of the (*future*) **AKIS**, and
- How advice and innovation support services are provided

2.A description of the strategy for the development of **digital technologies** in agriculture and rural areas



Art 13 and 72: Farm advice organised within the AKIS structures in CAP Strategic plans

✓ *Advising farmers and other beneficiaries of CAP support to be included in the CAP plans*

✓ **All advisors shall be integrated within the AKIS in an inclusive way, to be able to cover economic, environmental and social dimensions and to deliver up-to-date technological and scientific information developed by R&I**

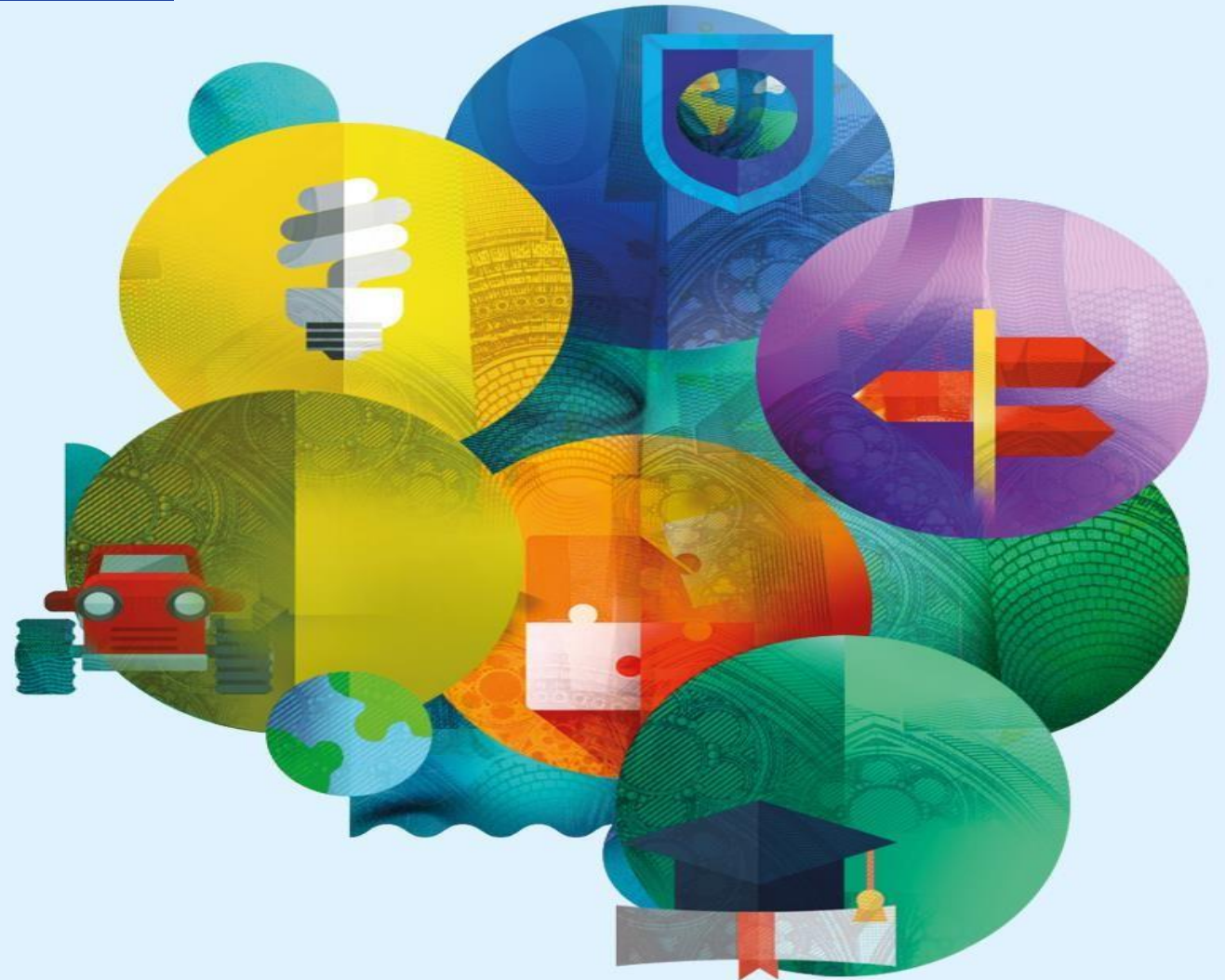
✓ *Advisors must be impartial and be able to provide Innovation support, in particular for preparing and implementing Operational Group projects of the EIP AGRI*

1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- Advising should be **listening and interactive**
- Deliver **holistic advice targeted to the farm's and farmer's context**
- **Advisors' training:** sufficient amount of days obligatory per year, as for other professions, especially on innovative techniques and outcomes of OGs/MAA and soft skills; make it attractive and qualitative, e.g. use of common advisory tools, back-office support for all advisors
- **Enable farmers to find the advisor which can help him best:** public registers with info on education, experience, continuous professional development, cross-border exchanges, various thematic focus, membership of advisory platforms, etc
- Invest in **tools for advising** (e.g. measurements, digital)



The Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe (HE) dimension of the EIP-AGRI => induces the **need for intensifying CAP innovation networking and efficiency of Horizon Europe National Contact Points**



Examples and ideas for CAP AKIS Strategic plans of MSs (SCAR AKIS members) , as collected in the AKIS 4 report

section 1.5 of the SCAR AKIS 4 report



Thanks to:
EIP-AGRI seminar 'CAP Strategic Plans:
the key role of AKIS in Member States'
where you can find more information:

All information of the seminar available on
www.eip-agri.eu

on the event webpage
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-cap-strategic-plans-key-role-akis>

