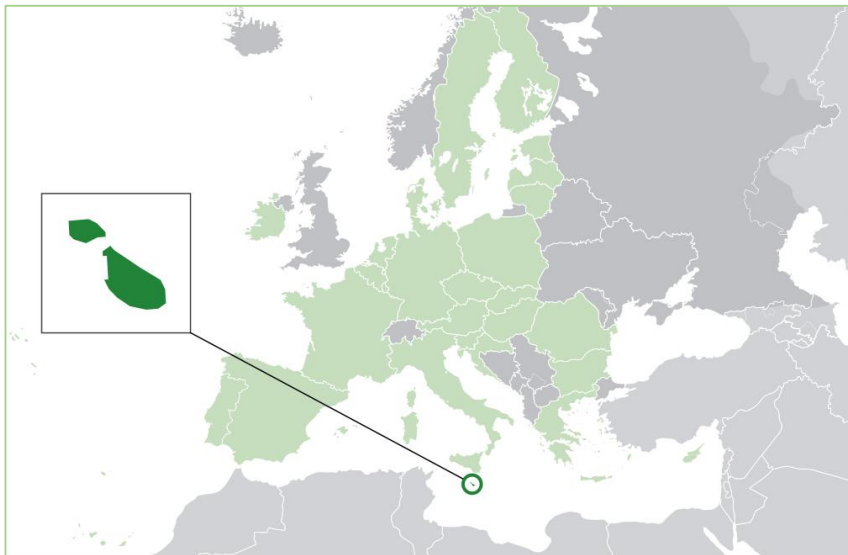




The AKIS and advisory services in Malta

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CREA

Background



Source: Wikipedia

	Malta	EU27
UAA (ha)	11,180	156,662,970
Whereof: organic	24	11,445,112
Holdings	9,100	10,282,790
UAA/Holding	1.23	15.24
Livestock units (LSU) (thousand)	32	118,089
Whereof: Bovine	11	57,457
Swine	10	31,917
Sheeps and Goats	2	7,471
Workers in Agriculture, forestry and fishery (thousand)	2.3	7,903
Whereof: Agriculture	1.7	9,152
Forestry	0	475
Fishing and aquaculture	0.6	167
% on total workers	0.93	4.06
Gross Value Added (million €)	106	220,725
% on Total GVA	0.90	1.83

Source: Eurostat National Accounts (2019) and Farm structure survey (2016)

Main characteristics of the AKIS



AKIS in Malta is characterized by a **little number of actors** with a **low level of coordination and a lack of systemic vision**

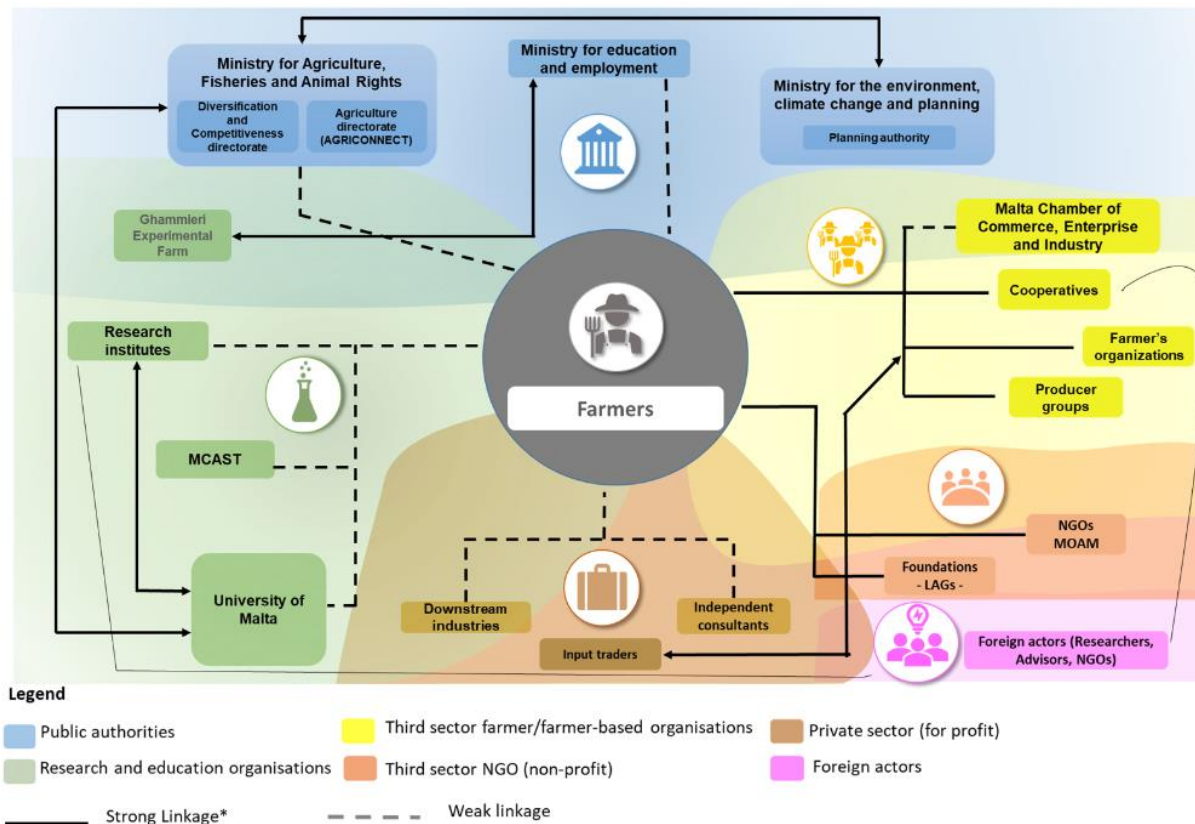


This AKIS is still far from being defined an ecosystem of innovation but it is somehow **resilient**, since it is able to compensate the gap of key local capacities and skills within the **external relations**




Relationships between government bodies and the agricultural community are only defined around the RDP implementation activities. In general, knowledge flows are mainly driven by **traditional methods** of knowledge transfer, while circular and interactive models of knowledge flows are hardly implemented


The AKIS diagram



Characterisation of advisory service provision - actors




Farm advisory services in Malta are provided by few private, mostly **farmers'- based organizations and one governmental body** (AgriConnect), which present different degree of integration and approaches within the local AKIS and a clear distribution of competencies on advisory topics



Two main types of advisory support are required in the Country: generalist 'animators' with broad competence in the areas of Malta's identified development needs; and specialist advisors to offer targeted help to particular sectorial activities.



Over the last two programming periods of EU Funds and in relation to specific matters, **other types of service suppliers have been emerged** on the scene of maltese AKIS. Such a renewed offer goes beyond the provision of traditional services and, includes the provision of a pluralistic advisory service more incline to perform innovation support functions



There are **no advisory infrastructures**, while, a new digital hub will be established with the purpose of collecting farming data and providing tailored advisory services.

Characterisation of advisory service provision

Topics and methods of advisory are clearly defined by the specific policy framework on the farm advisory suppliers

Cross Compliance

*Agri-Environment
Climate Measures
(AECMs)*

*Rural Development
Programmes*

*Advisory Measures on
Directive 2000/60/EC
for the Community
action in the field of
water policy*

*Use of Plant Protection
Products*

*Measures for use of
Integrated Pest
Management*

- ✓ laboratories services (veterinary)
- ✓ basic skill schemes
- ✓ specialized training in key sectors
- ✓ farm visit and short-term management exchange schemes
- ✓ training for trainers / advisors
- ✓ “Rural resource hub” through which provide advice and expertise in different area of rural business
- ✓ innovation partnership
- ✓ marketing research
- ✓ study visits abroad

Summary

- The current AKIS in Malta is characterized by a **little number of actors** with a low level of coordination mostly due to the lack of effective guidance, demand articulation, strategic visioning and operational organization of R&I bodies and flows by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- This AKIS is local but **not fully indigenous**, since it is open to external actors and knowledge flows which ensure its functioning.
- The coming back to a **nationalised model of advisory services** are at the basis of the current state of agricultural services which are **underdeveloped** in terms of numbers, plurality, skills and methods.
- Within private and **farmers'-based advisory organizations**, there seem to be a **certain dynamism**, that can be observed in a wider pluralism of providers and services provision, methods and topics
- **New generations of farmers, researchers and administrators**, have a certain system thinking and fervor in visioning, managing and implementing the rural development policy, along with relevant capacities to unravel and benefit from international relations

Thank you!

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