

i2connect

INTERACTIVE INNOVATION

Deliverable 5.11

Report on the main outcomes of the 1st Regional stakeholders' workshop: Northern Europe

December 2023



Task 5.9

Promote & embed i2connect in the wider AFKIS

Deliverable 5.11

Report on the main outcomes of the 1st Regional stakeholders' workshop: Northern Europe

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This report only reflects the views of the authors.

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Dissemination Level

PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Summary

Project number: 863039

Project title: Connecting advisers to boost interactive innovation in agriculture and forestry

Duration: 5 years

Start date of project: 1/11/2019

Coordinator: Chambers of Agriculture France

Project Coordinator: Sylvain Sturel

Project Manager: Agathe Darret

Communication Officer: Liga Cimermane

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List of acronyms

AFAS - Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Services

AFKIS - Agriculture and Forestry Knowledge and Innovation System

AKIS - Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System

APCA - French Chambers of Agriculture

CAP - Common Agricultural Policy

CEE - Central and Eastern Europe

DG-AGRI - The Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural

EIP-AGRI - European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability"

EUFRAS - European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services Development

FiBL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland

IALB - International Academy of Rural Advisors

MAPAMA - Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment

ÖMKi - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Hungary

SEASN - South Eastern Europe Advisory Service Network

Teagasc - Agriculture and Food Development Authority, Ireland

UHOH - University of Hohenheim, Germany

ZLTO - Southern Agriculture and Horticulture Organization, Netherlands

INTRODUCTION

The i2connect project's overall objective is to empower advisors, as well as their organisations, to engage and support farmers and foresters in interactive innovation processes. To reach this goal, our three specific objectives are:

1. To strengthen the skills, competencies and attitudes of advisors to support interactive innovation, by: identifying and sharing best practices, developing tools and methods, training, and organising peer to peer, learning & networking.
2. To enhance and profile the role of advisors in interactive innovation processes, at different scales: by a better understanding of the AKIS at country level, by identifying providers of advisory services across Europe, by creating an enabling environment within advisory services, by better connecting and embedding advisory services within the AFKIS and by appropriate public policies.
3. To create a social support network and a networking culture among advisors facilitating innovative innovation processes. In particular emphasis will be given to ensure that advisors in Central and Eastern European countries make use of the opportunities being created in the project.

In line with the second objective, the strategic approach in i2connect is networking into the wider AKIS in order to leverage the established networks of advisory services e.g. EUFRAS, SEASN, IALB and FiBL. Therefore, the i2connect has provided updated AKIS inventory building upon and expanding the PRO AKIS project's inventory and set up a user friendly AFAS database, appropriate to set the structural bases for an EU wide, balanced network of innovation advisors.

In order to promote and embed i2connect in the diverse AKIS systems and beyond, a series of international events will be organised. To communicate the first outputs and interact with other partners and professionals, a Midterm conference will be organised in Hungary by ÖMKi, in October 2022.

The 1st Regional Stakeholders' Workshop covering the Northern Europe, has been organised by EUFRAS and AKIS is one of the three regional stakeholders' workshop that will be organised by the end of 2022. The overall aim of Task 5.9 (Promote & embed i2connect in the wider AKIS) is to broadly inform the wider audience about i2connect outputs and to assess e.g. the validity and usefulness of the AKIS inventory, building on positive experiences made in PRO AKIS and Smart-AKIS projects. The organisation

will be provided by SEASN, EUFRAS, IALB and MAPAMA. Four regional stakeholders workshops will be organized in total, by the end of the project.

General information on the 1st Regional workshop

Date, Place	23 rd of March 2022, online (zoom meeting)
Name of project partner organization	EUFRAS
Duration of the workshop	3 hours
*Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of registred participants – 107 with a maximum number reached during the workshop of around 75. - Participants from AKIS strategic bodies and managing authorities; Public and private advisory organisations; Research and education institutions, farmer based organisations, NGOs, Professional associations; European Commission.

* Detailed list of participants is given in Annex 2

<p>Workshop Program</p> <p>13:50 (CET) Technical “Check in”</p> <hr/> <p>14:00 (CET) Welcome and introduction to i2connect <i>Sylvain Sturel, APCA</i></p> <p>14:10 How to better integrate advisors in the AKIS thanks to the new CAP? <i>Inge Van Oost, DG-AGRI</i></p> <p>14:30 The role of AKIS and preliminary results from the AKIS cross-country analysis <i>Andrea Knierim & Sangeun Bae, UHOH</i></p> <p>14:50 Q&A</p> <p>15:00 Presentation and discussion about four AKIS country reports: - <i>Estonia: Hanna Tamsalu, Estonian National Rural Network Support Unit</i></p>

- Ireland: Mark Gibson, Teagasc

Short Break: 05 min

- Latvia: Anita Dzelme, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
- The Netherlands: Peter Paree, ZLTO

16:05 Break-out groups: Discussion on the AKIS country reports presented (identifying communalities and differences, lessons and insight to take, synergies to explore)

16:35 Feedback from the breakout groups in plenary session and discussion

16:50 Summary of main insights and lessons from the presentations and discussions

Andrea Knierim, UHOH

17:00 Closing words, *Anita Dzelme, LRATC & EUFRAS*

***Recording of the workshop is available through YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGKt7sEZlu8&t=2381s>

All presentations from the regional workshop are available on the i2connect website: <https://i2connect-h2020.eu/the-first-regional-akis-stakeholders-workshop-organized-with-a-focus-on-northern-europe-countries/>

Opening

On behalf of EUFRAS, the leading organiser of the 1st Regional Stakeholders' workshop of a series of regional workshops, Līga Cimernane, from EUFRAS and moderator of the workshop, greeted the participants and gave a few technical instructions.

The workshop was opened with a brief introduction about the i2connect project, by Sylvain Sturel, Project coordinator. He presented general and specific objectives of the i2connect project. Since, the general objective of the project is to boost interactive innovation, to support the transition of agriculture and forestry to more sustainable systems in the context of the climate change, environment protection and sufficient income for farmers and foresters, he also gave a definition of the term 'interactive innovation'. He explained the interactive innovation is a "multi-actor" type of innovation, which addresses the challenges faced by local actors, farmers and foresters, by linking farmers and foresters with researchers, private companies, public authorities, while advisors are facilitating this process.

Three specific objectives of the project were highlighted, which are to strengthen the skills of individual advisors, the role of advisors in the wider AKIS and the setting up a European network of innovation advisors.

It was emphasised that managing authorities in advisory services, as well as public policies, relations with educational and research institutions, should create an enabling environment for advisors to support interactive innovation.

In line with the third objective, i.e. the creation of a European wide network of innovation advisors, the project includes 42 partners, including linked third parties of several beneficiaries coming from 21 countries in Europe.

At the end of the presentation, Sylvain Sturel explained the main activities that have been carried out in i2connect project in the last 2 years.



*Figure 1: Opening of the workshop and Introduction to the i2connect project
Sylvain Sturel, APCA*

Workshop sessions

Plenary session

In the plenary sessions two topics were presented: ‘How to better integrate advisors in the AKIS thanks to the new CAP?’, by Inge Van Oost from DG-AGRI and ‘The role of AKIS and preliminary results from the AKIS cross-country analysis’, by Andrea Knierim and Sangeun Bae from UHOH.

‘The role of AKIS and preliminary results from the AKIS cross-country analysis’

During this session, the team from the University of Hohenheim, that is leading the AKIS inventory, represented by Andrea Knierim and Sangeun Bae, gave a short presentation on the preliminary results from a cross-cutting analysis of the 27 AKIS reports. Andrea K. gave a brief introduction to the AKIS concept and the key features of a well-functioning AKIS. This was then followed by a presentation of first results from the cross-cutting analysis of AKIS reports, by Sangeun B. The basis for such an analysis was a uniform and systematic approach in all the reports which sought to provide a:

- schematic representation of AKIS actors and their linkages,
- description of the policy and coordination mechanisms at the national level,
- assessment of the advisory service provision.

As a first feature, it was reported that AKIS governance in most partner countries was centralized, whereas a few countries like Spain Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and Italy had a decentralized AKIS; i.e. where the AKIS governance or part of it, is within the jurisdiction of the regional authorities. Next, the presence and the diversity of AKIS actions were discussed in more detail. For example, in the cross-cutting analysis it was found that public authorities, research and farmer-based organisations are featured prominently in many countries, whereas the presence of the third sector NGOs and commercial/private companies are more varied across the partner countries. It was also reported that in most countries, public advisory organisations and farmer-based organisations played an indispensable role in providing advisory services to farmers. The type or mix of advisory service providers however varied greatly across the countries. In terms of policy and resources supporting AKIS, many were related to the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). In some countries, other national policies and funds were available but in most cases were mainly oriented towards research and innovation or focused only on one AKIS subsystem. In terms of coordination mechanisms, the presenter reported diverse structures in place in partner countries, such as those related to EU policy (e.g. the national network for rural development) and many other national ones (e.g. councils, platforms, working groups, etc.). Finally, a few insights from the survey on advisory service providers in the 27 partner countries were presented.

As a summary, the main highlights from the presentation were as follows:

- AKIS as a concept with very different perspectives – system and network perspectives.
- There is a good resonance of the AKIS concept among the interviewees in the partner countries.
- There is evidence for great institutional diversity of AKIS actors
- There is a growing presence of coordination mechanisms aimed at facilitating collaboration of AKIS actors.
- Characteristic differences among the various categories of advisory service providers in terms of their foci and activities were found.

‘How to better integrate advisors in the AKIS thanks to the new CAP?’

Inge Van Oost's first recalled the definition of Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems and emphasized that it is essential to improve the functioning of AKIS, which are permanent unlike projects, which have a limited duration. Then, she presented the EIP AGRI initiative which relies on both the CAP and Horizon Europe. Concerning Operational Groups (OGs), she deplored the fact that advisors are still poorly involved (only 9% of advisors in OGs) and will make recommendations to ensure they are more

systematically involved in the next programming period. Similarly, the requirements for multi-actor approaches in Horizon 2020 projects should be reinforced. In addition, synergies between CAP and Horizon Europe will be further strengthened. For example, thematic networks funded by Horizon Europe will be required to include OGS funded by the CAP.

Some new Horizon Europe projects - ModernAKIS, AttractISS and EU FarmBook – were mentioned, which specifically aim to improve the functioning of AKIS, to enhance the role of advisors and to improve knowledge flows within AKIS. Other recently submitted project proposals aim to set up European networks of advisors on water or soil management.

Finally, Inge V.O presented the innovation measures in the new CAP. In addition to the OGS already mentioned, the key measures are Innovation Support Services offering brokering and facilitation services, as well as the provision of a Back Office for advisors, including freelance advisors. She insisted again on the value of networks to improve knowledge flows and pointed out that the linkages between science and practice should be significantly improved.

Presentation and discussion about four AKIS country reports

Four countries presented their AKIS country reports: Estonia, Ireland, Latvia and The Netherlands.

Estonia

For Estonia, Hanna Tamsalu, from the Estonian National Rural Network Support unit presented a short overview of the Estonian AKIS, as well as advisory services. The main characteristics of Estonian AKIS were pointed out, which are:

- Estonian AKIS benefits from the small size of the country.
- Key persons in different institutions know each other well and cooperate in different forms and on various topics.
- Several measures support cooperation between the actors. Training and farm advisory services are provided by publicly supported advisors and a number of independent organisations.
- No central hub exists for overall coordination innovation and knowledge exchange in agricultural sector and rural activities.

Hanna T. presented the AKIS actors in agriculture, forestry and fisheries/aquaculture and the degree of cooperation between them, as well as policy programs and coordination structures supporting the AKIS. When it comes to knowledge transfer, Estonia has had small projects in previous times, but in the future, it is aiming for long-term knowledge transfer programmes.

As a conclusion, she shared the opinion that the previous assessment of the Estonian AKIS as a weak one is not correct and explained that Estonia has several strong

information providers, close contacts and, as a small country has “eyes on the EU” and a lot to learn from others.

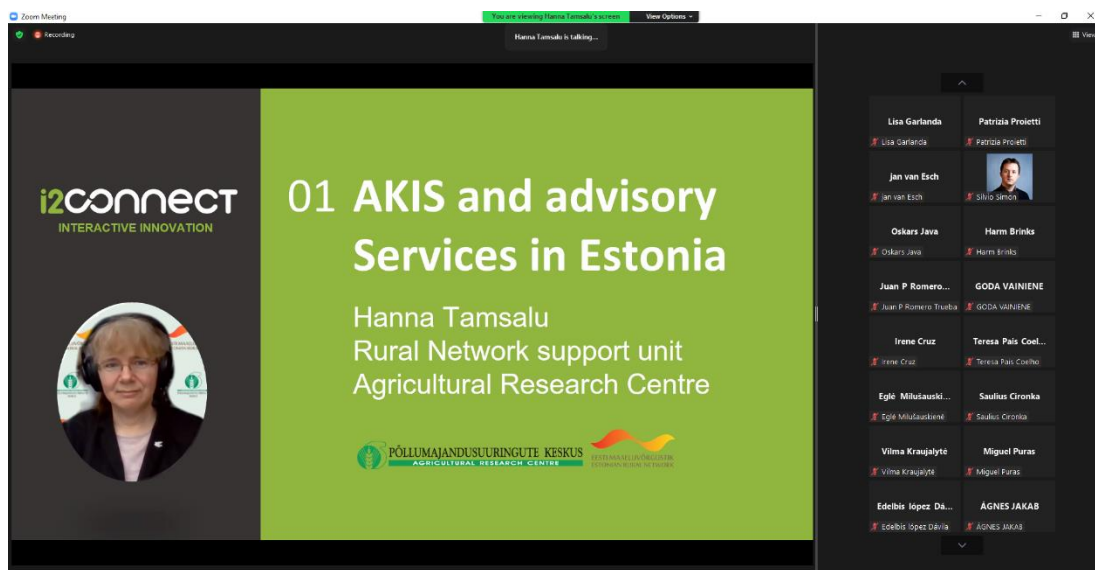


Figure 2. Presentation on AKIS in Estonia, Hanna Tamsalu

Ireland

The AKIS in Ireland was presented by Mark Gibson Programme Manager of Teagasc ConnectEd. After elaborating on the main characteristics of Ireland’s agriculture, Mr. Gibson highlighted attention to climate change and protection of the environment, in relation to agriculture and food production. Ireland has developed a Food Vision 2030 strategy, which brings together all of the different ecosystem actors stakeholders and has various missions and regular actions that all of the government agencies have to implement within their plans.

At the beginning, the presenter highlighted the previous assessment of the previous assessment of the Irish AKIS as strong and integrated (ProAKIS), which in his opinion still holds true for today.

Ireland's AKIS

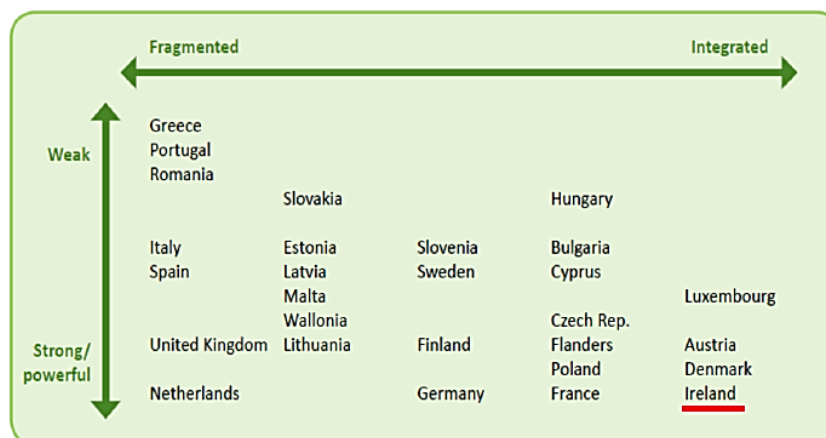


Figure 3. Overview of the selected EU countries AKIS systems (ProAKIS Report, 2015)

Regarding farm advisory services in Ireland, Irish farmers have a choice to engage with advisors from the public, private or industry sector. Mark G. emphasised that a substantial component of the Irish AKIS lies within is Teagasc, which conducts activities in research, advisory and education, and has seven agricultural colleges and 52 local advisory offices across the country. Teagasc has 12 different advisory services offices, which are classed around the 12 different regional advisory areas.

A comprehensive review of several topics regarding advisory services were given, such as funding public advisory services, additional services provided by private and industry advisors, advisors' professional trainings and the continuous professional development of advisors and knowledge transfer to farmers.

At the end of the presentation, the Irish strategies for building a stronger AKIS were given, such as:

- developing a shared vision for agri food sector,
- attracting the best and brightest people into the AKIS,
- engaging with wider farming population through advisory service,
- developing digital transformation roadmap infrastructure, people, education
- developing a Central Knowledge Hub to increase the speed and effectiveness in technologies to end users.



Figure 4. Presentation on AKIS in Ireland, Mark Gibson, Teagasc

Latvia

The AKIS in Latvia was presented by Anita Dzelme, from the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre. After giving a brief information and data about Latvian agriculture, hunting, forestry and fisheries sectors, Anita D. presented the main AKIS actors and the form and content of support provided by different stakeholders. The AKIS actors in Latvia are divided into public and private sector. The main actor in the public (governmental) sector is the Ministry of Agriculture, which includes also educational and research organizations, paying and controlling agencies, public shareholders in capital organisations (such as Latvian State Forests and Latvian Advisory and Training Center. Other actors involved in the public part of AKIS are the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvian University of Agriculture, local governments and ALTUM (National finance institution that supports entrepreneurs, farmers and individuals). It is important for the AKIS that local governments, monitored by the Ministry of Agriculture, cooperate closely with farmers, forest owners and rural development actors. It was pointed out that the AKIS in Latvia can be described as decentralized, regardless of the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture covers a big part of the market. Furthermore, there is an increasing number of public, private and third sector organizations which provide direct or indirect advice. Anita D. regretted that there is no coordination between organizations providing the advice and there is no common certification or a similar system which could indicate the most suitable advisors.

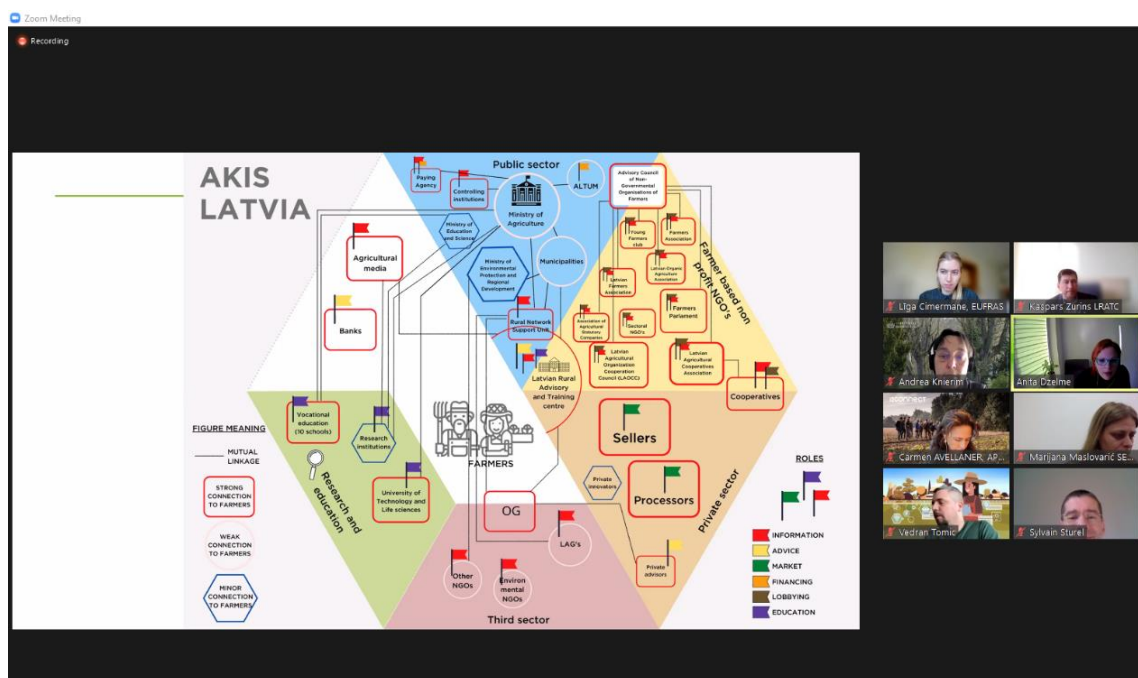


Figure 5. Presentation on AKIS in Latvia, Anita Dzelme, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre

The major AKIS actor is the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Center, which has a public and commercial part and consists of 26 regional offices and 9 forest advisory services. It is interesting that it is 99% owned by the Ministry of Agriculture and 1% by the farmers’ federation, which indicates strong role of farmers’ organisations in the AKIS. Private advisory service in Latvia consists of organisations such as freelance advisors, sellers of the inputs, processors, private innovators, etc. Very important and strong actors in advisory sector are farmers’ organizations – associations, cooperatives, which do not provide advice directly, but act as information exchange point for its members, organise seminars and trainings for farmers, thus enabling knowledge exchange.

Netherlands

The AKIS in Netherlands was presented by Peter Pree, from ZLTO. He highlighted the strong focus that the Dutch agriculture has towards export, although mainly to European countries. In order to change such an orientation, other parts of the society need to get involved. As he said, AKIS in Netherlands is strong, highly innovative and technologically advanced, but fragmented, due to its commercial focus. Many organizations can give advice to the farmers, but they are really scattered in their advisory work. Accountants in Netherlands have a strong role in supporting farmers since they need bookkeeping. Veterinarians are important and the commercial input providers are also the most frequent contacts of the farmers.

Advisors in Netherlands are split into sales-driven advisors and independent advisors for the transition to a circular agricultural system the government wants to secure the position of independent advisors through a voucher system. Peter P. pointed out that

introducing vouchers (1 500 € per farmer) made a turning point from commercial advice and projects to public responsibility, which is crucial for the transition to a circular agricultural system. Dutch government supplies subsidies on several themes among which education, projects, advice, and climate.

This public-funded advisory system also relies on a central registry of advisors, where an advisor can be chosen based on specialisation and field of work.

As a conclusion, Peter P., pointed out that “every innovation starts at the science and then advisors come and they give it to the farmers. But what we think a set of, we think farmers are the solution, because they are in the middle of practice and they combine and power financing opportunities and innovation, so they bring it all together for climate safety, rural development, etc.”

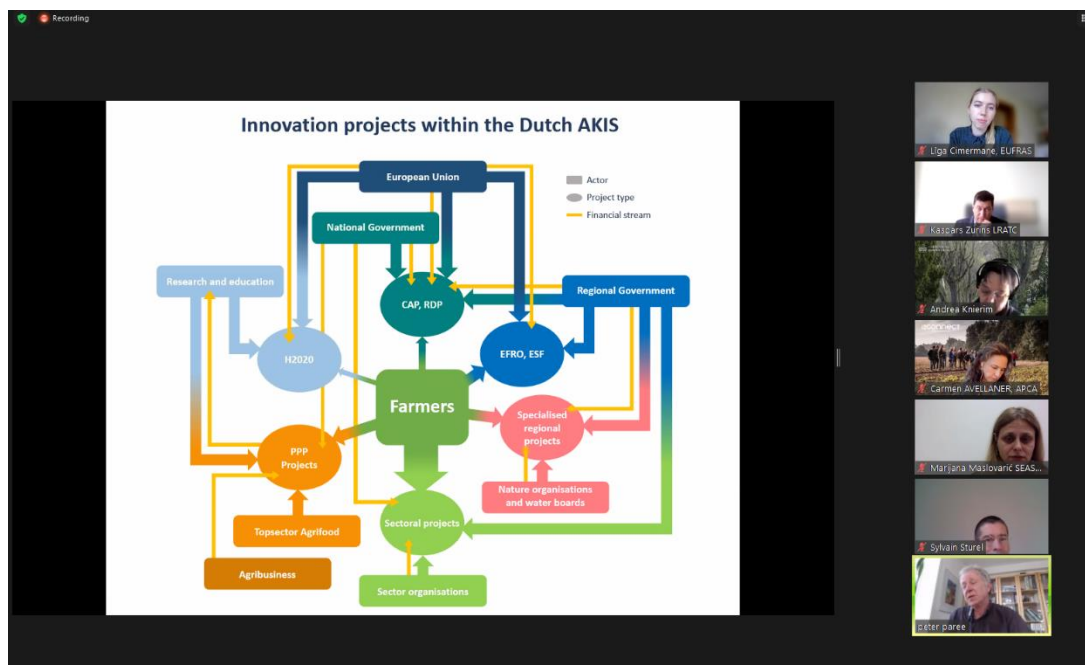


Figure 6. Presentation on AKIS in Netherlands, Peter Patee, ZLTO

Break-out groups: Discussion on the AKIS country reports presented

After the presentation of the four country AKIS systems – Estonia, Ireland, Latvia and Netherlands, further discussion was carried out in two break-out groups. The topics for discussion in the groups were:

1. *What are the main strengths and weaknesses/challenges of the AKIS in country X and country Y*
 - 1.1. *What are the common challenges and strengths between country X and country Y*

2. *What insights can country X take from country Y and vice versa for improving their AKIS (also for other countries)*
3. *What opportunities can be exploited for further exchange between Country X and Y to strengthen their individual AKISs?*
4. *How can i2Connect contribute to AKIS and vice versa*

Break-out group 1: Discussion on the AKIS country reports presented identifying communalities and differences, lessons and insight to take, synergies to explore – Estonia and Netherlands

Moderator: Marijana Maslovarić, SEASN/IPN Note taker: Sanguen Bae, UHOH

Main speakers:

Authors / presenters of AKIS reports:

Estonia: Hanna Tamsalu, Estonian National Rural Network Support Unit

Netherlands: Peter Parea, ZLTO

AKIS stakeholders from 2 countries and other countries:

- Andrea Knierim, UHOH, Germany
- Annika Harlio, Association of ProAgria Centres, Programme Manager, Finland,
- Dagmara Bezáková, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
- Janusz Dabrowski, AKIS Project coordinator, Poland
- Jan Van Esch, Ministry of agriculture Nature and Food Quality, senior policy maker, Netherlands
- Kaspars Zurins, LRATC, Latvia
 - Edelbis López Dávila, UGent, Belgium
 - Denitsa, Dimitrova, NAAS expert, Bulgaria

Main highlights:

- The main strengths of Estonian AKIS:
 - ✓ Flexibility and keen interest of the researchers to organise events and to share knowledge to farmers
 - ✓ Many events and activities in knowledge transfer
 - ✓ Initiative to bring agricultural knowledge and informations together and build a knowledge reservoir at the national level
- The main strengths of Dutch AKIS:

- ✓ High specialisation and level of education (both farmers and advisors)
- ✓ Practice oriented nature of the universities. Institutes have good linkages to the agricultural network
- ✓ Research funding is through public-private budget (good representation of diverse interest)
- ✓ Current development of knowledge reservoirs

- The main weaknesses of Estonian AKIS:
 - ✗ Very high dependence on public funding and on project funding
 - ✗ Frequent structural changes and instability
 - ✗ Many events and activities are identified as strengths, but, it is rather difficult to have an overview of what is happening where - low level of connection and organised information sharing

- The main weaknesses of Dutch AKIS:
 - ✗ Many organisations active in parallel – there could be better information exchange between organisations

In both Netherlands and Estonian AKIS, aging of advisors was identified as a weakness or a thread. It was concluded that there is a need for more active involvement of these experienced advisors and joint action of young and old (need for a mix of the wise and active).

Estonian AKIS is partly built on the basis of the Dutch AKIS and will use experience from foundation of the knowledge reservoir of Netherlands.

An interesting finding during the discussion was that researchers in Estonia conduct applied research, initiated by farmers, i.e. in line with farmers' needs. However, their involvement in such activities is not regulated, i.e. they are not paid by the universities or research institutions, but either through direct payment by farmers or their engagement is pro bono.

It was concluded that dairy farming is a common denominator in all 4 countries, therefore, there is much to be learnt from each other.

Break-out group 2: Discussion on the AKIS country reports presented identifying communalities and differences, lessons and insight to take, synergies to explore – Ireland and Latvia

Moderator: Sladjan Stanković – SEASN/IPN

Note taker: Vedran Tomić – SEASN / IPN

Main speakers:

Authors / presenters of AKIS reports

Latvia: Anita Dzelme, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre

Ireland: Mark Gibson, Teagasc

AKIS stakeholders from Ireland, Latvia and other countries

- Tom Kelly, Teagasc
- Andrea Knierim, UHOH
- Inge Van Oost, DG-AGRI
- Participants from Croatia, Slovenia

Main highlights:

- The strengths of both AKIS systems presented are closely related to strong organization and connection of different stakeholders. Also, special challenge (Mark Gibson) is due to diverse advisory actors, i.e. competition among public and private advisors. One of the tasks is to develop possibilities to reach diverse needs of clients. Also, a long tradition in advisory work (Tom Kelly) is quite important element of strong and well established AKIS.
- Challenges (rather than threads – Andrea Knierim) are related to promotion of wider AKIS framework, especially focusing on connecting Researchers and Farmers.
- It would be good if researchers were motivated to do applicative and transferable research projects (Inge van Oost), instead focusing on publishing research papers, as the only measure of their work.
- A voucher system has been mentioned as a one of opportunities to improve advisory work delivery.
- Training of advisors is essential – still there are doubts on need for accreditation of advisors.

Summary of main insights and lessons

Andrea Knierim made some general comments on the presentations and discussions:

- The AKIS concept provides a powerful common vocabulary across EU diversity: AKIS serves as an important entry point to identify qualities and assess strengths and weaknesses of knowledge and innovation infrastructures, processes and functions in a comparative way. That is, it provides us with a common vocabulary to compare events, processes, structures in the various countries.
- Take perspectives and discuss them: The AKIS assessments given by the various reports are, to large extents, formulated with a particular professional perspective, e.g. shaped by one's organisational background. The assessments provided are thus situational 'realities' and sound starting points to stimulate discussions and create more complex, composed pictures.
- There is an urgent need for introducing applied research into research institutions, which would improve knowledge transfer between science and practice, i.e. researchers and advisors and farmers

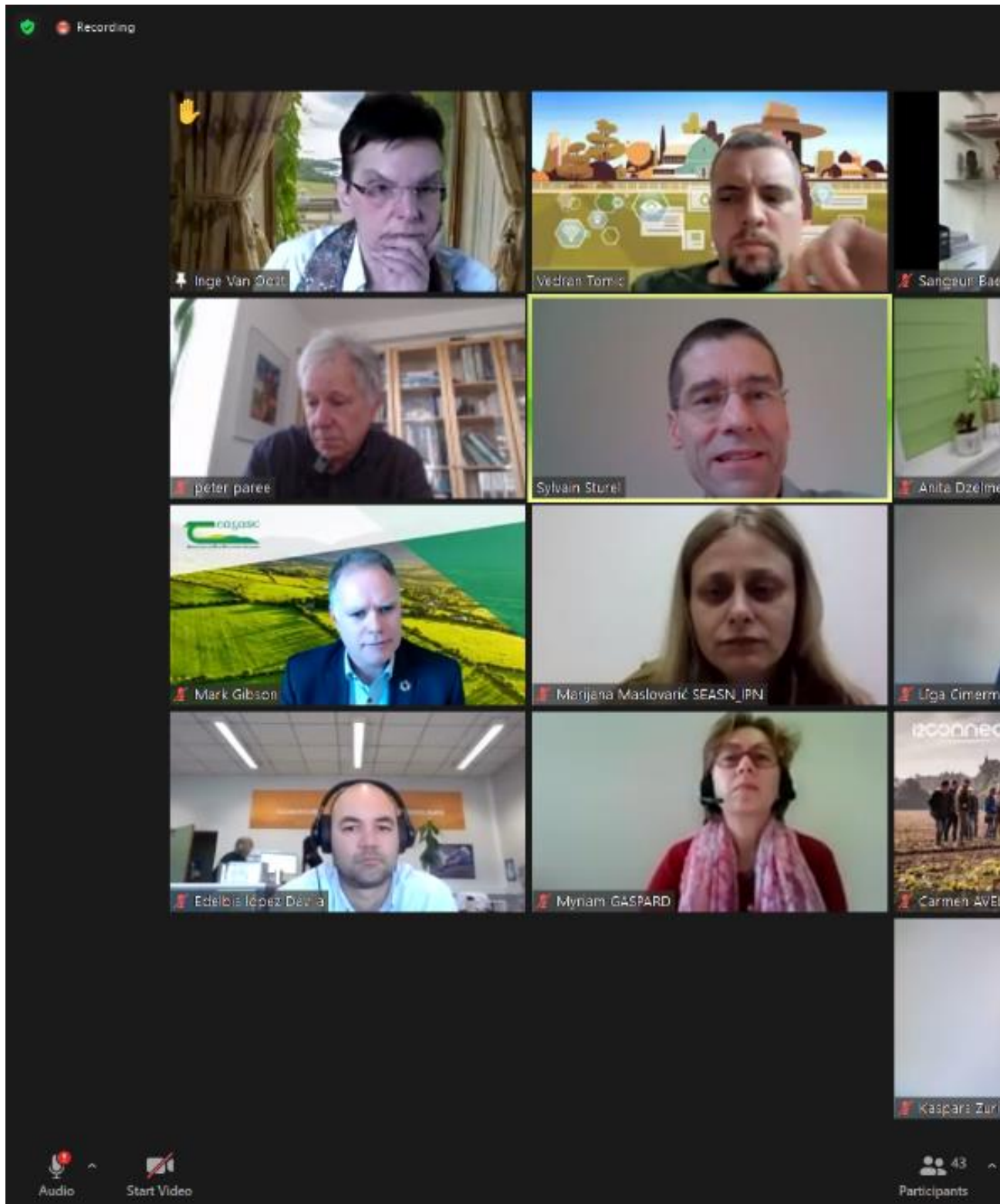


Figure 7: Group picture of participants of the 1st Regional Stakeholders Workshop: Northern Europe

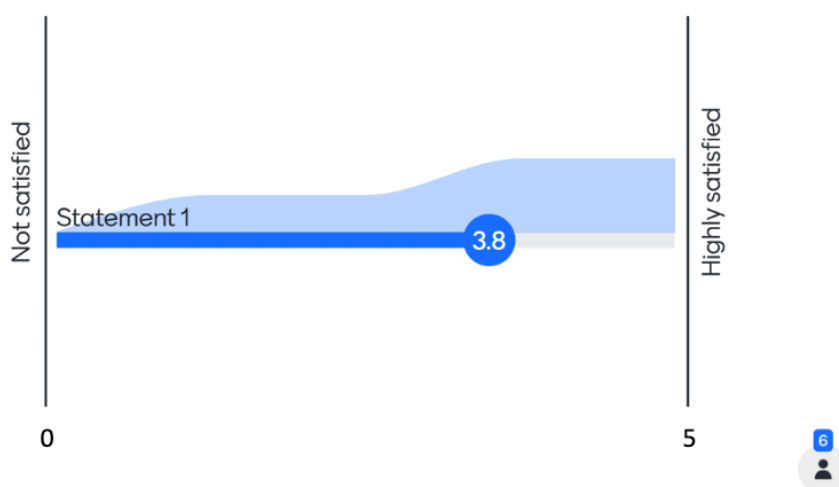
Closing words

Anita Dzelme, Vice-president of EUFRAS, closed the workshop. She said that farm and forestry advisors are already playing an important role in the AKIS in Northern Europe. However, their role needs to be strengthened, to support the transition to more sustainable farm and forestry systems. In particular, advisors should support more actively knowledge flows between AKIS actors, interactive innovation processes and also the CAP implementation. The i2connect project contributes precisely to this, with the support of the European networks EUFRAS, IALB and SEASN.

Evaluation results

At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to provide a short evaluation of the workshop event. Unfortunately, only 6 participated as the workshop was already late into the day. A summary of their evaluation can be found below:

Overall, how would you rate today's workshop?



Main insights taken by participants from the Workshop (Total respondents: 4)

- Strength and integration of AKIS components are equally important. Connection between researchers / research institutions and farmers should be stronger.
- Applied research driven by farmers and farmer organizations is important.
- Additional metrics are required to reflect research in knowledge exchange
- Much easier when there is a tradition of advisory services

- Advisors could support the innovation processes
- Possibilities of AKIS functions from other countries
- How good training of advisors can be organized (Ireland)
- Use opportunities to set up AKIS system who are diverse, fast and effective.

Feedback from participants on further points for improvement in the 21 organisations of such an event

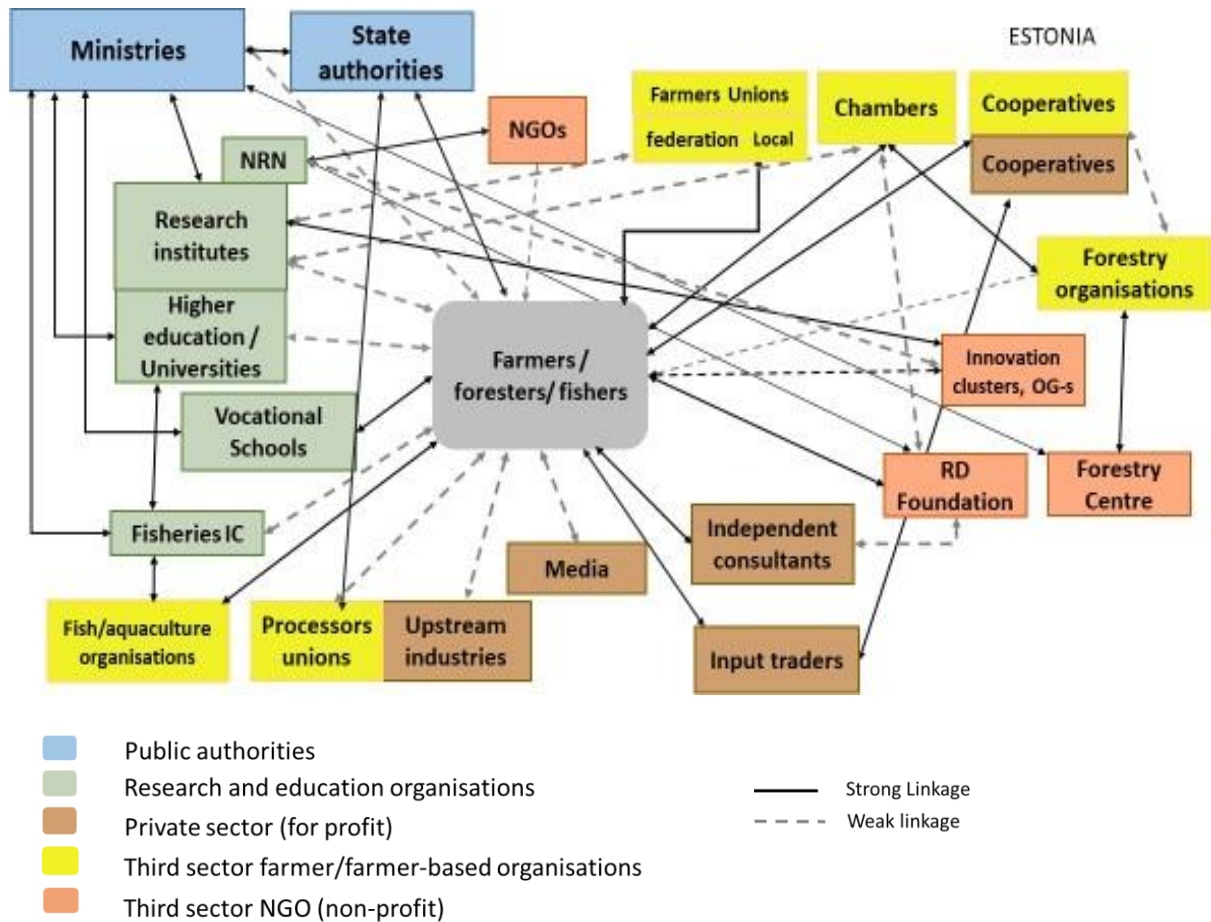
- Duration of such a workshop should be longer. Plan an hour longer than you predicted it to last. Congratulations!
- Perhaps presentations could be circulated in advance to allow reflection and enrich the conversations
- It was by far the best workshop on AKIS that I participated (this one is No.6 for me)

CONCLUSION

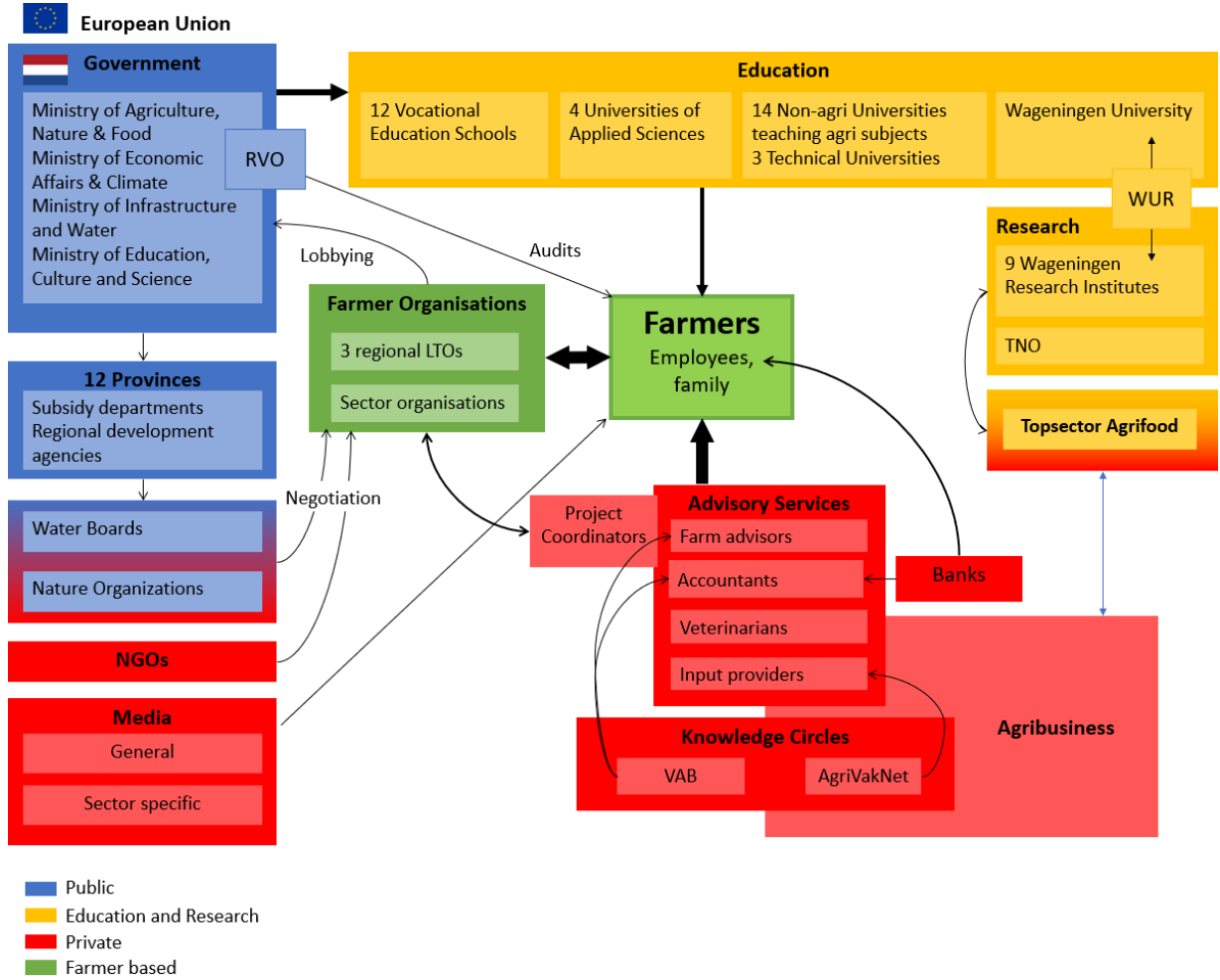
Based on the experience of creation, organizing and conducting the 1st Regional stakeholder workshop, it can be concluded such events are highly beneficial for genuinely getting to know the AKIS stakeholders in the region, for examining various AKIS models, and laying the groundwork for future collaboration, especially in terms of support to the interactive innovation process. However, the question remains as to what should come next. Perhaps organising focus groups with representatives from various AKIS systems would be a good idea. Regarding the workshop format as a method, it can be said that this model is very well anticipated, but to make it highly effective, based on the first experience, significantly more time needs to be allotted for discussing the AKIS country reports between its actors and creators, since it is the enables deeper connection and understanding of various AKISes and their possible interconnections in the interactive innovation. This regional session brought together a highly broad group of AKISes, provided a chance to analyse the AKIS country reports, and, hopefully, served as a catalyst for further communication. It can be concluded that the i2connect project's objective of fostering connection and communication amongst the AKIS stakeholders was achieved by this event.

Annex 1

Estonian AKIS



The Dutch AKIS



The Irish AKIS

The IE-AKIS in summary

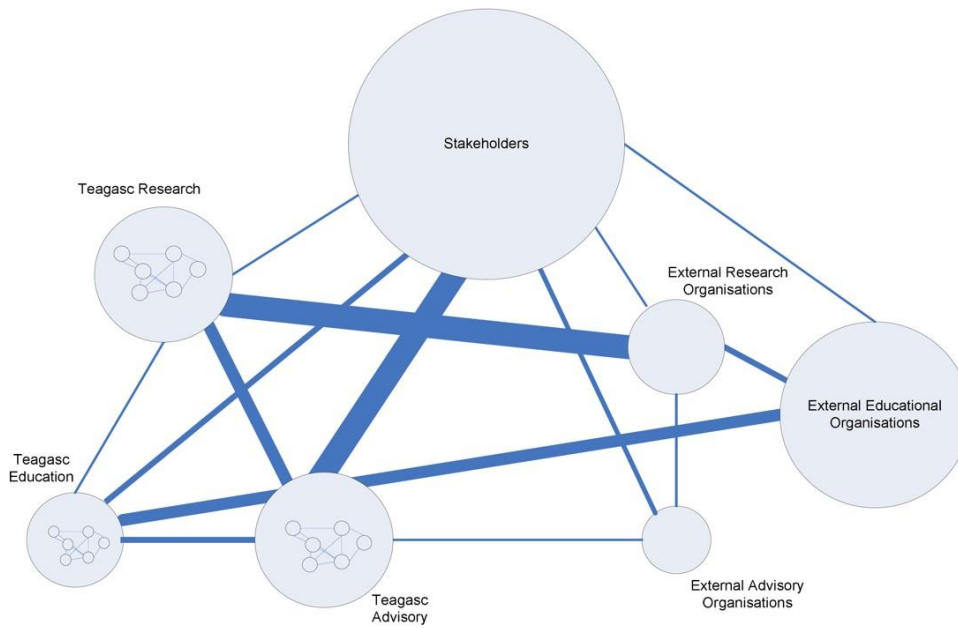
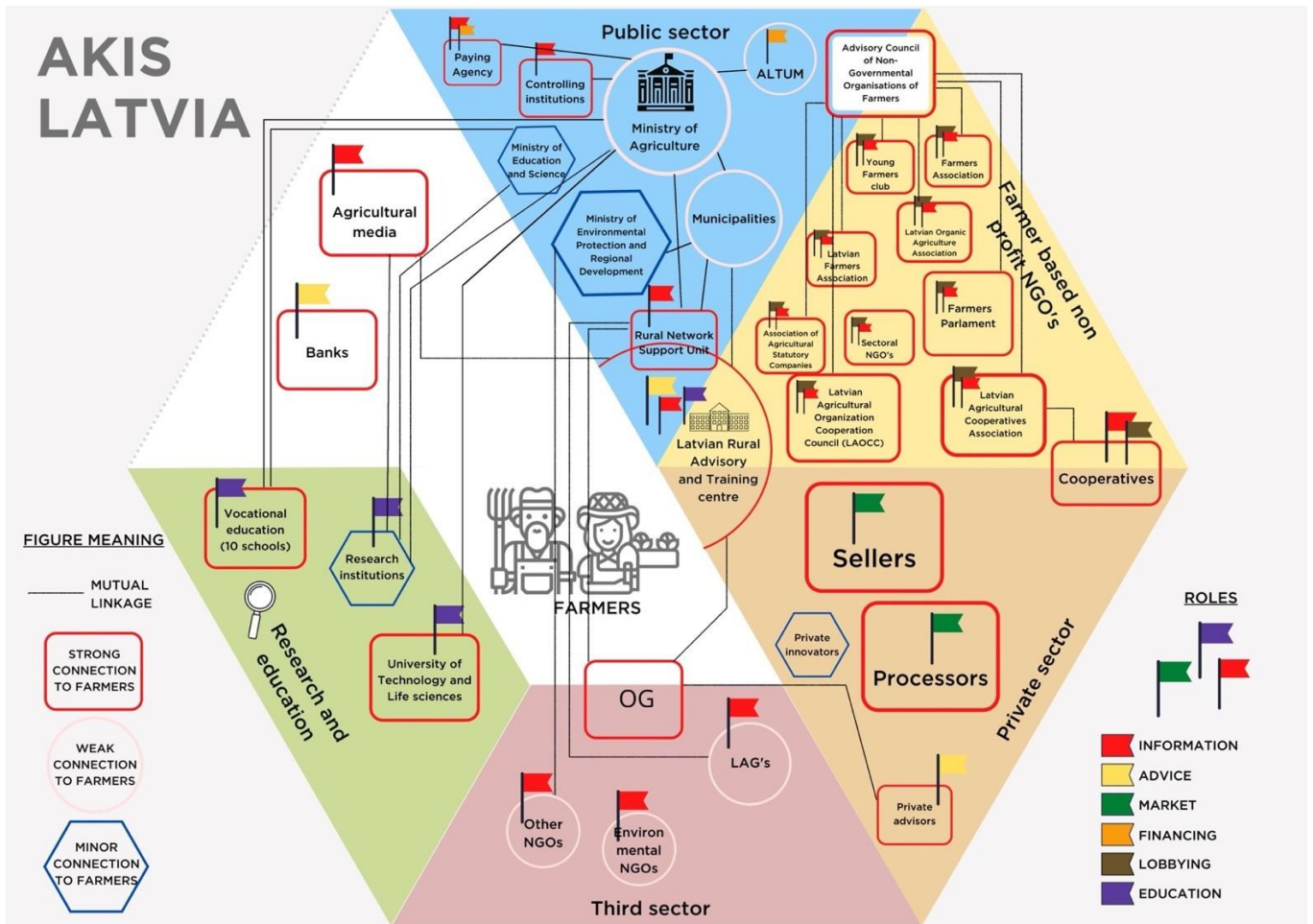


FIGURE 1 IMPRESSIONISTIC VIEW OF THE LINKAGES BETWEEN THE IRISH AKIS
(Boyle, G., 2012)

The Latvian AKIS



Annex 2

List of registered participants

	First Name, Last Name, Email, Registration Time, Approval Status, Country/Region, Organization, Job Title , Questions & Comments, Country/Region Name
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