



# COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Post-2020

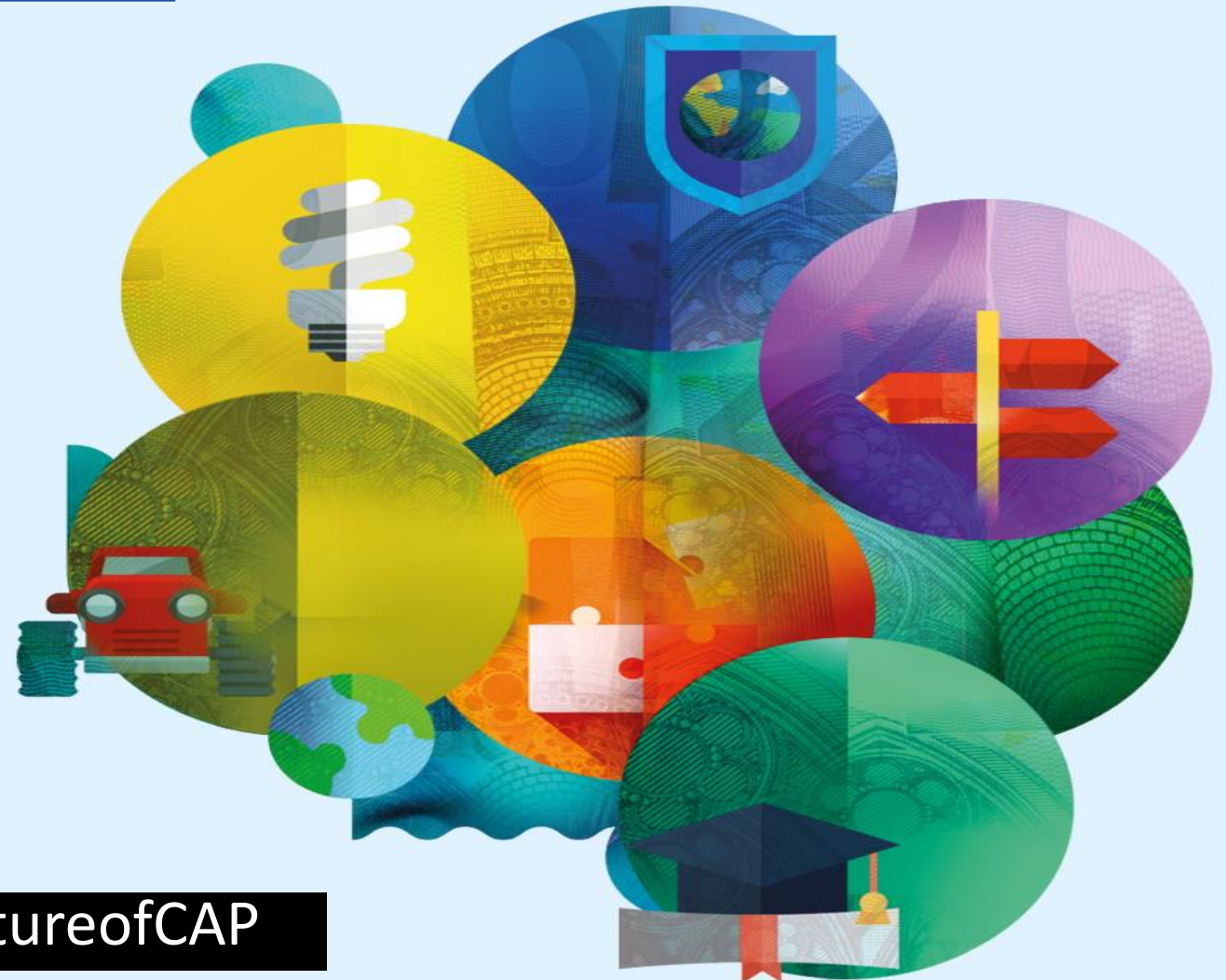
*NRNs/CAP Networks  
innovation support vs.  
innovation networking*

Heereveen in NL – NRN meeting

20 September 2022

Inge Van Oost - DG AGRI

Unit D1 – CAP Networks



#FutureofCAP

**From EIP-AGRI 2014-2020  
to AKIS Strategic Plans post 2020 &  
Green Deal relevance:  
We needed continuation + change....**



# 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)**

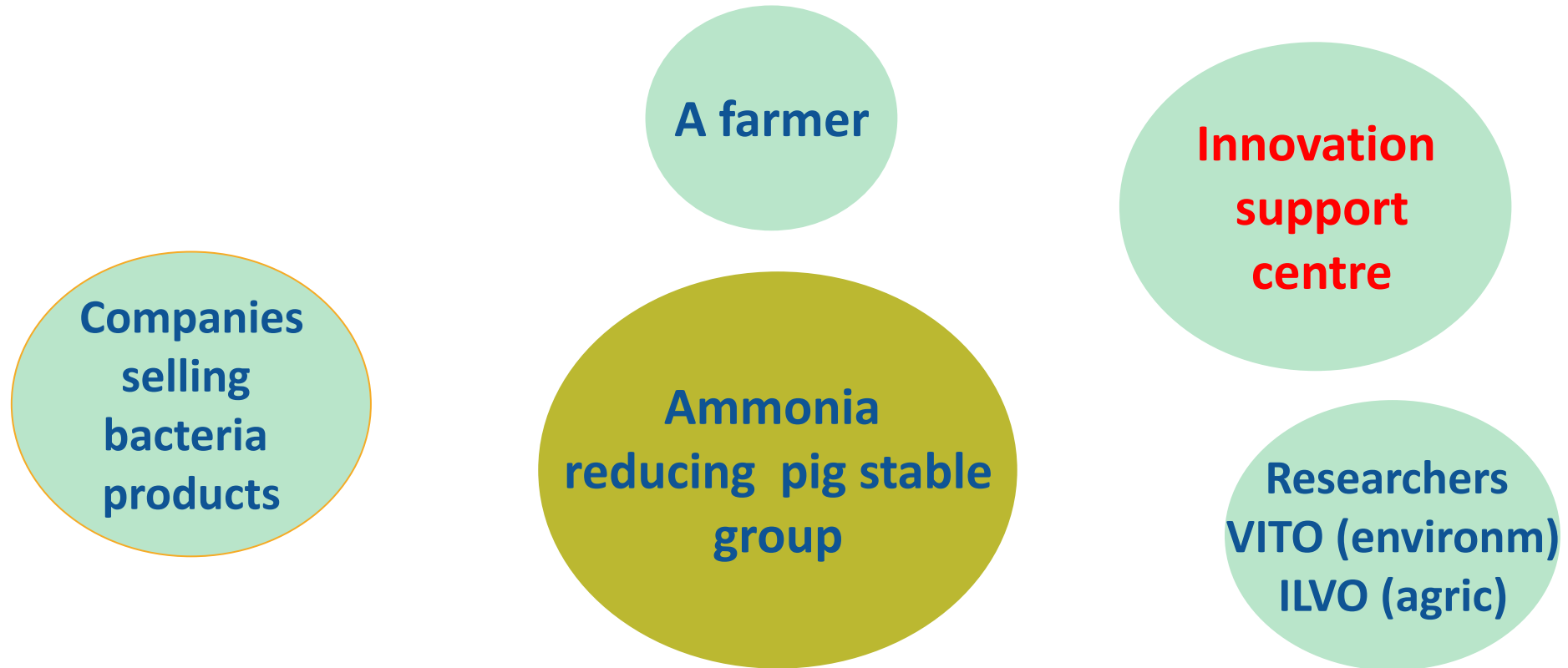
# A new addition to complete the innovation ecosystem in the new CAP: an obligation for all MS to organize dedicated **innovation support services**

- Aim? = **to capture individual bottom-up ideas from the grass-roots level** (to solve problems as well as to provide opportunities)
- Why? to help develop those individual entrepreneurial ideas and to get bottom-up EIP Operational Group innovation projects **ready to start.**
- How? by acting as a go-between: helping single actors which might have difficulties in finding adequate partners which are relevant to help the project succeed. And by fine-tuning the project proposal

# A new addition to complete the innovation ecosystem in the new CAP: an obligation for all MS to organize dedicated **innovation support services**

- Also by **facilitating** the project during its **implementation**
- Who? A **close connection with and understanding of agriculture and rural areas is important** because EIP OGs now cover all 9 CAP objectives.
- What can help too? A **cross-cutting approach** beyond existing sectors, regions, initiatives and institutes may bring added value
- Different approaches may be useful e.g. vouchers for easier use and reduction of administrative burden

# Example of an Innovation Support Service: (one to one innovation brokering)

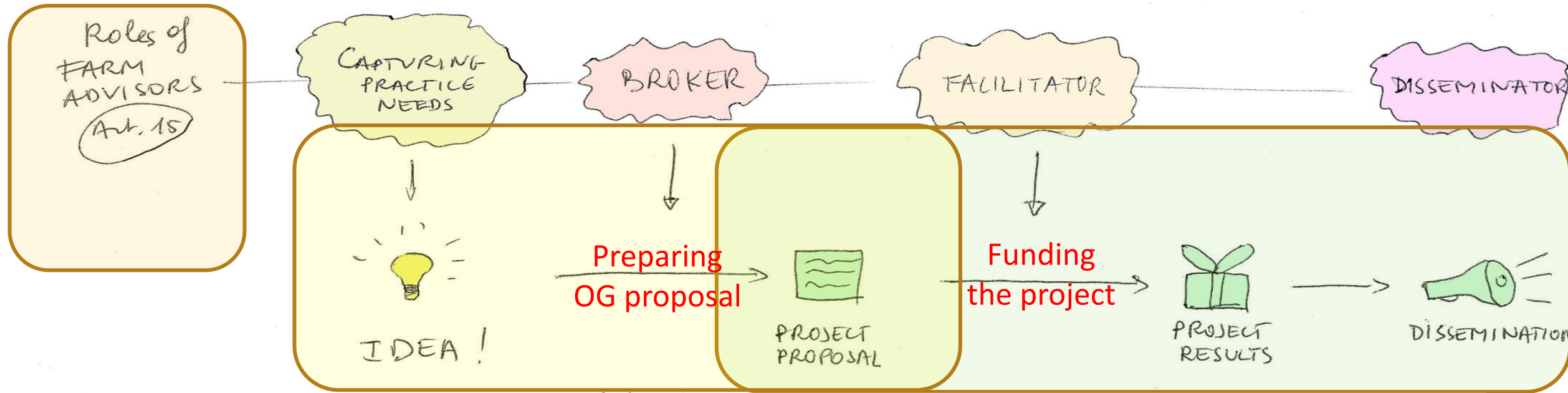


*Project objective: develop a pig stable reducing ammonia emissions by 50 % in a more cost-efficient way than existing stable systems (idea from a farmer, brokered by the Innovation Support Centre)*

# Legal basis for the obligation to provide **innovation support services** starting by capturing individual grassroots innovative ideas:

- ✓ *Art 15(4)(e): Advisors must be ... able to **provide innovation support**, in particular for preparing and implementing Operational Group projects of the EIP AGRI*
- ✓ *Recital 50: ...Advice should also be available on ...innovation support for preparing and implementing emerging EIP operational group projects, **whilst capturing and making use of grassroots innovative ideas***

# New roles for farm advisors in interactive projects, e.g. EIP OGS



Farm advisors/innovation support services' play an important role in interactive innovation processes:

- **Capture** practice needs
- **Broker** to set up interactive innovation projects
- **Facilitate** interactive innovation projects
- **Disseminate** newly generated knowledge
- **Bridge** between CAP and Horizon programmes as innovation support service



## **Delivering innovation support service is:**

1. Discovering individual grassroots innovative ideas,
2. Refining them,
3. Connecting relevant partners,
4. Preparing a project proposal on which all actors want to engage and agree that it will bring what they expect (find win-win)
5. Drafting a cooperation agreement

**If through the innovation support service a good innovation project plan is born, it will have a better chance of passing a selection process for innovation projects.**

Usual for OGs: lump sums of 5000-8000 Euro depending how big the group

# Skills for **innovation support services**

1. Be able to **listen** to understand exactly the problem/opportunity and the context
2. Be capable to **analyse** the problem/opportunity: how can it be tackled in the best possible way (costs, actors, activities to be planned?)
3. Have a good **network to find** people and information (use knowledge hubs)
4. Have **intermediating skills** to seek compromises where needed
5. Be **quality orientated**: plans made have to work out eventually, responsibilities to be taken, don't create audit problems
6. Where useful, **think out of the box** and do not defend your own position/research

# The innovation brokering process: acting as a mediator

**A plan & team for an  
innovation project**



Searching for possible support program



Searching for adequate partners



**Finding the idea** & refine it

*Matchmaking, including the  
marriage contract*

## A new addition to complete the innovation ecosystem in the new CAP: an obligation for all MS to organize dedicated **innovation support services (ISS)**

- **Do not underestimate the efforts and budget** needed for ISS
- Remember: **Obligatory training for advisors: can include** methodology on innovation support, help from Horizon I2CONNECT project
- **We would like to see synergies** between broader “**innovation networking**” by the **CAP networks/NRNs** (as already is happening in this period, more group work actions to incentivize innovation, support calls, bring together Ogs etc) and “**innovation support services**” (as in some MS already funded in this period, activities more oriented to the individual and its emerging OG, mostly by advisors)

The **CAP networks** may not work on the individual idea and OG project directly, but also play a key role for helping innovation support services to get connected through their **innovation networking**

*(Art.114 modernisation, section 8 in CSP + dedicated interventions)*

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**

**Art 126(4)(e): Cap networks' obligations have a task to interconnect innovation support services + provide for more general (group event type of) **innovation networking, e.g.****

- ✓ (c) creation of platforms, fora and events to **facilitate exchanges of experience** between stakeholders and peer-to-peer learning, including where relevant exchanges with networks in third countries => **LINK WITH ADVISORS AND INNOVATION SUPPORT SERVICES**
- ✓ (e) **support for cooperation projects between EIP operational groups** referred to in Article 127(3) of this Regulation,.., including transnational cooperation,...

# Broader “innovation networking” vs. “innovation support services”:

**synergies needed !** <http://www.innovatiesteunpunt.be/en/projects/agrispin-innovation-brokership>

1. **Brokering** function: **OBLIGATORY** « innovation support service »

2. **Facilitation** of projects as an intermediate between partners:

**OBLIGATORY** « innovation support service »

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1. Innovation **promotion** and **awareness** raising

2. Coaching farmers towards innovation (individual advice)

3. **Brainstorming** events and thematical animation

4. Biannual **innovation prize**: 150 candidates, 10 final prizes, one winner - and a lot of communication in the farm journals promotes innovation

5. **Dissemination** of innovative results

6. Connect with SMEs and other innovation services and funding bodies

*(see example of innovation project "Distrikempen" **video** from **Agrispin H2020 project**)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbiAGzlf3IA> *logistic innovation short supply chain*

So far, many MS have often worked topdown in the choice of themes for OG calls. Now this will be complemented with grassroots entrepreneurial innovative ideas



I'll be happy to give you innovative thinking.  
What are the guidelines?





“The value of an idea lies in the using of it.”

Thomas Alva Edison  
(inventor of the light bulb)

**AKIS Knowledge flows: Horizon Europe Cluster 6**  
**9 bio € for 7 years, half are MAA projects**  
**with synergies with EIP OG innovation projects**



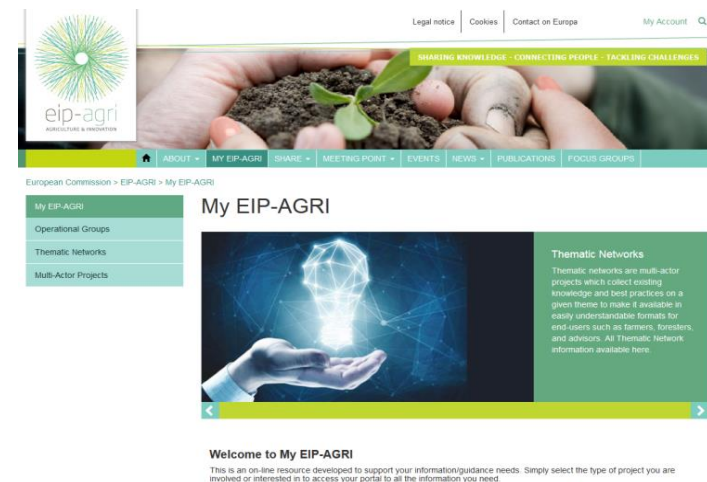
# Horizon Europe project on exchange of experiences for innovation support services

- ✓ **ATTRACTISS** project (2022-2027) helps the building of **innovation support services** across the EU and shares the knowledge on how to provide innovation support, coordinated by:
- ✓ Marleen Gysen [marleen.gysen@boerenbond.be](mailto:marleen.gysen@boerenbond.be)
- ✓ Patrizia Proietti (CREA-PB) [patrizia.proietti@crea.gov.it](mailto:patrizia.proietti@crea.gov.it)



# AKIS & EIP-AGRI – prepare an EU knowledge reservoir for practice which will help the advisors' back-offices for innovation support and MS learn from each other on AKIS approaches for encouraging innovation

- ✓ **FARMBOOK project (2022-2029):** MS plan or already have **knowledge databases**, we need to **ensure they become interoperable with the EU reservoir**, to save costs and avoid duplication through cooperation!
- ✓ Pieter Spanoghe [Pieter.Spanoghe@UGent.be](mailto:Pieter.Spanoghe@UGent.be), coordinator
- ✓ [Inge.De.Bo@UGent.be](mailto:Inge.De.Bo@UGent.be)
- ✓ **MODERNAKIS project (2022-2029):** helps MS learn from each other how to build a **well-functioning AKIS** and what are good AKIS interventions (exchanging experiences and train new actors)
- ✓ Miron Elena-Teodora (LK Österreich) [e.miron@lk-oe.at](mailto:e.miron@lk-oe.at), coordinator
- ✓ Herzog Florian (LK Österreich) [f.herzog@lk-oe.at](mailto:f.herzog@lk-oe.at)



# Info: EIP Seminar on AKIS strategies in CAP Strategic Plans

16-18 September 2020 (the full seminar was recorded and can be seen again)

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

- Inspiration from an experienced **innovation support service**, followed by a **panel discussion on AKIS policy**.
- Opening speeches from **Commissioner Polish Ministers of Agr.**, one very inspiring and **Rural Inspiration Award OG** + an **overview on the basic elements of AKIS + Q&A**.
- Section on advice: intro + 3 diverse examples of **advisory services**
- Section on role of the **national CAP network for innovation**, again with good examples
- **Online discussions** which happened in the weeks before the seminar (on advisory services, on CAP networks and on the CAP plans), summarised by **Mark Gibson**
- **10 good examples of nice AKIS interventions**
- **4 Member States presenting their CAP plans**, already full of content
- after the breakout sessions, **our Director General Burtscher** closed with a very nice **summary on the interactive discussions** and expresses how he sees the future & AKIS.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/preparing-cap-strategic-plans-role-innovation>

# Building and linking AKISs across the EU

*Speed up creativity and  
practice application*

*Better connectivity and  
quicker circulation of  
information*

# Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation 2.0



**Thanks for your attention**

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# Questions?





# THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES



# EURAKNOS & EUREKA have prepared the 'FarmBook', an EU wide knowledge reservoir for practice



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January 12, 2018

By Joseph Stevens, Katherine Youth and Forest advisment

Smart-Akis

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