



RECOMMENDATIONS

11th Session of Working Group 1: Agriculture and Rural Development

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE

A system for knowledge transmission and innovation in agriculture (AKIS)

5 March 2024

1. Implementation of the Law on the Consultative System for Agriculture and Rural Development (Official Gazette No. 263 of 12 December 2023)

- Conduct field promotional activities to inform all stakeholders – agricultural producers, potential advisory service providers and the expert public. This requires coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWE) and other stakeholders.
- Completion and full operationalization of a specialized software application, in order to establish a viable system for updating information and create a repository of materials and data for the sector, which will be easy to search (MAFWE).
- Development of a comprehensive plan of training and educational modules, in cooperation with educational institutions, with a clearly defined time frame and coordination among all stakeholders.
- Verification of counselor education programs by the Center for Adult Education at the Ministry of Education and Science (MES), in cooperation with educational institutions.
- Organization of counselor education programs, with the active involvement of educational institutions and MAFWE.
- Expanding the thematic scope of the trainings, with a focus not only on agriculture and food, but also on the diversification of non-agricultural activities, such as rural tourism and agri-entrepreneurship.
- Implementation of certification and licensing of advisory operators (MAFWE).
- Establish and regularly maintain a registry of counselors, which will include all counseling service providers (MAFWE).
- Establish and maintain a register of trainings and programs for the education of counselors, with clearly defined application criteria (MAFWE, educational institutions, Center for Adult Education).
- Provide a merit system for the quality of training and for the work of advisory operators, based on objective evaluation.
- Increasing the visibility and encouragement of successful counseling and service users through recognition and reward schemes, with the aim of raising the quality of counseling services.
- Inclusion of a representative from secondary agricultural schools in the Council for Coordination and Monitoring of the Advisory System and AKIS, in order to better integrate young experts into the system.





- Immediate accreditation of the IPARD measure "Advisory services" (individual and group councils) under the program 2021-2027, as well as preparation of the new measure "Knowledge and Innovation" for the next program cycle (MAFWE, Agency for Financial Support in Agriculture and Rural Development – AFSARD).
- Ensure sustainable financing of the advisory services system, through measures in national programs, as well as linking it to other support measures (MAFWE).

2. Piloting a measure to support collaboration between different stakeholders in AKIS

- Development and testing of a measure to foster cooperation between AKIS participants, through the National Rural Development Program, in line with EU principles and practices.
- Adapt to support for Innovation Task Forces, similar to the EU Common Agricultural Policy (EU CAP) model, to improve the development and uptake of innovation in agriculture (MAFWE).