

## **modernAKIS Project (Horizon Europe)**

modernAKIS, modernisation of Agriculture through more efficient and effective Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

### **How does knowledge become effective? AKIS Workshop in Hanover**

Together with [DVS](#) and [VLK](#), the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture ([BMEL](#)) organised the first [AKIS workshop](#) - "How does knowledge become effective?". For the first time, it brought together numerous interested AKIS stakeholders from the federal government, federal states and Europe. Knowledge and innovation are crucial for farmers and rural communities to be able to overcome current and future challenges. An improved organisation of knowledge flows helps to transfer new findings into agricultural practice. This event strengthened networking and cooperation between research, advisory services and practice. At the same time, the aim of the modernAKIS project is to bring questions and challenges from practice into research more quickly to find solutions. The EU's Common Agricultural Policy promotes this goal through the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS). As one of the two modernAKIS project partners in Germany, the VLK was actively involved in the preparation and implementation of practical impulses in the workshops and the various programme items. The University of Hohenheim and the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, both project partners in the modernAKIS project, organised an interactive AKIS workshop. Presentations from Italy, Austria and France illustrated their respective agricultural knowledge and innovation systems and the challenges they face. A market of opportunities with numerous posters from national AKIS stakeholders, including the VLK and the Fokus Tierwohl network, was very well received by the participants.

### **AKIS Update - Communities of Practice in the modernAKIS project**

The VLK is involved in AKIS events at European and national level through the modernAKIS project to strengthen advisory services, education and innovation in the agricultural sector. Dialogue processes for more efficient methods of knowledge exchange or for improving regional value chains are intended to strengthen agricultural businesses in their further development. The VLK currently short online events - Communities of Practice (COPs) - for AKIS coordination centres and other AKIS stakeholders. They serve to exchange good practices, in particular methodological practices, for the exchange of knowledge between agriculture, advisory services and research. The AKIS Bund-Länder-Runde has selected "Innovation management in agriculture - initiating change - what makes sense and how can ideas be implemented? ", Inno tour Bayern - From practice for practice, and the activities of the Federal Centre for Agriculture (BZL) at the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food BLE "Findings from research and model projects for practice - new developments" were prioritised as good practice examples for exchange. Under the title "AKIS Update - Impulses from the federal states", further online events - CoPs - will be continued in line with demand over the modernAKIS project duration until 2029 and supplemented by face-to-face events organised by the BMEL, the DVS and the modernAKIS project.

### **AKISConnect networks throughout Europe**

By learning from each other and setting up the [AKISCONNECT](#) project network platform, structures for optimised knowledge exchange between research, consulting and practice can also be discussed together to improve them. The holistic integration of different areas of knowledge - from systems thinking to empirical knowledge and digital innovations - breaks



down traditional silos, i.e. the separation of individual groups of actors from one another. By promoting collaborative, dialogue-oriented forms of work, framework conditions are created that pave the way for transformative change. The online platform AKIS Connect enables networking and knowledge exchange on the topic of agricultural knowledge and innovation systems. It supports AKIS actors through targeted capacity building initiatives. The aim of the project is to create vibrant, self-sustaining Communities of Practice (CoPs) in which AKIS stakeholders actively work together. In transnational Communities of Practice, ccCoPs, AKIS stakeholders from different European member states network and thus bridge geographical borders. AKISConnect promotes cross-border innovation discussions and implements the practised commitment of two HORIZONT Europe projects, ATTRACTISS and modernAKIS, through dynamic cooperation at European level. Further AKIS in Action online events complement the programme with interesting opportunities to learn from each other.

### **WoW series on Wednesday**

Together, modernAKIS and ATTRACTISS - for Empowering Innovation Support Services, (stands for: AcTivate and TRigger ACTors to deepen the function of Innovation Support Services) will offer further online events on Wednesday. For example, the presentation of a "life cycle" of a co-creative process in agriculture - from the idea to finalisation and the next steps! The "Spiral of Innovation" methodological tool was used here. Other events aim to promote networking and capacity building between actors in agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS) in the European Union. From conferences and workshops to seminars and training courses, these events provide valuable opportunities to exchange knowledge, share best practices and work together to promote innovation and sustainability in agriculture. For advisors, policy makers or farmers, these events provide a platform to exchange with colleagues, gain access to the latest practices and research and help shape the future of agriculture in Europe.

### **AKIS in practice - bridging the gap between theory and practice**

The project website presents a curated collection of concrete measures implemented by the Member States of the European Union, organised by theme. Each theme provides an insight into innovative approaches, successful interventions and best practices implemented by Member States under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS). From sustainable farming practices to rural development initiatives, these real-life examples demonstrate the diversity and effectiveness of strategies that EU countries are using to tackle agricultural challenges, strengthen resilience and promote socio-economic growth in rural communities. These thematic examples provide inspiration, insights and practical knowledge for promoting sustainability and innovation in agriculture across Europe.

### **AKIS in action**

modernAKIS game modules on agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS) provide a comprehensive understanding of the complexity of agricultural systems. The challenges of modern agriculture can be explored through "serious games", the dynamics of the AKIS ecosystem are captured to learn about the importance and the process of AKIS diagnosis for effective problem solving.

### **ModernAKIS in 27 EU member states**

modernAKIS promotes the dissemination of knowledge and innovation in agriculture through the targeted provision of information, networking, training and further education. The project



activities are primarily aimed at coordinating actors in AKIS to promote their methodological, organisational and conceptual resources required for the transformation towards a more sustainable management and use of natural resources in agriculture and forestry. The consortium has a duration of 7 years (2022 - 2029), is composed of partners from all 27 EU member states, the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture coordinates the project. The University of Hohenheim and the VLK are the two German project partners in modernAKIS.

**Contact:**

Karin Ellermann-Kügler  
Consultant HORIZON Europe Project

Verband der Landwirtschaftskammern  
Claire-Waldoff-Straße 7  
D-10117 Berlin (Germany)  
Telefon: + 49 152 09122809  
Mail: k.ellermann-kuegler[at]vlk-agrar.de

[www.landwirtschaftskammern.de](http://www.landwirtschaftskammern.de)  
[www.modernakis.eu](http://www.modernakis.eu)



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