



# **SWG AKIS**

## **Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems**

**Athens Meeting**  
**28<sup>th</sup> of February to 1st of March 2017**

# Applying RDP measures to shape up AKIS in Greece

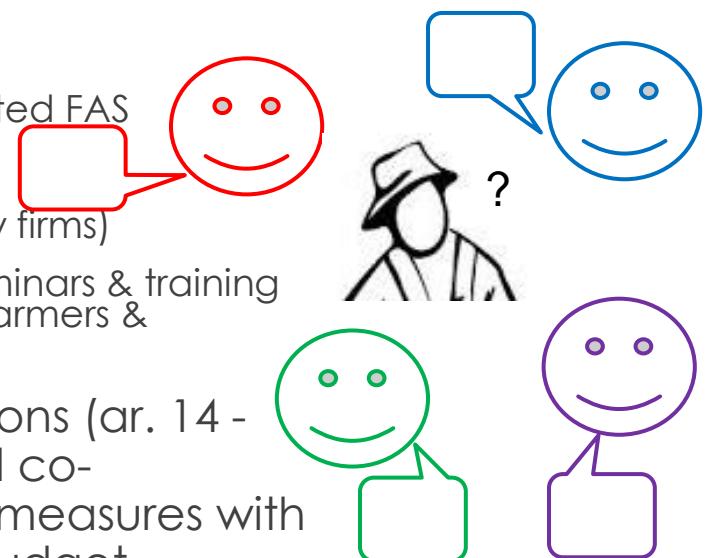
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# Applying RDP measures to shape up AKIS in Greece

- ▶ Current situation:
  - Decentralised/downsized (public) & fragmented FAS
  - lack of coordination
  - private advisors (input suppliers & consultancy firms)
  - Farmers training (vocational schools, short seminars & training programs for those entering RDP e.g. young farmers & participants in farm modernization schemes)
- ▶ Knowledge transfer and information actions (ar. 14 - M01), advisory services (ar. 15 - M02) and co-operation/innovation (ar. 35 & 56 - M16) measures with broader application field & enhanced budget, contributing to increase the links between agriculture and research
- ▶ Recent Farm Advisory System Ministerial Decision sets the scope
- ▶ M02 to support FAS establishment



Fragmentation &  
lack of coordination

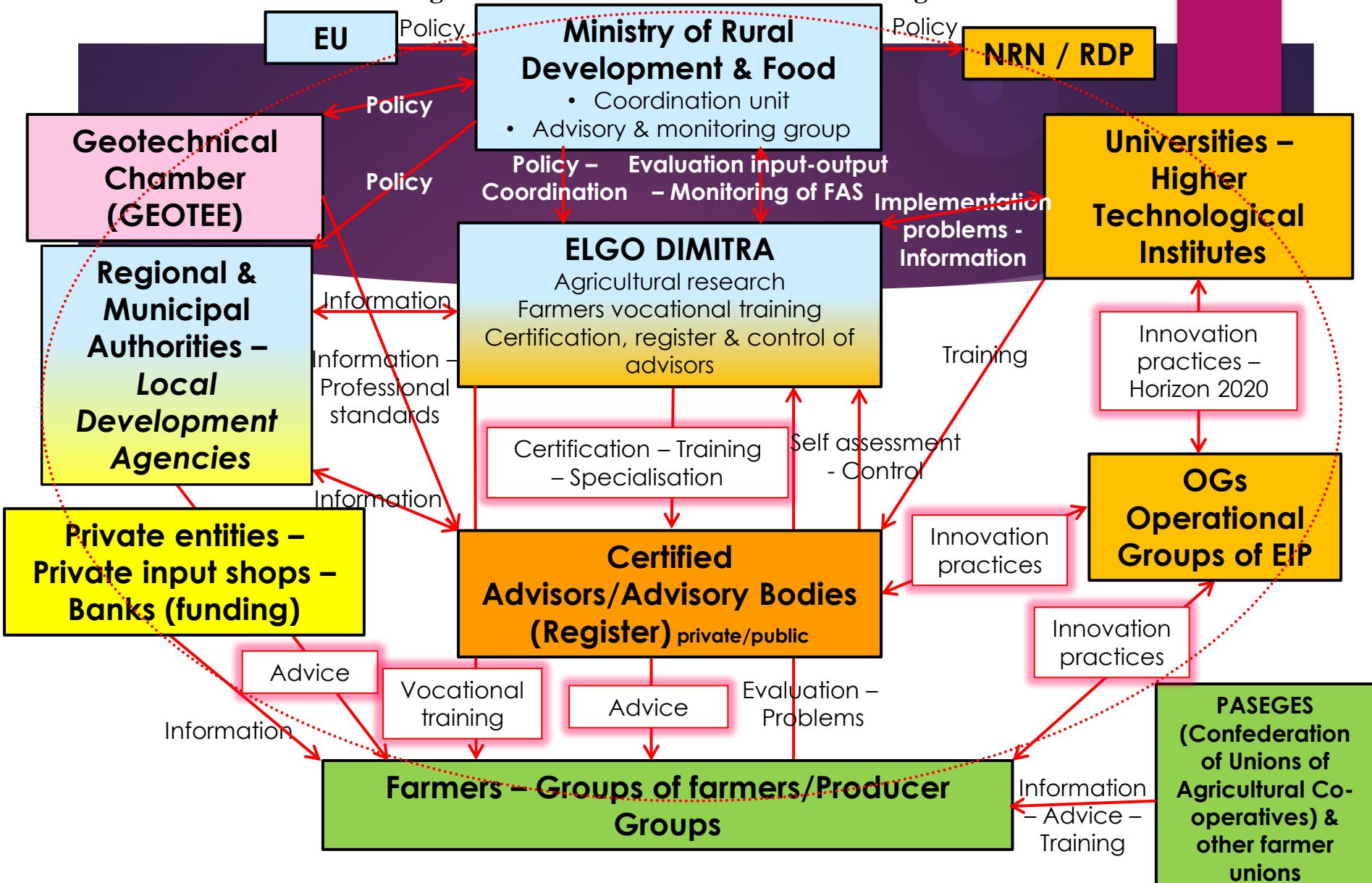
# Knowledge transfer and information actions

- ▶ **Previous programming period:** fragmented between various measures. The gains on the part of farmers in terms of knowledge and skills were at most moderate, innovations largely not disseminated, weak linkages among agriculture and research
- ▶ **Current programming period:** move to unified knowledge and skill acquisition actions under one measure, supporting other actions besides the classical class lectures and practical workshops:
  - ✓ Discussion groups in stables involving livestock farmers in learning by doing
  - ✓ Pilot labs: to discuss and disseminate the research result of the OGs (M.16.1) according to the interests of the target group
  - ✓ demonstration projects/activities: to show results or techniques already tested and ready to be used. The activity can take place in a farm or in places such as research centers, etc.
  - ✓ information actions, in the form of exhibitions, meetings, presentations or information in printed and electronic media

# Knowledge transfer and information actions

- ✓ short term farm management exchange: scheme to allow farmers to stay in another farm and learn personally and practically from another farmer
  - ✓ farm visits: visit to a farm in order to learn about a specific issue or a way of doing things (intended to be shorter)
  - ▶ Demarcation with Article 15
1. **the fact of the specificity of the action:** Art. 14 aims at providing information and training regarding all the subject matters that people active in agriculture, need to know in order to improve the performance of their holding
  2. **the scope of the action:** regular service oriented to keep farmers informed, up-to-date of the research results and trained in new tools that can be useful to develop their activity.

## AKIS diagram – Links & flow of information among actors



### Annotation:

Blue frames: transnational, national & local regulatory actors

Orange & light orange frames: knowledge, information & innovation actors

Titles in red outline are related with funding from Greek RDP

Yellow frame: private sector actors

Green frames: farmers, producers and their groups or unions

# Enhance knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice

## Key issue 1

### Advisory services:

- ▶ Ministry of Rural Development & Food (MRDF) coordination unit – Policy flows and establishment of links
- ▶ Establishment of advisory & monitoring group (research & Universities community-MRDF-ELGO Dimitra-chambers)
- ▶ EIP Operational groups – Linking research, advisors & farmers
- ▶ Links' enhancement through Greek NRN activities (e.g. sharing of information using NRN webpage)
- ▶ One Implementing Authority for M01, M02, M16 → Closer planning & implementation links

# Enhance knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice

## Key issue 2

### Knowledge transfer:

- ▶ Establish knowledge reservoirs and systems of exchange of information including digitalization of knowledge objects (programs are often driven by the skills and capabilities of the service providers rather than being based on actual needs of rural actors)
- ▶ Support the establishment of demonstration farms to make co-operative knowledge networks
- ▶ Support and organize farmer to farmer exchange, also an "Erasmus-Agri" in AKIS for young farmers
- ▶ Training the trainers in particular on innovative results from research and OG s
- ▶ Use problem based learning in agricultural education to lead to evidence based practice

# Enhance knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice

- ▶ Organize national thematic networks, add cross cut themes and gather farmers, education, administration, research, advisors, consumers' organizations, etc.
- ▶ Mandatory training for young farmers as well as farmers or group of farmers eligible for grants under other measures of RDP
- ▶ Engage people from outside the sector, a successful approach which needs contextual adaptation
- ▶ Improve communication to society (e.g. 'co-production' with consumers)

# **Strengthen farm advisory services within MS' AKISs**

## **Key issue 3**

- ▶ **Regular training and certification in multiple fields of advice:**
  - Cross compliance – greening
  - Water Directive requirements (quality – quantity)
  - Integrated pest management
  - Climate change mitigation and adaptation (e.g. animal waste, biomass, GHG emissions)
  - Organic farming & agri-environment-climate measures
  - Farm modernisation, competitiveness, innovation etc.
  - Risk management, natural disasters, animal and plant diseases;
  - Safety standards application
  - Farm integrated management
  - Farmers start-ups

depending on the advisors qualifications
- ▶ **New fields of advice – keeping in pace with policies & technological evolution**

# **Strengthen farm advisory services within MS' AKISs**

## **Key issue 4**

- ▶ **Regular monitoring of FAS:**
  - Field-based control of Certified Advisors services
  - Advisory & monitoring group receives input (evaluation data) & provides output to “fine-tune” the FAS
  - Evaluation of advisory services (reviewing technical & soft skills adequacy)
    - Practice through M02 implementation
  - Set performance indicators – Also, practice through M02 implementation
  - Challenge 1: design a self-assessment tool for advisors
  - Challenge 2: (measure) farmer’s attitude change towards advice
- ▶ **By the end of 2019: assessment of FAS performance**

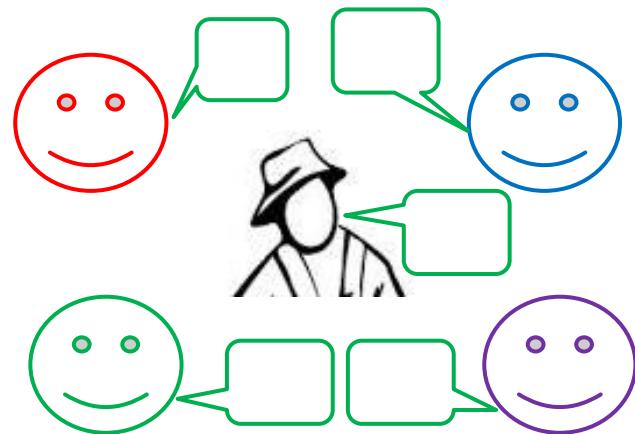
# Incentivize interactive innovation projects

- ▶ Measure 16 “Cooperation” is a tool to promote innovation by connecting research with the field
- ▶ This cooperation could happen in two phases
- ▶ At the first phase the partners of the cooperation meet each other and the cooperation (Operational Group) is established. The objective of the cooperation is the setting up of a pilot project in order to develop a farmer’s idea or to encounter a farmer’s problem faced to the field
- ▶ The second phase concerns the implementation of the pilot project which is going to lead to an innovative product or procedure or technology
- ▶ The investment for special equipment for the production of the innovative product can be funded by Measure 16
- ▶ So, cooperation leads to innovation and finally to the market with a better income for the farmer

# Support digital transition in agriculture

## Key issue 5

- ▶ **Providing incentives for applying digital technologies (M02 advisors selection criteria)**
- ▶ **EIP Operational Groups – Linking research, advisors & farmers**
- ▶ **FAS services supported by a digital platform operated by ELGO Dimitra – exchange of information, data, guides & brochures, etc. – links with NRN webpage**
- ▶ **Support digitalization of Knowledge reservoirs. An ecosystem of digitalization could allow for multi-level communication**
- ▶ **Measure the adoption and diffusion of such digital tools**



Communication within a modern AKIS

► Thank you for your attention !