



## SWG AKIS

# Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

**Budapest Meeting  
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## Estonia

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# 1.A) Characteristics of the Estonian AKIS

## Main characteristics of Estonian AKIS:

- Estonian AKIS is defined by the size of the country: small, compact, contacts across sectors.
- ICT opportunities widely used, broadband internet across country.
- The advisory and extension system has undergone a series of reforms over the last decade. Presently, there is one central player responsible for the services, ensuring the availability of professional advisory services throughout the country.
- AKIS in EE benefits from the high quality of level education on all levels and available research expertise in our universities /research institutions (top researchers in EE on global levels in some disciplines).
- On the other hand, the role of the state in supporting the AKIS structure is notable, so one of the goals is to increase the financial participation of private sector in funding some of the AKIS. MoRA supports applied research and innovation activities (directly via its applied research programs , or via RDP measures). Knowledge transfer is more and more regarded as an integral component of applied research.
- There is room for more cooperation between the funders/ministries in terms of understanding the sectoral needs. E.g, research infrastructure necessary for maintaining a high level basic research in our domain has not been prioritised and may not be able to fully meet the needs of agricultural sector; this may affect the quality of applied services and the overall capability of knowledge creation providers to participate in AKIS as a source of state-of-the-art expertise, to act as the partner to enterprises/state, etc.

## Changes from 2012, implementing interactive innovation

- Advisory and extension system has changed. 15 independent local advisory centres → one general coordinating unit with suboffices across the country. Vocational schools restructures (decrease in number).
- Two support measures address innovation cooperation in our RDP ( e.g. Innovation clusters for longer term and strategic cooperation). So there are even two Cooperation submeasures that directly support EIP ideology of interactive innovation.
- Existence of the innovation network.

## Main Barriers and Bottlenecks hindering knowledge flows:

- How to motivate the micro and small-sized enterprises as well as very large enterprises to become more involved in innovation cooperation?

## 1.B) What are the themes of interest nowadays and for the next 10 years in your country?

- Sectors: livestock, crops, fruit, animal welfare, organic agriculture
- Cross-cutting/systemic themes: efficient and sustainable use of resources, agroecology, short supply chain, biomass, use of ICT
- Technological themes: biocontrol, (logistics)
- AKIS themes: innovation cooperation, training, knowledge transfer in different formats

Kind of Infra-structure	Names	Places	Sector	Holder	Users	Funders
<b>Higher education + Research; Research only</b>	University of Life Sciences, University of Tartu, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonian Crop Research Institute	Tartu, Tallinn, other locations	Agriculture, forestry, food sciences, veterinary medicine...	Ministry or Research and Education, MoRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research</li> <li>• State</li> <li>• Private companies</li> </ul>	Ministry or Research and Education MoRA
<b>Experimental stations</b>	At research institutions, Agricultural Research Centre	various	Crops	Research institutions, Agricultural Research Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory services,</li> <li>• Farmers</li> <li>• Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State budget (MoRA)</li> </ul>
<b>Social media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers advisory service website pikk.ee</li> <li>• Maainfo.ee</li> <li>• MoRA blog + facebook</li> </ul>	www	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers advisory service</li> <li>• MoRA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers</li> <li>• Advisors</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Public</li> </ul>	MoRA
<b>Observatory, control labs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Information Centre</li> <li>• Agricultural Research centre</li> <li>• Veterinary and Food Laboratory</li> </ul>	Jäneda Saku Tallinn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social economics (FADN)</li> <li>• Plants</li> <li>• Veterinary and Food</li> </ul>	MoRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FADN</li> <li>• MoRA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoRA</li> <li>• (RDP)</li> </ul>
<b>Digital infrastructure</b>	E-plant protection tool; Database of the Genebank sordiarttajatele; E-Databases established at Competence Centres		Plant protection, agriculture	Estonian Crop Research Institute, Competence Centres	Farmers Research Research, enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoRA</li> <li>• Enterprise Estonia</li> </ul>
<b>Networks</b>	Innovation network, NRN	Jäneda	All	Rural Information Centre	Farmers Research ....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RDP</li> <li>• MoRA</li> </ul>

## 3.A) Estonian Interactive Innovation schemes/networks

- **Existence of the innovation network** (events, e-newsletter, contacts and network building) **to guarantee the information flow** about innovative activities, funding opportunities, news from supported projects, different kinds of trainings and events, database of projects, etc
- **Two innovation cooperation measures, knowledge transfer measures (RDP)**
- **Active workgroups at Estonian Agricultural Chamber of Commerce**
- **Rural Development Foundation will have a mentoring network**
- **Networking of different stakeholders around the Competence Centres**

## 3.B) Estonian Interactive Innovation projects

➤ **M 16.2:**

1) **IVF calves**

2) **Couple of projects on how to reduce waste in food production (meat, apples).**

➤ **Innovation clusters:**

1) **Milk cluster**

2) **Innovative crop production cluster.**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**