REPORT of the SCAR SWG AKIS 4
2nd Meeting
Brussels, 14 to 15th of June 2016

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1. **Introduction and meeting objectives and discussion about the Minutes of Barcelona Meeting**
2. **Impact of R+D+i**
3. **New approaches on Education Systems (Policy brief)**
4. **AKIS in the value/supply/food chain**
5. **Preparation of the AKIS Hungary meeting on i) the EU 13 widening ii) AKIS supporting infrastructures, iii) Thematic collection and connection of interactive innovation projects**
6. **Current and evolving approaches for interactive Advisory Services. Advisory Services structures for the Future (Policy brief)**
7. **Update on the EIP**

The meeting started giving the welcome to the new participants in the group: Alex Koutsouris (GR), Luis Mira (PT), Sylvia Burssens (FL-BE) and Fabio Boscalieri (ERIAFF) and also to the invitees from the EC-DG-Agri (Miroslav Bozic, Italian lady and Louis De…). (See list of total attendees attached at the end of the report).

1. Introduction and meeting objectives and discussion about the Minutes of Barcelona Meeting

*The SCAR SWG AKIS4 meeting held in Bruxelles last June 14th to 15th, was be the second of the meetings proposed for the development of the mandate endorsed by the SCAR plenary in December 2015. This meeting first objective is to develop one particular cross-cutting topic identified in the mandate (1.D) "**further development of the EIP approach"** by exploring the future of **"Advisory services"** and the future of **"Education"** in the agricultural sector.*
*Moreover, the **Monitoring interactive innovation policies and benchmarking for sustainability** as one of the main issues of the AKIS 4 mandate was considered with the contribution of **IMPRESA project** (www.impresa-project.eu) and also a presentation of Dr Birge Wolf in view of preparing jointly a workshop and other future activities regarding this topic.*
*This meeting also provided an opportunity to have preliminary exchanges on the 3rd item of the mandate "**better address the knowledge flows along the whole production/value/supply chain"** in view of a joint **workshop with the SCAR SWG on Food Systems.***
Last, it's foreseen to prepare collectively the next important AKIS meeting which will be held in Hungary in October 2016 by addressing together the expectations for each member state representative (including EU13).

2. Impact of R+D+i

*This topic was presented to the AKIS group in view of preparing jointly the last item of the mandate (**Monitoring interactive innovation policies and benchmarking for sustainability).**Two different presentations were prepared, followed by an active debate among the AKIS group participants:*

- *"The **IMPRESA project**: implications for Agricultural knowledge and Innovation Systems" by Peter Midmore from Aberystwith University (UK) and Project Coordinator*
- *"**Documentation& evaluation** concept for agricultural **research contributions to societal impact**- using synergies with research funding" by Birge Wolf from University of Kassel (Germany)*

***Impresa project** main objectives are: measure, assess and understand the impact of agricultural scientific research that have been developed through 5 different secondary objectives:*

1.-Describe the contemporary evolution of public and private agricultural research; 2.-Survey trends, sources and objectives of agricultural research in EU and EEA countries; 3.-perform econometric analysis and input-output modeling on the effect of research on agricultural productivity; 4-use regional case studies to investigate individual research based innovations; and 5- communicate results to national governments and other stakeholders.

Considering the complex ecosystem of the agricultural science, IMPRESA main messages on impact is about how it is influenced by:

- *The changing profile of agricultural research;*
- *The complex pathways by which research impact is achieved*
- *The value of public support for agricultural research and the important role of Innovation Support Services in its success.*

The presentation of Impresa project was mainly focused on the WP 3: case studies of Science-based innovation in agriculture and food systems and WP4: quantitative analysis of Research impact.

*The **cross-scale quantitative analysis** (with a multicriteria evaluation) looked at the agricultural research impacts on productivity, although it was seen the need to adjust the social, environmental and policy objectives. The **main result** on the impact of research on productivity is that **EU public agricultural research expenditure contributes significantly to productivity increase**. With internal rates of return between 7 and 15%. The time lag of research effect on productivity is around 9 years, higher than in the USA, as they have more applied research.*

It has been also seen the sectoral and national spillovers by the use of structural decomposition analysis:

1. *Technical shift is better in agriculture and food than in the rest of the economy*
2. *Food processing improves input-saving technical change to agriculture but vice versa is much less important.*
3. *International and knowledge exchange is important as the US absorb EU technical changes.*
4. *Technical change could have more impact on environment*

When looking at corporate R&D and food processing firm performance with the approach of the Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), it has been seen a ***positive effect of R&D on performance of firms*** *by being associated with* ***higher efficiency****.* ***The food-processing sector should be considered in the EU policy agenda to leverage productivity and innovativeness.***

Finally from the Case studies analysis some conclusions are already extracted for:

Researchers

- *Enrol researchers into a "culture of impact"*
- *Monitor research output with data collection tools and protocols at early stage*
- *Involve key stakeholders*
- *Consider impact also in mid-term reviews*

Policy makers

- *Engage key actors in Research + Innovation with their potential roles*
- *Enhance Agri Adv. Services as educators, knowledge connectors and innovation facilitators*
- *Include stakeholders in research programs and evaluation*
- *Enhance the availability and access to data*

In general it should go from the promises of impact to allow impact to happen, by creating the environment to enhance the pathways for impact.

In mid November a dedicated workshop on this topic will be organized by IMPRESA and IMPRES projects with the contribution of the AKIS and ARCH SWG´s.

The presentation made by Birge Wolf was based on a project developed in Germany about Documentation and evaluation concept for agricultural research contributions to societal impact-using synergies with research funding with a consideration of applied research projects. The project sim is to create synergies with research funding in data assessment by the use of adapted research information systems open sourced (CRIS) that by now is only in Germany with a possibility to connect with Valerie project that could allow to go international.

Dr. Wolf provided an overview of the criteria considered for evaluating the impact of R+I projects, before and during the project and also after the project ends.

Different types of application have been considered (e.g.: duration of networks, further use of infras; change in skills; changed behavior; service, process, marketing and organizational innovation;

Also the application description (narrative and quantification of use) and the impact description (economic, socio/cultural and ecological)

They realized about the ways to deal with diverse impact pathways and indicators with a qualitative and quantitative approach from data for evaluation (documentation by project participants and feedback from the community of practice/society) and also with only a qualitative assessment from the evaluation procedure (reviewers from science and practice and society, and an intensive review to combine quality, quantity and relevance).

The main ideas from the presentation could be summarized:

- *Researcher should receive more acknowledgment about the societal impact of their activities.*
- *Create and consider the environment for the impact and the applicability of outputs*
- *Combine the positive impact description + negative side effects in the same description.*

From the impact session four main questions arose to further develop the topic:

1. *Link between primary production and Agri-food sector impact. How one could benefit to the others?*
2. *How to create an enabling environment to accelerate innovation uptake (see US)/ How to focus on high quality impact design?*
3. *How to accelerate scientist acknowledgment of the impact and modify evaluation criteria?*
4. *Further work on CRIS and Open source! (OECD).*

4. AKIS in the value/supply/food chain

Different questions where considered during this session:

Relations among actors in the value chain (vertical and horizontal). How knowledge flows.

What are the drivers for enhancing innovation and knowledge exchange between actors at different levels/layers of the value chain?

How to develop a balanced scenario in the relations among the value chain actors for enhancing the innovation for the benefit of primary production and to develop a more transparent, sustainable and balance agri-food supply chain

Themes considered of interest for the development of an interactive value chain approach trans-national innovation networking

It was agreed that this topic should be further considered jointly with the SWG on Food systems in order to better address innovation through the food supply chain to developed a more balanced and equal value chain with a view of farmers needs and opportunities.