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# From National Roadmaps to National AKIS Action Plans – structure and methodology

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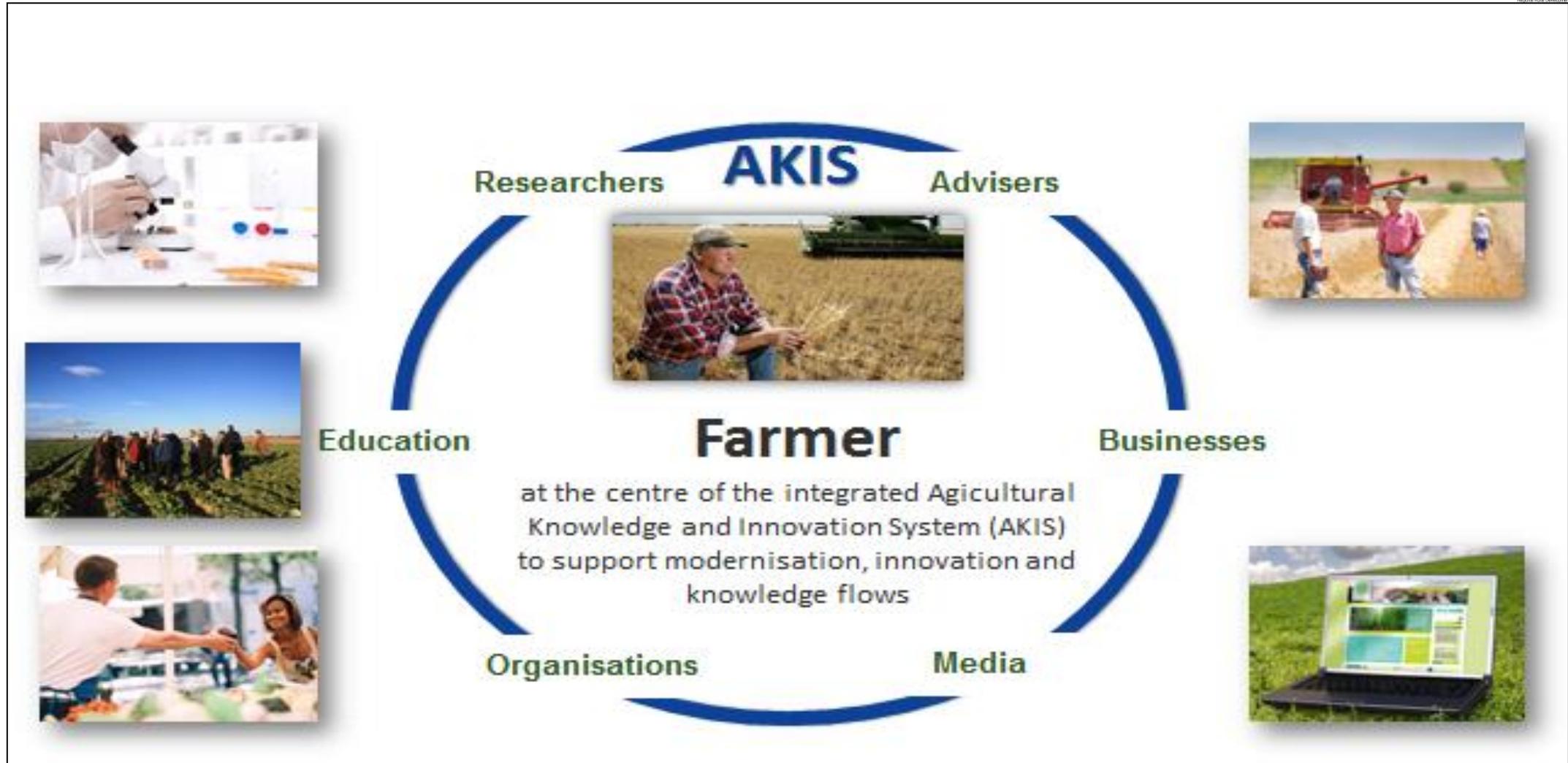
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# The graphic presentation of AKIS



# Set out targets of the project

- Set-up an AKIS network for knowledge and innovation transfer, bringing together representatives of governments, research institutions and private sector from the Western Balkans and Germany.
- Develop one regional and six national policy strategic plans aiming at fostering knowledge and innovation transfer in defined topic areas.
- Develop at least five virtual further education and communication measures for scaling up technical innovations and innovative business models (special target group: young, dynamic farmers and agri-businesses).

# The methodological steps and project tasks 1

1. Revisit RITT **SWOT matrices to update an AKIS SWOT analysis** to lead us to the map depiction of the AKIS elements

- involving additional material focused on AKIS from the RITT project (Focus Group analysis, other secondary qualitative information etc.)

2. Develop **national maps** of the existent/missing, functioning/non-functioning AKIS actors

- involving both the depiction of crude evidence concerning the existence or absence of AKIS elements/actors and an evaluation of their interaction, coordination, functionality and governance.

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# The methodological steps and project tasks 2

3. Construct a National **Roadmap** for the development of functional and integrated national AKIS systems

4. Design National, regional - thematic AKIS Action Plans as a projection of the National Roadmap

A slight misunderstanding has appeared with regards to the similarities and the differences of the Roadmap and the Action Plan which need to be clarified.



# From Roadmaps to Action Plans

The AKIS roadmap and the action plan have a lot of similarities but are basically different in their functional implementation. The Roadmap is more of a strategy communication document and requests less specified information, whereas the Action Plan is a detailed set of actions to reach specific objectives.

<b>Roadmap</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>
1. Strategic/High level	1. Specific/Granular
2. Designed to show the link between the various variables and facets and their impact on the strategy completion	2. Broken down to allocation of tasks for the facilitation of assignment of responsibilities and progress tracking
3. Helps to overview the strategy implementation	3. Helps the detailed overviewing of Plan execution

# An Action Plan template

Specified objectives	Required action	Milestones	Deliverables	Resources needed	Deadline	Impact (1-7, 1 least impact)	Feasibility (1-7, 1 least feasible)
<p>We translate the strategic objectives of the Roadmap to specific objectives and actions.</p> <p>Included as objectives here should be the regional – thematic AKIS Plans</p>	<p>We identify and prioritize the required action steps that must be executed to produce the deliverables.</p>	<p>We set Milestones to help track achievements within the Action plan.</p> <p>Milestones facilitate Action Plan progress measuring.</p>	<p>Specific tangible results planned to be delivered from the Action plan within the set timeframe.</p> <p>They facilitate Action Plan progress measuring.</p>	<p>Human and financial resources needed to be assigned.</p> <p>They facilitate the evaluation of the impact of resource allocation for achieving the Plan’s objectives.</p>	<p>Sets the time frame of action steps and tracking progress and achievement.</p>		

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- The end-goal of our **Action Plan**, set in the early presentations of the project outline is the “developing of national and regional AKIS action plan” expected to finally lead to the choosing of a specific theme for focused interventions, based on the importance and feasibility of these interventions.



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In that respect, for the design of the Action Plan we need to:

1. specify goal and objectives
2. list required action steps to reach objectives
3. set Milestones, Deliverables and Deadlines
4. identify the necessary human and financial resources (defining roles and responsibilities)



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5. identify task dependencies, prioritize tasks using evaluation criteria of action impact and feasibility, as given in the guidelines provided to you:

*a) Evaluate the listed actions according to the following criteria:*

*Impact – how crucial that action is in developing a functional and integrated AKIS system (scale 1 – 7, 1 least impact)*

*Feasibility – how feasible that action is in terms of resources needed (financial, human, time etc.) (scale 1 – 7, 1 least feasible)*

*b) Add the two values to calculate the total value for each action*

*c) Rank the actions according to the descending order of their values*

6. create an Action Plan template to have organised the specific objectives, action steps, tasks, assignments and deadlines

# Next steps for an AKIS Plan Intervention

- Finalisation of National Roadmaps
- National AKIS Action Plan designation
- Regional AKIS Action Plan designation
- Establishing a Regional/thematic AKIS Plan for wine, organic farming, dairy, food safety, etc
  - Identify and involve the key stakeholders at either the regional level or at bilateral/trilateral levels
  - Involve (where possible) Local Action Groups (LAGS) and/or local government, where possible
- **Team task:** identifying and deciding on the theme and the level of intervention, outlining the AKIS Action Plan for implementation (regional- thematic)