

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

Country/Territory:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Proposed actions in focus for 2024

National Expert: Sabahudin Bajramović

Outlines

- Performed activities in 2023 – What was completed so far
- Selected priorities
- Planned actions/actions in focus for 2024

What was completed so far (1)

Main task in 2023 – Work on formalization of AKIS (1st specific objective of Action plan/Road map)

1. Preparatory actions related to the analysis of the potential and motives for the establishment and work of the future AKIS
2. Creating and enacting the necessary legislation for the establishment and functioning of AKIS
3. Establishment of the AKIS coordination body and operational groups

What was completed so far (2)

- In order to define the AKIS coordinating body and the work of AKIS operational groups, **three tasks performed in 2023** (4 deliveries/reports):
 1. Collecting additional information of functionality of AKIS in EU and other countries (Report 1, 21/06/2023)
 2. Organizing of workshop and discussion with main AKIS actors in Federation of BiH (Report 2, 02/08/2023)
 3. Interviews with identified actors of AKIS in Federation of BiH (Report 3, 02/08/2023)
 4. Final report (Report 4, 10/11/2023)

What was completed so far (3)

Task 1. Collecting additional information of functionality of AKIS in EU and other countries

- A **desk research** was conducted on the functioning of AKIS in EU countries and other relevant countries with the aim of obtaining new knowledge **about the functioning of AKIS** that can be used in the development of the aforementioned proposal for the functioning of AKIS in the Federation of BiH.
- The **collected information** was the basis for making presentation that was given as an **introduction** to the invited participants (during the July **workshop** and the discussion on the topic: How to establish and do functional AKIS in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- A large number of **literary sources** were processed for the collection of the above-mentioned information, and the most important information is given in a summary overview in **1st report**:

What was completed so far (4)

Task 2. Organizing of workshop and discussion with main AKIS actors in Federation of BiH

- As an introduction to the discussion, a 25-minute presentation was given with the title "How to establish a functional system of transfer of knowledge and innovations in agriculture (AKIS) in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina?", with the following content (questions):
- What is AKIS?
- How AKIS works in EU countries
- About the process of establishing AKIS in the countries of the Western Balkans
- What has been done so far in the process of establishing AKIS in the Federation BiH
 - Road map
 - Action plan
- How to establish a functional AKIS in the Federation BiH - Discussion (on given topics and questions).

What was completed so far (5)

Task 3. Interviews with identified actors of AKIS in Federation of BiH

- An interview/survey questionnaire was conducted with relevant AKIS actors in the Federation of BiH on the topic "How to make AKIS functional in the Federation of BiH and how to establish an AKIS coordination body and operational groups of AKIS".
- An interview was conducted directly with some of the actors/stakeholders (2), while most of them (8) gave answers by filling in an online survey questionnaire specially created for the needs of this research.
- The interviewees were representatives of the
 - MOFTER BiH,
 - FMAWMF (department for agricultural advisory),
 - Cantonal advisory services,
 - Agricultural faculties
 - Research institutes, and
 - Development agencies.

What was completed so far (6)

AKIS coordination body (AKIS CB) - tasks

- The AKIS CB coordinates activities and establishes mutual connections and cooperation with all its actors in order to exchange and apply research results, new knowledge, information and innovations in the field of agriculture and rural development, taking into account the current legal regulations (Law on Agriculture and Law on Financial Support to Agriculture and Rural Development)
- The AKIS CB analyses the situation, plans and coordinates AKIS activities.
- From the regular analysis of the situation, AKIS CB submits a proposal of measures and activities (for the following year) to the FMAWMF in a timely manner (by mid-year), the implementation of which requires budgetary support.
- In addition to this basic activity, AKIS CB initiates possible innovative AKIS functional models, whether it is the transfer of good practices from developed countries, or whether it is the products of AKIS CB participants' own brains.

What was completed so far (7)

AKIS CB – structure, finance issue

- AKIS CB has 15 members: FMAWMF (2 members), Agricultural Advisory Service (3 members), Faculties (3 members), Federal institutes in the field of agriculture (3), processors (1), Agricultural producers (1) and NGOs (2 members).
- The FMAWMF responsible for establishing AKIS CB, provides financial resources for its functioning through budget transfer.

What was completed so far (8)

AKIS operational groups (OG)

- Main conclusion from workshop and interviews regarding OG:
 - Operational groups (OG) **should not be formed as permanent, unchanging structures** (possibly/maybe for some issues/topics), but also there are **situations when an ad hoc operational group with a shorter period will be formed.**
 - The OG structure should be adapted to its basic goal:
 - if the goal is the transfer and operationalization of knowledge, the dominant role should be played by agricultural advisers, with a little help from others;
 - if the goal is to create new knowledge, researchers would dominate, with the necessary help from others.
- Key information about **problems** and current issues to be solved by the OG will **come from the Working Groups** in charge of field work.

What was completed so far (9)

AKIS operational groups (OG)

- The number and structure of operational groups should be initially designed by AKIS CB.
- It should not worry about the number of OGs - it should form as many OGs as it need, with the first idea that it should not create a thematic OG if the topic is not actual (present).
- OGs can be formed according to the principles of specialization (e.g. certain types of economically or otherwise more important agricultural production), but it should also think about OGs of general issues (e.g. rural development, climate change, agricultural land, diversification of family farm activities, etc.)
- The OG group must establish internal procedures and task management to ensure transparency in work and decision-making and to avoid conflicts of interest.

Selected priorities (1)

- **Formalization of AKIS** - according to Ohrid workshop (2023) the main task in 2023/2024 is work on fulfilling the first specific objective from the Road Map for the establishment of AKIS in the Federation of BiH
 - **Putting AKIS in the legal framework** (Law on agriculture/law on finance support of agriculture)/Drafting of supporting by-laws documents (Rulebook)
 - **Establishment of AKIS coordinating body** (in accordance with the adopted law)
 - **Establishment of operational group(s)**

Selected priorities (2)

- In the preliminary draft of the Law on financial support in agriculture and rural development of the Federation of BiH, AKIS was formalized by taking over the EU Regulation 2021/2015 (Article 78 and 114) in **Article 30** (Knowledge exchange and spread of inflammation) through its three paragraphs:
 - **Paragraph 1** - Support for knowledge exchange and information dissemination can cover the costs of all relevant activities for the promotion of innovation, training and consulting and other forms of knowledge exchange and information dissemination ... The support from paragraph (1) of the article enables the achievement of the cross-sectoral goal of modernization of agriculture and rural areas through:
 - Establishment of the organizational structure of AKIS,
 - Establishing points of excellence.
 - The federal minister prescribes the beneficiaries, method and conditions of financial support for each individual measure referred to in paragraph (1) of this article.

Actions in focus for 2024 (1)

- According to AKIS work plan for national expert from Federation BiH planned activities in 2024:
 - Participation in the 7th interim meeting on AKIS (report on progress of AKIS plan implementation (02/2024))
 - **Draft Rulebook** on support for the exchange of knowledge and innovation (Draft, 06/2024)
 - Participation in the 8th interim meeting on AKIS (report on progress of AKIS plan implementation (06/2024))
 - Participation in public consultations related to the proposed law solutions regarding AKIS (Report, 07/2024)
 - Participation in the 9th interim meeting on AKIS (report on progress of AKIS plan implementation (11/2024))

Actions in focus for 2024 (2)

- If AKIS is not formalized in 2024 through the adoption of a new law on agriculture/law on financial support of agriculture the following activity is additionally planned:
 - Work on defining/creation the one AKIS functional operational group (topic in accordance with the FAWMF proposal)(10/2024)
 - Objectives and tasks
 - Structure
 - Mechanisms of work (coordination with WG and AKIS CB)
 - Financing
 - Territory of work
 - Monitoring



With support from



by decision of the German Bundestag

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

Country/Territory: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Proposed actions in focus for 2024

National Expert: Sabahudin Bajramović

Thank you for your attention!

Scientific research