



GET CONNECTED WITH US!



Get involved with AgriLink to **help develop new and better farm advisory methods** for rural innovation! We will be interviewing farmers, different suppliers of farm advice and a broad range of other relevant experts, including researchers and policy-makers. You can also **participate** in our Living Labs, **contribute to** our online surveys, **comment on** our Practice Abstracts or **join our** workshops.

Check our website and follow us on Twitter / Facebook for more information on how you can be involved.



AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the **European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme**. It brings together **16 partners** (universities, public and private research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organizations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organization and specialists in communication and distance learning) from **13 European countries** (Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom).

-  www.agrilink2020.eu
-  [agrilink2020](https://twitter.com/agrilink2020)
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Agricultural Knowledge: Linking farmers, advisors and researchers to boost innovation



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www.agrilink2020.eu

WHY AGRILINK?

Approaches to knowledge exchange, learning and innovation in agriculture are rapidly evolving. Farmers now have access to multiple sources of information. Direct, peer-to-peer learning between farmers is increasingly important, whilst new forms of media and information technology provide exciting new possibilities for the creation and exchange of knowledge.

The role of farm advisers is inevitably also changing. A better understanding of this changing role is essential to improve the **agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS)** which exist at national / regional level and to **promote the necessary transition towards a more efficient, productive and sustainable European agriculture.**



HOW WE ARE WORKING?

AgriLink is a multi-actor project running from 2017 to 2021. During this period our **diverse consortium of academic and practice partners** is bringing together a range of **multi-disciplinary perspectives** to improve understanding of the role played by different suppliers of agricultural advice, both formal and informal, in **strengthening knowledge flows, enhancing learning and boosting innovation** on the wide variety of **different farm types** that exist in Europe.



WHAT WE ARE DOING?

AgriLink began with the preparation of a **comprehensive conceptual framework**. This is the usual first step in a project of this type and provides a common understanding of key project concepts and processes that underpins and guides all of the subsequent work.

The main body of research work for investigating how farmers gather, exchange and use different sources of information (their so-called 'microAKIS') involves **interviews with farmers and advisory providers in 26 focus regions across Europe** and in relation to **4 main areas of agricultural innovation** (digitization, integrated ecological farming, diversification and collaborative organisation).

In parallel, **six Living Labs** are testing new and improved links between farmers, public / private advisors and researchers in order to **co-create more effective innovation support services** in a range of contrasting circumstances. Another key focus of the project is upon **the governance (the 'back office') of national farm advisory systems**, including obligations arising from implementation of the EU Farm Advisory Systems (FAS) legislation.

Data collected and lessons learned in the project are feeding into a on-going process of **integrated assessment, reflection and learning** that will inform the development of **evidence-based practice and policy recommendations**. All of which is framed in a range of activities to ensure the **effective engagement** of relevant stakeholders / actors throughout the project and the generation of **long-lasting and meaningful impact**.

OUR EXPECTED RESULTS & OUTPUTS

During the lifetime of the AgriLink project there will be:

- An **active dialogue** on the future role of farm advisory services, including specific reference to the strengthening of agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS) under the post-2020 EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
- **Regular support** offered to the AKIS Strategic Working Group of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR).
- Numerous **Practice Abstracts** generated from the 'microAKIS' fieldwork, mapping of Farm Advisory Systems (FAS) and the Living Labs – all prepared in the EIP-AGRI common format.
- A series of **multi-actor workshops and seminars** (online and face-to-face) providing the opportunity to engage directly with the project.
- A diverse range of **publications and educational material** on the theoretical and practical aspects of improving farm advisory and innovation support services.
- A **closing conference** and presentation of evidence-based **policy recommendations**.

All practice and policy-orientated outputs are subject to a **validation and fine-tuning process based upon practical peer-review** by consortium members, project advisers and interested stakeholders.

