

AKIS in action

Strengthening AKIS through women-led innovation



REGISTRATION

via Jotform



November 19,
2024

10:00-11:30 CET

Online via Zoom

WHERE & WHEN

YOU MEET

Advisory services
managers
AKIS Coordination
Bodies
CAP Networks
Public authorities
Researchers

Women are one of the driving forces in agriculture. Supporting women in rural areas is a political priority, as they make a decisive contribution to sustainable development. Studies show that young, well-educated women leave their home regions due to a lack of prospects, which leads to a 'brain drain' and imbalances. Their return is often hampered by a lack of employment and social integration. In addition, entrenched gender norms hinder women's access to education, resources and networks. This also makes economic participation and the empowerment of women more difficult.

In order to meet these structural challenges, gender norms must be transformed, and educational and networking opportunities for women need to be enhanced. AKIS measures focus on the involvement of women in agricultural policy processes and promote their potential in rural development, thereby actively contributing to strengthening social cohesion and new business areas.

Join us to learn from outstanding experts and exchange with peers as they share their practical insights and strategies for success! Whether you are a seasoned pro or just starting in your field, this event offers a platform to gain new insights, enhance your knowledge, and build valuable relationships. Join us and take your knowledge and network to the next level!

AGENDA *Moderator: Elena-Teodora Miron, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture*

10:00 - 10:10

Opening of the event and introduction of the modernAKIS project

Elena-Teodora Miron, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture

10:10 - 10:30

Initiatives supporting women in the EU policy for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

*Natalia Brzezina, Policy Officer -
Research and Innovation Unit of DG AGRI, Belgium*

10:30 - 10:50

FLIARA cases from Ireland and Spain: How AKIS fosters female entrepreneurship in agriculture and rural areas

*Maura Farrell, University of Galway, Ireland
Víctor R. Martínez, Consulta Europa, Spain*

10:50 - 11:10

Project ZAMm unterwegs (Together on the way)- education for female decision makers and system change actors

Michaela Glatzl, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture

11:10 - 11:30

Q&A, Wrap-up and outlook to next events

Elena-Teodora Miron, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture

SPEAKERS & PRESENTATIONS

Initiatives supporting women in the EU policy for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in agriculture, forestry and rural areas



NATALIA BRZEZINA

Policy Officer - Research and Innovation Unit of DG AGRI, Belgium

Natalia Brzezina is a policy officer in the research and innovation unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. She contributes to shaping EU strategies for agricultural research and innovation, focusing on strengthening agricultural knowledge and innovations systems across the EU. Before joining the European Commission, she earned a PhD from KU Leuven, researching food systems. She has also worked in the agri-food industry.

The presentation will provide an overview of the EU policy for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in agriculture, forestry and rural areas, with focus on initiatives that support women-led innovation. It will encompass initiatives supported under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as well as Horizon Europe that work in synergy under the common framework of the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture (EIP-AGRI). Several examples of Horizon-funded research and innovation projects as well as CAP-funded operational groups led by women will be showcased. Finally, the presentation will highlight the main outcomes of the EU CAP Network EIP-AGRI workshop 'Women-led innovations in agriculture and rural areas'.

FLIARA cases from Ireland and Spain: How AKIS fosters female entrepreneurship in agriculture and rural areas



MAURA FARRELL

University of Galway, Ireland

Associate Professor Maura Farrell is the Coordinator of the FLIARA project at the University of Galway and a full-time lecturer in the Discipline of Geography. Maura's research interests include rural and agricultural geography, processes of social, cultural and economic change for rural inhabitants and rural migration.

VÍCTOR R. MARTÍNEZ

Consulta Europa, Spain

Víctor Martínez is part of the Communication Team of the FLIARA Project at Consulta Europa and has been involved in interviewing the Spanish case studies for the project. His expertise spans the development of digital products on sustainability, self-consumption in the Canary Islands, Spain.



This presentation offers an overview of the FLIARA project, which aims to enhance women's roles in agriculture and rural innovation across Europe. It highlights key objectives and methodologies while showcasing anonymised case studies that demonstrate successful interventions by Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in Ireland and Spain. These cases illustrate how AKIS initiatives empower women by improving their access to resources, education, and networks, thereby fostering sustainable rural development at national level. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the transformative potential of gender-focused innovations in the agricultural sector.

Project ZAMm unterwegs (Together on the way) - education for female decision makers and system change actors



MICHAELA GLATZL
Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, Austria

I have been working as a consultant for women farmers at the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture for over 13 years, before that I was a consultant for crop production and business management for 10 years. As the Austrian Women Farmers' Association, we have been representing the interests of 130,000 women in agriculture and forestry for more than 50 years. We make their achievements as women farmers on the farms and as officials visible.

Rural areas thrive on the active participation of their inhabitants, especially woman farmers. In Austria, 35 % of all farms are run by women and a further 12 % are run with their partner. Women in agriculture and forestry prove themselves every day in their profession. Their wealth of ideas, ingenuity and perseverance make them successful businesswomen. This potential needs to be utilised more than ever in the committees. Motivated women should be encouraged to take the lead with confidence. Since 2009, the EU-funded [ZAMm programme](#) 'Professional Representation in Rural Areas' has offered the perfect training for anyone who wants to take on responsibility for public tasks. Innovative agriculture and forestry without women - unthinkable for us!

The FLIARA Project

The EU-Funded, FLIARA project (Female-led Innovation in Agriculture and Rural Areas) champions women driving sustainable farming and rural development across Europe. By conducting case studies, research, and directly engaging with female entrepreneurs, FLIARA aims to build a more inclusive and sustainable future for rural communities. The project is actively challenging gender norms and stereotypes by highlighting the critical contributions and economic impact of women in rural economies. FLIARA is also creating practical tools and policy recommendations to ensure women are fully supported and integrated into a robust, effective innovation ecosystem.

Website: <https://fliara.eu/>
Community of Practice Space:
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9833161/>

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The modernAKIS Project

modernAKIS (www.modernakis.eu), a seven year Horizon Europe project covering all 27 EU Member States, aims to improve the capacities of AKIS actors to leverage their individual, organizational and systemic resources to drive transformation towards more coherent, effective AKIS systems and the transition to a more sustainable management and use of natural resources in farming and forestry. The project offers more than 50 capacity building events, 40 networking events, 7 AKIS training modules, a network and online community of AKIS actors (www.akisconnect.eu), engaged in sharing experiences and peer learning.

Interested to join the community?
Register to www.akisconnect.eu

Questions?
Contact Elena-Teodora Miron,
Project coordinator
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