

## AKIS in action - Networking event series

### AKIS in support of the environmental and climate ambition of the CAP

#### Registration:



**March 4, 2024**



**13:30 – 15:30 CET**



**Online / Zoom**



Advisors  
Researchers  
CAP Networks  
Farmers  
Public authorities  
Innovators

The „AKIS in action” networking event series aims to interconnect AKIS actors across Europe. It provides practice-ready examples on how AKIS measures, knowledge and innovations are used to create value for different actors. One of the topics most requested by the community for 2024 were practices and experiences for climate change mitigation.

The event will focus on the Irish Signpost programme, the Austrian ÖPUL trainings and reports from biodiversity in agriculture and insights into administrative affairs.

Connect with your peers in the networking session and join us to take your knowledge and network to the next level!

## Agenda:

#### 13:30 – 13:40

Welcome and introduction to modernAKIS

*Elena-Teodora Miron, LFI, Austria*

#### 13:40 – 14:00

Training as an instrument and supply farmers with updated knowledge (ÖPUL Trainings, Austria)

*Thomas Weber, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, Austria*

#### 14:00 – 14:20

Insights into the Signpost programme - Reduction of gaseous emissions, improving water quality, enhancing biodiversity

*Tom O'Dwyer, Head of Signpost Programme, TEAGASC, Ireland*

#### 14:20 - 14:30

Interviews with practitioners

*Johannes Zauner, Arable farming advisor Chamber of Agriculture in Lower Austria & farmer from Umbach, Austria*

#### 14:30 - 14:40

Irish agricultural experience report

*Thomas Duffy, Irish farmer, former Macra Na Feirme president & Agriland columnist, Ireland*

#### 14:40 - 14:50

Prospects from the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture  
*Elisabeth Süßenbacher, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria*

#### 14:50 - 15:30

Q&A session with all participants & closing of event

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# Inputs from practice

## Guidance & leading climate action among Irish farmers



*Tom O'Dwyer, Head of Signpost Programme, Teagasc*

The Signpost Programme, a pivotal initiative in Irish agriculture aimed at mitigating climate change through a fusion of scientific insights and industry collaboration, seeks to diminish greenhouse gas emissions, bolster biodiversity, and enhance efficiency. Spearheaded by Signpost Farmers, who exemplify financially viable and environmentally conscious practices; fostering tangible transformation.

## Biodiversity & the added value of knowledge through training

*Elisabeth Süßenbacher, Technical expert in biodiversity and agri-environment, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism*

Biodiversity in Austrian landscapes has declined due to urbanization, intensive farming, and neglect of marginal lands. The Austrian Rural Development Program aims to counteract these trends with measures like the Agricultural Environmental Program (ÖPUL), nature conservation projects, and support for endangered breeds and rare crops. Efforts will continue focusing on conservation, education, and farmer involvement in biodiversity monitoring.



## Making CAP policies conducive to fostering biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and habitat preservation



*Thomas Duffy, Irish farmer, former Macra Na Feirme president & Agriland columnist*

Delve into the concept of "sustainable intensification" revealing young farmers' strong interest in habitat protection and their willingness to adopt environmentally friendly practices including the challenges posed by increased demand for land, fertilizers, and feed.

## Implementation of conservation agriculture & crop rotation

*Johannes Zauner, Agricultural scientist and farmer from Umbach, Chamber of Agriculture in Lower Austria*

The primary emphasis in cultivation lies in enhancing soil quality through increased humus content to promote yield stability. The strategic incorporation of cover crops and minimizing mechanical soil disturbance can expedite the transition to conservation agriculture, culminating in a no-till system.



## Training to boost payments for agri-environment-climate measures under the CAP



*Thomas Weber, Expert in agricultural and regional policy, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture*

Purpose of the mandatory trainings is to equip farmers with the necessary skills to effectively implement the management protocols specific to each measure. By incorporating the latest advancements in knowledge, drawing on applied research and expert advice, these trainings aim to maximize the contribution towards meeting the objectives of the measure.