



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

AKIS Coordination Group

Second Meeting

Backweston Laboratory Campus

04 September 2024

Agenda

1. Review of 1st meeting and outputs of workshop.
 - Cormac McGann, DAFM
2. AKIS Development
 - Work Programme – Patrick Barrett, DAFM
 - AKIS Mapping & Survey – David Murphy, CAP Network Ireland
3. Break
4. Workshop
 - Developing & Enhancing Flow Paths of Knowledge & Information
5. Summary & AOB



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Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation System (AKIS) Review of 1st meeting and outputs of workshop

September 2024

Key messages from 13 December 2023



Successful AKIS strategies include four main groups of actions:

- *Enhancing knowledge flows and strengthening links between research and practice;*
- *Strengthening all farm advisory services, making them strongly interconnected with the AKIS;*
- *Boosting cross-thematic and cross-border interactive innovation; and in this respect the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI) is a unique policy framework to support interactive innovation projects at local and transnational level.*
- *Supporting the digital transition in agriculture.*

Purpose:

- AKIS coordination, structuring and mobilising bringing actors together on a planned and regular basis, creating consistent engagement to support modernisation, innovation and knowledge flows and speed up knowledge exchange and implementation in practice.

Approach:

- Strategic work programme with agreed activities, objectives, deliverables and appropriate monitoring and indicators.
- Established in Q4 2023
- AKIS related considerations:
 - *Strengthen the links between the actors in the AKIS*
 - *DAFM establish and chair an AKIS coordination group which will provide a platform to improve synergies and complementarities between people, organisations and institutions*

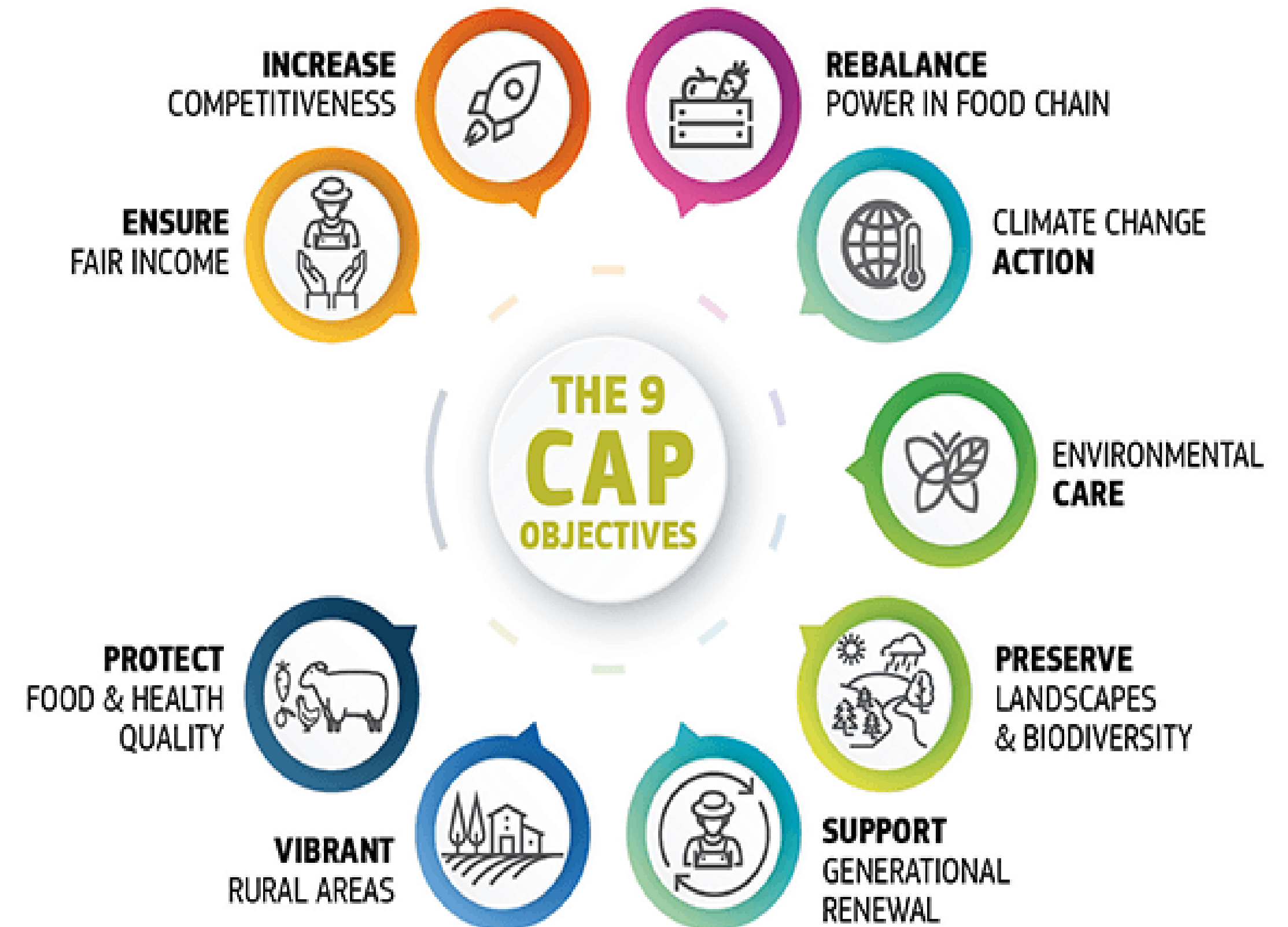
AKIS Coordination Group



Terms of Reference



- Document sets out an open list of 6 goals.
- Now adopted, and will continue to be supplemented and adjusted based on the feedback of the AKIS Coordination Group.



Output of Workshop in 1st Meeting of AKIS Coordination Group

Strengths of
Irish AKIS

Weaknesses of
Irish AKIS

Key Issues to be
Addressed

Possible
Activities of
AKIS CG

Identified Strengths of Irish AKIS



Single Governing Body	AKIS engagement, particularly among young farmers
Teagasc well integrated with national and international research	Trust from farmers to advisors
Broad reach of existing networks (over 90,000 farmers have advisors)	Engagement from high level to low
Knowledge transfer already happening	Industry links
Very strong advice for mainstream enterprises	Public funding level generally good
Unique/thematic approach to EIPs	Broadband/infrastructure
Strong EIP AGRI activity	Farm orgs engaged in delivering messages
Good balance of public/private advisory services	Strong private & public advice available
Small country, facilitates peer-to-peer learning quickly	Human capital across all stakeholders
Plenty of good demo-farms	Educational research
Good best practice available	Support Network

Communications/Engagement Strengths



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Advisory Services Strengths



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Research/Industry/Funding Strengths



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Identified Weaknesses of Irish AKIS



Funding structure for advisory service	Language of technicality
High influence from small number of stakeholders	Tracking progress
Communication, poor language/messaging	Innovation updates, adaptation and interpretation is not coordinated
Availability of information/contact points	Hard to reach farmers not reached (ageing, parttime)
Lack of specialists/multidisciplinary advisors	Large companies driving sector with finance and incentives
Not enough "place-based", locally led approaches	Dependence on payments for KT
Duplication and competition between groups	Feedback loop not always there
Lack of focus in some areas (e.g. food systems, horticulture)	Fragmented structures, duplication of effort
Many dissenting voices	Role of advisors-capacity/time/ageing
Conflicts between advice vs sales e.g., merchant agronomists	Demand for products, but the system is changing
Flow from R+D to advisors is too slow	

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Structures Weaknesses



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Key issues in Irish AKIS



AKIS needs better attention on focused innovation, and real change
Groups need to be empowered to impact change
AKIS needs better coordination
There is a lack of geographic tailoring of activities
There needs to be better management of time investment for training farmers
Effective farmer engagement should be prioritised.
There is a risk that group recommendations won't be embraced by government authorities/competent bodies, or by farmers/users.
Need to define and quantify priority areas, and hard to reach farmers and plan how to engage
Schemes are not levers for all subsectors, there are other drivers CSP/ESG/consumers

Communications/Coordination issues



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Structural issues



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Repeating themes



Speeding up transfer of information, including through digitalisation.

Better communication, particularly for hard-to-reach farmers, to strengthen links between research and implementation.

Improving coordination, including better targeting of knowledge, and supporting the advisory services.

Improving structural elements for better innovation, including continuity of projects.

Key messages from 13 December 2023



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Possible activities



Review CPD programmes/make recommendations	Financial planning
Engage in gender-sensitive discussions	Follow-up on EIP learnings
Feed into FAS/qualification requirements	Give feedback on proposed training/KT topics
Learn about other initiatives and pilot projects	Cooperation partnerships
Communicate outcomes of events	Facilitate on EIPs
Support networking	Engage with farmers and establish contact points for farmers, with technical expertise
Relationship management	Resolve complex system of getting info to farmers
Improved knowledge transfer between members	Targeted advice for individual operators
DAFM Plain English campaign	Structure grants to encourage sustainability
Farm safety	DAFM look at long term schemes for long term env challenges

Possible activities (contd.)



Lighthouse farms	Targeting of knowledge to land types and farming systems
Mock training course for feedback after training	Plug into informal farmer to farmer networks
Agri companies to incentivise good practice	Learn from other member states
Indicators that align to RD/CSP	Farmer-led schemes

Workshop Topics



Workshop Topics



How to Engage and Inform “Hard to Reach Farmers” with current and new knowledge?

How to Enhance the flow of knowledge from the Researcher, to Farm advisors, to Farmers?

How to target knowledge transfer information to different agri-food sector end users and audiences?

How to expand the dissemination and exploitation of EIP-AGRI project results?



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Thank you for your attention

Questions

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Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation System (AKIS) – Annual Work Programme

September 2024

Draft Annual Work Programme



A work programme with agreed objectives, deliverables and appropriate reporting, monitoring and indicators shall be agreed by the Coordination Group on foot of a proposal by the Chairperson.

The programme shall be reviewed regularly but any subsequent changes shall only take effect with the agreement of the Group.

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System - Ireland

AKIS Coordination Group

Annual Work Programme

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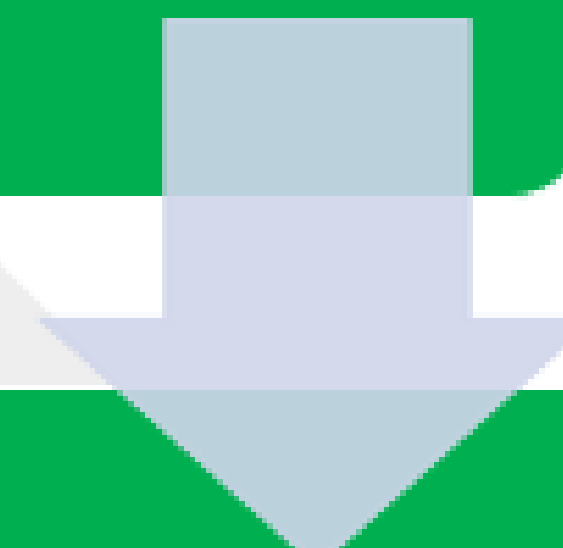
Annual Work Programme Flow Chart



i. Work Programme flow chart

Preparatory phase

- Establish Coordination Group
- Co-creation/Co-design workshop
- Farmer Survey
- Mapping



Draft Work Programme

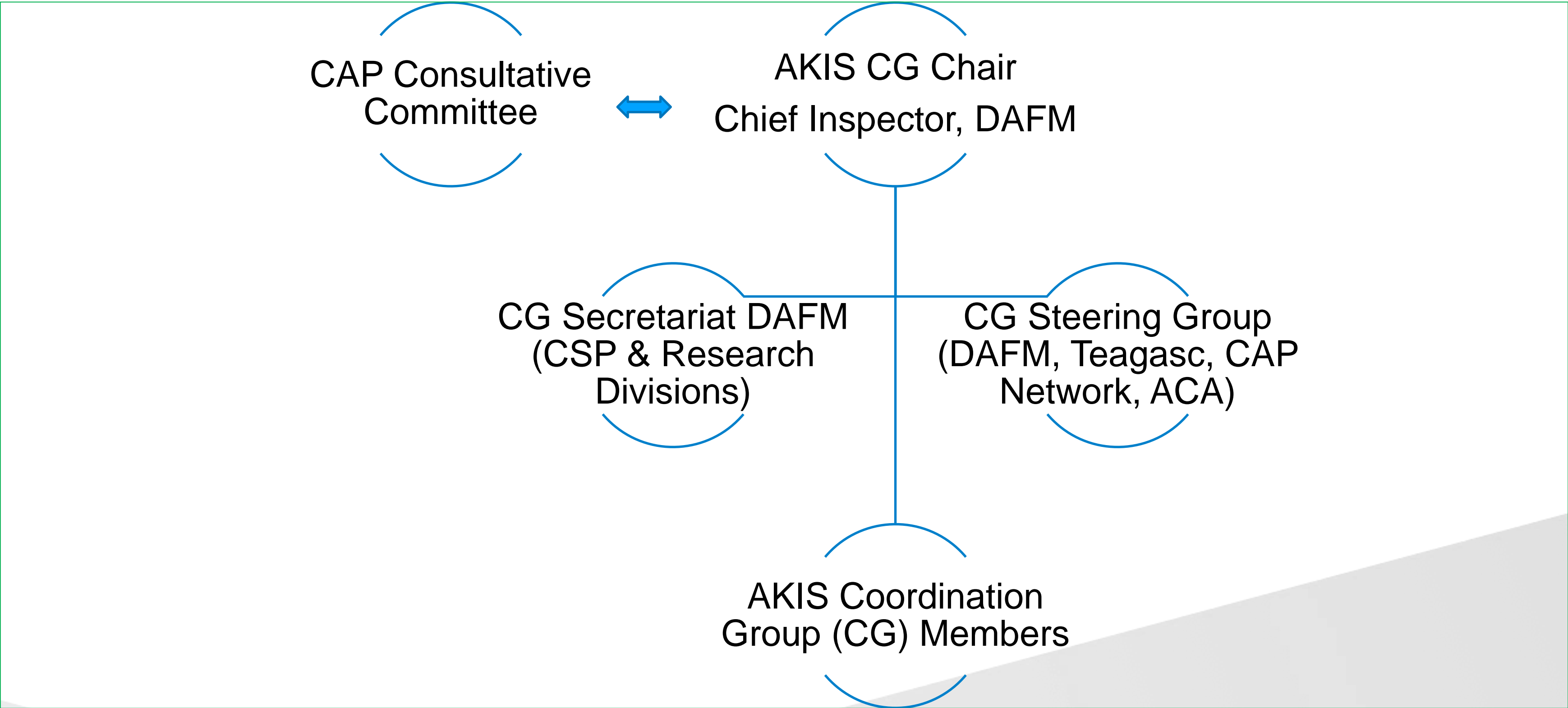
- Site Visits
- Expert engagement
- Bilateral meetings
- Specific actions enhance the flow and uptake of knowledge and information
- Monitoring and reporting

AWP proposed activities



AKIS Coordination Group (CG) set-up	a) Establishment of AKIS CG Secretariat, Steering Group and Membership b) Undertake co-creation/co-design workshop at the first meeting	09/24
Mapping	a) Visual map and description of the Irish AKIS	12/24
Site visits to enhance networking opportunities for AKIS Coordination Group members	a) Series of site visits to be arranged	Periodically as per CG meeting schedule
Invite Guest Speakers to speak about AKIS Development across the EU	a) To be considered for each meeting	Periodically as per CG meeting schedule
Specific actions to enhance the flow and uptake of knowledge and information	a) Workshop with AKIS coordination group members on priority areas for enhancing flow and uptake of knowledge and information	September 2024 – November 2025
Monitoring & Evaluation	a) To be developed	September 2024 – November 2025

Reporting Structure





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