

A hand is shown watering a small green seedling with a drop of water. The background features a sunset over rolling hills. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent green box.

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Institute



INŠTITÚT
ZNALOSTNÉHO
PŮDOHOSPODÁRSTVA
A INOVÁCIÍ

Activities of IZPI (AKII)

peer-to-peer online meeting with METK, 11th October 2024

Who we are

- IZPI (AKII) is departmental educational institution of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (MARD). (= an organization subordinate to the ministry)
- Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Institute (IZPI) (*1st January 2023 /previously Agroinstitut + Agency for Rural Development (ARVI).



Location

- situated in strategic location, in **Nitra, Slovakia**
- agricultural centre



Departments



+60 employees
7 departments

1. GD
2. Central unit of AKIS
3. AKIS Department
4. Department of National Rural Development Network
5. Information and Technology Centre
6. Economical Department
7. Department of Accommodation and Conference Services



Central unit of AKIS

- *1st April 2023
 - small unit
 - should help MARD when implementing AKIS in Slovakia
- /note: AKIS Coordination body in Slovakia is MARD/



CU AKIS - WHAT WE DO



**AKIS STEERING
COMMITTEE**

CU AKIS - WHAT WE DO

Focus Groups:

1. Agricultural and Forestry Advisory
2. Education
3. Demo-farms

**FOCUS GROUPS
AS AN INTEGRAL PART
OF AKIS STEERING
COMMITTEE**

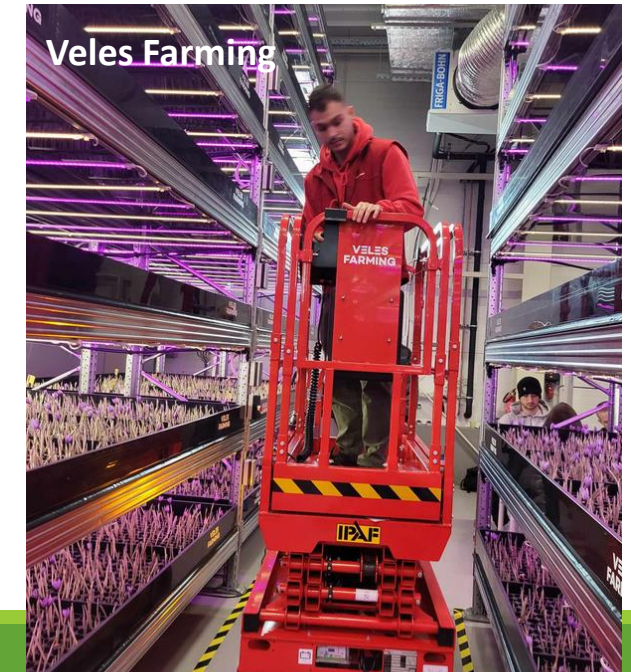
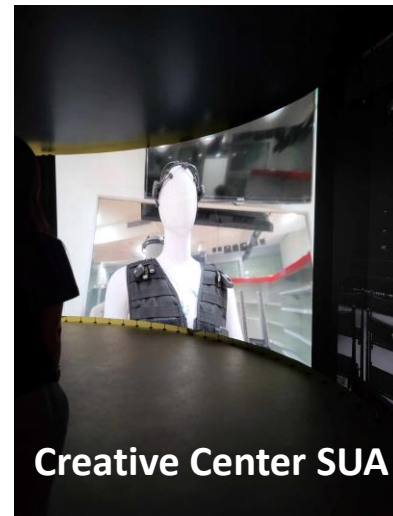


CU AKIS - WHAT WE DO



NETWORKING

CU AKIS - WHAT WE DO



**MAPPING THE AKIS
INFRASTRUCTURE**

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF CENTRAL UNIT OF AKIS



representation of IZPI/AKIS at various domestic events

co-operation with other partners + AKIS stakeholders: e.g. *Horizon NCPs; Ministry of investments, regional development and informatization of the Slovak Republic, Bioeconomy Cluster...*



other specialized professional activities - e.g. **creation of a system of demonstration farms support in Slovakia**



participation in international activities (online or face-to-face meetings)



Women Entrepreneurs in the Agro-Sector (panel discussion)

WHAT ELSE IS CU AKIS DOING?

IZPI/AKIS social media administration



creation of various promotional materials in connection to AKIS (e.g. leaflets, posters, ...)



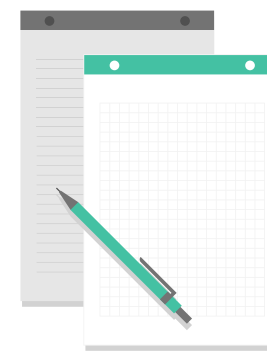
EUFRAS
EUROPEAN FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL
AND RURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Central unit of AKIS is
EUFRAS contact point for IZPI

AKIS Department



Main goals of AKIS Department



- participates in the creating of departmental concepts, strategies and guidelines within the continuing vocational education,
- elaborates departmental concepts and plans in specific education programmes and modules,
- carries out educational projects at a national and international level,
- creates a flexible system of lifelong learning and farm advisory system,
- provides continuing vocational education and training for workers in the agricultural sector and advisors,
- host organization of information centre Europe Direct.



Lifelong learning and continuing vocational education



- wide scale of seminars, courses, workshops, online trainings and e-learning platforms
- **accredited educational programmes:** agribusiness and support measures in the agro-sector, proper use of crop protection products, medicinal plants, beekeeping, distillation and fruit processing, working with disinfectants and animal pest control products, handling of very toxic and toxic substances, fire protection technicians, security technicians...
- **professional training:** cross-compliance, rural development, economics, water managements, animal welfare, breeding and livestock registry, waste and risk managements, organic farming, crop nutrition, animal diseases, land communities, agricultural policy,
- issues a certificate of vocational training





Farm advisory system and advisory services

- AKIS manages the **Central Register of Agricultural Advisors** of the Slovak Republic for Agriculture and Forestry (180 advisors)
- prepares and manages the **Catalogue of advisory products** (53 products) – still new products updates, 8 areas : plant production, animal production, food industry, economy, plant nutrition and pedology, mechanization, grazing and meadow farming
- provides professional training and certification of vocational skills of agricultural advisors
- Farm advisory system - www.agroporadenstvo.sk – contains 3 215 scientific articles and researches, 1 175 legislative regulations and laws for farmers



The receivers of the knowledge, information, education/trainings, innovations and new technologies are:



- individual holdings, agricultural enterprises (cooperatives, share-holding companies, small and young farmers), food processing factories, farmers' associations, other organizations dealing with farmer's activities and their needs.

From legal and institutional point of view the main coordinator of agricultural extension is Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

All organisational tasks, methodological activities, implementation of FAS, monitoring and evaluation are under the responsibility of The Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Institute - **IZPI Nitra**.





Department of National Rural Development
Network (=SK CAP Network)

SK CAP Network

The National Rural Network connects authorities and organizations involved in rural development and participates in the implementation of the Rural development program of the Slovak Republic. At the same time it represents a contact point for potential beneficiaries, local action groups (LAGs) and potentially for EIP operational groups (EIP OGs).

Collection and provision of information



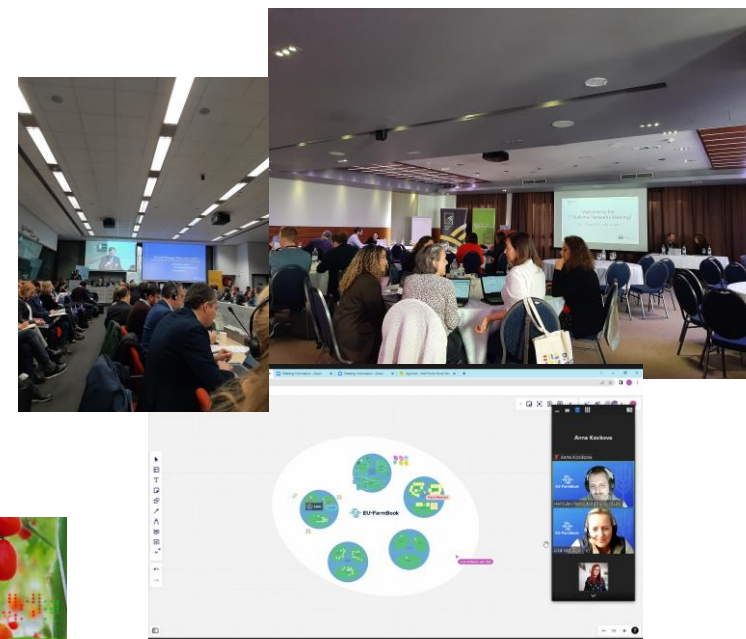
SK CAP Network

Educational and informational activities

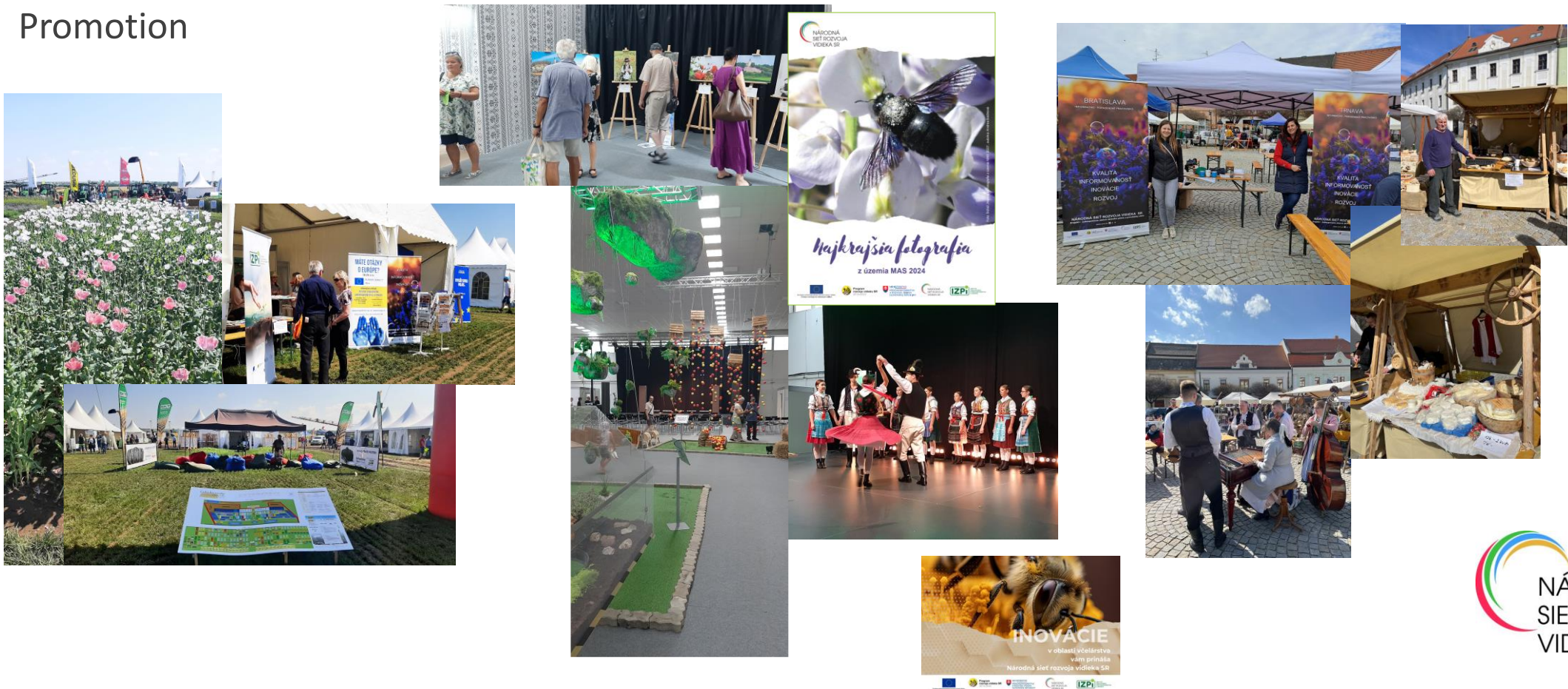


SK CAP Network

National and transnational cooperation



Promotion



Information and Technology

Centre 



Main goals of Information and Technology Centre



1. National Centre AGRIS FAO, FAO Depository Library and Special Agricultural Library

- activities fall under the professional and technical chapters of the Program FAO, which Slovakia is committed to support and develop,
- these outputs and services are aimed at member countries of the FAO, the national and international agricultural community, the scientific research base of the department, academic institutions, professional unions and associations, consultants, and students,
- the Special Agricultural Library fund is processed electronically into a database which is part of the Integrated Information System AGROKATALÓG.



Main goals of Information and Technology Centre



2. Information services

- supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in providing up-to-date online information to general and specialist internet users. It continued to perform tasks ensuring efficient and effective access to information and information sources for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,
- continuous operation, backups, processing and updating of the websites of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,
- webhosting arrangements, domain registrations, backups and support for communication via the internet and Govnet.





Questions - CU AKIS



1. AKIS in Estonia:

- Please, describe design a clear governance structure for managing and coordinating the AKIS, possibly through a central body or ministry.
- How do you foster cooperation between main AKIS actors in Estonia?
- Are there any supportive policies, incentives, and regulations that foster innovation and knowledge sharing in Estonia?
- How is the financing of building AKIS in Estonia set up?
- Which institution is designated for evaluation the effectiveness of the AKIS and monitoring in Estonia?
- What calls have already been launched from the CAP Strategic Plan to support AKIS in Estonia?



Questions – AKIS Department



How does advisory system work in Estonia? (how many advisors do you have, which kind of advisory services do you offer, feedback from farmers)

How are the advisors connected to AKIS?

How is the quality of advisors improved?

What kind of innovations do you use in the advisory system?



Questions from SK CAP Network to METK:



-
- Please, describe the selection process of EIP OGs – mainly in relation to: number of calls, time management of the process, number of created OGs, main thematic focus of OGs.
 - Is there any supportive tool for stakeholders who want to create EIP OG (preparation of OG)?
 - Are there any important changes in selection process / criteria / settings of the calls when comparing with previous period (2014 – 2022)?

ANSWERS



Answers to METK questions (SK CAP Network):

1. The process of monitoring the needs of the producers and transforming this into the AKIS services

» Based on request of Managing authority the CAP Network runs the public consultation for RDP calls – collected suggestions provide valuable remarks for call settings

» Based on request of Managing authority the CAP Network runned questionnaire on *financial instruments in new CAP for 2023 – 2027* (February 2024)

2. The setup of your advisory services and the division of roles and activities in advancing the quality of the advisory services

» CAP Network shares the link and informs on *Catalog of consulting products* (which is managed by AKII)

» CAP Network and its regional antennas organises seminars and provides advisory services for RDP beneficiaries – these products can use advisors as well

3. What kind of innovation support do you offer to the producers?

As Slovakia has no EIP operational groups, the CAP Network can not provide any innovation support.

Answers – CJ AKIS



Q: 3. What kind of innovation support do you offer to the producers?

IZPI provides farmers with some forms of innovation support, however, we are aware that innovation support towards farmers is insufficient in SR and steps need to be taken to improve this situation. The main forms of support include:

- **advice and education** - IZPI organizes trainings and courses aimed at developing professional skills
- **demonstration farms** - last year in September, the AKIS Steering Committee was established and within it (for the needs of solving specific problems) 3 subgroups (Focus Groups) were created at the initiative of the Managing Authority: FG Advisory; FG Education; FG Demonstration farms. As part of the work of the FG demonstration farms, CJ AKIS is actively involved in the creation of the material "Creating a system of support for demonstration farms in Slovakia", which will be sent to the Meeting of the management of our Managing Authority in the coming weeks.
- **networking** - IZPI is a member of the Bioeconomy Cluster. The cooperation with this Cluster has been very active especially in the last two years. Together we have carried out workshops and seminars on bioeconomy and together we are also preparing already mentioned proposal to support demonstration farms in Slovakia.
- **international cooperation** – EU projects (Erasmus+); IZPI will support farmers in participating in international projects and programs, such as the European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI), when EIP-AGRI OP Groups are operational in the SR
- **digitalisation** - as a result of individual Erasmus+ projects, in which IZPI is either a partner or coordinator, online educational courses were created on the e-learning platform, e.g. <https://edu.beeepro.sk/>; IZPI maintains the website www.agroporadenstvo.sk



Answers – AKIS Department



Q: From our side, we are very interested in your process of monitoring the needs of the producers and transforming this into the AKIS services as well as the setup of your advisory services and the division of roles and activities in advancing the quality of the advisory services. Also, what kind of innovation support to you offer to the producers?

- The needs of farmers and producers - Questionnaire of missing advisory services for farmers
- Questionnaire for new advisory services according to innovation and digital technologies
- Integration in the farm advisory services - AKIS
- Educational programmes and trainings for advisors and farmers



THANK YOU, LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



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