



i2connect (Connecting Advisers to Boost Interactive Innovation in Agriculture and Forestry)

The project has received funding from the Horizon 2020 programme (<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>)

Duration of the project: 01/11/2019 – 01/11/2024

Objectives - to fuel the competencies of advisers who will support and facilitate interactive innovation processes responding to multiple challenges in European agriculture and forestry.

Project partners

- APCA – French Chambers of Agriculture (France)
- AUA – Agricultural University of Athens (Greece)
- ILVO – Legal Entity of the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Belgium)
- NAAS – National Agricultural Advisory Service (Bulgaria)
- EUFRAS – The European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services (Latvia)
- FiBL EU – Research Institute of Organic Agriculture in Europe (Belgium)
- IALB – Internationale Akademie für ländliche Beratung (Germany)
- SEASN – South Eastern Europe Advisory Service Network (Croatia)
- ProAgria – ProAgria (Finland)
- ACTA – les Instituts Techniques Agricoles (France)
- UHOH – University of Hohenheim (Germany)
- NAK – Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture (Hungary)
- CIRCA – The CIRCA Group Europe Limited (Ireland)
- TEAGASC – Teagasc Agriculture and Food Development Authority (Ireland)
- CREA – Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (Italy)
- LLKC – Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre (Latvia)
- LAAS – Lithuanian Agricultural Advisory Service (Lithuania)
- CDR – Centrum Doradztwa Rolniczego w Brwinowie (Poland)
- CONSULAI – Consultoria Agroindustrial, Lda (Portugal)
- MAPA – Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación (Spain)
- AGRIDEA – Swiss Centre for Agricultural Extension and Rural Development (Switzerland)
- ZLTO – Zuidelijke Land en Tuinbouw Organisatie (Netherlands)
- WR – Stichting Wageningen Research (Netherlands)
- SZE - Széchenyi István University (Hungary)

The i2connect consortium is composed of 24 beneficiaries from 16 European countries including Switzerland.

Project activities

The rapid development of digital technologies is bringing about a revolution in the farm and forestry sectors. This presents opportunities for some, but the risk for others. New concepts have emerged and must be taken into account by farmers and foresters, such as sustainable development, social responsibility, agro-ecology, bio-economy, circular economy, etc.

The existing adviser networks and the experiences of success in different contexts will be used to create a broader network enabling a new culture of bottom-up led innovation support. An inventory of the current state of advisory practices in Europe will be made. Best practices throughout Europe will be analyzed in an interactive way to guide the development of approaches and tools, and to be studied as part of the training programme of advisers. A pool of trainers will be trained to work with these materials in training and coaching advisers. Some advisers may join cross visit teams for studying interesting cases abroad. Professional network with many local branches will be created. The network will be supported by the project through a moderated on line platform for mutual coaching and sharing experiences.