



**i2connect**  
INTERACTIVE INNOVATION

**Regional AKIS Stakeholders workshop**

**23rd of March 2022**



# 01 AKIS and advisory Services in Estonia

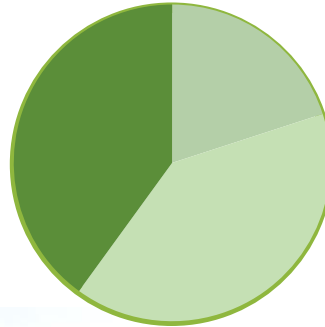
Hanna Tamsalu  
Rural Network support unit  
Agricultural Research Centre

# Estonia

Smallest of Baltic countries  
45 227 km<sup>2</sup>



1,33 million of inhabitants  
60% is urbanised  
40% around the capital city

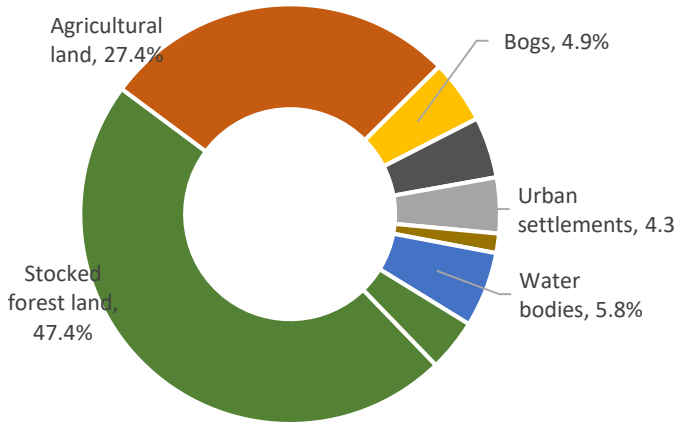


Number of farms is decreasing

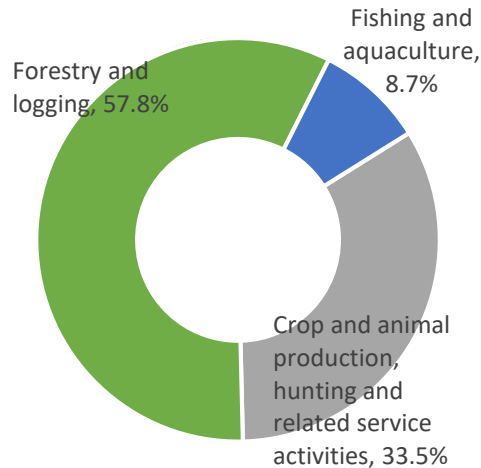
14 077  
single area  
payment  
applications



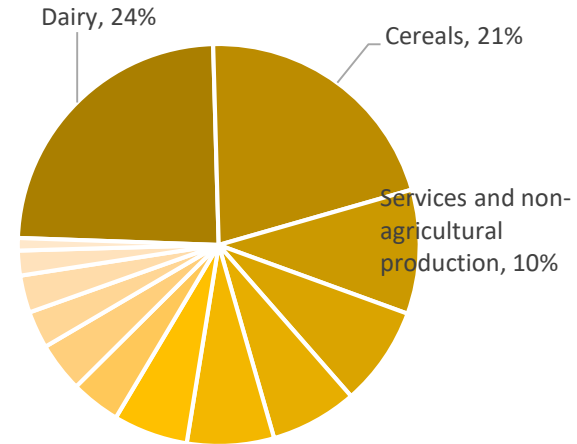
# Agriculture, forestry and fisheries/aquaculture



Total area by land categories



Gross value added



Total output value of agriculture

## Main characteristics of AKIS

- Estonian AKIS benefits from the **small size** of the country. Key persons in different institutions know each other well and cooperate in different forms and topics.
- **Several measures support** cooperation between the actors. Training and farm advisory services are provided by publicly **supported advisors** and a number of independent organisations.
- **No central hub** exists for overall coordination innovation and knowledge exchange in **agricultural** sector and rural activities.

## AKIS actors: agriculture, forestry and fisheries/aquaculture



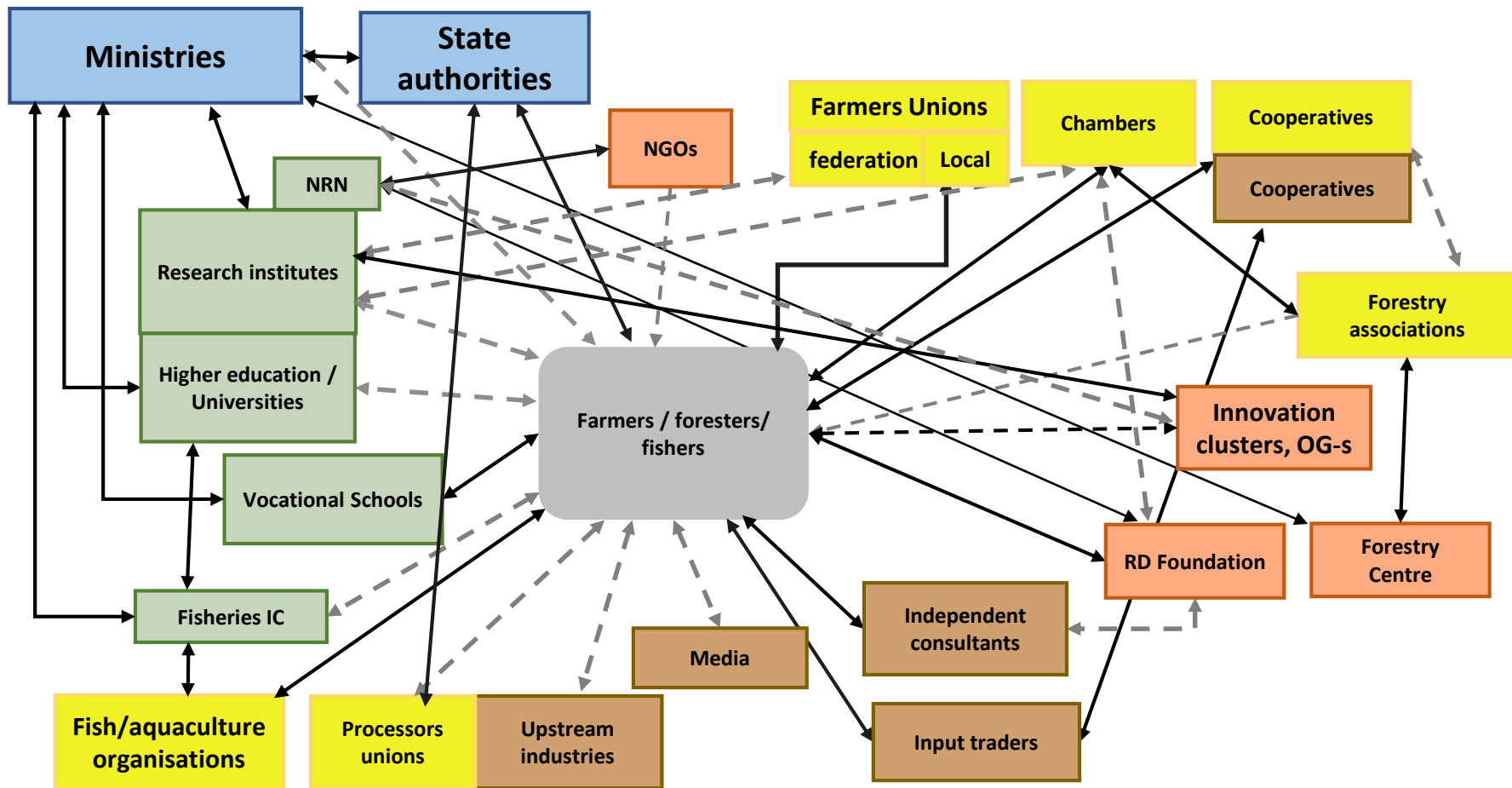
- Rural Development Foundation
- Sectoral organisations /NGO
- Private advisors
- Input sellers and cooperatives



- Fisheries Information Centre
- Fisheries Local Action Groups
- Producer organisations



- Private Forest Centre
- Private Forest Union
- Local private forestry associations/cooperatives



# Policy programs and coordination structures supporting the AKIS

## European Maritime and Fisheries fund



Cooperation, trainings, research  
Fisheries Information Centre

## State support for forestry knowledge



Advisory support and trainings  
Private Forestry Centre

## Common Agricultural Policy



Innovation clusters,  
knowledge transfer, advice

**Innovation clusters and initiatives, incl EIP-OG**

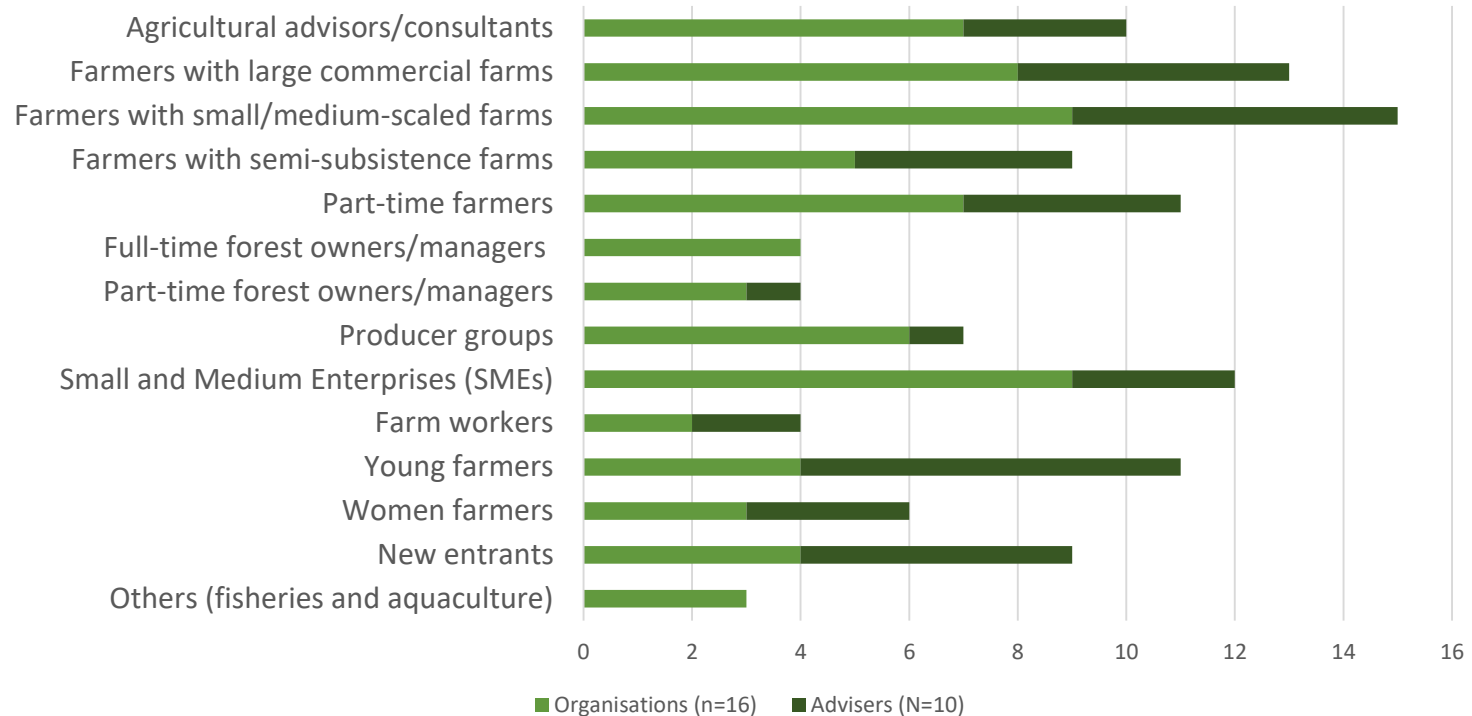
**Knowledge transfer projects and Long-term KT programmes**

**Advisory support  
Advisors' trainings**

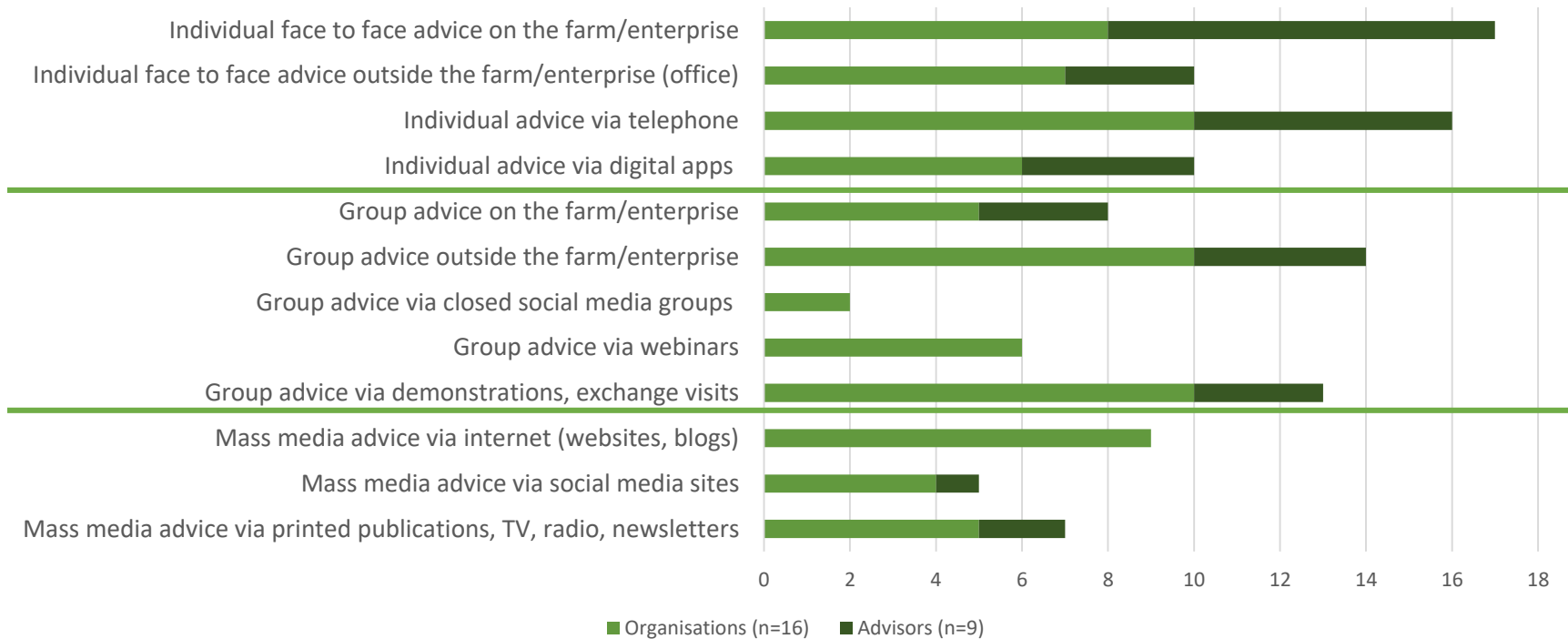
Rural Development Foundation

**LAG's actions  
NRN/NSU**

# Main client groups



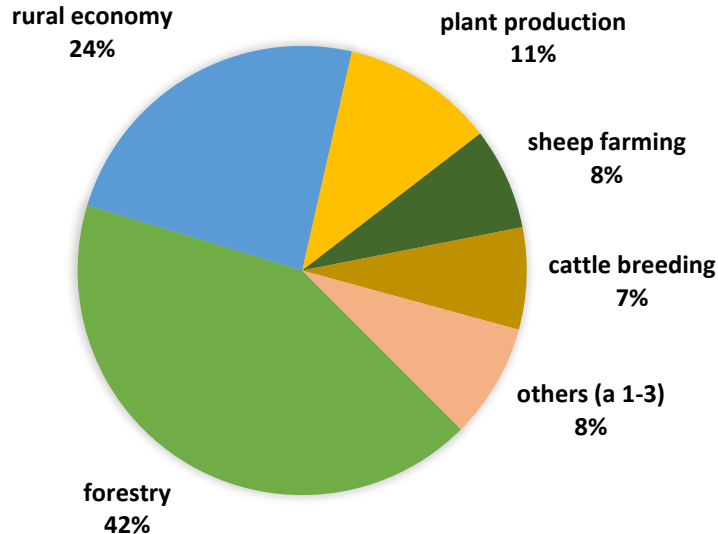
# Advisory methods



# Advisors

## Professional advisory certificates

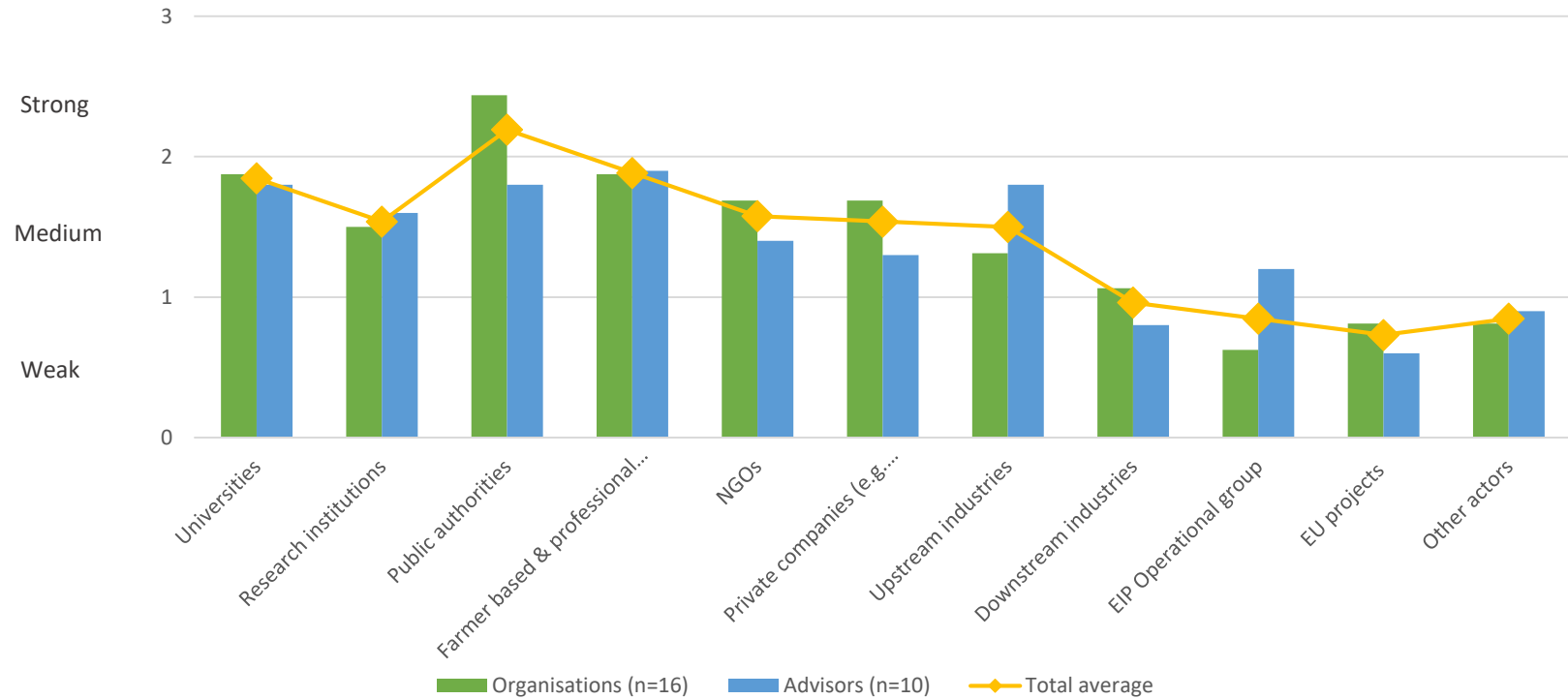
(N=109, few full-time advisors)



## Ministry of Rural Affairs, 2020

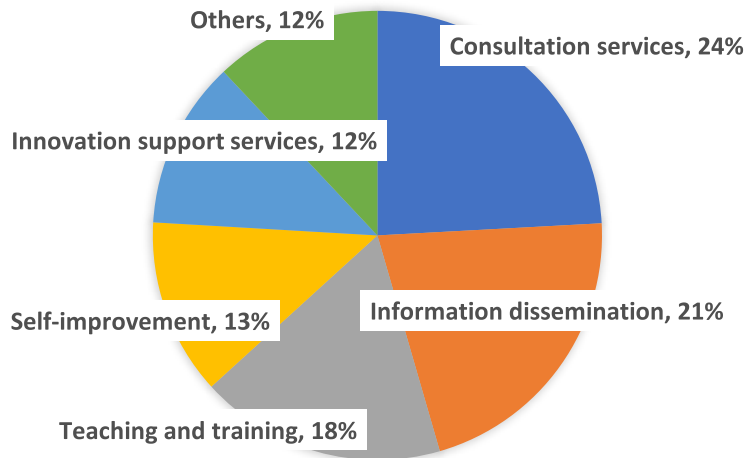
*The advisory services in Estonia could be described as a „mixed“ system of supported and private advice providers. Farmer is free to choose whether he/she prefers supported advice from the certified FAS advisor or pays the full price to buy the service from the market (that is unregulated).*

# Degree of cooperation

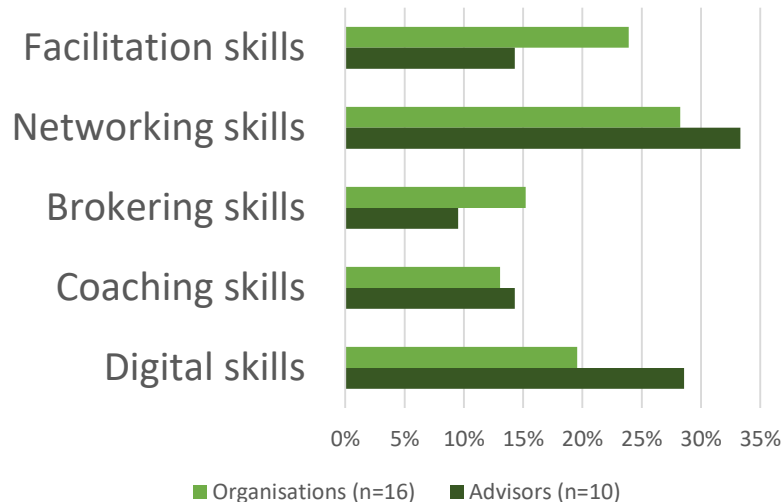


# Worktime and skills

**Proportion of advisors work-time (by organisations)**

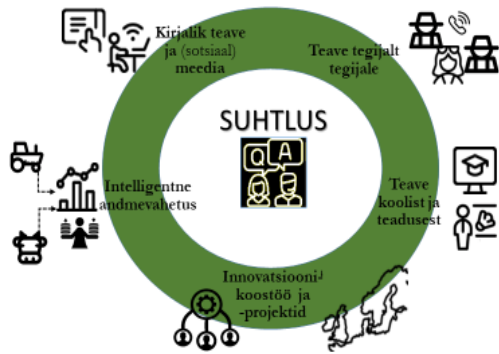


**Methodological and communication skills, needed regarding new CAP**



**Satisfaction with advisory services is high – 96% of foresters, 98% of farmers, 87% of food processors**

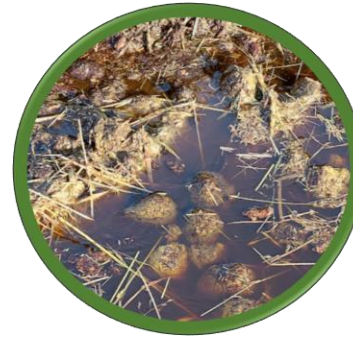
## Conclusion - Opinion of weak AKIS is not correct



Several strong information providers, close contacts, „eyes on EU“.



Several support measures. High dependence on grants, especially in research



Public image of agricultural sector and rural life ... Advisors are aging



Need for AKIS operating body.

# i2connect

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Individual country reports available on [i2connect webpage!](#)

## Thank you!

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Estonian rural network: [www.maainfo.ee](http://www.maainfo.ee) and National knowledge reservoir: [www.pikk.ee](http://www.pikk.ee)



THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM  
THE EUROPEAN UNION' HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH  
AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME  
UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT N. 863039