ROMANIAN EXPERIENCES IN HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION SYSTEMS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

Dr. Cosmin SĂLĂȘAN
BANAT’S UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE “KING MICHAEL I ST OF ROMANIA” FROM TIMIȘOARA, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT, ROMANIAN ACADEMY, BRANCH OF TIMIȘOARA, RESEARCH CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF ROMANIA
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

Romania in 2005 (second largest New Member State, after Poland)

- Area: 238000 km² (6% of total EU)
- Population: over 21 mil. (4% of total EU)
- Rural area: 87,1% of total area and 45,1% of total population, 45,1 pers./km²
- Agriculture, forestry and fishery hired 2,9 mil. Persons, representing 32,2% of total labor (30,3% industry and 37,5% services)
- Rural population: 64,2% occupied in agriculture, forestry and fishery, 18,7% in secondary and 17,1% in tertiary sectors
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

Romania in 2005 (second largest New Member State, after Poland)

- Agricultural area: 14741.2 thou. Ha (61.8% of total area): 63.9% arable, 22.8% pastures, 10.2% meadows, 1.5% vineyards, 1.4% orchards
- Forest and forestry land: 6742.8 thou. Ha (28.28% of total area)
- Farms and farming households: 4.256.152 (4.121.247 farms = 13.906.7 thou. Ha)
- Statistical average area of farm: 3.37 Ha split in average in 3.73 plots
- UAA/SAU: 80% equally split between a large number of small farms (<5 Ha) [80% of total farms] and small number of large farms (>50 Ha) [13830 farms using 40% of UAA/SAU; 20% covered by an intermediate segment between 5-50 Ha]
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

Modernizing Agricultural Knowledge & Information Systems Project (MAKIS) (WB P086949)

- From 2005 to 2010, revised closing in 2013
- Specific Investment Loan; Total Project Cost: 72,25 mil. USD
- Components:
  - Strengthening the National Authority for Sanitary, Veterinary and Food Safety (ANSVSA) and the Phyto-Sanitary Units (13.74 M. USD),
  - Support for agricultural research (23,48 M. USD),
  - Support for advisory and information system (10,29 M. USD),
  - Project management (2.49 M. USD)
Modernizing Agricultural Knowledge & Information Systems Project (MAKIS) (WB P086949) Targets and indicators:

- Increase in agri-food export to EU 27 relative to Gross Value Added: from 3.6% to 9.05% (targeted 5.5%);
- Functional network of ANSVSA's National Reference Laboratories and Regional Laboratories: 2 RL;
- Functional network of Border Inspection Points to monitor food quality and movement of animals: 3 BIPs;
- Functional network of phytosanitary National Reference and Regional Laboratories: 2 NRL and 3 RL;
- Number of research institutes reformed: 4
- GMO Laboratory at NRDIBH is fully functional. Construction of building for soil laboratory at RISSA is underway: 1
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

Modernizing Agricultural Knowledge & Information Systems Project (MAKIS) (WB P086949) Targets and indicators:

- Development of new technologies compatible with EU standards: 41 (targeted 20);
- Functional training center able to train trainers, extension staff, food safety inspectors, agro-processors and private sector, researchers: 4 Training and Information Centers established, 35 trainers + 2040 extension staff + 468 food inspectors + 5328 agro-processors + 252 researchers trained (targeted: 30 trainers + 2160 extension staff + 400 food safety inspectors + 2050 agro-processors + 180 researchers);
- Number of farmers receiving information / training regarding EU accession: 1,3 mil. Farmers (targeted: 33000);
- Number of multi-media campaigns: 11 (targeted: 2);
- Technologies demonstrated in the project areas: 89 (targeted: 0)
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

National Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (NRDP)

- Programme dedicated Measure 143 Providing counselling and consultancy services for farmers;
- Projects selected: 11611 projects (5279 in 2011 and 6332 in 2012);
- Eligible farmers counselled/advised: 15,717 (31,43% of the 50000 NRDP target), of which 6081 women (60,81% of the 10000 NRDP target);
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

Programme dedicated Measures:

- M01 – Actions for Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions (Art. 14 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013;
- M02 – Counselling Services, Farm Management Services and Replacement Services on Farm (Art. 15 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013;
- M16 – Cooperation (Art. 35 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013;
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

M01 – Actions for Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions (Art. 14 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013

sM 1.1 – Support for Professional Training and Actions for Acquiring Competencies

Grants (reimbursement of eligible supported and paid costs);
Beneficiaries: Public and private entities active in the field of professional training that meet eligibility and selection criteria;
Attendance: free of charge
Financial allocation: 70% of Measure M01
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

M01 – Actions for Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions (Art. 14 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013

sM 1.2 – Support for Demonstration Activities and Information Actions

Grants (reimbursement of eligible supported and paid costs);

Beneficiaries: Public and private entities active in the field of information / dissemination / demonstrations that meet eligibility and selection criteria;

Attendance: free of charge

Financial allocation: 30% of Measure M01
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

M02 – Counselling Services, Farm Management Services and Replacement Services on Farm (Art. 15 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013;

sM 2.1 – Support for Assisting in Benefiting from Using the Counselling Services

Grants (reimbursement of eligible supported and paid costs);

Beneficiaries: Providers of counselling services, public or private entities, founded according to the current legislation selected based on public procurement procedure;

Public funding: 100% of eligible expenditure without exceeding 1500 EUR/beneficiary over a 3 years period (Annex II Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013)
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)
M16 – Cooperation (Art. 35 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013)

sM 16.1 – Support for Creation and Functioning of Operational Groups (OG) for Developing Pilot-Projects, New Products

sM 16.1a – Support for Creation and Functioning of Operational Groups (OG) for Developing Pilot-Projects, New Products, New Processes in Fruit Production Sector

Grants (reimbursement of eligible supported and paid costs, including preparatory actions); Advance payments for investments under the reserve of a bank guarantee (Art. 45(4) and 63 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013)
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

M16 – Cooperation (Art. 35 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013)

Beneficiaries > Partnership formed by at least 1 farmer / producer group / cooperative and one partner from the categories:

- Research;
- Agri-Food or Forestry Production.

Duration: 2 stages of max. 3 years plus max. 6 months after finalisation for dissemination

Financial support: max. 500000 EUR per project

100% of eligible expenditure refunded (for OG specific actions)
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

**Lessons learnt along the way:**

1. Financial availability represents a very strong motivation and the financial motivation weakens over time proportionally with the intensity of support;

2. The gap between education/research and business sectors expectations is only temporarily and partially filled (project-based);

3. Training and education structures created to support the AKIS have a low sustainability;

4. Agricultural and rural training delivery supported from public funding should not be sub-contracted;

5. The innovation transfer in agriculture aside from the private-branded one is almost entirely dependent on RDI projects and mostly public funded.
Romanian experiences in harmonization of national Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems with the European Union

Your questions are welcomed!