

Innovative initiatives are everywhere. They flourish in a proper biotope. Support for sustainable innovations means creating space for co-creation of appropriate solutions for agriculture and rural areas in Europe.

How to create space for innovations?

In the AgriSpin project, 15 partners in 12 EU countries are learning from and with each other about approaches and methods that work. All these partner organisations are involved in innovation support at farm level.



15 partners in 12 countries

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|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. SEGES (lead partner) | Denmark |
| 2. University of Hohenheim | Germany |
| 3. University of Athens | Greece |
| 4. ACTA | France |
| 5. CIRAD | France |
| 6. Teagasc | Ireland |
| 7. HAZI | Spain |
| 8. Tuscany Region | Italy |
| 9. LLKC | Latvia |
| 10. VLK | Germany |
| 11. Adept | Romania |
| 12. ProAgria | Finland |
| 13. ZLTO | The Netherlands |
| 14. Innovatiesteunpunt | Belgium |
| 15. IFOAM EU group | EU, Brussels |

Assuming that every partner has interesting experiences to share, cross visits have been organised in AgriSpin to study innovation cases in which partners were involved. Teams, composed of colleagues from partner organisations, interviewed farmers, advisors and other actors involved, in order to understand what matters most in stimulating innovations.

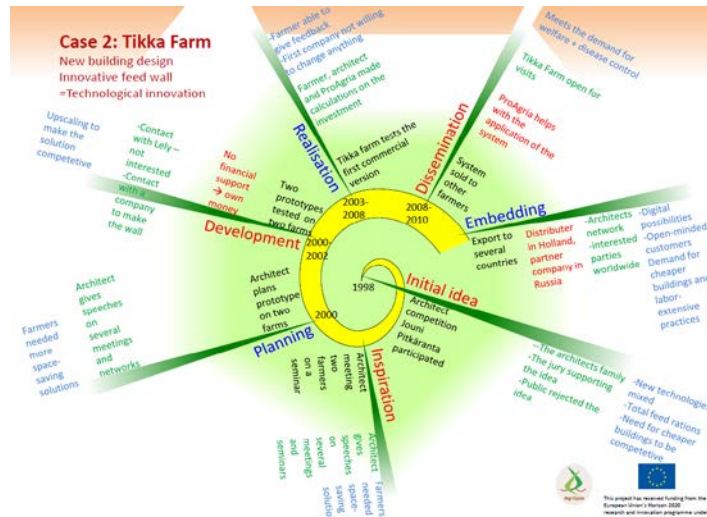
Cross Visits as a method for mutual inspiration

After 13 cross visits in different European Regions, a method emerged that can also be applied elsewhere.

The method is useful for exchanges between professionals who work on similar tasks in different environments.

There is much to gain in such exchanges:

- It helps to think out of the box.
- Others have found different solutions for similar problems.
- You only realise what you're actually doing when you step outside, and have others observing you.
- Reflection of what matters most is crucial for learning, but professionals on the job rarely take time for it.
- Intensive team work often results in long lasting professional relationships.



We like to share

The AgriSpin partners are ready to share the experience gained in the first 1½ years of the project.

We learned a lot about what matters most in innovation processes with farmers and rural communities, as well about methods to explore this.

Interested? Please contact us.

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How to understand what has been observed during the cross visits? While most of the AgriSpin partners are practitioners who gain insights for applications back home, there are scientific members too, who support the AgriSpin community by developing a conceptual framework and a common language to discuss what matters most. Furthermore, their analyses of the harvest from the cross visits is expected to contribute to a deeper understanding of innovation processes and the way they can be supported effectively.

Science in a supportive role

As a result, we expect more than 45 “Learning Histories”: readable stories about how innovations occurred, and what has made the difference.



The institutional environment can make thresholds for innovators higher or lower. Regional authorities and politicians who take sustainable development seriously can make a difference too.

What can decision makers do?

The AgriSpin project offers a channel for dialogue between practitioners in innovation support and decision makers, through its ‘Multiplier group’. Here, people with their boots in the mud and those in the political arena learn about each other’s realities and focus on creating new solutions together.



Pearls in nature are hard to find. AgriSpin makes the pearls between what has been observed as successful innovations accessible, with short videos and practice abstracts.

Best practices made accessible

On the website agrispin.eu they are being published. Interested people find links to websites and persons when they want to know more about innovations that make them curious.

The AgriSpin Project



Space for Innovation in Agriculture

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