



The AgriSpin Project

Space for Innovation in Agriculture

March 2015 - August 2017

www.agrispin.eu

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 |



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.

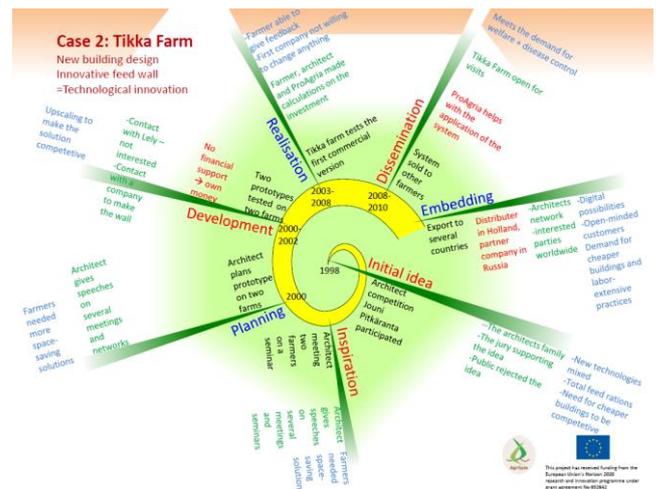
There is much to gain in such exchanges:

- 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.



Innovation Spiral as instrument to understand the lifecycle of innovations

the Spiral of Innovations has been used by most colleagues to describe how innovations evolved along different stages, and to distinguish how they intervened along the way.



“Stories from all countries, to continue with”
Fifty two stories about innovations from European innovation support agencies in agriculture and rural development, a harvest of the AgriSpin project.

‘Innovations are discovery journeys’

Innovation processes do not fit into common project reports with objectives, deliverables and tick boxes for checking whether the project has produced what it promised to do. When you know beforehand what comes out, it will not be new.

Innovation processes start with people who have an idea, they manage to inspire others, they organise themselves for action, they acquire space for experimenting and learning, they encounter unexpected problems and surprising opportunities to which they respond, they involve others who influence the course of the process, and they end up with results they could not have thought of at the start, but which might be better than they had hoped for as it became the result of co-creation. They also might fail to reach their initial goals but become wiser and better equipped for a new effort with reformulated targets. Such experiences might be just as valuable as a successful effort.

(Eelke Wielinga and Sjoerd Robijn, editors)



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