



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 90

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Implementation of European Farm Advisory Services in Austria

In Austria, the Farm Advisory System (FAS) is operating within a wider framework for delivering advice to farmers and promoting knowledge and innovation at the farm level. From 2007, the FAS is integrated into the pre-existing farm advisory system of the Chambers of Agriculture ([www.lko.at](http://www.lko.at)). 10 years later implementation of the FAS was expanded through a cooperation of the Chambers with BioAustria ([www.bio-austria.at](http://www.bio-austria.at)) in the field of organic agriculture.

The Chambers and BioAustria have been providing extension services for decades. Under the umbrella of the Chambers of Agriculture, several sub-organisations are operating: the Institute for Further Training in Rural Areas (Ländliches Fortbildungsinstitut, LFI), the project and business support unit (LK Projekt GmbH) and the rural youth and rural women's associations.

Both their clients as well as a wider circle of stakeholders value their work and achievements. The quality of the services and products delivered is widely acknowledged, as well as their ability to innovate and adapt in front of the background of new trends and emerging challenges. By integrating the FAS into existing advisory systems, Austria met the EC requirements, on the one hand. On the other, this approach helped to raise awareness and interest among farmers for the mandatory cross-compliance requirements and triggered them to act. The system of "official counselling" is a key to maintaining a small-structured agriculture and forestry with a high share of family farms, which are dominating in Austria.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To obtain more information about the Austrian EU-FAS please read the report (<https://www.agrilink2020.eu/countries/austria/>).



## ABOUT AGRILINK

AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

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