



**UNISECO**

UNDERSTANDING & IMPROVING  
THE SUSTAINABILITY OF AGRO-ECOLOGICAL  
FARMING SYSTEMS IN THE EU

# Co-constructing innovative market and policy incentives to face agroecological transition in Europe: challenges and opportunities

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## AAG Annual Meeting 2021

Agroecological transitions in different geographic contexts 3: Governance and sustainability  
Online, 10/04/2021

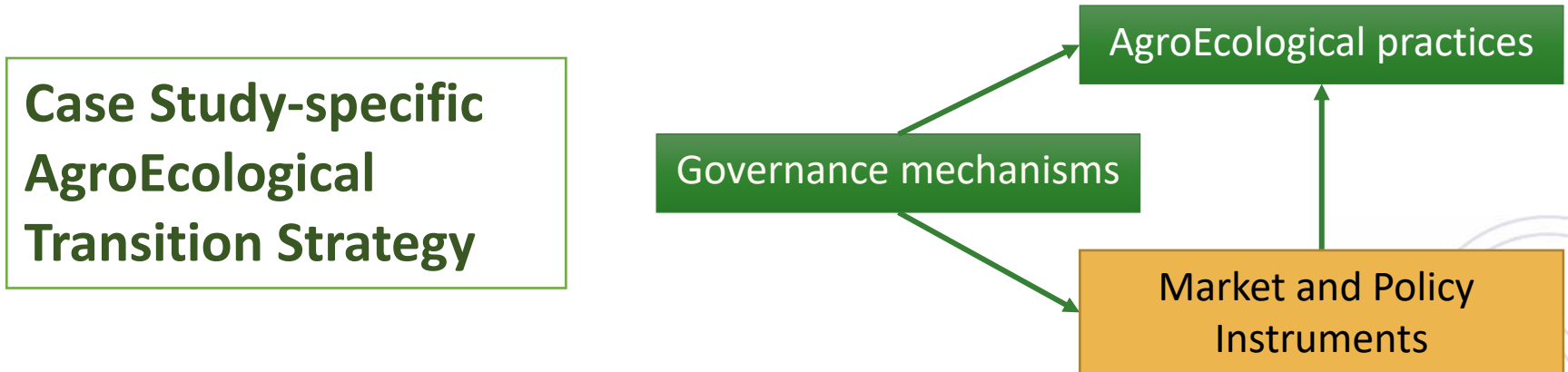


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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
of GEOGRAPHERS  
ANNUAL MEETING

- UNISECO **WP5** - Governance and Policy Assessment
- Overarching objective: to analyse **market and policy instruments** (MPIs), with governance mechanisms, supporting AgroEcological transition



# Categories of MPIs

Income and market support

Agri-Env Payments

Diversification

Payments for investments

Regulatory restrictions

Land use policies

Regional policies

Tax policies

Certification schemes

Food policies

Knowledge promotion

Networking

- Identified and described the **broad range of MPIs** in place in each Case Study
- **Shortlist** 10-15 key MPIs in each Case Study based on stakeholders' experience and knowledge
- **Assessed and ranked** the shortlisted MPIs with local actors and experts
- **Discussed** key opportunities and challenges to adoption of the assessed MPIs, including governance changes
- Delivered **policy recommendations** based on the key policy and governance lessons learnt



- **Mixed-methods** approach:
  - Multi-criteria Analysis (MCA) + Qualitative analysis
- **Data collection:**
  - Semi-structured **interviews/workshops** with 127 local stakeholders from 15 Case Studies

Advisors	Farmers	Policy makers	Researchers	Other actors	Total
22	18	31	26	30	127

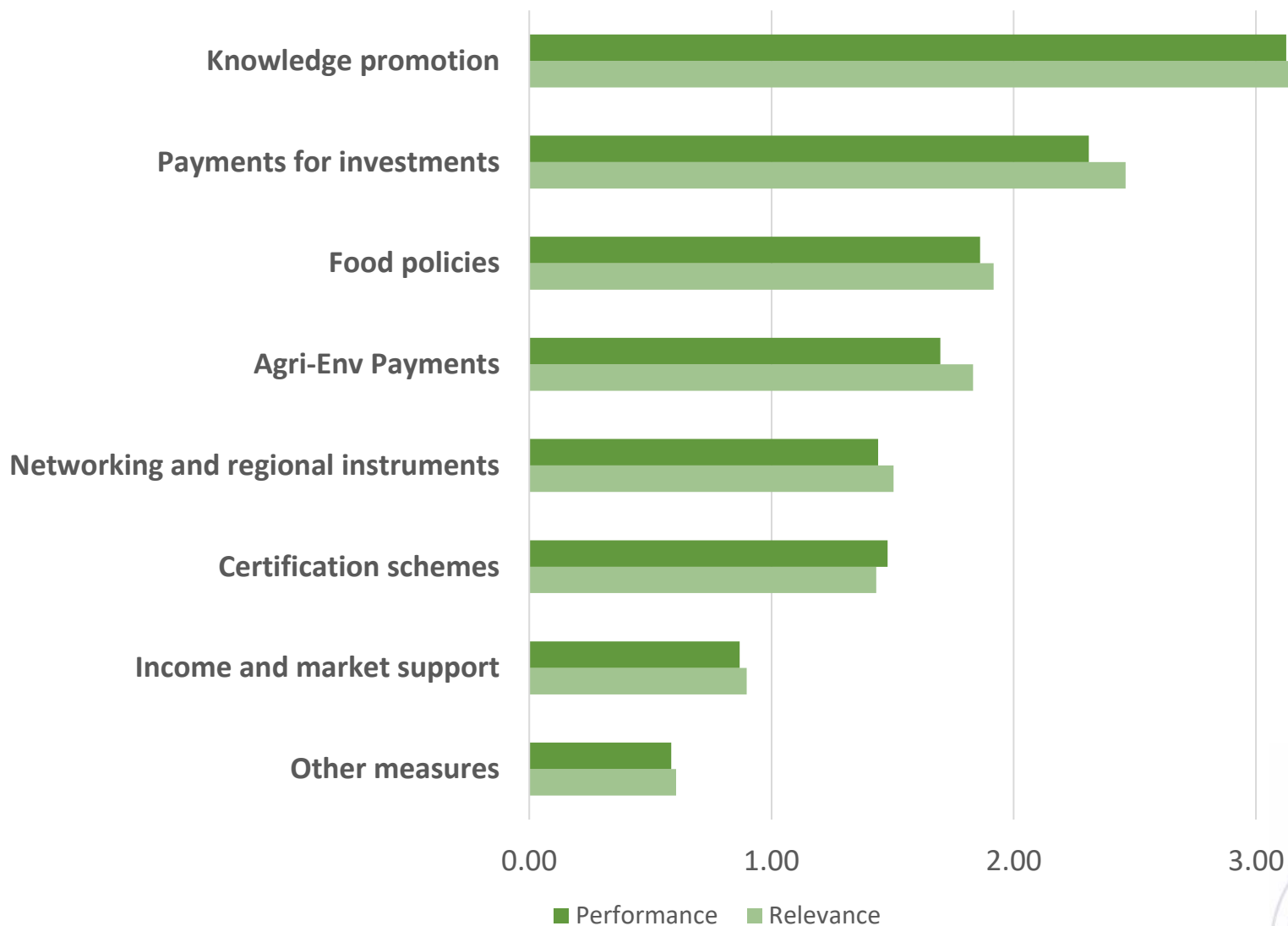
- **Ex-ante** approach :
  - Focused on AE transition
  - Including a mix of existing and new MPs



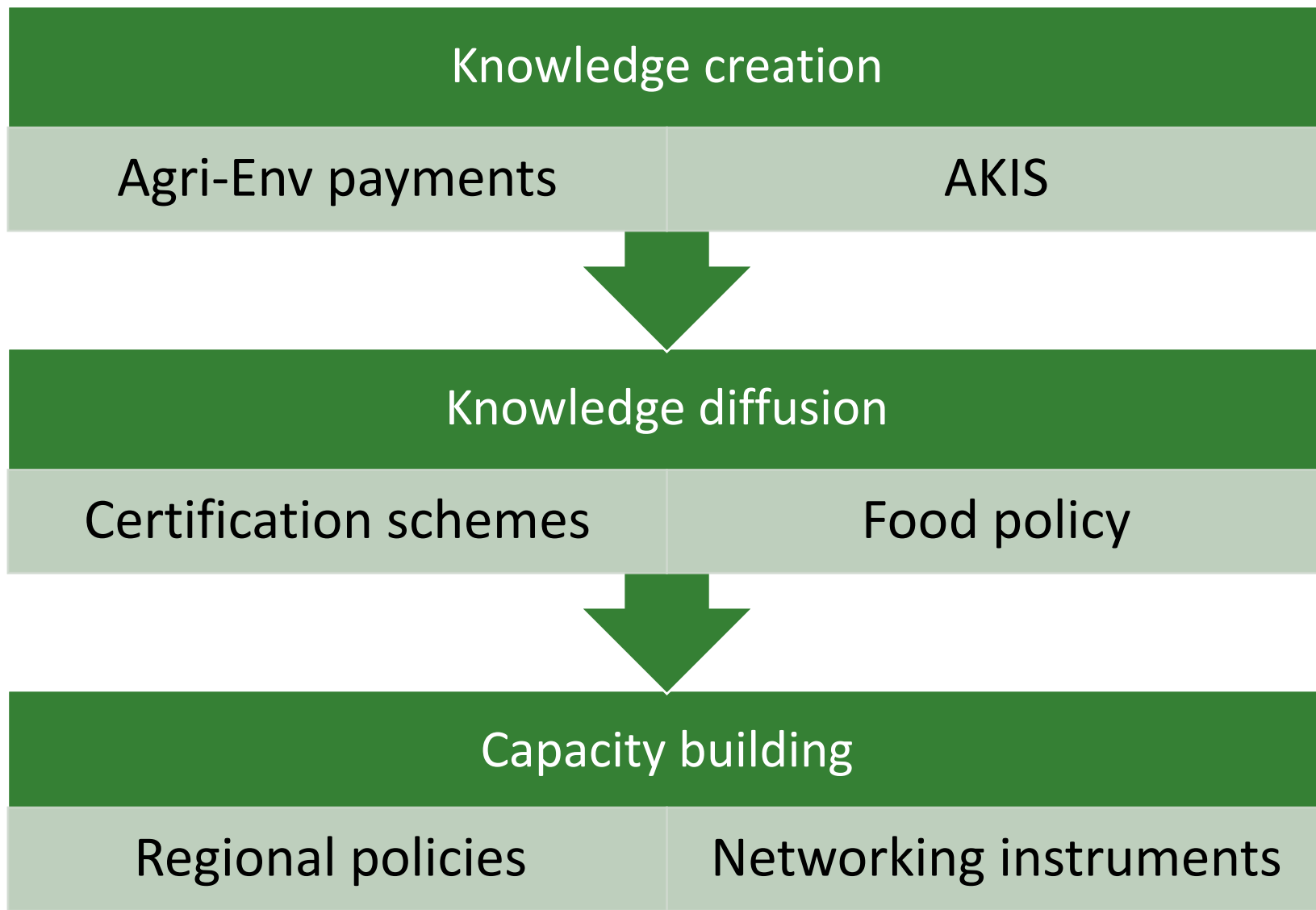
- Selection from a **candidate list of criteria** with MAPs, PAG and CS partners (experts)
- **Two types** of assessment criteria:
  - Relevance: urgency and priority
  - Performance: effectiveness, undesired side-effects, targeting, efficiency, feasibility
- Criteria **weights**: range 0-100
- MPIs **scores** for each criteria
  - From 0 (very weak) to 5 (very strong)
- Level of **confidence**
  - Scale 1-4 based on the interviewee knowledge of each MPIs



# Assessment scores



# Key MPIs and transition phases





# Knowledge and social capital

Challenge	Policy recommendations
Raising <b>awareness</b> on agroecological practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Facilitating access to advisory services for small farms</li></ul>
Empowering <b>entrepreneurship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Information, skills and training aimed at food-system re-design</li><li>➤ Covering market/legal issues</li></ul>
Strengthening <b>partnerships</b> and collective projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Targeted interventions for intermediate institutions (e.g., Bio-districts)</li><li>➤ Empowerment of RDP Cooperation measures (e.g., pilot food chain projects)</li></ul>

# Added value and market access

Challenge	Policy recommendations
Increasing <b>sustainability</b> in consumer markets	➤ Introduction of new voluntary certification schemes
Creating <b>awareness</b> among consumers and citizens	➤ Promotion of educational campaigns in schools and awareness campaigns through local media
Improving <b>public procurement</b> initiatives	➤ New and more ambitious standards in the catering contracts for public schools (e.g., local food, reducing food waste)



Challenge	Policy recommendations
<b>Simplification</b> on the requirement for policy support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reducing bureaucracy</li> <li>➤ Providing free access to advisory services to small farms</li> </ul>
Improving <b>targeting</b> of policy support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Better designing the support for AE practices (e.g. targeting to core practices / farm typologies)</li> </ul>
<b>Prioritization</b> among different initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prioritizing support for advisory services</li> </ul>
<b>Policy coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Integrating support for investments, practices adoption and cooperation measures</li> </ul>
Experimenting <b>innovative</b> instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Result-based payments</li> <li>➤ Eco-schemes targeted to AE practices</li> </ul>

## ➤ Limitations of the approach:

- MPIs targeted to **context-specific** strategies and on specific dilemma (15 CS across Europe)
- Interviewed stakeholders with **different expertise** and knowledge of present and future policies

## ➤ New perspectives on MPIs:

- Interesting insights on the **tailored mix of instruments** necessary to address different transition challenges (trade-offs and synergies)
- Additional funding and new measures are not the main priorities, the key challenge is **improving the implementation and governance** of existing MPIs



## Thank you for the attention!

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