

Horizon Europe's ClimateSmartAdvisors Project Takes Off, Supporting Europe's Bold Climate Goals

Europe is on a mission to lead the world in tackling climate change, aiming to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. At the heart of this ambitious endeavor is the European Green Deal, which sets a clear goal: a minimum 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

While agriculture accounts for 10.1% of these emissions, it also holds immense potential for carbon storage in soils. The challenge lies in finding ways to minimize emissions without compromising food production. Recognizing the need for climate change adaptation, the agricultural sector needs to test and implement innovative mitigation and adaptation solutions, with an eye on their scalability and transferability across diverse regions and Member States.

An important player in this transformation are farm advisors, recognized as key actors in fostering climate-smart innovations and exchanging valuable insights with farmers. Their role is clear: to accelerate the transition to climate-smart farming systems across Europe, securing a sustainable future for agriculture while actively combating climate change.

Empowering Farm Advisors to Drive Climate-Smart Farming Across Europe

The overall goal of the ClimateSmartAdvisors project is to mobilize the agricultural advisory community in the EU, facilitating the widespread adoption of climate-smart farming practices among farmers across Europe. The project seeks to enhance the role of agricultural advisors and advisory service providers by equipping them with the necessary technical and methodological expertise to deliver tailored guidance. By implementing and sharing the innovative approaches and tools gathered in its sister project [ClimateFarmDemo](#), ClimateSmartAdvisors aims to drive the widespread implementation of CSF practices across the farming community on a wider scale, across EU Member States and associated countries.

To achieve this, ClimateSmartAdvisors, coordinated by ILVO in Belgium, brings together a consortium of 73 partner organisations from 27 countries. Through these organisations, the project will directly engage with a minimum of 1500 advisors - 140 to be trained as *Climate Smart Coaches*, equipped to support capacity building in their peers, and 1360 supported in their development as *Climate Smart Advisors*.

“Advisors are seen as key players in the process of helping farmers tackle the challenges associated with climate change. However, work needs to be done to further strengthen advisors’ capacities for providing targeted and context-specific climate smart advice, to fully live up to this expectation. This is exactly the core of our project: we will support advisors in strengthening their knowledge and skills, by providing dedicated training, by supporting peer coaching and knowledge exchange, and by developing a repository of dedicated tools and practices.”

 Lies Debruyne, ClimateSmartAdvisors project coordinator

Role of Bioeconomy Cluster in the CSA project



Bioeconomy Cluster (as the only partner from Slovakia in the consortium) has a key role in increasing capacity of Slovak advisors. BEC will create a network of advisors, which will then be connected to the European network. Thanks to this link, our advisors will have an access to materials, training and knowledge from around the EU, and on the other hand they will be able to discuss their problems and observations with advisors from other countries. All this should support the adoption of climate smart farming systems.

BEC is also involved in activities aimed at supporting agricultural advisors in multi-actor innovation projects (MIPs) related to climate smart farming. The BEC’s task is to build a portfolio of projects that will be analysed and gaps in provision of advisory services in MIPs should be identified. Then, co-design innovation experiments will be established for development and testing of solutions and tools for correction of gaps.

Kick-off meeting: 30th May - 1st June

The 7-year long ClimateSmartAdvisors project kicked off with the large partners' meeting in Brussels. The meeting was aimed to establishing a foundation for building a strong community for pioneering new approaches and strategies to reshape the agricultural landscape, and contribute to Europe's climate-neutral future.

