

Practice Abstract #7

Making knowledge objects available to the AKIS community through an EU-wide agricultural knowledge repository (the EU FarmBook)

The EUREKA project (www.h2020eureka.eu) set out to create a functional prototype of an EU-wide, centralised repository of agricultural knowledge (known as the EU FarmBook) which is proposed by the European Commission for serving the needs of the so-called AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems) community at EU and national level.

This was a huge endeavour! The greatest challenge was the collection of information and content ('knowledge objects') in heterogeneous types and formats from a range of disparate sources and integrate them into a single storage space.

The knowledge objects made available in such a repository should be complemented by rich information (metadata) indicative of a) what the information they convey is about; b) their form and origin, and; c) any restrictions in using them. The EU FarmBook therefore needed a very robust data structure.

The EUREKA project addressed this challenge by proposing and developing an elegant data model which was built upon widely adopted standards which are able to make all data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR). A unique contribution of the EUREKA data model was the ability to supply well-defined types, formats and intended use purposes of the diverse range of knowledge objects anticipated for uploading into the EU FarmBook. Descriptions of knowledge objects with this level of granularity permit a greatly enhanced user experience by enabling many more ways of searching the repository.

The categorizations proposed by the EUREKA data model, and the metadata that it can be used to define, have made it significantly more feasible to better integrate knowledge objects in the EU FarmBook and to thereby contribute to their widespread adoption in the AKIS community.

