



**PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 127**

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**How to foster sustainability transition in the Douro wine region: Advisory gaps and suggestions to overcome them**

A scenario workshop was held online in July of 2021, joining winegrowers and advisors from the Douro wine region in Portugal. This AgriLink workshop focused on understanding how farming advice can better support a sustainability transition in Douro. Over the last decade, a group of winegrowers has started to innovate by adopting and developing more ecological farm practices. These frontrunner winegrowers are supported by the R&D sector and a regional winegrowers' association. This farmer-based association (FBO) offers knowledge-intensive advice services, which are fundamental to develop site-specific sustainable farm practices, such as green cover and enhancement of agro-ecological infrastructures in the mountainous vineyards of the region. To be able to provide these services, advisors need to engage in a long-term co-creation processes with winegrowers and researchers. Such processes are costly in resources, learning, and time. The participants made the following suggestions to overcome the advisory gaps:

- Public funding of advice provision by FBO associates on sustainable farm practices, e.g., in the context of regional eco-schemes;
- Payment for ecosystem services to winegrowers, including access to knowledge-intensive advice paid directly to the advice providers;
- Special support schemes with minimal transaction costs for mainstream winegrowers enabling their engagement with peer-to-peer learning networks (e.g. small demonstration vineyards spread across villages);
- Communities of practice that give farm advisors access to advances in knowledge and technology through interaction 'in the field' with leading winemakers and knowledge-intensive service providers.

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Douro /Portugal

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Practice abstracts, from 101 to 141 can be found here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agrilink-agricultural-knowledge-linking-farmers-0>



## 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.

### DISCLAIMER:

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All the Practice Abstracts prepared by the AgriLink project in the EIP-AGRI common format can be found here:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agrilink-agricultural-knowledge-linking-farmers>