

A hand is shown watering a small green seedling with a drop of water. The background features a sunset over rolling hills. The entire scene is framed by a semi-transparent green rounded rectangle containing text and logos.

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Institute



INŠTITÚT  
ZNALOSTNÉHO  
PŮDOHOSPODÁRSTVA  
A INOVÁCIÍ

# Activities of IZPI (AKII)

online meeting with The Rural Economy and Agricultural Societies, 21st October 2024

# Who we are

- IZPI (AKII) is departmental educational institution of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (MARD). (= an organization subordinate to the ministry)
- Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Institute (IZPI) (\*1st January 2023 /previously Agroinstitut + Agency for Rural Development (ARVI).





# Location

- situated in strategic location, in **Nitra, Slovakia**
- agricultural centre





# Departments



**+60** employees  
**7** departments

1. GD
2. Central unit of AKIS
3. AKIS Department
4. Department of National Rural Development Network
5. Information and Technology Centre
6. Economical Department
7. Department of Accommodation and Conference Services



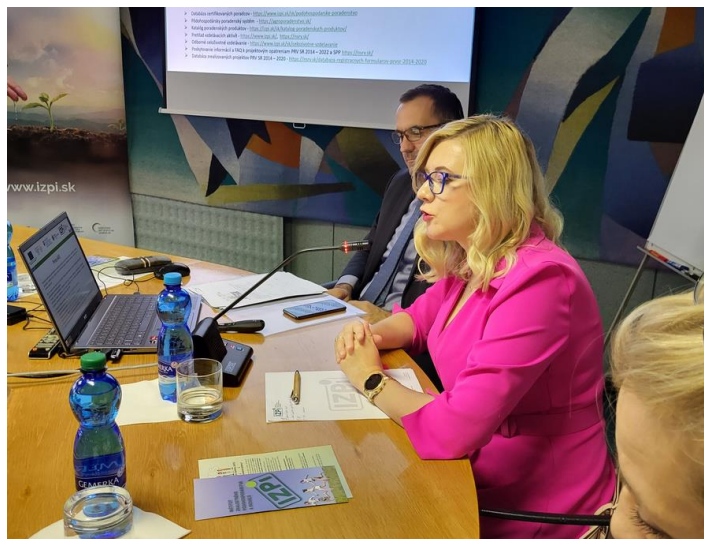
# Central unit of AKIS

- \*1st April 2023
  - small unit
  - should help MARD when implementing AKIS in Slovakia
- /note: AKIS Coordination body in Slovakia is MARD/





# CU AKIS - WHAT WE DO



**AKIS STEERING  
COMMITTEE**



# CU AKIS - WHAT WE DO

## Focus Groups:

1. Agricultural and Forestry Advisory
2. Education
3. Demo-farms

**FOCUS GROUPS  
AS AN INTEGRAL PART  
OF AKIS STEERING  
COMMITTEE**





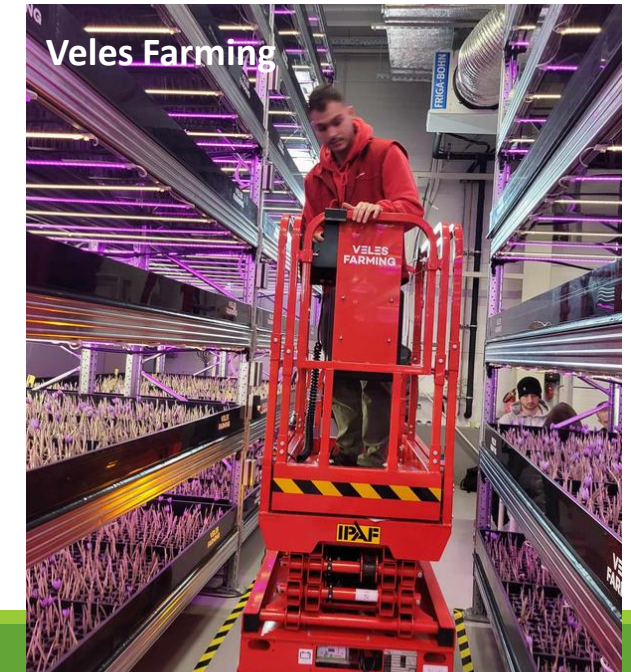
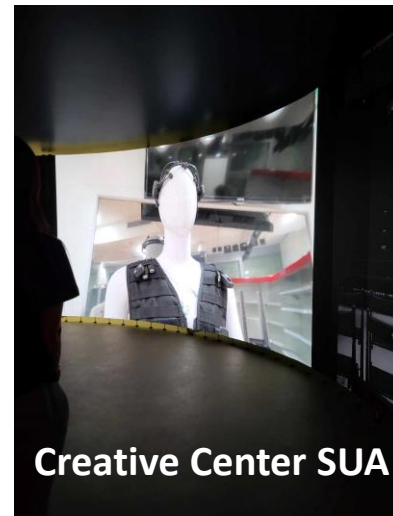
# CU AKIS - WHAT WE DO



NETWORKING



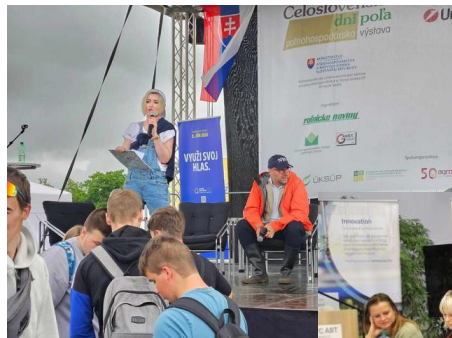
# CU AKIS - WHAT WE DO



**MAPPING THE AKIS  
INFRASTRUCTURE**



# OTHER ACTIVITIES OF CENTRAL UNIT OF AKIS



**representation of IZPI/AKIS** at various domestic events

**co-operation** with other partners + AKIS stakeholders: e.g. *Horizon NCPs; Ministry of investments, regional development and informatization of the Slovak Republic, Bioeconomy Cluster...*



**other specialized professional activities** - e.g. **creation of a system of demonstration farms support in Slovakia**



**participation in international activities** (online or face-to-face meetings)



**Women Entrepreneurs in the Agro-Sector** (panel discussion)

**WHAT ELSE IS CU AKIS DOING?**

**IZPI/AKIS social media administration**



**creation of various promotional materials in connection to AKIS** (e.g. leaflets, posters, ...)



**EUFRAS**  
EUROPEAN FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL  
AND RURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Central unit of AKIS is  
**EUFRAS contact point for IZPI**

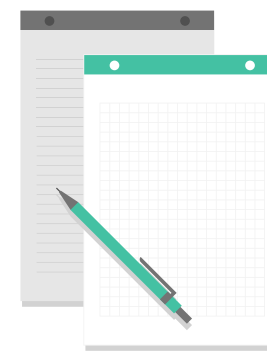


# AKIS Department



# Main goals of AKIS Department

---



- participates in the creating of departmental concepts, strategies and guidelines within the continuing vocational education,
- elaborates departmental concepts and plans in specific education programmes and modules,
- carries out educational projects at a national and international level,
- creates a flexible system of lifelong learning and farm advisory system,
- provides continuing vocational education and training for workers in the agricultural sector and advisors,
- host organization of information centre Europe Direct.





# Lifelong learning and continuing vocational education



- wide scale of seminars, courses, workshops, online trainings and e-learning platforms
- **accredited educational programmes:** agribusiness and support measures in the agro-sector, pig breeding, medicinal plants, beekeeping, distillation and fruit processing, working with disinfectants and animal pest control products, handling of very toxic and toxic substances
- training for fire protection technicians, security technicians
- training for proper use of crop protection products



# Lifelong learning and continuing vocational education



- **professional training:** cross-compliance, rural development, economics, water managements, animal welfare, breeding and livestock registry, waste and risk managements, organic farming, crop nutrition, animal diseases, land communities, agricultural policy, common agriculture policy
- AKIS Department issues a certificate of vocational training
- In 2023 AKIS department realized 75 educational activities for 2 239 persons







# Farm advisory system and advisory services

---

- AKIS Department manages the **Central Register of Agricultural Advisors** of the Slovak Republic for Agriculture and Forestry (180 advisors)
- prepares and manages the **Catalogue of advisory products** (53 advisory services) – still new products updates, 8 topics : plant production, animal production, food industry, economy, plant nutrition and pedology, mechanization, grazing and meadow farming
- provides professional training and certification of vocational skills of agricultural advisors
- Farm advisory system - [www.agroporadenstvo.sk](http://www.agroporadenstvo.sk) – contains 3 215 scientific articles and researches, 1 175 legislative regulations and laws for farmers



# The receivers of the knowledge, information, education/trainings, innovations and new technologies are:



- individual holdings, agricultural enterprises (cooperatives, share-holding companies, small and young farmers), food processing factories, farmers' associations, other organizations dealing with farmer's activities and their needs.

From legal and institutional point of view the main coordinator of agricultural extension is Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

All organisational tasks, methodological activities, implementation of FAS, monitoring and evaluation are under the responsibility of The Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Institute - **IZPI Nitra**.







Department of National Rural Development  
Network (=SK CAP Network)

# SK CAP Network

The National Rural Network connects authorities and organizations involved in rural development and participates in the implementation of the Rural development program of the Slovak Republic. At the same time it represents a contact point for potential beneficiaries, local action groups (LAGs) and potentially for EIP operational groups (EIP OGs).

## Collection and provision of information





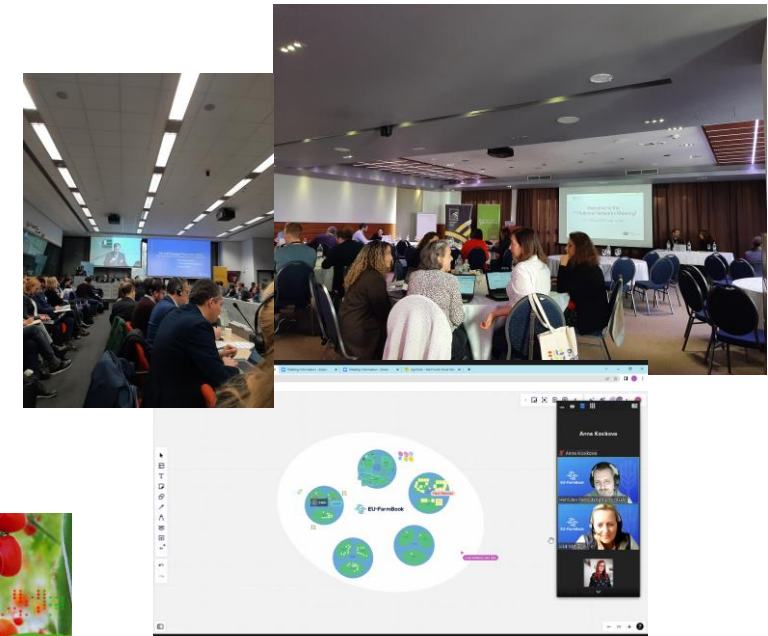
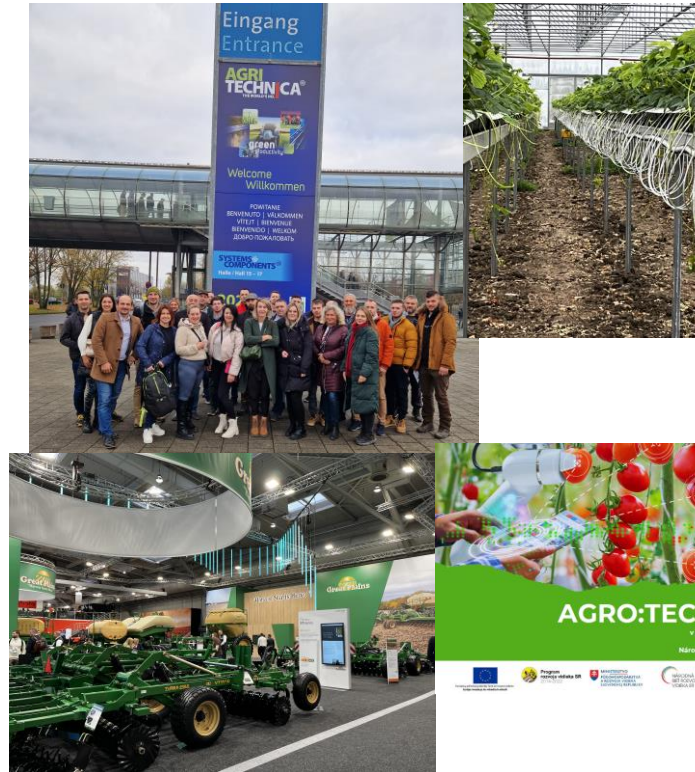
# SK CAP Network

## Educational and informational activities



# SK CAP Network

National and transnational cooperation

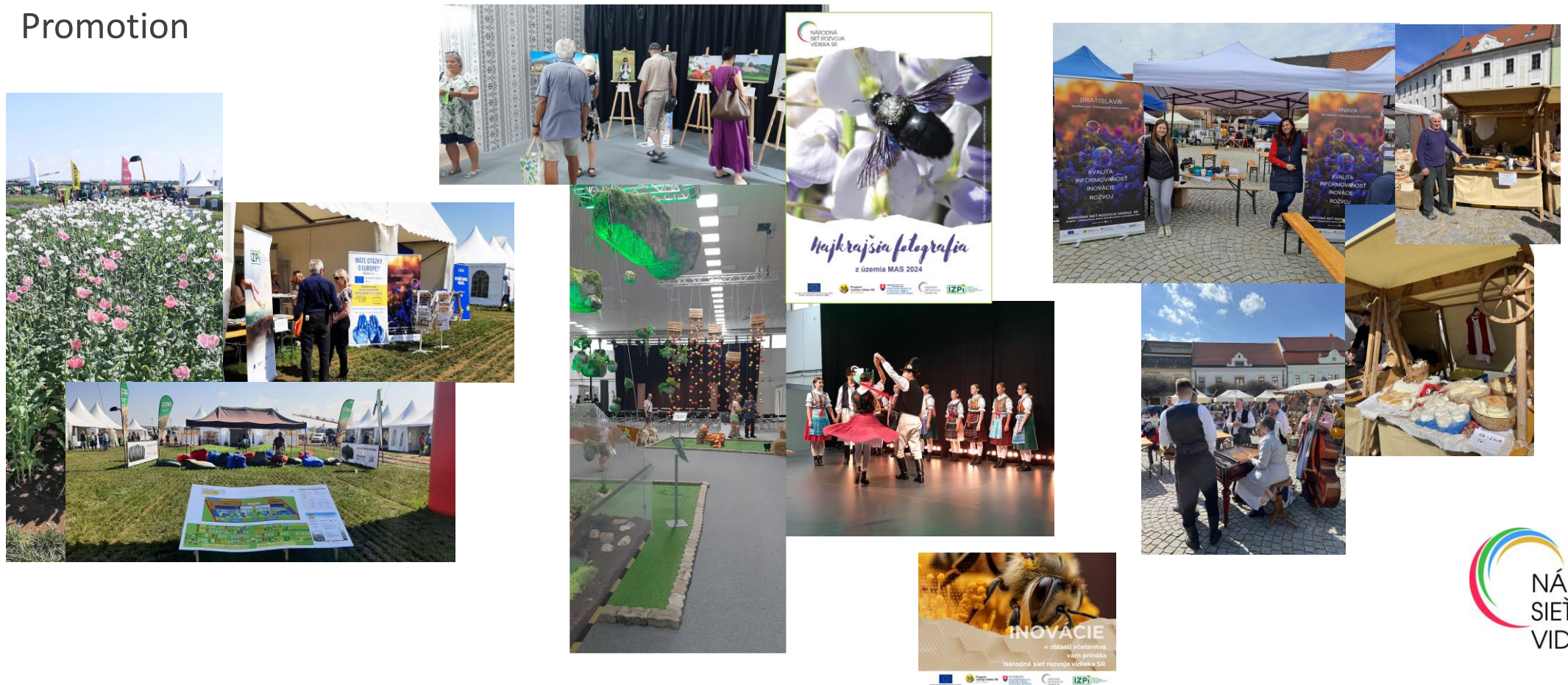


 NÁRODNÁ  
SIEŤ ROZVOJA  
VIDIEKA SR



# SK CAP Network

## Promotion



# Information and Technology

Centre 





# Main goals of Information and Technology Centre

---



## 1. National Centre AGRIS FAO, FAO Depository Library and Special Agricultural Library

- activities fall under the professional and technical chapters of the Program FAO, which Slovakia is committed to support and develop,
- these outputs and services are aimed at member countries of the FAO, the national and international agricultural community, the scientific research base of the department, academic institutions, professional unions and associations, consultants, and students,
- the Special Agricultural Library fund is processed electronically into a database which is part of the Integrated Information System AGROKATALÓG.



# Main goals of Information and Technology Centre

---



## 2. Information services

- supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in providing up-to-date online information to general and specialist internet users. It continued to perform tasks ensuring efficient and effective access to information and information sources for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,
- continuous operation, backups, processing and updating of the websites of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,
- webhosting arrangements, domain registrations, backups and support for communication via the internet and Govnet.





**ANSWERS**



# How new knowledge is acquired into the organisation?

## HOW:

- IZPI doesn't have any research facilities directly in organisational structure, no research activities are provided (*only educational ones*).
- The activities of CU AKIS aren't strictly defined, but still, CU AKIS acts as **information exchange point** especially when exchanging **contacts** between AKIS stakeholders.
- participation in informational events, webinars with the theme of AKIS
- Social media administration – *AKIS stakeholders often are sending us requests to promote various events, projects, surveys, so CU AKIS has the latest overview about current happening in sector.*
- IZPI acts as a disseminator of information and new knowledge, but official mechanism of sharing information between AKIS stakeholders (incl. research) and IZPI doesn't exist.
- CU AKIS acts also as a disseminator of information within the organisation itself + towards MARD (managing authority)

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION:

- networking, promotion, cooperation

CU AKIS





# How new knowledge is acquired into the organisation?

---

- participation in information days, field days, vocational trainings, educational events, international activities
- [www.agroporadenstvo.sk](http://www.agroporadenstvo.sk) - The portal of the agricultural advisory system, collection of scientific articles and researches
- information on the websites of organizations in the agriculture and rural development sectors as well outside of the resort



# How new knowledge is acquired into the organisation?

---

NN financed from RDP technical assistance

- information obtained mainly from Ministry, Paying Agency
- seminars – lecturers from MA, Pa / or lecturers - experts for specific topics
- publications – own initiatives (self-study), cooperation with partners – specialists from different thematic fields

Public consultations – fol RDP calls

Requirements / questions from beneficiaries for calls

Data collection – implemented RDP projects – online form

**SK CAP  
Network**





# How knowledge is transferred within the organisation and between different organisations?

## BETWEEN DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS

- **AKIS Steering Committee + Focus groups** for advisory services, education, demo farms, local action groups – managed by CU AKIS
- Social media administration
- CU AKIS **creates** various promotional **materials in connection to AKIS** (e.g. leaflets, posters, ...)
- **representation of IZPI/AKII** at various domestic/international events
- The summary of CU AKIS (2023, 2024) activities is published at our IZPI webpage: <https://www.izpi.sk/sk/aktivita%202024>, <https://www.izpi.sk/sk/aktivita%202023>

## WITHIN THE ORGANISATION

- CU AKIS acts also as a disseminator of information within the organisation itself – *e-mails, face-to-face meetings with colleagues...*
- The summary of CU AKIS (2023, 2024) activities is published at our IZPI webpage: <https://www.izpi.sk/sk/aktivita%202024>, <https://www.izpi.sk/sk/aktivita%202023>



# How knowledge is transferred within the organisation and between different organisations?

---

- planned national project "IS Farmer,, Unified access point for the farmer, in process
- [www.agroporadenstvo.sk](http://www.agroporadenstvo.sk) - the portal of the agricultural advisory system
- Focus groups for advisory services, education, demo farms, local action groups
- demonstration activities



# How knowledge is transferred within the organisation and between different organisations?

---

Networking – national (cooperation, NN team meetings)

- international meetings

A teal-colored circular graphic element in the bottom right corner of the slide, containing the text "SK CAP Network" in white.

**SK CAP  
Network**

# How knowledge is transferred to farmers?



- 
- **CU AKIS – actively involved in creation of a system of demonstration farms support in Slovakia**
  - The direct transfer of knowledge to farmers is not our role.



# How knowledge is transferred to farmers?



- wide scale of seminars, courses, workshops, online trainings and e-learning platforms
- accredited educational programmes, professional trainings for farmers and advisors
- [www.agroporadenstvo.sk](http://www.agroporadenstvo.sk) - the portal of the agricultural advisory system
- planned national project "IS Farmer,, Unified access point for the farmer, in process
- demonstration activities, information days, field days
- Newsletter of AKIS Department (*and SK CAP Network*)

# How knowledge is transferred to farmers?

---

Information channels of NN (mainly RDP / CAP SP):

Web page

Social media

Newsletter, Spravodajca

Publications

Seminars

Promotional activities

A teal-colored circular graphic in the bottom right corner of the slide, containing the text "SK CAP Network" in white.

**SK CAP  
Network**





# Questions



- 
- How AKIS system in Sweden is functioning? (*financing, managing, implementation*)
  - How does advisory system work in Sweden? (how many advisors do you have, which kind of advisory services do you offer, feedback from farmers)
  - How are the advisors connected to AKIS?
  - How is the quality of advisors improved?
  - What kind of innovations do you use in the advisory system?



# THANK YOU, LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

---



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/izpinitra>



**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/izpi.sk/>



**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/izpi/>

