

MEF4CAP

Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks for the Common Agricultural Policy

December 2023

Final event summary

Final event report – included in D5.6



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13:00 | Welcome

Following a light lunch, project coordinator Marcel van Asseldonk, Senior Scientist at the Wageningen Economic Research kicked off MEF4CAP's final event, providing an outline of the project and introducing the event moderator, Krijn Poppe Economist and retired Research Manager from the Wageningen Economic Research. [Slide deck pages 2-5.](#)

13:35 | Scene-setting keynote

Tassos Haniotis, previous Director for Strategy, Simplification and Policy Analysis in the European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), laid out the state of play and future outlook for the monitoring and evaluation of agricultural policy, including the role of data, policy trends, and development in the public and private sector.

"Prioritising indicators on land management practices so as to better link economic and physical models, combining cross-sectional with time series data so that policy changes are placed in context and perspective, and fully exploiting digital tools are essential for evaluating CAP's performance." - Tassos Haniotis

During his talk, Tassos shared insight on the importance of measuring soil health, the relationship between advisory systems and farmers, the challenges around privacy, and the importance of linking economic and physical models. [Slide deck page 6.](#)



13:55 | Introduction to the project

Ahead of presentations on key demonstration cases, project partners Emma Dillon (Teagasc), Nikos Kalatzis (NeuroPublic), and Alberto Gutiérrez García (ITACYL) provided insight and context regarding the challenges and opportunities around monitoring and evaluation of the CAP, including supporting farmer in their efforts to move towards and continue with sustainable agricultural practices and reducing the administrative burden on farmers. [Slide deck pages 7-23](#).

"We cannot manage what we cannot measure. There is an increased need to make use of the data we have already and reduce the administrative burden on farmers." - Emma Dillon

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. The main content is a slide titled "MEF 4CAP Data utilisation". The slide content is as follows:

- **Increased potential for data integration**
 - Better utilisation of existing datasets and data sources
 - Reduce collection cost and burden (aim to deliver more for less)
- **But obstacles to data integration**
 - Issues around trust, sensitivity and potential legal impediments
 - Challenges around data interoperability
- **Costs and benefits for data users and providers**
 - Increased administrative burden on data providers
 - Clear demonstration of benefits required to support buy-in
 - Sustainability performance at the Farm level

On the right side of the slide, there are three icons: a cloud with a laptop, a shield with a checkmark, and a handshake. At the bottom of the slide, it says "MEF 4CAP - November 2022". The Zoom interface on the right shows a grid of participants with their names and initials, including EQ, SH, HA, DU, FL, VL, SL, VB, and MA.

14:10 | Demo cases

The results from key demonstration cases were then presented by project partners Trevor Donnellan (Teagasc in Ireland), Pablo Fernandez (Cooperativas Agro-alimentarias in Spain), Nikos Kalatzis (NeuroPublic in Greece).

"To support farmers and their cooperative advisory services Spanish Co-ops has developed (with the support of AgroTech companies such as Hispatec Analytics and ESRI España) an easy-to-use digital farm logbook which integrates into a Geographical Information System both in-farm and out-farm data for better decision making, while allowing them to comply with the new regulations." - Pablo Fernandez

During the presentations, partners outlined the objectives and results of each demonstration case, discussing the challenges and potential opportunities for future evaluation and monitoring of the CAP as well as the benefits and challenges for farmers and monitoring bodies.

"The demonstration case in Greece aims to prove that digital agricultural technologies demonstrate the potential to simultaneously fulfil two objectives. Firstly, to enable the implementation of good and sustainable agricultural practices that provide clear benefits for farmers and the environment. And secondly, to enable the delivery of farm-level data, namely

the impact of applied agricultural practices, which could potentially be used to monitor and evaluate the CAP.” - Nikolaos Kalatzis

The presentations were followed by a Q&A. [Slide deck pages 24-41.](#)

The screenshot shows a presentation slide with the following content:

- MEF 4CAP** logo in the top left corner.
- Slide title: **Challenges and opportunities in developing a farm sustainability dashboard?**
- Challenges** section (left):
 - Farmer skillset/digital divide (training need)
 - Farmer concerns around how data will be used
 - Farmer concerns around data privacy
 - Resource costs for farmers
- Opportunities** section (right):
 - A more digitally confident farmer
 - Use of data to facilitate farm level decision making
 - Enable farmers to focus on the good use of CAP
 - Facilitate tailored farm advice
 - More comprehensive farm sustainability reports
 - Proof of sustainability performance over time

On the right side of the slide, there is a vertical Zoom meeting interface showing a grid of participant avatars with initials (HA, KG, MB, AV, SL, JT, P, NB, KK, SS, EE, etc.) and a small video feed of the presenter at the top.

15:20 | Project findings

Following a short coffee break, Tomaso Ceccarelli (Senior Researcher for Global Food Security from the Wageningen Economic Research) presented the trajectories developed by the project within a roadmap for the monitoring and evaluation of the CAP, outlining (with numerous examples) the various reporting levels, data sources and indicators.

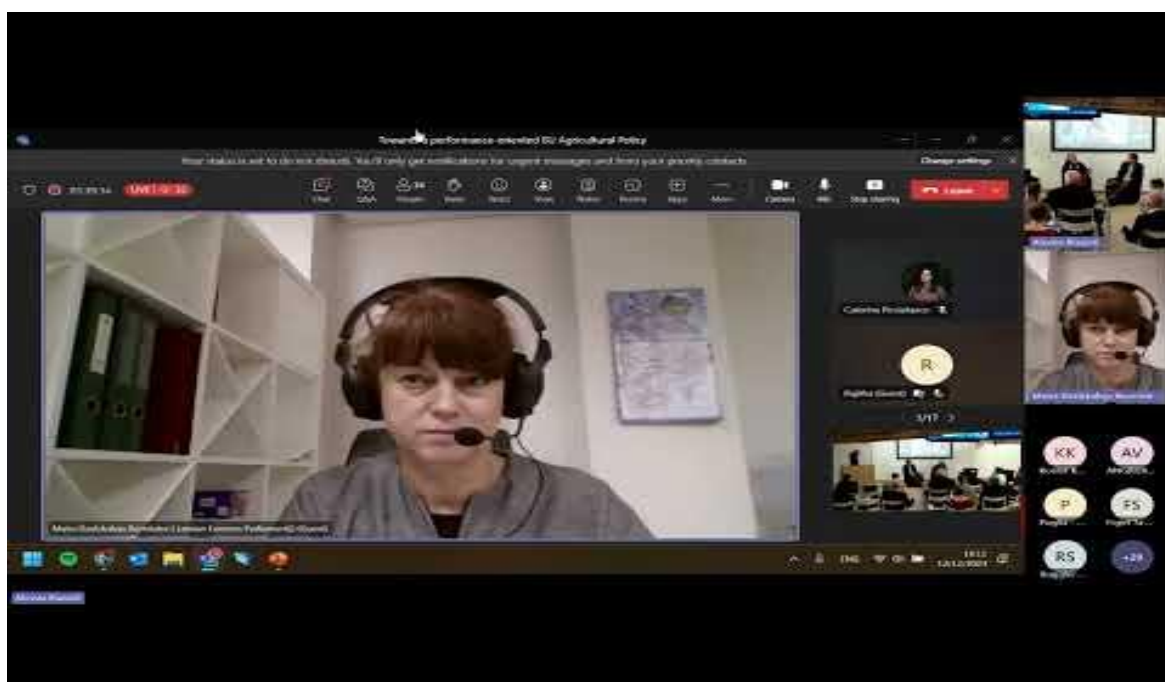
Rob Lokers (IT Project Manager from the Wageningen Economic Research) then shared the barriers and drivers in translating the findings into an innovation agenda. [Slide deck pages 43-63.](#)



15:40 | Reactions and discussions from a panel of experts.

A panel of experts, including Olivier Chartier (Ecorys), Maira Dzelzskaleja Dzelzskaleja Burmistre (COPA COGECA) and Sophie Helaine (DG AGRI A.3) reacted to the previous presentations, adding their expertise and providing insight on the pivotal role of advisors, the importance of social aspects and farmers welfare, and the importance of monitoring developments in data collection. [Slide deck pages 64-65.](#)

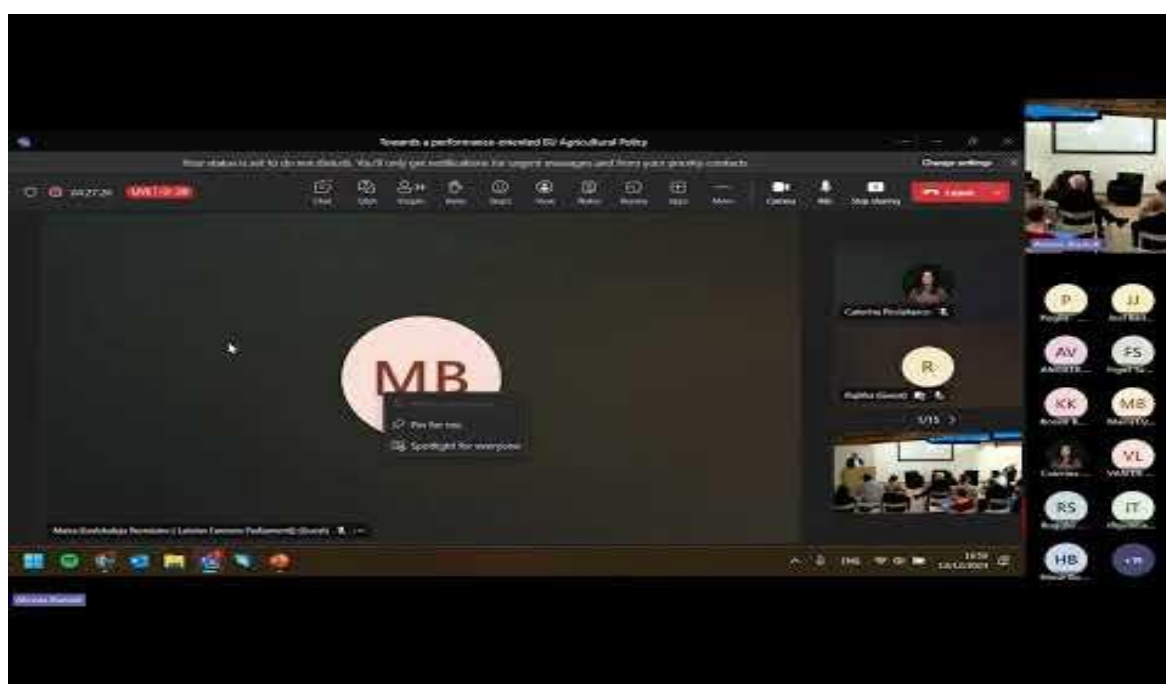
"In today's changing world, continuous monitoring of processes is crucial in order to be able to adjust policy decisions in a timely manner. Today's digital technologies can help ensure this if we know how to use data wisely and efficiently." - Maira Dzelzskaleja Burmistre



16:30 | Keynote speech and policy discussion

To wrap up the day with a discussion about the future policy implications of the evolving Monitoring and Evaluation capabilities, Alan Matthews (Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy in the Department of Economics at Trinity College Dublin) shared some reflections outlining the state of play of the current CAP, sharing cautionary tales and a positive account of cattle breeding in Ireland, as well as CAP Strategic Plans regulations and what is needed to move towards a truly performance-based CAP. [Slide deck pages 66-70](#).

“The new CAP provides a viable platform for improved performance but will require significant investment not only in building monitoring and evaluation capacities but also putting the incentives in place to make full use of those capacities.” - Alan Matthews



This was then followed by a policy discussion on how the capacity of monitoring and evaluation can be improved to better enable a shift towards a more performance-based CAP. The panel consisted of Alan Matthews, Emmanuel Rauch (European Court of Auditors) and Hans Vrolijk (Wageningen Economic Research). Panellists debated data reliability and links between indicators.



17:40 | Final remarks

Marcel van Asseldonk took to the stage to close the event and thank all speakers and panellists for their valuable contributions to the discussion.