



Dear reader,

We are excited to share this very first MEF4CAP newsletter with you!

MEF4CAP is short for '*Monitoring & Evaluation Frameworks for the Common Agricultural Policy*' and is a Horizon 2020 project which launched in October 2020. The basic mission of the project is to make an inventory of future data needs for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the CAP, describe the current developments in information and communications technology (ICT) and data capturing techniques and assess the technological readiness of these solutions.

Eventually, we will deliver a roadmap for future monitoring where the needs of different stakeholders are met, and the potential of different approaches is fully and optimally exploited. This will ultimately contribute to a more sustainable agriculture in the EU and contribute towards the goals of the European Green Deal.

This first newsletter is mostly an introduction to the project, but we are looking forward to sharing the first project results with you already in the next edition in April.

Finally, we encourage you to [follow us on Twitter](#) and to explore [our website](#) for more information and project updates.

Read on to learn a bit more about the details of the project and to read a small report from the first MEF4CAP stakeholder workshop which took place on 14 January.

Kind regards,

Bérénice Dupeux on behalf of the MEF4CAP team

The project in a nutshell

1. Policy needs (TEAGASC)

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is evolving in terms of its objectives. Side by side with this development, the variety of data required to evaluate and monitor the CAP's effectiveness are also changing. In this part of the project, we are examining the evolution of the CAP, particularly focusing on the EU's goal of developing a more sustainable agricultural sector. Guided by stakeholder input, we are identifying policy priorities relating to economic, social and environmental sustainability for the next 10 to 15 years. Following these steps, we should then be able to describe what this means for future data collection activities to allow for better monitoring and evaluation of policy affecting agriculture in the EU.



Dr. Emma Dillon is Research Officer with TEAGASC who is responsible for this part of the project. Click on the photo to visit their website.

2. ICT developments (Neuropublic)

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are important in agriculture and to broader social and economic development. This part of the project will review and assess current and new technologies that are widely utilised or provide a potential benefit for data capturing and data processing in support of agri-food monitoring and evaluation objectives. It will connect the existing dots of ICT developments in the EU agricultural sector and promote the main achievements along with the positive impact that technology applications have in the actual daily lives of the farmers. It also aims at identifying the most promising data and information technologies that are expected to support the development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks of the CAP and other EU and national policies (e.g. environmental policies).



Dr. Nikolaos Marianos is the Head of European Projects Department at Neuropublic who is responsible for this part of the project. Click on the photo to visit their website.

3. Current system & future pathways (ITACyL)

In this part of the project, the detected data needs for the new CAP Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the most suitable ICT development to fulfil these needs are brought together. The integration of several complementary technologies will define various potential pathways which will be evaluated and serve to identify the demonstration cases in the next part of the project. The identification of ideal pathways will benefit national governments, policymakers and farmers by reducing the burden of collecting data but also the agri-food sector which could integrate these data sources into their decision-making processes.



David Alfonso Nafria Garcia is Head of the Geographic Information Unit at ITACyL who is responsible for this part of the project. Click on the photo to visit their website.

4. Demonstration cases & MEF4CAP portal (Agro Apps PC)

Four demonstration cases will be designed and implemented to showcase how identified pathways can contribute to better monitoring and evaluation and how governments' monitoring and evaluation frameworks can be further harmonised. In addition, a portal will be developed, aiming to be the central point of information on monitoring and evaluation needs, indicators applied and sources of data. This portal will support knowledge transfer, but also assist stakeholders in the selection and implementation of indicators. Furthermore, it will harmonise governments' monitoring and evaluation frameworks in a more decentralised CAP where regions use additional regional indicators.



Dr. Machi Simeonidou is the General Manager of Agro Apps PC who is responsible for this part of the project. Click on the photo to visit their website.

5. Engagement, communication & dissemination (EEB)

Engagement with the project is essential to guarantee the quality and relevance of the project outcomes. Proper engagement depends on good communication as a critical catalyst ensuring the visibility and awareness of the project amongst those for whom the project might be relevant or simply interesting. Communication is important to encourage and inspire interaction with the project which, in turn, will improve the project results. Broad communication and targeted dissemination of project results are key to make sure they reach and benefit everyone for whom they might be useful.



Dr. Berenice Dupeux is Senior Policy Officer for Agriculture for the EEB who is responsible for this part of the project. Click on the photo to visit their website.

6. Synthesis and roadmap (WR)

This is really the main product of the project and will build upon insights gathered throughout the entire process. This part of the project synthesise lessons learned from the project, summarised in one or several briefs discussing the potential pathways further substantiated through the demonstration cases. The outcomes will contribute to an interactive reflection workshop in the end of the project where MEF4CAP partners and stakeholders will debate and identify the most promising pathway towards the new Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the post-2020 CAP.



Dr. Marcel van Asseldonk is Project Leader for the MEF4CAP project and Senior Scientist at Wageningen Economic Research who is responsible for this part of the project. Click on the photo to visit their website.

Measuring sustainability

Stakeholder workshop: Measuring the success of the CAP in achieving sustainability

We had the pleasure of hosting a very well-attended e-workshop on how to measure sustainability achievements of the CAP on 14 January.

The workshop contributes to the part of the project which will map future policy needs and ways to use new technologies to cover them. It featured expert presentations, thematic discussions and audience polls.

The keynote presentations were delivered by Jannes Maes, (at that time) president of the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA), food and agriculture expert from WWF Europe, Jabier Ruiz and Doris Marquardt from the European Commission's Directorate for Agriculture.

We wrote a small article about the event with more details which you can read on [the 'News' page](#) on our website and all presentations from the event are provided on [the 'Resources' page](#).



Stakeholder workshop
14 January - 9:30 to 12:30 CET

Measuring the success of the CAP in achieving sustainability



Funded by the EU's
Horizon 2020 programme