Thematic Group (TG) on Effective Approaches for Simplification within the CAP

FINAL AGENDA
1st TG meeting

02 April 2025, 09:00 – 13:00

Online

**Thematic Group on Effective Approaches for Simplification
within the CAP**
02 April 2025

Introduction

Simplification has been an ongoing exercise across the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) over recent programming periods. The rules governing support for CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs) in this programming period require Member States to take appropriate measures to reduce the administrative burden and ensure simplification in the implementation of the CAP when pursuing the CAP objectives. Following widespread farmer protests in early 2024, the European Commission opened a consultation process which led to a Simplification package of short- and medium-term measures. Since then, the momentum for simplification has continued with the European Commission emphasising the importance of ensuring existing rules are fit-for-purpose, are focused on reducing administrative burdens and simplifying legislation, including it in its vision for agriculture and food.

Simplification is defined as the minimisation of costs that are not strictly necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the CAP, and the adoption of measures that reduce the administrative burden for the administration and beneficiaries. Simplification implies that additional administrative costs without added value for achieving CAP objectives should be avoided. Core elements of simplification may relate to different aspects of CAP design and implementation, including governance mechanisms, application processes, implementation (e.g. shifting more towards outcome focused schemes), reporting requirements, control requirements, use of digital tools and information flows.

In the first meeting we will look at practical challenges of CSP implementation resulting from administrative complexity or burden and identify how these challenges have been or can be overcome through simplification.

Aims of the first TG meeting

- Take stock of challenges faced by beneficiaries and administrations when implementing CSPs (in relation to e.g. application process, implementation, reporting and controls).
- Begin to explore responses on how to overcome complexity or administrative burden without undermining the CAP's objectives or creating trade-offs.
- Identify the main areas of interest for further in-depth discussion.

Timing	Agenda item
08:30 – 09:00	**Registration,** opening of virtual meeting room
09:00 – 09:30	**Welcome & setting the frame for the TG "Effective Approaches for Simplification within the CAP",** Lisa Haller (EU CAP Network) **Getting to know each other,** Alessia Musumarra (EU CAP Network)
09:30 – 10:30	**Feedback from the responses to the Expressions of Interest, identification of priority topics,** Lisa Haller (EU CAP Network) **Insights from Study on Simplification and Administrative Burden for Farmers under the CAP,** Marco Mazzei (EU CAP Network) **Simplification at the core of initiatives of the European Commission,** Petros Angelopoulos (European Commission, DG AGRI) **Q&A,** *Moderated by Kaley Hart (EU CAP Network)*
10:30 – 10:45	*Coffee Break*

10:45 – 12:30	**Parallel group discussions:** Taking stock of challenges in relation to different aspects of CAP design and implementation and exploring possible responses to address them through simplification.
	Focus on:
	    1. Handling CAP Applications / Implementation
	    2. Reporting requirements
	    3. Controls & Inspections /Monitoring
	
	Breakout groups in two rounds – Open discussion facilitated by EU CAP Network

12:30 – 12:45	**Harvesting from parallel discussions:** Reflections on earlier group discussions, including perspectives on the main themes emerging and potential areas requiring further attention *Moderated by EU CAP Network*
12:45 – 13:00	**Next steps and end of meeting.** *Moderated by EU CAP Network*

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