

Networking updates from the EU level



National Networks mapping

Organisational structures, functioning
models and thematic work 2025 - 2026

Marie Permingeat, EU CAP Network -
CAP Implementation Contact Point

#NNMeeting



Funded by
the European Union

Purpose of the report

- › To better understand the diversity of organisational and functional models across NN in this programming period,
- › To identify the institutions involved in the governance and implementation of networking activities,
- › To capture emerging roles, responsibilities and staffing arrangements,
- › To provide insight into network membership models and the ways in which stakeholders can be involved in network activities,
- › To understand how NNs support AKIS and evaluation activities,
- › To understand how NNs chose their priorities, and what they identified as opportunities and challenges for 2025-2026,
- › To inform on the themes NNs are focusing in 2026 and related events.



What you will find in the report

- › Typology of NNs: organisational models across the EU
 - Organisational structures and functioning models of NNs
 - Support to knowledge exchange and innovation
 - Support to evaluation and research
- › Priority areas and activities
 - Priority areas and how these are chosen
 - Activities planned for 2025-2026
- › Strategic outlook
 - Opportunities in the coming period
 - Challenges in the coming period
 - NN's role in upcoming programming period design





What you will find in the report

Figure 1 - Map of the institutional location of National Networks. Source: EU CAP Network, 2026

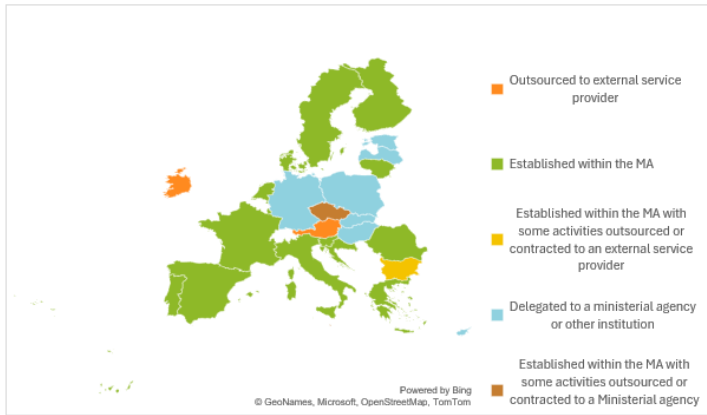


Figure 3 - Number of employees in full-time equivalent at national level per NN. Source: EU CAP Network, 2026.

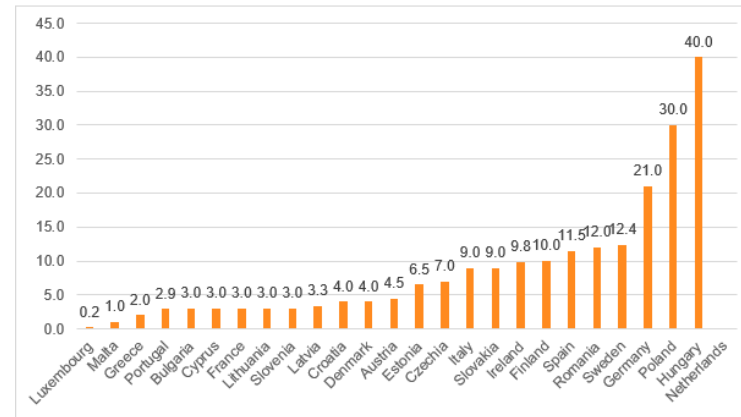
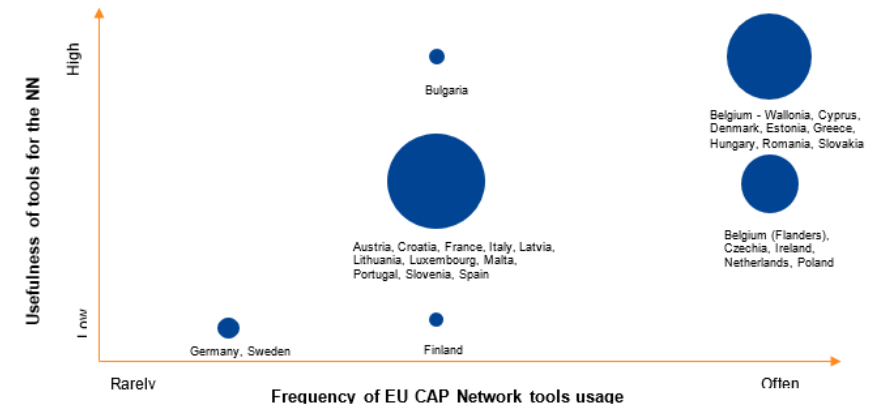


Figure 13 - Frequency of EU CAP Network tools by NNs. Source: EU CAP Network, 2026.



2025-26 thematic work

Figure 9 - Thematic work of NNs in 2025-2026. Source: EU CAP network, 2026

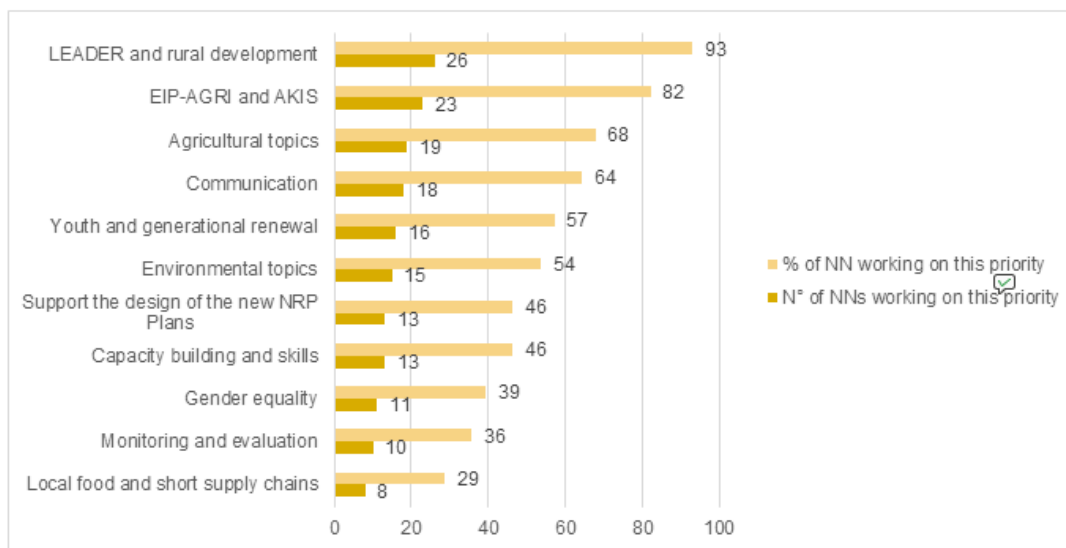


Table 3 - Main activities undertaken by NN in 2025-2026. Source: EU CAP network, 2026



Audience and use

- National Networks and their teams
- Managing Authorities
- National stakeholders involved with CAP activities
- EU CAP Network team – DG AGRI
- Descriptive and analytical
- To facilitate dialogue between NNs



Methodology and next steps

- › 2 questionnaires sent in January and July 2025
- › Responses from all 28 NNs!
- › Data analysis and response clarification
- › Writing the report
- › Checking understanding with you
- › Publication



Agricultural & Rural Inspiration Awards

Soft Launch of 2026 Edition

David Lamb, EU CAP Network -
CAP Implementation Contact Point

#NNMeeting



ARIA 2026: When equality powers the next generation

› This year's thematic categories:

- › Environmental protection
- › Smart & Competitive agriculture
- › Socio-economic fabric of rural areas
- › **New category:** Gender Equality

Cross-cutting theme on

- › Generational renewal

#NNMeeting



#ARI Awards26 finals

- 24 shortlisted projects (6 per category)
- 6 winners (4 per category, 1 from cross-cutting objective and 1 from the popular vote)



ARIA timeline

- › Official Launch of ARIA Awards: During April 2026
- › Submission deadline: 8 July (TBC)
- › Evaluation period: July – September
- › Popular vote: mid-October - December
- › Finalists to be announced: December during the Awards Ceremony





EU CAP Network Cross-visits 2026

Pacôme Elouna Eyenga, EU CAP Network -
EIP-AGRI Support Facility



Funded by
the European Union



EIP-AGRI project database

EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, Horizon multi-actor projects
and practice abstracts submitted by
Member States & Horizon project coordinators

Explore thousands of practice-driven projects and practical solutions

+5 000
EIP-AGRI
projects*

+14 100
practice
abstracts*

Scan here



projects

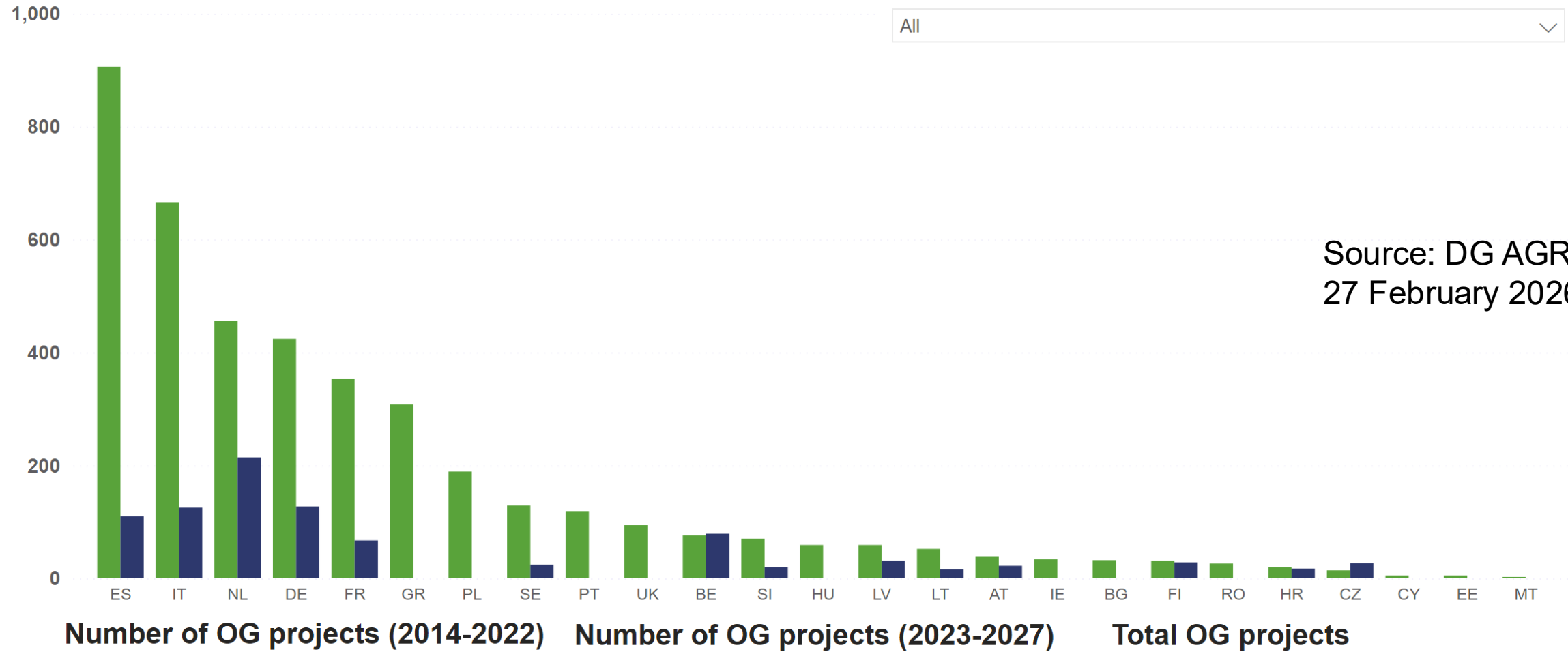


abstracts





Number of OG projects per Member State (both periods)



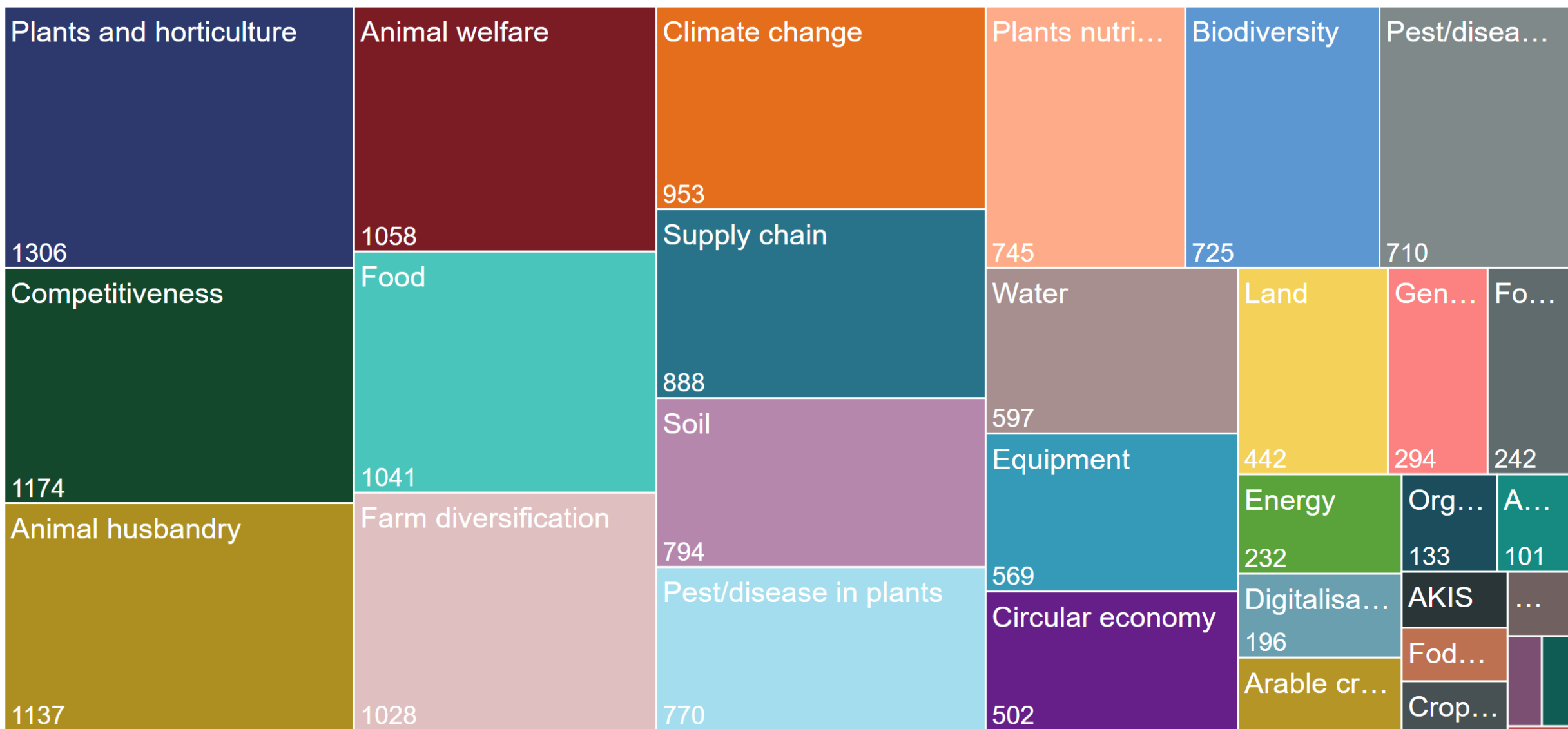
Source: DG AGRI
27 February 2026

4,168

907

5,075

Keywords (both programming periods)



MS



Cross-visits between Operational Group projects

Specific objectives:

- › Foster peer-to-peer learning.
- › Exchange innovative practices.
- › Discuss challenges and solutions.
- › Disseminate project findings.
- › Establish collaborations and partnerships.



Protein crops: 17 Applications

In the database: 108 OGs



Plant genetic resources: 11 Applications

In the database: 71 OGs



Robotics & AI: 26 Applications

In the database:

74 OGs “Robotics” and 104 OGs “AI”

Call for interest 2026

- › Open from 30 January until 20 February 2026.
- › 54 Applications received.

Country Name	Number of OG Applicants
Belgium	2
Croatia	1
Estonia	2
Finland	4
France	2
Germany	6
Greece	3
Hungary	1
Ireland	2
Italy	2
Latvia	1
Lithuania	3
The Netherlands	1
Poland	1
Romania	4
Slovenia	4
Spain	7
Sweden	4



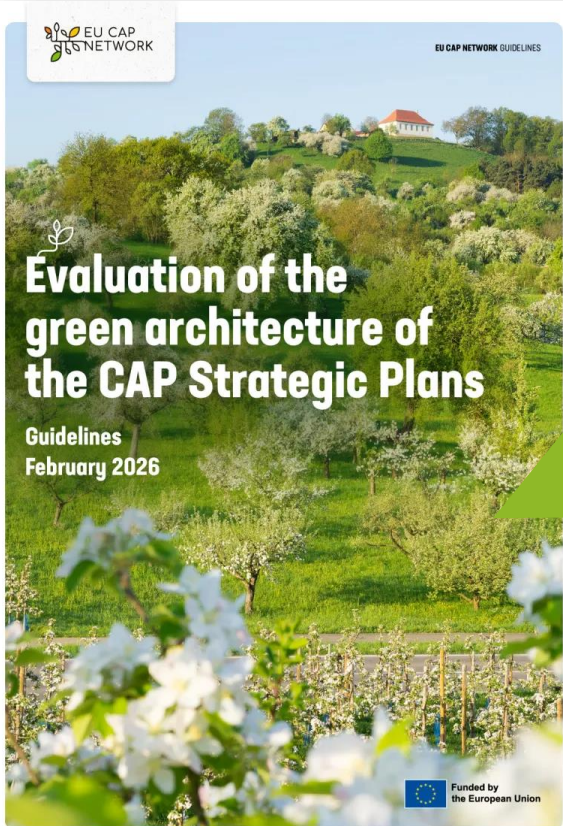
Activities of the Evaluation Helpdesk

Valdis Kudins, EU CAP Network -
Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP

#NNMeeting



Funded by
the European Union



“(…) there is no uniform design of green architecture across Member States, nor a single prescribed method for evaluating its performance. Each Member State has considerable flexibility in selecting and combining CAP instruments, such as good agricultural and environmental conditions (GAECs), eco-schemes, agri-environment-climate measures, sectoral interventions and several others, to address their unique environmental and climate challenges. “

Download [here](#)

- › Guidance for Managing Authorities and evaluators
- › How to assess the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of green architecture at the Member State level.

‘Assessment of the green architecture of CSPs’

16-17 March 2026, Cyprus

- Understand the difference between individual SO and GA evaluations
- Assessing effectiveness, coherence and efficiency of GA in CSPs
- Learn from existing experiences (MS, EU)



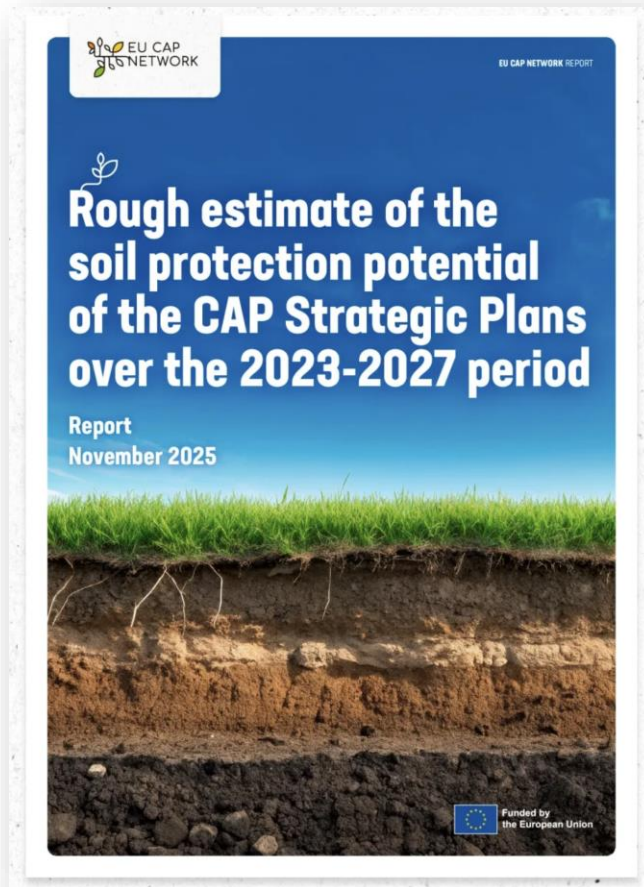
Upcoming events | Good Practice Workshops

- › **2-3 June 2026 in Finland:** Use of evaluations for ex-ante and for preparing next CAP – Registrations will be opened in April.
- › **October 2026 (tbc) in Lithuania:** Assessment of CAP support in organic farming - linked to Thematic Working Group





Recent publications | Study



- Assessed the potential of CSPs to protect and improve the status of agricultural soils, based on the programming information and the potential effects on soil health of the farm practices they support.
- Focuses on soil organic carbon content, soil nitrogen, soil water retention capacity, soil packing density, nitrogen leaching, and runoff and soil erosion by water.
- Covers 13 CSP: CZ, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, HU, IT, LU, LV, NL, PL, RO

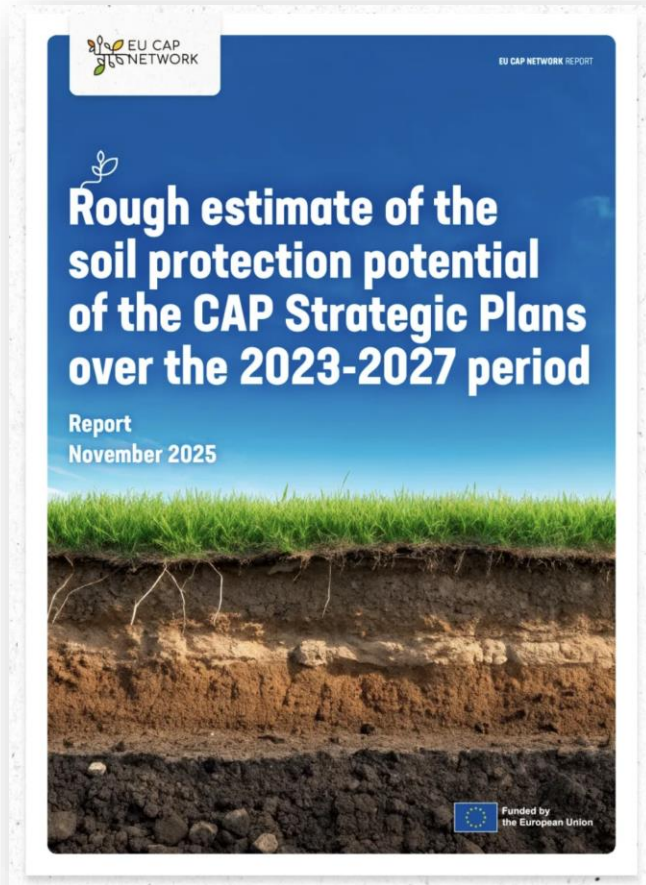
Results remain rough estimates. The study shows that further work is needed on both the approach and the existing databases to achieve more refined and comprehensive assessments in the future.

Download [here](#)





Capacity building | Online event



15 April 2026
10:00 – 12:00
(CET)



Professionals in MS dealing with design, management, M&E of soil-related CSP interventions and GAEC; evaluators where relevant

- > Understanding how to quantify the potential CSP contribution to soil protection
- > Practical support to improve the accuracy of the estimates.
- > Demonstration of how to apply the method using the study tools.

Invitations are sent to CSP Managing Authorities!

