



# CAP EVALUATION NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EUROPEAN EVALUATION HELPDESK FOR THE CAP

## Introducing the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP

The new European Evaluation Helpdesk for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), herein referred to as the Evaluation Helpdesk, was launched on 1 December 2021. Its mission is to support the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and Member States in evaluation activities and the implementation of a performance-based monitoring and evaluation framework for the CAP from 2022.



The contract was awarded to a consortium of Ecorys, Metis GmbH and Agrosynergie, which are supported by 15 sub-contractors. The partners bring in substantial expertise in evaluating the first and second pillar of the CAP, as well as relevant know-how on operating the Evaluation

Helpdesk in the previous programming period. The team of the Evaluation Helpdesk has also grown to 13 permanent members, 16 core team members and a vast team of thematic experts and geographic experts in the Member States. Get to know the permanent team of the Evaluation Helpdesk [here](#).



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This new period will also see the launch of the 'EU CAP Network' in Autumn 2022, which will bring the activities of the Evaluation Helpdesk alongside those of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) Contact Point and EIP-AGRI.

The priorities for work of the Evaluation Helpdesk in the year 2022/23 include a series of analytical activities, such as the mapping of the CAP implementation, a catalogue of CAP interventions, and the synthesis of ex-ante evaluations of CAP Strategic Plans. Moreover, the Evaluation Helpdesk will carry out up to 30 in-depth appraisals of Member States evaluations each year with a view to identify good practices in assessing the CAP.

A series of activities further aim to substantially improve the evidence for assessing the CAP, including preparatory work for closing data and attribution gaps of CAP impacts, which will be launched to identify the most pertinent data gaps to be addressed in view of the EU level interim evaluation in 2026. A work on animal welfare indicators will also seek to identify the most useful and feasible indicators to be potentially applied by Member States in the future.

Additionally, guidance on the Evaluation Plan will be collaboratively developed through a Thematic Working Group and through capacity building and support activities, which are increasingly carried out as peer-learning events among several Member States. Guidance on the assessment of the Agricultural Knowledge and Information System (AKIS) is also under preparation in 2022.

Future Good Practice Workshops will be open to respond to emerging needs for exchange among stakeholders. In case you would like to suggest any potential topics or needs for workshops and support activities of the Evaluation Helpdesk:



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# How to make the most of the Evaluation Knowledge Bank

The Evaluation Knowledge Bank (EKB) is an interactive tool developed by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP in collaboration with the Commission’s Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). It supports evaluation stakeholders in using innovative methodologies, approaches and tools developed by EU research projects working on monitoring and evaluating the CAP.









Currently, the EKB has 63 outputs about data infrastructure and use, from 25 different projects. These outputs can be filtered by a range of categories, which allow evaluation stakeholders to select the materials most pertinent to their needs, including information on data collection systems (e.g. FADN or IACS), practical ideas on how to apply an evaluation approach (e.g. impact evaluation or data analysis) or information on supporting specific CAP objectives/themes (e.g. environment).

To illustrate the many ways the EKB can be used in practice, the Evaluation Helpdesk selected a number of outputs relevant for evaluating the CAP’s objective to strengthen the socioeconomic fabric of rural areas, specifically in three thematic clusters:



## Outputs for assessing local development

The evaluation of the socioeconomic fabric of rural areas requires data for the calculation of new and existing indicators as well as developing methodologies and tools that combine more robust quantitative approaches with more qualitative ones. This is necessary as it is often hard to measure some social interventions with traditional quantitative approaches. The following EKB examples are of outputs in the cluster of local development that are relevant for evaluating LEADER, migration and social innovation, which offer new data for monitoring and evaluation as well as new indicators, methodologies and visualisation tools.

DATA FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION	INDICATORS	METHODOLOGIES	VISUALISATION TOOLS
 <b>IMAJINE</b> Local level database for socio-economic indicators	 <b>IMAJINE</b> Proposal for a composite indicator for local development	 <b>MATILDE</b> Toolbox for quantitative and qualitative data collection	 <b>MATILDE</b> Maps of Matilde regions
 <b>FLINT</b> Farm Return data recording system	 <b>FLINT</b> Sustainability indicators at the farm level for monitoring and evaluating the CAP	 <b>SIMRA</b> Methodology for evaluating social innovation in rural areas	
 <b>MATILDE Matrix</b>			



## DATA FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- [The local level database of IMAJINE](#) includes data for socio-economic indicators (income, poverty, education, etc.) at the local level. Previously, this type of data was only available from official statistical sources at NUTS2 level, despite territorial inequalities best measured at local level, which is also where local development strategies in the context of LEADER are implemented.
- [The FLINT Farm Return data recording system](#) offers data arranged in thematic tables, one of which is 'working conditions and quality of life'. This is valuable for evaluators who want to collect additional data and complement the national and regional FADN sample.
- [The MATILDE Matrix](#) provides data and indicators that can be used by participant countries for evaluating impacts of CAP interventions related to social inclusion and local development, in particular impacts of migration (indicators use secondary data). It can also be expanded with more data and indicators to cover more regions and countries.

## INDICATORS

- A [composite indicator for local development](#) is proposed by the IMAJINE project, using local level data from its database. This composite indicator represents a preliminary attempt to aggregate data from several variables in order to capture the structure of local economic performance at a more detailed level.
- [FLINT's sustainability indicators at the farm level for monitoring and evaluating the CAP](#) include social indicators including demographics, quality of life and inclusion issues. They offer a strong start on what social data can be collected for monitoring and how it can be utilised for evaluating the CAP.





## METHODOLOGIES

- LAGs are needed to assess the potential impact of migration in their territories and [the MATILDE toolbox](#), which will be finalised by 2023, will help by offering a combination of a quantitative approach (data collection based on the MATILDE matrix) with a qualitative one (field work, participatory techniques). It has the potential to offer an alternative tool for the assessment of CAP impacts on social inclusion as well as the impacts of local development measures (LEADER) on improving the social fabric, cohesion and revitalisation of rural areas.
- [SIMRA's Methodology for evaluating social innovation in rural areas](#) offers a solid framework for evaluating the three components of social innovation: the 'process', which refers to the emergence of a social innovation idea in a given context and the interaction of actors; the 'project', which consists of the tasks and activities that are implemented by project partners for realising the social innovation idea; and the 'effects', which represent the causal relationship between an intervention and its effects.

## VISUALISATION TOOLS

- Being able to visualise data is useful for a better understanding of the context in which interventions take place. [MATILDE](#) is a practical tool to help provide the contextual background for CAP evaluations, in terms of the territorial and socio-demographic landscape, and potentially also data for indicators. They are also relevant for understanding the changing population dynamics and their potential implications for local development and therefore better understand the intervention logic of local development strategies in the context of LEADER.



## Outputs for assessing food and health sustainability

In the food and health sustainability cluster, the outputs offer new data for monitoring and evaluation as well as methodologies.

### DATA FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION



#### NIVA

A farm registry tool for exchanging information and data among databases



#### The DEMETER

Agricultural Information Model



#### SALSA

Crop area and crop production estimation for small farms

### METHODOLOGIES



#### SALSA

Methodology for quantification of the contribution of small farms to local food systems and food and nutritional security  
Participatory foresight analysis on the future potential role of small farms and small food businesses in food and nutrition security



#### FACEPA

Methodology for assessing the impact of adopting organic farming on farms' economic and environmental performance



#### ENVISION

Identification of organic farming practices

### DATA FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- The [NIVA farm registry tool for exchanging information and data among databases](#) can be used for accessing farm practices including fertiliser and pesticide use, which will allow for a better evaluation at the micro and farm-level of new indicators (e.g., PMEF I.26 on limiting antibiotic use or I.27 on sustainable use of pesticides) and for other Farm to Fork Strategy and biodiversity targets.

### METHODOLOGIES

- The [SALSA methodology for quantification of small farms' contribution to local food systems and food and nutritional security](#) is a mixed method approach for evaluating food and health and nutritional security. It combines official statistics, interviews, and focus groups to assess small farms' contribution to local food systems and nutritional security. The same method can be relevant for assessing the effects of CAP interventions on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food.





## Outputs for assessing digitalisation

The digitalisation cluster offers methodologies and tools that can be used to evaluate the CAP's contribution to digital access and the socio-economic fabric of rural areas.

### METHODOLOGIES



#### DESIRA

Modelling broadband access impact on the economic growth at NUTS 3 level

### TOOLS



#### DESIRA

Toolkit of digital tools and their potential socio-economic impacts

## METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS

- Modelling impacts of digitalisation can be very useful for assessing the effects of interventions that aim to increase the digitalisation of rural areas, in particular, the effects on economic growth. Against a general lack of data at NUTS3 level, DESIRA identified the possibility to analyse broadband access at the NUTS3 level. This opens a new door to assess this impact at a territorial level, where many of these interventions are implemented. DESIRA generates metric models regression, which is a dynamic linear panel model that can account for the interplay between broadband coverage and stimulation of economic growth and account for measurement error. Some of the control variables include past economic growth, population growth and proxies for investments and trade orders. These data are usually proxied by using information on formal sector employments.



For more information on the Evaluation Knowledge Bank outputs

<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/knowledge-bank>







# Evaluators recommend new CAP indicators to better assess animal welfare

**A new evaluation study has identified various options for animal welfare indicators to support more sustainable livestock farming and identified how existing information gaps could be filled.**

On 11 May, the Commission [published a study](#) examining how the 2014-20 CAP contributed to improving animal welfare and reducing antimicrobial use, which found that only a few Member States' had introduced monitoring systems and these did not collect enough information to determine progress.

The analysis considered several instruments and measures affecting animal welfare and antimicrobial use, including those in the horizontal measures (Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013), direct payments (Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013), sector-specific market support (Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013), and rural development measures (Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013).

**“Evaluating the impact of the CAP on animal welfare should ideally be based on animal welfare indicators monitored within the CAP framework.”**

According to the evaluators, the lack of information made it difficult to assess how CAP measures delivered higher animal welfare standards in the EU, but they suggested how more robust data could be collected in the future.

“Currently, no common methodology exists to set the indicators and then collect, gather and interpret them, so that they can be used to assess animal welfare properly,” said Alice Devot, the team leader of the evaluation study, who also recommends a more uniform EU approach going forward. “Evaluating the impact of the CAP on animal welfare should ideally be based on animal welfare indicators monitored within the CAP framework.”

The study recommended that specific CAP interventions designed to improve animal welfare should be analysed with

the help of a small set of suitable indicators. The evaluators said these indicators should be established with the support of animal welfare stakeholders, focusing on the impact of changes supported by the CAP, in areas such as metabolic health, evidence of painful husbandry practices, and the presence or number of lesions on the carcass at the slaughterhouse.

The study also identified possible indicators to assess animal welfare targets in CAP Strategic Plans, which are expressed in percentage of livestock units concerned by operations improving animal welfare or antimicrobial use. They explained these indicators will mainly link to data available at the EU level, such as documenting animal population of different sectors and specific practices impacting animal welfare, including, for example, the percentage of tail-docked pigs and percentage of laying hens housed in enriched cages.

Available data on antimicrobial use was identified as a particular evaluation challenge across the EU due to Member States generally not having specific monitoring systems capturing these medicines – the evaluators could only obtain data reflecting the current trends in antimicrobial sales for veterinary purposes. The study explained this lack of information made it difficult to evaluate the 2014-20 CAP's impact on reducing the use of antimicrobials and that there is a risk of a similar situation when assessing CAP Strategic Plans in the future.

However, efforts are currently underway to help Member States better understand what is needed for effective data management for antimicrobials. The European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP has kicked off in May 2022 a new Thematic Working Group on the assessment of Animal Welfare, which aims to support better data collection, transmission and calculation at a national level as well as establish relevant indicators that overcome current information gaps. In a final report, it will also identify suitable new indicators to reflect the welfare of livestock supported in CAP Strategic Plans, including aspects related to antimicrobial use.



# Capacity building events in 2022 and beyond: Greater collaboration for better evaluation

**With the next CAP fast approaching more evaluation stakeholders require tailored support to meet the needs for the new programming period. For this reason, the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP has planned more capacity building events that enhance Member States' evaluation ability while also encouraging greater knowledge exchange between stakeholders.**

In 2022, the Evaluation Helpdesk's capacity building events will continue to provide platforms for learning and exchange among Member States, but they will further offer greater collaboration between countries. This more prominent peer-learning approach takes advantage of the fact that Member States have complementary skills and experience, which could strengthen other countries' evaluation capacity. Hence the capacity building activities in 2022 extended their focus on developing further peer-learning formats where two or more Member States discuss a specific topic and bridge each other's experiences. Capacity building events in 2022 have therefore centered around two formats:

- **EvaluationWORKS!**

Workshops based on proposed materials and exercises from the Evaluation Helpdesk based on the needs of each Member State.

- **EvaluationPEERS!**

Peer-learning workshops focused on specific topics and exchange between two or more Member States.

In 2022, each Member State will have the opportunity to participate in at least one of these capacity building activities, which will be organised by the Evaluation Helpdesk's Geographic Experts in the local languages. Peer-learning workshops will also be held in English, however they will include sessions in local languages.

## Developing plans and defining topics

As Member States face the start of a new CAP programming period, they also need to understand the new Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (PMEF) and explore how their evaluations will be conducted in the coming years and on what topics.

The Evaluation Helpdesk will support this process through EvaluationEXPLORE! meetings, which are new discussions between selected evaluation stakeholders from two or more Member States. These collaborations cover evaluation topics and management as well as further evaluation-related aspects in order to gain an overall picture of the needs in each Member State. These meetings will also help national stakeholders develop a strong and flexible 'Evaluation Plan' to efficiently manage and steer a country's evaluation approach during the next programming period.

Member States will first be invited to working sessions to discuss the most useful content for their Evaluation Plans as well as future topics related to their evaluation needs, which will then spark the coordination of further peer-learning events and generate valuable lessons learnt to date.



## SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Each capacity building event brings more knowledge on assessing the CAP and provides new opportunities to help stakeholders in other Member States. For this reason, the Evaluation Helpdesk is currently collecting useful training materials from different countries and will make them available on a new database, which will appear on the future website of the European CAP Network.



# BACK TO BASICS



## EU-level reporting obligations on evaluations

While Member States carry out evaluation activities in relation to their CAP Strategic Plans' ex-ante, during implementation and ex-post (2031), the Commission's evaluation activities are driven also by certain requirements, notably the reporting obligations to the European Parliament and the Council. Evidence from Member States' monitoring and evaluation activities will provide substantial input to these reports and be complemented by additional evidence. The Commission's main evaluation and reporting milestones on the CAP can be seen in the following timeline.

2023

### > Report to European Parliament and Council

Summary report of Member States' CAP Strategic Plans analysing the joint effort and collective ambition of Member States to address Green Deal targets and CAP objectives

2025

### > Report to European Parliament and Council

Assessment of the operation of the new delivery model by Member States on the combined contribution of the interventions in Member States' CAP Strategic Plans to achieve environmental and climate-related commitments of the EU

### > Publication of new CAP proposals 2028-34 and accompanying impact assessment

2026

### > Commission carries out interim evaluation

Assessment of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value of the EAGF and EAFRD

2027

### > Report to European Parliament and Council

Report on interim evaluation including first results on the performance of the CAP, based on evidence provided in evaluations on the CAP Strategic Plans and other relevant information sources

2031

### > Commission carries out ex-post evaluation of EAGF and EAFRD

Assessment of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value of the EAGF and EAFRD

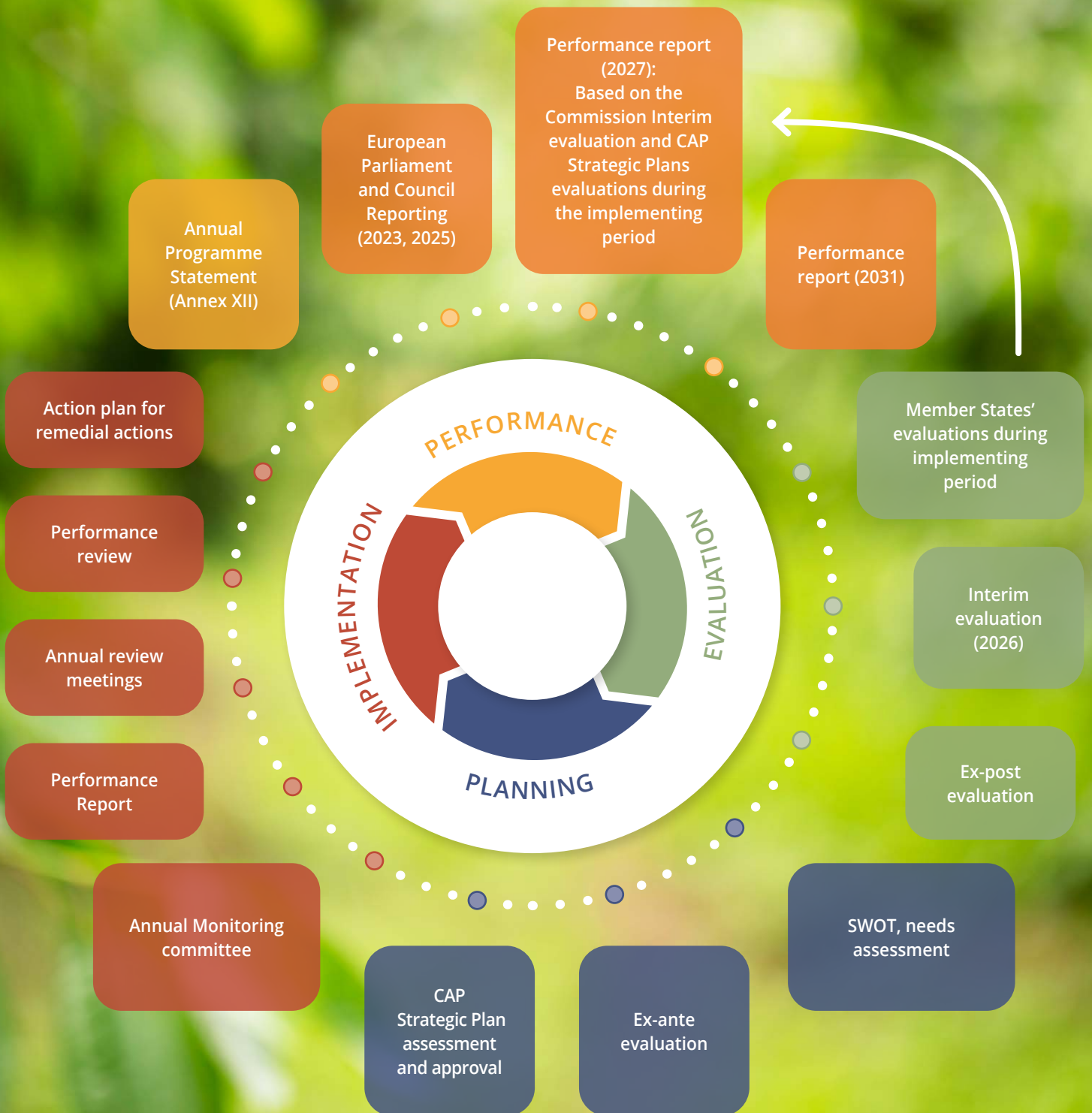
### > Report to European Parliament and Council

Report on the assessment of the performance of the CAP





# TOWARDS A PERFORMANCE-ORIENTED CAP





# EVENTS CALENDAR

- EvaluationEXPLORE! among two or more Member States (throughout June)
- [Spring workshop of the German Evaluation Society](#) (30 June - 1 July, Vienna)
- [Supporting policy with scientific evidence](#) (4-6 July)
- [IPDET: Digital Analytics for Monitoring and Evaluation](#) (5-9 September, online)
- [L'Associazione Italiana di Valutazione \(Italian Association of Evaluation\) National Congress](#) (21-23 September, Rome)
- [IDEAS Global Assembly and Conference 2022: Power of Evaluation for decision-making in a transforming world](#) (27-29 September, online)
- Official launch of the European CAP Network (October)

## What's Going on in YOUR Member State?

Share evaluation related events by emailing

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The European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP works under the supervision of Unit A.3 (Monitoring and Evaluation) of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily express the official views of the Commission.

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