MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The use of electronic applications in Hungarian rural development schemes

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Preparations of the introduction

→ Optional electronic applications in SAPS

→ Create the legal background for compulsory use of electronic applications

→ Compulsory electronic applications for large farms in Saps (optional for the rest)

→ Compulsory electronic applications in SAPS and some other area based RD measures (Single Application)

Where is e-applications used

✈ Single application (SA): SAPS + 19 area based RD measures, such as
  – Agri-environmental payments
  – Natura 2000 payments
  – LFA aid application
  – Modernisation of plantations
  – Energy plantation

In some cases both claim and payment applications is submitted electronically.

✈ Other RD measures such as
  – Afforestation of agricultural land payments
  – Forest-environment payments
  – Non-producing agricultural investments
  – Vocational training

✈ Monitoring data supply (approx. 30,000 in 2010, with more than 80% intensity)

How can farmers use e-application?

➤ Approx. 20-25% of farmers are computer literate (non-representative survey)

➤ All farmers are offered free help with single application by advisors

➤ 16% of farmers do SA e-submission on their own

➤ Users' manual and video on PA's website

Who help farmers with the e-applications?

➢ Free help
  – Village agronomists (600)
  – Advisors of the Agricultural Chamber (200)

➢ Help supported under advisory measure of NHRDP
  – Advisors of the FAS (600)

All the above receive special training on e-applications, and furnished with the necessary hardware and sofware.

The procedure of e-application I.

✦ e-application system is operated by the Paying Agengcy (PA)
✦ Clients can submit e-application on their own or with advisor's help (advisor has to be authorized by client – electronically by using pin code, and on printed and signed paper, too)
✦ Client or advisor enters PA's web-site
✦ It uses the personal client gate (CG) of the governmental portal
  – CG is protected by username and password
  – CG is also used for other e-administration (e.g. tax)
✦ Choosing application form and filling in

Some properties of the sofware
  - previous data from database automatically filled in
  - only relevant boxes pop up
  - area can be modified by drawing on map
  - scanned documents can be attached
  - data in excel format can be imported
  - automatic cross-checkings
  - missing (or obviously improper) data are indicated
  - incomplete application can be stored and opened later to continue
  - only complete and formally checked form is allowed to be submitted
  - only electronic submission ("no paper")
  - even submitted applications can be modified until the deadline of submission

The procedure of e-application II.

→ Submitted application is received by IACS

→ "time stamp"

→ Confirmation of submission to client

→ Processing starts

→ Some checking is done automatically, some by a clerk

- – In the case of deficiencies PA notify client in written form
- – Client submitts amendments/additions in writting

→ If application is correct, decision is produced

Pros and cons

✈ Pros

- Large number of potential clients in Hungary
- Cost efficient administration (less labour is needed)
- Decreasing administrative burdens of both PA and clients
- Speeding up procedures

✈ Cons

- Most of the farmers are computer illiterate
- And do not have the necessary hardware and software

ICT training

➔ ICT training (2 moduls of ECDL: operation systems, Internet and communication) is compulsory part of in-service courses that are:
  – Supported by public funds
  – Longer than 240 hours

➔ ICT training supported under NHRDP (started in Nov 2010):
  – 40 hours
  – Topics covered:
    • Operation systems
    • Use of Word and Internet
    • E-mailing

ICT help for rural areas

→ e-Hungary program
  – e-Hungary points (2000 throughout the country – focused on small villages)
    • Equiped with Internet access
    • Professional help by e-advisor

→ Services of e-Hungary points (cost free)
  – Tailored to local needs
    • Use of e-administration services
    • Seeking information
    • Banking, etc

→ Locations of e-points
  – Local government premises
  – Libraries
  – Cultural centres
  – Village halls
  – Integrated communal service places (supported under NHRDP)
  – Schools

Future improvements

✈ Extending e-application to more measures

✈ Diminish or eliminate the use of paper in the application procedure

✈ helping farmers to be able to do application on their own:

– Support for purchasing hardware and sofware (planned in NHRDP)

– To promote supported ICT training

Thank you for your attention!