

The event discussed the key elements needed for the drafting of the future CAP Strategic Plans (CSP).

Following the adoption of the [European Commission's legislative proposals on the CAP beyond 2020](#) (June 2018), the seminar provided one of the first occasions for administrations dealing with the two funding instruments, EAGF and EAFRD, to discuss together the opportunities and practicalities of combining the two CAP Pillars in one common strategic document.

Discussions focussed on how to strengthen the new green architecture, the competitiveness and resilience of farm holdings and generational renewal and the social fabric of rural areas.

Event Information

Date: 23 October 2018

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Organisers: ENRD Contact Point

Chair: Mario Milouchev (European Commission, DG AGRI)

Participants: The event was very well attended by representatives of some 26 Member States (MS) including RDP Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, CAP Pillar 1 national experts and Permanent Representations to the EU.

Outcomes: Useful information, ideas and opinions of MS authorities regarding the design of the future CSP.

Web page: https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/enrd-seminar-cap-strategic-planning_en

Elements of the Common Agricultural Policy's Strategic Plans



The new CAP delivery model

[Jerzy Plewka](#), European Commission, DG AGRI stated that

the proposed new CAP delivery model offers opportunities for simplification of the policy and for more targeted and ambitious interventions, by bringing together the two CAP Pillars under one common Strategic Plan. The envisaged new governance for the future CAP marks a step towards a new partnership between the EU and the MS and it allows for greater flexibility in the implementation of the policy to better address local needs. However, the Commission is conscious of the challenges of transitioning to this new model and intends to assist MS throughout this process including by the setting up of geographical hubs within DG AGRI as contact points for MS.



Overview of CAP Strategic Plans' Structure

[Guido Castellano](#), European

Commission, DG AGRI explained how

the Strategic Plan will integrate the three existing administrative processes, Direct Payments, Rural Development Programmes and sectoral programmes, in a single document. The aim of this new structure and delivery model is to improve the effectiveness of the policy against the objectives, and ease access to support for beneficiaries. It simplifies considerably the delivery of the CAP, reducing the rules and controls set at the EU level, while focusing more on achieving results. It further provides greater room for manoeuvre for MSs to better respond to their specific needs and context.

Ensuring interventions targeted to the identified needs



From needs' assessment to targets and the Austrian experience

[Zelig Peppiette](#), European Commission, DG AGRI and [Veronika Madner and Melanie Dittenberger](#), Austrian Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism



Zelig Peppiette explained that bringing together all CAP instruments into one integrated Strategic Plan is likely to increase the effectiveness of the policy and lead to better results and performance on the ground. This requires a wider partnership for the definition of the intervention logic and the design of the CSP, through 3 main steps: 1) a SWOT analysis and needs assessment structured according to the 9 specific objectives (SO); 2) setting the priorities to focus on identified needs, and quantifying the targets for the result indicators; 3) establishing a strategy as a mix of interventions – recognising that each intervention may be linked to more than one SO. The Austrian experience provides a good example of wide partnership, involving stakeholders in the design and implementation of a federal programme managed at the national level, but capable of addressing regional needs. The Austrian managing authority will build on this experience to develop the new CSP from January 2019.

Bringing together the two Pillars of the CAP



The Czech experience: a new team of Pillar I and Pillar II experts working together

Alena Kubů, Czech Ministry of Agriculture explained that

to design the new CSP, a core team of experts on Common Market Organisations, Direct Payments and Rural Development was set up within the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, in preparation for the 2021-2027 programming period. Ten Working Groups, which will involve stakeholders, had been set up. A SWOT analysis has been completed already and a tender procedure for the drafting of the ex-ante evaluation will be launched shortly. The Czech CSP is expected to be finalized in 2019 and ready to be submitted to the European Commission in 2020. One of the main difficulties encountered so far is the lack of data on climate and forestry. The team therefore hopes that the definitions of the context and result indicators will be provided by the Commission as soon as possible to help inform the data they should collect. The Ministry also intends to use Financial Instruments for the first time for investments and is keen to receive ad hoc assistance/coaching on how to use them more effectively.



Opportunities for interaction of EAGF and EAFRD under the

Gaëlle Marion and Mike Mackenzie, European Commission, DG AGRI argued that

finding synergies between the different CAP instruments that will be combined in the design of the CSP will be necessary from the very beginning: throughout the SWOT analysis and needs' assessment, covering territorial and sectoral aspects; in the strategy definition, combining interventions from Pillars 1 and 2; and in the setting of targets. Certain budgetary flexibility between the two Pillars will be allowed (up to 15% of a MS's direct payments budget to its EAFRD budget, or vice versa, plus up to an additional 15% from direct payments to the EAFRD for environmental purposes). Tools can be used in various combinations. For example, water management could be targeted by a combination of baseline conditions set in the new 'conditionality', P1 eco-schemes (e.g. large buffer strips), and P2 area payments for voluntary management commitments (e.g. fertiliser use reduction, limitation of livestock density and organic farming) and investment support (e.g. for more efficient irrigation systems).

Outcomes of parallel group discussions

Opportunities from bringing together the two CAP Pillars under one single Strategic Plan

- **Increasing dialogue and collaboration between Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 administrations, streamlining procedures, processes and definitions into one integrated and coherent policy, which will make it easier to communicate**
- Promoting **more strategic thinking** under Pillar 1
- **Flexible combinations of funding under Pillar 1 and Pillar 2** to increase synergies and savings, and enable the design of more **targeted responses to local needs** (i.e. sectoral interventions and combined measures)
- Possibility to design a specific strategy for **young farmers**
- Further **opportunities to reinforce the links between agriculture and the wider rural economy** (i.e. tourism and land management)

Main difficulties to overcome in the design and implementation of the new CAP Strategic Plans

- **Overlap of competencies** between national governments and regional authorities
- Aggregating **regional differences** in one single national CSP
- Increased **number of actors involved** in the entire process
- **Shifting to the new way of working** and to the new rules (both for beneficiaries and administrations)
- Setting-up appropriate **IT systems** capable of bringing together all data for both CAP Pillars
- Enhanced **conditionality requirements** (i.e. farmers expected to do more with less)
- **Resource burden** of design and reporting (i.e. admin capacity vs. timing for submission of CSP and Annual Report)
- **Monitoring & reporting:** definition of appropriate indicators especially for environmental/climate interventions

Support required by Member States in the process of preparation of the Strategic Plans

- **Timely approval of delegated and implementing acts**
- **Context and result indicators** to be provided as soon as possible so it is clear what data should be collected
- **Guidance documents, templates, concrete examples** of combinations of interventions, a full CSP mock-up
- Targeted assistance also through **working groups** and through **AGRI ambassadors/Geo hubs**
- **Further exchanges between Member States** to share good practices and solutions to obstacles