

# Evaluation in action: assessing the implementation of evaluation plans in 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plans

Summary Report  
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Additional information about the activities of the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP is available on the Internet through the Europa server <https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/support/evaluation>.



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# List of acronyms

AECM	Agri-environmental-climate measure	GHG	Greenhouse gas
AKIS	Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System	GO	CAP General Objective
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
CBI	Common bird indicator	IT	Information technologies
CCO	CAP Cross-Cutting Objective	LAG	Local Action Group
CGE	Computable general equilibrium	LDS	Local Development Strategy
CSP	CAP Strategic Plan (2023–2027)	LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale
DG AGRI	Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development	MA	Managing Authority
DNDC	DeNitrification-DeComposition tool	MC	Monitoring Committee
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	MS	Member State
EC	European Commission	NGO	Non-governmental organisation
EIP	European Innovation Partnership	NN	National CAP Network
EP	Evaluation plan of the CAP Strategic Plan (2023–2027)	PA	Paying Agency
EU	European Union	PMEF	Performance monitoring and evaluation framework
FADN	Farm Accountancy Data Network	PSM	Propensity score matching
FBI	Farmland bird indicator	PV	Photovoltaic
FoS	Factor of success	RDP	Rural Development Programme (2014–2022)
GAEC 8	Good agricultural and environmental condition No. 8 (To maintain non-productive areas and landscape features, and ensure the retention of landscape features through, for example, a ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season)	RES	Renewable energy sources
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation	SIPKK	Slovenian Farmland Bird Index
		SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
		SO	CAP Specific Objective
		UAA	Utilised agricultural area

## European Union (EU) Country codes sorted by official protocol order

Member State	Country codes	Member State	Country codes	Member State	Country codes	Member State	Country codes
Belgium	(BE)	Greece	(EL)	Lithuania	(LT)	Portugal	(PT)
Bulgaria	(BG)	Spain	(ES)	Luxembourg	(LU)	Romania	(RO)
Czechia	(CZ)	France	(FR)	Hungary	(HU)	Slovenia	(SI)
Denmark	(DK)	Croatia	(HR)	Malta	(MT)	Slovakia	(SK)
Germany	(DE)	Italy	(IT)	Netherlands	(NL)	Finland	(FI)
Estonia	(EE)	Cyprus	(CY)	Austria	(AT)	Sweden	(SE)
Ireland	(IE)	Latvia	(LV)	Poland	(PL)		



# List of CAP objectives

- |     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| G01 | To foster a smart, competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector ensuring long-term food security.   | S05 | To foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency.   |
| G02 | To support and strengthen environmental protection, including biodiversity, and climate action and to contribute to achieving the environmental and climate-related objectives of the Union, including its commitments under the Paris Agreement.         | S06 | To contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.  |
| G03 | To strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas.   | S07 | To attract and sustain young farmers and new farmers and facilitate sustainable business development in rural areas.  |
| S01 | To support viable farm income and resilience of the agricultural sector across the Union in order to enhance long-term food security and agricultural diversity as well as to ensure the economic sustainability of agricultural production in the Union. | S08 | To promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry.  |
| S02 | To enhance market orientation and increase farm competitiveness both in the short and long term, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation.  | S09 | To improve the response of Union agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including high-quality, safe and nutritious food produced in a sustainable way, to reduce food waste, as well as to improve animal welfare and to combat antimicrobial resistance.   |
| S03 | To improve the farmers' position in the value chain.  | CC0 | Modernising agriculture and rural areas by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas and by encouraging their uptake by farmers, through improved access to research, innovation, knowledge exchange and training. |
| S04 | To contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy.   |     |   |



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The work was coordinated by Valdis Kudiņš and co-authored by Marili Parissaki. Representatives from DG AGRI contributed to the coherence and consistency of the report. Verena Schernthaner and Margherita Sforza supported the editorial quality and visual appearance of the report.

Questions and suggestions regarding the content of the publication can be addressed to the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP at [evaluation@eucapnetwork.eu](mailto:evaluation@eucapnetwork.eu).



# 1. Introduction and methodology

This summary report presents an overview of the implementation of the evaluation plans (EPs) of the 2023–2027 CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs), drawing on evaluation-related information submitted by Member States (MS) to the European Commission (EC) in 2025. Evaluation Plans, developed under the responsibility of the Managing Authorities (MAs) and presented to their respective Monitoring Committees (MCs), outline the evaluation activities foreseen throughout the CSP implementation period.

In the 2023–2027 programming period, the EU CAP Network, supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (Evaluation Helpdesk), is tasked with reviewing EPs on a regular basis, identifying significant changes and assessing progress in their implementation. This report contributes to this task by providing a consolidated overview of evaluation activities undertaken by MS, based on MC minutes and various reports on evaluation activities transmitted to the EC. The information covers the years 2023–2024 and the first half of 2025.

Member States are expected to share information on evaluation activities and findings referred to in Articles 124(3)(d) and 124(4)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 with the Commission, after the examination by the MC, including the result of that examination<sup>1</sup>. The extent of reporting has varied, and not all MS provided information in 2024 and 2025. The information shared has varied in detail and structure across the submitted material. Notwithstanding this, this summary report follows the structure set out in Annex II of Regulation (EU) 1475/2022, listing the minimum requirements for the structure and content of the EP. The rationale is that, as this is the first year of EP implementation, there is little information to share on evaluation findings, and it is therefore useful to obtain an overview of how EP implementation is progressing. At the same time, there are some novel features in the EPs, such as the involvement of stakeholders, the evaluation of specific topics (e.g. AKIS, LEADER added value, green architecture and simplification), or the identification and closure of data gaps that merit attention in terms of how MS are dealing with these new features.

The report is organised as follows. [Section 2](#) provides an overall assessment of the review of EPs, based on an analysis of all reports and information provided by MS at the time this report was drafted. [Section 3](#) provides details on progress in implementing EPs, structured around the seven topics listed in Annex II of Regulation (EU) 1475/2022. [Section 4](#) presents key lessons learned so far from the implementation of EPs and provides recommendations for improved reporting. The Annex contains a set of fiches summarising each evaluation reported by MS between 2023 and 2025, grouped by Specific Objectives (SOs).

## 1.1. Key terms and definitions used in this report

### Types of evaluations

**Impact-oriented evaluation with a counterfactual approach**, capturing the higher-level effects (impact) of a plan/interventions against a baseline situation (comparing a supported and non-supported target group, e.g. before-and-after and with-and-without approaches).

**Impact-oriented evaluation with no counterfactual approach**, capturing the higher-level effects (impact) of a plan/interventions against a baseline situation, e.g., a 'theory of change' based approach, before-and-after approach.

**Result-oriented evaluation** capturing achievements of results by beneficiaries in relation to targets planned, but not necessarily capturing effects against a baseline situation.

**Process-oriented evaluation** assesses how a plan/intervention is implemented, e.g. governance, delivery system, communication, technical assistance and NN.

**Support study** is an analytical work that supports evaluation without assessing the effects of the programme/interventions, e.g. context analysis, environmental monitoring studies, studies to develop evaluation methods and identification of data gaps.

### Types of evidence basis of evaluation findings

Findings are based on the assessment of:

**Contextual trends:** external factors that are not directly related to a specific policy instrument, but are influenced by a wider range of factors.

**Impacts (net):** changes beyond immediate effects against a baseline situation with a counterfactual approach (comparing a supported and non-supported target group e.g. before-and-after and with-and-without approaches).

**Impacts (gross):** changes that go beyond immediate effects, measured against a baseline situation without a counterfactual approach, e.g. before-and-after comparison.

**Results (net):** achieved direct and immediate effects among direct beneficiaries in comparison to a control group.

**Results (gross):** achieved direct and immediate effects for direct beneficiaries.

**Monitoring information (input, output):** assesses the performance of activities directly realised through the programme and measured in physical or monetary units.

**Processes and implementation:** analyses activities concerning the management and implementation of CSPs, including the establishment of eligibility criteria, allocation of funding, support levels, etc.

<sup>1</sup> Article 5 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1475.



## 2. Overall assessment of EP implementation progress

This section provides an overall assessment of progress in implementing EPs, based on a review of each EP section.

### 2.1. To what extent have MS progressed in the implementation of their evaluations? Are they consistent with the EP?

Overall, progress in implementing evaluation activities is **broadly consistent with the original evaluation plans**. Seven of the ten reporting Member States delivered a total of 25 evaluations between 2023–2025, covering result-oriented, impact-oriented and process-oriented evaluations, as well as support studies. Most MS followed the indicative timelines foreseen in their EPs, and deviations occurred only in isolated cases (notably Poland's postponement of some evaluations from 2025 to 2026–2028 due to low uptake and implementation delays).

In practice, the **EPs are being used as steering tools**, with MS preparing annual or bi-annual action plans, refining evaluation concepts and methodologies or initiating preparatory activities such as detailed evaluation plans or tendering. Where EP amendments occurred (IT, PL), they were targeted at improving feasibility, procurement or alignment with CSP implementation realities.

Despite overall alignment, **gaps remain**, particularly regarding information on preparatory steps for evaluations scheduled for 2025 (e.g. contracting of evaluators is not reported in several MS).

### 2.2. To what extent have MS progressed in data collection and management?

Progress with data management is **mixed and generally limited**. Only five MS provided substantial information on data arrangements. Reported activities mainly addressed reviews of existing data sources, assessment of indicator relevance and needs for additional indicators, addressing GDPR issues, data system quality assurance and identification of cooperation needs with research institutions, adjustments to monitoring systems for improved timeliness and completeness of data.

However, the **identification of data gaps and actions to address them remains weak**. Few MS explicitly analysed data gaps, despite this being a requirement in the EP. Evidence from evaluation studies in PL also suggests challenges related to access to public data, limited staffing capacity and issues in data translation.

### 2.3. How have stakeholders been involved in evaluations?

Stakeholder involvement is **evident but uneven**. Most MS reported structured engagement through existing bodies such as MCs, evaluation working groups (HR, PL), National CAP Networks, thematic groups (DE) or steering groups (IT). Stakeholders contributed to the refinement of evaluation concepts, methodologies and annual action plans and provided feedback on preliminary findings.

Some MS (DE, IT, SE) showcased **good practices**, including:

- broad stakeholder consultations for evaluation concepts (DE, HR, IT);
- topic-specific forums (AKIS in IT, Sweden's multi-channel communication formats); and
- targeted workshops and forums for LAGs, farmers, researchers and public authorities.

However, involvement **beyond MC members is not systematically demonstrated** and participation of environmental stakeholders and research institutions is often unclear. Similarly, evidence of stakeholder involvement in **implementation stages**, beyond planning, is limited.

### 2.4. Is there any evidence that effective management and coordination have contributed to better evaluations in terms of accessing the required data, involving the relevant stakeholders and others?

There is **clear evidence that MS with well-established and active coordination structures are better positioned** to plan, prepare and implement evaluations. Examples include:

- **Germany**: coordination officers and thematic working groups contribute to a comprehensive evaluation concept and strong methodological coherence.
- **Italy**: a multi-layered governance system (steering group and steering committee) supports coordinated preparation of national and regional evaluations and the requirement for evaluators to maintain an 'on-board journal' strengthens follow-up and learning.
- **Poland**: the establishment of the CSP evaluation group enables structured planning and monitoring of upcoming evaluations.

On the other hand, in MS where governance changes occurred (CY), local institutional reforms created delays, highlighting how governance disruptions can hinder evaluation readiness.

Overall, strong governance correlates with **better access to data, more systematic planning, and clearer mobilisation of evaluators and thematic experts**.



## 2.5. To what extent is the timeline of evaluations in accordance with what was planned? Consistency of evaluations with the EP (objectives, etc.).

Most MS adhere to their original EP timelines. Evaluation activities during 2023–2024 consist primarily of methodological work, monitoring studies and early implementation assessments, which align with the early implementation stages of CSPs.

Only Poland formally adjusted the EP timeline in response to the slow uptake of certain interventions. In several MS evaluations scheduled to begin in 2025, there is a lack of reported progress on procurement or contracting, suggesting there is some uncertainty about timely delivery.

Despite these information gaps, **there is no systematic deviation from evaluation plans' timetables.**

## 2.6. To what extent have MS disseminated evaluations? Are there any dissemination approaches worth sharing amongst MS?

All MS reported dissemination activities, with the most common channels being, MA websites, National CAP Network platforms, MC meetings, workshops, thematic meetings and evaluation steering groups.

**Sweden provides a notable good practice**, using a diversified and targeted dissemination strategy that includes blogs, newsletters, webinars, national press releases, sector-specific forums and LEADER-focused events. This multi-channel, audience-specific approach may stand out as a model for other MS.

Where evaluations were not yet completed, dissemination has naturally not occurred.

## 2.7. To what extent have MS followed-up on evaluation findings? Are there any follow-up approaches that can serve as good practice?

Follow-up mechanisms are generally **poorly developed across MS**, with only three MS demonstrating progress:

- > **Sweden** has the most advanced approach, with a formalised IT-based system assigning each recommendation to responsible units, tracking progress and reporting to the MC.
- > **Italy** plans to systematically use evaluation results through governance bodies and engage evaluators actively in follow-up processes.
- > **Denmark** applied recommendations from its quality assurance review into its annual EP action plan.

Other MS show little or no progress in defining follow-up arrangements, despite EP requirements. Reporting on the follow-up of evaluations remains **the least developed component** of EP implementation.

## 2.8. To what extent do MS systematically build evaluation capacity?

All MS report participation in Evaluation Helpdesk capacity-building events. Additional national initiatives demonstrate good practice, e.g. MA-led training for regions and region-specific capacity-building sessions (DE), national technical meeting on procurement of evaluation services, promoting common approaches among national and regional authorities (IT), targeted capacity building for LAGs and development of LDS evaluation guidelines (PL, SI), addressing a common gap in EP implementation.

However, **capacity building for LAGs** remains insufficient overall, despite being explicitly required in EPs.



### 3. Detailed assessment of EP implementation progress

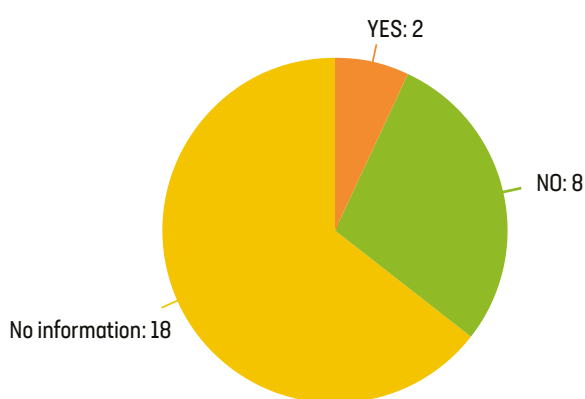
This section summarises with more details the progress made in implementing the evaluation plans of the CAP Strategic Plans, based on the information submitted by Member States to DG AGRI. Its structure mirrors the minimum requirements for EPs set out in Annex II of Regulation (EU) 1475/2022.

#### 3.1. Modifications to the CSP evaluation plans

EPs are living documents that must contain, at a minimum, the elements specified in Annex II of Regulation (EU) 1475/2022. MS may update or amend their EPs to reflect developments in the implementation of their CSPs. In 2023, the Evaluation Helpdesk reviewed the EPs of all 28 CSPs and developed the [Overview of Member States' evaluation plans for CAP Strategic Plans \(2023-2027\)](#). This overview provides stakeholders with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the content of EPs.

At the time of drafting this report, out of 28 CSPs, **ten MS** (CY, DE, DK, HR, IT, LT, LU, PL, SE and SI) **submitted information on the implementation of their EPs in 2025**. Among these, eight MS introduced changes to their EPs without undertaking formal amendments, whereas Poland and Italy carried out formal amendments. The reference period covers 2023-2024 and the first half of 2025, reflecting Italy's amendment adopted in February 2025.

**Figure 1. Formal amendments of the CSP evaluation plan (N=10 CSPs)**



Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

The changes reported by MS predominantly concern operational aspects of evaluation planning. These include adjustments to the timing of planned evaluations and to data availability (DE), methodological and data-related refinements (DK), new internal procedures for follow-up of evaluations (SE), and clarifications regarding the roles and responsibilities of evaluation stakeholders (PL). Lithuania updated its EP with more detailed bi-annual plans, while Poland expanded the description of its evaluation planning procedures, which were subsequently examined by the MC.

The formal amendments introduced by Italy and Poland relate to broader contractual and temporal adjustments. Italy restructured its original evaluation lots, reducing them from five to three broader thematic lots, to streamline procurement processes, increase market openness and facilitate wider participation from SMEs. Poland modified the evaluation timeline by postponing several planned evaluations (to 2026-2028) in response to low CSP uptake.

**In conclusion**, only a limited number of changes and amendments were reported, but where they existed, changes focused on introducing more detail in different sections of the EP, while amendments concerned the structuring and timing of evaluations.

#### 3.2. Objectives and needs

This section summarises changes in the objectives and evaluation needs set out in the EPs, based on information reported by Member States to DG AGRI. MS were expected to state the objectives of their EPs and identify their evaluation-related needs. This requirement aims to ensure that sufficient and appropriate evaluation activities are undertaken during implementation of the EP to support three main purposes:

- > programme steering;
- > informing the preparation of the next policy programming period; and
- > ensuring that data needed for CSP evaluations are available.

**None** of the ten MS providing information on the implementation of their EPs **reported any changes to the objectives and needs**, therefore implying that objectives and needs remain consistent with the original EPs.

Although no new evaluation priorities and thematic needs were introduced, some MS provided more information on the focus of their evaluation activities in 2023-2024, in line with the objectives of the EP and evaluation needs, which can be grouped as follows:

- > Developing and/or refining evaluation concepts and frameworks (DE, PL, DK), serving as the basis for forthcoming calls for tender for evaluation contracts.
- > Assessing and refining data systems (DK).
- > Elaborating annual action plans to operationalise the EP, including specifying timelines and thematic focus for upcoming evaluations (DK, PL).
- > Preparing evaluations focused on thematic priority needs, including GO1 (DK); competitiveness, ecological transition, AKIS, rural resilience, and employment in agriculture (IT); efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value (LU), environmental and economic impacts (PL).

**In conclusion**, based on the information provided by Member States, there have been no changes in the objectives of EPs or in evaluation-related needs. In some cases, more detail was provided on the focus of evaluation activities in relation to refining evaluation concepts, evaluation frameworks and data systems, developing annual action plans and preparatory activities for upcoming evaluations.



### 3.3. Governance and coordination

This section provides a summary of changes in governance and coordination arrangements of EPs, based on the information reported by MS to DG AGRI. Member States described in their EPs the monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the CSP, including the main bodies involved and their responsibilities. These structures are summarised in the [Overview of Member States' evaluation plans for CAP Strategic Plans \(2023-2027\)](#).

None of the ten MSs that provided information reported changes to the governance and coordination structures. In some cases, more detailed information is provided, illustrating how the governance system is working and whether any issues arise:

- The **role of the Managing Authority** as the main body responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the CSP and for coordinating and ensuring implementation of the EP is reaffirmed by all MS that have provided information.
- The **Monitoring Committee** is reported to be actively engaged in reviewing and discussing draft evaluation plans in LT, while in CY, the internal rules and procedures of the MC were adjusted to improve governance through enhanced coordination of the different administrative divisions.
- **Governance structures** described in the EP have become functional and fully operational during 2023-2024 and the first half of 2025 (CY, DE, IT, LT, LU, PL, SI).
- **Coordination across the governance structures** has been conducted through, for instance, collaborative meetings and discussions on planned evaluations for 2025 (DE, IT, PL). Specific coordination structures have been set up, e.g. a CSP evaluation group in PL, a steering group and a steering committee in IT, a coordination officers group and thematic working groups in DE.
- **Some issues** are reported in CY as a result of local self-government reform, which merged municipalities and caused delays in issuing permits, which may affect beneficiary participation and cause delays in the CSP implementation.

Based on the information reported, some discrepancies from the original EP or incomplete information are observed:

- Advisory and steering groups to support evaluations were foreseen in some MS, but there is no information provided on whether such structures have been set up.
- Contracting external evaluators has been reported in some cases. Yet, information on the mobilisation of external experts, covering specific thematic fields (e.g., economic, environmental) foreseen in some EPs, is not provided.
- In some cases, structural changes are reported in governance structures, e.g. new structures established absorbing previous ones. It is not clear whether such changes affect the governance and coordination of the EP implementation.

**In conclusion**, some of the MS who reported on governance and coordination in relation to their EP provide more details on the related structures, the operationalisation and involved experts. In many cases, it is not evident if all expected structures are in place and whether experts/evaluators have been mobilised/contracted.

### 3.4. Stakeholder involvement

This section summarises the implementation of the EPs regarding stakeholder involvement, based on information reported by Member States to DG AGRI. Evaluation stakeholders play an important role in planning evaluation and capacity building activities. Relevant evaluation stakeholders may also include those beyond the MC members. In their EPs, Member States were expected to identify and briefly describe relevant stakeholders and their needs related to evaluation activities and, where relevant, their capacity building needs. A summary of EP content in relation to stakeholder involvement can be found in the [Overview of Member States' evaluation plans for CAP Strategic Plans \(2023-2027\)](#).

Nine of the ten Member States who provided information on the implementation of their EPs, offer **evidence that stakeholders are engaged** in various ways, for instance, through established structures like the MC (DE, DK, HR, IT, LT, LU, SE) and other structures like the evaluation working group (HR), the National CAP Network (HR), focus groups (LU) and the evaluation group (PL).

**Stakeholders contribute** in several ways:

- Feedback on EPs and annual action plans (DE, DK, HR, LT, LU, SE, SI).
- Support to the development of evaluation concepts, frameworks and methods (DE, HR).
- Participation in planning and refining evaluation activities (IT, PL).
- Feedback on evaluation findings and their interpretation (LU, SE).

Regarding **capacity building**, some MS reported targeted activities to strengthen stakeholder capacities. These include participation in capacity-building events organised by the Evaluation Helpdesk (HR, SI) and national workshops for specific stakeholder groups such as LAGs (PL).

Some **good practice** aspects include, first, **the role of the support service provider in DE as a facilitator** of national and regional workshops and capacity building activities that engaged national and regional stakeholders, aimed at reinforcing their involvement. Second, **structured consultations with stakeholders** contributed to ensuring their engagement in refining evaluation activities in relation to specific topics like AKIS in IT. Third, **communication activities were targeted at different types of stakeholders** to facilitate their engagement in SE, including: blogs, press releases and national network presentations for a wider audience; dedicated forums for AKIS stakeholders; and webinars and workshops for other authorities/government offices, federations of farmers, universities and NGOs.

However, the active involvement of additional stakeholders, beyond the MC members, is not evident in the information provided. In addition, there is a lack of clarity in some cases on the involvement of environmental stakeholders, such as research institutions that provide data on the environment and climate.

**In conclusion**, although most reporting MS demonstrate stakeholder involvement in the design of EP, gaps remain in documenting the engagement of stakeholders beyond the MC and their participation in the implementation of evaluation activities.



### 3.5. Evaluation activities

This section provides a summary of the reported evaluation activities in 2023–2024 and the first half of 2025, including a general overview, the types of evaluations and the main findings of implemented evaluations. Given that some MS reported evaluation activities for 2023–2024, others for 2024 or the first half of 2025, the timeframes mentioned in this section reflect this way of reporting.

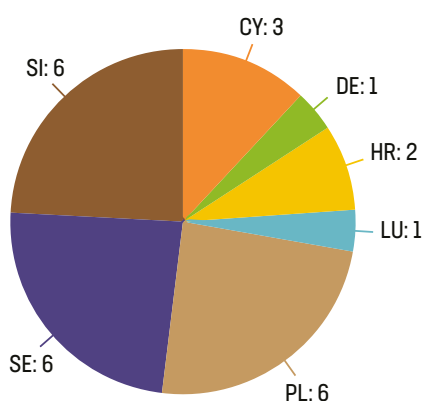
In their EPs, MS were expected to provide an indicative timeline of their evaluation activities, including evaluations of CSPs' contribution to the CAP Specific Objectives, evaluations of specific topics, support studies and analytical activities.

Overall, the implementation of evaluations follows the originally planned timelines. Some MS list the upcoming evaluations for 2025 in detail, although, in some cases, information about progress in relation to evaluations expected to start in 2025 was not provided (e.g. selection of evaluators, tendering, etc.). Only Poland formally modified the original timeline in 2024 to reflect the actual pace of CSP implementation. Evaluations initially planned for 2025 (e.g. training and advisory systems, food quality systems and organic farming) were rescheduled to 2026 or later.

#### 3.5.1. Evaluations implemented at a glance

Out of ten MS providing information, seven reported evaluation activities resulting in a total of 25 CSP-related evaluation reports completed during 2023–2025 (CY, DE, HR, LU, PL, SE, SI). SE, SI and PL each reported six evaluations, while the remaining MS reported between one and three evaluations (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Number of CSP-related evaluations completed per Member State (N=7)**



Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

### 3.5.2. Types of evaluations implemented and other evaluation activities

The 25 completed evaluations reported by MS comprise result- and impact-oriented evaluations, process-oriented evaluations and support studies, as summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1. Number of evaluations reported by the type of evaluation**

Type of evaluation	Number of reports
Result and impact-oriented evaluations, of which:	8
> <i>Impact-oriented evaluations</i>	2
> <i>Result-oriented evaluations</i>	6
Process-oriented evaluation	4
Support studies (including methodological studies, monitoring reports)	13

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

Although it is still early in the programming period to look at results and impacts comprehensively, a small number of **result- and impact-oriented evaluations** have been completed. The result-oriented evaluations focus on the effects of individual interventions or groups of interventions on specific or combined topics (e.g. Green Architecture, environment, climate, animal welfare, support for endangered livestock breeds, AKIS and young farmers). The impact-oriented evaluations examine broader effects, including the sustainability of farms receiving investment support and the synergies of the CAP measures under both the RDPs and the CSPs.

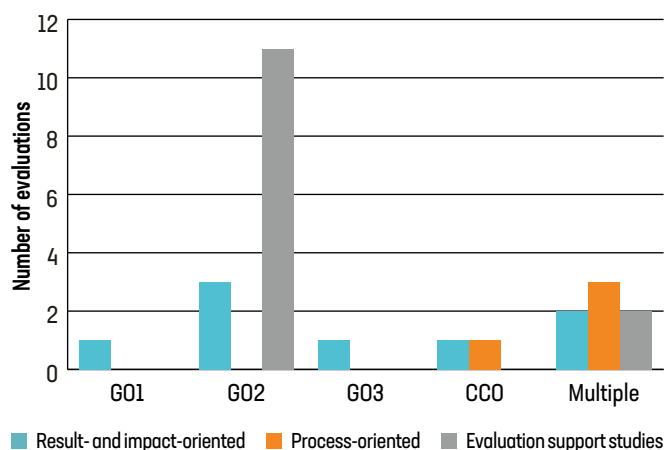
**Process-oriented evaluations** focus on design and implementation processes, for instance, assessing performance management or the design of support, a transversal evaluation of CSP implementation so far, including potentials for improvements and simplification, as well as an evaluation of the existing AKIS system.

The majority of evaluations during 2023–2024 concern **support studies**, which help prepare the evaluations planned for subsequent years. To this end, they focus on methodologies for collecting data and calculating indicators (especially in relation to biodiversity, SO6), methodologies for evaluating CSP impacts (e.g. on GHG emissions, water quality) and other methodological issues.

The figure below depicts the evaluations by General Objective (GO) of the CAP. It shows that the majority of support studies were related to the environment and climate (GO2), while 28% of all evaluations (7 out of 25), concern various CAP objectives.



**Figure 3. Evaluations per General Objective (GO) and Cross-Cutting Objective (CCO) of the CAP**



Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

In addition to support studies, which prepare the ground for the implementation of planned evaluations, some MS engaged in other preparatory activities, such as:

- > Development of detailed evaluation plans for evaluations and support studies for 2025-2026 (IT, LT).
- > Development of evaluation concepts and methodological frameworks, including through stakeholder consultations (DE, DK, HR, IT, PL). DK carried out quality assurance reviews of the CSP to assess methodological approaches and data systems and recommend improvements for evaluating long-term impacts.
- > Establishment of cross-cutting themes, such as gender and simplification, to form part of any evaluation (DE).
- > Tender preparations for the evaluations planned for 2024 and 2025 (DE, IT).

### Box 1. Good practice in developing a comprehensive evaluation concept (DE)

The evaluation concept provides cross-cutting guidance on evaluation of multiple assignments, region-specific evaluation and ex post evaluation questions.

The evaluation of each SO will be organised according to the following structure: (1) background specific objective and needs; (2) objective of the evaluation; (3) evaluation framework (evaluation topics/elements, evaluation questions, factors of success, evaluation criteria); (4) work packages, reporting and timetable; (5) data availability (identification of data gaps where appropriate).

The evaluation concept extends to the ex post evaluation of the CSP. The evaluation teams will provide guidance and input for the design of the ex post evaluation, thus helping to 'build bridges for ex post'. To this end, key questions have been formulated in relation to possible topics, areas of study, evaluation questions or data to be taken into account for the ex-post evaluation.

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

### 3.5.3. Findings of completed evaluations

The 25 evaluation reports have produced a large number and variety of findings (contextual trends, gross and net impacts, gross and net results, monitoring information and process and implementation related findings).

In total, 141 findings have been extracted and categorised as depicted in the table below. The majority of findings relate to the process and implementation (65 findings), which is justified by the fact that CSPs are still in early stages of implementation. There are also a significant number of findings (55) concerning gross results and impacts, while net results and impacts are fewer (7). This may be due to the early stages of implementation, where net outcomes are not yet discernible.

**Table 2. Number of findings by the evidence basis of evaluation findings**

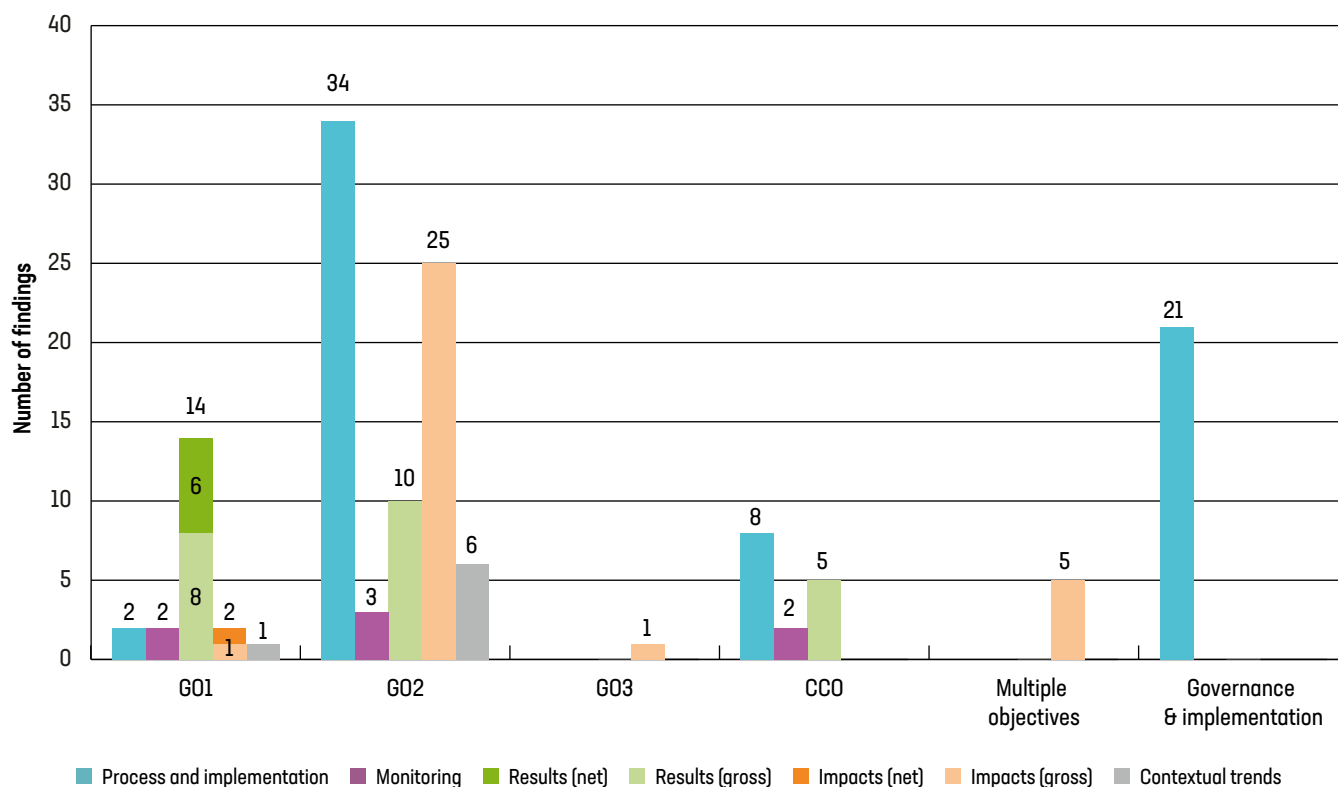
Evidence basis	Number
Process and implementation	65
Impacts (gross)	32
Results (gross)	23
Contextual trends	7
Monitoring	7
Results (net)	6
Impacts (net)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

The majority of findings (78) relate to GO2 (see figure below), as reflected in the evaluations of this CAP General Objective. They focus mainly on the process and implementation of GO2 and gross impacts. A significant number of findings (21) are not related to a general objective but to governance and implementation aspects and are mainly process and implementation-related findings. The findings related to GO1 (21) are a mix of all types of findings (impacts, results, process, monitoring, contextual trends). Only one finding relates to GO3 and concerns a net impact. Finally, findings for CCO (15) are a mix of process, gross results and monitoring-related findings.



**Figure 4. Types of findings by CAP General Objective**



Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

The following sections describe the findings by type, also providing specific examples.

### 3.5.3.1. Process and implementation findings

The large number of process and implementation findings reveals a variety of positive developments and some challenges encountered during the implementation of CSPs. The positive findings highlight:

- > **Strong coherence mechanisms**, e.g. high internal coherence of Green Architecture measures in CY and DE, alignment between CSP environmental measures and national biodiversity/climate plans in LU, or high coherence with other national initiatives in SE (e.g. National Food Strategy).
- > **Effective performance management structures**, particularly in SE, which support fuller utilisation of EU funds, strengthen steering towards targets within financial limits, improve the quality and clarity of decision-support materials, and establish a sustainable way of working. In addition, the good functioning of AKIS and knowledge systems is supported by the rural network.
- > **High participation and uptake in eco-schemes and agri-environmental measures**, e.g. in DE, when these schemes align better with farming systems (e.g. extensive livestock, extensive grassland, organic farming).
- > **Introduction of notable simplifications** reduces administrative workload and modernises processes, e.g. in LU through the abolition of historical entitlements, streamlining payment bands, introduction of geospatial online applications for eco-schemes or adoption of simplified cost options for LEADER.

These positive developments are contrasted by several challenges stressed in the findings, especially related to administrative burden, but also to coordination and capacity, for instance:

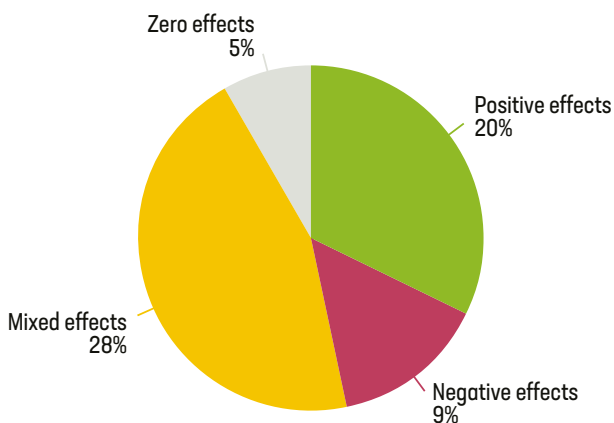
- > **Complexity and administrative burden** are mostly due to:
  - > **The design of interventions**, e.g. the requirement to pre-finance activities, may hamper small farms from participating as they lack easy access to finance. The compensation foreseen in the intervention design can be disproportionate to the cost of applying, therefore creating a disincentive to apply for support. Rigid durability clauses may also discourage applicants (SE).
  - > **The documentation requirements**, e.g. large quantity of documentation to be compiled in combination with strict timetables (PL), often with unclear guidelines, combined in turn with limited knowledge of farmers (SE). In such cases, farmers tend to rely excessively on consultants, which limits their understanding of the schemes they apply for (SE).
  - > **Regulatory burden** stemming from overlapping regulations (administrative, technical, professional), frequent regulatory changes or misalignment of regulatory and economic cycles (LU).
- > **Coordination and capacity challenges**, stemming for example from fragmented cooperation between research, advisory services, farmers, and ministries and centralised systems limiting knowledge flow in CY, or insufficient advisory capacity in PL.



### 3.5.3.2. Findings related to results and impacts

Around one-third of the findings from evaluations reported by Member States focus on results and impacts. This reflects the effort to identify evidence-based achievements already at the early stages of implementation of CSPs. They indicate a variety of directions of effects, e.g. positive, negative and mixed effects as depicted in the figure below. It is still early to obtain quantitative findings; however, some Member States offer quantitative evidence up to 2024 (including from the 2014–2020 period), mainly in relation to the environment and to the development of knowledge and skills.

**Figure 5. Direction of effects of findings related to results and impacts**



Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

A significant proportion of these findings (28%) indicate **mixed direction of effects**, i.e. the support produces some positive and some negative effects that may outweigh each other. This is very common in the case of CAP support to biodiversity, but also in some other areas. Indicative examples include:

- > In the case of **biodiversity**, farmland bird indicators (FBI) demonstrate partial achievements of biodiversity targets, often with negative short-term but positive long-term trends. Certain species show a mix of moderate increase, others remain stable and others show moderate to steep declines, confirming the overall mixed outcomes of support for biodiversity. Local recovery of certain species is often contrasted with the decline of other species due to intensive grazing and poor vegetation structure.
- > In CY (mixed effects), the FBI and common bird indicator (CBI) show positive long-term trends (FBI +9%, CBI +37% for 2006–2024) but negative short-term trends (FBI -15%, CBI -17% for 2013–2024). The rebound in 2024 (FBI +19%, CBI +38%) suggests a temporary recovery following an earlier decline.
- > In SI (mixed effects), the *Ferruginous Duck* bred successfully at Crete in 2024 (11 families), linked to consistently high summer water levels, but its longer-term signal from male counts indicates a moderate decline in 2014–2024.
- > Looking more closely at **genetic diversity**, the compensation to animal owners and breeders' associations contributes only marginally to the preservation of endangered animal breeds (SE).

- > **Environmental impacts** depend on the ambition of each intervention, the combination of which produces mixed effects in some cases, e.g. eco-schemes in DE have maintained existing management practices rather than produced tangible environmental improvements, while any enhancements are visible mainly in smaller areas. Environmental impacts also depend on the uptake, which in turn depends on the strictness of conditions, for instance, in SE eligibility conditions for agri-environment schemes or the demanding application process and low proportion of costs covered for irrigation investments, discouraging applicants, hence the very much needed impacts are delayed or reduced.

- > In the case of **young farmers**, support is significant for some but symbolic for others, while there are cases where the measures help train young farmers but have limited influence on encouraging new entrants (SE). The different types of support also have mixed effects with investments, for example, having the strongest effect on the long-term viability of farms, with setting-up aid providing short-term liquidity, whereas complementary income support disproportionately benefits larger holdings (SE).

- > **Support for precision farming** attracts predominantly large farms, which already apply such techniques, while the initial costs for small farms are sometimes prohibitive, with unclear effects in relation to the indicator on sustainable nutrient management (SE).

- > **Concerning investments**, outcomes show that investment support consistently lifted absolute indicators (e.g. production and sales value, gross value added, income and assets) but frequently coincided with deterioration in profitability and efficiency ratios, mainly due to increases in costs and asset values. This is based on an evaluation report from PL, which focused on net results and impacts, using a counterfactual evaluation approach to isolate the actual effects of the CAP. It covered previous programming periods and analysed the sustainability of agricultural holdings benefiting from EAFRD-funded investments and concluded with mostly mixed effects and some positive ones. These outcomes could serve as baselines for the current period and include, for instance:

- > Investment support for machinery, vehicles and equipment in 2007–2013 reduced overall profitability by 9.06%, sales profitability by 11.9%, value added profitability by 5.97% and asset turnover by 11.3%, while simultaneously raising competitiveness (+0.17), production value (+61 754 PLN), gross value added (+28 275 PLN), farm household income (+17 759 PLN), sales value (+46 472 PLN), total costs (+68 832 PLN) and total assets (+282 848 PLN); The authors attribute this pattern to post-investment growth in assets and costs that depresses profitability ratios without signalling a decline in viability.
- > Restructuring of small farms had the weakest measurable effects, with significance limited to a negative change in asset turnover (-25.2%) and a positive effect on sustainable growth of own capital (+0.07), and no significant impact on production, sales or income.
- > Modernisation of agricultural holdings delivered strong increases in production (+180 159 PLN), gross value added (+101 580 PLN), income (+88 269 PLN), sales (+163 842 PLN), costs (+114 663 PLN) and total assets (+554 356 PLN), while reducing asset turnover (-25.1%) and quick liquidity (-2.89) and raising the sustainable growth of own capital (+0.07).



- > **In relation to innovation**, support under the EIP is expected to yield innovative products and processes, and some intermediate objectives are met; however, there is uncertainty about the full commercialisation of the innovative outcomes within the programming period (SE).
- > **The setting up of young farmers has shown increases in competitiveness**, investment rates, production, gross value added, income and sales, indicating a stronger long-term sustainability of young farmers' holdings. Investments had a positive effect on composite indicators such as the sustainable growth rate of equity and the competitiveness index (PL). This is based on an evaluation which focused on net results and impacts, using a counterfactual evaluation approach, covering previous programming periods, therefore the findings could serve as baselines for the current period.

One-third of the gross results and impacts (32%) indicate a **positive direction of effects**. The most common areas where positive effects are evident include:

- > **Higher ambition with environmental goals**, evident in higher expenditures and focused actions, for instance, on soil and water quality, biodiversity, climate and circular economy. Despite the generally mixed effects on species maintenance (biodiversity), in some cases, there is evidence of stability or recovery.
  - > In CY (positive effect), increasing environmental ambition in the CSP compared with the 2014–2022 RDP, evidenced by a 37% budget increase (EUR 116.8 million vs. EUR 84.9 million) and the introduction of new interventions on soil, biodiversity, climate, and circular economy. Specific increase for SO4 with the budget share rising from 2.8% to 10.5% of Pillar II funds and for SO5, with the budget rising from EUR 51.1 million to EUR 62.6 million. Similarly, the budget for SO6 increased by 15% compared with the RDP, and the intervention on organic farming expanded by 288%, leading to a 45% rise in organic area in the first year.
  - > In SE (positive effect), between 2010 and 2023, total membership in the eight analysed breed associations grew by 10%. This support plays a significant role, both directly and indirectly, strengthening the framework for genetic conservation.
- > **Expanding access to knowledge and skills**, especially for young farmers through training and advisory measures, as well as for farmers in general through AKIS-related actions, evident in practice-oriented results that strengthen learning, knowledge creation and collaborative innovation in the farm sector.
  - > In CY (positive direction of effects), approximately 3 797 farmers, representing about 11% of total farm holders, participated in training or advisory activities under the 2014–2020 RDP. Around 50% of trainees were under 40 years old, showing high coverage among young farmers and new entrants. Taking into account the output indicators for the 2023–27 CSP, an increase in the relevant result indicator should be expected.
- > **Increased relevance of income support interventions, which respond effectively to farmers' needs in terms of competitiveness, income stability, investment control and sectoral stability and show a positive shift in long-term competitiveness (LU).**
- > **Complementarity between EU and national funds and synergies between different interventions** are fostered, notably from combined rural development interventions (e.g. investments and biodiversity or rural infrastructure and services) in SE and LU.
  - > In 2007–2013, Setting up of young farmers recorded the most consistently positive effects, with significant increases in competitiveness (+0.17) and investment rate (+0.72) and substantial rises in production (+106 765 PLN), gross value added (+66 392 PLN), household income (+51 316 PLN) and sales (+89 604 PLN).
  - > In 2014–2020, Young farmers' start-up premium generated positive effects, improving the sustainable growth of own capital (+0.03, p=0.012), competitiveness (+0.28), production (+119 217 PLN), gross value added (+62 840 PLN), income (+54 186 PLN), sales (+93 220 PLN), costs (+72 224 PLN) and total assets (+245 135 PLN).

A relatively small share of reported findings (15%) indicates negative direction of effects. These findings stem mainly from monitoring studies in Slovenia (SI) and, to a lesser extent, from evaluations in Sweden (SE) and Poland (PL). For example:

- > **Biodiversity** shows a moderate to significant decline in certain cases. Between 2008 and 2024, in Slovenia, the population of farmland birds continued to show a moderate long-term decline, despite signs of recent stabilisation. The Slovenian farmland bird index (SIPKK) for 2024 reached 77.1%, representing a slight 0.9% increase compared to 2023 but remaining  $23.1 \pm 2.3\%$  lower than in 2008. The trend over the last ten years has stabilised but still indicates a sustained loss of bird populations associated with agricultural habitats. The decline is most pronounced among meadow species, whose composite index fell by  $42.3 \pm 3.2\%$  since 2008 to only 58.3% in 2024. In contrast, generalist species decreased by  $12.5 \pm 2.2\%$ , reaching an index of 86.1%, showing that farmland specialists are far more affected.
  - > The conservation status of six target butterfly species monitored in 2024 in Slovenia remains unfavourable. For *Erebia calcarius*, population numbers in the Karavanke Mountains were the lowest recorded since monitoring began, with a 76.3% decline compared with 2009 and an 80.9% decline in the Golica area, while a drastic 94% decrease was noted on Soriška planina.
  - > Among other species, the Corncrake (*Crex crex*) reached its lowest recorded numbers on Natura 2000 sites, with 91 calling males across eight areas (Ljubljansko barje 32, Lake Cerknica 21, Reka 0), and shows moderate to steep declines depending on location.



- > High costs and complex participation procedures reduce the potential impacts, especially for **environmental investment projects** (SE).
- > Where funds are shifted from modernisation to direct payments, they are likely to expose farms to cash-flow variability and financial risk (PL).

Finally, a very small percentage (8%) of findings demonstrate no effects yet, notably due to very low uptake in the case of some training and start-up support actions.

### 3.5.3.3. Findings related to monitoring and contextual aspects

Among the findings of reported evaluations, some focus on monitoring aspects indicating high or low uptake and implementation.

On the positive side, for instance, eco-schemes in DE saw slow uptake in 2023, followed by a significantly higher uptake in 2024, and with targeted efforts to further increase the uptake in 2025. Support to small farms and young farmers in PL demonstrates strong uptake and a focus on mechanisation and land purchase. Similarly, high uptake from early in the period is evident in skills development, cooperation and innovation projects in SE.

The situation in relation to uptake and implementation is worse for EIP Operational Groups projects in CY, where few were implemented, and for renewable energy projects in PL where implementation has been very slow despite the large interest evident in the high number of applicants.

## 3.6. Data and information

This section summarises the reported data and information activities in 2023–2024 and the first half of 2025, including arrangements to enhance timely data delivery and close data gaps. MS were expected to provide in their EPs a brief description of arrangements to ensure data availability and quality, including institutional arrangements for data quality and control. An important feature of this section was the identification of data gaps and actions to address them. A summary of the content of EPs in relation to data and information can be found in the [Overview of Member States' evaluation plans for CAP Strategic Plans \(2023–2027\)](#).

Information on **data and information arrangements** was provided by seven of the ten MS that reported on the progress of their EPs. According to this information, the following activities were undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data:

- > Review and analysis of **available data sources** (CY, LT).
- > Monitoring of data systems and establishing mechanisms for data collection (DE, DK, HR).
- > Analysis of the **relevance of current indicators** and identification of the need for additional ones, in particular concerning SO8 (DE).
- > **Consideration of GDPR issues** for data provision, by classifying data according to its sensitivity in terms of GDPR, and exploring centralised data provision via the central government (DE).

Finally, mixed implementation progress is evident in CY, where on one hand organic farming support already exceeds its result indicator, while on the other hand, SO4 investment measures and forestry interventions have not yet started.

There is also a category of findings that inform on contextual trends and how these may influence outcomes of the CAP, for example:

- > the climate context, when prolonged droughts and extreme weather shape environmental outcomes in CY, especially biodiversity;
- > the economic context, where low profitability, high energy costs and limited liquidity in PL restrict farmers' ability to invest or take risks, despite interest in energy-efficiency and renewable technologies;
- > the regulatory context, e.g. the GAEC8 derogation which reduced participation in eco-schemes in DE;
- > the demographic context, when demand for start-up support exceeds the available funding in SE, therefore creating uncertainty that can discourage succession decisions; and
- > the geopolitical context, where war in Ukraine disrupted agricultural and energy markets, reduced the attractiveness of eco-schemes, and influenced farmers' investment decisions in DE.

In relation to the identification of **data gaps and actions to address them**, the majority of Member States that provided information about their EPs have not addressed these gaps. Therefore, the exercise of identifying data gaps and actions to address them appears to be pending. In a few cases, data gaps were analysed to some extent:

- > A quality assurance exercise in DK that covered the assessment of data systems identified the need for data cooperation with research institutions and the use of geospatial data in order to improve data provision and quality.
- > Collaboration between the MA, PA and National CAP Network in IT contributed to fine-tuning the monitoring system to ensure timely data delivery and quality.
- > From the information derived from the evaluation studies in PL, it can be inferred that issues related to data provision concern data translation, limited staffing capacity and constraints in accessing public data.

**In conclusion**, there is limited information regarding data arrangements, and where it exists, it relates mainly to identifying data sources. The identification of data gaps and the actions to address them remain areas with scope for further progress.



### 3.7. Communication and follow-up of evaluations

This section summarises the activities reported by Member States regarding the communication and follow-up of evaluations. MS were expected to describe in their EPs how they planned to disseminate evaluation findings to target recipients, as well as the mechanisms for follow-up of evaluation results. The [Overview of Member States' evaluation plans for CAP Strategic Plans \(2023-2027\)](#) offers a summary of what is foreseen by Member States with respect to communication and follow-up in their EPs.

All ten Member States have provided some information in relation to the **dissemination of evaluation activities**, which takes place mainly through the following channels:

- › Publications on relevant websites, mainly the MA website and also National CAP Network ones (CY, DE, DK, HR, IT, LU, PL, SE, SI).
- › Presentations at MC meetings and other fora such as evaluation steering groups and committees (CY, IT, LU, SE).
- › A combination of various channels was used in SE (see good practice Box 2).
- › A National CAP Network strategy, which will include actions for informing and communicating evaluation activities and results, will be developed in SI.

In cases where no evaluations were completed in 2024, no dissemination has yet occurred through the identified channels.

#### Box 2. Good practice on dissemination of evaluations (SE)

Sweden uses various channels for the dissemination of evaluation activities, reaching different target groups and discussing findings:

- › For the general public, evaluation reports are promoted with posts in blogs.
- › For national CAP network member organisations, articles are published in the Swedish Rural Network weekly newsletter.
- › For government authorities and other actors involved in CAP implementation and development, evaluations are published on the MA website.
- › For LAGs and all LEADER stakeholders, LEADER meetings and workshops have been organised.
- › Various webinars, seminars and meetings have been organised for different target groups on different topics (e.g. support provided by the CSP, performance management, competitiveness, livestock, AKIS, biodiversity, generational renewal).
- › Online press releases on various of the above topics.

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

Concerning **follow-up and the use of evaluation results**, there are two trends. On one hand, there has been no follow-up in cases where evaluations were not completed in the reporting period (DK, IT, LT).

On the other hand, where evaluations have been completed, only SE has already undertaken actions to follow up on evaluation results (see Box 3).

Overall, even if Member States did not complete any evaluations during 2023-2024, they were expected to have designed mechanisms for follow-up. Only three Member States appear to have designed such mechanisms (DK, IT, SE). In DK, the quality assurance review recommended improvements to methodological approaches and data systems, which will be taken into account in the annual action plan of the EP. In IT, the use of evaluation results is considered a strategic priority and will be systematically promoted through the various governance bodies, while evaluators will be required to actively participate in dissemination and follow-up activities and to maintain an 'on-board journal' recording recommendations and tracking their uptake by national and regional Managing Authorities. SE has developed internal procedures for systematic follow-up of evaluation recommendations (see good practice box on follow-up).

#### Box 3. Good practice on follow-up of evaluations (SE)

The Swedish MA has applied formalised internal procedures for the systematic follow-up of evaluation recommendations. Recommendations from CAP evaluations are uploaded into a dedicated IT platform, where they are assigned to responsible units. On this platform, recommendations are grouped by evaluation and presented in chronological order according to the publication date of the respective evaluation report. Each entry specifies the status of the recommendation:

- › In progress: the recipient is actively working on the recommendation or awaiting the appropriate timing for implementation.
- › Completed: the recommendation has been fully or partly implemented, with comments detailing the measures taken.
- › Closed with deviation: the recommendation is closed without further action, with comments explaining the reasons.

Progress is reviewed and reported to the Monitoring Committee and the European Commission. Completed recommendations specify the actions taken, while those addressed to the government offices are concluded once findings have been communicated. The system enhances transparency, efficiency and accountability, ensuring that evaluation results are integrated into programme management.

The Annual Evaluation Report consolidates all closed and ongoing recommendations from CAP evaluations since 2023, covering both the RDP (2014-2022) and the CSP (2023-2027).

The final Annual Performance Report in 2030 will demonstrate how key recommendations have been addressed over the full implementation period.

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)



### 3.8. Resources, technical support and capacity building

This section summarises the activities reported by Member States in terms of progress in relation to the use of resources, the provision of technical support and the implementation of capacity building activities. MS were expected to describe in their EPs the resources needed to implement the EP, including financial, human and IT resources. In addition, a description of the planned technical support and capacity building activities to ensure the EP is fully implemented, including targeted support for LAGs to evaluate their Local Development Strategies. A summary of the EP content in relation to resources, technical support and capacity building can be found in the [Overview of Member States' evaluation plans for CAP Strategic Plans \(2023-2027\)](#).

All ten MS that provided information on the implementation of their EPs describe activities related to **capacity building** and their usefulness for the participating stakeholders. However, the majority report on the capacity building activities organised by or in collaboration with the Evaluation Helpdesk (CY, HR, IT, LU, PL, SE, SI). Other capacity building activities organised by the Member State directly include:

- > Organisation or participation in capacity building activities to increase skills and knowledge for the implementation of upcoming evaluations (HR, PL, SE).
- > Training and information sessions organised by the MA for the regions in DE to inform on ongoing and interim evaluations. In addition, several regions organised capacity building sessions for regional stakeholders.
- > A technical meeting in IT on 'From the EP to the award of evaluation services' brought together CSP Managing Authorities to discuss common approaches both on national and regional levels for awarding evaluation contracts, covering topics such as products, data, communication, costs and skills.

Although several Member States mention the usefulness of the good practice workshop on LEADER added value organised by the Evaluation Helpdesk, capacity building specifically for LAGs organised by the Member State has been reported only in a few cases (HR, PL, SI), while PL and SI have in addition developed guidelines for LAGs on the evaluation of Local Development Strategies.

In relation to the **use of planned resources and technical support**, there has been limited reporting by Member States, including:

- > National and regional level monitoring and evaluation activities in DE.
- > Information that sufficient resources and capacity have been allocated to carry out and manage the 2023-2027 CSP evaluation activities in DK.

**In conclusion**, Member States have mainly reported on capacity-building activities, particularly those organised by or in collaboration with the Evaluation Helpdesk. There appears to be little progress in relation to capacity building for LAGs, with a couple of exceptions where national guidelines for evaluations of Local Development Strategies and LEADER added value have been developed.



## 4. Lessons learned and recommendations

This section provides key lessons and takeaways from the progress made in implementing EPs. It culminates in recommendations to improve the content and implementation of EPs.

### 4.1. Key lessons and takeaways from the implementation of EPs

**Evaluation plans with clear and comprehensive concepts are key tools to steer evaluations.** The feasibility of implementation can improve if they are supported by annual or biannual action plans. An exemplary approach has been the development of a comprehensive evaluation concept with the help of thematic working groups in DE. This ensures methodological coherence, supports both national and regional evaluations, and provides guidance for future evaluations.

**Strong governance and clear coordination structures correlate with better evaluation outcomes.** MS with well-established and multi-level coordination structures (e.g. DE, IT, PL) demonstrate more systematic planning, better access to data and effective mobilisation of evaluators. Conversely, governance disruptions (e.g. due to institutional reforms) can delay evaluation readiness and hinder progress in the implementation of evaluations.

**Stakeholder involvement can be ensured through a combination of broad consultations and targeted communication strategies.** Examples from DE, IT and SE demonstrate this and indicate that more systematic involvement can be achieved throughout the evaluation cycle.

**Early action on data management is needed.** Addressing data gaps and building targeted capacity for data collection and management early in the programming period is essential for meaningful mid-term and ex post evaluations.

**Early results from implemented evaluations show mixed impacts, especially for environmental and biodiversity objectives.** Most findings relate to process and implementation, reflecting the early stage of CSPs. Where results and impacts are measured, effects

are often mixed, particularly for biodiversity, where some indicators show short-term declines but long-term positive trends. The limited quantitative evidence highlights the complexity of achieving environmental and socioeconomic objectives, with both positive and negative trends observed.

**A structured, digital follow-up mechanism greatly improves the likelihood that evaluation results will lead to real policy or CSP improvements.** A good example in this respect is the Swedish formalised, IT-based platform that tracks every evaluation recommendation. Each recommendation is assigned to a responsible unit, its status is monitored and progress is regularly reported to the MC and the European Commission. This system enhances transparency, accountability and ensures that evaluation findings are systematically integrated into CSP management.

**Tailoring dissemination channels to different audiences increases the reach and impact of evaluation findings.** For example, SE uses a diversified and targeted approach to communicate evaluation results, including blogs for the general public, newsletters for network members, webinars, press releases and sector-specific events. This ensures that findings reach all relevant audiences and encourages broader engagement.

**Tailored capacity-building initiatives address specific weaknesses and empower stakeholders at all levels.** Some Member States (e.g. PL, SI) developed guidelines and organised targeted capacity-building sessions for LAGs to support the evaluation of local development strategies, while others offered training for regions (DE) and technical meetings to build the capacity for evaluation procurement (IT).

### 4.2. Recommendations for improved reporting

In view of the progress in implementing EPs, a number of recommendations are provided below, structured by the standard sections of the EPs.

**Table 3. Recommendations**

Section	Recommendations
<b>Modifications to the EP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Where amendments concern restructuring of evaluation lots or revised timelines, report explicitly on how these changes affect procurement, resource allocation and the timeline of evaluations.</li><li>&gt; Report systematically on the status of planned evaluator contracting and tendering.</li></ul>
<b>Objectives and needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Demonstrate how identified evaluation needs translate into evaluation activities.</li><li>&gt; Adapt evaluation objectives if there are major shifts in CSP implementation or contexts.</li></ul>



Section	Recommendations
<b>Governance and coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Report on whether structures foreseen in the EP (steering groups, advisory bodies, expert panels) have been established and are operational.</li> <li>➤ Provide information on whether external evaluators have been selected and actions taken to do so.</li> <li>➤ Provide systematic information on coordination mechanisms (frequency of meetings, roles of bodies, interactions between MA, PA, evaluators and network actors).</li> <li>➤ Consider how institutional reforms (e.g. territorial changes, changes in structures/departments) may impact evaluation governance.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify clearly which stakeholder groups (beyond Monitoring Committee members) are involved and at what stages of the evaluation cycle (planning, implementation, validation).</li> <li>➤ Report on approaches used to involve stakeholders (consultations, surveys, workshops, co-design sessions).</li> <li>➤ Ensure that the involvement of environmental and scientific stakeholders (research institutes, environmental agencies) is explicitly described.</li> </ul>
<b>Timeline/ evaluation activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Report systematically on preparatory steps for upcoming evaluations (tendering, contracting, ToR development).</li> <li>➤ Provide a brief status update for each evaluation foreseen in the EP, even if not yet initiated.</li> <li>➤ When evaluations are postponed or rescheduled, provide clear justification and expected new timelines.</li> <li>➤ Clarify how support studies are used to prepare subsequent evaluations.</li> </ul>
<b>Data and information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify data gaps explicitly and outline measures to address them, as required in EPs.</li> <li>➤ Report on progress in establishing data-sharing agreements, GDPR-compliant arrangements and access to administrative and environmental datasets.</li> <li>➤ Provide updates on improvements to monitoring systems and indicator readiness (e.g. new data sources, geospatial data integration, cooperation with research institutions).</li> <li>➤ Systematically report data quality challenges (timeliness, completeness, granularity) and how they were addressed.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication and follow-up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide structured information covering both dissemination and follow-up, even when evaluations are not yet completed.</li> <li>➤ Describe the channels used, their target audiences, and any tailoring of messages.</li> <li>➤ Establish formal follow-up mechanisms (e.g. recommendation tracking systems, action plans) and report annually on the status of recommendations.</li> <li>➤ Encourage collaboration and exchange between MS to learn from each other's good practices, such as Sweden's IT-based follow-up system.</li> </ul>
<b>Resources, technical support and capacity building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Report on the use of human, financial and IT resources allocated for evaluation and how they match EP objectives and needs.</li> <li>➤ Systematically report on capacity-building activities organised at national and regional levels, clarifying their target groups and outcomes.</li> <li>➤ Strengthen reporting on support provided to LAGs to implement LDS evaluations and LEADER added value assessments.</li> <li>➤ Where resource constraints exist (e.g. staffing limitations, technical expertise gaps), explicitly report them together with mitigation actions.</li> </ul>

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)



# Annex I

## Fiches with short summaries for each evaluation grouped by CAP objectives

**Table 4. G01 - To foster a smart, competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector ensuring long-term food security**

S01	Sustainability of agricultural holdings benefiting from EAFRD-funded investments - selected theoretical and methodological Issues
<b>Poland</b>	Title (original language): Trwałość gospodarstw rolnych korzystających z inwestycji finansowanych z udziałem środków EFRROW – wybrane problemy teoretyczne i metodologiczne
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p>Publication year: 2024</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (IAFE-PIB)</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Impact-oriented evaluation with counterfactual approach</p>	
<p><u>Short summary</u>: This study provides a comprehensive methodological framework for evaluating the sustainability of farm investments co-financed under the EAFRD during the 2014–2022 programming period. It defines sustainability in relation to the persistence of results and continued utility of supported assets and introduces a multidimensional evaluation approach. The report is structured into six parts, including a review of prior methodological approaches in Poland and the EU, identification of assessment challenges and a practical application using Polish FADN data from 2015–2021. It supports evaluators in measuring long-term impacts using harmonised tools and data strategies.</p> <p>The study addresses challenges in evaluating sustainability/durability, such as unclear definitions and limited long-term data. It proposes a multidimensional assessment with tailored indicators and recommends using qualitative methods to include beneficiaries' views. It highlights the need for post-implementation data collection through surveys, harmonised administrative records (in Paying Agency) and demonstrates a practical application using FADN panel data (2015–2021) and PSM to estimate net effects of support by comparing supported and non-supported holdings.</p>	

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)



**Table 5. G02 - To support and strengthen environmental protection, including biodiversity, and climate action and to contribute to achieving the environmental and climate-related objectives of the Union**

S04, S05, S06	Evaluation of the implementation of the green architecture under Cyprus' CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027
<b>Cyprus</b>	Title (original language): <i>Αξιολόγηση της Εφαρμογής της Πρόσνης Αρχιτεκτονικής του Στρατηγικού Σχεδίου ΚΑΠ 2023-2027</i>
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year</u>: 2025</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: LKN ANALYSIS Ltd and A.M. Filagrotiki Symvouleftiki Ltd</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Result-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><u>Short summary</u>: This evaluation assesses the implementation of the Green Architecture within Cyprus's 2023-2027 CSP. It focuses on the legal and operational framework, the design and coherence of environmental interventions and the degree to which the CSP addresses environmental challenges and aligns with EU objectives. Part B of the report also presents an initial review of outputs and results achieved in 2024 as part of the Annual Performance Report.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings</u>: The CSP's Green Architecture aligns with EU and national environmental objectives but lacks stronger ambition. Eco-schemes support relevant specific objectives, though early stages of implementation limit the availability of outcome data. Key challenges include slow uptake of eco-schemes, the need for improved targeting of interventions, and limited results and impact indicator data. Recommendations call for better coordination, clearer communication to farmers and stronger data systems for robust future evaluations.</p> <p>Part B of the report outlines technical support to Cyprus's Managing Authority for preparing the 2024 APR, focusing on indicator reporting and compliance with EU performance requirements. It includes guidance for collecting and analysing data across direct payments, sectoral and rural development measures. Given the early implementation stage, performance data is limited. The report highlights the need to improve data quality and availability as well as the need for ongoing capacity-building of the MA to meet CAP evaluation and reporting requirements.</p>	
S04, S05, S06	Evaluation of instruments to promote environment, climate and animal welfare under the CAP direct payments act
<b>Germany</b>	Title (original language): <i>Überprüfung und Evaluierung der Instrumente zur Förderung von Umwelt, Klima und Tierwohl nach GAP-Direktzahlungen-Gesetz</i>
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year</u>: 2025</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: BMEL with support of the Thünen Institute</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Result-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><u>Short summary</u>: The evaluation assessed the implementation and uptake of eco-schemes (Öko-Regelungen, ÖR) in Germany during 2023 and 2024. It was conducted to meet national legal obligations and provide insights into scheme effectiveness in promoting environmental, climate and animal welfare outcomes. The evaluation draws on national data and detailed analyses from four Länder (Bavaria, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate), with results presented to the Federal Cabinet on 15 February 2025.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings</u>: Eco-scheme use reflected the heterogeneity of German agriculture (e.g. livestock density, farm size, organic vs. conventional). Participation in eco-schemes increased to 56% of farms in 2024 (50% in 2023). Larger farms dominated the total eco-schemes area due to size, while smaller farms had higher relative participation per UAA. Higher uptake was observed for schemes preventing environmental degradation (e.g. ÖR 4, ÖR 5), while schemes requiring significant land management change or higher costs (e.g. ÖR 1b, 1c, 3) had limited participation. Farms often combined ÖR participation with second-pillar AECMs, though the interaction type remains unclear.</p> <p><u>Barriers to uptake</u>: Uncertainty due to the redesigned green architecture and late legal clarity; overlap with obligations under previous AECMs. External factors, such as high agricultural prices and derogations from GAEC 8 in response to the Ukraine war, further reduced uptake, particularly of voluntary fallow land schemes.</p> <p>Environmental impact can only be assessed based on literature due to insufficient empirical evidence. The eco-schemes have since been revised, including modifications to scheme design and premium levels, but the impacts of these changes cannot yet be assessed.</p>	



<b>S04, S05</b>	<b>Methodology for evaluating the impact of the 2023–2027 CSP on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air pollution</b>
<b>Poland</b>	Title (original language): Wpływ PS WPR 2023–2027 na emisję gazów cieplarnianych i zanieczyszczenie powietrza
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year:</u> 2024</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute (IUNG-PIB); Institute of Technology and Nature – State Research Institute (ITN-PIB)</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Support study – Methodological work</p>	
<p><u>Short summary:</u> This methodological study develops an evaluation framework to assess the impact of 2023–2027 CSP interventions on GHG emissions and air pollution in Polish agriculture. It aims to support future environmental evaluations by linking intervention logic with emission pathways and providing tools for quantitative and spatial analysis.</p> <p><u>Summary of results:</u> The study links key CSP interventions to expected GHG and air pollutant emission impacts, identifying Factors of Success (FoS), PMEF indicators, and a multi-source data strategy integrating administrative data (e.g. ARiMR – Paying Agency), environmental monitoring systems, and national GHG inventories. It recommends using modelling tools like DNDC (DeNitrification-DeComposition), IPCC methods and air quality simulation tools, emphasising spatial data, regional disaggregation, baselines and counterfactuals. It identifies data gaps in emission inventories, stresses the need for harmonised datasets and the need for inter-institutional coordination and technical capacity-building.</p>	
<b>S04</b>	<b>Analysis and evaluation of the implementation of Intervention I.10.2 'Investments in agricultural holdings in renewable energy sources (RES) and energy efficiency improvements' under the 2023–2027 CSP</b>
<b>Poland</b>	Title (original language): Analiza i ocena wdrażania interwencji I.10.2 'Inwestycje w gospodarstwach rolnych w zakresie OZE i poprawy efektywności energetycznej' wdrażanej w PS WPR 2023–2027
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year:</u> 2024</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute (IUNG-PIB); Institute of Technology and Nature – State Research Institute (ITN-PIB); Zootechnics Institute – PIB</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Result-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><u>Short summary:</u> This study analyses the early implementation of the CSP 2023–2027 Intervention I.10.2, focusing on applications submitted in 2024 across three areas: A (RES investments), B (energy efficiency improvements), and C (integrated projects). It examines quantitative application data from ARiMR – Paying Agency and complements this with qualitative interviews to explore barriers to participation and potential procedural improvements. Additional comparative data were drawn from the National Centre for Agricultural Support (biogas plants), the Central Statistical Office (GUS) (energy usage in agriculture), and the Energy Market Agency (development of photovoltaic (PV) investments in Poland).</p> <p><u>Summary of findings:</u> The analysis found that most applications targeted photovoltaic systems (Area A), while interest in Areas B and C was lower. Barriers to participation included procedural complexity, limited awareness, financial constraints, and technical challenges. The qualitative component highlighted a lack of clarity regarding eligibility conditions and insufficient support during the application process.</p> <p>Recommendations include simplifying procedures, enhancing advisory support (particularly for small farms) and promoting a broader range of RES technologies. Improved communication strategies and clearer eligibility criteria are also advised to stimulate uptake and ensure the intended scope of the intervention is realised.</p>	



<b>S05</b>	<b>Methodology for assessing the impact of the 2023–2027 CSP on fertiliser management and water quality</b>
<b>Poland</b>	Title (original language): Wpływ PS WPR 2023–2027 na gospodarkę nawozową i jakość wód
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year:</u> 2024</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute (IUNG-PIB); Institute of Technology and Nature – State Research Institute (ITN-PIB)</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Support study – Methodological work</p>	
<p><u>Short summary:</u> This study develops a methodological framework for evaluating the impact of 2023–2027 CSP interventions on fertiliser use and water quality in Poland, based on the following evaluation question: To what extent does the CSP contribute to the objective of ensuring efficient management of natural resources (specifically, water quality and fertiliser management)?</p> <p>The report constructs a detailed intervention logic and evaluation framework that links CSP interventions with expected environmental outcomes, particularly in the areas of nutrient management and water quality. It sets out tools for future impact assessments and outlines appropriate data collection and analysis methods, including quantitative and spatial approaches.</p> <p><u>Summary of results:</u> The study presents an evaluation framework for nutrient and water-related interventions, identifying Factors of Success (FoS), result and impact indicators aligned with the PMEF, and appropriate research methods. It recommends combining primary data (e.g. farm surveys) with secondary data (e.g. environmental monitoring networks, ARiMR databases, IUNG-PIB datasets) for comprehensive evaluation. Key data limitations are noted, especially in spatial resolution and long-term monitoring. The use of modelling tools (e.g. nutrient balance models, water pollution simulations) is proposed to estimate environmental effects. It highlights the importance of baseline definition, counterfactual analysis, and regional disaggregation, and stresses the need for inter-institutional cooperation and methodological coordination to ensure data quality and consistency.</p>	
<b>S06</b>	<b>Completion report for the development of the farmland bird indicator and the common bird indicator for Cyprus, 2023–2024</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	Title (original language): Έκθεση Ολοκλήρωσης για την εκπόνηση του Δείκτη Πουλιών Γεωργικών Περιοχών και του Δείκτη Κοινών Πουλιών, Νοέμβριος 2024
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year:</u> 2024</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> BirdLife Cyprus</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Support study</p>	
<p><u>Short summary:</u> The report presents results from a 24-month project (2023–2024) calculating the farmland bird indicator (FBI) and common bird indicator (CBI) for Cyprus. Coordinated by BirdLife Cyprus for the ministry of agriculture, it includes field monitoring data, population trend analysis (2006–2024) and updated FBI and CBI values essential for EU biodiversity reporting.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings:</u> While long-term trends (2006–2024) for the FBI and CBI in Cyprus are positive, short-term data (2013–2024) reveal that several species are stable or declining, with a decline of 15% and 17%, respectively since 2013. Rainfall patterns are identified as a key driver, i.e. bird populations decline after droughts and increase following wetter years.</p>	



S06	Monitoring of common farmland bird species with calculation of the common agro-environmental indicator No. 35 'Frequent farmland bird population Index' for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023
<b>Croatia</b>	Title (original language): Praćenje čestih vrsta ptica na poljoprivrednim staništima uz izračun zajedničkog poljoprivredno-okolišnog pokazatelja broj 35 „Indeks populacije čestih vrsta ptica na poljoprivrednim staništima“ za 2021., 2022. i 2023. godinu.
<p><u>Publication year:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Support study</p>	
<p><u>Short summary:</u> The monitoring study is part of a three-year project (2021–2023) that continued previous efforts from 2019–2020, aiming to ensure uninterrupted monitoring of the status of frequent farmland bird species in Croatia (Indicator C.35 'FBI'). Fieldwork involved annual bird counts on 66 permanent sampling quadrants using standardised ornithological methods. The index included 28 bird species, which is comparatively high by European standards.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings:</u> The composite value of the FBI for 2023 was 80, indicating a continued decline in the population of frequent farmland bird species. Approximately one-third of the monitored species showed a moderately decreasing trend, while another one-third displayed stable population levels. Sub-indices revealed differing patterns, reflecting varied ecological dynamics among the surveyed bird species.</p>	
S06	Field data collection on common farmland bird species with calculation of the common agro-environmental indicator No. 35 'Frequent farmland bird population index' for the years 2024 and 2025
<b>Croatia</b>	Title (original language): Usluga terenskog prikupljanja podataka o čestim vrstama ptica na poljoprivrednim staništima uz izračun zajedničkog poljoprivredno-okolišnog pokazatelja broj 35 'Indeks populacije čestih vrsta ptica na poljoprivrednim staništima' za 2024. i 2025. godinu
<p><u>Publication year:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Support study</p>	
<p><u>Short summary:</u> The monitoring study marks the continuation of previous monitoring efforts carried out between 2021 and 2023. The project aims to ensure ongoing tracking of frequent farmland bird species to calculate Indicator C.35 (FBI). In 2024, data were collected on 67 quadrants (10 × 10 km), covering 134 transects and 1 206 counting points, using standardised ornithological survey methods. In addition to bird counts, habitat mapping was conducted at each point. Particular focus was placed on the 28 species that comprise the Croatian FBI.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings:</u> The composite FBI for 2024 was 82, representing a moderate decline of 18% compared to the 2015 baseline.</p>	



<b>S06</b>	<b>Evaluation of the compensation for endangered livestock breeds and support to breed associations</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	Title (original language): Utvärdering av ersättningen för hotade husdjursraser och stödet till rasföreningar
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year</u>: 2025</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: WSP, Sveriges Lantbruksuniversite (SLU)/Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Result-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><u>Short summary</u>: The evaluation examines how two CAP-funded measures – compensation to animal owners and support to breed associations – contribute to preserving the genetic diversity and cultural heritage of endangered Swedish livestock breeds. The analysis assesses effectiveness, alignment with national priorities and future needs for more sustainable conservation.</p> <p><u>Key findings</u>: Compensation to animal owners and support for breed associations help preserve genetic diversity but have a limited impact. Payments encourage registry participation, yet animal numbers are too low to secure most breeds, and many owners would maintain them without support. The measure adds cultural value but lacks requirements to sustain breeds in traditional contexts. Breed associations receive vital support for registration and outreach, but face challenges such as the voluntary engagement of their members. Recommendations include stimulating herd establishment, targeted support for breeding males, continued backing for associations and centralised data management.</p>	
<b>S06</b>	<b>Monitoring of common bird species in the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 for the determination of the Slovenian farmland bird index – Final report</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	Title (original language): Monitoring splošno razširjenih vrst ptic v letih 2021, 2022 in 2023 za določitev vrednosti slovenskega indeksa ptic kmetijske krajine – končno poročilo
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year</u>: 2023</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: Društvo za opazovanje in proučevanje ptic Slovenije (DOPPS) / Slovenian Bird Watching and Bird Study Association</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Support study</p>	
<p><u>Short summary</u>: This report, covering monitoring data from 2021–2023, builds on a long-term dataset (2008–2023) of farmland bird species to calculate the Slovenian farmland bird index (SIPKK). Using standardised transect counts across 152 locations, the aim was to assess bird population trends as an indicator of agricultural landscape biodiversity. In 2023, the SIPKK value was calculated at 75.7%, up by 2.1% from 2022. The grassland bird index increased by 2.7%. A smoothed curve analysis indicated an overall moderate decline of 24.1% over the 16-year period, though trends have stabilised since 2014.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings</u>: Farmland birds show a moderate decline, stable over the last nine years. SIPKK (75.7%) and grassland bird index (58.7%) remain below 2008 levels. Generalist species are also declining (89.0%). Grassland birds, like the tawny pipit and skylark, contribute most to the decline. Migration status has little effect on these trends. Cold, wet 2023 spring had limited impact. Agri-environmental schemes help but were too limited to reverse the decline. In order to foster positive biodiversity trends, the 2023–2027 CAP interventions are needed.</p>	



<b>S06</b>	<b>Monitoring of common bird species for the determination of Slovenian farmland bird index – partial report for the year 2024</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	Title (original language): Monitoring splošno razširjenih vrst ptic za določitev slovenskega indeksa ptic kmetijske krajine – delno poročilo za leto 2024
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year:</u> 2024</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> Društvo za opazovanje in proučevanje ptic Slovenije (DOPPS)/Slovenian Bird Watching and Bird Study Association</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Result-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><u>Short summary:</u> This interim report presents the results of monitoring common farmland bird species in Slovenia in 2024 as part of a long-term series (2008–2024). The primary objective is to update the Slovenian farmland bird index (SIPKK), a key biodiversity indicator used to evaluate the condition of agricultural landscapes and the effectiveness of agri-environmental policies. The monitoring involved 175 transects across Slovenia using standardised survey methods.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings:</u> In 2024, the SIPKK rose slightly to 77.1%, while the grassland bird index continued to decline. Since 2008, SIPKK fell 23.1% and grassland birds declined by over 42%. Most species declined, especially grassland birds like the tawny pipit, skylark, and red-backed shrike. The migration status had little effect on these trends.</p>	
<b>S06</b>	<b>Monitoring of populations of selected target bird species in Natura 2000 areas in 2023 and synthesis of monitoring 2021–2023</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	Title (original language): Monitoring populacij izbranih ciljnih vrst ptic na območjih Natura 2000 v letu 2023 in sinteza monitoringa 2021–2023
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year:</u> 2023</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> Društvo za opazovanje in proučevanje ptic Slovenije (DOPPS)/Slovenian Bird Watching and Bird Study Association</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> support study</p>	
<p><u>Short summary:</u> This report presents the findings of bird population monitoring conducted in 2023 across designated Natura 2000 areas for 17 selected qualifying bird species. It also includes a synthesis of monitoring results for the years 2021–2023. The observations focus on population status, habitat conditions, and potential threats to bird species of conservation interest under the Birds Directive.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings:</u> Most bird species showed declining or uncertain trends, with critical declines in species like skylark and curlew. Few species, such as the kingfisher and eagle owl, had stable or rising populations. Habitat loss, farming intensification and wetland drainage were the key threats. Poor spring weather and avian flu further impacted breeding. Overall, stronger conservation within Natura 2000 is needed.</p>	



<b>S06</b>	<b>Monitoring of populations of selected target bird species in Natura 2000 areas in 2024</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	Title (original language): Monitoring populacij izbranih ciljnih vrst ptic na območjih Natura 2000 v letu 2024
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year:</u> 2024</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> Društvo za opazovanje in proučevanje ptic Slovenije (DOPPS/Slovenian Bird Watching and Bird Study Association)</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Support study</p> <p><u>Short summary:</u> This report presents the results of bird population monitoring conducted in 2024 in Natura 2000 areas, focusing on 17 selected qualifying species. It continues the long-term monitoring programme and provides updated information on trends, breeding success, and habitat pressures. These data support the assessment of conservation measures under the Slovenian CSP and the implementation of the Birds Directive.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings:</u> Several key bird species are in worsening condition. Curlew, ciril bunting and red-backed shrike populations are critically low, with no breeding Shrikes observed in 2024. Skylark numbers at Ljubljansko barje dropped 38% since 2021. Some species, like kingfisher, rock partridge, and ferruginous duck, remain stable or show local gains. Eagle owl had mixed success, while corncrake hit a record low. Habitat pressures and regional variation affect species like scops owl, woodlark and middle spotted woodpecker. overall, conservation concerns remain high.</p>	
<b>S06</b>	<b>Monitoring of selected target butterfly species in 2023</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	Title (original language): Monitoring izbranih ciljnih vrst metuljev v letu 2023
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year:</u> 2023</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> Center za kartografijo favne in flore (Centre for Cartography of Fauna and Flora), in cooperation with the Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Support study</p> <p><u>Short summary:</u> This report presents the results of butterfly monitoring carried out in 2023 within agricultural landscapes, with a focus on Natura 2000 sites. The aim was to assess the conservation status of selected target butterfly species as indicators of biodiversity and environmental quality. The monitoring supports the evaluation of agri-environmental schemes (particularly KOPOP interventions) implemented to enhance and maintain biodiversity. Surveys covered 12 butterfly species associated with extensively managed meadows and traditional agricultural habitats.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings:</u> The monitoring results confirmed that the conservation status of nearly all target species remains unfavourable. Ten of the 12 species assessed were found to have an unfavourable conservation status, while two had an unknown status due to insufficient data. Among the most threatened species were the <i>Phengaris teleius</i> and <i>P. nausithous</i>, both showing low population sizes and evidence of local extinction in some areas, including previously established strongholds.</p>	



S06	Monitoring of selected target butterfly species in 2024
Slovenia	Title (original language): Monitoring izbranih ciljnih vrst metuljev v letu 2024
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year</u>: 2025</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: Center za kartografijo favne in flore (Centre for Cartography of Fauna and Flora), in cooperation with the Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Support study</p>	
<p><u>Short summary</u>: This report presents the results of the monitoring of six selected target butterfly species in 2024, conducted within agricultural landscapes, including Natura 2000 areas. The survey focused on assessing the conservation status and population trends of rare and habitat-specialist species.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings</u>: All six monitored butterfly species were in an unfavourable conservation status. <i>Erebia calcarius</i> hit record-low numbers in Karavanka. <i>Coenonympha oedippus</i> improved slightly in one subarea but declined elsewhere. <i>Parnassius apollo</i> likely went extinct in Trnovo Forest and remains critically low elsewhere. <i>Lycaena dispar</i> was stable in core areas but declined in others. <i>Phengaris teleius</i> and <i>Phengaris nausithous</i> had critically low numbers, with local extinctions likely.</p>	

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

**Table 6. G03 - To strengthen the socioeconomic fabric of rural areas**

S07	Attracting and retaining Sweden's young farmers. An evaluation of the contribution of three 2023-2027 CSP payments to fostering generational renewal
Sweden	Title (original language): Att locka och behålla Sveriges unga lantbrukare. En utvärdering av hur tre stöd i den strategiska planen för den gemensamma jordbrukspolitiken 2023-2027 bidrar till att främja generationsskiften
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year</u>: 2025</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: Oxford Research AB, Hushållningssällskapet Jönköping/The Rural Economy and Agricultural Society of Jönköping)</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Result-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><u>Short summary</u>: This theory-based evaluation examined the relevance of three 2023-2027 CSP interventions for generational renewal in Sweden: setting up aid, complementary income support for young farmers, and investment support for competitiveness. The evaluation was carried out using a mixed-method approach, including document analysis, interviews, focus groups and a survey. The interventions were found to ease farm transfers and strengthen young farmers' financial position, but do not fully address the challenges of generational renewal in the farming sector.</p> <p><u>Key findings</u>: Interventions support generational renewal but remain insufficient to attract new entrants into farming. They primarily focus on access to capital and economic viability, but face constraints due to limited budgets, competitive allocation processes, and insufficient coverage of large investments. Support is more effective in horticulture and reindeer husbandry than in traditional farming. Young farmers struggle with land access, high financial risks, and heavy workloads. Recommendations include increasing the budget for setting up aid, focusing more on farm transfer than development, tailoring support to small/start-up farms, and adapting other CAP tools (e.g. skills development) to a generational renewal perspective.</p>	

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)



**Table 7. CCO – Modernising agriculture and rural areas by fostering and sharing knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas and by encouraging their uptake by farmers, through improved access to research, innovation, knowledge exchange and training**

CCO	Evaluation of the existing Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) in Cyprus
<b>Cyprus</b>	Title (original language): Έκθεση Αξιολόγησης του υφιστάμενου Συστήματος Γεωργικής Γνώσης και Πληροφοριών (AKIS) στην Κύπρο
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year</u>: 2024</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: LKN ANALYSIS Ltd and A.M. Filagrotiki Symvouleftiki Ltd</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Process-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><u>Short summary</u>: The evaluation examines the current status and functioning of the AKIS in Cyprus. Given the lack of activation of the relevant interventions under the 2023–2027 CSP, the assessment draws primarily on the experience implementing similar actions under the 2014–2022 RDP. The evaluation maps key actors, knowledge flows, and systemic functions of AKIS, and identifies areas for improvement to support the modernisation of agriculture and rural areas in Cyprus.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings</u>: The AKIS in Cyprus is mainly public and nationally funded, facing challenges such as weak networking, limited knowledge transfer and insufficient innovation adoption. 2023–2027 CSP has seen limited implementation so far. Improved coordination, farmer engagement, and monitoring are needed to ensure alignment with CAP objectives.</p> <p>Part B of the report details the technical support provided to the Managing Authority of Cyprus to enhance its capacity to monitor and evaluate the 2023–2027 CSP, particularly regarding the 2024 annual performance report. It covers the development of methodological tools, data collection frameworks and compliance with CAP evaluation guidelines. Due to the early stage of implementation, data is limited, hindering evaluation. Continued support, improved data collection systems and better alignment between interventions and monitoring are needed for effective future reporting.</p>	
CCO	Evaluation of the contribution of the CSP Strategic Plan to the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)
<b>Sweden</b>	Title (original language): Utvärdering av den strategiska planens bidrag lantbrukets kunskaps- och innovationssystem (AKIS)
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year</u>: 2025</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: Sweco Sverige AB</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Result-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><u>Short summary</u>: The evaluation assesses how Sweden's CSP (2023–2027) contributes to strengthening AKIS. It focuses on three supports – skills development, cooperation and EIP-Agri innovation – alongside the Swedish rural network's role. Using literature review, register data, and interviews with experts and project stakeholders, the study identifies contributions to learning, collaboration and innovation while highlighting challenges in administration, documentation and commercialisation of innovations.</p> <p><u>Key findings</u>: The three supports have strong potential to strengthen Swedish AKIS through knowledge, collaboration, and innovation. Skills development provides tailored training, while cooperation support enables new and expanded national collaborations. EIP-Agri drives innovation but with uncertain commercialisation outcomes. The Swedish rural network is key for coordination and knowledge sharing. While coherence with other AKIS initiatives is high, overlaps and challenges remain, including long processing times, complex support conditions and weak project documentation. Recommendations focus on linking innovation to commercialisation, adapting training to farmers' needs, improving follow-up, reducing processing times and ensuring complementarity across initiatives.</p>	

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)



**Table 8. Multiple CAP objectives**

All SOs and CCO	Transversal evaluation of the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan in Luxembourg
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Title (original language): Évaluation du Plan Stratégique National (PSN) de la PAC 2023-2027 du Luxembourg. Paquet d'évaluation 5: évaluation transversale
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year</u>: 2025</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: 'edater'</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Process-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><b>Short summary</b>: This is the first assessment of Luxembourg's 2023–2027 CSP, conducted between October 2024 and February 2025. Its purpose was to support policymaking by evaluating the CSP's effectiveness, relevance, coherence and Union added value. The evaluation aimed to assess implementation progress, identify potential improvements, and guide strategic adjustments. It is structured around two intervention typologies: economic (ECO) and environmental (ENV). A qualitative multi-method approach was applied, including document analysis, semi-structured interviews, focus groups and a case study framework. Fourteen evaluation questions guided the analysis, grouped by relevance, effectiveness and implementation, and assessed separately for ECO and ENV interventions.</p> <p><b>Short summary of findings and recommendations</b>: Luxembourg's CAP Strategic Plan is broadly relevant to the farming sector's needs and environmental goals. Economic support is effective, but environmental measures are hindered by complexity and low uptake. Early implementation and limited data make effectiveness hard to assess. The plan is coherent, but it clashes with national biodiversity policies, and implementation is challenged by regulatory complexity and administrative burdens. EU procedures add value to planning but limit flexibility.</p> <p>Promote agroecology, enhance the value of the farming profession, and involve farmers in governance. Strengthen results-based management and prepare for impact evaluations. Simplify implementation through streamlined procedures and innovative tools. Enhance support via advisory services, circular economy practices and better communication of CSP implementation.</p>	
All SOs and CCO	Methodology for macroeconomic modelling of net effects of public intervention under the 2014–2020 RDP and 2023–2027 CSP
<b>Poland</b>	Title (original language): Metodyka makroekonomicznego modelowania efektów netto interwencji publicznej realizowanej w ramach PROW 2014–2020 oraz PS WPR 2023–2027
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year</u>: 2024</p> <p><u>Contractor</u>: Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (IAFE-PIB)</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation</u>: Support study – methodological work</p>	
<p><b>Short summary</b>: Methodological study examines modelling approaches for assessing the net effects of measures/interventions under the RDP 2014–2020 and the CSP 2023–2027. It explores counterfactual econometric techniques and general equilibrium models to evaluate the broader economic impact of agricultural policy in Poland. The study also assesses the respective advantages of static and dynamic models for measuring long-term economic impacts, and discusses data requirements, calibration techniques and practical application scenarios relevant to the Polish agricultural context.</p> <p><b>Summary of results</b>: The study recommends using computable general equilibrium (CGE) models as the primary tool for assessing the net macroeconomic effects of CAP interventions, due to their ability to simulate economy-wide policy impacts. It also supports the use of counterfactual econometric methods (e.g. difference-in-differences, propensity score matching) for micro-level analysis and as a means to validate CGE results. The study emphasises the complementary value of combining these approaches and offers practical guidance on model calibration, data requirements, and implementation feasibility. It also discusses challenges related to data availability and institutional capacity, and provides recommendations for future technical and organisational support, including the development of national capacity for CGE modelling, integration of regional data sources, and improvements in data quality and accessibility.</p>	



All SOs and CCO	Performance management: Process evaluation of Sweden's 2023–2027 CAP Strategic Plan
<b>Sweden</b>	Title (original language): Målstyrning. Processutvärdering av Sveriges strategiska plan för den gemensamma jordbrukspolitiken 2023–2027
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year:</u> 2024</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> Ramboll Management Consulting AB</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Process-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><u>Short summary:</u> This process-oriented evaluation aims to assess how well performance management within the Managing Authority (Swedish Board of Agriculture) fulfils its purpose, and how efficient the collaboration models, decision processes and work structures within performance management are. The report is based in part on interviews with the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the administrative authorities, on document reviews, and on information gathered at meetings of the Swedish Board of Agriculture.</p> <p><u>Key findings:</u> Performance management supports effective strategic implementation and use of EU funds but needs refinements. The internal structure works well overall, though decision-making and action planning should be improved. Clearer criteria for prioritising measures (impact, feasibility, resources) are needed. Forecasting would benefit from stronger data analysis and visualisation. Collaboration with county administrative boards and support authorities should be enhanced to incorporate regional perspectives and improve the quality of decision support.</p>	
All SOs and the CCO	Evaluation of synergies of the EU Common Agricultural Policy. Mapping and analysis of possible synergies in the 2014–2022 RDP and 2023–2027 CSP
<b>Sweden</b>	Title (original language): Utvärdering av synergieffekter av EU:s gemensamma jordbrukspolitik. Kartläggning och analys av möjliga synergieffekter i landsbygdsprogrammet 2014–2022 och den strategiska planen 2023–2027.
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p><u>Publication year:</u> 2025</p> <p><u>Contractor:</u> Sweco Sverige AB</p> <p><u>Type of evaluation:</u> Impact-oriented evaluation, no counterfactual approach</p>	
<p><u>Short summary:</u> This evaluation maps and analyses potential synergies arising from support schemes under Sweden's RDP (2014–2022) and CSP (2023–2027). The study identifies both reinforcing and inhibiting synergies using statistical analysis, document review, expert interviews and a series of thematic workshops.</p> <p><u>Key results:</u> Approximately ten reinforcing synergies were identified within the RDP, particularly involving compensation schemes for pasture management and preserving in combination with other supports like various investment supports, compensation for organic production or compensation for animal welfare. Eight potential synergies were identified in the CSP; some of these were found to be inhibiting due to intervention design, such as setting up support for young farmers and investment supports to increase competitiveness, as well as water management interventions and support for irrigation ponds. Strategic management to steer towards desired synergies was found lacking.</p> <p>Recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Improve the design of setting-up support for young farmers, investment support for water management measures, and a new ley support to strengthen positive synergies.</li> <li>› Simplify application procedures for inexperienced applicants and reduce administrative burden.</li> <li>› Assess support amounts and selection criteria to ensure they do not restrict the participation of relevant actors.</li> <li>› Explore whether smaller payments distributed across more beneficiaries could enhance overall synergies.</li> <li>› Monitor the impact of selection criteria and scoring systems to identify if they hinder synergies in environment, climate and rural development.</li> <li>› Reinforce strategic management of synergies and promote cross-authority cooperation.</li> </ul>	



<p>S01, S02, S04, S07, S09</p>	<p>The material effects of the selected CSP support interventions: Intervention I.10.2 'Investments in agricultural holdings in RES and energy efficiency improvements'; Intervention I.10.5 'Development of small farms'; Intervention I.11 'Young farmers premiums'</p>
<p>Poland</p>	<p>Title (original language): Efekty rzeczowe wybranych interwencji wsparcia w ramach PS WPR: Instrument I.10.2 'Inwestycje w gospodarstwach rolnych w OZE i poprawę efektywności energetycznej'; Instrument I.10.5 'Rozwój małych gospodarstw'; Instrument I.11 'Premie dla młodych rolników'</p>
<p><a href="#">LINK1</a>, <a href="#">LINK2</a>, <a href="#">LINK3</a></p> <p>Publication year: 2025</p> <p>Contractor: Developed by the CAP department's evaluation and assessment team</p> <p>Type of evaluation: Support study – analysis of application data</p>	
<p><b>Short summary:</b> The studies present an overview of the material (in-kind) effects generated under selected 2023–2027 CSP interventions, based on signed contracts and beneficiary declarations as of 31 December 2024.</p> <p>Standardised 'common vocabulary of in-kind (non-monetary) effects' is applied to categorise and quantify the types of goods or infrastructure planned through signed contracts.</p> <p>The studies facilitate the monitoring of what was actually funded with public support; comparability across interventions and regions; and provide input for performance evaluation, particularly in linking outputs to objectives.</p> <p>The analysis uses administrative data from the ARiMR (Paying Agency) to quantify planned purchases and physical outputs committed by beneficiaries.</p>	
<p>S02, S04, S05, S06</p>	<p>The design of support and compensation; Process evaluation of Sweden's 2023–2027 CAP Strategic Plan</p>
<p>Sweden</p>	<p>Title (original language): Stödets och ersättningarnas utformning. Processutvärdering av Sveriges strategiska plan för den gemensamma jordbrukspolitiken 2023–2027</p>
<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p>Publication year: 2024</p> <p>Contractor: Ramboll Management Consulting AB</p> <p>Type of evaluation: Process-oriented evaluation</p>	
<p><b>Short summary:</b> The report presents a process evaluation of selected support schemes and their contribution to the specific objectives of the CSP. The different types of support – investment support and support to farmers within the IACS – are evaluated based on two criteria: relevance and effectiveness. The evaluation covers eco-schemes (e.g. catch crops, intermediate crops, spring tillage and precision farming), as well as investment support for irrigation dams, wetlands and competitiveness-enhancing measures. The study aims to identify strengths and challenges in the design and implementation of these interventions and offers recommendations for improvement.</p> <p><b>Key results:</b> Farmers face economic, administrative, and informational barriers to using support schemes effectively. Low uptake is linked to complex application processes, insufficient incentives, and unclear guidance. Many farmers rely on consultants, reducing direct knowledge transfer. While schemes align with policy objectives, they need better integration and alignment with farmers' real needs. Recommendations include clarifying scheme purposes, simplifying processes, improving communication and education, and better aligning support with farmers' conditions and capacities.</p>	

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)



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