



ENRD webinar

'Preparing the CAP Strategic Plans: Designing the Intervention Strategy'

Highlights report

The webinar discussed the designing of intervention strategies for the future CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs) from the perspective of the legal proposals and on the basis of the concrete experience of Member States. This focused particularly on Specific Objectives 1 - 'Fair farm income', 4 - 'Climate change action', and 8 - 'Vibrant rural areas'.

The event attracted a large number of representatives from CAP related national authorities - many of whom had not previously participated in ENRD events, as well as European Commission representatives. It provided participants with an opportunity to exchange on the practical aspects of the designing of the CSP intervention strategies, and to engage in discussions and share ideas on possible solutions to key challenges they encountered in the programming process.

Event Information

Date: 2 October 2020

Location: Online event

Organisers: ENRD Contact Point

Participants: Over 100 representatives from RDP Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, national direct payments experts involved in the drafting of the CAP Strategic Plans, European Commission

Outcomes: Exchange of experience and views regarding the main challenges encountered. Identifying possible solutions as well as concrete ideas regarding the drafting of the CSP intervention strategy

Web page: https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/enrd-webinar-preparing-cap-strategic-plans-designing-intervention-strategy_en

Designing the intervention strategy: overall approach for CAP Strategic Plans



Gaëlle Marion from the European Commission's DG AGRI opened the workshop illustrating the key principles to be observed and the main elements needed for the designing of the CSP intervention strategy. Following the SWOT analysis and the needs' assessment, Member States are expected to prioritise the needs and identify the most urgent ones to be addressed by the CSP, which in turn will influence the choice and design of the proposed interventions. Once the SWOT analysis, the needs' assessment and prioritisation are completed, two equally valid options for approaches to building the intervention strategy may be followed. **Option 1:** establish the desired targets and objectives as the basis on which the appropriate interventions needed to achieve these can be designed. **Option 2:** designing an intervention first by responding directly to an assessed need and then linking it to a result indicator and a target. What really matters is that the needs identified as priority needs and the targets are consistent with the designed interventions and the related financial allocations assigned to them. There is a single target value per result indicator, even if the indicator is linked to more than one Specific Objective (SO). Interventions can be linked to more than one SO and result indicator, as long as these links are 'direct' and 'significant'; however, 'magic interventions' addressing too many needs or 'elephant interventions' covering too many things, should be avoided as they could end up weakening the overall strategy, losing focus.

Member States' perspective: key obstacles, possible solutions and open questions

The Austrian experience: prioritisation of needs



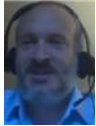
Veronika Madner from the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism presented an interesting approach for their prioritisation of needs, a key challenge of the programming process. The Austrians decided to regroup all their 45 identified needs according to four relevance categories: 'very high relevance', 'high relevance', 'medium relevance' and 'low relevance'. Needs are then further prioritised on the basis of two criteria: their urgency; and their political relevance and contribution to EU and national strategies. Moving on from these needs the strategy is currently being designed and a total of 96 interventions are being drafted (4 Direct Payments, 40 Sectoral interventions, and 52 rural development interventions).

The German experience: a federal CAP plan responding to regional needs flexibly



Dominik Ganser from the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture shared insights from the German experience of designing the intervention strategy, focusing particularly on the main challenge of drafting one single federal plan, addressing the different needs of the 13 federal states and replacing the current 13 RDPs. The Bund is coordinating the process while the Länder are leading different working groups that will support the drafting of the interventions. The aim is to produce a framing document that can provide the European Commission with the necessary information whilst also allowing the Länder to enjoy a certain degree of flexibility to decide on the details at their level - a 'pick and choose' approach.

The French experience: obstacles faced and additional support needed in the definition of the strategy



[Pierre Poussard](#) from the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food recapped the key obstacles faced by Member States in the definition of a strategic document at the national level, that is able to take account of all the regional specificities and needs, whilst also being concise. Member States are requested to prepare several separate intervention strategies, one for each Specific Objective, however the needs assessed often overlap and cannot be ‘artificially’ separated. This would encourage linking one intervention to several needs, and to multiple SOs and result indicators. However, if the guideline is to avoid ‘magic interventions’ addressing too many needs, then there could be a resultant risk of planning a very high number of specific interventions. Member States need additional support and are requesting: an updated Strategic Plan template; final indicator fiches; a concrete example of a ‘model’ CSP including a financial plan and an indicator plan; and recommendations on how to include the Green Deal objectives in the CSPs.

Main outcomes of group discussions on selected CAP Specific Objectives (SOs)

SO 1: Fair farm income



Introduced by [Elsa Laval](#) and [Ricard Ramon i Sumoy](#) (DG AGRI)

- Improving the distribution and targeting of direct payments is a key priority of the CAP post 2020. The SWOT analysis should include an assessment of the concentration of direct payments and the intervention strategy should explain for which classes of farmers the direct payments’ unit amount will be reinforced.
- The SO1 strategy should address the trade-offs between economic, social and territorial objectives of supporting small farms.
- The COVID-19 emergency in which we are currently living, reinforces the importance of implementing risk management tools to protect farmers’ income.
- What level of details? Drafting a strategy that is concise, while also providing exhaustive information and adequately capturing the reality of the context presented is a very challenging task.
- Concrete examples of intervention strategies which are considered to be valid by the Commission, In addition to any tool-kits and guidelines, would be of great help for the Member States. The sharing of ideas and approaches (for example via webinars like this one) is very useful and should be further encouraged.

SO 4: Climate change action



Introduced by [Emmanuel Petel](#), [Nicola di Virgilio](#) and [Risto Artjoki](#) (DG AGRI)

- The Green Deal quantifies the ambition of the EU in certain domains providing target values that can be regarded as references for the drafting of the CSP intervention strategies for different Specific Objectives, specifically including SO4.
- Member State participants wonder how they will be able to monitor climate change adaptation in absence of specific indicators as is the current situation. As many existing indicators are actually relevant to climate change adaptation there is no real need to create new ones. The European Commission is at work to provide further guidance to Member States on how to link climate change action to the different existing indicators.
- Addressing a sufficiently high number of farmers and covering a large area of land are preconditions in maximising the contribution of eco-schemes to climate change mitigation. The question is: how do we make sure that eco-schemes are sufficiently appealing to secure farmer participation? Premia should be attractive and schemes simple and easy to understand, avoiding further burden for farmers.

SO 8: Vibrant rural areas



Introduced by [Kathrin Maria Rudolf](#) and [Gregorio Davila Diaz](#) (DG AGRI)

- As SO 8 strongly overlaps with several other policies and EU funds (probably more so than any other) ensuring the complementarity and synergy between all the different funding instruments involved is one of the key challenges when drafting the intervention strategy.
- SO 8 is very complex as it embraces different universes and scopes: thematic areas and also territorial scope, specific issues and cross-cutting ones (e.g. gender balance) which need to be appropriately addressed in the consecutive steps (SWOT analysis, needs assessment and intervention strategy).
- Given such wide scope, the new CAP rules envisaging that only one output indicator can be linked to an intervention represent a challenge. Member States believe it would be useful if intervention types programmed under SO8 could each be linked to multiple output indicators.
- As the scope of SO8 can be very broad, Member States enjoy greater flexibility but also face the challenge of delimiting the interventions from those supported under other SOs (SO7 above all). To this end, for instance, some Member States suggest regrouping all the business investment interventions under LEADER.