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# FLINT: Farm-Level Indicators for New Topics in policy evaluation

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OECD, Network for Farm-Level Analysis

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# FLINT – farm level indicators for new topics in policy evaluation (EU FP7)

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- Societal concern about agricultural production
- CAP has evolved during the last decades from being purely focused on food security and farmer livelihood to acknowledging the multi functional nature of agriculture
- Policy objectives broader than economic results
  - Specific objectives 'greening'
  - Minimum standards
- Changes in information needs to address new objectives of the CAP
- Integrated assessment of policy measures (environmental economic evaluations)

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# FLINT – farm level indicators for new topics in policy evaluation (EU FP7)

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## Objective FLINT

- To establish a tested data infrastructure with up to date farm level indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of CAP and to contribute to a better targeting of CAP and other related policy measures

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# Indicator frameworks

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- A wide range of international policy, economic and sustainability indicator frameworks exist:
  - Millennium development goals
  - FAO indicators of sustainable development
  - OECD agri environmental indicators
  - Eurostat environmental indicator framework
  - European Environment Agency indicators
  - IRENA project interactions between agriculture and environment
  - AE foodprint effectiveness of environmental schemes
  
- National initiatives

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# Data collection

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- Collection of sustainability data still in it's infancy
  - New farm return, FADN
  - Diredate (Eurostat)
  - National initiatives
    - Sustainability indicators in Dutch FADN
    - Irish data on triple P
    - Farmers business confidence in Flanders
    - Pacioli papers on other initiatives

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# Current situation

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- No agreement on what the future data infrastructure at EU level should look like.
  - Extend FADN, link FADN to other administrative data or separate environmental data network
- Developments in combining statistical and administrative data
- Farmers often have to collect and provide data on sustainability and food safety issues (Global Gap, BRC, SAI initiative, cool farm tool etc.)
- Developments in data exchange (EDI standards, SDMX, standard business reporting XBRL)

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## 2 key contributions of FLINT

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- The need to demonstrate the feasibility of collecting policy-relevant data in different administrative environments
  - with newly developed farm-level indicators of economic, environmental, social and innovation issues.
- The need to demonstrate how the new farm level indicators can be used to evaluate policies and improve the targeting of policy initiatives
  - in such a convincing way that the European Commission can establish an operational EU wide system to collect the extended set of farm level indicators.

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# 5 key questions of FLINT

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- *What is desirable?* What farm-level data is needed for the CAP policy evaluation ?
- *What is feasible in the value chain?* Data-collection is costly and depends on the collaboration of farmers.
- *What is a feasible pilot network?* Data collection is tested in a pilot network with up to date ICT support for a European infrastructure?
- *What is useful?* Is the newly collected farm-level data really essential in policy evaluation?
- *What is acceptable?* What are acceptable scenarios for the future data-infrastructure in an era of tight budgets?



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# Work package 1: what is desirable?

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## ■ Activities

- Agricultural policies and related once and their data needs at micro (farm) level
  - Cap towards 2020
- Literature review on most relevant indicators to measure economics (income, productivity, input output terms of trade, innovation), environment (bio diversity, soil, emissions and water) and social (employment)
- Current best practises in farm level data gathering (statistics, administrative, farm management, sector)

## ■ Output: draft list of farm level indicators

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# Work package 2: what is feasible in the value chain?

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- Cooperation of farmers is essential
- Activities
  - Involve farmers, food processors, suppliers, retailers, processors and their definitions of sustainability and productivity.
    - To improve collaboration, make it more relevant and better view on decision making
  - Common methodology for consultations with stakeholders.
  - Based on national experiences final set of indicators and variables will be defined.
- Output: final list of farm level indicators and variables

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# Work package 3: what is a feasible pilot network (IT)?

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## ■ Activities

- Develop software for decentralised data collection
  - Integration in standard software or ad hoc solutions
- Develop software for central database infrastructure
  - Collect and manage different data sources from different formats and different countries
- Develop methods for software for data reporting and data analysis
  - Quality control, create research database calculate statistics
- Set up software and standards for data exchange
  - Between farmers, data collectors and central database

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# Work package 4: what is a feasible pilot network (data collection)?

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## ■ Activities

- Prepare instructions for data collection
  - To assure the collection of reliable data
- Train data collectors
- Data collection
  - Pilot of more than 1000 farms, selection plan to cover important policy relevant groups
  - Experiences in different administrative environments will be continuously monitored
  - On year 2015, data collection practises and experiences will be evaluated

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# Work package 5: what is useful?

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## ■ Activities

- Validate data and create statistics
  - Quality assessment within each farm and within the sample
- CAP evaluation with and without the collected data
  - Carry out a number of policy analysis evaluating CAP policies where targeting is relevant and where a jointness or trade-off between objectives exist.
- Methodological review on the usefulness of newly collected data
  - Synthesise findings from case studies and experience of researchers and policy makers

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# Work package 6: what is acceptable?

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## ■ Activities

- Set up community of practise
  - To inform, and to discuss findings and discuss feasibility and consequences of approach for individual countries.
- Prepare for follow up
  - Implications of pilot for data infrastructure at EU level.
  - Scenarios for full scale implementation.
- Dissemination
  - Web site
  - Dissemination of data
  - Closing workshop

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# Impact

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- Indicators needed by policy makers to support the implementation of the strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Integrated data-infrastructure to support the assessment of policy implications of CAP measures
- Integrated policy assessments on different aspects of farm performance (trade-off and jointness)
- Better targeting of policy measures
- Evaluate and propose generic approaches for collecting these farm level data EU wide

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# Impact (2)

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- Consistent set of indicators and empirical testing of data collection in different administrative environments
- Newly collected data provides wide range of new opportunities for scientific research
- Optimal data collection method in a sample framework,
  - administrative burdens for farmers will be kept to a minimum or even be reduced, compared to a situation of more statistical surveys and data collection by industry
- Involvement of agricultural sector
  - In order to have a feasible approach
  - Provides opportunities to improve farm performance



# Partners

1 (Coordinator)	DLO Foundation (Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek)	LEI-WUR	Netherlands
2	Agrargazdasagi Kutato Intezet (Research Institute of Agricultural Economics)	AKI	Hungary
3	MTT Agrifood Research Finland	MTT	Finland
4	Instytut Ekonomiki Rolnictwa i Gospodarki Żywnościowej-Panstwowy Instytut Badawczy	IERIGZ	Poland
5	Instituto Navarro De Tecnologias e Infraestructuras Agrolimentarias	INTIA	Spain
6	Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research	ZALF	Germany
7	The Agriculture and Food Development Authority of Ireland	Teagasc	Ireland
8	Demeter - Hellenic Agricultural Organization – Demeter	Demeter	Greece
9	INRA – Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique	INRA	France
10	CROP-R BV	Crop-R	Netherlands

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# Planning

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- Start 1-1-2014
- WP 1, WP 2 and WP3 preparation data collection
- Data collection in combination with data year 2015
- Welcome input from other countries

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# Discussion

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For further questions:  
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