Abstracts of presentations delivered during the visit to Brussels (Belgium)

A short visit report from the seminar on the 29th and 30th of September

List of covered topics

Day 1: 29th September 2021 – theme: *Use of data-analytics and AI to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of administrative controls and inspections*

Presentation 1	*The key-role of reliable data in data-analytics: data strategy and experiences with data-collection*	By Katleen Butaye (Chief Data Officer & Head of Clients and Data unit)
Presentation 2	*How can non-IACS measures benefit from experiences with AI in LPIS*	By Pieter Roggemans (GIS/AI expert)
Presentation 3 + brainstorm session	*Using data-analytics and new technologies to improve the effectiveness of risk-analysis for inspections*	By Maxime Bolle (Policy advisor for the Entrepreneurship and Development Division)
Presentation 4 + demo	*The potential of data visualization tools in supporting the management of non-IACS measures*	By Jan Jacobs (Chief Technology Officer & Head of Standards, Architecture and Security Unit)

Day 2: 30th September 2021 – theme: *Challenges in determining the reasonableness of costs for investment measures to evaluate the risk of overfunding*

Presentation 5 (introduction) + presentation 6	*VLIF investment support* *Study about the reasonableness of costs for investments based on historical data: findings + challenges*	Introduction by Lea Elst (Head of Entrepreneurship Unit), Presentation 6 by Jan De Samber (Policy advisor for the Knowledge Unit) and Ann Verspecht (Policy advisor for the Entrepreneurship and Development Division)
Brainstorm session	*Tackling the challenges to evaluate the reasonableness of costs for investments by using data-analytics*	By Lea Elst (Head of Entrepreneurship Unit), Jan De Samber (Policy advisor for the Knowledge Unit) and Ann Verspecht (Policy advisor for the Entrepreneurship and Development Division)
Presentation 7	*Building and use of algorithms for a transparent selection process in rural development investment measures*	By Michael Van Zeebroeck (Policy advisor for the Entrepreneurship and Development Division)

Presentation 8	*Practical experience with the use of Arachne in ERDF projects*	By Heidi Minner (Director of the European Programmes Division for Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship Department)

Summary of the visit

Overall title of the visit:

> **Opportunities of using data analytics and AI in non-IACS EAFRD measures to shift towards a more risk-based control system and to prevent the risk of overfunding**

General theme day 1: "Use of data-analytics and AI to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of administrative controls and inspections"

During this day, divers topics were covered. After a short introduction by the Head of the Flemish Paying Agency, we started the morning with a presentation on the data strategy, data collection and data governance within the Flemish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. We discussed some data strategies in the different Paying Agencies. Second, some examples were given of our experience with AI, teledetection and LPIS in the first pillar, and how we try to extrapolate this experience to non-IACS measures in the second pillar.

In the afternoon we had a first presentation about the use of data-analytics to improve the effectiveness of the risk analysis for on-the-spot checks, followed by a brainstorm on how to determine risk factors and how to set up a sound risk analysis. The second afternoon session explored the potential of data visualization for the management of non-IACS measures, including a demo of the application used within the department (Spotfire).

General theme day 2: "Challenges in determining the reasonableness of costs for investment measures to evaluate the risk of overfunding"

The second day focused on the investment measures, with first a general introduction how these are structured in the Flemish Paying Agency, followed by a presentation of how we tackle the challenge of the reasonableness of costs and which challenges still remain. The morning session was closed by a brainstorm session investigating the challenges and opportunities of different systems to evaluate the reasonableness of costs in investment measures in the different Paying Agencies and options provided by the Commission.

The afternoon continued in the same line with a presentation on the building of and use of algorithms for a transparent selection process in non-IACS measures, with a focus on the investment measures. The selection methodology used within the Flemish Paying Agency and the way it contributes to sustainability objectives was presented, together with some advantages and challenges. The last presentation of the day considered practical experience with the use of Arachne in ERDF projects. This last presentation was given by a colleague from the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Department, willing to share several years of experience with the Arachne tool.

List of attachments/appendixes with files added

1. SmartPro_Brussels_presentation1_ButayeK.pdf
2. SmartPro_Brussels_presentation2_RoggemensP.pdf
3. SmartPro_Brussels_presentation3_BolleM.pdf
4. SmartPro_Brussels_presentation4_JacobsJ.pdf
5. SmartPro_Brussels_presentation5_ElstL.pdf
6. SmartPro_Brussels_presentation6_VerspechtA&DeSamberJ.pdf
7. SmartPro_Brussels_presentation7_VanZeebroeckM.pdf
8. SmartPro_Brussels_presentation8_MinnerH.pdf