

Abstracts of presentations delivered during the visit to Estonia

A short visit report (18-20.01.2021)

List of covered topics

I Introduction of Estonian PA and project goals

1. Opening words and ARIB Estonia at glance + new vision and mission
2. Smart Pro CAP from setting goals to now....
3. Risk management system build up in ARIB

II Inputs and outputs of data-based fraud prevention Estonian experiences

4. Methods, software and data sources used for risk assessment RD with examples from different horizontal analysis (geographical cumulation of RD aid, disappearing client risk)
5. Implementing the risk based administrative control in practice and results EAFRD

III Integration of data-based risk-management into IT

6. IT developments of integration of the risk based approach - (1) general overview and risk register Update
7. IT developments of integration of the risk based approach - (2) Integration of the data-based risk analysis into the IT systems and daily processes of EAFRD

IV Arachne experiences

8. Piloting Arachne in ARIB - pros and cons and suggestions for future. ARACHNE vs ARIB risk tests (M 4.2.1 and M 6.1)

V Future of data-based farming and EU aids

9. Future farming/data-driven agriculture - public-private cooperation- opportunities and benefits (incl. the protection of the EU financial interest) – by Robin Saluoks founder of E-Agronom start-up
10. Piloting of the machine learning data analysis methods to support designing new intervention scheme for EAFRD + other options to use AI for the sound management of the EU funds- by Oliver Kadak founder of STATS Unities
11. Development of a risk-based model for OTSC using machine learning: results of a mini-POC'? by Jan Jacobs, Pieter Roggemans, Maxime Bolle VO-Dept.LV – paying agency of Flanders
12. Agricultural big data project and data based knowledge services in ARIB

VI Protection of the EU financial interests in the framework of the New Delivery Model of the CAP for 2022-2027

13. Protection of the EU financial interests in the framework of the New Delivery Model of the CAP for 2022-2027

Summary of the visit

A general idea of the visit to Estonia was to share experiences of using preventively the data-driven risk analyses experience for non-IACS EAFRD measures and piloting the use of Arachne for daily processes especially. Secondly also a glimpse into the future of data-driven agriculture and the DG AGRI expectations for the next CAP period regarding the protection of the EU financial interests.

Day 1 was dedicated to covering Estonian paying agency experiences of using data-driven risk analysis system and especially developing risk-based administrative checks (red-green corridor approach since 2016). Statistics show that the rejection and withdrawal rate of the EU RD support applications in the red corridor is higher than in the lower-risk (green corridor). This all brings positive and measurable fraud and irregular preventive effects, although this cannot be reported or evaluated on the EU level due to the absence of such reporting values.

Latest IT developments help to integrate online risk-based administrative checks and risk feedback as part of the daily proceeding processes all over the EU support lifecycle.

Also, Estonian PA (paying agency) experience of using the Arachne risk scoring tool was covered, and what included small tests of comparing Arachne risk factors with agencies own risk factors.

Day 2 was an inspirational day watching to the future of data-driven agriculture, looking for options for implementing a data-driven approach enhanced with machine learning methods and to processes of designing CAP support schemes and in different phases of proceedings. It came out that new data-driven approaches may encourage beneficiaries and farmers to share more data and be transparent and honest if provided data becomes useful for them. For instance, helping them be more competitive in participating in a beneficial carbon market or if paying agencies can create data-based proactive actions-processes to avoid possible troubles in the future. Supporting instead of punishing. On the second day also DG AGRI anti-fraud correspondent shared DG AGRI views and expectations of designing the new anti-fraud framework in the context of the next CAP period 2023-2027. On 1st and 2nd day also representatives from Latvian and Lithuanian paying agencies were involved .

Day 3 was wrapping up all 4 staff exchange visits and pointing out main streamlines that should be covered in the final handbook of the Smart Pro CAP project.

To generalize the main findings of 3 days. Maximum benefit of modern data-driven (incl machine learning methods) can be achieved when the whole organization has data-driven culture, framework, and competence. A data-driven approach needs much more data than only IMS reports. It must be introduced to the whole process from designing interventions to detecting irregularities. The smart way is to use a data-driven approach to lead and keep beneficiaries on the green corridor (fast track)- also to create data-driven proactive support actions rather than detection of fraud actions. The idea of data-based campaigning of EU support.

Such staff exchange visits format on certain focused topics in a series of meetings is a very effective tool for possible solutions on chosen thematic topics. We also experienced that involving a representative from DG AGRI from EC was really useful to create a trustful and collaborative atmosphere between EC and MS.

List of attachments/appendixes with files added

1. Opening words and ARIB Estonia at glance + new vision and mission

2. Smart Pro CAP from start to now_18.01.2022 (R.Undrus).PDF



3. 20220118 Risk management system in ARIB for SmartPRO.pdf



4. Methods_software in risk management.pdf



5. Implementing the risk based on administrative control in practice and results EAFRD.pdf



6. IT for risk based approach part 1.pdf



7. IT for data-based design of processes and integration of risk based approach -part 2.pdf



8. ARACHNE pilot in Estonia (ARIB).pdf



9. Smart Pro CAP_Eagronom x PRIA 19.01.22.pdf



10. Smart Pro CAP_STATS_Oliver_PRIA_19012022



11. Development of a risk-based model for OTSC using machine learning.pdf



12. 20220119 Knowledge services and big data project.pdf



13. Smart Pro CAP seminar in Tartu 18-20 January 2022 - Fraud and new delivery model - DG AGRI.pdf

