

Newsletter n. 1 December 2008

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Foreword

This is the first newsletter of the project CAP-IRE, started January 1st 2008. The newsletter will be delivered on a 6-month basis with updates about project activities and results. This issue focuses on project objectives and first activities. Check our website (www.cap-ire.eu) for additional information and updates.



CAP-IRE facts and figures

Project title: **Assessing the multiple Impacts of the Common Agricultural Policies (CAP) on Rural Economies**

Project Acronym: **CAP-IRE**

Contract n.: **216672**

Funding scheme: **Collaborative research project - Medium-scale focused project**

Work programme topics addressed: **THEME 8 – SOCIOECONOMICS SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES - SSH-2007-2.2.2 The impact of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms on Europe's rural economies**

Partners: **11**

Case study regions: **11 in 9 EU member states**

Empirical input: **Survey of about 2700 households**

Budget: **2 million Euro**

EU contribution: **1,5 million Euro**

Timing: **1 January 2008-31 December 2010**

Project website: www.cap-ire.eu

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Project summary

European rural areas are undergoing major changes. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the main expenditure chapter of the EU and is directly affecting the economy of rural areas. Assessing the impact of the CAP will help in re-addressing the CAP in the wider framework of EU policy objectives.

The objective of the project CAP-IRE is to develop concepts and tools to support future CAP design, based on an improved understanding of long-term socio-economic mechanisms of change in rural areas.

Coverage includes 11 case study regions in 9 countries of the EU. The reaction of farm households to CAP reforms will be analysed under the lens of six thematic plus one cross-thematic issues:

1. farm structural adjustment, investment and innovation;
2. chain interactions between agriculture and related economic sectors;
3. environmental sustainability;
4. social sustainability;
5. interactions between rural communities and the rest of the world;
6. governance issues;
7. the interplay of the previous aspects on a spatial basis.



Partners

Participant organisation name	Country	ACRONYM
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA – DIPARTIMENTO DI ECONOMIA E INGEGNERIA AGRARIE	Italy	UNIBO
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES – DIRECTORATE GENERAL JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE – INSTITUTE FOR PROSPECTIVE TECHNOLOGICAL STUDIES	Spain	IPTS
UNIVERSITY OF WAGENINGEN	Netherlands	WU
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE	Netherlands	LEI
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI	Greece	AUTH
WARSAW UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES	Poland	WAU
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN	UK	UNIABDN
UNIVERSITY OF CORDOBA	Spain	UCO
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS	Bulgaria	IAE
INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE	France	INRA
LEIBNIZ-CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE RESEARCH	Germany	ZALF

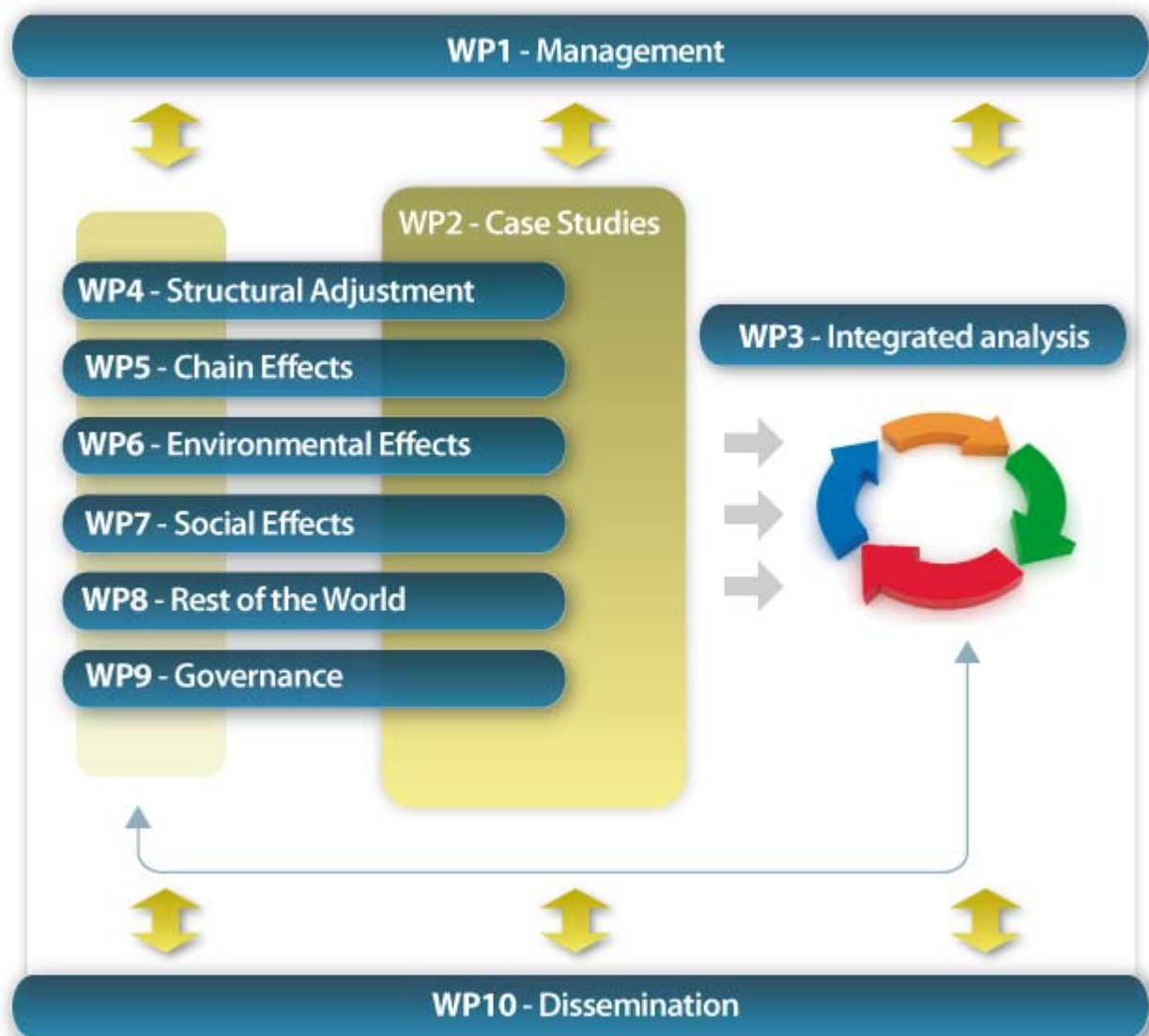
Case study regions

- Emilia-Romagna (Italy)
- Noord-Holland (Netherlands)
- Macedonia and Thrace (Greece)
- Podlaskie (Poland)
- North East of Scotland (UK)
- Andalusia (Spain)
- South-East Planning Region (Bulgaria)
- Centre (France)
- Midi-Pyrénées (France)
- Lahn-Dill-District (Germany)
- Ostprignitz-Ruppin (Germany)



Project organisation

The project CAP-IRE is organised in ten workpackages (WP). The logic of the project organisation combines a thematic and a case study approach. The ambition is to yield thematic, empirically tested outcomes and to combine them in an integrated analysis of the role of the CAP in rural areas. The different components of the project are combined according to the workflow described in the following figure:



WP1 – Management and coordination

Leader UNIBO - contact
Davide Viaggi davide.viaggi@unibo.it

The objectives of WP1 are to coordinate and supervise research activities, to carry out the overall administrative and financial management of the project, to monitor quality and timing of project results and to resolve conflicts and to establish effective internal and external communication procedures.

WP2 – Case studies survey

Leader UNIBO - contact
Meri Raggi meri.raggi@unibo.it

WP2 focuses on the coordination and the carrying out of the surveys in order to provide data for empirical analysis to other WP, in particular WP4 to WP9.

WP3 – Integrated analysis

Leader UNIBO - contact
Davide Viaggi davide.viaggi@unibo.it

WP3 aims at providing an analysis of the interconnections between the issues dealt with in WP4-9 finalized to the identification of a policy relevant classification of areas with respect to CAP effects. Specific objectives are:

- to identify farm households typologies according to their characteristics and in relation to the impact of CAP;
- to classify subregions and identify rural typologies according to their reaction to CAP;
- to connect socio-economic (household) development and rural typologies based on the joint analysis of CAP, territorial and human interaction discussed in the other WPs.

WP4 – Structural adjustment and innovation

Leader UNIBO - contact
Davide Viaggi davide.viaggi@unibo.it

WP4 aims at assessing the impact of the CAP on present trends in structural change and technological innovation.

Specific objectives are:

- to identify trends of changes in the structure of farms, technology adoption and innovation;
- to assess the impact of CAP on such trends.

WP5 – Chain effects

Leader UNIABDN - contact
Deborah Roberts deb.roberts@abdn.ac.uk

WP5 aims at assessing the impact of the CAP on agri-food chain and related sectors

Specific objectives are:

- to identify trends in the agri-food chain and related sectors;
- to analyse the nature and extent of integration of farming-related activities within local rural economies;
- to analyse assess the dependence of the rural area on agriculture and farm households;
- to assess the impact of CAP on the linkages that exist between farming and the wider rural economy.

WP6 – Spatial dimension and environmental sustainability

Leader UCO - contact
Julio Berbel berbel@uco.es

WP6 aims to assess the impact of the CAP on present trends in environmental sustainability in a spatial perspective.



Specific objectives are:

- to identify trends of changes in the rural environment and interconnections with farm household and farming activities;
- to assess the impact of CAP on such trends.

WP7 – Social dimension and sustainability

Leader AUTH - contact
Basil Manos manosb@agro.auth.gr

WP7 aims to assess the impact of the CAP on present trends in social sustainability (employment, gender, migration and social capital) in rural areas.
Specific objectives are:

- to identify trends of changes in employment, gender, migration and social capital in rural areas;
- to assess the impact of CAP on such trends.

WP8 – Connections to the “rest of the world”

Leader IPTS - contact
Sergio Gomez y Paloma
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WP8 aims to explore the connections between the issues addressed in CAP-IRE and non rural as well as non EU areas.

Specific objectives are:

- to identify background scenarios, based on the literature, against which to set CAP-IRE research;
- to understand interconnections between CAP, firm and household behaviour, and external (non rural, non EU) drivers of change.

WP9 – Governance and CAP

Leader WU - contact
Louis Slangen Louis.Slangen@wur.nl,
Nico Polman nico.polman@wur.nl

WP9 aims at developing an institutional-economic framework for considering governance in rural areas and its relationship with the CAP.

Specific objectives are:

- to get insights in current and future policies and their effects on changing governance in rural areas;
- to provide an institutional-economic insight on the effect of the recently reformed CAP (e.g. decoupling and single farm payment) on the choice of governance structures for realizing welfare and sustainability in the rural areas. basis.

WP10 – Communication and dissemination

Leader UNIBO - contact
Davide Viaggi davide.viaggi@unibo.it

The main objectives of Work Package 10 are to ensure and facilitate a continuous flow of information within the project and to establish effective dissemination channels for communicating the results of the project.

Qualifying components of the dissemination strategy are:

- the advisory board, composed of representatives of case study areas and academic experts on the topic of the project;
- the local participatory network (LPN), composed of a group of local stakeholders aimed at supporting the project in identifying priorities, collect data and qualify the results in each case study area.



First steps and next to come

The project started with the description of Case study areas (CSAs), with the setting up of appropriate methodologies to deal with thematic WPs in CSA and with the identification of the most relevant topics for research through Advisory Board (AB) and Local participatory network (LPN) consultation.

The AB and LPN consultation involved over 100 LPN members and 13 AB members. The main messages arising from the consultation concern: the increasing importance of changes affecting rural areas and the farming sector; the evolving role of farm households in relation to the new legal forms of rural enterprises; the renewed attention to innovation, productivity and competitiveness; the weakening of the boundaries between rural and urban areas. Diversification of priorities in different regions in Europe was also highlighted (diversity between areas with or without close connections with urban areas; areas with different farming structure and land ownership; Western and Eastern Europe; etc.).

As a consequence, new policy challenges are envisaged in terms of re-vitalising past contrasts between productive agriculture and the environment, as well as requiring more attention to innovation-oriented and entrepreneurship-supporting measures, rather than keeping their focus on mere income support. This may call for major policy innovation in the medium-long term.

The reports related to AB and LPN consultation will be available on the project website by the end of 2008.

