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European Union**

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COVER NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	European Court of Auditors' Special Report N°16/2022: Data in the Common Agricultural Policy: Unrealised potential of big data for policy evaluations
	- Presentation

Delegations will find attached the presentation by the European Court of Auditors on its Special Report No 16/2022: Data in the Common Agricultural Policy: Unrealised potential of big data for policy evaluations, which will be presented at the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions on the 21 September 2022.

This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

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21 September 2022

Special Report N°16/2022:

Data in the Common Agricultural Policy: Unrealised potential of big data for policy evaluations

EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

EN   2022   **16**

Special report | **Data in the Common Agricultural Policy**
Unrealised potential of big data for policy evaluations

EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

Why did we do this audit?

What questions did we ask?

What did we find?

What do we recommend?

What did we find?

Unrealised potential of big data for policy evaluations

- Current data and tools partly deliver the information needed for well-informed policy-making at EU level

- The Commission has various initiatives to make better use of existing data, but barriers remain

Observations

1 Current data and tools partly deliver the information needed for well-informed policy-making at EU level

The Commission uses mainly conventional tools for data analysis

Existing data and systems have limitations

Data and tools do not deliver some important information needed

- Mainly administrative data

- While DG AGRI itself uses conventional tools, it has agreement with JRC for more advanced data analytics

- The Commission has limited access to the farm-level data in IACS

- Copernicus data as big data

- FADN is widely used but not always representative

- Lack of granular data limits comprehensiveness of evaluations

- Some relevant data not available (e.g. farming practices)

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Observations

2 The Commission has various initiatives to make better use of existing data, but barriers remain

The Commission has various initiatives

- Expanding data sources (FADN → FSDN)
- Encourages data sharing (INSPIRE)
- Revision of agricultural statistics legislation
- Data for CAP 2023-27

Research initiatives and Member States initiatives

- Several Horizon 2020 projects
- Member States have different level of experience and ambition with big data

Some notable data gaps and challenges are yet to be addressed

- *Combining and cross-linking of data*
- Lack of certain data

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What do we recommend?

The Commission should

1. Establish a framework for using disaggregated data from IACS

2. Make more use of and develop data sources to meet policy needs by:

   - Making more use of existing data sources, considering new sources or combining existing ones;

   - Examining the possibility of using proxies or indirect data sources;

   - Assessing the possibility of scaling up the use of farm-machinery data.

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for your attention!

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Unrealised potential of big data for policy evaluations

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