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## COVER NOTE

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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 <i>- Presentation</i>

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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.

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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





**Why did we do this audit?**



**What questions did we ask?**



**What did we find?**



**What do we recommend?**



## Why did we do this audit?

**A lot of data is  
needed and  
collected for  
the CAP  
analysis**

- CAP funding is more than a third of the EU budget and covers various objectives
- Agriculture is one of the sectors where digital innovations are increasingly applied
- Policy design, monitoring and evaluation need a solid evidence basis, i.e. data



## What questions did we ask?

Does the Commission make good use of data and data analytics for policy analysis of the CAP?

1. Does the Commission use a **sufficient range of data** sources and data and **appropriate analytical tools** for policy analysis of the CAP?
2. Has the Commission made **adequate preparations** to use new IT solutions, including Big Data, for policy analysis of the CAP?





## 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**

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

**Existing data and systems have limitations**

- 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

**Data and tools do not deliver some important information needed**

- Lack of granular data limits comprehensiveness of evaluations
- Some relevant data not available (e.g. farming practices)

## 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





## 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.

# THANK YOU

for your attention!

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## EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

12, rue Alcide De Gasperi  
1615 Luxembourg  
LUXEMBOURG

