

ASSOCIATION OF AGRARIAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERS

**Effectiveness of Common Agricultural Policy
implementation in Slovakia
NEWSLETTER 2020**

ASSOCIATION OF AGRARIAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERS

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1. Introduction

This newsletter is issued by the Association of Agrarian and Environmental Lawyers (AAEP) in the frame of the project „Effectiveness of Common Agricultural Policy in Slovakia“, Jean Monnet programme, no. 611792-EPP-1-2019-1-SK-EPPJMO-SUPPA.

The Association is a civic non-profit organization established under Act no. 83/1990 Coll. as amended.

The purpose of the AAEP is to promote:

- a. development of knowledge of agrarian and environmental law
- b. exchange of experience, knowledge and information between lawyers dealing with agrarian and environmental law
- c. meetings of the members of the Association
- d. organization of seminars, conferences and workshops dedicated to specific areas of agrarian and environmental law
- e. educational and scientific activities in the field of agrarian and environmental law
- f. preparation and implementation of project activities in the field of agrarian and environmental law
- g. scientific activity of students who show interest in agrarian and environmental law

The Association prepared and submitted in 2019 a project proposal „Effectiveness of Common Agricultural Policy in Slovakia“ (CAPE). This project was approved by the EACEA and successfully started in autumn 2019.

The main aim of the project is to perform the interdisciplinary research in the field of the effectiveness of CAP implementation in Slovakia with the specific objectives to discuss and advise local, regional, national policymakers and decision-makers on different aspects of the CAP implementation, transfer the research results and the expertise to the practice and to disseminate the project outcomes among interested target groups and civil society.

This newsletter summarizes all project activities which have been realized since the beginning of the project in September 2019 until July 2020. This document also contains information and news about land law, land protection and selected issues of the Common agricultural policy implementation in Slovakia.

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2. Activities of the Association of Agrarian and Environmental Lawyers within the project CAPE

The project “Effectiveness of Common Agricultural Policy implementation in Slovakia” started in September 2019 when Grant Decision of the EACEA was sent to the beneficiary-AAEP.

Immediately the Association began all necessary administrative procedures to start the project implementation. The project manager prof. Anna Bandlerová organized a **kick-off meeting** which was held in October 3, 2019. The project team discussed all project activities and tasks were distributed among the key staff.

After the meeting, activities proposed in the project started. First, **the logo** was prepared. This logo appears on all project documents and dissemination materials. At the same time, the first draft of the **project webpage** has been done and the final version of the webpage was presented in December 2019. The project webpage www.cape.uniag.sk contains all relevant information about the project, important documents, project events, deliverables, news, etc. both in Slovak and English languages. The webpage is regularly updated.

To ensure a high quality of the project performance a **Quality Management Plan** was prepared in the first phase of the project. The Quality Management Plan describes in detail the quality management strategy of the CAPE project. It also contains Evaluation Sheet which will be used in all project events in order to get the feedback from participants of the project events.

According to the approved project proposal the AAEP organized the first **roundtable** in March 5-6, 2020. The roundtable was organized in cooperation with the Department of Law of The Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. Participants of the roundtable discussed selected problems of the CAP implementation and possible ways how to eliminate these problems on regional and national levels.

In this phase first 2 **manuals** were published: “Common Agricultural Policy” and “Land Law in Slovakia”. These manuals will serve as learning tools for workshops which will be organized in the end of the year 2020.

Research is an important part of the project and research results are published in various scientific journals. From the project beginning, members of the CAPE project team published following papers:

- Legislation on Land Protection in Slovakia (*Lazikova, J.- Bandlerova, A.-Lazikova, Z.*),
- Technical Efficiency in the Agricultural Business—The Case of Slovakia (*Lazikova, J.-Lazikova, Z.- Takac, I.-Rumanovska, L.-Bandlerova, A.*),
- Effectiveness of Common Agricultural Policy implementation in Slovakia- European project implemented by the Association of Agrarian and Environmental Lawyers (*Palsova, L.-Bohatova, Z.- Floris, N.*),
- The Factors Affecting Farmland Rental Prices in Slovakia (*Takac, I.- Lazikova, J.-Rumanovska, L.- Bandlerova, A.- Lazikova, Z.*).

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All scientific paper can be accessed from the project webpage www.cape.uniag.sk, part Deliverables.

A big attention is also paid to project **dissemination**: information about the project were published on *webpages* of the Association of Agrarian and Environmental Lawyers and Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development. The Association organized a *dissemination seminar* in December 11, 2019. In this event the project staff presented the project and its goals and activities. *Leaflets* with project information were also prepared and they have been distributed among target groups and participants of the roundtable and dissemination seminar. In February 7, 2020, the respective members attended the *CEDR III Mediterreanean Regional Forum* as well as the *CEDR Board of Management Meeting* held on 8th February. Slovakia was represented by associate professor JUDr. Lucia Palšová, PhD.. Assoc.prof. Palšová in her presentation informed participants of the meeting about the activities of the „Association of Agrarian and Environmental Lawyers” as well as about the project CAPE.

The project staff is working on the project all the time. Currently new manuals, workshops and scientific papers are prepared. Information about new project events and deliverables will be published in the next Newsletter in 2021.

3. News and actualities

3.1 CAP framework will stay until 2022 - European Council

The European Council will extend current Common Agriculture Policy rules until the end of 2022. The Council reached a common understanding with the European Parliament on 30 June 2020 on continuing to support European farmers under the current legal framework until the end of 2022 when the new Common Agricultural Policy will enter into force. The negotiated text was endorsed by the Council's Special Committee on Agriculture later the same day.

Marija Vučković, Minister for Agriculture of Croatia, said: Extending the current rules for two more years and until the new CAP is agreed and enforced, gives much needed predictability and certainty to all farmers across Europe during the COVID-19 crisis. The EU will continue to fund rural development programmes and to grant support to European farmers through direct payments while ensuring a smooth transition to the next CAP period.

The extension will allow for uninterrupted payments to farmers and other beneficiaries. Moreover, within these two years, member states will have time to prepare their strategic plans under the new CAP legislation and to plan for their implementation after approval by the Commission.

The final adoption of the transitional regulation is expected by the end of 2020 as it is closely linked to the multiannual financial framework (MFF) currently under negotiation.

Source: www.thecattlesite.com, July 2, 2020

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3.2. Video conference of agriculture and fisheries ministers, 29 June 2020

The Croatian presidency informed ministers about the progress achieved on legislative acts in relation to the reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP). The work on these files has been summarised in a progress report, in which the presidency also identifies areas where it considers that further work is needed.

Source: European Council, Council of the European Union

3.3. Introduction of new European Union Agricultural Policy delayed for two years

The EU Council has announced that the introduction of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP 2) for Europe will be delayed until the end of 2022. The announcement was made after the Council reached an understanding with the European Parliament on 30 June 2020. It has been agreed that support for European farmers will continue under the current legal framework (CAP 1) until the introduction of the new policy.

CAP 2 was originally meant to come into effect 1 January 2021. Member States were to draw up CAP 2 Strategic Plans and to implement them after their approval by the European Commission (the 'Commission'). The intention of the Commission, in introducing a new policy, was to ensure that agricultural support remained a common policy for the EU with a level playing field, whilst also giving Member States greater responsibility in how they met the objectives and achieved the targets set. However, in the later part of 2019 it became apparent that the relevant legislative procedures would not be completed in time to implement CAP 2 as planned and discussions began between the Commission and Parliament to plan for a transition period.

The announcement will be welcomed by the farming sector since it will allow for the continuation of uninterrupted payments; providing at least one welcome dose of predictability during the Covid 19 crisis.

Source: www.mondaq.com, July 7, 2020

3.4. COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak

Farmers are facing difficulties and increasing pressure, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensuring food security for European citizens during the crisis is a priority for EU member states. Measures have been identified to support food producers: direct support to farmers and rural areas, flexibility under the CAP and exceptional market measures.

The measures are taken within the existing CAP funding cycle.

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COVID-19: EU support to agriculture and fisheries

MAIN OBJECTIVES

ensuring food availability for EU citizens

adopting a coordinated EU response

using the resources of the Common Agricultural Policy and European Maritime Fisheries Fund

supporting the vital role of farmers and fishers

KEY PRINCIPLES

flexibility in existing programmes

direct financial support

building resilience, including towards other challenges (such as environmental ones)

To facilitate food supply across Europe:



FOR FARMERS

higher advances of



extension of **1 month** for payment applications

aid for private storage

for temporary withdrawal of products for up to 6 months

loans or guarantees

at favourable conditions to cover operational costs of up to **€200 000**

state aid

up to **€800 000** for food processing and marketing companies

up to **€120 000** per farm

emergency assistance from rural development funds

of up to **€7 000** per farmer

of up to **€50 000** per small business

Other measures for the sector

» simplified administration and fewer on-the-spot checks

» temporary derogations from certain EU competition rules

» flexibility in market support programmes for some products

» reorientation of funding priorities under existing programmes