# Tools4CAP Final Conference

## Evidence-informed policymaking and strategic choices for the future CAP

### 17 – 18 November 2026

### Brussels, Belgium – Fondation Universitaire

*(Egmontstraat 11 Rue d'Egmont - 1000 Brussels)*

Over the past four years, the Tools4CAP Horizon Europe project has explored how evidence-informed approaches, innovative methods and capacity-building activities can support the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of CAP Strategic Plans across the European Union. Through case studies, focus groups, methodological development and capacity-building activities, the project has worked with policymakers, public administrations, researchers and practitioners to identify practical ways of strengthening analytical capacity, stakeholder participation, data use and governance processes. These experiences have been consolidated into a set of resources intended to support future CAP strategic planning, including the Tools4CAP Handbook of Best Practices, methodological guidelines, the Inventory of Methods and Tools and the Capacity-Building Toolkit.

As discussions on the future CAP framework advance, public administrations face increasing demands to use evidence effectively while responding to evolving policy priorities, administrative constraints and stakeholder expectations. The Tools4CAP Final Conference will bring together European, national and regional policymakers, Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, researchers and practitioners to reflect on these challenges, discuss lessons from current CAP implementation and explore how evidence-informed approaches can support the preparation of the next generation of CAP as part of the National and Regional Strategic Plans 2028-2034.

The conference is organised around a simple question: **how can evidence, tools, governance approaches and capacity-building resources help public administrations make better-informed decisions throughout the CAP policy cycle?**

**Objectives**

- **Present the main lessons from Tools4CAP** and discuss their relevance for future CAP strategic planning and implementation.
- **Introduce the Tools4CAP Handbook of Good Practices** as a practical framework bringing together lessons on evidence-informed CAP strategic management, supported by the Inventory, Methodological Guidelines, Capacity-Building Toolkit and project case studies.
- **Explore how public administrations can strengthen the use of evidence, data, stakeholder participation and analytical tools** throughout the policy cycle.
- **Provide a platform for dialogue** between Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, European institutions, researchers and practitioners on the practical challenges of preparing and implementing the **post-2027 CAP**.
- **Showcase experiences from Member States and project case studies**, highlighting lessons that can be adapted, transferred or further developed in different administrative and policy contexts.
- **Discuss pathways for the uptake and long-term use of Tools4CAP results**, supporting capacity-building and evidence-informed policymaking beyond the lifetime of the project.

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## Day 1. What have we learned about evidence-informed CAP governance?

**Moderator: TBC**

| DAY 1 – 17 NOVEMBER | | |
|---|---|---|
| 13.00 – 13.20 | Registration | |
| 13.20 – 13.40 | **Welcome and framing of the conference.** Why does evidence-informed CAP governance matter for the future CAP? Tools4CAP in a nutshell | Bérénice Dupeux, *Ecorys* |
| 13.40 – 14.10 | **Inspirational keynote.** Evidence, governance and strategic decision-making for the future CAP | Speaker TBC |
| 14.10 – 14.20 | **Key lessons learned on tools and an integrated approach.** Overview of the policy cycle: how different forms of evidence support different stages of the CAP policy cycle | Emil Erjavec, *University of Ljubljana* |
| 14.20 – 14.35 | **Lessons from monitoring systems:** what worked, what did not, and what is needed next | Alberto Gutiérrez, *Agricultural Technological Institute of Castilla y Leon (ITACyL)* |
| 14.35 – 14.45 | Q&A with the audience | |
| 14.45 – 15.00 | **What can quantitative tools realistically contribute to CAP decision-making?** | Ana Gonzalez-Martinez, *Wageningen Social & Economic Research* |
| 15.00 – 15.10 | Q&A with the audience | |
| 15.10 – 15.25 | **Stakeholder engagement, governance and decision-making:** lessons from practice | Carla Wember, *Institute for Rural Development Research (IfLS)* |
| 15.25 – 15.35 | Q&A with the audience | |
| 15.35 – 15.45 | **Introduction to the Tools4CAP case studies**: lessons from implementation | Ilona Rac, *University of Ljubljana* |
| 15.45 – 16.15 | Coffee break | |
| 16.15 – 16.45 | **Case Studies poster trail** | All participants |
| 16.45 – 17.45 | **Science-policy dialogue:** lessons from CAP implementation and preparing for the future CAP | ▪ Sophie Thoyer, *Deputy scientific director for Agriculture, INRAE*<br>▪ More speakers TBC |
| 17.45 – 18.00 | **Wrap up and closing of Day 1** | Sophie Thoyer, *Deputy scientific director for Agriculture, INRAE* |
| 18.00 – 19.00 | Networking reception | |

## Day 2. From results to uptake: supporting Member States in evidence-informed CAP strategic planning

**Moderator: TBC**

| DAY 2 – 18 NOVEMBER | | |
|---|---|---|
| 08.30 – 08.50 | Registration | |
| 08.50 – 09.00 | **From evidence to implementation: supporting CAP strategic planning for 2028–2034.** Key points for the day. | Speaker TBC |
| 09.00 – 09.30 | **Keynote address.** Preparing for the next CAP: priorities, challenges and opportunities for Member States | Sophie Helaine, *Head of Unit – Policy Performance, DG AGRI, European Commission* |
| 9.30 - 9.50 | **The Tools4CAP Handbook of Good Practices:** lessons for evidence-informed CAP strategic planning | Emil Erjavec, *University of Ljubljana* |
| 9.50 - 10.00 | **Preparing for the next CAP:** what do Member States need? | Rémi Laurent, *Ecorys* |
| 10.00 – 11.00 | **Panel discussion.** Preparing the next CAP: practical challenges for Member States | Speakers TBC |
| 11.00 – 11.10 | Q&A with the audience | |
| 11.10 – 11.30 | Coffee break | |
| 11.30 – 12.15 | **Bridging evidence and implementation in future CAP planning.** Discussion on timing constraints, political realities, implementation challenges and where tools can help | Simone Sterly, *Institute for Rural Development Research (IfLS)* |
| 12.15 – 12.35 | **Policy recommendations for the next CAP:** key messages from Tools4CAP | Bérénice Dupeux, *Ecorys* |
| 12.35 – 12.45 | Q&A with the audience | |
| 12.45 – 13.00 | **From knowledge to practice: The Tools4CAP Capacity Building Toolkit.** An online demonstrator connecting the Inventory, Methodological Guidelines and Handbook to support practical uptake of Tools4CAP results | Raquel Pastor and Miranda García, *European Association for Innovation in Local Development (AEIDL)* |
| 13.00 – 13.20 | **Closing reflections.** The future of evidence-informed CAP governance | Alan Matthews, *Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy, Trinity College Dublin* |
| 13.20 – 13.30 | Wrap up and conclusions | Speaker TBC |
| 13.30 – 15.00 | Networking lunch and departure | |