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?

Master of Ceremonies: Professor Ian Baker, *University of Birmingham and Director of Catalys*

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	Niels Halberg, *Faculty of Technical Sciences - Aarhus University*
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** ▪ *GLOBIOM-CZ for Ex-Ante Analysis and Environmental Assessment* - Amanda Palazzo (IIASA) ▪ *IOI Matrix for Policy Coherence in Environmental Measures (Hesse)* - Carla Wember (IfLS) ▪ *CAPRI & Digital Farm Book Data for Pesticide Use Evaluation* - Alberto Gutiérrez García (ITACyL) ▪ *SOCMap: Remote Sensing and Machine Learning for Soil Organic Carbon* - Arturo Jiménez Beneite (ITACyL) ▪ *Experimental Evaluation of Agri-Environment-Climate Measures (AECM)* - TBC ▪ *Policy Monitoring Tool for CAP Performance and Evaluation* - TBC ▪ *CAPRI Modelling for Ex-Ante Policy Analysis* - Zsolt Szabó (AKI)	

	▪ *Intervention Logic for CAP Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation* - Paula Palma Molina (Teagasc) ▪ *Policy Monitoring Tool (PMT) for Performance Assessment* - TBC ▪ *Integrated Tools for Eco-Scheme Design and Monitoring in the Netherlands* - TBC ▪ *Prioritisation Tool for Ranking CAP Needs* - Barbara Wieliczko and Zbigniew Floriańczyk (ERDN) ▪ *Integrated Vision-Building Tool for Agricultural Policy 2040* - TBC	
16.45 – 17.45	**Science-policy dialogue:** lessons from CAP implementation and preparing for the future CAP *Moderated by Ecorys*	▪ Sophie Thoyer, *Deputy scientific director for Agriculture, INRAE* ▪ Simona Vrevc, *Slovenian Permanent Representation in Brussels* ▪ *More speakers TBC*
17.45 – 18.00	**Wrap up and closing of Day 1**	Professor Ian Baker, *University of Birmingham and Director of Catalys*
18.00 – 19.00	Networking reception	

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

Master of Ceremonies: Professor Ian Baker, *University of Birmingham and Director of Catalys*

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	Professor Ian Baker, *University of Birmingham and Director of Catalys*
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?	TBC, *Ecorys*
10.00 – 11.00	**Panel discussion.** Preparing the next CAP: practical challenges for Member States *Moderated by Ecorys*	▪ Andrea Furlan, *Unit Analysis & Outlook, DG AGRI* ▪ Aard Mulder, *Policy Coordinator at the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature* ▪ Genovaitė Beniulienė, *Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Lithuania*
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	