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Support to the EU Integration Process of Albania

Chapter 11 Agriculture and Rural Development

Ruzica Gelo, Marsela Maci
Tirana, Albania



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Main findings of the assessment

As the name suggests, the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a seven-year planning of the **common policy** in the agricultural sector, which is set out in four EU regulations. CAP is based on two pillars:

- ✓ **Pillar I** includes Direct income support and Common market organisation schemes
- ✓ **Pillar II** concerns rural development

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Main findings of the assessment

Main challenge for this chapter consists in setting out a **domestic policy** in the agriculture sector that begins to shape and look like the EU model

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Main findings of the assessment

The implementation of the EU CAP requires an established and functional **infrastructure**, which needs its own domestic legislative framework. This infrastructure includes:

- Fully functional Paying Agency with sufficient and well trained staff to implement direct payments, common market organisation schemes and rural development measures
- Integrated Administration and Control System
- Farm Accountancy Data Network (Farm register)
- Land Parcel Identification System
- Farm Advisory System

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Main findings of the assessment

So far, we have prepared and suggested a structure that reflects the **main building blocks** of the CAP, in order for the beneficiary to orient and plan its future work. These are, most importantly,:

- The issue of the **direct payments** and the respective implementing agencies and infrastructure (mentioned above)
- The horizontal mechanisms of the **Common Market Organisation (CMO)**:
 - Market interventions
 - Aid schemes
 - Marketing standards
 - Producers Organisation
 - Trade Policy
- **Rural Development**

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Main conclusions

- Albania has a certain level of alignment in the area of quality policy and organic production
- The area of direct payments and common market organisations is not aligned with the acquis
- In the area of rural development, Albania implements some rural developments schemes through IPARD

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Next steps

- Support the update of IAGA
- Support the update of LGA