PeRsonalised public sErvices in support of the implementation of the CAP

European project RECAP creates innovative platform to facilitate compliance with CAP obligations

Thessaloniki, May 2016. A consortium of 12 partners in six European countries has launched a project to develop a cloud-based Software as a Service (SaaS) platform for improving the efficiency and transparency of the compliance with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) monitoring procedure. The RECAP project is supported by the EU programme on "ICT- enabled open government" until October 2018.

Sustainable agriculture preserves habitats and natural resources and mitigates climate change. The EU policy tool for integrating environmental requirements into the CAP is the Cross Compliance Scheme. EU farmers shall respect cross-compliance rules, legislative standards and obligations, in order to receive payments, but more importantly cross-compliance enhances awareness among them and helps European farming to be more compatible with the expectations of society. Farmers' non-compliance with standards may lead to reduction or, even, cancelation of their agricultural support and rural development payments.

However, the implementation of the cross-compliance consists of many burdens, either related to the public authorities, or to the farmers. On the one hand, the public administrative costs are extremely high due to the need of in-field visits. On the other hand, farmers face several difficulties in familiarizing with the applicable regulations and also dealing with the high administrative costs of the proper implementation of the cross-compliance.

The RECAP project aims to develop an improved remote monitoring of CAP obligations and to supplement the in-field inspections procedures eliminating several of the aforementioned burdens. Furthermore, RECAP will offer farmers a tool supporting them to comply with regulations imposed by the CAP, providing personalised information for simplifying the interpretation of complex regulations, and early alerts on potential non-conformities. RECAP will allow agricultural consultants to access data available in the platform, subject to security and privacy policies, and to develop their own services within the platform using design tools, libraries and communication with the database under an open approach. The overall objective is to develop and pilot test a platform for the delivery of public services that will enable the improved implementation of the CAP, targeting public Paying Agencies, agricultural consultants and farmers.

RECAP will be a cloud-based Software as a Service (SaaS) platform which will:

- collect information from open satellite data,
- collect information through farmers' mobile devices,
- collect information from commercial channels of satellite data providers.

The project consortium consists of Draxis Environmental S.A., Instituto Navarro de Technologias e Infraestructuras Agroalimentarias SA, Payment and Control Agency for Guidance and Guarantee Community Aid, National Paying Agency, Viesoji Istaiga Lietuvos Zemes Ukio Konsultavimo Tarnyba, Strutt & Parker LLP, Inosens Doo Novi Sad, University of Reading, National Observatory of Athens, Iniciativas Innovadoras Sal, ETAM S.A. and CREVIS SPRL.

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