



Comparative analysis of agricultural sectors and rural areas in the pre- accession countries: Agricultural policy developments, situation of the agri-food sector and economic context

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Draft methodology for the development of country case studies and a comparative cross-country analysis of the agricultural policy developments and the EU accession process in WB countries and Turkey



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Objectives of the country case study report

- ▶ Provide overview of the **state-of-affairs in the country's agricultural policy**, with focus on the recent developments in 2020 and 2021;
- ▶ **Collect agricultural policy data** in the country/territory from relevant national policy documents and legislation, with focus on the recent developments in 2020 and 2021;
- ▶ Provide an overview of the **institutional/administrative policy framework**;
- ▶ Review the policy milestones, policy strategic documents and operational framework of national policies, and elaborate on the future development of national policies in the country/territory;
- ▶ Provide an overview of the **Covid-19 related** agricultural policy interventions and implications;
- ▶ Identify the country's policy objectives, instruments and measures addressing the need for **greener policy** in view of the growing challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss and management of natural resources;
- ▶ Provide an overview of the existing policy framework to evaluate **compliance with EU standards** in primary production and processing and state of harmonisation with the EU CAP (including the EU Green Deal – Farm to Fork Strategy);
- ▶ Include **expert assessment** of the country's agricultural policy framework, conclusions and recommendations.

The country report will also provide background for the cross-country comparative analysis of the agricultural policy developments in the WB countries and Turkey.

Method and materials

Quantitative methods:

- ▶ Update the country's **APMC database** for the years 2020 and 2021, to enable systematic and standardized evaluation and hence comparative basis among the countries.
- ▶ Provide **several key statistics** to enable calculation of policy related indicators (e.g. population, UAA, GDP, agricultural output value etc.), for which an Excel sheet will be provided by the Regional coordinator.
- ▶ Mark the measures linked to **greener policy** in the APMC database (e.g. climate change, biodiversity loss and management of natural resources).
- ▶ Mark the measures linked to **Covid-19** intervention in the APMC database.

Method and materials

Qualitative methods:

- ▶ Analysis of agricultural and rural development policy documents, through **literature review** of formal policy documents, research studies, expert papers, personal communications.
- ▶ Input from the **key players** in the governmental structures (interviews).
- ▶ **Expert assessment** of the national developments and comparative analysis with the EU CAP framework.

Method and materials

Sources of data:

- ▶ National systems for monitoring budgetary spending by individual agricultural policy measure
- ▶ Governmental budgetary plans
- ▶ Policy programs and regulations
- ▶ Reports on the implementation of agricultural policy measures from various ministries
- ▶ Aggregate budgetary data from the ministry of finance
- ▶ Local level authorities
- ▶ International donors
- ▶ Other sources - statistical offices, EC country progress reports etc.

Country case studies - structure

1. Agricultural policy framework in the WB countries and Turkey
2. Measures and budgetary support of agriculture and rural development in the WB countries and Turkey
3. Covid-19 interventions in policy and implications
4. Greener policy instruments and measures linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and management of natural resources
5. EU approximation process
6. Conclusions and policy recommendations

1. Agricultural policy framework

- ▶ Briefly summarise the existing policy framework with particular focus on the situation and changes in the last two years 2020 and 2021.
- ▶ Introduce the main developments and present the main topics of discussion in the national policy.
- ▶ State if there is a new National strategy of agriculture and rural development, its goals and objectives and novelties related to the previous strategy. Elaborate the new IPARD 2021-2027 program (if applicable), its objectives and novelties related to the previous program.
- ▶ Elaborate the main strategic goals/aims, priorities and challenges for agricultural policy in the country, with focus on 2020 and 2021, in terms of addressing economic situation and developments, environmental situation and developments, structural situation and developments.
- ▶ How is the policy cycle functioning? Have there been indicators developed for evaluating and monitoring the effectiveness of the policy?
- ▶ Elaborate if the country has smart specialization strategy and if agriculture and rural development are strategic priorities. Provide a critical assessment of the situation.
- ▶ Use official document, statistical data, expert and research studies. Also, describe which issues are the main priorities for national agricultural policy, both in the public discussion and in the documents. State if there are data constraints and data gaps.

1. Structured tables

Overview of the key legal, strategic and programming framework

Key legal, strategic and programming document	Key goal and objectives	Notes/remarks
e.g. Law on agriculture and rural development (2010)	Briefly state the key goals and objectives	Functionality of the document, adopted or not, validity period, determined flaws etc.
e.g. National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2021-2027		
e.g. IPARD 2021-2027		
e.g. National Programme for Agriculture (3-5 years)		
Etc		

2. Structured tables

Overview of the institutional and administrative policy framework

Key institutions and administrative bodies (with departments if applicable)	Key role and responsibilities in Ag. and RD policy	Human capacities (evaluate accordingly)	Human capacities competences needed upgrade	Other capacities (e.g. facilities, equipment etc) needed upgrade	Other challenges for the institution
e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	e.g. responsible for policy creation and coordination, and supervision of its implementation	1. understaffed 2. well staffed 3. overstaffed	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	
e.g. IPARD managing authority (within MAFWE)		1. understaffed 2. well staffed 3. overstaffed	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	
e.g. Paying Agency	e.g. implementation of financial support measures	1. understaffed 2. well staffed 3. overstaffed	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	
e.g. National Extension Agency		1. understaffed 2. well staffed 3. overstaffed	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	
e.g. Agency for Food and veterinary		1. understaffed 2. well staffed 3. overstaffed	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	
e.g. Agricultural Inspectorate		1. understaffed 2. well staffed 3. overstaffed	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	Not needed/If needed, elaborate	
Etc					

2. Measures and budgetary support of agriculture and rural development

- ▶ Describe the measures' structure, design and funding. Pay particular focus on the situation and changes in the last two years 2020 and 2021. Use the data/graphs from the AMPC. Are there any significant changes in the measures' structure, design and funding in the last couple of years?
- ▶ What are actually the key measures, what is their relevance for the given objectives/needs, what is their potential impact on the main policy targets?
- ▶ Who are the main beneficiaries of key measures? What are the main strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of the policy? How does the public perceive the measures?
- ▶ How much of the planned measures have been implemented and funded?

2. Structured tables

Major new policy instruments/measures introduced in 2020 and 2021

Instrument/programme	New measure and policy significance	Year of introduction
...
...

2. Structured tables

Main successes and failures of agricultural policy instruments and measures compared to the strategic objectives in the last two years (2020 and 2021) (illustrated by examples)

Successes	Failures
...	...
...	...

2. Structured tables

Overview of the measures, funds and number of applications in IPARD 2014-2020

Indicator	M1	M3	M4	M7	M9	...	Total
No. of applications							
No. of approved applications							
EU contribution (th. EUR)							
National contribution (th. EUR)							
Total payments (th. EUR)							
EU allocated amounts (th. EUR)							

Covid-19 interventions in policy and implications

- ▶ Briefly describe the main disruptions caused by the pandemic and the policy response.
- ▶ Did the Covid-19 influence the measures structure, design and funding?
- ▶ Describe if there were some additional measures linked with Covid-19 interventions.
- ▶ Mark the Covid-19 related measures in the APMC (instructions will be given).

Greener policy instruments and measures

- ▶ What is the general policy attitude with regard to greener approaches linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and management of natural resources?
- ▶ How does it correspond to the new EU CAP, Green Deal – Farm to Fork Strategy?
- ▶ Briefly describe the key “green” measures’ structure, design and the related budgetary transfers trends. How are these measures accepted by the beneficiaries?
- ▶ How is the implementation and administrations of these measures? Are there monitoring and evaluation indicators for these measures?
- ▶ Mark the “green” measures in the APMC (instructions will be given).

EU approximation process

- ▶ Give a general assessment of the policy design and instruments in your country as compared with the EU CAP.
- ▶ Critically assess the European integration process in the field of agricultural policy: what have the main achievements been, where are the main gaps and obstacles of the process?
- ▶ What should be the critical steps to improve the situation and speed up the process?

Conclusions and policy recommendations

- ▶ Summarize the main findings of the analysis. Also, describe which issues are the main priorities for national agricultural policy, both in the public discussion and in the documents. Provide a critical assessment of the situation.
- ▶ Provide a final critical assessment of the current measures and funding, and develop recommendations for improving the policy design and impacts. Point out if there been positive impacts on economic development, the environment and social cohesion.
- ▶ Provide and elaborate recommendations, especially for critical gaps in policy development and in comparison with the EU CAP.

Comparative cross-country analysis

From the collected country information, APMCs and case studies:

- ▶ Conduct a comparative cross-country analysis of the agricultural policy developments in the WB countries/territories and Turkey
- ▶ Identify main successes and failures of agricultural policies
- ▶ Evaluate the EU approximation process of the WB countries/territories and Turkey
- ▶ Draw policy recommendations

- ▶ Provide a country and cross-country harmonised and consistent database (internal and public)

Comparative cross-country analysis

Preliminary contents:

- ▶ Executive summary
- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Materials and methods
- ▶ Agricultural policy framework in the WB countries and Turkey
- ▶ Measures and budgetary support of agriculture and rural development in the WB countries and Turkey
- ▶ Covid-19 interventions in policy and implications
- ▶ Greener policy instruments and measures linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and management of natural resources
- ▶ EU approximation process
- ▶ Conclusions and policy recommendations

Final remarks

- ▶ Please use clear and concise language.
- ▶ Technical instructions provided.
- ▶ Recommended length around 15 pages.
- ▶ The deadline for the draft texts is **June 1st, 2022**. The APMC database should be delivered prior by **April 30th, 2022**.
- ▶ The texts and AMPCs should be delivered to policyag@gmail.com and Dori Pavloska-Gjorgjieska dori.pavloska@swg-seerural.org.
- ▶ For further explanation please contact the AAEM team (policyag@gmail.com).