



Pilot projects on using IACS (Integrated Administration and Control System) for agricultural statistics

*Related to ESS.VIP.ADMIN project
(WP4 – Eurostat as an (in) direct user of administrative sources held or
designed by the European Commission, Task 4.2)*

FINAL REPORT

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Directorate E – Sectoral and regional statistics
Unit E.1 – Agriculture and Fisheries

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Final Report

Summarizing the results of grants projects launched in 2013, 2014 and 2015 for Pilot projects on using IACS (Integrated Administration and Control System) for agricultural statistics as well as other related actions

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the pilot projects

In May 2012 the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics (CPSA) set up a Task Force to consider possibilities to better adapt and use administrative data sources, in particular Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) and Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) data, for statistical purposes. The combined Eurostat – DG AGRI Task Force on linkage to administrative data sources and to the farm accountancy data network (FADN) worked during 2012 and 2013 with representatives for both agricultural statistics and register owners.

The work of this Task Force was continued and supported by three waves of grants - launched in 2013, 2014 and 2015 for studies on linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics. The grants aimed at supporting pilot projects in Member States to make better use of data from the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) or from other administrative registers available for the production of agricultural statistics. The projects also fed the work that took place in the framework of ESS.VIP ADMIN.

Note: IACS is a database administered at national level on the basis of EU legislation that centralizes the data on agricultural subsidies paid by the European Union in each Member State.

1.2 Scope of the pilot projects

Within agriculture statistics the use of administrative registers is quite extended due to the highly regulated character of this sector. Specific in this domain is the fact that many registers are set up by EU legislation. Examples are the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS¹—system used for the single payment of subsidies under the Common Agricultural Policy), the bovine register and the vineyard register. Taking into account their "European" design, these registers are suitable for developing European actions aiming at their use for statistical purposes.

2 BACKGROUND TO THE INITIATIVE

2.1 IACS TASK FORCE

The burden on both NSI's and respondents is a continuous problem in agricultural statistics. New needs emerge, while the old ones rarely disappear. The Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics (CPSA) repeatedly discussed the possibility of finding ways of improving efficiency and reducing costs in agricultural statistics by using administrative registers as a source of data. The fact that some countries have managed this without bigger

¹ IACS (Integrated Administration and System) http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/direct-support/iacs/index_en.htm.

problems while others continue to struggle can to some part be explained by very heterogenous agriculture sector among the EU Member States, different priorities in agricultural production and subsidies and different cultures of the Member States. The conclusion was drawn to improve synergies and efficiency between existing data sources in order to use all possible sources for production of agricultural statistics. The CPSA asked the Commission to take action to identify possible ways to improve the situation.

In 2012, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was under review, along with all implementing regulations and guidelines, giving an opportunity to ensure in these implementing acts the availability and access to administrative data by statisticians, a main concern expressed by some countries. A decision was taken to set up a joint Eurostat – DG AGRI Task Force for the purpose, and three meetings took place between October 2012 and October 2013.

The Task Force aimed to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of agricultural statistics by looking at ways for ensuring that data already collected for administrative purposes is re-used for statistical purposes, thus reducing the burden on the respondents, removing overlapping work in different parts of national and regional administrations and increasing coherence between different data sources while recognizing the first and foremost objective of the IACS which is to limit the risk of misuse of EU funds.

The objectives of the TF were:

- to identify the main obstacles to using administrative data sources
- to suggest actions to remove these obstacles, in the short term when possible, in the medium term if necessary. These actions could be assessed as taking place both in EU statistical legislation and CAP legislation, or in related guidelines.
- to inform both statistical authorities and ministries of agriculture (payment agencies) in the Member States of the findings, so that progress can be made swiftly.

The scope of the Task Force was limited to IACS only (which contains the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) and also links with the bovine database for identification by DG SANCO when necessary), to avoid trying too much at one go.

2.2 IACS and other administrative registers as sources for statistics

In discussions with various users, it became clear that there were ad-hoc needs for statistics on issues that had not been foreseen. If administrative registers such as IACS, tax registers, organic farming registers, etc., were used as initial sources for statistics where speed is more important than harmonisation, this might reduce burden while meeting new needs.

It was expected that the changes to the CAP would bring more details to the IACS registers. This should have made it possible to use the register for statistical purposes much more efficiently than before. It was therefore important to map these possibilities, especially when considering the new needs for more statistics related to agri-environmental aspects.

One additional possibility for using IACS might have been for speeding up data availability on crop area. The Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) contained all data on most crops for the farms receiving CAP subsidies, and the farmers had to provide this information at an

early stage. It might be considered that the LPIS was not enough representative for the whole farming sector, due to the fact that not all farmers applied for subsidies. However, the potential savings and possible new data applications were quite considerable.

It was therefore considered worthwhile testing the methodological aspects of using IACS, and especially LPIS as a direct source for statistics.

2.3 Links between other administrative registers and agricultural statistics

There are potentially other administrative registers available in countries that can be used to reduce the burden in agricultural statistics. It was and is in the interest of both NSI's and Eurostat to ensure that available resources are used efficiently, but without risking the quality and harmonisation of the data. This was also the aim of the ESS.VIP.BUS ADMIN project (Administrative data sources), approved by the ESSC in February 2015.

This project addresses central goals of the **Vision 2020**, in particular in regard to **new data sources** ('We will exploit the potential of new data sources'), the **quality of European statistics** ('We will enhance our quality management with quality assurance tools that are fit for purpose'; 'We need to assess the usability and quality of data sources'; 'We will promote the quality of our statistics based on sound methodology and effective quality assurance mechanisms'), **efficient and robust statistical processes** ('We will use common methods and tools', 'We will benefit from our experts working together') and **cooperation with stakeholders** ('We will develop strategic alliances with public and private partners').

The project had a dual purpose: to support the EU Member States to reap the benefits (decrease costs and burden, increase of data availability) of using administrative data sources for the production of official statistics, and to guarantee the quality of the output produced using administrative sources, in particular the comparability of the statistics required for European purposes.

The ADMIN project combined a theoretical dimension (methodological development, integration and dissemination of statistical methodology, quality indicators etc.) and a practical dimension aiming to implement tangible results of the theoretical work through pilot studies and applications. In order to build the practical dimension, the project envisaged several rounds of grants to Member States.

2.4 Objectives

Problem statement:

The Common Agricultural Policy requires farmers in all Member States who apply for subsidies to provide certain information that is stored in administrative registers. Often the same, or very similar, information is collected in agricultural statistics surveys. This potential overlap of data collection should, where feasible, be eliminated, thus reducing the administrative and statistical response burden of the farmers. The data in these registers could potentially be used directly for statistical purposes. In addition, there might exist other administrative registers that could be used for improving agricultural statistics.

The use of unique identifiers for agricultural holdings would greatly increase the possibility of using administrative registers and combining data from various surveys.

The actions aimed at:

- Creating access to administrative data for statistics by adapting the information systems
- Adapting the statistical collection methods to take advantage of the administrative support systems that are already in place
- Development of statistical farm registers based on administrative register, including the introduction of a unique identifier for farms
- Assessing the possibilities of using administrative registers as a direct source of statistics
- Taking advantage of development work carried out in other Member States so that good practises could be more widely implemented, thus saving resources and increasing transparency and coherence.

The actions were not limited to the use of ICAS; they concerned the use of any administrative sources that can potentially decrease cost and response burden.

2.5 Expected results (Deliverables)

In order to achieve progress towards the general objective, the project actions were to be focussed on the achievement of one or several of the results listed:

1. Creating methodological documents based on own experiences in setting up systems for using administrative sources for agricultural statistics, making these documents available for other countries, transmitting the know-how to interested colleagues from other NSI's, either by organising workshops, receiving study visits, visiting the interested colleagues in their own institutions to give advice, or similar actions. These activities should where possible take place in collaboration with institutions from other countries that have also interest in such activities.

Deliverables: The documents produced, reports from the activities carried out with appropriate information on the target audience, mission reports, etc.

2. Adaptation, development and improvement of the information structures, aimed at gaining access to the IACS and other agricultural administrative registers, improving the data transfer and similar issues.

Deliverables: Reports of the changes made to the information structures and how these changes have improved the data transfer and other results.

3. Developing and testing new methodological approaches regarding data collection that would reduce the response burden by improving the synergy between statistical surveys and administrative data collection.

Deliverables: Reports of the methodologies tested, the results achieved and lessons learned and plans for implementing the results in practice.

4. Developing and testing new methodological approaches regarding creating statistics where administrative registers are the only source of data (either individual registers or by combining registers.)

Deliverables: Reports of the methodologies tested, the results achieved and lessons learned and plans for implementing the results in practice.

3 IMPLEMENTATION STATE OF PLAY (RESULTS)

Three grant reports (from the grant agreements signed in 2015) were produced by Member States and delivered to Eurostat **mid-2017**.

Four grant reports (from the grant agreements signed in 2014) were produced by Member States and delivered to Eurostat **between May and November 2016**.

Six grant reports (from the grant agreements signed in 2013) were produced by Member States and delivered to Eurostat **end 2015**. An analysis of the first six country reports was presented in the DGAS Seminar in **June 2016**.

- The use of administrative sources in agricultural **statistics was discussed in the seminar of the Directors of Agricultural Statistics (DGAS) on 27 June 2016**. The use of administrative data in agricultural statistics has been at the centre of the work for the DGAS for many years, with the aim of reducing the burden on respondents and on NSI's while keeping the quality of the statistics high. The seminar was a follow-up of this work.

The program started with a presentation on the outcome of the grants provided for this purpose to NSI's. The main conclusions from the first grants and from input from Member States were that administrative registers can be successfully used only if the cooperation between the involved services is working, that quick results are not possible as everything takes time and that there are no perfect surveys or registers. The main best practices presented were that quality issues require proper validation processes, that discipline is needed to properly solve all issues related with the data and that different concepts cannot be overcome with technology, manual work and compromises are needed on both sides.

A representative of the FAO presented international developments in the field showing that the issues involved are the same everywhere in the world, but also that there are studies on-going in the framework of the Global Strategy on Agricultural Statistics that could be of use in Europe.

The seminar showed a crosscut of the many good examples and actions in EU Member States, and that the use of administrative data is progressing swiftly. It concluded that there would be a need to summarise what has been done, to share good practices and systemize experience, perhaps to prepare manuals. In addition, the seminar showed that new technologies should increasingly be used.

Agricultural statistics is in the frontline for the use of administrative registers, thanks to the many excellent registers, based on EU legislation that can be used. The efficient use requires a systematic approach in legislation, both at EU and national level. Standardisation is needed in legislation managed by policy DG's like DG AGRI for IACS, for example table structures, codes, definitions, etc. In addition, the legislation for the registers should clearly allow the use of the registers for statistics. Support from the administration holding the registers is needed, they should allow changes in their own systems/registers and collection methods. Cooperation from both sides is crucial to get systems working. Statisticians must also change; they cannot expect administrative

registers to be adapted much for the purpose of statistics. The needs for data and prerequisites must be understood and accepted by register owners, otherwise no changes are accepted.

- Eurostat participated in the **10th Conference of Directors of Paying Agencies and Coordinating Bodies in December 2016** and presented the "Use of administrative data for statistical purposes". These agencies are the holders of the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) which are needed for administering the CAP implementation in the Member States. The Commission invited the paying agencies to consider the potential benefit of reusing data as much as possible, to cooperate with the statistical offices in order to save time and resources of administrations and farmers, as well as to adapt the subsidy forms to include such information that helps to identify the farmer, link the statistical data with administrative registers.
- Regarding the use of the **vineyard register** for European statistics, Eurostat organised a lunchtime event including a presentation by INE Portugal on 9 June 2017.
- Eurostat participated in several meetings of the **Committee for Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets – Subgroup Wine**. In a meeting end November 2017 Eurostat gave a presentation on "Structural vineyard statistics 2015 – Vineyard register as mandatory source" and improvements of the vineyard register were discussed. Vineyard data collection was integrated into the Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS) regulation which was adopted on 18th July 2018.

4 CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of information gathered during the three **Task Force meetings** and the exchange with Member States some conclusions have been drawn. There has been general agreement that, under the current budget and resource constraints, using administrative data for statistical purposes is an opportunity that cannot be missed, also thanks to the availability of integrated administrative data sources. The Task Force converged to a model of gradual (over time) and partial (limited to main concepts) integration. (All documents, presentations, and minutes are available on Circabc.)

- Actions are needed to reduce burden and increase quality of agricultural statistics, and the use of administrative data is a key aspect in this work.
- A minimum requirement is for NSI's to have access to IACS and at least some harmonisation and explanation of differences of concepts between IACS and agricultural statistics.
- Administrative data may be used for:
 - Setting up and maintaining statistical farm registers
 - Replacing survey data from statistical questionnaires
 - Validating and checking statistical data
- A full integration between IACS and agricultural statistics is not possible, as some concepts in statistics need to be stable, and cannot follow policies. However, deeper alignment of concepts should be pursued in the long term, with a view to adapt statistical *legislation as much as possible*. *In the short term, efforts should concentrate on explaining the conceptual discrepancies between concepts and their impact on the data produced.*

- *Actions and solutions must take into account differences between countries. There is a need to agree on where integration is needed, taking into account policy needs.*
- The use of administrative sources is broader than IACS. Many other sources are to be considered.
- One aim was to increase the share of variables coming from administrative sources in the FSS 2016.

The importance of using administrative data in agricultural statistics is one of the key pillars of the **Strategy on Agricultural Statistics 2020 and Beyond**² that was agreed by the ESSC in November 2015, after intensive discussion with stakeholders and in the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics (CPSA) and Directors Group of Agricultural Statistics (DGAS) meetings. The importance of administrative data is clearly visible in the Framework Regulation on Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS) that was adopted 18 July 2018.

Improving the usability of administrative data as well as access to these data sources has also been discussed with DG AGRI, when preparing IFS and for the use of vineyard registers in structural statistics on vineyards.

5 ANNEXES

Table	
ANNEX I	Summary 2013 GRANTS
ANNEX II	Summary 2014 GRANTS
ANNEX III	Summary 2015 GRANTS

² [Strategy document on Eurostat website](#)

2013 GRANTS

COUNTRY	GRANT TITLE	IACS – MAIN PURPOSE OF PROJECT	CONCLUSIONS – SUMMARY (extraction from final reports)
BULGARIA	Pilot studies in the framework of linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics.	Identify all registers linked to agriculture, create computer modules for accessing and extracting data, but also look into the statistical data collection methods to take advantage of the CAP support systems in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IACS data is highly comparable and can be used to determine the area under arable and permanent crops in large farms. Small farms should be covered by sample surveys (outside IACS) with permanent crops as well as the area under vegetables, specific crops (tobacco, protein, medical crops etc.) (outside IACS). • The vineyard register data, administered by EAVW can be used to determine the vineyards structure, but further research is necessary to assess the data timeliness and the register scope. • The farm register according to the Ordinance № 3/1999 can be used to identify new holdings and to update the addresses of the existing holdings. The available data on area should be considered indicative. • The VetIS does not meet the requirements for timeliness of information. At this stage the available data can be used for individual records, data control or to replace missing data for large farms as well as identification of new holdings. • The information from administrative sources can be used for statistical farm register update and statistical surveys' population determination. • The Agrostatistics department will continue its cooperation with the institutions supporting the administrative sources, to discuss and take action to improve the level of comparability between the sources and the gradual transition to administrative sources use for statistical purposes. • Data comparison between the sources is needed for the next few years before a final decision for the direct use of data from administrative registers <p>Sustainability of the results The completed project activities facilitate the data receipt from administrative registers. The established link with the information system VetIS allows for direct data access and preparation of various reports. A module in the vineyard register provides timely current data on indicators available in the register. Certain characteristics and deadlines for data submission from the SFA have been specified for transmission over a secure channel, thus facilitating the</p>

2013 GRANTS

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			communication exchange of high volumes of data processed in their information systems
<u>CROATIA</u>	Pilot studies in the framework of linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics.	Analyse the possibility of linking the IACS to the Farm Register and describe the problems and solutions. Analyse also other registers. In addition, create IT applications. Focus on the animal registers.	<p>Activity 1: Analysis of the current situation in the available administrative sources</p> <p>In CBS, the Statistical Farm Register (SRAH) has been established on the base of the data from Census of Agriculture 2003 and updated with the data from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical business register • Register of agricultural holdings of Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural development (IACS) • Regular statistical surveys (crop statistics, livestock surveys and FSS) • Wine register <p>The structure of the SRAH provides the data concerning identification of the farm as well as wide scope of the agricultural variables.</p> <p>Furthermore, the possibility of direct use of agricultural administrative registers as the statistical information need to be investigated. The Croatian paying agency includes crops in the application for single payments, so crops can be available for all farms. Additionally, there is also possibility to include crops in LPIS in the nearest future. Thus, the more extensive exploration of IACS data for statistical purposes is expected.</p> <p>The second important admin source is Unique Register of domestic animals. Data from cattle, sheep and goat registers are updated on current basis by veterinary service. However, the definitions should be compromised between statistics and the registers. Thus, the potential for statistical use of the above-mentioned register is immense, namely update of SRAH and direct use as statistical data substitution. However, the situation with pig register is more complicated because the frequency of updating should be additionally improved. Nevertheless, the data from this register may be used for update of SRAH. It has to be clearly stated that the access to all administrative registers is free of charge and legally justified on basis of the Statistical Annual Program. Furthermore, data from registers are available few years back. This situation</p>

2013 GRANTS

COUNTRY	GRANT TITLE	IACS – MAIN PURPOSE OF PROJECT	CONCLUSIONS – SUMMARY (extraction from final reports)
			gives opportunity for more precise data validation, either.
LITHUANIA	Pilot studies in the framework of linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics.	As Statistics Lithuania already uses some administrative data for statistical purposes: Prefill FSS 2013 questionnaires with crop and animal data. Analyse this work and see if animal registers can be used for livestock statistics. Compare the data from the registers to the farm data for analysing the feasibility. Carry out the livestock production surveys 2015 according to the new methodology. In addition, analyse the possibility of using data from the Agricultural and Rural Business Register for the FSS labour force.	<p>1. The number of cattle, dairy cows, bulls (1–2 years old and 2 years old and older), heifers (1–2 years old and 2 years old and older), suckling and other cows, sheep and goats from the Animal Register can be used for the purposes of the annual statistical livestock survey on farmers’ and family farms. However, in addition to the Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008 requirements, Statistics Lithuania collects data on livestock flows for national purposes. In the Animal Register, the quality of livestock flows data is not sufficient for the annual statistical survey. Therefore, the best solution is to prefill the statistical survey questionnaire with data on the total number of cattle, dairy cows, bulls (1–2 years old and 2 years old and older), heifers (1–2 years old and 2 years old and older), suckling and other cows, sheep and goats from the Animal Register, ask farmers to present data on livestock flows and to allow correcting prefilled Animal Register data, if needed.</p> <p>2. In the Animal Register, pigs, rabbits, poultry, beehives, fur animals are registered by herd. Data on the number of these farm animals in herds are available in the Animal Register. Therefore, the number of pigs, rabbits, poultry, beehives, fur animals on farms can be estimated and used for the purposes of the annual statistical livestock survey on farmers’ and family farms. However, these data should be prefilled in the statistical survey questionnaire and a possibility for farms to change this information during the survey should be provided.</p> <p>3. In the Animal Register, the livestock flow balance (number of livestock on 31 December 2012 + birth + purchase – sale – slaughter – losses = number of livestock on 31 December 2013) is not correct on almost all farms. This balance is important for national purposes. Therefore, data from the Animal Register on livestock flow cannot be used for the annual statistical livestock survey purposes.</p> <p>4. The methodology developed during this project cannot be used for the statistical livestock survey in agricultural companies and enterprises. For national purposes, all agricultural companies should break down their data on</p>

2013 GRANTS

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			<p>livestock by region. Each agricultural company or enterprise must fill in one questionnaire for each municipality. However, at the moment, there is no possibility to break down data on livestock from the Animal Register by municipality. All livestock is recorded in one municipality – i.e. in the municipality where the farm centre is located. Nevertheless, another option will be analysed in the future. Agricultural companies whose farm animals are located in one municipality will be selected. For this purpose, data from previous statistical surveys will be used. Prefilling will be done only for these selected farms. For those having livestock in several municipalities, prefilling is not feasible at the moment.</p> <p>5. For statistical surveys in which livestock flow data are not required, the Animal Register data can be used directly. Such a statistical survey is the Farm Structure Survey. An analysis which was carried out during this project showed that the Animal Register data can be used for the Farm Structure Survey 2016. Animal Register data on cattle, sheep, goats and horses will be used directly for the purposes of this survey; direct questioning on this matter is not foreseen.</p> <p>6. The analysis conducted during this project showed that it is not appropriate to use Agriculture and Rural Business Register data on labour force working on a regular basis for the FSS needs. During the registration of the holding, a holder should present information about workers working in the holding. However, holders should indicate only a few matters: if they work on a regularly basis or not; how long they work (number of months) in the holding. In fact, this information is not sufficient for the FSS purposes. For the FSS purposes, it is better to use another data source – the State Social Insurance Fund Board' database. However, this data source is not sufficient as well, because from this database it is not possible to indicate if the worker does farm work or any other work. Therefore, in the FSS questionnaire, a direct question about the labour force working on a regular basis is necessary. The State Social Insurance Fund Board' database can be used for data control.</p> <p>7. Data from the Agriculture and Rural Business Register on farm holders and their family members can be used only for the FSS data control. The direct use</p>

2013 GRANTS

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			<p>of these data in the FSS 2016 is not feasible at present, because in most cases only the persons who have land or farm animals are registered in this register. Work on the farm is not so important; therefore, a smaller than the actual number of family members doing farm work can be recorded.</p> <p>8. The Agriculture and Rural Business Register data can be used for improving the process of the compilation of the FSS population. Until now, the FSS population was formed using the Crop Declaration Database and the Animal Register. However, using such data sources, some existing farms might be divided into separate farms. For example, if a husband declares crops via IACS and a wife registers farm animals, they might be considered as two separate farms. The Agriculture and Rural Business Register will help to avoid such confusions. Using the unique farm identifier (identification number of the holding), attributed to the agricultural holding during their registration procedure in the Agriculture and Rural Business Register, these two separate holdings will be merged into one.</p>
HUNGARY	Pilot studies in the framework of linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics.	Adapt and develop the information structures to gain access to IACS and other administrative registers, improve data transfer while also developing and testing new methodological approaches regarding data collection to reduce burden. Also improve the internal data flow and set up farm registers, including processes for their maintenance.	<p>The main objectives of the project were the followings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing agricultural statistics so that data that are already available are not collected again, thus reducing the burden on both respondents and the statistical systems. - Creating access to administrative data for statistics by adapting the information systems - Adapting the statistical collection methods to take advantage of the support systems that are already in place. <p>An especially efficient working relationship has been maintained between the staff of the HCSO as one of the largest data recipients and ARDA, which is proven by both the Cooperation Agreement on data delivery and the current joint research project. During the joint work activities, exactly because in the matters of ARDA, “one has to be able to ask good questions”, a successful practice of holding a consultation session was introduced before each data request, during which the goal of utilization and the available scope of data and data structure are clarified. By doing so, the data requirements can be defined</p>

2013 GRANTS

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			<p>in an optimized way, i.e. it is the data that are available or can be generated with the least possible effort that ARDA send by a realistic deadline and which suits the needs of HCSO, furthermore, HCSO will receive data whose content and meaning are accurately defined in advance.</p> <p>During our joint work, a special data requirement has emerged several times. This means such a data requirement which reaches beyond the forms of support taken in the strict sense of the word, e.g. it includes data on support related to animals or crops, independent from funds or resources, or the location of the land areas of a farmer registered in a specific settlement (beyond the border of the county, etc.), so it involves a new basis for the grouping of ARDA data, it generates a new database organization task.</p> <p>The joint project continued from the autumn of 2015 on the basis of the invitation of the Eurostat tender, its goal being the review of the options of utilizing the Client Register kept by ARDA and the data of the applications for support for statistical purposes, in the context of which the data structures and contents, the options of utilizing them for statistical purposes, their links to other databases, as well as the concept of a potential future development are reviewed.</p>
AUSTRIA	Agricultural and forestry labour force – evaluation of alternative data sources with scope on reducing respondents' burden.	The work focused on identifying possible other sources for FSS labour force: 1) EU SILC, 2) EU LFS, 3) Register-based national labour-market statistics. In addition the project aimed at analysing the FSS LF chapter in more depth and to give potential alternatives to the EU discussions Matched the LM register with FSS at micro-level to see if they can be used in parallel.	<p>Considering the present analysis results as a whole, the data from the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Organisations (HV) appears to be the data source that could be called upon for possible use as administrative data with regard to determining the farm labour force within the framework of the Farm Structure Survey.</p> <p>This data is not able to fully depict the current gradation of questions; however, it enables four different scenarios to be drawn up whereby recording the labour force within the framework of the Farm Structure Survey could be conceivable in future.</p> <p>All other data sources (EU-SILC, MC, etc.) that were examined in conjunction with this grant cannot be used to answer the list of questions about the farm labour force within the framework of the FSS and cannot therefore be used to replace direct questioning of the respondents.</p>

2013 GRANTS

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POLAND	Provide wider and faster access to data in IACS, and also to reduce the burden on respondents by working out a method of broadening the scope of data obtained from a farmer during applying for direct payments.	Develop a methodology for using IACS data, adjusting the IT systems and changing data collection systems to facilitate the use of administrative data. Try to adapt also IACS, not only one-way actions. Work to be carried out in collaboration with experts from the MoA and the Payment Agency	<p>Tasks completed under the project created conditions for the polish official statistics enabling broader acquisition of data from IACS, which will contribute to improvement in the quality of the sampling frame for agricultural surveys and will expand the scope of variables used directly for statistical surveys. It will enable to limit the collection of data in statistical surveys directly from respondents.</p> <p>Completed activities, developed solutions and the knowledge acquired during the trips under the project, will enable achieving the following benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better satisfaction of key users' needs: government and local government administration concerning information reflecting the changes occurring in agriculture and its environment. 2. Increase in the consistency of data in different administrative systems. 3. Increase in the interoperability of administrative registers – sharing information and knowledge by the exchange of data using ICT systems. 4. Improving the quality, including the completeness of collected data in the surveys conducted on random samples. 5. Provision of basic sources of information for updating the statistical register of agricultural holdings and statistical surveys. 6. Delivery of up-to-date data source for analyses and comparisons with regard to agricultural data collected under representative agricultural surveys. 7. Reduction of administrative burden of respondents delivering data for statistics. 8. Assigning subjectivity to the agricultural holding. 9. Clear identification of an agricultural holding in administrative registers - creation of a standard agricultural holding identifier. 10. Establishment of a reference register in the scope of information on agricultural holdings. 11. Gathering information on all agricultural holdings in one register.

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SLOVENIA	Use of administrative data in statistical survey on use of pesticides in agriculture	<p>Concentrate on pesticide statistics as Slovenia reported on having an extensive experience in using administrative data for years. Now possibility of accessing pesticide use data from the PPP register (compulsory for all users of pesticides). Pilot phase with a test survey to test the procedures and preparations of the IT applications. The final result to benefit both the SORS and the pesticide authority, as well as Eurostat.</p>	<p>Data collection – The data input in the pilot survey was performed with a Blaise procedure. The final questionnaire (consolidated form for pesticide use report to the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection) was slightly changed asking just for areas sown with treated seeds without any question on the plant protection product used for treatment.</p> <p>IT applications – An Oracle database was filled in with data directly from Blaise input procedure. All code lists needed were implemented. For the regular survey only slight changes were needed. Logical control of the digitised data set, data output, tables for analysis, tables for reporting, tables for publication were not implemented at this stage because the pilot survey was done with only 128 reporting units and because it was at that time known that all new surveys would be carried out with a meta driven approach with the use of a generalized software tool not yet completed at that moment.</p> <p>Call for records of PPP applications – launched by the UVHVVR on 27/10/14 for a sample of 9,000 reporting units chosen by SURS according to Article 19 of the Plant Protection Products Act (OJ RS No. 83/2012). All received answers were transferred to SURS and digitised.</p> <p>Collection of paper data, coding and digitising data, logical control, statistical data analysis, data aggregation, verification of final results – All reports received by the UVHVVR were transferred to SURS where they were digitised, coded and imported into an Oracle database. This was the first version of raw administrative data and was transferred to the UVHVVR for their analysis. Then, separately SURS implemented procedures of statistical data editing with a meta driven approach: logical checks, deterministic, systematic and individual corrections and imputations, tables for analysis; tables for reporting, tables for publication were produced also with a meta driven approach with the use of a generalized software tool consisting of SAS macros.</p> <p>Transfer of raw data in database form to the UVHVVR – Transfer of raw data on a protected CD to the UVHVVR from the pilot survey was performed on 19/05/14 and those from the regular survey on 06/05/15. They were in the</p>

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			form of excel sheets as a table for crops and areas and as a table for plant protection products and quantities in the questionnaire and additionally as a sheet with both data merged for analysis. The report on the first five-year effects of the national Action Plan is being prepared and the discussion on the possible indicators is still going on.

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<u>GRECE</u>	Pilot studies in the framework of linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics.	<p>The objectives of this action are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to upgrade the quality and timeliness of all agricultural statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT, as the Register is the basis for: the design of these surveys (design, sample selection, etc.), the analysis of the structure of agricultural holdings and their temporal evolution, and the verification of the results, • the preparation to meet the requirements for compiling new statistics in agriculture at a European level, • to improve consistency, at the level of definitions and/or content, between the farm register of ELSTAT and registers held in other administrative sources such as the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (MRDF), the Payment and Control Agency for Guidance and Guarantee Community Aid (OPEKEPE) etc, aiming at their interconnection. 	<p>From an administrative point of view, ELSTAT has realized the steps necessary to set up the managerial structure necessary for the implementation of the action, and this structure, in turn, undertook the relevant actions, namely the appointment of experts and drafting the MoU with OPEKEPE in a timely manner. The experts were readily involved in the action producing the required results within the time schedule.</p> <p>Obtaining a correspondence between the definitions relevant to the data included in OPEKEPE's database and those included in ELSTAT Farm Register was challenging but came to a completion. Possible correspondence gaps were covered by the request to OPEKEPE to include additional data in their database.</p> <p>The correspondence in terms of definitions allowed for an initial operational mapping of the various variables/fields of the two databases, which was formulated into a process designed to update or complement ELSTAT Farm Register based on OPEKEPE's data.</p> <p>Testing of this process provided adequate correspondence between the two databases and promising results in terms of record linkage between the two registers. In order to further improve the performance of the procedure, a set of future actions has been planned, notably for implementation in the 2016 FSS.</p>
<u>ITALIE</u>	Pilot studies in the framework of linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics.	<p><u>ACTION 1:</u> Setting up the Italian statistical register (SFR)</p> <p>The general objective of the action is to develop, for the first time in Italy, a SFR with the purpose of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - selecting random samples of agricultural holdings, including stratified random samples, to be contacted for statistical surveys; 	<p><u>ACTION 1:</u></p> <p>The action carried out has reached the important objective of developing, for the first time in Italy, a statistical register of the agricultural holdings (SFR) using information coming from statistical and administrative sources. The SFR represents a key role in the framework of the agricultural statistical system of Italy. In fact, it will represent the Base Statistical Register containing the necessary information for a specific statistical population i.e. the agricultural holdings. It will be used as a frame for selecting samples of agricultural holdings. Until now, it has been already used for defining the samples and the weights of the 2016 FSS and of 2017 crop forecast survey. Moreover, it provides direct statistics on the main structural data of the agricultural</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - defining the weighting structure to be used to provide grossed up representative results for sample surveys; - providing immediate authoritative information on the current structure of agricultural holdings; - providing longitudinal analyses on historical trends in the overall structure of agricultural holdings; - incorporating information from different statistical and administrative sources to update the register. <p>The specific objectives of the action are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to achieve the most suitable methodology for setting up and maintenance the Italian SFR, based on integration of administrative and statistical sources, considering IACS, Livestock register, FSS and Business Register the most important of them; - to implement the first release of the Italian SFR with reference data 2012. 	<p>holdings (area by crops, livestock, labour units, etc.) in the country.</p> <p>The methodology adopted is based on the integration of administrative and statistical sources. The SFR updating process is carried out on an annual basis, using the most update administrative and statistical sources. In this view, the 2010 Agricultural Census has been used in the first version of the SFR prototype as benchmark then it is used as a source to be integrated with the others for identifying units with such characteristics (Common land, units with poultry) not covered by other sources.</p> <p>The very relevant source of information is the IACS that covers both information at agricultural holding and territorial levels; the presence of such a source determines the possibility to realize the SFR, for such a reason any changes in administrative prerequisites or laws affecting the IACS have to be carefully monitored as they impact on the Farm register production process. Another significant source of information is the cadaster, a deep analysis of the cadaster parcels by holder has been carried out and compared with the IACS parcels. It has let to identify potential parcels duplicated, transfer among the holders and, successively, single units both technically and economically (definition of the agricultural holdings). The Italian SFR includes all the eligible units identified in the sources regardless of their size. It means that any physical thresholds could be chosen, ex-post, for fulfilling the coverage of specific surveys. Because of that, once the physical thresholds have been chosen, it let to estimate the contribution of the units excluded from the total in terms of total utilized agricultural or livestock units according with the EU legislation.</p> <p>The experience acquired during the action has let to focus that pre-treatments of the sources and the choice of the eligible rules are the most sensitive parts of the process. The former is a fundamental prerequisite for the integration of the sources and the latter influences the number of the eligible units in the SFR. Regarding the first point, a deep study of the metadata of each source has been carried out for implementing the necessary changes in the databases in order to avoid duplications and to fulfill the statistical definitions and classifications. For the second point, the approach</p>

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		<p><u>ACTION 2:</u> improving crops statistics using IACS data</p> <p>At present, two data sources exist and the main goals of the action 2 consist in removing the discrepancies among them and elaborating statistical models able to transform the actual administrative data of AGEA system of declarations into statistical ones, usable to be coupled to or to substitute Regions' estimates. Some first elaborations refer to the years 2011, 2012 and 2013. A basic sub-action is going to investigate on the definitions actually used in the AGEA declarations system and on the activities to be planned in order to fill the gap with respect to statistical definitions.</p>	<p>was to use the same methodology adopted for building up the pre-census list in 2009 but using the results of the 2010 agricultural Census 2010, of the 2011 Post Enumeration Survey and of the 2015 RiCoFaRm for validating or modifying the rules. It is important underline that the signals coming from the surveys have not been always clear for all the rules. Therefore a margin of uncertainty remains for some rules. This problem could be minimized in future attributing a probability value of being an agricultural holding at each unit in the SFR (from 0 to 100%).</p> <p>A further improvement for the future years it is to integrate in the process statistical sources not considered until now as 2016 FSS, half-yearly livestock surveys, FADN and crop forecast surveys</p> <p><u>ACTION 2:</u></p> <p>The results show that administrative data collected by the Italian agency for payment in agriculture can be used for statistical purposes. Even though the analysis was carried out along few years only and the empirical attempts carried out so far have been limited to the Apulia Region and to some main Italian cultivations, the degree of completeness and of overall reliability of the database seemed to be quite satisfactory. Moreover, administrative data show more regular seasonal pattern and more realistic yearly production fluctuations than the Regions estimates actually used.</p> <p>Moreover, data exchange between ISTAT and AGEA need to be more formalized and regularized, since timeliness and completeness of data supply will be fundamental in view of the progressive introduction of estimates based on AGEA data into the ISTAT official crops statistics.</p> <p>As regards current crop statistics, results show that administrative data collected by the Italian agency for payment in agriculture can be used for statistical purposes. Even though the analysis does not concern yield, was carried out along 2 years only and the empirical attempts carried out so far have been limited to some kinds of cultivations, the overall reliability of the database is quite satisfactory.</p> <p>Even though results discussed in the report are promising, and no huge</p>

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			<p>discrepancies between survey and administrative data occurred, at the moment ISTAT is not going to introduce the use of IACS data within the crop statistics framework. The main reason is that the first, basic condition for doing that is to guarantee the steadiness and the continuity along time of the degree of cooperation between ISTAT and IACS authority. Actually, a new memorandum of understanding between the two bodies is still under discussion and has not been signed</p>
ROUMANIE	<p>Pilot studies in the framework of linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics.</p>	<p>The objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating the access to IACS - Setting up a cooperation Protocol between NIS and the Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture (subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) in order to assure the access of NIS to IACS microdata; - Examining and explaining the main differences of concepts between IACS and agricultural statistics • Map the existing overlap between IACS and the Farm Register (FR) - List of units existing in both registers - List of common characteristics existing in both registers - Analysing the obtained results - Assess the main reasons of the differences between IACS and FR • Studying the possibility of 	<p>The analysis performed on databases FR and IACS, having as reference years 2010 and 2013, led to the following conclusions regarding the future use of IACS variables in agricultural statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One of the biggest problems is the lack of a unique common identifier in the the two databases (FR and IACS) ➤ The only linking keys available between the two databases are the PIN (Personal Identification Number) and CUI (fiscal code). In case of agricultural holdings with legal personality (UPJ) they are registered according to the CUI. In case of agricultural holdings without legal personality (FPJ) within FR, they contain the PIN of the head of the holding. A problem of this category of units is the lack, in many cases, of the PIN, because the PIN registration was not compulsory at FSS 2010 (FR was created on the bases of FSS 2010 data). It resulted also, many cases when the PIN from IACS was not the same as that in FR. The reason of such situations was mentionned within this report. ➤ The data from IACS could not be taken over in the agricultural statistics as such. The comparison of IACS data with those coming from FSS 2013 revealed that only 29% of the number of agricultural holdings and 76.2% of total UAA in FSS 2013 were covered by the IACS records. ➤ Another problem is the methodological one. Although the agricultural holding definition is the same for both sources, many agricultural holdings within FR were divided in several, in order to be eligible for subsidies, and thus they were multiplied in IACS.

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		<p>implementing a unique identifier for IACS and FR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description of the possible framework for using a unique identifier for IACS and FR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The conclusion that could be drawn after the analysis carried out for the two reference years 2010 and 2013 is that in Romania are not yet accomplished the necessary quality requirements for using administrative data from IACS instead of agriculture statistics. According to Art.4 – „Sources of information” of the Regulation no. 1166/2008, the Member States could use administrative data sources, like IACS, only if the information from these sources “is of at least the quality of information obtained from statistical surveys”. ➤ The strategy for the future use of administrative sources in agricultural statistics assumes the extension of the analysis carried out within this project, using data from reference year 2016 eventually taking over the unique identification code of agricultural holdings from UIR (IACS). A new comparative analysis might offer new information on data quality in perspective of their embedding in the strategy approach of farm structure surveys starting with 2020. In this respect, a comparative analysis of IACS indicators with those from agricultural statistics based on the thresholds proposed in the draft regulation on Integrated Farm Statistics was done. The conclusions are described at point 7 of the present report.

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LATVIA	Pilot studies in the framework of linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics.	<p>The main objective of the action is to provide quality agriculture statistics by identifying possible ways to improve synergies and efficiency between existing data sources, the data already collected for administrative purposes in order to use all the available sources for production of agricultural statistics.</p> <p>The main aims of the project include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing and testing new methodological approaches regarding data collection that would reduce response burden by improving synergy between statistical surveys and administrative data collection – Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) and Organic Farming Register (OFR) and agriculture statistics. • improvement of the internal data flow and data treatment, evaluating the changes in IACS database structure after implementation of the new CAP reform, and options for further use for the needs of agricultural statistics: production of statistics and update of the Statistical Farm Register (SFR). • improvement of the methodology for the use of OFR information for provision of statistical data for FSS needs and SFR information update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce respondent burden and increase quality of agricultural statistics – utilisation of administrative data is a key aspect in this work. • Production of agricultural statistics requires wide use of administrative registers or linkage thereof with information from statistical surveys. A good system has been established, and it allows reducing respondent burden significantly. • In 2016, with an aim to eliminate overlapping between administrative data and statistical surveys in terms of common questions in different forms the CSB reviewed statistical questionnaires. As a result, starting from 2017 instead of quarterly data collection from holdings the data on production of animal products will be calculated mainly based on the administrative sources. The number of indicators in respective questionnaires diminished by 58 % thus reducing also burden on livestock farms. • In order to improve quality when integrating registers and surveys for needs of agricultural statistics, the aspect of accuracy is the key issue to be considered for further development. In addition, to facilitate adaptation of administrative information to the needs of livestock statistics and to improve quality of animal statistics, within the framework of the grant project “Further Investigation on Data Validation in Animal Production Statistics in the Framework VIP Validation Project” an additional application “Animal Statistics” was created. • When linking and matching different registers, it is necessary to know all the definitions and any comparability problems. It is also important that the usage of administrative data is documented to facilitate future development. • The problem associated with the use of administrative data sources includes incoherence of definitions of register objects and agricultural statistics objects: in RSS IACS register responding unit is natural or legal person applying for EU support, in ADC Animal register – owner of the livestock herd, in Organic Farming register – natural or legal person who has received organic farming certificate, but in agricultural statistics – agricultural holding. It imposed additional burden on statisticians, but the advantage of the SFR is that register contains information not only about

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		<p>with an aim to improve statistical data quality and control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improvement of methodology for adaptation of IACS database and OFR data for SFR needs with an aim to reduce response burden. 	<p>owner of the farm, but also about household members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of the data exchange within national register holders and CSB is very important. In our case, cooperation is good; it is based on mutual agreements ensuring sustainability of using administrative data also in future. In addition, all the changes foreseen in administrative registers must be aligned with statistics. Harmonization of differences of concepts and definitions between IACS and agricultural statistics is the main pre-conditions for qualitative linking of IACS with statistics. Due to the insufficient quality of data on number of pigs in Animal Register, the survey data on number of pigs cannot be replaced with the ADC register data. One of the most important pre-conditions in ensuring high-quality when linking administrative registers and statistics is related to precise and good teamwork among statisticians and IT staff, because adaptation of administrative data for statistical use is very complex process. Synergy and efficiency between existing data sources in using all possible sources for production of agricultural statistics may be possibly improved.
<u>POLAND</u>	Pilot studies in the framework of linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics.	<p><u>General objective</u></p> <p>The general objective of the action is submission of proposal for solutions (methodological, IT) for wider use of administrative data sources, in particular IACS in agriculture statistics.</p> <p><u>Specific objectives</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of new solutions - support systems for using administrative registers in agriculture statistics (integration platform). Acquisition for Polish Official Statistics of good practices concerning the use 	<p>The Project's objectives have been fully achieved. The work progressed as arranged and scheduled The following elements developed within the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the concept of a system supporting the use of administrative registers in agricultural statistics (integration platform), new methods of compiling agricultural statistics solely on the basis of administrative data using one register and through linking data from several administrative registers, the concept of a Unique Agricultural Holding Identifier, will be subject to further work with a perspective of implementing them in the agricultural statistics practice. These elements will enable the modernisation and development of agricultural statistics through a broader use of administrative data and limiting direct collection of data from respondents. <p>Building the Integration Platform and the Agricultural Holding Identifier will positively influence the quality of official statistics and other administrative</p>

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		<p>of administrative registers in agriculture statistics and gain knowledge on development work carried out in other Member States, in this respect.</p> <p>3. Assessing the possibilities for wider use of administrative registers as direct data sources for agriculture statistics.</p> <p>4. Development of a unique identifier of farms and a plan for its implementation.</p> <p>Acquiring knowledge and new experiences in the field of the use of administrative registers in agriculture statistics and in the scope of tools construction - systems supporting the use of administrative data as data sources for agriculture statistics.</p>	<p>systems, including those used for survey purposes, in particular through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – creating systemic solutions improving the availability and quality of data in administrative registers and increasing the possibility of their repeated use, – automation of access to data from other administrative registers, – increasing the coherence and the possibility of integrating administrative registers. <p>The new methods of compiling agricultural statistics will bring tangible benefits in the form of lowering survey implementation costs for the producers and respondents.</p> <p>The solutions produced by the project will be developed further with a view to being implemented in the agricultural statistics practice. These solutions will facilitate the modernisation and development of agricultural statistics through a broader use of administrative data and limited direct collection of data from respondents. Building the Integration Platform and the Agricultural Holding Identifier will have a positive impact on the quality of official statistics and other administrative systems, including those used for survey purposes. The new methodology of compiling agricultural statistics will bring tangible benefits in the form of lower survey costs for the producers and respondents. The experience and knowledge acquired during the project will be used for designing new surveys and modernising the existing ones. The work on obtaining broader access to data from administrative systems will also be continued.</p> <p>During the work implemented by the CSO in cooperation with the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture, the range of tasks to be implemented after the completion of the project was agreed upon to contribute to a broader use of data from administrative registers in statistics. The deeper cooperation between statistics staff and the ARIMR within the project contributed to a better understanding of the needs and problems of official statistics, which will result in a broader use of new data sources and reduced respondent burden.</p> <p>The knowledge and experience gained by the CSO representatives during the</p>

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			study visits will be used for the modernisation of currently implemented and newly developed surveys and in the preparatory work for PSR 2020.
FINLAND	Pilot studies in the framework of linking IACS and other administrative registers and statistics.	<p>The specific objective of the action is to develop procedures to calculate the following FSS 2016 data and animal statistics data from register data to reduce the response burden in farm surveys and reducing the information collected directly from the farms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Crop rotation (FSS variable "Share of arable land included in crop rotation"), source register: IACS parcel data from the Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs (Mavi). 2) Farm relief workers' amount of work (part of the FSS variable "non-family labour employed on a non-regular basis"), source register: The Finnish Farmers' Social Insurance Institution (Mela). 3) Number of pigs, sheep and goats, source registers: Pig register and Sheep and Goat register maintained by the Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira). <p>General objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To investigate possibilities for a broader analysis of crop rotation based on the IACS parcel data including the new geospatial parcel data obtained from the farmers through farm subsidy administration from the year 2015 on. 2) To pilot the use and examine the quality 	<p>1)-In the future, the developed calculation method will be used in the production of crop rotation characteristics for farm statistics. Besides the analysis of monoculture area, it is possible to use the method and the geospatial data of field parcels for a broader analysis of crop rotation by tracking any defined sequence of different crops. The potential enhancement in the use of geospatial data, for example through an access to the data by SAS-EG, may enable the execution of the analysis using solely the geospatial data that indicates the location of individual crop species within field parcels.</p> <p>2) It was concluded that Mela's data can be used to calculate farm relief workers' amount of work in the FSS 2016 and in the future statistics. Mela's data contained farmers' personal ID, but some data lacked farm ID. In these cases IACS was an essential tool providing the connection between personal IDs of farmers and farm IDs.</p> <p>It is likely that Mela's data gives more correct values than farm surveys, because Mela's data should effectively cover all farms that have used publicly supported relief workers. The work of the relief workers that are not included in Mela's register will be collected in farm surveys in the future, too.</p> <p>3) It was found feasible to calculate pig numbers for FSS classified according to weight from the register numbers classified according to age. This method will be used in the future to obtain farm specific pig numbers for FSS or Statistics on Agricultural Input and Output (SAIO). For now, information on the number of pigs in December is collected from farmers by means of sample surveys that use a weight-based categorisation according to Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008. It was found difficult to convert the numbers of pigs reported in the pig register into these categories that are more detailed than those of the FSS. If Eurostat's categorisation of pigs were based on age, the pig register could be used more extensively in quantitative statistics and it would not be necessary to ask farmers for their numbers separately. It might also perhaps be easier for farmers to report pigs according to age groups than weight-based categories.</p>

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		<p>of the individual level register information that can be linked with identifiers to farm level from a register other than IACS as a source of FSS data.</p> <p>3) To evaluate the quality and feasibility of Pig register and Sheep and Goat register as sources of data for animal statistics and FSS.</p>	<p>Categorisation in pig register is based on the needs of administration and it will not change according to Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008. Change of categorisation in pig register would increase burden of farmers heavily. It would be easier and cost effective to produce statistics, if categorisation was not so detailed in the regulation.</p> <p>It was observed that the quality of sheep and goat register data has improved in recent years. The register is now better up-to-date than before. The quality of register data was considered sufficient for use in the production of the numbers of sheep and goats and will be used for this purpose in the future. Slaughter numbers and slaughter weights of sheep and goats are based on data from sheep and goat register since January 2017. Collection of sheep and goat slaughterings data from slaughterhouses is not necessary anymore.</p>