



BEATLES Policy findings

Webinar **“Learning from the Past: Lessons for the New Common Agricultural Policy”** – EUI – Florence School of Regulation

20 January 2026 - Blanca Casares-Guillén

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Funded by the European Union under GA no. 101060645. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or REA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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What we aim to achieve



Encourage long-term and large-scale transitions to sustainable, productive, and climate-smart agriculture



-  Investigate the decision-making **factors** that **facilitate** or **hinder** transition of **agri-food systems** towards **sustainable, productive, and climate-smart practices & behaviours**.
-  Assess the overall **sustainability, environmental & socioeconomic** impact of proposed **behavioural interventions**.
-  Use behavioural insights to **develop transformative pathways**, via **business strategies & policy recommendations**, to encourage transition to fair, healthy & environmentally friendly agri-food systems.
-  Use participatory approaches to **engage multiple value chain stakeholders** in the co-creation of effective transformation pathways to change.

Our Use Cases

- BEATLES has set up **5 Use Case pilots** across **EU regions & agricultural systems**.



Lithuania
Wheat



Denmark
Pig Sector



Spain
Fruit

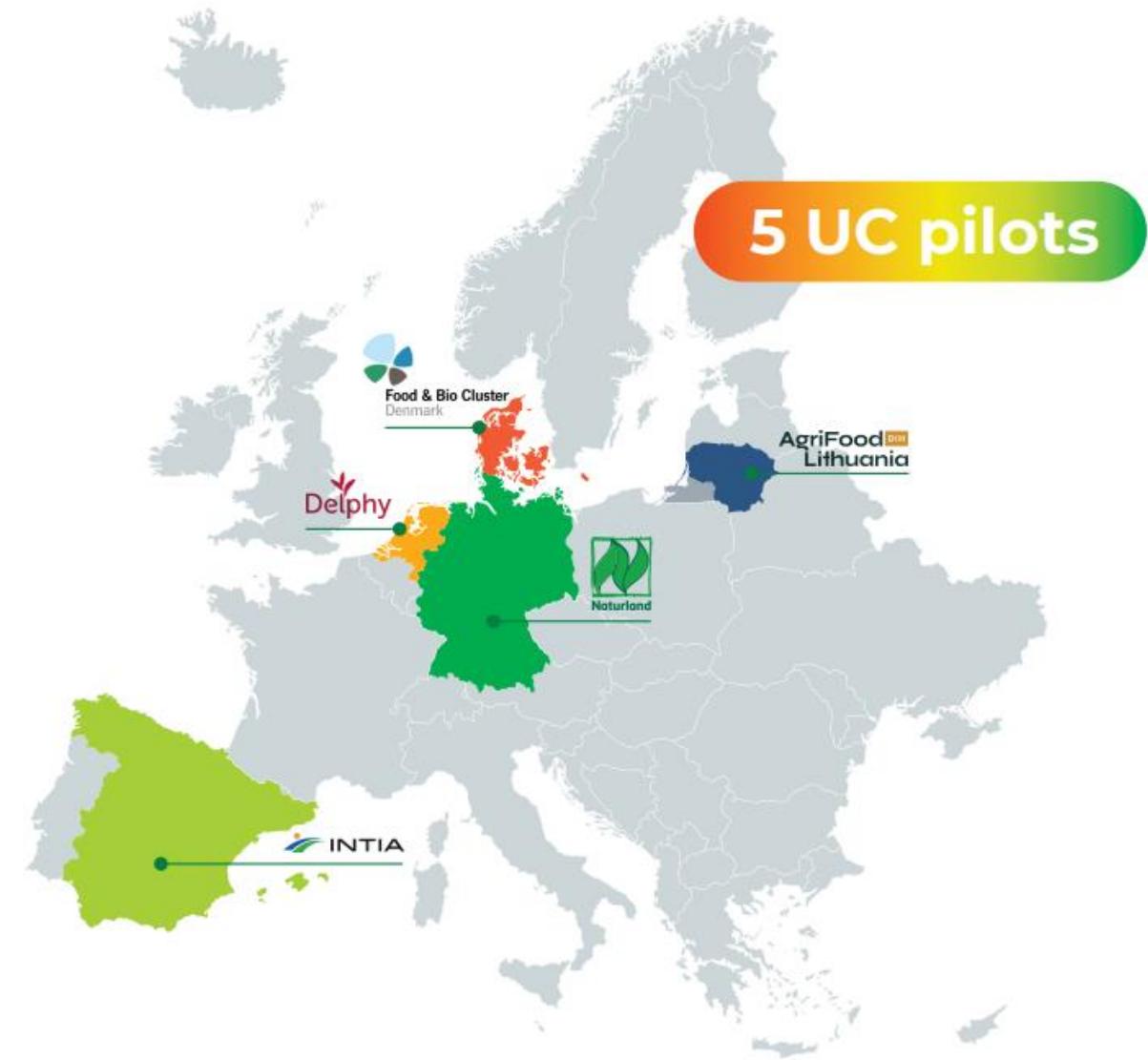


Germany
Dairy



The Netherlands
Onion & Potato

- These systems represent the majority of **EU agricultural exports** & cover **45%** of **agricultural land**.



Policy analysis of CSA practices in BEATLES UCs

UC1 (Lithuania – wheat cultivation)	UC2 (Spain – apple orchard)	UC3 (Germany – dairy farm)	UC4 (Denmark-pig farm)	UC5 (The Netherlands-potato & onion cultivation)
Precision farming	Cover crops	Organic/ Naturland	Slurry handling (frequent discharge and acidification)	Sustainable irrigation
No-tillage system	Organic farming	Feed conversion to 100% forage	Technologies for ventilation	Biodiversity measures (farm level)
(Extensive) wetland management	Grazing	Regional protein source	Use of biogas	Precision fertilization and soil management
Alternative green energy	Floral bands	Breeding for longevity	Green protein for feed	Green energy (ratio of green/grey energy)
Intercropping	Renewable energy (e.g. solar energy)	Agrophotovoltaic systems		Crop protection (all IPM measures, total impact)



CAP interventions - Strategic Plans in each MS

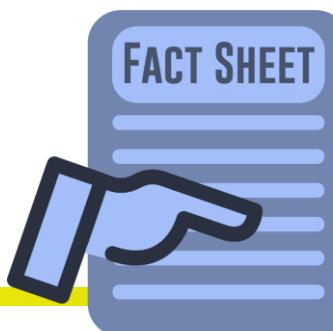


Protein two practices: Regional protein source (Germany) and Green protein for feed (Denmark) perhaps need to be approached differently by analysing imports and exports and other aspects of national strategies.



Energy nature five practices, in which national energy strategies were explored:

- ✗ Alternative green energy
- ✗ Renewable energy (e.g. solar energy)
- ✗ Agrophotovoltaic systems
- ✗ Use of biogas
- ✗ Green energy



CSP interventions for CSA practices

Direct payments (pillar I)		Rural Development (pillar II)	
Eco-schemes:	1% - 21%	Envclim:	0.1% - 12.5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse plant production (DK) Cultivation of diverse crops with at least five main crop species in arable farming, including leguminous crops with a minimum share of 10 percent (DE) Extensification of the total permanent grassland of the holdings (DE) Integrated grassland and wetland management (LT) Extensive wetland (LT) Arable land – Non simultaneous conservation farming technologies (LT) Carbon agriculture: green cover and inert cover on woody crops on flat land (ES), medium slope land (ES) and steep sloping land (ES) Climate, environment and animal welfare (NL) Agroecology: Biodiversity spaces in croplands and permanent crops (ES) Carbon Farming and Agroecology: Extensive Grazing, Mowing and Biodiversity in Humid Grasslands and Mediterranean Grasslands (ES) Activities on arable land - Catch crops (LT) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic farming (DE, ES) Management commitments to: Climate change mitigation (DE); Animal welfare (DE); Integrated production (ES); Sustainable crop commitments (ES); Maintenance or improvement of habitats and traditional farming activities that preserve biodiversity (ES); Soil improvement and erosion control practices (ES); Commitments for the promotion and sustainable management of grassland (ES); Protection of birdlife (ES) Agricultural Nature and Landscape Management (NL) 	
Sectoral Fruit and Vegetables (ES, NL)	2.6% - 9.7%	Invest:	0.2% - 5.5%
BISS (LT, DE, ES, DK; NL)	27% - 64%		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental and climate-friendly technology (DK); Development of small to medium-sized farms (LT); Productive investment for farm modernisation (NL); Investments in agricultural holdings (LT, ES); Non- productive investments on agricultural holdings (NL) and in non-agricultural holdings (NL) Investments in tangible and intangible assets, as well as other actions (ES)

Findings & Recommendations

- ✓ **EU lacks a dedicated policy discourse on CSA**
- ✓ **Fragmented CAP support for CSA** – different national/regional realities; uneven design & implementation across Member States; no specific targets for CSA, fragmentation with other policy instruments, lack of awareness among policy makers and advisers --- *Need to define in the template/IL of NRPPs.*
- ✓ **Fragmented support beyond CAP** – reliance on national subsidies & tax schemes for energy/protein crops - -- *Need to reframe in the upcoming NRPPs*
- ✓ **Need for multidimensional and systemic shift in how fairness is addressed in EU policy-making**
- ✓ **Data & communication gaps** – unclear information, lack of targets, CAP annual performance reports focused in execution --- *Need to strengthen the Performance Framework*
- ✓ **Introduce performance-based metrics that move beyond output indicators to capture real outcomes and impact** such as yield stability under climate stress, water-use efficiency, resilience indices, and improvements in farm income stability.
- ✓ **Knowledge gaps** – policymakers lack clarity on CSA barriers/opportunities/needs; advisors need better training/tools to guide farmers
- ✓ **Stakeholder engagement & evidence-based and participatory evaluation** -scientific methods, communication and involving stakeholders to improve credibility and impact.
- ✓ **Embed the EU Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness as a cross-cutting governance principle applicable to EU agrifood and climate policies.**
- ✓ **Cultural change:** toward collective concern for justice, equity, and the common good.



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Thank you!

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