New opportunities for health in European food & agricultural policies

WEBINAR I 11 May I 14.00-15.30 CET

Part of European Public Health Week 2020
New opportunities for health in European food & agricultural policies

Introduction and moderation by:
Nikolai Pushkarev, Policy Coordinator
Food Systems & NCD Prevention,
European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
What is the 'Farm to Fork' Strategy for sustainable food systems?

EPHA Webinar - 11 May 2020

Rada CHEHLAROVA, Policy officer
DG SANTE Unit E1
The European Green Deal

Transforming the EU's economy for a sustainable future

- Increasing the EU's Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050
- Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy
- Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy
- Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way

And leave No one behind

- Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility
- Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity
- A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment
- From 'Farm to Fork': a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system

Financing the transition

The EU as a global leader

Leave no one behind (Just Transition)

A European Climate Pact

Mobilising research and fostering innovation
Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the ‘Farm to Fork’ Strategy

- Adoption date of the Strategy postponed due to the current crisis
- The current crisis shows:
  - The importance of a **robust** and **resilient food system** capable of ensuring access to a sufficient supply of affordable food for citizens.
  - The importance of a **good health status** of people as the COVID-19 pandemic has been severely affecting people who have serious underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, serious heart conditions or severe obesity.
Farm to Fork’ strategy overall aim remains relevant in the current crisis as no food system can be resilient in the long term if it is unsustainable.
Stimulate sustainable production & consumption from ‘Farm to Fork’

- Primary production (CAP, CFP, animal welfare, organic farming, pesticides, fertilisers, AMR, …)

- Food processing, distribution, food services (packaging, transport, storage...)

- Consumers’ empowerment (food information /awareness/ behavioural change/digital means...)

- Food loss and waste (prevention, valorisation)

- Combat food fraud

- International dimension (support global transition)
Transition to Sustainable food systems - Horizontal enablers

• Role of research & innovation in driving the transition
• Role of advisory services to accelerate the transition
• Financial support to speed up investments and support actions
• Inclusivity /partnerships/ broad societal consensus in favour of sustainable food systems
• Cooperation across governance levels (Role of cities and rural/coastal communities) and policy areas
Timeline

• **Targeted consultations – Q1 2020**

• **Feedback on the Roadmap**: 654 contributions received between 17 February and 20 March 2020

• **Report Group of Chief Scientific Advisors**: Towards a sustainable food system (March 2020)

• **Farm to Fork strategy**: Communication and action plan: planned to be adopted on 20 May 2020.

• From **May 2020 onwards**: elaboration of actions as included in the Farm to Fork action plan

• Further consultation on individual initiatives announced in the Action Plan
Thank you
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Q&A
What is new for health under the revised Common Agricultural Policy?

EPHA webinar

Alisa Tiganj
DG AGRI
OBJECTIVES

General Objectives
- Foster a smart, resilient and diversified agricultural sector ensuring food security;
- Bolster environmental care and climate action and to contribute to the environmental- and climate-related objectives of the Union;
- Strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas

Specific Objectives
- Economic
  - Support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security
  - Enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation
  - Improve the farmers’ position in the value chain
- Environment & Climate
  - Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy
  - Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources e.g. water/soil/air
  - Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes
- Social
  - Attract young farmers and facilitate business development in rural areas;
  - Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry;
  - Improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare

Cross-Cutting Objectives
- Sustainability
- Simplification
- Modernisation
- Further improve sustainable development of farming, food and rural areas
- Ensure simplification and performance of CAP support
- Foster and share knowledge, innovation, digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas and encourage uptake

Commission political priorities
Sustainable Development Goals
Paris climate agreement

Art. 39 TFEU
REPLYING TO SOCIETAL DEMANDS ON FOOD AND HEALTH

- Specific objective concerning food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare.

- New objective for the operational programmes of F&V Producer Organisations: "increasing consumption", with a top-up

- EU school F&V and milk scheme is kept

- Enhanced conditionality (covering also food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare) and Farm Advisory System (e.g. practices preventing the development of antimicrobial resistance).

- Payments for commitments beyond the minimum requirements available for fertiliser and plant protection products use, animal welfare, health and biosecurity; organic farming, participation in EU quality schemes, Farm Advisory.
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Q&A
IN-DEPTH: RAPID REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

Urška Erklavec
Food and Nutrition Section, European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

WEBINAR: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH IN EUROPEAN FOOD & AGRICULTURAL POLICIES
11 MAY 2020 | 14.00 - 15.30
Agricultural policy has impact on several health outcomes like antibiotic resistant infections, health of farm workers, poor air quality and unhealthy diets which lead to several non-communicable diseases (respiratory, diabetes, heart disease)

Messages of scientists and organisations to policy makers

CAP post-2020 includes a health specific objective to improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare

CAP accounts for 34.5% of the 2020 EU budget (EUR 58.12 billion)

EU Farm to Fork Strategy coming out on 20th May 2020

More public health experts should take part to make health a more visible and important objective
• Pesticides: reduce use and improve data collection to determine risk areas, groups, and factors

• Food safety: leverage audit and inspection information into corrective actions

• AMR: minimize need for therapeutic drugs, reserve certain antibiotics for human use and support farmers in adopting low-antibiotics farming methods

• transition plan towards a lower livestock product consumption (**GHG emissions and NH3 emissions**): economic incentives to reward the effective reductions with farming practices and interventions
• promote **food systems thinking** at all levels
• build **integrated food policies** under participatory governance
• assess the impact of policy interventions on dietary changes and consequent effects on public health
• More **horticulture support** based on the evidence of the advantages of consumers eating more **plant-based diets**
• EU should require Member States to develop **Healthy Diet Plans** (covering public procurement, urban planning, fiscal and social policies, marketing, and nutrition education) **as a condition for unlocking CAP payments**
Europe as heaviest drinking region in the world. Alcohol is 5th leading cause of death and disability worldwide: end support for wine promotion measures and end its preferential treatment.

Agriculture specific labour standards should be built into the CAP (training for employees, payment of adequate wages, observance of health and safety standards).

Ensuring the progressive capping of direct payments, phasing out historical levels of support when calculating current payment levels, supporting rural economic opportunities for farm income diversification, supporting programmes to improve access to healthcare and social services in socio-economically underprivileged rural areas.
• Multi-disciplinary research, evidence-based policies, multi-dimensional evaluation frameworks (e.g., Health Impact Assessments)

• Policy framework made with mandatory involvement of competent authorities and stakeholders from all areas, including public health

• Quality assurance mechanisms to prevent conflicts of interest

• Transparent accountability mechanisms to link achievement of targets and objectives to financial allocations.

• New monitoring tools and policy evaluation methodologies should be elaborated to improve the performance-orientation of the policy in the future.
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Q&A
What are the main components of a national CAP strategic plan?

Aurélie Catallo
Coordinator, Plateforme Pour une autre PAC (France)
1. Diagnosis

As regards the specific objective concerning “societal demands on food and health”

a) State of play of the sector
   ⇒ Description of the current situation in the country as regards health, food safety, nutrition, antibiotics use, food quality, diet patterns, etc.

b) SWOT analysis
   ⇒ Identification of positive and negative trends: expectation of consumers, use of pesticides, national tools already in place as regards animal welfare, etc.

c) Assessment and hierarchization of needs
   ⇒ List of objectives that should be fulfilled by future CAP measures, such as strengthening farms resilience to plant or animal diseases, improving coherence with national dietary guidelines, etc.
2. Definitions + conditionnality

• National version / application of definitions listed in the common CAP regulation:
  ⇒ For instance, “permanent grasslands” = Will pastoral animals, fed not only with grass but also with shrubs, tree leaves, etc., be eligible to CAP payments?

• National implementation of each rule of conditionnality:
  ⇒ Rules concerning food safety (e.g. prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and betaagonists), registration of animals (e.g. labelling of beef and beef products), animal diseases (e.g. rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies), plant protection products (e.g. handling and storage of pesticides and disposal of remnants)
3. Interventions

• Description of:
  - Territorial scope
  - Which objectives it targets
  - Chosen result indicators
  - Beneficiaries
  - Eligibility conditions
  - Support rates
  - Annual planned outputs
  - Etc.

• For each measure of the future CAP, such as:
  - Ecoscheme
  - Coupled aid (to animals or legumes for instance)
  - Organic farming
  - Agro-environmental schemes
  - Etc.
4. Performance framework

- Common indicators chosen at EU level. For instance:
  - Impact indicator = I.26 Limiting antibiotic use in agriculture: sales/use in food producing animals
  - Result indicator = R.37 Sustainable pesticide use: Share of agricultural land concerned by supported specific actions which lead to a sustainable use of pesticides in order to reduce risks and impacts of pesticides

- Member States could maybe add other indicators in their CAP strategic plans, to better monitor some impacts/results/outputs
  - For instance, reduction of the use of fertilizers or reduction of livestock density
5. Governance, including involvement of stakeholders

- Transparent procedures

- Effective involvement of “relevant public authorities”
  ⇒ This could include health authorities.

- Partners to be involved in the preparation and the monitoring of the CAP Strategic Plans, including representatives of the civil society.
  ⇒ This could include health and consumers NGOs.
PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH THROUGH CAP STRATEGIC PLANS

Celia Nyssens
AIR POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURE

What is the issue?

Ammonia

PM 2.5

Air pollution in rural & urban areas

Ground-level ozone

Methane

94%

54%
AIR POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURE

And the solutions... Technology?
AIR POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURE

The real, long-term solution: system change

• Sustainable livestock farming
  o Maximum stocking density / maximum nutrients load
  o No CAP money for feed monocultures or intensive livestock farms
  o Support for the transition to, and maintenance of, extensive livestock farming (incl. agroforestry, pastoralism,...)

• Transition to agro-ecology
  o Long crop rotations including legumes and cover crops for ecologic management of soil fertility and pests
  o Mixed farming (crops and animals) and composting/biodigestion of agricultural waste for closed-loop nutrients management
  o Restoration of “agroecological infrastructure” (hedges, flower strips, ponds, etc.) for healthy and productive eco-systems (+ trees/hedges can serve as pollution screens)
EU POLICY LANDSCAPE FOR AIR QUALITY

Linking CAP Strategic Plans & Environmental Policy

- National Air Pollution Control Programmes (based on NEC Directive)
- National Energy and Climate Plans (based on the Energy Governance Regulation)
- CAP Strategic Plans
- Farm to Fork Strategy
- Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)
- Ambient Air Quality Directives
- Zero Pollution Strategy
- Methane Strategy

Promoting environmental health through CAP Strategic Plans
ACTION FOR CLEAN AIR IN CAP STRATEGIC PLANS
Navigating the CAP maze

Conditionality
• Strict standards for crop rotation, protection of grasslands, buffer strips, etc. can help, but levers are very limited.

Subsidy schemes
• Support for extensive livestock farming / reduction of livestock density in intensive farms
• Support for the ammonia reduction measures listed in Annex I of NEC Directive

Others
• Advisory services to help farmers adopt agroecological practices
• Support for non-productive investments (e.g. new hedges)
MORE INFO:

Clean air from agriculture

THE BIG STINK: EUROPE'S LOCKDOWN UNCOVERS A SURPRISING SOURCE OF AIR POLLUTION
ROBERTA ARBINILO | APRIL 2, 2020

The drop in traffic fumes in our cities' air is making us more sensitive to a source of air pollution too often ignored: emissions from agriculture. But this...
THANK YOU

Celia Nyssens
celia.nyssens@eeb.org
How to shape national CAP strategic plans to pursue nutrition objectives?

Nikolai Pushkarev, EPHA, 11 May 2020
Which objectives?

- Vegetables and fruit
- Whole grains
- Legumes
- Nuts & seeds

- Less and better meat, dairy, eggs
- Less processed foods high in fat, sugar, salt (and likely: less ‘ultra-processed’ food overall)

more healthy, sustainable diets (general average)
CAP: space for nutrition?

• **Commitment** to make “nutritious valuable products such as fruit and vegetables easily available for EU citizens”. (COM The Future of Food and Farming, 2017)

• New CAP specific **objective**: “improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare.” (Proposal for CAP Strategic Plans Regulation)

• A patchwork of possible instruments, but **no indicator on nutrition**, so lacking incentive to use instruments strategically?
Creating nutritious supply chains

Maximise use of School scheme (esp. fruit & veg component)

Wide-ranging investment opportunities through rural development funding
- Business start-up (e.g. new business models to improve access to healthy products)
- Local market infrastructure & short supply chains
- Regional cooperation (e.g. urban/regional food strategies)
- Support for local innovation in public procurement

Conditionality: ensuring compliance with food safety standards

Criteria for voluntary coupled support

Use market measures for fruit & vegetables sector (incl. raising awareness of healthy diets)

Introduce market measures for other sectors producing healthy, but under-consumed products

Support for organic agriculture

Wide-ranging investment opportunities through rural development funding

- Business start-up (e.g. new business models to improve access to healthy products)
- Local market infrastructure & short supply chains
- Regional cooperation (e.g. urban/regional food strategies)
- Support for local innovation in public procurement
Strategic use of Strategic plans

• Different support measures are available, but a nutrition-related objective will help make **strategic use of CAP Strategic Plans**.
  
  — *National*: countries can set **voluntary targets** or align CAP implementation with healthy food policies.
  
  — *EU*: CAP reform is not over – **improvements are still possible**.

• **An integrated approach to food and agriculture** is not wishful thinking, but a necessity that is increasingly recognised. But more voices are needed!
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Q&A
Webinar
New Opportunities for health in European Food and Agricultural Policies
11th May 2020

European Public Health Association
messages for CAP (and CFP?) negotiators
Christopher A Birt
Recommendations (1)

- Meat and dairy production and consumption should be discouraged and reduced;
- Poultry and egg production and consumption should be reduced somewhat;
- Protein production and consumption should be mainly from a plant-based origin;
- Bread and other grain-based products should increasingly use non-standard grains;
- Increased fruit and vegetable production and consumption should be encouraged and supported vigorously;
- There should be increased availability and consumption of sustainably sourced fish, seafood, and seaweeds, etc.
• Production and consumption of dairy products should be limited, replaced by soya milk, etc., but not by milk substitutes requiring large amounts of water;
• Food industry should be discouraged from making foods requiring excess energy or water in their production;
• Food industry should be discouraged from making added-value energy-rich ready meals;
• Food industry should be encouraged to make increased varieties of vegetarian and vegan foods;
• Mandatory systems for management of food waste should be implemented;
• New food packaging materials should be adopted, but used only sparingly and when essential, to replace plastic.
Any final questions?

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Thank you for joining!
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For any questions or comments, please refer to nikolai@epha.org

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