

## TERRITORIAL DIVERSITY RESEARCH TRENDS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Roxana FRANZUTTI, Alexandru FÎNTÎNERU, Dragoș SMEDESCU, Gina FÎNTÎNERU

University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, 59 Marasti Boulevard, District 1, 011464, Bucharest, Romania, Phone: +40213182564, Fax:+40213182888, Mobile:+40744 6474 10, Emails: roxana.franzutti@usamv.ro, alexandru.fintineru@gmail.com, smedescudragos@yahoo.com, gina.fintineru@usamv.ro

*Corresponding author:* smedescudragos@yahoo.com

### Abstract

*Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) represents not only one of the most important EU policy, holding a large share of overall EU funds, but is also one of key drivers of EU rural spatial development. It is important therefore, to look into its impact and how it can best respond to the specific challenges for agriculture and rural areas. There is an increasing number of studies on the CAP impacts on the farming indicators such as agricultural production efficiency, employment, profitability, structural issues. However, very little attention has been paid to territorial diversity among rural areas in each country. The main aim of this paper is to examine the existent situation of the topic researches conducted at EU level between 1994-2020 regarding the CAP, taking into account the territorial diversity. By analysing the current literature through Web of Science and Science Direct scientific databases we were able to obtain information on the research topic previously mentioned from several perspectives, using a list of predetermined key words, starting from "territorial diversity". The conclusions drawn from our study will serve as support in creating an analysis at the Romanian level regarding the implementation of the CAP.*

*Key words:* territorial diversity, Common Agricultural Policy, policy instruments, financing agencies

### INTRODUCTION

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) represents not only one of the most important EU policy, holding a large share of overall EU funds, but is also one of key drivers of EU rural spatial development [2].

It is important therefore, to look into its impact and how it can best respond to the specific challenges for agriculture and rural areas.

The European Commission is increasingly concerned with assessing the social, environmental and economic impact that its initiatives and policies have had and can have. Therefore, at the EU level there have been numerous researches that evaluate the impact of its policies. The analyzed researches propose numerous evaluation processes for measuring the impact. These are based on a base of methodologies found in the specialized consulted literature [10].

The changes that have been observed in the CAP over time can be explained by the continuous adaptation of the political instruments that could be analyzed. The

analysis of the economic and social effectiveness of these instruments was an essential factor in the changes that took place within the policy. The initial policy tools proved inefficient to the new context, and the policy change allowed the development of more effective tools, which can be targeted to problem areas, with lower development [7].

The European Union offers funding for a wide range of projects and programs, the CAP impact analysis being one of them. In addition to EU funding, the research analyzed also received help from national public and private institutions.

There is increasing number of studies on the CAP impacts on the farming indicators ( ex: agricultural production efficiency [11], employment [5], profitability [13], structural issues [14]. However, very little attention has been paid to territorial diversity among rural areas in each country [1].

The main objective of this paper is to analyse the scientific literature regarding the implementation of the CAP taking into account the territorial diversity (spatial disparities), as

well as in the case of Europe, but also in terms of the other state.

Unfortunately, in Romania not many aspects regarding the evaluation of the agricultural policy were studied, and they are mainly focusing on differences and the similarities between the European model of agricultural and rural development and the state of play in the Romanian rural areas [4]. Only a small number of studies examined the effects of the EU's rural development program on rural communities in Romania, such as on vitality of rural areas [8] the number of newly established enterprises in rural communities [9], or on rural remote areas [6].

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

As a method of data collection, we used the scientific databases Web of Science, Science Direct and Google Scholar. The 107 articles were found with the help of carefully selected keywords, as: territorial diversity, CAP, policy instruments, policy implementation, evaluation. The results obtained can be adapted to the desire to analyze the specialized literature considering the implementation of the CAP, taking into consideration the key factor: territorial diversity.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The 107 selected articles were analyzed according to years, countries, authors, projects, types of documents, funding agencies and Web of Science categories.

Of the 107 analyzed documents, 91 of them were published in the form of articles (85.05%), 21 proceedings papers (19.63%), 2 book chapters (1.87%) and 1 early access (0.94%). Figure 1 presents the situation of the articles considering the period in which they were published, starting with 1994. A significant increase in the number of articles published each year, from 1994 with 2 articles per year (1.87%) can be observed, since 2015 their number has increased, reaching 15 (14.04%), showing a greater concern in the ex-post evaluation of the 2007-2013 programming period.

The ascension registered between the analyzed years also determined an increase of the awareness of the importance of this subject and the need to have them analyzed for the improvement and consolidation of the National Programs of Rural Development, for a better distribution of the funds and to act on the deficient areas, avoiding thus super investments [12]. We can observe a greater care given for the programming period 2014-2020, compared to 2007-2013.

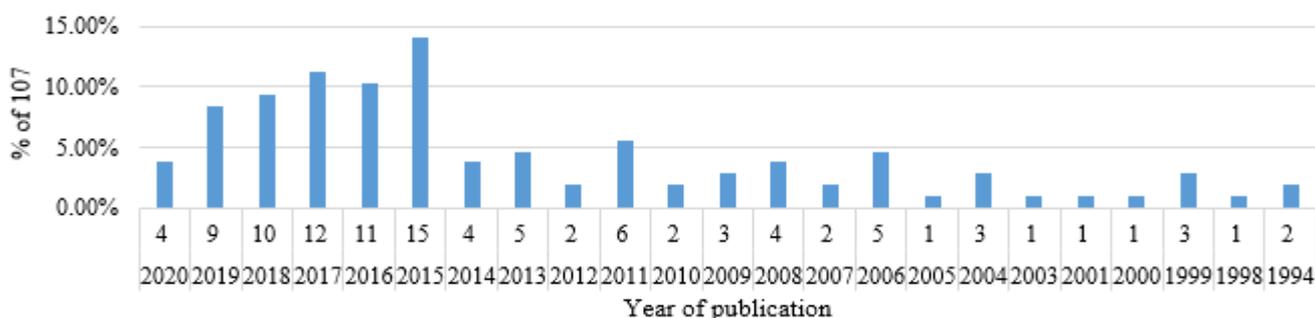


Fig.1. Year of publication  
 Source: Web of Science.

The analyzed articles include 25 fields of activity, among them are: agronomy, urban studies, veterinary sciences, environmental engineering, business, economics, environmental sciences, geography, and finance. In Figure 2 we have selected the first ten areas of interest for the CAP evaluation research.

As it can be seen, a very large number is covered by fields such as environmental studies (26.17%), economics (21.50%), agriculture (18.69%), ecology (7.48%), which gets a big emphasis in the CAP and on the funds allocated for these sectors of interest

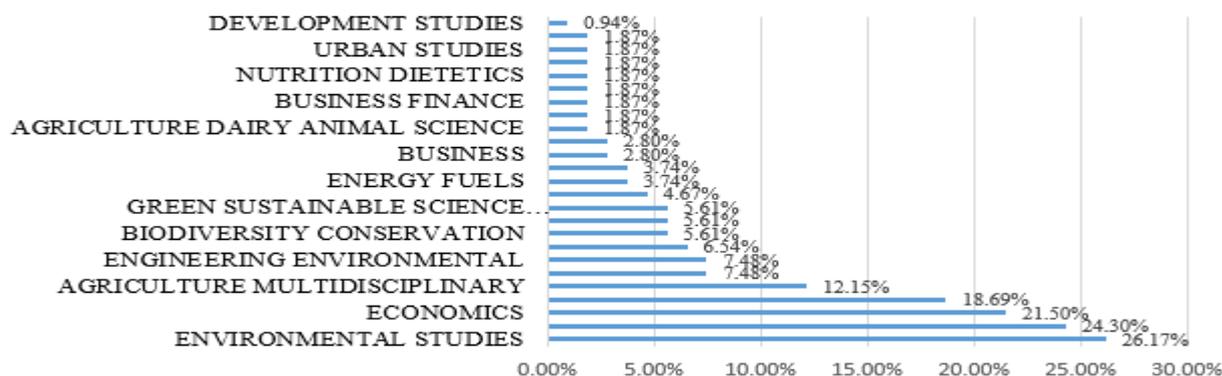


Fig. 2. Web of Science categories  
 Source: Web of Science.

The analyzed studies also received funding from some funding agencies such as (Fig. 3): European Union (7.48%), National Science Center Poland (1.87%), NERC - Natural Environment Research Council (1.87%), Agricultural and Environment EU Policy (0.94%). The funding received for these

research shows the involvement that the EU, national and international institutions [3] have in analyzing the impact of the CAP on the territorial diversity. The desire to get involved in such studies is driven by the desire to improve the distribution of funds and to determine the areas that need the most action.

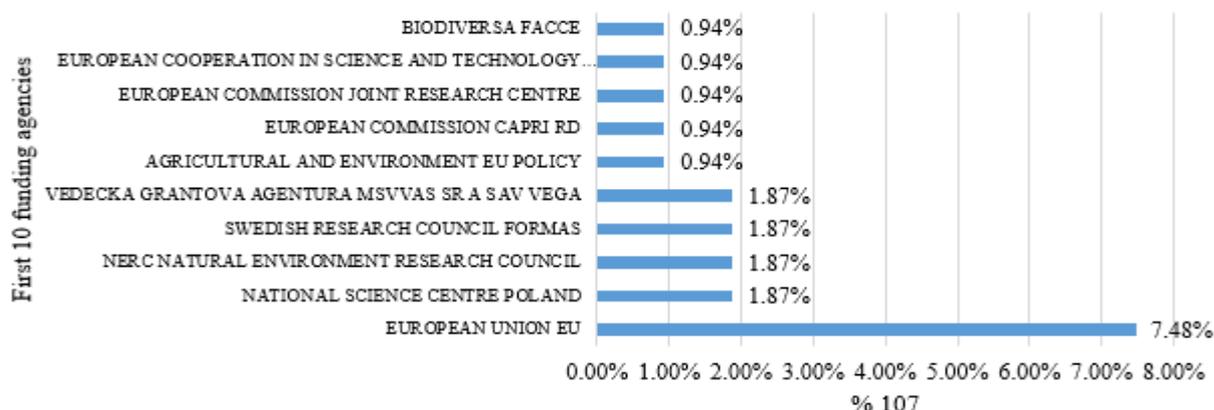


Fig.3. Funding agencies  
 Source: Web of Science

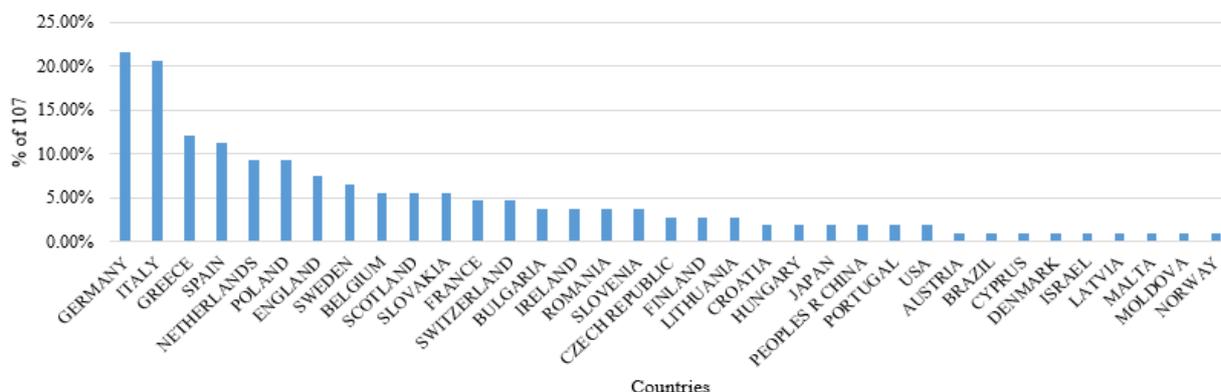


Fig. 4. Articles per countries  
 Source: Web of Science

The impact analysis and implementation of the CAP was researched by specialists from 36

countries (Fig. 4). The countries most involved in analyzing this impact were: Germany

(21.50%), Italy (20.56%), Spain (11.22%), England (7.48%). In Romania, not much emphasis was placed on the impact

## CONCLUSIONS

The present study is based on topic research made on the existent situation on the territorial diversity among rural areas, in accord with the Common Agricultural Policy.

In order to achieve this, we relied on scientific literature and used the Web of Science database collection. In order to search only for the articles that we were interested in, we use some predetermined key-words such as: territorial diversity, CAP, evaluation implementation, policy impact, policy instruments. According to this, we have identified 107 articles that analyze territorial diversity.

The subject is an actual one and the number of articles published in the financial framework 2014-2020, 65 articles, highlights this.

Another part consist in analysis of the areas of interest for the CAP research and a very large number is covered by fields such as environmental studies (26.17%), economics (21.50%), and agriculture multidisciplinary (18.69%).

analysis, registering a percentage of only 3.74%, with a number of only 4 articles for the analyzed topic, hence the need to focus on the impact analysis of the CAP and to act in areas that do not benefit from the necessary investment.

In analyzing CAP implementation by territorial diversity, the countries most involved in the studies where Germany (21.50%), Italy (20.56%), Spain (11.22%), from 36 countries. In case of Romania, we identified only 4 articles (3.74%).

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