

Regulatory and social context linked to European grassland in a bioeconomy context (GO-GRASS)

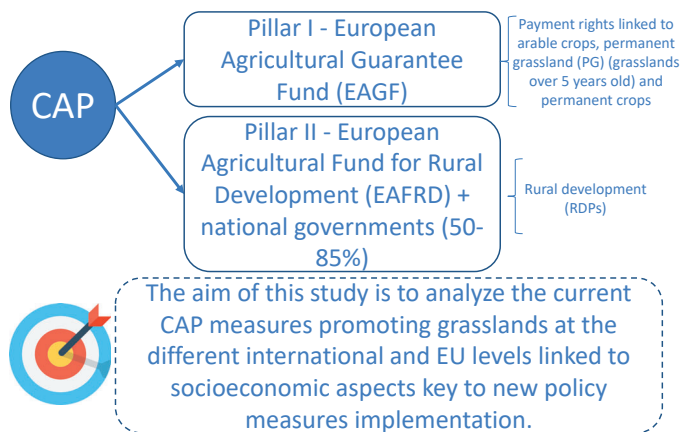
Mosquera-Losada M.R.*¹, Santiago-Freijanes J.J.¹, Ferreiro-Domínguez N.¹, Álvarez-López V.¹, Franco-Grandas T.I.¹, Rigueiro-Rodríguez A.¹, Orozco R.², Adamseged M.E.², Grundmann P.² and Rodríguez-Rigueiro F.J.¹

¹ USC, Department of Crop Production and Engineering Projects, Lugo Polytechnic School of Engineering, University of Santiago de Compostela, University Campus s/n, 27002 Lugo, Spain.

² ATB, Department of Technology Assessment and Substance Cycles, Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy, Potsdam, 14469, Germany.

*mrosa.mosquera.losada@usc.es

Introduction



In addition to the direct payments, the “Payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment” (greening) represents 30% of the payments in a compulsory way for the MS and is paid immediately to the organic farmers. Greening can be fulfilled if crop diversification, maintenance of PG and Ecological Focus Areas are implemented.

Pillar II - The present study is focused on 104 regional RDPs of the continental EU and surrounding islands. The 2014-2020 RDPs are composed of 16 measures and their sub-measures, common to all MS, that are specified through operations. A total of 1,518 operations within the 16 measures were developed, with Measure 10 (“Agri-environment”) on the top, followed by 11 (promoting grazing system within organic farming) & 13 (animal welfare in extensive farming) as measures promoting grassland (Fig 1).

Material and methods

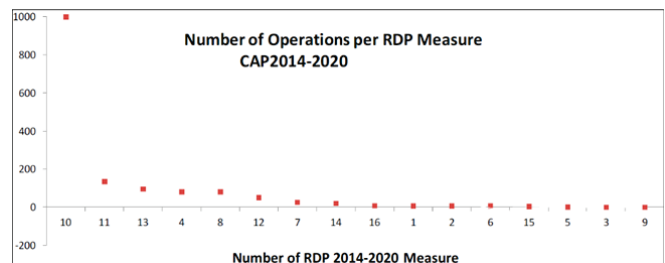
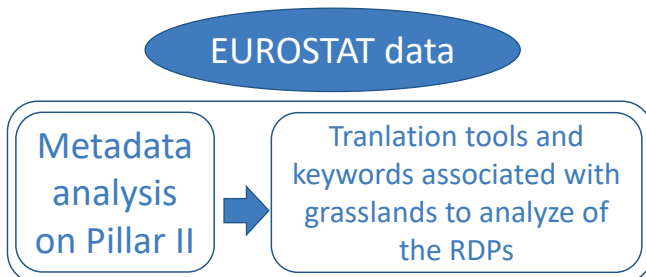


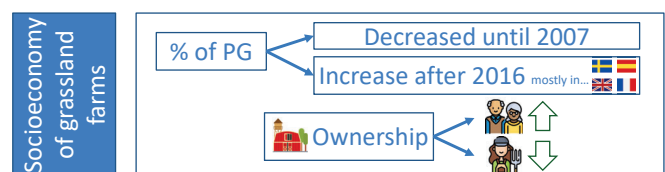
Figure 1. Number of operations per RDP Measure

Results and discussion

Pillar I – Both arable lands (with temporary grassland) and permanent grassland/pasture are susceptible of grassland land use. The declaration of the PG area as eligible relies on the Member States (MS) that can adopt a pro-rata system based on the recognition of annual-herbaceous species and woody-dominated grassland vegetation through its recognition as traditional practices and habitats conservation. Thus, the OMNIBUS regulation acknowledges shrubs/trees producing animal feed (Table 1).

Reason - Countries	CY	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	PT	SE	UK	BG	HR	LT	SK
Traditional practices	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Habitat conservation		X	X	X					X					
OMNIBUS – If ploughed non-PG	X	X	X	X			X				X	X	X	X
OMNIBUS – PG may include shrub/trees for animal feed if herbaceous remain			X	X	X			X						

Table 1. MS that extended the definition of PG established local practices arguing traditional practices, conservation of habitats and through OMNIBUS regulation.



Conclusion

Permanent grassland is one of the most important types of land to be funded by the EU due to the large surface it occupies and its ecosystem services. Grazing activities are key to maintain and enhance biodiversity and protect water. However, just Measure 16 relates the promotion of valued products from grassland. Three recommendations can be listed (i) boost knowledge transfer through demonstration fields & extension services, (ii) establish measures promoting cooperativism & adequate land management and (iii) turn arable lands into grassland.

