



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 100

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Implementing the EU Farm Advisory System in Greece: a story of expectations and prolonged waiting

Since 2007 the EU Member States have been called up to set up a comprehensive and operational Farm Advisory System (FAS). In Greece, though the lack of a structured advisory system made its provision obligatory, FAS is not in place. Advisors along with officers involved in FAS planning point out the prolonged delay, raise hopes and worries about its future implementation, and acknowledge that:

- FAS can be the backbone of farming in Greece. This is important for private consultants who, as part of the support they provide to farmers wishing to have access into EU subsidised schemes, also provide advice to those farmers for free. Advisors' concern is the potential connection of the provision of advice in certain thematic domains with the right to support farmers when applying for the relevant EU programmes; this will make it obligatory for consultants to participate in FAS.
- Advisors' training is a critical element for the successful FAS implementation; it should provide advisors with updated knowledge and skills (especially soft and digital skills) to get them integrated into the system.
- Apart from farmers' compliance with the CAP regulations, the content of advice should be matched with their interest for financial sustainability. Producers do not easily agree on procedures/ practices increasing their production cost, requiring more work or requiring additional controls.
- Advice provision should be monitored and controlled by experienced personnel.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In Greece, the implementation of policy tools is often governed by a culture prioritising the absorption of available EU resources at the expense of being efficient in terms of reaching the objectives of policies.

More at <https://www.agrilink2020.eu>



ABOUT AGRILINK

AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

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