

Peer learning sessions of the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region

Presentation of policy practices as a basis for the peer learning discussion

Session 4.2. Digital Transformation for SDG implementation

Title of intervention, country and name of presenter	Ms. Eszter Varga, Researcher Institute of Agricultural Economics
Brief description	In the following years, the so called ‘Digital Decade’, the European Union aims at exploiting the opportunities from the digital age within safe and ethical boundaries. (Due to the pandemic this process has accelerated significantly) This aim also relevant in relation to the pre-accession countries, which are expected to align themselves with the requirements of the EU in all areas, including agriculture. The presentation will discuss opportunities and expectations the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) new legislative proposals conveys for pre-accession countries from the perspective of digitalisation and the role of ICTs.
Policy goal(s) or challenge(s) to be addressed	Highlighting the emerging role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as an engine for agriculture development in Europe and Central Asia. (Highlighting the emerging role of digital transformation as both an engine and tool for agricultural development in the Western Balkans.)
Instruments and proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political support to implement the necessary changes in different sectors, including agriculture. • Establishing and implementing a good regulatory framework that ensures safe and standardised data exchange, respects data ownership and privacy while supporting business development. • Raising awareness among stakeholders on the importance of digitalisation and on the opportunities available. • Closing the digital gap between urban and rural areas, developing digital skills (e.g. among farmers)
Constraints and difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness level and mentality of stakeholders towards digitalisation and digital solutions. • Digital divide between rural and urban areas (e.g. digital infrastructure, skills)
Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding up innovation according to the new CAP – potential development paths for the pre-accession countries. • Benefits of a more digitalised integrated system for both the government and the farmer.
Links to additional materials	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52018PC0392 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A393%3AFIN

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2020:67:FIN>
https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/communication_on_wb_economic_and_investment_plan_october_2020_en.pdf