



Feedback from:

EuroHealthNet

Feedback reference

F13361

Submitted on

25 July 2018

Submitted by

Cathrine Hernández FESTERSEN

User type

Other

Organisation

EuroHealthNet

Organisation size

Small (10 to 49 employees)

Transparency register number

[48562122691-12](#)

Country of origin

Belgium

Initiative

[Multiannual Financial Framework - CAP Strategic Plans](#)

EuroHealthNet takes a note of the proposal for a Regulation on the rules of the Common Agricultural Policy's Strategic Plans financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). EU financial support given to the EU farming sector takes a big slice of the EU budget and affects how and what kinds of agricultural goods are produced and consumed in the EU. It also impacts on environmental conditions, public health and inequalities herein, and levels of poverty and social exclusion in the EU. To justify the use of public money in this area, it is crucial to align EU spending guidelines with national and local priorities in other areas to ensure these funds contribute to overall population well-being.

“Unravelling the Food-Health Nexus” report by the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems concluded that substantial changes in European (and increasingly interlinked global) food systems over the last decades have resulted in profound negative impacts on public health and well-being. These range from food insecurity to diet-related chronic and non-communicable diseases, and from environmental pollution/degradation to poorer economic opportunity for rural communities, decline of livelihoods and depopulation of rural areas. These impacts are experienced unequally across the EU, between and within the MS, and between different population groups.

EuroHealthNet therefore calls for the following measures to improve the alignment between the EU's objectives and strategies in farming and rural development and those in the area of the environment, social policy and health:

- ▶ Encourage targeted support to small and family farms and less developed areas to strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural livelihoods as well as more sustainable food production and consumption: An EU common framework should broadly guide national, regional and local level authorities to analyse their local circumstances and allocate funds in ways that foster sustainable development. This means that funds should promote ecological approaches as well as social inclusion, fight poverty and deprivation in rural areas, and ensure access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, and quality food always, based on current public health evidence.
- ▶ Strengthen conditionality criteria on socio-economic conditions, environmental and climate change factors, and public health EU agriculture sector's obligations under conditionality criteria and list of indicators outlined in Annex I of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation should better reflect food systems' impact on health and social equity outcomes. Compliance with higher sustainability standards on environment/climate protection, prudent use of antibiotics in food production, ensuring bio- and diet-diversity should be better regulated and enforced, since the links between these areas and farming are well established.
- ▶ EU farming and rural development policy and strategies should further support locally-led development strategies, empower local authorities and relevant civil society actors in the programming and management of the funds: This should be extended to providing support and building capacity of the civil society, local authorities and relevant bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, gender equality and non-discrimination principles to meaningfully engage and systematically incorporate health and social equity aspects in the design and implementation, collaboration and advocacy along the food systems-rural development-health nexus.

[Report an issue with this feedback](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/com-2018-392/feedback/F13361_en?p_id=241585)

All feedback

The views and opinions expressed here are entirely those of the author(s) and do not reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. The Commission cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in them. Neither the Commission, nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf, may be held responsible for the content or the information posted here. Views and opinions that violate the Commission's feedback rules will be removed from the site.