

MATRA Training for European Cooperation

(MTEC)

Common Agricultural Policy of the EU

October 5 - 18, 2008

Key Information

Course objectives:

- to provide a broad and up-to-date overview of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with a focus on present and future developments. The course will provide a detailed overview of Pillars I and II of the CAP, with a focus on principles and practicalities of different measures under the CAP in the (new) EU member states and highlighting the implications for the (potential) candidate member states of the EU;
- to prepare staff for new tasks and responsibilities at the personal, organizational and institutional level that emerge in the new member states and the (potential) candidate member states of the EU;
- to create long lasting networks between the course participants.

Period: 5 – 18 October 2008

Location: Wageningen, The Netherlands and Brussels, Belgium

Accommodation: Wageningen International Conference Centre (WICC), Wageningen, The Netherlands

Target group: Government officials as well as experts working for (semi-)governmental organizations involved in policy development or implementation of agricultural policy in the participating countries

Participants: 50 in total, from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey

| **Application deadline:** before ~~15~~ 22 August 2008

Introduction

The MTEC course *Common Agricultural Policy of the EU* provides a broad and up-to-date overview of CAP with a focus on present and future developments. The course will provide a detailed overview of Pillars I and II of the CAP with a focus on principles and practicalities of different measures under the CAP in the (new) EU member states and highlighting the implications for the (potential) candidate member states of the EU.

The course is organised by Wageningen Business School (WBS) under the Matra programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. WBS is part of the Wageningen University & Research Center (WUR) and offers post-academic courses, trainings and workshops that aim to deepen and widen the knowledge and skills of professionals in the Life Sciences. WBS has been offering courses on the CAP since 1985.

The objective of the Matra Training for European Cooperation (MTEC) training courses is to train public administrators and officials on matters relevant to joining the EU. Another important objective of the courses is the creation of networks by bringing together people from the fore-mentioned countries in the Netherlands. The MTEC programme is executed by EVD/CROSS.

Context

The CAP has always been considered as one of the corner stones of the European integration process. It created the necessary conditions for the participation of agriculture and the trade in agricultural products in the European Common Market. Originally developed in the 1960s (mainly in the form of market and price policy) it has gradually evolved - since the beginning of the 1990s - into direct income payment systems with an additional rural development component. Important steps in this process are: the Mac Sharry reform in 1992, Agenda 2000 in 1999, the Midterm Review in 2003 and the Health Check in 2008. Moreover first decisions on the financing of the EU including the CAP beyond 2013 will be taken in 2009.

Driving forces behind these reforms were: the huge intervention stocks, international conflicts and rapid increasing budget expenditures in the 1970s and 1980s; the GATT-WTO negotiations in the Uruguay Round (1986-1994) and the Doha Development Agenda (2001-?); the changing desires and needs of the European citizens; the changing position of agriculture in the rural economy; the changing role of governments in the European society; and the enlargements of the European Union.

Not only the CAP but also other policies like food safety and food quality policies, environmental policies, veterinary and phytosanitary policies were necessary conditions for a good functioning of a Single European Market for agriculture and the agro food sector. These other policies were mainly developed in the second half of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s. These policies show an increasing impact, sometimes even larger than the CAP, on the functioning of the Common Market.

The *acquis communautaire* contains 80.000 pages of legislation, mainly in the form of regulations and directives, of which 50.000 pages directly related to for agriculture and agribusiness. Economic and social developments in agriculture, agribusiness and even more in rural areas depend more on market performance and other economic, social and cultural factors than on these 80.000 pages of common policies. Still the CAP is a crucial part of policies at EU and national level. That justifies achieving good insights and training into the functioning of CAP and related policies that conduct functioning of the Common Market in the EU.

Course objectives

The Matra Training for European Cooperation (MTEC) Common Agricultural Policy of the EU aims to:

- provide a broad and up-to-date overview of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with focus on present and future developments. The course will provide a detailed overview of Pillars I and II of the CAP, with focus on principles and practicalities of different measures under the CAP in (new) EU Member States and implications for potential new EU member states;
- prepare staff for new tasks and responsibilities at personal, organizational and institutional level that emerge in the new member state of the EU during the pre- and post EU accession-period in case of Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania and Turkey, and during the trade relationships with the EU in case of the (potential) candidate member states; and
- create long lasting networks between the course participants.

Course outline

The main aim of the course is to stimulate a critical reflection and dialogue on the present and future functioning of the CAP. In order to achieve these course objectives and to allow for sufficient flexibility to meet the individual participant's needs and interests, the two-week course was sub-divided into the following 7 components:

Component 1: Course Introduction and general context

- Course opening
- Introduction of the participants and course resource persons
- Interactive session on course expectations
- Explanation of course objectives, program and approach
- Opening Lecture: European integration: implications for agriculture, food sector and rural areas
- Introduction to the CAP

Component 2: The Common Agricultural Policy: Pillar 1

- Common Market Organization and Single Payment Scheme: background, leading principles and objectives
- Health Check
- Implementation in the (new) member states
- Interactive session: critical reflection and comparisons of the situation in the respective countries of the participants

Component 3: The Common Agricultural Policy: Pillar 2

- Rural development policy: background, leading principles and objectives
- Implementation in the (new) member states
- Interactive session: application of the CAP and Rural Development Policies in the respective countries of the participants
- Excursion to relevant projects

Component 4: The wider context of the Common Agricultural Policy

- Budgetary framework of the EU
- WTO and the international trade position of the EU
- Skills session: WTO Case/role play

Component 5: Institutional and Organizational Context of the EU

- Decision making processes in the EU: general overview
- Decision making processes in the EU: Council Working Groups, Management Committees and Regulatory Committees
- EU coordination: reaching a national position
- Skills session: presentation and lobbying techniques
- Skills session: negotiation in EU context (role play)
- Excursion to the European Parliament

Component 6: Agriculture and Agribusiness: Food Safety and Food Quality

- Food safety and food quality in the EU: The General Food Law
- Food safety (inspection) systems
- Excursion to an agribusiness industry

Component 7: Future of the CAP

- Prospects, problems, challenges and orientations
- Panel discussion
- Presentation of back-home action plans

Training approach

Each course component contains several presentations, excursions, discussions, group work and individual assignments that will enable the course participants to tailor the program (within the context of the overall objectives) towards their own areas of needs and interest.

Central in the training approach are the **four I's**:

- **Information:** Plenary sessions will be held with the complete group (50 participants). These sessions present the current situation of the CAP and expected future developments. Guest speakers from different organizations have been invited for this purpose.
- **Inspiration:** Throughout the course inspiring and contrasting examples of implementation will be presented, as a source of inspiration. Several excursions will be made.
- **Implications for implementation:** In small groups of 7-8 persons (with participants from different countries), the participants will analyse and discuss the implications of the presented information and examples for their national situation and for their personal situation.
- **Integration:** Participants will be challenged to integrate the information at national (organizational and institutional) level and present the specific challenges and opportunities for CAP implementation for their country at the end of the course. The participants will work towards an action plan that addresses a critical issue related to CAP implementation at home. New skills, insights and approaches gained during the course will be integrated in this action plan.

Organization, co-ordination and evaluation

Wageningen Business School (www.wbs.wur.nl) will be responsible for the overall organization and implementation of the MTEC Common Agricultural Policy course. The MTEC CAP course is being organized in close cooperation with The Netherlands Ministry for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Agricultural Economics and Rural Policy Group of Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR).

The course will be evaluated verbally as well as in writing. During the final session, all participants who have completed the entire course, will receive an official course certificate.

Teaching staff

The teaching staff will consist of:

- Academic staff from Wageningen UR and other Dutch universities
- Guest speakers from Dutch Ministries, (semi)governmental organizations, European Commission and others.
- Guest speakers from New Member States
- Skills trainers with working experience in target countries
- Process facilitators from Wageningen Business School

Dates, location and fees

The course will be held from 5-18 October 2008.

The course will be held at **Wageningen International Conference Centre (WICC)** in Wageningen, The Netherlands (www.wicc-wir.nl).

The Netherlands government will provide fellowships. The fellowship includes all costs such as international travel, board and lodging, visa and insurance, tuition fees, lecture materials and excursions insofar as included in the program. Lunch and coffee/tea during the course are organized and dinners are taken care of as far as possible. For additional costs the participants will be granted an amount of money.

Admission Requirements

The participants should be government officials as well as experts working for (semi-) governmental organizations involved in policy development or implementation of agricultural policy in the participating countries. Participants must have (or will have in the near future) a position in the middle or higher management in their organization and should be fluent in spoken and written English.

Application for the course is open for applicants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey. The course is also open to the Agricultural Assistants of the Netherlands Embassies in the respective countries.

Applications

Applications should be made through the Netherlands Embassy in the applicant's country. Application forms should be downloaded from the website www.cross-agency.nl. Go to Downloads, click on application form for the relevant course, click on your country; you can then download the application form.

Applications (duly signed by the applicant and his or her employer) should be submitted before 22 August 2008, through the Royal Netherlands Embassy in the applicants' country. By this date, the Royal Netherlands Embassy must receive all forms, including the signed employer statement. Please note that the application instructions on the website need to be followed carefully.

Only fully documented applications will be considered. The total number of participants will be limited to 50. Admission will be on a competitive basis. After the deadline, it will take approximately two weeks to perform the selection procedure after which all applicants will be informed.

Applicants who have been accepted for the course are expected to duly attend. In case of no-shows or (too) late cancellations (i.e. within three weeks before the course commences), the course organizer has the right to claim all costs incurred from the candidate's employer.

Information and course organization

More information on the MTEC course *Common Agricultural Policy of the EU* can be obtained from:

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More information on the application procedure or other courses developed under the MTEC program can be obtained from:

EVD/CROSS

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2502 CJ The Hague

The Netherlands

Telephone: : +31 70 778 81 39

Website: : www.cross-agency.nl

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