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## Transformations of European agricultural sector, market and model under the influence of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

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### Abstract

*The European agricultural sector is, for the last decades, a subject to a quite extensive and important transformations imposed by the new paradigm`s changing of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), especially the influences of complex phenomena such as integration and globalization of markets under pressure impose by changes in the global economy. From this perspective, the agriculture is not only a traditional economic sector designed to ensure the food safety and food security, but also a complex one; the agriculture becoming multifunctional in rural communities and diversification of the pluriactivities. In this article are analyzed some of the major transformations of this sector, form the perspective of the European agricultural market and European agricultural model under the CAP`s influence.*

**Key words:** CAP, agriculture, Agricultural factor income, agricultural paradigm, direct aids.

### Introduction

Despite many reforms that have affected European agricultural sector, CAP is one of the most stable European policies, which has preserved over time both its objectives and its construction philosophy. Successive reforms have strengthened and refined the response made to requirements imposed by transformations of an important economic sector in Europe, with wide implications for rural communities, contributing to forming a European agri-food model. The EU Enlargement, the reconsiderations of the budget and the European budgetary philosophy and reforms regarding the tools and systems management were the significant factors in shaping, construction and evolution of CAP.

As (Hart et al., 2011) remarks, because the level of financial resources is low, CAP must be evaluated and selected according to the requirements imposed by the Lisbon Treaty that aimed mainly to improve the quality of the environment (biodiversity, water, soil and air), landscape preservation and vitality of rural areas, animal welfare and especially the need to ensure food security and sustainability. (Hart et al., 2011).

Through the new financial framework of the EU-28 for 2014-2020 and by changing the paradigm of the CAP, the developments of this policy still needs to be centered not only by meeting the fundamental goal of achieving food production and supply security at Community`s level space but also to contribute effectively to increase the productivity`s levels of agricultural and fisheries sector, to turn it into a competitive and innovative economic sector capable of generating sustainable levels of incomes and also comparable for all European farmers, at the same time.

Defining the European agri-food model supposed the completion of simultaneously stages and inextricably linked to the evolution of CAP, aiming not only to ensure a sustainable and diversified food production for European population, but also the superior utilization of Community`s agricultural potential by promoting a multifunctional agriculture which exceeds the classical function of agriculture, namely that of providing safe food for population`s consumption. The promotion of a multifunctional European agricultural model (Andrei et al., 2015; Ene, 2013 or Zaman, 2012 )involves an integrated approach to agriculture sector, from the economic and social viability of the European farms, through strengthening an agricultural fair price mechanism for farmers that reduce their dependence on financial support measures in the CAP and fence the promotion of increase employment level in agriculture sector and stimulating the creation of sustainable jobs. As already have been argued in literature (Andrei et al., 2015; Ciutacu et al.,2015 or Chambon and Fernandes, 2010) the impact of CAP on the European agricultural sector of production and consumption dimensions triggered a massive sectorial rearrangement of the production structures and reorientation to the rural component.

Through the 2013 CAP reform, the extensive legislative measures were introduced in order to improve some aspects such as (European Economic and Social Committee, 2010):

- Improve animal welfare and promote the intrinsic aspects of this issue for all agricultural products;
- Enhancing product traceability and promotion issues regarding the strengthening of security and food safety;
- The common market organization and promotion of organic and integrated production at EU-28 level;
- Encourage the use of environmental friendly practical business and promote environmental protection in agriculture;

– Protections for farm workers and supportive living conditions for European farmers.

The CAP's reform targets not only measures aimed on strengthening the European agricultural model but rather the transformation of the agricultural sector (Andrei and Popescu, 2014; Hart et al., 2011; Bougherara, et al, 2010; Brady et al., 2009, Badea and Mieila, 2008) in a competitive economic sector capable of generating high levels of added value, by taking into consideration also the promoting other activities (Ungureanu, 2015). The Convergence of CAP's objectives in the European Economic Area with the need to achieve a high level of economic efficiency involves increasing the linkages between effective use of available resources (land, water, labor) on the one hand, the need to observe the objectives of environmental protection, on the other hand.

To ensuring the vitality and competitiveness of European farms is a defining element in valorization of the European agriculture 'potential, on the background accentuation of agricultural products' price volatility and instability registered in rural areas, faced in some European countries with extensive economic and social sustainability issues. The harmonization of competitive conditions for European farmers, achieved by reconfiguring the direct payment system, needs especially improvement of agricultural production's conditions, forcing the transition to diversification and pluriactivity in rural zones. Agriculture is, in this aspect, a support for activities in rural areas, besides the main production activity in rural areas.

### The CAP's transformations in 2014-2020 perspective

The CAP with cohesion policy is one of the oldest European policies being a defining expression of the evolution of the European community as a whole. The extensive reforms aimed at European agricultural sector have changed dramatically CAP, substantiating a new paradigm of its functioning. CAP performs massive implications for the Community budget and the need for reform and readjustment imposed CAP's reconsideration. Figure 1 describes the main actions focused on the two pillars of CAP in perspective of policy's application during the 2014-2020 period and the achievement of operating the new paradigm.

PILLAR I	TARGETED ACTION	PILLAR II*
Green payment	<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	Agri-environment climate Organic, Natura 2000
Top-up payment	<b>YOUNG FARMER</b>	Business development grants Higher investment aid
Top-up payment	<b>AREAS WITH NATURAL CONSTRAINTS</b>	Area payments
Alternative simplified scheme	<b>SMALL FARMER</b>	Business development grants
Improved legal framework	<b>PRODUCER COOPERATION</b>	Aid for setting up producer groups Cooperation and short supply chain

Source: authors based on European Commission (2013)

**Fig 1: Targeted actions under the CAP Pillars**

As can be seen from the figure above, the policy's changes aimed the multidimensional improvement of implementing and function of the two pillars. The reorientation of policies from support of intensive Pillar I, to the rural development and multifunctional agriculture and pluriactivity sustained Pillar II, have occurred significant changes of paradigm. The massive change of paradigm between first and second pillar of the CAP has imposed new financing rearrangements between old and new EU countries. Promoting the rural development measures brings massive advantages to the old EU members who managed to already develop the agricultural production system and now are quite interested in rearranging the agricultural policy by cutting production support.

Some measures as promoting business developments grants or providing financial aids for setting the producers groups could provide a proactive start in the new member states in rearranging the inland agricultural policy from the EU agricultural model approach. Promoting green agriculture and a more environmental friendly agriculture may represent a constructive desideratum in a large context of the new CAP development for 2020 perspective. The achievement of new demands requires an intensive integration of food supply chain's

components for the increase of agricultural European products` supply, the exploitation of access to the specific resources and the promotion of environment responsible agriculture. The environmental component has become in this case a decisive factor in ensuring the functionality of the CAP towards 2020. In fig.2 is presented an overview regarding the EU-28 direct payments schemes in 2015.

Compulsory Schemes (all MS)	Voluntary schemes (MS choice)	Simplified scheme for small farmers
Basic payment (or Single Area Payment)	Redistributive payment	VOLUNTARY FOR every MS
Green payment	Support in areas with natural constraints	
Young farmers scheme	Coupled support	
Cross compliance consists of following two mandatory sets of rules: statutory management requirements and good agricultural and environmental conditions. The farmers must respect these rules, under the punishment of losing or reducing the direct payments.		
Access to the Farm Advisory System – established by the each Member State in order to advice farmers on mandatory topics as: greening, cross compliance, water policy, sustainable use of pesticides, and certain rural development measures.		

Source: authors based on European Commission (2015b)

**Fig. 2 The EU-28 direct payments schemes overview in 2015**

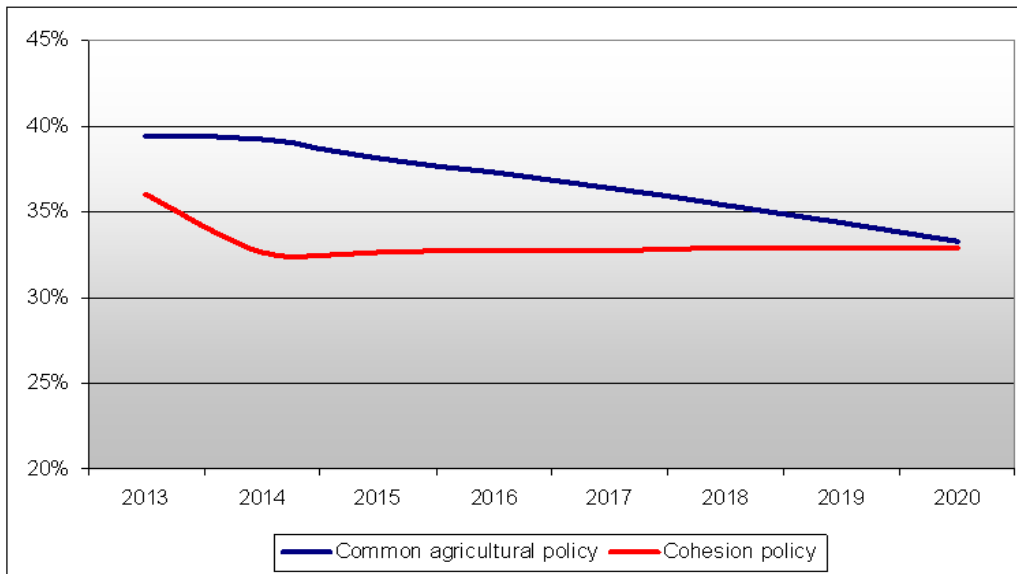
As it can be remarked from fig.2 the evolution of the most important component of first CAP Pillar direct payments system is restricted to three major schemes - Compulsory Schemes for all the EU-28 member states, Voluntary schemes which allows to each members to choose the component and in the last the Simplified scheme for small farmers. As it is stated in one of the European documents (European Economic and Social Committee, 2012), the achievement of a sustainable level of farmers' income, the improve of the agri-food supply chains` functioning, the recovery of market`s power of agricultural operators and equitable distribution of value between the actors of agri-food channels are determinant goals in order to insure the continuation of farming activity in many rural areas of Europe. (European Economic and Social Committee, 2012)

Although we observe that there was a decrease of CAP funding, the requirements imposed by its operation have increased and diversified, being forced to ensure the competitive European agricultural sector development. The component regarding rural development is, in this vision, more current and more important in new CAP paradigm`s context.

### **The economic importance of agriculture in European economic and social space**

In the context of global changes and developments, the European agricultural sector is facing with the consequences of integration and globalization of world markets. The vulnerability of European agricultural sector to global paradigm`s change requires a multi-pillar approach both in terms of financial support and guidelines of sectorial policy. From this perspective, the approval of the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework considered the European agricultural sector`s vulnerabilities, faced with an increase in manifestations of the globalization phenomena that affect the competitiveness of European agriculture.

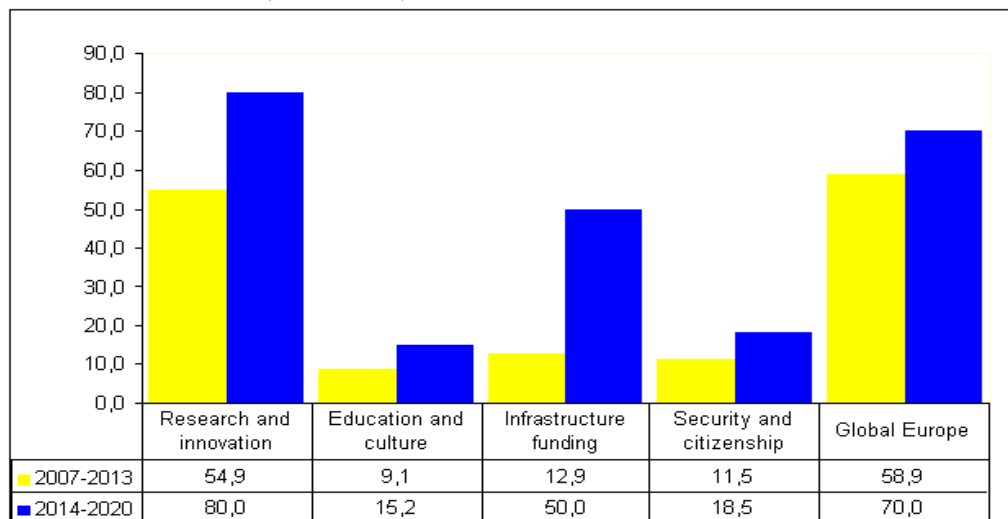
Although the EU-28 level, specific financial instruments have been developed through which are thwarted or mitigated the negative effects of some crisis in the European space, such as the Solidarity Fund of the European Union and Globalization Adjustment European Fund (EGF), none of them had provided financial support to cover the agricultural sector. Thus, the maximum annually allotted amounts for the EGF was EUR 500 million in the 2007-2013 financial framework; the new financial framework 2014-2020 has expanded the scope of financial support and measures to reduce the effects of globalization to the European agricultural sector, and has reduced the amount to EUR 429 million. In this context, the evolution of shares regarding the common agricultural policy and cohesion policy in the 2014-2020 MFF is presented in the graph 1.



Source: European Commission 2011, COM(2011) 500 final

**Graph 1 Shares regarding common agricultural policy and cohesion policy in the 2014-2020 MFF**

As it can be remarked from Graph 1, the evolution of financial quota allocated to CAP towards 2020 has strong downward trend, from ~ 40% in 2013 to below 35% in 2020. The extensive reform measures of the CAP and including the financial support in policy reorientation, generated a paradigm shift under the influence of functional rethinking of its support mechanisms. Given the importance of the CAP in EU-28, the financial support of the agricultural sector directly reverberates on the development of rural communities. The CAP and cohesion policy are the most important European policies with significant influence in shaping the country's space and European economic model. From this perspective, the financial allocations in cohesion policy remain relatively constant for the whole period 2014-2020. For a thorough illustration, in Graph 2 we present comparatively the financial allocations in the previous interval according MFF (2007-2013) and for 2014 to 2020 in certain sectors of intervention (billion EUR)



Source: European Commission 2011, COM(2011) 500 final

**Graph 2 Comparison between MFF 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 in some sectors of intervention (billion eur)**

From graph 2 it can be remarked that, in the case the five sectors of intervention envisaged, significant financial allocations are registering for the period 2014-2020. So, in the case of research and innovation, the growth is 25.1% from 54.9% to 80%, in the case of education and culture, is observed an increase by 6.1%, from 9.1% to 15.2%, and infrastructure funding has the highest financial allocation of 37.1% from 12.9% to 50% in 2020. Rethinking of financial allocations within certain sectors of intervention was performed due both to change the

overall objectives of EU policy on combating the effects of globalization but also to reduce the existing disparities within the European space.

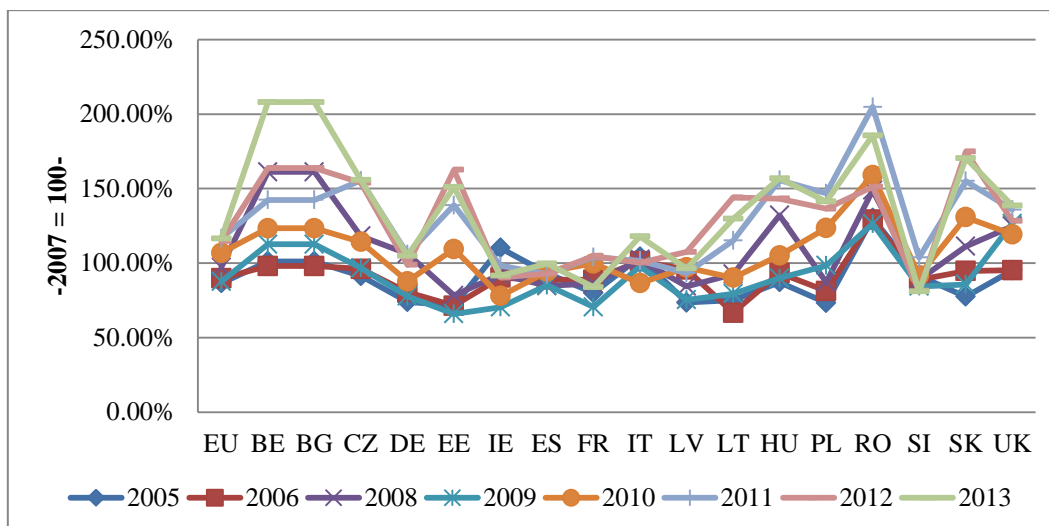
The agriculture is an economic sector with significant and determinant implications in the evolution of European economic and social model. The evolution of institutional pricing mechanism developed at EU level to prosper an area of comfort for European farmers. The Successive reforms of the CAP have helped to drastically reduce the level of these prices, and the common organization of market consists only in relative safety net for farmers, activated only when internationally dramatic fluctuations occur. From this perspective, the evolution of agricultural factor income in real terms at EU level is important. Table 1 shows the evolution of agricultural income in real terms factor in some EU Countries during 2005-2013.

**Table 1: Evolution of the agricultural factor income in real terms, 2005-2013**

Country	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	$\Delta_{2005-2013}$	$\Delta_{2005-2013}$ 2005=100
EU	9,881.8	11,415.6	10,003.5	13,328.7	13,293.0	3,411.2	34.52%
Belgium	27,069.3	35,861.1	27,326.4	31,517.0	32,382.9	5,313.6	19.63%
Bulgaria	2,390.7	2,361.5	2,662.0	3,362.3	4,913.4	2,522.6	105.52%
Czech Rep.	8,263.6	9,037.1	8,746.7	14,048.3	14,084.7	5,821.1	70.44%
Germany	19,461.0	26,305.9	20,451.9	27,882.4	27,606.5	8,145.5	41.86%
Estonia	6,173.7	8,643.7	5,701.6	12,005.8	13,051.5	6,877.8	111.41%
Ireland	20,181.5	18,311.3	12,906.1	17,998.9	16,773.8	-3,407.7	-16.89%
Spain	22,683.7	24,369.4	20,767.8	22,530.3	24,301.5	1,617.9	7.13%
France	22,372.0	27,945.4	19,740.9	29,076.3	23,446.7	1,074.7	4.80%
Italy	14,371.0	13,794.0	13,492.8	14,012.0	16,271.4	1,900.4	13.22%
Latvia	2,376.9	3,228.7	2,436.3	3,012.5	3,116.1	739.2	31.10%
Lithuania	2,837.0	3,778.9	3,004.6	4,352.8	4,904.3	2,067.3	72.87%
Hungary	3,977.2	4,561.8	4,099.5	7,102.0	7,158.8	3,181.6	80.00%
Poland	2,431.5	3,311.4	3,257.4	4,861.9	4,680.9	2,249.4	92.51%
Romania	1,914.6	1,470.8	1,859.7	3,012.2	2,730.4	815.8	42.61%
Slovenia	4,672.7	5,111.1	4,315.6	5,300.8	4,138.0	-534.7	-11.44%
Slovakia	4,074.0	5,249.5	4,502.4	8,143.6	8,944.4	4,870.3	119.55%
UK	27,574.0	28,988.7	36,721.6	39,397.9	40,178.8	12,604.8	45.71%
Average	11,261.5	12,985.9	11,222.0	14,497.0	14,554.3	-	-
Min	1,914.6	1,470.8	1,859.7	3,012.2	2,730.4	-	-
Max	27,574.0	35,861.1	36,721.6	39,397.9	40,178.8	-	-

Source: authors based on European Commission (2014)

The evolution of agricultural factor income in real terms, in some EU countries during 2005-2013 is one with an increasing trend in most countries analyzed, with some exceptions: Slovenia (-11.44%) and Ireland (16.89%). Thus, the highest increases were registered in Slovakia (119.55%), Estonia (111.41%), Bulgaria (105.52%), Poland (92.51%), Hungary (80%) and Lithuania (72.87%). In the some cases, several countries have recorded modest increases, as Romania (42.61%), Germany (41.86%), and Latvia (31.10%). The lowest levels were registered modest growth in some countries such as the France (4.80%) and Spain (7.13%). The Graph 3 presents evolution of agricultural factor income in real terms, 2005-2013 (2007 = 100).



Source: authors own computations based on European Commission (2014)

**Graph 3 Evolution of agricultural factor income in real terms, in some EU countries, 2005-2013**

As we can be seen from graph.3, in most states analyzed, a supraunitary growth of agricultural factor income in real terms by reporting from the year 2007, except Ireland (91.60), Spain (99.7%), France (83.9%) and Slovenia (80.9%). This development is illustrative for Europe, most countries, including the recently joined in the European space, managed some compliance with demands of the European economic and social model, inclusive to agriculture one. To understand the situation better, the Table 2 presents agricultural entrepreneurial income per family work unit in some EU countries 2007-2013.

**Table 2: The evolution of the agricultural entrepreneurial income per family work unit (EUR, in real terms)/AWU), 2007-2013**

	2007	2009	2011	2013	$\Delta_{2007-2013}$	$\frac{\Delta_{2007-2013}}{2005=100}$
EU	8,890.9	6,937.6	10,864.0	10,667.6	1,776.8	0.2
Belgium	29,145.1	16,542.2	19,358.1	19,606.9	-9,538.1	-0.3
Bulgaria	2,196.8	2,329.4	2,924.5	4,376.5	2,179.7	1.0
Czech Rep.	8,336.6	3,335.4	21,266.1	17,873.8	9,537.2	1.1
Germany	22,976.5	12,291.1	25,781.7	23,293.1	316.7	0.01
Estonia	8,935.8	3,983.0	15,203.5	16,901.5	7,965.7	0.9
Spain	29,947.9	24,960.8	28,663.0	31,860.5	1,912.6	0.1
France	24,767.8	11,972.9	25,651.5	16,602.9	-8,164.9	-0.3
Italy	10,240.3	9,672.7	10,042.8	13,366.2	3,125.9	0.3
Latvia	2,946.0	1,887.4	2,689.5	2,801.7	-144.3	0.0
Lithuania	2,909.2	1,890.7	3,850.7	4,270.4	1,361.2	0.5
Hungary	3,140.8	2,383.9	6,406.9	6,201.6	3,060.8	1.0
Poland	2,973.2	2,883.8	4,544.5	4,348.0	1,374.8	0.5
Portugal	4,921.6	4,601.3	4,307.7	5,698.1	776.5	0.2
Romania	959.5	1,169.5	3,176.9	2,802.7	1,843.2	1.9
Slovenia	4,431.9	3,619.1	4,574.4	3,382.8	-1,049.1	-0.2
Slovakia	2,192.3	-439.1	3,123.3	1,919.2	-273.1	-0.1
UK	24,290.0	37,226.2	41,488.3	41,809.7	17,519.8	0.7
Min	959.5	-439.1	2,689.5	1,919.2	-	-
Max	29,947.9	37,226.2	41,488.3	41,809.7	-	-

Source: authors based on European Commission (2014)

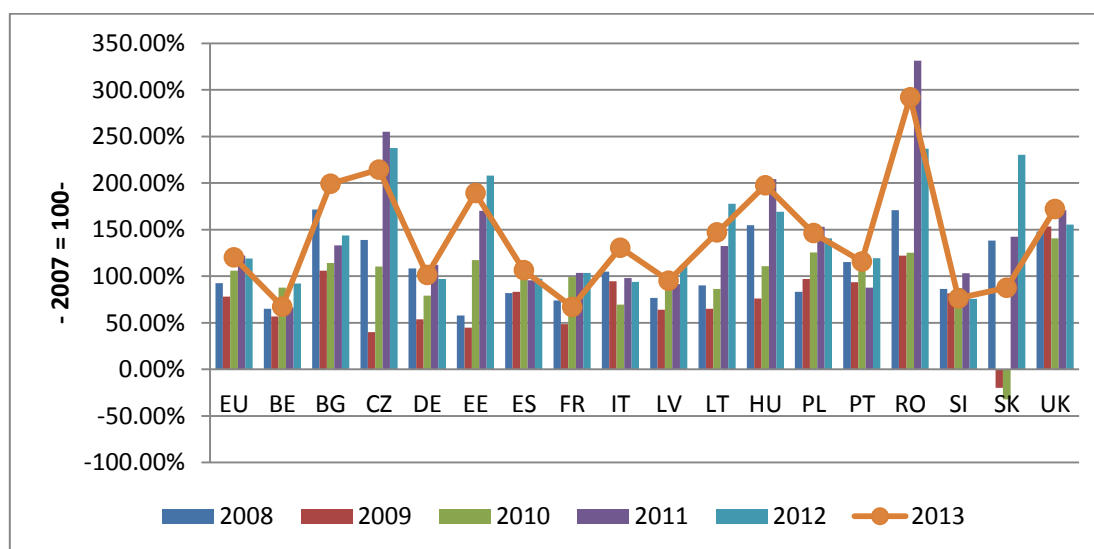
Regarding the evolution of agricultural entrepreneurial income per family work unit (EUR (in real terms)/AWU), it can be noticed that, the largest increase over the range 1.9% is recorded in Romania. Significant decreases is recorded in the case of countries like France and Belgium (-0.3%), Slovenia (-0.2%) and Slovakia (-0.1%). To exemplification, in Table 3 presents the evolution of agricultural income in the case of Romania, for period 2012-2014.

**Table 3 Structure of the Romanian agricultural income, 2012-2014**

Values at basic prices	2012	2013	2014	2013/12	2014/13
	-Million EUR-			% change	
Output of the agricultural "Industry":	14410.2	17756.2	17028.9	23.2	-4.1
Crop output	9008	12184.6	11338.2	35.3	-6.9
Animal output	3992.7	3907.6	3979.2	-2.1	1.8
Animals	1751.4	1911.4	2019.3	9.1	5.6
Animal products	2241.2	1996.2	1959.9	-10.9	-1.8
Agricultural services	120	168.4	-	40.3	-
Secondary activities	1289.6	1495.5	1542.7	16	3.2
Intermediate consumption	8201.1	10098.1	10049	23.1	-0.5
Gross value added at basic prices	6209.1	7658.1	6979.9	23.3	-8.9
Consumption of fixed capital	2614.6	3017.5	2739.9	15.4	-9.2
Taxes	20.8	21	20.9	0.9	-0.5
Subsidies	1356.7	1664.9	1655.8	22.7	-0.5
Factor income	4930.5	6284.5	5874.9	27.5	-6.5
Agricultural income (2005=100)	116.1	142.6	142.2	22.8	-0.3

Source: authors based on European Commission (2015b)

From the table above, it can be seen that, although during the 2013/12 period, significant increases are recorded in the case of main components that make up the structure of the Romanian agricultural income for the interval 2014 / 13 may show significant decreases. The Graph 4 presents the evolution of agricultural entrepreneurial income per family work unit, in case of some EU states during 2007-2013 (2007=100).

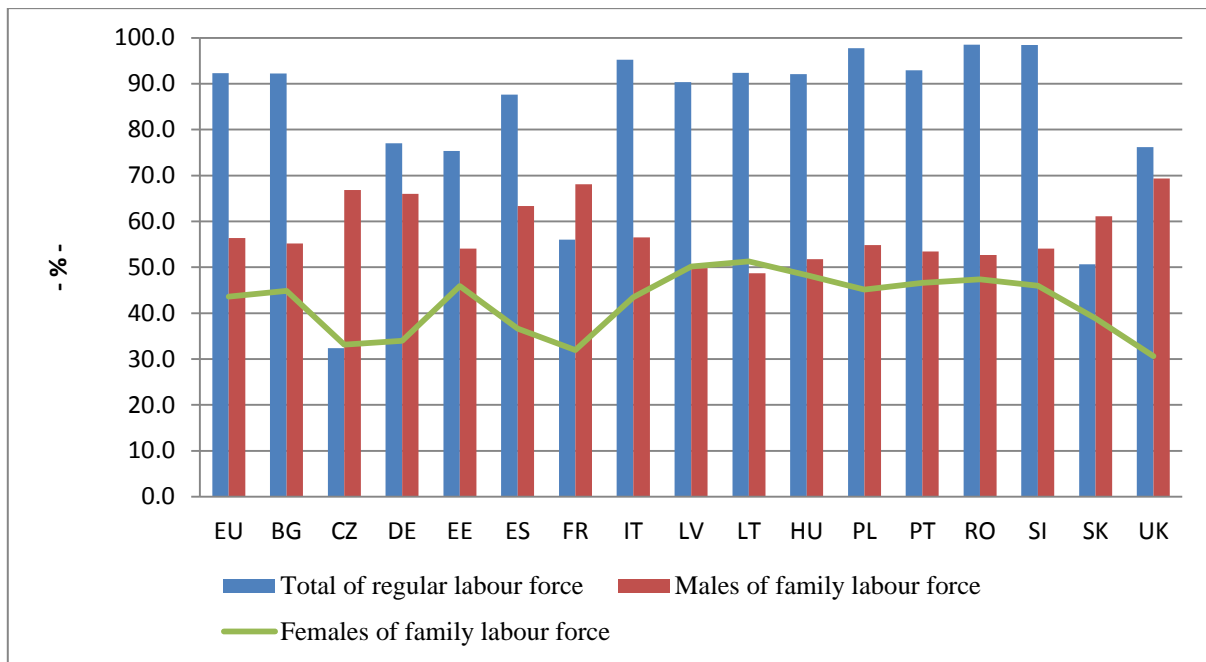


Source: authors own computations based on European Commission (2014)

**Graph 4 Evolution of the agricultural entrepreneurial income per family work unit, in case of some EU states, 2007-2013**

Regarding the evolution of the agricultural entrepreneurial income per family work unit, in case of some EU states during 2007-2013 (2007=100) it can be easily notice a significant supraunitary increase of this indicator level for most of the analyzed states, but with some exceptions such as Belgium (67.2%) and France (67%). This indicator's evolution is determined by Family labor force. So, in graph 5, is presented the structure of family labor force in case of some EU member states, in 2013.

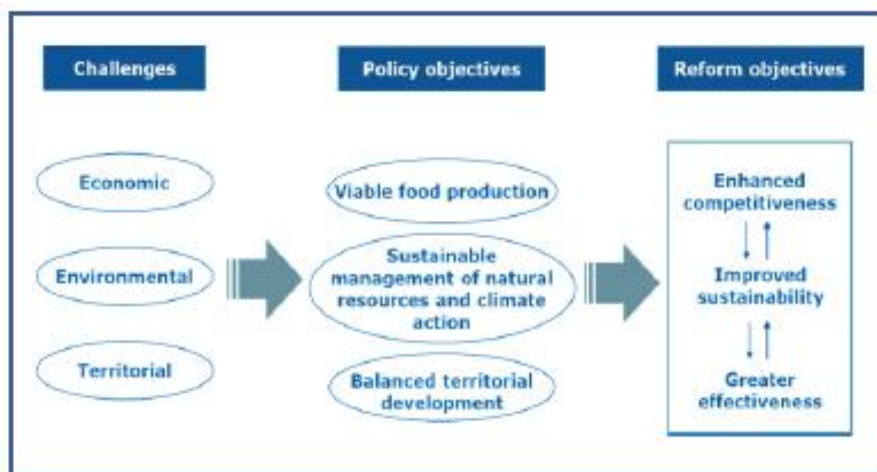




Source: authors based on European Commission (2014)

**Graph 5 Structure of family labor force in case of some EU member states, in 2010**

As shown in (European Economic and Social Committee, 2012), the corporate movement represents a vital component in ensuring the functionality of European agriculture model, being a competitive alternative and efficient, that offers new responses to the imbalances in the value chain of the food sector and, in return, promotes employment and stimulate local food chains, food security, participation and social responsibility. (European Economic and Social Committee, 2012). For example, figure 3 shows the philosophical approach of new CAP philosophy during the 2020 implementation guideline.



Source: based on European Commission (2013)

**Fig 3: Challenges and reform objectives for the CAP post-2013**

## Conclusions

The evolution of European agriculture, in terms of three dimensions considered in this paper, highlights the existence of a complex agricultural space and landscape, with strong influences on rural communities and the European economy in general. CAP, through its complexity or enforcement mechanism satisfies multiple policy components and implications for the European rural communities, at least in terms of agriculture production and valuing the inland agricultural potential for assuring European food safety and security. Emphasizing the role of European multifunctional agriculture and its transformation under the impact of CAP reforms outlined further these policy implications of defining achievement of European rural space. CAP is equally an instrument of agricultural potential` valorization and promoting of European agricultural model`s values.

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