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Abstract: This paper deals with the European Union’s Common Agricultural Policy in 2007–2013 and for 2014–2020 periods. Over the past two decades, the Common Agricultural Policy has been repeatedly basically reorganized, depending on emerging issues related to food quality and safety, the environment and territorial balance, as well as the changing economic needs of the European Union. In view of this, the current Common Agricultural Policy is a joint system that allows by implementing this policy to address the sustainability and competitiveness of rural areas and related agricultural issues throughout the European Union. The ongoing rapid technological development and the increasing amount of information encourages farmers to learn new skills and adapt them to new changing conditions, therefore considerable attention must be paid to farmers concerning their lifelong education, promoting the diversity of non-formal education and its access to remote rural areas, providing personal development and the ability for farmers to adapt to changing labour market conditions.

Key words: European Union Common Agricultural Policy, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, farmers’ education.

Purpose of the article – to analyze the European Union support mechanism for farmers’ education.


Over the past two decades, the Common Agricultural Policy has been repeatedly basically reorganized, depending on emerging issues related to food quality and safety, the environment and territorial balance, as well as the changing economic needs of the European Union. In view of this, the current Common Agricultural Policy is a joint system that allows by implementing this policy to address the sustainability and competitiveness of rural areas and related agricultural issues throughout the European Union.

Implementing the Lithuanian Rural Development Plan for 2007–2013, by tailoring the program’s tools, created for dissemination of scientific knowledge and innovative practices to farmers, the work has been targeted to promote the agricultural and forestry sectors to apply scientific innovation and advanced technologies on their farms.

Under the globalization index, measuring the country’s economic, political and social globalization, Lithuania ranks among the 26 European Union (hereinafter – EU) Member States. Lithuania still lacks appropriate conditions for development of creativity since
Lithuania ranks 17th in creativity among the EU Member States, while the creativity climate is even worse – 24th in the EU. A well-developed and successful lifelong learning system is considered one of the main determinants of the development of society. Lithuania’s current education system is rigid, whereas training programs are based on an iteration, it is not promoted analytical thinking and creative processes. The lifelong learning involved only 5% of its 25–74 years’ old population in 2012 and Lithuania according to this indicator is approximately ranked 21st among the EU Member States. Participation in the formal education system of Lithuanian citizens is very highly ranked and it is exceeds the EU average as 30–34 years’ old residents have completed higher education or equivalent studies (in 2010 they composed 43.8%, in 2011 – 45.5%, in 2012 – 47.9%). The deteriorating labour market and the unsatisfactory quality of education not contributing much to the needs of society lead to a decreasing number of employed young people with higher education levels 25–29 year olds with higher education employment declined from 89.2% in 2006 to 84.8% in 2011, in 2011 unemployment among high school graduates reached 11%.

In rural areas, the part of population having completed high or equivalent education, remains less than half. In 2011 in rural areas secondary and post-secondary education was completed by 78.4% of its 18–24 year olds, and the city – 91.9%. This age group of young people without secondary education or training composes close to 9% of this age population in rural areas – it is higher, compared than in cities. Among 25–64 olds of the rural population the lifelong education level index is even lower by 5%.

In 2011, most of the rural unemployed were unskilled labourers. The structure of education of rural population remains lower than in the city. The country’s labour market experiences increasing demand for skilled workers and many of the rural population’s education, training and skills mismatch the labour market demand. The lack of basic level of knowledge, of entrepreneurship among agricultural and forestry workers stop technological progress, disencourage the creation of new jobs and is one of the main cause of unemployment in the Lithuanian rural population. Therefore, investment by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development will develop lifelong education activities and continuing of vocational training in agriculture, forestry and rural areas, supporting upgrading of skills and transfer of knowledge. This would enable the actors in agriculture, forestry and rural development to make decisions related to innovation and sustainable agricultural and forestry development to help rural residents to install newer and more sustainable technologies, engage in activities unrelated to agriculture and thus reduce the economic and social exclusion in rural areas. This is related to the thematic goal of the EU horizontal objectives in rural development policy for agricultural competitiveness to promote sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, and to ensure achievement of balanced of territorial
rural economic and social development. This thematic goal is also related to the first of the EU’s rural development policy priorities aimed at transfer of knowledge and innovation to promote them in agriculture, forestry and rural areas as well as related to the priority’s assigned goals - to promote lifelong education and continuing vocational training in rural development sectors of agriculture and forestry.

The implementation of the European Union’s Common land policy for the period 2014–2020, this period will aim to create a vibrant countryside by stimulating economic growth, increasing the agricultural, food and forestry sectors, adequate food security, sustainable use of natural resources and addressing the challenges of climate change, creating opportunities for quality of life in rural areas, to ensure a sustainable territorial development.

Evaluating of demographic in terms of age structure, it is noted the decline of persons under 30 years of age and up to 40 years of age in rural areas. Note: by the Lithuanian Youth Policy Framework Act (Official Gazette, 2003, 119-5406) young people are defined as between 14 and 29 years of age. Under EU law, young farmers are considered persons under 40 years of age.

Given the extent of the decline of young people in rural areas, for the 2014–2020 funded programming period of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development, the program’s activities of Lithuanian Rural Development for this will focus on young people, those who engage in agricultural activities and (or) non-farm businesses activities in rural areas, providing support to emerging and (or) already operating the natural or legal persons, eligible for micro and small businesses in line with the applicable requirements. The implementation of local development strategies in the LEADER approach, special attention will be given to inclusion of the youth.

Farmers and forest owners obtaining knowledge on the statutory management requirements and good agricultural and compliance to environmental condition, advice on obtaining support under the agri-environmental measures of economic activity accounting management, forest holding, receive through advisory services, financed by the Lithuanian Rural Development Programme measures for the period 2007–2013, these are used for funding their „Use of advisory services”. This type of consultation helps farmers and forest owners to properly prepare for the EU contribution, as farms meet the requirements, related to the use of EU support.

European Agricultural Fund for Rural development for 2014–2020, according to the EU’s rural development policy geared towards horizontal objectives (to promote the competitiveness of agriculture, sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, to ensure a balanced territorial development of rural economic and community development), as well as the I-st EU Rural Development Policy priority (fostering knowledge transfer and innovation
in agriculture, forestry and rural areas) will seek to promote closer links between business and education creation, durability and better research results. Dissemination of research results must be supported, along with encouraging of private investment in technological development and innovation. The partnership and cooperation between the agricultural, food and forestry sectors, academics, and consultants will be promoted through the European innovation partnership pilot projects, by supporting development of new products, practices and technologies. Consultancy services is crucial importance for farmers, forest managers and rural areas operating micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, for the securing quality and effectiveness to have a significant impact on the promotion of the latest research results in the transfer and dissemination of innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas. For the period 2014–2020, Lithuanian agriculture and rural development innovations, research and business partnerships challenges must be related to the competitiveness of the agricultural and farm entities in creating increases of value–added products, employment in rural areas, increase of biodiversity and landscape conservation, enhancement of forest ecosystems and conservation, adaptation to climate change and the promotion of social inclusion. The idea is that European Agricultural Fund for Rural development investment for innovations meets the objectives and priorities of the Lithuanian Innovation Strategy.

Findings

1. After making the comparative analysis of the Lithuanian Rural Development Programme 2007–2013 to the analysis of the projected 2014–2020 programming period, it was found that the current Lithuanian rural development policy would proceed.

2. The main tasks for the Rural Development in the European Union for the period 2014–2020 are the following ones: agricultural competitiveness, sustainable natural resource management and sustainable territorial development. Tasks and challenges for rural development are appropriate and useful for Lithuania since they reflect the previously carried out agricultural and rural development policy in Lithuania, therefore their apparent continuity is envisioned in the formation of the new policy.

3. For the period 2014–2020 programming period it would be maintained the programming of the period 2007–2013 in capacity building trends and volumes of the beneficiaries in agricultural education.
Literatūra


Резюме

А. ПРАКАПИЕНĖ
СЕЛЬСКОХОЗЯЙСТВЕННОЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ ОСУЩЕСТВЛЕНИЯ ЕВРОПЕЙСКОГО СОЮЗА ОБЩЕЙ СЕЛЬСКОХОЗЯЙСТВЕННОЙ ПОЛИТИКИ, НОВОСТИ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ ПЕРИОД 2014-2020: ОСОБЕННОСТИ ИННОВАЦИОННОГО РАЗВИТИЯ

В статье рассматриваются обща сельскохозяйственная политика Европейского союза в 2007–2013 и 2014-2020 периоды. За последние два десятилетия, общая сельскохозяйственная политика неоднократно в основном реорганизована, в зависимости от возникающих вопросов, связанных с качеством и безопасности пищевых продуктов, охраны окружающей среды и территориального баланса, а также изменении экономических потребностей Европейского Союза. В связи с этим, в настоящее время общая сельскохозяйственная политика является системой, которая позволяет этой политике для решения устойчивости и конкурентоспособности сельских районах и связанных с ними вопросов сельского хозяйства во всем Европейском Союзе. Продолжающийся быстрое развитие технологий и все большее количество информации поощряет фермеров для получения новых навыков и адаптировать их к новым меняющимся условиям, поэтому значительное внимание должно быть уделено фермерам относительно их непрерывного образования, поощрение разнообразия форм неформального образования и его доступ к отдаленным сельским районам, обеспечивая развитие личности и способность фермеров, чтобы адаптироваться к изменяющимся условиям рынка труда.

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