

2015 On-the-spot checks
guidelines and link with LPIS in Italy


Evolution of LPIS in Italy for EFA consolidation and controls



September 2014

Italian numbers

- ❑ Around **6,500 Mil. €** of subsidies to farmers
- ❑ **2,000,000** of surveyed farmers
- ❑ **5,000** local bureau linked to the system; more than **10,000** authorized users
- ❑ **Common Agreements** with Cadastre, Regions, Health, CNR, JRC,...) for data exchange and services
- ❑ 300,000 sqkm for **300,000 cadastral maps managed**
- ❑ 70,000,000 parcels in total: **12,000,000 claimed**
- ❑ Farm sizes in average **8 ha**
- ❑ **Farms with greening obligations: 176,000 (draft)**
- ❑ **Farms with EFA obligations: 122,000 (draft)**



LPIS in Italy news


To be compliant with the CAP 2015-2020, especially for Greening, the Italian LPIS updating programme will provide the following steps :

- EFA- Ecological Focus Areas layer realization
- National Permanent Pastures Register establishment

To better support these tasks, Italy anticipates the orthoimagery upgrading, through:

- Multispectral airborne acquisition at 20cm resolution
- Ortho-photos production at 1:5,000 scale

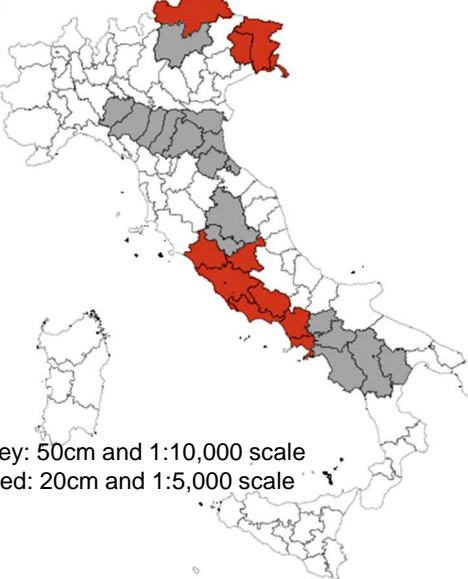
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Ortofoto AGEA 2014

Airborne acquisition planning for 2014


Each year Italy has been updating LPIS for a third of the nation (around 100,000 sqkm), since 2007



Grey: 50cm and 1:10,000 scale
Red: 20cm and 1:5,000 scale

Limiti provinciali
 Scala nominale 1:10.000 (pixel 50 cm)
 Scala nominale 1:5.000 (pixel 20 cm)

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LPIS in Italy news - scale 1:5,000


Considering the annual updating for 100,000 sqkm of 2014, we started with 20cm pixel and **1:5,000 scale for almost 40,000 sqkm**, while from 2015, all the usual third of the nation will be cyclically updated through 20cm and 1:5,000 scale

Achieved targets:

- Ortho-photos 1:5,000, in advance vs. the EU obligation, also thanks to other Administrations contribution (Regions, Envi Min, Territory Agency, etc)
- Improved quality and accuracy of Aerial data, for both a better EFA detection/measuring capability and graphic application to be submitted by farmers

At

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LPIS in Italy

Italian LPIS is based on a complete wall to wall coverage of the Nation (300.000 sqkm), not only limited to the declared parcels for the agricultural sector


Italian LPIS currently contains:

- ☐ Agricultural vs not agricultural areas
- ☐ Land cover/uses up to 77 classes (3rd Corine Land Cover level everywhere and 4th CLC level for agriculture)

Some Landscape Features (LF) protected by “cross-compliance” up to 2014 are already identified in the LPIS, [such as](#):

- Hedge and rows of trees → unique category at the moment
- Ditches and canals up to 6 m wide
- Terraces
- Stone walls → digitized only if > than 2 m

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LPIS in Italy news – the EFA layer


Additional Landscape Features not yet protected by C-C could be differentiated with their specific codes, such as:

- Trees in group up to 3,000 sqm
- Field margins up to 20 m wide
- Ponds/lakes up to 0,1 ha

These Elements will become eligible, only if they contribute to fulfil the farms' EFA needs" (up to 5% of arable land in 2015-16)

Achieved targets:
the national EFA LAYER could be based on the existing LPIS geometric structure, ready for the 2015 claim campaign

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LPIS in Italy news – the EFA layer

Moreover, as third step, new EFA elements, other than LF, must be digitized or inherited from the LPIS when they are already existing as polygon, such as:

- buffer strips along water courses;
- riparian vegetation strips up to 10 m;
- strips along forest borders;
- agro-forestry areas;
- short rotation coppice areas;
- afforested areas (art. 32, par 2 b, point ii of Reg. 639/2014)

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LPIS in Italy news – Permanent pastures


In addition, to be compliant with Greening, Permanent Pastures must be detected and monitored.
Italy decided to create the “ National Permanent Pasture Register”, aimed at:

- Calculation of pastures’ proportion maintenance
- Farmers communication on land-change restrictions (potential or absolute)
- Administrative and annual OTS checks
- Eventual land change authorization or restoration need

To achieve this goal, task will be:

- Information extracting from claims 2012, 2013, 2014, integrated by existing databases from Regional Authorities;
- updating, at the same time, of the national sensible zones (Natura 2000, NVZ, etc).

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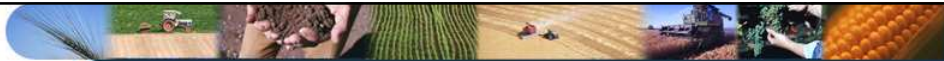


LPIS in Italy news – Permanent pastures

All the collected data will be checked through CAPI, while farmers will be able to present their requests of revisions/modifications

Achieved targets:
After 2015 farmers’ claims, the “National Permanent Pastures Register” will be consolidated

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On the Spot Checks – Control method

Italy has been using Remote Sensing data for 100% of controls on the spot since 2007


Following the recommendations of art. 38, 40 of Reg. 809/2014, AGEA will proceed through RS also for 2015 -2020

To do this, Italy will continue in 2015 to ask JRC_DGAgri for approximately 26,000 sqkm of VHR data, scattered on national territory (60-70 zones – average 400 sqkm each sample zone)

Advantages:

- Better objectivity and repetitiveness of controls (e.g. for farmer meetings and historical data set)
- Less costs
- Less working time

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On the Spot Checks – EFA control method

In addition to the usual risk criteria, used for eligibility/CC, Italy is individuating new ones for EFA, such as:


EFA presence, absolute and %, through EFA layer

EFA elements considered less stable as:

- Land lying fallow
- Field margins
- Natural strips along woodland edges
- Nitrogen-fixing crops

N.B. Italy decided to not consider as EFA: Areas with catch crops or green cover

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On the Spot Checks –EFA control method

CwRS steps :

- VHR satellite selection/acquisition (+ 1 or 2 multi-temporal HR)
- CAPI methodology:
 - Annual sat imagery (VHR+HR) and ortophoto archive contextual analysis, in overlapping with LPIS, EFA layer and cadastral parcels (property).
 - Photointerpretation and immediate updating directly on LPIS and EFA layer.

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On the Spot Checks – EFA control method

Particularly, EFA layer will be verified, through annual RS imagery for:

- Verification of declared EFA elements conservation on parcels and their adjacency evaluation
- Inspection on EFA elements not yet registered on the Layer (e.g. on a new arable parcel rented recently by a farmer)

All the variations found on samples, will be directly stored on the national data bases (LPIS and EFA layer), ready for 2016 geospatial applications

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On the Spot Checks – EFA control method

In case of EFA, GAEC and eligibility doubtful interpretations, photo-interpreters will proceed to re-analyse the issues through 2015 orthophotos at 20 cm resolution, if available. If after this iteration doubts still remain, those not solved parcels will be put in a specific list for RFV.


Some parcels category, particularly risky, (e.g. land lying fallow, or nitrogen – fixing crops) could be put in a list for a systematic RFV

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On the Spot Checks –EFA examples of doubts

Field margin or ditch ?




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On the Spot Checks –EFA examples of doubts

Field margin or stone wall covered by vegetation?




satellite

orthophoto




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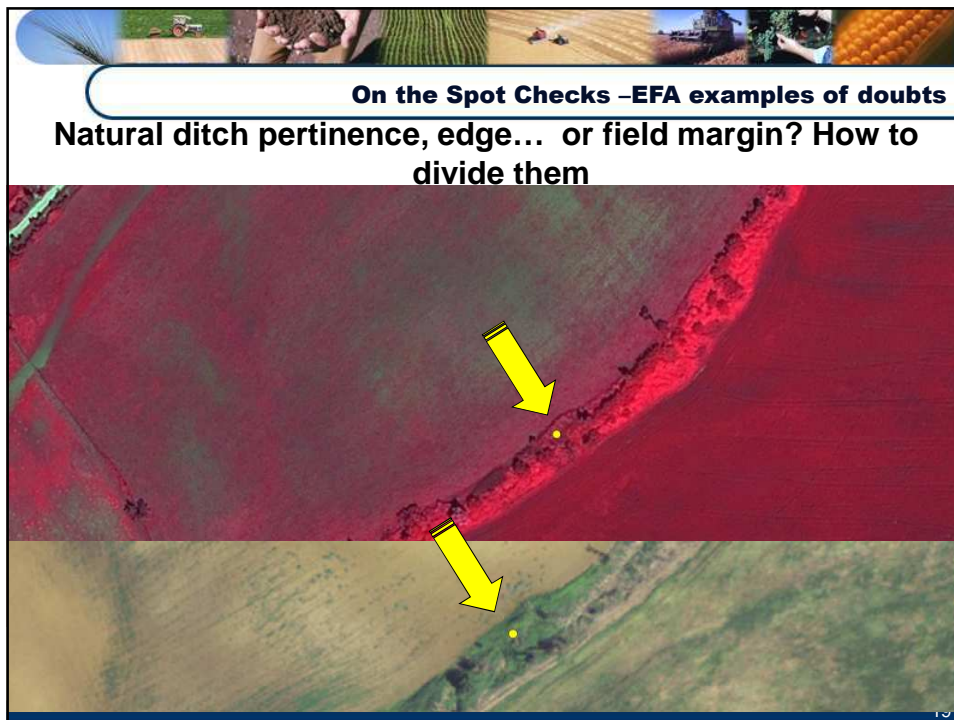


On the Spot Checks –EFA examples of doubts

Small riverbanks drawing...how to proceed? Field border, ditch or riparian vegetation? And how separate different items

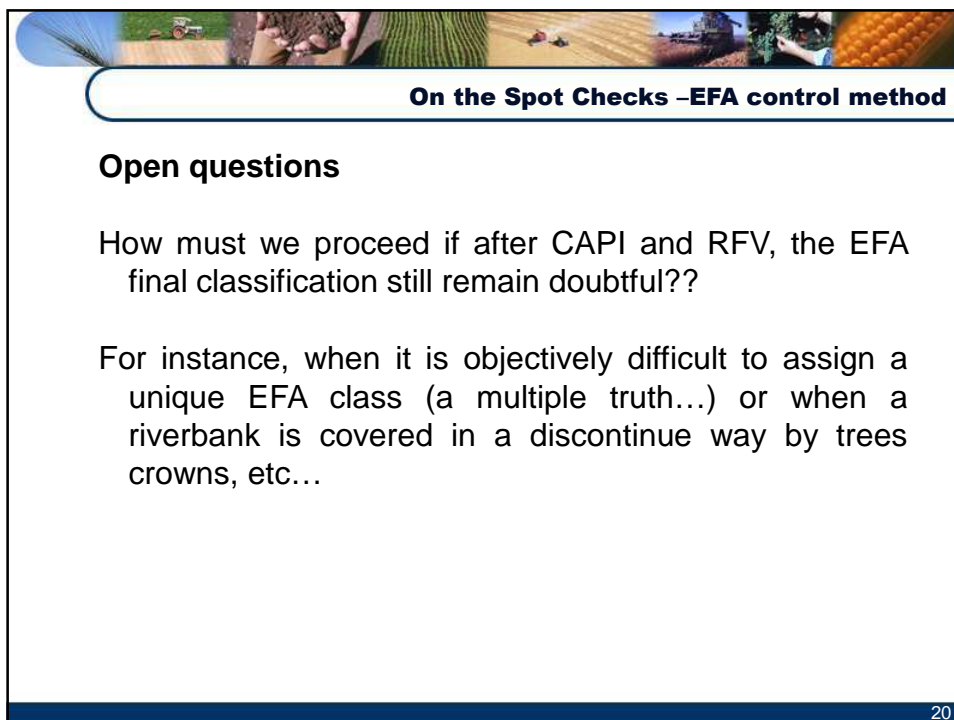


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On the Spot Checks –EFA examples of doubts

Natural ditch pertinence, edge... or field margin? How to divide them



On the Spot Checks –EFA control method

Open questions

How must we proceed if after CAPI and RFV, the EFA final classification still remain doubtful??

For instance, when it is objectively difficult to assign a unique EFA class (a multiple truth...) or when a riverbank is covered in a discontinue way by trees crowns, etc...



Conclusions and issues

1. **More farmer difficulties**, during the application phases
2. **More farmer risks of mistakes in declaration**, with possible consequent sanctions
3. **More complexity in Controls execution** for MS Administrations
4. **Higher risk of financial reductions** by EU Services for MS
5. **Major costs for MS** to be compliant with the new CwRS iterations

- HOW COULD WE SIMPLIFY ALL THAT???

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Solution!!!


SIMPLIFYING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN

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On the Spot Checks –control method

Land laying in fallow 5% → 

 ← Farmer laying sleeping 100%

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On the Spot Checks –control method

Thank you for your attention

sigc@agea.gov.it

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