

35<sup>th</sup>

Conference of the Directors  
of EU Paying Agencies  
Komotini, Greece, 9th -11th April 2014



# Experience from the exercise regarding the reinforcement of assurance on legality and regularity

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## About OPEKEPE

- 740.000 Beneficiaries
- 6.000.000 Land parcels
- Broad range of schemes and measures
- 50.000 OTSCs

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## Reinforcement of assurance as far as to the L&R of transactions is concerned

- AGRI/D/62146/2010 & art.7 Regulation 1290/2005
- previous findings of Commission auditors
- general & specific guidelines from the Joint Research Centre

# Reinforcement of assurance as far as to the L&R of transactions is concerned

Goal: To monitor the procedures for the approval and execution  
of payments to final beneficiaries

Via:

- Re-performance of a sample of OPEKEPE OTSCs
- Re-performance of the administrative checks of the sample
- Checking payments to final beneficiaries
- Verification of control statistics



## A look back

Reinforcement of assurance as to the L&R of transactions at the level of FB	Key characteristics
2011: 1 <sup>st</sup> implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tight timeframe</li> <li>- EAGF – IACS and measures 211 &amp; 212 of EAFRD- IACS</li> <li>- Small Aegean islands excluded</li> <li>- Report submitted on 31 January 2012</li> </ul>
2012: 2 <sup>nd</sup> implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tight timeframe</li> <li>- Implementation to EAGF-IACS and EAFRD- IACS</li> <li>- Report submitted on 31 January 2013</li> </ul>
2013: 3 <sup>rd</sup> implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation to EAGF-IACS and EAFRD- IACS</li> <li>- Report submitted on 30 October 2013</li> </ul>



## Procedure

Population: the random sample of OTSCs  
(remote sensing and classical OTSCs)

EAGF: re-performances at the field by the CB and revision of OPEKEPE audit reports	111	The sample was extracted with the MUS method (monetary unit sampling)
EARDF: re-performances at the field by the CB and revision of OPEKEPE audit reports	111	



## Procedure

### Re-performance of OTSCs

- cooperation with experts- agronomist auditors
- re-performance of 25% parcels of the OPEKEPE OTSCs (minimum 10 parcels)
- tools: orthophotomaps and GPS
- For classic spot checks the presence of the farmer is required
- for controls conducted by remote sensing, OPEKEPE agronomists accompanied the CB controller
- collection and processing of audit reports completed by CB qualified experts



## Procedure

- for carrying out the re-performance of administrative checks required the collection and transfer of files of final beneficiaries from the CBs sample, from the regional offices of the OPEKEPE at the headquarters of the Agency, is required
- necessary condition: coordination and communication with regional offices for the collection of files





## A retrospective view

**Main Problems: Time consuming, difficulties in the coordination of all regional offices, misunderstandings**

**However, OPEKEPE recognizes that the whole procedure sheds light on issues that need to be addressed in order to improve its performance**



## Challenges

- Timing (timely re-performance of OTSC combined with control statistics verification)
- Use of GPS for the re-performance of OTSC originally carried out with remote sensing
- Resource pressure (on Paying Agency staff)
- Beneficiaries complaints

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# Challenges

## Timing

In areas under annual crops sometimes, at the time of re-performance by CB auditors a different image prevailed due to plowing. Therefore the CB auditors not walking along the boundaries traced by farmers when declaring the parcel



## Challenges

### **Use of GPS for the re-performance of OTSC originally carried out with remote sensing**

Measurements via GPS apply a tolerance. Therefore it is reasonable to have a shift and / or a slight deformation of the shape of the parcel resulting from the measurement, when compared to the digitization on LPIS and the result of remote sensing. The purpose of the re-performance is to confirm the OTSCs digitization of parcels or the re-measurement of the parcels;



## Closing remarks

### OPEKEPE

- recognizes the challenges in terms of cost & effort so far required for the implementation of the reinforcement of assurance on legality and regularity
- welcomes the positive effect of the exercise in regards to the strengthening of the overall control environment
- looks forward to new integrated sampling approach of the forthcoming guideline on the annual certification audit

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**Thank you for your attention!**