



SafeNet

Strengthen Anti-Fraud
European Network



The SafeNet Project Strengthen Anti Fraud European Network

Padua (IT)

February 7-9th 2017

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It was established to promote activities in the field of the protection of the financial interests of the European Union.

(for more information see http://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/policy/hercule_en)





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MEETING DAY

Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs
Creating network opportunities

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Management and
Administration

Heli Pöyhönen
Head of Unit

Padua (IT), February 7th 2017

That it reflects the author's view and the European Commission is not responsible for the views displayed in the publications and/or in conjunction with the activities for which the grant is used.
The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.





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About us

Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs (Mavi)

- Rural agency is the only paying agency in Finland
 - Founded in 2007 and simultaneously decentralized from the capital city of Helsinki to a more rural setting in Seinäjoki
 - Previously duties of the paying agency were carried out by a division of the ministry of agriculture in Helsinki
- Manages the payments in EAGF and EAFRD
 - Also carries out payments of domestic subsidies





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- Mavi operates as a process oriented organization
 - An overhaul of the organizational structure took place in the autumn of 2016
 - In addition to paying agency tasks, Mavi conducts some duties of the managing authority and also has the rural network services unit
 - Altogether, Mavi has circa 200 employees





Communications

Director-General
Leena Tenhola

Internal Audit

Quality Assurance Unit

The Department of Agriculture
Jukka Pekonniemi

Farmer Support Unit

Farmer Support Control Unit

Farmer Support IT Unit

The Department of Rural Development
Antti-Jussi Oikarinen

Unit for Development Support

IT Unit for Development Support

Inspection Unit
Heli Pöyhönen

Network Services Unit

Market Department
Marja Husu

Forest and Market Unit

Food Market Unit

Financial Management and Administration
Erja Loppi

Accounting Unit for Support

Unit for Payments and Recoveries

Finance and Administration Unit

Information and Technology Services
Juha Antila

Information Service Unit

ICT Unit



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- The management of EAGF and EAFRD subsidies has been rather decentralized in Finland
 - As a result, Mavi has delegated tasks of the paying agency to a total of **81** regional and/or national bodies
 - eg. co-operational areas of municipalities, regional centres, national authorities with a special area of expertise
- A rather positive side of this scope of delegation is that we have officials with excellent local knowledge in every corner of the country



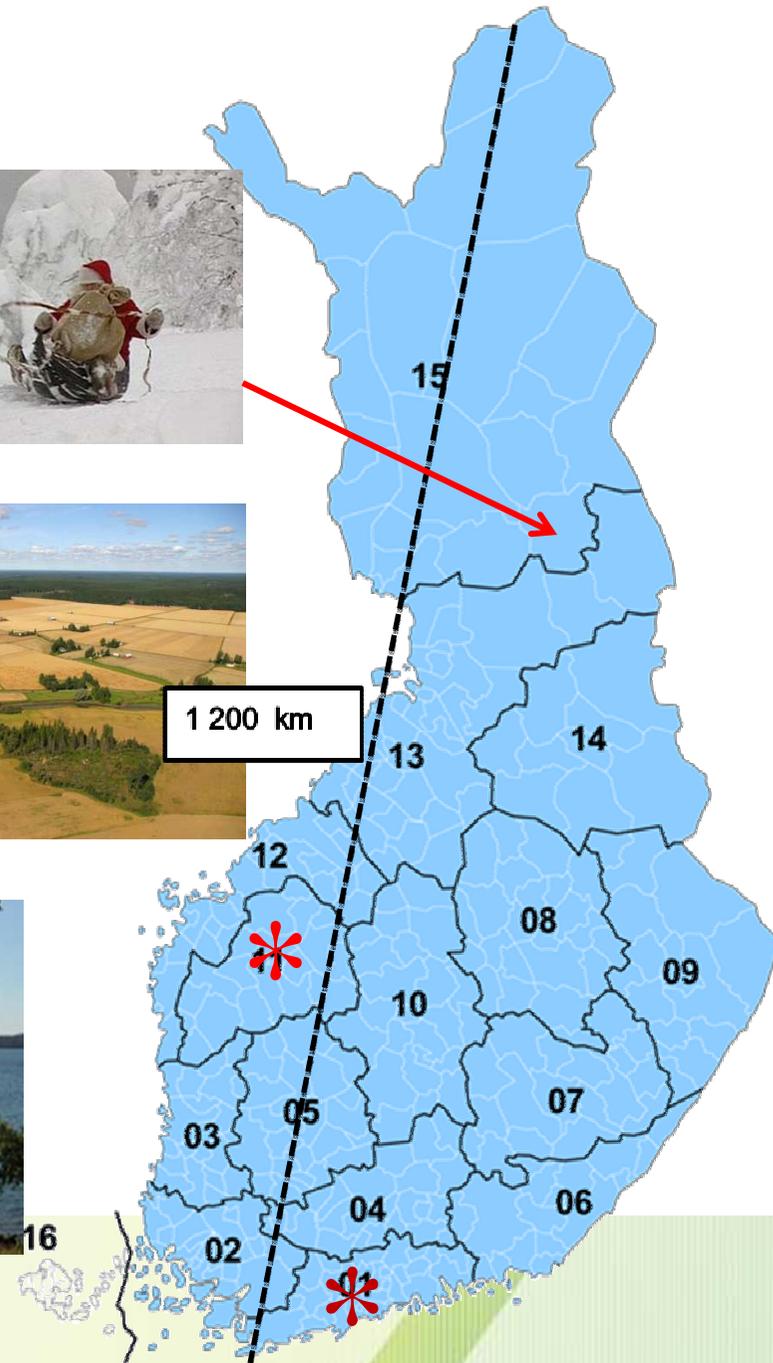


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FINLAND



1 200 km





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Relevant elements of AF systems

Anti-fraud measures taken by Mavi

- Mavi drafted the PA's anti-fraud strategy in the autumn of 2015
- The anti-fraud measures required by the guidelines and guidance notes were put to use during 2015
 - The number of delegated bodies means that the implementation of these measures uniformly and efficiently throughout the different bodies creates a challenge
 - To tackle this challenge, emphasis has to be put on fraud awareness and fraud prevention training





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Relevant elements of AF systems

Anti-fraud measures taken by Mavi

- Mavi is responsible for drafting the check-lists and instructions for different controls and checks
 - Most of the checks and red flags are nothing new to the officials, but rather have been around in one form or another before
 - The documentation and way of conducting certain checks has improved with these more detailed check-lists and working documents
- Local knowledge of the regional authorities over the enterprises in their area is a major asset in combating fraud
 - Officials often know first hand the businesses and the competitive situation in the area





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Our best practices

- Decentralization of the tasks to the areas
 - Expertise on the businesses as well as markets in the respective areas
 - Specialization of officials towards certain lines of businesses increases their ability to assess and evaluate for example the tendering bids and price points
 - «Know your customer»
- Electronic administration system
 - Aid applications and payment claims are filed using the IT-system
 - The IT-system does not allow the user (neither the beneficiary nor the official) to advance before all necessary information has been entered
 - All the materials relating to a payment claim are located in the same place and readily available for the processor
 - This facilitates all controls regarding the matter





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Network & opportunities

- Mavi can offer a look into the decentralized management system that we feel helps especially with fraud prevention
- Due to the scope of delegation of tasks we have had to adopt many different technological means for spreading the information and organizing trainings (video conferencing tools etc.)
- We are interested in learning more about risk factors and red flags identified in other PAs as well as the actual checks used
- IT-based solutions for cross-referencing databases and authorities are also an area of interest for us

