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# Technical and innovative tools and methods in support of CAP Geo referencing methods/LPIS

Padova, May 27th 2015



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# The system of area based payments in Romania

Padova, May 27th 2015

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## The system of area based payments in Romania

**The presentation will cover the following main points:**

- A general description of the system in Romania for area based measures (both Pillar I and II);
- A short description of the administrative and on the spot checks
- A description Geospatial application/LPIS
- Common cases of fraud in Romania related to area based payments

**ABSTRACT**





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## Paying and intervention agency for agriculture (PIAA)

**Paying and Intervention Agency for Agriculture (PIAA) is the implementation body for agricultural support measures, financed from EU budget, through:**

- the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)
- The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (Measures delegated by RIFA, which is the accredited Paying Agency)





## Payment schemes managed by PIAA as of 2015 (Pillar I):

- Single area payment scheme (SAPS)
- Redistributive payment
- Payments for farmers observing agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment (“greening”)
- Payments for young farmers
- Coupled support scheme
- Simplified scheme for small farmers
- Transitional National Aid (TNA)





## Payment schemes managed by PIAA as of 2015 (Pillar II):

### Rural development measures delegated by the Rural Investments Financing Agency to PIAA:

M 10 „ Agri-environment-climate”

M 11 „ Organic farming”

M 13 „ Payments to areas facing natural  
or other specific constraints”

M 214 „ Payments for Agri-environment”



For new  
commitments



For ongoing  
commitments from the  
2007-2013 Program



## Management of payment claims for area-based payment schemes/aid measures

- There is a single payment application for all area-based schemes/measures, which is submitted annually and is entered into the IACS system.
- Management and control rules are the same, irrespective of the area declared.
- Axis II sanctions system is regulated annually by Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, being updated in compliance with the EU legislation.
- Legal amendments are implemented by campaign in the IACS system.



## Management of payment claims for area-based payment schemes/aid measures

For payment claims the following actions are performed:

- Administrative controls (for 100% of the applications)
  - ✓ Visual checks
  - ✓ Cross-checks with the LPIS database
  - ✓ Cross-checks with the (ANSVSA and ANARZ) Animals' Registry
- On the spot checks (classical and with remote sensing) based on a selected sample
- Finalization of controls and establishing possible sanctions depending on the non-compliances found.
- Calculation of the amounts to be paid
- Authorization of the amounts to be paid
- Debts management







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## On-the-spot checks:

- The on-the-spot checks purpose is to verify data stated by the farmer in the aid application form, as well as to verify compliance with eligibility requirements and commitments, based on the actual on the field status
- For the farmers selected for the control, for AEM, field visits are being performed, no matter the control method (classical or remote sensing)
- The controls will focus primarily on verifying compliance with the commitments on parcels
- Rapid field visits in the purpose of verifying commitments that can only be checked in certain times of the year (eg. mowing)



## MANAGEMENT OF PAYMENT CLAIMS FOR AREA-BASED PAYMENT SCHEMES/ AID MEASURES

- **Single area payment scheme (SAPS)**
- **Redistributive payment**
- **Payments for farmers observing agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment (“greening”)**
- **Payments for young farmers**
- **Coupled support scheme**
- **Simplified scheme for small farmers**
- **Transitional National Aid (TNA)**





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## Geospatial Application (GA): Romanian GA experience

**ABSTRACT**

- **Software facilities**
- **Information provided to the farmers**
- **Useful tools for farmers and administration**
- **Preparation for construction of EFA Layer**
- **Advantages of using geospatial application**





## IPA ONLINE:

- It is an instrument put at the Romanian farmers' disposal by PIAA through which the applicants for direct payments from EU funds can identify and digitize the parcels they use in a GIS environment.
- Simultaneously the farmers fill in the area declaration, in compliance with the size of the parcels measured through digitization.



## Software facilities:

Two base functioning modes:

### - **Internet**

- Only parcels of the user (farmer) logged on are visible and editable
- It is used by the farmers in the process of digitization and preparation of the declaration

### - **Intranet**

- All parcels are visible
- It is used by the APIA administration employees in the administrative controls processes







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## IPAOnline contain a lot of useful layers:

- the reference parcel layers-2008-2014
- the parcels digitized in IPAOnline-2009-2014 layers
- the information about on the spot checks (and Cwrs)
- Ortophotos, cadastral information where available
- Layer with overlaps between digitized parcels
- Preparation layer for EFA
- AECM eligible zones layer
- ANC layers
- Nitrates directive areas and other restrictions

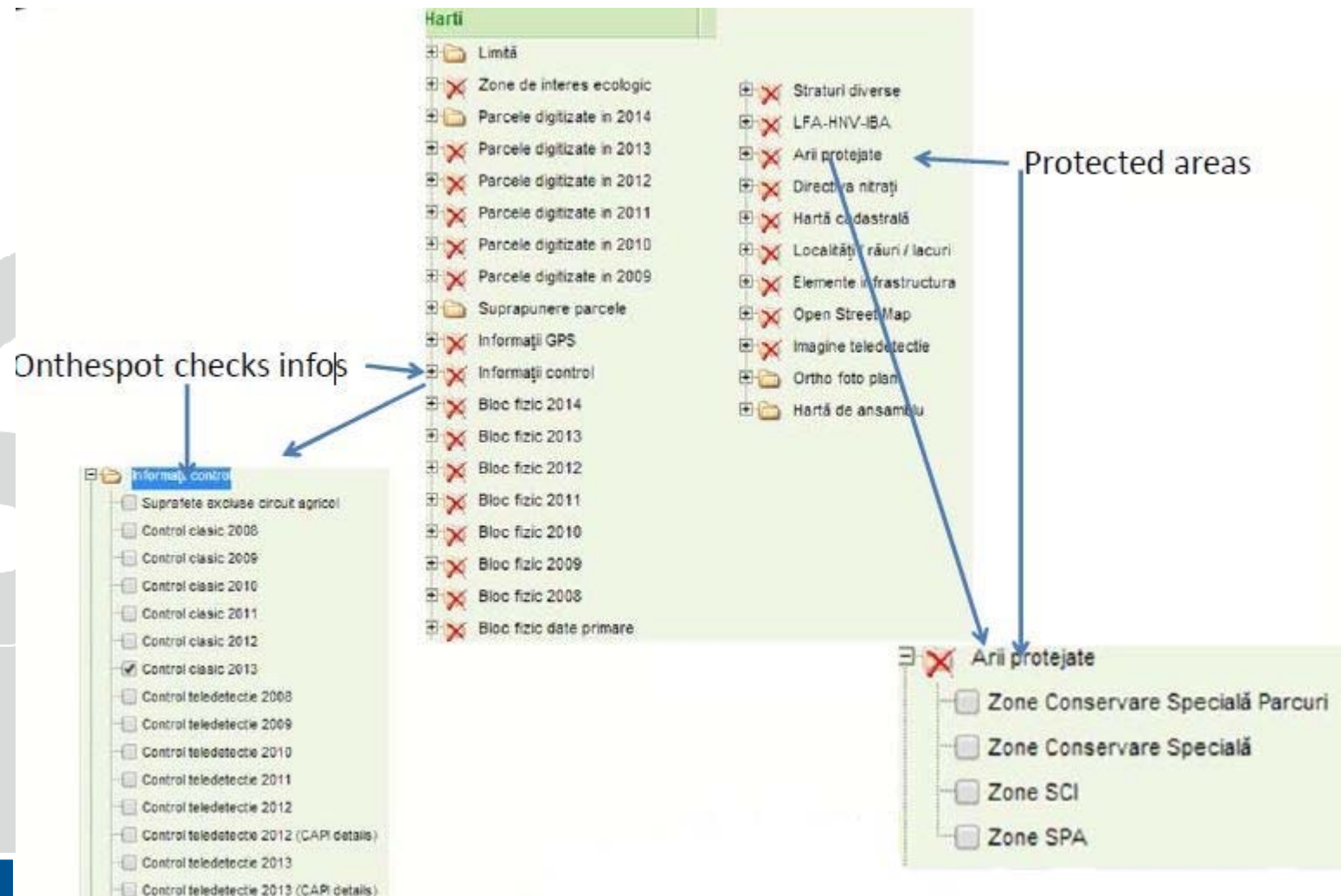




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# Software facilities:







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## Software facilities:

Useful function for farmers and administration:

- measuring area tools/measuring distance tools
- zooming in/out
- digitizing polygons (creation, editing, splitting, deleting)
- search for a specific reference parcel, administrative units
- export specific data

Useful functions for administration:

- Reports with over declared reference parcels
- Reports with overlaps between two or several parcels
- Reports with farmers observations about the update of LPIS
- Export functions for the preparation of the parcels for the control purposes





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## Information provided to the farmers:

The previous year declaration (in electronic format) with useful tools to zoom to a specific parcel/reference parcel.

Agenția de Plăți și Intervenție pentru Agricultură

ID Fermier: RO2 [redacted] Nr. bloc fizic: [ ] - [ ] Raport/Lista: Informare bază de date IACS - FERMIER Campania: 2013 Modifica

**PARCELE ALOCATE FERMIER RO [redacted]**

NR	AN	ID FERMIER	NUME	PRENUME	COMUNE	NR BLOC FIZIC	NR PARCELA	CAT. FOL.	PARCELA ha	NR CULT.	CULTURA	COD	CULTURA ha	AGRO MEDIU	
1	2013	RO [redacted]	[redacted]	MA	ORAS SALISTE	145499-1155	9	PP	0,80	9a	Pajsti permanente utilizate individual	606	0,80	nu	Mergi la bloc fizic
2	2013	RO [redacted]	[redacted]	MA	TILISCA	145907-95	12	CP	0,26	12a	Meri	651	0,26	nu	Mergi la bloc fizic
3	2013	RO [redacted]	[redacted]	MA	ORAS SALISTE	145499-1415	13	PP	21,49	13a	Pajsti permanente utilizate individual	606	21,49	P1.2	Mergi la bloc fizic
4	2013	RO [redacted]	[redacted]	MA	ORAS SALISTE	145499-2329	14	PP	5,05	14a	Pajsti permanente utilizate individual	606	5,05	P1.2	Mergi la bloc fizic
5	2013	RO [redacted]	[redacted]	MA	SLIMNIC	145603-584	15	PP	4,00	15a	Pajsti permanente utilizate in comun	604	4,00	P1.2	Mergi la bloc fizic
6	2013	RO [redacted]	[redacted]	MA	SLIMNIC	145603-293	16	PP	16,00	16a	Pajsti permanente utilizate in comun	604	16,00	P1.2	Mergi la bloc fizic
7	2013	RO [redacted]	[redacted]	MA	ORAS MIERCUREA SIBIULUI	144928-269	17	PP	0,30	17a	Pajsti permanente utilizate in comun	604	0,30	nu	Mergi la bloc fizic
8	2013	RO [redacted]	[redacted]	MA	ORAS MIERCUREA SIBIULUI	144928-290	18	PP	0,50	18a	Pajsti permanente utilizate in comun	604	0,50	nu	Mergi la bloc fizic
9	2013	RO [redacted]	[redacted]	MA	TILISCA	145907-418	19	PPn	0,20	19a	Pajsti permanente utilizate in comun	604	0,20	nu	Mergi la bloc fizic
10	2013	RO [redacted]	[redacted]	MA	ORAS SALISTE	145499-2791	20	PPn	0,20	20a	Pajsti permanente utilizate in comun	604	0,20	nu	Mergi la bloc fizic

Imprima





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## Information provided to the farmers:

The previous year declaration- in draft prepared for actual year changes

### II. DECLARATIE DE SUPRAFATA - 2014 - IPA-Online - PROIECT

ID Fermier:

Se declara toate parcelele agricole utilizate indiferent daca sunt eligibile sau nu pentru sprijin!

Data: 14.04.2014

Nume si Prenume / Denumire exploatare:

NR	JD	LOCALITATE/COMUNA/ORAS	COD SIRSUP	NR BLOC FIZIC	PAGINA	NR PARCELA AGRICOLA	COD CAT. DE FOLOSINTA	SUPRAFATA PARCELA -ha-	MASURI DE AGRO-MEDIU	NR PARCELA CULTURA	NUME CULTURA	COD CULTURA	AN-EXA 17_b	SUPRAFATA CULTURA -ha-
1	SB	SALISTE	145499	1155	3	9	PP	0,80	nu	9a	Pajisti permanente utilizate individual	606		0,80
2	SB	TILISCA	145907	95	8	12	CP	0,26	nu	12a	Meri	651		0,26
3	SB	SALISTE	145499	1415	4	13	PP	21,49	P1.2	13a	Pajisti permanente utilizate individual	606		21,49
4	SB	SLIMNIC	145603	584	7	15	PP	4,00	P1.2	15a	Pajisti permanente utilizate in comun	604		4,00
5	SB	SLIMNIC	145603	293	6	16	PP	16,00	P1.2	16a	Pajisti permanente utilizate individual	606	X	16,00
6	SB	MIERCUREA SIBIULUI	144928	269	1	17	PP	0,30	nu	17a	Pajisti permanente utilizate in comun	604		0,30
7	SB	MIERCUREA SIBIULUI	144928	290	2	18	PP	0,50	nu	18a	Pajisti permanente utilizate in comun	604		0,50
8	SB	TILISCA	145907	418	9	19	PPn	0,20	nu	19a	Pajisti permanente utilizate in comun	604		0,20
9	SB	SALISTE	145499	2791	5	20	PPn	0,20	nu	20a	Pajisti permanente utilizate in comun	604		0,20
													<b>TOTAL SUPRAFATA UTILIZATA</b>	<b>43,75</b>
													<b>TOTAL SUPRAFATA SOLICITATA</b>	<b>43,35</b>

Cod exploatare zootehnica in RNE:





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## Information provided to the farmers:

Information provided to the farmers in electronic format  
- the previous year -- on the spot check results

D Fermier: RO2  Nr. bloc fizic:  -  Raport/Lista: IPA-Online - Lista parcelor digitizate Campania: 2014

**LISTA PARCELELOR DIGITIZATE FERMA RO2**

NR	COD SIRSUP	NR BLOC FIZIC	NR PARCELA AGRICOLA	NR CULTURA	SUPRAFATA DECLARATA	SUPRAFATA DIGITIZATA	Observatii	STARE	PACHETUL	Mergi la parcela digitizata	Mergi la parcela control
1	94492	383	3	a	18,02	18,02		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="3a"/>	Control clasic 2013 <input type="button" value="3a"/>
2	94492	468	5	a	398,12	397,88		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="5a"/>	Control clasic 2013 <input type="button" value="5a"/>
3	94492	429	6	a	187,00	186,67		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="6a"/>	
4	94492	429	6	b	6,20	6,17		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="6b"/>	
5	94492	429	6	c	2,26	2,26		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="6c"/>	
6	94492	429	6	d	14,50	14,47		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="6d"/>	Control clasic 2013 <input type="button" value="6d"/>
7	94492	429	6	e	1,80	1,77		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="6e"/>	
8	94492	617	8	a	202,67	202,67		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="8a"/>	Control clasic 2013 <input type="button" value="8a"/>
9	94492	557	10	a	142,46	142,43		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="10a"/>	Control clasic 2013 <input type="button" value="10a"/>
10	94492	539	12	a	73,37	73,08		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="12a"/>	Control clasic 2013 <input type="button" value="12a"/>
11	94492	431	14	a	31,41	31,41		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="14a"/>	Control clasic 2013 <input type="button" value="14a"/>
12	94492	281	15	a	136,12	135,65		DESCHIS	nu	<input type="button" value="15a"/>	Control clasic 2013 <input type="button" value="15a"/>





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## Useful tools for farmers and administration:

### Warning messages:

- Unmatched land use category and the declared crop
- Errors in numbering the parcels, over declaration of the reference parcel, overlap with one or several parcels
- the digitized parcel does not fit with the on the spot checks from the previous year
- the reference parcel is not present in the reference layer
- other useful information about the other possible schemes available for a specific parcel
- the specific axis II availability for each parcel digitized by the farmer
- cross compliance warnings
- other useful information for farmer





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## Useful tools for farmers and administration:

**Blocking messages: does not allow the farmer to finalize their own application before the errors are corrected:**

- the declared parcel area is zero
- one parcel is digitized in two or several reference parcels
- the numbering for the parcel is not correct
- the reference parcel number was changed in the LPIS update process
- the difference between declared and digitized area is outside the tolerance used for digitization on the screen
- the axis II measures are not available for selected parcel
- other specific checks that don't allow the errors in the preparation of the area based declaration



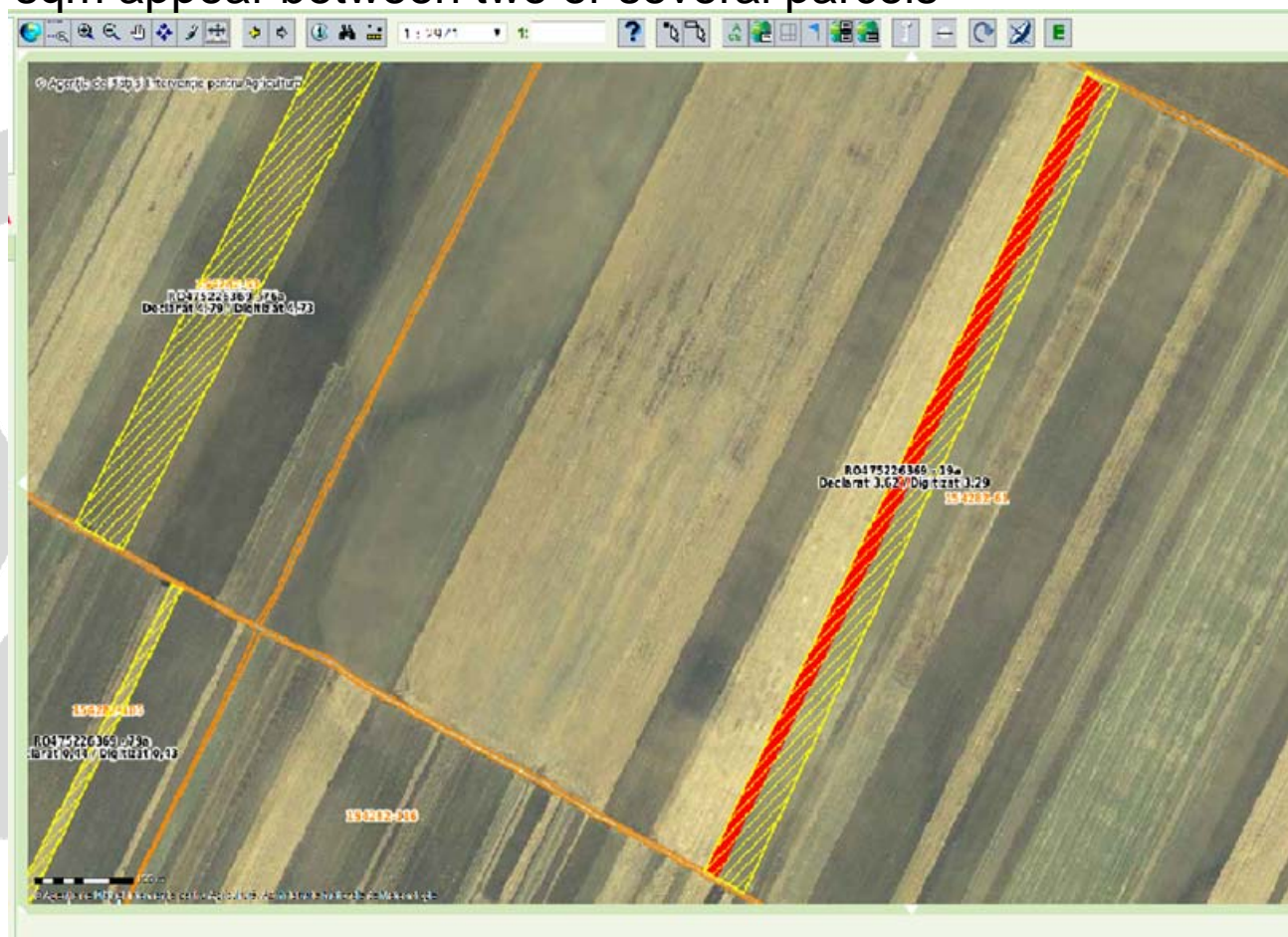


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## Useful tools for farmers and administration:

Warning graphically error shown in red when one overlap larger than 200 sqm appear between two or several parcels



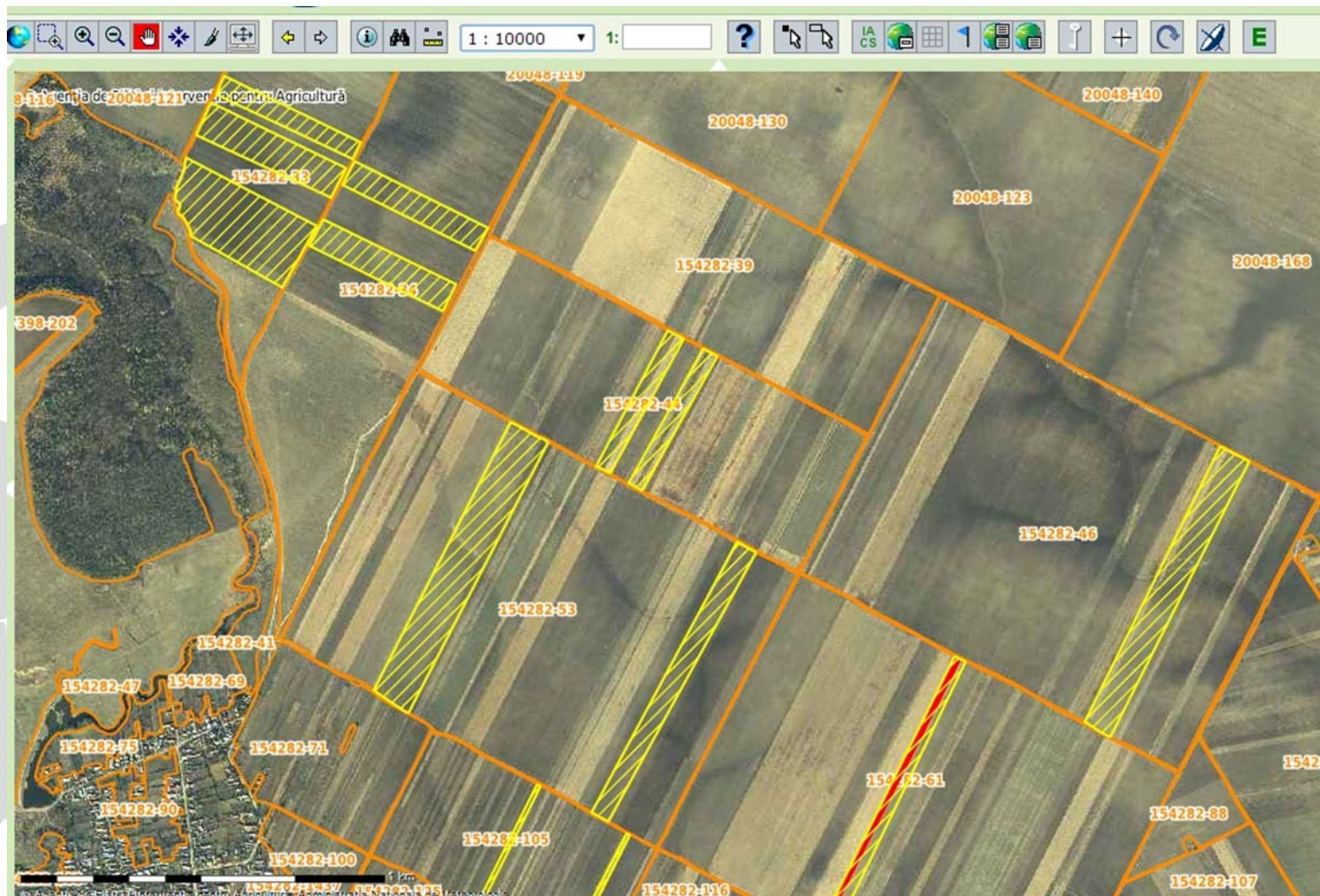


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# Useful tools for farmers and administration:

## All farmer's parcels overview







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## Useful tools for farmers and administration:

**Blocking messages: does not allow the farmer to finalize their own application before the errors are corrected:**

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# Preparation for construction of EFA Layer

## Identification and management of EFA:

Denumire element de peisaj	identificare element	mod delimitare	factor conversie	factor ponderare	diametru buffer	lățime buffer
Terase	TS	linie	2	1.0	3	1.5
Elemente de peisaj - Garduri vii / fâșii împădurite	GV	linie	5	2.0	10	5
Elemente de peisaj - Iazuri	IZ	poligon	1	1.5	0	0
Elemente de peisaj - Rigole	RG	linie	3	2.0	6	3
Elemente de peisaj - Margini de câmp	MC	linie	6	1.5	0	0
Elemente de peisaj - Arbori în aliniament	AA	linie	5	2.0	4	2
Elemente de peisaj - Grup de arbori / pâlcuri arbustive din zona de câmpie	GA	poligon	1	1.5	0	0
Elemente de peisaj - Arbori izolați	AI	punct	20	1.5	4	2
Elemente de peisaj - Zone împădurite	ZP	poligon	1	1.0	0	0
Zone tampon-Fâșii de protecție panta bloc > 12%	ZT1	linie	6	1.5	3	1.5
Zone tampon-Fâșii de protecție panta bloc <12%	ZT2	linie	6	1.5	1	0.5
Zone cu specii forestiere cu ciclu scurt de producție	SF	poligon	1	0.3	0	0





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# Preparation for construction of EFA Layer

Digitized element and buffer interpretation

Landscape elements (examples):

- Hedges/ afforested strips – not eligible if bigger than buffer
- Ponds – only those smaller 1000 sq.m are digitized
- Ditches – not eligible if bigger than buffer
- Field edges – can exceed buffer
- In line trees – eligible only if exceeds buffer on the entire length
- Isolated trees – eligible only if tree crown exceeds buffer





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## Preparation for construction of EFA Layer

**Delimitation of hedges/afforested strips – EFA element – maximum width 10 m located on arable land or adjacent**



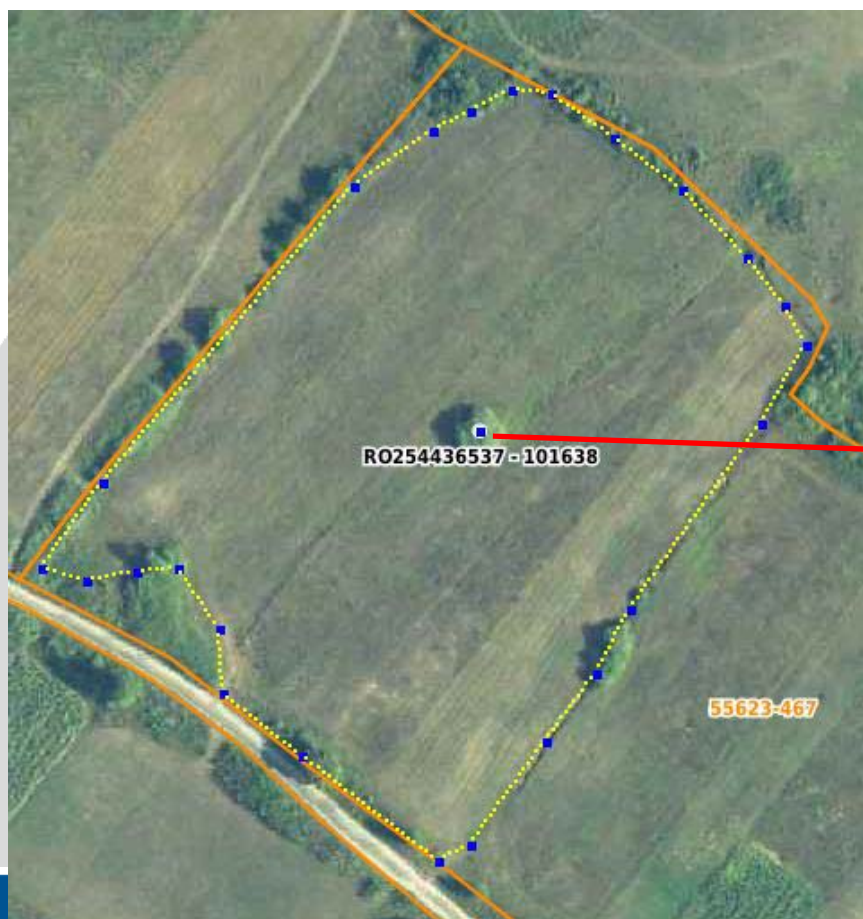


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## Preparation for construction of EFA Layer

**Delimitation of isolate trees – EFA element – tree crown at least located on arable land or adjacent**





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## Preparation for construction of EFA Layer

**Delimitation of ditches – EFA element–maximum width 6 m located on arable land or adjacent**





# Preparation for construction of EFA Layer

Delimitation of ponds – EFA element – permanent body of water with max. surface area 0,1 ha located on arable land or adjacent





## Common cases of fraud in Romania related to area based payments - General facts

**Most cases of fraud related to area based payments are property related, and stem from the characteristics of agricultural land in Romania, which is:**

- **Very fragmented, as after the fall of communism in 1989 the appropriated state lands was given back to their original owners or their successors**
- **This resulted in a great number of parcels, some of which have an unclear property status;**
- **Lack of cadastral information for an important part of the land parcels**
- **High number of small land owner: 2014 > 1.066.000 land owners registered with PIAA, which makes control of property difficult**







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## Common cases of fraud in Romania related to area based payments - General facts

**Fraud related to area based payments is perpetrated mainly by people who have access to information about available non-declared agricultural land parcels:**

- **Employees of town halls, which have access or can modify the agricultural registry;**
- **PIAA employees with access to the IACS system;**
- **Both categories working in collusion;**





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## Common cases of fraud in Romania related to area based payments – Case 1

In 2008 the mayor and an employee of a town hall falsified leasing agreements for non-declared parcels, which they entered in the agricultural registry. These parcels were then presented to PIAA by the owner of an agricultural holding working in collusion with them, and payments were obtained (both EAGF and EAFRD). Should be noted that at the time proof of property was not requested unless over declaration in physical block.





## Common cases of fraud in Romania related to area based payments – Case 2

**Between the years 2008-2011 the mayor of a commune leased pastures in the property of the town hall to a farming association which was held by his wife. Moreover, in complicity with another town hall employee, he falsified the leas contracts and agricultural registry records, greatly increasing the area and number of animals for which the association submitted a payment claim.**

**The irregularities where detected were detected by PIAA, which submitted the case to proper authorities.**





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## Common cases of fraud in Romania related to area based payments – Case 3

In 2013, a higher level employee of a PIAA county office requested and received sums of money varying from 2.500 to 5.000 euros in exchange to not making mandatory on the spot controls for vineyards and agricultural land subsidies. Falsified control reports were entered into the system with the complicity of PIAA inspectors.

Case was uncovered when the PIAA employee was denounced for requesting bribe.







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## IACS – a useful tool in detecting fraud

LPIS can be used in detecting and preventing fraud, as some controls can reveal some suspicions, upon which further verifications can be made:

-  Complete declaration of all parcels in a physical block, after a number of years the block was not declared in its entirety;
- declaration by a new owner of large areas, without clear traceability of land transfers;
-  Large areas for which payments was requested by natural persons





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**This concludes the presentation**

**Thank you for your attention!**

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