

Agricultural production methods differ from region to region in the European Union. It is not organised in the same way in East and West Germany. It is different in north-eastern and south-western Poland. Agriculture in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, where large, commercial farms grow cereals and breed animals is different from the one in south Italy, where small, family farms cultivate olives and vines. If we want to describe this structural diversity in three words, we can say that in the regions of the European Union different is the level of concentration, namely the extent to which resources necessary for production are possessed by the largest farms; specialisation, namely the extent to which number of products produced on farms is limited; and orientation, namely focus on a specific type of production, e.g. sheep grazing.

However, at the same time, exists a common objective for farmers across the European Union - improving production efficiency without placing an excessive burden on the environment. This objective can be described in other words as the sustainable intensification of production. This project will measure how close farmers in different regions have been to this objective and whether the way agricultural production has been organised has made it easier or more difficult to achieve it. This impact may also be of an indirect nature, therefore we will divide the EU regions into groups similar in terms of structural conditions, and then check whether in these groups the same factors, such as technological progress, human capital, agricultural policy, etc., determine the achievement of the objective of sustainable intensification. It is possible that in regions, where production is less concentrated, mainly on small, family farms, the more important factor is human capital, while in regions where large, commercial farms dominate, the success of sustainable intensification strategies depends to a greater extent on investment in modern technologies.

Conclusions of this kind provide valuable guidance for politicians implementing the common agricultural policy in the European Union. They allow for the construction of support tools better suited to the specific needs of farmers in individual regions. In this way, the countries and regions of the European Union will contribute even more to the global objectives of increasing food production and reducing environmental pressures. Such a strategy of agricultural development is forced by the growing population of the world, whose nutrition is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Just like, reducing the pressure on the environment from agricultural production. This project is therefore also a response to these problems.