



EGNOS used for parcels inspection in CAP subsidies

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The CAP is the common agricultural policy followed by the European Union gathered in regulations 1305/2013, 1306/2013, 1307/2013 and 1308/2013. It implements a system of agricultural subsidies and programs for rural development, representing now near 40% of the overall European Union budget.

These four legislative texts reflect the political agreement between the European Commission, EU Member States Agriculture Ministers and the European Parliament which aims to improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food, and to ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. Establishing a higher accuracy requirement for the land parcel system identification applicable to all Member States is one of the priorities established by the CAP.

Currently, the EU regulation requires that the parcels identified as agricultural ones should be registered with an accuracy (rsme) of 1.25m. It is responsibility of each Member state to establish such Land Parcel Identification systems, and to verify that farmers declare correctly areas in the subsidies. It is in this verification

process done by CAP inspectors when EGNOS plays a role. In particular, in Catalonia region (Spain), technicians in charge of this CAP inspection activity use EGNOS. Their equipment comprises a Royaltek 2210 and a Garmin GLO, both providing an accuracy of 0.75 m, under the approval of the Joint Research Centre ([JRC](#)). These devices are configured to use EGNOS, because the service provides the accuracy that matches their needs –recall that LPIS have to be identified with and maximum accuracy of 1.25 rmse-, it is free, equipment is portable and easy to use.

Every year, usually in spring and summer time, more than 120 inspectors in Catalonia check over 600 million square meters using EGNOS. “We have been using EGNOS since 2010, year after year we rely on it because it works, it is simple and it is free. It makes the process of verifying parcels much easier, and the results agree with the European Regulation standards for the integrated administration and control system” says Valentí Marco, Deputy Director for management and control of direct aids.