

Impact of the Remedial Action Plan on the LPIS using the federal states Schleswig-Holstein/ Hamburg as an example

MELUND
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Susanne Niecke



Overview: The federal states Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg



Schleswig-Holstein. Germany's True North.

LPIS Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg: Physical Block

Physical block

Definition: a continuous agricultural area of one or more farmers surrounded by permanent borders



LPIS Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg

Key data on LPIS

- 1 common LPIS for Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg
- 14.500 applicants
- 204.000 physical blocks
- 460.000 landscape features (captured as individual geometries, types mainly hedges and ditches)
- Eligible area: 1.050.000 hectares (3,5 % of area are landscape features)



LPIS-QA 2015

In LPIS-QA 2015 the limits in two categories were not met:

Quality element 3 (Occurance of RP with critical defects)

- These critical defects only occurred in landscape features, which are depicted in the LPIS of Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg as independent reference parcels.
- The cause was often an inappropriate interpretation of the eligible area at the edge of forests.

LPIS-QA 2015

Quality element 4 (Categorization of the non-conforming RP)

Mainly landscape features were affected.

- incorrect interpretation in the shadow area of hedges and trees.
- Landscape features are often subject of dynamic processes (e. g. cut down hedges, water level in ditches depending on rainfall conditions) which should not always be updated in the LPIS.
- In 2015 agricultural land cover was implemented in LPIS. Classification errors occurred in landscape features, that lie between physical blocks. The distribution of agricultural land cover is based on the farmers application. An incorrect allocation by the applicant, as well as the non-application or the incomplete application, will result in classification errors and therefore to a non-conformity of the reference parcel in LPIS-QA.

Example: Classification error in landscape feature by application

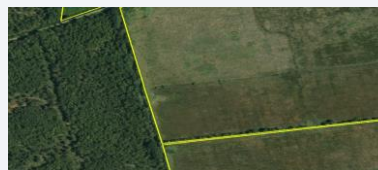


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Remedial Action Plan on QE 3 and QE 4

- Workshops were held for all staff members involved in the LPIS update process, explaining the issues identified in the test, educating correct interpretation of orthophotos by using all available sources of information.
- Additional information has been provided for LPIS update process (e. g. additional maps, historical digital orthophotos).
- The eligible area at the edge of forest areas was subjected to a complete systematic review. In particular, the landscape features type "hedges" were checked and corrected.



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Changes to the technical specifications in LPIS-QA

- In LPIS-QA 2016 and the following years the reference parcels of physical blocks and adjoining landscape features were temporarily merged into “ETS-reference parcels” in accordance to the JRC specifications. Landscape features were assigned to the physical block with the longest common boundary.
- By changing the method, landscape features were no longer assessed as individual reference parcels. A “wrong” digitized landscape feature is no more a critical defect or a non-conformity. In the larger area of the ETS-reference parcel the limits of quality elements were often not affected.

Results /conclusion

- The high error rate in the past was mainly caused by the consideration of landscape features as independent reference parcels in LPIS-QA.
- A systematic review of landscape features has significantly reduced the error rate in this area.
- The modifications in the LPIS-QA´s procedure regarding the aggregation of physical blocks and landscape features led to a substantially improvement in compliance with limit values of quality elements.
- In our opinion, the aggregation of reference parcels has improved the comparability with the systems of other Member States.



Thank you for your attention!