

## Commentary

The agricultural area as recorded in the Areas under Crops Survey 2018 accounts for 3 523 thous. ha, i.e. by 2 thous. ha more (+0.1%) than in 2017. The arable land area reaches 2 487 thous. ha in total; it went down by 11 thous. ha (-0.4%) compared to 2017. The share of arable land in the total agricultural area is 70.6%. Permanent grasslands cover 990 thous. ha, i.e. by 12 thous. ha more (+1.2%) than in the previous year. Their proportion in the total agricultural area is 28.1%. Fallow land area accounts for 26 thous. ha; it decreased by 543 ha (-2.1%) since 2017 and now it shares 1.0% of the total arable land surveyed.

Cereals are grown on 54.4% of the total sowing area; 31.4% of the sowing area is devoted to winter wheat as the most widespread one. Root crops represent 3.6% of the sowing area, oil seed crops 19.9% (of which rape shares 84.2% of the total for oil seed crops), and fodder crops harvested green on arable land cover 19.0% of the total sowing area (of which annual ones 11.2%).

The sowing area planted with cereals covers 1 339 thous. ha, i.e. by 13 thous. ha less than in 2017. Pulses are sown on 35 thous. ha, i.e. by 8 thous. ha less compared to 2017. Root crops share 88 thous. ha, i.e. by 2 thous. ha less in comparison with 2017. Potatoes are planted on 23 thous. ha in the frame of agricultural sector while their estimated area for households' production is 6 thous. ha. An increase was observed for oil seed crops whose current area is 489 thous. ha; it went up by 10 thous. ha since 2017. The sowing area of industrial plants increased since 2017 as well by 10 thous. ha to 499 thous. ha. Fodder crops harvested green on arable land cover 468 thous. ha, i.e. by 3 thous. ha more than in 2017.