



BID-REX

Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

BID-REX ACTION PLAN

**Policy instrument: Hungarian Environment and
Energy Efficiency Operational Programme
2014-2020**

Zoltan Karacsonyi, University of Debrecen

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SHORT PRESENTATION OF POLICY INSTRUMENT

Priority Axis 4 of the Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme (EEE OP) is: ‘Nature protection and wildlife protection related developments’

Measure 3 titled: ‘Strategic studies for the national implementation of the long-term conservation and development of natural values of community interest and the objectives of EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020’.

Include four components:

- Nature**  **natura**
a természet értékei
- Ecosystem services**  **ökoszisztéma-
szolgáltatások**
a természet ajándékai
- Landscape character**  **tájkarakter**
a természet arcai
- Green infrastructure**  **zöldinfrastruktúra**
a természet hálózatai

OBJECTIVES OF ACTION PLAN

Our goal is to help the effectiveness of agricultural contribution to nature protection, it's enrichment through advanced and balanced farm practices.

The main user of non-protected land is agriculture. It has an important characterisitc: the use of those land shold be sector effective and at the same time should be used with responsibility in terms of social, economical and nature issues.

OBJECTIVES OF ACTION PLAN

EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2020

TARGET 3:

Increase the contribution of agriculture and forestry to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity:

3a) Agriculture: By 2020, maximise areas under agriculture across grasslands, arable land and permanent crops that are covered by biodiversity related measures under the CAP so as to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and to bring about a measurable improvement(*) in the conservation status of species and habitats that depend on or are affected by agriculture and in the provision of ecosystem services as compared to the EU2010 Baseline, thus contributing to enhance sustainable management.

EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2020

Mid-term review:

No significant overall progress (much stronger efforts are needed to meet the target by its deadline):

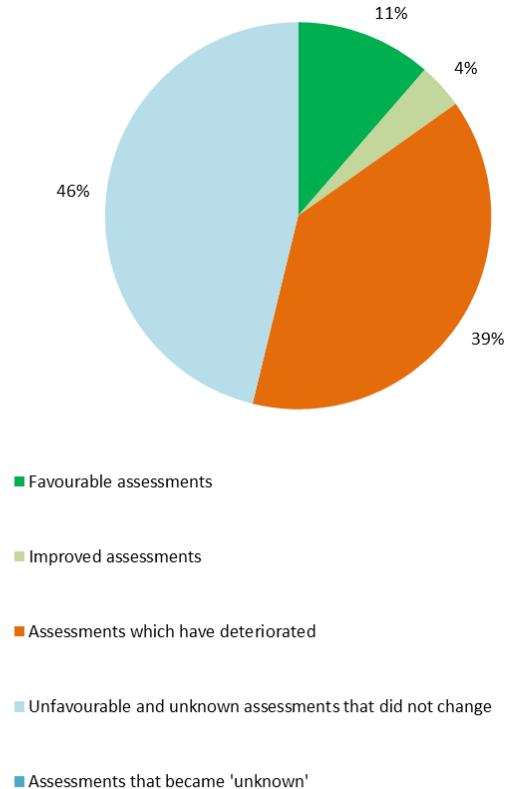
The CAP reform for 2014-2020 provides a range of instruments that can contribute to supporting biodiversity. If the target is to be achieved, these opportunities need now to be taken-up by Member States on a sufficient scale.

Local examples demonstrate successful sustainable agricultural practices.

If implemented more broadly, they could put the EU back on track to achieve the target by 2020.

EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2020 Mid-term review:

Changes (2007-2012 vs 2001-2006) in conservation status for habitats of Community interest associated with agricultural ecosystems (grassland and cropland)



CAP GREENING MEASURES

The 2013 CAP reform introduced a payment for a compulsory set of 'greening measures', accounting for 30% of the direct payments budget.

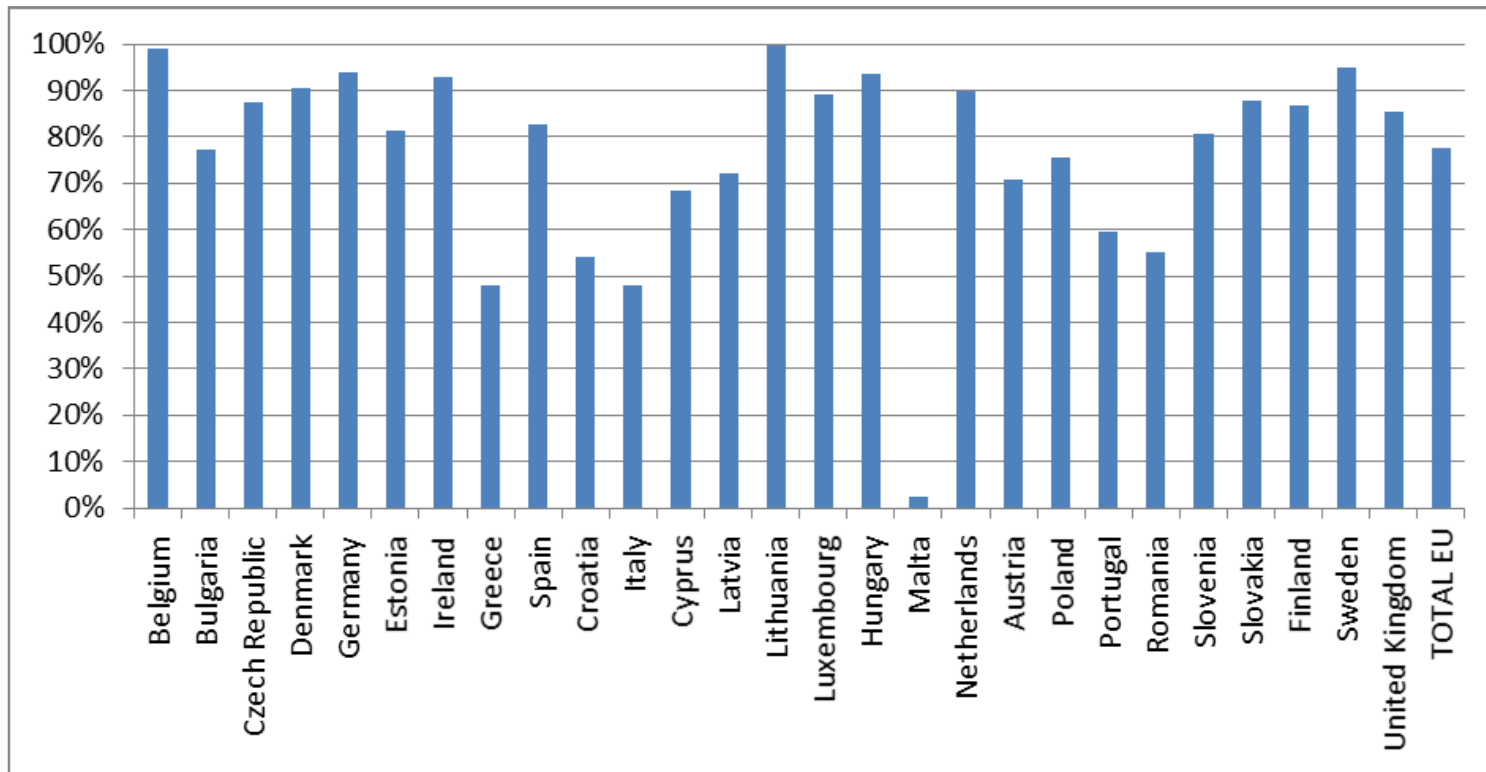
The greening measures comprise:

Crop diversification – the cultivation of a minimum of two or three crops on arable land above certain size limits (to improve soil quality primarily)

Maintenance of permanent grassland: to limit declines, protect from ploughing (ESPG)

Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) – to manage at least 5% of the arable land of farms with more than 15 hectares of arable land

In 2016, holdings subject to one or more greening measure covered 78% of all utilised agricultural area (UAA). There are significant differences between Member States (source: Member State monitoring data):



Crop diversification: In 2016, 75% of arable land is subject to the crop diversification measure.

EFAs: In 2016, 68% of arable land is subject to the EFA measure. *The physical area managed as EFA was 8.5 million ha in 2016 (14% of arable land)*

CAP after 2020

Increased flexibility to better take into account local condition.



New greening architecture:

- new "enhanced conditionality" replaces the current cross-compliance and greening payment requirements
- a new eco-scheme is proposed in Pillar 1
- voluntary agri-environment-climate measures (AECMs) would continue in Pillar 2

Practices funded by the eco-scheme:

- winter soil cover
- permanent crop between trees or permanent crop area
- three year crop rotation
- 5% non-productive arable land
- reduction targets of nutrient surplus
- strong push on the development of Integrated Pest Management
- reduction of antibiotics use
- the development of cattle genomics targeting GHG efficiency

Total budget is 365 billion. The regulation proposes spending at least 30 % of the EAFRD on actions related to the environment and climate change.

Proposed change in GAEC standards in the CAP post 2020 legislative proposals

2014-2020 GAEC standards	Proposed post 2020 GAEC standards
Climate change	Climate change
	GAEC 1 Maintenance of permanent pasture
	GAEC 2 Protection of carbon-rich soils through appropriate protection of peatland and wetland
GAEC 6 Maintenance of soil organic matter through ban on burning stubble	GAEC 3 Maintenance of soil organic matter through ban on burning stubble
Water	Water
GAEC 1 Establishment of buffer strips along water courses	GAEC 4 Establishment of buffer strips along water courses
GAEC 2 Where use of water for irrigation is subject to authorisation, compliance with authorisation procedures	
GAEC 3 Protection of groundwater against pollution	
	GAEC 5 Use of Farm Sustainability Tool for Nutrients
Soil protection and quality	Soil protection and quality
GAEC 5 Minimum land management reflecting site specific conditions to limit erosion	GAEC 6 Minimum land management under tillage to reduce risk of soil degradation including on slopes
GAEC 4 Minimum soil cover	GAEC 7 No bare soil in most sensitive period
	GAEC 8 Crop rotation
Biodiversity and landscape	Biodiversity and landscape
GAEC 7 Retention of landscape features, a ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and nesting season, and as an option, measures for avoiding invasive plant species.	GAEC 9 Maintenance of non-productive features and area, including a minimum share of agricultural area devoted to non-productive features or areas, retention of landscape features, a ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and nesting season, and as an option, measures for avoiding invasive plant species.
	GAEC 10 Ban on converting or ploughing permanent grassland in Natura 2000 sites

Sources: Annex III of Regulation No 1306/2013 and Annex II of draft CAP Strategic Plan Regulation

ACTIONS THAT WILL BE CARRIED OUT

In the current planning period (2014-2020) agriculture introduced and implemented new actions as part of the Greening programme.

- we review those results, effects, experiences, evaluations already clarified (mainly in the field of agri-environment and ecological focus areas measures)
- we will formulate recommendations, advanced measures (eg. making the existing Ecological Focus Areas and it's measures more complex and effective, integrating new measures – volunteer pilot actions?) reckon with the new CAP (post 2020)
- we integrate the stakeholders both in the preparation, planning, applicability and evaluation phase during stakeholder group meetings
- formulate and transmit specific, applicable measures.

GOOD PRACTICES IDENTIFIED IN THE PROJECT THAT WILL BE USED IN ACTION PLAN

SITxwell project:

- Cartography of ecological and socioeconomic values of ALL the open areas in the province of Barcelona
- Coordinated work with other public administrations (different scales and departments) and private partners

Marche Region Ecological Network (REM)

The REM as an advanced and complete tool for management of the regional ecological network serves with several information which are valuable for us too, mainly for the development of the local agri-environment and greening activities. Several parts, activities (strengthening ecological connections, territorial fragmentation mitigation, etc.) is relevant for our action plan.

Biodiversity data helps at targeting Agri-environment scheme actions in Wallonia

The effective and successful development of agri-environment schemes is secured with direct use of biodiversity informations. In case of arable fields targeted strips, in case of grassland list of species but also successfully used for fulfilling other obligations. Further useful element that the practical execution is helped by the decision tool helping the work of farm-advisors. All those are useful information for the preparation of our action plan and the development of local farm practice

Beside the above mentioned we use the BID-REX's identified good practices we also follow and take into account other Interreg Programme projects' work.

ISSUES TO DISCUSS

The 2014-2020 period brought significant changes in CAP. Beside several changes the use of public money required the more effective protection of natural values. The obligatory greening serves for that. An important part of that is Ecological Focus Areas programme.

- What measures* are part of the EFAs programme in your region and in what volume do they use them?
- What is the opinion on those? on a scale between -3 and +3
- The 5% arable land obligation (now EFAs) will stay after 2020. How can those be made more effective or what biodiversity conservation supporting measures/schemes do you suggest?

*measures: choice of elements that farmer may use



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Thank you!



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