



The toolkit *for assessing the consistency between PAFs and OPs*

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The Toolkit - Content

- Why a Toolkit and what is it for?
- Target Audience
- Programme analysis checklist
- PAF – OP consistency checklist
- The online platform
- Examples for good integration



Why a toolkit and what is it for?

- To help optimise the use of EU funds for Natura 2000 across different funding sources on EU-, national- and regional levels
- The toolkit should **guide users through the process of checking consistency** of Natura 2000 funding needs as identified in the PAFs with the new Operational Programmes for regional development, rural development and fisheries.

Target audience

- **Authorities** responsible for formulating national and regional programs (2014-2020)
- **EC relevant departments**, including DG Env, but also DG Agri, DG Regio, DG Mare

Programme analysis checklist

- Structured **catalogue of keywords and questions to screen** the most relevant chapters of specific OPs covering EAFRD, ERDF and EMFF funds.
- One checklist **per fund and programme**.
- Based on **templates** for the preparation of relevant OPs from key EU funds (ERDF, ERDF, EMFF).
- Three **steps approach** (strategy, measures, budget)

The Toolkit

	Analysis: keyword search or verification of overview tables in the OP	Level of recognition for Natura 2000	The level of Natura 2000 recognition is very good if the following conditions apply:	Notes for analysis results, text parts and references to Natura 2000 as identified in the OP
Step 1-Strategy	SWOT and identification of needs >> PLEASE ADD CHAPTER OF ANALYSED OP<<			
	Search for keywords: biodiversity, Natura 2000, protected areas, natural resources, conservation priorities, ecosystem services, Prioritized Action Framework.	Very good Moderate Minor None	The objective of the OP is to improve conservation status of the habitats or species and/or recognise economic or recreational importance of natural areas and their potential to minimize natural risks such as floods and/or, help adapt to climate change in synergy with nature conservation (e.g. through ecosystem adaptation).<	
	Strategy >> PLEASE ADD CHAPTER OF ANALYSED OP<<			
	Check overview table of the programme investment strategy for ERDF; are biodiversity related investment priorities and specific objectives included? ⁶	Very good Moderate Minor None	Strategy sets biodiversity or ecosystem services as a priority axis of the programme or biodiversity and Natura 2000 is an investment priority integrated in other axes which address environment indirectly (e.g. through sustainable urban development).	
2 - Measures	Investment priorities 6(d) and 6(e) ERDF >> PLEASE ADD CHAPTER OF ANALYSED OP<<			
	Check specific objectives and actions under Thematic Objective 6(d) and 6(e). To which extent do they relate to Natura 2000 (check Handbook for details).	Very good Moderate Minor None	Positive if relevant number of measures exist and if they indicate a large variety of possible interventions (Note detailed analysis takes place in PAF – OP checklist).	>List and transfer activities/measures in table Annex Ia.<

PAF-OP consistency checklist

- Requires **PAF and at least draft OPs** or/and measures identified in programme checklist.
- Allows to **cluster priority actions from PAF** according to list of 25 natura measures against measures from all OPs.
- Allows to identify:
 - Main **funding opportunities** across all OPs.
 - Funding **gaps**.
 - **Synergies and consistency** between different funds.

The Toolkit

Thematic objective, priority	Article in regulation	Measure/Activity	No.	Types of Activities	Cat.
			1	Administration of the site selection process	Establishment of Natura 2000 sites
			2	Scientific studies/inventories	
			3	Preparation of initial information and publicity material	
			4	Pilot projects	
			5	Management plans, strategies and schemes	Management planning
			6	Establishment of management bodies	
			7	Consultation – public , landowners	
			8	Management plans, strategies and schemes - review	
			9	Running costs of management bodies (maintenance of buildings and equipment)	
			10	Facilities for public access and use of the sites, observatories etc.	
			11	Staff	

Natura 2000 measures						Funding opportunities in OPs			Comments
Cat.	Types of Activities	Further description	No.	PAF priority measures: G-General AF-Agriculture and Forestry MC-Marine and Coastal WET-Wetlands; other	Identified funding source in PAF (EAFRD, ERDF, EMFF, LIFE, National, ...)	EAFRD	ERDF/CF/ESF	EMFF	level of consistency: (V)Very good (Mo)Moderate (Mi)Minor (No)No
Establishment of Natura 2000 sites	Administration of the site selection process	Funding for authorities carrying out the selection process.	1						
	Scientific studies/ inventories for the identification of sites – surveys, inventories, mapping, condition assessment	Scientific studies, research personnel, workshops and meetings, creation of databases etc.	2						
	Preparation of initial information and publicity material	Including handbooks, seminars, workshops, communication materials for training and capacity building.	3						
	Pilot projects	Initial 'trial' projects at sites.	4						

Online platform

www.financing-natura2000.eu



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'FINANCING NATURA 2000' online platform. The header features the title 'FINANCING NATURA 2000' with a magnifying glass search icon to its right. Below the title is a horizontal navigation menu with links: 'Rural Development', 'Regional Funds', 'Fisheries', 'Life', 'Research', 'National Funding', 'Workshops', and 'About'. The main content area has a green background. It starts with an information icon 'i' followed by the section 'Aim and content of the online platform.' The text describes the platform's goal to promote an EU-wide exchange between actors and authorities engaged or interested in the integrated financing for Natura 2000 from the EU funds for 2014-2020. It mentions that posts and active commenting from visitors across Europe will enable the sharing of experience for successful integration of biodiversity into the different EU funds during the negotiating phase of the OPs between Member States and European Commission. Below this, there are two white boxes. The left box is titled 'GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE' and contains a date '28. May 2013 | Rural Development' and a paragraph about the Green Infrastructure (GI) Communication of the European Commission (COM(2013) 249 final) published on 6 May. It states that the Natura 2000 network is the backbone of the EU's GI and is already in place. A 'Read more' link is provided. The right box is titled 'PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTA...' and contains a date '28. May 2013 | National Funding' and a paragraph about Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) contributing to Natura 2000 funding. It states that PES do not merely compensate natural capital users for the losses incurred when managing natural resources sustainably, but internalize the costs of exploiting natural resources. A 'Read more' link is also provided. A RSS feed icon is visible to the right of the second box.

FINANCING NATURA 2000

Rural Development Regional Funds Fisheries Life Research National Funding Workshops About

i **Aim and content of the online platform.**

This online platform aims to promote an EU-wide exchange between actors and authorities engaged or interested in the integrated financing for Natura 2000 from the EU funds for 2014-2020. Our posts and active commenting from visitors across Europe will enable the sharing of experience for successful integration of biodiversity into the different EU funds during the negotiating phase of the OPs between Member States and European Commission.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

28. May 2013 | Rural Development
The Green Infrastructure (GI) Communication of the European Commission (COM(2013) 249 final) was published on 6 May! It appreciates that through the Natura 2000 network "the backbone of the EU's GI is already in place. ... [Read more](#)

PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTA...

28. May 2013 | National Funding
Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) can contribute to Natura 2000 funding. PES do not merely compensate natural capital users for the losses incurred when managing natural resources sustainably, but internalize the costs of exploiting natural ... [Read more](#)

Examples

Aims to show successful approaches during the current period (2007-2013).

- Poland – very **good uptake of ERDF** funds through a special agency that coordinated the implementation process.
- Austria – very **good uptake of EAFRD** funds for diversification of rural areas linked to biodiversity funding.
- Alpine Space – strong **focus of biodiversity in Alpine region** shows how important integration of biodiversity is especially in territorial dimension.

Muito obrigado

www.financing-natura2000.eu