



Who gets it?

2012

SUCCESSES AND FAILURES OF THE EU BUDGET

*“It’s time
to move to
a Green
Economy”*

• Sustainable farming
in Bulgaria

• Defending Italy's
coastline

• Supporting Slovenia's
traditional salt producers

GREEN is everywhere

Apples are green, trees are green, traffic lights are green, so why not the EU budget? Let's explore this further...

Business as usual is no longer an option. The severe financial, economic, social and environmental crises Europe is undergoing, call for a radical move towards a greener economy. We believe the best solution to overcome these critical times and secure a better future for all is to invest in energy savings, renewables, sustainable farming and fishing, green technology, innovation and nature itself. Now is the time to make the right choice!

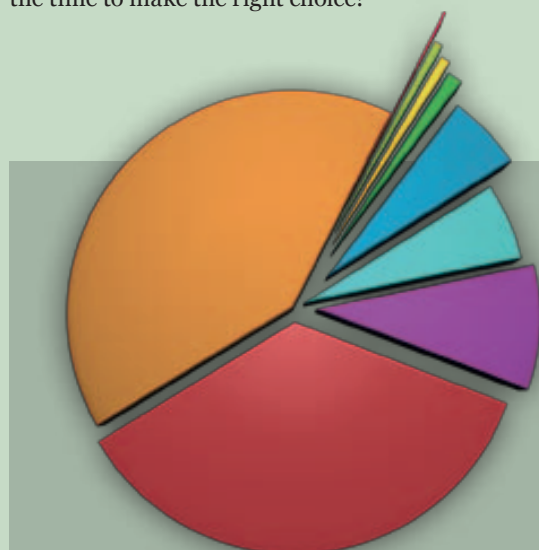
The next seven year EU budget, the Financial Perspective 2014-2020, is a unique opportunity to redesign our concept of a stronger Europe for the future and start investing in it. This can be done without increasing the budget. In times of austerity, it would be unreasonable to ask the EU to spend more, but we must spend it better. The question is: HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE WAY IT IS SPENT ? Well, to start with...

Stop wasting public money!

The problem with the current EU budget is that it still supports an old-fashioned, inefficient, energy and resource intensive economic model. Instead of promoting the lead sectors of the

future (renewable energies, eco-innovation, sustainable construction, etc.), money is being wasted on activities that are depleting finite resources, increasing carbon emissions and damaging nature. Less than 10% of the current EU budget (2007-2013) directly supports green policies such as climate mitigation and stopping biodiversity loss.

The elephant in the room is clearly the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It makes up 41% of the total budget and encourages intensive farming and pollution, which damage the environment. The second biggest recipient of EU funding, eating up 35% of the cake, are structural funds, which are largely devoted to the development of controversial infrastructure, like motorways, that destroys ecosystems and lock citizens into high carbon transport.



The breakdown of the EU's Budget 2007-13

0,20%	Environment
0,70%	Fisheries and marine
0,80%	Transport
1,20%	Citizenship, security
5,70%	Administration costs
5,70%	External dimension (development)
9,10%	Research and education
35,40%	Structural and cohesion
41,10%	Agriculture

Source www.ec.europa.eu



So the next piece of advice would be... Spend smarter!

The current EU Budget totals €976 billion for the 2007-2013 period, with EU citizens contributing an average of €270 per year. Obviously we are not talking peanuts! People want their money to be spent in ways that will benefit them and create long-term stability and prosperity. They want well-being, job security and economic, financial and environmental sustainability.

The latest UNEP report* on the green economy challenges the myth of a trade-off between environmental investment and prosperity and demonstrates that a green economy can boost innovation, job creation and growth, while eliminating the increasing risks and shocks inherent in the old resource depleting economy.

“We must show that we are capable of spending (...) our expenditure in a more intelligent way.”

European Commission President,
José Manuel Barroso.

Seize the opportunity!

The EU's 2020 strategy sets important environmental targets regarding energy efficiency (reducing consumption by 20% on 1990 levels), renewables (covering 20% of total energy needs), greenhouse gas emissions (reducing by 20% or 30%), and biodiversity (stop its loss). However, these targets won't be achieved if we continue supporting a “grey” economy. The European Commission is pushing for a shift towards a green economy in Europe but the real test will be in how the EU budget is allocated – for a stronger and more prosperous Europe for all or will it revert back to a business as usual scenario?

If Europe is serious about its environmental commitments, it must invest properly. The next seven year EU budget must shift funds to green technologies and innovation sectors that will enable us to achieve a modern economy that respects the limits of our one planet. This in turn will create new economic opportunities and green jobs and promote prosperity at EU and global level. There won't be another opportunity like this, so we must seize it now.

* UNEP (2011), Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication



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Listen to Citizens

A recent Eurobarometer (May, 2011) points out that **89%** of EU citizens agree that “EU funding should be allocated more to support **environmentally friendly** activities”. Also, **86%** want the **LIFE+** fund for the environment to be continued and 55% want to increase it (in responses to a Commission's public consultation).



NATURE FRIENDLY FARMING IN BULGARIA

When Georgi Vasilev bought his first 400 Pleven black-headed sheep, a traditional and threatened Bulgarian breed, he didn't imagine his farm would become one of the most prosperous in the region. The herd, which has now increased to one thousand milk-producing ewes, graze in the plains of the largest floodplain area of the Danube in Northern Bulgaria, the Karaboaz Natura 2000 site.

Dry grasslands are typical of this region. They host a rich variety of plant and animal species but depend on the sheep grazing. Grazing animals create a suitable habitat for these plants; they provide nutrition and protect them from taller grasses. Over grazing, excessive use of fertiliser and drainage are the biggest threats to these habitats.

Georgi Vasilev's sheep maintain 72 hectares of valuable grassland habitats, which are also recognised as High Nature Value Farmland, a low input sustainable farming practice. When he first decided to invest in nature friendly farming, he looked for experienced older shepherds who could transfer their know-how to the younger generation.

Creating jobs and healthy livelihoods

Now, the farm has six full-time employees and three part-time workers, and is planning on hiring even more to help during the busy season. On top of their salaries, they all benefit from the financial incentives provided by the farm, such as food coupons, free electricity, heating and water for the staff living on the farm, resulting in an improvement of their living conditions and well-being.

Spend it well!
50% sustainable farming by 2020.

There are 13.7 million farms in Europe. Georgi Vasilev's farm in Bulgaria is one of the many examples of High Nature Value Farmlands in Europe, covering more than 30% of all agricultural land. Another example of sustainable agriculture, organic farming, could represent up to 20% of farmlands in Europe by 2020.

The Common Agricultural Policy should focus its support on these kinds of sustainable farming systems.

Georgi Vasilev Sheep Farm

LOCATION: Northern Bulgaria - Natura 2000 "Karaboaz" site

FUNDS: 6 984 Euros from the Common Agriculture Policy

Source: Internal WWF Study

"The farm gives us a healthy life, as well as the pleasure of producing high quality milk and meat."

Georgi Vasilev





DISASTROUS PLANS FROM BRITAIN'S MEGA PIG FARMS

Small and family-run pig farms in the UK are struggling to cope with rising input costs and low farm gate prices, but their situation could further worsen if the County Council grants Midland Pig Producers permission to build Britain's largest mega pig farm, housing 25,000 pigs and producing 1,000 pigs a week for sale.

If these plans go ahead, local farmers fear that cheap pig meat will drive down prices and be a serious threat to livelihoods and rural jobs in Derbyshire. There are also serious concerns about the environment, particularly about groundwater pollution due to pig excrement. In fact, the Environment Agency recommends that planning permission should be refused, as the company failed to demonstrate that the risks to ground water can be satisfactorily managed.

Intensive pig and other types of animal farming have attracted global criticism for its capacity to pollute on a large scale, the greenhouse gases it produces, the outbreaks of disease from swine flu to foot and mouth disease in which it has played a part, and its abuse of animal welfare.

"We recommend that planning permission should be refused."
Environment Agency, UK

The planned Foston pig farm in the UK is a clear case of unsustainable agriculture; but it is not the only one. Across the EU, there are too many examples of intensive farming causing enormous social, economic and environmental damage.

One project that thankfully never saw the light of day was the "super dairy" that Nocton Dairies was planning to build near Lincoln, in the UK. The company had been struggling for months to get planning permission to build a 3,770 cow factory unit, but the District Council received over 14,000 individual objections and a petition signed by more than 60,000 citizens against the mega farm. It was an official objection by the Government's environment watchdog that finally sunk the project, on the grounds that waste from the facility could leak into the soil and pollute the aquifer that provides drinking water.

Spend it well!
 CAP funds for sustainable farming practices

In the CAP reform, EU decision makers should help tackle the pressures that are pushing farmers away from smaller scale, prosperous farms, which provide more and better-skilled jobs, and avoid subsidising unsustainable production.

Midland Pig Producers, Foston pig farm

LOCATION: Foston Derbyshire, UK

FUNDS: CAP (potentially)

Source: www.birdlife.org

ITALY: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COASTAL DEFENCES

Historically the Ligurian coast was nourished by the sediments of the Roja River. However, at the turn of the 20th century, the construction of dams for flood control and electricity generation dramatically decreased the amount of river sediments transported to the beaches. As a result, 1.5 km of coast is now subject to strong erosion. The erosive process has been accentuated by the construction of a railway along the coastline and increasing urbanisation. Throughout the 20th century, and in particular after World War II, hard protective measures such as parallel breakwaters were put in place, but they ended up making the problem worse.

A new project, supported with Cohesion funding, was put in place to create a more efficient and sustainable form of coastal defence, able to withstand erosion and improve the natural landscape. The construction works involved the removal of parallel breakwaters and other artificial reef structures, replacing them with 13 large sandbars, using rocks

from the previous structures. In addition, the beach has been nourished by 2 million m³ of dredged material from the Roja River.

This initiative has given the opportunity to link protective measures of the coastline, with the Roja River Basin Plan. Dredging the river bed in order to restore hydrological functioning in different sectors of the basin and the use of dredged material to nourish the beaches, has allowed for a significant cost reduction of the project. Since then, the beach has been protected from the heavy storms and is providing new tourism opportunities.

Countering Coastal Erosion in Liguria, Italy

LOCATION: Liguria, Italy

FUNDS: € 10.5 million from the Structural Funds, part of Cohesion Policy

Source: www.surf-nature.eu

Spend it well!
Invest in green infrastructures – prevent natural disasters and reduce maintenance costs

Natural disasters in Europe have tripled since the 1970's according to insurance companies and cost billions of euros in repairs – a figure that is on the rise. In all European regions, green infrastructures have the potential to provide the highest results in term of flood prevention, climate adaptation or ecosystems services at the lowest cost. They tend to perform better than grey and costly infrastructures because healthy ecosystems largely self-maintain.



© Stockphoto / Ida Jarosova

EU money has helped create a more sustainable coastal defence and restored the natural landscape in Liguria, Italy.

MOTORWAY ADDICTION DESTROYING POLISH NATURAL HABITAT

The S19 motorway in Poland affects 18 existing and planned Natura 2000 sites and crosses important migratory corridors.



The EU insists on reducing carbon intensive transport, shifting from road to rail and modernising public transport. Yet between 2007 and 2013 Eastern European countries have been spending twice as much of these EU funds on roads rather than on railways. This has had disastrous long-term implications for these countries' greenhouse gas emissions and has increased their dependence on oil imports. In addition, ecosystems are fragmented due to roads being built, reducing their ability to filter air, provide clean waters and act as a home for the unique wildlife of the region.

The S19 is a 570 km long motorway which cuts through Eastern Poland and is part of the Trans-European Transport (TEN-T) Network's Corridor III, running from Ukraine to Germany. This is a region of exceptionally valuable natural areas such as the Knyszyńska Forest, Biebrza Wetlands and the Western Carpathian Mountains.

The motorway's route will seriously impact on the natural habitats of protected species such as the wolf, the lynx and the bear. Despite the project already destroying nature, the 55 km-long stretch running from the village of Machowa to the town of Łańcut is being upgraded with the financial support of the EU's Cohesion Fund, to pave the way for heavier traffic, which in turn will lead to yet more environmental problems.

Spend it well! Invest in safer and decarbonised transport

In Eastern Europe and other countries such as Spain, a disproportionate amount of spending on new motorways has been a constant in transport financing over the last 15 years. As motorway fees cover only a minimal part of their costs, public EU funds spent on them are in fact subsidising increasing volumes of car and truck traffic, instead of investing in more efficient and sustainable modes of transport, such as railways.

S19 motorway

LOCATION: South-East Poland

FUNDS: € 27.6 million from the Cohesion Fund, part of Cohesion Policy

Source: www.bankwatch.org/billions

WHEN SALT CREATES JOBS AND PROTECTS NATURE

Dario Sau is a salt producer. Ever since he started working with his father, 30 years ago, he knew he would continue the family's long tradition of salt production. The Sečovlje Salina Nature Park, where he works, is the only place in Slovenia where salt is still produced in the traditional way. The park protects the largest coastal marsh wetlands in Slovenia and is the country's most important ornithological site. In contrast to the industrial way, the traditional tools and salt production techniques create optimum conditions for the existence of specific habitats which are a part of this site's natural heritage.

Creating employment

For centuries, traditional salt-making has been a way of life for local communities and it continues to create local employment. Today, 55 employees work on salt production in Sečovlje. It is hard work for Dario- but it gives him the satisfaction of producing a healthy, high quality product; and allows him to support his family.

“By preserving the salt-pans, there are employment possibilities for local people and a chance for local development.”

Dario Sau

Salt production in Sečovlje Salina Nature Park

LOCATION: Sečovlje Salina Nature Park in Slovenia

FUNDS: € 357,000 from LIFE+

Source: Internal WWF Study

Spend it well! Invest more in innovative environmental projects

LIFE+, the sole EU fund for the environment, receives many quality applications for funding. However, over the last four years, more than 200 LIFE+ proposals with good overall evaluations, adding up to € 300 million, have been blocked due to lack of funds – which could mean that by 2013 half of all viable LIFE+ projects go unsupported. Totalling only 0.2% of the EU budget, LIFE+ is simply too small, whilst other bigger EU funds struggle to spend their allocations. The result is that innovative projects that could benefit people, nature and the economy just end up as lost opportunities. **This tiny but vital EU fund should be significantly increased.**



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© Roberto Maldonado/ WWF

The tri-national programme promotes public policies that value the rights of the indigenous communities living in the river basin as well as the surrounding biodiversity.

STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION IN THE TRI-NATIONAL PUTUMAYO RIVER BASIN

The middle basin of the Putumayo River, on the borders of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, is an area of exceptional biological and cultural diversity. It is home to ancestral ethnic groups such as the Cofanes, Sionas, Inga and Kamsa. Unfortunately the high poverty rates have increased social problems and certain illegal activities. The persistence of an extractive development model (oil extraction), powered by population migration, illegal logging and fishing as well as the construction of roads and waterways present a huge risk to the area's natural ecosystems and the people who depend on them.

With the support of the EU's development fund and WWF, the project "Putumayo Tres Fronteras" involves local communities and municipal authorities in a more integrated, effective and participatory management of protected areas in the middle basin of the Putumayo River. It improves the welfare of local communities, develops activities that diversify income sources, improves food security and promotes agreements for the use of shared natural resources such as forest and wildlife resources.

Trinational Programme of Conservation and Sustainable Development in protected areas and indigenous territories

LOCATION: Middle basin of the Putumayo River, protected areas of La Paya (Colombia), Cuyabeno (Ecuador) and Güepí (Peru)

FUNDS: € 2.5 million from the Development Cooperation Instrument, part of the 'external dimension' of the EU budget.

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Spend it well! Promote sustainable development outside of Europe too

The EU can have an important role in promoting sustainable development and it must take this responsibility seriously. Development Commissioner Piebalgs strongly underlined that the EU strategy post-2013 should support *"EU leadership in addressing the major challenges such as climate change, sustainable development and protection of global public goods worldwide"*.



So what's next for our economy?

THE ONLY WAY IS GREEN!

Our current economic model will not deliver the promise of a sustainable future for all. If we want to overcome the current crisis and achieve the 2020 European targets, **the EU must put the transition to a green economy at the heart of the 2014-2020 budget.**

In the short term, this will have immediate social, economic and environmental benefits by unlocking win-win solutions, such as larger scale energy savings in the building sector. It will create green jobs, reduce Europe's vulnerability to external shocks and help build a more sustainable and stronger economy. In addition, it will strengthen Europe's credibility internally and on the global stage, whilst also preparing the path for longer-term action.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Spend smarter!

Ensure that all EU spending is fully consistent with EU environmental targets by 2020 - through environmental conditions. Funds for inefficient and environmentally damaging projects should be freed up for better reallocation to promote an innovative highly efficient and low-carbon economy.

Invest intelligently!

WWF recommends increasing the share by 50% in the future budget to areas that directly and indirectly benefits a green low-carbon economy and biodiversity. At least 35% of the total EU budget should contribute to the fight against climate change and at least 15% should contribute to biodiversity protection, with multiple benefits for jobs, economy and nature.



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So, what are we asking for?

- 1. Ensure that EU spending is consistent with and contributes to the achievement of agreed EU environmental targets by 2020** (climate, energy savings, renewable energies, biodiversity, freshwater) through environmental conditions in all relevant EU funds.
- 2. Stop EU budget subsidies contributing to environmental damage and economic inefficiency** (e.g. certain subsidies in road transport increasing emissions or in intensive agriculture damaging biodiversity) and invest in sectors that will create more green jobs and will be the lead markets of the future: renewable energies, energy savings in buildings, sustainable agriculture, eco-innovation, ecosystems' management.
- 3. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):**
Ensure that direct payments (pillar 1) include a robust green component that represents half of pillar 1 amount. Increase the share of rural development support (pillar 2) to half of CAP and ensure that agro-ecological measures represent half of pillar 2 amount.
- 4. Cohesion Policy:**
Set mandatory funding priorities for climate change mitigation, ecosystems' management and climate adaptation, resource efficiency and eco-innovation. Establish clear targets for EU funded projects to reach and environmental performance indicators to measure progress. Reward the best projects.
- 5. LIFE+:**
Increase this tiny environmental and successful fund to a modest 1% of the EU budget and ensure at least half of it is devoted to ecosystems and biodiversity protection.
- 6. Development funds:**
Include adequate funding for Europe's international commitments for climate and biodiversity, and ensure that the environment is integrated across relevant programmes.

A NEW BUDGET FOR A NEW ECONOMY

*investing in a strong,
green economy for Europe*



For more information

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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and
to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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