Rural development - Funding opportunities for Natura 2000

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Krzysztof Sulima
European Commission
DG Agriculture and Rural Development
Agriculture & environment – the inextricable link

Farmers and foresters manage more than 80% of EU land area.

CAP objectives

CAP general objectives

Viable food production

Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action

Balanced territorial development

CAP specific objectives

Enhance farm income

Improve agricultural competitiveness

Foster innovation

Provide environmental public goods

Promote socioeconomic development of rural areas

Pursue climate change mitigation and adaptation

Maintain market stability

Meet consumer expectations

Maintain diverse agriculture across the EU

Pillar I specific objectives

Pillar II priorities

CSF* thematic objectives
The new greening architecture of the CAP

Agricultural area (eligible for direct payments)

Cross compliance

Greening

Rural development

Cumulative environmental benefits

Farm Advisory System

European Innovation Partnership

Agricultural Research

Implementation mechanism

Voluntary with compensation for cost incurred and income forgone

Mandatory with financial support (decoupled “green” payment per hectare)

Regulatory (Statutory Management Requirements and Good Agricultural Environmental Conditions)
1. Knowledge transfer and Innovation
   (a) innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base;
   (b) links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation;
   (c) lifelong learning and vocational training.

2. Farm viability, competitiveness, innovative farm technologies, sustainable forest management
   (a) economic performance of all farms and farm restructuring and modernisation, notably to increase market participation/orientation and diversification;
   (b) facilitating entry of adequately skilled farmers and generational renewal.

3. Food chain organisation, incl. processing/marketing, animal welfare and risk management
   (a) integration of primary producers into the agri-food chain: quality schemes, adding value, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups/organisations;
   (b) farm risk prevention and management.

4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems
   (a) biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, and the state of European landscapes;
   (b) water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management;
   (c) prevention of soil erosion and soil management.

5. Resource efficiency and shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy
   (a) efficiency in water use
   (b) efficiency in energy use
   (c) renewable sources of energy, by products, wastes and non-food raw material for the bio-economy
   (d) reduction of greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions
   (e) carbon conservation and sequestration

6. Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas
   (a) diversification, creation and development of small enterprises and job creation
   (b) local development in rural areas
   (c) information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas
Required minimum budgetary allocations

- A minimum amount of the total EAFRD contribution to the RDP shall be reserved for climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental issues through a set of measures:

  - At least 30% for:
    • Environment and climate related investments (Article 17)
    • Forestry measures (Articles 21-26 and Article 34)
    • Agri-environment-climate (Article 28)
    • Organic farming (Article 29)
    • Natura 2000 (Article 30)
    • ANCs (Articles 31-32)
Environment & climate relevant RD measures

- Agri-environment-climate
- Organic farming
- Environment & climate linked investments
- Natura 2000 payments
- Knowledge transfer & advisory services
- Basic services & village renewal
- WFD payments
- Animal welfare
- Co-operation
- Ares facing natural or other specific constraints
- Forestry measures
- Leader
Key elements of strategic programming

- Ex-ante evaluation
- SWOT analysis and needs assessment in the programme area
- Strategic response:
  - SWOT analysis and identification of needs
  - Choice of relevant priorities/focus areas and approach towards cross-cutting objectives
  - Setting appropriate targets for each focus area selected
  - Establishing and justifying the choice and combination of measures in the light of the SWOT analysis
  - Establishing financial allocations to measures/operations and appropriate indicators
Natura 2000 & Water Framework Directive (art. 30)

Why do we need this measure?
- To contribute to the effective management of Natura 2000 sites and river basins areas and to help ensuring the protection of these sites
- To compensate eligible land managers for disadvantages in the areas concerned resulting from the implementation of the relevant law

Main features
- to simplify – combination of Natura 2000 in agriculture and forest in one measure
- to multiply benefits and ensure better protection- eligibility of the area extended to so called "stepping stones" & eligibility of beneficiaries to cover other land managers (Natura 2000)
- extended scope of beneficiaries: also other land managers when justified
- maximum aid: € 500 in the initial period up to 5 years, € 200 as a regular amount, € 50 as minimum for WFD only
Agri-environment-climate (art. 28)

- Why do we need this measure?
  - To encourage land managers to apply land management farming practices favourable to the environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation
  - To support environmentally positive changes to farming practices as well as maintenance of the existing favourable practices

- Main features:
  - to improve the implementation - a link to knowledge transfer and information
  - to multiply environmental/climate benefits - eligibility of individual and joint beneficiaries & higher transaction costs for the latter
  - to increase flexibility: annual extension of commitments after the initial period & shorter contracts for post initial period
  - one-off payments in the case of permanent changes to land use for environmental conservation purposes
  - maximum aid per Ha: € 600 (annual crops), € 900 (perennial crops), € 450 (other land uses) and € 200/LU (endangered local breeds)
Organic farming (art. 29)

- **Why do we need this measure?**
  - A separate measure to recognise the importance of organic farming in contributing to various rural development priorities
  - To support both conversion to and maintenance of organic farming practices and to answer society's demand for the use of such practices

- **Main features**
  - to multiply environmental/climate benefits - eligibility of individual and joint beneficiaries & higher transaction costs for the latter
  - to increase flexibility – duration of contracts linked to support for conversions may correspond to the conversion period & contracts for maintenance following commitments in the initial period can be shorter (than 5-7 years)
  - maximum aid: € 600 (annual crops), € 900 (perennial crops), € 450 (other land uses)
Other measures (1)

- **Basic services and village renewal in rural areas**: drawing up of protection plans & management plans for N2000 and other HNV areas + studies & investments linked to the maintenance and restoration of the natural heritage of the villages, rural landscapes, HNV sites and environmental awareness actions.

- **Knowledge transfer**: to feed the capacity to innovate by bringing farms and other rural businesses more fully into the knowledge economy.

- **Advisory services**: help land managers in better economic and environmental/climate-related performance of the holding; advice on at least cross-compliance or greening obligations or WFD requirements or general principles of integrated pest management; it can also cover climate change, biodiversity, protection of water.
Other measures (2)

- **Non-productive investments**: linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives, including biodiversity conservation of species and habitat, enhancing public amenity value of Natura 2000 areas or other high nature value systems.

- **Co-operation**: to overcome disadvantages of fragmentation in rural areas by helping various entities work together with regard to, among others, joint approaches to environmental projects including the preservation of agricultural landscapes.

- **Areas with natural constraints**: to encourage farmers to continue land management in order to contribute to maintain the countryside, conserve the environment and promote sustainable farming.

- **Forestry measures** (seven in total) including agro-forestry and forest-environment and climate services and conservation.
### Progress made: monitoring output indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Target EAFRD 2007-2013</th>
<th>State of play until 2012</th>
<th>Share (%) of the target executed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of ha under Less Favoured Areas (211 &amp; 212)</td>
<td>55 200 904</td>
<td>52 223 174</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of ha under N2000 measures (213 &amp; 224)</td>
<td>1 549 053</td>
<td>1 278 383</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of ha under agri-environment (214)</td>
<td>41 750 969</td>
<td>40 727 577</td>
<td>98%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The concept of partnership

- Common Provision Regulation: *Member States shall (...) organise a partnership for the Partnership Agreements and programmes.*

- **Who are the partners:**
  - regional, local and other public authorities, incl. representatives of education, training, advisory and research bodies
  - economic and social partners, incl. industry, sectoral organisations, chambers of commerce, business associations
  - civil society, including environmental partners, NGOs, bodies in charge of social inclusion, non-discrimination, gender equality.

- **What is the role of these partners:**
  - shall be involved in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes

- Conditions of the consultation: timely and easy access to information, sufficient time to provide comments, dissemination of the outcome.
Thank you for your attention!