

Thematic Group on Resource Efficient Rural Economy

The implementation of resource efficiency of soils and water in Europe

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Bologna, Italy 3rd - 5th May, 2017



The work of the Thematic Group

“how can the design and delivery of RDPs be improved to better address resource efficiency of soils and water”

- **Background analysis**
 - EU & International policy context
 - Content & focus of RDPs with respect to resource efficiency
- **Regional analysis**
 - Understanding cross-cutting themes in different contexts
 - Engagement with stakeholders
- **Good practice examples**
 - Resource efficiency improved through EAFRD
 - Successful ways of implementing RDPs

Research focus

Thematic priorities

Soil nutrients

Water availability

Soil carbon

Cross cutting challenges / gaps

Motivation

Knowledge

Policy



International & EU overview

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





European Network for
Rural Development

Water
Availability

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



European policy context

Soils

- There is no overarching and integrated legal and policy framework for soil protection in Europe, with soils being the only key natural resource not protected through an integrated EU-wide approach
 - Drivers for changing selected aspects relevant to soil, e.g. CAP – Pillars 1 and 2, Fertilisers Regulation, LULUCF Decision.
- At Member State level, individual soil threats are addressed through non-specific policy instruments, such as those relating to waste, planning, agriculture, forestry, water, biodiversity, industrial emissions, or renewable energy

Water

- A specific approach to EU water policy was introduced in 2000 with the Water Framework Directive (WFD), alongside a number of other policies focusing on specific aspects, i.e. floods, nitrate management, groundwater, industrial emissions

Soil nutrients

Priority 4: Focus Areas 4B and 4C

Targets:

- Northern EU MS, the UK, EE and AT set targets beyond EU average
- PT, IT, GR, PL, SK, SI and LV between 20 and 30%
- FR, DE and Benelux below EU average

Expenditure:

- BG, PL, AT and RO smaller shares
- CZ, AT and N-W EU MS allocate 2/3 of their budget

Water availability

Priority 4: Focus Areas 4B

- 96% of RDPs

Target:

- 15.1% of agricultural land
- 4.2% of forest land

Focus Area 5A

- Less 50% of RDPs selected 5A

Target:

- 15.3% of EU irrigated land
- IT, DE, PL, PT CY beyond 10%
- ES, AT, HU between 5% and 10%
- UK, FR and GR less than 5%

Soil carbon

Priority 4: Focus Area 5E

- 80% of RDPs

Target:

- 2% of agricultural and forest land
- EE, UK, MT and BE between 15% and 5%
- Most EU MS between 1% and 5%, with PL, GR, BU, CZ and SK beyond 1%

Expenditure:

- PT largest budget for 5E
- Most EU MS allocated between 6 and 2%

Soil and nutrients

- **Agri-environment-climatic measures (M10) most relevant to support sustainable agricultural practices (BG, FI, Brittany - FR)**
- **In some instances, M10 is coupled with non-productive investments (M4.4) (BG, Emilia-Romagna - IT, FI and Brittany – FR)**
- **Investments in physical assets (M4) also relevant to enhance soil nutrients (BG, Extremadura – ES and Brittany – FR)**
- **Organic farming (M11) used to reduce chemical inputs to land to improve water quality**
- **Knowledge transfer (M1) and advice (M2) (Extremadura – ES, NL, SI, North-Rhine Westphalia – DE, Scotland – UK)**

Water availability

- **Investments in physical assets (M4) especially in relation to water saving irrigation systems (BG, Emilia-Romagna – IT, Extremadura, ES) or to improve water use and reduce pollution in the food and drink industry (DE)**
- BG, Emilia-Romagna – IT and Extremadura – ES use M4 to ensure more efficient use of water, while DE uses them to support improve storage of silage, slurry or manure, or to reduce ammonia
- In the NL, **M4.4 are used to complement agri-environment-climatic schemes (M10) – BG, Emilia-Romagna – IT, FI and Brittany – FR**
- **Agri-environment-climatic schemes (M10) are both relevant to water availability and soil management. Few MS (SI and PL) explicitly reference M10 to address RBMPs**

Soil carbon

- No compiled information is available on the implementation choices in RDPs to address specific soil carbon needs
- **Investments in forestry (M8) appear to play an important role in addressing soil carbon (70% of EU-28 public expenditure allocated to M8 under FA 5E)**
- **Agri-environment-climatic schemes (M10) relevant to soil carbon, especially in Emilia-Romagna – IT and PL**

*CAP evaluation (2016) included analysis on a cluster of MS – BU, Extremadura (ES), North-Rhine Westphalia (DE), FI, Brittany (FR), Emilia-Romagna (IT), NL, PL, SI and the UK.

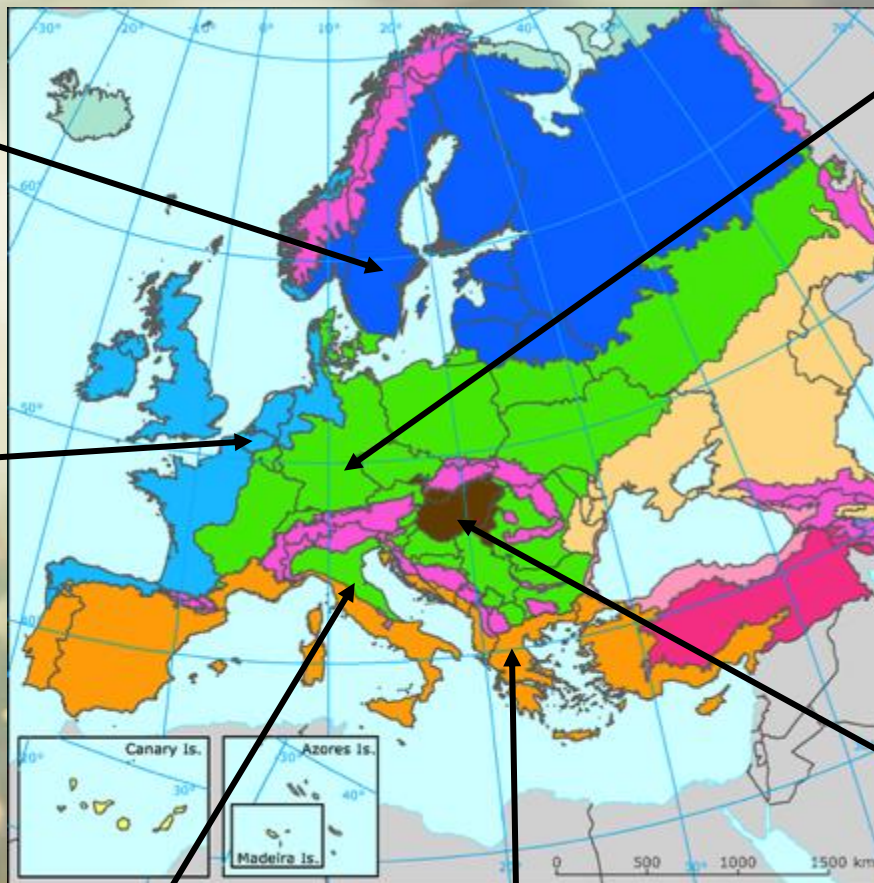


The regional analysis / case studies

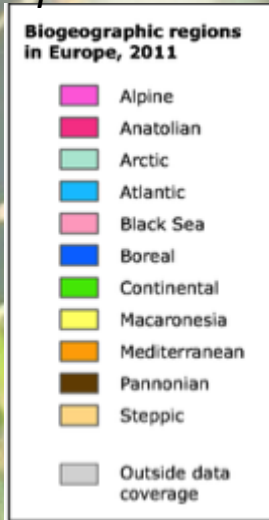
Case studies



Finland
Kari Koppelmäki



Germany (Lower Saxony)
Frederike Kluemper



Belgium (Flanders)
Ann Verspecht



Italy (Emilia Romagna)
Maria Valentina Lasorella



Greece
Alexandros Papakonstantinou



Hungary
Peter Toth

Case study approach

- **Desk analysis**

- RDP content
- Scheme documentation or advisory material
- Measure fiches and guidelines
- Relevant national or regional programmes and regulations;
- Supplementary data on the situation of the environment, natural resources and the agricultural sector;

- **Interviews**

- The RDP Managing authority
- RDP Paying agency
- Environment ministry
- Farm advisory services
- Farmers association
- NGOs
- Beneficiaries (conventional + organic)



Summary findings

Motivation

Factors

• Risk

- Actions with high sanctions are avoided
- Safe option to maintain income
- Familiar / easily integrated practices favoured
- Semi-permanent transitions are a barrier
- Approach varies with age / farm size / value

• Economics

- +ve impacts on business accepted but neutral impacts – why change?
- Some measures are seen as income support
- Env compliance a requirement not an objective
- Young / new farmers are reliant on RDP support
- Tenancy costs reduce ambition for high effort actions

• Effort and engagement

- High compliance effort is a barrier
- Some large land owners have no connection to their land

Challenges for RDPs

- Reduce or avoid risks to farmers
- Educate about positive impacts
- Generational change – support those who are willing to change
- Tenancy is a challenge – engage with owners

Knowledge

Factors

• Understanding

- Resource efficiency for production – not for environment
- Services are available but require effort.
- Farm business impacts / synergies

• Trust

- Those who advice on business are more trusted
- Advisors favour particular approaches
- Conventional approaches are more comfortable

• Monitoring

- Local environmental conditions are still poorly documented
- Soil and water information could be improved

Challenges for RDPs

- Proactive engagement
- Training farm advisors
- Pilot and demonstration projects
- Chanel advice through industry
- Improved reporting requirements

Factors

• Controls

- Do not allow for measures that might be important for resource efficiency
- Voluntary approaches are sometimes favoured over regulatory ones

• Working in isolation

- Some measures impact resource efficiency
- Ministries do not always work together / have different priorities
- Different farms types (crop/livestock) do not interact
- Policy implementation can run at different timescales

• The bigger picture

- RDPs don't enable larger structural change
- Many priorities – many measures
- Young farmers could play a key role.

Challenges for RDPs

- Results based / voluntary approaches
- How to achieve better join up
- RDPs as a tool for change – collective approaches

Summary

Factors

Motivation

1. Risk
2. Economics
3. Effort and engagement

Knowledge

4. Understanding
5. Trust
6. Monitoring

Policy

7. Controls
8. Working in isolation
9. The bigger picture

Challenges for RDP design / implementation

- Reduce or avoid risks to farmers
 - Educate about positive impacts
 - Generational change – support those who are willing to change
 - Tenancy is a challenge – engage with owners
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- Proactive engagement
 - Training farm advisors
 - Pilot and demonstration projects
 - Channel advice through industry
 - Improved reporting requirements
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- Results based / voluntary approaches
 - How to achieve better join up
 - RDPs as a tool for change – collective approaches

Thank you for your attention!

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