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# EFA as a new integrated tool to support biodiversity

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BID-REX 2nd workshop, Bilbao, 14-17.06.2017

## Financing Biodiversity

Convention of the Biological Diversity targets need 7.1 billion US funding a year  
EU Natura 2000 network 5.8 billion US a year  
*Huge conservation funding gap!*

### Financing EU biodiversity Integrated approach (2007)

The EU funds available for financing Natura 2000 during the periods of 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 include:

- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD);
- European Fisheries Fund (EFF), succeeded by European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF);
- *European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF)*;
- European Social Fund (ESF);
- Cohesion Fund;
- European financial instrument for the environment (LIFE) currently called Programme for the Environment and Climate Action;
- Framework Programmes for research and innovation (FP7 and Horizon 2020).

only **LIFE** provides dedicated support to biodiversity and Natura 2000; - *Comission* Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs) for the 2014-2020 period - *MSs*

## After 2020:

- *Integration (business as usual)*: existing or similar EU funds
- *Integration + Voluntary*: business as usual + with enhanced processes for targeting funds to prioritised conservation measures
- *Integration + Voluntary + obligation*
- *New dedicated instruments*
  - Commission focus on jobs and growth rather than provision of public goods.
  - It is unlikely to transform biodiversity funding in the EU, at least in the short to medium term Continued integration of bio diversity into sectoral funds will remain the most cost-effective solution where there is joint delivery of conservation and other benefits –such as through well designed EAFRD
  - EU level administration is, in general, in favour of continuing with the integrated financing approach especially as regards EAFRD and ERDF.

### Innovative financial tools:

- Ecological Fiscal Transfers (EFTs): implemented in Brazil, France, Portugal, Proposed: Germany and Poland
- Tax reliefs. examples France, UK, Netherlands, US, Canada, South Africa.
- Marketed products for biodiversity conservation (PPBCs): examples France, Spain, UK, US.
- User fees and charges: important only at local level (access to nature should be free). Estonia, Ireland: hunting, fishing licenses.

At this stage of development/practice of this instruments can contribute only a limited volume.

## **Fitness Check of the EU Natur Legislation**

(Comission Staff Working Document 16. 12. 2016)

- Effectivness,
- Efficiency,
- Coherance,
- Relevance,
- EU added value

**Comission College:** next steps of the Fitness Check (12. 2016)

**The directives are vital (do not need open).**

But nedd to improve their implementation and coherance with broader socio-economic objectives, including as energy, agriculture and fisheries.

New Action Plan development (with MS and CR, regular meeting: local authorities, mayors; implementation guidlines; incentivising national and regional investment in biodiversity).

**Special Report** of the Court of Auditors. Luxemburg, 11 January 2017.

Natura 2000 network implementation. More efforts needed to its full potencial. (coorination between authorities and stakeholdrs; unreliable cost; , no specific performance indicator system; monitoring)

## New biodiversity information

- **Natura 2000**
  - development of N2 program
  - updated management plans
  - Prioritised Action Frameworks I, II
- **Flood Directive**
  - Non-structural flood protection  
(development and implementation)
- **Water Framework Directive**
  - good ecological status of water bodies
- **Ecological Focus Area (CAP greening)**
  - safeguard and improve biodiversity on farms

### Challenge:

Lack of integrated biodiversity information system for efficient support of Regional Development.

## European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

### CAP Greening:

Three measures for payment are received under Pillar 1 to safeguard and improve biodiversity on farms:

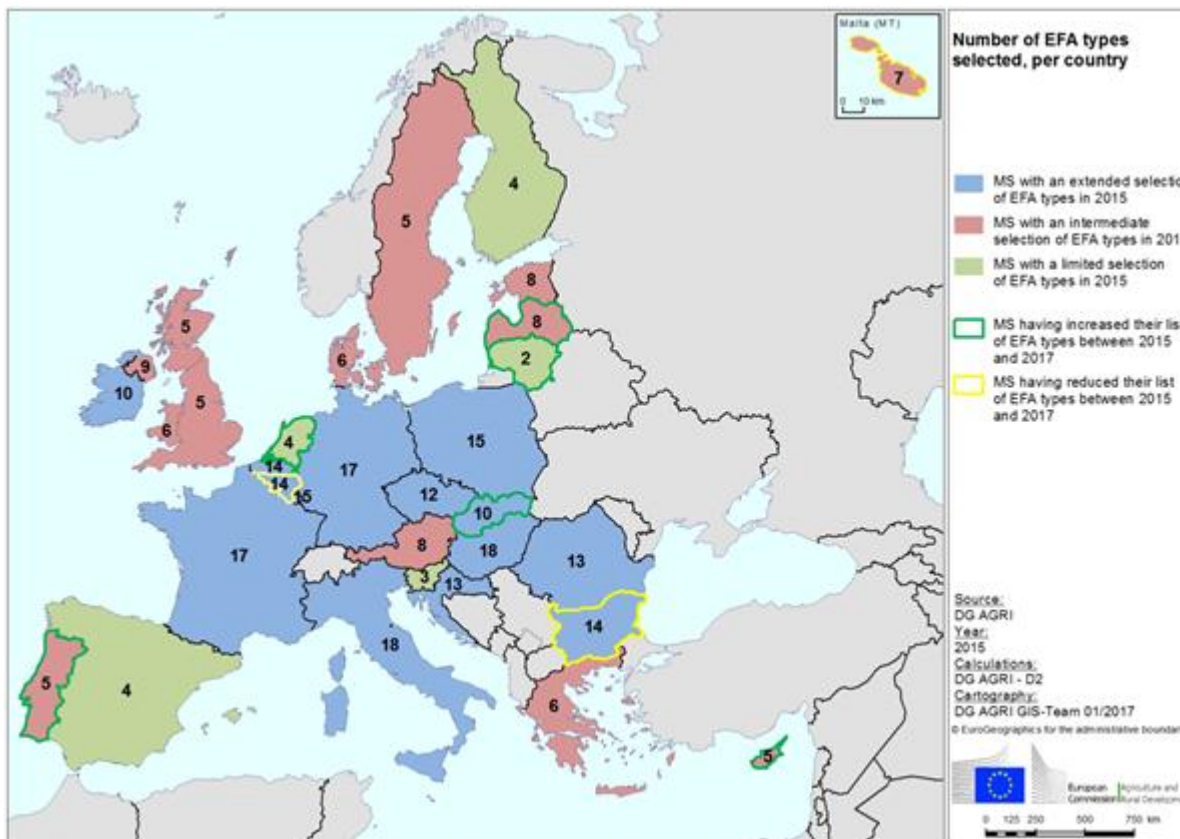
Crop diversification

Retention of Permanent Grassland

Ecological Focus Areas:

where the arable land of a farm/holding covers more than 15 hectares, the farmer shall ensure that an area corresponding to at least 5% of the arable land of the farm/holding is ecological focus area.

## Number of EFA types selected in 2015 per Member State/region and changes in subsequent years



Member State choices appear driven by the need to find a balance between maximising flexibility for farmers and minimising administrative complexity

## Implementation of EFA

At EU level, the percentage of EFA areas declared by farmers is **almost twice** as much as the required 5 % at farm level. The three main EFAs are linked to productive or potentially productive areas.

In 2015 and 2016, the most frequently declared EFA types were those linked to productive or potentially productive agricultural areas:

- nitrogen-fixing crops 45%
- catch crops 28%
- land lying fallow 22%

### **Evaluation:**

- important numbers of literature; different aspects of EFA
- studies: Bird Life International; Joint Research Centre (JRC); Pe'er and al; Commission's public consultation, etc.

Commission position (2017) does not propose increasing the percentage of EFA (5%).



## Direct support of EFA for biodiversity

- basic situation: EFA operates by individual farmers, direct payment from Pillar I.
- important problem of the Ecological Network program: disconnectivity of habitats
- cooperation between farmers; one farmer takes the obligation from another farmer and implements both EFAs
- fulfill EFA obligation at local/regional level

This action aggregates smaller parcels of land into blocks. It concentrates EFA areas to the locations that have higher biodiversity potential and facilitates complex ecosystem interactions.



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## Thank you!

Questions welcome



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