

“TAIEX ECRAN Multi-beneficiary Workshop on Actions Toward Good Status of the Water Framework Directive”

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Cross-Compliance and the WFD



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Structure of the presentation

What is Cross-Compliance?
Compulsory cross-compliance
Water & Agriculture



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What is Cross-Compliance?

Instrument from the 1st pillar of CAP

Links direct payments to the compliance with
Standards

Aim: to enhance enforcement of EU legislative and mandatory standards in the fields of Environment, Nature and biodiversity, Food safety, Animal health and welfare, as well as the requirement of maintaining land in good agricultural and environmental condition.



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Compulsory cross-compliance (1)

- Since 2005, all farmers receiving direct payments are subject to **compulsory cross-compliance**.
- **Legal basis:** Council Regulation 73/2009 and Commission Regulation 1122/2009



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Compulsory cross-compliance (2)

- Cross-compliance includes two elements:
- **Statutory Management Requirements:** These requirements refer to 18 legislative standards in the field of the environment, food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare.



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Compulsory cross-compliance (3)

- **Good agricultural and environmental condition:** The obligation of keeping land in good agricultural and environmental condition refers to a range of standards related to soil protection, maintenance of soil organic matter and structure, avoiding the deterioration of habitats, and water management.



Water & Agriculture (1)

Water management: key role in the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP), and farmers must comply with water policy.

Agriculture accounts for 24 % of water abstraction in Europe

CAP reform objectives: enhancing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector

Water & CAP reform: Commission proposal favours measures that **protect water resources** (e.g. crop diversification and the identification of areas excluded from cultivation) while also **providing funding** to promote more efficient irrigation, if coupled with cuts in water consumption, **in line with the WFD objectives.**

- o **Pillar I:** Cross Compliance CAP beneficiaries , such as farmers, must respect articles from 19 legal acts

(SMRs) and a number of **environmental issues and standards** (GAECs) to keep agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition.

Some of them are **directly related to water.**

- o **Pillar II:** Rural Development Programmes + Cross Compliance for some measures

RD Programmes finance measures



Water & Agriculture (2)

Implementation: As soon as the WFD and Pesticides Directive have been implemented in all MS, the **EU's cross-compliance mechanism**, which forms **part of the CAP**, enters into force.

It makes **direct payments** to farmers **conditional upon the application of environmental**, animal and plant health standards, is expanded to include some **requirements from the WFD** and the Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides.

This is a powerful **incentive**, at farm level, to reduce pressures on water.



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Thank you!



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