

Workshop

Basic and supplementary measures and anticipated effects

15 - 17 February 2016
ECRAN 61384

Linking National Water Retention Measures with
EU Agricultural Policy/CAP Pillar 1



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Structure of the presentation

- **Legal basis**
- **Links with Agricultural policy CAP**
- **WFD - CAP**



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Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources

“These measures [NWRM] should be included in both RBMPs and [Flood Risk Management Plans] (FRMPs) and, should become a priority for financing under the [Common Agricultural Policy] (CAP), Cohesion and Structural Funds”



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WFD – CAP

Water & CAP reform: Commission proposal favoured 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**.

Pillar I: Cross Compliance:

- CAP beneficiaries , such as farmers, must respect articles from 19 legal acts (SMRs1) and a number of **environmental issues and standards** (GAECs2) to keep agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition. Some of them are **directly related to water**.

Pillar II: Rural Development:

- Programmes + Cross Compliance for some measures
- RD Programmes finance measures



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WFD objective - agriculture

Good ecological status or good ecological potential (GEP) in all of Europe's water bodies.

Diffuse pollution from agriculture (livestock and arable farming): major problem to achieving the WFD

Surface water run-off - pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, bacteria and pesticides



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Nitrates Directive & Buffer strips (SMR 4)

NAP: concrete requirement for buffer strips

Under the regulations farmers must ensure that chemical fertilizer is not applied within 1.5 m of a surface watercourse

Ensure that organic fertilizer or soiled water is not applied within the minimum buffer zones for water extraction points as specified in the Regulations

Types of buffer strips considered:

- no pesticides, no fertilizer, no manure, but still arable land
- grassland, no ploughing up
- trees grown.



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Buffer strips targeting water quality

- Buffer strips and cross compliance

Cross compliance definition

(Recital 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003)

- “The full payment of direct aid should be linked to compliance with rules relating to agricultural land, agricultural production and activity. Those rules should serve to incorporate in the common market organizations basic standards for the environment, food safety, animal health and welfare and good agricultural and environmental condition. (...)”
- Potential link between environmental requirement and the full payment of direct aid.
- Link between Buffer strips obligation where it is defined by the EU legislation and the EU payment support.
- Buffer strip and SMR 4, 9



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Pesticide Directive & the Buffer strips (SMR 9)

- Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 Article 3(3) of directive 91/414/EEC states:
- “Member States shall prescribe that plant protection products (PPP) must be used properly. Proper use shall include compliance with the conditions established in accordance with Article 4 and specified on the labeling, and the application of the principles of good plant protection practice ..”



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CAP Health Check Review: Cross Compliance

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The Health Check: changes to SMRs and GAEC)

Two new issues focus on water management, whilst a new compulsory GAEC standard requires Member States to introduce a standard for buffer strips next to watercourses - Protecting and management of water:

Protect water against pollution and run-off and
manage the use of water

New GAEC Buffer Strip Requirement should improve water quality.



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Links with Agricultural policy CAP

- **Links with Agricultural policy CAP mainly EAFRD (1/2) (30 % on environment)**
- Investments in physical assets (article 18)
- Investments in forest area development and improvement of the **viability of forests, afforestation** and creation of woodland, establishment of **agroforestry** systems, prevention and **restoration** of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events, investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems (articles 22 - 26)
- Agri-environment-climate payments (article 28)
- Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments (article 30)
- Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation (article 34)



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Links with CAP Pillar 1 - Greening

Greening" - 30% of direct payments

- **Ecological Focus Areas (important if used wisely along water courses)**
- **Crop Diversification**
- **Maintenance of Permanent Grasslands**
- **Equivalent practices also relevant**

Cross Compliance standards

Relevant Good Agricultural Environmental Conditions (set at MS level)



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**NWRM to reduce agricultural run-off:
reduce water pollution, conserve the soil**

Afforestation forests	Developing forest stand on former agricultural areas to influence evapotranspiration, surface run-off and infiltration characteristics
Restoring and maintaining meadows and pastures	Water-retention-run-off regulation areas
Buffer strips	Vegetative cover - natural or planted area, . or along water courses
Grass waterways	Vegetative cover
Crop practices - crop rotation	Ensure the use of the soil as a natural water retention pool
Wetlands	Improvement in the hydrological regime, enhance habitat quality, reduce diffuse pollution (BOD, COD, N, P, pesticides, sediments)



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NWRM Buffer strips benefits

Multiple purposes – protect drinking water resources quality, block the movement of nutrients and pesticides into watercourses, reduce soil erosion

Preferably at least 5 m

Effective measure to achieve objectives of WFD, CAP, ...



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Buffer strips in the Danube RB

DE: Bavaria: on arable land buffer stripes with a width of 10 - 30 m

AT: width 10- 20 m

SI: width 5- 15 m

HR: Nitrated Directive – NAP

MD: 70 ha of buffer strip (75% efficient)

RO: width 1 m for land with slope < 12%; 3 m for land with slope > 12%.

SK: whole territory

UA: width 2.5, 50, 100 m. On slopes the width of buffer strips doubles (Water Code)



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NWRM Land conversion

benefits and costs

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Conversion of arable land into permanent pasture aims to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus reaching water bodies at risk because of soil erosion and fertilization.

Conversion to extensive grassland:

Greatest benefits if the grassland is used extensively and if the conversion is permanent. The measure allows reducing nitrogen and phosphorus losses due to lower inputs in the area.

In case of irrigation it reduces water abstraction needs and reduces soil erosion through the permanent grass cover.

Biodiversity in the area is improved.

Investment costs of this measure are the costs for compensation of farmers and economic costs include the loss of production.

Ex. AT, CZ



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NWRM: Diversify crop rotation

benefits & costs

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Crop rotation means that succeeding crops which are of a different variety than the previous crop.

Increased crop rotation leads to a reduction in nutrient leakages, reduction of soil erosion, improved soil structure and fertility, and reduces the build-up of pests and the reliance on agricultural chemicals.

Economically, this measure might result in short to midterm income losses, though there are immediate savings from reduced need for chemical inputs, and longer term benefits from improved soil structure and fertility, and from reduced soil erosion

Ex: MD, RO, UA



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Identification of barriers towards NWRM implementation

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- Historical
- Financial
- Technical, planning
- Effectiveness
- Knowledge exchange
- Options to maximize benefits – water & nature, agriculture & forestry



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Policy recommendations

EU policy relevance, EU support
NWRM: incorporated in the RBM Plans and FRMP
The agricultural policies consider the impact of agriculture sector on water bodies
Identification of Direct impacts, Benefits, Costs, Barriers for implementation
Guide for implementation needed.



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Thank you!



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