

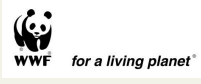
Strengthening the uptake of EU funds for Natura 2000

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Budapest, 10th September 2013



General Content

- THE OVERALL POLICY CONTEXT
- THE TOOLKIT



The overall policy context



The Overall Policy context

Financing Natura 2000: a political commitment

EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

thematic approach, introducing 7 flagship initiatives



Resource Efficient Europe

flagship initiative: umbrella for EU environmental objectives, including protection of ecological assets



EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

Identifies measures for action in the mid-term

Financing Natura 2000: a political commitment

Action 2 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020:

The Commission and Member States will provide the necessary funds and incentives for Natura 2000, including through EU funding instruments, under the next multiannual financial framework. The Commission will set out its views in 2011 on how Natura 2000 will be financed under the next multi-annual financial framework.

The Overall Policy context

Financing Natura 2000: a political commitment

Action 2 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020:

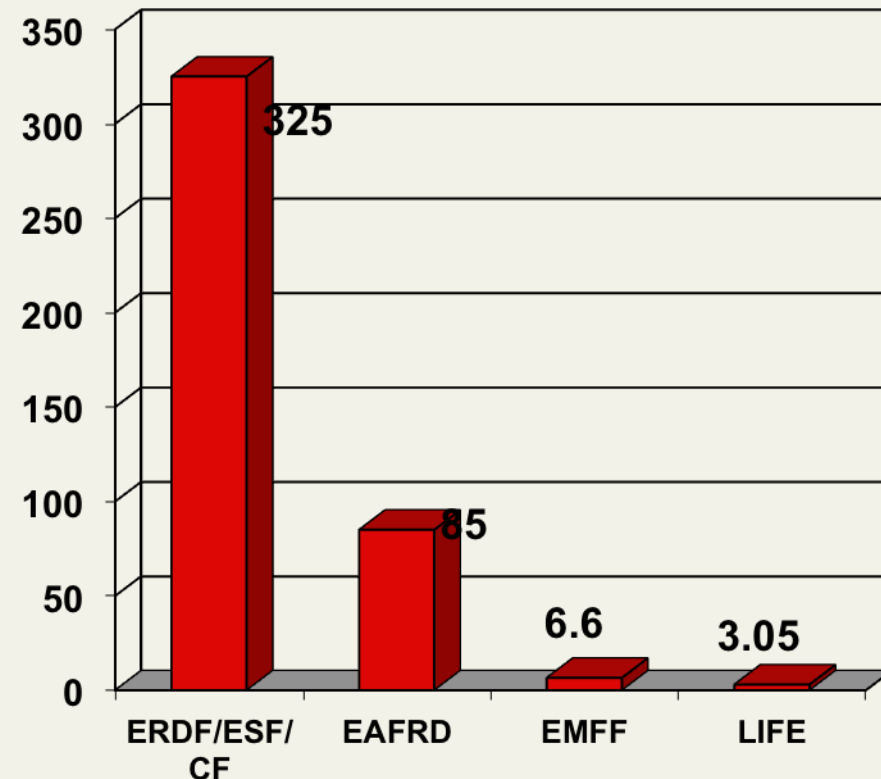
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EC Staff Working Paper
Dec 2011

The Overall Policy context

Funding needs of Natura 2000

- Funding needs for Natura 2000
€5,8 billion per year
- Benefits from Natura 2000:
€200-300 bn per year
- Funding sources:
 - National budget
 - EU funds, including EAFRD, ERDF, EMFF, LIFE
 - innovative funding sources



EU funding sources:

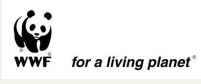
- **ERDF** – focus on growth and jobs, infrastructure and business support → investment in and the value of nature receives limited attention
 - **EAFRD** – beneficiaries restricted to agricultural sector, Natura payments rather low, measures often not site specific targeted sites
 - **LIFE** – small budget, co-financing rate high
 - **EMFF** – limited budget, spending traditionally not very environmentally oriented
- => Only 10-20% of Natura 2000 are covered**

The Overall Policy context

The prioritized Action Frameworks - PAFs

- Introduced in the EC Staff Working Paper (December 2011)
- MSs commitment to develop PAFs by the end of 2012 (22 delivered in September 2013)
- Include priority measures to be financed during the period 14-20
- Helpful tool for MSs in the process of elaboration of OPs

=> Should be a key mechanism to increase funding in 2014.-2020



The toolkit
*for assessing the consistency between
PAFs and OPs*



The Toolkit - Content

- Why a Toolkit and what is it for?
- Target Audience
- Programme analysis checklist
- PAF – OP consistency checklist
- The online platform
- Examples for good integration



Why a toolkit and what is it for?

- To help optimise the use of EU funds for Natura 2000 across different funding sources on EU-, national- and regional levels
- The toolkit should **guide users through the process of checking consistency** of Natura 2000 funding needs as identified in the PAFs with the new Operational Programmes for regional development, rural development and fisheries.

Target audience

- **Authorities** responsible for formulating national and regional programs (2014-2020)
- **EC relevant departments**, including DG Env, but also DG Agri, DG Regio, DG Mare

Programme analysis checklist

- Structured **catalogue of keywords and questions to screen** the most relevant chapters of specific OPs covering EAFRD, ERDF and EMFF funds.
- One checklist **per fund and programme**.
- Based on **templates** for the preparation of relevant OPs from key EU funds (EAFRD, ERDF, EMFF).
- Three **steps approach** (strategy, measures, budget)

	Analysis: keyword search or verification of overview tables in the OP	Level of recognition for Natura 2000	The level of Natura 2000 recognition is very good if the following conditions apply:	Notes for analysis results, text parts and references to Natura 2000 as identified in the OP
Step 1-Strategy	SWOT and identification of needs >> PLEASE ADD CHAPTER OF ANALYSED OP<<			
	Search for keywords: biodiversity, Natura 2000, protected areas, natural resources, conservation priorities, ecosystem services, Prioritized Action Framework.	Very good Moderate Minor None	The objective of the OP is to improve conservation status of the habitats or species and/or recognise economic or recreational importance of natural areas and their potential to minimize natural risks such as floods and/or, help adapt to climate change in synergy with nature conservation (e.g. through ecosystem adaptation).<	
	Strategy >> PLEASE ADD CHAPTER OF ANALYSED OP<<			
	Check overview table of the programme investment strategy for ERDF; are biodiversity related investment priorities and specific objectives included? ⁶	Very good Moderate Minor None	Strategy sets biodiversity or ecosystem services as a priority axis of the programme or biodiversity and Natura 2000 is an investment priority integrated in other axes which address environment indirectly (e.g. through sustainable urban development).	
2 - Measures	Investment priorities 6(d) and 6(e) ERDF >> PLEASE ADD CHAPTER OF ANALYSED OP<<			
	Check specific objectives and actions under Thematic Objective 6(d) and 6(e). To which extent do they relate to Natura 2000 (check Handbook for details).	Very good Moderate Minor None	Positive if relevant number of measures exist and if they indicate a large variety of possible interventions (Note detailed analysis takes place in PAF – OP checklist).	>List and transfer activities/measures in table Annex Ia.<

PAF-OP consistency checklist

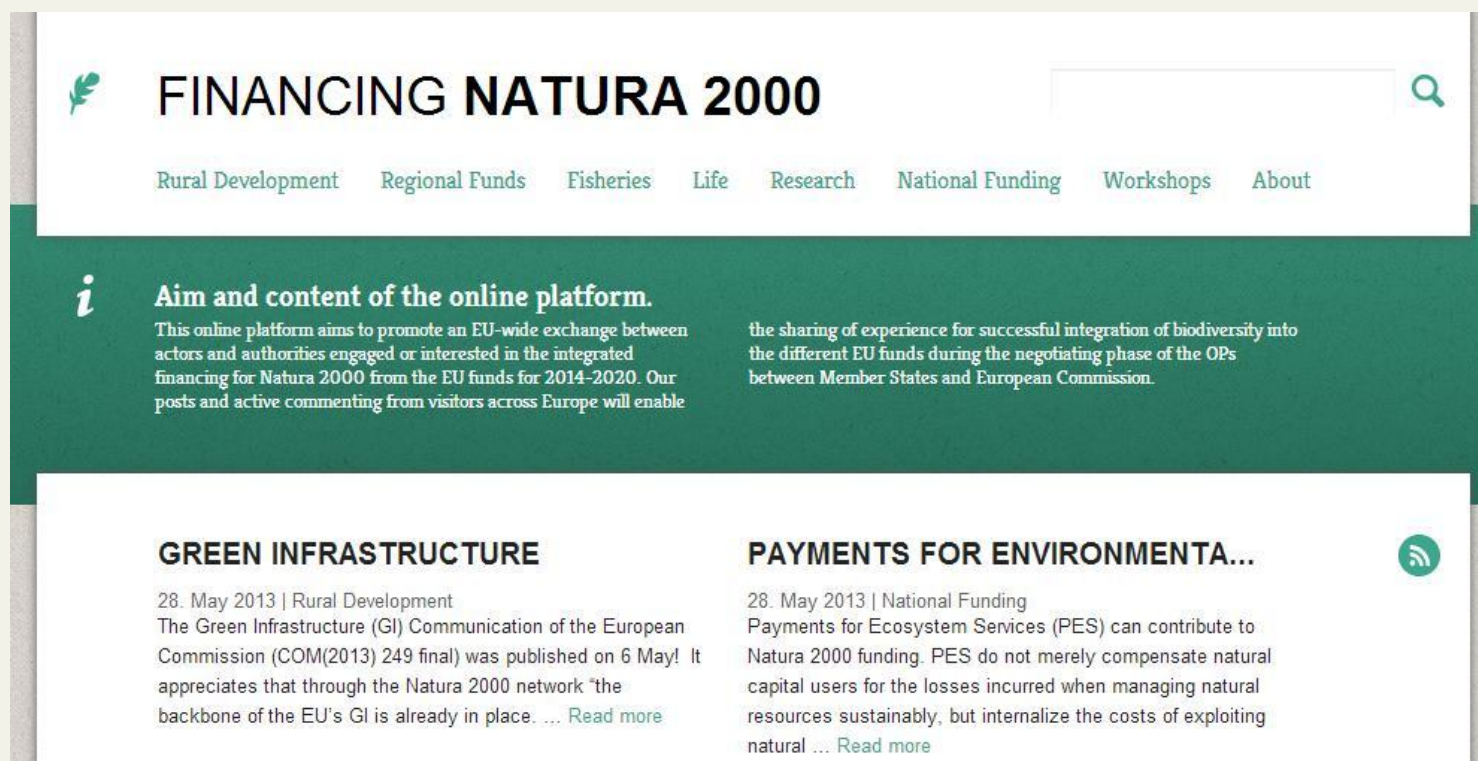
- Requires **PAF and at least draft OPs** or/and measures identified in programme checklist.
- Allows to **cluster priority actions from PAF** according to list of 25 natura measures against measures from all OPs.
- Allows to identify:
 - Main **funding opportunities** across all OPs.
 - Funding **gaps**.
 - **Synergies and consistency** between different funds.

Thematic objective, priority	Article in regulation	Measure/Activity	No.	Types of Activities	Cat.
			1	Administration of the site selection process	Establishment of Natura 2000 sites
			2	Scientific studies/inventories	
			3	Preparation of initial information and publicity material	
			4	Pilot projects	
			5	Management plans, strategies and schemes	Management planning
			6	Establishment of management bodies	
			7	Consultation – public, landowners	
			8	Management plans, strategies and schemes - review	
			9	Running costs of management bodies (maintenance of buildings and equipment)	
			10	Facilities for public access and use of the sites, observatories etc.	
			11	Staff	


Natura 2000 measures						Funding opportunities in OPs			Comments
Cat.	Types of Activities	Further description	No.	PAF priority measures: G-General AF-Agriculture and Forestry MC-Marine and Coastal WET-Wetlands; other	Identified funding source in PAF (EAFRD, ERDF, EMFF, LIFE, National, ...)	EAFRD	ERDF/CF/ESF	EMFF	level of consistency: (V)Very good (Mo)Moderate (Mi)Minor (No)No
Establishment of Natura 2000 sites	Administration of the site selection process	Funding for authorities carrying out the selection process.	1						
	Scientific studies/inventories for the identification of sites – surveys, inventories, mapping, condition assessment	Scientific studies, research personnel, workshops and meetings, creation of databases etc.	2						
	Preparation of initial information and publicity material	Including handbooks, seminars, workshops, communication materials for training and capacity building.	3						
	Pilot projects	Initial ‘trial’ projects at sites.	4						

Online platform

www.financing-natura2000.eu



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'FINANCING NATURA 2000' online platform. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search icon and a list of menu items: Rural Development, Regional Funds, Fisheries, Life, Research, National Funding, Workshops, and About. Below the navigation bar, there is a green banner with an information icon and the title 'Aim and content of the online platform.' followed by a paragraph describing the platform's purpose. Below the banner, there are two white boxes with titles and dates. The first box is titled 'GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE' and dated '28. May 2013 | Rural Development'. The second box is titled 'PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTA...' and dated '28. May 2013 | National Funding'. Both boxes contain a brief description and a 'Read more' link. A small RSS icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the second box.

 **FINANCING NATURA 2000** 

[Rural Development](#) [Regional Funds](#) [Fisheries](#) [Life](#) [Research](#) [National Funding](#) [Workshops](#) [About](#)


i **Aim and content of the online platform.**

This online platform aims to promote an EU-wide exchange between actors and authorities engaged or interested in the integrated financing for Natura 2000 from the EU funds for 2014-2020. Our posts and active commenting from visitors across Europe will enable the sharing of experience for successful integration of biodiversity into the different EU funds during the negotiating phase of the OPs between Member States and European Commission.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

28. May 2013 | Rural Development
The Green Infrastructure (GI) Communication of the European Commission (COM(2013) 249 final) was published on 6 May! It appreciates that through the Natura 2000 network "the backbone of the EU's GI is already in place. ... [Read more](#)

PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTA...

28. May 2013 | National Funding
Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) can contribute to Natura 2000 funding. PES do not merely compensate natural capital users for the losses incurred when managing natural resources sustainably, but internalize the costs of exploiting natural ... [Read more](#) 

Examples

Aims to show successful approaches during the current period (2007-2013).

- Poland – very **good uptake of ERDF** funds through a special agency that coordinated the implementation process.
- Austria – very **good uptake of EAFRD** funds for diversification of rural areas linked to biodiversity funding.
- Alpine Space – strong **focus of biodiversity in Alpine region** shows how important integration of biodiversity is especially in territorial dimension.



Köszönöm szépen!



