

### Introduction

- Ecoschemes (ES): one of the key instruments available in the new CAP for environmental and climate action, together with conditionality and agrienvironmental and climate comitments
- Member States have to propose ES in their CAP National Strategic Plans
- Plans in the process of being approved
- 9 plans approved so far, 5 publicly available (FR, PL, ES, IE, AU)

What do we know of the Ecoschemes in these plans?

How are they designed?

How ambitious are they?



#### What do we know about ES?

- A diversity of approaches for the design of the ecoscheme(s)
  - Single framework intervention including several measures (e.g. IE) or list of single eco-schemes (e.g. PL);
  - Point systems (e.g. NL),
  - Payment that varies with the level of commitment (e.g. FR), or based on the area/ characteristics of land (e.g. ES)
  - Innovative approaches, including result-based measures (e.g. DE)
- All types of agricultural land targeted, including permanent crops, few ecoschemes targeting livestock production
- Focus on environmental and climate action

Characterisation of eco- schemes in the 15 Member States surveyed (February 2022)

Country		Land targeted	Originating from:		Aspects targeted					
	Number of measures		Greening	AECS*	Climate	Water quality	Soil protection	Biodiversity	Animal welfare	Antimicrobial resistance
Austria	4	AAGP	1	4	X	X	Pr		X	
Bulgaria	9/	AAAAAAGGGPPLL	2	5	X	X	Pr	Pr		
Denmark	6	AAAAAAGGP	1	1	Pr	Pr	X	Pr		
Estonia	5	AAAAAGGGGPPP	1	3	Pr		X	Pr		
France	6	AAAGGGPPP	2	6**		X	X	Pr		
Finland	4	AAAAGGGG	4	4	X	X	X	Pr		
Germany	7	AAAAAAGGGGGPP	1	6**	X		X	Pr		
Hungary	3	AGP	В	0	X	X	X	Pr		
Ireland	8	AAAAAAGGGGGGGPPPPPLL	L	7	X	Pr		Pr		
Italy	5	AAGGPPPPLL	2	1	X		X	X	Pr	Pr
Latvia	7	AAAAAAGGGGPPPP	2	1	Pr	X	Pr	X		
Netherlands	21	AAAAAAAAAAAAA	9	0	X	Pr	X	Pr		
	1	GGGGGGGGGPPPPPPL								
Poland	17	AAAAAAAAAAAAGGGGGGPPP	3	5**	X	X	Pr	X	X	
Romania	X	AAAAGP	3	5	X	X	Pr	X		
Spain	7	AAAGGGPPR	3	3	X	Х	Х	Pr		
		Number of countries targeting aspec	t C		13	12	14	14	3	1

Notes: A = arable land; G = grassland; P = permanent crops; L = livestock

For countries in which the number of eco-scheme measures (column 2) is lower than the sum of their origins (columns 4+5), multiple original measures have been merged into a single eco-scheme. This applies to Austria, France and Romania.

Source: Runge et al. 2022





X = aspect addressed by eco-scheme

Pr = aspect targeted with priority (measures specifically designed to target one particular aspect);

<sup>\*</sup> including organic farming; \*\* at least in some regions.

## Do eco-schemes include anything new compared to 2014-2020?

Origin of ES: building upon greening, conditionality obligations and current AECM.

Example: One of France's ES Standard level: 60 €/ha Superior level: 80 €/ha **Building** on greening, slightly « Practices » For AL: point system for For AL: point system for more ambitious pathway: On all crop diversification, at crop diversification, at farm area least 4 points, least 5 points, Building on GAEC 1 Arable land For PG: maintenance of For PG: maintenance of but at farm level, (AL) 80% at farm level (non 90% at farm level (non slightly more Permanent ploughed) ploughed) ambitious grassland (PG) For PC: 75% of inter-For PC: 95% of inter-Permanent rows with plant cover Building on AECM rows with plant cover crops (PC) (COUVER 03 & 11)

- Some sustainable practices newly funded under Pilar I, sometimes shifted from Pilar 2
- Potential positive effects:
  - Large areas targeted -> might contribute to mainstreaming these practices
  - Might free up space for Pilar 2 to fund more targeted action



## An overall increase in ambition?

- But... ES have lower ambition than AECM, remain fairly close to conditionality
- Will shifting support from AECM to ES have a positive or negative impact?
  - -> Is there an **overall** increase in ambition in the CAP?
- Will need to monitor and evaluate:
  - ES uptake: Which are the most chosen practices/ES?
  - Do ES deliver in practice? Are they fostering change or mostly financing existing practices (windfall effects)?
  - Did MS took the opportunity of these schemes to fund new practices, either under PI or PII? Is there an overall increased ambition compared to 2014-2020?



# Some examples of Eco Schemes ES, FR, IE





**Example:** France's ES

### Payment increasing

Standard level: 60 €/ha

Superior level: 80 €/ha

Specific level: 110 €/ha

Bonus: 7€/ha

« Practices »
pathway: On all
farm area
Arable land
(AL)
Permanent
grassland (PG)
Permanent
crops (PC)

For AL: point system for crop diversification, at least 4 points,
For PG: maintenance of 80% at farm level (non ploughed)
For PC: 75% of interrows with plant cover

For AL: point system for crop diversification, at least 5 points,

For PG: maintenance of 90% at farm level (non ploughed)

For PC: 95% of interrows with plant cover

Building on greening, slightly more ambitious

Building on GAEC 1 but at farm level, slightly more ambitious

Building on AECM (COUVER 03 & 11)

Three criteria:

- Being eligible to the ES (any level)
- 6% of the UAA covered by hedgerows
- Certification for the sustainable management of the hedgerows

« Certification » pathway

Lower level of french environmental certification Higher level of french environmental certification, reviewed in 2022

Organic farming on the whole farm (certified and conversion)

Building GAEC 8, linked to former AECM LINEA 01

« landscape features » pathway

7% of agro-ecological infrastructures or fallow land

10 % of agro-ecological infrastructures or fallow land

linked to former AECM LINEA 01

**Example:** Spain's ES

Payment increasing

Land type 1

Land type 2

Land type 3

ES Extensive grazing, mowing and biodiversity in Pasture areas

3 possible set of practices: minimal pasture (120 days in the year), establishment of biodiversity isles (7% of the pasture area without mowing), sustainable mowing (less than 2-3 times a year depending on altitud)

Dry pastures (<650 mm/y)

Wet pastures (>650 mm/y)

ES Rotations and no-tillage (cropland) 2 possible set of practices: crop rotation on 50% of the arable area, no tillage on 40% of the arable area

(dry) cropland (<650 mm/y)

Wet cropland (>650 mm/y)

Irrigated land

Plant cover and inert cover in woody crops

2 possible set of practices: spontaneous or sown plant cover OR inert cover on 40% of the interrrow area available

Slight slope (<5%)

Medium slope (>5% and <10%))

Steep slope (>10%)

Landscape and bd features on cropland and permanent crops Establishement of Landscape and biodiversity features: 7% on rainfed arable land, 4% on irrigated land, 4% on permanent crops, 3% on underwater crops or sustainable management

Arable land and permanent crops

Underwater crops

Bonus: 25€/ha if the farmer commits for a second year in a row, only for some ES on some types of land

## **Example:** Ireland's ES

**Agricultural practices** counts as 1 AP counts as 2 AP Space for nature/biodiversity friendly 7% of UAA 10% of UAA features Between 0,10 and Between 0,10 and Extensive livestock production 1,4 LSU/ha 1,2 LSU/ha Maximum permitted Limiting nitrogen usage application Choose 2 agricultural 6 trees of 2 m HR / Planting of native trees/ hedgerows practices (AP) ha of eligible land ha of eligible land amongst 8 Application of 100% Payment Use of GPS controlled fertiliser spayer of chemical fertiliser amount: 77€/ha only possible once Soil sampling and appropriate liming every three years 20% of the arable Planting of break crops area 7% of the eligible Planting of multi-species sward area

## **Further reading**

- European Commission, 2022, Proposed CAP Strategic Plans and Commission observations Summary overview for 27 Member States.
- Becker S, Grajewski R, Rehburg P (2022) Where does the CAP money go?: Design and priorities of the draft CAP Strategic Plans 2023–2027. Runge et al., 2022, Implementation of Eco- schemes in Fifteen European Union Member States
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