



**Economic Advice & Related Services
to Support Development of a New
Rural Support Scheme for Scotland
RESAS/005/21**



**EU Member States'
CAP Strategic Plans**

EU Member States' CAP Strategic Plans

An output to RESAS as part of commissioned project
on Economic Advice & Related Services to Support
Development of a New Rural Support Scheme for
Scotland

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Key Points

- To better reflect variation in local conditions and the principle of subsidiarity, the CAP now allows for **greater flexibility in how support is designed and implemented**. The rationale for support and how it **aligns with EU-wide objectives** must be explained by Member States in their Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans, which now cover Pillar I as well as Pillar II expenditure.
- Individual **Strategic Plans vary considerably** in their choice of budget allocations within and between Pillars and the design of specific interventions, showing MS are using their **greater freedom**.
- CAP Strategic Plans are designed to be **outcome focused**, delivering against national and EU targets. Current **Scottish agricultural policy proposals are somewhat in line with EU CAP principles and objectives**, although **some mandatory CAP elements are currently not included in Scottish Government proposals (e.g. internal convergence and redistributive payments)**.
- **Income support for active farmers dominates**, both via coupled and decoupled payments (the latter including explicit redistribution to smaller farms).
- Based on a SWOT analysis and needs assessment MSs must set targets for relevant common result indicators and related milestones, **providing sound intervention logic** (with a WTO assessment). However, the **EC regards many Plans as lacking in environmental ambition and results-based focus**.
- For example, Good Environmental and Agricultural Condition (GAEC) could be tightened further and the **design of eco-schemes (which replace Pillar I Greening) could be bolder** in terms of prescriptions and interactions with Pillar II agri-environmental schemes.
- Similarly, linkages to wider rural development and **support for competitiveness and innovation remain relatively under-developed**, and **advisory support needs to better address all aspects of sustainability**.
- Recent leaked letters from DG ENV and DG CLIMA point to *“an almost complete lack of effort”* by MS *“to integrate major recommendations”* made by the Commission thus leaving **a gap between stated national ambitions and route maps to achieving outcomes**. In November 2021 environmental NGOs assessed 32% of eco-scheme measures and as ‘Bad – concerning’ with a further 9% as ‘Awful – Greenwashing’
- Significant variation across MS means that examples of policy **ideas being considered in Scotland already being implemented somewhere in the EU can be found relatively easily**. For example, basic income support, coupled payments, conditionality, active farming and supplementary agri-environment schemes. This offers some reassurance that Scottish policy can remain aligned with the CAP.
- Moreover, it is also apparent that **policy challenges encountered in Scotland apply across the EU too**. For example, the specifics of policy prescriptions, the share of budget allocations and the choice of indicators for monitoring. Again, this offers some **reassurance that Scotland is not alone in facing challenges and suggests that there is scope to learn from others’ experiences**.

Introduction

1. The new (agreed as of December 2021) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) seeks to promote a smart, sustainable, competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector across the EU. The aim is to ensure long-term food security whilst also addressing climate change, protecting natural resources, preserving/enhancing biodiversity, and strengthening the socio-economic fabric of rural areas – as detailed in the CAP's [specific objectives](#).



2. Relative to previous periods, to better reflect variation in local conditions and the principle of subsidiarity, the CAP now allows for greater flexibility in how support is designed and implemented. It also has a greater results-based focus.
3. The rationale for support and how it aligns with EU-wide objectives has to be explained by Member States (MS) in their CAP Strategic Plans (SPs). Although these previously only applied to Pillar-II, these now cover all CAP-funded¹ instruments to be implemented over the period 2023 – 2027 must be approved by the European Commission (EC).
4. Within the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation (EU 2021/2115) the EU have committed to spending 7.5% of the multiannual financial framework to biodiversity objectives in 2024, rising to 10% in 2026 and 2027. Further, the new CAP should be designed to increase the “*provision of environmental public goods on all types of farmland and forest land*”. With the adoption of appropriate non-competitive conditionality measures, Scotland should be aligned to these EU priorities.

¹ i.e., from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) for Pillar I as well as from European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) for Pillar II, the latter requiring national co-funding. Transfers of 25% of funds are permitted in either direction between the two Pillars, without requiring any justification: transfers from Pillar I to II are more common, but the reverse does occur in some cases. Co-funding rates vary between <10% and >90%.

5. This paper offers a condensed overview of submitted SPs, drawing on published summaries by the EC and academics² and draws on assessments by NGOs³ and EC assessment.⁴ The contents of SPs offer insights into how well Scottish policy thinking is aligned with the evolving EU position, and into the universality of some strategic challenges.
6. In the observation letters issues by the EC⁵ they requested that, in the light of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine that MS review their SPs to exploit all opportunities to:
 - “to strengthen the EU’s agricultural sector resilience;
 - to reduce their dependence on synthetic fertilisers and scale up the production of renewable energy without undermining food production;
 - to transform their production capacity in line with more sustainable production methods.”

Strategic Approaches

7. Reflecting the greater flexibility to design support according to local circumstances and priorities, individual SPS vary considerably in their choice of budget allocations and specific interventions. This shows that MS are choosing to use the greater freedoms afforded to them under the new CAP and reflect different points of entry to the EU and varying priorities.
8. However, the SPs vary in their completeness and consistency; the EC suggests that many need to be revised. This reflects a variety of perceived shortcomings, most commonly in relation to insufficient ambitions for environmental improvements and reduced dependency on imported inputs plus a lack of a results-based focus.
9. Coordination, demarcation and complementarities between different policy actions, both within and outwith the CAP, are also typically poorly articulated according to the EC. For example, in relation to rural development, afforestation and sustainable food systems.
10. The Table below lists interventions available under the Strategic Plan Regulation (SPR), by funding source. Items in bold are mostly mandatory.

Direct (EAGF)	Basic Income (Art. 21); Payment for small farmers (Art. 28); Redistributive income support (Art. 29); Complementary income support for young farmers (Art 30.);
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² See EC (2022) https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-strategic-plans_en and Becker et al. (2022) https://www.thuenen.de/media/publikationen/thuenen-workingpaper/ThuenenWorkingPaper_191a.pdf

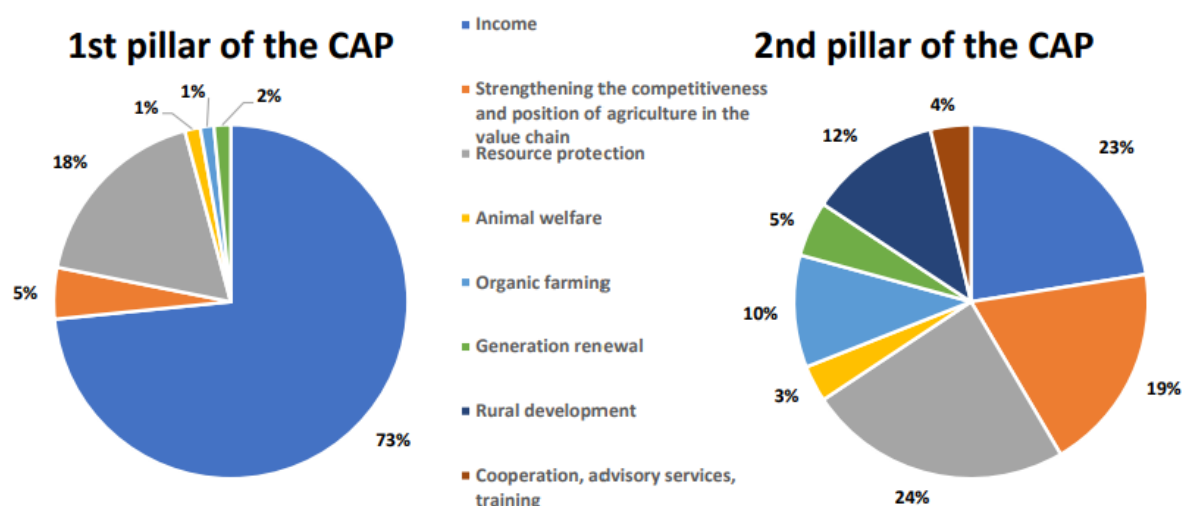
³ <https://www.birdlife.org/news/2021/11/30/report-cap-eco-schemes-nov2021/>

⁴ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7022-2022-INIT/en/pdf>

⁵ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/cap-my-country/cap-strategic-plans/obervation-letters_en

	Eco-schemes (Art. 31); Coupled Income Support (Art. 32)
Sectoral (EAGF)	Types of intervention in certain sectors (Arts. 47, 55, 58, 61, 64., 67)
Rural Development (EAFRD)	Environmental, climate-related and other management commitments (Art. 70); Natural or other area-specific constraints (Art. 71); Area-specific disadvantages from certain mandatory requirements (Art. 72); Investments (Art 73, 74); Setting-up young and new farmers (Art. 75); Risk management (Art. 76); Cooperation, including LEADER and EIP (Art. 77); Knowledge exchange and dissemination (Art. 78)

11. The Figure below illustrates the EU-level distribution of planned public funding by target objective.



Source: Fig 24 in Becker et al. (2022), as footnote 1.

Decoupled Income Support

Basic Income Support for Sustainability

12. The CAP retains direct (decoupled, area) payments as a Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS). The EU stress that interventions such as BISS must remain 'Green Box' to comply with WTO commitments. The total BISS allocation across EU is c. 50% of the direct payments envelope, with allocations ranging from c. 30% – 75%. Payment rates per ha vary widely, from c. €135/ha to c.€1,500/ha. This would align with Scotland's proposal for a Tier 1 budget of c. 50% direct support and Tier 2 budget of c.50% of direct support based on conditionality performance.
13. There are options for capping (at €100k) and degressivity (from €60k) where the thresholds are stipulated (EU 2021/2115), but with the option to deduct labour

costs. A minority of MS intend to deduct labour costs prior to applying any capping or degressivity. Only nine MS intend to use capping and/or degressivity. Any significant redistribution as a result of re-assigning entitlement regions may require the use of capping and or degressivity in Scotland to avoid significant uplifts accruing to Region 3 land (an assessment of public value of outcomes delivered from any such redistribution should be assessed).

Compulsory Redistributive Payments

14. To increase the share of support going to small and medium sized farms, Article 24 of (EU) 2021/2115 requires a minimum of 10% of direct payments to be redistributed as higher payments to the first few hectares on each farm, through a Complementary Redistributive Income Support for Sustainability (CRISS).
15. The hectareage threshold for the CRISS varies, but most MS intend to apply at least the 10% budget. However, a few MS are seeking derogations for less (on the basis that support is targeted in other ways, including a specific small farmer scheme).
16. As a mandatory component of the CAP, this would mean that Scottish proposals would not align with the EU regulations and would need addressed before any future re-entry to the EU. Any future merging of Region 2 and Region 3 rough grazing could be considered a form of redistribution – particularly to the poorest quality land, with many smaller crofts likely to benefit from any single rough grazing region uplift.

Internal Convergence

17. Moreover, the EU continue to push for internal convergence on decoupled direct payment entitlements within a MS / region. Those MSs still using entitlements will need to ensure all basic income support within a MS have a “*per-hectare value of at least 85% of the national average*” by 2026.⁶ Eight MS are discontinuing payment entitlements in 2023.

Small Farmer Scheme

18. As with the previous CAP, MSs have the option to design a specific scheme for small farmers to replace other forms of direct support, up to a limit of €1,250 as stipulated in Article 28 of (EU) 2021/2115. Five MS plan to use such an approach with four offering lump sums whilst Czech Republic is to offer a per hectare payment. MS are allocating 0.3% – 9% of the direct payment envelope to small farmer schemes. Such a scheme would offer simplification for administrators and claimants – and if the threshold of the scheme could be extended to better reflect Scottish croft/farm systems, the administrative gains could be attractive.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R2115&from=EN>

Coupled Income Support

19. Coupled Income Support (CIS) is also available for more sectorally-targeted interventions, although budget restrictions apply, and measures have to be consistent with Water Framework Directive requirements (the EC regards this as poorly justified in most current Strategic Plans). Such interventions should be notified as 'Blue Box' at most (i.e. not Amber) using production-limiting programmes (e.g. quota) that exempt them from reduction commitments.
20. Almost all MS intend to use CIS, to support incomes and sustainability in selected sectors or regions and the CIS budget is 6% higher than in 2022. Most (20 MS) intend to allocate at least 10% of their direct payment budget to CIS (slightly higher than previous expenditure on Voluntary Coupled Support – and most are close to their ceilings). Livestock (c.70% of CIS budget), protein crop & legumes (14% of budget) and fruit & vegetable production (5% budget) are the most commonly cited CIS targets.
21. The EC has requested details from MS to ensure CIS interventions (particularly livestock) do not lead to environmental and climate deteriorations. There has been a 26% increase in CIS spend on protein crops/legumes and 13.5% increase on fruit and vegetables.
22. In Scotland, a regional model that separates grazing and arable land may be attractive should the Scottish Government consider the use of conditional coupled support to be the most effective route to achieving national outcomes.

Investment, cooperation and risk management

23. Beyond income support, farm modernisation in the form of new technologies, management strategies and organisational structures can also be funded from the direct payment budget.
24. However, not all MS are choosing to do so and the overall level of support for such actions remains similar to when funded solely under Pillar II. The EC wishes to see more emphasis on promoting competitiveness, risk management and producer cooperation. 13 MS have proposed risk management tools in RDPs including insurance premia and mutual fund support schemes (with 3 MS assigning risk funds from direct payment envelopes).

Active farmers

25. The CAP Strategic Plan Regulation (EU 2021/2115) stipulates that income support should be targeted at active farmers, with objective conditions used to determine activity (including a negative list to exclude those where agricultural activity is typically marginal). Further, the definition of agricultural activity "*should provide*

for both the production of agricultural products and the maintenance of the agricultural area leaving the choice between those two types of activity to farmers". Definitions of activity should be related to local conditions that relates to a defined 'agricultural area'. There are framework definitions of 'arable land', 'permanent crops' and 'permanent grassland' that can be adjusted to local conditions, that should include agro-forestry.

26. MS must define an 'eligible hectare' that should include (i) areas also used for non-agricultural activity – acknowledging the role of diversification in farm incomes; and (ii) paludiculture and new woodland plantings – recognising the role of woodlands, wetland and peatlands in tackling climate change. MS are afforded simplified methodologies for determining ineligible areas within permanent pasture.
27. Most MS seek to restrict direct payments only to active farmers in their SPs. Various criteria for this are permitted, including presence on a farm register, VAT status, labour usage and reliance on farm income. However, the EC notes that such criteria are often poorly justified and may not be sufficient.

A Greener CAP

28. All CAP Strategic Plans are required to state how they will contribute toward climate, biodiversity and pollution targets set by various overarching EU strategies (e.g., Green Deal, Farm to Fork, Energy). However, the EC regards most Strategic Plans to be weak in terms of explaining how policy interventions will deliver on such targets, their internal coherence, and their overall ambition.
29. For example, Good Environmental and Agricultural Condition (GAEC) remains a central means of seeking environmental performance but (with a few exceptions), most elements have simply carried-forward from the past, representing a missed opportunity to tighten minimum requirements. However, new GAEC 2 sets standards that require the protection of peatlands and wetlands whilst GAEC 1 aims to maintain the share of permanent pasture as a proportion of total agricultural area – measures that would align well in Scotland.
30. Similarly, with the exception of organic farming, explanations and justifications for how policy interventions will deliver desired environmental enhancements and how progress will be monitored are generally vague.
31. In particular, proposed eco-schemes (replacing Greening) may be portrayed as innovative but seemingly often simply represent prescriptions carried-forward from previous periods rather than new ideas, and their interaction with GAEC and agri-environment schemes is unclear. However, eco-schemes vary greatly in terms of their breadth and depth, making cross-country and inter-temporal comparisons difficult. This likely reflects the wording of the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation (EU 2021/2115) that permits MS to establish 'entry-level schemes'

(where more ambitious commitments are provided for through rural development) as well as ‘enhanced eco-schemes’. The entry level and enhanced eco-schemes may align to core (tier 1) and enhanced (tier 2) conditionality in Scotland.

32. For example, some MS have proposed one all-encompassing eco-scheme with a long-list of measures whilst others have proposed several smaller eco-schemes to operate in parallel. Equally some are designed to enrol large areas into relatively light-touch environmental management whilst others are more tightly focused on specific areas.
33. In some cases, applications will be based on points, calibrated to encourage farmers to adopt particular prescriptions in particular circumstances. Landscape and soil prescriptions appear most often, but carbon, nutrient and grassland management are relatively popular too (biodiversity objectives are addressed more explicitly in agri-environment schemes).
34. Of those MS setting targets for preserving habitats and species 6 have set targets of >40% of utilised agricultural area, 7 have targets of 20–40% and 11 less than 20%. Similarly of those MSs setting targets to preserve landscape features 2 have set targets of >40% UAA, 2 have targets of 10–20% and 16 set targets of <10% UAA. 11 MSs also propose to use Natura 2000 payments for agricultural land.
35. There are a wide range of targets set for: carbon storage in soil and biomass; soil protection; GHG and ammonia reductions from livestock. However, several improvements were identified to MS through EC observation letters.⁷ However, as MS prepare for resubmission of SPS, leaked letters from DG ENV and DG CLIMA point to *“an almost complete lack of effort by the national capitals to integrate major recommendations”* leaving a gap between stated national ambitions and route maps to achieving the required outcomes.
36. In November 2021 BirdLife Europe, European Environmental Bureau & WWF European Policy Office published their assessment of available draft eco-scheme measures (see Annex 1). They concluded that, in their opinion, only 19% of the measures were ‘Good – likely to deliver’ with a further 40% ‘Ok – needs improving’, 32% as ‘Bad – concerning’ and 9% as ‘Awful – Greenwashing’.

New Entrants

37. Most MS intend to offer continuing support for new entrants to farming, either through top-up direct payments and/or investment assistance. 22 MSs aim to allocate more than the minimum 3% of direct payments envelopes to generational

⁷ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/cap-my-country/cap-strategic-plans/observation-letters_en

renewal. However, the EC suggests that eligibility criteria need to be strengthened and gender equality addressed more explicitly.

Rural Development

38. Budget allocations for LEADER have increased to 7% on average (up from 5.5% previously). However, the EC is concerned that there is over reliance on LEADER as the sole instrument for rural development under the CAP to address issues of social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. It is suggested that synergies and complementarities with other EU and National funds need to be utilised more explicitly.

Knowledge and innovation

39. Knowledge and innovation (especially digital technologies) are regarded as key enabling tools to help reach CAP objectives. As required, all MS include Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) in their Strategic Plans, almost doubling previous expenditure. Even more dramatically, the number of supported European Innovation Projects increases fourfold.

40. However, the EC has suggested that further efforts to align CAP interventions with AKIS strategies are required, both in terms of coherence and ambition. In particular, advice needs to address economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainability – which may require (re)training of advisors.

Conclusion

41. The new CAP offers considerable flexibility to MS. As a result, there is now significant variation across the EU and examples of policy ideas being considered in Scotland already being implemented somewhere in the EU can be found relatively easily. For example, basic income support, coupled payments, conditionality, active farming and supplementary agri-environment schemes. This offers some reassurance that Scottish policy can remain aligned with the CAP.

42. Moreover, it is also apparent that policy challenges encountered in Scotland apply across the EU too. For example, the specifics of policy prescriptions, the share of budget allocations and the choice of indicators for monitoring. Again, this offers some reassurance that Scotland is not alone in facing challenges and suggests that there is scope to learn from others' experiences.

Annex 1: BirdLife Europe, European Environmental Bureau (EEB) & WWF European Policy Office assessment of Eco-Scheme measures (Nov 2021)⁸

Table 1 Ecoschemes assessed as “Not enough information to judge”

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Belgium - Wallonia	Permanent pastures, rewarding lower stocking rates	Initial proposition with payment for up to 3 LSU/ha down to 2,5 LSU/ha in 2027, with increasing payment while extensifying. Good initially, but was thoroughly modified since, info is out of date.	GHG reductions
Belgium - Wallonia	Ecological Network	Very complex ecoscheme that pays for % of ecological network beyond GAEC 8 on all agriculture land (after application of three coefficients). Was thoroughly watered down since, info out of date.	High diversity landscape features
Ireland	Extensive livestock production	Specified maximum overall stocking rate for the calendar year.	None or Unclear
Belgium - Wallonia	Environment-friendly crops	Payment/ha for 1) legume forage 2) extensive cereals 3) mixed crops. The initial proposal was good but it is totally outdated now.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Belgium - Wallonia	Soil cover	No information	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Ireland	Limiting chemical nitrogen input	Specified chemical nitrogen usage limit for the calendar year	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Slovenia	ES 29: Composting spent hops	Must last until 1 March of the following year.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction

Table 2 Ecoschemes assessed as “Awful – Greenwashing”

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Italy	Antimicrobial reduction	Payment for farms using less than the median antibiotic use, and for those above the median but in the process of reducing them	Antimicrobial reduction
Portugal	Animal welfare and rational use of antimicrobials	Animal welfare: applicable to cattle and pigs only. Requires certification in animal welfare (the purpose of the support is to pay for certification costs). Rational use of antimicrobials: applicable only to dairy cattle. The thresholds established take into account the average national use of antimicrobials, with the lower threshold for use of the 1st tier corresponding to the average national use, and the lower threshold for the 2nd tier corresponding to 20% of the average national use.	Antimicrobial reduction

⁸ <https://www.birdlife.org/news/2021/11/30/report-cap-eco-schemes-nov2021/>

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Slovenia	ES 16: Application of organic fertilisers on arable land in a way to reduce emissions	Only placement is allowed (spraying of fertilisers not allowed); payment shall be granted for a maximum of 40 cubic meters of liquid organic fertilisers used per hectare	GHG reductions
Slovenia	ES 30: Application of organic fertilisers on hop gardens in a way to reduce emissions	Only placement is allowed (spraying of fertilisers not allowed); payment shall be granted for a maximum of 40 cubic meters of liquid organic fertilisers used per hectare	GHG reductions
Slovenia	ES 9: Application of organic fertilisers on permanent grasslands in a way to reduce emissions	Only placement is allowed (spraying of fertilisers not allowed); payment shall be granted for a maximum of 40 cubic meters of liquid organic fertilisers used per hectare	GHG reductions
Slovenia	ES 26: Buffer strips at the edges of permanent crops	A flower strip is established at the edge of permanent crops; it must be mowed before the pesticide treatment.	High diversity landscape features
France	Agro-ecological practices: Diversification of crops	A points system is set up, allowing combinations of crops to be chosen by the farmer, with higher points for legumes, diversification crops and grasslands. The farmer gets the standard level ecoscheme if they score 4 points, and the upper level if they score 5 or more points.	None or Unclear
France	Certification: other certification	The standard level of the "certification path" is accessible with the a combination of different criteria: compliance with one of the 4 items of the HVE certification OR precision agriculture + operation in a waste recycling process.	None or Unclear
Latvia	ES 3: Maintaining optimal soil pH for plant growth	Payment for soil liming if certain conditions are met (fertilisation plan, starting pH below 5.5, etc)	None or Unclear
Slovakia	Animal welfare	Bigger boxes, focus on dairy cows	None or Unclear
Slovenia	ES 4: Traditional use of grasslands	Only meadows that are mowed no more than three times a year are included; grazing can be carried out, but only in combination with mowing	None or Unclear
Slovenia	ES 6: Optimal mowing height of cutting	The average height of mowing must be at least 7 cm.	None or Unclear
Ireland	Precision farming to apply chemical fertilisers	Application of chemical fertiliser with a GPS-controlled fertiliser spreader	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
France	Certification: Organic farming and "high environmental value" certification	This ecoscheme is the upper level of the "certification path": the access is open for organic farms or for farms detaining the "high environmental value certification".	Organic farming
Poland	Integrated plant production system		Pesticides reduction

Table 3 Ecoschemes assessed as “Bad – Concerning”

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Austria	Greening - evergreen cover of arable land	Requires at least 85% of the farm's arable land to be covered at all times (i.e. max. 30 days between harvesting and catch crop, or catch crop and main crop)	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Belgium - Flanders	Animal feed and livestock management	Details TBD, but it will likely include measure on feed additives.	GHG reductions
Belgium - Flanders	Animal welfare and health	(1) reduction of claw-disease and (2) reduced antibiotics use	Antimicrobial reduction
Belgium - Flanders	Extensive permanent pastures	No use of pesticides (except for thistle) or inorganic fertiliser. Nothing on livestock density.	None or Unclear
Belgium - Flanders	Permanent pastures	Grassland older than 10/15 years and not 'renewed' during last 6 years. No other permanent grassland lost at farm level.	GHG reductions
Belgium - Flanders	Precision agriculture	Details TBD, probably paid per hectare	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Bulgaria	Conservation and restoration of soil potential/fertility	Payment for growing of different types of catch (intermediate) crops that are used as green manure	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Bulgaria	Increased crop diversification	Up to 9.99 ha: 2 different crops, main crop <95%; 10-30 ha: 3 crops, main crop <75%, two main crops <95%; 30 ha+: 4 crops, main crops <75%, 3 main crops < 95%	None or Unclear
Croatia	Conservation agriculture	Requirement for no tillage of the land, 30% of the land has to be covered by the plant residues or green winter crops	GHG reductions
Croatia	Intensified diversity of agricultural land	Payment for at least 2 different crops on 10 ha land, 3 on 10-30 ha and 4 on more than 30 ha. It has to be applied on at least 10% of the agr. land.	None or Unclear
Croatia	Intensified maintenance of ecological focus areas	Requirement to have 10% of (greening) ecological focus areas on farms. Those include: fallow land, landscape features, no production strips close to forests, short rotation coppice, post-harvest crops and green winter cover, nitrogen-fixing plants.	High diversity landscape features
Croatia	Using manure on arable land	Soil analysis, manure analysis, fertilising plan, manure application record keeping are obligatory.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Cyprus	Bee-hive management for coexistence with insect-eating birds	Requirement to place a closed water container for bees to have access to water without risk of being prey to insect-eating birds	None or Unclear
Cyprus	Ploughing in vegetable, melon and strawberry cultivations	Requirement of two ploughings in the summer in vegetable, melon and strawberry cultivations - not to be combined with soil solarisation	Pesticides reduction
Cyprus	Use of certified seed for barley and wheat cultivation	Financial incentive to buy certified seed for barley and wheat	None or Unclear
Cyprus	Use of treated slurry instead of nitrogen fertiliser (specific crops)	Requirement to place treated slurry in cereal, vegetable and other crops instead of chemical fertiliser	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Denmark	ES for diversification of plant production	Support is granted for all hectares of arable crops in given categories grown with the additional crop category or categories in addition to the basic requirement of GAEC7	None or Unclear
Denmark	ES for enhanced catch crops	Requirement to sow catch crops, leaving fields green over the winter. This is in addition to mandatory catch crops. Alternatives to catch crops currently include intermediate crops, energy crops, fallow areas and early sowing of winter crops.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Denmark	ES for extensification with mowing (drained peatlands)	Incentivises planting grass on drained peatlands and its mowing to remove nutrients so that it can later be flooded with lower emissions of nutrients and methane.	GHG reductions
France	Agro-ecological practices: Maintenance of permanent grasslands	Requirement to maintain a ratio of non-tilled permanent grassland (from 5 years) at the farm level, up to 80% (equivalent to 5 years) for access to the ecoscheme and 90% (10-year equivalent) to access its next level.	GHG reductions
Italy	Integrated farming, payments for ecosystem services	It covers integrated production and precision farming, with top-ups being considered for Natura 2000 and Areas of Natural Constraints	Pesticides reduction
Latvia	ES 1: Support for agricultural practices beneficial for the environment and the climate	Farmers can choose at least one of the following to receive the payment, on the condition that they have a fertilisation plan: 1. crop diversification; 2. green cover between perennials; 3. fertiliser plan for arable fields; 4. records of planning and use of pesticides; 5. support for arable/perennial land. Organic farms are not eligible.	None or Unclear
Latvia	ES 4: Conservation farming practices	Requires 1. minimal soil tillage or strip-till or direct sowing; 2. max 2 applications of herbicides per season, no glyphosate before harvesting; 3. reporting of use of pesticides	GHG reductions
Latvia	ES 5: Agricultural practices reducing carbon dioxide and ammonia emissions	Requires 1. fertilisation plan based on agronomic analysis of soils and no more N used than specified in the fertilisation plan; 2. Report pesticides use; and 3. Apply one of: incorporation of liquid organic fertiliser / precision application of fertiliser and/or pesticides	GHG reductions
Poland	Animal welfare ³⁰	The aim of the intervention is to encourage farmers to promote higher (than the current standards) animal welfare conditions. The rules are different for different animal species.	None or Unclear
Poland	Application of liquid manures	Application of liquid manures by other methods than spraying, e.g. by injection	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Poland	Crop diversification (minimum 3 crops)	Both ecoscheme and GAEC 7 require at least three different crops on arable land. Scope of ecoscheme beyond GAEC 7: - at least 20% are grown with plant species that have a positive impact on the soil organic matter balance (including legumes) and - the share of cereals and Brassica napus does not exceed 65%, - the share of crops having a negative impact on the soil organic matter balance (including root crops) does not exceed 30%.	None or Unclear
Poland	Develop and follow a fertilization plan using the FaST (Farm Sustainability Tool) for nutrients	Higher payment if liming is included	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Poland	Incorporating manure into the soil manure on arable land within hours after application	Incorporating manure into the soil by ploughing it in, max 12h after applying it on top of the soil	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Poland	Simplified cultivation systems	On arable land, crops are cultivated in the form of no-till conservation tillage or strip-till	GHG reductions
Poland	Winter catch crops or legume intercrops	The intervention consists in maintaining plants in the form of: - intercropping of legumes or mixtures with legumes in the main crop (intercropping is in the main crop, mostly cereals, e.g. in barley. For example, red clover can be used as a catch crop. Then, after the barley harvest, the clover remains in the field, which can still be mown for hay in the autumn of the same year); - or winter catch crops in the form of mixtures of at least two plant species from 1 October to 15 February of the following year.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Portugal	Improving animal feed efficiency (bovine certification)	Feed efficiency, management and animal health practices in cattle production (meat and/or milk) to reduce emissions. For beef cattle, certification of the feeding plan is required. The level of support is increased if the beneficiary uses agricultural advisory service.	GHG reductions
Portugal	Integrated Production - Crops	Requires the adoption of the Integrated Protection management (IPM) (allows the use of a certain set of synthetic pesticides), but takes a more holistic approach. It advocates the use of natural regulatory mechanisms to replace environmentally damaging agricultural inputs. It obliges farmers to keep up-to-date records of cultural operations and requires specific training. The level of support is increased if the beneficiary uses advisory services in Integrated Production (IP). In the previous CAP it corresponded to one AECM (RDP).	Pesticides reduction
Portugal	Soil management: promotion of organic fertilisation	Objective: Promote the substitution of inorganic fertilization by organic fertilization through agricultural valorization of livestock effluents (LE), LE associated with forest biomass or composts originating from LE. The organic fertilization has to correspond to more than 25% of the total fertilization. The level of support is increased by 10% if the organic fertilization corresponds to more than 50% of the total fertilization.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Slovenia	ES 12: Crop diversification (minimum 3 crops)	Main crop <75%, two main crops <90%	None or Unclear
Slovenia	ES 13: Secondary crops - catch crops	On at least 20% of the area, without pesticide use	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Slovenia	ES 15: Conservation tillage	On at least 30% of the area	GHG reductions
Slovenia	ES 17: Nitrogen stabilizers in slurry (arable land)	In preparation.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Slovenia	ES 18: Use of additives to reduce ammonia emissions from organic fertilisers (arable land)	In preparation.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Slovenia	ES 20: Adapted application of phytopharmaceutical products in permanent crops		Pesticides reduction
Slovenia	ES 22: Monitoring of pests in permanent crops	Use of pheromone/food-based traps and adhesive plates	Pesticides reduction
Slovenia	ES 23: Use of confusion and disorientation methods in permanent crops	Use of pheromone dispensers and poisoned baits (method "attract and kill")	Pesticides reduction

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Slovenia	ES 25: Maintenance of dry stone walls and terraces in permanent crops		High diversity landscape features
Slovenia	ES 27: Soil cover in permanent crops	The space between the rows is sown with appropriate cultivated plants	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Slovenia	ES 28: Use of rapidly degradable strings in permanent crops		None or Unclear
Slovenia	ES 3: Extensive management of grasslands (grazing or mowing)37	Mowing or grazing is mandatory once a year; agricultural use is allowed no more than three times a year (grazing is considered one use)	None or Unclear
Slovenia	ES 5: Colourful meadow	Meadows with either: plant species with petals of at least three different colours or with at least four indicator plant species	High diversity landscape features
Slovenia	ES 7: Nitrogen stabilisers in slurry (permanent grasslands)	In preparation.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Slovenia	ES 8: Use of additives to reduce ammonia emissions from organic fertilisers (permanent grasslands)	In preparation.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Spain	P2: Uncut margins in meadows or sustainable mowing to maintain and improve biodiversity	Unmowed margins and other landscape features must be at least 7% of the surface area of meadows in the farm. Sustainable mowing won't be higher than 2 cuts/year + unmowing period of 60 days min (between June, July and August)	High diversity landscape features
Spain	P4: Conservation agriculture and direct seeding (with sustainable input management in irrigated areas)	No ploughing. No rules regarding herbicides and pesticides use	GHG reductions
Sweden	Precision farming- planning package	Use nutrient balance tools, fertiliser plan, crop rotation plan, do soil mapping, grass cover 2 m around drainage wells, manure analysis, zero N plots etc. No measures to reduce pesticides.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction

Table 4 Ecoschemes assessed as “OK – Needs improving”

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Austria	Animal welfare - grazing for at least 120 days	Requires at least 120 days of grazing from April to end of October; no safeguards to avoid intensive grassland management with no benefit for biodiversity	GHG reductions
Belgium - Flanders	Carbon storage in soils	3 possibilities: (1) ES based on management plan (2) use of C-enriching products like compost and (3) based on soil samples	GHG reductions
Czechia	Grassland maintenance	Basic condition for grassland management	GHG reductions

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Denmark	ES for environmentally and climate friendly grass	Requirement of one year more with grass with no ploughing for grass areas that have been covered with grass without ploughing for a minimum of 2 consecutive years immediately prior to the support year.	GHG reductions
Ireland	Planting of native trees	Planting a minimum of three native trees per eligible hectare	GHG reductions
Latvia	ES 6: Promoting the maintenance of grassland on livestock farms	Permanent and cultivated grasslands eligible. No ploughing/soil cultivation in the application and next year. Minimum animal density must be provided 0.4 LU/ha from May to September.	GHG reductions
Spain	P1: Extensive grazing for increased carbon sequestration	Minimum of 90-120 days of grazing, with a stocking rate between 0.4-2.0 LU/ha (humid pastures) or between 0.2-1.2 LU/ha (dry pastures - under 650 mm of rainfall + islands)	GHG reductions
Spain	P6: Live plant cover in permanent crops	Cover can be spontaneous or seeded. Cover will occupy a significant part of the free width of the crown projection; for slopes higher or equal than 10%, +1 m min. additionally. Application of pesticides will be exceptional.	GHG reductions
Belgium - Flanders	'Eco-crops' (N-fixing crops, ...)	Former Pillar 2 measure but provides more flexibility for rotation scheme at farm level due to yearly nature of the measure	High diversity landscape features
Belgium - Flanders	Herb-rich productive grassland	Herb-rich grassland considered as yearly crop (temporary grassland). Minimum percentage of herbs and grasses. No requirements regarding pesticides and fertiliser use	High diversity landscape features
Belgium - Flanders	Non-productive areas on arable land	Requires a minimum percentage (7% tbc) of farmland dedicated to non-productive areas	High diversity landscape features
Bulgaria	Maintenance and improvement of biodiversity and ecological infrastructure	Payment for maintenance and management of ecological infrastructure (hedges and trees in line, standing trees, groups of trees, antierosion tree belts, field boundaries, wet areas, green areas along water courses, terraces); limits on the use of plant protection products; and ban on operations during the nesting period.	High diversity landscape features
Denmark	ES for biodiversity - non productive areas	Requirement that either fallow or small habitats are established; the individual element has a minimum size of at least 0.5 ha. In case 7% of non-productive elements is reached, conditions for an enhanced ecoscheme in relation to GAEC 8 apply.	High diversity landscape features
Estonia	Ecological areas	Actions on the top of GAEC 8 (preliminary but not finally 10%). Nitrogen fixing crops are included, without the use of pesticides. Ban on mowing before August.	High diversity landscape features
Estonia	Ecosystem services on the fields - natural pest control	Requirement to create and keep landscape elements on farm to support natural enemies of pests.	High diversity landscape features
Estonia	Honeybee feeding areas	Requirement to sow flowering plants suitable for bees, and an obligation to actually have bees by the site	High diversity landscape features
Finland	Nature grasslands in farms	Payments for newly created grasslands (any duration: rotational annual and more long-term; sown but not fertilised; can be used for grazing or fodder)	High diversity landscape features
France	Biodiversity and agricultural landscapes	Requirement of minimum ratio of 7% of Agro-Ecological Infrastructures (same as in GAEC 8) on the UAA to access the eco-scheme, and a minimum of 10% to access its upper level.	High diversity landscape features
France	Bonus: sustainable management of hedges	This bonus can be combined with the first and second path (practices and certification). The amount is far lower than others (€7/ha). Farmers have to hold a certification to attest a good hedges management.	High diversity landscape features
Germany	Non-productive areas/landscape features beyond GAEC 8	4 different options: fallow, flowering strips on arable, flowering strips on permanent crops, old grass strips	High diversity landscape features

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Ireland	Non-productive areas and landscape features	Support for increased proportion of land devoted to non-productive areas and features above GAEC 8 to 7%. GAEC 8 in Ireland applies to all farmland but some productive elements are still included in it, while certain landscape features (wet grasslands, heaths, ponds, etc) are not.	High diversity landscape features
Italy	Creation/maintenance of herbaceous cover/margins on arable land	Main requirement is that it cannot be cultivated/mown between March and July	High diversity landscape features
Poland	Allocation of the agricultural area in the farm to non-productive areas	Allocating agricultural land to non-productive areas such as: fallow land (including fallows with honey plants; without the use of plant protection products), hedgerows, wooded strips, linear trees and single trees, ditches, mid-field woodlots, ponds, buffer zones, strips of eligible land along forest edges (without production; without the use of plant protection products), "skylark plots" created in crops (with defined dimensions). This ecoscheme has been revised. In the third version of CAP SP the target was reduced from 10% to 7% of arable land.	High diversity landscape features
Poland	Areas of melliferous plants (min. 2 species)	Areas with min. 2 species of nectariferous plants.	High diversity landscape features
Portugal	Biodiversity-promoting practices	Promotion of areas or elements with ecological and environmental interest that provide and enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity enhancement (7% on or next to arable land / 4% on or next to permanent crops or permanent pastures).	High diversity landscape features
Slovenia	ES 1: Sowing of honey plants	At least two successively flowering honey plants; without mineral nitrogen fertilisers or pesticides	High diversity landscape features
Slovenia	ES 10: Preserving landscape features	Payment for the management of 6-20% of the farm area as non-productive areas, incl. fallow land, solitary trees and bushes, hedges, small water bodies	High diversity landscape features
Slovenia	ES 11: Establishment of green buffer zones along the watercourses	5-15 metres (or 3 meters in the case of a buffer zone along drainage ditches), without fertilisers or pesticides, ploughing is not allowed	High diversity landscape features
Slovenia	ES 24: Space for beneficial organisms in permanent crops	At least one rock garden or insect hotel shall be provided per 0.5 ha of permanent crops	High diversity landscape features
Spain	P5: Biodiversity areas in arable and permanent crops (with sustainable input management in irrigated areas)	Requires 7% on arable land, 4% on irrigated areas, and 4% on permanent crops. For rice: 2% and sustainable water management for birds, emissions and consumption. Application of pesticides will be exceptional.	High diversity landscape features
Czechia	Whole farm ecoscheme	Conditions for all major cultures that go slightly beyond GAEC level, but for arable land, the conditions only relate to crop diversification and organic matter; for grassland only to limit mowing to once per year and ban ploughing. Permanent crops have more meaningful conditions. Increasing requirements for non-productive elements (8 % in 2023-2025 and 9 % in 2026-2027) applies only for 3 cultures (arable, fallow and grass on arable).	Multi-intervention eco-scheme
Latvia	ES 2: Ecological focus areas (soil protection, nutrient reduction, biodiversity protection and pesticide reduction)	4 different options with different payment levels. Support for arable land with: cultivated mixture of grasses or legumes with more than 50% legumes, nitrogen-fixing crops, fallow land covered by green manure crops with at least one leguminous species, catch crops (a mixture of at least 2 species), melliferous plants, under-sown grasslands under cereals or protein crops. In addition, there is a ban or restrictions on use of plant protection products, and mandatory fertiliser plan / organic farming pesticide plan.	Multi-intervention eco-scheme

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Netherlands	Whole farm point-system eco-scheme	Elements include: Permanent grassland (more than 5 years), Early harvesting crops, Perennial crops instead of annual crops, Green cover, Combination fields, Cattle density, Cleaning ditches in ecological way, Grassland border strips, Organic farming, Hedgerows, Low pressure crops, Non tillage farming, Herbrich grassland, Nitrogen fixing crops, Green fallow, Permanent green cover, Permanent grass cover, Other wood elements like small bushes, Grass clover mixtures, Mixed agriculture in strips, Higher water level in peatland areas.	Multi-intervention eco-scheme
Bulgaria	Extensive maintenance of permanent grassland with grazing animals	Requirement to maintain grassland by extensive grazing from 0.3 to 1 LU / ha; at least 60 days in the respective year.	None or Unclear
Croatia	Grazing on grasslands	Payment for the maintenance of grasslands, karstic grasslands and high-nature value grasslands by grazing. Minimum and maximum stocking density to be defined.	None or Unclear
Cyprus	Management of plant residue from pruning (orchards, vineyards)	Requirement to shred pruning residues in olive groves, citrus and other fruit trees and vineyards and placing them around the trees	None or Unclear
Italy	Sustainable management of meadows and pastures	It will require the adoption of a management plan for grasslands, meadows and other pastures.	None or Unclear
Poland	Extensive use of permanent grasslands with livestock		None or Unclear
Poland	Water retention on permanent grassland	In order to receive payments in a given year, flooding must have occurred on permanent grassland between 1 May and 30 September for a period of at least 12 days. Meant only for farmers implementing an agri-environment-climate scheme. No information on how flooding will affect the AEC intervention payment.	None or Unclear
Portugal	Soil management: management of permanent pasture	Objective: Increase soil carbon sink capacity, protect soil against erosion. Farmers required to have a grazing and fertilization management plan and using agricultural advisory service. Direct seeding in case of reseeded. Support is granted per area and animal density.	None or Unclear
Spain	P7: Inert plant cover (mulching) in permanent crops	Requires shredding and leaving pruning waste on site	None or Unclear
Austria	Erosion protection in permanent crops (vines, fruits and hops)	Requires complete vegetation cover except directly underneath the trunks (at least 60% cover); optional top-up for use of beneficial organisms and pheromones	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Austria	Greening - using catch crops on arable land	Farmers can chose from 7 types of catch crops to grow on arable land after the harvest for different time-spans (from 2,5 months to 5,5 months) starting in August at the earliest and ending on March 21 at the latest	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Croatia	Minimum ratio of 20% of leguminosae on farmland	Payment for at least 20% of leguminosae on all types of agricultural land.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Cyprus	Use of manure and/or compost to reduce chemical fertiliser use (specific crops)	Requirement to include manure or compost in cultivation; plus calculation of needs of crops not to be surpassed by manure/compost + chemical fertiliser	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Estonia	Environmentally friendly management	This includes many but low-ambition requirements: crop rotation, use of leguminous crops, additional conditions on pesticide use, future use of FaST tool, etc.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Finland	Green manure - intercrops / catch crops	Grasses and legumes sown or established into a cereal crop for nitrogen fixation; two grass species and min 20% legume in a seed mix; can be cut or ploughed after 31 August.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Germany	Enhanced crop rotation	It requires 5 crops + 10% legumes	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Italy	Crop rotations with legumes	Standard crop rotation, as well as intercropping by overseeding of multi-annual legume crops	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Italy	Green soil cover of permanent crops	Both spontaneous and sown covers are allowed, focus on vines, olive and fruit orchards	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Poland	Using crop residues for mulching		Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Slovenia	ES 14: Greening of arable land over the winter	From 30 Nov to 15 Feb; herbicide use is not allowed, on at least 20% of the area	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Spain	P3: Crop rotation in arable land (with sustainable input management in irrigated areas)	At least 40% of the arable land must have crop rotation (in some circumstances, this can be lowered to 25%). At least 5% must be with leguminosae, 10% must be with "soil improving crops" (including leguminosae).	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Denmark	ES for organic farming	The scheme is made up of a basic payment for organic areas and 3 top up payments a) transition to organic farming, b) reduced N use, c) fruit and berry production	Organic farming
Estonia	Buffer zones between conventional and organic farms	Payment available for organic and/or conventional farms, tbc.	Organic farming
Estonia	Maintenance of organic farming	Available for certified organic farms. NB: several other eco-schemes (and AECMs) will be open to organic farmers (in contrast with the current RDP), with a lower payment rate, as part of the requirements are deemed to be also included in organic certification and thus the costs are considered to be covered by this eco-scheme.	Organic farming
Latvia	ES 7: Promotion of organic production practices	For arable land, permanent crops, and grasslands (minimum animal density 0.4 LU/ha must be provided), only if the entire farm is organic.	Organic farming
Poland	Organic farming30		Organic farming
Portugal	Organic farming (Conversion and Maintenance)	Aims to support the conversion to organic production or its maintenance. The level of support is increased if the beneficiary uses advisory services in Organic Farming. It is not clear how it is planned to articulate the ES and AEM commitments related to the same objectives.	Organic farming
Belgium - Flanders	Mechanical weeding	Former Pillar 2 measure but provides more flexibility due to yearly nature of the measure	Pesticides reduction
Cyprus	Environmentally friendly practices in vegetable cultivation	Requirement to grow plants that act as traps to deal with pests in greenhouses, to reduce pesticides	Pesticides reduction
Cyprus	Soil solarization in greenhouses to control weeds	Solarisation of greenhouse soil for at least 6 weeks (July-August) + no use of specific chemical pesticides (not all)	Pesticides reduction
Germany	Management without pesticides	Only for summer crops	Pesticides reduction
Slovenia	ES 21: Reduced or no use of herbicides in permanent crops	Two stages of implementation. First stage: herbicides are spread in a narrow "herbicide belt" (not to exceed 25% of the width of the entire inter-row space); Second stage: the use of herbicides is not allowed	Pesticides reduction

Table 5 Ecoschemes assessed as “Good – Likely to deliver”

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Finland	Over-winter plant cover in arable crops	To prevent the run off of soil and nutrients and build up organic matter. It includes all crops that overwinter, grassland (productive and fallow), stubble and catch crops.	GHG reductions
Sweden	Protein crops	Payment per hectare to stimulate cultivation of plant based proteins (lentils, fava bean, soy bean, the narrowleaf bean, peas, etc) for human consumption and fodder.	GHG reductions
Belgium - Flanders	Annual buffer strips	Former Pillar 2 measure	High diversity landscape features
Bulgaria	Buffer strips	Eligible: buffer strips and strips next to forests included in a specific layer; conditions differ for types of strips, but in general include: ban on the use of apply plant protection products, mulch at least once per year outside nesting period or at least mow the strip once per year outside the nesting period.	High diversity landscape features
Finland	Biodiversity-friendly fields; four types of sown fields	Four types of sown 1- to 2- year fields with mixtures beneficial specifically to either pollinators, game, or birds, and a meadow-plant mix.	High diversity landscape features
Germany	Retention of agro-forestry	Payment for already existing agro-forestry systems	High diversity landscape features
Poland	Maintenance of agro-forestry systems		High diversity landscape features
Poland	Maintenance of mid-field trees	Maintenance and care of mid-field woodlots established within the intervention of pillar II ‘Creation of mid-field woodlots’. The planting has to be carried out with native tree or shrub species, including biocenotic or nectariferous species.	High diversity landscape features
Slovenia	ES 19: Protection of lapwing nests	At the marked plot of arable land where the lapwing’s nest was found, no agricultural use is allowed until 25 May	High diversity landscape features
Slovenia	ES 2: Skylark plots	Creation of at least one plot of bare soil (in a size at least 25 m2) per 0.5 ha on arable land	High diversity landscape features
Sweden	Flower strips	Cultivation of plants for pollinators, excluding species that could become invasive.	High diversity landscape features
Slovakia	Whole farm eco-scheme for biodiversity and soil health	Requires improvement of soil structure (25% of the farm), 1-3% non-productive elements (above GAEC 8), limit on size of parcels (max 20 ha in protected areas, 50 ha outside), delayed mowing/grazing, grass strips in permanent cultures	Multi-intervention eco-scheme
Bulgaria	Maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity in forest ecosystems	Eligible area: agricultural land surrounded by forests and/or the land is adjacent to hunting enterprises or within them; requirement to grow annual crops, but not to harvest them to provide feed for wild animals; ban on the use of plant protection products; soil cultivation not allowed during the nesting period	None or Unclear
Cyprus	Delayed harvest (cereal cultivation) for breeding and feeding birds and animals	Delayed harvest of 20% of the farm until 1 July in barley, soft wheat and legumes & until 1 August in hard wheat and triticale	None or Unclear
Germany	Extensive grasslands on the whole farm	Stocking density between 0.3 and 1.4 LU per ha, no pesticides	None or Unclear

Country	Name of the eco-scheme	Details of the eco-scheme	Main agricultural EGD target
Germany	Resulted-oriented biodiversity measure through 4 specific plant species	Result-oriented measure	None or Unclear
Germany	Top up for Natura00 areas	Bonus payment	None or Unclear
Bulgaria	Ecological maintenance of perennial crops	Requirement to plant annual crops in the rows of the perennial crops in order to reduce the mineral fertilisers or maintenance of buffer strips with natural vegetation; plant protection products not allowed	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
France	Agro-ecological practices: Vegetation cover in permanent crops	75% ratio (3 rows out of 4) of the inter-row plots of permanent crops with plant cover opens access to the ecoscheme (standard level), and 95% to access the upper level.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Sweden	Intercrops, catch crops & spring cultivation	Intercrops between main crops for carbon sequestration, and to reduce runoff and erosion. Catch crops to reduce leakage of nitrogen during autumn. Discussion ongoing about rules for pesticide use.	Nutrient loss and fertiliser reduction
Belgium - Flanders	Maintaining organic farming	Former Pillar 2 measure	Organic farming
Bulgaria	Maintaining organic farming (agricultural land)	Scheme open to certified organic crop farmers.	Organic farming
Bulgaria	Maintaining organic farming (farm animals)	Entry conditions: organic certification; min. 1 LU of supported animals; manage at least 0.5 ha of pasture area and/or forage areas. Payment only for animals for which the farmer manages an agricultural area corresponding to a minimum of 0.3 ha of pasture area and / or areas with fodder crops per 1 LU.	Organic farming
Cyprus	Organic farming in beekeeping	Payment per bee-hive for organic beekeeping.	Organic farming
Cyprus	Organic Sheep & Goat Farming	Financial incentive for additional cost and income forgone per female animal for organic sheep and goat farming	Organic farming
Italy	Organic farming, payments for ecosystem services	Covering conversion and maintenance, with top-ups being considered for Natura 2000 and Areas of Natural Constraints	Organic farming
Sweden	Conversion to organic farming + organic farming	Payment for areas that are cultivated in accordance with EU rules for organic farming and animals kept under EU rules for organic farming. Third-party certification only.	Organic farming
Bulgaria	Reduction of the use of pesticides	Requirement not to use plant protection products such as glyphosate + one of the following: 1) Use of insecticides outside of the 1st professional plant protection group or/and 2) use of pheromone traps with different density when growing field crops, cereals, fruits and vegetables, technical crops, etc.	Pesticides reduction
Poland	Biological crop protection		Pesticides reduction



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