



STEP
Society for Territorial and Environmental Prosperity



Setting ambition right in countries with rich nature and a rapid loss of small and traditional systems: Bulgaria

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High Nature Value farmland



~ 1.6 mio ha agriculture land

Agri-environment measure (ha)

	Target	Supported
2007-2013	110 000	68 500
2014-2020	113 000	?
2023-2027	no support planned	

?Ambitious? ?No backsliding?

- EC, 2020: Bulgaria among countries with highest loss of HNV farmland
- No new assessment after 2007 in BG

Natura 2000 areas

~ 1.3 mio ha agriculture ecosystems

Natura 2000 measure (ha)

	Target	Supported
2007-2013	180 000	335 000
2014-2020	385 000	420 000
2023-2027	planned but target unknown	

?Successful? ?Ambitious?

- Considered the most successful environmental measure
- But no monitoring of biodiversity effects

Pillar I eligibility: Grasslands 40-80%; Mixed land use 60 – 90 %; Arable > 80%

How to assess the level of ambition in: PROGRAMMING

Sound analysis of problems	• HNV farmland eligibility! / Lowlands <-> Uplands / Extensive <-> Intensive
Breadth of actions	• Area-based / Investment / Advisory / Innovation / Administrative
The right baseline	• 'No backsliding'!
Budgets	• Ring-fencing for biodiversity measures / Overall share relevant to needs
Advisory support	• Tailored to farmer's needs for biodiversity-friendly management of the land!
Monitoring	• Specific to each measure / Indicators about species & habitats status on agricultural land
Evaluation	• Systematic and specific to measures

How to assess the level of ambition in: IMPLEMENTATION

Detailed implementation procedures within the Strategic Plans to:

**Avoid
implementation bias**

Simple + ineffective

vs.

Difficult + effective

**Provide
transparency &
flexibility**

To adapt measures to
local/annual needs

**Rapid learning &
response**

For implementation
improvements

Thank You for Your Attention!

BG workshop, 10 Nov 2020

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