



# ***Facing the truth behind the numbers: official figures versus the reality***

Trees Robijns - Senior EU Agriculture and Bioenergy Policy Officer - BirdLife Europe  
Faustine Bas-Defossez - Senior Policy Officer : Agriculture and Bioenergy - EEB

Brussels – 20 May 2016

Presentation for the Civil Dialogue Group on Rural Development

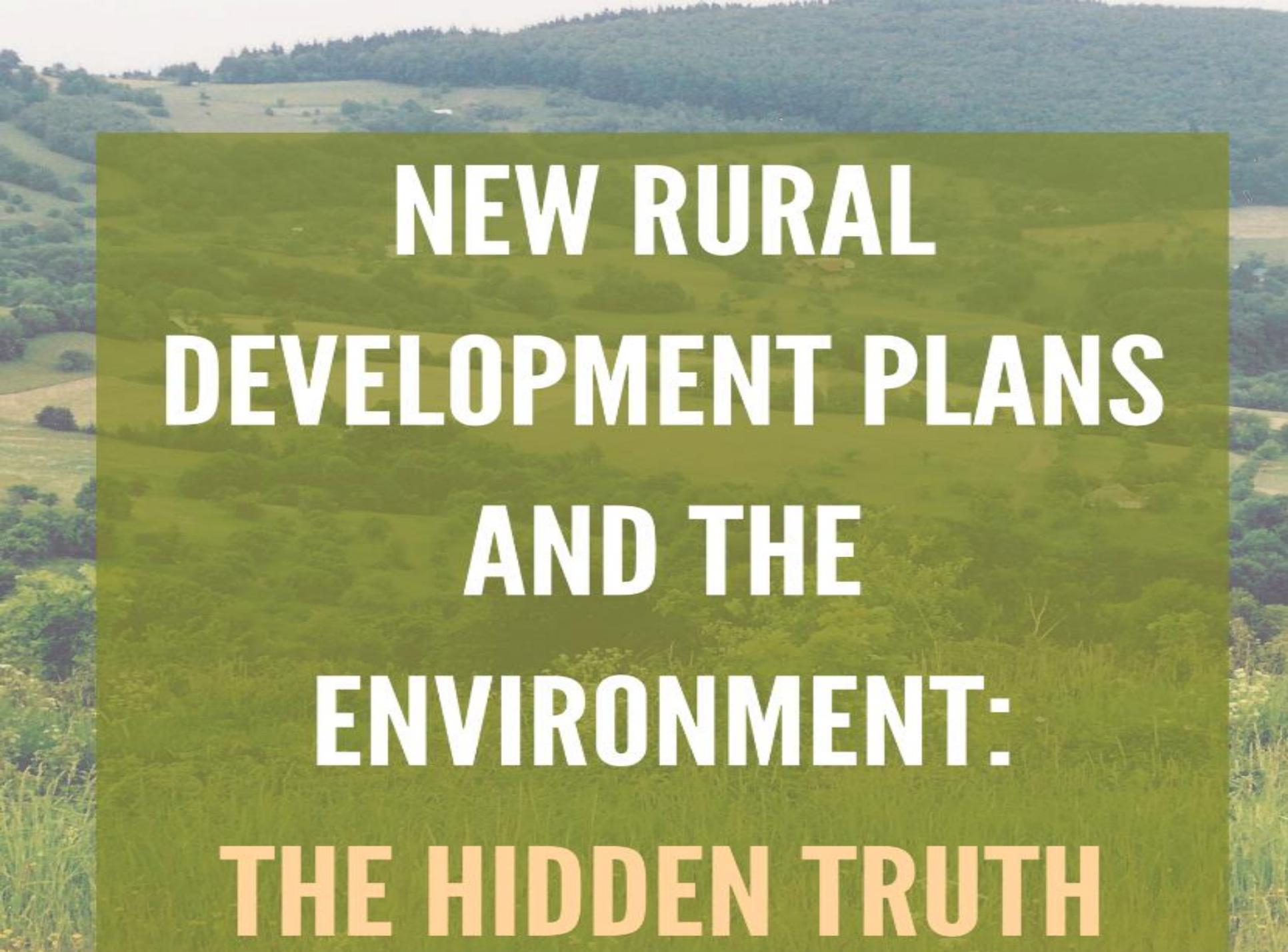
# Objective of the analysis

- Analysed other parts of the CAP already
- Many facts being produced
  - *17.4% of agricultural land [...] will be managed for better protection of biodiversity, 30.6 [...] million hectares of farmland [...] \**
  - *44% of RDP is going for ecosystems \**
  - *new CAP is 155% greener than the last 6 year period \*\**
- Feedback from the ground is different
- What is hiding behind the numbers?
- What is potential of RDPs for biodiversity?

Source: \* EU Commission factsheet, \*\* Euractiv based on EC figures

# Focus of the analysis

- Biodiversity
- Shorter documents: EU + subset of MS: AT, EE, FI, IE, LV, ES (Andalucia)
- Full analysis: AT, EE, IE, SI, FI, LV, RO, SK, FR (Rhône-Alpes, PACA), UK (England), ES (Andalucia, CYL), IT (E.R., Trento, Lombardy, Veneto, F.V.G., Piedmont)
- Expert analysis by EEB and BL partners
- Based on first version of the RDPs



**NEW RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT PLANS  
AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT:  
THE HIDDEN TRUTH**

# Target 3 – EU BD Strategy

## Increase contribution of agriculture and forestry to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity



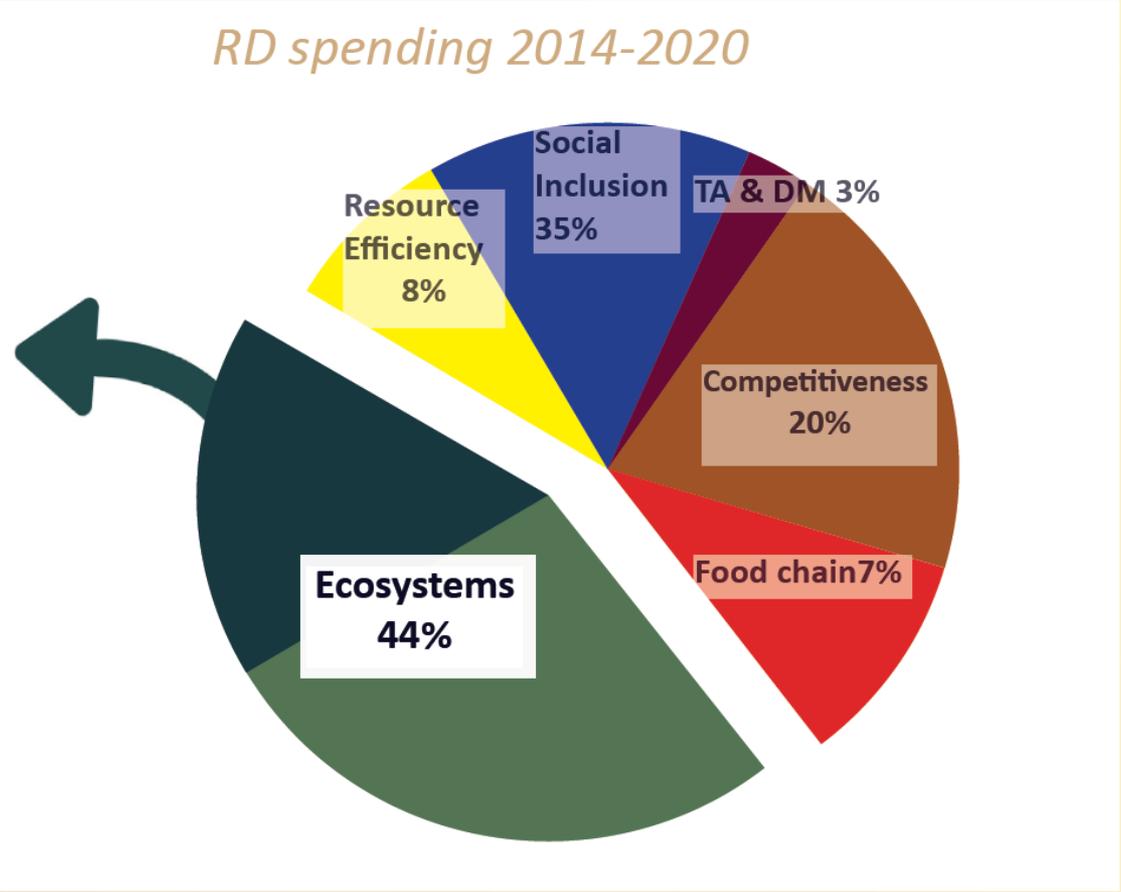
- a) **Agriculture:** By 2020, maximise areas under agriculture across grasslands, arable land & permanent crops covered by biodiversity-related measures under CAP. [...]

☹️+ Action 8: Enhance CAP DP to reward envi public goods such as crop rotation and permanent pastures; improve cross-compliance standards for GAEC [...] and consider including the WFD in these standards

☹️- Action 9: Better target RD to BD needs and develop tools to help farmers and foresters work together towards biodiversity conservation

# EU RD BUDGET FOR ECOSYSTEMS

1/3 of EU budget for ecosystems = ANC measures without environmental conditions attached



# RD BUDGET FOR ECOSYSTEMS – some MS examples

+ MS without ANC: EE, UK

- MS with ANC payments > 50% of priority 4:

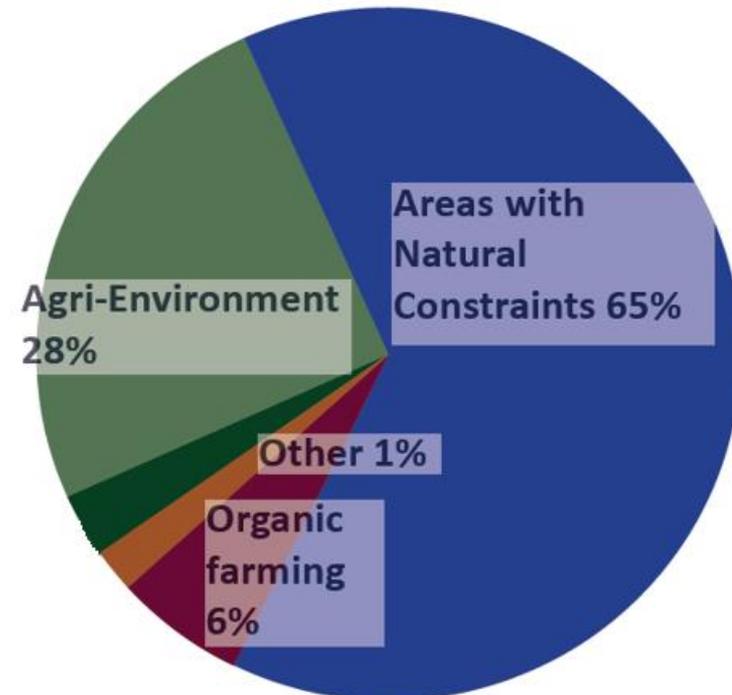
SK, FR-PACA, FR-Rhone Alpes , FI

- Perverse envi effects:

PL, LV, SL, FI

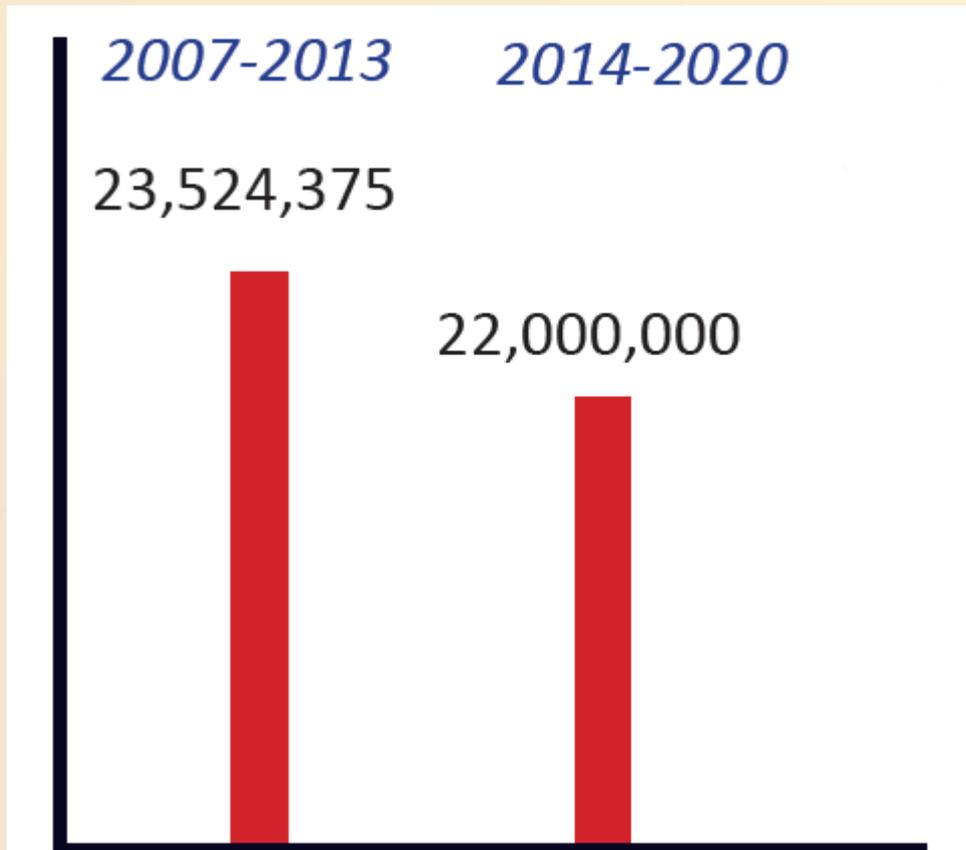
In a 2013 report, the Ministry of Environment highlighted the perverse effect ANC spending could have on the environment through support to the intensification of agriculture

*Ecosystems budget 2014-2020  
Priority 4*



# Past vs Present: EU AEM - recital 22

**Minus 1 billion EUROS for AEM in the EU!**



*Figures in millions of euros.*

*2014-2020 figures include organic measures.*

# Past vs Present: MS AEM - recital 22

**73% (14/19) of countries & regions have decreased spending for environmental measures**

# Design and management of AEM

## Is agri-environment support well designed and managed? (CoA, 7/2011)

- AEM expenditure should be more precisely targeted
-  EU contribution for sub-measures  envi potent
- IE, FI, England and Veneto have increased spending for targeted (dark green) measures
- CyL (ES): from 85% dark green measures in 2007-2013 to 35% in 2014-2020

=> Comparison not always possible due to lack of information

# Quality versus Quantity

- Official sources: 17% of EU UAA will be under biodiversity contracts
- target 3 of the EU biodiversity strategy: “ [...] maximise areas [...] that are covered by BD-related measures [...] and to bring about a **measurable improvement** in the conservation status of species and habitats that depend on or are affected by agriculture
- **Measurable improvement = targeted schemes**
  - ⇒ In 79% of the cases, the quality of the measures was overstated.
  - ⇒ How much of the 17% will be under genuine contracts for biodiversity?

	RO	IE	AU	EE	SI	LV	FI	SK	FR- PACA	FR- RA	UK- EN	ES- And	ES- CYL	IT- Ven	IT - ER	IT - TR	IT- LO	IT - FVG	IT - P
% UAA in BD CNT - EC	10.12	20.77	83.15	70.3	28.73	14,3	15.63	21.06	33.1	16.88	27,4	15.03	22.56	9.89	21.14	37.82	5.4	11.24	2.2
% UAA in BD CNT – BL/EEB	4.07	14	n/a	3.2	n/a	2.6	5.23	8.32	0	13.3	27,4	2.27	14.62	5.2	1.1	0	4.1	1.9	3.6

# What about Natura 2000?



- Natura 2000: to ensure the LT survival of Europe's most **valuable** and **threatened** species and habitats
- MS were required to take "**appropriate approach**" towards specific needs of Natura 2000 (art 8 RDR)
- 10.9% of UAA is under N2K
- Proper analysis is challenging as MS use several measures (AEM, N2K, non-productive investments)
- At EU level less than 10% of N2K farmland is covered with specific contracts
- **From the countries analysed: 0% had adequately considered N2K needs**

# We need:

1. A firm baseline for P2 – no more money for nothing
2. The CAP to be better designed for BD
3. Genuine system for tracking ENVI spending (no more ANC in ENVI objective)
4. Proper monitoring of RD schemes' delivery

# Conclusion

- RDPs have positive examples
- RD potential for BD is still not fully realized
- RDPs will not make us reach target 3 of BD strategy
- MS need to make adjustments to RDPs to go towards high quality measures
- Analysis of CAP and ENVI delivery is urgent
- We are far from a green policy still

**Thank you!**

**And special thanks to all the EEB and BL colleagues who made this possible!**



[trees.robijns@birdlife.org](mailto:trees.robijns@birdlife.org) and [Faustine.Bas-Defossez@eeb.org](mailto:Faustine.Bas-Defossez@eeb.org)

**All factsheets:**

[www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/policy/event-hidden-truth-resources](http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/policy/event-hidden-truth-resources)