



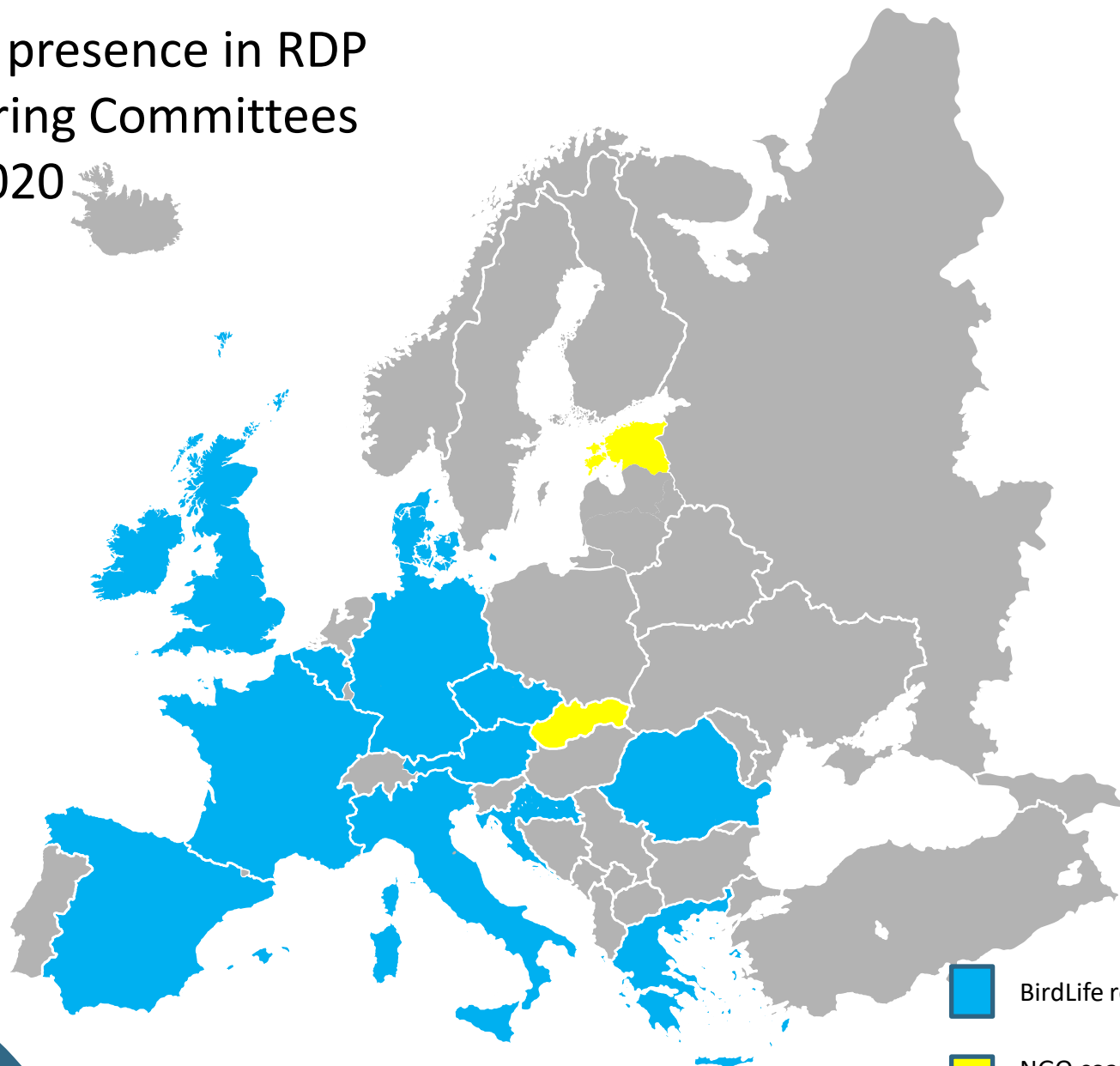
# **Designing CAP Strategic Plans– BirdLife's lessons of 2014-2020 CAP programming and current state of involvement**

*CAP CDG 8 MAR 2019*

*Inés Jordana, Senior Agriculture and Food Policy Officer, SEO/BirdLife*



# BirdLife presence in RDP Monitoring Committees 2014-2020



BirdLife representative



NGO coalition representative



# ENGO participation in the RDP programming & implementation

- There is a general feeling that the formal side of ENGO involvement (access to info, minutes) has been improved compared to previous period, also thanks to European code of conduct on Partnership
- BUT the real possibility to influence the content of the programme was in most countries very limited; allocation of funding for individual priorities is one of the areas where voices of ENGOs were particularly sidelined
- With an exception of two countries (UK, IE), ENGOs were not involved in draft of Common evaluation and monitoring framework
- Little development in applying Article 17 of the Delegated regulation on the European Code of Conduct on Partnership (ECCP) ( MAs to strengthen capacities of NGOs so that they can effectively participate in the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluations )

# Some of the ENGO challenges

- Lack of capacity to systematically engage in the programming and implementation
- ENGOs are “forced” by authorities to speak with one voice - challenge to coordinate and agree positions under short deadlines (also related to first point)
- Unbalanced representation in the stakeholder groups and Monitoring Committees.
- Sometimes ENGOs are only considered for discussions about environmental objectives/interventions.
- Lack of willingness from managing authorities to have genuine debate about environmental aspects of CAP.
- Very often lack of active engagement and support from environmental authorities on environmental aspects of the CAP



# Lessons learned/ needs

- Full consultation with all stakeholders, especially environmental NGOs as a legal requirement in the basic CAP act.
- Balanced representation of public and private interests in stakeholder groups .
- Set basic standards for stakeholder involvement at EU level, including a process for ensuring that comments are taken on board or rejections get justified.
- Transparency about European Commission comments on Member states' CAP strategic plans and introduce an obligation to have a discussion on them in formally arranged discussion groups.
- Obligation to use the technical assistance budget to provide support for capacity building and coordination of civil society actors and reimburse their direct costs (e.g. transport and accommodation).



# Current state of involvement

(based on answers from 11 partners)

- MS are in different stages regarding preparation of CAP Strategic Plans:

It has not started	CY, LU
Consultation survey, conferences	ES, IT, HR, NL, SK
Needs assessment	BE-FL, ES
Setting up stakeholder groups/working groups	AU, DE, ES, FR, LV, NL, SK
SWOT Analysis	BE-WAL, CZ, DE, IT, NL

# Current state of involvement

(based on answers from 11 partners)

- MS have different approaches on how to carry out consultation and involve stakeholders in programming (mostly not formal bilateral meetings or JUST working groups dealing with biodiversity issues.)
- Depending on political will (at risk in MS with elections and generally conditioned by EU uncertain framework-Brexit, EP elections, MFF-.
- Environmental authorities are still very poorly involved (in both contexts of having a unified Ministry dealing with both ENV and AGRI or two Ministries with division of competences).
- Some interesting coalitions (i.e. Pour Une Autre PAC, Por Otra PAC, Meine Landwirtschaft, Cambiamo Agricoltura).

# Conclusions:

- Need for support from DG AGRI to overlook the process in each MS. Common basic rules that can be monitored are needed.
- Formal involvement and consultation processes as soon as the discussions start taking place.
- Need to discuss and include a long-term vision in the Strategic plans to see if interventions match the ultimate goals.
- Representation on different bodies needs to be balanced. No hidden agendas, open discussions based on facts to ensure transparent decision-making.
- Need for additional capacity in order to effectively engage in discussions.
- Involve environmental authorities as well as stakeholders in the process.



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Thank you!

<http://europe.birdlife.org> - @BirdLifeEurope

[ijordana@seo.org](mailto:ijordana@seo.org) - @Ijordana\_RD