



Building capacity on EU Nature Policies

Project findings

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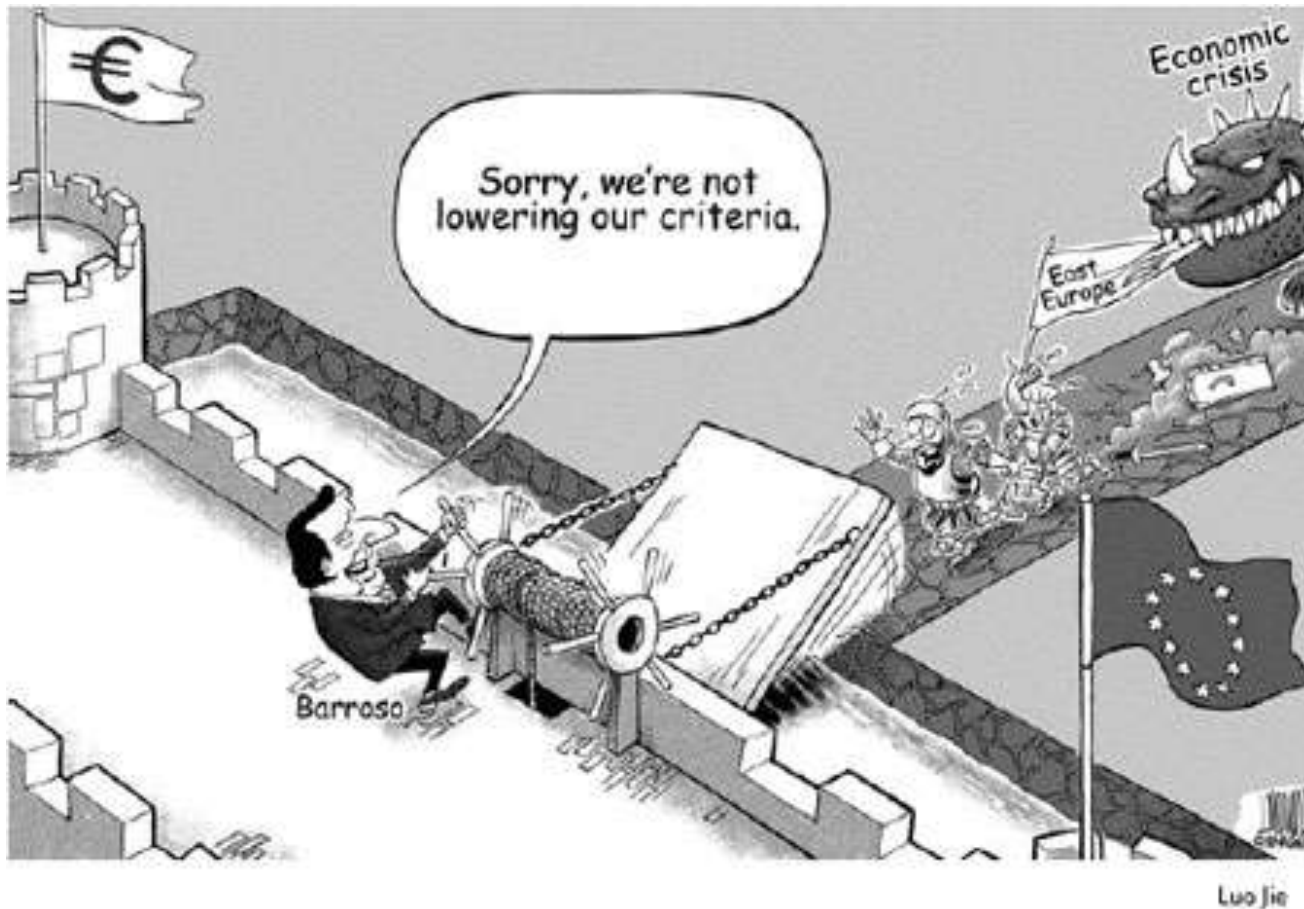
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If you do not start you will certainly not arrive





Use the pre-accession period to urge your government do what you think is right.

This is the best opportunity, once you are in you can hardly change things!





Acquis communautaire

35 chapters including:

- ✓ Free movement of goods
- ✓ Freedom of movement for workers
- ✓ Public procurement
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Fisheries
- ✓ Transport
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Energy ...





Nature-relevant policies

- ✓ **Environment** (BD AP, BD Strategy, Nature directives)
- ✓ **Forests** (EU Forest AP, Combating deforestation communication, FLEGT AP, EU forestry strategy, Forest focus regulation)
- ✓ **Agriculture** (Regulation on direct support schemes for farmers; Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD))





Nature-relevant policies

- ✓ Energy - Biomass AP, EU Strategy for biofuels, Directive from 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources
- ✓ Transport
- ✓ The EIA Directive , SEA Directive
- ✓ Communication on GPP
- ✓ Fishery (EFF)
- ✓ Water Framework Directive

Landscape fragmentation in Europe

Joint EEA-FOEN report



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EU Birds Directive

- ✓ All IBAs of EU importance should become SPAs
- ✓ Analyze the existing information and what are the gaps in it
- ✓ Collect information to fill these gaps
- ✓ Evaluate based on criteria and procedure elaborated by BLI and approved by ORNIS committee
- ✓ Create the network and make a consultation re its adequacy and coverage (boundaries)
- ✓ Participate in the transposition into national legislation
- ✓ Adoption of the Annexes – proposals for amendments
- ✓ Set conservation measures acc. to species requirements

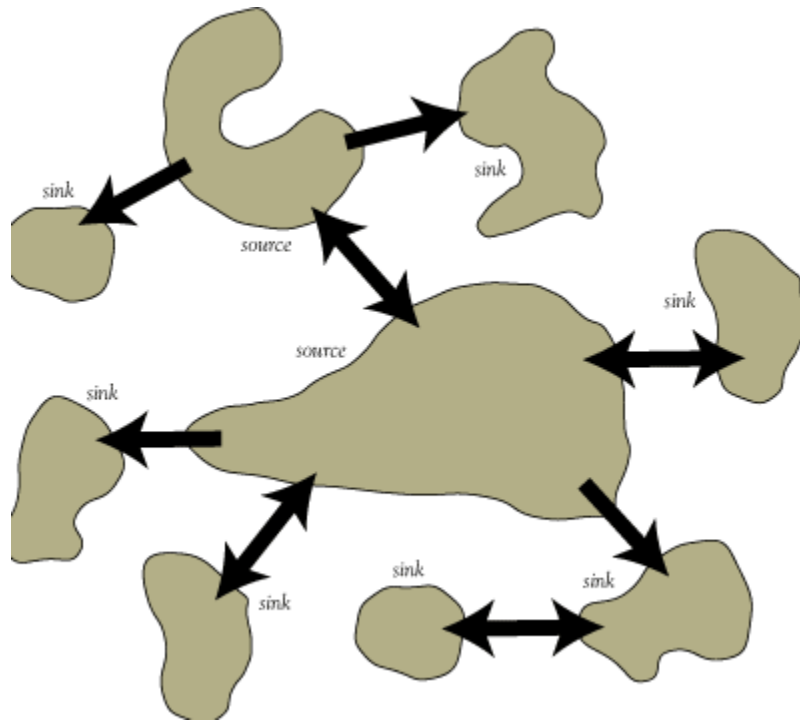


EU Habitats Directive

- ✓ Proposing large sites because of the hole they will make on the map if rejected – less administration
- ✓ Do not do inventory without mapping
- ✓ Expert opinion is useful when we do not have time for more detailed studies – for designation purposes this info would be enough but not for management
- ✓ Divide the work between NGOs – form working groups on specific topics within the ngos
- ✓ Mailing lists for wider group – informative and restricted ones



Natura 2000 – why we need a network?



Some of the smaller patches will tend to go extinct often (sink populations), and are only repopulated by individuals dispersing from larger subpopulations (source populations)





NGOs - how to prepare for biogeographic seminar

- ✓ Ensure good unofficial cooperation scientists/NGOs (scientists are not always in a position to say freely everything, but NGOs are)
- ✓ Establish good communication with the Commission and ETC on the topic as soon as possible
- ✓ Lobby through European Habitats Forum members (WWF-European Policy Office, CEEWEB, BirdLife) and directly the Commission to receive invitation for NGO persons
- ✓ Prepare alternative NGOs assessments, shadow lists and reports, with maps (localities of the species, habitats etc) and distribute them as early as possible
- ✓ Cooperate with NGOs from other countries, the same biogeographic region



Various ways to act

- ✓ Written statements to the EC
- ✓ Meetings with the EC reps and national institutions
- ✓ Letters to the responsible institutions
- ✓ Lobbying ministers
- ✓ Initiating court cases
- ✓ Petitions /to EU Parliament as well/



Various ways to act

- ✓ Public actions /not necessarily protests and demonstrations/
- ✓ Media events
- ✓ Art competitions, exhibitions
- ✓ International media involvement
- ✓ Communication and support from International NGOs and networks
- ✓ Presenting the negative facts for the local population



The infringement procedures

- ✓ Publish in books or articles (scientific facts) to give it to the EC otherwise they cannot help
- ✓ Small sites, because the project under question will have bigger impact on small sites
- ✓ Pictures, satellite images could be a good evidence
- ✓ Send signals to the national authorities and the court on national level before you complain to the EC
- ✓ Follow every step of the investor – collect evidence
- ✓ Form coalitions

Infringement

- ✓ During screening procedure set strict thresholds so that more projects are subject to EIA
- ✓ Be wary of the cumulative effect
- ✓ Require all decisions/statements to be published – EEI/SEA/AA public register
- ✓ SEA and EIA at EU level are less effective than Natura 2000 legislation
- ✓ Just the years before the accession is likely to be many investment projects

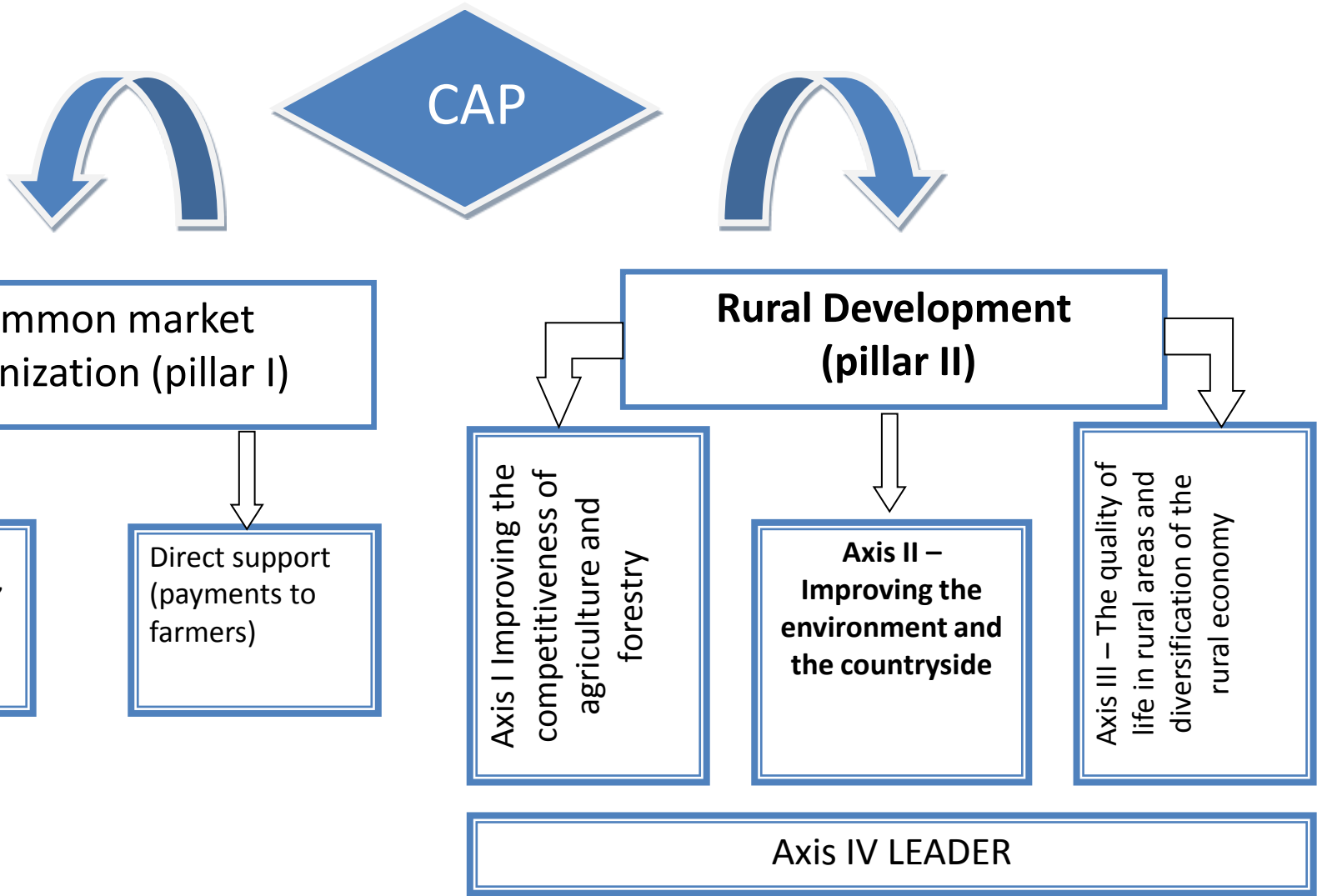




Why should we do all this?

- ✓ Help nature conservation and sustainable development
- ✓ Strengthen civil society when its rights are concerned
- ✓ Make state do its job







Axis 2 : Improving the environment

- ✓ Total EU CAP expenditure - over 40% of the total EU budget.
- ✓ 22% directed to Pillar II (min expenditure of Axis 2 - 25%).
- ✓ Main objective of Axis 2: support for methods of land use preserving the environment and landscape and to protect/improve natural resources (agro & for.)
- ✓ Among the key issues to be addressed: biodiversity, NATURA 2000, water and soil protection
- ✓ payments should cover only those commitments going beyond the relevant mandatory standards.”

(Council Regulation 1698/2005)





Axis 2 : Improving the environment

12 measures in total

- ✓ NATURA 2000 payments (agricultural and forest land): compensation for restrictions (obligations) resulting from implementation of nature protection directives
- ✓ Non-productive investments - non-remunerative investment related to agri-environmental objectives, to enhance the public amenity value of Natura 2000 sites or other high nature value areas
- ✓ Agri and forest-environment payments for voluntary commitments, going beyond a baseline, aimed at enhancing biodiversity preserving high nature value farming and forests
- ✓ Agroforestry combining extensive farming and forestry systems on the same land
- ✓ Afforestation on agri and non-agri land



Leader Axis 4

('Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale')

- ✓ “Links between the rural economy and development actions”
- ✓ Stimulating *local development*
- ✓ Contributing to axes 1 and 2 and particularly 3
- ✓ Mobilising the local development potential of rural areas
- ✓ Breaking the vicious circle of decline that is still present in many rural areas by encouraging *innovation*



Rural Development - lessons

- ✓ AE is not a popular measure
- ✓ NGOs should have a reps in each working group and in the Monitoring Committee
- ✓ Work to provide advisory services to farmers – even when info is available nobody reads it
- ✓ Very specific measures are too complicated for farmers (AE is voluntary for them)



Rural Development - lessons

- ✓ Coordination between institutions
- ✓ Training of farmers obligatory for some measure
- ✓ Start early with nat scheme and test it in a pilot region
- ✓ Test the rules at national level
- ✓ Multiannual agreements are important



IPA – Instrument for pre-accession assistance

- ✓ Component I (Transition Assistance and Institution Building)
- ✓ Component II (Cross-Border Cooperation)
- ✓ Component III (Regional Development)
- ✓ Component IV (Human Resources Development)
- ✓ Component V (Rural Development)



IPA Component V

Rural Development IPARD

- ✓ **Priority Axis 1** - Improving market efficiency and implementing Community standards
- ✓ **Priority Axis 2** - Preparatory actions for implementation of the agri-environmental measures and LEADER
- ✓ **Priority Axis 3** - Development of rural economy



NGO action planning

- ✓ The main conservation problems
- ✓ Which one of them you can tackle – put your objectives
- ✓ Think about solutions including concrete actions
- ✓ Divide the work between different NGOs in your country

