



Towards multifunctional agricultural landscapes in
Europe: Assessing and governing synergies
between food production, biodiversity, and
ecosystem services – TALE

**Template 1 for researching relevant policies and
policy measures regarding land use and the impact
of agriculture on biodiversity and ecosystem
services in the case study areas
(EU Member States)**

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1. Introduction

As elaborated in the concept for the first work package, WP 1 analyses the institutional framework impacting on land use decisions regarding agricultural land use, biodiversity conservation and the supply of ecosystem services (ESS) in the TALE case study areas. The aim of this WP is to **identify and understand institutional structures at the regional scale**, to identify policy strategies and examples for best practice policy measures and to lay the foundation for policy recommendations in connection with land use scenarios in TALE.

In order to gather the relevant information for a comparative analysis by IfLS the project partners are to provide information on strategies, policy instruments, policy measures and governance influencing agricultural land use decisions in their case study areas. This will be done based on two templates provided by IfLS.

This first template deals with

- strategies and obligations concerning agricultural land use and its environmental impacts,
- national and/or regional implementation and specifications of the Common Agricultural Policy (direct payments, cross compliance, greening, agri-environment-climate measures, less favoured area payments) respectively the Swiss agricultural policy,
- relevant environmental legislation (in so far as directly related to agricultural land use)
- other policies which strongly influence the environmental impact of agricultural land use in the case study areas.

The second template will deal with the impact assessment of different policy measures, good practice and aspects of governance.

General background information on the case study areas, e.g. regarding agricultural land use systems or the environmental status, will be gathered in WP 5 and is therefore not subject of the templates in WP 1.



The template is structured as follows:

1. Background information on case study area
2. Strategies, obligations and targets
3. CAP Pillar One (in Switzerland “Versorgungssicherheitsbeiträge”)
4. Less favoured area payments (in Switzerland “Offenhaltungsbeiträge”)
5. Agri-environment-climate measures and support of organic farming (and similar measures in Switzerland)
6. Environmental legislation
7. Other relevant policies

Additional background information is provided in the separate documents “International strategies” (summary of targets related to international strategies and obligations) and “Categories of standards” (setting out types of mandatory standards you should look for under section 6).

Please fill in the required information relevant for your case study. Within the sections 2, 5 and 6 you will find exemplary tables for the prescription of single strategies, measures or pieces of legislation, and of which you will have to make multiple copies, one for each measure.

The problem might arise that case study areas go across administrative borders (e.g. Sachsen and Sachsen-Anhalt for Mulde/Saale catchment) or that case study areas only cover a very specific part of an administrative region, so that policy measures (e.g. AECM) or indicators (e.g. data on land use, protected areas or % of high-nature value farmland (HNV)), which are often only available for administrative regions, cannot easily be assigned. Please, let us know if problems like that arise in your case study area. We suggest that you collect the information asked for in the template regarding the administrative region that your case study area is mainly situated in and additionally provide information on the other region(s) if there are crucial differences in legislation or implementation or especially innovative approaches that you regard worth reporting.

Please provide your input until 31.1.2016



2. Template [to be replaced by name of case study area]

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CASE STUDY AREA

Table 1.1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CASE STUDY AREA	
Name of the case study area	
Reasons why the case study area was chosen <i>e.g. local knowledge and contacts, type of land use, role of agriculture, importance of nature or water conservation activities. Please describe in a short paragraph.</i>	



2. STRATEGIES, OBLIGATIONS AND TARGETS

This exercise is meant to provide a background, not least to justify the need for action and they are part of the setting in which policy measures are developed. To create an overview on strategies and targets might also help to underpin the environmental issues we look at in TALE. Regarding the impact of policy measures we might be able to refer to some of the targets set by such strategies and also analyze whether the measures in place address the set targets and are fit to/contribute to meeting them. Above all, this overview of the strategies should provide information which might be of interest for the scenario development: they represent main international commitments, and the national and/or regional specifications might hint to the particular importance of issues in the case study regions.

In a separate document ("International strategies") you find an overview of strategies, obligations and targets at an international level, which can be linked to environmental impacts of agricultural land use (e.g. EU Biodiversity Strategy). Partners should collect information on national and/or regional strategies or obligations including concrete targets that correspond to or complement the above named strategies or cover similar objectives. Please look, for instance, for a national and / or regional biodiversity strategy.

*Table 2.1 shows an example for the presentation of a strategy or targets. Most likely, there will be several relevant strategies, so you will end up with several tables like the one below. **Please copy table 2.1 as often as you require and number the new tables accordingly (2.2, 2.3, etc.).***

Table 2.1: STRATEGIES, OBLIGATIONS AND TARGETS	
Name of strategy or obligation	
Main aspect	<i>e.g. biodiversity, water protection etc....</i>
Level of application (national or regional)	
Main goals (qualitative and quantitative) <i>Only those related to agricultural land use and/or the environmental impact of agriculture</i>	



Link to other strategies	
Comments	



3. CAP: PILLAR ONE¹

Table 3.1: DIRECT PAYMENTS	
Average height of payments per hectare	
Level of regional harmonisation <i>Some Member States have decided to regionalise the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), some Member States have reached or will reach a regional/national flat rate, some have for a partial convergence to the flat rate.</i>	
Voluntary coupled support <i>Percentage of total direct payments envelope and sectors supported</i>	

¹ For the Swiss case another template is available, where section 3 has been adapted.



Table 3.2: CROSS COMPLIANCE			
<p><i>Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) as far as directly land use-relevant environmental impacts are concerned. Please, describe which restrictions and requirements apply (please concentrate as appropriate, you don't have to include every exception). GAEC 3 is not included as it is not directly related to land use. Relevant legislation, on which the Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) regarding the Nitrates, Habitats and Birds Directive are based, will be covered under legislation (see section 6 of the template).</i></p> <p><i>Information for farmers on the national/regional implementation of Cross Compliance is usually published by the ministries of agriculture, like in England: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397044/Cross_compliance_handbook_v2_web.pdf</i></p>			
Object of protection	Requirements and standards according to Annex II Reg. (EU) No 1306/2013	National implementation (regional specifications, if existing)	Covered also by national or regional legislation <i>Indicate with X</i>
Water	GAEC 1: Establishment of buffer strips along water courses		
	GAEC 2: Where use of water for irrigation is subject to authorisation, compliance with authorisation procedures		
Soil and carbon stock	GAEC 4: Minimum soil cover		



	GAEC 5: Minimum land management reflecting site specific conditions to limit erosion		
	GAEC 6: Maintenance of soil organic matter level through appropriate practices		
Landscape, minimum level of maintenance	GAEC 7: Retention of landscape features including a ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season and, as an option, measures for avoiding invasive plant species		



Table 3.3: GREENING REQUIREMENTS		
<p>30 % of the direct payments envelope are paid for applying the following three basic practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maintaining permanent grassland</u> (ban on ploughing in designated areas, national/regional ratio with 5% flexibility). Member States adopted different approaches to the designation of Ecologically Sensitive Permanent Grassland (ESPG) in Natura 2000 areas. • <u>Crop diversification</u> (at least 2 crops when the arable land of a holding exceeds 10 hectares; at least 3 crops when the arable land of a holding exceeds 30 hectares; the main crop may cover at most 75% of arable land, and the two main crops a maximum of 95% of the arable area). Member States have activated different kinds and numbers of EFA types. • <u>Maintaining ecological focus areas (EFA) of at least 5% of the arable area of the holding</u>: only applicable for farms with more than 15 hectares arable land (EFAs may include field margins, buffer strips, fallow land, landscape features, afforested area, terraces, areas with catch crops, green cover and nitrogen fixing crops, short rotation coppices, agro-forestry, strips of land along forest edges). Member States can decide that, instead of applying these three practices, a farmer can undertake practices which are considered equivalent (e.g. crop rotation instead of crop diversification) <p><u>Please do not repeat the obligatory EU requirements applicable to all Member States, but present national specifications, such as equivalent practices/certification schemes, collective approaches in the application of EFA, the level on which the permanent grassland ration is applied (national or regional), the number and types of activated EFA types and their definitions, choices on landscape features regarding EFA or the definition of ecologically sensitive permanent grassland.</u></p>		
<p>General comments: <i>e.g. farms that are excepted, apart from organic farms; greening standards apply nationally or may be adapted at the regional scale etc.</i></p>		
<p>Maintaining permanent grassland</p> <p><u>Ecologically sensitive permanent grassland:</u></p> <p><u>Maintenance of the ratio of permanent grassland to the total agricultural area declared:</u></p>	<p>Crop diversification</p>	<p>Maintaining ecological focus areas</p>



4. LESS FAVOURED AREA PAYMENTS FOR MOUNTAIN AREAS AND OTHER AREAS WITH NATURAL OR OTHER SPECIFIC CONSTRAINTS (for Switzerland: Offenhaltungsbeitrag)

Table 4.1: LESS FAVOURED AREA PAYMENTS (for Switzerland: Offenhaltungsbeitrag)	
Height of premia (€ or CHF per hectare)	
Land use types covered	
Conditions, e.g. regarding livestock density	



5. AGRI-ENVIRONMENT-CLIMATE MEASURES (AECM) AND SUPPORT OF ORGANIC FARMING

For Switzerland comparable measures are the following:

- Biodiversitätsbeiträge
- Landschaftsqualitätsbeiträge
- Allgemeiner Hangbeitrag, Steillagenbeitrag, Alpungsbeitrag, Sömmerungsbeitrag (Kulturlandschaftsbeiträge)
- Beiträge für den Biologischen Landbau und Extenso-Beiträge (Produktionssystembeiträge)

*Please provide information on the measures offered in the current programming period in your case study area (EU: 2014-2020; CH: AP14-17). **Restrict yourselves to describing measures for relevant land use in your case study area** (e.g. if vineyards or alpine pastures are only of little importance in this region, such measures do not have to be included). However, for completeness, please also provide a list of the names of further measures, which are not included in the table.*

General information:

Please explain here if measures are part of a national programme, are regional measures based on a national framework or are purely regional measures and list the names of all AECM and measures for the support of organic farming, which are offered in the case study region, regardless if explained in more detail in the table below or not.

Framework for the set-up of AECM and support of organic farming:

List of single measures offered in the case study region:



Information on single measures:

Table 5.1 shows an example for the presentation of a measure. In the right column, please indicate with “X” the features that apply and/or fill in information (specify, if necessary). Like with the strategies above the table 5.1 below is simply a prototype. You will end up with several such tables. **Copy table 5.1 as often as you require and number the new tables accordingly (5.2, 5.3, etc.).**

Note, that we do not need to know the exact quantitative restrictions or requirements of a certain AECM, but are interested in what types of requirements are set. For example we would like to know whether a measure includes a restriction of fertiliser input and not exactly how many kg N per hectare are allowed.

Table 5.1	
Name of measure <i>English translation (Original title)</i>	
Officially stated objective of measure	
Main required or supported technical measures <i>e.g. restriction of fertiliser input (organic and/or mineral, N and/or P), reduction of pesticides use, direct seeding or planting, catch crops, diverse crop rotation (minimum number of crops and required %), specific mowing or grazing regime, establishment of field strips (along water courses or other), conversion of arable into grassland, specific management for species protection (which species /biotopes)</i>	
Support of specific farming system <i>e.g. organic farming, integrated farming</i>	
Scope of measure	<input type="checkbox"/> farmer participates with single field(s) (arable land, grassland, permanent crops)



<p><i>Please tick.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> farmer participates with all arable land <input type="checkbox"/> farmer participates with all grassland <input type="checkbox"/> farmer participates with whole farm <input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify:
<p>Targeted type of land use <i>e.g. all agriculturally used land, arable land, permanent grassland, traditional orchards, semi-natural land/biotopes</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> all agriculturally used land <input type="checkbox"/> only on arable land <input type="checkbox"/> only on permanent grass land <input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify:
<p>Object of protection mainly targeted <i>Please decide on one main objective (if the decision is difficult, e.g. concerning measures with several ecological benefits such as organic farming, looking at the dominant environmental problems in your case study area might help).</i></p> <p><i>Please also note the source of information (e.g. description of measure, stakeholder information, own expertise)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> water <input type="checkbox"/> soil <input type="checkbox"/> biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> landscape <input type="checkbox"/> climate <input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify:
<p>Secondary effects of the measure <i>Please tick all applicable boxes</i></p> <p><i>Please also note the source of information (e.g. description of measure, stakeholder information, own expertise)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> water <input type="checkbox"/> soil <input type="checkbox"/> biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> landscape <input type="checkbox"/> climate <input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify:



<p>Targeted area <i>Offered area-wide or restricted to specific target areas e.g. for nature conservation, water protection or soil protection</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> offered area wide <input type="checkbox"/> restricted to specific target areas, please specify:</p>
<p>Result-oriented approach <i>Farmers are rewarded for the delivery of defined ecological goods rather than for following a defined set of management restrictions. Indicators can for example be certain types of grassland plant species or wild field herbs.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes, please specify applied indicators:</p>
<p>Co-operative approach <i>e.g. farmers taking part cooperatively in agri-environment-climate measures</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes, please describe shortly:</p>
<p>Premia (€ or CHF per hectare)</p>	
<p>Comments <i>Any information you would like to add, e.g. if you would like to point out that a measure could be regarded as good practice</i></p>	
<p>Regionally important private (non-governmental) schemes if existing <i>e.g. in water protection areas</i></p>	



6. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

In this section we are interested in mandatory environmental legislation with relevance to agricultural land use in the case study areas. This includes the national or regional implementation of the EU legislative framework, namely:

- *Nitrates Directive*
- *Habitats Directive*
- *Bird Directive*
- *Water Framework Directive*

as well as other national and regional pieces of legislation for the relevant objects of protection / policy fields.

We are looking at prescriptions or standards regulating:

- *Limitation of N-losses from agriculture to ground- and surface-water*
- *Protection of biodiversity*
- *Securing water quantity*
- *Soil protection*

If there is regulation on agricultural land use specifically targeted at climate change and not covered under other regulation primarily addressing water protection (reducing N-losses) or soil protection (protecting organic soils), please add this information also.

General information:

While information on governance and actors is a focus of template 2, please give here only a short overview to provide understanding on how environmental legislation is organised in general in your country (e.g. mostly national rules applying area-wide, national framework with regions concretising the rules, differentiation between agricultural and environmental legislation etc.)

General set-up of environmental legislation:



Information on single pieces of legislation:

Table 6.1 shows an example for the presentation of a single piece of legislation. **Copy table 6.1 as often as you require and number the new tables accordingly (6.2, 6.3, etc.).** Please limit the information provided to legislation and to management restrictions or specific requirements **that directly regulate land use and are directly relevant for farmers.** Do not include requirements that are solely covered under cross compliance but are not regulated also independently by law. We are not interested in the details of every requirement (e.g. concrete quantitative limits for fertilisation under different conditions regarding crops and soils), but in the general types of standards (e.g. maximum limit for the application of total N). The kind of categories and standards we are looking for are described in a separate document (“Categories of standards”). Only include requirements, for which non-compliance, if detected, may be fined (do not include mere “recommendations”). Please also provide information if standards apply area-wide or in specific locations / target areas only.

Table 6.1	
Title of regulation and date of implementation and of last amendment <i>Original title and English translation</i>	
Short general description <i>e.g. national regulation, regional legislation based on national framework regulation, regional regulation independent from national framework regulation; implementing a certain EU Directive; amendment due etc.</i>	
Main object of protection <i>As stated in the legislation or own assessment</i>	
Side-effects/indirect effects on other objects of protection <i>As stated in the legislation or own assessment</i>	



<p>Types of prescriptions or standards² set <i>Please refer to the table in document “Categories of standards”. If types of prescriptions only address certain areas, please specify. Only include prescriptions, for which non-compliance, if detected, may be fined (do not include mere “recommendations”).</i></p>	
<p>Targeting of the regulation <i>All or specific agricultural holdings, nationwide, region-wide, only in specific areas (e.g. areas under nature or water protection); different types of standards may apply to different areas</i></p>	
<p>Linkages to other mandatory regulations <i>Please refer to other pieces of legislation that complement this regulation (this could also include further regulations important in your case study region, but not in the main focus of TALE, such as on the transportation of slurry)</i></p>	
<p>Linkages to other policy measures <i>Here you could, for instance, mention further instruments linked to this regulation, such as specific advice or compensatory payments for farmers for mandatory management restrictions in Natura 2000 areas or areas connected to the WFD or in water protection areas</i></p>	
<p>Comments <i>Any information you would like to add, e.g. if you would like to point out that a regulation could be regarded as good practice, is highly debated, is difficult to enforce or contains a high number of standards that rather have the status of “recommendations” etc.</i></p>	

² Prescriptions or standards lead to respective „technical measures“ farmers are actually carrying out on the field.





7. OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES

In this section we are looking for further specific approaches that are of importance in the case study areas and are not included in the compilation above. These might cover strong planning policies, farm advisory programmes on biodiversity, regional marketing initiatives or others. If significant for the TALE policy fields, such approaches should be described shortly below.
