

## Romania – innovation example 1

### AGRO-ENVIRONMENT MEASURE: PACKAGE 6 GRASSLANDS IMPORTANT BUTTERFLIES (MACULINEA SP.) IN CLUJ AND SUCEAVA COUNTIES

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- **Location:** Cluj and Suceava counties, Romania
- **HNV system:** Extensive grazing, mosaic farming
- **Scale of operation:** Eligible areas are 26 ATUs from Cluj and Suceava counties, with a total area of 23000 ha.
- **Timespan:** It started in 2012 and continues through the actual NRDP 2014-2020
- **Keys to success:** Initiative of local NGOs (the Romanian Lepidopterological Society; collaboration with ADEPT and WWF); opportunity to ask for extra payment additional to direct payments.

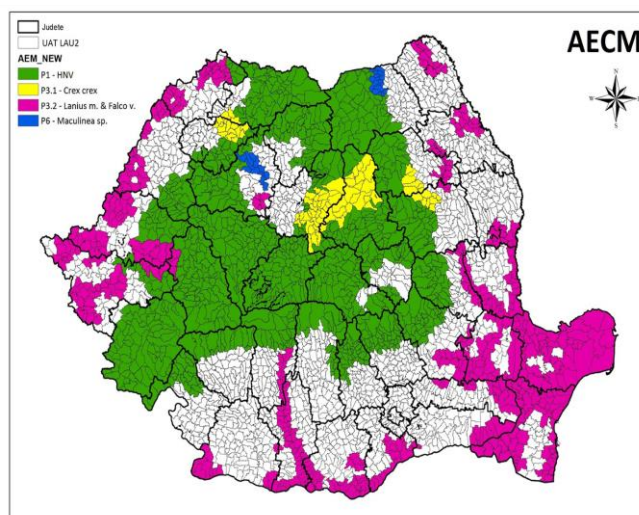


Figure 1: Eligible areas for Package 6 (■) – Maculinea sp.

#### Problems addressed by this example

Through this innovation it is intended to protect the grasslands important for butterflies' development of the two counties. The areas are Natura 2000 sites with high biodiversity. Through this measure farmers are obliged to respect some conditions such as it is not allowed to use chemical fertilizers or pesticide, the use of organic fertiliser is only up to a certain level, mowing is allowed only manually or by using light machinery and only after August 25th etc.

#### Story in a nutshell

The Romanian Lepidopterological Society proposed an agro-environment measure: "Package 6 Grasslands important for butterflies (*Maculinea sp.*)" in Cluj and Suceava counties, in collaboration with ADEPT foundation and WWF. This was based on the work done by the Society to protect the butterflies and their habitats, such as several working meetings, on-field research on butterfly protected species and development of an on-line platform. According to this measure, since 2012 farmers received 240 euro/ha/year if they respected the conditions of the package (National Rural Developed Program 2007-2013). This is additional to the direct payments. According to NRDP 2014-2020 farmers can receive 361 euro/ha/year if land is worked manually or 282 euro/ha/year if land is worked with light equipment. The support is granted following the signature of voluntary commitments for 5 years, after which can be extended on an annual basis until end of program.

## What does Agro-environment measure achieve for HNV farming?

- Important additional support for farmers
- About 3,600 ha/year and 475 beneficiaries/year (NPRD 2014-2020)
- 2012-2016: 400 farmers received about 4.3 million euro from APIA through Package 6 (SLR Leaflet, 2017)



**Figure 2** Manual mowing @ summer 2017, Pâglișa village



**Figure 3: Manual mowing**

Source: <http://ziuadecj.realitatea.net/politica/niculescu-subventiile-pentru-fluturisi-gaste-cu-gat-rosu-afecteaza-credibilitatea-politicii-agricole-comune--85267.html>

### Achievements

The payment represents an important support for farmers in the area, as additional payments to the direct ones. The extensive management of the pastures important for butterflies is ensured by Package 6.

### Economics of HNV farming

Package 6 within the NRDP 2007-2013 supported about 3,600 ha/year and about 475 beneficiaries/year (NRDP 2014-2020). During 2012-2016, more than 400 farmers from 11 communes from Cluj county received about 4.3 million euro from APIA (SLR Leaflet, 2017).

### Maintaining or improving HNV values

The main objective was to protect the butterfly *Maculinea* sp., the Eastern Hills of Cluj being the only place where can be found all European butterfly species *Maculinea*. These areas hosts about 3% of the population at European level and 40% at national level (NRDP 2014-2020). Most representative species are *Maculinea nausithous*, *Maculinea teleius*, *Maculinea alcon* and *Eriogaster catax*.



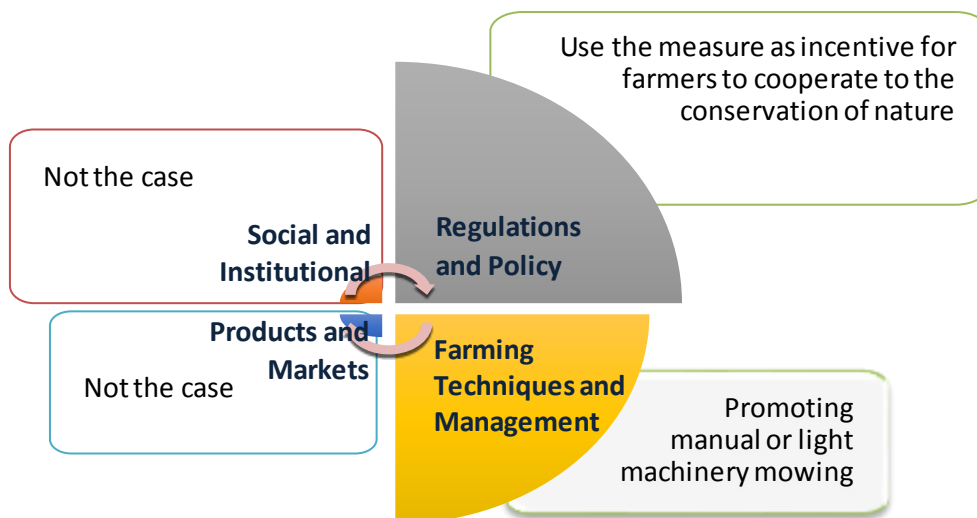
**Figure 4** Sheep grazing in Vultureni Commune

Source: Romanian Lepidopterological Society



**Figure 5** Butterfly *Maculinea teleius* @ summer 2017, Pâglișa village

## How does Agro-environment measure respond to the HNV LINK innovation themes?



**Figure 6** Shows how this innovation addresses the four themes of the HNV-Link innovation framework.

**Regulations and Policy:** Package 6 - Grasslands important for butterflies (*Maculinea sp.*) was especially built for Cluj and Suceava counties, being an unique measure at European level. It is an additional payment to the direct ones, obtained only by eligible farmers. Eligibility is specified in the National Rural Developed Program and it refers to technological restrictions (use of fertilizer), grazing with maximum 0.7 Great Beef Unit per hectare, mowing starts after August 25<sup>th</sup> etc.

**Farming Techniques and Management:** Use of extensive management through manual or light machinery mowing proved to be efficient for pastures important for butterflies only if it is done after August 25<sup>th</sup>, after the larvae are leaving the inflorescences.

### The process that made it happen and critical factors for success

- Cooperation between actors within Mozaic Project
- Based on research: monitoring butterflies over the years
- Critical factors for success: difficulty to comply package conditions due to old age of most farmers, lack of interest, bureaucracy



**Figure 7** Monitoring butterflies in traditional hay meadow – Mozaic Project  
Source: <http://www.mozaic-romania.org>: © Inae Paulini



**Institutional context that made it possible:** It is the result of many years of research projects related to butterflies conducted by SLR. The opportunity offered by CAP for an extra payment in addition to the direct payments.

**Processes:** The measure was implemented since 2012 (NRPD 2007-2013) and also supported by the current NRDP (2014-2020)

**Limiting factors, actual/potential problems, and how could they be overcome:** Farmers lack of information and lack of interest. Not all communes are eligible for this payment although they are located within the LA. *The inconsistency for the designation of the package eligible area could be overcome by redesigning the eligible area.*



### Lessons learnt from this innovation example, and its potential replication

- Research done by SLR in the area sustained the need of this measure
- Farmers encouraged to use extensive farming methods
- Replicable for HNV areas with species and habitats that need special attention for their preservation



**Figure 10** Natural pastures general view



**Figure 11** Brielmaier mower  
Source: Romanian Lepidopterological Society

*Overall lessons from this example, especially from point of view of HNV farming?*

Researchers conducted over years by SLR proved to be an effective foundation to sustain the need of this measure as an optimal solution to conserve natural values and continue farming in the areas. Farmers are encouraged to continue the use of extensive farming methods.

*Is the innovation unique to its territory and its characteristics, or is it replicable in other areas?*

The measure can be replicated for other HNV areas where species and habitats need special attention for their preservation

*Could it be rolled out on a bigger territorial scale?*

Yes, where these species or other are threatened by the type of farming activities used

*What would be needed to do this successfully?*

Farmers should be better informed about the eligible conditions to access this measure by explaining the benefits of both, nature and farming. A farmer association could be a good solution for small farmers who cannot afford to buy light machinery such as Brielmaier. Including all commune from LA in the eligible area to protect the habitats on a larger scale.

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