

# **Report on the agricultural policy instruments used to encourage agriculture supportive of green blue infrastructures in Bulgaria, Germany and Spain**

The BIOGEO project aims to develop tools for farmers that will be available to farmers and their advisers to facilitate the implementation of greening measures and the maintenance of green and blue infrastructure.

In order to develop new tools/instruments, it was first examined which instruments are already used at national level in the specific case study areas, Spain, Germany and Bulgaria.

This report provides a structured overview of the tools available to farmers and their advisers to facilitate the implementation of greening measures and the maintenance of green and blue infrastructure. .

In the following, the available instruments in the respective case study countries are listed and categorised according to their (environmental) focus with a short description of the tool.

1. Spain
2. Germany
3. Bulgaria
4. EU-wide

## 1.1 Tools in Spain

Table 1 Overview of tools used in Spain

Tool	Description	Developer	Link	Language
<b>Strengthening biodiversity on agricultural land</b>				
<p>Sustainability in the management of agricultural and forestry systems: Benefits for biodiversity</p> <p><i>(Sostenibilidad en la gestión de los sistemas agrarios y forestales: beneficios para la biodiversidad)</i></p>	<p>Recommendations for the conservation of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. Long list with brief description of measures for the management of crops, soils, waters, landscape elements, grazing, etc.</p>	<p>Public administration (state government)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/portal_web/web/temas_ambientales/guia_sostenibilidad/guia_sostenibilidad.pdf">https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/portal_web/web/temas_ambientales/guia_sostenibilidad/guia_sostenibilidad.pdf</a></p>	<p>Spanish</p>
<p>Factsheets:</p> <p><i>(Fichas Técnicas de Biodiversidad):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. animal husbandry, animal production;</li> <li>2. permanent crops: olives and wine;</li> <li>3. arable farming: cultivation of wheat;</li> <li>4. arable farming: cultivation of sugar beet;</li> <li>5. vegetable production: cultivation of vegetables;</li> </ol>	<p>To promote an understanding of the importance of biodiversity and the related important ecosystem services as a fundamental basis for agricultural production. Information on the impact of the cultivation of different crops in different climatic regions on biodiversity (especially in the Mediterranean) and on nodes of good practices and biodiversity management.</p>	<p>Foundation Global Nature</p>	<p><a href="https://fundacionglobalnature.org/en/que-hacemos/sostenibilidad-corporativa/foodstandards-2-2/fichas-tecnicas/">https://fundacionglobalnature.org/en/que-hacemos/sostenibilidad-corporativa/foodstandards-2-2/fichas-tecnicas/</a></p>	<p>Spanish</p>

Tool	Description	Developer	Link	Language
6. livestock farming: Milk production.				
Good Agricultural Practice for Biodiversity: A Practical Guide <i>(Buenas práctica agrarias a favor de la Biodiversidad: Guía Práctica)</i>	Toolkit for the implementation of good management practices for the conservation of biodiversity on farms and systems with high natural value.	AIDER Gran Canarias	<a href="https://issuu.com/aidergc/docs/bio">https://issuu.com/aidergc/docs/bio</a>	Spanish
Ecological bases for the definition of agricultural practices in line with the Birds and Habitats Directives <i>(Bases ecológicas para la definición de las prácticas agrarias compatibles con las directivas de aves y de habitats)</i>	Selection of management practices and their description recommended for compliance with the Birds and Habitats Directives on farms.	ICAM (Institute of Environmental Science of Castilla la Mancha)	<a href="https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/ecosistemas-y-conectividad/practicas_agricolas_compatibles_directiva_aves_habitat_tcm30-195901.pdf">https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/ecosistemas-y-conectividad/practicas_agricolas_compatibles_directiva_aves_habitat_tcm30-195901.pdf</a>	Spanish
Handbook for the management of fallow land for the conservation of steppe birds <i>(Manual de gestión de barbechos para la conservación de aves esteparias)</i>	Practical information on the implementation of management practices for brownfield sites favourable to steppe birds.	Centre de Ciència i Tecnologia Forestal de Catalunya (CTFC) and Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica (Fundación Biodiversidad)	<a href="http://www.ctfc.cat/docs/lilibre%20barbecho%20per%20web.pdf">http://www.ctfc.cat/docs/lilibre%20barbecho%20per%20web.pdf</a>	Spanish

Tool	Description	Developer	Link	Language
<p>Guide to good practice in farm management. Good Agricultural, Forestry and Ecological Practices (<i>Guía de buenas prácticas en gestión agraria. Buenas prácticas agrícolas, forestales y ambientales</i>)</p>	<p>Support for the conservation of the Iberian lynx and imperial eagle. Practical guide to the implementation of 21 good agricultural practices.</p>	<p>Fundación de Amigos del Águila Imperial, el Lince Ibérico y los Espacios Naturales de carácter privado</p>	<p><a href="http://www.amigosaguilaimperial.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Guia-Buenas-Practicas-Gestion-Agraria.pdf">http://www.amigosaguilaimperial.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Guia-Buenas-Practicas-Gestion-Agraria.pdf</a></p>	<p>Spanish</p>
<b>Implementation of greening measures</b>				
<p>Climate and environmentally friendly agricultural practices (<i>Prácticas agrícolas beneficiosas para el clima y el medio ambiente</i>)</p>	<p>Detailed description of the criteria for the application of the greening measures.</p>	<p>Ministerio de Agricultura, Aliemntación y Medio Ambiente</p>	<p><a href="https://www.fega.es/sites/default/files/Circular_11-2016_Practicas_agricolas_beneficiosas_para_el_Clima.pdf">https://www.fega.es/sites/default/files/Circular_11-2016_Practicas_agricolas_beneficiosas_para_el_Clima.pdf</a></p>	<p>Spanish</p>
<p>Common Agricultural Policy 2015-2020: payment for climate- and environment-friendly practices (<i>Política Agrícola Común 2015-2020: Pago para prácticas beneficiosas para el clima y el medio ambiente</i>)</p>	<p>Practical guide for greening measures. Update information to support farmers' decision to comply with CAP requirements.</p>	<p>Ministerio de Agricultura, Aliemntación y Medio Ambiente</p>	<p><a href="http://www.fega.es/sites/default/files/files/ficha_3_180226.pdf">http://www.fega.es/sites/default/files/files/ficha_3_180226.pdf</a></p>	<p>Spanish</p>

Tool	Description	Developer	Link	Language
Implementation of the new CAP support model ( <i>Aplicación del modelo de ayuda de la nueva PAC</i> )	Detailed description of the rules for the application of greening measures and to facilitate understanding of the new CAP.	UPA (Nationaler Bauernverband)	<a href="https://www.upa.es/upa/depot/adjuntos/1a94d2824ae1a571423502612.pdf">https://www.upa.es/upa/depot/adjuntos/1a94d2824ae1a571423502612.pdf</a>	Spanish
Agricultural Policy, Natural Policy	To inform the general public about the policy to promote environmentally friendly agriculture.	Foundation Global Nature	<a href="https://fundacionglobalnature.org/que-hacemos/introduccion-a-sostenibilidad-agraria/pac/">https://fundacionglobalnature.org/que-hacemos/introduccion-a-sostenibilidad-agraria/pac/</a>	Spanish
Integration of conservation measures required for the Natura 2000 network into rural development programmes 2014-2020 ( <i>Integración de las medidas de conservación necesarias para la red natura 2000 en los programas de desarrollo rural 2014-2020</i> )	Practical guide to the effective implementation of measures to conserve the Natura 2000 network approved under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	Ministerio de Agricultura, Aliemntación y Medio Ambiente	<a href="https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/espacios-prottegidos/rn_cons_marco_acc_prio_piloto_FEADER_tcm30-207224.pdf">https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/espacios-prottegidos/rn_cons_marco_acc_prio_piloto_FEADER_tcm30-207224.pdf</a>	Spanish
Common Agricultural Policy 2015-2020: Cross-compliance ( <i>Política Agrícola Común 2015-2020: Condicionalidad</i> )	Practical guide to cross-compliance.	Ministerio de Agricultura, Aliemntación y Medio Ambiente	<a href="http://www.fega.es/sites/default/files/files/ficha_7_180201.pdf">http://www.fega.es/sites/default/files/files/ficha_7_180201.pdf</a>	Spanish

**Conclusion:** There are a number of digitally available guidelines for the practical implementation of greening measures and for strengthening biodiversity. These are all available free of charge online on the publishers' websites. Only two guides deal with a specific species or group of species. No instruments were found that deal specifically with landscape elements.

In order to reach farmers, it is advisable to create and use information channels and sources as a medium to communicate agricultural policy and agricultural decisions/technical information **to them**. Other information formats, such as podcasts, online presentations or webinars, could be used to provide information to facilitate the implementation of greening measures and the maintenance of green and blue infrastructure. In addition, tools should be developed that are specified on landscape elements hence farmers can better integrate/implement them on their farms.

## 1.2 Provided tools in Germany

Table 2 Overview of tools used in Germany

Tool	Description	Developer	Link	Language
<b>Ecological functions of landscape elements</b>				
Brochure: "Landscape elements - why?"	The brochure is divided into 12 questions and answers about the many ecological functions of the landscape elements.	Netzwerk Land c/o Umweltdachverband GmbH	<a href="http://www.umweltbildung.at/uploads/tx_hetopublications/publikationen/pdf/udv_landschaftselemente_web_mit.pdf">www.umweltbildung.at/uploads/tx_hetopublications/publikationen/pdf/udv_landschaftselemente_web_mit.pdf</a>	German
<b>Strengthening biodiversity on agricultural land</b>				
Guide to Biodiversity Consulting for Individual Enterprises	Guideline with condensed action guidelines for counselling: with topics and methods as well as suitable sources of information.	German Association for Landscape Management	<a href="http://www.lpv.de/uploads/tx_tproducts/datash eet/DVL_Leitfaden_24_Biodiversitätsberatung_web.pdf">www.lpv.de/uploads/tx_tproducts/datash eet/DVL_Leitfaden_24_Biodiversitätsberatung_web.pdf</a>	German
Action Sheets Biodiversity	The action sheets contain general comments on biodiversity, as well as individual action sheets that briefly outline the ecological benefits, funding and financing options..	Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia	<a href="https://www.landwirtschaftskammer.de/landwirtschaft/naturschutz/biodiversitaet/index.htm">https://www.landwirtschaftskammer.de/landwirtschaft/naturschutz/biodiversitaet/index.htm</a>	German

Tool	Description	Developer	Link	Language
Brochure: Catch crops and secondary crops in plant production	Introduces farmers to the many ways in which catch crops can be integrated into their farming systems.	Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food; Federal Information Centre for Agriculture	<a href="https://www.ble-medienservice.de/1060/zwischen-und-zweitfruechte-im-pflanzenbau">https://www.ble-medienservice.de/1060/zwischen-und-zweitfruechte-im-pflanzenbau</a>	German
<b>Implementation of greening measures</b>				
Practical Handbook "Nature Conservation Design of Ecological Priority Areas"	Practical guidance with concrete recommendations for the establishment and management of ecological priority areas from a nature conservation perspective.	Institute for Agroecology and Biodiversity (IFAB)	<a href="https://www.ifls.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Abbildungen/Projekte/Handbuch_OEVForsch/Handbuch_OEVForsch_mit_Merkblaetern.pdf">https://www.ifls.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Abbildungen/Projekte/Handbuch_OEVForsch/Handbuch_OEVForsch_mit_Merkblaetern.pdf</a>	German
Webinar "Benefits of catch crops"	Webinar on the ecological and agronomic benefits of catch crops Includes: Introduction to intercropping, species, effects of intercropping, panel discussion	BWAgar	<a href="http://www.bwagrar.de/Service/Webinare/Nutzen-von-Zwischenfruechten,QUIEPTUwMDQyNDEmTUIEPTe20TAwNw.html?UID=F81D1E2E2913107E8ADE064DDAFB4CACBF28728A608C">www.bwagrar.de/Service/Webinare/Nutzen-von-Zwischenfruechten,QUIEPTUwMDQyNDEmTUIEPTe20TAwNw.html?UID=F81D1E2E2913107E8ADE064DDAFB4CACBF28728A608C</a>	German
Print templates for the signage of areas with intercropping and flower mixtures	Print templates for the signage of areas	Agricultural Technology Centre Augustenberg (LTZ)	<a href="http://www.landwirtschaft-mlr.baden-wuerttemberg.de/pb/MLR.LTZ.Lde/Startseite/Arbeitsfelder/Greening+und+FAKT">www.landwirtschaft-mlr.baden-wuerttemberg.de/pb/MLR.LTZ.Lde/Startseite/Arbeitsfelder/Greening+und+FAKT</a>	German
Picture collection of landscape elements	Examples based on pictures of landscape elements	Ministry for Rural Areas and Consumer Protection Baden-Württemberg	<a href="https://www.landwirtschaft-bw.info/pb/MLR.Foerderung.Lru/Startseite/Gemeinsamer+Antrag/Bilder_Landschaftselemente+LE">https://www.landwirtschaft-bw.info/pb/MLR.Foerderung.Lru/Startseite/Gemeinsamer+Antrag/Bilder_Landschaftselemente+LE</a>	German

Tool	Description	Developer	Link	Language
Information brochure on the obligations to be complied with at Cross Compliance 2018	Provides general information about cross compliance obligations to be met, including guidelines to protect and maintain the GBI.	Ministry for Rural Areas and Consumer Protection Baden-Württemberg	<a href="https://www.landwirtschaft-bw.info/pb/site/pbs-bw-new/get/documents/MLR.LEL/PB5Documents/mlr/GA/GA_018_extern/Allgemein/Merkblaetter/CC_Infobroschuere_2018.pdf">https://www.landwirtschaft-bw.info/pb/site/pbs-bw-new/get/documents/MLR.LEL/PB5Documents/mlr/GA/GA_018_extern/Allgemein/Merkblaetter/CC_Infobroschuere_2018.pdf</a>	German

In addition, there are also aids offered by individual federal states, which are transferable to other regions and federal states.

- **Focus Nature Day:** Raising farmers' awareness of nature conservation issues in their role as designers of agricultural landscapes and raising farmers' environmental awareness in order to strengthen their motivation to implement these measures. This event is organised in cooperation with various organisations in the federal states of Baden-Württemberg, Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia. (<https://www.bundesprogramm.de/fileadmin/2-Dokumente/merkblaetter/Pflanze/naturschutz/FokusNaturtag.pdf>)
- Print template for explanatory signs to be attached next to e.g. fields of catch crops or flower mixtures: Raising awareness of farmers' efforts to protect the environment and thus improve their image. Created and published by the Agricultural Technology Centre Augustenberg (LTZ). (see: [http://www.ltz-bw.de/pb/site/pbs-bw-new/get/documents/MLR.LEL/PB5Documents/ltz\\_ka/Kulturpflanzen/Ackerbau/Zwischenfr%C3%BCchte%20und%20Untersaaten/Schild%20Zwischenfr%C3%BCchte%20DIN%20A3.pdf](http://www.ltz-bw.de/pb/site/pbs-bw-new/get/documents/MLR.LEL/PB5Documents/ltz_ka/Kulturpflanzen/Ackerbau/Zwischenfr%C3%BCchte%20und%20Untersaaten/Schild%20Zwischenfr%C3%BCchte%20DIN%20A3.pdf))

**Conclusion:** A wide range of tools is available to farmers and their advisors in Germany to facilitate the implementation of greening measures and the maintenance of green and blue infrastructure.

However, there is a lack of aids that specifically deal with the implementation/maintenance of landscape elements, so such aids should be created. Other formats could also be used, for example: podcasts, explanatory videos, presentations at events, courses, online presentations, field days with other farmers and direct farm visits with other farmers.



### 1.3 Provided tools in Bulgaria

For Bulgaria, only the following two tools (see Table 3) were found to be used.

Table 3 Overview of tools used in Spain

Tool	Description	Developer	Link	Language
Calculator for greening payments (Калкулатор "Зелени плащания")	Calculates the area on the farm and gives indications of green restrictions.  Includes: 1) Calculation of the total crop on the holding. 2) Verification of compliance with the conditions for crop diversification. 3) Search part of main and secondary crop	State agriculture fund	<a href="https://seu.dfz.bg/seu/f?p=727:8130:::NO::">https://seu.dfz.bg/seu/f?p=727:8130:::NO::</a>	Bulgarian
Application manual: Direct Payment Campaign 2018  (НАРЪЧНИК ЗА КАНДИДАТСТВАНЕ ДИРЕКТНИ ПЛАЩАНИЯ КАМПАНИЯ 2018)	Introduces all direct payment schemes and presents the obligations and restrictions to farmers.	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	<a href="http://www.mzh.government.bg/MZH/Libraries/Актуално2/n2018.sflb.ashx">http://www.mzh.government.bg/MZH/Libraries/Актуално2/n2018.sflb.ashx</a>	Bulgarian

**Conclusion:** The number of tools available to farmers and counsellors in Bulgaria is significantly lower than in Spain and Germany. Although they can also use EU-wide tools, national tools should also be made available which, among other things, also relate to local conditions. The tools provided are focused on the financial aspects/benefits for the greening of agriculture.

## 1.4 Provided tools EU-wide

Table 4 Overview of tools used in the EU

Tool	Description	Developer	Link	Language
Mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services (MAES)	The urban pilot project MAES aims to improve contacts between practical communications at local, regional and national levels in order to exchange experience and knowledge on mapping, evaluation, assessment and implementation of urban green infrastructures, urban biodiversity and urban ecosystem services.	European Commission	<a href="http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1673/5th_MAES_report.pdf">http://catalogue.biodiversity.europa.eu/uploads/document/file/1673/5th_MAES_report.pdf</a>	English
Ecological priority area calculator	Provision of a facility to describe and declare characteristics on the farm as Ecological Priority Areas (EFAs). Assess the impact of characteristics on the farm, taking into account their potential impact on ecosystem services, biodiversity and farm management.  The first function allows the user to declare these characteristics as EFAs and verify that these elements are acceptable. The second function provides users with feedback on the potential impacts of characteristics on ecosystem services, biodiversity and farm management.	Agriculture and Environment Research Unit (AERU), University of Hertfordshire	1) <a href="https://sitem.herts.ac.uk/aeru/efa/">https://sitem.herts.ac.uk/aeru/efa/</a> 2) <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/sites/jrcsh/files/ReqNo_JRC99673_final_report.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/sites/jrcsh/files/ReqNo_JRC99673_final_report.pdf</a>	English
Photo brochure on the ecological priority areas (EFAs) in the future CAP - necessity and implementation	The brochure is intended to give a visual impression of the critical current situation regarding biodiversity and ecology in the European agricultural landscapes,	Institute for Agroecology and Biodiversity (IFAB), Institute for Rural Development Research, University of	<a href="http://www.ifab-mannheim.de/EFA-Photo-brochure-feb2013.pdf">http://www.ifab-mannheim.de/EFA-Photo-brochure-feb2013.pdf</a>	German, English

Tool	Description	Developer	Link	Language
possibilities of EFAs / examples from several European countries	raise awareness and give practical examples for a comprehensive implementation of EFAs.	Applied Forest Sciences Rottenburg		
Fact sheets Biodiversity	Multi-page fact sheets on the impact of the cultivation of different crops in different climatic regions on biodiversity and on links to very good practices and biodiversity management.	European Business and Biodiversity Campaign (EBBC)	<a href="https://www.business-biodiversity.eu/de/biodiversity-fact-sheets">https://www.business-biodiversity.eu/de/biodiversity-fact-sheets</a>	English, German, Spanish, Portuguese
Guidance Biodiversity Check, Excel file – Biodiversity Action Plan Vine Growers, training videos, field material, Biodiversity Action Plan – Catalogue of measures and fact sheets	The aim of the project is to exchange experiences in order to train each other and to develop training and information materials as well as special training modules on biodiversity. Information sheets, guidelines, training videos, paper and print documents	Germany: Global Nature Fund, Ecovin, Spain: Fundación Global Nature, La Unió, Portugal: Quercus, ADVID, Turkey: Rapunzel Organik Tarim	<a href="http://www.bodensee-stiftung.org/en/projekte/projekt-unternehmen-und-biologische-vielfalt/partnerschaft-zum-schutz-der-biologischen-vielfalt-im-weinbau-in-europa-2/">http://www.bodensee-stiftung.org/en/projekte/projekt-unternehmen-und-biologische-vielfalt/partnerschaft-zum-schutz-der-biologischen-vielfalt-im-weinbau-in-europa-2/</a>	German, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkey

**Conclusion:** There is a range of public support available to farmers and advisers in EU countries. These mainly relate to the enhancement of biodiversity on agricultural land. The range of tools available with a focus on landscape elements and the implementation of greening measures should be expanded. Some of the tools are only available in English. As not all farmers and advisers are fluent in English, the language range of the tools should be extended.

---

## 1.5 Conclusions

---

A range of tools are available to farmers and advisers across the EU and in individual countries to facilitate the implementation of greening measures and the maintenance of green and blue infrastructure.

In both countries, Spain and Germany, farmers and consultants have access to a range of tools to enhance biodiversity and implement greening measures. In Germany, however, the range of formats is more diverse than in Spain. For example, webinars or print templates are already available as aids in Germany, while only digital guides are available in Spain.

The range of services specifically related to landscape elements is insufficient in both countries and should be expanded.

In contrast to Spain and Germany, farmers and counsellors in Bulgaria have access to only a few

Overall, most tools are offered in the form of guides. Therefore, it is recommended to extend the offer to other formats and to spread it on the respective channels which are preferred (see interviews with farmers and counsellors).

Possible formats would be:

- Podcasts
- Explanatory videos
- Website entries
- Trade journal article
- Lectures at events
- Newsletters