



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Agriculture and water

EPA water conference

Galway May 29th 2018

Structure of Farming in Ireland 2016



Total Number of Farms 137,500

Average Farm Size
32.4 hectares



Livestock Numbers

Poultry
11.1m



Pigs
1.6m



Sheep
5.1m



Cattle
7.2m



Total Agricultural Area 4,455,800 hectares

Land Usage:



Grassland
4,104,300
hectares



Other
62,100
hectares



Cereals
280,400
hectares



Potatoes
9,000
hectares

Farm Labour

Total Number of Family Farms **137,100**

Male Holder
121,100
88%

Female Holder
16,000
12%



Age of Farmholder

Under 35
7,400
5%

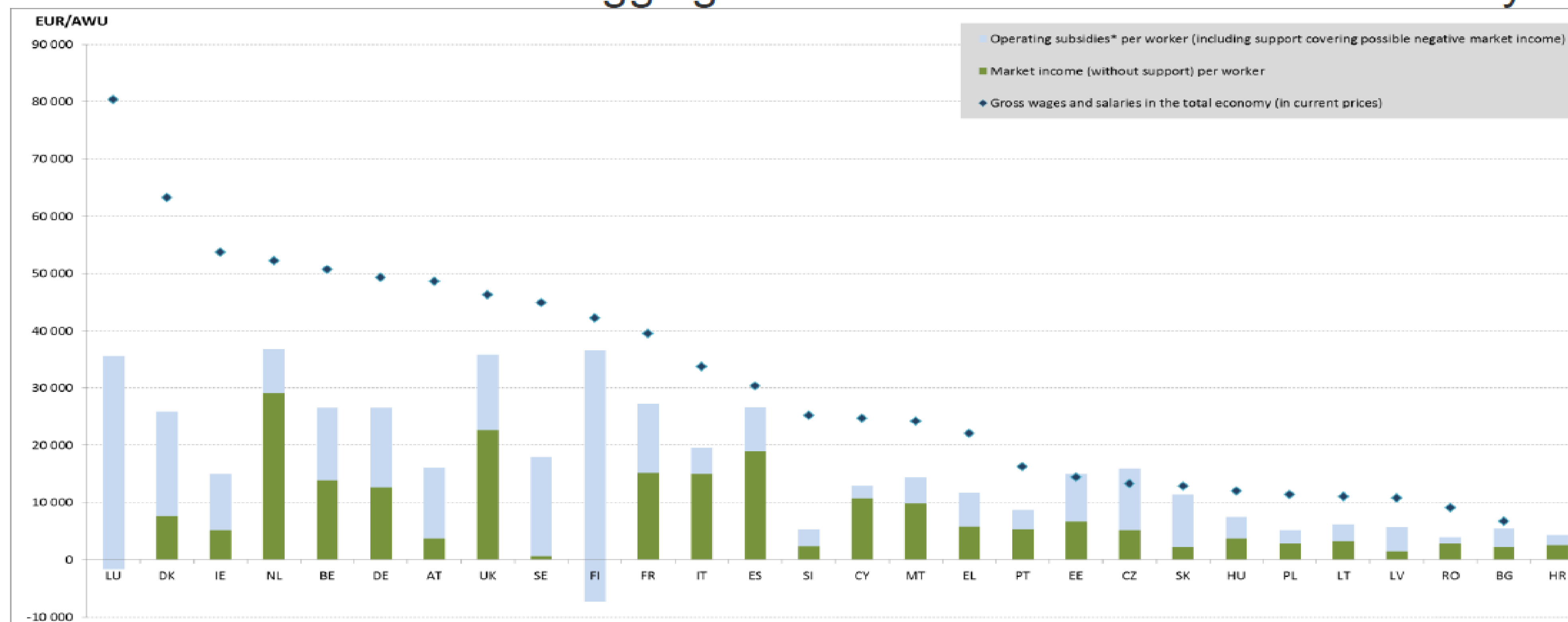
65 and over
41,200
30%



CHALLENGES



Farmers' income is still lagging behind salaries in the whole economy



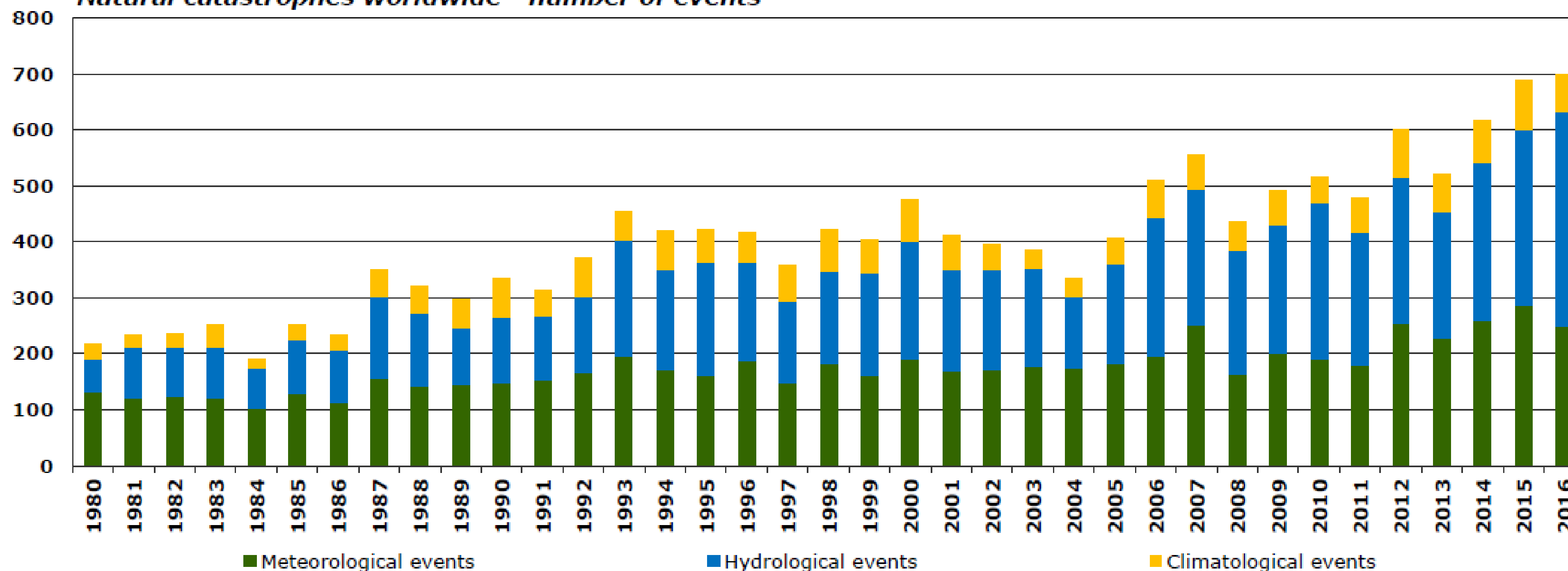
NB: Income indicator=Entrepreneurial income plus compensation of employees by total annual work units.
Source: EAA, ESTAT 2013-2015, EU FADN for number of hours worked



WORLDWIDE EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS



Natural catastrophes worldwide - number of events



Meteorological events: Tropical storm, extra-tropical storm, convective storm, local storm
Hydrological events: Flood, mass movement
Climatological events: Extreme temperature, drought, forest fire

Source: © 2017 Münchener Rückversicherungs-Gesellschaft,
Geo Risks Research, NatCatService (January 2017)

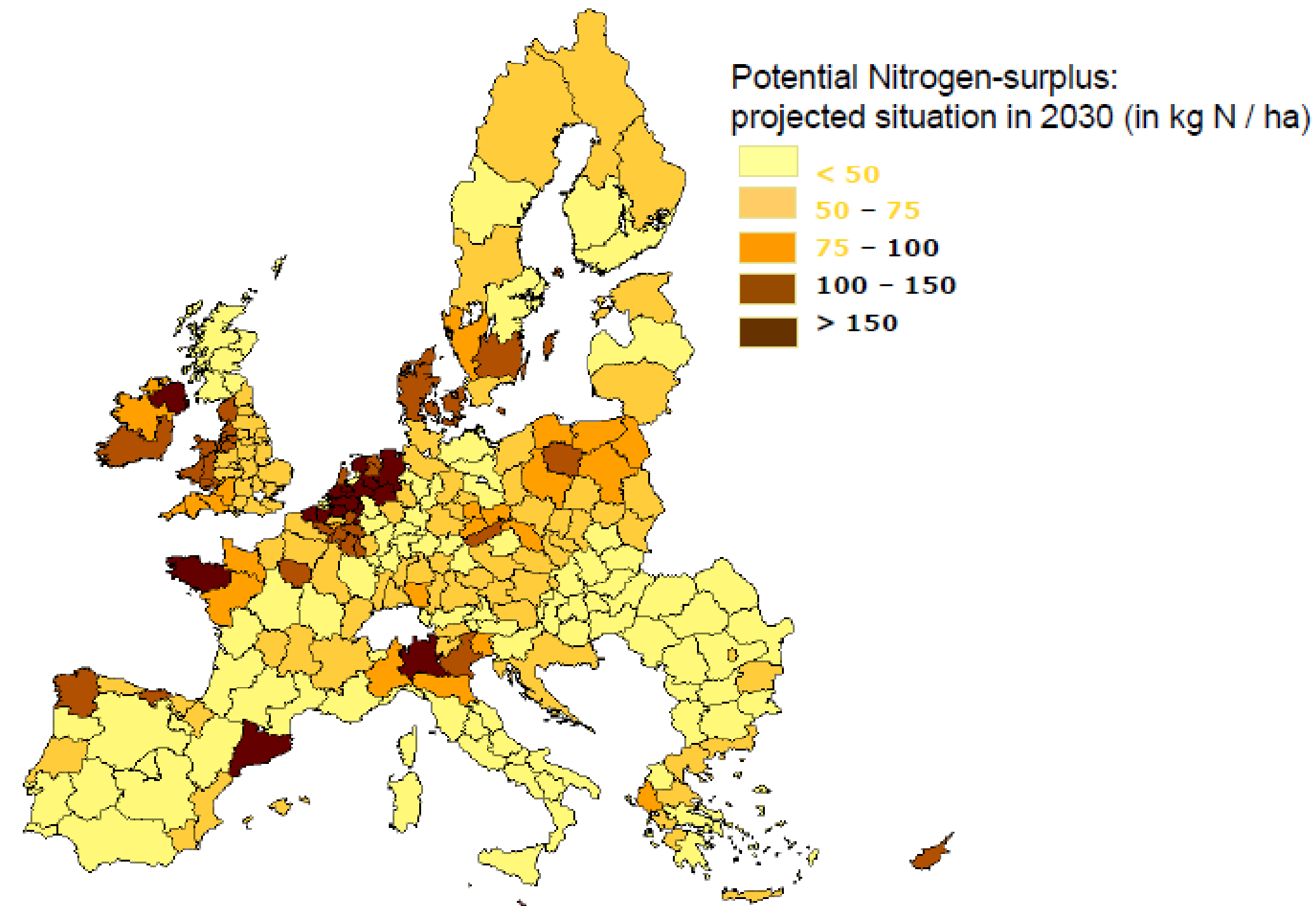




CHALLENGES



Projected pressure on the environment due to potential nitrogen surplus in 2030: different impact across the EU



Source: JRC based on the CAPRI model baseline as presented in the DG AGRI 2017 outlook report.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



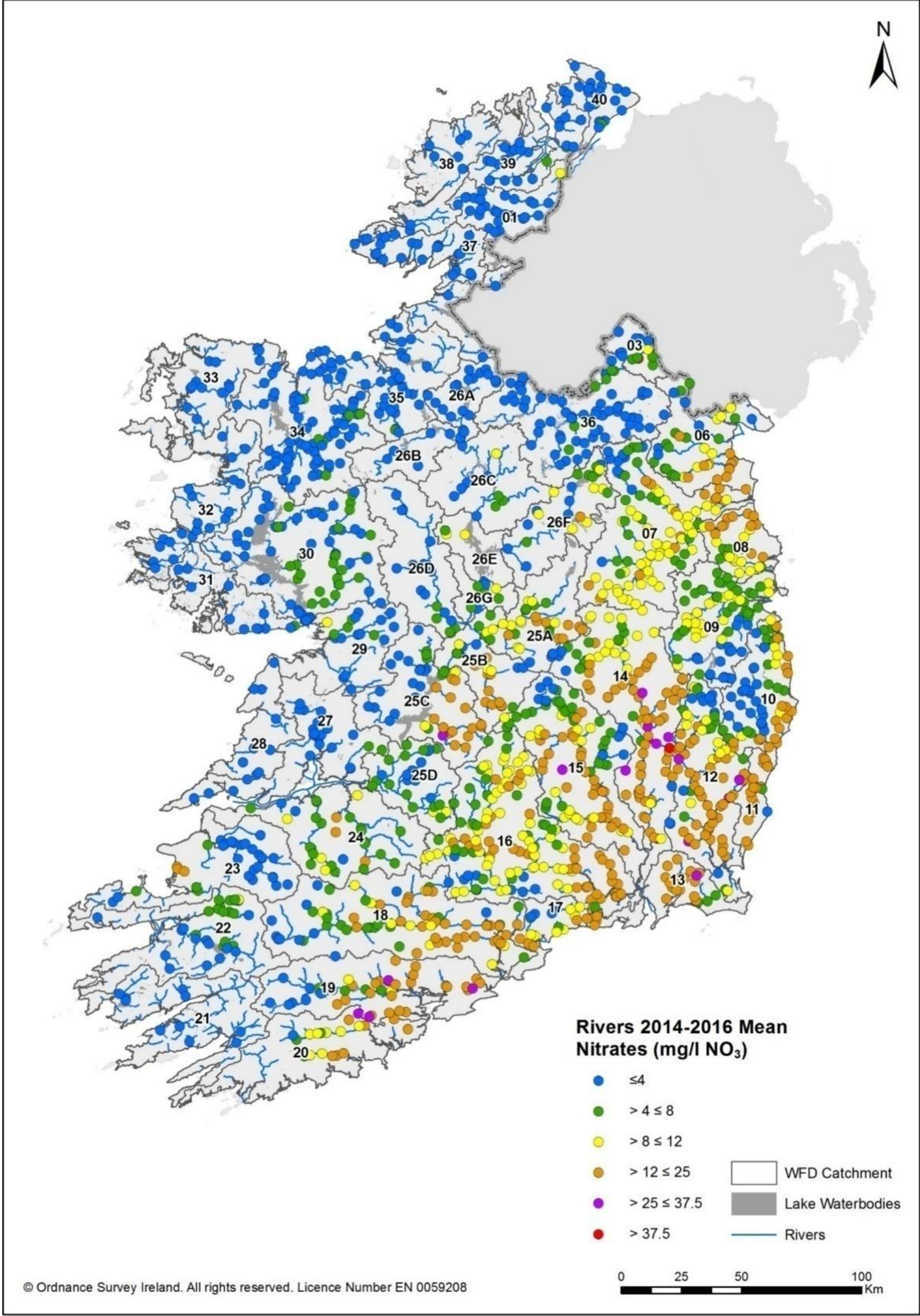
Nitrates and the WFD: Irish context

- In 2001-2003 82 river sites had highest water quality status, in 2013-2015 this was only 21



Restore & Protect Water Quality

Implement measures that achieve ongoing improvements in the environmental status of water bodies from source to the sea.



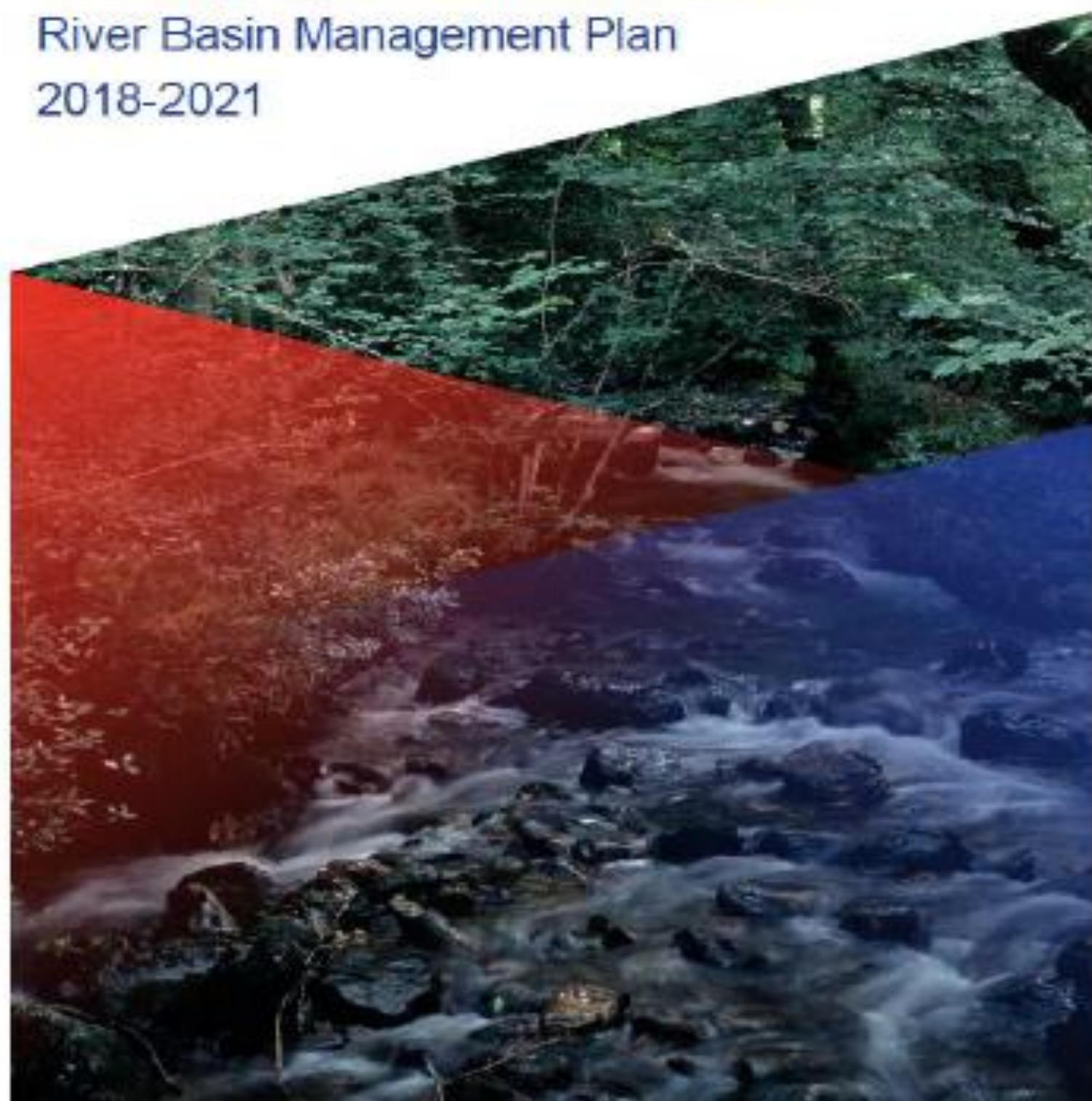




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Forests & Water

Achieving Objectives under Ireland's
River Basin Management Plan
2018-2021



Woodland for Water:

Creating new native
woodlands to protect and
enhance Ireland's waters



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CAP Pillar I



Cross compliance

environment, food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare

Good Agricultural & Environmental Condition



Rural Development Programme (RDP 2014 – 2020)



Green Low-carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)

- 16,600 km watercourses protected from bovines
- 4,900 using low emission slurry spreading
- 24,800 ha wild bird cover
- 281,600 ha low input permanent pasture

Total RDP
Funding
€4bn

GLAS
Funding
€1.3bn





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Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Groups

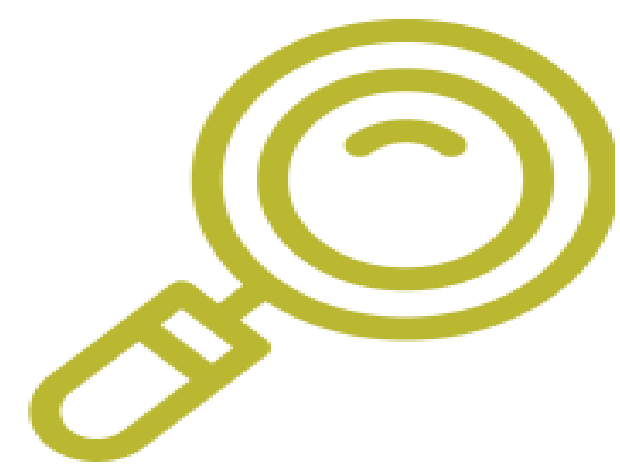


The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development
Europe investing in rural areas

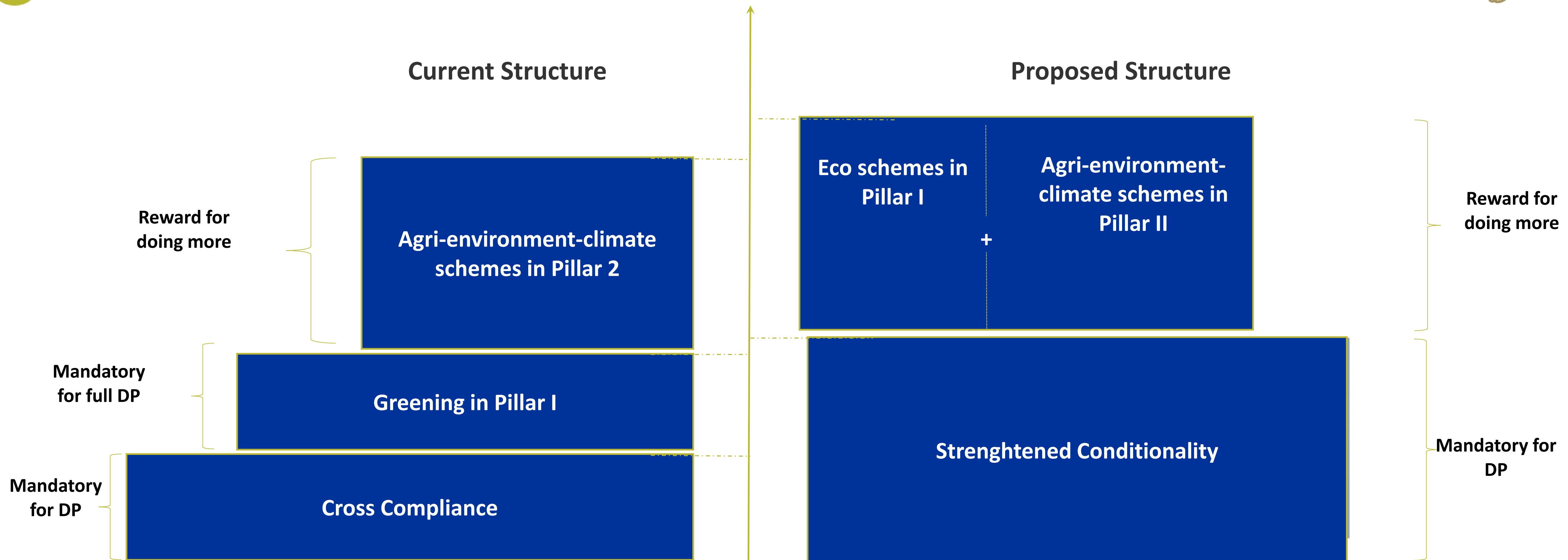


National Rural Network



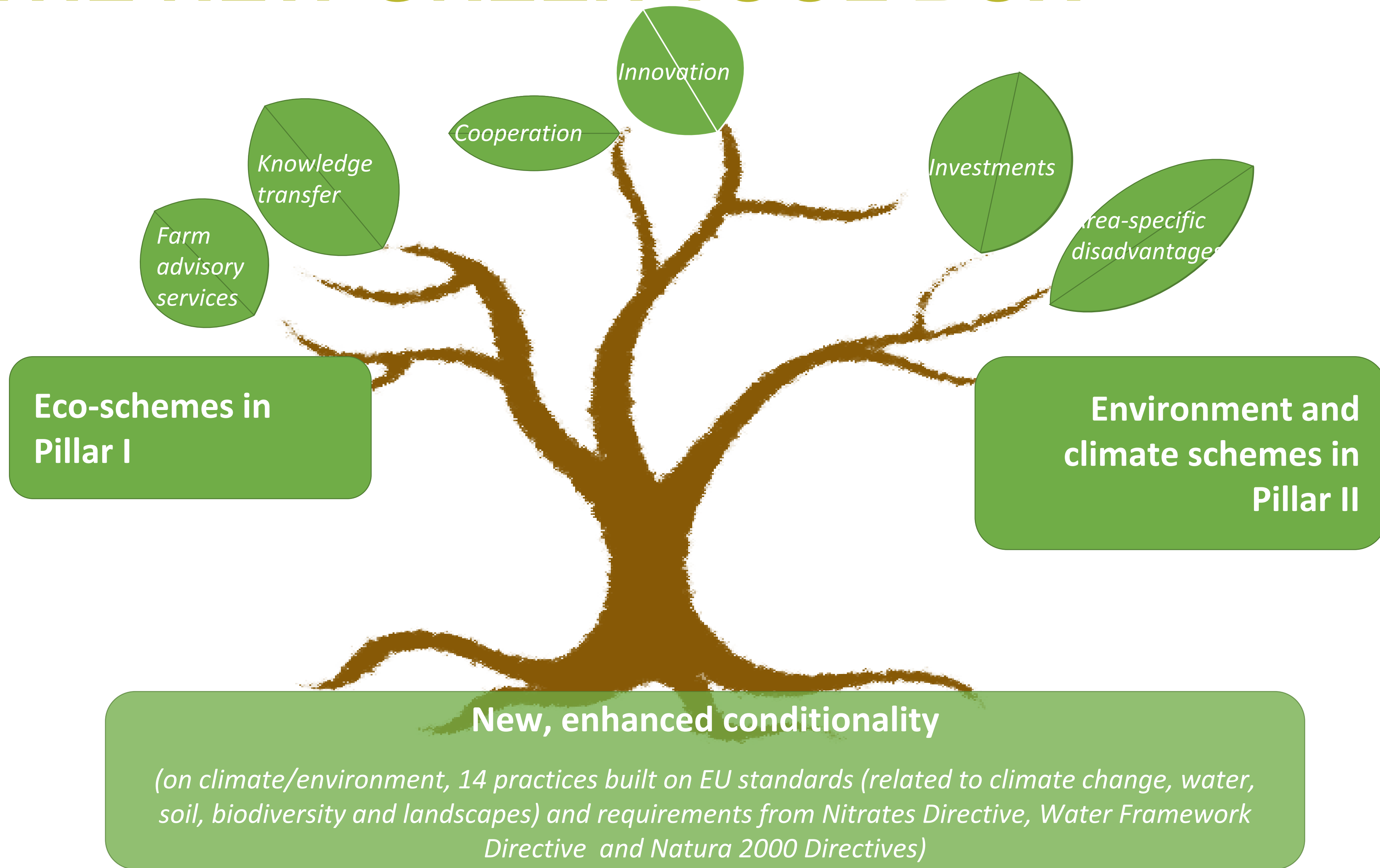


How will the new green architecture change?





THE NEW GREEN TOOL BOX



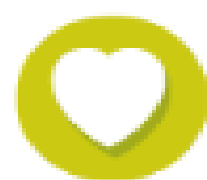
The Challenge



- Animal numbers increasing
- Fertiliser efficiency not optimised
- GHG and ammonia reductions required
- **The natural world is not improving**



Need a balance between production and environment



Conclusions



*“We must, indeed all hang together or, must assuredly,
we shall hang separately” Benjamin Franklin*

