

SUMMARY AGRICULTURE

Analysis of the Operational programme - Natura 2000 management programme for the period from 2007 to 2013 (Operational programme) in the agricultural sector includes an analysis of the implementation of conservation measures, an overview of qualifying species and habitat types in selected Natura 2000 sites; and policies and proposals for the preparation of the Natura 2000 Management Programme for the period from 2014 to 2020 (PUN2000).

In the Operational programme agri-environmental measures are defined as a crucial instrument for managing agricultural land within Natura 2000 sites. Analysis of achieving the objectives shows that during the period 2007–2013 we were not successful, because the objectives were achieved only in 11% of sites. The reasons for this can be found in some system errors, such as inadequate scheme of agri-environmental measures, which also in Natura 2000 sites allows entry of horizontal measures; inadequate financial evaluation of the so-called biodiversity agri-environmental measures; lack of promotion and education ...

Among other problems worth mentioning is the fast disappearance of habitat types species-rich meadows in some Natura 2000 sites (Ljubljansko barje, Goričko, Šentjernejsko polje ...). This is primarily the result of ploughing and intensification of grassland use. Significant problem is also the removal of certain landscape elements (hedges, ponds, trees ...) with which farmers in practice have quite a bit of trouble. Under the rules of Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) only actual agricultural land can be included in so-called "graphic land use unit". All other elements must be eliminated (such as linear structures, wider than 2 m; water bodies with surface area 25 m² and more ...). To avoid annoyance at on-the spot controls a lot of farmers prefer to opt for the complete elimination of these elements. Another problem that we are facing at Natura 2000 sites is overgrowing, which is a result of total or partial abandonment of agricultural use for various economic and social reasons.

The recommendations and suggestions related to the preparation of the PUN2000 are therefore linked to the formulation of agri-environmental measures (avoidance of horizontal measures, appropriate financial evaluation of measures ...) and the introduction of 'Natura 2000 payments' (to be implemented where the state of species-rich meadows is very bad) and 'Farm's Activity Plan', through which informing and awareness of farmers can be significantly improved. Also, the legislative provisions, governing the prevention of overgrowth, need to be reviewed and updated as the current are not completely effective.