

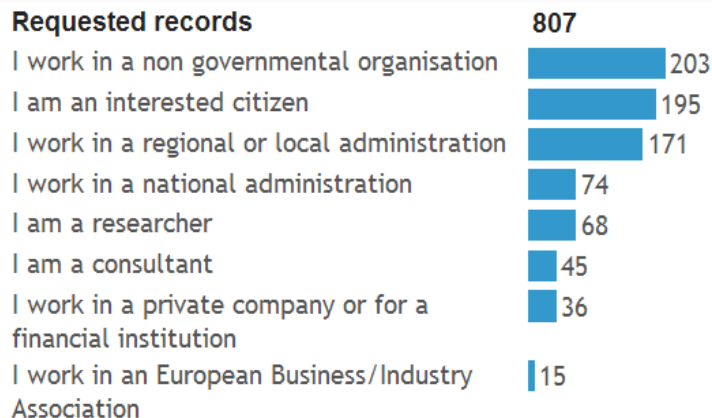
## 'Future EU co-financing of Natura 2000'

As fundamental part of the preparation of the new Communication on Financing Natura 2000, the Commission has very much taken into consideration the views gathered from public opinion. On 26th November 2010 until 17th February 2011 the Commission launched a public stakeholder consultation using the integrated policy making (IPM) internet consultation tool.

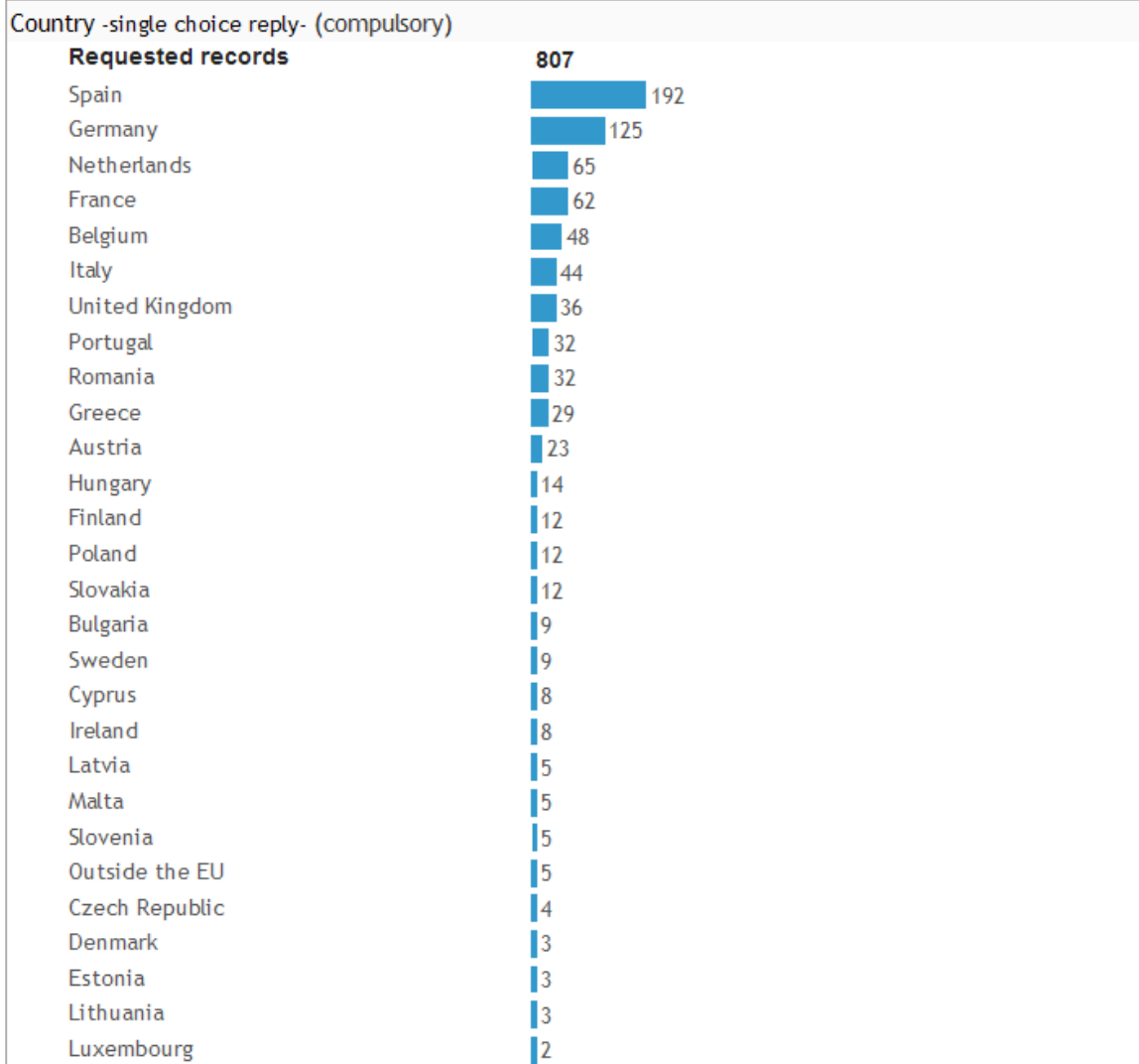
The objective of the online consultation was to gather the views of different stakeholders obtaining information on their perspectives regarding the Natura 2000 management strategies put in place, the improvement of funding mechanisms for nature and the assessment of the current approach towards the financing of conservation, restoration and management. The results of the **807** responses have been analysed and a report has been prepared according to the EC guidelines.

### Profile of the respondent

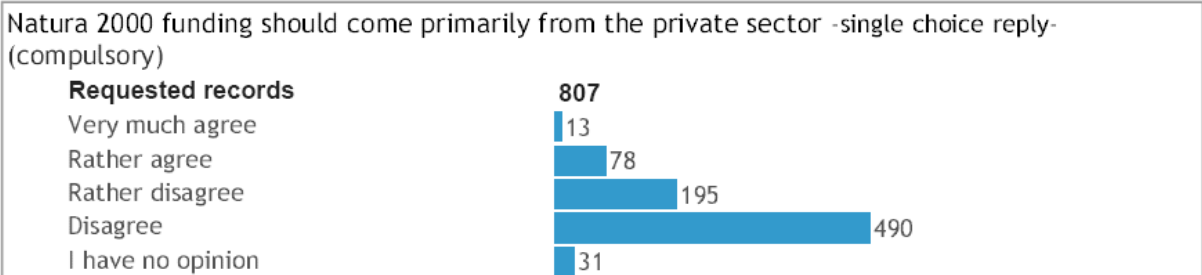
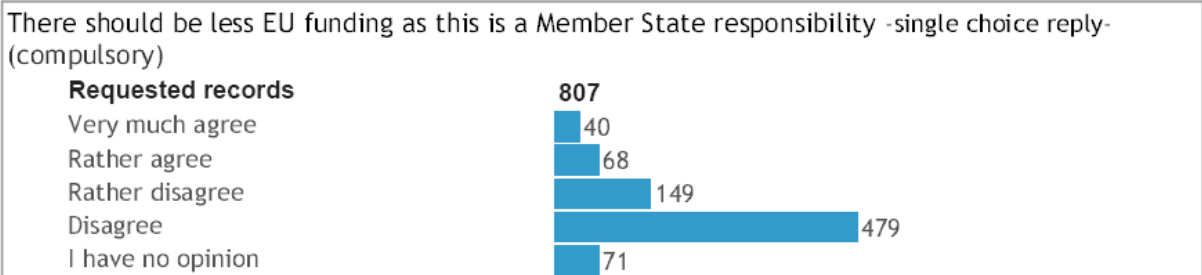
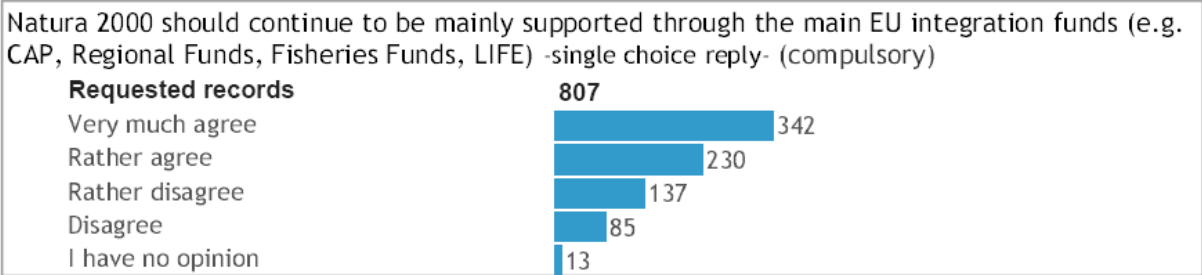
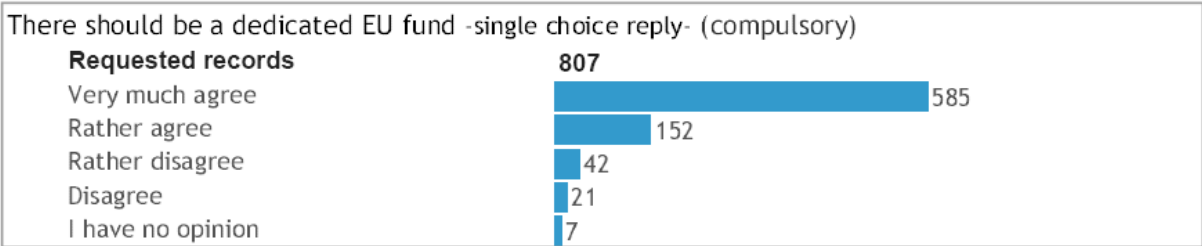
Status confirmation - I am responding on behalf of: -single choice reply- (compulsory)



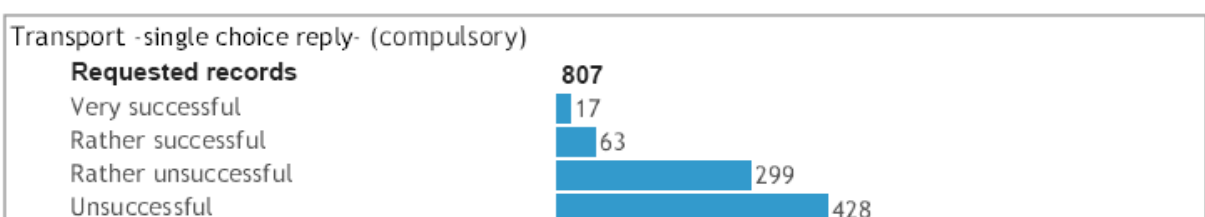
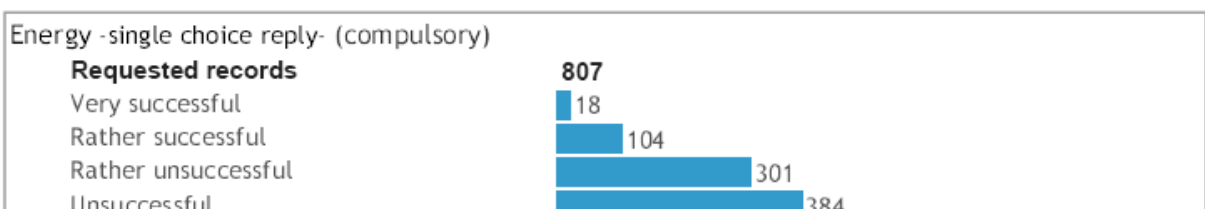
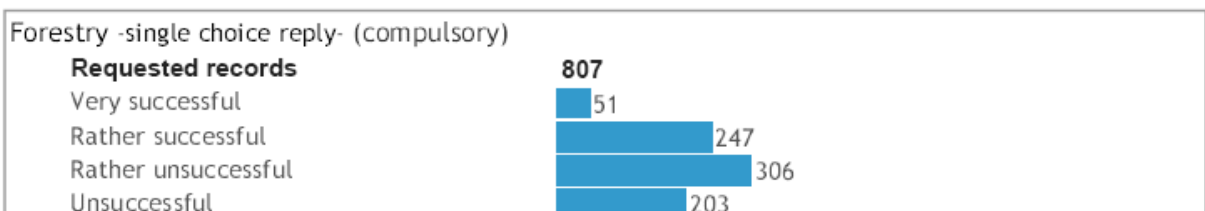
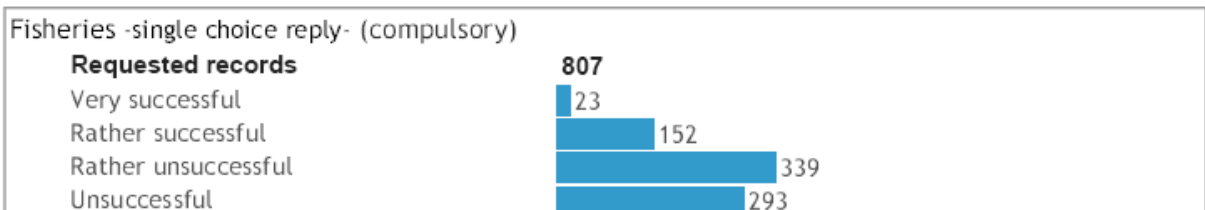
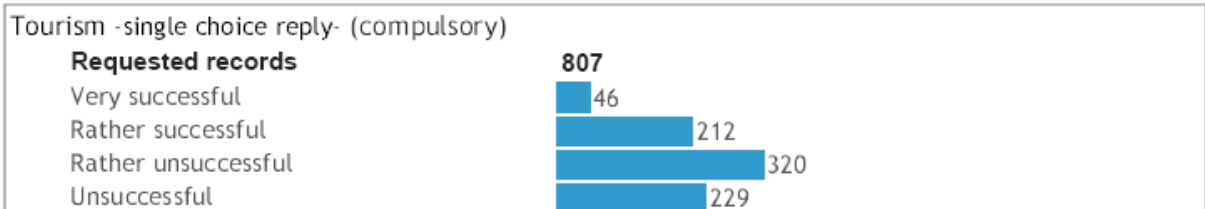
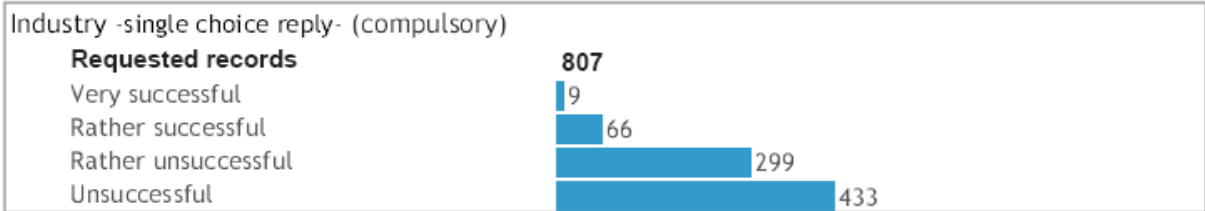
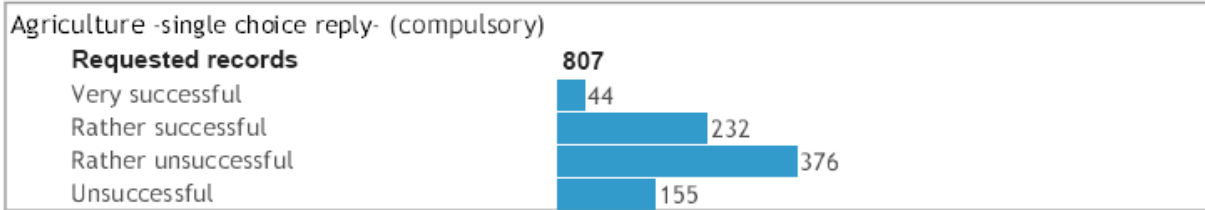
## Country



**Question 1. The effective management and restoration of Natura 2000 areas requires significant financial investments. This potentially can be provided by different sources. Please indicate how much you agree/disagree with the following statements**



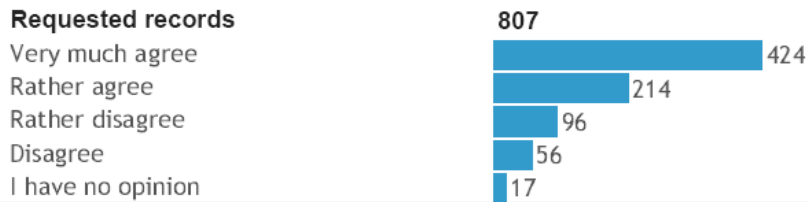
2. The current approach to the financing of Natura 2000 is to integrate it into the funding streams of different EU policy sectors, especially agriculture, regional development and fisheries funds to achieve good conservation and management results creating new economic opportunities within those sectors. In your opinion and up to now, how successful has this integration been?



## NATURA 2000 Funding Instruments

### 3. What are the most significant obstacles to Natura 2000 funding under current approach?

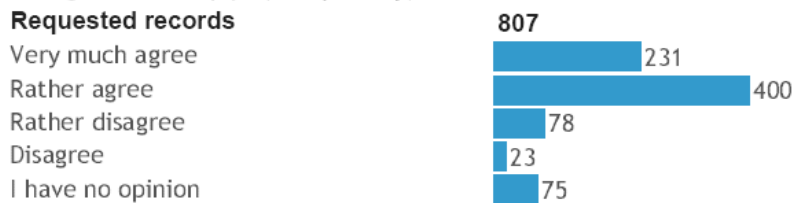
Lack of management plans from Member States and the measures taken were not sufficiently ambitious -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Lack of prioritization of Natura 2000 requirements in administrations dealing with main EU funding instruments -single choice reply- (compulsory)



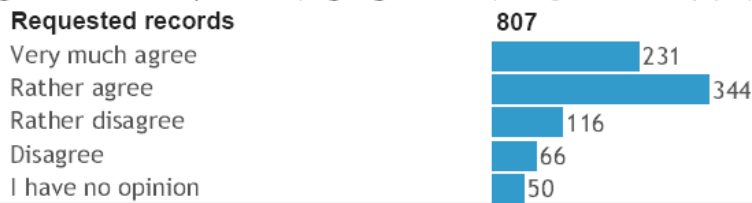
National/regional conditions to apply to EU funds are not sympathetic to Natura 2000 funding needs -single choice reply- (compulsory)



The administrative burden related to the use of EU funds -single choice reply- (compulsory)



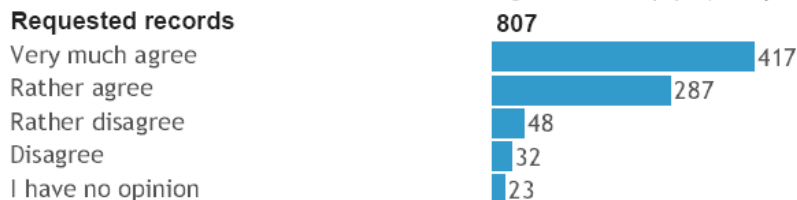
Lack of capacity to use large amounts of funding for Natura 2000 including in relation to its integration in other policies (e.g. agriculture) -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Payment levels for Natura 2000 are not sufficiently attractive to landowners and managers -single choice reply- (compulsory)

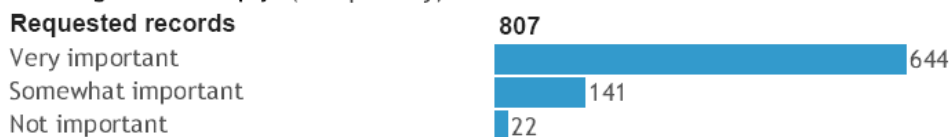


A low level of awareness and support whereby the socio-economic benefits provided by Natura 2000 sites are underestimated or unknown -single choice reply- (compulsory)



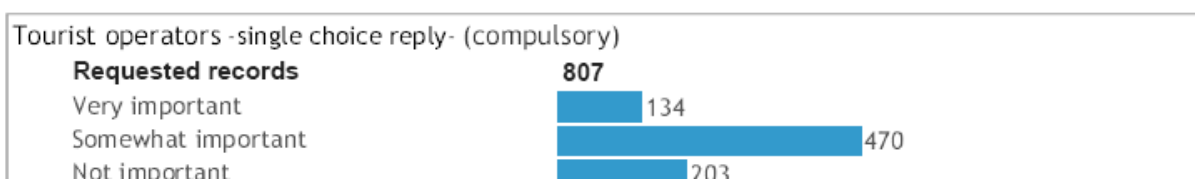
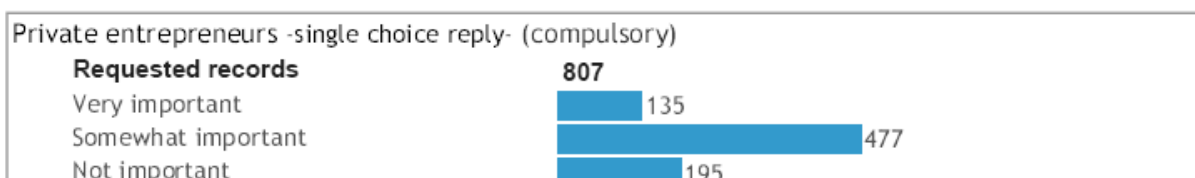
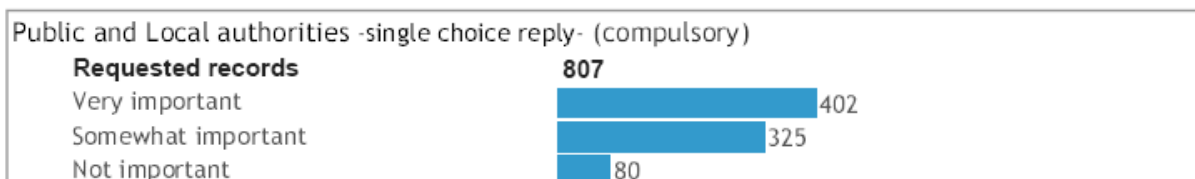
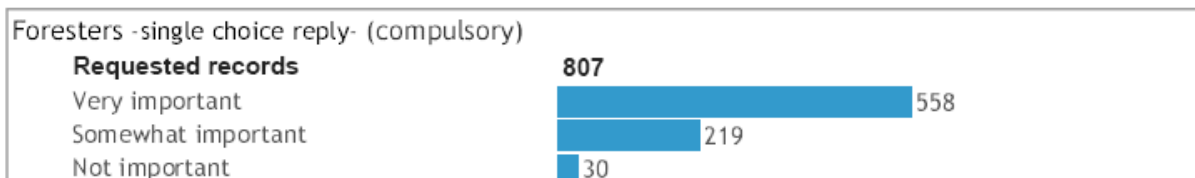
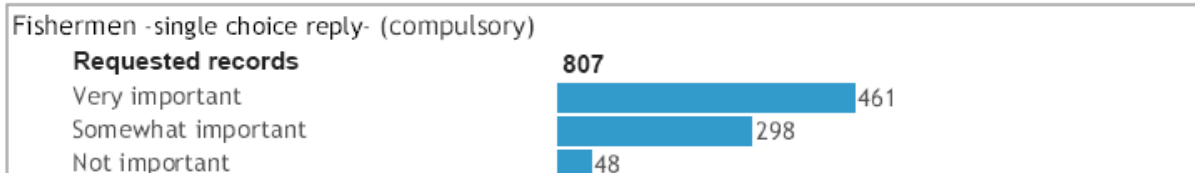
#### 4. What are the most important stakeholders/user groups to be supported?

Farmers -single choice reply- (compulsory)

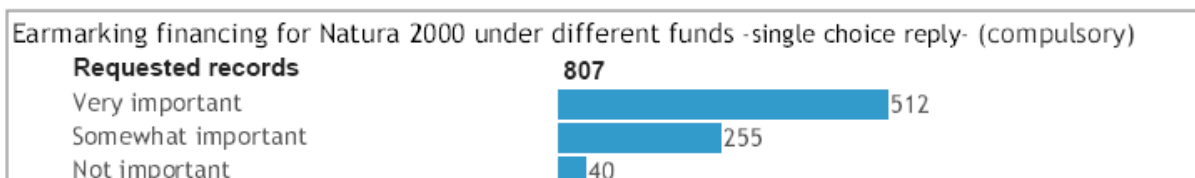


Local stakeholders and environmental NGOs -single choice reply- (compulsory)





## 5. How can Natura 2000 funding be improved?



Provide for a general Natura 2000 payment to recognise the EU public good of Natura 2000 -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Securing private investment using innovative and market-based instruments -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Linking payments to results in relation to conservation objectives -single choice reply- (compulsory)



National and Regional multi-annual strategies for Natura 2000 for integration in the different EU financing tools -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Reduce administrative burden linked to EU funding programmes -single choice reply- (compulsory)

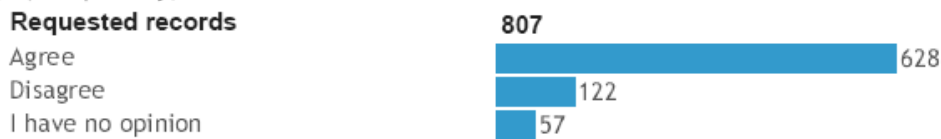


Increase knowledge base, training and capacity building in national/regional administrations on management measures and funding opportunities to support their delivery -single choice reply- (compulsory)



## 6. What innovative instruments could be used?

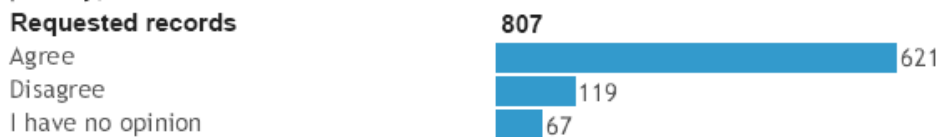
Fiscal instruments such as tax exception for Natura 2000 landowners and managers -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Involvement of the banking sector through *green funds* -single choice reply- (compulsory)



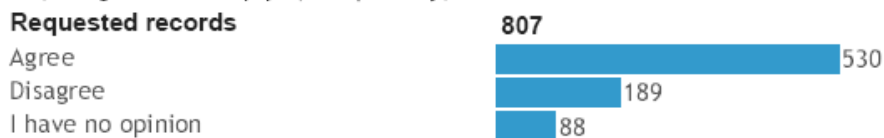
Payment for ecosystem services (PES) (e.g. payments for provision of clean water, flood management, health and recreation benefits, etc) linked to Natura 2000 -single choice reply- (compulsory)



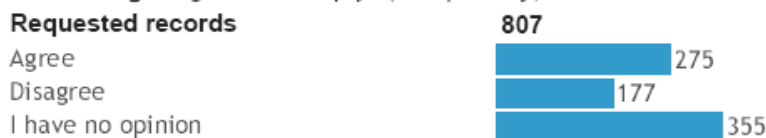
Boost private engagement on natural sites in the frame of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Fees and taxes from specific beneficiary sectors (i.e. transport, energy producers, agro-business, tourism) -single choice reply- (compulsory)

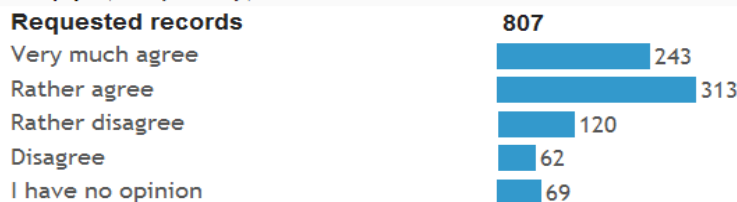


Habitat banking -single choice reply- (compulsory)

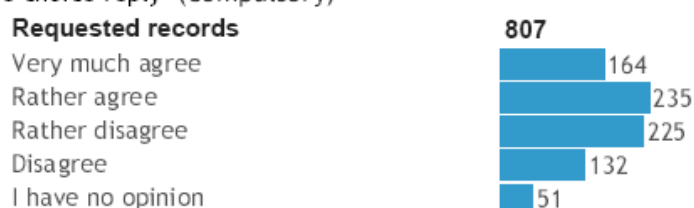


## 7. The LIFE Nature and Biodiversity instrument specifically supports nature conservation projects, especially for Natura 2000. What could be the future potential role of LIFE instrument for Natura 2000?

The future LIFE instrument should continue focusing on start-up initiatives and best practices -single choice reply- (compulsory)



The future LIFE instrument should become the main source of funding for Natura 2000 sites - single choice reply- (compulsory)



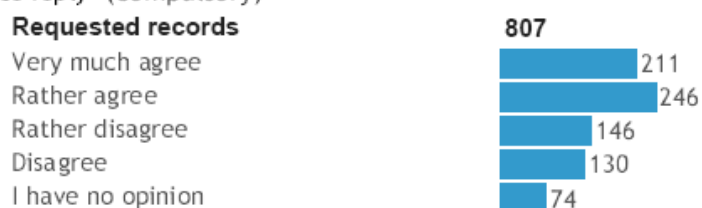
The future LIFE instrument should focus on setting up the conditions for long term management of Natura2000 sites -single choice reply- (compulsory)



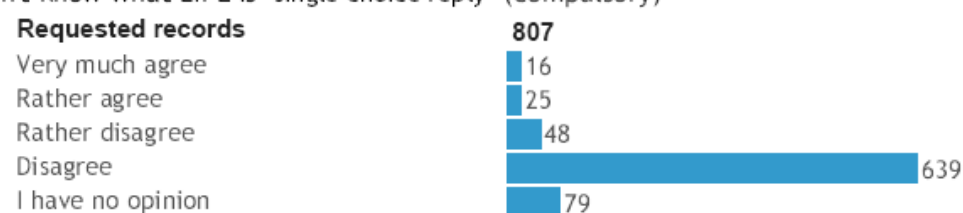
LIFE should support more strategic programmes of action for Natura 2000 -single choice reply- (compulsory)



LIFE should primarily aim to be a catalyst for other major EU funds (e.g. agriculture) -single choice reply- (compulsory)



I don't know what LIFE is -single choice reply- (compulsory)



8. In your opinion, should the funding allocation be conditional on management plans or equivalent instruments setting out the necessary conservation measures?

-single choice reply- (compulsory)

**Requested records**

**807**

Yes



No



No opinion



9. If funding is limited, should prioritization be given to sites hosting priority habitats and species (listed in Annexes I and II to the Habitats Directive as well as the indicative list of priority bird species)?

-single choice reply- (compulsory)

**Requested records**

**807**

Yes



No

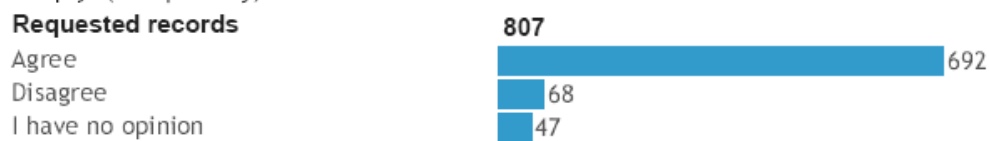


No opinion

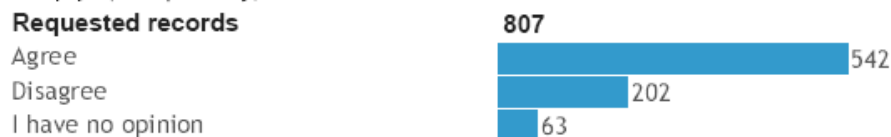


## 10. How to monitor the efficacy of Natura 2000 financial investments?

Each fund needs ecological indicators to determine if there are improvements in the sites -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Set up monitoring committees at the national/regional level to assess the use of funds -single choice reply- (compulsory)



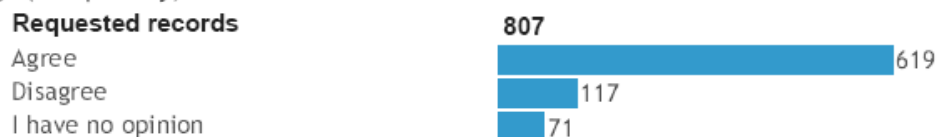
A better coding system in different EU instruments to determine allocation of funds to Natura 2000 -single choice reply- (compulsory)



The conservation status assessment of species and habitats (e.g. Article 17 report) is sufficient -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Supporting local stakeholder involvement in the tasks of on-site result evaluation -single choice reply- (compulsory)



## Additional comments

How did you perceive the questionnaire? -single choice reply- (compulsory)



Why? -single choice reply- (optional)

