Enabling local communities to improve the delivery of Public Goods: PEGASUS

EU AgriResearch conference. Brussels

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This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 633814

PEGASUS – what we set out to do

PEGASUS
Public Ecosystem Goods and Services from land management – Unlocking the Synergies

"To assess and stimulate more effective and sustained provision of public goods and ecosystem services ("environmental and social benefits") from EU farmland and forests."

Using different approaches, including 34 case studies of diverse, mainly local, initiatives in agriculture, forestry and environmental enhancement in ten countries

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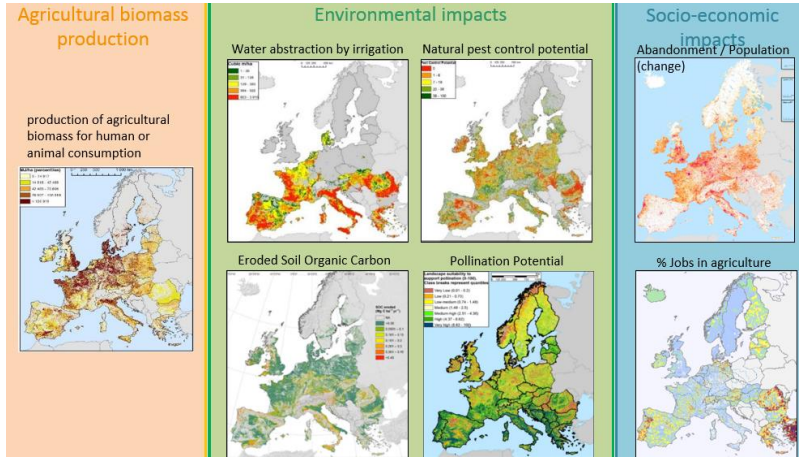
Key outputs

- Individual and comparative analysis of case studies; use of action research
- Toolkit: setting up multi-actor initiatives
- Mapping of systems and Public Goods
- Lessons for policy and practice

Case studies:

Mapping:



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Mix of contrasting models revealed

- Cooperation within the supply chain
- Producer led initiatives
- Private sector initiated action
- NGO driven action

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Understanding and harnessing social processes is key

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- Rural environmental and social benefits rely on the actions of farmers, forest-managers and other actors, working together in local communities and along supply chains:
  - identifying opportunities
  - exchanging ideas
  - building momentum
  - testing and developing
  - combining policies, markets *and* motivations

Understanding why and how this happens is vital for securing increased and more widespread benefits

- PEGASUS provided a wide range of robust and resilient examples from case studies, validated in a range of local, national and EU workshops

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Toolkit: Working Together to Build a Successful Initiative (T5.3)

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Initiation	• defining the system, identifying the challenge and context for action, sharing ideas and gaining confidence
Preparation and Planning	• identifying and linking key actors, building trust, communication, mutual goals and aspirations, • working to overcome barriers and resolve conflicts, step-wise and sensitive, responding to actors' needs, • understanding drivers, opportunities and unique context
Multi-actor implementation	• finding synergies, setting up formal structures / institutions; • agreeing protocols for management, communication, leadership, reciprocity and respect
Review, adaptation and staying relevant	• no situation is static: initiatives must change to remain effective in new circumstances • marking and celebrating achievements adds value

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Mapping add-on to the toolkit (T5.2)

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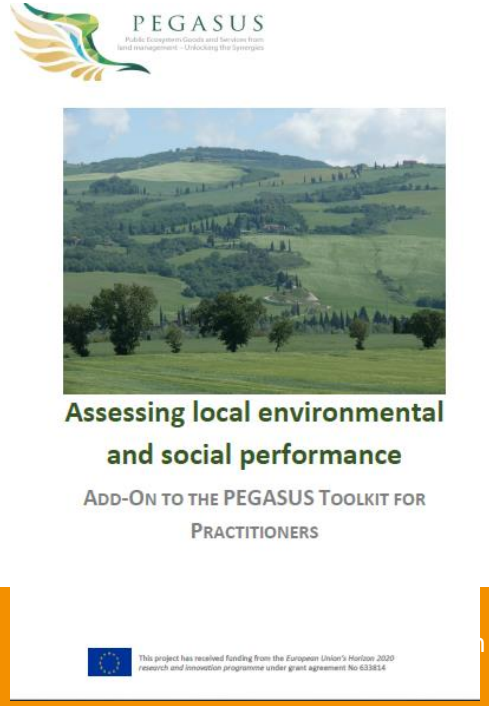
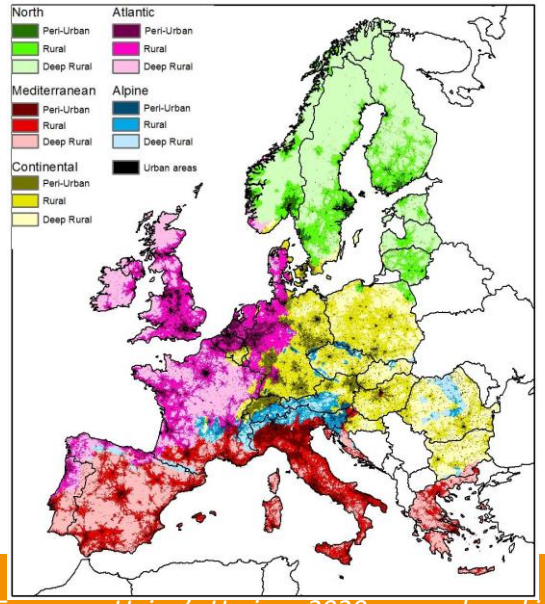
- Aim: to help local projects understand:
  - the state of the provision of environmental and social benefits in agriculture and forestry in their region.
  - compare the performance of the local area in which their initiatives are located against an average of other areas in the EU with similar socio-economic characteristics.

Guidance:



Rural Typologies used:



Datasets:

Two electronic Excel spreadsheets:

1. a list of municipalities in the EU with benchmark values of the selected environmental & social benefits

2. 12 tables, one for each of the indicators, describing the s selected env/social benefits

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What does this mean for policy?

- Increasing the focus on capacity building, facilitation and multi-actor engagement:
- Supporting empowerment and innovation:
- Encouraging more cooperation / collective approaches:
- Important to maintain accountability for expenditure and to ensure that there are mechanisms to measure progress towards results

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What next for research in rural Public Goods Provision?

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- Deeper analysis of the forms of land management that provide PGs under different conditions
- Improved understanding of synergies and trade-offs
- Extended examination of demand side of the public goods equation
- Strengthening socio-cultural indicators of Public Goods
- Development of more effective, lower cost means of measuring environmental change at farm level; linked to engagement and empowerment strategies
- Developing policy designs that facilitate collective action and more innovative approaches; broadening results based approaches
- Exploring barriers to collective approaches
- Enhanced use of existing data, including in maps and policy evaluation

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Thank you for listening!

For more information, contact us!

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