

Results-based AEC payments

Improving water and soil quality in Flanders, Belgium

Description and key objectives

The agri-environment-climate (AEC) scheme for improving water quality ensures that participating farmers grow no less than four main crops, of which three are low-risk crops other than grassland that occupy at least 90% of their arable land. The project aims to:

- Reduce the risk of nitrates leaching from arable land.
- Reduce the risk of soil erosion.
- Encourage farmers to improve the levels of organic matter in their soil.

Key achievements

- Farmers carrying out soil analysis of organic content and acidity in the first year of contract.
- Payment of € 245 per hectare of low-risk arable crops per year.
- Introduction of an indicator for nitrogen levels in the residual soil, with the threshold for payment set at least 4 kg nitrogen per hectare below the lowest value set by Flemish regulations.

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| Total project budget | € 5 200 000 |
| EU contribution (EAFRD) | € 2 600 000 |
| National/regional contribution | € 2 600 000 |

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| RDP Measure | Agri-environment-climate, M10 |
| Timeframe | 2014-2020 |
| Website | http://www.vlm.be/nl/themas/beheerovereenkomsten |

