

INVENTORY OF SOIL PROTECTION POLICY INSTRUMENTS IN EU MEMBER STATES – KEY MESSAGES

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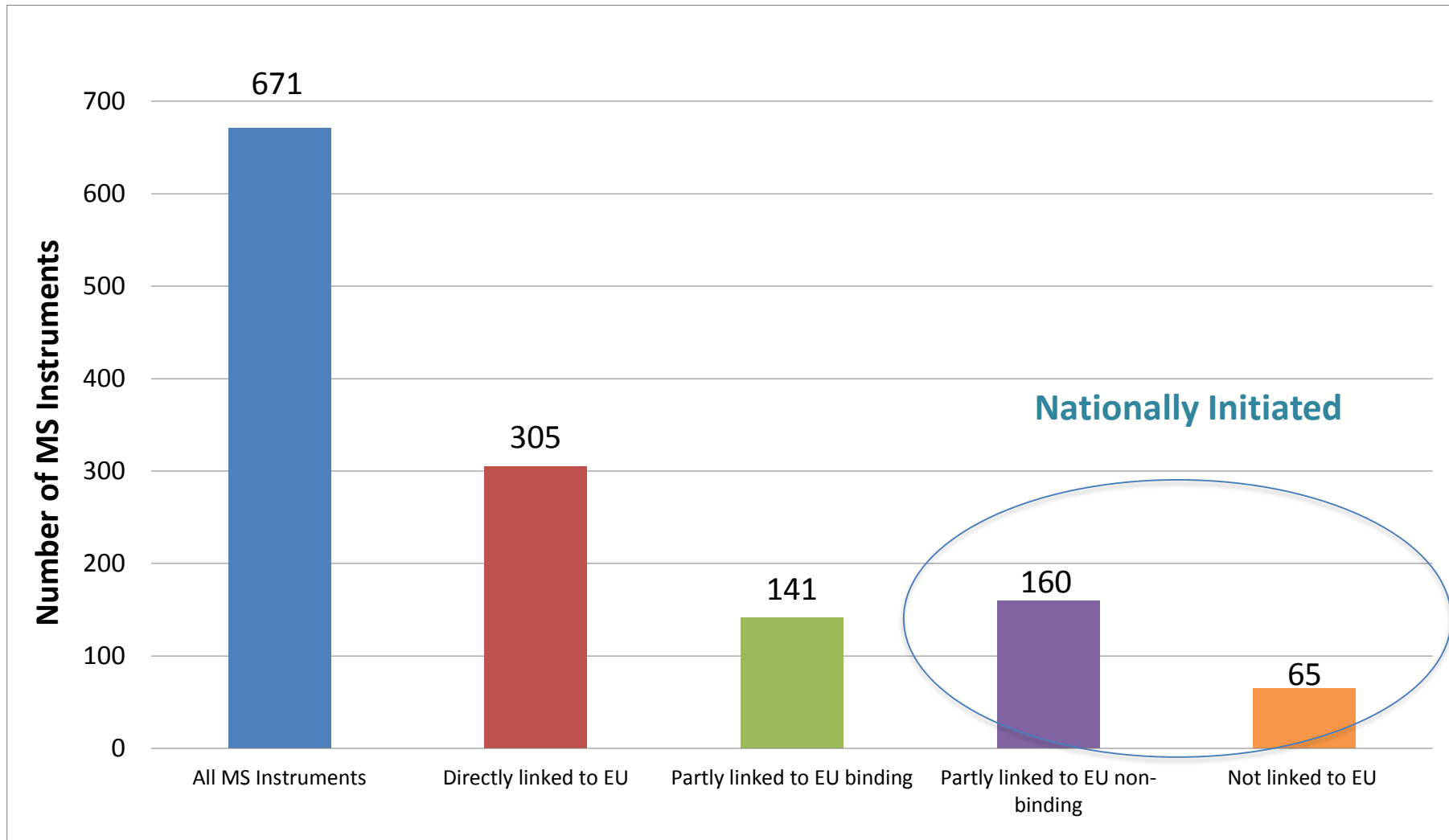
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DG Environment Study (12/2015 – 12/2016)

- ▶ “Updated inventory and assessment of soil protection policy instruments in EU Member States”
- ▶ Collaborative Wiki platform & a synthesis report
 - ▶ EU Expert Group on Soil Protection
 - ▶ 35 instruments at EU level, 671 MS instruments
 - ▶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/pdf/Soil_inventory_report.pdf

Member State Instruments



Nationally initiated instruments – some examples

- ▶ Soil Protection Acts / Decrees (e.g. AT, BE, DE, NL, SK)
- ▶ Agricultural / Cultivated Land Acts / Decrees (e.g. BG, HR, SI, CZ, PL, DK, UK)
- ▶ Acts / Decrees related to contamination and remediation (e.g. AT, FI, SE)
- ▶ Subsurface / subsoil use (e.g. LV, NL)

EU instruments – highest relevance for soils

- ▶ Soil Thematic Strategy
- ▶ Diffuse Pollution & Contamination
 - Environmental Impact Assessment Directive
 - Waste Framework Directive
 - Industrial Emissions Directive
 - Sewage Sludge Directive
 - Waste Framework Directive
- ▶ Water & nature management
 - Water Framework Directive
 - Nitrates Directive
 - Habitats and Birds Directives
- ▶ Common Agricultural Policy

Soil protection as a side effect

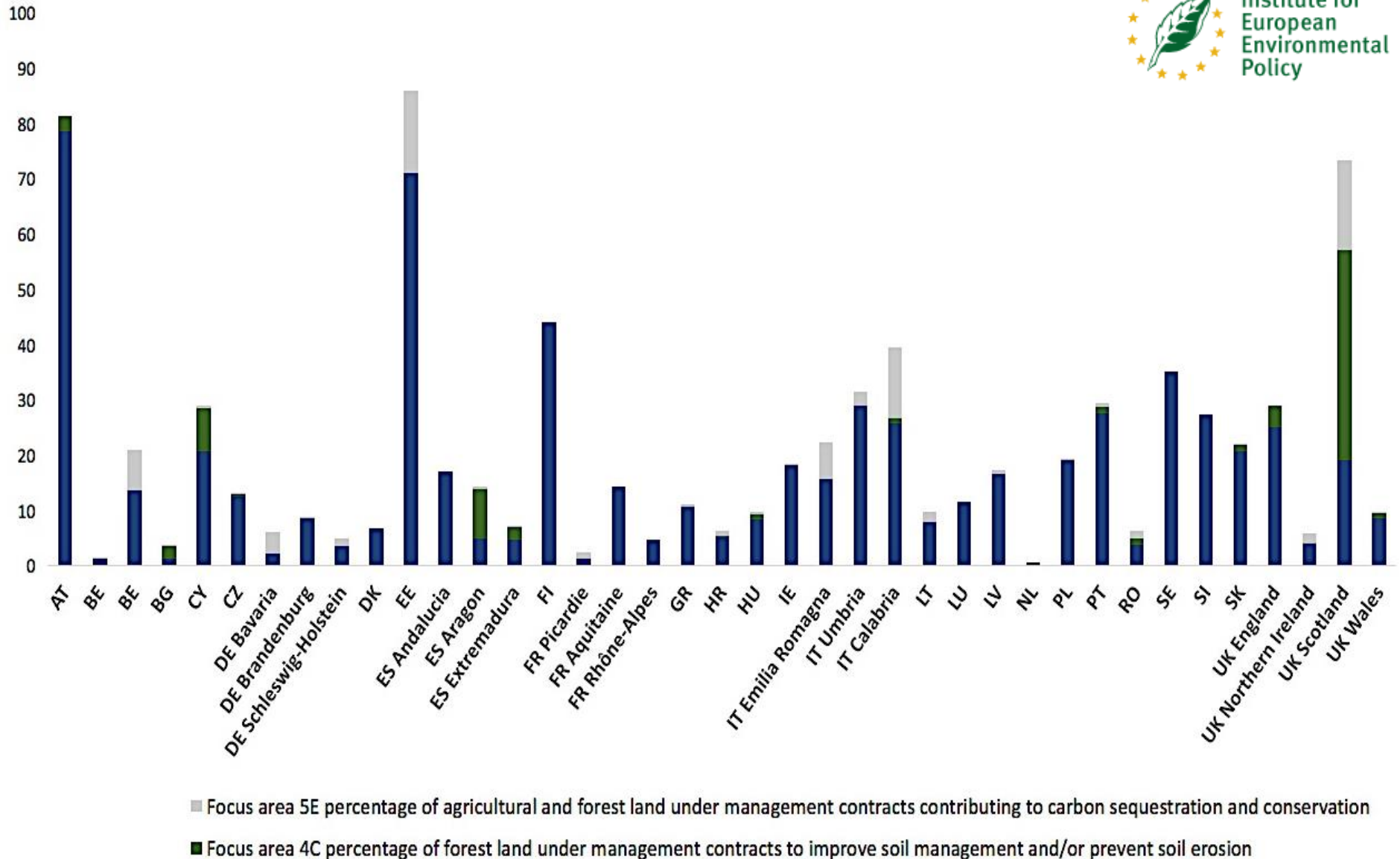
- ▶ Diversity, fragmentation, large number of instruments
- ▶ Lack of strategic coordination and absence of binding targets for soils inhibit integration / streamlining of soil concerns in other policy areas (incl. CAP, Cohesion Fund)
- ▶ Soil protection mostly pursued as a means of meeting water / nature / air related objectives
- ▶ Limited elaboration in EU law of soil functions and soil ecosystem services, and what action would be required for their protection

Common Agricultural Policy

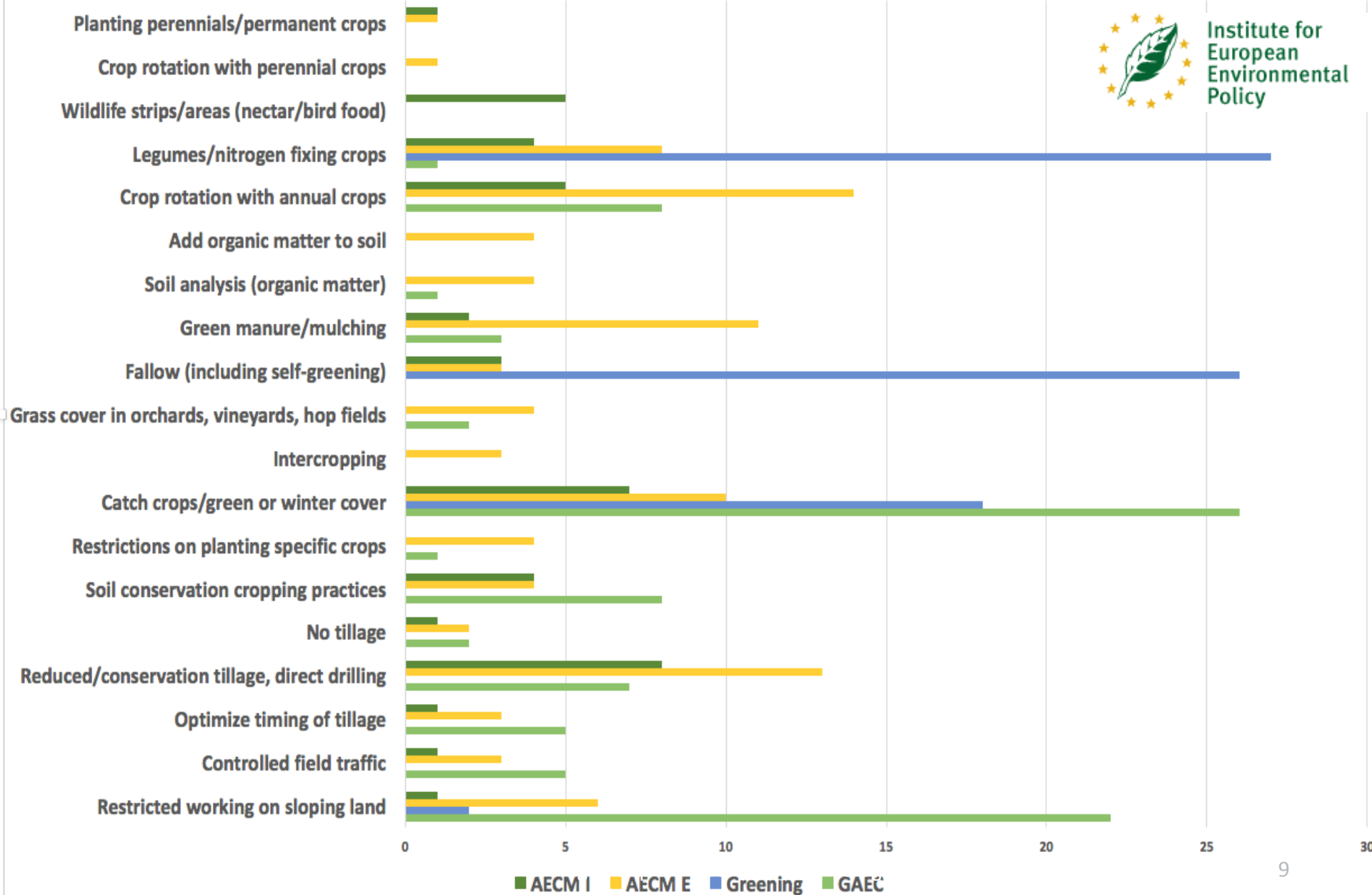


- ▶ Key instrument for soil protection on agricultural and forest land
- ▶ EU-28 analysis of the inclusion of selected soil management measures in GAEC standards 4-7, EFAs under greening obligations and RDP agri-environment-climate sub-measures (40 RDPs) → task lead by IEEP
- ▶ Four broad types of soil management measures:
 - arable and permanent crops systems
 - permanent grassland and wetlands
 - input management (including SOM)
 - buffer strips, landscape features and trees

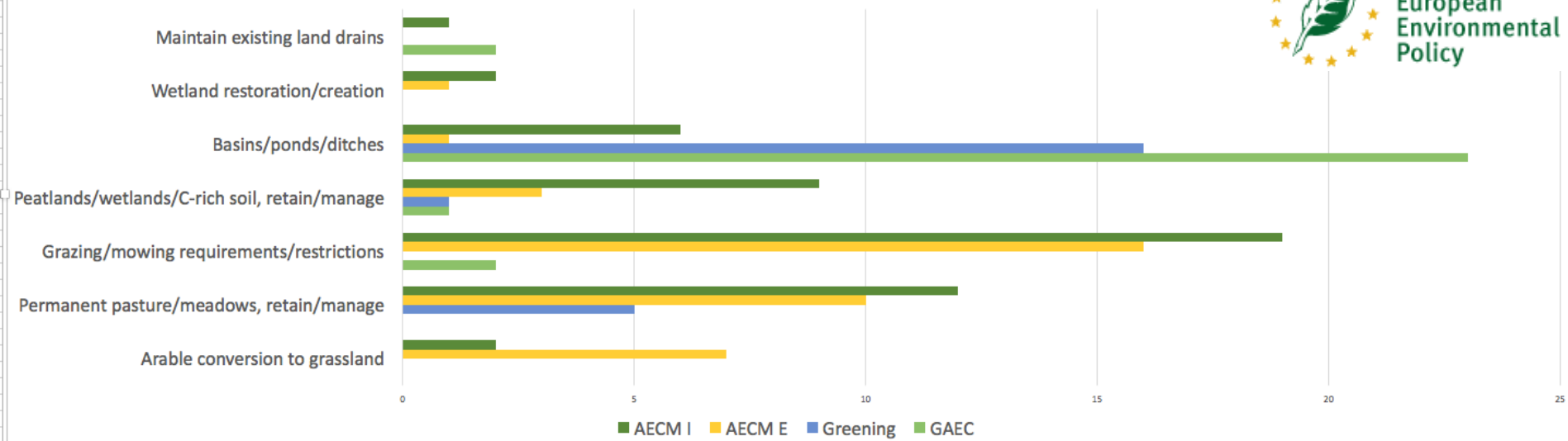
Target indicators for Focus areas 4C and 5E in selected RDPs 2014-20 (N = 40)



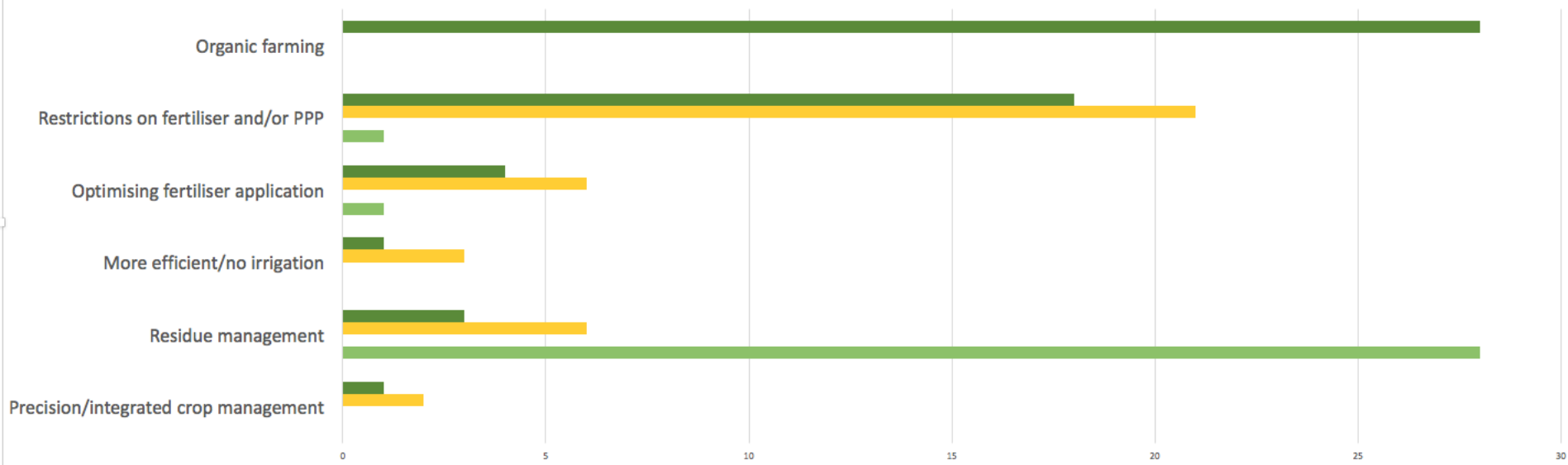
Arable and permanent crops - soil management practices by CAP instrument and number of Member States



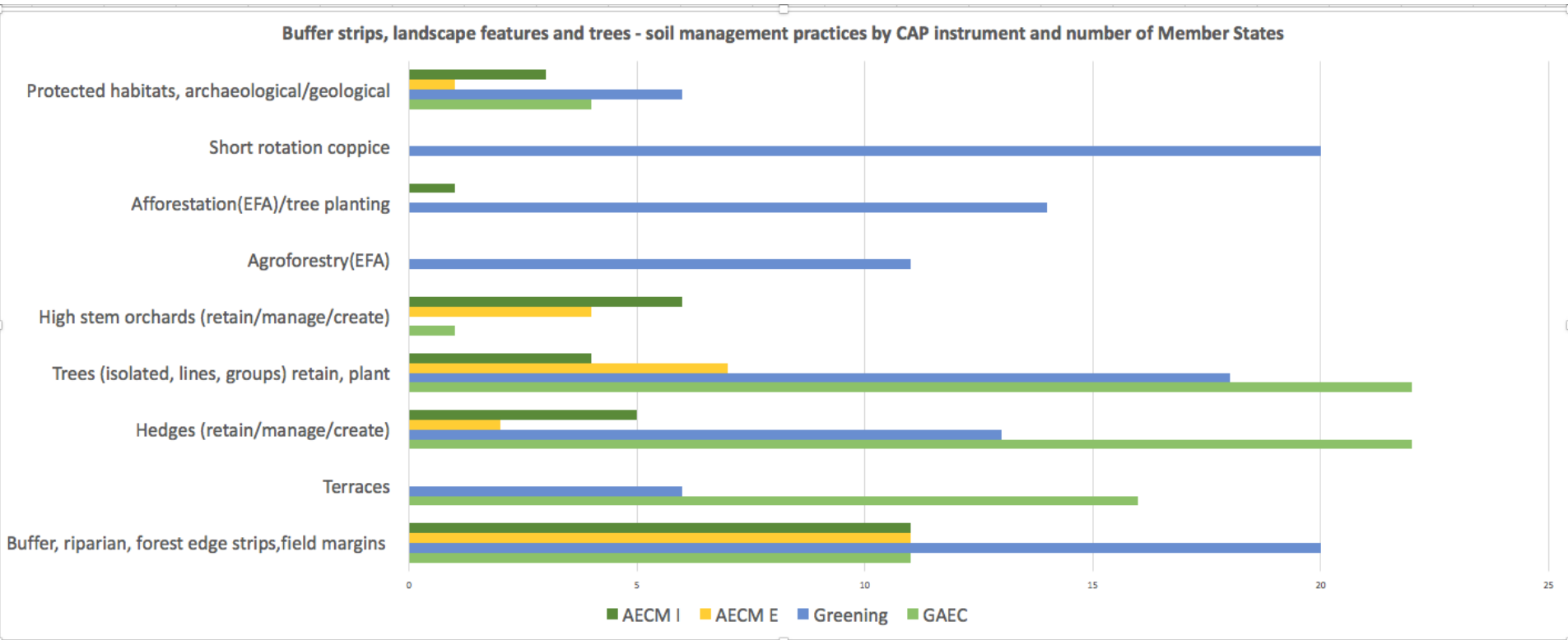
Permanent grassland and wetland - soil management practices by CAP instrument and number of Member States



Input management practices by CAP instrument and number of Member States



Buffer strips, landscape features and trees - soil management practices by CAP instrument and number of Member States



Common Agricultural Policy



- ▶ Subsidiarity enables flexibility which in turns allows for targeted and locally appropriate approaches
- ▶ However potential for soil protection is limited by:
 - Absence of legal requirements to demonstrate targeting against specific needs and priorities for soils
 - No requirement to develop a coherent approach for soil management and ensure synergies between GAECs, greening practices, and RDP measures

Thank you for your attention.

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