

Workshop on areas facing natural and other specific constraints (ANCs)

18 October 2016

Areas affected by specific constraints



Areas affected by specific constraints

- Member States continue to have a great degree of flexibility for designating the areas affected by specific constraints.
- Payments 'for land management to be continued in order to conserve or improve the environment, to maintain the countryside, to preserve the tourist potential of the area or to protect the coastline'.
- Limitation: a ceiling of 10% of the total area of the respective Member State.
- Must be done according to clearly defined and verifiable criteria.

Combination of bio-physical criteria

Areas may be considered as areas facing specific constraints if:

- At least two of the 'biophysical criteria' apply, each within a margin of not more than 20 % of the respective threshold values, in a given local unit covering at least 60 % of the agricultural area.
- At least 60 % of the agricultural area is composed of areas where at least one of the biophysical criteria reaches the threshold value and of areas where at least two of the biophysical criteria each falls within a margin of not more than 20% of the threshold value.

The requirement of fine-tuning of the areas concerned applies.

Examples of current designations

Åland islands – Finland

Designated area: Archipelago consisting of more than 6700 named islands.

Specific natural/agricultural conditions: coastal line, isolated geographical situation and high costs of transport. Relative dependence on a few large enterprises making the archipelago's economy vulnerable.

Justification for the ANCs payment: to avoid land abandonment: ANCs payments are essential for the protection of the coastline, agricultural biodiversity and the creation and maintenance of the touristic potential.



Examples of current designations

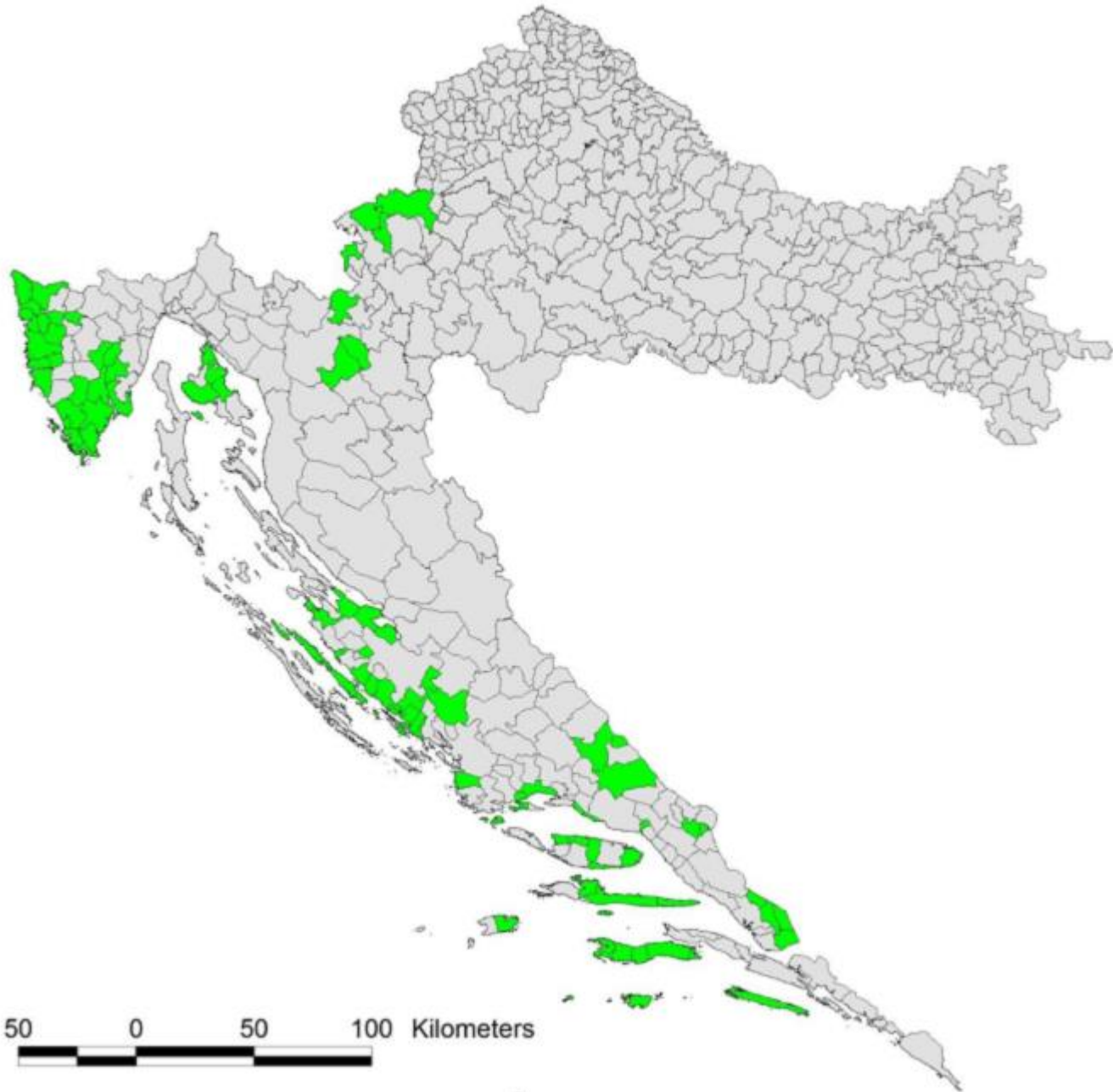
Croatia:

Designated area: The LAU2 is defined as an area with specific constraints if *karst* is present on more than 50 % of its territory.

Specific natural/agricultural conditions: lack of water for irrigation, small holdings, low production viability, no possibility to use modern mechanisation tools on areas with slope and shallow soil, heavy rainfalls and floods provoking erosion.

Justification for the ANCs payment: Without agricultural activities, land would be exposed to erosion resulting in loss of topsoil, reduced plant coverage and finally diminished biodiversity.

The diversification of agricultural activities and tourism help to create new jobs, thus preventing depopulation and land abandonment.



Examples of current designations

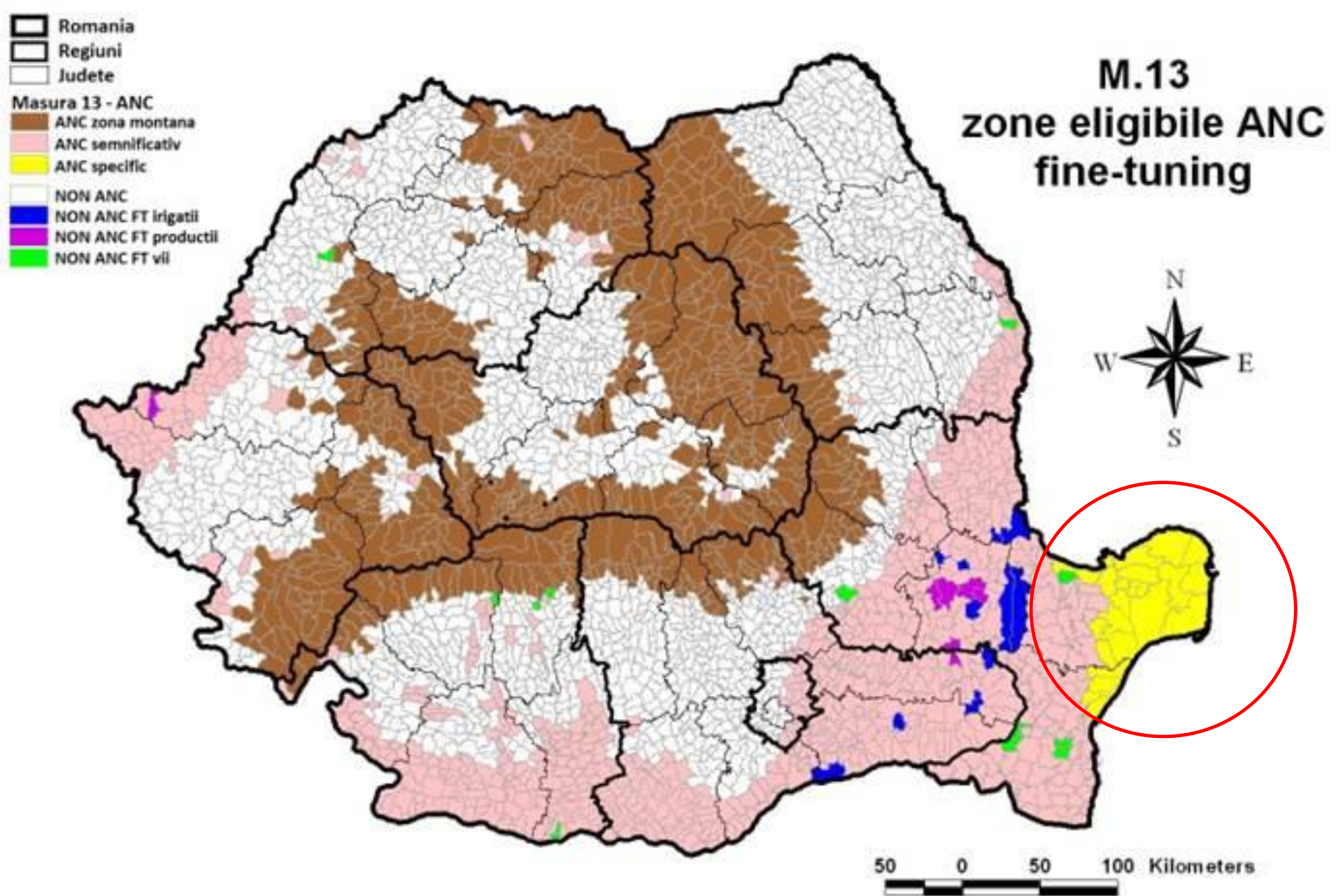
Romania:

Designated area: Danube Delta' Biosphere Reservation.

Specific natural/agricultural conditions: The areas eligible in this category are affected by the climate biophysical criteria 'dryness', 'limited soil drainage' and 'unfavourable texture and stoniness, presence of salts, exchangeable sodium' in different percentage.

Justification for the ANCs payment: The area covered is of special importance to the EU in terms of environmental objectives.

The Danube Delta with the other adjacent units represent the largest territory considered important wetlands in Europe, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Thank you for your attention