



Rural development toolbox for Natura 2000

ENRD SEMINAR

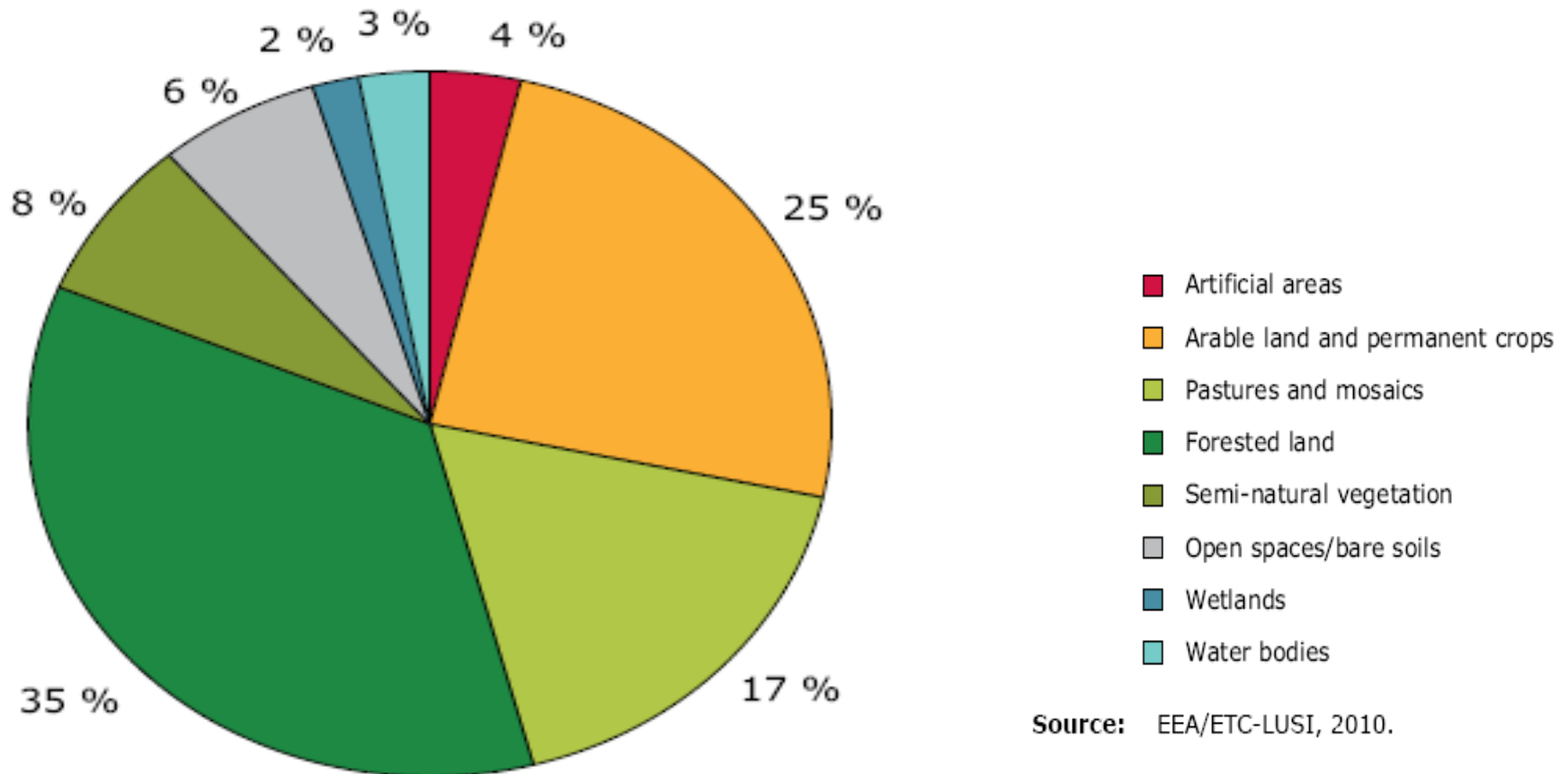
*Natura 2000: making an effective use of the support possibilities
under rural development policy*

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Agriculture & environment – the inextricable link

Farmers and foresters manage more than 80% of EU land area.

Land cover 2006 (% of total)



Source: EEA/ETC-LUSI, 2010.

Objective: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action

Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems

- FA 4A: restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints, and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes

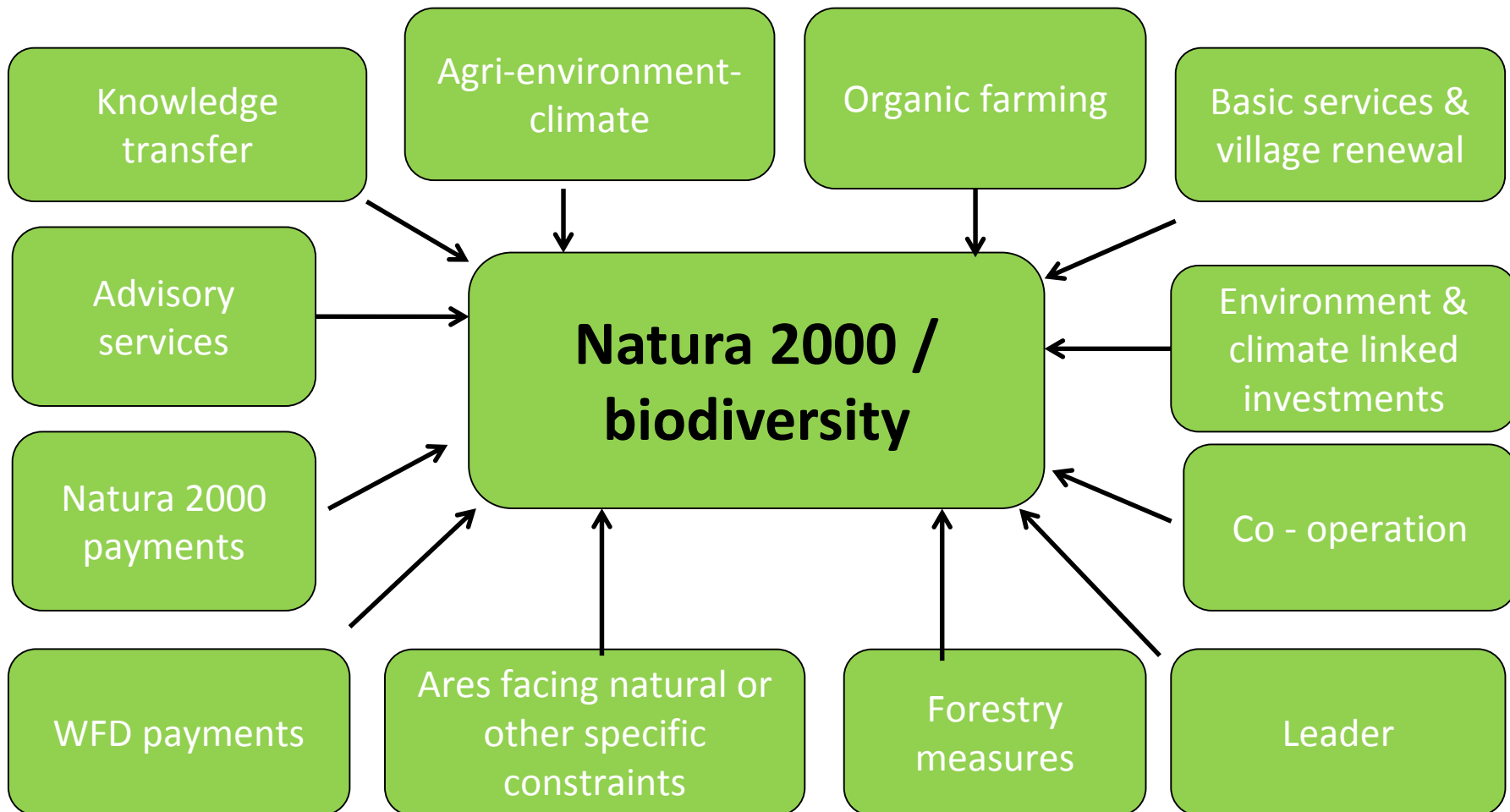
Two ways to motivate environmentally sound attitudes

- ❖ How land is managed by farmers and foresters is environmentally crucial to limit the risks of possible negative effects but also to preserve existing assets.

- ❖ Two approaches to minimalise the risks and preserve the environmental assets:
 - Regulatory framework (legislation) setting obligations: Birds and Habitats Directives but also cross-compliance in the CAP

 - Incentives encouraging environmentally positive voluntary behaviours: rural development.

Rural Development toolbox



Natura 2000 & Water Framework Directive (art. 30)

❖ Why do we need this measure?

- To contribute to the effective management of Natura 2000 sites and river basins areas and to help ensuring the protection of these sites
- To compensate eligible land managers for disadvantages in the areas concerned resulting from the implementation of the relevant law (+ stepping stone areas).

Agri-environment-climate (art. 28)

❖ Why do we need this measure?

- To encourage land managers to apply land management farming practices favourable to the environment (natural resources: biodiversity, soil, water; genetic diversity; the landscape and its features) and climate change mitigation and adaptation
- To support environmentally positive changes to farming practices as well as maintenance of the existing favourable practices
- Payments covering only commitments which go beyond mandatory standards in accordance with "polluter pays principle" i.e. rewarding voluntary environmentally sound actions.

Organic farming (art. 29)

❖ Why do we need this measure?

- A separate measure to recognise the importance of organic farming in contributing to various rural development priorities
- To support both conversion to and maintenance of organic farming practices and to answer society's demand for the use of such practices.

Other measures (1)

- ❖ **Basic services and village renewal in rural areas:** drawing up of protection plans & management plans for N2000 and other HNV areas + studies & investments linked to the maintenance and restoration of the natural heritage of the villages, rural landscapes, HNV sites and environmental awareness actions.
- ❖ **Knowledge transfer:** provide relevant training e.g. on AEC commitments and to feed the capacity to innovate.
- ❖ **Advisory services:** help land managers in better economic and environmental/climate-related performance of the holding; advice on at least cross-compliance or greening obligations or WFD requirements or general principles of integrated pest management; it can also cover climate change, biodiversity, protection of water.

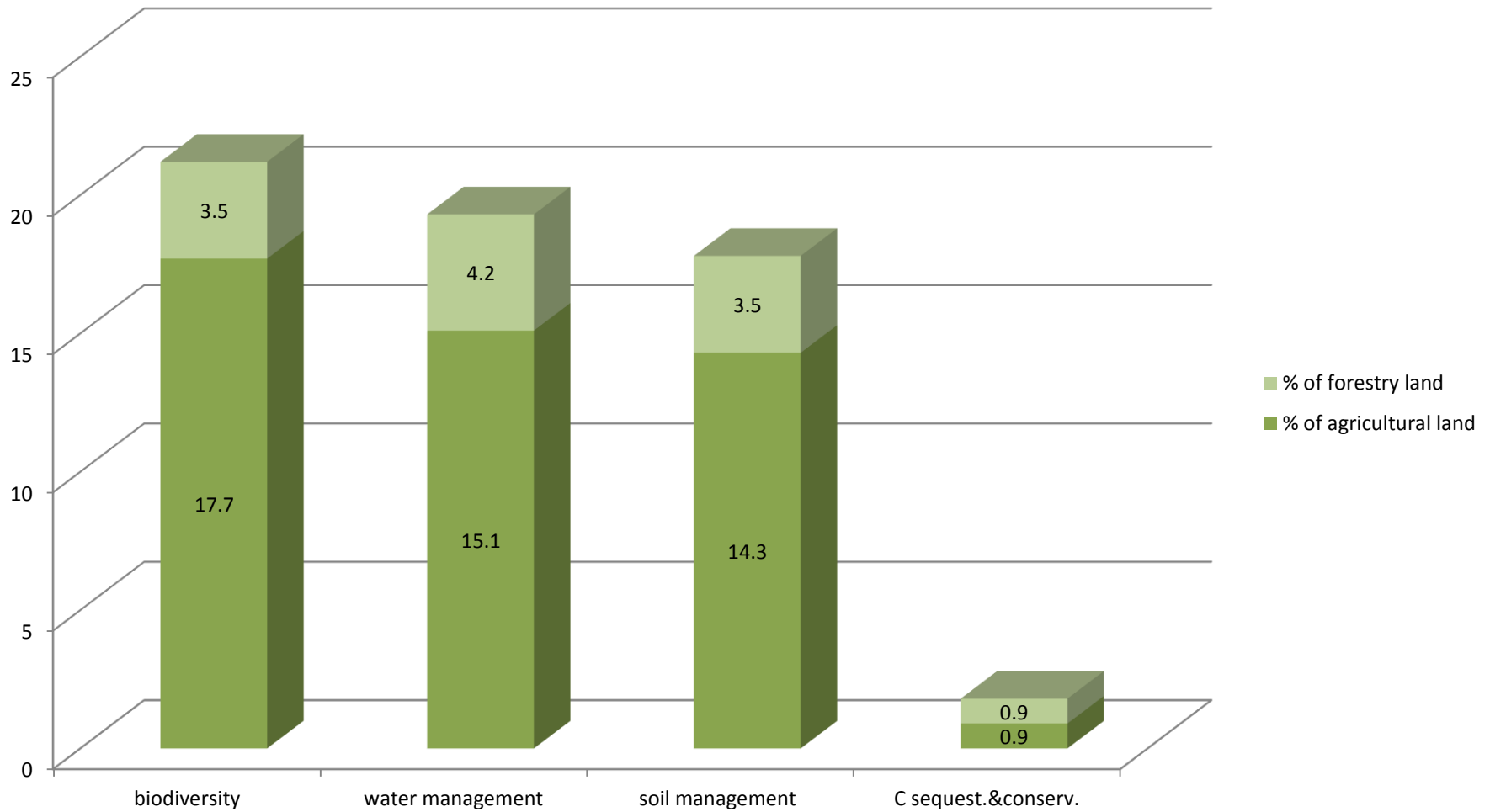
Other measures (2)

- ❖ **Non-productive investments:** linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives, including biodiversity conservation of species and habitat, enhancing public amenity value of Natura 2000 areas or other high nature value systems.
- ❖ **Co-operation:** to overcome disadvantages of fragmentation in rural areas by helping various entities work together with regard to, among others, joint approaches to environmental projects including the preservation of agricultural landscapes.
- ❖ **Areas with natural constraints:** to encourage farmers to continue land management in order to contribute to maintain the countryside, conserve the environment and promote sustainable farming.
- ❖ **Forestry measures** (seven in total) including agro-forestry and forest-environment and climate services and conservation

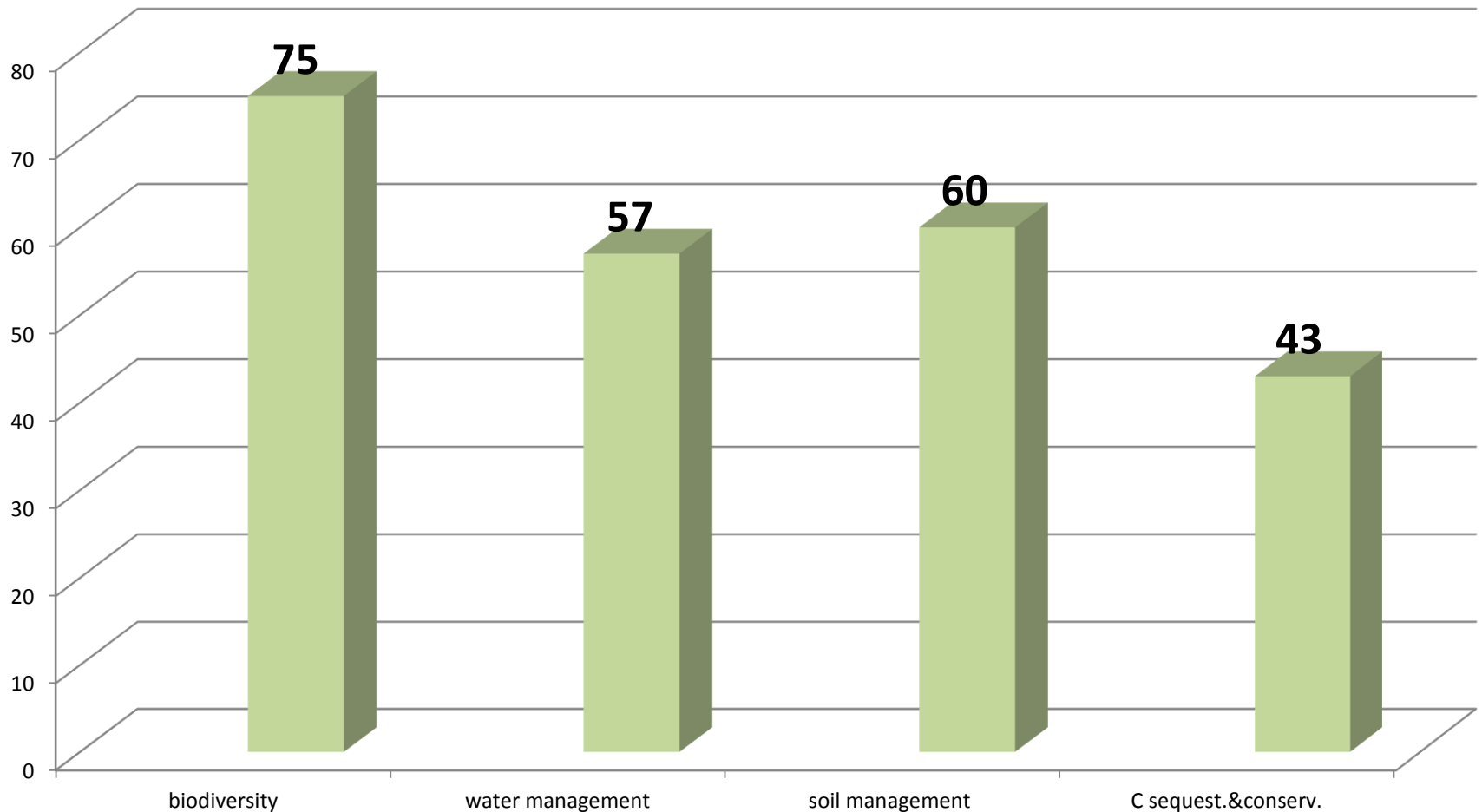
Required minimum budgetary allocations

- A minimum amount of the total EAFRD contribution to the RDP shall be reserved for climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental issues through a set of measures:
 - At least **30%** for:
 - Environment and climate related investments (Article 17)
 - Forestry measures (Articles 21-26 and Article 34)
 - Agri-environment-climate (Article 28)
 - Organic farming (Article 29)
 - Natura 2000 (Article 30)
 - ANCs (Articles 31-32)
- In practice this figure has reached above **57%**.

Environmental targets in RDPs 2014-2020



Execution of targets on agricultural land



Progress made: monitoring indicators (EAFRD budget)

Measures	Targets	State of play (expenditure)	Share of execution
M10 AECM	16,5 bln	4,9 bln	30%
M11 OF	6,5 bln	1,6 bln	25%
M12 N2000/WFD	0,6 bln	0,15 bln	25%
M13 ANC	16 bln	5,5 bln	34%

Thank you for your attention!