The place of HNV farmland in EU-level indicators for the rural-agrarian landscape

Abstract:
In the European Union management and preservation of landscapes is under the responsibility of Member States, so is the ratification of the European Landscape Convention, therefore there is no European Union legislation that specifically addresses landscape planning. There are, though, a number of policies that have a deep influence on land use and landscapes, among which the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has a primary role, since agricultural activities affect almost half of the European Union’s territory. The need to monitor the impact of the CAP on the environment has lead through the years to the set-up of an indicator framework, that consists of 28 indicators to “capture the main positive and negative effects of agriculture on the environment and to reflect regional differences in economic structures and natural conditions” (COM(2006)508). It is in this frame that an indicator of landscape state and diversity has been developed at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission High Nature Value (HNV) farmland represents a broad category within rural landscape, characterised by different typologies. This paper presents the state of the art of the conceptual and practical implementation of the indicator and the links with HNV farmland.

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