The notification of the new GAECs
Part 2

Vincenzo ANGILERI

GAEC/greening workshop 2015

Prague (CZ)
21-23 October 2015
GAEC Notification 2015

New GAEC framework --> new GAEC database
Notification process regularly executed

Only one notification still missing
23/31 notified in English
Information directly obtained from the GAEC database

Query functions now developed

Information derived with queries
New information in GAEC DB
GAEC 1 Buffer strips

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- **Additional provisions on land management**
- A ban on the use of plant protection products on a strip 1 m wide
- In nitrate directive water area > 10 ha -> should have buffer strips
- A ban on the application of pesticides, and on cultivation on land within 2m of the top of the bank of surface water; restrictions on the application of fertilisers without nitrogen if a risk entering surface water

*mostly like in nitrate directive*
### New info in the GAEC DB - GAEC 7 Landscape features in GAEC

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Hedges</th>
<th>Ponds</th>
<th>Ditches</th>
<th>Trees in Line</th>
<th>Group of Trees</th>
<th>Isolated Trees</th>
<th>Field Margins</th>
<th>Terraces</th>
<th>Traditional Stone Walls</th>
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New info in the GAEC DB

GAEC 7: GAEC landscape features as EFA

6 MS with no GAEC landscape features in EFA

GAEC ponds are rarely EFA

GAEC ditches are mostly EFA
GAEC landscape features types as EFA

All GAEC landscape features are EFA

Most GAEC landscape features are EFA

Few GAEC landscape features are EFA

No GAEC landscape features are EFA

EU average: 55%
GAEC 7 Landscape features
What are the “other landscape features”?

“Other landscape features” in GAEC and EFA

Monuments and stony features (ancient monument, natural monument, secular stones, earthbanks, archaeological sites, stony outcrops, clearance cairns)
GAEC 7 Landscape features
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Monuments and stony features (ancient monument, natural monument, secular stones, earthbanks, archaeological sites, stony outcrops, clearance cairns)

Woody features (coppice of shrubs and trees, woody strips, riparian galleries)
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*Features protected in accordance with specific acts (trees, trees alleys)*
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Woody features (coppice of shrubs and trees, woody strips, riparian galleries)

Features protected in accordance with specific acts (trees, alleys)

Features to combat erosion (boundary strips, grassed thalweg, vegetative slopes)
GAEC 7 Landscape features
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“Other landscape features” in GAEC and EFA

Monuments and stony features (ancient monument, natural monument, secular stones, earthbanks, archaeological sites, stony outcrops, clearance cairns)

Woody features (coppice of shrubs and trees, woody strips, riparian)

Features to combat erosion (boundary strips, grassed thalweg, vegetative slopes)

Natural areas (wetlands, habitats)
GAEC 7 Landscape features
What are the “other landscape features”? 

Most “other landscape features” types in GAEC and EFA are protected only in GAEC in some MSs

“Other landscape features” only in GAEC and not EFA

Orchards
Seepage areas
Public right of way
Characterisation of landscape features in GAEC

Characterisation of the feature
- only in GAEC
- in GAEC and EFA
- EFA not in GAEC

Specificity in the landscape
- Boundaries set by legal acts

Identify the element: appearance, functions, dimensions (length, area, height), some other characteristics (gaps)

Control the element
- only in GAEC
- in GAEC and EFA
- check presence, often measurement not needed (they are part of eligible area)
- measurement often needed (length, area)
Characterisation of landscape features in GAEC

Hedges

In GAEC and EFA

- **Length** (=> 10 m)
- **Width** (>= 15 m, <20m)
- Presence of gaps (< 2m, <5m, “gappy hedgerows” with 20% hedgerows species)
- minimum area = 0,01 ha

Only in GAEC

- **Length** (=> 25 m)
- **Width** (<2m, <=20m)
- difficult to see through and pass through
- **Height** after cutting => 0,8 m

EFA Hedges art. 45 - width <= 10m
Characterisation of landscape features in GAEC

Ponds

*In filling the GAEC DB, please pay attention to unit measures (ha not m²)*

**In GAEC and EFA**
- Dimension max (=< 0.1ha, but also 0.2 ha)
- Dimension min (=> 0.01ha)
- Location: surrounded by arable area
- Riparian vegetation included
- Presence of water (water at least on 25 m² from 1 Nov to 31 May)

**Only in GAEC**
- Dimension max (=< 0.5 ha)
- Function: rearing fish
- Perimeter definition: operating level
- Presence of water (continuously surface water or moist ground)

*EFA ponds art. 45- area <= 0.1 ha, strip of riparian vegetation up to 10m wide*
Characterisation of landscape features in GAEC

**In GAEC and EFA**

- Max width (2m, 10m, 12m)
- Min width (2m at the base, bed width)
- Function: irrigation and/or drainage
- Catchment area (= <10 km²)
- Riparian vegetation included
- Presence of water: permanently or only following flash flooding

**Ditches**

**Only in GAEC**

- Max width (8m, 6m water mirror)
- Min width (0.5m from the edge of slope)
- Min depth average (0.3m)
- Riparian vegetation and slopes included
- Adjacent: ditch centerline average >= 5m from arable land block
- Presence of water: dry ditches included

**EFA ditches art. 45 - width <= 6m, no walls of concrete**
Characterisation of landscape features in GAEC

Trees in line

In GAEC and EFA

- Min length (20m, 30m, 50m)
- Min number of plants (3, 5)
- Min height (1.5m, 3m)
- Tree dimension (circumference > 40cm)
- Space between trees (3 trees/10m, 5 trees/15m; max distance 10m)
- Function: no agricultural production
- Species (coniferous excluded, hedgerow species included)

Only in GAEC

- Min length (50m)
- Min number of plants (4)
- Tree dimension (diameter > 4 cm, 8 cm, or 15 cm if coppice)
- Space between trees (distance between two consecutive trunks =< 40m)
- Species (listed or classified in specific acts)

EFA trees in line art. 45- space between the crown <= 3m
Characterisation of landscape features in GAEC

Trees in group

In GAEC and EFA

Max area (0.2 ha, 0.3 ha, 0.5 ha)
Min area (0.1 ha)
Min number of plants (2, 3)
Min height (1.5m)
Tree dimension (circumference > 40cm)
Function: no agricultural production

Only in GAEC

Max area (0.5 ha)
Min number of plants (3)
Tree dimension (diameter > 8cm or 15cm, if coppice)
Species (listed or classified in specific acts)

EFA trees in group art. 45-overlapping crown cover, max 0.3 ha)
## Characterisation of landscape features in GAEC

### Field margins

**In GAEC and EFA**

- Max width (20m)
- Min width (2m)
- Type of vegetation (grasses and herbaceous plants, sometimes covered with trees or shrubs)

**Only in GAEC**

- Max width (10, 20m)
- Min width (1m)
- Type of vegetation (some wild plants)

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**EFA field margins art. 45**

- Width: from 1m to 20m, no agricultural production
Characterisation of landscape features in GAEC

**Terraces**

*In GAEC and EFA*

- Min *height* (0.2 m, 0.5 m, 1m)
- May include woody vegetation and stone wall

*Only in GAEC*

- Min *height* (12 m)
- Max *width* (10 m, horizontally measured)
- Vegetation cover between 15 Nov- 1 March

*EFA terraces art. 45- MS establish criteria, including minimum height*
Conclusions

- Within a general framework, specificities in the MSs
- “Contamination” in definitions between GAEC and EFA (dimension, adjacent etc.),
- but also some specificity and complementarity (same feature type different in GAEC and EFA)
- Need to refer to national definitions
- National definitions can generate further constraints to assess/to measure
- -> Definition of a template or a method to document

Thanks for your attention!
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