A checklist for NGOs on direct greening related payments, measures and initiatives for the 2014-2020 NRDPs

In the light of the post-2013 CAP reform and the new Rural Development Plans Member States need to elaborate for 2014-2020, CEEweb has compiled a checklist guiding document with some of the main pointers for NGOs on greening related payments, measures and initiatives.

These recommendations are based on the review of the experience of CEEweb’s members, CEEweb-ADEPT-EEB high level conference on the CAP reform and on research carried out so far by relevant European institutions.

- Promote additional environmental criteria for measures on Areas of Natural Constraint;
- Ensure that Natura 2000 payment interventions are evidence based and aimed at specific, clearly defined environmental objectives;
- Support top-up payments for more specific habitat/species related targets for agri-environment measures;
- Promote measures that allow for extension and greater utilisation of buffer zones;
- Promote measures that provide additional habitat space for pollinators;
- Promote inclusion of Article 36 in your RDPs, for Cooperation Measure and European Innovation Partnership (EIP, read more here>>), key measures to support joint projects in all fields among groups of farmers, NGOs and rural development movements;
- Allocate sufficient budget resources to guarantee on-the-ground advice and support for farmers and foresters in order to achieve effective uptake and implementation;
- Farmers are generally tempted to apply for modernisation of their holdings, but sometimes this might prove difficult - positive incentives for small farmers would be an easier access to credit and a lower co-financing rate;
- Set up and use evaluation and monitoring systems to improve effectiveness;
- Support the setting up of producer groups (e.g. organic production);
- Training and support for young farmers should be highlighted in the new RDPs, and access made easier for smaller farm sizes;