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## Results-based agri-environment schemes: new report and guidance handbook available



Together with experts from across Europe, IEEP has produced a range of useful resources to guide the future development of results-based agri-environment schemes in the EU and beyond. Available to download from dedicated pages on the Commission's website, these include:

- A practical [Guidance Handbook](#) providing step-by-step guidance on the decision-making process and practicalities of setting up and running an effective results-based scheme, accompanied by two supplements focusing on the types of result indicators currently used in Europe and examples of field guides for farmers. The Guidance Handbook can also be downloaded in an e-reader compatible format;
- A [Summary of the Guidance Handbook](#), available in all 24 EU languages;
- A fully searchable, [web-based inventory](#) of results-based agri-environment schemes in operation across EU and EFTA countries; and

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adopting results-based approaches for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within the farmed

countryside.

Results-based payment schemes (RBAPS) make it much clearer what the payments to farmers are seeking to achieve, and allow farmers to choose how to adapt the management of their land, livestock and crops to achieve these results. If designed correctly, it should also be easier to control and verify the payments.

Although not mainstream, RBAPS have existed in Europe for over 20 years. In 2014 there were over 30 in operation or planned in the EU and Switzerland, mostly financed by CAP rural development funding. These schemes focus on the conservation of existing valuable habitats and species, such as species-rich meadows, semi-natural grazed habitats, traditional orchards and vineyards, ground nesting birds and large carnivores and raptors, such as the Lynx and Golden Eagle. Key to the success of results-based schemes is the design of simple, reliable result indicators, the availability of environmental information and expertise, and willing farmers.

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AUTHORS

Ben Allen

Kaley Hart

Radley G.

Graham Tucker

Clunie Keenleyside

Oppermann R.

Evelyn Underwood

Hetty Menadue

Xavier Poux

Guy Beaufoy

Irina Herzon

Andrea Povellato

Francesco Vanni

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