



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027

**July 2023**

Cormac McGann  
Managing Authority – CAP Strategic Plan Division

# CAP Objectives



Common EU goals for social, environmental, and economic sustainability in agriculture and rural areas.



**Cross-cutting objective:** modernisation of the sector by fostering knowledge, innovation and digitalisation of agriculture and rural areas.

# Irish Context



129,000 farmers

Pre-dominantly grass-based (circa 7% arable/tillage area)

Livestock pre-dominantly outdoor systems

Livestock profile – climate change mitigation challenges

Twin threats from both agricultural intensification (dairy, etc) and extensification/abandonment

- Water quality
- Biodiversity: semi-natural areas, etc

Economic Viability / Generational Renewal

# Irish CSP Development



2019

- Blue Sky Working Groups
- SWOT Analysis (Public Consultation)

2020

- Engagement with Trilogue Process
- Needs Assessment

2021

- Draft Scoping Public Consultation
- Draft Interventions Public Consultation

2022

- Public Consultation on the Environmental Report/Assessments

# Irish CSP Stakeholder Engagement



- 6 Public Written Consultations
- CAP Consultative Committee – over 30 meetings
- Monitoring Committee (RDP)
- Minister public engagement
- Event stands, information sessions, webinars and townhall meetings

# Financial Allocation



**Total CSP €9.83 bn**

**Pillar 1  
€5.97 bn**

**Pillar 2 €3.86 bn**

**ERDF  
€1.56 bn**

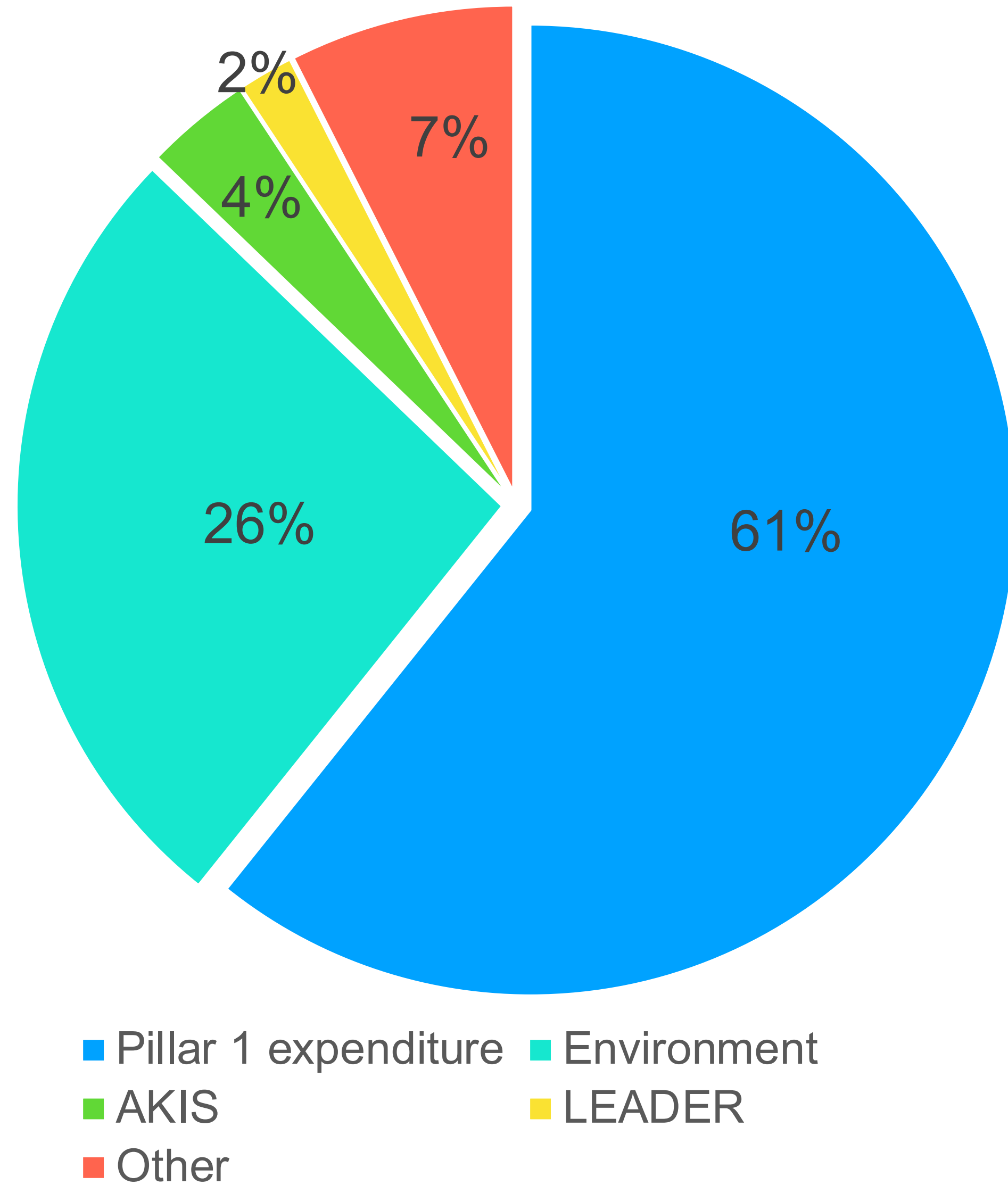
**National  
€2.30 bn**



CAP Pillar I interventions	€ m
Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS)	3,643
Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers (CIS-YF)	178
Complementary Redistributive Income Support for Sustainability (CRISS)	593
Eco-Scheme	1,483
Protein Aid	35
Sectoral Interventions Fruit, Vegetable & Apiculture	45.3
<b>Total Pillar 1</b>	<b>5,977</b>

CAP Pillar II Interventions	€ m
Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC)	1,250
Agri-Climate Rural Environmental Scheme (ACRES)	1,522
Straw Incorporation Measure	50
Organic Farming Scheme	256
On-farm investments (excl. RDP €340m)	100
Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme	260
European Innovation Partnerships (EIP-AGRI)	36
Knowledge Transfer Groups	71
Dairy Beef Welfare Scheme	25
Sheep Improvement Scheme	100
LEADER	180
Other including, technical assistance	12
<b>Total Pillar 2</b>	<b>3,862</b>

**CSP % Breakdown of €9.8bn**



# Economic Sustainability – BISS and CRISS



- Partial convergence model for Payment Entitlements (PE).
- Capping/reduction of payments over €60,000 by 85% and over €100,000 by 100%.  
=> an effective cap of €66,000
- CRISS : €119 m per annum or 10% of total annual Pillar 1 budget  
=> ~€40/ha on first 30 eligible ha.

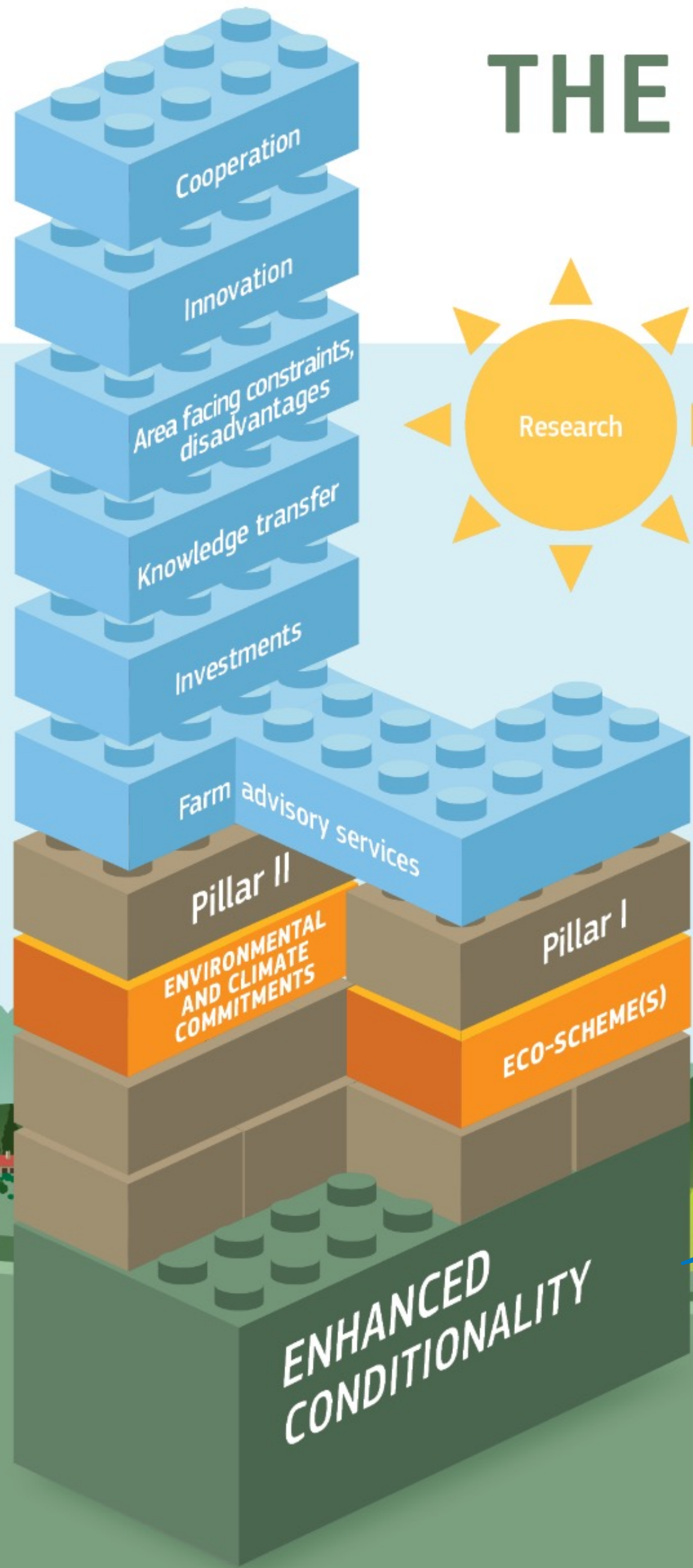


# THE NEW GREEN ARCHITECTURE

**3. Pillar II Voluntary Schemes**

Multi-annual AECM's: Organics, EIPs etc

50,000 +



**2. Eco-schemes (Voluntary)**

**Pillar I**

- 125,000 + farmers
- 1 year commitment
- **Payment per hectare**

1. Mandatory baseline all 129,000 farmers in receipt of CAP payments SMRs + GAECs

Objectives

CLIMATE  
ANIMAL WELFARE  
WATER  
SOIL  
ANIMAL & PLANT HEALTH  
BIODIVERSITY

# 1. Enhanced conditionality



## GAECs

- 1: Maintenance of permanent grassland based on a ratio of national reference levels
- 2: Protection of wetland and peatland
- 3: Ban on burning arable stubble
- 4: Establishment of buffer strips along watercourses
- 5: Tillage management, reducing the risk of soil degradation and erosion, including consideration of the slope gradient
- 6: Minimum soil cover to avoid bare soils in period(s) that are most sensitive
- 7: Crop rotation / Diversification in arable land
- 8: (i) Min share of agricultural area / arable land devoted to non-productive areas and features, and (ii) on all agricultural area, retention of landscape features, (iii) ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season (iv) measures for the control of invasive plant species
- 9: Ban on converting or ploughing permanent grassland designated as environmentally-sensitive permanent grassland in Natura 2000 sites

# Eco-Scheme



New

- Budget €1.4bn or €297m per annum (Pillar 1).
- Voluntary for farmers - expected participation rate of over 90%
- Range of agricultural practices available – participants must select 2 practices, or one “enhanced” option.
- Payment is per eligible hectare independent of entitlements. Payment rate depends on uptake – likely to be approx. €70 per hectare per year for two completed practices.

# Eco-Scheme Options



1. Space for Nature.\*
2. Extensive Livestock Production.\*
3. Limiting Chemical Nitrogen Usage.
4. Planting of Native Trees/Hedgerows.\*
5. Use of a GPS controlled fertiliser spreader/sprayer.
6. Soil sampling and appropriate liming.
7. Planting of a Break Crop.
8. Planting of a Multi-Species Sward.

**\*Enhanced option, can count as two agricultural practises**



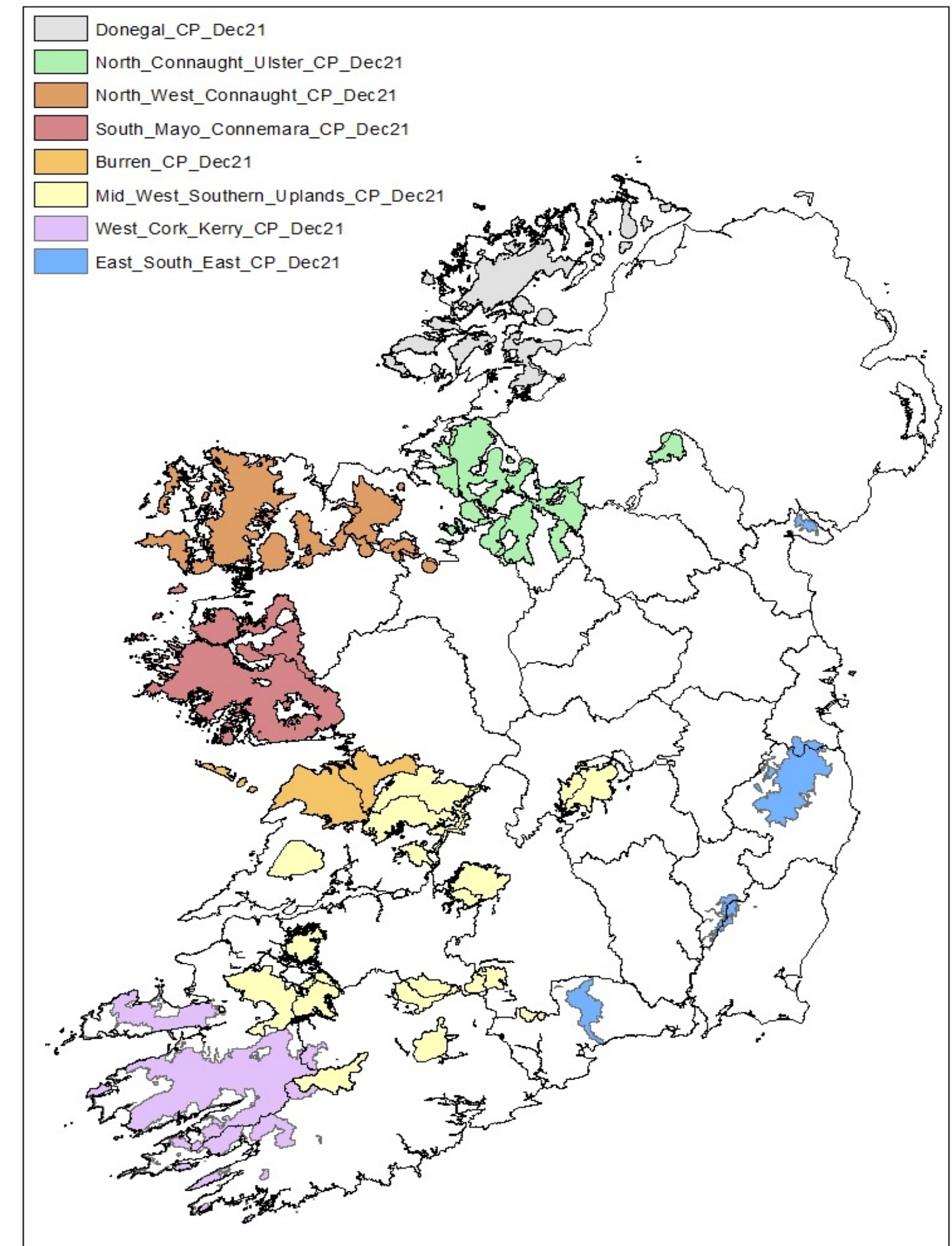
<b>CAP Pillar II Interventions (AECMs)</b>	<b>€ m</b>	<b>% Share of P II budget</b>
Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC)	1,250	32
Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	1,522	39
Straw Incorporation Measure	50	1.3
Organic Farming Scheme	256	6.6
On-farm investments (excl. RDP €340m)	100	2.6
Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme	260	6.7
European Innovation Partnerships (EIP-AGRI)	36	0.9
Knowledge Transfer Groups	71	1.8
Dairy Beef Welfare Scheme	25	0.6
Sheep Improvement Scheme	100	2.6
LEADER	180	4.7
Other including, technical assistance	12	0.3
<b>Total Pillar 2</b>	<b>3,862</b>	<b>100</b>

# ACRES – new delivery framework



- **€1.5bn** agri-environment climate measure with
  - (i) general measure/actions
  - (ii) Co-operation measure
- targeted in 8 high-priority geographic areas  
+ additional bespoke farm/landscape measures  
+ local co-operation team
- Actions for both extensive & intensive farms
- Using hybrid quality-based payment system

Innovative



# Organic Farming Scheme



- Ambitious target to more than triple agricultural area in organics to 7.5% from base of 2%
- Budget of €256m: 5–fold increase in funding
- Target all sectors - dairy, livestock, tillage, horticulture
- Reduction in chemical nitrogen, stocking densities
- Contribute 0.3MT reduction of emissions

Rates per sector	Year 1-2* (in conversion) 1 - 70 ha €/ha	Year 3 – 5* (fully converted) 1 - 70 ha €/ha
Drystock	€300/ha	€250/ha
Tillage	€320/ha	€270/ha
Dairy	€350/ha	€300/ha
Horticulture	€800/ha	€600/ha

\* Rates plus Participation payment of €2,000 in year 1 of conversion and €1,400 per annum thereafter

# AKIS: Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems



- Knowledge Transfer intervention, allowing farmers to form groups to look at relevant themes to share knowledge and gain skills.
- Dedicated mandatory training courses for ACRES and Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme with a focus on getting the best results from the schemes, explaining the actions and focusing also on farm safety.
- Support for mandatory training for advisors.
- Calls for European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) across a variety of themes.
- A national CAP Network will communicate the CSP to farmers and rural communities and engage with the European CAP Network.



# Amendment Process



1. We gather and collate input from the divisions implementing interventions on what changes may be necessary based on a variety of factors: e.g. typos, uptake, budget, stakeholder feedback, unforeseen issues, etc.
2. We engage early with the Commission through the Geographic Unit in DG AGRI to discuss our proposed changes, and they perform an inter-services informal consultation to ensure there are no legal issues.
3. We engage with stakeholders bilaterally and through the Monitoring Committee to present the amendment and seek opinions.
4. When a final amendment version has been agreed it is submitted through the Commission's platform for CSP management, SFC2021.

# Amendment Process (2)



5. The Commission performs a formal inter-services consultation. 3 Months Deadline for response.
5. Simultaneously, we perform an environmental screening (SEA/AA).
5. The Commission may choose to issue an observation letter which “stops the clock”.
5. Once the version in SFC2021 has been approved in the system, an approval letter issues to the Managing Authority and the amendment is considered adopted.



[www.gov.ie/CAP](http://www.gov.ie/CAP)

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