

Advocating the use of a result-based payment scheme (RBPS) for maintaining the supply of public goods from High Nature Value (HNV) farmland in Bulgaria

Results-based payment schemes (RBPS) are a new form of agricultural support scheme offering farmers payments for delivering a specific environmental result from the land they manage. Most existing RBPS have biodiversity as the main objective, but they may also have water quality or climate action as additional objectives.

RBPS differ from traditional agri-environment payments that prescribe specifically what a farmer must do or must not do to get an annual payment. Instead, results-based approaches offer farmers the flexibility to use their knowledge and experience to manage their land in a way that delivers the required environmental outcome alongside their usual farming activities. In principle the farmer is free to do what suits the site, the weather, the farm and their own situation - it is only the environmental results that counts!

This result-based approach is very relevant to maintaining the supply of public goods from High Nature Value farmland in the Western Stara Planina region of Bulgaria, one of 23 mountain areas studied in the [H2020 MOVING project](#).

However, the development and implementation of an RBPS is a complex task and it is important that support is offered/provided to policymakers to help them adopt this alternative approach. The Society for Territorial and Environmental Prosperity (STEP) is a coordinator of the RBPS Network for Bulgaria (<https://www.step-bg.bg/en/node/250>) and follows the use of RBPS in other EU countries where the approach has been implemented for the last decade. STEP extracts important lessons for Bulgaria and uses this information to advocate for the pilot testing of an RBPS within the Bulgarian CAP Strategic Plan for 2023-2027.

MOVING Reference Region

Stara Planina

Country

Bulgaria

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Anticipated users of PA

- National policy- and decision-makers
- Public authorities in mountain areas
 - Environmental NGOs
 - Farming organisations

More info

https://www.moving-h2020.eu/reference_regions/stara-planina-bulgaria/