



LIFE B4B (BE) - Belgium for Biodiversity

# Stakeholder engagement in Wallonia through collective AECM

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Belgium for  
Biodiversity

# **LIFE B4B (BE) – Stakeholder engagement in Wallonia through a collective approach**

Natagriwal asbl







# Agenda

1. AECM system in Wallonia
2. Life B4B: development of a collective AECM



# AECM System in Wallonia

- Agri-environment CAP tools

- Eco-schemes

- Voluntary system
    - Voluntary choice of the zones
    - 1 year contract

- AECM

- Voluntary system
    - Voluntary choice of the zones
    - 5 years contract



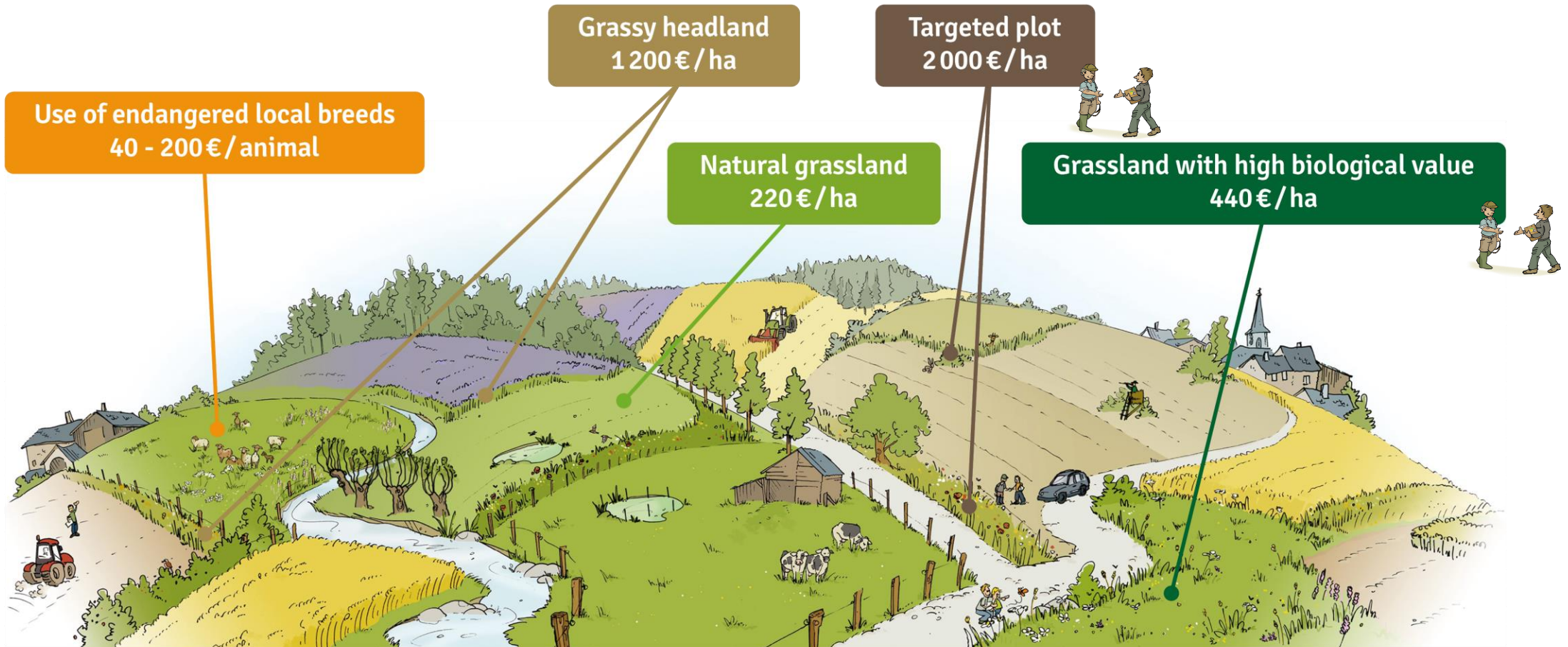
# AECM System in Wallonia

- 2 levels of commitment in the AECM
  - Entry level measures
    - Simple management
    - Commitment without preliminary expertise or technical support
  - Targeted measures
    - More complex management
    - Address general or local issue
    - Location and management prescription defined with a Natagriwal farm advisor





# AECM System in Wallonia: Main Action based AECM



- ➔ AECM dedicated to livestock, arable land and pasture
- ➔ Financial compensation is competitive with agriculture



# AECM System in Wallonia: Farmer engagement



## Global Communication:

Agricultural press  
Farmer councils  
Event  
Farmer union  
Training program  
Social network  
...



Farmer contact Natagriwal

Natagriwal advisor and farmer define  
locations and protocols



5 year



1 or 2 visits of AECM sites by  
Natagriwal farm advisor

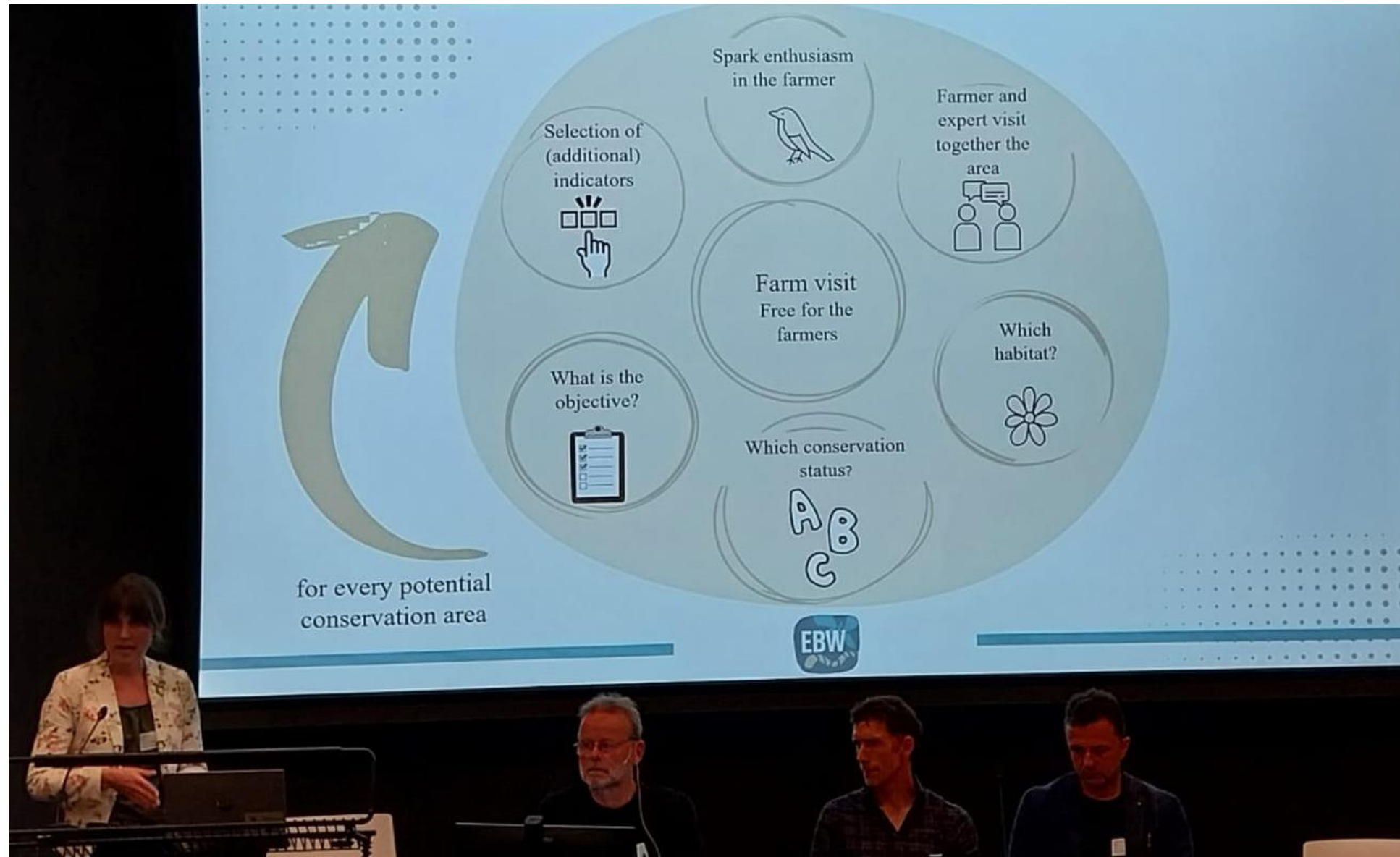


Farmer engagement validated  
through CAP declaration



- Natagriwal advising service = 5% of total AECM budget
- About 180 farms per Natagriwal advisor

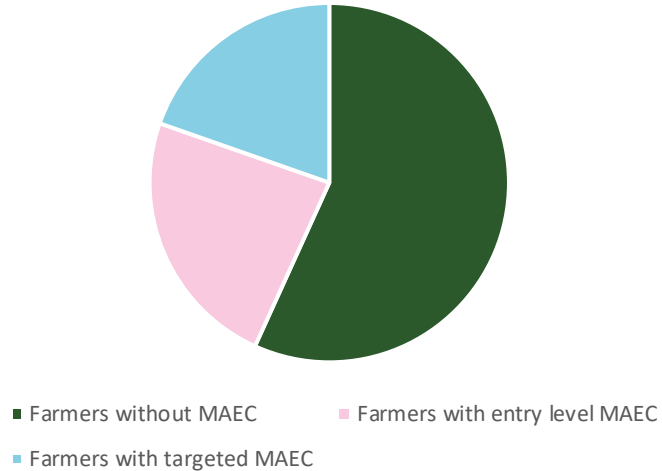
# AECM System in Wallonia: Farmer engagement





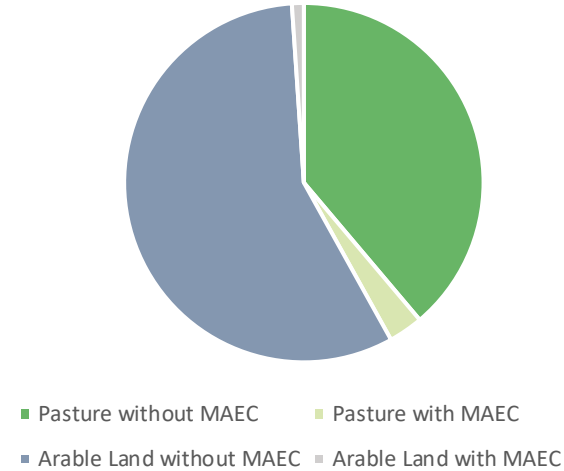
# AECM System in Wallonia: Key figures

12 728 farms in Wallonia



- 24% of farmers with low entry level MAEC
- 20% of farmers with targeted AECM

740 628 ha of agricultural land in Wallonia



- 7.4 % of pastures with AECM      Objective 2027: 9 %
- 1.6 % of arable land with AECM      Objective 2027: 2.3 %

➔ Good acceptance of AECM by Farmers  
➔ Objective 2027 accessible



# AECM System in Wallonia: issue



Green: Area: Optimal habitat for hen harrier Blue: AECM

- ➔ Positive local effect of AECM on farmland bird population
- ➔ Lower AECM density in most suitable habitats for farmland birds





# 2

**Life B4B:**

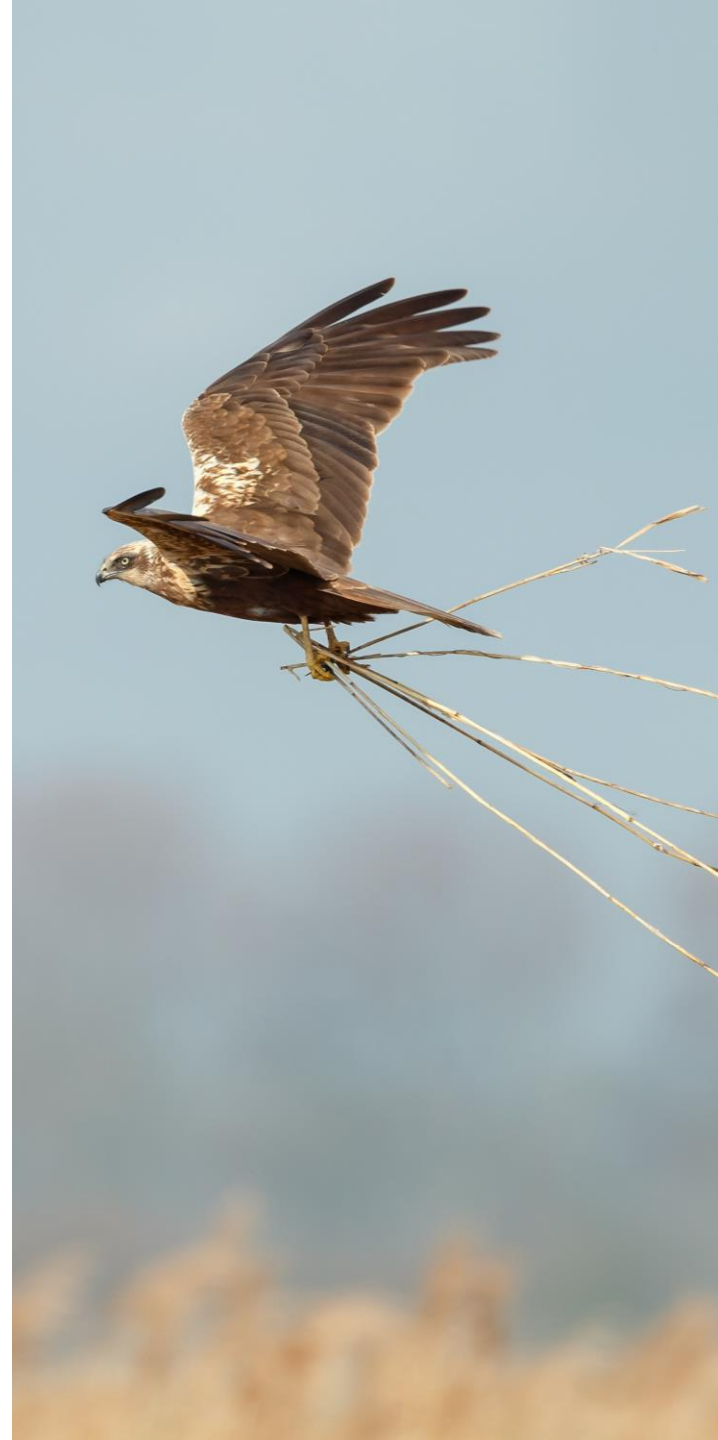
**Development of a collective AECM**



# Development of a collective AECM

## Objective:

- Develop and test a collective AECM adapted to the Walloon context.
- Ensure replicability for multiple objectives.
- Propose a collective AECM for the next Walloon CAP.



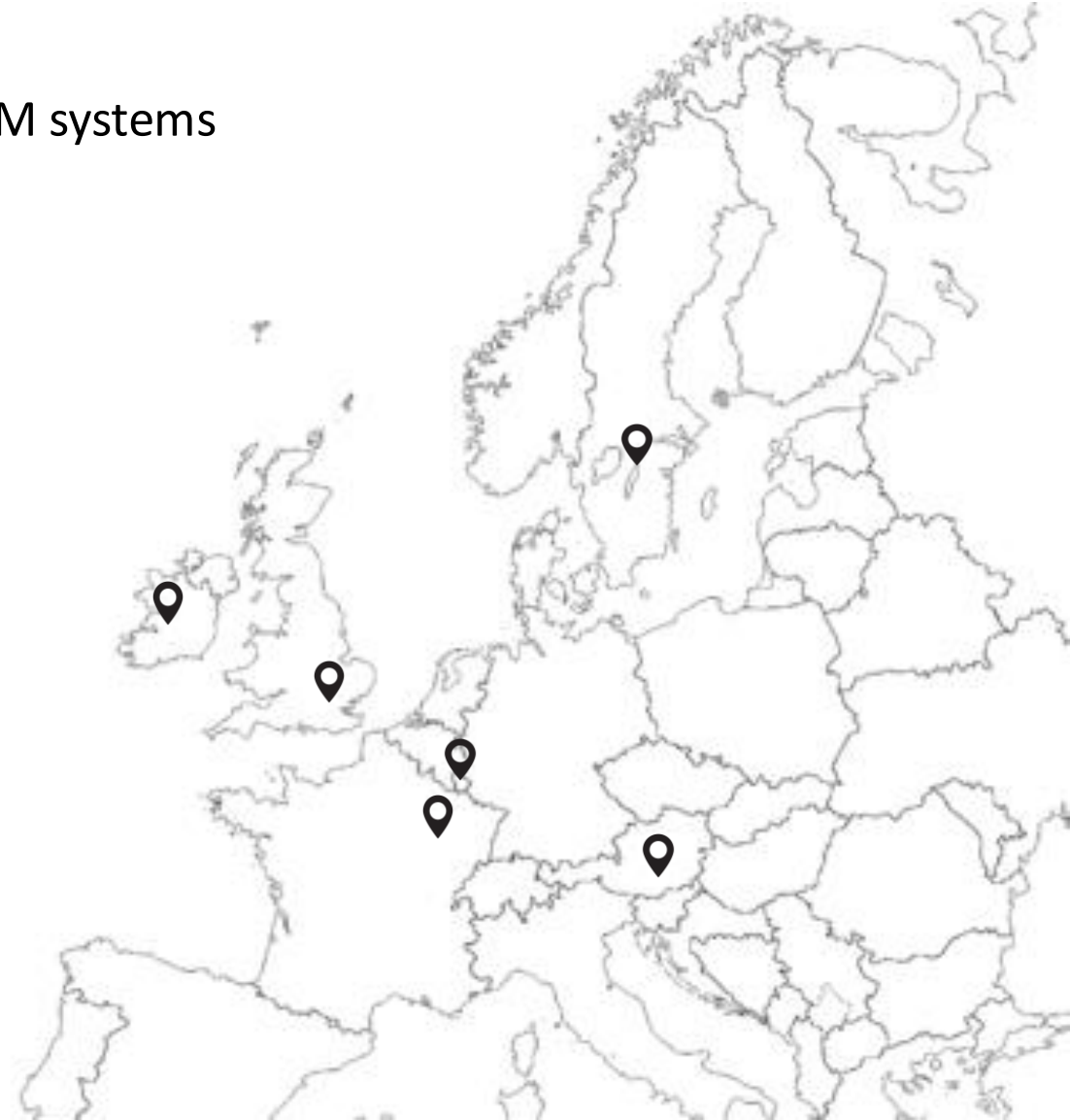


# Development of a collective AECM

- Benchmarking
  - Semi-structured interviews of collective and RBaPS AECM systems
    - 6 Europe
    - 7 Belgium

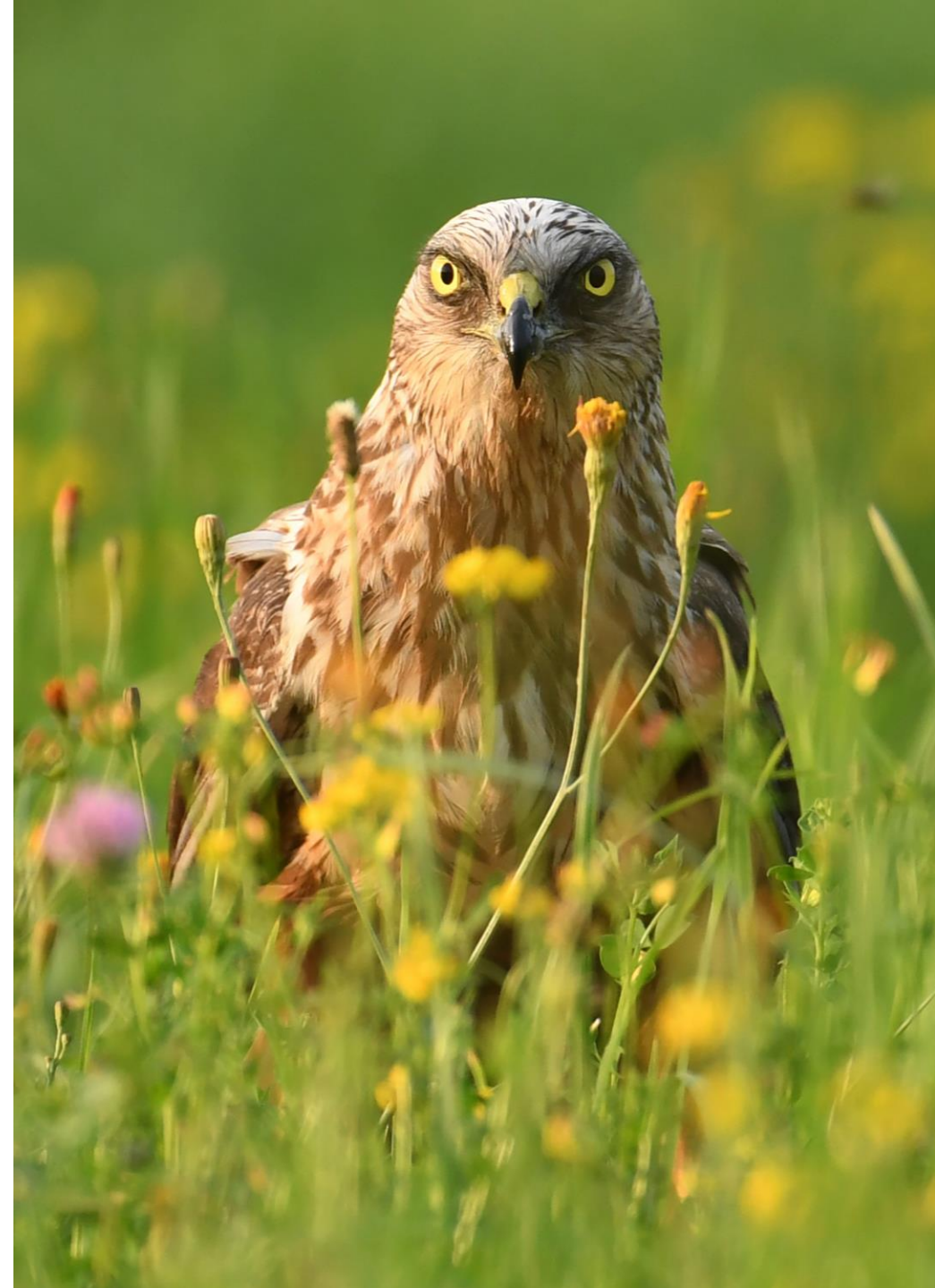
## ➔ Different systems can work

- Coherent technical and agronomical conception
- A good balance between constraints and remuneration
- Advice, facilitation and training are key success factors



# Concept of collective AECM

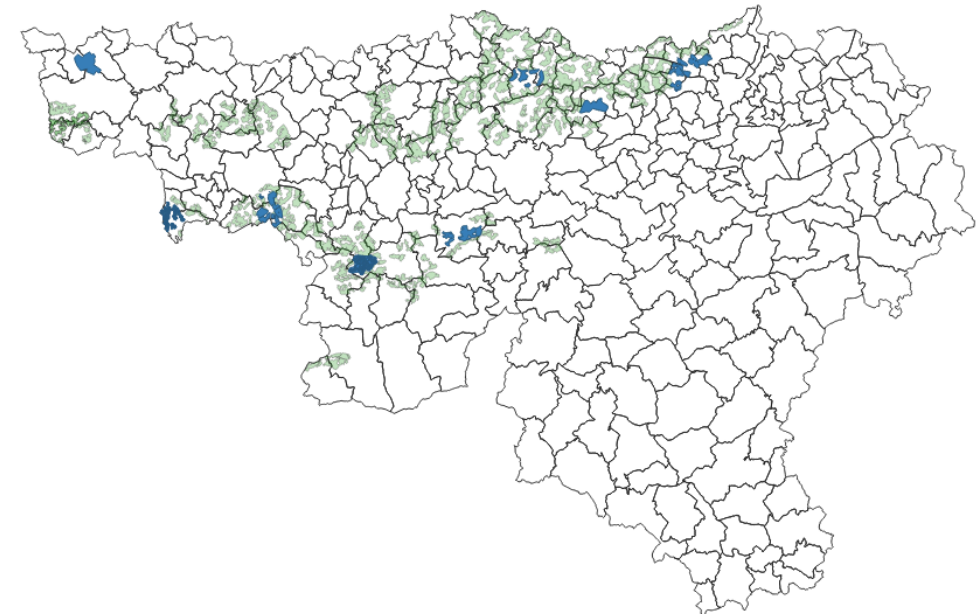
- **Objective**
  - 5% of land as harrier-friendly habitats
  - 2 plains ( $\pm 1,500$  ha each)
- **Target audience**
  - 2 groups of 5 farmers
  - Selected through call for tender
- **Project pillars**
  - Territorial coordination
  - Joint actions (budget of €50,000 per group)
  - Financial incentives: €180/ha/year under AECM
- **Duration:**
  - 2026 → 2030





# Call for tender for the collective AECM

- Dissemination:
  - Mailing to farmers
  - Discussions with farm advisors
  - Web page
  - Information sessions
  - Flyers
  - Agricultural press
  - Facebook posts
- Results:
  - 7 applications
  - 60 additional farmers expressed interest



The story goes on... more to share in the future.



More info ?  
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