

# **Financing Natura 2000 through rural development programme**

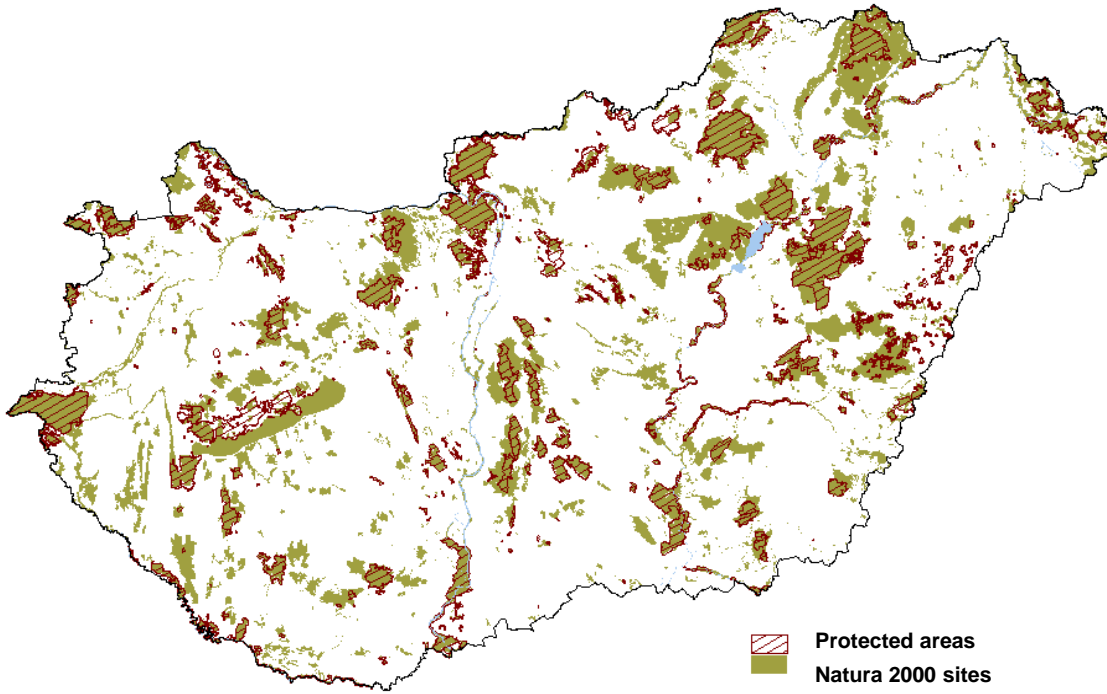
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Workshop on Nature Conservation and EU Financing  
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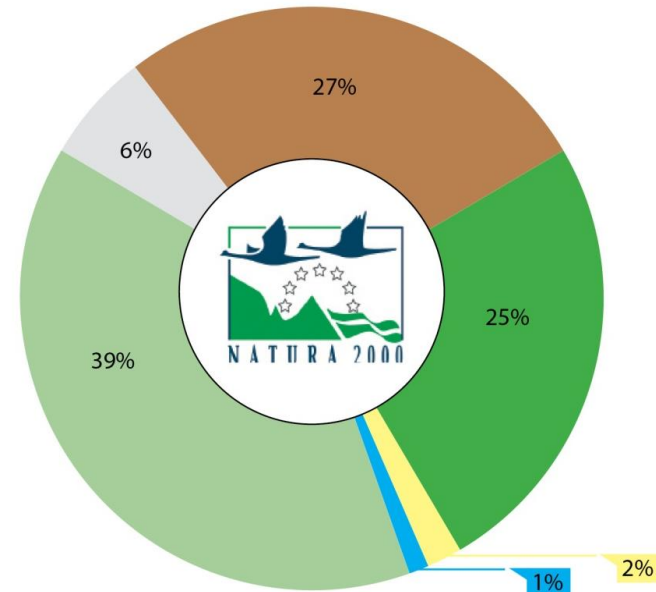
# Natura 2000 in Hungary



## Focus: Pannonian Biogeographical Region

525 sites, 1.995 million ha ~  
21,39% of the national territory

477 Special Areas of Conservation (HD), 56 Special Protection Area (BD); overlap: 41.3%:

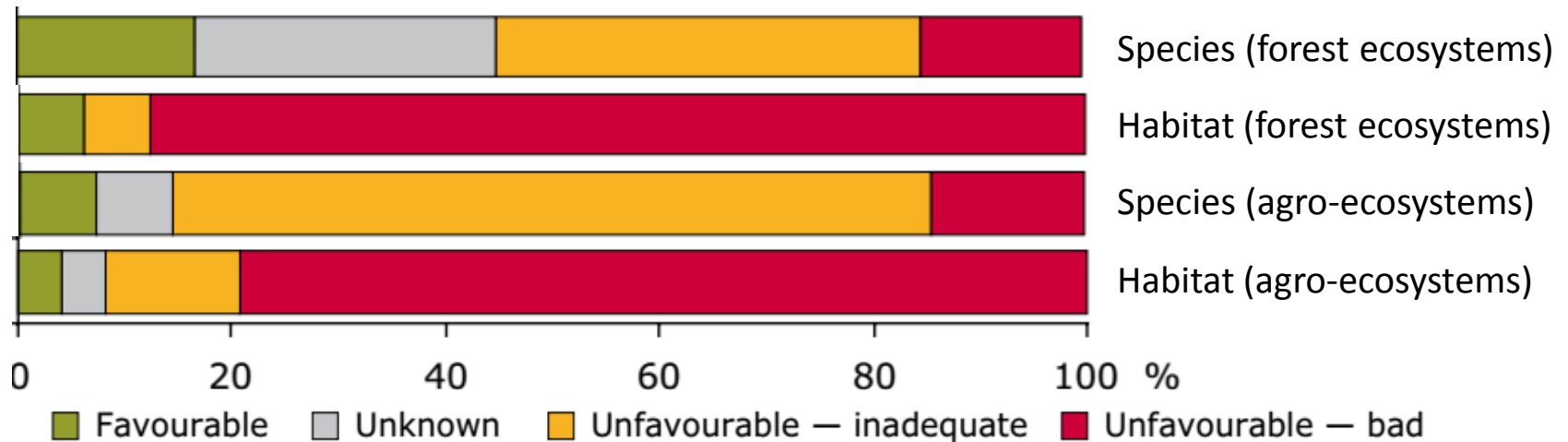


# Challenges

- Decrease of grazing livestock
- Intensification; conversion of grasslands into arable land (higher level of supports)
- Land abandonment, acceleration of succession processes, spread of invasive species

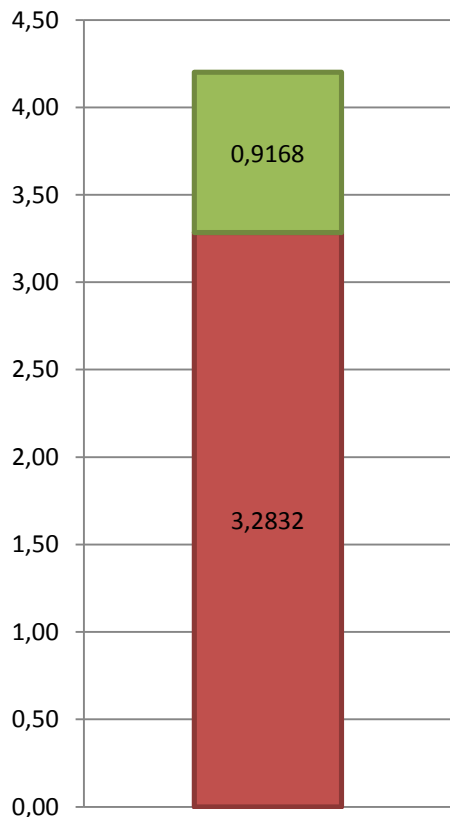


**Conservation status of habitat types and species in the Pannonian region**

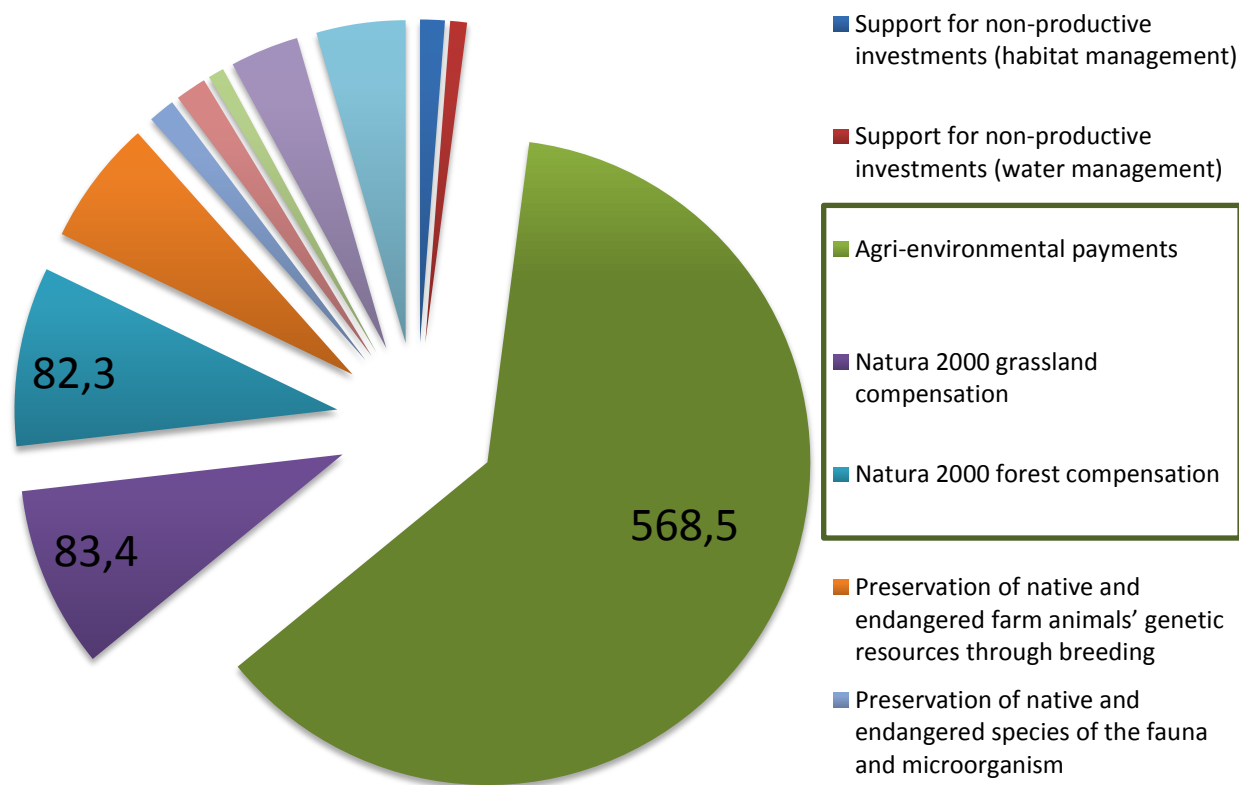


# European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

4,2 billion euro (2014-2020)



- Measures with nature conservation relevance
- Other rural development measures



- Support for non-productive investments (habitat management)
- Support for non-productive investments (water management)
- Agri-environmental payments
- Natura 2000 grassland compensation
- Natura 2000 forest compensation
- Preservation of native and endangered farm animals' genetic resources through breeding
- Preservation of native and endangered species of the fauna and microorganism
- Landscape management

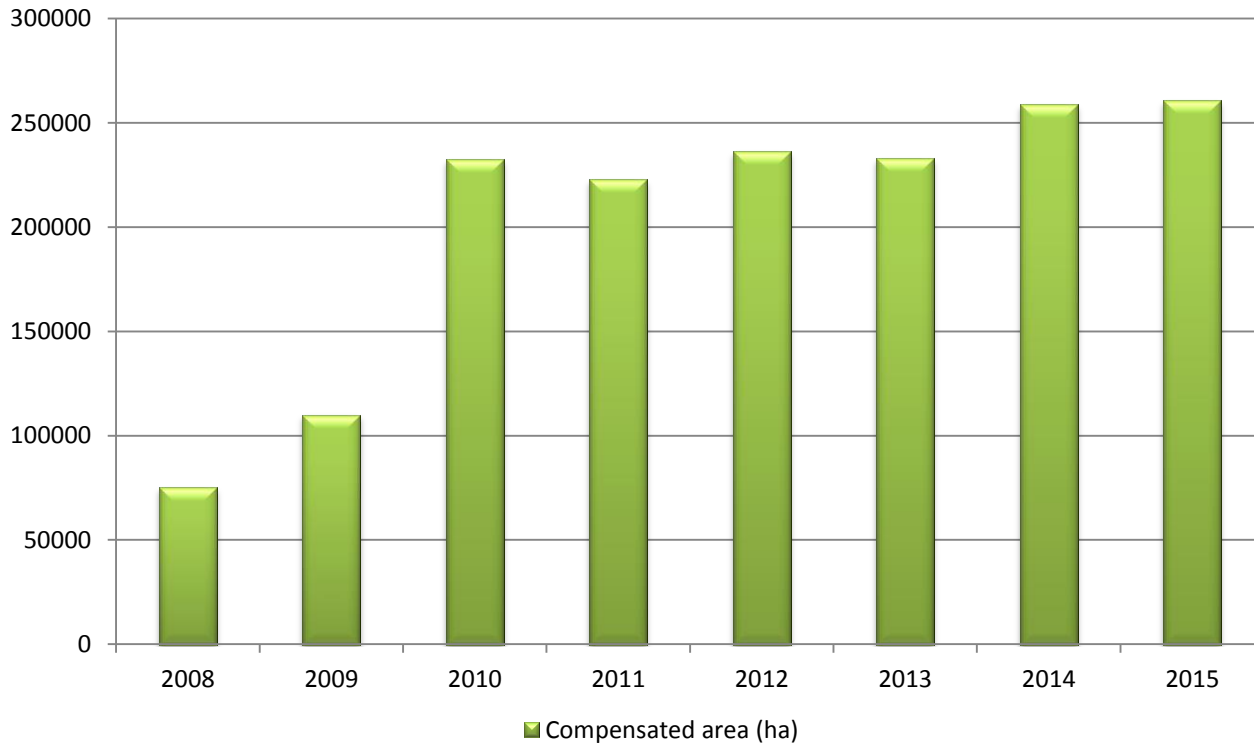
# Natura 2000 payments on grasslands

- Grasslands must be utilised by grazing and/or mowing at least once a year.
- The following animal species can only be grazed: cattle, sheep, goat, donkey, horse and buffalo
- **grasslands must not be overgrazed**
- the surface of the grassland must not be permanently injured during nutrient management activities.
- Nutrient supply for the grassland only through manure of grazing animals, other ways of manure application on grassland is prohibited
- **minimum 5% and maximum 10 % of the subsidized area – including areas as well where the authority orders occasionally obligatory limitations due conservation reasons – has to be left unharvested by every mowing on different parts of the field.**
- **drainage of inland waters, and irrigation of grassland is prohibited**
- mechanical mowing is prohibited from sunup till sunset
- grazing between 31 October and 23 April and wiping out reed has to be officially permitted by the competent authority
- **the field should be mown from the centre of the field outwards without creating isolated islands of uncut grassland where animals do not have escape routes towards the edges. Using an alarm chain while mowing is compulsory in order to help games to escape**
- settling and further spread of invasive and alien species can be prevented by mechanical methods or special treatment (e.g. targeted chemical use), the population of these species has to be controlled, other chemical use is prohibited.
- **the provisional date of mowing should be reported to the relevant national park directorate in written form at least 5 working days in advance.**
- storage of fodder plants on grassland is prohibited



69 euro/ha

# Natura 2000 payments on grasslands



## OBSTACLES

- No way to define customized, unique management requirements;
- Defining prescriptions so that they can be accepted by the Payment Agency;
- Technical requirements must be fulfilled;
- Widespread involvement of stakeholders and farmers is necessary;

Compromise is needed!

# Natura 2000 payments in forests

**Eligible area:** 130 000 hectares of private owned Natura 2000 forests

**Introduction of the payment:** in 2012.

**Payment rate:** 41-237 euro/ha/year

Payment rate depends on: faállomány típustól, korcsoporttól, az erdő természetességi állapotától

**Area under Natura 2000 payment:** 97-100 000 hectares/year

Commitments: defined in the 10 year forest plans.





# Agri-environment payments

## Characteristic prescriptions

### ARABLE LAND

- Crop structures
- Limited pesticide use
- Buffer zones around nests (50\*50 m)
- Mosaic-like management methods
- Obligatory communication with national park directorates (nest, harvesting)

### GRASSLAND

- Late mowing
- No overgrazing
- No pesticide use
- Bird friendly harvesting methods
- Buffer zones around nests
- No water drainage
- Obligatory communication with national park directorates (nest, harvesting)

### Complex HNVA schemes for nature protection purpose

4 schemes for grasslands

4 schemes for arable lands

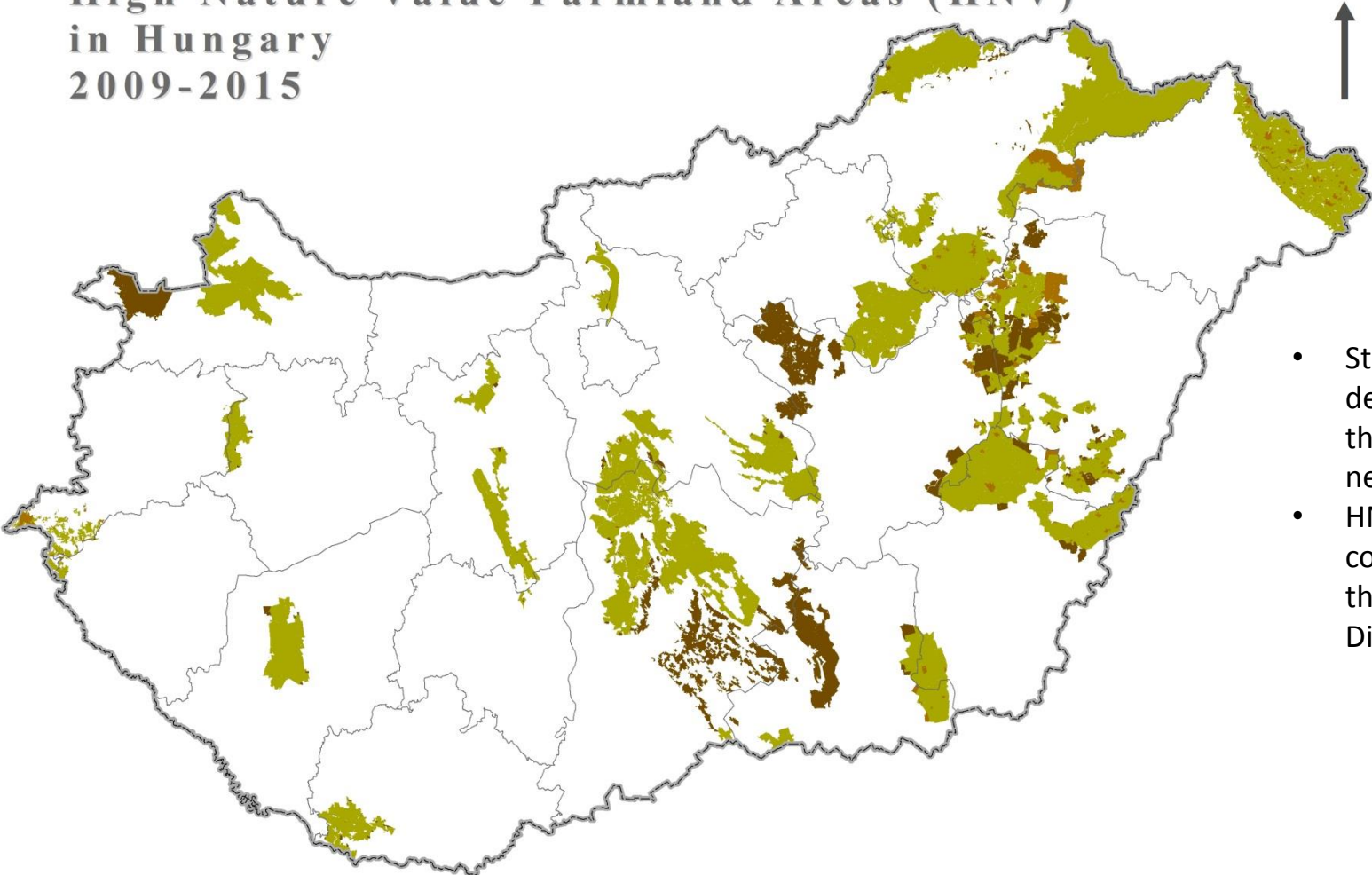
**183-439 euro/ha/year**

(Target species: great bustard, red footed falcon, etc.)



# Agri-environment payments

High Nature Value Farmland Areas (HNV)  
in Hungary  
2009-2015



- Step by step development of the HNVA network.
- HNVA coordinators at the National Park Directorates.

# Agri-environment payments

Designing an AE-scheme feels like...

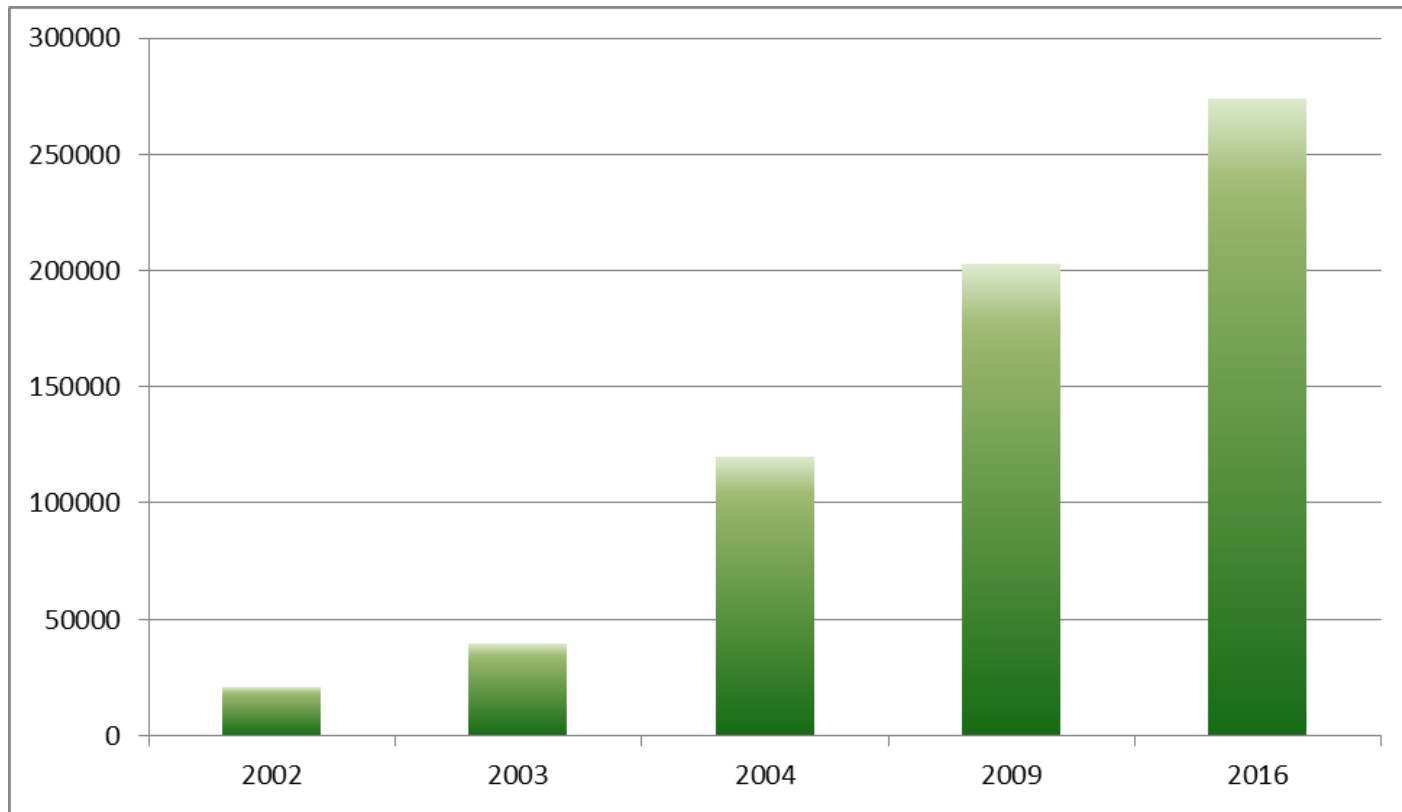


**Do we succeed?**

- Changes in the status of the target species
- Total area under AE commitments

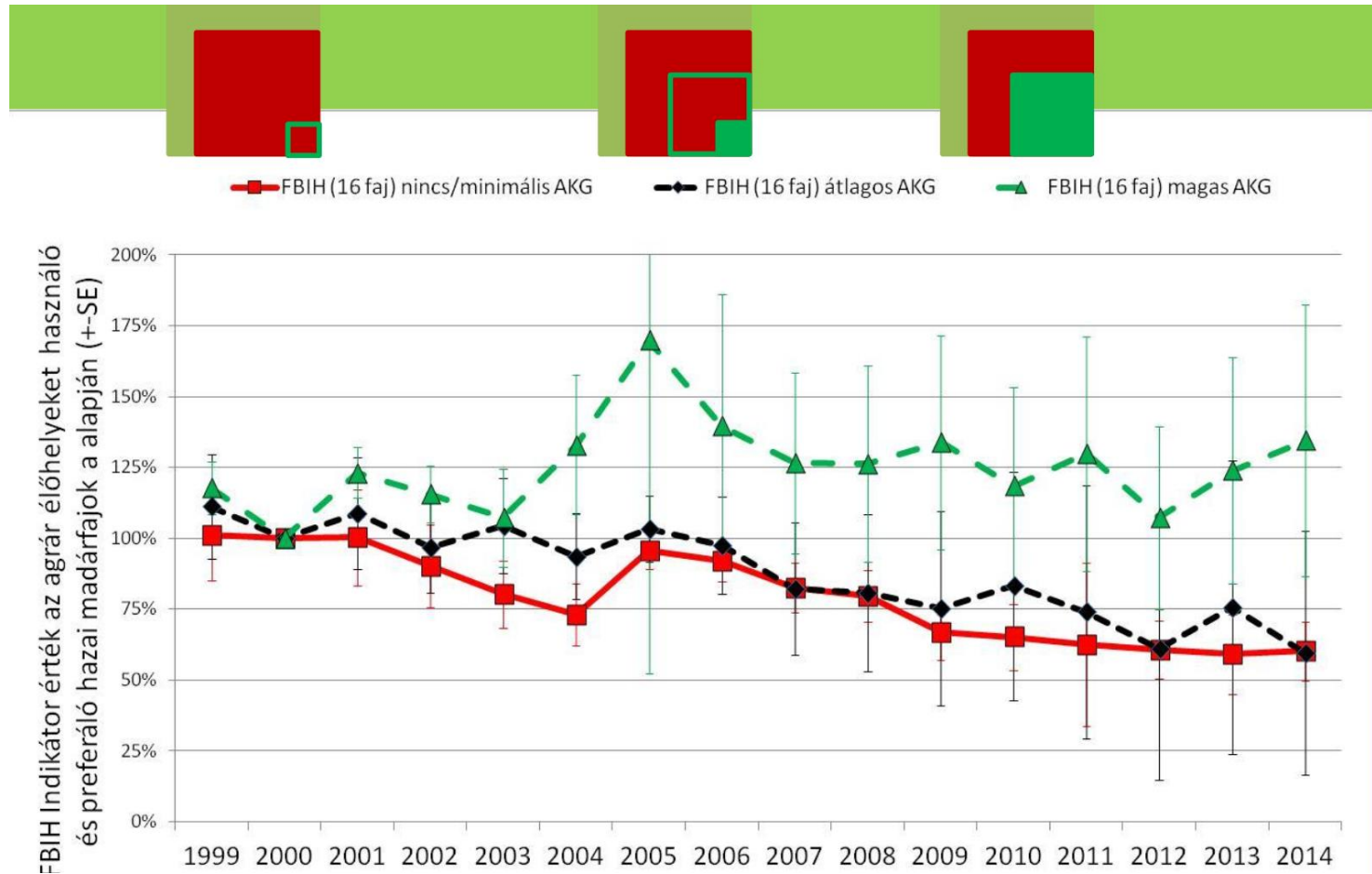
## Agri-environment payments

Applications on HNVA zonal schemes (hectares) in Hungary



## Agri-environment payments

The role of AE-payments decreasing the negative effects of CAP



Source: Tibor Szép  
Birdlife Hungary

# Conclusions

- Still the only instrument to influence the land use methods on landscape level;
- Actual positive effect on target species;
- Opportunity to make contact with farmers and go beyond the land-use prescriptions.

## Obstacles

### Within the Rural Development Programme

- Simplification has its limit;
- Raising awareness, advisory system could not reach changes in minds;
- Focus should be on impact indicators, new methodologies;

### Outside the Rural Development Programme

- Low % of the CAP payments should be able to compensate all the negative effect of the others?;
- Greening must be valued;
- Impact of other CAP payments has to be evaluated;
- Integrating the protection of biodiversity into other areas of CAP.



## Funds of the CAP in Hungary (2014-2020)

