

A HELPING HAND OR A THORN IN THE FOOT?

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS TO SUPPORT NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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Why carry out this study?

- ▶ To what extent are NBS-related concepts reflected in and supported by current EU & Member State policy frameworks?
 - ▶ Does this vary across sectors? Or by type of NBS? Or by the bindingness of the instrument?
- ▶ Do Member State discourses and policy developments mirror or rather disregard those of the EU?
- ▶ What potential policy opportunities are available to enhance NBS planning and deployment?

Approach

- ▶ Selection of relevant EU and national policy instruments
- ▶ Design of assessment framework (including e.g. type of NBS intervention, nature of instrument, level of support ...)
- ▶ Interviews with national experts
- ▶ Qualitative and quantitative analysis

EXPLICIT OR IMPLICIT MENTIONING OF NATURE (BASED SOLUTIONS) TO ADDRESS SOCIETAL CHALLENGES																												
Cite relevant text (with key terms in bold)	Societal challenge addressed ²												Type of NBS intervention ³				Elements of NBS mentioned ⁴									Nature of instrument ⁵		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
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Table 1. Selected policy instruments to be included in EU level review

Policy Field	EU Policy Instrument
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitats Directive (1992)• Birds Directive (1979/2009)• Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2011)• Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)• LIFE (the Financial Instrument for the Environment)
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water Framework Directive (2000)• Floods Directive (2006)
Marine environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008)• Blue Growth Strategy (& guidance) (2012)• European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (2014)
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forest Strategy (2013)
Agriculture and regional policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Agricultural Policy (2013), including European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)• Urban Agenda for the EU (i.e. Pact of Amsterdam, 2016)
Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2013)
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7th & Horizon 2020 Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation
Cohesion and growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Europe 2020 Strategy (2010)• Circular Economy Action Plan (2015)• Cohesion Fund• European Social Fund• European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Environmental assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (1985)• Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001)• Protocol on SEA (2008)

NBS-related concepts



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EU Findings: Concepts and terms

Sustainable management

Natural water retention measures

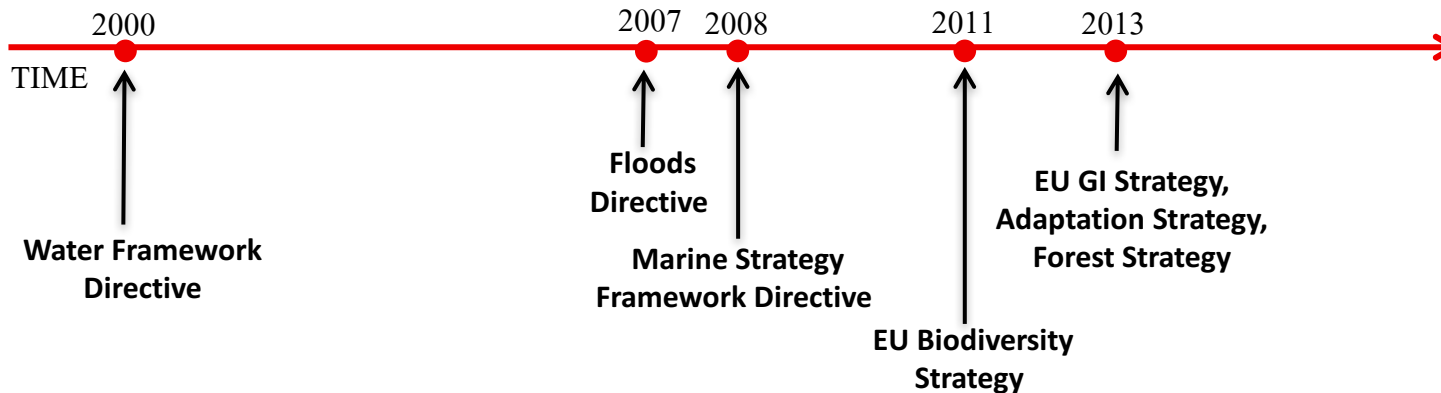
Ecosystem-based approach

Nature-based innovation

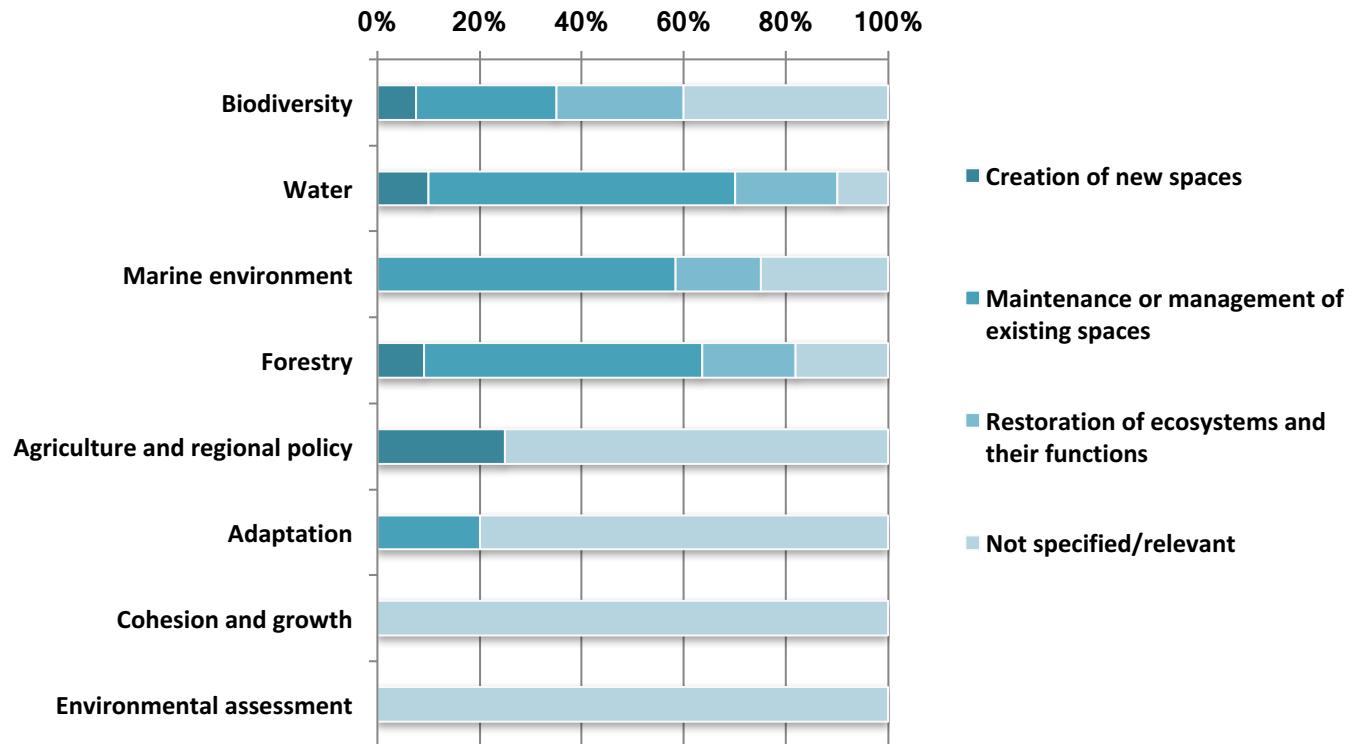
Green infrastructure

Nature-based solutions

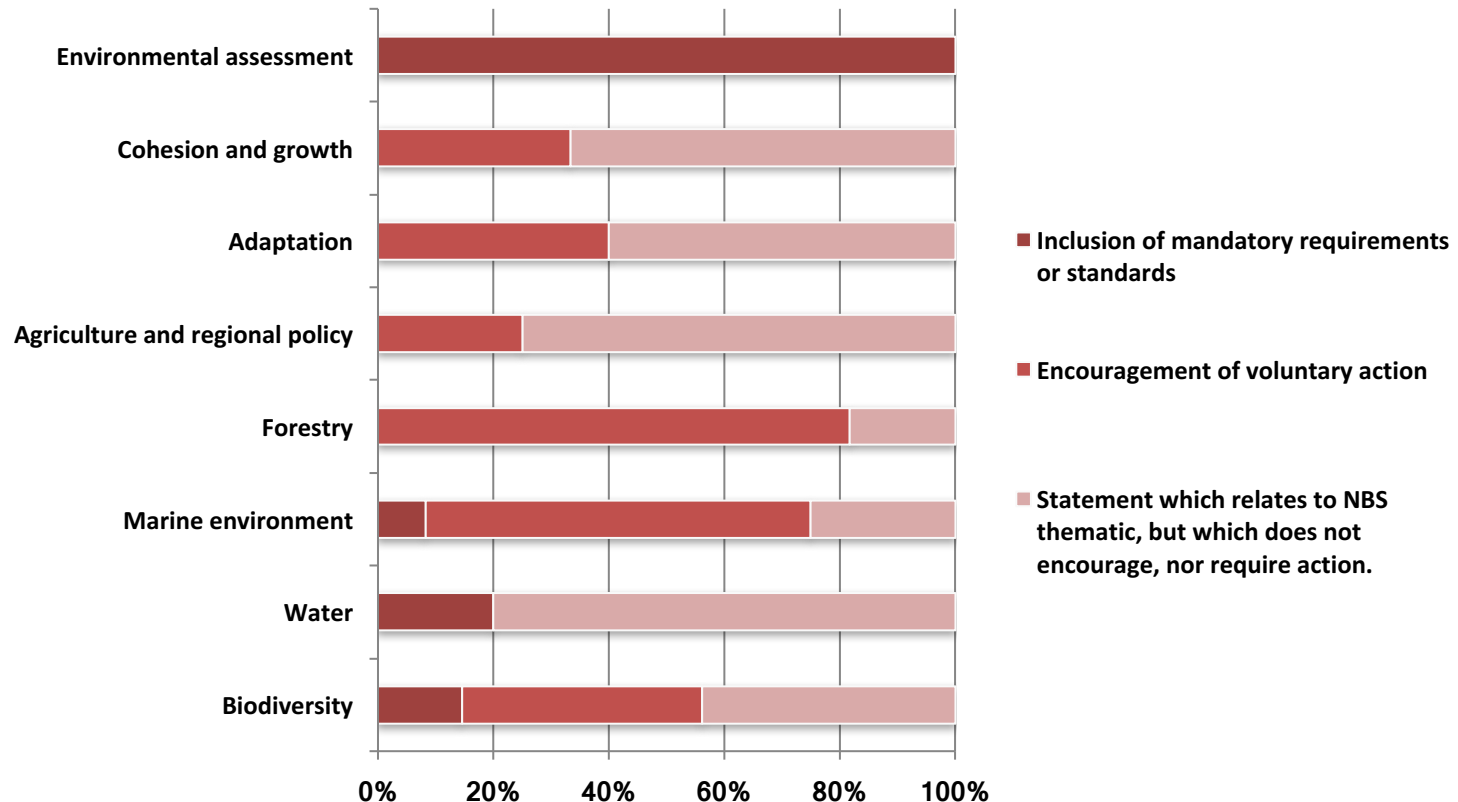
Working with nature



EU Findings: Types of NBS interventions

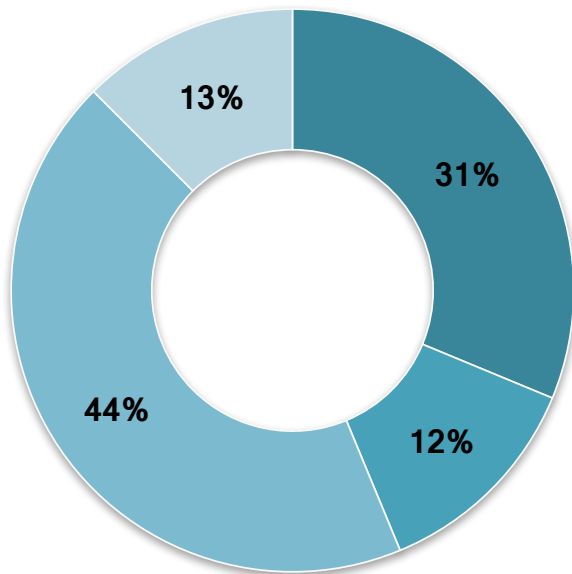


EU Findings: Nature of policy instruments

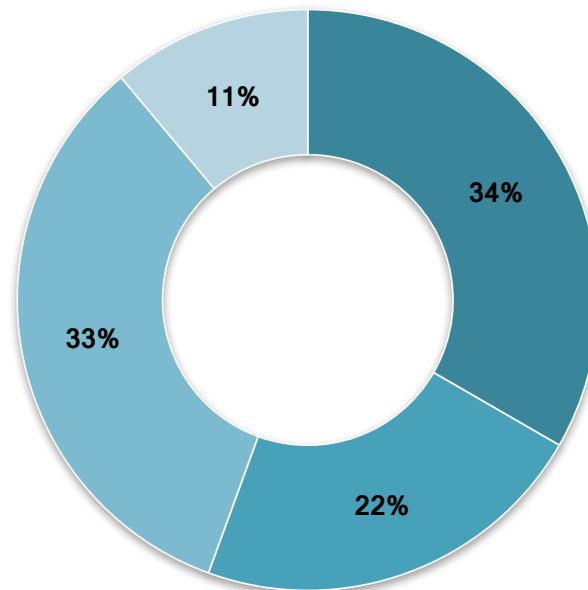


EU Findings: Implicit vs. explicit support

**Level of NBS support
in policies**



**Level of NBS support in
funding instruments**



- Strong explicit support
- Strong implicit support
- Medium support
- Low support

National NBS- discourses and policy support

Sweden



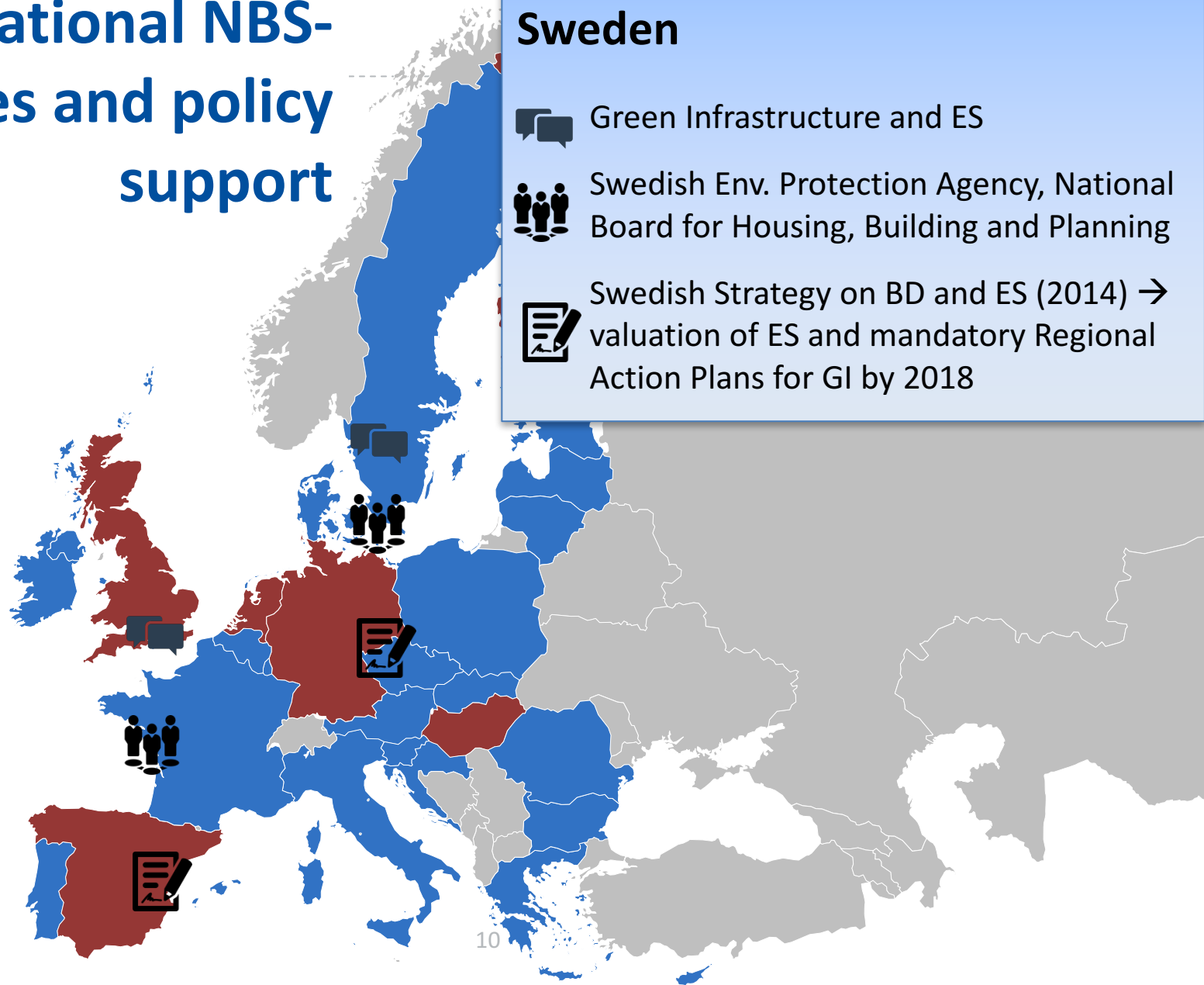
Green Infrastructure and ES



Swedish Env. Protection Agency, National Board for Housing, Building and Planning

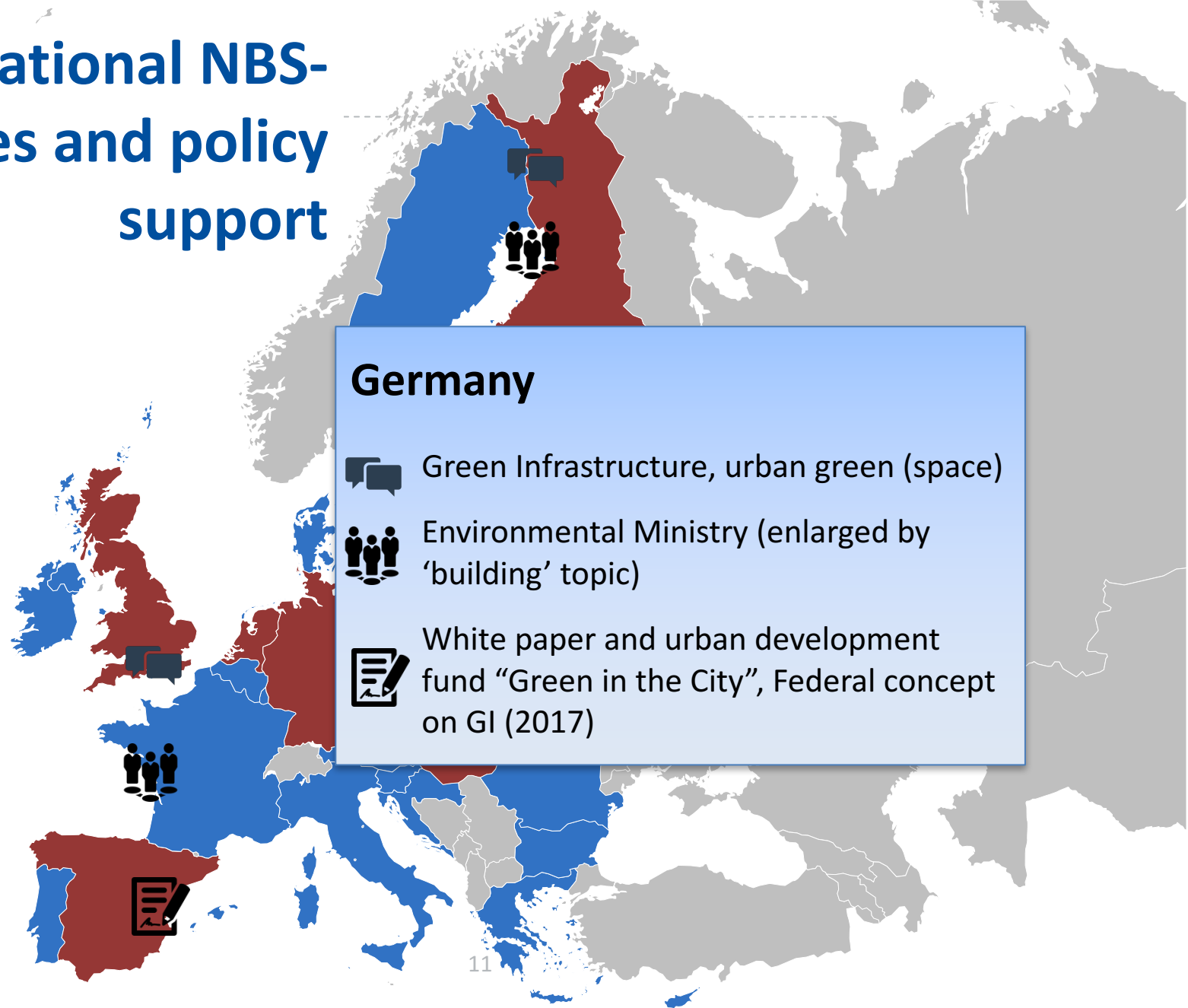


Swedish Strategy on BD and ES (2014) → valuation of ES and mandatory Regional Action Plans for GI by 2018






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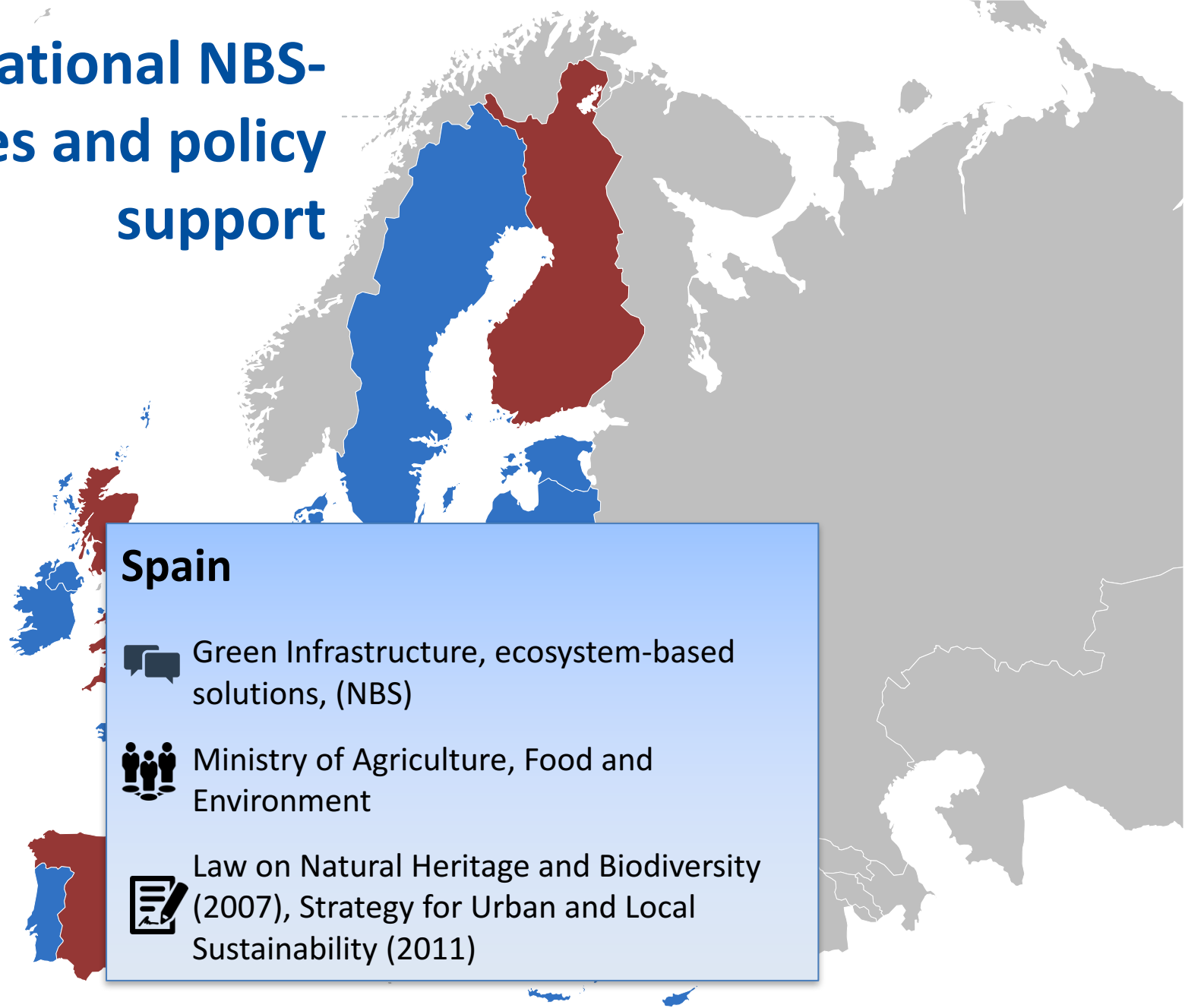
National NBS- discourses and policy support



Germany

-  Green Infrastructure, urban green (space)
-  Environmental Ministry (enlarged by 'building' topic)
-  White paper and urban development fund "Green in the City", Federal concept on GI (2017)

National NBS- discourses and policy support



Spain



Green Infrastructure, ecosystem-based solutions, (NBS)



Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment



Law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity (2007), Strategy for Urban and Local Sustainability (2011)

Future perspectives

▶ EU-level

- ▶ Ongoing support through sectoral policies and financial instruments (e.g. H2020, ERDF: Urban Innovation Actions)
- ▶ TEN-G ('funding of GI projects') as new EU funding instrument for GI post-2020

▶ National level

- ▶ Several supporting processes in place and planned (e.g. upcoming *Spanish National GI Strategy* in 2018)
- ▶ Expected impacts of current/planned policies: increased NBS employment, GI in urban and rural areas (e.g. the use of cemeteries, information on costs & benefits)
- ▶ Potential for stronger linkages with well-being and preventive health care policies

Helping hand? Or a thorn in the foot?

Current policy frameworks *do* provide a basis for supporting NBS-related concepts, but...

- Lacking quantitative and measurable targets
- Need stronger focus on creation of new spaces, alongside restoration and maintenance/management actions
- Untapped potential to deploy NBS in urban areas

Uptake depends largely on MS self-initiative and commitment, but...

- Cities and regions are more likely to have supportive NBS policies if one exists at higher governance level (Urban MAES Report, 2016)
- Mandatory standards or measures across EU policies could help

Thank You!

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