Assessment of coherence of the Green Architecture

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European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP

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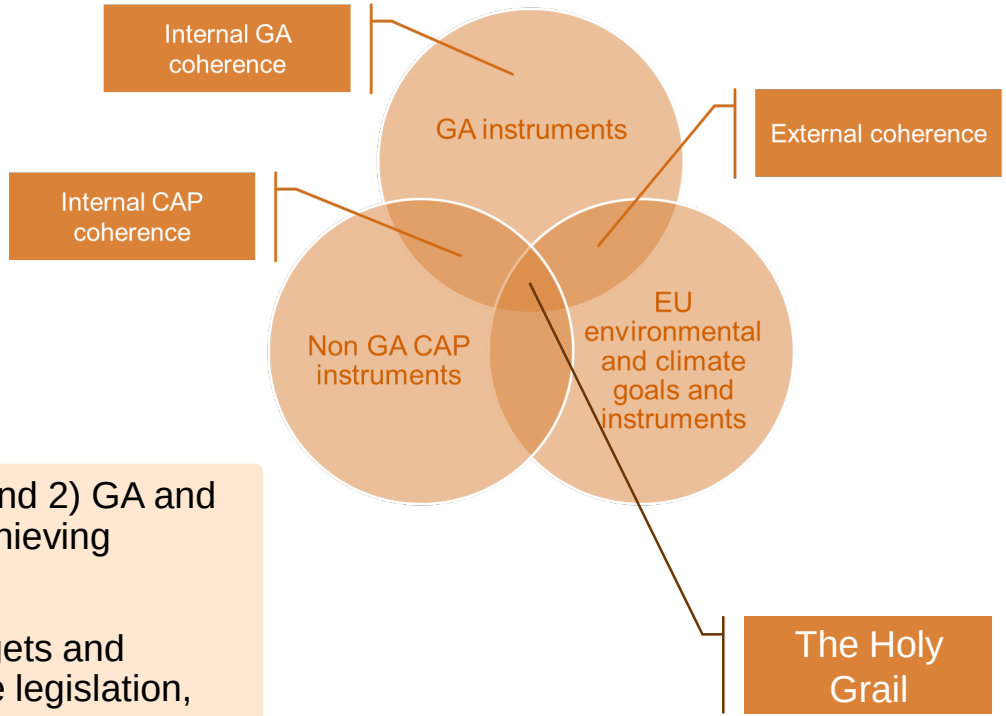
Assessment of GA coherence: why?

- EU Better Regulation : how well different actions or policies complement each other
  - Avoiding conflicting policy signals and incentives to farmers
  - Maximising impact of the GA and CAP, in the context of multiple demands and requirements
  - Reducing administrative complexities and burden
  - Effectively contributing to the wider national and EU environmental and climate goals

- <u>While moving away from individual intervention or individual SO assessment</u>

Three dimensions of coherence



- Interplay between 1) GA instruments; and 2) GA and non GA CAP instruments, in view of achieving environmental and climate goals
- Contributing to achieving long term targets and objectives of environmental and climate legislation, and related national planning tools

GA instruments
Any CAP instruments designed to contribute to SO4-6
A minima: GAEC, eco-schemes, ENVCLIM, ASD, green investments

Non GA CAP instruments
Any CAP instruments not designed to contribute to SO4-6

Environmental and climate instruments

Listed in Annex XIII: Habitats Directive & Birds Directive; Land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) Regulation; Effort Sharing Regulation; Directive renewable sources; Directive on energy efficiency; Regulation on governance of energy and Climate Action; EU Water Framework Directive; Nitrates Directive; Ambient Air Quality Directive; National Emissions reduction Commitment Directive; Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides

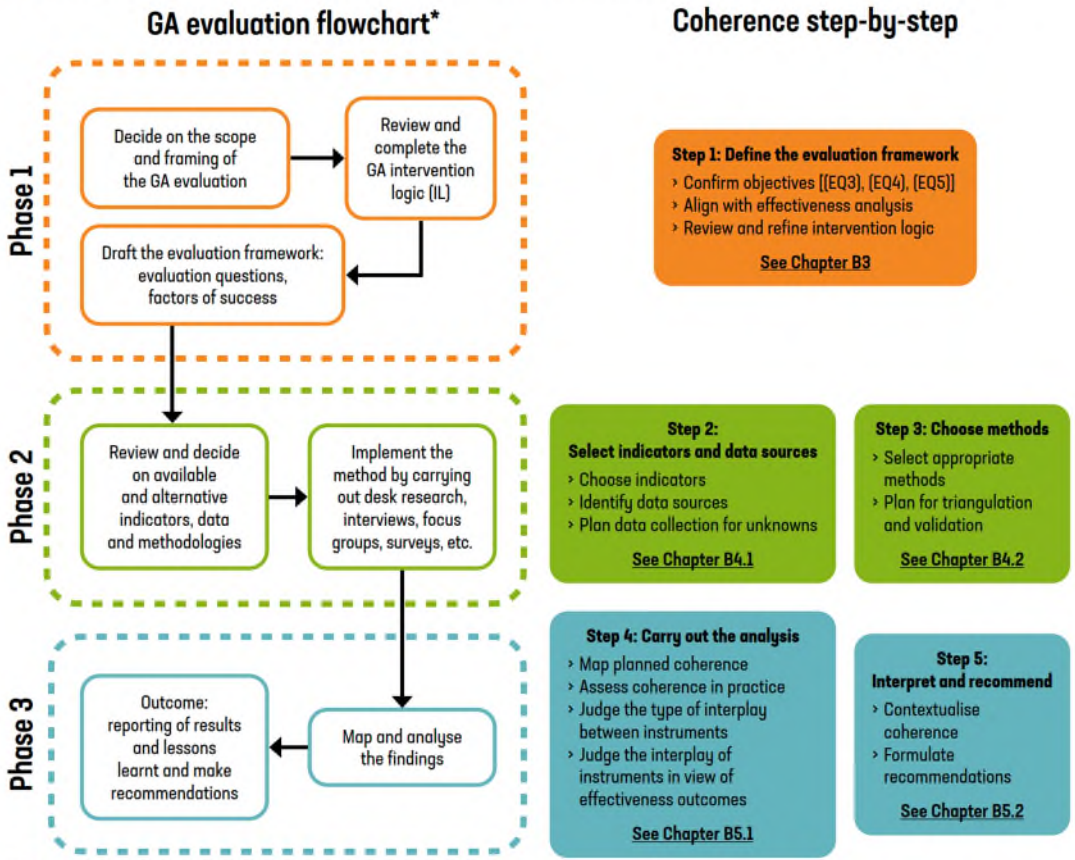
Other relevant: Nature Restoration Regulation; Climate Adaptation Strategy; Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Regulation; EU Methane Strategy; Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience; EU Soil Strategy for 2030; Directive on organic production and Organic Action Plan; Flood Directive; Regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse; EU Forest Strategy; EU Pollinator Initiative

Proposed EQs and FoS for coherence assessment in Guidance

Evaluation question	Factor of Success
EQ3: To what extent and how have instruments forming part of the GA complemented each other and worked in synergy to deliver on the CAP environment and climate objectives? Were there trade-offs and/or overlaps?	GA instruments complemented each other to deliver on the CAP environmental and climate objectives
EQ4: To what extent and how have GA and non-GA instruments worked in synergy in advancing the CAP environment and climate objectives?	The GA and non-GA instruments in CSP worked in synergy on advancing the CAP environmental and climate objectives
EQ5: To what extent and how has the implementation of the GA contributed to achieve the targets and objectives of environmental and climate legislation and planning tools?	The implementation of the GA contributed to achieve specific targets and objectives of environmental and climate legislation and planning tools

Proposed assessment steps in Guidance

Figure 5. Step-by-step process for the assessment of the coherence of the GA



*See the full GA evaluation flowchart in Chapter 3.3

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2025)

Step-by-step theoretical example

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Phase 1 – Defining the evaluation framework

Evaluation question	FoS – water balance (SO5) & carbon removal (SO4)
EQ3 To what extent and how have instruments forming part of the GA complemented each other and worked in synergy to improve water balances and support climate mitigation? Were there trade-offs and/or overlaps?	GA instruments complemented each other to improve water balances and support climate mitigation
EQ5 To what extent and how have GA and non-GA instruments worked in synergy in improving water balances and supporting climate mitigation?	The GA worked in synergy with the WFD, other water policy instruments, LULUCF and carbon farming regulations to improve water balances and support climate mitigation

Recommendation: to include all SO environment/climate elements (or focus on elements with potential trade-offs / synergies to check if they are addressed / optimised)

To include all GA instruments planned for the environmental/climate elements

Environmental and climate planning tools

- Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans
- National Energy and Climate Plans
- National carbon farming and soil policies, plans and programmes

SO4: Climate Action & SO5: Efficient natural resource managent

- **Climate change mitigation**
- **Water balance**

Result indicators

- **R14** - Carbon storage in soils and biomass
- **R16** - Investments related to climate
- **R.23** - Sustainable water use
- **R.26** - Investments related to natural resources

GA intervention

- GAECS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- Eco-schemes (Article 31)
- AECC and others (Article 70)
- Investment support (Art. 73-74)
- ASD (Art. 72)
- Cooperation (Art. 77)
- Farm advisory support (Article 15)
- Knowledge exchange & dissemination of information (Art. 78)

Factors of success

Judgment criteria

- GA instruments complemented each other to improve water balances and support climate mitigation
- The GA worked in synergy with the WFD, other water policy instruments, LLUCF and carbon farming regulations to improve water balances and support climate mitigation

Other CSP interventions and instruments

- Definitions
- BISS (Art. 21)
- Coupled Income Support (Art. 32)
- CIS-YF (Art. 30)
- ANC (Art.71)
- CRISS (Art. 29)
- Investment support (Art. 73-74)
- Sectoral interventions (Art 47(2)(a) to (l)), 58 (1)(c) and (d)

Phase 2 – Data and methods (examples)

EQ	Data / data source	Methods
EQ3 (internal GA coherence)	• Stated objectives, scope, eligibility criteria and requirements of relevant ecoschemes, ENVCLIM, investments, and cooperation interventions in CSP documents • Result indicators, output indicators, and expenditure data • Enabling factors and barriers for uptake of interventions, including cooperation measures for impact at scale	• Bibliographic analysis • Uptake and financial analysis • Surveys / focus groups
EQ5 (external coherence)	• Eligibility criteria and requirements in GA instruments (CSP documents), targets and recommendated measures on agriculture (environmental and climate planning tools) • Spatial implementation of interventions and farm practices in areas prioritised under water & relevant national/regional climate mitigation plans (LPIS/IACS, RBMPs, LULUCF) • Stakeholder feedback of CSP alignment with environmental planning tools	• Bibliographic analysis • Spatial overlay analysis • Stakeholder interviews • Surveys / focus groups

Phase 3a – Analysis

EQ	Evidence	Finding
EQ3 (internal GA coherence)	• Relevant ES/ENVCLIM for increasing soil carbon storage and soil water retention, but low R14/R23 and low O14 • Farmers report low payment rates (ES, ENVCLIM) • New intervention supporting establishment of wetlands, but low R16/R26 and O21/O23 • Investments supports land consolidation leading to removal of hedgerows; investments in expansion of irrigation in water scarce areas • Advisory services report challenges on coordinating uptake at landscape scale	• Limited aggregated impact of GA instruments for soil carbon storage and soil water retention • Insufficient uptake of landscape elements with high water retention and soil carbon storage capacities • Conflicting investments supporting increasing pressures (carbon emissions, irrigation abstraction) • Lack of intervention collective uptake of measures beneficial for soil carbon storage and soil water retention at landscape scale
EQ5 (external coherence)	• Spatial overlay shows that uptake doesn't occur in catchments with negative water balance, according to the RBMP, nor in areas with most potential for soil carbon removal	• GA interventions not implemented in priority catchments and regions with high potential for soil carbon storage and soil water retention

Phase 3b – Analysis

Complementarity action (S)
Neutral (N)
Contradictory action (C)
Overlap (O)
Gaps (G)

	GAEC 6 Soil Cover	Eco-scheme "Soil cover +"	ENVCLIM "Crop rotation"	Non-prod. "Wetlands / Floodplain restoration"	Cooperation interventions
GA INSTRUMENTS					
GAEC 6 Soil Cover					
Eco-scheme "Soil cover +"	S				
ENVCLIM "Transition to low water demand crops"	S	S+			
Non-prod. "Wetlands / Floodplain restoration"	S	S+	S++		
Cooperation interventions	N	G	G	G	
ENV AND CLIMATE PLANNING TOOLS					
WFD-RBMP	S	S+	S++	S++	G
LULUCF	S	S+	S++	S++	G

Phase 3b – Recommendations and action

EQ	Finding	Example of recommendation	Example of MA/PA action / use
EQ3 (internal GA coherence)	• Limited aggregated impact of GA instruments for soil carbon storage and soil water retention • Insufficient uptake of landscape elements with high water retention and soil carbon storage capacities • Conflicting investments supporting increasing pressures (carbon emissions, irrigation abstraction) • Lack of intervention collective uptake of measures beneficial for soil carbon storage and soil water retention at landscape scale	• Improve synergies and incentives for soil carbon storage and soil water retention • Increase ambition for the uptake of non-productive investments for landscape features (wetland/floodplain) • Ensure productive investments align with soil carbon storage and soil water retention priorities • Strengthen the role of cooperation for collective uptake of GA instruments .	• Develop integrated intervention logic to increase soil carbon and water retention and increase payment rates • Increase financial allocation to non-productive investments • Set out more strict eligibility rules and requirements in INVEST interventions • Establish specific COOP intervention for landscape scale uptake of soil carbon storage and soil water retention measures
EQ5 (external coherence)	• GA interventions not implemented in priority catchments and regions with high potential for soil carbon storage and soil water retention	• Strengthen spatial targeting to ensure interventions address areas of highest environmental relevance	• Integration criteria/requirement to prioritise uptake in catchments with negative water balances and high potential for increasing soil carbon

In the guidance:

- More insights into relevant data and data sources
- Description of methods and their advantages / disadvantages and when to use them
- Analytical table mock up to assess internal and external coherence
- Generic matrix linking potential findings to recommendations and actions

Thanks! Any more Questions?

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