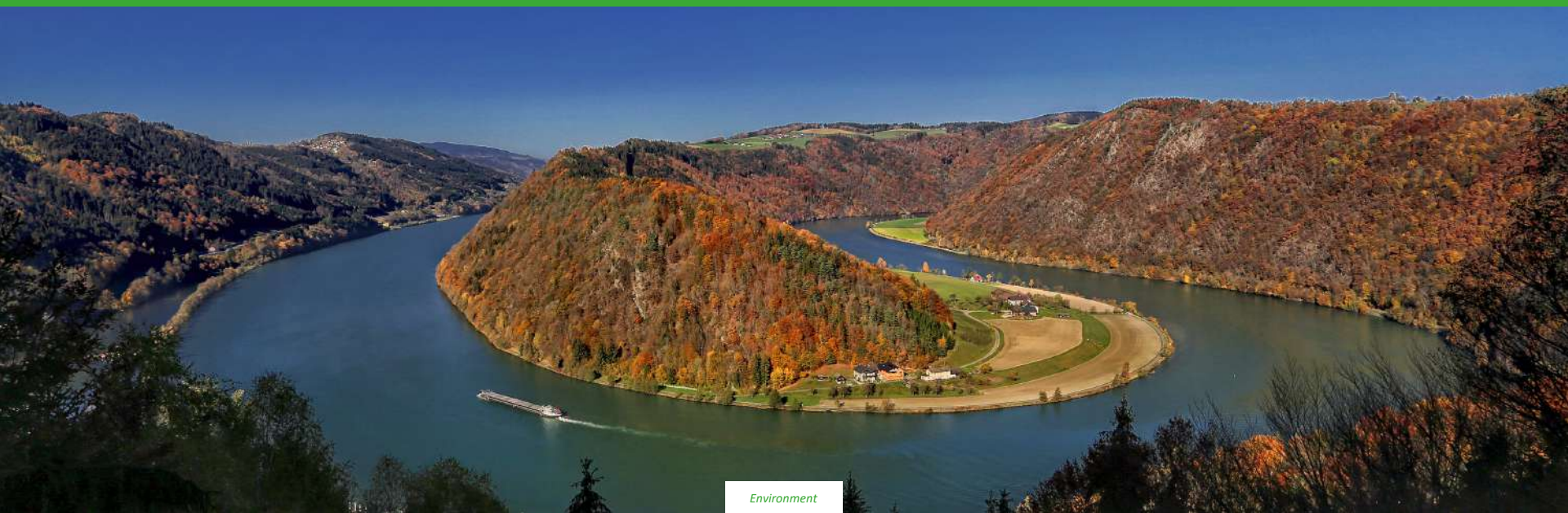




# UPCOMING EU GUIDANCE ON GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES IN DECISION-MAKING



## Ecosystem services

The flow of benefits from nature to people –  
implies our critical dependence on nature:

### **Life-support system**

air, food, water,  
shelter

### **Wellbeing**

health, quality of life,  
inspiration

### **Prosperity**

innovation, materials,  
green business and jobs,  
sustainable development



## A wide range of ecosystem services

- **Provisioning, regulating/maintaining, cultural**
- **Full range depends on ecosystem condition**
- **Some services are underpinned by others**
- **Can provide cost-effective, integrated solutions**
- **May be visible and maximised - or less visible and neglected in decisions...**



## Green & blue infrastructure

**A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver wide range of ecosystem services (in terrestrial, aquatic, coastal & marine environments)**



Spatial and functional structure delivering nature benefits to people



## UPCOMING EU GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

As part of the the Action plan for nature, people and the economy (2017-2019):

**EU Green  
Infrastructure strategy  
implementation  
review**

(March-April 2019)

**Guidance on a strategic  
framework for supporting  
the deployment of EU-  
level green and blue  
infrastructure**

(March-April 2019)

**Guidance on integrating  
ecosystems and their  
services into decision-  
making**

(May 2019)

**Adopted in June 2018: EU Pollinators initiative**

## Guidance on ecosystems and their services



## Guidance on ecosystems and their services

**Increase awareness of the benefits flowing from ecosystems and their services**

**Prioritise working with nature for sustainable, integrated and cost-effective solutions**

### OBJECTIVES

**Encourage learning by doing (in particular in a follow-up stage)**

**Enable working with nature by highlighting tools, instruments and experience for integration**

## Guidance on ecosystems and their services

Introduces key concepts  
related to ecosystems  
and their services

### STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

Puts forward guiding principles  
for successful  
integration

Indicates relevance to concrete processes:

- Implementation of EU environmental and sector policies
- Spatial planning
- Business sustainability

*Entry points for integration  
in a generic decision-making process*

- Knowledge and information tools
- Decision-making frameworks
- Policy incentives

**Governance and participation aspects**



## Guidance on ecosystems and their services

Overview of sources of data, tools,  
platforms and resources, e.g.:

[biodiversity.europa.eu](https://biodiversity.europa.eu)

[maes-explorer.eu](https://maes-explorer.eu)

[operas-project.eu](https://operas-project.eu)

[openness-project.eu](https://openness-project.eu)

[oppla.eu](https://oppla.eu)

[VIVAGRASS.EU](https://VIVAGRASS.EU)

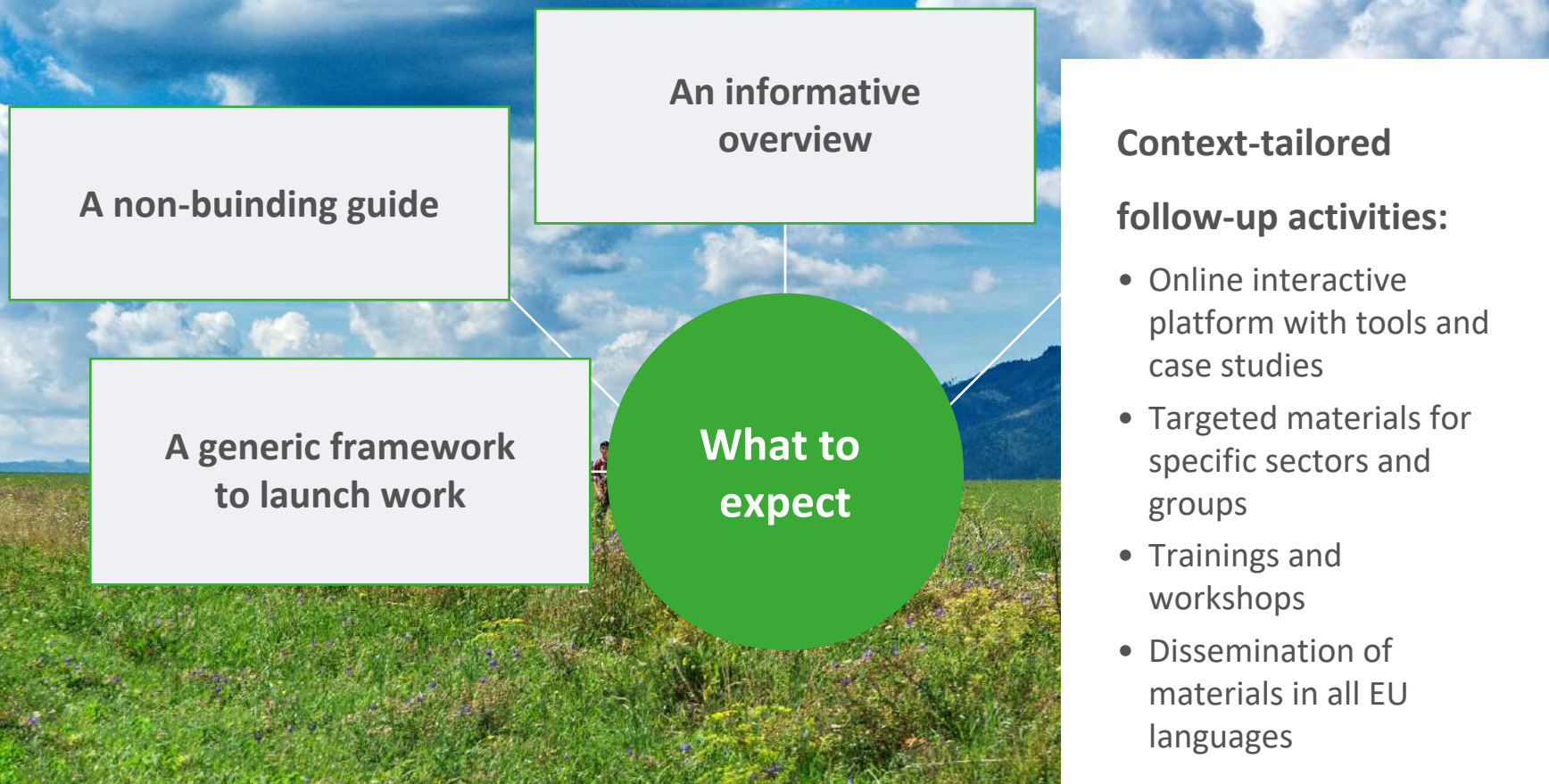
Case studies on ecosystem services  
integration, e.g.:

- Agricultural cropping systems (FR)
- Maritime Spatial Planning (Latvia)
- Regional development (BID-REX)
- Urban GI (Denmark, Italy, Spain)
- Natural Capital Accounting (NL)
- Climate adaptation (Greece)
- River Basin Management (UK)
- Coastal Zone Management (PT)

**EXAMPLES**

... and more, to be featured in the upcoming EU guidance.

## Guidance on ecosystems and their services



## Draft Guidance on EU-level green and blue infrastructure projects

**Encourage scaling-up of  
investments in EU-level  
GI projects**

**Stimulate a more strategic an integrated  
approach, so as to maximise delivery  
of ecosystem services and  
EU added value**

### Objectives

**Restore and better  
connect functional N2000  
& ecosystems**

**Contribute  
to establishing a strategic  
framework for EU level G&B  
infrastructure**

## Draft Guidance on EU-level green and blue infrastructure projects

### Draft structure

- 1 Introduction
- 2 **Key criteria** to help identifying and stimulating **EU-level** green infrastructure projects
- 3 **EU support:** through EU **financing instruments**; as well as through **scientific and technical tools** and instruments for the design of projects
- 4 **Next steps**

## Draft Guidance on EU-level green and blue infrastructure projects

1

Enhance the  
delivery of multiple  
ecosystem  
services

2

Significantly  
contribute to the  
goals of EU Nature  
legislation

3

Projects with  
a strategic  
approach &  
EU-level impact

**DRAFT CUMULATIVE CRITERIA**



## Draft Guidance on EU-level green and blue infrastructure projects

### **Overview of Financing instruments**

- European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs)
- Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
  - Innovative financing: NCCF
  - Horizon 2020

### **Overview of Scientific & technical support instruments**

- MAES: EU initiative on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services
  - KIP INCA: accounts on ecosystem condition and on ecosystem services
  - GIS modelling tools: upcoming EEA/JRC/ENV report



## Draft Guidance on EU-level green and blue infrastructure projects

Some examples:  
Case studies

- The Alpine-Carpathian Corridor  
<http://www.alpenkarpatenkorridor.at>

- The European Green Belt  
<http://www.europeangreenbelt.org/>

- Emscher Landscape Park and Emscher River Restoration  
[http://shop.rvr.ruhr/media/pdf/21/64/7c/Gr-ne-Infrastruktur-Ruhr\\_Dez16.pdf](http://shop.rvr.ruhr/media/pdf/21/64/7c/Gr-ne-Infrastruktur-Ruhr_Dez16.pdf)

- DANUBEPARKS & DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0: Transnational Strategies for Conservation of Natural Heritage of Danube River  
<http://www.danubeparks.org>

Watch this space: [www.ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm)



## Next steps

- **Adoption of the guidance documents: April – May 2018**
- **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Conference 23-24 May in Brussels**
- **Follow-up activities: online guidance, resources and training**
- **Final evaluation of the EU biodiversity strategy: end 2020**
- **Post – 2020 EU Biodiversity policy : to be adopted in 2021**

Watch this space: [www.ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm)





**Thank you for your attention!**

