



# The Financial Resources Required to Implement the Natura 2000 Network

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## Overview of Session

- Presentation – What financial resources are required to deliver the Natura 2000 Network?
  - Current study for Commission on the costs and benefits of Natura 2000 network
  - Questionnaire completed by Member States
- Panel Discussion
  - What is the difference between current expenditure and the resources needed to have a complete network in favourable conservation status?

# What financial resources are needed?

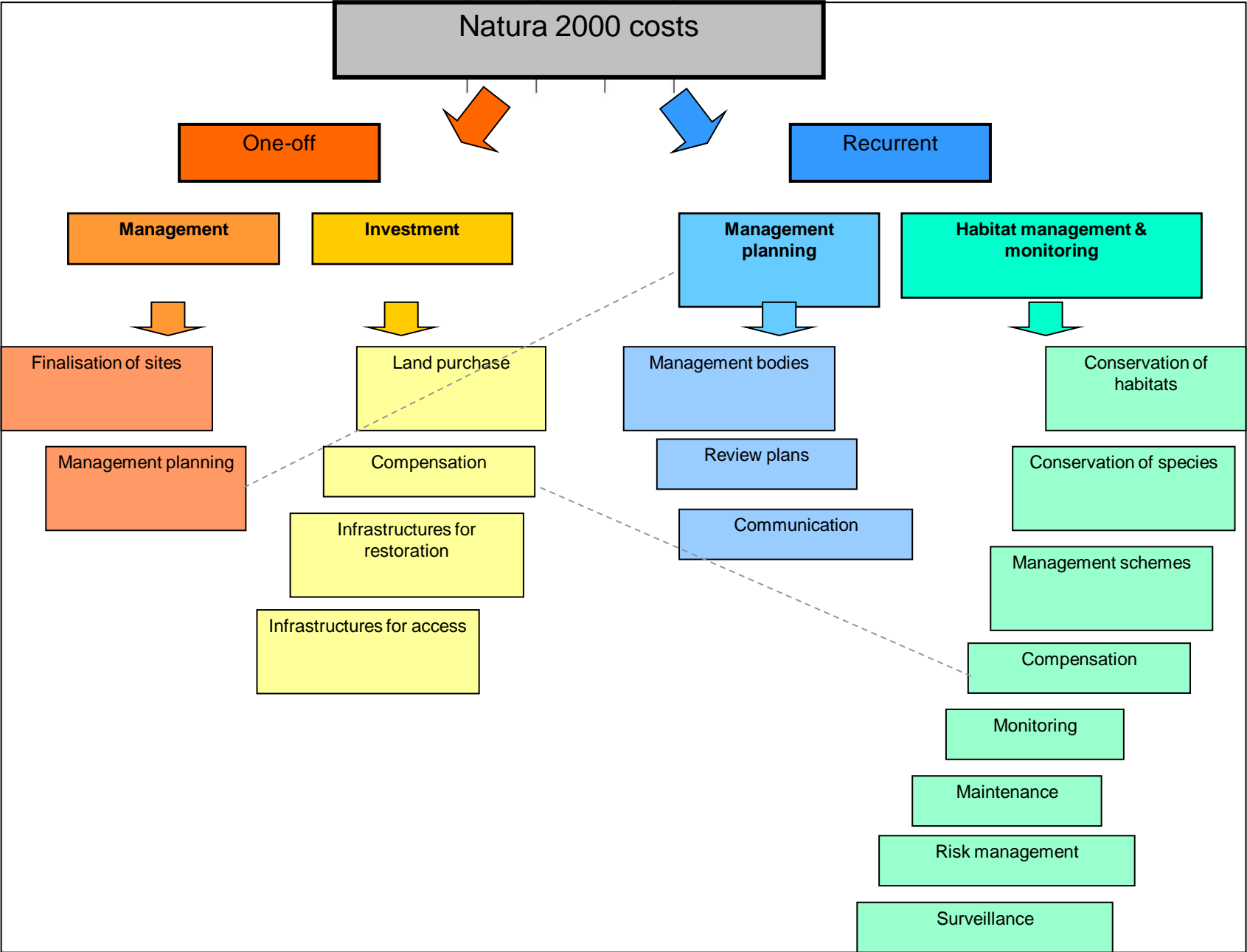
- Context and objectives for cost assessment
- The Member State questionnaire
- Provisional results from the cost assessment
- Factors affecting cost estimates
- Methodological issues
- Interpretation of the results
- Insights into future costs

## Context and objectives

- Importance of understanding costs/resource needs
  - To meet the objectives of the network
  - To guide funding strategies and co-financing
- First attempt to assess costs in 2002 - 2004 through expert working group, MS questionnaire and subsequent work by Commission
  - €6.1 billion per year for EU-25
- New MS questionnaire survey in 2008 to update and enhance estimates

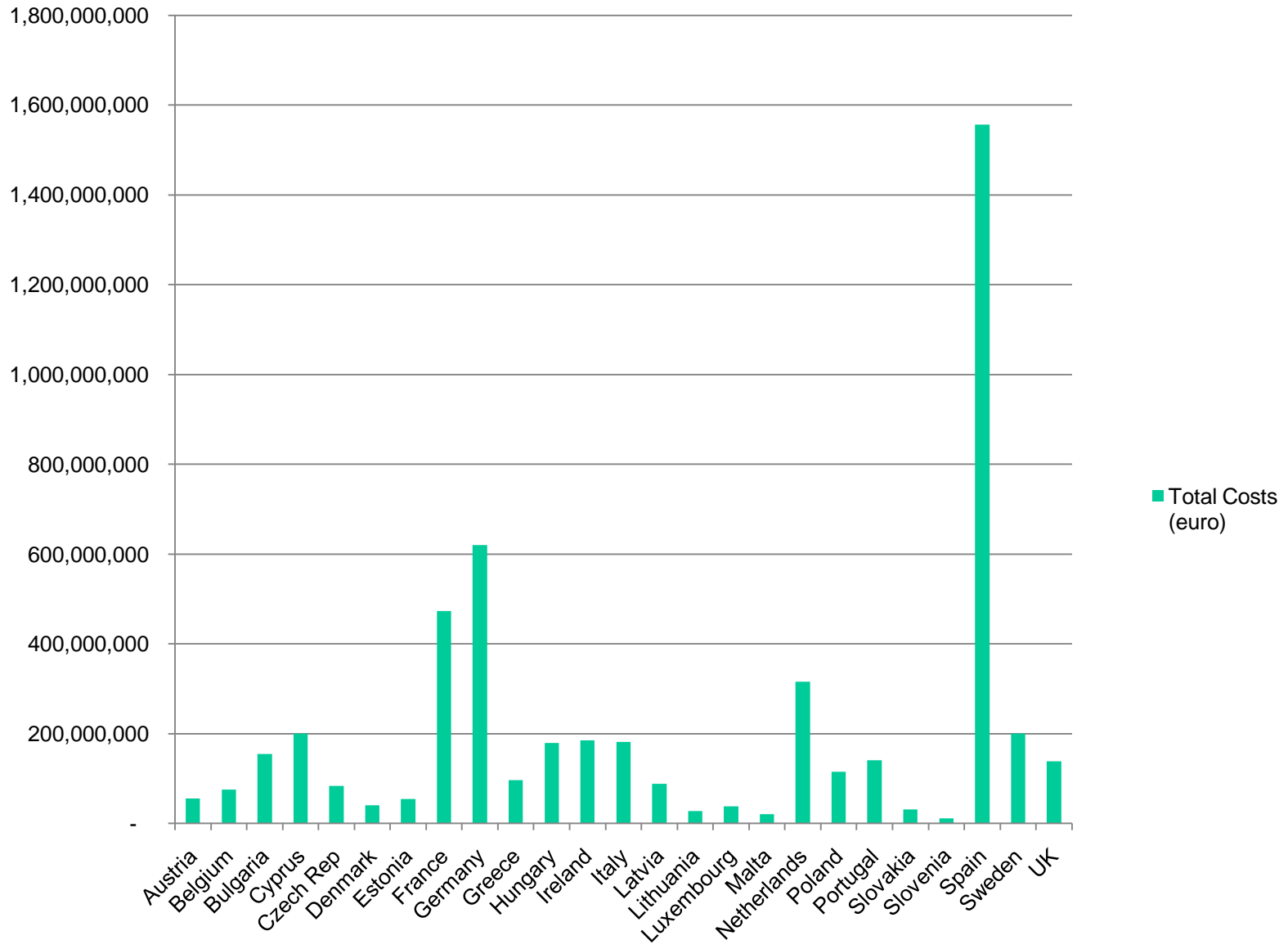
# The Questionnaire to Member States

- 2008 - Questionnaire and Guidance issued to MS
  - Designed *to obtain an estimate of the financial resources required to complete and effectively manage Natura 2000 at land and sea*
  - *Estimates should be consistent with managing all sites so as to ensure they make their contribution to the overall favourable conservation status of the network*
  - *Ambition to construct the most robust estimate achievable based on the existing experiences, knowledge and expert judgment of the Member States*

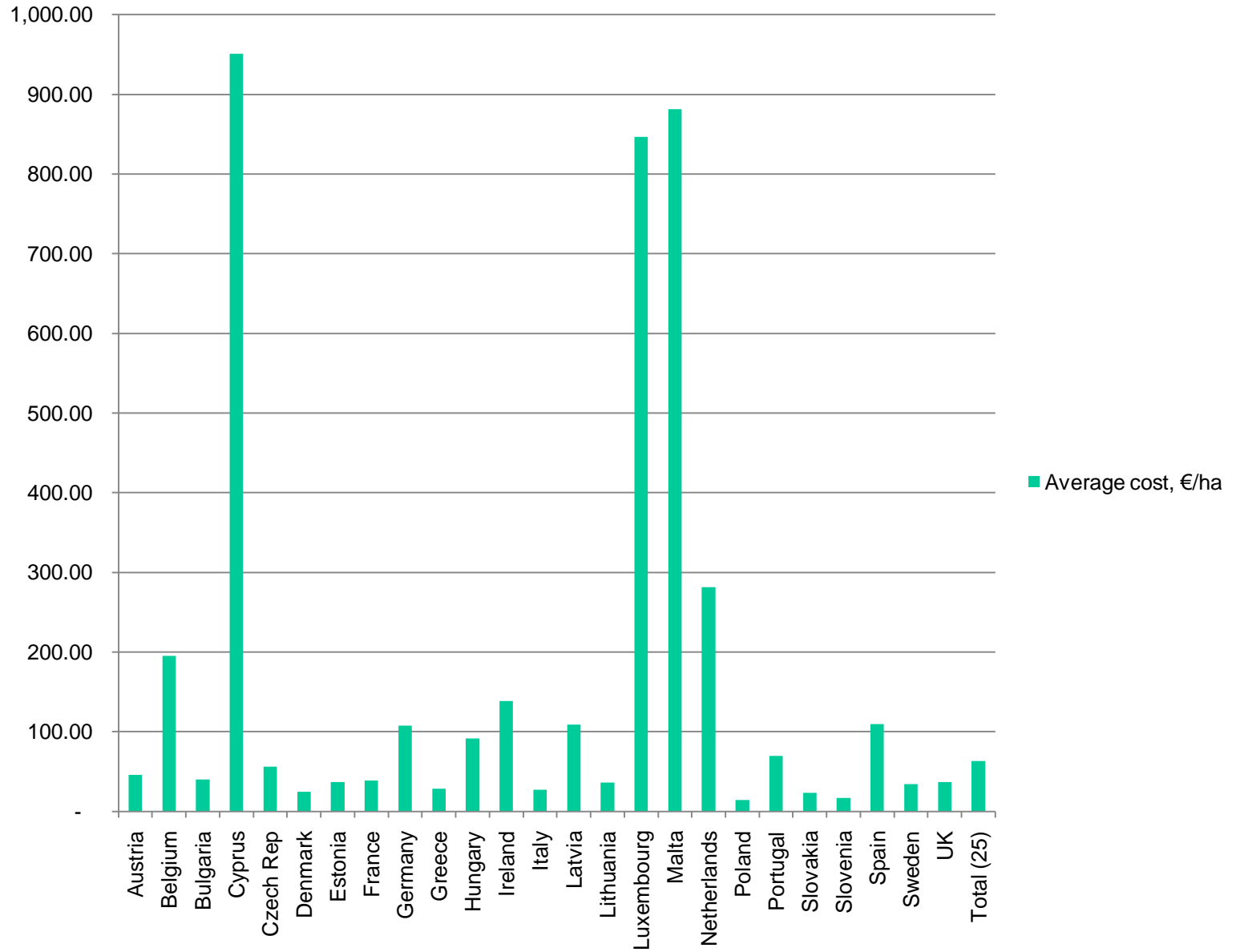


# Estimating Resource Needs – Provisional Results

- 25 MS have responded to the survey to date
- Combined costs total €5.1 billion per annum
  - 33% one-off and 67% recurrent costs
  - 98% relate to existing sites, 2% to new sites
  - Largest costs for ongoing habitat management/monitoring
- Average costs vary widely by MS (€14/ha in Poland to over €800/ha in Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta)



# G H K



## Total Estimated Costs – EU27

- Questionnaire returns for 25 of 27 MS, 88% of N2K area
- Average annual cost per hectare of €63
- Extrapolation to EU27 gives estimate of €5.8 billion per year, 2010 to 2015
- Regional based extrapolation gives slightly lower estimate of €5.5 billion per year

## Factors affecting costs

- Level of intervention required (e.g. intensive farming areas)
- Pressure from development/disturbance (e.g. urban fringes, southern islands)
- Size of sites and national networks
- Maturity of network (establishment / management)
- Conservation strategies (e.g. land purchase)
- Wage rates
- Interpretation of questionnaire (optimism/reality)

# Methodological Issues

- MS found exercise challenging, recognised uncertainties, but considered costs provided reasonable estimates
- Key methodological issues identified:
  - Distinguishing between N2K and national designations
  - Dealing with variations and extrapolating from samples
  - Annualising capital costs
  - Variations in land purchase costs (strategies, land prices)
  - Uncertainties regarding costs of reaching favourable status
  - Differences in timing between MS actions



## Interpretation of Results

- Near complete estimate of N2K resource needs, based on current knowledge & approach of MS
- Significant progress since last estimates:
  - Area coverage of cost estimates
  - Real data for new Member States
  - Updated costs reflect latest understanding of needs
  - More detailed estimates of different cost components
- Significant variations in costs across network, reflecting different MS strategies as well as unit costs
- Costs are relatively low compared to some estimates

# Insights into Future Costs

- Most MS expect costs to increase
  - Further one-off costs
  - Periodic costs (e.g. review of management plans)
  - Increased management activity following intelligence gathering and management planning
  - Increasing network area in some MS
  - Long term objectives of network, and challenge of attaining favourable conservation status
  - Higher costs for marine sites
  - Emerging pressures (climate change, abandonment)
- Greater increases in costs expected in new MS



## Panel Discussion

- What is the difference between current expenditure and the resources needed to have a complete network in favourable conservation status?



## Our Panel

- Dalia Čebatariūnaitė (*Ministry of Environment, Lithuania*)
- Peter Torkler (*WWF, Germany*)
- Els Martens (*Agency for Nature and Forests, Belgium*)
- Rafael Hidalgo (*Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, Spain*)

What is the difference between current expenditure and the resources needed to have a complete network in favourable conservation status?

1. What factors affect our estimation of the resources required to implement the network?
2. How can we further improve our understanding of the costs of Natura 2000, and what approaches could be used in future cost assessments?