

# Land Is For Ever

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Adapting new conservation tools to engage private landowners in national and regional conservation efforts in EU Member States

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European landowners' Organization



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LIFE17PREBE001



# Current situation



## EU by 2020: Halt Biodiversity loss

- Natura 2000: Europe's nature protection network
- Biodiversity conservation on private land?
  - Engagement of private landowners is required
  - In most EU Member States: voluntary programs supporting land owners in participating nature conservation management

# Examples of conservation incentives and tools

- New Flemish Nature legislation: Subsidies and Tax benefits

One single legislation and application procedure for all types of nature and all types of owners

- Wildlife Estate Label

Public recognition

- Information and on-the-ground support programs

- ...

→ Lack of awareness of existing and programs

→ Lack of programs in some National/Regional/European laws and policies

# Overall project objective



- Expand the use of private land conservation methods and approaches in the EU
- Develop recommendations for new and more effective private land conservation policies *changes, administrative regulations, guidelines, funding, incentives, capacity needs, ...*
- Develop a Network of European Private landowners involved in nature conservation

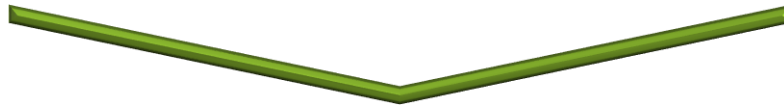


# Project process



## Bottom-up approach

- Rather unique approach in Policy development
- Land owners and managers will be closely involved through the project (Network)



**Greater chance of success and cooperation**

# Project process

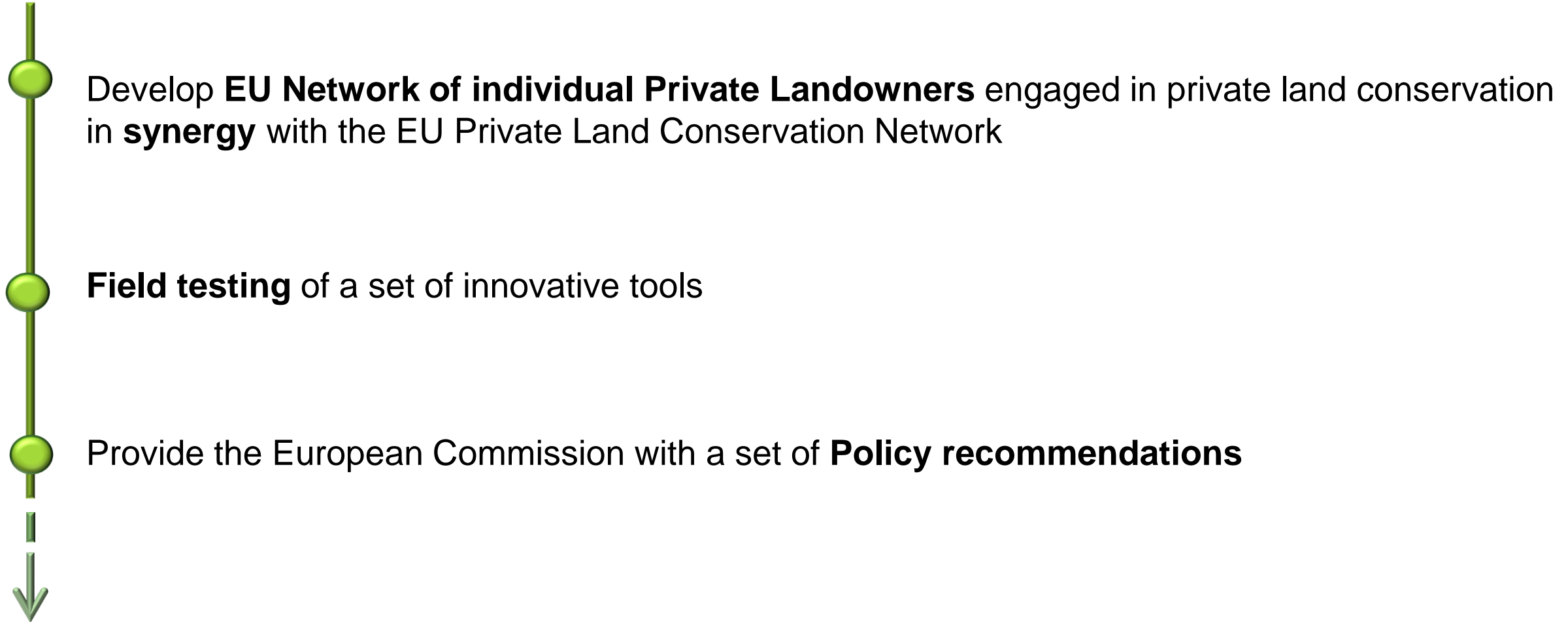
**List** current conservation incentives and tools in EU and US

Assess **landowner understanding and preferences:**  
Focus Group discussions in different EU Member States

Engage local governmental organizations and stakeholders

- Germany
- France
- Czech Republic
- Spain
- Belgium
- Sweden
- Poland
- Bulgaria
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Estonia
- Romania
- Denmark
- Italy

# Project process



# Project management



## Coordination

### **European Landowners organization (ELO)**

Committed to promote a sustainable and prosperous countryside  
Large membership in the 28 EU States



## Partners

### **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**

Conservation organisation worldwide  
Pioneered the use of numerous private land tools



### **Agency for Nature and Forest (ANB)**

Part of the Ministry of Environment, Nature en Agriculture  
Implementation Nature2000 Flanders and EU Biodiversity Strategy



# Collaboration: LIFE+LIFE - ELCN



- Definition of private land conservation:
  - Legal entity
  - Economic reality
  - Ecologic needs
  - Social involvement
- Approach
  - Top Down
  - Bottom up
- Common overarching website in preparation

# Key 'take-away messages'

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- To halt biodiversity loss private land conservation is a very important tool
- Private land conservation is carried out by very different private landowners
- Specific tools should enable all to fully participate in reaching N2000 goals
- Partnership between conservation NGOs and individual private owners

# Your contribution is very welcome !



[www.landisforever.eu](http://www.landisforever.eu)

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