

European Union
Directorate-General
for Agriculture and Rural Development

RURAL DEVELOPMENT
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

STATISTICAL AND ECONOMIC
INFORMATION

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FOREWORD

Each year the Commission publishes an Agricultural Annual Report on the agricultural situation in the European Union. A large part of the report is devoted to statistical information on Community agriculture. This is drawn up on the basis of information from Eurostat and data collected by the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development also devotes a special annual publication "Agriculture in the European Union - Statistical and economic information", separate from the Agricultural Annual Report, to a wide range of subjects, including the economic situation in agriculture, structures, trade, markets, financial aspects and rural development.

With the evolution of the Common Agricultural Policy, rural development gained in importance and information needs have also evolved. For this reason, DG Agriculture and Rural Development now prepares an annual specific report aiming to provide, on a regular basis, a comprehensive set of information on rural areas and the implementation of the EU's rural development policy.

Most of the information presented in this report can be found in existing databases and reports (Eurostat databases, European Environmental Agency databases and reports, DG AGRI statistical, monitoring and financial reports). These remain the reference source for the relevant data.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Policy context	1
1.2. Data sources and issues	1
1.2.1. Limited data availability	2
1.2.2. The definition of "rural" areas	2
1.2.3. The various financial instruments funding EURD policy	4
CHAPTER 2 SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVE	7
SECTION 2.1 SITUATION	9
2.1.1. Importance of rural areas	9
2.1.2. Socio-economic situation in rural areas	9
2.1.3. Sectoral economic indicators	10
2.1.3.1. <i>Agriculture</i>	10
2.1.3.2. <i>Food industry</i>	12
2.1.3.3. <i>Forestry</i>	12
2.1.4. Environment	13
2.1.5. Diversification and quality of life in rural areas	14
SECTION 2.2 PLURIACTIVITY AND DIVERSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS	15
2.2.1. Introduction	15
2.2.2. Extent of other gainful activities	16
2.2.3. Several factors have an impact on the existence of other gainful activities	17
2.2.3.1. <i>Size matters</i>	17
2.2.3.2. <i>The type of farming may constitute a barrier</i>	20
2.2.3.3. <i>Farm location can bring in advantages</i>	21
2.2.3.4. <i>Human capital is decisive</i>	22
2.2.4. Rural development support to diversification	23
2.2.5. Conclusion	24
SECTION 2.3 MILK PRODUCTION AND AGRO FOOD INDUSTRIES IN EUROPEAN REGIONS : WHICH INTERACTIONS AND WHICH IMPACT?	25
2.3.1. Introduction	25
2.3.2. Overview of the situation of the players of the EU dairy sector	25
2.3.3. Potentialities of the EU dairy sector at regional level	29
2.3.3.1. The milk production factor	30
2.3.3.2. The dairy processing factor	31
2.3.3.3. The consumption market factor	32
2.3.3.4. Combined effects of the factors	33

SECTION 2.4 OVERVIEW OF THE EU RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY - 2007 - 2013 PROGRAMMING PERIOD	35
2.4.1. Overview of the RD policy framework for the 2007-2013 programming period	35
2.4.2. The funding of Rural Development programming period 2007-2013	37
2.4.3. Financial structure of programming	38
2.4.3.1. Technical assistance	38
2.4.3.2. The Leader axis and its contribution to the three core objectives	39
2.4.3.3. Relative importance of the three main axes	40
2.4.4. Main Rural Development instruments	40
2.4.4.1. At EU level	43
2.4.4.2. At measure level per Member State	45
2.4.5. Overview of the financial implementation of Rural Development Policy 2007-2013	47
2.4.6. General overview of the IPARD	48
SECTION 2.5 ANALYSIS OF THE LEVERAGE EFFECT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND MEASURES, 2007-2013 PROGRAMMING PERIOD	50
2.5.1. National co-financing of Rural Development Policy	50
2.5.2. Methodology	50
2.5.3. Assessment of leverage effect of Rural Development measures in EU-27	51
2.5.4. Assessment of leverage effect of EAFRD measures only related to the new challenges	54
CHAPTER 3 STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION	59
Chapter 3 – CONTENTS	60
Foreword	61
List of indicators	65
Correspondence table between the NUTS levels and the national administrative units	68
Correspondence table between the country codes and the country names	69
SECTION 3.1 IMPORTANCE OF RURAL AREAS	71
3.1.1 Designation of rural areas	
3.1.2.1 Importance of rural areas - % territory in rural areas	
3.1.2.2 Importance of rural areas - % population in rural areas	
3.1.2.3 Importance of rural areas - % GVA in rural areas	
3.1.2.4 Importance of rural areas - % employment in rural areas	

SECTION 3.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN RURAL AREAS

77

- 3.2.1 Population density
- 3.2.2 Age structure
- 3.2.3 Economic development
- 3.2.4 Structure of the Economy
- 3.2.5 Structure of Employment
- 3.2.6 Employment rate
- 3.2.7 Unemployment
- 3.2.8 Long-term unemployment

SECTION 3.3 SECTORAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

101

- 3.3.1 Employment development of primary sector
- 3.3.2 Economic development of primary sector
- 3.3.3 Agricultural land use
 - 3.3.4.1 Farm structure - Number of farms
 - 3.3.4.2 Farm structure - Utilized agricultural area
 - 3.3.4.3 Farm structure - Average area farm size and distribution
 - 3.3.4.4 Farm structure - Average economic farm size and distribution
 - 3.3.4.5 Farm structure - Labour Force
- 3.3.5 Importance of semi-subsistence farming in NMS
- 3.3.6 Training and education in agriculture
- 3.3.7 Age structure in agriculture
- 3.3.8 Labour productivity in agriculture
- 3.3.9 Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture
- 3.3.10 Labour productivity in food industry
- 3.3.11 Gross fixed capital formation in food industry
- 3.3.12 Employment development in food industry
- 3.3.13 Economic development of food industry
- 3.3.14.1 Forestry structure - Area of forest available for wood supply (FAWS)
- 3.3.14.2 Forestry structure - Ownership (% area of FAWS under "eligible" ownership)
- 3.3.14.3 Forestry structure - Average size of private holding (FOWL)
- 3.3.15 Forest productivity
- 3.3.16 Labour productivity in forestry
- 3.3.17 Gross fixed capital formation in forestry

SECTION 3.4 ENVIRONMENT

143

- 3.4.1 Land cover
- 3.4.2 Less Favoured Areas
 - 3.4.3.1 Areas of extensive agriculture - % UAA for extensive arable crops
 - 3.4.3.2 Areas of extensive agriculture - % UAA for extensive grazing
 - 3.4.4.1 Natura 2000 area - % territory under Natura 2000
 - 3.4.4.2 Natura 2000 area - % UAA under Natura 2000
 - 3.4.4.3 Natura 2000 area - % forest area under Natura 2000
- 3.4.5 Biodiversity: Population of farmland birds
- 3.4.6 Biodiversity: High Nature Value farmland areas
- 3.4.7 Biodiversity: Tree species composition
- 3.4.8 Biodiversity: Protected forest
- 3.4.9 Development of forest area

3.4.10	Forest ecosystem health	
3.4.11	Water quality	
3.4.12.1	Water quality: Gross Nutrient Balances - Gross nitrogen balance	
3.4.12.2	Water quality: Gross Nutrient Balances - Gross phosphorus balance	
3.4.13.1	Water quality: Pollution by nitrates and pesticides - Pollution by nitrates	
3.4.14	Water use	
3.4.15	Protective forests concerning primarily soil and water	
3.4.16	Soil: Areas at risk of soil erosion	
3.4.17	Soil: Organic farming	
3.4.18.1	Climate change: Production of renewable energy from agriculture	
3.4.18.2	Climate change: Production of renewable energy from forestry	
3.4.19	Climate change: UAA devoted to renewable energy	
3.4.20	Climate change: GHG emissions from agriculture	
SECTION 3.5 DIVERSIFICATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS		179
3.5.1	Farmers with other gainful activity	
3.5.2	Employment development of non-agricultural sector	
3.5.3	Economic development of non-agricultural sector	
3.5.4	Self-employment development	
3.5.5	Tourism infrastructure in rural area	
3.5.6	Internet infrastructure	
3.5.7	Internet take-up in rural areas	
3.5.8	Development of services sector	
3.5.9	Net migration	
3.5.10	Educational attainment	
3.5.11	Life-long learning in rural areas	
3.5.12	Development of Local Action Groups	
ANNEXES		207
ANNEX 3.A - Glossary of Terms & Definitions		208
ANNEX 3.B - Main Sources		214
ANNEX 3.C - Technical Annex		218
Objective related Baseline Indicators		218
Context related Baseline Indicators		232
ANNEX 3.D LEAD BASELINE INDICATORS DATA AT REGIONAL LEVEL		247
CHAPTER 4 IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2007 - 2013		305
Foreword		307
Table of contents		308
SECTION 4.1 EAFRD		309
SECTION 4.1.1 EAFRD Overview of the financial plans		311
Table 4.1.1.1	Financial plans per Member State, programming period 2007-2013	
Graph 4.1.1.1	Relative importance of axes within the EAFRD contribution for the 2007-2013 programming period by Member States	
Graph 4.1.1.2	Comparison of financial contribution per axes and measure 511 (and if relevant 611) of the 2007-2013 programming period at Member State level	

SECTION 4.1.2	EAFRD Overview of the financial execution	367
Table 4.1.2.1	EAFRD Annual Contribution according to the financial plans per Member State	
Table 4.1.2.2	Sum of EAFRD payments requested until the end of 2007 (4 th quarter of 2006, 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th quarter of 2007) per Member State	
SECTION 4.2	IPARD	369
SECTION 4.2.1	IPARD Overview of the financial plans	371
Table 4.2.1.1	Maximum EU Contribution for IPARD in Euros, 2007-2010	
Table 4.2.1.2	Financial Plan per Priority axes of IPARD in Euros, 2007-2010	
Table 4.2.1.3	Indicative financial breakdown by IPARD measure in Euros 2007-	
Graph 4.2.1.1	IPARD Funds – Share of total amount available in the programmes at country level, 2007-2010	
Graph 4.2.1.2	Relative importance of axes and measure 501 within IPARD for the period 2007-2010	
Graph 4.2.1.3	Comparison of the financial allocation between IPARD measures, 2007-2010	
Graph 4.2.1.4	Relative importance of IPARD measures within axis for the period 2007-2010 by axes	

