

Rural development programmes 2000-2006

Italy

Lazio

Programme title: Regional rural development programme for the Lazio region

Decision n°: C (2000) 2144 final

Date of final approval: 20.07.00

The overall aim of the rural development programme for the Lazio region is to consolidate the production system of rural areas, in particular in the disadvantaged internal areas, to ensure harmonious growth in terms of economic and social development and to protect and develop natural resources. The total cost to the public of the programme is 585.36 million euro (total cost: 849.23 million euro), with a European Community contribution of 255.39 million euro from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guarantee Section (EAGGF/Guarantee).

1. Current situation

Population: 5.2 million; total agricultural area: 1.13 million hectares; utilised agricultural area: 0.8 million hectares; number of holdings: 180 000. The region is characterised by large socio-economic disparities between very developed and specialised rural areas, where agricultural production is strongly competitive, and marginalised areas (internal and mountainous areas). The agricultural employment rate is 4.2 %, generating 1.7 % of the regional added value. Among the weaknesses of the rural economy are the inadequate size of the average farm, the ageing farming population as well as deficiencies in terms of investment and marketing. Among the advantages are the outlets offered by Rome, the potential of production chains and quality products, a rich architectural, historical and rural heritage (despite the danger of deterioration of natural amenities), as well as the possibility of diversification of income sources in the light of increased interest in returning to the countryside.

2. Priority measures

Priority 1: Increase in the efficiency of the agricultural and agri-food system

Particular attention will be paid to production chains, through measures aimed at improving the competitiveness of holdings and processing and marketing firms while reducing environmental impact. The measure also aims to support the setting-up of young farmers and to improve the skill levels of the human resources of the sector.

Priority 2: Economic diversification and improvement of quality of life

A series of integrated measures aims to diversify activities via rural tourism and the craft industry, the marketing of local quality products, the improvement of rural infrastructures and the management of water resources, strengthening the basic services for the rural population and economy, the modernisation of villages and the development of their heritage.

Priority 3: Agri-environment and protection of rural areas

This priority aims to promote environmentally friendly agricultural methods and to improve the management of natural space (in particular by arable land reforestation and silviculture). In addition, it includes compensatory allowances to maintain the rural population in disadvantaged and mountainous areas.

In particular the programme should allow the financing of 2 000 investment projects on farms, the setting-up of 1 700 young farmers, the provision of 800 beds for farm holidays, the allocation of compensatory allowances to 2 000 holdings, the implementation of ecological production methods on 15 % of the agricultural area and a reduction of 20 % in the use of the most toxic plant health products.

3. Financial breakdown by priority

(in million euro)

Priorities	Total public expenditure	Including EC contribution of
1. Increase in agricultural and agri-food system efficiency	186.86	72.43
2. Economic diversification and improvement of the quality of life	67.16	27.20
3. Agri-environment and protection of rural areas	326.97	153.57
TOTAL*	585.36	255.39

* Including the continuation of the current measures.

4. Management and contacts

The Regional Government is responsible for the selection of the projects and for the management of the programme:

Regione Lazio
 Paolo Vacca, Director of the Special Office for Plan Coordination,
 Programmes of the Department for Agricultural and Rural Development
 Assessorato per le Politiche dell' Agricoltura della Regione Lazio
 Via R.R. Garibaldi, 7
 I-00148 Roma
 Tel.: +39.6-51683447
 Fax: +39.6-51684288

The monitoring of the programme is ensured by:

Monitoring committee
 Dott. Armando Ferlicca, Director of the Department for Agricultural and Rural Development,
 Assessorato per le Politiche dell' Agricoltura della Regione Lazio
 Via R.R. Garibaldi, 7
 I-00148 Roma
 Tel.: +39.6-51683105/06
 Fax: +39.6-51683372

- To obtain more detailed information on this programme, you can also consult the following Internet site: < <http://politicheagricole.it>>.
- To find out about the objectives, eligible measures, and the system of financing and programming the Rural Development Policy, consult the DG Agriculture site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/index_en.htm.

