



Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for the German Länder Berlin and Brandenburg

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Berlin and Brandenburg (BE+BB) was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015 and last amended on 27 November 2018, outlining the priorities of Berlin and Brandenburg for using the € 1,34 billion of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€ 1,050,7 million from the EU budget, including € 84,9 million transferred from the German envelope for CAP direct payments and € 294,4 million national co-funding).

The RDP for Berlin and Brandenburg focuses mainly on three priorities. Under the first - restoring, preserving and enhancing of ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry - nearly 18% of farmland and 1.3% of forest land will be placed under funded contracts to improve biodiversity, almost 9% of farmland under contracts to improve water and more than 8% of farmland under contracts to improve soil. Under the second - social inclusion and local development in rural areas - funding will ensure almost 55% of rural population being covered by local development strategies. Under the third priority - enhancing farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management - 16% of farms will receive investment support to modernise and restructure.

Support for Rural Development is the 2nd Pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy, providing Member States with an envelope of EU funding to manage nationally or regionally under multi-annual, co-funded programmes. In total, 118 programmes are implemented in all 28 Member States. The RD Regulation for the period 2014-2020 addresses six economic, environmental and social priorities, and programmes contain clear targets setting out what is to be achieved. Moreover, in order to coordinate actions better and maximise synergies with the other European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF), a Partnership Agreement has been agreed with each Member State highlighting its broad strategy for EU-funded structural investment.

This document provides a brief overview of how the challenges and opportunities Berlin and Brandenburg are facing, are addressed by the RDP. In the annex, a table indicates the priorities and focus areas each with their specific targets, and their allocated budget.

1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES

In Germany, rural development is implemented through 13 separate regional RDPs, which broadly correspond to the various *Länder* (but with two joint programmes). However, common elements to several regional programmes are presented in a national framework (NF) established at federal level. In addition to this, a National Rural Network Programme provides the funding for the networking of rural development actors in Germany.

Brandenburg covers an area of 29.654 km², of which 32.5% is defined as rural and 67.5% as intermediate area. 51.2% of the territory is agricultural area and 37.1% is forest (2016). There are 5.400 agricultural holdings in Brandenburg in total (2016). 38.9% of them are above 100 ha (compared to 12.3% in Germany as a whole); the

average size is 243.3 ha and thus more than four times as large as the national average (58.6 ha). The predominant form of operation in Brandenburg is forage growing and grazing livestock. Berlin has an area of 892 km², 17.7% is forest and only 4.6% of Berlin's territory is agricultural area (2016). The average size of all 60 farms is 33 hectares with horticulture constituting the predominant form of operation. Of the combined agricultural area of Berlin-Brandenburg (1.325.870 ha in 2016), 77.4% is arable land and 21.5% is permanent grassland.

With a population of 2.5 million inhabitants, Brandenburg is a sparsely populated German Land (83 inhabitants per km² as against German average of 229 inhabitants per km² in 2017). Berlin has a population of 3.5 million inhabitants. The unemployment rate in Brandenburg amounts to 4.6% and in Berlin to 7.8% (2017). Only 6.7% of the combined population of Berlin-Brandenburg of 6 million (2017) lives in predominantly rural areas and about one-third (34.7%) live in intermediate areas, however with large differences between the centre and peripheral regions of Brandenburg.

In this context, low productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector, demographic change and loss of economic activities in rural areas are continuing challenges in Brandenburg and Berlin. At the same time, environmental challenges relate mainly to losses in biodiversity and climate change.

2. HOW THE RDP FOR BERLIN AND BRANDENBURG WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES

In addressing these challenges, the RDP of Berlin and Brandenburg will fund action under all Rural Development Priorities – with a particular emphasis on **restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry, social inclusion and local development in rural areas** and **farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management**. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below.

P1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

This cross-cutting priority will be addressed mainly through measures supporting training and advisory services for people and businesses in rural areas: an expected **13.800 participants will be trained**. There will also be support for **160 cooperation projects** in the framework of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability.

P2: Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Besides previously mentioned support for training, **16% of farms (903 farms)** will receive **funding for investments** focused on restructuring and modernisation.

P3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture

Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by disasters and catastrophic events and introduction of appropriate actions will be supported. Under this priority, over **17.000 ha** will benefit from **flood prevention** measures.

P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Around 51 % of the allocated amount will be used for area-based payments to farmers for using environment/climate friendly land management practices, including organic farming. As a result, nearly **18% of farmland** and **1.3 % of forestry land** will be under funded contracts to improve **biodiversity**. Additionally, the RDP includes a limited number of highly targeted agri-environmental and climate measures prioritizing the most vulnerable areas: respectively **more than 8% of the agricultural area** is targeted to be under contract to improve **water or soil management**.

P5: Resource efficiency and climate

The program only allocates **0.6% of its funds** to this priority. Nevertheless, support allocated under this priority will help restoring wetlands and peatlands for the sake of **carbon sequestration and conservation**.

P6: Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

The programme will fund Local Development Strategies (LDS) drawn up and implemented by Local Action Groups (LAGs) under the LEADER approach. LEADER will cover nearly **55% of the rural population** creating both jobs – roughly **385 new jobs** expected (350 via LEADER, 34 under diversification projects) - and improving living conditions.

The four **biggest RDP measures** in budgetary terms (total public funding) are:

- € 362,6 million allocated to Measure 19: LEADER
- € 188,8 million allocated to Measure 11: Organic farming
- € 152,2 million allocated to Measure 13: Payments for areas facing natural constraints
- € 130,2 million allocated to Measure 7: Basic services and village renewal in rural areas

Annex 1: Indicative public support for the Rural Development Programme in Berlin and Brandenburg

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Target	Measure	Indicative public support	%
P1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas		0,00	
1A Innovation, cooperation, knowledge		0,00	
T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	4,37 M01 Knowledge	0,00	
	M02 Advisory services	0,00	
	M16 Cooperation	0,00	
1B Research & innovation		0,00	
T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	160,00 M16 Cooperation	0,00	
1C Lifelong learning and vocational training		0,00	
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	13.800,00 M01 Knowledge	0,00	
P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests		151.186.869,00	11,24%
2A Farm performance		Total: 2A	151.186.869,00
			11,24%
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	16,01 M01 Knowledge	11.900.000,00	0,88%
Total investment € (public + private)	456.700.000,00 M04 Physical Investment	113.806.667,00	8,46%
Nr of holdings supported for investment in agricultural holdings (4.1)	903,00 M16 Cooperation	25.480.202,00	1,89%
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture		73.842.000,00	5,49%
3B Risk management		Total: 3B	73.842.000,00
			5,49%
Area (ha) protected against flooding	17.386,00 M05 Restoring agricultural potential	73.842.000,00	5,49%
P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry		684.022.000,00	50,86%
4A Biodiversity, HNV and landscapes		Total: P4	684.022.000,00
			50,86%
T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	1,33 M02 Advisory services	2.666.667,00	0,20%
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	17,82 M07 Basic services	130.208.000,00	9,68%
4B Water management		M08 Forest	78.233.333,00
			5,82%
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	8,68 M10 Agri-environment-climate	99.669.333,00	7,41%
4C Soil management		M11 Organic Farming	188.776.667,00
			14,04%
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	8,61 M12 NAT 2000 & WFD	28.160.000,00	2,09%
P4 All Focus Areas		M13 Areas with natural constraints	152.248.000,00
			11,32%
Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate (10.1)	85.991,00 M16 Cooperation	4.060.000,00	0,30%
Area (ha) - conversion to organic farming (11.1)	4.010,00		
Area (ha) - maintenance of organic farming (11.2)	110.110,00		
Area (ha) - NATURA 2000 AG land (12.1)	37.200,00		
Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	1.700,00		

P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors			8.041.667,00	0,60%	
5E Carbon conservation / sequestration			Total: 5E	8.041.667,00	0,60%
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	0,03	M10 Agri-environment-climate	2.166.667,00	0,16%	
Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate for carbon sequestration	800,00	M16 Cooperation	5.875.000,00	0,44%	
P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas			376.470.849,00	27,99%	
6A Diversification, SMEs and job creation			Total: 6A	5.095.849,00	0,38%
T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	34,00	M06 Farm and business development	5.095.849,00	0,38%	
Total investment € (public + private)	20.500.000,00				
Nr of beneficiaries (holdings) receiving start up aid/support for investment in non-agric activities in rural areas (6.2 and 6.4)	84,00				
6B Local development			Total: 6B	371.375.000,00	27,61%
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	54,25	M16 Cooperation	8.750.000,00	0,65%	
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	350,00	M19 LEADER and CLLD	362.625.000,00	26,96%	
Population covered by LAG	1.353.945,00				
Number of LAGs selected	14,00				
M20 Technical assistance			51.466.666,67	3,83%	
			51.466.666,67	3,83%	
Total public expenditure			1.345.030.051,67	100,00%	