



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, 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 (€ 1.05 billion from the EU budget, including € 85 million transferred from the German envelope for CAP direct payments, and € 295 million national co-funding).

The RDP for Berlin and Brandenburg focuses mainly on two priorities. Under the first - restoring, preserving and enhancing 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 management and more than 8% of farmland under contracts to improve soil management. Under the second main priority - social inclusion and local development in rural areas - planned funding will allow more than 54% of the rural population to be covered by local development strategies. In addition, 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 foreseen in all 28 Member States. The new 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 is 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 29 500 km², of which 49% is agricultural area and 37% is forest. Agriculture has a share of 2% in the regional gross value added in Brandenburg (compared with 1% in Germany as a whole). There are nearly 5 600 agricultural holdings in Brandenburg in total. 93% of farmland is accounted for by holdings with a size above 100 ha (compared to 55% of the utilised agricultural area in Germany as a whole); the average size is 238 ha and thus more than four times as large as the national average

(56 ha). The predominant types of farming in Brandenburg are forage cultivation and livestock grazing. Berlin has an area of 892 km², of which 18 % is forest and only 4% is agricultural area (2 200 ha). Agriculture has a share of 0.1% in the regional gross value added in Berlin. The average size of all 66 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 2010), 79% is arable land and around 22% is permanent grassland.

With a population of 2.5 million, Brandenburg is a sparsely populated German Land (85 inhabitants per km² as against the German average of 230 inhabitants per km²). Berlin has a population of 3.5 million. The unemployment rate in Brandenburg amounts to 8.3% and in Berlin to around 11% (2012), which is double the German average. Only 9.7% of the combined population of Berlin-Brandenburg of (just under 6 million in 2012) lives in predominantly rural areas and about one third (32%) in intermediate areas, however with big 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 to 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** as well as **social inclusion and local development in rural areas**. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below.

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.

Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Besides previously mentioned support for training, **16% of farms (900 farms)** will receive **funding for investments** focused on restructuring and modernisation.

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

There will be support for restoring agricultural production potential damaged by disasters and catastrophic events and for taking appropriate preventive action. Under this priority, over **17 000 ha** will benefit from **flood prevention measures**.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Nearly 18% of farmland and **1.3% of forest land** will be under funded contracts to improve biodiversity. Additionally, the RDP includes a limited number of highly targeted agri-environment-climate measures prioritizing the most vulnerable areas: **9%** of the agricultural area is intended to be under contracts to improve **water management**, and **8%** to improve **soil management**.

Resource efficiency and climate

Support allocated to this priority will help restore wetlands and peatlands for the sake of **carbon sequestration or conservation**.

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** – improving **living conditions** and **creating jobs** (around 350 via LEADER, plus more than another 30 through diversification projects).

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

- € 349 million allocated to Measure 19: LEADER
- € 178 million allocated to Measure 11: Organic farming
- € 162 million allocated to Measure 4: Investments in physical assets
- € 139 million allocated to Measure 13: Payments for areas facing natural constraints

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

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Targets	Measure	€ Total public	%
Priority 1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas (1)			
1A Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base	01 knowledge		
4.37% of RDP expenditure	02 advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B Strengthening links (with research, etc.)	16 cooperation		
160 cooperation projects			
1C Training	01 knowledge		
13 800 participants trained			
Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management		199 286 869	14.81
2A Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation	01 knowledge	11 900 000	0.88
16.01% of holdings with RDP support	04 investments	161 806 667	12.02
	16 cooperation	25 580 202	1.9
Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management		73 842 000	5.49
3B Farm risk prevention and management	05 restoring agric. potential	73 842 000	5.49
17,386 ha benefiting from flood protection measures			
Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (2)		650 664 189	48.34
4A Biodiversity	02 advisory	2 666 667	0.20
1.33% of forest/other wooded area under contracts	07 basic services	127 821 522	9.50
17.82% of agricultural land under contracts			
4B Water management	08 forest investments	78 233 333	5.81
8.68% of agricultural land under contracts	10 AEC	93 002 667	6.91
	11 organic farming	177 805 333	13.21
4C Soil erosion and management	12 Nat2000 and WDF	28 160 000	2.09
8.61% of agricultural land under contracts	13 ANC	138 914 667	10.32
	16 cooperation	4 060 000	0.30
Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		8 041 667	0.60
5E Carbon conservation and sequestration	10 AEC	2 166 667	0.16
0.03% of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation	16 cooperation	5 875 000	0.44
Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		362 720 849	26.95
6A Diversification, creation of small enterprises and jobs	06 farm / business development	5 095 849	0.38
34 jobs created in supported projects			
6B Fostering Local development	16 cooperation	8 750 000	0.65
54.25% rural population under local development strategies	19 LEADER and CLLD	348 875 000	25.92
350 jobs created (via LEADER)			

Technical assistance		51 466 667	3.82
TOTAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE €		1 346 022 241	100

(1) No financial allocation shown for Priority 1 as the expenditure is distributed across other focus areas

(2) Expenditure under priority 4 is programmed for the priority as a whole, not for individual focus areas