



Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for the German Land Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (MV) was formally adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2015, outlining Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania's priorities for using the € 1.2 billion of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€ 936.7 million from the EU budget, including € 89.8 million transferred from the German envelope for CAP direct payments and € 262.6 million national co-funding).

The RDP for Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania focuses mainly on two priorities. Under the first - restoring, preserving and enhancing of ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry – **22 % of farmland** and **8 % of forest area** will be placed under **funded contracts to improve biodiversity**. Under the second – social inclusion and local development in rural areas – funding will **improve local services for 80 % of the rural population**. In addition, nearly **13 % 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 Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania 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, elements common to regional programmes are presented in a national framework 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.

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania has an area of 23 194 km² (of which 1 300 km² is covered by water). 62% of its territory is agricultural area and 23% is forest. Of the agricultural area (1.3 million ha in 2013), 80% is arable land and 19% is permanent grassland. Agriculture has a share of 3.1% in the regional gross value added (compared with 1 % in Germany as a whole). There are 4 730 agricultural holdings in total. 2 270 have a size above 100 ha; the average size is 286 ha.

With a population of 1.6 million inhabitants, MV is the least densely populated German Land. Only 39 % of the population lives in predominantly rural areas and 61 % live in intermediate areas. The unemployment rate of 10% (2013) is double the German average.

In this context, demographic change and loss of economic activities in rural areas are continuing challenges in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. At the same time, environmental challenges relate mainly to soil erosion, nitrate pollution in surface and ground waters and pressure on biodiversity.

2. HOW THE RDP FOR MECKLENBURG-WESTERN POMERANIA WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES

In addressing these challenges, the RDP of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania 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 **8 500 participants will be trained**. There will also be support for cooperation 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, **13 % of farms** will receive **funding for investments** – focused on **high-quality production**, better **animal husbandry / welfare**, improved **working conditions** and **farm diversification**.

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

Funding will encourage farmers to form **producer groups** in order to respond to the concentration of buying power in the agri-food sector. **11%** of businesses which **process / market agricultural products** will receive support to find new ways to help the **food supply chain to operate better** and more efficiently.

At the same time, more than **3 % of farms** will receive funding to help **prevent or undo damage from future natural disasters**.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania will improve biodiversity and water and soil management through support for various environmentally friendly management practices – including organic farming, lower use of fertilisers and pesticides and protection of habitats. As a result, **22 % of farmland** and **8 % of forest area** will be under **funded contracts to improve biodiversity**. Support for **environmental investments** will complement these annual area-based payments.

Resource efficiency and climate

The emphasis in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania will be on **restoring wetlands and peatlands** for the sake of **carbon conservation**. The programme will support **investments in small-scale infrastructure** for the sake of using or producing

renewable energy, or saving energy. Supported **EIP pilot projects** will help improve **efficiency in water use.**

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

The programme will fund Local Development Strategies drawn up and implemented by Local Action Groups under the LEADER approach: these will cover areas containing 66 % of the rural population. There will also be support for other co-operation projects and for village renewal. **80% of the rural population** will benefit from **improved services.**

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

- € 250 million allocated to Measure 7: Basic services and village renewal in rural areas
- € 209 million allocated to Measure 4: Investments in physical assets
- € 126 million allocated to Measure 10: Agri-environment and climate measures
- € 125 million allocated to Measure 11: Organic farming

Annex 1: Indicative public support for the Rural Development Programme of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern - Table C: RDP strategy summary table with indicative public support			
Focus Area and targets	Measure	€ Total public	%
P1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas (1)			
1A: Fostering innovation, coop, knowledge base	01 Knowledge		
2.47 % RDP expenditure	02 Advisory services		
	16 Cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research, etc.)	16 Cooperation		
15 Coop operations			
1C: Training	01 Knowledge		
8 500 participants			
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		194 435 150	16.23
2A: Farm performance	01 Knowledge	1 181 390	0.10
12.68 % of holdings with RDP support	02 Advisory services	4 666 800	0.39
	04 Investments	187 466 400	15.65
	16 Cooperation	1 120 560	0.09
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture		110 649 440	9.24
3A: Improving competitiveness	04 Investments	46 434 000	3.88
0.42 % of farmers which are members of producer groups			
11.40 % of commercial businesses processing/marketing agricultural products receiving support	16 Cooperation	4 215 440	0.35
3B: Farm risk prevention and management	05 Restoring agric. potential	60 000 000	5.01
3.17 % of farms supported			
P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (2)		486 288 706	40.60
4A: Biodiversity	01 Knowledge	4 444 277	0.37
21.57 % UAA under contract	02 Advisory services	14 000 400	1.17
	04 Investments	7 500 000	0.63
7.87 % forestry land under contract			
4B: Water management	07 Basic services	84 867 600	7.09
0.19 % forestry land under contract	08 Forest investments	29 000 000	2.42
0.15 % UAA under contract	10 AgriEnvClimate	156 475 629	13.06
4C: Soil erosion and management	11 Organic farming	166 666 800	13.91
0.19 % UAA under contract	12 Nat2000 and WDF	20 000 000	1.67
	15 Forest EnvClimate	3 334 000	0.28

P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		27 667 200	2.31
5C: Renewable energy € 2.7 m investment	07 Basic services	2 667 200	0.22
5E: Carbon conservation 0.16 % UAA under contract	04 Investments	25 000 000	2.09
P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		338 757 667	28.28
6A: Small enterprises 105 jobs created	06 Development	5 668 000	0.47
6B: Leader 66.49 % rural pop in LDS 80.26 % rural pop improved services 45 jobs created	07 Basic services 19 LEADER	245 344 000 87 745 667	20.48 7.33
Technical assistance		40 000 000	3.34
TOTAL PUBLIC ALLOCATIONS		1 197 798 163	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