European Commission approves 2014-2020 Rural Development Programmes for North-Rhine Westphalia, Bavaria, Hesse and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Nordrhein-Westfalen
The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Nordrhein-Westfalen was formally adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2015, outlining Nordrhein-Westfalen's priorities for using the €1.2 billion of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€618.3 million from the EU budget, including €106.2 million transferred from the German envelope for CAP direct payments, and €557.2 million of national co-funding plus €7.5 million of additional national funding top-ups).

The RDP for Nordrhein-Westfalen focuses mainly on two priority areas. Under the first - restoring, preserve and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry - 27% of farmland will be placed under funded contracts to improve biodiversity, 24% under contracts for improving water and soil management. Under the second – social inclusion and local development in rural areas - 48% of the rural population will be covered by local development strategies and 46% will benefit from improved services thanks to fresh investment.

Bayern
The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Bavaria was formally adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2015, outlining Bavaria's priorities for using the €3.5 billion of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€1.5 billion from the EU budget including the transfer of 4.5% from the 1st pillar to the 2nd pillar, and €1.1 billion of national co-funding plus €926 million of additional national top-ups).

The RDP for Bavaria focuses mainly on Rural Development Priority 4 – restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry. 13% of farmland will be placed under funded contracts for improving biodiversity, with land also under contracts for better water and soil management. With regard to other priorities, around 5% of farms will receive support to invest in greater competitiveness, and €400 million of investments in energy efficiency are expected.

Hessen
The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Hesse was formally adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2015, outlining Hessen's priorities for using the €647 million of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€318.9 million from the EU budget, including €50.6 million transferred from the German envelope for CAP direct payments, and €177.8 million of national co-funding plus €150.5 million of additional national funding top-ups).

The RDP for Hessen focuses mainly on two priority areas. Under the first of these – restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry – 6% of farmland and nearly 8% of forest land will be placed under funded contracts to improve soil management and cut erosion. Support for eco-friendly land management will also help maintain habitats and improve water management. Under the second main priority – social inclusion and local development in rural areas - 91% of the rural population is expected to be covered by local development strategies and nearly 30% will benefit from new or improved broadband infrastructure thanks to fresh investment.

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
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.

*Quote from EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan:* "I am pleased to announce the official approval of four more German RDPs in addition to the four German programming documents adopted last December. I am confident that adoption of the remaining German RDPs will follow soon. In Germany the regional programmes are tailor-made to take up at regional level the challenges faced by the rural areas. They will bring a high contribution to the revitalisation of that areas – restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems as well as promoting local development are top priorities of these RDPs - and to the promotion of environmental and climate friendly agricultural practices."

Support under Rural Development (RD) is the 2nd Pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy. It provides Member States with an envelope of EU funding to manage, at either national or regional level, multi-annual, co-funded programmes. In total, 118 programmes are foreseen in all 28 Member States. The new RD Regulation for the 2014-2020 period addresses six economic, environmental and social priorities. Programmes contain clear targets setting out what is to be achieved. To better coordinate actions 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.

For details in German and links to other approved RDPs in Germany