



Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for Greece

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Greece was formally adopted by the European Commission on 11 December 2015 and last modified on 28 February 2019, outlining Greece's priorities for using the € 5.95 billion of public money that is available for the period 2014-2020 (€ 4.7 billion from the EU budget and € 1.25 billion of national co-funding).

The Greek RDP focuses mainly on enhancing farm viability and competitiveness, preserving and enhancing ecosystems and promoting local development in rural areas. Farmers will receive support to put 17.45% of the Greek farmland under contracts to preserve biodiversity, 17.33% to improve water management and 20.66% to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion. Investment support for restructuring and modernisation will be provided to 6 300 agricultural holdings and 25 600 young farmers will receive start up aid. In addition, 6 900 agricultural holdings will receive support to participate in quality schemes, local markets and develop short supply chains and about 450 agri-food businesses will receive support for investments in processing and marketing of agricultural products. Support for knowledge and innovation activities makes up almost 5% of the planned public expenditure and the programme will create around 71 268 training places for farmers and other rural businesses. The RDP will also support local development via LEADER Local Action Groups covering more than half of the country's rural population and improve access to basic services for approximately 10% of the rural population, including IT infrastructures (e.g. broadband internet).

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 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 Greece 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 budgets.

1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES

Greece will implement a single national Rural Development Programme. The country covers an area of 131 621 km², of which 82.2% is rural and where 44.1% of the population live. Over half of the country's 723 010 agricultural holdings have less than 2 hectares and the small and fragmented land parcels constitute one of the main characteristics of Greek agriculture. The lack of a skilled workforce is a barrier to growth for farms. Only 12.6% of farm managers are less than 35 years old and merely 3.5% of all farm managers have agricultural training. The indicator measuring the standard of living of farmers stands at 64.4% of the standard of living of persons employed in other sectors.

Agriculture contributes 3.7% of the Greek Gross Value Added (2013) of the country. In terms of employment, agriculture accounts for 13.2% and the agri-food sector for 3.3% of the total. The economic importance of the sector is therefore significant and enhancing its competitiveness by overcoming its structural, environmental and climatic limitations remains a key challenge.

Areas with natural constraints¹ make up 70.75% of the Utilized Agricultural Area (UAA), of which 44.19% is mountainous regions. Forests make up 50% of the total land area of the country and organic farming covers 3.8% of the UAA. Irrigated land accounts for 19.8% of the UAA and 86% of water use in Greece is consumed in agriculture, often with considerable water losses. Greece's unemployment rate is 27.3% (2013) and lies above the EU average.

2. HOW THE GREEK RDP WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES

In addressing the abovementioned challenges, the Greek RDP will fund actions under all six Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and sustainable forestry, and on restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below.

Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

Under this priority the Greek RDP aims at supporting 350 cooperation projects, including the framework of the European Innovation Partnership, as well as by stimulating the development of supply chain partnerships in the agri-food sector. About 71 268 training places will be made available to enhance knowledge transfer in the fields of environmental awareness, innovative technologies, and research to encourage practical implementation on farms and in forests.

Competitiveness of agricultural sector and sustainable forestry

About 25 600 Greek farms will benefit from business development plan support for Young Farmers and about 6 300 farms will benefit from support for restructuring and modernising their businesses. It should be noted that young farmers will also benefit from training and a higher support rate for their investments under the corresponding measures of the programme.

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

6900 agricultural holdings will receive support to set up short supply chains, develop local markets and launch promotion activities, and 450 agri-food businesses will receive support for investments in the processing and marketing sector.

¹ Following the completion in December 2018 of the new delimitation of areas with natural constraints and specific constraints, except mountainous areas

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Greece aims at bringing 17.45% of agricultural land under contracts to preserve biodiversity, 17.33% to improve water management and 20.66% to improve soil management. Measures to support agro-forestry and afforestation aim at bringing a small part of Greece's forest land under management contracts.

Resource efficiency and climate

This priority aims at supporting a more efficient use of natural resources, in particular water, and the development of renewable energy sources in Greece. Almost 5% of the irrigated land will contribute to better water efficiency through public and private investments in irrigation infrastructure. It is expected that approximately 51 000 hectares of irrigated land will switch to more efficient irrigation systems. Integrating this support with measures, such as investments in physical assets and knowledge transfer activities and advisory services, is expected to improve water efficiency reduce and agriculture's share in overall water consumption.

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

More than half of Greece's rural population is expected to be covered by a local development strategy while approximately 10% of the rural population will benefit from improved services and ICT infrastructure. LEADER aims at creating 2 000 new jobs. Furthermore, about 560 beneficiaries will receive support for investments in non-agricultural activities in rural areas thus contributing to the creation of 775 jobs.

The six **biggest RDP measures** in budgetary terms (total Public contribution) are:

- € 1 409 million allocated to Investments in physical assets
- € 1 347 million allocated to Areas facing natural or other specific constraints
- € 768 million allocated to Organic farming
- € 451 million allocated to Farm and business development
- € 445 million allocated to support for LEADER local development / CLLD
- € 440 million allocated to Agri-environment and climate measures

Annex: Indicative public support for the Rural Development Programme in Greece

Target	Measure	€ Total Public	%
Priority 1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas²			-
1A - Innovation, cooperation, knowledge 4.65% of RDP expenditure	M01 – Knowledge transfer		
	M02 – Advisory services		
	M16 – Cooperation		
1B – Research and innovation 350 cooperation projects	M16 – Cooperation		
1C – Lifelong learning and vocational training 71 268 participants trained	M01 – Knowledge transfer		
Priority 2: Enhancing Farm viability and competitiveness in agriculture and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests			945,308,537
2A - Farm performance 0.87% farms with RDP support 6 300 agricultural holdings receiving support for investments in restructuring and modernisation	M01 – Knowledge transfer	20,292,986	0.34%
	M02 - Advisory services	13,324,184	0.22%
	M04 - Investments	466,456,393	7.84%
	M06 - Farm and business development	64,608,690	1.09%
	M16 - Cooperation	27,798,611	0.47%
2B - Young farmers 3.54% farms with RDP support for YF 25 600 agricultural holdings receiving support for business development plans for young farmers	M06 - Farm and business development	352,827,673	5.93%
Priority 3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture			393,816,496
3A - Competitiveness of producers 6 900 (1.27%) farms supported for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits 450 agri-food enterprises supported for investment in processing and marketing of agricultural products	M01 – Knowledge transfer	833,958	0.01%
	M03 - Quality schemes	47,938,822	0.81%
	M04 - Investments	232,532,640	3.91%
	M09 - Producer groups / organisations	27,798,611	0.47%
	M16 - Cooperation	31,134,444	0.52%
3B - Risk management 1 500 (0.21%) farms participating in risk	M05 - Restoring agricultural potential	53,578,021	0.90%

² No financial allocation shown for Priority 1 as the expenditure is distributed across other focus areas.

management schemes			
Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry³			2,761,559,215
4A – Biodiversity, HNV and landscapes 17.45% of UAA under contract 0.10% of forestry land under contract	M01 – Knowledge transfer M02 – Advisory services M04 – Investments M07 – Basic services	15,845,208 114,030,771 12,735,036 1,043,048	0.27% 1.92% 0.21% 0.02%
4B – Water management 17.33% UAA under contract 0.04% forestry land under contract	M08 – Forest M10 – AEC M11 – Organic farming M12 – NAT 2000 and WFD	163,074,785 440,290,886 652,532,654 9,300,746	2.74% 7.40% 10.96% 0.16%
4C – Soil management 20.66% UAA under contract 0.84% forestry land under contract 55 000 hectares covered by restoration after damages in forests	M13 – ANC M16 – Cooperation	1,346,590,387 6,115,694	22.63% 0.10%
Priority 5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors			946,517,997
5A - Water efficiency 51 000 (4.97%) hectares of irrigated land supported for switching to more efficient irrigation systems	M01 – Knowledge transfer M02 – Advisory services M04 – Investments M16 – Cooperation	9,451,528 3,616,516 609,976,666 6,671,667	0.16% 0.06% 10.25% 0.11%
5B - Energy efficiency €27,722,263.99 Total investment for energy efficiency	M04 – Investments	12,485,330	0.21%
5C - Renewable energy €74,763,523.95 Total investment in renewable energy production (€)	M01 – Knowledge transfer M02 – Advisory services M04 – Investments M08 – Forest M16 – Cooperation	555,972 328,165 29,964,791 3,881,485 2,779,861	0.01% 0.01% 0.50% 0.07% 0.05%
5D - Reducing GHG and NH3 0.01% LU concerned under contract 2.59% UAA under contract	M02 – Advisory services M04 – Investments M11 – Organic Farming M16 – Cooperation	669,725 1,248,533 115,152,820 2,223,889	0.01% 0.02% 1.93% 0.04%
5E - Carbon conservation / sequestration 0.40% UAA and forestry land under contract	M01 – Knowledge transfer M02 – Advisory services M04 – Investments	555,972 1,443,258 31,545,691	0.01% 0.02% 0.53%

³ Expenditure under Priority 4 is programmed for the priority as a whole, not for individual focus areas

45 000 hectares covered for prevention of damages in forests	M08 - Forest	112,854,184	1.90%
	M16 - Cooperation	1,111,944	0.02%
Priority 6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		620,100,449	
6A - Diversification, SMEs and job creation 560 holdings receiving start up aid/ support for investments in non- agricultural activities in rural areas 775 jobs created	M06 - Farm and business development	33,163,871	0.56%
	M08 - Forest	12,938,284	0.22%
6B - Local development 66.34 % rural population under local development strategies 75 000 (1.24%) people in rural areas with improved services/infrastructure 2 000 jobs created (via LEADER)	M04 - Investments	12,485,330	0.21%
	M07 - Basic services	34,600,727	0.58%
	M19 - LEADER and CLLD	445,072,098	7.48%
6C - ICT 9.95% of population with improved services/ infrastructure (ICT)	M01 - Knowledge transfer	2,501,875	0.04%
	M02 - Advisory services	532,432	0.01%
	M07 - Basic services	78,805,832	1.32%
M 113 (transitional)		223,232,716	3.75%
Technical Assistance (TA)		60,908,759	1.02%
Total public expenditure €		5,951,444,169	100.00%