



Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for the Region of Andalusia

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Andalusia was formally adopted by the European Commission on 10 August 2015, and last amended on 30 January 2018, outlining Andalusia's priorities for using the € 2.4 billion of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€ 1.9 billion from the EU budget and € 539.5 million of national co-funding).

In order to improve the competitiveness of the farm sector, Andalusia's RDP aims to give investment support to almost 5 900 farmers to restructure and modernise their farms and more than 2 500 young farmers will receive support to launch their businesses. Some 10 800 farmers will receive funding to participate in quality schemes, local markets and short supply chain distribution. The region will support training for almost 63 000 participants and will promote innovation through 250 projects under the European Innovation Partnership and 85 other cooperation projects. The RDP will also promote conservation and protection of the environment as well as actions contributing to the cross-cutting objective of climate change mitigation and adaptation. More than 15% of the agricultural land will be under management contract that improve biodiversity, water management or soil management and prevent soil erosion. This also includes supporting the conversion of almost 50 000 ha into organic farming and maintenance of more than 490 000 ha of organic farm land. Moreover around 60 000 ha will receive support to improve water efficiency and more than 20% of the forest area will be under risk prevention actions, to reduce the risk of forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events. Finally, more than 65% of the rural population will be covered by LEADER local development strategies, which are expected to create around 1 600 new jobs.

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 Andalusia 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

In Spain rural development is implemented through 18 separate RDPs – one at national level and 17 regional RDPs. However, common elements to the programmes are presented in a national framework. In addition, the National Rural Network provides the funding for the networking of rural development actors in Spain.

The region of Andalusia is located in the south of Spain. It covers 87 597 km² (around 20% of Spain, 4th biggest EU region) and almost all the regional territory is considered as rural. The region is home of 8.3 million people. Of the total area, farmland covers around 50% and forest area represents half of the territory. The primary sector contributes 4.9% of the gross added value (well over EU and Spanish average) and within the industrial sector, the agro food sub-sector is the first in job creation.

Utilised agricultural area (UAA) is over 4.4 million ha of which 25% is irrigated, producing almost 70% of the regional farm income and generating more than 60% of agricultural employment. Olive trees are cultivated on 25% of the UAA and *Dehesas* (agroforestry system) other 21%. Fruits and vegetables represent 50% of the agro food export of the region. There are 246 000 agricultural holdings in Andalucía, with an average size of 18 hectares (below Spanish average)

The unemployment rate is 34.8% (2014), more than 60% among young people. Other challenges of the region include the lack of young farmers in the primary sector and the need to increase the size of holdings. On the environmental side, Natura 2000 areas cover 29% of the regional territory (11% of the UAA) and 18% has been designated as nitrates vulnerable zones. The water balance is negative and the region faces problems of erosion (with risk of desertification).

2. HOW THE ANDALUSIA RDP WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES

In addressing these challenges, Andalusia's RDP will fund actions under all six Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on "Promoting the competitiveness of the agricultural and agro-industry sector" and "Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry." The focus of main priorities is explained briefly below.

Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

During the programming period Andalusia will support the development of innovative solutions through 250 operational groups under the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and it will create almost 63 000 places in training courses targeted the farm and forestry sectors.

Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Farm investments supported under this priority will aim at modernising and restructuring around 2.4% of all farms in the region, while 1.1% of farms will receive support for young farmers to launch their businesses.

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

The region will support the participation in quality schemes, local markets and short supply chain circuits and producer groups or organisations for more than 10 000 farmers. Around 370 holdings will receive support to improve animal welfare.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Most funds under this priority will be used for area-based payments to farmers for using environment/climate friendly management practices, including organic farming, as well as support for environment/climate-friendly forest investments. 15% of the agricultural land will be under contract for biodiversity, 16% for water management and 17% for soil management. Moreover, 23% of the forest area will be under risk prevention actions.

Resource efficiency and climate

This priority will mainly address investments related to water efficiency so that almost 9% of the region's irrigated area will switch to more efficient irrigation systems. 1.3% of forest land will receive investment support to improve resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems. Finally, the programme will reduce waste and residues from agriculture and agri-food industries through advisory services and demonstration projects.

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

Under this priority, the region will support the LEADER Local Action Groups (LAG) and their Local Development Strategies (52 LAG are foreseen) that will create around 1 600 new jobs and create new business opportunities. Another 800 jobs will be created through investments on non-agricultural activities, basic services and village renewal (including tourism and broadband infrastructure) and in forest products and technologies.

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

- € 679 million allocated to Measure 4 – Investment in physical assets
- € 394 million allocated to Measure 8 - Investment in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests.
- € 320 million allocated to Measure 10 – Agri-environment-climate
- € 258 million allocated to Measure 19 – LEADER
- € 229 million allocated to Measure 11 – Organic farming

Annex 1: Indicative public support for the Rural Development Programme in the Region of Andalusia.

Target	Measure	€ Total public	%
Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas¹			
1A: Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base 5.91% of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
	02 advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 335 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 62 712 participants trained	01 knowledge		
Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management		524 369 182	21.42
2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 2.40% of holdings with RDP support	01 knowledge	41 596 472	1.70
	02 advisory	49 377 188	2.02
	04 investments	283 750 233	11.59
	16 cooperation	19 394 591	0.79
2B: Generational renewal 1.06% of holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	06 farm and business development	130 250 698	5.32
Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management		254 858 070	10.41
3A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers 4.42% of farms supported 939 supported investments for processing and marketing of agricultural products	03 quality schemes	20 306 765	0.83
	04 investments	203 270 233	8.30
	09 Producer groups / organisations	9 324 320	0.38
	14 Animal welfare	9 000 000	0.37
	16 cooperation	4 700 000	0.19
3B: Risk management 0.13 % of farms participating in risk management schemes	05 Restoring agricultural potential	8 256 752	0.34

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

Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry²		940 895 752	38.43
4A Biodiversity 15.03% of agricultural land under contracts 23.51% of forest/other wooded area under risk prevention actions	01 knowledge	16 952 643	0.69
	02 advisory	2 763 540	0.11
4B Water management 16.27% of agricultural land under contracts	04 investments	89 558 232	3.66
	07 Basic services	44 567 049	1.82
	08 forest	166 617 807	6.80
4C Soil erosion and management 17.09% of agricultural land under contracts	10 AEC	319 674 162	13.06
	11 organic farming	228 965 064	9.35
	13 ANC	71 797 255	2.93
Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		315 188 375	12.87
5A Water efficiency 8.66% of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems	04 investments	102 500 000	4.19
5C - Renewable energy 90 activities of advisory actions or demonstration projects on residues from agriculture and agro food industries	01 knowledge	1 209 049	0.05
	02 advisory	967 239	0.04
5E Carbon conservation and sequestration 1.34% of forest land under investment to improve resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems	08 Forests	199 457 924	8.15
	15 Forest-environment	11 054 163	0.45
Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		340 909 792	13.92
6A - Diversification, SMEs and job creation 828 jobs created in supported projects	06 Farm and business development	8 256 303	0.34
	07 Basic services	25 018 229	1.02
	08 Forests	27 986 705	1.14
6B Fostering local development 66.77 % rural population under local development strategies 1 616 jobs created (via LEADER)	02 advisory	2 763 540	0.11
	16 cooperation	5 181 639	0.21
	19 LEADER	258 013 376	10.54
6C - Information and communications technologies 1.30% of rural population benefiting from the new improved services/infrastructures (ICT)	07 Basic services	13 690 000	0.56
Technical Assistance		67 855 948	2.77
Discontinued measures		4 392 959	0.18
Total public expenditure €		2 448 470 076	100.00

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