



Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for the Region of Castilla La Mancha (Summary)

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Castilla La Mancha was formally adopted by the European Commission on 30 October 2015, outlining the region's priorities for using more than 1.49 billion EUR of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (1 148 million EUR from the EU budget, and 339 million EUR of national co-funding).

The RDP for Castilla La Mancha focuses strongly on two priorities - improving the competitiveness of the farm sector, and restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry. The programme will support the modernisation of roughly 3 500 farm holdings and investment in a further 2 000 agri-food businesses, for example for processing and marketing. The programme also embraces generational renewal with projected installation schemes for 1 800 young farmers. Castilla La Mancha will pursue its efforts to assist conversion to organic farming and maintain the existing area - with support to the tune of 214 million EUR covering 287 000 ha. This is also intended to provide a better structure for this sector which is currently highly fragmented.

The natural forest area which covers roughly 45% of the region's territory will receive roughly 30% of the available budget, notably through measures to prevent forest fires and to reinforce these ecosystems. Finally, 76 million EUR will be earmarked for projects using LEADER local development strategies, intended for all rural areas to the potential benefit of 60% of the population. The hope is that this will create 2000 new jobs.

Support for [Rural Development](#) is the so-called 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, backed by [€ 99.6 billion](#) of EU funding over the period 2014-2020 through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), with these measures co-funded by additional national, regional and private finance. The new [Rural Development Regulation](#) for the 2014-2020 period 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 Castilla La Mancha 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 Castilla la Mancha is located in the centre of Spain. It covers 79 462 km² and has a population of roughly 2.1 million people (in 2013). With a population density of 27 inhabitants per km², much lower than the Spanish national average of 92 inhabitants/km², Castilla La Mancha maintains a strongly rural character with 90% of the population living in rural or intermediate zones.

2. HOW CASTILLA LA MANCHA WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES

To respond to the challenges the region faces, Castilla La Mancha's RDP will fund actions under all six Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on "Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry", "Promoting the competitiveness of the agricultural and agro-industry sector" and "food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products".

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

- 427 million EUR allocated to Measure 8 - Investment in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests.
- 381 million EUR allocated to Measure 4 – Investment in physical assets
- 214 million EUR allocated to Measure 11 – Organic farming
- 76 million EUR allocated to Measure 19 – LEADER

A more detailed version of this factsheet is available in [Spanish](#), and [French](#), and will be available in English in the near future.

Annex 1: Indicative public support for the Rural Development Programme in the Region of Castilla La Mancha

Target	Measure	€ Total public	%
Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas			
1A: Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base 1.30% of RDP expenditure for measures 1, 2 and 16	01 knowledge		
	02 advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 43 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 75 000 participants trained	01 knowledge		
Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management		198 119 768	13.32
2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 2.86% of holdings with RDP support	01 knowledge	1 091 953	0.07
	02 advisory	2 682 667	0.18
	04 investments	85 744 228	5.77
	16 cooperation	173 616	0.01
2B: Generational renewal 1.47% of holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	01 knowledge	494 666	0.03
	02 advisory	804 800	0.05
	04 investments	45 821 505	3.08
	06 farm and business development	61 306 333	4.12
Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management		199 631 502	13.42
3A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers 1.14% of farms supported 25.04% of processing and marketing firms with support for processing and marketing of agricultural products	01 knowledge	722 470	0.05
	03 quality schemes	7 608 000	0.51
	04 investments	180 182 038	12.12
	09 Producer groups / organisations	7 935 556	0.53
	16 cooperation	405 104	0.03
3B: Risk management 0.82% of farms participate in cooperation projects	16 cooperation	2 778 333	0.19

Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry		675 222 805	45.41
4A Biodiversity 0.35% of forest/other wooded area under contracts 22.48% of agricultural land under contracts	01 knowledge	1 967 358	0.13
	02 advisory	2 414 400	0.16
	04 investments	10 338 484	0.70
4B Water management 18.01% of agricultural land under contracts 0.13% of forestry land under contracts	08 forest	259 762 916	17.47
	10 AEC	93 681 803	6.30
	11 organic farming	214 271 893	14.41
4C Soil erosion and management 18.01% of agricultural land under contracts 0.13% of forestry land under contracts	12 N 2000 and WFD	24 166 667	1.63
	13 ANC	64 378 667	4.33
	15 Forest-environment	3 836 000	0.26
	16 cooperation	404 618	0.03
Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		213 682 669	14.37
5A - Water efficiency 2.44% of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems	01 knowledge	377 393	0.03
	02 advisory	804 800	0.05
	04 investments	47 260 147	3.18
	16 cooperation	202 551	0.01
5B - Energy efficiency 14 392 495 € total investments	01 knowledge	283 990	0.02
	04 investments	7 196 248	0.48
	16 cooperation	1 012 757	0.07
5C - Renewable energy 2 291 075 € total investments	04 investments	1 145 538	0.08
	16 cooperation	405 103	0.03
5D - Reducing GHG and NH3 1.69% of Livestock Units targeted by investments 0.02% of agricultural area under contract	01 knowledge	283 989	0.02
	04 investments	1 145 538	0.08
	16 cooperation	202 551	0.01
5E - Carbon conservation and sequestration 40 000 ha benefitting from investment	08 Forests	153 159 513	10.30
	16 cooperation	202 551	0.01

Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		179 764 840	12.09
6A - Diversification, SMEs and job creation 51 jobs created in supported projects	01 knowledge	1 057 500	0.07
	06 farm and business development	3 438 322	0.23
	08 Forests	13 929 410	0.94
6B Fostering local development and LEADER 62.07 % rural population under local development strategies 16% of the rural population benefitting from the improved services and infrastructure 1 969 jobs created (via LEADER)	01 knowledge	334 014	0.02
	07 basic services	26 593 303	1.79
	19 LEADER	134 412 292	9.04
Technical Assistance		11 334 000	0.43
Total public expenditure €		1 487 106 176	100.00