



Factsheet on the national rural development programme 2014-2020 for Italy

The National Rural Development Programme (NRDP) Italy, outlining the priorities for Italy for the use of approximately 2 billion EUR of public expenditure (938 million EUR from the EU budget and 1.15 billion EUR of national co-financing) for the period 2014-2020 was formally adopted by the European Commission on 20 November 2015.

The RDP addresses thematic areas relating to the farm risk prevention and management, conservation of farm breeds and efficiency in the use of water resources. It foresees that about 90 000 Italian agricultural holdings will receive support to implement risk management tools; 395 000 hectares of land will be affected by more efficient irrigation infrastructure and systems, whilst those in relation to conservation of farm breeds will cover approximately 39 bovine breeds.

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. The Rural Development Regulation for the 2014-2020 period provides six economic, environmental and social priorities, and programmes propose clear targets to be achieved. Moreover, in order to improve coordination and maximise synergies with the other European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), it was agreed with each Member State a partnership agreement, setting out its broad strategy for EU-funded structural investment. The Partnership Agreement for Italy was approved on 29 October 2014.

This document provides a brief overview of how the challenges and opportunities are taken into account by the NRDP 2014-2020. Attached is a table of the priorities and focus areas addressed by the programme, with the corresponding financial allocation and the objectives to be achieved.

1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES

Rural development in Italy is implemented through 22 RDP — one at national level and 21 regional RDPs (including “less developed regions”, “transition regions” and “more developed”). In addition, a national rural network programme supports activities of pooling and transfer of knowledge between the different actors of rural development in Italy.

Italy covers an area of 301 337 km² of which 92% is rural. The total population is 60.7 million, of which almost 58% live in rural areas.

The utilised agricultural area (UAA) is just under 13 million hectares, out of which almost 4 million (31%) are irrigable and almost 3 million (21%) are irrigated. The average size of farms is 7.9 ha of total agricultural land (SAT). Out of a total of 1.6 million agricultural holdings, approximately 650 000 have irrigable land.

As regards the livestock sector, livestock farms are about 220 000, and the number of livestock units (LUs) per holding is 46. Agricultural breeds identified in Italy are as follows: 39 cattle, 66 sheep, 52 goats, 27 horses, 8 donkeys and 6 pigs breeds.

The level of subscription to insurance instruments is low, in terms of number of holdings covered, 78 000 agricultural holdings (5% of a total of 1 600 000) for crops and 1 980 for livestock sector.

2. HOW THE RDP ADDRESSES THESE CHALLENGES

To serve the RDP needs, three aspects were identified and selected in the context of the rural development priorities:

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

Under this priority, the RDP focuses support on promoting the supply and use of risk management tools in agriculture. In order to mitigate the risks of production in agriculture, the national programme proposes to activate throughout Italy 3 risk management tools: harvest insurance, mutual funds and income stabilisation tool. It is expected that the RDP will provide support to more than 5% of farms, 90 000 farms.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Under this priority, the RDP supports the improvement of the genetic quality of livestock and animal biodiversity. The programme seeks to encourage an innovative system integrated livestock assistance based on cooperation and integration of functions and competences of the different actors and bodies involved. The RDP aims thereby to characterise and preserve genetic livestock heritage present in Italy.

The intervention concerns 39 Italian cattle breeds involved in the initiatives for biodiversity, corresponding to 100% of the Italian cattle breeds enrolled in the herd books and national registers.

Resource efficiency and climate

Under this priority, the RDP supports investments to improve the efficient use of water resources through the irrigation infrastructure. The Programme pursues the objective of making more efficient use of the water resource, encouraging the restructuring and modernisation. This contributes to the sustainability of agricultural production by promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation. The area to be covered by more efficient irrigation systems is almost 400 000 hectares.

Annex 1: Indicative public support for the national rural development programme

Target	Measure	EUR Total public	%
P 3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture		1 535 534 479	73.66 %
3b — risk management	M 17 — Risk management	1 535 534 479	73.66 %
5.55 % percentage of farms participating in risk management schemes			
P 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry		194 000 000	9.31 %
To focus areas for priority 4	M 10 — AEC	100 800 000	4.84 %
100.0 % percentage of Italian cattle breeds involved in respect to the total of those in Italy enrolled in the herd books and national registers (focus area 4A)			
39 Italian cattle breeds involved in the initiatives for biodiversity			
1 cooperation operation supported	M 16 — Cooperation	93 200 000	4.47 %
P 5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		291 000 000	13.96 %
5 On water efficiency	04 Investments	291 000 000	13.96 %
18 % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems			
Technical assistance		64 200 000	3.08 %
Total public expenditure (EUR)		2 084 734 479	100.00 %