



## Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for Tuscany

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Tuscany was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015, outlining Tuscany priorities for using the nearly € 962 million of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (over € 414 million from the EU budget, including nearly € 547 million of national co-funding).

The RDP for Tuscany will focus on environment/climate friendly farm investments and investments in more resilient forest ecosystems, as well as forest liming. Nearly 17 % of the agricultural land will be under management contracts supporting biodiversity, 10 % for contracts to improve water management and another 10 % for contracts to improve soil management. Organic farming is also important. A total of 18 000 hectares will receive support to convert to organic farming and another 87 000 ha to maintain organic production. Boosting the competitiveness of farms and forests is also high on the agenda. Over 900 holding will receive investment support to restructure and modernise, 1 000 young farmers will receive support to launch their business and the region will implement the European Innovation Partnership to help deliver innovative solutions to the farm sector. In addition there will be 5 500 places in training courses and almost one fifth of the rural population will benefit from new or improved broadband infrastructure.

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 Tuscany 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 budget.

### 1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES

In Italy, rural development is implemented through 22 separate RDPs – one at national level and 21 regional RDPs. In addition, the National Rural Network Programme provides the funding for the networking of rural development actors in Italy.

Tuscany covers an area of nearly 23 000 m<sup>2</sup>, of which 90 % is rural. Of the total area, agricultural land covers 33 % and forest land 50 %. The unemployment rate is 7.8 % (2012). Tuscany has nearly 3.7 million inhabitants, of which 56% live in rural areas. Besides farming, the food sector also plays an important role within rural areas, but both sectors are facing structural changes.

Tuscany's rural areas are challenged by a persistent loss of business activity, migration of labour force, and demographic changes.

Environmental challenges in Tuscany remain mainly the adaptation of agriculture and forestry to climate change.

## **2. HOW THE TUSCANY'S RDP WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES**

In addressing these challenges, Tuscany's RDP will fund action under six Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry as well as Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below.

### Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

Knowledge transfer system (workshops, coaching, demonstration activities, information actions and company visits) will be enhanced through specific training addressed to the farmers with regard notably climate change, sustainable agriculture and food quality. Particular attention will be paid to the training of new entrepreneurs, especially young farmers. An important element is innovation which is facilitated via co-operation, and information and knowledge transfer between the agri-food sector, researchers and other stakeholders. Almost 70 co-operation projects will be established, including support for Operational Groups under the European Innovation Partnership, while there will be 5 500 places in training courses.

### Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Requests for support to farm investments and modernisation are ranked first and priority is given to undertakings with innovative potential, projects of young farmers, organic farming and integrated projects. This is complemented with support for the European Innovative Partnership while investments into land consolidation and support for diversification are expected to an increased competitiveness and resilience of the sector. Over 900 holding will receive investment support to restructure and modernise. The European Innovation Partnership will also deliver towards improving competitiveness. 1000 young farmers will take up farming as a career.

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

Primary producers receive support for investments in processing and marketing, with a special focus on products emanating from approved quality schemes. They are also encouraged to participate in cooperation projects, which can be funded through this RDP, with a view to develop short supply chains and local markets.

### Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Under this priority, Tuscany will focus on environment/climate friendly investments in more resilient forest ecosystems, as well as forest liming. Nearly 17 % of the agricultural land will be under management contracts supporting biodiversity, 10 % for contracts to improve water management and another 10 % for contracts to improve soil management.

Around 19% of the allocated EAFRD amount will be used for area-based payments to farmers for using environment/climate friendly land management practices, including organic farming, support to areas facing natural constraints. A total of 18 000 hectares will receive support to convert to organic farming and another 87 000 ha to maintain. Additionally, the RDP includes a cooperation measure for joint climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

### Resource efficiency and climate

This priority aims to increase efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing and will be supported through the farm investment measure by requiring investment projects to increase resource and water efficiency. In addition the region will give priority to area-based payments to farmers for reduction of chemical input, covering a total of 26 000 hectares.

Additionally, the co-operation measure supports enhanced sustainability through the European Innovation Partnership and through co-operation for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

### Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

This priority is implemented mainly by the bottom up approach through Local Development Strategies drawn up by the expected 7 Local Action Groups (LAGs). Local Development Strategies will cover 30 % of the rural population and create 90 additional jobs. Around 18 % of the rural population will also benefit from new or improved broadband infrastructure thanks to investments under this priority.

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

- € 283 million allocated to measure 4 (Investments in physical assets)
- € 143 million allocated to measure 8 (Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests)
- € 129 million allocated to measure 11 (Organic farming)
- € 108 million allocated to measure 6 (Farm and business development)

## Annex 1: Indicative public support for the Rural Development Programme in Tuscany

Target	Measure	€ Total public	%
<b>Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas<sup>1</sup></b>			
1A: Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base 8.42 % of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
	02 advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 70 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 5 500 participants trained	01 knowledge		
<b>Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management</b>		<b>238 200 000</b>	<b>24.76</b>
2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 1.24 % of holdings with RDP support	01 knowledge	700 000	0.07
	02 advisory	5 500 000	0.57
	04 investments	62 000 000	6.45
	06 farm / business development	47 000 000	4.89
	16 cooperation	2 000 000	0.21
2B: Generational renewal 1.38 % of holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	01 knowledge	1 000 000	0.10
	02 advisory	6 000 000	0.62
	04 investments	58 000 000	6.03
	06 farm / business development	56 000 000	5.82
<b>Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management</b>		<b>200 600 000</b>	<b>20.86</b>
3A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers 0.21 % of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations	01 knowledge	1 120 000	0.12
	02 advisory	5 500 000	0.57
	03 quality schemes	4 000 000	0.42
	04 investments	132 200 000	13.74
	08 forest	18 000 000	1.87
	16 cooperation	5 000 000	0.52
3B: Farm risk prevention and management 0.14 % of farms participating in risk management schemes	01 knowledge	280 000	0.03
	02 advisory	2 500 000	0.26
	05 restoring agric. Potential	30 000 000	3.12

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

	16 cooperation	2 000 000	0.21
<b>Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>297 292 000</b>	<b>30.91</b>
4A Biodiversity	01 knowledge	2 100 000	0.22
0.13 % of forest/other wooded area under contracts	02 advisory	8 000 000	0.83
16.70 % of agricultural land under contracts	04 investments	20 000 000	2.08
4B Water management	07 basic services	1 800 000	0.19
10.08 % of agricultural land under contracts	08 forest	85 000 000	8.84
0.13 % of forestry land under contracts	10 AEC	29 000 000	3.02
4C Soil erosion and management	11 organic farming	129 000 000	13.41
10.61 % of agricultural land under contracts	13 ANC	10 000 000	1.04
0.13 % of forestry land under contracts	15 Forest - env	392 000	0.04
	16 cooperation	12 000 000	1.25
<b>Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors</b>		<b>113 300 000</b>	<b>11.78</b>

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

5A Water efficiency  4.94 % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems	01 knowledge	700 000	0.07
	02 advisory	2 500 000	0.26
	04 investments	4 000 000	0.42
	16 cooperation	4 000 000	0.42
5C Renewable energy  Total investment in renewable energy production € 29 500 000	01 knowledge	700 000	0.07
	02 advisory	2 500 000	0.26
	04 investments	7 000 000	0.73
	06 farm / business development	5 000 000	0.52
	16 cooperation	4 000 000	0.42
5D Reducing GHG and NH3  0.00 % of LU (Live-stock Unit) concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG (Green House Gas) and/or ammonia emissions  3.45 % of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions	01 knowledge	700 000	0.07
	02 advisory	2 500 000	0.26
	10 AEC	30 000 000	3.12
	16 cooperation	3 000 000	0.31
5E Carbon conservation and sequestration  0.00 % of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation	01 knowledge	700 000	0.07
	02 advisory	3 000 000	0.31
	08 Forests	40 000 000	4.16
	16 cooperation	3 000 000	0.31
<b>Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas</b>		<b>98 000 000</b>	<b>10.19</b>
6B Fostering local development  <u>30.13 %</u> rural population under local development strategies  <u>90 jobs</u> created (via LEADER)			
	19 LEADER and CLLD	58 000 000	6.03
6C Access to and quality of ICT  17.72 % of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT)	07 basic services	40 000 000	4.16

<b>Technical Assistance</b>		13 049 373	1.36
<b>Discontinued measures (measure 113)</b>		1 400 000	0.15
<b>Total public expenditure €</b>		<b>961 841 373</b>	<b>100</b>