

Rural Development Programme (RDP) of Saxony-Anhalt, Germany

Entwicklungsprogramm für den ländlichen Raum des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (EPLR) 2007-2013¹

(Rural Development Programme of the Free State of Sachsen-Anhalt 2007-2013)

Relevant contact details

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Managing Authority website:

<http://www.mlu.sachsen-anhalt.de>

Other useful links:

Rural Development Programme (RDP):

http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/rural-development-policy/country-information/germany/en/germany_home_en.cfm

National Strategy Plan (NSP):

http://www.bmelv.de/cln_154/SharedDocs/Standardartikel/Landwirtschaft/Laendliche-Raeume/KonzepteStrategien/natStrategieplan.html

German National Rural Network (NRN):

<http://www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/>



Map of Saxony-Anhalt
(© European Commission)

General socio-economic situation in rural areas in Saxony-Anhalt

Saxony-Anhalt is located in the mid-east of Germany. It is surrounded by four other Länder without direct borders to other EU countries. The region covers an area of 20,450 km² and has about 2.48 million inhabitants. Around 75% of Saxony-Anhalt is considered as rural area and about 53% of the population lives there. The GDP per capita in 2007 was €20,988, well below the national GDP per capita of €29,465. In January 2010 the unemployment rate was 14.1%. All of Saxony-Anhalt is a "Convergence" region with the exception of the cities of Magdeburg and Halle. More than 80% of the total area of the region is used for agriculture (57%) and forestry (24%) with a further 2% being water bodies/surfaces. There are approximately 5,000 agricultural holdings of which 86% are for crop production and the other 14% maintain permanent grassland.

Strengths include: an above-average increase in productivity between 2000 – 2005; relatively strong manufacturing industry; a promising decrease in unemployment, and; an improvement in tourism since 1990 (it now contributes approximately 5% of the GDP with potential for more). As for weaknesses, they include: a marked decline in population (6% decline between 2000 and 2005); a lack of employment opportunities.

¹ Latest updated RDP, following the adoption of the CAP Health Check and European Economic Recovery Package.

The budget of the Saxony-Anhalt RDP was amended in 2009 to include an additional €86,692,998 EAFRD contribution from the CAP Health Check and European Economic Recovery Package to be used for measures relating to the 'new challenges' for rural development, such as loss of biodiversity, water management and climate change. The additional EAFRD contribution from the CAP Health Check and European Economic Recovery Package is allocated as follows:

- Climate change: 59%
- Water management: 9%
- Biodiversity: 26.3%
- Restructuring of the dairy sector: 5.7%

RDP strategic objectives

The strategy is based on the principle of improving the living conditions and economic situation in rural areas whilst taking account of the importance of nature and environmental protection. Following this principle, and in accordance with the, EU Strategic Guidelines and the National Strategy Plan, the emphasis of this RDP strategy is upon:

- the improvement of basic educational services, village renewal and development, maintenance of the rural heritage and diversification of the rural economy;
- flood prevention, improvement of infrastructure and the modernisation of agricultural holdings, and;
- agri-environment measures and Natura 2000 compensatory payments.

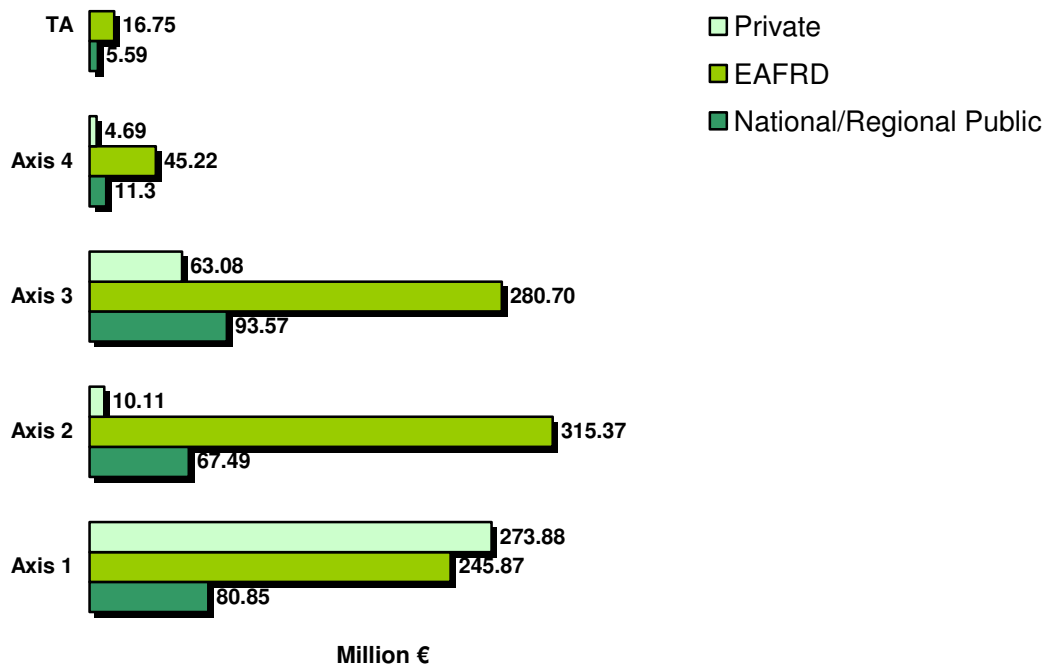
The Leader approach is mainly implemented through axis 3 measures.

Expected impact / outcomes of the policies

The government of Saxony-Anhalt is determined to increase economic performance and to improve the employment situation as the core of a sustainable development strategy. Pursuing this strategy, and taking into account other goals such as the protection of nature and environment, is the overarching goal for all EAFRD support in the 2007-2013 period and in line with the objectives of the renewed Lisbon Strategy. Strengthening the economy and improving labour market conditions are seen as key priorities for the possibility of being able to independently finance high social and environmental standards in the future.

² A full list of the RDP measures can be found in Annex I.

RDP budget breakdown by axis: Total expenditure for the period 2007-2013 (including national/regional + EAFRD + private funding) of €1,514,476,010



The RDP budget is broadly divided into four main areas of expenditure, known as axes, and allocated along the following lines:

- **Axis 1** (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector): A total of 39.7% (€600.58 million) of the overall RDP budget are allocated. Within axis 1, national/regional public funding represents approximately a 13.5% share of the axis funding, EAFRD 41% and private funds 45.6%.
- **Axis 2** (Improving the environment and the countryside): 25.9% of the overall budget ((€392.97 million) is allocated. Within axis 2, national/regional public funding represents approximately a 17.2% share of the axis funding, EAFRD 80% and private funds 2.6%.
- **Axis 3** (Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy): 28.9% of the overall budget is allocated (€437.36 million). Within axis 3, national/regional public funding represents approximately a 21.4% share of the axis funding EAFRD 64% and private funds 14.4%.
- **Axis 4** (Leader): 4% (€61.22 million) of the overall budget is allocated. Within axis 4, national/regional public funding represents approximately an 18.5% share of the axis funding, EAFRD 74% and private funds 7.7%.

In addition, 1.5% of the overall RDP budget is available to fund Technical Assistance (€22.33 million).

Within Technical Assistance, national/regional public funding represents approximately a 25% share

of the funding and EAFRD 75%.

Axis Information²

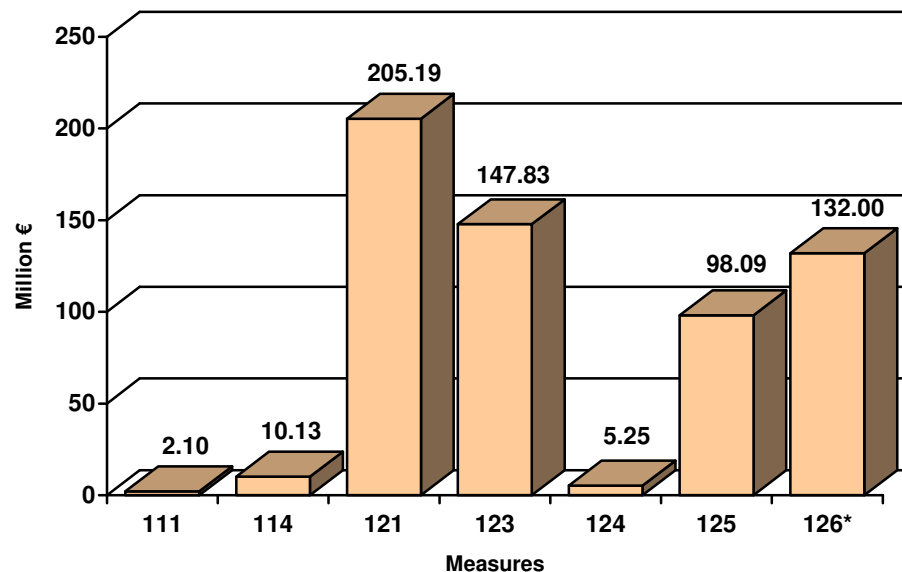
Axis 1 objectives: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

Because of recent natural disasters in Saxony-Anhalt causing serious flooding, axis 1 of the RDP is strongly focused upon the need for better flood control and includes funding for building and restoring dams and dikes.

The main axis 1 priority for Saxony-Anhalt is placed on measure 121 (Modernisation of agricultural holdings) which accounts for 34.2% of the budget. A further 24.6% is targeted at measure 123 (Adding value to agricultural and forestry products) and 21.9% at measure 126 (Restoring agricultural production potential). In accordance with the objectives of growth and employment in the German NSP, the RDP also includes measures for information and training, especially: i) the dissemination of findings from research and development, and; ii) innovative practices for persons engaged in agricultural, food and forestry activities.

Following the 2009 RDP amendment, the total budget amount for axis 1 is €600,597,315, including an additional €4,959,245 EAFRD contribution for measure 121.

Axis 1 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €600,597,315



*Measures marked receive no private funding.

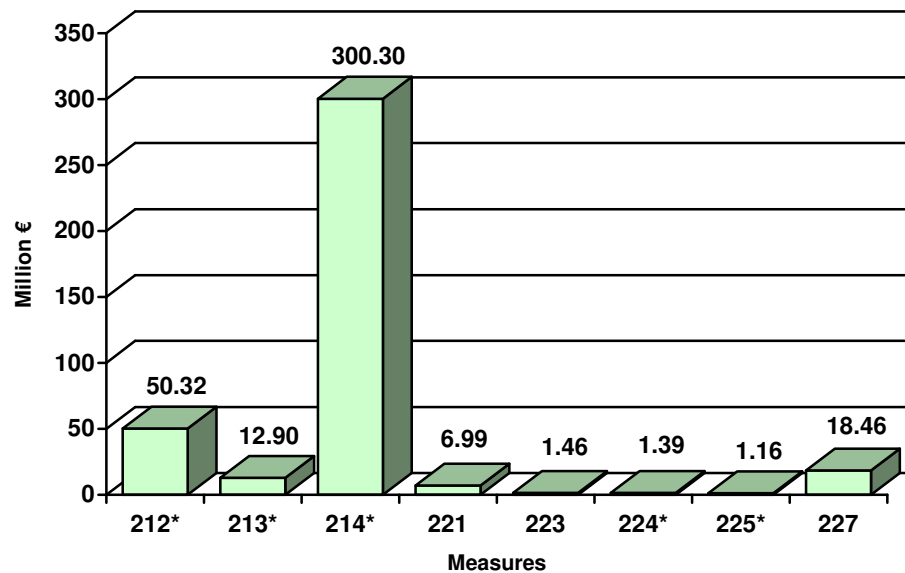
Following the 2009 RDP amendment, the total budget amount for axis 1 is €600,597,315.

Axis 2 objectives: Improving the environment and the countryside

Agri-environment payments (measure 214) dominate the support provided under axis 2 with 76.4% of total axis funding. The second largest share is allocated to measure 212 (Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas) with 12.8%; measure 227 (Non-productive

investments) with 4.7%; measure 213 (Natura 2000 payments) with 3.3%, and; measure 221 (First afforestation of agricultural land) with 1.8%. The remaining measures 223, 224 and 225 only account for 0.3 - 0.4% of axis 2 funding.

Axis 2 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €392,973,322



*Measures marked receive no private funding.

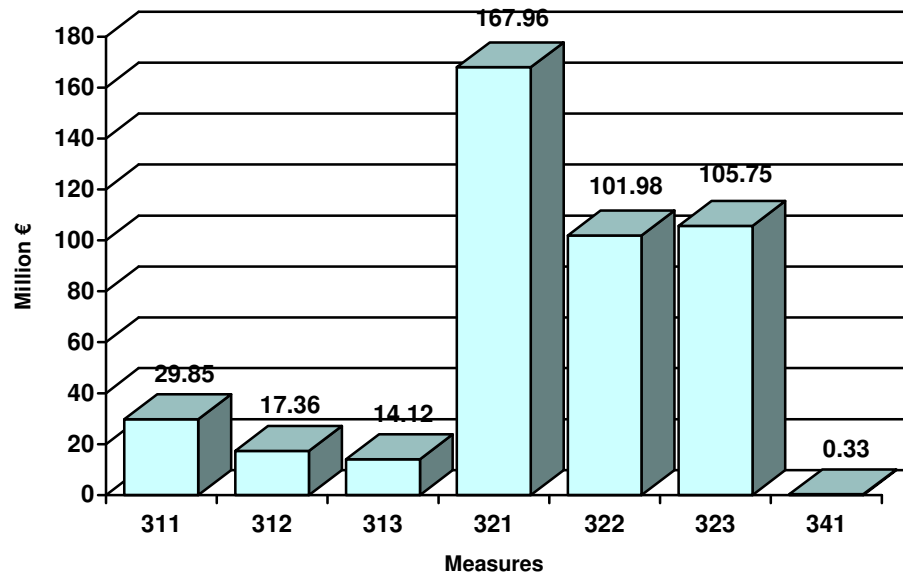
Following the 2009 amendment of the RDP, the total budget amount for axis 2 is €392,973,322.

Axis 3 objectives: Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

The Saxony-Anhalt RDP focuses strongly on axis 3 since it is regarded as crucial to improve the prevailing weak employment situation and to create a sound basis for growth and employment in rural areas.

Within axis 3, priority is given to measure 321 (Basic services for the economy and rural population) with 38.4% of the axis funding followed by measure 323 (Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage) with 24.2%; measure 322 (Village renewal and development) with 23.3%, and; then measures 311 (Diversification into non-agricultural activities), 312 (Support for business creation and development) and 313 (Encouragement of tourism activities) with 6.8%, 3.9% and 3.2% of the axis 3 budget respectively. The smallest percentage of axis funding (only 0.1%) is allocated to measure 341 (Skills acquisition and animation for local development strategies).

Axis 3 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €437,356,800



*Measures marked receive no private funding.

Following the RDP's 2009 amendment, the total budget amount for axis 3 is €437,356,800.

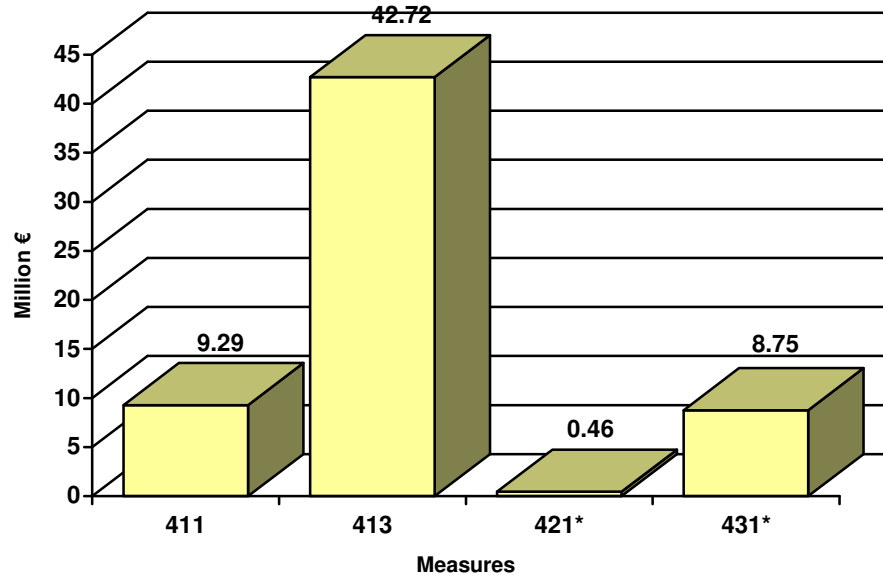
Axis 4 objectives: Leader

An important element of the overall strategy for implementing an integrated development policy in rural areas is the multi-sectoral, partnership-orientated, co-operative and integrated approach of Leader. The results from Leader+ are regarded as successful in Saxony-Anhalt and, with the widespread willingness among rural actors to continue within the framework of the 2007-2013 RDP.

The number of LAGs operational in the RDP areas as of March 2010 was 23.

Within axis 4, priority is given to measure 413 (Quality of life and diversification) with 69.8% of the axis funding, whilst measures 411 (Competitiveness) and 431 (Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation) have almost equal shares with 15.2% and 14.3% respectively. Measure 421 (Implementing co-operation projects) accounts for only 0.8% of axis 4 funding.

Axis 4 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €61,216,306



*Measures marked receive no private funding.

Following the 2009 RDP amendments, the total budget amount for axis 4 is €61,216,306. Specific support for inter-regional and trans-national actions was introduced in the amended RDP.

Monitoring and evaluation strategy

Monitoring and evaluation of the RDP is based upon the guidance contained in the EU's Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF) and aims to measure the progress and performance of the programme against common indicators relating to the baseline situation, plus the subsequent inputs, outputs, results and impacts of the RDP.

The RDP has also defined a number of programme-specific output indicators with descriptions for each measure.

The progress of the RDP is accompanied by an ongoing evaluation by independent evaluators. In 2008, Saxony-Anhalt submitted a report containing the results of the on-going evaluation made as part of the annual reports. A mid-term evaluation is under preparation.

Communication and publicity

The Saxony-Anhalt RDP is published on the Internet and thereby made available to a wider audience. Potential beneficiaries receive detailed information on the different measures of the RDP, including information on a) application and administrative procedures, b) eligibility and selection criteria, and c) contact persons at local, regional, and national levels for advice on subsidies in detail.

The Managing Authority (MA) is responsible for all publicity in relation to the RDP and for the use of all relevant media in Saxony-Anhalt and appropriate tools (brochures, flyers, Internet etc.) as

defined by Regulation (EC) 1974/2006. Beneficiaries must follow the communication guidelines from the MA and ensure it is “visible” that they have received co-financing from the RDP, for example with information plaques.

Annex I – Measures

Measures selected by the RDP Measures selected by the updated RDP

Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector	<i>Promoting knowledge and improving human potential</i>	111	Vocational training and information actions
		112	Setting up of young farmers
		113	Early retirement
		114	Use of advisory services
		115	Setting up of management, relief and advisory services
	<i>Restructuring and developing physical potential and promoting innovation</i>	121	Modernisation of agricultural holdings
		122	Improvement of the economic value of forests
		123	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products
		124	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector
		125	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry
	<i>Quality of agricultural production and products</i>	126	Restoring agricultural production potential
		131	Meeting standards based on EU legislation
		132	Participation of farmers in food quality schemes
	<i>Transitional measures</i>	133	Information and promotion activities
141		Semi-subsistence farming	
142		Producer groups	
Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside	<i>Sustainable use of agricultural land</i>	143	Providing farm advisory and extension services
		211	Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas
		212	Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas
		213	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC
		214	Agri-environment payments
		215	Animal welfare payments
	<i>Sustainable use of forestry land</i>	216	Non-productive investments
		221	First afforestation of agricultural land
		222	First establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land
		223	First afforestation of non-agricultural land
		224	Natura 2000 payments
		225	Forest-environment payments
		226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions
		227	Non-productive investments
Axis 3 - Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy	<i>Diversify the rural economy</i>	311	Diversification into non-agricultural activities
		312	Support for business creation and development
		313	Encouragement of tourism activities
	<i>Improve the quality of life in rural areas</i>	321	Basic services for the economy and rural population
		322	Village renewal and development
		323	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
		331	Training and information
Axis 4 - Leader	<i>Implementing local development strategies</i>	341	Skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy
		411	Competitiveness
Axis 4 - Leader	<i>Implementing local development strategies</i>	412	Environment/land management
		413	Quality of life/diversification
		421	Implementing cooperation projects
		431	Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation