

Rural Development Programme (RDP) of Lazio, Italy

Programma di Sviluppo Rurale (PSR) del Lazio per il periodo 2007/13 – 17.12.2009

(Rural Development Programme for Lazio 2007-2013)

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Other useful links:

Rural Development Programme (RDP):
[http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/rural-development-policy/country-](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/rural-development-policy/country-information/italy/en/italy_home_en.cfm)

[information/italy/en/italy_home_en.cfm](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/rural-development-policy/country-information/italy/en/italy_home_en.cfm)

National Strategy Plan (NSP):

<http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/1145>

Italian National Rural Network (NRN):

<http://www.reterurale.it>



Map of Lazio

(© European Commission)

General socio-economic situation in rural areas in the Lazio region

Lazio, located in the Western Central part of Italy, has a population of 5,269,972 inhabitants and a surface of 17,208 km². Despite the high density (303 inhabitants / km²), 84% of the territory and 37.7% of the population fall in rural areas. According to the RDP of July 2008, GDP/capita is 133% of EU-25. Agriculture accounts for 1.3% of Value Added (VA). Approximately, there are 130,550 farms with 725,330 Ha of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA), 42% of regional surface, mainly arable land (48% of the UAA), permanent crops (olive trees, vineyards, fruit trees, 20%), and permanent grasslands and pastures (31%). Natura 2000 areas are 25% of regional territory.

The RDP highlights that the main strengths of rural areas in the region are: rich supply of quality products, competitiveness of food industry, high diffusion of organic farming, limited extension of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones; however agriculture has to deal with decreasing UAA and increasing competition for land use, lack of vertical integration and producers' associations, decreased variability of cultivations with declining landscape quality, decreasing organic matter in soil, abandonment of disadvantaged agricultural areas, high use of ground water and pollution of surface water.

RDP strategic objectives

The RDP defines rural development objectives to provide a response to the needs identified by the SWOT analysis, within the framework of the overall objectives of Reg. (EC) 1698/05 and consistent

with "national priorities" of the NSP. For this purpose, the RDP adopts the structure of the general objectives proposed by the EC Regulation and supplements them with regional specifications in order to:

- strengthen the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, by improving the quality of production and the structural adjustment of food industry, integrating environmental concerns, increasing skills; strengthening the infrastructure facilities;
- improve environmental quality, by protecting the landscape and local biodiversity; conserving natural resources (water, air, soil), promoting environmentally sustainable production methods; supporting multi-functional management of the forest and preserve its integrity;
- increase quality of life and diversify rural economy through the maintenance and / or creation of employment opportunities and increase of the welfare of the rural people by supporting integrated local projects.

Following the CAP Health Check, in recognition of the greater emphasis now being given to the issues facing agriculture and rural areas, the RDP was revised in 2009 to place further importance on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions, development of renewable energies, improved water management, increasing biodiversity, and improved availability of broadband infrastructure in rural areas. The modifications do not imply the introduction of actions or operations (with the exception of broadband), but the reinforcement and/or the alteration of existing ones.

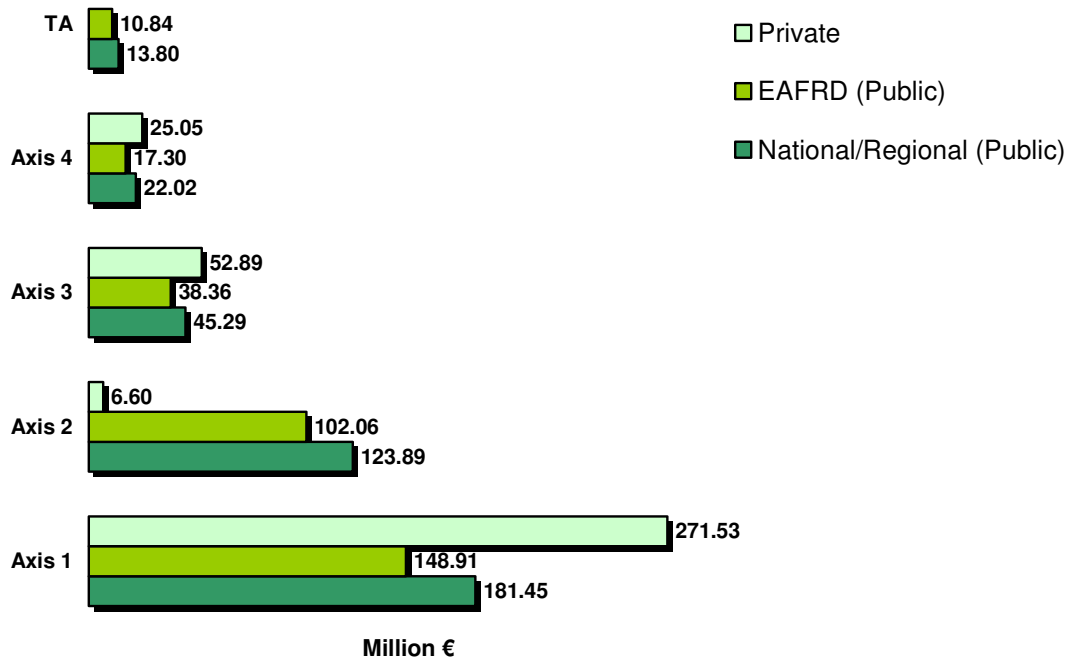
Taking into account the additional financing provided by the CAP Health Check, the European Economic Recovery Package and Modulation/CMO Wine, greater strategic priority is given to initiatives that address climate change (which received 13.89% of the additional funds), water management (8.09%), renewable energies (14.25%), biodiversity (43.93%), and broadband (19.84%). The restructuring of the dairy sector is a priority for Lazio; however, it is financed by additional ordinary resources. With regards to innovation in connection to the first four challenges, the region considers it to be already present as a horizontal priority throughout the approved RDP.

Expected impact / outcomes of the policies

Expected results and impacts of the Lazio RDP include: Contribution to combating climate change: Increase in production of renewable energies (0 TOE/year); Reduction of Green House Gases (GHG) emissions (-0.35%) of emission from agriculture.

Programme result and impact were revised to take account of 2009's RDP amendments and new targets were set. These include: increasing economic growth outputs from €81.1 million to €86.7 million; creating new Full Time Equivalent jobs (from 1,565 to 1,626); increasing labour productivity by €345 in GVA per full time equivalent; reversing biodiversity decline by 11.2% (measured by farmland bird indicators); increasing water quality by removing nitrogen from regional water courses remain at the previously established level (-25 kg/ha of SOI); maintaining and increasing some 3,084 ha of high nature value areas are anticipated (previously 2,330 ha); and strengthening of climate change actions to increase the amount of renewable energy potential provided through the RDP from 0 Kton to 2 Kton and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (-0.35%).

RDP budget breakdown by axis: Total expenditure (including national/regional + EAFRD + private funding) of €1,060,891,798



The RDP budget allocations are broadly divided into four main areas of expenditure, known as axes (namely: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector; Improving the environment and the countryside; Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy; and Leader). Approximately 57% of the updated RDP budget in Lazio is allocated to axis 1 (€601.89 million); approximately 22% is allocated to axis 2 (€232.56 million), 13% to axis 3 (€136.53 million) and 6% to axis 4 (€64.37 million), with 2% available to fund Technical Assistance (€24.64 million).

Within axis 1, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 30% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 25%; and private funds 45%.

Within axis 2, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 53% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 44%; and private funds 3%.

Within axis 3, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 33% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 28% and private funds 39%.

Within axis 4, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 34% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 27%; and private funds 39%.

Within technical assistance, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 56% share of the technical assistance funding and EAFRD 44%.

As a consequence of the 2009 RDP update, the Lazio region has been allocated a total of €48,483,333 (including €29,090,000 EAFRD and €19,393,333 of regional/national public funds). Out of the additional EAFRD contribution, €17,105,000 is aimed at addressing new challenges and broadband in rural areas. Furthermore, €11,985,000 stems from Modulation/CMO Wine.

Axis Information¹

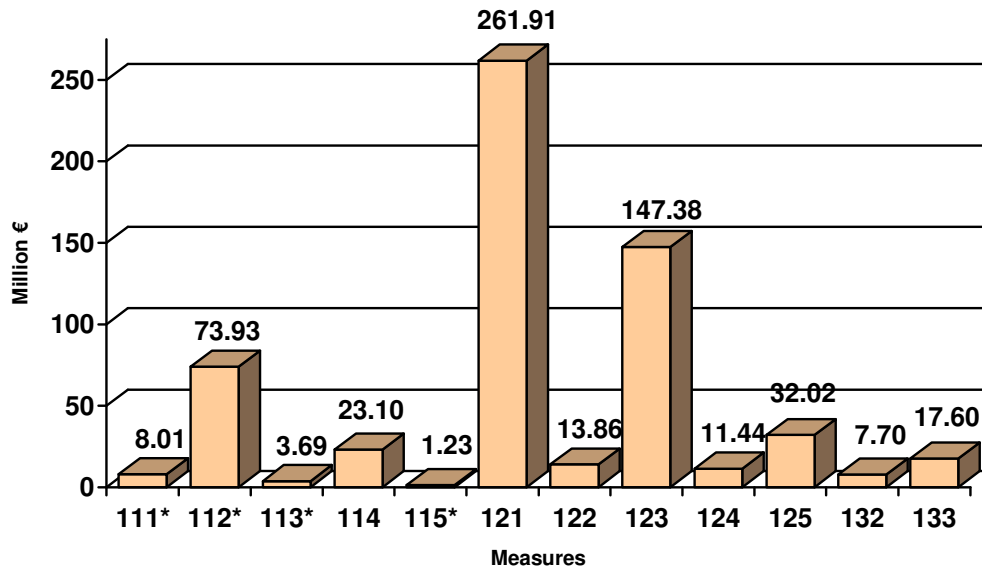
Axis 1 objectives: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

The objectives are: to promote process and product innovations along the production chain, to support the processes of modernization and technical and organizational adaptation in agricultural, forestry and food industry, to promote chain production strategies enhancing agriculture and forestry quality products and seeking new market opportunities, to encourage access to the agri-food quality schemes, to enhance physical and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and facilities to develop logistics services, foster the process of generational transfer through the establishment of young trained farmers and the farm modernization, professional qualification of workers and use of advisory services to facilitate adaptation and technical and organizational innovation.

Specific modifications to targets have been made to take account of the amendments to the RDP. This includes new measure-level targets such as: GVA in supported holdings/enterprises (from €115.5 to €127.65 million) and number of holdings/enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques (from 1,799 to 1,854). Unchanged axis 1 targets include: number of participants that successfully ended a training activity related to agriculture and/or forestry (14,121) and the value of agricultural production under recognised quality labels/standards (€558.3 million). Modifications to specific output targets include the improvement of water management by reinforcing actions that improve water storage and usage capabilities by supporting 20 additional actions (measure 125). For further information on specific result and output indicators please refer to the indicator tables in the RDP.

¹ A full list of the RDP measures can be found in Annex I.

Axis 1 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €601,891,798²



Following the 2009 RDP update, the total axis 1 budget is €601,891,798. This includes an additional €2,306,588 (€1,383,953 EAFRD + €922,635 national/regional public) from the 2009 changes. The additional EAFRD will be spent on actions under measure 125 to improve water management.

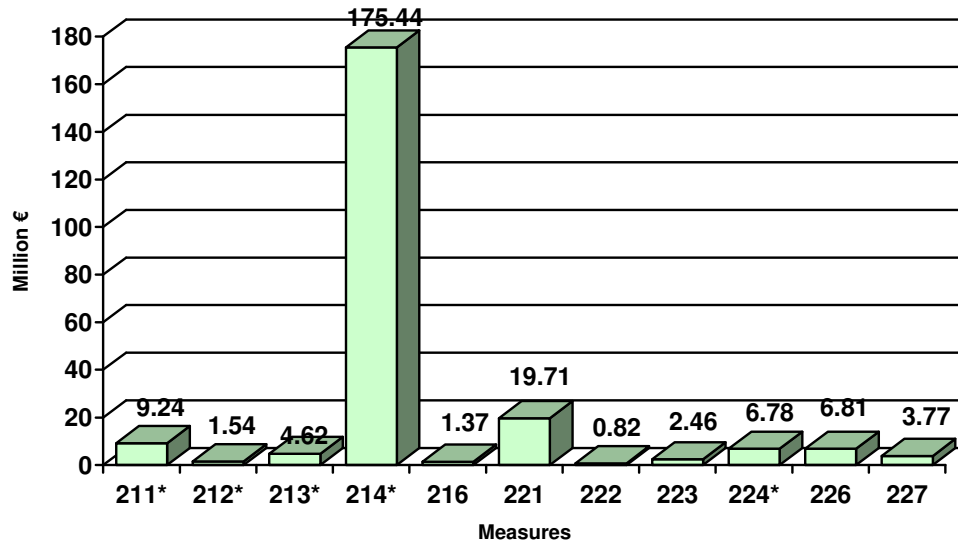
Axis 2 objectives: Improving the environment and the countryside

The main objectives are: to maintain biodiversity in rural areas and especially safeguard and develop the agricultural and forestry systems of high nature value, to protect and improve water quality-quantity, to develop agricultural and forestry practices / activities aimed at the mitigation of climate change and improving air quality, to promote the permanence of farming in disadvantaged areas, to preserve the agricultural landscape, improving resource management to reduce soil erosion and limit hydrogeological risk, increase and maintain organic matter and limit soil contamination.

A number of key axis 2 targets were amended in 2009 to reflect the new funds and this led to an increase in anticipated outputs for areas under successful land management contributing to biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry (which is planned to rise from 78,888 ha to 91,099 ha); areas improving water quality expand from 61,908 ha to 79,368 ha; improving soil quality is expanding in coverage from 64,214 ha to 79,368 ha; climate change mitigation areas are expected to extend from 61,908 ha to 79,873 ha; however, the area dedicated for the avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment is now 24,617 (previously 25,971 ha). In reinforcing the biodiversity priority, between 72 and 122 farm holdings are supported to conserve genetic diversity and species-rich vegetation types, and protect and maintain grasslands of approximately 1,381-2,341 ha (measure 214). Furthermore, the climate change priority is strengthened by supporting between 9 and 30 farm holdings on approximately 171-569 ha to improve soil management practices, land use and the efficiency of nitrogen fertiliser use. For further information on specific result and output indicators please refer to the indicator tables in the RDP.

² Please note that for measures 111, 112, 113 and 115 no private spending has been allocated.

Axis 2 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €232,560,065³



Following the 2009 update of the RDP, the total budget allocation under axis 2 is €232,560,065, including an additional €16,484,333 (€9,890,600 EAFRD plus €6,593,733 national/regional public). Alterations to funding under the axis include €9.89 million of further EAFRD support for agri-environmental payments, under measure 214, and particularly for actions strengthening existing axis 2 operations toward biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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

The measures of axis 3 are aimed at improving infrastructure provision and services for population and business (especially for food industry and tourism), protecting and enhancing landscape and environmental functions of rural areas (from urban expansion and human pressures), promoting development patterns to generate competitive supply of products and services in areas at greatest risk of marginalization by supporting agricultural and non-agricultural activities, supporting farm multifunctionality, qualify human capital and support a systemic approach.

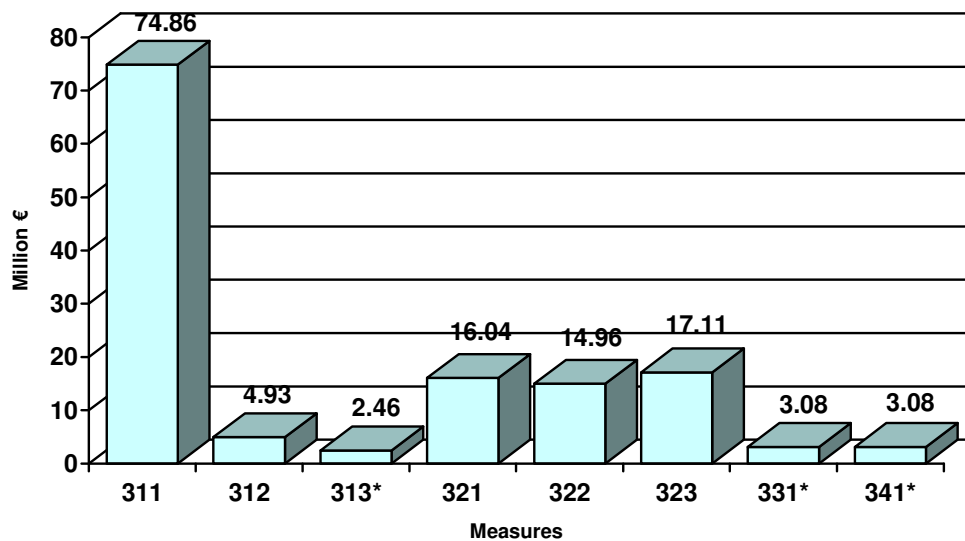
The target results are: increase in non-agricultural gross value added in supported businesses €3.3 million; gross number of jobs created: 69, additional number of tourists: 37,413, population in rural areas with improved services 431,564 (8% of regional population), number of participants that successfully ended a training activity 3,318.

Several axis 3 targets were amended in 2009 to reflect the new overall RDP priorities and this led to an increase in anticipated outputs including: an increase in non-agricultural gross value added in supported businesses from €3.3 to 4.3 million; gross number of jobs created (from 69 to 450); additional number of tourists (from 37,413 to 47,381); the number of inhabitants in rural areas

³ For measures 211, 212, 213, 214 and 224 no private spending has been allocated.

benefiting from improved services (which rose from 431,564 to 562,990); participants that successfully ended a training activity (from 3,318 4,134); and an increase in the number of persons connected to the Internet in rural areas (131,333). New output indicator targets were assigned following the additional funding allocation in 2009 and these are expected to result in reinforced actions to address the renewable energies priority by supporting between 6 and 12 actions to substitute fossil fuels and reduce methane (measure 311), and the introduction of sub-actions addressing the broadband in rural areas priority by supporting between 7 and 14 actions to create and enable access to broadband infrastructure, including backhaul facilities and ground equipment, and upgrade existing broadband infrastructure (measure 321). For further information on specific result and output indicators please refer to the indicator tables in the RDP.

Axis 3 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €136,534,780⁴



Following the 2009 update of the RDP, the new total budget allocation for axis 3 is €136,534,780, including an additional €9,717,412 (€5,830,447 EAFRD plus €3,886,965 national/regional public). Alterations to funding under the axis include further support for measure 311 (diversification into non-agricultural activities), which received €0.98 million of new EAFRD contributions to further develop the production of renewable energies. Measure 321 (basic services for the rural population) was allocated an additional €4.85 million of EAFRD for new broadband infrastructure in specific rural communes.

Axis 4 objectives: Leader

The objectives of axis 4 are strengthening local capacity in the design and management of development actions and to valorise local resources through improving local participation in policymaking. These objectives are focused on horizontal aspects highlighted in Leader approach and are closely oriented to achieve the objectives of the three previous axes, especially Axis 3. Eligible zone are Rural areas with development problems D, intermediate Rural areas C and

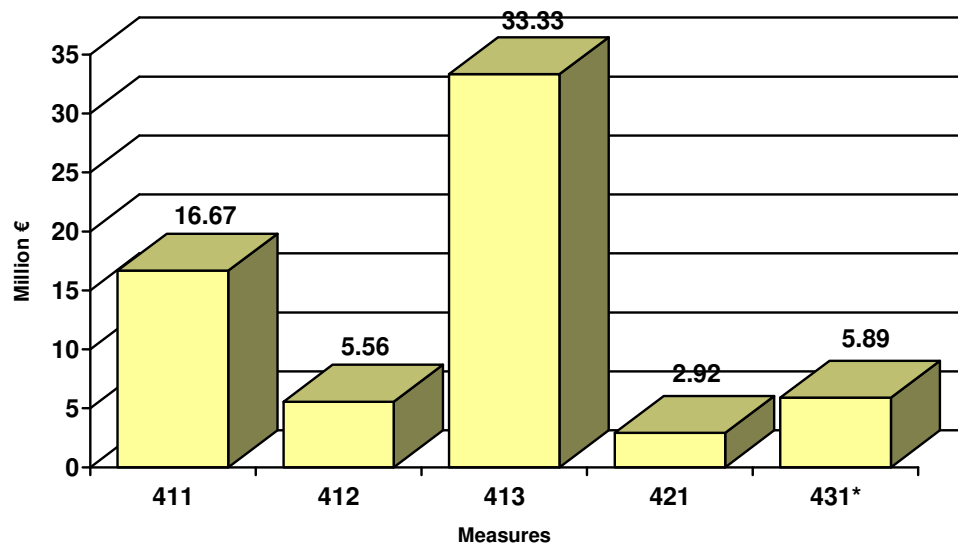
⁴ For measures 313, 331 and 341 no private spending has been allocated.

municipalities of areas B receiving support from the past Leader programmes, with a potential surface of 12,519 km² and a population of 1,390,224. Local Development Plans will focus on environmental protection, quality of life in rural areas, quality in food and territorial supply and rural tourism. The RDP explains how the selection process works and the multi-criteria matrix used to score the LAGs and their Local Development Plans LDPs. There will be a maximum of 8 LAGs, 760 local projects and the creation of 378 gross additional jobs at the end of the programming period.

The number of LAGs envisaged in the RDP areas as of March 2010 was eight.

No modifications were made to axis 4 during the 2009 RDP update.

Axis 4 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €64,371,076⁵



Following the 2009 revision of the RDP the new total budget allocation for axis 4 is €64,371,076.

Monitoring and evaluation strategy

The monitoring and evaluation system has been established according to the EC Regulations and taking into account the National Monitoring and Evaluation System. As identified in Annex VIII of the Reg. (EC) 1974/06, the RDP describes the common indicators of impact, result and product covered by the Common Monitoring Evaluation Framework (CMEF) and introduces additional indicators specific to the programme to measure the level of achievement of priorities (impact) and operational objectives at level of RDP measures (output). In some cases, in order to improve the analysis capacity, there is a breakdown of common indicators. The RDP shows a synoptic table for each axis, illustrating a first breakdown / allocation of output (product indicators) resulting from the implementation of each RDP measures, and their contribution to the axis priority objectives. This framework explains every additional indicator and a specific table is dedicated to the product indicators introduced by the Region to analyze RDP actions on conversion and restructuring of the

⁵ For measure 431 no private spending has been allocated.

tobacco sector.

Communication and publicity

Information campaigns are addressed especially at: a) potential beneficiaries (agricultural holdings, forestry enterprises and food industries, local authorities, Local Action Groups (LAGs), rural and agri-food district organizations, etc.); b) beneficiaries of the RDP support, and c) public in general. The Managing Authority organizes activities involving partners (local authorities, professional organizations, economic and social partners, environmental and promoting equality opportunities NGOs, etc.) by disseminating information and by providing timely and appropriate communication. The main tools addressed at potential beneficiaries are the Internet (website, e-mail), newsletter, brochures, in-depth leaflet, posters, help desk, workshops and conferences. The main tools devised to reach the general public are: press conferences, television news and regional teletext, advertising campaign on newspapers, local radio and TV, multimedia documents. EAFRD beneficiaries must install panels, plates, etc. according to the specific EC regulations. Communication and publicity activities are expected to account for about 15% of the total allocation of technical assistance and will be evaluated using monitoring data and specific tools.

Annex I – Measures

Measures selected by the RDP	Measures selected by the updated RDP	
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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
		126	Restoring agricultural production potential
	<i>Quality of agricultural production and products</i>	131	Meeting standards based on Community legislation
		132	Participation of farmers in food quality schemes
		133	Information and promotion activities
	<i>Transitional measures</i>	141	Semi-subsistence farming
142		Producer groups	
143		Providing farm advisory and extension services	
Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside	<i>Sustainable use of agricultural land</i>	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
		216	Non-productive investments
	<i>Sustainable use of forestry land</i>	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
		341	Skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy
Axis 4 - Leader	<i>Implementing local development strategies</i>	411	Competitiveness
		412	Environment/land management
		413	Quality of life/diversification
	421	Implementing cooperation projects	
	431	Running the local action group, skills acquisition, animation	