

## Rural Development Programme (RDP) of Tuscany, Italy

**Programma di sviluppo rurale della Regione Toscana per il periodo 2007/13 – (May 2010)<sup>1</sup>**

*(Rural Development Programme for Tuscany 2007-2013)*

### Relevant Contact Details

**Address:** Direzione generale agricoltura, Via di Novoli 26 - 50127 Firenze, Italy

**Telephone number:** + 39 055 4383761

**Managing Authority Website:**

<http://www.regione.toscana.it>

**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 Tuscany**  
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### General socio-economic situation in rural areas in the Tuscany region

Tuscany, located in central Italy, has an area of 22,997 km<sup>2</sup> and 3,619,872 inhabitants (75% of the territory and 40% of population is classified as "rural"). According to the RDP of March 2009, Gross National Product/capita is 121.7% of EU-27 average and the employment rate 67.3%. The agri-forestry sector accounts for 2.3% of Value Added (VA) and 2.9% of employment, whereas the food industry accounts for 1.3% and 1.1%, respectively. 81,839 farms with an average of 13.5 Economic Size Unit (ESU) operate 809,487 ha of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA). Agricultural gross value comes from arable-crops, vines, olives, and other permanent crops (49.48%), animal farms 19.38% and services (10.63%).

The RDP highlights that Tuscany enjoys a healthy agricultural base (growing in farm size and employees) with increasing multi-functional farms and direct sales, a recognised social function of farmers, good marketing position for some productions (vine, oil); potential for renewable energy production, indigenous breeds and crop genetic resources; limited Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. Main problems are: abandonment of agricultural lands in LFAs; landslide risk; decline of biodiversity in intensive farmland, insufficient development of agro-forestry chains; high fragmentation of forest properties and low size of forestry companies.

### RDP strategic objectives

<sup>1</sup> Latest updated RDP, following the adoption of the Health Check and European Economic Recovery Package and additional funds from Modulation.

RDP strategic objectives have been identified on the basis of Tuscany socio-economic and environmental analysis, coherently with Göteborg European Council indications (2001), Treaty of Lisbon (2007) and National Strategic Plan. Main objectives are:

- improvement of the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry through increasing innovation, promoting integrated production chains and high quality for all agro-forestry production;
- increase of professional skills and entrepreneurial capacities through facilitating information and knowledge transfer, and supporting generation turnover;
- development of physical and ICT infrastructures to support farm activities and rural people;
- improvement of environmental conditions, through management of natural resources and increase of sustainable agricultural and forestry practices and systems; and,
- improvement of integrated territorial development strategies aimed at improving quality of life and increasing income and employment opportunities.

Following the CAP Health Check, in recognition of the greater emphasis now being given to the “new challenges” facing agriculture and rural areas, the RDP was revised in 2009 to place further emphasis on the dairy sector, the environmental situation and the availability of broadband infrastructure in rural areas. The modifications do not concern the introduction of new priorities but the reinforcement and/or the alteration of existing ones as well as the introduction of new operations.

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 contribute to climate change (which received 30% of the additional funds), water management (32%), biodiversity (9%), the restructuring of the dairy sector (6%) and broadband infrastructure in rural areas (23%).

### **Expected impact / outcomes of the policies**

The main targets are:

Economic growth: +1.8% of agro-forestry VA.

Employment creation: New jobs: +2% in agriculture, +1% in food industry.

Labour productivity: Change in gross added value per labour unit (Gross Value Added (GVA)/Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) +0.2%.

Reversing biodiversity decline: Change of biodiversity trend: Farmland bird index (2000=100; 2003=67 at national level) 80.

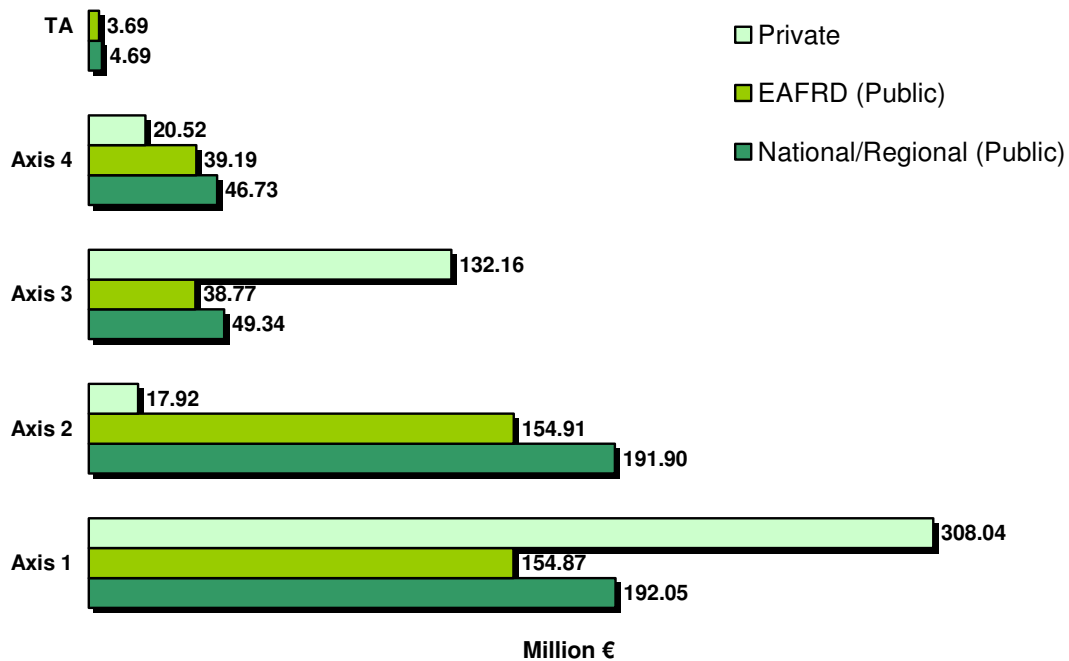
Maintenance of high natural value farming and forestry areas: Preservation of agricultural and forestry habitats of high natural value: 14,500 ha.

Improvement in water: Change in gross nutrient balance: Nitrogen – 7,200 t.

Contribution to combating climate change: Increase in production of renewable energy +6,900 TOE.

Specific modifications to impact indicators have been made to take account of the RDP's 2009 alterations. These include new targets for actions such as: targeting the dairy sector to strengthen the dairy chain, in particular the processing of dairy products, in order to add value to the products and increase competitiveness of the sector; financing the construction or modernisation of water distribution system infrastructure from water storage; supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation measures for preventive operations against forest fires and climate related natural disasters; increasing biodiversity particularly by focusing on promotion of organic farming; and, targeting the completion of regional Internet connectivity. Finally, actions that promote innovation in the field of environmental challenges are reinforced. Detailed information on impact indicators for individual measures is provided in the RDP indicator tables.

## RDP budget breakdown by axis: Total expenditure (including national/regional + EAFRD + private funding) of €1,354,785,759



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 48% of the updated RDP budget in Tuscany is allocated to axis 1 (€654.96 million); approximately 27% is allocated to axis 2 (€364.72 million), 16% to axis 3 (€220.27 million) and 8% to axis 4 (€106.44 million), and with almost 1% available to fund technical assistance (€8.39 million).

Within axis 1, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 29% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 24%; and private funds 47%.

Within axis 2, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 53% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 42%; and private funds 5%.

Within axis 3, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 22% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 18% and private funds 60%.

Within axis 4, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 44% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 37%; and private funds 19%.

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 amendments, the Tuscany region has been assigned a total of €37,026,667 (including €22,216,000 EAFRD and €14,810,667 of national/regional public funds). Out of the additional EAFRD contribution, €18,516,000 is aimed at addressing new challenges and broadband in rural areas. Furthermore, €3,700,000 stems from Modulation/CMO Wine.

## **Axis Information<sup>2</sup>**

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

Specific objectives of axis 1 are: reinforcement and development of market oriented farms, through increasing innovation and competitiveness; strengthening integrated agriculture and forestry production chains; improvement and spread of high quality for all agriculture and forestry production; facilitation of generational turnover and new employment. Increase of professional skills and entrepreneurial capacities (especially of young farmers by facilitating information and knowledge transfer) is a fifth cross-cutting objective.

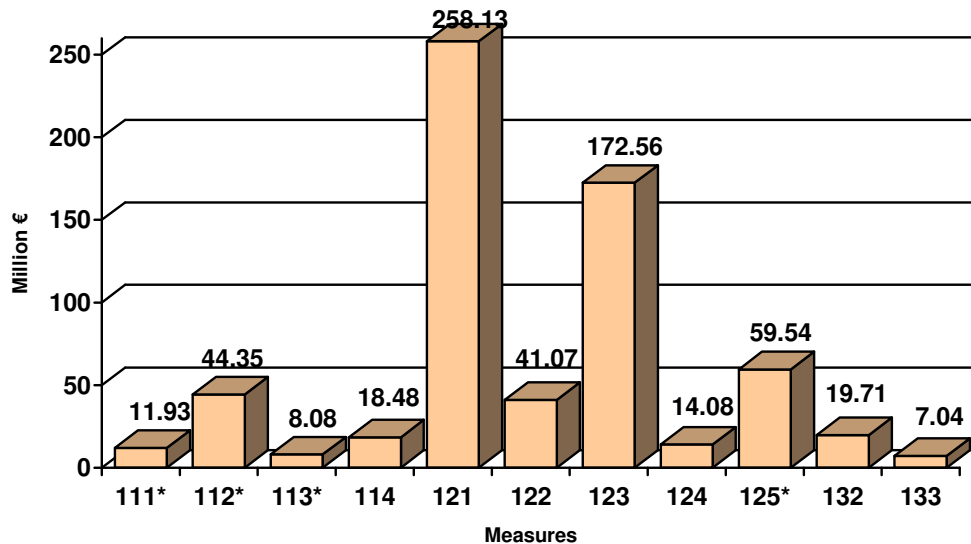
Result targets include: the number of participants that successfully ended training activities related to agriculture and/or forestry 1,800; increase in agricultural gross value added in supported holdings 20%; number of holdings/enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques 434; value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards €516 million.

Specific modifications to results indicators have been made to take account of the amendments to the RDP including activities related to the dairy sector, such as those supporting 4 farm holdings to improve the processing and marketing (measure 123); and, strengthening operations related to improving the capacity to use and store water more efficiently (measure 125). For further information on specific result and output indicators please refer to the indicator tables in the RDP.

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<sup>2</sup> A full list of the RDP measures can be found in Annex I.

**Axis 1 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including national/regional public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €654,964,763<sup>3</sup>**



Following the 2009 RDP update, the total budget allocation under axis 1 is €654,964,763, including an additional €10,769,335 (€6,967,760 EAFRD plus €3,801,575 of national/regional public funds). The additional EAFRD contribution supports measures 123 (€1,110,960) and 125 (€5,856,800) in strengthening the restructuring of the dairy sector and water management priorities.

**Axis 2 objectives: Improving the environment and the countryside**

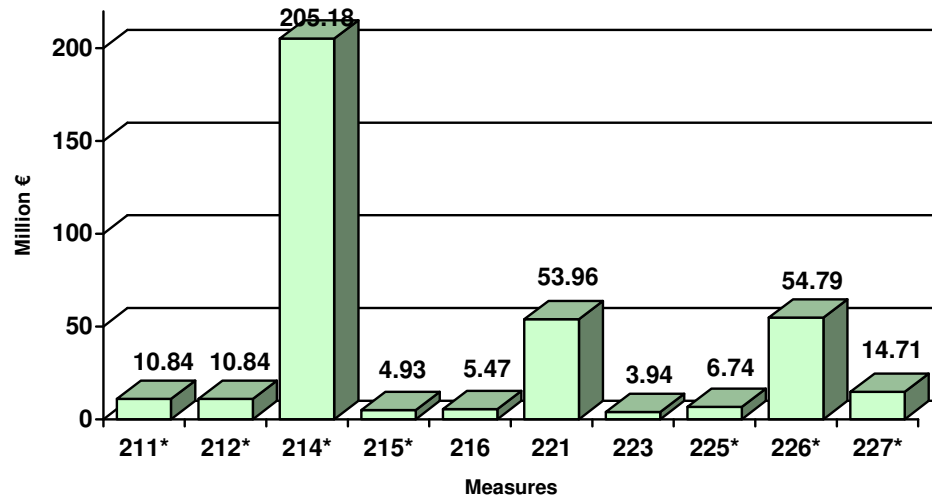
Axis 2 specific objectives are: conservation of biodiversity and safeguard of wild and farmed vegetal and animal species; promotion of water saving; reduction of water pollution; promotion of energy saving and renewable energy production; contribution to climate change mitigation; landscape protection and improvement; and reduction of soil degradation. Sub-measure "Agro-environment payments" promotes: introduction or retention of organic farming and integrated agriculture, preservation of local landscape and environmental resources, improvement of organic matter in soils, green cover in fruit and arable land with gradient above 20%. The second sub-measure supports conservation of genetic resources to safeguard endangered productive crops and breeds.

Result targets include: supported surface contributing to biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry 170,000 ha, water quality 130,000 ha, mitigating climate change 140,000, improving soil quality 150,000 and avoiding marginalisation and land abandonment 85,000 ha.

Specific modifications to result and output indicators have been made to take account of the amendments to the RDP. In addressing the climate change priority, these include under measure 226: supporting between 160 actions on 699 ha to improve preventive actions against forest fires and climate related natural disasters and increase carbon sequestration in forests and reduce carbon dioxide emissions in order to decrease negative effects of climate change on forests. Furthermore, in responding to the biodiversity priority, measure 214 supports 73 holdings covering 2,393 ha to increase integrated and organic farming methods. For further information on specific result and output indicators please refer to the indicator tables in the RDP.

<sup>3</sup> Please note that for measures 111, 112, 113 and 125 no private spending has been allocated.

**Axis 2 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including national/regional public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €364,723,737<sup>4</sup>**



Following the 2009 RDP update, the total budget allocation under axis 2 is €364,723,737, including an additional €11,161,113 (€7,221,240 EAFRD plus €3,939,873 of national/regional public funds). The additional EAFRD contribution supports measures 214 (€1,666,440) and 226 (€5,554,800) in improving biodiversity and reinforcing climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.

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

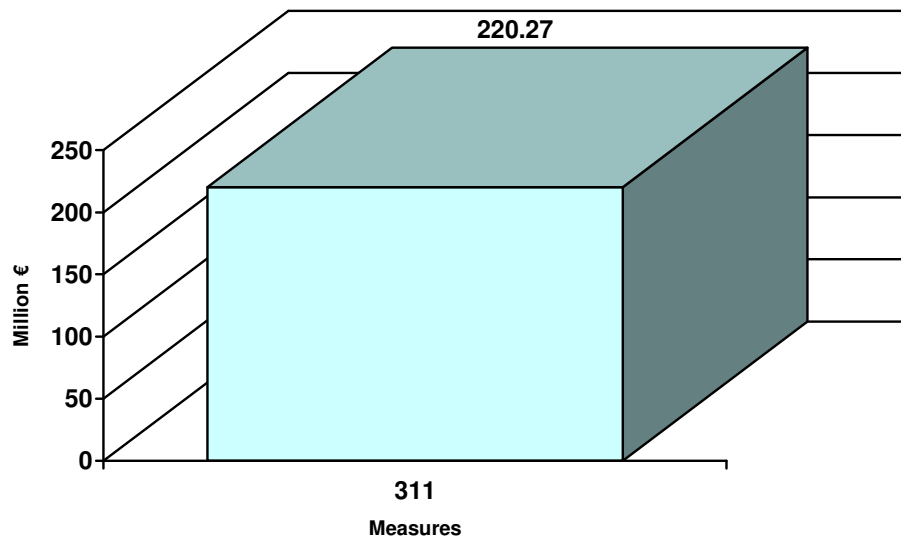
The specific objective “reinforcement of the support to rural population” is aimed at reducing disadvantages for people living in rural areas. With the objective “increasing economic diversification in rural areas” the RDP supports farms and other businesses to maintain or create employment. Different measures have been activated but the axis supports only measure 311 - diversification into non agricultural activities, with two actions: A) diversification (development of on-farm social services to improve local assistance network and educational services, conservation and promotion of traditional works, development of renewable energy production, leisure and sport activities with animals linked to rural traditions; development of other leisure linked to environmental resources and traditions); and B) investments to improve agro-tourism services.

The main result targets include: increase in non-agricultural gross value added in supported businesses +15%; gross number of jobs created: 280; additional number of tourists: +3%; population in rural areas with improved services 500,000; increase in internet penetration in rural areas: +2%.

Specific modifications to result and output indicators have been made to take account of the amendments to the RDP. In addressing the broadband priority, these include under measure 321: supporting 10 actions to create new broadband infrastructure, including backhaul infrastructure and upgrade existing broadband infrastructure. For further information on specific result and output indicators please refer to the indicators table in the RDP.

<sup>4</sup> For measures 211, 212, 214, 215, 225, 226 and 227 no private spending has been allocated.

**Axis 3 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €220,267,045**



Following the 2009 RDP update, the new total budget allocation for axis 3 is €220,267,045.

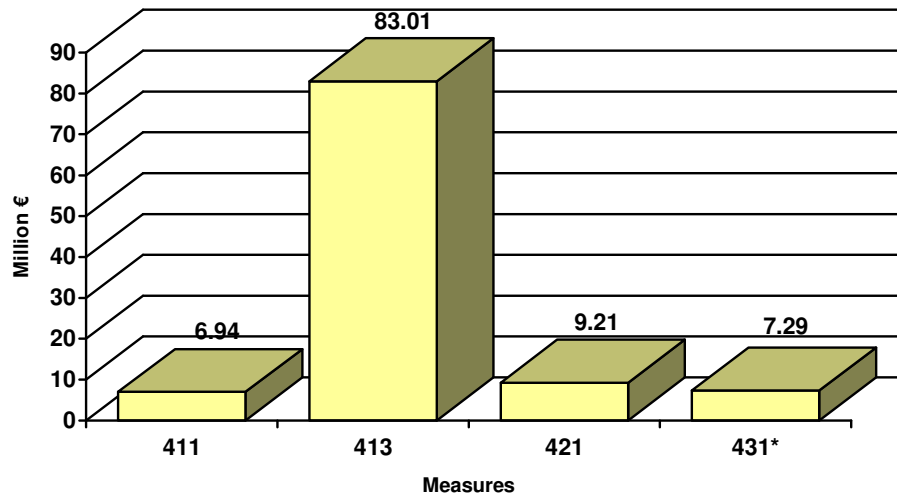
**Axis 4 objectives: Leader**

Objectives of the Leader axis are: strengthening of the programming capacity and local management, full and sustainable use of the local resources, through improving local capacities and participation in the design of the local development policies. The Leader approach is applied to all the axis 3 measures, aimed at improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification (excluding measure 311). Measure 411 supports local actions related to measures 124 and 133 of the first axis, and a specific action aimed at the enhancement of the quality production at local level. In addition, axis 4 supports Local Action Groups (LAGs), their acquisition of skills, improvement of the animation capacities and cooperation projects (in coherence with objectives of axis 1 and 3). The RDP estimates that there will be a maximum of 8 LAGs (with no more than 1,750 km<sup>2</sup> and 800,000 people) and 2,500 projects funded, which would increase employment of 0.3% and VA of 0.5%, after the current programming period.

Number of LAGs operational in the RDP areas as of March 2010 was 7.

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

**Axis 4 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including national/regional public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €106,439,077<sup>5</sup>**



Following the 2009 RDP update, the total budget amount for axis 4 is €106,439,077, including an additional €6,687,790 (€4,327,000 EAFRD plus €2,360,790 of national/regional public funds).

### Monitoring and evaluation strategy

The monitoring and evaluation system has been established in accordance with the provisions of Title VII Chapter II of Regulation (EC) 1698/2005, EC guidelines and taking into account the National Monitoring and Evaluation System. All the CMEF indicators are used and the baseline data, outputs, result and impact indicators are populated. Detailed information on personal and farm/business features of the beneficiaries will be collected and, as regards employment, disaggregated by age and gender. Specific indicators aimed at monitoring areas affected by conversion / restructuring of the tobacco sector have been introduced.

### Communication and publicity

Main target groups: beneficiaries of the EC support regional and local government units, professional and trade associations, socio-economic organisations, NGOs for human and gender rights and environment protection, public in general. At the inception of the programme, the measures funded and the related opportunities have been presented through press conferences, advertising campaign on newspapers, local radio and TV; in-depth articles on specialist publications; reports in collaboration with the television and radio stations, press releases with detailed information on specific measures aimed at potential beneficiaries. The whole RDP documentation is available on the regional website, where all updates are published with all useful information on procedures. Calls are available online and through newsletter. Moreover, meetings, workshops and conferences are organised in all rural areas. All communication actions and number of subjects reached are recorded and regularly reported to Monitoring Committee. All communication actions have to use EU and Tuscany Region logos.

<sup>5</sup> For measure 431 no private spending has been allocated.



## Annex I – Measures

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