



## Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme Cataluña

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Cataluña was formally adopted by the European Commission on 28 July 2015 and last modified on 7 February 2020, outlining Cataluña's priorities for using nearly € 810.6 million of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€348.6 million from the EU budget, and € 462 million of national co-funding).

The RDP for Cataluña focuses mainly on three priority areas. In order to improve the competitiveness of the farm sector 4 900 farmers will get support to restructure and modernise their farms and 1 800 young farmers will get support to launch their businesses. Some 2 500 farms will receive funding to participate in quality schemes, local markets and short supply chain distribution. The region will support training for 18 900 participants and 120 cooperation projects, targeting innovation and development, will receive support. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry is also considered important with 5.20 % of farmland to come under management contracts to improve biodiversity. Nearly 39 % of the rural population will be covered by a LEADER local development strategy and these strategies are expected to create around 600 new jobs.

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, 114 programmes are foreseen in all 27 Member States and 4 in the United Kingdom. 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 Cataluña 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 budgets.

### 1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES

In Spain rural development is implemented through 18 separate RDPs – one at national level and 17 regional RDPs. However, common elements to the programmes are presented in a national framework. In addition, the National Rural Network provides the funding for the networking of rural development actors in Spain.

The region of Cataluña is located in the North East of Spain. It covers an area of 32 108 km<sup>2</sup> of which 88 % is rural. The region is home to 7.5 million people. The unemployment rate was 23 % (2013) and, among young people, was more than 50%.

Of the total area, farmland covers less than 1/3 and forestry more than 2/3. The percentage of forest area and private forest surface is higher in Catalonia than the average for Spain and the EU as a whole.

The food industry is a sector of great importance in the Catalan economy. The primary sector represents only 1, 2 % of Gross Value Added of the region. The region has a strong livestock sector, which represents 60 % of the total agricultural production. The livestock sector is very intensive and is specialised in pig, poultry and bovine production.

The main challenges of the region are to establish specific policies for young people in rural areas, to promote their economic and social development. It also needs to promote economic recovery and job creation, with a focus on the agricultural, food, forestry and rural areas. It should stimulate innovation and knowledge transfer in the food sector and promote actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change and the protection of natural resources.

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

In addressing these challenges, Cataluña's RDP will fund actions under all Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests as well as restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below.

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

This cross-cutting priority will be addressed mainly through measures supporting training: more than 18 900 participants will be trained. There will also be support for 100 cooperation projects in the framework of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability.

### Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Farm investments supported under this priority will aim at modernising and restructuring around 6.5 % of all farms (3 950 farmers) in the region, while 3 % of farms (1 800 farmers) will receive support for young farmers to launch their businesses.

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

Under this priority, 4 % of farms (2 454 farmers) will receive support to invest in processing and marketing of agricultural products.

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

Most funds under this priority will be used for agro-environmental operations, as well as support for environment/climate-friendly forest investments. 5.2 % of the agricultural land will be under contracts for biodiversity, 6.2 % for water management and 2 % for soil management. For organics, support will be given to convert 17.800 hectares to organic farming and to maintain organic farming on 69.000 hectares

### Resource efficiency and climate

This priority will mainly address investments related to water efficiency so that 2.3 % of the region's irrigated area will switch to more efficient irrigation systems.

### Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

Under this priority, the region will support LEADER Local Action Groups and their Local Development Strategies. These strategies will address small investments related to the diversification of non-agricultural activities in rural areas and the reinforcement of basic services and small-scale collective infrastructure. The focus will be on improving the living conditions of the rural population and on creating 600 new jobs as well as new business opportunities. The Local Development Strategies will cover nearly 39% of the rural population in Catalunya.

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

- € 290.8 million allocated to Measure 4: Investments in physical assets
- € 125 million allocated to Measure 10: Agri-environment-climate
- € 80 million allocated to Measure 6: Farm and business development (business start-up aid for young farmers)
- € 72 million allocated to Measure 8: Investment in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests.

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

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 4.93 % of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 120 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 18 900 participants trained	01 knowledge		
<b>Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management</b>		<b>266 600 000</b>	<b>32.89</b>
2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 6.5 % of holdings with RDP support	01 knowledge	5 240 000	0.65
	04 investments	165 500 000	20.42
	06 farm / business development	8 000 000	0.99
	08 forests	7 500 000	0.93
	09 producer groups	1 500 000	0.19
	16 cooperation	5 400 000	0.67
2B: Generational renewal 2.96 % of holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	01 knowledge	1 460 000	0.18
	06 farm / business development	72 000 000	8.88
<b>Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management</b>		<b>75 800 000</b>	<b>9.35</b>
3A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers 4.03 % of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations 342 supported beneficiaries for processing and marketing of agricultural products	03 quality schemes	10 000 000	1.23
	04 investments	61 300 000	7.56
	16 cooperation	4 500 000	0.56

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

<b>Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>351 634 000</b>	<b>43.38</b>
4A Biodiversity 5.20 % of agricultural land under contracts	01 knowledge	860 000	0.11
	04 investments	18 000 000	2.22
4B Water management 6.19 % of agricultural land under contracts	07 basic services	2 000 000	0.25
	08 forests	64 500 000	7.96
	10 AEC	125 000 000	15.42
4C Soil erosion and management 2.11 % of agricultural land under contracts	11 organic farming	63 274 000	7.81
	13 ANC	68 000 000	8.39
	16 cooperation	10 000 000	1.23
<b>Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors</b>		<b>51 140 000</b>	<b>6.31</b>
5A Water efficiency 2.31 % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems	01 knowledge	860 000	0.11
	04 investments	24 400 000	3.01
	16 cooperation	1 400 000	0.17
5B Energy efficiency 32 000 000 Total investment for energy efficiency	04 investments	19 000 000	2.34
5C Renewable energy 12 000 000 investment in renewable energy production	01 knowledge	980 000	0.12
	04 investments	2 600 000	0.32
	16 cooperation	1 900 000	0.23
<b>Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas</b>		<b>61 865 000</b>	<b>7.63</b>
6B Fostering local development 38.86 % rural population under local development strategies 600 jobs created (via LEADER)	19 LEADER and CLLD	61 865 000	7.63
<b>Technical Assistance</b>		3 462 177	0.43
<b>Discontinued measures</b>		139 018	0.02
<b>Total public expenditure €</b>		<b>810 640 195</b>	<b>100</b>

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