

## Romania's Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 approved by European Commission

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Romania was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015, outlining Romania's priorities for using nearly € 9.5 billion of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€ 8.1 billion from the EU budget, including € 112.3 million transferred from the CAP direct payments, and € 1.34 billion of national co-funding).

The RDP for Romania focuses mainly on 3 priority areas: promoting competitiveness and restructuring in Romania's large agricultural sector; environmental protection & climate change; and stimulating economic development, job creation and a better quality of life in Romanian villages, where the situation is frequently well below both EU and average national levels. Under the first of these priorities, '**Competitiveness of the agricultural sector and sustainable forestry**', the RDP will help modernise nearly 3 400 farms and cooperatives, support the development of more than 30 000 small farms, and help more than 9 400 young farmers to start up. Under the priority '**Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry**', more than 1.3 million ha (over 10%) of agricultural land and more than 800 000 ha (12%) of forests will benefit from payments to support biodiversity and promote environmentally-friendly land management practices. A further 4.7 million ha will receive support in order to prevent land abandonment and soil erosion. Skills in the agricultural sector will be reinforced by some 184 000 training places, under the above two priorities. Under the priority '**Social inclusion and local development in rural areas**', almost 27 000 jobs will be created in rural areas and the setting up and development of 3 000 non-agricultural businesses will be supported. Nearly 27% of the rural population should benefit from investments to improve rural infrastructure.

Welcoming today's approval, EU Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner Phil Hogan stated: *"I am delighted to see the approval of the Romanian Rural Development Programme today. As discussed during my recent visit to Romania, the RDP has the potential to provide a major boost for rural areas in Romania. One of the great strengths of our Rural Development concept is that we have core priorities, but it is up to each Member State or region to design programmes which suit their situation. We see this clearly today as the Romanian RDP puts a particular focus on farm modernisation and restructuring to improve competitiveness in the agricultural sector, on conserving Romania's rich biodiversity and promoting environmentally-friendly farming practices, alongside investments to develop the broader rural economy and improve quality of life in Romania's villages. "*

Support for [Rural Development](#) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar of the [Common Agricultural Policy](#), providing Member States with an envelope of EU funding to manage nationally or regionally under multiannual, co-funded programmes. In total, 118 programmes are foreseen in all 28 Member States. The new [RD Regulation](#) for the 2014-2020 period addresses six economic, environmental and social priorities, and programmes contain clear targets setting out what is to be achieved. It put also emphasis on networking activities at EU and national level. 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.