



## **Factsheet on 2014-2022 national framework for rural development in Spain**

The Spanish National Framework for rural development was formally adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2015 and last amended on 9 November 2021. The document sets out a number of common elements to some measures, as well as a summary table, by programme and per year, of the total EAFRD contribution. The EAFRD financial allocation for Spain amounts to EUR 11,4 billion to be channelled through the 18 RDPs.

[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, there are 114 programmes in the 27 Member States and 4 in the United Kingdom. The [RD Regulation](#) for the 2014-2022 period 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.

### **1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES**

Spain covers an area of 506 000 sq.km of which 80% is rural. Of the total area, 50% is agricultural land while forests cover 18%. The total population is 46.7 million - of which 41% live in rural areas.

In Spain, EU rural development policy is implemented through 17 regional RDPs, one for each of the Spanish regions, and 1 national RDP. Therefore, the situation and key challenges are presented at the level of each programme, for its territorial scope of action.

### **2. HOW THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SPAIN WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES**

In addition to the summary financial tables, the national framework ensures a coherent approach to rural development in Spain by specifying common and mandatory elements

for all 18 RDPs, when the following measures are programmed:

- Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, and helping farmers to benefit from those services;
- Investments in physical assets, in order to improve the overall performance and sustainability of agricultural holdings and the infrastructures related to the development of agriculture and forestry, but also the processing and marketing of agricultural products;
- Farm and business development: business start-up aid for young farmers:
- Investments in the forestry sector: afforestation and creation of woodland, establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems, prevention and restoration of damage, improvement of the resilience and environmental value as well as the climate change mitigation potential of forest ecosystem, forestry technologies and processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products;
- Agri-environment-climate payments for commitments going beyond mandatory requirements and promoting changes to agricultural practices which make a positive contribution to environment and climate;
- Organic farming;
- Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints, compensating farmers for the constraints of agricultural production in the area concerned;
- Forest environmental and climate payments for commitments going beyond mandatory requirements and promoting changes to forest practices which make a positive contribution to environment and climate; conservation and promotion of forest genetic resources;
- Support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability; support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies;
- LEADER local development, supporting the design and implementation of community-led local development strategies.

These measures contribute to the three cross cutting objectives of rural development policy (environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, innovation) and cover the six EU priorities for rural development.