



Factsheet on the 2014-2020 National Rural Network Programme of Germany

The German national rural network programme (NRN programme) was adopted by the European Commission on 12 December 2014 and last amended on 13 April 2021. The last amendment to the NRN programme introduced changes resulting from Regulation (EU) 2020/2220, which extended the duration of the 2014-2020 programming period until 31 December 2022 and provided Member States with the possibility to finance their extended rural development programmes from the corresponding budget allocation for the years 2021 and 2022.

The NRN programme contributes to discussions and exchanges on rural areas with a view to the quality implementation of rural development programmes and to ensure greater visibility of rural development policy, its measures and its achievements. The aim of this programme is to bring together all the stakeholders involved in the development of rural areas and covers the whole of Germany's national territory.

Rural development is the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), providing Member States with a European financial envelope to manage co-financed programmes at national or regional level. A total of 118 programmes are implemented in 28 Member States.¹ The Rural Development Regulation for the 2014-2020 programming period identifies six economic, environmental and social priorities, among which the programmes set out their strategic objectives, the measures implemented to achieve them and the expected results. Networking is also an important tool at European, national and regional level.

1. Implementation of rural development in Germany

Each Member State has to set up a national rural network. Regionalised Member States such as Germany may choose to draw up a specific national rural network programme.

In Germany, the 2014-2020 rural development policy, co-financed from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), is implemented

¹ The UK left the Union on 31st January 2020; in accordance with the Withdrawal Agreement support under Rural Development continues to apply in the UK during the 2014-2020 programming period.

through 13 regional rural development programmes² and the specific programme for the national rural network. Elements common to a number of measures are included in a national framework, which does not have a budgetary allocation.

2. NRN activities in Germany

The main focus of the networking activities lies on the following topics:

- Value added and diversification;
- Nature protection, environmental protection and land management;
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Resource efficiency;
- Addressing demographic change in the regional context;
- Culture and quality of life, including participation and active citizenship;
- Regional and economic development of rural areas;
- Financial resources and new financing approaches;
- Cooperation between stakeholders, institutions and local authorities, in particular with regard to innovative approaches.

Furthermore, special attention is paid to networking in relation to the European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability as well as LEADER / CLLD (community-led local development).

3. 2014-2022 budget for the NRN programme

| Measure | Union contribution (€) | Total public (€) |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| Technical assistance M20.2 – Support for the establishment and operation of the NRN | 6,500,000.00 | 13,000,000.00 |

² The 13 regional rural development programmes cover 15 out of 16 German regions. The region Hamburg decided not to implement rural development policy through an EAFRD-funded programme during the 2014-2020 programming period.