



Factsheet on 2014-2022 Rural Development Programme for Tuscany

12/2023

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Tuscany was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 of May 2015, outlining Tuscany priorities for using the nearly € 1.3 billion of public money that is available for the 9 years period 2014-2022 (over € 537 million from the EU budget, including nearly € 709 million of national co-funding). The most recent modification extended the programming period for 2-years, to 31 December 2022 and included two annual EAFRD allocations as well as the EU financed recovery instrument (EURI).

The RDP for Tuscany will focus on environment/climate friendly farm investments and investments in more resilient forest ecosystems, as well as forest liming. Nearly 17 % of the agricultural land will be under management contracts supporting biodiversity, 10 % for contracts to improve water management and another 10 % for contracts to improve soil management. Organic farming is also important. A total of 21 000 hectares will receive support to convert to organic farming and another 105 000 ha to maintain organic production. Boosting the competitiveness of farms and forests is also high on the agenda. Over 900 holding will receive investment support to restructure and modernise, 1 000 young farmers will receive support to launch their business and the region will implement the European Innovation Partnership to help deliver innovative solutions to the farm sector. In addition there will be 5 500 places in training courses and almost one fifth of the rural population will benefit from new or improved broadband infrastructure.

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, 118 programmes are foreseen in all 28 Member States. 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 Tuscany 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 budget.

1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES

In Italy, rural development is implemented through 22 separate RDPs – one at national level and 21 regional RDPs. In addition, the National Rural Network Programme provides the funding for the networking of rural development actors in Italy.

Tuscany covers an area of nearly 23 000 m², of which 90 % is rural. Of the total area, agricultural land covers 33 % and forest land 50 %. The unemployment rate is 7.8 % (2012). Tuscany has nearly 3.7 million inhabitants, of which 56% live in rural areas. Besides farming, the food sector also plays an important role within rural areas, but both sectors are facing structural changes.

Tuscany's rural areas are challenged by a persistent loss of business activity, migration of labour force, and demographic changes.

Environmental challenges in Tuscany remain mainly the adaptation of agriculture and forestry to climate change.

2. HOW THE TUSCANY'S RDP WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES

In addressing these challenges, Tuscany's RDP will fund action under six Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry as well as Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below.

Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

Knowledge transfer system (workshops, coaching, demonstration activities, information actions and company visits) will be enhanced through specific training addressed to the farmers with regard notably climate change, sustainable agriculture and food quality. Particular attention will be paid to the training of new entrepreneurs, especially young farmers. An important element is innovation which is facilitated via co-operation, and information and knowledge transfer between the agri-food sector, researchers and other stakeholders. Almost 70 co-operation projects will be established, including support for Operational Groups under the European Innovation Partnership, while there will be 5 500 places in training courses.

Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Requests for support to farm investments and modernisation are ranked first and priority is given to undertakings with innovative potential, projects of young farmers, organic farming and integrated projects. This is complemented with support for the European Innovative Partnership while investments into land consolidation and support for diversification are expected to an increased competitiveness and resilience of the sector. Over 900 holding will receive investment support to restructure and modernise. The European Innovation Partnership will also deliver towards improving competitiveness. 1000 young farmers will take up farming as a career.

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

Primary producers receive support for investments in processing and marketing, with a special focus on products emanating from approved quality schemes. They are also encouraged to participate in cooperation projects, which can be funded through this RDP, with a view to develop short supply chains and local markets.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Under this priority, Tuscany will focus on environment/climate friendly investments in more resilient forest ecosystems, as well as forest liming. Nearly 17 % of the agricultural land will be under management contracts supporting biodiversity, 10 % for contracts to improve water management and another 10 % for contracts to improve soil management.

Around 19% of the allocated EAFRD amount will be used for area-based payments to farmers for using environment/climate friendly land management practices, including organic farming, support to areas facing natural constraints. A total of 21 000 hectares will receive support to convert to organic farming and another 105 000 ha to maintain. Additionally, the RDP includes a cooperation measure for joint climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

Resource efficiency and climate

This priority aims to increase efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing and will be supported through the farm investment measure by requiring investment projects to increase resource and water efficiency. In addition the region will give priority to area-based payments to farmers for reduction of chemical input, covering a total of 26 000 hectares.

Additionally, the co-operation measure supports enhanced sustainability through the European Innovation Partnership and through co-operation for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

This priority is implemented mainly by the bottom up approach through Local Development Strategies drawn up by the expected 7 Local Action Groups (LAGs). Local Development Strategies will cover 30 % of the rural population and create 90 additional jobs. Around 18 % of the rural population will also benefit from new or improved broadband infrastructure thanks to investments under this priority.

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

- € 330 million allocated to measure 4 (Investments in physical assets)
- € 301 million allocated to measure 11 (Organic farming)
- € 134 million allocated to measure 8 (Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests)
- € 96 million allocated to measure 6 (Farm and business development)

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

Target	Measure	€ Total public	%
Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas¹			
1A: Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base 6.18 % of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
	02 advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 144 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 20 544 participants trained	01 knowledge		
Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management		282 019 633.35	21.80
2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 2.10% of holdings with RDP support	01 knowledge	2 102 251.54	0.16
	02 advisory	6 683 410.71	0.52
	04 investments	97 835 555.59	7.63
	06 farm / business development	37 513 599.26	2.90
	16 cooperation	18 529 154.21	1.43
	21 COVID-19 crisis	14 410 029.18	1.11
2B: Generational renewal 1,31 % of holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	01 knowledge	766 604.82	0.06
	02 advisory	70 000	0.01
	04 investments	57 332 458.00	4.43
	06 farm / business development	46 776 570.04	3.62
Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management		229 921 947.76	17.77
3A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers 0.09 % of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations	01 knowledge	1 330 999.54	0.10
	02 advisory	579 860.55	0.04
	03 quality schemes	15 712 599.72	1.17
	04 investments	151 962 133.33	11.74
	08 forest	16 432 595.08	1.27
	14 Animal welfare	18 072 899.89	1.40
	16 cooperation	7 159 908.44	0.55
	21 COVID	898 797.23	0.07
3B: Farm risk prevention and management	01 knowledge	320 000	0.02

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

0.15 % of farms participating in risk management schemes	02 advisory	1 217 251.86	0.09
	05 restoring agric. Potential	14 834 902.12	1.15
	16 cooperation	2 000 000	0.15
Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry²		516 952 002.66	39.95
4A Biodiversity 35.08 % of agricultural land under contracts	01 knowledge	2 637 769.02	0.20
	02 advisory	4 977 699.91	0.38
	04 investments	13 622 991.64	1.05
4B Water management 35 % of agricultural land under contracts	07 basic services	1 800 000	0.14
	08 forest	54 934 784.32	4.25
	10 AEC	31 787 791.09	2.46
	11 organic farming	301 753 078.00	23.32
4C Soil erosion and management 36.04 % of agricultural land under contracts	13 ANC	96 644 480.05	7.47
	15 Forest - env	2 618 499.54	0.20
	16 cooperation	6 174 909.09	0.48

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

Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		129 657 712.73	10.02
5A Water efficiency 0.08 % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems	01 knowledge	900 000	0.07
	02 advisory	1 100 978.66	0.09
	04 investments	6 617 733.00	0.51
	16 cooperation	4 000 000	0.31
5C Renewable energy Total investment in renewable energy production 13 153 243.76 EUR	01 knowledge	1 182 001.38	0.09
	02 advisory	2 481 319.57	0.19
	04 investments	3 020 909.11	0.23
	06 farm / business development	1 148 409.09	0.09
	07 Basic services	2 420 000	0.19
	16 cooperation	6 150 549.63	0.48
5D Reducing GHG and NH3 5.83 % of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions	01 knowledge	500 000	0.04
	02 advisory	1 100 978.66	0.09
	10 AEC	28 300 000	2.18
	16 cooperation	3 000 000	0.23
5E Carbon conservation and sequestration	01 knowledge	733 395.18	0.06
	02 advisory	1 090 978.68	0.08
	08 Forests	62 910 459.77	4.86
	16 cooperation	3 000 000	0.23

Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		117 103 859.00	9.05
6B Fostering local development 30.13 % rural population under local development strategies 90 jobs created (via LEADER)			
	19 LEADER and CLLD	77 103 859,00	5.96
6C Access to and quality of ICT 8.74 % of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT)	07 basic services	40 000 000	3.09
Technical Assistance		15 438 091.16	1.19
Discontinued measures (measure 113)		2 854 601.11	0.22
Total public expenditure €		1 293 947 847.77	100