



Factsheet on 2014-2022 Rural Development Programme for Tuscany

10/2024

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 € 582 million from the EU budget, including EUR 45.0 million from the Next Generation EU recovery instrument, and an addition of approximately EUR 709 million in national co-financing). The RDP for Tuscany was formally adopted on 26 May 2015 and it was last amended on 26 August 2024.

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 RDPs, one for each Region / Autonomous Province. 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 1.000 holdings will receive investment support to restructure and modernise. The European Innovation Partnership will also deliver towards improving competitiveness. Almost 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. 54 % of the agricultural land will be under management contracts supporting biodiversity, 54 % for contracts to improve water management and another 56 % for contracts to improve soil management.

Around 27% of the public support 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 61 000 hectares will receive support to convert to organic farming and another 346 000 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 44 000 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:

- € 307 million allocated to measure 4 (Investments in physical assets)
- € 297 million allocated to measure 11 (Organic farming)
- € 130 million allocated to measure 8 (Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests)
- € 78 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 5.73 % of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
	02 advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 144 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 10 341 participants trained	01 knowledge		
Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management		252 923 024.39	19.56
2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 1.82 % of holdings with RDP support	01 knowledge	2 251 900.22	0.17
	02 advisory	6 483 410.71	0.50
	04 investments	85 222 676.69	6.59
	06 farm / business development	33 004 660.26	2.55
	16 cooperation	16 883 899.02	1.31
	21 COVID-19 crisis	14 407 029.18	1.11
2B: Generational renewal 1,31 % of holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	01 knowledge	10 018.55	0.00
	02 advisory	185 955.47	0.01
	04 investments	49 496 904.25	3.83
	06 farm / business development	44 976 570.04	3.48
Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management		236 707 622.82	18.31
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	1 321 892.40	0.10
	02 advisory	927 727.27	0.07
	03 quality schemes	14 597 599.72	1.13
	04 investments	150 176 615.33	11.62
	08 forest	14 432 595.08	1.12
	14 Animal welfare	25 072 898.89	1.94
	16 cooperation	9 927 751.07	0.77
	21 COVID	898 797.23	0.07
3B: Farm risk prevention and management	01 knowledge	11 280.15	0.00

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

0.14 % of farms participating in risk management schemes	02 advisory	1 217 251.87	0.09
	05 restoring agric. Potential	16 934 902.12	1.31
	16 cooperation	1 188 311.69	0.09
Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry²		549 842 473.41	42.53
4A: Biodiversity 54.26 % of agricultural land under contracts	01 knowledge	3 635 869.67	0.28
	02 advisory	4 691 699.91	0.36
	04 investments	15 123 991.64	1.17
4B: Water management 53.95 % of agricultural land under contracts	07 basic services	1 500 000	0.12
	08 forestry	54 434 784.32	4.21
	10 AEC	33 736 879.09	2.61
	11 organic	297 753 078.00	23.03
4C: Soil erosion and management 56.10 % of agricultural land under contracts	13 ANC	128 833 430.05	9.97
	15 environmental forestry	2 618 499.54	0.20
	16 cooperation	7 514 241.19	0.58

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		117 220 162.35	9.07
5A: Water efficiency 0.59 % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems	01 knowledge	533 395.18	0.04
	02 advisory	1 100 978.66	0.09
	04 investments	4 537 733.19	0.35
	16 cooperation	1 448 979.59	0.11
5C Renewable energy Total investment in renewable energy production 11 279 000.00 EUR	01 knowledge	834 879.39	0.06
	02 advisory	1 553 675.79	0.12
	04 investments	2 630 909.11	0.20
	06 business development	1 006 409.09	0.08
	07 Basic services	2 076 000	0.16
	16 cooperation	5 710 549.63	0.44
5D Reducing GHG and NH3 5.83 % of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions	01 knowledge	5 751.39	0.00
	02 advisory	1 100 978.66	0.09
	10 AEC	26 300 000,00	2.03
	16 cooperation	2 768 089.05	0.21
5E Carbon conservation and sequestration	01 knowledge	733 395.18	0.06
	02 advisory	554 800.56	0.04
	08 Forests	61 787 459.77	4.78
	16 cooperation	2 536 178.11	0.20

Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		115 651 267.00	8.95
6B: Fostering local development <u>30.13 %</u> rural population under local development strategies <u>40 jobs</u> created (via LEADER)	19 LEADER and CLLD	77 103 859,00	5.96
6C: Access to and quality of ICT 5.58 % of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT)	07 basic services	38 547 408,00	2.98
Technical Assistance		18 890 683.16	1.46
Discontinued measures (measure 113)		1 571 906.12	0.12
Total public expenditure €		1 292 807 139.25	100