



Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme Galicia

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Galicia was formally adopted by the European Commission on 18 November 2015 and last modified 28 February 2023. It outlines Galician's priorities for using nearly € 1 606, 5 million of public money that is available for the 9-year period 2014-2022 (€1 224 million from the EU budget, out of which 77 million EURI, and € 382.5 million of national co-funding).

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry is considered a main priority, with 17 % of agricultural land under management, contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion. In order to improve the competitiveness of the farm sector, 4 000 farmers will get support to restructure and modernise their farms and 2 200 young farmers will get support to launch their businesses. More than 2 000 farms will receive funding to participate in quality schemes, local markets and short supply chain distribution. The region will support training for almost 30 000 participants and 360 cooperation projects will receive support. Nearly 56 % of the rural population will be covered by a LEADER local development strategy and these strategies are expected to create around 650 new jobs.

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, there are 118 programmes in all 28 Member States¹. The [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 Galicia 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 budgets.

1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES

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

In Spain rural development is implemented through 18 separate RDPs - one at national level and 17 regional RDPs. However, common elements to the programmes are presented in a national framework. In addition, the National Rural Network provides the funding for the networking of rural development actors in Spain.

The region of Galicia is located in the North West of Spain. It covers an area of 29 574 km² of which 97.8 % is rural. The region is home to 2.7 million people with a depopulation and progressive aging of the population in rural areas. The unemployment rate is 20.7 %, among young people more than 45 %.

Of the total area, farmland covers less than one third and forestry more than two thirds. The percentage of forest area in private hands is almost 98% and only 10% has a management plan. More than 10 % of Spanish forests are in Galicia.

The Galician forage area supposes the 28.1 % of the total existing in Spain, which demonstrates the importance of the livestock sector in this community. The livestock sector is mainly cattle with a particular focus on dairy production. In 2010, the Galician milk production represented 38 % of dairy production in Spain. The average farm size is 8.2 has and more than 63% of farms has are less than 5 ha and only 10% exceeds 20 ha.

The food industry is characterized by the small size of the companies and a priority dedication to primary processing products and low value added that usually affects their competitiveness. The Galician food industry is one of the lowest ranking in Spain in terms of productivity; it has the second lowest gross operating margin and has the lowest value-added sales.

The main challenges of the region are to promote competitiveness of the Galician agriculture through the modernisation of agriculture and forestry, the installation of young farmers in market-oriented farms with capacity for economic diversification and land management. The region also needs to further improve productivity in the food industry as well as forestry by promoting the production of high added value.

In addition, there is a need to preserve and enhance the natural heritage of Galicia, promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and combating climate change.

Looking at the wider rural economy, there is a need to improve the quality of life of the rural population by encouraging the provision of basic services to help keep people in rural areas, creating jobs and reducing the risk of poverty.

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

In addressing these challenges, Galicia's RDP will fund actions under all Rural Development priorities - with a particular emphasis on sustainable management of forests as well as restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry, as well as enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture and promoting innovative farm technologies. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below.

Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

This crosscutting priority will be addressed mainly through measures supporting training: almost **49 500 participants will be trained**. There will also be support for **360 cooperation projects**.

Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Farm investments supported under this priority will aim at modernising and restructuring around **4.9 % of all farms** (4 000 farmers) in the region, while **3.3 % of farms** (2 700 farmers) will receive support for young farmers to launch their businesses.

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

Under this priority, **5.6 % of farms** (2 000 farmers) will receive support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Most funds under this priority will be used for agri-environmental operations, as well as support for environment/climate-friendly forest investments **8.6 % of the agricultural land** will be under contracts for biodiversity, **17.08 % for water management and soil management.**

Resource efficiency and climate

This priority will mainly address investments related to small-scale infrastructure including in renewable energy and energy saving with 2 307 operations supported. Almost **16 800 ha of farmland and forestland** will be under contracts contributing to fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry.

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

Under this priority, the region will support LEADER Local Action Groups and their Local Development Strategies. These strategies will address small investments related to the diversification of non-agricultural activities in rural areas and the reinforcement of basic services and small-scale collective infrastructure. The focus will be on improving the living conditions of the rural population creating 665 new jobs as well as new business opportunities. The Local Development Strategies will cover nearly **55.5% of the rural population** in Galicia.

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

- o € 497 million allocated to Measure 4: Investments in physical assets
- o € 382 million allocated to Measure 8: Investment in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests.
- o € 140 million allocated to Measure 6: Farm and business development (business start-up aid for young farmers)
- o € 131 million allocated to Measure 13: ANC

Annex 1: Indicative public support for the rural development programme Galicia

Objective	Action	€ Total public	%
Priority 1:Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas¹			
1A:Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base 2.74 % of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 361 cooperation projects	02 advisory services		
1C:Training 49 500 participants trained	16 Cooperation		
Priority 2:Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management		468 595 781	29.17
2A:Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 4.91 % of farms receiving support from RDP	01 knowledge	2 800 000	0.17
	02 advisory services	7 252 000	0.45
	04 investments	316 006 383	19.67
	06 farm and business development	17 480 000	1.09
	21 COVID-19 crisis	7 652 000	0.48
	22 Impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine	17 156 000	1.07
2B:Generational renewal 3.3 % of farms with a business development plan/investments for young farmers supported by the RDP	01 knowledge	3 306 000	0.21
	06 Farm and business development	97 863 398	6.09
Priority 3:Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management		190 260 000	11.84
3A:Improving competitiveness of primary producers	01 knowledge	1 064 000	0.07

No financial allocation shown for Priority 1 as the other focus areas

Objective	Action	€ Total public	%
5.6 % of farms supported for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and clusters/producer organisations 631 investment operations financed under M04	03 quality schemes	22 240 000	1.38
	04 investments	135 800 000	8.45
	07 basic Services	2 160 000	0.13
	M09 Producer organisations	2 000 000	0.12
	16 Cooperation	26 996 000	1.68
Priority 4:Restoring, conserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry²		554 854 000	34.54
4a Biodiversity 8.60 % of agricultural land under contracts 9.98 % of the forest area covered to contribute to restoring, conserving and enhancing ecosystems related to the forestry sector	01 knowledge	1 862 000	0.12
	04 investments	13 960 000	0.87
	07 basic Services	7 240 000	0,45
	08 Forests	255 440 000	15.90
4b Water management 17.12 % of agricultural land under contracts 9.98 % of the forest area covered to contribute to restoring, conserving and enhancing forest-related ecosystems	10 AEC	121 484 000	7.56
	11 organic production	17 468 800	1.09
	13 ANC	131 800 000	8.20
4c Soil erosion and management 17.12 % of agricultural land under contracts 9.98 % of the forest area covered to contribute to restoring, conserving and enhancing forest-related ecosystems	15 forest-environment	5 600 000	0.35
	Priority 5:Resource efficiency and transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in sectors agriculture, food and forestry		108 220 000
5C 2 307 operations supported for investments of small scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and energy saving	07 basic Services	10 420 000	0.65
5D 7.06 % of GUs affected by investments in livestock management in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or ammonia emissions	04 investments	31 480 000	1.96
5E 16 800 Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha)	01 knowledge	532 000	0.03
	08 Forests	65 788 000	4.10

Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		262 480 000	16.34
6A 407 jobs created in supported projects	06 farm and business development	25 228 000	1.57
	08 Forests	61 008 000	3.80
	16 Cooperation	520 000	0.03
	21 COVID-19 crisis	948 000	0.06
6b Promote local development 55.5 % of the rural population covered by local development strategies and almost 600 jobs created (through LEADER) 51.55 % of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructure 665 Jobs created in supported projects (Leader)	07 basic Services	39 392 000	2.45
	16 Cooperation	640 000	0.04
	19 LEADER and CLLD	117 864 000	7.34
6C 4.31 % of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT)	07 basic Services	16 880 000	1.05
Technical assistance		21 947 200	1.37
Measures suspended		140 000	0.01
Total public expenditure in EUR		1 606 497 781	100

Expenditure under priority 4 is programmed for the priority as a whole, and not for each of the focus areas