



Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for the Comunidad de Madrid

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Comunidad de Madrid was formally adopted by the European Commission on 18 November 2015, and last updated on 30 July 2024 outlining Madrid's priorities for using the nearly € 174 million of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2022 (€ 106 million from the EU budget and € 68 million of national co-funding).

Restoring, preserving and enhancing of ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry is considered a main priority, with 2.6% of farmland and 30% of forestry coming under management contracts to improve biodiversity. This also includes supporting the conversion or maintenance of organic farming on a total of 7 250 hectares. In order to improve the competitiveness of the farm sector, Madrid's RDP aims to give investment support to some 375 farmers to restructure and modernise their farms and 200 young farmers will receive support to launch their businesses. The region will support training for more than 700 participants and will promote innovation through 72 projects under the European Innovation Partnership. More than 67% of the rural population will be covered by LEADER local development strategies, which are expected to create around 180 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 programs. In total, there are 114 programs in all 27 Member States and 4 in the United Kingdom. The [RD Regulation](#) for the period 2014-2022 addresses six economic, environmental and social priorities, and programs contain clear targets setting out what is to be achieved. Moreover, in order to coordinate actions better and maximize 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 Madrid 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

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.

Comunidad de Madrid is geographically located in the centre of Spain. It comprises a clearly delimited high populated city together, within a walking distance, with a well-defined rural area which is much less populated. It covers an area of 8 000 km² (1.6% of the Spanish total area), of which 3.1% is rural. The region is home of 6.4 million people resulting in the highest population density in Spain, with more than 800 inhab/km². Madrid has the largest GDP per capita in the country (about 30% above the EU average). Of the total area, farmland covers 37% and forestry 52%. The primary sector contributes only 0.1% to total gross added value. The unemployment rate was 19% (2012), 48.5% among young people and above 45% in rural areas.

Farming in Comunidad de Madrid is almost equally focussed on agriculture (cereals) and livestock (cattle). Only 9.6% of the UAA is irrigated (2011), 51% still under flood irrigation system. Agriculture plays a key role in managing the territory, maintaining the environment and landscapes given that the farming system is mostly extensive. As a result, significant overlap exists between agricultural ecosystems and valuable areas.

Among the main challenges of the region are the lack of young farmers and the need to increase the size of the holdings. On the environmental side, the main threat is the urban pressure on the environmental values of natural and rural areas.

2. HOW THE MADRID RDP WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES

In addressing these challenges, Madrid's RDP will fund actions under all six Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on "Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry" The focus of main priorities is explained briefly below.

Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

During the programming period Madrid will support the development of innovative solutions through 72 cooperation operations programmed by operational groups under the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and it will create 710 places in training courses targeted at the farm sector.

Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Farm investments supported under this priority will aim at modernising and restructuring around 4.53% of all farms in the region, while 2.42% of farms 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

The region will support 130 projects investing in agricultural holdings as well as processing and marketing of agricultural products.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Most funds under this priority will be used for environment/climate-friendly forest investments and area-based payments to farmers for using environment/climate friendly management practices, including organic farming. 30% of the forest land will be under contract for biodiversity. 2.6% of the agricultural land will be under contract for biodiversity, 2.3% for water management and 30% for soil management.

Resource efficiency and climate

This priority will mainly address investments related to small-scale infrastructure including in renewable energy and energy saving and investments in water efficiency.

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

Under this priority, the region will support LEADER Local Action Groups and their Local Development Strategies (3 LAG are foreseen). 67% of the rural population will be affected by these local initiatives which will also create around 180 new jobs.

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

- € 59.6 million allocated to Measure 4 – Investment in physical assets
- € 49.3 million allocated to Measure 8 - Investment in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests.
- € 22.5 million allocated to Measure 19 – Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development)
- € 17.6 million allocated to Measure 7 – Basic services and village renewal in rural areas

Annex 1: Indicative public support for the Rural Development Programme in Comunidad de Madrid¹

| Target | Measure | € Total public | % |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas² | | | |
| 1A: Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base 2.59% of RDP expenditure | 01 knowledge | | |
| | 02 advisory | | |
| | 16 cooperation | | |
| 1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 72 cooperation projects | 16 cooperation | | |
| 1C: Training 710 participants trained | 01 knowledge | | |
| Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management | | 43 365 951 | 24.93 |
| 2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 4.53% of holdings with RDP support | 01 knowledge | 10 020 | 0.01 |
| | 02 advisory | 25 505 | 0.01 |
| | 04 investments | 36 518 014 | 20.99 |
| | 21 Covid-19 crisis | 1 467 500 | 0.84 |
| 2B: Generational renewal 2.42% of holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers | 01 knowledge | 42 202 | 0.02 |
| | 02 advisory | 25 911 | 0.01 |
| | 04 investments | 2 235 774 | 1.29 |
| | 06 farm and business development | 3 041 025 | 1.75 |
| Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management | | 18 034 657 | 10.37 |
| 3A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers 0.25% of farms supported 130 supported investments in agricultural holdings or in processing and marketing of agricultural products 9.25% of operations for investments in agro-food industry | 01 knowledge | 9 689 | 0.01 |
| | 02 advisory | 25 897 | 0.01 |
| | 04 investments | 16 955 551 | 9.75 |
| | 16 cooperation | 1 043 520 | 0.60 |

¹ Figures and percentages have been rounded-up.

² No financial allocation shown for Priority 1 as the expenditure is distributed across other focus areas.

| Target | Measure | € Total public | % |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry³ | | 79 153 323 | 44.37 |
| 4A Biodiversity 30.03% of forest/other wooded area under contracts 2.57% of agricultural land under contracts | 01 knowledge | 9 582 | 0.01 |
| | 02 advisory | 25 887 | 0.01 |
| | 04 investments | 682 916 | 0.43 |
| 4B Water management 2.30% of agricultural land under contracts 30.03% of forestry land under contracts | 07 basic services | 15 653 041 | 9.00 |
| | 08 forest | 48 821 636 | 28.06 |
| | 10 AEC | 3 182 950 | 1.83 |
| 4C Soil erosion and management 2.30% of agricultural land under contracts 30.03% of forestry land under contracts | 11 organic farming | 8 444 707 | 4.85 |
| | 13 ANC | 2 332 602 | 1.34 |
| Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors | | 7 212 395 | 4.15 |
| 5A Water efficiency 3.59% of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems | 01 knowledge | 9 410 | 0.01 |
| | 02 advisory | 25 889 | 0.01 |
| | 04 investments | 3 231 089 | 1.86 |
| 5B - Energy efficiency 20% of public expenditure under cooperation earmarked to promote energy efficiency | 01 knowledge | 9 997 | 0.01 |
| | 02 advisory | 25 902 | 0.01 |
| | 16 cooperation | 803 522 | 0.46 |
| 5C - Renewable energy € 1.18 million investment in renewable energy production | 01 knowledge | 9 525 | 0.01 |
| | 02 advisory | 25 911 | 0.01 |
| | 07 basic services | 591 268 | 0.34 |
| 5D – Reducing GHG and NH3 20% of public expenditure earmarked to reduction in greenhouse and ammoniac gas | 01 knowledge | 9 585 | 0.01 |
| | 02 advisory | 25 911 | 0.01 |
| | 16 cooperation | 901 263 | 0.52 |
| 5E Carbon conservation and sequestration 20% of pilot projects relating to carbon sequestration and conservation | 01 knowledge | 9 697 | 0.01 |
| | 02 advisory | 25 911 | 0.01 |
| | 08 forests | 498 564 | 0.29 |
| | 15 forest – env | 357 344 | 0.21 |
| | 16 cooperation | 651 606 | 0.37 |

³ Expenditure under Priority 4 is programmed for the priority as a whole, not for individual focus areas

| Target | Measure | € Total public | % |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas | | 24 612 179 | 14.15 |
| 6A – Diversification, SMEs and job creation | 01 knowledge | 20 500 | 0.01 |
| 16 projects in small touristic and recreation infrastructure | 07 basic services | 1 310 217 | 0.75 |
| | 16 cooperation | 739 148 | 0.42 |
| | 21 COVID-19 crisis | 63 000 | 0.04 |
| 6B Fostering local development 67.16% rural population under local development strategies 180 jobs created (via LEADER) | 19 LEADER | 22 479 314 | 12.92 |
| Technical Assistance | | 1 556 600 | 0.89 |
| Discontinued measures (Early retirement) | | 50 087 | 0.03 |
| Total public expenditure € | | 173 985 192 | 100.00 |