



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

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) of the Community of Madrid was formally adopted by the European Commission on 18 November 2015 and last amended on 25 November 2020 and presents Madrid's priorities for using the EUR 121,7 million of public funds that are available for the seven-year period 2014-2020 (EUR 76,5 million from the EU budget and EUR 45,2 million from national co-financing).

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry is considered an important priority, with 4.30 % of farmland and 70 % of woodland under management contracts to improve biodiversity. Support for conversion to or maintenance of organic farming is also included for 7 250 hectares. In order to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, the RDP of the Community of Madrid aims to support investment to around 320 farmers to help them restructure and modernise their farms; 180 young farmers will receive support to start up their businesses. The Autonomous Community will finance the training of more than 1 400 participants and promote innovation through 48 projects under the European Innovation Partnership. More than 67 % of the rural population will be included in LEADER local development strategies, which are expected to create around 180 new jobs.

[Rural development support](#), which is the second pillar of the [common agricultural policy](#), provides Member States with an EU financial envelope managed at national or regional level under co-financed multiannual programmes. In total, there are 114 programmes in the 27 Member States and 4 in the United Kingdom. The [Rural Development Regulation](#) for the period 2014-2020 addresses six economic, environmental and social priorities, and the programmes clearly set out the objectives to be achieved. In addition, in order to better coordinate actions and maximise synergies with the other European Structural and Investment [Funds \(ESIF\)](#), a [Partnership Agreement](#) has been concluded with each Member State reflecting its overall EU-funded structural investment strategy.

This document outlines how the RDP addresses the challenges and opportunities facing Madrid. 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 eighteen different RDPs (one at national level and 17 at regional level). 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 highly populated, clearly delimited city and, at a very short distance, a well-defined rural area that is much less populated. It covers 8 000 km<sup>2</sup> (1.6 % of the total Spanish area), of which 3.1 % is rural. There are 6,4 million people in the Autonomous Community, which results in the highest population density in Spain, with more than 800 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. Madrid has the highest GDP per capita in the country (around 30 % above the EU average). Of the total area, arable land covers 37 % and forestry 52 %. The primary sector contributes only 0.1 % to total gross added value. The unemployment rate was 19 % (2012), with 48.5 % among young people and more than 45 % in rural areas.

Farming activity in the Community of Madrid is almost equally distributed between agriculture (cereal cultivation) and livestock (cattle). Only 9.6 % of the UAA is irrigated (2011) and 51 % continue with the severe irrigation system. Agriculture plays a key role in land management and the conservation of the environment and landscapes, as the farming system is mostly extensive. As a result, significant overlap exists between agricultural ecosystems and valuable areas.

The absence of young farmers and the need to increase the size of farms are among the main challenges of the region. 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 ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?**

To address these challenges, the Madrid RDP will finance actions under the six established 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.

### Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

During the programming period, Madrid will support the development of innovative solutions through 48 operational groups of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and create 1 422 places in training courses targeting the agricultural sector.

### Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Investments in agricultural holdings supported under this priority will aim at modernising and restructuring about 3.9 % of all farms in the community, while 2.4 % of farms will receive support to enable young farmers to start up their businesses.

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

The Autonomous Community will support 116 investment projects in agricultural holdings as well as in the processing and marketing of agricultural products.

### Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Most funds under this priority will be allocated to environment- or climate-friendly forest investments and area payments to farmers using environmentally or climate-friendly management practices, including organic farming.70 % of the forest land will be under contract for biodiversity.4.3 % of the agricultural land will be under contract for biodiversity, 2 % for water management and 4 % for soil management.

### Resource efficiency and climate

This priority will mainly target investments related to small infrastructure, such as renewable energy and energy saving, and investments related to the most efficient use of water.690 ha will benefit from water saving investments.

### Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

Under this priority, the Autonomous Community will support three LEADER local action groups and their local development strategies (three LAGs).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:

- EUR 41 million allocated to Measure 4 — Investment in physical assets
- EUR 25.6 million allocated to Measure 8 — Investment in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests.
- EUR 17.9 million allocated to Measure 19 — Support for LEADER local development (CLLD — Community-led local development)

- EUR 11.1 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 Madrid

Target	Measure	EUR Total public	%
<b>Priority 1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas<sup>1</sup></b>			
1A: Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base 3.07 % of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
	02 advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 73 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 1 422 participants trained	01 knowledge		
<b>Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management</b>		<b>29 670 889</b>	<b>24,38</b>
2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernization 3.86 % of farms, beneficiaries of RDP support	01 knowledge	34 500	0,03
	02 advisory	24 444	0,02
	04 investments	21 700 000	17,83
	21 COVID-19 crises	1 853 000	1,52
2B: Generational renewal 2.42 % of farms with a business development plan/investments for young farmers supported by the RDP	01 knowledge	34 500	0,03
	02 advisory	24 444	0,02
	04 investments	2 400 000	1,97
	06 farm and business development	3 600 000	2,96
<b>Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management</b>		<b>14 472 944</b>	<b>11,89</b>
3 A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers	01 knowledge	34 500	0,03
	02 advisory	24 444	0,02

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

Target	Measure	EUR Total public	%
0.25 % of farms supported	04 investments	13 600 000	11,18
116 supported investments in agricultural holdings or in processing and marketing of agricultural products	16 Cooperation	814 000	0,67
8.5 % of investment operations in the agri-food industry			
<b>Priority 4: Restoring, conserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>50 103 818</b>	<b>41,17</b>
4A: Biodiversity	01 Knowledge	34 500	0,03
69.51 % of forests/other wooded land under contracts	02 Advice	24 444	0,02
4.30 % of agricultural land under contracts	04 investments	600 000	0,49
4B: Water management	07 Basic services	9 230 000	7,58
1.88 % of agricultural land under contracts	08 Forests	25 264 874	20,76
18.62 % of woodland under contracts	10 AEC	3 200 000	2,63
4C: Soil erosion and management	11 Organic farming	7 750 000	6,37
4.03 % of agricultural land under contracts	13 ANC	4 000 000	3,29
18.62 % of woodland under contracts			
<b>Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors</b>		<b>6 476 722</b>	<b>5,32</b>
5A: Water efficiency	01 knowledge	34 500	0,03
3.3 % of irrigated areas, with more efficient irrigation systems adopted	02 advisory	24 444	0,02
	04 investments	2 700 000	2,22
5B: Energy efficiency	01 knowledge	34 500	0,03
20 % of public expenditure under cooperation to promote energy efficiency	02 advisory	24 444	0,02
	16 Cooperation	564 000	0,46
5C: Renewable energy	01 knowledge	34 500	0,03
EUR 1,9 million investment in renewable energy production	02 advisory	24 444	0,02
	07 basic Services	1 200 000	0,99

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

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>EUR Total public</b>	<b>%</b>
5D: Reduction of greenhouse gases and NH <sub>3</sub>  20 % of public expenditure on reducing greenhouse gases and ammonia	01 knowledge	34 500	0,03
	02 advisory	24 444	0,02
	16 Cooperation	564 000	0,46
5E: Carbon conservation and sequestration  20 % of pilot projects related to carbon conservation and sequestration	01 knowledge	34 500	0,03
	02 advisory	24 444	0,02
	08 Forests	300 000	0,25
	15 Forests — Environment	190 000	0,16
	16 Cooperation	664 000	0,55
<b>Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas</b>		<b>20 123 393</b>	<b>16,54</b>
6A: Diversification, SMEs and job creation  28 small-scale tourism and recreational infrastructure projects	01 knowledge	34 500	0,03
	07 basic Services	640 000	0,53
	16 Cooperation	564 000	0,46
	21 COVID-19 crisis	1 034 893	0,85
6B: Fostering local development  67.16 % of the rural population covered by local development strategies  180 jobs created (through Leader)	19 Leader	17 850 000	14,67
<b>Technical assistance</b>		800 000	0,66
<b>Discontinued measures (Early retirement)</b>		50 000	0,04
<b>Total public expenditure in EUR</b>		<b>121 697 766</b>	<b>100,00</b>