



European
Commission

Factsheet on 2014-2022 Rural Development Programme for Basilicata

02/2024

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for the Region of Basilicata was formally adopted by the European Commission on 20th November 2015, outlining Basilicata's priorities for using the nearly € 889 million of public money that is available for the 9- year period 2014-2022 (€ 552 million from the EU budget, € 332 million of national cofunding and € 5 million of additional national resources).

The most recent modification provided a number of financial modifications, in order to optimize the use of the remaining resources towards the end of the programming period.

The RDP for Basilicata focuses mainly on three areas. As part of its efforts to preserve and enhance ecosystem and resources efficiency and climate around 591 000 hectares will come under management contracts to improve biodiversity, water management and soil quality. In order to improve the competitiveness of farmers, the region will support 457 investment projects to restructure and modernise farms and over 925 young farmers will be granted business start-up aid. In addition to this 10% of the rural population will benefit from local strategies to improve living conditions in rural areas and around 2.5 % of the rural population will have better access to ICT infrastructure. In addition, the region will support the beneficiaries most affected by the consequences of the COVID-19 health crisis, with a dedicated measure.

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 States¹. 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. The Partnership Agreement of Italy was approved on 29 October 2014.

This document provides a brief overview of how the challenges and opportunities Basilicata 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 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.

¹ The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020; in accordance with the Withdrawal Agreement support under Rural Development continues to apply in the UK during the 2014-2020 programming period.

Basilicata is categorised as a less developed region. It covers an area of 10 073 km²; the whole region is rural. 576 194 inhabitants live in the region, with an average population density of 54.7 inhab/Km².

Of the total area, agricultural land covers 50% and forest land 35%. The utilised agricultural area (UAA) is around 519 000 ha. 60% of farmland is used for arable crops. The region's 51 760 farms produce cereals (35%) as well as fruit and vegetable, olive-oil and wine. Organic farming is still relatively unimportant, covering 44 390 ha (2.3% of the farms). Animal husbandry is quite extensive in mountains. Dairy cattle, sheep and goat are farmed for meat and dairy in mountains areas.

Basilicata has an average employment rate of 46.9% (55% national average); unemployment rate of 14.5% (year 2013) and the youth unemployment rate is 49.3%. Agriculture contributes to the 8.8% of the added value produced in the region.

Natura 2000 covers 23.7% (236 872 ha) of the regional territory. Areas classified as less-favoured mountains areas cover 45% of the UAA.

The chief environmental challenges relate to soil erosion, water quality and biodiversity protection.

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

In addressing these challenges, Basilicata's RDP will fund action under all of six Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on competitiveness (Priorities 2), environmental land management (Priority 4) and social inclusion (Priority 6). The focus of each priority is explained briefly below.

Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

Knowledge transfer and innovation actions will be put in place to increase the economic and environmental performance of farms, as well as for the development of rural areas and around 4.8 % of funds will be allocated to actions related to this priority.

Almost 1 989 places will be made available in training courses and the programme will give farmers access to advisory services on topics related to the RDP priorities. The region is planning to launch 145 co-operation projects.

Competitiveness of agri sector

Support will be targeted to process and product innovation in farms and agro-industrial holdings. The objective is to improve output and product quality whilst reducing production costs. Equally important is the improvement of environmental sustainability, energy efficiency as well as rural infrastructure. The RDP will support the diversification of farms in order to create new income opportunities, for instance through the valorisation of agricultural by-products and waste.

To reach these objectives, the region will support 457 investment projects to restructure or modernise farms and over 925 young farmers will be granted business start-up aid

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

Under this priority, the region wishes to grant support to integrated projects in the supply chain. The objective is to increase and stabilise the profitability of primary production and give priority to the modernisation of production processes and support for quality production. The region wants to encourage "from farm to fork" approaches and various forms of association in agriculture in order to reduce costs and improve the marketing of products. To reach these objectives, around 798 investment projects will receive support.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Under this priority, Basilicata will safeguard water quality through the promotion of agricultural production techniques that reduce pressure on the environment and combat erosion in hills and mountain area. The programme also proposes actions for the sustainable management of ecosystems and habitats, for preventing agricultural land abandonment and preserving plant and animal agricultural biodiversity.

Around 38% of the agricultural land will be under management contracts supporting biodiversity, 36% under management contracts supporting water management and 40% of the agricultural land will be under management contracts supporting soil management. Over 43 459 hectares will receive support to convert to organic farming and another 118 721 ha to maintain organic production.

Resource efficiency and climate

Under this priority Basilicata aims to support the shift towards a low carbon and climate-resilient economy in agriculture and it will be supported mainly indirectly through cooperation projects, mainly for the sustainable provision of biomass for use in energy production. The programme will support the development of bioenergy and the use of agricultural and agro-industrial by-products, reducing emissions from agro-industrial activities and increasing carbon sequestration through forestry.

Investments in agricultural holdings with environmental purposes will also contribute indirectly to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

The main actions refer to fostering local development in rural areas and broadband internet deployment (including the development of ICT-services). More than 242 beneficiaries will receive support for investments in non-agricultural activities in rural areas, while basic services will be improved for 57 170 inhabitants of the rural population.

Local Development Strategies (LEADER), which covers 76 % of the rural population (438 880 inhabitants), will create 62 additional jobs and around 14 490 inhabitants (2.5 % of the rural population) will have better access to ICT infrastructure.

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

- € 259 million allocated to M4 (investments in physical assets)
- € 176 million allocated to M11 (Organic farming)
- € 92 million allocated to M6 (Farm and business development)
- € 82 million allocated to M10 (Agri-environment climate)

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

Target	Measure	€ Total public	%
Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas²			
1A: Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base 4.08% of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
	02 advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 145 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 1 989 participants trained	01 knowledge		
Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management		236 095 720	26.53
2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 0.88% of holdings with RDP support	01 knowledge	1 617 342	0.18
	02 advisory	700 000	0.08
	04 investments	127 621 209	14.34
	06 farm / business development	16 223 473	1.82
	16 cooperation	4 233 013	0.48
	21 COVID-19 crisis	7 049 263	0.79
	22 Impact of Russia's invasion on Ukraine	5 251 122	0,59
2B: Generational renewal 1.79% of holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers			
	04 investments	8 333 696	0.94
	06 farm / business development	65 066 598	7.31
Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management		121 887 266	13.70
3A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers 1.35% of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations 58 food industries receiving support	01 knowledge	189 729	0.02
	02 advisory	854 572	0.10
	03 quality schemes	4 758 719	0.53
	04 investments	92 340 295	10.38
	09 producers groups	1 200 000	0.13
	16 cooperation	11 123 117	1.25
3B: Risk management			

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

0.35% of farms participating in risk management scheme	05 restoring agricultural potential	11 420 831	1.28
Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry³		360 530 413	40.52
4A Biodiversity	01 knowledge	4 603 106	0.52
33.02% of forest/other wooded area under contracts	02 Advisory services	2 000 000	0,22
37.92% of agricultural land under contracts	04 investments	15 997 110	1.80
4B Water management	08 forests	39 557 569	4.45
36.21% of agricultural land under contracts	10 AEC	81 919 466	9.21
	11 organic farming	176 346 226	19.82
4C Soil erosion and management	12 N2000 and WFD		
40.13% of agricultural land under contracts	13 ANC	37 269 305	4.19
32.67% of forestry land under contracts	16 cooperation	2 837 629	0.32
Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		45 370 568	5.10
5A Water efficiency			
4.48 % agricultural land under contract	04 investments	14 823 757	1.67
	16 cooperation	336 429	0.04
5C Renewable energy			
€4.2 million investments			
	07 basic services	6 442 064	0.72
5E Carbon conservation and sequestration			
0.21% of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation			
	8 forests	23 693 317	2.66
	12 N2000 and WDF	75 000	0.01
Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		98 652 105	11.09
6A Diversification, creation of small enterprises and jobs	06 Farm and business development	10 996 472	1,23
62 jobs created in supported projects	07 Basic services	22 218 480	2,50
	16 Cooperation	1 142 083	0,13

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

6B LEADER			
76.17% rural population under local development strategies			
9.92% rural population with improved services/infrastructure	07 basic services	13 753 451	1.55
35 jobs created (via LEADER)			
	19 LEADER and CLLD	47 447 034	5.33
6C Access to and quality of ICT			
2.51% of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT)	07 basic services	3 124 584	0.35
Technical Assistance		27 273 089	3.07
Total public expenditure €		889 809 164	100