

European Commission approves Slovenia's Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Slovenia was formally adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2015, outlining Slovenia's priorities for using the €1.1 billion of public contribution that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (of which €838 million from the EU budget).

The RDP for Slovenia focuses mainly on three priorities. Under the first - restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry – 29 % of farmland will be placed under funded contracts to improve biodiversity, with land also under contracts for improving water and soil management. Under the second – competitiveness of agri-sector and sustainable forestry – 3.4 % of farms will receive support for economic and environmental investments (including in greater resource efficiency). Under the third – social inclusion and local development in rural areas – 66 % of the population will be covered by local development strategies and nearly 600 jobs will be created.

Quote from EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan: "One of the great strengths of our Rural Development concept is that we have core priorities, but it is up to each Member State or region to design programmes which suit their situation. I welcome the fact that Slovenia is prioritising schemes to address the economic, environmental and social challenges faced by its rural areas – such as measures to help young farmers and improve competitiveness, as well as improving soil and water management."

Support under [Rural Development](#) (RD) is the 2nd Pillar of the [Common Agricultural Policy](#). It provides Member States with an envelope of EU funding to manage, at either national or regional level, multi-annual, co-funded programmes. In total, 118 programmes are foreseen in all 28 Member States. The new [RD Regulation](#) for the 2014-2020 period addresses six economic, environmental and social priorities. Programmes contain clear targets setting out what is to be achieved. To better coordinate actions 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.

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