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Factsheet on the national rural development programme 2014-2022 for Italy

The National Rural Development Programme (NRDP) of Italy, outlining the priorities for Italy for the use of approximately 2.9 billion EUR of public expenditure (1.3 billion EUR from the EU budget and 1.6 billion EUR of national co-financing) for the period 2014-2022, was formally adopted by the European Commission on 20 November 2015 and last amended on 16 August 2021.

The RDP addresses thematic areas relating to the farm risk prevention and management, conservation of farm breeds and efficiency in the use of water resources. It foresees that about 105 000 Italian agricultural holdings will receive support to implement risk management tools; 500 000 hectares of land will be affected by more efficient irrigation infrastructure and systems, whilst those in relation to conservation of farm breeds will cover approximately 35 bovine breeds.

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 [RD Regulation](#) for the period 2014-2022 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 for Italy was approved on 29 October 2014.

This document provides a brief overview of how the challenges and opportunities are taken into account by the NRDP 2014-2022. Attached is a table of the priorities and focus areas addressed by the programme, with the corresponding financial allocation and the objectives to be achieved.

1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES

Rural development in Italy is implemented through 22 RDP — one at national level and 21 regional RDPs (including “less developed regions”, “transition regions” and “more developed”). In addition, a national rural network programme supports activities of pooling and transfer of knowledge between the different actors of rural development in Italy.

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.

Italy covers an area of 301 337 km² of which 92% is rural. The total population is 60.7 million, of which almost 58% live in rural areas.

The utilised agricultural area (UAA) is just under 13 million hectares, out of which almost 4 million (31%) are irrigable and almost 3 million (21%) are irrigated. The average size of farms is 7.9 ha of total agricultural land (SAT). Out of a total of 1.6 million agricultural holdings, approximately 650 000 have irrigable land.

As regards the livestock sector, livestock farms are about 220 000, and the number of livestock units (LUs) per holding is 46. Agricultural breeds identified in Italy are as follows: 35 cattle, 66 sheep, 52 goats, 27 horses, 8 donkeys and 6 pigs breeds.

The level of subscription to insurance instruments is low, in terms of number of holdings covered, 78 000 agricultural holdings (5% of a total of 1 600 000) for crops and 1 980 for livestock sector.

2. HOW THE RDP ADDRESSES THESE CHALLENGES

To serve the RDP needs, three aspects were identified and selected in the context of the rural development priorities:

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

Under this priority, the RDP focuses support on promoting the supply and use of risk management tools in agriculture. In order to mitigate the risks of production in agriculture, the national programme proposes to activate throughout Italy 3 risk management tools: harvest insurance, mutual funds and income stabilisation tool. It is expected that the RDP will provide support to more than 6.5% of farms, 105 000 farms.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Under this priority, the RDP supports the improvement of the genetic quality of livestock and animal biodiversity. The programme seeks to encourage an innovative system integrated livestock assistance based on cooperation and integration of functions and competences of the different actors and bodies involved. The RDP aims thereby to characterise and preserve genetic livestock heritage present in Italy.

The intervention concerns 35 Italian cattle breeds involved in the initiatives for biodiversity, corresponding to 100% of the Italian cattle breeds enrolled in the herd books and national registers.

Resource efficiency and climate

Under this priority, the RDP supports investments to improve the efficient use of water resources through the irrigation infrastructure. The Programme pursues the objective of making more efficient use of the water resource, encouraging the restructuring and modernisation. This contributes to the sustainability of agricultural production by promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation. The area to be covered by more efficient irrigation systems is about 500 000 hectares.

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

Target		Measure	Indicative public support	%
P1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas			0,00	
1A Innovation, cooperation, knowledge			0,00	
T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	4,47	M16 Cooperation	0,00	
1B Research & innovation			0,00	
T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	1,00	M16 Cooperation	0,00	
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture			2.253.355.873,53	78,78%
3B Risk management		Total: 3B	2.253.355.873,53	78,78%
T7: percentage of farms participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)	6,48	M17 Risk management	2.253.355.873,53	78,78%
Nr of farm holdings supported for premium for insurance (17.1)	98.000,00			
Nr of farm holdings participating to income stabilisation tool (17.3)	2.000,00			
Nr of farm holdings participating in mutual funds (17.2)	5.000,00			
P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry			181.938.109,07	6,36%
4A Biodiversity, HNV and landscapes		Total: P4	181.938.109,07	0,00%
T9: percentuale delle razze bovine italiane interessate rispetto al totale di quelle presenti in Italia ed iscritte ai libri genealogici e registri anagrafici nazionali.	100,00	M10 Agri-environment-climate	88.775.508,27	3,10%
		M16 Cooperation	93.162.600,80	3,26%
P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors			343.907.163,56	12,02%
5A Water efficiency		Total: 5A	343.907.163,56	12,02%
T14: percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A)	18,00	M04 Physical Investment	343.907.163,56	12,02%
Total investment € (public + private)	343.907.163,56			
M20 TA			81.088.888,89	2,83%
			81.088.888,89	2,83%
Total public expenditure			2.860.290.035,05	100,00%