



Factsheet on 2014-2022 Rural Development Programme for Tuscany

10/2021

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Tuscany was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 of May 2015, outlining Tuscany priorities for using the nearly € 1.25 billion of public money that is available for the 9 years period 2014-2022 (over € 537 million from the EU budget, including nearly € 709 million of national co-funding). The most recent modification extended the programming period for 2-years, to 31 December 2022 and included two annual EAFRD allocations as well as the EU financed recovery instrument (EURI).

The RDP for Tuscany will focus on environment/climate friendly farm investments and investments in more resilient forest ecosystems, as well as forest liming. Nearly 17 % of the agricultural land will be under management contracts supporting biodiversity, 10 % for contracts to improve water management and another 10 % for contracts to improve soil management. Organic farming is also important. A total of 21 000 hectares will receive support to convert to organic farming and another 105 000 ha to maintain organic production. Boosting the competitiveness of farms and forests is also high on the agenda. Over 900 holding will receive investment support to restructure and modernise, 1 000 young farmers will receive support to launch their business and the region will implement the European Innovation Partnership to help deliver innovative solutions to the farm sector. In addition there will be 5 500 places in training courses and almost one fifth of the rural population will benefit from new or improved broadband infrastructure.

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 States. 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.

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

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.

Tuscany covers an area of nearly 23 000 m², of which 90 % is rural. Of the total area, agricultural land covers 33 % and forest land 50 %. The unemployment rate is 7.8 % (2012). Tuscany has nearly 3.7 million inhabitants, of which 56% live in rural areas. Besides farming, the food sector also plays an important role within rural areas, but both sectors are facing structural changes.

Tuscany's rural areas are challenged by a persistent loss of business activity, migration of labour force, and demographic changes.

Environmental challenges in Tuscany remain mainly the adaptation of agriculture and forestry to climate change.

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

In addressing these challenges, Tuscany's RDP will fund action under six Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry as well as Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below.

Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

Knowledge transfer system (workshops, coaching, demonstration activities, information actions and company visits) will be enhanced through specific training addressed to the farmers with regard notably climate change, sustainable agriculture and food quality. Particular attention will be paid to the training of new entrepreneurs, especially young farmers. An important element is innovation which is facilitated via co-operation, and information and knowledge transfer between the agri-food sector, researchers and other stakeholders. Almost 70 co-operation projects will be established, including support for Operational Groups under the European Innovation Partnership, while there will be 5 500 places in training courses.

Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Requests for support to farm investments and modernisation are ranked first and priority is given to undertakings with innovative potential, projects of young farmers, organic farming and integrated projects. This is complemented with support for the European Innovative Partnership while investments into land consolidation and support for diversification are expected to an increased competitiveness and resilience of the sector. Over 900 holding will receive investment support to restructure and modernise. The European Innovation Partnership will also deliver towards improving competitiveness. 1000 young farmers will take up farming as a career.

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

Primary producers receive support for investments in processing and marketing, with a special focus on products emanating from approved quality schemes. They are also encouraged to participate in cooperation projects, which can be funded through this RDP, with a view to develop short supply chains and local markets.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Under this priority, Tuscany will focus on environment/climate friendly investments in more resilient forest ecosystems, as well as forest liming. Nearly 17 % of the agricultural land will be under management contracts supporting biodiversity, 10 % for contracts to improve water management and another 10 % for contracts to improve soil management.

Around 19% of the allocated EAFRD amount will be used for area-based payments to farmers for using environment/climate friendly land management practices, including organic farming, support to areas facing natural constraints. A total of 21 000 hectares will receive support to convert to organic farming and another 105 000 ha to maintain. Additionally, the RDP includes a cooperation measure for joint climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

Resource efficiency and climate

This priority aims to increase efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing and will be supported through the farm investment measure by requiring investment projects to increase resource and water efficiency. In addition the region will give priority to area-based payments to farmers for reduction of chemical input, covering a total of 26 000 hectares.

Additionally, the co-operation measure supports enhanced sustainability through the European Innovation Partnership and through co-operation for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

This priority is implemented mainly by the bottom up approach through Local Development Strategies drawn up by the expected 7 Local Action Groups (LAGs). Local Development Strategies will cover 30 % of the rural population and create 90 additional jobs. Around 18 % of the rural population will also benefit from new or improved broadband infrastructure thanks to investments under this priority.

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

- € 350 million allocated to measure 4 (Investments in physical assets)
- € 269 million allocated to measure 11 (Organic farming)
- € 156 million allocated to measure 8 (Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests)
- € 103 million allocated to measure 6 (Farm and business development)

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

Target	Measure	€ Total public	%
Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas¹			
1A: Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base 6.93 % of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
	02 advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 70 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 5 500 participants trained	01 knowledge		
Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management		306 362 998.12	23.72
2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 2.06 % of holdings with RDP support	01 knowledge	2 102 251.54	0.16
	02 advisory	6 763 410,71	0.52
	04 investments	93 039 809.83	7.51
	06 farm / business development	50 013 599.26	3.87
	16 cooperation	14 556 494.04	1.13
	21 COVID-19 crisis	17 388 404	1.35
2B: Generational renewal 1,31 % of holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	01 knowledge	1 300 000	0.10
	02 advisory	50 000	0.01
	04 investments	65 292 458.25	5.05
	06 farm / business development	51 846 570.04	4.01
Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management		243 201 124.76	18.83
3A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers 0.17 % of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations	01 knowledge	2 310 999.54	0.18
	02 advisory	519 860.85	0.04
	03 quality schemes	17 302 599.72	1.34
	04 investments	158 135 816.33	12.24
	08 forest	24 232 595.08	1.88
	14 Animal welfare	72 898.89	0.01
	16 cooperation	11 638 200.37	0.90
3B: Farm risk prevention and management 0.15 % of farms participating in risk management	01 knowledge	1 600 000	0.12
	02 advisory	1 150 000	0.12

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

schemes	05 restoring agric. Potential	19 971 000	2.10
	16 cooperation	2 000 000	0.21
Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry²		453 812 475.69	35.13
4A Biodiversity 1.95 % of forest/other wooded area under contracts 20.44 % of agricultural land under contracts	01 knowledge	2 637 769.02	0.20
	02 advisory	6 241 699.91	0.48
	04 investments	16 642 991.64	1.29
4B Water management 20.34 % of agricultural land under contracts 1.95 % of forestry land under contracts	07 basic services	1 800 000	0.14
	08 forest	62 034 784.32	4.80
	10 AEC	34 687 791.09	2.69
	11 organic farming	269 172 500	20.84
4C Soil erosion and management 21.38 % of agricultural land under contracts 1.95% of forestry land under contracts	13 ANC	49 675 531,08	3.85
	15 Forest - env	2 618 499.54	0.20
	16 cooperation	8 300 909.09	0.64

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

Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		155 874 434.71	12.07
5A Water efficiency 4.94 % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems	01 knowledge	900 000	0.07
	02 advisory	1 100 978.66	0.09
	04 investments	8 787 850.19	0.68
	16 cooperation	4 000 000	0.31
5C Renewable energy Total investment in renewable energy production € 29 500 000	01 knowledge	1 182 001.38	0.09
	02 advisory	2 481 319.57	0.19
	04 investments	2 891 850	0.30
	06 farm / business development	4 600 909.11	0.36
	07 Basic services	4 020 000	0.31
	16 cooperation	9 550 549.63	0.70
5D Reducing GHG and NH3 0.00 % of LU (Live-stock Unit) concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG (Green House Gas) and/or ammonia emissions 3.45 % of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions	01 knowledge	900 000	0.07
	02 advisory	1 100 978.66	0.09
	10 AEC	38 300 000	2.97
	16 cooperation	3 000 000	0.23
5E Carbon conservation and sequestration 0.00 % of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation	01 knowledge	800 000	0.06
	02 advisory	1 090 978.68	0.08
	08 Forests	69 910 459.74	5.41
	16 cooperation	3 000 000	0.23

Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		114 103 859	8.83
6B Fostering local development 30.13 % rural population under local development strategies 90 jobs created (via LEADER)	19 LEADER and CLLD	74 103 859	5.74
6C Access to and quality of ICT 8.74 % of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT)	07 basic services	40 000 000	3.10
Technical Assistance		15 438 091.16	1.20
Discontinued measures (measure 113)		1 855 000	0.22
Total public expenditure €		1 291 647 584.55	100