



European Commission



Updated version September 2023



At a glance:

POLAND'S CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

CAP Strategic Plans support the transition towards a smart, sustainable, competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector, ensuring long-term food security. They also contribute to climate action, the protection of natural resources and the preservation/enhancement of biodiversity, as well as strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas.

The CAP Plans support a wide range of interventions, addressing the specific needs of Member States and their territories. Designed in line with a new result- and performance-oriented approach, they aim to deliver tangible results in relation to EU-level CAP specific objectives, while contributing to the European Green Deal.

For the first time, each CAP Plan defines a strategy covering all the main CAP funded instruments: direct payments, support for rural development and interventions specific to certain market sectors.

The needs of rural areas will also be addressed by other EU instruments such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) or the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

The impacts of both the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the extreme weather conditions caused by climate change, highlight the integral link between food security and the need of transition to sustainable and resilient food systems. In this context, the CAP Strategic Plans offer opportunities: e.g. to reduce dependence on synthetic fertilisers and scale up production of renewable energy without undermining food production; and to transform the sectors' capacity in line with more sustainable production methods.

Poland submitted its first proposal for a CAP Strategic Plan on 22 December 2021, after consultation with stakeholders. On 15 July 2022, Poland submitted a revised proposal, addressing the Commission's observations on the first draft. The Commission approved this proposal on 31 August 2022. The latest (third) request for amendment was approved by the Commission on 23 July 2024. This document presents some of the main features of the CAP Strategic Plan of Poland.

1. DID YOU KNOW?



The agri-food sector in Poland is of great national economic, social and environmental importance. **The total share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in gross value added (GVA) is higher than the EU average.** Polish agriculture is characterised by diversity in farm structure and development potential. Increasing farms' profitability, income and productivity are key challenges, as is generational renewal.

- ➔ In Poland, rural areas and agricultural areas occupy 85% and 52% of the country's area, respectively.
- ➔ **Rural areas are inhabited by about 15 million people** — 38% of the total population of Poland.
- ➔ In total, approximately **1.4 million farms** are identified.
- ➔ The main sectors are dairy, cereals, pigs, poultry and horticulture.

2. GOALS AND STRATEGY OF THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN OF POLAND

Poland's Strategic Plan for 2023-2027 will support the sustainable development of farms, the processing sector and the improvement of living and working conditions in rural areas. It will support the protection of water, soil, air and biodiversity and promote the production and use of sustainable energy. It will also focus on small farmers and animal welfare.

2.1 AN ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE AND FAIRER CAP

Poland will aim to **maintain production in agricultural sectors in difficulty** that are particularly important for economic, social or environmental reasons through basic and coupled payments. The main sectors in need of support are the livestock sector, followed by protein crops, sugar beet, starch potatoes, tomatoes, strawberries, hops, flax and fibre hemp. Maintaining production and thus jobs is also important for rural areas.

The Polish Plan will reinforce efforts to **reduce the income gap** between small and medium-sized farms on the one hand and larger agricultural holdings on the other.

It will also prioritise the development of quality food production and investments to **increase the market orientation and competitiveness of farms**. When it comes to investment support, young and organic farmers can benefit from preferential conditions (higher aid intensities). The Plan also supports stronger cooperation between farmers and the processing sector, as well as short supply chains, particularly for small farms and high-quality products.

- *In order to promote a more balanced distribution of support towards smaller or medium sized farms, all farms up to 300 hectares can benefit from an additional redistributive payment of around EUR 40 for each of their first 30 hectares. Between 2023 and 2027, Poland will dedicate over EUR 1.8 billion to this purpose. This represents almost 11% of its direct payment envelope.*
- *Moreover, small farmers with holdings up to 5 hectares can receive EUR 225 per hectare under a dedicated small farmers' scheme. This scheme targets over 300 000 farmers and more than 800 000 hectares.*
- *The Polish Plan aims to support over 2 300 investment projects in the field of energy production from agricultural biogas or solar power. It has also reserved funds to support investments in improving the energy efficiency of over 2 300 farm buildings for agricultural production.*

2.2 A GREENER CAP



The future of Polish agriculture relies on addressing weaknesses such as small water resources related to increasing rainfall deficit, rather light soils, low levels of wetland protection, low organic farming areas, decreasing biodiversity and the unsatisfactory status of natural habitats.



At the same time, Polish agriculture is diverse, adaptable to changing conditions and is answering the need for rural areas to evolve into sustainable, resilient and innovative nature-friendly areas.

In the new CAP Strategic Plan, wetlands and peatlands – large carbon sinks – will be better protected. In buffer zones along water courses, the use of all types of fertilisers and plant protection products will be restricted. Farmers must manage agricultural soils in order to protect them from erosion.



Poland is aiming to **more than double its agricultural area under organic farming by 2030.**

Eco-schemes will incentivise farmers to implement environmental and climate-friendly practices that go beyond the legal requirements and to shift towards more sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture. Eco-schemes will be voluntary for farmers in Poland with an allocation of 25% of the direct payments envelope. There will be a **specific focus on soil protection and sustainable production methods.**

- *Biodiversity depends on bees and other pollinators. Through a dedicated eco-scheme, farmers can receive support for sowing a mixture of at least two species of honey plants on dedicated areas. These honey plant areas must not be used for agricultural production until 31 August and must not be treated with plant protection products. Between 2023 and 2027, Poland wants to support honey plants on an area of about 30 000 hectares per year.*
- *Under a comprehensive eco-scheme, farmers can receive support for up to eight practices contributing to better soil health – such as the application of winter catch crops or the implementation of a fertilisation plan – that will cover up to 2.6 million hectares.*
- *In 2024, there is also a new eco-scheme to support fallow land, which is beneficial for the environment and biodiversity in particular. Farmers can receive support for up to 4% of the arable area of their holding that is left lying fallow. This new eco-scheme is expected to cover 217 thousand hectares.*



2.3 SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE CAP

The competitiveness of rural areas in Poland depends, among other things, on **improving the state of technical infrastructure, improving accessibility to basic services and developing entrepreneurship**. There are specific interventions to encourage young people to undertake agricultural activities and to support the creation and development of economic activities in rural areas. The Plan will support smart village initiatives, including the development of the bio- and circular economy. Support also covers the production of healthy food by **reducing the use of pesticides and antibiotics and improving animal welfare conditions**.

The Polish Plan puts a strong emphasis on better living conditions for livestock, encouraging farmers to move beyond existing standards through animal welfare payments. The support compensates for additional costs and income foregone resulting from the introduction of practices related to increased welfare covering pigs, bovine animals, sheep, laying hens, broiler chickens, turkeys kept for meat production, horses and goats.

The implementation of the Plan will be based on the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities and equal opportunities for women and men.

→ *Higher animal welfare standards – such as additional space, the prohibition of early weaning, or certain grazing requirements – going beyond the legal requirements will be supported with EUR 1.3 billion through a dedicated eco-scheme. Compared to the previous rural development programme, the scope of support has been extended, in terms of the species covered as well as the supported practices.*

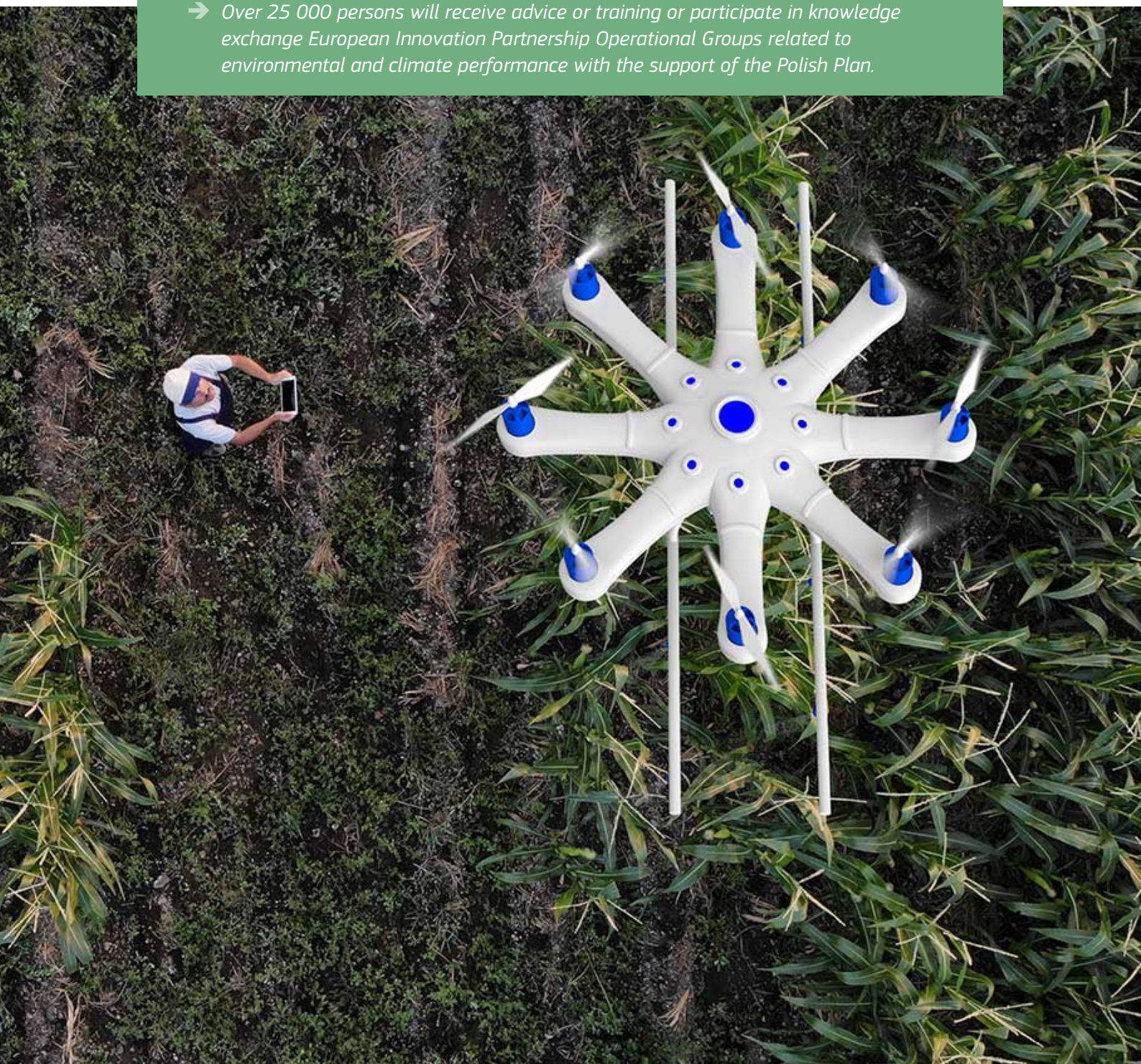


3. KNOWLEDGE SHARING, INNOVATION AND DIGITALISATION

The Plan also offers support for training and advisory activities for farmers. It is planned to expand and strengthen the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) and further facilitate the establishment of Operational Groups of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) to develop and implement **innovative projects**.

Many of the needs of rural areas will be addressed by other EU instruments such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) or the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), or by national initiatives. Poland envisages achieving **87% coverage of broadband in rural areas by 2025**.

- *Over 127 000 persons will benefit from advice, training or knowledge exchange or participate in European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups supported under the Polish Plan between 2023 and 2027.*
- *Over 25 000 persons will receive advice or training or participate in knowledge exchange European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups related to environmental and climate performance with the support of the Polish Plan.*





4. FINANCIAL ANNEX

	EU budget (€)	National funding (€)	Total (€)
Direct payments	17 326 739 610	n/a	17 326 739 610
Sectoral support	103 981 701	25 124 840	129 106 541
Rural development	4 700 585 847	3 077 173 231	7 777 759 078
Total	22 131 307 158	3 102 298 071	25 233 605 229

National funding does not include additional national financing referred to in Article 146 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115. Direct payments include allocations for cotton set out in Annex VIII of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 and reflect possible transfers between pillars. Payments for support under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 are not included in the CSP. National funding for sectoral support only relates to apiculture. Rural development reflect possible transfers between pillars and include technical assistance.

EU FUNDING RESERVED FOR	In EUR	%
Environmental and climate objectives under rural development	2 041 858 856	43%¹
Eco-schemes under direct payments	4 333 685 077	25%²
LEADER	414 430 000	9%¹
Complementary Redistributive Income Support	1 822 467 812	11%²
Young farmers (generational renewal)	493 158 798	n/a³

The minimum financial allocations for support for young farmers can be reserved under direct payments and/or rural development. Eco-schemes under Direct Payments may be lower than 25% if the possibility to use the rebate mechanism from Rural Development is used, in line with Article 97 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115. The Complementary redistributive income support under Direct Payments may be lower than 10%, in line with Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

¹ as compared to the rural development allocations set out in Annex XI of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115

² as compared to the direct payments allocations set out in Annex IX of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115

³ not applicable as the minimum contribution to young farmers is set as absolute amounts in Annex XII of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115

More financial information can be found in section 6 and in Annex V of Poland's CAP Strategic Plan.

