

The main objectives of the eu rural development policy for 2014-2020

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ABSTRACT

In this article will be identified the main objectives of rural development policy at European level for the new programming period 2014-2020. The paper will begin with a short analysis of the situation in 2007-2013 and will continue with the presentation of new objectives, which are in accordance with the Europe 2020 Strategy. Rural development will remain Pillar 2 of the CAP, thus completing market measures and direct payments. Financing of the policy will be made from EAFRD through rural development programs. Each Member State may propose a single national program or/and several regional programs that can include several thematic sub-programs.

Keywords: CAP, Europe 2020 Strategy, financial framework, objectives, rural development

1. INTRODUCTION

Since its appearance, CAP was one of the most important EU policies. Considering that over 56% of the population lives in rural areas, over 91% of the territory is rural and less than 5% of the active population is employed in agriculture according to the European Commission and result the need to maintain and to reform the CAP for 2014 - 2020.

CAP was created to achieve a sustainable agricultural sector in Europe, thus ensuring a safe food supply, protecting the environment and the countryside and to provide a fair standard of living for farmers.

According to Communication from The Commission "Europe 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" were set EU targets for 2014-2020 and all EU policies, including the CAP should contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

In order to implement the Europe 2020 strategy, Member States should prepare "National Reform Programmes" to identify their own development policies in line with EU policies. National Reform Programmes (NRPs) have the following priorities: promoting a sustainable, smart and inclusive growth with high employment work, higher productivity and social cohesion.

During the current programming period, respectively 2007-2013, the rural development policy was focused on axis, each having several support measures. These axis are: improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, protection of the environment and the countryside and improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of economic activities. Member States have developed a national program or / and regional programs that indicates the funds allocated to each of the axis or measures. Rural development policy is partly financed by the EU budget and partly from national or regional budget of the Member States.

2. EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

The Europe 2020 strategy is designed for a period of 10 years and proposes the creation of favorable conditions for sustainable economic growth (increase resource efficiency, reduce

environmental impacts, low carbon), intelligent (effective through investments in R & D and education, higher productivity, supporting an economy based on knowledge and innovation) and inclusive growth (job creation and poverty reduction in order to achieve social and territorial cohesion).

The strategy focuses on five main objectives:

- Employment - achieving an employment rate of labor force of 75% of the population aged between 20 and 64 years;
- Research and development - allocation of 3% of European Union GDP for this purpose;
- Climate and energy objectives (20/20/20) – reducing with 20% the emissions of greenhouse gases, 20% increase in energy efficiency and increasing the share of energy from renewable sources to 20%;
- Education - fall below 10% of early school leavers, over 40% of young people have higher education;
- Support against social exclusion and poverty - a decrease of at least 20 million people threatened with poverty.

These objectives will be transposed into national strategies of the Member States.

3. THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

The European Commission proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 sets to combine in a Common Strategic Framework (CSF) the funds supporting Cohesion Policy, Maritime and Fisheries Policy and Rural Development Policy, respectively the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The Common Strategic Framework established 11 thematic objectives derived from the Europe 2020 strategy. The CSF represents the EU guidelines for the new programming period, replacing the current strategic guidelines for each fund. Member States prepare national strategies called partnership agreements in accordance with strategic guidelines for CSF and NRPs and these will be negotiated and approved by the Commission.

Thematic objectives of the Common Strategic Framework are:

- Strengthening research, innovation and technological development;
- Increasing access to modern information and communication technologies;
- Increasing the competitiveness of SMEs in the agricultural sector (EAFRD) and the fisheries sector (EMFF);
- Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy;
- Adapting to climate change, risk prevention;
- Environmental protection and efficient use of resources;
- Introducing sustainable transport;
- Supporting employment;
- Supporting social inclusion and combating poverty;
- Promoting investment in education, upgrading of skills and lifelong learning;
- Improving the institutional capacity.

Common Strategic Framework through the thematic objectives set in accordance with EU priorities for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth will ensure an integrated use of funds (CF, ERDF, ESF, EAFRD and EMFF) to achieve the objectives of the 2020 Strategy.

4. THE OBJECTIVES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2014-2020

EAFRD shall contribute to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives by supporting sustainable rural development and an ecologically balanced agricultural sector, competitive and innovative.

To support rural development, the objectives for 2014-2020 are:

- Improving the competitiveness of agriculture;
- Combating climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;
- Balanced development of rural areas.

The objectives for Rural Development Policy at European level for the period 2014-2020 are:

A. Enhancing innovation and knowledge transfer in agriculture and forestry in rural areas by supporting training through the lifelong learning and enhancing relations between these sectors with research and innovation.

B. Enhancing the competitiveness of agriculture and farm viability through promote next generation of farmers in sector and orientation to the market.

C. Support for primary producers in the food chain through producer groups and promote them to local markets and a better risk management at farm level in agriculture.

D. Strengthening and preserving ecosystems in agriculture and forestry.

E. Efficient use of resources, production and use of renewable energy, reducing carbon emissions and adaptation to climate change in agriculture and forestry.

F. Rural economic development, poverty reduction and social inclusion through the creation and development of businesses, creating jobs and increasing accessibility to information and communication technology in rural areas.

Member States may include sub-themes in their rural development programs for achieving the Europe 2020 objectives, such as helping young farmers, small farms, sustainable agriculture or achieving some local needs of rural areas.

Rural development measures promoted in the new programming period are shown in the table below.

Table 1. Rural development measures for the period 2014-2020

Measure	Support	Beneficiaries
1. Knowledge and information transfer	Training activities; Demonstration activities; Information events; Visits to the farms.	Providers of knowledge transfer; Providers of informative actions; Participants in these services - SMEs
2. Advisory services	Providing advisory services to improve farm performance; Promotion of farm advisory services; Professional training for the consultants.	Farmers; Owners of forests; Other land managers; SMEs; Providers of training and advisory services
3. Introduction of quality schemes for agricultural products	Participation in quality schemes for agricultural products.	Farmers who participate for the first time to introducing quality schemes
4. Investments in physical assets	Tangible or intangible investments: for improving the performance of farms; for processing and marketing of agricultural products; for realizing infrastructure in agriculture and forestry.	Farmers; Groups of farmers; Foresters
5. Restoring	Investments in order to restore production	Farmers;

agricultural production capacity affected by natural disasters	potential damaged by natural disasters; Investments in order to introduce measures to reduce the effects of natural disasters.	Groups of farmers; Public entities.
6.The development of businesses and farms	Setting up of enterprises by the young farmers; Creation and development of non-agricultural activities; Development of small farms.	Young farmers; Members of farms; non agricultural micro and small enterprises
7. Improving basic services and village renewal in rural areas	Preparation of development plans or restoration of villages; Investments in upgrading local infrastructure and public based services; Development and promotion of rural tourism; Restoration of natural and cultural heritage of villages.	The local authorities
8. Investments to increase the viability of forests and forest areas development	Support for afforestation (establishment costs, providing an annual subsidy to cover maintenance costs and loss of agricultural income)	Private and public agricultural and non agricultural landowners and their associations
	Create agroforestry systems (covering start-up costs and provide an annual subsidy per hectare for maintenance costs)	Private land owners, municipalities and their associations
	Prevention or recovery from damage caused by forest fires, natural disasters, pests, diseases and climate threats	Public and private owners of forests and their associations
	Investments to increase the ecological value and potential of the forest for reduce the climate changes impact	Public and private forest owners and their associations
	Investments for the introduction of new forestry technologies for the processing and marketing of forest products	Private forest owners, municipalities; their associations; SMEs
9. Setting up producer groups in agriculture and forestry	Adapting production to market requirements; Introduction of products on the market together Establishing common rules on production.	Producer groups
10. Climate and agri-climate	Granting additional payments for costs or loss of income incurred by beneficiaries	Farmers; groups of farmers; other land managers
11.Ecological agriculture	Payments granted annually per hectare of agricultural land for organic farming	Farmers; groups of farmers
12.Payments related to the Water Framework Directive and Natura 2000	Payments to farms per year per hectare of agricultural area for costs resulting from disadvantages areas	Farmers; private forest owners; farmers groups; associations of private forest owners
13. Payments for areas with natural constraints	Payments granted to farmers in mountain areas or other areas with natural constraints per year per hectare of agricultural area	Farmers
14. Animal welfare	Payments granted to farmers in order to	Farmers

	conduct operations for animal welfare	
15.Forest-environmental services, forest conservation	Support per hectare of forest to forest-environment development activities, conservation of forest genetic resources	Public and private forest owners, their associations
16. Cooperation	Support for cooperation between different actors in the food chain and in the forestry sector	Entities in the agrifood chain and forestry
17.Risk management	Financial contributions to insure crops, plants, animals from unfavorable weather events, pest infestation, plant and animal disease or environmental incident	Farmers
	Financial contributions to mutual funds for compensation for economic losses caused by animal and plant diseases, pest, unfavorable climatic or environmental incident	Farmers
	Introducing an instrument for income stabilization for compensation to farmers for a severe drop in revenue in the form of financial contributions to mutual funds	Farmers

Source: processing of author after The Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), December 2012

5. THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS ALLOCATED TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR 2014-2020

In 2011 was adopted the proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 entitled "A Budget for Europe 2020". The main changes taken into account consist in a simplistic approach to policy implementation, the use of higher compliance and focusing on results.

The European Commission proposed allocating funds worth 281.8 billion euros for the first pillar of the CAP and 89.9 billion euros for Rural Development Policy for the period 2014-2020.

CONCLUSION

For the period 2014-2020 all EU policies, including the CAP should contribute for achieving the targets and objectives of Europe 2020 Strategy.

If in the programming period 2007-2013, rural development policy has focused on the priorities to improve the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, protection of the environment and the countryside and improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of economic activities, in 2014-2020 the priorities are to improve the competitiveness of agriculture, climate change and sustainable management of natural resources and balanced development of rural areas.

In the Common Strategic Framework were grouped the funds supporting Cohesion Policy (CF, ERDF, ESF), Rural Development Policy (EAFRD) and Maritime and Fisheries Policy (EMFF). The Common Strategic Framework were established 11 thematic objectives derived from the Europe 2020 strategy in order to support it.

The objectives of Rural Development Policy at European level for the period 2014-2020 are: fostering innovation and knowledge transfer in agriculture and forestry, increasing the

competitiveness of agriculture and farm viability, support for primary producers in the food chain, better risk management at farm level in agriculture, strengthening and preserving ecosystems in agriculture and forestry, more efficient use of resources, production and use of renewable energy, reducing carbon emissions and adaptation to climate change in agriculture and forestry, rural economic development, poverty reduction and social inclusion through the creation and development of enterprises, creating jobs and increase the accessibility to information and communication technology in rural areas.

For the period 2014-2020, the European Commission proposed allocating funds worth 281.8 billion euros for the first pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy and 89.9 billion euros for rural development.

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