



Factsheet on the Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 of the Region of Murcia

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) of the Region of Murcia was formally adopted by the European Commission on 3 July 2015 and last amended on 4 April 2025. It presents the priorities of the Region of Murcia for the use of EUR 467.8 million of public funds available for the period 2014-2022 (EUR 301.8 million from the EU budget and EUR 166 million in national co-financing). The initial programming period was extended by 2 years until 31 December 2022, including two annual EAFRD allocations, as well as the EU-funded recovery funds (EURI).

In order to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, the RDP of the Region of Murcia aims to provide investment aid to 700 farmers to restructure and modernise their farms, and 650 young farmers will receive support to start up their businesses. The region will fund the training of 28 795 participants and promote innovation through 44 projects under the European Innovation Partnership. Restoration, conservation and enhancement of ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry are also considered important, as 28 % of arable land and 24 % of forest area are subject to a management contract to improve biodiversity. It also includes aid for the conversion or maintenance of organic farming for 75 636 hectares. More than 50 % of the rural population will be covered by LEADER local development strategies, which are expected to create around 291 new jobs.

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, there are 114 programmes in the 27 Member States and 4 in the United Kingdom. The [Rural Development Regulation](#) for the period 2014-2022 addresses six economic, environmental and social priorities and the programmes clearly set out the objectives to be achieved. In addition, in order to better coordinate actions and maximise synergies with the other European Structural and Investment [Funds \(ESI Funds\)](#), a [Partnership Agreement](#) has been concluded with each Member State reflecting its overall strategy for EU-funded structural investment.

This document provides a brief description of how the RDP addresses the challenges and opportunities that Murcia faces. In the annex, a table indicates the priorities and focus areas, each with their specific targets and their allocated budgets.

1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES

In Spain, rural development is implemented through 18 different RDPs (one at national level and 17 regional rural development programmes). However, common elements to the programmes are presented in a national framework. In addition, the National Rural Network provides the funding for the networking of rural development actors in Spain.

The Region of Murcia is located in south-east Spain. It covers an area of 11 313 km² (2.2 % of the Spanish total area), of which 81 % is rural. The region is home of 1.5 million people. Of the total area, arable land accounts for 57 % and is the Autonomous Community with the lowest forest area in Spain (45 %). The primary sector is important in Murcia, providing more than 5 % of gross value added. There is a significant imbalance between the most urbanised and rural areas.

Two forms of agriculture coexist in the Region of Murcia. Intensive irrigated agriculture accounts for 31 % of the agricultural area, representing 96 % of GVA, while extensive non-irrigated agriculture accounts for 69 % of the area and produces only 4 % of GVA. Agriculture plays a key role in maintaining the environment and landscapes, as well as in the strategic agri-food sector, which is export-oriented.

The unemployment rate was 29 % in 2013, more than 50 % among young people and 30 % in rural areas. Other challenges in the region are the low rate of generational renewal in the primary sector and the need to increase farm size. From an environmental point of view, the region faces problems of insufficient water resources and uncertainty of water resources in the future, as well as high levels of erosion.

2. HOW WILL THE MURCIA RDP ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?

To address these challenges, the Regional of Murcia RDP will finance actions under the six rural development priorities, with a particular focus on the "Fostering the competitiveness of the agricultural and agro-industrial sector" and "Restoration, conservation and improvement of ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry". The focus of the main priorities is briefly explained below.

Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

During the programming period Murcia will support the development of innovative solutions through 44 operational groups under the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and create 28 795 places for training courses for the agricultural sector.

Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Agricultural investments supported under this priority will aim to modernise and restructure around 2.14 % of all farms, while 1.99 % of farms will receive support for young farmers to start their businesses.

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

The region will support 69 projects investing in agricultural holdings as well as processing and marketing of agricultural products.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Most of the funds under this priority will be used for area-based payments for farmers using environmentally friendly management practices, including organic farming, as well as to support environmentally friendly forest investments. 28.37 % of agricultural land shall be subject to contracts for biodiversity, 28.05 % for water management and 27.95 % for soil management.

Resource efficiency and climate

This priority will mainly focus on investments related to the efficient use of water, so that 9.12 % of Murcia's irrigated area moves to more efficient irrigation systems. 0.81 % of agricultural and forest land shall be subject to management contracts related to carbon sequestration or conservation.

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

Under this priority, the region will support LEADER Local Action Groups and their Local Development Strategies. These strategies will address small investments related to the diversification of non-agricultural activities in rural areas and the reinforcement of basic services and small-scale collective infrastructure. The focus will be on improving the living conditions of the rural population, creating 291 new jobs and developing new business opportunities. Local development strategies will cover half of Murcia's population.

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

- EUR 150.4 million allocated to Measure 4 – Investment in physical assets
- EUR 114.8 million allocated to measure 11 – Organic farming
- EUR 54 million allocated to measure 10 – Agri-environment-climate
- EUR 32.9 million allocated to measure 13 – Areas facing natural constraints.
- EUR 29.7 million allocated to measure 8 – Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests

Annex 1: Indicative public support for the Rural Development Programme of the Region of Murcia¹

Objective	Action	EUR Total public	%
Priority 1: Knowledge transfer and innovation transfer in agriculture, forestry and rural areas²			
1A: Fostering innovation, cooperation and the knowledge base: 5.34 % of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
	02 Advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 44 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 28 795 participants trained	01 knowledge		
Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management		80 926 322	17.30
2A: Economic performance, competitiveness of restructuring: 2.14 % of farms benefiting from RDP support	01 knowledge	1 054 980	0.23
	02 Advisory	715 200	0.15
	04 investments	50 902 314	10.88
	16 cooperation	940 600	0.20
2B: Generational renewal 1.99 % of holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	01 knowledge	1 435 040	0.31
	02 Advisory	715 200	0.15
	06 farm and business development	24 253 495	5.18
	16 cooperation	909 493	0.19
Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management		66 154 055	14.14
3A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers 69 supported investments for processing and marketing of agricultural products	01 knowledge	534 900	0.11
	02 Advisory	811 800	0.17
	04 investments	58 200 000	12.44
	16 cooperation	890 600	0.19
3B: Risk management 1.83 % of farms benefited from aid for damage caused by natural disasters and catastrophic events	01 knowledge	1 354 980	0.29
	02 Advisory	711 800	0.15
	05 restoring agricultural potential	2 914 375	0.62
	16 cooperation	735 600	0.16

¹ Decimal figures within the table have been rounded-up.

² No financial allocation shown for Priority 1 as the expenditure is distributed across other focus areas.

Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry³		199 609 611	42.67
4th biodiversity 24.19 % of forests or other wooded land under contracts 28.37 % of agricultural land under contracts	1 Knowledge	1 057 180	0.23
	2 Advice	1 430 400	0.31
4b water management 28.05 % of agricultural land 24.19 % of forest land under contracts	08 forests	28 490 000	6.09
	10 AEC	52 270 424	11.17
	11 Organic farming	114 720 407	24.52
4c soil erosion and management 27.95 % of agricultural land and 24.19 % of forest land under contracts	16 cooperation	1 641 200	0.35
Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		82 070 689	17.54
5a water efficiency 9.12 % of agricultural areas will move to more efficient irrigation systems	01 knowledge	278 460	0.06
	02 Advisory	206 080	0.04
	04 investments	41 292 252	8.83
	16 cooperation	679 240	0.15
5b – energy efficiency 28.57 % of investment projects introducing high-efficiency equipment or in-house renewable energy sources for self-consumption	01 knowledge	510 960	0.11
	02 Advisory	206 080	0.04
	16 cooperation	194 240	0.04
5c – renewable energy 9.41 % of public expenditure for cooperation to promote the use of renewable energy	01 knowledge	135 960	0.03
	02 Advisory	163 341	0.03
	16 cooperation	831 244	0.18
5D: GHG and NH3 reduction 0.35 % of agricultural land under management contracts to reduce greenhouse gas or ammonia emissions	01 knowledge	385 960	0.08
	02 Advisory	206 080	0.04
	10 AEC	1 731 951	0.37
	16 cooperation	364 240	0.08
5e carbon sequestration and sequestration 0.35 % of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation	01 knowledge	125 960	0.03
	02 Advisory	206 080	0.04
	08 forests	1 256 800	0.27
	13 NCAS	32 931 517	7.04
	16 cooperation	364 240	0.08

³ Expenditure under Priority 4 will be programmed for the priority as a whole and not for each of the focus areas.

Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		28 765 420	6.15
6a – diversification, SMEs and job creation 15 jobs created in funded projects	01 knowledge	1 220 040	0.26
	02 Advisory	318 600	0.07
	16 cooperation	915 600	0.20
6b promotion of local development 50.17 % of rural population covered by local development strategies 291 jobs created (via LEADER)	01 knowledge	927 980	0.20
	02 Advisory	238 600	0.05
	16 cooperation	735 600	0.16
	19 LEADER	24 409 000	5.22
Assistance technique		10 247 944	2.19
Total public expenditure EUR		467 774 039.7	100.00