



# THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY: INVESTING IN RURAL EUROPE

To help the rural areas of the European Union to meet the wide range of challenges and opportunities that face them, the EU devised its rural development policy.

This part of the CAP has three long-term strategic objectives for the 2014-2020 period:



- 1 **Investing in rural jobs and growth** to foster the competitiveness of rural businesses
- 2 **Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action** for example by supporting the use of environmentally-friendly farming practices and investments in renewable energy
- 3 **Achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities** for example through the rollout of fast and ultra-fast broadband in rural areas

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT** policy provides Member States with an envelope of EU funding to manage nationally or regionally under multi-annual, co-funded Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). **In total, 118 RDPs worth over €99.6 billion from the EU budget cover all 28 Member States.**



## INVESTING IN RURAL JOBS AND GROWTH

Seeking to develop its market, a Bulgarian soft fruit company received a Rural Development grant of **€160 000** towards modernising its plant. As a result, the company's productivity jumped by **50%** in the first six months.



## SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Funded with **€67 000** from the EU budget, a Spanish organic olive oil cooperative has developed an innovative composting technique which turns a polluting by-product (olive cake) into green fertilizer, reducing nitrate pollution in aquifers. The tested technique can now be readily applied in other areas.



## CONNECTING RURAL AREAS

**18.6 million** rural citizens, mainly in very remote areas will have access to better ICT services. This is the equivalent of **13.2%** of the EU rural population.

## SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS EXPECTED FROM THE 2014-2020 RDPs:



Business start-up aid to **170 000 young farmers** and **60 000 rural entrepreneurs**, accompanied by support for **3.9 million places** in training courses, and **1.4 million instances** of personalised advice provided to farmers and other rural entrepreneurs in order to help improve the performance of their businesses



**2 500 Local Action Groups** turning local strengths and opportunities into **46 000 new jobs**  
Another **77 500 jobs** to be created by supporting new, non-farming related businesses in rural areas



**300 000 farmers** being supported to develop short supply chains, local markets, enter quality schemes and producer groups – better products for the consumers, better income for farmers



A total of **€5.5 billion** invested in energy efficiency & renewable energy projects, for instance biogas



**17.4%** of agricultural land and **3.5%** of forests will be managed for better protection of biodiversity, **30.6** and **4.1 million hectares** of farmland and forestry respectively (it covers an area the size of Germany)



Investments to reduce Green House Gas and ammonia emissions for the equivalent of **2 million cows** or **3 million pigs** in the EU