



Sowing opportunities to reap the fruits of development.

2014-2020 Emilia-Romagna RDP: towards
a more innovative and stronger agriculture,
ready to seize markets challenges.

Competitiveness, environment, youth and employment, broadband, and ultra-broadband, fragile rural and mountain areas development.

A smart, sustainable and inclusive development for our agriculture.

The 2014-2020 Regional Rural Development Programme (RDP) is part of the "Europe 2020" strategy aimed at a smart growth, through more effective education, research and innovation actions; a sustainable, environmentally-friendly and low-emission growth; an inclusive growth to create jobs and to combat poverty.

The Emilia-Romagna RDP can rely upon **1 billion and 190 million Euros**, the largest amount of resources ever allocated to rural development in recent regional programming schemes and the largest amount among the northern Italian regions. Compared to the previous

2007-2013 RDP, the increase in public spending is 131 million euro with a 100 million regional co-financing increase: the Regional Authority doubles the amount of resources made available for the next seven-year period.

To help achieve the "Europe 2020" objectives the Region promotes a balanced and sustainable development of agriculture and agri-industrial sector and of rural areas. The macro themes: *Competitiveness, Climate and Environment, Local Development* and, more generally, *Knowledge and Innovation* characterize the RDP strategic plan.

The 6 priorities chosen by the 2014-2020 RDP to organize and distribute actions aim to boost the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, ensure the sustainable management of natural resources, implement actions to combat climate change, achieve a balanced territorial development in furtherance of local economies and rural communities.

RESOURCES

2014-2020 regional budget compared to the 2007-2013 programme:

+131 million of total public spending
+ 100 million of regional co-financing

1.2 billion of public spending
Total leverage effect 42%

1.719 billion of total expenditure envisaged including private investment



The key themes and priorities of the 2014-2020 Emilia-Romagna RDP: actions in synergy.



COMPETITIVENESS

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Priority 1 Promote the transfer of **knowledge** and **innovation** in agriculture, forestry and rural areas.

- Stimulate innovation, cooperation and development of the knowledge base in rural areas.
- Strengthen the links between agriculture, food production and forestry, research and innovation, in order to improve the environmental performance and management.
- Encourage life-long learning and vocational training in agriculture and forestry.

Priority 2

Enhance **profitability** of farms and **competitiveness** of agriculture in all its forms, promote innovative farming techniques and forest **sustainable management**.

Priority 3

Promote the food **chain** organization, including processing and marketing of agricultural produce and **risks management** in agriculture.

Priority 4

Preserve, restore and **enhance ecosystems** related to agriculture and forestry.

Priority 5

Encourage the **effective use of resources** and shift to a **low-carbon** and **climate**-resilient economy in agriculture, agri-food and forestry sector.

Priority 6

Work towards **social inclusion**, poverty reduction and **economic development** of rural areas.

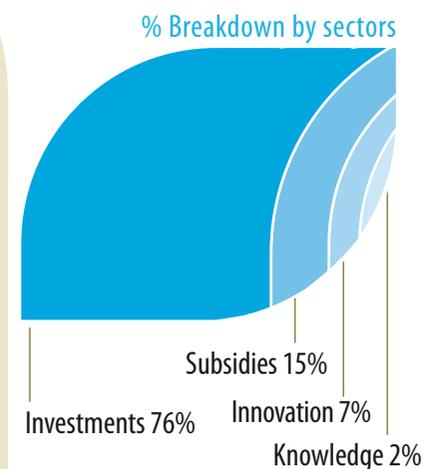


More competitive, stable and profitable farms.

To promote the competitiveness of the agricultural, agri-industrial and forestry system, the Region aims at implementing the food chain organization. Planned actions are designed to support: the modernization of production processes, quality production and agriculture diversification. They are also intended to promote integration and system approach, through a set of actions, ranging from research and testing, from deployment of coordinated tools to enhancement of knowledge and professionalism; from production planning, to the improvement, in particular, of product quality perceived by consumers; from the development of more sustainable production methods to the best commercial and internationalization capabilities. To attract a larger number of young people to the agricultural sector, the Region shall support youth entrepreneurship and ownership, whether they are already employed in the agricultural sector or they come from other sectors. A special attention will be paid to tutoring and to specific support services. The agri-food industry must match together business competitiveness, sustainability and promotion of quality production, also by means of voluntary certification systems and by strengthening ties with the local community.

515.7
million euro

STRONGER BUSINESSES ON THE MARKET



Competitiveness

- Supporting **business networks** and organized agriculture forms
- Development of **services** to support farms
- Incentives for income **diversification, stabilization** and qualification of labour
- **Employment** policies and the creation of new farms and businesses (support to **young people**)
- Support to **innovation** and dissemination of **knowledge** in agriculture, also through cooperation between businesses, universities and research (**technology transfer**)
- Promotion of **sustainable forest management**

Priority 2

- P2A MODERNIZING FARMS AND FORESTRY and DIVERSIFICATION** To improve the economic performance of all farms and encourage the restructuring and modernization of farms, in particular, to increase market share and market orientation and diversify activities.
- P2B SETTING UP OF YOUNG FARMS** To encourage the entry of adequately qualified farmers in agriculture and, in particular, to foster the generational turnover.

Priority 3

- P3A AGRI-FOOD CHAIN AND PREMIUM QUALITY PRODUCTIONS** To improve the competitiveness of primary producers, by better integrating them into the food chain through quality schemes, the creation of added value for agricultural produce, promotion of produce in local markets and short supply chains, farmers' associations and organizations and inter-branch organizations.
- P3B RISK MANAGEMENT** To support business risk prevention and management.

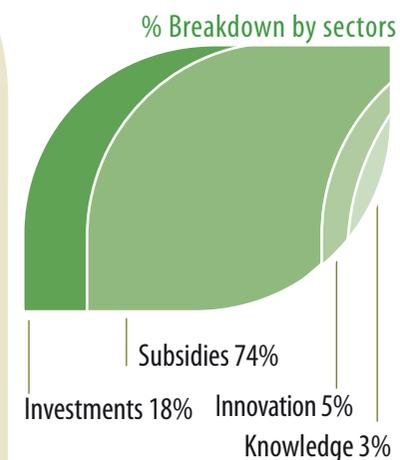


The future of a unique land requires protection and an environmentally-friendly approach

To promote sustainability and climate change, the regional strategy is focused on a kind of agriculture capable of producing and protecting public goods, such as biodiversity, agricultural landscapes, air, soil and water. All this occurs in a context in which the 2014-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is intended to strengthen the environmental component, through a greener traditional conditionality. Significant actions have been designed to protect water quality and to engineer production techniques capable of: reducing the environmental footprint, combating erosion in hilly and mountainous areas, improving the soil physical quality by preserving its organic matter. The Region undertakes to protect biodiversity through investments and actions targeted to highlight the active role played by farmers to protect and safeguard land. Its commitment will also be addressed to "Natura 2000" areas. To mitigate the climate change effects, specific actions will be undertaken throughout the region towards the reduction of emissions from agri-industrial, agricultural and livestock production processes; carbon sequestration through forest conservation and promotion of new plants for wood production. A more rational use of water resources and the development of bioenergy will be promoted, through the use of agricultural and agri-industrial by-products.

509.3
million euro

OBJECTIVE ENVIRONMENT



Environment and Climate

Priority 4

- P4A BIODIVERSITY** SPreservation, restoration and improvement of biodiversity, including Natura 2000 areas and areas subject to natural or other specific constraints, farming of great natural value, as well as of European landscape management.
- P4B WATER QUALITY** Better management of water resources, including fertilizers and pesticides management.
- P4C QUALITY OF SOILS** soil erosion better management and prevention.

Priority 5

- P5A WATER RESOURCE EFFICIENCY** Make the use of water in agriculture more efficient.
- P5B RENEWABLE ENERGY** Encourage the supply and use of renewable energy sources, by-products, waste materials and residues and other non food raw material for the bio-economy purposes.
- P5C REDUCING AMMONIA EMISSIONS** Reduce greenhouse gases and ammonia emissions in agriculture.
- P5D ENVIRONMENTAL FORESTRY** Promote carbon sequestration and conservation in agriculture and forestry.

- Protection of **biodiversity**, incentives for **sustainability** of production processes
- Protection of **natural resources**, initiatives to combat and mitigate the ongoing **climate change**
- **Forestry** enhancement, carbon conservation and sequestration, **agri-energy** development
- Actions aimed at the reduction of **water consumption**
- Improving **water quality**, fertilizers and pesticides management
- Combat the **disruption** and **erosion** phenomena
- Reducing greenhouse gases and **ammonia emissions**

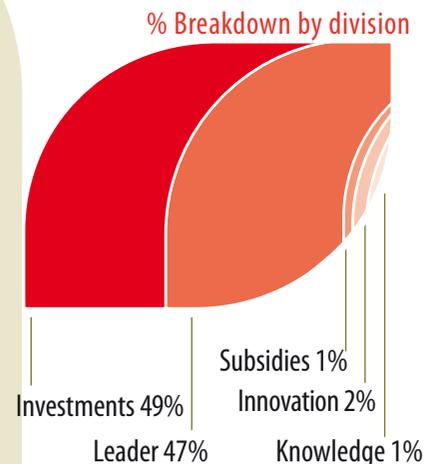


Rural development must involve each and every one in every corner of our land.

Balanced rural areas development requires dedicated actions, both at a regional and local level, to address spatial fragility in a targeted manner and to enhance economic and social resilience. The Region undertakes to strengthen employment and to support new non-agricultural business development, while improving the quality of life of the rural population, through investment in public services, in the cultural sector, in welfare and social services facilities. Narrowing the digital divide throughout the region is a strategic factor of competitiveness. The Region undertakes to strengthen basic infrastructures, improve accessibility to ICT (Information Communication Technology) and support the technological upgrading of schools and libraries in more marginal areas. The Leader approach will be promoted by public-private partnerships with carefully integrated and innovative design, highlighting the local development potential through the leadership of local partnerships. It will focus on the areas most at risk of depletion or deterioration of human, economic, social and environmental resources, by meeting local needs.

139.8
million euro

STRONGER LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Local development

- Improve **services to rural populations**
- Provide special support to **mountain areas through specific priorities**
- Provide investments to **counter the abandonment** of marginal lands
- Spread the **ultra-broadband** and bridge the «digital divide»
- Establish **public-private local action groups (LAG)** to implement specific actions in rural areas

Priority 6

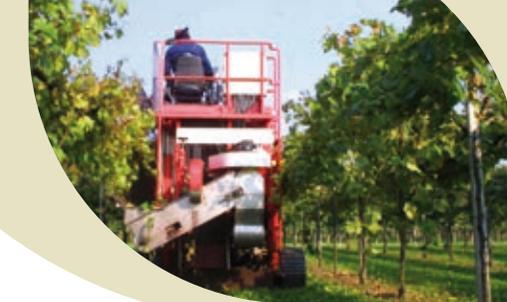
- P6A START-UP OF NON AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES** Encourage diversification, creation and development of small enterprises and employment.
- P6B SERVICES TO POPULATION AND LEADER APPROACH** Stimulate local development in rural areas.
- P6C SPREAD OF BROADBAND** Promote accessibility, use and quality of Information And Communications Technologies (ICT) in rural areas.

Knowledge and innovation

The programme focuses on the promotion and dissemination of technology transfer and innovation at all stages of agricultural production as a crosscutting factor of the rural development strategy. This strategy will be pursued through the involvement, interaction and networking of all the various stakeholders, from the research and business community, according to a bottom-up process, which capitalizes the knowledge of enterprises.

The main challenges concern the sustainability of agricultural practices, support for production sectors, the enhancement of typical crops and regional agricultural produce, consumer preferences.

The promotion of innovation will be developed within the EIP operational groups, namely ad hoc partnerships set up between farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers, consultants and trainers. The operational groups will also allow the participation of the regional agricultural production system in the European research and innovation initiatives. Innovation transfer guaranteed by training initiatives and business advisory services supported by the programme will also play a fundamental role.



The Regional authority has envisaged the introduction of priority selection criteria that are common to many types of operations. These priorities concern youth, sustainable production and quality, rural areas affected by development problems.

Youth

Specific priorities will be granted to investment operations to encourage young farmers

Sustainable and quality production

Specific priorities will be granted within the competitiveness macro-theme measures (P2 and P3) to promote the spread of sustainable production methods (integrated and organic farming) as well as quality production.

Rural areas with development problems

Dedicated initiatives guaranteed by specific selection priorities will be implemented to support and strengthen the economic and social fabric of the areas concerned.

Programming of resources to be made available through annual calls for proposals

