

# Key elements of strategic programming of the EU's Rural Development Policy after 2013

Workshop "Strategic Programming and Monitoring and Evaluation for RDPs 2014-2020"

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European Commission  
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# Common Provisions Regulation (1)

- **Overall aims:**

- To **ensure focus on the EU2020 strategy**
- To **simplify** programming and delivery of “shared management” funds for benefit of beneficiaries and administrations

- **Common principles for all 5 Funds**

- e.g. partnership, equality and non-discrimination, sustainable development

- **Reinforced strategic approach to programming**

- Common thematic objectives derived from EU2020, translated into fund-specific priorities
- Common Strategic Framework (CSF) and Partnership Contracts (PC)



# Common Provisions Regulation (2)

- **Reinforced focus on effectiveness of programmes**
  - Common provisions on **ex ante conditionalities**, **macro-economic conditionalities** and **performance framework** to ensure better quality of spending and greater focus on results
- **Reinforced co-ordination of provisions on implementation**
  - **Common rules:**
    - community-led local development, enabling integrated territorial approach
    - eligibility and durability of expenditure, including single approach to simplified costs
    - financial instruments
    - monitoring & evaluation, including annual and strategic reporting
    - management and control
  - **Fund-specific rules where necessary**



# Rural development in a new framework

## Europe 2020 strategy

## Common Strategic Framework (CSF)

– covering the EAFRD, ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund and EMFF, and reflecting EU2020 through common thematic objectives to be addressed by key actions for each of the funds

## Partnership Contract

– national document outlining the intended use of the funds in the pursuit of EU2020 objectives

## Rural development policy: EAFRD

## Other CSF funds (ERDF, ESF, CF, EMFF)

*Innovation, Environment and Climate Change as cross-cutting objectives*

Priorities

*Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas*

Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and farm viability

Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry

Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

## Rural Development Programme(s)



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# The Common Strategic Framework (CSF)

- EU strategic document ensuring concentrated action and coordination:
  - ➔ to be translated by MS/regions into programming of CSF funds in the context of specific needs, opportunities and challenges
    - Establishes for each **thematic objective** the **key actions** to be supported by each CSF Fund
    - Identifies key **territorial challenges**
    - Describes cross-cutting **principles**
    - Outlines how the funds **complement** each other at EU level
    - Provides for the mechanisms for ensuring **coherence and consistency with economic policies** of the Union

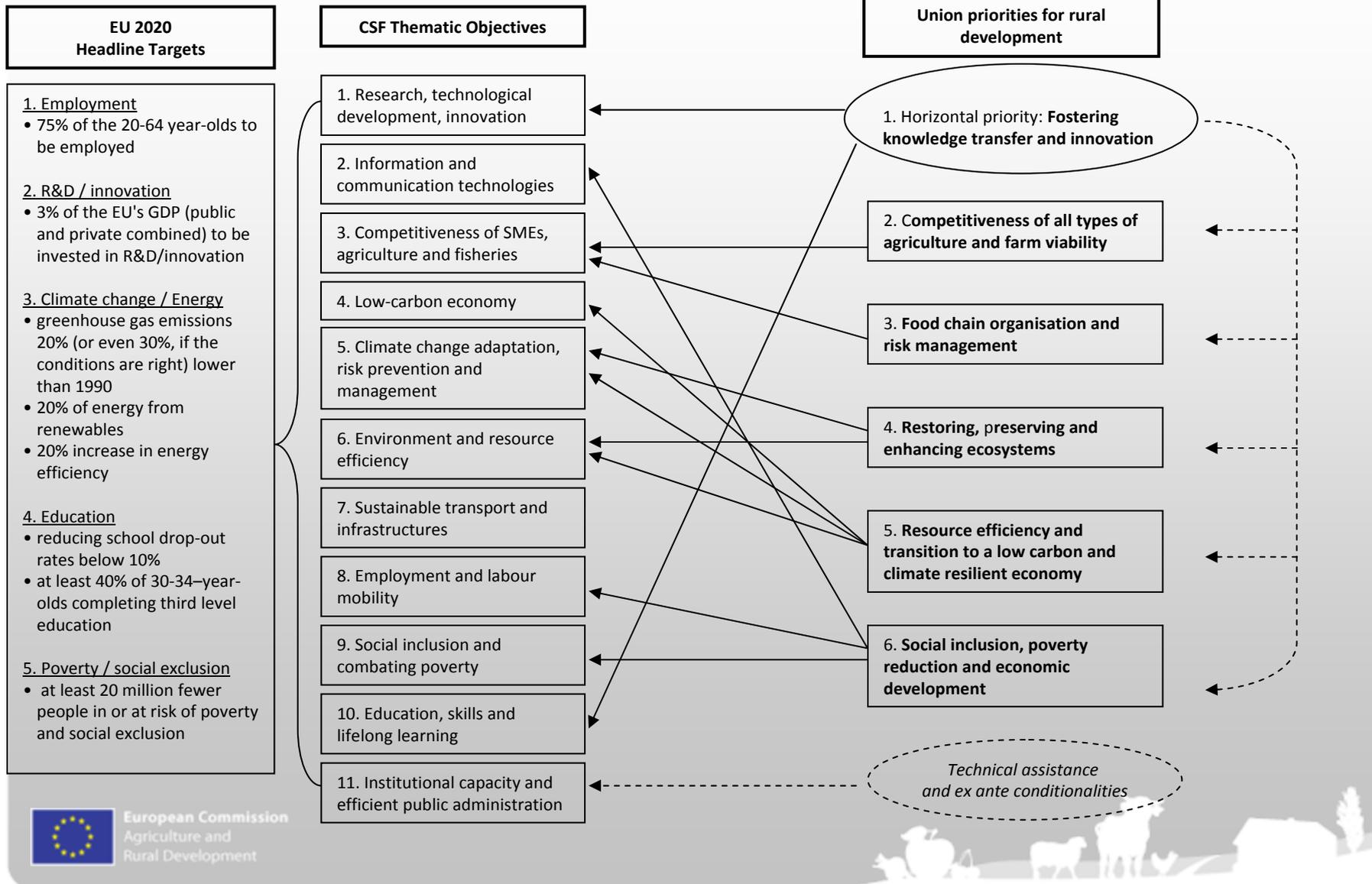


# Partnership contract (PC)

- National **strategy, priorities and arrangements** for using the CSF Funds in an effective and efficient way – closely linked to National Reform Programmes and country-specific recommendations:
  - Arrangements to ensure alignment with EU2020 strategy analysis
  - Description of integrated approach to territorial development and specific needs
  - Arrangements to ensure effective implementation (incl. partnership)
  - Arrangements to ensure efficient implementation
  - Milestones and targets established in programmes for the performance framework
  - Summary of the assessment of the fulfilment of ex ante conditionalities and actions to be taken where these are not fulfilled



# The link between the EU2020 and the EAFRD



# TO 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

- **Key targets / objectives:**

- **Europe 2020 headline target:** *‘Improving the conditions for research and development, in particular with the aim of bringing combined public and private investment levels in this sector to 3 % of GDP’*
- Stimulating research responding to the specific needs, particularly on a small-scale, and fostering the take-up of innovation

## Proposed key actions for the EAFRD:

- Fostering innovation and the knowledge base in rural areas, through:
  - Cooperation and creation of clusters / networks
  - Establishment and use of advisory services
- Strengthening links between agriculture/forestry and research/innovation:
  - Setting up operational groups: European Innovation Partnership



## TO 2: Enhancing access to and, use and quality of information and communication technologies

- **Key targets / objectives:**

- Digital Agenda for Europe: realisation of the digital single market and exploitation of the potential for innovation

### *Proposed key actions for the EAFRD:*

- Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of ICT in rural areas accessible to all:
  - focus on broadband infrastructure
  - ICT for sustainability and competitiveness;
  - e-content for rural tourism;
  - increased digital competence



## TO 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD)

- **Key targets / objectives:**

- Increasing the size of agricultural holdings, improve the sector's age structure and foster productivity and efficiency

### Proposed key actions for the EAFRD:

- Restructuring of farms
  - Generational renewal in the agricultural sector
  - Integration of primary producers into the food chain
  - Farm risk management
- ✓ *Provision of financial instruments providing access to capital for productive investments as well as for SMEs*



## TO 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

- **Key targets / objectives:**

- **Europe 2020 headline target:** *“Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20%; increasing the share of renewables to 20%; and moving towards a 20% increase in energy efficiency”*

### Proposed key actions for the EAFRD:

- Investments and advice on energy-efficiency
- Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy for the bio-economy
- Reducing nitrous oxide and methane emissions from agriculture
- Enhancing carbon sequestration and emission reduction in agriculture and forestry



## TO 5: Promoting climate change adaptation and risk prevention and management

- **Key targets / objectives:**

- White Paper ‘Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action’

### *Proposed key actions for the EAFRD:*

- Sustainable water management, including water efficiency
- Improved soil management
- Ensuring a high potential for adaptation to climate change and diseases and maintaining genetic diversity



## TO 6: Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

- **Key targets / objectives:**

- Flagship initiative ‘Resource Efficient Europe’; Water Framework Directive; Birds and Habitats Directives; Soil Thematic Strategy
- EU’s Biodiversity Strategy

### Proposed key actions for the EAFRD:

- Focus on biodiversity (incl. NATURA 2000 and High Nature Value) and the state of European landscapes
  - Increasing efficiency in the use of water, e.g. for irrigation
  - Improvement of water and soil quality, and soil protection
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- ✓ *Focus on collective approaches*
  - ✓ *Complementarity with greening measures under CAP’s Pillar I*



## TO 8: Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility

- **Key targets / objectives:**

- **Europe 2020 headline target:** *‘Aiming to raise to 75% the employment rate for women and men aged 20-64, including through the greater participation of young people, older workers and low-skilled workers and the better integration of legal migrants’*
- Job creation in rural regions

### Proposed key actions for the EAFRD:

- Diversification from the agricultural sector, creating new small enterprises and supporting other forms of job creation in rural areas



## TO 9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty

- **Key targets / objectives:**

- **Europe 2020 headline target:** *‘Promoting social inclusion, in particular through the reduction of poverty, by aiming to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and exclusion’*

### *Proposed key actions for the EAFRD:*

- LEADER local development strategies), small-scale infrastructure, local basic services for the rural population, village renewal
- ✓ *LEADER as compulsory element of rural development*



## TO 10: Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning

- **Key targets / objectives:**

- **Europe 2020 headline target:** *‘Improving education levels, in particular by aiming to reduce school drop-out rates to less than 10 % and by increasing the share of 30-34 year-olds having completed tertiary or equivalent education to at least 40%’*
- Address the relatively low levels of skills in the agricultural sector

### *Proposed key actions for the EAFRD:*

- **Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training:**

- vocational training and skills acquisition; lifelong learning
- demonstration activities, information and short-term exchanges

✓ *Also investments in small-scale educational and training infrastructures*



**Thank you  
for your attention!**



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