

## Rural Development Programme (RDP) of the Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy

### Programma di Sviluppo Rurale della Provincia Autonoma di Trento 2007-2013 – *To be inserted<sup>1</sup>*

(Rural Development Programme for the autonomous province of Trento 2007-2013)

### Relevant Contact Details

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#### Other useful links:

Rural Development Programme (RDP):

[http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/rural-development-policy/country-information/italy/en/italy\\_home\\_en.cfm](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/rural-development-policy/country-information/italy/en/italy_home_en.cfm)

National Strategy Plan (NSP):

<http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLob.php/L/IT/IDPagina/1145>

Italian National Rural Network (NRN):

<http://www.reterurale.it>



**Map of Trento and Bolzano**  
(© European Commission)

## General socio-economic situation in rural areas in the Autonomous Province of Trento

The size of Trento is 6,364.82 km<sup>2</sup> with 502,478 inhabitants. The province is located in Northern Italy and is a mountainous area with few flatlands at the bottom of the valley. According to the RDP of December 2007, in 2004 the unemployment rate was one of the lowest in the European Union at 3.2%. Arable land constitutes 276,988 ha of provincial forest land that represents 55.6% of the total provincial surface. Agricultural land, 146,989 ha of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA), is used for crops (cereals, potatoes, vegetables, other) representing 3.2%; permanent cultures (vineyards, apples, other fruit) representing 15.9%; and, pastures and meadows representing 80.6%. 34,694 businesses occupy 76% of the entire provincial territory, while 7.9% does not belong to any business; and 16% of land is infertile. In 2003 there were 26,010 businesses in the province with an UAA average of 5.8 ha per business: 89.1% has less than 5 ha of UAA; 9.8% has an UAA between 5 and less than 50 ha; and, 1.1% has an UAA of 50 or more ha.

The RDP highlights that weaknesses in the province include harsh weather conditions with short cultivation seasons on its sloped territory; bio-geographic dis-homogeneity; low levels of education and training, especially in the outskirts; difficulties in connections; scarce availability of arable

<sup>1</sup> Latest updated RDP, following the adoption of the Health Check and European Economic Recovery Package and additional funds from Modulation.

agricultural land; a low number of arable species; and, fragmentation of land. However, Trento has also numerous strengths, e.g. a rich and typical landscape; a rich natural and environmental value; and, extensive woodlands on its territory.

## **RDP strategic objectives**

In accordance with the National Strategy Plan, the overall objectives of the RDP for Trento are to increase competitiveness in the agricultural and forestry sectors; promote sustainable use of natural resources and conservation of the landscape; and, promote diversification of the rural economy and quality of life in rural areas. Moreover, emphasis lies on the integration between the development of the agricultural and forestry sector, environment, rural tourism and services. To address the question regarding the environment and landscape, the following interventions are foreseen: conservation of biological diversity; construction and maintenance of the landscape; protection from water crisis; and, conservation of cultural heritage. Socio-economic issues will be addressed through continued enhancement of economic and social activities and employment opportunities in rural areas.

Following the CAP Health Check, in recognition of the greater emphasis now being given to the "new challenges" facing agriculture and rural areas, the RDP was revised in 2009 to place further emphasis on issues relating to the dairy sector and broadband infrastructure in rural areas. However, these two priorities will not be addressed with additional resources but with own resources of the province as part of a wider local project. The modifications do not concern the introduction of new priorities but the reinforcement and/or the alteration of existing as well as the introduction of new operations.

Taking into account the additional financing provided by the CAP Health Check, the European Economic Recovery Package and Modulation/CMO Wine, greater strategic priority is being given to initiatives that contribute to improved water management (which received 85% of the additional funds) and adaptation to and mitigation against climate change impacts in rural areas (15%).

## **Expected impact / outcomes of the policies**

Expected results and impacts include an increase in economic growth by 2.4% over seven years or €728.7 million; creating 50 new employment opportunities; an increase in labour productivity by 3.5% over seven years; an increase of 6% in agricultural beneficiary areas to respond to biodiversity decline; an increase of 10.8% in the maintenance of high nature value farmland and forestry; that the balance of nutrients in waters on average are less than 10 mg/l; and, an increase in the absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> in forestry ecosystems by 4%.

Specific modifications to impact indicators have been made to take account of the alterations to the RDP, as a result of the CAP Health Check, the European Recovery Package and Modulation of certain funds between Pillar 1 and 2 of the CAP to be targeted at the dairy sector to assist producers to adapt to changing market conditions for milk and dairy products. Modifications to overall RDP impact targets include actions to improve water management by introducing micro-irrigation systems in order to guarantee effective water savings of up to 30% and addressing climate change impacts by improving manure storage and the efficiency of nitrogen fertiliser use. Detailed information on impact indicators for individual measures is provided in the RDP indicator

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<sup>2</sup> A full list of the RDP measures can be found in Annex I.

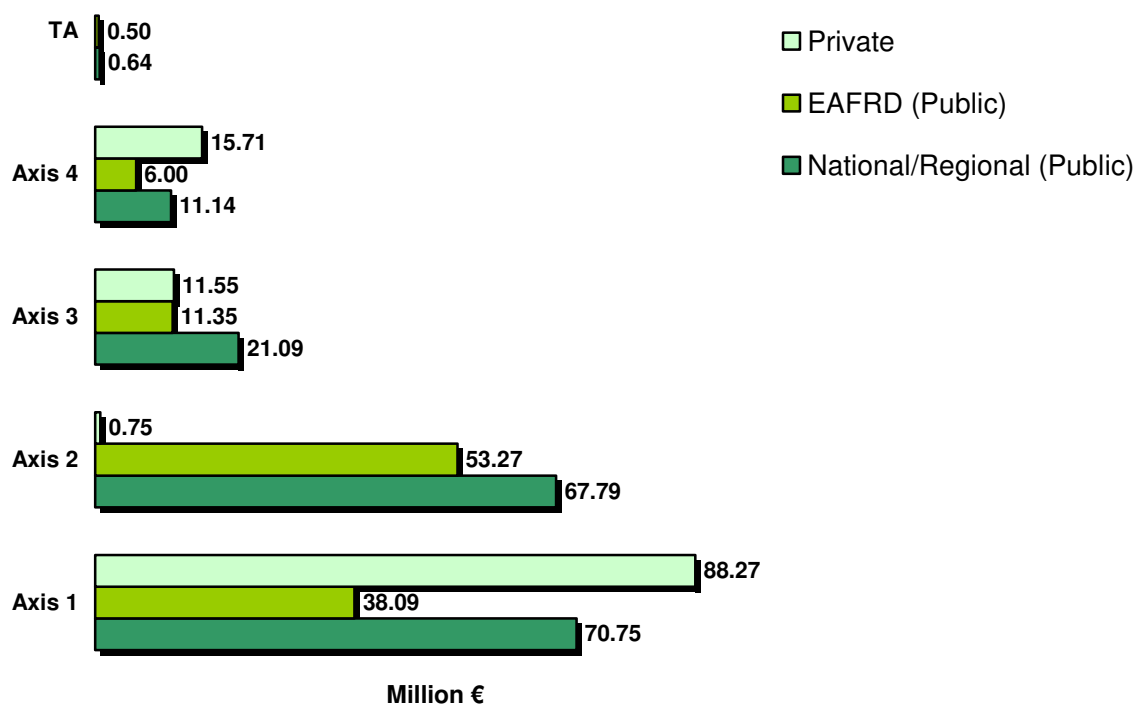
<sup>3</sup> For measures 111 and 112 no private spending has been allocated.

<sup>4</sup> For measures 211, 214 and 227 no private spending has been allocated.

<sup>5</sup> For measure 431 no private spending has been allocated.

tables.

## RDP budget breakdown by axis: Total expenditure (including national/regional + EAFRD + private funding) of €396,922,499



The RDP budget allocations are broadly divided into four main areas of expenditure, known as axes (namely: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector; Improving the environment and the countryside; Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy; and Leader). Approximately 50% of the updated RDP budget in Trento is allocated to axis 1 (€197.12 million); approximately 30% is allocated to axis 2 (€121.81 million), 11% to axis 3 (€43.99 million) and 8% to axis 4 (€32.86 million), with less than 1% available to fund technical assistance (€1.14 million).

Within axis 1, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 36% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 19%; and private funds 45%.

Within axis 2, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 51% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 43%; and private funds 6%.

Within axis 3, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 48% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 26% and private funds 26%.

Within axis 4, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 34% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 18%; and private funds 48%.

Within technical assistance, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 56% share of the technical assistance funding and EAFRD 44%.

As a consequence of the 2009 RDP amendments, the Trento province has been assigned a total of €14,280,000 (including €8,568,000 EAFRD and €5,712,000 of regional/national public funds). Out of the additional EAFRD contribution, €5,626,000 derives from the Health Check and the remaining €2,942,000 from Modulation/CMO Wine. Overall, these funds are intended to reinforce existing actions and introduce new operations in order to support rural areas in the province.

## Axis Information<sup>2</sup>

### ***Axis 1 objectives: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector***

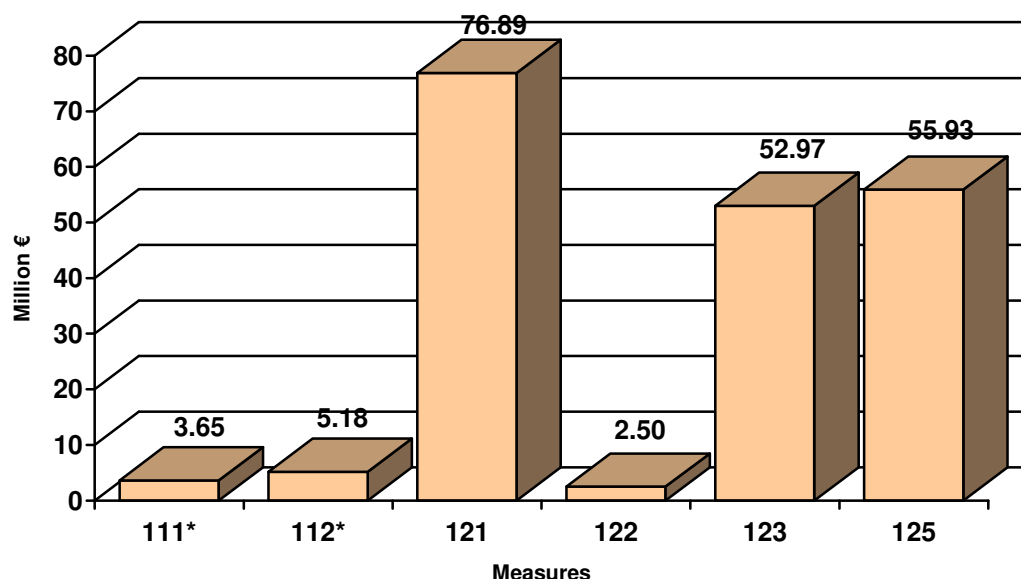
The table below provides an indication of the RDP's axis 1 priorities.

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Promotion of modernisation of businesses and integration of industries	- Increase and maintenance of the competitiveness in the agro-forestry sector is prioritised by investing in human capital through increasing training opportunities and valuing young farmers
Develop the quality of agricultural and forestry production	- Developing and modernising local infrastructures, especially irrigation infrastructures to save water and supply mountainous areas with it
Improvement of physical and telecommunication infrastructures	- Developing process/product innovation
Encourage entrepreneurship of agricultural and forestry businesses, and enhance generational renewal	- Improving the quality of local agricultural and forestry produce through improved commercialisation services and promoting local products and tourism

Result targets include 2,000 participants that successfully ended a training activity related to agriculture and/or forestry; a 4% increase in gross value added in supported holdings/enterprises; 805 holdings/enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques; and, €360 million of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards.

Specific modifications to results indicators have been made to take account of the amendments to the RDP including further improvement of water management and better management of manure storage in order to combat climate change. More specifically, in addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation, further support to improving efficiency of nitrogen fertiliser use and manure storage by supporting 23 holdings is provided (measure 121). Furthermore, under improved water management, 1,280 farm holdings will be supported in order to introduce water saving production techniques (measure 121). Finally, under water saving technologies, issues related to water management are supported through 10 additional operations (measure 125). For further information on specific indicators please refer to the indicator tables in the RDP.

**Axis 1 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €197,118,173<sup>3</sup>**



Following the 2009 RDP update, the total budget allocation under axis 1 is €197,118,173, including an additional €16,074,286 (€5,626,000 EAFRD + €10,448,286 national/regional public). The additional EAFRD contribution addresses issues related to the further improvement of water management (approximately €4.8 million) and better management of manure storage in order to combat climate change (approximately €0.8 million).

**Axis 2 objectives: Improving the environment and the countryside**

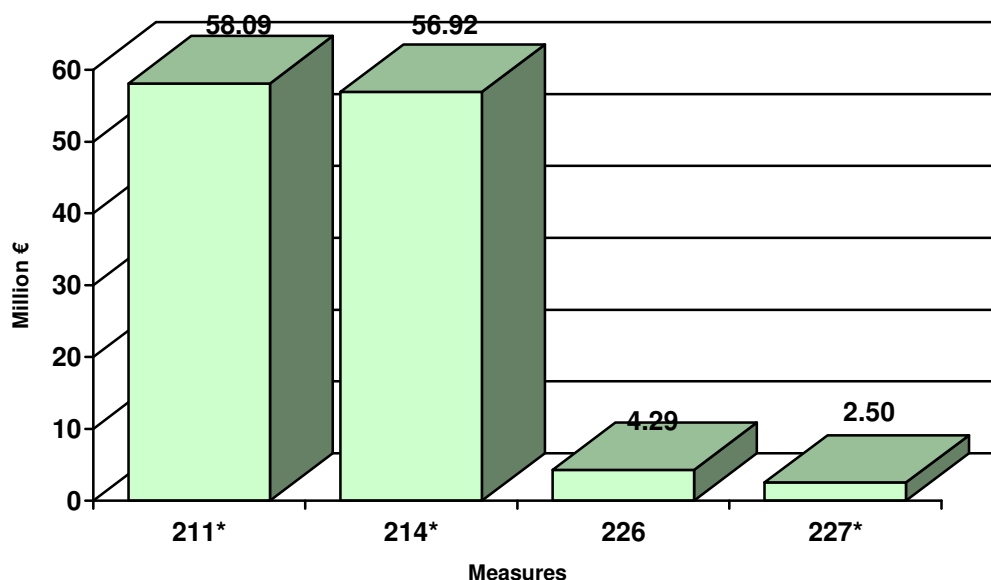
The table below provides an indication of the RDP's axis 2 priorities.

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Protection of the territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improvement of sustainable management of the territory to protect natural resources and value agro-forestry activities of high natural value and landscape diversity</li> <li>- Protection of the mountainous ecosystem in disadvantageous areas and support activities aiming at conserving biodiversity</li> <li>- Increase in agro-forestry activities to reduce GHG emissions</li> <li>- Introduction and development of organic and extensive farming methods</li> <li>- Protection of endangered species</li> <li>- Protection of forests</li> </ul>
Conservation of biodiversity and agricultural and forestry areas of high environmental value	
Protection of water resources (in terms of quality and quantity)	
Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	

Result targets include areas under successful land management contributing to biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry (91,000 ha); water quality (46,000 ha); mitigating climate change (7,000 ha); soil quality (8,000 ha); and, avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment (50,000 ha).

No modifications were made to axis 2 during the 2009 RDP update.

**Axis 2 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €121,809,822<sup>4</sup>**



Following the 2009 RDP update, the total budget amount for axis 2 is €121,809,822,

**Axis 3 objectives: Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy**

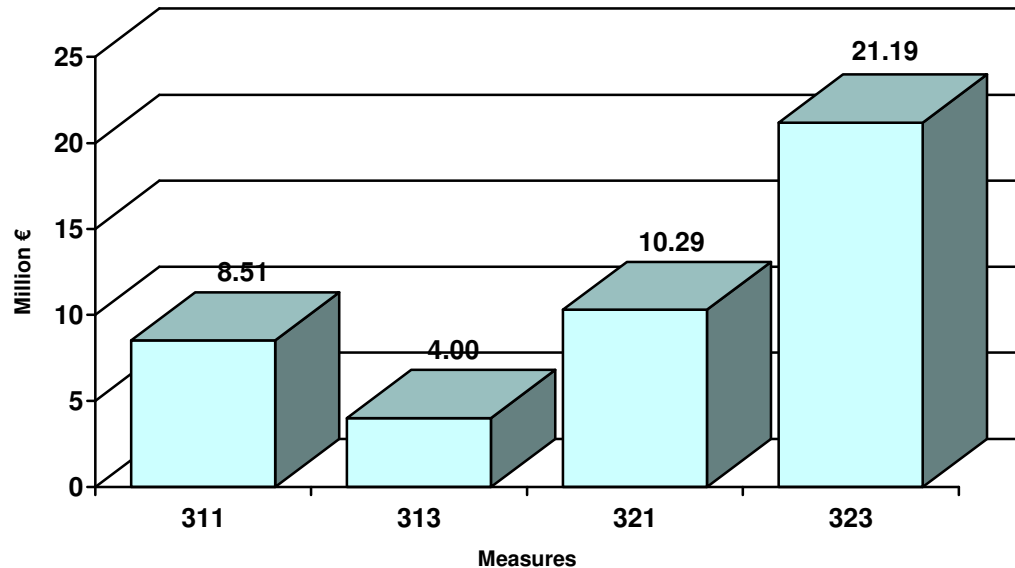
The table below provides an indication of the RDP's axis 3 priorities.

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Improve the attractiveness in rural areas for inhabitants and enterprises	- Encourage the creation and dissemination of services to the general public
Maintain and create employment opportunities and income in rural areas by concentrating on interventions in high natural valued areas and areas with great diversity with regards to its landscape and areas that are less competitive and/or subject to abandonment	- Favour an increase in human capital in rural areas through increased supply of training and information

Result targets include an increase of 3% in non-agricultural gross value added in supported businesses; 100 new employment opportunities; an increase of 2% in the additional number of tourists in the province; 53,000 inhabitants of rural areas will benefit from improved services; and, there will be a 10% increase in internet penetration in rural areas.

No modifications were made to axis 3 during the 2009 RDP update.

**Axis 3 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €43,993,586**



Following the 2009 RDP update, the total budget amount for axis 3 is €43,993,586.

#### **Axis 4 objectives: Leader**

The table below provides an indication of the RDP's axis 4 priorities.

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Strengthen the participation of local communities in defining rural development policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of a multi-sectoral approach in rural development</li> <li>- Improvement of quality of life in rural areas</li> <li>- Value and utilisation of the territory and local products</li> </ul>
Utilisation of endogenous resources in rural areas	

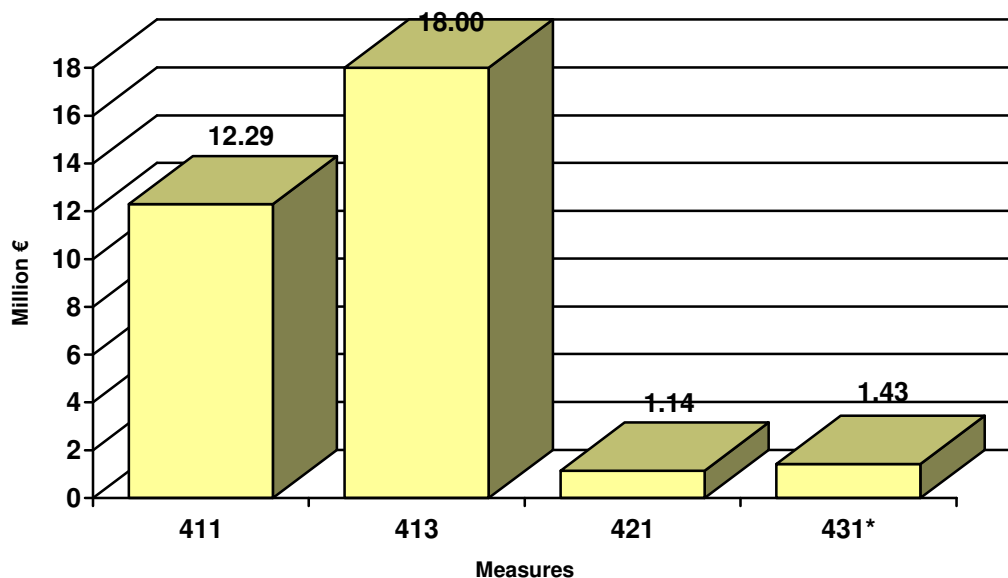
The axis 4 specific objectives are in line with the National Strategy Plan and methodologically support axes 1 and 3. The bottom-up approach reinforces the creation of and cooperation between LAGs.

Result targets include that through measure 431 approximately 7,000 inhabitants in rural areas will benefit from improved services. Other LEADER approach indicators have not been identified as the relevant measures have not yet been activated at local level.

No modifications were made to axis 4 during the 2009 RDP update.

Number of LAGs operational in the RDP areas as of March 2010 was one.

**Axis 4 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €32,857,143<sup>5</sup>**



Following the 2009 RDP update, the total budget amount for axis 4 is €32,857,143.

### Monitoring and evaluation strategy

The monitoring system is based on different phases and functions, such as the collection, elaboration and sorting out of data; financial, physical and procedural monitoring; acquisition, codification, validation and transfer of data; report production; accessing information; and, auto-evaluation. Furthermore, the MA (Managing Authority) and MC (Monitoring Committee) need to monitor the progress of the Programme, for this purpose, special indicators will be used. The MA also needs to put in place a computerised system that allows for the identification of all applications; the updating of individual interventions; quality assurance of the collected data; and, report production. In addition to CMEF indicators supplementary ones will be identified.

### Communication and publicity

The communication plan aims at becoming a decentralised service for the general public in the entire province. In fact, the plan is based on the needs of the population. The strategic objectives of the communication plan are to contribute to achieving the overall objectives of the RDP; actively involve professional organisations, economic parties from both the private and public sectors, social groups and associations in the Programme; and, give a homogeneous image of the actions taken throughout the province. The target groups are potential beneficiaries; provincial and local authorities; professional organisations; economic and social groups; NGOs, including organisations that promote environmental rights; and, contractors and project promoters together with the general public.



## Annex I – Measures

Measures selected by the RDP   Measures selected by the updated RDP  

<b>Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector</b>	<i>Promoting knowledge and improving human potential</i>	<b>111</b>	Vocational training and information actions
		<b>112</b>	Setting up of young farmers
		<b>113</b>	Early retirement
		<b>114</b>	Use of advisory services
		<b>115</b>	Setting up of management, relief and advisory services
	<i>Restructuring and developing physical potential and promoting innovation</i>	<b>121</b>	Modernisation of agricultural holdings
		<b>122</b>	Improvement of the economic value of forests
		<b>123</b>	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products
		<b>124</b>	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector
		<b>125</b>	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry
	<i>Quality of agricultural production and products</i>	<b>126</b>	Restoring agricultural production potential
		<b>131</b>	Meeting standards based on Community legislation
		<b>132</b>	Participation of farmers in food quality schemes
	<i>Transitional measures</i>	<b>133</b>	Information and promotion activities
		<b>141</b>	Semi-subsistence farming
<b>142</b>		Producer groups	
<b>Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside</b>	<i>Sustainable use of agricultural land</i>	<b>143</b>	Providing farm advisory and extension services
		<b>211</b>	Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas
		<b>212</b>	Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas
		<b>213</b>	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC
		<b>214</b>	Agri-environment payments
		<b>215</b>	Animal welfare payments
	<i>Sustainable use of forestry land</i>	<b>216</b>	Non-productive investments
		<b>221</b>	First afforestation of agricultural land
		<b>222</b>	First establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land
		<b>223</b>	First afforestation of non-agricultural land
		<b>224</b>	Natura 2000 payments
		<b>225</b>	Forest-environment payments
		<b>226</b>	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions
		<b>227</b>	Non-productive investments
		<b>Axis 3 - Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy</b>	<i>Diversify the rural economy</i>
<b>312</b>	Support for business creation and development		
<b>313</b>	Encouragement of tourism activities		
<i>Improve the quality of life in rural areas</i>	<b>321</b>		Basic services for the economy and rural population
	<b>322</b>		Village renewal and development
	<b>323</b>		Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
	<b>331</b>		Training and information
<b>Axis 4 - Leader</b>	<i>Implementing local development strategies</i>	<b>341</b>	Skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy
		<b>411</b>	Competitiveness
		<b>412</b>	Environment/land management
		<b>413</b>	Quality of life/diversification
		<b>421</b>	Implementing cooperation projects
<b>431</b>	Running the local action group, skills acquisition, animation		