



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

# Fact Sheet



## **Overview of the CAP Health Check and the European Economic Recovery Plan Modification of the RDPs**

Some facts and figures



## European Network for Rural Development

The European Network for Rural Development (EN RD) contributes to the efficient implementation of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) throughout the European Union (EU).

Each Member State has established a National Rural Network (NRN) which brings together the organisations and administrations involved in rural development.

At EU level, the EN RD ensures the networking of these national networks, organisations and administrations.

Find out more on the EN RD website (<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>)





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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Why the two policy packages?

On 20 November 2007, the Commission adopted its Communication “Preparing the Health Check (HC) of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform”<sup>1</sup> in order to assess the implementation of the 2003 CAP reform, and to introduce the necessary adjustments to the reform process preparing the European Union’s (EU) agriculture to adapt better to a rapidly changing environment. One year later, on 20 November 2008 the EU agriculture ministers reached a political agreement on the CAP Health Check, the aim of which is to modernise, simplify and streamline the CAP and remove restrictions on farmers, thus helping them to respond better to signals from the market and to face new challenges such as climate change, water management and bio-energy.

Additionally, as a response to the 2008 economic crisis, the Commission elaborated the European Economic Recovery Plan<sup>2</sup> (EERP). The strategic aims of the Recovery Plan are to help Europe prepare for when growth returns, so that the European economy is in tune with the demands of competitiveness and the needs of the future, as outlined in the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs. This will be achieved by pursuing the necessary structural reforms, supporting innovation, building a knowledge based economy and speeding up the shift towards a low carbon economy.

## 1.2 “New challenges” and support for broadband infrastructure

The Commission through its Communication “Preparing the Health Check of the CAP reform” identified several crucial New Challenges for European agriculture, lying in the areas of climate change, bio-energy, water management and biodiversity. Climate change is the pivotal challenge of them, influencing developments in the other areas. Additionally, the CAP Health Check agreement of 20 November 2008 introduced dairy restructuring as challenges to be addressed and innovation as a tool to facilitate the implementation of the environmental priorities of the new challenges (climate change, renewable energies, water management and biodiversity).

<sup>1</sup> COM(2007)722 final, Brussels 20.11.2007

<sup>2</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Council, A European Economic Recovery Plan, COM(2008) 800 final

EU agriculture is highly exposed to climate change since a wide range of concerns relate to uncertainties about precipitation patterns, extreme weather events, temperature levels, water availability, and soil conditions. Consequently, there is a need for adjustments to improve adaptation practices. EU agriculture has contributed more than other sectors to curbing green house gas emissions, mainly due to the improvement of production methods and diminishing cattle numbers. However, it will be called to contribute more in the future as part of the EU global strategy for curbing emissions.

The recent Green Paper<sup>3</sup> on the adaptation to climate change calls upon EU agriculture to contribute further to mitigating the effects of climate change. The EU renewable energy road-map<sup>4</sup> has set binding targets for the share of biofuels (10%) of overall consumption of petrol and diesel in transport and renewable energies (20%) in total fuel and energy consumption by 2020. These targets are closely linked to climate change mitigation objectives and are likely to have a significant impact on EU agriculture.

As already stated in the Commission’s Communication on water scarcity and droughts of June 2007, the HC provides an opportunity to further integrate water management issues into the relevant CAP instruments. It is essential for EU agriculture to have sustainable water management, otherwise the pressure on the quantity and quality of water for agriculture will increase considerably.

Furthermore, halting biodiversity decline remains a major challenge, and climate change and water demand increase that challenge. Member States are committed to stopping biodiversity decline by 2010, but this target has not been met, and agriculture has a key role to play in protecting biodiversity.

Research and innovation are crucial to address new environmental and productivity challenges, including second generation biofuels. Introducing innovation in water management, in production and use of renewable energies and protection of biodiversity, is a key factor in dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation and in promoting win-win solutions for competitiveness and the environment.

<sup>3</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Council, Adapting to climate change in Europe – options for EU action, COM(2007) 354 final, Brussels, 29.6.2007

<sup>4</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Council, Renewable Energy Road Map Renewable energies in the 21st century: building a more sustainable future, COM(2006) 848 final, Brussels, 10.1.2007



The dairy sector is singled out as it faces very severe challenges and makes a substantial contribution to maintaining the countryside through sustainable farming activity, especially in disadvantaged regions. Due to the phasing-out of the milk quota system, the sector will have to face structural adjustment as well as high production costs. Therefore, accompanying support measures are to be made available to dairy producers, in order to allow them to better adapt to new market conditions.

Finally, investments in broadband infrastructure are also considered crucial. They create significant direct and indirect employment and growth effects by allowing access to the internet, on-line services and many more opportunities for on-line marketing, promotion, employment, etc. The broadband strategy will be supported by public funds in order to provide broadband access to under-served and high cost areas where the market cannot deliver. The aim is to reach 100% coverage of high speed internet by 2013. This money will help to achieve the objectives of the digital agenda.

## 2 General overview

The HC and the EERP contribute an additional EUR 4.95 billion to the EAFRD budget for the 2007-2013 programming period, increasing the total from EUR 91 to 96 billion. The overall breakdown between the different axes remains broadly unaffected compared to the pre HC and EERP situation. The environmental Axis 2 *Improving the environment and the countryside* through land management remains predominant, being allocated

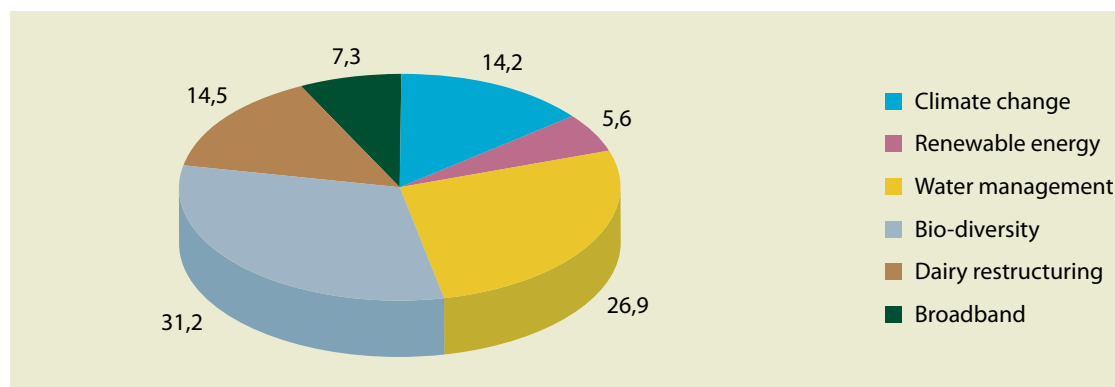
44.4% of the total EAFRD budget. Axis 1 *Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector* accounts for 33.6%; Axis 3 *Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity* for 13.3% and the Leader Axis for 5.9%. Finally, EUR 1.95 billion (2%) is devoted to technical assistance and EUR 645 million (0.7%) as direct payments for Bulgaria and Romania.

**Table 1. EAFRD contribution and Total public expenditure of the EU 2007-2013 RDPs before and after the adoption of the HC and the EERP**

EUR billion	Before	After
EAFRD	91.3	96.2
Total Public Expenditure	148.5 <sup>5</sup>	153.6

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of the additional HC and EERP budget by the different priorities. Member States (MS) decided on this use of money according to their needs. The majority of the funds are concentrated in the areas of bio-diversity (31.2% of all funds, EUR 1.5 billion) and water management (26.9%, EUR 1.3 billion). Dairy restructuring received 14.5% of the additional budget (EUR 0.7 billion), climate change measures account for 14.2% (EUR 0.7 billion) and renewable energy for 5.6% (EUR 0.3 billion). The development of broadband infrastructure remains an important policy issue for rural areas. Member States have thus decided to invest 35% of the EERP funds for broadband, which equates to EUR 360.4 million of the available EUR 1 billion.

**Figure 1. Breakdown of CAP Health-Check and EERP funds across new challenges (%)**



Source: DG AGRI press release – January 2010

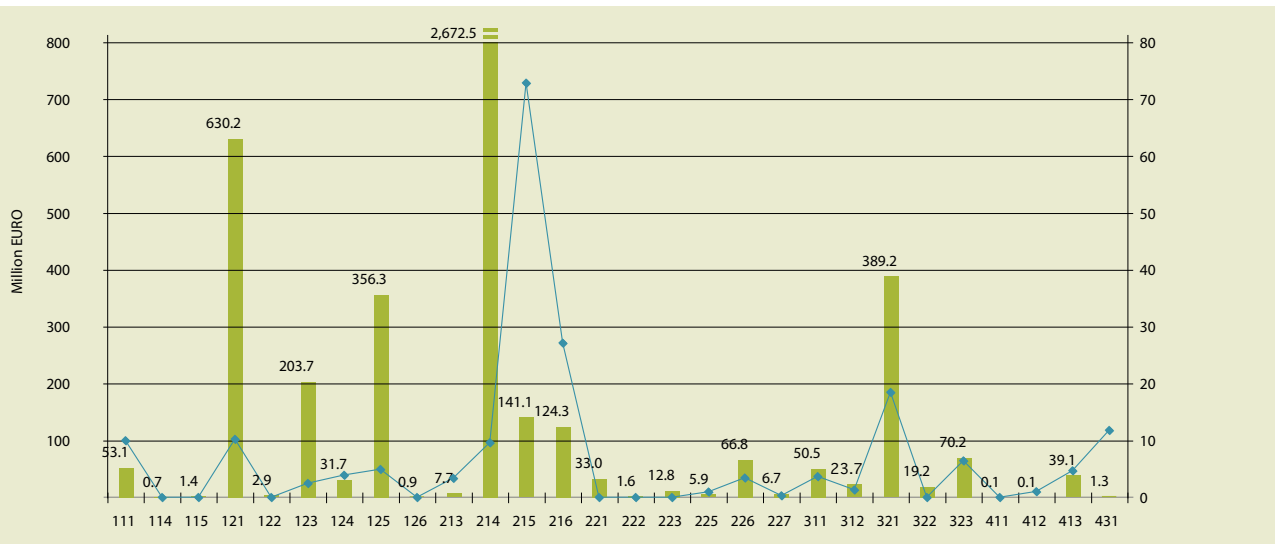
<sup>5</sup> Estimation



The new funds directed to the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) released by the HC and EERP are an addition to the overall EAFRD budget for addressing the specific challenges identified. In some cases, relevant operations were already part of the initial programmes and, their funding have been simply

increased through HC and EERP. However, in few cases the HC and EERP modification of the RDPs did not lead to an overall increase of the total public expenditure because the additional HC and EERP funds have been used to reduce national funding within the co-financing limits.

**Figure 2. Allocation of additional funds per measure (million EUR) and variation with respect to the previous budget allocation (%)**



Source: DG AGRI

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of the new funds allocation to the priorities by Member State:

- the climate change priority is well served in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Luxemburg, receiving over 35% of the allocated funds;
- the renewable energy priority is dominant in Bulgaria and Romania with more than 35% of their total;
- water management is strongly targeted (above 32%) in Denmark, Bulgaria, Greece, Belgium, Spain, Finland and France;
- biodiversity is strongly targeted in Cyprus, Slovakia, Ireland, United Kingdom, Spain and France (over 38%);
- dairy restructuring is considered the major priority in funding terms (at least 37%) in Austria, Luxemburg, Poland, Malta,

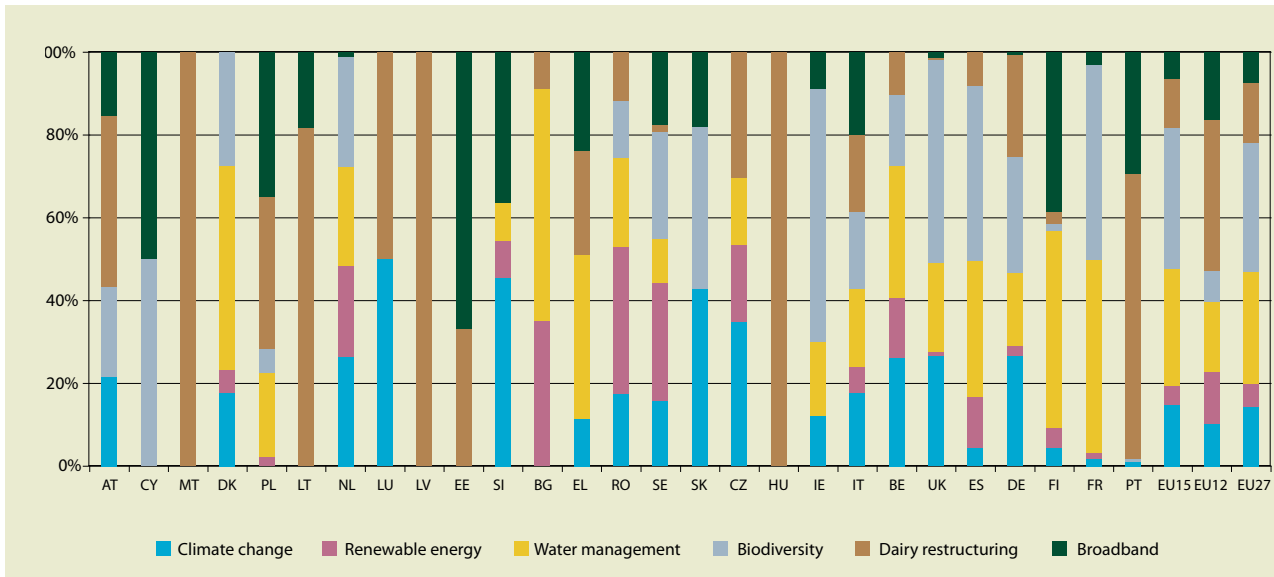
Latvia and Hungary. The three last MS are allocating 100% of the overall budget to the dairy sector;

→ finally (figure 4), broadband infrastructure is well represented in Greece, Finland, Sweden and Italy with almost all of their EERP envelope has been allocated to investments in broadband.



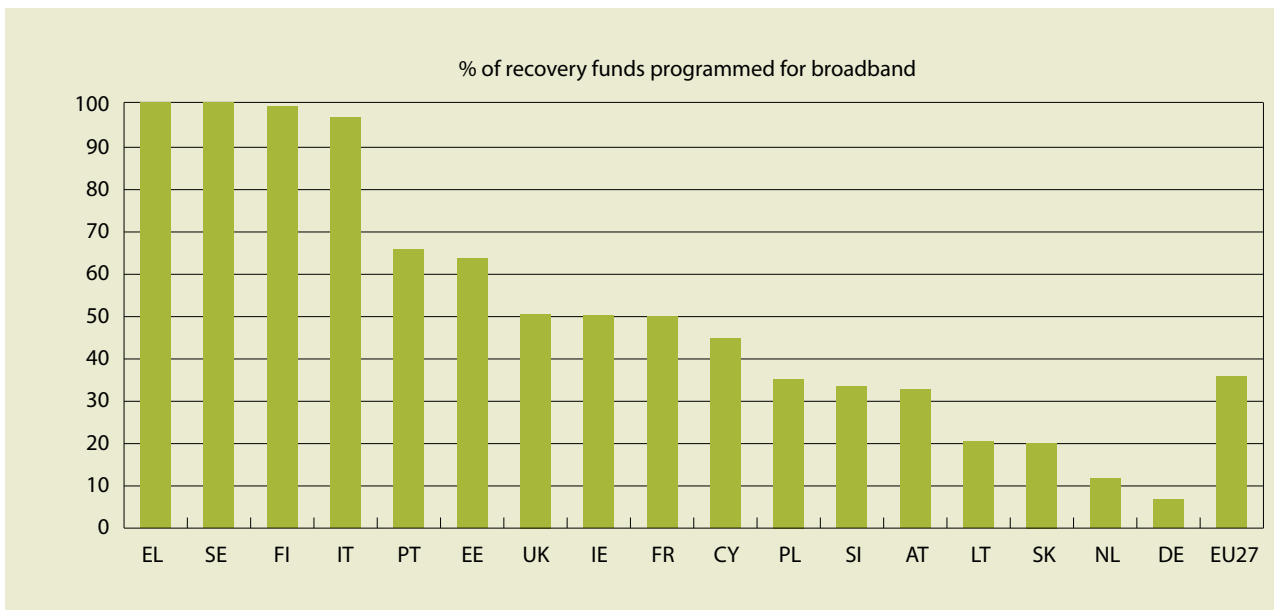


**Figure 3. Relative importance of the HC/EERP priorities in EU Member States (as % of additional funds allocated)**



Source: DG AGRI press release – January 2010

**Figure 4. Allocation of EERP for broadband infrastructure in rural areas (as % of all EERP budget)**



Source: DG AGRI



The breakdown of the additional HC and EERP funds at measure level (figure 3) shows that the additional budget is largely allocated to the agri-environment measure 214 which accounts for more than 54 % of the total additional budget (EUR 2,672 million). In order of budgetary importance, measure 121 *Modernisation of agricultural holdings* with EUR 630 million, measure 321 *Basic services for the economy and rural population* with EUR 389 million and measure 125 *Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry* with EUR 356 million follow agri-environment.

### 3 Result of reprogramming by priority area/ new challenge

An overview of the priorities introduced by the CAP HC and the EERP is provided below to show how they have been addressed by the MS RDPs following the reprogramming process. It concerns only the additional actions supported by the HC and EERP. Target output indicators aggregated at the EU level are used to illustrate the main measures and related actions designed to address the specific challenges and are summarised in table 2.

#### **Tackling climate change**

This priority is notably well targeted in several MS; particularly, Czech Republic, Luxemburg, Slovakia and Slovenia. The main measures and relevant operations that are implemented to address the climate change challenge are: measure 111 *Vocational training and information action* (40% of the participants in training will be involved in training actions on the climate change topics); measure 121 *Modernisation of agricultural holdings* where climate change is the second priority in terms of expected total investments (operations targeted to the improvement of energy efficiency and the efficiency of nitrogen fertilisers use); measure 123 *Adding value to agricultural and forestry products* (energy efficiency operations targeted to address climate change in Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy and Spain with an overall total investment budget of EUR 86 million); measure 214 *Agri-environment payments*, mainly targeted to address climate change through the implementation of environmentally friendly agricultural practices; the forestry measures in axis 2 through actions targeted to afforestation, creation of agro-forestry systems and conversion towards

more resistant forest types against fires, changing weather conditions, etc.

#### **Preventative actions against forest fires and climate-related natural disasters in Slovakia**

In Slovakia funds from the HC/EERP will be used to support the existing measure 226 *Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions* in view of the climate change priority. Global climate change is believed to be affecting Slovak forests health condition as well the, lower annual precipitation, several weeks or months without precipitation and the increase of maximum daily temperatures which have adversely influenced the health condition and resistance of spruce sites. This triggered the evolution of several generations of under-bark insects in higher altitudes and where they occurred only very sporadically in the past. These adverse elements are killing spruce and thus causing a decline of pine groves.

Re-afforestation of these cleared areas by wood plants with higher resistance potential and action of pests and the care for the established sites will be further supported by the additional HC/EERP financing.

#### **Promoting the use of renewable energy**

This priority has been addressed in 15 MS, particularly in Bulgaria, Romania and Sweden. Axis 1 (measures 121 *Modernisation of agricultural holdings*, 123 *Adding value to agricultural and forestry products* and 125 *Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry*) and axis 3 (measure 311 *Diversification into non-agricultural activities*) are mainly used to address the renewable energy challenge, with an expected total investment of EUR 528 million. The main type of operations programmed concern: installations/infrastructure for renewable energy using biomass and other renewable energy sources (solar and wind power, geothermal) – EUR 248 million of total investment; processing of agricultural/forest biomass for renewable energy – EUR 197 million of total investment; biogas production using organic waste (on farm and local production) – EUR 62 million of total investment.

#### **Operations programmed in Netherlands in view of the renewable energy priority**

In the Netherlands, additional funding from the HC/EERP will be used for financing actions on measures promoting production of agriculture based durable energy. A new sub-measure, 321b was included in the RDP aiming to improve and create the basic





services related to renewable energy, located in villages, in rural areas or on farm holdings.

The types of operations implemented under this new sub-measure are installations and infrastructure for renewable energy based on biomass or other renewable energy sources (solar, wind, geothermal); production of renewable energy mainly from agriculture biomass and supply to purchasers of that energy; facilities for local and regional transport of water, heat, biogas, waste, biomass, packaging and fibres (transport of manure is excluded under this measure); activities of rural communities and their partners for the dissemination of knowledge, stimulating cooperation on renewable energy, energy saving in the food supply chain and development of initiatives on renewable energy.

#### **Addressing the water management challenge**

Water management has been a priority for 18 MS which overall have allocated more than the 15% of their additional allocations to this challenge with Bulgaria, Denmark, France and Finland investing the highest proportion of their HC/EERP funds in this area. Axis 1 is mainly used to address this challenge with a total expected investment of EUR 839 million through measures 121 *Modernisation of agricultural holdings*, 123 *Adding value to agricultural and forestry products* and, particularly, measure 125 *Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry*. The key type of operations implemented are water savings technologies (e.g. efficient irrigation systems) with EUR 568 million of total investment and EUR 184 million of total investment concerning water storage (including water overflow areas). In axis 2, measure 216 *Non-productive investments* is addressing the water management through the restoration of wetlands (119 million EUR out of EUR 137 million of total investment devoted to water management under this measure). Other operations are also programmed to address this challenge such as: through measure 323 *Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage* the development of semi-natural water bodies (EUR 48 million of total investment) and meandering rivers (EUR 71 million of total investment); training actions under measure 111 *Vocational training and information actions* (24,000 participants expected to be involved in water management topic); agri-environment operations in measure 214 (with an expected area of 1.23 million ha involved) predominantly through soil management practices (e.g. catch crops, organic farming, conversion of arable land into permanent pasture), creation of natural banks and wetland restoration.

#### **Supporting water management in the Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic has selected to use part of the HC/EERP funding as additions to financial allocations of already existing measures and relevant operations in its RDP that contribute to water management challenge. Most of the water in the country's agricultural areas runs-off the landscape and water management depends practically exclusively on the rainfall. Around 40% of agricultural land is also endangered by water caused erosion. Water interception areas of natural origin, ponds and small water reservoirs play an important role.

The additional funds will further support the improvement of the capacity to use water more efficiently and to improve the capacity to store water. Water management is supported under Measure 125 *Land consolidation and actions for water storage* (including water overflow areas) and Measure 123 *Added value to agricultural and food products* through actions for installations for waste water treatment in processing and marketing. An additional €6.9 million from the HC/EERP envelope will be used to increase the budget allocated to these measures.

#### **Halting the decline in biodiversity**

16 MS have chosen to strengthen the effort towards this challenge, particularly, Ireland (61% of the new funds), Cyprus (50%), United Kingdom (49%) and France (47%). This challenge is only addressed to a very modest extent through axis 1. Some training under measure 111 *Vocational training and information actions* (where 16% of the beneficiaries are expected to receive training in such fields) will be devoted to biodiversity issues as well as some actions under measure 124 *Cooperation for development of new products, process and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and the forestry sector*. The main measure targeting the biodiversity challenge is the Agri-environment measure (214) with 5.3 million ha planned to be involved in agricultural and land-management practices addressing the safeguard of biodiversity, in particular: extensive forms of livestock management (1.6 million ha) and integrated and organic production (1.6 million ha). Measure 216 is also addressing biodiversity as is measure 323 (EUR 116 million of total investment), especially through land use change related actions (extensive grassland management) and construction/management of biotopes/habitats, particularly in Germany.



### Biodiversity actions in Castilla la Mancha

As regards the protection of biodiversity, the region of Castilla la Mancha applies this priority following the creation of a specific sub-measure 111.2 *Information and knowledge dissemination about forest wild fauna and flora for their sustainable use*, aimed mainly at improving the capabilities of those involved in forestry. The aims and targets of the new sub-measure are to improve the professional capabilities of persons dedicated to forestry work, the use of work methods related to the existing biodiversity and conservation and improvement of the landscape and to increase and spread the knowledge on biological processes in the environment. The types of actions envisaged are diffusion of knowledge through courses, seminars, workshops, demonstrative projects, publications, technical guides and information sheets and booklets.

### Restructuring the dairy sector

Almost all MS have taken into consideration the restructuring of the dairy sector in view of the phasing out of the milk quotas as a priority to be addressed through the additional allocation of funds. In certain cases (Malta, Latvia, Hungary) 100% of the additional EAFRD/EERP budget has been devoted to this priority. Axis 1 measures are the main instruments to address the dairy challenge with an overall total investment expected of EUR 1,386 million (measures 121 and 123). The specific actions programmed relate to: support related to dairy production (EUR 1,116 million of total investments) and improvements in processing and marketing related to dairy (EUR 270 million of total investments). Measure 215 *Animal welfare* has been programmed by several MS (Austria, Germany and Hungary) to support dairy restructuring. This measure accounts for EUR 141 million of the HC/EERP budget.

### Support to the dairy sector in Thuringia

In Thuringia, Germany 20% of the agricultural production is related to milk. However, milk producing holdings need special support to manage the necessary alignment before the phasing-out of the milk quota in 2015. It is expected that the economic situation of the milk producers will worsen due to phasing out. To address this challenge, additional funds from the HC/EERP envelope were allocated to support the dairy sector through the modification of the existing measure 121 *Modernisation of agricultural holdings* with a new sub-measure *Agro-investment support programme for holdings with livestock breeding*. The impacts that are estimated due to the special support of the milk produc-

ers are the improvement of efficiency, rationalisation and lower production costs and the retention of value-added at the regional level and within the specific production-marketing chains in the milk sector.

### Investing in Broadband infrastructure

The overall amount of additional funds released by the CAP HC and the EERP allocated to the broadband priority is EUR 360.4 million, which corresponds to the 35.7% of the EERP amount injected-into rural development. 17 MS (37 RDPs in total) have allocated EERP money to the broadband priority with Greece, Finland, Sweden and Italy utilising all or almost all of their EERP envelope to investments in broadband. The EAFRD budget will be supplemented by national/regional and private co-funding. This is expected to raise the overall volume of investments to some EUR 687.9 million, of which 52.4% is the EAFRD contribution. The expected total volume of investments generated by the additional amounts will be split between the three categories of investments in broadband infrastructure in rural areas as follows:

- Creation and enabling of access to broadband infrastructure: EUR 383.4 million (55.7% of all investments);
- Upgrade of existing broadband infrastructure: EUR 175.5 million (25.5% of all investments)
- Laying down passive broadband infrastructure: EUR 129.1 million (18.8% of all investments)

### “New Generation Broadband Internet in rural areas” in mainland Portugal

In mainland Portugal, the priority given to “broadband Internet infrastructure in rural areas” will be supported with an EAFRD contribution of EUR 30 million by creating a new action 3.6 *New Generation Broadband Internet in rural areas* under measure 321 *Basic services for the economy and rural population*. In those areas where this measure is to intervene, not only there are currently no New Generation Broadband networks but there was no expectation that any will be built and be fully operational within the next 5 years.

The objectives of the new action are to provide access to New Generation Broadband services (40 Mbps) to the population and to economic agents in rural areas; to increase the competitiveness of enterprises and job creation in rural areas by providing innovative services based on New Generation Broadband networks; to contribute towards the socio-economic development of rural areas; and to fight e-exclusion.



**Table 2. Selection of main relevant target indicators (outputs) per priority for the HC/EERP budget defined in the Rural Development Programmes**

<i>Priority/indicators</i>	<i>Unit of measure</i>	<i>Value</i>
<b>Climate Change</b>		
Improvement of energy efficiency	Total volume of investments <sup>6</sup> (million EUR)	243
Improve efficiency of nitrogen fertiliser use	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	104
Number of participants in training activities	% of participants in CC related topics	40%
Soil management practices (measure 214)	Number of ha supported (million ha)	1.4
Extensive livestock (measure 214)	Number of ha supported (million ha)	2.6
Afforestation and the establishment of agro-forestry systems	Number of ha supported (ha)	10,000
	Programmed expenditure (EAFRD – million EUR)	47
<b>Renewable energy</b>		
Installations/infrastructure for renewable energy using biomass and other renewable energy sources (solar and wind power, geothermal)	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	248
Processing of agricultural/forest biomass for renewable energy	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	197
Biogas production using organic waste (on farm and local production)	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	62
<b>Water management</b>		
Water storage (including water overflow areas) – Axis 1	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	184
Water savings technologies (e.g. efficient irrigation systems) – Axis 1	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	568
Wetland restoration (measure 216)	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	119
Meandering rivers (measure 323)	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	71
<b>Biodiversity</b>		
Extensive forms of livestock management (measure 214)	Number of ha supported (million ha)	1.65
Integrated and organic production (measure 214)	Number of ha supported (million ha)	1.58
Land use change (extensive grassland management) (measures 216 and 323)	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	76
<b>Restructuring of dairy sector</b>		
Investments related to dairy production (measure 121)	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	1,116
Improvements in processing and marketing related to dairy sector (measure 123)	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	270
<b>Broadband</b>		
Creation and enabling of access to broadband infrastructure	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	383
Upgrade of existing broadband infrastructure	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	175
Laying down passive broadband infrastructure	Total volume of investments (million EUR)	129

<sup>6</sup> Total amount (= the sum of all public and private expenditure) of all the tangible and/or intangible investments related to the supported operations.



## 4 Follow-up of the implementation of the HC/EERP priorities and the related budget

The Health Check underlined the importance of the core environmental challenges for rural areas. There is a clear link between agriculture, the environment, biodiversity, climate change and the sustainable management of the natural resources such as water and land. Moreover, agriculture remains important for the positive economic and social development of the EU's rural areas. Europe's farmers deliver public goods which benefit society as a whole. Thus the priorities defined by the HC/EERP will remain valid post-2013.

The additional resources resulting from the application of the compulsory modulation will be devoted by the MS to reinforce EU priorities in the above-mentioned fields in the period from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2015. The Community support for the operations addressing the "New Challenges" will be directed through the current RDPs approved.



## 5 Legal background HC/EERP and further information

### REGULATIONS

→ Council Regulation (EC) No 72/2009 of 19 January 2009 on modifications to the Common Agricultural Policy by amending Regulations (EC) No 247/2006, (EC) No 320/2006, (EC) No 1405/2006, (EC) No 1234/2007, (EC) No 3/2008 and (EC) No 479/2008 and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 1883/78, (EEC) No 1254/89, (EEC) No 2247/89, (EEC) No 2055/93, (EC) No 1868/94, (EC) No 2596/97, (EC) No 1182/2005 and (EC) No 315/2007

→ Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 of 19 January 2009 establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1290/2005, (EC) No 247/2006, (EC) No 378/2007 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003

→ Council Regulation (EC) No 74/2009 of 19 January 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

→ Council Decision of 19 January 2009 amending Decision 2006/144/EC on the Community strategic guidelines for rural development (programming period 2007 to 2013)

An overview of the "Health Check" of the Common Agricultural Policy can be found on DG AGRI's website at: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/healthcheck/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/healthcheck/index_en.htm)

More information about the RDP modifications with the additional funds from the HC and EERP can be found on the EN RD website (RDP summaries section): <http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>

# The European Network for Rural Development ONLINE

<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD). At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Commission logo and the text "European Network for Rural Development". Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for "European Commission", "Agriculture and Rural Development", "Rural Development", and "EN RD".

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- HOME**: A vertical menu on the left with links for "RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY", "NATIONAL RURAL NETWORKS", "ENRD THEMATIC INITIATIVES", "ENRD LIBRARY", and "EN RD EVENTS AND MEETINGS".
- European Network for Rural Development**: A central text block explaining the ENRD's role in supporting the efficient implementation of Rural Development Programmes across the EU. It mentions that each Member State has established a National Rural Network (NRR) and that the ENRD facilitates networking between these networks.
- EN RD news**: A list of recent news items, including:
  - REMINDER: Registrations open for "Semi-subsistence farming" seminar in Sibiu**: An announcement for a seminar in Sibiu, Romania, held on 13-15 October.
  - 12th August 2010: Issue 2 of Rural Review now available in 6 languages**: A notice that the second issue of the Rural Review is available in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, and Polish.
  - 10th August 2010: Rur@l News issue 9 now available in 6 languages**: A notice that the ninth issue of the Rur@l News newsletter is available for download in six languages.
  - 30th July 2010: LAGs invited to attend Rural Cooperation Fair**: An invitation for Local Action Groups (LAGs) to attend a fair in Edinburgh on 23-24 September 2010.
  - 29th July 2010: Thematic Working Group 4 meets in Brussels**: A notice that the fourth meeting of the Thematic Working Group 4 (TWG4) took place in Brussels on 27th July.
  - 22nd July 2010: Rural Development Day at Libramont Fair**: A notice that a Rural Development Day was held at the Libramont Agricultural, Forestry and Agri-Pool Fair on 23-26 July.
  - 16th July 2010: CAP post 2013 debate held in Brussels**: A notice that the CAP post 2013 conference took place in Brussels on 15-20 July.
  - 10th July 2010: Survey on LAGs dealing with hemp**: A notice that the Walloon Hemp Association is conducting a survey on LAGs in Belgium.
- CALENDAR**: A section on the right side of the page with a "Rural Events" icon.
- JOIN OUR MAILING LIST**: A button with a social media icon.
- CAP PUBLIC DEBATE POST 2013**: A button.
- RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARIES**: A button.
- NATIONAL RURAL NETWORKS GATEWAY**: A button.
- EU RURAL REVIEW**: A button.
- LEADER COOPERATION GUIDE**: A button.
- LEADER COOPERATION OFFERS**: A button.

At the bottom of the page, there is a "Notice about site language" stating that the site is currently only available in English. There is also a "More EN RD news" link and a "EN RD Privacy Statement" link.



European Commission

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## European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

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