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[First 2014-2020 RDPs approved!](#) ^[1]

The first nine Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) of the new programming period 2014-2020 have been approved by the European Commission. The [three national RDPs](#) ^[2] for Poland, Austria and Denmark were given the green light on 12 December. Approval of a [further six RDPs](#) ^[3] from Germany, Finland and Portugal was announced on 16 December.

The news means that nine programmes covering 22% of the EU Rural Development budget 2014-2020 have already been approved. In total, 118 RDPs will be put in place for the new programming period, with a further 15-20 expected to be adopted in the first Quarter of 2015.

RDPs aim to achieve common economic, environmental and social objectives for rural areas in ways that are specific to their situation. Speaking on 12 December, the European Commissioner, Phil Hogan, highlighted the priority given in the [RDP for Poland](#) ^[4] to “create more than 22 000 jobs”, in the [RDP for Denmark](#) ^[5] to “fostering innovation, with the objective of creating almost 1 000 green jobs”, and in the [RDP for Austria](#) ^[6] to “environment and climate concerns”.

Source:

- EU institutions

Publication date:

17/12/2014

“Our joint work starts here!” highlights ENRD networking event ^[7]

National Rural Networks, the ENRD Contact Point and DG AGRI launched their joint work towards common network objectives at the first networking meeting of the 2014-2020 period in Brussels, 5-6 November.

Participants called for coordination and co-operation of activities between the ENRD CP and National Rural Networks as well as between the three relevant European support services: the ENRD CP; the EIP-AGRI Service Point; and the Evaluation Helpdesk.

ENRD CP Team Leader, Paul Soto, concluded that “Our objective for the new period is to move networking up a gear, really making sure that every activity contributes to the shared network objectives of improving RDP implementation, increasing the involvement of rural stakeholders; and communicating about RDPs.”

For more information on the planned structure and activities of the ENRD over the new period please see the documents available in [this folder](#) ^[8].

Source:

- ENRD Contact Point

Publication date:

13/11/2014

New Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development: Phil Hogan ^[9]

As part of the new [Juncker Commission](#) ^[10] - which officially took up office on 1st November 2014 - [Phil Hogan](#) ^[11] has started work as the new European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Commissioner Hogan attended his first meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 10 November 2014.

Source:

- EU institutions

Publication date:

13/11/2014

ELO Awards - two end-of-November deadlines ^[12]

Two awards run by the European Landowners' Organization ([ELO](#) ^[13]) and its partners to recognise quality land management practices and tools are accepting applications until 30 November 2014.

The [Land and Soil Management Award](#) [14] aims to reward and highlight practices which contribute to achieving the EU's soil protection goals (including those of the CAP). The Anders Wall Award is for individuals who have made a special contribution to the rural environment, heritage or economy in the EU.

More details on the prizes and conditions of entry can be found on the ELO's Awards page.

Source:

- European stakeholders

Publication date:

13/11/2014



[Tales of European Forests](#) [15]

DG AGRI has published a new brochure [Tales of our Forest](#) [16] bringing together cultural references to forests from across Europe alongside children's drawings from its 2013 Forest Drawing Competition.

The brochure aims to raise awareness of the importance of forests for Europe, particularly in the context of the [EU Forest Strategy](#) [17] approved in 2013. Paper copies can also be [ordered](#) [16] in all 24 EU languages for free.

Source:

- EU institutions

Publication date:

13/11/2014

[EU promotes European agricultural products](#) [18]

The European Commission has approved [27 information programmes](#) [19] promoting a variety of EU agricultural products to EU and non-EU countries. The programmes have a total budget of EUR 77.4 million over three years.

Outgoing EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloş said: *"I am pleased to confirm our support for these new promotion programmes... I hope they will boost consumption and sales at this difficult time."*

The programmes were approved on 30 October 2014 following the [adoption by the European Council](#) [20] of a related Regulation on 13 October 2014. The main objective of the [Regulation](#) [21] is to enhance the competitiveness of the EU agricultural sector by increasing awareness of the merits of EU agricultural products and of the high standards applicable to production methods in the EU.

Source:

- EU institutions

Publication date:

13/11/2014

[New EU Climate Package points to mitigation potential of agriculture](#) [22]

The EU's new [2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework](#) [23] has highlighted the mitigation potential of the agricultural sector for achieving the EU's greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The new Framework (agreed on 23 October 2014) has endorsed a binding EU target of reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030.

Although there is not a specific reductions target for agriculture, the new package specifically calls on the European Commission to “examine the best means of encouraging the sustainable intensification of food production, while optimising the sector's contribution to greenhouse gas mitigation and sequestration, including through afforestation”.

Source:

- EU institutions

Publication date:

13/11/2014

[Lithuanian LEADER event stresses community development](#)

[24]

A Lithuanian event celebrating 10 years' of LEADER has highlighted the importance of community development as a key driver of rural development.

The event was an opportunity to reflect on the successes and learning of the past 10 years of LEADER with an eye to the future. Participants reflected on the fact that a majority of projects have focused on infrastructure elements and exchanged views on the need to build on and strengthen work to put community development at the heart of rural development in the new period.

The event saw a celebratory awards dinner at which prizes were given to the best LAG and the best LEADER projects of the past 10 years in Lithuania in categories including community development, youth projects and entrepreneurship.

Source:

- European stakeholders

Publication date:

13/11/2014

[New guide to H2020 agriculture research funding](#) [25]

Find out all you need to know about the opportunities for European funding under Horizon 2020 ([H2020](#) [26]) for research linked to agriculture, food and forestry by reading a new guide published by the European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability ([EIP-AGRI](#) [27]).

The new guide '[Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 - Calls 2015](#) [28]' highlights the opportunities for demand-driven innovation projects in agriculture, food and forestry through thematic networks or multi-actor research projects. It presents the 12 research topics under the 2015 H2020 call linked to agriculture, food and forestry and directs readers to dedicated research partner search tools.

See also the Horizon 2020 [Info Day](#) [29] on "Societal Challenge 2 - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the Bioeconomy". The event is being organised by DG Research in Brussels, 21 November 2014.

Source:

- EIP-AGRI

Publication date:

13/11/2014

[The reformed CAP provides "Mountains of Opportunities"](#) [30]

The IX European Mountain Convention has explored how the reformed CAP can contribute to improving the competitiveness of mountain supply chains and territories, notably through territorial marketing and valorisation of mountain products.

The Convention facilitated exchanges between mountain LAGs. It was held in Bilbao, 22-24 October, under the title [Quality from the Mountains: Prosperity for People and Territories](#) [31]. The event took place as part of the CAP communication campaign "[A new CAP: Mountains of opportunities](#) [32]," co-financed by DG AGRI.

Source:

- EU institutions

Publication date:

13/11/2014

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- [10] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019_en
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- [12] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/elo-awards-two-end-november-deadlines_en
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- [24] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/lithuanian-leader-event-stresses-community-development_en
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- [29] https://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=2E3B312F-D668-730D-BF3CD751F1332046&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook
- [30] https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/reformed-cap-provides-%E2%80%99mountains-opportunities%E2%80%9D_en

- [31] <https://www.euromontana.org/en/events/quality-from-the-mountains-prosperity-for-people-and-territories-5/>
- [32] <https://www.euromontana.org/en/grant-agreement-signed-a-new-cap-mountains-of-opportunities/>
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