

Policy in Action

What is rural development?

Rural development is about meeting the challenges and opportunities facing rural areas. It is about ensuring rural prosperity and quality of life, but it also concerns the whole of society; it is about the quality and safety of our food, the health of our environments, and jobs and growth.

EU Rural Development policy

European Union Member States have sought to respond to the 21st century challenges and opportunities facing rural areas by developing a common EU [Rural Development policy](#) [1] as part of the [Common Agricultural Policy](#) [2] (CAP).

This section of the ENRD website explains the broader framework in which the EU's Rural Development policy operates in the 2014-2020 programming period; provides a comprehensive list of the relevant legislative acts; and overviews the policy implementation. Finally, it provides facts and figures on the main elements of the policy.

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