

EU 28

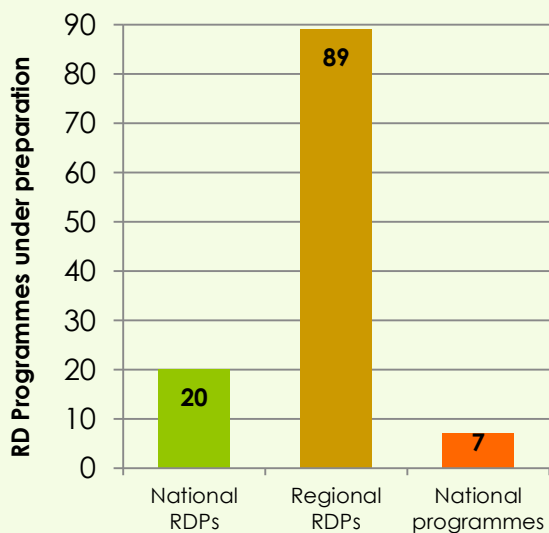


State-of-play of RDPs preparations¹:

In order to meet the challenges and priorities for rural development in the 2014-2020 programming period, EU Member States (MS) and Regions are designing and developing a new generation of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). This is a process that envisages many steps, from SWOT analysis and needs' assessment to planning of measures and resources, and a number of strategic choices are implied.

For the period 2014-2020, the Partnership Agreement (PA) - a document prepared at national level with the involvement of the relevant socio-economic partners - sets out the MS' strategy, priorities and arrangements for using ESI funds (European Structural and Investments funds), including the EAFRD. The PA is approved by the Commission following assessment in close dialogue with the MS.

All MS have submitted official versions of their PA before the end of April. Within 3 months after adoption of the PA, each Managing Authority (MA) can submit its RDP to be formally approved by the Commission.



Indicatively, **109 RDPs** are under preparation (see Fig. 1). This number includes **20 national RDPs** and **89 regional RDPs**. In addition, four regionalised MS (France, Germany, Italy and Spain) intend to submit **7 National Programmes** setting out their National Rural Network and possibly covering other topics such as risk management, innovation and technical assistance. By this way, MS are preparing **in total 116 programmes**.

In the following sections you can find more information on the main milestones in the preparations of the 116 programmes for 2014-2020 as well as their indicative timing.

Fig. 1 Indicative number of EU RDPs for the 2014-2020 programming period.

Submission of SWOT Analysis

The analysis of the situation in terms of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) is integral part of the RDPs. It is the basis on which national and regional authorities identify the needs of the whole programming area, define their programme's priorities and content in accordance with the overarching EU priorities.

25 MS (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and couple of regions in Spain) have sent their SWOT analyses to the Commission by the first half of May 2014. In all regions in Germany the SWOT analysis is still in process of finalisation. The remaining 2 MS (Greece and Ireland) and the rest of Spain regions plan to complete their SWOT analyses during the first half of 2014.

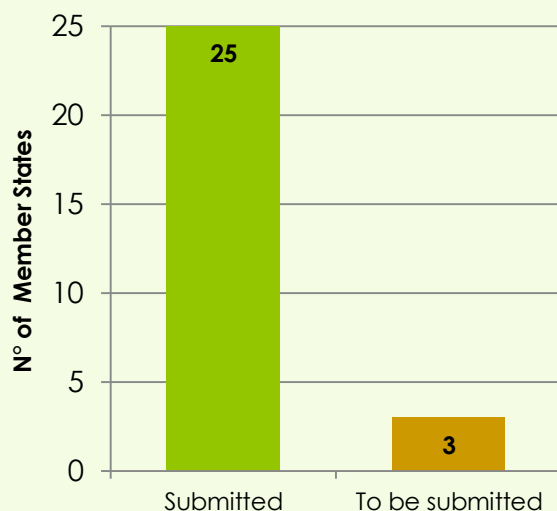


Fig. 2 Indicative allocation of submitted SWOT analyses by MS

¹**Disclaimer:** The data presented in this summary are based on the information provided by the MS to DG AGRI (last update: 11 May 2014). The scope of this presentation is to provide indication on the process of preparation for 2014-2020 RDPs and it does not prejudice timing and actions of the EU Member States, or the final number of programmes.

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Submission of 2014-2020 Rural Development Programmes (1st drafts)

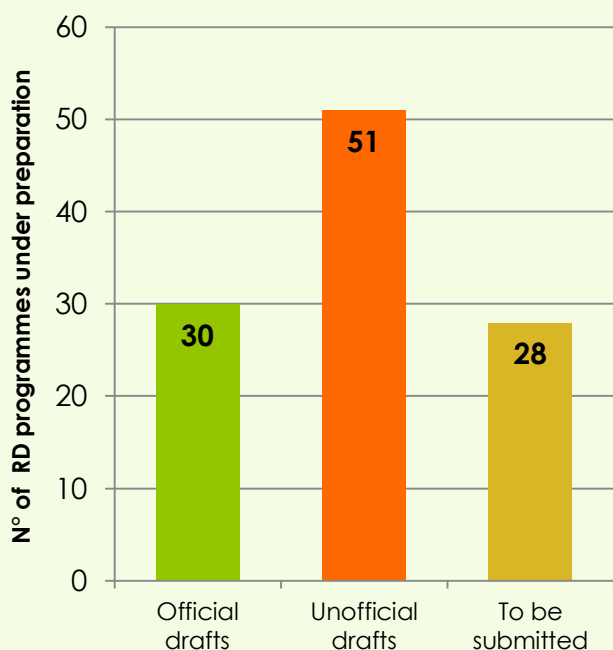


Fig. 3 Indicative allocation of the first RDP drafts submitted to the Commission

Based on the results of the SWOT analysis and the ex-ante evaluation each MA submits to the Commission a proposal for RDP which is designed to meet the needs of the rural areas they serve.

Submission and approval of the RDPs is the final stage before implementation.

Following the established procedure, **30 RDPs** (Austria, Belgium /1 regional RDP/, Denmark, Finland /1 regional RDP/, France /21 regional RDPs/, Latvia, Poland, Portugal /3 regional RDPs/) have already been submitted officially to the Commission.

In addition to these, **51 RDPs** have been sent for consultation as preliminary and informal versions and it is expected the rest **28 RDPs** to be submitted by July 2014.

Inclusion of Thematic sub-programmes

The new EAFRD regulation opens up the possibility for the RDPs to include thematic sub-programmes to address specific needs in areas of great significance for the MS or Region, and contribute to the achievement of RD priorities.

The MS that intend to include thematic sub-programmes in their 2014-2020 Rural Development Programmes are Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy (8 regional RDPs) and Romania. In some Spanish and Italian regions reflections are still in progress; the rest of MS are not using this option.

The most considered subjects for sub-programmes are mountain farming and young farmers (or combination of both) followed by short supply chains and small farms.

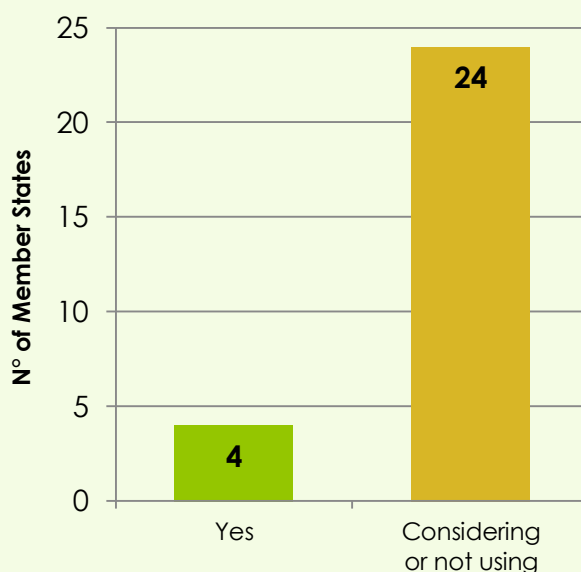


Fig. 4 Indicative allocation of MS showing their intention to establish sub-programmes

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Use of Community-led Local Development multi-fund

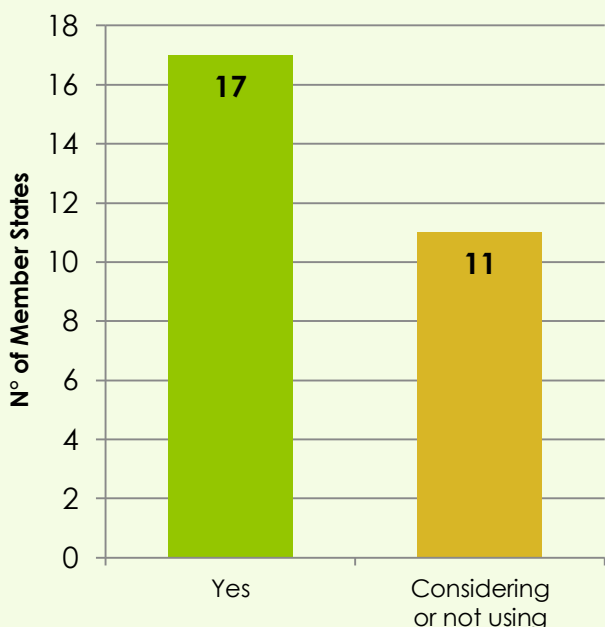


Fig. 5 Indicative numbers of MS to make use of multi funded LDS

In the new programming period, the LEADER approach is going to be part of the Common approach to Community-Led Local Development (CLLD). Under the CLLD approach LAGs from the rural areas will have the opportunity to implement “multi-funded” Local Development Strategies (LDS) that make possible various EU policies to contribute to local development according to their vocation and objectives.

The MS that decided to take advantage of the possibility to implement multi-funded LDSs are Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany (1 regional RDP), Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy (4 regional RDPs), Finland (1 regional RDP), France (4 regional RDPs), Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom (3 regional RDPs). The rest MS still do not have a position or do not intend to use multi-funded LDS.

Among the most considered options for possible combination of funds are EAFRD with EMFF, followed by the ERDF and ESF.

Utilisation of additional Financial Instruments

Under the Common Provisions Regulation, the ESI funds will be able to support financial instruments (FI) in order to address specific situations which do not give rise to sufficient funding from market sources. Based on ex-ante analysis and in accordance with the objectives of the relevant programme, MS should therefore decide on the most appropriate forms to implement FI that address the specific needs of the target regions.

Possible options for additional FI are guarantee funds, credit funds, interest-rate subsidies, refundable advances, revolving funds, venture capital funds, etc.

The MS that decided to include FI within their 2014-2020 RDPs are Bulgaria, Estonia, France (2 regional RDPs), Germany (2 regional RDPs), Hungary, Italy (8 regional RDPs), Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands and Romania. In 8 MS (Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Croatia, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia,) and some regions of Germany, France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom the reflections are still on-going. The rest of the MS and regions do not intend to use them.

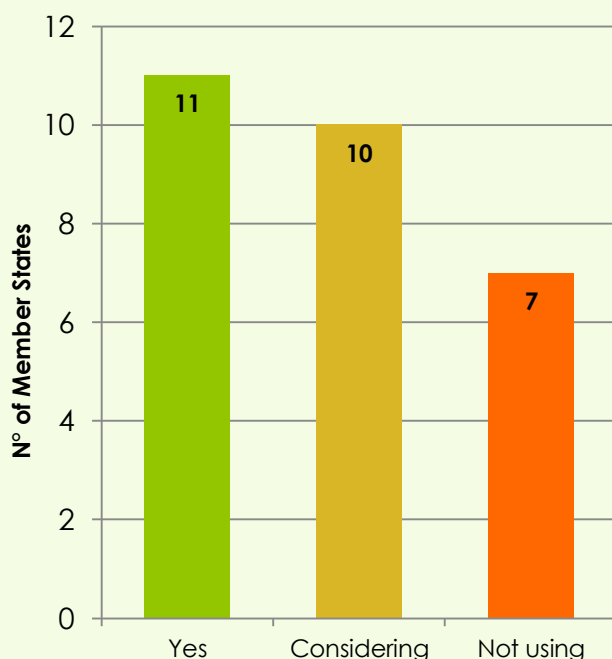


Fig. 6 Indicative allocation of MS showing their intention to utilise financial instruments