



## **7<sup>th</sup> international LANDNET Conference 5 - 7 October 2015, Ankara, Turkey**

### **EU Funds as an Incentive for Rural Development and Land Consolidation**

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## EU POLICIES AND LAND TENURE

The EU Commission recognizes:

- the crucial importance of land issues for the economic and social development, employment and poverty reduction, growth and governance
- the right and access to land is an important condition for economic and social life in urban and rural areas
- land tenure as a complex problem, combining different issues of social, economic and political character and multiple dimension



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Land policy it is an integral part of other policy areas, such as:

- property rights and land tenure systems
- land administration and governance
- local government and decentralization
- taxation
- environment
- land use planning
- rural development
- citizenship, human rights and social justice
- conflicts and post-conflicts recovery
- gender equality
- poverty reduction



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## CAP & “Europe 2020” Strategy

- CAP should provide a clear economic perspective to farmers, integrating environmental dimensions and creating conditions to maintain a viable agriculture across Europe
- Rural development is perceived as crucial policy to achieve sustainable, smart and inclusive growth in all regions across Europe



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## CAP contributes to the accomplishment of EU 2020 Strategy

- Smart growth - It will be achieved through introduction and implementation of new technologies and innovation, research and development, education, training and life-long learning, changing farming structures, improving production systems
- Sustainable growth - It requires enhancing the competitiveness and to create conditions for efficient use of natural resources, preservation of the natural environment, combating climate change, preservation of the water, the air and the biodiversity
- Inclusive growth - It is linked to economic, social and territorial cohesion. It could be achieved through creating conditions for employment in rural areas, especially in less-favored areas, fighting poverty and stimulating the development of additional activities, using opportunities of rural areas and the acquisitions of additional skills



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## **Continuity of rural development policy:**

- **shared financing, which combines EU, Member States and private contributions**
- **strategic multi-annual planning**
- **optional measures grouped by themes**
- **based on six priorities (formerly 4 axes)**



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## **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development**

**Six priorities for rural development in accordance with the relevant Thematic Objectives of the Common Strategic Framework 2014 - 2020:**

- **fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas;**
- **enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests;**
- **promoting food chain organizations, processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture;**
- **restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry;**
- **promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors;**
- **promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas**



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## European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

### Measures in support of land consolidation:

- a) Measures related to infrastructure in support of land consolidation
- b) Measures that create necessary conditions for implementing land consolidation, e.g. institution building, planning, training, etc.
- c) Measures that increase the value of consolidated land (direct incentives)
- d) Measures that benefit from land consolidation through release of scarce resources, e.g. land and labour (indirect incentive)



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- Rural development measures related to infrastructure in support of land consolidation
  - Investments in physical assets (Article 17)
  - Farm and business development (Article 19)
  - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (Article 20)
  - Cooperation (Article 35)
- Rural development measures that create necessary conditions for implementing land consolidation, e.g. institution building, planning, training, etc.
  - Knowledge transfer and information action (Article 14)
  - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (Article 15)
  - Setting-up of producers group and organizations (Article 27)
  - Leader (Article 42 – 44)
  - European Innovation Partnership Network (Article 53) and National rural network (Article 54)
  - European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (Article 55)
  - Operational groups (Article 56)



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- **Rural development measures that increase the value of consolidated land (direct incentives)**
  - Investments in forest area development and improvement of viability of forests (Article 21)
  - Afforestation and creation of woodland (Article 22)
  - Establishment of agroforestry systems (Article 23)
  - Investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems (Article 25)
  - Investments in forestry technologies and in processing in mobilizing and in the marketing of forest products (Article 26)
  - Organic farming (Article 29)
  - Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments (Article 30)
  - Risk management (Article 36)
  - Mutual funds for animal and plant diseases and environmental incidents (Article 38)
  - Investments (construction, acquisition, leasing, improvement of immovable property, new machinery, irrigation, etc.) (Article 45, Article 46)
- **Rural development measures that benefit from land consolidation through release of scarce resources, e.g. land and labour (indirect incentive)**
  - Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events and introduction of appropriate prevention actions (Article 18)
  - Prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events (Article 24)
  - Agri-environment-climate (Article 28)
  - Payments to areas facing natural and other specific constraints (Article 31-32)
  - Income stabilization tool (Article 39)



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## **Complementary support opportunities for rural development**

- **The Commission stipulates in its common provisions the complementarity of all EU funds (CF, ESF, ERDF, EAFRD)**
- **Additionally strengthened by the thematic objectives of the Common Strategic Framework (CSF)**
- **This provides additional opportunities for support to rural development and land consolidation**



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### Cohesion Fund (2014 – 2020)

- The Cohesion Fund provides financial support in the field of environment and trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure
- It also contributes to actions in pursuit of environmental objective, energy efficiency and renewable energy, and in the transport sector outside the trans-European networks, rail, river and sea transport, intermodal transport systems and their interoperability, management of road, sea and air traffic, clean urban transport and public transport.
- It also envisages measures that aim at reducing air pollution, even when the indirect effects consist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions



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### EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (2014 – 2020)

- The European Social Fund (ESF) is the most easily adaptable fund to different areas with a special focus on less favored regions and people in disfavored conditions
- Its essence is to improve employment opportunities, strengthen social inclusion, fight poverty, promote education, skills and lifelong learning and develop active, comprehensive and sustainable inclusion policies
- It defends the fundamental human rights through the promotion of high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion and poverty, and high level of education, training and protection of human health
- There are no restrictions for rural areas to apply for support from the European Social Fund.
- All measures should be compatible with other EU financial instruments



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## EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (2014 – 2020)

- The European Regional Development Fund actions are split between two Regulations, which define the two main strategic goals:
  - investment support for growth and jobs goal
  - investment support to the European territorial cooperation goal



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- The ERDF support for cooperation programs allows complementary financing from the European Development Fund, the European Neighborhood Instrument, the Instrument for Pre-Accession II (IPA II), and the European Investment Bank (EIB)
- The support from the European Regional Development Fund in border regions should be coordinated with the financial aid from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- In order to strengthen the EU cohesion policy, third countries can participate through a contribution of IPA II and ENI resources



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## IPA II - AN INTERACTIVE INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE

IPA II ensures continuations and seamless transition, while introducing simplified rules and mechanisms to facilitate beneficiaries. The assistance is much more results oriented, flexible and concretized on specific needs:

- Limited number of policy areas and sectors
- No distinction between candidate and potential candidate countries
- Closer connection between enlargement strategy and priorities for assistance, aligned with Country Strategy Papers
- Financial aid assigned in accordance with progress of reforms, if underperformance funds will be reallocated
- Improved effectiveness of assistance
- Strategic and Multi-Annual planning in a combination with Country and Multi-Country Strategy Papers, covering the whole seven years period with mid-term assessments.
- Setting country specific and measurable indicators, based on previous evaluations
- Interactive approach. IPA II is designed to follow the schemes of the other European Structural and Investments Instruments, including cross-border and regional cooperation



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## IPA II addresses five policy areas:

- reforms in preparation for membership and related institution- and -capacity-building
- socio-economic and regional development
- employment, social policies, education, promotion of gender equality, and human resources development
- agriculture and rural development
- regional and territorial cooperation



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### **Pre-Accession Instrument for Agriculture and Rural Development**

The policy area “agriculture and rural development” reflects the new IPA II elements and characteristics. It is structured in accordance with the objectives, the rules, the requirements and the measures of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), covering the following measures:

- Investment in physical assets in agricultural holdings
- Support for the setting-up of producer groups
- Investments in physical assets for processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products
- Agri-environment
- LEADER
- Investment in rural public infrastructure
- Farm diversification and business development
- Improvement of training
- Technical assistance
- Advisory services
- Forestry



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### **European Neighborhood Instrument (2014 – 2020)**

The ENI priorities envisage support at bilateral and multi-country level. Those of them that concerns agriculture and rural development are:

- **at a bilateral level the European Union supports:**
  - agriculture and rural development, including food security
  - sustainable management of natural resources
  - the energy sector, with a focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy
  - education of skills development, including vocational education and training
- **At a multi-country level, the European Unions provides support for:**
  - sustainable management of natural resources, including water, green growth and climate change adaptation and mitigation
  - sustainable economic development, trade and private sector development and support to small and medium-sized enterprises
- **Through cross-border cooperation programs, the European Unions envisages support for:**
  - economic and social development
  - the environment, public health, safety and security



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## CONCLUSIONS

- EU rural development measures are designed as incentive for economic activities related to agriculture in rural areas
- They can provide support and incentives for land consolidation in different combinations
- There are possibilities for additional financing from other funds, not directly related to rural development
- Combining different EU funds could stimulate land consolidation and rural development
- Stimulating innovation and knowledge transfer constitutes another incentive for land consolidation
- There are measures designed to stimulate private initiative and entrepreneurship, which could be another incentive for land consolidation
- There are measures that stimulate cooperation between member states and candidate countries, which can provide incentives for land consolidation in cross-border regions



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# Thank you for your attention



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