
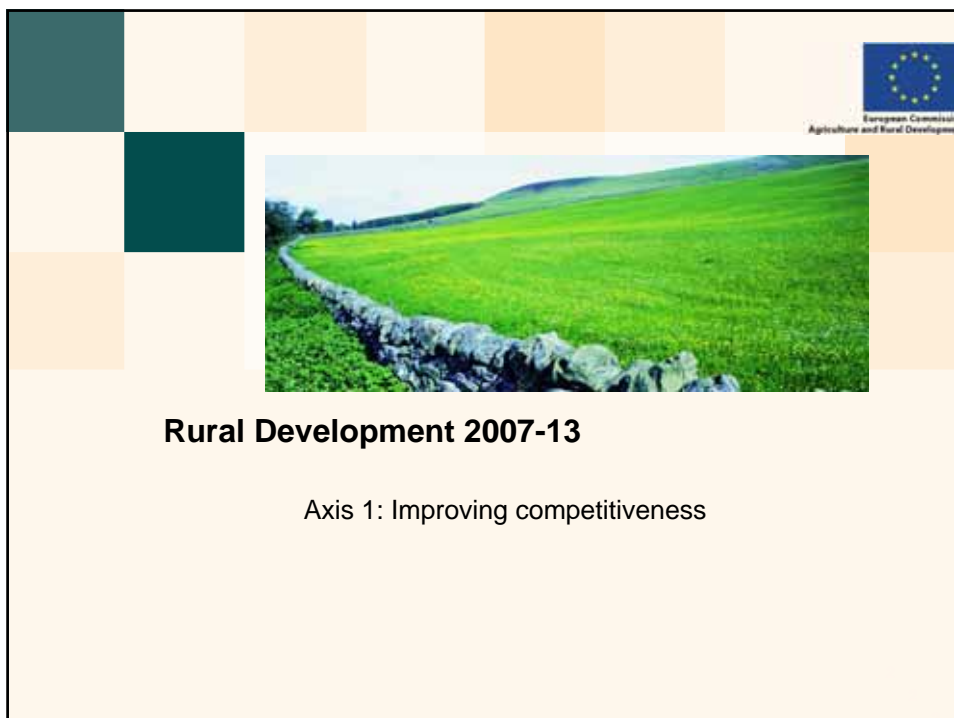


EU rural development policy 2007-2013

**2007 Prague Regional Workshop on EU Rural Development Programme
2007-2013 and
its application to land consolidation**

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Rural Development 2007-13

Axis 1: Improving competitiveness




National Strategy

Based on an assessment of the general situation of the agricultural and forestry sector the MS will set out how it will deal with and set quantified objectives for key issues such as:

- Supporting the restructuring of the agricultural sector
- Improving integration in the food chain
- Developing business skills
- Developing new outlets for agricultural and forestry products
- Developing high quality products in line with market demand
- Improving the environmental performance of farms and forestry

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Axis 1: Improving Competitiveness (1)

1. Measures aimed at promoting **knowledge** and improving **human potential**:

- vocational training,
- setting up of young farmers,
- early retirement,
- provision of advisory services;
- setting up farm management, farm relief and advisory services.

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Axis 1: Improving Competitiveness (2)

2. Measures aimed at restructuring **physical potential** and promoting **innovation**:

- farm modernisation,
- improving the economic value of forests,
- processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products,
- improving and developing of infrastructure,**
- natural disasters and prevention actions.

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Axis 1: Improving Competitiveness (3)

3. Measures aimed at improving the **quality** of agricultural production and products:

- adaptation to new EU standards,
- participation in food quality schemes,
- promotion for quality products.

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Axis 1: Improving Competitiveness (4)

4. Transitional measures for the new Member States:

- support for semi-subsistence farms undergoing restructuring,
- setting up of producer groups,
- provision of advisory services (only for Bulgaria and Romania for the period of 3 years)



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Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry


- Based on Articles 20 (b) (v) and 30 of Regulation No 1698/2005
- Objective: Agricultural infrastructure should contribute to the agriculture and forestry competitiveness axis (recital 25 of Regulation No. 1698/2005)
- Scope:
 - Access to farm and forest land
 - Land consolidation and improvement
 - Energy supply
 - Water management

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Axis 2: Environment/land management



National Strategy

Based on an assessment of the general environmental situation in relation to its rural areas the MS will set out how it will deal with and set quantified objectives for:

- its agricultural and forestry Natura 2000 areas and other HNV areas (High Nature Value)
- Water quantity and quality and its plans under the WFD in relation to agriculture and forestry (Water Framework Directive)
- The contribution its agriculture and forestry can make to climate change mitigation and the Kyoto protocol targets it has set
- Any specific national priorities

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The toolbox for axis 2

Two blocks of measures targeting sustainable use of:

- **agricultural land**
LFA; Natura 2000 and WFD; AE; animal welfare; non-productive investments
- **forestry land**
Afforestation; agro-forestry; Natura 2000; forest-environment; restoring forestry potential/prevention; non-productive investments

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Agri-environment (AE)


- The only compulsory measure (at programme level)
- Farmers and other land managers
- 5 to 7 year contracts (on a voluntary basis)
- Annual payments for commitments going beyond the baseline covering additional costs, income foregone and transaction costs
- Baseline = CC + minimum requirements fertiliser and pesticide + national legislation
- Extended CC whole holding



Non productive investments

- Support for AE linked investments
- and/or for on farm investments enhancing the public amenity value of Natura 2000 and other HNV areas

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Axis 3: Diversification of the rural economy and Quality of Life in rural areas

Axis 4: The Leader approach



The strategic guidelines for axis 3

The EU priorities:

- The creation of employment opportunities
 - through the diversification of the rural economy (all sectors)
 - with the improvement of the quality of life (attractive places to live and work)

Key actions: supporting traditional and new activities, the participation of women in the labour market, micro-enterprises, training, diffusion of ICT, renewable resources, tourism, local infrastructure




The toolbox for axis 3

Three blocks of measures targeting:

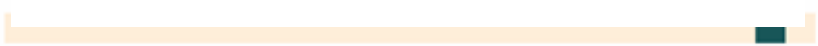

- the diversification of the rural economy
Non-agricultural activities of farmers; small business creation and development, tourism, small scale infrastructure
- the quality of life in rural areas
Basic services for the rural population, rural heritage and renewal
- training, skills acquisition and animation
Area studies, information, training animators, leaders, promotional events, partnerships






The toolbox for axis 4 (Leader)

- 7 distinctive features + support for LAGs
 - Area based local strategies
 - Public-private partnerships (local action groups)
 - Bottom up approach
 - Multi-sectoral and integrated
 - Innovative
 - Cooperation
 - Networking

Implementing the Leader approach

- Leader is a method rather than a list of measures,
- It may be applied to any of the three other axes and measures and/or to a combination of them
- Its 7 distinctive features should be implemented as a set, they complement each other
- Local action groups must be well balanced between public and private partners (50/50)
- Leader is particularly suited for innovation since measures are not pre-defined and networking facilitates knowledge transfer
- Experience shows that it is a successful approach, but that it takes time to implement well
- Cooperation and networking (at national and European level) are useful for exchanging experience, realising collective projects, acquiring capabilities



References



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm