

## EU rural development policy 2007 - 2013

### A focus on the environment & land management

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## Outline

- Priorities for rural development 07-13
- The legal basis, policy requirements & programming process
- Key issues for axis 2 and REPS
- Future considerations
- Next steps



## Priorities for rural development

- Göteborg summit conclusions (2001): environment, natural resources & sustainability
- Lisbon strategy conclusions (2003): CAP and rural development should make key contribution to competitiveness and sustainable development

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## Priorities for rural development

Community Strategic Guidelines (2006):

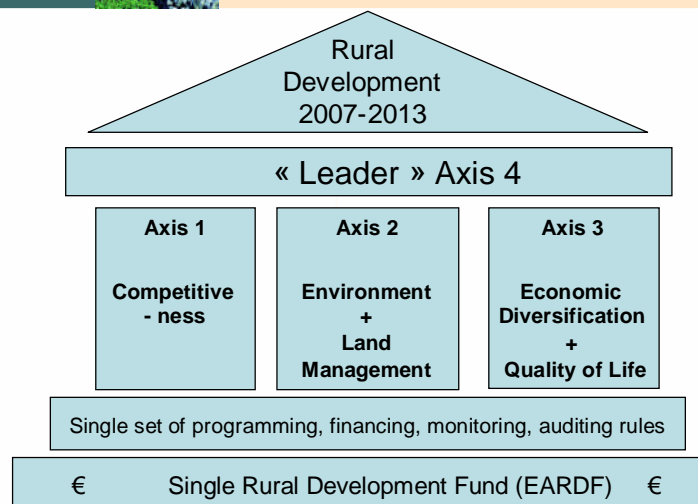
- Meeting new challenges
- Improving competitiveness of agricultural and forestry sectors
- Improving the environment & countryside
- Improving the quality of life in rural areas
- Diversifying the rural economy
- Mobilising local potential

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## Legal basis: 1698/2005

- A single fund (EAFRD)
- Simplified management & financing
- 3 thematic axes + 1 «Leader» axis
- 40 different measures available

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## Axis 1 priorities:

### Increasing competitiveness through:

- Improving knowledge and human capital
- modernisation and restructuring
- Improving quality throughout the food chain

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## Axis 2 priorities:

### The environment & land management:

- Enhancing the EU's natural resources and landscapes in rural areas
- Supporting sustainable agriculture & forestry
- Contributing to 3 of the EU's priority areas: biodiversity, water & combating climate change

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## Axis 3 priorities:

### Diversification & quality of life:

Creating jobs and growth initiatives through:

- Diversification of the rural economy
- Improving the quality of life in rural areas
- Training and capacity building

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## « Leader » Axis priorities

### Mobilising local potential/promoting local governance:

- Implementing local development strategies to contribute to achieving objectives in one or more thematic axis
- Promoting co-operation
- Capacity building & local action groups

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## Resource allocation

- €2.34 billion EAFRD funding for Ireland
- Minimum funding per axis:
  - 10% axes 1&3, 25% axis 2, 5% axis 4
- Maximum EU co-financing per axis:
  - 50% axes 1&3, 55% axes 2&4 (in non-convergence regions)

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## Considerations for axis 2

CSG identify 6 potential key actions:

1. Promoting environmental services/animal friendly farming practices
2. Preserving the farmed landscape & forests
3. Combating climate change
4. Consolidating the contribution of organic farming
5. Encouraging environmental/economic win-win initiatives
6. Promoting territorial balance

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## Considerations for axis 2

- Agri-environment only compulsory measure
- Other measures possible under axis 2 cover LFA payments, Natura 2000 support, animal welfare, non-productive investments, first afforestation, first establishment of agro-forestry systems, forest-environment payments, restoring forestry potential
- Cross compliance applies

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## Agri-environment conditions:

- Voluntary commitments 5 years or longer
- Must go beyond mandatory standards
- Support covers income foregone and additional costs resulting from the commitment, plus (where necessary) transaction costs

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## Agri-environment support:

- Annual crops €600/ha
- Specialised perennials €900/ha
- Other land uses €450/ha
- Local breeds €200/LU
  
- Beneficiaries: farmers & other land managers e.g. NGOs

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## Key features of agri-environment support:

- Flexible
- Respond to local conditions
- High level of acceptance & support
- Provide an educational role

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## Developing agri-environment schemes:

- Meeting the environmental priorities
- Adequate analysis and consultation
- Training
- Monitoring & evaluation
- Efficiency & value for money
- A strategic approach, coherent with efforts under other axes/measures

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## Ireland & REPS

- Building on past experience
- Considerable carryover from current RDP
- Significant funding available
- Taking advantage of new measures and possibilities available
- Will play a crucial role in helping Ireland meet the environmental priorities and objectives identified

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## Future considerations:

Budget review 2009 & CAP funding post 2013:

- Axes 1 & 3 primarily linked to jobs and growth
- Axis 2 key to achieving sustainability and contributing to priorities in terms of biodiversity, water and climate change

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## Future considerations:

Less Favoured Areas:

- Current regime until 2010
- Commission report and proposal in 2008
- Council Decision in 2009
- New regime likely to enter into force in 2010

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## Next steps:

- Formal submission of strategy
- Submission of new programme to Commission for examination
- Approval new programme asap



THE END