

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate G. Horizontal aspects of rural development

G.1. Consistency of rural development

Brussels, 18.12.2013

Subject: Working document by DG AGRI staff on proposed substance of the empowerments given by the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 lays down general rules governing Union support for rural development financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), complementing the common provisions for the European Structural and Investment Funds laid down in Part Two of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council¹. Uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 should be laid down.

(2) In order to facilitate the establishment of rural development programmes and their examination and approval by the Commission, common rules for the structure and content of those programmes, based in particular on requirements of Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should be laid down. It should also be established which of those rules on content and structure also apply to programmes dedicated to joint instruments for uncapped guarantees and securitisation providing capital relief implemented by the EIB. Finally, rules on the content and structure of national frameworks should also be laid down.

(3) The conditions for the adoption of national rural network programmes and national frameworks should be established.

(4) In order to systematise the amendment of rural development programmes and national rural network programmes, a common set of rules should be established as regards the information required for the substantiation of such amendments as well as the frequency of amendments. The latter should be done in a manner so as to reduce as much as possible

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347/320)

administrative burden while leaving flexibility for clearly defined emergencies and specific situations.

(5) Common rules for the amendment of national frameworks including on timing and in particular to facilitate the amendment of national frameworks of Member States with regional programmes should also be established.

(6) Conditions for systems of payment methods for participants' costs for knowledge transfer and information actions should be established.

(7) The establishment of a common, competitive procedure with a common set of rules for the selection of authorities or bodies offering advisory services should ensure that the service provider offering best value for money is chosen.

(8) As regards the assessment of business plans, common parameters for such assessment as well as modalities for access to other measures for young farmers under the farm and business development measure referred to in Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 should be established.

(9) In order allow Member States to calculate support for commitments under the agri-environment-climate, organic and animal welfare measures on the basis of other units than those established in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 because of the specific nature of those commitments, rules need to be established featuring common parameters.

(10) In order to ensure that the calculation of additional costs and income foregone for certain relevant measures is done in a transparent and verifiable manner certain common elements for the calculation that apply across Member States should be established.

(11) In order to avoid overcompensation, rules for the combination of certain measures should be set up.

(12) The actions of National Rural Networks play an important role in improving the quality of rural development programme implementation by increasing stakeholder involvement. Common rules regarding the start of the operation of the networks as well as on their structure should therefore be established to ensure that the networks can work efficiently and timely to accompany programme implementation.

(13) To ensure information and publicity on the rural development activities benefitting from support by the EAFRD, both managing authorities and beneficiaries have responsibilities to fulfil which should be further specified in the Regulation. Whereas the managing authority should systemise its overall information and publicity efforts in a strategy and through the establishment of a single website or website portal to raise awareness regarding the objectives of rural development policy and to strengthen accessibility and transparency of information about funding opportunities, beneficiaries should also inform about the EAFRD support provided for their projects.

(14) As regards monitoring and evaluation, the details of the monitoring and evaluation system including the indicators and the evaluation plan should be defined. The minimum contents of the Evaluation Plan should be defined in order to ensure that sufficient and appropriate evaluation activities are undertaken, in particular to provide the information needed for the AIRs in 2017 and 2019, and to ensure that it is possible to aggregate some minimum evaluation results to EU level.

(15) The central elements of the annual implementation report should also be established.

Disclaimer: This working document has been prepared by DG AGRI staff in order to facilitate the discussion in the Rural Development Committee on Rural Development. It has not yet been subject of an inter-service consultation nor revised by the Legal Service.

Article 1
Subject matter

This Regulation lays down uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD] as regards the content, adoption and modification of programmes and national frameworks, arrangements for information exchange, evaluation, reporting and information and publicity for rural development programmes as well as the practical implementation of certain rural development measures.

Article 2
Content of rural development programmes and national frameworks

The content of rural development programmes as referred to in Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No [...]CPR] and Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD], of national programmes dedicated to joint instruments for uncapped guarantees and securitisation providing capital relief implemented by the EIB as referred to in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No [...]CPR] and of national frameworks as referred to in Article 6(3) of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD], shall be established in accordance with Annex I to this Regulation.

Article 3
Adoption of national rural network programmes and national frameworks

1. Specific programmes for the establishment and operation of national rural networks as referred to in Article 54(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD] and national frameworks as referred to in Article 6(3) of that Regulation shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of Article 29 of Regulation (EU) No [...]CPR] and Article 10 (2) of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD].

Article 4
Amendments of programmes

1. Proposals to amend rural development programmes and specific programmes for the establishment and operation of National Rural Networks shall be duly substantiated and will contain, in particular, the following information:

- (a) the type of amendment that is being proposed,
- (b) the reasons and/or implementation problems that justify the amendment,
- (c) the expected effects of the amendment,
- (d) the impact of the change on indicators,
- (e) the relationship between the change and the Partnership Agreement.

2 (a) Programme amendments of the type referred to in Article 11(1)(a)(i) of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD] may be proposed no more than three times during the duration of the programming period;

(b) A single amendment proposal for all other types of amendments combined may be submitted per calendar year and per programme with the exception of the year 2023 for the adaptation of the financial plan.

The first and second subparagraphs of paragraph 2 shall not apply in case emergency measures due to natural disasters need to be taken or an amendment is necessary following a change to the Union legal framework or the performance review referred to in Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No [...]CPR] or the annual breakdown referred to in Article 8(1)(h)(i) of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD] resulting from developments of the annual breakdown by Member State referred to in Article 58(7).

3. When a programme amendment changes any of the data that is included in the table of the national framework referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 6(3) of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD], the approval of the programme amendment shall constitute approval of the corresponding revision of that table.

Article 5

Amendment of national frameworks

1.. The provisions of Articles 30 of Regulation (EU) No [...]CPR], Article 11(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD] and Article 4(1)(b) and (c) of this Regulation shall apply mutatis mutandis for the amendment of national frameworks.

2. Member States that have opted for the submission of national frameworks containing the table referred to in Article 6(3) of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD] may submit amendments of the national framework concerning this table to the Commission taking into account the degree of implementation of the various regional programmes.

3. The Commission, after approving this amendment, shall adapt the financing plans, referred to in Article 8(1)(i)(i) of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD], of the regional programmes concerned to the revised table, provided that:

- (a) the total EAFRD contribution per programme for the entire programming period is not altered;
- (b) the total EAFRD allocation to the Member State concerned is not altered;
- (c) the annual breakdowns of the programme for the years preceding the year of the revision are not altered;
- (d) the annual EAFRD allocation to the Member State concerned is respected.

4. Except in cases of emergency measures due to natural disasters, changes to the legal framework, or performance review referred to in Articles 21(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...]CPR], requests for amendment of the national framework described in paragraph 3 may be submitted only once per calendar year before 1 April. Changes in regional programmes that result from such revision shall not be taken into account for the purposes of Article 4(2).

5. The implementing act approving the amendment shall be adopted in due time for allowing to amend the respective budget commitments before the end of the year in which the revision was submitted.

Article 6
Knowledge transfer and information actions

1. Member States may provide, for expenditure relating to the costs for travel, accommodation and per diem expenses of participants in knowledge transfer and information actions as well as related costs for the replacement of farmers, the possibility to cover the expenses of the participants through a system of vouchers or another system of equivalent effect.
2. In relation to the systems referred to in paragraph 1 Member States shall provide:
 - (a) that the period of validity of the voucher or equivalent may not exceed one year;
 - (b) rules for obtaining the vouchers or equivalent, in particular that they shall be linked to a specific action;
 - (c) the definition of specific conditions under which vouchers can be reimbursed to the knowledge or information action organiser.
3. Member States may determine the value of vouchers for specific types of expenditure based on the forms of grants as referred to in Article 67(1)(b) (c) and (d) of Regulation (EU) No [...] [CPR].

Article 7
Selection of authorities or bodies offering advisory services

1. The calls for tenders referred to in Article 15(3) of Regulation (EU) No [...] [RD] shall follow the applicable national public procurement rules. They shall give due consideration to the degree of attainment by the applicants of the qualifications referred to in Article 15(3) of Regulation (EU) No [...] [RD].
2. Calls for tenders shall not remain open longer than required for the examination of the applications and should ensure a competitive, open and transparent procedure.

Article 8
Business plans

1. Member States shall assess the progress of the business plans referred to in Article 19(1)(a)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) No [...] [RD] in terms of proper implementation of actions as referred to in Article 5(1) of [DA]
2. In the case of support under Article 19(1)(a)(i), where the business plan refers to the use of other rural development measures under Regulation (EU) No [...] [RD] the Member States may provide for that the approval of the application for support also gives access to support under these measures. Where a Member State makes use of this possibility it must provide that the application for support supplies the necessary information to assess eligibility under those measures.

Article 9
Conversion of units

1. Where commitments under Articles 28, 29 and 34 of Regulation (EU) No [...] [RD] are expressed in units other than those used in Annex II of that Regulation, Member States may calculate payments on the basis of those other units. In such case, the Member States shall ensure that the maximum amounts per year eligible for EAFRD support set out in that Annex are complied with.

2. At the exception of payments for commitments to rear local breeds in danger of being lost to farming, payments cannot be granted per livestock unit ("LU").

The conversion rates of the various categories of animals to livestock units are set out in Annex II. Member States may differentiate those rates within the limits set out in that annex for the relevant categories of animals according to objective criteria.

Article 10

Standard assumption of additional costs and income foregone

1. Where appropriate, Member States may fix the amount of the payments for the measures of Articles, 21(1)(a), 28, 29, 30, 31, 33 and 34 on the basis of standard assumptions of additional costs and income foregone.

2. Member States shall ensure that the calculations and the corresponding payments referred to in paragraph 1:

- (a) contain only elements that are verifiable;
- (b) are based on figures established by appropriate expertise;
- (c) indicate clearly the source of the figures used;
- (d) are differentiated to take account of regional or local site conditions and actual land use, where applicable;
- (e) do not contain elements linked to investment costs.

Article 11

Combination of measures

1. Various agri-environment-climate commitments, organic farming and/or animal welfare commitments as well as forestry commitments under the articles 21 and 34 may be combined provided that they are complementary and compatible. Member States shall attach the list of allowed combinations to their rural development programmes.

2. Where measures or different commitments under the same or different measures are combined, in determining the level of support Member States shall take into account the specific income foregone and additional costs resulting from the combination.

Article 12

National Rural Network

1. Member States shall provide for the organisation of the National Rural Network referred to in Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No [...] [RD] and the start of its action plan at the latest 12 months after the approval by the Commission of the rural development programme or the specific programme for the establishment and operation of the National Rural Network, as applicable.

2. The structure needed for running the National Rural Network may be established either within the national/regional competent authorities or externally, by selection through tendering procedures or by a combination of both. That structure must be able to perform at least the tasks referred to in paragraph 3(b) of Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No [...] [RD]

3. Where a Member State has opted for a specific programme for the establishment and operation of the National Rural Network, that programme shall include, the elements of [point 17 of Annex 1 of this regulation], the financial plan referred to in Article 8(1)(h)(i) and (ii) of

Regulation (EU) No [...]RD], as well as the programme implementing arrangements referred to in Article 8(1)(m)(i) and (ii) of the same Regulation.

Article 13 *Information and publicity*

1. The managing authority shall submit an information and publicity strategy as well as any amendments thereof to the monitoring committee for information no later than 6 months after the adoption of the rural development programme. The managing authority shall inform the monitoring committee at least once a year on the progress in the implementation of the information and publicity strategy and on its analysis of the results as well as on the planned information and publicity to be carried out in the following year. .
2. Detailed conditions on information and publicity are laid down in Annex III.

Article 14 *Monitoring and evaluation system*

1. The common monitoring and evaluation system referred to in Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No [...]RD] includes the following elements:
 - (a) an intervention logic showing the interactions between priorities, focus areas and measures;
 - (b) a set of common context, result and output indicators, including indicators to be used for the establishment of quantified targets in relation to rural development focus areas and indicators to be used for the performance review ;
 - (c) common evaluation questions;
 - (d) data collection, storage and transmission;
 - (e) regular reporting on monitoring and evaluation activities;
 - (f) the evaluation plan;
 - (g) the *ex ante* and *ex post* evaluations and all other evaluation activities linked to the rural development programme.
 - (h) Support to enable all actors responsible for monitoring and evaluation to fulfil their obligations.
2. The common set of context, result and output indicators for rural development policy is set out in Annex IV. This annex also identifies the indicators which are to be used for the establishment of quantified targets in relation to rural development focus areas and those to be used for the performance review.
3. The common evaluation questions for rural development are set out in Annex V.
4. The technical support documents set out in Annex VI shall form part of the monitoring and evaluation system.
5. For types of operations where a potential contribution to focus areas referred to under point a of Article 5 (2), of point a of Article 5 (5), of point b of Article 5 (5), point c of Article 5(5)

and point d of Article 5 (5) is identified in table under point 11(c) of Annex I, the electronic record of the operations referred to in Article 70(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...] [RD] shall include flag(s) to identify those cases where the operation has a component contributing to one or more of these focus areas.

Article 15
Annual implementation report

The presentation structure of the annual implementation report referred to in Article 75 of Regulation (EU) No (EU) No [...] [RD] is set out in Annex VII of this Regulation.

Article 16
Evaluation Plan

Minimum requirements for the Evaluation Plan referred to in Article 56(1) of Regulation (EU) No [...] [CPR] are set out in point 9 of Annex I of this Regulation.

[Now covered by CPR implementing act]

Article [...]

This Regulation shall enter into force on the [...] day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

ANNEX I

Part 1 - Content of Rural development programmes

1. Title of the Rural Development Programme

2. Member State and administrative region (if relevant)

- a. Geographical area covered by the programme
- b. Classification of the region.

3. Ex ante evaluation

Not applicable national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

- a. Description of the process, including timing of main events, intermediate reports, in relation to the key stages of RDP development.
- b. Structured table containing the recommendations of the *ex ante* evaluation and how they have been addressed.
- c. The complete ex ante evaluation report (including the Strategic Environmental Assessment –SEA- requirements) shall be presented as an annex to the RDP.

4. SWOT and identification of needs

Not applicable national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

- a. SWOT analysis containing the following sections:
 - i. Comprehensive overall description of the current situation of the programming area, based on common and programme-specific context indicators and qualitative information.
 - ii. Strengths identified in the programming area.
 - iii. Weaknesses identified in the programming area
 - iv. Opportunities identified in the programming area.
 - v. Threats identified in the programming area
 - vi. Structured table containing the data for the common and programme-specific context indicators
- b. Needs assessment, based on evidence from the SWOT analysis, for each priority and focus area and the three cross-cutting objectives (environment; climate change mitigation and adaption; innovation).

5. Description of the strategy

- a. A justification of the needs selected to be addressed by the RDP, and the choice of objectives, priorities, focus areas and thematic sub-programmes and the target setting based on evidence from the SWOT and the needs assessment.
- b. The choice, combination and justification of rural development measures for each focus area.
- c. A description of how the cross-cutting objectives will be addressed.
- d. A summary table of the intervention logic showing the priorities and focus areas selected for the RDP, the quantified targets, and the combination of measures to be used to achieve them.
- e. A description of the advisory capacity to ensure adequate advice and support for the regulatory requirements and for actions related to innovation.

6. Assessment of ex ante conditionalities comprising the following structured tables:

- a. For each applicable general and priority-linked ex-ante conditionality in one table:
 - i. assessment of its fulfilment and;
 - ii. list of priorities/focus areas and measures to which the conditionality applies. An indicative list of priorities/focus areas and measures of particular relevance to each ex-ante conditionality is set out in Part 3 of this Annex.
 - iii. list of relevant criteria as well as an assessment of their fulfilment
 - iv. references to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant document, including references to relevant sections, articles documenting the fulfilment of a given criterion
- b. Two separate tables, one for applicable general and one for applicable priority linked ex-ante conditionalities which are completely unfilled or partially fulfilled providing each the following information:
 - i. identification of the criteria not fulfilled,
 - ii. actions to be taken for the fulfilment of each of those criteria,
 - iii. deadlines for these actions, and
 - iv. bodies responsible for the fulfilment.

Where necessary, Member States can provide explanations or additional information to complement the tables above.

7. Description of the performance framework,

Not applicable national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

Table setting out for each priority and indicator:

- a. Targets for 2023. Targets should not take into additional national financing, as referred to in point 12 and 13 of this Annex 1
- b. Milestones for 2018 based on the targets

The targets setting should be justified under the Strategy, point 5(a) of this Annex.

Table setting out for each priority the allocation of the performance reserve

[In case, the total EAFRD amount allocated to the performance reserve differs from the pro-rata distribution² of the total national EAFRD performance reserve allocation in the partnership agreement to all national and regional programmes, with the exception of national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with CPR article 39, justification of the amount of the performance reserve allocation. – *to be completed still under discussion*]

8. Description of each of the measures selected

1. Description of the general conditions applied to more than one measure including, when relevant, definition of rural area, baselines, cross-compliance, intended use of financial instruments, intended use of advances, common provisions for investments, etc.
2. Description by measure including:
 - a. Legal basis.
 - b. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives.
 - c. Scope, level of support, and eligible beneficiaries broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where considered necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions [applicable] amounts and support rates and principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria.
 - d. Verifiability and controllability of the measures.
 - i. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures.
 - ii. Mitigating actions.
 - iii. Overall assessment of the measure.
 - e. Methodology for the calculations of the amount of support, where relevant.
 - f. Information specific to the measure as follows:
 1. *Knowledge transfer and information actions*
 - Definition of appropriate capacities for staff qualifications and regular training to carry out this task;

² Using the total EAFRD contribution to each of the programme concerned

- Specification of the minimum qualifications of bodies providing knowledge transfer services and duration and content of farm and forest exchange schemes and visits.

2. Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

- General principles to ensure appropriate resources in the form of regularly trained and qualified staff and advisory experience and reliability with respect to the field of advise. Identification of the elements that the advise will cover.

3. Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs

- Indication of eligible quality schemes for agricultural products, cotton or foodstuffs recognized at national level fulfilling the 4 specific criteria of [RD] Article 16(1)(b);
- Indication of eligible voluntary agricultural product certification schemes recognized by MS as meeting the Union best practice guidelines.

4. Investments in physical assets

- Definition of non productive investments;
- Definition of collective investments;
- Definition of integrated projects;
- Definition and identification of the eligible Natura 2000 and other eligible High Nature Value Areas;
- Description of the targeting of the support to farms in accordance with the SWOT carried out in relation to the priority referred to in Art. 5 (2)
- List of new requirements imposed by Union legislation addressed.;

6. Farm and business development

- Definition of a small farm scheme as referred to in [RD] Article 19(1)(a)(iii);
- Definition of upper and lower thresholds as foreseen in [RD] Article 19(4);
- Specific conditions for support for young farmers where not setting up as a sole head of the holding [DA RD] Article 2(1);
- Information on the application of the grace period [DA RD] Article 2(2);
- Summary of the requirements of the business plan;
- Use of the possibility to combine different measures through the business plan giving access of the young farmer to these measures;
- Domains of diversification covered.

7. Basic services and village reveal in rural areas

- Definition of small scale infrastructure;

If applicable, specific derogation for investments in broad band and renewable energy, so that also bigger scale infrastructure could be supported;

- Minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in [DA RD] Article 13(c)
- Definition of thresholds referred to in [DA RD] Article 13(e)

8. Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests

- Definition and justification of a certain size of holdings for which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument.
- Description of an "equivalent instrument".

Afforestation and creation of woodlands

- Description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen including hydrological conditions. Identification of species to be planted.
- Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in [DA RD] Art. 6

Establishment of agro-forestry systems

- Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted per hectare and forest species admitted;
- Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems.

Prevention and restoration of damage to forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events

- Definition of the list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster ("where relevant");
- Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan;
- In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence.

Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems

- Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome.

9. Setting up of producer groups

- Description of the official procedure for recognising the groups.

10. Agri-environment -climate

- Identification and definition of the baseline elements;; this should include mandatory standards established under Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 (cross-compliance), the relevant criteria and minimum activities as established under points (c) (ii) and (c) (iii) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and mandatory requirements established by national law;
- minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable

Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced under Directive 2009/128/EC, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation;

- List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and for plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion.
- Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters (including the description of the baseline requirements as stated in Article 28(3) of Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [RDR] which are relevant for each particular type of commitment) used as reference point for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, this methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [DPR], including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation.

11. Organic farming

- Identification and definition of the baseline elements; this should include mandatory standards established under Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 (cross-compliance), the relevant criteria and minimum activities as established under points (c) (ii) and (c) (iii) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and mandatory requirements established by national law
- Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters (including the description of the baseline requirements as stated in Article 28(3) of Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [RDR] which are relevant for each particular type of commitment) used as reference point for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, this methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [DPR], including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation.

12. Natura 2000 and WFD payments

- Identification and definition of the baseline elements; for Natura 2000 payments this should include the good agricultural and environmental condition provided for in Article 94 and Annex II of regulation (EU- No 1306/2013 and the relevant criteria and minimum activities established under points (c) (ii) and (c) (iii) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013; for WFD payments this should include mandatory standards established under Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 (cross-compliance) and the relevant criteria and minimum activities as established under points (c) (ii) and (c) (iii) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013.
- Identification of the restrictions/disadvantages based on which payments can be granted and indication of compulsory practices;

- For WFD: definition of major changes in type of land use and existence of the programmes of measures of the river basin management plans;
- The areas designated to implement Directives 79/409/EEC, 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC and the obligations for farmers resulting from the corresponding national/regional management provisions.
- The description of the methodology and the agronomic assumptions (including the description of the baseline requirements as stated in Article 30(3) for Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC and in Article 30(4) for Directive 2000/60/EC of Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [RDR]) used as reference point for the calculations justifying additional costs and income foregone resulting from the disadvantages in the areas concerned related to the implementation of Directives 92/43/EEC, 2009/147/EC and 2000/60/EC; where relevant, this methodology shall take into account payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment granted under Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [DPR], in order to exclude double funding.

13. Payments of areas facing natural and other specific constraints

- Definition of threshold level of area per holding on the basis of which MS calculates degressivity of payments.

Designation of areas facing natural and other specific constraints

- Description of the local unit-level applied for the designation of the areas.
- Description of the application of the method defined in Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [RD] for the delimitation of the three categories for areas referred to in Article 32(1) of Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [RD] including the description and results of the fine-tuning process for areas facing natural and other specific constraints other than mountain areas.

14. Animal welfare

- Definition and identification of the national and the EU requirements corresponding to the mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of reg. (EC) No HR/2012.
- The description of the methodology and of the agronomic/zoo-technical assumptions and parameters (including the description of the baseline requirements as stated in Article 33(2) of Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [RDR] which are relevant for each particular type of commitment) used as reference point for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made.

15. Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation

- Definition and justification of a certain size of holdings for which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument.
- Description of an "equivalent instrument".
- Identification of relevant mandatory requirements established by the national forestry act or other relevant national legislation.
- The description of the methodology and of the assumptions and parameters (including the description of the baseline requirements as stated in Article 34(3) of Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [RDR] which are relevant for each particular type of commitment)

used as reference point for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation.

16. Co-operation

- Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets.

17. Risk management

- Description of mechanisms to ensure that no overcompensation takes place.

Crop, animal, and plant insurance

- Description of conditions for contracts to be eligible for support, to include at least:
 - a) particular risks insured against;
 - b) particular economic losses covered;
 - c) the premium paid, excluding taxes.
- Rules to be used for establishing the calculation of the destruction of the average annual production of a farmer.

Mutual funds for animal and plant diseases and environmental incidents

- Principles for funding arrangements and definition of the rules for the constitution and management of the mutual funds (for granting of compensation payments to farmers), to include in particular:
 - a) the terms and conditions for financing the mutual fund;
 - b) the outbreaks of adverse climatic events, animal or plant disease, pest infestation or environmental incidents which may give rise to compensation to be paid to farmers, including geographical scope where appropriate;
 - c) the criteria for assessing whether a given event shall give rise to the payment of compensation to farmers;
 - d) the methods for calculating of the additional costs which constitute economic losses;
 - e) the calculation of the administrative costs;
 - f) rules to be used for establishing the calculation of the destruction of the average annual production of a farmer;
 - g) any limits to the costs that are eligible for a financial contribution;
 - h) a procedure for the accreditation of a given mutual fund under national law;
 - i) procedural rules; and
 - j) the compliance and clearance audits that the mutual fund shall be subjected to following its accreditation.
- Where the source of the financial compensation to be paid by the mutual fund is a commercial loan, minimum and maximum duration of the commercial loan.

Income stabilisation tool

- Definition of the rules for the constitution and management of the mutual funds (for granting of compensation payments to farmers), to include in particular:
 - a) the conditions for financing the mutual fund;
 - b) the calculation of the administrative costs;
 - c) rules to be used for establishing the calculation of income drop;
 - d) any limits to the costs that are eligible for a financial contribution;

- e) a procedure for the accreditation of a given mutual fund under national law;
 - f) procedural rules; and
 - g) the compliance and clearance audits that the mutual fund shall be subjected to following its accreditation.
- Where the source of the financial compensation to be paid by the mutual fund is a commercial loan, minimum and maximum duration of the commercial loan.

18. CLLD (LEADER)

- Description of the obligatory CLLD elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: i.e. preparatory support; implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy; preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the LAG; running costs; and animation referred to in [CPR] Article 35(1);
- Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to [RD] Article 43 as specific type of preparatory support (if use is made);
- As regards LEADER cooperation in [RD] Article 44 : Description of the establishment of a system of ongoing application for co-operation projects in cases where co-operation projects are not selected by the LAGs;
- The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies (to the extent it is not described in the Partnership Agreement for CLLD as a whole);
- Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits set out in [CPR] Article 33(6) (10.000 -150.000 inhabitants), if not provided in the Partnership Agreement;
- Co-ordination with the other ESI-Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option (to the extent it is not described in the Partnership Agreement for CLLD as a whole), and any global complementarities between the ESI-Funds in financing the preparatory support;
- Possibilities of paying advances (if use is made);
- Clear definition of the tasks of the managing authority, the Paying Agency and the local action groups under LEADER as regards to the application of eligibility and selection criteria and the project selection procedure.
- Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under [RD] Article 19; investments under [RD] Article 20; and co-operation approaches under [RD] Article 35, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships;

9. Evaluation plan, containing the following sections

Not applicable national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

1. Objectives and purpose

A statement of the objective and purpose of the evaluation plan, based on ensuring that sufficient and appropriate evaluation activities are undertaken, in particular to provide

information needed for programme steering, for the AIRs in 2017 and 2019 and the ex-post evaluation, and to ensure that data needed for RDP evaluation is available.

2. Governance and coordination

Brief description of the monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the RDP, identifying the main bodies involved and their responsibilities. Explanation of how evaluation activities are linked with RDP implementation in terms of content and timing.

3. Evaluation topics and activities

Indicative description of evaluation topics and activities anticipated, including, but not limited to, fulfilment of EU requirements. It should cover activities needed to evaluate contribution of each RDP priority to objectives, assessment of result and impact indicator values, analysis of net effects, thematic issues (including sub-programmes), cross-cutting issues, NRN, contribution of LDS. Planned support for evaluation at LAG level. Programme specific elements such as work needed to develop methodologies or to address specific policy areas.

4. Data and information

Brief description of the system to record, maintain, manage and report statistical information on RDP implementation and provision of monitoring data for evaluation. Identification of data sources to be used, data gaps, potential institutional issues related to data provision, and proposed solutions. This section should demonstrate that appropriate data management systems will be operational in due time.

5. Timeline

Major milestones of the programming period, and indicative outline of the timing needed to ensure that results are available at the appropriate time.

6. Communication

Description of how evaluation findings will be disseminated to target recipients, including a description of the mechanisms established to follow-up on the use of evaluation results.

7. Resources

Description of the resources needed and foreseen to implement the plan, including an indication of administrative capacity, data, financial resources, IT needs. Description of capacity building activities foreseen to ensure that the evaluation plan can be fully implemented.

10. Financing plan, comprising structured tables setting out:

a. Annual EAFRD contribution

- i. for all types of regions under [RD] Article 59(3),
- ii. for additional allocations – [RD] Article 59(4)(e) transfers to EAFRD in application of Articles [DP] 7(2) and 14(1), [RD] Article 59(4)(f) financial assistance in accordance with 136 and 143 TFEU, and voluntary adjustments in application of Art 10c of the (EC) Regulation 73/2009.
- iii. resources allocated to the performance reserve in accordance with [CPR] Article

b. Breakdown by measure and type of operation with different EAFRD contribution rate including, for the points (i) to (iii), an indicative breakdown of the total Union contribution by Focus Area³ for each measure. Table setting out:

- i. single EAFRD contribution rate for all measures broken down by type of region
- ii. for all types of operations with different contribution rate under each measure the total Union contribution and the EAFRD contribution rate.
- iii. for measures [RD] Art 17⁴ and 30 the total Union contribution reserved for operations falling within the scope of [RD] Article 59(6).
- iv. for technical assistance the total Union contribution and the EAFRD contribution rate used in line with [RD] Art 51(3),
- v. for discontinued measures the total Union contribution and the EAFRD contribution rate.

When a measure or a type of operation with different EAFRD contribution rate contributes to the financial instruments referred to in [CPR] Article 38(1)(b)] (financial instruments set up at national or regional level), the table shall indicate separately the contribution rates for financial instruments and for other operations as well as an indicative EAFRD amount corresponding to the planned contribution to the financial instrument.

c. **For each sub-programme and indicative breakdown by measure** of the total Union contribution by measure

11. Indicator plan, comprising structured tables setting out:

- a. by focus area, tables with quantified targets accompanied with planned outputs and planned total public expenditure of the measures selected to address the focus area
- b. tables for agriculture and forestry showing the detailed calculation of the targets of priorities [RD] Art 5(4) and 5(5)(d) and (e).
- c. table showing qualitatively the additional contribution of measures to others focus areas

12. Additional national financing:

For measures and operations falling within the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty, a table on additional national financing per measure in accordance with [RD] Article 82, including the amounts per measure and indication of compliance with the criteria under RD regulation.

13. Elements needed for State aid assessment:

³ The indicative breakdown by Focus Area is to be used within the context of the contribution of rural development programme to the thematic objectives and climate change objectives referred to in [CPR] Art 14(1)(a)(iv)], of suspensions referred to in [CPR] Articles 19(5) and 22(6) and, when relevant, of the calculation of amounts to be reserved under [RD Art 59(6)].

⁴ For measure 18, the contribution reserved for operations falling within the scope of [RD] Article 59(6)] corresponds to the contribution of the measure to the priorities [RD] Art 5(4) and 5(5).

Not applicable national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

For the measures and operations which fall outside the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty the table of aid schemes falling under [RD] Article 81(1) to be used for the implementation of the programmes, including the title of the aid scheme, as well as the EAFRD contribution, national cofinancing and additional national financing. Compatibility with state aid rules must be ensured over the entire life cycle of the programme.

The table shall be accompanied by a commitment from the Member State that any cases of application of the schemes for which individual notifications are required under state aid rules or under conditions and commitments laid down in the respective state aid approval decision, will be notified individually pursuant to Article 88(3) of the Treaty.

14. Information on complementarity containing the following sections:

Not applicable national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

1.- Description of means for the complementarity/coherence with:

- Other Union instruments and, in particular with ESI funds and Pillar 1 and other instruments of the common agriculture policy.
- Where both national and regional RDPs are implemented on the same territory, information on complementarity between the two RDPs.

2.-Where relevant, information on the complementarity with other Union financial instruments

15. Programme implementing arrangements, containing the following sections:

Points (a), (b) and (c) only are applicable to national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

- a. The designation by the Member State of all authorities referred to in [RD] Article 65(2) and a summary description of the management and control structure of the programme requested under [CPR] Article 55(3)(i) and arrangements under [CPR] Article 74(3).
- b. The envisaged composition of the Monitoring Committee.
- c. Publicity arrangements for the programme making reference to the information and publicity strategy referred to in Article 13 of this Regulation which describes the information and publicity arrangements for the programme in more detail.
- d. Description of mechanisms of how to ensure coherence with regard to local development strategies implemented under Leader, activities envisaged under the "Cooperation" measure referred to in [RD] Article 35, the "Basic services and village renewal in rural areas" measure referred to in [RD] Article 20, and other ESI funds.
- e. Description of action to achieve a reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries under [CPR] Article 27(1)
- f. Description of the use of technical assistance including activities related to the preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control of the programme and its implementation, as well as the activities concerning preceding or subsequent programming periods as referred to in [CPR] Article 59(1).

16. Actions taken to involve partners

Not applicable national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

List of actions taken to involve partners, subject and summary of the outcome of the corresponding consultations.

17. National rural network

Not applicable national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

Description of:

- a. The procedure and the timetable for establishing the national rural network (hereinafter NRN);
- b. The planned organisation of the network, namely the way organisations and administrations, including the partners, as referred to in Article [RD] 54(1) will be involved and how the networking activities will be facilitated;
- c. A summary description of the main categories of activity to be undertaken by the NRN in accordance with the objectives of the programme;
- d. The resources available for establishing and operating the NRN.

18. Ex ante assessment of verifiability, controllability and error risk

Statement by the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency on the verifiability and controllability of the measures supported under the RDP.

Statement by the functionally independent body from the authorities responsible for the programme implementation confirming the adequacy and accuracy of the calculations of standard costs, additional costs and income forgone.

Not applicable national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

19. Transitional arrangements

Not applicable national programmes dedicated to joint instruments implemented by the EIB in accordance with [CPR] Article 39

Description of the transitional conditions by measure.

Indicative carry-over table

20. Thematic sub-programmes

20.1 SWOT and identification of needs

- a. Analysis based on the SWOT methodology containing the following sections
 - i. Comprehensive overall description of the theme of the sub-programme using common and programme-specific context indicators and qualitative information.
 - ii. Strengths identified with regard to the theme of the sub-programme.
 - iii. Weaknesses with regard to the theme of the sub-programme
 - iv. Opportunities with regard to the theme of the sub-programme
 - v. Threats with regard to the theme of the sub-programme
- b. Needs assessment, based on evidence from the SWOT analysis, to be addressed by the sub-programme.

20.2 Description of the strategy

- a. A justification of the needs selected to be addressed by the sub-programme and the choice of objectives, priorities and focus areas based on evidence from the SWOT and the needs assessment.
- b. The choice, combination and justification of rural development measures for each focus area.
- c. A description of how the cross-cutting themes will be addressed.
- d. A summary table of the intervention logic showing the priorities and focus areas selected for the sub-programme, the quantified targets, and the combination of measures to be used to achieve them.

20.3 Indicator plan, comprising structured tables setting out:

- e. by Focus Area, tables with quantified targets accompanied with planned outputs and planned total public expenditure of the measures selected to address the Focus Area;
- f. tables for agriculture and forestry showing the detailed calculation of the targets of priorities [RD] Art 5(4) and 5(5)(d) and (e);

Part 2 – Content of national Frameworks

- 1. Title of the national framework**
- 2. Member State**
 - a. Geographical area covered by the framework.
 - b. Classification of the regions.
- 3. General presentation of the relations between national framework, partnership agreement and rural development programmes**

4. Table summarising, by region and by year, the total EAFRD contribution to the Member State for the whole period

5. Description of each of the measures selected

3. Description of the general conditions applied to more than one measure including, when relevant, definition of rural area, baselines, cross-compliance, intended use of financial instruments, intended use of advances, etc.
4. Description by measure including:
 - a. Legal basis.
 - b. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives.
 - c. Scope, level of support, and eligible beneficiaries broken down by sub-measure and type of operation. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions [applicable] amounts and support rates and principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria.
 - d. General principles for verifiability and controllability of the measures and, when relevant, the methodology for the calculations of the amount of support.
 - e. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure.
 - f. When relevant, information specific to the measure referred to in point 8(2)(h) of Part 1 of this annex.

6. Where relevant, additional national financing:

For measures and operations falling within the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty, a table on additional national financing per measure in accordance with Article 82, including the amounts per measure and indication of compliance with the criteria under RD regulation.

7. Where relevant, elements needed for State aid

For the measures and operations which fall outside the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty the table of aid schemes falling under Article 81(1) to be used for the implementation of the programmes, including the title and the references of the aid scheme, as well as the EAFRD contribution, national cofinancing and additional national financing. Compatibility with State aid rules must be ensured over the entire life cycle of the programme.

The table shall be accompanied by a commitment from the Member State that any cases of application of the schemes for which individual notifications are required under State aid rules or under conditions and commitments laid down in the respective State aid approval decision, will be notified individually pursuant to Article 88(3) of the Treaty.

Part 3 - Indicative list of priorities/focus areas and measures of particular relevance to ex-ante conditionalities (EAFRD priority related and general) referred to in point 6(a)(ii) of Annex I

EU priority for RD / CPR: Thematic Objective (TO)	Ex ante conditionality	Criteria for fulfilment	Applicability Focus areas, measures
RD priority 3: promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture TO 5: promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	3.1. Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management. taking into account climate change adaptation	- A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the process, methodology, methods and non-sensitive data used for risk assessment as well as of the risk-based criteria for the prioritisation of investment; • A description of single-risk and multi-risk scenarios; • Taking into account, where appropriate, national climate change adaptation strategies. 	Focus area: 3b Measures: 18, 24, 36, 37, 38, 39
RD priority 4: restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry TO 5: promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management TO 6: Preserving and protecting	4.1 Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC): standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land referred to in Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) .../2013* are established at national level	- GAEC standards are defined in national law and specified in the programmes;	Focus area/s: 4a, 4b, 4c, 5d, 5e Measures: 28, 29, 30

* The number of the Regulation will have to be inserted in the document after publication.../13 [HR].

the environment and promoting resource efficiency	4.2 Minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products: minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products referred to in Article 28 of Chapter I of Title III of this Regulation are defined at national level	- minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products referred to in Chapter I of Title III of this Regulation are specified in the programmes;	Focus area/s: 4a, 4b, 4c, 5d, 5e Measures: 28, 29
	4.3 other relevant national standards: relevant mandatory national standards are defined for the purpose of Article 28 of Chapter I of Title III of this Regulation	- relevant mandatory national standards are specified in the programmes;	Focus area/s: 4a, 4b, 4c, 5d, 5e Measures: 28, 29
RD priority 5: promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in the agriculture and food sectors and the forestry sector TO 4: supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors TO 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	5.1 Energy efficiency: Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	- The actions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and the Council⁵; Measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU; Measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency, consistent with Article 3 of Directive 2012/27 EU of the European Parliament and the Council⁶; Measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and the Council⁷ on energy end use efficiency and energy 	Focus area/s: 5b, 6a Measures: 17, 19, 20, 35*

⁵ Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings (OJ L 153, 18.6.2010, p. 13).

⁶ Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC (OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 1).

⁷ Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on energy end-use efficiency and energy services and repealing Council Directive 93/76/EEC (OJ L 114, 27.4.2006, p. 64).

		services to ensure the provision to final customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings.	
	5.2 Water sector: The existence of a) a water pricing policy which provides adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and b) an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services at a rate determined in the approved river basin management plan for investment supported by the programmes.	In sectors supported by the EAFRD, a Member State has ensured a contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services by sector consistent with Article 9, paragraph 1 first indent of the Water Framework Directive having regard where appropriate, to the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery as well as the geographic and climatic conditions of the region or regions affected.	Focus area: 5a Measures, 17, 35*
	5.3 Renewable energy: Actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources ⁸ .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transparent support schemes, priority in grid access or guaranteed access and priority in dispatching, as well as standard rules relating to the bearing and sharing of costs of technical adaptations which have been made public are in place consistent with Article 14(1) and Article 16(2) and (3) of Directive 2009/28/EC; - A Member State has adopted a national renewable energy action plan consistent with Article 4 of Directive 2009/28/EC 	Focus area: 5c Measures: 17, 19, 20, 35*

⁸ Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC (OJ L 140, 5.6.2009, p. 16).

<p>RD priority 6: promoting social inclusion poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas</p> <p>TO 2: Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies (Broadband target)</p>	<p>6.1 Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure : The existence of national or regional NGA Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups</p>	<p>- A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a plan of infrastructure investments based on an economic analysis taking account of existing private and public infrastructures and planned investments; • sustainable investment models that enhance competition and provide access to open, affordable, quality and future proof infrastructure and services; • measures to stimulate private investment. 	<p>Focus area: 6c</p> <p>Measures: 20, 35*</p>
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2. GENERAL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

<p>1. Anti-Discrimination</p> <p>The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.</p>	<p>Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund-related activities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti-discrimination law and policy. 	<p>Focus area: 6b</p> <p>Measures: 14, 15, 35*, LEADER</p>
<p>2. Gender Equality</p> <p>The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.</p>	<p>Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund related activities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming. 	<p>Focus area/s: 6a, 6b</p> <p>Measures: 14, 15, 19, 20, 35*, LEADER</p>
<p>3. Disability</p> <p>The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCPRD) in the field of ESI</p>	<p>Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes;</p>	<p>Focus area/s: 6a, 6b</p> <p>Measures: 19, 20, 35*, LEADER</p>

Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC ⁹ .	<p>Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate;</p> <p>– Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.</p>	
4. Public Procurement The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	<p>Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms;</p> <p>Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures ;</p> <p>Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds;</p> <p>– Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.</p>	<p>Focus area/s: 2a, 5a, 5b, 5c, 6b</p> <p>Measures:14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21 (e), 35*, LEADER</p>
5. State Aid The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	<p>Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules;</p> <p>Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds;</p> <p>– Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.</p>	<p>All focus areas and measures, provided that the operations under them fall outside Art. 42 of the Treaty</p>
6. Environmental legislation relating to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)and, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) The existence of arrangements for the effective	<p>Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁰ (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹¹ (SEA);</p> <p>Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives;</p> <p>– Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.</p>	<p>Focus area/s: 2a, 3a, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 6a, 6c</p> <p>Measures: 17, 19, 20, 21, 21 (a), 21 (b), 21 (c), 21 (d), 21 (e), 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35*</p>

⁹ Council Decision of 26 November 2009 concerning the conclusion, by the European Community, of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35)

¹⁰ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1).

¹¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p. 30).

application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.		
7. Statistical systems and result indicators The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation; arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data; An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme; the establishment of targets for these indicators; the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data; – Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Is applicable but already fulfilled, CMEF

* with the exception of support for the EIP

Part 4 – Measure and Sub-Measure codification

<i>Measure under Regulation (EU) No [...] /RD/ or Regulation (EU) No [...] /CPR/</i>		<i>Measure code under this regulation</i>	<i>Sub-measure under this regulation</i>	<i>Sub-measure code under this regulation</i>
[RD] art 14	knowledge transfer and information actions	1	support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions	1.1
			support for demonstration activities and information actions	1.2
			support for short-term farm and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits	1.3
[RD] art 15	advisory services, farm management and farm relief services	2	support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services	2.1
			support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services	2.2
			support for training of advisors	2.3
[RD] art 16	quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs	3	support for new participation in quality schemes	3.1
			Support for information and promotion activities implemented by groups of producers in the internal market	3.2
[RD] art 17	investments in physical assets	4	support for investments in agricultural holdings	4.1
			support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products	4.2
			support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry	4.3
			support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives	4.4
[RD] art 18	restoring agricultural production potential damage by natural disasters and introduction of appropriate prevention	5	support for investments in preventive actions aimed at reducing the consequences of probable natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events	5.1
			support for investments for the restoration of agricultural land and production potential damaged by natural disasters, adverse climatic	5.2

			events and catastrophic events	
[RD] art 19	farm and business development	6	business start up aid for young farmers	6.1
			business start up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas	6.2
			business start up aid for the development of small farms	6.3
			support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities	6.4
			payments for farmers eligible for the small farmers scheme who permanently transfer their holding to another farmer	6.5
[RD] art 20	basic services and village renewal in rural areas	7	support for drawing up and updating of plans for the development of municipalities and villages in rural areas and their basic services and of protection and management plans relating to N2000 sites and other areas of high nature value	7.1
			support for investments in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and energy saving	7.2
			support for broadband infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and provision of access to broadband and public e-government	7.3
			support for investments in the setting-up, improvement or expansion of local basic services for the rural population including leisure and culture, and the related infrastructure	7.4
			support for investments for public use in recreational infrastructure, tourist information and small scale tourism infrastructure	7.5
			support for studies/investments associated with the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages, rural landscapes and high nature value sites including related socio-economics aspects, as well as environmental awareness actions	7.6

			support for investments targeting the relocation of activities and conversion of buildings or other facilities located inside or close to rural settlements, with a view to improving the quality of life or increasing the environmental performance of the settlement	7.7
			others	7.8
[RD] art 21	investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests	8	support for afforestation/creation of woodland establishment cost and maintenance/income foregone premium per ha	8.1
			support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems cost	8.2
			support for prevention of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events	8.3
			support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events	8.4
			support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems	8.5
			support for investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products	8.6
[RD] art 27	setting up of producer groups and organisations	9	setting up of producer groups and organisations in the agriculture and forestry sectors	9
[RD] art 28	agri-environment-climate	10	payment for agri-environment-climate commitments	10.1
			support for conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture	10.2
[RD] art 29	organic farming	11	payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods	11.1
			payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods	11.2

[RD] art 30	Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments	12	compensation payment for Natura 2000 agricultural areas	12.1
			compensation payment for Natura 2000 forest areas	12.2
			compensation payment for agricultural areas included in river basin management plans	12.3
[RD] art 31	payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints	13	compensation payment in mountain areas	13.1
			compensation payment for other areas facing significant natural constraints	13.2
			compensation payment to other areas affected by specific constraints	13.3
[RD] art 33	animal welfare	14	payment for animal welfare	14
[RD] art 34	Forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation	15	payment for forest environment commitments	15.1
			support for the conservation and promotion of forest genetic resources	15.2
[RD] art 35	cooperation	16	support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability	16.1
			support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies	16.2
			(other) co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources, and for developing/marketing tourism	16.3
			support for horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets, and for promotion activities in a local context relating to the development of short supply chains and local markets	16.4
			support for joint action undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change, and for joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices	16.5

			support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes	16.6
			support for non-CLLD local development strategies	16.7
			support for drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments	16.8
			support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food	16.9
			others	16.0
[RD] art 36	risk management	17	Crop, animal and plant insurance premium	17.1
			Mutual funds for adverse climatic events, animal and plant diseases, pest infestations and environmental incidents	17.2
			Income stabilisation tool	17.3
[RD] art. 40	Financing of complementary national direct payments for Croatia	18	Financing of complementary national direct payments for Croatia	18
[CPR] art 35	Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development)	19	Preparatory support	19.1
			Support for implementation of operations under the community-led local development strategy	19.2
			Preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action group	19.3
			Support for running costs and animation	19.4
[RD] art 51 - 54 (RD)	Technical assistance	20	support technical assistance (other than NRN)	20.1
			support for establishing and operating the NRN	20.2

Part 5 – Priority and Focus Area codification

Priority	Article in the EAFRD Regulation/Code Focus Area	Focus Area
Priority 1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas	Article 5 (1) (a) = focus area 1A	Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
	Article 5 (1) (b) = focus area 1B	Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance
	Article 5 (1) (c) = focus area 1C	Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors
Priority 2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forest	Article 5 (2) (a) = focus area 2A	Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
	Article 5 (2) (b) = focus area 2B	Facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and, in particular, generational renewal
Priority 3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture	Article 5 (3) (a) = focus area 3A	Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and organisations and inter-branch organisations
	Article 5 (3) (b) = focus area 3B	Supporting farm risk prevention and management
Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry	Article 5 (4) (a) = focus area 4A	Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints, and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes
	Article 5 (4) (b) = focus area 4B	Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management

Priority	Article in the EAFRD Regulation/Code Focus Area	Focus Area
	Article 5 (4) (c) = focus area 4C	Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
Priority 5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors	Article 5 (5) (a) = focus area 5A	Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture
	Article 5 (5) (b) = focus area 5B	Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
	Article 5 (5) (c) = focus area 5C	Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by-products, wastes and residues and of other non-food raw material, for the purposes of the bio-economy
	Article 5 (5) (d) = focus area 5D	Reducing greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture
	Article 5 (5) (e) = focus area 5E	Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry
Priority 6: Promoting social inclusion poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas	Article 5 (6) (a) = focus area 6A	Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation
	Article 5 (6) (b) = focus area 6B	Fostering local development in rural areas
	Article 5 (6) (c) = focus area 6C	Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas.

ANNEX II

Conversion rates of Animals to Livestock Units ("LU") referred to in Article 9(2)

Bulls, cows and other bovine animals over two years and equine animals over six months	1,0 LU
Bovine animals from six months to two years	0,6 LU
Bovine animals below six months	0,4 LU
Sheep and goats	0,15 LU
Breeding sows > 50Kg	0,5 LU
Other pigs	0,3 LU
Laying hens	0,014 LU
Other poultry*	0,03 LU
Conversion rates may be increased, taking into account scientific evidence to be explained and duly justified in the rural development programmes.	

* for this category conversion rates may be decreased, taking into account scientific evidence to be explained and duly justified in the rural development programmes.

ANNEX III

Information and Publicity

Part I – Information and Publicity actions

1. Responsibilities of the Managing authority

1.1 Information and publicity strategy

-The managing authority shall ensure that the information and publicity actions are implemented in accordance with its information and publicity strategy which shall at least cover the following::

- (a) the aims and target groups;
- (b) a description of the content of the information and publicity measures;
- (c) the indicative budget of the strategy;
- (d) a description of the administrative bodies, including the staff resources, responsible for implementing the information and publicity measures;
- (e) a description of the role played by the National Rural Network and how its communication plan requested under Art. 51(3) (vi) of Regulation (EU) No [...] [RD] will contribute to the implementation of the strategy;
- (f) a description of how the information and publicity measures shall be assessed in terms of visibility and awareness of policy framework, programmes and operations, and of the role played by the Funds and the Union.
- (g) an annual update setting out the information and publicity activities to be carried out in the following year

1.2 Information for the potential beneficiaries

The managing authority shall ensure that potential beneficiaries have access to the relevant information, including updated information where necessary, and taking into account the accessibility of electronic or other communication services for certain potential beneficiaries, on at least the following:

- (a) the funding opportunities and the launching of calls under the rural development programmes;
- (b) the administrative procedures to be followed in order to qualify for financing under an rural development programme;
- (c) a description of the procedures for examining applications for financing;
- (d) the eligibility conditions and/or criteria for selecting and evaluating the projects to be financed;
- (e) the names of persons or contacts at national, regional or local level who can explain the way rural development programmes work and the criteria for selecting and evaluating the operations;
- (f) the responsibility of beneficiaries to inform the public about the aim of the operation and the support from the EAFRD to the operation in accordance with section 2 of

part I. The managing authority may request potential beneficiaries to propose indicative communication activities, proportional to the size of the operation, in the applications.

- (g) a description of the procedures for the examination of complaints under Article 63 of Regulation (EU) No [...] [CPR].

1.3 Information for the general public

The managing authority shall inform the public of the content of rural development programme, its adoption by the Commission and its updates, the main achievements in the implementation of the programme and its closure, as well as its contribution to the achievement of the Union objectives as set out in the Partnership Agreement.

The managing authority shall ensure the establishment of a single website or single website portal providing information as referred to in sub-sections 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 (1), (2) and (3) under point 1 of this annex. The establishment of the single website shall not disrupt smooth implementation of the Funds and not restrict access for potential beneficiaries and stakeholders to the information compared to the previous situation. The measures for informing the public shall include the elements set out in Part II paragraph (1).

Involvement of bodies acting as relays

(5) The managing authority shall ensure, including through the National Rural Network, that bodies that can act as relays are involved in the information measures for potential beneficiaries, and in particular:

- (a) Partners as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No [...] [CPR] ;
- (b) information centres on Europe, as well as Commission representation offices, and Information offices of the European Parliament in Member States;
- (c) educational and research institutions.

Award notification

(6). The managing authority shall ensure that the notification of award of the assistance informs beneficiaries that the action is being financed from a programme part-financed by the EAFRD and the measure and priority of the rural development programme concerned.

2. Responsibilities of beneficiaries

(1) All information and communication measures provided by the beneficiary shall acknowledge support from the EAFRD to the operation by displaying:

- (a) The Union emblem
- (b) a reference to the support from the EAFRD

Where and information or publicity action relates to an operation or to several operations co-financed by more than one Fund, the reference provided for in point (b) may be replaced by a reference to the ESI Funds.

(2) During the implementation of an operation, the beneficiary shall inform the public about the support obtained from the Funds by:

(a) providing on the beneficiary's website, where such a website exists, a short description of the operation, proportionate to the level of support, including its aims and results, and highlighting the financial support from the Union;

(b) for operations not falling under point (c) and depending on the operation funded (for example for projects under Article 21 on village renewal or LEADER projects), at least one poster with information about the project (minimum size A3), including the financial support from the Union, at a location readily visible to the public, such as the entrance area of a building. Where an operation under a rural development programme results in an investment (for example, on a farm or on food enterprise) whose total cost exceeds EUR 50000, the beneficiary shall place an explanatory plaque with information about the project, including the financial support from the Union. An explanatory plaque shall also be installed in the locations of the local action groups financed by LEADER.(c) putting up, at a location readily visible to the public, a temporary billboard of a significant size for each operation consisting of the financing of infrastructure or construction operations for which the total public support to the operation exceeds EUR 500 000.

No later than three months after completion of an operation, the beneficiary shall put up a permanent plaque or billboard of significant size at a location readily visible to the public for each operation that fulfils the following criteria:

- the total public support to the operation exceeds EUR 500 000;
- the operation consists of the purchase of a physical object or of the financing of infrastructure or of construction operations.

The billboards, posters, plaques and websites shall carry a description of the project/operation and the elements referred to in Part II paragraph (1). That information shall take up at least 25 % of the billboard, plaque or webpage.

Part II. Technical characteristics of information and publicity actions

1. Slogan and logo

Each action of information and publicity shall contain the following elements:

- The Union emblem in accordance with the graphic standards http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/emblem/download_en.htm, together with an explanation of the Union's role, by means of the following statement:

"The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas".

- For the actions and measures financed by LEADER, the LEADER logo shall also be used:

++ LEADER logo++

2. Information and communication material

Publications (such as booklets, leaflets and newsletters) and posters about measures and actions part-financed by the EAFRD shall contain a clear indication on the title page of the Union's participation, as well as the Union's emblem if the national or regional emblem is also used. Publications shall include references to the body responsible for the information content and to the managing authority designated to implement the assistance package in question.

In the case of information made available by electronic means (websites, databases for potential beneficiaries) or as audio-visual material, the first indent shall apply by analogy.

Websites concerning the EAFRD shall:

- mention the contribution of the EAFRD at least on the home page;
- include a hyperlink to the Commission website concerning EAFRD.]

ANNEX IV

Common set of context, result and output indicators

1. Context indicators

- C1. Population
- C2. Age structure
- C3. Territory
- C4. Population density
- C5. Employment rate*
- C6. Self-employment rate
- C7. Unemployment rate
- C8. GDP per capita*
- C9. Poverty rate*
- C10. Structure of the economy
- C11. Structure of the employment
- C12. Labour productivity by economic sector
- C13. Employment by economic activity
- C14. Labour productivity in agriculture
- C15. Labour productivity in forestry
- C16. Labour productivity in the food industry
- C17. Agricultural holdings (farms)
- C18. Agricultural area
- C19. Agricultural area under organic farming
- C20. Irrigated land
- C21. Livestock units
- C22. Farm labour force
- C23. Age structure of farm managers
- C24. Agricultural training of farm managers
- C25. Agricultural factor income*
- C26. Agricultural entrepreneurial income*
- C27. Total factor productivity in agriculture*
- C28. Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture
- C29. Forest and other wooded land (FOWL)
- C30. Tourism infrastructure
- C31. Land cover
- C32. Less favoured areas
- C33. Farming intensity
- C34. Natura 2000 areas
- C35. Farmland birds index (FBI)*
- C36. Conservation status of agricultural habitats (grassland)
- C37. HNV farming*
- C38. Protected forest
- C39. Water abstraction in agriculture*
- C40. Water quality*
- C41. Soil organic matter in arable land*
- C42. Soil erosion by water*
- C43. Production of renewable energy from agriculture and forestry
- C44. Energy use in agriculture, forestry and food industry

C45. Emissions from agriculture*

*** Context indicators which incorporate CAP impact indicators**

2. Result indicators

R1 % of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (P2A)

*R2 Change in Agricultural output on supported farms/ AWU (P2A)**

R3 % of agriculture holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (P2B)

R4 % of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (P3A)

R5 % of farms participating under risk management schemes (P3B)

R6 % Forest or other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (P4A)

R7 % Agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (P4A)

R8 % of Agricultural land under management contracts improving water management (P4B)

R9 % of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (P4B)

R10 % of Agricultural land under management contracts improving soil management and or preventing soil erosion (P4C)

R11 % of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and or preventing soil erosion (P4C)

R12 % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (P5A)

*R13 Increase in efficiency of water use in agriculture in RDP supported projects (P5A)**

*R14 Increase in efficiency of energy use in agriculture and food-processing in RDP supported projects (P5B) **

*R15 Renewable energy produced from supported projects (P5C)**

R16 LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (P5D)

R17 % of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (P5D)

*R18 Reduced emissions of methane and nitrous oxide (P5D)**

*R19 Reduced ammonia emissions (P5D)**

R20 % of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration (P5E)

R21 Jobs created in supported projects (P6A)

R22 % of rural Population covered by local development strategies (P6B)

R23 % of rural population benefiting from improved services / infrastructures (P6B)

R24 Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (P6B)

R25 % of rural Population benefiting from new or improved services / infrastructures (ICT) (P6C)

Indicators in italics are also target indicators as listed under Point 4.

*** Complementary result indicators**

3. RD Output indicators

Number	Output indicators	Measures
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O.1	Total public expenditure	All measures
O.2	Total investment	4 (art. 17), 5 (art. 18), 6 (art. 19), 7 (art. 21), 8 (art. 21 (8.7 and 8.6))
O.3	Number of operations supported	1 (art. 14), 2 (art. 15), 4 (art. 17), 7 (art. 20), 8 (art. 21 (8.6 and 8.7)), 9 (art. 27), 17 (art. 36 (17.2 and 17.3))
O.4	Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	3 (art.16), 4 (art.17), 5 (art.18), 6 (art.19), 8 (art. 21 (8.1 to 8.4)), 11 (art. 29), 12 (30), 13 (art.31), 14 (art.33), 17 (art. 36 (17.1))
O.5	Area (ha)	4 (art.17), 8 (art.21 (8.1 to 8.4 and 8.6)), 11 (art.29), 12 (art.30), 13 (art.31), 15 (art.34)
O.6	Physical Area supported (ha)	10 (art. 28)
O.7	Number of contracts supported (ha)	10 (art.28), 15 (art.34)
O.8	Number of Livestock Units supported (ha)	14 (art. 33), 4 (art. 17)
O.9	Number (farm) holdings participating in supported schemes	11 (art. 27), 17 (art.36 (17.2 and 17.3))
O.10	Number of farmer benefiting from pay-outs	17 (art.36 (17.2 and 17.3))
O.11	Number training days given	1 (art. 14)
O.12	Number of participants in trainings	1 (art. 14)
O.13	Number of beneficiaries advised	2 (art. 15)
O.14	Number of advisor trained	2 (art. 15)
O.15	Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	7 (art. 20)
O.16	Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	16 (art. 35)
O.17	Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	16 (art. 35)
O.18	Population covered by LAG	19 (art. 32 CPR)
O.19	Number of LAGs selected	19 (art. 32 CPR)
O.20	Number of LEADER projects supported	19 (art. 32 CPR)

O.21	Number of cooperation project supported	19 (art. 32 CPR)
O.22	Number and type of project promoters	19 (art. 32 CPR)
O.23	Unique number of LAG involved in cooperation project	19 (art. 32 CPR)
O.24	Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	Networking
O.25	Number of NRN communication tools	Networking
O.26	Number of ENRD activities in which the NRN has participated	Networking

4. Target indicators

T1 % of expenditure for the 3 measures: 'Knowledge transfer & information action' + 'advisory services' + 'cooperation' in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (1A)

T2 Total number of co-operation operations supported under the cooperation measure (groups, networks/clusters, pilot project...) (1B)

T3 Total number of participants trained (1C)

T4 % of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (P2A)

T5 % of agriculture holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (P2B)

T6 % of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (P3A)

T7 % of farms participating under risk management schemes (P3B)

T8 % Forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (P4A)

T9 % Agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (P4A)

T10 % of Agricultural land under management contracts improving water management (P4B)

T11 % of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (P4B)

T12 % of Agricultural land under management contracts improving soil management and or preventing soil erosion (P4C)

T13 % of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and or preventing soil erosion (P4C)

T14 % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (P5A)

T15 Total RDP investment for energy efficiency (P5B)

T16 Total RDP investment in renewable energy production (P5C)

T17 LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (P5D)

T18 % of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (P5D)

T19 % of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration (P5E)

T20 Jobs created in supported projects (P6A)

T21 % of rural Population covered by local development strategies (P6B)

T22 % of rural population benefiting from improved services / infrastructures (P6B)

T23 Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (P6B)

T24 % of rural Population benefiting from new or improved services / infrastructures (ICT) (P6C)

5. Performance framework indicators

	Indicators	Related Output Indicator
Priority 2	Total Public Expenditure P2 (€)	O.1
	Number of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation (2A)	O.4
	Number of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investment for young farmers (2B)	O.4
Priority 3	Total Public Expenditure P3 (€)	O.1
	Nr of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets/short supply circuits, and producer groups (3A)	O.4
	Number of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes (3B)	O.9
Priority 4	Total Public Expenditure P4 (€)	O.1
	Agricultural land under management contracts contributing to biodiversity (ha) (4A)	O.5
	Agricultural land under management contracts improving water management (ha) (4B) + Agricultural land under management contracts improving soil management and/preventing soil erosion (ha) (4C)	O.5
Priority 5	Total Public Expenditure P5 (€)	O.1
	Total investment in energy savings and efficiency (€) (5B) + in renewable energy production (€) (5C)	O.2
	Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (5E) + Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG	O.5

	and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (5D) + Irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha) (5A)	
Priority 6	Total Public Expenditure P6 (€)	O.1
	Nr of operations supported to improve basic services and infrastructures in rural areas (6B and 6C)	O.3
	Population covered by LAG	O.18

ANNEX V

Common evaluation questions for rural development

Focus area-related evaluation questions

For each Focus Area included in the RDP, the related question should be answered in the enhanced AIRs submitted in 2017 and 2019, and in the ex-post evaluation report.

1. P1A: To what extent have RDP interventions supported innovation, cooperation and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas?
2. P1B: To what extent have RDP interventions supported the strengthening of links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance?
3. P1C: To what extent have RDP interventions supported lifelong learning and vocational training in the agriculture and forestry sectors?
4. P2A: To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to improving the economic performance, restructuring and modernization of supported farms in particular through increasing their market participation and agricultural diversification?
5. P2B: To what extent have RDP interventions supported the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and in particular, generational renewal?
6. P3A: To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to improving the competitiveness of supported primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to the agricultural products, promoting local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organization?
7. P3B: To what extent have RDP interventions supported farm risk prevention and management?
8. P4A: To what extent have RDP interventions supported the restoration, preservation and enhancement of biodiversity including in Natura 2000 areas, areas facing natural or other specific constraints and HNV farming, and the state of European landscape?
9. P4B: To what extent have RDP interventions supported the improvement of water management, including fertilizer and pesticide management?
10. P4C: To what extent have RDP interventions supported the prevention of soil erosion and improvement of soil management?
11. P5A: To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture?
12. P5B: To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing?
13. P5C: To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non-food raw material for purposes of the bio-economy?
14. P5D: To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to reducing GHG and ammonia emissions from agriculture?
15. P5E: To what extent have RDP interventions supported carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry?

16. P6A: To what extent have RDP interventions supported the diversification, creation and development of small enterprises and job creation?
17. P6B: To what extent have RDP interventions supported local development in rural areas?
18. P6C: To what extent have RDP interventions enhanced the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas?

Evaluation questions related to other aspects of the RDP

The following questions should be answered in the enhanced AIRs submitted in 2017 and 2019, and in the ex-post evaluation report.

19. To what extent have the synergies among priorities and focus areas enhanced the effectiveness of the RDP?
20. To what extent has Technical Assistance contributed to achieving the objectives laid down in Art. 52 of the CPR and Art 51 of the RDR?
21. To what extent has the National Rural Network contributed to achieving the objectives laid down in Art. 55.2 of the RDR?

Evaluation questions related to EU level objectives

The following questions should be answered in the enhanced AIR submitted in 2019, and in the ex-post evaluation report.

22. To what extent has the RDP contributed to achieving the EU 2020 headline target of raising the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75%?
23. To what extent has the RDP contributed to achieving the EU2020 headline target of investing 3% of EU's GDP in R&D and innovation?
24. To what extent has the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to achieving the EU 2020 headline target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels, or by 30% if the conditions are right, to increasing the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption to 20%, and achieving 20% increase in energy efficiency?
25. To what extent has the RDP contributed to achieving the EU 2020 headline target of reducing the number of Europeans living below the national poverty line?
26. To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the environment and to achieving the EU Biodiversity strategy target of halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services, and to restore them?
27. To what extent has the RDP contributed to the CAP objective of fostering the competitiveness of agriculture?
28. To what extent has the RDP contributed to the CAP objective of ensuring sustainable management of natural resources and climate action?
29. To what extent has the RDP contributed to the CAP objective of achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment?
30. To what extent has the RDP contributed to fostering innovation?

ANNEX VI

Main elements of technical support documents for the monitoring and evaluation system

One of the key elements of the monitoring and evaluation system for rural development is the technical support that is provided to Member States, evaluators and other evaluation stakeholders to build evaluation capacity and to increase the quality and consistency of evaluation activities. Technical support documents produced by the Commission working in conjunction with the Member States cover the following topics:

Fiches for each of the common indicators, which include a definition of the indicator; the link to the intervention logic; the unit of measurement; methodology used to obtain values; the data required and the sources of the data; information on data collection including the body responsible and the frequency of data collection; reporting requirements.

Methodological guidance to support Member States and evaluators in fulfilling the requirements of the monitoring and evaluation system, covering its various components, including evaluation methodologies and approaches, and the provision of support on specific issues such as evaluation of CLLD.

Guidance on the ex ante evaluation of RDPs covers the purpose of ex ante evaluation, the process and roles of the actors involved, and the scope of the exercise. It provides methodological support on suitable approaches and methods, and a toolbox of indicative templates.

Guidance on the preparation and Evaluation Plan guidance covers the purpose and benefits of an evaluation plan, the elements which should be included, and recommendations on appropriate processes to establish it. Considerations linked to governance and implementation are covered, as are indicative templates for aspects of the exercise.

Guidance on the use and establishment of proxy indicators, targeted particularly at regional RDPs. This describes the purpose and characteristics of proxy indicators and identifies data and methods which could be used where proxies are required.

Guidance document on the Indicator Plan covers the elements which should be included, rules to be applied and the template tables.

guidance document on the Monitoring covers the elements which should be included in the Annual Implementation Reports, rules to be applied and the template tables.

Guidance on the assessment of values for the complementary result indicators, covering identification of the relevant population of projects, sampling strategies, appropriate methodologies, data sources and assessment techniques.

Guidance on assessing the impacts of RDPs, covering the purpose and use of the impact indicators, linkages between rural development policy and other policies and factors which affect impact indicator values, and proposes methods for estimating the net effect of rural development interventions.

Guidance on answering the common evaluation questions for rural development, including links to the intervention logic and common indicators, and proposing additional data, judgement criteria and a range of possible approaches which could be used to answer the questions.

Guidance on the ex post evaluation of 2014-2020 RDPs covering the purpose, process and scope of the exercise, providing methodological support and identifying good practices, and including indicative templates for aspects of the exercise.

ANNEX VII
Structure and content of annual implementation reports (Article 50 CPR and 75 EAFRD Regulation)

1. Key information on implementation of the programme and its priorities (Art. 50 CPR and 72 RD Reg.)

a) Financial data

Financial implementation giving, for each measure and Focus Area, a statement of the expenditures incurred and declared in the Declarations of expenditure. It covers the total incurred public expenditure as well as the financial recoveries and corrections brought by the MS during the previous calendar year.

b) Common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values

Information on RDP implementation as measured by common and specific indicators, including the progress achieved in relation to the targets set for each Focus Area and on realised output compared to planned output as set in the Indicator Plan. Beginning from the annual implementation report to be submitted in 2017, the achievements towards the milestones set in the performance framework (table F). Additional information on the stage of RDP implementation is provided through data on financial commitments by measure and Focus Area, and the related expected progress towards targets.

Tables:

- Table A: Committed expenditure by measure and Focus Area
- Table B: Realised output indicators by measure and Focus Area
- Table C: Breakdown for relevant outputs and measures by type of area, gender and/or age
- Table D: Progress towards Targets
- Table E: Monitoring of transitional measures
- Table F: Achievement of the Performance Framework Indicators

2. The progress in implementing the Evaluation Plan should be presented as follows:

- a) Description of any modifications made to the EP in the RDP during the year, with their justification.
- b) A description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year (in relation to section 3 of the EP).*
- c) A description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data (in relation to section 4 of the EP).*
- d) A list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line.*

- e) A summary of completed evaluations, focussing on evaluation findings.
- f) A description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings (in relation to section 6 of the EP).*
- g) Description of the follow-up given to evaluation results (in relation to section 6 of the EP).*

* Reference should be made to the Evaluation Plan, any difficulties encountered in implementation should be described, together with solutions adopted or proposed.

3. Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken (Art. 50 CPR)

Description of the steps taken by the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee to ensure the quality and effectiveness of programme implementation and in particular as regard to issues encountered in managing the programme and any corrective measures taken, notably in response to comments made by the Commission.

4. Steps taken to implement technical assistance and programme publicity requirements

a) In case of coverage under the technical assistance of the establishment and functioning of national rural networks, the report shall describe:

- Actions taken and state of play as regards the establishment of the national rural network and the implementation of its action plan;

b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (article 13 of this regulation).

5. Actions taken to fulfil ex ante conditionalities (in 2017 and in 2016 where relevant) (Art. 50 CPR)

Descriptions of actions taken by priority/focus area/measure to fulfil the applicable priority-linked and general ex-ante conditionalities not fulfilled or partially fulfilled at the time of the adoption of the RDP. Reference should be made to the criteria which were not or only partially fulfilled, to any strategy, legal act or other relevant document including references to the relevant sections and articles, to the bodies responsible for fulfillment. Member States. Where necessary, Member States can provide explanations or additional information to complement that description.

6. Description of implementation of sub-programmes (Art. 75 RD)

The AIRs submitted in 2017 and 2019 shall also include the information on the implementation as measured by common and specific indicators including on the progress achieved in relation to the targets set in the indicator plan of the sub-programme as well as on realised output and expenditure compared to planned output and expenditure set in the sub-programme.

7. Assessment of the information and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme (Art. 50 CPR)

The AIRs submitted in 2017 and 2019 shall also include the following information resulting from evaluation activities:

Reporting and quantification of programme achievements, in particular through assessment of the complementary result indicators, and relevant evaluation questions.

The AIRs submitted in 2019 shall also include the following information resulting from evaluation activities:

- Reporting on the progress towards the objectives of the programme and its contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through *inter alia* assessment of the programme's net contribution to changes in CAP impact indicator values, and relevant evaluation questions.

8. Implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in art 6, 7 and 8 CPR (Art. 50 CPR)

The AIRs submitted in 2017 and 2019 should also include the following information:

- a) Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination (art. 7 CPR)

Assessment of actions taken to ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of gender perspective are taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including in relation to monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

- b) Sustainable development (art. 8 CPR)

Assessment of actions taken to ensure that the objectives and implementation of EAFRD is in line with the principle of sustainable development and with the Union's promotion of the aim of preserving, protecting and improving the environment, as set out in Article 11 and Article 191(1) TFEU, taking into account the polluter pays principle.

In addition, information is provided on the support for climate change objectives (Climate change tracking).

- c) The role of the partners referred to in Article 5 CPR in the implementation of the programme

Assessment of actions taken to ensure that the partners referred to in paragraph 1 of Art. 5 CPR are involved in the preparation of progress reports and throughout the implementation of programmes, including through participation in the monitoring committees for programmes in accordance with Article 48 CPR and in the activities of the National Rural Network.

9. Progress made in ensuring integrated approach

The AIRs submitted in 2019 shall also include the following information:

Description of progress made in ensuring an integrated approach to use of the EAFRD and other EU financial instruments to support the territorial development of rural areas, including through local development strategies (Art. 75 RD).

10. Report on Implementation of Financial Instruments (art. 46 CPR)

The AIRs should also include as an annex:

a specific report covering the operations comprising financial instruments. The content of this report is set in the art. 46 §2 CPR and this submission should be done through the ESI funds template.

Content of an Annual Implementation Report for Rural Network Programme

Description of:

- Actions taken and state of play as regards the establishment of the national rural network and the implementation of its action plan;

Tables: table B (section devoted to national rural network)