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**YEREL YÖNETİM REFORMU  
PROJESİ (YR III)**  
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION REFORM  
PROJECT (LAR III)

## Comparative Assessment Report – Final version

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<b>Component 1</b>	Effective Local Service Delivery
<b>Activity 2.2.1.</b>	Develop and implement local service delivery standards in order to simplify the processes for service provision
<b>Output/Result 2.2.</b>	Institutional capacity of the local authorities in terms of service delivery and adoption of the principles of democratic governance enhanced



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## **Abbreviations**

<b>ARDSI</b>	Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution
<b>CAP</b>	Common Agricultural Policy
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EAFRD</b>	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>EEC</b>	European Economic Community
<b>ESI</b>	European Structural and Investment Funds
<b>IPA</b>	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
<b>IPARD</b>	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development
<b>LAG</b>	Local Action Group
<b>LAR III</b>	Local Authority Reform III project
<b>LDS</b>	Local Rural Development Strategy
<b>MA</b>	Managing Authority
<b>MM</b>	Metropolitan Municipalities
<b>Moi</b>	Ministry of Interior
<b>NUTS</b>	Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics
<b>SPA</b>	Special Provincial Administrations
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>SWOT</b>	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme

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## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of the document is to give oversight of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union (EU) and comparative assessment of the EU measures (post-accession and pre-accession) and measures Turkey implements or could implement by local authorities.

The whole report is designed to follow the rural development measure creation, implementation and monitoring within the EU member states, case studies for 5 selected municipalities as well as current overview of rural development activities with regard EU negotiation in Turkey.

### **1.1. Project information**

Parallel to the gaining momentum of Turkey's EU accession process in 2000s, Turkey has witnessed concrete reform initiatives to attain an evolving process of rationalization, modernization and decentralization of the system of public administration. In follow up to the commitment of the Government to make changes in the local administration system, comprehensive reforms have been launched starting from 2004.

The Metropolitan Municipalities Law No. 6360 on the establishment of 14 Metropolitan Municipalities (MM) was adopted in December 2012. Some of the provisions of the referred Law were put into effect on the date of its enforcement, whereas some others became effective following the local elections in March 2014. With the newly established MMs, the number of MMs in Turkey increased to 30. Besides, Special Provincial Administrations (SPA) was abolished in 30 MMs and the number of SPA was decreased to 51. The SPA continues to function in the 51 provinces, where provincial municipalities exist.

LAR III is the third phase of the projects which were financed by the EU in the framework of IPA funds and implemented by the UNDP to support local administration reforms. The first phase of this project series (LAR I) was carried out in the period of 2005-2007 and the second phase (LAR II) was implemented in the period of 2009-2011.

The overall objective of the LAR III Project is to ensure effective, inclusive, accountable and participatory local governance in Turkey, in particular through support to further implementation of the LARs undertaken between 2003-2013, in line with international standards.

The specific objective of the Project is to develop and strengthen the administrative capacity and cooperation of Ministry of Interior (MoI) and Local Authorities themselves in the task of ensuring the effective implementation of the new local administration model in line with principles of democratic governance.

With the Law No. 6360, the service responsibility expanded to cover all provincial borders. Moreover, MMs and their district municipalities were then assigned with the task to undertake role in rural economic development as well as improving rural infrastructure. Since then, one of the biggest controversies among the academic circles and in public administration was such that of how the concept of municipality usually perceived within an urban context could be integrated into the service provision modality in rural communities which still stay as agrarian

settlements once served by SPAs<sup>1</sup>. With the addition of more metropolitan municipalities into the system also brings out another problem of distribution of roles and responsibilities of metropolitan municipalities and metropolitan district municipalities in rural development which also fall under the remit of various central government agencies such as Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution, State Hydraulic Works Department etc.

Regarding Law No. 6360, article 7, metropolitan and district municipalities can now provide all kinds of activities and services to support agriculture and animal husbandry. At the first stage of transferring the service delivery needs of the rural communities to MMs, in practice idea was such MMs should focus on infrastructural needs of villages. Nevertheless, over time MMs are increasingly moving into the area of rural economic development through initiatives such as free provision of seeds, of livestock, contractual agreements with rural cooperatives guaranteeing purchases of their agricultural products etc. With the expansion of duties and responsibilities of MMs which also overlap with those of other government agencies and institutions, it became necessity to develop standards for the provision of such services by MMs and their district municipalities to streamline the procedures and workflows to prevent duplications, improve coordination and planning for improving efficient and effectiveness in delivery of services for rural support.

The task expected from the International Consultant has two folds:

- i. Reviewing the existing rural service provisioning policies in selected EU countries;
- ii. Reviewing provision of rural infrastructure services and its financing in selected EU countries.

One of the expected outputs of the first task cited above (i) would be to provide insights to another activity which will be undertaken under Activity A.2.2.1 “Develop and Implement Local Service Delivery Standards”. This activity will address 5 municipal service delivery areas, one of which will be “developing standards” for rural services.

One of the tasks within the scope of the project LAR III is to develop the service standards ensuring the MMs and its District Municipalities to use 10% of their capital budgets for the infrastructure works in rural areas (as defined in the Law No. 6360 dated 2014).

As the Law No. 6360 became effective in 2014, there has been a need for the new MMs to have a coherent and simplified set of service delivery standards in order to fulfil their responsibilities under the referred Law. The standards will not be binding but be a useful guidance to ensure consistency in local service delivery. It is expected to be used by MoI and MoEU in monitoring of the implementation of reforms in terms of local service delivery.

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<sup>1</sup> Before the introduction of Law 6360 concerning MMs, the rural districts were used to be served by another local government entity SPAs (Special Provincial Administrations). SPAs are still operational in non-metropolitan provinces.

## 2. European Union framework for development of rural areas

In the EU, over a half of its financing is channelled through the 5 European structural and investment funds (ESIF). They are jointly managed by the European Commission and the EU countries.

The purpose of all these funds is to invest in job creation and a sustainable and healthy European economy and environment.

The European structural and investment funds are:

- European regional development fund (ERDF), which promotes balanced development in the different regions of the EU;
- European social fund (ESF), which supports employment-related projects throughout Europe and invests in Europe's human capital – its workers, its young people and all those seeking a job;
- Cohesion fund (CF), which funds transport and environment projects in countries where the gross national income (GNI) per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average. In 2014-20, these are Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

For the 2021-2027 period, the Cohesion Fund concerns Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Some of the objectives of this Fund are:

- o preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency by investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental *acquis* and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements (creating additional waste recycling capacities, having additional population served by improved water supply, more population served by improved wastewater treatment, additional capacity of renewable energy production);
- o promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures (new, reconstructed or upgraded railway lines, newly built, reconstructed or upgraded roads, new or improved tram and metro lines, new or improved inland waterways;
- o enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the Cohesion Fund;)
- European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD), which focuses on resolving the particular challenges facing EU's rural areas (to be briefly described in the following text);
- European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF), which helps fishermen to adopt sustainable fishing practices and coastal communities to diversify their economies, improving quality of life along European coasts.

All these funds are managed by the EU countries themselves, by means of partnership agreements.

Each country prepares an agreement, in collaboration with the European Commission, setting out how the funds will be used during the current funding period 2014-20 and for future 2021-2027 programming period.

For the Partnership Agreement and each programme, each Member State shall, in accordance with its institutional and legal framework, organise a partnership with the competent regional and local authorities. The partnership shall also include the following partners: (a) competent urban and other public authorities; (b) economic and social partners; and (c) relevant bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination.

Partnership agreements lead to a series of investment programmes channelling the funding to the different regions and projects in policy areas concerned.

#### *EAFRD and rural development programmes*

EU countries implement EAFRD funding through rural development programmes (RDPs). RDPs are co-financed by national budgets and may be prepared on either a national or regional basis. While the European Commission approves and monitors RDPs, decisions regarding the selection of projects and the granting of payments are handled by national and regional managing authorities.

Current situation within the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-27, adopted on 17 December 2020, amounts to €1.21 trillion with an additional €808 billion from the next generation EU recovery instrument. The total allocation for the common agricultural policy (CAP) amounts to €386.6 billion, divided between two funds (often referred to as the "two pillars" of the CAP): European agricultural guarantee fund (EAGF) which has an allocation of €291.1 billion; and EAFRD, the total allocation amounts to €95.5 billion. This EAFRD amount includes an injection of €8.1 billion from the next generation EU recovery instrument (EURI) to help address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Around 30% of the recovery funds will become available in 2021, with the remaining 70% to be released in 2022.

The rules for rural development spending during 2021-22 are laid out in the CAP transitional regulation, adopted on 23 December 2020. The regulation largely extends the existing rules (initially in place for the 2014-20 period), with some additional elements to ensure a smooth transition to the future CAP legislation, set to begin in 2023.

**At least 55% of the EURI resources should be devoted to measures that promote economic and social development in rural areas, namely to investments in physical assets, farm and business development, support for basic services and village renewal in rural areas and co-operation.**

Each RDP must work towards at least four of the six priorities of the EAFRD:

- fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
- enhancing the viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management;
- promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture;
- promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors;

- restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry;
- promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

The EAFRD priorities are in turn broken down into eighteen specific focus areas. In their programmes, countries set out targets relating to their chosen priorities and focus areas, as well as a strategy for meeting their targets.

When devising their strategies, countries select from a “menu” of twenty broad policy measures, which can be tailored around national and regional circumstances to deliver on one or more of the EAFRD’s priorities. Progress on targets is monitored through the common monitoring and evaluation framework (CMEF).

At least 30% of funding for each RDP must be dedicated to measures relevant for the environment and climate change, much of which is channelled through grants and annual payments to farmers who switch towards more environmentally friendly practices.

At least 5% of RDP funding must go to actions based on the LEADER/Community Led Local Development approach.

Rural development programmes can also support the smart villages initiative, which aims at providing a versatile toolbox to foster, enable and scale up innovation in rural areas around Europe, addressing the common challenges faced by citizens living in rural territories.

Through financial instruments, the EAFRD acts as a source for loans, microcredits, guarantees and equities, available to recipients in agriculture, forestry and rural areas who are undertaking financially viable projects that support the priorities of the EAFRD.

Financial instruments are included under European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds legislation, including the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), as a form of intervention to support investments in rural areas and agriculture. Financial instruments aim to finance projects which are expected to generate revenues and/or costs-savings that can repay their financing. This enables ESI Funds (including EAFRD) to revolve and/or to leverage further private and public sector investment. Financial instruments can be used alongside grants or be combined with other measures and/or EU-level financial instruments, such as the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) guarantee. Stimulated in part by the financial and economic crisis, the 2007-2013 programming period saw the first use of financial instruments supported by EAFRD. These were mostly targeted at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). During the 2014-2020 period, the scope of financial instruments under EAFRD has widened to all eligible sectors, including investment in infrastructure. Even larger-scale investments in broadband infrastructure and renewable energy, for example, are considered eligible and the scope also covers all categories of final recipients, including Public Private Partnerships (PPP). Additional opportunities to finance investments in infrastructure, such as local markets and short supply chains, can involve a cooperative approach. These tap into the experience of local stakeholders and gather local investors, as exemplified by the EU Smart Villages Initiative. **EAFRD grant support for infrastructure may account for around 10% of total investment volume in the current programming period. The bulk of this is for developing basic services and infrastructure in rural areas. Despite this high volume, no financial instruments dedicated to solely infrastructure have yet been implemented (there was no public information on any when**

this report was written), although they could greatly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of rural development policy and investment in rural infrastructure.

Under the Commission's proposals for the future of the common agricultural policy, rural development actions will be included under the framework of national CAP strategic plans from 2023 onwards.

Within this framework, the Commission aims to make rural development actions more responsive to current and future challenges such as climate change and generational renewal, while continuing to support European farmers for a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector. Rural development actions will also make a strong contribution to the Commission's key priorities and strategies, such as the European Green Deal and the long-term vision for rural areas.

#### *Monitoring of EAFRD by the EC*

By 1 September of each year the European Commission draws up a financial report on the administration of the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) during the previous budget year, and submits it to the European Parliament and the Council.

*Table 1 The EC financial table for the EAFRD*

<b>EAFRD declared expenditure 2019 (Q4 2018-Q3 2019) &amp; Total cumulative expenditure (Q4 2014 to Q3 2019*)</b>								
<b>compared with Financial Plans - EAFRD 2014-2020</b>								
		<b>Declared expenditure 2019 (Q4 2018 to Q3 2019)</b>		<b>Cumulative declared expenditure (Q4 2014 to Q3 2019)</b>		<b>Financial Plans 2014-2020</b>		
<b>EAFRD Measure</b>		<b>(million EUR)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>(million EUR)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>(million EUR)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	
Measure 01	Knowledge transfer and information actions	93,4	0,7%	250,5	0,5%	973,6	1,0%	
Measure 02	Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services	39,7	0,3%	87,1	0,2%	606,1	0,6%	
Measure 03	Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs	37,1	0,3%	98,7	0,2%	368,6	0,4%	
Measure 04	Investments in physical assets	2.801,0	20,2%	7.966,7	16,9%	22.860,8	22,8%	
Measure 05	Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events and introduction of appropriate prevention actions	75,2	0,5%	235,8	0,5%	807,5	0,8%	
Measure 06	Farm and business development	813,5	5,9%	2.838,8	6,0%	6.701,1	6,7%	
Measure 07	Basic services and village renewal in rural areas	1.022,7	7,4%	2.403,2	5,1%	6.893,5	6,9%	
Measure 08	Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests	411,4	3,0%	1.436,0	3,0%	4.257,4	4,3%	
Measure 09	Setting-up of producer groups and organisations	24,0	0,2%	73,4	0,2%	266,4	0,3%	
Measure 10	Agri-environment-climate	2.483,1	17,9%	9.841,7	20,9%	16.443,4	16,4%	
Measure 11	Organic farming	1.321,1	9,5%	4.207,6	8,9%	7.451,3	7,4%	
Measure 12	Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments	92,6	0,7%	340,9	0,7%	606,6	0,6%	
Measure 13	Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints	2.654,5	19,2%	11.916,0	25,3%	16.732,2	16,7%	
Measure 14	Animal Welfare	309,8	2,2%	1.152,4	2,4%	1.809,1	1,8%	
Measure 15	Forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation	15,1	0,1%	46,6	0,1%	240,0	0,2%	

Measure 16	Co-operation	107,1	0,8%	246,1	0,5%	1.676,4	1,7%
Measure 17	Risk management	358,6	2,6%	884,4	1,9%	1.613,0	1,6%
Measure 18	Financing of complementary national direct payments for Croatia	-0,1	0,0%	108,2	0,2%	111,9	0,1%
Measure 19	Support for LEADER local development — community-led local development (CLLD)	857,0	6,2%	1.851,4	3,9%	7.011,4	7,0%
Measure 20	Technical assistance Member States	278,7	2,0%	794,3	1,7%	2.155,0	2,2%
Measure 113	Early retirement	42,9	0,3%	402,2	0,9%	493,8	0,5%
Measure 131	Meeting standards based on Community legislation	0,0	0,0%	0,0	0,0%	0,0	0,0%
Measure 341	Skills acquisition, animation and implementation	0,1	0,0%	0,5	0,0%	0,6	0,0%
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>13.838,4</b>	<b>100,0 %</b>	<b>47.182,5</b>	<b>100,0 %</b>	<b>100.079,5</b>	<b>100,0 %</b>

According to the European union's framework, these are the relevant definitions in line with the rural development:

1. **Operation:** a project, contract, action or group of projects selected by the managing authorities of the programmes concerned, or under their responsibility, that contributes to the objectives of a priority or priorities; in the context of financial instruments, an operation is constituted by the financial contributions from a programme to financial instruments and the subsequent financial support provided by those financial instruments.
2. **Programming:** the process of organisation, decision-making and allocation of financial resources in several stages, with the involvement of partners, intended to implement, on a multi-annual basis, joint action by the Union and the Member States to achieve the objectives of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
3. **Public private partnerships' (PPPs):** forms of cooperation between public bodies and the private sector, which aim to improve the delivery of investments in infrastructure projects or other types of operations, delivering public services through risk sharing, pooling of private sector expertise or additional sources of capital.
4. **Results:** the direct effects or changes that arise due to the 'intervention'.
5. **Rural development programme (RDP):** a programming document prepared by a Member State and approved by the Commission to plan and monitor the implementation of the EU rural development policy at regional or national level.
6. **Rural infrastructure:** the physical assets that support rural areas, such as roads, bridges, water supply systems, sewers, waste management facilities, electrical grids and telecommunications, but also public facilities such as schools, kindergartens, sports facilities and community centres, which are commonly referred to as social and cultural infrastructure.
7. **Shared management:** method of implementation of the EU budget where the implementation tasks are delegated to the Member States, while the Commission retains final responsibility.

The following part of the document will focus on the Common Agriculture Policy in depth, in order to better understand the further framework for rural development.

Since the introduction of the CAP, every member state is obliged to follow the framework of European Commission that is clearly defined in its regulation. This framework has basic principles that are common for every member state and are mostly accentuable in:

- definition of support principles (income support, market measures, rural development measures);
- creation of long-term strategic paper (usually to follow programming period of EU mandates);
- usage of measure fiches.

Following is the overview of CAP and general framework that has been used in every EU member state.

## **2.1. The CAP overview**

Launched in 1962, the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) is a partnership between agriculture and society, and between Europe and its farmers. It aims to:

- support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food;
- safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living;
- help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources;
- maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU;
- keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-foods industries and associated sectors.

The CAP is a common policy for all EU countries. It is managed and funded at European level from the resources of the EU's budget.

## **2.2. The CAP in practice**

Farming is unlike most other businesses, as the following special considerations apply:

- despite the importance of food production, farmers' income is around 40% lower compared to non-agricultural income;
- agriculture depends more on the weather and the climate than many other sectors;
- there is an inevitable time gap between consumer demand and farmers being able to supply – growing more wheat or producing more milk inevitably takes time.

While being cost-effective, farmers should work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner, and maintain our soils and biodiversity.

Business uncertainties and the environmental impact of farming justify the significant role that the public sector plays for our farmers. The CAP takes action with:

- income support through direct payments ensures income stability, and remunerates farmers for environmentally friendly farming and delivering public goods not normally paid for by the markets, such as taking care of the countryside;

- market measures to deal with difficult market situations such as a sudden drop in demand due to a health scare, or a fall in prices as a result of a temporary oversupply on the market;
- rural development measures with national and regional programmes to address the specific needs and challenges facing rural areas.

### **2.3. CAP financing**

The level of support for EU farmers from the overall EU budget reflects the many variables involved in ensuring continued access to high quality food, which includes functions such as income support to farmers, climate change action, and maintaining vibrant rural communities.

The CAP is financed through two funds as part of the EU budget:

- the European agricultural guarantee fund (EAGF) provides direct support and funds market measures;
- the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) finances rural development.

Payments are managed at the national level by each European Union country. Information about the recipients of CAP payments is published by each country, in accordance with EU transparency rules.

### **2.4. The benefits of the CAP**

The CAP defines the conditions that will allow farmers to fulfil their functions in society in the following ways:

#### **2.4.1. Produce food**

- There are around 10 million farms in the EU and 22 million people work regularly in the sector. They provide an impressive variety of abundant, affordable, safe and good quality products.
- The EU is known throughout the world for its food and culinary traditions and is one of the world's leading producers and net exporter of agri-food products. Due to its exceptional agricultural resources the EU could and should play a key role in ensuring food security of the world at large.

#### **2.4.2. Rural community development**

- Within our countryside and its precious natural resources, there are many jobs linked to farming. Farmers need machinery, buildings, fuel, fertilisers and healthcare for their animals, also known as 'upstream' sectors.
- Other people are busy in 'downstream' operations – such as preparing, processing, and packaging food, as well as in food storage, transport and retailing. The farming and food sectors together provide nearly 40 million jobs in the EU.
- To operate efficiently and remain modern and productive, farmers, upstream and downstream sectors need ready access to the latest information on agricultural

issues, farming methods and market developments. During the period 2014-2020, the resources of the CAP were directed towards providing high-speed technologies, improved internet services and infrastructure to 18 million rural citizens – the equivalent of 6.4% of the EU’s rural population.

### **2.4.3. Environmentally sustainable farming**

- Farmers have a double challenge – to produce food whilst simultaneously protecting nature and safeguarding biodiversity. Using natural resources prudently is essential for our food production and for our quality of life – today, tomorrow and for future generations.

## **2.5. Legal foundations**

The legal basis for the common agricultural policy is established in the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.

The following 4 regulations set out the different elements of the CAP work:

- rules for direct payments to farmers (EU regulation 1307/2013);
- a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (EU regulation 1308/2013);
- support for rural development (EU regulation 1305/2013);
- financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (EU regulation 1306/2013).

For the years 2021-2022, a transitional regulation (Regulation (EU) 2020/2220) is in force. The regulation lays down conditions for the provision of support from the EAGF and EAFRD during these years, extending and amending provisions set out in the preceding regulations. It will remain in force until the new framework of CAP strategic plans is implemented (due to begin on 1 January 2023).

The common agricultural policy is managed by the European Commission's department for agriculture and rural development. It can adopt delegated and implementing acts to implement the common agricultural policy.

## **2.6. CAP framework in rural development**

The purpose of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is to contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy by promoting sustainable rural development throughout the Union in a manner that complements the other instruments of the CAP, the cohesion policy and the common fisheries policy. It contributes to the development of a Union agricultural sector that is more territorially and environmentally balanced, climate-friendly and resilient and competitive and innovative. It shall also contribute to the development of rural territories.

The EU Regulation 1305/2013<sup>2</sup> defines measures which can be used by Member Countries in implementation of the EAFRD<sup>3</sup>. The measures are:

- Knowledge transfer and information actions;
- Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services;
- Quality schemes for agricultural products, and foodstuffs;
- Investments in physical assets;
- Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events and introduction of appropriate prevention actions;
- Farm and business development;
- Basic services and village renewal in rural areas;
- Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests;
- Afforestation and creation of woodland;
- Establishment of agroforestry systems;
- Prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events;
- Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems;
- Investments in forestry technologies and in processing, in mobilising and in the marketing of forest products;
- Setting -up of producer groups and organisations;
- Agri-environment-climate;
- Organic farming;
- Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments;
- Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints;
- Designation of areas facing natural and other specific constraints;
- LEADER: LEADER local action groups, LEADER start-up kit, LEADER co-operation activities.

## **2.7. Rural development programmes framework**

Each rural development measure shall be programmed to contribute specifically to the achievement of one or more Union priorities for rural development.

Each rural development programme shall include:

- a) the ex-ante evaluation in order to improve the quality of the design of programme;
- b) a SWOT analysis of the situation and an identification of the needs that have to be addressed in the geographical area covered by the programme, bearing in mind

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005.

<sup>3</sup> The above-mentioned Regulation is supplemented by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014 of 11 March 2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and introducing transitional provisions and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014 of 17 July 2014 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

specific needs concerning the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and innovation;

- c) a description of the strategy which demonstrates that:
  - i. appropriate targets are set for each of the focus areas of the Union priorities for rural development included in the programme, based on the common indicators referred to in Regulation and, where necessary, on programme specific indicators;
  - ii. relevant combinations of measures are selected in relation to each of the focus areas of the Union priorities for rural development included in the programme, based on a sound intervention logic supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis;
  - iii. the allocation of financial resources to the measures of the programme is justified and adequate to achieve the targets set;
  - iv. specific needs linked with specific conditions at regional or sub-regional level are taken into account and concretely addressed through adequately designed combinations of measures or thematic sub-programmes;
  - v. an appropriate approach towards innovation with a view to achieving the Union priorities for rural development, towards the environment, including the specific needs of Natura 2000 areas, and towards climate change mitigation and adaptation is integrated into the programme;
  - vi. measures have been taken to ensure the availability of sufficient advisory capacity on the regulatory requirements and on actions related to innovation;
- d) assessment of ex-ante conditionality;
- e) a description of the performance framework;
- f) a description of each of the measures selected;
- g) an evaluation plan. The Member States shall provide sufficient resources to address the needs which have been identified and to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation;
- h) a financing plan comprising separate structured tables setting out:
  - i. the annual EAFRD contribution;
  - ii. the single EAFRD contribution rate for all measures;
  - iii. the breakdown by measure or type of operation;
  - iv. for each sub-programme an indicative breakdown by measure.
- i) an indicator plan, broken down into focus areas;
- j) where applicable, a table on additional national financing per measure;
- k) where applicable, the list of aid schemes to be used for the implementation of the programmes;
- l) information on the complementarity with measures financed by the other common agricultural policy instruments, and by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI);
- m) programme implementing arrangements including:

- i. the designation by the Member State of all authorities and, for information, a summary description of the management and control structure;
  - ii. a description of the monitoring and evaluation procedures, as well as the composition of the Monitoring Committee;
  - iii. the provisions to ensure that the programme is publicised, including through the national rural network;
  - iv. a description of the approach laying down principles with regard to the establishment of selection criteria for operations and local development strategies that takes into account relevant targets; in this context Member States may provide for priority to be given to SMEs linked to the agriculture and forestry sector.
  - v. in relation to local development, where applicable, a description of the mechanisms to ensure coherence between activities envisaged under the local development strategies, the "Cooperation" measure, and the "Basic services and village renewal in rural areas" measure including urban-rural links;
- n) the actions taken to involve the partners and a summary of the results of the consultation of the partners;
  - o) where applicable, the structure of the national rural network and provisions for its management, which would constitute the basis for its annual actions plans.

Where thematic sub-programmes are included in a rural development programme, each sub-programme shall include:

- a) a specific analysis of the situation based on SWOT methodology and an identification of the needs that are to be addressed by the sub-programme;
- b) specific targets at sub-programme level and a selection of measures, based on a thorough definition of the intervention logic of the sub-programme, including an assessment of the expected contribution of the measures chosen to achieve the targets;
- c) a separate specific indicator plan, with planned outputs and planned expenditure for each rural development measure selected in relation to a corresponding focus area.

The Commission shall adopt implementing acts laying down rules for the presentation of the elements in rural development programmes and rules for the content of national.

In continuation are presented some measures which can be used as the guidelines for programming measures in the MMs level.

### **2.7.1. Farm and business development**

For the development of rural areas<sup>4</sup>, the creation and development of new economic activity in the form of new farms, the diversification into non-agricultural activities including the

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<sup>4</sup> Article 50 of the EU Regulation No. 1305/2013 does not give the precise definition of rural area. The Regulation says: "For the purposes of this Regulation the Managing Authority shall define "rural area" at programme level. Member States may establish such a definition for a measure or type of operation

provision of services to agriculture and forestry, activities related to health care, social integration and tourist activities are essential. It is also possible for diversification into non-agricultural activities to address the sustainable management of synergetic resources.

A farm and business development measure should facilitate the initial establishment of young farmers and the structural adjustment of their agricultural holding after the initial setting up. Furthermore, diversification of farmers into non-agricultural activities and the setting up and development of non-agricultural SMEs in rural areas should be promoted. That measure should also encourage entrepreneurship of women in rural areas. The development of small farms, which are potentially economically viable should also be encouraged. In order to ensure the viability of new economic activities supported under that measure, support should be made conditional on the submission of a business plan.

Support under this measure shall cover:

- a) business start-up aid for:
  - i. young farmers (granted to young farmers);
  - ii. non-agricultural activities in rural areas (granted to farmers or members of a farm household who diversify into non-agricultural activities and to micro and small enterprises and natural persons in rural areas);
  - iii. the development of small farms (granted to small farms as defined by Member States);
- b) investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities (granted to micro and small enterprises and natural persons in rural areas, as well as to farmers or members of a farm household);
- c) annual payments or one-off payments for farmers eligible for the small farmers' scheme who permanently transfer their holding to another farmer (granted to farmers eligible to participate in the small farmers' scheme who, at the time of submitting their application for support, have been so eligible for at least one year and who undertake to permanently transfer their entire holding and the corresponding payment entitlements to another farmer. Support shall be paid from the date of the transfer until 31 December 2020 or calculated in respect of that period and paid in the form of a one-off payment).

### **2.7.2. Basic services and village renewal in rural areas**

The development of local infrastructure and local basic services in rural areas, including leisure and culture services, the renewal of villages and activities aimed at the restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages and rural landscapes is an essential element of any effort to realise the growth potential and to promote the sustainability of rural areas. Support should therefore be granted to operations with that aim, including access to Information and Communication Technologies and the development of fast and ultra-fast broadband. In line with those objectives, the development of services and infrastructure leading to social inclusion and reversing trends of social and economic decline and

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if duly justified." It means that the country has to give the definition of rural areas respecting its state and needs in promoting and strengthening agricultural activities through national programme.

depopulation of rural areas should be encouraged. In order to achieve the maximum effectiveness of such support, covered operations should be implemented in accordance with plans for the development of municipalities and their basic services, where such plans exist, elaborated by one or more rural communes. In order to create synergies and to improve co-operation, operations should also, where relevant, promote rural-urban links. Member States have the possibility to give priority to investments by community-led local development partnerships, and to projects managed by local community organisations.

Support under this measure shall cover, in particular:

- a) the 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 Natura 2000 sites and other areas of high nature value;
- b) investments in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small-scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and energy saving;
- c) broadband infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and provision of access to broadband and public e-government solutions;
- d) investments in the setting up, improvement or expansion of local basic services for the rural population, including leisure and culture, and the related infrastructure;
- e) investments for public use in recreational infrastructure, tourist information and small-scale tourism infrastructure;
- f) studies and 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-economic aspects, as well as environmental awareness actions;
- g) investments targeting the relocation of activities and conversion of buildings or other facilities located within or close to rural settlements, with a view to improving the quality of life or increasing the environmental performance of the settlement.

Support under this measure shall only concern small-scale infrastructure, as defined by each Member State in the programme. However, rural development programmes may provide for specific derogations from this rule for investments in broadband and renewable energy. In this case, clear criteria ensuring complementarity with support under other Union instruments shall be provided.

Investments under paragraph 1 shall be eligible for support where the relevant operations are implemented in accordance with plans for the development of municipalities and villages in rural areas and their basic services, where such plans exist and shall be consistent with any relevant local development strategy.

### **2.7.3. LEADER**

The LEADER approach for local development has, over a number of years, proven its effectiveness in promoting the development of rural areas by fully taking into account the multi-sectoral needs for endogenous rural development through its bottom-up approach. LEADER should therefore be continued in the future and its application should remain compulsory for rural development programmes at national and/or regional level.

Support for LEADER local development from the EAFRD should also cover inter-territorial co-operation projects between groups within a Member State or transnational co-operation projects between groups in several Member States or co-operation projects between groups in Member States and in third countries.

In order to enable partners in rural areas who do not yet apply LEADER to test and prepare for the design and implementation of a local development strategy, a "LEADER start-up kit" should also be financed. Support should not be conditional on the submission of a local development strategy.

#### **LEADER local action groups**

The local action groups may also perform additional tasks delegated to them by the Managing Authority and/or the Paying Agency.

Local action groups may request the payment of an advance from the competent paying agency if such possibility is provided for in the rural development programme. The amount of the advances shall not exceed 50 % of the public support related to the running and animation costs.

#### **LEADER start-up kit**

Support for LEADER local development may also include a "LEADER start-up kit" for local communities who did not implement LEADER in the 2007-2013 programming period. The "LEADER start-up kit" shall consist of support for capacity building and small pilot projects. Support under the "LEADER start-up kit" shall not be conditional on the submission of a LEADER local development strategy.

#### **LEADER co-operation activities**

The support shall be granted to:

- a) co-operation projects within a Member State (inter-territorial co-operation) or co-operation projects between territories in several Member States or with territories in third countries (transnational co-operation);
- b) preparatory technical support for inter-territorial and transnational co-operation projects, on condition that local action groups are able to demonstrate that they are envisaging the implementation of a concrete project.

Apart from other local action groups, the partners of a local action group under the EAFRD may be:

- a) a group of local public and private partners in a rural territory that is implementing a local development strategy within or outside the Union;
- b) a group of local public and private partners in a non-rural territory that is implementing a local development strategy.

In cases where co-operation projects are not selected by the local action groups, Member States shall establish a system of ongoing application.

They shall make public the national or regional administrative procedures concerning the selection of transnational co-operation projects and a list of eligible costs at the latest two years after the date of approval of their rural development programmes.

Approval of co-operation projects by the competent authority shall take place no later than four months after the date of submission of the project application.

Member States shall communicate to the Commission the approved transnational co-operation projects.

## **2.8. Conclusion**

Linear approach of implementation of European union member states policies is done throughout strict procedures and rules that each country needs to follow. This chapter has provided with the all the necessary information in order to better understand the policy creation which is of utmost importance in terms of developing rural areas.

Very important prerequisite for creating policies are also necessary registries that each country needs to develop. This was also done at the linear level within the EU countries, and main condition that European commission does require from future member states is IACS system, which is an IT system developed of automatized software's, which include registries for farmers, agricultural land, animals etc...

Having a clear overview of what are rural areas consisted off is a solid starting point in terms of policy creation, and later on development strategies on the local level. As this chapter has shown what are the framework requirements for the EU policy planning and financing, the conclusion that needs to be emphasised is that when it comes to rural development data registries are vital, in order to have most efficient policies which will during the implementation phase have most impact in practice.

The EU framework has been established for decades now, and this systematic approach has been very beneficial throughout all member states. Member states are the owners of the policy creation process, as long as they are within the framework.

Since each member states have different organisational structures on the local level, the EU framework allows them to also invest in increasing of institutional capacities of all stakeholders at the member state level (which includes local and national levels). Importance of these investments are very much effective in the policy creation process, since each member state is obliged to involve all necessary stakeholders in the planning process.

## **3. EU CASES**

As one of the objectives of the projects was to make a comparative assessment study of at least 5 EU member states which will cover among other things: i) review of the organizational setup, ii) types of rural services, provided to farmers by local governments, iii) review of the relevant legislative background and decision making and financing mechanism of infrastructural spending.

This study will effectively showcase the organizational setup of cases, as well as the flow of strategic planning, specific background actions needed to be taken in order to implement measures for rural development. Within this document, Turkish municipalities will have opportunity to see the basis of programming, flow of information, implementation modules as well as monitoring arrangements in order to better enhance their development of rural areas.

During the inception phase of the Project, it was agreed that 5 municipalities from selected EU countries shall be: Zagreb (Croatia), Barcelona (Spain), Mioveni (Romania), Kranj (Slovenia), and Lousada (Portugal) and, following is the assessment of each municipality in regard to the development of rural areas.

### **3.1. Case study CROATIA – the City of Zagreb**

Croatia is situated in South-East Europe and its total area covers 87.661 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 56.594 km<sup>2</sup> are land (including island landmass) and 31.067 km<sup>2</sup> are the territorial sea and internal waters. The land border is 2.028 km long and the coastline is 1.777 km long. There are 1.246 islands, islets, rocks and reefs along the Adriatic Sea coast, 48 islands of which are inhabited. The length of the island coastline is 4.058 km.

For the programming period 2014-2020, Croatia, on 30 October 2014, signed the Partnership Agreement which covers five funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

For Croatia, the PA focuses on the following priorities:

- Promoting innovation friendly business environment and developing a competitive and innovation-driven economy by stimulating the entrepreneurship, the research development and innovation, as well as the e-economy;
- Developing infrastructure for economic growth and employment, in particular key networks (TEN-T) and sustainable urban transport;
- Supporting a low-carbon and green economy, by encouraging a sustainable and efficient use of natural resources, promoting the energy efficiency, as well as the adaptation to climate change;
- Developing human capital growth and tackling the mismatch of the labour skills by reforming the education curricula, developing the vocational education and training and the self-employment;
- Promoting social inclusion and reducing the risk of poverty by developing the social services, tackling the different forms of discrimination, and ensuring the shift from institutional to community-based services;
- Improving the healthcare services in an effective and cost-efficient way;
- Building a modern and professional public administration, developing the social dialogue and ensuring the efficiency and impartiality of the judiciary.

The funds are the cornerstone of Croatia's development strategy. The country will mobilize additional public national and private funding for growth and job creation and will reduce regional disparities in the country.

Regarding the budget, for the Republic of Croatia, the EU allocated around 8,61 billion for Cohesion Policy (ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund), including €66.2 million for the Youth Employment Initiative and €146.1 million for territorial cooperation. Additional €2 billion is devoted to development of the agricultural sector and rural areas from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The allocation for European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) amounts to some €252.6 million.

The Croatian Rural Development Programme (RDP) was formally adopted by the European Commission on 22 May 2015, outlining Croatia's priorities for using € 2.3 billion of public money that is available for the period 2014-2020 (€ 2 billion from the EU budget and € 0.3 billion of national funding).

The main objective of the RDP is to restructure and modernise the farm and food sectors. It is expected that:

- nearly 2 000 holdings will receive investment support;
- more than 5 000 farmers will receive start up aid for the development of small farms;
- around 1 000 young farmers will get support to launch their businesses.
- nearly 60 000 ha of organic farming will be supported;
- agri-environment-climate measures will be implemented on a further 40 500 ha;
- more than one tenth of the funds will be earmarked for energy production from renewable resources;
- around 42.000 people will be trained to increase the knowledge and skills of those working in farming and forestry.

Croatia also implements the European Innovation Partnership. The programme aims to create more than 2 000 non-agricultural jobs through a process of diversification and development of small enterprises, and 30% of the rural population will benefit from improved infrastructure.

For the implementation of RDP 2014–2020 and the determination of the rural area at programme level, a special study was conducted by an independent expert. In accordance with one of the proposed models, the rural area at programme level is defined as the whole territory of Croatia with the exclusion of the administrative centres of four cities (Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek). A total of 3.217.117 inhabitants (75,08% of total population) and 56.164 km<sup>2</sup> of the rural area (99,24% of total territory) are covered by this definition (in the EU-27 average was 51,3%).

The four biggest RDP measures in budgetary terms (total public funding) are:

- € 581 million allocated for Measure 4: Investments in physical assets;
- € 273 million allocated for Measure 13: Payments in areas facing natural or other specific constraints;
- € 226 million allocated for Measure 7: Basic services and village renewal in rural areas;
- € 226 million allocated for Measure 6: Farm and business development.

The presented city, the City of Zagreb, with an area of 641,32 km<sup>2</sup> makes up 1,13% of the area of the Republic of Croatia, and in its 70 settlements live 790.017 inhabitants (Census, 2011). The City of Zagreb is an independent, unique territorial and administrative unit with county status.

For the relevant case study, and its results, the data and the information have been taken from interview and fulfilled questionnaire of the employees from Office for agriculture and forestry of City of Zagreb as well as from desk research.

#### *Legal and strategic documents*

A basic strategic document for regional development policy for the City of Zagreb is the Development Strategy of the City of Zagreb for the period until 2020, which defines the goals and priorities for its development. The Development Strategy was developed in accordance with the Law on Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia and the Guidelines of the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds for the development of county development strategies, monitoring and evaluation of their implementation. The Development Strategy of the City of Zagreb was harmonized with the Regional Development Strategy of the Republic

Croatia by the end of 2020 and spatial planning documentation of the City of Zagreb. The necessary harmonization of strategic and budget planning is also ensured with the Development Strategy of the City of Zagreb, i.e. the Action plan as a separate implementation document.

The coordinator and the authority responsible for drawing up the Development Strategy was the City Office for Strategic Planning and Development of the City as the appointed regional coordinator for the City of Zagreb. All city administrative bodies, companies, institutions and associations as well as public, civil, business, and scientific sectors provided active contributions in the drawing-up of the document, while the Partners' Council, consisting of prominent experts from the scientific, public, civil, and business sectors, provided a special contribution. The Partners' Council, as the advisory expert authority, participated in every phase of preparation and drawing up of the Development Strategy. Many thematic studies and research were organised in the process of drawing up the document, and so was numerous workshops, working meetings, and other forms of work and participation by all stakeholders. In line with the principle of transparency, all information about the activities and working materials are regularly published on City of Zagreb official website.

As a specific document for development of agriculture and rural areas, as well as for the measures implementation, the Program of sustainable agricultural development was created.

All the documents are multi-annual, i.e. they are created for programming period 2016-2020, and the planning period is synchronized with the planning period of the European Commission, hence the fact that the new document will follow period until 2027.

In the process of drafting the documents, data from the register of farmers and the register of land, livestock register, etc. have been taken. In addition, based on data from the mentioned registers, as well as an analysis and examination of the needs of farmers was performed, and based on the obtained data, priorities were made.

#### *Coordination and cooperation between the administrative bodies in the City of Zagreb*

Management and coordination of the work of city administrative bodies in the implementation of tasks within their scope, and consideration of the most significant issues of importance to the City at the highest level, in between among other things, issues related to strategic planning of the City development, strategic programs and projects, are performed by the Collegium consisting of the Mayor, Deputy Mayors and all heads.

The mayor, the president of the City Assembly and the presidents of the city district councils form the coordination. Coordination discusses common issues important to city districts and the City of Zagreb, as a rule after City Assembly sessions.

Preparation, proposing, development and implementation of development initiatives, i.e. projects and strategic documents and programs implies the involvement and action of all relevant city administrations bodies, through working bodies and/or representatives.

#### *Financial sources for development projects and for City functioning*

The sources for financing the development projects and for City functioning are:

- City budget;
- Tax revenues (income tax and surtax);
- Property income;
- Other operating income, which includes various aids, income from fines and administrative measures, etc.

#### *Projects co-financed from EU funds and projects in preparation for application*

For monitoring the situation and regulations in the field of European integration and European Union funds, activities related to activities for the participation of the City of Zagreb in EU projects and to cooperate with City administrations in encouraging participation in EU projects the Office for Programs and Projects of the European Union is in charge, as a body that provides operational support to sectoral competent offices, institutes and services, as well as institutions in preparation and implementation projects that are EU co-financed or are being prepared for EU co-financing. Regional affairs coordinator in the City of Zagreb is performed by the City Office for Strategic Planning and Development of the City, which in as part of its activities, provides technical assistance to the Operational Program Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014-2020 for the preparation and implementation of projects co-financed by EU funds.

#### *Rural and suburban space*

The City made an analysis of the needs for improvement of rural and suburban space and concluded that strengthening social and economic infrastructure and creation quality living conditions in rural and suburban settlements are some of the key determinants of balanced development that is encouraged and promoted by the Development Strategy. Out of a total of 641,32 km<sup>2</sup> of the area of the City of Zagreb, approximately two thirds are located outside the construction areas of the settlement the city of Zagreb and Sesvete as urban cores whose spatial development is defined as general urban plans. Rural and suburban space of the City of Zagreb (excluding the area of the Medvednica Nature Park), in which 68 settlements are located has a different role and importance than the "classic" rural areas of Republic of Croatia.

The peculiarity of the space is that it is based on a network of relatively small independent settlements and their hamlets, with agricultural production as a traditional form of economy. Some of the features of the development potential of that productions are close to the large and diversified Zagreb market. In an effort to preserve space and agricultural production, competent office supports the development of agriculture through ongoing initiatives and by implementing local agricultural policy. Planned programs and measures should be pursued to prevent the negative impact of (sub)urbanization on the environment, by protecting the natural and cultural heritage to further raise added value and attractiveness, and high standards of infrastructure, availability, housing and accompanying high quality facilities appropriate to current needs, in addition to at the same time respecting the architectural tradition to make the space attractive for living. Establishment of cooperation seeks intensive communication with local self-government and all stakeholders in development, existing and potential, and the population to be able to make their suggestions.

When defining the vision of the City of Zagreb as an urban incubator of sustainable concepts, entrepreneurship and new values, the following strategic goals have been set:

- Goal 1. Competitive economy, achieved through the following priorities: 1. development of a stimulating entrepreneurial environment, 2. development of an economy based on knowledge, innovation and quality of supply of goods and services, and 3. sustainable development of agriculture and forestry);
- Goal 2. Human resources development, achieved through the priorities: 1. Zagreb - city of knowledge and university city, and 2. development and improvement of the labour market;
- Goal 3. Environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources and energy, which is going to be achieved through the following priorities: 1. nature protection, preservation and improvement of environmental quality, 2. sustainable energy management;

- Goal 4. Improving the spatial qualities and functions of the city, with the following priorities: 1. sustainable use of the entire space of the City, 2. improvement of populated parts of the City, 3. improving the system of "City projects", 4. improving transport systems, 5. improving infrastructure systems, 6. improving regional transport connectivity;
- Goal 5. Improving the quality of life through: 1. improving the quality of housing, 2. social integration of local communities, safety and quality free time; 3. improving social infrastructure;
- Goal 6. Improving the system of managing the development, with the following priorities: 1. promotion and promotion of human rights and development of civil society, 2. improving knowledge and skills for development management, 3. effective management of the City space and city property, 4. improving the work of city administration, institutions and public companies, 5. strengthening inter-county cooperation, and international connections and recognizability of the City.

Based on EU regulations for granting agricultural aid that all EU member states must comply with, regulations are developed at the local level based on which grants are granted.

The interviewees stated that there is no any fiscal rule and/or spending floor exercised by municipalities to allocate funds to rural infrastructure in a similar vein to 10% of investment rule like in Turkey, but the municipalities themselves create subsidies and decide whether to give them, and it depends on the financial resources they have and whether they have a developed agricultural activity, bearing in mind that the goals must comply with the EU regulations and strategic documents.

In addition to the local support through national funds, farmers can use support from EU funds. But as the city of Zagreb was developed during the application, farmers from the city area have a smaller number of application points due to their development, and a very small number receive support from the EU. When applying to City tenders through the form, the employees ask for information from farmers about the received subsidies from other sources and they check them so that the same investments from several sources are not financed.

Depends in which type/action the farmers are investing, the implementation of incentives to farmers through subsidies is done on an annual basis, and projects that are complex and implemented to promote and improve agricultural production and rural infrastructure are created for a multi-year period, depending on how long it takes to complete the project.

In continuation are presented the list of measures which the City of Zagreb programmed for period until 2020 in relation to its goals and priorities, which are in compliance with the EU goals for Croatia.

*Table 2 List of measures for Zagreb*

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Measure</b>
1. Competitive economy	1.1. Development of a stimulating entrepreneurial environment	1.1.1. Improving the system of planning and monitoring economic and demographic activities
		1.1.2. Strengthening the entrepreneurial infrastructure
		1.1.3. Developing a favourable financial environment for

		small/medium enterprises and craftsmen
		1.1.4. Supporting the development of entrepreneurial skills
	1.2. Development of an economy based on knowledge, innovation and quality of supply of goods and services	1.2.1. Supporting entrepreneurship development based on technological innovations
		1.2.2. Encouraging creative industries
		1.2.3. Improving the tourism offer
	1.3. Sustainable development of agriculture and forestry	1.3.1. Sustainable management of agricultural and forest land (support for maintenance and arrangement of agricultural land (canals, drainage systems, roads, natural barriers), support for agricultural land consolidation, support for afforestation and creation of forest areas)
		1.3.2. Development of entrepreneurial skills and training for agricultural manufacturers and forest owners
		1.3.3. Development of competitive agricultural production and forestry (support for investment in tangible or intangible assets on agricultural holdings, linked to primary agricultural production in the sectors of viticulture, fruit growing, vegetable growing, animal husbandry, floriculture, medicinal and spice plants, support for investments related to the processing of agricultural products, namely grapes, fruit, vegetables, medicinal plants, flowers and animal products and for their placing on the market, initial support for producer groups

		<p>and organizations in the agricultural sector, support for agricultural producers and producer associations participating in quality programs, support for promotional measures in favor of agricultural and forestry products, support to compensate for damage caused by adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to a natural disaster, support for infrastructure investments related to the development, modernization or adaptation of the forestry sector, investment aid relating to the processing of agricultural products into non-agricultural products, support for young farmers, support for small farmers, support for replacement services on the holding, de minimis aid to the agricultural sector, de minimis aid for processing and placing on the market of agricultural products, organization of agricultural and forestry events and participation in product quality programs of interest to the City of Zagreb in partnership or co-organization with other legal and natural persons as well as other units of local and regional self-government)</p>
<p>2. Human resources development</p>	<p>2.1. Zagreb - city of knowledge and university city</p>	<p>2.1.1. Support to physical and functional development of the University of Zagreb</p>
		<p>2.1.2. Development of cooperation by and between the scientific/academic community, public sector, business entities, and civil society</p>
		<p>2.2.1. Adjustment of educational programme and</p>

	<p>2.2. Development and improvement of the labour market</p>	<p>implementation of active employment measures</p> <p>2.2.2. Development of the model of available lifelong education</p> <p>2.2.3. Strengthening competences and increasing business opportunities for vulnerable groups via social economy programmes</p>
<p>3. Environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources and energy</p>	<p>3.1. Nature protection, preservation and improvement of environmental quality</p>	<p>3.1.1. Establishment and management of a consolidated city information system and of an environment communication strategy</p> <p>3.1.2. Assessment, protection, and sustainable management of Medvednica</p> <p>3.1.3. Development of mechanisms for the preservation of forested spaces and protected parts of park architecture</p> <p>3.1.4. Assessment, protection, and sustainable management of the Sava river</p> <p>3.1.5. Geotechnical and geoseismic micro-zoning</p> <p>3.1.6. Development of biodiversity protection mechanisms</p> <p>3.1.7. Effective management of the protected areas of nature and particularly valuable parts of nature and the protection of landscape diversity</p> <p>3.1.8. Protection and improvement of air quality (support for the relocation of agricultural buildings, support for the closure of production facilities in the City of Zagreb)</p> <p>3.1.9. Protection and improvement of surface and underground water quality</p>

		3.1.10. Development of mechanisms for protection from noise pollution
		3.1.11. Improvement of the integrated waste management system
	3.2. Sustainable energy management	3.2.1. Encouragement of the use of renewable energy sources, co-generation, and ecologically acceptable fuels
		3.2.2. Improvement of energy efficiency in the energy production, industry sector, building stock, traffic, and public lighting
		3.2.3. Safety and diversification of the energy supply of the City
		3.2.4. Improvement of the public lighting system
3.2.5. Establishment and management of the consolidated energy information system and the communications strategy on energy and climate		
4. Improving the spatial qualities and functions of the city	4.1. Sustainable use of the entire space of the City	4.1.1. Comprehensive spatial development planning of the City of Zagreb
		4.1.2. Modernisation of the City green infrastructure system
	4.2. Improvement of populated parts of the City	4.2.1. Preservation, renovation, and sustainable use of cultural heritage
		4.2.2. Inventory and assessment of cultural heritage and developing the information system of cultural heritage
		4.2.3. Integrated urban regeneration of the historical city centre
		4.2.4. Enhancing the quality of existing and developing public city spaces

		4.2.5. Profiling, content- and form-based enhancement and activation of city marketplaces
		4.2.6. Preservation of traditional features and development of rural and suburban settlements and former village settlements now part of the City of Zagreb (business start-up support for non-agricultural activities in rural areas)
		4.2.7. Urban rehabilitation and development of spaces affected by illegal construction
	4.3. Improving the system of "City projects"	4.3.1. Establishment and development of the strategic city projects system
		4.3.2. Development and improvement of the city projects system
	4.4. Improving transport systems	4.4.1. Improving air traffic
		4.4.2. Integration and improvement of the street and road network
		4.4.3. Improving public passenger transport
		4.4.4. Improving stationary traffic
		4.4.5. Development of the traffic supervision and management system (ITS)
		4.4.6. Improving bicycle traffic
		4.4.7. Improving pedestrian traffic
		4.4.8. Improving safety for participants in traffic
	4.5. Improving infrastructure systems	4.5.1. Improving communal equipment in the city area — water supply and discharge
		4.5.2. Improving communal equipment in the city area — gas supply

		4.5.3. Improving communal equipment in the city area — telecommunications
		4.5.4. Improving communal equipment in the city area — city cemeteries
		4.5.5. Improving communal equipment in the city area — animal care and protection
	4.6. Improving regional transport connectivity	4.6.1. Modernisation of suburban and urban rail traffic
		4.6.2. Development of integrated public transport
5. Improving the quality of life	5.1. Improving the quality of housing	5.1.1. Encouraging renovation, modernisation, and maintenance of the building stock and the system of lease of apartments owned by the City
		5.1.2. Rational planning and development of the areas for family-housing construction
	5.2. Social integration of local communities, safety and quality free time	5.2.1. Encourage housing provision to socially sensitive groups of citizens
		5.2.2. Improving the protection and rescue system of the population, protection against fires and natural disasters
		5.2.3. Improving care of the elderly within the local community
		5.2.4. Facilitate greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community life
		5.2.5. Facilitate greater community inclusion of children and young people with developmental difficulties
		5.2.6. Creating, strengthening, and maintaining urban safety in the City of Zagreb

	5.3. Improving social infrastructure	5.3.1. Improving working conditions, quality and diversity in the culture sector
		5.3.2. Improving working conditions, quality and diversity in the education system
		5.3.3. Improving conditions for providing high-quality health services
		5.3.4. Improvement of sports infrastructure and sports culture
		5.3.5. Strengthening the social services standard
		5.3.6. Development of technical culture
		5.3.7. Establishing and developing youth centres
6. Improving the development management system	6.1. Improvement and promotion of human rights and development of civil society	6.1.1. Active promotion of human rights
		6.1.2. Development of partnerships with national minorities
		6.1.3. Development of partnerships with civil society
	6.2. Improving knowledge and skills for development management	6.2.1. Improvement of the strategic planning system and implementation of development projects
		6.2.2. Improvement of the system for the preparation and implementation of projects co-funded from the European Union financial instruments and other international sources of financing
	6.3. Effective management of the City space and city property	6.3.1. Improving cadastral and land records
		6.3.2. Implementation of active land policy measures
		6.3.3. Improving the data management system covering City area and population

	6.4. Improving the work of city administration, institutions and public companies	6.4.1. Improving human resources management
		6.4.2. Improving communication and flow of information by and between city administrative bodies, institutions, and public enterprises, and citizens
		6.4.3. Development of the system for business processes management
		6.4.4. Green public procurement
		6.4.5. Zagreb —Smart City
		6.4.6. e-ZAGREB, digitalisation of business processes
		6.4.7. Establishment and implementation of the system for co-financing projects through the integrated territorial investment mechanism from the area of Zagreb Urban Agglomeration
	6.5. Strengthening inter-county cooperation, and international connections and recognizability of the City	6.5.1. Co-ordination of joint development activities and programmes of the City of Zagreb with the units of local and regional self-government in the functional area (surroundings)
		6.5.2. Improvement of regional and international cooperation

#### *Monitoring and assessment*

Monitoring and assessment is one of the key principles of the regional development policy.

Implementation will be monitored continuously throughout the period and its results will be included in annual reports. Implementation results will also be reported to the City of Zagreb Partners' Council on an annual basis.

During the implementation of the Strategy, the following will be monitored: the degree of realisation of goals, priorities and measures; the effects on development, efficiency and successfulness in the use of funds; the participation and contribution of the partnership; the efficiency of the way in which implementation is managed and organised; and the visibility of the Development Strategy amongst the public.

Regarding the Program of sustainable agricultural development and its measures, on-the-spot controls are performed by the members of the City office for agriculture and forestry are

conducting field visits to control investments on the farms, and, on annual basis, the administrative controls of the implementation of the overall programme are made through assessing data regarding the implementation of different measures.

### **3.2. Case study SPAIN – Barcelona**

Spain covers an area of 506.000 km<sup>2</sup> of which 80% is rural. Of the total area, 50% is agricultural land while forests cover 18%. The total population is 46.7 million - of which 41% live in rural areas.

For the programming period 2014-2020, Spain, on 30 October 2014, signed the Partnership Agreement which covers five funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

For Spain, the PA focuses on the following priorities:

- Increasing labour market participation and labour productivity, as well as improving education, training and social inclusion policies, with specific attention to youth and vulnerable groups;
- Supporting the adaptation of the productive system to higher added-value activities by enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs;
- Promoting an innovation-friendly business environment and strengthening the R&D and innovation system;
- Making a more efficient use of natural resources, including the development of the potential of the blue economy.

These funds are the cornerstone of Spain's medium and long-term development strategy and should be a key lever to trigger an evolution towards a smarter, sustainable and inclusive model. They will mobilise additional public national and private funding for growth and job creation and will reduce regional disparities in Spain.

Regarding the budget, for Spain, the EU allocated around EUR 28.6 billion for Cohesion Policy (ERDF and ESF), including the specific allocation of EUR 943.5 million for the Youth Employment Initiative and EUR 643 million for territorial cooperation. Additional EUR 8.3 billion will be devoted to development of the agricultural sector and rural areas from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The allocation for European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) amounts to some EUR 1.16 billion.

What is different from previous programming period in Spain and, what is remarkable is that 2/3 of the overall ERDF allocation is devoted to R&D and innovation; ICTs; SMEs competitiveness; and low-carbon economy, comparing with previous, when only around 1/3 of the ERDF was earmarked for these fields. The increase is particularly noticeable in low-carbon economy, where investments in energy efficiency are deemed to yield substantial win-win situations in terms of creation of skilled jobs and reduction of greenhouse emissions.

The EAFRD contributes to improve the competitiveness of the agro-food sector, for instance through farm restructuring, while taking into account the environmental and social sustainability of rural areas, through the promotion of job creation and investments to improve living conditions in rural areas. The national and the regional programmes address the priorities and the specific needs of each region (while overall coherence is ensured by a national framework), complementing this way other EU structural measures, in order to obtain greater efficiency in the use of EU funding.

Cohesion Policy is delivered through 45 operational programmes (OPs):

- 3 national OPs co-financed by the ERDF (SME Initiative; Smart Growth; Sustainable Growth);
- 19 regional ERDF OPs (one for each region);
- 4 national OPs co-financed by the ESF (Employment, Training and Education; Youth Employment; Social Inclusion; Technical Assistance);
- 19 regional ESF OPs (one for each region).

Moreover, there are one national and 17 regional rural development programmes (co-financed by the EAFRD), besides a national framework to ensure coherence, and one fisheries programme (co-financed by the EMFF).

The budget for the National Rural Development Programme is 237,828,821.00 EUR.

Since for this particular Project's assignment, the study was conducted on the case of Catalonia (Barcelona), below is presented the EU budget allocation for Catalonia, divided by funds:

- ESF: 304,742,845.00 EUR;
- ERDF: 808,433,500.80 EUR;
- EAFRD: 348,500,000.00 EUR.

#### *National framework for rural development in Spain*

The Spanish National Framework for rural development has been formally adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2015, and last amended on 6 February 2018. Establishing common elements for some measures which are implemented through the different Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) in Spain, the approval of this framework was a prerequisite for the adoption of the remaining 18 Spanish RDPs.

Member States with regional programmes, like Spain, may submit for approval a National Framework (NF) containing common elements for the RDPs. In Spain EU rural development policy is implemented through 17 regional RDPs, each for one of the Spanish regions, and 1 national RDP. Common elements to all programmes are presented in the National Framework established at national level.

The EU funding comes from the EAFRD with a total allocation for Spain of €8.3 billion for the period 2014-2020 which will be shared between the 18 territorial RDPs.

The NF describes common elements for the following 10 measures:

- Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, and helping farmers to benefit from those services;
- Investments in physical assets, in order to improve the overall performance and sustainability of agricultural holdings and the infrastructures related to the development of agriculture and forestry, but also the processing and marketing of agricultural products;
- Farm and business development: business start-up aid for young farmers;
- Investments in the forestry sector: afforestation and creation of woodland, establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems, prevention and restoration of damage, improvement of the resilience and environmental value as well as the climate change mitigation potential of forest ecosystem, forestry technologies and processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products;
- Agri-environment-climate payments for commitments going beyond mandatory requirements and promoting changes to agricultural practices which make a positive contribution to environment and climate;
- Organic farming;

- Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints, compensating farmers for the constraints of agricultural production in the area concerned;
- Forest environmental and climate payments for commitments going beyond mandatory requirements and promoting changes to forest practices which make a positive contribution to environment and climate; conservation and promotion of forest genetic resources;
- Support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability; support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies;
- LEADER local development, supporting the design and implementation of community-led local development strategies.

These measures contribute to the three cross cutting objectives of rural development policy (environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, innovation) and cover the six EU priorities for rural development.

The National Framework contributes to the simplification of rural policy implementation: when a measure is approved in the NF, this approval is valid for the same measure when included in one of the 18 territorial RDPs.

#### *National Rural Development Programme for Spain*

The National Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Spain was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015 and last amended on 28 November 2019, outlining Spanish priorities for using more than € 408 million of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€ 238 million from the EU budget and € 170 million of national co-funding).

The National RDP for Spain focuses on 3 priority areas:

- The most important priority is enhancing the economic performance and the competitiveness of agricultural cooperatives. The RDP provides support for setting up producers' organisations covering 500 holdings, and total investments in processing and marketing of agricultural products of priority associative entities up to 332 million (public and private).
- The second priority consists of promoting an efficient use of natural resources, combating climate change and preserving rural heritage. The RDP also envisages to have 1 400 hectares of farmland switching to more water efficient irrigation systems, to introduce forest fire preventive actions on 10 500 forest hectares, as well as the creation of 690 kilometres of new greenways.
- The third priority is to foster innovation and collective approaches in the agricultural sector, with 200 cooperation operations to be funded under the RDP.

The four biggest RDP measures in budgetary terms (total public funding) are:

- € 210 million allocated to Measure 4: investments in physical aspects;
- € 88 million allocated to Measure 8: forest investments;
- € 59 million allocated to Measure 16: cooperation;
- € 21 million allocated to Measure 7: basic services and village renewal in rural areas.

#### *Rural Development Programme for Catalonia*

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Catalonia was formally adopted by the European Commission on 28 July 2015 and last modified on 28 October 2020, outlining Catalonia's priorities for using nearly € 820.3 million of public money that is available for the

7-year period 2014-2020 (€348.5 million from the EU budget, and € 471,8 million of national co-funding).

The RDP for Catalonia focuses mainly on three priority areas:

- In order to improve the competitiveness of the farm sector 3 950 farmers will get support to restructure and modernise their farms and 1 800 young farmers will get support to launch their businesses. Some 2 450 farms will receive funding to participate in quality schemes, local markets and short supply chain distribution.
- The region will support training for 18 900 participants and 120 cooperation projects, targeting innovation and development, will receive support.
- Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry is also considered important with 5.20 % of farmland to come under management contracts to improve biodiversity. Nearly 39 % of the rural population will be covered by a LEADER local development strategy and these strategies are expected to create around 600 new jobs.

The region of Catalonia is located in the North East of Spain. It covers an area of 32 108 km<sup>2</sup> of which 88 % is rural. The region is home to 7.5 million people. The unemployment rate was 23 % (2013) and, among young people, was more than 50%.

Of the total area, farmland covers less than 1/3 and forestry more than 2/3. The percentage of forest area and private forest surface is higher in Catalonia than the average for Spain and the EU as a whole.

The food industry is a sector of great importance in the Catalan economy. The primary sector represents only 1, 2 % of Gross Value Added of the region. The region has a strong livestock sector, which represents 60 % of the total agricultural production. The livestock sector is very intensive and is specialised in pig, poultry and bovine production.

The main challenges of the region are to establish specific policies for young people in rural areas, to promote their economic and social development. It also needs to promote economic recovery and job creation, with a focus on the agricultural, food, forestry and rural areas. It should stimulate innovation and knowledge transfer in the food sector and promote actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change and the protection of natural resources.

In addressing these challenges, Catalonia's RDP funds actions under all Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests as well as restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry. The special emphasis is put on water efficiency in order to switch the region's irrigated area to more efficient irrigation systems. Another important issues to deal with is the small investments related to the diversification of non-agricultural activities in rural areas and the reinforcement of basic services and small-scale collective infrastructure. The focus will be on improving the living conditions of the rural population and on creating 600 new jobs as well as new business opportunities.

The four biggest RDP measures in budgetary terms (total public funding) are:

- € 300.5 million allocated to Measure 4: Investments in physical assets;
- € 118.6 million allocated to Measure 10: Agri-environment-climate;
- € 80 million allocated to Measure 6: Farm and business development (business start-up aid for young farmers);

- € 72 million allocated to Measure 8: Investment in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests.

For the relevant case study, and its results, the data and the information have been taken from interview and documents the employees from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and Natural Environment, as well as from desk research.

#### *Legal and strategic documents*

A basic strategic document for rural development policy for the Catalonia region, including Barcelona, is the above-mentioned Rural Development Programme for Catalonia.

This document is defined and approved on multi-annual basis, until the current EU programming period lasts (2014-2020).

The coordinator and the authority responsible for drawing up the development strategies and implementation of the rural development measures is the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Food and Natural Environment of Catalonia.

During the adoption of the strategic documents, the Ministry follows the EU regulations, especially 1305/2013, regarding the definitions and planning and implementation of the rural development measures.

All relevant stakeholders are involved in the creation of the strategic documents: public and private stakeholders through e-Catalunya, RDP 07-13 Monitoring Committee members, Committee on Agriculture with its members.

The Monitoring Committee for rural development measures of Catalonia are consisted of representatives of the European Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Spanish Agricultural Guarantee Fund, various representatives of the Department and representatives of the following institutions and organizations: Department of Economy and Finance, Department of Foreign Action and Open Government, Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives of Catalonia, Young Farmers and Cattlemen of Catalonia, Farmers' Union, the Association of Rural Initiatives of Catalonia, the Forestry Consortium of Catalonia and the Women's Association of Rural World.

During its creation, the relevant data from the farm register, land register and livestock register are used.

All the documents, including strategic documents are created to face down the following challenges:

- Youth: to set specific policies for young people in rural areas, which promote their rooting and economic and social development;
- Innovation: to stimulate innovation and transfer of knowledge in the agri-food sector;
- Economy and Employment: to promote economic reactivation and creation of employment, with special attention to agriculture, food and forestry sectors and rural areas;
- Climate change: to promote actions aimed at the mitigation and adaptation to climate change and the protection of natural resources

#### *Financial sources for development projects and distribution by sectors*

The sources for financing the development projects and for City functioning are:

- EU funds;
- National funds;

- Other operating income, which includes various aids, income from fines and administrative measures, taxes, etc.

The funds are distributed by sectors, as following:

- Agricultural (direct) – 486,3 million EUR (60%), with priority topics: competitiveness, environment, youth, climate change;
- Agricultural (indirect) – 85 million EUR (11%), with priority topics related to infrastructures, knowledge innovation and quality measures;
- Forestry and natural environment - 105,2 million EUR - 13% - fires, competitiveness, biodiversity;
- Agri-food – 69 million EUR (9%) – competitiveness, climate change;
- Rural population – 62 million EUR (8%) - economic revitalization, young people and entrepreneurship, heritage.

#### *Projects co-financed from EU funds*

Based on EU regulations for granting agricultural aid that all EU member states must comply with, regulations are developed at the local level based on which grants are granted.

Depends in which type/action the farmers are investing, the implementation of incentives to farmers through subsidies is done on an annual basis, and projects that are complex and implemented to promote and improve infrastructure, knowledge and innovation, quality improvement, economic revitalization, heritage, etc. are created for a multi-year period, depending on how long it takes to complete the project.

The call for proposals are published until 2022, since the programming period was expanded due to transition regulations until 2023, when the new programming period until 2027 begins.

In continuation are presented the list of measures, related to agriculture and rural development, which the region of Catalonia, including Barcelona, programmed for period until 2020 in relation to its goals and priorities, which are in compliance with the EU goals for Spain.

*Table 3 List of measures for Spain*

<b>MEASURE 1</b>
<b>KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND INFORMATION ACTIONS (9 MILLION EUR)</b>
<b>1.1.01 Training actions</b>
Support for professional training and training actions for acquiring capabilities
<b>1.2.01 Technology transfer</b>
Support to informative and disseminative activities
<b>MEASURE 2</b>
<b>ADVISORY SERVICES, FARM MANAGEMENT, AND FARM RELIEF SERVICES (4 MILLION EUR)</b>
<b>2.1.01 Advisory services to the agri-food sector</b>
Support funding for the use of consulting services
<b>2.3.01 Technical Advisors Training</b>
Support for the training of consultants and advisors

<b>MEASURE 3</b>
<b>QUALITY SCHEMES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS (10 MILLION EUR)</b>
<b>3.1.01 Participation in quality schemes</b> Support for new participations in quality schemes
<b>3.2.01 Information and promotion of quality schemes</b> Support for informative and promotional activities of groups of producers in the domestic market
<b>MEASURE 4</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS IN PHYSICAL ASSETS (308,5 MILLION EUR)</b>
<b>4.1.01 Improving the competitiveness of farms</b> Aid for investments in farms in competitiveness
<b>4.1.02 Mitigation of climate change on farms</b> Aid for investments in farms related to climate change
<b>4.2.01 Investments for the processing and commercializing of food</b> Support for investments in processing, commercializing and development of agrarian products
<b>4.2.02 Mitigation of climate change on food processing</b> Aid for investments in food processing enterprises related to climate change
<b>4.3.01 Rural infrastructures: land consolidation and rural roads</b> Support to the processes of land consolidation and construction of roads
<b>4.3.02 Modernization of irrigation</b> Aids for investments in infrastructures for the reduction of water consumption
<b>4.3.04 New high-efficiency irrigation</b> Aid for investments for the establishment or expansion of new irrigation
<b>4.3.03 Road networks for forests management</b> Support for investments in roads for wood extraction
<b>4.4.01 Actions on species, habitats and landscapes</b> Support for non-productive investments linked to goals in matter of environment and climate
<b>MEASURE 6</b>
<b>FARM AND BUSINES DEVELOPMENT (80 MEUR)</b>
<b>6.1.01 Start-up for young farmers</b> Aid for the creation of enterprises by young farmers
<b>6.4.01 Agrarian diversification</b> Aid for investments in creating and developing non-agricultural activities
<b>MEASURE 7</b>

<b>BASIC SERVICES AND VILLAGE RENEWAL IN RURAL AREAS (2 MILLION EUR)</b>
<p><b>7.1.01 Planning and management of natural areas</b></p> <p>Support to the design and updating of plans for the protection and management of Natura 2000 areas and others with high natural value</p> <p>Support for studies/invests linked to the maintenance, restoration and improvement of natural and cultural heritage, including actions to raise awareness</p>
<p><b>MEASURE 8</b></p> <p><b>INVESTMENTS IN FOREST AREA DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE VIABILITY OF FORESTS (71 MILLION EUR)</b></p>
<p><b>8.3.01 Prevention of forest fires and restoration of forest potential</b></p> <p>Support for infrastructure and equipment for the prevention of fires and restoration of forests affected by disasters</p>
<p><b>8.5.01 Forestry actions for improvement and generation of ecosystemic cycles</b></p> <p>Aid for forestry activities that held to enhance the capacity of adaptation and environmental value</p>
<p><b>8.6.01 Drafting and revision of forest planning instruments</b></p> <p>Support for the drafting and revision of forest planning instruments</p>
<p><b>8.6.02 Investment for the processing and commercializing of forest resources</b></p> <p>Support for investments in technology for the transformation, mobilization and commercialization</p>
<p><b>MEASURE 9</b></p> <p><b>SETTING UP OF PRODUCER GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS (2,5 MILLION EUR)</b></p>
<p><b>9.0.01 Setting up forestry producer groups and organisations</b></p> <p>Support for the creation of groups of forestry producers for the adaptation of production to market needs, the joint commercialization and the organization and development of innovative processes</p>
<p><b>MEASURE 10</b></p> <p><b>AGRI-ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE (130 MILLION EUR)</b></p>
<b>10.1.01 Sustainable management of wetlands</b>
<b>10.1.02 Recovery and management of meadows and pastures</b>
<b>10.1.03 Improvement of Natura 2000 network steppe habitats</b>
<b>10.1.04 Apiculture for the improvement of biodiversity</b>
<b>10.1.05 Alternative systems to chemical pest control</b>
<b>10.1.06 Integrated production</b>
<b>10.1.07 Conservation of native breeds</b>
<b>10.1.08 Fertilizer management</b>
<b>10.1.09 Biodiversity conservation against invasive species</b>

<b>10.2.01 Farming biodiversity</b>
<b>MEASURE 11</b> <b>ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (18 MILLION EUR)</b>
<b>11.1.01 Organic agriculture</b> Aid addressed to offset the loss of profit and increased costs associated with the conversion and maintenance of ecological production systems
<b>MEASURE 13</b> <b>PAYMENTS TO AREAS FACING NATURAL OR OTHER SPECIFIC CONSTRAINTS (68 MILLION EUR)</b>
<b>13.1.01 Compensation to areas facing natural or other specific constraints</b> Compensatory payments to mountain areas, areas with significant natural constraints and areas affected by specific constraints
<b>MEASURE 14</b> <b>ANIMAL WELFARE (20 MILLION EUR)</b>
<b>14.1.01 Organic livestock</b> Aid addressed to offset the loss of profit and increased costs associated with the conversion and maintenance of ecological production systems
<b>MEASURE 16</b> <b>COOPERATION (22 MILLION EUR)</b>
<b>16.2.01 Cooperation for innovation</b> Aid to cooperation between agents who are part of an operative group in the framework of an innovation project
<b>16.4.01 Promotion of short supply chains and local markets</b> Support for horizontal and vertical cooperation between the actors of the chain of suppliers for creating and developing short supply chains of food and local markets and promotional activities deriving from them
<b>MEASURE 19</b> <b>SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (62 MILLION EUR)</b>
<b>19.1.01 Preparatory support</b> Support to the preparation and implementation by the LAGs of local development strategies, as well as the training
<b>19.2.01 Implementation of local development strategies (LDS)</b> Support to investments and strategic projects deriving from the local development strategies
<b>19.3.01 Projects of cooperation between LAGs</b> Preparation and execution of LAGs cooperation activities (transnational and inter territorial)
<b>19.4.01 Running costs and animation of LAGs</b>

### *Monitoring and assessment*

Monitoring and assessment is one of the key principles of the regional development policy.

Implementation will be monitored continuously throughout the period and its results will be included in annual reports. Implementation results will also be reported to Monitoring Committee on an annual basis.

Regarding the controls on implementation of the measures and specific operations, conducting administrative and field visits to control investments on the farms are performed, in accordance with the EU Regulation 1305/2013 and its implementing regulations. In other words, Spain, as other Member countries of the EU, established the operating structure responsible for controlling the investments.

### **3.3. Case study ROMANIA – Mioveni**

Romania covers an area of 238 000 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 87% is rural. Of the total area, agricultural land covers 57 % and forestland 30 %. The unemployment rate is 7% (2012). The total population is nearly 20 million – of which 45% lives in rural areas.

The share of agriculture in the Romanian economy (at 6.6% of Gross Value Added) still remains one of the highest in the EU (more than three times the EU average of 1.7% of GVA).

For the programming period 2014-2020, Romania, on 6 August 2014, signed the Partnership Agreement which covers five funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

For Romania, the PA focuses on the following priorities:

- Promoting competitiveness and local development, with a view to reinforcing the sustainability of economic operators and improving regional attractiveness;
- Developing human capital, by increasing the employment rate and tertiary education attainment, but also tackling the severe social challenges and poverty levels, in particular for deprived or marginalised communities and in rural areas;
- Developing physical infrastructure, both in ICT and the transport sector, in order to increase the accessibility of Romanian regions and their attractiveness for investments;
- Encouraging sustainable and efficient use of natural resources through promotion of energy efficiency and a low carbon economy, protection of the environment and adaptation to climate change;
- Building a modern and professional public administration by means of a systemic reform aimed at overcoming the structural governance shortcomings.

These funds are the cornerstone of Romania's ability to address medium and long-term development challenges. They will mobilise additional public national and private funding for growth and job creation and will reduce regional and social disparities in Romania. Investments will focus on enhancing innovation activity and competitiveness of enterprises in order to increase their added value, stimulate growth, job creation and improve the performance of the research and innovation system, including the quality of higher education, cooperation with the business sector and increased private investment. One of the key challenges for Romania is to develop and upgrade its significant agricultural potential, currently too concentrated in low added value activities, while at the same time

accompanying the farm restructuring process and releasing labour force needed by other competitive sectors.

The health sector will also be strongly supported, focussing on deprived communities and promoting an alternative to hospitals, like primary and ambulatory care or e-health services.

A substantial share of the ESIF funding will be devoted to extending and upgrading Romania's transport infrastructure, along the future master plan which will shape the future network at the horizon 2030. In parallel, investments will be continued in waste, water and wastewater sectors, in order to comply with the environmental requirements.

As regards Romania's rural areas, EAFRD funding will promote a more innovative and competitive agri-food sector, and an increase in the added value of products. Farmers will be assisted to develop or restructure their businesses, and the diversification of economic activities will reduce the current over-dependence on agriculture and improve job prospects in rural areas. This will go hand in hand with a careful management of natural resources, focused on preserving Romania's rich natural biodiversity and promoting sustainable management of agricultural and forestry land. Rural poverty will be targeted by investments to upgrade basic infrastructure and access to services, in order to improve quality of life in rural communities and create the pre-conditions for local development.

Territorial challenges and disparities will also be addressed through the local development instruments. Community Led Local Development (CLLD) will be implemented in rural areas (LEADER), deprived areas within urban centres and fisheries and coastal areas where there are fisheries activities and aquaculture farms.

Regarding the budget, for Spain, the EU allocated around EUR 22.4 billion for Cohesion Policy (ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund), with additional resources of € 106 million from the Youth Employment Initiative (matched by the same amount from ESF). A further € 8 billion will be devoted to development of the agricultural sector and rural areas from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The allocation for European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) amounts to some € 168 million.

Cohesion Policy is delivered through 8 operational programmes (OPs):

- Programme for competitiveness co-financed by the ERDF;
- Programme for large infrastructure (transport, environment and energy), financed by ERDF and Cohesion Fund;
- Regional programme (ERDF), addressing regional and local needs;
- Programme for technical assistance (ERDF), supporting the management of ESIF;
- Programme for human capital (ESF), tackling employment, education and social inclusion priorities;
- Programme for administrative capacity (ESF), tackling administrative reform and support to public institutions.

As for the 2007-13 period, there is one national-level Rural Development Programme (financed by EAFRD) and one Maritime and Fisheries programme (financed by EMFF) for programming period 2014-2020.

#### *National Rural Development Programme for Romania*

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Romania was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015 and last modified on 21 June 2021, outlining Romania's priorities for using the nearly € 12.7 billion of public money that is available for the 9-year period 2014-2022 (€ 10.9 billion from the EU budget, including € 112.3 million transferred from the CAP direct payments, 0.7 billion EURI funds and € 1.7 billion of national co-funding).

Agriculture still provides some 30% of total employment in Romania, the largest share in the EU, six times higher than the EU average. A further 2% are employed in the food industry. Faced with an unfavourable age structure (only 7% of farmers are young farmers), those working in the sector display a low level of formal education and skills. There is a strong need for upgrading professional skills in agriculture, while at same time promoting economic diversification in rural areas (only 18% of the non-agricultural SMEs in Romania are located in rural areas) - to provide new jobs, reduce over-dependence on agriculture, and to increase rural incomes. Basic infrastructure and access to services in the rural areas continue to be of poor quality and insufficiently developed. 40% of the rural population is at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

More than one fifth of farmland is under high nature value systems of farming. Among the key challenges concerning the environment and land management are the dual pressures of risk of abandonment of agricultural activities in some areas, and pressures from intensification in others. Large agricultural areas are affected by soil degradation phenomena (erosion, landslides, and desertification), risks that are expected to intensify as the effects of climate change increase. The irrigation systems are mostly degraded and poorly functional.

The National RDP for Romania focuses on 3 priority areas:

- promoting competitiveness and restructuring in Romania's large agricultural sector;
- environmental protection and climate change;
- stimulating economic development, job creation and a better quality of life in Romanian villages, where there remain major disparities with EU and national levels.

Under these priorities, Romania plans to:

- modernise nearly 4 726 farms and cooperatives, support the development of more than 36 800 small farms, and the setting up of more than 13 600 young farmers;
- benefit from payments to support biodiversity and promote environmentally-friendly land management practices for more than 1.2 million ha (over 10%) of agricultural land and more than 1.2 ha (18%) of forests. A further 5.3 million ha will receive support in order to prevent land abandonment and soil erosion;
- reinforce the skills in the agricultural sector by the training of some 19 000 persons;
- create almost 27 000 jobs in rural areas and the set up and develop of 4 600 non-agricultural businesses which will be supported;
- improve rural infrastructure for nearly 27% of the rural population.

For programming period 2014-2022, Romania decided to invest in 16 measures (out of 20):

- M1 - Knowledge transfer and information actions;
- M2 - Advisory services;
- M4 - Investments in physical assets;
- M6 – Farm and business development;
- M7 – Basic services and village renewal;
- M8 - Investments in forest areas;
- M9 – Producers groups and organisations;
- M10 - Agri-environment-climate;
- M11 - Organic farming;
- M13 - Areas with constraints;
- M14 – Animal welfare;
- M15 – Forest-environmental-climate;
- M16 – Cooperation;
- M17 – Risk management;
- M19 - LEADER/CLLD;

- M20 – Technical assistance.

The four biggest RDP measures in budgetary terms (total public funding) are:

- € 3.6 billion allocated to Measure 4 (Investments in physical assets);
- € 2.1 billion allocated to Measure 13 (Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints);
- € 1.3 billion allocated to Measure 7 (Basic services and village renewal in rural areas);
- € 1.3 billion allocated to Measure 6 (Farm and business development).

For the relevant case study for the city Mioveni, and its results, the data and the information have been taken from desk research.

Mioveni is a town in Argeş County, Romania, approximately 15km north-east of Piteşti and and 125km from Bucharest. The town administers four villages: Clucereasa, Colibaşi, Făgetu and Racoviţa. According to the last census (2011), Mioveni has a population of 31,998 inhabitants.

#### *Legal and strategic documents*

A basic strategic document for rural development policy for Mioveni, is the above-mentioned Rural Development Programme for Romania.

This document is defined and approved on multi-annual basis, until the current EU programming period lasts (2014-2020).

During the adoption of the strategic documents, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania follows the EU regulations, especially 1305/2013, regarding the definitions and planning and implementation of the rural development measures.

On the local level, Mioveni developed and adopted the Sustainable development strategy for period 2017-2027.

The public administration in the city of Mioveni is organized and operates according to the provisions of the Law on local public administration No. 215/2001 and in accordance with the decisions of the Local Council. The public administration of the city is organized and operates based on the principles of local autonomy, decentralization of public services, eligibility of local public administration authorities, legality and consultation of citizens in solving local problems of special interest.

The mayor, the deputy mayor and the secretary, together with the specialized apparatus of the mayor, constitute a functional structure with permanent activity, called the City Hall, which carries out the decisions of the Local Council and the dispositions of the Mayor, solving the current problems of the local community. The mission or purpose of the City Hall therefore lies in solving and managing, in the name and in the interest of the local community it represents, public affairs, in accordance with the law. In the local public administration, the mayor fulfils a function of public authority.

Based on the information gathered by all the factors involved in the elaboration of the strategy, an analysis of the characteristics of the targeted community was performed, in order to structure the environment in which the community is placed and to identify the real potential held by Mioveni. The analysed information was collected by various methods, such as: collection of statistical data from yearbooks, monographs, etc., receiving useful information from the existing business environment at the city level, discussions with citizens, consulting existing feasibility/pre-feasibility studies, with the aim to identify the city's priorities for the period 2017-2027.

The situation of the city was especially monitored in terms of the following aspects:

- Connection to utility networks;
- The quality of education in the city;
- The health system;
- Social aspects;
- Public services;
- Important problems in the city of Mioveni, from the point of view of the citizens but also of the business environment;
- Development priorities, in the view of citizens, in period 2017-2027.

Based on the public consultations organized at the local level, which were attended by a fairly large number of citizens from all existing social categories, the SWOT analyses have been prepared in order to identify the priorities for changing/improving in the period 2017-2027.

For the purpose of this case study, the following SWOT analyses have been assessed:

*Table 4 SWOT 1*

Infrastructure and building equipment	
<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The technical condition of the roads in Mioveni is good, over 90% of the streets being paved;</li> <li>- There is a water supply system throughout the city;</li> <li>- There is a sewerage system in four out of five neighbourhoods (Mioveni, Racovița, Colibași, Clucereasa), in the Făget neighbourhood being under construction;</li> <li>- There is a refurbished treatment plant recently, with sufficient treatment capacity for Mioveni locality and neighbouring localities;</li> <li>- There are investment projects/water supply/wastewater systems recently put into operation and implemented;</li> <li>- There is an inter-community development association “Valea Argeșelului - Muscelului 2013”, in order to improve the quality of the water supply and sewerage service;</li> <li>- Partially modernized public lighting system;</li> <li>- High percentage of luminaires with a high degree of protection and low energy consumption.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weakness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The central area has congested traffic;</li> <li>- Insufficient parking spaces;</li> <li>- Low water pressure in the high areas of the city;</li> <li>- Insufficiently developed rainwater drainage network, being arranged only in the Mioveni neighbourhood;</li> <li>- The city's sewage treatment plant does not have disposal facilities final/recovery of dehydrated sludge.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities:</b></p>	<p><b>Threats:</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The constant evolution of technologies in terms of water capture, treatment and distribution;</li> <li>- Accessing European funds through programs from the current programming period 2014-2021, especially for the implementation of large infrastructure projects - water, sewerage, roads, parking lots, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deterioration of transport infrastructure due to unrestricted access to the city of heavy vehicles;</li> <li>- The existence of potential sources of technical pollution, through the economic agents that carry out their activity in Mioveni;</li> <li>- Some homes are not connected to wastewater collection and treatment systems, which can lead to groundwater pollution by infiltration of wastewater into the soil.</li> </ul>
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Table 5 SWOT 2

Local economy	
<p>Strength:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The existence within the locality of two large industrial platforms, the Dacia Renault Platform and the Nuclear Research Branch, which contribute to the economic development of the area;</li> <li>- Attracting direct foreign investments of over 500 million EUR;</li> <li>- Qualified workforce mostly in the field of car construction;</li> <li>- Increasing the number of new companies operating in the field of trade;</li> <li>- Increased adaptability of the local public authority to the urgent needs of investors;</li> <li>- The continuous preoccupation of the local authority for attracting new investments and the development of the business infrastructure, by setting up a new industrial park in the locality.</li> </ul>	<p>Weakness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poorly developed agriculture, mostly subsistence and/or semi-subsistence agriculture. Over 99.76% of agricultural holdings are small farms, due to the fragmentation of agricultural land;</li> <li>- The poorly developed forest sector, although the forest fund is made up of an area of 1,891 ha, representing 37.10% of the total administrative area of the city;</li> <li>- Spontaneous development of tourism, without a coherent strategy at the locality level and without a clear delimitation of local products with an attractive tourist brand;</li> <li>- Poor development of the construction sector, although important investments have been made in the area, both in public infrastructure and in terms of industrial and residential buildings;</li> <li>- Low number of SMEs per 1,000 inhabitants, compared to the average registered at the level of the County and of the South Muntenia Region.</li> </ul>
Opportunities:	Threats:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating business incubators, offering the possibility to the inhabitants with entrepreneurial spirit to open and develop a business;</li> <li>- The creation and continuous development of the business infrastructure, in order to attract new investors in the area, to carry out their activity in another economic sector than the car manufacturing (participating directly in the development of other economic sectors);</li> <li>- Initiation, improvement, qualification, requalification and/or improvement of young people over 18 years of age in another economic sector than the car manufacturing sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The high dependence of the local economy on the car manufacturing industry, respectively on a single economic agent S.C. AUTOMOBILE DACIA GROUPE RENAULT S.A;</li> <li>- Mono-classified labour force mostly in the field of machine building.</li> </ul>
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Table 6 SWOT 3

Administrative and local governance capacity	
<p>Strength:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening the current local public administration to investments and experience in project management with various types of financing;</li> <li>- Support by local public authorities of activities in the economic-social-cultural field;</li> <li>- Ongoing investment projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Weakness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low diversification of the necessary sources of income for the City Hall budget;</li> <li>- Low revenues to the local budget in relation to the development needs of the city.</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the period 2021-2025 it is intended to make more investments with governmental and European funds;</li> <li>- The possibility of accessing governmental and European funds in the period 2021-2025 for the organization of training sessions on various fields of activity useful in public administration;</li> <li>- Increasing the number of public-private partnership initiatives;</li> </ul>	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislative changes that would require the retraining of all persons involved in a particular field, such as changing the law on public procurement;</li> <li>- The possibility that in the future there will be conflicts between ATU Mioveni and other public institutions, such as the County Council, etc.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good inter-institutional relations in the Local Council, County Council, Prefecture.</li> </ul>	
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*Projects already in the phase of implementation in the city of Mioveni:*

### 1. Mioveni bypass

The purpose of the project: Increasing the mobility of goods and people in the Mioveni area.

Specific objectives:

- Traffic decongestion in the central area of the city;
- Development of local infrastructure;
- Reducing the level of pollution in the central area of the city.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

The main source of air pollution and noise pollution in the city is the transport sector, respectively the emissions generated by motor vehicles, given that the number of motor vehicles is increasing. Also, the traffic in the central area of the city is a lot congested and alternative routes are needed.

**Main activities:**

- Construction of 6.8 km of road on the structure of the old road DN 73D Pitești - Mioveni - Câmpulung Muscel;
- Rehabilitation/replacement of the 8 transversal bridges located on the road sector;
- Realization of drainage ditches/gutters;

**Estimated value:** 9,264,190 EUR;

**Sources of financing:** POS TRANS 2014-2020, local budget, national budget.

**Estimated implementation period:** 24 months, period 2018 – 2020.

### 2. Photovoltaic park in Mioveni

The purpose of the project: Utilization of green energy sources by building a photovoltaic park in the Clucereasa -Mioveni area

Specific objectives:

- Green energy production;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Reduction of utility costs.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed: Covering the need for electricity.

Main activities:

- Construction of support structure (metal shelves) of the capture system;
- Installation of solar radiation capture system (photovoltaic panels);
- Connecting panels and junction boxes, inverters;

Estimated value: 9,400,000 lei.

Possible sources of financing: local budget, funds from programming period 2014-2020.

Estimated implementation period: 24 months, period 2018 – 2020

### 3. Sports hall

The purpose of the project: Increasing the quality of life of young people in Mioveni, by ensuring optimal conditions for high-performance sports activities.

Specific objectives: Construction of a multifunctional gym that allows the development of ball games (handball, basketball, volleyball), gymnastics, racket games (tennis).

Justification of the needs/issues addressed: The city does not benefit from an infrastructure specific to the development of competitive hall activities.

Main activities:

- Construction CORP A - gym, which will include: for the public: accesses for 2500 people; 32 doors; foyers; bathrooms; sound system; electronic score table; lighting system living room, sewer system, TV projector, wardrobes; handball court; space for athletes: access, locker rooms, recovery areas (sauna, cold and hot water pool, small bathroom, relaxation); doctor's office; complementary spaces (trade, protocol spaces, public catering, technical spaces);
- Construction CORP B - a bowling alley will be located on the ground floor, and a club will be set up on the first floor;
- Construction CORP C - space for thermal power plant; exterior features: parking lots, driveways, green spaces, fencing.

Estimated value: 51.00.000 lei;

Possible sources of financing: local budget;

Completion period: 3 years, period 2017-2020.

#### 4. Mioveni Water Household (Water source - drilled wells) - Icsita area

Purpose of the project: Ensuring the supply of drinking water, corresponding in terms of quality and quantity to EU standards, at acceptable rates for the population.

Specific objectives:

- Realization of an independent source of water from deep aquifers.
- Reduction of the drinking water supply tariff.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

Currently, the city of Mioveni is supplied with drinking water from the source and treatment plant of the Dacia Plant. The water is surface, and the treatment of drinking water involves higher costs than if the water source were underground.

Main activities:

Realization of 16 hydrogeological drillings for water capture, with a depth of 200 m each. In the centre of the catchment area (Icsita area) will be located the water household, consisting of: tuff tank of 1000 m<sup>3</sup>; pumping and chlorination station; adduction networks (approx. 3,835 m).

Estimated value: 5,836,635 lei.

Possible sources of financing: local budget.

Estimated implementation period: 12 months, 2018-2020.

#### 5. City Hospital Ug + Gf + 6F Mioveni

The purpose of the project: Increasing and maintaining at the best possible level the health status of the population in the city of Mioveni and its surroundings.

Specific objectives:

- Construction of a modern medical unit, equipped to high standards;
- Increasing the number of beds;
- Establishment of a hospital with several medical specialties: surgery, cardiology, gynecology, obstetrics-neonatology;
- Increasing the quality of health services provided to citizens.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

The need of the population to benefit from efficient, efficient, economic and effective medical services, including for the gynecology, obstetrics-neonatology departments, closed departments within the current hospital.

The existing hospital in the city of Mioveni currently has an insufficient number of beds. The national average is 655 beds per 100,000 inhabitants. The city of Mioveni should have 235 hospital beds to be at the national average, without taking into account the population of the neighbouring localities it serves; with an insufficient number of beds, the sanitary services offered to the citizens are worse than in other localities and below the level of the population's expectations.

Main activities:

The hospital will have a built area of 2308m<sup>2</sup> (ground footprint), an area of 17,300m<sup>2</sup>, with a height of Ug + Gf + 6F, as follows: basement: ALA shelters, kitchen, laundry, anatomy-pathology department, laboratories; ground floor: UPU (emergency reception unit), analysis laboratories, triage, isolator; outpatient spaces; 1<sup>st</sup> floor: surgery and ATI department (intensive care anaesthesia); 2<sup>nd</sup> floor: paediatrics department and gynecology department; 3<sup>rd</sup> floor: obstetrics-neonatology department; 4<sup>th</sup> floor: internal medicine and gastroenterology department; 5<sup>th</sup> floor: interventional cardiology department and functional explorations; 6<sup>th</sup>: technical spaces.

Estimated value: 290,000,000.

Possible sources of funding: funds from programming period 2014-2020, local budget, public-private partnership.

Estimated implementation period: 3 years, 2015-2020.

## 6. Rehabilitation - Modernization of health infrastructure

Purpose of the project: Increasing access to quality health services.

Specific objectives:

- Development of health infrastructure;
- Increasing the medical services offered to the citizens.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed: the need of the population to benefit from efficient, efficient, economic and effective medical services.

Main activities:

Rehabilitation, modernization, development and equipment of the specialized outpatient clinic within the St. Spiridon Racovița Hospital, Mioveni city.

The extension consists in the location of a constructions with independent structure on the ground floor and first floor and the application of an attic on the entire surface created on the first floor (proposed floor + existing floor). On the ground floor the extension consists in the creation of rescue parking space (garage - 5 places), proposed elevator house, elevator access hall and garage premises. Upstairs, the extension consists of the creation of 5 medical offices

and 2 related access halls. The attic consists of the creation of 10 medical offices, 2 locker rooms, a warehouse, a laboratory, 2 service homes, a bathroom and an access hall + stairwell.

Estimated value: 5,200,000.

Possible sources of financing: funds from programming period 2014-2020, local budget, public-private partnership.

Estimated implementation period: (strategic year) 2013-2020.

#### **7. Extension of the video surveillance system (Mioveni, Racovița and Colibași)**

Purpose of the project: Increasing the safety and social security of the citizens of Mioveni as a premise for sustainable development and improving their quality of life.

Specific objectives:

Implementation of the video surveillance system in places public schools, kindergartens, parks, main arteries, near the cultural objectives, of the public institutions from areas of Mioveni city, in order to detect in time, the disturbing factors, the causes that led to their appearance, the way they were flattened/solved.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

The video surveillance system is an effective tool for data collection, documentation and support in coordinating the actions of Local Police forces.

Also, the installation of video cameras near educational institutions leads to discouraging the criminal phenomenon and antisocial activities in those areas.

Main activities: Extension of the video surveillance system to other areas of Mioveni: location of video cameras; implementation of computer systems; information awareness campaigns.

Estimated value: 3,000,000 lei.

Possible sources of financing: local budget, funds from programming period 2014-2020.

Estimated implementation period: 2018-2020.

#### **8. Rehabilitation and modernization of the road network**

Purpose of the project: Increasing the mobility of goods and people in the city of Mioveni.

Specific objectives:

- Increasing the quality of life of the city's inhabitants;
- Reduction of air and noise pollution.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

There are also streets in the locality that are not modernized, especially in the peripheral areas of the city.

Main activities:

- Construction of the street connecting Valea Neagră street with Mihail Sorbul street (bituminous clothing, gutters);
- Modernization of Tudor Mușatescu street;
- Modernization of Radu cel Frumos street;
- Dealul Savului Colibași road development;
- Modernization of Gării street;
- Etc.

Estimated value: 3,000,000 lei.

Possible sources of financing: funds from programming period 2014-2020, local budget.

Estimated implementation period: 2014-2020.

#### **9. Extension and modernization of the electricity supply network and public lighting**

Purpose of the project: Ensuring non-discriminatory access for all members of the local community to the public lighting service.

Specific objectives:

- Modernization and extension of the public lighting system;
- Reducing specific consumption by using high-performance lighting fixtures, specialized equipment to ensure quality and high-performance public lighting.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

Segments of the street lighting network are still not rehabilitated and highly energy consuming; there are also areas where there is no public lighting. It is therefore necessary to rehabilitate and expand segments of the street lighting network and to use economical lighting sources to reduce consumption and savings on one's own budget.

Main activities:

- Extension of the electricity supply network and public lighting on Mihail Sorbul alley, DN73 D Racovița neighbourhood, Egalitatii street, etc.
- Lighting network capital repairs;
- Replacement of current lighting sources with those with LED technology;
- Rehabilitation or replacement of ignition points.

Estimated value: 300,000 lei.

Possible sources of financing: local budget.

Estimated implementation period: 2014-2020.

#### **10. Extension, rehabilitation and modernization of the water and wastewater infrastructure in the city of Mioveni**

Purpose of the project: Increasing the quality of life of the city's inhabitants

Specific objectives:

- Increasing the coverage of the population with water supply and sewerage services up to 100% in all 5 districts of Mioveni.
- Ensuring the supply of drinking water, corresponding in terms of quality and quantity to EU standards.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

- There is a sewerage system in four out of five neighbourhoods (Mioveni, Racovița, Colibași, Clucereasa);
- Low water pressure in the high areas of the city (str. Piscul Ilinii and Dealul Viilor);
- Insufficiently developed rainwater drainage network, being arranged only in the Mioveni neighbourhood.

Main activities:

- Extension and rehabilitation of the water distribution network - Colibași neighbourhood;
- Extension and rehabilitation of the sewerage network (Făget neighbourhood, Colibași neighborhood, other streets);
- Extension and rehabilitation of the storm water network;

- Increasing water treatment capacity in areas with existing water supply system;
- Pumping stations to improve water pressure and flow in the high areas of the city.

Estimated value: 5,000,000 lei.

Possible sources of financing: local budget.

Estimated implementation period: 2014-2020.

- 11.** Thermal rehabilitation of buildings: School - main building GF + 2, School Workshop - G, Gym - G, belonging to the Technological High School of Machine Constructions Mioveni.

Purpose of the project: Improving the educational infrastructure for high school education in Mioveni.

Specific objectives: Thermal rehabilitation of the buildings related to the Mioveni Machine Building Technological High School.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

The buildings have never been thermally insulated, the facades are damaged, for this reason there are large heat losses and the environment for carrying out the educational act is not appropriate. Estimated value: 4,600,000 lei.

Possible sources of financing: local budget, state budget.

Estimated implementation period: 2018-2020.

- 12.** Bridge over the Argeşel river: Racoviţa neighbourhood - Mioveni city, between DN73D and DC 85

Purpose of the project: Improving the accessibility of the citizens to the transport infrastructure at the level of Mioveni city.

Specific objectives: Construction of a bridge between DN73D and DC85.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed: Lack of an access road between Racoviţa neighbourhood and Davideşti commune.

Main activities:

- Acquisition of design services;
- Construction site procurement services;
- Procurement of technical assistance services;
- Acquisition of construction works;
- Project monitoring and evaluation.

Estimated value: 29,000,000.00 lei.

Possible sources of financing: local budget, state budget.

Estimated implementation period 2018-2021

- 13.** Kindergarten body construction - Completion of functional subassembly

Purpose of the project: Improving the educational infrastructure for preschool education in Mioveni.

Specific objectives: Expansion of Champions Kindergarten with a new functional body.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

The restructuring of the local education network has led to an overload of functional preschool units.

Main activities:

- Acquisition of design services;
- Construction site procurement services;
- Procurement of technical assistance services;
- Acquisition of construction works;
- Project monitoring and evaluation.

Estimated value: 1,900,000 lei.

Possible sources of financing: local budget, state budget.

Estimated implementation period: 2018-2020.

*Major projects for which (pre)feasibility studies, opportunity studies, technical documentation in the period 2017-2027 are proposed:*

- 1. Implementation of intelligent system for lighting management and energy consumption efficiency**

Project objectives:

- Modernization and extension of the public lighting system;
- Reducing consumption and saving on own budget of the citizens.
- Ensuring street and pedestrian lighting adequate to the comfort and safety needs, individual and collective, provided in the rules in force, compatible with EU directives.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

The use of electricity savers (by remote management, monitoring and control) is a solution that offers maximum flexibility by remote control, in real time, of the public lighting network, without the need to interrupt the power supply outside operating hours. Thus, it is possible to control the remote lighting on / off and the adjustment of the light intensity by automatic programming, and, on that way, reduces the light intensity of the lamps in the time intervals with low traffic; turns off the architectural lighting systems in the hours without traffic; offers the possibility to adjust the light intensity depending on the existing traffic (road or pedestrian); regionalizes the public lighting system (areas with road traffic, residential areas, etc.); eliminates the mobile patrols for the surveillance of the public lighting system; optimizes maintenance and reduces the number of hours of effective operation of light bulbs, increasing their operating life by 15% to 20%. By improving the solution, a reduction of up to 30-35% can be expected.

Orientation activities:

- Installation of electricity savers in the identified areas;
- IT system implementation

Possible sources of financing: EU + national funds through programming period 2014-2020 and local budget

- 2. Installations for the use/recovery/disposal of sewage sludge**

Project objectives:

- Environment protection;
- Compliance with EU targets and objectives.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

The sewage sludge is the result of wastewater treatment and in the city's treatment plant, after going through thickening and dehydration processes, it is discharged on the drying beds. The treatment plant is also not equipped with a plant for recovery/final disposal of the resulting sludge. Storage is resolved only in the short term, until the storage capacity of the authorized storage location is exhausted. The storage ramp in Mioveni was closed, and the only compliant landfill in the area, the ecological ramp in Albota, does not receive sewage sludge and is not equipped with the necessary facilities for the use/recovery/disposal of sludge.

Orientation activities:

- Identifying a solution to adapt to the current situation in Mioveni and the county in order to use/capitalize/eliminate sewage sludge.
- Implementation of measures for recovery of sewage sludge.

Possible sources of financing: funds from 2014-2020 programming period, local budget

### **3. Arranging a garden park**

Project objectives:

- Increasing the quality of green spaces in the city;
- Increasing the attractiveness of Mioveni;
- Expansion and diversification of the tourist infrastructure in the city;
- Diversification of the tourist offer;
- Increasing the number of tourists arriving in the city.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

- Insufficient green spaces and recreation in the city;
- The number of tourists visiting the town is low.

Orientation activities:

- Arrangement of a garden park on an area of 25 ha in the area between Mioveni and Colibași neighbourhoods, which will include: construction of alleys, bicycle track, planting trees, shrubs and flowers, creation of an automated irrigation network, construction of the lighting installation in accordance with the principles of energy efficiency, arranging playgrounds, arranging the sports field areas, arranging the belvedere areas, arrangement of botanical garden area exhibition area, arrangement of the zoo area, location of ecological furniture, information kiosks and information panels.

Possible sources of financing: funds from 2014-2020 programming period, local budget

### **4. Integrated population warning and alarm project**

Project objectives:

Ensuring the operative state and the optimal intervention capacity of the services for emergency situations.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

It is necessary to protect the population, material goods, cultural and archival values, as well as the environment against the effects of disasters.

Orientation activities:

- Equipped with the necessary equipment (sirens, computers for equipping the control point, filter-ventilation installation, telephone exchange);

- Arrangement of civil shelter.

Possible sources of financing: funds from 2014-2020 programming period, local budget.

#### 5. Restoration, capitalization and introduction in the tourist circuit of the Vieroși Monastery

Project objectives:

Restoration and functional rehabilitation of Vieroși Monastery, in order to introduce in the national tourist circuit.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

The functional condition of the monument is precarious. Insufficient capitalization of the anthropic tourist potential.

Orientation activities:

- conservation, arrangement and functional restoration of the historical monument, including exterior arrangements of the monument;
- introduction of functions compatible with the monument by creating cultural environments: exhibition spaces.

Possible sources of financing: funds from 2014-2020 programming period.

#### 6. Hotspots in the central area of Mioveni

Project objectives:

- Facilitating citizens' access to the provision of wireless internet services;
- Improving citizens' communication by establishing free Wi-Fi and internet access points in various public spaces in the city of Mioveni.

Justification of needs/issues addressed:

Using free internet services in the central area of the city, the City comes to the aid of citizens, while contributing to the interactive information of young people in a modern, easily accessible and effective way.

Internet access can be done with the help of the following equipment: with mobile phones and tablets; on laptops; on PDA. These devices must have built-in Wi-Fi technology. Most laptops and PDAs have Wi-Fi capability. Mobile phones must use Wi-Fi radio transmission technology.

Orientation activities:

- Identifying the locations of installation of wireless access points so as to cover as many areas of public interest as possible and to meet the need for internet access in areas with a high population density;
- Measuring the coverage area of the wireless internet service, so as to cover as large an area of the city of Mioveni as possible;
- Determining the need for equipment according to the locations selected for system implementation;
- Realization of the wireless internet provision infrastructure;
- Providing the necessary equipment and accessories;
- Powering the system that will be made by optical fiber;
- Installation and configuration of equipment;
- Equipment testing.

Possible sources of financing: funds from programming period 2014-2020, local budget, public-private partnership.

#### **7. Continuing staff training campaigns**

Project objectives:

- Promoting access to lifelong learning for employees, especially those at a disadvantage in the labour market, thus contributing to the creation of lifelong learning at the individual, organizational, community and social levels;
- Development of efficient and sustainable schemes for financing continuing vocational training (CVT) that facilitate access to and participation in the training of people, to stimulate investment in CVT at the level of the individual, employer, state and community.
- Capitalizing on and multiplying the examples of good practices of social partnership in lifelong learning by reconsidering the role of employers and civil society organizations in developing and implementing policies in the field of CVT.
- Increasing the competitiveness of employees in order to support the development of human capital.

Justification of the needs/issues addressed:

At European level, it has been found that one of the key components of the construction of the EU and of the National Development Strategy of the Member States and the allies in the process of integration is related to continuing vocational training. In order to be able to talk about economic growth in the current context of the crisis, it is necessary to focus on the adequate development of the professional competences of the employees that will equip them with a complete qualification.

Main activities:

Identification of areas and staff to be trained.

Possible sources of financing: funds from programming period 2014-2020, programme Leonardo da Vinci, local budget, public-private partnership.

#### **8. Ecological education campaigns**

Specific objectives:

- Promoting an ecological behaviour by informing and making the citizens of Mioveni responsible;
- Development of sustainable waste management systems by improving waste management and reducing the number of historically polluted areas in at least 30 counties;
- Raising public awareness of waste management.

Justification for the needs/issues addressed:

The need to align Romania with community strategies, with the National Waste Management Plan.

Main activities:

- Consultation of the public by launching a competition of ideas regarding waste collection and recycling;
- Campaigns to promote an ecological behaviour at the level of the entire population of Mioveni, especially in the school communities in high schools and gymnasiums;

- Selective waste collection campaigns, at the level of the five districts of the city;
- Concluding and promoting partnerships with companies or NGOs whose main objective is recycling and/or waste collection campaigns of all types (e.g. Let's Do It, Romania cleaning campaign).

Possible sources of financing: funds from programming period 2014.

*Financial sources for development projects and distribution by sectors:*

The sources for financing the development projects and for City functioning are:

- EU funds;
- National funds;
- Local funds;
- Other operating income, which includes various aids, income from fines and administrative measures, taxes, etc.

*Monitoring and assessment*

Regarding the controls on implementation of the measures and specific operations for rural development measures, conducting administrative and field visits to control investments on the farms are performed, in accordance with the EU Regulation 1305/2013 and its implementing regulations. In other words, Romania, as other Member countries of the EU, established the operating structure responsible for controlling the investments.

Based on EU regulations for granting agricultural aid that all EU member states must comply with, monitoring arrangements are established also following these rules. The implementation of the multi-annual operations is monitored on annual basis by the Monitoring Committee consisted from the relevant stakeholders.

Depends in which type/action the farmers are investing related to rural development measures, the implementation of incentives to farmers through subsidies is done on an annual basis, and projects that are complex are created for a multi-year period, depending on how long it takes to complete the project.

### **3.4. Case study SLOVENIA – Kranj**

Slovenia covers an area of 20.273 km<sup>2</sup> of which 39.9% is agricultural area and 56.1% is forestry land. Of the total agricultural land (602.000 ha) 57.9% is permanent grassland and 36.5% is arable land. 21% and 75% respectively of the agricultural land is designated as NATURA 2000 areas and as areas facing natural constraints.

Slovenia has more than 72.000 agricultural holdings with an average size of 6.6 ha and an average standard output of roughly € 16.200. Of these, some 61.000 holdings farm on less than 10 ha and some 62.100 generate less than € 15.000 of standard output. Only 7.7 % of farm managers are young farmers.

Slovenia has a population of 2 million inhabitants, of which 43.7% live in rural areas and 56.3% in intermediate areas.

For the programming period 2014-2020, Slovenia, on 30 October 2014, signed the Partnership Agreement which covers five funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

For Slovenia, the PA focuses on the following priorities:

- Promoting investments in research and development to strengthen the competitiveness of SMEs and to enhance the innovation capacities of Slovenia;
- Promoting incentives to increase employment and employability by encouraging the development of high-quality jobs and improving the education and training system, while taking into account the existing social challenges;
- Encouraging the shift to a low-carbon economy through the sustainable and efficient use of energy and renewable energy sources, as well as through sustainable mobility;
- Improving the quality of the transport infrastructure and developing infrastructure to achieve a better environmental status and the efficient management of resources;
- Improving the institutional capacities and efficiency of the public administration and the judicial system.

These funds are the cornerstone of Slovenia's medium and long-term development strategy. They will mobilize additional public national and private funding for growth and job creation and will reduce regional disparities in Slovenia. The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) will encourage the establishment of a good business and supportive environment for SMEs and entrepreneurial activities by facilitating their access to finance and promoting investments in research, development and innovation activities. One of the key aspects of Slovenia's development is also the integrated transition to a low-carbon economy with increased energy efficiency, particularly in the public infrastructure, a higher share of energy from renewable energy sources in the overall energy structure and the promotion of sustainable mobility.

A substantial share of mainly ERDF/CF is devoted to upgrade Slovenia's infrastructure, particularly in the railway sector by aligning the public rail infrastructure with the requirements of the TEN-T standards, and ensuring a shift to sustainable mobility. Investments are also focused on establishing systems enabling access to quality drinking water.

As regards Slovenia's rural areas, the EAFRD contributes to increasing the productivity of the Slovenian agriculture and the level of self-sufficiency, while increasing the sustainable use of natural resources and promoting agricultural practices which have favourable effects on the preservation of natural resources, biodiversity and the adaptation to climate change. Furthermore, investments contribute to the creation of green jobs and a coherent and sustainable development of rural areas based on the potentials of the local environment.

Regarding the budget, for Slovenia, the EU allocated EUR 3.25 billion under the EU Cohesion Policy Funds (ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund), of which EUR 159.8 million is allocated to the Instrument Connecting Europe Facility – CEF (for transport), EUR 9.2 million to the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), EUR 21 million for the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived and EUR 64 million for programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC). Additional EUR 837.8 million is devoted to the development of the agricultural sector and rural areas from the EAFRD. The allocation for the EMFF amounts to EUR 24.8 million.

Slovenia is divided into two cohesion regions at the NUTS 2 level: the more developed cohesion region of Western Slovenia and the less developed Eastern Slovenia. The cohesion region of Western Slovenia is eligible for EUR 847 million, while the cohesion region of Eastern Slovenia is eligible for EUR 1.26 billion. The Cohesion Fund (CF) is available for the whole country (EUR 1.055 billion).

Significant attention is given to the territorial dimension of interventions in particular in the area of sustainable urban development and access to public services. At least 5.12% of the total ERDF allocation will be invested in sustainable urban development actions implemented

in Slovenia mainly through the instrument of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) in up to eleven urban municipalities. At least 5% of the EAFRD contribution will be reserved for CLLD, earmarking EUR 41.8 million from EAFRD, with additional EUR 5 million from the EMFF and EUR 30 million from ERDF.

Around 20% of the allocations are planned for the realisation of climate change objectives.

Cohesion policy is delivered through 1 operational programme (OP), co-financed by the ERDF, ESF and CF, compared to 3 programmes in the 2007-2013 period.

One Rural Development Programme is supported by the EAFRD and 1 OP for the implementation of the EMFF.

Slovenia also participates in thirteen European Territorial Cooperation programmes.

The Slovenian Rural Development Programme (RDP) was formally adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2015 and last amended on 23 July 2020, outlines Slovenia's priorities for using the € 1.1 billion of public contribution that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (of which € 838 million is from the EU budget).

The RDP for Slovenia focuses mainly on three priorities:

- Under the first – restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry – roughly one third of Slovenian farmland will be placed under funded contracts to improve biodiversity and water and soil management;
- Under the second – competitiveness of agri-sector and sustainable forestry – 2.31% of farms will receive support for economic and environmental investments (including in greater resource efficiency);
- Under the third – social inclusion and local development in rural areas - 66% of the population are anticipated to be covered by local development strategies. In addition, nearly 361 jobs are expected to be created.

From the EU proposed measures, Slovenia decided to implement the following:

- Measure 1 - Knowledge transfer and information actions;
- Measure 2 - Advisory services, farm management, and farm relief services;
- Measure 3 - Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs;
- Measure 4 - Investments in physical assets;
- Measure 6 - Farm and business development;
- Measure 7 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas;
- Measure 8 - Investments in forest area development and development of the viability of forests;
- Measure 9 - Setting up of producer groups and organisations;
- Measure 10 - Agri-environment and climate;
- Measure 11 - Organic agriculture;
- Measure 13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints;
- Measure 14 - Animal welfare;
- Measure 16 – Cooperation;
- Measure 19 - Support for the community-led local development;

- Measure 20 – Technical assistance;
- Measure 113 - Early retirement;
- Measure 131 - Meeting standards.

The four biggest RDP measures in budgetary terms (total public funding) are:

- € 252 million allocated to Measure 13: Areas with natural constraints;
- € 238 million allocated to Measure 4: Investments;
- € 207 million allocated to Measure 10: Agri-environment and climate measures;
- € 117 million allocated to Measure 6: Farm and business development.

#### *After 2020 – Recovery and resilience plan*

The Heads of Member States agreed at the European Council on 21 July 2020 on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and the Recovery Instrument. Slovenia has negotiated an exceptional development framework for EU funding. The agreement brings extensive additional funds for Slovenia, which will facilitate the recovery after the COVID-19 crisis and encourage investment in the green and digital transition.

Under the Next Generation EU Recovery Instrument, Slovenia will be able to use approximately EUR 5.7 billion, of which EUR 3.2 billion in loans and EUR 2.1 billion in grants (EUR 312 million from the React-EU initiative, EUR 134 million from Fair Transition Fund, € 1.8 billion from the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism and € 68 million for Rural Development).

In February 2021, Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Mechanism for Recovery and Resilience, which is the basis for the implementation of the Mechanism for Recovery and Resilience, entered into force.

At its session on 28 April 2021, the Government of Slovenia adopted the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NOC), which will be the basis for the use of available funds from the Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF), with development areas and components.

NOC development areas and components:

#### **GREEN TRANSITION**

- Renewable energy sources and efficient use of energy in the economy
- Sustainable renovation of buildings
- Clean and safe environment
- Sustainable mobility
- Circular economy - efficient use of resources

#### **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

- The digital transformation of the economy
- Digital transformation of the public sector and public administration

#### **SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

- RDI - Research, Development and Innovation
- Raising productivity, a friendly business environment for investors
- Labor market - measures to reduce the consequences of negative structural trends

- Transformation of Slovenian tourism and investments in infrastructure in the field of tourism and cultural heritage
- Strengthening competences, especially digital ones and those required by new professions
- Effective public institutions

#### **HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Healthcare
- Social security and long - term care
- Housing policy.

According to the Regulation establishing the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, Member States must ensure in their NOCs that they allocate at least 37% of the available resources and 20% to the achievement of the green objectives. Slovenia's recovery and resilience plan envisages 43.45% for green goals and 20.05% for achieving digital goals.

The NOC envisages measures and projects that are feasible by the end of 2026, when the program is completed. Given the limited resources, other investments, measures and projects that could not be placed in the NOC will be financed from other funds, under other funding schemes and from the state budget.

The Government of Slovenia has decided that the national coordinator for the implementation of the NOC will be a new body within the Ministry of Finance, which will be formally established on 1 June 2021 and will start performing its tasks by 1 August 2021 at the latest.

The presented city, the City of Kranj, is the economic, commercial, traffic, educational and cultural center of Gorenjska. It covers an area of 148 km<sup>2</sup> and lies at the crossroads of important traffic routes leading from northern Europe to the Adriatic and from western Europe to the east. The town developed on a conglomerate pier at the confluence of 30 meters deep incised riverbeds of the Kokra and Sava, a river crossing at the intersection of the longitudinal path along the Sava and transverse paths towards Jezersko and Ljubelj and Škofja Loka. The city is 6 km away from Jože Pučnik International Airport. The highest peak is Storžič (2132 m).

For the relevant case study, and its results, the data and the information have been taken from interview of the employees from the City of Kranj as well as from desk research.

#### *Legal and strategic documents*

A basic strategic document for rural development policy for Kranj, is the above-mentioned Rural Development Programme for Slovenia.

This document is defined and approved on multi-annual basis, until the current EU programming period lasts (2014-2020).

During the adoption of the strategic documents, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia follows the EU regulations, especially 1305/2013, regarding the definitions and planning and implementation of the rural development measures.

On the local level, Kranj developed and adopted big number of strategic documents for local development, or was involved in its creation.

In the process of drafting the documents, data from the relevant registers have been taken. In addition, based on data from the mentioned registers, as well as an analysis and

examination of the needs of citizens was performed, and based on the obtained data, priorities were made.

Some of the strategies, programs and plans are:

- Gorenjska Regional Development Program

To realize the vision "Gorenjska, I want to live here, to work and play", the development areas are set: technological development, entrepreneurship and innovation, development of human resources, tourism, the environment, space and infrastructure, countryside.

In addition, 17 investment measures among them some that concern traffic are set: active and quality of life, public infrastructure, environment, spatial development, energy saving and use renewables. The development program lists some investments transport measures:

- preparation of an integrated transport strategy for Gorenjska region;
  - connection of rail and bus transport;
  - traffic calming in the Alpine valleys;
  - upgrade of the web regional portal and the development of a mobile application on timetables and transport options to the destination;
  - the establishment of a "park and ride" system;
  - introduction of green means of transport (e-cars, e-bikes, e-engines, charging stations, parking arrangements);
  - measures to promote cycling: establishment networks of cycle paths along the long-distance cycle path, establishment of a bicycle rental system, incentives for use of bicycles as a means of transport;
  - construction of city and inter-municipal bicycle lanes connections;
  - pedestrian subprojects: implementation of new corridors for pedestrians, 50 existing crossings are appropriate rearrange, arrange a network of footpaths between the city and surrounding countryside;
  - arranging smaller parking lots and green areas along public facilities and recreation points;
  - arrangement of parking lots and bicycle storage facilities;
  - integration of bus - rail transport;
  - placement of remote bicycle connections.
- Local development strategy for the local Gorenjska košica action group

The strategy covers thematic areas for action (job creation, development of basic services, environmental protection and nature conservation, greater involvement young people, women and other vulnerable groups) and thus touches entrepreneurship development, access to services, environmental protection and nature and also emphasizes the inclusion of vulnerable targets groups. One of the goals of the strategy is to reduce pollution environment through the development of sustainable mobility, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.

- Sustainable urban strategy of the Municipality Kranj 2030

The purpose of Sustainable urban strategy is to check the relevance of past measures strategies and redefine and agree on integrated measures in response to new development circumstances, in which is today Kranj. In addition, its purpose is also take into account future challenges and activate the untapped the city's internal potential to stimulate economic growth and improving the quality of life in Kranj.

The document defines a strategic goal: "We are establishing fast, safe and sustainable transport connections within Kranj and beyond."

- Integrated transport strategy of the City of Kranj

To establish sustainable transport planning in Slovenian municipalities, the Ministry of Infrastructure published public tender for co-financing of Integrated transport operations strategy to be implemented under the Operational program for the implementation of European cohesion policy in period 2014–2020.

The document is also fundamental to more detailed action-budget plan, which is the central implementation part of the Strategy and specifies short-term measures, to be implemented in the first five years of the strategy, from the year of admission, i.e. in 2017, until 2022.

Strategic goals of the Integrated transport strategy of the City of Kranj are:

1. To establish fast, safe and sustainable transport connections in Kranj and abroad him;
2. To take care of affordable, quality and creative environment for children and youth;
3. To strengthen traffic culture and calming down transport in urban centers;
4. To ensure the harmonious development of the city and rural areas;
5. To contribute to a clean environment and a healthy one lifestyle; to keep it safe, a healthy and friendly social environment.

- The Strategic Spatial Plan (SPN)

The document represents a long-term vision of development in the area of the Municipality of Kranj for the next 10 to 20 years. It outlines the main directions development by individual areas. It consists of six larger sets of content. It sets the starting points and goals, the design spatial development of the municipality and economic development public infrastructure and guidelines for spatial development municipalities.

In conclusion, the concept is defined in more detail development of important urban centers in the municipality (Kranj, Golnik), for which urban plans were also made plan.

The SPN defines development goals in the field of transport:

- modernization and construction of the road network on in the area of the city of Kranj and in the rural hinterland;
- construction of high-speed railway and regional ring road railways;
- development of alternative forms of transport on urbanized ones areas and in relation to tourism and recreation areas (cycling, hiking);
- supplementing the public bus system and rail passenger services on routes with increased daily work and school migration.

- Tourism development strategy in the Municipality Kranj 2014–2020

The strategy sets out measures in the field of transport infrastructure that will provide suitable conditions for tourist development of the Municipality of Kranj:

- public transport and sustainable mobility (including cycling network);
  - ensuring safe cycling urban-rural connections, adaptation connections and frequencies of public transport within municipalities, between the railway, bus station and airport and to nearby tourist destinations (eg Kravvec Ski Resort, Preddvor – Jezersko) needs of visitors, upgrading the system parking in the city centre, landscaping for motorhome parking (eg Sava Island), areas for parking tourist buses, promotion greater competition from taxis and shuttle services (policy sustainable mobility and stationary transport);
  - upgrading the visitor guidance system in space;
  - providing adequate tourism signage to guide potential visitors with highways and regional roads, completing the system targeting providers in urban and rural areas (mainly for private providers) (policy non-traffic signals).
- Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) Municipality of Kranj

In the field of transport, measures are defined by which the Municipality of Kranj can indirectly achieve a reduction environmental releases:

- development of a strategy for urban passenger transport and implementation of measures to improve urban passenger transport (renewal of urban passenger transport by redefining the routes and increasing the frequency rides, especially during rush hours, overview of rides in suburban transport and harmonization with urban traffic, installation of displays for display arrival of buses at all bus stops);
  - replacement of standard buses with mini buses in the evening on routes with an expected smaller number of passengers, arrangement of bus stops, introduction of environmentally friendly public passenger transport traffic;
  - preparation of a traffic study and traffic model (emphasis should also be placed on the dormant traffic, i.e. parking in public areas, regulation of public passenger transport and development basic and supporting infrastructure for alternative forms of transport: pedestrian and bicycle traffic);
  - sustainable parking policy;
  - making mobility plans and promoting sustainable mobility;
  - establishment of cycle paths;
  - promoting alternative means of transport;
  - modernization of the municipal vehicle fleet;
  - traffic light optimization;
  - establishment of a P + R system and restriction of parking in the old town.
- Municipal Environmental Protection Program for the Municipality of Kranj

The municipal program identifies priority problems and challenges: regulation of sustainable mobility, reuse of degraded areas, quality living environment, keep pace with global trends and participate in international initiatives Program goals: reduce the impact on climate change by reducing CO2 emissions, strengthen health and a quality living environment citizens,

provide a framework for the environmentally friendly development of the Municipality of Kranj, efficient use of natural resources by consumers, manage environmental risks in the city area of Municipality of Kranj.

In the field of transport to achieve the objectives of the program provides for the following measures:

- reduction of CO2 emissions in traffic in Mestna municipality of Kranj;
- arrangement of the network of recreational routes within the Municipal environmental protection program for the Municipality of Kranj.
  
- Digital development strategy of the Smart City and Community of Kranj for the period 2020 to 2023

The Municipality of Kranj has adopted the Sustainable urban strategy of the Municipality until 2030, which defines the key development challenges of the Municipality of Kranj as the centre of Gorenjska. The mentioned document also defines priority thematic areas and strategic goals, and digitalisation can significantly contribute to their achievement in practically all of them.

Digitization is already today, and in the future it will affect much more practically all areas of life and work, so its development, based on well-thought-out strategic planning, is necessary for the integrated development of Kranj.

The strategy is open to new services, solutions and technologies that will prove to be relevant in the future, so it is a robust basis for a longer period of development. The goal of introducing a digital city development strategy is a regulated information and communication environment with clear coordination, connected processes and platforms, understandable and accessible data and sufficiently powerful communications. In such an environment, existing and new solutions form a connected whole with well-utilized information resources for the needs of citizens, the economy and city management. In addition, the Strategy also identifies areas for development and some concrete steps, which gives it useful implementation value in the near future. Preliminary analysis of the situation in the field of digitalization in the Municipality of Kranj showed that all key functions of the city administration are informationally supported, and in addition a number of dedicated solutions are used for the work of the city administration and for the needs of citizens. At the same time, the analysis also shows that solutions are poorly interconnected, often installed and managed on completely unconnected systems, as well as often poorly known and used by target groups. The strategy is a development concept that will connect relevant existing solutions and enable the accelerated development of new services in the connected information environment of the Municipality of Kranj.

All the documents are multi-annual, i.e. they are created for programming period 2016-2020, and the planning period is synchronized with the planning period of the European Commission, hence the fact that the new document will follow period until 2027.

#### *Coordination and cooperation between the administrative bodies in the Municipality of Kranj*

The bodies of Municipality of Kranj are the City Council, the Mayor and the Supervisory Board.

The City Council is the highest decision-making body that rules on all matters in the scope of the rights and duties of Municipality of Kranj.

The City Council consists of 33 members.

Permanent work committees of the City Council are as follows:

1. Committee for mandate questions, elections and appointments;
2. Committee for statutory and legal issues;
3. Committee for awards and recognitions;
4. Committee for citizens' initiatives and complaints;
5. Committee for inter-municipal and international cooperation;
6. Committee for finances and property-related issues;
7. Committee for the environment, spatial planning and utility infrastructure;
8. Committee for social activities, health care and education;
9. Committee for culture and sports;
10. Committee for the economy, tourism and agriculture;
11. Committee for housing matters.

The Mayor shall occupy his/her position either as a professional or non-professional mayoral function. He/she needs to inform in writing the City Council of any such decision.

The Supervisory Board is the highest body of supervision over the public spending in the Municipality. Within the scope of its powers, the Supervisory Board:

1. exercises control over the use of the assets of Municipality of Kranj;
2. supervises the purposeful and proper use of the municipal budget;
3. monitors the financial operation of the users of budget funds.

The Supervisory Board shall report at least once a year to the City Council about its findings. It consists of 5 members.

The tasks of the city administration are performed in the following internal organizational units:

- The mayor's office, which includes the Department of Communication and Protocol and the Department of City Council and Local Communities;
- Office for Social Activities;
- The Office for Economic Affairs and Transport, within which the Department of Economic Affairs and the Department of Transport operate;
- The Office for the Environment and Spatial Planning, within which the Department for Spatial Acts operates;
- The Office for Development, Smart Community and Projects, which includes the Department for Development and Smart Communities and the Project Department;
- Sector for Finance and General Affairs, within which the Department of Finance, the Department of Legal and Personnel Affairs, the Department of General Affairs and Civil Protection and Resolution and the Department of Joint Procurement and Public Procurement operate.

The Inter-Municipal Inspectorate of Kranj, as a body of the joint municipal administration, performs administrative and misdemeanor tasks in the field of inspection and patrol supervision in the area of the founding municipalities in accordance with the decree on the establishment of the body of the joint municipal administration.

The Joint Internal Audit Service Kranj, as a body of the joint municipal administration, performs the tasks of establishing and effectively performing the function of internal auditing of the founding municipalities and their direct and indirect budget users in accordance with the decree establishing the joint municipal administration body.

Depending on the area they cover, internal organizational units also perform tasks from state competence, which the state transfers to the municipality.

#### *Economic activities*

Within the Office for Economic Affairs and Transport, there is also a department for economic activities, which performs, among other things, professional, technical, developmental, organizational and administrative tasks in the field of maintenance of facilities and networks of municipal infrastructure, including children's playgrounds, green and other public areas. lighting.

In addition, it performs tasks in the field of compulsory and optional public utilities (drinking water supply, drainage and treatment of municipal and rainwater, collection and treatment of certain types of municipal waste, disposal of residues from processing or disposal of municipal waste and arranging and cleaning public areas...).

The department is also responsible for administrative tasks in the field of energy, cemetery and funeral activities and water management, planning and implementation of tasks in the development and promotion of integration of economy, entrepreneurship and crafts, public works and social entrepreneurship, agriculture promotion, forestry and rural development, protection of abandoned animals, tourism and events, and also performs administrative tasks in the field of catering and trade.

#### *Aid to maintain and promote the development of agriculture, forestry and rural areas*

Every year, the Municipality of Kranj allocates funds to help preserve and promote the development of agriculture, forestry and rural areas in the Municipality of Kranj. Aid is granted on the basis of public tenders based on the Rules on granting aid for maintaining and promoting the development of agriculture, forestry and rural areas in the municipality of Kranj for the programming period 2015-2020. The Rules are still in force and will apply until 30 June 2023.

#### *2021*

In the current budget for 2021, the Municipality of Kranj has earmarked 153,400 euros for assistance in maintaining and promoting the development of agriculture, forestry and rural areas in the Municipality of Kranj.

The public tender covers several measures:

- In the field of agricultural production, it includes aid for investments in tangible or intangible assets on agricultural holdings in connection with primary agricultural production, aid for the rounding off of agricultural and forest land and investment aid for the preservation of cultural heritage on agricultural holdings;
- In the field of processing of agricultural products, ancillary activities and forestry, the Municipality of Kranj provides aid for investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural and food products and investments in non-agricultural activities on the farm, and another measure in this area supports investments for safe work in the forest;
- The tender also includes measures that include support for education in vocational, secondary agricultural and forestry programs and the operation of associations in the field of agriculture, forestry and rural development.

### *Social and social protection*

Social protection activity includes the prevention and solution of social problems of individuals, families and groups of the population. Systemically, the field of social protection, including the rights of citizens, is regulated in a number of laws, by-laws and regulations of the local community.

- Areas co-financed by the Municipality of Kranj

The Municipality of Kranj is responsible for the organization and financing of the social security right, assistance to the family at home, provided by the Kranj Retirement Home, to which citizens turn in case of such needs.

From the city budget, in accordance with the adopted legislation, the Municipality of Kranj, under the conditions determined by the regulations, also (co) finances: costs of services in social welfare institutions for adults, family helper, cooperation with non-governmental organizations, Regional Association of RK Kranj.

- Special municipal programs

The Municipality of Kranj also provides funds from the city budget for special municipal programs, which are: Safe house, Maternity home, Food distribution, Shelter for the homeless, Škrlovc - day centre for young people and families, Reintegration Centre, E-supply, One-time cash social assistance, Protection and Work Centre Kranj.

### *Funding:*

Municipality of Kranj obtains funds from own resources, from the national budget and from loans.

Own resources of Municipality of Kranj shall include income from assets and the operation of Municipality of Kranj as well as other duties.

For the financing of local matters of public significance, the Municipality is entitled to receive revenue from taxes as laid down by law.

The budget funds may only be used for the purposes as laid down in the budget. On behalf of Municipality of Kranj, obligations may be assumed only to the extent of the funds that are envisaged for particular purposes in the budget.

The budget funds may be released provided that all conditions laid down in this Charter, the ordinance and by law for the use of such funds have been fulfilled.

### *Social and social protection*

Social protection activity includes the prevention and solution of social problems of individuals, families and groups of the population. Systemically, the field of social protection, including the rights of citizens, is regulated in a number of laws, by-laws and regulations of the local community.

### *Areas co-financed by the Municipality of Kranj*

The Municipality of Kranj is responsible for the organization and financing of the social security right, assistance to the family at home, provided by the Kranj Retirement Home, to which citizens turn in case of such needs.

From the city budget, in accordance with the adopted legislation, the Municipality of Kranj, under the conditions determined by the regulations, also (co) finances: costs of services in social welfare institutions for adults, family helper, cooperation with non-governmental organizations, Regional Association of RK Kranj.

### *Special municipal programs*

The Municipality of Kranj also provides funds from the city budget for special municipal programs, which are: Safe house, Maternity home, Food distribution, Shelter for the homeless, Škrlovc - day centre for young people and families, Reintegration Centre, E-supply, One-time cash social assistance, Protection and Work Centre Kranj.

### *EU projects in the City of Kranj*

#### 1. Extension of the gym of the Stane Žagar Elementary School - Kranj

About the project:

Fund: ERDF - European Regional Development Fund

Duration of the operation: June 2021 - June 2022

Total value of the operation = € 2,847,632.20

Co-financing (EU 80% + RS 20%) = € 1,443,446.21

Kranj's own resources = € 1,404,185.99

Summary of the project:

Stane Žagar Elementary School Kranj in the city centre was built in 1961. Due to the rapid development of surrounding residential neighbourhoods, exceptional immigration of families from foreign areas in recent years and changing teaching methods and today's spatial standards, Stane Žagar Elementary School Kranj is facing many new social, spatial and pedagogical challenges. The existing building feels the lack of adequate classrooms and gym space, and the old added prefabricated building is completely unsuitable for teaching. Ensuring appropriate conditions for education and sports activities of young people in a sensitive urban space, such as Stane Žagar Primary School, is an important factor in quality of life, social security and prevention of social, physical and functional degradation of this part of urban space.

The purpose of the project is to reduce degradation and activate the interior of the city to build an almost zero-energy extension with a school gym and 6 classrooms and an outdoor playground next to the Stane Žagar Elementary School Kranj in the non-revitalized urban area of the residential neighbourhood Planina.

The operation will contribute to the achievement of the following general objectives:

- Reduce the risk of further social, functional and physical degradation in non-revitalized urban areas of Stane Žagar Kranj Primary School in the area of the Planina residential neighbourhood and indirectly in the part of the non-revitalized area of Stari Kranj and Savska cesta where the school district intervenes;
- To ensure efficient and quality use of the existing urban space of the Stane Žagar Primary School complex within the city of Kranj;
- Ensure efficient management of the environment and use of natural resources;
- Equalization of living conditions and opportunities of young people in the residential neighbourhood Planina with other urban environments.

#### 2. Renovation of the building on Cankarjeva ulica 2

About the project:

Fund: ERDF - European Regional Development Fund

Duration of the operation: March 2021 - May 2022

Total value of the operation = € 1,905,653.02

Co-financing (EU + RS) = € 1,486,786.26

Kranj's own funds = € 418,866.76

Summary of the project:

Pursuant to Article 29 of the Act on the Promotion of Harmonious Regional Development and the Expressed Interest of the City Municipality, the Municipality of Kranj received an empty building at Cankarjeva 2 in the old town centre of Kranj from the Republic of Slovenia with a contract on free transfer of state property in 2014. The building has been abandoned since the eviction of the secondary construction school from the city centre in 2006 and in its current state is not usable for the implementation of any public programs. The abandoned building spoils the image of this part of the city centre and reduces the value of the entire wider part of Cankarjeva ulica. The building needs a complete renovation. Precisely because of this, neither the Republic of Slovenia nor the Kranj had previously managed to acquire a suitable other investor.

The building is part of the Kranj-Mestno jedro area, which is protected as a monument of local significance and part of a degraded area with a suspicion of social degradation.

The activity of the music school performed by the Kranj Music School and amateur culture is already carried out in the area of Stari Kranj, but they operate in several locations, in unsuitable and partly rented premises. This prevents the expansion of their activities and pressures to relocate activities outside the city centre.

The main purpose of the operation is to reduce social degradation in the non-revitalized urban area of the historic city centre (Stari Kranj, NERUO 13) by renovating and reactivating the abandoned building of the former secondary construction school at Cankarjeva ulica 2 and locating two new central activities in the field of culture: Music School Kranj) and amateur culture activities (JSKD OI Kranj).

The operation will contribute to the achievement of the following general objectives:

- reduce the risk of further social degradation in Stari Kranj as a non-revitalized urban area, to ensure efficient and quality use of the existing urban space within the historic city center of Kranj, to improve the attractiveness and scope of visits to Stari Kranj;
- to contribute to raising the quality of everyday life in Stari Kranj and in the city of Kranj.

### 3. Wait for the bus

About the project:

Fund: EAFRD - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

Duration of the operation: January 2019 - June 2021

Partners: BSC, business support centre, Kranj d.o.o, Municipality of Bled, Municipality of Jesenice, Municipality of Kranj, Municipality of Naklo, Municipality of Radovljica, Municipality of Tržič, Tourism Bohinj, CIPRA

The total value of the operation is € 272,883.05, of which the value of EAFRD co-financing is € 178,525.17 (85%), for the Kranj Municipality € 6,464.44, of which € 4,340 is EAFRD funds.

Operation description:

The purpose of the operation is to pilot and ensure a sustainable network of 26 quality bus stops and 1 parking lot, including awareness campaigns for the population and stakeholders on the importance of sustainable mobility and recommendations for greater use of public transport in 6 municipalities LAG GK (Bled, Jesenice, MO Kranj, Naklo, Radovljica, Tržič).

One new bus canopy will be established in the Municipality of Kranj.

Objectives of the operation:

- establishment of a network of 26 quality bus stops (with 1 parking lot in 6 municipalities);
- encourage the population and stakeholders to use sustainable transport;
- ensure greater use of public transport by developing sustainable mobility.

Operation activities:

- management and promotion;
- investments in bus stops in the area of 6 municipalities (26 stations and 1 parking lot);
- launch and sustainability of a network of quality bus stops with measures for sustainable mobility.

Result of the operation:

- launching a network of quality bus stops with measures for sustainable mobility.

#### 4. EU project AGORA

Participation in the renovation of Drulovka

About the project:

Official title of the project: Advanced coGeneration Options for Reintegrating local Assets

Project acronym: AGORA

Specific objective of the program: SO 4.1 To improve institutional capacity to meet major societal challenges

Leading partner: Cluj - Napoca Municipality

Project duration: 30 months (July 2020 - 31-12.1222)

Project budget: 2,396,870.05 EUR

The transitional phase in which the cities in the Danube region found themselves after the economic crisis in 2008 left an opportunity to bring about positive changes at the level of planning policy. Many initiatives have been taken in the past to re-use degraded areas and appropriately linked resources to launch new forms of economies by a new generation of skilled educated youth. Despite efforts, the initiatives have remained disregarded and difficult to replicate - the biggest challenge remains to integrate the necessary instruments into governance, local capacity building and rapid urban regeneration instruments.

AGORA addresses the facts described above by introducing and adopting new, creative governance instruments for protected areas, building their capacity to effectively integrate, connect and expand the stakeholder group in reintegrating vacant buildings and land, public and private, into a productive value system. cities. With the AGORA project we want to achieve significant changes in the process and workflow at the local level through an international platform for innovative solutions to support cities in the Danube, reintegration

and reintegration of local unused, empty or unused areas, giving them new meaning and opportunity for development.

## 5. Fast by bike

About the project:

Fund: ERDF - European Regional Development Fund

Duration of the operation: January 2019 - June 2021

Partners: business support centre, Kranj d.o.o, Municipality of Bled, Municipality of Jesenice, Municipality of Kranj, Municipality of Naklo, Municipality of Radovljica, Municipality of Tržič, CIPRA

Total value of the operation (net eligible costs + VAT): € 533,582.88, of which the ERDF value is € 249,991.60 (80%)

Operation description:

By establishing a bicycle rental network in 6 municipalities in the LAG area, the project will contribute to the development of sustainable mobility and change the habits of the population in the direction of greater use of low-carbon transport and public transport. This will only contribute to preserving the environment, reducing CO2 and preserving biodiversity in urban settlements, and at the same time contribute to the development of sustainable green jobs through new sustainable transport services.

Objectives of the operation:

- Establishment of the first regional bicycle rental network in urban settlements of 6 municipalities;
- Encourage the population and stakeholders through awareness-raising campaigns to use sustainable transport (bicycles) in a particular place and for transport to other urban settlements and public transport stations;
- Recommendations for further development of the bicycle rental network and recommendations for schools to ensure further development of the regional bicycle rental network.

Operation activities:

- Management and promotion;
- Investments in bicycle rental info points, which will be the basis for starting the operation of the bicycle rental network;
- Investment in equipment - bicycle rental network;
- Built infrastructure for bicycle rental network in the area of 6 municipalities (14 stations);
- Launching a network of campaigns to raise public awareness of the importance of sustainable mobility;
- Recommendations for schools will be prepared (for 6 districts in 6 partner municipalities);
- A study to develop a bicycle rental network in the LAG area.

Result of the operation:

Bicycle rental network in the LAG area.

## 6. Drainage and treatment of municipal wastewater in the Upper Sava River Basin and in the area of the Kranj and Sorška fields - Lot 2 (Phase 2)

About the project:

The project, briefly named GORKI2, covers a comprehensive system of drainage and treatment of municipal wastewater in two agglomerations: the Britof-Predoslje agglomeration and the Mlaka near Kranj agglomeration.

Extensive construction works of the GORKI2 project to a total of 2,664 inhabitants in the settlements of Britof, Orehovlje, Predoslje and Mlaka establish conditions for a clean and healthy environment, but also ensure a more appropriate, higher quality of living. At the level of EU requirements, the project will achieve at least 95% connection to a single sewage system, which ends in the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Kranj, and at least 97% equipment of areas with drainage and wastewater treatment.

With the GORKI2 project, we are one step closer to obtaining an orderly and ecologically acceptable method of drainage and treatment of municipal wastewater in the four mentioned settlements of the Municipality of Kranj. In parallel with the construction of the missing municipal infrastructure for wastewater disposal, public water supply will be renovated in the mentioned areas, meteor sewerage (for discharge of meteor water from public areas) and public lighting will be built.

Duration of the operation: 2019–2020

The investment is co-financed by the Republic of Slovenia and the European Union from the Cohesion Fund. The total value of the operation is estimated at 16.5 million euros. The contribution of the Republic of Slovenia is EUR 989,833.92, and the contribution of the EU (Cohesion Fund) is EUR 5,609,058.83. The difference to the full value of the project will be covered by the Municipality of Kranj from its own funds.

Objectives of the operation:

Strategic goals of the investment project:

- reduction of emissions into water due to the construction of infrastructure for drainage and treatment of municipal wastewater,
- training of the sewerage system in the Sava River Basin in accordance with environmental requirements and operational programs,
- improving the condition of communal infrastructure.

Operational objectives:

- reduction of emissions into water from municipal sources of pollution by 3,094 PE in 2020,
- connection of an additional 2,664 inhabitants to the wastewater collection and treatment system in the Municipality of Kranj,
- construction of a sewerage network with a total length of 17,064 m.

## 7. Cycling connections in Kranj 1-6.

I'm cycling around Kranj

About the project:

Cycling is defined in the Integrated Transport Strategy of the Municipality of Kranj as one of the five strategic pillars of the new transport policy. The long-term goal of the city administration is to establish an integrated cycling network in the city area, which will accelerate the transition from motorized to a more sustainable form of daily migration of the population.

The measures of the operation envisage supplementing and upgrading the missing cycling infrastructure in the total length of 8,837 km with associated equipment, accompanying pedestrian infrastructure and communal infrastructure on six rounded backbones connecting densely populated urban neighbourhoods with various centres of central functions within the Kranj area.

Based on the Conceptual design of the supplement to the cycling network in the Municipality of Kranj, project-technical and investment documentation was prepared in 2017. The first set of investments represents the supplementation and upgrade of the existing bicycle network on six connections in the urban area of Kranj, which are the subject of the investment program, namely:

- Cycling connection 1: Planina neighbourhood - Primskovo shopping centre (Talcev road, Jaka Platiše road, part of Stane Žagar road with connection to Rudi Šeliga road);
- Cycling connection 2: Primskovo neighbourhood - Primskovo administrative and shopping centre (supplement of the missing section on Cesta Staneta Žagarja at the Jeršin car service, on Mirka Vadnova Street near Surovina and Šuceva Street near Dolnovo);
- Cycling connection 3: Šorlijevo naselje neighbourhood - Kranj Sports Park (XXXI Division Street, Kopališka Street);
- Cycling connection 4: Šorlijevo naselje neighbourhood - centre Water tower (Zoisova street);
- Cycling connection 5: Zlato polje neighbourhood (Naklo connection) - Kranj administrative centre (missing part of Koroška cesta);
- Cycling connection 6: Orehek neighbourhood - Orehek bus stop on R1 (through Orehek to the bus stop on Ljubljanska cesta).

The subject bicycle connections represent important backbone connections between the city's residential neighbourhoods and the individual centres of the city's central functions. When arranging the cycling infrastructure, sidewalks, installed cycling equipment (traffic meters, benches ...) and municipal infrastructure (drainage, public lighting ...) will also be arranged at the same time. In the area of the Planina neighbourhood, on the cycling connection 1, a Sustainable Mobility Centre (CTM) will be built and established as part of the project, the purpose of which is to raise awareness and encourage citizens to make greater use of soft forms of mobility.

Duration of the operation: 2019 - 2020

The investment is co-financed by the Republic of Slovenia and the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund. The total value of the operation is more than 2 million euros (€ 2,192,460.94), and the project is 80 percent co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, and 20 percent by the Republic of Slovenia.

Objectives of the operation:

The implementation of the project will improve the conditions for cycling in the area of six connections in the urban area. The transformation of transport policy into soft mobility will

enable the sustainable development of the city and improve air quality within the urban area. Abandonment of the investment would significantly reduce the attractiveness of living and negatively affect the factors of the modern business and investment environment.

Important advantages of the built cycling network:

- reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and noise,
- quick and safe access to the workplace, mobility hub (railway stations, bus stations), schools, hospitals, health centres, educational, recreational and shopping centres...,
- strengthening the health and motor skills of bicycle users,
- reduction of costs for coming to work,
- safe parking of bicycles or scooters,
- greater independence of children in transport to school and in the afternoon activities,
- getting to know the city and the suburbs by bike,
- greater attractiveness and quality of living space in the urban area,
- greater flow of road traffic,
- greater competitiveness of the city,
- modern, sustainable and inclusive development policy.

#### 8. Extension and Reconstruction of the Facility "Kindergarten and Primary School Simona Jenka - PŠ Centre

About the project:

By renovating the hitherto degraded building, the Municipality of Kranj improves the quality of living and the attractiveness of the city centre for young families.

The investment in question comprises an intervention in a degraded complex, which in nature represents one object, consisting of two so-called wings: east and west. The west wing of the building is a functioning building in which the primary school program (OŠ) takes place, which has its own entrance and address Komenskega ulica 2, and the east wing is an abandoned building of the former economic high school (address Komenskega ulica 4). This part was acquired by the Municipality of Kranj through an exchange contract with the Government of the Republic of Slovenia from 2004. It is a total of 1,913.17 m<sup>2</sup> of building, 820 m<sup>2</sup> of land and a total of 4,447 m<sup>2</sup> of outer surface of the east wing in an exceptional location in the city centre. decade, ever since the high school moved to the new premises of the high school centre on the outskirts of the city in 2007.

The operation thus includes a complete renovation of the abandoned degraded building of the former secondary economic school for the purposes of four kindergarten units, eight primary school units and the premises of the primary school administration. It also includes equipment (so-called East Wing, Komenskega ulica 4), renovation of the facade (energy rehabilitation) and common dining rooms of the existing active part of the Simon Jenko Elementary School - Branch School Centre (so-called West Wing, Komenskega ulica 2) and renovation and arrangement of external functional and green areas with a school playground.

Duration of operation: 2019-2020

The investment is co-financed by the Republic of Slovenia and the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund. The total value of the entire project is a little less than 6 million euros, with the Municipality of Kranj contributing 1.7 million euros from the budget, and the rest are EU and Republic of Slovenia funds.

Objectives of the operation:

- Ensure efficient and quality use of space within the city centre of Kranj by revitalizing the abandoned building with program-appropriate central activities;
- Improve the quality of living and the attractiveness of the city centre for young families;
- To improve the spatial conditions and accessibility to primary education, care and upbringing of pre-school children and recreational areas in the area of the city centre of Kranj;
- To contribute to the reduction of emissions in the area of the city centre by replacing the energy source and energy rehabilitation of the empty building of the former economic high school on Komenskega ulica 4 and the existing building of the primary school on Komenskega ulica 2 in the city centre of Kranj.

## 9. EU project Citycircle

Development of the circular economy in Kranj

About the project

The transition to a circular economy is inevitable, which is why the Municipality of Kranj has applied the concept of a circular economy and in 2018 applied for participation in the EU project CITYCIRCLE, which began in April this year and lasts until March 2022.

The theme of the project is how to exploit the innovative potential of the circular economy in the cities of Central Europe. Within the CITYCIRCLE project, the Municipality of Kranj cooperates with various partners from Slovenia and abroad. The project is a substantive continuation of the EU LUMAT project, the aim of which was to increase the potential of degraded areas through activities and measures. The purpose of the CITYCIRCLE project for the Municipality of Kranj is to use the concept of a circular economy as a possible link between the private and private sectors to strengthen the potential of degraded areas and protect undeveloped land.

The goal that the Municipality of Kranj wants to achieve is the establishment of a tool or supportive environment for strengthening the circular economy or promoting industrial symbioses as one of the possible measures to increase the competitiveness of business locations. We envisage the tool as a "living tool", as an aid to coordination between stakeholders (owners, local communities, small and medium-sized enterprises and the general public).

The CITYCIRCLE project is funded by European funds, namely the Interreg Central Europe program. Two Slovenian partners are participating in the project: the E-Institute, the Institute for Comprehensive Development Solutions and the Municipality of Kranj.

URBAN CENTRES of so-called peripheral regions in the Central Europe widely lack innovation and business development spirit due to their limited access to global innovation processes and cooperation partners. Various Circular economy models offer options for the sustainable and resource-efficient development of cities and municipalities and for pooling innovation,

new technologies, services, solutions and business models. In order to help cities overcome those challenges, we created CITYCIRCLE.

The CITYCIRCLE project will facilitate innovation and technology transfer and improve services and business models in peripheral cities. By providing these with tools and knowledge linked to the circular economy, the project will enable a new generation of innovative solutions in their urban ecosystems in a long-run. A full circular economy package for cities will deploy organizational structures, knowledge and tools, transnational value chains and present visible benefits to their citizens.

#### *Monitoring and assessment*

Regarding the controls on implementation of the measures and specific operations for rural development measures, conducting administrative and field visits to control investments on the farms are performed, in accordance with the EU Regulation 1305/2013 and its implementing regulations. In other words, Slovenia, as other Member countries of the EU, established the operating structure responsible for controlling the investments.

Based on EU regulations for granting agricultural aid that all EU member states must comply with, monitoring arrangements are established also following these rules. The implementation of the multi-annual operations is monitored on annual basis by the Monitoring Committee consisted from the relevant stakeholders.

Depends in which type/action the farmers are investing related to rural development measures, the implementation of incentives to farmers through subsidies is done on an annual basis, and projects that are complex are created for a multi-year period, depending on how long it takes to complete the project.

### **3.5. Case study Portugal – Lousada**

Portugal covers an area of 89 089 km<sup>2</sup> of which 81% is rural. Of the total area, 47% is agricultural land while forests cover 39 %. The total population is 10 million – of which 33% live in rural areas.

For the programming period 2014-2020, Portugal, on 30 July 2014, signed the Partnership Agreement which covers five funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

For Portugal, the PA focuses on the following priorities:

- Improving entrepreneurship and business innovation – including developing the e-economy, and improving SME access to finance their investments and advanced business services;
- Boosting R&D knowledge transfer between academia and businesses, strengthening research and innovation systems in enterprises and developing an innovation-friendly business environment;
- Increasing the economic competitiveness by enhancing the production of tradable goods and services;
- Tackling unemployment, in particular youth unemployment through the Youth Employment Initiative, improving the quality of education and training and a better match with labour market demand, raising the qualifications and skills of the active labour force and preventing early school leaving;
- Poverty reduction through improved access to services and support to the social economy;

- Contributing to the modernisation of the public administration through capacity building and investments in human resources development and e-governance;
- Supporting the shift to a low carbon and resource-efficient economy: energy efficiency and improved management of natural resources.

The programming and implementation outlined by the Partnership Agreement are developed around four key thematic domains — competitiveness and internationalisation, social inclusion and employment, human capital, sustainability and efficiency in the use of resources — considering also two cross-cutting dimensions related to the reform of public administration and an integrated intervention approach at the territorial level.

The programming principles of the Partnership Agreement are guided by the objectives and priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy and establish a policy for economic, social, environmental and territorial that will stimulate growth and job creation in the upcoming years in Portugal. The document defines the activities, the investments and the funding priorities which Portugal requires in order to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and therefore, the achievement of the Europe 2020 targets.

The EARDF will address elements related to economic, environmental and social issues in rural areas; the national strategy aims to improve the competitiveness of the agro-food sector, through e.g. farm restructuring, while taking into account the environmental and social sustainability of rural areas, through the promotion of job creation and investments to improve living conditions in rural areas. Three rural development programmes will address the above priorities and the specific needs of Continente, Açores Madeira, complementing this way other EU structural measures, in order to obtain a greater efficiency in the use of EU funding.

Regarding the budget, for Portugal, the EU allocated EUR 21.46 billion (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding (ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund) including a total EUR 321.5 million for the Youth Employment Initiative (including €160.8 ESF match-funding), €129 million for territorial cooperation and € 115.7 million representing the special allocation for the outermost regions. Additional €4.1 billion will be devoted to development of the agricultural sector and rural areas from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), to be implemented through three rural development programmes: Continente (€3.6 billion), Açores (€295 million) and Madeira (€ 179 million).

The allocation for European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) amounts to around €392.5 million.

Cohesion policy is delivered will be delivered through 12 operational programmes:

- 4 thematic: 'Competitiveness & Internationalization' (co-financed by ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund); 'Human Capital' and 'Social Inclusion & Employment' (co-financed by ESF); Sustainable Development & Efficient Use of Natural Resources (co-financed by the Cohesion Fund);
- 5 mainland regional: Norte; Centro; Alentejo; Lisboa; and Algarve (co-financed by ERDF and ESF);
- 2 for outermost regions: the Azores; and Madeira (co-financed by ERDF and ESF);
- 1 technical assistance (co-financed by ERDF).

There are also 3 Rural Development Programmes – mainland Portugal; Azores; and Madeira - (co-financed by EAFRD) and 1 countrywide programme for Fisheries and the Sea (co-financed by EMFF).

The Portuguese Rural Development Programme (RDP) was formally adopted by the European Commission on December 12, 2014 and last modified on May 04, 2020, outlining Portugal's

priorities for using the 4.3 billion EUR of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (3.6 billion EUR from the EU budget and 0.7 billion EUR of national co-funding).

With more than one third of funding aimed at improving competitiveness of the agricultural sector, the RDP aims to provide on-farm investment to around 13 000 farm holdings, to facilitate the installation of more than 4 600 young farmers by 2023, and to provide more than 6 300 training places, mainly for farmers. Within this context of modernisation and improved economic and environmental performance of Portuguese agriculture, there will also be cooperation projects, for example by encouraging more than 3 500 producers to participate in quality schemes. A further major theme is the better management of natural resources, where the RDP aims to encourage more than 10 500 hectares of newly afforested land and raise the agricultural area covered by agri-environment schemes or organic farming to almost 2 million hectares. The RDP will also use 5% of funds for local initiatives hoping to create 1252 new jobs and improve living conditions for 3/4 of the rural population.

From the EU proposed measures, Portugal decided to implement the following:

- Measure 1 - Knowledge transfer and information actions;
- Measure 2 - Advisory services, farm management, and farm relief services;
- Measure 3 - Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs;
- Measure 4 - Investments in physical assets;
- Measure 5 – Restoring agricultural potential;
- Measure 6 - Farm and business development;
- Measure 7 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas;
- Measure 8 - Investments in forest area development and development of the viability of forests;
- Measure 9 - Setting up of producer groups and organisations;
- Measure 10 - Agri-environment and climate;
- Measure 11 - Organic agriculture;
- Measure 12 – NATURA and WFD;
- Measure 13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints;
- Measure 14 - Animal welfare;
- Measure 15 – Forest environment;
- Measure 16 – Cooperation;
- Measure 17 – Risk management;
- Measure 19 - Support for the community-led local development;
- Measure 20 – Technical assistance;
- Measure 113 - Early retirement.

The five biggest RDP measures in budgetary terms (total public funding) are:

- 1.4 billion EUR allocated for Measure 4 – Investment in physical assets;
- 818 million EUR allocated for Measure 10 – Agri-environment-climate;

- 816 million EUR allocated for Measure 13 – Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints;
- 492 million EUR allocated for Measure 8 – Investment in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests;
- 221 million EUR allocated for Measure 19 – Support for LEADER local development.

The presented city, the Municipality of Lousada, is a town and municipality of the Porto district, in northern Portugal. The population in 2011 was 47,387, in an area of 96.08 km<sup>2</sup>.

For the relevant case study, and its results, the data and the information have been taken from desk research.

#### *Legal and strategic documents*

A basic strategic document for rural development policy for Municipality of Lousada, is the above-mentioned Rural Development Programme for Portugal.

This document is defined and approved on multi-annual basis, until the current EU programming period lasts (2014-2020).

During the adoption of the strategic documents, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of Portugal follows the EU regulations, especially 1305/2013, regarding the definitions and planning and implementation of the rural development measures.

On the local level, Lousada developed and adopted big number of strategic documents for local development, or was involved in its creation.

In the process of drafting the documents, data from the relevant registers have been taken. In addition, based on data from the mentioned registers, as well as an analysis and examination of the needs of citizens was performed, and based on the obtained data, priorities were made.

Some of the strategies, programs and plans are:

- Municipal Strategic Plan;
- Municipal Environmental Plan;
- Municipal Culture Plan;
- Municipal Education Plan;
- Municipal Emergency and Civil Protection Plan;
- Municipal Public Works Plan;
- Municipal Solid Waste Plan.

All the documents are multi-annual, i.e. they are created for programming period 2016-2020, and the planning period is synchronized with the planning period of the European Commission, hence the fact that the new document will follow period until 2027.

#### *Coordination and cooperation between the administrative bodies in the Municipality of Lousada*

The Municipality of Lousada has the following bodies/institutions:

- President's Support Office;
- City Council;
- Parish Councils;
- Municipal Police;
- Administrative and Human Resources Division;
- Financial Management Division;

- Planning and Urban Management Division;
- Department of Municipal Works and Environment;
- Division of Social Action, Youth, Economic Activities and Tourism;
- Communication, Heritage, Culture, Education and Sport Division;
- Interactive Tourism Shop;
- Municipal Veterinary Sanitary Authority;
- Municipal library;
- AJE space;
- Sports Complex;
- Municipal Pavilion;
- Municipal Swimming Pools;
- Municipal Auditorium;
- Lousada Internet Space.

#### City Council

The Municipal Assembly is the deliberative body of the municipality, consisting of 21 directly elected members and 15 presidents of the Parish Council.

Five sessions are held annually (previously scheduled and advertised by the President of the Municipal Assembly) and their operation is based on the regulations that are approved at the beginning of each term.

The Town Hall is the executive body of the municipality, made up of seven elected councilors and meets twice a month, on the first and third Monday. Its powers are enshrined in the Legal Regime of Local Authorities, and whose mission is to define and implement policies that promote the development of the municipality in its different areas.

Support Offices for the Presidency and Council – support to the President and the City Council.

#### Parish Assembly

The Parish Assembly is the deliberative body of the parish enshrined in the Legal Regime of Local Authorities.

The Parish Council is the executive body of the parish. It consists of a president and members, two of whom will act as secretary and treasurer.

#### *Funding:*

Municipality of Lousada obtains funds from own resources, from the national budget and from loans.

*The services the Municipality of Lousada offers to its citizens and related projects are as follows:*

- Social action

The Municipal Social Action is structured on legal competences and cooperation and partnership relationships with local organizations and institutions. All social intervention is designed according to the problems, needs and resources existing in the local community.

Thus, the Municipality provides a set of support provided for in the Regulation for Support to Underprivileged Social Strata of the Municipality of Lousada.

The support involves: activities related to Brilliant Minds (lecture sessions), Christmas baby slate, Miss and Mister Senior, Blood Donation; Direct Municipal Social Action (in order to facilitate and streamline procedures, requests for food, pharmacological, housing or other types of support, the Municipality of Lousada makes available an online form that applicants for these types of support can fill in simply and effectively. Subsequently, the applicants are

contacted by the Municipality of Lousada to validate the process and their needs, documents and legal framework will be consulted in relation to the Regulation for Support to Underprivileged Social Strata of the Municipality of Lousada); Children and Youth (the CPCJ – Lousada Commission for the Protection of Children and Youth is an official non-judicial institution that aims to promote the rights of children and young people and prevent or put an end to situations that may affect their safety, health, training, education or integral development; Families and Social Housing (The Family Support Service intends to support the family in the daily setbacks and difficulties arising from the constant cultural, political, social and economic changes in society, thus posing the great challenge of adapting to these same changes. Thus, the SAF aims to encourage adaptation to new contexts, resources and needs in order to contribute to the Life Projects of each individual and each family. The main objective of the social housing service is the promotion of social housing and the social, patrimonial and financial management of the Enterprises and collaboration in the other units of the IHRU Empresa); services for people with disabilities or incapacity; services for elderly population; services for the victims of domestic violence; European Projects (Erasmus+ project MOOC project - Minorities as an opportunity for development and Erasmus+ project DYSPRAXIATHECA - Digital library for dyspraxia education).

- Environment

With the implementation of infrastructure projects, the council advances towards environmental sustainability, with the purpose of promoting and implementing policies guided by environmental values, by the designs of a prosperous but environmentally viable and ecologically healthy land, where the community sees itself and the region is involved.

Thus, the implementation of the Environmental Charter of the Municipality of Lousada is fundamental. It is a crucial and structuring document for the orientation and sustainability of interventions, both by the municipality, as well as by parish councils or civil society, in the geographical space of this territory.

The thematic areas for environment are as follows:

- Water, with water quality reports, water supply network (the water supply to the municipality of Lousada is made by three supply systems designated as North, South and East, covering the activities of adduction, reservation, distribution and quality control; and water invoices);
- Waste, with sustainable waste project, it is intended to alert the citizen to the importance of small daily gestures to protect the environment and resources natural. As part of this strategy, the “Sustainable Waste” project aims to raise awareness and involve the community in the adoption of good environmental practices and the sustainable use of natural resources, namely by encouraging waste recycling practices in the resident population; urban waste, since the Municipality of Lousada is the main entity which, under the terms of the law, is responsible for ensuring the provision of the urban waste management service in the respective territory, being also the managing entity responsible for the undifferentiated and selective collection. The sorting, recovery and disposal of urban waste is the responsibility of AMBISOUA – Intermunicipal Solid Waste Treatment and Management Company, EIM; selective collection of the waste, since the separation of waste starts to be a practice in the homes of the residents of Lousadenses, who then place the different types in the recycling bins, distributed among the parishes, and in the Ecocentro, located in the parish of Boim, next to the Horto Municipal; used cooking oils - the Municipality proceeded with the placing, on the public road, of oleios for the collection of used cooking oil (OAU). The creation of this selective collection network, despite being a legal requirement, is a pilot project that the Municipality is developing in order to

verify the population's adhesion to the separation and selective disposal of this type of waste. In this pilot project, which involved the Parish Councils, one oil tank is installed in each, with the municipality's objective, over time, being to increase the number of installed equipment. The recycling of oils offers different advantages for the environment, among which the reduction of the pollutant load in the Wastewater Treatment Plants and the reduction of the emission of GHG (Greenhouse Effect Gases) into the atmosphere stand out.

- The Sousa Superior Local Protected Landscape, composed of a rich and diversified agroforestry territorial matrix of 1609 hectares, roughly corresponding to the valley of the river Sousa and its nine tributaries, administratively covering eight parishes. This is a territory deeply shaped by the human hand, in which traditional agricultural methods and systems are still maintained today, such as donkey farming, the traditional milling of cereals in a water mill or the compartmentalization of agricultural parcels with the hanged man's vineyard. The history of this territory is also evident in the sunny farms and respective historic gardens, which sprinkle the territory with important elements of landscaping and architecture, marks of other times, of fruitful agricultural activity. Nature was also generous with this area, which contains a wide range of valuable natural resources, such as water and quality soils, relevant geodiversity, as well as an expressive biodiversity.
- Environmental Education and Nature Conservation, with the following parts: BioSchool, an integrated environmental education program that takes place in all schools in the municipality of Lousada; BioFest; Bioslate – an environmental awareness program, started in 2016 by the Municipality of Lousada in partnership with the BioLiving Association and the support of the University of Aveiro, continues with a diverse and significant set of initiatives dedicated to the discovery and dissemination of the fauna and flora of the land of Lousada. It plans for citizens' involvement in the enhancement and protection of the territory's natural values plan for citizens' involvement in the enhancement and protection of the territory's natural values; BioSenior project presents itself as an innovative, continuous and dynamic environmental education program, preferably aimed at the senior population of the municipality of Lousada, that is, citizens over 55 years of age; Nest house, a project aims to make known the bird houses, and especially the birds in the human houses. Through this project, it will be possible to map the distribution of these birds in the municipality of Lousada, inform the population about the birds that live close to them, resolve conflicts between humans and nature, and promote biodiversity and environmental awareness. The project will also provide activities for schools and the general public, such as the construction and installation of different types of nest boxes in public spaces throughout the municipality, and in private spaces that wish to join this cause; Sustainable Slate Fund - aims to encourage scientific culture and the participation of children and young people in sustainability issues. It is therefore aimed at students, from the first year of basic education, up to the master's level, in higher education. Students, residing or not in Lousada, must present projects within the scope of sustainability, which bring environmental and social benefits to the municipality, regardless of scale. All ideas are welcome, even if they are only applicable to the scale of a garden, street or neighbourhood, and can be presented individually or in groups. The most original proposals, with the greatest public and environmental utility (regardless of scale) and with the greatest potential for replication, will be awarded, up to a maximum of two prizes per level of education; the Green Giants – project to help map the trees of high ecological value in Lousada; Slate ponds - Volunteering for biodiversity conservation; Rio Guardian Lousada (Lousada Guarda RIOS) intends to involve local communities and work in partnership,

in a program of inspection and monitoring of the ecological state of the rivers and streams of Lousada, through the adoption of river or stream sections and participation in cleaning and environmental improvement actions, such as be it the removal of invasive or weed plants and the planting of trees; Lousada Gardens project intends to inventory the species of trees and shrubs that exist in the historic gardens of manor houses in the municipality of Lousada, allowing the assessment of their botanical and ecological value. Subsequently, it is intended to develop materials to disseminate the information obtained, such as a guide to trees and shrubs and specific brochures, in order to involve the public in the process of recognizing and valuing the precious heritage of these historic gardens. The project also aims to raise awareness of the landscape, cultural, tourist and ecological importance of these spaces, contributing to the need for their enhancement and preservation; volunteer actions plant Lousada; organising Environment Days; Adherence to the Quercus program (Autarchy without Glyphosate).

- The Forestry Technical Office works as a Support Office for the Municipal Forestry Defense Against Fire Commission (CMDFCI). The main objectives of this office are to carry out planning, operational, management, control and administrative tasks so that the fight against forest fires is properly planned and structured. The Forestry Technical Office was financed by the Permanent Forest Fund and it implements the following activities: Implementation of fuel management bands; Municipal Commission for the Defense of Forest Against Fires; Municipal Fire Defense Plan; Forest Intervention Zone.
- Adopt me! Activity which promotes the adoption of pets;
- House of vines, Environmental Education Center;
- Pedestrian Routes;
- Parks and gardens;
- Municipal Environmental Charter - More than a technical document, this project aims to be a tool for spatial planning and enhancement, allowing the articulation of environmental education and nature conservation projects that the municipality considers structuring for the municipality, such as the municipal network of parks and education and environmental monitoring centers, the municipal network of footpaths and footpaths, and the municipal network of micro-natural reserves, an initiative that aims to promote the conservation of natural habitats considered to be priorities in terms of biodiversity.
- Lucanus - Magazine of Environment and Society;
- European Projects: 1. CareForest, supported by the European Commission under the financial instrument for education and training, Erasmus+, this project aims to empower the school community for forestry education; 2. OpitWamag project, funded by the European Regional Development Fund, with the aim of optimizing waste management in spaces of urban areas and in homes; 3. NG Europe, Erasmus+ funded project, with the purpose of promoting European social cohesion through leadership and change engagement by NGOs; 4. Future Planning project aims to establish a systematic sharing of experiences and practices with regard to territory management, providing an updated theoretical framework in the light of current knowledge, as well as an empirical framework, in order to support educators and professionals of the environment and territory in their job; 5. SCALE - Scaling Up Applied Creativity Labs for Europe, with the aim to integrate the creativity-based learning approach into any curriculum and support students through the development of creativity and critical thinking skills necessary to respond to the real challenges of the world.

- Communication - Having as its main objective the dissemination and promotion, the autarchy has a set of publications of regular periodicity that make known the activities and history of the municipality.
  
- Culture, with the activities related to Photo Contest, Historic Market, European Projects (Restart+, ERAS - European Alliance for Volunteering Support, Neuro-Guide and educLab), Heritage and Archeology, Municipal library, Municipal Auditorium, Municipal Archive, Local Associations, Lousada Press Centre, twinnings, Municipal Reading Plan.
  
- Sport, with the activities of Circuit Lousada to Run, Senior Bocce League, free running, Mega Sport Meeting, Sports Gala, Municipal Hiking Program, 2 Wheels in Action, sport training, European Projects (Darts For Blinds, From Nature Sports, Protect Nature, Save Your Future, European Walking Tour, Go Out and Live, HEPAKid2, Integrating Disable People into Social Life to Hidro and Hipo Therapy Methods, Kids in Action, Mind Coach, Sport and Social Inclusion Future for Children - Future ++, Sport for ALL for Sport Gathering Popularity for Disabled Sport, Supporting Pre-schoolers' Psychomotor Skills for Encouraging Them to do Sport, Sports For ALL - Sports for all), sports infrastructure (Sport Complex, the set of infrastructures and the network of planned equipment represent a decisive investment in the promotion and development of sport and physical activity, and Lousada Municipal Pavilion).
  
- Economy and Employment, with the following topics: Municipal Employment Exchange; Professional Insertion Office; Emigrant Support Office; Investor Support Office; Supports and Incentives (1. Share Institute for Employment and Vocational Training, IP (IEFP), the national public employment service and its mission is to promote the creation and quality of employment and fight unemployment through the implementation of active employment and professional training policies; 2. ProDeR, the Mainland Rural Development Program is a strategic and financial instrument to support rural development on the mainland, which extensively includes the enhancement of rural development and the perspective of competitiveness of the production of the Agro-Forestry Complex; 3. Portugal Tourism is responsible for providing technical and financial support to public and private entities in the tourism sector and managing the respective financial support instruments for investment; 4. Portugal 2020, the PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT adopted between Portugal and the Commission, which brings together the work of the five European Structural and Investment Funds – European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund, European Agricultural Development Fund Rural and European Fund for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries - which define the programming principles that enshrine the economic, social and territorial development policy to promote in Portugal between 2014 and 2020. These programming principles are aligned with Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, in line with the EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY; 6. IAPMEI, the Institute for Support to Small and Medium Enterprises and Innovation, IAPMEI, is the main instrument of economic policies aimed at micro, small and medium-sized companies in the industrial, commercial, services and construction sectors, and is responsible for promoting favourable conditions for the strengthening the entrepreneurial spirit and competitiveness. IAPMEI, as a technical body of the QREN, ensures, among other functions, the analysis and monitoring of projects submitted to the various Incentive Systems, collaborating with the Management

Authorities of all Operational Programs, in the development and improvement of the management and control system, and in the elaboration of clarifications due to the European Commission. In this context, IAPMEI has a qualified Technical structure with functions segregated at different levels, including the phases of advice, analysis, follow-up, verification, payment and inspection); Lousada Municipal Consumer Information Center; Projects of Municipal Interest (in order to promote employment and local business investment, an essential tool to introduce stimuli to the economy and encourage economic growth, Lousada intends to allocate tax benefits to investment projects that are installed in the county, thus helping business development and the creation of more employment opportunities in Lousada), and Business Welcome Zones.

- Education - the partnership between the Municipality of Lousada and the municipality's School Groups extends to areas ranging from the organization of school transport to curriculum enrichment activities, from meals for 1<sup>st</sup> cycle and pre-school students to the construction and maintenance of buildings (small repairs being generally delegated to parish councils through collaboration protocols). Lousada shares the African proverb that says “it takes an entire village to raise a child”, in this sense of belonging to the educating community; in addition to these obligations arising from legal regulations, there are countless offers from the municipality that go beyond them (the DICAS Program, centred on the fight against school dropouts, is one of the best examples). Requests for collaboration and support made by school clusters is fundamental to what is intended to be done in the future, helping schools and their teachers to promote equal opportunities and avoid social and educational exclusion, focusing on the quality of students' academic success and rewarding academic and educational merit.
- Internet space - with the purpose of promoting access to new information technologies. Thus, in addition to the Internet Space located in the centre of the village, in the Dr. Mário Fonseca Urban Park, there are two other locations in the buildings of the parish councils of Aveleda and Lustosa. The Internet Spaces Network, made up of the three spaces, produces a monthly newsletter sent to users with varied information, important tips, as well as the monthly average of users in each location. The Lousada Internet Space, due to its location in the center of the village, has a very high number of monthly users, with an average of around 650. The site is open from Monday to Saturday between 9:00 am and 7:00 pm. The Internet Space consists of 10 computers with free internet access and also allows users to use their laptops by accessing free internet via the wireless network. In addition to this service, there is a copy printing service.
- Urban management - manages urban planning practices in the municipality's territory, with the purpose of promoting its spatial cohesion, its development and sustained growth, in the political task of improving the quality of life of its population, in accordance with the strategic principles defined in the plans approved urban plans.
- Youth - ensuring the dynamism of the Youth and Europe Arts Space, providing a space for socializing, knowledge and leisure, especially for young people and their associations; continue to invest in the Young Student Council as a vehicle for

information between the Municipality and the Schools; encourage participation in the European Olympics; to reward all young people with a weekend dedicated exclusively to youth promoting the Youth Days . In addition to lectures and sports games, the long-awaited Youth Festival; as the youngest municipality in mainland Portugal, where the taste for dance proliferates, the youth portfolio joins the International Youth Day Celebrations with the performance of Dança na Praça; continue to work in partnership with the Portuguese Institute for Sport and Youth in order to continue to provide participation in Free Time Occupation Programs and the promotion of the Municipal Youth Card; the good practices relating to the dissemination of European Union issues that the municipality has increased are, once again, highlighted by the Council of Europe, this time with the attribution of the Flag of Honor of the Council of Europe; the creation of the Municipal Youth Plan that brings together all the vital forces of youth, in the sense of continuing to work for the sustainable development of the Municipality, always based on its greatest asset, Youth.

- Mobility, with the projects: 1. Cornelias - Louasda Bike-Sharing. The Municipality of Lousada intends, through this project, to encourage the population of Lousadense to adopt more sustainable and safer practices in the use of transport, with a special focus on the promotion of electric mobility and active mobility, as well as highlighting the importance of active forms of transport, associated with a lifestyle with significant gains for health, environment and economy. This project for the Municipality of Lousada is still an area under exploration, so the intention is to proceed with it through the implementation of a pilot project within the scope of making this equipment available to the population of the Municipality, in order to assess the local reality, which will allow to proceed with the elaboration of a regulation for the use of the equipment based on an experience of use. The Municipality of Lousada makes available to citizens a shared-use bicycle service, consisting of 6 electric bicycles and 4 parking stations, called “Cornélias Lousada Bike-Sharing”, available for frequent and occasional users, constituting an alternative mode of mobility soft. 2. LUMI – Lousada's Urban Mobility Intelligence. The Municipality of Lousada is a partner of the Portuguese Cooperative Streets (C-Streets) project, funded by the Connect Europe Mechanism, and has been developing, since 2019, the LUMI-Lousada's Urban Mobility Intelligence project, which will last for five years. The project has 50% financing from the Connect to Europe Mechanism (CEF). C-Streets intends to implement pilot projects within the scope of the cooperative services of intelligent transport systems (C-ITS) in various urban and metropolitan areas that are part of the trans-European transport network, continuing the scope of the C-Roads Portugal project. The objectives of C-Streets include road safety, namely the reduction of accidents and incidents and the promotion of territorial cohesion, linking large urban and metropolitan areas along the national core network, or main network. Another objective is linked to the promotion of decarbonisation, promoting the use of public transport and “mobility as a service” (MaaS) solutions. C-Streets also includes the definition of the digital structure of transport data in Portugal, thus establishing the fundamental principles of action which are multimodality, interoperability, data sharing, the reuse of static data as a baseline, progressing in direction of dynamic data, the digitization of the physical and digital transport network, and the preparation of road infrastructure, with a focus on the urban environment for intelligent transport services.

- Civil Protection - the activity developed by the State, Autonomous Regions and Local Authorities, by citizens and by all public and private entities in order to prevent collective risks inherent in the situation of serious accident or catastrophe, to mitigate its effects and to protect and rescue the people and property in danger when those situations occur.
- Social network - intends to constitute a new type of partnership between public and private entities operating in the same territories, based on equality between partners, on the consensus of objectives and on the concertation of actions carried out by different local agents. The Social Network is materialized at the local level through the creation of Inter-Parish Social Commissions (CSIF) and the Local Council for Social Action (CLAS), constituting platforms for planning and coordinating social intervention, respectively, at the parish and municipality level.
- Applications - Co-financed projects - within the framework of the obligations and procedures in force regarding information and publicity on the participation (co-financing) of Norte 2020 and the Operational Program for Sustainability and Efficiency in the Use of Resources (POSEUR), the Municipality of Lousada got grants awarded under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) for different types of activities, such as: pedestrian routes networks, construction of bus station, rehabilitation of public spaces, works on schools buildings, wastewater networks, wastewater drainage subsystems, etc.

#### *Monitoring and assessment*

Regarding the controls on implementation of the measures and specific operations for rural development measures, conducting administrative and field visits to control investments on the farms are performed, in accordance with the EU Regulation 1305/2013 and its implementing regulations. In other words, Portugal, as other Member countries of the EU, established the operating structure responsible for controlling the investments.

Based on EU regulations for granting agricultural aid that all EU member states must comply with, monitoring arrangements are established also following these rules. The implementation of the multi-annual operations is monitored on annual basis by the Monitoring Committee consisted from the relevant stakeholders.

Depends in which type/action the farmers are investing related to rural development measures, the implementation of incentives to farmers through subsidies is done on an annual basis, and projects that are complex are created for a multi-year period, depending on how long it takes to complete the project.

The projects related to the Municipality of Lousada are controlled by the relevant municipal body.

## **4. Current availability of EU funds for rural development**

Turkey is negotiating its accession to the EU as a member state, following its application to become a full member of the European Economic Community (EEC), the predecessor of the EU, on 14 April 1987.

After the ten founding members in 1949, Turkey became one of the first new members (the 13<sup>th</sup> member) of the Council of Europe in 1950. The country became an associate member of the EEC in 1963, and was an associate member of the Western European Union from 1992 to its end in 2011. Turkey signed a Customs Union agreement with the EU in 1995 and was officially recognised as a candidate for full membership on 12 December 1999, at the Helsinki summit of the European Council.

Negotiations for full membership were started on 3 October 2005.

#### **4.1. Overview of EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD)**

Part of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), designed to support reforms in countries in the process of joining the EU, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD) focuses on rural areas and the agri-food sectors of those countries.

Through this tool, the EU provides the beneficiaries with financial and technical help with the aim of:

- making their agricultural sector and rural areas more sustainable;
- aligning them with the EU's common agricultural policy.

The current candidate countries and beneficiaries are: Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

For the period 2014-2020, IPARD has an indicative budget of 1.1 billion EUR from the EU budget. Each country also contributes through national public funding. The beneficiaries may also have to fund a share of the project.

IPARD programmes are based around measures set at European level, for example:

- measure 1 – "Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings" helps farms invest in buildings or technologies;
- measure 2 - Support for the Setting up of Producer Groups;
- measure 3 – "Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products" targets projects in food processing companies to meet EU safety and environmental standards;
- measure 4 – "Agri-environment-climate and organic farming";
- measure 5 – "Implementation of local development strategies – LEADER approach" finances local action groups implementing their bottom-up local development strategies;
- measure 6 - Investments in Rural Public Infrastructure;
- measure 7 – "Farm diversification and business development" is for rural businesses and farming families seeking to develop non-agricultural activities;
- measure 8 - Improvement of Training;
- measure 9 – "Technical assistance" supports training, analyses, programme monitoring, capacity building and preparation of local action groups;
- measure 10 - Advisory Services;

- measure 11 - Establishment and Protection of Forests.

Each country presents their programmes to the European Commission for approval. Once approved, they are managed by national institutions and IPARD agencies. These ensure the execution of the programmes and that funds are transferred to applicants. This contributes to building national institutions and governance in rural development.

## **4.2. IPARD in Turkey**

### **4.2.1. IPARD I (2007-2013)**

The assistance is provided by an IPARD Rural Development Programme for the period 2007-2013 which has been drafted by the Turkish authorities and approved by the European Commission. The Programme has been managed by Turkey after it has set up the necessary system for managing the funds.

The Programme defined several priority agricultural sectors such as dairy, meat, fruit and vegetables and fisheries, and has been implemented in 42 provinces in Turkey.

Examples of actions that may be supported under the IPARD programme are given below:

- Investments in agricultural holdings to upgrade them to the Community standards (sectors supported: Meat, Milk);
- Investments in Processing and marketing (sectors: Meat, Milk, Fruit and Vegetables, Fisheries);
- Support for setting up of producer groups;
- Support for preparation of local rural development strategies;
- Support for measures related to the environment and the countryside;
- Diversification of economic activities (actions such as: development of local products, rural tourism, etc.)

IPARD represents a very solid example of EU-Turkish cooperation in financial assistance. With more than 11,000 projects and nearly €2 billion in total investment, IPARD has so far created 50,000 jobs.

### **4.2.2. IPARD II (2014-2020)**

Today, the rural economy faces significant challenges relating to food safety, climate change, growth and jobs in rural areas. Within the EU, rural development plays a key part in achieving the overall objective of promoting smart, sustainable. and inclusive growth in rural communities.

The EU has confirmed a new package of support IPARD II for the next six years, and this will bring an additional €800 million to Turkey. It will feature a large degree of continuity with the old programme, albeit offering some more support to innovation and skills development by

introducing support for renewable energy infrastructure as well as community development initiatives (LEADER) and agri-environment measures.

To ensure smooth transition from the 2007-2013 programme, the 2014-2020 programme initially covers 42 provinces corresponding to NUTS 3 level regions (Afyonkarahisar, Ağrı, Aksaray, Amasya, Ankara, Ardahan, Aydın, Balıkesir, Burdur, Bursa, Çanakkale, Çankırı, Çorum, Denizli, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Erzincan, Erzurum, Giresun, Hatay, Isparta, Kahramanmaraş, Karaman, Kars, Kastamonu, Konya, Kütahya, Malatya, Manisa, Mardin, Mersin, Muş, Nevşehir, Ordu, Samsun, Sivas, Şanlıurfa, Tokat, Trabzon, Uşak, Van and Yozgat ) covered by IPARD 2007-2013.

Since the National Rural Development Strategy foresees application of the IPARD Programme in all 81 provinces, possibility of extending the coverage of the IPARD 2014-2020 to cover all provinces with special care not to interrupt the implementation of the programme will be considered depending on the budget available, absorption patterns and cost/benefit analysis and administrative costs. Moreover, the added value to be created by expanding the EU Rural Development experience all around the country will also be taken into consideration.

*Figure 1 Eligible IPARD 2014-2020 Provinces as of Inception of the Programme*



The list of the measures Turkey implements in programming period 2014-2020 is given below:

- Investments in Physical Assets of Agricultural Holdings;
- Investments in Physical Assets Concerning Processing and Marketing of Agricultural and Fishery Products;
- Agri-Environment-Climate and Organic Farming;
- Implementation of Local Development Strategies – LEADER Approach;
- Farm Diversification and Business Development;
- Technical Assistance.

The measure Investments in Rural Public Infrastructure is not predicted to be implemented in Turkey in this programming period, but, since the recipients of this measure are municipalities, this measure will be crucial for future development of MMs in Turkey.

In continuation is a short overview of IPARD measures which are or can be used in Turkey in order to promote rural areas in MMs. The overview is prepared based on the IPARD II programme for Turkey as well as measure fiches for IPARD III programming period (2021-2027).

#### *4.2.2.1. Implementation of Local Development Strategies – LEADER Approach*

##### **Current legal basis:**

- Article 3.1.d of IPA Council Regulation No. 231/2014;
- Relevant provisions of IPARD Sectoral Agreement.

##### **Rationale:**

Culture, identity and geography of a rural area are identified by that area's specific characteristics. Thus, the rural area can also be defined as a common territory with a particular identity. Moreover, each rural area has its own historical and geographical background, socio-economic challenges, specific local and traditional products and common needs.

LEADER is an approach proven to be a very valuable resource for developing rural policies by encouraging local participation and partnership in preparation and implementation of sustainable development strategies for rural areas. This approach was included in the 2007-2013 Programme for Turkey to implement European Union Common Agricultural Policy and Rural Development Policy within the scope of measure "202 - Preparation and Implementation of Local Rural Development Strategies (LDS)".

Taking into account the preparatory works for the LEADER measure, the Managing Authority carried out a "Twinning Project for Support to the Implementation of LEADER Measure under IPARD" between November 2010 and May 2011. This project enhanced the capacity of MA and ARDSI for the preparation and implementation of LDSs. Technical and legal background for the implementation was established. In this scope, potential LAGs were formed and selected as pilot LAGs. The priorities of the LDS were identified. The LEADER approach is also included in Turkey's draft National Rural Development Strategy under priority axis 5. Enhancing local development capacities by establishing district level governance structures, developing new methods for improving services are also covered.

In Turkey, two pilot LAGs were established in Birecik district of Şanlıurfa province and Iskilip district of Çorum province. These rural areas of Northern and Southern Turkey were selected due to their particular range of local products and tourism potential. These pilot LAGs found it very useful for elaborating a local strategy based on local partnership. In this scope, there is a clear need for the elaboration of LDS under the LEADER measure for building partnerships and capacity for the economic, social and cultural development in these rural areas.

Experiences in EU countries show that the LEADER approach brings significant changes to the lives of rural people. This approach encourages innovative solutions for rural problems and assumes an important mission to meet the needs of local communities.

This approach means that local actors participate in decision-making process related to the strategy and the projects to be conducted in their local area.

The partnerships are based on the private and public spheres in LEADER territories. At the decision-making level, the economic and social partners as well as the other representatives of civil society such as farmers, rural woman, young people and their associations shall build a partnership. The public-private partnership and implementation of LDS can reinforce territorial coherence and contribute to the long-term sustainable development of an area.

**General objectives:**

Implementation of the LEADER approach improves community development, enhances the social capital and contributes to economic, social, cultural and environmental improvements of local areas, by engaging a wide range of multi-sectoral private and public partners and valorising community resources at the local level.

**Specific objectives:**

This measure contributes to the following specific objectives:

- Improvement of social capital and local governance by creating private-public partnerships (LAGs - Local Action Groups), which establish and implement bottom-up Local Development Strategies;
- Animation of the territory and capacity building of the local population and the Local Action Groups;
- Contribution to rural economy, rural tourism, boosting cultural and social life of the community, improvement of public spaces in villages, improvement of environmental standards in LAGs' areas as the main themes for the Local Development Strategies;
- Networking with other LAGs, exchange of best practice, dissemination of IPARD programme and learning new approaches to rural development nationally and with other candidate countries and with the Member States.

**Features of LEADER approach:**

The LEADER approach is built on Area-based local development strategies intended for well-identified sub-regional rural territories elaborated by Local public-private partnerships (local action groups) in a bottom-up way. This means that a decision-making power concerning the elaboration and implementation of local development strategies lies with the Local Action Groups. These strategies cover many sectors and are based on the interaction between actors and projects of different sectors of the local economy. The LAGs are involved in networking and will use innovative approaches.

No overlapping may occur between LAGs. Any settlement may belong to only one Local Action Group area.

**Complementarity to other national programmes:**

The local development strategies elaborated within the scope of the measure should be in line with the existing national programmes, and create connections amongst projects planned within the scope of other national programmes. For instance, LEADER activities encourage rural communities not only to access LEADER funds but also to other national resources, and develop their capabilities to use them. Within this framework, the aim is to activate local resources by supporting projects under the LEADER measure, other IPA components and other funds, in order to help sectors and beneficiary groups in rural activities such as cultural activities, protection and improvement of the environment, restoration of historical buildings, rural tourism activities and strengthening the relationship between producers and consumers.

The 10<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan foresees district-based development programmes to meet the needs of rural settlements. Enhancing local ownership in identifying local needs and monitoring of investments are among the priorities of the plan.

**Final Recipients:**

Local Action Groups selected and contracted by the IPARD Agency.

**Aid levels, intensity and EU contribution rate:**

Share of public aid (EU and national funds) within eligible expenditures is up to 100% where the EU contribution rate is 90%.

**Geographical scope of the measure:**

LEADER measure is implemented in the 42 IPARD provinces of Turkey. Implementation areas are opened gradually.

*4.2.2.2. Investments in Rural Public Infrastructure*

**Current legal basis:**

- Article 2 (a) (vi) Regulation (EU) No. 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- Article 55 of IPA Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 447/2014;
- Relevant provisions of IPARD Sectoral Agreements.

**Rationale:**

The development of local infrastructure is an essential element of any effort to realise the growth potential and promote the sustainability of rural areas. Under this measure, support can be granted to administrative entities for the development of their basic infrastructure needs.

In order to achieve the maximum effectiveness for such support, the supported operations should be implemented in accordance with plans for the development of municipalities, where such plans exist.

Additional specific rationale should be added by the beneficiary country in relation to the needs of their rural communities.

Turkey's potential for generating renewable energy is enormous for solar, wind, geo-thermal and hydropower. An increase in the share of renewable energy production in total electric production is a key target presented in Turkey's Action Plan of Climate Change which covers the period between 2011 and 2023. The government plans to meet 30% of electricity demand from renewable energy sources by 2023.

It is known that some local administrations have difficulties in paying electricity bills of their water and sewerage treatment plants and sometimes cannot operate them. This fact justifies the provision of 100% grant for small scale renewable energy to the proposed eligible institutions. This is since these investments are essential to reduce the costs of providing basic services, to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and to meet energy demands. The renewable energy sector is developing fast, and is necessary to be open and flexible in recommending eligible investments and applicants. At the current rate of investments in renewable energy it will take decades to increase the share of clean energy to significant amounts in total energy production. In this framework, supporting these local administrations for their renewable energy installations will be a contribution both to their operations and preservation of nature.

**General objectives:**

- The general objective is to support economic, social and territorial development, leading to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through the development of physical infrastructure in the beneficiary countries.
- To facilitate business and community development, growth and employment in rural areas.

**Specific objectives:**

- To provide infrastructure needed for the development of rural areas;
- To contribute towards the improvement of living standards for rural populations;
- To support public investments necessary to achieve sustainable development;
- To increase the attractiveness of rural areas for local and outside investors.
- Further specific objectives should be provided by the beneficiary countries in the programme justifying and specifying these interventions under this measure.
- The measure targets;
- To cut operational costs regarding energy consumption of basic infrastructure of local administrations;
- To increase the share of environmentally friendly energy in total electric production to contribute efforts for prevention of climate change;
- To increase public awareness towards renewable energy sources.

**Linkage to other IPARD measures in the programme and to national measures:**

Energy is a key factor for growing of economy, Availability of energy infrastructure is an important factor for entrepreneurs who are willing to invest in rural areas.

In Turkey, International and national institutions (World Bank, EBRD, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Development Bank (national) ILBank (national) finance sustainable renewable energy investments by providing credits. Those investments cover goods services

and works. Borrowers of these credits are mostly private entrepreneurs and sometimes local administrations. There is no serious government financial support in the form of grants for investments in renewable energy production specific to local administrations. Only Government-supported Regional Development agencies, which are located in 26 regions, provide grant support to renewable energy projects for SMEs and some local public administration. But the amount provided to these projects remained very limited.

**Final Recipients:**

Recipients under this measure are public administrative entities in rural areas.

**Examples of eligible investments:**

- Roads: Roads linking community infrastructure to main roads, village bypasses, village roads, public access roads to farms, farmlands and forestry, etc.
- (On-farm roads are part of the assistance granted to farm holdings, therefore should not be eligible under this measure);
- Water management: village sewage plants, sewerage systems, water supply systems;
- Waste management: dumping sites fulfilling all environmental requirements, waste collection points;
- Energy supply: power supply to farms and villages and construction of renewable energy plants and installations to the extent that the projects are implemented by a public entity;
- New technologies: local access to information and communication technologies and the development of fast and ultra-fast broadband;

**Aid intensity and EU contribution rate:**

The aid intensity shall be expressed as the share of public aid within the eligible expenditure of the investment amounts:

- Up to 100% (75% EU, 25% national funds) per eligible investment not of a nature to generate substantial net revenue;
- Up to 50% (of which 75% EU, 25% national funds) for other eligible investments in rural infrastructure.

However, the beneficiary country can apply a lower percentage, thus providing more communities the opportunity of benefiting from this measure.

Beneficiary countries must define maximum and may define minimum limits for total investment eligible for support per recipient. The number of projects per recipient can also be limited.

**Geographical scope of the measure (defined in IPARD II programme of Turkey for 2014-2020):**

This measure shall be implemented in rural areas that have population less than 10,000 inhabitants of the provinces under the IPARD 2014-2020 programme.

*4.2.2.3. Farm Diversification and Business Development*

**Legal basis:**

- Article 3.1.d of IPA Council Regulation No. 231/2014;
- Related provisions of IPA Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 447/2014;
- Relevant provisions of IPARD Sectoral Agreement.

**Rationale:**

The strategic approach chosen under this measure must be based on an in-depth regional and sectoral analysis identifying those rural areas and sectors with common development priorities. Such sectors/areas should show identical basic characteristics, needs and potential for economic development. The added value of this measure can be considerably increased if the actions and/or activities eligible form part of a local development strategy specific to the rural area concerned.

In areas that show a potential for sustainable development of a specific economic sector only certain types of actions should be eligible. For example, rural tourism projects should only be allowed in areas showing a development potential for rural tourism and should be not eligible in areas dominated by mass tourism. The identification of such areas should also take into account the policy strategies and programmes established at national level by authorities other than those in charge of IPARD. The government department responsible for adopting such policies in rural areas should therefore be involved in elaborating this measure.

This measure is well suited for implementation in close connection with the Leader approach. In this case, the local population and their organisational structures should be involved early on in the conception of the local development strategy identifying the activities, which should become eligible, as small projects, for their specific region under LEADER.

Additional specific rationale should be added by a beneficiary country in relation to the needs of the sectors/areas selected, based on the sectoral analyses.

In terms of production and employment, agriculture is the backbone of the rural economy in Turkey. Research on the field indicates that income levels in rural areas are very low, the number of subsistence or semi-subsistence farms is high (more than 65%) and income generating activities other than agriculture are very limited. Women's participation to workforce is also not at the desired level. All these factors need to be addressed in order to improve the economy in rural areas.

By identifying and supporting alternative agricultural or non-agricultural economic activities in regions it is possible to increase the incomes of the households in order to ensure their economic sustainability in the increasingly competitive market.

In supporting the activities, preference will be given to any activity in alignment with the LEADER approach and with the Local Development Strategies if there is one in the area of application.

**General objectives:**

The overall objective of this measure is fostering employment by the creation of new jobs and maintaining the existing jobs through the development of additional business activities, thus

raising the economic activity level of rural areas and reversing rural depopulation. Economic growth and farm diversification are necessary for business development, employment and sustainable development in rural areas, and thereby contributing to a better territorial balance, both in economic and social terms, by increasing directly the farm households' income. The measure should improve the farmers' position in the value chain. Through support to renewable energy investments, the measure contributes to climate change mitigation. The measure should also assist young farmers who wish to diversify into new economic activities, while still keeping the farm production.

**Specific objectives:**

This measure shall aim at the creation, diversification and development of rural activities, through support for investments in farm diversification and development of non-agricultural activities. Examples of possible sectors: rural tourism, crafts, on-farm processing, non-agricultural services, renewable energy production, direct marketing, short food supply chains, quality products and to maintain biodiversity - professional environmental services providers, such as landscaping services or gardening, etc. The number of selected sectors should be limited to those identified under the sectoral analyses and the needs of the market.

**Linkage to the national measures:**

Support from national budget is provided to beekeepers per bee colony complementing the investments to be supported in beekeeping under this measure.

**Final Recipients:**

Recipients for this measure are farmers and farm household members, natural persons in rural areas, producer organisations (such as cooperatives, associations etc.) and micro and small sized enterprises in rural areas.

**Eligible expenditure, common to all sectors:**

- Purchase of new machinery and equipment as defined for each sector including computer hardware and software up to the market value of the asset;
- Purchase of machinery/equipment and construction works for energy production using biomass, wind, solar and geothermal to meet energy need of farm diversification and business development activities and also to sell surplus energy;
- Expenditures for electricity grid connections including transformers, energy transmission lines, circuit breakers and so on;
- Investments for environmental protection, equipment and facilities for reprocessing of intermediate products and treatable waste; treatment and elimination of waste.

For rural tourism, productive infrastructure investments directly linked to the organisation of touristic outdoor activities like horse-riding, sport or recreation fishing on inland waters exclusively, mountain biking, rafting, eco-paths;

**Aid intensity and EU contribution rate (in current IPARD II programme for Turkey):**

In Karaman, Hatay, Erzincan, Diyarbakır, Ardahan, Çankırı, Mersin, Yozgat, Muş, Ağrı, Isparta, Tokat, Erzurum, Balıkesir, Kars provinces, the amount of public aid is up to 65% of the total eligible cost.

In other 27 IPARD provinces, the amount of public aid is up to 55% of the total eligible cost.

For producer organizations and the legal entities whose majority shareholder is a producer organization; the amount of public aid is up to 65% of the total eligible cost.

The EU co-financing rate is 75% of the public aid.

**Geographical scope of the measure:**

This measure is applicable in all provinces covered by the IPARD programme.

## **5. Conclusion**

The development of local infrastructure and basic services in rural areas, including leisure and culture services, the renewal of villages and activities aimed at the restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages and rural landscapes represents an essential element for the socio-economic development of rural areas.

These activities are not only acting on the farming sector, but they help boosting the local rural economies. Support has to be also provided to small infrastructures, such as secondary roads, water and electricity supply, village renewal, tourism small-scale infrastructures, links with urban areas as well as broadband operations (e.g. access to ICT, and development of fast and ultra-fast broadband).

Such measures, financed or co-financed through the national funds (or through IPARD and national funds), help creating the conditions for growth and job generation in rural areas. Other measures can provide direct support to rural businesses (e.g. small enterprises, new entrepreneurs, farm diversification), in the form of investment supports or business start-up aids.

Support provides further incentive to exploit potential of rural areas in full e.g. through diversification with off-farm enterprises or promotion of rural entrepreneurship by providing also incentives to small-and medium-size enterprises leading to job creation and increase rural population income. The initiatives supported can cover a broad range of activities: rural tourism, constructions, processing and marketing, social services, craft activities, etc. Such measures have contributed to the creation of full-time jobs in the period 2007-2013, through IPARD I, also in Turkey.

However, in the programming period 2007-2013, there were deficiencies at national or regional level in effectively targeting the right infrastructure projects with rural development funding, as well as in co-ordinating the use of that finance with other EU funds. The Commission decided to tackle the investment gap in the “Investment Plan for Europe”, a package of measures to unlock public and private investments in the whole economy (of at least EUR 315 billion over the 2015-2017 period).

This plan has a strong focus on digital infrastructures, notably broadband. Access to broadband is necessary for the development of agriculture and related value chains, the diversification of the economic activity in rural areas and the delivery of e-services that can help to overcome the sub-optimal access to infrastructure and services affecting many rural areas. Of course, before all these activities, Turkey has to invest in local infrastructure in order to strengthen local level of the country and then to invest in digital infrastructure.

Considering the potential of rural areas in Turkey, this EU like approach could be of extreme benefits for the municipalities, in order to develop and most importantly add value in rural areas. These activities needs to be carried out systematically, strategically oriented as well as on multi-annual level.

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