

1. General information

Geographical Area	Country	Ireland
	Region	/
Rural population (1)	Inhabitants (4)	3.3 million
	% of total population (4)	72.4 %
	Density - Inhab/km2 (4)	48.2
Rural area (1)	Km2 (4)	68 890
	% of total area (4)	98.7 %
Agricultural area <i>Total Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA)</i>	Ha (3)	5.0 million
	% of total territory (3)	71.5 %
Forest and other wooded land	Ha (3)	788 000
	% of total area (3)	11.5 %
Total employment	People (4)	1.8 million
Rural employment (1)	% of total workforce (3)	66.3 %

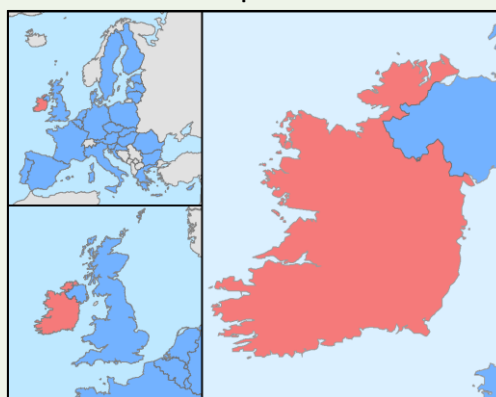
Data source: Ireland 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (RDP).
 Note: (1) OECD definition applies, including intermediate and predominantly rural regions; (2) 2007 data; (3) 2010 data; (4) 2012 data.

EAFRD* support: EUR 2 190 592 153 <small>2.3 % of Total EAFRD support for EU-28</small>	+	National contribution: EUR 1 734 116 024	=	Planned total public expenditure: EUR 3 924 708 177
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* European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Primary sector contribution to Gross Value Added (GVA)	% of total (4)	2.2 %
No of agricultural holdings	No (3)	139 890
Average farm size	ha UAA/holding (3)	35.7
High Nature Value farming	% of total UAA (2)	22.0 %
Farmland Birds Index (FBI)	Index 2000 = 100	92.4
	<i>From 2000 to 2008 the FBI measuring the relative abundance of farmland bird species decreased by 7.6 %.</i>	

Map: Ireland



Examples of expected achievements

- RDP support will make available around 111 600 training places for farmers to increase their knowledge and skills. 1 210 cooperations are envisaged, encouraging farm partnerships and establishing EIP Operational Groups.
- Almost 10 % of the Irish agricultural holdings will be restructured and modernised and another 3 % of holdings will benefit from support specifically targeted at young farmers. Although start-up support for young farmers is not included, prioritising investments by young farmers, providing them with a higher support rate, and facilitating their access to farmland, is central to the RDP strategy.
- Around 27 000 farmers are expected to participate in interactive Knowledge Transfer Groups, sharing best practice and improving their knowledge on a range of issues tailored to their individual farms.
- Particularly important are the well-targeted and prioritised Agri-environment-climate scheme, support to areas with natural constraints with a special focus on the Irish islands, and support to around 50 000 ha of organic farming. Ireland is aiming to place some 20 % of the agricultural land under contracts for each of the three areas of focus biodiversity, water management and soil erosion.
- Energy efficiency of the farming sector will be improved with an expected EUR 50 million investment, as well as by encouraging and supporting climate-friendly agricultural practices on over 10 % of the agricultural land.
- LEADER support is expected to create over 3 000 jobs in rural areas and three quarters of the rural population will be covered by Local Development Strategies (LDS).

Examples of key challenges

- The majority of agricultural grassland habitats in Ireland are not achieving favourable conservation status and this will be a key area to tackle with the RDP support.
- As Ireland's total Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions per capita are among the highest in the EU, and of the total GHG emissions agriculture accounts for the biggest share with 32 %, taking decisive action against climate change is an important challenge for the country.
- Less than 7 % of Irish farmers are under the age of 35 thus special effort is needed in terms of generational renewal.

Source: DG AGRI, *Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for Ireland*, May 2015.

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/rural-development-2014-2020/country_files/ie/factsheet.pdf

2. RDP focus areas: planned expenditure, measures and 2023 targets

This section illustrates each rural development priority (P) with a focus on: the indicative budget per Focus Area (FA) and its breakdown by selected measure; and the relation between the indicative planned total public expenditure and the expected 2023 targets set by the Managing Authority for each focus area. The target indicators identified with the country code (IE) are specific to the Irish Programme.

P1 - Knowledge transfer & innovation: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas

Priority 1 is considered a cross-cutting priority: the budget under Priorities 2 - 6 contributes to the achievement of Priority 1 targets.

Focus Area 1A. Innovation & cooperation

Target indicator	Value
T1 - % of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP	3.6 %

Focus Area 1B. Links with research & innovation

Target indicator	Value
T2 - Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...), of which: Nr of EIP operational groups to be supported (establishment and operation)	1 210 10

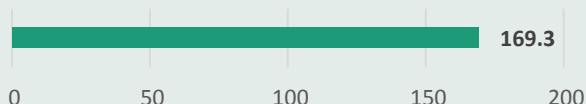
Focus Area 1C. Lifelong learning & vocational training

Target indicator	Value
T3 - Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013	111 600

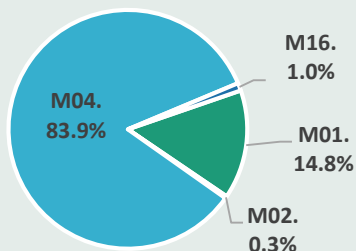
P2 – Competitiveness: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forest

Focus Area 2A. Farm's performance, restructuring & modernization

Total public budget (million EUR)



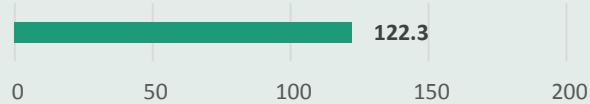
Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)



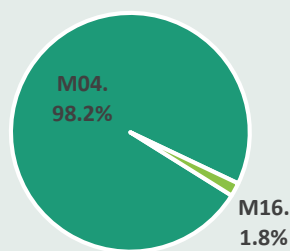
Target indicator	Value
T4 - % of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation	9.1 %

Focus Area 2B. Entry of skilled/younger farmers

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)

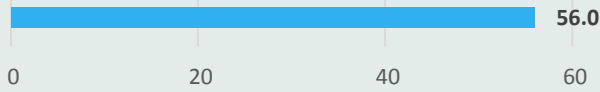


Target indicator	Value
T5 - % of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	2.9 %

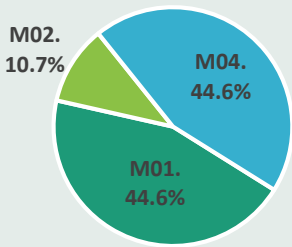
P3 – Food chain & risk management: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture

Focus Area 3B. Risk prevention & management

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)



Measure	m EUR
M01	25.0
M02	6.0
M04	25.0

Target indicator

Value

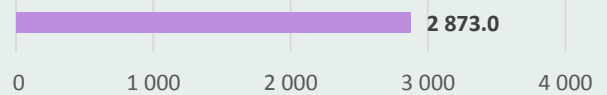
IE01 - Number of Participants in Knowledge Transfer Groups 26 600

P4 – Ecosystems management: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Focus Areas

- 4A. Biodiversity's restoration, preservation & enhancement
- 4B. Water management
- 4C. Soil erosion & soil management

Total public budget (million EUR)



Target indicator

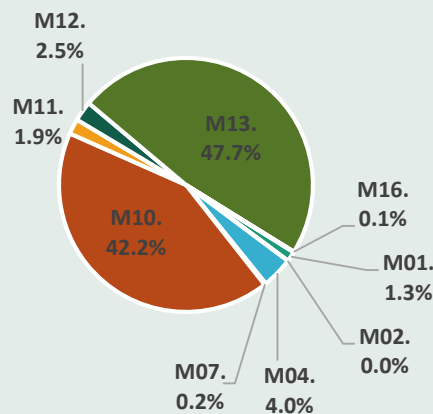
Value

T9 - % of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes 20.8 %

T10 - % of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management 20.9 %

T12 - % of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion 18.1 %

Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)

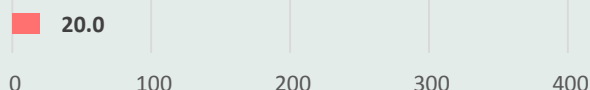


Measure	m EUR
M01	37.0
M02	1.0
M04	114.0
M07	6.0
M10	1 213.8
M11	56.0
M12	73.3
M13	1 370.0
M16	2.0

P5 - Resource efficiency & climate: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

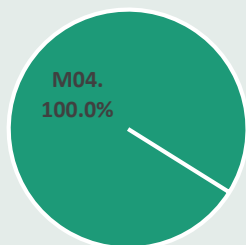
Focus Area 5B. Energy use efficiency

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)

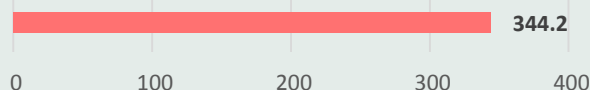
Measure	m EUR
M04	20.0



Target indicator	Value
T15 - Total investment for energy efficiency (EUR)	50 m

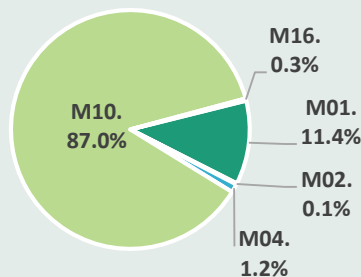
Focus Area 5D. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) & ammonia emissions

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)

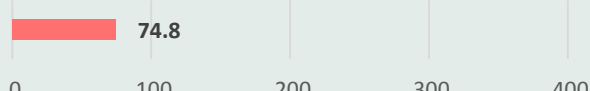
Measure	m EUR
M01	39.1
M02	0.5
M04	4.0
M10	299.6
M16	1.0



Target indicator	Value
T17 - % of livestock units concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions	0.2 %
T18 - % of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions	10.8 %

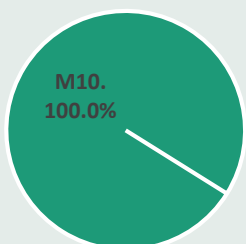
Focus Area 5E. Carbon conservation & sequestration

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)

Measure	m EUR
M10	74.8



Target indicator	Value
T19 - % of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation	0.3 %

P6 - Social inclusion & local development: Promoting social inclusion poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

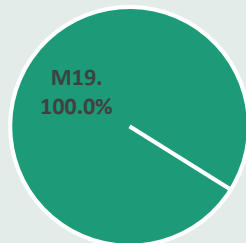
Focus Area 6B. Local development

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)

Measure	m EUR
M19	250.0



Target indicator	Value
T21 - % of rural population covered by local development strategies	74.4 %
T23 - Jobs created in supported projects (LEADER)	3 100

3. Planned expenditure per priority

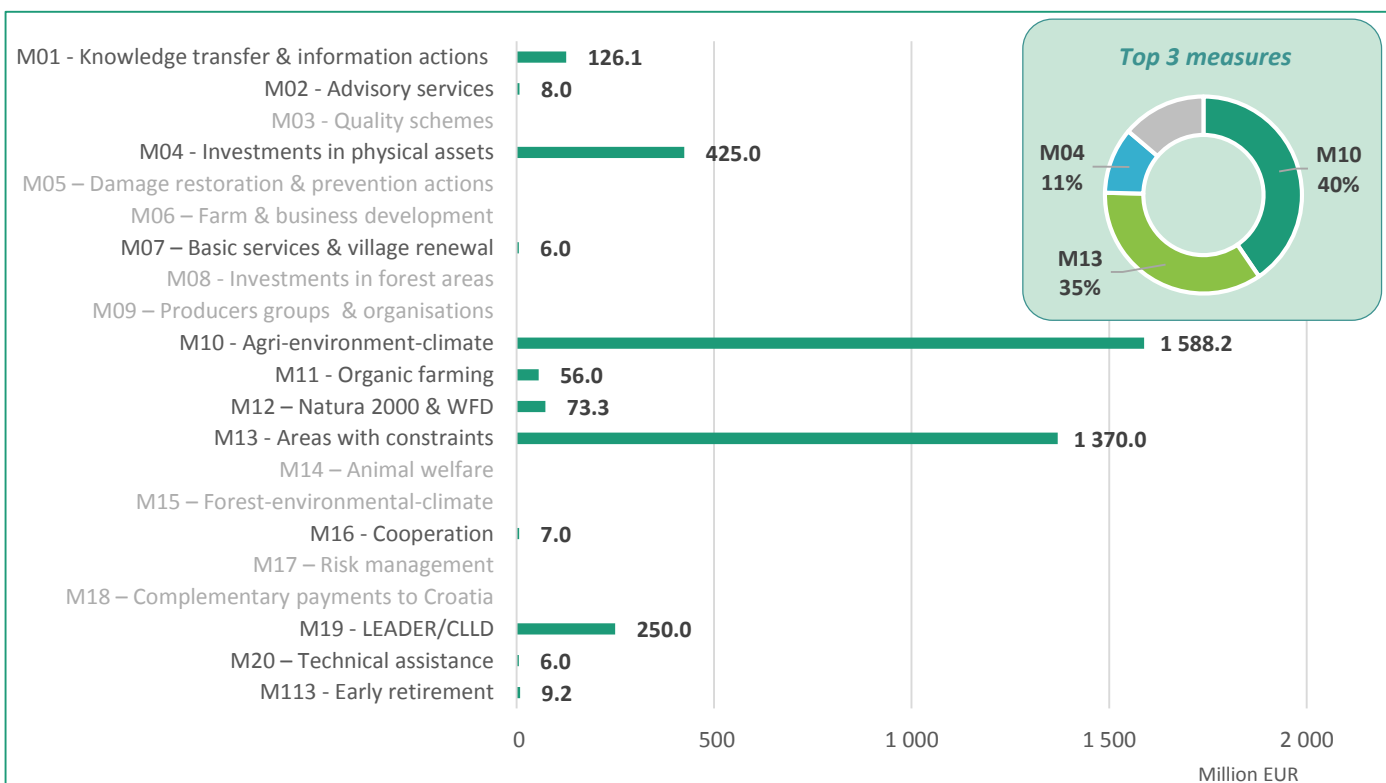
The following table shows how the planned total public expenditure (comprising the EAFRD support and the national contribution) is allocated between rural development priorities. Priority 1 is considered to be cross-cutting and no separate financial allocation is shown as the expenditure is distributed across other focus areas.

Priority	Total public expenditure per priority (million EUR)	% of total public expenditure*	
P1 - Knowledge transfer & innovation	P2 - Competitiveness	291.5	7.4 %
	P3 - Food chain & risk management	56.0	1.4 %
	P4 - Ecosystems management	2 873.0	73.2 %
	P5 - Resource efficiency & climate	439.0	11.2 %
	P6 - Social inclusion & local development	250.0	6.4 %

* Figures do not add up to 100 % because the budget for technical assistance is not included. The budget for technical assistance is available in Section 4.

4. Planned expenditure per measure (million EUR)

The following chart shows the indicative planned total public expenditure per measure (comprising the EAFRD support and the national contribution). The measures illustrated in the chart are the complete list of measures selected within the RDP. Measures in color light gray were not selected by the Member State.



5. Choice of measures by priority and focus areas

The following chart shows which priorities and focus areas are selected in the RDP and the combination of measures used to address them. For each measure the budget breakdown per focus area is given. Priority 1 is considered to be cross-cutting and no separate financial allocation is shown as the expenditure is distributed across other focus areas. Expenditure under Priority 4 is programmed for the priority as a whole, not for individual focus areas.

Priority	P1 Knowledge transfer & innovation			P2 Competitiveness		P3 Food chain & risk management		P4 Ecosystems management			P5 Resource efficiency & climate					P6 Social inclusion & local development		Total	Planned expenditure (million EUR)	
	1A - Innovation & cooperation	1B - Links with research & innovation	1C - Lifelong learning & vocational training	2A - Farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation	2B - Entry of skilled/younger farmers	3A - Agri-food chain integration & quality	3B - Risk prevention & management	4A - Biodiversity's restoration, preservation & enhancement	4B - Water management	4C - Soil erosion & soil management	5A - Water use efficiency	5B - Energy use efficiency	5C - Renewable sources & waste management	5D - Greenhouse gas & ammonia emissions	5E - Carbon conservation & sequestration	6A - Diversification & job creation	6B - Local development			6C - ICT - Information & communication technologies
M01 - Knowledge transfer & information actions				20%			20%	29%						31%					100%	126.1
M02 - Advisory services				6%			75%	13%						6%					100%	8.0
M03 - Quality schemes																				
M04 - Investments in physical assets				33%	28%		6%	27%				5%		1%					100%	425.0
M05 - Damage/restoration /prevention actions																				
M06 - Farm & business development																				
M07 - Basic services & village renewal								100%											100%	6.0
M08 - Investments in forest areas																				
M09 - Producers groups & organisations																				
M10 - Agri-environment-climate								76%						19%	5%				100%	1588.2
M11 - Organic farming								100%											100%	56.0
M12 - Natura 2000 & WFD								100%											100%	73.3
M13 - Areas with constraints								100%											100%	1370
M14 - Animal welfare																				
M15 - Forest-environmental-climate																				
M16 - Cooperation				25%	32%			29%						14%					100%	7.0
M17 - Risk management																				
M18 - Complementary payments to Croatia																				
M19 - LEADER/CLLD																100%			100%	250.0

6. Additional info

Date of RDP approval	26/05/2015
Irish National Rural Network	National Rural Network http://www.nrn.ie/
Managing authority	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Rural Development Division
Paying agency	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Finance Division
RDP country documents	http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/ie_en.htm
National Partnership Agreement summary	http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/pa/partnership-agreement-ireland-summary_en.pdf
Partnership Agreement	http://per.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/Partnership-Agreement-Ireland-2014-2020.pdf
Rural Development Regulation 2014-2020	Regulation (EU) N° 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) [PDF en]

Source of information: All data and the figures presented in this summary come from the European Commission approved version of Ireland 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. The examples of expected achievements and key challenges on page 1 were retrieved from: DG AGRI, Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for Ireland, May 2015.

Disclaimer: This document aims to provide an accessible summary of selected RDP content. The information provided should not be considered a comprehensive account of the original RDP content.

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The European Network for
Rural Development

ENRD Contact Point
Rue de la Loi, 38 Boîte n.4 - 1040
Brussels, Belgium
Tel. +32 2 801 38 00
email: info@enrd.eu
website: <http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>