



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2022

2020 Implementation Report Citizens' Summary

Prepared by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
gov.ie

What is the Rural Development Programme 2014-2022?

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) is part of the Common Agricultural Policy (or CAP). The EU's CAP is a partnership between agriculture and society, and between Europe and its farmers.

The CAP is split into two Pillars:

Pillar 1 supports both direct payments to farmers and market management measures

Pillar 2 covers multi-annual rural development measures which include those that have beneficial impacts on the environment and climate change.

Pillar 2 in Ireland takes the form of the 2014-2022 Rural Development Programme. The RDP is co-funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the national exchequer.

Over the seven-year programme lifecycle, the total available budget was set at approximately €4.1 billion: EAFRD support of €2.19 billion and National exchequer support of €1.91 billion. The Programme has been modified ten times, the most recent being in May 2021.

Under the EU Rural Development Regulation that governs the RDP there are six priorities for spending:

- Priority 1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas.
- Priority 2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forest.
- Priority 3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture.
- Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry.
- Priority 5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors.
- Priority 6: promoting social inclusion, poverty reductions and economic development in rural areas.

Ireland's drawdown of EU funds in the 2014-2020 period represented approximately 91.7% of its EAFRD allocation. This was the second highest rate of all 28 countries and exceeded the EU average of 68.7%.

What is an Annual Implementation Report?

Each year the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), the managing authority for the Irish RDP, must send an Annual Implementation Report (AIR) to the European Commission setting out our progress on delivering the Programme. The annual report sets out the progress for the previous calendar year. The citizen's summary explains the report for the general public.

A copy of the full AIR report can be found [here](#)

How is progress measured?

Ireland has designed its Rural Development Programme (RDP) based on the six priorities for spending and from a selection of measures set out in the EU Rural Development Regulation. The result is a programme based on specific needs identified for our rural area.

For each of the measures selected in the RDP a budget is allocated and targets are set for the priorities under which schemes are programmed. These targets are monitored throughout each year and their progress is included in the AIR which is sent to the European Commission. This monitoring helps DAFM to make sure it spends the money in a way which delivers the best outcomes for Ireland, as detailed in the approved RDP programme document.

A copy of the approved RDP can be found [here](#)

Due to the overlapping nature of EU programmes, data on the 2007-2013 RDP has been included in the cumulative totals for Measures 4, 10, 12 (Natura 2000 payments) and the Early Retirement Scheme. Measures 10 and 12 reported residual expenditure for 2020, and this has been included in the 2020 AIR.



Image Credit: National Rural Network (NRN)

What progress has been made in implementing the Programme?

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE BY PRIORITY

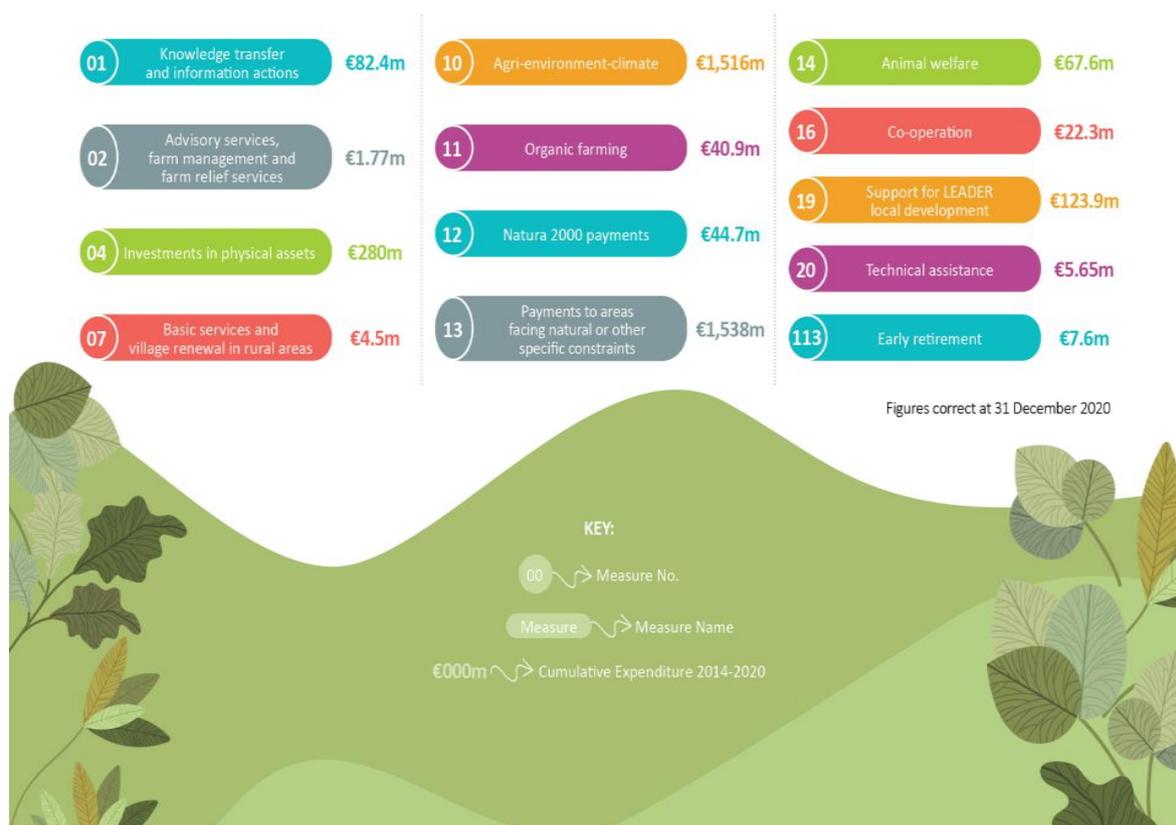


*P1 results are captured in the outcomes of other priorities.

**Cumulative Expenditure 2014-2020

Forestry actions are not covered under the RDP 2014-2022.

HOW MUCH HAS BEEN SPENT SO FAR?



PROGRESS SNAPSHOT



Almost **92%** of RDP funds spent by 2020



98,000 farmers supported in area's facing natural constraint (ANC) in 2020



€202m paid to GLAS beneficiaries in 2020



21,735 beneficiaries supported in TAMS from 2014-2020



Almost **€124m** funding paid on LEADER projects from 2014-2020



Almost **€8.9m** paid to locally-led EIP groups in 2020



€1.8m spent to date to support the Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme



25,000 farmers trained with online support tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions



The following is a summary of the progress that has been made in implementing Ireland's RDP up to 31 December 2020.

Measure 1 – Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions

This measure consists of:

- Sub-measure 1.1: support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions –**Knowledge Transfer (KT) Groups**; and
- Sub-measure 1.1: support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions **training delivered in support of Measure 10 (Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) and the Green Low-carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)**

Knowledge transfer discussion groups for beef, sheep, dairy, equine, poultry and tillage sectors.

This measure involves interaction between farmers and qualified advisors in a group setting for the purpose of sharing knowledge and experience on competitiveness and sustainability issues affecting individual holdings and sectors. The purpose of KT meetings was to provide a suitable forum for learning. COVID-19 presented some challenges in the completion of payments on the KT Programme. As the KT Programme and all related participant actions concluded in July 2019 the only activities being undertaken in 2020 were in relation to the issuing of payments. However, as the KT Programme payments are delivered completely online these challenges were relatively minor and were resolved quickly.

In 2020, payments amounting to €2.4m issued to 6,018 beneficiaries. Approximately €12.67m was paid to participating farmers with an additional €9.4m paid to facilitators.

The 3-year KT Scheme concluded on 31st July 2019 with approximately 18,557 farmers active in circa 1,164 groups facilitated by approximately 479 advisors. Participants were paid for attendance at a combination of 5 meetings and/or approved national events and for completion of a farm improvement plan for their specific enterprises relevant to the KT Sector they were participating in.

Training for farmers in the BDGP and GLAS

This training is provided to approved participants in the BDGP and GLAS which is programmed under Measure 10 of the RDP. It aims to optimise the implementation of the schemes and while the scheme intervention logic and contribution is linked to Measure 10, funding for this training is allocated under Measure 1. Total expenditure on these training schemes (including some outstanding liabilities arising from training undertaken during the previous RDP) was €22.2m for the period 2014 to 2020.

To date over 25,000 farmers have been trained with almost 24,000 carbon navigators completed. Over 99% of GLAS participants have attended the compulsory one-day training course for the scheme. Cumulative expenditure on Measure 1 schemes amounted to €82.4m at the end of 2020.

Measure 2 – Advisory Services

This measure includes support for the use of advisory services (sub-measure 2.1) and support for the training of advisors (sub-measure 2.3).

- **Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Agricultural Advisors.**
- **Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health and Welfare (TASAHW)**
- **Advisory Services to Beef Producer Organisations**

CPD for Agricultural Advisors

There are four separate strands of support for farmer advisory services:

- CPD to train farmers on using the carbon navigator for the BDGP and/or KT;
- CPD for KT meeting facilitation skills;
- CPD for the provision of a Farm Health and Safety Training Programme;
- CPD for training of dairy farmers on the Somatic Cell Check workshop

The CPD scheme finished training advisors in 2019 and so no costs were incurred in 2020 for this scheme. Cumulative expenditure on CPD until the end of 2020 was around €157,000. As no training happened in 2020. COVID-19 had no effect on this scheme.



Image Credit: NRN

TASAHW training and advice

- Sub-measure 2.3: Animal Health & Welfare – Training for advisors; and
- Sub-measure 2.1: Animal Health & Welfare – On-farm advice.

This scheme aims to limit the costs associated with certain animal diseases. Animal Health Ireland is responsible for setting up and organising the provision of an advisory service to farmers on the control and prevention of diseases falling within the scope of the scheme which include Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Johne's Disease (JD), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) and mastitis in dairy herds.

COVID-19 meant that the TASAH training courses did not take place face to face. Instead, the material was redeveloped to facilitate more user-friendly online training.

In 2020, over €350,000 was paid for the provision of on-farm advice and the training of PVPs. A total of 907 herd health investigations were conducted. Scheme expenditure to the end of 2020 amounted to €1.61 million and 5,237 farmers benefitted from the advisory service in that period during which disease control training and advice was concentrated on BVD and JD.

Advisory Services to Beef Producer Organisations

- Business advice/training provided by approved facilitators to Producer Organisations (POs)
- Legal advice/training provided by approved facilitators to POs

Business advice and training

A facilitator providing business advice and training must ensure at least one of the below outcomes is met by a Producer Organisation for Beef:

- Ensure that production is planned and adjusted to demand, particularly in terms of quality and quantity
- Concentration of supply and the placing on the market of the products produced by its members, including through direct marketing
- Optimise production costs and returns on investments in response to environmental and animal welfare standards, and stabilising producer prices
- Carry out research and develop initiatives on sustainable production methods, innovative practices, economic competitiveness, and market developments
- Promote, and provide technical assistance for, the use of environmentally sound cultivation practices and production techniques, and sound animal welfare practices
- Develop products with a protected designation of origin, with a protected geographical indication or covered by a national quality label;

- Contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources and to climate change mitigation
- Develop initiatives in the area of promotion and marketing
- Provide the necessary technical assistance for the use of the futures markets and of insurance schemes.

Legal advice and training

A facilitator providing legal advice and training must ensure at least one of the below outcomes is met by a Producer Organisation for Beef:

- Guidance on the application of rules adopted by the producer organisation relating to production reporting, production, marketing, and protection of the environment
- Guidance on how to amend the rules of a PO
- Guidance on rules that allow producer members to work together in a democratic manner
- Guidance on penalties for infringement of obligations under the statutes, particularly for non-payment of financial contributions, or of the rules laid down by the producer organisation
- Guidance on the rules on the admission of new members, and in particular the minimum period of membership which may not be less than one year
- Finally, guidance on the accounting and budgetary rules necessary for the operation of the organisation.

In 2020, the first payments of this scheme occurred. €4,500 was paid to two facilitators for advisory services provided during the formal establishment of two Producer Organisations in 2019.

Cumulative expenditure on Measure 2 schemes amounted to €1.77m at the end of 2020.

Measure 4 – Investments in Physical Assets

This measure consists of:

- Sub-measure 4.1: support for investments in agricultural holdings – **Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS II)**; and
- Sub-measure 4.4: support for non-productive investments which are potentially available through the GLAS and Burren schemes. As the underlying logic of this sub-measure is intrinsically linked to the achievement of agri-environment objectives, funding is allocated under Measure 10.

TAMS II

TAMS II will make €395m available to Irish farmers for investment in infrastructure, facilities and equipment under the suite of seven measures (listed below) which are opened for applications in rolling three-month tranches.

- Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme;
- Dairy Equipment Scheme;
- Organic Capital Investment Scheme;
- Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme;
- Low Emissions Slurry Spreading;
- Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme; and
- Tillage Capital Investment Scheme.

€74.9m was expended on Measure 4 in 2020. TAMS II grants were paid to 5,764 farm enterprises and supported more than 6,208 investments worth €141.8m. The overall number of TAMS beneficiaries at the end of 2020 was approximately 21,294. The main expenditure items for TAMS II were the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme, the Animal Welfare and Nutrient Storage Scheme and the Dairy Equipment Scheme at €35.3m, €13.5m and €11m respectively. A further €9.6m was spent on funding the acquisition of Low Emissions Slurry Spreading equipment.

The level of interest in TAMS II has continued to be strong throughout the pandemic with the number of applications received remain at a high level.



Image Credit: DAFM

Non-productive investments

In 2020, no transitional expenditure was paid in respect of non-productive investments from the 2007-2013 programming period.

Cumulative public expenditure on all Measure 4 investments in physical assets amounted to €280m at the end of 2020.

Measure 7 – Rural Services and Renewal

Sub-measure 7.6: support for investments associated with the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages and rural landscapes – GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme

This scheme provides once-off grant aid for approved conservation work to traditional farm buildings and associated structures that are now used for agricultural purposes or available for such use. It ensures that traditional farm buildings and other structures are restored and conserved for practical agricultural use and is administered by the Heritage Council on behalf of DAFM. Participation in the GLAS is a primary eligibility condition for entry to the scheme.

In 2020, €1.09m was paid to support the restoration of 90 buildings on 76 farms. When private funding is considered, the total amount invested in these operations was €1.5m.

Total scheme spend, including private investment, at the end of 2020 was approximately €6.5m with grant aid accounting for more than 69% of that figure.

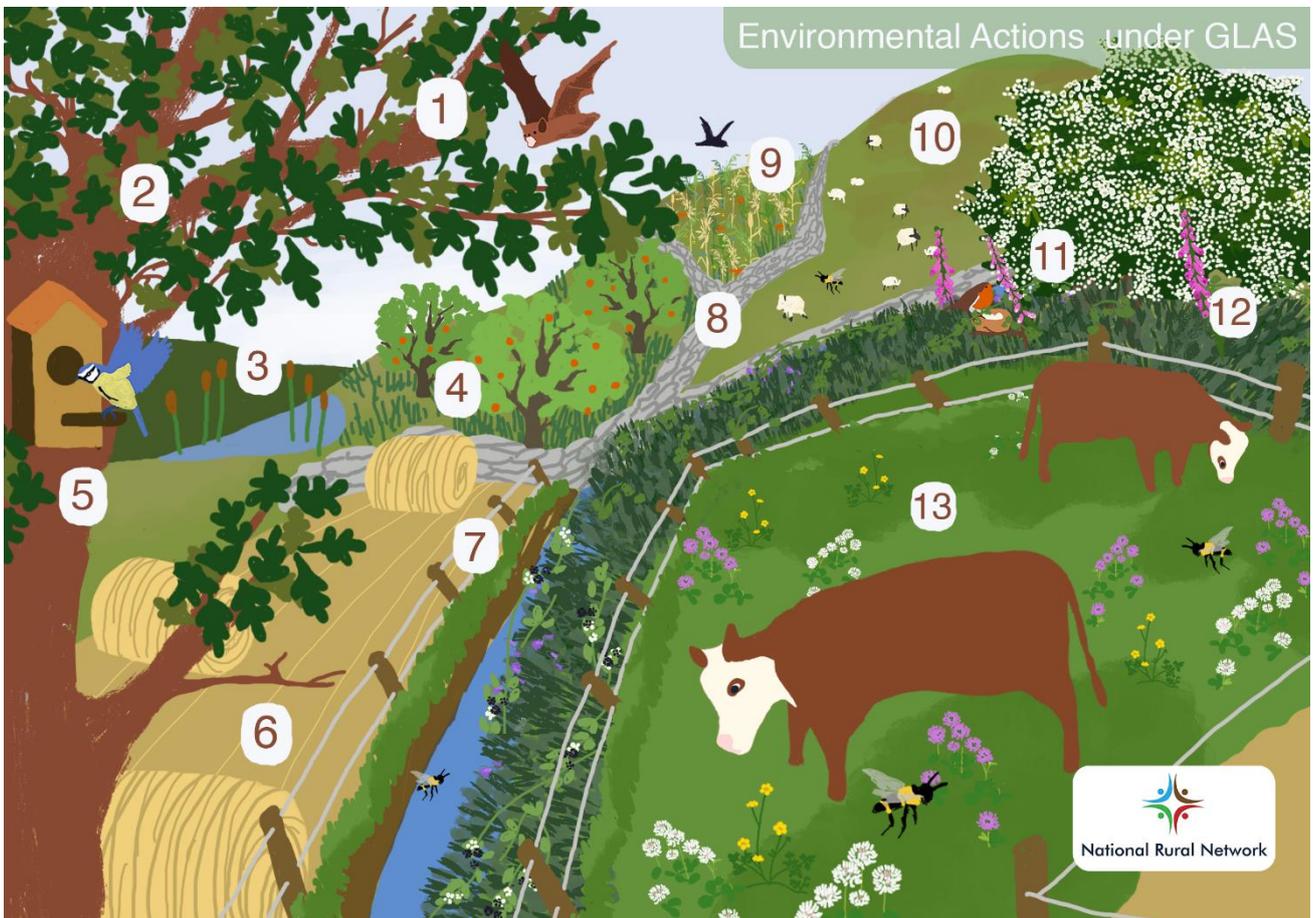
Measure 10 – Agri-environment-climate

Sub-measure: 10.1: payment for agri-environment-climate commitments.

The table below provides a breakdown of all the schemes contributing to spending under Measure 10. The total spend for this measure in 2020 was €243.7m comprised mainly of current RDP schemes (that is the GLAS, BDGP and the Burren Programme in order of expenditure incurred) and just over €10,000 in transitional spending related to the previous RDP.

GLAS

GLAS promotes agricultural production methods with environmental benefits related to climate change mitigation, improving water quality and the preservation of priority habitats and species through 5 year contracts. Scheme payments totalled €202.5m on 48,000 contracts in 2020. The total GLAS spend at the end of 2020 was approximately €944.6m. The majority of GLAS participants are located along the western seaboard, particularly Galway, Mayo and Donegal. Farmers have delivered significant benefits for biodiversity through tree planting, planting and management of hedgerows, habitat creation and food sources for birds, bees and other species. Fencing of watercourses from livestock protects water quality.



Environmental Actions under GLAS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Bat boxes
210,000 units | 8. Traditional dry-stone wall maintenance
10,800 metres |
| 2. Planting a grove of native trees
1,560,000 trees | 9. Wild Bird Cover
18,700 hectares |
| 3. Farmland habitat (Private Natura)
114,000 hectares | 10. Commonage
230,000 hectares |
| 4. Traditional orchards
10,800 trees | 11. Planting new hedgerows
1,160,000 hectares |
| 5. Bird boxes
207,000 units | 12. Laying hedgerows
563,000 metres |
| 6. Traditional hay meadows
60,000 hectares | 13. Low input permanent pasture
252,000 hectares |
| 7. Protection of watercourses from
bovines
14,700,000 metres | |

BDGP

The BDGP requires participating farmers to undertake a range of actions designed to accelerate genetic improvement in the beef herd resulting in climate benefits associated with lower greenhouse gas emissions. Scheme payments totalled €39.9m to 21,088 beneficiaries in 2020, similar to previous year figures. The total scheme spend at the end of 2020 was approximately €250m.



Image Credit: DAFM

The Burren Programme

The Burren Programme is focused specifically on the conservation of the unique limestone landscape of that region in counties Clare and Galway. It promotes a particular farming model that couples traditional farming practices with scientific assessment of environmental health at field level.

The Burren Programme ‘ecosystem’ – team, funders, farmers, advisors etc –responded well to the challenge of COVID-19. Offices were re-purposed to accommodate socially distanced working spaces and enabled remote working for some staff, established alternative arrangements for farmers who needed office support – for example, to process payment claims, held on-line training for farmers and advisors whilst also holding on line Steering Group Meetings and hosting on-line events – Burren Winterage School, presentations to groups in Ireland and Europe, etc. They also introduced safety protocols for social distancing at outdoor meetings with farmers/advisors.

Public expenditure of €1.27m was paid on 11,206 hectares (ha) to 320 farmers in 2020. Total scheme spend at the end of 2020 was approximately €4.7m.

Transitional payments for REPS / AEOS totalled just €8,037 for 12 holdings in 2020 reflecting the winding down of the scheme.

Cumulative expenditure on Measure 10 schemes amounted to €1.516m at the end of 2020.



Image Credit: DAFM

Measure 11 – Organic Farming

Measure 11 consists of:

- Sub-measure 11.1: payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods; and
- Sub-measure 11.2: payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods.

The Organic Farming Scheme aims to encourage farmers to convert from conventional to organic farming methods and to maintain those methods after the initial two-year conversion period. COVID-19 had no impact on payments for the Organic Farming Scheme in 2020. Although a minimum of 5% of inspections was not achieved, a derogation was given by the European Commission on this matter.

Public expenditure of €8.4m was paid in respect of almost 55,649 hectares (ha) on 1,488 holdings for Organic Farming in 2020. The total scheme spend at the end of 2020 was approximately €40.9m. Additionally, just €1,681 in transitional money was paid for one unexpired contract relating to the previous period. It is reported under Measure 10 in the current Programme.



Source: *NRN News - Spring 2020*

Measure 12 – Natura 2000 payments

Sub-measure 12.1: Compensation payment for Natura 2000 agricultural areas.

Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of protected areas designated as being of special value and importance for the endangered animals, plants and habitats that they contain. These sites comprise both Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and species. Some sites are designated as both an SPA and an SAC.

The measure is programmed solely to provide for ongoing commitments from the 2007-2013 RDP as Natura sites are targeted under Measure 10 GLAS in the current RDP. The scheme supports farmers in dealing with specific disadvantages arising from the conservation of natural habitats and the effective management of those ecologically important sites. It thus contributes to the appropriate environmental management of farmed Natura sites in compliance with EU rules. As this scheme ends, €49,899 was spent on supporting the management of 40ha on 4 holdings in 2020. Total funding for this scheme in the current programming period has amounted to €44.7m, like the 2019 overall spend. COVID-19 did not impact on the financial reporting of this scheme.



Image Credit: DAFM

Measure 13 – Areas facing natural or other specific constraints

The measure consists of the following two sub-measures:

- Sub-measure 13.2: compensation payment for other areas facing significant natural constraints; and
- Sub-measure 13.3: compensation payment to other areas affected by specific constraints (referring to island farming).

Support under these two sub-measures is disbursed nationally under a single Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) scheme. It is the largest RDP support available to farmers. The scheme provides important environmental and social benefits by compensating farmers for additional costs and income foregone related to constraints on agricultural production in the areas concerned. A separate category of support is available to compensate island farmers in recognition of the specific constraints on agricultural activity in those locations.

Total public expenditure of €247.3m, including additional national financing of €60m was paid to approximately 98,000 farmers in respect of 2.2m ha under Measure 13 in 2020. This brings cumulative ANC payments in the current programming period to €1538.3m. COVID-19 did not impact on the financial reporting of this scheme.

Measure 14 – Animal Welfare

Payment for animal welfare – Sheep Welfare Scheme

The objective of the Sheep Welfare Scheme is to develop the Irish sheep production system. It contributes to improved animal welfare in the areas of lameness control, parasite control, flystrike control and appropriate supplementation. Sheep farmers with breeding ewes can apply for payment based on two actions of their choice from a menu of options appropriate to their flock type (i.e. hill or lowland). Payment under the scheme is based on the number of eligible breeding ewes in an individual flock. In 2020, total public expenditure of €16.7m including additional national financing of €8.4m, was paid to approximately 18,247 farmers in respect of over 259,000 livestock units (based on the number of eligible ewes held by participants). COVID-19 did not impact on the financial reporting of this scheme.

Measure 16 – Co-operation

This measure is comprised of the following elements:

- Sub-measure 16.1: support for the establishment of **European Innovation Partnership (EIP)** operational groups for agricultural productivity and sustainability.
 - General EIPs
 - Locally Led Hen Harrier & Freshwater Pearl Mussel Projects
 - Locally Led Environmental & Climate Projects
- Sub-measure 16.3: Co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources – **Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme**.

European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs)

EIP Operational Groups are clearly linked to supporting innovation and best practice. Specifically, they will be intended to address some or all of the following:

- promoting a resource efficient, productive and low emission agricultural sector, working in harmony with the essential natural resources on which farming depends,
- improving processes to preserve the environment and agricultural landscapes, address biodiversity challenges, enhance water quality, adapt to climate change, and mitigate it, and
- creating added value by better linking research and farming practice and encouraging the wider use of available innovative practices.

There are two funding streams for EIP groups depending on the themes they seek to address in their project proposals.

- The general stream which focuses on projects relating to farm viability, economic performance, sustainable forest management and innovative technologies and;
- The locally-led stream focusing on projects dealing with environmental, biodiversity and climate change.



Image Credit: NRN

The Hen Harrier Programme was launched in 2017 and will run for five years. Its main area of focus is farmers managing the habitats in the six designated hen harrier SPAs. In 2020 payments over €4.01 million issued to farmers.

The Pearl Mussel Project (PMP) commenced in May 2018 and the project will run until December 2023. The aim of the project is to develop a results-based agri-environmental programme to ensure the long-term co-existence of freshwater pearl mussel populations and farming in the top eight freshwater pearl mussel catchments in Ireland. In 2020 approximately €1m issued to farmers.

Approximately €441,000 was paid to three general EIP groups, involving 44 partners, in 2020 to enable them to implement their project plans.

In 2020, approximately €8.9m was paid to 20 locally led groups of which all were funded for operational activities. Most expenditure was absorbed by the Hen Harrier and Fresh Water Pearl Mussel projects as described above. The other locally led EIP operations funded in 2020 were Duncannon Blue Flag and Enable Conservation Tillage. More details on the EIP-AGRI Operational Groups can be found on the National Rural Network website

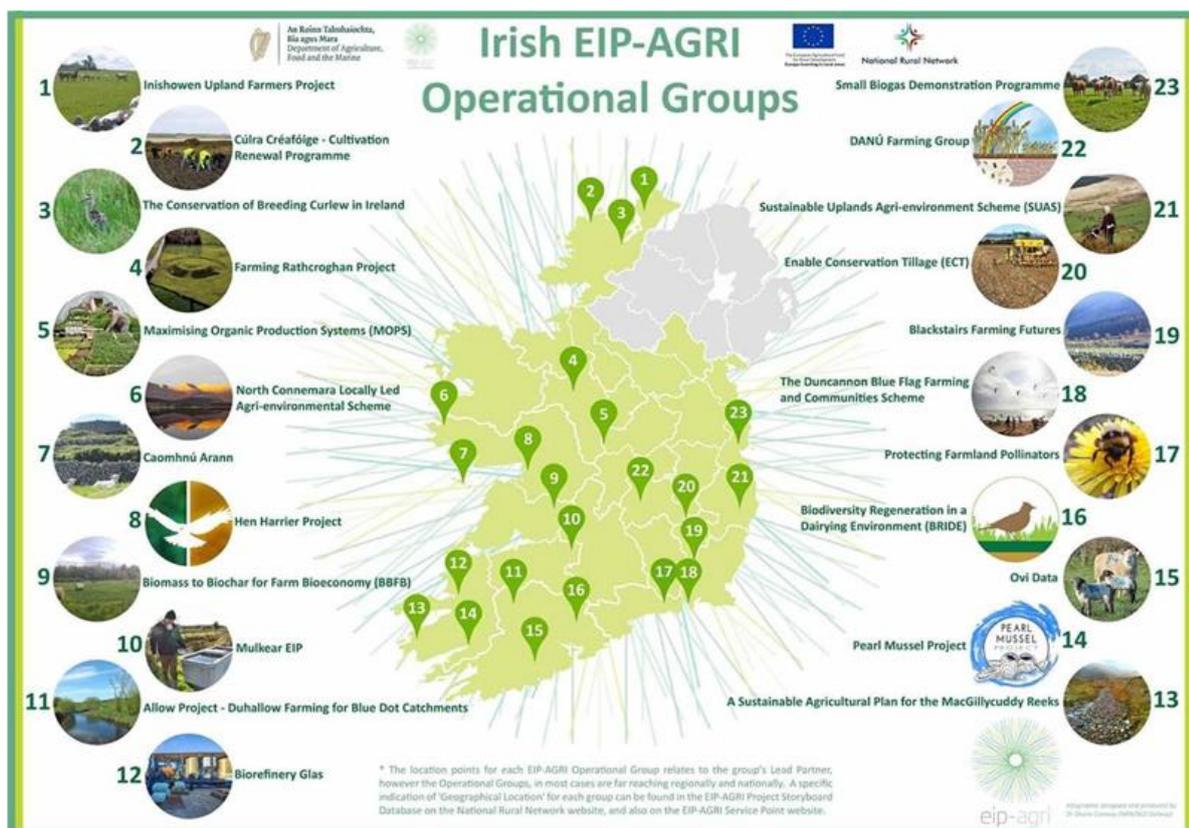


Image Credit: NRN

Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme

Collaborative approaches to farming can address some of the structural challenges facing Irish agriculture such as limited land availability and intergenerational transfer. This scheme is specifically aimed at encouraging the formation of new farm partnerships by contributing up to 50% of vouched legal, accounting and advisory costs incurred in drawing up a partnership agreement, subject to a maximum payment of €2,500.

As a result of COVID-19 and staff working from home, the Collaborative Farming Grant scheme changed the application process from paper-based to electronic. Applicants were asked to submit electronic pdf scans of all paperwork when applying and the vast majority of our follow-up was done by e-mail. This change was discussed with, agreed and communicated to all advisors and commenced for all new applications from 1 January 2021. It has streamlined and sped up the process considerably and will be retained into the future.

In 2020, approximately €334,000 was paid towards costs incurred in establishing 223 farm partnerships – 184 of these were to facilitate generational renewal and 39 to facilitate mergers. A cumulative sum of €1.9m was paid to support the creation of 1,460 registered partnerships in the period to the end of 2020.

Cumulative expenditure on all Measure 16 schemes amounted to €22.3m at the end of 2020.

Measure 19 – LEADER

There are 4 sub-measures to LEADER:

- Sub-measure 19.1: Preparatory support.
- Sub-measure 19.2: Support for implementation of operations under the Community-led Local Development strategy;
- Sub-measure 19.3: Preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of Local Action Groups; and
- Sub-measure 19.4: Support for running costs and animation.

LEADER aims to address local needs under the broad themes of economic development, social inclusion and rural development. Local communities direct where this funding is provided through their participation in Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the implementation of Local Development Strategies (LDSs) formulated by the LAGs. LAGs have been selected in all 28 sub-regional areas covering a population of 3.1m rural dwellers and funding agreements signed with all groups.

LEADER expenditure in 2020 exceeded €46m with most of this sum provided for funding of project implementation. Substantial increases in the number of projects approved for funding in 2020 continued. Consequently, project payments have increased considerably reaching €35.4m million in

2020 compared to €30.2m in 2019. Given the growing pipeline of project approvals it is anticipated that the momentum now evident in LEADER will ensure a full drawdown of the available funding over the programming period.

Cumulative expenditure under Measure 19 amounted to €123.9m at the end of 2020.

The LEADER Programme has continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 crisis period with Local Action Group (LAG) and Implementing Partners (IP) staff working remotely. DRCD has issued a number of circulars to the LAGs to guide and assist, in the context of the pandemic. These include a number of administrative flexibilities such as permitting the Evaluation Committee and LAG Decision Making Meetings to be held via telephone or video conference facilities and the use of electronic signatures on forms to assist with processing of payment claims. In addition, and where necessary, the use of photographic evidence in lieu of the Capital Site visit is permitted. The impact of these initiatives is evidenced by the number of project applications approved, and claims paid during the crisis period.

The poster features the National Rural Network logo and the LEADER logo at the top. The main title is "LEADER IMPACT CAMPAIGN 2020: WINNING ENTRIES". Below this, three winning entries are showcased in separate panels:

- The Forge Project, Churchill, Co. Kerry**: A black and white photograph of a person working in a forge.
- The Dynamics Violin Project, Dundaik, Co. Louth**: A photograph of a group of children in yellow shirts playing violins.
- Environmental Workshop Series, Ballyboughal, Co. Dublin**: A photograph of a group of people walking in a field.

Below the panels, the themes are listed: THEME 1: Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation; THEME 2: Social Inclusion; and THEME 3: Rural Environment. At the bottom, logos for An Roinn Éireannacha (Department of Rural and Community Development), the European Union, and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine are displayed.

Source: *NRN Newsletter Winter 2020*

Measure 20 – Technical Assistance

- Sub-measure 20.1: Support for technical assistance (other than the National Rural Network (NRN)).
- Sub-measure 20.2: Support for establishing and operating the NRN.

Technical assistance (TA) supports evaluation, information, communication, and other activities that contribute to the effective management of the RDP and strengthen stakeholder capacity.

Cumulative payments of €5.65 million (excluding VAT) were made from the TA budget in the period 2014 to 2020. A sum of €1.2m was paid in technical support for Programme implementation in 2020. TA is reported under two distinct categories:

- support for establishing and operating the NRN; and
- non-NRN support comprised of administrative and other costs.

The 2020 spend was split equally between NRN support and non-NRN support with the latter comprised mostly of administrative costs for the Burren Programme together with contract payments for the GLAS Evaluation Project and the Burren Programme Evaluation.

NRN activities for 2020 included organising 2 consultation exercises with stakeholders, 7 meetings of thematic working groups and 47 events. It also disseminated 56 project examples, as well as, 55 publications in printed and electronic formats. See example below of the engagement with the younger audience on biodiversity during the Covid-19 lockdowns.



Source: NRN Newsletter Summer 2020

Measure 113 – Early Retirement Scheme

Cumulative expenditure under Measure 113 amounted to €7.6m at the end of 2020. No payments were made to scheme beneficiaries in 2020.

CAP Rural Development Division

June 2021

Where can I find more information?

More information on The Rural Development Programme can be found on the Government website using the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/6606a-rural-development-programme-rdp-2014-2020/>

General queries on the Programme can be directed to:

Telephone: 01 – 607 2117

E-mail: RuralDevelopment@agriculture.gov.ie

National Rural Network

Telephone: 0906-48 2744

E-mail: info@nationalruralnetwork.ie

Website: <https://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie/>



National Rural Network

LEADER

LEADER Programme Section
Department of Rural and Community Development

Telephone: 076-1064900

E-mail: rdp1420@drcd.gov.ie

Website:

<https://www.pobal.ie/programmes/leader-programme-2014-2020/>



For further information on specific schemes and supports contact:

European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)

Website: <https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>

Email: info@enrd.eu



European Innovation Partnership - Locally Led Scheme Section

Telephone: 076 1064454

E-mail: locallyled@agriculture.gov.ie

European Innovation Partnership - General EIP-AGRI Innovation Unit

Telephone: 076 1064557
E-mail: EIP@agriculture.gov.ie



Hen Harrier Project

Telephone: 091-792865
E-mail: info@henharrierproject.ie
Website: <http://www.henharrierproject.ie>



GLAS

Telephone: 076 1064451
E-mail:

Irish Organic Association

Telephone: 090-64 33680
E-mail: info@irishoa.ie
Website: www.irishorganicassociation.ie



For more information a printable version of a blog on Maximising Organic Production Systems (MOPS) can be [downloaded here](#)

Pearl Mussel Project

Telephone: 064- 6640685
E-mail: Info@pmproject.ie
Website: <http://www.pearlmusselproject.ie/>



Priority / Focus Area

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

1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas

1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance

1C) Fostering lifelong and vocational training in agriculture and forestry sectors

P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests

2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as agricultural diversification

2B) Facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and in particular, generational renewal

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

3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations

3B) Supporting farm risk prevention and management

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

4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, in areas facing natural constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes

4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management

4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management

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

5A) Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture

5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing

5C) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and non-food raw materials for the purposes of the bio-economy

5D) Reducing greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture

5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation

6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

6C) Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas

Measure / Sub-measure

M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)

M1.1 - support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions

M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions

M1.3 - support for short-term farm and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)

M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services

M2.2 - support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services

M2.3 - support for training of advisors

M03 - Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs (art 16)

M3.1 - support for new participation in quality schemes

M3.2 - Support for information and promotion activities implemented by groups of producers in the internal market

M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)

M4.1 - support for investments in agricultural holdings

M4.2 - support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products

M4.3 - support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry

M4.4 - support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives

M05 - Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events and introduction of appropriate prevention actions (art 18)

M5.1 - support for investments in preventive actions aimed at reducing the consequences of probable natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events

M5.2 - support for investments for the restoration of agricultural land and production potential damaged by natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events

M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)

M6.1 - business start-up aid for young farmers

M6.2 - business start-up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas

M6.3 - business start-up aid for the development of small farms

M6.4 - support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities

M6.5 - payments for farmers eligible for the small farmers scheme who permanently transfer their holding to another farmer

M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)

M7.1 - support for drawing up and updating of plans for the development of municipalities and villages in rural areas and their basic services and of protection and management plans relating to N2000 sites and other areas of high nature value

M7.2 - support for investments in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small-scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and energy saving

M7.3 - support for broadband infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and provision of access to broadband and public e-government

M7.4 - support for investments in the setting-up, improvement or expansion of local basic services for the rural population including leisure and culture, and the related infrastructure

M7.5 - support for investments for public use in recreational infrastructure, tourist information and small-scale tourism infrastructure

M7.6 - support for studies/investments associated with the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages, rural landscapes and high nature value sites including related socio-economic aspects, as well as environmental awareness actions

M7.7 - support for investments targeting the relocation of activities and conversion of buildings or other facilities located inside or close to rural settlements, with a view to improving the quality of life or increasing the environmental performance of the settlement

M7.8 - others

M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)

M8.1 - support for afforestation/creation of woodland

M8.2 - support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems

M8.3 - support for prevention of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events

M8.4 - support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events

M8.5 - support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems

M8.6 - support for investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products

M09 - Setting-up of producer groups and organisations (art 27)

M9.1 - setting up of producer groups and organisations in the agriculture and forestry sectors

M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)

M10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

M10.2 - support for conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture

M11 - Organic farming (art 29)

M11.1 - payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods

M11.2 - payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods

M12 - Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments (art 30)

M12.1 - compensation payment for Natura 2000 agricultural areas

M12.2 - compensation payment for Natura 2000 forest areas

M12.3 - compensation payment for agricultural areas included in river basin management plans

M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)

M13.1 - compensation payment in mountain areas

M13.2 - compensation payment for other areas facing significant natural constraints

M13.3 - compensation payment to other areas affected by specific constraints

M14 - Animal welfare (art 33)

M14.1 - payment for animal welfare

M15 - Forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation (art 34)

M15.1 - payment for forest -environmental and climate commitments

M15.2 - support for the conservation and promotion of forest genetic resources

M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

M16.0 - others

M16.1 - support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability

M16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

M16.3 - (other) co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources, and for developing/marketing tourism

M16.4 - support for horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets, and for promotion activities in a local context relating to the development of short supply chains and local markets

M16.5 - support for joint action undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change, and for joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices

M16.6 - support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes

M16.7 - support for non-CLLD local development strategies

M16.8 - support for drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments

M16.9 - support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food

M17 - Risk management (art 36)

M17.1 - Crop, animal and plant insurance premium

M17.2 - Mutual funds for adverse climatic events, animal and plant diseases, pest infestations and environmental incidents

M17.3 - Income stabilisation tool

M18 - Financing of complementary national direct payments for Croatia (art 40)

M18 - Financing of complementary national direct payments for Croatia

M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

M19.1 - Preparatory support

M19.2 - Support for implementation of operations under the community-led local development strategy

M19.3 - Preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action

M19.4 - Support for running costs and animation

M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)

M20.1 - support for technical assistance (other than NRN)

M20.2 - support for establishing and operating the NRN

M113 - Early retirement

M131 - Meeting standards based on Community legislation

M341 - Skills acquisition, animation and implementation



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