

Encouraging rural development by local groups

Axis 4 objective and measures: Implement the Leader Approach



Objective

Local groups play a key role in rural development. The EU has provided funds for grassroots initiatives for some time now. The Leader Approach now falls under Axis 4 of the RDP2. Leader works with area groups that have their own development plans for the area. Cooperation, innovation, and administrative reform are important elements. The measures listed under Axes 1, 2 and 3 may also be carried out in the capacity of the Leader Approach.

Measures

(in millions of euros)

Measure	Total public funds for the entire programme period	includes in EU funds
Implementation of Leader Approach	68	34
Carrying out cooperative projects	20	10
Strengthening local groups	10	5

Measures under Axes 1, 2, and 3 may also be carried out in Leader. These measures are directed at local groups. Interested parties should contact their province.

Example

Local groups and affiliated social organisations have a great need for solid skills and information to carry out their tasks. Financial support is available for improving the competencies of local groups by, for example, providing training, information, and communications assistance. Nearly 10 million euros is available for this purpose.

More information

To apply for subsidies, please contact the help desk of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality on 0800-22 333 22 (free of charge), weekdays from 8:30 to 16:30 or visit www.hetInvloket.nl (currently in Dutch only)

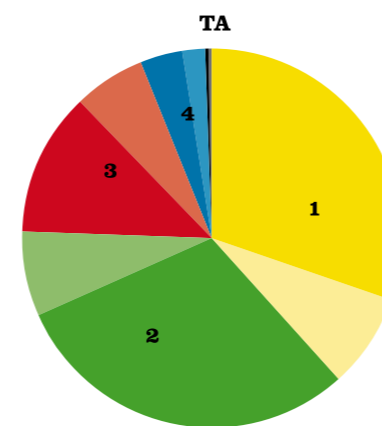
Provinces (most information currently in Dutch only):
www.provinciegroening.nl
www.drenthe.nl
www.fryslan.nl
www.overijssel.nl
www.gelderland.nl
www.flevoland.nl
www.provincie-utrecht.nl
www.noord-holland.nl
www.zuid-holland.nl
www.brabant.nl
www.limburg.nl
www.zeeland.nl

The website of the Management Office for the Rural Development Programme: www.regiebureau-pop.eu provides a list of RDP2 contact people at the provincial level (limited information in English).

More information on the National Rural Network and the ETC/CLM Network Team can be found online: www.netwerkplatteland.nl (limited information in English).

Distribution of funds

Total public funds (from the EU and national and provincial governments) for the four RDP2 axes are listed below (in millions of euros). There are also funds available for technical assistance.



Axis	amount	includes in EU funds
1	785	202
2	777	183
3	315	157
TA		49

(TA = Technical assistance in millions of euros)

Colophon

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Support for a thriving and sustainable countryside

The 2007 – 2013 Rural Development Programme for the Netherlands, or RDP2 (referred to as "POP2" in Dutch)

RDP2 in short

A great deal is happening in the Dutch countryside. Projects are being carried out all over the country to improve the quality of life in outlying areas, increasing their vitality and natural value. National and provincial governments and the EU are all making funds available for rural development. Improving the quality of rural life and working towards a thriving and sustainable agricultural sector are key components of the 2007 – 2013 Rural Development Programme (RDP2). This programme was approved in 2007 by the European Commission. In 2009 and 2010

additional financing was made available from the Economic Recovery Package (2009) and the Health Check (2010), making it possible to put extra effort into addressing new challenges such as climate change, renewable energy, water management, biodiversity, innovation and broadband internet. The new SNL subsidy for nature and landscape management was also introduced. During the period 2007 – 2013, two and a half billion euros are available for projects that fall under RDP2. Nearly 600 million euros of this comes from the EU. National and provincial governments

provide roughly the same amount, and additional national funding amounting to 850 million euros is also available. The scope for subsidies also encourages domestic investment from private parties (estimated 700 million euros). There are many different stakeholders active in the countryside. The National Rural Network brings together different organisations and authorities involved in rural development.

This document provides information on the four main goals of RDP2 – the four "Axes" – and their associated measures for which subsidies are available.

Working towards a competitive agrarian sector

Axis 1 objective and measures: Improve competitiveness of agriculture and forestry sector



Objective

Agriculture is of great importance to the Netherlands. Agricultural business owners are faced with making choices for their companies, and RDP2 helps support them in these decisions. Funds are available for many types of innovations and for owners who make certain improvements to their businesses (e.g. by bettering the infrastructure, investing in new facilities or machines, implementing new production methods.) This allows Dutch agricultural businesses to respond better to market developments and public trends. Sustainability is key. Furthermore, in order to address new challenges additional funding is available for projects in the area of education and public information, modernisation of agricultural holdings and cooperation for innovation.

Measures (in millions of euros)

Measure	Total public funds for the entire programme period	includes in EU funds
Training and extension services	62	31
Use of advisory services	13	4,5
Modernisation of agricultural holdings	438	61
Adding further value	4	1
Cooperation for innovation	40	19
Improving infrastructure of agricultural holdings	216	80
Improving food quality	10	4,5
Promoting and stimulating sales	2	1

These measures are primarily directed at farmers. Parties interested in "Improving infrastructure of agricultural holdings" should contact their province for more information. For all other measures, please contact the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

Example

The countryside benefits from a strong, innovative agricultural sector. Cooperation among businesses encourages innovation but is not without risk. To help offset these risks, funds are available for joint ventures that strive for innovation in, for example, product development, production, or sales. Groups of businesses can apply for funding for up to 50% of the eligible costs for each project, to a maximum of 500,000 euros. For concrete investments, the maximum is 400,000 euros (500,000 in problem areas). The aim is to support 120 cooperative initiatives, and a further 50 with the budget for the new challenges.

Promoting sustainable use of agricultural land

Axis 2 objective and measures: Improve the environment and rural areas



Objective

Sustainable use of agricultural land is high on the public agenda. This is primarily because the quality of nature and landscape has been compromised for decades. RDP2 makes funds available to users and managers of agricultural land, so that they can manage their parcels in ways that benefit nature, the environment, landscape, and climate in the Netherlands. The new SNL subsidy for nature and landscape management falls under this Axis.

Measures (in millions of euros)

Measure	Total public funds for the entire programme period	includes in EU funds
Areas with natural handicaps	86	21
Management payment schemes	454	130
Non-productive investments	216	22
Afforestation of agricultural land	20,5	9,5

These measures are primarily directed at farmers. Landscape organisations, private land management parties, or water boards may in some cases also be eligible for support. Interested parties should contact their province for more information.

Example

Farmers play an important role in the management of land and nature. By taking additional measures, agricultural holdings can increase biodiversity in their area. RDP2 makes funds available for farmers who take on these nature management tasks, which can include managing field edges, protecting meadow birds, and maintaining characteristic landscape elements. A total of 454 million euros is available for this measure, to offset the additional costs and/or loss of income associated with these nature management tasks. The aim is to increase the area under agricultural nature management from 50,000 to 96,800 hectares and to increase the number of participating farmers from 13,500 to 25,350. Using the extra funding for the new challenges efforts will be made to increase the area under nature management by a further 4,700 hectares and the number of participating farmers by a further 1,650.

Diversifying the rural economy and improving quality of life

Axis 3 objective and measures: Diversify the rural economy and improve quality of life



Objective

It is important that rural areas thrive and are accessible and dynamic. Diversification of the rural economy is crucial in this respect. Diversification can be achieved by, for example, stimulating farmers to start non-agricultural enterprises, such as agro-tourism and care provision. Village renewal and improving the quality of life in small rural centres also fall under this Axis.

Measures (in millions of euros)

Measure	Total public funds for the entire programme period	includes in EU funds
Rural economy diversification	41	21,7
Support for small businesses	28	12,5
Promotion of recreation and tourism	96	47,5
Basic rural services	47,6	25
Village development	36	18
Conserving rural heritage	59	28,5
Strengthening area groups	7	3,5

These measures are directed at a variety of groups. Depending on the particular measure in question, it may involve small businesses, members of agrarian families, public authorities, natural or legal persons, or participants in an area group. Interested parties should contact their province for more information.

Example

Funding is available through RDP2 for production, installations and infrastructure for renewable energy based on biomass, solar and wind-powered energy and geothermal energy. But finances are also available for another basic facility – connection to broadband internet. For renewable energy projects the maximum support for businesses is 70% (to a maximum of 200,000 euros over three calendar years). Support for governments and public bodies is 100% of the total costs that can be subsidised. Owners of agricultural holdings can also receive 200 euros for a broadband connection.