



European  
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# Water in the Rural Development Programmes State of play

EEB conference  
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Agriculture  
and Rural  
Development

## Approved RDPs: where are we now?

### During negotiations:

- SWOT completed
- Needs/Strategy clarified
- Quantified targets established
- Intervention logic checked
  - (choice/combination of operations to meet objectives/targets)
- Legal conformity checked

**All 118 RDPs approved Dec 2014-Dec 2015**

# **Rural Development Focus Areas beneficial for water 2014-2020 programming period EU Regulation 1305/2013**

## **Main Focus Areas**

- 4(b) improving water management;**
- 5(a) increasing efficiency in water use;**
- 3(b) supporting farm risk prevention and management**

## **Secondary Focus Areas**

- 1(a) (b) (c) fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture (cross-cutting priority);**
- 2(a) improving the economic performance of farms, restructuring, modernisation;**

## **Rural Development Focus Areas beneficial for water** **Financial resources**

Priority 4 + FA 5a + FA 3b:

**62.3%** of the total public expenditure (excluding state aids)

**Priority 4\*** is **44.7%** of the total public expenditure, in total  
**€66.5 billion**

**Focus area 5(a)** **2%** of the total public expenditure, in total  
**€3 billion**

**Focus area 3(b)** various measures for a total of **€4.2 billion**

\* covering multiple objectives and including Focus area 4(b) on water management

## Rural Development Focus Areas beneficial for water

### Focus Area 4 (b):

#### Water quality

Aggregate RDP targets for land under management contracts to improve water quality:

- **15%** of total UAA
- **0.9%** of total forestry area

## Rural Development Focus Areas beneficial for water

### Focus Area 4 (b):

Some examples of agri-environmental measures targeting water (M10):

- **integrated Production, preventing river pollution, reducing use of pesticides, extensive production of cereals, crop rotation, extensive management of grasslands**

Organic farming (M11):

- **5.4% of UAA are used for organic farming in the EU-28 (data 2011) – growing trend per year of 500,000 ha**

## Rural Development Focus Areas beneficial for water

### Focus Area 4 (b):

#### WFD (M12):

this measure was activated in 10 RDPs (FR, IT, LUX). Bulgaria has reserved funds to activate this measure in 2017 when the river basin management plan will be ready with obligations for farmers. And Denmark is preparing for its activation as well.

#### Examples of obligations compensated under measure WFD (M12):

- **limitation or prohibition of input use, obligation to maintain buffer strips around wetlands and watercourses, limitation of organic animal fertilisation and prohibition of pesticide use to protect groundwater in specific areas**

## Rural Development Focus Areas beneficial for water

### Focus Area 5(a): Water use/quantity

Aggregate RDP target for % irrigated land switching to a more efficient irrigation system: **10% (1.3 million ha)**

Investments in irrigation installations and infrastructures (M4):

- projects to replace old irrigation systems with new ones saving water. What MS? ES, IT, EL, PT, FR, HR, BG, CY, HU, MT, AT, UK, DE, RO

Knowledge transfer (M1); Advisory services (M2); Cooperation (M16)



## Rural Development Focus Areas beneficial for water

### Focus Area 3(b):

**Risk prevention and management includes water management and flood prevention**

For example

**Lower Saxony & Bremen: 130 projects for coastal/flood protection, 26% of RDP budget for FA3B**

**Saxony Anhalt: Renewal/construction of dykes & water retention basins, 10% of RDP budget for FA3B**



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