

Overview of the implementation of the CAP



CAP Implementation

The CAP measures ensure stability for Slovenian agriculture and food production and within its scope support for young farmers from the EU is of special importance. Positive elements of the new structure of direct payments include a scheme for small farmers, which involves simplification of the procedures for both the joining farmers and the respective administration.

Further, Slovenia was successful in the negotiations for the greening, as we have strongly higher flexibility on the implementation part. Thus, the final proposal of the greening enables a simple and efficient implementation of these measures on the level of single farms and at the same time it increases the contribution of agriculture to the protection of environment.

The new direct payments scheme also permits voluntary payments to be tied to production, which enables the member states to adequately solve specific problems tied to some sectors or regions with difficulties.

In relation to the discontinuation of milk quotas from 2015 for Slovenia an important issue is to start a EU-wide debate in autumn 2014 on additional measures for the stabilisation of the market.

In the area of the Rural Development Programme at least 30% of the share of the European Regional Development Fund must be allocated to measures which contribute to environmental goals, which for Slovenia represents no obstacle, as we already now allot more than 30% to these measures.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Environment 2013-4

Goals of CAP in Slovenia

The key goals of the Strategy for the implementation of the Resolution on Strategic Guidelines for the development of Agriculture and Food production until 2020 in Slovenia, include among others:

- ensuring the retention of 350,000 hectares of permanent protected agricultural areas;
- increase or preserve the production range by building new irrigation systems on 5,000 ha of agricultural areas;
- supporting the development needs of agriculture and implementing expert tasks in agriculture;
- self-sufficiency in vegetable production to 50%, our self-sufficiency in pork meat to 70%;
- increase organic farming;
- at least 5,000 agricultural holdings or farms which will reform their structures or carry out modernisations and
- 1,300 new jobs in rural areas; support 1,300 ownership takeovers by subsidising the rejuvenation of the generations in agriculture or for young farmers.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Environment 2013-4



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Situation of mountain supply chains

Mountain Areas

In Slovenia a little over 86% the total area is designated Less Favoured Areas (LFA). Among them are around 72% mountain areas, 4% represent areas with other less favoured factors and 9% are areas with special handicaps. Slovenia has around 45,000 farmers, which are cultivating around 300,000 ha of arable land. The agricultural land in use in mountain areas is by far the biggest type in comparison with other LFAs and areas with special handicaps. It represents more than half (i.e. 328,000 ha) from a total agricultural land in use on LFAs (449,000 ha).

Due to slope-inclination on mountain areas the use of standard mechanical equipment is restricted, successful farming demands the use of more expensive and specialised mechanical equipment. Also due to a higher altitude the growing period is shorter and so there are fewer opportunities for choosing the right crop. Farms in these areas are less competitive and, due to specific natural conditions, also less adaptable.

The implication of the New Common Agricultural Policy carries quite a few opportunities and challenges for farms in mountain areas in Slovenia. Among the most interesting are: i) opportunities for the implementation of measures, which cannot be financed from other measures: either RDP 2014-2020 or other policies; ii) more available financial means as well as iii) the implementation of local development needs with a combination of financial means from various funds.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, 2013-4.



Most interesting rural development measures

Agricultural and food production

There is a presumption that food products from mountain areas are made of basic materials produced or processed on mountain areas. Such conditions create a special quality of food products, which shows itself in taste, flavour, colour and texture.

In Slovenia, food is protected with different quality schemes which are: Protected designation of origin, Protected geographical indication, Traditional speciality guaranteed, Higher quality, Organic production and Integrated production. Regardless the low level of food production there is a high share of products with an already established designation. The users have recognised a great opportunity for increased food production and to encourage quality food chains with a new designation – the Optional quality term “Mountain product” in combination with measures within the new rural development programme. The quality designation has its origin in the EU-regulation 1151/2012. It was confirmed in June 2014 and here it states that the basic ingredients for the production of a food product must originate exclusively from mountain areas and this applies also to fodder. Also the processing of the food product may not be more than 30 km away from mountain areas. Considering the conditions in the Slovenian mountain areas, the requirements for gaining the new designation will not be hard to meet.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, 2013-4.



LEADER and other local initiatives



LEADER approach

Slovenia already has more than 20 years of experiences with implementation of Comprehensive Rural development Programme and with active integration of rural population and rural communities in development planning. Today 33 LAGS in Slovenia are active. The implementation of the LEADER programme measures as a continuation of similar development initiatives in Slovenia showed that the local population embraced the idea of subsidiarity and a higher participation in defining the local development (bottom-up approach). Despite all this, there are many unexplored possibilities for increasing the recognition of this approach (through information and motivation of the rural population) and to involve the local population more into the preparation of a local development strategy and the later implementation of projects. Also it became evident that too complex administration diminishes the development impact of such an approach. Financial complexity on the implementation side has an influence on the level of interest within the local partnership or within the local action group; in addition more strict economic conditions increase the influence of the public sector. Also it will be necessary to raise the skills and knowledge of the local action groups in managing such local partnerships and to correctly implement the projects. Within this priority the following LEADER measures will be implemented:

- Preparation support
- Implementing activities within the local development strategy
- Cooperation activities
- Running costs and motivation



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