

Overview of the implementation of the CAP in the Spanish State and in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country

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FIRST PILLAR: DIRECT PAYMENTES

The Direct Payments are horizontal in application in the entire Spanish State.

Active farmer: The farming person must be registered in the relative registers. Furthermore, his agricultural income, not from direct payments, amounts to more than 20% his total agricultural income in the most recent available tax year. The criterion related to agricultural income is not applicable to beneficiaries who receive less than €1,250.

Agricultural activity: : This may be proved by the production, breeding or cultivation of agricultural products or by the maintenance of agricultural surfaces in good conditions for grazing or harvesting.

FIRST PILLAR: DIRECT PAYMENTS ENFORCEMENT REGIMES

Basic payment: The basic payment regime is regionalised, following a national application model based on regions established on the basis of administrative, agronomic and regional agricultural potential criteria.

Payment for beneficial practices for the climate and environment.

Associated aid: Crops (rice, protein crops, nuts and locust beans, quality pulses, sugar beet, tomato for industry and cotton) and livestock sectors (suckler cow, bovine animals for fattening, dairy cattle, sheep, goats and associated aid for livestock breeders who maintained special rights in 2014 and do not have admissible hectares for the activation of payment entitlements).

Simplified regime for small farmers: Voluntary application regime for those beneficiaries who, in 2015, do not surpass 1,250 Euros direct payments.

Regime for young farmers starting up in the agricultural activity

SECOND PILLAR: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The following Rural Development Programmes (RDP) have been drawn up in the Spanish State for the period, 2014-2020:

* **National Rural Development Programme.** This includes supra-regional level activities, of general interest or whose competence corresponds to the General State Administration. The management authority is the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment. It is compatible with the regional RDPs.

* **17 Autonomous (regional) Rural Development Programmes,** one for each of the Autonomous Communities of the Spanish State. A **National Rural Development Framework** has been drawn up, which includes common elements for these RDP.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country has drawn up, for the third consecutive period, its own **Rural Development Programme.** The Management Authority is the Basque Government. This is an essential instrument of the Basque Institution to foster and support policies intended to be carried out in the Basque rural areas.



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www.newcapmountain.eu

Situation of mountain supply chains

Agrifood production and value chain in the Basque Country

In the Spanish State, 33.7% of the Useful Agricultural Surface Area is mountainous area. The characteristics of these areas and the situation of the value chain in them are very diverse, and it cannot be integrated under a common umbrella. To this end, the situation of the Basque Country – a mainly mountainous Autonomous Community – is described below.

Value Chain

85% of the Municipalities of the Basque Country are considered to be “mountainous”. This is an average mountain of easy penetration, situated in the corridor that connects France to the Iberian Peninsula, in an area with high population density. These characteristics mean that the territory of the Basque Country forms a space with a strong linkage between the rural and urban areas, which offers rural areas opportunities (nearby important consumption centres), although it also involves fierce pressure from urban development on the soil, limiting its availability for agricultural purposes.

Food production in these areas is based on family holdings that are small in size and with weak positions in the agrifood production and transformation chain. Although their location provides them with landscape values and high environmental potentiality, it also represents important handicaps (steep slopes, difficult accesses, microclimate characteristics) that involve high cost and limited profitability technical-economic systems.

The new CAP proposes decisive support to these areas, both directly, through aid to mountain areas, and indirectly, through support measures

to quality productions, to the maintenance of typical practices and systems (e.g. maintenance of mountain grazing) and support to the improvement of the quality of life in these areas.

Agrifood production

The Basque Country has been characterised by its high quality productions, which have been protected and supported by the development of European mentions such as Organic production, the PDO and PGI, as well as own guarantee labels such as Eusko Label and Euskal Baserri. These quality marking systems are extremely well known, thus generating tools and channels that help farms sell their products under better conditions.

The specific “Mountain product” logo has not been added to this quality support system, but although it does not adapt in its entirety to the specific production limitations in the mountain areas of the Basque Country, it may represent a recognition channel for our products in the future.

The different production support and improvement policies within in the value chains, by means of, for instance, support to short channels, to local markets, or agreements with large distribution chains, aim to gene-

-rate spaces where the different links of the chains can obtain fair payment.



The Basque Country is characterised by its high quality agrifood productions.



The new CAP permits maintaining traditional systems and practices, such as mountain grazing.

Most interesting rural development measures

Rural Development Programmes of the Basque Country 2014-2020

85% of the Municipalities of the Basque Country are considered as “mountainous”. Therefore, all the measures of its RDP have a special impact on these areas and contribute in them to the maintenance and improvement of the agricultural sector, of the value chain and of the rural areas. The measures of this RDP are summed up below-



Aid to areas with limitations

Annual payments to farmers from mountain areas, or areas with other limitations, which compensates them for the additional costs and loss of income represented by developing the agricultural activity in these areas, compared with other territories that do not have those natural limitations.

Quality of agricultural and food products

Support to the registration of producers and promotion of all certified quality labels of the Basque Country.

Creation of groups of producers

Support to the creation of groups of producers in all subsectors (including forest), to increase the joint marketing of their products and strengthen their bargaining capacity.

Investments in physical assets

Promotion of production investments in holdings, agri-food industry and infrastructures. Special focus on young farmers and full-time farmers. Support through financial instruments is introduced.

Development of farms and enterprises

Important impulse to the generational renewal and to young people setting up in the agricultural sector by means of progressive incorporation processes. Commitment to the development and diversification of the economic fabric to generate improvement in the rural areas, supporting entrepreneurs in the start-up of new activities and in investments.

Knowledge transfer and information activities

Increase of competitiveness and of the viability of the primary sector and rural areas. Acquisition of skills and professional qualifications of people who work in the agricultural and food sector, agricultural land funds and SMEs in rural areas. Dissemination and information actions, demonstration activities, exchanges and rapprochement grants.

Organic agriculture

Promotion of organic agricultural production methods and practices. Contribution to the improvement of the environment and to the production of local, differentiated produce, with certified quality label.

Agri-environment and Climate

Support to traditional production systems (mountain grazing), autochthonous animal breeds, local plant varieties and agriculture, contributing to biodiversity, to quality landscapes and to differentiated productions. Promotion of more innovative and environmental production systems.

Medidas Forestales

Organisation and reinforcement of forest property; production of quality wood and carbon fixation; improvement of profitability of forests and fixation of rural population. Management of forest plantations under environmental sustainability criteria; replacement of allochthonous species in forest plantations for autochthonous species; preservation of autochthonous woodland, of the landscape and of biodiversity. Plantation on treeless hills. Protection against natural disasters.

Cooperation

Important commitment to the promotion of sectoral cooperation, with special impact on innovation, tourist development processes in the rural areas, promotion of short circuits and generation of forest biomass.

LEADER

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LEADER approach

264 local action groups were selected in the Spanish State for the period 2007-2013, distributed over the entire geography, including groups of rural municipalities from the 17 Autonomous Communities.

Thus, following the bottom-up approach model, the LEADER territories decide upon the future of their development, fostering projects that contribute to this to a greater extent.

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LEADER in the new CAP

The new CAP reinforces the LEADER approach, and fosters the holistic nature of local strategies, facilitating the direct use of all European funds available for the LEADER programmes (EAFRE, ERDF ESF, FEMP) allowing for greater flexibility, synergies, coordination and consistency.

The European institutions consider that the Local Participation Development Strategies (LPDS) designed by the Local Action Groups are essential for the development of the territories.

Cooperation between the different LEADER territories will continue to be one of the action axes of these programmes in the period 2014-2020.



LEADER Project "+ Wine - CO₂"

LEADER in the Basque Country

The Basque Government as the Management Authority of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 has introduced into it the use of new financial instruments that complement the subsidies. The decision is based on the developers' difficulty to access financing.

NATUREA Project in Cantabria

The Government of Cantabria has assigned the revitalisation of the public use of the network of natural spaces that exist in the rural regions to the Rural Development Network of Cantabria, with the collaboration of its associates, the Local Action Groups. Its aim is to revitalise and preserve these territories.

LEADER Cooperation project "More Wine, Less CO₂"

6 rural areas have participated: Priorat, Zona Media Navarra, Campo de Borja, Mallorca, Murcia and Euskadi. The Carbon Footprint has been calculated in the different wineries, identifying more efficient management for each agri-climatic region and analysing energy costs of their productions.



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