

### 1. General information

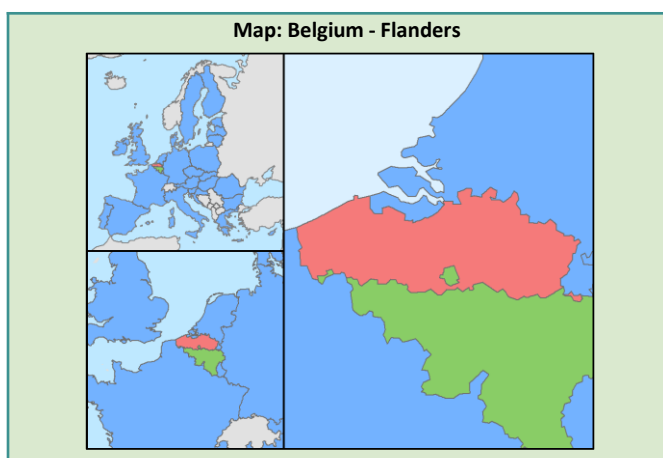
<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Belgium</b>
	<b>Region</b>	<b>Flanders</b>
<b>Rural population (6)</b>	<b>Inhabitants (4)</b>	1.4 million
	<b>% of total population (4)</b>	21.9 %
	<b>Density - Inhab/km2 (4)</b>	271.6
<b>Rural area (6)</b>	<b>Km2 (4)</b>	5 138
	<b>% of total area (4)</b>	38.0 %
<b>Agricultural area Total Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA)</b>	<b>Ha (2)</b>	616 860
	<b>% of total territory (2)</b>	45.6 %
<b>Forest and other wooded land</b>	<b>Ha (5)</b>	185 700
	<b>% of total area (5)</b>	14.0 %
<b>Total employment</b>	<b>People (2)</b>	2.6 million
<b>Rural employment (6)</b>	<b>% of total workforce (2)</b>	19.7 %

Data source: Belgium-Flanders 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (RDP).  
 Note: (1) 2007 data; (2) 2010 data; (3) 2011 data; (4) 2012 data; (5) 2013 data; (6) OECD definition applies, including intermediate and predominantly rural regions.

<b>EAFRD* support:</b> EUR 383 765 881 <small>0.4 % of Total EAFRD support for EU-28</small>	+	<b>National contribution:</b> EUR 540 748 196	=	<b>Planned total public expenditure:</b> EUR 924 514 077
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\* European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

<b>Primary sector contribution to Gross Value Added (GVA)</b>	<b>% of total (2)</b>	0.9 %
<b>No of agricultural holdings</b>	<b>No (4)</b>	25 217
<b>Average farm size</b>	<b>ha UAA/holding (4)</b>	24.5
<b>High Nature Value farming</b>	<b>% of total UAA (1)</b>	22.0 %
<b>Farmland Birds Index (FBI)</b>	<b>Index 2000 = 100</b>	20.0
	<i>From 1990 to 2012 the FBI measuring the relative abundance of farmland bird species decreased by 80.0 %.</i>	



#### Examples of expected achievements

- The programme intends to target more than half of all farmers (about 13 000 farms) to stimulate, in particular, innovative and sustainable investments. Around half of the region's farms will be supported for restructuring and modernising.
- About 1 400 young farmers will be supported.
- Setting-up producer organisations, targeting 1 200 farms (almost 5 % of all farms) will improve the position of producers in the agri-food chain. Support for risk management will be provided through an all-weather insurance schemes, targeting 5 % of all farmers.
- The RDP will support 3 000 farm investment projects related to environment/climate friendly and resource efficient farming, around 6 000 investments aiming at a better energy efficiency, 5 000 investment projects aiming at reducing GHG emissions and 1 700 investment projects aiming at improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems. This will stimulate biodiversity, improve water and soil management, through agri-environmental measures targeting 8 % of Flanders' agricultural land, and encourage more organic farming.
- The LEADER approach, implemented by estimated 15 Local Action Groups (LAGs), will cover roughly 30 % of the rural population, creating around 80 jobs and improving living conditions and social inclusion. Additionally, 166 investment projects related to basic services, such as small-scale infrastructure, recreational facilities and natural heritage, will support local development.

#### Examples of key challenges

- The average age of farmers is more than 50 years (only 5 % of farmers are younger than 35 years). The number of farms is decreasing and their size is increasing.
- Very important for the region of Flanders is also to consolidate the position of farmers in the food production chain and to decrease the negative effects of price volatility, as well as to stimulate innovation in order to maintain a competitive position in agriculture.
- Farming in Flanders is large-scale and intensive: high consumption of fertilisers and plant protection products cause negative effects on soil and water quality and loss of biodiversity with high concentrations of nitrates in groundwater and surface water.

Source: DG AGRI, **Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme of Flanders (Belgium)**, February 2015.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/be/factsheet-flanders\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/be/factsheet-flanders_en.pdf)

## 2. RDP focus areas: planned expenditure, measures and 2023 targets

This section illustrates each rural development priority (P) with a focus on: the indicative budget per Focus Area (FA) and its breakdown by selected measure; and the relation between the indicative planned total public expenditure and the expected 2023 targets set by the Managing Authority for each focus area.

### P1 - Knowledge transfer & innovation: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas

Priority 1 is considered a cross-cutting priority: the budget under Priorities 2 - 6 contributes to the achievement of Priority 1 targets.

#### Focus Area 1A. Innovation & cooperation

Target indicator	Value
T1 - % of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP	9.5 %

#### Focus Area 1B. Links with research & innovation

Target indicator	Value
T2 - Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...), of which: Nr of EIP operational groups to be supported (establishment and operation)	33
	33

#### Focus Area 1C. Lifelong learning & vocational training

Target indicator	Value
T3 - Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013	981 850

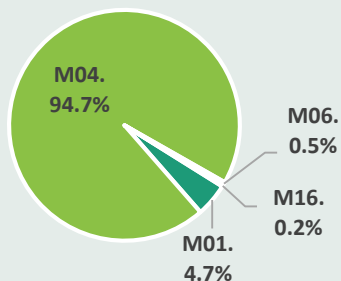
### P2 – Competitiveness: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forest

#### Focus Area 2A. Farm's performance, restructuring & modernization

Total public budget (million EUR)



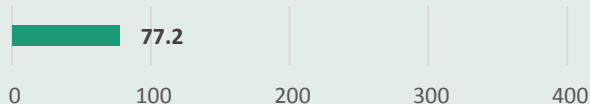
Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)



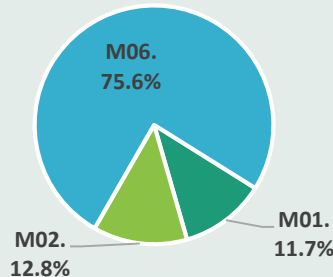
Target indicator	Value
T4 - % of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation	52.5 %

#### Focus Area 2B. Entry of skilled/younger farmers

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)

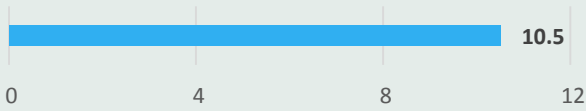


Target indicator	Value
T5 - % of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	5.6 %

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

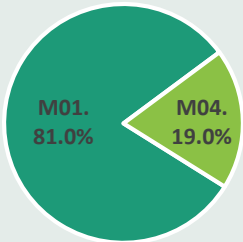
#### Focus Area 3A. Agri-food chain integration & quality

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)

Measure	m EUR
M04	8.5
M02	2.0



Target indicator

Value

T6 - % of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations

4.8 %

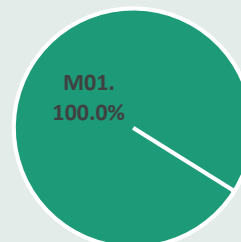
#### Focus Area 3B. Risk prevention & management

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)

Measure	m EUR
M17	5.1



Target indicator

Value

T7 - % of farms participating in risk management schemes

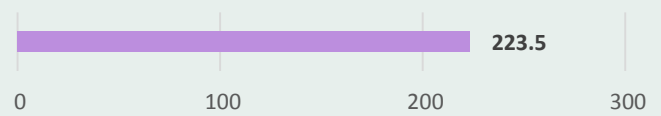
5.1 %

### P4 – Ecosystems management: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Focus Areas

- 4A. Biodiversity's restoration, preservation & enhancement
- 4B. Water management
- 4C. Soil erosion & soil management

Total public budget (million EUR)



Target indicator

Value

T8 - % of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity

0.6 %

T9 - % of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes

2.0 %

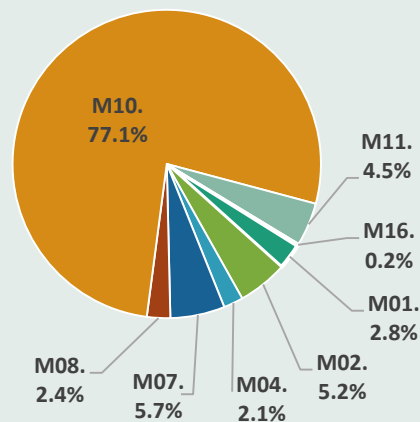
T10 - % of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management

4.7 %

T12 - % of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion

1.4 %

Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)



Measure

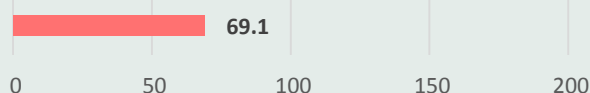
m EUR

M01	6.2
M02	11.6
M04	4.6
M07	12.8
M08	5.5
M10	172.3
M11	10.1
M16	0.5

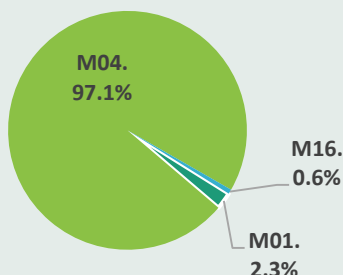
**P5 - Resource efficiency & climate:** Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

**Focus Area 5B. Energy use efficiency**

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)



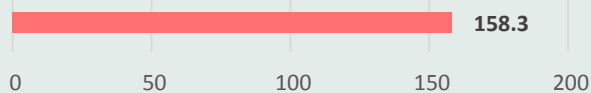
Target indicator

Value

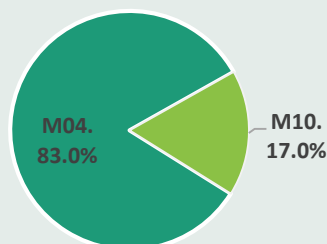
T15 - Total investment for energy efficiency (EUR) 218 m

**Focus Area 5D. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) & ammonia emissions**

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)



Target indicator

Value

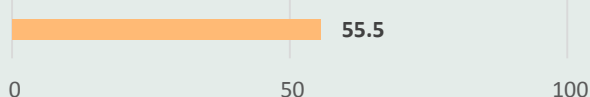
T17 - % of Livestock Units concerned by investments in livestock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions 6.3 %

T18 - % of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions 0.9 %

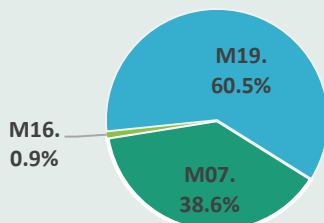
**P6 - Social inclusion & local development:** Promoting social inclusion poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

**Focus Area 6B. Local development**

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)



Target indicator

Value

T21 - % of rural population covered by local development strategies 71.7 %

T22 - % of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures 28.7 %

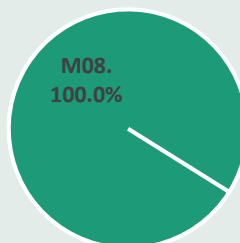
T23 - Jobs created in supported projects (LEADER) 80

**Focus Area 5E. Carbon conservation & sequestration**

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)



Target indicator

Value

T19 - % of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation 0.1 %

### 3. Planned expenditure per priority

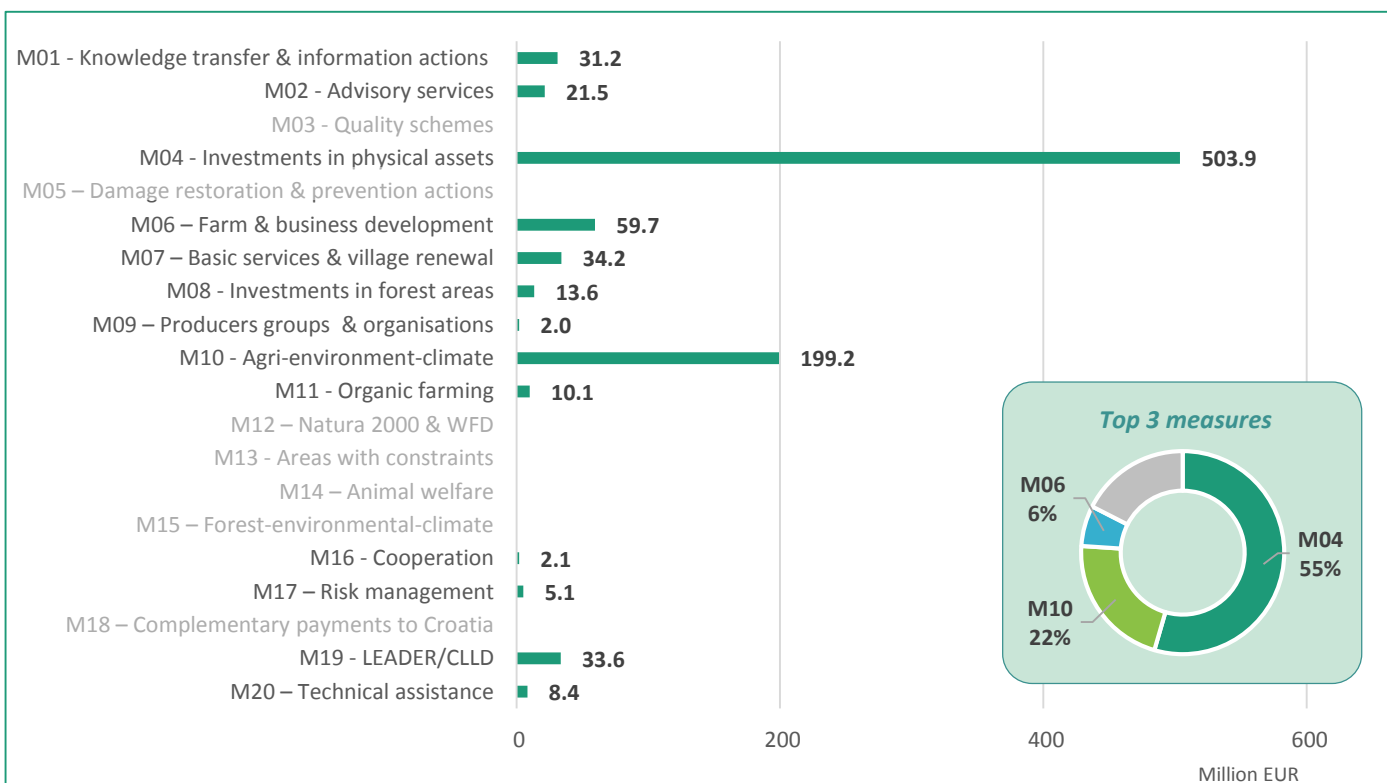
The following table shows how the planned total public expenditure (comprising the EAFRD support and the national contribution) is allocated between rural development priorities. Priority 1 is considered to be cross-cutting and no separate financial allocation is shown as the expenditure is distributed across other focus areas.

Priority	Total public expenditure per priority (million EUR)	% of total public expenditure*	
P1 - Knowledge transfer & innovation	P2 - Competitiveness	386.0	41.8 %
	P3 - Food chain & risk management	15.6	1.7 %
	P4 - Ecosystems management	223.5	24.2 %
	P5 - Resource efficiency & climate	235.5	25.5 %
	P6 - Social inclusion & local development	55.5	6.0 %

\* Figures do not add up to 100 % because the budget for technical assistance is not included. The budget for technical assistance is available in Section 4.

### 4. Planned expenditure per measure (million EUR)

The following chart shows the indicative planned total public expenditure per measure (comprising the EAFRD support and the national contribution). The measures illustrated in the chart are the complete list of measures selected within the RDP. Measures in color light gray were not selected by the Member State.



## 5. Choice of measures by priority and focus areas

The following chart shows which priorities and focus areas are selected in the RDP and the combination of measures used to address them. For each measure the budget breakdown per focus area is given. Priority 1 is considered to be cross-cutting and no separate financial allocation is shown as the expenditure is distributed across other focus areas. Expenditure under Priority 4 is programmed for the priority as a whole, not for individual focus areas.

Priority	P1 Knowledge transfer & innovation			P2 Competitiveness		P3 Food chain & risk management		P4 Ecosystems management			P5 Resource efficiency & climate					P6 Social inclusion & local development			Total	Planned expenditure (million EUR)
	1A - Innovation & cooperation	1B - Links with research & innovation	1C - Lifelong learning & vocational training	2A - Farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation	2B - Entry of skilled/younger farmers	3A - Agri-food chain integration & quality	3B - Risk prevention & management	4A - Biodiversity's restoration, preservation & enhancement	4B - Water management	4C - Soil erosion & soil management	5A - Water use efficiency	5B - Energy use efficiency	5C - Renewable sources & waste management	5D - Greenhouse gas & ammonia emissions	5E - Carbon conservation & sequestration	6A - Diversification & job creation	6B - Local development	6C - ICT - Information & communication technologies		
M01 - Knowledge transfer & information actions				46%	29%			20%				5%							100%	31.2
M02 - Advisory services					46%			54%											100%	21.5
M03 - Quality schemes																				
M04 - Investments in physical assets				58%		2%		1%				13%		26%					100%	503.9
M05 - Damage/restoration /prevention actions																				
M06 - Farm & business development				2%	98%														100%	59.7
M07 - Basic services & village renewal								37%									63%		100%	34.2
M08 - Investments in forest areas								40%							60%				100%	13.6
M09 - Producers groups & organisations						100%													100%	2.0
M10 - Agri-environment-climate								86%						14%					100%	199.2
M11 - Organic farming								100%											100%	10.1
M12 - Natura 2000 & WFD																				
M13 - Areas with constraints																				
M14 - Animal welfare																				
M15 - Forest-environmental-climate																				
M16 - Cooperation				32%				23%				20%					24%		100%	2.1
M17 - Risk management							100%												100%	5.1
M18 - Complementary payments to Croatia																				
M19 - LEADER/CLLD																100%			100%	33.6

## 6. Additional info

<b>Date of RDP approval</b>	13/02/2015
<b>Flemish National Rural Network</b>	Vlaams Ruraal Netwerk <a href="http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/">http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/</a>
<b>Managing authority</b>	Departement Landbouw en Visserij, Vlaamse overheid
<b>Paying agency</b>	Agentschap voor Landbouw en Visserij, Vlaamse overheid
<b>RDP country documents</b>	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/be_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/be_en.htm</a>
<b>National Partnership Agreement summary</b>	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/pa/partnership-agreement-belgium-summary_en.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/pa/partnership-agreement-belgium-summary_en.pdf</a>
<b>Partnership Agreement</b>	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/be_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/be_en.htm</a>
<b>Rural Development Regulation 2014-2020</b>	Regulation (EU) N° 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) [PDF <a href="#">en</a> ]

**Source of information:** All data and the figures presented in this summary come from the European Commission approved version of the Belgium-Flanders 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. The examples of expected achievements and key challenges on page 1 was retrieved from: DG AGRI, *Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme of Flanders (Belgium)*, February 2015.

**Disclaimer:** This document aims to provide an accessible summary of selected RDP content. The information provided should not be considered a comprehensive account of the original RDP content.

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**Last updated:** September 2015

**Corresponding RDP:** BE-Flanders 2014-2020 RDP, code 2014BE06RDRP001, version 1.3, approved 13/02/2015.



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