

Co-operation measures¹

1. Co-operation in agricultural sector, forestry sector and rural areas

- **SA.40992 (2015/N) State aid – Austria**

Aid to cooperation in accordance with Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in the framework of the 2014-2020 Rural Development programme

Sub-measures:

- ✓ Establishment and operation of operational groups of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for agricultural productivity and sustainability
- ✓ Development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors
- ✓ Cooperation among small operators – work processes, sharing facilities and resources, and tourism services
- ✓ Creation and operation of clusters
- ✓ Creation and operation of networks
- ✓ Cooperation: producer groups, producer organisations, cooperatives and interbranch organisations

Eligible costs:

- material and personnel costs of project plans
- animation
- running costs

Aid intensity – in all cases – 50%

- **SA.42887 (2015/N) State aid– Germany**

Hessen: Support of innovation and co-operation in agriculture and rural areas (RD co-financed)

Sub-measures:

- ✓ EIP "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability;

Eligible costs:

- for the management and the staff of the operational group;
- general business expenses of the operational group;
- expenditure on public relations, including meetings and trainings,
- expenses incurred as part of the network activities of the EIP and
- expenditure for the cooperation with other operational groups,
- expenditure on preparation and amendment of action plan.

Aid intensity:

If it concerns only the agricultural sector is 100%. If it concerns also the forestry sector and rural areas is 50%.

¹ The following examples are examples for authorised State aid measures which are published on the dedicated web page of the Commission. To read the full text of the decisions or to search for other cases visit http://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/index.cfm?clear=1&policy_area_id=3

The aid intensity for innovation projects in the agricultural sector is 50%.

The aid Intensity for innovation projects in the forestry sector may vary depending on the subject of the project, as follows:

Subject of the project	Maximum aid intensity
Afforestation and creation of woodland Establishment of agro-forestry systems Prevention and restoration of damage to forests Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems	100%
Investments in forestry technologies and in processing, in mobilising and in marketing of forest products Investments in infrastructure related to the development, modernisation or adaptation of forestry	40%
Infrastructure - non-productive investments, investments aimed exclusively at improving the environmental value of forests and investments for forest roads, which are open to the public free of charge and which serve the multifunctional aspects of forest	100%

- ✓ Cooperation in the framework of the short food chain and local markets;

Eligible costs:

- i. costs for development of concepts for cooperation, feasibility studies and action plan;
- ii. running costs of co-operation; and
- iii. costs for promotion activities related to the development of short supply chains and/or local markets in a local context.

Aid intensity

As regards cooperation in the agricultural sector:

- cost for development of concepts for cooperation, feasibility studies and action plan as well as the costs for promotion activities – up to 50% of the eligible costs;
- running costs of co-operation – up to 60 % during the first and second year after the creation of the cooperation, up to 50 % during the third year, up to 40% during the fourth year and up to 20% during the fifth year.

As regards cooperation in the forestry sector and in rural areas, the aid intensity is half of the percentage mentioned above

- ✓ Support for actions to mitigate and to adapt to climate change;
- ✓ Support for local strategies other than those falling under the Community led local development

3. Co-operation in forestry sector

- **SA.41812 (2015/N) State aid - United Kingdom**

Forestry Co-operation (RD co-financed)

Support for joint action, to mitigating or adapting to climate change, joint approaches to environmental projects

Activities:

- pilot projects;
- co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources;
- joint action undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change;
- joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices including efficient water management and the preservation of agricultural landscapes.

Eligible costs:

- the costs of studies of the area concerned, feasibility studies, and the drawing up of a business plan;
- the costs of animation of the area concerned in order to make feasible a collective territorial project;
- the running costs of co-operation, such as the salary of a "co-ordinator".

Aid intensity

Is fixed to be 62.5 % of the market day rate for a forestry consultant, namely at £250 per project day.

4. Cooperation in rural areas

- **SA.42911 (2015/N) State aid – Germany**

Brandenburg-Berlin: Grants for the promotion of projects in the framework of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP)

Sub-measures:

- ✓ Establishment and operation of operational groups (OG) of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability as referred to in Article 56 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013;

Eligible costs:

- i. Establishment costs of the OG
- ii. Personnel costs,
- iii. Equipment costs, including dissemination costs, travel expenses,
- iv. Indirect costs (overheads) of the OG, in particular office equipment and office rent, postal and telephone costs, exclusively as a flat rate amounting to 15% of the eligible personnel costs linked to the project.

- ✓ Implementation of innovative pilot projects

Eligible costs

- i. Personnel costs,
- ii. Training and education expenses necessary for the project,
- iii. Costs for consultancy services, in so far as they are necessary for the execution of pilot projects,
- iv. Expenses for the purchase of rights which are necessary for the implementation of the project
- v. Indirect costs (overheads) of the OG, in particular office equipment and office rent, postal and telephone costs, exclusively as a flat rate amounting to 15% of the eligible project expenditure.
- vi. Other equipment costs and travel expenses, etc., which are not considered as indirect costs (overheads) can be compensated for, including allowances for people involved in the project but excluding personnel costs, and expenditure on knowledge transfer and publications.

Eligible costs correspond to the provisions of points (708)(a) to 708(c) of the AGRI State Aid Guidelines – studies, animation, running costs.

Aid intensity

50% both for the establishment and operation of OGs and for the implementation of innovative pilot projects

Other examples:

SA.42886 (2015/N) Austria: Guidelines of the Land Niederösterreich for support of projects relating to nature protection under the Austrian rural development programme 2014-2020

SA.39954 (2014/N) Germany: Bund: Joint Task "Improvement of Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection (GAK)" - Support for Forestry measures

SA.40813 (2015/N) Germany: Hessen – support of cooperation in the fields of agri - environment and landscape maintenance