

Hessen

The [Rural Development Programme \(RDP\) for Hesse](#) was formally adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2015, outlining Hessen's priorities for using the € 647 million of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€ 318.9 million from the EU budget, including € 50.6 million transferred from the German envelope for CAP direct payments, and € 177.8 million of national co-funding plus € 150.5 million of additional national funding top-ups).

The RDP for Hessen focuses mainly on two priority areas. Under the first of these – restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry – **6 % of farmland** and nearly **8 % of forest land** will be placed under funded contracts to **improve soil management** and **cut erosion**. Support for eco-friendly land management will also help maintain **habitats** and improve **water management**. Under the second main priority – social inclusion and local development in rural areas - **91% of the rural population** is expected to be covered by **local development strategies** and nearly **30%** will benefit from **new or improved broadband infrastructure** thanks to fresh investment.