



Taking stock of how CAP Strategic Plans contribute to the objectives of the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

Final Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

Through its communication on the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas COM(2021) 345¹ adopted on 30 June 2021 (the rural vision), the European Commission committed to take stock, by mid-2023, of "what actions have been carried out and programmed in support schemes for rural areas financed by the EU and the Member States in the 2021-2027 programming period for the CAP and Cohesion policy funds", and to "highlight gaps where necessary".

This stocktaking report is the contribution from the Common agricultural policy (CAP) side. It explores how the CAP contributes to supporting rural areas for the various dimensions of importance to the rural vision, namely by mapping relevant measures within the CAP strategic plans (CSPs) adopted for the period 2023-2027². The following research question guided the stocktaking of support to rural areas:

Which CAP support measures and which of their aspects particularly benefit rural areas, what financial means have been allocated to support rural areas, and how do Member States differ with regard to support of rural areas?

This stocktaking exercise focuses on the information available from the 28 CSPs which were approved by the end of 2022, therefore not including further modifications. To this end, the report captures any planned interventions Member States foresee that can contribute to the four blocks of action of the rural vision, namely "stronger", "connected", "resilient" and "prosperous" rural areas by 2040. It is of purely descriptive nature, presenting the information from the CSP without providing an analysis of Member States' choices. In addition, at the time of drafting of the stocktaking (first half of 2023), the implementation of the CSPs has just started. Thus, the stocktaking reports on what Member States plan to implement in future and does not include information on actions already carried out. This report is based on a wider study mapping the content of the 28 CSPs, following the CAP's legal framework as adopted before the publication of the rural vision.

This report is structured as follows.

Chapter 2 presents an overview of the most relevant interventions and definitions, providing a brief explanation why certain instruments from the CSPs are captured in this report, to then provide a horizontal description of these instruments.

Chapter 3 contains an overview of needs that Member States have identified as relevant in relation to specific objective 8, which is most closely related to the focus of the stocktaking exercise. The Chapter presents the needs clustered around common themes.

The following **Chapter 4** contains the detailed description of the interventions and instruments in support of rural areas, structured around the four blocks of actions defined by the rural vision and as described in COM(2021)345:

Chapter 4.1: Contribution of the CAP to **stronger** rural areas;

Chapter 4.2: Contribution of the CAP to **connected** rural areas;

Chapter 4.3: Contribution of the CAP to **resilient** rural areas; and

Chapter 4.4: Contribution of the CAP to **prosperous** rural areas.

In **Chapter 5**, the report presents the financial allocation to the interventions identified in Chapter 4 to gain a better understanding of the potential magnitude of the monetary support to rural areas.

Chapter 6 discusses the complementarity of the CAP with other funds, as described in the CSPs.

The final **Chapter 7** provides overarching observations on the stocktaking.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:6c924246-da52-11eb-895a-01aa75ed71a1.0003.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

² For 2021-2022, funding for rural areas followed the structure of the previous common agricultural policy. The Commission is conducting another study to explore the relevance of the CAP 2014-2022 to answering the needs identified in the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE MOST RELEVANT INTERVENTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

The whole CAP can be considered to support rural areas. As a vast majority of farmers operate in rural areas, all measures supporting farmers can therefore be considered as beneficial for rural areas. Support to agriculture and rural areas overall will be described in detail in the bigger study on mapping CAP strategic plans. However, to add value to the latter, and reflect the holistic nature of the rural vision and its focus on rural communities as a whole, this stocktaking exercise puts particular emphasis on the contribution of the CAP towards the support and development of rural areas beyond farming. The specificity of this stocktaking report is to distinguish measures and funds supporting rural areas and businesses beyond agriculture from those addressing only agriculture.

To this end, the following types of interventions are particularly relevant for the stocktaking:

- Investment support (INVEST);
- Cooperation support (COOP);
- Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information (KNOW).

Additional intervention types such as installation aid (INSTAL), Support to areas facing natural constraints (ANC), agri-environmental and climate measures (ENVCLIM) and Eco-schemes are relevant for specific blocks of the rural vision where the role of agriculture is specially highlighted and they are included in the stocktaking for these relevant blocks only.

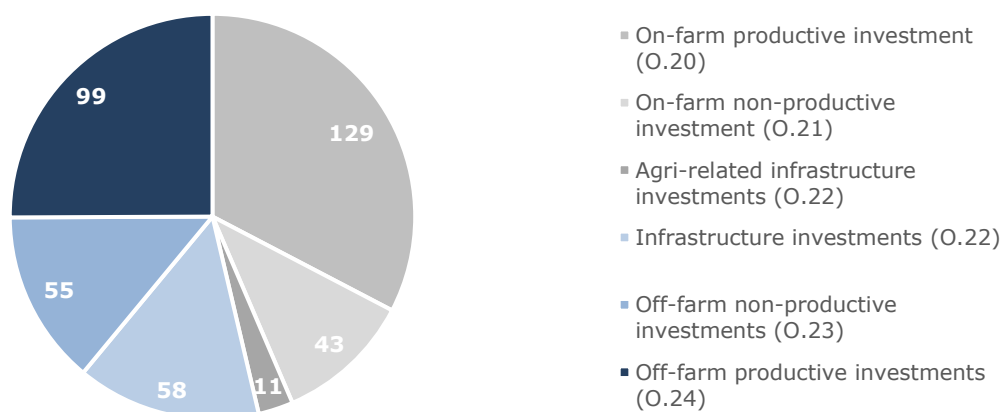
The stocktaking also screened other CSPs interventions, namely Sectoral support, BISS, CRISS, CIS-YF for specific design elements that would make them particularly relevant for supporting rural areas more broadly or that would indicate an intention from the Member State to foster territorial development specifically. As the results were not significant, these interventions are not further detailed in this report.

The section below provides an overview of the **three most relevant interventions** (INVEST, COOP, KNOW) and of the **definitions of rural areas**. The report looks in particular at the number of interventions programmed, although these interventions can be of varying magnitude in terms of financial support (see Chapter 5).

Investments

Investment support can serve many different purposes, which can be differentiated based on the types of outputs to which they are linked, described by an “output indicator”. These include off-farm investments, which are particularly relevant for this stocktaking. More than half (223 interventions, or 56%) of all INVEST interventions that Member States have planned in their CSPs target relevant **off-farm productive (O.24)** and **non-productive investment (O.23)**, as well as investments in **infrastructure (O.22)** (see figure below), which are the most relevant ones to describe support going beyond farming (as opposed to on-farm productive (O.20) and non-productive (O.21) investments).

Figure 1 Type of investments supported (number of interventions by output indicator)



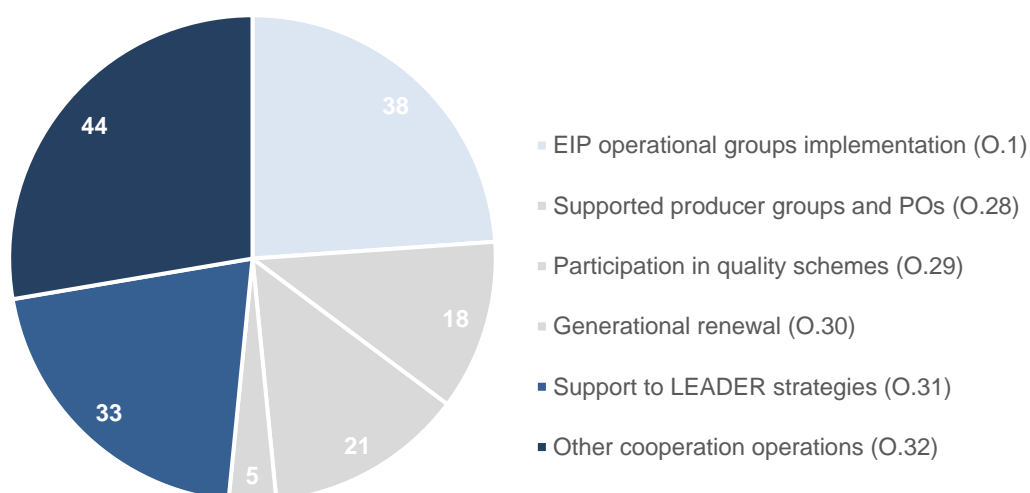
Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Infrastructure investment (O.22) can benefit both on-farm and off-farm activities. For the stocktaking, particular emphasis is put on the interventions that benefit off-farm practices. Of the 69 infrastructure investment interventions (O.22), 58 appear relevant for the scope of the stocktaking, while the remaining eleven interventions focus on infrastructure projects benefitting agricultural activities solely.

Cooperation

Overall, Member States planned 159 COOP interventions in their CSPs. About a quarter each aim at supporting the implementation of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for agriculture operational groups (O.1), as well as other cooperation operations (O.32). Another 20 % of the COOP interventions provide support to LEADER strategies, followed by aid towards the participation in quality schemes (O.29) and support to producer groups and organisations (O.28). Five COOP interventions target generational renewal (O.30). For this stocktaking, information for all interventions has been reviewed in light of their contribution to rural areas. Interventions supporting LEADER strategies (O.31) and the other cooperation interventions (O.32) are particularly relevant, as they support actions clearly beyond agricultural activities. Interventions supporting the implementation of EIP operational groups (O.1) are also relevant due to the importance of innovation in the rural vision, however they can support innovation related to any of the CAP objectives. Indeed, only seven interventions from seven CSPs link interventions supporting EIP operational groups to SO8.³ For all interventions supporting LEADER local development strategies, these strategies are elaborated bottom-up and will be selected in 2023 and 2024. The output indicators and targets corresponding to these strategies may therefore not be reflected yet in the CSPs, leading to a potential underestimation of their contribution.

Figure 2 Type of cooperation supported (number of interventions by output indicator)

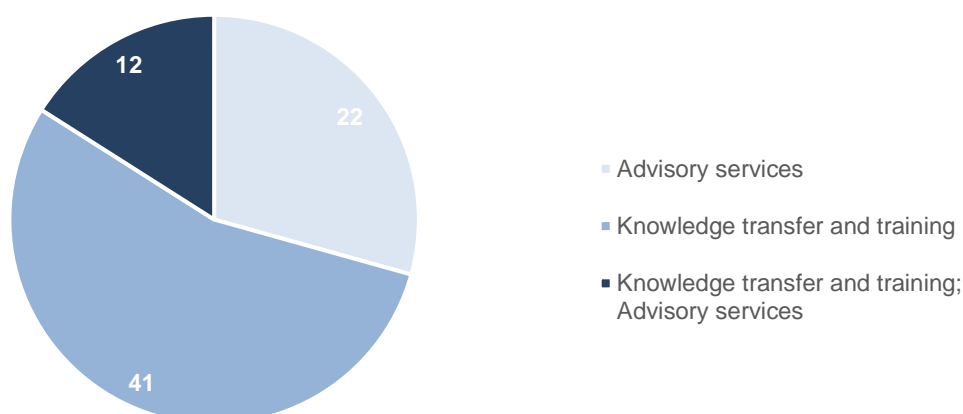


Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information

Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information is addressed through 75 interventions in the CSPs. The majority of these (55%) focus on knowledge transfer and training, while close to a third of the interventions provides support to advisory services. Twelve of the KNOW interventions address both advisory services as well as knowledge transfer and training. These interventions can support any of the specific objectives of the CAP, including support to farmers but also support contributing to specific objective 8 on growth and jobs in rural areas. The way this intervention is used is further detailed in Chapter 5.

³ BE-Wallonia, IE, EE, AT, LV, PL, SE.

Figure 3 Type of knowledge exchanges supported (number of interventions by type)

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Definitions of rural areas

Another highly relevant aspect of the CSPs for the stocktaking is the national **definitions of rural areas**. All Member States except France provide a definition of rural areas, as depicted in the table below. A few Member States use one or the other [EUROSTAT definitions](#) (Portugal, Slovakia, Greece, Cyprus), while the rest uses criteria based on population size or population density or a combination with customised thresholds that may not be the same as those used in the EUROSTAT typologies.⁴ The table below provides a description of the definitions used in the plans. Note that the definitions have been auto-translated. Consequently, they might contain slight errors in the phrasing and terminology used.

Table 1 Overview of definitions for rural areas employed by the CSPs

CSP	Definitions of rural areas
Italy	Italy adopts the definition of rural areas already in place in the programming of rural development policy 2014-2022, which classifies Italian municipalities into 4 areas: a) Urban and peri-urban areas, b) Rural areas with intensive agriculture, c) Intermediate rural areas (which include hilly and mountainous rural municipalities with higher population density), d) Rural areas with development problems (which include hilly and mountainous rural municipalities with lower population density). This classification will be used by the Regions and Autonomous Provinces for the adoption of specific territorial priorities in the selection of operations.
Romania	In accordance with the national legislation, the rural area is represented by all communes with the related villages, at the level of Territorial Administrative Units (ATU), the municipality being the smallest ATU, level LAU 2.
Hungary	A municipality shall be considered to be part of the Rural Area if the population is less than 10 thousand inhabitants, regardless of the municipality's administrative status (city/village). In addition, if a municipality has a population of more than 10 thousand inhabitants and has outskirt area of homesteads, then only the outskirt area of the municipality is also considered to be part of the Rural Area
Poland	Rural areas, as a rule, are areas located outside the administrative boundaries of cities, but in the case of the intervention 'infrastructure in rural areas', rural areas are also understood as areas of cities with a population of no more than 5 000, and in the case of implementation of the concept of smart village and LEADER interventions, no more than 20 000.
Portugal	For the Mainland region, the methodology used for the definition of rural areas is set out in the SWOT analysis for Specific Objective 8 (pages 104 to 107). The final map is included in the CSP. The link to the full SWOT analyses documents can be found in the annexes to the CSP (in Portuguese): https://www.gpp.pt/index.php/pepac/plano-estrategico-da-pac-2023-2027-consulta-alargada . For the Azores, the methodology used to define rural areas follows the EUROSTAT methodology with the population density of the AAR of the Statistical Yearbook of the RRA 2016/2017. For Madeira, as in the 2014-2020 programming period, the methodology proposed by the

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Territorial_typologies_manual.

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CSP	Definitions of rural areas
	European Commission ⁵ was used. In view of the heterogenic characteristics of the territory of the Autonomous Region of Madeira, it was decided to replicate this methodology at the "parishes" level and then aggregated at municipality level.
Estonia	A rural area is a region corresponding to a rural and small urban settlement area according to the methodology of Estonia's statistical office. A small urban settlement area includes settlements where most of the population lives in areas with a population density of more than 200 persons per km ² and less than 1 000 people per km ² and a population of more than 5 000 people in a cluster with such a density. Rural settlement areas include settlements with a population density of less than 200 persons per km ² or where the population of densely populated areas is less than 5 000 inhabitants. Estonia does not apply the EUROSTAT's definition of rural area.
Denmark	The term 'rural areas' is broadly limited to all areas outside the largest urban areas, understood as agglomerations with more than 45 000 inhabitants.
Germany	The territory for all interventions is Germany as a whole. The territorial scope for interventions intended for rural support in the context of SO8 is the whole of Germany, with the exception of major cities with a population of 100 000 or more. Rural districts of the major cities are part of this scope. Remark KP from C.4: In the German CSP there is additional point 3 to the definition which reads: "Deviations from this can be specified for all or individual regions in the descriptions of the interventions. This applies in the particular to the multi-fund approach."
Slovakia	The whole Slovak Republic, with the exception of the capital city of Bratislava, will be considered as rural areas, but the districts of Bratislava up to 5 000 (inclusive) inhabitants are also considered as rural areas. Definition of predominantly urban region, intermediate and predominantly rural regions.
Slovenia	Slovenia has a definition only for the implementation of LEADER. See table below.
Sweden	Includes a classification by intervention (not screened).
Netherlands	The rural area is the entire territory of the Netherlands, with the exception of contiguous residential centres with more than 30 000 inhabitants and excluding the Dutch overseas territories.
Malta	Rural areas shall be defined as having: a) a population density that is lower than 5 000 persons per Km ² ; b) a minimum of 10% of the locality as agricultural land; c) a minimum 35% of the locality outside the development zone.
Latvia	Rural territory is the whole territory of Latvia, except for national towns and county territorial units – towns with a population of over 5 000.
Luxembourg	Definition of rural area for SO8 and LEADER: Demographic change has led to a definition of rural areas as those with a population density of ≤ 310 inhabitants/km ² and with a resident population of $\leq 3 000$ inhabitants in most of the cases. This means 81 municipalities out of a total of 102 municipalities are considered rural and represent 85.1% of the national territory.
Lithuania	Rural area means a single, rural, town, city or other residential area with a population not exceeding 6 000, unless otherwise specified in the description of the intervention and/or implementing rules.
Ireland	<p>The importance of rural areas in Ireland is high. However, as there is no single definition of rural, different definitions are used by different bodies. The Rural Future (2021-2025), Ireland's Rural Development Policy recognises the fact that many medium-sized and large towns are essential to maintaining viable rural communities, while also being interdependent with their rural hinterlands.</p> <p>The Commission for Rural Economic Development (CEDRA) defined rural Ireland as "all areas outside the administrative boundaries of the five largest towns" - thus the term "rural areas" was used to include open countryside as well as small, medium and large towns. This definition is consistent with the Rural Future's call for a holistic and place-based approach to rural development.</p>
Croatia	Rural area is defined as the entire territory of Croatia except the administrative centres of four cities (Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek).
Spain	In Spain there is no national legislation on the identification of rural areas applicable to EAFRD. The national law for the Sustainable Rural Development programme defines as a rural municipality those of less than 5 000 inhabitants and, as rural areas, the aggregate of municipalities with less than 30 000 inhabitants and a density of less than 100 inhabitants per km ² . In the CAP Strategic Plan, each autonomous region has its own definition and most regions identify non-urban rural areas using OECD and Eurostat criteria.

⁵ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Urban-rural_typology_update.

CSP	Definitions of rural areas
Finland	The definition of the eligible rural area of mainland Finland in business and development projects is based on the use of spatial datasets covering the area. Grid-based datasets enable a classification independent of administrative borders, which may be accompanied by other datasets independent of administrative boundaries. The CAP funding focuses on the core and sparsely populated rural areas.
Greece	The CAP Strategic Plan covers the whole of the Greek territory, as the majority of NUTS 3 areas are part of the "rural areas" (predominantly rural and intermediate areas according to the EUROSTAT urban-rural typology), while only two NUTS 3 areas (Attica and Thessaloniki) are part of the predominantly urban areas but also have significant agricultural activity and production, in some parts of them.
Cyprus	The small size of Cyprus creates significant difficulties in clearly classifying areas into urban and rural areas. Based on the classification of areas adopted by the European Commission and based on the revised OECD definition, based on population criteria, Cyprus as a whole is considered to be an Intermediate Rural Area. As a result, the CAP Strategic Plan can be implemented throughout the territory.
Czechia	Rural areas are defined as the whole Czech Republic with the exception of Prague and cities over 100 000 inhabitants up to 1/1/2021 (Brno, Ostrava, Plzeň, Liberec, Olomouc) for the determination of the indicator R.38 in LEADER. This definition is based on the fact that a definition of rural area is particularly necessary for LEADER.
BE-Wallonia	Rural area is defined as the area covered by the municipalities classified as "rural" and "semi-rural". Rural area definition is based on three elements: a) rural territory defined as a statistical sector with a population density strictly below 150 hab./km ² or a population density greater than 150 hab./km ² but whose rural areas cover more than 80% of the total area of the statistical sector; b) rurality indicator; c) degree of rurality corresponding to the percentage of the municipal territory occupied by rural areas; d) classification of municipalities: a municipality is considered 'rural' if more than 85% of its surface area is made up of rural areas. A municipality is considered 'semi-rural' if 60% to 85% of its surface area is made up of rural areas. A municipality is considered 'non-rural' if strictly less than 60% of its surface area is made up of rural areas.
BE-Flanders	Rural or rural municipalities are municipalities with a population density of up to 350 inhabitants per km ² or with a use of space of up to 30%, with the exception of town centres.
Bulgaria	The new national definition defines as "rural areas" municipalities in which there is no settlement with a population of more than 15 000 people. According to this definition, 215 municipalities out of 265 municipalities in Bulgaria are classified as rural areas.
Austria	<p>The method used is based on the population density of municipal parts. It defines those parts of the municipality whose population density is smaller or greater than 150 inhabitants per km². For inclusion as a rural area, only parts of the municipality with a population density of less than 150 inhabitants/km² can be taken into account in accordance with the relevant OECD criteria. However, this method is only used in the outer zones of the cities to prevent inner-city enclaves.</p> <p>Projects whose eligibility is limited to rural areas can only be implemented in municipalities with less than 30 000 inhabitants or in rural areas of municipalities with more than 30 000 inhabitants.</p>

Definitions based on machine-translated versions of the CSPs. Although spot-checks were performed, translations should be treated with care.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

In addition to the rural definitions listed above, 13 Member States deemed necessary to focus on specific areas to make LEADER interventions more effective. They have therefore applied different definitions of rural areas for the implementation of LEADER interventions. They are depicted in the table on the next page.

The main components of the definitions of rural areas used by different Member States above relate to increasing the size of the population eligible for the implementation of LEADER and increasing the population density threshold for LEADER interventions. This is to ensure a wider area benefit from LEADER interventions, especially in Member States where the current rural area definition leaves out parts of the territory that would benefit from such interventions. In some cases, enlargement of the area might lead to strengthening of the rural and peri-urban linkages.

Table 2 Rural area definitions for the implementation of LEADER

CSP	Definitions of rural areas for the implementation of LEADER
Poland	Smart village concept and LEADER interventions: population of no more than 20 000.
Romania	LEADER interventions: population of no more than 20 000.
Czechia	For CLLD, the territory of municipalities up to 25 000 inhabitants can be supported and therefore the definition of rural areas according to EUROSTAT cannot be used, as in such a case it would not be possible to support all LAGs operating in the Central Bohemian Region.
Slovakia	For LEADER cooperation interventions, the definition of rurality is limited in the case of municipalities as applicants for support for municipalities up to 20 000 inhabitants.
Slovenia	LEADER covers all settlements with less than 10 000 inhabitants. In case an intervention addresses non-agricultural activities on the farm, then the whole territory of Slovenia is considered rural area and is eligible for support.
Sweden	The scope of LEADER covers rural areas and agglomerations with less than 20 000 inhabitants. Actions can also be carried out in larger agglomerations, with more than 20 000 inhabitants, if the project adds value to the development of the area.
Netherlands	Under local development strategies aimed at rural development through the strengthening of urban-country relations, projects eligible for support through LEADER can also be implemented in areas with over 30 000 inhabitants. Examples include urban agriculture, farm education, marketing and distribution of local food or other business models for rural entrepreneurs. The urban area concerned should be highlighted in the local development strategy.
Latvia	The territory of the LEADER approach is the whole territory of Latvia, with the exception of the national cities.
Luxembourg	Demographic change has led to a definition of rural areas as those with a population density of ≤ 310 inhabitants /sq km and with a resident population of $\leq 3 000$ inhabitants in most of the cases. This means 81 municipalities out of a total of 102 municipalities are considered rural and represent 85.1% of the national territory.
Spain	For Spain, depending on the areas (e.g., for Andalusia, Aragon, Canary Islands and so on) there is a different definition of rural areas and a definition of rural areas by intervention.
BE-Wallonia	The above definition of rural areas is applied to the LEADER cooperation intervention. For the implementation of LEADER cooperation interventions, rural area is defined as the area covered by the municipalities classified as "rural" and "semi-rural", resulting in 34 "non-rural" municipalities not being eligible for LEADER cooperation interventions.
BE-Flanders	Rural municipalities as defined above, are the primary target group for LEADER interventions. Under certain circumstances cooperation with more urbanized areas is allowed as long these are not the main urban centres (centrumsteden) as shown on the map.
Bulgaria	Projects in rural areas under CLLD include municipalities (LAU 1) which do not have a settlement with a population of more than 30 000 people.

Definitions based on machine-translated versions of the CSPs. Although spot-checks were performed, translations should be treated with care.

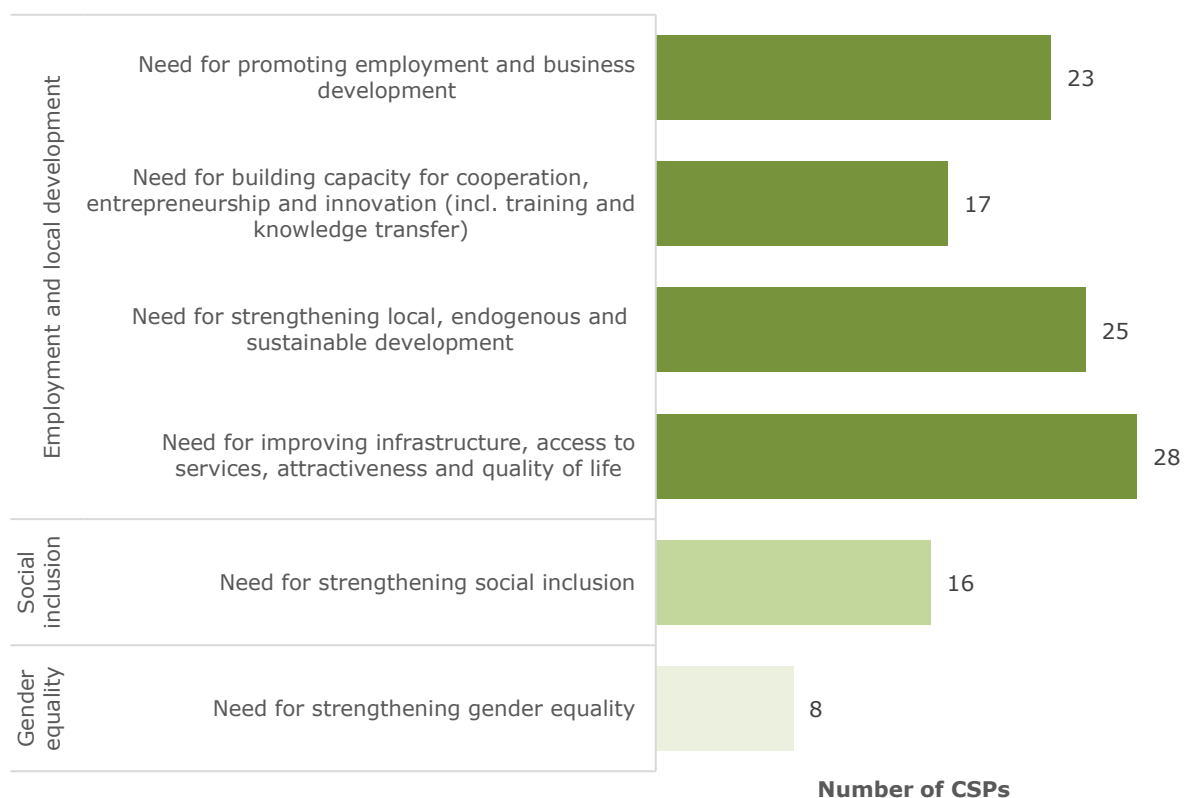
Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

3. RELEVANT NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY MEMBER STATES

The strategies laid down in the CSPs are based on a needs assessment performed by the Member States. Outcome of this needs assessment was the definition of needs by specific objectives of the CAP. Member States ranked these needs (from high to low priority) and – while designing their CSPs as response to these needs – addressed them in the CSPs either fully, partially, or outside the plans.

In total, the CSPs define 251 needs as relevant for Specific Objective 8 (SO8), which is the specific objective most closely linked to the focus of this stocktaking. As Member States were completely free in the identification and definition of needs, they need to be clustered around common groups to allow for a comparison.

Broadly speaking, the needs can be clustered around groups linked to employment and local development, social inclusion, and gender equality. In relation to employment and local development, four clusters have been identified, where first two clusters relate more specifically to employment and the latter two relate more specifically to local development.

Figure 4 Number of CSPs identifying different clusters of needs under the element of relevance

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Employment

The first cluster relates specifically to the need for promoting employment and business development, for which related needs are identified in 23 CSPs. It covers employability through the improvement of skills that can facilitate the entry into the labour market, while in some Member States also focusing on addressing the employment needs of certain target groups, like young people and women. For many Member States, the need to promote employment goes through entrepreneurship, either through family businesses or through other rural business creation and/or maintenance, including diversification towards non-agricultural activities. The diversification of economic activity on the farm or off the farm and especially in the field of bioeconomy also has the potential to contribute to business development.

The second cluster is related to building capacity for cooperation, entrepreneurship and innovation (including training and knowledge transfer). Related needs have been identified in 17 CSPs. It comprises needs for improving the knowledge base of rural areas through cooperation, training and knowledge transfer, which in turn would further strengthen cooperation and promote entrepreneurship and innovation and eventually contribute to employment in rural areas. The most representative specific needs here include those related to knowledge/skills development in various fields: digitalisation, resource saving, entrepreneurship, environment, climate, innovation. The needs of specific target groups also stand out in some Member States, for instance, the development of skills for farmers, entrepreneurs, young people or women, through the participation in training. Building capacity is linked to the production of innovation (e.g. by adding value to products or socio-economic innovation in the context of smart village strategies), while both innovation and cooperation capacities would address the need for improving competitiveness, especially of SMEs in rural areas.

Local Development

The third cluster relates to the need for strengthening local, endogenous and sustainable development (needs have been in 25 CSPs). It covers a range of needs for building stronger and more resilient local communities through a bottom-up approach, where the participation of local stakeholders is essential. It also covers needs to safeguard and use endogenous resources to add value to natural and cultural heritage and use these as a basis for local development. Furthermore, local development is interlinked with sustainable development whereby the protection and sustainable management of forests and consideration of the environment and climate challenges are important needs to be addressed by the CAP Strategic Plans.

Infrastructure

The fourth cluster is related to the need for improving infrastructure, access to services, attractiveness and quality of life, identified across all CSPs. It encompasses a range of needs that altogether reflect the importance assigned to making rural areas attractive places to live in and the availability of infrastructure and services is a key precondition for this. The most representative specific needs here include needs to improve access to and safeguard the quality of basic infrastructure in rural areas in several fields: tourism, transport, education, childcare, health, waste, sewage, telecommunications and ICTs in general, including the use of technologies in the context of smart village strategies for improving the quality of infrastructure and access to it. The provision of such infrastructure and services would improve the quality of life and increase the attractiveness of rural areas. For example, integrated interventions that combine some of the above areas can attract new businesses in rural areas (see last example of needs in the table above).

Social inclusion

Strengthening the social inclusion cluster covers needs related to tackling poverty and social exclusion. Related needs are identified in 16 CSPs. Some Member States specify social inclusion and non-discrimination for certain target groups, notably disadvantaged ones such as Roma or immigrants. Civic engagement and community participation, especially of young people, as part of local development strategies, or bringing together local communities in smart villages are also specific needs under social inclusion. Integration into the labour market contributes to employment (therefore also considered under the employment cluster) but it is also a means to integrate socially, especially for young people and disadvantaged groups.

Gender equality

Strengthening the gender equality cluster focuses on a range of needs that relate to supporting gender equality by promoting the involvement of the female population in entrepreneurship, as new farmers or business owners. Related needs have been identified in eight CSPs. The promotion of employability and employment of women in agriculture and other sectors in rural areas, are also specific needs under this cluster. Finally, the need for a gender dimension in decision making is also mentioned.

4. CONTRIBUTION OF THE CAP TO THE FOUR BLOCKS OF ACTION OF THE RURAL VISION

The Long-term vision for rural areas is structured into four blocks of actions, summarising the aspirations of the European Union for rural areas by 2040:

- **Stronger rural areas:** this block focuses on **community empowerment** and vibrancy, **innovation, access to services and quality of life**.
- **Connected rural areas:** this block focuses on **digitalisation** (including infrastructure, technology development and skills) and **mobility**.
- **Resilient rural areas:** this block focuses on resilience to **environmental challenges and climate change**, but also to the capacity of rural communities to sustain themselves through hardship, remaining **socially inclusive** and supportive of their different constituents in face of changing conditions.
- **Prosperous rural areas:** this block focuses on **economic development** in rural areas, aiming at diversified rural economies well adapted to the future and providing **job opportunities** to all including young people.

The report presents elements of support going beyond farming for the two first blocks, bringing in elements on farming where relevant for the blocks regarding resilience and prosperity, where the farming sector is also singled out in the communication.

4.1. Contribution of the CAP to stronger rural areas

CAP Strategic Plans will contribute to empower communities, including young people in rural areas, to improve access to services and to promote innovation (including social innovation). A variety of interventions and their combination contribute to stronger rural areas.

They are described below for each of these elements.

4.1.1. Empowering communities

The type of interventions found to be most relevant to empowering rural communities are **cooperation** and **knowledge exchange**.

Cooperation

The main types of COOP interventions contributing to empowering rural communities are interventions linked to O.31 “support to LEADER strategies” and interventions linked to O.32 “Other cooperation operations”.

33 COOP interventions linked to O.31 “support to LEADER strategies”, covering all EU Member States (MS), should contribute to various aspects of the Specific Objective 8 of the CAP which targets growth and jobs in rural areas. This is illustrated by the fact that these COOP interventions have a variety of objectives, such as contributing to local development (all MS), contributing to economic growth⁶ and to improving the quality of life⁷. Furthermore, fostering social inclusion was an objective identified for 27 of these COOP interventions.

COOP operations linked to O.32 “Other cooperation operations” are those which are expected to support the empowerment of rural communities the most.⁸ They cover cooperation activities addressing cooperation in the field of health and social work (BE, Wallonia), development of new products, practices, techniques, testing of a new business or product (FI, FR) and smart village strategies (AT, FI, HU, IT, LT). Other COOP operations linked to O.32 “Other cooperation operations” that cover smart village strategies focus on revitalising towns by making them more attractive and reactivating vacant sites (AT), increasing the cooperation for the regeneration and integration of the territory, including for the preparation of the smart village strategies (ES), revitalising rural areas, supporting the search for partners and preparation of smart village strategies (IT) and other collaboration projects that support the digitalisation of small villages (FI, HU).

Young people in general are explicitly mentioned as target groups in 13 COOP interventions linked to O.31 “Supporting LEADER strategies” in 13 MS⁹ that aim to improve young people’s opportunities for entrepreneurship and work in rural areas (FI) and ensure their representation in the LAGs¹⁰. Young people are also mentioned in one COOP intervention in Austria focused on rural innovation systems under the EIP.

Eligibility or selection criteria for the representation of young people in LAGs are mentioned in nine MS¹¹. In Greece, at least one woman/young person is required in the composition of the decision-making body (Local Programme Management Committee). Achieving a higher number of women/young people will be a selection criterion. In Slovakia, at least one young person aged 18-40 and at least three women must be represented in the highest body of the LAG, or have balanced representation of young people, women and public representatives in CZ. In Lithuania, the LAG’s decision-making body shall involve youth representatives. Selection points are awarded if the LAG’s decision-making body and/or LAG activities involve two or more young people up to the age of 29. Other eligibility conditions for the LAG is that the decision-making body has at least two persons under 40 years of age, ensure gender balance and involve organisations representing socially vulnerable persons.

LAG partnerships composed of young or female representatives will be prioritised in Romania. In Germany, a young person (under 40 years at the beginning of the funding period) or a youth representative must be represented in the LAG’s decision-making body. While additional participation of young people will be sought, there might be difficulties due to demographic developments. In Malta, the Managing Authority will outline the basic requirements for LAGs and the criteria to be fulfilled by such entities, with the aim to also promote the participation of young people and women in the decision-making process of the LAG and the development and implementation of LDS.

Applying selection criteria for the involvement of adolescents or young adults (up to 25 years) is also aimed in Austria (intervention “Rural innovation systems under the EIP”). In Estonia, the empowerment of the region and the communication of activities will be supported by different target

⁶ AT, BE, Flanders, Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SI, SK.

⁷ AT, BE, Flanders, Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, EL, ES, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI.

⁸ 14 interventions in 8 MS AT, BE, Wallonia, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, LT.

⁹ AT, BE, Flanders, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, LT, MT, NL, RO, SK.

¹⁰ AT, BE, Flanders, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, LT, MT, NL, RO, SK.

¹¹ AT, BE, Flanders, CZ, ES, EL, MT, LT, RO, SK.

groups and opportunities to present them (e.g. by creating youth councils, community elders, regional working groups, etc.) and involving people from different backgrounds.

Knowledge

The interventions supporting knowledge transfer and trainings and advisory services (**KNOW interventions**) should also support rural communities. Overall, they aim to cover different topics of the CAP Specific Objectives, including those addressing the empowerment of communities (see Table 3).

Table 3 Relevant topics addressing the empowerment of communities through KNOW interventions

Relevant topics addressing the empowerment of communities	Number of CSPs	CSPs
Promoting knowledge sharing and innovation	25	AT, BE.Flanders, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK
Digitalisation	13	AT, BE.Flanders, ES, FI, HR, HU, IE, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SI
Environmental topics such as biodiversity, air, water and soil quality, sustainable use of resources	23	AT, BG, CY, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE, SK
Climate change mitigation and/or adaptation	23	AT, BG, CY, DE, EE, EL, ES, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE, SK
Efficiency and use of renewable energy sources	7	AT, BG, FI, HR, IE, MT, LV
Rural entrepreneurship	4	AT, FI, NL (especially on young farmers and female agricultural entrepreneurship), SK

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

For example, back-office services will be supported in Italy to provide expert information and support in relation to the needs and topics of interest of actors of Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems working in rural areas and with businesses (e.g. environmental and climate-related topics, market conditions, management of the company). In Hungary, the KNOW intervention "Training and demonstration programmes" complements the other CAP SP interventions by supporting compulsory trainings required for certain interventions of the SP covering digital competences, forest fire prevention and risk reduction, generational renewal, rural development cooperation to support smart villages (digital competence development is a compulsory element of the mandatory training), and preparation and implementation of LEADER strategies and EIP cooperation, among others.

In Estonia, various topics, including environmental advisory service, will be covered targeting not only farmers, landholders and forest owners, but also young people and/or start-ups and processors of agricultural products. Advising producer or processor cooperatives, EIP groups, innovation clusters and long-term knowledge transfer programmes will also be supported.

A list of key final beneficiaries (other than farmers and forest owners) expected to be supported through knowledge transfer and training and advisory services is presented in the table below. Note that 17 interventions make a distinction between farmers and young farmers/young people as potential beneficiaries.

Table 4 Final beneficiaries of KNOW interventions other than farmers and forest owners

Type of final beneficiaries (other than farmers and forest owners)	Number of CSPs	CSPs
Young farmers or young people	17	AT, BE.Flanders, BG, CY, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SI
SMEs and entrepreneurs in rural areas	9	AT, DE, EE, FI, HU, LV (young entrepreneurs in rural areas other than farmers), PT, SE, SI
Teaching staff and students of agricultural schools	1	PL
The AKIS and other rural actors	7	IT (AKIS), CZ, DE, EE, FR, FI, HU
Inhabitants of rural areas	2	FI, PL

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Investments

Culture is also an important part of community identity and potential which are part of community empowerment. Under INVEST interventions, Bulgaria (the intervention is linked to O.22 "infrastructure investments") and Slovenia (the intervention is linked to O.24 "Off-farm productive investments") have an intervention to preserve, restore, and improve the cultural heritage of the

rural population for beneficiaries such as legal persons and legal entities (BG) and the operators of a non-agricultural complementary activity on the farm (SI). The purpose of Bulgarian intervention can be defined as improving the quality of life in rural areas through cultural and spiritual development, while the Slovenian intervention can be defined as having the goal of improve farmers' resilience and/ or income situation, generating employment and contributing to economic growth of the territory.

4.1.2. Access to services

The main interventions expected to contribute in relation to access in services in rural areas are those supporting improvements to **local infrastructure and services in rural areas** (including health, education) mentioned under both **COOP & INVEST interventions**.

Cooperation

Some **COOP interventions** linked to O.31 "Support to LEADER strategies" should contribute to **improving local infrastructure and services in rural areas**.¹² Key types of investments that are planned to be supported through the these interventions are presented in the table below, with the caution that more may come in the future through the approval of local development strategies.

Table 5 Type of investments supported through the LEADER COOP interventions

Type of investment	Examples of investments and Member States supporting these investments
Local infrastructure investments	HR: Infrastructure projects (basic, municipal and social) in settlements with no more than 25 000 inhabitants CZ: investments in buildings, technologies, infrastructure RO: investments in local infrastructure SK: investments in local public infrastructure e.g.: class III roads. These investments should clearly demonstrate the importance of connectivity and ensuring an increase in the availability of cultural, natural monuments, recreational facilities and other local specificities. In case of more remote areas, they should represent the only accessible access to unique sites and have the potential to increase traffic, which promote the development of sustainable tourism.
Investments in basic services in rural areas	CZ, IE, LV RO (including social and health infrastructure, community services)
Investments in other local services (e.g. related to common spaces, churches and religious activities, culture, sport and other leisure activities)	FI: investments in service experiments to find solutions for access to services in rural areas, investments to improve services for young people, investments in the refurbishment of common spaces, smart villages project plan including investments to improve the region's future plans BE.Flanders: investments in community-building infrastructure (public space or village rooms) or equipment SI: small-scale investments in rural areas with an emphasis on the wider relevance of the LAG area and the added value for its inhabitants SK: non-productive investments and investments that are of a non-profit nature such as churches and religious societies, civic associations, social enterprises, non-profit organisations, etc. FI: investments in cultural, sports and leisure services CY: investments that help to capitalise on the know-how and experience of rural residents and highlight local history, culture and tradition
Investments supporting climate objectives (e.g. related to energy)	LV: investments related to the objective of contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing GHG emissions and promoting carbon removals, as well as promoting sustainable energy. SK: investments that fulfil an additional function with a clear added value related to energy savings, such as the use of technologies leading to energy savings or investments related to improving the energy performance of buildings focusing on the technical, energy or technological equipment and equipment of the building (e.g. replacement of heating boilers, heaters, pipes and internal plumbing-water, electricity, gas and parts thereof; installation of solar panels where appropriate, etc.). However, projects <u>whose sole objective</u> is to support renewable energy sources <u>are not eligible</u> (to be supported through other national instruments)
Other non-productive investments supported through the LDS	DK, LV, PL

¹² AT, BE.Flanders, CY, CZ, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, PL, SI, SK.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Various COOP interventions linked to O.1 "EIP operational groups implementation" and linked to O.32 "Other cooperation operations) are also envisaged in the fields of **health and social work**. In BE.Wallonia, the cooperation intervention "Cooperation in the field of health" focuses particularly on health and social fields to improve the attractiveness of rural areas. Its beneficiaries must be approved and/or recognised by the Walloon Region or the German-speaking Community in the field of health or social work, in particular social inclusion services, mental health services, etc. Health and safety at work is also mentioned as objectives of cooperation in SE (EIP cooperation intervention "SAM"). In addition, the COOP intervention linked to O.31 "Support to LEADER strategies" in Romania envisages investments in social and health infrastructure (RO).

Investments

21 **INVEST interventions** were developed to support investments for the (further) development of infrastructure and services in rural areas. These interventions envisage investments in infrastructure and services on a variety of topics, one of which being support for **general/ public infrastructure in rural areas** via four interventions from four Member States (DE, FR, HR, MT). The French intervention also specifies improvement of basic services as part of the support, and all but the Maltese intervention indicate the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas through improved access to and quality of infrastructures and services is at least one of the purposes of the intervention. Furthermore, while the Maltese, Croatian, and German interventions identified public authorities as the beneficiary of the intervention, France identifies other beneficiaries such as project promoters relating to the definition, establishment, creation and/or development of a local infrastructure or basic service. Germany also envisions individual beneficiaries (neither agriculture nor forestry holdings), and other beneficiaries such as legal and natural persons to be beneficiaries of these interventions.

Road infrastructure in rural areas (AT, MT, RO) was another topic mentioned to receive investments under three INVEST interventions (see also 'Transport links and new mobilities' under the 'Contribution of the CAP to connected rural areas').

For the four investment interventions supporting **agricultural infrastructure** (ES, DE, IT, LV), linked to O.22 "Infrastructure investments", the intended goals and beneficiaries differ a lot, as presented in the overview table below, which makes it difficult to identify if the intervention supports only farmers or the broader community.

Table 6 Purpose and beneficiaries of interventions supporting investments in agricultural infrastructure

CSP	Purpose	Beneficiaries
Germany	Improve farmers' resilience and/ or income situation; Improve performance of forestry sector; Increasing competitiveness; Contributing to economic growth of the territory	Individual forestry holdings; Groups of forestry holdings; Public authorities; Other beneficiaries (NGOs, academia, natural parks, EIP), Local authorities and other bodies governed by public law, natural persons and partnerships as well as legal persons under private law, and forestry mergers under the Federal Forest Act The definition of the beneficiary(s) applies to all sub-interventions, with the exception of forestry concentrations.
Italy	Improving the quality of life in rural areas through improved access to and quality of infrastructures and services; Contributing to economic growth of the territory	Public authorities; Other beneficiaries (NGOs, academia, natural parks, EIP) and public or private entities, in a single or associated form
Latvia	Contributing to the environment or climate	Other beneficiaries (NGOs, academia, natural parks, EIP) and legal owners of municipal drainage systems, as well as the operator of drainage systems of national and national importance
Spain	Improve farmers' resilience and/ or income situation; Increasing competitiveness	Individual agricultural holdings; Groups of agricultural holdings; Public authorities; Other beneficiaries (NGOs, academia, natural parks, EIP), irrigation communities or other irrigation-related water user communities that are public law corporations, and private entities that sign the corresponding Collaboration Agreements with the Administration.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Two interventions are also envisioned for **water infrastructure**, (DE, CY). This covers infrastructure for recovery and recycled water (CY) linked to O.22 “infrastructure investments” and non-productive water investments (DE) linked to O.23 “off farm non-productive investments”. For each of these interventions, different purposes can be identified: improving farmers resilience and/or income situation (FR), contributing to the environment or climate (FR, DE) and improving the quality of life in rural areas through improved access to and quality of infrastructures and services (CY). Different beneficiaries are also foreseen: natural or legal persons/groups (FR), individual or groups of agricultural holdings and public authorities (CY). The Cyprian intervention has the other entry requirement that potentially supported projects should ensure at least 12% potential water savings, and submit an environmental impact study where required in accordance with national legislation.

Five interventions linked to O.22 “infrastructure investments” focus on supporting (small-scale) **infrastructure specifically aimed at villages and communities** (AT, BG, CY, HU, PL). This covers support for investments in small tourism infrastructure (AT), small-scale infrastructure in rural areas (BG), rural infrastructure in small settlements (HU), infrastructure in rural areas and the implementation of the concept of smart villages (PL), and infrastructures in rural areas and village renewal (CY). All of these have the purpose of improving the quality of life in rural areas, while the Austrian, Hungarian, and Cyprian intervention also foresee the goal of generating employment. The Austrian and Cyprian intervention also envisions contributing to economic growth of the territory as a goal. For the eligibility of the Cyprian intervention, compatibility of a project with national and Community policies (public procurement, environment, equality and non-discrimination) is needed, as well as the eligibility of the intervention area. All but Austria foresee public authorities as a beneficiary of these interventions. Austria foresees NGOs and alpine associations as beneficiaries and Hungary also identifies enterprises with legal personality, undertakings without legal personality and associations.

Social and health services are mentioned as well under INVEST interventions: two interventions linked to O.22 “Infrastructure investments” (AT, BE-W) focus specifically on these topics, both with the purpose of improving the quality of live in rural areas. An Austrian intervention supports investments in social services for the benefit of public authorities and non-profit legal persons, with the additional goal of reducing gender gaps, while Belgium-Wallonia foresees aid for investments in health infrastructure in rural areas for the benefit of individual beneficiaries. The latter interventions has specific entry requirements, as it has to be approved by the Walloon Government (Integrated Health Association) or by the Government of the German-speaking Community, and only projects that employ no more than 20 Full Time Equivalent, are supported by social structures approved by the authorities, are located in rural areas, and respond to a need identified in a national/regional plan are eligible to receive investments. In the same realm and with the same purpose, Austria also envisions investments for local and urban support to revitalise and refurbish (or rebuild) empty, misused or underused buildings or public areas for the benefit of public authorities, natural persons, and legal persons registered partnerships.

The topic of **education** can be identified twice under INVEST interventions linked to off-farm non-productive investments, though both strongly focused on education related to the forestry sector. The Lithuanian intervention “Youth education” focuses on education for young people (up to the age of 20), which is the specific target group, to improve the performance of the forestry sector with the intended beneficiaries being public authorities and individual beneficiaries (neither agriculture nor forestry holdings). Croatia has an intervention focusing on the development of educational paths and infrastructure to increase the public awareness of the importance of conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems. The supported investments target specifically Natura 2 000 protected areas, and have as beneficiaries individual and group forestry holdings as well as civil society organisations.

In the field of services in rural areas, Spain foresees one intervention on **non-productive investments in basic services** in rural areas (linked O.22 “Infrastructure investments”). This intervention has the goal of improving the quality of life in rural areas, as well as contributing to generational renewal, reducing gender employment gap, and reducing the trend of depopulation in rural areas. Intended beneficiaries are public authorities and other beneficiaries such as natural or legal persons, public-private associations, groups, and NGOs.

Italy has two INVEST interventions supporting **non-productive investments in rural areas and non-agricultural productive investments in rural areas**. Both have the goal of improving the quality of life in rural areas through improved access to and quality of infrastructures and services, and contributing to economic growth of the territory. The first intervention also focuses on generating employment. The intended beneficiaries differ as well: the intervention focusing on non-productive investments in rural areas is intended to benefit public authorities, foundations and non-profit associations, partnerships between public and private entities, private entities not engaged in agricultural activity, and social cooperatives, while the intervention focusing on non-agricultural productive investments focuses on micro and small non-agricultural enterprises.

4.1.3. Enhancing innovation

The main interventions expected to contribute to enhancing innovation in rural areas are those supporting **smart village strategies** (e.g. LEADER, COOP interventions linked to O.32, EIP interventions) and those promoting **EIP OG implementation** and **cooperation interventions other than EIP**.

Cooperation

Smart village strategies will be supported through 19 COOP interventions linked to O.31 "support to LEADER strategies" in 17 MS¹³. These interventions will promote innovation¹⁴ (including social innovation) as well as closer links between research and practice.¹⁵ In Austria, LEADER should promote social innovation by acting as an innovation laboratory in rural areas and playing a pioneering role in finding solutions to local challenges.¹⁶ In Slovakia, LAGs can become platforms for social innovation by supporting social enterprise projects that enable people to find employment in social services for the elderly, women, persons with disabilities, etc.¹⁷

Six COOP interventions (linked to O.32 "other cooperation operations") and one COOP intervention linked to O.1 "EIP operational groups implementation" are also expected to support smart villages¹⁸. For example, the intervention "Cooperation for territorial structuring" in Spain envisages to support the preparation of the strategies for smart villages and promote innovation. In Austria, the intervention "Rural innovation systems under the EIP" aims to support projects that contribute to smart village strategies and strengthen cooperation and innovation capacities in rural areas.

29 **other COOP interventions** linked to O.1 "EIP operational groups implementations" in 23 MS¹⁹ aim to promote innovation by focusing on piloting and innovation testing actions (IT), rural innovation systems (AT), linking research and practice and increasing knowledge flows²⁰ and improving the AKIS.²¹ In Estonia, support is especially provided to innovation cooperation activities focused on major and small projects (e.g. innovation clusters, development of new products, practices, processes, technologies, pilot projects) and development component (voucher for testing methods and working methods and adapting them if needed, preliminary studies for the development of large and small projects) involving various rural actors such as farmers, processors, forestry companies, NGOs, cooperatives, self-employed persons and other rural operators.

Innovation will also be promoted in COOP interventions promoting innovation other than EIP such as through innovation cooperation groups not related to the EIP-Agri (ES) and pilot projects and development of new products, practices and techniques to respond to problems specific to the tropical island context (FR).

Although its centre of gravity is with agriculture, the **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)** could play an important role in promoting innovation in rural areas also beyond farming by:

- **sharing good practices in knowledge and innovation** among the AKIS actors and strengthening **the links between research and practice**. In some CAP SPs, emphasis is put on strengthening multi-thematic and cross-border innovation (PT, BE Flanders), broadening the portfolio of themes (CY), providing education and training activities in a flexible, adaptive and innovative way (CY, IT), providing a forum for the exchange of knowledge and cooperation of AKIS partners, including within thematic groups or networks (PL), promoting the introduction of smart agriculture (FI), among others.
- **improving the organisation, coordination and the overall governance in the AKIS** and **contributing to synergies and new networks**. In the Netherlands, reducing the fragmentation of the AKIS system is highlighted to allow better knowledge sharing and quicker application of the developed knowledge. The Netherlands has many small-scale AKIS subsystems within the various sectors and regions which raise bulkheads in the knowledge exchange and in sharing a collective vision between the AKIS actors. In other CAP SPs, creating a unified AKIS (HU), strengthening the links between traditional and new actors

¹³ AT, BE, Flanders, CZ, DK, EE, EL, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, LU, LV, PL, RO, SE, SI.

¹⁴ AT, BE, Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK.

¹⁵ BE, Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, LT, LV.

¹⁶ An evaluation study on LEADER in Austria has shown that social innovation is a core task and a key factor in the effectiveness of LEADER. ("Analysis of the potentials of social innovation in the framework of LEADER 2014-2020").

¹⁷ Social innovation and support of local communities in Slovakia is focused on the implementation of activities of education and leisure, amateur, theatre, folklore activities, raising the educational level in the field of the environment, building environmental awareness, nature conservation, ecological education, landscape creation, preservation of traditions, entrepreneurship, etc.

¹⁸ AT, ES, FI, HU, IT and LT.

¹⁹ AT, BE, Flanders, Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK.

²⁰ AT, BE, Flanders, Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK.

²¹ AT, BE, Flanders, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, ES, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK.

within the AKIS (CY, HU), coordination and dialogue with actors across agriculture and rural areas (DK) and improving the organisation within the existing AKIS (SK) are also mentioned. In Sweden, the focus is also on increasing the integration of the food sector into the wider national and regional innovation systems in order to contribute to synergies and new networks. In Estonia, developing and coordinating a coherent AKIS system is considered particularly important. Its AKIS Centre should, among others, promote cooperation and networking with various AKIS actors in Estonia and abroad, and identify the needs of agricultural and rural enterprises and lead them to policy makers. In Luxemburg, the new Innovation Hub will have as its main mission to provide a platform facilitating and accelerating the networking of different actors from the agriculture and agri-food sector, but also from other sectors, with different perspectives.

- **supporting the digital transition**²² by focusing on the development and uptake of digital technologies in agriculture and rural areas, especially through smart village strategies (e.g. in Austria).
- **jointly developing innovative solutions** that support the farmers and rural communities to meet the current and future challenges (e.g. in Bulgaria, Poland) as well as **supporting the transition to sustainable agricultural systems and practices** (e.g. in Slovenia, Sweden).
- **strengthening the advisory services and their interaction**, including the training of advisors, demonstration programmes and promotion of their interconnection within AKIS. In Slovakia, strengthening connections within AKIS and large-scale sharing/dissemination of innovative knowledge and applications between advisors, scientists and the CAP network is mentioned. A digital tool for storing, processing and providing information (online platform) will be acquired and implemented. Cyprus lists as relevant tasks in its CAP SP the certification of advisory bodies, enhancing their soft skills (e.g. facilitation, group management, project skills) and broadening the portfolio of themes for advisors to have the most up-to-date information (including environmental protection, climate change and the rapidly evolving digitalisation of agriculture). In Estonia, strengthening the role of advisors in the AKIS system is also considered important in developing and coordinating a coherent AKIS system.

The AKIS will be addressed through various CAP SP interventions such as through COOP interventions, especially those linked to O.1 "EIP operational groups implementation" interventions²³, KNOW interventions²⁴ and other interventions more specifically applying to farming such as farm advisory services²⁵. Other relevant activities include AECM trainings and trainings for participants in the Suckler Carbon Efficiency Scheme (e.g. in Ireland).

4.1.4. Presentation of relevant result indicator targets

Four result indicators and their targets are particularly relevant for the contribution of the CAP to stronger rural areas:

- R.38 on LEADER coverage;
- R.40 on Smart transition of the rural economy;
- R.41 on Connecting rural Europe; and
- R.1 on enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation.

Result Indicator R.38 measures the coverage of local development strategies, which play an important role in local governance and empowering community to decide where to act, which is a key component of stronger rural areas. In all 28 CSPs, Member States have linked a total of 33

²² AT, BE- Flanders, BG, CY, CZ, EE, ES, IE, LV, MT, PT, CY, RO, SE, SI, SK.

²³ AT, BE, Flanders, BG, CZ, CY, DE, EE, EL, ES, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK.

These and other countries will also support AKIS in other COOP interventions. For example, in Austria, the LEADER and their methodological implementation in the form of LAGs may also potentially create so-called "multi-actors groups" (according to the Multi-Actor approach), which are prerequisites for promoting social innovation. People with different backgrounds develop solution-oriented and collective improvements for their environment and their living environment.

²⁴ AT, BE Flanders, Wallonia, BG, CZ, CY, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK.

²⁵ BE, Flanders, BG, HR, MT, RO. Denmark is recognised as having a strong and well-integrated AKIS and a well-functioning advisory system providing advice in all aspects of agriculture. The country is lifting the cross-cutting objective of knowledge sharing, innovation and digitalisation, even though these efforts are primarily located outside the implementation of the CAP SP. Therefore, no specific measures are planned for AKIS or farm advice under Article 77 and 78, while the existing system of farm advisory services is maintained unchanged.

cooperation interventions to this result indicator (see table below), which is natural as LEADER is mandatory under the CAP strategic plans.

Table 7 Number of interventions linked to RI.38 and the number and CSPs these interventions are planned in

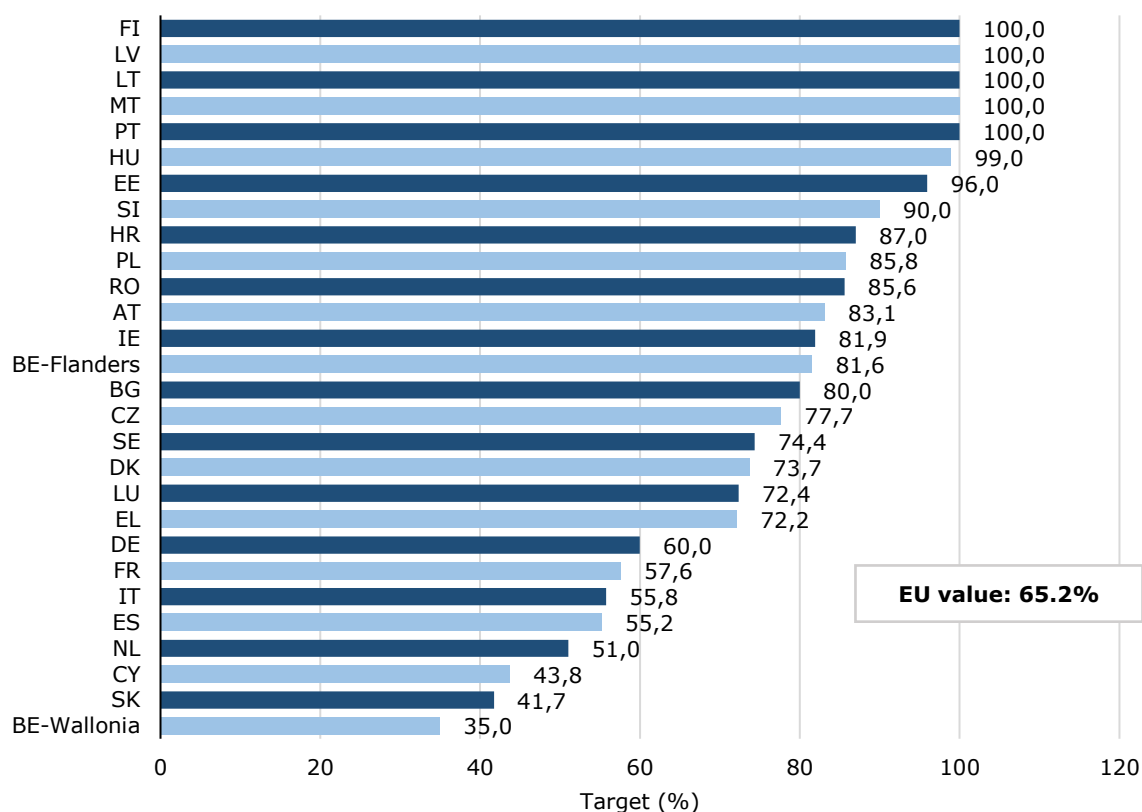
R.38	Number of interventions	Number of CSPs	CSPs
COOP	33	28	AT, BE-FL, BE-WA, BG, HR, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, CY, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

At EU level, a total of **65.25% of the rural population is expected to be covered by local development strategies by the end of the programming period**. Local development strategies will be implemented in all Member States through LEADER. The commitment of the CAP to LEADER is evident in the minimum 5 % financial allocation from EAFRD that is required for LEADER²⁶. In some Member States, as much as 100% of the rural population is set to be covered by local development strategies²⁷. Most of the rest (13 Member States) set targets between 72 % and 90 %. Only eight Member States set targets below 70%, but the lowest is 35 % in BE-Wallonia. On average, around 65 % of the rural population is expected to be covered by local development strategies by the end of the programming period. These targets need to be interpreted with caution as the coverage, i.e. the percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies, may not necessarily imply better results. The effective implementation of local development strategies, once they are approved, will be the determining factor in whether local development is successful or not.

²⁶ Article 92(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

²⁷ EE, FI, HU, LV, LT, MT, PT.

Figure 5 Targets for R.38 - LEADER coverage

Indicator: Share of rural population covered by local development strategies

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Indicator R.40 measures the contribution to employment and local development through the **development of smart village strategies**. In total, eleven interventions are planned in seven CSPs. 8 of these are COOP interventions, and 3 are INVEST interventions, which are planned in Austria, Spain, and Poland.

Table 8 Number of interventions linked to RI.40 and the number and CSPs these interventions are planned in

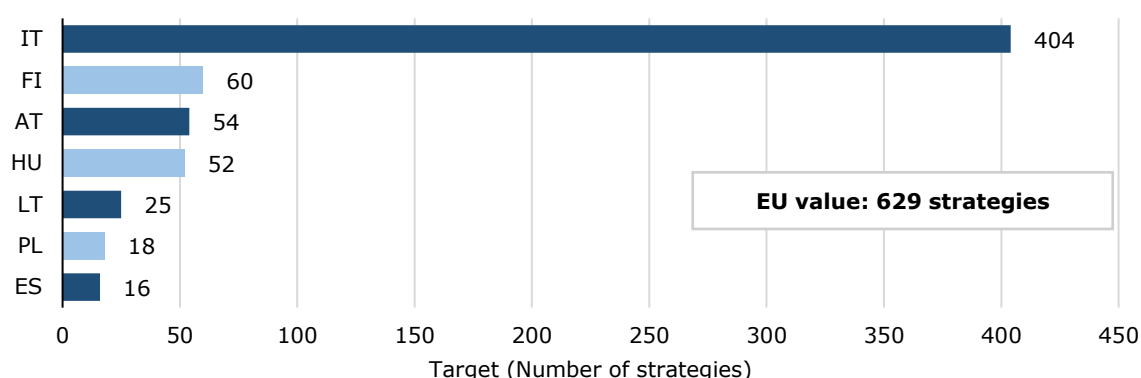
R.40	Number of interventions	Number of CSPs	CSPs
COOP	8	7	AT, ES, FI, HU, IT, LT, PL
INVEST	3	3	AT, ES, PL

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

The total EU value is 629 strategies.²⁸ The target of Italy already accounts for 64 % of this overall value, followed by Finland, Austria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Spain, with targets ranging from 16 in Spain to 60 in Finland.

²⁸ In most cases, smart villages are likely to be supported through LEADER. The projects benefitting from support will only be selected over the course of 2023 and 2024. Targets will be updated afterwards. Therefore, the result indicator targets for R.40 are likely to increase and the current data available represent an underestimation.

Figure 6 Targets for R40 Smart transition of the rural economy



Note that BE-Flanders, BE-Wallonia, BG, HR, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FR, DE, EL, IE, LV, LU, MT, NL, PT, RO, SK, SI, SE did not set a target for this indicator

Indicator: Number of supported smart-village strategies

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Result Indicator R.41 measures the share of rural population benefiting from improved access to services and infrastructure, which is considered an important element of local development. Member States linked 35 interventions in 18 CSPs from 17 Member States to this indicator. Of these, 15 are INVEST interventions²⁹, and five are COOP interventions.

Table 9 Number of interventions linked to RI.41 and the number and CSPs these interventions are planned in

R.41	Number of interventions	Number of CSPs	CSPs
INVEST	29	15	AT, BE-WA, BG, HR, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IT, MT, PL, CY, RO, ES
COOP	6	5	AT, BE-FL, FI, LT, NL

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

At EU level, a total of 10.8 % of the rural population is set to benefit from improved access to services and infrastructure through CAP support by 2029. Specifically, Malta, Denmark and Italy have very high ambitions, with targets set at 100 %, 74 % and 62 % respectively. Another group of four Member States³⁰ has high ambitions with targets ranging between 25 % and 45 %. Four Member States with lower ambition of between 11 % and 22 %³¹. Finally, only four Member States have very low ambition³², and another five have linked interventions to this indicator but have not set target values for it³³.

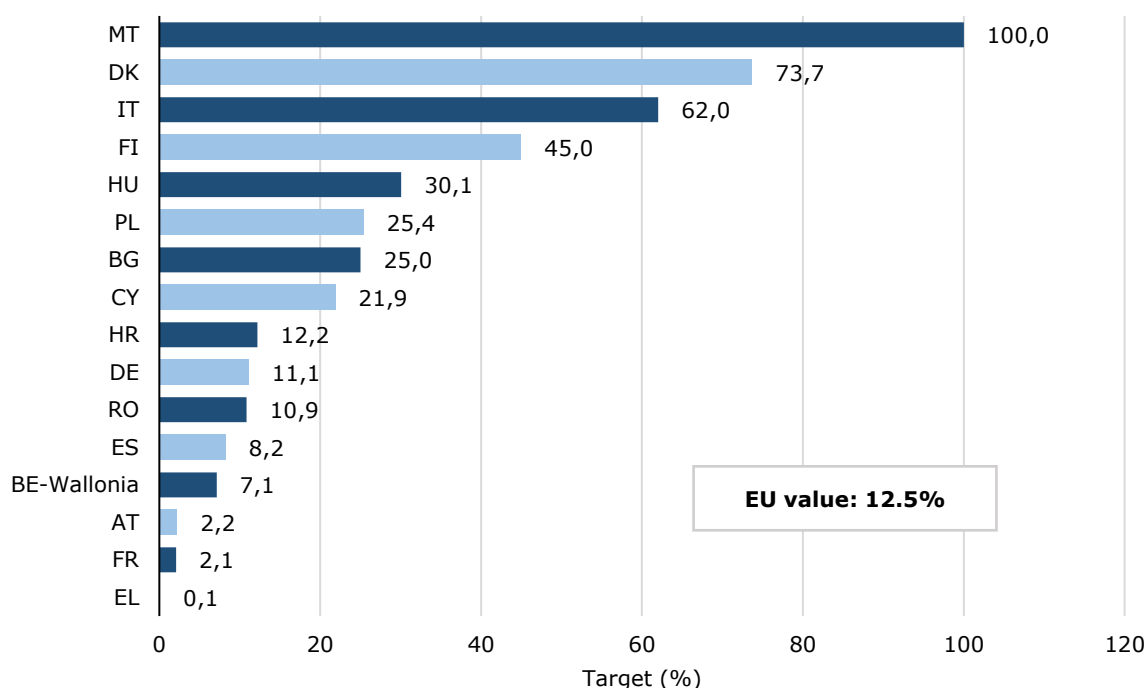
²⁹ Excluding INVEST interventions linked to O.20 and O.21.

³⁰ BG, FR, HU, PL.

³¹ RO, DE, HR, CY.

³² AT, BE-Wallonia, FR, ES.

³³ BE-Flanders, EL, LT, NL, PT.

Figure 7 Targets for R.41 – Connecting rural Europe

Note that BE-Flanders, CZ, EE, IE, LV, LT, LU, NL, PT, SK, SI, SE did not set a target for this indicator

Indicator: Share of rural population benefitting from improved access to services and infrastructure through CAP support

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

In total, 117 Rural Development interventions have been linked to **Result Indicator 1** on enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation. This includes 44 COOP interventions, specified in 26 of the 28 CSPs, as well as 73 KNOW interventions in 25 CSPs (see table below).

Table 10 Number of interventions linked to RI.1 and the number and CSPs these interventions are planned in

RI.1	Number of interventions	Number of CSPs	CSPs
COOP	44	26	AT, BE-FL, BE-WA, BG, HR, CZ, EE, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, MT, NL, PL, PT, CY, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE
KNOW	73	25	AT, BE-FL, BG, HR, CZ, EE, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, MT, NL, PL, PT, CY, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

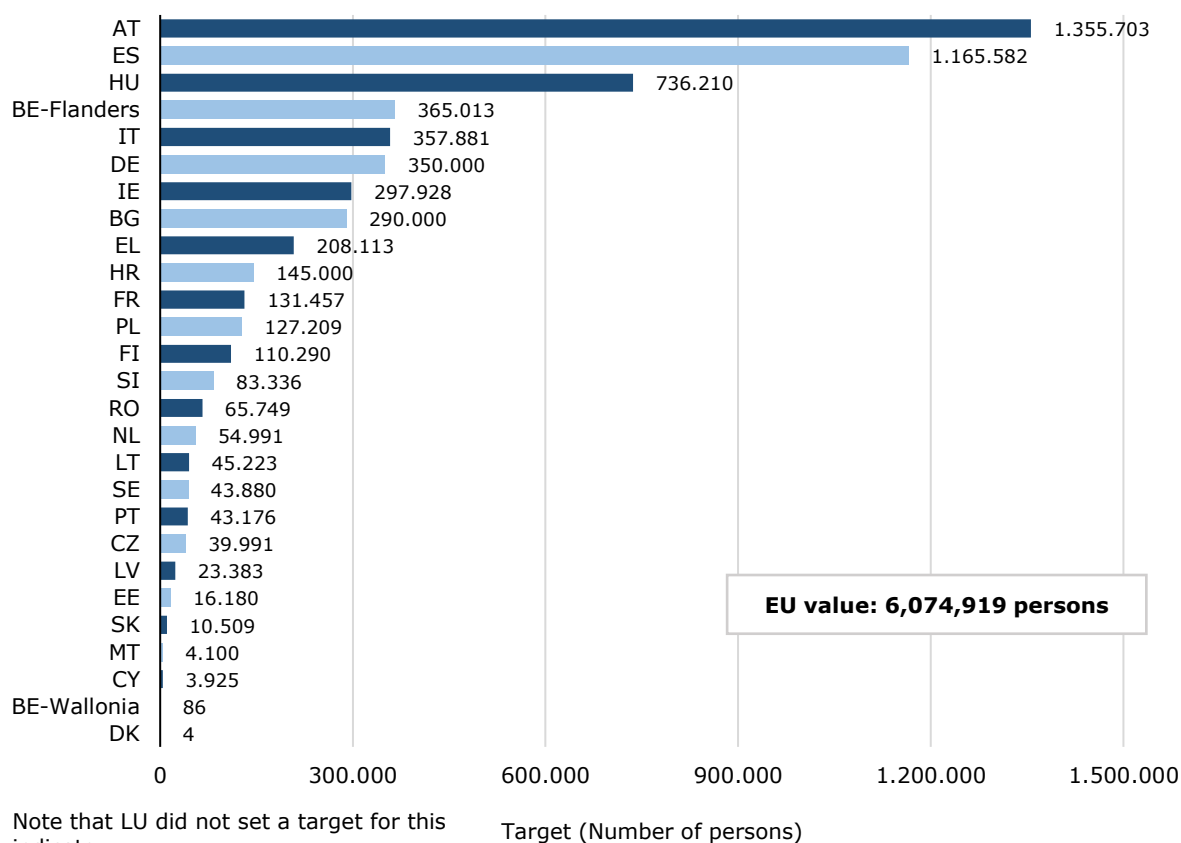
According to the targets defined for R.1, on more than 6 million instances are people set to benefit from advice, training, knowledge exchange or participation in EIPs through the support of the CAP across the EU³⁴. A couple of Member States define ambitious targets of more than a million, notably Austria and Spain. The remaining Member States set targets below one million, with one group of Member States setting targets between (or equal to) 350 000 and 750 000 (Italy, Germany, Belgium-Flanders and Hungary), another group setting targets between 100 000 and 300 000 persons (Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Ireland, Poland), and the remaining Member States below 100 000 and as little as 4 000 in Malta and Cyprus. Luxembourg has not set any target, whereas Denmark has set a target of 4 persons, and Wallonia 86 persons. The EU value of more than 6 million include approximately 2 million instances that persons from across the EU will benefit from advice, training, and knowledge exchange on environmental or climate-related aspects that the Member States target through interventions linked to R.28. As the targets defined for R.28 (Environmental or climate-related performance through knowledge and innovation) are supposed to

³⁴ On some occasions, the same person may benefit from training or advice more than once during the programming period.

be captured in R.1 as well, this suggest that approximately a third of the occasions on which people will benefit from training and advice will be related to environmental and climate-related topics.

As the figure below illustrates, some Member States like Germany or Greece set relatively moderate targets. For instance, Greece has designed four cooperation, four knowledge and information and four sectoral interventions related to knowledge yet expects only 208 000 people to benefit from them. Likewise, Germany has designed four cooperation, six knowledge and information, one investment and two sectoral interventions and expects only 350 000 people to benefit from them.

Figure 8 Targets for R.1 Enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation



Indicator: Number of persons benefiting from advice, training, knowledge exchange or participating in European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups supported by the CAP to enhance sustainable economic, social, environmental, climate and resource efficiency performance

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

4.2. Contribution of the CAP to connected rural areas

CAP Strategic Plans will contribute to creating digital futures, as well as improving and/or creating transport links and new mobilities in rural areas. A variety of CAP interventions and their combination support creating more connected rural areas. They are described below for each of these elements.

4.2.1. Digital futures

According to the rural vision, improving digital futures means improving digital infrastructures to improve connectivity, providing the means to develop user-centred innovative digital technologies, including to help improve rural people's access to services, and enhancing digital skills, which are statistically lower in rural areas compared to urban areas. The most relevant interventions found to contribute to these objectives are cooperation, investments and knowledge.

Cooperation

When analysing the COOP interventions, the digital dimension in rural areas is expected to be mostly addressed through **smart village strategies**. Although not mandatory, using the potential of digitalisation is one element of the definition of smart villages. These are mentioned in 19 COOP interventions linked to O.31 "Support to LEADER strategies" in 17 MS³⁵ and in **seven COOP interventions linked to O.32 "other cooperation" covering small villages**³⁶.

For example, one Latvian intervention addresses the digital dimensions via Local Action Groups (LAGs), which will have to include a description of the innovative solutions in their local development strategy (LDS) and consider this as a selection criterion for when selecting LDS and promoting networking activities that enable the transfer and development of innovative ideas (including through digital solutions).

Various COOP interventions linked to O.32 "Other cooperation operations, (AT, FI, HU, LT, RO), support is also envisaged for activities supporting digitalisation. Some examples are listed in the table below.

Table 11 COOP interventions linked to O.32 supporting digitalisation

CSP	Intervention and purpose	Beneficiaries
AT	The intervention "Cooperation" will support the digitisation of regions	Cooperation of at least two actors in the legal form of a legal person or association without its own legal personality. Cooperations consisting exclusively of research institutions are not eligible.
	The intervention "Reactivation of the vacancy by raising awareness & consulting, development concepts & management for local and city centre strengthening "highlights the need to consider the spatial impact of digitalisation when creating integrated settlement (i.e. towns, villages) development concepts or comparable concepts.	Joint funding project of local associations of at least two municipalities, community associations/cooperations, regional associations (e.g. LAGs), institutions focused on regional development.
ES	The intervention "Cooperation for territorial structuring" will among others, support the preparation of smart villages strategies.	Natural or legal persons including public administrations who are part of a Cooperation Group set up for the implementation of projects contributing to the SOs related to improving the position of the primary sector in the value chain, the development of rural areas, promoting employment, growth and social inclusion or Cooperation Groups set up as a legal entity.
FI	The intervention "Smart Village collaboration projects" will support measures on intelligent transport and logistics solutions, smart local services and service chains as well as smart food chains, digitalisation and business cooperation, smart farm strategies and cooperation, broadband access and the related digital leap of business.	Bodies governed by public law and private law, such as municipalities, associations, cooperatives, and other bodies governed by public law and private law related to smart villages.
HU	The intervention "Rural development cooperation to support the digital transition of small settlements/ smart village" will promote rural development cooperation with the aim of	Private and legal persons, non-profit organisations, associations, cooperatives, municipalities, industry chambers.

³⁵ AT, BE, Flanders with 2 interventions, CZ, DK, EE, EL, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, LU, LV, PL, RO, SE, SI.

³⁶ AT, ES, FI, HU, IT, LT.

Taking stock of how CAP Strategic Plans contribute to the objectives of the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

CSP	Intervention and purpose	Beneficiaries
	supporting the digital transition of small settlements.	
IT	The intervention "Cooperation on rural, local and smart villages" will support among others, the search for partners and the preparation of smart village strategies and revitalization of rural areas	Actors as identified by the regional and provincial management authorities or by the LAGs in the context of the LDS, such as newly established public and/or private partnerships identifying a LEADER, public and/or private partnerships already established and with a recognised legal form identifying a lead or legal representative. The intervention does not support partnerships involving exclusively research organisations.
LT	The intervention "Smart villages" will support the infrastructure needed for the deployment of digital services, creating public or social services, education and road service centres.	LAGs with an approved LDS. Project partner can be other natural and legal persons fulfilling the SME requirements, municipalities, their bodies or enterprises. The partners do not apply for support individually but implement the activities in their own overall smart rural strategy.
	The intervention "Short supply chains" will support new digital solutions to manage organisational and marketing processes, while optimising costs, ensuring the quality of activities and guaranteeing a proper (reputable supplier) branding among consumers.	Projects involving operators active in the production and/or processing and/or marketing of agricultural, food and/or food products and/or the marketing of food products. These may be farmers, legal persons active in the production and/or processing and/or marketing of agricultural and/or food products and/or in the marketing and/or marketing of foodstuffs.
RO	The intervention "Developing cooperation in the value chain" supports the development of new digital technologies offering new opportunities to optimise production processes (farmers, processors, traders) and also operate supply chains, allowing, inter alia, a faster flow of information from farm to fork about the origin of the food and the production technologies used.	Partnerships established from at least one partner in the following categories: MSMEs, NGOs, public authorities, school establishments (including universities in the field), sanitary, leisure and catering facilities; OGs) and at least one farmer, group or producer/cooperative organisation active in the agricultural sector.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

11 COOP interventions linked to O.1 "EIP operational groups implementation"³⁷ will also support projects that address digitalisation such as those supporting digital technologies (PT) and their diffusion (IT), data and data technologies farm demonstrations (HU), promoting and disseminating knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas (DE, IT), supporting the application of knowledge and technology (including digital) generated by frontier research (LV), projects supporting advanced technologies, digitalisation and other smart business management solutions, including the development of non-technological innovation (LT). In Romania, the EIP projects should help improve competitiveness, technology and digitalisation of the agri-food sector, and the multi-interactive approach will make it easier to bring together the various entities involved in innovation, collaborate on the implementation of innovative solutions, including digital innovation hubs. In Slovenia, the COOP intervention "Consortia of knowledge institutions to support the transition of agriculture to green, digital and climate-neutral" envisages the development of digital tools, development and integration of AKIS databases for the collection, monitoring and analysis of data (including laboratory) to assist the transition towards sustainable agricultural systems. In Croatia, COOP intervention "Support for the ERA Operational Groups" aims, among others, to support the adaptation of the young farmers' business to the demands of digitalisation. Overall, most of these COOP interventions addressing the digital dimension focus on aspects of digitalisation in agriculture, though a variety also mention digitalisation in rural areas without any further specifications. However, when looking at the envisioned beneficiaries of these interventions, all but two indicate groups of beneficiaries (except farmers) as well as groups of farmers as envisioned beneficiaries. Overall, these COOP interventions support the EIP Operational Groups (OGs) and their members, which consist of stakeholders operating in the agricultural, food, forestry sectors, rural areas, ICT, civil society, educational institutions and other actors relevant to the objectives of the OGs.

³⁷ 11 interventions in 10 MS BE Flanders, DE, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, PT, RO, SI.

Knowledge

Digitalisation is also addressed through **KNOW interventions**.³⁸ They support knowledge transfer and training and advisory services on digital and smart technologies and tools, digital skills, use of digital public services, etc. Farmers and people working in agriculture and forestry are expected final beneficiaries, with a few countries making a distinctive reference to young farmers and/or young people as expected beneficiaries (ES, HR, LT, PL, RO), as well as rural entrepreneurs and communities, residents, producer organisations, food business operators (FI), local action groups and members of industry circles (SI) or entities planning to set up an EIP group and initiate an innovative project (LT). In Poland, inhabitants of rural areas, including teaching staff and students of agricultural schools, can be indirect beneficiaries of the knowledge transfer and trainings. In Hungary, the KNOW intervention "Training and demonstration programmes" should complement the other CAP interventions by including compulsory trainings required for certain interventions of the CAP SP covering digital competences and rural development cooperation to support smart villages (digital competence development is a compulsory element of mandatory trainings).

In Spain, some prioritisations will be given based on the recipients of the advice and knowledge (e.g. to women, young people, persons registered in rural areas etc.) and on the characteristics of their location (areas with natural constraints, Natura 2000, vulnerable to nitrate pollution and others). Priority criteria will also be considered in relation to the subject of advice, with themes aimed at generational renewal and new farmers, innovation, transfer of technological knowledge and cross-cutting advice, etc.

Investments

28 INVEST interventions³⁹ **support investments in digital technologies**. These interventions cover a vast variety of topics, ranging from **investments for non-agricultural activities in rural areas** to investments in **capacity expansion in processing plants**, etc. Furthermore, identified purposes also range from improving farmers' resilience and/ or income situation to increasing competitiveness, generating employment, and contributing to the environment or climate among others. The interventions also all foresee different beneficiaries, such as individual & groups of agricultural holdings, individual & groups of forestry holdings, **other beneficiaries, individual beneficiaries, and public authorities**. 21 INVEST interventions from 11 Member States⁴⁰ support investments into forest technologies and processing and marketing of forest products.

Four INVEST interventions from four Member States (DE, ES, FI, SI) **support investments in broadband**, making a specific distinction by mentioning this independently and not grouping it under digital technologies, all which are infrastructure investments linked to O.22 "infrastructure investments" aside from the Slovenian intervention, which is linked to O.24 "Off-farm productive investment". Finland has as an intervention called 'Rural Broadband Investments', while Germany has an intervention titled 'Physical infrastructure – broadband coverage', Slovenia supports investments in broadband through their investment titled 'investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products to increase productivity and technological development, including digitalisation' and Spain via their intervention called 'Non-productive investments in basic services in rural areas'. It is notable that all Member States foresee a variety of beneficiaries for these interventions; please see a table on the next page for an overview.

A variety of these digital technology focused INVEST interventions have specific target groups prioritised through eligibility and/or selection criteria. **Bulgaria and Romania identified rural non-farm business as a target group for their interventions supporting investments in digital technologies**, while Estonia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece, and Italy prioritised **SMEs**. Hungary prioritised women in general while Estonia and Slovakia prioritised the organic sector in their interventions supporting investment in digital technologies. When looking at other target groups, Slovakia identified multi-entity involvement as a target group to be prioritised, and Estonia prioritised applicants whose investment contributes to the achievement of environmental and climate policy objectives.

Eight Member States⁴¹ address the digital dimension through digital services, **digital infrastructure, and/or digital tools/solutions in rural areas** under INVEST interventions. Finland does this when focusing on rural environment development and rural broadband investments, while France, Hungary and Spain do when focusing on improving basic services and infrastructure in rural areas. Poland addresses the digital dimension through digital infrastructures and digital tools/solutions under their intervention 'infrastructure in rural areas and the implementation of the concept of smart villages'. Austria, Hungary, and Estonia use digital infrastructure, digital tools/solutions, and Digital Innovation Hubs in rural areas when focusing on investing in developing

³⁸ 25 interventions in 13 MS (AT, BE.Flanders, ES, FI, HR, HU, IE, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SI).

³⁹ BE-FL, BE-WA, BU, EE, EL, HR, FI, HU, IT, LT, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI.

⁴⁰ BG, CZ, EE, EL, FR, HR, IT, HU, PT, SK, SI.

⁴¹ AT, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, and PL.

rural businesses. 12 INVEST interventions from eight Member States address the digital dimension through digital services (HU, SI), digital infrastructure (EL, ES, PT, SK, SI), and/or digital tools/solutions (BE-WA, HU, PL, PT) when supporting investments in processing of wood (BE-WA, SI), forest management/support (HU, SK, PT), land infrastructure projects (EL), and irrigation (ES, PT). Estonia addresses the digital dimension through digitalisation of production and services, digitalisation and automation of production, and investments supporting digitalisation and the introduction of new technologies. Hungary and Finland also address the digital dimension via digitalisation in general, and Lithuania addresses this dimension through digitalisation of production processes.

Table 12 Identified purposes and beneficiaries for INVEST interventions supporting investments in broadband

CSP	Purpose	Beneficiaries
DE	Improving the quality of life in rural areas through improved access to and quality of infrastructure	Public authorities and other beneficiaries (NGOs, academia, natural parks, EIP) such as individual beneficiaries (neither agriculture nor forestry holdings), local authorities and other bodies, legal persons governed by public and private law and their associations, as well as partnerships
ES	Improving the quality of life in rural areas through improved access to and quality of infrastructures and services; contributing to generational renewal and/or promoting farm succession; reducing the gender employment gap and reducing the trend of depopulation in rural areas	Public authorities, other beneficiaries (NGOs, academia, natural parks, EIP) such as natural or legal persons subject to private law, public private associations, and groups and non-profit organisations
FI	Improving the quality of life in rural areas through improved access to and quality of infrastructure	Public authorities and other beneficiaries (NGOs, academia, natural parks, EIP) such as associations, cooperatives, and operators.
SI	Increasing competitiveness	Other beneficiaries (NGOs, academia, natural parks, EIP) such as farmers of agricultural holdings or complementary activities on the farm, legal persons and sole proprietors who are registered for the processing or marketing of agricultural products.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Two interventions linked to O.24 “**off-farm productive investments**” of the Slovenian CSP address digitalisation. One is titled ‘investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products to increase productivity and technological development, including digitalisation’ and the other one is titled ‘Investments in primary wood processing and digitalisation’. It is to be noted that these interventions address this digital dimension in relation to agriculture and forestry, not specifically for rural areas. This is reflected by the purposes and beneficiaries of these interventions. The first one has the purpose of increasing competitiveness, and the identified beneficiaries are farmers of agricultural holdings or complementary activities on the farm, legal persons and sole proprietors who are registered for the processing or marketing of agricultural products. The second intervention has the purpose of improving the performance of the forestry sector and individual and group forestry holdings as its beneficiaries.

Five interventions from four Member States (CZ, EL, HR, PT) mention **technology development** and focus on modernisation of technologies in relation to forestry and the processing of forestry products with to improve the performance of the forestry sector. Romania has an intervention on forest technologies to improve resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems with the purpose of contributing to the environment or climate.

4.2.2. Transport links and new mobilities

The rural vision identifies the need to improve transport infrastructure and develop sustainable mobility solutions for rural areas. We found the most relevant interventions to support this aspect to be cooperation and investment.

Cooperation

Investments addressing **basic services and infrastructure in rural areas** are planned in some **COOP interventions linked to O.31 "support to LEADER strategies"** (e.g. investments in local infrastructure in Romania and Czech Republic, basic, municipal and social infrastructure projects in settlements with no more than 25 000 inhabitants in Croatia, investments in local public infrastructure e.g.: class III roads in Slovakia that clearly demonstrate the importance of connectivity and support the development of sustainable tourism). Investments are also envisaged **in interventions (linked to O.32 "Other cooperation operations")** such as in Finland (intervention "Smart Village Collaboration Projects" supporting intelligent transport and logistics solutions), in Lithuania (intervention "Smart villages" supporting infrastructure needed for the deployment of digital services, creating public or social services, education and road service centres) and in Hungary (supporting the rural development cooperation to support the digital transition of small settlements).

Investments

20 INVEST interventions⁴² have been identified **to support investments in basic services in rural areas and basic infrastructure/ regeneration (transport, facilities, social infrastructure)**. Most of these interventions focus on investments in infrastructure and basic services in general rather than specifically on investments for transport or mobility. **Three INVEST interventions from three MS (AT, MT, RO)** support investments in transport infrastructure specifically:

- Austria has an intervention titled 'rural transport infrastructure' (linked to O.22 "Infrastructure investments") with multiple purposes (e.g. generating employment, improving the quality of life in rural areas through improved access to and quality of infrastructures and services, and contributing to economic growth of the territory) as well as multiple beneficiaries (i.e. individual agricultural holdings; individual forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries (NGOs, academia, natural parks, EIP), natural and legal persons, and registered partnerships).
- Malta has an intervention titled 'Off-Farm Infrastructure Rural Roads for Competitiveness' (linked to O.22 "Infrastructure investments") that specifically supports investments in rural roads with the purpose of increasing competitiveness and contributing to generational renewal and/or promoting farm succession and public authorities as the main beneficiaries.
- Romania developed an intervention titled 'Creation/modernisation of basic road infrastructure in rural areas' (linked to O.22 "Infrastructure investments") for the purpose of improving the quality of life in rural areas through improved access to and quality of infrastructures and services and public authorities are seen as the intended beneficiaries.

One INVEST intervention mentions the topic of mobility specifically: the Austrian intervention called "climate-friendly mobility solutions – climate active mobile" (linked to O.22 "Infrastructure investments") which supports energy efficiency. The purpose of this intervention is a combination of generating employment, contributing to economic growth of the territory, and contributing to the environment or climate. Envisioned beneficiaries are public authorities and other beneficiaries such as, natural or legal persons, and registered partnerships.

4.2.3. Presentation of relevant result indicator targets

Two result indicators and their targets are particularly relevant for the contribution of the CAP to connected rural areas:

- R.40 on smart transition of the rural economies; and
- R.41 on connecting rural Europe.

Indicator R.40 measures the contribution to employment and local development through the **development of smart village strategies**. In total, eleven interventions are planned in seven

⁴² AT, BE-WA, BU, ES, FR, HR, DE, HU, IT, PL, CY, RO, SK.

CSPs. 8 of these are COOP interventions, and 3 are INVEST interventions, which are planned in Austria, Spain, and Poland.

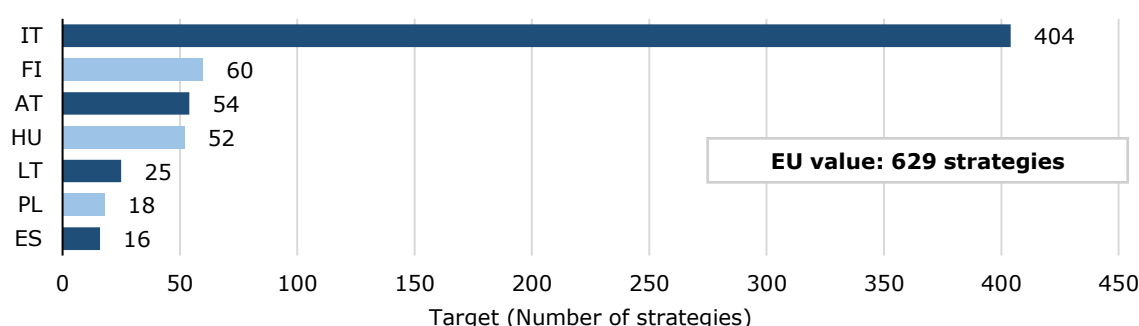
Table 13 Number of interventions linked to RI.40 and the number and CSPs these interventions are planned in

R.40	Number of interventions	Number of CSPs	CSPs
COOP	8	7	AT, ES, FI, HU, IT, LT, PL
INVEST	3	3	AT, ES, PL

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

The total EU value is 629 strategies.⁴³ The target of Italy already accounts for 64% of this overall value, followed by Finland, Austria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Spain, with targets ranging from 16 in Spain to 60 in Finland.

Figure 9 Targets for R40 Smart transition of the rural economy



Note that BE-Flanders, BE-Wallonia, BG, HR, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FR, DE, EL, IE, LV, LU, MT, NL, PT, RO, SK, SI, SE did not set a target for this indicator

Indicator: Number of supported smart-village strategies

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Result Indicator R.41 measures the share of rural population benefiting from improved access to services and infrastructure, which is considered an important element of local development. Member States linked 35 interventions in 18 CSPs from 17 Member States to this indicator. Of these, 15 are INVEST interventions⁴⁴, and five are COOP interventions.

Table 14 Number of interventions linked to RI.41 and the number and CSPs these interventions are planned in

R.41	Number of interventions	Number of CSPs	CSPs
INVEST	29	15	AT, BE-WA, BG, HR, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IT, MT, PL, CY, RO, ES
COOP	6	5	AT, BE-FL, FI, LT, NL

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

At EU level, a total of 10.8% of the rural population is set to benefit from improved access to services and infrastructure through CAP support by 2029. Specifically, Malta, Denmark and Italy have very high ambitions, with targets set at 100%, 74% and 62% respectively. Another group of four Member States⁴⁵ has high ambitions with targets ranging between 25% and 45%. Four Member States with lower ambition of between 11% and 22%⁴⁶. Finally, only four Member States have very low ambition⁴⁷, and another five have linked interventions to this indicator but have not set target values for it⁴⁸.

⁴³ In most cases, smart villages are likely to be supported through LEADER. The projects benefitting from support will only be selected over the course of 2023 and 2024. Targets will be updated afterwards. Therefore, the result indicator targets for R.40 are likely to increase and the current data available represent an underestimation.

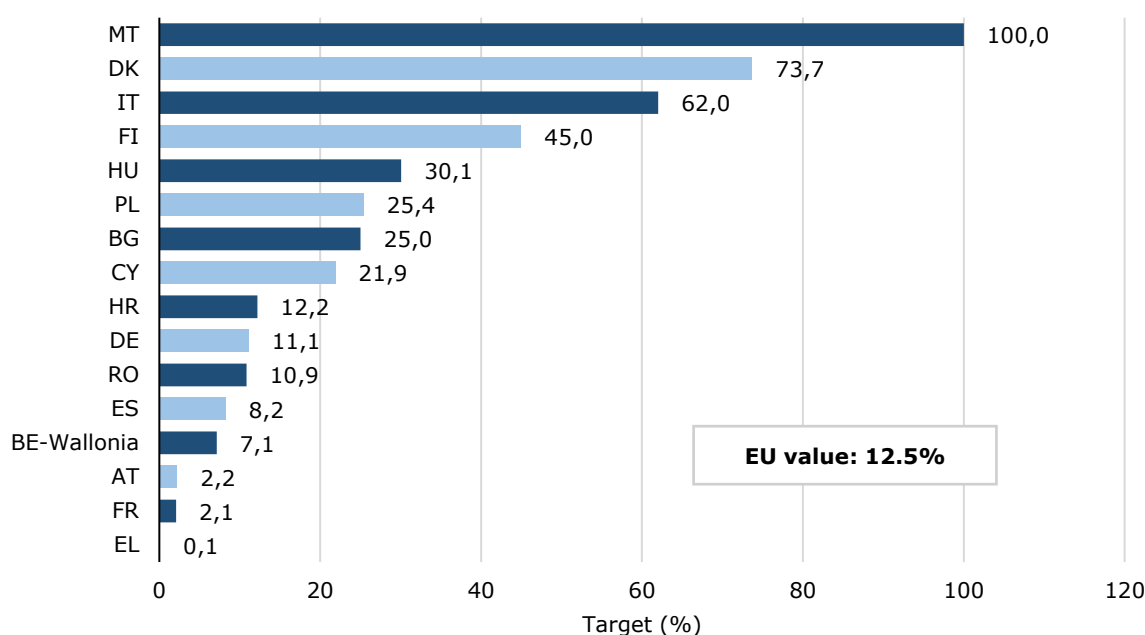
⁴⁴ Excluding INVEST interventions linked to O.20 and O.21.

⁴⁵ BR, FR, HU, PL.

⁴⁶ RO, DE, HR, CY.

⁴⁷ AT, BE-Wallonia, FR, ES.

⁴⁸ BE-Flanders, EL, LT, NL, PT.

Figure 10 Targets for R.41 – Connecting rural Europe

Note that BE-Flanders, CZ, EE, IE, LV, LT, LU, NL, PT, SK, SI, SE did not set a target for this indicator

Indicator: Share of rural population benefitting from improved access to services and infrastructure through CAP support

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

4.3. Contribution of the CAP to resilient rural areas

CAP Strategic Plans will contribute to increasing the resilience of rural areas to climate change, as well as the environment, using a variety of practices (e.g. farm practices). However, the focus is not only on natural resilience; the CAP Strategic Plans will also support strengthening rural areas' social resilience. Therefore, a variety of CAP interventions and their combination support creating more resilient rural areas. They are described below for each of these elements.

4.3.1. Resilience to climate change and environment

The rural vision stresses that rural areas should play a central role in the European Green deal. Rural areas should build on sustainable farming, forestry, agrifood economic activities and a diversified range of greener economic activities promoting carbon farming and local, community-based high-quality production. Under this subpart of the resilience block of action, we therefore look also at the contribution of the CAP to greener agriculture and forestry, focusing on interventions that are likely to have a broader interest for the rural community. Noting that all support provided under Specific Objectives 4, 5 and 6 of the CAP contribute to improved environmental and climate resilience in the farming sector.

Cooperation

Climate change mitigation and adaptation will be generally addressed through **28 COOP interventions in 16 MS**,⁴⁹ consisting of 13 interventions linked to O.1 "EIP operational group implementation", four interventions linked to O.31 "Support to LEADER strategies" and eleven interventions linked to O.32 "Supporting other cooperation operations". They support rural development cooperation for the development of a biomass-based economy, collaboration for forest fire prevention and risk reduction and support for agricultural irrigation communities improving water efficiency (HU), cooperation activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation (FI), EIP projects

⁴⁹ AT, BE.Wallonia, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, LV, NL, PL, SE, SI, SK.

supporting the transition of agriculture to green, digital and climate-neutral systems (SI), promote green public procurement (LV) as well as interventions linked to O.31 "Support to LEADER strategies" highlighting the needs to address climate change (DE, NL).

COOP interventions may also support activities related to **sustainable energy** such as renewable energy and related technologies (LT via smart village strategies), investments related to climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of sustainable energy (LV), development of a biomass-based economy (HU), and potentially in other interventions listing renewable energy and energy efficiency as main needs (ES, FI, HU, IE, NL, SE).

Other environmental topics (i.e. nature protection, biodiversity) are covered through various COOP interventions such as in the intervention linked to O.1 "EIP operational group implementation" focused on "Testing of nature conservation measures in protected areas" (SI), "AECM cooperation measure-Article 77" aiming to address key needs such as improving air quality through the reduction of air pollutants arising from agriculture, protecting and improving water quality, soil health, increasing the number of sustainable farming systems that better utilise and protect natural resources (IE), on halting biodiversity decline, including farmland birds and pollinators and cooperation on peat meadows and Natura 2000 (NL), on reduction of agricultural water pollution and conservation and management of forest lands, soil quality through innovation cooperation groups not related to the EIP-Agri (ES), on sustainable management of natural resources (FI), and on supporting agricultural irrigation communities improving water efficiency addressing environmental aspects, reuse or recycling and organic farming (HU).

Investments in the context of COOP interventions in environmental and climate-related topics are expected to be supported in 13 interventions in nine MS.⁵⁰ These may include preventive investments against the negative consequences of natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events (SK), non-productive investments related to agri-environmental and climate (AECM) cooperation measure (IE), business investments for tangible and intangible investments to promote safety and preparedness (e.g. first aid and fire rescue investments) (FI), investments contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing GHG emissions and promoting carbon removals as well as promoting sustainable energy (LV), and investments in renewable energy and related technologies and in recreation in forests (LT).

In the Netherlands, investments may be supported in the water system aimed at improving water quality and climate mitigation and adaptation, non-productive investments (related to the implementation of an integrated area plan) focused on the establishment and restoration measures for environmental objectives (water, soil and air), biodiversity and climate. In Belgium (Flanders), small investments in collective infrastructure or equipment for harvesting, storage, processing and logistics of biomass (residues) from nature and forestry with a view to high-quality local application and with a focus on circularity, small investments to strengthen biodiversity and landscape quality are envisaged. In Sweden, in the SAM intervention linked to O.1 "EIP operational group implementation", investments are envisaged in projects aimed at enhancing biodiversity conditions by creating flowering surfaces and other small biotopes.

Knowledge

KNOW interventions supporting knowledge transfer and trainings and advisory services will also **address environmental and climate-related topics** such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, use of natural resources (water, soil, air), circular economy, etc.⁵¹ For example, some interventions cover the production and distribution of renewable energy and biofuels (FI), information and support to AKIS actors on the use of natural resources, risk management and climate change, problems related to the livestock, forestry and plant production sectors (IT), the European Green objectives (LT, RO) environmental practices covering biodiversity, soil and water (RO), waste-free and small waste technologies and innovative bio-based products (LT), among others.

Investments

78 INVEST interventions support investments addressing **environmental and climate-related topics** for rural areas and agricultural aspects, please see the table on the next page for an overview. Out of these 78 INVEST interventions, 32 are off-farm non-productive investments (linked to O.23).

⁵⁰ BE, Flanders, DE, FI, IE, LT, LV, NL, SE, SK.

⁵¹ AT, BG, DE, EE, ES, FR, FI, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI.

Table 15 Overview of INVEST interventions addressing environmental and climate-related topics

Entrepreneurial elements	Nr. of interventions	CSPs supporting investments
Natural heritage	2	AT, FR
Renewable energy and/or energy efficiency	17	AT, BE-FL, BG, EE, EL, ES, FI, HU, RO, SK, SI
Mobility (e.g. energy efficiency)	1	AT
Environmental infrastructure and basic services	5	CY, ES, IT, MT, SK
Infrastructure for environmental purposes	10	AT, CY, EE, EL, IT, SK, SI, PL
Water and irrigation	11	AT, DE, ES, FR, HR, LT, PT, SK
Preventive actions against adverse climate effects	11	AT, BE-WA, BG, CY, CZ, DE, LV, RO
Protecting and restoring of rural environment and ecosystems .	21	BE-FL, BE-WA, DE, EE, EL, FI, LV, NL, PT

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Two INVEST interventions (off farm non-productive investments linked to O.23) from France and Austria support investments **to preserve and restore natural (and forest) heritage land** and have the identified purpose of contributing to the environment or climate. The French intervention foresees public authorities, natural parks, and associations as beneficiaries, while the Austrian intervention envisions individual agricultural and forestry holdings, public authorities and other types of promoters to be beneficiaries. The French intervention includes geographical targeting for Natura 2000 protected areas and supports farm practices such as landscape, forestry and other specifics. The latter is also supported by the Austrian intervention.

18 INVEST interventions⁵² support investments for **renewable energy and/or energy efficiency** projects. This covers projects focusing on infrastructure (FR, HU), processing and marketing of products⁵³, bioeconomy (EE, SK) and renewable energy without further details (AT, FI). The Bulgarian interventions targets a variety of specific agrifood sectors (i.e. cereals, fruit and vegetables; meat products, bee honey, technical and medical crops, prepared feedingstuffs for farmed animals, grape must, wine and vinegar), while a Slovenian interventions targets dairy cattle, beef and veal. Farm practices supported are bioeconomy, energy efficiency and production⁵⁴, forestry (FR), water (EL, FR) precision agriculture (EL), low input system (SK), manure storage and processing techniques, animals and organic farming (ES). Finland prioritises micro and small enterprises for their intervention, Hungary targets women in general (not specifically from rural areas), and the Slovak intervention prioritises multi-entity involvement in the project among others. Envisioned beneficiaries and identified purposes of the interventions vary; please see an overview below.

Table 16 Identified purposes and envisioned beneficiaries for INVEST interventions supporting investments for renewable energy / energy efficiency

CSP	Identified purpose	Beneficiaries
AT	Contributing to the environment or climate	Individual and groups of agricultural holdings; individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries such as natural and legal persons and registered partnerships and energy communities
BE-FL	Generating employment; contributing to economic growth of the territory; contributing to the environment or climate	Groups of agricultural holdings; other beneficiaries such as companies active in the agri-food chain or the bio-based economy
BG	Improve farmers' resilience and/ or income situation; Improve food chain position of farmers; increasing competitiveness; Generating employment; contributing to economic growth of the territory; contributing to the environment or climate	Individual and groups of agricultural holdings; other beneficiaries such as processors of agricultural products

⁵² AT, BE-FL, BG, EE, EL, ES, FI, HU, RO, SK, SI.

⁵³ AT, BE-FL, BG, ES, HR, RO, SK, SI.

⁵⁴ AT, BE-FL, BG, EE, EL, ES, FI, HU, RO, SK.

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CSP	Identified purpose	Beneficiaries
EE	Increasing competitiveness; contributing to the environment or climate	Individual and groups of agricultural holdings; groups of forestry holdings individual beneficiaries (neither agriculture nor forestry holdings)
EL	Improve food chain position of farmers; Increasing competitiveness; generating employment; contributing to economic growth of the territory	Public authorities
ES	Improve farmers' resilience and/ or income situation; Increasing competitiveness; generating employment; contributing to economic growth of the territory; contributing to the environment or climate; reduce the gender gap and promote the social inclusion	Individual and groups of agricultural holdings; other beneficiaries such as natural or legal persons, who wish to develop investments in rural enterprises, located in rural areas, Enterprises created through intervention "Start-up of rural start-ups" Article 69 (e), natural or legal persons and their groupings (including communities of property or other entities) which process, market or develop or who will transform, market or develop: agricultural products, food products
FI	Contributing to the environment or climate	Other beneficiaries such as natural or legal persons who engage in or engage in the production of renewable energy or biofuels
FR	Generating employment; contributing to economic growth of the territory; contributing to the environment or climate	Public authorities; Other beneficiaries such as natural or legal person, public or private, carrying out projects related to the definition, establishment, creation and/or development of a local infrastructure or basic service
HU	Increasing competitiveness	Individual agricultural holdings; individual forestry holdings; individual beneficiaries (neither agriculture nor forestry holdings); public authorities; other beneficiaries such as natural persons, Enterprises with legal personality, Undertakings without legal personality, Non-profit organisations with legal personality
RO	Improving the quality of life in rural areas through improved access to and quality of infrastructures and services	Individual and groups of agricultural holdings
SK	Increasing competitiveness; contributing to the environment or climate	Individual and groups of agricultural holdings; individual and groups of forestry holdings; individual beneficiaries (neither agriculture nor forestry holdings); other beneficiaries such as natural and legal persons engaged in the processing of agricultural products.
SI	Improve farmers' resilience and/ or income situation; improve food chain position of farmers; increasing competitiveness; Contributing to the environment or climate	Other beneficiaries such as farmers of agricultural holdings or complementary activities on the farm, legal persons and sole proprietors who are registered for the processing or marketing of agricultural products.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Furthermore, five interventions have specific entry requirements, please see an overview below.

Table 17 Overview of the entry requirements for INVEST interventions supporting investments for renewable energy and/or energy efficiency

CSP	Entry requirements
EE	Enterprises, including agriculture, forestry and agri-food enterprises, SMEs, cooperatives. More detailed requirements for applicants are laid down in the Implementing Regulation; the target group of intervention is companies, non-profit organisations, foundations and state agencies. The ultimate beneficiaries are small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas that benefit from the opportunities offered by the business environment. Investments in municipalities bordering Tallinn are not supported within the framework of the intervention
ES	The general requirements for EAFRD investments set out in point 4.7.3 of the Strategic Plan shall apply. The investment, provided that it has a significant positive impact on the rural environment, may be located both inside and outside rural areas. This positive impact will be set out in the regional annexes according to the different territorial specificities. However, they may be prioritised or even restricted to actions carried out in rural areas, depending on the specific conditions of each territory. In the case of investments for renewable energy generation, the sustainability criteria for reducing greenhouse gas emissions laid down in the Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001 must be respected. The costs listed in paragraph 4.7.1 are not eligible. A technical report describing the investments to be made and containing the contribution of such investments to meet any of the

CSP	Entry requirements
	needs raised for climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy (mainly energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste recovery, minimisation of GHG emissions) must be submitted.— An obligation to maintain co-financed investments for five years after the final payment is made to the beneficiary shall be established, in the case of maintenance of investments or jobs by SMEs this period may be limited to three years.
FI	micro and small enterprises: the number of employees is less than 50
SK	Conditions of eligibility: general eligibility conditions common to more interventions; the support shall only cover tangible and intangible investments in the assets of the enterprise; technology and Machinery; construction investments; fixed intangible assets (such as patents, software, licenses, copyrights, trademarks); for investments to reduce energy consumption, the minimum rate of reduction in consumption is 20%.
SI	Based on production output/ economic size

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

One Austrian INVEST intervention focuses on **climate-friendly mobility solutions** (e.g. energy efficiency) to generate employment, contribute to the economic growth of the territory and to contribute to the environment or climate. This is envisioned for the benefit of public authorities, natural or legal persons, or registered partnerships.

Five INVEST interventions envision investments for **environmental infrastructure and basic services** (e.g. energy efficiency, renewable energy). This covers aspects such as investments infrastructure for environmental purposes (IT, MT), building common facilities and measures including elements of green and blue infrastructure (SK), non-productive investments in basic services in the natural environment (ES), and infrastructure to promote circular economy and other environmental infrastructure in the primary sector (CY). The Spanish intervention prioritises the target group nature 2000 protected areas, and is the only intervention not linked to O.22 “infrastructure investments”, but linked to O.23 “Off-farm non-productive investments”.

All interventions have the purpose of contributing to the environment or climate (among others), and all include public authorities as foreseen beneficiaries. Other beneficiaries were foreseen, as well as entry requirements; please see the table below for an overview.

Table 18 Envisioned beneficiaries and entry requirements for the INVEST interventions supporting investments for environmental infrastructure and basic services

CSP	Beneficiaries	Entry requirement
CY	Individual and group of agricultural holdings; public authorities	Conditions of eligibility: general eligibility conditions common to more interventions; the eligibility criteria defined by the applicable legal, methodological and technical regulations shall be applied; only those activities that ensure the continuity of land consolidation in accordance with the relevant EU legislation are eligible; support shall only cover tangible and intangible investments that are consistent with the supported activities under the intervention; support shall only cover non-productive investments; support shall cover water management measures which do not use surface water (river) or groundwater for irrigation; water management measures must be in line with the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and in accordance with the relevant river basin management plans of the Slovak Republic.
ES	Individual beneficiaries (neither agriculture nor forestry holdings); public authorities; other beneficiaries such as NGOs	Investments will be carried out in rural areas, or Natura 2000 areas, to be defined at regional level; contribution of a technical memory; large-scale infrastructure investments as defined in point 4.1.8 of the PEPAC shall not be eligible under this assistance
IT	Public authorities; other beneficiaries such as public or private entities, in a single or associated form	N/A
MT	Public authorities	N/A
SK	Public authorities; other beneficiaries such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and the Municipality, state administration in the field of land consolidation and	The infrastructure remains in operation for a period of at least 5 years from the completion of the project; the investment will not lead to an economic profit for the benefit of the beneficiary.

CSP	Beneficiaries	Entry requirement
	protection of agricultural land, landowners and landowners and local territorial self-government.	

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

When foreseeing infrastructure for environmental purposes supported by investments as mentioned under 10 INVEST interventions⁵⁵, different areas are touched upon:

- investments for supporting elements of green and blue infrastructure (SK),
- climate and energy projects at local level (geographically targeting bioeconomy, energy efficiency and production) (AT),
- infrastructure for environmental purposes (IT),
- infrastructure to promote circular economy (CY),
- land improvement and consolidation (EL, PL, SK, SI), and
- land improvement environmental protection facilities (geographically targeting landscape and water) (EE).

For all but three of these interventions, the purpose of the investment practices can be identified as contribution to the environment or climate⁵⁶. The Greek intervention focusing on land infrastructure projects and the Polish intervention focusing on land consolidation have as purpose increasing competitiveness. The Slovakian intervention focused on land consolidation projects has the goal of improving farmers' resilience and/ or income situation, improving the quality of life in rural areas, and contributing to economic growth of the territory. The Cyprian intervention also has the purpose of reducing food loss and/or food waste increasing competitiveness. Among all of these interventions, public authorities and/or other beneficiaries (e.g. ministries, legal and natural persons, NGOs, landowners)⁵⁷ are foreseen. Individual and group agricultural holdings (AT, CY, EE) and individual and group forestry holdings (AT, EE) were also seen as beneficiaries by some interventions.

11 INVEST investments supporting green investments and bio-economy, including production of renewable energy, focus on **water and irrigation**⁵⁸. This covers areas such as non-farm water retention (SK), non-productive water investments (DE), water ecological improvement (AT), development of public sustainable irrigation systems (HR, LT, PT, SK) and agricultural water infrastructure (FR). The purpose of these interventions has been identified as contributing to the environment or climate, as well as increasing competitiveness (HR, LT) and improving farmer's resilience and/or income situation (FR). Foreseen beneficiaries are public authorities (AT, ES, HR, LT, PT), individual and groups of agricultural holdings (ES, LT, PT, SK) and a variety of other beneficiaries (please see the table below). The Austrian intervention prioritises small and medium-sized farms as target groups. The Slovakian, German, and Portuguese interventions have detailed and specific eligibility requirements to receive investments via these interventions (please see below). Supported farm practices are water (DE, HR, LT, PT, SK), landscape (AT, DE) and bioeconomy, energy efficiency and production (PT).

Table 19 Envisioned other beneficiaries and entry requirements for the INVEST interventions supporting investments for environmental infrastructure and basic services

CSP	Other beneficiaries	Entry requirement
AT	Natural and legal persons	N/A
DE		Investments must meet the conditions laid down in Article 73(2) of the CAP-SP Regulation. Investments/characteristics listed in the list of ineligible investments and categories of expenditure to be drawn up pursuant to Article 73(3) of the CAP-SP Regulation are excluded (see General Part Chapter 4.7.3 of the CAP-SP). The list applicable at the time of the respective call for funding shall apply. It is necessary to take into account the programmes of measures of the EC-ECD management plans as well as additional EU and EC directives for water management measures. In addition, the following exclusions, eligibility requirements and eligibility conditions apply in the Länder.

⁵⁵ AT, CY, EE, EL, IT, SK, SI, PL.

⁵⁶ AT, CY, EE, EL, IT, SK, SI, PL.

⁵⁷ AT, CY, EE, EL, IT, SK, SI, PL.

⁵⁸ AT, DE, ES, FR, HR, LT, PT, SK.

CSP	Other beneficiaries	Entry requirement
FR	Natural and legal persons	
LT	Associations of network users of land drainage systems	
PT	Entities responsible for water management as well as other public entities	
SK	Hydromelioration and the Slovak University of Agriculture and legal entities that have hydromelioration facilities under management	For each investment, where the project requires: building notification, building permit, permission of the state water administration authority to change the water structure according to the Water Act; statement and decision/opinion under the Environmental Impact Assessment Act; the statement of the state water administration body pursuant to Section 28 of the Water Act; demonstration that the project has undergone an assessment in accordance with Articles (4.7), (8) and (9) of Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community framework in the field of water policy and that the relevant mitigation measures are proposed; assessment of the overlay of floods and aridity of the area, with each individual project demonstrating how it addresses (or eliminates) droughts; compliance with and demonstration of compliance with Article 6 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of habitats, wild fauna and flora (where relevant) and ensuring compliance with national legislation governing compliance with the conditions required by Act No 543/2002 on nature and landscape conservation.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

11 INVEST interventions support **investments in preventive actions against adverse climate effects or investments in restoration of agricultural potential following natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events**⁵⁹. They relate to aspects such as the improvement of irrigation systems (incl. its sustainability) (AT, BG, PT, RO), investments for protective infrastructure (FR) as well as improvements for water infrastructure (CY), restoration of the ecosystem services (BE-WA), material infrastructure for flood and coastal protection (DE), land treatment (CZ) and flood risk mitigation measures (AT). The Belgian-Wallonian intervention also prioritises Natura 2000 protected areas. Envisioned beneficiaries are public authorities (BE-WA, CY, CZ, DE, PT), individual and/or groups of agricultural holdings (AT, CY, BE-WA), individual and groups of agricultural holdings (AT) and other beneficiaries. The other beneficiaries are entities such as water associations and cooperations (AT, PT), water user organisations (RO), legal entities in relation to irrigation (BG), water cooperatives (AT), other (local) authorities and legal persons responsible for water maintenance obligations (DE), legal owners of municipal drainage systems and the operator of national drainage systems (LV).

⁵⁹ AT, BE-WA, BG, CY, CZ, DE, LV, PT, RO.

Table 20 Envisioned beneficiaries and entry requirements for the INVEST interventions supporting investments in preventive actions against adverse climate effects or investments in restoration of agricultural potential following natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events

CSP	Entry requirement
BE-WA	For restoration projects: the parcels covered by the intervention are located in the SEP area. Have an assessment of the biological potential of the favourable site. Following clearance work and on the basis of a scientific report, the beneficiary shall, where appropriate, be required to: maintaining the open character of the lawn or heath by cutting, or by establishing an approved maintenance programme (e.g. extensive grazing); encourage natural regeneration or replant native species in accordance with the forest regeneration policy applicable in Wallonia. Obligation to comply with the commitments set out above during the period set out in the scientific report. In the event of non-compliance, the full amount of the aid will have to be repaid. The beneficiary shall authorise the competent administration to enter its property in order to verify that this provision is being properly implemented. Any land acquired must offer guarantees of definitive use for nature conservation and remain the property of the public purchaser for a period corresponding at least to the duration of the objective pursued. For restoration/enhancement of ecosystem services projects. Project identified in the P.A.R.I.S. application. Presence of a forest management plan or simple management plan, except for private owners with less than 5 ha of forest. Obligation to maintain the supported investments for the duration foreseen in the project.
DE	Specific eligibility requirements: investments must meet the conditions laid down in Article 73(2) of the CAP-SP Regulation. Investments/characteristics listed in the list of ineligible investments and categories of expenditure to be drawn up pursuant to Article 73(3) of the CAP-SP Regulation are excluded (see General Part Chapter 4.7.1 of the CAP-SP). The list applicable at the time of the respective call for funding shall apply. In addition, the following exclusions, eligibility requirements and eligibility conditions apply in the Länder. By way of derogation from the General Chapter, support for benefits in kind in the form of own benefits and property transfer tax is permitted in this sub-intervention.
PT	In the case of investments in irrigation systems, the following provisions shall be complied with: the existence of a river basin management plan, as provided for in Directive 2000/60/EC, for the entire area under which the investment is made, as well as for any other areas where environmental aspects may be affected by the investment, and the measures to be implemented under the river basin management plan relevant to the agricultural sector shall be specified in the corresponding programme of measures; must be installed or installed as part of the investment water meters to measure water consumption at the level of the supported investment. Investments in modernisation of existing irrigation facilities or elements of irrigation infrastructure; investment projects to improve irrigation facilities shall have a potential water saving of at least 7.5% based on an ex-ante assessment according to the technical parameters of the existing installation or infrastructure; if the investment has an impact on bodies of groundwater or surface water whose status has been identified as below good in the river basin management plan for reasons related to the quantity of water, an effective 5% reduction in water consumption should be achieved which contributes to ensuring good status of these bodies of water; the potential savings and effective reduction of water consumption foreseen above do not apply to investments in existing installations whose investment focuses solely on energy efficiency, the creation of a reservoir or the use of reused water impacting on bodies of groundwater or surface water.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

21 INVEST interventions also envision supporting investments in the area of **protecting and restoring of rural environment and ecosystems**. This covers areas such as land improvement (BE-FL, EL, LV, FI, EE), afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land (IT, MT, PT) biodiversity and natural resources (DE, FI, PT), climate change mitigation and adaptation (FI, NL), and development of the rural environment (FI). The Belgium-Wallonia, Latvia and Finland CSPs prioritise Natura 2000 protected areas as target groups, while Latvia and Finland also prioritise sites with priority protected species. Specific wild habitats are also targeted via various interventions: grasslands (BE-WA, LV) Woodlands (PT, MT), investments in integrated rural development (DE), mires, fens and other peatland habitats/wetlands (FI). Supported farm practices supported are landscape⁶⁰, grassland and grazing (BE-WA, LV, PT), other species (BE-WA, MT), water⁶¹, forestry (IT, MT, PT), bioeconomy, energy and production (EL, FI, PT), and soil management (PT). Certain interventions also have entry requirements, which can be seen in the table on the next page.

⁶⁰ BE-WA, DE, EE, FI, IT, MT, NL, PT.

⁶¹ BE-WA, EE, EL, MT, NL, PT.

Table 21 Entry requirements for the INVEST interventions supporting investments protecting and restoring of rural environment and ecosystems

CSP	Entry requirements
BE-WA	For SEP restoration projects: the parcels covered by the intervention are located in the SEP area. Have an assessment of the biological potential of the favourable site. Following clearance work and on the basis of a scientific report, the beneficiary shall, where appropriate, be required to: maintaining the open character of the lawn or heath by cutting or cutting, or by establishing an approved maintenance programme (e.g. extensive grazing); encourage natural regeneration or replant native species in the plant, in accordance with the forest regeneration policy applicable in Wallonia. Obligation to comply with the commitments set out above during the period set out in the scientific report. In the event of non-compliance, the full amount of the aid will have to be repaid. The beneficiary shall authorise the competent administration to enter its property in order to verify that this provision is being properly implemented. Any land acquired must offer guarantees of definitive use for nature conservation and remain the property of the public purchaser for a period corresponding at least to the duration of the objective pursued. For restoration/enhancement of ecosystem services projects. Project identified in the P.A.R.I.S. application. Presence of a forest management plan or simple management plan, except for private owners with less than 5 ha of forest. Obligation to maintain the supported investments for the duration foreseen in the project.
DE	Investments must meet the conditions laid down in Article 73(2) of the CAP-SP Regulation. Investments/characteristics listed in the list of ineligible investments and categories of expenditure to be drawn up pursuant to Article 73(3) of the CAP-SP Regulation are excluded (see General Part Chapter 4.7.1 of the CAP-SP). The list applicable at the time of the respective call for funding shall apply. In addition, the following exclusions, eligibility requirements and support commitments apply in the Länder.
LV	The area is rated as an existing biologically valuable grassland of low quality and requiring quality improvement measures;(2) the area is assessed as potentially biologically valuable grassland
NL	The aid shall be granted on the basis of the following conditions: 100% of the eligible costs; 70% of the eligible costs for investments focusing solely on water quantity. RUS/USK levels 2 and 3 and VKOs are used to determine the subsidy. For further information on RUS/USK, please refer to Chapters 3.9 and 7.3.1.1.5. Simplified cost options (FCOs) shall be used for the scheme where possible. This could include standard scale of unit prices (e.g. investments based on an investment list), lump sums (e.g. lump sums based on an assessed budget) or flat rates (e.g. fixed wage cost relative to investment).
PT	Relevant planning and management tools; they must be accompanied by a favourable opinion issued by the managing body of the Site if they relate to a Natura 2000 site; integrate a PGF or equivalent instrument; comply with the technical provisions laid down in the PROF-RAM and in accordance with the other relevant planning and management tools; integrate a PGF or equivalent instrument; they must be accompanied by a favourable opinion issued by the managing body of the Site if they relate to a Natura 2000 site; intervention must focus on a wildlife management area, including tourist, associative, municipal or national hunting defined in the Parcel Identification System; has a wildlife management plan, namely the Farming and Farming Plan (POEC) approved by the ICNF, which aims at the sustainable management of faunistic resources and enhances the conservation of the entire ecosystem, in particular species with unfavourable conservation status; support is only eligible when carried out in rural areas.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

47 INVEST interventions⁶² support **investments for the resilience of forests**, which covers a large range of topics. For instance, this covers support for investments in:

- forest management (AT, CY, PT, SK),
- forest infrastructure (BE-WA),
- preventive actions in the forestry sector in regard to natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events⁶³
- afforestation and restoration of forests (BG, HU, IT, LV, LT),
- protection of forest areas (BG, HR),
- non-productive investments in forests (e.g. adapting to climate change)⁶⁴, and
- investments for agrosystems (PT, ES).

⁶² AT, BE-WA, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FR, IT, HR, HU, LV, LT, PT, RO, SI, SK.

⁶³ BG, CY, CZ, EE, EL, ES, IT, LV, PT, SI, SK.

⁶⁴ CZ, DE, EE, ES, HU, IT, PT, RO.

26 INVEST interventions⁶⁵ target forestry specifically as a sector, and 22⁶⁶ out of these exclusively support investments to this sector. Geographical targeting is also supported under some of these interventions: Natura 2000 protected areas⁶⁷, areas affected by the emission burden of the 1970s and 1980s (CZ), and areas of medium and/or high risk of fire (EL). Closely related is the fact that 29 of the total 47 interventions target woodlands⁶⁸ as specific habitats. For target groups, Estonia prioritises light cuttings to thinning of stands up to 20 years, while Portugal gives priority to projects aimed at controlling harmful organisms and to forest territories that are integrated in the priority area of prevention and security per Portuguese law. Slovakia prioritised projects focusing on greener technologies, cultivation activities, certified forests, forests in the first and second level of nature protection, and with a higher number of main trees according to the management model.

Furthermore, for all but four interventions (FR, PT, SK) the purpose can be identified as improving performance of forestry sector and/or contributing to the environment or climate. Croatia also has an intervention for which the identified purpose is to increase public awareness of the importance of conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

When it comes to beneficiaries of the 47 INVEST interventions support **investments for the resilience of forests**, there is quite some variety. 10 interventions⁶⁹ foresee **only** individual or groups of agricultural/forestry holdings as beneficiaries. 27 interventions are envisioned to support a wider variety of beneficiaries; please see the table below for an overview of the variety of beneficiaries foreseen in addition to individual and groups of agricultural and forestry holdings.

Table 22 Overview of the variety of the beneficiaries of the 47 INVEST interventions support investments for the resilience of forests, in addition to individual and groups of agricultural and forestry holdings

CSP	Beneficiaries	Other beneficiaries
AT	Groups of agricultural holdings; individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries	Non-governmental organisations, associations, mergers of the certain promoters
BE-WA	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities	
BG	Individual agricultural and forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries	Natural persons, sole traders, legal persons owners of agricultural land, non-agricultural land and forest areas
CY	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries	Bodies governed by public law; non-governmental and non-profit-making organisations; ecclesiastical, monastery and other religious principles
CZ	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries	Owner, tenant, tenant or borrower of a PUPFL or a watercourse, or a part thereof or a body of water located within the PUPFL; association with legal personality and association of owners, tenants, tenants or borrowers of PUPFL or watercourse, or part of it or a body of water located within the PUPFL; designated small watercourse manager within the PUPFL
DE	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; other beneficiaries	legal persons under private and public law; natural persons; personal companies; recognised forestry concentrations pursuant to Section 15 of the Federal Forest Act
EL	Groups of forestry holdings; individual beneficiaries (neither agriculture nor forestry holdings); public authorities	
ES	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; other beneficiaries	
FR	Individual and groups of agricultural holdings; public authorities	
IT	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries	Associations

⁶⁵ AT, BE-WA, BG, CZ, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, RO.

⁶⁶ AT, BG, CZ, FR, ES, EL, HR, HU, IT, LV, LT, RO.

⁶⁷ EL, ES, HR, HU, LV, PT.

⁶⁸ AT, BG, CY, CZ, EL, ES, FR, HR, HU, IT, LV, LT, PT.

⁶⁹ CZ, HR, EE, FR, HU, PT, RO, SK.

CSP	Beneficiaries	Other beneficiaries
LV	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities	
LT	Individual forestry holdings; public authorities	
PT	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities	Holders of private land, community and municipalities (provided in directly managed areas), and their associations; private forest holders, SMEs active in the forestry sector, cooperatives and/or forest associations.
SK	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; other beneficiaries	Natural and juridical persons who manage forests in the I.-IV. degree of nature protection; natural and legal persons managing forests or managing small watercourses, the founder or founder of which is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic; natural persons and legal persons who manage forests with an area of up to 500 ha; entities bringing together natural persons and legal persons who manage forests with an area of up to 500 ha.
SI	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; other beneficiaries	Natural or legal persons who have a registered nursery activity; Slovenian Forest Service

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

20 INVEST interventions supporting investments for the resilience of forest areas also have specific entry requirements to be eligible, please see the table below for an overview.

Table 23 Overview of entry requirements of INVEST interventions supporting investments for the resilience of forest areas

CSP	Entry requirement
BE-WA	Based on physical size of farm
CY	Based on physical size of farm; the stands to which dilutions are to be applied must be straightforward with the forest species of trachea or black pine or Cypriot cone or mixed, consisting of any combination of the above forest species. The stands to be diluted shall be up to 50 years old and shall be located in the areas to be defined in the Detailed Plan at a later stage.
DE	Specific eligibility requirements: investments must meet the conditions laid down in Article 73(2) of the CAP-SP Regulation. Investments/characteristics listed in the list of ineligible investments and categories of expenditure to be drawn up pursuant to Article 73(3) of the CAP-SP Regulation are excluded (see General Part Chapter 4.7.1 of the CAP-SP).
EE	Based on physical size of farm; forest land for which inventory data are recorded in the forest register and are valid; Based on forest size: one hectare (except a member of the forest association as part of the forest association application) up to 60 hectares per calendar year. The same forest land shall receive support once during the programming period.
ES	Have a management plan or equivalent instrument (Art. 73.2), as defined in paragraph 4 of the EP CAP 'Common Elements. Definitions' being the minimum area of action, from which this requirement will be required, a regional element. In the case of agricultural land which does not acquire forestry status after the action (plantings of trees on arable or similar areas), this condition shall not be required. Consistency with pan-European guidelines for afforestation and reforestation[1] (Article 73(3) (g)), which will be explicitly justified in each restocking project. Compatibility of actions with Natura 2000 management plans and other protected areas shall be assessed where appropriate. Short-shifting fast-growing species shall not be eligible for restocking, which for the same land requested and for the same action receive subsidies from the first pillar of the CAP. In the case of actions to implement and maintain agroforestry systems, minimum eligible areas may be established as regional elements, minimum or maximum CFFC share of pre-existing forest vegetation, types of agricultural crops and conditions thereof. The actions will be carried out on land considered forest in accordance with the definition of Law 43/2003 of Montes. Other actions that necessarily need to be carried out outside forest land, such as afforestation on agricultural land, infrastructure, etc. will also be eligible. For infrastructures built outside the mountains, their link with forest land and the need for their location outside the forest must be clearly justified. A minimum regional area may be established depending on the action. A continuous and independent area of minimal action may be established as a regional element. The plant or seed used in repopulations shall belong exclusively to ecologically adapted or climate-resilient species in the area where the planting is to be produced, and the competent biodiversity authorities must ensure, through appropriate mechanisms at their disposal, that do not pose a threat to biodiversity and ecosystem services, or that have a negative impact on human health, also taking into account the potentially invasive nature of the species under the local conditions of the area concerned.

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CSP	Entry requirement
PT	Based on physical size of farm; density, where the investment proposal includes forest stands; comply with the technical provisions laid down in the PROF-RAM and in accordance with the other relevant planning and management tools; accompanied by a favourable opinion issued by the managing body of the Site if they relate to a Natura 2000 site; integrate a PGF or equivalent instrument; be consistent with the forest protection plans established by the competent authorities; when aiming at the recovery of damage caused by biotic or abiotic agents, formal recognition by Competent Entities that at least 20% of the productive capacity of the forest has been destroyed; comply with the guidelines of the Forest Fire Protection Plan and the Forest Health Operational Plan;
SK	General eligibility conditions common to more interventions; compliance of the project with the Forest Care Programme, which is an essential precondition for sustainable forest management and this binding document takes into account the comments of the state nature conservation authority. The compliance of the project with the Forest Care Programme will also ensure that the project complies with climate and environmental objectives and with the sustainable principles of forest management according to the Pan-European guidelines for afforestation and reforestation; use of min. 2 main trees according to the management model; opinion of the National Forest Centre in the project preparation phase on compliance with the established Methodology for Integrated Nature Projects of Near Forest Management, which will be part of the call. The methodology for integrated nature close forest management projects will include framework eligibility conditions, including conditions for the implementation of eligible project activities and ways to demonstrate their fulfilment for administrative financial and on-the-spot financial control. The methodology for integrated projects of nature close management in forests will be based on the national concept of nature close management in forests of the Slovak Republic and will take into account the EU guidelines for nature close management in forests and biodiversity close to afforestation and reforestation. On the last payment application, the beneficiary shall submit to the Paying Agency an extract from the Forest Care Programme of the modification/modification of the Forest Care Programme on the areas on which the project was implemented; the investment in the construction/reconstruction of the forest transport network (as part of a complex project together with productive investments) must include minimum requirements for transverse and longitudinal drainage in accordance with the relevant Slovak technical standard and technical measures to slow the drainage; the share of eligible expenditure for investments in the forest transport network accounts for a maximum of 20% of the total eligible expenditure of the integrated project
SI	The beneficiary must be included in the register of suppliers in accordance with the regulations governing forest reproductive material kept by the MAFF; purchase of seedlings of forest material and material for the protection of seedlings: the contractor (ZGS) must select a supplier of forest tree seedlings and youth protection material in accordance with the regulations governing public procurement. The operator (ZGS) must deliver the seedlings and the material to the forest owner Works to repair damage, restore forest and establish greater resilience and stability of forests in damaged areas Work to repair damage and restore the forest and to improve the resilience and stability of forests in damaged areas was carried out in accordance with the Forest Remediation Plans. Beneficiaries were issued a decision of ZGS for works to repair damage, restore forest and establish greater resilience and stability of forests in damaged areas, in accordance with the regulations in the field of forestry. All of the works have been taken over by ZGS. Arranging the train necessary to carry out forest remediation Forest trains are defined by forest remediation plans All work on forest trains has been taken over by ZGS. Consents must be obtained in accordance with the regulations governing construction, space, cultural heritage protection, nature conservation, environmental protection and the field of water.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Support to areas facing natural and other constraints (ANC)

37 ANC interventions in 15 MS⁷⁰ are also expected to contribute to the CAP Specific Objectives (SOs) addressing climate change and environmental aspects, in particular in relation to SO6, biodiversity. The ANC support can contribute to limiting land abandonment which has positive effects for rural development: it helps to preserve farmland biodiversity, especially on mountain pastures and it supports the maintenance of land for economic activity, contributing to rural economies. The emphasis of links made is on SO6, while some interventions have also been linked to SO5:⁷¹

- SO5 on sustainable development and management of natural resources: one ANC intervention in Poland, which aims to address the need of land abandonment and as a result to preserve the landscape values of rural areas and maintain and promote sustainable farming systems in areas with natural or specific constraints.
- SO6 on protection of biodiversity, ecosystem services, habitats, and landscapes: 36 ANC interventions in 14 Member States.⁷²

⁷⁰ AT, BG, CY, DE, EL, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI.

⁷¹ Note that France linked ANC interventions to SO4. However, this will be corrected in an upcoming revision of the CSP.

⁷² AT, BG, CY, DE, EL, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, MT, PT, RO, SI.

The CAP SPs list minimum or maximum stocking density for areas receiving ANC payment. Some examples are (LU means livestock unit):

- Croatia defines a minimum stocking rate for karst pasture of at least 0.3 LU/ha bovine, equine, ovine and/or caprine animals.
- Ireland defines a minimum stocking rate of at least 0.10 LU/ha.
- Portugal defines a minimum stocking rate of at least 0.15 LU/ha on all days of the retention period and a maximum stocking density of 2 LU/ha in the case of holdings with a size greater than 2 ha; of 3 LU/ha in the case of holdings with a size equal to or less than 2 ha agricultural area.
- France defines conditions for ANC payments in the French mainland linked to stocking rates and forage area: to keep livestock of at least 5 LU, with at least 3 ha of eligible forage area, which can include grassland, rangeland, moorland, summer pastures, forage plants and cereals consumed by the farm's animals including collective grazing areas.
- Spain defines different minimum and/or maximum stocking rates in different regions, e.g. in Aragon minimum of 0.20 LU/ha, in Catalonia minimum livestock density of 0.4 LU/ha, in Castilla La Mancha minimum stocking density of 0.20 LU/ha and maximum of 2.4 LU/ha.
- Italy also sets livestock density conditions at the regional level.
- Sweden requires that farmers manage all their forage area in such a way as to preserve biodiversity and open farmland by maintaining a minimum stocking density of grazing livestock according to three types of farming system in either mountain areas, areas of significant natural constraints, or specific restrictions: grazing livestock with forage crops on arable land – 0.65 LU/ha in mountain areas, or 1 LU/ha the other areas; grazing livestock on natural pastures - 0.3 LU/ha in mountain areas, or 0.4 LU/ha in the other areas; 0.1 LU/ha grazing livestock on very extensive natural pastures in all areas.
- Slovenia sets specific conditions to target ANC at preserving the cultural heritage of rural land and the sustainable use of agricultural land, which are checked for each application by the paying agency.

Three CSPs set other management requirements for land receiving ANC payments:

- Austria sets management requirements for all types of land receiving ANC payments. On arable land and permanent crops, these refer to proper planting, yearly proper maintenance of land and growth; and harvesting and distributing the crop. On grassland and arable forage areas this requires annual full-surface grazing; or full-surface mowing and removal of the mowing material at least once a year; or on mountain meadows at least every two years. The requirements can differ in protected areas.
- In Finland, the share of green and stubble fallows shall not exceed 25% of the eligible area in the Suomi Lapland grazing areas, and on Åland, such fallows and embankments shall not exceed 25% of the eligible area.
- Slovenia sets specific conditions to target ANC at preserving the cultural heritage of rural land and the sustainable use of agricultural land, which are checked for each application by the paying agency.

France makes a higher ANC payment for small ruminant farms where the farmer's herd, converted to LU, is made up of more than 50% sheep or goats. The increase is lower in the mountain ANC area than the other ANC areas. On the French mainland, higher rates are also available for small mixed cattle/pig farms.

France links 15 ANC interventions to SO8. While this link is not clearly described, it can be related to the support provided to remote and overseas territories to best respond to their territorial characteristics and increase their attractiveness, and thus contributing to their local development.

4.3.2. Farm practices

In relation to resilience to climate change and the environment, numerous farm practices are relevant more broadly for rural areas and are addressed under multiple Agri-environmental-Climate (ENVCLIM) interventions, investment (INVEST) interventions, and Eco-schemes interventions. These farm practices considered to be of broader interest include:

Table 24 List of farm practices considered to be of broader interest

Section	Farm Practice Tier 1	Farm Practice Tier 2
Crop rotation and diversification	Crop rotation or crop diversification	Land laying fallow
Landscape	Presence of landscape features	Hedgerows/individual or group of trees/ trees in line
		Field margins, patches and unproductive buffer strips along water courses
		Ponds
		Small wetlands
		Ditches
		Streams
		Stone walls
		Cairns
		Terraces
		Cultural features
		Other landscape features
	Management of other unproductive areas and strips	Seeded areas/strips
		Other unproductive areas and strips (excluding fallows)
	Agroforestry	Silvopastoral systems
		Silvicultural systems
	Conservation of traditional agricultural landscapes	Conservation of traditional orchards
		Conservation of traditional vineyards
		Conservation of traditional olive groves
		Conservation of traditional irrigation systems
		HNV systems
	Management of wetland/peatland	Wetland and peatland maintenance and conservation
		Wetland and peatland restoration
		Paludiculture
Forestry	Afforestation	Afforestation of agricultural land
		Maintenance of afforested land
	Forest management	Forest restoration and reforestation

Section	Farm Practice Tier 1	Farm Practice Tier 2
Grassland and grazing	Grazing management	Sustainable forest management (e.g. for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, fire, genetic resources, clearance)
		None or restricted grazing (timing, animal species etc.)
	Grassland management	Livestock density limitation (extensive grasslands)
		Reseeding on grasslands
		Ban of ploughing of grassland
		Conservation/maintenance of grassland
		Conversion of arable land to grassland
Other species	Wildlife	Measures related to wild life nests/boxes
		Practices to improve coexistence with wild species
		Measures against the spread of invasive species
		Non-harvested crops for wildlife
		Overseeding for wildlife
		Restriction of seasonal work periods or daily work hours (excluding mowing) for wildlife
		Interventions in Natura 2000 areas
	Agrobiodiversity	Cultivation of rare/local crop species
		Conservation of rare/local livestock breeds
		Conservation of valuable grassland species
Bioeconomy, energy efficiency, and production	Bioeconomy	Wood products
		Bioplastics
		Bio-based chemicals
		Other (textiles etc.)
	Renewable energy production	Biogas
		Wind energy
		Solar energy
		Other renewable energy productions
	Energy efficiency	Measures to improve energy efficiency
		GHG audits and eco design
Organic farming	Organic farming	Maintenance of Organic farming practices
		Conversion to organic farming practices

Source: JRC

Falling under crop rotation and diversification farm practices, the tier 2 farm practice **land laying fallow** is supported by 10 ENVCLIM interventions and 8 Eco-schemes interventions, while 0 INVEST interventions do so. Please see the table below for an overview of which farm practices (tier 2) are supported by ENVCLIM, INVEST and Eco-schemes interventions in relation to crop rotation and diversification farm practices.

Table 25 Overview of INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-schemes interventions supporting the farm practice (tier 2) land laying fallow

Farm Practice Tier 1	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
		Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
INVEST Interventions				
Crop rotation or Crop diversification	Land laying fallow	0	0	N/A
ENVCLIM interventions				
Crop rotation or Crop diversification	Land laying fallow	10	7	SI, PT, ES, FR, BE-Flanders, DE, MT
Eco schemes interventions				
Crop rotation or Crop diversification	Land laying fallow	8	8	DK, HU, PT, EL, ES, BE-Flanders, BE-Wallonia, NL

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-schemes interventions support an array of farm practices (tier 2) falling under **landscape**, such as hedgerows/individual or group of trees/trees in line, High-Nature Value systems, silvicultural systems, etc. However, the tier 2 farm practice **cairns** is not covered by any of the three types of interventions in any CSP, while the farm practices (tier 2) **cultural features** and **conservation of traditional irrigation systems** is not supported by either INVEST or Eco-scheme interventions, and the farm practice (tier 2) **wetland and peatland restoration** is not supported by any ENVCLIM or Eco-schemes intervention in any CSP. Furthermore, the farm practices (tier 2) **seeded areas/strips**, conservation of tradition vineyards/olive groves, and **paludiculture** are not supported by any INVEST interventions in any CSP, and the farm practices (tier 2) **small wetlands, conservation of traditional orchards**, and **wetland and peatland maintenance and conservation** are not supported by any Eco-scheme interventions in any CSP. Please see the table below for an overview of which farm practices (tier 2) are supported by INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions in relation to landscape farm practices.

Table 26 Overview of INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-schemes supporting landscape farm practices (tier 2)

Farm Practice Tier 1	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
		Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
INVEST Interventions				
Presence of landscape features	Hedgerows/individual or group of trees/ trees in line	19	13	PL; IT; MT; SK; NL; BG; PT; BE-FLANDERS; FR; HU; SI; IE; HR
	Field margins, patches and unproductive buffer strips along water courses	9	8	IT; CZ; SK; NL; BG; FR; HU; IE

Farm Practice Tier 1	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
		Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
	Ponds	8	8	ES; IT; CZ; BE.-WALLONIA; BE-FLANDERS; SE; EE; HR
	Small wetlands	10	9	IT; CZ; SK; BE-FLANDERS; FR; HU; FI; DK; LV
	Ditches	8	6	CZ; SK; BE-FLANDERS; FI; EE; LV
	Streams	1	1	DE
	Stone walls	10	8	IT; MT; BG; PT; BE-FLANDERS; SI; EE; HR
	Cairns	0	0	
	Terraces	7	7	ES; IT; MT; SK; EL; HU; HR
	Cultural features	0	0	
	Other landscape features	10	8	ES; IT; CZ; NL; HU; FI; SI; EE
Management of other unproductive areas and strips	Seeded areas/strips	0	0	
	Other unproductive areas and strips (excluding fallows)	3	3	NL; PT; FR
Agroforestry	Silvopastoral systems	8	7	PL; IT; CZ; BE-FLANDERS; FR; HU; SI
	Silvicultural systems	7	6	PL; IT; CZ; BE-FLANDERS; FR; HU
Conservation of traditional agricultural landscapes	Conservation of traditional orchards	1	1	IE
	Conservation of traditional vineyards	0	0	
	Conservation of traditional olive groves	0	0	
	Conservation of traditional irrigation systems	0	0	
	HNV systems	1	1	ES
Management of wetland/peatland	Wetland and peatland maintenance and conservation	2	2	SK; LT
	Wetland and peatland restoration	2	2	SK; BE-WALLONIA

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Farm Practice Tier 1	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
		Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
	Paludiculture	0	0	
ENVCLIM interventions				
Presence of landscape features	Hedgerows/individual or group of trees/ trees in line	27	13	SI, AT, HR, HU, PT, ES, FR, BE.Flanders, CY, DE, MT, SK, IT
	Field margins, patches and unproductive buffer strips along water courses	24	15	LV, SI, SE, FI, HR, HU, ES, FR, BE.Flanders, BE.Wallonia, CZ, DE, NL, RO, IT
	Ponds	2	2	SE, IT
	Small wetlands	3	2	PT, IT
	Ditches	6	3	FR, NL, IT
	Streams	1	1	IT
	Stone walls	10	4	HR, PT, ES, CY
	Cairns	0	0	
	Terraces	7	3	PT, ES, IT
	Cultural features	3	2	SE, PT
	Other landscape features	8	4	SE, EL, ES, CY
Management of other unproductive areas and strips	Seeded areas/strips	16	12	LU, AT, FI, HU, PL, ES, FR, BE.Flanders, BE.Wallonia, CZ, DE, IT
	Other unproductive areas and strips (excluding fallows)	7	6	FI, ES, CY, CZ, DE, RO
Agroforestry	Silvopastoral systems	11	8	SI, HU, PT, ES, FR, BE.Flanders, CZ, SK
	Silvicultural systems	8	6	PL, ES, FR, BE.Flanders, CZ, SK
Conservation of traditional agricultural landscapes	Conservation of traditional orchards	8	7	SI, HR, IE, PT, PL, CZ, DE
	Conservation of traditional vineyards	7	6	SI, PT, EL, ES, CY, IT
	Conservation of traditional olive groves	3	3	HR, EL, ES
	Conservation of traditional irrigation systems	3	2	PT, FR
	HNV systems	15	10	LV, SI, DK, HR, HU, EL, ES, NL, SK, IT

Farm Practice Tier 1	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
		Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
Management of wetland/peatland	Wetland and peatland maintenance and conservation	14	9	EE, SI, SE, FI, HU, PL, FR, DE, IT
	Wetland and peatland restoration	0	0	
	Paludiculture	2	2	DE, IT
Eco-schemes interventions				
Presence of landscape features	Hedgerows/individual or group of trees/ trees in line	16	14	EE, LT, HR, HU, IE, PT, PL, EL, ES, FR, BE.Wallonia, BG, NL, RO
	Field margins, patches and unproductive buffer strips along water courses	16	12	LT, DK, HR, HU, EL, ES, BE.Flanders, BE.Wallonia, BG, CZ, NL, SK
	Ponds	5	5	LT, HR, ES, BE.Wallonia, NL
	Small wetlands	0	0	
	Ditches	5	5	EE, LT, HR, PT, EL
	Streams	0	0	
	Stone walls	5	5	LT, HR, PT, EL, ES
	Cairns	0	0	
	Terraces	4	4	HU, EL, ES, BG
	Cultural features	0	0	
	Other landscape features	3	3	EE, SI, ES
Management of other unproductive areas and strips	Seeded areas/strips	12	10	LU, LV, LT, SI, PT, PL, BE.Flanders, DE, SK, IT
	Other unproductive areas and strips (excluding fallows)	3	2	LU, DE
Agroforestry	Silvopastoral systems	2	2	EL, DE
	Silvicultural systems	2	2	EL, DE
Conservation of traditional agricultural landscapes	Conservation of traditional orchards	0	0	
	Conservation of traditional vineyards	1	1	EL
	Conservation of traditional olive groves	2	2	EL, IT
	Conservation of traditional irrigation systems	0	0	

Farm Practice Tier 1	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
		Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
	HNV systems	1	1	FR
Management of wetland/peatland	Wetland and peatland maintenance and conservation	0	0	
	Wetland and peatland restoration	0	0	
	Paludiculture	1	1	NL

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

A variety of forestry farm practices are supported by INVEST and ENVCLIM interventions, such as **afforestation of agricultural land** and **forest management**. However, the farm practice (tier 2) **maintenance of afforested land** is not supported by any INVEST interventions in any CSP. No forestry farm practices (tier 2) are supported by Eco-scheme interventions in any CSP. Please see the table below for an overview of which farm practices (tier 2) are supported by INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions in relation for forestry farm practices.

Table 27 Overview of INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions supporting forestry farm practices (tier 2)

Farm Tier 1	Practice	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
			Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
INVEST Interventions					
Afforestation	Afforestation of agricultural land	13	12	PL; IT; CZ; SK; CY; BG; PT; FR; EL; LT; DK; LV	
	Maintenance of afforested land	0	0		
Forest management	Forest restoration and reforestation	12	9	IT; RO; DE; CY; BE-WALLONIA; PT; EL; SI; EE	
	Sustainable forest management (e.g. for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, fire, genetic resources, clearance)	19	14	ES; IT; MT; CZ; SK; BG; PT; EL; HU; LT; SI; EE; HR; LV	
ENVCLIM interventions					
Afforestation	Afforestation of agricultural land	10	8	HU, PT, EL, ES, CZ, DE, RO, IT	
	Maintenance of afforested land	11	9	HU, PT, PL, EL, ES, CY, DE, SK, IT	
Forest management	Forest restoration and reforestation	8	7	LV, LT, EL, ES, FR, CY, SK	

Farm Tier 1	Practice	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
			Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
		Sustainable forest management (e.g. for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, fire, genetic resources, clearance)	27	14	LT, DK, HU, PT, PL, EL, ES, FR, BG, CY, CZ, DE, RO, IT
Eco-scheme interventions					
Afforestation	Afforestation of agricultural land		0	0	
	Maintenance of afforested land		0	0	
Forest management	Forest restoration and reforestation		0	0	
	Sustainable forest management (e.g. for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, fire, genetic resources, clearance)		0	0	

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Grassland and grazing farm practices are supported by INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions, such as conservation/maintenance of grassland and livestock density limitation (extensive grasslands). However, the farm practice (tier 2) **reseeding on grassland** is not supported by any INVEST or Eco-scheme interventions in any CSP, while farm practice (tier 2), **conservation/maintenance of grassland**, and **conversion of arable land to grassland** are also not supported by any INVEST interventions in any CSP. The table below provides an overview of which farm practices (tier 2) are supported by INVEST and ENVCLIM interventions in relation for grassland and grazing farm practices.

Table 28 Overview of INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions supporting grassland and grazing farm practices (tier 2)

Farm Tier 1	Practice	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
			Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
INVEST Interventions					
Grazing management	None or restricted grazing (timing, animal species etc.)	1	1	BE-WALLONIA	
	Livestock density limitation (extensive grasslands)	1	1	ES	
Grassland management	Reseeding on grasslands	0	0		
	Ban of ploughing of grassland	0	0		
	Conservation/maintenance of grassland	9	8	ES; NL; BE-WALLONIA; FR; FI; LT; SI; LV	

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Farm Tier 1	Practice	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
			Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
		Conversion of arable land to grassland	0	0	
ENVCLIM interventions					
Grazing management		None or restricted grazing (timing, animal species etc.)	25	15	LV, EE, SI, AT, HR, PT, PL, ES, FR, BE-Wallonia, CZ, DE, RO, SK, IT
		Livestock density limitation (extensive grasslands)	43	17	LU, SI, SE, AT, HR, HU, PT, PL, ES, FR, BE-Wallonia, BG, CZ, DE, RO, SK, IT
Grassland management		Reseeding on grasslands	3	2	HR, ES
		Ban of ploughing of grassland	11	5	EE, AT, PL, FR, IT
		Conservation/maintenance of grassland	16	10	LV, EE, SI, SE, AT, ES, FR, BE-Flanders, DE, IT
		Conversion of arable land to grassland	8	6	LU, EE, CZ, DE, SK, IT
Eco-scheme interventions					
Grazing management		None or restricted grazing (timing, animal species etc.)	7	7	LU, SI, HU, PL, EL, BE-Wallonia, CZ
		Livestock density limitation (extensive grasslands)	19	14	LV, EE, LT, SI, HR, IE, PT, PL, ES, BE-Flanders, BG, DE, RO, SK
Grassland management		Reseeding on grasslands	0	0	
		Ban of ploughing of grassland	4	4	LT, DK, FI, BG
		Conservation/maintenance of grassland	6	6	HR, FR, BE-Flanders, BE-Wallonia, CZ, NL
		Conversion of arable land to grassland	2	1	LT

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions also support other species farm practices, such as **interventions in Natura 2000 areas** and **measures related to wildlife nests/boxes**. However, the farm practices (tier 2) **non-harvested crops for wildlife** and **restriction of seasonal work periods or daily work hours** (excluding mowing) for wildlife are not supported by any INVEST interventions in any CSP, while the farm practices (tier 2) **measure against the spread of invasive species** and **conservation of rare/local livestock breeds** are not covered by any Eco-scheme intervention in any CSP. Please see the table on the next page for an overview of which farm practices (tier 2) are supported by INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions in relation for other species farm practices.

Table 29 Overview of INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions supporting other species farm practices (tier 2)

Farm Tier 1	Practice	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
			Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
INVEST Interventions					
Wildlife	Measures related to wild life nests/boxes	2	2	BE-FLANDERS; IE	
	Practices to improve coexistence with wild species	11	7	ES; IT; BE-FLANDERS; FR; EL; SI; HR	
	Measures against the spread of invasive species	5	5	ES; IT; MT; FR; HR	
	Non-harvested crops for wildlife	0	0		
	Overseeding for wildlife	1	1	EL	
	Restriction of seasonal work periods or daily work hours (excluding mowing) for wildlife	0	0		
	Interventions in Natura 2000 areas	1	1	BE-WALLONIA	
Agrobiodiversity	Cultivation of rare/local crop species	1	1	BE-FLANDERS	
	Conservation of rare/local livestock breeds	1	1	EL	
	Conservation of valuable grassland species	2	2	BE-FLANDERS; LT	
ENVCLIM interventions					
Wildlife	Measures related to wildlife nests/boxes	10	9	SI, HU, PT, ES, BG, DE, MT, NL, RO	
	Practices to improve coexistence with wild species	14	10	SI, SE, AT, PT, ES, BE-Flanders, BG, CZ, DE, IT	
	Measures against the spread of invasive species	15	9	SI, HU, PT, ES, FR, BE-Flanders, CY, SK, IT	
	Non-harvested crops for wildlife	10	10	SI, FI, EL, ES, BE-Flanders, BE-Wallonia, BG, DE, RO, IT	
	Overseeding for wildlife	2	2	HU, ES	
	Restriction of seasonal work periods or daily work hours (excluding mowing) for wildlife	13	7	PT, ES, FR, BG, RO, SK, IT	
	Interventions in Natura 2000 areas	45	17	LV, SI, DK, AT, FI, HR, PL, EL, ES, BE-Wallonia, BG, CZ, DE, MT, NL, SK, IT	
Agrobiodiversity	Cultivation of rare/local crop species	18	13	SI, AT, FI, HR, HU, PT, PL, EL, ES, BG, DE, MT, IT	

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Farm Tier 1	Practice	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
			Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
		Conservation of rare/local livestock breeds	38	25	LU, EE, LT, SI, SE, AT, FI, HR, HU, IE, PT, PL, EL, ES, FR, BE-Flanders, BE-Wallonia, BG, CY, DE, MT, NL, RO, SK, IT
		Conservation of valuable grassland species	11	10	LV, SI, AT, HU, PT, ES, FR, CZ, DE, NL
Eco-scheme interventions					
Wildlife		Measures related to wild life nests/boxes	5	4	EE, SI, PT, PL
		Practices to improve coexistence with wild species	1	1	LT
		Measures against the spread of invasive species	0	0	
		Non-harvested crops for wildlife	2	2	LT, BE-Flanders
		Overseeding for wildlife	1	1	BG
		Restriction of seasonal work periods or daily work hours (excluding mowing) for wildlife	6	6	SI, PL, BE-Flanders, BE-Wallonia, MT, RO
		Interventions in Natura 2000 areas	2	2	PL, DE
Agrobiodiversity		Cultivation of rare/local crop species	1	1	EL
		Conservation of rare/local livestock breeds	0	0	
		Conservation of valuable grassland species	2	1	DE

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

INVEST interventions support some bioeconomy, energy efficiency and production farm practices, such as wood products and measures to improve energy efficiency. However, the farm practices (tier 2) **bioplastics, bio-based chemicals, and other (textiles, etc.)** are not supported by INVEST interventions. Furthermore, ENVCLIM interventions only support the farm practice (tier 2) **GHG audits and eco design**, and no other bioeconomy, energy efficiency and production farm practices. No bioeconomy, energy efficiency and production farm practices (tier 2) are supported by any Eco-scheme interventions in any CSP. Please see the table on the next page for an overview of which farm practices (tier 2) are supported by INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions in relation for bioeconomy, energy efficiency and production farm practices.

Table 30 Overview of INVEST, ENVCLIM, Eco-scheme interventions supporting bioeconomy, energy efficiency and production farm practices (tier 2)

Farm Tier 1	Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
		Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
INVEST Interventions				
Bioeconomy	Wood products	10	8	IT; SK; PT; FR; HU; FI; EE; HR
	Bioplastics	0	0	
	Bio-based chemicals	0	0	
	Other (textiles etc.)	0	0	
Renewable energy production	Biogas	29	16	PL; ES; IT; RO; CZ; SK; CY; FR; EL; HU; FI; LT; SI; IE; HR; LV
	Wind energy	11	5	IT; RO; FR; SI; LV
	Solar energy	22	11	PL; IT; RO; SK; BE-FLANDERS; FR; EL; SI; IE; HR; LV
	Other renewable energy productions	24	11	IT; RO; SK; CY; BE-FLANDERS; EL; FI; SI; EE; HR; LV
Energy efficiency	Measures to improve energy efficiency	24	13	PL; RO; SK; CY; PT; BE-FLANDERS; FR; EL; HU; LT; SI; IE; LV
	GHG audits and eco design	43	18	PL; ES; RO; DE; SK; CY; PT; BE-FLANDERS; FR; EL; HU; FI; LT; SI; IE; AT; DK; LV
ENVCLIM interventions				
Bioeconomy	Wood products	0	0	
	Bioplastics	0	0	
	Bio-based chemicals	0	0	
	Other (textiles etc.)	0	0	
Renewable energy production	Biogas	0	0	
	Wind energy	0	0	
	Solar energy	0	0	
	Other renewable energy productions	0	0	
Energy efficiency	Measures to improve energy efficiency	0	0	
	GHG audits and eco design	3	2	ES, FR

Farm Tier 1	Practice	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
			Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
Eco-schemes interventions					
Bioeconomy		Wood products	0	0	
		Bioplastics	0	0	
		Bio-based chemicals	0	0	
		Other (textiles etc.)	0	0	
Renewable energy production					
		Biogas	0	0	
		Wind energy	0	0	
		Solar energy	0	0	
		Other renewable energy productions	0	0	
Energy efficiency					
		Measures to improve energy efficiency	0	0	
		GHG audits and eco design	0	0	

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions all support organic farm practices, but this is more frequent among ENVCLIM interventions than among INVEST or Eco-scheme interventions in the CSPs. Please see the table below for an overview of which farm practices (tier 2) are supported by INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions in relation to organic farming farm practices.

Table 31 Overview of INVEST, ENVCLIM, and Eco-scheme interventions organic farming farm practices (tier 2)

Farm Practice Tier 1	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
		Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
INVEST Interventions				
Organic farming	Maintenance of Organic farming practices	2	2	MT; BG
	Conversion to organic farming practices	2	2	MT; BG
ENVCLIM interventions				
Organic farming	Maintenance of Organic farming practices	28	22	LU, LV, LT, SI, AT, FI, HR, HU, IE, PT, PL, EL, ES, FR, BE-Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, DE, MT, RO, IT

Farm Practice Tier 1	Farm Practice Tier 2	Relevant interventions		
		Nr. of interventions	Nr. of CSP	MS CSP
	Conversion to organic farming practices	31	22	LU, LV, LT, SI, FI, HR, HU, IE, PT, PL, EL, ES, FR, BE-Flanders, BE.Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, DE, MT, RO, IT
Eco-scheme interventions				
Organic farming	Maintenance of Organic farming practices	8	8	EE, LT, DK, SE, PT, EL, BE-Flanders, BG
	Conversion to organic farming practices	6	5	EE, LT, DK, SE, PT

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

4.3.3. Social resilience

The rural vision also emphasises the need for rural areas to be socially resilient and inclusive, requiring to tap into the full breadth of talents and diversity in our societies. The most relevant interventions to support this goal were found to be cooperation interventions.

Cooperation

Social inclusion is expected to be addressed through 40 COOP interventions in 26 MS.⁷³ These include 27 interventions linked to O.31 "Supporting LEADER strategies", interventions linked to O.32 "Other cooperation operations" covering smart villages, tourism, health (eight interventions) and interventions linked to O.1 "EIP operational group implementations" focused on producer organisations and groups and generational renewal. The table below lists the main COOP interventions promoting social inclusion and their relevant target groups.

Table 32 COOP interventions promoting social inclusion and their target groups

CSP	COOP interventions promoting social inclusion	Target groups
AT, BE.Flanders, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FI, LT, MT, NL, RO, SK	<p>LEADER interventions (AT, BE.Flanders, CZ, DE, EL, ES, NL⁷⁴, LT, MT, NL, RO, SK). These interventions aim to promote the participation of women in the LAG's decision-making body and/or LAG activities, e.g. through the selection criteria for the LDS.</p> <p>Other COOP interventions (AT, FI, NL):</p> <p>AT: The EIP intervention "The Rural innovation systems under the European Innovation Partnership" includes selection criteria to promote the involvement of women in partnerships.</p> <p>FI: The intervention linked to O.32 "Cooperation activities for the development of the socio-economic structure" will promote gender equality through targeted actions focusing on thematic areas or target group, such as promoting the situation of women.</p> <p>NL: The generational renewal intervention will encourage the participation of female farmers by considering this aspect in the assessment, selection and ranking of the project proposals.</p>	Women
EE, FI, NL, RO	<p>LEADER interventions (EE, NL, RO). These interventions aim to promote the involvement of local minorities, migrants, refugees in the LAG's decision-making body and/or LAG activities.</p> <p>Other COOP interventions (FI). The cooperation intervention linked to O.32 "Cooperation activities for the development of the socio-</p>	Local minorities, migrants, refugees

⁷³ AT, BE.Wallonia, Flanders, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK. In Sweden (LEADER intervention), it is generally mentioned that "the overarching principles of sustainable development, equal treatment without discrimination and equality between women and men shall be taken into account in the development, implementation and follow-up of the strategy".

⁷⁴ Promoting gender equality and participation of women is part of the criteria for the LAG composition. Strategy with less than 50% of women in the LAG scores lower on the criterion related to the quality and composition of the LAG.

Taking stock of how CAP Strategic Plans contribute to the objectives of the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

CSP	COOP interventions promoting social inclusion	Target groups
	economic structure" aims to promote social inclusion through targeted actions that can also promote the situation of migrants or minorities.	
BE.Wallonia, EE, ES, FI, HU, LT, NL, PL, RO, SK	<p>LEADER interventions (EE, ES, FI, LT, NL, RO, SK). These interventions aim to promote the involvement of people with disabilities and other people at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the LAG's decision-making body and/or LAG activities.</p> <p>Other COOP interventions (HU, PL, BE.Wallonia, ES):</p> <p>HU: The COOP intervention linked to O.32 "Rural development cooperation for the development of social enterprises" identifies people at risk of poverty and social exclusion and social farms and cooperatives as beneficiaries or target groups for cooperation</p> <p>PL: In the intervention addressing producer organisations and groups an additional score can be awarded if the entity employs at least one disabled person based on an employment contract.</p> <p>BE.Wallonia: The COOP intervention linked to O.32 "Cooperation in the field of health" identifies as beneficiaries actors in social inclusion services, mental health services, etc.</p> <p>ES: The COOP intervention linked to O.32 "Cooperation for territorial structuring" aims to promote the implementation of projects that contribute to social inclusion.</p>	People at risk of poverty and social exclusion
EE, FI, RO, SK	<p>LEADER interventions (EE, RO, SK). The LEADER intervention in Estonia will provide an opportunity to promote public-private cooperation, creating synergies between different actors by supporting different target groups and opportunities to present them (e.g. by creating community elders, regional working groups, etc.). In Romania and Slovakia, the LEADER partnerships aim to be inclusive, representing indiscriminately the interests of the local groups, including the elderly.</p> <p>Other COOP interventions (FI): The intervention linked to O.32 "Cooperation activities for the development of the socio-economic structure" aims to promote social inclusion through targeted actions that can also promote the situation of the elderly.</p>	The elderly

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Specifically, COOP interventions are also most frequently used to address **gender equality** (AT, DE, EE, ES, HU, IE), while Portugal addresses this via an INSTALL intervention. It is also notable that Romania, which has identified gender equality as a need of medium priority, has not designed any interventions to address it.

Various COOP interventions addressed gender equality by demonstrating that their target groups include women or representatives of women and/or that preferential conditions are offered to the participation of women. For instance, multiple MS⁷⁵ specifically target women. Some MS include more focused targeting of women in the composition of LAGs or in local development strategies: LAGs shall bring together a range of stakeholders, including women or associations targeting women and/or have a balanced gender representation (AT, DE, CZ, LT, MT, NL, SK, RO).

The Netherlands, Austria, Lithuania and Slovakia make gender equality a preferential criterion; Notably, in the Netherlands, promoting gender equality and participation of women is part of the criteria for the composition of the LAG, while any local development strategy with less than 50% of women in the LAG scores lower on the criterion of the quality and composition of the LAG. Also, in Austria and Lithuania, eligibility and quality criteria for the selection of local development strategies include the participation of women or a gender balance in the LAG. Likewise, the proportion of women as planned representatives of the cooperation partners of the EIP is a selection criterion in EIP projects in Austria. More gender focused eligibility criteria are foreseen in Slovakia, specifying that at least three women must be represented in the highest body of the LAG. Also in Germany, the participation of women is mandatory in all decision-making bodies.

Investment

INVEST interventions are used by Austria, Denmark, Hungary and Spain to address this issue. Women farmers are prioritised through eligibility criteria in eight interventions in Hungary, Ireland

⁷⁵ AT, BE.Flanders, CZ, DE, EL, HU, FI, LT MT, NL, SK, RO.

and Poland, while women in rural areas are prioritised in five interventions in Hungary and Italy, and women in general (not just rural areas) in one intervention in Hungary. Therefore, Hungary stands out as prioritising all typologies of women (farmers, rural women, non-rural women). All these interventions that prioritise women concern off-farm productive investments. In addition, Ireland and two Italian regions provide higher support rates for investments undertaken by female beneficiaries.

Social conditionality and the working conditions of farm workers is not touched upon among COOP or INVEST interventions. However, some sectoral interventions are relevant for improve working conditions: 33 interventions in 18 MS⁷⁶ in the fruit and vegetable sector and 24 interventions in five MS (BG, GR, T, LV, SK) in other sectors supported by producer organisations. From all other sectors, only the wine sector has some - limited- relevance for employment, as only Austria and France use sectoral interventions in the wine sector to improve employment conditions.

4.3.4. Presentation of relevant result indicator targets

One result indicators and its targets are particularly relevant for the contribution of the CAP to resilient rural areas: R.42 on promoting social inclusion. The performance monitoring and evaluation framework (PMEF) of the new CAP defines a comprehensive set of result indicators on environmental issues. As the environmental result indicators are related to farming, too numerous, and none focuses on rural areas solely, they are not presented in this section.

Result Indicator R.42 is the main indicator for measuring the achievements towards **social inclusion in rural areas**. Overall, Member States linked four INVEST interventions⁷⁷, and 12 COOP interventions to this result indicator. Overall, 35 interventions are expected to contribute to social inclusions. Once LEADER projects are selected, Member States will update their targets in the CSPs.⁷⁸

Table 33 Number of interventions linked to RI.42 and the number and CSPs these interventions are planned in

R.42	Number of interventions	Number of CSPs	CSPs
INVEST	4	4	AT, IT, CY, ES
COOP	12	9	BE-FL, BE-WA, FI, HU, LT, NL, PL, RO, ES

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

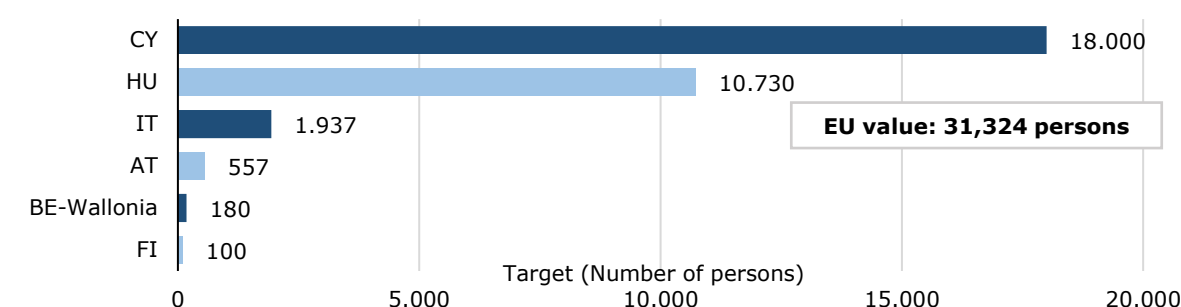
At the EU level, 31 324 persons will be supported by social inclusion projects. Only one Member State (Cyprus) has set a relatively ambitious target of 18 000 persons to be supported by 2029 (it links investment type interventions, notably, infrastructure projects in rural areas and village renewal to this indicator). This Member State alone represents almost 60% of the EU target. It is followed by Hungary which has set the target at 10 730 and Italy, with a target of 1 937. All other Member States have set very low or no targets. More specifically, only Austria, BE-Wallonia and France have set a target of 557, 180, and 100 persons, respectively. It is notable, that although twelve Member States have designed interventions to address social inclusion, only six of them have set a target for R.42 (see also above).

⁷⁶ AT, BE-Flanders, BE-Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, DK, GR, ES, FR, HR, IE, IT, LV, NL, RO, SI, SK.

⁷⁷ Excluding INVEST interventions linked to O.20 and O.21.

⁷⁸ The projects benefitting from LEADER support will only be selected over the course of 2023 and 2024. Targets will be updated afterwards. Therefore, the result indicator targets for R.42 are likely to increase and the current data available represent an underestimation.

Figure 11 R.42 - Promoting social inclusion



Note that BE-Flanders, BG, HR, CZ, DK, EE, FR, DE, EL, IE, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE did not set a target for this indicator

Number of persons supported by social inclusion projects

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

4.4. Contribution of the CAP to prosperous rural areas

CAP Strategic Plans will contribute to supporting the diversification of economic activities in rural areas, establishing/strengthening sustainable food production, increasing rural employment which is to include increasing job opportunities for young people. Therefore, a variety of CAP interventions and their combination support creating more prosperous rural areas. They are described below for each of these elements.

4.4.1. Diversification of economic activities

Under the CAP, diversification of economic activities may cover support for farmers to develop activities outside of farming (e.g. processing or tourism) or development of rural businesses in other sectors than farming (e.g. example tourism, creative industries, social economy etc.). The interventions in cooperation, knowledge, installation, and investments were found to be the most relevant.

Cooperation

Tourism remains an important sector for the economy of rural areas, both in the aspect of farmers developing activities outside of farming and the development of rural businesses in other sectors than farming. This sector is particularly mentioned in 14 COOP interventions in 13 MS⁷⁹, including six interventions linked to O.31 "Support to LEADER strategies", seven interventions linked to O.32 "Other cooperation operations" and one intervention linked to O.1 "EIP operational groups implementation).

The interventions linked to O.31 "Support to LEADER strategies" aim, among others, to support tourism in rural areas (AT, IE, LU, PL, PT) and related sectors such as handicrafts (AT), culture (AT, LU), recreation (LU) and improving access to tourism and recreational infrastructure (PL). Interventions linked to O.32 "Other cooperation operations" that relate to tourism include: one interventions in the area of tourism (BE Wallonia), cooperation on rural, local and smart villages (IT), rural development cooperation for regional active and ecotourism development (HU), cooperation activities for the development of the socio-economic structure (including aspects related to tourism) (FI), cooperation to promote the functioning and supply of short food supply chains addressing tourism (LV) and cooperation activities addressing farm holidays, development of tourist products (AT). In Spain, tourism is especially mentioned in the intervention "Cooperation for territorial structuring" due to its great potential in rural areas. The initiatives in Spain will focus on actions between small economic operators, with the aim of sharing and optimising resources and organising joint work processes, aimed at any economic activity in a way that has a direct impact on the rural economy. In the COOP intervention in Sweden, the development, market orientation, export growth, job creation and use of rural resources of rural businesses engaged in food and tourist activities are also mentioned in CSPs as contributing to tourism.

⁷⁹ AT, BE Wallonia, ES FI, HU specifically ecotourism, IE, IT, LU, LV, PL, PT, SE, SI.

As regards to **entrepreneurship**, the intervention linked to O.31 "Support to LEADER strategies in Finland aims to stimulate growth in micro-enterprises in rural areas through knowledge support for new hires, investments, and have a positive impact on young people's opportunities for entrepreneurship and work in rural areas. Investments in micro and small businesses through the intervention linked to O.31 "Support to LEADER strategies are also mentioned in Slovakia.

Knowledge

Some **KNOW interventions** will also provide knowledge transfer and training and advisory services on entrepreneurship in rural areas.⁸⁰ In Slovakia, lifelong vocational training in rural entrepreneurship (not formal education) are mentioned targeting not only farmers and forest managers, but also other natural and legal persons interested in participating in educational/information/demonstration activities. In Finland, knowledge transfer and training and advisory services are planned on the **development of rural enterprises in non-agricultural and forestry sectors**, processing and marketing of agricultural and natural products, and the production and distribution of renewable energy and biofuels. The company can acquire expertise, information, as well as small-scale practical or science-driven studies. Final beneficiaries are SMEs with growth and development potential to produce products and services for which there is market demand.

In Germany, the knowledge transfer and information measures will improve the professional, entrepreneurial and personal skills of entrepreneurs, their employees, and other actors in rural areas, thereby supporting the achievement of the objectives of the CSPs as a whole or enhancing the impact of individual interventions. In Austria, knowledge transfer on non-agricultural and forestry topics is envisaged, including support for a successful transition of business succession in the fields of business and tourism and the continuation of businesses in rural areas. Final beneficiaries may be persons with and without entrepreneurial activity.

Installation: supporting new businesses in rural areas

Support to establish new businesses in rural areas will be also provided through **INSTALL interventions**. As presented in the table below, seven INSTALL interventions in seven MS will particularly support rural businesses (i.e non-agricultural activities).

Table 34 INSTALL interventions supporting non-agricultural activities

CSP	INSTALL intervention	Non-agricultural activities supported and their beneficiaries
AT	Supporting the creation and development of innovative small businesses with added value for rural areas	Innovative start-ups in rural areas that offer innovative, competitive products, processes and services with regional relevance. Beneficiaries: natural and/or legal persons (e.g. small and medium-sized enterprises) or registered partnerships. The content of the project shall be covered by a LDS (e.g. LEADER).
ES ⁸¹	Start-up of rural start-ups linked to agriculture and forestry or diversification of incomes of farmers' households, new non-agricultural business activities	Development of activities of rural businesses, including investments and expenses associated with the company, as well as training and counselling. Beneficiaries of the support provided for new non-agricultural business activities: natural or legal persons, who wish to start a new rural enterprise located in rural areas, farmers or members of an agricultural holding diversifying their income into non-agricultural activities. Aspects such as the age, sex of the applicants and socio-demographic characteristics of the area will be considered as selection criteria.
FI	Business start-ups in rural areas	The aid is intended for start-up measures, for example, providing the entrepreneurs with the necessary consultancy and expert services in the early stages. Aid may be granted for new business activities which are fully started or not yet established. The beneficiaries may also be farms that diversify their activities to non-agricultural activities under the same business code (cross-sectoral farms).
FR	Aid for the recovery and start-up of rural enterprises	Agricultural as well as non-agricultural income diversification activities (e.g. in the equine sector). Depending on the local context, each regional authority may choose to specifically support certain types of activities in line with its regional agricultural development strategy. Beneficiaries of the support provided for non-agricultural activities: natural persons and legal entities developing an income diversification activity through the development of non-agricultural activities.
HR	Diversification of farm income to non-agricultural activities	Activities helping small farms to diversify their activities with other non-agricultural activities and services in settlements with a maximum population of 5 000 inhabitants such as services in social activities, intellectual services,

⁸⁰ AT, DE, FI, SK.

⁸¹ This intervention covers only the autonomous region of Navarra. The other regions can support this type of activities through the LEADER COOP intervention.

Taking stock of how CAP Strategic Plans contribute to the objectives of the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

CSP	INSTALL intervention	Non-agricultural activities supported and their beneficiaries
		traditional and artistic crafts, tourism in rural areas (excluding catering establishments, catering, hotels, mountain/hunting lodges, student homes, dormitories). Beneficiaries: natural and legal persons entered in the farm register for at least one year at the time of submission of the application.
HU	Generational renewal with support for rural and young forest entrepreneurs	Non-agricultural activities as well as activities focused on the forestry area aiming at: 1. encouraging business start-ups in farm settlements and small rural areas with a lack of businesses. 2. supporting young forestry professionals to start their own business. Beneficiaries of the first groups of activities (non-agricultural ones) may be startups in rural areas (e.g. natural persons, enterprises with or without legal personality, such as cooperatives, in particular social cooperatives, non-profit organisations such as religious legal persons, foundations, non-profit organisations, etc.). Social enterprises may be given preference in the scoring.
IT	Non-agricultural start-ups	Support start-ups of new non-agricultural entrepreneurial activities in rural areas linked to the CLLDS. Therefore, this intervention is only activated within the LEADER framework. It can be implemented autonomously or combined with other interventions. The intervention supports activities and services for population and target groups with specific needs (e.g. socio-assistance, educational, recreational, cultural, mediation, coworking, mobility; etc.), environment, circular economy and bioeconomy, renewable sources and energy efficiency, craft and manufacturing activities, rural tourism, catering, recreational-cultural offer, etc. Beneficiaries: natural persons, micro or small enterprises, cooperation of natural persons and/or micro-enterprises or small enterprises, etc. Some characteristics of the applicants will be considered during the selection (e.g. women, younger beneficiaries, under-employment/unemployment status, training or skills, etc.).

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Investments

49 INVEST interventions from 25 MS support investments in **entrepreneurial elements**, such as rural entrepreneurship, improving competitiveness, diversification of non-agricultural activities, and processing and marketing of agricultural products.

Table 35 Overview of INVEST interventions supporting investments in entrepreneurial elements.

Entrepreneurial elements	Number of interventions	CSP supporting investments
Rural entrepreneurship	9	AT, EL, EE, FI, FR, HR, PL, FR
Small tourism infrastructure	1	AT
Diversification of economic activities in rural areas	6	AT, ES, IT, HU, SE
The development of non-agricultural activities in rural areas	7	BG, CZ, DE, IT, LV, RO
Investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products	26	AT, BE-FL, BE-WA, BG, CZ, CY, DE, EL, ES, FI, HR, IT, MT, HU, LT, LV, PT, RO, SK, SI

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

The nine INVEST interventions supporting investments for **rural entrepreneurship** include investments in micro, small enterprises and multidisciplinary farms (FI), rural business transfers (AT), land infrastructure projects undertaken to improve rural competitiveness (Greece), business development in rural areas (HR). These interventions prioritise **SMEs**, while the Croatian intervention titled 'FI development of business in rural areas' also prioritises the young farmers. Beneficiaries such as natural persons and legal persons are foreseen (FI, AT, PL), as are micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (HR, FR), public authorities (EL), individual agricultural holdings (HR, EE, PL), and individual forestry holdings (PL). An entry requirement for the Finnish intervention is that the number of employees of the business is less than 50. The Austrian intervention has the entry requirement that investments can be supported when granted to industrial micro or small enterprise with its

registered office or permanent establishment in the rural area. For the Croatian intervention, an entry requirement is that investments are to be supported for micro, small, and medium-sized entities of the holdings. The Estonian intervention states that investments in municipalities bordering Tallinn are not supported within the framework of the intervention as an entry requirement.

Support for investments in **small tourism infrastructure** with a focus on alpine infrastructure with tourist relevance is envisioned by Austria. The purpose is identified as generating employment, improving the quality of life in rural areas, and contributing to the economic growth of the territory for the benefit of NGOs and alpine associations.

Six INVEST interventions focus on **diversification of economic activities of farmers in rural areas**, for instance by supporting small businesses in the ornamental horticulture sector (HU), investment support for diversification (ES, SE), supporting investments for the diversification of farmers' activities (HU), and investments in agricultural holdings for the diversification of non-agricultural activities (AT, IT). It is possible to identify their purpose (among others) as improving farmers' resilience and/or income situation. The Spanish intervention also identifies the goal of reducing the gender gap and promoting the social inclusion. The Italian and Austrian intervention foresee beneficiaries (in addition to individual and groups of agricultural holdings) as family adjuvants of individual farmers (IT) and members of a household of agricultural holdings (AT). Some of these interventions also have specific targets groups: women in rural areas in general (ES, HU), rural non-farm businesses, SMEs, start-ups (ES), women farmers, young farmers, start-up young forest entrepreneurs (HU) and young rural people (IT). The Swedish intervention specifies the entry requirement that the aid applicant must be undertakings engaged in agricultural activities, excluding the breeding and rearing of horses, or associated enterprises, aid for aquaculture may be granted to agricultural or related enterprises and aid shall not be granted for investments in the processing and diversification of agricultural products, including fishery and aquaculture products, listed in Annex I to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

Seven investments are foreseen under INVEST interventions for **the development of non-agricultural activities in rural areas** to help farmers diversify their activities outside farming (BG, CZ, DE, IT, LV, RO). The purpose of the investment practice can be identified as contributing to economic growth of the territory and generating employment as well for all but the Italian intervention. Improving farmers' resilience and/or income was seen as a goal for most as well (BG, CZ, DE), as was improving the quality of life in rural areas (CZ, DE, IT). The German intervention 'investment in the creation and development of non-agricultural activities on farms (promoting diversification of agricultural holdings (FID))' specifically targets the sectors of fruit, vegetables, wine, and beekeeping. Additionally, the Romanian intervention 'investments in the creation and development of non-agricultural activities' and the Czechian intervention 'investments in non-agricultural activities' define entry requirements based on production output/economic size. The Romanian intervention prioritises micro-enterprises in rural areas and rural non-farm businesses, and micro, small or medium-sized enterprises are prioritised target groups for the Croatia intervention. 26 INVEST interventions support **investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products**⁸². For instance, Finland foresees supporting investments in the processing and marketing of non-agricultural products, and Spain envisions supporting investments in the processing and marketing of agri-food products. Many Member States plan the use of financial instruments, including for example Italy and Lithuania that anticipate INVEST interventions to support the development of financial instruments for investments in the processing of agricultural products. Slovakia is willing to implement support for investments to expand capacity of processing plants. The Austrian, Greek, and Bulgarian interventions target a long list of agricultural sectors (incl. cereals, a variety of seeds, wine, poultry, pigs, etc.), while the German intervention targets hops, fruits and vegetables, wine and beekeeping and the Slovenian targets dairy cattle, beef, and veal.

Overall, three main purposes can be identified for interventions to support investments in the **processing and marketing of agricultural products**:

- increasing competitiveness⁸³
- generating employment⁸⁴
- increasing farmer's resilience and/or income situation⁸⁵.

All these interventions focusing on **processing and marketing of agricultural products** foresee a variety of other beneficiaries than farmers, for instance micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (BE-WA, CY, EL, RO), natural and legal persons involved in processing and marketing of agricultural

⁸² AT, BE-WA, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, PT, RO, SK, SI.

⁸³ AT, BE-WA, BG, CY, CZ, DE, ES, HU, HR, FI, IT, LT, LV, MT, PT, RO, SI.

⁸⁴ DE, CY, EL, ES, HR, FI, PT.

⁸⁵ BE-WA, CY, DE, FI, IT, PT, RO, SK.

products⁸⁶, NGOs (HU), processors of agricultural products (BG), the financial company of the Abruzzo Region (IT), and active land managers (MT). Individual and group agricultural holdings were also seen as beneficiaries for a variety of INVEST interventions⁸⁷, as were individual beneficiaries (neither agriculture nor forestry holdings) (CY, SK). Some of the aforementioned interventions also have specific target groups for the envisioned support: women in rural areas in general (HU), young farmers & SMEs (HR), SMEs and micro enterprises (FI), SMEs (RO), organic sectors and multi-entity involvement in projects (SK).

4.4.2. Bioeconomy and sustainable food production

Both bioeconomy and sustainable food production are highlighted in the rural vision as key for rural economies. The most relevant interventions found to support this are cooperation and investments.

Cooperation

Bioeconomy is expected to be addressed through 27 COOP interventions in 17 MS.⁸⁸ These include twelve interventions linked to O.1 "Supporting LEADER strategies" covering smart village strategies, eight interventions linked to O.32 "Other cooperation operations" five interventions linked to O.1 "EIP operational groups implementation", one intervention focused on generational renewal and another intervention on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs (ES).

They include investments in the circular economy, waste management and greening (LEADER intervention, RO), promotion of the principles of the circular economy/bioeconomy in rural areas (LEADER intervention, EL), (small) investments in collective infrastructure or equipment for harvesting, storage, processing and logistics of biomass from nature and forestry with a view to high-quality local application and with a focus on circular economy (LEADER intervention, BE.Flanders), bioeconomy business (in particular young farmers) (LEADER intervention, LT) or local strategies related to bioeconomy (COOP operations linked to O.32, FR).

Food supply chain will be covered in 66 COOP interventions in 22 MS⁸⁹ consisting of cooperation operations linked to O.32 "supporting LEADER strategies" (22 interventions), and of other COOP interventions focused on **quality schemes, producer groups and organisations, the EIP and LEADER**. Some examples include: intervention focused on 'short supply chains and local markets' to incentivise the development and establishment of horizontal and vertical partnerships and local markets, bringing together farmers, farmers and processors and other market players to jointly solve problems related to e.g. product distribution, product maintenance and storage, small production volumes (CY), the re-territorialisation of food (development of territorial food strategies, projects of farmers' collectives for the food supply of a territory, collective workshops for processing/distribution/logistics, etc.) (FR), regional approach of bringing together local products with a focus on organic products (SI), cooperation for the promotion of agricultural products and foodstuffs in quality schemes (7132 NIACS) (ES), support for information and promotion activities carried out by producer groups in the internal market (HR).

Investments

40 INVEST interventions have been identified to support **investments in the bioeconomy, including the production of renewable energy**⁹⁰. All the 40 INVEST interventions are off farm productive investments linked to O.24 or infrastructure investments linked to O.22. This can be broken down further, please see an overview table below.

Table 36 Overview of topics for INVEST interventions supporting investments in the bioeconomy, including the production of renewable energy

Investments in the bioeconomy, including the production of renewable energy	Number of interventions	CSPs supporting investments
Bioeconomy in general	6	LT, PT, SI, SK,
Bioeconomy in relation to infrastructure	5	HU, FI, IT, MT
Renewable energy	3	AT, FI
Technologies	1	HR

⁸⁶ AT, ES, FI, HU, HR, IT, LT, SI.

⁸⁷ AT, BE-WA, BG, CZ, DE, ES, FI, MT, PT, RO.

⁸⁸ AT, BE.Flanders, Wallonia, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, NL, PT, RO, SE.

⁸⁹ AT, BE.Flanders, BG, CY, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI.

⁹⁰ AT, BE-FL, BG, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LV, LT, MT, PT, CY, RO, SK, SI.

Investments in the bioeconomy, including the production of renewable energy	Number of interventions	CSPs supporting investments
Irrigation	4	ES, PT
Processing and marketing of agricultural products	17	BE-FL, BG, CY, ES, FR, HU, IT, LV, PT, RO, SK, SI
Businesses	3	FI, FR
Biodiversity	1	FI

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Envisioned beneficiaries for these interventions range from individual beneficiaries (CY, SK) to individual and groups of agricultural holdings (AT, BE-FL, BG, ES, PT), individual and groups of forestry holdings (AT, HR, PT), and public authorities⁹¹. However, a multitude of other beneficiaries were also foreseen by the Member States, please see an overview below.

Table 37 Other beneficiaries foreseen for INVEST interventions supporting investments in the bioeconomy, including the production of renewable energy

Other types of beneficiaries	CSPs
Enterprises, undertakings, and associations	HU
Natural and legal persons	AT, FI, FR, HU, LV, SK
Associations and cooperatives	FI
Public or private entities	IT
Entities, armers associations, irrigation associations, business sector, other public entities	PT
Companies active in the agri-food chain or the bio-based economy	BE-FL
Processors of agricultural products	BG
Companies and active structures involved in the development of the rural economy	FR
Undertakings engaged in processing and/or marketing activities	LV
Micro, small, medium and/or large enterprises	CY, RO
Farmers of agricultural holdings or complementary activities on the farm, legal persons and sole proprietors who are registered for the processing or marketing of agricultural products	SI

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Three interventions also prioritise specific target groups, such as micro and small enterprises (FI), women in general (not specific to rural areas) (HU), rural non-farm businesses and SMEs (RO), and organic sectors (SK). Various interventions that support investments in the bioeconomy support specific farm practices, such as bioeconomy, energy efficiency and production⁹², low input systems (SK), forestry (PT, HR, FR, IT), water (FR, IT, MT, PT, ES), manure storage and processing techniques (MT, ES) and animals and organic farming (ES). Some specific entry requirements can also be detected among these interventions, such as based on production output / economic size (FI, SI, RO), based on physical size of farm (PT), based on maximum investment costs (PT, CY), and a variety of other entry requirements (EE, ES, FI, SK, PT).

19 INVEST interventions are expected to support investments in projects related to the **food supply chain**⁹³. These interventions cover aspects such as the development of the food chain (SE), tangible and intangible productive investments in and by the food industry (EE), developments of cooperation within the value chain (PL, SK), support for economic activities in relation to agri-foodstuffs in Corsica (FR) investments for processing and marketing of agricultural products⁹⁴, the food sector in rural areas for the processing of agricultural and natural products (FI), and bioeconomy (LT, EE, SK). Prioritised target groups for some of these interventions are: micro, small, medium, and large enterprises, and producer groups and organisations (EE, PL, FI), the organic sectors (EE, SK, PL),

⁹¹ AT, ES, FI, FR, HU, MT, IT, PT.

⁹² SI, SK, PT, EE, LT, HU, AT, HR, FI, IT, PT, ES, BE-FL, BG, LV, CY, RO.

⁹³ BE-FL, CY, DE, EE, FI, FR, LT, MT, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK.

⁹⁴ BE-FL, EE, DE, MT, PT, CY, RO.

and start-ups (EE). The intended purposes of these interventions vary, please see below two tables providing an overview on this.

Table 38 Overview of identified purposes of INVEST interventions supporting investments for the food supply chain

Purpose	CSP
Improving food chain position of farmers	BE-FL, CY, DE, EE, FR, LT, MT, PT, RO, SK
Diversifying and shortening the stages of the food chain, and promoting cooperation within the value chain through the obligation to sign supply contracts between farmers and the processing industry	PL
Increasing competitiveness	EE, PL
Improving farmers' resilience and/ or income situation	SE
Generating employment	EE, SE
contributing to economic growth of the territory	EE, SE
contributing to the environment and climate	FI

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Foreseen beneficiaries are individual and/or groups of agricultural holdings⁹⁵, public authorities (MT, PT), individual beneficiaries (neither agricultural or forestry holdings) (CY, SK) and individual and/or groups of forestry holdings (EE, RO). However, a multitude of other beneficiaries were also identified, please see an overview below.

Table 39 Overview of beneficiaries of INVEST interventions supporting investments for the food supply chain

Other beneficiary	CSP
Economically sustainable operators whose main activity is food production, with the exception of processing and conservation of fish, crustaceans and molluscs (EE),	EE
Micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (PL, CY),	CY, PL
Companies and active structures involved in the development of the rural economy (including the forest-wood sector) (FR)	FR
Natural and legal persons engaged in the processing of agricultural products (FI, LT, SK)	FI, LT, SK
Companies active in the agri-food chain	BE-WA
Other businesses/land managers active	MT

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Three INVEST interventions supporting investments in processing and marketing of agricultural products focus more specifically on the environmental effects. Belgium-Flanders has an intervention titled 'investments for sustainable processing and marketing of agricultural products', with intended beneficiaries being groups of agricultural holdings and companies active in the agri-food chain or the bio-based economy. Bulgaria supports investments in the processing of agricultural products aimed at protecting the environmental compartments for beneficiaries such as individual and groups of agricultural holdings and processors of agricultural products. Hungary supports green investments linked to the added value of agricultural products for beneficiaries such as natural persons, enterprises with legal persons, undertakings without legal personality, and NGOs. This Hungarian intervention has women in general (not specific in rural area) as a specific target group

As also referenced under "Contributions of the CAP to resilient rural areas, 17 INVEST interventions⁹⁶ support investments related to **forest management aspects**, such as:

- investments in forest management in general (AT, CZ, HU, PT, SK),

⁹⁵ DE EE, MT, SE SK, PT, RO, SK.

⁹⁶ AT, BE-WA, BG, CY, CZ, EL, ES, IT, HR, HU, PT, SI, SK.

- productive forestry investments⁹⁷, and
- investments for wood processing / logging (BE-WA, BG, SI).

Seven of these interventions target exclusively the sector of forestry⁹⁸, while the Polish, Italian and Czechian interventions focus specifically on the habitat of woodlands. There are differences in identified purposes and foreseen beneficiaries across the aforementioned interventions; please see an overview on the next page.

Table 40 Overview of identified purposes and beneficiaries for INVEST interventions supporting investments related to forest management aspects

CSP	Purpose	Beneficiaries	Other beneficiaries
AT	Contributing to the environment or climate	Individual and groups of agricultural holdings; Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries	Non-governmental organisations, associations; mergers of the above-mentioned promoters
BE-WA	Improve farmers' resilience and/ or income situation; Improve performance of forestry sector; Generating employment	Individual agricultural holdings; groups of forestry holdings; other beneficiaries	Registered with the ECB, in respect of social and fiscal obligations with their main activity in the sectors concerned (NACE code corresponding to logging or forestry work), having established or undertake to establish a place of business in Wallonia, and is not to be a firm in difficulty within the meaning of points 9 to 12 of the Community guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty.
BG	Improve performance of forestry sector, Generating employment	Other beneficiaries	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
CY	Improve performance of forestry sector, Generating employment	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries	Non-Governmental Organisations, Parents' Associations, Church Bodies, Monastery and other Religious Authorities.
CZ	Contributing to the environment or climate	Individual forestry holdings; other beneficiaries	Associations
EL	Improve performance of forestry sector, Increasing competitiveness	Groups of forestry holdings; individual beneficiaries (neither agriculture nor forestry holdings); public authorities; other beneficiaries	Associations and small and medium-sized enterprises
ES	Improve performance of forestry sector, Generating employment	Individual and groups of forestry holdings	
IT	Improve performance of forestry sector; Increasing competitiveness;	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries	Associations
HR	Improve performance of forestry sector, Contributing to the environment or climate	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries	Hunting owners, JLS and their associations, crafts, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
HU	Increasing competitiveness	Individual forestry holdings	
PT	Improve performance of forestry sector; Contributing to the environment or climate; generating employment	Individual and groups of agricultural holdings; Individual and groups of forestry holdings; public authorities; other beneficiaries	Private forest holders, SMEs active in the forestry sector, Cooperatives and/or forest associations; SMEs or Microenterprises which have as their main economic activity the provision of forestry services, the exploitation and/or processing of forest products.

⁹⁷ CY, EL, ES, IT, HR PT.

⁹⁸ AT, IT, CZ, HU, HR, EL, BG.

Taking stock of how CAP Strategic Plans contribute to the objectives of the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

CSP	Purpose	Beneficiaries	Other beneficiaries
SI	Improve performance of forestry sector	Individual and groups of forestry holdings	
SK	Increasing competitiveness	Individual and groups of forestry holdings; other beneficiaries	Natural and juridical persons who manage forests in the I.-IV. degree of nature protection; Natural persons and legal persons who manage forests with an area of up to 500 ha; Entities bringing together natural persons and legal persons who manage forests with an area of up to 500 ha; Entities fulfilling the condition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises that provide services to any forest managers.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Furthermore, eleven of the interventions have detailed entry requirements for projects to be eligible to receive investments; please see an overview below.

Table 41 Entry requirement for investments related to forest management aspects

CSP	Entry requirements	Other entry requirements
BE-WA	Other	The collection of aid applications shall be carried out by means of calls for projects: continuous calls for projects and block selection: projects may be submitted continuously throughout the year but are evaluated in quarterly groups constituted according to the date of submission (4 calendar quarters);o investment projects shall be assessed on the basis of the degree of compliance with the selection criteria defined for the intervention. Each selection criterion is awarded a defined number of points and the total points determines the ranking of the projects. If this is below a minimum number of points, no aid shall be granted; projects are selected up to the available budget. Criteria of Selection: the selection principles shall be based, inter alia, on the following elements:1. o ecosystem development and respect (limiting the impact on soil, water and ecosystems in general);o the creation of activities and the use of by-products; innovation (digitalisation and robotisation);oThe criteria to be applied shall be defined by the managing authority following consultation of the Monitoring Committee. They will be communicated to potential beneficiaries and will be included in the calls for projects. The selection criteria shall be verifiable, verifiable, transparent and non-discriminatory.
BG	Based on production output/ economic size	
CY	Based on physical size of farm; based on production output/ economic size;	
ES	Other	Have a management plan or equivalent instrument (art. 68.2), for investments made in the forest, being the minimum area of action, from which this requirement will be required, a regional element. In the case of productive plantations, consistency with pan-European guidelines for afforestation and reforestation (Art. 73.3.h). Short shift fast-growing species shall not be eligible for afforestation and receive grants from the first pillar of the CAP for the same land requested and for the same action. The actions will be carried out on considered forestry in accordance with the definition of Law 43/2003 of Montes. Other actions that necessarily need to be carried out outside forest land, such as afforestation on agricultural land, infrastructure, etc. will also be eligible. In the case of processing industries, only investments for the first processing of forest products shall be allowed
PT	Based on physical size of farm;	
PT	Based on physical size of farm; other	Respect eligible species; submit a Forest Management Plan (PFG) ¹ where the area supported is greater than or equal to 5 ha or equivalent instrument when the area is less than 5 ha.
PT	Based on physical size of farm; other	The investment project must highlight the improvement of the economic value of forests subject to forestry intervention; Comply with the technical provisions laid down in the PROF-RAM and in accordance with the other relevant planning and management tools; Comply with the minimum environmental requirements set out in Article 6 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014 of 11 March 2014; It must be accompanied, if it relates to a Natura 2000 site, by a favourable opinion issued by the managing body of the Site; Integrate a PGF or equivalent instrument.

CSP	Entry requirements	Other entry requirements
SI	Based on physical size of farm; based on production output/ economic size; other	If the beneficiary is a sole trader or a legal person other than the owner or lessee of the forest, he must have a registered activity under code A02.200 — felling or A02.400 — forestry service according to the standard activity classification.
SI	Based on production output/ economic size; other	The beneficiary must qualify as a micro or small enterprise. According to the Standard Classification of Activities, the beneficiary of the support must have a registered activity with code A02.200 — felling, C16.100 — sawing, planing and impregnation of wood or C16.290 — production of other products of wood, cork, straw and wiring, supporting activities and products listed in the List of Activities and Products under this operation. If the beneficiary is a commercial company, a cooperative, a sole trader must operate and carry out an activity for which it has received support in settlements of less than 5 000 inhabitants.
SK	Based on physical size of farm; other	A long and detailed list of conditions of eligibility.
SK	Based on physical size of farm; other	A long and detailed list of conditions of eligibility.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Support to areas facing natural constraints (ANC)

When analysing the **ANC interventions**, two interventions in Romania and Portugal particularly indicate that the support provided to areas affected by natural and specific constraints should lead to the continuation of agricultural activity, which plays an important role in preserving environmental factors (biodiversity, soil, water, air), including the maintenance of traditional landscapes and can serve as a basis for economic development through rural tourism. In Azores (PT), the continuation of farming, where necessary and under certain conditions, is also linked to the conservation or improvement of environment, preservation of the tourist potential of the area and protection of the coast.

In France, 15 ANC interventions are linked to SO8, which as previously mentioned under the resilience section, may be related to the support provided to remote and overseas territories to best respond to their territorial characteristics and increase their attractiveness, and thus contributing to their local development.

Basic income support (BISS) and complementary income support for sustainability (CRISS)

Some Member States further chose to apply territorialisation to BISS and CRISS, which contributes to social resilience by providing extra support to specific territories most in need. The table below provides an overview of Member States who made this choice.

Table 42 Overview of MS applying territorialisation to BISS and CRISS

Intervention type	CSPs
BISS	BE-FL; BE-WA; EL; ES; FI; FR; LV; PT
CRISS	BE-FL; BE-WA; EL; ES; FI; FR

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

For example, Latvia differentiates between counties with a growing season of more or less than 195 days. Austria differentiates 'alpine pastures'⁹⁹ from other areas. Greece applies territorialisation to both BISS and CRISS, differentiating between grasslands, arable crops, and permanent crops.

4.4.3. Employment and job opportunities

Generating employment for citizens, both inhabiting rural areas and those interested in moving to rural areas, is underlined as a priority in the rural vision. Another highlighted element is increasing job opportunities for young people. The most relevant interventions found to support this are cooperation, investments, and instalments. Note that the screened INVEST interventions were also analysed in relation to support for job creation but that no interventions were found to focus on these matters. Furthermore, no screened intervention focused on support for new farmers.

⁹⁹ These areas are defined as grazed areas consisting of fodder plants of an alpine pasture registered in the alpine cadastre or situated in the alpine pasture area of the federal states, which are not managed from the home estate.

Cooperation

Support for job creation is expected to be addressed through at least 49 COOP interventions in 25 MS.¹⁰⁰ Employment will be mainly addressed through the 30 interventions linked to O.31 "Supporting LEADER strategies", 13 interventions linked to O.32 "Other cooperation operations" and six interventions linked to O.1 "EIP operation group implementation" focused on EIP, quality schemes, generational renewal and producer groups and organisations. The MS with most interventions addressing employment are Hungary (six interventions), Belgium (five interventions), Austria and Portugal (four interventions each), Spain, Finland (three interventions each) and France, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland (two interventions each). In Hungary, specific support will also be provided to social enterprises (intervention "Rural development cooperation for the development of social enterprises").

Young farmers are targeted through the COOP interventions. They are specifically mentioned as target groups in Bulgaria ("Support to producer organisations or producer groups", stating that part of the members of the producer group or organisation are composed of young farmers), in 3 interventions in Hungary ("Rural Development Cooperation for the Development of Short Supply Chains", "Support for connection to quality assurance and management systems" and "Support for agricultural irrigation communities improving water efficiency"), in Finland (cooperation intervention to promote young farmers and business) and in Malta (EIP intervention promoting cooperation between farmers, young farmers, businesses, research and educational institutes and public entities along the supply chain).

Specific eligibility or selection criteria for young farmers are included in Bulgaria (e.g. producer groups or organisations shall be active in a priority sector and part of their members are composed of young farmers) and in Hungary (e.g. additional selection criteria on the involvement of young farmers in cooperation may be applied in partnerships addressing rural development cooperation for the development of short supply chains, composition of the irrigation community and connection to quality assurance and management systems).

Support to investments made by young farmers is explicitly mentioned in some LEADER interventions such as in Latvia and in the Netherlands (e.g. for specific groups and young farmers under the age of 40 in the Netherlands, an increased subsidy rate of up to 80% is possible for investments made under the LDS).

CAP strategic plans contribution to enhancing job opportunities for young people is mostly related to generation renewal in farming and forestry. The Specific Objective 7 of the CAP supports this objective through both CAP pillars

Five interventions in five MS (ES, FR, HU, IE, NL), are linked to O.30 "**Generational renewal**" aim to support rural youth in regard to farming. They support the transfer of holdings and knowledge from experienced farmers in the retirement age or who will reach the retirement age at the end of the cooperation period to younger farmers. In the Netherlands, in addition to the young and experienced farmers, other actors in rural areas can be part of the consortium applying for the project grant such as actors in the agri-food chain, SMEs, members of producer groups, cooperatives, interbranch organisations, educators, knowledge and education institutions and other relevant natural and legal persons. The generational renewal intervention in the Netherlands also aims to encourage the participation of female farmers by considering this aspect in the assessment, selection and ranking of the project proposals.

Installation aid

INSTALL interventions will play an important role in supporting new/young farmers and young people. **Young farmers** will be supported through 32 INSTALL interventions in all Member States (except Ireland which has not planned any INSTALL intervention in its CAP SP). Young forestry professionals will also be supported to start their own business in Hungary.

Three interventions in three MS (ES, FR, IT) will specifically focus on **new farmers**. In Spain, selection criteria will be established to ensure the incorporation of women into agricultural activity.

Young people who set up new businesses in rural areas may also be prioritised during the selection process in two INSTALL interventions supporting non-agricultural activities in Italy ("Non-agricultural start-ups") and in Spain ("Start-up of rural start-ups linked to agriculture and forestry or diversification of incomes of farmers' households, new non-agricultural business activities").

One INVEST intervention, from Italy, mentions young rural people as a target group, when supporting investments in agricultural holdings for diversification in non-agricultural activities.

¹⁰⁰ MS AT, BE.Flanders, Wallonia, BG, CY, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK.

Investment

49 INVEST interventions¹⁰¹ have been identified to have the purpose of generating employment. Three interventions have young farmers specifically mentioned as target groups for the investments. Croatia identifies young farmers as a target group when supporting investments for development of businesses in rural areas, as well as when supporting investments in the processing of agricultural products. Hungary specifically targets young farmers and start-up young forest entrepreneurs when supporting investments for the diversification of farmers activities. No INVEST interventions were found to touch upon the topic of providing job opportunities for young people outside farming of forestry sectors.

4.4.4. Presentation of relevant result indicator targets

Two result indicators and their targets are particularly relevant for the contribution of the CAP to connected rural areas:

- R.37 on growth and jobs in rural areas; and
- R.39 on developing the rural economy.

Result Indicator R.37 is a key indicator for measuring the contribution of the CAP to prosperous rural areas by defining targets for the creation of jobs in rural areas. All CSPs designed interventions that are linked to this indicator. Overall, Member States designed 29 INVEST interventions¹⁰² and 41 INSTAL interventions linked to Result Indicator R.37. In addition, 12 CSP specify 17 COOP interventions linked to this indicator.

Table 43 Number of interventions linked to RI.37 and the number and CSPs these interventions are planned in

RI. 37	Number of interventions	Number of CSPs	CSPs
INVEST	29	12	AT, BE-WA, BG, HR, EE, DE, EL, PT, CY, SI, ES, SE
INSTAL	41	27	AT, BE-FL, BE-WA, BG, HR, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, CY, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE
COOP	17	12	AT, BE-FL, BE-WA, DK, EE, IE, LT, NL, PL, RO, SK, ES

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

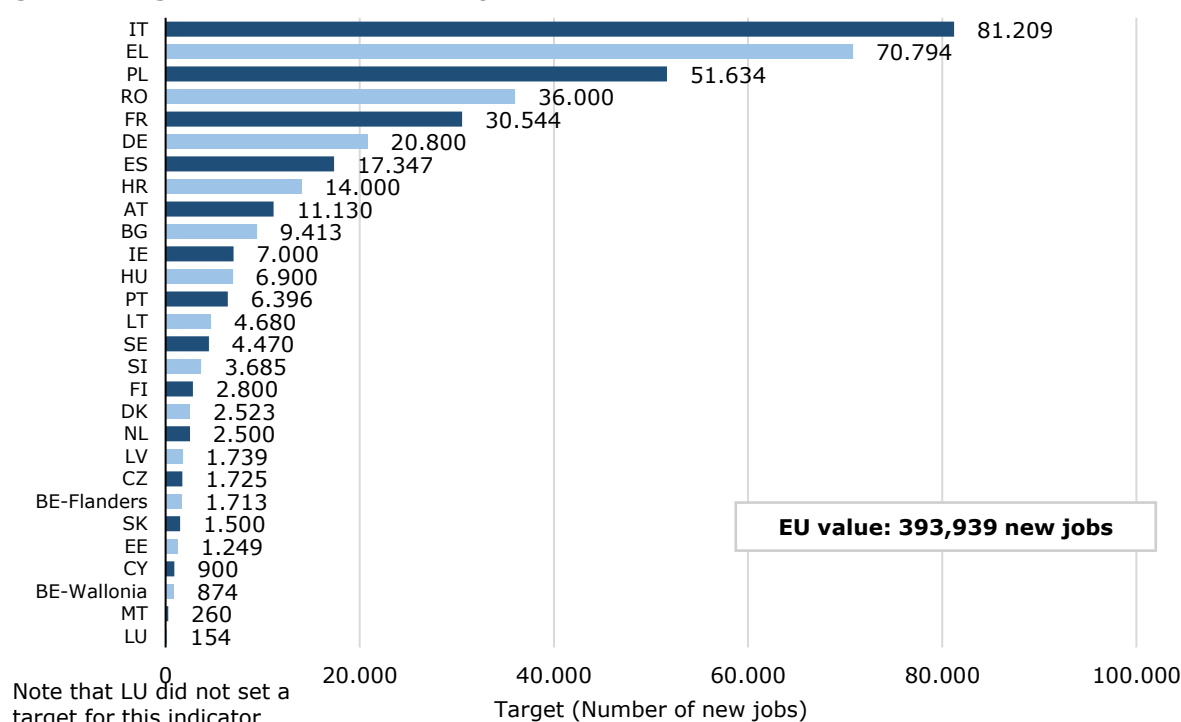
At EU level, 393 939 new jobs are set to be created by 2029 through the support from the CAP. Some Member States have set relatively ambitious targets, between around 50 000 and 80 000 new jobs (Italy, Greece, Poland, in declining order). These three Member States alone would contribute to half of the target set at EU level. Another four Member States have set relatively high targets, between 17 000 and 36 000 new jobs (Romania, France, Germany, Spain, in declining order) and these together would account for another one third of the EU target. The remaining 21 Member States have set targets that range from as little as 154 new jobs in Luxembourg to 14 000 in Croatia. These targets would however need to be interpreted with caution as Luxembourg for instance is a small country and like Malta (target of 260 new jobs), it may be justified to set a lower target than other Member States.¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ AT, BE-FL, BE-WA, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, HR, IT, LT, PT, RO, SE, SI.

¹⁰² Excluding INVEST interventions linked to O.20 and O.21.

¹⁰³ Note that the projects benefitting from LEADER will only be selected over the course of 2023 and 2024. Targets will be updated afterwards. Therefore, the result indicator targets for R.37 are likely to increase and the current data available represent an underestimation.

Figure 12 Targets for R.37 - Growth and jobs in rural areas



Indicator: New jobs supported in CAP projects

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Result Indicator R.39 measures the contribution to employment and local development through the **development of new businesses**. 23 of the 28 CSPs link at least one Rural Development intervention to this indicator. Overall, 23 CSPs contain 83 INVEST interventions¹⁰⁴ linked to Result Indicator R.39, while another nine CSPs from this group also design related COOP interventions. In addition, Member States designed eight INSTAL interventions that are linked to R.39. Finland further linked a KNOW intervention to this indicator.

Table 44 Number of interventions linked to RI.39 and the number and CSPs these interventions are planned in

R.39	Number of interventions	Number of CSPs	CSPs
INVEST	83	23	AT, BE-FL, BE-WA, BG, HR, CZ, EE, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IT, LV, LT, PL, PT, CY, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE
COOP	20	9	BE-FL, BE-WA, CZ, FI, FR, HU, LV, LT, ES
INSTAL	8	6	AT, HR, FI, HU, IT, ES
KNOW	1	1	FI

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

At EU level, a total of 138 820 new businesses are set to be developed by 2029 through CAP support. The targets of two Member States alone are so ambitious that they make up 70% of the total EU target, notably, Spain and Germany that expect to develop 58 699 and 40 000 businesses respectively. The rest of Member States set much lower targets, including a group of six Member States that set a target between 3 000 and 7 500 businesses¹⁰⁵, another group of four Member States between 1 000 and 1 900 businesses¹⁰⁶ and the rest below 1 000. There are four Member States¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁴ Excluding INVEST interventions linked to O.20 and O.21.

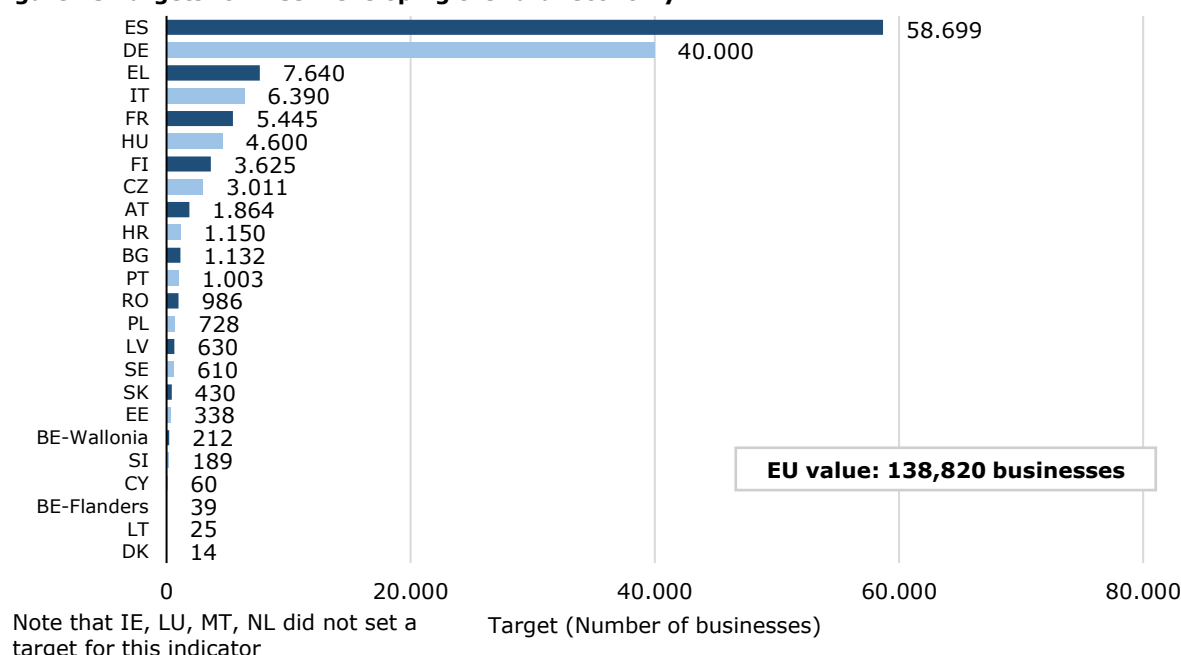
¹⁰⁵ CZ, FI, FR, EL, HU, IT.

¹⁰⁶ AT, BG, HR, PT.

¹⁰⁷ BE-Flanders, DK, CY, LT.

that set very low targets (below 100 business) and four Member States¹⁰⁸ that set negligible or no targets for this indicator.¹⁰⁹

Figure 13 Targets for R.39 Developing the rural economy



Indicator: Number of rural businesses, including bioeconomy businesses, developed with CAP support

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

5. FINANCIAL ALLOCATION TO THE RELEVANT INTERVENTIONS

The Member States' choices with regard to financial allocation in the CSPs that are of relevance to rural areas are described in two ways. First, the total financial allocation to the types of interventions with higher relevance for rural areas – thus contributions to rural areas going beyond supporting mere farming activities – are described. Secondly, in the CSPs Member States have had to link all interventions to the SO(s) to which they are directly contributing. As such, the allocations to interventions linked to SO8 – vibrant rural areas – in the plans are described.

The following sections provide an overview of the financial allocation that are likely to benefit rural areas most directly.

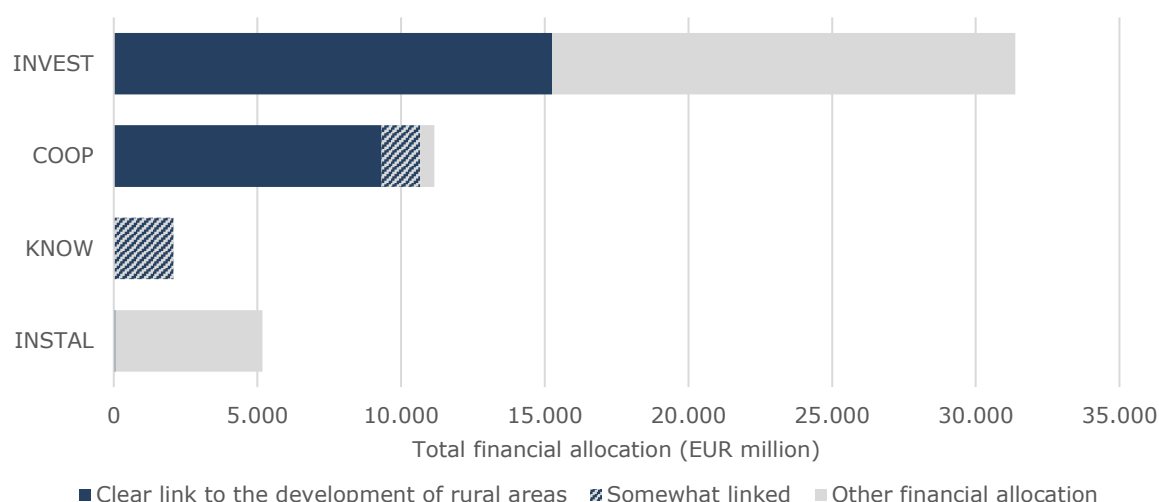
5.1. Overall financial allocation

Overall, Member States linked a total of about EUR 24.6 billion (8% of the total public financial allocation) to interventions that are clearly and foremost (but not exclusively) linked to the development of rural areas (excluding KNOW and O.1 COOP interventions not linked to SO8). EUR 15.2 billion are linked to off-farm productive and unproductive as well as infrastructure investment interventions. This amounts to 49% of the total financial allocation to INVEST. Another EUR 9.3 billion, 84% of its total financial allocation, are linked to relevant cooperation support that targets activities beyond agriculture. EUR 63 million are allocated to installation aid to the start-up of rural businesses (1% of total financial allocation to INSTAL). Another EUR 2.1 billion and EUR 1.3 billion are allocated to support for knowledge and advice as well as support for EIP operational groups (COOP) beyond those linked to SO8. However, the findings from the previous Chapter and the links to SOs suggest that this support often targets agricultural activities or purposes. Counting this financial allocation in would bring the total financial allocation linked to the development of rural areas to EUR 28 billion (9.1% of the total public financial allocation).

¹⁰⁸ IE, LU, MT, NL.

¹⁰⁹ Note that the projects benefitting from LEADER will only be selected over the course of 2023 and 2024. Targets will be updated afterwards. Therefore, the result indicator targets for R.39 are likely to increase and the current data available represent an underestimation.

Figure 14 Total public financial allocation by type of intervention and link to rural development, 2023-2027 (million EUR)



Note that the financial allocation to INSTAL with a clear link to the development of rural areas is too small to be depicted properly. However, the respective financial allocation is included in the relevant calculations.

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

As stated in Chapter 2, the whole CAP can be considered to support rural areas. As seen in Chapter 4, especially on parts related to resilience and prosperity, support to farmers contributing to more sustainable practices are also important. In this Chapter, however, the focus lies on the financial allocation to rural areas beyond farming. Therefore, the full financial envelope of EUR 307 billion of the CAP will benefit rural areas, 8% of which can be considered as more specifically linked to rural development.

5.2. Financial allocation by type of intervention

As for the stocktaking of interventions presented in the previous chapter, the financial allocations to INVEST, COOP, and KNOW are most relevant for the development of rural areas. In addition, the financial allocation to INSTAL and CIS-YF are also likely to make a general contribution to the development of rural areas. This section describes the financial allocation in detail, by CSP, and as a share of the CSP's total CAP financial allocation (including co-financing). Where possible, the text provides a breakdown by Output Indicator.

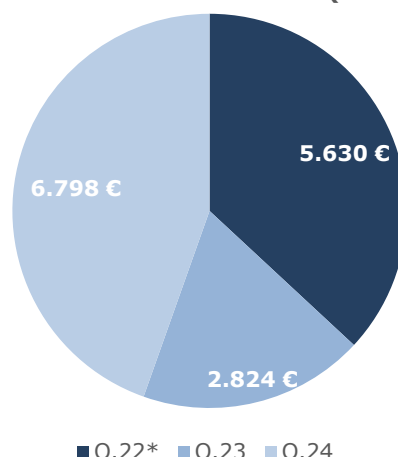
INVEST

25 CSPs foresee support for off-farm or infrastructure investments, including both off-farm productive (O.24) and non-productive investments (O.23), as well as investments in infrastructure (including irrigation, O.22). The latter excludes investments in infrastructure (O.22) which clearly target the agricultural sector only (see Chapter 2).

Total financial allocation across all three types of interventions and CSPs amounts to EUR 15.3 billion, of which most is linked to off-farm productive investments (O.24) (EUR 6.8 billion), followed by support for infrastructure investments (O.22), EUR 5.6 billion and off-farm non-productive investments (EUR 2.8 billion).

Figure 15 Total public financial allocation to investment support for off-farm and infrastructure investments, by output indicator, 2023-2027 (million EUR)

Total public financial allocation (million EUR)



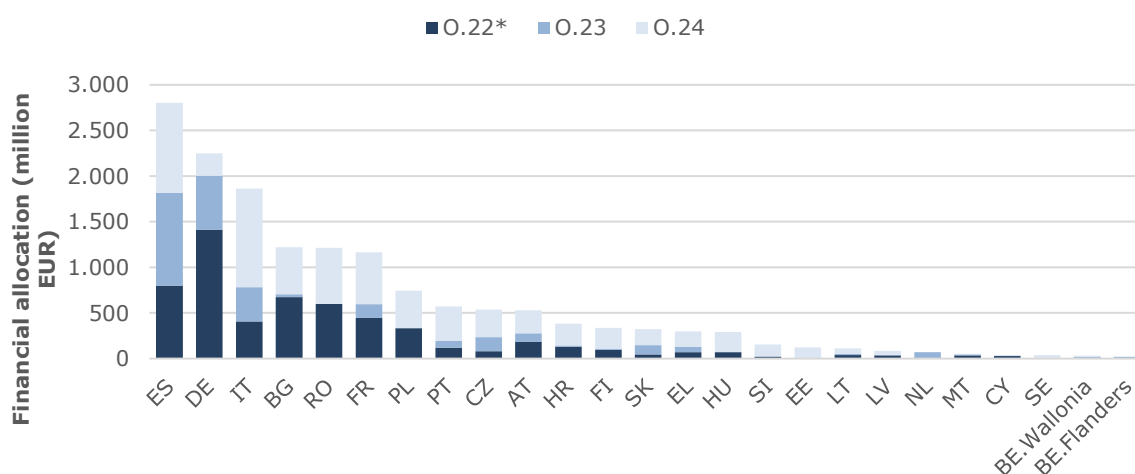
**Excluding interventions clearly targeting agricultural activities only*

O.22 Number of supported infrastructure investment operations or units; O.23 Number of supported off-farm non-productive investment operations or units; O.24 Number of supported off-farm productive investment operations or units

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Spain (EUR 2.8 billion), Germany (EUR 2.2 billion) and Italy (EUR 1.9 billion) allocated the highest financial allocations to support these types of investments¹¹⁰ for the 2023-2027 period.¹¹¹ Denmark, Ireland and Luxembourg have not allocated any support to these types of investments.

Figure 16 Total public financial allocation to investment support for off-farm and infrastructure investments, by CSP and output indicator, 2023-2027 (million EUR)



**Excluding interventions clearly targeting agricultural activities only*

O.22 Number of supported infrastructure investment operations or units; O.23 Number of supported off-farm non-productive investment operations or units; O.24 Number of supported off-farm productive investment operations or units

Note: In addition, 14 Member States have allocated top-up support to INVEST: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Netherlands and Sweden

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

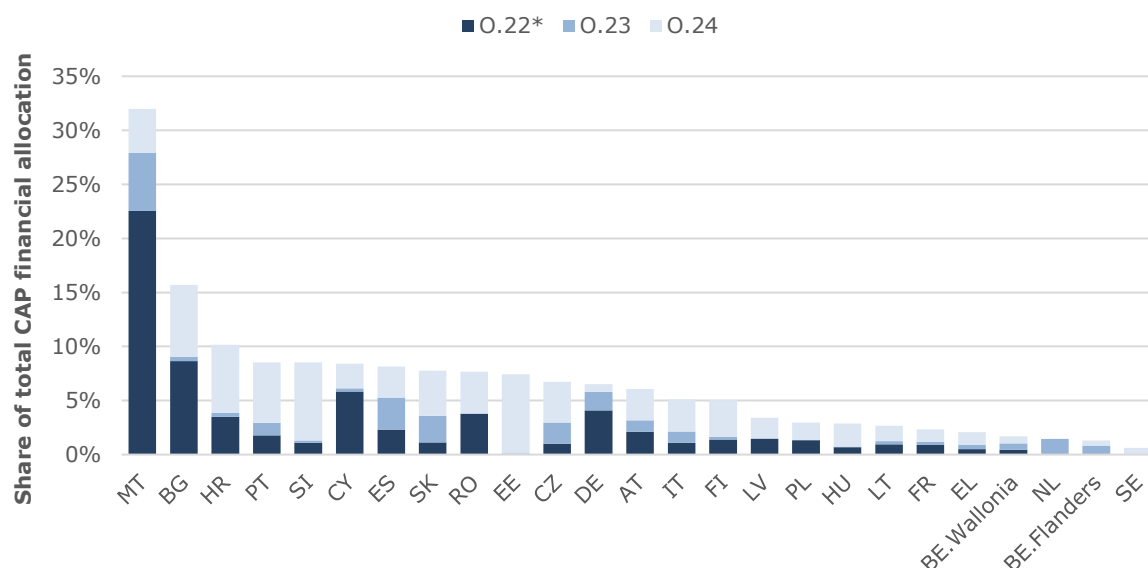
Comparing the relative priority given to investment support for off-farm and infrastructure investments, to that of the total CAP allocation, Malta stands out, allocating more than 30% of its

¹¹⁰ Financial allocation expressed as total public expenditure, i.e. both EAFRD and national co-financing.

¹¹¹ To be noted that in addition, 14 Member States have allocated top-up support to INVEST: AT, BE, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, NL and SE.

total CAP budget¹¹² for the 2023-2027 period to off-farm and infrastructure investment support, where in particular the support for infrastructure investments is significant (23% of Malta's total CSP allocation). Bulgaria follows next, allocating just over 15% to the support for these types of investments, and again the infrastructure investments are the most relevant (9% of total CSP allocation), followed by off-farm productive investment support. On the low end, besides Ireland, Denmark and Luxembourg, which do not allocate any financial support for these types of investments, another 10 Member States allocate less than 5%, and 13 Member States allocate between 5-10%. (See below).

Figure 17 Financial allocation to investment support for off-farm and infrastructure investments as a share of total CAP financial allocation, by CSP, 2023-2027 (%)



*Excluding interventions clearly targeting agricultural activities only

O.22 Number of supported infrastructure investment operations or units; O.23 Number of supported off-farm non-productive investment operations or units; O.24 Number of supported off-farm productive investment operations or units

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

The figure on the next page shows the relationship between output indicators O.22-O.24 at CSP level, hence the share of the financial allocation for support for infrastructure and off-farm investments that is intended for the different purposes of off-farm productive (O.24) and non-productive (O.23) investments, and support for infrastructure investments (O.22)¹¹³. Generally, off-farm investments are related to non-agricultural activities. Productive investments generally lead to an increase in profitability or value whereas non-productive investments are investments that do not lead to any significant increase in value or profitability. Typically, they aim at purely environmental improvements and are linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives set out in points (d), (e) and (f) of Article 6(1) of the SPR¹¹⁴. Infrastructure investments can benefit both on- and off-farm activities. For the purpose of this stocktaking, infrastructure interventions clearly targeting agricultural activities have been excluded from the calculations. The order of the Member States corresponds to their total financial allocation, hence the Member State with the highest financial allocation for the intervention is reported to the left (Spain in this case).

In relation to support for rural areas, support for off-farm productive investments and infrastructure investments are the most important. In 14 Member States, more than 50% of their investment support specifically considered beneficial for rural areas, is allocated to off-farm productive investments. Sweden has only allocated support to this type of investments (disregarding

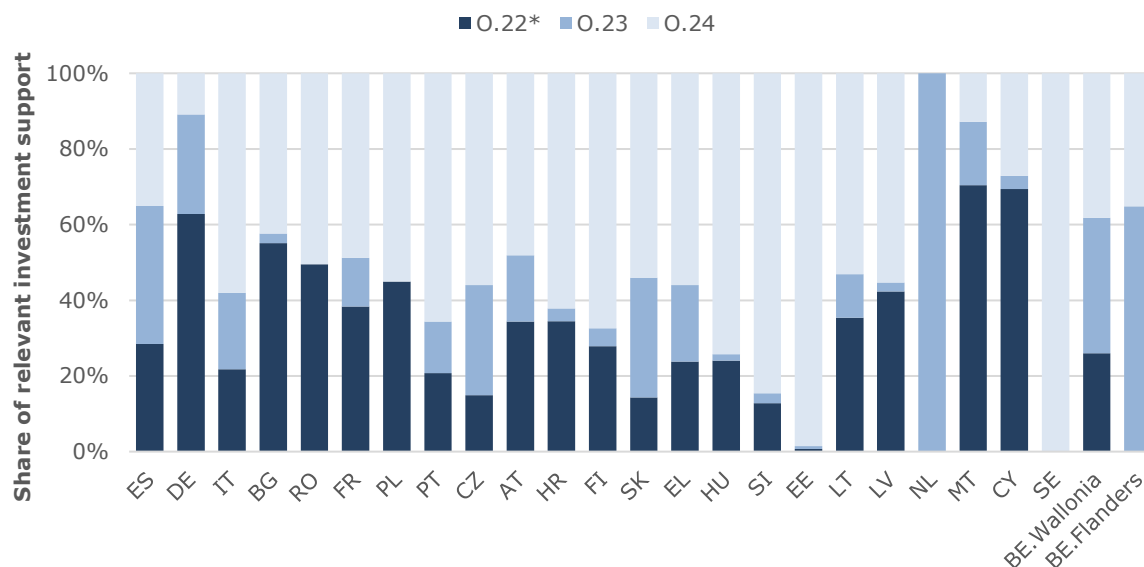
¹¹² Total public expenditure, including funds from EAGF, EAFRD, and national co-financing.

¹¹³ Note that the following investments may not be supported: investments in large-scale infrastructure, as determined by Member States in their CAP Strategic Plans, not being part of the community-led local development strategies set out in Article 32 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, except for broadband and flood or coastal protection preventive actions aimed at reducing the consequences of probable natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events (Art 73.3(f)) of the SPR.

¹¹⁴ Examples would be the creation and/or restoration of landscape features, such as wetlands, hedges, dry-stone walls and traditional boundaries, or the creation and/or restoration of habitat or landscape elements, such as heathland, species-rich grassland or floristically enhanced grass margins.

on-farm investment support), and Estonia and Slovenia each allocate over 80%. Four Member States allocate more than 50% of their investment support targeted to rural areas to infrastructure investments (Germany, Bulgaria, Malta, and Cyprus). The Netherlands, BE-Flanders, and Spain are the only CSPs to allocate the majority of support for off-farm non-productive investments (100%, 65%, and 36% respectively).

Figure 18 Share of financial allocations to investment support for off-farm and infrastructure investments, by OI and CSP, 2023-2027 (%)



*Excluding interventions clearly targeting agricultural activities only

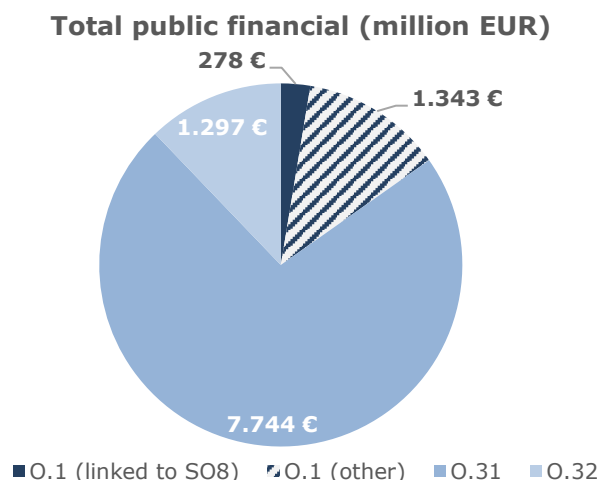
O.22 Number of supported infrastructure investment operations or units; O.23 Number of supported off-farm non-productive investment operations or units; O.24 Number of supported off-farm productive investment operations or units

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

COOP

All Member States will implement support for cooperation. As discussed in Chapter 2, COOP interventions linked to output indicators O.1 (European Innovation Partnerships), O.31 (LEADER), and O.32 (other cooperation) are particularly relevant for the stocktaking, as interventions linked to other output indicators are likely to primarily support agricultural activities. Overall, Member States allocated EUR 10.7 billion to relevant Cooperation interventions. Of these, about EUR 7.7 billion are allocated to interventions linked to LEADER (O.31). Close to EUR 1.3 billion are allocated to other cooperation support. Overall, approx. EUR 1.6 billion are allocated to EIP interventions. Many of these are likely to benefit agricultural activities first and foremost (see also Chapter 2). Jointly, the EIP interventions linked to SO8 (and thus most likely to contribute clearly to the development of rural areas) amount to EUR 278 million. The remaining EIP interventions account for the remaining EUR 1.3 billion linked to O.1. Close to EUR 500 million or around 4.5% (not depicted) have been allocated to the other output indicators COOP is linked to and which are considered less relevant in the scope of the stocktaking (see Chapter 2).

Figure 19 Total public financial allocation to relevant cooperation support, by output indicator, 2023-2027 (million EUR)

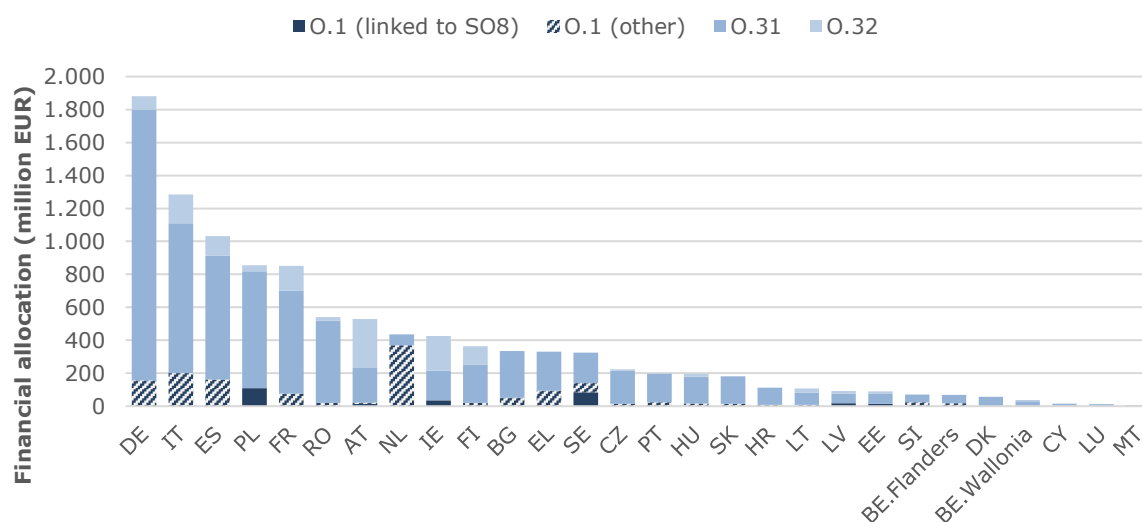


O.1 Number of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational group projects; O.31 Number of supported local development strategies (LEADER) or preparatory actions; O.32 Number of supported other cooperation operations or units (excluding EIP)

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Germany will allocate over EUR 1.8 billion over the 2023-2027 period¹¹⁵, followed by Italy (EUR 1.3 billion), Spain (EUR 1 billion), Poland and France (EUR 850 million each).¹¹⁶ The lowest financial allocation to relevant Cooperation interventions can be found in Cyprus (EUR 16 million), Luxembourg (EUR 13 million), and Malta (EUR 7 million).

Figure 20 Total public financial allocation to Cooperation support by CSP and OI, 2023-2027, (million EUR)



O.1 Number of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational group projects; O.31 Number of supported local development strategies (LEADER) or preparatory actions; O.32 Number of supported other cooperation operations or units (excluding EIP)

Note: In addition, 10 Member States are implementing top-up support for COOP: Austria, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands and Sweden

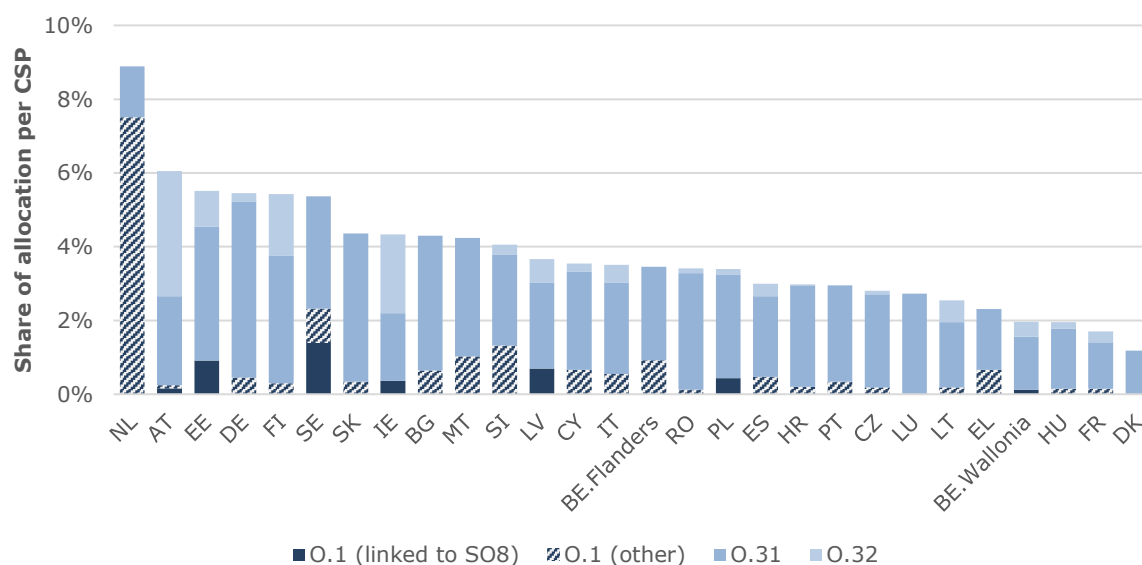
Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

¹¹⁵ Financial allocation equals total public expenditure, i.e. both EAFRD and national co-financing.

¹¹⁶ To be noted, in addition, 10 Member States are implementing top-up support for COOP: AT, DE, DK, ES, FR, HU, IT, LT, NL and SE.

Seen in relation to the total financial allocation per CAP Strategic plan¹¹⁷ for the 2023-2027 period, the Netherlands has chosen to allocate 9% to the COOP support measure, followed by Austria and Estonia (6% each). France and Denmark are the only Member States allocating below 2% (1.7% vs 1.2%).

Figure 21 Financial allocation to COOP as a share of allocation per CAP Strategic plan, 2023-2027, (%)



O.1 Number of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational group projects; O.31 Number of supported local development strategies (LEADER) or preparatory actions; O.32 Number of supported other cooperation operations or units (excluding EIP)

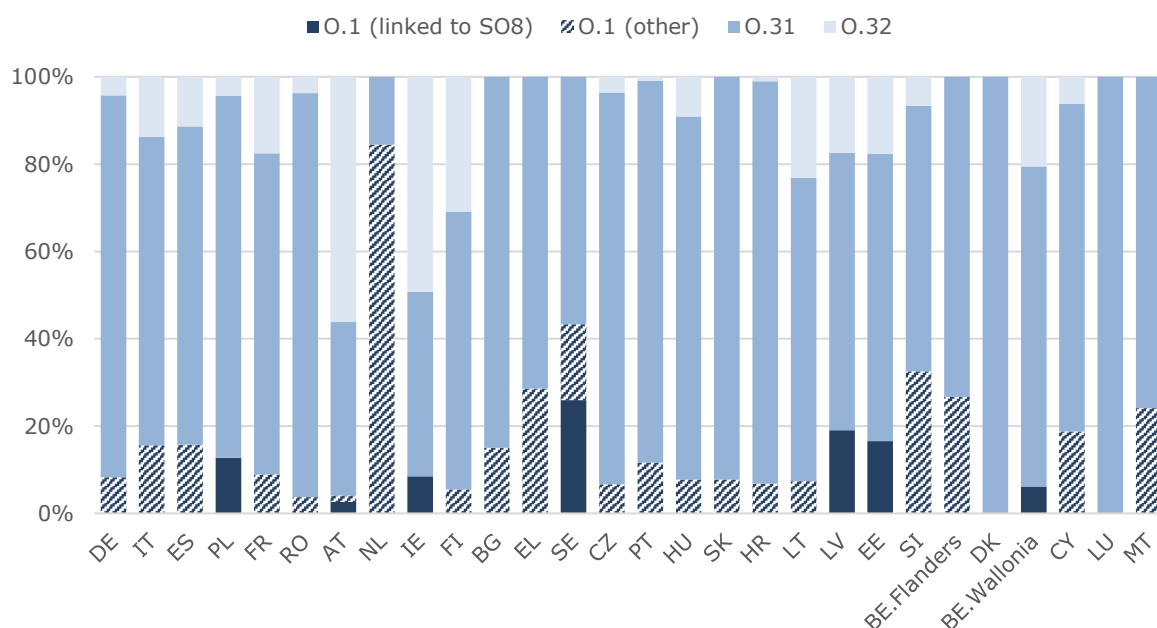
Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

The figure on the next page shows the relationship between the financial allocation for O.1, O.31, and O.32 at CSP level, hence the share of the financial allocation for relevant Cooperation support that is intended for the different purposes that can be supported through the Cooperation measure. The order of the Member States corresponds to the financial allocation, hence the Member State with the highest financial allocation for the intervention is reported to the left (Germany in this case).

The vast majority of the support is allocated to LEADER. In Denmark and Luxembourg, this is the only purpose supported through the Cooperation measure. It represents more than 80% of the total allocation in Croatia, Slovakia, Portugal, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, and Romania. After LEADER, the second most common category of cooperations to support by Member States is European Innovation Partnerships (EIP). The Netherlands give particular prioritisation to the support of EIPs (84%), which is also a high priority for Sweden (43%), Slovenia (33%), and Flanders (27%). It is difficult to anticipate how much of the total allocation will go to projects with a broader scope than farming. Yet, the largest relative share of financial allocation linked to O.1 with a clear link to rural areas can be found in Sweden, where about a quarter of the financial allocation to COOP is linked to O.1 interventions linked to SO8.

¹¹⁷ Total public expenditure, including funds from EAGF, EAFRD, and national co-financing.

Figure 22 Share of financial allocations to relevant Cooperation interventions by output indicator and CSP, 2023-2027



O.1 Number of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational group projects; O.31 Number of supported local development strategies (LEADER) or preparatory actions; O.32 Number of supported other cooperation operations or units (excluding EIP)

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

In two Member States, Austria (56%) and Ireland (49%) (almost) the majority of the support is devoted to “other cooperation operations”.

Based on the financial allocations to LEADER, Germany, Estonia, and Spain are the Member States that give this the highest priority to this policy area, each allocating at least 10% of their EAFRD envelope for this purpose, Germany as much as 15.1%. According to the SPR, at least 5% of the total EAFRD contribution to the CAP Strategic Plan shall be reserved for LEADER ¹¹⁸ The Netherlands, Austria, France, Czechia, Wallonia, Hungary and Ireland each allocate exactly 5%. The remaining Member States allocate between 5-10%.

¹¹⁸ Art 92.1 At least 5% of the total EAFRD contribution to the CAP Strategic Plan set out in Annex XI shall be reserved for LEADER.

Figure 23 Share of Member States financial allocation in relation to the ring-fencing requirements for LEADER, %, 2023-2027



Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

KNOW

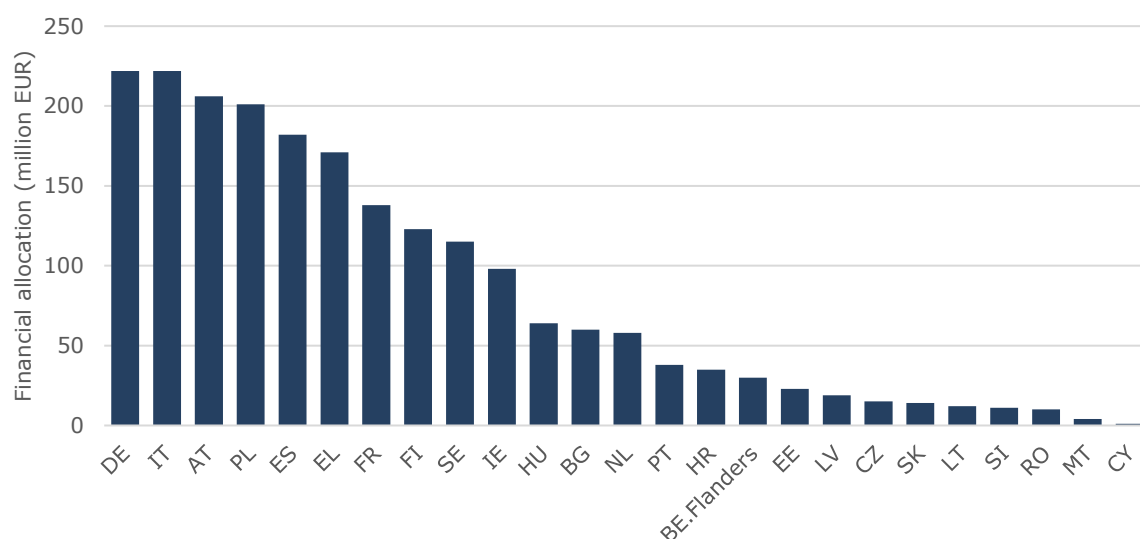
Across 25 CSPs, Member States linked a total of EUR 2.1 billion to KNOW interventions. Only Wallonia, Denmark, and Luxembourg do not plan to implement any related interventions. Different from investment and Cooperation support, the output indicator linked to Knowledge exchange and dissemination interventions does not allow to differentiate between interventions targeting agricultural activities and interventions benefitting rural areas more directly. The findings from the previous Chapter suggest that in fact most of the KNOW interventions at least also target agricultural activities, if not as main objective.

Germany and Italy are the Member States with the highest financial allocation¹¹⁹ to the support for Knowledge and Advice, EUR 222 million each, followed by Austria, Poland, Spain, and Greece.¹²⁰

¹¹⁹ Financial allocation equals total public expenditure, i.e. both EAFRD and national co-financing.

¹²⁰ To be noted that, in addition, seven Member States are providing top-up support for KNOW: AT, ES, FR, HU, IT, LT and SE.

Figure 24 Total public financial allocation to support for Knowledge and Advice by CSP, 2023-2027 (million EUR)

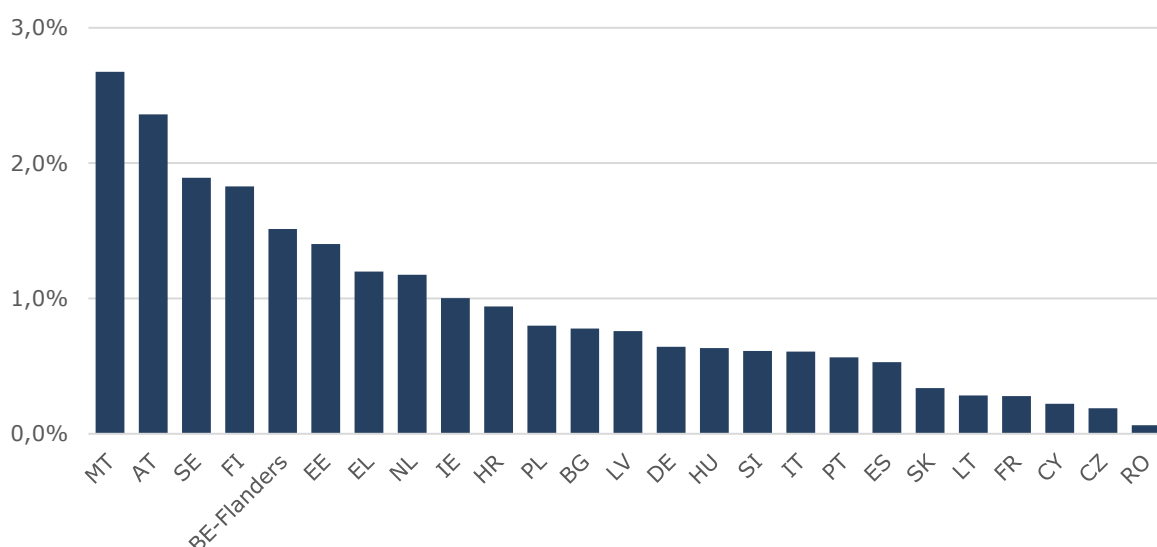


Note: In addition, seven Member States are providing top-up support for KNOW: Austria, Spain, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania and Sweden

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

When considering the allocation as a share of the total financial allocation, including co-financing, per CAP Strategic plan, then Malta is the Member State allocating the highest share of support to Knowledge and advice (over 2.5%), followed by Austria, Sweden and Finland.

Figure 25 Financial allocation to KNOW as a share of allocation by CAP Strategic plan, 2023-2027, (%)



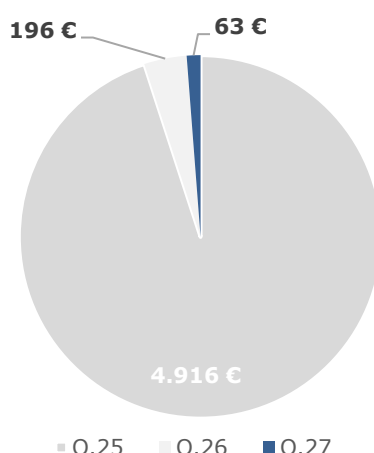
Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

INSTALL

27 strategic plans will provide aid for the setting up of young farmers under the INSTALL intervention. In total, they allocated EUR 5.2 billion to this type of intervention. Yet, the vast majority of the financial allocations for installation aid benefits young farmers (0.25, Number of young farmers receiving setting-up support. Support for new farmers (0.26) amounts to close to EUR 200 million. Rural businesses receiving support for start up (0.27), most relevant for the focus of this stocktaking, only represent a fragment of the total allocations for this intervention, with EUR million 63.

Figure 26 Total public financial allocation to installation aid, by output indicator, 2023-2027 (million EUR)

Total public financial allocation (million EUR)

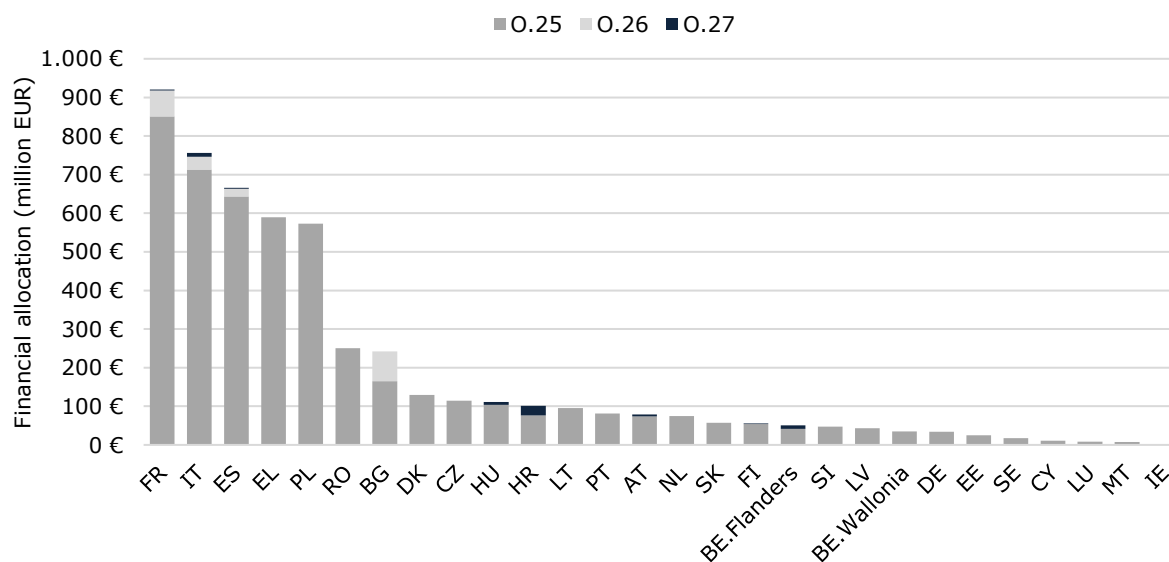


O.25: Number of young farmers receiving setting-up support; O.26 Support for new farmers; O.27 Start-up support for rural businesses

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

The Member States with the highest financial allocation¹²¹ to Installation aid are France (over EUR 900 million), followed by Italy, Spain, Greece and Poland.¹²² Ireland will not implement the intervention during the 2023-2027 period.

Figure 27 Total public financial allocation to Installation aid by CSP and output indicator, 2023-2027 (million EUR)



O.25: Number of young farmers receiving setting-up support; O.26 Support for new farmers; O.27 Start-up support for rural businesses

Note: In addition, seven Member States are providing top-up support for Installation aid: Austria, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary and Italy

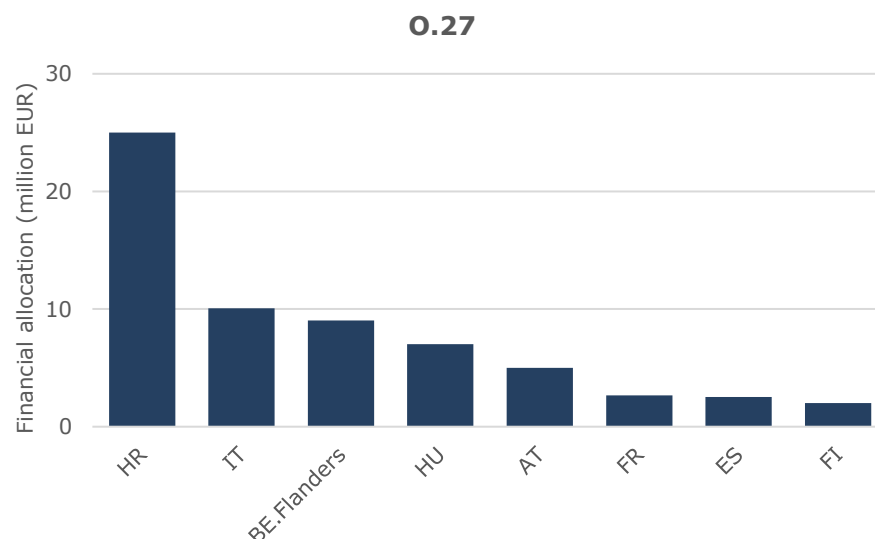
Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

¹²¹ Financial allocation expressed as total public expenditure, i.e. both EAFRD and national co-financing.

¹²² To be noted that in addition, seven Member States are providing top-up support for Installation aid: AT, DE, ES, FI, FR, HU and IT.

Eight Member States plan in dedicated support for rural businesses in their CSPs. The highest financial allocation to O.27 can be found in Croatia (EUR 25 million), followed by Italy (EUR 10 million), Flanders (EUR 9 million), Hungary (EUR 7 million), and Austria (EUR 5 million). In France, Spain, and Finland, support linked to O.27 does not exceed EUR 3 million.

Figure 28 Total public financial allocation to Installation aid by CSP for O.27, 2023-2027 (million EUR)

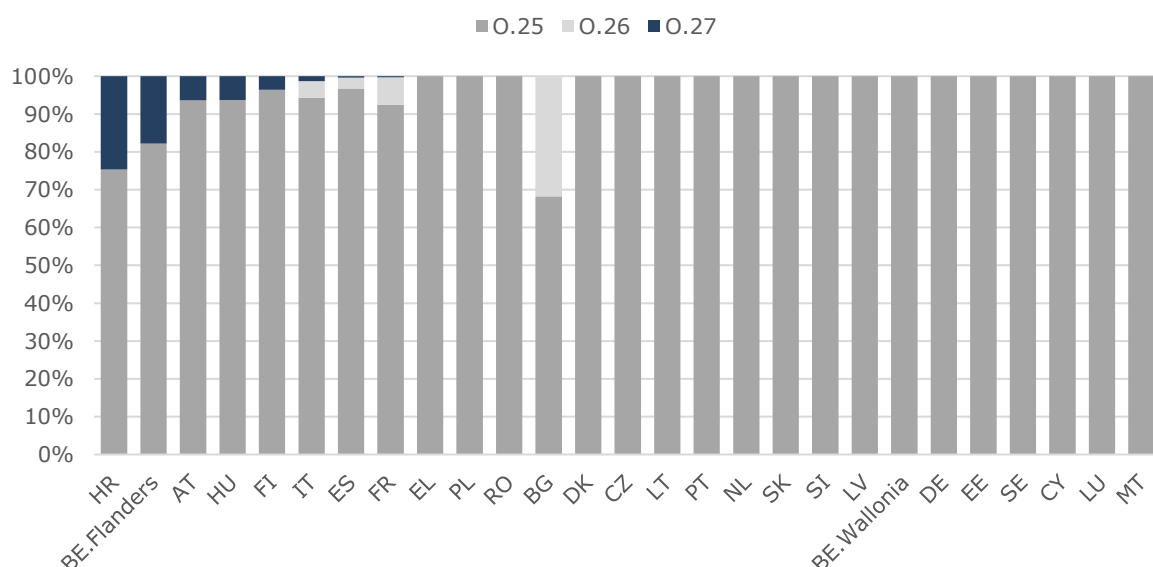


Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

The below figure shows the relative share of O.25, O.26 and O.27 at MS level. The order of the Member States corresponds to the importance of support to rural businesses (O.27).

In Croatia, support to the start-up of new rural businesses amounts to a quarter of the country's installation aid. Among the other seven CSPs that link financial allocation to this output indicator, the relative share ranges between 18% in Flanders and only 0.3% in France.

Figure 29 Share of financial allocations to Installation aid by output indicator and CSP, 2023-2027 (%)



O.25: Number of young farmers receiving setting-up support; O.26 Support for new farmers ; O.27 Start-up support for rural businesses

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

6. COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN THE CAP AND OTHER FUNDS (SECTION 4.5)

The EAFRD funding in rural areas will be complemented by other EU and national funds in all MS. We provide below an overview of elements indicated by Member States in the CSP chapter addressing demarcation, complementarities and synergies.

Table 45 Type of funds complementing the EAFRD funding in rural areas

Type of funds	Number of CSPs	CSPs
Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)	27	All Member States
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	22	AT, BE.Flanders, BE.Wallonia, BG, CY, DE, EE (ERDF/ETC), EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, MT, NL (ERDF/ETC), PT, RO, SE, SI
European Social Fund+ (ESF+)	22	AT, BE (Flanders, Wallonia), BG, CY, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, MT, PT, RO, SE, SI
Horizon Europe	2	EE, NL (cooperation in the field of the European Innovation Partnership-EIP)
LIFE	1	NL
National funds*	1	FI (agricultural support schemes are national aid for agriculture and horticulture, as well as a part of the structural aid scheme financed entirely nationally.)

*Finland has a substantial national support programme for agriculture nationally. It funds other measures outside the plans

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Multiple funding sources will be particularly used to support the COOP interventions linked to O.31 "Supporting LEADER strategies" in eleven MS¹²³. These include mainly ERDF/ETC (European territorial cooperation) and ESF+ programmes (e.g. ERDF/ETC in Austria, ERDF and ESF in Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, etc.).

In 17 MS¹²⁴, investments in renewable energy are funded through other funds than EAFRD; please see below an overview. Examples of other funds include the Cohesion Policy (SK, EE, LT, HR), or more specifically, the Just Transition Fund (JTF).

Table 46 Type of funds supporting investments in renewable energy in addition to the EAFRD

Type of funds	Number of CSPs	CSPs
Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)	8	AT, BE.Wallonia, DK, FI, IE, LT, LV, SK
ERDF	8	CY, DE, EE, HR, FI, LT, LV, ES,
Other EU funds	1	SK
National funds	2	LU, RO
Other funds	13	AT, BE.Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, HR, IE, LT, LV LU, SK

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

All CSPs but the Netherlands, Malta, and Portugal fund broadband investments through other funds than the EAFRD, as presented on the next page. Examples of other funds are Digital Europe Programme (DEP) (BE.Flanders, EL), Connecting Europe Facility Digital (CEF2 Digital) (BE.Flanders, DK, HR, IT, LV), ESIF (EL), and through the Cohesion Policy (PL, SK).

¹²³ AT (ERDF/ETC), BG, CZ, DE (ERDF and ESF in Saxony-Anhalt), EE, ES, FR, LV, PL, RO, SI.

¹²⁴ AT BE.Wallonia, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, ES, FI, HR, IE, LV, LT, LU, RO, SK.

Table 47 Type of funds supporting broadband investments in addition to the EAFRD

Type of funds	Number of CSPs	CSPs
Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)	16	AT, BE.Wallonia, BG, CY, EE, ES, FI, FR, EL, HU, LV, LT, PL, RO, SI, SE
ERDF	6	EE, ES, RO, IT, SE, SI
National funds	11	CY, DE, FR, EL, HR, HU, IE, IT, PL, RO, SE
Other funds	8	BE.Flanders, DK, EL, HR, IT, LV, PL, SK

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

Furthermore, digital-based public services aimed at rural populations are funded through other funds than EAFRD in 18 CSPs. Examples of other funds are DEP (BG, DE, DK, EE, HU, IT, LV), ESIF (HR) and Horizon2020 (IE). For Belgium (Flanders) and Cyprus, the CSP does not mention specific information regarding the funding of public services.

Table 48 Type of funds supporting digitalisation in agriculture other than through to the EAFRD and EAFG

Type of funds	Number of CSPs	CSPs
Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)	8	AT, BE.Wallonia, BG, EE, HR, PT, RO, SL
ERDF	4	EE, FI, IT, LV
National funds	4	DE, IE, LU, PL
Other funds	9	BG, DE, DK, EE, HR, HU, IE, IT, LV

Source: Approved CAP Strategic Plans

7. OVERARCHING OBSERVATIONS

As one of the major policies of the European Union, the CAP contributes to a large range of objectives. Primarily focussing on the agricultural sector, the CAP also contributes to the development of rural areas. Specific objective 8 of the reformed CAP (on promoting employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas) specifically acknowledges this contribution.

Whereas arguably almost all of the contributions of the CAP have an impact and thus potential to benefit rural areas, Member States further had the opportunity to target rural development directly in their CSPs. This stocktaking provides an overview of these targeted efforts, describing the contribution from the CAP, structured around the four blocks of actions of the rural vision.¹²⁵

About 8% (EUR 24.6 billion) of the total public financial allocation to the CAP¹²⁶ of EUR 307 billion for the 2023-2027 period are explicitly linked and directly contribute to rural development. 84% of Cooperation support and half of the Investment support are likely to make a direct contribution. Many more interventions and thus a greater share of the overall CAP budget will benefit rural areas indirectly.

The new delivery model of the CAP allowed Member States to develop needs-based strategies, providing an opportunity to develop tailored approaches to address the most urgent needs of rural areas. The stocktaking demonstrates that the CAP provides room and flexibility to Member States to address a broad range of challenges in very different ways.

For rural areas, based on the choices made by Member States in the CSPs, actions programmed under LEADER (Cooperation support) appear to be most relevant. It is noteworthy that the full contribution of LEADER is yet to be seen, as local development strategies are developed with the bottom-up approach of LEADER and projects benefitting from these will only be selected in 2023 and 2024. Therefore, the contribution of the CSPs to the four blocks of the rural vision might still be underestimated. Investment support and knowledge and advice interventions are also potentially major contributors. Yet, as their descriptions in the CSPs and thus their scope is broad, it is not always easy to differentiate contributions to the agricultural sector from those that go beyond.

While one of the key policies, the CAP is not the only instrument for rural development. It is oftentimes complemented by other EU and national policy. The EAFRD funding in rural areas will be complemented by other EU and national funds, most notably the RRF, ERDF, and ESF+.

With regards to the four blocks of action of the rural vision, the following observations are particularly noteworthy:

Stronger rural areas. The stocktaking shows that the CAP may contribute to empower communities, to improve access to services, and to promote innovation. LEADER will be an important tool that can benefit young people in rural areas. Many of the Knowledge exchange interventions planned aim at enhancing knowledge exchange and capacity-building on environmental and climate related topics, as well as innovation. Yet, only two of the relevant interventions appear to define the rural population as their direct target group, which suggests that most of the efforts supported through these interventions might be geared towards agricultural activities, benefitting rural areas indirectly. Interventions to support the development of smart villages are planned in the majority of CSPs, which can help to promote innovation, the uptake of new technology, the use of digital solutions and in some cases also social innovation. Member States plan a considerable number of Investment interventions to improve rural infrastructure. This entails transportation (e.g. roads) and the water infrastructure, but also the availability of services in rural areas, including social services, health care, and education. Five Investment interventions target villages and rural communities specifically, enhancing tourism, infrastructure, smart villages, and rural renewal.

Connected rural areas. While the CSPs can contribute to creating digital futures and improve transportation, rural areas are not always at the focus of the related interventions. Besides smart villages, Member States plan a series of Cooperation and Investment interventions as well as support to knowledge exchange and advice to enhance digital capacities. This includes several EIP interventions that aim for example at strengthening digital capacity building and the uptake of digital business models, as well as a series of KNOW interventions to enhance digital skills. Yet, while generally open to broader parts of the rural population, many of these interventions still appear to be geared towards the agricultural and forestry sectors. Four interventions aim at improving the internet connectivity of rural areas, providing financial support to broadband network extensions. Three interventions in three Member States are specifically designed to improve rural transportation

¹²⁵ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:6c924246-da52-11eb-895a01aa75ed71a1.0003.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

¹²⁶ Total CAP budget for the period 2023-2027 includes all public expenditure, stemming both from the EU and national budgets (i.e. also co-financing of spending under rural development and apiculture (sectoral support)).

networks. In at least two of the three instances, the focus lies on the extension and improvement of existing road networks.

Resilient rural areas. The reformed CAP contributes to a higher degree of environmental and climate commitments, especially in the agrifood and forestry sector. All CAP SPs include interventions to make agriculture greener. The stocktaking suggests that the contribution to the reduction of risks from natural disaster and climate change is an element across CSPs, also of broader interest to rural areas. Enhanced conditionality, which increases the minimum requirements on environmental and climate related practices farmers need to comply with to receive support under the CAP, the newly introduced Eco-schemes as part of the Direct Payment envelope, and the continued implementation of ENVCLIM jointly contribute to a higher environmental and climate ambition of agricultural activities compared to the previous period. This creates positive externalities for rural areas. It contributes to maintain or improve the state of the environment in areas reliant on agricultural activities, and it helps to preserve landscapes and natural resources, thus enhancing the resilience of rural areas towards climate change. Interventions, including Cooperation support, Investment support, and Knowledge exchange, further aim at supporting the uptake of more sustainable technology and practices. Most of the Member States foresee forest-related interventions (Investment support or management commitments (ENVCLIM)). Also other interventions not specific to but that target the forestry sector have been designed, including Cooperation support, European Innovation Partnerships, and Knowledge exchange. More than half of the Member States also support afforestation, agroforestry and restoration. Several Investment interventions provide support for renewable energy specifically. In addition, interventions provide support to the restoration and protection of rural environments. Interventions do not explicitly refer to actions regarding the climate resilience of rural communities overall. Social resilience is addressed, to a limited extent, through Cooperation and Investment support. Four CSPs identify elderly as a target group of their cooperation interventions, while four CSPs also address the needs of minorities, refugees and migrants. Some CSPs identify people at risk of poverty as relevant target groups of their Cooperation support. Women are identified by close to half of the CSPs as target groups. These CSPs specifically mention women as target groups of their interventions, or make them the sole beneficiaries. Four CSP further include selection criteria based on gender in their COOP interventions.

Prosperous rural areas. The CSPs highlight agriculture, forestry, food production and processing, and the bioeconomy as important contributors to prosperous rural areas. As such, the CAP is arguably a key policy to support these sectors. LEADER interventions can contribute to job creation (although not necessarily to employment rates), and economic growth and diversification, enhancing the innovation and competitiveness of rural economies. Thirteen CSPs identify tourism as an important sector in their Cooperation support, supporting for example small-scale and eco-friendly tourism as well as related infrastructure investments. Entrepreneurship is supported through INVEST and COOP support in several CSPs. The bioeconomy is addressed through Investment and Cooperation interventions. Overall, the potential of these interventions to contribute to a diversification beyond agriculture, bioeconomy and food processing appear limited. Many interventions target farmers or support the diversification to sectors closely linked to agricultural activities. In line with this, most of the interventions are geared towards generational renewal of farmers, while only 8 CSPs design installation aid interventions supporting the start-up of rural businesses beyond farming. However, the CAP is one among several contributing policies, and Member States may have chosen to address certain challenges through other instruments.

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