

ROMANIAN EXPERIENCES IN HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION SYSTEMS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Romania in 2005 (second largest New Member State, after Poland)

- Area: 238000 km² (6% of total EU)
- Population: over 21 mil. (4% of total EU)
- Rural area: 87,1% of total area and 45,1% of total population, 45,1 pers./km²
- Agriculture, forestry and fishery hired 2,9 mil. Persons, representing 32,2% of total labor (30,3% industry and 37,5% services)
- Rural population: 64,2% occupied in agriculture, forestry and fishery, 18,7% in secondary and 17,1% in tertiary sectors

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Romania in 2005 (second largest New Member State, after Poland)

- Agricultural area: 14741,2 thou. Ha (61,8% of total area): 63,9% arable, 22,8% pastures, 10,2% meadows, 1,5% vineyards, 1,4% orchards
- Forest and forestry land: 6742,8 thou. Ha (28,28% of total area)
- Farms and farming households: 4.256.152 (4.121.247 farms = 13.906,7 thou. Ha)
- Statistical average area of farm: 3,37 Ha split in average in 3,73 plots
- UAA/SAU: 80% equally split between a large number of small farms (<5 Ha) [80% of total farms] and small number of large farms (>50 Ha) [13830 farms using 40% of UAA/SAU; 20% covered by an intermediate segment between 5-50 Ha]

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Modernizing Agricultural Knowledge & Information Systems Project (MAKIS) (WB P086949)

- From 2005 to 2010, revised closing in 2013
- Specific Investment Loan; Total Project Cost: 72,25 mil. USD
- Components:
 - Strengthening the National Authority for Sanitary, Veterinary and Food Safety (ANSVSA) and the Phyto-Sanitary Units (13.74 M. USD),
 - Support for agricultural research (23,48 M. USD),
 - Support for advisory and information system (10,29 M. USD),
 - Project management (2.49 M. USD)

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Modernizing Agricultural Knowledge & Information Systems Project (MAKIS) (WB P086949) Targets and indicators:

- Increase in agri-food export to EU 27 relative to Gross Value Added: from 3,6% to 9,05% (targeted 5,5%);
- Functional network of ANSVSA's National Reference Laboratories and Regional Laboratories: 2 RL;
- Functional network of Border Inspection Points to monitor food quality and movement of animals: 3 BIPs;
- Functional network of phytosanitary National Reference and Regional Laboratories: 2 NRL and 3 RL;
- Number of research institutes reformed: 4
- GMO Laboratory at NRDIBH is fully functional. Construction of building for soil laboratory at RISSA is underway: 1

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Modernizing Agricultural Knowledge & Information Systems Project (MAKIS) (WB P086949) Targets and indicators :

- Development of new technologies compatible with EU standards: 41 (targeted 20);
- Functional training center able to train trainers, extension staff, food safety inspectors, agro-processors and private sector, researchers: 4 Training and Information Centers established, 35 trainers + 2040 extension staff + 468 food inspectors + 5328 agro-processors + 252 researchers trained (targeted: 30 trainers + 2160 extension staff + 400 food safety inspectors + 2050 agro-processors + 180 researchers);
- Number of farmers receiving information / training regarding EU accession: 1,3 mil. Farmers (targeted: 33000);
- Number of multi-media campaigns: 11 (targeted: 2);
- Technologies demonstrated in the project areas: 89 (targeted: 0)

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National Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (NRDP)

- Programme dedicated Measure 143 Providing counselling and consultancy services for farmers;
- Projects selected: 11611 projects (5279 in 2011 and 6332 in 2012);
- Eligible farmers counselled/advised: 15.717 (31,43% of the 50000 NRDP target), of which 6081 women (60,81% of the 10000 NRDP target);

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National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

Programme dedicated Measures:

- M01 – Actions for Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions (Art. 14 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013;
- M02 – Counselling Services, Farm Management Services and Replacement Services on Farm (Art. 15 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013;
- M16 – Cooperation (Art. 35 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013;

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National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

M01 – Actions for Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions (Art. 14 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013)

sM 1.1 – Support for Professional Training and Actions for Acquiring Competencies

Grants (reimbursement of eligible supported and paid costs);

Beneficiaries: Public and private entities active in the field of professional training that meet eligibility and selection criteria;

Attendance: free of charge

Financial allocation: 70% of Measure M01

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National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

M01 – Actions for Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions (Art. 14 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013)

sM 1.2 – Support for Demonstration Activities and Information Actions
Grants (reimbursement of eligible supported and paid costs);

Beneficiaries: Public and private entities active in the field of information / dissemination / demonstrations that meet eligibility and selection criteria;

Attendance: free of charge

Financial allocation: 30% of Measure M01

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National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

M02 – Counselling Services, Farm Management Services and Replacement Services on Farm (Art. 15 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013;

sM 2.1 – Support for Assisting in Benefiting from Using the Counselling Services

Grants (reimbursement of eligible supported and paid costs);

Beneficiaries: Providers of counselling services, public or private entities, founded according to the current legislation selected based on public procurement procedure;

Public funding: 100% of eligible expenditure without exceeding 1500 EUR/beneficiary over a 3 years period (Annex II Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013)

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National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

M16 – Cooperation (Art. 35 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013)

sM 16.1 – Support for Creation and Functioning of Operational Groups (OG) for Developing Pilot-Projects, New Products

sM 16.1a – Support for Creation and Functioning of Operational Groups (OG) for Developing Pilot-Projects, New Products, New Processes in Fruit Production Sector

Grants (reimbursement of eligible supported and paid costs, including preparatory actions); Advance payments for investments under the reserve of a bank guarantee (Art. 45(4) and 63 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013)

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National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NRDP)

M16 – Cooperation (Art. 35 from Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013)

Beneficiaries > Partnership formed by at least 1 farmer / producer group / cooperative and one partner from the categories:

- Research;
- Agri-Food or Forestry Production.

Duration: 2 stages of max. 3 years plus max. 6 months after finalisation for dissemination

Financial support: max. 500000 EUR per project

100% of eligible expenditure refunded (for OG specific actions)

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Lessons learnt along the way:

1. Financial availability represents a very strong motivation and the financial motivation weakens over time proportionally with the intensity of support;
2. The gap between education/research and business sectors expectations is only temporarily and partially filled (project-based);
3. Training and education structures created to support the AKIS have a low sustainability;
4. Agricultural and rural training delivery supported from public funding should not be sub-contracted;
5. The innovation transfer in agriculture aside from the private-branded one is almost entirely dependent on RDI projects and mostly public funded.

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Your questions are welcomed!