

1. General information

Geographical Area	Country	United Kingdom
	Region	Northern Ireland
Rural population (1)	Inhabitants (3)	1.1 million
	% of total population (3)	62.1 %
	Density - Inhab/km2 (3)	85.5
Rural area (1)	Km2 (3)	13 183
	% of total area (3)	93.3 %
Agricultural area <i>Total Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA)</i>	Ha (2)	1 million
	% of total territory (4)	69.1 %
Forest and other wooded land	Ha (3)	0.1 million
	% of total area (3)	7.8 %
Total employment	People (2)	0.8 million
Rural employment (1)	% of total workforce (2)	63.1 %

Data source: UK – Northern Ireland 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (RDP).

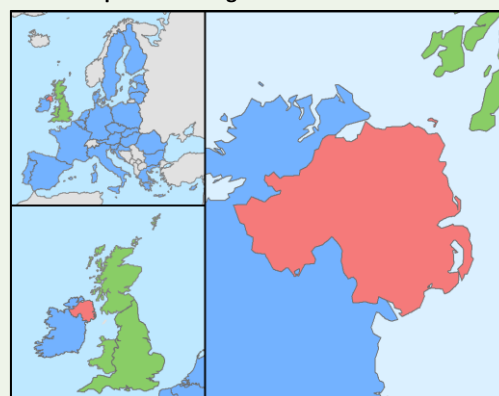
Note: (1) OECD definition applies, including intermediate and predominantly rural regions (2) 2010 data; (3) 2012 data; (4) 2010, calculation based on 2012 total region area data.

EAFRD* support: EUR 228 425 088 <small>0.2 % of Total EAFRD support for EU-28</small>	+	National contribution: EUR 531 696 866	=	Planned total public expenditure: EUR 760 121 954
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* European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Primary sector contribution to Gross Value Added (GVA)	% of total (2)	1.1 %
No of agricultural holdings	No (2)	23 460
Average farm size	ha UAA/holding (2)	41.6
High Nature Value farming	% of total UAA	n/a
Farmland Birds Index (FBI)	Index 2000 = 100	n/a

Map: United Kingdom – Northern Ireland



Examples of expected achievements

- The Northern Irish RDP aims at supporting 49 cooperation projects, for example in the framework of the European Innovation Partnership as well as stimulating the development of supply chain partnerships in the agri-food sector.
- Almost 30 000 training places will be made available to enhance knowledge transfer in the fields of environmental awareness, innovative technologies and research to encourage practical implementation on farms and in forests.
- Almost 20 % of Northern Irish farms will benefit from investment support for restructuring and modernising their businesses.
- Nearly 10 % of agricultural holdings and 25 % of agri-food businesses will receive support to set up short supply chains, develop local markets and launch promotion activities.
- Northern Ireland aims at bringing 12 % of agricultural land under contract to preserve biodiversity, 8% to improve water management and 4 % to improve soil management.
- Almost 2 % of agricultural and forest land will contribute to carbon sequestration and conservation by establishing new woodlands.
- Every rural dweller in Northern Ireland is expected to be covered by a local development strategy while roughly 12 % of the rural population will benefit from improved services and infrastructure. LEADER aims at creating 700 new jobs.

Examples of key challenges

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions represent an important challenge as agriculture accounts for the biggest share in Northern Ireland with around 28 % due to its dominant livestock sector.
- Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded areas in Europe (7.4 % of the area is under tree cover). Therefore, Northern Ireland has a limited capacity for carbon sequestration, and mitigating climate change is a key challenge.
- Intensification of farming and habitat fragmentation has led to a decline in biodiversity. Approximately half of designated NATURA 2000 sites in Northern Ireland are not in favourable condition and 94 % lack a management plan and therefore require appropriate remedial action in order to preserve biodiversity.
- A growing number of people (35 %) live in rural areas, however not all rural areas enjoy the same access to basic services.

Source: DG AGRI, *Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland*, August 2015

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/uk/factsheet-northern-ireland_en.pdf

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

This section illustrates each rural development priority (P) with a focus on: the indicative budget per Focus Area (FA) and its breakdown by selected measure; and the relation between the indicative planned total public expenditure and the expected 2023 targets set by the Managing Authority for each focus area. The target indicators identified with the country code (UK_NI) are specific to the UK – Northern Ireland Programme.

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

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

Focus Area 1A. Innovation & cooperation

Target indicator	Value
T1 - % of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP	6.2 %

Focus Area 1B. Links with research & innovation

Target indicator	Value
T2 - Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...),	49
of which: Nr of EIP operational groups to be supported (establishment and operation)	5

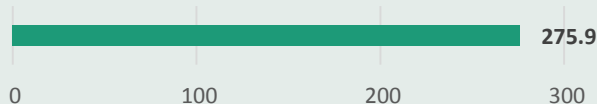
Focus Area 1C. Lifelong learning & vocational training

Target indicator	Value
T3 - Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013	29 500

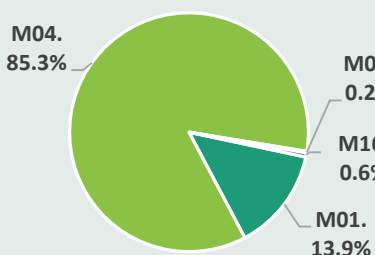
P2 – Competitiveness: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forest

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

Total public budget (million EUR)



Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)



Target indicator	Value
T4 - % of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation	19.2 %

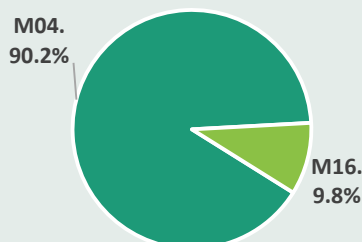
P3 – Food chain & risk management: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture

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

Total public budget (million EUR)

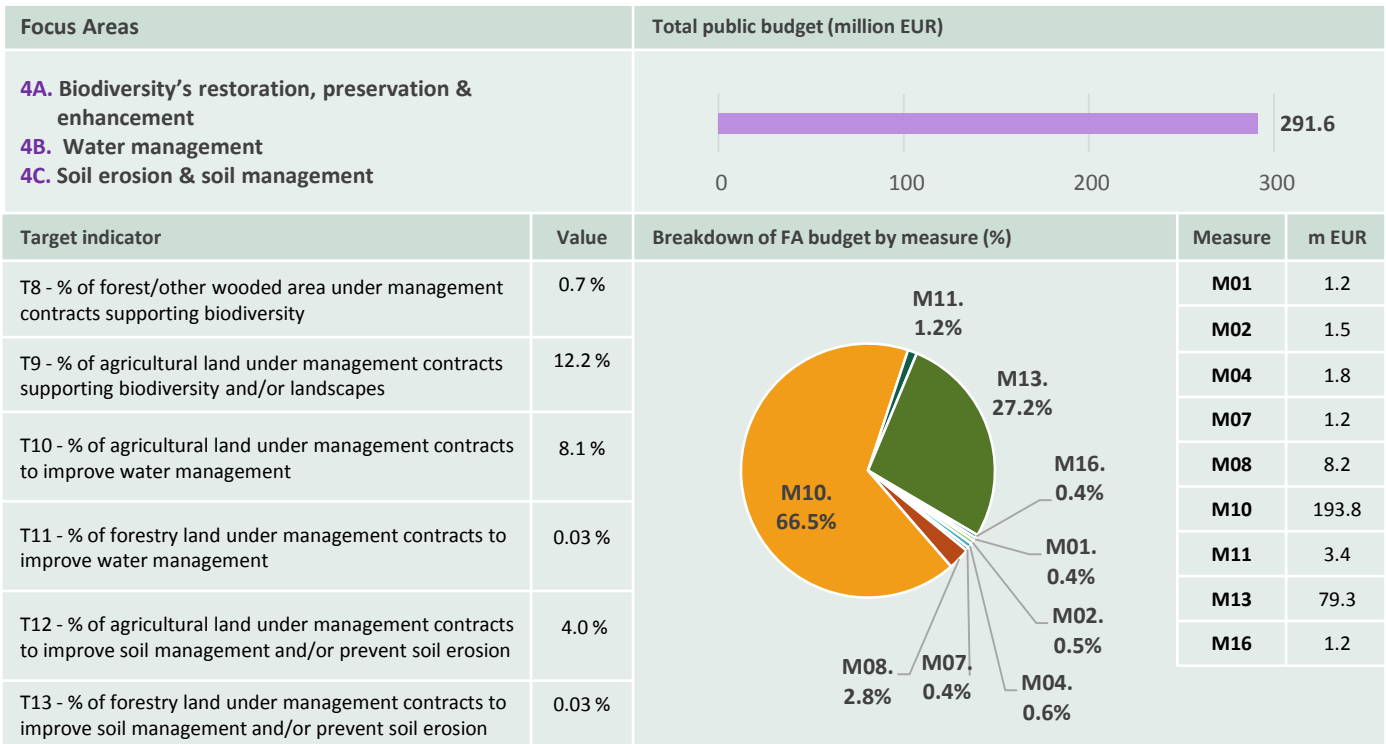


Breakdown of FA budget by measure (%)



Target indicator	Value
T6 - % of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations	25.0 %
UK_NI01_ % of Agri-Food enterprises supported	8.5 %

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

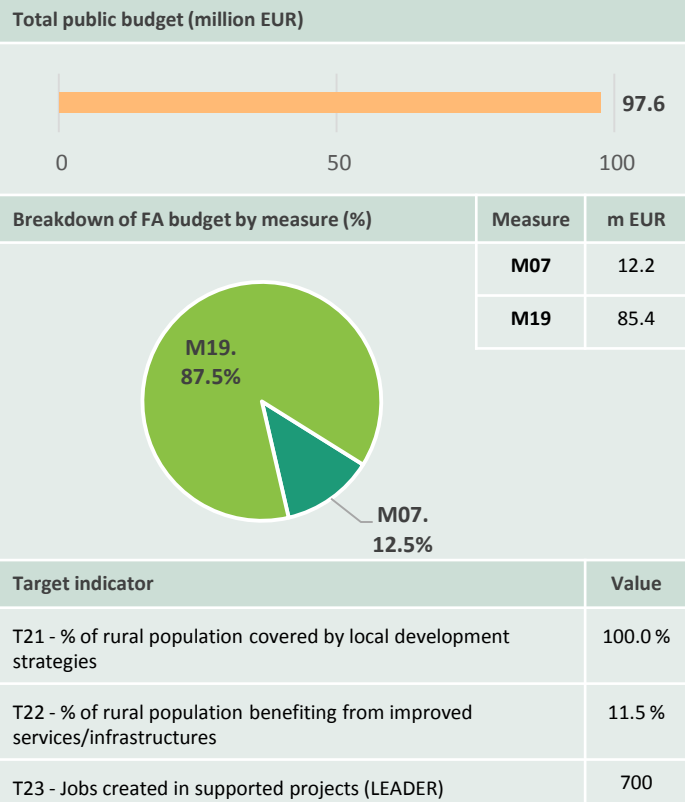
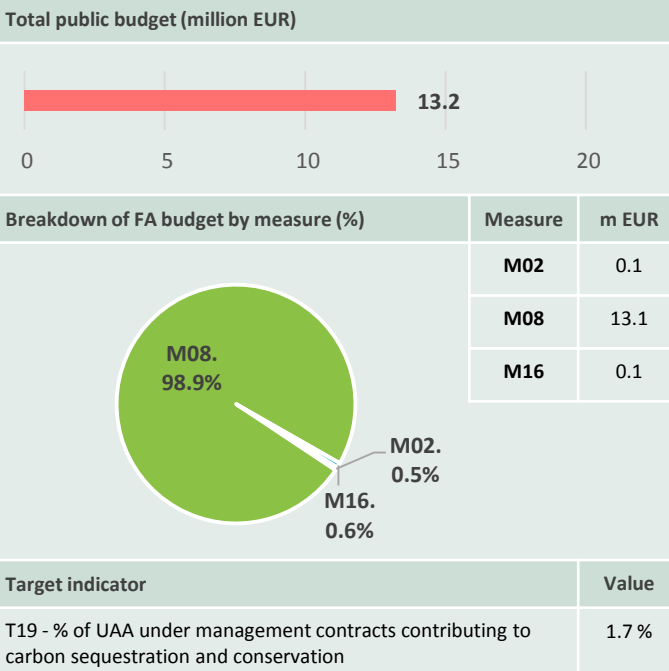


P5 - Resource efficiency & climate: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

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

Focus Area 5E. Carbon conservation & sequestration

Focus Area 6B. Local development



3. Planned expenditure per priority

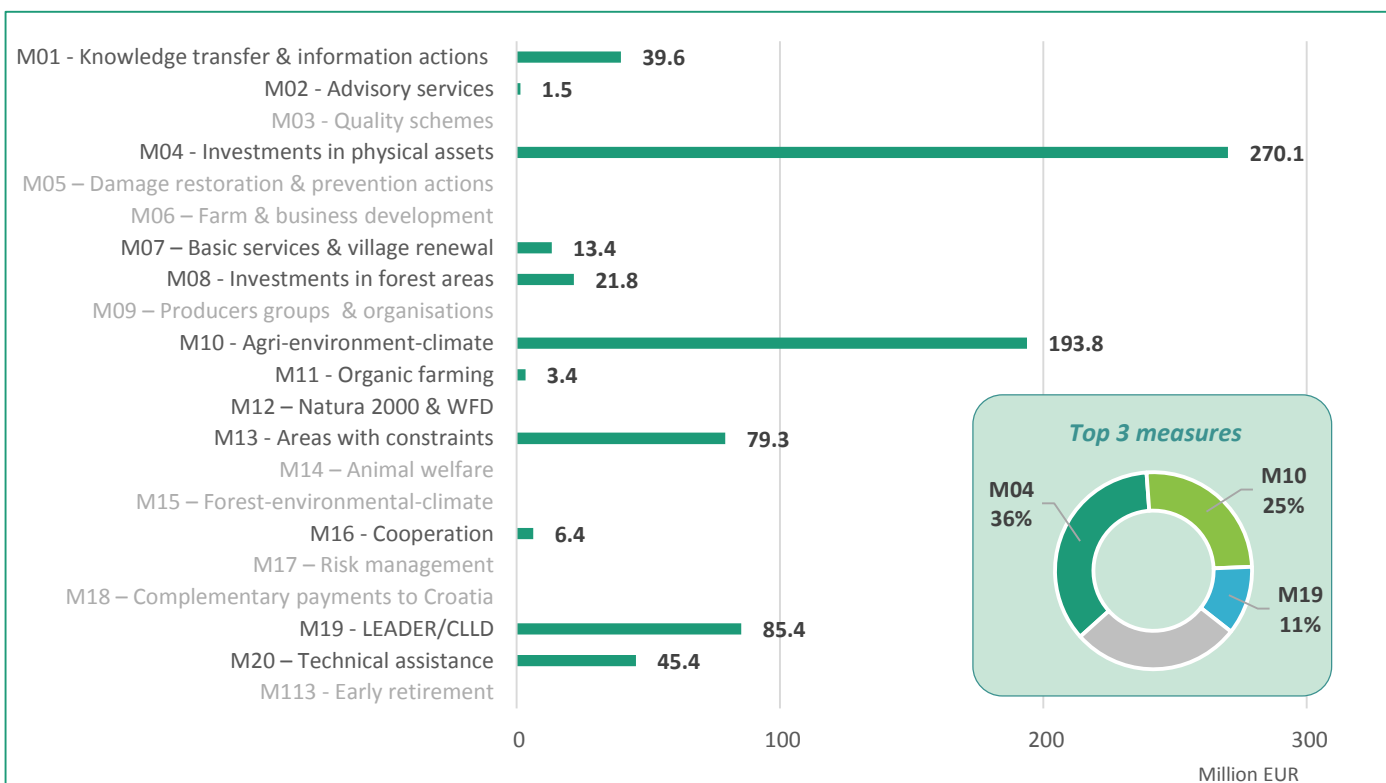
The following table shows how the planned total public expenditure (comprising the EAFRD support and the national contribution) is allocated between rural development priorities. Priority 1 is considered to be cross-cutting and no separate financial allocation is shown as the expenditure is distributed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

Priority	Total public expenditure per priority (million EUR)	% of total public expenditure*	
P1 - Knowledge transfer & innovation	P2 - Competitiveness	275.9	36.3 %
	P3 - Food chain & risk management	36.5	4.8 %
	P4 - Ecosystems management	291.6	38.4 %
	P5 - Resource efficiency & climate	13.2	1.7 %
	P6 - Social inclusion & local development	97.6	12.8 %

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

4. Planned expenditure per measure (million EUR)

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



5. Choice of measures by priority and focus areas

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

Priority	P1 Knowledge transfer & innovation			P2 Competitiveness		P3 Food chain & risk management		P4 Ecosystems management			P5 Resource efficiency & climate					P6 Social inclusion & local development		Total	Planned expenditure (million EUR)	
	1A - Innovation & cooperation	1B - Links with research & innovation	1C - Lifelong learning & vocational training	2A - Farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation	2B - Entry of skilled/younger farmers	3A - Agri-food chain integration & quality	3B - Risk prevention & management	4A - Biodiversity's restoration, preservation & enhancement	4B - Water management	4C - Soil erosion & soil management	5A - Water use efficiency	5B - Energy use efficiency	5C - Renewable sources & waste management	5D - Greenhouse Gas & ammonia emissions	5E - Carbon conservation & sequestration	6A - Diversification & job creation	6B - Local development			6C - ICT - Information & communication technologies
M01 - Knowledge transfer & information actions				97%				3%											100%	39.6
M02 - Advisory services								96%							4%				100%	1.5
M03 - Quality schemes																				
M04 - Investments in physical assets				87%		12%		1%											100%	270.1
M05 - Damage/restoration /prevention actions																				
M06 - Farm & business development																				
M07 - Basic services & village renewal								9%									91%		100%	13.4
M08 - Investments in forest areas				3%				37%							60%				100%	21.8
M09 - Producers groups & organisations																				
M10 - Agri-environment-climate								100%											100%	193.8
M11 - Organic Farming								100%											100%	3.4
M12 - Natura 2000 & WFD																				
M13 - Areas with constraints								100%											100%	79.3
M14 - Animal Welfare																				
M15 - Forest-environmental-climate																				
M16 - Cooperation				24%		56%		19%							1%				100%	6.4
M17 - Risk management																				
M18 - Complementary payments to Croatia																				
M19 - LEADER/CLLD																	100%		100%	85.4

6. Additional info

Date of RDP approval	25/08/2015
Rural Network for Northern Ireland	Rural Network for Northern Ireland http://www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk/
Managing authority	DARD – Rural Development Programme Management Branch
Paying agency	DARD
Coordination body	UK coordinating body
RDP country documents	http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/uk_en.htm
National Partnership Agreement summary	http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/pa/partnership-agreement-united-kingdom-summary_en.pdf
Partnership Agreement	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-structural-and-investment-funds-uk-proposals
Rural Development Regulation 2014-2020	Regulation (EU) N° 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) [PDF en]

Source of information: All data and the figures presented in this summary come from the European Commission approved version of the United Kingdom - Northern Ireland 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. The examples of expected achievements and key challenges on page 1 were retrieved from: DG AGRI, Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland, August 2015.

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

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