



Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica Slovenije

Financial support for advisory service and knowledge innovation transfer within the framework of Rural Development Program Proposals for solutions in new financial perspective **SLOVENIA**

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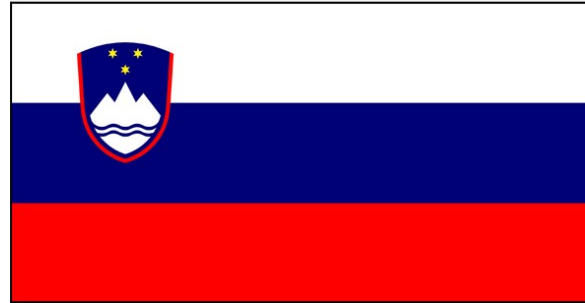
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Slovenia





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Slovenian agricultural facts

476.862 ha UAA
(2015)

58.4 % permanent
grassland

35.9 % is arable
land

20 273 km²

39.9 % agricultural
area

56.1 % forest

37.9 % territory
NATURA 2000

75.3 % under
natural constraints

8,8 % UAA for
organic farming

7.7 % of farm
managers young
farmers

2.3 % to total value
added and 8.2 % to
total employment
rate

more than 72 400
agricultural
holdings, average
size 6.6 ha





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Rural Development Programme (RDP) of the Republic of Slovenia 2014–2020

Total budget of €1.1 billion

EAFRD contribution €838 million

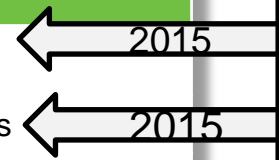
Approx. €78 million less than in the 2007-2013 period



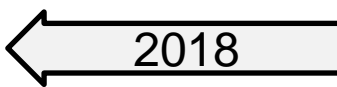
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Measures under the Slovenian RDP 2014–2020

| Funds share per measure | Measure |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1,1 % | M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions |
| 1,0 % | M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services |
| 0,3 % | M03 - Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs |
| 18,6 % | M04 - Investments in physical assets |
| 11,1 % | M06 - Farm and business development |
| 0,9 % | M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas |
| 5,4 % | M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests |
| 0,2 % | M09 - Setting-up of producer groups and organisations |
| 18,4 % | M10 - Agri-environment-climate |
| 5,9 % | M11 - Organic farming |
| 24,0 % | M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints |
| 2,9 % | M14 - Animal welfare |
| 1,8 % | M16 - Cooperation |
| 4,8 % | M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD) |



Public procurement procedures in accordance with Public Procurement Act



(EIP OG projects- calls for applications (closed procedure))

* 3.0 % technical assistance

1.1 – Support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions

Beneficiaries:

- bodies providing training or other activities of knowledge transfer;
- target group -> entities active in the agricultural, food industry and forestry sectors.

Eligible costs:

- costs of organising and implementing training, including labour (e.g. wages of staff external lecturers' fees, travel expenses and similar), material (material for participants etc.) and service (costs of hiring premises and equipment, design of promotional material, advertising etc.), costs incurred from the date of signing the contract up to the submission of the (last) payment claim

Amounts and support rates:

- public support rate 100 % of eligible costs



1.1 – Support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions

- Pre-training of farmers for the purpose of implementing the Agri-environment Climate Payments measure from the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014-2020 (public contract)
- Regular training for the measure agri-environmental-climate payments from the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Slovenia for 2014-2020 for for each year (public tender) (**6761 farmers in 2018**)
- Training for the measure organic farming from the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Slovenia for 2014-2020 for each year (public contract) (**3414 farmers in 2018**)
- Training for the purpose of implementing the measure Animal welfare from the Program for the development of rural areas of the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014-2020, separate in the field of cattle and pig farming, for 2017



2.1 – Support for assistance in the use of advisory services

Beneficiaries:

- beneficiaries of non-refundable support within the framework of this measure;
- public and private bodies offering advisory services to agricultural holdings.

Eligible costs:

- costs of the organisation and provision of advisory services, including labour, material and travel costs etc. incurred from the date of signing the contract to the submission of the (last) payment claim

Amounts and support rates:

- public support rate 100 %



2.1 – Support for assistance in the use of advisory services

- Programs of activities for KMG that wish to enter into agri-environment Climate Payments measure or in the organic farming measure.
- Preparation of programs Animal welfare
- Creating a plan for the conversion of the holding into practices and methods of organic farming
- Individual advising on farm for agricultural holdings that entered the organic farming measure
- Individual advising on farm for agricultural holdings that entered the organic farming measure agri-environment Climate Payments measure



Lesson learnt so far...

- In almost all tenders CAFS was the only bidder.
- Administratively high demanding procedures for registering, validating and executing payments- wasting time and human resources.


Weaknesses for knowledge transfer:

- form has priority over content and the needs of farmers remain in the back
- advisors do not have a prior impact on the content
- the paying agency / ministry do not understand the role of the agricultural advisors (REGULATION (EU) No 1306/2013 Article 13: / 2. Member States shall ensure the separation between advice and checks./
- In the case of large orders usually with short deadlines for implementation, is difficult to management of the advisory staff regarding regular tasks.

We could almost say that knowledge transfer in RDP is driven by the administration, although the consultants invest a lot of knowledge and own effort to do the best, we fear and draw attention to the long-term effects of this effort of birocracy on our work.



Proposals

- **The role of the agricultural advisors (REGULATION (EU No 1306/2013, article 13), must be respect, it needs to be increased awareness on that on ministries and paying agencies.**
- **Completed cases from slovenian public procurement procedures in accordance with Public Procurement Act show that something has to be changed.**
- **In country like Slovenia with only one public advisory service:**
 - **which is establish by the law of agriculture,**
 - **which is 100 % integrated in public entity Chamber of agriculture and forestry of Slovenia CAFS,**
 - **and cover almost 100% of the market share for advising farms,**
 - **because CAFS integrate all farmers and legal entities in a country, dealing with agriculture with compulsory membership set by law establishing chamber  we express a strong need for review the rules regarding „in house public procurement*“ and legislations behind in order to allow advisors working in similarly organized associations to produce more productive work.**
- **Training of advisors should become obligatory measure for member states (Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013/Article 15 c)**



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If you want to go fast, go alone,
if you want to go far, go together!

African proverb

Thank you for attention

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