

To the end of May 2023, the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-20 total programme spend exceeds €879.64m, representing 90% of the total programme value.

The programme is overcommitted to help ensure the funding available is fully spent by programme closure at the end of December 2023.

RDP 2014-20 programme funding has been spent on projects that must align with one or more of the following 6 European Rural Development Priorities:

1. fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas;
2. enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests;
3. promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture;
4. restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry;
5. promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors;
6. promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

The value for money assessment of the programme will be included in the Ex-Post evaluation of the RDP 2014-2020, this is scheduled to commence in January 2024 and complete by December 2024.