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CAP and Rural Development Policy reform deal for 2014-2020

Toolkit for implementing key measures towards a greener, fairer, local and a smarter CAP at national/regional levels

September 2013¹



¹ Some numbers of CAP regulations articles are provisional and may change in the coming weeks. This document will be regularly up-dated and published on www.arc2020.eu



I – What is at stake after the CAP reform deal on 26th of June ? What still remains to be done?

A Deal Far From Our Hopes With Many Decisions Left To Member States..

The deal struck on between EU negotiators from national governments, the Commission and the European Parliament on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was far from the initial reform ambitions and hopes of “public money for public goods” and a greener and fairer CAP.

Almost all of the contentious points have been finally resolved by leaving them as options for member states (MS) to implement².

The struggle is not over but primarily shifts to national/regional level now. There is still plenty to win or lose for small farmers, rural development, agro-ecology and the environment.

Implementation by national and regional authorities will in the end determine how green and fair this CAP reform will actually be in practice.

Objective Of This Document

This is a working document which provides information on the latest CAP-related developments and which provides specific proposals for how stakeholders can improve this CAP reform during the implementation stage, which lasts until mid-2014.

CAP Implementation at national and regional level must be approved by the Commission before the end of 2013 for Rural Development Programmes (Pillar 2) and by August 2014 for direct payments schemes (Pillar 1). Therefore in many MS and regions, decision makers are already organising consultations not only with farmers' organisations but also with other sectors of civil society.

This period presents a critical opportunity in the coming weeks and months for stakeholders to make targeted recommendations on the best ways implement this approved EU deal at national and regional level.



II – Understanding the two Pillars of the CAP, where funding could be allocated and potential changes towards 2020.

a) Two pillars of the CAP

CAP funding has been supported by two pillars since 1999. This structure remains in place after the June agreement but the allocation of funding has changed.

Pillar 1 contains subsidies for income support to farmers (“direct payments”, 73% of the CAP budget) and market measures (“common market organisations” 7% of the CAP budget). This expenditure is fully paid by the EU, mainly to support the income of farmers.

Under Pillar 1, the basic payment scheme and the new “greening” payment are paid per hectare on an annual basis. MS shall also allocate part of the overall basic payment fund to young farmers, small farmers and may also choose to keep some payments coupled to specific sectors.

The multi-annual Pillar 2 budget supports rural development programme (20% of CAP expenditures). It is part financed by the EU and subject to national co-funding of at least 50%. Pillar 2 is intended to support socio-structural and more targeted environmental measures as well as rural development for farmers and rural dwellers.

² Many budgetary elements related to the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2014–2020 (MFF) as well as certain Common Market Organisations (CMO) aspects remain open as no conclusions were reached in June. There will possibilities to influence the Commission, the Parliament and national governments on these issues when talks resume in September 2013. There is also scope to push the Commission to adopt delegated acts and implementing rules that close off some of the more obvious loopholes in the legal text agreed in June.

Broadly, Pillar 2 supports less favoured areas (LFAs, renamed Areas under Natural Constraints, or ANC), young farmers, knowledge transfer and advisory services, agri-environment schemes and organic farming, animal welfare, investments in agriculture infrastructure, cooperative approaches, innovation, marketing of food products and community-led development (CLLD).

Pillar 2 provides a catalogue of measures to help MS and regional authorities set up their 2014-2020 Rural Development programmes (RDP). In other words, it's up to those national and/or regional levels and not the EU alone, to decide the objectives and the content of the Rural Development for their regions. These RDPs are submitted to the Commission (DG for Agriculture and Rural Development), who assess them to ensure that the RDPs are balanced and all objectives are met. Preparations for the new RDP are already taking place and are expected to be approved on a rolling basis. As national and regional authorities are in different stages of the planning process the deadline for submission of RDPs is likely to be extended unofficially to May-June 2014.

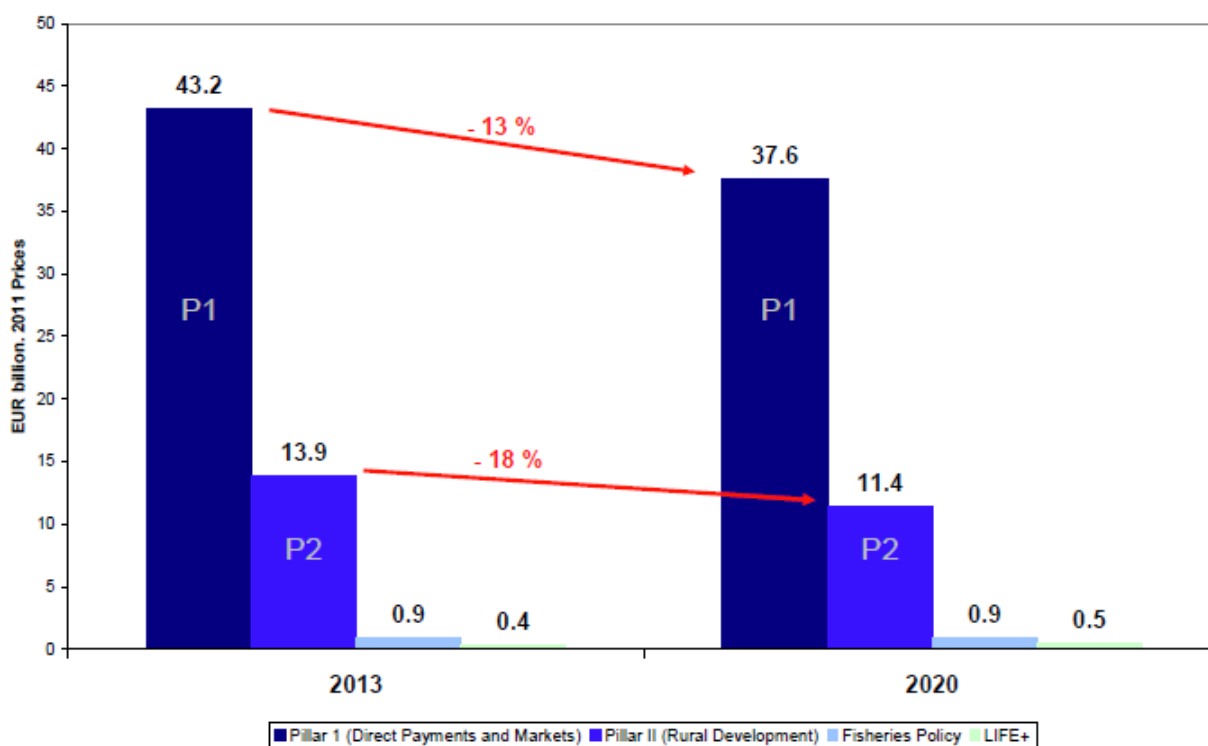
b) Financial perspectives for the CAP towards 2020

The EU's budget, the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 (MFF), funds CAP.

Pillar 1 budget is expected to decrease from 43.2 to 37.6 EUR Billion (-13%) while Pillar 2 is set to be cut by a proportionately greater amount, from 13.9 to 11.4 EUR Billion (-18%). See the European Parliament figure below.

Given that Rural Development budget has already been cut in the MFF deal related to the CAP, any further cuts by MS from Pillar 2 to add to Pillar 1 should be rejected when implementing the CAP reform (see below).

Much of what is positive about Pillar 2 is outlined in more detail over the following pages: clearly, cuts to Pillar 2 or modulation from Pillar 2 to Pillar 1 would reduce the positive potential of Pillar 2. This is a key battleground in the coming months, both at national and EU level.



Source: Elaboration by EP Policy Department B. Source of data: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/13/st08/st08288.en13.pdf>. The rural development allocation for 2013 only includes compulsory modulation.



III- overview of the key measures for a fairer, a greener, a local and a smarter CAP implementation through Pillar 1

1. Towards a Fairer CAP

a) Active farmers

Reg.	Art.	Name	What does it allow?	Aim of legislation	Feature
DP	9	Active Farmer	Improve the targeting of direct payments to farmers who really farm (full time or part-time and pluri-active farmers)	Direct payments only granted to people who are farming. No funding granted to natural or legal persons, or to groups of natural or legal persons, where they operate airports, railway services, waterworks, real estate services, permanent sport and recreational grounds.	MS may add any other similar non-agricultural businesses or activities and may subsequently withdraw such additions.

ARC recommendation: MS complete the negative list of non-active farmers in order to exclude "sofa farmers", i.e. beneficiaries whose principal activity or company objectives is not agricultural activity.

b) Transfer between Pillars

Reg.	Art.	Name	What does it allow?	Aim of legislation	Feature
DP	14	Flexibility	Modulation (i.e. transfer of funds) from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 (good) or vice versa (bad)	Increase Pillar 1 or Pillar 2 budget	Optional measure for MS

ARC recommendation: There should be no transfers from Pillar 2 to Pillar 1 as Pillar 2 (RDPs) have a much lower budget and need more money. Transfers from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 is welcome, but it still depends very much on which measures are targeted. In addition, any transfer of funds from Pillar 1 going to Pillar 2 should not require co-financing by the MS, because if co-financing was required to back up any modulation, then it would be a much less attractive to MS to shift money away from Pillar 1.³ This will be decided upon in the next round of negotiations on the agricultural budget affected by the MFF, starting September 2013.

c) Value of payments and convergence (towards more uniform payments)

Reg	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Aim of legislation	Feature
DP	22	Internal convergence	Bridge the gap between smaller and larger beneficiaries of direct payments by 2019 ⁴ and phase out unequal distribution per hectare between Member States ⁵	Redistribute money from larger (mostly more intensive) farms to smaller (mostly extensive) farms	Mandatory but many ways to decrease the equalising effect and slow down the phasing out of historical subsidies

Since 1993, EU farmers receive annual subsidies to support their income, which were calculated per hectare of

3 The exact percentage of funds that can be transferred between Pillars is will be decided upon in the next round of negotiations on CAP budgetary elements linked to the agricultural budget affected by the MFF, starting September 2013. For further information see Common Letter sent by ARC 2020 and other civil society groups <http://tinyurl.com/mw62v5m>. There may also be scope for clarification via delegated acts.

4 So-called "internal convergence"

5 So-called "external convergence"

for whatever they produced. In many Member States (MS) those subsidies are still calculated according the 1992 level of production per animal or per hectare ("historical" payment reference) so that they mostly benefit to the most intensive and larger farmers, which tend not to need as much support.

The convergence measures aim to (i) reduce the gap between farmers who receive more than 400 Euros per hectare and those below 200 Euros, to reach a national or regional average between 200 and 400 Euro/ha by 2019 and (ii) to have fairer income support within each MS or region. However a MS may slow this "convergence" of direct aids, and in doing so protect the interests of intensive and larger farms. **That's why it's crucial to move towards full convergence of direct payments by 2019, as historical payments are no longer justified, and this is a pre-condition to make more agri-environment efforts.** Moreover new currently ineligible farming lands could become eligible for income support in certain MSs, including vineyards and other permanent crops, fruits and vegetables, even if it was not the case previously.

d) Redistributive payment

Reg	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Aim of legislation	Feature
DP	28g-28h	Redistributive payment (for first hectares)	Support small and medium sized farms	Employment on small and medium farms	Optional for Member States.

ARC recommendation: this measure can be considered as a substitute to capping and degressivity (that's reducing over time the level of direct payments), which are in fact still pending because they were not part of the June deal and are not yet approved among EU institutions.⁶ The redistributive payment allows Member States to use up to 30% of the national envelope of direct payments to redistribute to farms up to 30 ha or the national average size, representing a maximum of 65% of the basic payment value per farm. In that case, the value of payments above the 30 ha or the national average could lower degressively. **This redistributive payment is clearly a very positive measure for a fairer CAP for small/medium sized farms. MSs should be encouraged to redistribute towards small/medium sized farms as much as possible.**

Towards a Greener CAP

a) Payment for climate and environment

Reg	Art.	Name	What does it allow?	Aim of legislation	Feature
DP	29-33	Payments for practices beneficial for climate and environment	30% of direct payments become conditional upon respecting 3 simple agronomic measures	"Greening" of direct payments	30% greening is mandatory but « equivalent » practices still an option for MS as well as collective implementation of Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)

ARC recommendation: While the initial concept of requiring farmers to fulfil additional "greening measures" in order to obtain 30% of the direct payments has formally been upheld, the content and ambition of these measures has been diluted step by step, from a starting point which was already rather weak. For example: 5% instead of 7% of arable land crop land (not pasture or permanent crops) per farm shall be designated as "ecological focus area" (EFA). In recognition of their environmental delivery and action on climate organic farmers automatically qualify for greening payments. Greening was billed as the main innovation of the reform, and indeed it is in principle mandatory for all farmers: however a whole host of thresholds, derogations and exclusions can apply, which mean that the "greening"

effect (crop diversification intended to smash monocultures in art.30, maintaining permanent pastures intended to sink carbon and maintain biodiversity in art.31, and Ecological Focus Areas intended to provide agro-ecological buffers and refugia in art.32) is much more limited. However there is still scope to influence the scope of the implementation of individual greening measures at national level (see below)

b) Maintain permanent pasture

Reg	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Aim of legislation	Feature
DP	31	Maintain permanent grasslands and permanent pastures (PGL /PP)	Protect pastures and grasslands that provide environmental services for carbon storage and biodiversity	Prevent conversion of PP into arable. Protect rich carbon and semi-natural pastures	Mandatory protection of 95% of PP at national or regional level. MS option to better protect carbon rich soil and semi-natural PP at farm level.

ARC recommendation: the measure which aimed to prevent conversion from pasture to arable land already existed within cross compliance (good agricultural and environmental conditions), but up to 10% of PP could be converted before action had to be taken; this has been tightened up to 5%. **"Refreshing" pasture by ploughing and reseeded is still allowed**, so the carbon-sinking and biodiversity-saving value of the measure is still fundamentally flawed (no change). However, there is now explicit legal text to protect Natura 2000 pastures (no legal change as the Birds and Habitats directives still apply, but enforcement will likely improve). Also MS have the option to better map and monitor carbon-rich pastures, wetland pastures and other semi-natural pastures which are most valuable for both climate and biodiversity.

c) Ecological focus areas

Reg	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Aim of legislation	Feature
DP	32	Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)	Recognition of value to agro-ecological infrastructures : landscape features, hedges, buffer strips, ponds, trees, terraces, fallow... Does not apply to permanent crops (except short rotation coppice) or pasture, or temporary grassland. Possible collective implementation at local level by max. 10 farmers (for adjacent EFAs).	Improve ecosystem services provided by on-farm and wild biodiversity	List of topographic elements to keep in place or to create ; weighting matrix to convert linear meters into hectares.

ARC recommendation: If NGOs pushed for a 10% minimum of EFAs, the final deal provided for upgrading from 5% in 2015 to 7% of EFAs in 2017 after a report from the Commission. EFA was intended to be applied on permanent crops like vineyards, olive groves or orchards, where there would be huge improvement possible for soil conservation and pollinators. **However, the key problem is the EFAs can now include a wide range of unsuitable crops, such as leguminous plants, short rotation coppice and arable crops, which still make around 60% of land use in EU-28.**

There is a huge loophole available in the form of Nitrogen fixing crops being grown on EFAs, especially as the principle should be that any use of the EFAs should not inhibit the provision of public good for which EFAs were intended.

EFAs need to be protected: we want pollinators and natural predators, so no pesticides; we want soil conservation, so no ploughing; we want no excess nutrients, so no fertilisers. Indeed, in extremis, the current legal text allows for GMO herbicide resistant soya using wide spectrum pesticide of EFAs. There is scope for clarification of this loophole in the delegated acts to be drafted by the Commission,

and massive pressure is needed on the Commission and key Member States like Germany and France who pushed for Nitrogen-fixing crops to be included in EFAs in the first place, against the wishes of the civil society.

d) Coupled payments

Reg.	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Aim of legislation	Feature
1 DP	38-41	Coupled payments	Support productions facing economic difficulties or maintaining levels of production under certain conditions	Farmers Leguminous plants	Facilitative 2% maximum of Direct Payments

ARC recommendation: With respect to the proteins deficit in the EU and the massive imports of unsustainable soya from the Americas, coupled payments could be used in a way to support leguminous plants cultivation, as part of a rotation and used for livestock feed. Leguminous grains as part of extended rotations can make European agriculture more sustainable, by reducing synthetic fertilizer inputs and increasing soil fertility.

National modalities of coupled payments are also linked to internal convergence (art. 22) since many livestock farmers who would loose under the new basic payment scheme could see coupled schemes as a compensatory measures under coupled payment (e.g. payments per suckler cow or dairy cow). This means that there is an opportunity to argue at national level for some beneficial coupled payments, such as on farm leguminous grains, and to harness support from the mainstream farming sector to make this case.



IV- Overview of the key measures for fairer, greener, local and smarter Rural Development programmes through Pillar 2

Towards a greener CAP

a) Structural Investment Supports in Physical Assets

Reg.	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 RD	18	Investments in physical asset	<p>-improve the overall performance and sustainability of the agricultural holding;</p> <p>- concern the processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products, except fishery products.</p> <p>-concern infrastructure related to the development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry, including access to farm and forest land, land consolidation and improvement, the supply and saving of energy and water.</p>	Farmers or groups of farmers	Non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives as pursued under this regulation, include biodiversity conservation status of species and habitat as well as enhancing the public amenity value of a Natura 2000 area or other high nature value systems to be defined in the programme.

ARC recommendation: this is a mainstream measure that focuses on farm modernisation and intensification. However, the scope of the measure includes now climate and environmental concerns, including high nature value systems. It also includes increased support rates for investments linked to the organic farming, agri-environment-climate measures and the European Innovation Partnership.

b) Agri-environment-climate measures

Reg.	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 RD	29	Agri-Environment - Climate Measure (AECM)	Support AEC commitments Improve eco-systemic services provided by on-farm beyond greening and cross-compliance requirements Support for the conservation and the sustainable use and development of genetic resources	Farmers or group of farmers and land managers	Contractual measure, commitments to observe during 5 years

ARC recommendation: this measure already exists in all the RDP and is now extended to climate issues. This is the key measure from Pillar 2 support farmers that could accompany a paradigm shift towards more sustainable in farming systems. What is new here is the possibility to contract collective AEC commitments among farmers and recognise more advanced sustainability practices that are already being applied. AEC payments compensate for income foregone per for single commitment per area on the farm. For instance 'x' euro per hectare to reduce fertilisers or pesticides or, 'y' euro per hectare to introduce a more advanced cropping system, i.e. more crops than required under Pillar 1 by the greening measure. It's also possible to propose "systemic" AEC measures that engage the whole farming system e.g. in mixed farming (commitments for both livestock and crops), an/or in holistic approaches to farming where the farmers get paid for applying a number of agronomic practices in combination.

c) Organic farming

Reg.	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 RD	30	Organic farming	Support for certified organic farming	Farmers	Support both conversion and conversion maintenance up to 5-7 years.

ARC recommendation: An organic support schemes measure already exists in the majority of RDPs under agri-environment, but organic farming is now a measure in its own right. These schemes provide support on the basis of costs incurred and income forgone in meeting the minimum legal requirements for organic farming. By fulfilling requirements under the Organic Regulation organic farmers internalise negative externalities costs of farm production e.g. the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilisers or only fulfilling basic animal welfare criteria. The new measure also includes up to 20% of the premium paid for the commitments to support for transactions costs (i.e. hidden costs incurred by a farmer that are not taken into account in support payments). In addition there are a number of options to prioritise organic farming under advisory services, quality schemes and investment support as well as to combine the organic measure with other measures such as agri-environment-climate, producer groups, cooperation and knowledge transfer and innovation. Can support both conversion period and ongoing maintenance.

d) Animal welfare

Reg.	Art.	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 RD	34	AW Animal Welfare	Improve ways of raising animals, including regulatory standards and practices that go beyond.	Farmers	Voluntary measure. Animal welfare payments under this measure shall be granted to farmers who undertake, on a voluntary basis, to carry out operations consisting of one or more animal welfare commitments (going beyond the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No HR/2012 and other relevant mandatory requirements). Definition of the areas in which animal welfare commitments shall provide upgraded standards of production methods will be fixed by the COM in delegated acts.

ARC recommendation: existing measure which is relevant to promote free-range livestock and not only new regulatory standards.

Towards a more local CAP

a) Quality schemes for agricultural products, and foodstuffs

Reg.	Art.	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 DPRD	17	Quality schemes for agricultural products, and foodstuffs	Support promotion and information actions related to official quality schemes quality ³ : protected designations of origin (PDO), organic farming, geographical indications (PGI), and also quality schemes, including farm certification schemes, for agricultural products, cotton or foodstuffs, recognised by the Member States.	Farmers or groups of farmers	Support under this measure may cover costs arising from information and promotion activities implemented by groups of producers in the internal market, concerning products covered by a quality scheme

ARC recommendation: existing measure important for high quality organic products and local food recognition under PGI/PDO schemes. Support for both national and regional quality schemes must prioritise higher sustainability standards in food production which have verifiable results for the environment.

b) Rural Investments and Infrastructure: Basic services and village renewal in rural areas

Reg.	Art.	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 RD	21	Basic services and village renewal in rural areas	Opportunity to use funds for renewable energy and energy saving projects as well as for agro-tourism and investments on environmental awareness actions.	Communities	

ARC recommendation: existing measure which may be useful regarding energy savings.

c) LEADER (Liaisons entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale; in English: 'Links between actions for the development of the rural economy').

Reg.	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 RD	42-44	LEADER	Community Led Local Development projects	Local communities	5% minimum spending for each MS/Reg RDP Maximum EAFRD (European Agriculture fund for Rural Development) contribution is 80%

ARC recommendation: LEADER is a **bottom-up** (i.e. rural community engaged, or rural community derived) method for rural development in the EU. As it is a community-led local development method for mobilising and developing rural communities through local public-private partnerships ('Local Action Groups'), it helps rural people, groups and enterprises consider the potential of their area, while encouraging the implementation of integrated and innovative local development strategies. It is a key measure for RD networks and Community Led Local Development (CLLD) approach. **Cuts to Pillar 2 will mean cuts to rural development in this more community-orientated way, resulting in dis-empowered rural communities across Europe.**

Towards a smarter CAP

a) Knowledge transfer

Reg.	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 RD	15	Knowledge transfer and information actions	Provide knowledge transfer and information actions. C,): could be potentially used by NGOs who do trainings and knowledge transfer (which are not included in any advice services).	Farmers NGOs	Includes vocational training and skills acquisition actions may include training courses, workshops and coaching. Maximum EAFRD contribution is 80%

ARC recommendation: key measure for agro-ecological knowledges exchanges, came be used for same.

b) Advisory services

Reg.	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 RD	16	Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services ADVISORY	Support advise providers, including also issues like climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and protection of water, short food supply chains, organic farming, agro-ecological innovations...	Farmers Young farmers and land managers Advisors	Help farmers, young farmers, in rural areas benefit from the use of advisory services for the improvement of the economic and environmental performance as well as the climate friendliness and resilience of their holding, enterprise and/or investment; Promote the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, as well as forestry advisory services, Promote the training of advisors.

ARC recommendation: this existing measure now includes other issues linked to the economic and environmental performance of the agricultural holding. These include advice for the development of short supply chains, organic farming, delivery of agronomic practices and integrated pest management, ensure compliance with the water framework directive and the sustainable use directive and health aspects of animal husbandry.

c) Co-operation

Reg.	Art.	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 RD	36	Co-operation	Support under this measure shall be granted in order to promote forms of co-operation involving at least two entities and in particular: could be used by co-operation approaches among different actors in the Union agriculture sector, and food chain and forestry sector and among other actors that contribute to achieving the objectives and priorities of rural development policy,	Producer groups, cooperatives, inter org, clusters, networks, EIP OP...	Co-operation relates in particular to the following: pilot projects; co-operation among small operators for the development and/or marketing of tourism services relating to rural tourism; co-operation among supply chain actors for the promotion of short supply chains and local markets; joint action undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change;- joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices; including efficient water management, the use of renewable energy and the preservation of agricultural landscape; – diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food; etc. – Maximum EAFRD contribution is 80%

ARC recommendation: this new measure may be a key one to support joint projects in all fields among groups of farmers, NGOs and rural development movements. The potential for rural, environmental and civil society groups to work together, supported by this new measure, is significant.

d) European Innovation Partnership

Reg.	Art	Name	What does it allow?	Target	Feature
2 RD	53, 61-63	EIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exchange of expertise and good practices, establish a dialogue between farmers and the research community and facilitate the inclusion of all stakeholders in the knowledge exchange process; -promote a resource efficient, economically viable, productive, competitive, low emission, climate friendly and resilient agricultural and forestry sector, progressing towards agro-ecological production systems and working in harmony with the essential natural resources on which farming and forestry depend; -help deliver a steady and sustainable supply of food, feed and biomaterials, both existing and new ones; -improve processes to preserve the environment, adapt to climate change and mitigate it; -build bridges between cutting-edge research knowledge and technology and farmers, forest managers, rural communities, businesses, NGOs and advisory services. -creating added value by better linking research and farming practice and encouraging the wider use of available innovation measures; -promoting the faster and wider transposition of innovative solutions into practice; and -informing the scientific community about the research needs of farming practice. 	Groups, NGOs, networks, clusters	<p>European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups (OG) shall form part of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability. They shall be set up by interested actors such as farmers, researchers, advisors and businesses involved in the agriculture and food sector, who are relevant for achieving the objectives of the EIP.</p> <p>The Member States shall decide within the framework of their programmes to what extent they will support the OG.</p> <p>80% EU funded</p>

ARC recommendation: EIP operational groups are a key instrument to foster agro-ecological innovations among groups of farmers, researchers, SMEs, NGOs. NGOs may convince their national or regional authorities to take this opportunity that favour an agro-ecological transition. Art. 61 mentions the use of EIP for promoting agro-ecological production systems such as organic farming; NGOs are mentioned as one of the target groups.



V- How organise your national/regional advocacy/campaign for the CAP you want from the 26th of June deal

Below some suggestions how to prepare your advocacy/campaigning activities to improve the CAP reform implementation:

- share (and complement it eventually) this toolkit among farmers' organisations and NGOs in order to have a joint position on key CAP/RD issues that you want for a fairer, greener, local and smart CAP.
- make or strengthen alliances with civil society, farming, environmental and other organisations based on specific targets in the above document, especially with regard to what is still to be agreed on the CAP at regional, national, and EU level.
- elaborate your concrete demands from this toolkit overview, adding specific national or regional elements and figures related to the challenges you want to address (data, especially including national level data, is necessary to convince policy makers).
- meet with your MS representatives (Agriculture minister, except possibly in the case of pesticides) to present your demands on Pillar 1 or Pillar 2 if it's a national RDP, or with your regional authorities representatives for RDP if they manage it.
- expose the fact you are aware that many flexibilities remains in the 26th June EU deal both for the two Pillars of the CAP and that MS or regional authorities have the power to choose and implement the best ones.
- ask for the detailed agenda of the CAP implementation and the RD programming process to your MS or regional authority (if so for RDP)
- present your concrete proposals and rationales to your policy-makers representatives many times as necessary till you obtain satisfaction or compromises from your authorities
- send us a feed back on this ongoing process in order to feed an independent database on the way civil society is involved in the CAP reform implementation.

Agenda

- *Sept. 2013: possible trilogues on MFF issues related to the CAP : capping and degressivity, flexibilities between pillars, external convergence, financial discipline (tbc)*
- Sept./Oct. 2013: Council and Parliament finalizing legal texts and translations
- From Sept. 2013: EC drafting implementing acts and delegated acts
- From 1st Jan. 2014: new Rural Development programmes enter in force
- Before July. 2014: Member States and Regions can send their Rural Development programmes to the EC
- Before 1st Aug. 2014: Member States shall notify their choices to the EC for the implementation of the direct payments
- From 1st Jan. 2015: Direct payments regulation enter in force