Agri-environmental support in ERDP 2014-2020
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The total budget of the Estonian Rural Development Plan (ERDP) for 2014-2020 is 993 million euros, 35% or 347 million euros of this is allocated for agri-environmental (AE) support.

Agri-environmental support primarily contributes to the achievement of the ERDP objective "Agricultural land use is environmentally friendly and takes into account regional specifics; the preservation of agriculture and forestry with biodiversity, traditional landscapes and high nature value is ensured".

The majority of agri-environmental support under ERDP 2014-2020 can be applied for as of May 2015.

Although the requirements of the various forms of AE support are different, they also have something in common – a cross compliance system, a baseline and (usually) a five-year commitment.

Cross compliance

The receipt of support from the agri-environmental and climate measure, organic farming, Natura 2000 and animal welfare measures of ERDP 2014-2020 is subject to adherence with the cross compliance system.

The objective of the system is to guarantee that only the applicants who comply with the requirements of environmental protection; animal welfare; public, animal and plant health; and keeping land in good agricultural and environmental condition receive support to the full extent. The system consists of Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) that represent a selection of the requirements of the sectoral legislation already in force and are published as a list, and the requirements for keeping land in good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC), which are established on the national level with
the regulations of the Minister of Rural Affairs. The requirements included in the cross compliance system are the underlying requirements for the development of the support measures of ERDP 2014-2020. Support can be paid for activities that exceed these as well as all other requirements arising from legislation.

Beneficiaries must adhere to the requirements of the cross compliance system in their agricultural activities and on the entire area of their agricultural holding throughout the calendar year. In the event of a violation of the requirements, the amount of the recipient’s support related to the cross compliance system will be reduced.

**Baseline**

In the case of the agri-environmental and climate measure and support for organic farming, every supported requirement must have a baseline, which is usually a requirement arising from effective legislation. The supported requirement must be stricter than the basic requirement. For example, the basic requirement for all forms of area-related support is that a field book must be kept, whilst pest monitoring before the use of plant protection products is the requirement for some forms of support. The requirements stipulated in the Animal Welfare Act and the related acts are mainly the baseline in the case of animal welfare support.

**Applicants**

Most forms of agri-environmental support can be applied for by legal entities and sole proprietors, some also by natural persons.

**Applying for support**

The majority of environmental support can only be applied for electronically in e-ARIB (the paying agency).
1. Support for environmentally friendly management

The objective of the support is to promote the introduction and continued use of environmentally friendly management practices in agriculture to protect soil and water and improve their status as well as increase biodiversity and landscape diversity, and raise the environmental awareness of agricultural producers.

The requirements for the main activity of the support for environmentally friendly management must be met as a full package during the five-year commitment period. The following one-year activities can be selected in addition to the main activity:

- additional activity of water protection;
- additional activity of promoting field birds;
- additional activity of establishing foraging areas for bees.

Eligibility requirements

- The applicant must not have the commitment of support for organic farming.
- The applicant grows at least three different crops on the arable land of their agricultural holding at least one of which must be a crop other than grass plants.
- The minimal area for applying for the support is 1.0 ha.
- Eligible land is arable land (incl. grassland not older than four years).

Requirements for main activity

- The applicant must comply with crop rotation requirements.
- Leguminous crops must be grown on at least 15% of eligible land either as a pure crop or in a mixture.
- At least 30% of eligible land must be kept under winter vegetation consisting of crops from 1 November to 31 March.
- The applicant uses certified cereal seeds on at least 15% of the sowing area of cereals.
- The use of glyphosate is prohibited during the growing period of cereals, pulses, row crops, oil seed, fibre or other technical crops and vegetables, on green fallow and on fields for which support for the establishment of foraging areas for bees is applied.
- The applicant arranges for soil samples to be taken at least once during the commitment period and has them sent to an accredited laboratory for soil analysis.
• The applicant or their representative must participate in basic training and in in-service training of environmentally friendly management.

• A strip of grassland or linear element of landscape of at least 2 to 5 metres must be left between eligible land larger than 20 hectares and a public road used for motor vehicle traffic.

• The applicant must prepare a fertilisation plan for the arable land in their use by 15 June.

Additional activity of water protection

• At least 50% of eligible land must be kept under winter vegetation consisting of crops from 1 November to 31 March.

Additional activity of promoting field birds

• From the second year of the commitment, the applicant may leave their permanent grassland unmaintained for over a year to the extent of the hectares that do not exceed the area of their eligible land for support for environmentally friendly management.
Additional activity of establishing foraging areas for bees

- The applicant must have at least 10 honeybee colonies or an agreement with a beekeeper who has at least 10 honeybee colonies registered in the Register of Farm Animals.
- Support is granted for each 0.5 hectares of land established with melliferous plants, which has at least one honeybee colony within the range of 200 metres.
- The applicant must grow at least three species of melliferous plants and mowing, grazing, chopping and preparations for growing the next crop are prohibited on this land until 15 August.

Support rates

- Main activity €50/ha/year;
- Additional activity of water protection €5/ha/year;
- Additional activity of establishing foraging areas for bees €193/ha/year;

No support is paid for the additional activity of promoting field birds, but the applicant can get single area payments for this land.

Results of implementation of support

The target level of the support is 475,000 hectares and 2,000 recipients, the total budget is 181 million euros. In 2016 the support was paid out to 1,489 applicants in the amount of 22.58 million euros per 447,065 hectares.
2. Regional water protection support

The support for regional water protection is targeted at Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ), where the quality of water has deteriorated due to agricultural activity or is at risk of deterioration. The soil cover on an NVZ is very thin, the parent material often very cracked (karst area) and the groundwater therefore unprotected or weakly protected at some places. This is also the area where groundwater is formed.

The objective of the support is to maintain the quality of water by reducing the leaching of nutrients from land used for agricultural purposes.

Support will be granted for the implementation of the following activities:
1) keeping land under winter vegetation;
2) keeping land as grassland.
   • The applicant must apply for support for environmentally friendly management in the first commitment year.
   • The minimal area for applying for the support is 1.0 ha.
   • The support for keeping land as grassland can be applied for a field located to the extent of at least 50 percent in the zone with unprotected ground water in the Pandivere and Adavere-Põltsamaa NVZ or in an important spring or karst area or a field located in an NVZ on which a spring or karst sinkhole is located.

Requirements related to keeping land as grassland

The applicant keeps the eligible land for which it requests support under grassland, which must be established at least by 15 June of the first commitment year. The grassland may only be renewed by direct sowing and over-seeding. Damaging the grassland by over-grazing is prohibited.

Requirement related to keeping land under winter vegetation

The applicant keeps at least 60% of eligible land under winter vegetation consisting of crops from 1 November of the commitment year to 31 March of the subsequent commitment year.

Training

The applicant or their representative must participate in water protection training organised by the Ministry of Rural Affairs.

The support rate for keeping land as grassland is €130/ha/year if the grasslands in total comprise up to 20 percent of the total agricultural land of the holding in a commitment year.

The support rate for keeping land as grassland is €70/ha/year if the grasslands in total comprise over 20 percent of the total agricultural land of the holding in a commitment year.

The support rate for keeping land under winter vegetation is €7/ha/year. The target level of the support for regional water protection is 73,000 ha and the estimated budget is 8,000,000 euros.
3. Regional soil protection support

The general objective of the support is to guarantee the sustainable use of eroded and peat soils and minimise the degradation of soils. The specific objectives are limiting greenhouse gas emissions, limiting soil erosion (incl. deflation), reducing the leaching of nutrients, and maintaining and increasing the organic substance content of soil.

- The support for regional soil protection can be requested for grassland or arable land, which is at least 0.3 ha in size.
- At least 90% of the eligible agricultural parcel must be covered in peat soil or complex of eroded and deluvial soils. An application for changing the borders of the agricultural parcel may be submitted if necessary.
- The commitment of regional soil protection support is assumed for five consecutive calendar years. The applicant for regional soil protection support must have the commitment of support for environmentally friendly management in the first commitment year.

Support is given for continuing with the present land use as well as turning the areas previously used as arable land into grassland or land used for fruit trees and berry bushes. The applicant keeps the land covered by the support under grassland, which must be established at least by 15 June of the first commitment year. Damaging the grassland by over-grazing on the land is prohibited. The grassland may only be renewed by direct sowing and over-seeding. Renewing grassland on peat soils is permitted once during the commitment period either by harrowing or ploughing.

The support rate of the regional soil protection support is €50/ha/year.

The total budget of support for the 2014-2020 programme period is 6 million euros. The planned target level of the regional soil protection support by the end of the ERDP 2014-2020 period is 20,000 hectares of land under support and 700 recipients.

In 2016 the support was paid out for 10,347 hectares of 202 applicants in the total amount of 520,878 euros.
4. Support for environmentally friendly horticulture

The general objective of the support is to promote the implementation of environmentally friendly practices in growing horticultural plants and the specific objectives are to reduce the use of plant protection products, guarantee healthier food for consumers, reduce the leaching of nutrients from soil and contribute to the preservation of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes.

The support for environmentally friendly horticulture is paid for three plant groups:
1. environmentally friendly fruit and berry growing;
2. environmentally friendly vegetable, medicinal and aromatic herb growing;
3. environmentally friendly strawberry growing.

- The minimal area for applying for the support is 0.3 ha.
- The commitment of the support for environmentally friendly vegetable, medicinal and aromatic herb growing and environmentally friendly strawberry growing lasts for one year and the commitment of support for environmentally friendly management must be assumed in order to apply for it.
- The commitment of environmentally friendly fruit and berry growing lasts for five years.
- Minimal planting density must be observed in fruit and berry growing.
- Service areas that are up to 15 metres wide are also eligible.

Common eligibility requirements for all applicants for support for environmentally friendly horticulture

All applicants for support for environmentally friendly horticulture must:
- participate in environmentally friendly horticulture training;
- arrange for soil samples to be taken from the eligible land at least once during the commitment period and have them sent to an accredited laboratory for soil analysis.

Requirements for environmentally friendly fruit and berry growing

The eligibility requirements must be complied with on all of the company's eligible land.
- Using plant protection products that contain glyphosate is prohibited.
- In an orchard, there must be at least one pheromone trap for detecting insect pests per every 0.3 hectares from 1 May to 31 August.
• Elements that support biodiversity (birdhouse, sitting place for birds of prey, insect nest, beehive) are kept in fruit and berry gardens at the density of at least two elements per 0.3 hectares.

• At least two-thirds of the space between the rows of fruit trees and berry bushes is kept under grass plants.

• The height of grass on eligible land may be up to 30 cm.

• The crowns of fruit trees and berry bushes are maintained by cutting.

• There must be a protective hedge on each side of the field.

**Environmentally friendly vegetable, medicinal and aromatic herb growing**

- Using plant protection products that contain glyphosate is prohibited.

- The service area must be kept under grass plants until the crops are harvested. The height of grass may not exceed 30 cm.

**Requirements for environmentally friendly strawberry growing**

- Mulch must be used on the rows of strawberries.

- The space between the rows of strawberries must be covered with mulch or mowed grass plants. The height of grass may not exceed 30 cm.

The support rate for fruit and berry growing is €160/ha/year, the support rate for vegetable, medicinal and aromatic herb growing is €344/ha/year and €248/ha/year for environmentally friendly strawberry growing.

The planned target level of the support for environmentally friendly horticulture by the end of the ERDP 2014-2020 period for all three activities in total is 1,700 hectares of land under support and 270 applicants. The budget of the support is 3.88 million euros. In 2016 environmentally friendly horticulture support was granted for 1,006 hectares and paid out in the amount of 323,532 euros.
5. Support for growing local plant varieties

The objective of the support is to guarantee the preservation of local plant varieties important in terms of cultural heritage and genetic diversity, and to promote establishment of new plantations with old local fruit and berry varieties.

Support is granted for growing the Sangaste winter rye variety, Jõgeva broad bean, Mehis field pea, Ando potato, Jõgeva 4 white clover and 50 local fruit and berry varieties according to the list.

The minimal area under support has been established for all eligible crops and the minimal number of plants has been established for fruit and berry cultures.

- When growing fruit trees and berry bushes, the applicant must use planting material from a plant nursery in the Plant Health Register of the Agricultural Board.
- The applicant may only use certified seeds when growing crops.
- When applying for the support for the first time, the applicant assumes the commitment to grow the varieties given in the list of the support for five years.

Supported requirements upon growing crops

The applicant grows the crop varieties at least until the flowering stage. The applicant must comply with the determined sowing norms when growing crops.

Supported requirements upon growing fruit trees and berry bushes

- The applicant keeps a plan of the garden of fruit or berry cultures.
- The applicant must keep the space between the rows of fruit trees and berry bushes covered with grass plants and mowed or grazed to the extent of at least two-thirds, whilst the height of grass may not exceed 30 cm. When new orchards are established, at least two-thirds of the space between the rows must be covered with grass plants by the year following the year of establishment.

The support rates range from €32-100/ha/year in the case of crops, the rate of support in the case of fruit trees is €12/piece and in the case of berry bushes €5/piece.

Results of implementation of support

Target levels – the total area of the crops that have received support is 1,700 ha, the number of fruit trees and berry bushes that have received support is 2,000 and the total budget of the support is 583,000 euros.

The number of approved applications in 2016 was 39 and the amount of support paid out was 35,893 euros.
6. Support for keeping animals of endangered breeds

The objective of the support is to guarantee the preservation of local breeds deemed to be endangered that are important in terms of cultural heritage and genetic diversity.

The applicant assumes the commitment to keep at least one animal of an endangered breed or at least 350 Estonian quails for five consecutive calendar years as of the calendar year when the application was submitted. A separate commitment starts for each breed. The number of animals/birds for whom support is applied for may vary by years during the commitment period.

Support is paid for:

- keeping an animal of Estonian native cattle that is at least six months old if the applicant keeps a purebred animal of Estonian native cattle entered in the main part of the herd book, identified and registered according to requirements, both of whose parents and grandparents have been entered in the main part of the herd book of the Estonian native cattle;

- keeping an Estonian native horse, Estonian heavy draught horse, Tori horse (universal type) or Tori horse (Old-Tori type) that is at least six months old, if the applicant keeps a purebred horse of the aforementioned breeds that has been identified and registered as required in the main part of the studbook or in the main part of part TA of studbook of the Tori breed;

- keeping an Estonian quail if the applicant keeps quails whose origin has been proven, who are under individual performance testing or group performance testing and who are kept as breeding birds (adult male and female birds are kept together) in a holding that carries out the required performance testing of Estonian quails.

Support rates per animal/bird per year

- Estonian native horse €200.
- Estonian heavy draught horse €260.
- Tori horse (universal type) €200.
- Tori horse (Old-Tori type) €200.
- Estonian native cattle €315.
- Estonian quail €4.
- Additional payment for keeping an Estonian native cow that participates in performance testing €100.
- Additional payment for keeping an Estonian native cow who had a purebred calf in the previous year €100.
- Additional payment for keeping an Estonian native bull entered in the herd book €100.

The total budget of the support is 7.46 million euros. In 2016 the number of recipients was 575 and the number of supported animals was 13,773 (10,735 of them were Estonian quails), the amount of support paid out was 798,319 euros.
7. Support for maintaining semi-natural habitats

The objective of the support is to improve the status of semi-natural habitats and the species related to them, and the specific objectives are to improve the quality of maintenance of semi-natural habitats and increase the share of semi-natural habitats maintained with farm animals, increase the size of maintained areas, preserve and increase biodiversity and landscape diversity.

- The support can be applied for an eligible semi-natural habitat of at least 0.10 ha that has been entered in the Environmental Register.
- A semi-natural habitat must be predominantly covered with meadow plants and be suitable for mowing or grazing.

Eligibility requirements

- The applicant must maintain the semi-natural habitat in a manner that has been approved by the Environmental Board.
- A semi-natural habitat may generally not be mowed before 10 July.
- A mowable semi-natural habitat must be mowed and the hay collected by 1 September. The collected hay must be removed from the area by 1 April of the subsequent year.
- As a result of grazing, it must be possible to visually identify by 1 October that animals have grazed on the area in such a manner that grass has been eaten short to the extent of 50% and mostly eaten on the remainder of the area.
- A wooded meadow must be maintained by mowing and wooded pastures by grazing.
- An alvar in a good condition may be left unmaintained once during the commitment period.
- A semi-natural habitat may generally not be chopped.
- A semi-natural habitat larger than 15 hectares must be mowed from the centre outwards or from edge to edge.
- Giving additional feed to animals is prohibited in semi-natural habitats.
- The applicant or their representative must participate in semi-natural habitat maintenance training.
Support rates

- Mowing a wooded meadow €450/ha/year;
- Grazing on a wooded pasture €250/ha/year;
- Grazing on a meadow with junipers €250/ha/year;
- Mowing a meadow with junipers €185/ha/year;
- Grazing on another meadow €150/ha/year;
- Mowing another meadow €85/ha/year;
- Maintenance of coastal areas important for the protection of species €232/ha/year.

* A single area payment scheme (SAPS) may also be applied for wooded meadows and other meadows at the same time with the support for maintaining semi-natural habitats, provided that the given areas are eligible for the SAPS.

Results of implementation of support

The target level of the support for maintaining semi-natural habitats is 40,000 hectares and 1,500 applicants. The total budget of the support is 40.2 million euros.

In 2016 the number of recipients was 764, the supported area 25,197 hectares and the amount of support paid was 3.95 million euros.
8. Animal welfare support

The general objective of the measure is to raise the awareness of livestock farmers of animal well-being and support the agricultural producers who comply with the highest requirements of animal welfare, thereby improving animal welfare and health, and guaranteeing suitable conditions for them.

Organic livestock farmers are not eligible for the support. The requirements have to be complied with for a year. The number of the animals/birds for whom the support is applied for may not be smaller than the minimal commitment, which will be established by the Minister of Rural Affairs. The animals must be registered and identified as required.

Supported requirements

Cattle, incl. calves (support for grazing cattle): The cattle graze on the pasture during the grazing period. Over-grazing is prohibited.

Dairy calves (support for dairy calves): If calves are kept as a group, the pen where the group is kept must have at least 2.0 m² free floor space for each calf and the whole floor must be covered with soft litter. General anaesthesia with analgesia or sedation with local anaesthesia and analgesia must be used upon disbudding and this must be confirmed in writing by a veterinarian.

Pigs: The litter guaranteed for pigs when indoors must be straw or hay, the floor in the room where pigs are kept must be covered with litter, the area where they lay down must be clean and comfortable for the animal. Local anaesthesia and analgesia or general anaesthesia with analgesia must be used when pigs less than seven days old are castrated and this must be confirmed in writing by a veterinarian.

Laying hens: up to eight hens will be kept for 1 m² of floor space of the room where the birds are kept.

Sheep and goats: pastures are rotated for grazing goats and sheep. Over-grazing is prohibited. An area for growing medicinal herbs that is at least 5 m² big will be established for one sheep or goat.

Horses: pastures are used for horse grazing during the grazing period, studs are guaranteed access to a pasture or outdoor paddock. Over-grazing is prohibited. There may be up to 1.4 livestock units of grazing animals for one hectare of grassland.

Additional requirement: participation in animal welfare or animal health training or information day.

Support rates per animal/bird per year

- Horse €40.
- Bovine animal aged six months or over €44.
- Bovine animal less than six months of age (calf) €17.10.
- Sow €42.
- Pig, excl. sow €24.
- Sheep or goat €9.
- Laying hens €2.37.
The support rate for compliance with the additional requirement of training per applicant is 75 euros per year.

**Results of implementation of support**

The target level of the support is 2,000 recipients and 100,000 supported livestock units, the total budget of the support is 40.68 million euros. In 2016 the number of recipients was 2,058, the support was granted per 237,844 animals (111,334 livestock units) and was paid out in the amount of 6.4 million euros.
9. Support for conversion to organic farming and support for maintenance of organic farming

The objectives of the measure are to develop organic farming and increase the competitiveness of organic farming, maintain and increase biodiversity and landscape diversity, preserve and improve the fertility of soil and quality of water, and improve animal welfare.

The support for organic farming has two sub-measures: support for conversion to organic farming and support for maintenance of organic farming. Companies that start with organic farming that have not applied for support for organic farming before can apply for the support for conversion. The support for conversion will be paid in up to two first years of commitment, after which the support for maintenance of organic farming will be paid.

- The applicant company must be recognised on the basis of the Organic Farming Act during the entire commitment period.
- The minimal area for applying for the support is 1.0 ha.

Main eligibility requirements

The following requirements must be complied with on organic farming land as well as non-organic farming land if the company has such land.

- The applicant must comply with crop rotation requirements.
- Leguminous crops must be grown on at least 20% of the company’s total arable land either as a pure crop or in a mixture.
- At least 20% of the company’s total land must be kept under winter vegetation consisting of crops from 1 November to 31 March.
- The applicant must maintain the crowns of fruit trees and berry bushes and ensure that the space between rows is covered with grass plants and mowed or grazed to the extent of at least two-thirds. The height of the grass in an orchard (incl. service areas) must not exceed 30 cm.
- The applicant arranges for soil samples to be taken at least once during the commitment period and has them sent to an accredited laboratory for soil analysis.
- The applicant or their representative must participate in basic organic farming training and in-service training of organic production, processing or marketing.
Support rates per hectare per year:

- cereals; pulses, oil and fibre cultures; other technical cultures and hayseed field that has undergone field inspection – €125 (maintenance), €138 (conversion);
- grassland in crop rotation that is up to three years old – €80 (maintenance), €88 (conversion);
- row crops – €210 (maintenance), €231 (conversion);
- vegetables, strawberries, medicinal and aromatic herbs – €600 (maintenance), €660 (conversion);
- fruit and berry cultures – €300 (maintenance), €330 (conversion);
- grassland (at least 0.2 livestock units/ha) – €25 (maintenance), €27 (conversion);
- for one unit of an organically kept grazed animal – €85 (maintenance), €94 (conversion).

The target level of organic farming is 133,000 hectares of supported land and 1,600 applicants. The budget of the support is 77.7 million euros. In 2016 the support was granted to 1,349 applicants in total for 121,091 hectares, the amount of the granted support was 12 million euros.
10. Natura 2000 support for agricultural land

The general objective of the support is to guarantee compliance with nature conservation requirements on the sites of the Natura 2000 network, preserve agricultural activity in these regions and help them adapt to the restrictions that arise from the implementation of Council Directive No. 2009/147/EC and Council Directive No. 92/43/EEC, in order to contribute to the management of Natura 2000 sites.

The support is granted for consistent adherence with the nature conservation restrictions on arable land located in the Natura 2000 network for a period of one calendar year. In order to receive the support, the applicant must comply with the requirements arising from the Nature Conservation Act and the conservation procedure of the conservation unit, special conservation area or species protection site.

The support may be applied for in respect of a field of at least 0.30 hectares located on a Natura 2000 site, where agricultural activities are carried out or which is in a status suitable for grazing or cultivation and which the applicant has the right to use.

The support rate for one hectare of arable land is 27 euros per calendar year.

The target level of the support is 23,440 ha and 1,590 recipients, and the total budget of the support is 4,666,000 euros. In 2016 the support was granted for 20,048 hectares of 1,331 applicants in the total amount of 539,778 euros.

11. Natura 2000 support for private forests

The general objective of the support is to contribute to the sustainable use of private forests on Nature 2000 sites and to protect the natural values located in the Natura 2000 limited management zone of private forests, special management zone of a special conservation area and sites under design.

Private forest owners can apply for the support.

The support is granted for adherence with nature conservation restrictions on private forest land entered into the Environmental Register as forest owned by the applicant that is located on a Natura 2000 site of at least 0.30 hectares or in the special management zone of a protected natural feature outside it for a period of one calendar year.

The applicant complies with the requirements established in the Nature Conservation Act and Forest Act and the legislation enforced on the basis thereof during the calendar year when the application is submitted.

Support rate

The support rate for one hectare of forest area located in the Natura 2000 special management zone and in the special management zone of a natural feature is 110 euros and in a limited management zone, special conservation area and site under design 60 euros per calendar year.

The area to be covered by the support according to ERDP 2014-2020 is 58,000 ha, the number of recipients is 4,700 and the budget of the measure is 28 million euros. In 2016 the support was granted for 58,257 hectares of 4,538 applicants in the total amount of 4 million euros.
12. Support for restoring stonewalls

The general objective of the support is to contribute to the restoration of traditional elements of agricultural landscape of high historical, cultural and landscape value, the preservation and increase of the aesthetic value of landscapes, creation of habitats, increasing biodiversity and landscape diversity, and preservation of the historical and cultural value of the landscape.

The support can be applied for restoring stonewalls in regions where stonewalls have traditionally been present. Stonewalls can be restored on land where the former location of the stonewall can be visually identified.

At least 80 percent of the stonewall to be restored is located on arable land or borders arable land to the extent of at least 80 percent.

In the event the stonewall borders arable land, it may be located up to five metres from the border of the arable land and the area between the stonewall and the arable land is covered with soil or vegetation.

The length of the restored stonewall must be at least five metres. The stonewall must be restored as a dry stonewall. The height of the stonewall must be at least 60 centimetres. Using rocks that are under protection for the restoration of stonewalls is prohibited.

The support rate for the restoration of 1 m of a stonewall is €16/m if it is 60-90 cm in height and €25/m if it is higher than 90 cm.

The length of the stonewalls to be restored during the period of ERDP 2014-2020 is 250 km. The total public sector cost of the support measure for restoring stonewalls during the period of ERDP 2014-2020 is 2,500,000 euros. In 2016 the support was granted to 197 applicants in the amount of 1.5 million euros.