



Brussels, 7.9.2021  
COM(2021) 539 final

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND  
THE COUNCIL**

**14th FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL  
on the EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(EAFRD)  
2020 FINANCIAL YEAR**

## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>BUDGET PROCEDURE</b> .....	2
<b>1.1.</b>	<b>Financial framework</b> .....	2
<b>1.2.</b>	<b>Draft Budget (DB) 2020</b> .....	2
<b>1.3.</b>	<b>The adoption of the 2020 Budget</b> .....	3
<b>1.4.</b>	<b>The adoption of the Amending Budgets</b> .....	3
<b>2.</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS</b> .....	4
<b>2.1.</b>	<b>Management of commitment appropriations</b> .....	4
2.1.1.	<i>EAFRD rural development programmes</i> .....	4
2.1.2.	<i>Technical assistance</i> .....	4
<b>2.2.</b>	<b>Management of payment appropriations</b> .....	4
2.2.1.	<i>EAFRD rural development programmes</i> .....	4
2.2.2.	<i>Technical assistance</i> .....	5
<b>3.</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2020 EAFRD BUDGET</b> .....	5
<b>3.1.</b>	<b>Implementation of commitment appropriations</b> .....	5
3.1.1.	<i>EAFRD rural development programmes</i> .....	5
3.1.2.	<i>Technical assistance</i> .....	7
<b>3.2.</b>	<b>Implementation of payment appropriations</b> .....	7
3.2.1.	<i>EAFRD rural development programmes</i> .....	7
3.2.2.	<i>Technical assistance</i> .....	11
<b>3.3.</b>	<b>Analysis of expenditure declared by measure</b> .....	11
<b>3.4.</b>	<b>Implementation of EAFRD programmes</b> .....	13

## 1. BUDGET PROCEDURE

### 1.1. Financial framework

Rural development expenditure in 2020 is funded within the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2014-2020. The financial framework is provided by Council Regulation (EU) No 1311/2013. The allocation for rural development and the allocation for market related expenditure and direct payments after the annual technical adjustment of the MFF are presented in table 1.

Table 1 – Financial framework 2014-2020

<b>HEADING 2.</b> <b>Sustainable growth: natural resources</b>	In million EUR; current prices						
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49 857</b>	<b>64 692</b>	<b>64 262</b>	<b>60 191</b>	<b>60 267</b>	<b>60 344</b>	<b>60 421</b>
of which :							
- Rural Development <sup>a), b), c), d), e)</sup>	5 298.9	18 183.7	18 683.7	14 371.2	14 381.0	14 690.6	14 709.4
- Market related expenditure and direct aids, <sup>a), b), c), d)</sup>	43 778.1	44 189.8	43 950.2	44 145.7	44 162.4	43 880.3	43 887.1

a) After net transfer of EUR 351.9 million between EAGF and EAFRD for the financial year 2014 (see note f for details)

b) After net transfer of EUR 51.6 million between EAGF and EAFRD for the financial year 2015 (see note f for details)

c) After net transfer of EUR 28 million between EAGF and EAFRD for the financial years 2014-2020 (see note f for details)

d) After net transfer of EUR 4 313.9 million between EAGF and EAFRD for financial years 2015-2020 (see note f for details)

e) After the reprogramming of the EAFRD allocation of year 2014 following the application of Article 19 of MFF Regulation (EU) No 1311/2013 a total amount of EUR 8 705 million deducted from 2014 commitments was equally distributed to 2015 and 2016 commitments

f) The transfers to rural development (EAFRD) mentioned in notes a) to d) above involve: EUR 4 million transferred annually for the whole period 2014-2020 from the cotton sector (Greece) on the basis of Article 66(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, EUR 296.3 million set for the voluntary adjustment transferred for the financial year 2014 (UK) on the basis of Article 10b and 10c(2) of Regulation (EC) No 73/2009, EUR 51.6 million for unspent amounts transferred each year for financial years 2014 and 2015 (SE and DE) on the basis of Articles 136 and 136b of Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 and EUR 4 313.9 million for the reduction of payments and the flexibility between pillars on the basis of Articles 7(2) and 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013

### 1.2. Draft Budget (DB) 2020

The Draft Budget (DB) 2020 was adopted by the Commission on 5 July 2019. It included EUR 14 699 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 13 120 million in payment appropriations for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) 2014-2020 programming period.

The Council adopted its position on the Draft Budget on 3 September 2019. On 15 October 2019 the Commission presented the Letter of Amendment No 1/2020 to the draft general budget. The European Parliament adopted its position on 23 October 2019. As in previous years, the Conciliation Committee had to be convened. The Conciliation Committee agreed on a joint text within the 21-day time-limit. The Council and the European Parliament approved the joint text respectively on 25 November and 27 November 2019.

### 1.3. The adoption of the 2020 Budget

The 2020 Budget adopted on 27 November 2019 was, as regards the EAFRD, equal to the Commission's Draft Budget both in commitment and payment appropriations.

Table 2

<b>Adopted Budget 2020</b>		
<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Commitment appropriations</b> (in EUR)	<b>Payment appropriations</b> (in EUR)
<b>2014-2020</b>		
05.046001 (Rural development programmes)	14.675.251.797	13.100.000.000
05.010404 (Non-operational technical assistance)	5.100.000	5.100.000
05.046002 (Operational technical assistance)	18.308.550	15.023.550

### 1.4. The adoption of the Amending Budgets

The Amending Budget No 9/2020 increased the payment appropriations for EAFRD rural development programmes by EUR 750 million.

Table 3

<b>Budget 2020 after the Amendments</b>		
<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Commitment appropriations</b> (in EUR)	<b>Payment appropriations</b> (in EUR)
<b>2014-2020</b>		
05.046001 (Rural development programmes)	14.675.251.797	13.850.000.000
05.010404 (Non-operational technical assistance)	5.100.000	5.100.000
05.046002 (Operational technical assistance)	18.308.550	15.023.550

## 2. MANAGEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS

### 2.1. Management of commitment appropriations

#### 2.1.1. EAFRD rural development programmes

As regards commitment appropriations for the EAFRD rural development programmes, the 2020 voted budget amounted to EUR 14 675 million, all related to the 2014-2020 programmes.

Table 4

<b>Management of commitment appropriations in 2020 – EAFRD</b>	<b>Budget Item 05.046001 (in EUR)</b>
Appropriations at the beginning of 2020	14.675.251.797
<b>Appropriations available in 2020</b>	<b>14.675.251.797</b>
Appropriations used in 2020	14.675.249.297

#### 2.1.2. Technical assistance

Article 51(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 provides that the EAFRD may use up to 0.25% of its annual allocation to finance technical assistance actions at the initiative of the Commission. In the 2020 budget, the initial amount available for this purpose was EUR 5.1 million for non-operational technical assistance and EUR 18.3 million for operational technical assistance.

### 2.2. Management of payment appropriations

#### 2.2.1. EAFRD rural development programmes

For the rural development programmes 2014-2020, the payment appropriations of the voted budget 2020 amounted to EUR 13 100 million. In addition, the available assigned revenue transferred from the previous year amounted to EUR 650 million and the assigned revenue collected during the year amounted to EUR 259 million. The payment appropriations were reinforced by the Amending Budget No 9/2020 in the amount of EUR 750 million, by the end-of-the year transfer for an amount of EUR 47 million, and by two transfers between and within budget chapters totalling EUR 3 million. Taking into account all transfers, the total amount of payment appropriations available in 2020 amounted to EUR 14 809 million. In total, EUR 14 569 million of payment appropriations were used and EUR 240 million of assigned revenue were automatically carried over from 2020 to 2021.

Table 5

<b>Management of payment appropriations in 2020 (in EUR)</b>	
<b>EAFRD (2014-2020) Budget Item - 05.046001</b>	
Appropriations at the beginning of 2020	13.100.000.000
Transfer from "EAFRD 2014-2020 Technical assistance" line	1.000.000
Autonomous Transfer between Chapters	2.173.788
Amending Budget No 9/2020	750.000.000
End-of-the year transfer	47.000.000
Assigned revenue carried over from 2019	650.019.733
Assigned revenue collected in 2020	259.118.386
<b>Appropriations available in 2020</b>	<b>14.809.311.907</b>
Appropriations used in 2020	14.569.480.584

### 2.2.2. *Technical assistance*

As regards the EAFRD technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, total payment appropriations in the 2020 budget amounted to EUR 20.1 million, including EUR 5.1 million for non-operational technical assistance and EUR 15.0 million for operational technical assistance. EUR 1 million was transferred to the EAFRD 2014-2020 programmes line to cover the payment needs. The final payment appropriations was therefore EUR 19.1 million.

## 3. **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2020 EAFRD BUDGET**

### 3.1. **Implementation of commitment appropriations**

#### 3.1.1. *EAFRD rural development programmes*

Table 6 shows, per Member State, the allocation established by Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2020/2220<sup>1</sup> and the amounts committed in 2020.

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 December 2020 laying down certain transitional provisions for support from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the years 2021 and 2022 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards resources and application in the years 2021 and 2022 and Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards resources and the distribution of such support in respect of the years 2021 and 2022

Table 6

<b>Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (as amended) vs. amounts committed by the end of 2020</b>		
<b>Budget item: 05.046001</b>		<i>(in EUR)</i>
<b>MS</b>	<b>Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 2020 Allocation</b>	<b>Amounts committed in 2020</b>
	<b>(a)</b>	<b>(b)</b>
BE	102.723.155	102.723.155
BG	338.990.216	338.990.216
CZ	321.615.103	321.615.103
DK	151.588.619	151.588.619
DE	1.394.588.766	1.394.588.766
EE	129.177.183	129.177.183
IE	312.570.314	312.567.814
GR	698.261.326	698.261.326
ES	1.183.394.067	1.183.394.067
FR	1.987.739.983	1.987.739.983
HR	282.342.500	282.342.500
IT	1.501.763.408	1.501.763.408
CY	18.881.481	18.881.481
LV	161.491.517	161.491.517
LT	264.151.386	264.151.386
LU	14.511.390	14.511.390
HU	486.662.895	486.662.895
MT	13.858.647	13.858.647
NL	147.976.388	147.976.388
AT	567.266.225	567.266.225
PL	1.187.301.202	1.187.301.202
PT	582.456.022	582.456.022
RO	1.139.927.194	1.139.927.194
SI	120.720.633	120.720.633
SK	214.524.943	214.524.943
FI	344.776.578	344.776.578
SE	249.818.786	249.818.786
UK	756.171.870	756.171.870
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.675.251.797</b>	<b>14.675.249.297</b>

### 3.1.2. *Technical assistance*

For the programming period 2014-2020, the amount of commitment appropriations for operational technical assistance in the budget 2020 was EUR 18.3 million. Table 7 shows the consumption of the commitment appropriations available for operational technical assistance in 2020 which reached EUR 17.9 million, i.e. an execution rate of almost 98%. The most important part relates to the European Network for Rural Development.

Table 7

<b><i>Technical assistance – Implementation of commitment appropriations</i></b>	
<b>Budget Item: 05.046002</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>(in EUR)</i></span>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount committed</b>
European Network for Rural Development	4.775.056
Information technology*	3.718.305
European Innovation Partnership	2.784.971
European Evaluation Network	2.600.000
Corporate Communication	1.845.000
Technical Advisory Platform for Financial Instruments	1.000.000
Audit and Controls	790.561
Organic agriculture database	350.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.863.893</b>

\* Including BCO (Broadband Competence Offices)

## **3.2. Implementation of payment appropriations**

### 3.2.1. *EAFRD rural development programmes*

For the programming period 2014-2020, EUR 14 569.5 million of the payment appropriations were implemented out of EUR 14 809.3 million available. Table 8 shows the breakdown of payments made in 2020 by declaration period:

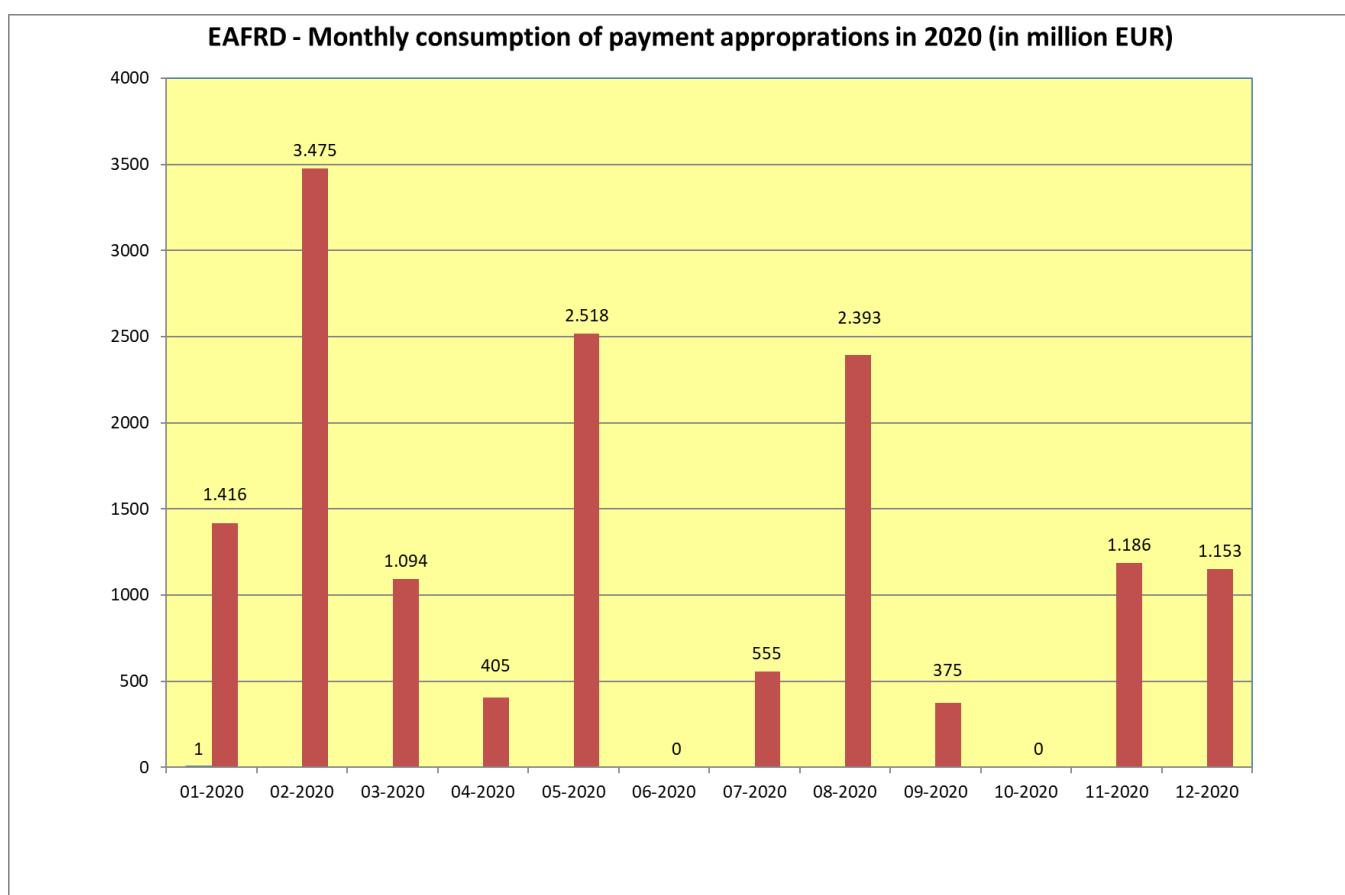


Table 8

<i>Payments 2020 for EAFRD rural development programmes (in million euro)</i>	<i>2014-2020</i>
Pre-financing 2014-2020	0
Reimbursement of payment claims prior to Q4 2019	22.441.523
Reimbursement of payment claims Q4 2019	5.981.516.332
Reimbursement of payment claims Q1 2020	2.922.983.665
Reimbursement of payment claims Q2 2020	3.322.894.277
Reimbursement of payment claims Q3 2020	2.319.644.788
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>14.569.480.584</b>

The monthly consumption of payment appropriations during the year (January to December 2020) is shown in the graph below.

Graph 1



The breakdown per Member State and per declaration period of the amounts paid by the Commission in budget year 2020 is shown in table 9.

Table 9

<b>Payments effectively made between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020</b>							
<b>EAFRD 2014-2020 - Budget item 05.046001</b>							<i>(in EUR)</i>
<b>MS</b>	<b>Pre-financing</b>	<b>Prior to Q4 2019</b>	<b>Q4 2019</b>	<b>Q1 2020</b>	<b>Q2 2020</b>	<b>Q3 2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>BE</b>	0	0	22.633.637	10.221.656	40.811.406	14.917.338	<b>88.584.037</b>
<b>BG</b>	0	0	94.619.801	51.059.351	95.970.799	61.377.146	<b>303.027.096</b>
<b>CZ</b>	0	1.243.302	66.331.120	211.947.392	89.585.660	35.016.907	<b>404.124.382</b>
<b>DK</b>	0	0	21.342.768	12.793.460	44.177.209	17.520.232	<b>95.833.669</b>
<b>DE</b>	0	430.665	624.801.406	297.773.284	262.169.493	171.301.611	<b>1.356.476.457</b>
<b>EE</b>	0	0	15.254.158	61.804.881	12.081.589	12.200.744	<b>101.341.372</b>
<b>IE</b>	0	0	171.904.352	26.221.747	37.750.130	97.958.687	<b>333.834.915</b>
<b>GR</b>	0	0	301.201.105	31.003.387	161.172.170	34.891.842	<b>528.268.504</b>
<b>ES</b>	0	0	575.993.456	129.280.942	314.284.640	202.042.142	<b>1.221.601.180</b>
<b>FR</b>	0	0	992.915.242	521.246.584	228.144.822	191.920.935	<b>1.934.227.583</b>
<b>HR</b>	0	0	69.679.464	101.844.879	126.288.667	61.411.910	<b>359.224.921</b>
<b>IT</b>	0	0	729.100.663	173.700.502	372.107.248	251.226.035	<b>1.526.134.448</b>
<b>CY</b>	0	0	7.094.755	3.052.288	8.251.714	3.642.307	<b>22.041.064</b>
<b>LV</b>	0	0	46.977.275	48.061.379	24.424.327	30.510.745	<b>149.973.725</b>
<b>LT</b>	0	153.698	79.488.127	38.080.698	49.374.943	22.808.338	<b>189.905.805</b>
<b>LU</b>	0	0	3.900.347	7.570.284	1.263.740	1.418.748	<b>14.153.119</b>
<b>HU</b>	0	0	183.849.875	98.429.983	176.016.151	107.181.921	<b>565.477.931</b>
<b>MT</b>	0	0	7.440.934	3.339.672	4.050.328	3.227.108	<b>18.058.042</b>
<b>NL</b>	0	0	16.136.441	75.676.544	15.845.200	21.665.878	<b>129.324.063</b>
<b>AT</b>	0	0	310.789.074	52.258.576	162.850.408	47.217.105	<b>573.115.163</b>
<b>PL</b>	0	0	351.293.769	331.932.216	279.575.300	243.321.308	<b>1.206.122.592</b>
<b>PT</b>	0	0	287.699.963	78.112.241	67.895.350	146.053.311	<b>579.760.866</b>
<b>RO</b>	0	18.718.168	348.319.324	211.016.820	291.275.824	281.791.057	<b>1.151.121.193</b>
<b>SI</b>	0	0	41.040.385	14.201.301	47.863.785	22.621.068	<b>125.726.538</b>
<b>SK</b>	0	0	58.401.782	45.723.277	57.913.820	31.663.011	<b>193.701.890</b>
<b>FI</b>	0	0	139.532.558	26.429.828	60.090.058	79.079.919	<b>305.132.363</b>
<b>SE</b>	0	0	194.056.782	57.298.926	43.686.324	31.096.244	<b>326.138.276</b>
<b>UK</b>	0	1.895.690	219.717.771	202.901.568	247.973.172	94.561.192	<b>767.049.393</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22.441.523</b>	<b>5.981.516.332</b>	<b>2.922.983.665</b>	<b>3.322.894.277</b>	<b>2.319.644.788</b>	<b>14.569.480.584</b>

Table 10 compares, for each Member State, the EAFRD 2014-2020 payments made in 2020 with the payments in 2019. Overall, the payments increased by 5% compared to year 2019 (EUR 14.6 billion vs. EUR 13.8 billion).

Table 10

Payments made to Member States - Comparison 2020 vs 2019 - <u>EAFRD 2014-2020</u>							(in EUR)	
MS	2019			2020			Difference 2020 vs. 2019	
	Interim payments	Pre-financing	Total	Interim payments	Pre-financing	Total	(in €)	(in %)
BE	78.872.428	0	78.872.428	88.584.037	0	88.584.037	9.711.609	12,31%
BG	308.634.763	0	308.634.763	303.027.096	0	303.027.096	-5.607.667	-1,82%
CZ	393.828.050	0	393.828.050	404.124.382	0	404.124.382	10.296.332	2,61%
DK	101.066.664	0	101.066.664	95.833.669	0	95.833.669	-5.232.995	-5,18%
DE	1.273.596.303	0	1.273.596.303	1.356.476.457	0	1.356.476.457	82.880.155	6,51%
EE	124.908.745	0	124.908.745	101.341.372	0	101.341.372	-23.567.374	-18,87%
IE	324.022.439	0	324.022.439	333.834.915	0	333.834.915	9.812.476	3,03%
GR	411.413.602	0	411.413.602	528.268.504	0	528.268.504	116.854.902	28,40%
ES	1.165.619.770	0	1.165.619.770	1.221.601.180	0	1.221.601.180	55.981.410	4,80%
FR	2.060.819.582	2.703.993	2.063.523.575	1.934.227.583	0	1.934.227.583	-129.295.992	-6,27%
HR	299.635.531	0	299.635.531	359.224.921	0	359.224.921	59.589.389	19,89%
IT	1.449.081.121	0	1.449.081.121	1.526.134.448	0	1.526.134.448	77.053.327	5,32%
CY	20.952.824	0	20.952.824	22.041.064	0	22.041.064	1.088.240	5,19%
LV	206.475.667	0	206.475.667	149.973.725	0	149.973.725	-56.501.942	-27,36%
LT	181.240.364	10.800	181.251.164	189.905.805	0	189.905.805	8.654.641	4,77%
LU	14.481.595	0	14.481.595	14.153.119	0	14.153.119	-328.475	-2,27%
HU	511.369.533	0	511.369.533	565.477.931	0	565.477.931	54.108.398	10,58%
MT	19.429.947	0	19.429.947	18.058.042	0	18.058.042	-1.371.905	-7,06%
NL	90.398.504	0	90.398.504	129.324.063	0	129.324.063	38.925.559	43,06%
AT	538.171.765	0	538.171.765	573.115.163	0	573.115.163	34.943.398	6,49%
PL	1.092.284.985	0	1.092.284.985	1.206.122.592	0	1.206.122.592	113.837.608	10,42%
PT	523.049.233	0	523.049.233	579.760.866	0	579.760.866	56.711.633	10,84%
RO	967.073.048	0	967.073.048	1.151.121.193	0	1.151.121.193	184.048.145	19,03%
SI	120.096.847	0	120.096.847	125.726.538	0	125.726.538	5.629.691	4,69%
SK	209.361.675	0	209.361.675	193.701.890	0	193.701.890	-15.659.785	-7,48%
FI	351.173.513	0	351.173.513	305.132.363	0	305.132.363	-46.041.151	-13,11%
SE	226.298.189	0	226.298.189	326.138.276	0	326.138.276	99.840.087	44,12%
UK	773.925.472	0	773.925.472	767.049.393	0	767.049.393	-6.876.079	-0,89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.837.282.157</b>	<b>2.714.793</b>	<b>13.839.996.951</b>	<b>14.569.480.584</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14.569.480.584</b>	<b>729.483.634</b>	<b>5,27%</b>

### 3.2.2. Technical assistance

For the programming period 2014-2020, the amount for payment appropriations available in budget year 2020 for the operational technical assistance was EUR 15.0 million, out of which EUR 1.0 million was transferred to the rural development programmes under EAFRD 2014-2020 line. The final implementation amounted to EUR 12.9 million, i.e. an execution rate of more than 92%.

Table 11 hereafter presents the payments grouped by main activities. The most important part relates to the European Network for Rural Development.

Table 11

<b>Technical assistance – Implementation of payment appropriations</b>	
<b>Budget Item: 05.046002</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>(in EUR)</i></span>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount paid</b>
European Network for Rural Development	3.784.172
Information technology*	2.813.592
European Innovation Partnership	2.115.898
European Evaluation Network	1.537.740
Corporate Communication	1.520.000
Audit and Controls	695.650
Organic agriculture database	210.000
Technical Advisory Platform for Financial Instruments	209.819
LIFE Programme	53.380
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.940.251</b>

\* Including BCO (Broadband Competence Offices)

### 3.3. Analysis of expenditure declared by measure

Table 12 shows the EAFRD payment claims declared by Member State and by measure in 2020 (4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019 to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020), the cumulative declared expenditure from the beginning of the programming period and also the financial plan of EAFRD 2014-2020 programmes.

The expenditure for EAFRD 2014-2020 in 2020 was concentrated mainly in Measure 04 (Investments in physical assets), in Measure 13 (Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints) and in Measure 10 (Agri-environment-climate).

Table 12

EAFRD declared expenditure 2020 (Q4 2019-Q3 2020) & Total cumulative expenditure (Q4 2014 to Q3 2020) compared with Financial Plans - EAFRD 2014-2020							
		Declared expenditure 2020 (Q4 2019 to Q3 2020)		Cumulative declared expenditure (Q4 2014 to Q3 2020)		Financial Plans 2014- 2020	
EAFRD Measure		(million €)	(%)	(million €)	(%)	(million €)	(%)
Measure 01	Knowledge transfer and information actions	96,1	0,7%	346,7	0,6%	910,7	0,9%
Measure 02	Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services	37,0	0,3%	124,0	0,2%	455,6	0,5%
Measure 03	Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs	41,9	0,3%	140,6	0,2%	337,7	0,3%
Measure 04	Investments in physical assets	3.038,2	20,9%	11.004,0	17,8%	22.293,2	22,3%
Measure 05	Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events and introduction of appropriate prevention actions	74,3	0,5%	310,1	0,5%	769,3	0,8%
Measure 06	Farm and business development	936,3	6,4%	3.775,1	6,1%	6.602,8	6,6%
Measure 07	Basic services and village renewal in rural areas	999,9	6,9%	3.403,1	5,5%	6.883,1	6,9%
Measure 08	Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests	399,6	2,7%	1.835,6	3,0%	3.855,3	3,9%
Measure 09	Setting-up of producer groups and organisations	31,8	0,2%	105,2	0,2%	255,1	0,3%
Measure 10	Agri-environment-climate	2.564,3	17,6%	12.405,8	20,1%	16.452,5	16,4%
Measure 11	Organic farming	1.313,8	9,0%	5.521,3	8,9%	7.529,1	7,5%
Measure 12	Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments	87,8	0,6%	428,7	0,7%	579,3	0,6%
Measure 13	Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints	2.842,3	19,5%	14.758,0	23,9%	17.322,8	17,3%
Measure 14	Animal Welfare	318,8	2,2%	1.471,2	2,4%	1.866,6	1,9%
Measure 15	Forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation	37,5	0,3%	84,1	0,1%	233,2	0,2%
Measure 16	Co-operation	161,0	1,1%	407,1	0,7%	1.626,6	1,6%
Measure 17	Risk management	336,1	2,3%	1.220,5	2,0%	1.611,0	1,6%
Measure 18	Financing of complementary national direct payments for Croatia	-0,1	0,0%	108,1	0,2%	108,1	0,1%
Measure 19	Support for LEADER local development — community-led local development (CLLD)	919,0	6,3%	2.770,4	4,5%	7.010,2	7,0%
Measure 20	Technical assistance Member States	309,7	2,1%	1.103,5	1,8%	2.155,6	2,2%
Measure 21	Exceptional temporary relief to farmers and SMEs active in processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products particularly affected by the COVID-19 crisis (art 39b)	0,0	0,0%	0,0	0,0%	730,1	0,7%
Measure 113	Early retirement	26,4	0,2%	428,6	0,7%	474,4	0,5%
Measure 131	Meeting standards based on Community legislation	0,0	0,0%	0,0	0,0%	0,0	0,0%
Measure 341	Skills acquisition, animation and implementation	0,0	0,0%	0,5	0,0%	0,6	0,0%
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>14.571,8</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>61.752,2</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>100.063,0</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Member States declare their expenditure quarterly. However, for year n, Q4 declarations are submitted in January of year n+1. Consequently, the corresponding reimbursements by the Commission to the Member States in year n go from Q4 of year n-1 until Q3 of year n.

### **3.4. Implementation of EAFRD programmes**

Graph 2 presents the absorption rate of rural development programmes 2014-2020 per Member State: payments from the beginning of the programming period including payments made for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 that are reimbursed in financial year 2021 compared to the total 2014-2020 allocation.

There were no new de-commitments done in 2020. The total amount of decommitment since the beginning of the programming period 2014-2020 equals EUR 16.5 million.

Overall, the implementation of the EAFRD 2014-2020 rural development programmes reached by end 2020 on average an absorption rate of 71%. Programmes are generally well on track in terms of implementation, with the variation in the averages per Member State illustrated in graph 2 below.

**Graph 2 - Absorption rate of 2014-2020 RD programmes by Member State  
 (% of the EAFRD payments including payment claims Q4'2020  
 compared to 2014-2020 allocations)**

