



# RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

## 2007 - 2013

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Ministry of Agriculture



**Rural Development  
2007 - 2013**

**4. ass - LEADER**

**Axis 1  
Competitive  
ness**

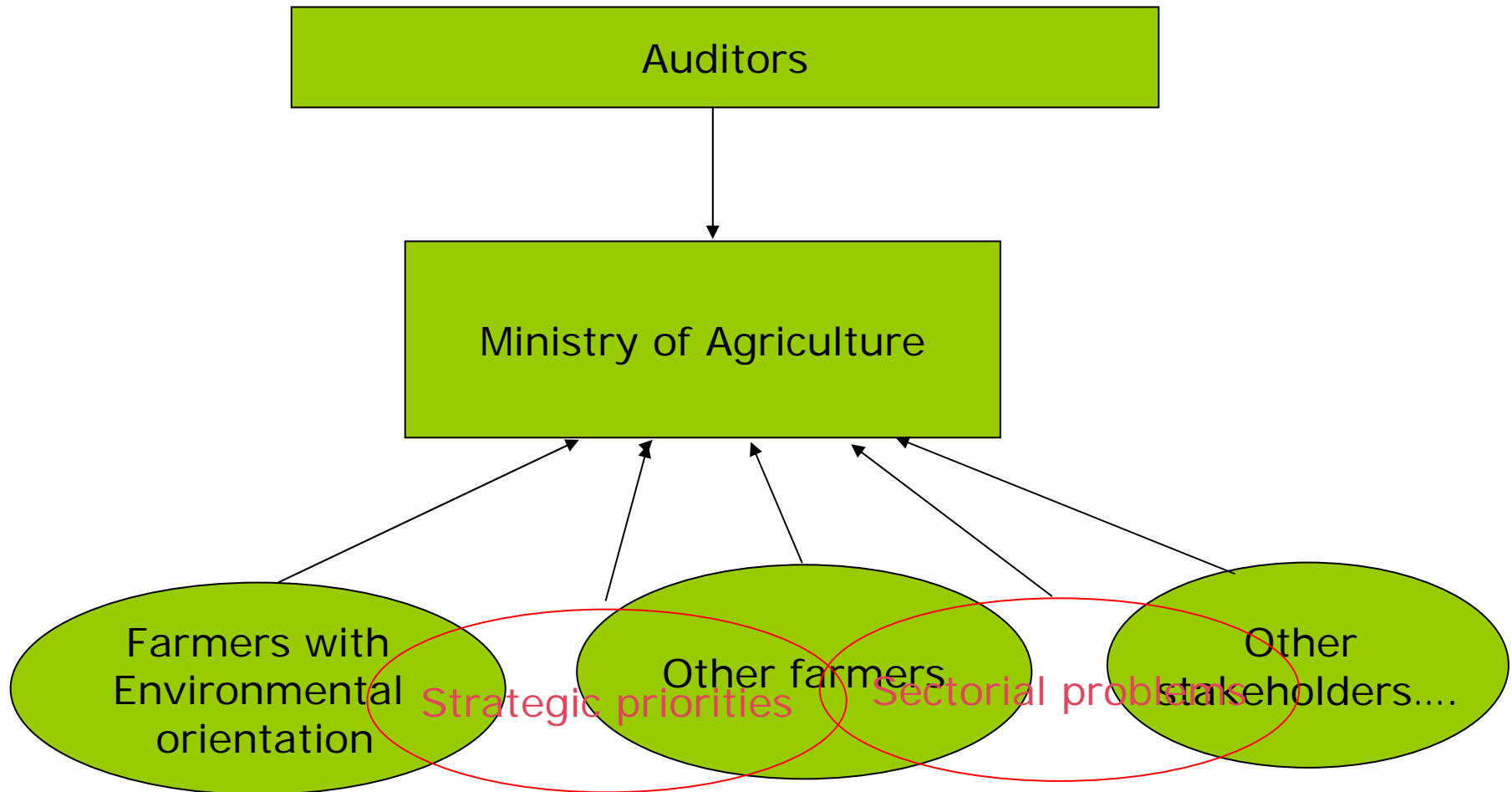
**Axis 2  
Environment +  
Land  
management**

**Axis 3  
Economic  
diversification +  
Quality of Life**

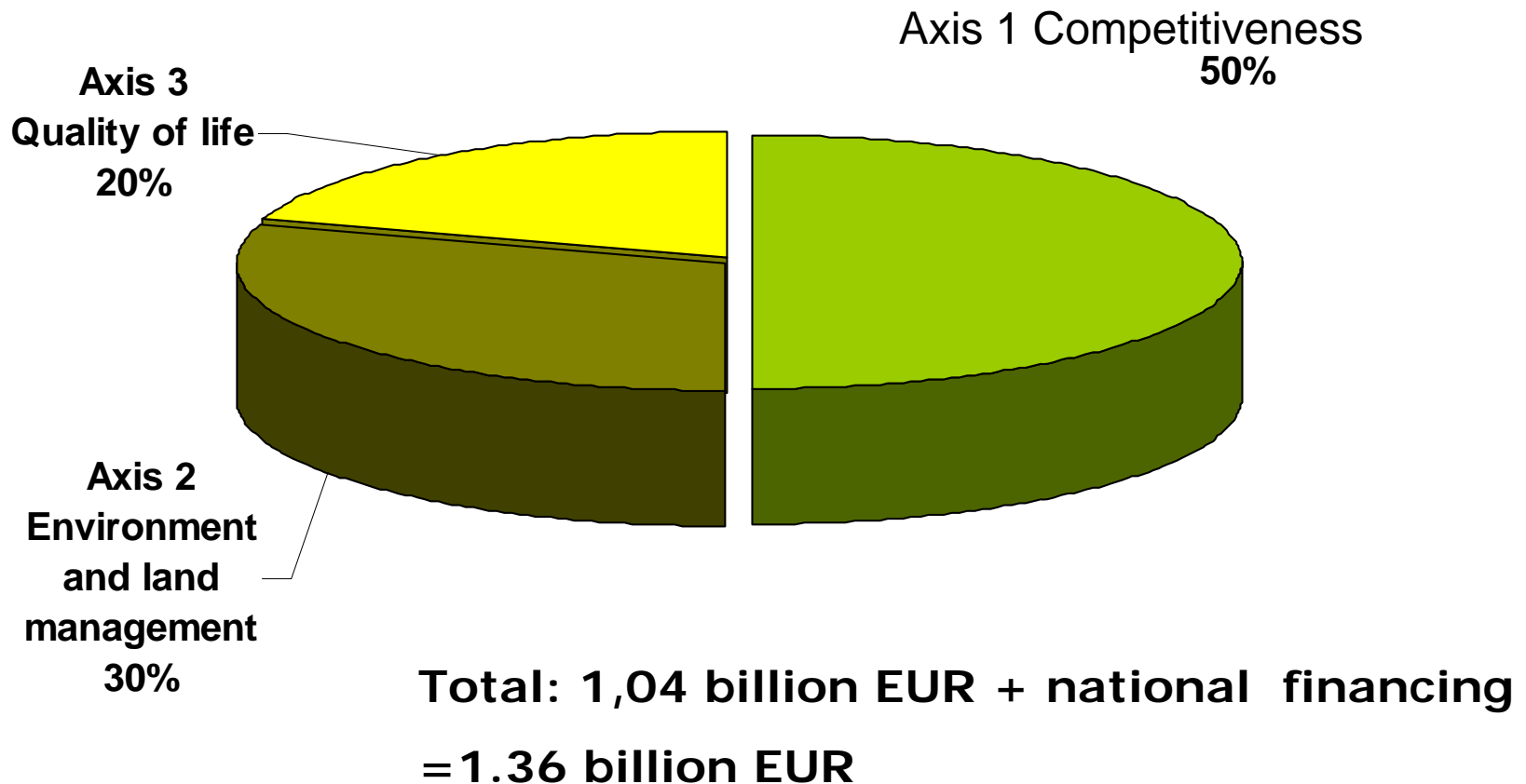
**European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

# How does the decisions is made?

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# European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)



# Axis 2: Environment and land management

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212	LFA other than mountain areas	137 476 000
213	Natura 2000 payments	12 878 250
214	Agri-environmental payments	160 063 209
223	First afforestation of non agricultural land	16 218 160
224	Natura 2000 payments Forest	22 186 703
225	Forests environment payments	0
226	Natural disasters prevention/restoring forest	16 218 116
<b>Total Axis 2 Improving the environment and the countryside</b>		<b>365 040 438</b>

# What does Agri-Environment includes?

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- ❑ Development of organic farming;
- ❑ Introducing and promoting of integrated horticulture;
- ❑ Maintaining biodiversity of grasslands;
- ❑ Stable field in winter period;

## Out of State Aid

- ❑ Buffer belts along waterlines;
- ❑ Maintaining genetic resources of agricultural livestock (local breads)

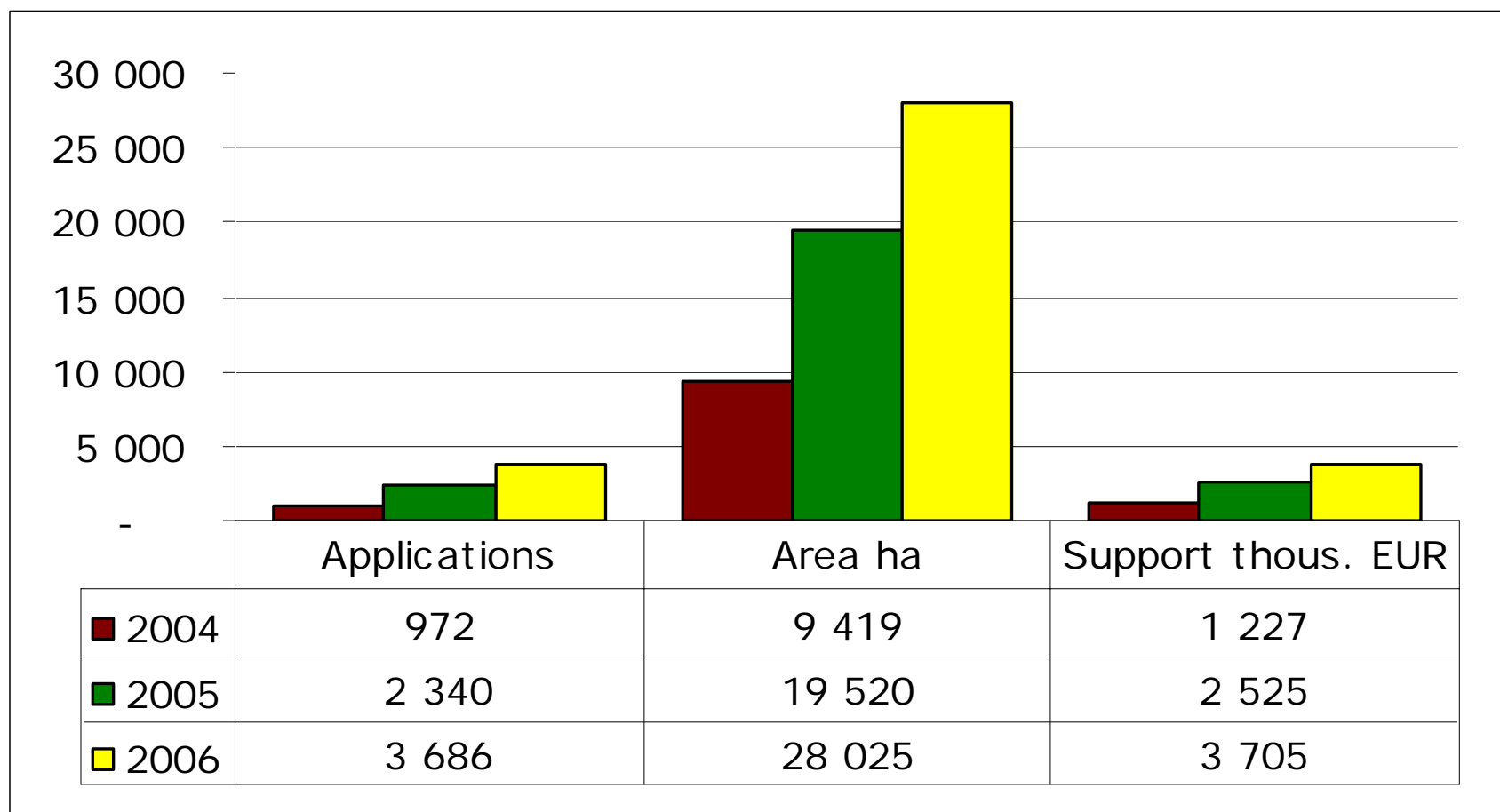


# Agri-environment payments

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- Support for managing biologically valuable grasslands in the sub-measure “Maintaining Biodiversity in Grasslands” is provided since 2004
- The management measures of natural meadows are:
  - *Late mowing* (the optimum mowing time is after July 15, when the bird nesting season is over and the seeds of the most flowering plants have ripened);
  - *Extensive grazing* (reduced load of grazing intensity not exceeding 0.9 livestock units per hectare) improves structural variety of sward creating new nesting grounds for birds

# Sub-measure “Maintaining Biodiversity in Grasslands”





# Sub-measure “Maintaining Biodiversity in Grasslands”

- Differences between the programming periods 2004 – 2006 and 2007 – 2013

	RDP 2004-2006	RDP 2007-2013
<i>Late mowing</i>		
Mowing dates	July 10 – September 10	August 1 – September 15
Support rate	138 EUR/ha	113 EUR/ha
<i>Extensive grazing (this is what we prefer!!!)</i>		
Grazing intensity	0,65 – 0,74 LU/ha	0,4 – 0,9 LU/ha
Support rate	138 EUR/ha	133 EUR/ha

Glad that Latvian farmers do not participate here!

# What does farmer receive actually :

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- ❑ Maintaining biodiversity of grasslands – 133 EUR
- ❑ Single area payment- 37 EUR
- ❑ LFA – 0-64 EUR
- ❑ Suckling cow premium – 0-131 EUR

**Total payment 170-365 EUR**



Too little or too much?

# What policy could be in the future?

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- Most probably agri-environmental schemas will be in place;
- Risk – preference of farmer to use the land as arable land – is not solved by increase of support rates
- Other instruments to be used:
  - Fiscal policy
  - Spatial planning

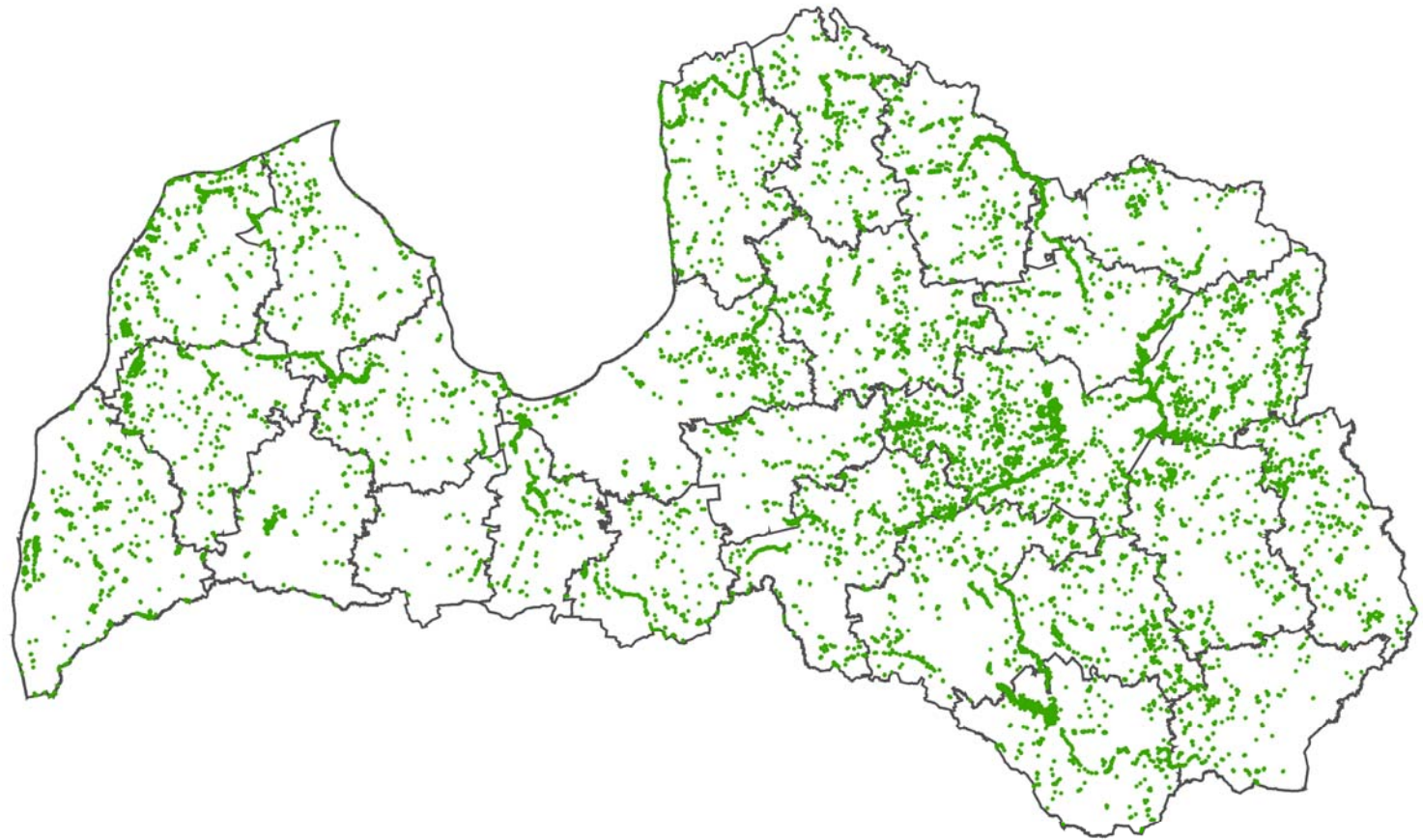
# Project “Determination of new biologically valuable grasslands”

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- Ministry of Agriculture finance project “Determination of new biologically valuable grasslands” in 2005 and 2006.
  - Project was carried out by Latvian Fund of Nature
  - Year 2005 – were inspected grasslands in the area of 23 970 ha. 8 557 ha of grasslands were accepted as biologically valuable grasslands (36 % of all inspected grasslands)
  - Year 2006 – were inspected grasslands in the area of 13 601 ha. 5 344 ha of grasslands were accepted as biologically valuable grasslands (40 % of all inspected grasslands)

# Biologically valuable grasslands

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# Project “Differentiation of biologically valuable grasslands”

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Grasslands differ by:

- water level;
- topography;
- other .....

- It results in different work time and costs to maintain grassland
- Aim to differentiate support rates



**Thank you for your attention!**

# Questions to discuss:

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- ❑ Is chopping of moved grass suitable for grasslands?
- ❑ Can the area of restored grassland be included in the agri-environmental schema? (requirement of land to be in good environmental and agricultural land on June 30, 2003. This is area eligible for SAP.)
- ❑ Grassland fields are not perfect. They includes different landscape elements like separate tress, wetland spots and so on. Is those landscape elements included in eligible area are not to receive a subsidy?