

SWG – RRD and GTZ ORF
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**Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Bulgaria**
**State measures for development of sheep and goat
breeding sector**

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Main documents for Rural Development for the period 2007-2013

- National Strategy Plan for Rural Development 2007-2013 (NSPRD);
 - Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (RDP);
 - Ordinances for implementation of the measures under RDP;
 - Guidelines for application under the measures, included in the RDP 2007-2013;
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Rural Development Programme (2007-2013)

- Implementation of the NSPRD and achievement of the strategic objectives, laid down in it through measures, combined in four priority axes:
 - ✓ **Axis1** “Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector”;
 - ✓ **Axis 2** “Improving the environment and the countryside”
 - ✓ **Axis 3** “Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy”;
 - ✓ **Axis 4** “LEADER”.
- **Period of implementation** – from the date of it’s official approval by EC to 31 December, 2013 – approval of projects and to end of 2015 – payment of projects

Measures for development of sheep and goat breeding sector under RDP 2007-2013

Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

112- Setting up of Young Farmers;

121- Modernization of Agricultural Holdings;

141- Semi – Subsistence Farming;

142- Setting up Producer Groups;

Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

214- Agrienvironmental Payments;

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112 – Setting up young Farmers

- ***Objectives of the measure***

- *To facilitate the process of setting up by young farmers;*
- *To support the process of modernization and compliance with the Community requirements for safety at work, environmental protection, hygiene and animal welfare in the agricultural holdings of young farmers.*

- ***Scope***

- *On the whole territory of the country*

- ***Actions***

- *Support under this measure shall be granted to young farmers setting up on an agricultural holding for the first time as head of the holding.*
- *The application should be submitted not later than 14 months after the date of setting up*
- *Financial support shall not be granted under this measure to beneficiaries whose holdings are jointly owned/rented with another person/other persons, with the exception of husband/wife joint ownership/rents. In this latter case only one member of the husband/wife couple can be supported even if both meet the conditions for support under the measure.*

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- **Definition of beneficiaries**

- *To be registered as agricultural producers under the Law for Support of Agricultural Producers;*
 - *To have an economic size of holding of at least 2.00 ESU. Any land taken into consideration for calculating the minimum 2 ESU shall have documents of ownership and/or concluded renting/leasing contracts for a minimum period of 5 years*
 - *To be at least 18 years and less than 40 years of age at the date of submission of the application;*
 - *To have adequate occupational skills and competence;*
 - *To fulfil the conditions for setting up (see below);*
 - *To submit a business plan for the development of their farming activities;*
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- ***Amount of support***

The maximum total amount of support under the measure cannot exceed EUR 25 000 per beneficiary

- ***Choice of payment***

- *The support will be in the form of a single premium, with payment divided into two instalments:*
 - *First instalment - EUR 12 500 shall be paid after the approval of the application for support;*
 - *Second instalment - Will be paid after the review for compliance with the business plan. EUR 2 500 will be paid for every ESU increase of the holding's economic size (compared to the initial situation).*
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121 – Modernization of Agricultural Holdings

- ***Objectives of the measure***

- *To improve the overall performance and competitiveness of the agricultural holdings through modernization of the factors of production, and the introduction of new processes and technologies, targeting production of quality agricultural products;*
 - *To improve the protection of the environment;*
 - *To promote the respect of Community standards and improvement of conditions on the agricultural holdings, especially related to occupational health and safety, hygiene and animal welfare.*
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Measures for development of sheep and goat breeding sector under the RDP 2007-2013

- **Definition of beneficiaries**

- Agricultural producers
- Agricultural producer groups

- **Eligibility criteria**

- Agricultural producers
- ☑ The applicants should be registered as agricultural producers under the LSAP.
- ☑ The economic size of the holdings of applicants should be at least 1. ESU.
- ☑ The applicants have to meet the criteria for the minimum area eligible for payments under SAPS, except for applicants who have been approved for support under the Measure 141 Supporting Semi-Subsistence Farms Undergoing Restructuring.
- ☑ The applicants who are legal entities should have received at least 50% of their total income in the previous year from agricultural activities, processing of agricultural products and/or services connected directly with agricultural activities.
- ☑ Applicants have to submit a business plan as part of the application process. The business plan should contain a detailed description of the planned investment and related activities. The business plan should demonstrate in what way the implementation of the project will lead to the improvement of the overall performance of the agricultural holding.

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➤ *Agricultural producer groups*

- ☑ *The applicant-producer group has to be recognised as producer group according to the national ordinances and/or EU Regulations for the recognition of producer groups.*
 - ☑ *The applicant-producer group has to submit a business plan as part of the application process. The business plan must contain a detailed description of planned investments and activities. The business plan has to demonstrate in what way the implementation of the project will lead to the improvement of the overall performance of the agricultural holdings of the members of the producer group;*
 - ☑ *The applicant-producer group has to demonstrate that the investments will benefit the entire group;*
 - ☑ *The investments should be related to main on farm activities of producer group members.*
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- *Aid intensity*

1. **For projects approved on or before 31.12.2009:**

According to Annex VIII Section II point 2 of the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania, the total amount of grant aid shall represent:

- *65% of the total eligible expenditure for young farmers in less-favoured areas;*
- *60% of the total eligible expenditure for other agricultural producers in less-favoured areas;*
- *60% of the total eligible expenditure for young farmers in Natura 2000 sites outside the less-favoured areas;*
- *55% of the total eligible expenditure for young farmers in other areas;*
- *50% of the total eligible expenditure for other agricultural producers in other areas;*

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2. For projects approved after 01.01.2010:

The total amount of grant aid shall represent:

- *60% of the total eligible expenditure for young farmers in less-favoured areas and /or in Natura 2000 sites;*
 - *50% of the total eligible expenditure for young farmers in other areas;*
 - *50% of the total eligible expenditure for other agricultural producers in less-favoured areas and/or in Natura 2000 sites;*
 - *40% of the total eligible expenditure for other agricultural producers in other areas.*
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- **The maximum total eligible expenditure for the whole period of the implementation of the RDP is EUR 1 500 000 per beneficiary under this measure.**
 - **The minimum total eligible expenditure is EUR 3 500 per project.**
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141- Supporting Semi-Subsistence Farms Undergoing Restructuring

- **Objectives**

To restructure semi-subsistence farms into viable commercial holdings.

- **Definition of the semi-subsistence farm**

- their economic size is between 1.00 to 4.00 ESU (inclusive),
- meet the criteria for the minimum area eligible for payments under SAPS and/or LFA,
- cultivate at least two types of agricultural crops or at least one type of agricultural crop and breed one animal species,
- they are owned/leased by an individual at age up to 60 years (including);
- not one of the cultivated agricultural crops accounts for above 85% of the total economic size of the holding.
- This requirement is fulfilled if applicant cultivates at least 0.5 ha agricultural land in Mountain LFA and/or 0.5 ha permanent crops including vineyards and/or 1 ha in other areas.

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- **Additional eligibility criteria for beneficiaries**
 - *To be registered as an agricultural producer under the Law for Support of Agricultural Producers minimum 1 month before the date of application ;*
 - *To submit a business plan containing details of required investments and activities and/or desirable targets to be reached in the next 5 years of the development of the farm business;*
 - *To submit documents of ownership and/or renting/leasing contracts for the land which is included under calculation of the minimum required eligible cultivated area. The period of the concluded renting/leasing contracts must be for a minimum period of 5 years, from the date of submission of the application.*
 - *To submit documents of ownership and/or renting/leasing contracts for the animal breeding buildings and premises used in agricultural production activities.*

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- **Definition of the future economic viability**

- *At the end of the 5-year support the agricultural holding should prove it is economically viable.*
- *An economically viable farm holding is an agricultural holding, which at the end of the period of support has reached and/or exceeded an economic size of 4.00 ESU and has also increased its size by at least 3 ESU in comparison with its size at time of application for support.*

- **Amount of support**

- *Amount of support for semi-subsistence farms is a flat-rate aid of EUR 1 500 per agricultural holding per year.*

- **Duration of support**

- *Support is payable for a maximum of 5 years. After the 3rd year the Paying Agency will check if the beneficiary complies with the mid-term objectives set out in the business plan and will approve the last two payments only if the mid-term objectives are fully accomplished at the end of the 3rd year.*

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Axes 2: Traditional Livestock Breeding Scheme

- ***Environmental Objectives:***

- *To maintain genetic resources by increasing the numbers of breeding animals of specified local traditional breeds which are in danger of further decline in numbers and, in some cases could be lost for farming;*
 - *To support those local traditional breeds which are well-adapted to the poor conditions of mountain agriculture and have the potential to play an important role in the mountainous of traditional grazing systems in mountainous and semi-mountainous areas;*
 - *To preserve genetic resources naturally adapted to the local and regional conditions*
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- **Geographical Scope:**

- *Whole territory of Bulgaria*

- **Management Requirements:**

The following livestock breeds are in danger of being lost for farming

- Cattle
 - Buffalo
 - Sheep
 - Goat
 - Horse
 - Swine
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- Support will only be given to animals that have a “certificate of origin” issued in accordance to the Animal husbandry act. The following management requirements will apply:
- avoid any cross-breeding of female animals supported by payments from this package – only certified pure-breds will be supported;
- crossbreeding is allowed for the culled females with permission of the corresponding breeding association or Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction;
- application of breeding programme for the relevant breed;
- keep a record of the sales and purchases of all livestock on the farm;
- notify and obtain written permission from the Breeding associations and the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction before slaughtering or selling any livestock supported by payments from this sub-measure;
- restriction of free grazing of pigs outside the specially appointed sites for that purpose;
- closely follow all guidelines and technical advice of the regional offices and responsible authorities concerning the health and welfare of the animals supported by payments from this package.

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- **Expected Environmental Impact:**

- *Increase of the number of the endangered breeds and preservation of their breed pureness.*

- **Payment Rates:**

Payments per year per LU:

- *Cattle and buffalo – 200 EUR /LU*
- *Sheep and goats – 165 EUR/LU*
- *Swine – 122 EUR/LU*
- *Horse – 200 EUR/LU*

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Traditional Shepherd Systems (Mountain Pastoralism) LB2

- **Environmental Objectives:**

- *To support traditional patterns of seasonal grazing of high nature value natural and semi-natural pastures in specified mountain regions using national breeds and methods;*
 - *To apply the grazing as a tool for conservation and maintenance of habitats and species in the high mountain;*
 - *To promote the use of traditional breeds that are capable of grazing in the harsh mountain conditions;*
 - *To promote the use of Karakachan Dogs as an efficient and environmentally-friendly method of protecting domestic livestock from attack by big predators (wolves, bears, jackals and lynxes);*
 - *To enhance biodiversity in the pastures in specified mountain regions.*
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- **Geographical Scope:**

This is proposed as a pilot scheme and support payments will only be available in specified areas suitable for the implementation of mountain pastoralism where there:

- *are significant areas of high mountain pasture under threat from abandonment;*
 - *are predator populations that conflict with grazing animals;*
 - *is the possibility for making the necessary grazing agreements between local farmers/shepherds and the owner of the high mountain pastures – notably the National Park Directorate.*
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- **Beneficiaries:**

- *Farmers, natural persons or legal entities that own grazing livestock (sheep, cattle and horses) and have annual grazing licence with the owner of the high altitude pastures (e.g. National Park Directorates). Grazing contracts of at least 5 years are recommended, but shorter periods can be accepted at the risk of the beneficiary)*

- **Management requirements:**

- *The shepherd (farmer) shall have at least 50 sheep or 10 cattle or 10 horses or combination of them but not less than 10 LSU (mixed cattle, horses and/or sheep):*
- *1 LSU can contribute for grazing of 1 ha, e.g. payments will be granted following the ratio 1LSU=1 ha;*
- *The farmer /shepherd shall keep records of animal losses;*

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- *The farmer/shepherd must graze their livestock on the designated mountain pastures for at least 3 months of the year (e.g. May – October). Shorter periods will be permitted according to seasonal conditions (e.g. a late spring or early autumn);*
- *The shepherd (farmer) could own at least two Karakachan Dogs (a breeding pair) for protection of livestock against predator attack. The actual number of dogs must be proportional to the total number of sheep or cattle requiring protection. A pair of Karakachan Dogs will guard up to 100 sheep or 30 cattle, with an additional dog required per 100 additional sheep or 30 additional cows;*
- *The Karakachan Dogs will be “working dogs” that are fully socialised with the herd/flock of cattle/sheep and following them constantly;*
- *In order to receive the additional payment for Karakachan dogs, the dogs will have to have pedigree by the recognized association;*
- *The shepherd must avoid any cross-breeding of the Karakachan dogs supported by payments from this package (only certified pure-breds will be supported) and keep a record of the sales and purchases of all dogs.*

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- **Expected Environmental Impact:**

- *Increased utilisation of high mountain pastures leading to maintenance of a) the high nature value of the mountainous grassland communities and b) the traditional 'open' mountain landscapes;*
- *Increased numbers of local traditional breeds including Karakachan Dogs;*

- **Payment Rates:**

Payments per year per ha:

- *100 EUR/ha (following the ration 1LSU = 1ha)*
- *110 EUR/ha with dogs (following the ratio 1LSU=1ha)*

For additional information:

www.mzgar.government.bg

Section “Rural Areas”

Thank you for your attention !
