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REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

2014-2020 PROGRAMMING PERIOD

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2014-2020**

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

2015

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Table of Contents

1 Content and objectives of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	4
1.1 Choice of the rural development measures	4
1.1 Strategic environmental Assessment process	5
1.2 Interaction with the ex ante evaluation	6
2 SEA methodology to assess and guarantee environmental sustainability of the RDP	7
2.1 Analysis of the current state of the environment	7
2.2 Evaluation of the environmental sustainability	7
3 Environmental impact evaluation of the RDP 2014-2020	11
3.1 Priority 1: “fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas”	11
3.2 Priority 2: “Enhancing the competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability”	13
3.3 Priority 3: “Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture”	15
3.4 Priority 4: “Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry”	17
3.5 Priority 5: “Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors”	19
3.6 Priority 6: “Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas” .	21
3.7 Overall Evaluation of the environmental sustainability of RDP 2014-2020	23
4 Adaptation, mitigation and orientation measures.....	24
5 Reasons for selecting the alternatives.....	25
6 Description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring	26

1 CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2014-2020

The Sardinia Rural Development Programme (hereafter the Programme), in line with the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, promotes competitive development, consistent with the identity and the peculiarities of Sardinia region, aims at the quality of agricultural food and forestry sector, and at the sustainability contributing to the realization of the three general objectives and the six priorities of rural development.

General Objectives (art. 4 Regulation EU n.1305/2013)	Rural Development Priorities (art. 5 Regulation EU n. 1305/2013)
a) fostering the competitiveness of agriculture	1) fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas 2) enhancing the viability / competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management 3) promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture
b) ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action	1) fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas 4) Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry 5) Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors
c) achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment	1) fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas 6) promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

1.1 Choice of the rural development measures

For the achievement of the three general objectives, the RDP Sardinia activates all six the priorities, including priority 1 that fostering knowledge transfer and promoting innovation on all the aspects relating to the other priorities of rural development, contributes to the realization of the three general objectives.

The focus areas that are not activated by the RDP Sardinia 2014-2020 are:

- 1C Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in agriculture and forestry sectors
- 5B Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
- 5D Reducing nitrous oxide and methane emissions from agriculture

The selection of the focus area to be addressed by the programme is based on the regional needs identified, through consultation with the stakeholders, based on the findings of the context and SWOT analysis. The analysis of the context and the SWOT analysis made, in fact, possible to identify the strengths on which to focus to make the change requested, to neutralize the weaknesses, the opportunities to be seized and threats to ward off.

In order to address the implementation of the RDP to attain its objectives, the Sardinia Region activates 16 Measures 41 sub-measures and 52 Operations in relation to the 6 priorities and 15 focus areas of rural

development selected, compared with the 18 measures and the 64 sub-measures foreseen by the EU regulation. This choice derived from the selection of needs, from the activation of measures at the national level and the need to maximize the efficiency of the planned resources.

Measures Reg. (UE) n. 1305/2013		Measures selected	Sub-measures selected
M1	Knowledge transfer and information actions	Yes	1.2
M2	Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services	Yes	2.1, 2.3
M3	Quality schemes for agricultural products, and foodstuffs	Yes	3.1, 3.2
M4	Investments in physical assets	Yes	4.1, 4.2, 4.3
M5	Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events and introduction of appropriate prevention actions	Yes	5.1, 5.2
M6	Farm and business development	Yes	6.1, 6.2, 6.4
M7	Basic services and village renewal in rural areas	Yes	7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6
M8	Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests	Yes	8.1, 8.3, 8.6
M9	Setting -up of producer groups and organisations	Yes	9.1
M10	Agri-environment-climate	Yes	10.1, 10.2
M11	Organic farming	Yes	11.1, 11.2
M12	Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments	No	
M13	Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints	Yes	13.1, 13.2
M14	Animal welfare	Yes	14.1
M15	Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation	Yes	15.1
M16	Co-operation	Yes	16.1, 16.2, 16.4, 16.5, 16.8, 16.9
M17	Risk management	No (NRDP¹ 2014-2020)	
M19	LEADER	Yes	19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4

1.1 Strategic environmental Assessment process

In compliance with the requirements of the Directive 2001/42/EC and the national and regional regulation, the SEA aims at assessing the possible impacts on the environment of the Sardinia 2014-2020 RDP.

The objective of the SEA process *to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development*

The SEA has defined stages:

- preparation of the Environmental Report

¹ National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

- carrying out of consultations (with environmental authorities, the public and other Member States where necessary)
- consideration of the environmental report and the results of consultation in decision-making on the programme
- information on the decision on the Programme
- monitoring the effects of the programme during its implementation

The relevant legislation is represented by:

- European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, known as the SEA Directive”
- D.Lgs.152/2006 (Environmental code), Part II ->D.Lgs. 4/2008
- Regional DGR n. 34/33 del 7/08/2012 - attachment C

The parties involved in the process are as follows: Competent Authority (Servizio SAVI), Proceeding Authority (Centro Regionale di Programmazione), Managing Authority OP ERDF (Centro Regionale di Programmazione) Managing Authority OP ESF (Assessorato del Lavoro, Formazione Professionale, Cooperazione e sicurezza Sociale), Managing Authority RDP (Assessorato dell’Agricoltura e Riforma Agro-Pastorale) ex Ante Evaluator for ERDF e ESF: Nucleo di Valutazione e Verifica degli Investimenti Pubblici, RDP ex Ante Evaluator.

Are also involved in the process: The relevant Environmental Authorities, consisting of all the authorities to be consulted which, by their specific environmental responsibilities, may be concerned by the environmental effects of the implementation of the RDP, including as compulsory members; 'ARPAS; managing Authorities of protected areas; Provinces responsible for the territory; Regional Offices of landscape protection; Public concerned; local Authorities, represented by all agencies who bear the effects of the programme implementation; the Economic and Social Partnership; the citizens.

1.2 Interaction with the ex ante evaluation

As part of the definition of programs in addition to SEA, another important tool to support decision-making, to be implemented simultaneously with the drafting of the programme, is the Ex Ante Evaluation. The importance of the evaluation tools is highlighted by art. 54 of Regulation no. 1303/2013 according to which the evaluation helps to improve the design and execution of programmes.

As regards rural development "Guidelines on the ex-ante evaluation of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) 2014-2020"² emphasize that the ex ante evaluation forms part of the development and preparation of the programme through a regular, periodic process of interaction between the evaluator and the Managing Authority in order to assess:

- SWOT analysis and needs;
- strategies and objectives of the programme compared to the needs;
- the approach and the proposed strategy in line with EU policies (eg. 2020 Strategy);
- the results and impacts in line with the available resources;
- governance of the RDP.

² EENRD (2012, draft), *Getting the most from your RDP: Guidelines for the ex ante evaluation of 2014-2020 RDPs*, Brussels.

2 SEA METHODOLOGY TO ASSESS AND GUARANTEE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE RDP

The purpose of the SEA is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. The purpose of the application of the SEA is therefore ensuring the definition of objectives and actions of the programme more sustainable from an environmental perspective.

To achieve these objectives, the SEA methodology requires, during the preparation of the programme and the simultaneous preparation of the Environmental Report, some important steps such as the definition of environmental sustainability objectives, analysis of the potential positive and negative effects on the environment, identification of measures to prevent or mitigate any adverse effects, the establishment of guidelines for the evaluation and integration of environmental considerations in the implementation phase of programme, the definition of the measures for monitoring the significant environmental impacts. According to the provisions of the European Directive 2001/42/EC in the Environmental Report must be assessed the reasonable alternatives in light of the objectives of the programme.

In the Environmental Report two main activities has been carried out:

- analysis of the current state of the environment
- Evaluation of the environmental sustainability

2.1 Analysis of the current state of the environment

The analysis of the current state of the environment gives a solid description of the regional situation, underlines the main challenges, weakness and potential of the Sardinia environment, and is the baseline for the definition of specific sustainable environmental objectives useful for the evaluation activities. For the analysis of the current state of the environment, the following environmental components have been identify and analysed:

- Atmosphere: air quality and climate conditions;
- soil;
- water;
- biodiversity and natural heritage;
- landscape and cultural heritage;
- energy;

2.2 Evaluation of the environmental sustainability

The assessment of the sustainability of the choices of the PSR takes account of the objectives of sustainability, of the methodology defined by the European Commission for the calculation of support for the climate change objectives (as defined in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) no. 215/2014 - 7 March 2014) and of the potential impact of the programme on the environment through a conceptual and mathematical model that allows to get an assessment of environmental sustainability for:

- Each submeasure activated or group of submeasures of the Programme even on each environmental component;
- each *Focus Area*;
- each RDP Priority;
- the whole programme.

The potential impacts on the environment, classified according to the following diagram, are estimated qualitatively and quantitatively, considering each single submeasure of the Programme, with the values shown in the Table below.

Basically through the conceptual and mathematical model it is possible to evaluate in which terms each submeasure of the Programme has effects on the environmental components.

The impacts are classified as:

- positive and negative;
- direct and indirect;
- light, medium and high.

In assessing the scale of the impact it has been also considered if the submeasure contributes significantly to achieving the objectives of environmental sustainability defined for each environmental component.

Following the qualitative assessment, a weight is assigned to the potential impact according to a "weighting" as represented in the table below: the total weight of the impact on each environmental component is obtained by the product of two values: the first is linked to the type of impact (direct or indirect), the second on the entity (L = light, M = medium, H = high) with reference, also, to the degree of achievement of environmental sustainability.

IMPACT TIPOLOGY		ENTITY OF THE IMPACT		OVERALL VALUE	IMPACT DESCRIPTION	
Typology	Description	Value	Extent of the impact			
DIRECT	The impact is non-mediated as it involves directly the component without intermediate steps and / or directly influences the aims of environmental sustainability objectives	1	1	H	1	The submeasure may determine highly relevant modifications on the environmental component and / or influence in a highly significant way the environmental sustainability goals of the component
			-1	H	-1	
			0,7	M	0,7	The submeasure may determine relevant modifications on the environmental component and / or influence in a significant way the environmental sustainability goals of the component
			-0,7	M	-0,7	
			0,4	L	0,4	The submeasure may determine weak relevant modifications on the environmental component and / or influence in a smooth way the environmental sustainability goals of the component
			-0,4	L	-0,4	
INDIRECT	The impact has mediated character because it does not involve directly the component (but involves intermediate steps) and / or indirectly influences the achievement of the objectives of environmental sustainability	0,4	1	H	0,4	The submeasure may determine highly relevant modifications on the environmental component and / or influence in a highly significant way the environmental sustainability goals of the component
			-1	H	-0,4	
			0,7	M	0,28	The submeasure may determine relevant modifications on the environmental component and / or influence in a significant way the environmental sustainability goals of the component
			-0,7	M	-0,28	
			0,4	L	0,16	The submeasure may determine weak relevant modifications on the environmental component and / or influence in a smooth way the environmental sustainability goals of the component
			-0,4	L	-0,16	
NONE		0			0	Any impact foreseen

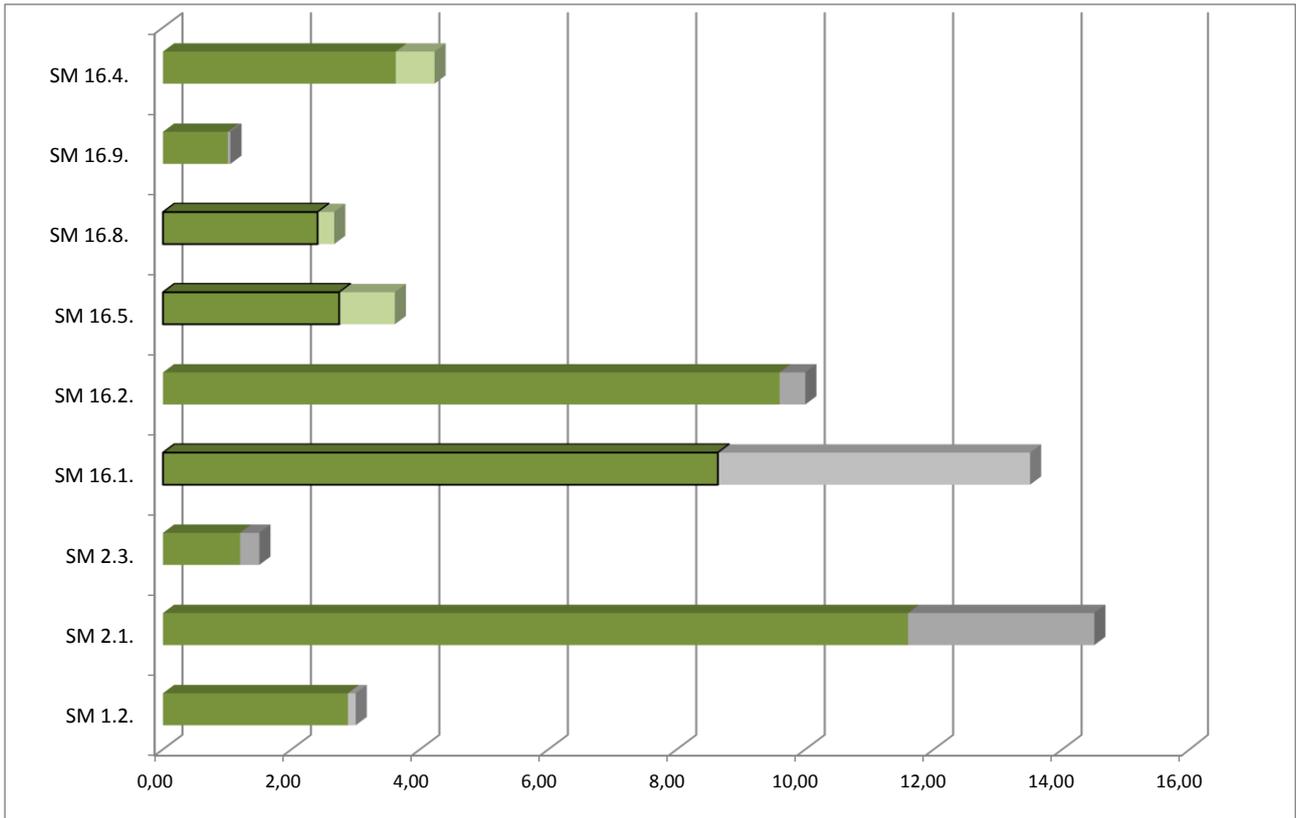
3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION OF THE RDP 2014-2020

3.1 Priority 1: “fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas”

ID Priority	1		
Title	FOSTERING KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL AREAS		
Focus area	1a Fostering innovation and the knowledge base in rural areas. 1b Strengthening research and innovation links in agriculture and forestry.		
Financial allocation	€ 50.600.000,00:		
	FA1a	SM_1.2	€ 3.000.000,00
		SM_2.1	€ 14.500.000,00
		SM_2.3	€ 1.500.000,00
	FA1b	SM_16.1	€ 13.500.000,00
		SM_16.2	€ 10.000.000,00
		SM_16.4	€ 3.020.000
		SM_16.5	€ 1.880.000,00
		SM_16.8	€ 2.150.000,00
		SM_16.9	€ 1.050.000,00

Overall picture of the environmental sustainability of the sub-measures directly linked to Priority 1

Measure of the environmental sustainability of Priority 1	Priority 1, with the total financial resources assigned to it, contributes to the regional objectives of environmental sustainability with a coefficient of 0.86 , equally involving the components atmosphere, water, soil, biodiversity, cultural heritage and energy, with a multiplier effect equivalent to a budget for environmental purposes of 43.7 M€ .
Measure of the support for climate change objectives (REG. EU 215/2014)	According to Reg. No. 215/2014, Priority 1 – with the coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives equal to 0 - would not contribute to climate change objectives.



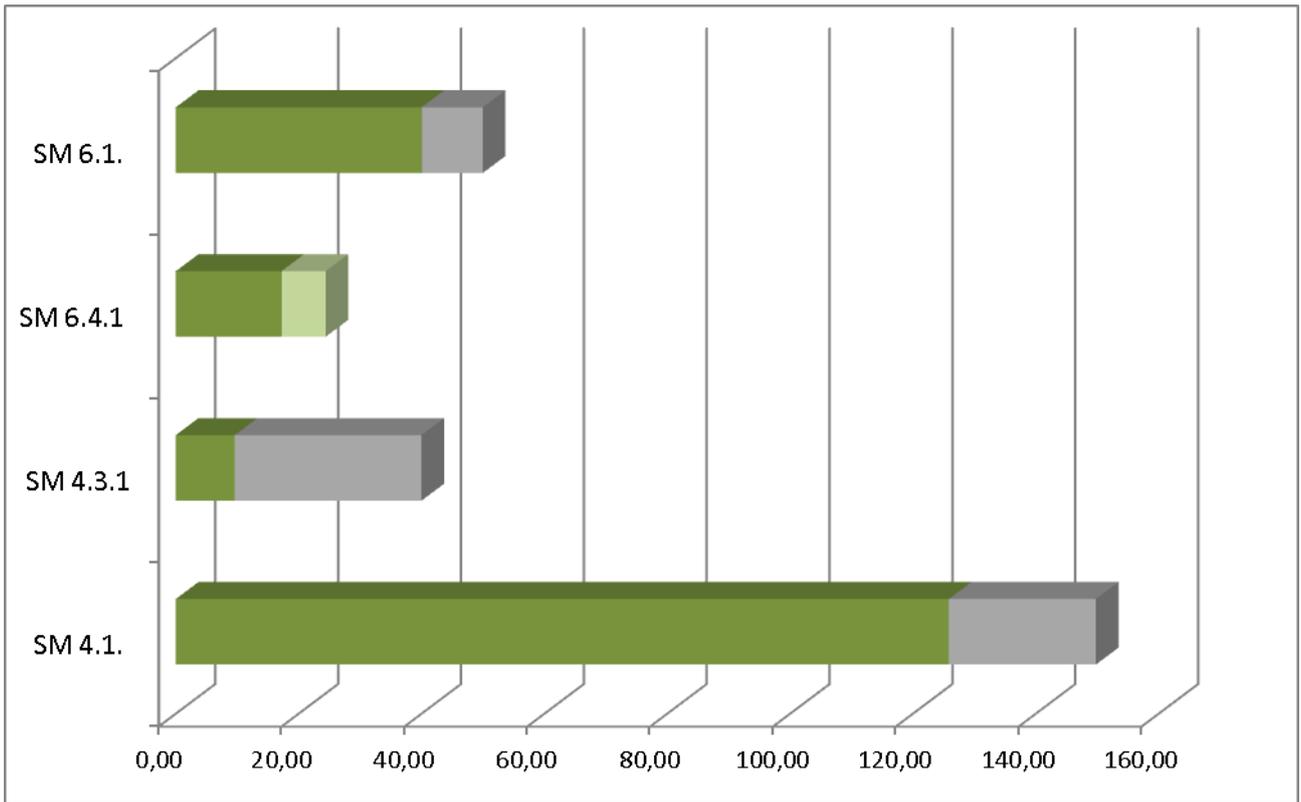
Legend	
	amount without environmental goals
	amount with environmental goals
	extra amount with environmental goals
	amount with negative environmental effects

3.2 Priority 2: “Enhancing the competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability”

ID Priority	2		
Title	ENHANCING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF ALL TYPES OF AGRICULTURE AND ENHANCING FARM VIABILITY		
Focus area	<p>2a Facilitating restructuring of farms facing major structural challenges (notably farms with a low degree of market participation or market-orientated farms active in particular sectors or farms in need of agricultural diversification).</p> <p>2b Facilitating a balanced age structure in the agricultural sector.</p>		
Financial allocation	€ 249.800.000,00:		
FA2a	SM_4.3 OP 4.3.1	€	40.000.000,00
	SM_6.4 OP 6.4.1	€	10.000.000,00
FA2b	SM_6.1	€	50.000.000,00
FA2a e 2b	SM_4.1	€	149.800.000,00

Overall picture of the environmental sustainability of the sub-measures directly linked to Priority 2

Measure of the environmental sustainability of Priority 2	Priority 2, with the total financial resources assigned to it, contributes to the regional objectives of environmental sustainability with a coefficient of 0.77 , equally involving the components atmosphere, water and energy, with a budget for environmental purposes of 192,6 M€ .
Measure of the support for climate change objectives (REG. EU 215/2014)	According to Reg. No. 215/2014, Priority 2 - with the coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives equal to 0 - would not contribute to climate change objectives.



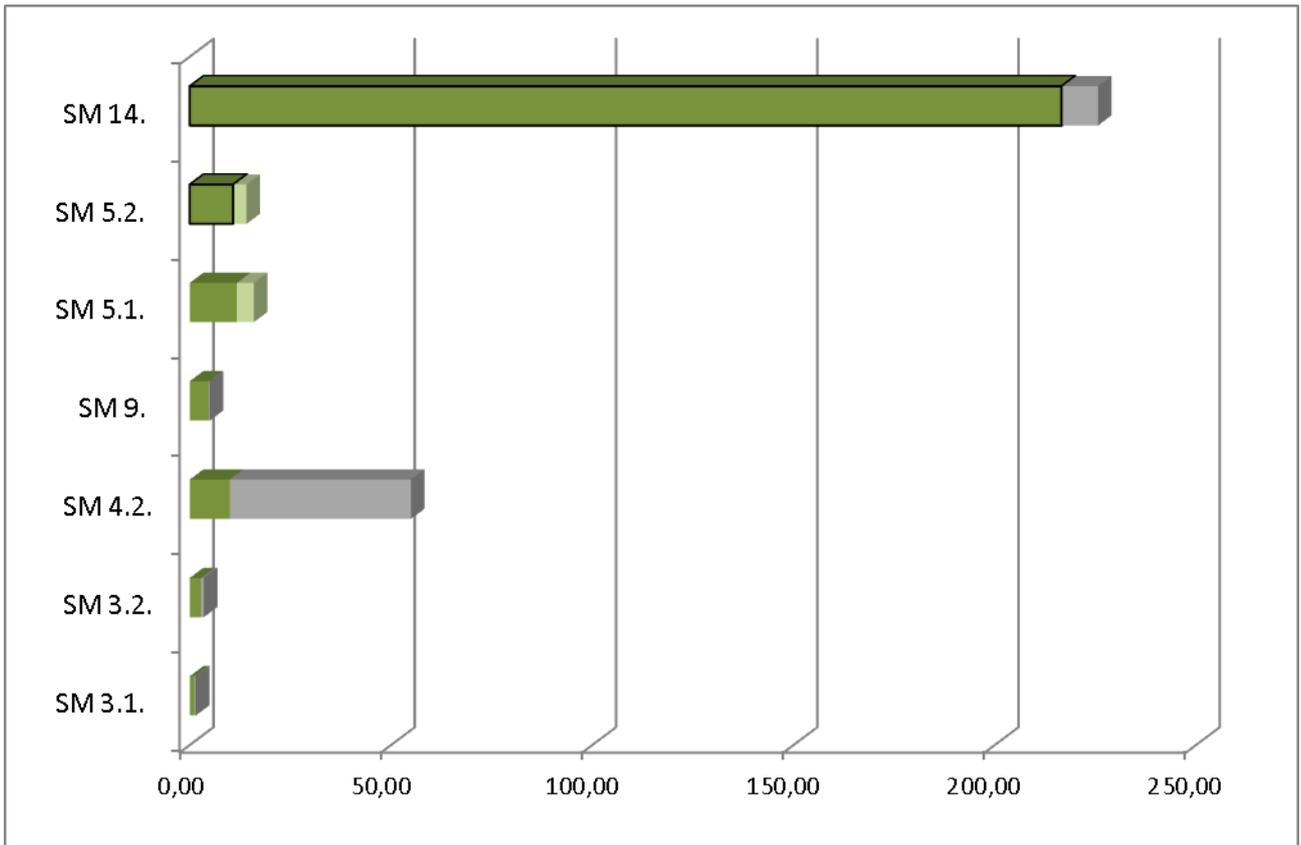
Legend	
	amount without environmental goals
	amount with environmental goals
	extra amount with environmental goals
	amount with negative environmental effects

3.3 Priority 3: “Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture”

ID Priority	3		
Title	PROMOTING FOOD CHAIN ORGANISATION AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE		
Focus area	<p>3a Better integrating primary producers into the food chain through quality schemes, promotion in local markets and short-supply chains, producer groups and ‘inter-branch’ organisations.</p> <p>3b Supporting risk management on farms.</p>		
Financial allocation	305.638.229,00 €:		
	SM_3.1	€	1.500.000,00
	SM_3.2	€	3.500.000,00
FA3a	SM_4.2	€	55.000.000,00
	SM_9	€	5.000.000,00
	SM_14	€	225.638.229,00
FA3b	SM_5.1	€	7.500.000,00
	SM_5.2	€	7.500.000,00

Overall picture of the environmental sustainability of the sub-measures directly linked to Priority 3

Measure of the environmental sustainability of Priority 3	Priority 3, with the total financial resources assigned to it, contributes to the regional objectives of environmental sustainability with a coefficient of 0.84 , equally involving the components atmosphere, water, and energy, with a budget for environmental purposes of 257,8 M€ .
Measure of the support for climate change objectives (REG. EU 215/2014)	According to Reg. No. 215/2014, Priority 3 - with the submeasures related to the focus area 3b - would contribute to climate change objectives with a budget of 6,47 M€ equivalent of the 2% of its total financial resources allocated.



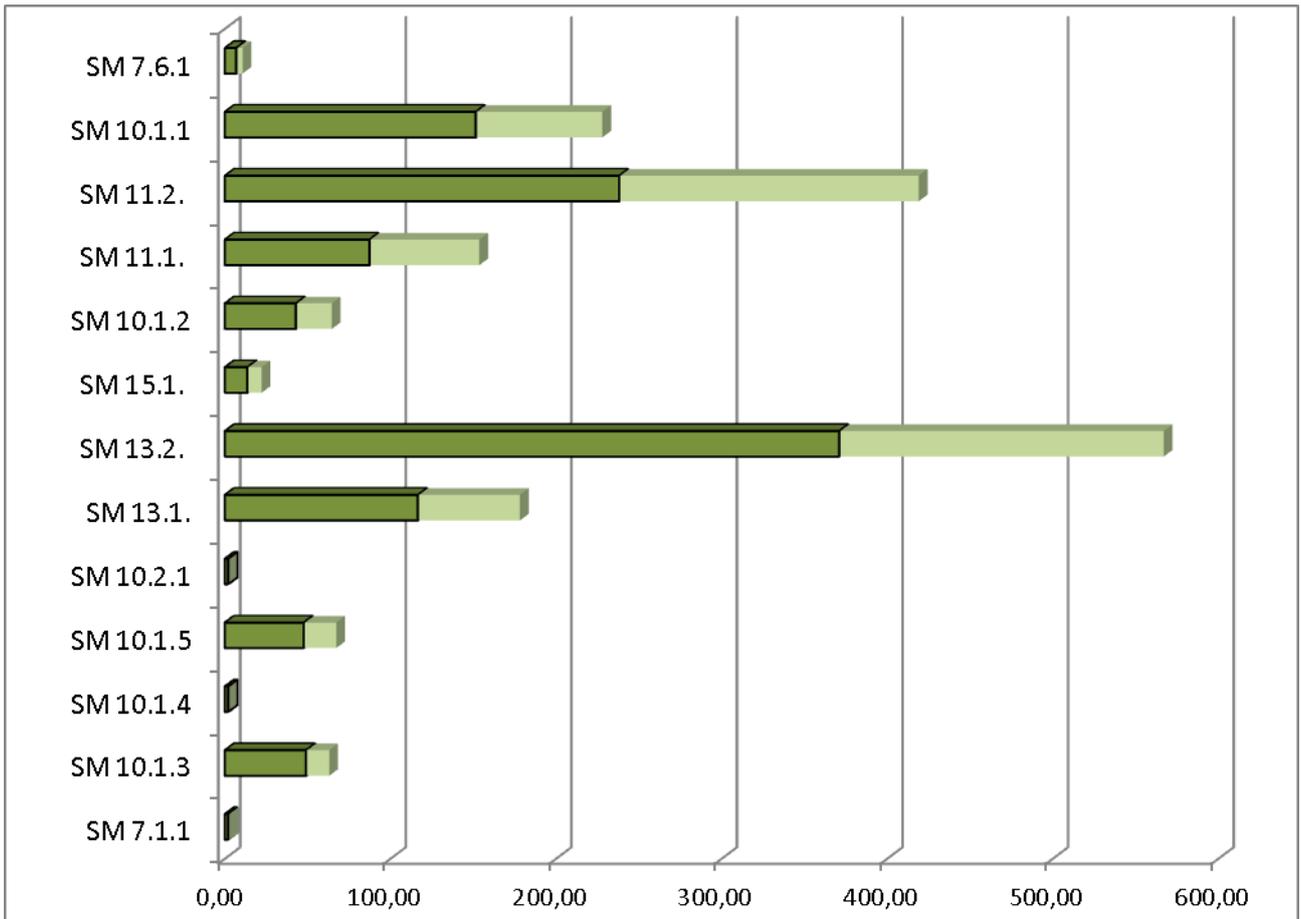
Legend	
	amount without environmental goals
	amount with environmental goals
	extra amount with environmental goals
	amount with negative environmental effects

3.4 Priority 4: “Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry”

ID Priority	4		
Title	RESTORING, PRESERVING AND ENHANCING ECOSYSTEMS DEPENDENT ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY		
Focus area	<p>4a Restoring and preserving biodiversity (including in NATURA 2000 areas and areas of High Nature Value farming) and the state of European landscapes</p> <p>4b Improving water management</p> <p>4c Improving soil management</p>		
Financial allocation	480.500.000,00€:		
	FA4a	SM_7.1	€ 1.000.000,00
		SM_7.6	€ 3.000.000,00
		SM_10.1.3	€ 35.000.000,00
		SM_10.1.4	€ 2.000.000,00
		SM_10.1.5	€ 28.000.000,00
		SM_10.2.1	€ 2.000.000,00
		SM_13.1	€ 55.000.000,00
		SM_13.2	€ 175.000.000,00
		SM_15.1	€ 5.000.000,00
	FA4b	SM_10.1.2	€ 21.250.000,00
		SM_11.1	€ 21.000.000,00
		SM_11.2	€ 57.250.000,00
	FA4c	SM_10.1.1	€ 75.000.000,00

Overall picture of the environmental sustainability of the sub-measures directly linked to Priority 4

Measure of the environmental sustainability of Priority 4	Priority 4, with the total financial resources assigned to it, contributes to the regional objectives of environmental sustainability with a coefficient of 2.35 , involving in particular the components biodiversity landscape and cultural heritage, together with the components atmosphere, water and soil, with a multiplier effect equivalent to a budget for environmental purposes of 1.130 M€ .
Measure of the support for climate change objectives (REG. EU 215/2014)	According to Reg. No. 215/2014, Priority 4 would contribute to climate change objectives with its total financial resources allocated.



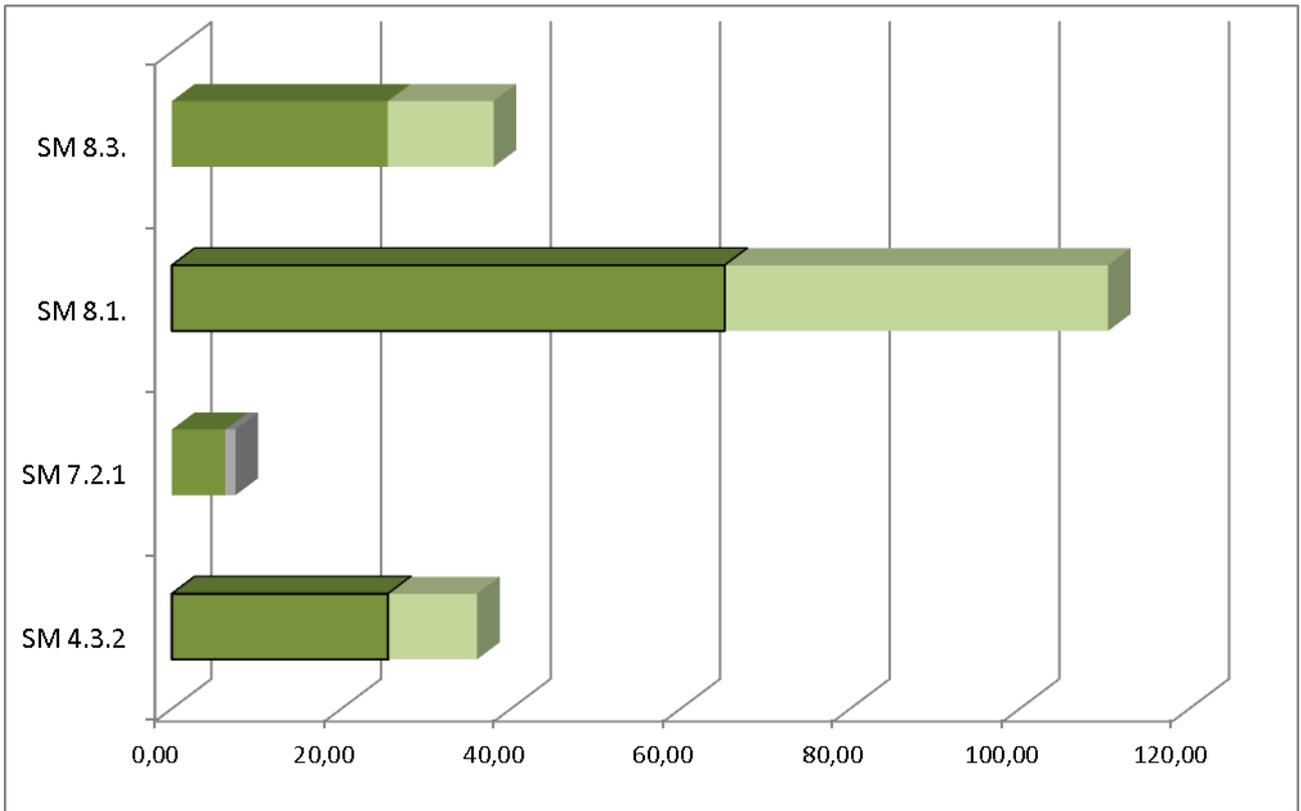
Legend	
	amount without environmental goals
	amount with environmental goals
	extra amount with environmental goals
	amount with negative environmental effects

3.5 Priority 5: “Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors”

ID Priority	5		
Title	PROMOTING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND SUPPORTING THE SHIFT TOWARD A LOW-CARBON AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT ECONOMY IN AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY SECTORS		
Focus area	<p>5a Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture</p> <p>5c Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by-products, wastes and residues and of other non food raw material, for the purposes of the bio-economy</p> <p>5e Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry</p>		
Financial allocation	55.500.000,00€:		
	FA5a	SM_4.3 PO 4.3.2	€ 15.000.000,00
	FA5c	SM_7.2.1	€ 7.500.000,00
	FA5e	SM_8.1	€ 20.000.000,00
		SM_8.3	€ 13.000.000,00

Overall picture of the environmental sustainability of the sub-measures directly linked to Priority 5

Measure of the environmental sustainability of Priority 5	Priority 5, with the total financial resources assigned to it, contributes to the regional objectives of environmental sustainability with a coefficient of 2.21 , involving in particular the components atmosphere followed by the components energy, water, soil, biodiversity and cultural heritage with a multiplier effect equivalent to a budget for environmental purposes of 122.48 M€ .
Measure of the support for climate change objectives (REG. EU 215/2014)	According to Reg. No. 215/2014, Priority 5 would contribute to climate change objectives with its total financial resources allocated.



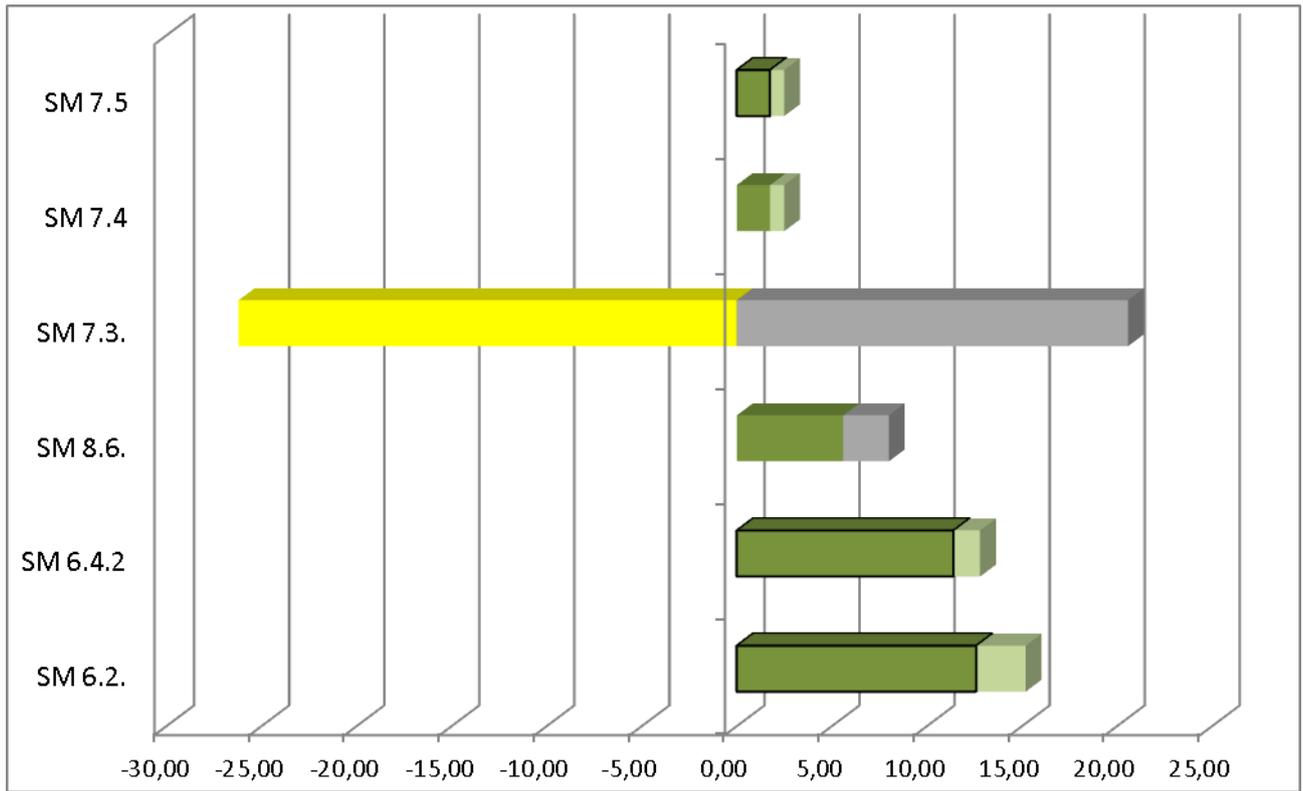
Legend	
	amount without environmental goals
	amount with environmental goals
	extra amount with environmental goals
	amount with negative environmental effects

3.6 Priority 6: “Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas”

ID Priority	6		
Title	PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION, POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS		
Focus area	6a Facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation. 6b Promoting local development in rural areas 6c Enhancing accessibility to, and use and quality of ICT in rural areas		
Financial allocation	156.368.875,00€:		
	FA6a	SM_6.2	€ 10.000.000,00
		SM_6.4 OP 6.4.2	€ 10.000.000,00
		SM_7.4.1	€ 2.500.000,00
		SM_7.5.1	€ 2.500.000,00
		SM_8.6	€ 8.000.000,00
	FA6b	SM_19.1	€ 600.000,00
		SM_19.2	€ 64.000.000,00
		SM_19.3	€ 2.000.000,00
		SM_19.4	€ 10.000.000,00
	FA6c	SM_7.3.1	€ 46.768.875,00

Overall picture of the environmental sustainability of the sub-measures directly linked to Priority 6

Measure of the environmental sustainability of Priority 6	<p>Priority 6, with the total financial resources assigned to it, contributes to the regional objectives of environmental sustainability with a coefficient of 0.09, involving the components atmosphere, energy, water, soil, biodiversity with a budget for environmental purposes of 6.9M€.</p> <p>It must be noted that the evaluation carried out does not take in consideration the positive/negative potential effects of Measure 19 due to the fact that each LAG will activate its own strategy that is not at the moment available.</p>
Measure of the support for climate change objectives (REG. EU 215/2014)	<p>According to Reg. No. 215/2014, Priority 6 - with the submeasures related to the focus area 6b - would contribute to climate change objectives with a budget of 30,6 M€ equivalent of the 18% of its total financial resources allocated.</p>



Legend	
	amount without environmental goals
	amount with environmental goals
	extra amount with environmental goals
	amount with negative environmental effects

3.7 Overall Evaluation of the environmental sustainability of RDP 2014-2020

The Programme, as a whole, is characterized by a high level of environmental sustainability, as 40% of the resources allocated is dedicated to priority/focus area specifically dedicated at environmental purposes (Focus area of priorities 4 and 5) presenting however, in general, measures/sub-measures/operations pursuing environmental goals as part of all the priorities/focus area.

Through the implementation of the measures/sub-measures/operations included under priorities 4 and 5, the programme promotes, in fact, the presence of agricultural activities highly compatible with the environment, the development of sustainable management and protection of forest ecosystems.

If the framework across all the priorities/focus area - represented by the priority 1 and its specific focus area - includes actions for transferring knowledge (information and advice) for the application of environmental standards, sustainability of production processes and adherence to environmentally-friendly production methods, it is possible to observe that in the context of the priorities 2, 3, 6 (and their respective focus areas) are provided, inter alia, initiatives aimed at improve cooperation between production and research for the dissemination of knowledge and development of innovative environmental practices, update management plans for Natura 2000 areas, and upgrading of the natural heritage and the awareness of the population.

In relation to climate change mitigation, the programme interventions are mainly geared at strengthening the capacity of absorption of carbon in agricultural soils (under priority 4), fire prevention and increase the resilience of forests (Priority 4 and 6), the dissemination of information, and above all, the adoption of new agricultural practices with greenhouse gas emissions reducing effects (priority 1). As regards to climate change adaptation the programme aims to reduce the vulnerability of the region through measures of risk prevention (Priority 3), to be implemented also in accordance with a collective approach involving public land managers and private entities (primarily farms) for the safety of agricultural land and forestry and related infrastructure. The programme also promotes the site selection of plant varieties suitable to cope with high temperatures and periods of water scarcity, especially through the involvement of farmers and research institutes (priority 1).

According to the methodology adopted by the evaluator to estimate the potential impacts, the programme contribute significantly to environmental sustainability goals with a regional coefficient of 0.84, for a total budget estimated at environmental purposes - considering the contribution of all the measures / sub-measures / operations provided under the different priorities / focus area – approximately of 1 billion €.

As regards, finally, the support for the objectives in the field of climate change, according to the methodology provided in the Implementing Regulation (EU) No .215/2014, the programme accounts for about € 574millions of euro.

4 ADAPTATION, MITIGATION AND ORIENTATION MEASURES

In this chapter the compensation and mitigation measures are suggested in order to minimize, reduce, or compensate the potential environmental risks identified in the evaluation process of the Sardinia RDP measures.

In particular, the implementation of the entire programme must be subject to strict EU norms and guidelines on sustainability of the interventions that are already able to exclude all interventions with a serious potential environmental risk. Not surprisingly, all the actions that will be implemented with funding from the RDP are subjected to the requirements of environmental law. The observations reported in this report are mainly "**guidance measures**", as in the RDP are already present in principle the requirements sufficient to prevent negative environmental effects. For example, proposals are in Chapter 32 of the Environmental Report and more specific in the impact assessment, where are highlighted mitigation and compensation measures for negative impacts expected for the Programme.

5 REASONS FOR SELECTING THE ALTERNATIVES

The SEA legislation requests also to identify **reasonable alternatives to the Programme**.

The RDP Sardinia 2014-2020 moves within a European and national structure (Regulation 1305/2013 on Rural Development and the Italian Partnership Agreement) rather schematic and rigid, which provides the general objectives (Priority and focus area) and the measures which may or may not be activated and financed, in compliance with certain expected results. The room to maneuver of the Programmer is limited and concern mainly the choice to activate or not certain measures, to predict -specific sub measures or to allocate financial resources differently among the various interventions, but always within a well-defined grid. It should also be remembered that all the measures provided by Reg. 1305/2013 are based on the assumption of their environmental sustainability, which is the cornerstone underpinning all EU intervention.

Shown below the description of two possible alternatives to the PSR 2014-20 adopted.

Zero-Alternative: the evolution of the state of the environment in the absence of actions under the RDP 2014-2020

Considering the zero Alternative, corresponding to the non-implementation of the Programme, realistic would be as nullify the positive effects that would produce with its implementation, in particular, on biodiversity linked to agricultural areas and forest, the rural landscape, water resources, soil and air quality and climate. This scenario is therefore to be rejected because, although is not immediately easy to estimate the environmental benefits arising from the implementation of the RDP, surely his "non-implementation" would not contribute to environmental improvements, and will determine the lack of essential positive effects due to the implementation of measures.

Given, therefore, the scope of European character and the presence of important environmental objectives, the assessment of the non-implementation of the programme is not considered relevant.

Alternative 1: implementation of the measures foreseen by the 2007-2013 RDP

The objectives of the RDP Sardinia 2007-2013 are consistent with the "Lisbon Strategy" presented in 2005. This strategy focuses on growth and jobs, and in particular to a major attraction for investment and work, knowledge and innovation and the development of policies for employment creation. The Lisbon Strategy puts emphasis on the promotion of social and environmental objectives of the Union.

The reform of cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020 is part of a legal and institutional framework, different from that which characterized the previous programming period. It also changes the overall objectives that Europe intends to pursue in the coming years. For the period 2014-2020, Europe is called to achieve the objectives set out in the EU 2020 strategy whose ultimate aim is to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth to revitalize the pattern of economic growth and social development of member states.

Based on the innovation that characterize the 2014-2020 programming period, set out in the document "Methods and objectives for effective use of Community funds, 2014-2020" is believed to assert that the Alternative 1 is excluded because it is based on a methodological framework now obsolete.

6 DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASURES ENVISAGED CONCERNING MONITORING

According to the SEA legislation, possible significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Programme shall be monitored in order to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to enable the Programme Managing Authority to undertake appropriate remedial actions.

In this context for the identification and monitoring of possible significant environmental effects resulting from the implementation of the RDP Sardinia Programme 2014-2020, in the chapter 32 of the Environmental Report is illustrated the **SEA Monitoring Plan** in accordance with the Italian legislation (letter (i) Attachment VI, D.Lgs. 152/2006 and point i) attachment C2 of the DGR n. 34/33 del 7/08/2012.

The **common monitoring and evaluation system** referred to in Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 includes a set of common context, result and output indicators, including indicators to be used for the establishment of quantified targets in relation to rural development focus areas and a set of pre-defined indicators for the performance review, for the monitoring and evaluation activities.

The proposed monitoring system defines, at programme level, appropriate environmental indicators (“SEA indicators”) integrated in the monitoring and evaluation framework of the Programme, in order to avoid duplication of monitoring, as required by SEA legislation.

These indicators are common indicators already used by the Programme. The different typologies of indicators are: context indicators, output indicators, target indicators and impact indicators.

The SEA Monitoring Plan contemplates also some additional environmental indicators: in addition to specific context indicators for the region, additional impact indicators proposed by the SEA team of experts. Overall, the indicators selected by the RDP, as well as the additional ones, covering all issues relevant under the SEA can fully meet the demands of monitoring. Finally, as explained in the Environmental Report the system integration of monitoring (CMEF and VAS Monitoring plan) is guaranteed through the inclusion of a section on SEA within the annual implementation reports in art. 75 of Reg. (EU) No. 1305/2013 and/or processing of any environmental report/studies.