Collection of examples relevant to farm diversification

based on the contributions of the members of the EU CAP Network's Thematic Group on farm diversification.

Example name/title

Enabling regulatory and administrative framework for farm diversification in the Lazio Region

Description (max. 250 words)

The Lazio Region has developed an enabling regulatory and administrative framework to support farm diversification beyond conventional agricultural production. The system supports farmers in integrating their income through agritourism, direct sales, educational activities, renewable energy, social and therapeutic services, and multi-entrepreneurship models involving different actors operating within the same rural context.

The approach combines the European principle of multifunctionality with the Italian legal framework of "related agricultural activities", introduced by Legislative Decree 228/2001 and subsequently developed through regional legislation.

Unlike approaches based on predefined lists of secondary activities, Lazio applies a case-by-case administrative assessment that allows innovative and integrated forms of diversification while preserving the agricultural identity of the farm through the principle of prevalence.

A key element is the Regional Agricultural Authorisation System (SAAR), which coordinates agricultural, planning, environmental and landscape regulations, creating an administrative pathway compatible with entrepreneurial innovation and territorial sustainability.

At the same time, the Regional Agricultural Plan (PAR) integrates territorial vocations, spatial planning and rural development strategies to support systemic approaches based on networks, districts and production chains.

Rational and understanding how it works (max. 400 words)

The Lazio Region considers diversification not only as an additional source of income for farms, but also as a systemic reorganisation of both the agricultural holding and the rural economy.
At European level, multifunctionality opened a political and institutional space by recognising that agriculture produces not only market goods but also public goods such as landscape management, environmental protection and rural vitality. Diversification became the practical mechanism through which farms can occupy this space and strengthen their economic resilience.

In Italy, this process became possible through the reform of Article 2135 of the Civil Code, which introduced the concept of "related agricultural activities". In Lazio, Regional Law 14/2006 translated these principles into an enabling governance framework based on flexibility rather than rigid lists of authorised activities.

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The operational model connects different institutional and territorial levels through several interconnected elements:

- a flexible regulatory framework allowing case-by-case administrative assessments
- the principle of prevalence, ensuring that agriculture remains the core activity while diversification integrates farm income
- multi-entrepreneurship models enabling different actors to share spaces, services and investments within the same rural context;
- coordination through the Regional Agricultural Authorisation System (SAAR), integrating agricultural, environmental, landscape and planning procedures into a coherent administrative pathway.

This approach reduces administrative fragmentation and allows farms to combine agricultural production with innovative activities such as agritourism, therapeutic and rehabilitation services, pet care, sports activities and renewable energy production.

At the same time, the Regional Agricultural Plan (PAR) links diversification policies with territorial vocations, spatial planning and rural development strategies, supporting rural regeneration, facilitating land consolidation and promoting systemic approaches based on networks, districts and production chains.

Who were the stakeholders involved? (max. 100 words)

The process involved the Lazio Regional Directorate for Agriculture together with other regional directorates responsible for spatial planning, environmental protection, landscape and public health. In addition to the regional administration, local authorities and farms were directly involved.
The framework also developed in interaction with national and European processes related to the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan.

Achievements (max. 200 words)

The Lazio Region analysed 284 diversification projects financed under Measure 6.4.1 of the 2021–2027 programming period, corresponding to a total investment of approximately €73 million and around €38 million in public support.

The regional framework mainly supported the development of agritourism, which today represents more than 1,300 registered activities in Lazio. Of the 284 analysed projects, 258 concerned agritourism.
Additional forms of diversification also emerged, including direct sales, socio-cultural activities, environmental services, wine tourism and olive oil tourism.

The framework also encouraged new forms of territorial cooperation and multi-entrepreneurship, enabling farms to host different economic and social activities while maintaining agricultural continuity.

A significant achievement was the development of the Regional Agricultural Authorisation System (SAAR), capable of managing innovation within complex territorial constraints and improving coherence between agriculture, landscape protection and spatial planning.

The “Experience Lazio” platform further supports diversified farms by increasing their visibility and progressively transforming from a communication showcase into a relational platform connecting businesses, services and rural territories.

Lessons and recommendations (max. 200 words)

One of the main lessons emerging from the Lazio experience is that diversification does not simply represent an additional activity for farms, but a possible reorganisation of the agricultural business model and, when adopted by multiple actors across a territory, of the rural economy itself.

The flexibility of the regulatory framework — particularly the absence of rigid lists of authorised activities — allows adaptation to different local contexts and to the evolving needs of agricultural enterprises and society more broadly.

Another important lesson concerns the role of public administration. Diversification generates complexity because it intersects environmental, landscape and planning regulations. Without an administrative coordination mechanism such as the Regional Agricultural Authorisation System (SAAR), innovation risks being blocked by procedural fragmentation.
The experience also showed that diversification tends to concentrate in territories with stronger market accessibility, tourism potential and consolidated local networks.
Through collaborative forms and territorial networks, the system may progressively contribute to generating de facto land consolidation processes, in which the territory itself becomes a platform of interconnected services.

General information:

Member State:	Italy
Dates *(of implementation)*:	Ongoing
Name of leading organisation of this example:	Lazio Region – Directorate for Agriculture
What type of entity is the leading organisation of this example:	Advisory service ☐ Association ☐ Business ☐ Cooperative ☐ EIP Operational Group ☐ Farmer/Farmers organisation ☐ Producer/interbranch Organisation ☐ Regional/Local Authority/Municipality ☒ Research/University ☐ Stakeholder & civil society organisation ☐ Other: ……

Additional information:

Relevant weblink:	https://www.regione.lazio.it/cittadini/agricoltura/diversificazione-attivita-agricole
Additional info sources, links:	
	Regional Laws and Regulations • l.r. 14/2006 - Diversificazione agricoltura • l.r. 14/2023 - Eno-Oleo-turismo • l.r. 38/99 Governo del Territorio • R.R. 8/2021 - Regolamento che disciplina le attività agrituristiche • R.R. 1/2018 - Regolamento che disciplina le attività multi-imprenditoriali • R.R. 5/2024 - Regolamento dell' Eno-Oleoturismo

Is the example linked to CAP funding? If so, which RDP measure(s) or CSP intervention(s) provided financing? (max. 100 words)

Measure 6.4.1 of the 2021–2027 programming period

Budget in EURO:

Total budget (i)+(ii)+(iii)+(iv) =	Approximately €73 million
(i) National funds:	
(ii) CAP funds:	€38 million
(iii) Private / Own funds:	€35 million
(iv) Other funding sources:	

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