



## **PRODUCER GROUP FUNDING IN ROMANIA: NRDP 2014–2020 AND CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023–2027**

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**Abstract:** Financial support for producer groups under CAP Pillar II transitioned from NRDP 2014–2020 (Sub-measures 9.1 and 9.1a, €33.24M, 150 applications) to the CAP Strategic Plan 2023–2027 (Measure DR-33, €11.74M, 44 applications) - a 64.67% budget reduction. This paper presents a comparative analysis of the two programming periods, examining the shift from a sectoral to an integrated approach. Results indicate that while the new model may unify access to funding, budget cuts risk limiting the establishment and consolidation of new producer groups in Romania.

### • Introduction

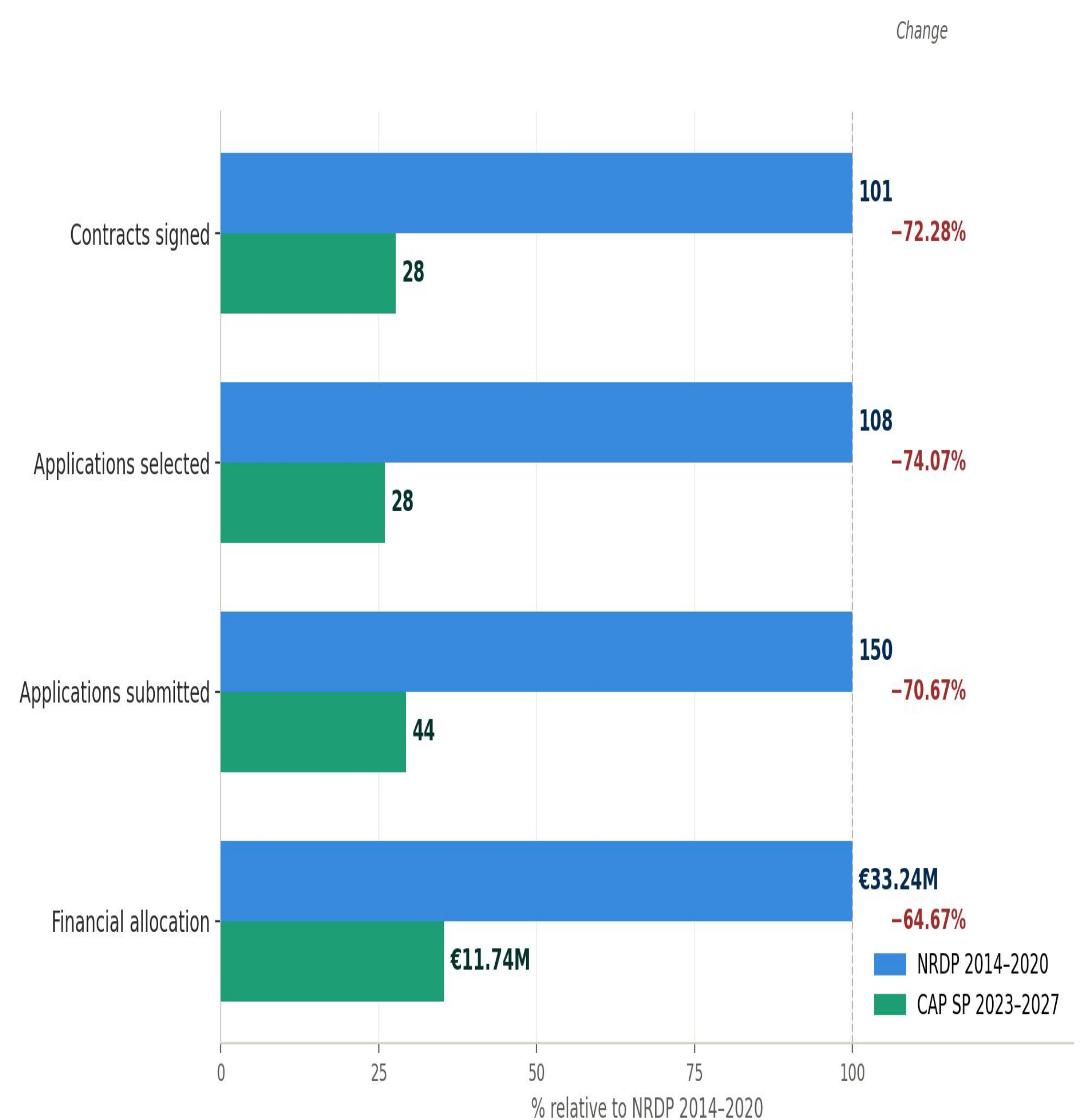
Producer groups strengthen farmers' market position through collective negotiation and shared resources. In Romania, their development has been closely linked to CAP Pillar II support, with funding provided across two distinct programming periods: NRDP 2014–2020 and the CAP Strategic Plan 2023–2027.

### • Material and method

The study combined a literature review (academic sources, EU and national regulations) with analysis of official MARD documents: the Implementation Status of NRDP 2014–2020 (updated 02.04.2026) and the CAP SP 2023–2027 (as of 02.04.2026). A descriptive-comparative analysis was applied to examine the evolution of financial support mechanisms for producer groups.

### • Results and discussions

The comparative analysis reveals significant differences across the two programming periods. As shown in the figure, all key indicators declined sharply under CAP SP 2023–2027 relative to NRDP 2014–2020, with financial allocation reduced by 64.67%, applications submitted by 70.67%, and contracts signed by 72.28%.



Source: Own processing based on MARD - Implementation Status of NRDP 2014-2020 (updated 02.04.2026) and CAP SP 2023-2027 (as of 02.04.2026)

### • Conclusions

The shift from a sectoral to an integrated approach (DR-33) may simplify administration, but the 64.67% budget reduction significantly constrains the formation of new producer groups. The parallel decline in applications - from 150 to 44 - confirms that funding levels directly influence beneficiary engagement and associative capacity.