

Axis 4 (Leader) – Implementing Local Development Strategies



Basic Information:

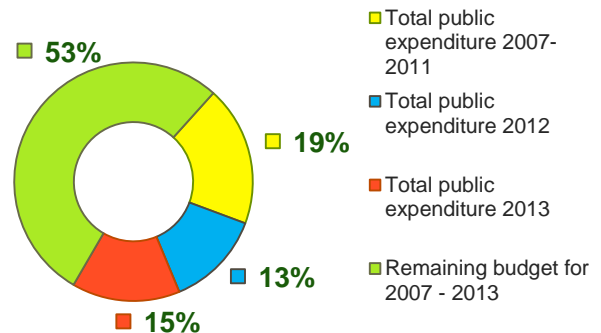
Axis 4 – Leader: Implementing local development strategies with a view to achieving the objectives of one or more of the axes 1, 2 and 3.

Programmed total public expenditure, 2007-2013 (EU 27): €9.2 billion (of which €6.1 billion EAFRD contribution).

Actual total public expenditure, 2007 to 2013 (EU 27): €4.3 billion or 46.7% of the programmed expenditure for 2007-2013.

(Figure 1 shows the financial implementation up to 2013, whereas the output data presented below are up to 2012.)

Figure 1:
Total public expenditure for the Leader axis up to 2013 and remaining budget (EU 27)



Key facts and figures

- ❖ In the current programming period almost 2,290 Local Action Groups (LAGs) have been established and received support by 2012, achieving the target number of LAGs to be selected and supported in this programming period in the EU 27.
- ❖ The aforementioned established LAGs are expected to implement their local development strategies (LDS) in an area of approximately 4 million km² across rural Europe.
- ❖ More than 136 million people in the rural areas of the EU 27 will benefit from the activities undertaken by the EU Local Actions Groups
- ❖ At EU 27 level, almost 92 thousand projects have been supported by LAGs up to 2012. This number accounts for 42% of the number of projects envisaged to be supported during the current programming period.
- ❖ At the same time almost 123 thousand beneficiaries received financial support through the projects supported by the Leader axis.

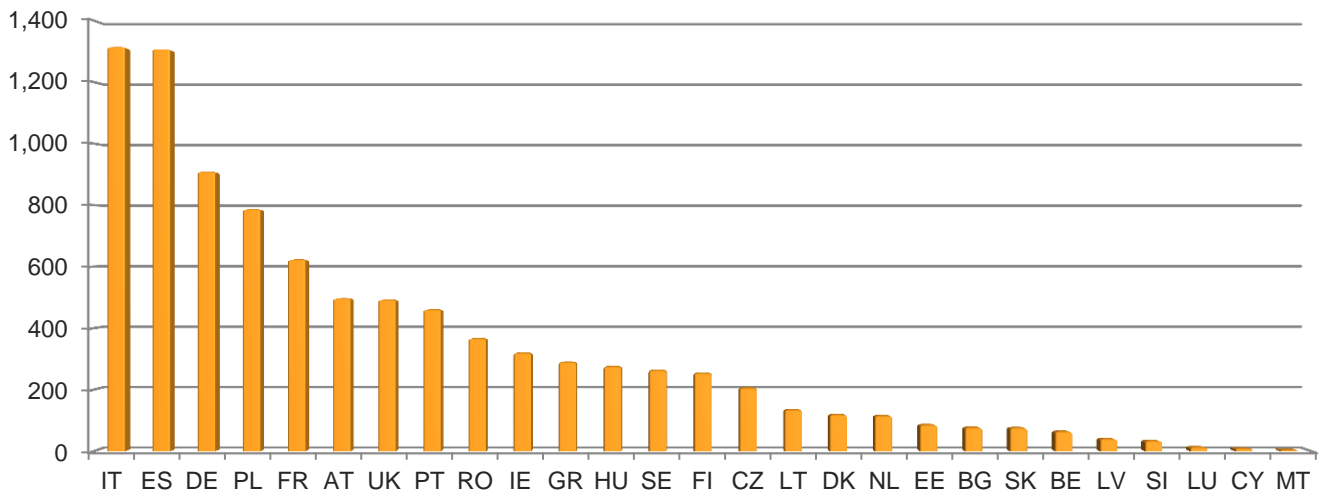
The following sections provide snapshots of the progress achieved in implementing the Leader axis per Member State up to 2012.

Axis 4 (Leader) – Implementing Local Development Strategies

Overall programmed total public expenditure on Axis 4 (Leader) for the period 2007 – 2013 per Member State

The programmed total public expenditure refers to the programmed funds for the period 2007 to 2013 and includes the EAFRD contributions and the national or regional public co-financing.

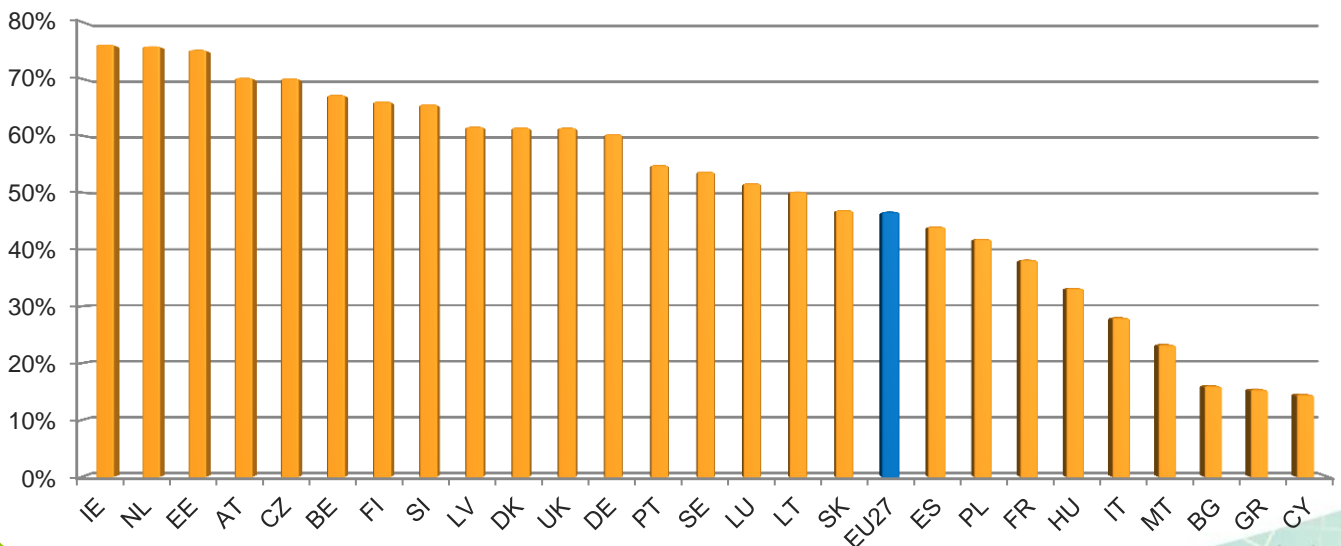
Figure 2: Leader – Programmed total public expenditure on Leader Axis for the programming period 2007 - 2013 per Member State (in million EURO)



Axis 4 (Leader) – State of play of total public expenditure per Member State up to 2013

Refers to the dispersed funds of the period 2007 to 2013 and includes the EAFRD contributions and the national or regional public co-financing.

Figure 3: Leader – State of total public expenditure in the MS and in EU 27 (% of expenditure up to 2013 against programmed budget for 2007-2013)



Axis 4 (Leader) – Implementing Local Development Strategies

Axis 4 (Leader) – Number of Local Action Groups supported from 2007 to 2012*

Definition of the indicator: number of Local Action Groups receiving support for implementing their local rural development strategies and other Leader-type actions.

Figure 4:
Number of supported LAGs

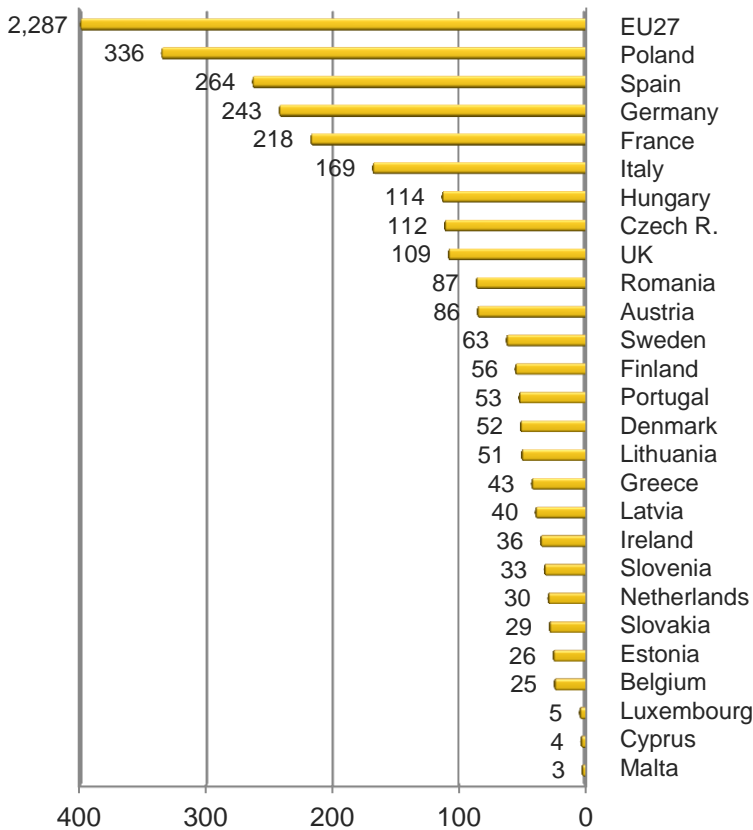
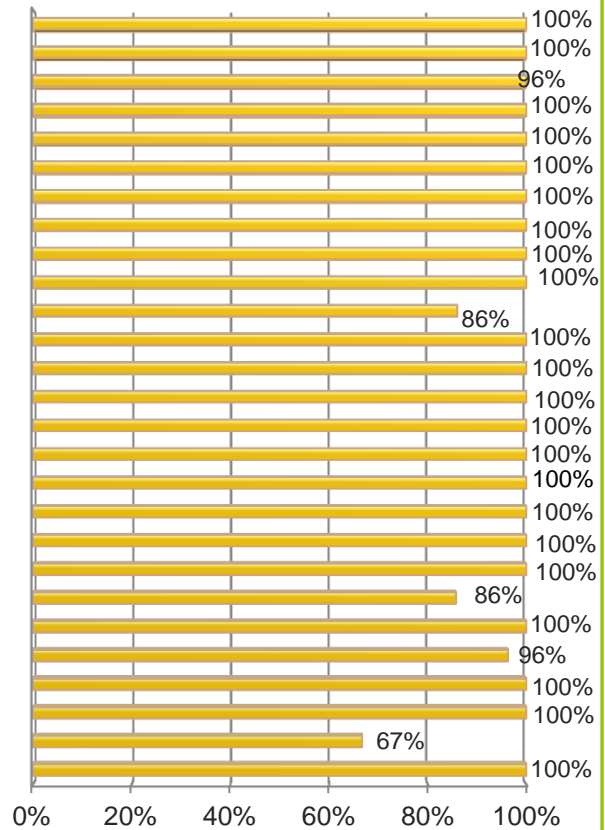


Figure 5: Number of supported LAGs (% against 2007-2013 output targets)



- ❖ By 2012, Poland and Spain supported the largest number of Local Action Groups (336 and 264 LAGs respectively) (see figure 4).
- ❖ In 22 Member States, the number of LAGs established and supported up to 2012 covers the envisaged target number of LAGs to be supported during the programming period 2007-2013 (see figure 5).

* Data refer to the Member States for which information on the number of supported LAGs was available.

Axis 4 (Leader) – Implementing Local Development Strategies

Axis 4 (Leader) – Total size of the LAG area (km²) supported from 2007 to 2012*

Definition of the indicator: total area of all existing LAGs in the country / region of the rural development programmes.

Figure 6: Total size of the LAG area (in km²)

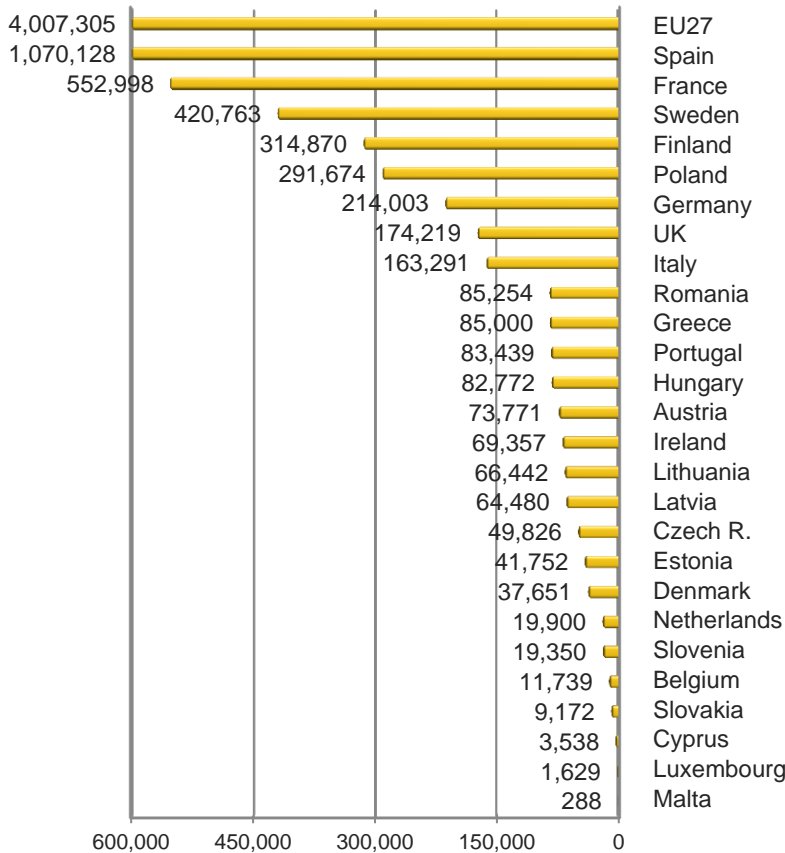
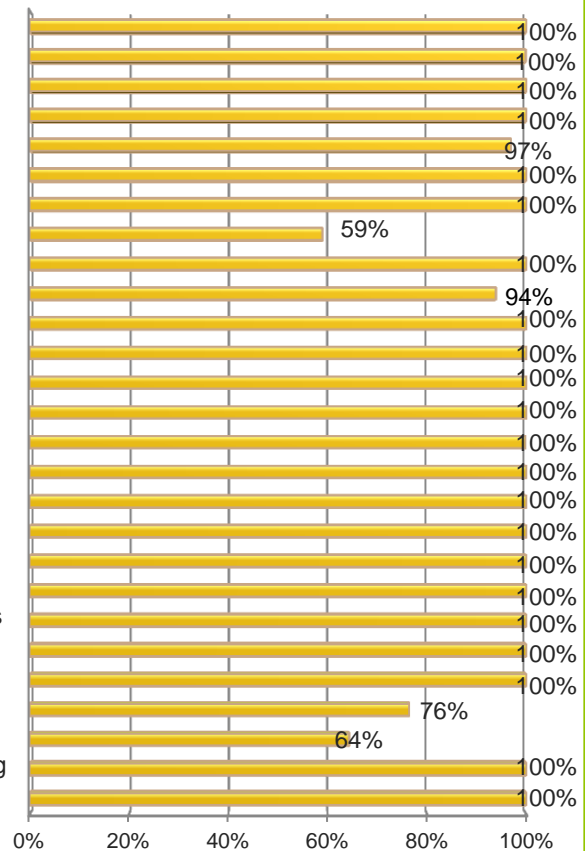


Figure 7: Total size of the LAG area (% against 2007-2013 output targets)



- ❖ Spain is the country with the largest territory covered by Local Action Groups, with an overall area of nearly 1.1 million km² (see figure 8), covering 100% of its target area by 2012 (see figure 9).
- ❖ France, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy are among the MS with the largest areas covered by Leader Local Action Groups.
- ❖ 22 Member States achieved 100% of their targets for areas covered by Local Action Groups for the period 2007-2013.

* Data refer to the Member States for which information on the number of supported LAGs was available.

Axis 4 (Leader) – Implementing Local Development Strategies

Axis 4 (Leader) – Total population in LAG area from 2007 to 2012*

Definition of the indicator: Total population in all LAG-areas in the country/region of the rural development programme.

Figure 8: Total population in LAG areas (in thousand people)

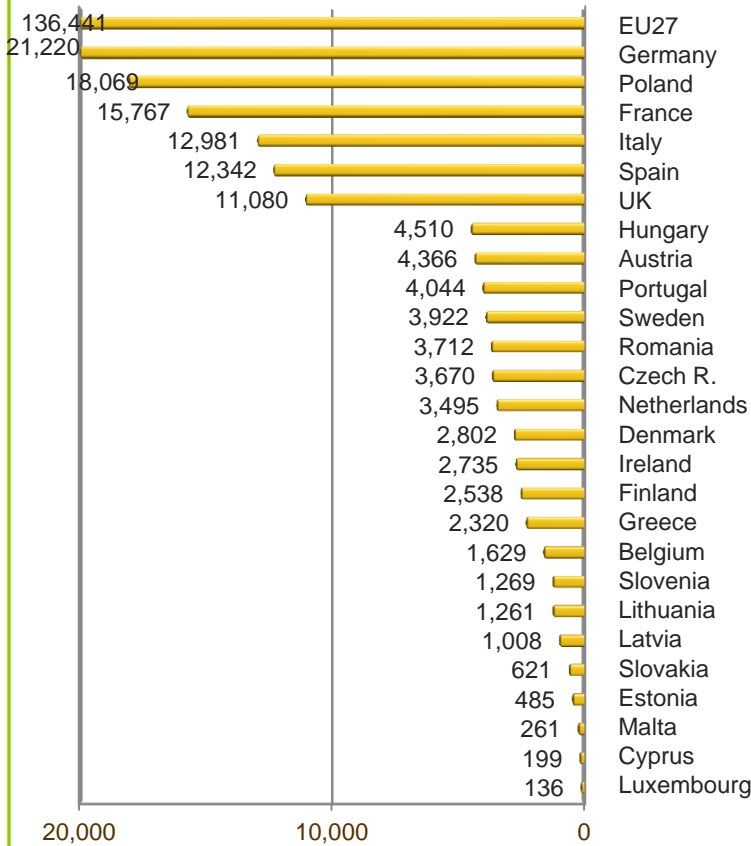
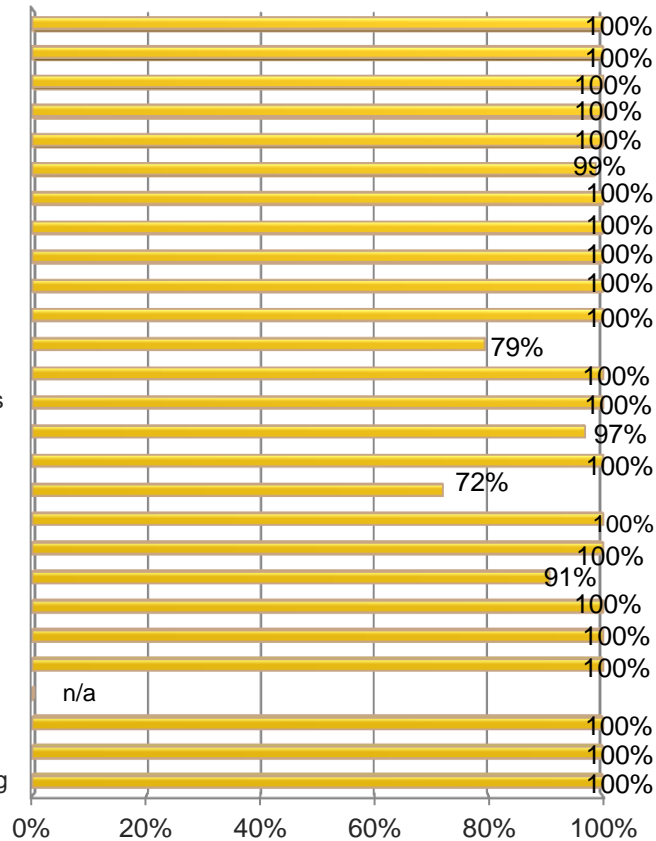


Figure 9: Total population in LAG areas (% against 2007-2013 targets)



- ❖ Germany, Poland and France are the Member States which have the highest number of people inhabiting areas covered by Local Action Groups (see figure 8).
- ❖ In 23 Member States the target number of people living in LAGs' areas in the 2007-2013 programming period has been almost or fully met (see figure 9).

* Data refer to the Member States for which information on the number of supported LAGs was available.

Axis 4 (Leader) – Implementing Local Development Strategies

Axis 4 (Leader) – Number of projects financed by LAGs from 2007 to 2012*

Definition of the indicator: number of projects that are approved and co-financed by the Local Action Groups (LAGs). The projects or actions must be part of the implementation of a Local Development Strategy.

Figure 10:
Number of projects supported by LAGs

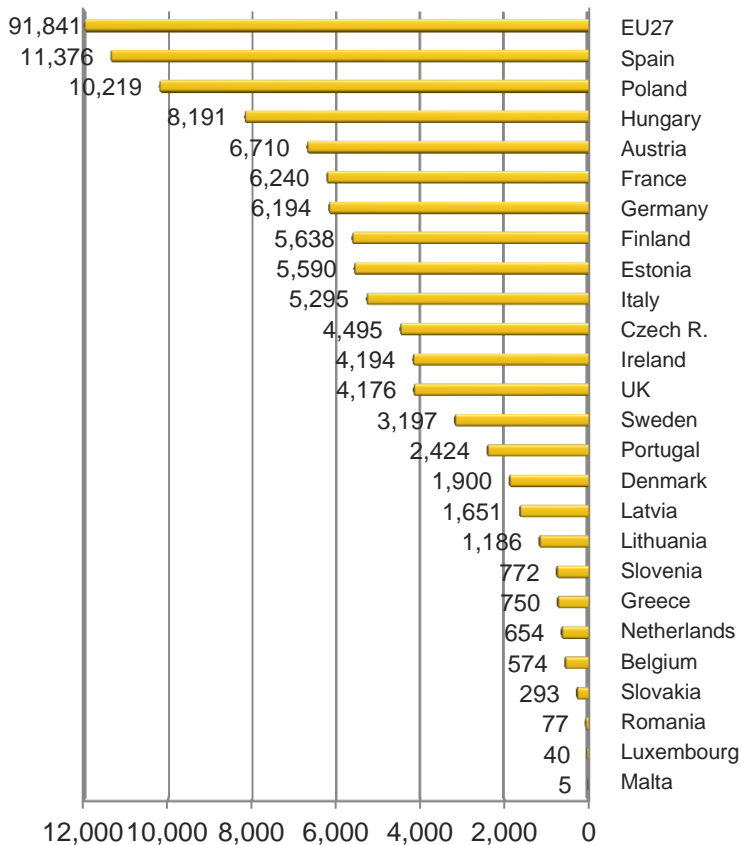
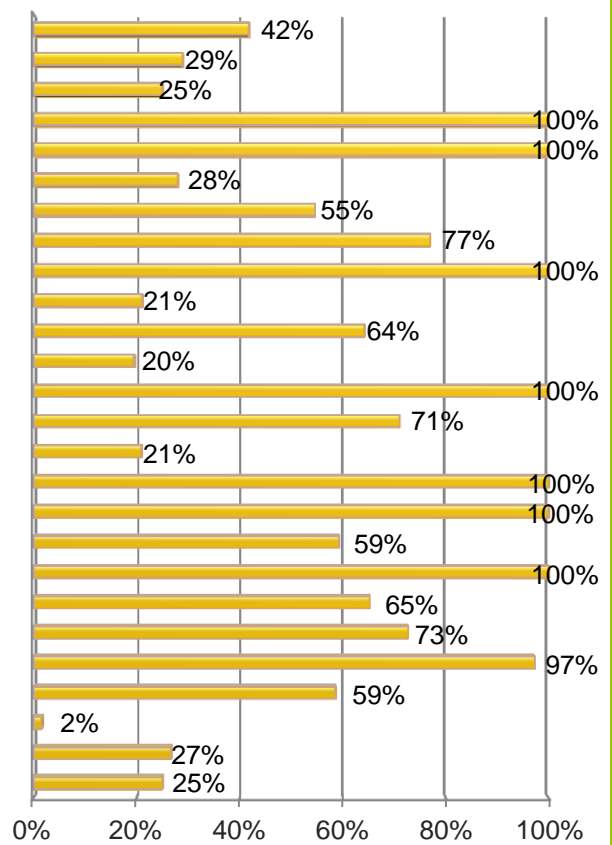


Figure 11: Number of projects supported by LAGs (% against 2007-2013 targets)



- ❖ Spain supported more than 11,370 Leader projects up to 2012 (see figure 10) and this accounts for almost 29% of the national target number of projects to be supported in the period 2007-2013 (see figure 11).
- ❖ Poland, Hungary, Austria, France, Germany, Finland, Estonia and Italy have also supported more than five thousand projects each.
- ❖ In Hungary, Austria, Estonia, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Latvia, Slovenia and Belgium the number of Leader projects supported by 2012 accounted for more than 95% of the projects planned to receive support within the current programming period.
- ❖ Overall, by 2012 – and according to data available - the progress of the implementation of Leader projects at the EU 27 level was 42% in comparison to the 2007-2013 target.

* Data refer to the Member States for which information on the number of supported LAGs was available.

Axis 4 (Leader) – Implementing Local Development Strategies

Axis 4 (Leader) – Number of beneficiaries supported from 2007 to 2012*

Definition of the indicator: number of beneficiaries supported through the projects financed by LAGs.

Figure 12:
Number of beneficiaries supported

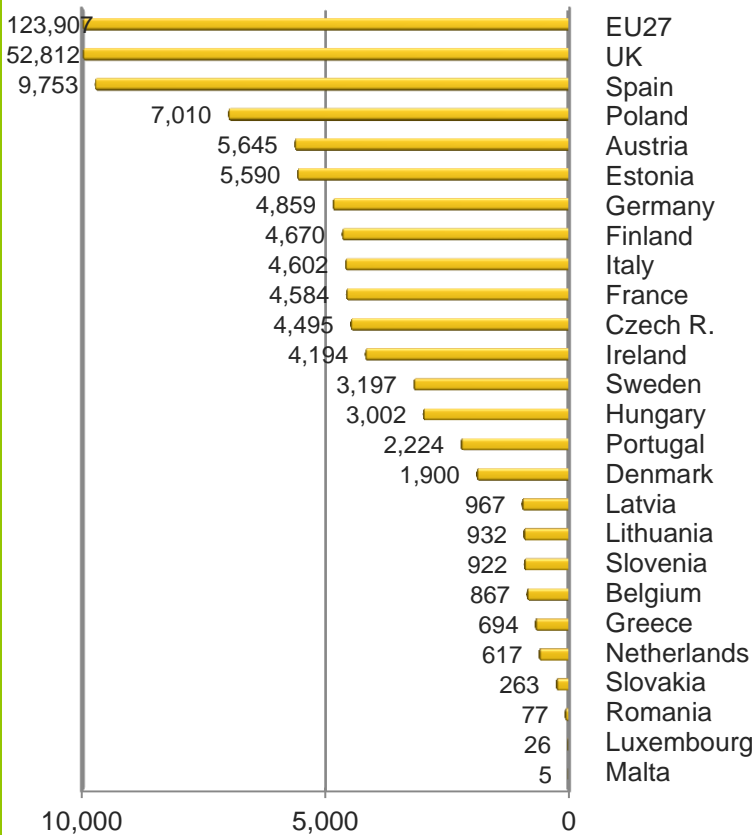
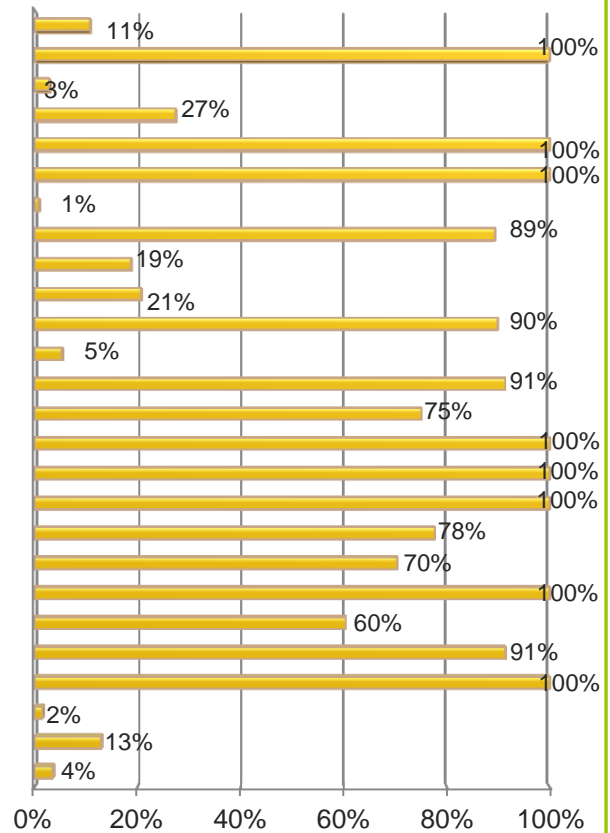


Figure 13: Number of beneficiaries supported
(% against 2007-2013 output targets)



- ❖ By 2012, the United Kingdom is the Member State that supported the largest number of beneficiaries for implementing Leader projects with almost 53 thousand beneficiaries (see figure 12).
- ❖ Eight Member States namely the United Kingdom, Austria, Estonia, Portugal, Denmark, Latvia, Belgium and Slovakia showed the highest implementation rate against the envisaged 2007-2013 target at national level (more than 100%) (see figure 13).
- ❖ Eight Member States, had supported between 60% and 91% of their target beneficiaries up to the end of 2012.

* Data refer to the Member States for which information on the number of supported LAGs was available.

Axis 4 (Leader) – Implementing Local Development Strategies

Measure 411 project example: Promoting 'Uma Mekk' - Own Taste



Entrepreneurs, local government and the LEADER group in Voru County of Estonia came together to work out the issue of limited employment opportunities in the region by unlocking the potential of the food sector in the area through an EAFRD supported project. A series of activities and services such as information, know-how training and well-targeted promotions was conducted. More than 50 food businesses took part in the learning and awareness raising events.

Seminars and workshops on improving food quality were held and promotional material were created and distributed. Use of the quality food mark Uma Mekk (Own Taste) was disseminated to interested individuals and groups. The project helped boosting the quality, profile and promotion of local food. Networking and common marketing takes place between entrepreneurs, increasing sales and reducing costs and creating employment opportunities.

The total cost of the project was €18,298, out of which €11,327 was EAFRD contribution.

Link: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=4780

Measure 412 project example: 'Forest Licence' project delivers skills for small-scale forest owners



Within the LEADER framework a project developing forest management skills for owners of small-scale forestry plots in Luxembourg was developed and implemented.

Its aim was to elaborate and run training courses for owners of passive forest in how to use and take care of their woodlands. The inception courses helped owners to recognise the traditional methods to mark the boundaries of forest plots. After it, owners were trained in topics ranging from environmentally sustainable silviculture skills for different forest species, to chainsaw health and safety.

A number of 77 land owners completed the full set of Forest Licence courses and now possess sufficient capacity to properly manage their woodlands. As the project succeeded to help bringing bigger benefits from under-used forest resources, a new series of courses was planned.

The total cost of the project was €23,548, out of which €6,312 was EAFRD contribution.

Link: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=6660

Source of the data:

1) *Programmed expenditures 2007-2013: RDP budget allocation following Health Check revision (December 2013);* 2) *Expenditures 2007-2013: DG AGRI;* 3) *Output indicators: monitoring tables submitted by Managing Authorities along with the 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 Annual Progress Reports. Data referring to programming years 2007 to 2012. Only commitments made from year 2007 onwards are considered;* 4) *Output targets 2007-2013: DG AGRI*

For further detailed information on financial / physical and output indicators data please refer to the dedicated ENRD website section on Monitoring Indicators.