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Basic Information:

The Austrian Rural Development Programme (RDP) has budgeted for 2007-2013 a total public expenditure of nearly €8 billion (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Member State contribution). At the end of 2013, €7.2 billion were spent out of the allocated budget (see figure 1).

Axis 1 – (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector) has utilised 91% of its allocated budget.

Axis 2 – (Improving the environment and the countryside) has utilised 95% of its allocated budget.

Axis 3 – (Improving the quality of life in rural areas) has utilised nearly 66% of its allocated budget.

Axis 4 – (Leader) has utilised 70% of its allocated funds.

Figure 1: Austria - Total Public Expenditure from 2007 to 2013 & expenditure per Axis



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

Figure 2: Axis 1 - Total Public expenditure per measure in million EURO (2007-2013)

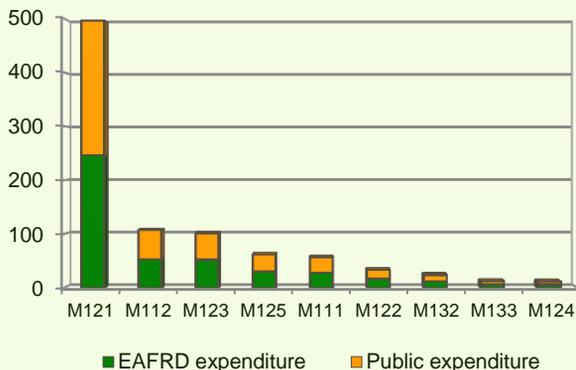
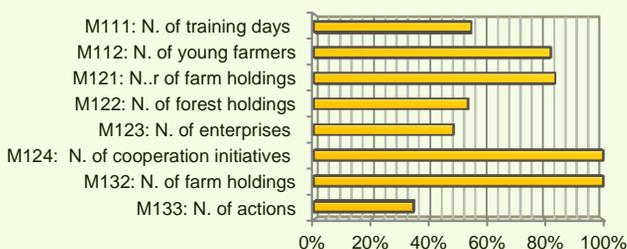


Figure 3: Axis 1 - Progress against 2007-2013 output targets in Austria (2007-2012)



Programmed total public expenditure on Axis 1 places an emphasis on the Modernisation of agricultural holdings (Measure 121), allocating to this measure nearly 52% of the overall budgeted funds for Axis 1.

Analysis of the expenditure rates per measure up to 2013 shows that:

- ❖ Setting up of young farmers (M112) and Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) have used each 100% and 96% of their allocated funds.
- ❖ Five measures have utilised 77-90% of their allocated budget, namely:
 - Cooperation for development of new products, etc. (M124), 77%
 - Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123), 79%
 - Vocational training and information actions (M111), 80%
 - Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry (M125), 90%
 - Improvement of the economic value of forests (M122), 90%.
- ❖ Information and promotion activities (M133) and Participation of farmers in food quality schemes (M132) have utilised 69% and 60% of their allocated budget.

Figure 3 provides an indication of the achieved outputs up to 2012 in comparison to the output targets for 2007-2013.

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Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

Total programmed public expenditure on Axis 2 focuses on Agri-environment payments (M214) and Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas (M211). These two measures represent the majority of the Axis 2 expenditure up to 2013 (see figure 4). Together they have been allocated 66% of the total public budget programmed in the Austrian RDP for 2007-2013.

- ❖ Five measures have utilised 91-97% of their allocated budgets:
 - Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions (M226), 91%
 - Animal welfare payments (M215), 92%
 - Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas (M211), 93%
 - Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212), 95% and
 - Agri-environment payments (M214), 97%.
- ❖ First afforestation of agricultural land (M221) has spent 84% of its allocated funds.
- ❖ Measures linked to Natura 2000 payments (M213 and M224) and Forest-environment payments (M225) have utilised 43-68% of their programmed budgets.

Figure 4: Axis 2 - Total Public expenditure per measure in million EURO (2007-2013)

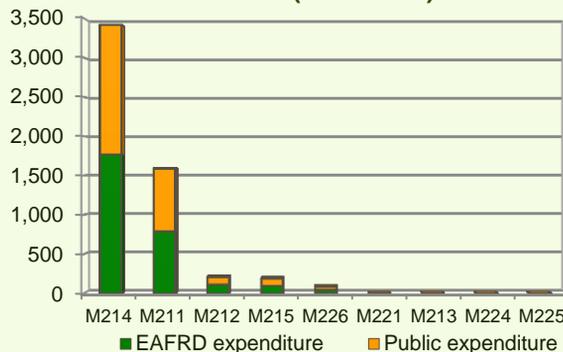
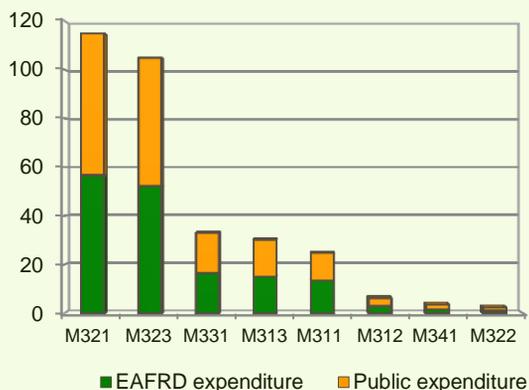


Figure 5: Axis 2 - Progress against 2007-2013 output targets in Austria (2007-2012)



Axis 3 - Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

Figure 6: Axis 3 - Total Public expenditure per measure in million EURO (2007-2013)



Total programmed public expenditure on Axis 3 of the Austrian RDP focuses on Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321) and Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (M323) which together represent 74% of the Axis budget and most of the Axis total public expenditure (see figure 6).

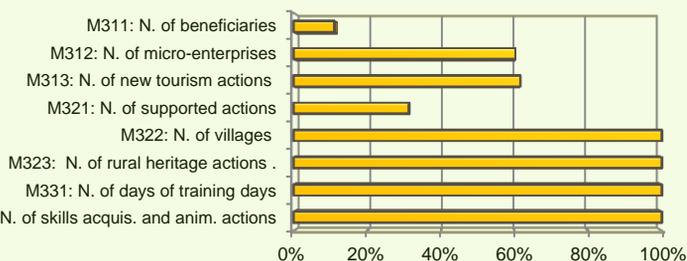
When comparing the expenditure rates per measure up to 2013, it is observed that:

- ❖ Four measures have spent nearly or more than 70% of their programmed budget:
 - Support for business creation and development (M312), 80%
 - Encouragement of tourism activities (M313), 81%
 - Diversification into non-agricultural activities (M311), 81% and
 - Village renewal and development (M322), 82%.

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Axis 3 - Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

Figure 7: Axis 3 - Progress against 2007-2013 output targets in Austria (2007-2012)



- ❖ Two measures Skills acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy (M341) and Training and information (M331) have spent 77% and 75% of their planned allocations.
- ❖ Finally, Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (M323) and Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321) have so far used respectively 65% and 58% of their programmed budgets.

Figure 7 provides an indication of the achieved outputs up to 2012 in comparison to the output targets for 2007-2013.

Measure 311 project example: Bioenergy Hitzendorf / Austria

A farmers' cooperative in Reiteregg (St. Bartholomä) envisaged the transition from old heating methods (oil) to modern ones (bioenergy) with the support of EAFRD. The project supported the installation of a forestry biomass heating system of 350 kilowatts power that has led to more independence from external energy suppliers and increased local incomes. It is operational throughout the year.

Local economic growth has been encouraged through the provision of heat energy to commercial businesses, public and residential buildings, and private clients. The economic value of local forests increased as well. The project created new employment opportunities in the region and mobilized regional marketing of domestic biomass resources.

The total cost of the project was €267,110, out of which €80,132 was EAFRD contribution and €184,978 was national contribution.

Link: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=5600

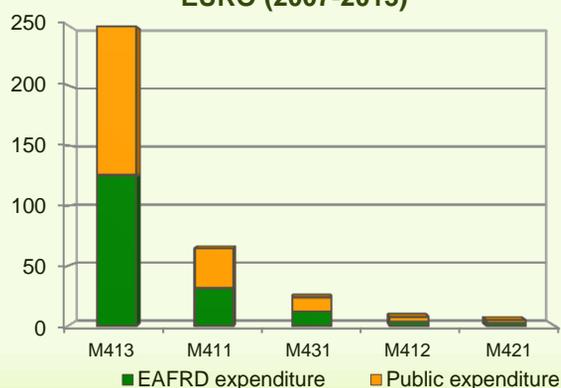
Axis 4 - Leader

The Leader Axis in the Austrian RDP has allocated budget of €497 million out of which around €350 million had been utilised by 2013. Within the Axis, emphasis has been given to the Quality of life and diversification measure (M413) which has the largest allocation of funds.

When comparing the expenditure rates per measure up to 2013 it is observed that (see figure 8):

- ❖ Quality of life and diversification (M413) have the largest share total public expenditure and have spent 69% of its available budget.

Figure 8: Axis 4 - Total Public expenditure per measure in million EURO (2007-2013)



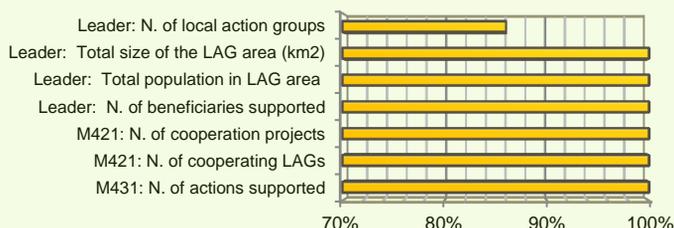
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Axis 4 - Leader

- ❖ Competitiveness (M411) has used 84% of its planned budget.
- ❖ Environment/land management (M412) and Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation (M431) have spent each 68% and 65% of their allocated funds.
- ❖ Implementing cooperation projects measure (M421) has utilised 37% of its programmed expenditure.

Figure 9 provides an indication of the achieved outputs up to 2012 in comparison to the output targets for 2007-2013.

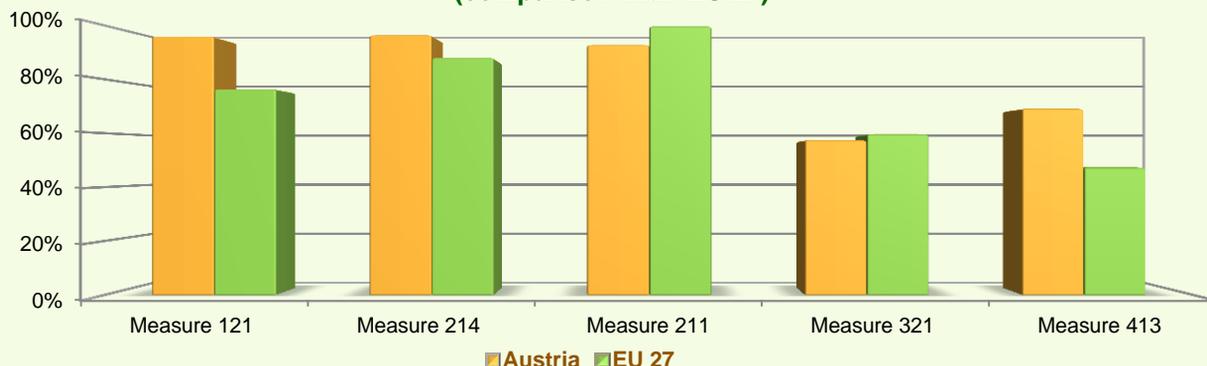
Figure 9: Axis 4 - Progress against 2007-2013 output targets in Austria (2007-2012)



Summary

- ✓ Within seven years of implementation, the Austrian RDP has utilised 91% of the total public expenditure planned for the current Programming Period (post Health Check and the European Economic Recovery Package modification).
- ✓ Agri-environment payments (M214) is the measure with the highest allocated budget in the Austrian RDP. Up to 2013, it has utilised 97% of its available budget, and represents 47% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas (M211) has the second largest budget in the Austrian RDP and the utilised expenditure is 93% of its allocated funds. M211 represents 22% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ The third largest measure budget is for Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121), which has used 96% of its programmed total public expenditure and represents nearly 7% of the total public expenditure of the programme.

Figure 10: Progress of total public expenditure up to 2013, main measures (comparison with EU 27)



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