

BELGIUM



Basic Information:

In total the Belgian Rural Development Programmes (RDP) have budgeted for 2007-2013 total public expenditure of €1.3 billion (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Member State contribution). At the end of 2013, €1.15 billion were spent out of the allocated budget (see figure 1).

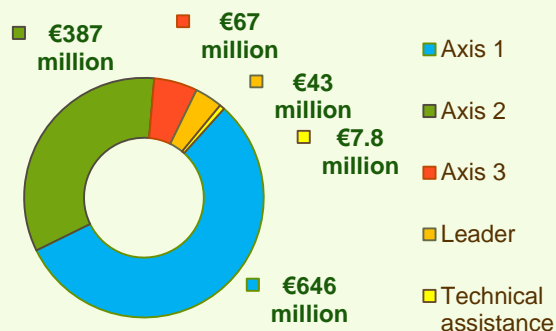
Axis 1 – (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector) has utilised 93% of its allocated budget.

Axis 2 – (Improving the environment and the countryside) has used 86% of its programmed expenditure.

Axis 3 – (Improving the quality of life in rural areas) has spent nearly 62% of its budget.

Axis 4 – (Leader) has utilised approximately 67% of the programmed expenditure.

Figure 1: Total Public Expenditure from 2007 to 2013 in Belgium & 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)

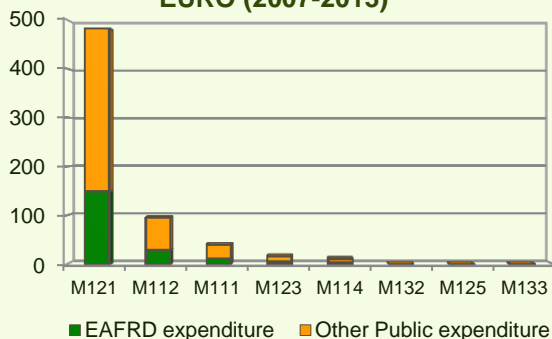
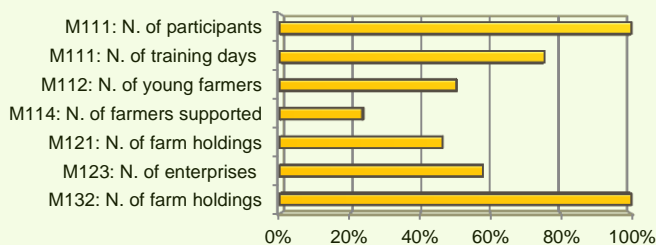


Figure 3: Axis 1 - Progress against 2007-2013 output targets in Belgium (2007-2012)



The sum of programmed total public expenditure of the Belgian RDPs for Axis 1 for 2007-2013 equals to €692 million. An emphasis is placed on the Modernisation of agricultural holdings (Measure 121), allocating to this measure approximately 71% of the overall budgeted funds for Axis 1.

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

- ❖ Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture (M125) has spent all of its allocated funds.
- ❖ The following measures have used 93-99% of their programmed expenditure:
 - Setting up of young farmers (M112), 93%;
 - Vocational training and information actions (M111), 93%;
 - Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121), 99%.
- ❖ Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123) and Use of advisory services (M114) have spent 46% and 57% respectively of their planned budgets.
- ❖ Participation of farmers in food quality schemes (M132) and Information and promotion activities (M133) have spent 19% and 8% respectively of their budgets.

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

Axis 2 focuses on Agri-environment payments (M214). The measure represents the majority of Axis 2 expenditure (see figure 4) and has been allocated 27% of the total public budget programmed in the Belgian RDPs for 2007-2013.

- ❖ The Agri-environment payments measure (M214) has utilised nearly 90% of its programmed budget.
- ❖ Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212) and Non-productive investments - forestry (M227) have utilised respectively 83% and 85% of their allocated budgets.
- ❖ Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC (M213) and First afforestation of agricultural land (M221) have both used around 64% of their planned budget.
- ❖ Natura 2000 payments (M224) has spent 56% of its budget.
- ❖ For two more measures (M216 and M222), minimal or no expenditure had been recorded up to the end of 2013.

Figure 5 provides an indication of the achieved outputs up to 2012 in comparison to the output targets for 2007-2013.

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

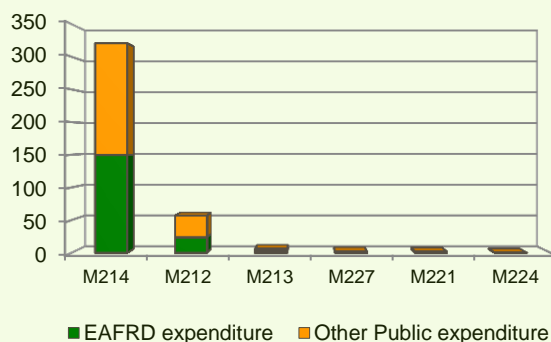


Figure 5: Axis 2 - Progress against 2007-2013 output targets in Belgium (2007-2012)



Measure 214 project example: Preventing River Pollution from Farming Activities in the Dommel and Warmbeek River Basins / Belgium - Flanders

Residues from fertilizers and pesticides used in farming activities got into The Dommel and Warmbeek river basins. Municipalities, together with the local Water Management Agency, joined forces with local farmers to solve this problem. Using measure 214 funds, natural grass buffer strips along watercourses were created and managed by local farmers as a way to protect and improve water quality and biodiversity.

Besides creating the grass buffers, the project has encouraged farmers to sign a 'Brook Bank Management Agreement' with municipalities and offered assistance to farmers, both to complete the administrative requirements and to manage and maintain the brook banks. The management agreements were concluded for a total of 11.5 km., almost doubling the extension of the existing buffer zones. This scheme was promoted at regional level, particularly to other municipalities, improving the image of agriculture and of the region.

The total cost of the project was €565.800.

Link: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=3280

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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)

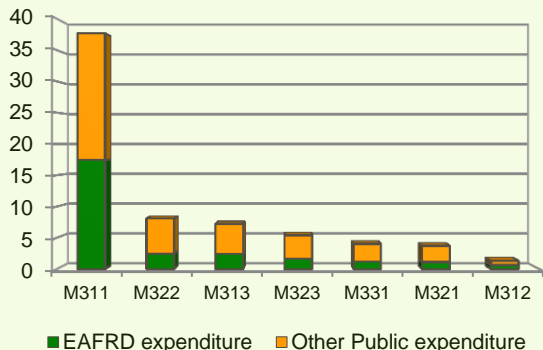


Figure 7: Axis 3 - Progress against 2007-2013 output targets in Belgium (2007-2012)

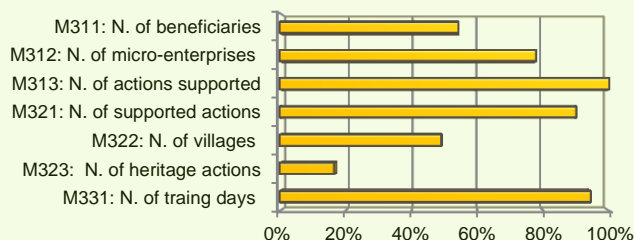


Figure 7 provides an indication of the achieved outputs up to 2012 in comparison to the output targets for 2007-2013.

Axis 3 of the Belgian RDPs focuses on Diversification into non-agricultural activities (M311) and Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (M323) which together represent 58% of the Axis budget (see figure 6).

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

- ❖ Village renewal and development (M322) have used all of its allocated funds.
- ❖ Diversification into non-agricultural activities (M311) has spent 90% of its planned allocation.
- ❖ Training and information (M331) has utilised 73% of its programmed expenditure.
- ❖ Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321) have used 63% of its budget.
- ❖ Encouragement of tourism activities (M313) has realised 49% of its planned budget.
- ❖ Finally, Support for business creation and development (M312) and Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (M323) have so far used 11% and 26% of their programmed budgets.

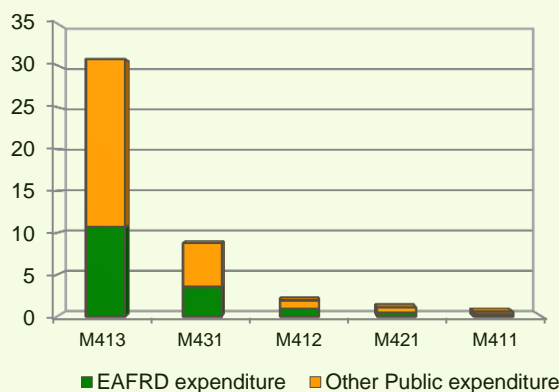
Axis 4 - Leader

The Leader Axis in the Belgian RDPs has allocated budget of €64 million out of which €43 million have been spent 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 expenditure per measure up to 2013 it is observed that:

- ❖ Environment/land management (M412) has used 92% of its programmed expenditure.
- ❖ Quality of life and diversification (M413) and Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation (M431) had spent 71% and 65% of their budgets (figure 8).
- ❖ Competitiveness (M411) and Implementing cooperation projects (M421) have utilised respectively 28% and 38% of their allocated funds.

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

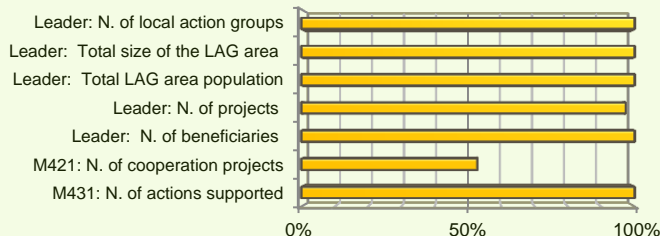


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Axis 4 - Leader

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

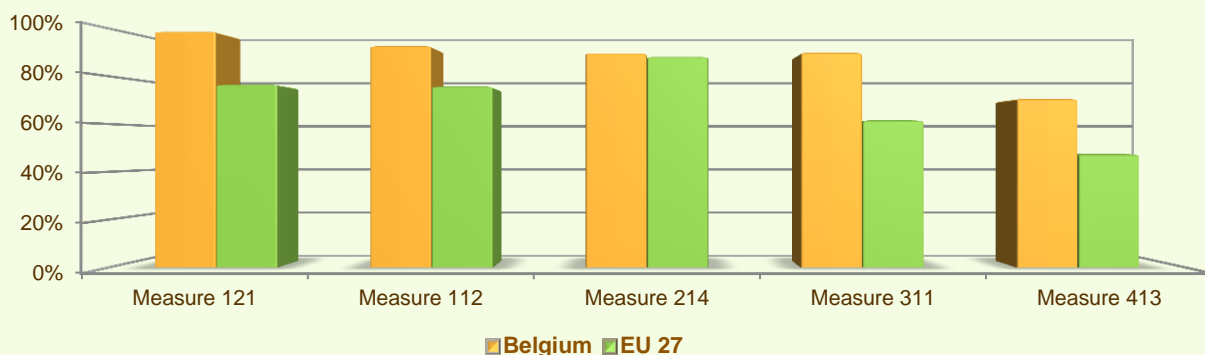
Figure 9: Axis 4 - Progress against 2007-2013 output targets in Belgium (2007-2012)



Summary

- ✓ Within the seven years of implementation, the Belgian RDPs have utilised nearly 87% of the total public expenditure planned for the current Programming Period (post Health Check and the European Economic Recovery Package modification).
- ✓ Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) is the measure with the highest allocated budget in the Belgian RDPs. Up to 2013, it has utilised 99% of its available budget, and represents 42% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ Agri-environment payments (M214) has the second largest budget in the Belgian RDPs and the utilised expenditure is nearly 90% of its allocated funds. M214 represents almost 28% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ The third largest measure budget is for Setting up of young farmers (M112) which has used 93% of its programmed total public expenditure and represents 8% 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

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