

BELGIUM - FLANDERS



Basic Information:

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Flanders has programmed for 2007-2013 a total public expenditure of €713 million (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Member State contribution). At the end of 2013, €657 million were spent out of the allocated budget (see figure 1).

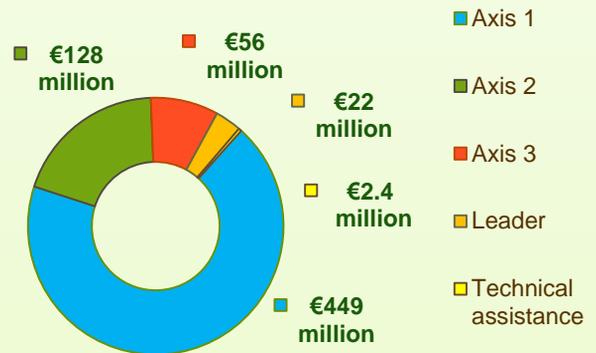
Axis 1 (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector) has utilised 96% of its allocated budget.

Axis 2 (Improving the environment and the countryside) has utilised nearly 98% of its funding.

Axis 3 (Improving the quality of life in rural areas) has utilised nearly 80% of its budget.

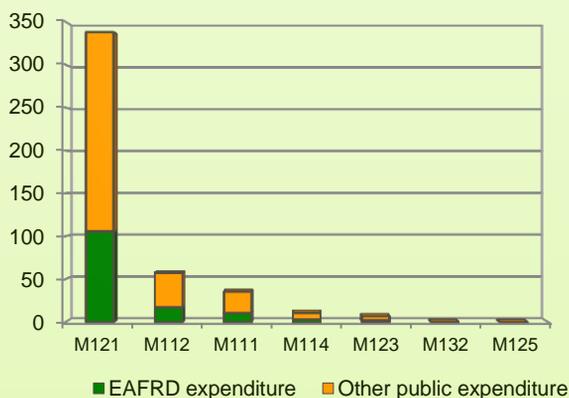
Axis 4 (Leader) spending amounted to 53% of the programmed expenditure for 2007-2013.

Figure 1: Total public expenditure per axis in Flanders (2007-2013)



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)



Axis 1 places an emphasis on the Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121), allocating to this measure nearly 73% of the overall budgeted funds for Axis 1.

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

- ❖ Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) and Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture measure (M125) have spent all of their budget.
- ❖ Vocational training and information actions (M111) and Setting up of young farmers (M112) have spent around 95% of their allocated budgets.
- ❖ Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123) has realised 71% of its planned expenditure.
- ❖ Use of advisory services (M114) and Participation of farmers in food quality schemes (M132) have used 57-59% of their allocated funds.
- ❖ Finally, Information and promotion activities (M133) has spent 8% of its budget up to the end of 2013.

Figure 3: Progress of Axis 1 expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 programmed budgets, main measures

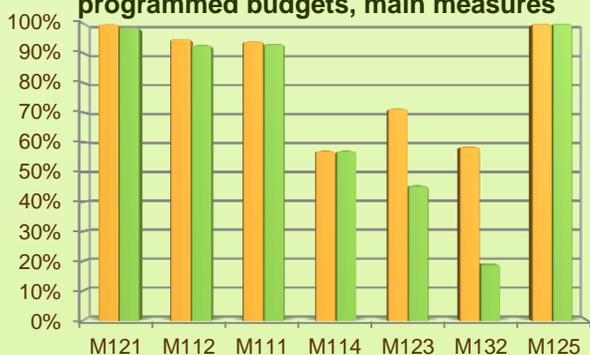


Figure 3 provides an indication of the progress of the total public expenditure of the most important measures of Axis 1 against the 2007-2013 budgets, in comparison to the National level.

■ Total public expenditure (%) against 2007-2013 budgets / Regional level
 ■ Total public expenditure (%) against 2007-2013 budgets / National level

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Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

Axis 2 focuses on Agri-environment payments (M214). This measure represents the biggest amount of the Axis 2 total public expenditure (see figure 4) and has been allocated nearly 17% of the total public budget programmed in the Flanders RDP for 2007-2013.

- ❖ The Agri-environment payments measure (M214) has spent all of its allocated funds.
- ❖ Non-productive investments – forestry (M227) has realised 85% of its programmed expenditure.
- ❖ Two of the measures offered by Axis 2 have utilised 57-64% of their allocated budgets, namely:
 - Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC (M213), 57%;
 - First afforestation of agricultural land (M221), 64%.
- ❖ Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps other than mountain areas (M212) has utilised nearly 35% of its programmed budget.
- ❖ Up to the end of 2013, minimal expenditure has been recorded for measure First establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land (M222) and no expenditure for Non-productive investments – agriculture (M216).

Figure 5 provides an indication of the progress of the total public expenditure of the most important measures of Axis 2 against the 2007-2013 budgets, in comparison to the National level.

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

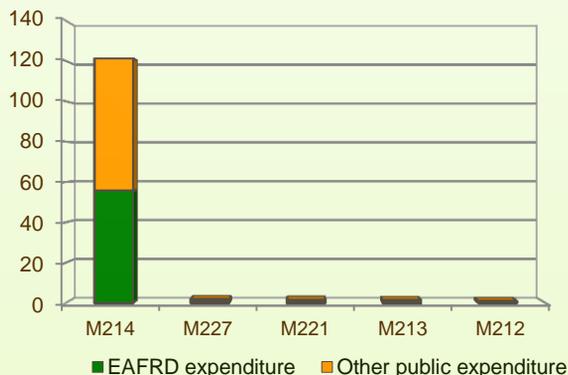
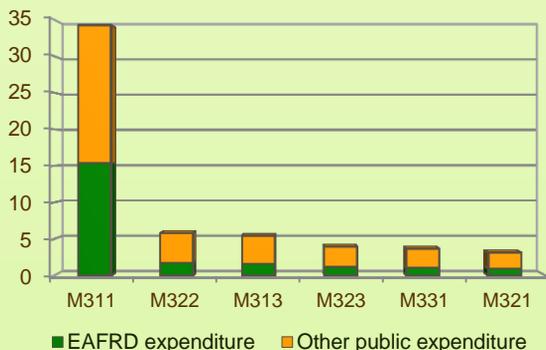


Figure 5: Axis 2 expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 programmed budgets, main measures



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)



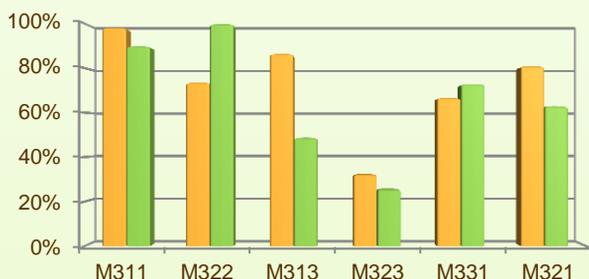
Axis 3 of the Flanders RDP focuses on Diversification into non-agricultural activities (M311), which represents nearly 50% of Axis 3 budget and most of the achieved total public expenditure (see figure 6). Specifically:

- ❖ Diversification into non-agricultural activities (M311) has spent 98% of its budget.
- ❖ Four measures have utilised between 67% and 87% of their programmed budgets:
 - Training and information (M331), 67%
 - Village renewal and development (M322), 74%
 - Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321), 81%
 - Encouragement of tourism activities (M313), 87%.

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

Figure 7: Axis 3 expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 programmed budgets, main measures



■ Total public expenditure (%) against 2007-2013 budgets / Regional level
 ■ Total public expenditure (%) against 2007-2013 budgets / National level

❖ Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (M323) has so far used 32% of its programmed budget.

Figure 7 provides an indication of the progress of the total public expenditure of the most important measures of Axis 3 against the 2007-2013 budgets, in comparison to the National level.

Measure 331 project example: Precision Farming (Advice from Space) / Belgium, Flanders

Flemish agriculture and horticulture focus on production of high-quality goods using modern technologies, including satellite technology. The project used rural development funding under measure 331 to promote technologically-advanced forms of agriculture and horticulture in response to the need for advisory support for farmers to process available data. Specialist software was used, integrating satellite images and various crop production parameters.

Very precise information on crop growth is generated using a combination of satellite and weather data and made available to the farmers through the help of a dedicated website. Farmers can then adjust crop management in order to optimize yields.

The system put in place is now available for all crops and became the basis for further advisory support and practical management actions. No effort is now spend for collecting crop samples and for expensive laboratory analyses as before.

The total cost of the project was €262,000.

Link: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=681

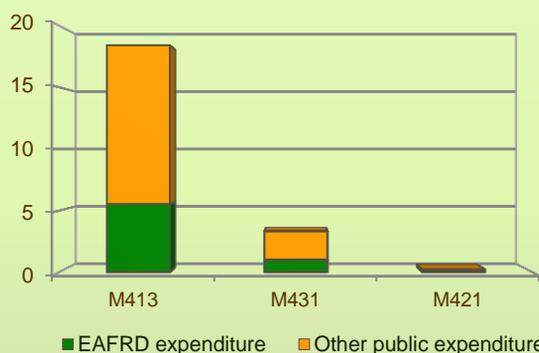
Axis 4 - Leader

The Leader Axis in the Flanders RDP has allocated budget of €41 million, out of which around €22 million have been spent by 2013. This Axis gives emphasis to the Quality of life/diversification measure (M413) which has the largest allocation of funds.

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

❖ Quality of life/diversification (M413) has achieved the largest share of the Axis total public expenditure (figure 8) and utilised nearly 58% of its allocated funds.

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



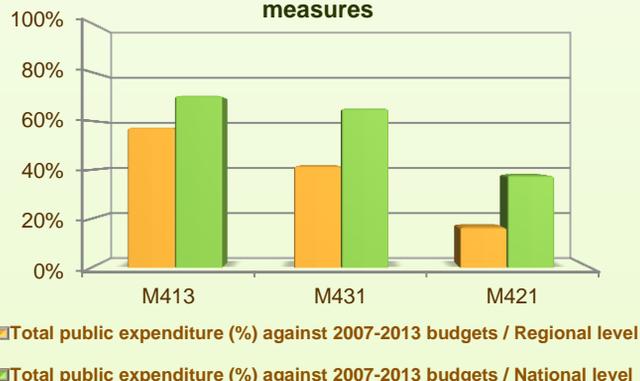
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Axis 4 - Leader

- ❖ Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation (M431) has used 42% of its planned budget.
- ❖ Implementing cooperation projects (M421) has spent nearly 17% of its allocated funds.

Figure 9 provides an indication of the progress of the total public expenditure of the most important measures of Axis 4 against the 2007-2013 budgets, in comparison to the National level.

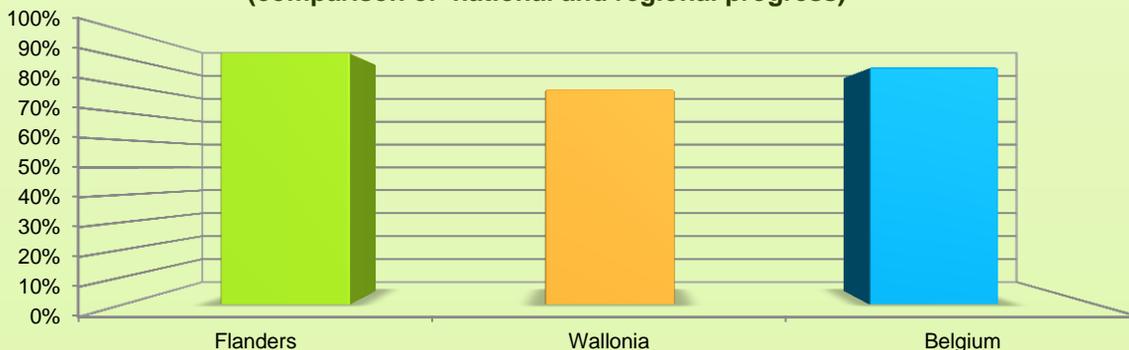
Figure 9: Axis 4 expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 programmed budgets, main measures



Summary

- ✓ Within seven years of implementation, the Flanders RDP has utilised 92% (see figure 10) of the total public expenditure planned for the current Programming Period (including post Health Check and the European Economic Recovery Package modifications).
- ✓ Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) is the measure with the highest allocated budget in the Flanders RDP. Up to 2013, it has utilised its entire available budget, and represents 51% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ Agri-environment payments (M214) has the second largest budget in the Flanders RDP and used up all of the allocated funds. M214 represents more than 18% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ The third largest measure budget is for Setting up of young farmers (M112), which has used 95% of its programmed total public expenditure and represents approximately 9% of the total public expenditure of the programme.

Figure 10: Progress of total public expenditure up to 2013, (comparison of national and regional progress)



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 data are available only at National level; therefore at regional level a comparison of financial implementation progress is provided between the regional RDPs.

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