

# ARAGON - SPAIN

## Basic Information:

The Aragon Rural Development Programme (RDP) has budgeted for 2007-2013 a total public expenditure of €1.1 billion (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Member State contribution). At the end of 2013, €814 million has been utilised were spent out of the allocated budget (see figure 1).

**Axis 1** (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector), has utilised 76% of its allocated budget.

**Axis 2** (Improving the environment and the countryside), has utilised 78% of its programmed expenditure.

**Axis 3** (Improving the quality of life in rural areas), has utilised 82% of its budget.

**Axis 4** (Leader) has utilised approximately 65% of the programmed expenditure.

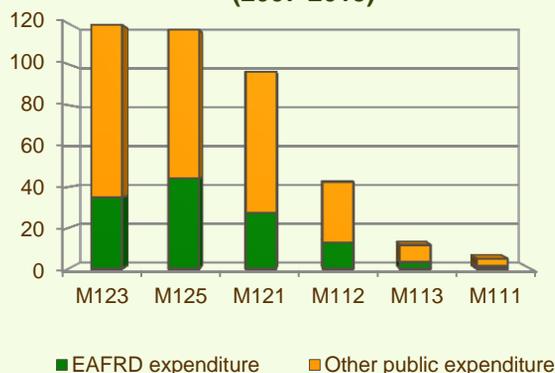


**Figure 1: Total public expenditure per axis in Aragon (2007-2013)**

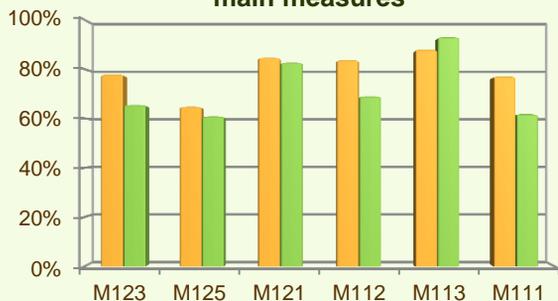


## Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

**Figure 2: Axis 1 total public expenditure per measure in million EURO (2007-2013)**



**Figure 3: Axis 1 total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 budgets, main measures**



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

Axis 1 places an emphasis on Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry (M125), allocating to this measure 34%, of the overall budgeted funds for Axis 1.

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

- ❖ Four measures have utilised more than 80% of their programmed expenditure, namely:
  - Participation of farmers in food quality schemes (M132), 100%
  - Early retirement (M113), 88%
  - Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121), 85%, and
  - Setting up young farmers (M112), 84%
- ❖ Five measures have utilised 60-80% of their programmed expenditure, namely:
  - Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123), 78%
  - Vocational training and information actions (M111), 77%
  - Information and promotion activities (M133), 75%
  - Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry (M125), 65%, and
  - Use of advisory services (M114), 63%.
- ❖ Three measures (M115, M124, M126) have utilised 55-30% of their allocated budgets.

Figure 3 indicates 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.

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

### Measure 121 project example: Modernising the irrigation system in the Flumen Canal of Huesca / Spain - Aragon

One irrigation community of 309 users of the Flumen Canal (Spain) covering 3,000 ha. launched a project for modernizing the irrigation facilities. The traditional way of irrigation consisted in surface irrigation systems, irrigation at night, and land preparation requirements. The market pressures required a new irrigation network using sprinkling method, resulting in water savings and higher yields.

Key activities comprised elimination of old irrigation channels and the construction of a dam and a pumping station. The new pressurised irrigation system is subject to remote irrigation automation and control and the distribution network ends allows modernization of each plot.

It resulted in water savings of 30% in the first year (for winter cereal crops) and higher crop yields that motivated young farmers to participate.

**The total cost** of the project was €23.233.634, out of which €6.689.485 EAFRD contribution, and €8.142.383 national contribution.

**Link:** [http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp\\_view/en/view\\_projects\\_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard\\_id=8240](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=8240)

## Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

Axis 2 focuses on Agri-environment payments (M214). The measure represents a significant part of the Axis 2 expenditure (see Figure 4) and has been allocated 16% of the total public budget programmed in the Aragon RDP for 2007-2013.

❖ Three out of the seven measures offered by the Axis, have utilised more than 80% of their allocated budgets, namely:

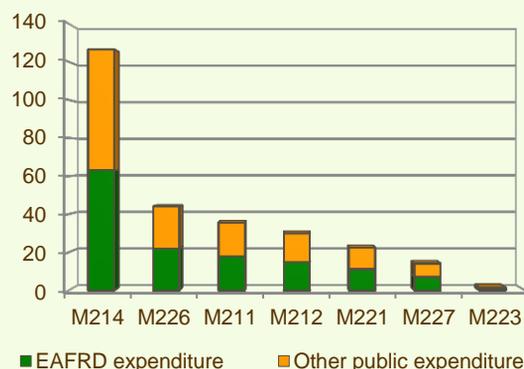
- Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions (M226), 100%
- First afforestation of agricultural land (M221), 82%, and
- Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212), 80%.

❖ The measures on Agri-environment payments (M214), and Non-productive investments – forestry (M227), have utilised 76% and 79% of their programmed budgets.

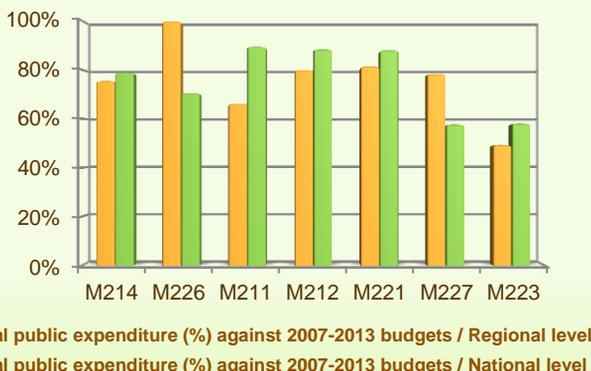
❖ The measures on Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas (M211) and First afforestation of non-agricultural land (M223) have utilised 66% and 49% respectively of their allocated budgets.

Figure 5 indicates 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 total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 budgets, main measures**



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

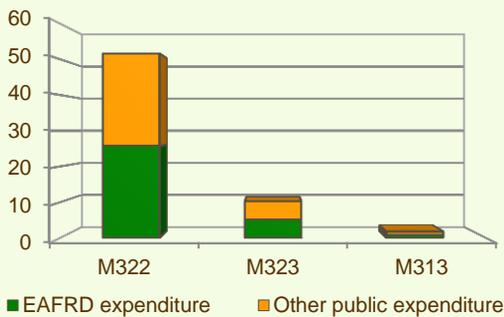
Axis 3 of the Aragon RDP focuses on Village renewal and development (M322) which represents 78% of the Axis budget and 81% of the axis total public expenditure (see Figure 6).

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

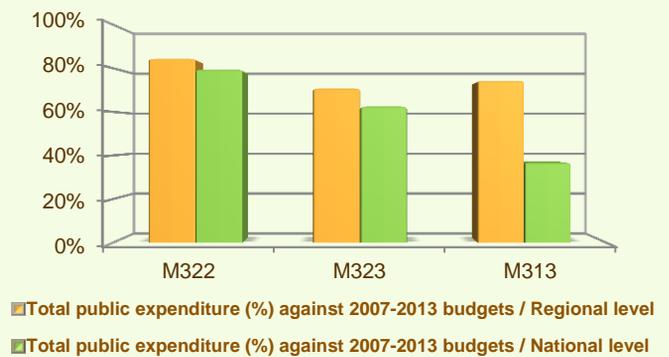
- ❖ Village renewal and development (M322) has utilised 85% of its programmed budget.
- ❖ Two measures have utilised 70-75% of their programmed budgets:
  - Encouragement of tourism activities (M313), 75%, and
  - Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (M323), 71%.

Figure 7 indicates 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.

**Figure 6: Axis 3 total public expenditure per measure in million EURO (2007-2013)**



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



## Axis 4 - Leader

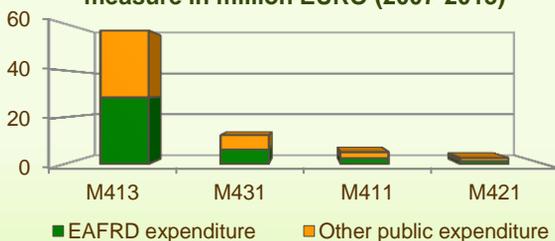
The Leader Axis in the Aragon RDP has allocated budget of €119 million out of which €77 million have been spent by 2013. Within the Axis, emphasis has been given to the Quality of life/diversification (M413). This measure has been allocated the largest share of funds and had the largest public expenditure (see Figure 8).

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

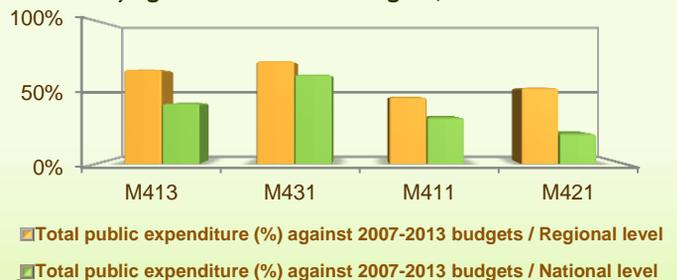
- ❖ Two measures have utilised 65-75% of their allocated funds, namely:
  - Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation (M431), 72% and
  - Quality of life/diversification (M413), 66%.
- ❖ The measure on Implementing cooperation projects (M421) has utilised 53% of its programmed budget.
- ❖ The measure on Competitiveness (M411) has utilised 47% of its allocated funds.

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

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



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

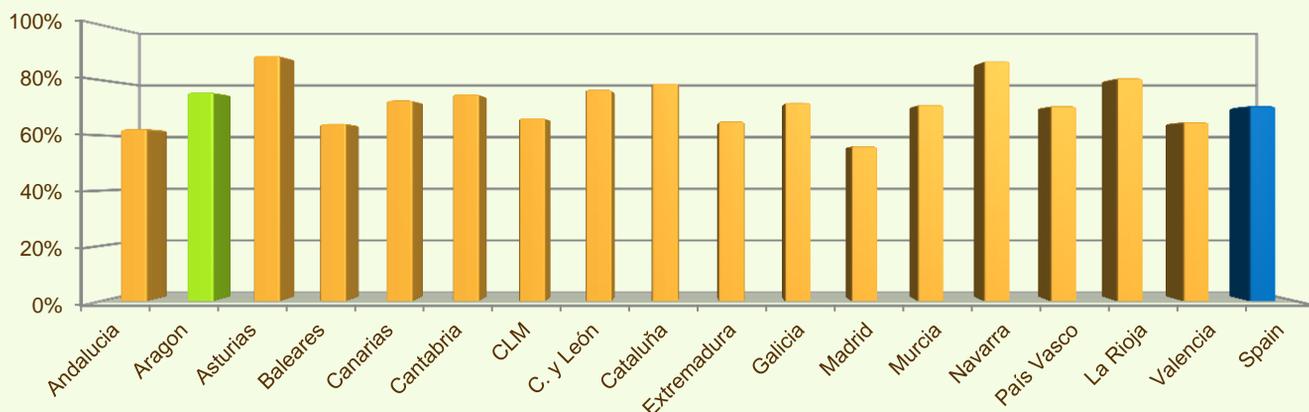


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## Summary

- ✓ Within seven years of implementation, the Aragon RDP has utilised 76% (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).
- ✓ Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry (M125) is the measure with the highest allocated budget in the Aragon RDP. Up to 2013, it has utilised 65% of its available budget and represents 14% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ Agri-environment payments (M214) has the second largest budget in the Aragon RDP and the utilised expenditure is 75% of its allocated funds. M214 represents 16% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ The third largest measure budget is for Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123) which has used almost 78% of its programmed total public expenditure and represents 15% of the total public expenditure of the programme.

**Figure 10: Regional and National Rural Development Programmes total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 targets**



**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.



<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>