

PAIS VASCO - SPAIN



Basic Information:

The País Vasco Rural Development Programme (RDP) has budgeted for 2007-2013 a total public expenditure of €218 million (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Member State contribution). At the end of 2013, €154 million were spent out of the allocated budget (see Figure 1).

Axis 1 (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector) has utilised 69% of its allocated budget.

Axis 2 (Improving the environment and the countryside) has utilised 88% of its programmed expenditure.

Axis 3 (Improving the quality of life in rural areas) has utilised 68% of its allocated budget.

Axis 4 (Leader) has utilised 55% of its programmed expenditure.

Figure 1: Total public expenditure per axis in País Vasco (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)

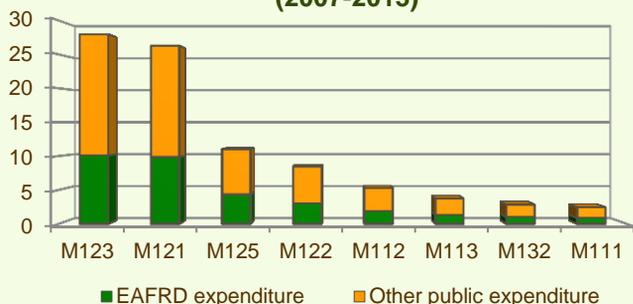
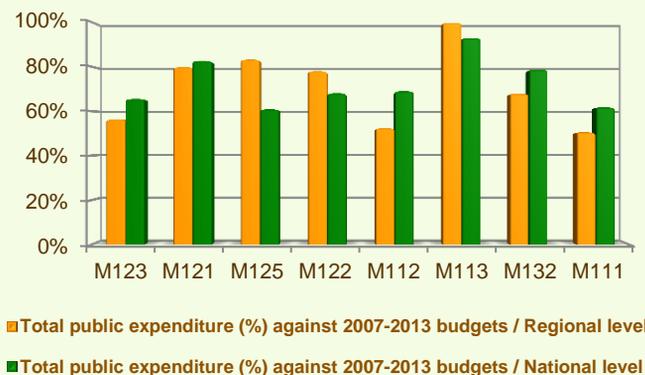


Figure 3: Axis 1 total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 budgets, main measures



Axis 1 places an emphasis on Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123) and Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) allocating to these two measures together 62%, of the overall budgeted funds for Axis 1.

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

- ❖ The measure on Early retirement (M113) has utilised all of its allocated budget.
- ❖ Two measures have utilised 80-85% of their programmed expenditure, namely:
 - Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry (M125), 83% and
 - Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121), 80%.
- ❖ Improvement of the economic value of forests (M122) has spent 78% of its allocated expenditure.
- ❖ Three measures have utilised 65-70% of their programmed expenditure, namely:
 - Participation of farmers in food quality schemes (M132), 68%
 - Setting up of management, relief and advisory services (M115), 66%
 - Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies, etc. (M124), 66%
- ❖ Four measures (M111, M112, M123, M133) have utilised 50-60% of their programmed expenditure, namely

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 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

Axis 2 focuses on Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas (M211) and on Agri-environment payments (M214). These measures together represent almost 86% of the Axis 2 expenditure (see Figure 4) and have been allocated 15% of the total public budget programmed in the País Vasco RDP for 2007-2013.

- ❖ The measures on Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas (M211) and on Non-productive investments – forestry (M227) have utilised all of their programmed budget.
- ❖ The measure on First afforestation of agricultural land (M221), Agri-environment payments (M214) and Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212) have utilised respectively 90%, 85% and 82% of their programmed budgets.
- ❖ The measure on Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions (M226) has spent 56% of its allocated expenditure.
- ❖ The measure on Forest-environment payments (M225) has utilised 1% of its programmed funds.

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)

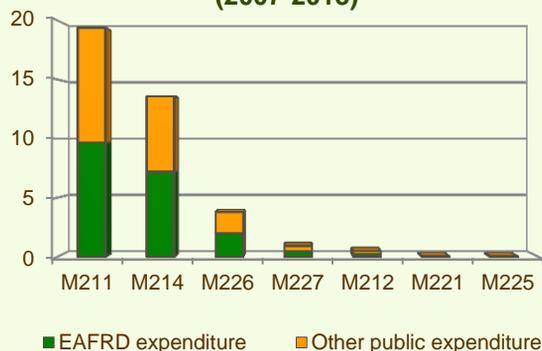
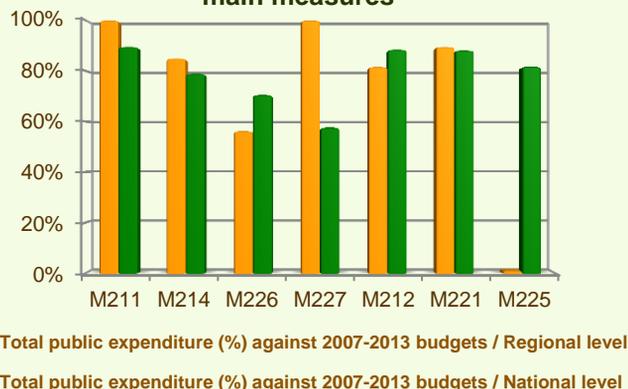


Figure 5: Axis 2 total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 budgets, main measures



Measure 225 project example: Restoration of a Poplar Grove to Natural Riverbank Habitats-Labastida, Álava / Spain – Pays Basque

This project aims to protect and enhance biodiversity. This is being done through the combined efforts of the landowners and local government authorities.

Although generally the expansion of poplar forests along riverbanks is a phenomenon seen as negative on biodiversity, in Salinillas de Buradón region it was on purpose encouraged in order to restore the natural habitat along the banks of the Ebro River for weasel, nutria and European mink species recognised to be at risk.

Activities focused on forest management (pruning of small copses and manual plantations of riverbank tree species) while respecting environmental protection as the project specific objectives were: the protection of local shrubs and arboreal vegetation, woodland maintenance and the upkeep of trees with large trunks.

Government and forest owners combined actions by refraining from engaging in inappropriate commercial forest exploitation or forestation with rapid-growth species fight against environmental problems threatening the area.

The total cost of the project was €37,000, out of which €18,500 was EAFRD contribution and €18,500 national contribution.

Link: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=3920

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

Axis 3 of the País Vasco RDP focuses on Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321) which represents 60% of the Axis budget and of the Axis total public expenditure (see Figure 6).

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

- ❖ The measure on Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (M323) has utilised 97% of its programmed budget.
- ❖ The measures on Diversification into non-agricultural activities (M311) and Encouragement of tourism activities (M313) have utilised in that order 69% and 62% of their programmed budgets.
- ❖ The measure on Village renewal and development (M322), has spent 54% of its allocated budget.

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 thousand EURO (2007-2013)

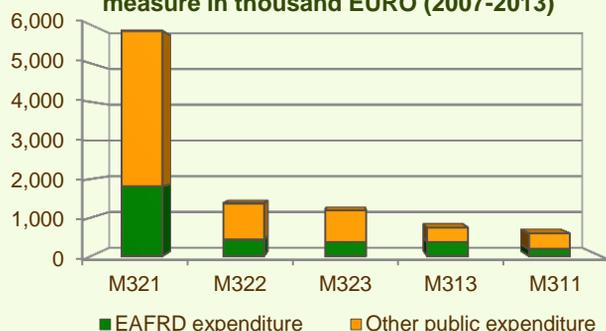


Figure 7: Axis 3 total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 budgets, main measures



Axis 4 - Leader

The Leader Axis in the País Vasco RDP has allocated budget of €27 million, out of which almost €15 million have been spent by 2013. Within the Axis, emphasis has been given to the Quality of life/diversification (M413) which has been allocated 91% of the Axis total public programmed funds.

When comparing the expenditure rates per measure up to 2013 it is observed (see Figure 8) that three measures have utilised 55-60% of their allocated budgets:

- ❖ Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation (M431), 56%
- ❖ Competitiveness (M411), 55%
- ❖ Quality of life/diversification (M413), 55%.

Figure 9 indicates 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 8: Axis 4 total public expenditure per measure in million EURO (2007-2013)

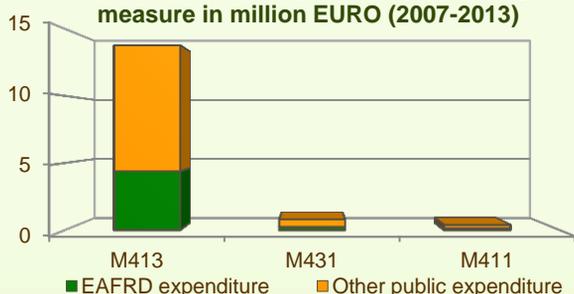
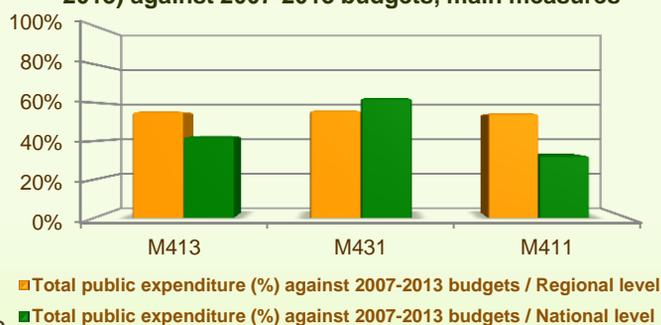


Figure 9: Axis 4 total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 budgets, main measures

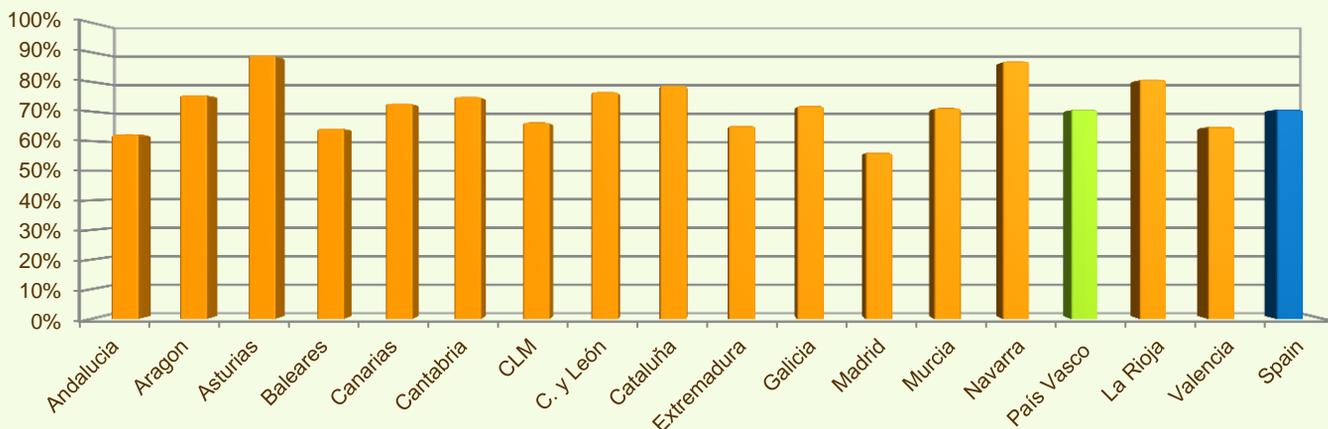


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Summary

- ✓ Within seven years of implementation, the País Vasco RDP has utilised 71% (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).
- ✓ Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123) is the measure with the highest allocated budget in the País Vasco RDP. Up to 2013, it has utilised 56% of its available budget and represents 18% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) has the second largest budget in the País Vasco RDP and the utilised expenditure is 80% of its allocated funds. M121 also represents 17% share of the programme total public expenditure.
- ✓ The third largest measure budget is for Quality of life/diversification (M413) which has used 55% of its programmed total public expenditure and represents 9% of the total public expenditure of the programme.

Figure 10: Progress of total public expenditure up to 2013 (at regional and national level)



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>