

IRELAND

Basic Information:

The Irish Rural Development Programme (RDP) has budgeted for 2007-2013 a total public expenditure of €4.3 billion (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Member State contribution). At the end of 2013, €4 billion were spent out of the allocated budget (see figure 1).

Axis 1 – (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector) has spent 84% of its allocated budget.

Axis 2 – (Improving the environment and the countryside) has used nearly 97% of its programmed expenditure.

Axis 3 – (Improving the quality of life in rural areas) No expenditures has been recorded for Axis 3 measures as they are implemented using the LEADER approach under Axis 4.

Axis 4 – (Leader) has utilised approximately 76% of the programmed expenditure.



Figure 1: Total Public Expenditure per Axis in Ireland from 2007 to 2013



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

Axis 1 of the Irish RDP places an emphasis on Early retirement (Measure 113), allocating to this measure more than 56% of the overall budgeted funds for Axis 1.

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

- ❖ Three out of four programmed measures under Axis 1 have spent all of their programmed budgets:
 - Vocational training and information actions (M111);
 - Setting up of young farmers (M112);
 - Early retirement (M113).
- ❖ Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) has spent 58% of its planned allocation.

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

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

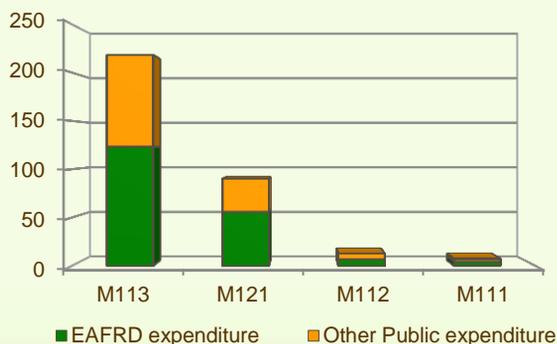
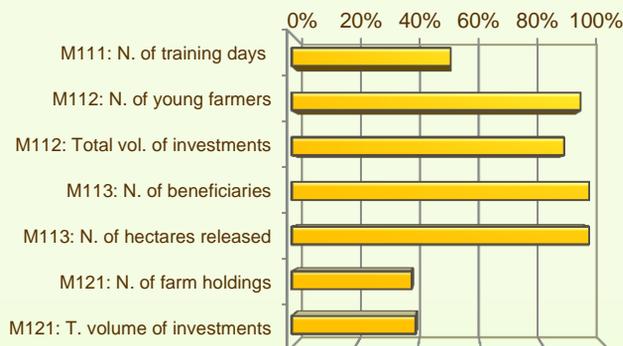


Figure 3: Axis 1 - Progress against 2007-2013 output targets in Ireland (2007-2012)



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Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

Axis 2 focuses on Agri-environment payments (M214). This measure has been allocated 44% of the total public budget programmed in the Irish RDP for 2007-2013 and it represents the majority of Axis 2 expenditure (see figure 4).

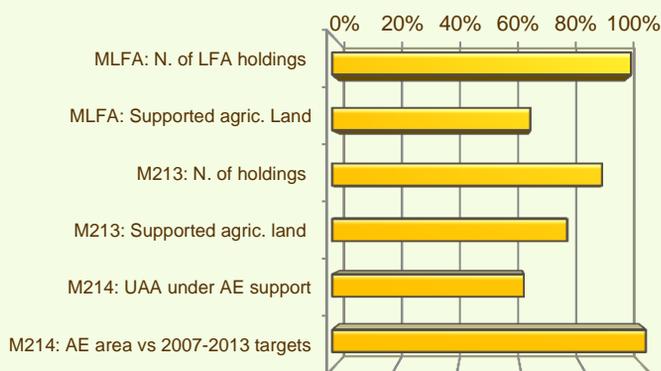
- ❖ Two out of the three measures offered by the Axis have utilised all of their allocated budgets:
 - Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212) and
 - Agri-environment payments (M214).
- ❖ Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC (M213) has utilised 18% of its programmed expenditure.

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 Ireland (2007-2012)



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

Axis 3 of the Irish RDP includes only the budget for measure Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321) which accounts for almost €18 million. For this measure no expenditure had been recorded up to the end of 2013.

The other measures of the Axis are implemented with the Leader approach under Axis 4 of the RDP.

Figure 6 provides an indication of the Axis 3 outputs up to 2012 – achieved using the Leader approach - in comparison to the output targets for 2007-2013.

Limited output data were available for Axis 3 in Ireland up to 2012.

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Measure 331 project example: Mobile ICT Rural Training Service ('Fingal Roadster') / Ireland

The project represents an innovative use of EAFRD support for training and information activities to the most isolated communities in rural Ireland with an innovative new mobile “Roadster”, a vehicle which is parked on site where the computer trainings are held.

ICT trainings provide rural people with the necessary skills and ability to use modern technology to their advantage increasing their chances to find new jobs and generate economic development in the region. Courses were designed addressing all levels of competence, with focus on beginners and intermediate (e.g. ECDL, Photoshop and Internet for Farm Families) and include a customised programme for school children.

Over 250 local people have been trained (from 5th school class to 87 years old) and some of the trainees progressed to work as ICT tutors at local level.

The total cost of the project was €65,000, out of which €32,186 was EAFRD contribution.

Link: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=923

Axis 4 - Leader

Figure 7: Axis 4 - Realised Total Public expenditure per measure in million EURO (2007-2013)

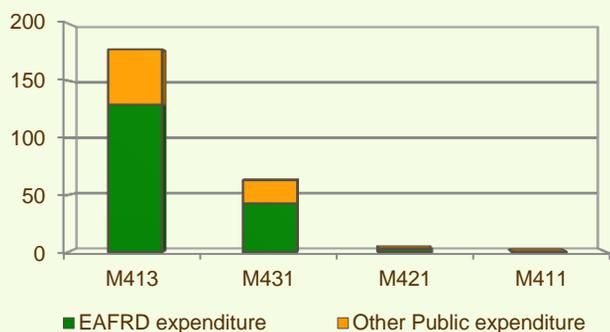
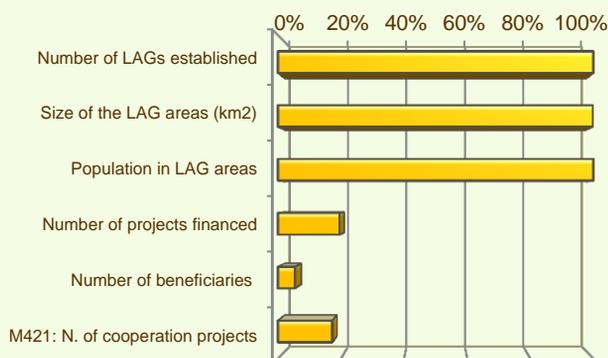


Figure 8: Axis 4 - Progress against 2007-2013 output targets in Ireland (2007-2012)



The Leader Axis in the Irish RDP has allocated budget of nearly €320 million out of which around €244 million have been spent by 2013. Within the Axis, emphasis has been given to the Quality of life/diversification (M413) which has been allocated the largest share of funds. When comparing the expenditure rates per measure up to 2013, it is observed that (see figure 7):

- ❖ The measure Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation (M431) has spent all of its allocated budget.
- ❖ The measure Quality of life/diversification (M413) has utilised nearly 73% of its programmed funds.
- ❖ The measure Implementing cooperation projects (M421) has spent 41% of its budget.
- ❖ Competitiveness (M411) with utilised 8% of its budgeted funds, has the lowest expenditure rate.

Figure 8 provides an indication of the achieved outputs up to 2012 in comparison to the output targets for 2007-2013.

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Summary

- ✓ Within the seven years of its implementation, the Irish RDP has utilised about 93% of the total public expenditure planned for the current Programming Period (including post Health Check and the European Economic Recovery Package modifications).
- ✓ Agri-environment payments (M214) is the measure with the highest allocated budget in the Irish RDP. Up to 2013, it has utilised all of its available budget and represents 48% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212) has the second largest budget in the Irish RDP and has utilised its entire allocated funds. M212 represents 36% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ The third largest measure budget is for Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC (M213) which has used 18% of its programmed total public expenditure and represents 2% of the total public expenditure of the programme.

Figure 9: 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.