

# SICILIA - ITALY

## Basic Information:

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) of the Sicilia region has budgeted for 2007-2013 a total public expenditure of €2.2 billion (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Member State contribution). At the end of 2013, €1.4 billion was spent out of the allocated budget (see figure 1).

**Axis 1** – (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector) has spent nearly 59% of its allocated budget.

**Axis 2** – (Improving the environment and the countryside) has utilised 81% of its programmed expenditure.

**Axis 3** – (Improving the quality of life in rural areas) has spent nearly 43% of its budget.

**Axis 4** – (Leader) has used 16% of its programmed expenditure.

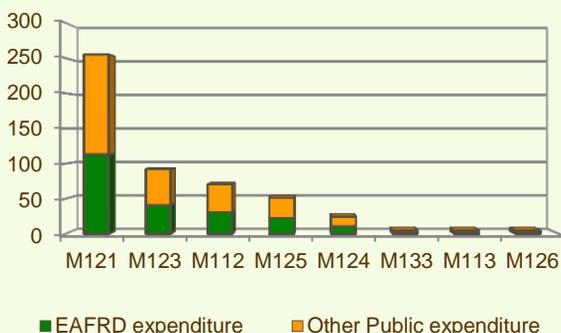


**Figure 1: Total Public Expenditure from 2007 to 2013 in Sicilia & expenditure per Axis**

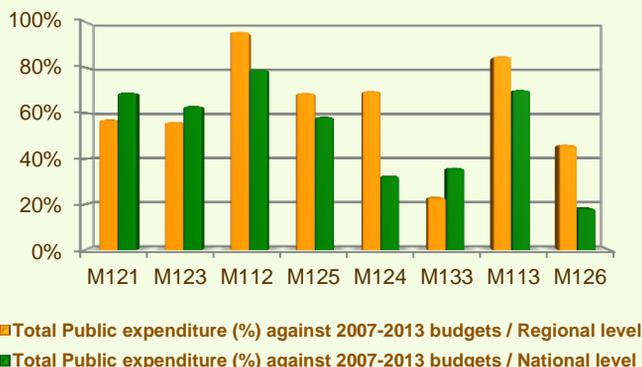


## Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

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



**Figure 3: Axis 1 – Total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-13 budgets, main measures**



Axis 1 places an emphasis on the Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) and Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123), allocating to these two measures 71% of the overall budgeted funds for Axis 1. Analysis of the expenditure rates per measure up to 2013 shows that:

- ❖ Setting up of young farmers (M112) and Early retirement (M113) measures have spent accordingly 96% and 85% of their budgets.
- ❖ Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture (M125) Cooperation for development of new products, etc. (M124) have utilised 69% of their programmed expenditure.
- ❖ Three measures have spent 45% to 60% of their allocated budgets, namely:
  - Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121), 57%
  - Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123), 56% and
  - Restoring agricultural production potential (M126), 46%.
- ❖ Finally, the remaining five measures (M111, M114, M122, M132, M133) have spent between 23% and 6% of their allocated budgets up to the end of 2013.

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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## Measure 123 project example: Adding Value to Locust Bean Gum in Sicily / Italy – Sicilia

The LBG Company in Ragusa is the worldwide leader in carob bean seeds and locust bean gum production. It set up a project to help enlarge its operation in order to better meet the market requests. The project enabled the enterprise to improve its productivity by adopting modern and environmentally sustainable manufacturing technologies and introducing food traceability systems.

The premises were expanded: a bigger warehouse was built, an automated monitoring system which guarantees the traceability of each batch produced was purchased, and a special packaging system and equipment put in place for testing and quality controls.

Company's national and international competitiveness level increased and now it invests part of the profit in research and development. Innovation and further expansion increased the company's flexibility to adapt to changes, increasing its market share.

**The total cost** of the project was €9,994,088, out of which €4,997,044 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=8801](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=8801)

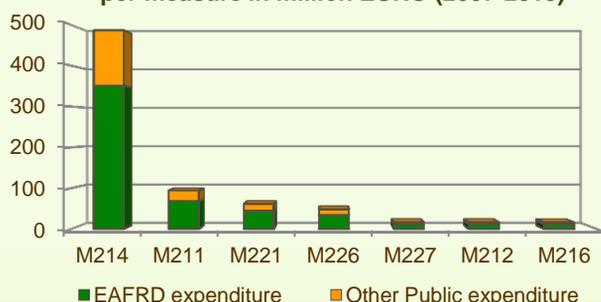
## Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

Axis 2 focuses on Agri-environment payments (M214) and Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas (M211). The two measures represent the majority of the Axis 2 expenditure (see figure 4). Together they have been allocated 29% of the total public budget programmed in the Sicilia RDP for 2007-2013.

- ❖ Five measures have utilised between 85% and 100% of their programmed expenditure, namely:
  - Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas (M211), 93%
  - Natura 2000 payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC (M213), 99%
  - First afforestation of agricultural land (M221), 96%
  - Agri-environment payments (M214), 91% and
  - Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain (M212), 88%
- ❖ Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions (M226) has spent 55% of its budget.
- ❖ The measure on First afforestation of non-agricultural land (M223) has utilised 45% of its allocated expenditure.
- ❖ The remaining two measures of the Axis, have spent less than 40% of their allocated budgets. M227 has spent 35% and M216 spent 28% of their respective budgets up to the end of 2012.

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)**



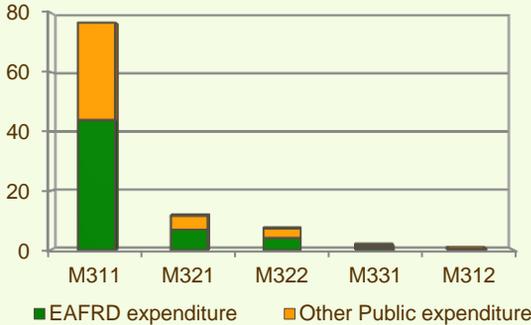
**Figure 5: Axis 2 – Total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-13 budgets, main measures**



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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)**



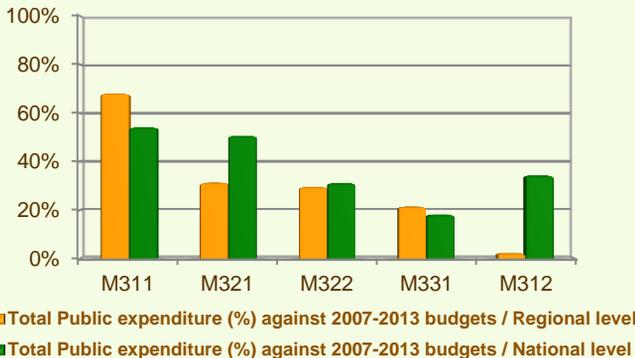
Axis 3 of the Sicilia RDP focuses on Diversification into non-agricultural activities (M311) and Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321) which together represent nearly 66% of the Axis budget.

As shown in figure 6, the Diversification into non-agricultural activities measure (M311) has utilised 68% its programmed budget.

- ❖ Three measures have spent around 30% of their allocated budgets, namely:
  - Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321), 31%
  - Village renewal and development (M322), 29% and
  - Skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy (M341), 29%.
- ❖ Training and information (M331) has spent 21% of its allocated budget.
- ❖ The remaining three measures (M312, M313, M323) of the Axis record minimal expenditure up to the end of 2013.

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 7: Axis 3 – Total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-13 budgets, main measures**



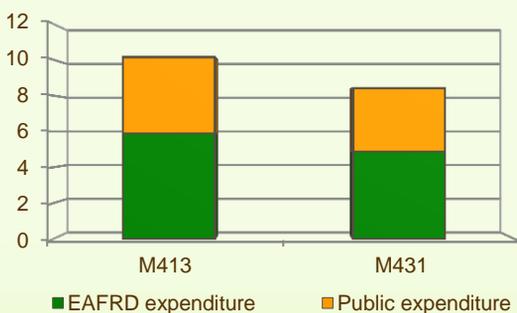
## Axis 4 - Leader

The Leader Axis in the Sicilia RDP has allocated budget of €120 million out of which €19 million has been spent up to 2013. Within the Axis, emphasis has been given to Quality of life/diversification (M413) which has been allocated the largest share of funds.

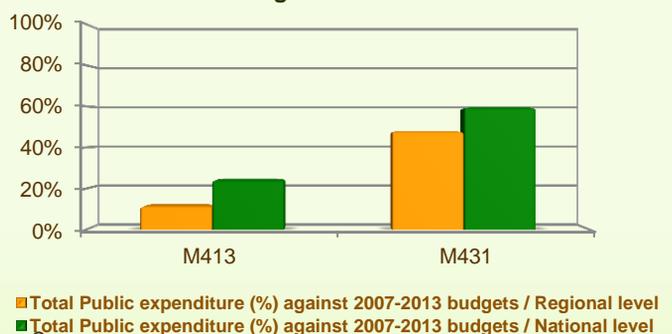
As shown in figure 8, the Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation (M431) measure has utilised 48% of its allocated budget up to the end of 2013. Quality of life/diversification (M413) has spent 11% of its programmed budget.

Figure 9 indicates the progress of the total public expenditure of measures M413 and M431 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)**



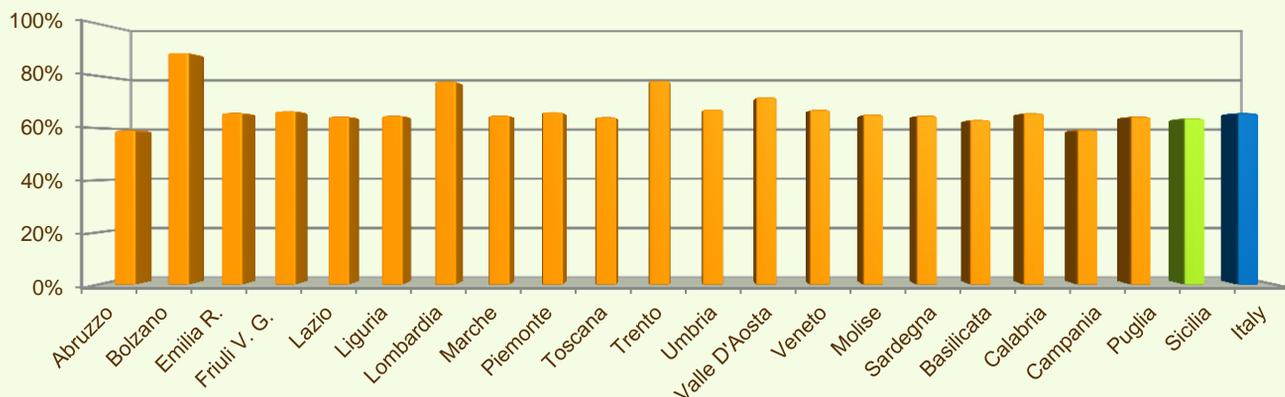
**Figure 9: Axis 4 – Total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-13 budgets, at national and regional level**



## Summary

- ✓ Within seven years of implementation, the Sicilia RDP has utilised 64% (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).
- ✓ Agri-environment payments (M214) is the measure with the highest allocated budget in the Sicilia RDP. Up to 2013, it has utilised 91% of its available budget and represents 35% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) has the second largest budget in the Sicilia RDP and the utilised expenditure is 57% of its allocated funds. M121 represents 18% 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 56% of its programmed total public expenditure and represents 7% 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.