

UNITED KINGDOM

Basic Information:

The UK's Rural Development Programmes (RDP) in total, have budgeted for 2007-2013 a total public expenditure of €7.8 billion (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Member State contribution). At the end of 2013, €6.1 billion were spent out of the allocated budget (see Figure 1).

Axis 1 (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector) has utilised 79% of its allocated budget.

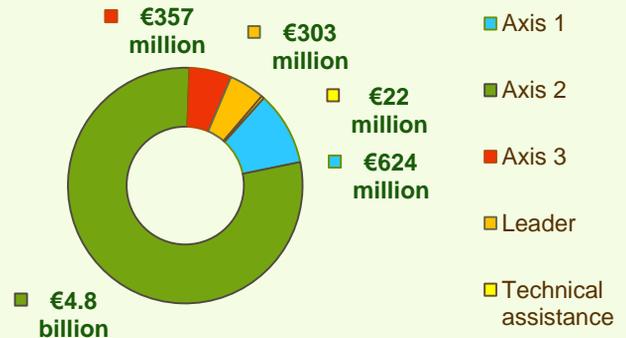
Axis 2 (Improving the environment and the countryside) has utilised 82% of its programmed expenditure.

Axis 3 (Improving the quality of life in rural areas) has utilised 65% of its budget.

Axis 4 (Leader) has utilised approximately 62% of the programmed expenditure.



Figure 1: Total public expenditure per axis in the UK (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)

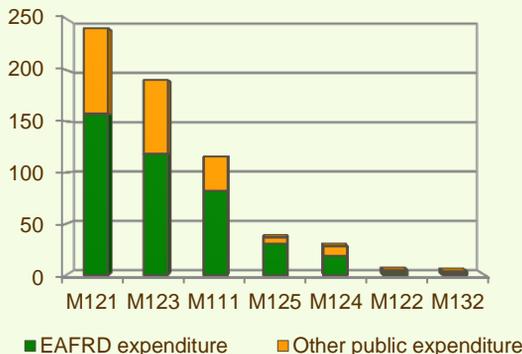
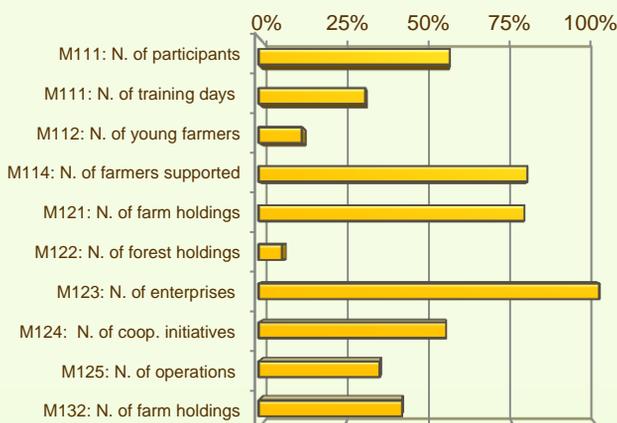


Figure 3: Axis 1 progress against 2007-2013 output targets in the U.K. (2007-2012)



The sum of programmed total public expenditure of the UK's RDPs on Axis 1 places an emphasis on Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) and Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (Measure 123), allocating to these two measures 58% of the overall budgeted funds for Axis 1.

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

- ❖ Three measures have utilised 95-100% of their allocated budgets, namely:
 - Participation of farmers in food quality schemes (M132), 100%
 - Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121), 100%
 - Setting up of management, relief and advisory services (M115), 98%.
- ❖ Two measures have utilised 70-75% of their programmed expenditure:
 - Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123), 71% and
 - Use of advisory services (M114), 72%
- ❖ Vocational training and information actions (M111) have used 65% of its planned budget.
- ❖ Two measures (M122, M124) have spent 50-55% of their programmed budgets:
- ❖ Measures M125 and M112 have utilised each 47% and 16% of their programmed expenditure.

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

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Measure 111 project example: An E-Channel Gateway of Support for Livestock Farmers in Northwest England / United Kingdom

In order to respond to the livestock farmers need for quick and up-to-date information, advice and support, a project was initiated to create a communication channel between farmers and businesses. The e-channel enables knowledge transfer and technical information on livestock activities funded by the Rural Development Programme for England and links the programme services with farm businesses with the goal of improving farm competitiveness, animal health and welfare and to ensure efficient use of farm resources.

A website was developed, containing news, technical fact sheets, reports from demonstration events and group meetings features, as well as a calendar of events with online booking facility. Monthly and quarterly newsletters are also produced.

The website enhances the visibility of the use of rural development funds through case studies of beneficiary livestock farmers. The site is regularly updated with content including audio-visual support.

The total cost of the project was €569,729.

Link: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=4904

Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

The sum of programmed total public expenditure of the UK's RDPs on Axis 2 focuses on Agri-environment payments (M214) and Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212). The two measures represent the majority of the Axis 2 expenditure (see Figure 4). Together they have been allocated 63% of the total public budget programmed in the UK's RDPs for 2007-2013.

- ❖ Two measures have utilised 97% of their allocated budgets, namely:
 - Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212), and
 - First afforestation of agricultural land (M221).
- ❖ Two measures have utilised 80-90% of their allocated budgets, namely:
 - Non-productive investments – agriculture (M216), 87% and
 - Agri-environment payments (M214), 81%
- ❖ Three measures have utilised 50-55% of their allocated budgets, namely:
 - First afforestation of non-agricultural land (M223), 54%
 - Non-productive investments – forestry (M227), 53% and
 - Animal welfare payments (M215), 53%
- ❖ M225 have utilised 26% of its programmed budgets
- ❖ No expenditure has been recorded for M222 up to the end of 2013

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)

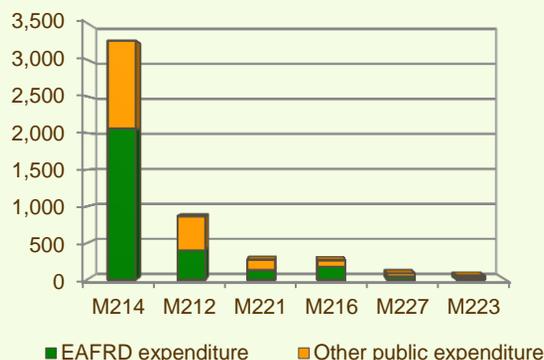
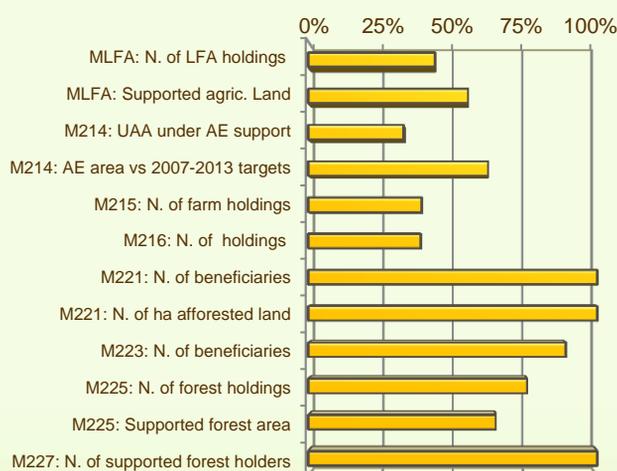


Figure 5: Axis 2 progress against 2007-2013 output targets in the U.K. (2007-2012)



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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)

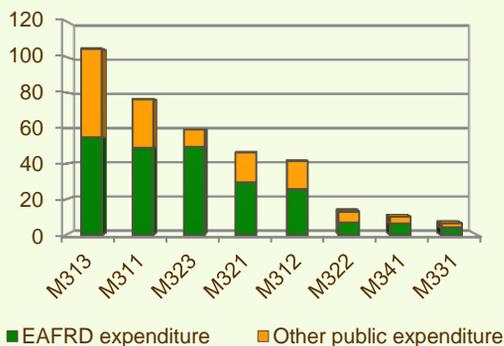
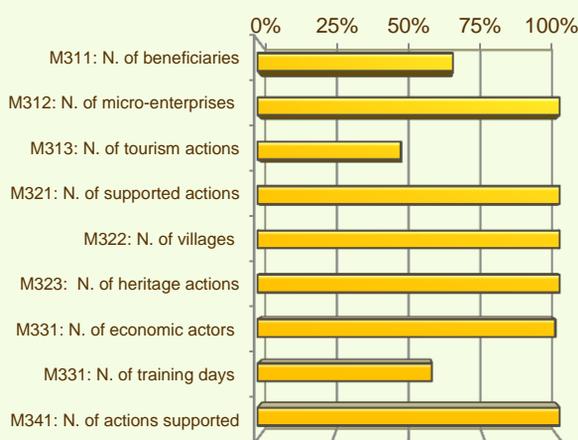


Figure 7: Axis 3 progress against 2007-2013 output targets in the U.K. (2007-2012)



The sum of Axis 3 in the UK's RDPs focuses on Encouragement of tourism activities (M313) and Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321) which together represent 47% of the Axis budget (see Figure 6).

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

- ❖ Two measures have utilised more than 80% of their programmed budgets:
 - Diversification into non-agricultural activities (M311), 95% and
 - Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (M323), 83%
- ❖ Encouragement of tourism activities (M313) has utilized 73% of its allocated budget.
- ❖ Support for business creation and development (M312) and Village renewal and development (M322) have utilized 63% and 53% respectively of their programmed budgets.
- ❖ Finally, three measures have utilised around 30-40% of their programmed budgets:
 - Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321), 40%
 - Training and information (M331), 36% and
 - Skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy (M341), 34%.

Figure 7 provides an indication of the achieved outputs up to 2012 in comparison to the output targets for 2007-2013.

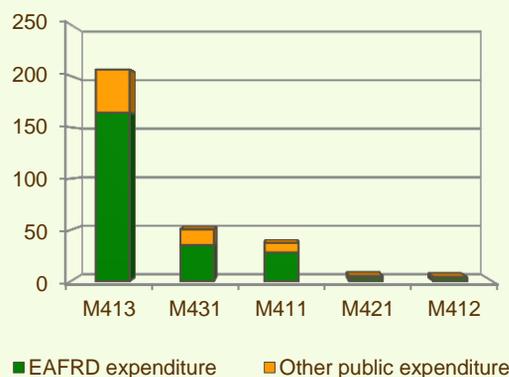
Axis 4 - Leader

The sum of Leader Axis in the UK's RDPs has been allocated €493 million, out of which €303 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:

- ❖ Quality of life/diversification (M413) had the largest share of the Axis total public expenditure up to 2013 and has utilised 66% of its allocated funds (see Figure 8).
- ❖ The measure on Competitiveness (M411) has utilised approximately 68% of its allocated funds.

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



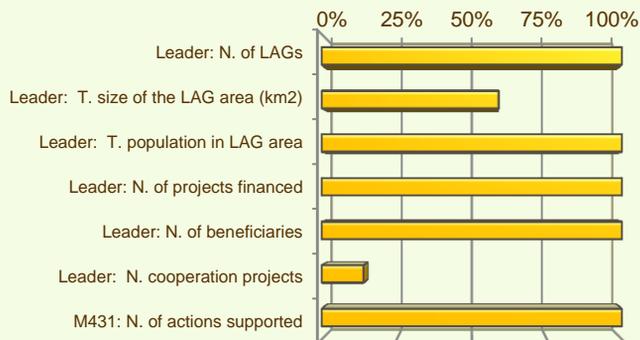
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Axis 4 - Leader

- ❖ Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation (M431), has utilised 61% of its allocated funds.
- ❖ Two measures have been utilised 15-25% of their programmed expenditure:
 - Implementing cooperation projects (M421), 23% and
 - Environment/land management (M412), 19%.

Figure 9 provides an indication of the achieved outputs up to 2012 in comparison to the output targets for 2007-2013.

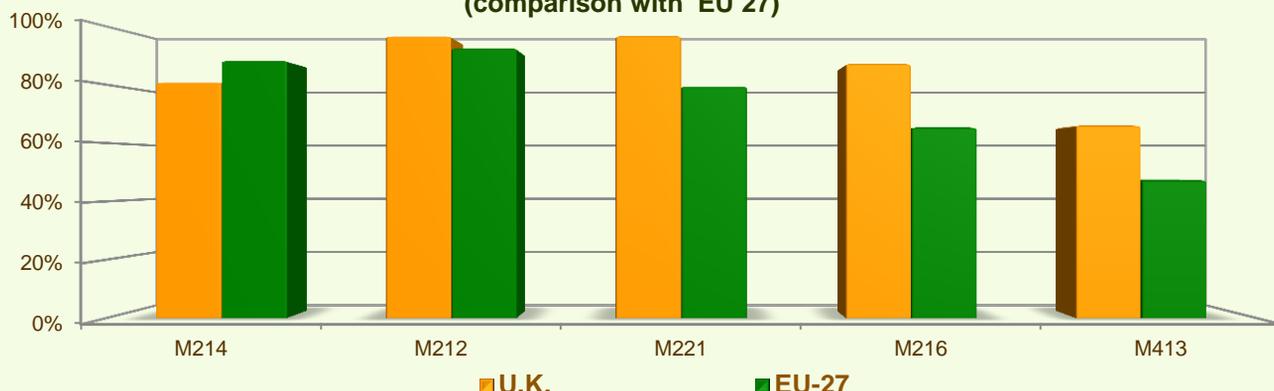
Figure 9: Axis 4 progress against 2007-2013 output targets in the U.K. (2007-2012)



Summary

- ✓ Within seven years of implementation, the UK's RDPs have utilised about 79% 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 UK's RDPs RDP. Up to 2013, it has utilised 81% of its available budget and represents 53% 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 UK's RDP and it has utilised 97% of its allocated funds. M212 represents 14% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ The third largest budget is for Quality of life/diversification (M413) which has used almost 66% of its programmed total public expenditure and represents 3% of the total public expenditure of the programme.

Figure 10: 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.