

NORTHERN IRELAND – UNITED KINGDOM

Basic Information:

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (RDP) has budgeted for 2007-2013 a total public expenditure of €570 million (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Member State contribution). At the end of 2013, €457 million were spent out of the allocated budget (see Figure 1).

Axis 1 (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector) has utilised 61% of its allocated budget.

Axis 2 (Improving the environment and the countryside) has utilised 94% of its programmed expenditure.

Axis 3 (Improving the quality of life in rural areas) has utilised 97% of its programmed expenditure.

Axis 4 (Leader) has utilised approximately 51% of the programmed expenditure.



Figure 1: Total public expenditure per axis in Northern Ireland (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)

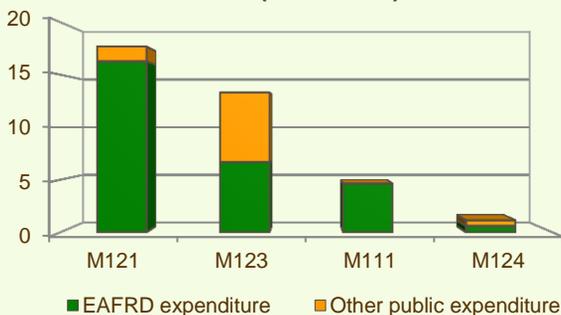
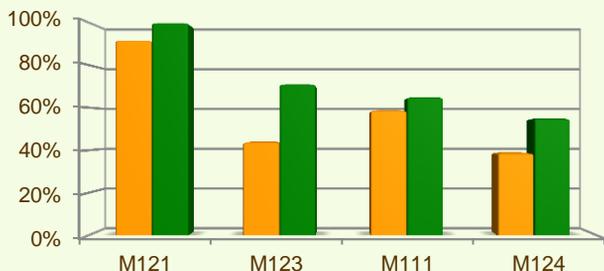


Figure 3: Axis 1 total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 budgets, main measures



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

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

Axis 1 places an emphasis on Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123) and Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121), allocating to these measures 82% of the overall budgeted funds for Axis 1.

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

- ❖ The measure on Modernisation of agricultural holdings (M121) has utilised 92% of its programmed expenditure
- ❖ The measure on Vocational training and information actions (M111) has used 59% of its allocated budget
- ❖ The measure on Adding value to agricultural and forestry products (M123) has spent 44% of its programmed expenditure.
- ❖ The measure on Cooperation for development of new products, etc. (M124) has used 39% of its allocated expenditure.

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.

NORTHERN IRELAND – UNITED KINGDOM

Measure 123 project example: Loughshore Veg - A Growing Success In Northern Ireland / United Kingdom – Northern Ireland

Loughshore Veg Ltd produces pre-packed vegetables and supplies large supermarket chains. The company used measure 123 support to meet the demands of large supermarket chains for prepack whole vegetables.

In order to increase the production capacity the project activities included constructing new buildings, and purchasing and installing additional machinery and equipment for reducing the amount of manual handling in the production system.

As a result, sales have increased dramatically, the employees increased from seven in 2007 to almost thirty in 2011, and the staff working conditions have significantly improved. In addition, the expansion of the company is expected to have spin-off effects with opportunities for primary producers to expand to meet the increased demand.

The total cost of the investment was €1,200,000 of which €478,000 were the EAFRD contribution.

Link: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/en/view_projects_en.cfm?action=detail&backfuse=jsview&postcard_id=5000

Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

Axis 2 focuses on Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212) and on Agri-environment payments (M214). The two measures represent the majority of the Axis 2 utilised expenditure (see Figure 4). Together they have been allocated 64% of the total public budget programmed in the Northern Ireland RDP for 2007-2013.

- ❖ The measure on First afforestation of agricultural land (M221) has utilised all of its programmed budget.
- ❖ Two out of the four measures offered by the Axis, have utilised more than 90% of their allocated budgets, namely:
 - Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212), 97%
 - Agri-environment payments (M214), 91%.
- ❖ The measure on Forest environment payments (M225) presents payments of less than 5% of its allocated budget.

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)

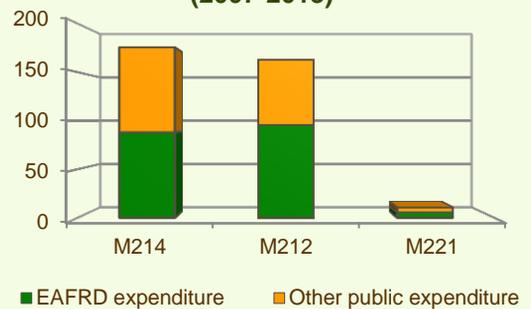
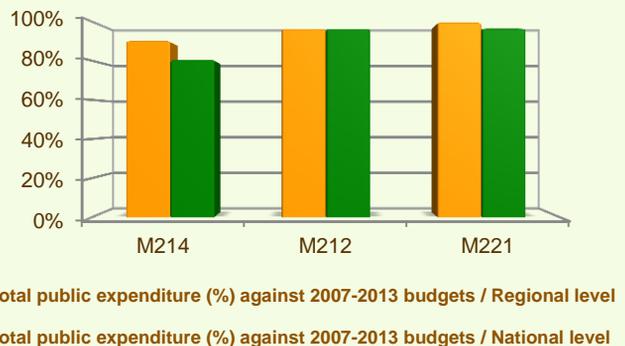


Figure 5: Axis 2 total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 budgets, main measures



NORTHERN IRELAND – UNITED KINGDOM

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

Axis 3 of the Northern Ireland RDP includes only the measure on Basic services for the economy and rural population (M321) which has utilised 97% of its allocated budget. The measure has been allocated with a budget of €1.84 million.

Axis 4 - Leader

Figure 6: Axis 4 total public expenditure per measure in million EURO (2007-2013)

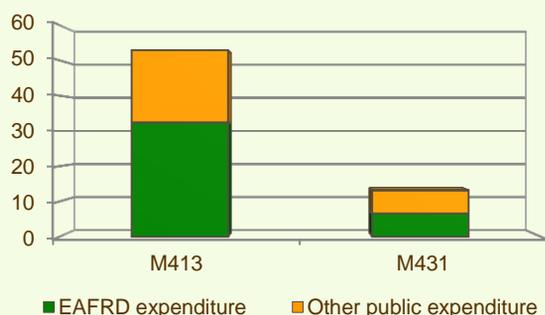
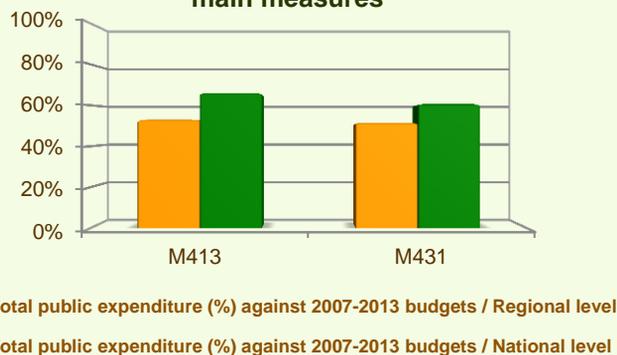


Figure 7: Axis 4 total public expenditure (2007-2013) against 2007-2013 budgets, main measures



The Leader Axis in the Northern Ireland RDP has allocated budget of €131 million, out of which €66 million have been spent by 2013. Within the Axis, emphasis has been given to the measure on Quality of life/diversification (M413) which has been allocated 76% of the Axis budget.

When comparing the expenditure rates per measure up to 2013, it is observed that Quality of life/diversification (M413) had the largest public expenditure (see Figure 6).

It is also observed that:

- ❖ The measure Quality of life/diversification (M413) has utilised 53% of its allocated budget.
- ❖ The measure Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation (M431) has utilised 52% of its allocated budget.
- ❖ The measure on Implementing cooperation projects (M421) has utilised less than 3% of its allocated budget.

Figure 7 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.

Summary

- ✓ Within seven years of implementation, the Northern Ireland RDP has utilised about 80% (see Figure 8) 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 Northern Ireland RDP. Up to 2013, it has utilised 91% of its available budget and represents 38% 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 Northern Ireland RDP and the utilised expenditure is 97% of its allocated funds. M212 represents 36% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ The third largest budget is for Quality of life/diversification (M413) which has used 53% of its programmed total public expenditure and represents 12% of the total public expenditure of the programme.
- ✓ Financial implementation has progressed at a faster rate for Axis 3 and Axis 2, than Axis 1 and Leader.

NORTHERN IRELAND – UNITED KINGDOM

**Figure 8: 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.