



Synthesis of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) ex-post evaluations of period 2007-2013

Evaluation Study

Written by Ecorys and IfLS
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**Synthesis of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) ex-post
evaluations of period 2007-2013**

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FOREWORD

This study has been implemented between August 2017 and April 2018 by Ecorys and IfLS. It has been coordinated by Ilse van der Velde (Ecorys) and Veronika Brantova (Ecorys) with main contributions from Simone Sterly (IfLS), Sarah Peter (IfLS), Holger Pabst (IfLS), Bettina Spengler (IfLS), livier Chartier (Ecorys), Evelien Cronin (Ecorys), Agnese Macaluso (Ecorys), Simone Snoeijenbos (Ecorys) and Thijs Fikken (Ecorys).

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ABBREVIATIONS

AEM	Agri-Environmental Measure
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CEQ	Common Evaluation Questions
CI	Context indicator
CMEF	Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund For Rural Development
ERDF	European regional development fund
ESF	European Social Fund
ESQ	Evaluation Synthesis Questions
EURD	European Regional Development
FBI	Farm Bird Index
FFH	Flora-Fauna-Habitat
HNV	High Nature Value
HNVF	High Nature Value Farmland
KTEO	Kilo tonnes of oil equivalent
LAG	Local Action Groups
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale
LFA	Less Favoured Area
MA	Management Authority
MS	Member States which reported on a specific indicator
WXYZ	Where M refers to "measure" number "XYZ"
NIRDP	Administration of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme
NRN	National Rural Network
NSP	National Strategic Plan
NVA	Net Value Added
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PSQ	Programme Synthesis Questions
PQ	Programme Questions
RDP	Rural Development Programmes
RI / RX	Result Indicator / Result indicator number X
SCF	Structural and cohesion fund
SQ	Synthesis Question
SWOT	Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
UAA	Utilized Agricultural Area
ULEK	Integrated Local Development Concept (Germany)
ESIF	EU Structural and Investment Funds
C	Carbon-Input
N	Nitrogen-inputs
P	Phosphorous-input
(n=X)	The number of regions that reported

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Added Value	The value resulting from EU interventions that is additional to the value that would have resulted from interventions initiated at regional or national levels by both public authorities and the private sector.
Axis I	The competitiveness of agriculture and forestry.
Axis II	The environment and the countryside.
Axis III	The quality of life in rural areas and to encourage the diversification of economic activity.
Axis IV	The LEADER approach, cross-cutting Axis 1, 2, and 3.
Beneficiary	1) The person or institution directly receiving funding. 2) Refers to the level where intended effects should occur, for example rural entrepreneurs.
Causality	The establishment of a cause-effect relationship or the extent to which a change in the programme area is due to the intervention.
Certainty	The percentage of RDPs for which there were indicators and whose indicators were calculated in a standardised way.
Certainty of quantitative assessment (PQ)	The Completeness of data for output and result indicators.
Certainty: <i>Certain</i>	More than 80% of the regions/MS have comparable indicators.
Certainty: <i>Not Certain</i>	Less than 50% of the regions/MS have comparable indicators.
Certainty: <i>Partly Certain</i>	Between 50-80% of the regions/MS have comparable indicators;
CheckMarket	An enterprise survey tool.
Coherence	The extent to which the intervention (i.e. implementation of the RDPs) does not contradict other interventions with similar objectives.
Common Context Indicator	Reflect relevant aspects of the general contextual trends in the economy, environment and society that are likely to have an influence on the implementation, achievements and performance of the CAP.
Context Indicators	An indicator referring to the broader changes in a specific programme area.
Cultural Heritage	Heritage that includes natural, built and archaeological sites, museums; monuments, artworks; historic cities; literary, musical, and audio-visual works, and the knowledge, practices and traditions of European citizens.
DEEPL	A technological firm specialised in translation system based on artificial intelligence.
Efficiency	The best relationship between resources employed and results achieved in pursuing a given objective through an intervention.
Evidence Base	Classification of how complete the provided information is.
Evidence Base: <i>Excellent evidence base</i>	More than 85% of the reports have provided relevant data.

Evidence Base: Sufficient evidence base	Between 50% and 85% of the reports have provided relevant data.
Evidence Base: Weak evidence base	Less than 50% of the reports have provided relevant data.
Expenditure: High Volume	More than 130% of average expenditures per axis.
Expenditure: Low Volume	Less than 70% of average expenditures per axis.
Expenditure: Medium Volume	Between 70-130% of average expenditures per axis.
Extent of Contribution	The percentage of reports that provide a positive conclusion over those that provided a conclusion on the contribution.
Extent of Contribution: high extent	More than 75% of ex-post evaluation reports that provided a conclusion stated a positive contribution of the RDP to the SQ issue.
Extent of Contribution: limited extent	Between 26-49% of ex-post evaluation reports that provided a conclusion stated a positive contribution of the RDP to the SQ issue.
Extent of Contribution: medium extent	Between 50-75% of ex-post evaluation reports that provided a conclusion stated a positive contribution of the RDP to the SQ issue.
Extent of Contribution: Very limited extent	Between 1-25% of ex-post evaluation reports that provided a conclusion stated a positive contribution of the RDP to the SQ issue.
Farm workers	Farm workers perform work for an agricultural business.
Farmers	Owners of Agricultural Business.
Final (E) Score	$E = (P - N + CL) / R$; Number of all reports (R); Number of positive results (P); Number of limited results (L); Constant factor of 0,5 for weighting of limited results (C).
High-level inputs	Complete reports with quantitative information, analysis or findings.
Impact indicators	An indicator referring to the benefits of the programme beyond the immediate effects on its direct beneficiaries both at the level of intervention and in the general programme area.
Input Indicators	An indicator referring budget or other resources allocated at each level of the assistance.
Judgement Criteria: High extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0,76 – 1.
Judgement Criteria: Limited extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0,26 – 0,50.
Judgement Criteria: Moderate Extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0,51 – 0,75.
Judgement Criteria: No extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0.
Judgement Criteria: Very limited extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0,01 – 0,25.
KTEO	The equivalent of 11.63 Mwh.

Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale	Refers to links between the rural economy and development actions
Medium-Level inputs	Aggregated information, statistics in tabular or graphic form or answers to evaluation.
Micro Business	A business within the SME category, that employs less than 10 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed EUR 2 Million.
Natura 2000	Natura 2000 is a network of nature protection areas in the territory of the European Union
Output indicators	An indicator referring to activities directly realised within programmes.
Plausibility	The number of the ex-post evaluation reports that provided a conclusion.
Plausibility: <i>Not plausible</i>	Less than 50% of the ex post evaluation reports provided a conclusion.
Plausibility: <i>Plausible</i>	Between 50-85% of the ex post evaluation reports provided a conclusion.
Plausibility: <i>Very plausible</i>	More than 85% of the ex post evaluation reports provided a conclusion.
Policy Effectiveness	Refers to successful the EU action has been in achieving or progressing towards its objectives.
Relevance	The level of objectives and their adequacy regarding needs, i.e. the extent to which an intervention's (i.e. implementation of the RDPs) objectives address the needs, problems and issues in the programme area.
Result indicators	An indicator referring to the direct and immediate effects of the intervention.
Rural Development Programmes	A rural development policy helps the rural areas of the EU to meet the wide range of economic, environmental and social challenges of the 21st century.
Small Business	A business within the SME category that employs less than 50 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed EUR 10 Million.
Subsidiarity	An action that would have not reached the same level of benefits if implemented by national or regional initiative, and therefore performed by a higher authority.
White Spots	The number of areas without internet access.
Young farmer	A farmer under the age of 35.

ABSTRACT

The aim of the assignment is to provide a synthesis and an analysis of the ex-post evaluation reports of the 2007-2013 RDPs submitted by the Managing Authorities of the Member States.

The synthesis is based on 91 Rural Development Programme ex-post evaluation reports, 27 National Strategy Plans, 88 Rural Development Programmes, 2 National Frameworks, 4 National Rural Development Network Programmes, expenditure data per measure and relevant indicators provided. This data has been verified, processed, validated and judged. The contribution of the programme and measures to RDP objectives and other effects have been assessed and reported in this report.

The analysis on effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value of the 2007-2013 RDPs is mainly build on replies to the programme-, measure- and Axis IV (LEADER)-related questions. The methodology for each analysis, its limitations, judgment criteria and conclusions and recommendations are presented in this report.

The report concludes with a number of conclusions and recommendations for the future.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This report provides a synthesis and an analysis of the ex-post evaluations of the Rural Development Programmes (RDP) for the period 2007-2013 submitted by the Managing Authorities of the Member States. The analysis focusses on the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value of the 2007-2013 RDPs.

The analysis and evaluation conclusions have been drawn based on the following elements of the report:

1. The synthesis of the replies to the common set of evaluation questions in the ex-post reports of the Member States. Fourteen questions were programme-related. The remaining questions concerned the individual measures of Axis I, Axis II, Axis III and Axis IV (LEADER).
2. The globalised (EU level) answers to the full set of common evaluation questions, based on the information synthesised in the previous step (step 1).
3. The answers to the evaluative questions, related to effectiveness, causal analysis, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value answered based on the analysis conducted in previous steps (steps 1 and 2).

Methodology applied

Step 1: Carrying out the synthesis

Verification of the inputs and reporting on them

Member States provided data from the ex-post evaluation reports and the RDP annual implementation reports. This data has been verified and screened to ensure completeness, based on the level of information (e.g. length, structure or language), and subsequently logged into a database. This process has been applied to all forms of inputs, to establish a baseline on the available data and its limitations before proceeding with the evaluation.

Synthesising of information based on reviewed inputs

Steps undertaken for the synthesis included:

1. Preparation of a reporting template: Country experts were mobilised to extract the key information provided in the 91 ex-post evaluation reports. In order to ensure consistent and in-depth reporting of the required information, a reporting system was developed, along with a corresponding guideline. This allowed experts to provide factual information as contained in the ex-post evaluation reports;
2. Validation of the information: All the answers provided by the country experts in the template have been checked for completeness and clarity and were further analysed;
3. Compilation of information on the contribution of the RDP to its overall objectives (i.e. competitiveness, environmental situation, quality of life and diversification).

Step 2: Develop a methodology for answering the programme-, measure- and LEADER-related questions

The developed methodology relies on the inputs from the ex-post evaluation reports and annual implementation reports. The database of answers was the starting point and main source of both quantitative and qualitative information. The three following

judgment criteria were developed for the conclusions of the programme-, measure- and LEADER-related questions:

- Extent of the contribution of the RDPs to the specific objective: The extent is assessed based on the percentage of reports that provided a positive conclusion over those that provided a conclusion on the contribution;
- Plausibility: The plausibility is assessed based on the share of ex-post evaluation reports which provided a clear answer to that specific question;
- Certainty of the quantitative assessment (for programme-related questions only): Determines the completeness of the quantitative data provided on the impact, output and result indicators.

Step 3: Develop a methodology for answering the synthesis questions

The synthesis questions address the overarching aspects of effectiveness, causality, efficiency, coherence, relevance and added value of the RDPs. The methodology builds on the programme-, measure- and LEADER-related questions and on other inputs provided in the annual implementation reports. A separate methodology has been developed for each synthesis question in order to provide appropriate answer categories for each one.

Limitations of this study

Compiling and synthesising the information from the ex-post evaluation reports posed a number of limitations:

- Quality of the evaluation reports was not uniform. Some of the reports provided substantial analyses with well-argued examples, while other reports lacked clear reasoning and presented conclusions without substantiation;
- Collecting input from various persons resulted in varying levels of detail and quality of answers provided. The study team checked the answers provided by the experts to minimise inaccuracies and inconsistencies. However, in some cases these could not be fully avoided;
- The synthesis concerned ex-post evaluation reports produced both at level of regions and Member States. Therefore, when aggregating values, the distinctions between regions of different sizes or the distinction between regions and Member States could not be observed. In addition, each region or Member State had different priorities and targets and diverse levels of economic development;
- Providing quantification whenever possible was important throughout the synthesis: in the programme- and measure-related questions, as well as in the synthesis questions. Output, result and impact indicators were used to validate and test the findings of the qualitative analysis. However, data values were often incomplete, not plausible or lacking; which limited the process of validating and testing.
- To address the lack and inaccuracy of data in the ex-post evaluation reports, data from the annual implementation reports was used. However, the latter also contained some inaccuracies;
- There were also inconsistencies between annual implementation reports and the ex-post evaluation reports, with reference to the indicator values used;
- Targets were often adjusted during the programme implementation that made the use of target indicators unreliable for benchmarking.

Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions based on the programme-related questions

There was a shortcoming of quantitative and qualitative data for most of the programme-related questions, as it was sometimes missing or inaccurate. It is important to consider these aspects when reading the following conclusions. The plausibility criterion was met in 10 out of 14 programme-related questions and based on the analysis; we can categorize the 10 programme-related questions according to the extent of RDP contribution that they have recorded. In particular, we can observe that:

1. The only domain, in which the extent of RDP contribution was considered high, was water quality (SQ8). Contribution was assessed as medium with regards to growth of the rural economy (SQ1), employment creation (SQ2), promotion of competitiveness (SQ5), introduction of innovative approaches (SQ10), protection and enhancement of natural resources and landscape (SQ3). The synthesis also suggests that the technical assistance contributed to achieving the RDP objectives to a medium extent (SQ13). Regarding the supply of renewable energy (SQ4), the majority of reports found that the RDP had a positive contribution, but the extent of such contribution could not be clearly determined for 42 % of the reports;
2. Less positive results were recorded with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation (SQ7), and the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy (SQ9);
3. Overall, we can observe that the areas in which the RDP produced more positive effects are those which have been part of the CAP and for which relevant indicator recordings have been developed and applied for a longer time. This is the case for interventions to boost competitiveness and innovation, but also for water quality and other environmental provisions such as the protection and enhancement of the natural resources. Interventions to improve quality of life and diversification are more recent and probably meaningful changes will only be observable in the longer term. In addition, we can observe that the questions with a limited RDP contribution also referred to changes that are more difficult to measure. This is the case for quality of life, local governance and climate mitigation and adaptation.
4. Finally, it is important to acknowledge that, even if in some cases the impact of RDP was considered limited, it often played an important mitigation role. This is the case in the growth of the rural economy, for which RPD mitigated the effects of the economic recession, as well as for employment, as it helped avoiding the loss of further jobs. The same is true for biodiversity, where RDP helped avoiding further deterioration of natural resources and the landscape.

Conclusions based on the measures-related questions

Given the judgment criteria developed to answer measure-related questions, there are two types of criteria that could be used to compare the measures and evaluate the overall performance of an Axis:

1. The extent of their intended contribution to the set objective(s);
2. The plausibility of the assessment with which we can draw strong conclusions on this contribution.

Axis I – Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

The measures that contributed to competitiveness to a great extent in the regions or Member States where they were implemented, are:

- 112 Setting up of young farmers;

- 113 Early retirement of farmers and farm workers;
- 121 Modernisation of agricultural holdings;
- 123 Adding value to agricultural and forestry products;
- 125 Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry.

The positive contributions in all these measures were attributed to the introduction of new or better products, new technologies, increases in production and labour efficiency and reduced costs of production (through for examples, better infrastructure for transport or better water management systems). The measures focused on modernisation and innovative procedures were both the easiest to measure (with higher plausibility ratings) as well as those that most directly affected competitiveness (with contributions of a greater extent).

A few measures ranked high in plausibility but did not have a high extent of contribution to competitiveness. This refers particularly to M115 and M126, on setting up of advisory services and restoring production potential damaged by natural disasters. These measures showed a lower contribution to competitiveness, based on a high level of plausibility. Overall, there was a positive correlation between the extent of the contribution and the level of expenditure.

The measures for which a contribution to competitiveness was not measured to a plausible extent were focused primarily on topics such as adaptation to stricter legislation, support for compliance with standards and promotion of compliance to statutory requirements. It is important to keep in mind that the judgment criteria does not point towards the inefficiencies of these measures, but rather towards the difficulties in capturing their importance or full effect. Synergies between measures were also difficult to capture in the evaluations and thus in the synthesis. The indirect effects most frequently reported under Axis I were improvements to the environment, improvements in farmer skills and increased in quality of life.

Axis II – Improving the environment and the countryside

The measures that greatly contributed to the environmental situation where they were implemented are:

- M211 Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, mountain areas;
- M214 Agri-environment payments;
- M226 Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions;
- M227 Non-productive investments.

These measures were particularly effective in improving the environmental situation where agricultural and forestry activities were considering natural conservation. This was particularly the case in the promotion of biodiversity and protection against soil erosion. Several of these measures highlighted the complementarity between the multi-faceted goals. Results were found for both the increase in agricultural area under these initiatives as well as the effectiveness in improving and maintain high value natural agricultural areas.

More specifically, M226, focussing on forestry, was also found to have a strong contribution to environmental protection. This happened through the prevention of fires, improved water quality and flood mediation. As in the agricultural channels, soil erosion prevention was also significantly mentioned. Likewise, reports on M227 found that forest

health improvement and increased forest stability towards hazard was one of the most important contributions.

No notable contribution to improving the environmental situation was assessed for some measures. Improving the environmental situation was in part not the main aspect of some of these measures (e.g. animal welfare). Furthermore, the environmental effects were attributed to underlying regulatory law and its instruments (e.g. regulations and restrictions of EU Directives 92/43/EEC, 2009/147/EC, 2000/60/EC)¹ and not to the measures. In these cases, payments under the respective measures were often regarded as compensation payments for these mandatory management restrictions. In addition, due to the very low implementation of some measures, there was often not enough data and information available to ensure a reasonable and meaningful evaluation of their impact on the environment.

The indirect effects most frequently reported under Axis II were higher employment, more diversification, increased quality of life and improved land management. Since these indirect effects refer directly to the objectives of the other axes, it makes a good case for highlighting the complementarity in the programme measures across the different axes.

Axis III – The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

The measures that contributed to economic diversification and quality of life to a great extent are:

M321 Basic services for the economy and rural population;

M322 Village renewal and development;

M323 Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage.

The measures with the greatest extent of contribution to diversification and quality of life did so through the provision of public services in the form of day-care, schools, community facilities as well as health, but also in technical infrastructure, such as telecommunications. Secondly, social dimensions such as participating in local development and creating a local identity were also mentioned as important channels in these three measures, albeit to a lesser extent. M323 in particular was effective through the channels of tourism, cultural heritage and natural rural heritage.

M313 (Encouragement of tourism activities) is one of the two measures with the highest assessment plausibility of all Axis III measures. M313 was assessed as contributing to diversification to a limited extent, e.g. through the development and planning of new tourist offers.

A few measures ranked high in plausibility but did not have a high extent of contribution to competitiveness. This refers particularly to M311 and M313, which aimed at the diversification into non-agricultural activities and the encouragement of tourism activities, respectively. These measures can be viewed as plausibly having a lower contribution to competitiveness. Overall, there was a very strong positive correlation between the extent of the measures' contribution to competitiveness and the expenditure on the measures.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds; Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

The measures for which a contribution to diversification and quality of life were not measured to a great and plausible extent were measures focused on training and information and supporting skill acquisition. The ex-post evaluation reports explained that measures themselves did improve professional skills but that the increase in skills was seen as having an indirect contribution to diversification that materialises in the longer term.

The indirect effects most frequently reported under Axis III were improved environmental conditions, higher competitiveness of the regions, increased employment and better technical infrastructure. Again, as the two most-mentioned additional effects to the measures under Axis III related directly to the objectives of Axis I and Axis II, we can positively conclude on the complementarity of the axes.

Difficulties to measure the extent of contribution

While the previous conclusions are built on the measures for which we can say with certainty that there was a positive contribution to the intended objective, this does not mean that those with a lower extent of contribution or lower plausibility were ineffective initiatives that did not contribute. To the contrary, as can be seen in the individual measures' contributions, in most cases they reflect an ex-post evaluation report's lack of a conclusion on contribution rather than a report's assessment of no or a low contribution. Furthermore, the extent of contribution is correlated to the ease of measuring this contribution. In addition, there is a strong relation between measurability and the time a measure has been implemented, as the process has already been streamlined and the measuring techniques and approaches have been defined more clearly.

Conclusions based on LEADER-related questions

With the caveat of some limitations due to an insufficient data basis, the following conclusions were drawn based on the qualitative information available:

Measure 412 has contributed to enhancing the employment situation to a limited extent, and to diversification to a medium extent (SQ42). The LAGs have contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP to a medium extent (SQ43). Likewise, the implementation of the LEADER approach was achieved to a medium extent (SQ44). The same assessment applies to the contribution of the LEADER approach to improving local governance (SQ45).

As a general issue, the quantifiable indicators were not able to capture the specific characteristics and objectives of the LEADER approach, e.g. improving local governance. Instead, a qualitative approach is necessary to capture such effects. Moreover, in order to make findings comparable, a clear definition of central LEADER aspects such as participation or local governance, together with criteria that allow for a qualitative description of such aspects should be provided

Among the limitations regarding the data basis, at times it was not clear whether measures from other RDP axes (especially Axis III) that were programmed under LEADER were reported under Axis IV (or e.g. under Axis III) in the evaluation reports. This caused inconsistency as some evaluators answered the "old" evaluation questions, while others referred to the "new" ones.

² In several RDPs, LEADER measures were jointly programmed. This concerned especially Measures 411, 412, and 413, which were often also jointly evaluated. As a result, in this report their contribution to employment and diversification is reported on at an aggregated level only (M41).

Conclusions based on the synthesis questions

The synthesis questions are addressing the overarching aspects of effectiveness, causality, efficiency, coherence, relevance and added value of the RDPs.

Effectiveness: The extent of achievement of the four objectives differs. Objective 1) Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector was achieved to a moderate extent. Objective 2) Improving the environment and the countryside was assessed by looking at achievements in climate change mitigation and water management (achieved to a high extent) and at the protection of natural resources and landscape (achieved to a moderate extent). Objective 3) Improving quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy, has been achieved to a more limited extent although the latter proves to be more difficult to measure and may produce less direct and measurable effects in the short term. Finally, for objective 4) Building local capacity for employment and diversification, it was found that LAGs contributed to a limited extent to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDPs, while the RDPs have contributed to a medium extent to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER.

Causality: Given the data available, it is hard to provide meaningful conclusions on the cause-effect relationship or the extent to which a change in the programme area is due to the intervention. However, it can be observed that the RDPs have been particularly successful in encouraging investments in skills building and training and in promoting competitiveness. However, this has not resulted in the creation of more jobs or innovation. The synthesis also found that the RDPs have been successful in preserving the environment, and produced positive effects in all the domains considered under the areas for successful land management.

Efficiency: There is no satisfying approach to assess the proportionality of costs to the benefits achieved based on the data available. Overall, 62 % of reports provide some sort of judgment regarding the efficiency of resources allocated to the RDPs. Taking into consideration the limitations of the data, the calculation of costs per result achieved is a mere approximation to get a general overview of ranges and averages within Member States and across indicators. However, reports provided some general findings on the main factors limiting efficiency. These refer to inappropriate regulatory framework as well as to the way programmes and measures are designed. Some reports also raised shortcomings concerning the steering structure of the RDP, including the lack of staff and its insufficient availability, and the low expenditure rates on some of the measures. Often the causes and effects of these issues are interrelated.

Coherence: The outcomes of the RDPs are overall consistent with the four Rural Development objectives/priorities (improving competitiveness, environment, quality of life and building local capacity for employment and diversification) to a limited to moderate extent.

The consistency of RDP projects with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP and other EU interventions has been evaluated in the ex-ante assessments. Due to the very limited information available, a conclusive answer to this question could not be provided.

Relevance: Overall, RDPs have contributed to addressing the social, economic and environmental needs in the programme area to a moderate extent, with some differences depending on the specific set of needs. It should be considered that this judgment is based on a set of EU-wide needs that are neither defined in sufficient detail to allow clearly relating all of them to individual measures, nor ranked according to priorities.

More specifically, when it comes to the social needs, RDPs were moderately relevant (in terms of contribution) within the area of basic services and physical infrastructures and had little relevance for demographic change. Regarding economic needs, RDPs were moderately relevant in the area of value chains, added value and integration between sectors. For the environmental needs, RDPs were moderately relevant for all three dimensions: natural resources/nature protection, sustainable practices and biodiversity, ecological structures, habitats.

EU added value: The quality of reflection upon the question of EU added value is not sufficient in the ex-post evaluation reports nor is the information derived from the relevant Synthesis Questions. Based on the overall judgments on the three criteria (effectiveness in achieving objectives, coherence with EU priorities and complementarity with other instruments, and subsidiarity), it has to be concluded that EAFRD funding via the RDPs ensured EU added value to a medium and variable extent. The judgment varies per criteria.

Conclusions and recommendations from the evaluation process

Indicators and targets

The ex-post evaluations on the 2007-2013 funding period were the first ones completed using the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF), and adjustments to the framework were made during the programming period. Thus, we understand the limitations in the calculation and use of indicators. There are several aspects however, that seem to need continuous attention:

The Managing Authorities supplied the Evaluators with output, result and impact indicator values. There was no or very limited information presented in the ex-post evaluation reports on how these have been calculated or what the information basis for the calculation was. The basis and approaches for the calculations vary substantially, so it is not suitable to aggregate the values. Adding to lack of clarity, in some cases, indicator values were reported under an indicator category different from the one foreseen by the CMEF. Data Entries were difficult to distinguish between the data that was not provided and the empty cells as both were marked as "0".

Recommendation: A good balance needs to be found between the use of programme-specific indicators, and indicators that are able to be aggregated and to inform EU-level policy makers. The provision of metadata should be enforced through compliance with scientific standards. As an example of good practice found in some ex-post evaluation reports, we recommend making the provision of overview tables containing all output and result indicators compulsory for all measures per axis. Steps should be taken to ensure the setting of realistic targets. Changes in the targets during the course of the programming period need to be made explicit, along with a record of the timing and reason of these changes.

Recommendation: A qualitative approach is necessary to capture the LEADER effects. In order to make findings comparable, a clear definition for central LEADER aspects such as participation or local governance should be provided, together with criteria that allow for a qualitative description of such aspects. These should be translated into result indicators to enable quantification of effects of LEADER.

Timing of evaluation

As ex-post evaluation reports had to be completed 2 years after the end of the funding period, evaluators could often not make use of the latest values of output and result indicators. These reports were not made available with sufficient time to be included in the evaluation. In addition, the question still arises of whether the impact indicators would already show effects after such a short period of completion.

Recommendation: Evaluation requirements and design should take into account the variable time lag between an intervention expressed in achieved output and results, and the attributable impacts. Ex-post evaluations should focus on the achieved outputs and results, while specific thematic evaluations are necessary to identify the medium and long-term impacts of the programmes.

Definition of terms or concepts

For some terms or concepts covered in the evaluation questions there was no clear definition provided. "Quality of life", "restructuring the dairy sector", "beneficiary" and "other effects" are examples of words, phrases that had different meanings in different contexts in the ex-post evaluations.

Recommendation: Member States should, at an early stage, define criteria that enable them to measure the contribution to the aspects that will be evaluated. This will make it easier to provide comparisons with similar or identical criteria.

Reporting structures

We found that reporting structures varied substantially between the reports. A major concern was the change in the set of evaluation questions used during the funding period. Sometimes there were no clear and concise answers to questions provided which resulted in many reports appearing far too long, with unnecessary information in the answers.

Recommendation: A maximum page number (e.g. 200p) and a more descriptive structure of what was required should be implemented so when answering evaluation questions, there should be a requirement to provide a clear answer, or add further information in a separate box.

Evaluation design

The developed and answered evaluation questions did not always support the assessment of the Better Regulation requirements, i.e. the need to assess the Efficiency, Effectiveness, Coherence, Relevance and EU Added Value in all evaluations. Besides that, the reports' structures are foremost developed to cater to the information requirements of the European Commission. In Member States/regions with a more integrated/national view on RDP implementation (e.g. in Denmark) and where this is also used in the structure of the evaluation report, it is difficult to display information in the common EU format.

Recommendation: The assessment of the Better Regulation requirements should be enabled through the design of relevant evaluation questions and approaches. In the evaluation requirements there should be sufficient room left for evaluation priorities and structure to cater to the needs of the Member States/regions. It is instead suggested to limit predefined approaches and structures for those evaluation questions and information needs that are relevant for EU-level policy information. For these questions, however, the approach on how to judge these questions should be unified.

1 INTRODUCTION

In this Chapter, we elaborate on the purpose of the assignment and provide the structure of this report.

Purpose of the assignment

The assignment concerns a synthesis of the Rural Development Programmes' (RDP) ex-post evaluations of the period 2007-2013. The aim of the assignment is to *'provide a synthesis and an analysis of the ex-post evaluations of the 2007-2013 RDPs submitted by the Managing Authorities to identify common trends and provide conclusions and recommendations. The analysis will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value of the 2007-2013 RDPs'*.

The analysis and evaluation conclusions will be drawn on the basis of the following elements:

1. Synthesis questions related to the complete set of revised common evaluation questions (CEQ) of the 2007-2013 ex-post evaluation reports;
2. Synthesis questions related to effectiveness, causal analysis, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value, to the extent of the information that is provided in the 2007-2013 ex-post evaluation reports.

Structure of this report

This report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 indicates the methodology of the synthesis;
- Chapter 3 includes the synthesis of programme, measure and Axis IV LEADER-related questions;
 - Chapter 3.1 includes the synthesis of programme-related questions;
 - Chapter 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 provide the synthesis of Axis I, Axis II, Axis III measure-related questions;
 - Chapter 3.5 provides the synthesis of Axis IV LEADER-related questions.
- Chapter 4 provides the answers to the synthesis questions;
- Chapter 5 includes the conclusions and recommendations of the synthesis;
- Annex I List of Synthesis Questions covered in this study;
- Annex II provides an overview of indicators used for the synthesis; and
- Annex III presents an overview of qualitative outcomes used for the synthesis of information as well as those used for developing an answer to the evaluation Synthesis Questions.

Table 1.1 shows the tasks to be performed under the contract and the sections in the report presenting the results of these tasks.

Table 1.1 Overview final

Output	Section in this report
Task 1.1: Verify the inputs and report about them	Section 2.1 and Annex I
Task 1.2: Synthesise information based on reviewed inputs	Chapter 3
Task 1.3: Elaborate the general approach and prepare the tools	Chapter 2
Task 1.4: Define a detailed structure of the final deliverable	Table of contents
Task 2.1: Draft replies to the ESQ ³ s and/or sub-questions	Chapter 4
Task 3.1: Draft executive summary	Executive summary
Task 3.2: Draft an abstract	Abstract
Output	Section in this report
Task 3.5: Compile the (draft) final deliverable	This report

³ Evaluation Synthesis Questions

2 METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, we elaborate on the methodology applied while preparing and conducting the synthesis and providing answers to the Evaluation Synthesis Questions. We start by indicating how the inputs received were reviewed and verified, following with the methodology for the synthesis preparation. In this section, we also indicate the main limitations of the synthesis. The last section of this chapter provides the methodology and approach to answering the Evaluation Synthesis Questions.

2.1 Methodology for reviewing and verifying inputs

Inputs received

We have received various types of inputs to conduct the assignment. As specified in the ToR, high- and medium-level inputs⁴ make up the main sources. The type of input are summarised in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Overview of inputs received

Type of input	Source
Medium-level inputs	
Financial tables including expenditure per measure and axis for all Rural Development Programmes (Input indicators)	European Commission ⁵
Tables including the results for output indicators for each Member State	European Commission ⁶
Tables including the results for result indicators for each Member State	European Commission ⁶
High-level inputs	
91 Rural Development Programme ex-post evaluation reports ⁷	Member States
27 National Strategy Plans	Member States
88 Rural Development Programmes	Member States
2 National Frameworks	Member States
4 National Rural Development Network programmes	Member States

Verification of inputs

After receiving all inputs, they have been verified in a next step. We screened the collected information for completeness and basic information (e.g. length, structure or language).

2.2 Methodology for the synthesis and its quantification

Processing the information

After the ex-post evaluation reports were received and verified, we began processing them. In the following paragraphs, we outline our steps undertaken for the synthesis, which are (i) the preparation of a reporting template; (ii) the actual reporting procedure; (iii) the validation of the information; and finally (iv) the compilation of information.

⁴ High-level inputs refer to complete reports with quantitative and qualitative information, analysis or findings while medium-level inputs refer to aggregated information, statistics in tabular or graphic form or answers to evaluation.

⁵ Based on expenditure declared by Member States.

⁶ Based on Annual Implementation Reports presented by Member States.

⁷ As a result, the full synthesis comprises 91 ex-post evaluations. For Bulgaria, the ex-post evaluation of the Rural Development Programme is not as yet completed. The evaluation team has looked for other sources in order to complement the synthesis with the inputs from Bulgaria. Financial data concerning the implementation of the Bulgarian RDP has been included in the synthesis.

Preparation of a reporting template

Country experts were mobilised to extract the key information provided in the ex-post evaluation reports. Reporting on the extensive number of evaluation reports in 23 languages required the development of a reporting template by the project team. We developed a template to enable country experts to collect the information from the evaluation reports in a targeted manner, facilitating their reporting in English and simultaneously ensuring a clear structure and format for our data experts to work with in the following steps. In order to allow the multiple experts to input their data continuously we used the online tool for survey software and services Checkmarket.

In addition to the reporting template, we developed a guideline document for the country experts. This document includes the objective of the study for contextualisation, technical aspects of the online tool and instructions on how to report.

Reporting

The reporting template comprised both closed as well as open questions, depending on the nature of the information to be provided. For example, when reporting on indicators the country experts only provided the number. When reporting on an open question, the experts were to include the argumentation as provided in the report, preferably using direct translations of the original text through the **DEEPL** mechanisms (www.deepl.com), or summarising where explanations were too extensive.

Most importantly, the experts were asked not to provide their own judgment in the explanations but summarize only the information included in the reports. However, they were asked in separate sections to provide their own judgment regarding the scientific validity of the answers provided.

We organized the reporting template in four separate sections, so that the collected information reflected the structure and various parts of the evaluations. The questionnaire was therefore reported in the following sections, where each represented a separate survey in Checkmarket:

- **Survey 1** contained general questions about the ex-post evaluation and questions relevant for Axis I;
- **Survey 2** contained questions relevant for Axis II;
- **Survey 3** contained questions relevant for Axis III;
- **Survey 4** contained questions relevant for Axis IV – LEADER as well as programme-related questions.

We were aware of the limitations of using an online tool from the start. An online tool offers limited space for providing additional/other comments. To tackle this issue, we asked the country experts to provide any additional relevant information from the ex-post evaluation report in a separate country/region document.

Validation of information

The reporting process was extensive, given the number of Member States / regions with ex-post evaluation reports and the comprehensiveness of these reports. Several steps of validation had to be taken to ensure that the data quality was not compromised due to the extent of this process.

For the validation of the quality of data, we went through the steps of (i) input verification; (ii) database creation; (iii) data cleaning, and finally; (iv) categorisation of the available information.

Once the information from the country experts was received, the team reviewed all the answers provided by the experts in the template, checking them for completeness and clarity. Quality control was also performed in some cases by going to the original document. When deemed necessary (due to a lack of clarity in the answers or irregularities between the answers and the ex-post evaluations), the team went back to the country experts and asked for a higher level of detail on the information provided in the ex-post evaluation reports.

Once the team was satisfied with the answers provided, the final inputs provided by the country experts were downloaded from the online tool. This allowed for answers to be compiled into a database in Excel. Having the answers in one Excel document also allowed for standardisation. The next step was data cleaning, unifying entries such as n.a., no information or empty cells into a single value (not measured).

The data experts then started the analysis of the information provided in the database. In cases of doubt, the data experts revisited the ex-post evaluation reports themselves to verify the information reported by country experts and, if needed, to expand the information base provided for each of the evaluations.

Compilation of information

Once cleaned, the information was processed by the data experts by screening the textual entries. The focus was on the answers given by the country experts to the open questions, regarding qualitative assessments provided by the ex-post evaluation reports on the contribution of different aspects of the RDP to its overall objectives (i.e. competitiveness, environmental situation, quality of life and diversification). Our team developed specific categories for the synthesis to standardise the entries.

The six following categories were used to categorise contributions to the RDP objectives:

- Positive contribution;
- Limited contribution;
- No contribution;
- Negative contribution;
- Not clear; and
- Not measured.

The data experts looked through the answers on contribution provided in the reporting templates, including at the reasoning provided to expand on these answers. Oftentimes, the answers in the database had to be edited and summarised to ensure a clear categorisation. Changes in the phrasing of outcomes were made when necessary.⁸

When an ex-post evaluation reports stated that there was a slight positive contribution, this was categorised as a limited contribution. Where it was impossible to conclude on a contribution due, for example, to a report arguing multiple outcomes, the contribution was categorized as not clear. If no concrete contribution conclusion was provided in the ex-post evaluation because the report argued that the contribution could not be measured, it was categorised as not measured.

For the template section asking about the effects other than the intended contribution of competitiveness, environmental situation, quality of life and diversification we counted the number of times a certain effect was reported to help us identify the common additional effects.

The following two sections provide a thorough description of the methodology applied for addressing the evaluation synthesis questions, which include (i) programme-related questions; (ii) measure-related questions; (iii) Axis IV (LEADER)-related questions; and (iv) synthesis questions.

⁸ The quality of the ex-post evaluation reports differs. In some reports, it turned out to be hard to judge what the contribution of the programme has been. Often, the findings provided in ex-post evaluation reports are unclear. These cases needed extra attention in the categorisation process.

2.3 Methodology for answering the programme-, measure- and LEADER-related questions

The three kinds of Evaluation Synthesis Questions (ESQs) related to programmes, measures, and LEADER were answered by synthesising quantitative and qualitative information. The table below presents the sources used to answer the ESQs.

Table 2.2 Sources of information used to answer ESQs

Type of ESQ	Sources used to answering the ESQ
Programme-related questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers provided on the same questions in the ex-post evaluation reports; Impact Indicators where available.
Measure-related questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to objectives Other effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input, output, and result indicators; Common context indicators; Answers to measure-related questions in the reports.
LEADER-related questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input, output indicators; Information provided on the implementation of the 5 Axis IV measures; Result indicators reported in the ex-post evaluation reports are included for informative reasons only.⁹

While the methodologies for each type of question differ slightly, the general structure and approach for programme-, measure- and LEADER-related questions is similar. We therefore present the overall structure and only highlight the specific differences.

As explained in the previous section, the methodology relies on the input from the ex-post evaluation reports as collected by the network of country experts and as processed by the data experts. The database of answers is the starting point to answer the Evaluation Synthesis Questions and provided the input of both indicators as well as qualitative information.

Quantitative information

The quantitative information available to us were as follows¹⁰:

- **Input indicators;** which refer to the budget or other resources allocated at each level of the assistance. In this case, it referred to the total EAFRD expenditure;
- **Output indicators;** which measure activities directly realised within programmes. These activities are the first step towards realising the operational objectives of the intervention and are measured in physical or monetary units;
- **Result indicators;** which measure the direct and immediate effects of the intervention. They provide information on changes in, for example, the behaviour, capacity or performance of direct beneficiaries and are measured in physical or monetary terms;
- **Impact indicators;** which refer to the benefits of the programme beyond the immediate effects on its direct beneficiaries both at the level of the intervention but also more generally in the programme area. They are linked to the wider objectives of the programme.

Overview of the quantitative information, specifically of output¹¹, result and impact indicators is presented in Annex V.

⁹ There are no prescribed result indicators for Axis IV – LEADER. Since some ex-post evaluation reports reported the gross number of jobs created and the number of participants that successfully ended a training activity as output indicators, these were still included as result indicators. This information is therefore included for informative reasons, but is not complete enough to draw judgment from.

¹⁰ Based on the CMEF definitions.

The quantitative information used came primarily from the more complete, consistent and up-to-date input, output and result indicators of the annual implementation reports presented by the Member States. In all but one measure (Axis IV), these were preferred over those provided in the ex-post evaluation reports and collected through the reporting templates. This was not the case for Axis IV because that specific information was not available in the annual implementation reports. Impact indicators were not available in tabular form and we therefore extracted them from the reporting templates that had collected them from the different ex post evaluation reports and aggregated them.

In addition to the indicators from the database, we were provided with the following Common Context Indicators, which reflect relevant aspects of the general contextual trends in the economy, environment and society that are likely to have an influence on the implementation, achievements and performance of the CAP. When possible, some of the impact and result indicators were contextualised through comparison with these Common Context Indicators.

The availability of various indicators and our approach to report on them was as follows:

- **Input indicators** are provided at a regional/Member State level. We report them at measure level in bar charts displaying total EAFRD expenditure per MS and share of input per total EAFRD expenditure at country level;
- **Output indicators**¹², which are provided for each measure separately at the level of the Member State (when available)¹³. Five types of values are reported per output indicator: number of MSs that reported on the indicator, range¹⁴, median¹⁵, average¹⁶ and total¹⁷;
- The values for **result indicators** are reported at the axis level at the beginning of each chapter and follow the same display as details on output indicators;
- Values for **impact indicators** are displayed for programme-related questions where available. For measure-related questions, impact indicators are not available;
- **Common Context Indicator** values are used for comparison with other indicators for the measure related questions.

An overview of the relation of the Result Indicators to the measures is provided in Table 2.3 on next page.

¹¹ As there are at time different output indicators reported for one measure and the indicators in an overview are presented in a separate table, the expenditure values are repeated for those in several tables. This means that it is not feasible to sum up all expenditure across all tables.

¹² Output indicator values have been provided by Member States in the Annual Implementation Reports.

¹³ The available data is of varying quality. In some cases, data was unavailable, incomplete or inconsistent. If no data was available, we have excluded the specific Member State from the quantification. The data presented is thus indicative of those Member States that have provided data. Where inconsistencies were significant, we did not present the data.

¹⁴ The **range** is the difference between the maximum and minimum values.

¹⁵ The **median** is the 'middle value' of a list. If the list has an odd number of entries, the median is the middle entry after sorting the list into increasing order. If the list has an even number of entries, the median is halfway between the two middle numbers after sorting.

¹⁶ The **average** is the mean of a set of values. To calculate the mean, sum all the data values, and divide by the number of data values.

¹⁷ All statistical definitions are retrieved from Glossary of statistical terms: http://www.reading.ac.uk/ssc/resource-packs/sadc-training-pack/Resources/Glossaries/Statistical_Glossary.pdf.

Table 2.3 Result indicators and measures reporting on them

Indicator No.	Result Indicator	Measures for which the indicator is reported
R1	Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity related to agriculture and/or forestry	M111
R2	Increase in GVA in supported farms	M112 – M115, M121 – M125, M131
R3	Number of holdings introducing new products and/or techniques	M121 – M124
R4	Value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards	M131 – M133
R5	Number of farms entering the market	M141 – 142
R6	Area under successful land management	M211 – M216, M221 – 227
R7	Increase in non-agriculture GVA in supported businesses	M311 – M313
R8	Gross number of jobs created	M311 – M313, M411 – M413, M421
R9	Additional number of tourists	M313
R10	Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services	M321 – M323
R11	Increase in internet penetration in rural areas	M321
R12	Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity	M331, M341,

A number of Member States had provided in their Annual Implementation Reports values for Result Indicator for measures without EAFRD expenditure (see table 2.4). A possible explanation is that these measures were funded under the respective LEADER measures M411 to M413.

Table 2.4 Number of MS reporting on Result Indicators without expenditure for the related measure

Measure	Result Indicator	MS reported but not implementing Measure
123	R2 GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	1
123	R3 No of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – Total	1
141	R5 No of farms entering the market	1
142	R5 No of farms entering the market	5
213	R6 Area under successful land management (Ha) -sum land	1
222	R6 Area under successful land management (Ha) - sum land	1
223	R6 Area under successful land management (Ha) - sum land	1
224	R6 Area under successful land management (Ha) - sum land	1
227	R6 Area under successful land management (Ha) - sum land	1
311	R7 Non-agricultural GVA in supported business ('000 EUR)	3
311	R8 Gross number of jobs created	3
312	R7 Non-agricultural GVA in supported business ('000 EUR)	2
312	R8 Gross number of jobs created	2
313	R7 Non-agricultural GVA in supported business ('000 EUR)	2
313	R8 Gross number of jobs created	3
313	R9 Additional number of tourist visits (sum)	5

Measure	Result Indicator	MS reported but not implementing Measure
321	R10 Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services	2
321	R11 Increase in internet penetration in rural areas	1
322	R10 Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services	1
323	R10 Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services	3
331	R12 No of participants that successfully ended a training activity - Total	3
341	R12 No of participants that successfully ended a training activity - Total	5

For the output, result and impact indicators, we include the number of reports that provide information in order to demonstrate the contribution of the measure to the respective objective. The Common Context Indicators describe total values for the EU. They are contrasted with other indicators to provide perspective on the dimension of outreach of the measures.

In Chapter 3 (programme-related questions), the percentages show the proportion of reports from the total number of ex-post evaluation reports (91). In the chapters on the measure-specific questions, percentages are calculated from the total number of reports/regions that have implemented the measures.

Qualitative information

As previously described, the qualitative assessments were categorised into six levels. The answers of the reports in these levels are presented for each programme-, measure- and LEADER-related question, showing a pie chart with the percentage of reports in each category. The main underlying reasons supporting the type of contribution of the programme are explained.

This approach was applied for the majority of the questions. It is important to note that the defined categories did not apply to all programme-related questions. For the programme-related questions, the structure of the compilation varies per question. Due to limited observations, the categories "not measured" and "not clear" were often combined. However, the structure of the pie chart is still the same.

The compilation of answers and their visualisation for the cross-cutting Axis IV – LEADER differs from the compilation structure for the other measures under Axes I to III. Thus, the information available from the ex-post evaluation reports was combined in a different way to be able to answer these questions.

Due to the horizontal nature of the LEADER approach, and the different structure of the Evaluation Questions, ex-post evaluation findings and quantitative findings from several measures are building the source of information for the judgment on the different Evaluation Questions. The measures taken into account to reply to the four Evaluation Questions are provided in the table:

Table 2.5 Measures covered under the Axis IV (LEADER)-related evaluation questions

Evaluation question (EQ)	Relevant measures
SQ42: To what extent has the RDP contributed to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER?	M41_ (M411, M412, M413), M431
SQ43: To what extent have LAGs contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP?	M41_ (M411, M412, M413)
SQ44: To what extent has the LEADER approach been implemented?	M421, M431
SQ45: To what extent has the implementation of the LEADER approach contributed to improving local governance?	M431

Where possible we include a case example to illustrate the argumentation in the ex-post evaluation reports regarding the contribution. Measures under Axis II also include a synthesis of answers regarding the contribution of the measure to sub-categories (biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment).

Use of case examples in text boxes in the synthesis

Case specific examples are provided in the sections about the contribution of the measure towards improving the competitiveness/environmental situation / economic diversification / quality of life. These examples illustrate the effect of a Measure in a specific Member State or region. They highlight the process that occurs during the implementation of a Measure. The cases reflect relevant learning points for future implementation of the Measure. The ex-post evaluation of the specific Member State or region is used as source material.

We present an Annex VI to compare these pie charts on contribution, organised thematically and by Axis. The graphs presented in the annex further allow for a comparison of the distribution in the categories between the programmes questions.

Judgment criteria

While the graphs presented in Annex VI allow for comparability, the significant number of reports providing unclear or no assessments meant judgment criteria needed to be developed to give these assessments more context. While the ex post evaluation reports contained information on target and implementation values for output and result indicators, this information could not be used to provide judgment on the implemented RDPs, as the target values were adjusted multiple times during the life cycle of the Programme. What's more, the adjustments made to the target values of output and result indicators seem to have been unnecessary reductions, resulting in multiple ex post evaluations in which the degree of implementation (comparing implemented to target values) was over 1 000 %, including cases where this was over 2 000 %.

We therefore developed three judgment criteria for the final conclusions of the programme-, measure- and LEADER-related questions. These judgment criteria are:

- Extent;
- Plausibility; and
- Certainty.

Firstly, we assess the **extent** of the contribution of the RDPs to the specific objective. The extent is assessed based on the percentage of reports that provided a positive conclusion over those that provided a conclusion on the contribution. We therefore recalculate the percentage of positive contribution reports over the total of reports with clear answers, excluding those that were categorised as not clear or not measured. As mentioned under the compilation, these categories are:

- Positive contribution;
- Limited contribution;
- No contribution;
- Negative contribution;
- Not clear; and
- Not measured

This means that only those reports in category 1-4 were used to calculate extent. The criteria to determine extent are:

- **very limited extent:** 1-25% of ex-post evaluation reports that provided a conclusion stated a positive contribution of the RDP to the SQ issue;
- **limited extent:** 26-49% of ex-post evaluation reports that provided a conclusion stated a positive contribution of the RDP to the SQ issue;

- **medium extent:** 50-75% of ex-post evaluation reports that provided a conclusion stated a positive contribution of the RDP to the SQ issue;
- **high extent:** >75% of ex-post evaluation reports that provided a conclusion stated a positive contribution of the RDP to the SQ issue.

Considering that many questions had unclear or missing answers in the categories 5 and 6 of contribution, we need to judge whether the answer on the extent of the contribution is based on a sufficiently large answer base to be plausible.

To establish **plausibility**, we look at the evidence base, defined as the number of the ex-post evaluation reports that provided an answer on the contribution. The approach is based on the same information provided in the pie charts, where we showed whether the reports provided a contribution or whether this was unclear or not measured. The reports under these two categories (5-6) are understood as not having provided or reported a conclusion on the contribution. The more evaluation reports we have with a response on the conclusion on the objectives, the more plausible it is to reach an overall assessment.

The plausibility is then ranked according to the following criteria:

- very plausible: >85% of the ex post evaluation reports provided a conclusion;
- plausible: between 50-85% of the ex post evaluation reports provided a conclusion;
- not plausible: <50% of the ex post evaluation reports provided a conclusion.

For programme-related questions, we use the judgment criteria of **certainty** of the quantitative assessment based on the percentage of RDPs for which there were indicators and whose indicators were calculated in a standardised way, thus making them comparable. This is done based upon the following criteria:

- **certain:** >80% of the regions/MS have comparable indicators;
- **partly certain:** between 50-80% of the regions/MS have comparable indicators;
- **not certain:** <50% of the regions/MS have comparable indicators.

2.4 Methodology for answering the synthesis questions

The synthesis questions (SQs) are addressing the overarching aspects of effectiveness, causality, efficiency, coherence, relevance and added value of the RDPs. The SQs build on the programme-, measure- and Axis IV (LEADER)-related questions, and on other information provided. In the Table 2.6 **Error! Reference source not found.** we show which sources were used to answer the particular SQs. In the following sections, we indicate our approach to answering the SQs.

For each Evaluation Synthesis Question unique answer categories have been developed to take into account the nature of the question and the sources of information used to answer it.

Each answer to the SQs is structured in the following way:

1. Understanding of the question which provides our interpretation of the question;
2. Approach to answering the question with the following components:
 - a. Methodological consideration including the details of quantitative and qualitative data use;
 - b. Limitations of the methodology for each of the synthesis questions;
 - c. Judgment criteria of the answer with clear explanation of judgment criteria or indication of whether or not judgment criteria can be used.
3. Answer to the synthesis question; and
4. Conclusion & Recommendation for each synthesis question.

Table 2.6 Links between synthesis questions and programme-, measure-, LEADER questions and other information relevant for answering the synthesis question

Synthesis SQ	Programme-related SQs	Measure-related SQs	LEADER-related SQs	Other sources of information
SQ46. To what extent have the RDPs objectives been achieved?	Programme question 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11	No	Question 42, 43	No.
SQ47. To what extent can the change in the programme area be attributed to the RDPs?	No	No	No	All result indicators and relevant context indicators.
SQ48. To what extent were the RDPs costs proportionate to the benefits achieved?	Programme question 14	No	No	Input and result indicators.
SQ49. To what extent were the RDPs projects consistent with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP and EU interventions in the same programme area?	No	No	No	Chapter 1 (intervention logic) and Chapter 7 Conclusions and Recommendations of the ex-post evaluation reports.
SQ50. To what extent are the outcomes of the RDPs consistent with the overall rural development objectives?	No	Questions 29-41	Question 42	SQ46.
SQ51. To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the social, economic and environmental needs within the programme area?	Programme question 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11	No	Question 42	Result indicator 3, 6, 8, 10, 11.
SQ52. To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the EU Rural Development (including Health Check) priorities?	Programme question 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11	No	Question 42, 43, 49	Chapter 7 Conclusions and Recommendations of the ex-post evaluation reports.
SQ53. To what extent has the EAFRD funding via the RDPs ensured EU added value?	No	No	No	Answers to SQ46 to SQ50; Chapter 7 Conclusions and Recommendations of the ex-post evaluation reports.

Judgment of evidence base

The final judgment of each question makes use of the different findings of the programme-, measure- and LEADER questions considered relevant for answering the synthesis question, as well as other sources of information such as input, output and result indicators. It takes into account the addressed limitations of the evidence base. For each Synthesis Question a judgment of the evidence base (plausibility) is provided, to benchmark how strong or weak it is. While this does not mean that the reports without specific contribution measurement were not included in the overall synthesis, the lack of a strong measurement detracted from the overall plausibility of the final judgment. This evidence base is classified according to how complete the provided information is, in the sense of coverage of Member States or programmes.¹⁸ While having the same structure to the plausibility criteria of the measure-, programme- and LEADER- related questions, the ranges for the criteria categories for the synthesis questions differ. Keeping in mind the lower numbers of reports providing relevant data, the percentage of reports required for the evidence based to be considered sufficient to draw conclusions from was lowered.

Table 2.7 Plausibility judgment criteria for the evidence base

Judgment	Clarification
Weak evidence base	Less than 50% of the reports have provided relevant data
Sufficient evidence base	Between 50% and 85% of the reports have provided relevant data
Excellent evidence base	More than 85% of the reports have provided relevant data

Judgment criteria for each answer

For each synthesis question we provide a conclusion summing up the main finding in the light of limitations and suggestions for programming and evaluation where suitable. Table 2.7 provides an overview of the generalised judgment criteria used to make conclusions for each of the Synthesis Questions. For some questions (e.g. 51) the criteria is further detailed while for other questions (e.g. 48 and 53) different criteria is used due to the complexity of the synthesis questions. The categorisation is further detailed under each of the synthesis questions.

The scores are calculated in the following way. The number of answers indicating negative contribution is deducted from the number of reports stating positive contribution. The number of reports providing limited contribution have a score of 0,5 while reports indicating positive contribution have a score 1. All contributions (positive, limited and negative) are divided by the total number of all reports. For the programme-related questions the total number is 91 while for the measure-related questions the total number is equal to the number of regions or Member States that implemented the measure. The calculation of the score follows the following formula:

$$E = (P - N + CL) / R^{19}$$

The final score (E) can reach values between 1 and 0. Based on the values the following judgment is given.

Table 2.8 Judgment criteria and its clarification

Scale	Clarification
High extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0,76 – 1
Moderate extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0,51 – 0,75
Limited extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0,26 – 0,50
Very limited extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0,01 – 0,25
No extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0

¹⁸ It is important to note that the plausibility judgment criteria for answering the synthesis questions was slightly lower than that of the programme- and measure-related questions, reflecting the lower levels of relevant data provided in the reports for the synthesis question.

¹⁹ Number of all reports (R); Number of positive results (P); Number of limited results (L); Constant factor of 0,5 for weighting of limited results (C). The number of reports without any contribution are contained in (R) but do not get included in the numerator of the formula.

2.5 Limitations of the study

Compiling and synthesising the information from the ex-post evaluations posed a number of limitations. This section highlights the main limitations and briefly explains to what extent the limitation's effect on the quality of the synthesis was mitigated through the methodology. It is important to take note that in all the cases, and in spite of the adjusted methodologies, the quality and availability of data continued to be a limitation throughout the project.

In general, the **quality of the evaluation reports was not uniform**. Some of the reports provided substantial analyses with well-argued examples, while other reports lacked clear reasoning and presented conclusions without substantiation. In addition, some reported values seemed out of the scope of possibilities, either being much larger or smaller than what would seem feasible for the specific aspect being measured.

The varying degree of quality of the ex-post evaluation reports resulted in limitations for the reporting on the existing information. We summarised the information provided without judging how the analyses were carried out by the evaluators. However we always tried to highlight main shortcomings in the data. We primarily did that by reporting for each question how many answers were not clear or of sufficient quality, and indicating when a certain effect could not be measured and possibly why. In particular, to take into account the fact that not all reports provided data of sufficient quality that we could use for the synthesis, we set criteria to determine the certainty and plausibility of our assessment with regards to the different questions.

Although relying on a network of country experts benefited this synthesis, **collecting input from various persons** resulted in varying levels of detail and quality of answers provided. The study team double checked the answers after the work of the experts in order to minimize inaccuracies or inconsistencies; however, in some cases these could not be fully avoided.

A second limitation to consider is that we carried out a synthesis of ex-post evaluations produced **both at level of regions and Member States**. Inevitably, when aggregating values, the distinctions between regions of different size or regions and Member States could not be observed. In addition, each region or Member State had different priorities and targets and very diverse levels of economic development. To take care of these important distinctions, sometimes we presented value ranges, as in the case of quantitative overviews. However, since we performed a synthesis, many of these distinctions in size and priorities could not be taken into account.

A third issue that we encountered is the mostly qualitative nature of analyses in the ex-post evaluation reports, and the **limited quantitative support to justify the effects** claimed. This is also reflected in this synthesis, as the summary of the information is mainly qualitative. We have paid special attention to providing quantification whenever possible throughout the synthesis. In particular, we used output, result and impact indicators to validate or test the findings of the qualitative analysis. However, that was only possible to a limited extent.

A fourth main limitation is linked to **indicators and targeting**, for which data was often limited or not available. We encountered inaccuracies in the data from RDP annual reports reported by Member States, as in the case of the data provided on the result indicators, and we witnessed potential inconsistencies between data from RDP annual reports reported by Member States and indicator values reported and used for the judgments in the ex-post evaluation reports.

Inconsistencies occurred in output and results indicator values. They appear mainly in the field of area-, and population related indicators. In several cases output indicator values were higher than the total values reported for the related common context indicators; e.g. the Physical area supported (ha) was higher than the total UAA in the Member States. Similar inconsistencies were also found in result indicator values and became apparent when comparing them with total expenditure. They could possibly just be an error in units of measurement, but there were no means to cross-check this.

The result indicator tables provided by Member States in the Annual implementation Reports show "0" as achieved value for a substantial number of measures in Member States. It is not apparent in the tables whether this refers to "no data provided" or "no results achieved". We exclude Member States that reported "0" from the calculation of averages, and in order to illustrate the potential error level, we indicate how many Member States reported "0". Please

note, that some Member States also reported outcomes of result indicators under particular measures, which they actually not implemented, at least according to the EAFRD expenditure (input indicator) tables. Reasons for that could either be, that the measure was actually programmed and implemented as part of the LEADER approach, that there were still old obligations which led to results but did not show in expenditure. For the calculation we used only data for Member States where we had both input indicator and result indicator values available. The number of reporting Member States and the total values of achieved output can therefore differ to the ones provided in the Result Indicator tables for the axes.

In addition, we were not able to use target values for input, output and result indicators. The output and result indicator targets have in many cases not been realistic which can be explained by the lack of experience of the Managing Authorities in setting targets. As a result targets were often adjusted during programme implementation and were therefore not considered reliable to provide benchmarking. While adjustments throughout a life-cycle of a programme can reflect changes made to the programme, the adjusted targets were often drastically reduced and, when compared to the final outputs, not always substantiated.

Without the use of targets, it was often difficult to assess the extent of the RDPs' achievements. We often compared result and output indicators to the context indicators, and used triangulation between the qualitative and limited quantitative data we had, but such comparisons could solve the problem to a limited extent. Not all indicators had equivalent Common Context Indicators to use for contextualisation.

Another issue was the **varying use of terms** such as "beneficiary" and concepts such as "quality of life". While in the narrow sense a "beneficiary" is defined as the person or institution directly receiving funding, it is more often used as referring to the level where intended effects should occur, e.g. farmers or rural entrepreneurs. The concept of quality of life has different emphases depending also on contexts. Thus, a broad judgment on the contribution to quality of life could mean various effects in different programmes, with some having an economic focus, while others integrating social and environmental aspects.

3 SYNTHESIS AND ANSWER TO THE PROGRAMME, MEASURE AND AXIS IV-RELATED QUESTIONS

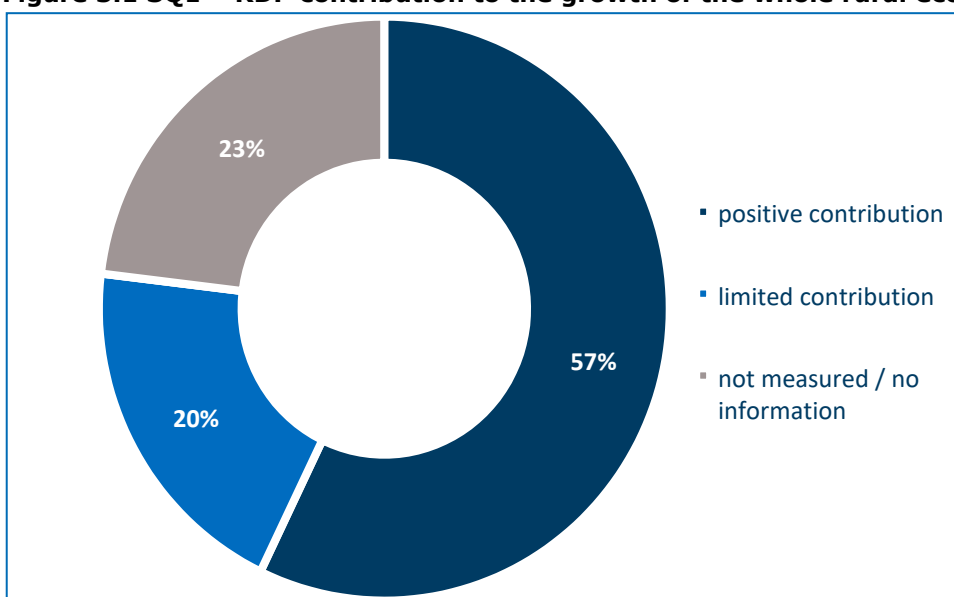
3.1 Programme-related questions

SQ1. To what extent has the RDP contributed to the growth of the whole rural economy?

General observations

The ex-post evaluation reports suggested that the RDPs have positively contributed to the growth of the rural economy in at least half of the reports under assessment. As the diagram below shows, out of 91 Member States/regions, 52 reported positive effects on growth and 18 limited or no impact.²⁰ In addition, 21 evaluations did not provide any data, or asserted that such impacts could not be assessed based on the available measurements and statistics.

Figure 3.1 SQ1 – RDP contribution to the growth of the whole rural economy (n=91)



While agriculture was the primary beneficiary of investments, forestry and the food industry had different degrees of support depending on the region.

The ex-post evaluation reports that registered a non-homogeneous or limited effect on the economic growth presented different reasons for their negative assessment. For 2 out of 18, the limited / no effects on economic growth are due to a lack of economic diversification. For 9, they are a result of the limited implementation of policies in combination with the economic crisis. At the same time, 4 linked it to the "fundamental conflict between the growth objective of the Lisbon Strategy and the balancing objective of sectoral and regional EAFRD actions"²¹.

Although sometimes the RDPs have not resulted in significant growth of the rural economy, at least 9 evaluations noted that they have mitigated the effects of economic recession in a significant way, for instance by limiting the loss of jobs and the decrease in the number of farms. Ultimately, according to these reports, if such policies were not in place, the situation of the rural economy would have worsened.²²

²⁰ 4 in particular have found no impact, but it is difficult to make a clear distinction between limited and no impact at all, which is why the two categories are here assembled.

²¹ Niedersachsen/Bremen (Germany) ex-post evaluation report.

²² "The evidence shows that there has been little or no growth in the whole rural economy for a contribution to have been made by the NIRD. However, it's the evaluators' conclusion that had the

Quantitative overview

There are 2 relevant impact indicators to help measure the contribution of RDP to rural economic growth: economic growth (mostly based on gross value added – GVA) and labour productivity (based on GVA per full-time equivalent – FTE).

In order to measure the RDP's contribution to economic growth, most of the ex-post evaluations looked at the added value of the RDP. However, different units were used to measure it. The most frequently used were however net value added (NVA), GVA and purchasing power parity (PPP). To make data comparable, the following criteria have been applied:

- Indiscrimination between NVA, GVA and PPP;
- Indiscrimination between indirect and direct added value;
- Exclusion of data not reported in Euro.

Labour productivity was also interpreted differently across the ex-post evaluations. The most common approach used was to report on the GVA per FTE. Also for this indicator there are some constraints to take into account when considering and comparing data across ex-post evaluations:

- Programmes use different base and end years;
- Sometimes data was limited to specific measures;
- Not all ex-post evaluations reported on percentage changes.

The table below provides an overview of the data regarding the RDPs contribution to economic growth and increase in labour productivity. According to the reports, the total contribution to economic growth was € 14 billion, while the average reported increase in labour productivity was 4 %. Respectively 36 % and 18 % of the ex-post evaluations have reported on these two indicators.

Table 3.1 Overview of quantitative data

Value	Contribution to Economic Growth	Increase in labour productivity
Number of programmes which reported on this indicator	60	37
Number of programmes for which data could be used/compared	33	16
Range	€ 17 Mio – € 1 600 Mio	- 6 % - 22 %
Average	€ 458 Mio	4 %
Median	€ 134 Mio	3 %
Total	€ 14 219 Mio	

Justification of effects

The comparison of the ex-post evaluations reveals some common trends in the way RDPs supported the rural economy. Four major effects were observed, namely:

- Modernisation and competitiveness;
- Labour productivity and efficiency;
- Employment and knowledge transfer;
- Household income and per capita GDP growth.

NIRDP not been in place the impact of the global recession would have been much more severe in rural areas of Northern Ireland and that the programme assisted the rural population to overcome a period of great economic difficulty." (Northern Ireland, UK).

Modernisation and competitiveness

Investments to boost modernisation and competitiveness were the main factors leading to the economic development in 23 out of 91 Member States/regions. In particular, investments towards improving sustainability and quality were key to increasing GVA in the primary sector and had positive spill-over effects on the economy. As stated in the ex-post evaluation for Mainland (Portugal), the RDP had a positive effect because it has encouraged "the dynamism of the rural economy, the rejuvenation of producers, the modernisation of enterprises in the agroforestry complex and the increase of their competitiveness, as well as the inclusion of innovation in productive processes and farm management"²³.

Labour productivity and efficiency

In 18 out of 88 Member States/regions, the main factors that contributed to the growth of the rural economy were reported to be the increase in productivity and the improvements in efficiency. New practices and tools were introduced to maximise labour productivity, and investments in modernisation helped to boost levels of production. In 8 out of 91 programmes, a better use of the land - including the extension of irrigated areas - and improvements in the quality of products were also seen as major drivers of economic growth.

Employment and knowledge transfer

In 11 out of 91 Member States/regions, employment creation and the building of skills were some of the main factors of economic development. New jobs were created and there was an investment in knowledge transfer and training, which led to the employment of young people not only in the primary sector.²⁴ The creation of employment prospects for young generations in rural areas also limited the abandonment of farms, especially in mountainous regions.

Household income and per capita GDP growth

Reports for 8 out of 91 Member States/regions explicitly recognized that there has been an increase of the per capita GDP growth, and especially residents of rural areas and farmers witnessed an increase in their income, which in turn stimulated new demand. In some cases, however, evaluations suggest that these positive spill-over effects tend to be short term and are to expire with the programme.²⁵

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the RDPs had positive effects on economic growth in 57 % of the Member States/regions. These effects can be attributed mainly to investments in modernisation and labour productivity, as well as to investments in human capital. However, 20

% of the reports found that the RDPs had limited effects on the growth of the rural economy. The economic crisis, the lack of diversification and the limited implementations of the same policies are the main factors that have hampered the success of the RDPs in terms of stimulating economic growth. It should be noted, however, that even in the areas where economic growth was not very significant, the RDPs contributed to limiting the effects of the economic recession.

The quantitative data provided in the table above has shown the contribution of the RDPs to the growth of the rural economy on the basis of two impact indicators: economic growth and labour productivity. While the contribution of the RDPs to the economic growth was large, reaching a total value of € 14 billion, the average increase in productivity reached 4 %. In some cases, negative values of growth were recorded. This finding is partly in contrast with the fact that labour productivity was generally perceived as one of the main factors through which the RDPs have stimulated economic growth.

When assessing the overall contribution of the RDPs on the rural economy, it is important to take into account that not all reports provided good quality data. Furthermore, in certain cases the impact of the programmes could not be measured. In particular, while most of the ex-post evaluation reports (77 %) provided qualitative data regarding the contribution of the RDPs to

²³ Mainland (Portugal) ex-post evaluation report.

²⁴ Supporting the setting up of more than 100 young farmers contributed to limit the decrease in the number of farms."(Martinique, France).

²⁵ 'The demand-induced effect on gross value added and GDP is no longer considered ex-post, as it is quickly diminished when the programme expires', (Thüringen, Germany).

the growth of the whole rural economy, only a limited number of reports (respectively 36 % and 18 %) provided clear data on the two impact indicators.

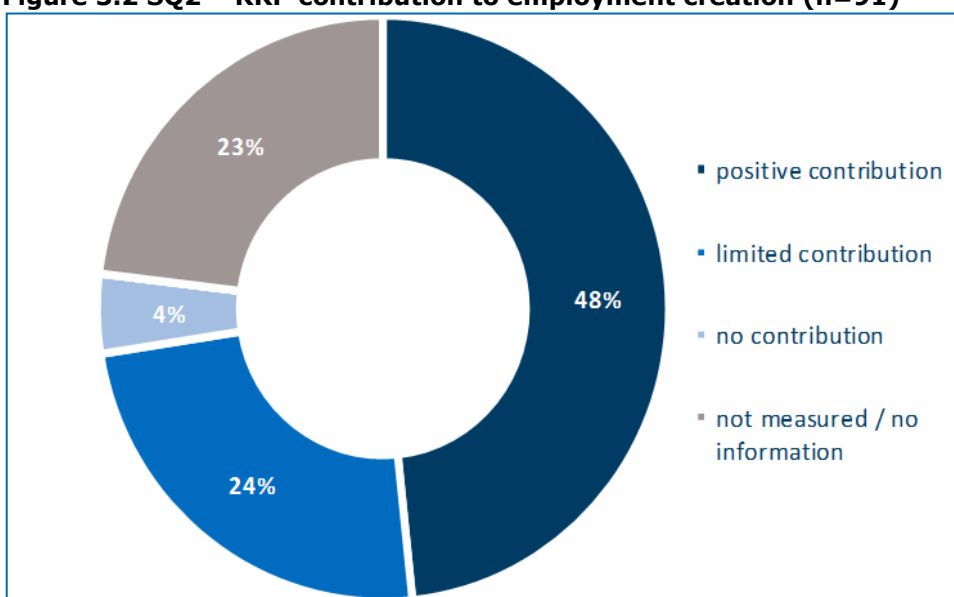
Based on the quantitative overview, the contribution of the RDPs to economic growth and labour productivity is not certain. However, the qualitative data indicates that the RDPs have overall contributed to a medium extent to the growth of the rural economy. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution plausible.

SQ2. To what extent has the RDP contributed to employment creation?

General observations

As a general trend, RDPs positively contributed to employment creation in almost half of the target regions. In particular, according to 44 ex-post evaluation reports out of 91, RDPs had either positive or very positive effects on the creation of new jobs. According to 22 ex-post evaluation reports, RDPs had a limited impact, and 4 reports registered no impact at all. In this last group of reports, although it was not attributed to the RDP, a worsening of the current employment situation was observed. Finally 21 reports did not provide any data or the data was not clear.

Figure 3.2 SQ2 – RRP contribution to employment creation (n=91)



Quantitative overview

The main result indicator that can be used to measure progress with regards the effects of the RDPs on employment creation is the gross number of jobs created within the economy. There are some constraints though on the way data on this indicator was collected and presented in the different ex-post evaluations. Notably:

- Values on job creation sometime referred to new jobs in agriculture only, primary sector or more generally to the whole economy;
- The evaluations reported both on full time and part time jobs.

Table 3.2 Overview of quantitative data

Value	Gross number of jobs created within the economy
Number of programmes which reported on this indicator	59
Number of programmes for which data could be used/compared	41
Range	18 – 48 160
Average	3 983
Median	939
Total	159 311

In order to be able to compare and aggregate data, the overview presented above takes into account all new jobs created, including jobs in different sectors and indirect jobs. It should be noted that data was often provided in large ranges, and therefore average values were assumed to be the actual number of new jobs.

Justification of effects

Overall, the ex-post evaluation reports presented the effects of the RDPs on employment creation by reporting the number of new jobs created and/or the percentage of new jobs in the different sectors. They have generally referred to achievements against targets and in some cases indicated which sector has benefitted the most and which measures have been most effective in creating new jobs.

Based on the information provided in the reports, it is possible to determine which factors have favoured or hampered a positive influence of the RDP on the creation of new jobs, and in which specific sectors.

How have RDPs supported employment creation?

According to 9 reports, measures under Axis 3 were the most efficient in creating new jobs. For 6 ex-post evaluation reports, the main way in which the RDPs promoted employment creation was through promoting diversification. It can be noted, in fact, that a large number of jobs have been created outside the primary sector.²⁶ Improvements in productivity were considered in 6 regions as one of the main engines of job creation. However, for 2 regions the increase in productivity is reported to be in contradiction with the creation of additional jobs.²⁷

Only 2 reports linked the increase of employment to the investments into skills building and knowledge transfer. Finally, it is worth noting that 3 reports also recognized the merits of the RDPs in improving working conditions and wages.

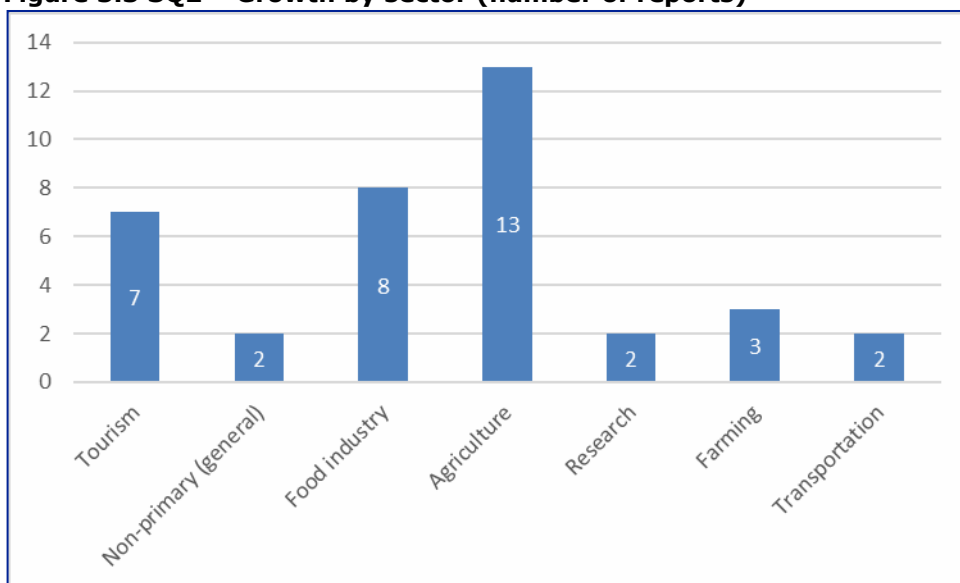
Sectors which have seen the most significant growth in employment rates

Most reports specified which sectors had seen the most noticeable growth in terms of employment. While the largest share of new jobs was created in the agricultural sector, reports acknowledged that RDPs also led to the creation of new jobs in other sectors and especially food and tourism. For example, in the Czech Republic there have been new jobs created in the domain of tourism, amenities/services, cultural heritage, start-up business support, etc. The diagram below provides an overview of the sectors that have been mentioned by more than 2 ex-post evaluation reports.

²⁶ "Net job creation is directly related to the creation of diversification activities and the increase of downstream activities in agricultural production", Reunion (France) Ex-post Evaluation Report.

²⁷ "There is a conflict within the RDP between the objectives on increased employment and increased productivity, as increased productivity usually implies lower employment". Aland Islands (Finland) ex-post evaluation report.

Figure 3.3 SQ2 – Growth by sector (number of reports)



Why did some RDPs fail in supporting employment creation?

8 of the reports, which observed limited, or no effect on employment creation, explained that creating new jobs was not a primary objective for the rural development policy in that region.

For 8 reports, the results achieved were lower than expected or below targets. For 8 reports the creation of jobs in some sectors led to a loss of jobs in another, or the creation of new jobs did not compensate for the loss of existing jobs, which was primarily due to the economic recession, but also to displacement effects.²⁸

The role of the RDPs in mitigating unemployment

If in some cases the RDP was not successful in creating new jobs, it is worth noting that 14 ex-post evaluation reports highlighted that the RDP had a primary role in the preservation and retention of existing jobs, and that its greatest merit was to mitigate the loss of jobs due to the economic recession. The example of the Balearic islands is particularly insightful. According to the ex-post evaluation if we look at the holdings not participating in the programme, employment per enterprise fell by an average of 1.38 employees. In contrast, in the farms that were beneficiaries of the RDP, this reduction was of 1.22, so the net effect of the programme was to prevent an additional 13.11 % loss of employment. In a context of widespread economic crisis, RDP helped avoiding the loss of € 2.53 million of GAV and 16 jobs in the agricultural sector.

Overall, the RDPs helped sustain and create jobs in a variety of sectors, both directly and indirectly. In particular, investments in diversification played an important role in creating new job opportunities in rural areas. At the same time, employment creation was often not a primary objective of the RDPs, which sometimes led to limited or opposite effects on the job market.

Conclusion

The qualitative data provided in the ex-post evaluation reports suggests that RDPs had a positive effect on the creation of new jobs in 48 % of the programmes. In particular, the reports suggested that the measures under Axis III were the most effective in this respect and that employment creation was particularly favoured by investments in diversification and labour productivity.

At the same time 28 % of the reports registered no or limited impact on the creation of jobs. Such results were primarily due to the fact that job creation was often not a programme

²⁸ "The net impact of the Programme is limited by various effects of the labour market, e. g. displacement effect. The latter manifests when creating jobs in one economic activity as a result of the interventions leads to the decrease in the number of persons employed in the other economic activity" Lithuania ex-post evaluation, report.

priority, but also to displacement effects in the job market. Overall, however the reports largely recognised the important role of the RDPs in limiting the effects of the economic recession on the job market, and in preserving existing jobs.

The quantitative data provided in the table above has shown the RDPs contributed to create about 159 311 new jobs, not just in the primary sector but also in the entire economy, with an average of 3 983 new jobs per Member State/region.

It is important to take into account that not all reports provided good quality data. Furthermore, in certain cases the impact of the programmes could not be measured. In particular, while most of the ex-post evaluation reports (77 %) provided qualitative data regarding the contribution of the RDPs to employment creation, only 45 % of the reports provided quantitative data on the number of jobs created.

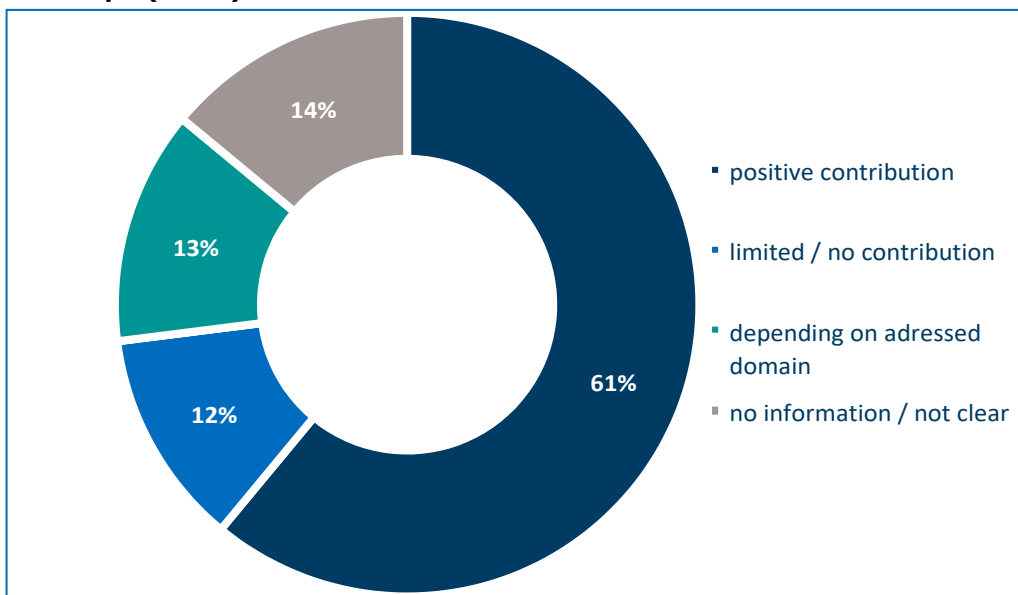
Based on the quantitative overview, the contribution of the RDPs on the creation of new jobs in the economy is not certain. However, the qualitative data indicates that the RDPs have contributed to a medium extent to employment creation. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution plausible.

SQ3. To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape, including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?

General observations

The RDPs have positively contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape, including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry, in more than half of the evaluations under assessment. As the diagram below shows, 55 out of 91 evaluation reports, or 61 %, indicate positive impacts on natural resources and landscape, 12 % limited or no impact, and 13 % of evaluations specified positive and negative impacts, implying that the impacts of the programmes are highly dependent on the domain which is being assessed. For instance, increased protection of endangered species does not necessarily lead to an improvement in water quality. In addition, 14 % of evaluations did not provide any data, or asserted that such impacts could not be assessed based on the available measurements and statistics.

Figure 3.4 SQ3 – RDP contribution to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape (n=91)



The ex-post evaluation reports that noted a limited effect on the protection and enhancement of natural resources and landscape provide different arguments for their moderate judgments. Competing and overlapping developments through the cultivation of renewable raw materials for the production of regenerative energies were mentioned by 5 reports. Furthermore, another 4 evaluations attribute the limited/no impact of the programmes to multiple external influences such as the loss of grassland, and the intensification of land use.

With regards to biodiversity, the RDPs have in many cases contributed to significant improvements. However, at least 9 evaluations noted that even though the programmes were not able to reverse biodiversity decline, the programmes mitigated the pressure on natural resources and landscape. Without the implemented programmes, the evaluations conclude, stronger negative trends in the impact indicators would have been observed.

Quantitative overview

The main indicators that have been used to measure progress with regards the effects of RDP on protecting and enhancing natural resources and landscape, including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry are the impact indicators of changes in farmland bird index, changes in high nature value areas (HNV) and Changes in gross nutrient balance. There are some constraints though on the way data on these indicators has been collected and presented in the different ex-post evaluations. Notably:

- Values of changes are reported on an annual base in some reports, and as an overall value in others;
- Values for HNV areas are either reported as percentage of change, or at total area (accumulated over years), and cannot be aggregated;
- Various measurement for water quality have been applied, most commonly reduction of N and P in kg / ha / year, but also as ml/l of reduced NO₃. Some also indicate percent of change of the nutrient balance.

Table 3.3 Impact indicators used to judge SQ3

Value	Farmland Bird Index change in %	HNV area change in %	HNV area change in ha	Reduction of N kg / ha / year
Number of programmes which reported on this indicator	25	42	42	44
Number of programmes for which data could be used/compared	21	9	17	9
Range	-45.8 - +112.4	0.02 to 70	-1 150 – 537 162	1.9 - 44
Median	7	16.6	9 797	9.3
Average	23	23	84 735.9	15.8
Total	-	-	1 440 510.2	-

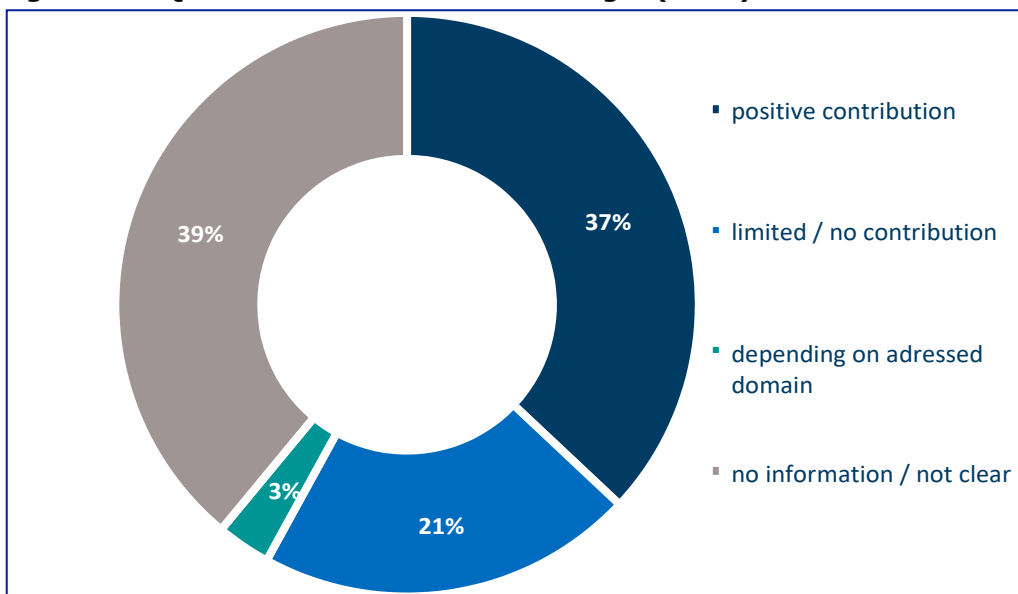
Additional result indicators applied are the "total area under successful land management (in ha) (3 reports), and area contributing to improve biodiversity and high nature value farming / forestry (2 reports), to improve water quality (2 reports), to the mitigation of climate change, and avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment (3 reports). Some indicators used reflect the changes in land management (reduction in area with pesticide application, maintained management of permanent grassland, patch density index), and land use (Increase in area of native woodland, increase of forest cover); while others reflect changes to biodiversity directly (population of imperial eagle, population of griffon vulture, tree species composition).

Justification of effects

Bird populations in the regional agricultural environments

Farmland bird populations and agriculture are closely connected. Farmland biodiversity is conventionally measured by the Farmland Bird Index (FBI). The ex-post evaluation reports suggest that the RDPs have positively contributed to reaching targets related to the Farmland Bird Index in 37 % of the evaluations. As the diagram below shows, 21 % of the reports stated that the programmes had limited impact or no impact. 39 % of the evaluations did not provide any information on the FBI.

Figure 3.5 SQ3 – RDP contribution to FBI target (n=91)



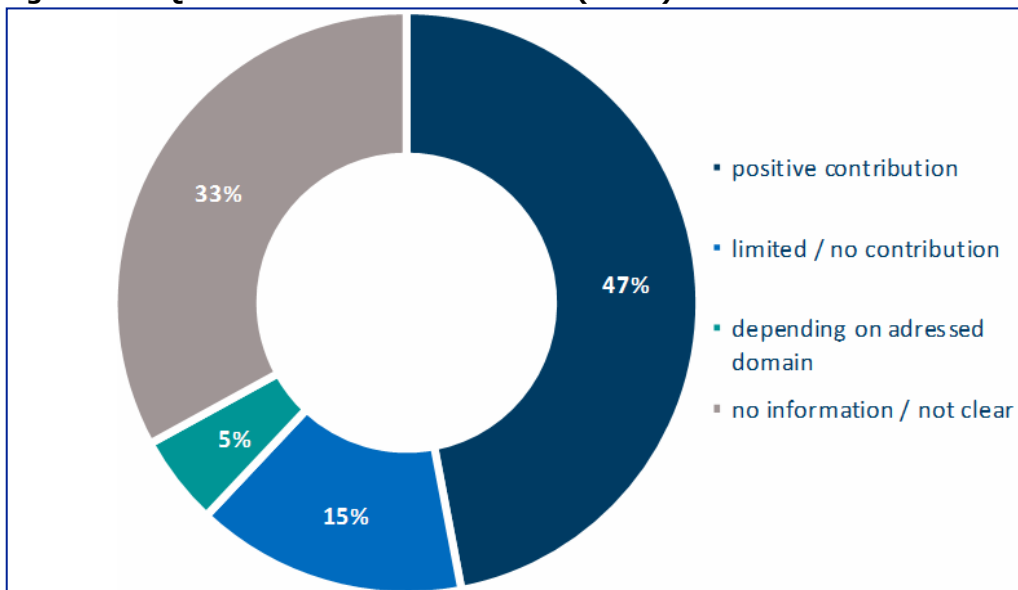
Four ex-post evaluation reports that noted positive impacts on the Farmland Bird Index indicated a positive correlation between the implementation of agro-environmental measures and the development of the impact indicator FBI. Of those that did not provide any information on the FBI, four evaluation reports noted an attribution gap between increasing bird populations and agricultural interventions. The ex-post evaluation reports state that external causes unrelated to agriculture, such as inclement weather, abundance of predators, or degradation of wintering conditions, diffuses impacts.

High nature value (HNV) farming and forestry

A positive impact of the RDP on high nature value (HNV) farming and forestry was stated in 47 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. As the diagram below displays, 5 % of the evaluations differentiate between programme impacts, whereas positive, limited and no impact depending on the considered domain is addressed.

In 15 % of the ex-post evaluation reports a limited or no impact was stated. Whereas more than a third, namely 33 % of the evaluations did not provide any information or stressed that impact was difficult to assess. Of those ex-post evaluation that stated positive impacts, 7 reports highlighted a positive correlation between green environmental measures and HNV occurrences.

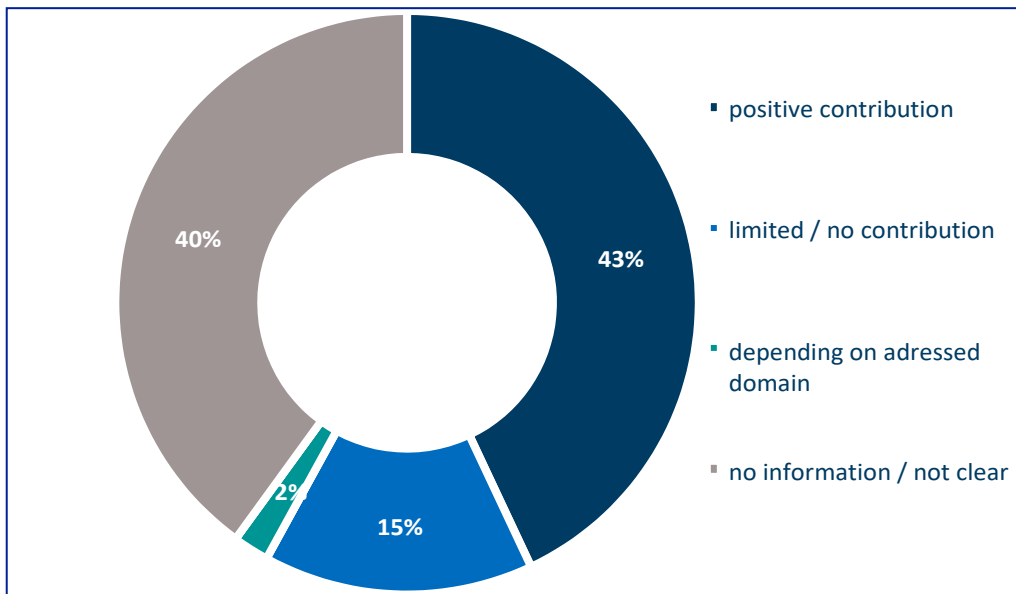
Figure 3.6 SQ3 – RDP contribution to HNV (n=91)



Water Quality

Nearly half of the ex-post evaluation reports, namely 43 % indicate that the RDPs had a positive impact on water quality. Only 15 % suggest limited or no impact on water quality. As the diagram below shows, 40 % of the ex-post evaluations did not provide information or asserted that the impact was difficult to assess. 2 % of the reports stated differing impacts depending on the measures the programmes implemented.

Figure 3.7 SQ3 – RDP contribution to water quality (n=91)



A positive effect on water quality was reported in 28 % of the ex-post evaluation reports and indicated that the reduction of agricultural or yield-increasing inputs was a success factor in achieving the impacts. The number of evaluations reporting limited or no impact offered diverse reasons such as low efficacy of the dedicated actions, slow implementation, limited uptake of sub-measures, or external factors such as the opening up of productive agricultural lands that potentially leads to pressures on water resources, biodiversity or soil quality.

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the RDPs had a positive effect on the protection and enhancement of natural resources and landscape in 61 % of the Member State/regions, including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry. As SQ3 addresses a wide range of topics, it was partly indicated that the impact of the RDP is strongly dependent on the topic under consideration. Particular emphasis was placed on biodiversity. Moreover, the programmes were either said to improve the situation or prevent further degradation. Agri-environmental measures were of particular importance with respect to protecting natural resources and biodiversity.

The use of the quantitative data – i.e. the impact indicators Farmland Bird Index, High nature value farming and forestry (HNV) and water quality were also used to answer the evaluation question – was subject to some limitations. It was mentioned several times that the evaluation subjects are also heavily depending on other influences besides the RDPs, which makes it difficult to determine the direct influence of the programmes. Depending on the indicator, 33- 40 % of the reports did not consider those indicators in more detail or could not establish a sufficient link between the RDP and the indicators. Where reported, the Farmland Bird Index and the HNV both increased on average by 23 %. Gross nutrient balance has been reduced on average by 15.8 kg N / ha / y.

Based on the quantitative overview, the contribution of the RDPs to protecting and enhancing natural resources and landscape is not certain. However, the qualitative overview indicates that overall the RDPs have contributed to a medium extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution very plausible.

SQ4. To what extent has the RDP contributed to the supply of renewable energy?

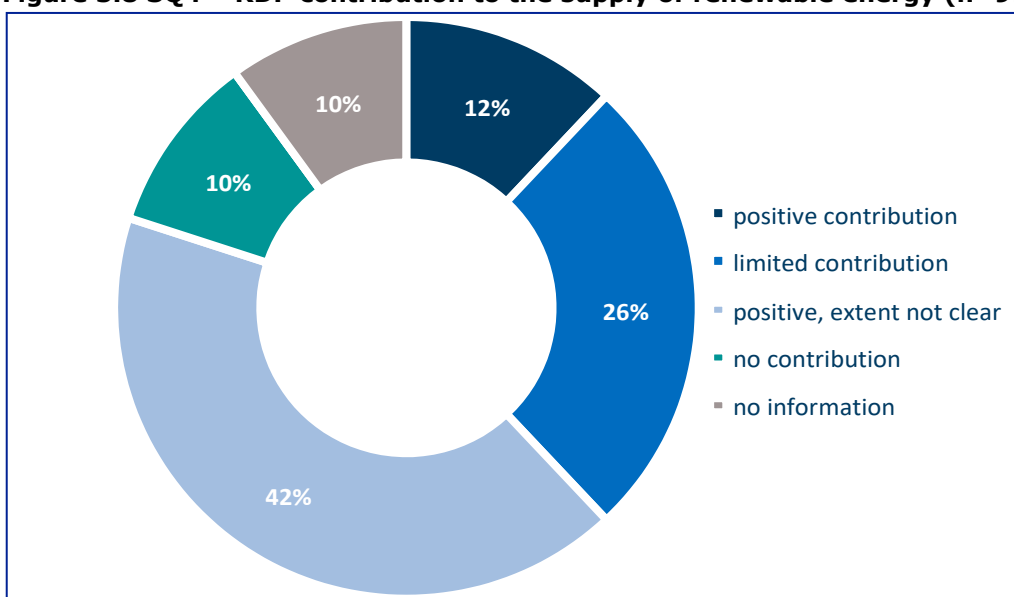
General observations

The programme-related SQ4 was to be covered in Chapter 6 "Answers to Evaluation Questions" in the ex-post evaluation reports. It has been directly discussed within a section or chapter in 84 % of the reports. Another 6 % of the reports include some information concerning the supply of renewable energy, but do not have a clear section in the ex-post evaluation reports on where the answer to SQ4 is provided. 10 % of the ex-post evaluation reports do not provide any or do not provide clear information on the contribution of the supply of renewable energy of the programme.

The ex-post evaluation reports suggest that the RDPs have positively contributed to the supply of renewable energy in most of the regions under assessment. As the diagram below shows, 12 % of the reports indicate significant positive effects on the supply of renewable energy in at least one sector, 26 % of the reports indicate limited impact and 10 % of the ex-post evaluation reports exclude a contribution of the RDP to the supply of renewable energy. In some of these reports this reason is attributed to the fact that there were no or very few projects financed aimed at this objective. Some ex-post evaluation reports state that the production of renewable energy was not a strategic objective of the RDP, or that the supply of renewable energy was not clearly operationalised in the RDP. Because of alternative funding programs for this purpose, the RDPs of some regions were not attractive to potential beneficiaries.

The ex-post evaluations reports typically apply qualitative assessments to answer the evaluation question and, in some cases, these statements are supported by qualitative data. In general, the assessments summarize measures and supported projects, which are expected to contribute to the supply of renewable energy. Most of the reports did not link the results achieved (e.g. amount of renewable energy produced by supported projects) to the RDP's objectives. In some reports, however, the results were reviewed and analysed in a regional context. Therefore, in 42 % of the reports a clear judgment of the extent contributed to the supply of renewable energy is missing. Furthermore, 10 % of the reports did not provide any data on or assessment of the subject.

Figure 3.8 SQ4 – RDP contribution to the supply of renewable energy (n=91)



Thanks to the support of the RDPs, a variety of projects aimed to improve the supply of renewable energy. Besides investments in the direct expansion of the renewable energy sector (power plants, etc.), few reports state the support of training and information on subjects concerning renewable energy.

Quantitative overview

Most common result indicators applied to judge SQ4 are megawatt hours – MWh (also GWh, KWh) and kilo tonnes of oil equivalent (KTOE). Other result indicators used are of a more general nature: increase of renewable energy production (3 reports indicating between 6 and 12 %), or avoided CO₂ emissions (23 992 Mg CO₂/a).

Table 3.4 Overview of quantitative data

Value	MWh	KTOE (MWh ²⁹)
Number of programmes which reported on this indicator	13	11
Number of programmes for which data could be used/compared	7	6
Range	5 632 – 345 000	0.27 – 98 (3.14 – 1 139.74)
Median	58 878	13 (151.19)
Average	87 826	32 (372.16)
Total	614 779	193.09 (2 245.64)

Justification of effects

The following sectors supported the expansion of renewable energy supplies:

Biogas and biomass energy

Projects in energy production from biomass and biogas were supported in 25 regions. This includes the installation of biogas and biomass plants and units for processing biomass and organic by-products for energy use. The development of biogas plants in the Czech Republic is remarkable: according to the ex-post evaluation, report the share of the energy from RDP-supported biogas plants of the total renewable energy production was raised from 1.6 % to 8.5 % between 2009 and 2015³⁰.

One report stated, "it must be assumed, for the subsidized biogas plants, that these investments in the use of renewable energies would have taken place predominantly without subsidies"³¹.

This sector increases not only through installing new energy plants but also by measures that provide an increase of biomass production to feed the plants. In some regions (mentioned in 13 % of the reports) this was supported in both the agricultural and forestry sectors by directly supporting energy crops and energy wood. Additionally, contribution has been noted in some reports to also come from measures that enhance the value of the forestry sector.

Solar energy

10 % of the reports state a contribution to solar energy (photovoltaic and solar heat). While in most of these regions, the value added in this sector is not clear or not described, one report notes that the RDP contributed to a significant increase in the production of renewable energy by supported photovoltaics installations³².

Distribution systems

In 10 % of the regions, local heating networks based on renewable raw materials were promoted, which are seen as substitutes for oil and gas-based district heating networks.

The RDPs have had positive effects on the supply of renewable energy in most of the regions. The extent of the support is rather limited however, due to the fact that in most RDPs, the supply of renewable energy was not programmed from the outset and that number of supported projects in the field was low.

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the RDPs contributed positively to the supply of renewable energy in 12 % of the Member States/regions. In the majority of these regions, this positive development is based on the support of biogas and biomass energy. In some regions, investments in solar energy and distribution systems contributed to an expansion of renewable energies. For another 42 % of regions, positive effects were reported, however with an unclear extent. Limited effects were reported for 26 % of the regions.

²⁹ Conversion was made by the study team using the following conversion rate: 1 KTOE = 11,63 MWh.

³⁰ Summary of the ex post evaluation of the Czech Republic.

³¹ Summary of the ex post evaluation of the region Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany).

³² Summary of the ex post evaluation of Malta.

As the quantitative data provided in the table above shows, the total renewable energy production amounts to an output of 614 779 MWh. Compared to the gross renewable electricity production in the EU-28 in 2015, the share of the reported output (electricity and heat) from the RDPs is 0.06 %. The total energy production from the RDPs reported on sums up to 193.09 KTOE. Compared to the primary production of renewable energies in the EU-28 in 2015 the share from the RDPs is 0.09 %.

When assessing the overall contribution of the RDPs to the supply of renewable energy, it is important to take into account that only seven reports include information on the amount of energy produced in MWh, and only six reports include information on the amount in KTOE which could be used for a conclusion.

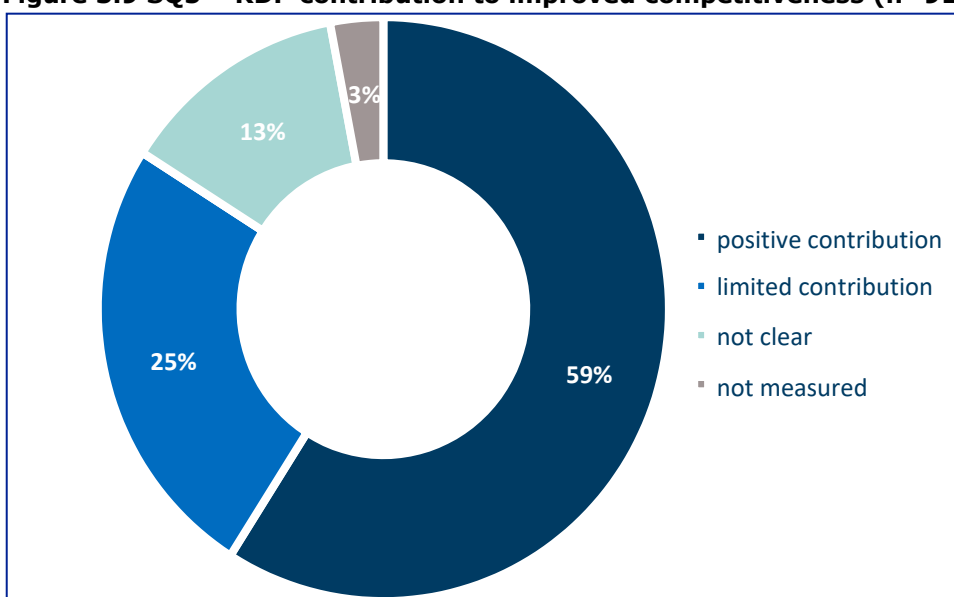
Based on the quantitative overview, the contribution of the RDPs to the supply of renewable energies is not certain. The qualitative overview indicates that the RDPs have contributed to a very limited extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution very plausible.

SQ5. To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector?

General observations

Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector was one of the objectives of rural development policy set up by the Community strategic guidelines for rural development in the programming period 2007-2013. Over half of the reports (59 %) found that the RDP had a positive contribution to the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector. It was found by 25 % of the reports that the programme's contribution to competitiveness was limited, and the remaining reports (16 %) either did not measure this contribution or did not provide a clear answer. This lack of a clear answer was often due to conflicting findings across the different measures and programs encompassed by the RDP as a whole.

Figure 3.9 SQ5 – RDP contribution to improved competitiveness (n=91)



In the agricultural sector, the contribution to improved competitiveness occurred because of the various measures that allowed for investments in the productive physical and human capital, increasing efficiency and therefore competitiveness. These effects were particularly felt for downstream stakeholders. Reports stated that in some Member States/regions, the RDP's contribution to the agricultural sector was in the form of mitigation rather than improvement, having been implemented when multiple areas were undergoing an economic crisis and therefore facilitating survival rather than improving the agricultural or forestry holding's position in the market. Likewise, reports stated that the overall programme's effect on agricultural competitiveness was low due to regional-specific influencing factors, such as farm and area structures, the state of the region's infrastructure and the original management set-up.

The effects on agriculture versus forestry differ in the time period for which effects can be recorded. Measures improving human capital had a positive impact on labour productivity in agriculture and investments in modern machinery and technology contributed to productivity in the short term.

The forestry sector was also improved due to investments in physical and human capital but is considered to have more effects in the longer run, as the improvement of forest stocks becomes visible after a longer time. The long term nature of forestry investment and production means the investment by forest measures to preserve and improve the regional forestry sectors will take longer to manifest.

GVA was used as the measuring standard for answering this question in 36 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. The farm and forestry investments were overall found to have a positive and significant effect on the GVA for beneficiaries when compared to non-beneficiaries. The increase in production (and hence higher turnover) in various sectors is attributed to the investments under the RDP. This increase in added value for marketed products was found to be higher for the agricultural goods than for those related to forestry.

The increased labour productivity was attributed to the programme's training sessions by 47 % of the reports. This was achieved by improving the entrepreneurial and professional skills of farmers, both on the business as well as on the technical side. Results on the productivity gap between the overall regional economies' and that of the regional agricultural/forestry sectors vary, with some reports establishing that it was decreased while others establishing that it remained the same. Two reports found that measures focussed on human capital development primarily improved competitiveness of smaller holdings.

New technologies and innovation were mentioned as the main drivers for the modernisation of farms by 43 % of the reports, where investing in machinery, buildings and new technologies thus improved productivity. The RDP had a strong positive impact on the agro-food sector through the modernisation of the agro-industrial tools used by the beneficiaries. Investments in modern machinery and technology had effects on productivity in the short-run, in that through modernization production became more cost-efficient.

Finally, 7 % of the reports included aspects of improved product quality as being significant in increasing competitiveness. The improved technology and skills of the sectors as a result of the measures resulted in products of higher quality, which in turn made the sectors more competitive both on domestic as well as on international markets.

The RDP was found to have contributed to improving competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector by increasing their productivity through both human capital (training and consultancy services) as well as physical capital (investments in new machinery and technologies). Results were heterogeneous depending on the size of the sector and its baseline conditions, but were largely found to have maintained and / or improved productivity levels.

Quantitative overview

The main indicator that can be used to measure increased competitiveness attributable to the RDP are the changes in GVA and labour productivity. However, changes in GVA as a whole were not often individually reported per measure rather than as a result of the whole RDP. Similarly, labour productivity was measured as a result of this GVA change per labour units, often expressed in full-time-equivalences.

Changes in labour productivity were expressed in different formats in the ex post evaluation reports. However, the more commonly expressed indicator was of the percentage change in labour productivity. The average increase in labour productivity as a result of the RDP is 4.1 %, with the values ranging from negative changes (-6 %) to almost a fifth increase in productivity (17%).

Table 3.5 Overview of quantitative data

Value	Change in labour productivity
Number of programmes	17
Range	-6 % to 17 %
Median	3.2 %
Average	4.1 %

Conclusion

The qualitative data provided in the ex-post evaluation reports suggests that the RDPs had a positive contribution to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors in 59% of the Member States/regions. These effects can be attributed mainly to trainings and investments in modern machinery and technology, improving the productivity of both human and physical capital. The forestry sector was also improved due to investments in physical and human capital, but the full degree of these improvements to competitiveness are expected to materialize in the future. On the other hand, 25 % of the reports found a limited contribution to competitiveness, due to the previously mentioned longer-term effects or because due to the economic crisis of the same period, the two sectors did not so much increase in competitiveness as experience a mitigating effect from the RDP.

The quantitative data provided in the table above has shown the contribution of the RDPs to the change in labour productivity. The average increase in productivity reached 4 %. In some cases, negative values of growth were recorded. This finding is partly in contrast with the fact that labour productivity was generally perceived as one of the main factors through which the RDPs stimulated change in competitiveness for the sectors.

When assessing the overall contribution of the RDPs on the rural economy, it is important to take into account that not all reports provided good quality data. Furthermore, in certain cases the impact of the programmes could not be measured. In particular, while most of the ex-post evaluation reports (84 %) provided qualitative data regarding the contribution of the RDPs to the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector, only a limited number of reports (18 %) provided clear data on the relevant impact indicators. Taking into consideration these limitations and based on the trends described above we can conclude the following.

Based on the quantitative overview, the contribution of the RDPs on improved competitiveness in the agricultural and forestry sector is not certain. The qualitative data indicates that the RDPs have contributed to competitiveness to a medium extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution plausible.

SQ6. To what extent has the RDP accompanied restructuring of the dairy sector?

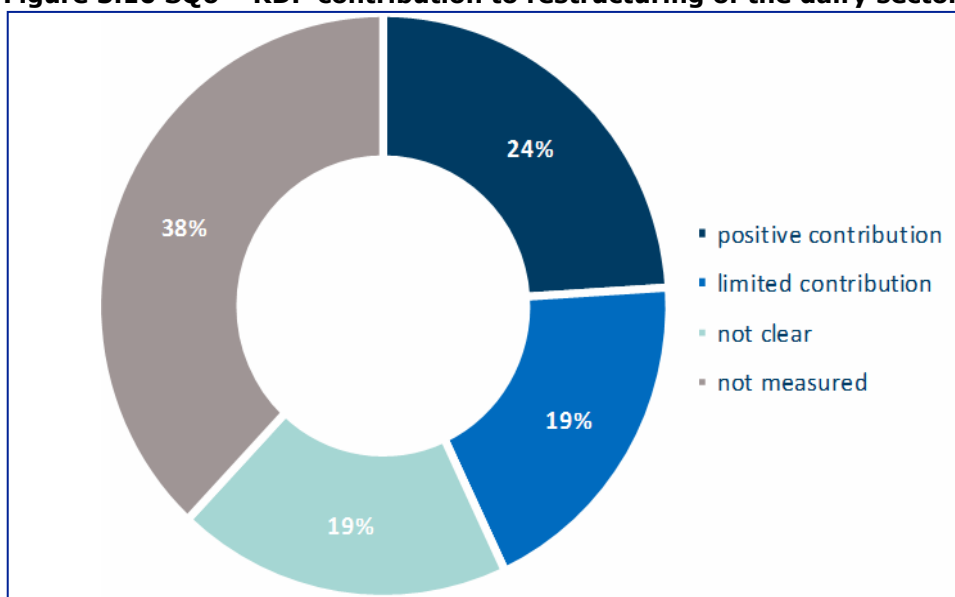
This objective was introduced as part of the Health Check; in the light of the upcoming abolishment of the milk quota system, and as a response to the price collapse in the dairy market.

General observations

Of the 91 ex-post evaluation reports 24 % indicate positive effects on the restructuring of the dairy sector, 19 % limited or low effects and in 19 % of these reports, the impact was not clearly described. 38 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not assess the effects on the restructuring of the dairy sector.

During the funding period (2007-2013), the dairy sector was strongly impacted by the pending repeal of the milk quotas (in 2015), the milk crisis, and an ongoing decrease in the number of dairy farms. These factors affected some of the reporting Member States and regions more than others, depending on the existing structures (e.g. modernisation backlog) and region-specific features.

Figure 3.10 SQ6 – RDP contribution to restructuring of the dairy sector (n=91)



The positive impacts are mainly justified by actions taken within the framework of M121 (Modernisation of agricultural holdings) and M123 (Adding value to agricultural and forestry products). Of all positive responses, 41 % mainly referred to these two measures, 32 % only to M121 and 18 % to other farm supporting measures (M112 Setting up of young farmers, among others). Three ex-post evaluation reports included generalized statements about the improvement in cost efficiency, maintenance of production plus the containment of downstream effects and the moderate contribution of Axis I to the restructuring of the dairy sector.

Over 80 % of the ex-post evaluation reports that have registered a low or limited effect refer to specific measures as well. However, the respective measures (M121, M123, M212 compensation payments for less-favoured areas, M214 Agri-environment payments, M215 Animal welfare payments, among others) were in these reports considered to be less influential than in those with positive effects. Other ex-post evaluation reports refer to the subsidies in general. Limiting factors were for example low numbers of support cases, limited investment volumes and missing the target indicators. Further arguments for a low or limited categorization were, among others, that the measures taken were not supporting a restructuring process but rather a structure preserving or adaptive process. In one case, it was mentioned that an explicit strategy for the restructuring process was missing.

The following critical issues were included in six ex-post evaluation reports with low or limited effects on the restructuring of the dairy sector. However, they point out some superordinate topics:

- Possible deadweight effects in supported investments reduce the effect of the related measures;
- The temporary low milk prices and other factors like regional increases in rental prices showed that policy instruments of the 2nd pillar of the CAP have a very limited effect against market forces;
- M121 had an ambivalent effect: on the one hand, it supported modernization and expansion of production capacities, on the other hand, the increased milk volumes led to significant price decline, causing a struggle for survival for numerous farms. Liquidity bottlenecks are further aggravated by debt servicing due to the (credit-financed) investments;
- Farms with certain structures (large, well-managed, run by elderly managers) benefitted more strongly from relevant measures than other farms. Additionally, some regions benefitted more than others. However, it is not clear, if this development is favourable or not from the dairy sector point of view.

Information about actions taken concerning the dairy sector are included in 19 % of all ex-post evaluation reports, however, it is not clear, which effects resulted from those actions regarding the restructuring of the dairy sector. In 71 % of these cases no clear judgment is given,

whereas in 18% of cases it is mentioned that the actions taken serve other objectives, like the preservation of the sector. In 12 %, external effects cannot be separated from effects triggered by funding.

About 38 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not indicate a contribution of the RDP to the restructuring of the dairy sector. The majority of these reports (71 %) did not provide specific or any information on this topic. The other 29 % of the ex-post evaluation reports either concerned national rural networks (11 %), for which SQ6 is not relevant or provided other justifications (17 %). Such justifications indicated that the restructuring of the dairy sector was neither an objective of the respective RDP, nor corresponding measures have been programmed nor projects were financed.

The reasoning as to how the programs have impacted the restructuring of the dairy sector show a certain tendency, which is described in the following chapter 'justification of effects'. The observations include all categories with any sort of effect (positive, limited/low, unclear).

Quantitative overview

Within the Common Monitoring & Evaluation Framework there is no indicator directly assigned to the objective of restructuring the dairy sector. As a result, there is no consistent approach apparent across the reports regarding the use of result and impact indicators to answer SQ6. In order to assess an impact, the restructuring of the milk sector was therefore often equated to the modernization and the improvement of operational structures in milk production and processing. Only in a few cases, a separation was made between the restructuring of the sector and a mere preservation.

Justification of effects

The modernization process (as an indicator for the restructuring process) was in many cases combined with an increase in herd size and a parallel decrease in dairy farm numbers. Only in a few cases, alternatives were described, e.g. how organic farming can be a reorientation for agricultural holdings or how M214 could offer a restructuring perspective for conventional dairy farms under income pressure.

Nearly a quarter of the ex-post evaluation reports indicate a positive effect on the restructuring of the dairy sector. These are mainly due to the investments in modernization on farms and in the processing sector. In addition, 19 % of the reports indicate low to limited effects and in another 19 % are the impacts on the restructuring process not clear.

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the RDPs have had positive effects on restructuring the dairy sector in 24 % of the Member States/regions according to the ex-post evaluations. The positive impacts are mainly justified by actions taken within the framework of M121 (Modernisation of agricultural holdings) and M123 (Adding value to agricultural and forestry products).

The contribution of the programme to the restructuring the dairy sector has been measured by 62 % of the regions. 38 % of the regions has not provided information on the contribution of the programme, and 19 % provide an unclear judgment. There is no consistent approach apparent across the reports regarding the use of result and impact indicators to answer SQ6, because the Common Monitoring & Evaluation Framework has not assigned an indicator directly specifically to SQ6. Taking into consideration these limitations and based on the trends described above we can conclude the following.

The qualitative data indicate that the RDPs have overall accompanied restructuring of the dairy sector to a limited extent as only 39% of the reports with clear judgments report a positive contribution. However, the effects registered are considered not plausible since only 57% of the ex-post evaluation reports have reported on the RDPs contribution.

SQ7. To what extent has the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation?

General observations

SQ7 was to be covered in the Chapter 6 "Answers to Evaluation Questions" in the ex-post evaluation reports. It has been directly discussed in a section or chapter in 88 % of the reports. Another 7 % of the reports include some information concerning SQ7 but do not have a clear section in the ex-post evaluation reports. 5 % of the ex-post evaluation reports do not provide

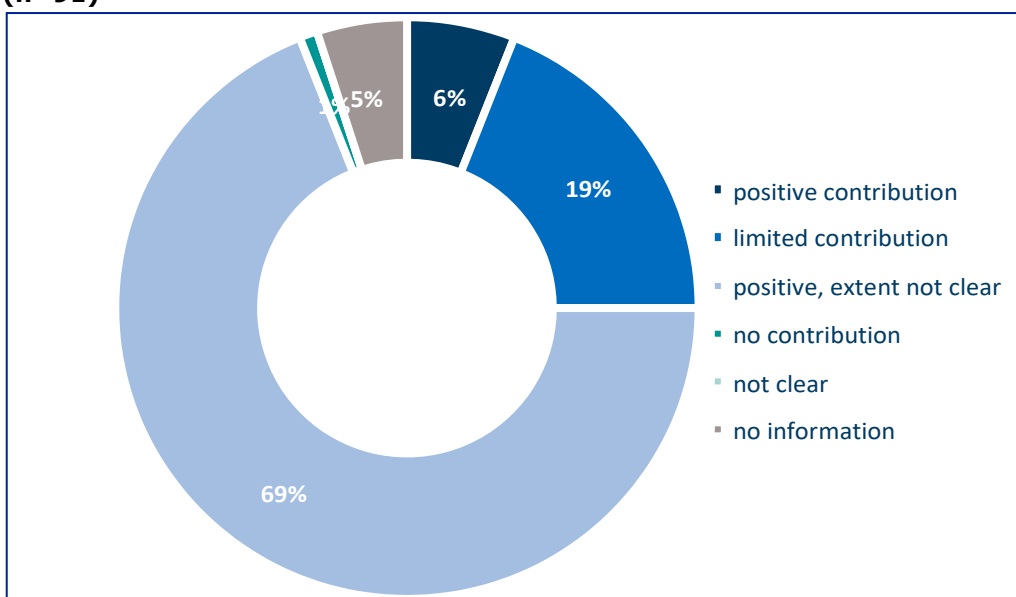
any information on the contribution to climate change mitigation of the RDP or no clear information on that subject.

SQ7 requires a discussion on two related – but different – subjects: the contribution to climate change mitigation and the contribution to climate change adaptation. While 95% of the reports state the subject of climate change mitigation, only 20 % of the reports give remarks on the subject of climate change adaptation.

The ex-post evaluation reports suggest that the RDPs have positively contributed to climate change mitigation in most of the regions under assessment. As the diagram below shows, 6 % of the reports indicate significant positive effects on the contribution to climate change mitigation and 19 % of the reports indicate limited impact. 1 % of the ex-post evaluation report excludes a contribution of the RDP due to the fact that the largest number of projects did not contribute to the correspondent indicators³³.

The judgments of the ex-post evaluation reports state a qualitative assessment, including different quantitative indications in some of the reports. They are basically summaries of measures and their projects supported, which are expected to contribute to climate change mitigation. Most of the reports did not put the achieved results (like sum reduced CO2 equivalent Greenhouse Gas emissions - CO2eqGHG) into context. Only a few reports state the how the results compare to regional data. Therefore, in 69 % of the reports a clear judgment of the extent contributed to climate change mitigation is missing. Some of reports assess that the lack of data and knowledge of complex interrelationships and indirect effects concerning GHG emissions is a reason for the little known extent of the impact of the RDP.

Figure 3.11 SQ7 – RDP contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation (n=91)



Some reports state reasons for the small or limited impact of the RPD on the contribution to climate change mitigation as follows:

- Reduction potential of RDPs compared to the regional GHG emissions is too small;
- Modest operations concerning climate change mitigation;
- RDPs focus on other effects like improvement of competitiveness;
- One report state that to increase climate change mitigation further studies are needed. The studies should provide information on the best outcome regarding climate change mitigation and economic incentive to adopt such measures³⁴.

³³ Summary of the report of Mainland Portugal and the islands.

³⁴ Summary of the Ex post evaluation of Sweden.

The ex-post evaluation report of the region Wallonia state that “the [impact] indicator I7 (increase renewable energy production) does not reflect impact of [the RDP] on climate change [mitigation and adaptation]”³⁵. It is emphasized, “renewable energy production does not necessarily contribute to [climate change] mitigation”³⁶. Furthermore, the report state that favouring transport by raising the attractiveness of the rural regions and rural development itself (as long it remains coupled with the growth of emissions) could cause a negative effect on climate change mitigation. It is made clear that the RDP has different effects on climate change mitigation. Due to the conflicting effects, it is difficult to identify the climate change mitigation balance of the RDP. One of these conflicts is the deadweight effect, which is specified by one report in the case of the contribution to reduce GHG emissions by renewable energy³⁷.

In some reports from Germany, it is recommended that climate protection should not be a priority of the RDPs. Other regional and EU-wide instruments are listed, which are estimated to be more efficient³⁸.

Quantitative overview

The answers to this question have been judged using several result and additional impact indicators.

Table 3.6 Overview of quantitative data

Value	Area under successful land management contributing to (c) mitigating climate change
Number of programmes which reported on this indicator	24
Number of entries (all Axis 2 measures) for which data could be used/compared	99
Range (ha)	4 - 5 525 751
Average (ha)	448 443
Median (ha)	72 132
Total (ha)	44 395 791

Information on result indicator RI6 (c) provided as medium level input differs substantially to the information provided in the ex-post evaluation reports. The reporting is more complete as only 4 Member states did not report on the indicator at all. We therefore use the above provided as a basis for judgment.

The impacts have been assessed using additional impact indicators such as *Reductions in GHG emissions* using a variety of measurements such as mg Cos Equivalents and t of CO₂ Equivalent per year. Three reports also indicate change in per cent (between 0.04 and 2.6 %). Levels of carbon sequestrations are mostly expressed in mg CO₂ equivalent per year but theoretical CO₂ sink capacities have been expressed in tons in one report.

Table 3.7 Additional impact indicators used to judge SQ7 (Source ex-post evaluation reports)

Indicator	Reduction of GHG emissions		Level of carbon sequestration
Number of reports	4	7	5
Units of measurement	mgCO ₂ Eq	t CO ₂ Eq/a	mgCO ₂ eq/a
Range	1545 to 236 037	1836 to 298 000	9662 to 186 333
Average	102 400	111 039	69 877
Median	57 000	41 496	38 128
Total	478 583	742 849	349 387
No values provided			2

³⁵ Summary of the Ex post evaluation of Wallonia (Belgium).

³⁶ Summary of the Ex post evaluation of Wallonia (Belgium).

³⁷ Summary of the Ex post evaluation of Hesse (Germany).

³⁸ Summaries of the Ex post evaluations of Hesse, Mecklenburg Vorpommern, Lower Saxony and Bremen, North Rhine-Westphalia (all Germany).

Justification of effects

Effects from different sectors on climate change were as follows:

- **Agriculture:** 29 % of the reports state that the RDP had a positive impact on climate change mitigation by agri-environmental measures. In many reports, the contribution is seen as most favourable from the RDP concerning climate change mitigation. The reports describe reduction of soil loss, reduction of emissions from soil, humus build-up and increase of carbon fixation in soil, reduction of nitrogen fertilizer and use of other production factors as an effect of agri-environmental measures. Additionally 3 % of the reports describe modernization of manure management important regarding climate change mitigation. Overall in 49 % of the reports a positive impact from agriculture is stated;
- **Energy:** The positive effect on the support of renewable energy was stated in 27 % of the reports. 18 % of the reports name savings of energy in agricultural and forestry sector and other sectors (e.g. household). This was achieved by modernization of agricultural holdings and energy savings in buildings. On the other hand the RDPs supported automatisisation and other practices, which possibly increase energy consumption in the agricultural sector;
- **Forestry:** Measures increasing or maintaining forests have direct impact on climate change mitigation by increasing carbon sink in soil and forest mass. 46 % of the reports state that this was achieved by supported forest-related measures. Explicitly named are afforestation, forest management and fire protection measures. Few reports describe actions related to forest as important for that purpose;
- **Other sectors:** Among the sectors outlined above, few reports state other activities, which contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Education and awareness-raising activities to combat climate change mitigation and adaptation are addressed in 5 % of the reports. The report of the region Saarland states that the issues of climate change were introduced to the promotion of Natura 2000³⁹. One report documents negative contribution of promoted urbanization and population growth⁴⁰;
- **Climate change adaptation:** The issue of climate change adaptation is stated in 20 % of the reports. All assess the impact of the RDP to climate change adaptation as positive. Most reports do not provide further explanations. 4 % of the reports state that supported forest measures had an impact on adaptation. Reducing water consumption and investment in irrigation systems are mentioned as well. Furthermore, flood and coastal protection supported by the RDP is seen as an important action. In the region Sachsen-Anhalt the supported flood protection by the RDP (including additional GAK funds⁴¹) contributes to the protection of approximately 5 % of the agricultural area of this region. This is seen as considerable⁴². Additional education and awareness measures for climate change adaptation are named twice.

In the report of the region Wallonia the effects of adaptation to climate variability and climate change by the RDP are seen as "favourable, without being optimized (because unintentional)"⁴³.

The RDPs have had a positive contribution to climate change mitigation and in some regions to climate change adaptation. The impacts are seen positively although the extent is not assessed in most cases due to the fact of missing data or the difficulty to assess contributions to climate change mitigation because of complex interrelationships and indirect effects.

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the RDPs had positive effects on climate change mitigation and adaptation in 6 % of the Member States/regions. With regard to mitigation, the ex-post evaluation reports mainly named the following measures as positively contributing: forest-related measures like afforestation and forest management, agri-environmental measures, and measures concerning energy-savings and the production of renewable energies. Positive effects,

³⁹ Summary of the Ex post evaluation of Saarland (Germany).

⁴⁰ Summary of the Ex post evaluation of Mainland (Portugal).

⁴¹ Gemeinschaftsaufgabe 'Verbesserung der Agrarstruktur und des Küstenschutzes' (GAK), i.e. Joint Task for the Improvement of Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection, core element of the German National Framework Regulation for the Development of Rural Areas

⁴² Summary of the Ex post evaluation of Saxony-Anhalt (Germany).

⁴³ Summary of the Ex post evaluation Wallonia (Belgium).

however with an unclear extent, are found for a share of 69 % of regions. For another 19 %, limited effects of climate change mitigation and adaptation are stated.

The quantitative data provided in the tables above shows that the reported reduction of GHG emissions by the RDPs amounts to 742 849 t CO_{2eq}/a. Compared to the total GHG emissions of all sectors of the EU-28 in 2015 (4 005 Mt⁴⁴), the reduction caused by the measures of the RDPs accounts for a share of 0.02 %. The level of carbon sequestration sums up to 349 387 Mg CO_{2eq}/a, resulting from measures on woodland and agricultural land. Compared to the assumed overall potential of carbon sinks in forests and croplands in the EU, the contribution of the RDPs accounts for a share of 0.08 %. The total area under successful land management contributing to mitigating climate change supported by the RDPs amounts to 4 813 km². Compared to the area for agriculture and forestry in the EU-28 (3 220 159 km²⁴⁵) the RDP-supported area has a share of 0.15 %.

Regarding an assessment of the overall contribution of the RDPs to climate change mitigation and adaptation, a summary regarding adaptation is very difficult. All in all, climate change adaptation was seen more as a side effect than a target by the RDPs. Regarding mitigation, the extent is uncertain as results are measured by different systems and at different levels, so summing up all reported GHG emissions avoided is not possible. A few reports stated negative results of the RDPs regarding climate change mitigation, but could not specify the extent.

Based on the quantitative overview, the contribution of the RDPs to climate change mitigation and adaptation is not certain. The qualitative overview indicates that the RDPs have contributed to a very limited extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution very plausible.

SQ8. To what extent has the RDP contributed to improvement of water management (quality, use and quantity)?

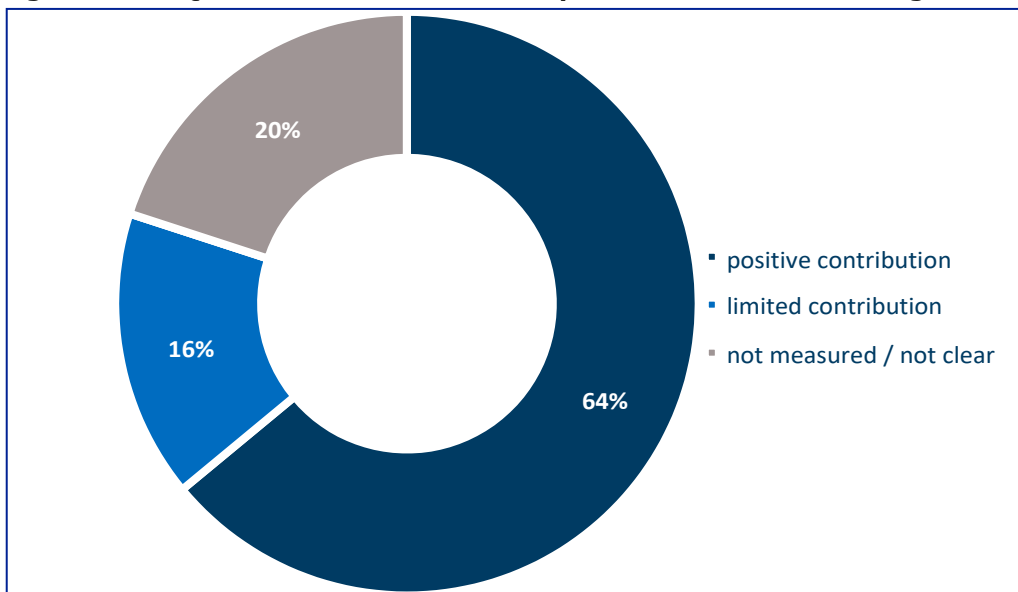
General observation

The ex-post evaluation reports indicate that the RDPs have positively contributed to water management (quality, use and quantity) in more than half of the reports under assessment. As the diagram below shows, out of 91 Member States/regions, 64 % suggest positive impact on water management, and 16 % limited or no impact. 20 % of evaluations did not provide information or stressed that such an impact could not be assessed based on the available data.

⁴⁴ European environment agency: Greenhouse gas emissions by source sector, Code env_air_gge – All sectors (excluding memo items). Webpage (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=env_air_gge last request 15 February 2018).

⁴⁵ Eurostat: Land use overview by NUTS 2 regions, Code: lan_use_ovw. Landuse Agriculture, Landuse Forestry. Webpage (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=lan_use_ovw last request 15 February 2018).

Figure 3.12 SQ8 – RDP contribution to improvement of water management (n=91)



Out of the 91 reports, 80 % discuss water-related issues, 40 % mention water management, whereas 13 % of evaluations report on water use, and one report refers to water quantity. Most reports (45 %) provide information on water quality. Reports show different understandings of water management, therefore overlap in the categories of use, quality and quantity is possible.

Many of the judgments refer to diverse interventions, among them for example irrigation measures, wastewater treatment or water quality, or a combination thereof. Due to local strategies, the differences in approaches and measures in the different programmes together with the inconsistent reporting does not allow for sound, objective and comparative judgment to what extent the programmes contributed to the improvement of water management at programme level.

Quantitative overview

The main indicator that has been used to measure the extent to which the RDP has contributed to improvement of water management (quality, use and quantity) is the impact indicator improvement in water quality (23 reports). Some reports also refer to measurements of water flow, water saving and water retention (5 reports), or other impact indicators such as reversing biodiversity decline.

The large variation of measurements used to express change in water quality is a constraint in the synthesis, most commonly applied is the reduction of N and P in kg / ha, but also as percent of change of the nutrient balance, or reduction of pesticide risks. Some measurements refer to surface water, while others to groundwater. Although values for 12 programmes have been provided, it is not possible to aggregate in a meaningful way. Values for the reduction of N (gross N-balance) range from 2.1 to 17 kg / ha.

Few result indicators were used to support the judgments, mainly R.6 Area under successful land management contributing to (d) water quality (5 reports).

Justification of effects

The reports state different methods that have been applied in the judgment of SQ8. For some reports group discussions, studies and surveys were conducted. Other reports rely on measurements, monitoring of indicators, and investments. The impact objective reflecting contribution to improving water quality is expressed through changes in gross nutrient balance as measured by the amount of mineral nitrogen in soil (kg/ha). 15 % of ex-post reports use the amount of mineral nitrogen in soil in kg/ha as a reporting indicator. Many other reports state improvements with regard to water issues but do not quantify their impact.

Further categories of judgment criteria have been applied (number of programmes in brackets), with some evaluations combining several methods:

- Water saving in Hm³ of water per year (2 programmes);
- Investments without further specifying cost per unit (input/output) (21 programmes);
- Total area in ha benefitting from interventions of the programme (10 programmes);
- Targets according to programme documents achieved (8 programmes).

Some evaluations mention individual benchmarks to make a judgment regarding their contribution to water management:

- Comparison with national nutrient balance;
- Comparison between participating and non-participating farms or companies;
- Pre/post comparison.

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the RDPs contributed positively to the improvement of water management in 64 % of the Member States/regions. The positive impacts are mainly related to irrigation measures, wastewater treatment or water quality. However, the reports do not use the term water management in a uniform way, which leads to a very different approach to the evaluation of use, quality and quantity of water. There is also no consistent approach across the reports regarding the use of result indicators and other evaluation criteria to answer SQ8. Hence, the available information should be treated with caution and can only be compared or summarised to a very limited extent.

The qualitative information provided indicates that the RDPs contributed to the improvement of water quality to a high extent, as 80 % of the judgments state a positive contribution. The information provided is considered plausible as 80 % of the reports provided a judgment.

SQ9. To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy?

General observations

An evaluation covering both domains, i.e. quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy, is available in only 27 % of the 91 ex-post evaluation reports.

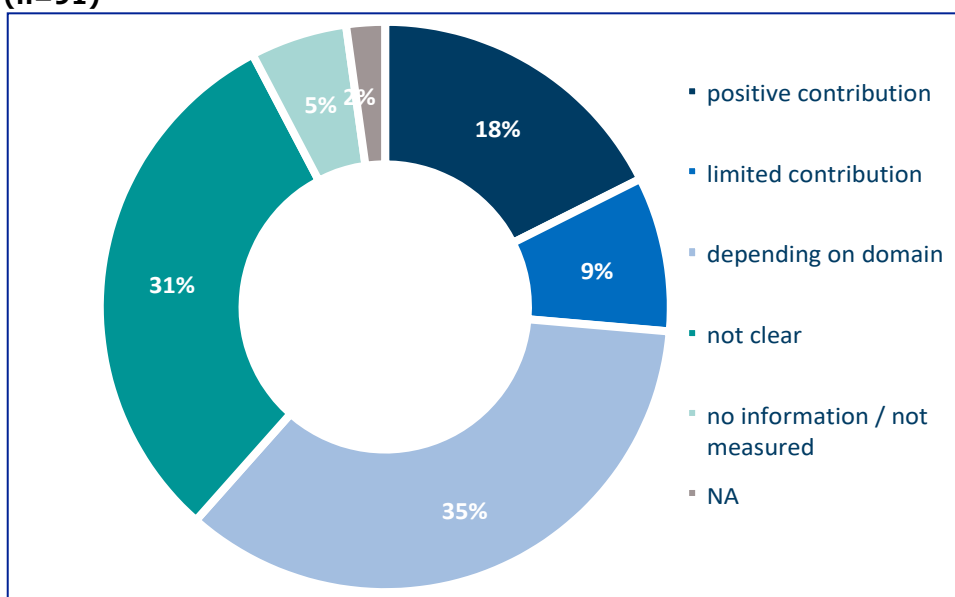
According to 18 % of the 91 reports, there was a positive impact on the quality of life in rural areas and on the diversification of the rural economy. A limited impact was identified in 9 % of the reports.

The largest share of the ex-post evaluation reports (35 %, see category 'depending on domain' in the chart below) presents an assessment covering either quality of life only (59 % of cases 'depending on domain') or diversification only (28 %). In a few cases (13 %), the impact on quality of life and diversification was diverging, i.e. limited in one domain, positive in the other.

A striking share of 31 % of the ex-post evaluation reports provides no clear answer regarding the contribution. These answers generally lack a clear argumentation or evaluation statement, are partly based on input or output indicators without further context information, or make no clear reference to rural areas, the rural economy respectively, as level of assessment.

No information on the two domains is available in 5 % of the reports. This is, for example, explained by a mismatch between evaluation criteria and the demands of the particular type of funding region, or the time lag between project implementation and impact visibility. In some of the reports with unclear or lacking information on the contribution, there is no (clearly marked) section or chapter covering the programme-related question (SQ9).

Figure 3.13 SQ9 – RDP contribution to improving the quality of life and diversification (n=91)



Answers to the evaluation question of an informational value are thus available from 56 regions in 22 Member States.

In the ex-post evaluation reports, the answers to the evaluation question were mainly substantiated by reference to Axis III (51 %) and/or Axis IV/LEADER (44 %). Axis I was additionally referred to in 8 % of the reports, Axis II additionally in 7 %.⁴⁶

Quantitative overview

The result indicator most frequently used here was rural populations benefiting from improved services (6 reports) (in some reports no total value across measures available), or, in one report, number of communities benefiting from improved services. Further indicators were GVA in supported (non-agricultural) businesses (5 reports, total values only in 2 cases), additional number of tourists (4 reports using differing units of measurement), increase in Internet penetration in rural areas (1 report) and participants successfully completing a training activity (1 report).

Justification of effects

Quality of life in rural areas

Overall, among the 47 answers⁴⁷ from ex-post evaluation reports providing a clear assessment on quality of life in rural areas, there were 66 % 'positive' and 34 % 'limited' results.

The following thematic fields⁴⁸ were relevant (as far as details are provided in the answers): Basic infrastructure and services (e.g. regarding mobility, communication) were most often referred to (28 % of the answers). The fields with the second most frequent references were the social dimension (including aspects such as governance, social capital and social sustainability) and the tourism/leisure/recreation cluster (21 % each). This was followed by overall residential conditions in rural areas (17 %). With 15 % each, the fields of environment/nature, culture, and economy (referring to jobs, livelihoods, entrepreneurship, amongst others) were covered. Finally, the cluster of overall rural attractiveness/identity/heritage was mentioned in 6 % of the answers, and health only in 4 %.

Where measures were referred to in order to substantiate the assessment, this concerned notably Measure 322, but also M321 and M125 (basic infrastructure), M311 and M323. Axis II

⁴⁶ Several measures/axes may be referred to in one answer.

⁴⁷ I.e. the answers on both quality of life and diversification, plus the answers on quality of life only.

⁴⁸ Multiple aspects may be named in one answer.

was named in connection with a positive impact on the environmental dimension of quality of life (including delivery of public goods).

Diversification of the rural economy

Of the 37 clear answers⁴⁹ available in the ex-post evaluation reports, there were 62 % 'positive' and 38 % 'limited' assessments of the impact on the diversification of the rural economy. In the latter cases, the evaluation result was often based on the fact that diversification was insufficiently cross-sectoral (e.g. centred on agriculture, viticulture). Tourism was the non-agricultural sector most frequently named (24 % of the answers).

Measures named to substantiate the assessment were mainly M311, additionally measures M312, M313 and M111. LEADER was referred to in terms of building capacities for diversification.

A share of 26 % of the ex-post evaluation reports identified a positive or at least limited contribution of the programmes to improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging the diversification of the rural economy. Axis III and Axis IV/LEADER were stated to contribute most to the domains in question. Regarding quality of life, reference was made mainly to M322, in terms of diversification mainly to M311.

However, there are considerable information gaps, as evaluators' answers are often unclear or cover either quality of life only or diversification only and interrelations between the two domains are hardly illuminated. Among the unclear answers, many do not make a distinct reference to the level of evaluation, i.e. rural areas and the rural economy as opposed to beneficiaries and individual sectors.

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that only 18 % of the 91 Member States/regions identified a positive impact for both domains (i.e. quality of life and diversification) and 9 % identified a limited impact. The answers to the evaluation question were mainly substantiated by reference to Axis III (51 %) and/or Axis IV/LEADER (44 %).

The impact on the quality of life was commented on in 47 ex-post evaluation reports. The positive effects can be mainly attributed to basic infrastructure services (e.g. mobility and communication) and the social dimension (such as governance, social sustainability). The measures which were mainly named in this context were M322, but also M321 and M125.

The impact on the diversification of the rural economy was commented on in 37 ex-post evaluation reports. The non-agricultural sector most often mentioned was tourism.

The measures which were mainly named in this context were M311, but also M312, M313 and M111.

When assessing the overall contribution of the RDPs to the quality of life in rural areas and the diversification of the rural economy, it is important to take into account that not all reports have provided good-quality data. Furthermore, in certain cases the impact of the programmes could not be measured. Only half of the ex-post evaluation reports provided qualitative data regarding the contribution of the RDPs to the growth of the whole rural economy. Taking into consideration these limitations and based on the trends described above, we can conclude the following:

Regarding the positive contribution for both domains it can be concluded that there is a very limited positive contribution since it only amounts to 18 % of all reports.

Based on the quantitative overview, the contribution of the RDPs to improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy is not certain. The qualitative overview indicates that the RDPs have contributed to a very limited extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution plausible.

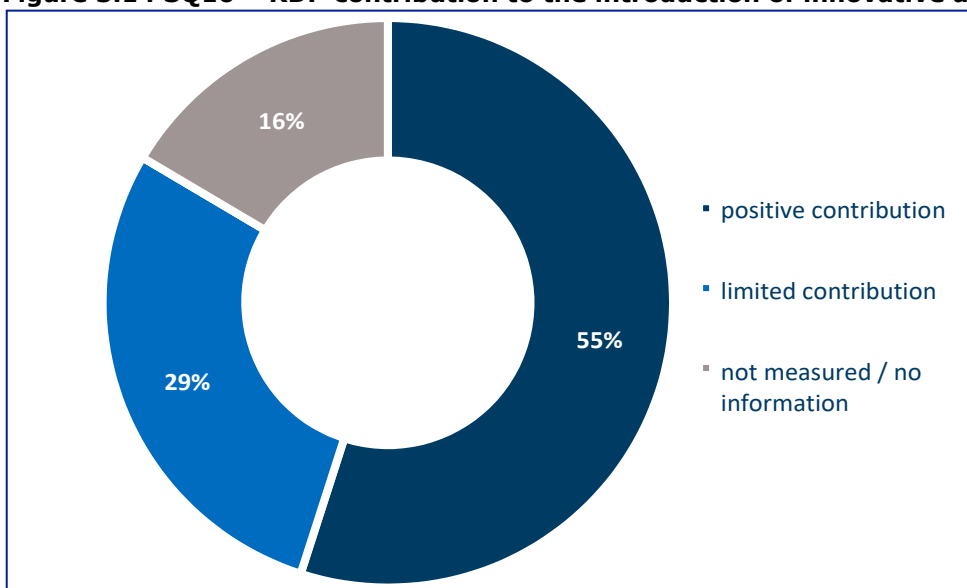
⁴⁹ I.e. the answers on both quality of life and diversification, plus the answers on diversification only.

SQ10. To what extent has the RDP contributed to the introduction of innovative approaches?

General observations

Overall, the RDPs contributed to the introduction of innovative approaches in over 50 % of the target regions. In particular, 50 ex-post evaluation reports out of 91 recognized their positive effects in fostering innovation in different ways, as shown below, while for 26, their role was limited or below expectations. Finally, 15 reports either did not provide any information or claimed that RDP's contribution to innovation could not be measured. In particular, 4 ex-post evaluations argued that innovation was not clearly defined and that each measure understood it differently, which in turn makes any assessment more difficult. As for methodological consideration, it should be pointed out that the approach used by the ex-post evaluations was not always homogeneous. They generally referred to which measures introduced more innovation and only in some of the cases they referred to specific sectors. They did however mention the mechanisms and ways in which RDP had favoured innovation and where the latter was more visible.

Figure 3.14 SQ10 – RDP contribution to the introduction of innovative approaches



Quantitative overview

In order to measure progress with regards to the introduction of innovative approaches, and based on the data provided by the ex-post evaluations, the result indicator for which we could retrieve information is number of holdings implementing new products and/or techniques.

Programmes interpreted innovation in different ways, and in most cases, the information provided in the evaluations was only qualitative. Overall, 20 programmes provided data on this indicator, but only 15 ex-post evaluations reported data which could be compared or that was reliable. The table below provides a more accurate summary of this data.

Table 3.8 overview of quantitative data

Value	Number of holdings implementing new products and/or techniques
Number of programmes which reported on this indicator	20
Number of programmes for which data could be used/compared	15
Range	23 – 20 000
Average	2 202
Median	575
Total	33 027

There are at least two constraints with the data that it is worth mentioning:

- Indiscrimination between minimum, maximum and actual values; as often the evaluations indicate a range rather than a specific number;
- Indiscrimination between introduction of new products and techniques.

The total amount of holdings, which introduced new products or technologies accounts for the 0.3 % of the total agriculture holdings, registered in the EU in 2013.

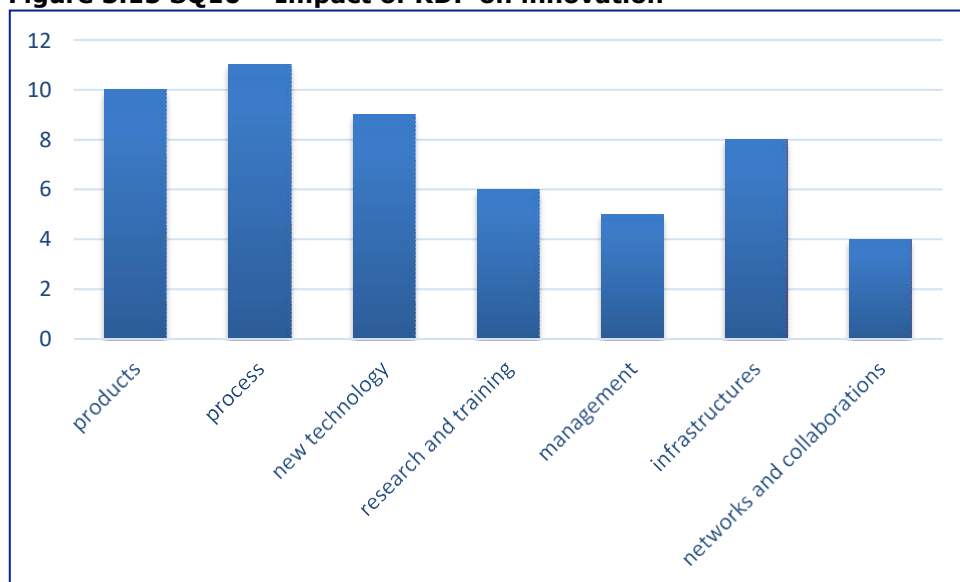
Justification of effects

How has RDP promoted innovation and where

At least 17 ex-post evaluations recognized the success of LEADER initiatives in promoting innovation and stimulating new approaches and methodologies.⁵⁰ Among all measures, M121 and 124 were seen as the most effective in promoting innovation.

Looking at the general trends, the RDPs introduced innovation in different ways. In particular, 11 ex-post evaluations mentioned innovation in processes and 10 in products. According to 3 reports, while innovation in processes was generally encouraged, the introduction of new products was seen as too risky and possibly counterproductive. The introduction of new technologies was also seen in 9 reports as one of the main results of RDP, in particular in the context of modernizing production tools and systems and improving productivity. In addition, 8 reports stipulate that the RDP also favoured the introduction of new machineries and tools and has contributed to innovating infrastructure. Among the main areas in which the RDP has promoted innovation there are also research and skills building and management, mentioned in 6 and 5 reports, respectively. The diagram below provides a visual overview of these results.

Figure 3.15 SQ10 – Impact of RDP on innovation



Limitations in the way RDP promoted innovative approaches

Taking into consideration the 26 ex-post evaluations which did not record positive effects, there are no common reasons explaining why the RDP may have failed in introducing innovation. Most of the cases report that achievements in innovation were below target or very limited and that the RDP did not contribute enough to innovation. However, there are 5 ex-post evaluations indicating that such limited results depended on the fact that innovation was not an RDP priority, and that therefore there was limited budget for it. Another issue is that it was not at the heart of all measures, but only of some of them. In particular, for two ex-post evaluations, the same structure of the programme into axis and measures did not permit to stimulate innovation. In addition, the lack of a common definition of innovation across the different measures did not help achieve concrete and measurable results.

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the RDPs helped introducing innovation across different areas in 55 % of the programmes. They have done so not just through modernizing infrastructures and

⁵⁰ As part of the application of the LEADER method, new cooperation structures such as the environmental education network or citizen cooperatives have emerged in Thuringia, Thuringen (Germany) ex-post evaluation report.

introducing new technologies and products, but also by introducing changes in behaviours and processes, especially thanks to LEADER solutions and concepts.

However, not all measures contributed to introducing innovative approaches and 26 reports found that RDPs have had a limited or no impact on innovation. The fact that they had a different way of defining innovation posed some challenges to the achievement and measurement of such results. In addition, several reports pointed out that innovation was not a specific objective.

From a quantitative perspective, the contribution of the RDPs to the introduction of innovative approaches was assessed by looking at the number of holdings introducing innovative products and techniques. Based on the data that the reports have provided, the total number of holdings introducing new products and techniques was 33 027, which only accounted for the 0.3 % of the total agriculture holdings registered in the EU in 2013. Besides, there were very large differences registered across the programmes, where the number of holdings introducing innovation varied from 23 to 20 000.

These findings are based on the data provided in the ex-post evaluations. However, it should be noted that not all Member States/regions reported on this question and on the relevant result indicator. In particular, while 84 % provided qualitative data on the role of the RDPs in promoting competitiveness, 15 % of the regions/member states collected data on the number of holdings introducing innovative products and techniques which could be used and that was of good quality.

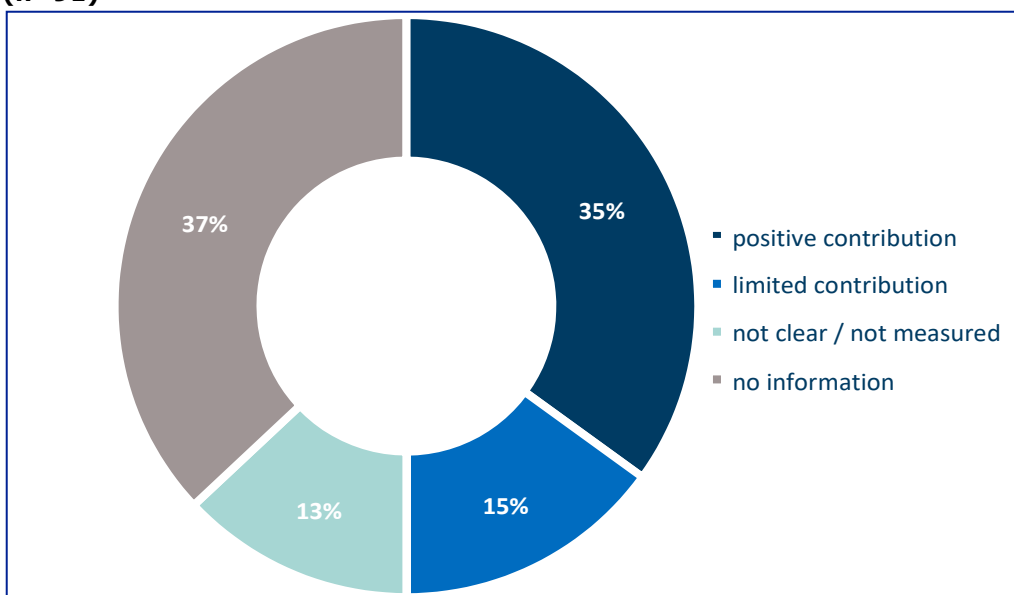
Based on the quantitative overview, the contribution of the RDPs to promoting the introduction of innovative products and techniques by holdings is not certain. However, the qualitative data indicates that the RDPs have contributed to a medium extent to the introduction of innovative approaches. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution plausible.

SQ11. To what extent has the RDP contributed to creation of access to broadband internet?

General observation

Part of the RDP's objective of increasing the vitality of rural areas and communities focussed on providing support to farmers who can only obtain broadband internet at a relatively high price. Communities in rural areas lagging behind in broadband access were given support to improve the vitality of the rural area through increased or improved access to broadband internet via ADSL, cable or UMTS.

Figure 3.16 SQ11 – RDP contribution to creation of access to broadband internet (n=91)



35 % of the regions had a positive impact of the RDP on the region's access to broadband internet. This positive effect was achieved through increased access to technological networks in 78 % of the cases, through the creation of multifunctional service centres in 9 % of the cases and through increased access to training in 5 % of the cases.

Increased access to technological networks was both the primary goal and the main channel through which the RDP helped regions increase their broadband access. Through the programme, many regions effectively activated the fibre optic infrastructure and enabled additional phone lines, thus laying the ground for subsequent access to internet by the region's residents. In these cases the RDP contributed to covering the numbers of identified white spots (areas without internet access) in the targeted regions, through the use of both private broadband lines as well as commercially used lines.

In 9 % of the positive cases, the RDP contributed to broadband access not by increasing the number of lines across the region but by creating multifunctional service centres, where Wi-Fi was installed in public spaces such as libraries, sociocultural centres, etc., to facilitate access to the internet for the rural population. Giving the population in these regions specific areas to access information and ICT services reduced the gap between urban and rural population's access to internet.

Finally, 5 % of the cases found that the RDP had a positive effect on broadband access in an indirect way, by contributing to e-knowledge with training course (particularly those implemented under M331 Training and information for economic actors operating in the fields covered by Axis III), dealing with the use of computer and internet technology in the context of rural professions. These programmes focussed on web marketing and information access, improving ICT skills among farmers and thereby indirectly increasing their access to the internet.

The RDP's effect on broadband internet access was found to be limited in 15 % of the cases. This limitation occurred in several cases because the programme only began to be implemented in the latest phase of the programme and given the long administrative and technical procedure of establishing the necessary permits and infrastructure the many connections were not yet established at the end of the programme. Of the reports establishing a limited effect, 62 % pointed to administrative burdens, problems of communication between national and regional authorities and a lack of transparency in the various regulatory frameworks, which hindered the previously mentioned process.

13 % of the reports found that the effect was either unclear or could not be measured due to a low take up or implementation. The effect of the programme was believed to be negligible, as there was little demand for the measure in that region. In these cases, the funds were reallocated to be used in more effective and efficient manners. In others, while there was a demand for the type of services, the scheme was ultimately closed with no public expenditure due to a lack of applications from service providers.

37% of the reports established that the question did not apply to the region being studied in the ex-post evaluation as the initiatives related to increased broadband access were not implemented.

Quantitative overview

The RDP in total contributed to new internet access for 646 414 individuals, 44 000 businesses and 1 300 institutions. In addition to new access, it also improved connections for 658 307 individuals. For comparability amongst the regions, the following table presents the sum of individuals, businesses and institutions with either new or improved access.

Table 3.9 Overview of quantitative data

Value	New or improved access to broadband internet
Number of programmes reporting	17
Range	7 - 575 000
Median	18 000
Average	81 315
Total	1 382 359

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the RDPs' contribution to the creation of access to broadband internet was positive in 35% of the Member States/regions. These effects can be attributed mainly to regions that effectively activated the fibre optic infrastructure and enabled additional phone lines, thus laying the ground for subsequent access to internet by the residents. 15 % of the reports, however, found that the RDPs had limited effects on improving access to broadband internet. This was primarily due to administrative problems with the implementation, which started later on in the programme and therefore delayed concrete results. Finally, 37 % of the reports established that the initiative did not apply to the specific Member State/region.

The quantitative data provided in the table above shows that the RDPs created new or improved access to broadband internet in 1 382 359 households or businesses. The average number of households or businesses with new or improved internet access was 81 315 per region, with the lowest region having only 7 that benefitted from these changes.

When assessing the overall contribution of the RDPs on creating new or improved access to broadband internet, it is important to take into account that not all reports provided good quality data. In particular, only half of the ex-post evaluation reports (50 %) provided qualitative data regarding the contribution of the RDPs to new and improved access to broadband internet and only a limited number of reports (19 %) provided clear data on the relevant impact indicator. Taking into consideration these limitations and based on the trends described above we can conclude the following:

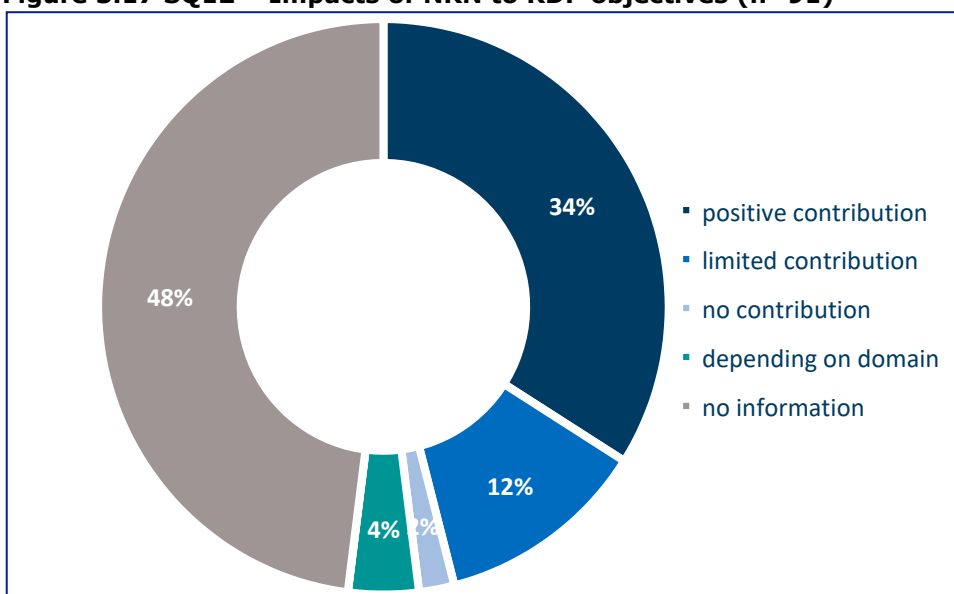
Based on the quantitative overview, the contribution of the RDPs on the creation of access to broadband internet is not certain. The qualitative overview indicates that the RDPs have contributed to a limited extent. Due to the low share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution to be plausible.

SQ12. To what extent has the National Rural Network (NRN) contributed to RDP objectives?

General observations

About half of the RDP ex-post evaluation reports include judgments on the contribution of the NRN to the RDP objectives. A separate evaluation of the networks has been carried out in Germany, Portugal and Spain, thus some of the ex-post evaluations in these Member State refer to the separate evaluation, while others still provide a judgment from their regional programme perspective. 67 % of the reports that provide a judgment state a positive contribution of the NRN to the RDP objectives, while about a quarter of these reports (22 %) only see a limited contribution and 4 % state no contribution. Some reports (9 %) provide a differentiated judgment on the various aspects concerned.

Figure 3.17 SQ12 – Impacts of NRN to RDP objectives (n=91)



The different rural networks have implemented a variety of activities, such as general networking within the Member States and internationally, information provision including programme and measure implementation and good practices; training, workshops and other events; support to projects. The reports show that there is a large difference in which themes and/or target groups have been addressed by the NRN. Many cover in principle the whole range of priorities of the programmes, while some focus solely on the implementation of Axis IV. Axis III appears also to have been covered more substantially than the other two axes. There are also networks that focus on support of the implementation and evaluation through the administration.

Quantitative overview and methodological considerations

Within the Common Monitoring & Evaluation Framework there is no indicator directly assigned to the NRN. Some reports state difficulties in evaluating the contribution of the NRN to the RDP's objectives. As a result, there is no consistent approach apparent across the reports regarding the use of indicators to answer SQ12. In order to assess an impact, the contribution of the National Rural Network was therefore often assessed by input and output indicator values, e.g. the achievement level of budgeted expenditure, or number of activities implemented. Surveys and interviews with participants have also been conducted in several Member States.

Justification of effects

Contribution to capacity building

Positive effects described are the improvement of the programming and managing of rural development programmes through capacity building at the level of Managing Authorities, exchange among MAs, but also with evaluators. The NRNs also contributed to improve governance of programmes by increasing the engagement of actors in committees. The provision of information about general matters of programme implementation, and knowledge exchange on aspects such as best practices, contributed to increasing the capacities at the level of beneficiaries, through e.g. websites, newsletters, or magazines. Some of the NRNs also facilitated the creation of networks and communication among actors, by organizing events and exchange visits. On the other hand, a low awareness among stakeholders and low participation of rural actors, respectively the little focus on networking and cooperation were named as aspects limiting effects.

Imbalance in thematic focus

Reports judging the contribution of the NRN as being limited refer to the unbalanced focus of activities mainly on axes III and IV implementation, or to a sole focus on knowledge exchange activities or publicity. Reports expressing difference of effects between different domains provide similar arguments.

Difficulties in implementation

Almost one quarter of the reports (23 %) state reasons for limitations of the NRN's contribution to the RDP's objectives. Reasons given were the limited time of implementation due to a late start or a lack of personnel due to difficulties in recruitment. Other aspects mentioned were the limited involvement of Managing Authorities in the planning and implementation of activities, a lack of strategy, or a limited scope of activities.

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the NRN has positively contributed to RDP objectives in 34 % of the Member States/regions. These effects can be attributed mainly to improving capacities at the level of Managing Authorities, by fostering networking and cooperation among stakeholders, and by improving capacities through knowledge exchange. 12 % of the reports found that the NRN contributed only to a limited extent to the RDP objectives; and 4 % of the reports provided a variable judgment depending on the domains concerned. Limitations addressed in a substantial number of reports are the weak NRN governance as well as to limitations due to unbalanced foci. A late start of NRN implementation, lack of personnel and MA involvement were mentioned by 23 % of the reports as reasons for those limitations. It is also evident that the various NRNs have different setups and objectives, leading to varying expected effects.

There is no consistent quantitative data available that expresses the extent to which the NRN has contributed to the RDP objectives. Separate NRN ex-post evaluation reports report on a variety of additional indicators, mainly at output level.

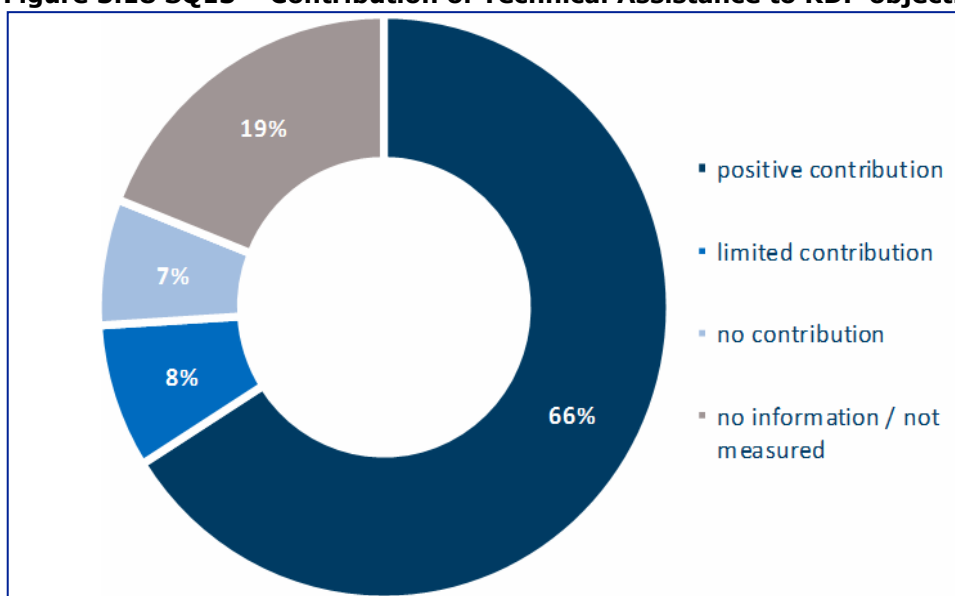
The qualitative data indicate that the NRNs have contributed to the RDP objectives to a medium extent. However, due to the low share of reports that provided conclusions (52 %), we consider the effects registered as not plausible.

SQ13. To what extent has the Technical Assistance contributed to RDP objectives?

General observations

As a general trend, Technical Assistance (TA) has positively contributed to the success of the RDP in 66 % of the Member States/regions. In particular, according to 58 ex-post evaluation reports out of 88, TA had a positive or very positive effect on the success of RDP. 7 have reported a limited impact, and 6 have registered very limited or no impact at all. Although the majority of the ex-post evaluations reported a general positive impact on the RDP, the contribution was not directly linked to the specific RDP objectives.

Figure 3.18 SQ13 – Contribution of Technical Assistance to RDP objectives (n=88)



Overall, TA has supported the RDP by improving evaluation and control and by the hiring of management staff to support coordination and implementation. This positive effect is however not directly linked to the specific RDP objectives. In some cases limited funding meant that TA had no or little impact.

Quantitative overview and methodological considerations

There is no consistent approach across the reports regarding the use of result indicators to answer PSQ13. Only five evaluation reports have provided quantification, but this happened through different result indicators.

Overall, ex-post evaluation reports have presented the effects of TA on the basis of the categories of support that were financed:

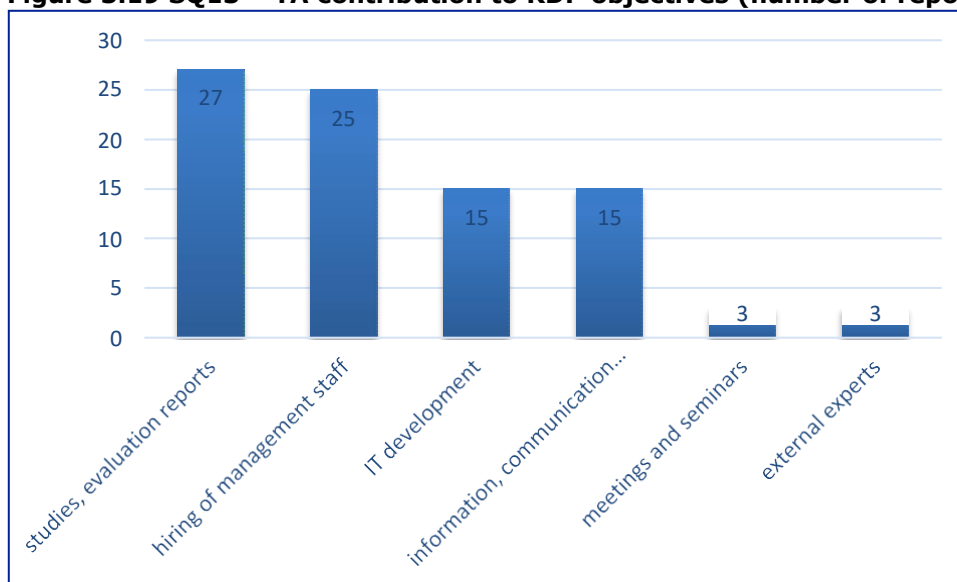
- Preparation of studies and evaluation reports and control;
- Organisation and participation of meetings and seminars;
- Training and services of external experts;
- Hiring of staff and coordination;
- IT development and maintenance;
- Information, communication and publicity activities;
- Networking.

Based on the information provided in the reports, it is possible to determine to what extent these ways of TA contributed to the RDP. Only two ex-post evaluations made a direct reference to the RDP specific objectives, indicating this effect was too indirect to measure. In all other cases, no reference was made.

Contribution of TA to RDPs

In 27 reports, it was mentioned that TA contributed to studies, evaluation reports and control and thus contributed positively to the success of the implementation of the RDP. In 25 reports, TA contributed to the hiring of management staff to support coordination and implementation. TA funding of IT development and maintenance was mentioned in 15 evaluations as a contribution to the RDP. 15 Reports mentioned information, communication and publicity activities as an important contribution of the TA. Organisation and participation in meetings and seminars was mentioned in 3 cases and training and external experts were also mentioned three times.

Figure 3.19 SQ13 – TA contribution to RDP objectives (number of reports)



Limits of TA

In 6 reports, it was mentioned that TA has had no impact, and in 7 reports only a limited impact. This was mainly due to a lack of financial resources and a lack of participation. In 1 case, it was stated that the strict control system did not stimulate institutional learning. In 1 other case the absence of output targets was mentioned as cause.

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the provided Technical Assistance had a positive contribution to achieving the RDP objectives in 66 % of the Member States/regions. These effects can be attributed mainly to its role in increased monitoring and staff to help with coordination. 8 % of the reports, however, found that the Technical Assistance had limited effects reaching RDP objectives, mainly because it was not largely implemented due to a lack of financial resource and participation. In addition, Technical Assistance was seen as contributing to RDP objectives through channels that were both indirect and difficult to measure.

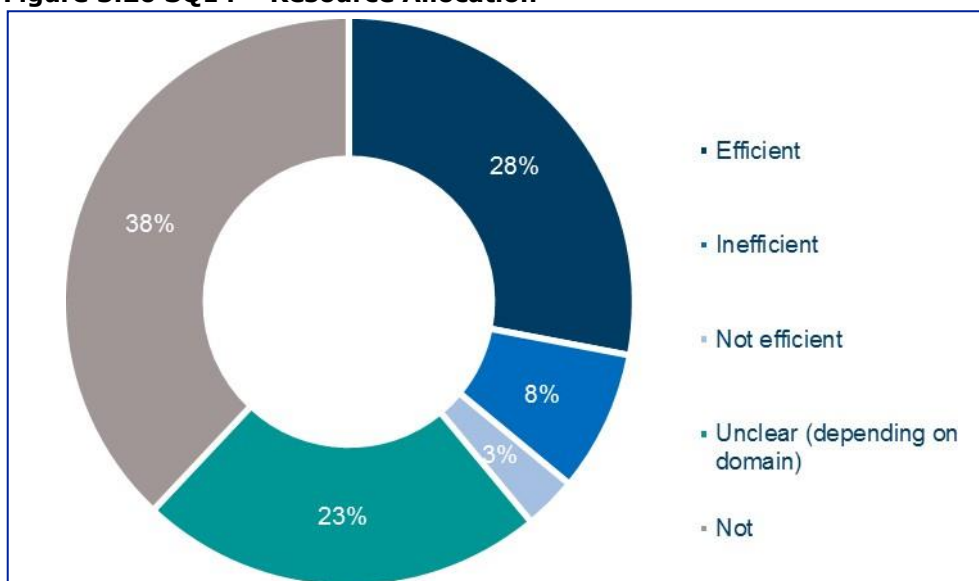
Based on lack of quantitative data for this SQ, the contribution of Technical Assistance to achieving RDP objectives is uncertain. The qualitative overview indicates that Technical Assistance has contributed to RDP objectives to a medium extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution plausible.

SQ14. How efficiently have the resources allocated to the RDP been used in relation to achieving the intended output?

General observations

The majority of ex-post evaluation reports do not provide a judgment on efficiency of resource allocation at programme level: 37 % do not provide information or judgments and 23 % only provide a judgment at measure, axes or objectives level. Of the reports that provide a judgment (61 % of all reports), 45 % judge the resource allocation in relation to achieved outputs as "efficient", while 13 % report low levels of efficiency (inefficient), and 5 % suggest no efficient allocation. Only about half of the ex-post evaluation reports (52 %) provide a definition of the term efficiency, only 33 % provide a definition that is clearly in line with the Better Regulation Guidelines.

Figure 3.20 SQ14 – Resource Allocation



Of those reports that provide information only at domain level, 12 reports refer or compare efficiency of axes, sectors or objectives targeted; 5 reports only refer to efficiency at measure level. Axes I and II are mainly judged as more efficient than axes III and IV. Due to different understanding of efficiency and methodological difficulties, the judgments cannot be aggregated and results have to be interpreted with caution.

Quantitative overview and methodological considerations

Different methods have been applied in the judgment of this question. Many evaluation reports state the difficulty of providing an aggregate judgment at the level of RDP rather than for each measure. The following categories of judgment criteria have been applied, with some evaluations combining several methods:

- Implementation rates – input targets achieved, and output targets achieved (36 % of reports);
- Cost per unit (input/output, input/result) (19 % of reports); in particular the ratio of induced private investment to public expenditure (4 % of reports);
- Achievements (planned and achieved result targets) (14 % of reports);
- Implementation costs (8 % of reports);
- Aggregation of direct and indirect effects, deadweight, displacement and multiplication effects (6 % of reports).

The above made judgment cannot be seen as an ordinary scale due to the absence of a common benchmark. Some evaluations use individual benchmarks to make a judgment regarding the efficiency:

- Comparison between different periods (previous funding, early and late implementation);
- Comparison between axes, objectives, or sectors;
- Comparison between measures;
- Comparison with other programmes (Baltic states, regions in Germany and Portugal).

Changing efficiencies were attributed to “developed capacities and optimised administrative procedures or structures” (increasing) or to “regulatory changes” (decreasing).

Where measures have been compared, there is no particular trend apparent, but the following measures have been mentioned as being more efficient opposed to less efficient:

- M112, M121, M123, M311 as opposed to M125, M313;
- M122 and M123 (forestry and processing sector) opposed to M121, M311;
- M111, M126, M226, M227, M421, M431 opposed to M214, M411, M412, M413;

- Axis I non-investitive measures: M113, M114, M115, M131, M132, agri-environmental measures, diversification on farms and the implementation of local development strategies opposed to forest investments.

Justification of effects

Indirect effects, deadweight, displacement, multiplication and synergies

Several evaluations emphasise the need to take into account not only direct effects (expressed in results and impact indicators) but also indirect effects. Quantification of these is often not provided. Evaluations of Czech Republic, Denmark, France and some of the German regional programmes raise the issue of deadweight effects. Rates have been calculated between 10 % to 30 % of the total expenditure.

Efficiencies of axes in comparison

Nine programmes compared efficiencies between axes, where in most cases axes I and II are rated as reaching a higher efficiency than axes III and IV. 10 % of the reports rate Axis I and II high, higher than expected or higher than the other axes. Only one report attributes a low efficiency to Axis I. As the reason for this the report states "due to the high weight of projects with very high support rates (public projects with 100 % support and private recovery of productive potential with 95 % support) and, consequently, the low proportion of public expenditure affecting private entrepreneurial projects". Ten percent of the reports indicate that the efficiency of Axis III is lower than expected, and 3 % of reports state lower efficiency for Axis IV.

Conclusion

The qualitative data shows that the resources allocated to the RDP have been used efficiently in relation to achieving the intended output in 28 % of the Member States/regions. 8 % of the reports found that the resources allocated have been used inefficiently in relation to achieving the intended output. 3 % of the reports judge that the resources have not been used efficiently at all in relation to the intended output. 23 % of the reports only provide a judgment at measure, axes or objectives level. Different methods have been applied to underpin the judgment such as input and output targets achieved (36 % of Member States/reports); cost per output or result achieved (19 %), achieved result targets (14 %). Other methods such as implementation costs and the aggregation of direct and indirect effects, deadweight, displacement, and multiplication effects have been applied in 8 % respectively 6 % of the Member States/reports. Deadweight effects have been found between 20 % and 30 % of total expenditure.

There is no quantitative data in form of impact indicators relevant to judge this question. A calculation of cost per output achieved was done by a minority of Member States/reports and do not provide comparable results.

For the overall judgment, it is important to take into account that only 39 % of all Member States/reports have provided a judgment at programme level at all, with substantial differences in methods applied to substantiate the findings, and an overall issue of defining and benchmarking cost efficiency. Taking into consideration these limitations and based on the trends described above we can conclude the following:

The qualitative data indicate that the resources allocated to the RDP have been used efficiently to a limited extent in relation to achieving the intended output. However, the effects registered are not plausible since only 39 % of the ex-post evaluations have reported on it.

3.2 Axis I Measures-related questions

In this chapter, we present the synthesis of measures under Axis I. Prior to providing the summary of information per measure, we show quantification of result indicators for Axis I.

Result indicators for Axis I

Table 3.10 – Table 3.14 provide information on the result indicators related to Axis I. Calculation of the values is reported under Methodology (Section 2.3). The compilation of Axis I result indicators is based on the data from RDP annual reports reported by Member States.

Result indicator 1: Total number of participants

Table 3.10 shows that the Member States' average of participants that implemented their achieved skills is higher than the Member States' average of participants that achieved a certificate, degree or diploma. This means that also participants who did not entirely finish their training were able to implement the skills they achieved.

Table 3.10 Result indicator 1: Total number of participants

Measure	Type of operation		
111	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	Number of MS that reported on the indicator	23
		Range	244 – 431 062
		Median	37 876
		Average	80 971 ⁵¹
		Total	1 862 342
	Implementing the achieved skills	Number of MS that reported on the indicator	15
		Range	159 – 831 879
		Median	33 385
		Average	132 503
		Total	1 987 552

Result indicator 2: Total increase in GVA in supported holdings/enterprises

From Table 3.11 it follows that, on average, Measures 123, 121, 125 and 112 were most successful in increasing the GVA of the supported holdings/enterprises. On the other hand, on average, Measures 113, 124 and 131 contributed only marginally to the increase of the GVA of the supported holdings/enterprises. In addition, the table shows that implementing Measure 115, on average, resulted in a decrease of GVA of the supported holdings/enterprises.

Table 3.11 Result indicator 2: Total increase in GVA in supported holdings/enterprises (in millions of euro's)

Measure	Measure		
112	Setting up of young farmers	Number of MS that reported on the indicator	16
		Range	-0.7 – 4 159.5
		Median	23.9
		Average	383.2
		Total	6 131.8
113	Early retirement	Number of MS that reported on the indicator	7
		Range	0.1 – 6
		Median	1.3
		Average	2.7
		Total	18.9
114	Use of advisory services	Number of MS that reported on the indicator	6
		Range	0.7 – 510.9

⁵¹ Note that the numbers in this table are based on sectoral data. The numbers look slightly different when using demographic data, due to the inconsistency of the relevant data provided by the Commission. I.e. from the demographic data, it follows that the average number of participants that achieved a certificate, degree or diploma is 82 888, which is somewhat higher than the number found by applying sectoral data.

Synthesis of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) ex-post evaluations of period
2007-2013

Measure	Measure		
115	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	Median	30.6
		Average	107.2
		Total	642.9
		Number of MS that reported on the indicator	4
		Range	-181.8 – 3.7
		Median	1.5
121	Modernisation of farms	Average	-43.8
		Total	-175.2
		Number of MS that reported on the indicator	23
		Range	0 – 10 443
		Median	358.6
		Average	838.6
122	Improving the economic value of forests	Total	19 288.2
		Number of MS that reported on the indicator	13
		Range	-12.2 – 2 431
		Median	7.4
		Average	211.9
		Total	2 754.7
123	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	Number of MS that reported on the indicator ⁵²	23
		Range	0.5 – 12 530.6
		Median	398.9
		Average	1 323.8
		Total	30 446.6
124	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	Number of MS that reported on the indicator ⁵³	10
		Range	0.0 – 82.8
		Median	1.6
		Average	12.3
		Total	122.6
125	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	Number of MS that reported on the indicator	13
		Range	-3.1 – 6 303.2
		Median	23.8
		Average	544
		Total	7 072.5
131	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	Number of MS	1
		Range	12.1
		Median	12.1
		Average	12.1
		Total	12.1

⁵² 1 MS reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing. This could be because they have implemented the measure in a previous programming period, or because funding was spent on projects from previous periods. These values have not been included in the tables.

⁵³ 1 MS reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing. This could be because they have implemented the measure in a previous programming period, or because funding was spent on projects from previous periods. These values have not been included in the tables.

Result indicator 3: Total number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques

Table 3.12 shows that, on average, Measure 121 was clearly the largest contributor to the total number of supported holdings/enterprises that introduced new products and/or new techniques.

Table 3.12 Result indicator 3: Total number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques

Measure	Measure		
121	Modernisation of farms	Number of MS that reported on the indicator	25
		Range	38 – 27 193
		Median	3 335
		Average	6 670
		Total	166 749
122	Improving the economic value of forests	Number of MS that reported on the indicator	13
		Range	5 – 2 006
		Median	371
		Average	583
123	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	Total	7 573
		Number of MS that reported on the indicator ⁵⁴	23
		Range	12 – 2 656
		Median	431
		Average	630
124	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	Total	14 484
		Number of MS that reported on the indicator ⁵⁵	13
		Range	8 – 4 284
		Median	359
		Average	998
		Total	12 972

Result indicator 4: Total value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards (in millions of euro's)

Table 3.13 indicates that, on average, the total value of agricultural production under recognized European quality labels/standards is nearly twice as large as the total value of agricultural production under recognized Member State quality labels/standards.

Table 3.13 Result indicator 4: Total value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards (in millions of euro's)

Measure	Type of operation		
131-133	European label/standard	Number of MS that reported on the indicator	8

⁵⁴ 1 MS reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing. This could be because they have implemented the measure in a previous programming period, or because funding was spent on projects from previous periods. These values have not been included in the tables.

⁵⁵ 1 MS reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing. This could be because they have implemented the measure in a previous programming period, or because funding was spent on projects from previous periods. These values have not been included in the tables.

Measure	Type of operation		
	Member State label/standard	Range	0,5 – 16 012,5
		Median	113,3
		Average	3 530,5
		Total	28 243,8
		Number of MS that reported on the indicator	9
		Range	8,7 – 16 752,1
		Median	100,7
		Average	1 952,1
		Total	17 568,6

Result indicator 5: Number of farms entering the market

Table 3.14 shows that, on average, Measure 142 increased the number of farms entering the market to a larger extent than Measure 141.

Table 3.14 Result indicator 5: Number of farms entering the market

Measure	Type of operation		
141	Semi-subsistence farming	Number of MS that reported on the indicator ⁵⁶	4
		Range	98 – 1 593
		Median	947
		Average	896
		Total	3 585
142	Setting-up of producer groups	Number of MS that reported on the indicator ⁵⁷	6
		Range	9 – 6 204
		Median	124
		Average	1 837
		Total	11 020

Measure 111: Vocational training and information actions, including diffusion of scientific knowledge and innovative practises for persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors

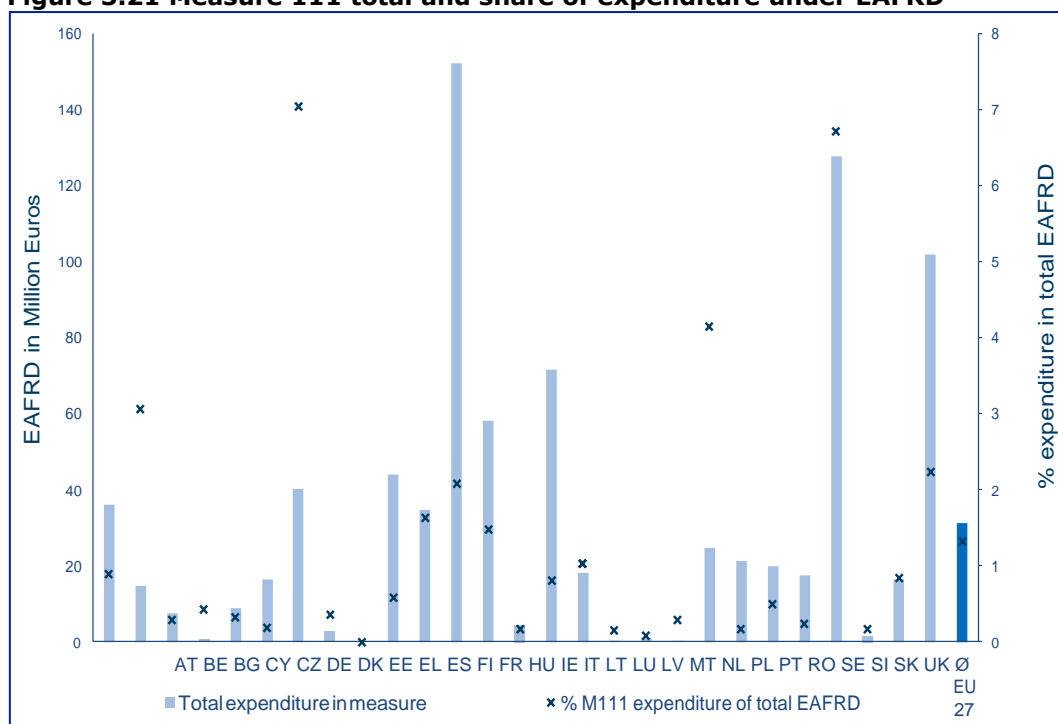
General information about the Measure

Measure 111 was implemented by 26 Member States across 75 regions, with a total budget of € 840.5 million for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.21 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the measure was to provide vocational training and information actions, including diffusion of scientific knowledge and innovative practises for persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors. The ex-post evaluations provide limited quantification of the degree with which competitiveness increased. At least 27 % of the evaluators based their conclusions on survey input from the participants of training sessions. In 3 reports, a counterfactual comparison was made between participants in training sessions and non-participants in training sessions.

⁵⁶ 1 MS reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing. This could be because they have implemented the measure in a previous programming period, or because funding was spent on projects from previous periods. These values have not been included in the tables.

⁵⁷ 5 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing. This could be because they have implemented the measure in a previous programming period, or because funding was spent on projects from previous periods. These values have not been included in the tables.

Figure 3.21 Measure 111 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 111. The relevant output indicators are the number of participants in training, and the number of training days received. The relevant result indicator is the number of participants that successfully ended a training activity related to agriculture and/or forestry. The impact indicator relevant for Measure 111 is labour productivity.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators have not been measured. Table 3.15 provides information on the relevant output indicators of Measure 111.

Table 3.15 Output indicators for Measure 111

Value	Number of participants in training	Number of training days received
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	26	25
Range	316 – 1 448 091	206 - 2 122 560
Median	88 615	111 451
Average	245 309	273 045
Total	6 378 034	6 826 136

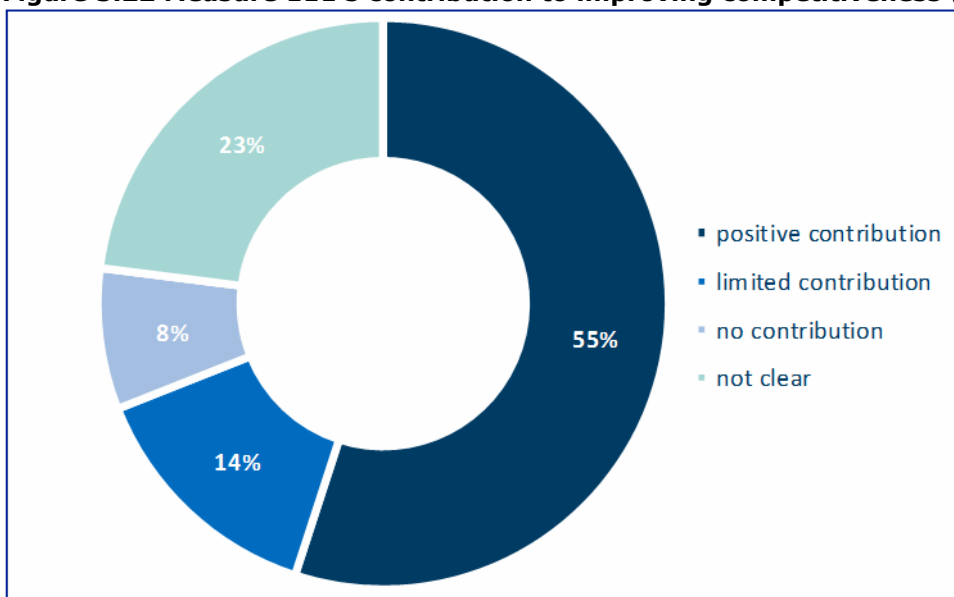
All Member States that implemented the measure reported on the number of participants in training. Luxembourg did not report on the number of training days received.

With more than 6 million participants in training, the measure reaches 28.7 % of active farm workers in the EU as a whole⁵⁸. It has to be taken into account that the number of participants in trainings is not counted in individual farmers, but in participations in trainings. One farmer could therefore be counted multiple times.

⁵⁸ Data from 2013.

SQ15. How and to what extent has Measure 111 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.22 Measure 111's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=75)



55 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. The information actions and trainings have improved the working methods of the beneficiaries. By providing the participants of the training sessions with a wider skillset and stronger knowledge base, the measure has stimulated competitiveness.

The reason why competitiveness has improved varies across ex-post evaluation reports. In 70 % of the positive cases, the contribution is attributed to an increase in the education level of farmers, which resulted in a better performance of their farms. The improved performance was due to: the introduction of new or innovative technologies (25 %), better administration or management (25 %), higher labour productivity (23 %), better product quality (15 %), better marketing methods (13 %), and a better environmental performance (8 %). These improvements have indirectly lead to an increase in the competitiveness of the respective agricultural business.

The ex-post evaluations provide limited quantification of the degree to which competitiveness increased. At least 27 % of the evaluators based their conclusions on survey input from the participants of training sessions. In 3 reports, a counterfactual comparison was made between participants in training sessions and non-participants in training sessions. These ex-post evaluations indicate that those who participated in training sessions outperformed the competitiveness of those who did not participate in training sessions.

Broad impact of Measure 111 in Baleares, Spain

In the Spanish region Baleares, the contribution of Measure 111 towards competitiveness was positive. The measure had a low quantitative impact within the framework of the Programme. There are many qualitative variables, which indicate that the measure positively contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. In addition to being a measure directly linked to the Community strategic guideline on improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors, it is directly linked to the development of a reactive policy of continuous training (to support more effective and efficient marketing) and to the objective of promoting improved environmental performance on farms. The focus of this measure has been on the following areas: management, administration and marketing maintenance and improvement of the landscape and environmental protection. In Baleares, it has achieved significant direct results in terms of the adaptability of the agricultural subsectors by updating them on matters relating to the management of agricultural holdings, good practices and environmental legislation with an impact on agricultural activity. The transmission of the importance of the environmental aspect in agricultural and agri-food activities has also shown significant progress at the end of the programme. The use and applicability of new technologies had impact as well. In spite

of the lack of specific data on the training actions that have used or improved the use of new technologies, the different assessments received in the framework of the evaluation conclude that small-scale but favourable contributions were made. Finally, it is important to note that this is a measure, which has been ongoing for many years and between different programming periods. Despite the reduction in the envisaged objectives, it has been fully covered in almost all cases.⁵⁹

14 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded that the measure's effects on competitiveness of the beneficiaries were limited. The ex-post evaluations mention various reasons for the limited impact. The main reason is that the majority of activities under the measure were not aimed at competitiveness (60 %). For these Member States or regions, the measure improved competitiveness indirectly. The measure received a low amount of funding in one case, which resulted in limited effects on competitiveness.

In exceptional cases, evaluation of the measure was either disregarded or the measure was implemented later in the programming period, which resulted in limited evaluation results of the measure.

8 % of the ex-post evaluation reports reported no contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries. In 33 % of the cases, the activities, which were implemented under the measure, were not aimed at improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. Two ex-post evaluations stated that the measure had no contribution. One RDP did not implement this measure while it was a part of its programme.

Ineffective implementation in Valencia

In the Spanish region of Valencia, Measure 111 did not reach optimal results. The formulation of training aid in this period did not have the desired effect, despite optimum levels of physical and financial implementation. The effectiveness of the measure has been related to the level of training of active farmers in the region. The level of training has not developed positively during the programming period. That is why the ex-post evaluators conclude that the implementation of Measure 111 has not contributed to competitiveness in the region of Valencia.⁶⁰

In 23 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries is not clear. The evaluation provided was unclear or inconclusive regarding the effects for competitiveness in the majority of these cases (53 %). No useful data was available to perform the evaluation for 24 % of the Member States or regions. The measure was evaluated under another measure or with a group of measures in 24 % of the cases. As a result, no measure specific statement was made.

Conclusion

In order to improve the competitiveness of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 840.5 million has been spent on Measure 111 by 26 Member States across 75 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 6 378 034 participants in training and 6 826 136 training days received. With more than 6 million participants in training, the measure reaches 28.7 % of active farm workers in the EU as a whole⁶¹;
- Result indicators for this measure are the number of participants passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma and the number of participants implementing the achieved skills. In total 1 862 342 participants passed trainings by achieving a certificate, degree or diploma (on average 80 971⁶² per Member State). Out of the participants, 1 987 552 implemented the achieved skills (on average 132 503 per Member State). See result

⁵⁹ Balears.

⁶⁰ Valencia.

⁶¹ It has to be taken into account that the number of participants in trainings is not counted in individual farmers, but in participations in trainings. One farmer could therefore be counted multiple times.

⁶² Note that the numbers in this table are based on sectoral data. The numbers look slightly different when using demographic data, due to the inconsistency of the relevant data provided by the Commission. I.e. from the demographic data, it follows that the average number of participants that achieved a certificate, degree or diploma is 82 888, which is somewhat higher than the number found by applying sectoral data.

indicator tables for Axis I. These result indicators only apply to Measure 111. A comparison with other measures cannot be made.

As presented in Figure 3.22, 55 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. 14 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness were limited and 8 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. The increase in competitiveness was mainly attributed to an increase in the education level of farmers, which resulted in a better performance of their farms. The information presented in Figure 3.22 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 75 reports of which 58 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M111, 71 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a medium extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ29. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this Measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

56 % of the evaluations identified additional effects of Measure 111. For the remaining 46 % of the ex-post evaluations, additional effects were not found or not clear.

In those evaluations where other effects were identified, **positive effects on the environment** are the most prominent (40 %). This happened through improvements in environmentally friendly methods, organic farming, sustainable agriculture, and landscape maintenance.

Some of the other effects that were emphasized in the ex-post evaluation reports are the following:

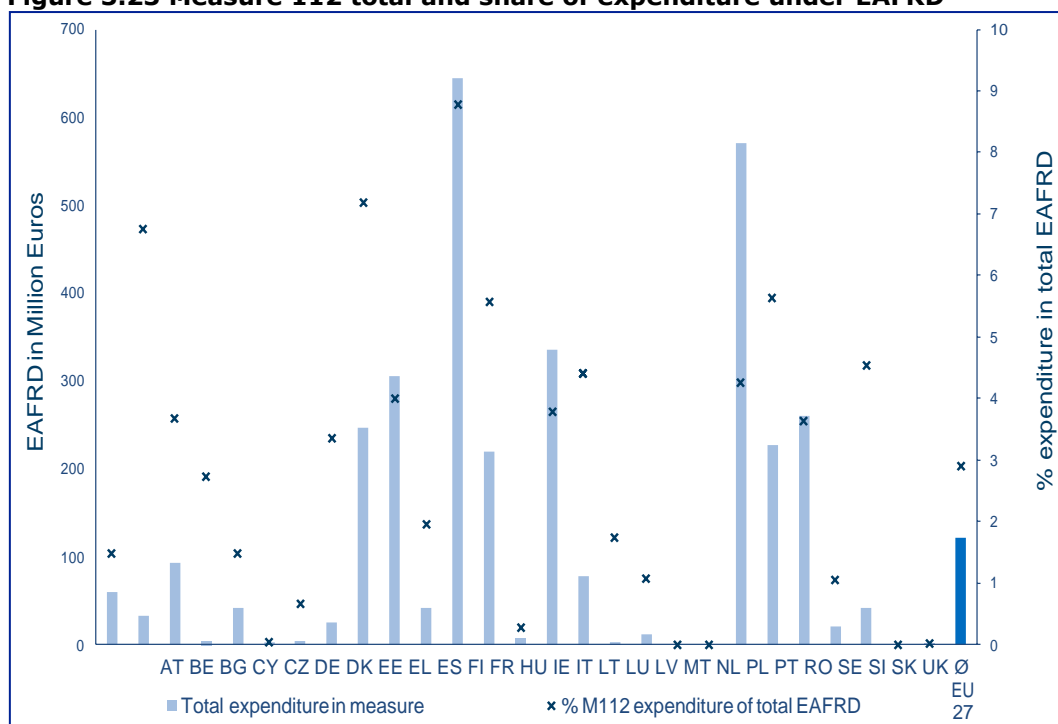
- Several ex-post evaluations reported **improved skillsets and levels of education** of the beneficiaries (14 %). These skillsets will not just benefit the competitiveness of the farm business. They also result in better personal development and new business opportunities;
- Multiple evaluations mentioned there is **raised awareness among farmers** (12 %), specifically related to the need to be educated, the need for innovation and the need for environmentally friendly practices;
- Some reports noted an increase in implementation of **new technologies and innovation** (10 %), and **sustainability** of farms (9 %).

Measure 112: Setting-up of young farmers

General information about the Measure

Measure 112 was implemented by 24 Member States across 69 regions, with a total budget of € 3.3 billion for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.23 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the measure was to set up young farmers, either through supporting the creation of a self-owned business, or through employment in already existing businesses. Comparisons between participants in the programme and non-beneficiaries were made in the majority of ex-post reports. The findings are supported primarily with data on the gross value added in the respective beneficiary farms. Also, survey results or other forms of feedback from participants were used. The findings were argued through a counterfactual analysis to a smaller degree.

Figure 3.23 Measure 112 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 112. The relevant output indicators are the number of assisted young farmers, and the total volume of investment. The relevant result indicator is the increase in gross value added in supported holdings. The impact indicators relevant for Measure 112 are labour productivity and economic growth.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators have not been measured. Table 3.16 provides information on the relevant output indicators of Measure 112.

Table 3.16 Output indicators for Measure 112

Value	Number of assisted young farmers	Total volume of investment (in EUR) ⁶³
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	23	21
Range	51 - 38 857	1 753 - 11 035 940
Median	2 668	184 721
Average	8 348	839 934
Total	192 003	17 428 614

Of all Member States that implemented Measure 112, the number of assisted young farmers was not reported in Denmark. The total volume of investment was not reported in Austria, Denmark and Luxembourg.

With 192 003 supported farm managers under the age of 40, 29.8 % of the farmers in the EU in that age category were supported.⁶⁴ The GVA in agriculture in the entire EU amounts to

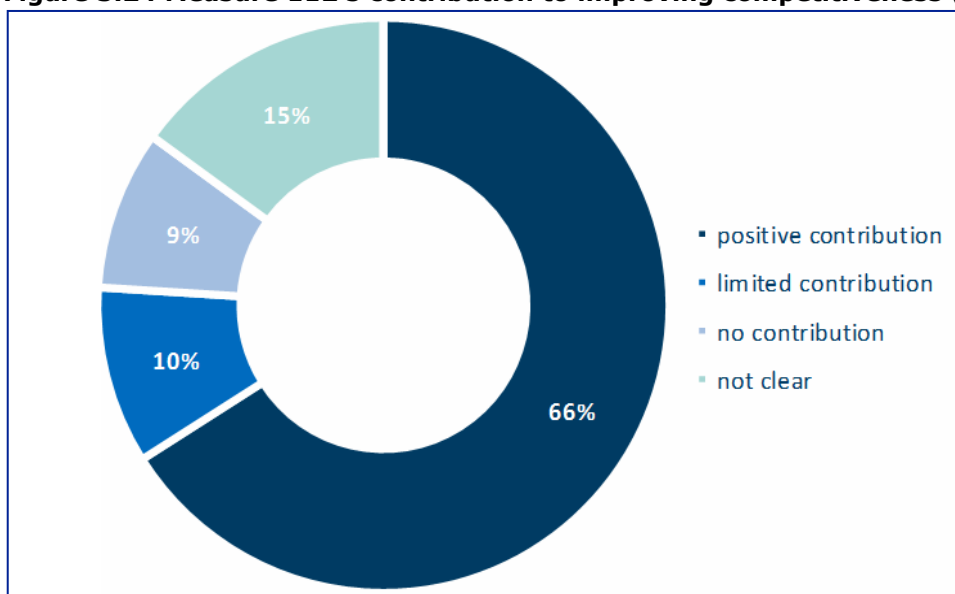
⁶³ For a number of Member States the data for this indicator was not provided. There are inconsistencies in the manner of reporting for different Member States. The figures provided here are thus indicative.

⁶⁴ The actual share is most likely lower since aggregated data is only available for the age group under 35 years old and the data from output indicators refers to the age group under 40. For an accurate description of the share of farm managers under age 40 that received support, we should add the

€ 173 billion (2013). The volume of investment under Measure 112 amounts to € 17 million, or 0.1 % of the total GVA.

SQ15. How and to what extent has Measure 112 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.24 Measure 112's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=69)



66 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. These ex-post evaluations concluded that beneficiaries of Measure 112 have improved competitiveness to a higher extent than non-beneficiaries.

Young farmers are more inclined to modernise farms, introduce new methods and techniques, and start innovative processes. By introducing young farmers to an enterprise, the measure stimulated competitiveness. In 36 % of the positive ex-post evaluations, the actions promoted by the measure facilitated the structural adjustment of farms. This is due to acquisition of machinery, land or livestock, conversion to new crops, modernisation and adaptation of farms, innovation or IT, quality improvement, processing and marketing.

GVA has increased in 33 % of the positive reports. The evaluators analysed this contribution by asserting that an increase in GVA serves as indicator of the competitiveness of a region or company. Other factors that contributed to the competitiveness are higher level of training of the young farmers (18 %), and higher labour productivity of young farmers (8 %).

According to one evaluation report, young farmers increased the production and size of the holding in which they are involved. This results in beneficial economies of scale, which contributes to the competitiveness of the farm.

The positive impact of setting-up young farmers in the Basque Country, Castilla y León, and Cyprus

The contribution of Measure 112 to competitiveness was positive in 66 % of the Member States and regions where Measure 112 was implemented. This was also the case in the Basque Country, Castilla y León and Cyprus. In Cyprus, young farmers entered the market with bigger sized holdings. These holdings are more competitive than small sized holdings due to economies of scale. In the Basque Country, the combination of training provided under Measure 111 and support for young farmers under Measure 112 led to increased competitiveness. The actions delivered well prepared young farmers, who brought innovative processes, products and technologies. In Castilla y León, the measure had multiple positive effects on competitiveness. The ex-post evaluation makes use of the Catalogue of Good Practices that accompanies the ex-post report. The

measure has improved productivity of farms through the introduction of new technology in some cases. In another case, the measure enabled a farmer to use new breeding technologies. As a result, stallions are not needed for breeding anymore, which reduced the costs of the holding.

10 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded that the measure's effects on competitiveness of the beneficiaries were limited. The measure had limited effect due to significant deadweight losses according to many of the evaluations (43 %). In one region – for example – beneficiaries stated that they would have taken over farms and implement the necessary improvements, even without the support under Measure 112. The economic crisis has also been a limiting factor for competitiveness.

9 % of the ex-post evaluation reports reported no contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries. The ex-post evaluation reports provided various reasons for the lack of effect. Beneficiaries have not improved more than non-beneficiaries in 50 % of the cases. In separate cases, statistical analysis of the indicators for GVA revealed no significant effects, young farmers are not seen as more competitive, young farmers have not been able to access land, and young farmers could not get a loan. As a result, the measure did not have a contribution there. In other regions, the amount of funding or the number of beneficiaries of Measure 112 was too small to have impact.

In 15 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries is not clear. No answer was provided in the ex-post evaluation report in 20 % of the cases. No data was available for the evaluators in another 20 % of the cases. A different reporting structure, which focuses on themes rather than measures, has been applied in one case. For this case, no clear conclusions are drawn.

Difficulties in calculating the contribution of Measure 112

It was not possible to draw conclusions related to competitiveness in the case of Austria. The direct contribution of M112 to competitiveness could not be sorted out, because the investment is not necessarily a production-related one, and because the evaluation is based on a model, which calculates the contribution to competitiveness at axis level only.⁶⁵

Three cases where either not implemented at a later stage of the programme, or not evaluated by the assessors due to a low level of take-up of the measure.

Conclusion

In order to improve the competitiveness of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 3 271 million has been spent on Measure 112 by 24 Member States across 69 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 192 003 assisted young farmers and a total volume of investment of € 17.4 million. The assisted young farmers amount to 29.8 % of the farmers in the EU in that age category.⁶⁶ The total volume of investment is limited to around 0.1 % of the total GVA;
- The result indicator for this measure is the increase in total GVA in supported holdings/enterprises. A total increase of € 6.1 billion (on average € 383.2 million per Member State) was reported. Compared to the other measures, this measure is one of the most successful in increasing the GVA of the supported holdings/enterprises.

As presented in Figure 3.24, 66 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. 10 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness were limited and 9 % of the

⁶⁵ Austria.

⁶⁶ The actual share is most likely lower since aggregated data is only available for the age group under 35 years old and the data from output indicators refers to the age group under 40. For an accurate description of the share of farm managers under age 40 that received support, we should add the

evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. The increase in competitiveness resulting from this measure was mainly attributed to the modernisation process that was Figure 3.24 started when young farmers took over businesses. The information presented in, judging the contribution of the measure, is based on 69 reports of which 59 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M112, 78 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess **that the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a great extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ29. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 112 (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

47 % of the evaluations identified additional effects of Measure 112. For the remaining 53 % of the ex-post evaluations, additional effects were not found or not clear. In those evaluations where other effects were identified, **positive effects on the environment** are the most prominent (28 %). This is because young farmers have more knowledge on environmentally friendly practices. Young farmers applied more environmentally friendly practices than older farmers. This results in an improvement in natural environmental conditions.

Some of the other effects that were emphasized in the ex-post evaluation reports are the following:

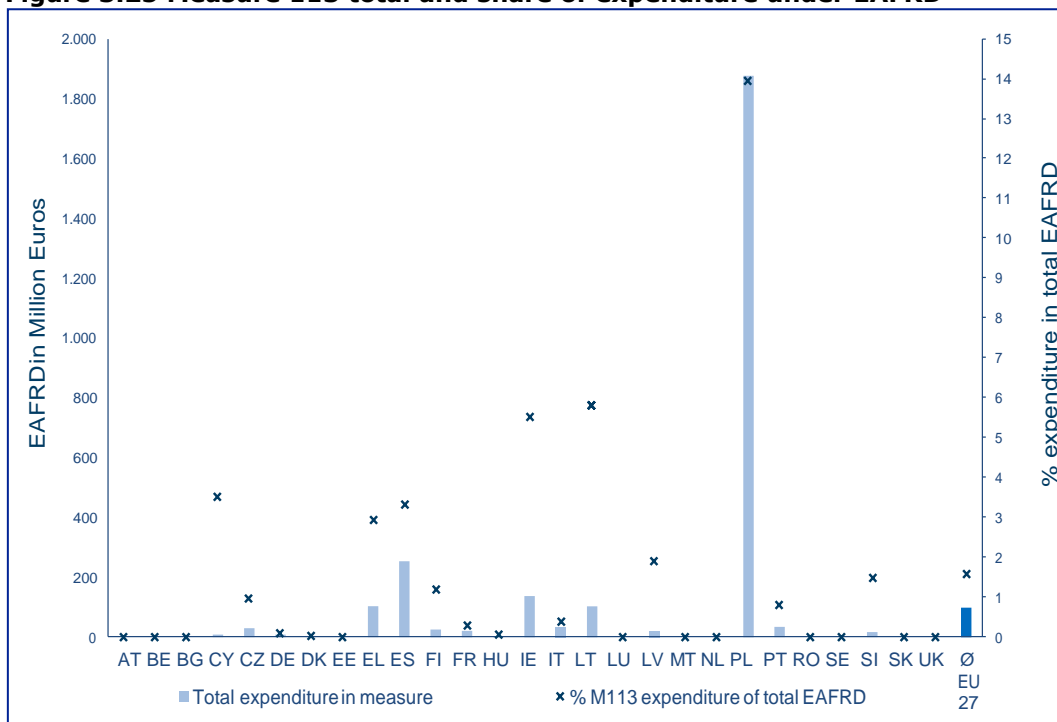
- Several ex-post evaluations reported an **increase in the available jobs** in their respective region or Member State (14 %);
- Due to the measure, **population decrease in rural areas is reduced** (14 %). One evaluation states that the measure helps to maintain the existing agricultural activity by facilitating generational change in farms;
- Multiple evaluations mention **improvement in the skillset of farmers** (14 %);
- Ex-post evaluations stressed the existence of **synergies with other measures**, particularly Measure 113, 121 and 211 (14 %);
- Some reports noted sector restructuring (9 %) or adaptations in the age structure of active farmers (7 %) as other effects.

Measure 113: Early retirement of farmers and farm workers

General information about the Measure

Measure 113 was implemented by 16 Member States across 51 regions, with a total budget of € 2.7 billion for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.25 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the measure was to support farmers and farm workers with early retirement. These findings were argued primarily through feedback from participants. Additionally, GVA has been used as a primary indicator for some evaluations.

Figure 3.25 Measure 113 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 113. The relevant output indicators are the number of farmers early retired, the number of farm workers early retired⁶⁷, and the number of hectares released. The relevant result indicator is the increase in GVA in supported holdings. The impact indicator relevant for Measure 113 is labour productivity.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators have not been measured. Table 3.17 provides information on the relevant output indicators of Measure 113.

Table 3.17 Output indicators for Measure 113

Value	Number farmers early retired	Number of farm workers early retired	Number of hectares released
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	12	4	12
Range	17 – 19 947	1 – 195	30 – 239 112
Median	399	18	8 442
Average	2 367	58	41 126
Total	28 398	231	493 516

Of all Member States that implemented Measure 113, the number of farmers with early retirement was not reported in Denmark, Finland, Germany and Latvia. The number of farm workers with early retirement was not reported in Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia. The number of released hectares of agricultural land was not reported in Denmark, Finland, Germany and Latvia.

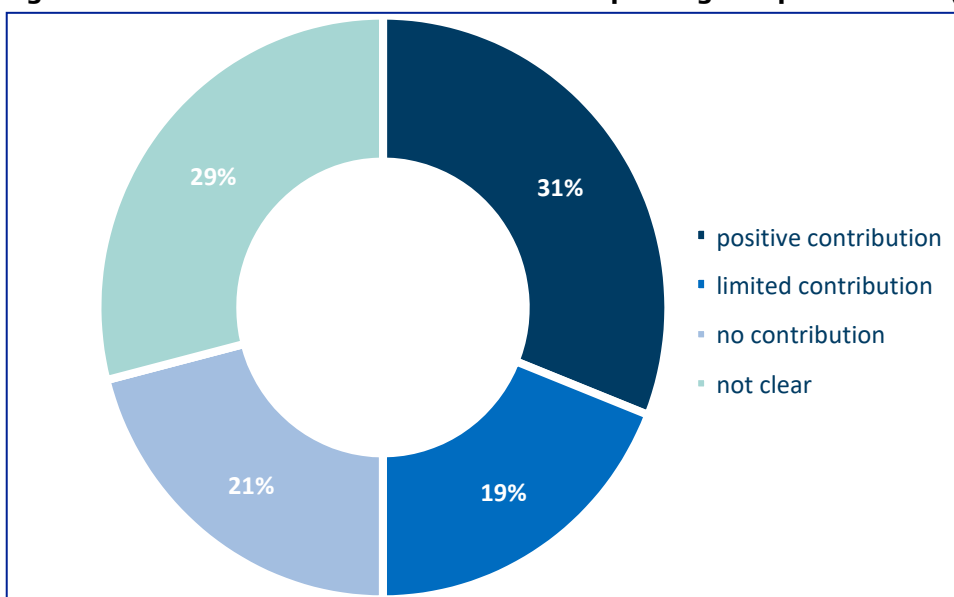
28 398 farmers received early retirement with support of Measure 113. This is 0.1 % of the total amount of farmers. Under Measure 113, 493 516 hectares were released. This amounts to

⁶⁷ Farmers are the owners of an agricultural business. Farm workers perform work for an agricultural business.

0.3 % of the total arable land in the EU. Due to the limited data for the number of farm workers with early retirement under this measure, contextual comparison is not made.

SQ15. How and to what extent has Measure 113 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.26 Measure 113's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=51)



31 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. By facilitating the early retirement of farmers, farms and farmland has become available for younger farmers. Younger farmers profit from Measure 113 since they can increase their competitiveness in two ways: 1. By profiting from economies of scale through the expansion of their company, and 2. By improving old farms through the introduction of modern farming techniques.

In 62 % of the positive cases, the measure triggered the release of agricultural land. This helps to increase the size of some farms. As a result, these farms are more profitable and competitive. It was concluded that Measure 113 has contributed to the competitiveness of the agricultural sector.

In 46 % of the cases, the passing of farms from farmers with ages between 55 to 64 to younger generations facilitates modernisation and use of modern technologies and knowledge. This increases competitiveness.

The effects of early retirement of farmers in Andalucía and Aragón

The early retirement of farmers in Andalucía and Aragón has led to an increase in competitiveness for the agricultural sector. The early retirement has enabled young farmers to take over the land of the older farmers in Andalucía. This facilitated the introduction of modern technologies and knowledge. A similar process occurred in Aragón. Here, the measure triggered the release of agricultural land. This available land enables other farms to increase their size. As a result, these farms can be more competitive and profitable.

19 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded that the measure's effects on competitiveness of the beneficiaries were limited. This is primarily due to the scale of implementation of the measure (63 %). In one case – for example – the level of funding available for the measure has been reduced several times. Here, the only improvement that can be attributed to the implementation of the measure was an improvement in the age structure of farmers. In other situations, the amount of beneficiaries was too low to create real impact. The amount of land that has been transferred to other farmers was very low in another case. Because of this, impact on competitiveness is limited.

21 % of the ex-post evaluation reports reported no contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries. No change in competitiveness has been reported in 33 % of these cases. The limitation of the scope of the measure is seen as the reason in 22 % of the cases. Only two calls for aid were registered in one region.

Indirect improvement of competitiveness for other actors in Hungary and Slovenia

In Hungary and Slovenia, difficulties arose when the contribution to competitiveness of Measure 113 was determined. The evaluators have determined that the beneficiaries of Measure 113 are retirees. The assessment of the contribution to the improvement of competitiveness of beneficiaries is considered irrelevant, since the economic activities of the beneficiaries have been stopped altogether. The retirement of older farmers could result in opportunities for other farmers to increase farm size. Therefore, the measure indirectly improves the competitiveness of others.

In one case, there was no contribution because the financing provided was used to cover costs made for the 2000-2006 programming period.

In 29 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries is not clear. The majority of these cases (67 %) have not provided accurate assessments of the measure.

Conclusion

In order to improve the competitiveness of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 2.7 billion has been spent on Measure 113 by 16 Member States across 51 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 28 398 farmers with early retirement, 231 farm workers with early retirement and 493 516 hectares of land released. 0.1 % of the total amount of farmers has enjoyed early retirement under M113. 0.3 % of the total amount of arable land in the EU was released. Due to the limited data for the number of farm workers with early retirement under this measure, contextual comparison will not be made;
- The result indicator for this measure is the increase in GVA in supported holdings/enterprises. A total increase in the GVA of supported holdings/enterprises of € 18.9 million was attributed to Measure 113 (on average € 2.7 million per Member State). See result indicator tables for Axis I. Compared to other measures, this measure contributed only marginally to the increase in GVA of the supported holdings/enterprises.

As presented in Figure 3.26, 31 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. 19 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness were limited and 21 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. Young farmers were able to improve their competitiveness by profiting from economies of scale through the expansion of their company, and by improving old farms through the introduction of modern farming techniques. The information presented in Figure 3.26 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 51 reports of which 40 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M113, 83 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a great extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness very plausible.

SQ29. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure?

36 % of the evaluations identified additional effects of Measure 113. For the remaining 64 % of the ex-post evaluations, additional effects were not found or not clear. In those evaluations where other effects were identified, **positive effects on land management** are the most prominent (33 %). This is either because young, better-educated farmers gained access to land (22 %), or because land abandonment was limited through the measure (11 %).

Some of the other effects that were emphasized in the ex-post evaluation reports are the following:

- Several evaluations reported an **improvement in the quality of life** of the beneficiaries (22 %);
- Due to the measure, **population decrease in rural areas is reduced** (22 %). The continuity of agricultural activity on farms enables the population living in rural municipalities to be maintained;
- Multiple evaluations mention **improvement in the skillset of farmers** (22 %). Measure 113 has contributed to improving the human potential of the agricultural sector through the synergies it has produced with Measure 112;
- Ex-post evaluations stress the existence of synergies with other measures, particularly Measure 112.

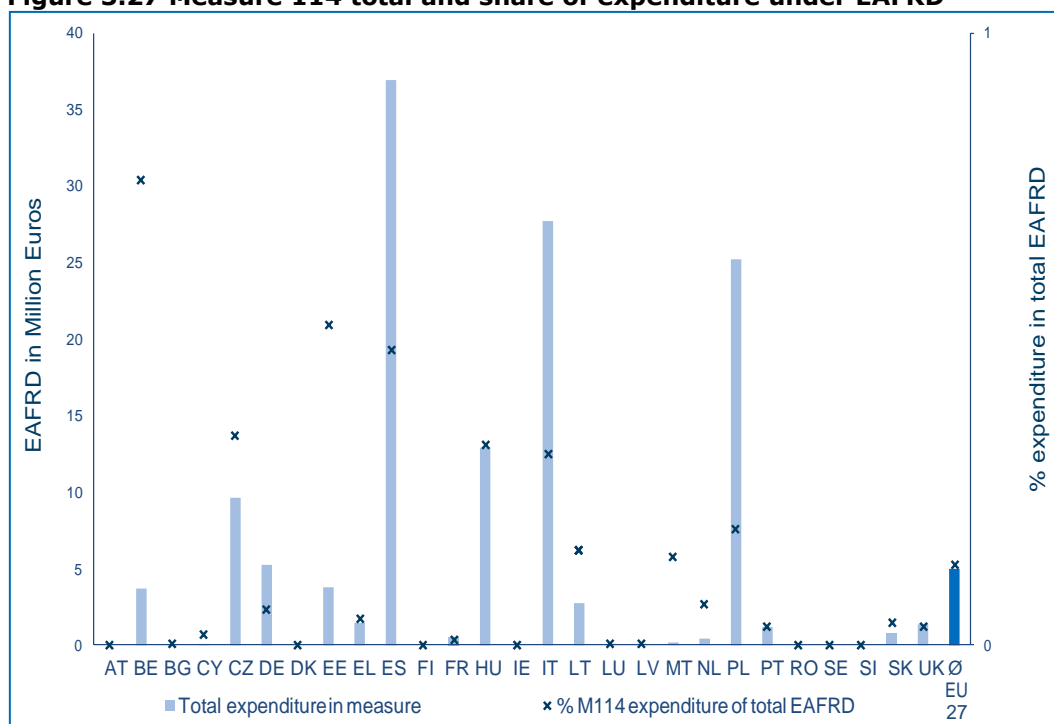
Measure 114: Use of advisory services by farmers and forest holders

General information about the Measure

Measure 114 was implemented by 20 Member States across 55 different regions, with a total expenditure of € 133 million for all Member States and regions.

Figure 3.27 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the measure was to support the implementation of continuous training activities and information and technology transfer activities, including actions for the dissemination of scientific knowledge and innovative practices linked to the agricultural and forestry sectors. The findings in the ex-post evaluations were concluded primarily through survey results and to a smaller degree through indicator of GVA increase.

Figure 3.27 Measure 114 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for M114. The relevant output indicators are the number of farmers supported and the number of forest holders supported. The relevant result indicator is the increase in GVA in supported holdings and the impact is measured thorough the change in labour productivity.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators have not been measured. Table 3.18 provides information on the relevant output indicators of Measure 114.

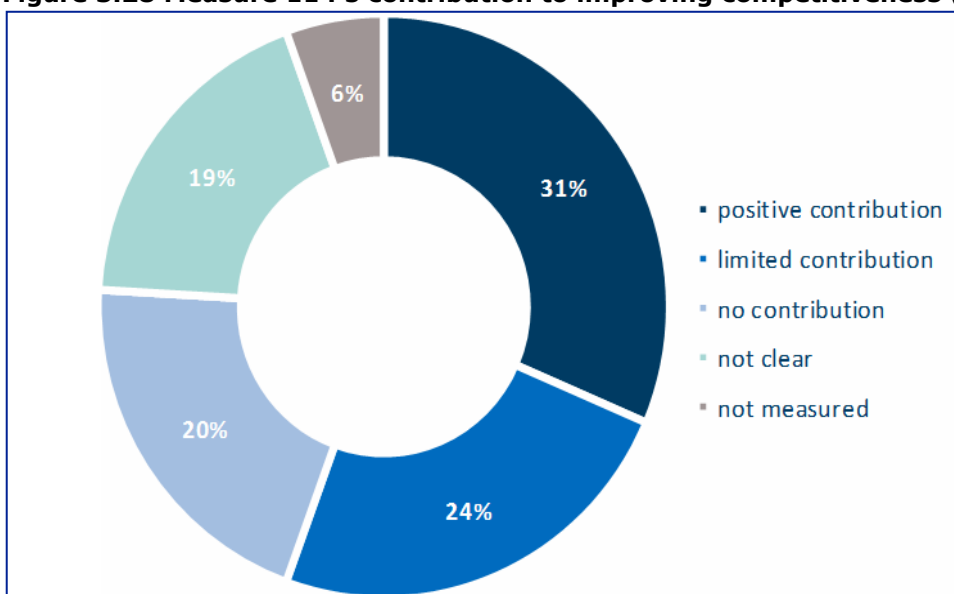
Table 3.18 Output indicator for Measure 114

Value	Number of farmers supported	Number of forest holders supported
No. of MS that reported on the indicator	20	10
Range	2 - 55 059	4 - 974
Median	2 090	106
Average	8 925	241
Total	178 498	2 406

The total number of farmers that received advisory services under the RDP is 178 498, representing 1.8 % of the EU total of farmers in 2013. The total number of forest holders that received advisory services under the RDP is 2 406, representing 0.4 % of the EU total of forest holders in 2013.

SQ16. How and to what extent has Measure 114 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.28 Measure 114's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=55)



The measure was found to have contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries in 31 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. The provided advisory services improved agricultural as well as operational practices, allowing farmers to raise their standards concerning aspects such as the environment, food safety, land maintenance and management requirements. Thanks to these improved practices, farms were less likely to miss the cross-compliance controls, thereby reducing their financial risk of missed payments. Since the single farm payment is an essential element of farm income and thus competitiveness, avoidance of sanctions is directly relevant to competition. Of these positive reports, 23 % found that due to the insights gained from training, advisory services directly lead to more competent farm management, higher productivity and overall increased competitiveness. In multiple cases, the beneficiary farms had higher revenues and income compared to control groups. In addition, 18 % of the reports found that according to surveys, the measure offered very comprehensive consultancy, both in legal and economic management.

The measure was found to have had a limited contribution to the beneficiaries' competitiveness in 24 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. This was attributed to uncertainty in ascribing changes to competitiveness directly to the measure and low take-up rates limiting the actual

effect. Of these reports, 18 % claimed the limited effects were due to the measure was not directly focused on competitiveness. While the ex-post evaluations established that the participating farmers benefitted by improvement in farm management and received direct support for compliance with various legal and quality standards, competitiveness is believed to be a side effect, bringing farms closer to current standards and not enhancing efficiency in use of production factors. While part of the measure included dissemination of knowledge, these activities were not particularly focussed on aspects of competitiveness, having only a partial focus on improved management.

Compliance advisory services and competitiveness in Hungary

The majority of the services provided under M114 focussed on advisory regarding process and product compliance with EU standards. This was also the case in **Hungary**, where 58 % of the services provided were related to cross compliance and 16 % to compliance with work safety regulations. These type of services are not specifically aimed at improving competitiveness but rather act as a mechanism that links direct payments to compliance with standards concerning the environment, food safety and animal welfare. While it helped the sustainability of the farm businesses (as maintaining the standards gives farmers access to funds) only 26 % of the advisory services focussed on improving the performance of the farm businesses, improving production technology and giving financial and business advice.

Of the reports in this category, 30 % explained the limited effect through the issues of low implementation, explained as either low funding in the measure and/or low uptake by participants. In addition, reports state that outcomes were more positive for larger companies because the arrangements required to receive the advisory services were less costly for them.

It was stated by 20 % of the ex-post evaluation reports that the measure had no contribution to the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. This reasoning is attributed by 81 % of these reports to its low implementation rate. This implementation rate refers to both the funding used as well as the number of beneficiaries. There were very low participation rates on the side of the farmers, which was explained, at times, by complicated bureaucratic procedures and, at other instances, by the lack of interest on the farmers' side for in-depth analysis or for the introduction of external elements (consultants) in their business. Delays in the publication of information (such as the ranking list for participants) were also recorded and resulted in even lower up take.

25 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not clearly identify to what extent the measure contributed to competitiveness, partly due to the low implementation rates and partly due to the various synergies of the measure with other measures implemented in a parallel way. Reports indicated that productivity and GVA were influenced by many factors and greatly depend on investment support from other measures. It is considered impossible to study the impact of the Measure separated from the entire axis. Finally, there was also an argument that it takes time to Measure the effects on the productivity of the farms.

Conclusion

M114 aimed to increase the beneficiaries' competitiveness by supplying the final expenditure of € 133 million to providing advisory services that directly improved operational as well as agricultural practices. This distributed budget was spent by 20 Member States in 55 regions. The overall results were as follows:

- The measure had an output of a total number of farmers that received advisory services of 178 498, representing 2 % of the EU total of farmers in 2013. The total number of forest holders that received advisory services under the Measure is 2 406, representing 0.4 % of the EU total of forest holders in 2013;
- The result indicator for this measure is that of GVA increase. A total increase of € 642 million (on average € 107 million per Member State) was reported. Compared to the other measures and based on this indicator M114 measure was neither particularly successful nor unsuccessful in creating value added.

As presented in Figure 3.28 , 31 % of the reports found that the measure had a positive contribution to competitiveness, 24 % found that the contribution was limited, and 20 % found that there was no contribution. The measure was found to have increased the beneficiaries' competitiveness by offering advisory services that directly improved operational as well as

agricultural practices. Competitiveness was also indirectly increased by the advisory services focussing partly on helping farms meet the required standards required for the single farm payments, thereby indirectly reducing their financial risk. On the other hand, some reports argue that the received support focussed on compliance with legal and quality standards rather than efficient practices. In this sense, competitiveness is a side effect rather than the primary goal. In addition, the measure had a low take-up in various regions, found to be primarily due to farmers' lack of interest in the offered services. The information presented in Figure 3.28 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 55 reports, of which 41 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M114, 41 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a limited extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ30. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 114?

The majority (63 %) of the ex-post evaluations either did not find additional effects of Measure 114 or the reports were not able to clearly identify them. However, in those evaluations where other effects were identified (37 %), environmental contribution was one of the underlying themes. Most reports did not specifically identify the scale of the effects. It was found that the measure had a positive environmental effect on the regions that implemented this measure. The advisory services taught sustainable farming practices and raised awareness in the region on environmental concerns. 33 % of all found effects related to the environment, occurring on a national or regional level. Under this category, reports identified effects such as increased use of sustainable practices in agriculture and increased use of renewable energy sources.

Other common effects identified in the reports were the following:

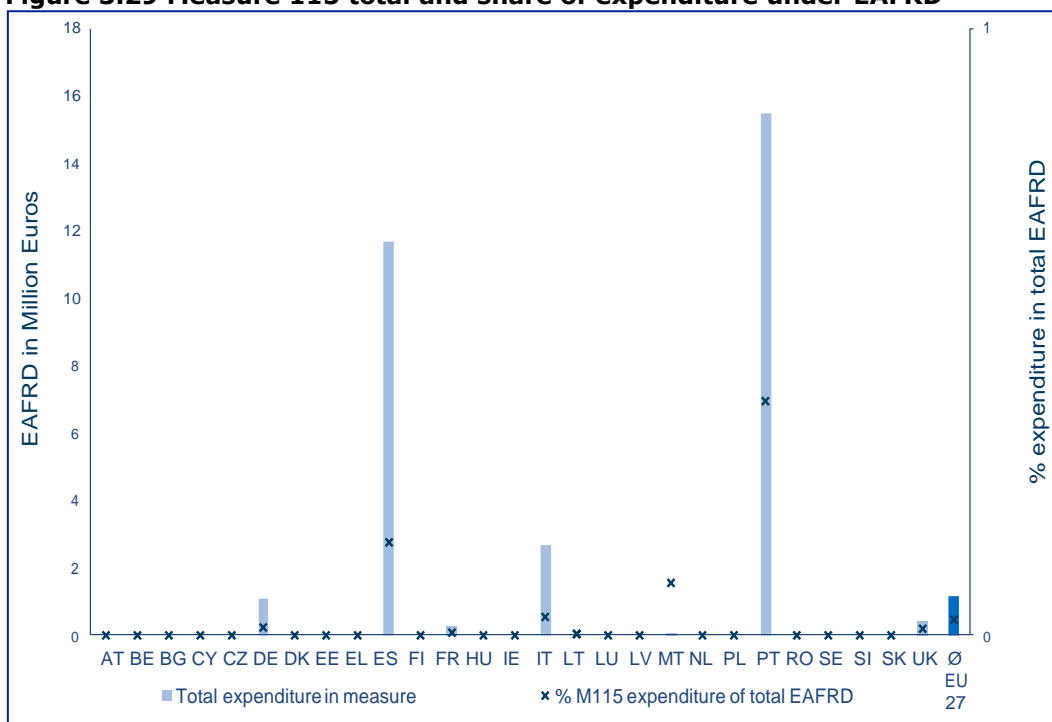
- 23 % of the additional effects referenced the improved quality and safety of processes at the workplace, **improving the quality of life** of the workers. 10 different effects related to positive quality of life changes were found across the RDP for this measure. These effects were mostly felt on a local level;
- Several surveys also found that the measure contributed to the **diversification of the agricultural sector**, by introducing new techniques and possible products to the farmers. 22 % of the identified different effects related to innovation and diversification. These effects were primarily regional and local;
- The measure had an indirect effect on **stimulating networking**, which was 6 % of the identified effects. Interactions between trainees and trainers were found to lead to an on-going relationship. 3 different effects related to positive quality of life changes were found for this measure, occurring at a local level.

Measure 115: Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, as well as of forestry advisory services

General information about the Measure

M115 was implemented in 7 Member States and 27 regions with total budget of € 31.7 million in total. Figure 3.29 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. M115 offered farmers advisory services to assess farm performance and identify possible improvements to increase competitiveness.

Figure 3.29 Measure 115 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 115. The relevant output indicator is the number of newly set up management, relief or advisory services. The relevant result indicator is the increase in gross value added in supported holdings. Finally, the output indicator is the change in labour productivity.

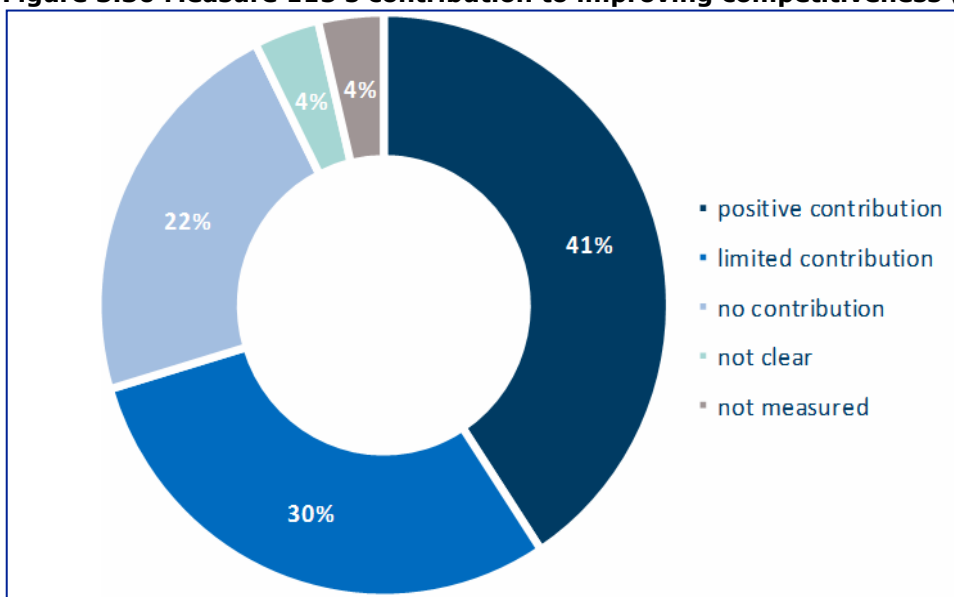
The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators are not available for this measure. Table 3.19 provides information on the relevant output indicator of Measure 115. The total number of newly set up management, relief or advisory services under the RDP is 872, ranging from 1 service to 453 in the different member states.

Table 3.19 Output indicator for Measure 115

Value	Number of newly set up management, relief or advisory services
No. of MS that reported on the indicator	7
Range	1 - 453
Median	42
Average	125
Total	872

SQ16. How and to what extent has Measure 115 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.30 Measure 115's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=27)



For 41 % of the evaluation reports, this measure had a positive contribution to competitiveness of the beneficiaries. This positive effect was attributed to a more efficient and sustainable use of resources in 10 % of the cases, since the advisory service offered the farmers a system to assess farm performance and pinpoint possible improvements to increase competitiveness. Of these reports, 60 % found that this helped farmers improve both their techniques as well as their management, which ultimately led to a better position in the market. In addition, 10 % of the positive reports mentioned that the measure helped the beneficiaries commercialize ecological products. These effects were particularly strong for small and medium-sized farmers that did not usually have these types of services available to them. In addition to the direct positive effects of the measure, it had was popular amongst beneficiaries, as evidenced by its high rates of participation.

Farm management advisory services in Castilla y León: the case of *Soriactiva*

One of the larger pilot project implemented in Castilla y León (Spain) under Measure was that of *Agroactiva*, a voluntary advisory service. The advisory service helped farmers evaluate the results of their agricultural operation and determine necessary improvements to increase competitiveness. *Agroactiva's* implementation in Soria, under the name of *Soriactiva*, was particularly successful in reaching its objectives, explained in the ex post evaluation as being due to the combination of key factors.

Firstly, the team of advisors was highly technically qualified and disciplinarily varied, composed of persons with higher schooling and including agricultural engineers with additional environmental degrees, technical engineers, a veterinary and a business manager. Secondly, the team made sure to have a wide geographical spread in terms of farms receiving the service. Thirdly, the advisory team ensured follow-up to the recommendations, visiting the farms to ensure the advice was implemented appropriately.

Finally, the services were implemented in a way that guaranteed life-long learning. The frequency of consultations per farms decreased over time but it the topics brought up to the technicians increased in complexity, which showed that the initial assessment was the start of a permanent change in the usual practices of the farmers.

According to the ex-post evaluation reports, 30 % of the RDPs experienced a limited contribution to competitiveness under M115. This was attributed primarily (50 % of these reports) to administrative issues in the implementation of the measure, which was halted by complicated procedures and paused operation. In some cases, the offered services were not considered to be oriented towards to farmer's interests, which had a demotivating effect on the applicants and limited the measure's influence.

On the other hand, 22 % of the RDPs experienced no contribution of this measure to competitiveness. In these cases, 66 % reports explained that the measure's focus on the promotion of compliance to statutory requirement meant there were no competitiveness impacts. For 33 % of the reports, the measure was not fully executed, which also prevented any impacts from materializing.

Conclusion

M115 aimed to increase the beneficiaries' competitiveness by allotting a budget of € 32 million to setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, as well as of forestry advisory services. This budget was spent by 7 Member States in 27 regions. The overall results were as follows:

- The measure's output, measured in total number of newly set up management, relief or advisory services is a total of 872, ranging from 1 service to 453 in the different member states;
- The result indicator, increase in GVA in supported holding was of € -175 million. This makes M115 the least successful in creating value added, compared to other measures with the same result indicator.

As presented in Figure 3.28, 41 % of the reports found that the measure had a positive contribution to competitiveness, 30 % found that the contribution was limited, and 22 % found that there was no contribution. Overall, evaluations found that the services helped farmers improve both their techniques as well as their management, which ultimately lead to a better position in the market. This effect was particularly strong for small and medium sized enterprises, which did not previously have access to this type of training.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M115, 44 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a limited extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ30. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 115?

The majority of evaluations (81 %) did not identify additional effects of Measure 115. There were no general effects found across the regions that implemented the measure and effects to non-beneficiaries were not identified. However, some effects that were emphasized in the remaining 19 % of the evaluation report are the following are distributed as follows:

- For 40 % (two regions) the measure **supported workplace safety** by allowing businesses to adopt newer, more efficient and safer machinery;
- For 20 % (one region) the measure had a **positive effect on gender equality**. According to one ex-post evaluation report⁶⁸, 67 % of the created jobs and 50 % of the maintained jobs were occupied by women, which directly contributed to women's integration in the agricultural labour market;
- For 20 % (one region), the measure **encouraged life-long-learning** by teaching recipients to pursue further opportunities to improve their skills and knowledge. This was done by demonstrating the value of learning and how new knowledge can be directly applied;
- For 20 % (one region), the measure had a positive impact on the availability of advisory services related to sustainable management, in particular integrated and ecological production systems and therefore **enhanced ecological agricultural practices**.

Measure 121: Modernisation of agricultural holdings. How and to what extent has the Measure contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

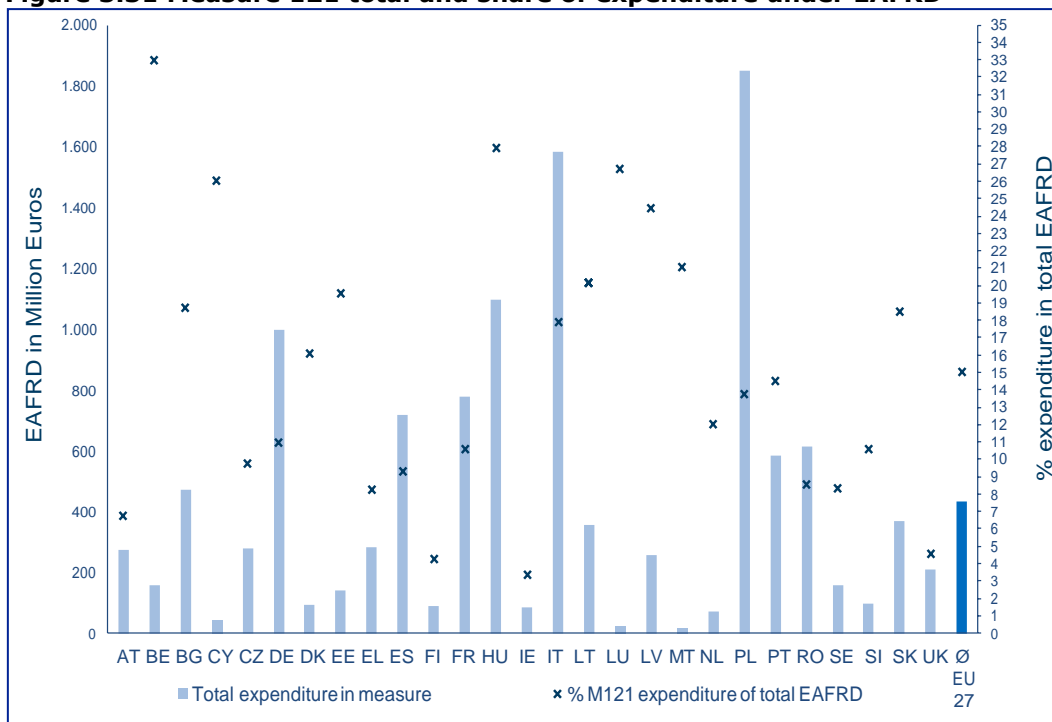
General information

Measure 121 was implemented by all 27 Member States across 88 regions, with a total budget of € 11.7 billion for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.31 shows the distribution of the

⁶⁸ Rioja, Spain. Ex post evaluation report.

spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The main aim of the measure was to modernise the current technology, management and practices that are applied in agricultural holdings. Data collection on Measure 121 was thorough in most Member States or regions. The conclusions in the ex-post evaluations are primarily based on this data. Additionally, ex-post evaluations included participant surveys and counterfactual analyses to reach conclusions.

Figure 3.31 Measure 121 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 121. The relevant output indicators are the number of farm holdings that received investment support and the total volume of investment. The relevant result indicators are the number of holdings introducing new products and/or techniques and the increase in gross value added in supported holdings. The impact indicators relevant for Measure 121 are economic growth and labour productivity.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators have not been measured. Table 3.20 provides information on the relevant output indicators of Measure 121.

Table 3.20 Output indicators for Measure 121

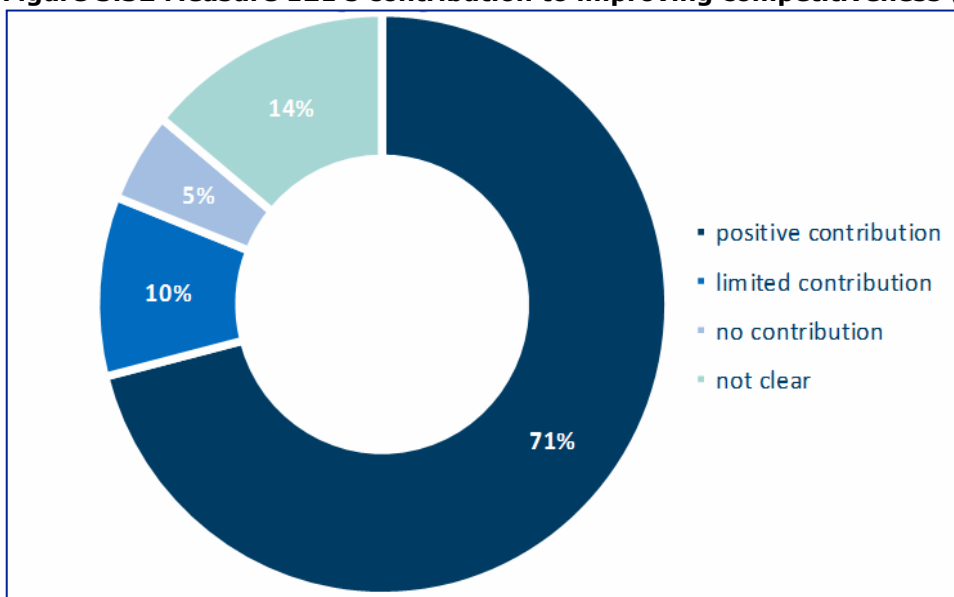
Value	Number of farm holdings that receive investment support	Total volume of investment (in EUR)
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	27	27
Range	363 – 74 307	51 637 – 8 225 028
Median	7 259	1 059 862
Average	17 308	1 825 127
Total	467 324	49 278 431

All Member States implemented the measure and reported on the output of the measure.

467 324 agricultural holdings received support under Measure 121. This amounts to 4.3 % of the total number of agricultural holdings in the EU. The total volume of investment under the measure amounts to € 49 million. This is less than 0.0 % of the total GVA in agriculture in the EU, which amounted to € 172 billion in 2013.

SQ16. How and to what extent has Measure 121 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.32 Measure 121's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=88)



71 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. The projects realised through Measure 121 had modernisation as primary focus. Modernisation led to an improvement in competitiveness in multiple ways: an increase in GVA (39 %), increase in production and labour efficiency (31 %), the introduction of new or better products (21 %), and the introduction of new technologies (21 %). An increase of market share of farms increased competitiveness in cases. Employment creation was found to contribute to competitiveness in other cases.

The impact of the measure was recognised in many fields simultaneously. The improvement led to an increase in GVA, but also the intensification of production, translated into an increase of the use of several production factors. Outcomes are often multifaceted.

Multifaceted outcomes of Measure 121 in the Castilla y León region

In the Castilla y León region, Measure 121 facilitates the transformation of the traditional farmer into an entrepreneurial farmer. The entrepreneurial farmer manages the holding on the basis of entrepreneurial profitability, improving unit yields and reducing production costs, while replacing less profitable crops with new ones of higher value, resulting in an improvement in the competitiveness of the agricultural holdings. The measure favours the introduction of changes in agricultural practices among farmers towards a more efficient and sustainable use of resources. This results in a reduction of hand labour needs and improvement in the competitiveness of farms.⁶⁹

10 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded that the measure's effects on competitiveness of the beneficiaries were limited. Often, the measure had both positive impacts and negative impacts, which outbalanced each other (33 %). In one region, the Evaluation Team recognized the contribution to modernization through the introduction of more modern machines and equipment. This type of modernization has increased the productive capacity of farms. However, there was no improvement in management of production factors. Thus, the possibility of increasing the competitiveness of farms was reduced.

The ex-post evaluations found many factors, which influence the competitiveness of farms. Measure 121 only contributes to a share of those factors. The contribution of the measure is considered limited in one region because of this.

⁶⁹ Castilla y León.

Limited contribution of Measure 121 in the Baden-Württemberg region (DE)

In Baden-Württemberg, investments in modernisation led to an increase in labour productivity. Turnover, gross value added and earnings per employee also increased significantly. There are many factors that influence competitiveness of agricultural holdings. The competitiveness of the agriculture sector depends on a number of factors: the development of factor and product prices, natural and economic conditions, the exploitation of technological progress, the legal and institutional framework conditions, but also the influences of international markets and the emergence of new market potential. As a result of these multiple influences, the reduction in the price of capital to facilitate physical investment can only have a limited effect on the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. Therefore, the effect of this measure can only be limited.⁷⁰

The actions implemented under the measure were not aimed at improving competitiveness in one region. Therefore, the impact on competitiveness in this region was limited.

5 % of the ex-post evaluation reports reported no contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries. In 50 % of these cases, no change in competitiveness has been detected. In one case, beneficiaries did not outperform non-beneficiaries. The measure aimed to promote the viability of livestock farms in mountain areas rather than competitiveness in another case.

In 14 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries is not clear. No clear data was available in 33 % of the cases. Therefore, no conclusions could be drawn. The measure was evaluated at a thematic level in one case. The single outcomes for Measure 121 are thus not clear.

In one case, the measure provided conflicting results: For small enterprises with only one employee effect, the support was positive for competitiveness, while in larger enterprises the effect was negative.

Determining the impact of the measure is often difficult. An extensive example of one case has been added below.

Difficulties in determining the impact of Measure 121 in the Niedersachsen / Bremen region

'In the context of the individual farm impact analyses, it was found that the investments supported by the subsidy have led to growth, rationalisation and increased productivity in the subsidised farms. The investments supported tended to counteract the ongoing reduction in the number of breeding sows, while the already rising milk production was further accelerated. However, the changes that have occurred are primarily attributable to the investment and not to its promotion. It cannot be conclusively assessed whether this has led to structural improvements and increased competitiveness in the sector.

Numerous funded investments facilitate work on the farms and, according to experts, improve the quality of life. This may result in the continued management of farms that would otherwise be abandoned in the short or medium term. On the other hand, unsponsored farms can be restricted or suppressed in their development in the event of a shortage of land if subsidized farms grow more rapidly. It is therefore possible that the competitiveness of the sector as a whole may decrease as a result of support.⁷¹

Conclusion

In order to improve the competitiveness of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 11.7 billion has been spent on Measure 121 by 27 Member States across 88 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 467 324 supported farm holdings and a total volume of investment of € 49.3 million. The supported farm holdings amount to 4.3 % of the total number of agricultural holdings in the EU. The total volume of investment is limited to less than 0.003 % of the total GVA in agriculture in the EU;
- Result indicators for this measure are the number of holdings introducing new products and/or techniques and the increase in gross value added in supported holdings. A total increase in the number of holdings/enterprises introducing new products and/or new

⁷⁰ Baden-Württemberg.

⁷¹ Niedersachsen / Bremen.

techniques of 166 749 holdings (on average 6 670 holdings per Member State) as well as a total increase in the gross value added in the supported holdings of € 19 288.2 million (on average € 838.6 million euro per Member state). See result indicator tables for Axis I. Compared to the other measures, this measure is one of the most successful in supporting the introduction of new products and/or new techniques and in increasing the GVA of the supported holdings/enterprises.

As presented in Figure 3.32, 71 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. 10 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness were limited and 5 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. The increase in competitiveness resulting from this measure was mainly attributed to its focus on modernisation. The information presented in Figure 3.32 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 88 reports of which 76 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M121, 83 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, **we assess that the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a great extent.** Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness very plausible.

SQ30. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 121 (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

In 78 % of ex-post evaluations, other effects were identified. The additional effects have overlapping themes, e.g.: 'Animal Welfare', 'Competitiveness', 'Employment', 'Environment', 'Innovation', 'Production Provision' and 'Quality of Life'.

Effects on the environment were referred to in 27 % of the ex-post evaluations. These effects relate to emission, energy and the reduction of soil erosion. In 86 % of these reports, the environmental effect was positive. A negative impact on environment was reported in 8 % of the evaluations that reported on environmental effects. Overall, the measure **had a positive effect on the environment.**

Other common effects identified in the reports were the following:

- 16 % of the ex-post evaluations referred to an additional **influence on innovation**, which is largely related to water management and green technology;
- 10 % of the ex-post evaluations referred to an **influence on animal welfare**. 69 % of these effects were positive, while 31 % were unclear;
- 10 % of the ex-post evaluations referred to a **positive influence on quality of life**, most of which are related to improved working conditions.

Other less common effects identified in the reports are related to employment (7 %), and product quantity and quality (4 %).

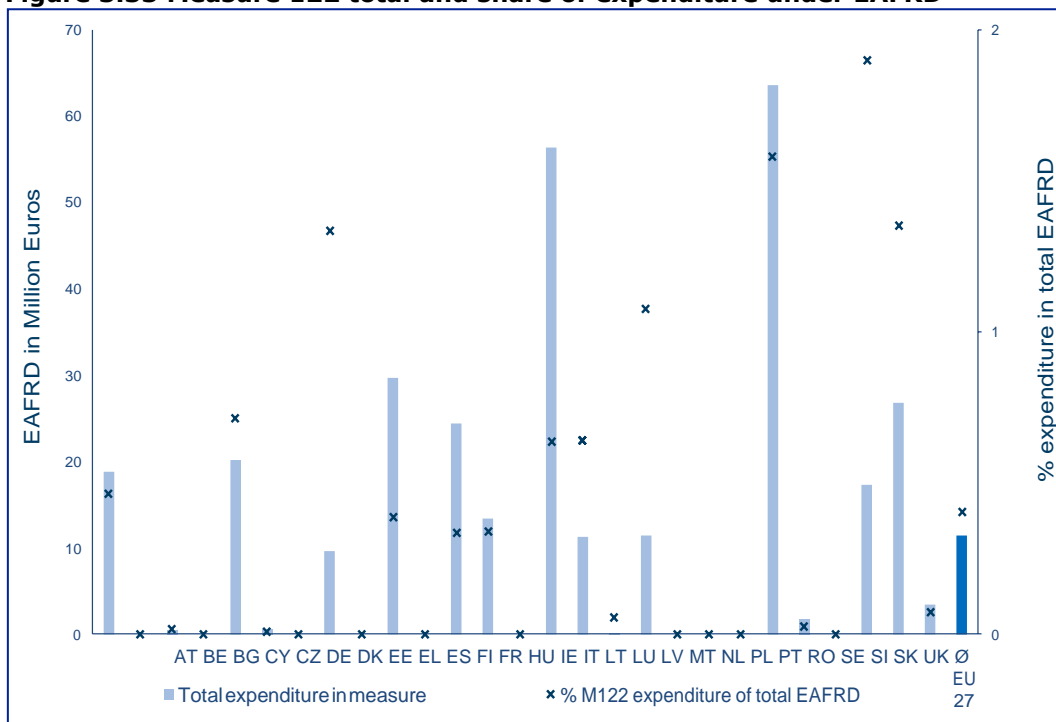
To conclude, the other effects of this measure were positive in 79 % of the time, negative in 4 % of the time and uncertain in 17 % of the time.

Measure 122: Improvement of the economic value of forests

General information about the Measure

Measure 122 was implemented by 17 Member States across 49 different regions, with total expenditure of € 309 million in total. Figure 3.33 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share of expenditure. The aim of the measure was to support foresters in the modernization of their holdings (especially machinery and tools) and to improve the productivity of forests, the bio-ecological stability of coppice and the accessibility of woodlands.

Figure 3.33 Measure 122 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 122. The relevant output indicators are the number of forest holdings that received investment support and the total volume of investment. The relevant result indicators for this Measure are the number of holdings introducing new products and/or techniques and the increase in gross value added in supported holdings.

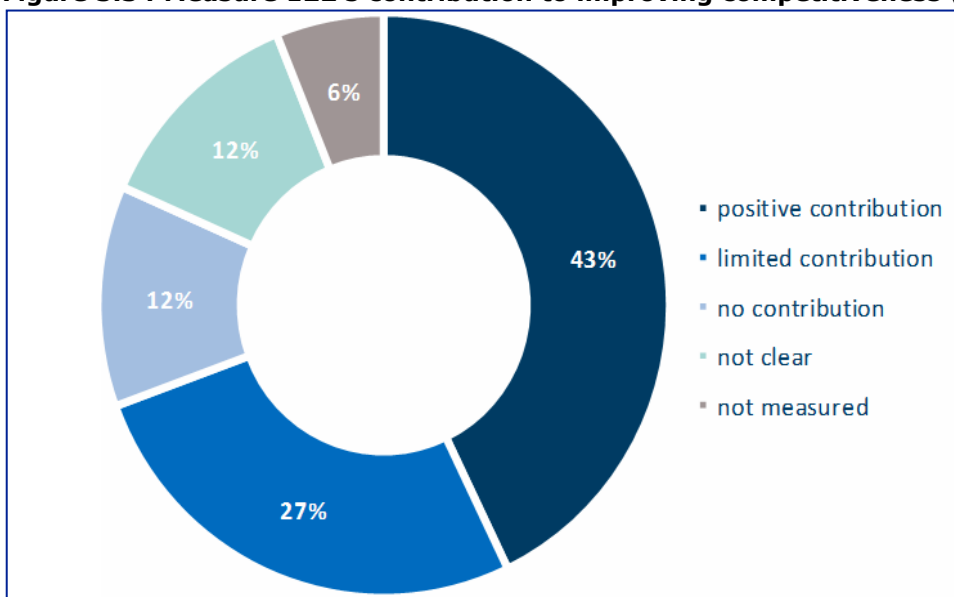
The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators are not available for this measure. Table 3.21 provides information on the relevant output indicator of Measure 122. The total number of forest holdings that received investment support under the RDP is 26 322 holdings, which received over a total of € 936 million.

Table 3.21 Output indicators for Measure 122

Value	Number of forest holdings that received investment support	Total volume of investment (in EUR)
No of MS that reported on the indicator	17	16
Range	1 - 6 074	€ 1m - € 211 million
Median	1 085	€ 31 million
Average	1 548	€ 58 million
Total	26 322	€ 936 million

SQ17. How and to what extent has Measure 122 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.34 Measure 122's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=49)



According to the ex-post evaluation reports, 43 % of MS / regions experienced a positive contribution to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries under M122. For 25 % of these reports, the positive effect was attributed to the new machinery and technology the farmers had access. The measure increased competitiveness by allowing beneficiaries to modernise their machinery and equipment, thus improving the management of forestry. This technological change improved their technical efficiency because of the higher degree of mechanisation of the business, reducing the harvesting and supply costs while increasing the total amount of output. Likewise, 10 % of the reports attributed the increased competitiveness to changes in the supply chain logistics. The measure supported improved business logistics across the value chain, making the process more efficient and reducing costs. 14 % of the reports specifically mentioned the increase in value added of the forestry products as a result of the measure.

Positive synergies due to programme overlap in England

Measure 122 was found to have made a positive contribution to improving the competitiveness of beneficiaries in the UK. This was mostly done through fostering longer-term supply-chain relationships, and through (indirect) contributions to environmental goals. However, the ex-post evaluation report highlights that a large part of the positive effects found across the region's forestry holdings was influenced strongly by interaction with the Renewable Heating Incentive by renewable energy. The RHI scheme encouraged businesses to drop fossil fuel based heat generators and introduced new systems such as biomass boilers, mostly burning wood pellets. The RHI therefore stimulated demand for wood fuel once the scheme was operational, which created improved competitiveness in the sector not solely attributable to the measure.

On the other hand, 27 % of the reports found that the measure's contribution to improving competitiveness was limited. The measure was not found to be substantial enough to allow smaller businesses to make the type of investments that would have a significant impact. Finally, several ex-post evaluations expect the effects on competitiveness to emerge in the long run, as for several regions the actual process of logging had not yet begun.

Limited contribution in the short term in Asturias, Spain

The investments carried out under Measure 122 in Asturias made it possible to improve forest land and, in particular, to improve the quality of all types of tree stands, thereby increasing their economic value. However, these specific investments bear fruit in the long term, being dependent on the maturing of the trees. The ex-post evaluation report therefore argues that the final results will not be known for decades to come. The improvements in the quality of the trees is expected to have a positive impact on

competitiveness but will only materialize in the long run, due to which the actual current effect is classified as being limited.

There were also cases in which the measure was not found to have had any contribution. This applies to 12 % of the reports, which found that the measure did not contribute to the beneficiaries' competitiveness. In 33 % of the cases this was explained by a low take-up, with participant numbers being too low to have a significant impact on competitiveness. 18 % of the reports were unable to clearly evaluate the effect of the measure on competitiveness, attributed to the situation being difficult to assess and a lack of concrete data allowing further analysis.

Conclusion

M122 had a level of expenditure of € 309 million dedicated to improving competitiveness through the improvement of the economic value of forests. This budget was spent by 17 Member States in 49 regions. The overall results were as follows:

- The measure's output, measured in total number of forest holdings that received investment support under the RDP is of 26 322 holdings, with a total volume of investment of € 936 million, which represents 4 % of total GVA in the forestry sector for the time period;
- The result indicator of holdings with newly introduced products and techniques is of 7 573 holdings. This makes M122 the measure with the lowest total number of holdings that introduce new products and / or techniques. It contributed 4% of all the holdings with new products and techniques under the RDP. See result indicator tables for Axis I;
- The increase in GVA was of 2 754 million, making it one of the more successful measures in generating value added and representing 11 % of the total GVA for forestry for the time period.

As presented in the graph on qualitative information, 43 % of the reports found that the measure had a positive contribution to competitiveness, 27 % found that the contribution was limited, and 12 % found that there was no contribution. The information is based on the 40 ex- post evaluation reports that reported on the contribution of the measure, out of the 49 regions that implemented it.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M122, 53 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a medium extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ31. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 122?

Reports identified 25 additional effects of Measure 122. The majority of these effects (59 %) relate to the measure's environmental impact. Reports highlight the measure's effects on the sustainable management of forests, which helped protect the biodiversity of the regions and reduced GHG emissions, reducing the sector's contribution to climate change.

24 % of the additional effects refer to the diversification of the economy in the sector of forestry in the regions of the beneficiaries. Improved management practices make up 18 % of the additional effects. Increased and maintained employment is identified in 12 % of the reports.

Finally, quality of life is identified in 6 % of the reports as an additional effect. The new technologies introduced as a result of the measure had the effect of reducing working hours, increasing safety standard on the job and making activities in the sector less physically taxing, thereby improving the life of the beneficiaries.

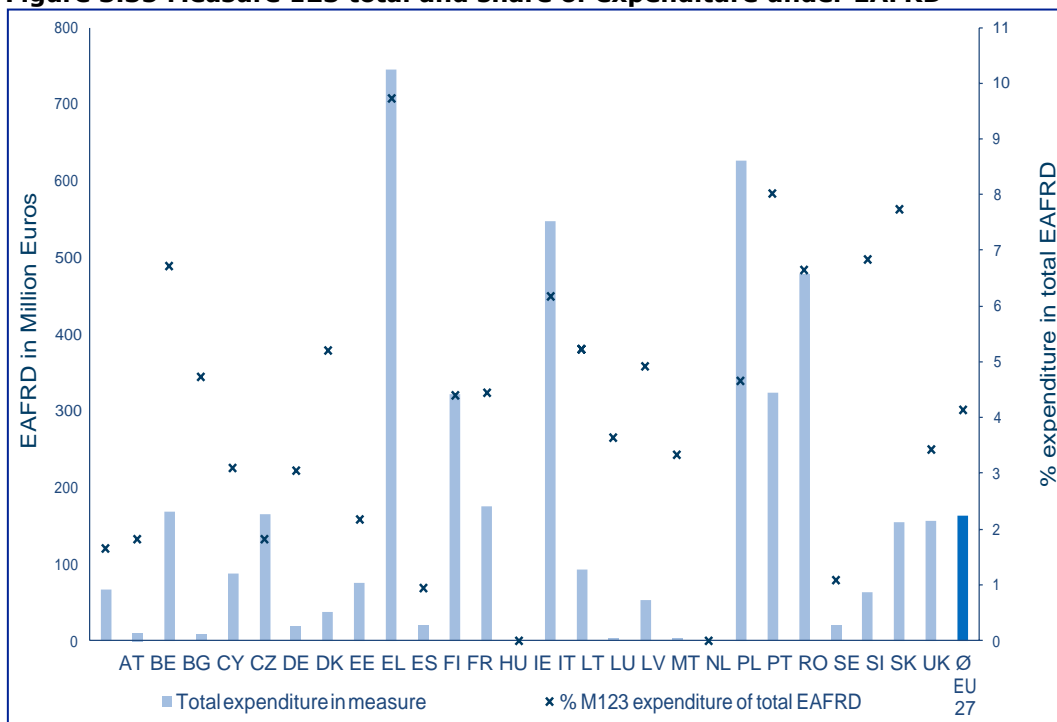
Measure 123: Adding value to agricultural and forestry products

General information about the Measure

Measure 123 was implemented by 25 Member States across 85 different regions, with total budget of € 4 412.5 million for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.35 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the measure was to modernize operations, introduce innovative procedures and promote the

integration of value chain segments to increase the value added of agricultural and forestry products.

Figure 3.35 Measure 123 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for M123. The relevant output indicators are the number of enterprises supported and the total volume of investment. The relevant result indicators are the number of enterprises introducing new products and/or techniques and the increase in gross value added in support enterprises. Finally, the impact is measured by increases in labour productivity and economic growth.

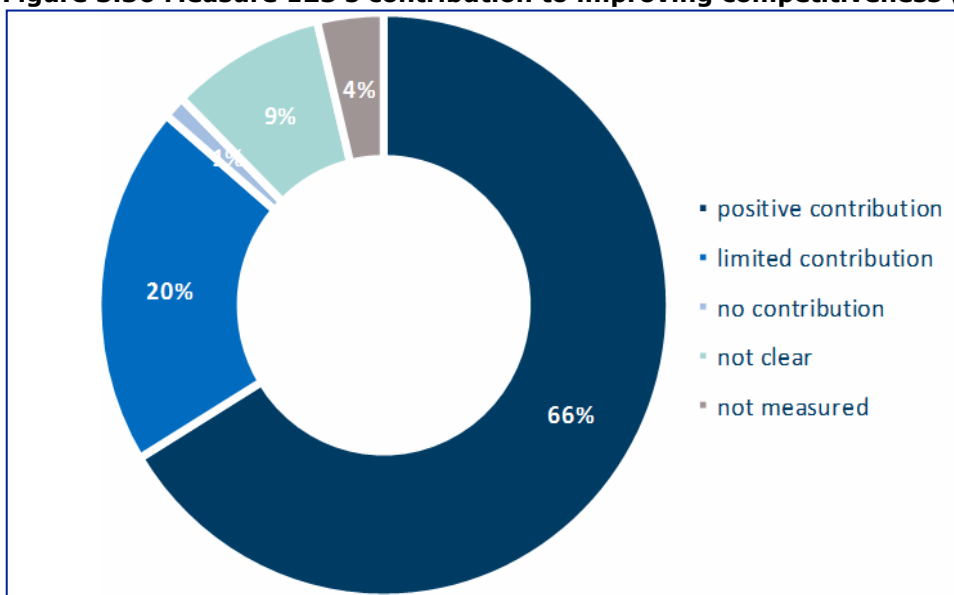
The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators are not available for this measure. Table 3.22 provides information on the relevant output indicator of M123. The total number of enterprises supported under the RDP is 28 265, with a total volume of investment of € 22 238 million.

Table 3.22 Output indicator for Measure 123

Value	Number of enterprises supported	Total volume of investment (in EUR)
No. of MS that reported on the indicator	25	25
Range	22 - 6 456	€ 5 161 000 - € 5 454 833 570
Median	499	€ 304 147 495
Average	1 087	€ 855 329 571
Total	28 265	€22 238 568 840

SQ17. How and to what extent has Measure 123 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.36 Measure 123's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=80)



According to 66 % of the reports, M123 had a positive effect on the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. This was explained in 34 % of these cases by evidence in increased value added. The largest driver of this positive effect was the increase in product quality, mentioned by 15 % of the positive reports. The measure implemented innovative procedures and thus improved the quality of the sold products, which made them more competitive in the market. Similarly, 12 % of the reports found that the beneficiaries' competitiveness was improved by the new technologies and techniques that the measure implemented which reduced costs and made the products more competitive.

Valorisation of agricultural products in Guyane: learning points.

Measure 123 contributed to the valorisation of agricultural products in Guyane by stimulating collective dynamics in certain isolated territories and providing local producers with collective work tools to indirectly strengthen the functioning and legitimacy of Guyanese economic organizations and to innovation development. On the forestry side, grants facilitated the acquisition of new, innovative equipment that is better suited to lower impact logging techniques, subsidies had a direct effect on the investment capacity of the beneficiary companies, purchased equipment has a direct effect on the production & diversification of the companies' activities.

These results were however diminished by several factors. The ex-post evaluation report highlights a problem of maladjustment of eligibility criteria and control procedures of EAFRD aid to the Guyanese context, resulting in a lack of strategic orientations for the valorisation of agricultural products. This same context also generated difficulties in making certain collective facilities work in the context of unstructured sectors. This highlights the necessity of programmes that are implemented in different economic context (such as the Guyanese) to make an additional effort to adapt the criteria and procedures.

It was reported by 20 % of the ex-post evaluation reports that M123 had a limited contribution to competitiveness. This was attributed in one report to the implemented technologies being out of date and therefore not sufficiently modernising the sector. One report attributed this limited effect to low funds that resulted in low levels of investment. Finally, one report (1 %) found evidence of deadweight effect, in which the measure did not result in any investments that would not have otherwise had the sector continued without the RDP.

Limited contributions of the measure in Hungary

Measure 123's effects in Hungary were found to be limited by the fact that the beneficiaries' investments were mostly in machinery that did not fully represent new

innovative technologies. However, considerable investments were made in energy modernisation, environmental protection and food safety that indirectly – through reducing production costs – also contributed to increased competitiveness. Overall, the measure improved the income, export capacity and profit of the beneficiaries, but the measure could have been more successful in terms of improving competitiveness if the focus on innovative technologies had been larger.

Finally, 14 % of the reports were unclear on the effects or did not measure them. This was explained by 50 % of the cases as being a result of the low implementation of the measure and by the other half as having insufficient information to draw conclusions.

Conclusion

M123 had a total level of expenditure of € 4 413 million dedicated to adding value to the agricultural and forestry products. This value was spent by 25 Member States in 85 regions. The overall results were as follows:

- The output indicator of M123, measuring the total number of enterprises supported under the RDP is 28 265;
- The output indicator of total volume of investment under M123 is € 22 billion;
- The result indicator of increase in GVA in supported enterprises under M123 is € 30 billion, representing 19 % of total GVA increase for the sector in the time period;
- The result indicator of holdings with new products and / or techniques introduced under M123 is 14 484. This makes M123 the measure with the second largest number of holdings new products and / or techniques, contributing 7 % of the holdings.

As presented in Figure 3.36, 66 % of the reports found that the measure had a positive contribution to competitiveness, 20 % found that the contribution was limited, and 1 % found that there was no contribution. The information is based on the 70 ex-post evaluation reports that reported on the contribution of the measure, out of the 80 regions that implemented it.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M123, 76 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a great extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ31. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 123?

The reports identified 29 additional effects of Measure 123 apart from its contribution to competitiveness. 21 % of the effects related to employment, in which the measure was found to either have maintained jobs or directly helped in the creation of new ones, through its creation of value added in the products, which then bolstered the sector.

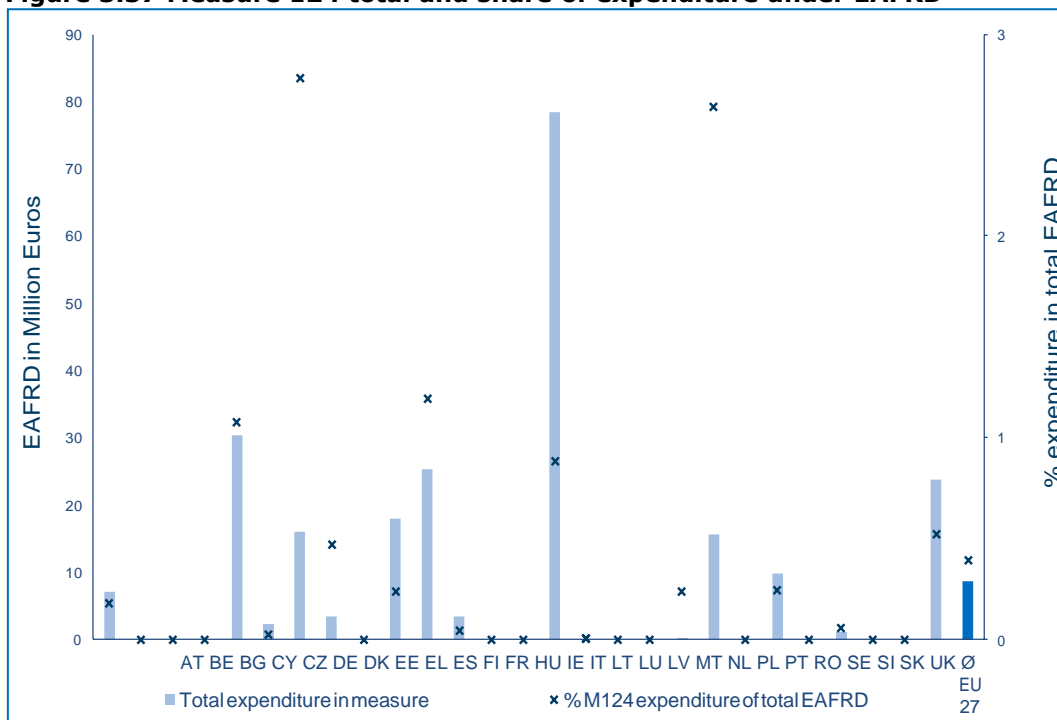
17 % of the reports found that the measure also had positive environmental effects, as the new procedure and processes tended to be more environmentally friendly and help in resource management. Much the same, 10 % of the reports found that the new processes also resulted in products of higher quality that were able to meet stricter standards. Finally, these improved processes were also found to improve the quality of life in one report, as they reduced working hours and gave the beneficiaries additional free time.

Measure 124: Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector

General information about the Measure

Measure 124 was implemented by 14 Member States across 51 different regions, with a total budget of € 234.3 million for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.37 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the measure was to foster cooperation between public research and economical stakeholders in order to implement innovative products, processes and technologies, to face growing competition and find new markets for agri-food products.

Figure 3.37 Measure 124 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for M124. The relevant output indicator is the number of cooperation initiatives supported. The relevant result indicators are the number of enterprises introducing new products and/or techniques and the increase in gross value added in supported enterprises. Finally, the impact of the measure is calculated with the increases in labour productivity and of economic growth.

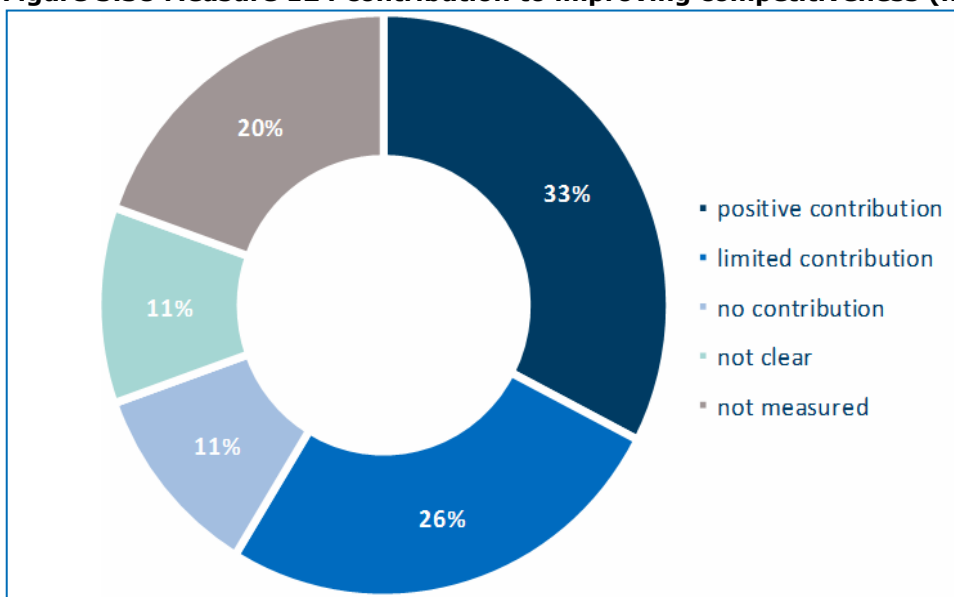
The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators are not available for this measure. Table 3.23 provides information on the relevant output indicator of Measure 124. A total of 5 112 cooperation initiatives were supported as a result of M124.

Table 3.23 Output indicator for Measure 124

Value	Number of cooperation initiatives supported
No. of MS that reported on the indicator	14
Range	8 – 2 292
Median	132
Average	365
Total	5 112

SQ17. How and to what extent has Measure 124 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.38 Measure 124 contribution to improving competitiveness (n=51)



According to 33 % of the reports, M124 had a positive effect on its beneficiaries' competitiveness. Of these positive reports, 53 % found that the measure led to increased levels of innovation, which hence improved production processes and made the sectors more competitive. Another 20 % of the reports stressed the importance of the cooperation between research and stakeholders and the effectiveness of the cooperation in establishing more productive value chains.

Innovative cooperation in Catalonia, Spain

The measure's implementation in Catalonia primarily improved cooperation between actors and access to the food chain. As a result, the cooperation involved up to 24 universities and technology centres in initiatives. This cooperation led to innovative projects, 14 of which concerned new techniques and 4 new products.

On the other hand, 26 % of the reports found that this measure's effect on competitiveness was limited. This was explained in 33 % of the reports that categorized it as such as being due to the measure's objective, which was cooperation. This way, competitiveness was considered an indirect effect of the measure, improved as a result of new processes that came from this cooperation. 17 % of the reports found a limited effect due to limited implementation of the measure, which was not deemed to have been implemented to a sufficient extent to have the desired effect on competitiveness. Another 16 % of these reports categorized the effect as limited because while the measure is expected to have an effect on competitiveness this is only now starting to materialize and will be stronger in the long term.

Finally, 11 % of the reports found that the measure did not contribute to competitiveness. 60 % of these reports claimed it was because the effects do not appear in the short to medium-term and the other 40 % found that the low implementation meant there was not sufficient cooperation to generate measureable results.

Conclusion

The level of expenditure under M124 was of a total of € 234.3 million spent on the cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies. This amount was spent by 14 Member States in 51 regions. The overall results were as follows:

- A total of 5 112 cooperation initiatives were supported as a result of M124;
- The number of enterprises introducing new techniques and / or products under M124 was 12 972. The measure contributed 6 % of the holdings with new techniques and products under the entire RDP.

- The result indicator of increase in GVA in supported enterprises under M124 is € 122.6 million.

As presented in Figure 3.38, 33 % of the reports found that the measure had a positive contribution to competitiveness, 26 % found that the contribution was limited, and 11 % found that there was no contribution. The information is based on the 32 ex-post evaluation reports that reported on the contribution of the measure, out of the 46 total reports.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M124, 47 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a limited extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ31. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 124?

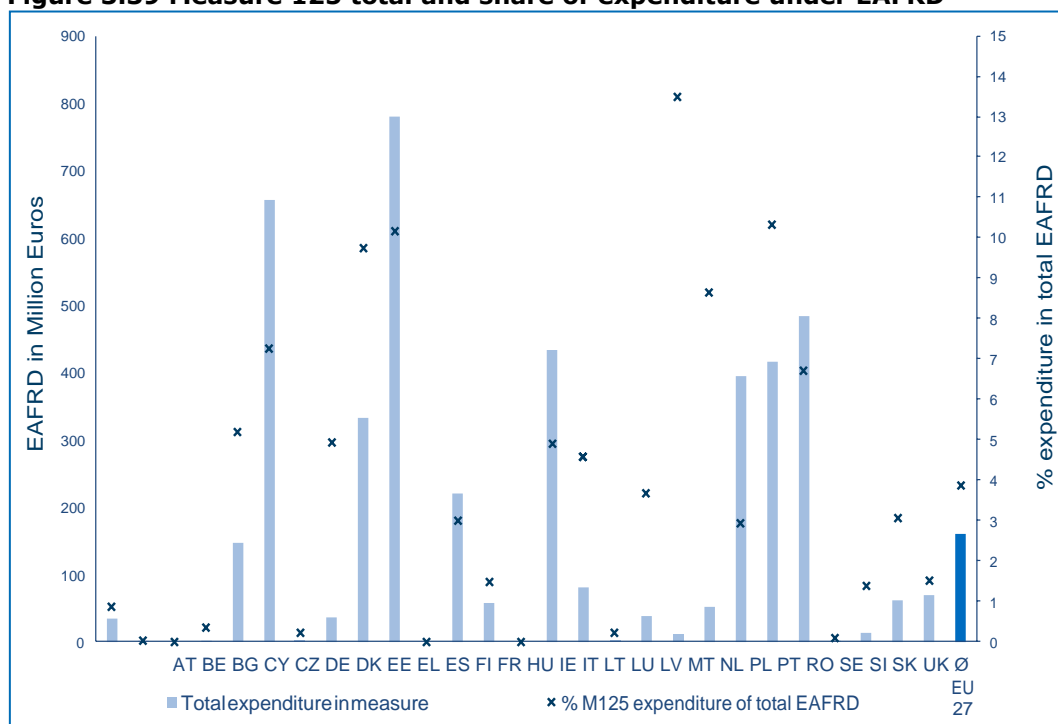
The ex-post evaluation reports identified 30 additional effects as a result of Measure 124. 23 % of these indirect effects were environmental. The fostered cooperation resulted knowledge transfer on more sustainable practices that supported the regional biodiversity. 10 % of the additional effects fell under the adoption of new technology, which fostered innovation in the sector. Another 10 % of the identified effects referred to enhanced cooperation, not only between public research and economical stakeholders but also amongst the stakeholders themselves. These reports found that the measure facilitated cooperation along the value chain due to the activities surrounding the programmes.

Measure 125: Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry

General information about the Measure

Measure 125 was implemented by 24 Member States across 78 different regions, with total budget of € 4 317.6 million for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.39 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the measure was to address problems associated to insufficient agriculture and forestry infrastructure. Investments aimed to improve the multi-functionality of woodland by guaranteeing road access, thus raising productivity, minimising damaged during harvesting, improving work conditions and improving the usage of water resources.

Figure 3.39 Measure 125 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 125. The relevant output indicator is the number of operations supported. The relevant result indicators are the total volume of investments and the increase in gross value added in supported holdings. Finally, the relevant impact indicators are the economic growth and labour productivity changes.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators are not available for this measure. Table 3.24 provides information on the relevant output indicator of Measure 125. Output indicators were reported for 21 Members States of the total of 24 that implemented Measure 125. Information on the number of operations supported and the total value of investment is missing for Belgium, Denmark and Luxembourg.

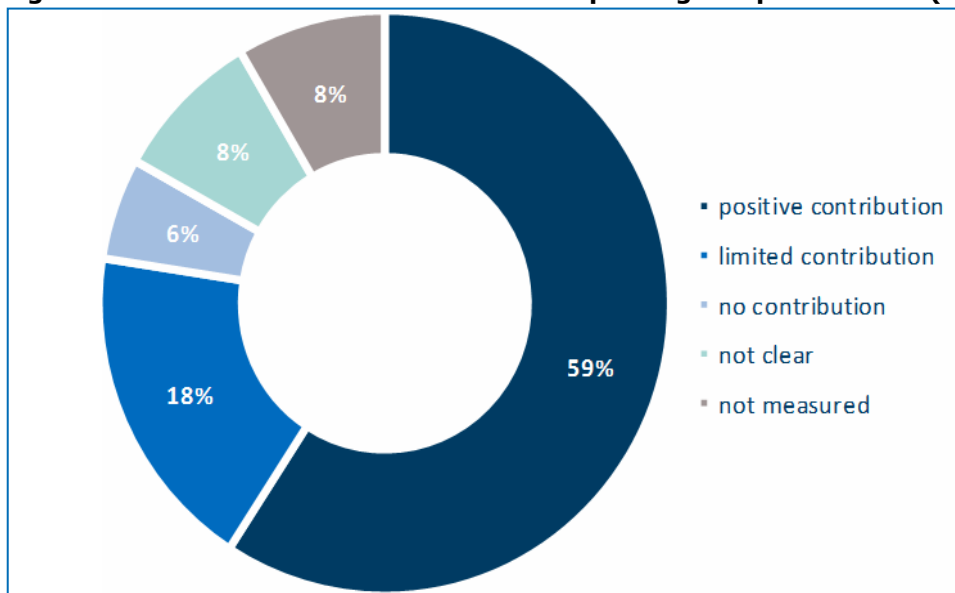
Table 3.24 Output indicator for Measure 125

Value	Number of operations supported	Total value of investment (in EUR)
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	21	21
Range	20 - 22 086	€ 1 200 000 - € 2 406 000 000
Median	679	€ 207 000 000
Average	2 704	€ 476 700 000
Total	56 779	€ 10 011 000 000

The total number of operations supported under the RDP is 56 779, representing 1.8 % of the EU total of enterprises in 2013. The total value of investment under Measure 123 is € 10 011 million, which is 6.2 % of the GVA in EU agriculture in 2013.

SQ18. How and to what extent has Measure 125 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.40 Measure 125 contribution to improving competitiveness (n=71)



59 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that Measure 125 had a positive contribution to its beneficiaries' competitiveness. This was due to the two types of infrastructural investments that composed the measure - investments in roads and in irrigation systems. 27 % of the positive reports attributed the increased competitiveness to the improved road structure, which happened because improved access reduced costs of transportation along the value chain. 26 % of the positive reports attributed it to the new irrigation structures, as this reduced the cost of one of the largest inputs in the agricultural and forestry sector (water) and thereby made the beneficiaries more competitive.

Improved infrastructure in Hessen, Germany

The competitiveness of the subsidised enterprises were improved as a result of the improved infrastructure in Hessen, Germany. This increased competitiveness was due to increased logging, reduced transport costs and the increased possibilities all-year-round transport routes. The ex-post evaluation report argues that the measure contributed fully to the improvement of the value added of the subsidised companies, as the results on competitiveness from road construction were larger than expected. The area with improved infrastructure (approx. 26 000 ha) corresponds to about 5 % of the private and municipal forest area or approx. 3 % of the total forest area in Hessen.

The measure's effects were limited in 18 % of the reports. This limited effect was said to be due to the measure's objective in 30 % of the cases, which was not to increase competitiveness but to bring basic infrastructure to regions that were lacking it. As such, competitiveness is argued to be a possible side effect but not the primary driver of the Measure. 15 % of the reports found a low rate of implementation, in which the measure did not use sufficient funds to have strong effects on the region's competitiveness. Finally, 8 % of the limited reports expect to see stronger competitiveness changes in the long run.

6 % of the reports found no contribution from Measure 125. As in the case of the reports that found a limited effect, this was explained either due to a low implementation rate of the measure or due to a time span too short to see concrete effects of improved infrastructure on the competitiveness of the beneficiaries.

SQ32. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 125?

The ex-post evaluation reports identified 25 additional effects to M125. The larger share of these effects (44 %) referred to a positive environmental effect as a result of the new irrigation systems. The newer systems allowed for better use of water resources, reducing the overall water consumption. 16 % of the additional effects referred to increased tourism in the regions, as the improved road access made the areas accessible and therefore more attractive to visitors. 12 % of the effects referred to increase in quality of life, as the beneficiaries enjoyed the improved basic infrastructure and the ease of transporting their products. 12 % of the effects referred to a decrease in land abandonment, as due to the improved infrastructure the regions were less likely to be abandoned by their population. 4 % (one report) found that the beneficiaries also had access to improved water quality as a result of the improved infrastructure in water systems.

Conclusion

M125 aimed to increase the beneficiaries' competitiveness by providing for a final expenditure level of € 4 317 million to improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry. This budget was spent by 24 Member States in 78 regions. The overall results were as follows:

- In the output indicator of total volume of investment, M125 received € 10 billion;
- For output indicator of number of operations supported, M125 reached a total of 56 779 operations;
- For the result indicator of increase in GVA in supported holdings, M125 generated a value added of € 7 billion, making it one of the most successful measures in generating value added. This represents 4 % of the total GVA for the sector in the time period.

As presented in Figure 3.40, 59 % of the reports found that the measure had a positive contribution to competitiveness, 18 % found that the contribution was limited, and 6 % found that there was no contribution. The information is based on the 59 ex-post evaluation reports that reported on the contribution of the measure, out of the 71 total reports.

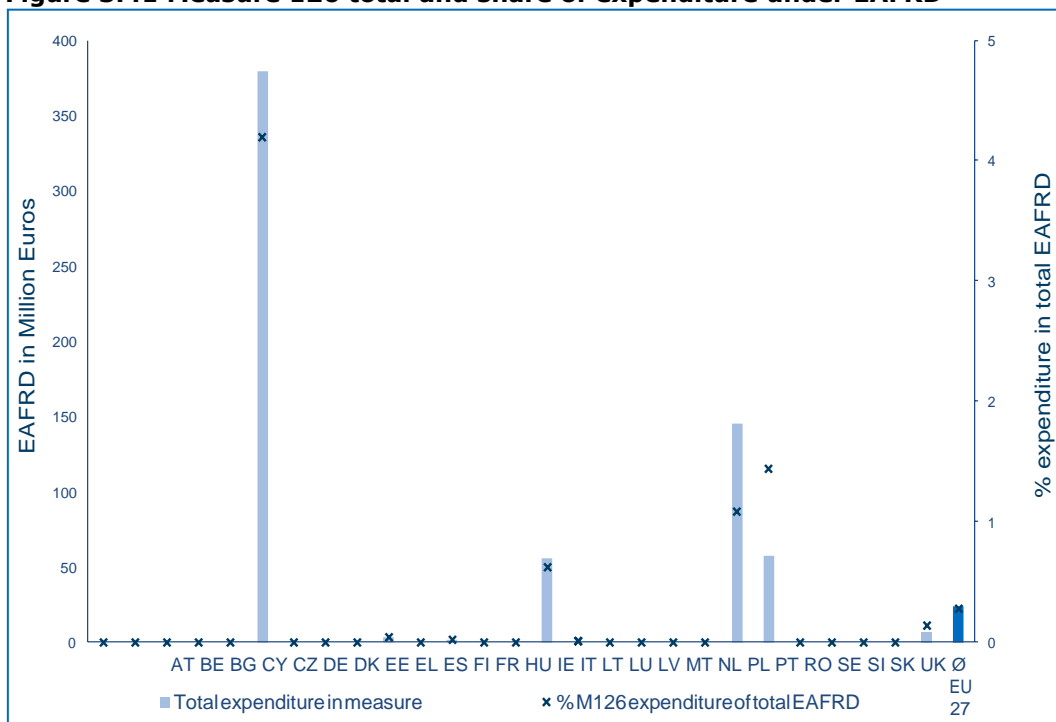
Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M125, 71 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to competitiveness to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

Measure 126: Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention action

General information about the Measure

Measure 126 was implemented by 7 Member States across 30 regions, with a total budget of € 648.5 million euros for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.41 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The main aim of the measure was to restore agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters, and to introduce appropriate prevention action.

Figure 3.41 Measure 126 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 126. The relevant output indicators are the supported area of damaged agricultural land and the total volume of investment. There is no common result indicator for this measure. Finally, the relevant impact indicator is labour productivity.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators have not been measured.

Table 3.25 provides information on the relevant output indicators of Measure 126. Output indicators were reported for all Member States that implemented Measure 126.

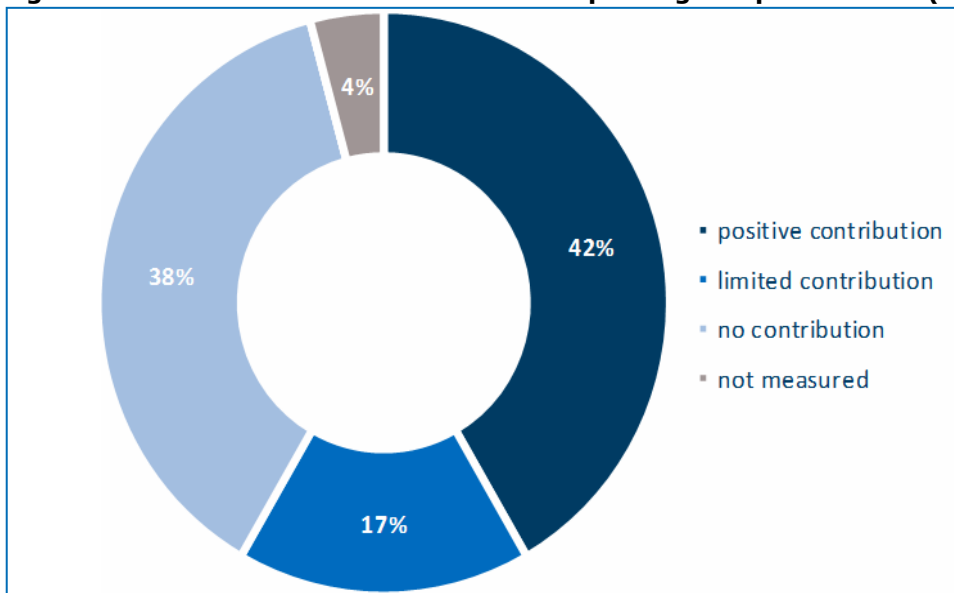
Table 3.25 Output indicators for Measure 126

Value	Supported area of damaged agricultural land	Total value of investment (in EUR)
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	7	7
Range	247 – 2 715 720	3 976 – 1 799 569
Median	14 126	96 666
Average	410 959	343 069
Total	2 876 715	2 401 486

The first indicator is supported area of damaged agricultural land. No information on total damaged agricultural land on EU level is available; therefore, a comparison is not possible. The total volume of investment is € 2.4 million compared to € 173 billion GVA in European Union.

SQ18. How and to what extent has Measure 126 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.42 Measure 126 contribution to improving competitiveness (n=30)



42 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. In 67 % of positive cases, an increase in competitiveness was attributed to the ability to restore factors of production, hereby restoring production potential. 11 % of ex-post evaluations reported a positive contribution related to protective measures mitigating and/or preventing economic losses and 11 % positive cases reported an improvement in competitiveness through technological improvement. For 11 % of cases the reason for an increase in competitiveness remained unclear.

Direct and indirect effects on competitiveness in Bavaria - Germany

The measure in the region Bavaria in Germany has had a positive and lasting effect on the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. Economic losses due to flooding could be mitigated or prevented. Not only for the directly involved, but also indirectly for the related industries. Besides effects on competitiveness, there were positive social and ecological effects.

17 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness were limited.

67 % of cases were found to have a limiting effect on competitiveness as the measure largely focussed on restoration instead of the improvement of competitiveness. In addition, the dependency on the likelihood climate flooding makes it difficult to determine the exact contribution of this measure.

38 % of the revised ex-post evaluation reports reported no contribution of the measure to competitiveness. 33 % of the lack of contribution is attributed to weak implementation of the project. 17 % of non-contributing evaluations describe that the measure secures competitiveness rather than increasing it. While 50 % of evaluations provide no reason to why the measure does not contribute to competitiveness. In some cases, flooding did not affect agricultural areas.

4 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not clearly identify to what extent the measure contributed to competitiveness, partly due to the low implementation rates and partly due to the lack of information.

Conclusion

In order to improve the competitiveness of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 648.5 million has been spent on Measure 126 by 7 Member States across 30 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 2.9 million hectare supported area of damaged agricultural land and a total volume of investment of € 2.4 million. No information on total damaged agricultural land on EU level is available, therefore a comparison and judgment is not possible. The total volume of investment is limited compared to € 173 billion GVA in European Union.

As presented in Figure 3.42, 42 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. 17 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness were limited and 38 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. In 67 % of the positive cases the increase in competitiveness was attributed to the ability to restore factors of production, hereby restoring production potential. Prevention of economic losses and technical improvement were also pointed at as results of the measure which have increased competitiveness of the beneficiaries. The information presented in Figure 3.42 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 30 reports of which 29 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M126, 48 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a limited extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness very plausible.

SQ32. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 126?

In approximately a quarter of the reports, other effects were reported. These concerned positive effects on society, awareness of flooding, ecology and flood protection of rural areas. In one case, it was reported that related commercial enterprises had benefitted from the measure.

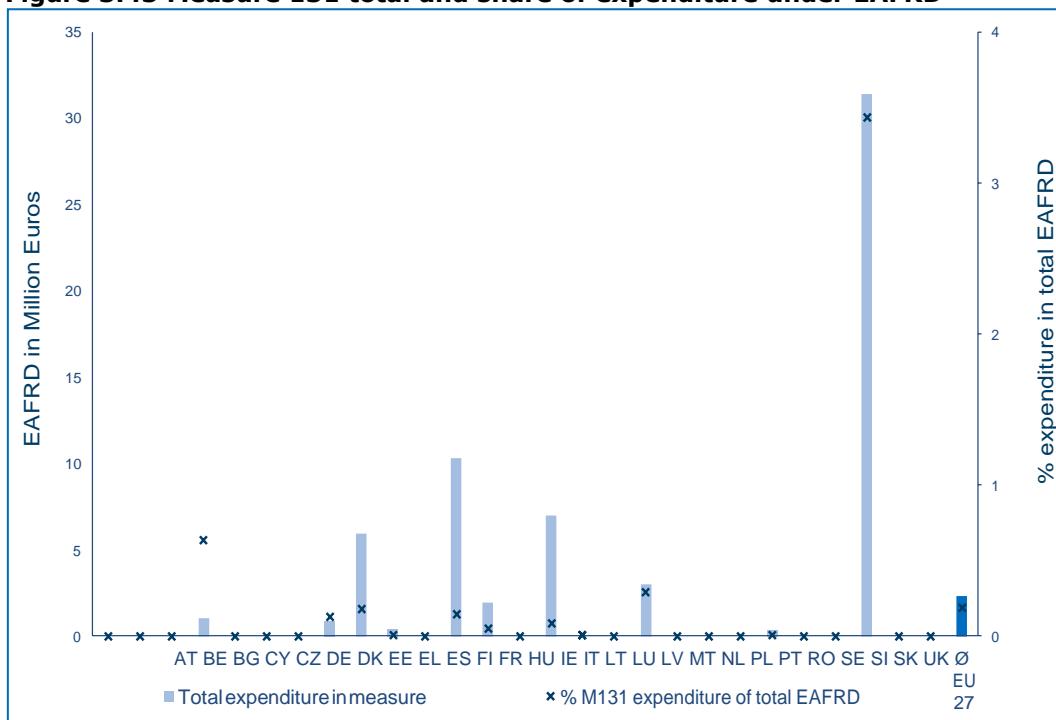
Moral hazard and deadweight effect were both once mentioned as a negative effect of the measure. These positive and negative effects reported are considered additional to the primary effect (contribution to competitiveness).

Measure 131: Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on Community legislation

General information about the Measure

Measure 131 was implemented by 11 Member States across 20 regions, with a total budget of € 62.1 million for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.43 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the measure was to help farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on Community legislation. This primarily concerns standards related to animal welfare and environmental legislation. The measure outcomes have been evaluated with help of data on the indicators. The majority of ex-post evaluations could not come to clear conclusions due to a lack of available data.

Figure 3.43 Measure 131 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 131. The relevant output indicator is the number of beneficiaries. The relevant result indicators are the increase in gross value added in supported holdings and the value of agricultural production under recognized standards. The impact indicators relevant for Measure 131 are economic growth and labour productivity.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators have not been measured. Table 3.26 provides information on the relevant output indicator of Measure 131.

Table 3.26 Output indicators for Measure 131

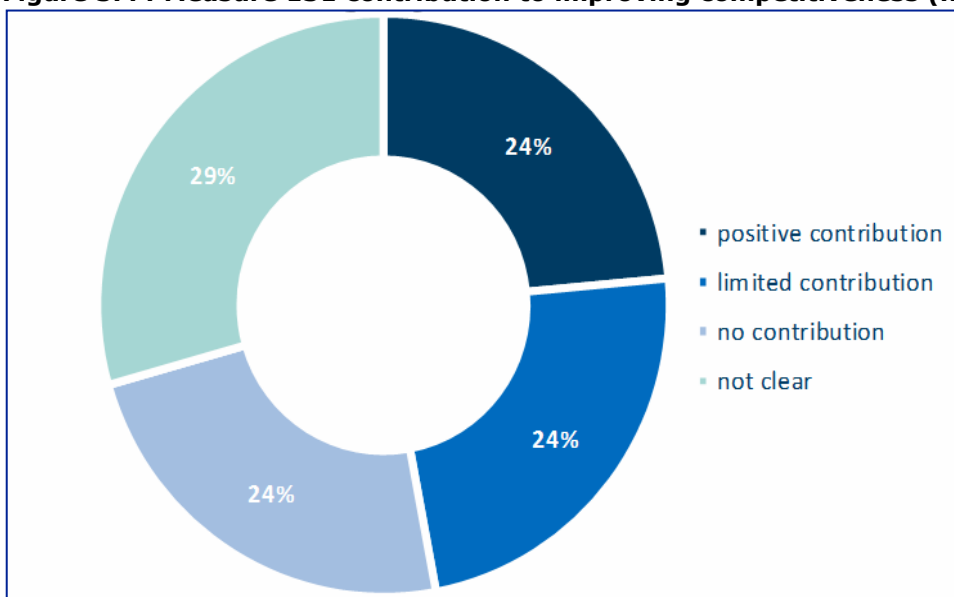
Value	Number of beneficiaries
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	5
Range	1 306 – 9 416
Median	6 274
Average	5 929
Total	29 644

Of all Member States that implemented Measure 131, the number of beneficiaries of the measure was not reported in Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia.

Under Measure 131, a total of 29 644 beneficiaries received support. The total number of people active in farming in the EU in 2013 is 22 210 040. 0.1 % of the people active in farming in the EU received support under Measure 131.

SQ18. How and to what extent has Measure 131 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.44 Measure 131 contribution to improving competitiveness (n=20)



24 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. The measure helped to fulfil legal requirements based on Community legislation. This has increased the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. In two cases, non-compliance with the mandatory regulation limits access to markets. Compliance provides easy access to those markets. Compliance is supported by the measure. The measure thus contributes to competitiveness.

24 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded that the measure's effects on competitiveness of the beneficiaries were limited. The actions implemented under the measure were too limited in 50 % of the cases. The financial support was too small for real impact in other cases.

Support under Measure 131 for electronic ear-markers for livestock in Hungary

In Hungary, the introduction of electronic ear-markers for sheep and goats resulted in extra costs for farmers. Through the support provided under Measure 131, these costs were reduced. As such, the potential market disadvantage of breeders was reduced. However, this has not increased their competitiveness.

24 % of the ex-post evaluation reports reported no contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries. Stricter legislation is seen as a cost in 50 % of the cases. The actions under the measure then only provide compensation and do not stimulate competitiveness.

The financing provided was too low to impact the competitiveness of the beneficiaries in 50 % of the cases.

In 29 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries is not clear. No information has been provided in the ex-post reports because of a lack of relevant data on the measure in 60 % of cases. In one case, the measure was not analysed because the specificity of the actions under the measure is too high.

Conclusion

In order to improve the competitiveness of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 62.1 million has been spent on Measure 131 by 11 Member States across 20 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 29 644 supported beneficiaries was realised. This is a marginal share (0.1 %) of the total amount of active farmers within the EU;
- The result indicators for this measure are the total increase in GVA in supported holdings/enterprises and the total value of agricultural production underrecognised

quality label/standards. The total increase in GVA in supported holdings/enterprises was reported in only 1 of the Member States that implemented the measure. In this case, the increase amounted to € 12.1 million. No general conclusion concerning the increase of GVA in supported holdings/enterprises can be drawn based on this information. The total value of agricultural production under recognised quality labels was reported for European labels/standards and Member State labels/standards. For European labels/standards the total value is € 28.2 million (on average € 3.5 million per Member State). For Member State labels/standards the total value is € 17.6 million (on average € 2.0 million per Member State). The value of agricultural production under European labels/standards is higher than under Member State quality labels/standards.

As presented in Figure 3.44, 24 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. 24 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness were limited and 24 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. The measure helped to fulfil legal requirements based on Community legislation. This has increased the competitiveness of beneficiaries. On the other hand, the measure is seen as compensation for extra cost, and thus does not increase the competitiveness of beneficiaries. The information presented in Figure 3.44 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 20 reports of which 14 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M131, 33 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a limited extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ32. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 131 (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

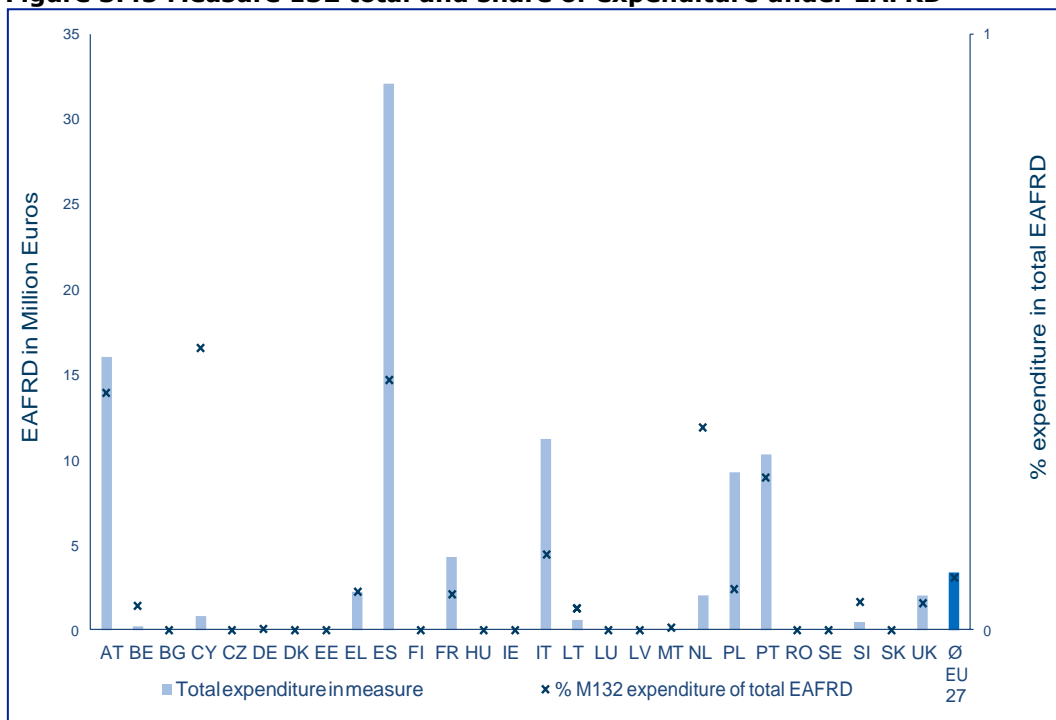
24 % of the evaluations identified additional effects of Measure 131. For the remaining 76 % of the ex-post evaluations, additional effects were not found or not clear. In those evaluations where other effects were identified, **positive effects on environment** are the most prominent (50 %). In one evaluation (25 %), an **improvement in animal welfare** was noted. This is because the measure enables farm holders to comply with EU legislation on animal husbandry.

Measure 132: Supporting farmers who participate in food quality schemes

General information about the Measure

Measure 132 was implemented by 15 Member States across 47 regions, with a total budget of € 91.2 million euros for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.45 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the Measure was to support farmers who participate in food quality schemes. The findings are based on economic output indicators, as well as responses from surveys and beneficiary interviews.

Figure 3.45 Measure 132 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 132. The relevant output indicator is the number of supported farm holdings participating in a food quality scheme. The relevant result indicator for this measure is the value of agricultural production under recognized quality label whereas impact indicators are labour productivity and economic growth.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and impact indicators have not been measured. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicator for this measure.

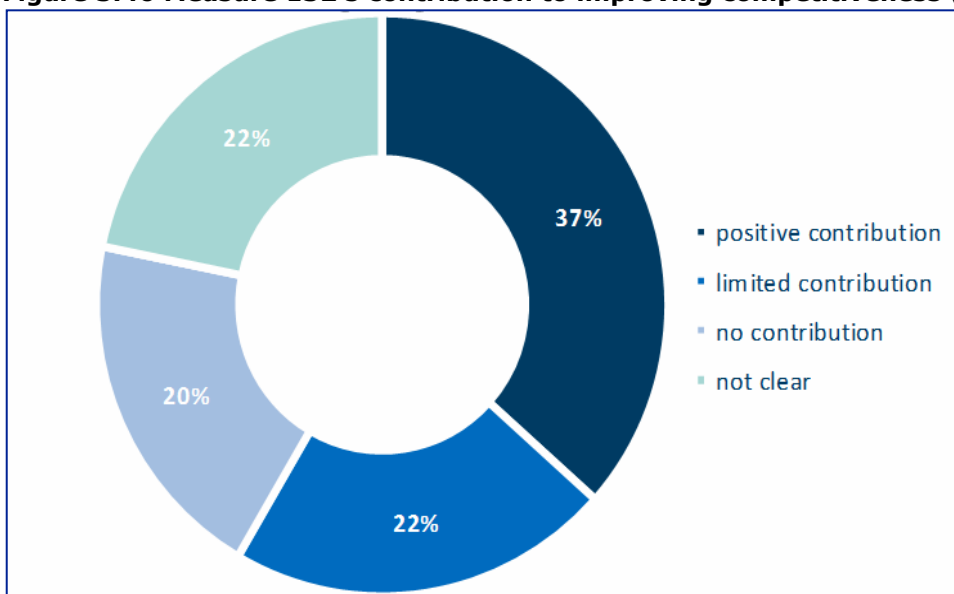
Table 3.27 Output indicators for Measure 132

Value	Number of supported farm holdings participating in a food quality scheme
No of MS that reported on the indicator	15
Range	4 – 219 431
Median	40 276
Average	38 599
Total	578 983

The total number of holdings with livestock in the EU for 2013 was 7 073 000, so the number of farms holding which participated in a quality scheme is about 8 % of the total at EU level.

SQ19: How and to what extent has Measure 132 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.46 Measure 132's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=47)



37 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. The introduction of food quality schemes has stimulated a new manner of production for beneficiaries. These new methods improved the competitiveness through: an increase in product quality (53 %), an increase in GVA (41 %), an increase in production or production efficiency (24 %), or an improvement in sustainable practices (6 %).

22 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded that the measure's effects on competitiveness of the beneficiaries were limited. The ex-post evaluations state various reasons for the limited impact. The low amount of financing available (60 %) is the main reason for a limited contribution to competitiveness. A low amount of beneficiaries (20 %) was a limiting factor in other cases.

20 % of the ex-post evaluation reports reported no contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries. This is attributed to a variety of reasons. The activities that were organised under the measure were not aimed at increasing competitiveness in 33 % of the cases. There was a low number of beneficiaries in 33 % of the Member States or regions that reported no contribution.

The definition of target values and the criteria for access to the support under the measure were not clear in one case (11 %). As a result, there was limited interest in receiving financial support by potential beneficiaries. One ex-post evaluation (11 %) indicated a 100 % deadweight loss. The measure did not contribute to competitiveness in this case.

In 22 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the contribution of the measure to competitiveness of the beneficiaries is not clear. This is mainly because of a lack of available data (40 %). In one case, the ex-post evaluation does not report on the contribution of the measure (10 %). In another case, the contribution of this measure is evaluated under another measure (10 %). Therefore, no clear statement can be made.

Costs might be too high for some companies

As suggested in the ex-post evaluation for Slovenia, participation in quality schemes is linked to additional costs and obligations that are not fully reimbursed by the market, and the contribution provided is rather low in relation to the actual costs, which are required to make a shift, which involves the participation in quality schemes. The evaluation of the Piemonte region indicates the same challenge.

Conclusion

In order to improve the competitiveness of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 91.2 million has been spent on Measure 132 by 15 Member States across 47 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 578 983 supported farm holdings that participated in a food quality scheme. In comparison with the total number of holdings with livestock in the EU, around 8 % of the total holdings has participated in food quality schemes;
- The result indicator for this measure is the total value of agricultural production under recognised quality labels/standards. The total value of agricultural production under recognised quality labels was reported for European labels/standards and Member State labels/standards. For European labels/standards the total value is € 28.2 million (on average € 3.5 million per Member State). For Member State labels/standards the total value is € 17.6 million (on average € 2.0 million per Member State). The value of agricultural production under European labels/standards is higher than under Member State quality labels/standards.

As presented in Figure 3.46, 37 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. 22 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness were limited and 20 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. The introduction of food quality schemes has stimulated a new manner of production for beneficiaries. Results were limited due to low amounts of funding. The information presented in Figure 3.46 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 47 reports of which 37 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M132, 45 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a limited extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ33. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 132 (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

In 42 % of ex-post evaluations, an 'other effect' was identified. The additional effects have overlapping themes: 'Animal Welfare', 'Competitiveness', 'Consumer Well-being', 'Diffusion of Organic farming', 'environment', 'Innovation' and 'Product Quality'.

Effects on the environment (34 %) are most common. These effects largely relate to emission and chemical reduction. The environmental effect was positive in 90 % of reports. A negative impact on environment was reported in 10 % of the evaluations. Overall, the measure had a positive effect on the environment.

21% of the ex-post evaluations referred to **effects on competitiveness**. This is the primary effect of the measure and should not be considered as other effect.

Other less common effects identified in the reports were related to the **Diffusion of Organic Farming** (10 %), Animal Welfare (7 %), Product Quality (7 %), Consumer Well-being (3 %) and Innovation (3 %).

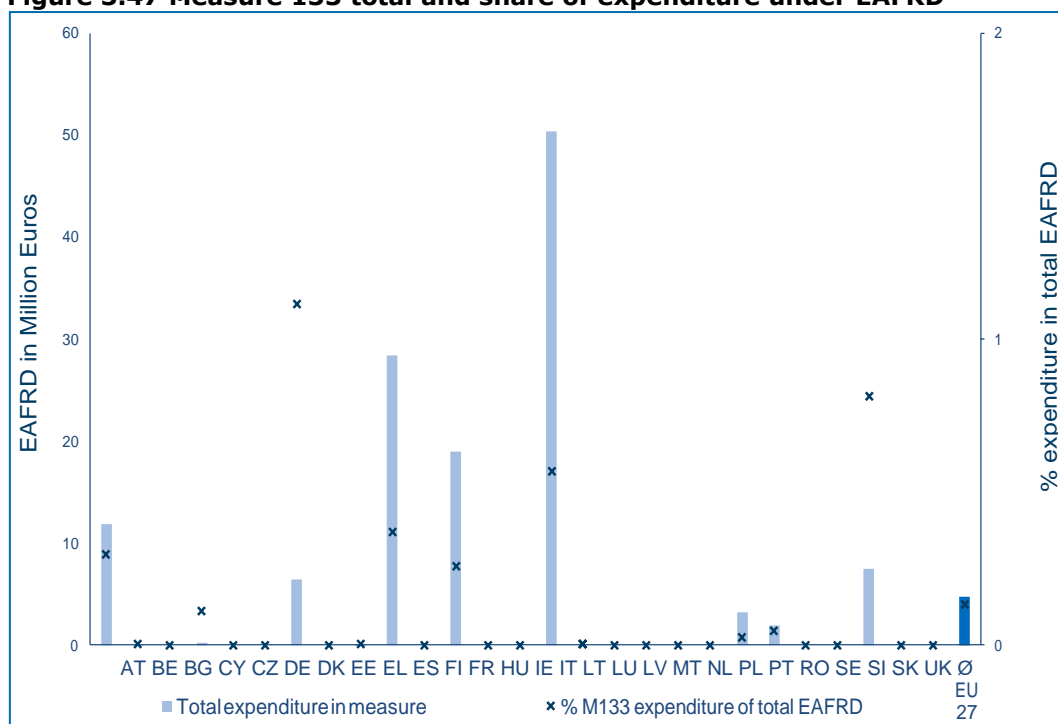
To conclude, the other effects of this measure were positive 96 % of the time, negative 1 % of the time and uncertain 3 % of the time.

Measure 133: Supporting producer groups for information and promotion activities for products under food quality schemes

General information about the measure

Measure 133 was implemented by 16 Member States in 41 regions, with a total budget of € 128.4 million for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.47 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the measure was to support information and promotion activities for products under food quality schemes.

Figure 3.47 Measure 133 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 133. The relevant output indicator is the number of supported actions. The relevant result indicator for this measure is value of agricultural production under recognized quality label whereas impact indicators are labour productivity and economic growth.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and impact indicators have not been measured. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicator for this measure.

Table 3.28 Output indicators for Measure 133

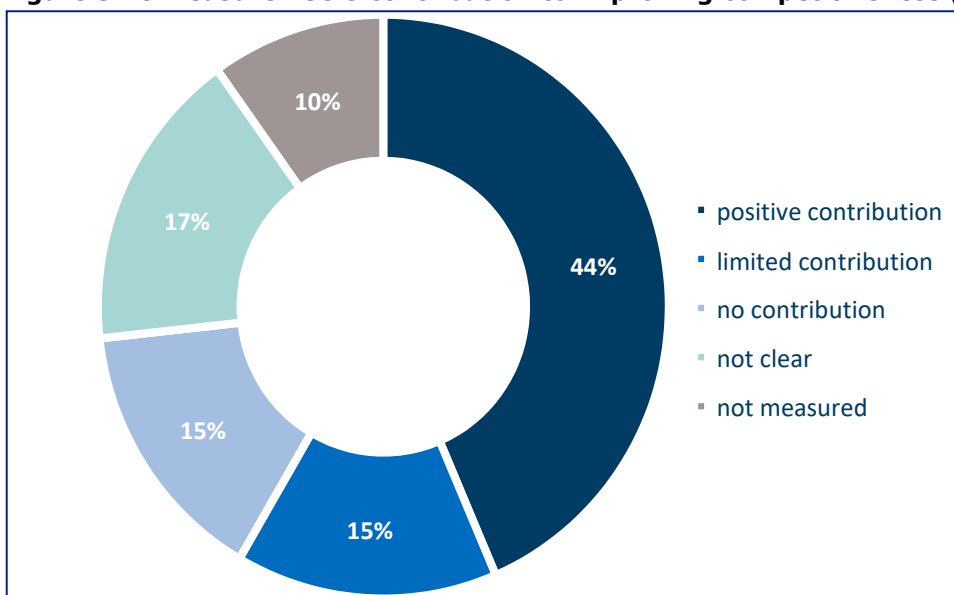
Value	Number of supported actions
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	12
Range	1 – 8 220
Median	50
Average	926
Total	11 112

It is not possible to elaborate a comparison between data collected on the number of supported actions and relevant trends or measurements done at EU level.

SQ19. How and to what extent has Measure 133 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Of the 41 regions, which implemented the measure, 44 % recorded a positive impact on competitiveness, for 15 % it had a limited effect whereas for the 15 % it had no contribution at all. It should also be noted that 27 % of the reports did not provide any information; or the information they provide was unclear. The pie chart below provides a visual representation of the assessment of the measure's impact in the regions that have implemented it.

Figure 3.48 Measure 133's contribution to improving competitiveness (N=41)



For the 35 % of the regions for which a positive assessment was provided, the increase in competitiveness was linked to the promotion of awareness on the features and quality of local products. According to 3 reports, awareness raising and marketing efforts have resulted in the increase of the market share of the product, which in turn promoted the competitiveness of the beneficiary. Activities to stimulate awareness have focused on promoting the high quality and sustainability of local products, which in 2 cases have also allowed to increase the average expenditure of local consumers, and not just the access to new markets and clients.

In 9 ex-post evaluations, the contribution of Measure 133 to the competitiveness of the beneficiaries was limited. In 3 cases that was due to difficulties in the implementation and the fact that the budget was too low. Other reasons for such limited impact (mentioned only once) were the low participation of target producers and the lack of targeted communication tools and approaches for the specific communities of users.

Need of better-tailored communication strategies

Although overall the measure had positive effects in promoting the access of quality- label products to the market, some of the communication approaches were not entirely tailored to the local context and needs of users. As witnessed by the ex-post evaluation for the Veneto region, in Italy, the measure has successfully contributed to enhance the market access of the holdings, but this effect was limited by the scarce targeting ability of the design. Moreover, the impact of the measure on the communication towards the consumers was limited as the supported actions involved only regional and national consumers and only few of them used web and social media as communication channels.

According to 7 reports, the measure has not contributed to any improvement in competitiveness among the target beneficiaries. There are no specific trends explaining why for some regions the measure was ineffective. In 2 cases, simply no result was observable, in 1 case it was due to budget limitations, in 1 case the objective was consolidating and not improving competitiveness.

The contribution of Measure 133 towards improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries has been judged as not clear 7 times, and in 4 cases, no information at all was provided.

Conclusion

In order to improve the competitiveness of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 128.4 million has been spent on Measure 133 by 16 Member States across 41 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 11 112 supported actions;
- The result indicator for this measure is the total value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards. The total value of agricultural production under recognised quality labels was reported for European labels/standards and Member State

labels/standards. For European labels/standards the total value is € 28.2 million (on average € 3.5 million per Member State). For Member State labels/standards the total value is € 17.6 million (on average € 2.0 million per Member State). The value of agricultural production under European labels/standards is higher than under Member State quality labels/standards.

As presented in Figure 3.48, 44 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. 15 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness as limited and 15 % of the evaluation reports concluded that the measure did not contribute. Positive contributions were attributed to an increase in awareness of local produce, which boosted the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. Limited contributions have occurred due to various reasons like a low budget or a low implementation rate. The information presented in Figure 3.48 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 41 reports of which 30 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M133, 45 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a limited extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ33. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 133?

34 % of ex post evaluation reports identified additional effects linked to the implementation of the measure. Within this group, the additional effects have overlapping themes, of which the most common were on animal welfare, competitiveness, diffusion of organic farming, diversification, environment and quality of life.

Effects on the environment are most common, being 32 % of the additional identified effect. This effect was frequently caused by the response to different quality schemes. The environmental effect was positive in 67 % of the reports. Unclassifiable and uncertain other effects account for 33 % of the evaluations. Overall, the measure **had a positive effect on the environment**.

Other common effects identified in the reports were as follows: 26 % of the ex-post evaluations referred to an **effect on competitiveness**. This is the primary effect of the measure and should not be considered as other effect. In addition, 16 % of the ex-post evaluations referred to an **effect on diversification**, largely caused by a growing tourist sector. Improvement occurred in all Member States and regions. Finally, other less common effects identified in the reports are related to an improvement in quality of life (11 %), animal welfare (11 %) and the diffusion of organic farming (5 %).

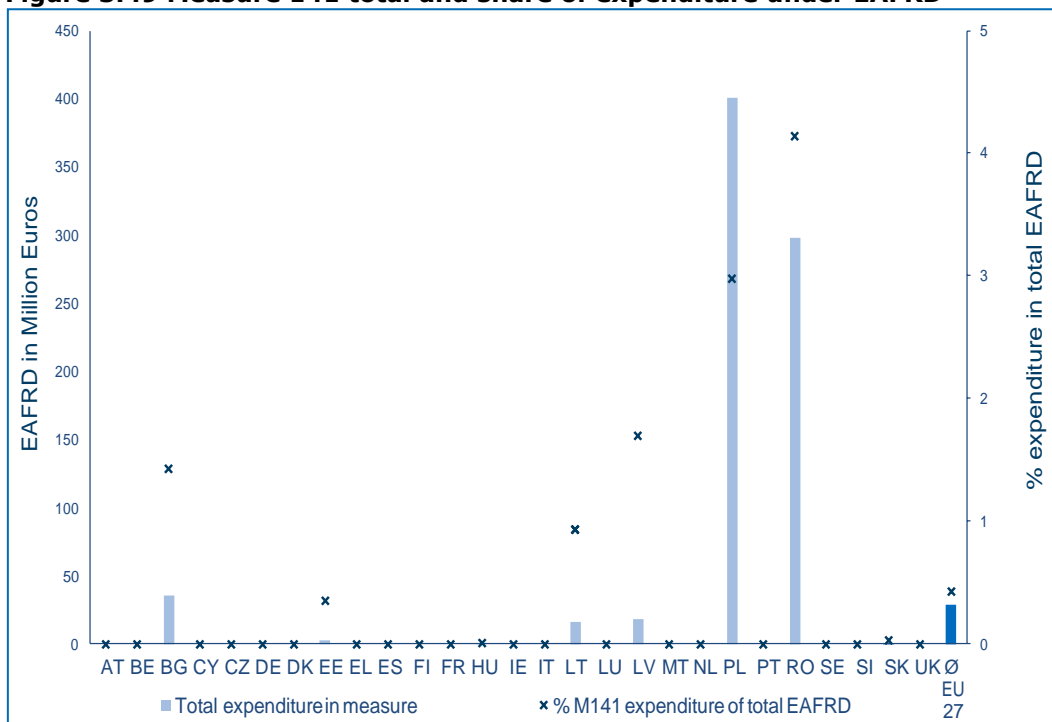
To conclude, the identified additional effects of this measure were positive 84 % of the time, negative 14 % of the time and uncertain 17 % of the time.

Measure 141: Supporting semi-subsistence agricultural holdings undergoing restructuring

General information about the measure

Measure 141 was implemented by 8 Member States across 8 regions, with a total budget of € 771.6 million for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.49 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The main aim of the measure was to support restructuring processes in semi-subsistence agricultural holdings.

Figure 3.49 Measure 141 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 141. The relevant output indicator is the number of semi-subsistence farm holdings supported. The relevant result indicator is the number of farms entering the market. The impact indicators relevant for Measure 141 are economic growth and labour productivity.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators are not available for this measure. Table 3.29 provides information on the relevant output indicators of Measure 141.

Table 3.29 Output indicators for Measure 141

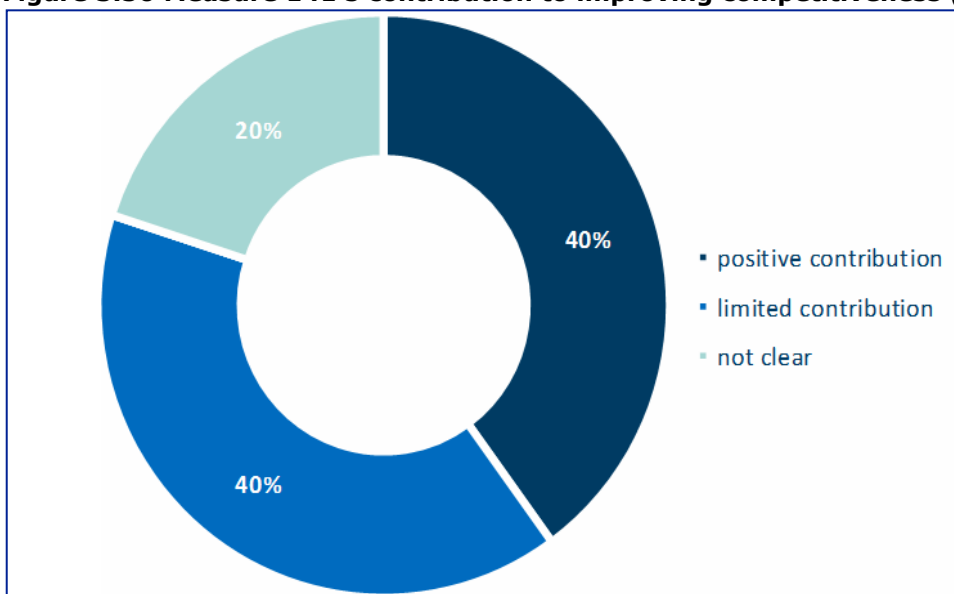
Value	Number of semi-subsistence farm holdings supported
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	4
Range	1 462 – 52 768
Median	5 911
Average	16 513
Total	66 051

Out of the Member States that implemented the measure, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia did not provide information on the number of semi-subsistence farm holdings supported.

Under Measure 141, 66 051 semi-subsistence farm holdings were supported.

SQ19. How and to what extent has Measure 141 contributed to improving competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.50 Measure 141's contribution to improving competitiveness (N=5)



According to 40 % of the ex-post evaluation reports, the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. In one case (50 %), supporting semi-subsistence holdings undergoing restructuring has led to increases in labour productivity being 64 % above target. In another case (50 %), the measure contributed to increasing competitiveness through the introduction of new products and increasing GVA.

Successful support for beekeeping in Slovakia

The implementation of the measure in Slovakia was successful. The introduction of new products has resulted in an increase in competitiveness of the beneficiaries in general. More specifically, support was effective in focused fields. One of these fields is beekeeping. In Slovakia, many beekeepers managed to increase their production with help of support under Measure 141. The health of bee colonies and the number of beehives increased for those farms that received support under Measure 141. Also, farmers were able to invest in new technology with the support under the measure. This positive impact was also registered in other parts of the agricultural sector.⁷²

On the other hand, 40 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness were limited. In one case (50 %), the measure was stated to have a limited effect due to the small number of projects. In another case (50 %), the ex-post evaluation attributed the limited effect to competitiveness to the perception of the measure being a social tool instead of an economic one.

Finally, 20 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not clearly identify to what extent the measure contributed to on competitiveness, all due to the lack of information.

Conclusion

In order to improve the competitiveness of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 772 million has been spent on Measure 141 by 8 Member States across 8 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of number of semi-subsistence farm holdings supported of 66 051;
- A result indicator of number of new farms entering the market of 3 585. This is less than half of the only other measure that employed this result indicator (M142), making this measure somewhat less successful.

⁷²

Slovakia.

As presented in Figure 3.50, 40 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries. 40 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on competitiveness were limited and 20 % of the evaluation reports did not give a clear conclusion.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M141, 50% stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a medium extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness very plausible.

SQ33. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 141?

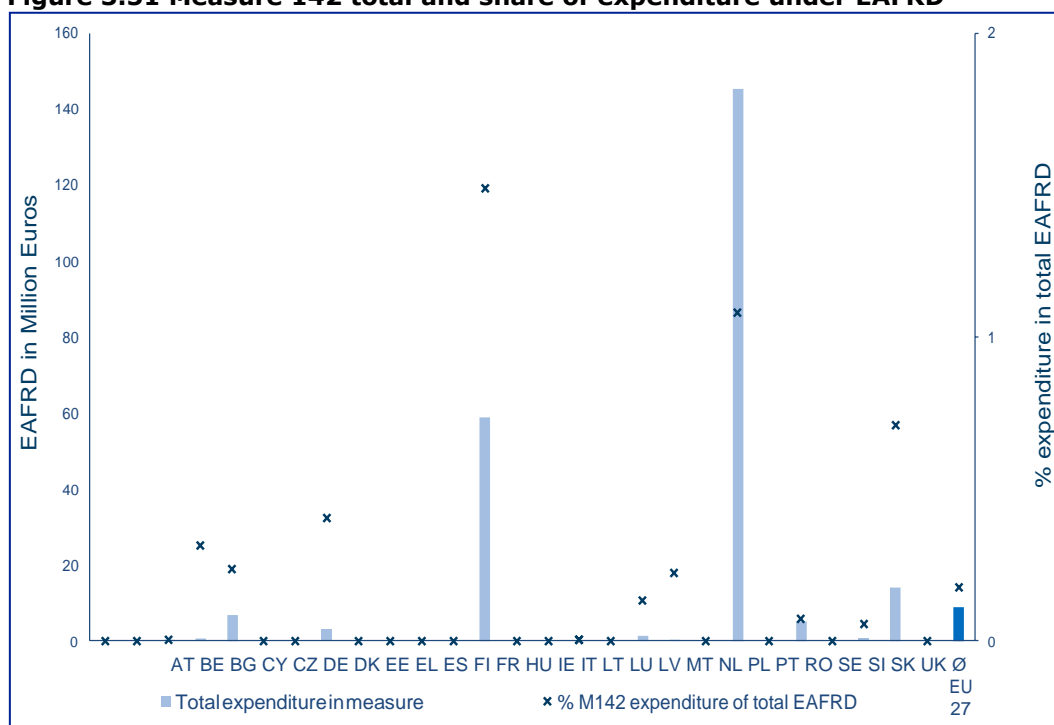
In 80 % of the reports, other effects were reported. These concerned a higher competitiveness and new higher value products and additionally positive effects on capacity building and income of the farms. Also, positive social effects were reported in some cases the measure was mainly considered as a social tool. Deadweight loss effect was mentioned once as a negative effect of the measure.

Measure 142: Supporting setting up of producer groups

General information about this measure

Measure 142 was implemented by 11 Member States or regions with total budget of € 235 million for all Member States and regions. The aim of this measure was to improve the market efficiency of the agricultural sector by encouraging and supporting the setting up of Producer Groups.

Figure 3.51 Measure 142 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 142. The relevant output indicators are the number of supported producer groups and the annual turnover of supported producer groups. The relevant result indicators are the number of farms entering the market and the gross value added in supported holdings. The impact indicators relevant for Measure 142 are labour productivity and economic growth.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators are not available for this measure. Table 3.30 provides information on the relevant output indicators of Measure 142.

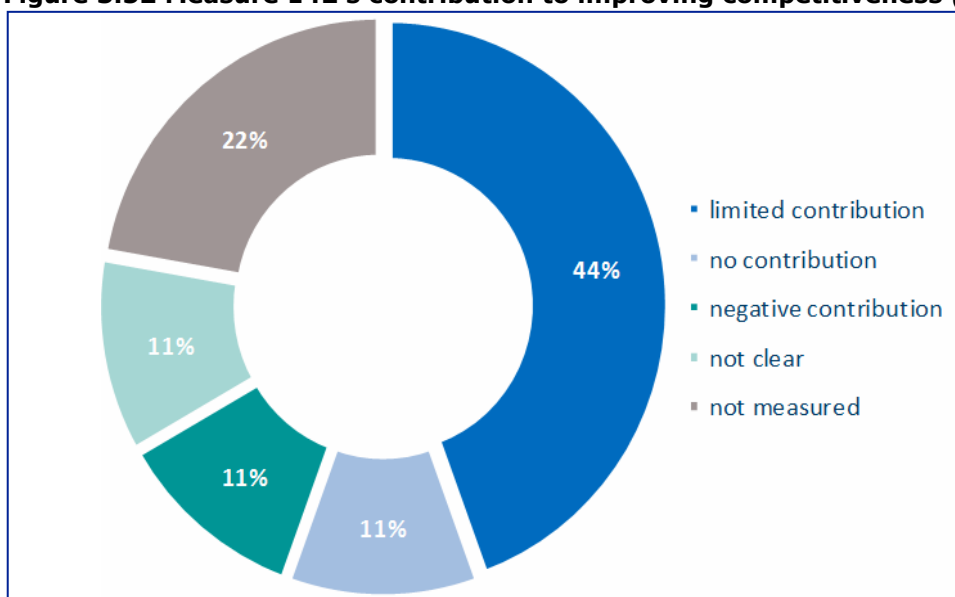
Table 3.30 Output indicators for Measure 142

Value	Number of supported producer groups	Annual turnover of supported producer groups (in millions of euros)
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	10	10
Range	1 – 1 389	2 – 6 532
Median	16	57
Average	177	1 047
Total	1 766	10 471

In 2013, the total annual turnover of supported producer groups represents 6 % of the total GVA of agriculture in the European Union.

SQ20. How and to what extent has Measure 142 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.52 Measure 142's contribution to improving competitiveness (N=11)



The majority of the reports (44 %) found that the impact of this measure on improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries is limited. On one hand, increased cooperation through producer groups resulted in larger production volumes, more unified quality, cheaper input material and higher sales prices. Based on this, producer groups fulfilled a role in increasing the competitiveness of producers and in stabilising their market position. On the other hand, however, the support was mainly allocated for the financing of operational costs instead of to increase competitiveness.

In 22 % of the ex-post evaluation reports (Cyprus and Latvia), the measure was not evaluated. Lack of data was the main reason for the absence of an evaluation.

44 % of the ex-post evaluation reports (Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Romania) indicated a limited effect of the measure on competitiveness. Romania's report concludes that less targets were addressed than initially planned. Poland's report mentions that the beneficiaries of a number of groups recorded declines in key indicators about their competitive potential. Hungary's report describes that the improved coordination due to the installation of producer groups resulted in larger production volumes, more unified quality, cheaper input material and

higher sales prices. Based on this, producer groups fulfilled a role in increasing the competitiveness of producers and in stabilising their market position. However, the report also states that the supported producer groups mainly used the support to finance their operational costs instead of to increase their competitiveness.

Producer groups in Hungary

The funding Hungary received under the EAFRD programme for Measure 142 contributed to the setting up of 204 new producer groups. In 2015, Hungarian producers participating in producer groups reached a share of almost 10 % of Hungary's agricultural market income. On one hand, producer groups fulfilled a role in increasing the competitiveness of producers and in stabilising their market position. The EAFRD programme provided 12 to 13 thousands Hungarian producers with better access to the relevant markets. In addition, the formation of producer groups resulted in larger production volumes, unified quality, cheaper input material and higher sales prices. It also created the opportunity for young farmers to join. These positive results follow from improved coordination stimulated by the introduction of producer groups. On the other hand, however, supported producer groups mostly used the support they received to finance their operational costs instead of the improvement of their competitiveness. A learning point from the implementation of Measure 142 in Hungary is to better allocate the funding to increase competitiveness to a larger extent.

There was no significant change as regards to the impact of this measure on competitiveness in 11 % of the evaluations (Malta). The reason for this is that the uptake of the measure was low.

In 11 % of the ex-post evaluation reports (Slovenia) the measure's effect on competitiveness is ambiguous. This mixed result stems from the different income effects found for different supported producer groups.

11 % of the ex-post evaluations (Slovakia) found a negative effect of the measure's impact on competitiveness. This conclusion followed from the fact that the measure had a negative effect on GVA, productivity, and employment.

SQ34. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 142 (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

44 % of the ex-post evaluations (Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia) reported other effects related to the implementation of this measure. These effects include: the formation of large cooperatives consisting of multiple producer groups that are active in the same sector, increased bargaining power of beneficiaries, decreased bargaining power of non-beneficiaries and better understanding of the regulatory framework. This measure is directly linked to Measure 123 and indirectly to Measures 111, 112, 113, 121, 122, 123, 125 and 132.

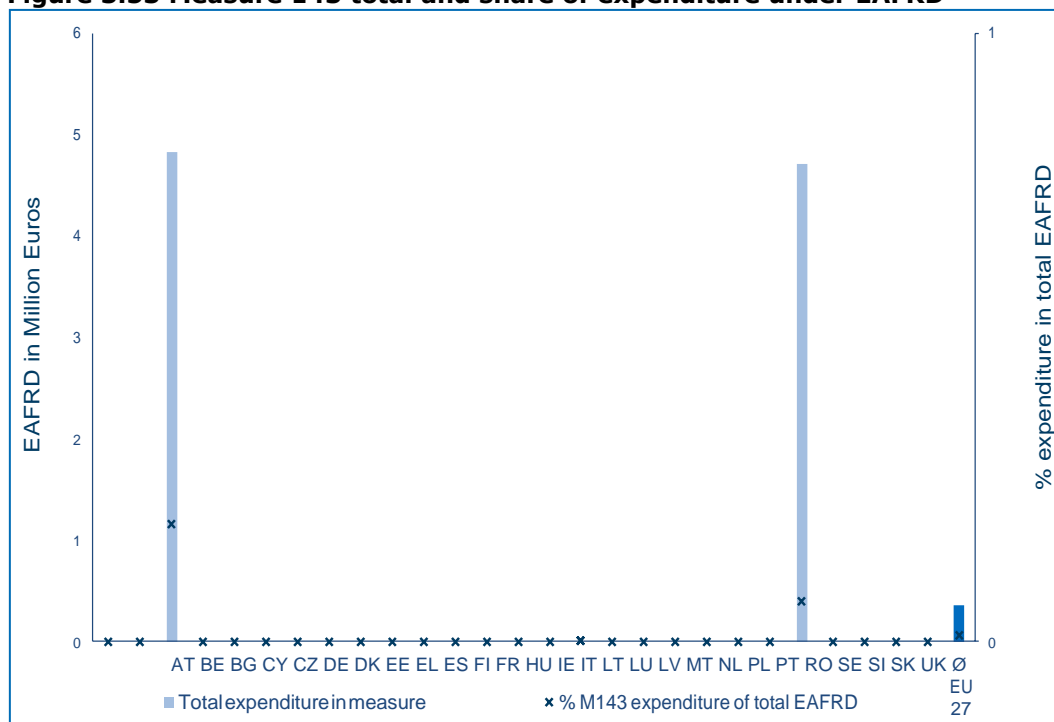
Measure 143: Provision of farm advisory and extension services in Bulgaria and Romania

General information about the measure

Measure 143 was implemented by 2 Member States and had a total budget of € 10 million. The aim of this measure was to assist farmers in the selection of the most appropriate agri-environment packages for their farm.

The ex-post evaluation for the RDP of Bulgaria has not been completed as of yet. The discussion below concerns the implementation in Romania only.

Figure 3.53 Measure 143 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



SQ20. How and to what extent has Measure 143 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

The ex-post evaluation report for Romania found a limited contribution of the measure to economic growth and labour productivity in the primary sector, food industry and forestry. Based on the relation between economic growth and labour productivity on one hand and competitiveness on the other hand, the report concludes that the measure has a limited impact on competitiveness.

SQ34. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 143?

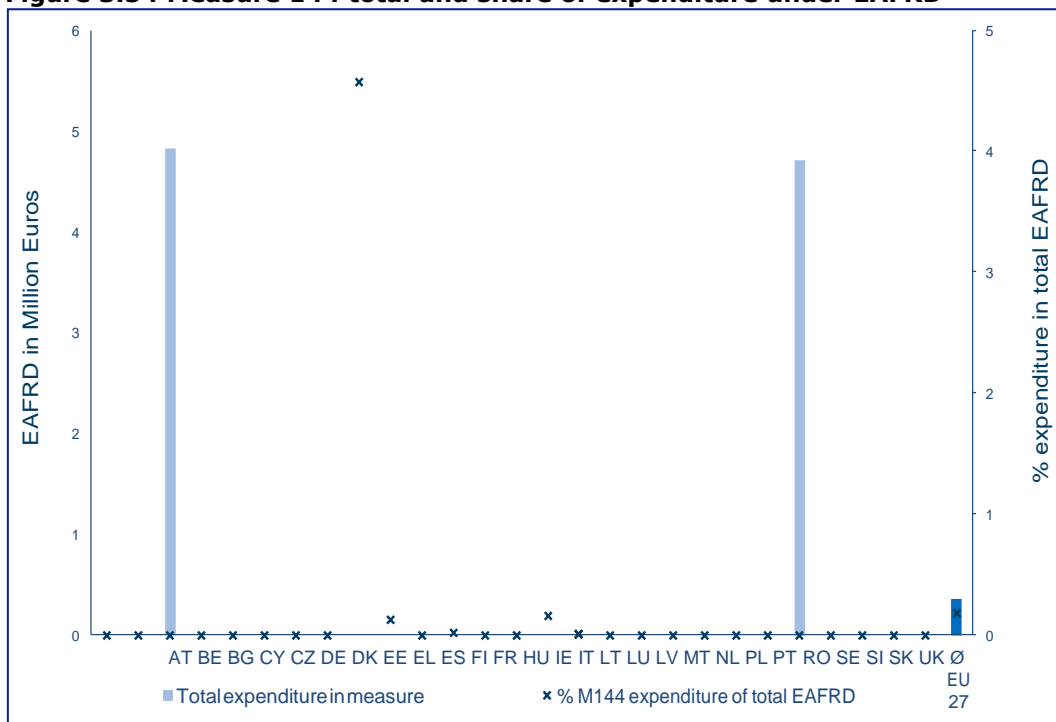
Other effects of this measure reported in the ex-post evaluation are the improvement of management capacity, increased awareness and knowledge of EU standards, the introduction of new techniques, increased administrative capacity and increased knowledge sharing (also from beneficiaries to non-beneficiaries).

Measure 144: Holdings undergoing restructuring due to a reform of a common market organisation

General information about the measure

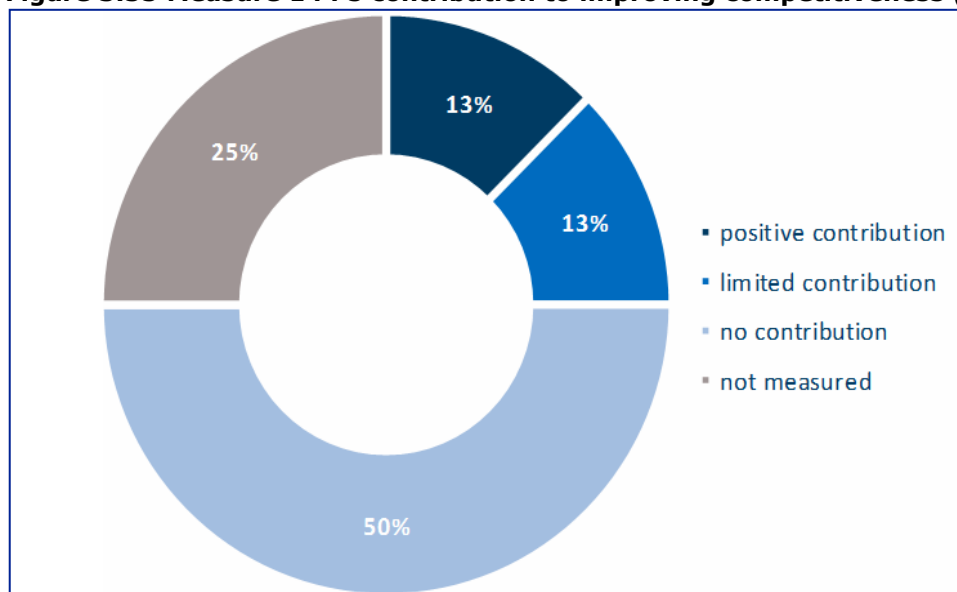
Measure 144 was implemented by 5 Member States across 11 different regions, with total budget of € 180.8 million for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.54 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure. The aim of the measure was to provide support for tobacco farms undergoing restructuring following the reform of the common market organisation through the implementation of business plans.

Figure 3.54 Measure 144 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



SQ20. How and to what extent has Measure 144 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.55 Measure 144's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=11)



According to 13 % of the reports, the measure's contribution to competitiveness was positive. This refers to one report, which while establishing that the business plans contributed to a restructuring that improved competitiveness does not give further information as to how this was achieved.

On the other hand, 13 % of the reports found that the measure's contribution to competitiveness was limited. The measure's funding was low and restricted to a limited geographical area, which hampered the magnitude of the effects.

Finally, 50 % of the reports found that this measure did not contribute to the beneficiaries' competitiveness. This is explained in 50 % of the cases by the objective of the measure. While it provided income support to holdings in the tobacco sector, it did not actually increase

competitiveness. The other 25 % of the reports claimed competitiveness was not measured, not because data was not available but because it was not the primary objective of the measure.

Conclusion

The total level of expenditure under M144 was of € 180.8 million, spent on supporting holdings undergoing restructuring due to a reform of a common market organisation. This budget was spent by 5 Member States in 11 regions. The overall results were as follows:

As presented in Figure 3.55, 13 % of the reports found that the measure had a positive contribution to competitiveness, 13 % found that the contribution was limited, and 50 % found that there was no contribution. The information is based on the 6 ex-post evaluation reports that reported on the contribution of the measure, out of the 8 total reports.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M144, 17 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to an improved competitiveness to a very limited extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to competitiveness plausible.

SQ34. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 144?

The reports did not identify any other effects of the implementations of Measure 144.

3.3 Axis II Measures-related questions

In this chapter, we present the synthesis of measures under Axis II. Prior to providing the summary of information per measure, we show quantification of result indicators for Axis II.

Result indicators for Axis II

Under the EAFRD Regulation, it is possible to apply different measures of Axis II on the same area. In the calculation of the indicators, this can lead to multiple counts of the corresponding area. Multiple counts are not recognizable in retrospect and therefore cannot be ruled out in the following. In the case of Measure 214, agri-environmental measures, the same problem exists at the level of the various possible actions.

Below is a compilation of Axis II Result Indicators based on the data from RDP annual reports reported by Member States.

Table 3.31 Result Indicator R.6: Area under successful land management (ha) contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment⁷³

R.6	Value	Biodiversity	Water quality	Climate change	Soil quality	Marginalisation
211/212 ⁷⁴	Number of MS	25	25	25	25	25
	Range	0 to 4 169 931	0 to 2 880 152	0 to 2 880 152	0 to 2 885 322	0 to 9 016 480
	Median	154 210	0	0	0	1 554 510
	Average	754975	297859	295922	419367	2325815
	Total	18 874 369	7 446 483	7 398 054	10 484 168	58 145 373

⁷³ Number of MS refers to number of Member States with EAFRD expenditure and reported Result Indicator R.6.

⁷⁴ The data from RDP annual reports reported by Member States combined the Result Indicator R.6 for the measures 211 and 212.

R.6	Value	Biodiversit y	Water quality	Climate change	Soil quality	Marginali sation
213⁷⁵ – Natura 2000	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				2 (EE, IE)	
	Number of MS⁷⁶	12	12	12	12	12
	Range	638 to 285 473	0 to 285 473	0 to 285 473	0 to 285 473	0 to 285 473
	Median	43 101	20 431	3 937	20 431	20 431
	Average	93 472	62 535	42 728	56 028	43 959
	Total	1 121 667	750 425	512 735	672 342	527 511
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				1 (AT)	
213⁷⁷ – Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/E C	MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator				1 (FR)	
	Number of MS⁷⁸	2	2	2	2	2
	Range	32 789 to 81 480	0 to 81 480	0 to 81 480	0 to 81 480	0 to 81 480
	Total	114 269	81 480	81 480	81 480	81 480
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				None	
214	Number of MS	27	27	27	27	27
	Range	479 to 7 178 918	0 to 6 398 833	0 to 4 170 330	0 to 5 547 365	0 to 5 153 455
	Median	485 436	554 047	275 259	526 314	47 290
	Average	1 573 826	1 323 939	943 703	1 335 895	724 446
	Total	42 493 300	35 746 349	25 479 981	36 069 162	19 560 033
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				None	
215	Number of MS	5	5	5	5	5
	Range	136 to 473 912	0 to 28 410	0 to 136	0 to 27 201	0 to 8 106
	Median	246 612	0	0	0	27
	Average	231 753	5 682	27	5 440	2 047
	Total	1 158 766	28 410	136	27 201	10 234
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				6 (AT, EE, HU, RO, SE, UK)	
216	Number of MS	13	13	13	13	13
	Range	68 to 420 437	0 to 113 161	0 to 107 662	0 to 606 784	0 to 549 766
	Median	3 040	657	0	0	0

⁷⁵ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

⁷⁶ 1 MS reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

⁷⁷ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

⁷⁸ Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC in Measure 213 were only implemented in two MS (DE, IT), hence the calculation of median and average is not possible. Other MS used Measure 213 exclusively to implemented payments under Natura 2000.

R.6	Value	Biodiversit y	Water quality	Climate change	Soil quality	Marginali sation
221	Average	50 581	25 219	22 263	57 520	51 628
	Total	657 550	327 842	289 421	747 754	671 166
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				3 (EE, NL, SE)	
	Number of MS	18	18	18	18	18
	Range	0 to 205 503	0 to 170 109	0 to 280 248	0 to 145 426	0 to 216 868
	Median	1 384	377	2 307	343	0
	Average	26 898	21 625	34 117	21 658	15 510
	Total	484 172	389 244	614 110	389 840	279 175
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				2 (EE, FI)	
	MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator				1 (CY)	
222	Number of MS⁷⁹	5	5	5	5	5
	Range	19 to 578	0 to 705	24 to 490	0 to 746	0 to 639
	Median	222	222	222	222	0
	Average	266	287	210	295	225
	Total	1 329	1 437	1 050	1 477	1 125
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				None	
	MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator				1 (PL)	
223	Number of MS⁸⁰	8	8	8	8	8
	Range	1 to 59 969	2 to 58 433	0 to 59 933	2 to 60 353	0 to 11 817
	Median	1 932	358	5 866	3 509	717
	Average	10 003	9 358	11 504	11 199	3 289
	Total	80 024	74 865	92 034	89 588	26 313
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				2 (FR, LV)	
	MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator				1 (PL)	
224	Number of MS⁸¹	11	11	11	11	11
	Range	0 to 75 432	0 to 380 642	0 to 38 064	0 to 40 661	0 to 39 365
	Median	12 753	0	0	0	0
	Average	22 340	7 536	7 170	8 324	7 493
	Total	245 736	82 899	78 875	91 561	82 418
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				None	
	MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator				1 (FR)	

⁷⁹ 1 MS reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

⁸⁰ 1 MS reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

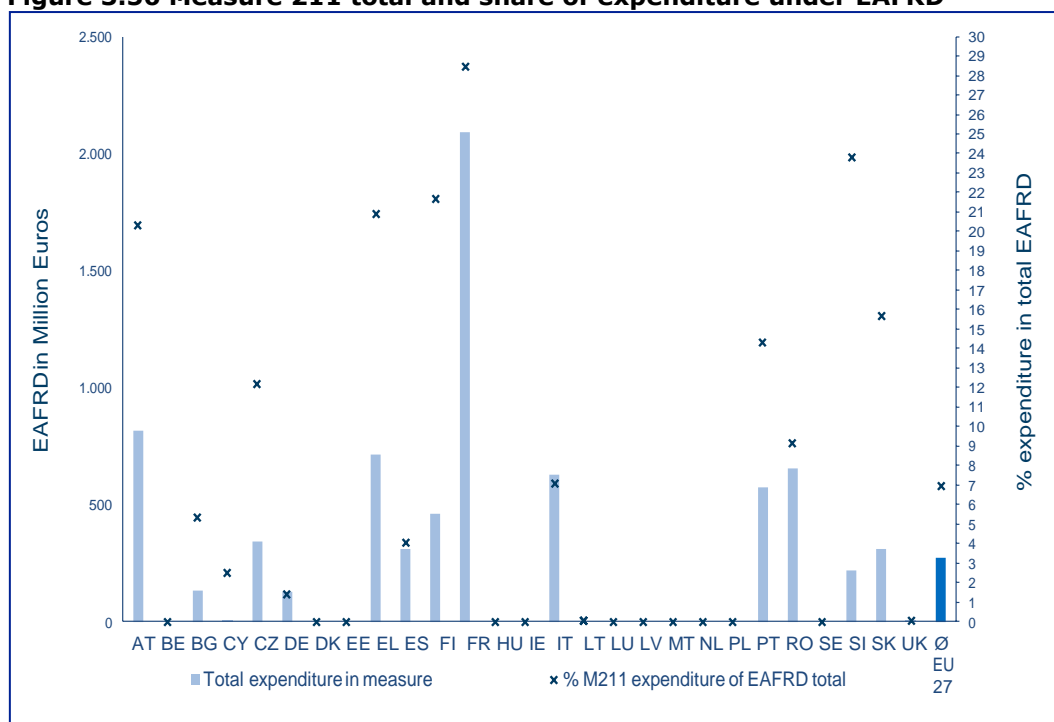
R.6	Value	Biodiversity	Water quality	Climate change	Soil quality	Marginalisation
225	Number of MS	12	12	12	12	12
	Range	0 to 137 394	0 to 155 318	0 to 155 318	0 to 155 318	0 to 114 459
	Median	22 992	5 228	11 237	6 271	1 792
	Average	35 329	24 628	33 991	28 291	17 291
	Total	423 942	295 540	407 898	339 495	207 486
226	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				1 (CY)	
	Number of MS	13	13	13	13	13
	Range	0 to 5 777 739	0 to 2 490 617	0 to 5 525 750	0 to 5 443 987	0 to 1 382 176
	Median	53 910	7 031	138 476	83 314	18 733
	Average	737 271	309 353	570 035	552 454	201 775
227	Total	9 584 524	4 021 587	7 410 452	7 181 896	2 623 069
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				3 (CZ, DK, LV)	
	Number of MS⁸²	11	11	11	11	11
	Range	72 to 2 377 000	0 to 1 045 912	0 to 1 170 971	0 to 1 627 556	0 to 411 394
	Median	22 069	3 452	3 452	1 837	0
	Average	289 530	182 839	184 506	235 476	48 762
	Total	3 184 830	2 011 232	2 029 566	2 590 237	536 379
	MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator				2 (CY, CZ)	
	MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator				1 (LU)	

Measure 211: Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain area

General information about the measure

The Measure 211 was implemented in 15 Member States in a total of 60 regions, with a total budget of € 7 391.1 million for all Member States and regions. The main objective of the measure was to compensate farmers for the additional costs and income losses arising from the difficulties of agricultural production in mountain areas. The aim is to maintain the countryside through continual use of agricultural land and to promote the systems of sustainable agricultural production, thereby supporting the improvement of the environment. These findings were argued primarily through survey results, case studies, and reached target areas.

Figure 3.56 Measure 211 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 211. The relevant output indicators are the number of hectares supported and Number of holdings supported. The relevant result indicator for this measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.32 Output indicators for Measure 211

Value	No of hectares supported (ha)	No of holdings supported
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	16	16
Range	6 500 – 3 074 894	3 458 – 360 993
Median	712 802	46 303
Average	1 003 253	65 604
Total	16 052 054	1 049 665

One Member State that implemented the measure did not report on the output indicators. Two Member States/regions reported on M211 together with M212, despite the fact that no expenditure was reported on M211.

With about 16 million hectares of arable land, the measure covers 57 % of the UAA in the less-favoured mountain areas of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 57 % of the UAA in mountainous LFAs in the EU as a whole⁸³. In the corresponding Member

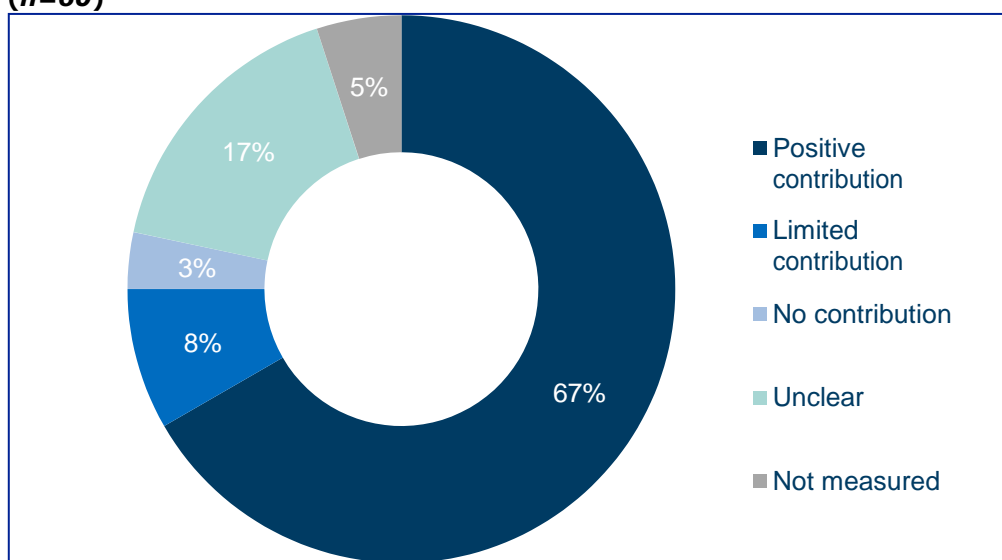
⁸³ The areas of LFAs refer to 2005 data (2007 in BG, 2008 in RO), all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

States, 11 % of holdings took part in the measure, which translates to an EU-wide share of 10 %.

In the evaluation of the measure within the framework of the ex post reports, additional indicators were used to show financial, ecological and social effects. For instance, the share of total farm income accounted for by the support or the extent to which the measure was used in connection with agri-environmental measures and organic farming was shown.

SQ21. How and to what extent has Measure 211 contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation?

Figure 3.57 Measure 211's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=60)



In the majority (67 %) of the ex-post evaluation reports, it was concluded that the measure's effects on improving the environmental situation are positive. In addition to the generally positive environmental impact of Measure 211, most of the experts have expressed the advantageous impact by means of extensive agricultural activities taking natural conservation into account. Agriculturally maintained alpine cultures are perceived important for the promotion of biodiversity, protection against soil erosion and to keep HNV areas in cultivation. Furthermore, the preservation of traditional as well as the development of sustainable farming techniques are supported.

It was concluded in 8 % of the ex-post evaluations that the measure's effects on improving the environmental situation is limited. Agricultural use generally exerts pressure on various resources (which ought to be protected), but so far only a reduction in livestock stocking has been taken into account in the support scheme. There also have not yet been any incentives for change towards more eco-friendly technologies. Although the main priority for measures under Axis II was to improve the environment and ecosystems, the evidence presented indicates that there would have been alternative positive outcomes for the environment if the measure had not taken place. Overall, this results in a difficulty to determine environmental impact.

It was stated in 3 % of the ex-post evaluation reports that there was no contribution of the measure improving the environmental situation.

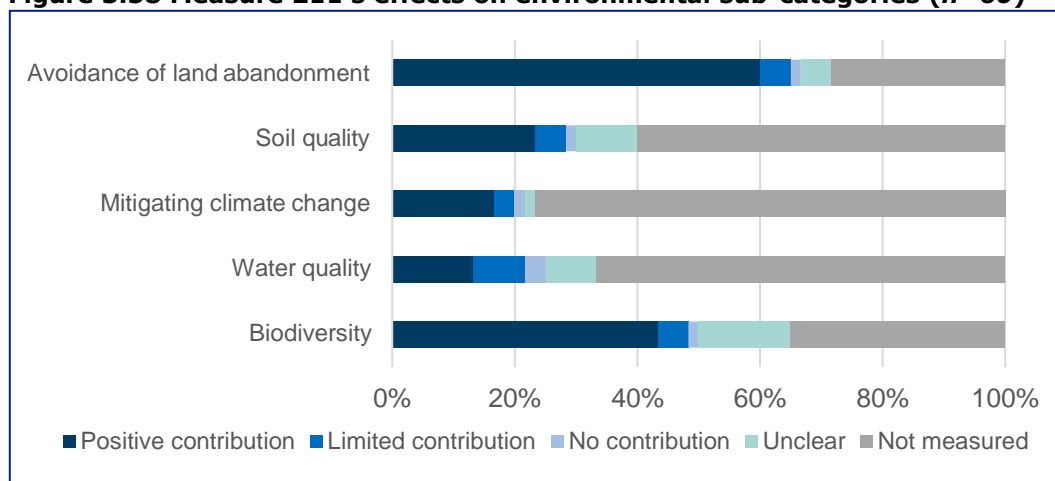
In 5 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was not clearly identified to what extent the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation. The measure promoted production systems and agricultural territories, which are connected to high species and habitat diversities. Positive effects can evolve through extensive resource-efficient management of the respective areas. Measure 211 prevents especially steep and/or species rich grasslands from land abandonment. However, the measure does not include any direct environmental regulations beyond cross-compliance. Differences in management intensities between areas are mainly due to the structures of the local agricultural holdings: livestock numbers in disadvantaged areas are lower than in non-disadvantaged areas, but expenditure on fertilizers per hectare of arable land in disadvantaged areas was almost twice as high as in non-disadvantaged areas. Measure 211 especially focuses on the preservation of grasslands, which have lower negative environmental

effects in comparison with agricultural managed land. However, the measure itself does not include direct regulations concerning land management, hence the effect is regarded as indirect at best.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

The following section deals with the environmental aspects of biodiversity, water quality, combating climate change, soil quality and land use tasks. The positive aspects mentioned are particularly taken into account in this context, further classifications are not considered, or only to a limited extent.

Figure 3.58 Measure 211's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=60)



In about half of the member states and regions (43 %), which programmed Measure 211, the impact on biodiversity was assessed as being positive. Around 62 % of these positive evaluations used the rather indirect effect of sustaining management as an argument. It was pointed out that the habitats and species societies resulting from (long-time) management are maintained and that they would be lost in the event of succession due to the abandonment of land use. Extensive and/or traditional farming techniques, which are often used in less-favoured mountain areas, also contribute more to the sustainable ecological use of the land. 15 % of the positive evaluations were also attributed to the proportions of HNV or Natura 2000 areas covered by the support.

In 15 % of all evaluations of Measure 211, the contribution to biodiversity was not directly apparent, which was increasingly due to the more indirect effects or the interaction with other measures.

The assessment of the measure in terms of its contribution to biodiversity was not examined in depth in a good third of the reports (35 %).

In only a few of the reports, the impact of the measure on the quality of water was assessed as positive or limited (13 % and 8 % respectively), which was in most cases due to extensive management. However, the impact of the measure on water quality was not examined in depth in 67 % of the ex-post reports.

In 17 % of all reports dealing with Measure 211, positive aspects towards mitigation of climate change were highlighted. However, to a large part (60 %) this was justified in a very general way. In individual cases, attention was paid to maintaining the carbon storage function of grassland (20 %).

The contribution of the measure to mitigation and adaptation to climate change was not looked at in detail in most of the ex-post reports (77 %).

Approximately one quarter of the reports, (23 %) acknowledge Measure 211 as having a positive effect on soil quality, but the reasons given are mostly very general. It sometimes is stated that the support has reached a relatively high proportion of areas at risk of erosion. However, 60 % of the reports do not address the impact of the measure on soil quality.

A positive contribution to the prevention of land abandonment in less-favoured areas is reported in 60 % of the reports of Measure 211. In particular, the compensatory payments under the measure were identified by the evaluators as an important argument in favour of maintaining management (36 %). Almost as often, it has been pointed out that preventing land abandonment is the core objective of the measure (31 %) and other (environmental) factors are of secondary importance.

The contribution of the measure was not assessed in 28 % of the evaluations.

Conclusion

In order to compensate farmers for difficulties of agricultural production in mountain areas, 15 Member States implemented Measure 211, covering 60 regions and spending a total budget of € 7 391.1 million. On average, Member States invested 7 % of their total EAFRD expenditure in Measure 211, with wide variations. This has resulted in:

- An output of 1 049 665 supported farm holdings and 16 052 054 hectares covered (one Member State implementing the measure did not report the output indicators). This amounts to 57.4 % of the UAA in the less-favoured mountain areas of the Member States that have offered the measure and to 56.7 % of the UAA in mountainous LFAs in the EU as a whole⁸⁴. In the corresponding Member States, 11.1 % of holdings took part in the measure, which translates to an EU-wide share of 9.7 %;
- Result indicators for this measure are the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment. The respective results are described below. See also the result indicator tables for Axis II. The data from RDP annual reports reported by Member States combined the Result Indicator R.6 for both Measures 211 and 212 from the 25 Member States reporting on them;
- In several/some ex-post evaluation reports, additional indicators were used to show financial, ecological and social effects.

General:

In 67 % of the ex-post evaluations, the general contribution of Measure 211 to improving the environment was assessed as positive, 8 % stated a limited effect and 3 % saw no contribution. 17 % of the ex-post evaluation reports could not clearly identify a contribution. The positive effects connected to this measure were mainly attributed to the fact that agriculturally maintained alpine cultures are regarded as important for the promotion of biodiversity, protection against soil erosion and to keep High Natural Value (HNV) areas in cultivation. However, the measure itself does not include direct regulations concerning land management. The information presented in Figure 3.57 is based on 60 reports of which 83 % reported on the contribution of the measure to the improvement of the environmental situation, so we consider the assessment plausible.

a) Biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry:

The area under successful land management contributing to biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry amounted to 18 874 000 hectares for both Measures 211 and 212 across 25 Member States. **The contribution of Measure 211 to the improvement of biodiversity was assessed positively by 43 % of the ex-post evaluation reports** (see Figure 3.58). In a good third of the reports (35 %), the measure's contribution to biodiversity was not examined in depth, while 15 % of all evaluations found the contribution to biodiversity not directly apparent. The positive assessment was based primarily on support for habitats and communities of species resulting from (long-term) management, which would be lost in the event of succession due to the abandonment of land use, particularly in HNV or Natura 2000 areas.

⁸⁴ The areas of LFAs refer to 2005 data (2007 in BG, 2008 in RO), all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

The information presented in Figure 3.58 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 60 reports of which 65 % reported on the contribution of the measure to biodiversity, **so we consider the assessment plausible.**

b) Water quality:

The area under successful land management contributing to water quality was 7 446 000 hectares for the two Measures 211 and 212 assessed together in 25 Member States. In 13 % of the reports, the contribution of the measure to the quality of water was evaluated as positive, in 8 % as limited. Positive judgment was in most cases attributed to extensive management. The information presented in Figure 3.58 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 60 reports of which only 33 % reported on the contribution of the measure to water quality, **so we consider the assessment not plausible.**

c) Mitigating climate change:

The area under successful land management which contributes to mitigation of climate change amounted to 7.4 million hectares for the two Measures 211 and 212 assessed together in 25 Member States. In 17 % of all reports dealing with Measure 211, positive aspects were highlighted, but justified in a very general way. In individual cases, attention was paid to maintaining the carbon storage function of grassland. The information presented in Figure 3.58 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 60 reports of which only 23 % reported on the contribution of the measure to mitigating climate change, **so we consider the assessment not plausible.**

d) Soil quality:

The area under successful land management contributing to soil quality was 10.5 million hectares for the two Measures 211 and 212 assessed together in 25 Member States. A positive impact on soil quality was described in a quarter of the reports (23 %), however, apart from support for areas at risk of erosion, the reasons mentioned were in most cases very general. The information presented in Figure above judging the contribution of the measure is based on 60 reports of which only 40 % reported on the contribution of the measure to soil quality, **so we consider the assessment not plausible.**

e) Avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment:

Preventing land abandonment is the core objective of Measures 211 and 212. With 58.2 million hectares under successful land management contributing to avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment, the two Measures 211 and 212, combined, provide the greatest support for this objective in 25 Member States. Accordingly, a positive contribution of Measure 211 to the prevention of land abandonment in less-favoured areas is assessed in 60 % of the reports. In particular, the compensatory payments were identified as an important argument in favour of maintaining management. The information presented in Figure 3.58 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 60 reports of which 72 % reported on the contribution of avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment, **so we consider the assessment plausible.**

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M211, 85.9 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a high extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusion, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ35. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 211?

Around half of the reports (48 %) cited other effects of the measure. About one third of those highlight the financial compensation component and thus the contribution to the promotion of competition / economic efficiency as well as to the creation and maintenance of jobs. Also social effects were mentioned such as supporting a stable functioning social structure in rural areas and increasing or maintaining the quality of life.

In 28 % of the reports no additional effects of the measure were provided, while in 23 % of the cases it was not clear whether there were any further impacts due to the support scheme.

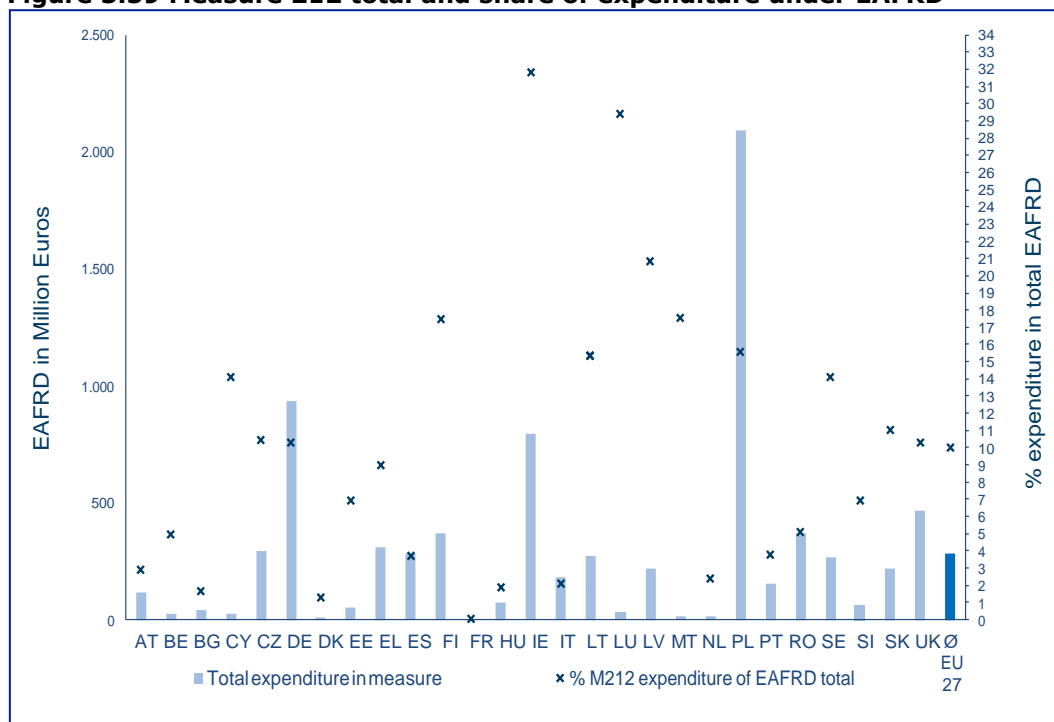
Measure 212: Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas

General information about the measure

The Measure 212 was implemented in 27 Member States in 75 regions, with a total budget of € 7 681 million for all Member States and regions. The main objective of the measures was to compensate farmers for the additional costs and income losses arising from the difficulties of agricultural production less favoured areas other than mountain areas. The aim is to maintain the countryside through continual use of agricultural land and to promote the systems of sustainable agricultural production, thereby supporting the improvement of the environment.

These findings were argued primarily through survey results, case studies and reached target areas.

Figure 3.59 Measure 212 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 212. The relevant output indicators are the number of hectares supported and Number of holdings supported. The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.33 Output indicators for Measure 212

Value	Number of hectares supported (ha)	Number of holdings supported
Number of MS	25	25
Range	8 484 - 8 447 271	1 551 to 886 421
Median	551 680	23 136
Average	1 473 458	73 753
Total	36 836 442	1 843 831

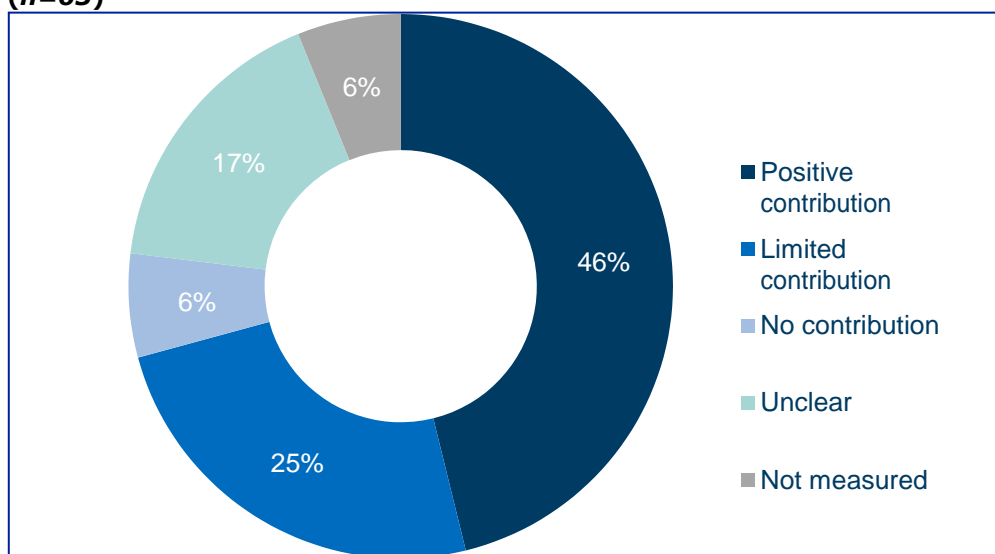
Two Member States that implemented the measure did not report on the output indicators.

With about 37 million hectares of arable land, the measure covers 59 % of the UAA in the less-favoured areas other than mountain areas of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 55 % of the UAA in these LFAs in the EU as a whole⁸⁵. In the corresponding Member States, 18 % of holdings took part in the measure, which equals an EU-wide share of 17 %.

In the evaluation of the measure within the framework of the ex-post reports, additional indicators were used to show financial, ecological and social effects. For instance, the share of total farm income accounted for by the support or the extent to which the measure was used in connection with agri-environmental measures and organic farming was shown. In 38 reports, no further information was provided on additional indicators.

SQ21. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation?

Figure 3.60 Measure 212's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=65)



In 46 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was stated that the measure contributed positively to **improving the environmental situation**. The benefit provided through the measure has contributed to the maintenance of agricultural activities in less favoured areas. Therefore, it was concluded that the support in disadvantaged areas has helped to maintain agricultural cultivation on sites which else would be threatened by land abandonment and a possible degradation of natural values. It was stated that the measure has also made a positive contribution to the promotion of extensive management practices which are particularly relevant in areas with HNV, the extension of grassland and erosion protection.

About 25 % of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded the measure's effects on improving the environmental situation as limited. As already mentioned concerning Measure 211, there was no specific requirements regarding environmental protection imposed within the framework of these measures. Another reason why the environmental impact was rated as moderate was that the measure itself was not expected to have a significant impact on promoting sustainable/extensive farming systems. According to a statement, even intensification on agricultural land in less-favoured areas could be observed in addition to no reduction of the conversion of grassland into agricultural land.

Only 6 % of the ex-post evaluation reports stated no significant contribution of the measure on improving the environmental situation. The evaluators conclude that the measure contributes to farm income, but not to the environmental goals because the requirements as stated in the measure are not beyond those of cross-compliance.

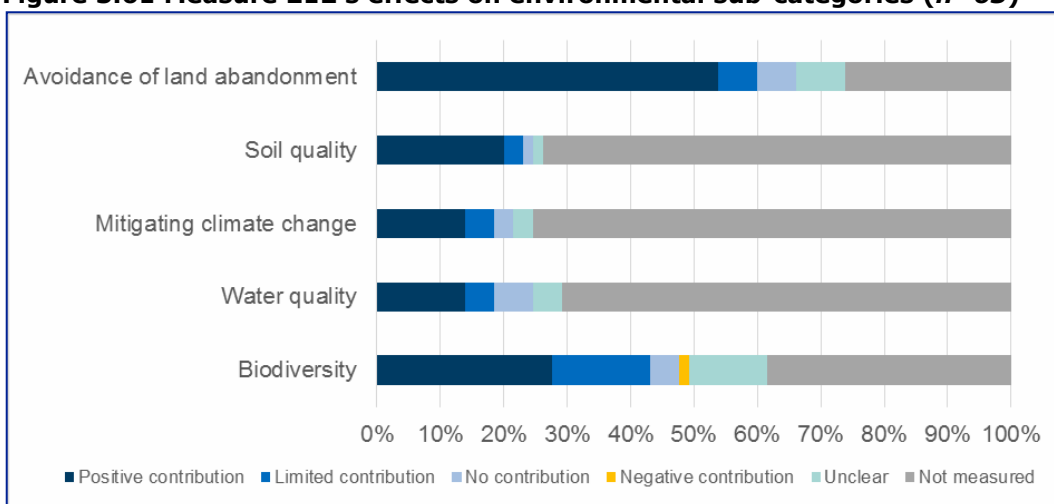
⁸⁵ The areas of LFAs refer to 2005 data (2007 in BG, 2008 in RO), all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

About 17 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not clearly identify to what extent the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation. It is not possible to establish a sufficient link between the measure and environmental protection because the measure does not impose any conditions that affect land use or management intensity. On the one hand, disadvantaged areas could be managed more sustainably and environmentally friendly (extensive) because an intensive management is not profitable. On the other hand, disadvantaged areas could be managed more intensively to become more profitable. Although there is no direct link to improving the environmental situation, most reports consider that the measure has no counterproductive effect and contributes to maintaining or even improving the status quo.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

The following section deals with the environmental aspects of biodiversity, water quality, combating climate change, soil quality and land use tasks. The positive aspects mentioned are particularly taken into account in this context, further classifications are not considered, or only to a limited extent. In addition, Measure 212 was often assessed together with Measure 211 and therefore the evaluations referred to this comparable measure. For this reason, the two measures should also be considered as comprehensive measures in this case as well.

Figure 3.61 Measure 212's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=65)



In 28 % of the member states and regions, which programmed Measure 212, **the impact on biodiversity** was assessed as being positive. It was often stated that the maintenance of the existing management with local techniques was used as a basis for maintaining the animal and plant communities, which resulted from this management (44 %). It was also noted that the measure covered Natura 2000 sites and areas with a high share of HNV (17 %).

In a further 15 % of all cases, the contribution to the protection of biodiversity was assessed as rather limited, since no direct effects were to be expected from the measure itself. Therefore, the effects are considered to be relatively indirect (40 %). Furthermore, the measure has been confirmed to maintain, but not to improve biodiversity on the supported areas (30 %).

The proportion of ex-post reports excluding a corresponding assessment of the measure's impact on biodiversity was 38 %.

In only a few of the reports, the impact of the measure on the quality of water was assessed as positive or limited (14 % and 5 % respectively), which was in most cases due to extensive management. However, the impact of the measure on water quality was not examined in depth in 71 % of the ex-post reports.

In 14 % of all reports dealing with Measure 212, **positive aspects towards mitigation of climate change were mentioned, however, these were mostly (89 %) explained in a very general way.** The contribution of the measure to mitigation and adaptation to climate change was not looked at in detail in most of the ex-post reports (75 %).

Approximately one quarter of the reports, (20 %) acknowledge Measure 212 as having a positive **effect on soil quality**, but the reasons given are mostly very general and include explanations such as the maintenance of extensive management or the prevention of erosion.

However, 74 % of the reports do not address the impact of the measure on soil quality.

A positive contribution to the prevention of land abandonment is reported in 54% of the reports of Measure 212. Particularly, the compensatory payments scheme provided via Measure 212 was evaluated of high importance for maintaining management in the respective areas. Similarly to Measure 211, it also was pointed out that preventing land abandonment and maintaining agricultural management in areas with respective natural constraints were the targeted objectives of the measure.

26 % of the evaluations did not assess the contribution of the measure towards the prevention of land abandonment.

Conclusion

In order to compensate farmers for difficulties of agricultural production in less favoured areas other than mountain areas, 27 Member States implemented Measure 212, covering 75 regions and spending a total budget of € 7 681.4 million. On average, Member States invested 10 % of their total EAFRD expenditure in Measure 212, with wide disparities. This has resulted in:

- An output of 1 843 831 supported farm holdings and 36 836 442 hectares covered (two of the 27 Member States that implemented the measure did not report on the Output Indicators). With about 37 million hectares of arable land, the measure covers 59.2 % of the UAA in the less-favoured areas other than mountain areas of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 55.3 % of the UAA in these LFAs in the EU as a whole⁸⁶. In the corresponding Member States, 17.6 % of holdings took part in the measure, which equals an EU-wide share of 17.0 %;
- Result indicators for this measure are the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment. The respective results are described below. See result indicator tables for Axis II. The data from RDP annual reports reported by Member States combined the Result Indicator R.6 for both Measures 211 and 212 from the 25 Member States reporting on them.

In the evaluation of the measure within the framework of the ex post reports, additional indicators were used to show financial, ecological and social effects in 42 % of the reports.

General:

As presented in Figure 3.60, in 46 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the general contribution of Measure 212 to improving the environment was assessed as positive, 25 % stated a limited effect and 6 % saw no contribution. The positive effects on the environment resulting from this measure were mainly attributed to its support to maintain agricultural cultivation on sites, which otherwise would be threatened by land abandonment and a possible degradation of natural values. It was stated in some reports that the measure has made a positive contribution to the promotion of extensive management practices, while others concluded that it was not expected to have a significant impact on promoting extensive farming. However, the lack of specific environmental protection requirements under Measures 212 and 211 was a reason for limited ratings.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M212, 60 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusion, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

⁸⁶ The areas of LFAs refer to 2005 data (2007 in BG, 2008 in RO), all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

a) Biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry:

The area under successful land management contributing to biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry amounted to 18.8 million hectares for both Measures 212 and 211 across 25 Member States. In 28 % of the Member States and regions the impact on biodiversity was assessed as being positive, while in 15 % of all cases it was assessed as rather limited. The reasoning given was that the maintenance of local agricultural techniques is a basis for the conservation of animal and plant communities dependent on this management and that the measure covers ecologically valuable areas. However, several reports also stressed that no direct effects were to be expected from the measure itself. The information presented in Figure 3.61 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 65 reports of which 62 % reported on the contribution of the measure to biodiversity, **so we consider the assessment plausible.**

b) Water quality:

The area under successful land management contributing to water quality was 7 446 thousand hectares for the two Measures 212 and 211 assessed together in 25 Member States. In only a few of the reports, the impact of the measure on the quality of water was assessed as positive (14 %) or limited (5 %), which was in most cases due to extensive management. The information presented in Figure 3.61 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 65 reports of which only 29 % reported on the contribution of the measure to water quality, **so we consider the assessment not plausible.**

c) Mitigating climate change:

The area under successful land management, which contributes to mitigation of climate change, amounted to 7.4 million hectares for the two Measures 212 and 211 assessed together in 25 Member States. In 14 % of all reports dealing with Measure 212, positive aspects towards mitigation of climate change were mentioned, however, these were mostly explained in a very general way. The information presented in Figure 3.61 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 65 reports of which only 25 % reported on the contribution of the measure to mitigating climate change, **so we consider the assessment not plausible.**

d) Soil quality:

The area under successful land management contributing to soil quality was 10.5 million hectares for the two Measures 212 and 211 assessed together in 25 Member States. Twenty % of the reports indicate that Measure 212 has a positive impact on soil quality. The reasons given are mostly very general and include statements such as maintaining extensive management or preventing erosion. The information presented in Figure 3.61 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 65 reports of which only 26 % reported on the contribution of the measure to soil quality, **so we consider the assessment not plausible.**

e) Avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment:

Preventing land abandonment is the core objective of Measures 212 and 211. With 58.2 million hectares under successful land management contributing to avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment, the two Measures 211 and 212, combined, provide the greatest support for this objective in 25 Member States. A positive contribution to the prevention of land abandonment was assessed in 54 % of the reports of Measure 212.

In particular, the compensation granted was considered to be very important for the maintenance of management in the respective areas. Judging the contribution of the measure is based on 65 reports of which 74 % reported on the contribution of the measure to avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment, **so we consider the assessment plausible.**

SQ35. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

Similarities with Measure 211 were also identified with regard to additional effects. These were mentioned for Measure 212 in 52 % of the reports. As a central argument, the function of

financial compensation was cited, which has an impact on the economic capacity of the holdings (but also on the assisted region) and on the social structures in the disadvantaged areas.

In the remaining 28 % of the reports no other effects were reported, while in another 20 % the other effects were insufficiently assessed to provide a judgment.

The information judging the contribution of the measure is based on 65 reports of which 52 % reported on other effects of Measure 212, **so we consider the assessment not plausible.**

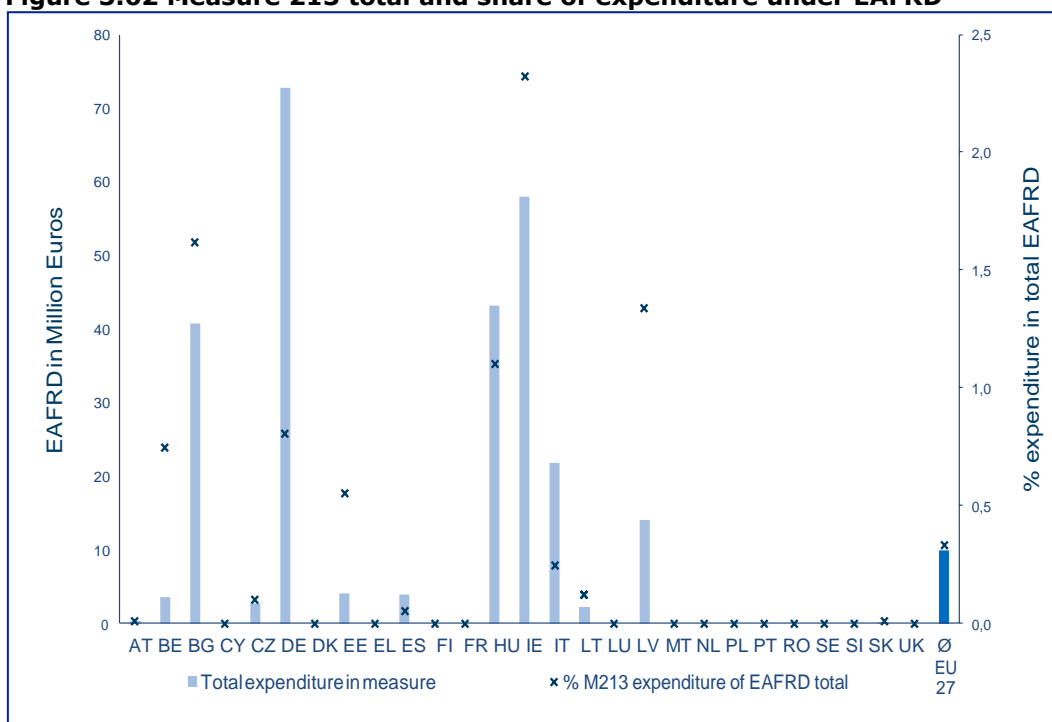
Measure 213: Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC

General information about the measure

Measure 213 was implemented in 13 Member States, representing a total of 28 regions, with a total budget of € 267.5 million for all Member States and regions. The main objective of the measure was to compensate for disadvantages caused by Natura 2000 regulations or the Water Framework Directive in agricultural areas and thus also to improve public acceptance of the Natura 2000 network. Hence, the indirect objective of the measure was to preserve and sustain, by way of maintaining environmentally sound land use methods, a favourable conservation situation of indicative species and selected habitats listed in the respective EU legislations.

The evaluation of the measure was mainly based on case studies and specific project areas, surveys (of beneficiaries) and the monitoring system. Indicators and further agricultural statistical data were used to assess the measure. Literature research was partly used for additional information.

Figure 3.62 Measure 213 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 213. The relevant output indicators are the utilized agricultural area (UAA) supported (ha) and number of holdings supported. The relevant result indicator for this measure is the area under successful land management contributing to biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding Axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below, however, provides information on the relevant output indicator for this measure.

Table 3.34 Output indicators for Measure 213

Value	UAA supported (ha)	Number of holdings supported
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	13	13
Range	352 to 381 235	21 to 14 838
Median	69 385	3 412
Average	117 647	5 785
Total	1 529 410	75 199

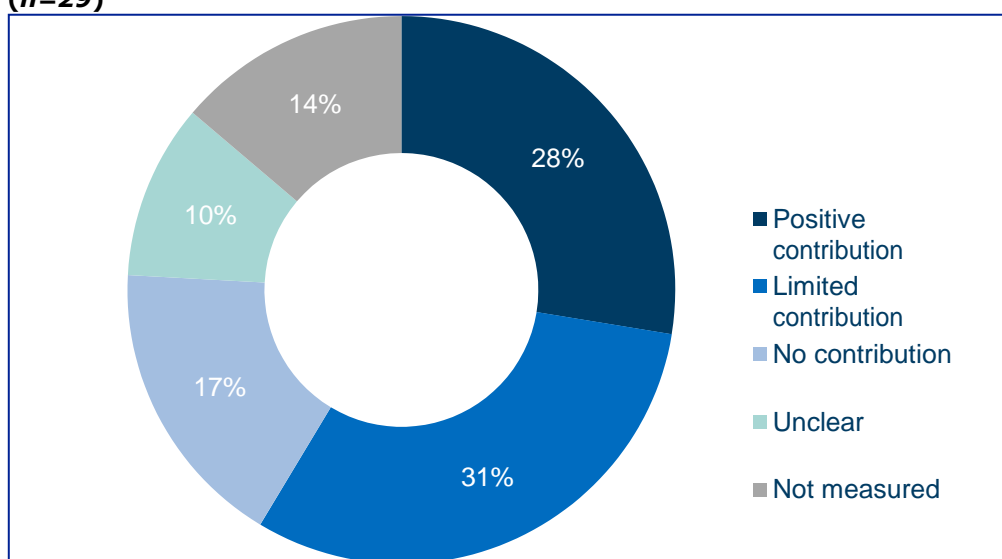
All Member States that implemented the Measure provided data on output indicators.

With about 1.5 million hectares UAA, the measure covers 15.3 % of the UAA in Natura 2000 areas of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 8.1 % of the UAA in Natura 2000 in the EU as a whole⁸⁷. In the corresponding Member States, 2.1 % of holdings took part in the measure, which equals an EU-wide share of 0.7 %.

In the evaluation of the measure within the framework of the ex post reports, additional indicators were used to show biotic and abiotic effects as well as area coverages. On the one hand, emphasis was placed on the gross nutrient balance. On the other hand, it was shown to what extent the total Natura 2000 area was covered by the measure and what impact this had on the Farmland Bird Index as well as high nature value farmland. In 17 reports, no further information was provided on additional indicators.

SQ21. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?

Figure 3.63 Measure 213's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=29)



In 28 % of the cases, it was reported that Measure 213 has had a positive impact on the improvement of the environmental situation. However, where this was the situation in the reports, the effect of the measure was justified to some extent only by a high level of target achievement in conjunction with the indicators or coverage of the total agricultural area in Natura 2000 areas. In-depth evaluations of the measure were rather rare in this respect.

A slightly higher proportion of the reports (31 %) evaluated the impact of the measure on improving the environmental situation as limited. In the evaluation of Measure 213, the specific

⁸⁷ The areas of UAA in Natura 2000 refer to 2014 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

interrelationships with the EU directives (92/43/EEC, 2009/147/EC, 2000/60/EC)⁸⁸ were referred to particularly frequently. Irrespective of Measure 213, the rules and restrictions of these Directives must be complied with. Payments under Measure 213 are therefore often regarded as compensation payments for these mandatory restrictions. In individual cases, it was pointed out that the incentive premium of the measure was not sufficient to compensate adequately for the financial disadvantages caused by the underlying regulatory restrictions. In this context, it has also often been stated that the measure itself does not have any direct effects, but that these are based on the independently existing Natura 2000 directive.

Nevertheless, it was mentioned that environmental impacts could have been achieved - albeit only to a limited extent - by requirements of the measure, which go beyond the management restrictions of the respective ordinance of Natura 2000, nature reserve or other protected areas. Although the measure itself was not directly linked to impacts, it could nevertheless contribute to the preservation of species and habitats - although an improvement in the environmental situation due to the measure was not expected. However, the measure has been able to improve the knowledge and understanding of farmers and beneficiaries in relation to the regulatory requirements and hence contributed to the conservation objectives pursued by the Europe-wide Natura 2000 network.

The effect of the compensation payments for Natura 2000 agricultural areas has often been considered to be an indirect effect, as the measure mainly maintains and supports (location-specific) management techniques and the associated habitats - techniques and management, which would often lead to income losses and costs without the support provided by the measure.

Where the environmental impact of the measure has been found to be low, this was partly due to the relatively low response to the support scheme and/or to its extent if compared with other measures. This was caused, for example, by the exclusion of the combination with agri-environmental measures or simply because certain external factors could not be compensated for by the measure.

However, it should also be noted that a possible combination with other measures, such as agri-environmental measures (M214), was within the options of the respective managing authority. In this respect, it is not surprising that several reports have highlighted the combination of Natura 2000 compensation with Measure 214 - in particular regarding the possible outstanding environmental impact. In the same context, reference was also made to existing synergies between Measure 213 and agri-environmental measures (M214) and/or compensation payments for less-favoured areas (211/212). And since the Natura 2000 guidelines have to be complied with even without any subsidies, Measure 213 has seldom also been referred to as a 'non-voluntary' agri-environmental measure.

In 17 % of the cases, the measure was not considered to have any effect. Either this was due to the very low level of implementation, or it was due to the above-mentioned mandatory compliance with Natura 2000 and that the potential effects were not based on the measure itself.

One tenth of the evaluations of the measure indicated that the effect was not clearly tangible. As well as in the case of no verifiable contribution this was due to the European and local jurisdiction of Natura 2000 sites, which must be complied with even without the compensation payment.

In 14 % of the cases, the environmental impact of the measure has been evaluated inadequately or not at all.

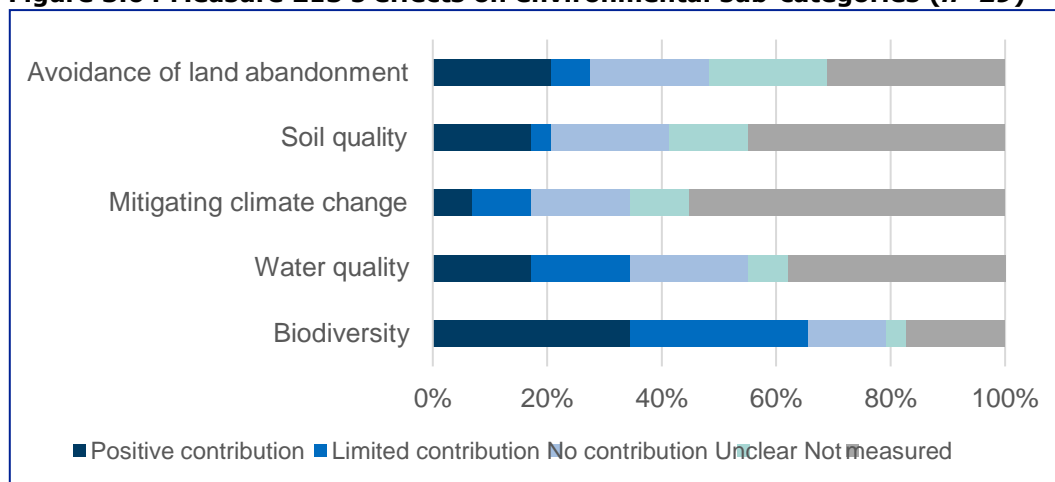
Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

With regard to the effects on biodiversity, water and soil quality, mitigation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment, the evaluations indicated in several cases that the

⁸⁸ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds; Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

measure itself had no impact and/or that any effects are solely attributable to the underlying mandatory regulations of the Natura 2000 network. The rather small coverage ratio and the relatively low implementation of the measure were also cited as reasons for a limited or non-quantifiable impact.

Figure 3.64 Measure 213's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=29)



The impact of the Natura 2000 compensatory payment on biodiversity has generally been considered somewhat more positive than the overall environmental impact. In this context, it has been emphasized on several occasions that the nature conservation status of the areas receiving support could be maintained and, in a few cases, improved. This was in turn attributed to the fact that the measure was used to maintain the existing management on a permanent basis. Birds and their population density as well as other animal and plant species were particularly favoured by the promotion. In some cases, however, the nature conservation status of eligible areas has also decreased during the funding period.

The majority of the ex-post reports either do not address the impact of the measures on the remaining four environmental aspects or the measure is not considered to have any impact. This was generally justified by the above-mentioned limited utilization and the underlying regulations. In a few cases, reference was made to the reduced use of nutrients/fertilizers and energy (especially fuel and machinery) in Natura 2000 areas, the CO₂ sequestration in plants and soil and the corresponding effects on water, soil and climate. However, it has not been possible to determine to what extent these potential effects are attributable to the funding itself. With regard to marginalization and land abandonment, the impact has been assessed as positive in some cases, as the funding compensates for the financial disadvantages of the rather extensive and sustainable management systems and methods.

Conclusion

In order to compensate farmers for disadvantages caused by Natura 2000 regulations or the Water Framework Directive in agricultural areas, 13 Member States implemented Measure 213, covering 28 regions and spending a total budget of € 267.5 million. On average, Member States invested less than 0.5 % of their total EAFRD expenditure in Measure 213, with wide disparities. This has resulted in:

- An output of 75 199 supported farm holdings and 1 529 410 hectares covered. With about 1.5 million hectares UAA, the measure covers 15.3 % of the UAA in Natura 2000 areas of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 8.1 % of the UAA in Natura 2000 in the EU as a whole⁸⁹. In the corresponding Member States, 2.1 % of holdings took part in the measure, which equals an EU-wide share of 0.7 %;
- Result indicators for this measure are the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment. The respective results are described below. See result indicator tables for Axis II.

⁸⁹ The areas of UAA in Natura 2000 refer to 2014 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

General:

As presented in Figure 3.63, in 28 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the general contribution of Measure 213 to improving the environment was assessed as positive, while 31 % stated a limited effect and 17 % saw no contribution. 10 % of the evaluations of the measure indicated that the effect was not clear.

The assessments have described in several cases that the measure itself did not have any impact and/or that the effects are exclusively due to the underlying mandatory provisions of the Natura 2000 network, i. e. are indirect in nature. The rather small coverage ratio and the relatively low implementation of the measure were also cited as reasons for a limited or non- quantifiable impact. It was stressed that the rules laid down in the respective EU directives must be complied with, even without any support under Measure 213. However, several reports concluded that the measure has improved the knowledge and understanding of farmers and beneficiaries in relation to the regulatory requirements and hence contributed to the conservation objectives pursued by the Natura 2000 network. Several reports have highlighted the option of a combination of Natura 2000 compensation with other measures such as Measure 214 – in particular regarding the potential synergies in terms of environmental impact.

The quantitative data leads to the conclusion that the measure contributed to improving the environment to a limited extent, with 37 % of all judgments being positive. The information presented in Figure 3.63, is based on 29 reports of which 76 % judged the contribution of the measure. We therefore consider the assessment on the contribution to improving the environment as plausible.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M213, 37 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a limited extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusion, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment:

The area under successful land management contributing to biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry amounted to 1.1 million hectares across 12 Member States for Measure 213 aimed at the Natura 2000 Directive, and 114 000 hectares across two Member States aimed at Payments linked to the Directive 2000/60/EC. The impact of the Natura 2000 compensatory payment on biodiversity has generally been considered somewhat more positive than the overall environmental impact. The measure was used to maintain the existing management on a permanent basis, so the nature conservation status of the areas receiving support could be maintained and, in a few cases, improved.

The majority of the ex-post reports either do not address the impact of the measures on the remaining four environmental aspects or the measure is not considered to have any impact:

- The area under successful land management contributing to **water quality** amounted to 750 000 hectares across 12 Member States for Measure 213 aimed at the Natura 2000 Directive, and 81 thousand hectares across two Member States aimed at Payments linked to the Directive 2000/60/EC;
- The area under successful land management contributing to **mitigating climate change** amounted to 513 000 hectares across 12 Member States for Measure 213 aimed at the Natura 2000 Directive, and 81 thousand hectares across two Member States aimed at Payments linked to the Directive 2000/60/EC;
- The area under successful land management contributing to **soil quality** amounted to 672 thousand hectares across 12 Member States for Measure 213 aimed at the Natura 2000 Directive, and 81 thousand hectares across two Member States aimed at Payments linked to the Directive 2000/60/EC;
- The area under successful land management contributing to **the avoidance of marginalization and land abandonment** amounted to 528 thousand hectares across 12 Member States for Measure 213 aimed at the Natura 2000 Directive, and 81 thousand hectares across two Member States aimed at Payments linked to the Directive 2000/60/EC.

The information presented in judging the contribution of the measure is based on 29 reports, **so we consider the assessment not plausible.**

SQ35. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

Practically all evaluations indicated either no further effects of the measure (41 %) or any other effects were not clearly identified, and therefore no information on these effects was available (48 %). The remaining reports highlighted the direct effect on income (compensation payment) and, in the following, on the competitiveness of beneficiaries as well as the maintenance of agricultural activity as further effects.

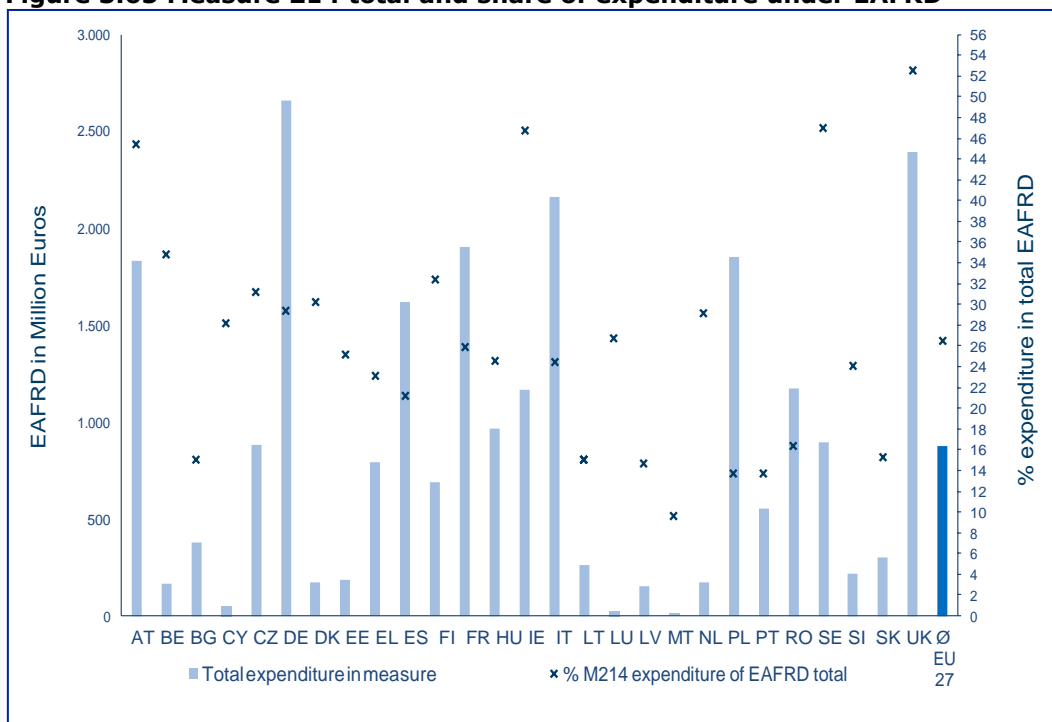
We conclude that other effects of the measure occur only to a very limited extent.

Measure 214: Agri-environment payments

General information about the measure

Measure 214 has been implemented by all Member States, 88 regions in total, with a total budget of € 23.6 billion for all Member States and regions. The main objective of the measure was to promote the voluntary introduction or maintenance of production methods that serve to protect and improve the environment (soil, water, climate/air, biodiversity, landscape) in agricultural and forestry systems. Area-based agri-environmental payments have been granted to compensate farmers or other land managers for higher production costs or loss of income linked to such production methods. The commitments must go beyond the mandatory standards and legal minimum requirements.

Figure 3.65 Measure 214 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 214. The relevant output indicators are the *number of farm holdings and holdings of other land managers receiving support; total area under agri-environmental support; physical area under agri-environmental support under this measure; total number of contracts; and number of actions related to genetic resources*. The output indicator tables provided as medium level inputs also report on the *no of livestock units* in relation the priority "maintenance of local endangered breeds". The relevant result indicator for this measure is the *area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment*.

Data on the result indicators are reported on Axis II level. The Table 3.35 provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.35 Output indicators for Measure 214

Value	Number of holdings supported – farm holdings	Number of holdings supported – other land managers	Total area supported (ha)	Physical area supported (ha)	Number of contracts	Number of livestock units
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	27	27	27	26	26	27
Range	1 252 – 321 544	0 – 4 602	1 557 – 31 587 446	1 478 – 7 625 133	0 – 663 454	0 – 293 536
Median	20 239	0	1 081 430	1 033 740	30 074	4 924
Average	56 366	453	3 371 448	1 785 666	119 063	35 855
Total	1 521 872	12 237	91 029 098	48 212 972	3 214 699	968 086

All Member States that implemented the Measure have reported on the output indicators.

Due to the design of the Agri-Environmental Measure (AEM), several action types/contracts could have been implemented on the same area, which can lead to double counting of the area. The output indicator *physical area supported (ha)* is providing data on the supported UAA without double counting of the area in which more than one agri-environmental scheme is applied. Compared to the Common Context indicators of agricultural Area (UAA in ha) from 2013, the supported area has a share of 27 % of the total agricultural area, but ranges from 3.7 % in Greece to 92 % in Finland. Inconsistency in data has been found for Luxembourg, Estonia, Slovenia and Malta, where the value for physical area supported is larger than the total agricultural area; these examples were therefore excluded from the comparison.

In the evaluation of the measure within the framework of the ex post reports, additional indicators were used to address biodiversity, abiotic factors and area coverages in a more detail way. Several references to specific flora and fauna studies were made. The effects on water and soil quality were often assessed with additional indicators. Occasionally, stocking densities were used to evaluate the measure. In 46 reports, no further information was provided on additional indicators.

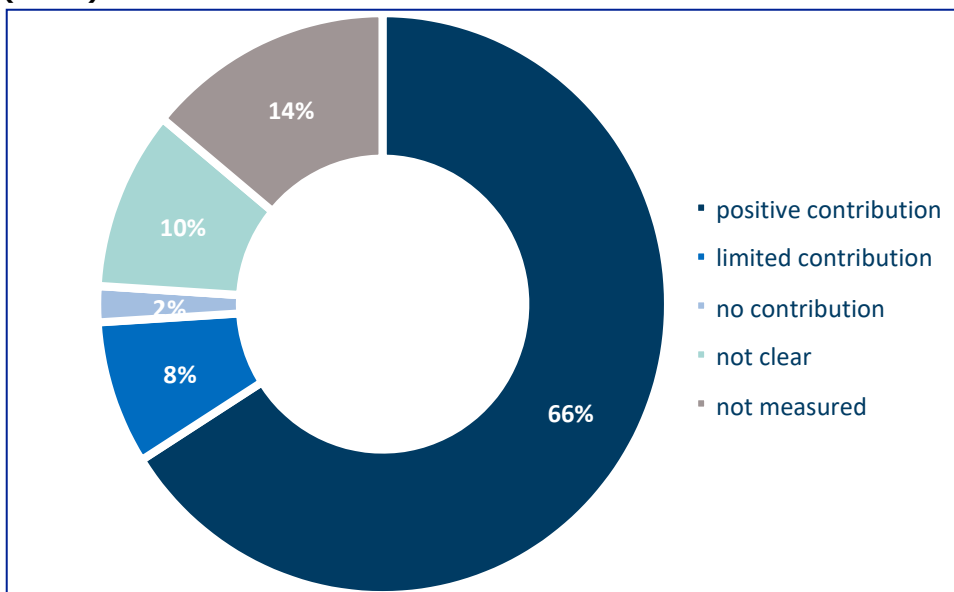
Most regions have implemented a variety of sub-measures with different focuses: 52 regions programmed two or more sub-measures. 19 regions programmed eight sub-measures. Some regions specify sub-measures even further, but this is not mentioned in the evaluations.

Some sub-measures have a rather general approach such as “support of extensive agriculture” or “integrated agriculture”, others are quite specific (e.g. “support for the use of environmentally friendly plant protection methods in vineyards” or “beekeeping for improving biodiversity in natural areas”). The promotion of organic farming and extensive cultivation systems can be found in the majority of regions. Measures to protect genetic resources and to preserve and improve biodiversity are also frequently promoted. Measures related to agricultural woodlands play a subordinate role.

Given this very broad range of topics, modes of action and functions, the individual aspects of the measure and its sub-measures are discussed in more detail in comparison with the other measures.

SQ22. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?

Figure 3.66 Measure 214's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=88)



Improvement of the environmental situation was the primary aim for all operations and their impact was both direct and indirect. Nearly all measures targeted several goals - hence were multifunctional. In 66 % of the regions, the general contribution of measure 214 to improving the environment was assessed as positive, while 8 % saw only a limited and 2 % of the regions no contribution. The relatively high percentage of responses in the categories "unclear" and "not measured" can be explained by the fact that some reports focused on the evaluation of the sub-measures and did not provide a summary assessment.

Most of the reports (66 %) attested extensive positive environmental impacts, particularly in the case of multifunctional goals and effects. Results were achieved both in terms of the extension of the agricultural area affected by the commitments and their potential effectiveness in terms of improvement / maintenance of high value natural agricultural areas and the containment of the negative impacts of intensive agriculture on biodiversity on agricultural land. However, the effects and intensities of the individual measures varied greatly. Several reports pointed out that the measures can only make small contributions to solving nationwide environmental problems. Contractual nature conservation measures were rated very positive, but cover small specified areas, so especially in species and biotope protection, the effects are usually local.

In general, it is assumed that the support of sustainable agricultural systems reduces land use intensity and the input of pollutants and promotes biodiversity. Consequently, the increase of area under organic farming systems and other sustainable production systems was assessed very positive. Reasoning focused on the following effects:

- nitrogen surpluses were reduced;
- the use of nitrogen based fertilizers was reduced;
- leaching of nitrate into groundwater was prevented, water quality was improved;
- greenhouse gas emissions were reduced (resulting from N-reduction and build-up of humus);
- soil quality increased;
- increase in biodiversity.

Several of the reports, which stated that Measure 214 had a positive contribution to the environment, differentiate this statement in their justifications – in some cases, only individual environmental aspects were mentioned and some statements related exclusively to the degree of goal achievement. It was also difficult, for example, to quantify the contribution to the protection of biological diversity or landscape protection as a whole.

A limited contribution to improving the environment was attested by 8 % of the reports. Reasoning focused on the following:

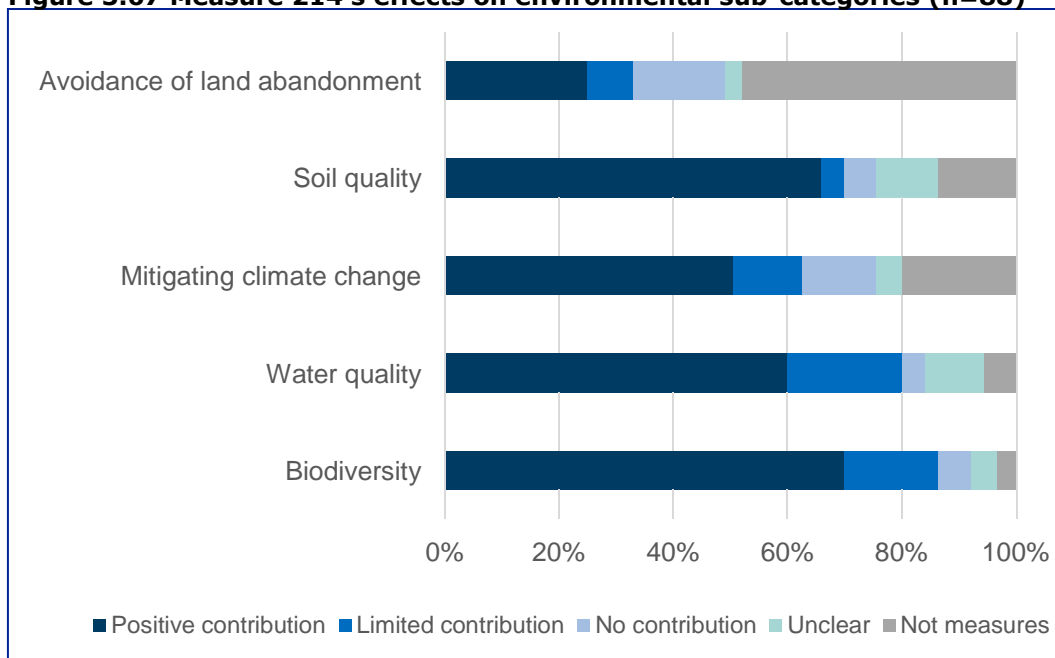
- The programmes benefit only a fraction of the farmers or area and can therefore only contribute very little to the solution of (national) environmental problems (this aspect was also referred to under "positive");
- Ornithological studies have shown no significant effect;
- The requirements were too close to standard practice and thus had no effect;
- Implementation problems, which have not been further elaborated.

Ex-post evaluation reports of 2 regions (2 %) stated that there was no contribution to improving the environmental situation. No reasoning was given.

On the grounds that the impact on landscape and habitat diversification was not evaluated and that the objectives set could only be partially achieved, 10 % of the assessments were classified as "unclear".

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

Figure 3.67 Measure 214's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=88)



One of the main objectives of Measure 214 was to promote biodiversity. Even though quantitative assessment is difficult in many cases, the vast majority of evaluations state that the concrete sub-measures generally have a positive impact on biodiversity. However, it has also been argued that although the programme-specific biodiversity indicators have achieved good and very good targets, there are still deficits in highly protected species and habitat types from a national perspective because the area supported by the measures is limited. It was also found that the sustainability of the benefits of biodiversity could be mitigated by a lack of programme continuity.

The contribution of Measure 214 to the improvement of biodiversity was assessed positively by 69 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. Some of them even confirmed that sub-measures had a very high impact on biodiversity.

However, the reasoning differed. Many of the reports referred to the increased land area under agri-environmental measures, thus under farming methods favourable for the enhancement of biodiversity. In general, these are organic farming and extensive cultivation methods (including dispensing the use of biocides), mainly extensive grassland management. Several reports based their positive assessment on measurable results. For example, when comparing areas under Measure 214 with other areas, the number of different species found and the number of individuals of each species increased and the occurrence of the species was extended over the

vegetation period. The impact on the Farmland Bird Index (FBI) has been used in some cases, and several reports have confirmed that the FBI is positively influenced by conditions created by environmentally friendly farming practices. However, it was also stressed that direct allocation of this effect to the measure is difficult due to the small size of the areas and that further external effects are likely to play a major role.

Contractual nature conservation measures, in particular the creation and conservation of habitats and High Nature Value (HNV) areas, have been shown to be particularly suitable for promoting biodiversity and the protection of endangered species according to the evaluations. Several regions have focused on measures to protect grassland, where in particular positive effects on flora and fauna have been identified, especially on the avifauna. Management under the Natura 2000 network and management of protected areas have also benefited from Measure 214. Furthermore, positive impacts on biodiversity were explicitly attributed to the promotion of beekeeping, measures for managing ponds and trenches, cultivation of traditional orchards, borders of arable land and the care of hedges, the establishment of flowering strips, the cultivation of rare plant varieties and to the support of the use of indigenous breeds at risk of extinction on livestock farms.

In 17 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was concluded that the measure's effects on biodiversity were limited. This assessment was essentially based on the fact that the effects were difficult to measure and a clear cause-effect relationship was difficult to prove. Not all indicators showed positive effects. Individual reports even described a negative trend, e.g. in relation to the bird population. Evaluators found that agri-environmental measures have as a rule contributed to the conservation of biodiversity, but are widely dispersed. The measures did not necessarily reach the most important areas where species and habitats are critically endangered. A low level of implementation and a comparatively small area also served as justification for a limited contribution of the measure to biodiversity.

No contribution to the improvement of biodiversity was seen in 6 % of the ex-post evaluation reports (5 regions). This was explained by a lack of relevant data, a negative trend in the development of farm birds and a lack of implementation.

The contribution of Measure 214 could not clearly be identified in 5 % of the regions, due to the following reasons:

- Benefits such as greater biodiversity would require continuity of the programme instead of the 'stop-start' nature;
- The target to maintain the biodiversity of grasslands has not been reached;
- The reported achievements in connection with the set goals are incomprehensible.

The majority of the ex-post evaluation reports (61 %) found positive contributions of Measure 214 to the quality of groundwater and surface water, although the protection of water resources is not emphasized in all sub-measures. The reduction of nitrogen (N) into groundwater was mentioned as the most important effect in most reports. Furthermore, a reduction of nutrient and pollutants in surface waters could be observed, especially phosphorus (P). Different partial measures include regulations to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilisers. Several reports calculated the adopted reduction of N- and P- inputs for areas under Measure 214 based on management requirements.

The most significant positive effects resulted from the introduction of organic farming systems, followed by extensive grassland management and contractual nature conservation measures. Positive effects on the input of nutrients and pollutants into running waters were achieved by reducing soil erosion and runoff.

In addition to the reduction of fertiliser and pesticides, the central goal oriented instruments cited in the reports were the following: adapted soil cultivation, permanent covering/vegetation strips, low-emission spreading technology, preservation of semi-natural pasture habitats and retention dikes.

A limited contribution to water quality was stated in 18 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. Reasoning focused on the following aspects:

- The measure contributed to maintaining the status of water quality, but not to improving it;

- The effects of decreased nutrient losses were lower than expected or only partial;
- Organic farming as promoted by the programme does not take place in the most problematic areas in terms of water quality;
- Limited acceptance/implementation;
- Deadweight effects (e.g. due to relatively few constraints, the AEM scheme was partly seen by beneficiaries as an additional income source);
- There was no direct measure with the aim of improving water quality, but some indirect effects;
- It is difficult to assess the extent of the measure's contribution.

No contribution to water quality was seen in 5 % (4 regions) of the reports. Only one evaluation provides a reasoning, explaining that the sub-measure "organic farming" has been implemented mainly in areas where surface water quality is already good, as well as in grassland, so that a relatively small decrease in the use of fertilizer and pesticides can be assumed.

No clear contribution of Measure 214 to water quality was mentioned in 10 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. Different reasons have been cited, some of which are quite similar to the arguments in other reports coming to different conclusions:

- The target has not been reached;
- There was a lack of data/evidence;
- Organic farming and organic livestock have a potential influence on water quality;
- Only a limited area was covered;
- The reported achievements in connection with the set goals were incomprehensible.

The majority of agri-environmental measures support the maintenance or improvement of soil quality, although only a few partial measures are aimed directly at soil protection. All agri-environmental measures with the main objective of improving water quality, also contribute to soil protection.

The majority of the ex-post evaluation reports (66 %) ascribed Measure 214 a positive contribution to improving soil quality. The effects were mainly attributed to the introduction of organic farming and livestock and extensive grassland management. However, all contractual nature conservation measures contribute in one way or another to the protection or improvement of soil quality. The reasoning covers the following aspects:

The risk of erosion caused by wind and water has been reduced by:

- Conservation and maintenance of grassland, reducing the risk of conversion of grassland;
- Longer period of soil cover especially during winter (e. g. crop rotation, catch crops);
- Creation of buffer zones, permanent vegetation strips;
- Conservation tillage and direct sowing;
- Other measures to improve organic matter in the soil;
- Support of suitable cultivation methods on terraces and slopes, maintenance of dry stone walls;
- Avoidance of overgrazing.

The measure's scope of support for erosion avoidance was quantified in several reports (estimated calculation). Most of the effects were found in the highly erosion prone areas. Measures to combat erosion in fragile areas also contributed to maintain the landscape.

Especially organic farming, but also other extensive management measures focused on the target of *C-sequestration and humus accumulation*, thus positively influencing the water holding capacity. One evaluator remarked that on soils which already have a high water retention capacity and/or infiltration capacity, additional sink potential can only be activated to a limited extent. The increase in humus content of arable land was quantified in several reports.

Furthermore, it was pointed out that *soil contamination* has been reduced by limiting the use of fertilizers, reduction of pesticides and adjustment of livestock loads. *Reduced soil compression* was another positive aspect mentioned in evaluation reports.

Reports concluded a limited contribution to soil quality in 5 % of the regions. The reasons differ:

- Only a few measures are aimed directly at soil protection and that the most important areas are not reached;
- There were deadweight effects (e.g. due to relatively few constraints, the AEM scheme was partly seen by beneficiaries as an additional income source);
- The programme reached only a small percentage of farmers;
- Long-term effects on phosphorus are not yet foreseeable.

In 5 regions (6 %), no contribution to soil quality was seen. According to one report, available data showed no significant effect.

There was no clear judgment provided in 10 % of the ex-post evaluation reports for the following reasons:

- There were no concrete data, only an approximate estimate can be given;
- Only a limited area was covered;
- The reported achievements in connection with the goals set were incomprehensible.

Since climate protection was not at the focus of Measure 214, the effects are more indirect. In 25 % of the evaluated ex-post evaluation reports, the contribution was not measured / not mentioned at all or classified as "unclear".

Half of the evaluated reports conclude that Measure 214 had a positive impact on climate protection. This is mainly due to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, an increase in C-sequestration or C-stabilization and measures to reduce the risk of fire. Several reports listed the extent of the area, which promoted the positive effects mentioned above and calculated the estimated GHG reduction potential.

The potential of GHG emissions could be limited mainly by reducing the use of production factors (especially mineral fertilisers and fuels) and by appropriate management of livestock farming. C-sequestration was carried out by maintaining extensively cultivated grassland and by promoting organic farming (e. g. expanding crop rotation, increasing crop variety, intermediate crops), long-term C-stabilization by avoiding the conversion of permanent pastureland into arable land. A reduction in CO₂ emissions was also assumed due to the reduced frequency and intensity of tillage and the exclusion of pesticides, although some of these effects are limited temporarily. However, precise quantification was considered difficult. In particular, C sequencing measures are not necessarily long-term in nature, since a conversion into arable land reverses the effects when the measure expires. Controlled grazing with livestock (preferably native breeds) in firebreaks and other undergrowth has limited potentially combustible biomass from perennials and shrubs, thus acting as a strategy against fires and climate change.

In addition, the environmentally sound use of water, chemicals, machinery and the promotion of renewable energy (particularly agricultural waste and production combined with agri-environmental measures) was mentioned as having a positive impact in regard to mitigating climate change. In one region, a survey among the beneficiaries concluded that the measure contributed to the promotion of tree plantations, protected moorland, and thus contributed to climate protection.

Thirteen per cent of the respondents stated that Measure 214 makes a limited contribution to mitigating climate change, mainly because of its indirect impact on this objective. The explanatory statements stressed, among other things, that the calculated results only refer to the potential for avoiding greenhouse gas emissions and that the contributions to climate protection are low in percentage terms, especially compared to the emissions of the entire region.

Thirteen per cent found no contribution of Measure 214 to mitigation of climate change in the evaluation reports.

Five per cent of the ex-post evaluation reports did not clearly identify to what extent the measure contributed to the mitigation of climate change. One reason for this was that evidence was missing.

In almost half of the ex-post evaluation reports no statement was made about the contribution of Measure 214 to avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment. 25 % of the evaluation reports rated the contribution of the measure to avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment as positive. Many of the areas assisted by Measure 214 are difficult to cultivate and in many cases not very productive. This applies in particular to slopes in mountainous regions and meadows, which cannot be mowed by machine. For example, local grazing of special grassland areas with cattle, sheep and goats was offered as a sub-measure. On exposed or lean sites, this support helped to avoid marginalisation or under-utilisation. It was also reported that the measure had made a targeted contribution to reducing succession to agricultural land.

Support for specific land management techniques of regional relevance provided an incentive to maintain less viable and disadvantaged areas of land and to ensure an income for the associated holdings. In one region, more than 75 % of respondents said they would probably have given up their jobs without assistance. Beekeeping was explicitly mentioned.

The evaluations have shown that organic farming, extensive grassland management and contractual nature conservation measures in particular prevent marginalisation and land abandonment. The preservation of the landscape was also supposed to help reduce the abandonment of farms.

A limited contribution was assessed by 8 % of the evaluated reports. Reasoning mentioned the following aspects:

- Even though support rates were insufficient to cover additional expenses or the loss of profit and although the support is not the main argument for producers to carry on with their chosen area of activity, they see it as quite useful;
- The measure can have an effect on maintaining the use of pastures but is not always sufficient to avoid abandonment;
- The target was not achieved (less area);
- As a result of interviews conducted in one region, more than 40 % believe that the aid is very much in favour of maintaining the holding. Still, most of the respondents would continue their activity even without the aid;
- The commitment of the measure on the retention period of beehives in non-cultivated areas has been fundamental to obtain results on the recovery of high natural value media that were significantly degraded;
- Ecologically sustainable agriculture can only be maintained with the support.

No contribution of Measure 214 to avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment was found in 17 % of the reports. No reasoning was given.

Conclusion

All Member States implemented Measure 214, covering 88 regions and spending a total budget of € 23 619.4 million on different operations aimed at improving the environmental situation. Most regions have implemented a variety of sub-measures with different focuses. On average, Member States invested 26 % of their total EAFRD expenditure in Measure 214. This has resulted in:

- An output of 91 029 hectares total area covered by Measure 214. Since several action types/contracts are possible on one area, a comparison with reference values is not feasible here;
- More than 3 million contracts were signed;
- 1 521 872 farms were supported and 12 237 additional land managers. The measure concerned 968 086 livestock units;
- Result indicator (reported under axis level) for this measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment. The respective results are described below.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on impact indicators. In the evaluation of the measure within the framework of the ex-post reports, additional indicators were used to address biodiversity, abiotic factors and area coverages in a more detailed way. In 46 reports, no further

information was provided on additional indicators. Nearly all (sub-)measures targeted several goals – hence are multifunctional. In most cases the impact was both direct and indirect.

General

As presented in Figure 3.67, in 66 % of all ex-post evaluation reports the general contribution to improving the environment was assessed as positive, particularly in the case of multifunctional goals and effects, while 8% found it was only limited. Of the 86 % who reported on this indicator, 10 % answered with "unclear". This was probably due to the fact that several regions focused on the sub-categories and did not provide a summary assessment.

Of those reports that provided a clear conclusion on M214 (i.e. "positive", "limited" or "no contribution"), 87 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a high extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

a) **Biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry:**

With an area of 42.5 million ha under successful land management contributing to biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, Measure 214 has had the greatest impact on this indicator compared to other measures. It was the main objective of the measure. Accordingly, the contribution of Measure 214 to the improvement of biodiversity was assessed positively by 69 % of the ex-post evaluation reports.

In several regions, other indicators were used, such as the impact indicator of the Farmland Bird Index. However, it was mentioned that quantification and direct allocation is difficult and that further external effects are likely to play a major role. Organic farming and extensive cultivation methods (including the renunciation of biocides), especially extensive grassland management, have been described as generally favourable cultivation methods for the promotion of biodiversity. The contractual nature conservation measures, in particular the creation and conservation of habitats and HNV areas, have been shown to be particularly suitable for promoting biodiversity and the protection of endangered species. Furthermore, positive impacts on biodiversity were explicitly attributed to the promotion of beekeeping and to the support of the use of indigenous breeds at risk of extinction on livestock farms, among others. 17 % of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded the measure's effects on biodiversity were limited. Reasoning stated that a clear cause-effect relationship was difficult to prove, that most important areas were not reached and a comparatively small area was covered. No contribution to the improvement of biodiversity was seen in 6 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. 5 % declared that the contribution of Measure 214 could not clearly be identified.

The information presented in Figure 3.67 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 88 reports of which 97% reported on the contribution of the measure to biodiversity, so we consider the assessment very plausible.

b) **Water quality:**

The area under successful land management contributing to water quality was 35 746 349 hectares in 27 Member States, making it the most widespread measure in regard to water quality. **61 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found positive contributions of Measure 214 to the quality of groundwater and surface water, although the protection of water resources is not emphasized in all sub- measures.** Reasoning focused on the reduction of nitrogen input into groundwater, but reports also described a reduction of nutrient and pollutant inputs in surface waters (phosphorus). In addition to the reduction of fertilizer and pesticides, the most successful instruments were adapted soil cultivation, permanent covering/vegetation strips, low-emission spreading technology, preservation of semi-natural pasture habitats, retention dikes. 18 % of the ex-post evaluation reports attested Measure 214 a limited contribution to water quality, mainly because effects were only indirect and difficult to assess. No contribution to water quality was seen in 5 % of the evaluated reports, 10 % could not clearly identify a contribution.

The information presented in Figure 3.67 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 88 reports of which 94 % reported on the contribution of the measure to water quality, so we consider the assessment very plausible.

c) Soil quality:

The area under successful land management contributing to soil quality was 36 069 162 hectares in 27 Member States, making it the most widespread measure promoting soil quality.

66 % of the ex-post evaluation reports ascribed Measure 214 a positive contribution to improving soil quality. The effects were mainly attributed to the introduction of organic farming and livestock and extensive grassland management, only a few partial measures are aimed directly at soil protection. However, all contractual nature conservation measures as well as measures with the main objective of improving water quality contribute to the protection or improvement of soil.

Reasoning focused on the target of Carbon sequestration and humus accumulation, the reduction of soil contamination and reduced soil compression. 5 % assessed a limited contribution to soil quality, 6 % saw no contribution. 10 % of the ex-post evaluation reports answered "not clear", on the grounds that there was a lack of data and a limited area covered.

The information presented in Figure 3.67 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 88 reports of which 86 % reported on the contribution of the measure to soil quality, so we consider the assessment plausible.

d) Mitigating climate change:

The area under successful land management, which contributes to mitigation of climate change, amounted to 25 479 981 hectares in 27 Member States, making it the largest reported area contributing to this goal.

Since climate protection was not at the focus of Measure 214, the effects are rather indirect. In 25 % of the evaluated ex-post reports, the contribution was not measured or classified as "unclear". **Half of the evaluated reports conclude that Measure 214 had a positive impact on climate protection.** This is mainly due to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, an increase in C-sequestering or C-stabilization and measures to reduce the risk of fire. However, precise and long-term quantification was considered difficult. **13 % of the respondents stated that the measure makes a limited contribution to climate protection, mainly because of its indirect impact on this objective.** The explanatory statements stressed, among other things, that the calculated results only refer to the potential for avoiding greenhouse gas emissions and that the local contributions to climate protection are low in percentage terms, especially compared to the emissions of the entire region. 13 % found no contribution, 5 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not clearly identify to what extent the measure contributed to the mitigation of climate change.

The information presented in Figure 3.67 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 88 reports of which 83 % reported on the contribution of the measure to the mitigation of climate change, so we consider the assessment plausible.

e) Avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment:

The area under successful land management contributing to avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment was 19.6 million hectares in 27 Member States. However, in almost half the ex-post evaluation reports **no statement was made about the contribution of Measure 214 to avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.** 25 % of the evaluation reports rated its contribution to avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment as positive. Many of the areas assisted by Measure 214 are difficult to cultivate and in many cases not very productive. Support for specific land management techniques of regional relevance provided an incentive to maintain less viable and disadvantaged areas of land. Evaluations have shown that organic farming, extensive grassland management and contractual nature conservation measures in particular prevent marginalisation and land abandonment. A limited contribution was assessed by 8 % of the evaluated reports, 17 % found no contribution.

The information presented in Figure 3.67 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 88 reports of which 58 % reported on the contribution of the measure to avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment, so we consider the assessment not plausible.

SQ36. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure?

More than 40 % of the evaluated ex-post reports mentioned additional effects of Measure 214. Virtually all additional effects were assessed as positive, few as "not clear" and one as negative.

A total of 61 effects were listed in the 38 regions that reported additional effects. Half of the effects mentioned above can be categorised as socio-economic effects. They were explained by an increased competitiveness, higher incomes, better employment and diversification, among other things. 21 % of the additional effects mentioned related to an improvement in the quality of life in rural areas, which was in several cases linked to the argument of reduced rural exodus. The preservation of landscape diversity and character was seen as another positive additional effect of Measure 214 (8 %). Other effects mentioned were for example reduced water consumption or a higher awareness for ecological agriculture and quality products.

Conclusion

38 regions reported on additional effects, almost all of which were positive. Most additional effects were socio-economic (e.g. increased competitiveness), followed by improvement in the quality of life in rural areas (21 %) and the preservation of landscape diversity (8 %).

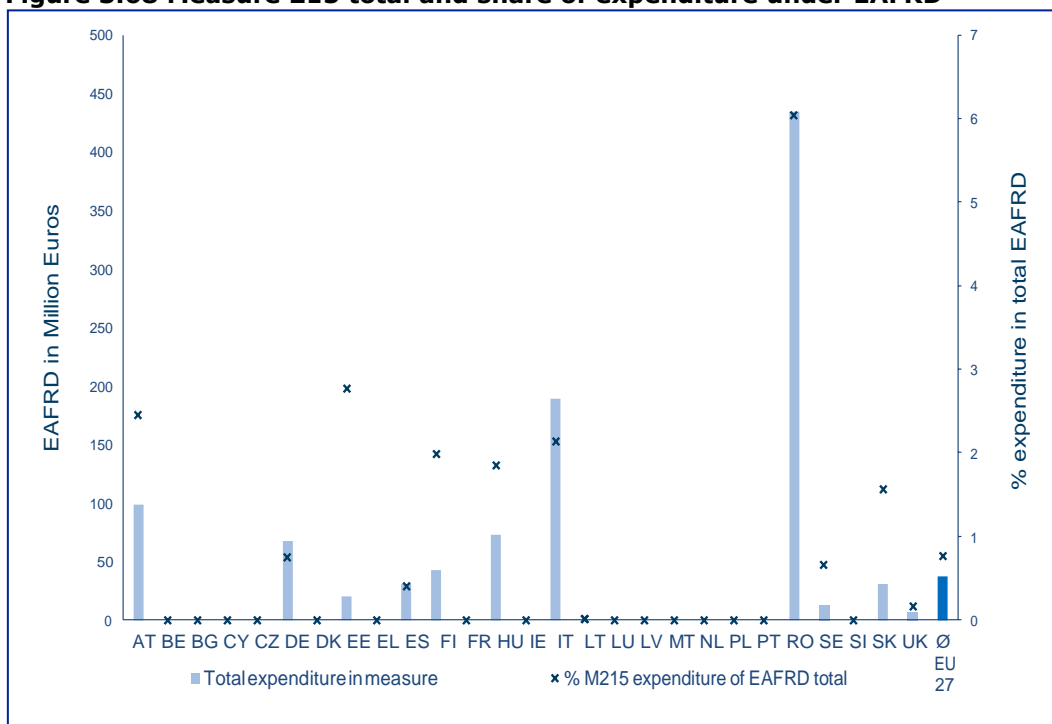
The information presented in Figure 3.66 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 88 reports of which 40 % reported on other effects, so we consider this assessment not plausible.

Measure 215: Animal Welfare

General information about the measure

Measure 215 was implemented in 11 Member States in a total of 30 regions, with a total EAFRD expenditure of € 1 billion for all Member States and regions. However, one region did not evaluate the measure. The main objective of the measure was to improve animal welfare. The main topics in the 29 reports – when explained in more detail – address whether production systems (e.g. support of free-range husbandry, ecological livestock production systems) or animal groups targeted (dairy cows, pig breeding, poultry farming, aviculture etc.). Creating incentives for improving breeding conditions above established standards was also a more frequently mentioned topic whereas the conservation and improvement of biodiversity and landscape diversity and details like better hygienic and feeding conditions are rarely mentioned.

Figure 3.68 Measure 215 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 215. The relevant output indicators are the number of farm holdings supported and number of contracts. The relevant result indicator for this measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicator for this measure.

Table 3.36 Output Indicators for Measure 215

Value	Number of farm holdings supported	Number of contracts
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	10	10
Range	406 - 35 566	0 - 90 878
Median	1 534	2 970
Average	7 221	13 009
Total	79 435	143 099
Number of MS not providing output indicators		1

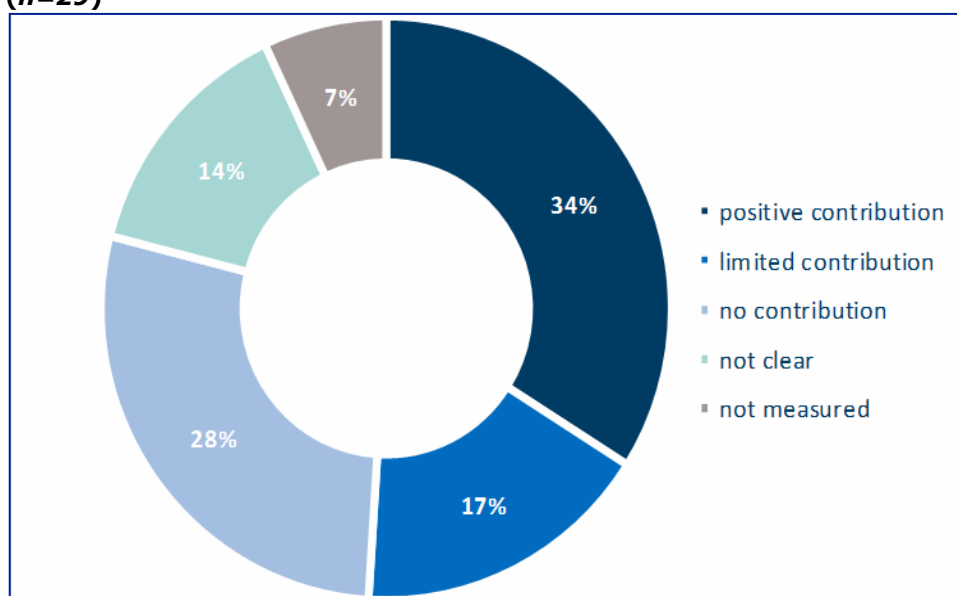
One Member State that implemented the Measure has not reported on output indicators.

With about 80 thousand supported farm holdings, the measure reaches 1.7 % of the total number of holdings with livestock in the Member States that offered the measure. This corresponds to 1.1 % of all holdings with livestock in the EU as a whole⁹⁰.

Additional indicators used in the evaluation of the measure were mostly related to livestock (e.g. number of animals). In 20 reports, no further information was provided on additional indicators.

SQ22. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?

Figure 3.69 Measure 215's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=29)



⁹⁰ reference data refers to 2013 data.

A positive contribution of the measure to improving the environment was reported in 34 % of the reports. A rather large number of aspects were considered as improvement for the environment. The consolidation of environment-friendly farming practices was mentioned several times, related to extensification and low livestock density per area respectively, with less nitrogen and phosphorus input into water, conservation of soil structure and fertility (dung input) and plant selection through the grazing animals. The reduction of greenhouse gases were explicitly mentioned, as well as an improved territory management, animal welfare and health aspects. A more fundamental issue was the aspect of a consolidated environmental awareness among farmers and a greater sensitivity to more sustainable agricultural practices (for a combined evaluation of the Measures 214 and 215).

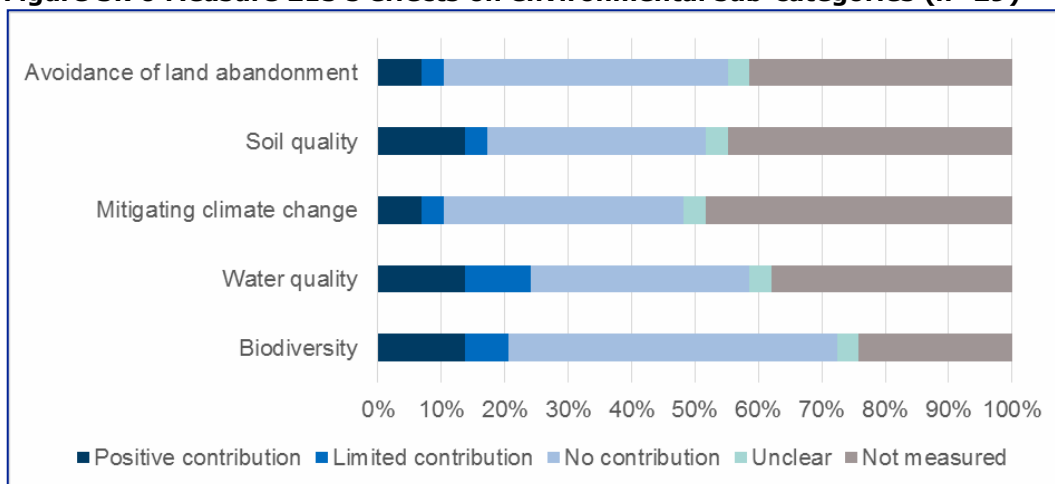
In 17 % of the reports a limited contribution of the measure regarding an improvement of the environmental situation was stated. As far as an explanation for this classification was given, the limitation was mostly justified by the type of intervention, the number of companies / support cases and / or the volume of public expenditure spent on the measure. The, although limited, contributions were however positive or not definable, but not negative. In one evaluation it was stated, that the assessment question does not correspond to the primary objective of the measure. Nevertheless, limited positive effects have been seen in that case in the increase in biological diversity through grazing cattle (medium grazing intensity). The use of solid manure would not only preserve soil fertility but serves also as erosion protection. The reduction of ammonia emissions however, were dependent on the stock farming practices applied. Another limited effect was seen in the overall reduction of negative environmental effects surrounding a farm, when stock intensity is reduced.

Nearly half of the reports attributed no contribution of the measure to an improvement of the environmental situation (28 %), did not deliver any information on the topic (Not measured, 7 %) or provided other classifications (14 %). The latter included the following issues: in one evaluation, effects were reported on theme level but not on measure level, in another only two case studies were carried out of a total of 600 support cases. However, these two case studies showed a high/very high contribution to environmental preservation, protection and improvement. A third report concluded, that the measure contributed to animal welfare, but since all of the beneficiaries were already pasture feeding the measure was carrying a significant deadweight. In the fourth evaluation was stated that the assessment question does not correspond to the primary objectives of the measure, however, positive contributions were seen in an increase in biological diversity through grazing cattle (accordingly to the explanation above (see "Limited")).

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

The majority of the evaluations of Measure 215 did not record effects on biodiversity, water and soil quality, climate change and land abandonment. It was whether explicitly stated, that no contribution was generated or no further information was given. One ex-post report evaluated the effects on theme level, not on measure level ("Other").

Figure 3.70 Measure 215's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=29)



Positive effects are based mainly on the effects by pasturing, which enhances species diversity (e.g. compared to mowing). In one case, it was assessed positively that 35 % of the financed farmers are involved in Nature 2000. Limited positive effects are the influence of grazing cattle on shaping plants and a synergy of one action in Measure 215 with Measure 214 (conservation of a local variety of livestock).

Positive and limited effects for water and soil quality are due to grazing animals. They improve soil fertility (closing nutrient cycle) and soil structure, but – in the case of grassland extensification – do not cause soil compaction. That way, and by avoiding overgrazing, soil erosion is avoided, resulting in a limited release of nitrogen and phosphorus into waterbodies.

Positive effects are due to the reduction of greenhouse gases from livestock on pastures.

Positive effects are related to the improvement of the economic situation of the beneficiaries due to the compensations on one hand and the improvement of profitability by improvements / innovation in management and structure on the other hand. There are, however, indications about deadweight effects.

Conclusion

In order to improve animal welfare on farm holdings, a total budget of € 1 billion has been spent on Measure 215 by 11 Member States across 30 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 79 435 farm holdings supported and 143 099 contracts made. With respect to the farm holdings supported, the measure reaches 1.7 % of the total number of holdings with livestock in the Member States that offered the measure. This corresponds to 1.1 % of all holdings with livestock in the EU as a whole⁹¹. The impact of the measure is therefore limited;
- Result indicators are reported on axis level by 5 Member States concerning the number of hectares supported by the measure. The strongest impact is reported for biodiversity (1.2 million hectare). However, it is not clear, how this relatively high number of hectares is related to a measure which concerns animal welfare.

In 34 % of the reports a positive contribution of the measure to improving the environment was attributed. The consolidation of environment-friendly farming practices was mentioned several times as a positive contribution, related to extensification and low livestock density per area respectively. The reduction of greenhouse gases were explicitly mentioned, as well as an improved territory management, animal welfare and health aspects.

About 17 % of the reports state a limited contribution of the measure. Nearly half of the reports attributed no contribution of the measure to an improvement of the environmental situation (28%), did not deliver any information on the topic (not measured, 7%) or provided other classifications (not clear, 14%). The information presented in Figure 3.70, judging the contribution of the measure is based on 29 reports, of which 19 reported on the contribution of the measure. The information available covers to a limited extent the regions, which implemented the measures. We therefore consider the contribution of this measure as uncertain. Due to the low number of regions, which implemented the measure, **we consider the assessment on the contribution to improving the environmental situation not plausible.**

The quantitative data leads to the conclusion that the measure contributed to animal welfare to a limited extent, with 43 % of all judgments being positive. The information presented Figure 3.70 is based on 29 reports of which 80 % judged the contribution of the measure. **We therefore consider the assessment on the contribution to improving the environmental situation as plausible.**

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M215, 43 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a limited extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusion, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

⁹¹ reference data refers to 2013 data.

SQ36. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this Measure?

The other effects mentioned in 13 RDPs are positively evaluated. They often involve improved competitiveness and business performance of the beneficiaries. This is strongly related to the animal welfare aspect and improved animal health (e.g. prevention of specific pathologies, decrease in animal mortality etc.). This leads for example to a higher animal and labour productivity, e.g. in milk production. The animal welfare aspect is also directly connected to the quality-food production (free-range animals), which is a competitive factor. A raised awareness in society for higher animal welfare plays a role in this respect as well. In one case it was explicitly stated, that the better economic situation of the beneficiaries leads to a higher quality of life. Another states that the skills of the breeders have improved due to the measure.

Apart from the influences of the measure on production and economic situation of the beneficiaries, there are also effects in rural development (reduced land abandonment) and the preservation of rural landscapes that are supporting tourism.

In one case, the measure had indirectly influenced the regional relaunch of the livestock sector (Valle d'Aosta, Italy).

Effects for non-beneficiaries were stated with regards to the reduction of GHG-emissions, rural development and economic activity in other sectors like tourism.

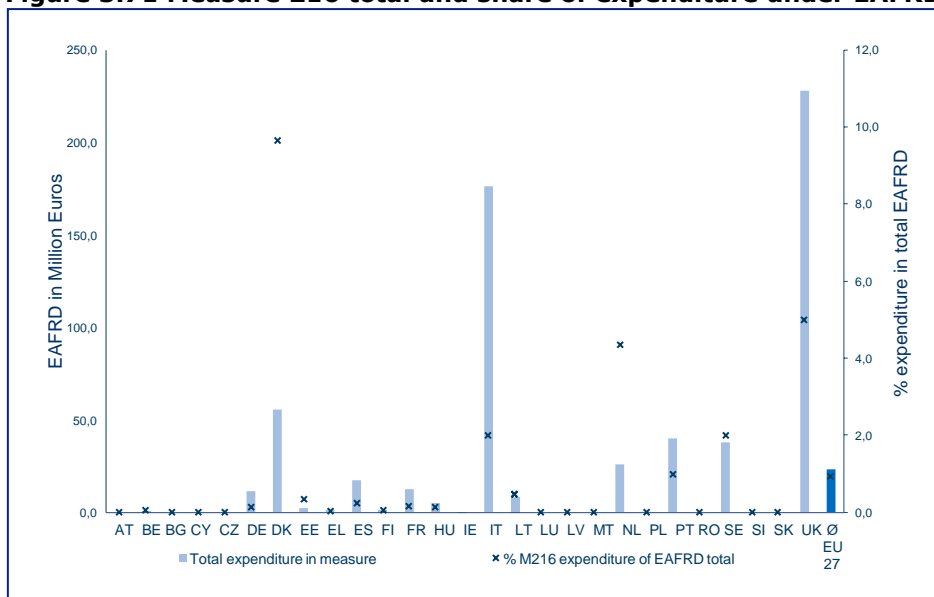
Measure 216: Support for non-productive investments

General information about the measure

Measure 216 was implemented in 16 Member States in a total of 53 regions, with a total budget of € 621 million for all Member States and regions. The main objective of the measure was to support non-productive investments. The areas of investments covered are extremely varied, mainly they can be categorized as environment related and landscape related.

Environment related investment areas include for example: water conservation and improvement of water quality, protection of soil as a resource, agro-climatic / agro- environmental investments, sustainable agriculture land management, fostering the public use / value of Natura 2000 or HNV (High Nature Value) sites, contractual nature conservation measures, protection of biodiversity. Landscape related investment areas include for example: landscape preservation and enhancement, like the establishment and restoration of stonewalls, planting and tending hedges, copses etc. and the conservation and improvement of traditional agricultural buildings. However, both – environment and landscape related investments – have often effects in both areas respectively.

Figure 3.71 Measure 216 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 216. The relevant output indicators are the investment volume ('000 EUR) and number of holdings supported. The relevant result indicator for this measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The result indicators are reported in the introductory section to Axis II. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.37 Output indicators for Measure 216

Value	Investment volume ('000 EUR)	Number of holdings supported
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	15	15
Range	20 – 486 148	80 to 14 916
Median	34 312	2 041
Average	79 354	2 953
Total	1 190 303	44 294

All Member States that implemented the measure provided data on output indicators, except one.

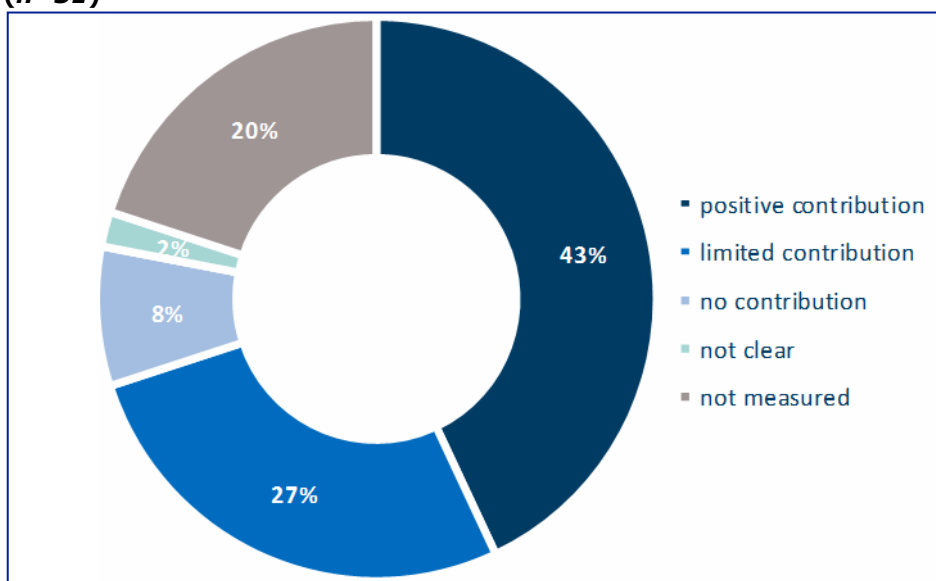
With a total investment volume of nearly € 1.2 billion, the measure corresponds to 0.8 % of the total GVA in agriculture of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 0.7 % of the total GVA in agriculture in the EU as a whole.

In the corresponding Member States, 1.0 % of agricultural holdings took part in the measure, which equals an EU-wide share of 0.4 %⁹².

Given the numerous options available in the measure, mostly action-specific additional indicators such as the number of restored stone walls or the number of planted plants were used. In 32 reports, no further information was provided on additional indicators.

SQ22. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?

Figure 3.72 Measure 216's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=51)



⁹² reference data refers to 2013 data.

A positive contribution of the measure to improving the environmental situation is attributed in 43 % of the reports. A rather large number of aspects were considered as improvement for the environment and the landscape.

The conservation and development of habitats and biodiversity were mentioned several times, also in conjunction with the support of HNV and Natura 2000 areas, development of habitats as per Birds and Habitats Directives, remediation measures or a higher agricultural systems natural value, amongst others. Further topics were the reduction of erosion, stability of slopes, better soil quality management, improvement of water quality, preventing natural hazards and increasing carbon sequestration.

Landscape-related topics were the conservation and improvement of the scenery, e.g. by restoring structural elements like stone walls and planting trees and shrubs. However, such measures support also biodiversity by conserving and developing habitats.

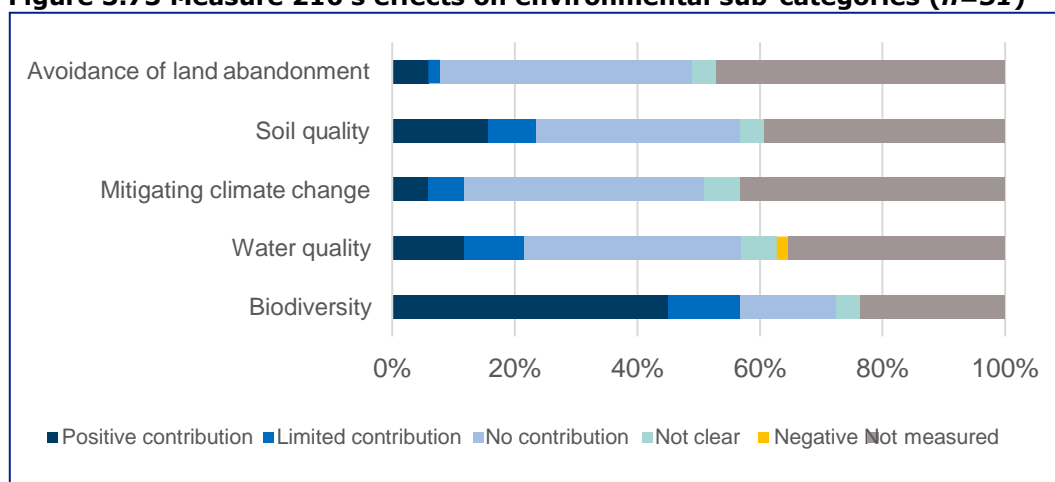
In 27 % of the reports a limited contribution of the measure regarding an improvement of the environmental situation is stated. As far as an explanation for this classification was given, the limitation was mostly justified by the lower number of companies / support cases / target values than expected, a late implementation of the measure or small areas of investment. In one case, the results of a supported research have yet to be implemented. The, although limited, contributions were however positive. They took place in the following areas: limitation of water pollution risk, improvement of soil quality and positive impact on biodiversity and high nature value farming. In two reports was stated, that the positive contributions were complementary to other measures of the RDP.

No contribution of the measure to an improvement of the environmental situation was stated by 8 % of the reports, and 20 % did not deliver any information on the topic (not measured) and 2% provided other classifications. Some reasons mentioned (not measured, unclear) were, that effects were reported on theme or axis level, but not on measure level, result indicators were absent and effects were difficult to assess without case studies.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

The evaluations of Measure 216 stated mainly effects on biodiversity and to a lesser extent on water and soil quality. Only in few reports were effects on climate change and land abandonment recorded. Except for biodiversity, the majority of cases attributed either no contribution of the measure to the respective sub-categories or no further information was given. "Other" included mostly effects reported on higher aggregated levels than measure level. In two cases, effects were not clearly stated and sufficient data for the confirmation on effects was not given, respectively.

Figure 3.73 Measure 216's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=51)



In case an explanation for the positive evaluation was given, it was often generalized. The positive impact on biodiversity, the conservation and protection of species, better wildlife management, the conservation of the environment, ecosystems and ecological corridors and the connection of biomes and habitats were mentioned as well as the improvement of Natura 2000

and HNV areas. More detailed information on the supported actions concerned the restauration of dry-stone walls, terraces etc., planting field trees, tending hedges and landscape elements. These actions were mentioned quite often. Only few reports mentioned clearing waterways, restoring wetlands and forest management. In few cases, the positive impact was derived from the achievement of indicators or the categorization as "positive" was not clearly explained.

Limited effects were either due to a low influence of the measure in general (e.g. small areas of investment) or due to lower results than expected (e.g. lower participation than expected, objectives regarding biodiversity not reached entirely). Only in one case, the limited impact itself was explained (stonewalls as habitats for different species).

Half of the positive impacts on water quality mentioned resulted from the improvement of the infiltration capacity of soils, combined with a reduced risk of runoff. Other positive impacts were due to the protection of water resources through the restoration of wetlands, the construction of buffer stripes and the reduction of nutrient loads into water. In one report was stated, that the positive categorization was due to the target achievement of the measure.

The categorization into "limited" was due to small areas of investment and no or low demand for the measure (in one case the water authorities could not access funds). Only in one report was the limited impact itself explained – some water pollution risks (pesticides) could be reduced.

One report stated a negative impact on water quality through the measure due to non- adherence to a certain specification of the measure.

Positive effects on mitigation of climate change are due to the reduction of fertilizer input, enhancement of carbon sequestration in soils and plants and by avoiding the decrease in organic soil matter. A limited effect has been seen in one report in a limited reduction of GHG emissions. Other than that was the limitation of effects due to small areas of investment and the limited land contracted for the measure. In the latter case, however, the targets set for the measure were achieved.

The great majority of positive impacts mentioned regarding soil quality concern the prevention and reduction of soil erosion by means of increasing the content of organic matter and improving the infiltration capacity of the soil, therefore reducing the risk of runoff. Further on soil erosion was prevented through dry-stone walls and similar structures and soil cover through vegetation. In one report was stated that an improvement of the soil quality was improved due to an analysis of soil contamination financed through M216. Another report stated in general that M216 showed positive impacts for all criteria analysed in relation to soil quality.

A limited effect was seen in one report in the indirect effect by improving knowledge on polluted soils. In two other cases, the effects were limited due to the low demand by potential beneficiaries for options favouring soil quality and the achievement below target values, respectively. In one case, no further information was given.

The positive effects on the avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment, which are stated in three reports, include the restoration of typical plantations (e.g. olive, nuts and aromatic plantations), the renaturation of a specific area and the maintenance and restoration of HNVP systems in mountain and protected areas, respectively. A limited effect was seen in the restoration of stonewalls, which support countryside preservation. That is of some help for those who already live and are active in the countryside.

Conclusion

In order to support non-productive investments in farm holdings, a total budget of € 621.0 million has been spent on Measure 216 by 16 Member States across 53 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 44 294 farm holdings supported and a total investment volume of € 1 190 million. With regards to the investment volume, the measure corresponds to 0.8 % of the total GVA in agriculture of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 0.7 % of the total GVA in agriculture in the EU as a whole. In the corresponding Member States, 1.0 % of agricultural holdings took part in the measure, which equals an EU-wide share of 0.4 %⁹³;

⁹³ reference data refers to 2013 data.

- Result indicators are reported on Axis level, concerning the number of hectares supported by the measure reported by 13 Member States. The strongest impact is reported for soil quality, marginalisation and biodiversity. However, it is not clear, how the relatively high numbers of hectares for these environmental aspects are related to non-productive investments.

According to the synthesis, 43 % of the reports attribute a positive contribution to the measure. A rather large number of aspects were considered as improvement for the environment and the landscape. The conservation and development of habitats and biodiversity were mentioned several times. Further topics were the reduction of erosion, stability of slopes, better soil quality management, improvement of water quality, preventing natural hazards and increasing carbon sequestration. Landscape-related topics were the conservation and improvement of the scenery.

A limited contribution of the measure is stated by 27 % of the reports. 8% of the reports attributed no contribution of the measure, 20 % did not deliver any information on the topic (N/A) and 2 % provided other classifications (not clear). The information presented in Figure 3.72 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 51 reports, of which 72 % reported on the contribution of the measure. Due to the number of regions which implemented the measure and reported on the implementation, we consider the assessment on the contribution to improving the environmental situation plausible. As 55 % of the judgments provided have been positive, we conclude that the measure has contributed to a medium extent to improving the environmental situation.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M216, 55 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusion, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ36. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this Measure?

Eight other effects were mentioned in 15 regions. They vary widely in content, but can be roughly divided into socio-economic and landscape related topics. Socio-economic impacts are mentioned explicitly with reference to supply chains, the improvement of competitiveness and the generation of employment (3 reports). Further topics concern the quality of life (2 reports), rescue of cultural heritage, research, reduction of depopulation, sustainability and local recreation (1 report each). In an economic sense, the physical infrastructure, the development of quality products, enhancing tourism and better working conditions for farmers are relevant topics (1 report each).

Landscape related topics cover landscape valorisation and conservation, increased attractiveness of the area and enhancement of the natural heritage (1 report each). However, there are clear interdependencies between the topics, e.g. between the landscape conservation and the development of the local economy.

Positive effects for non-beneficiaries were stated with regards to the provision of public goods, the public utility value of Natura 2000 sites in terms of recreation and nature, the protection against soil erosion, the increase of the touristic value of the rural areas and an improved landscape (5 effects in 5 regions). Further 3 reports included effects, with unclear impacts.

To conclude, the other reported effects of this measure were all positive.

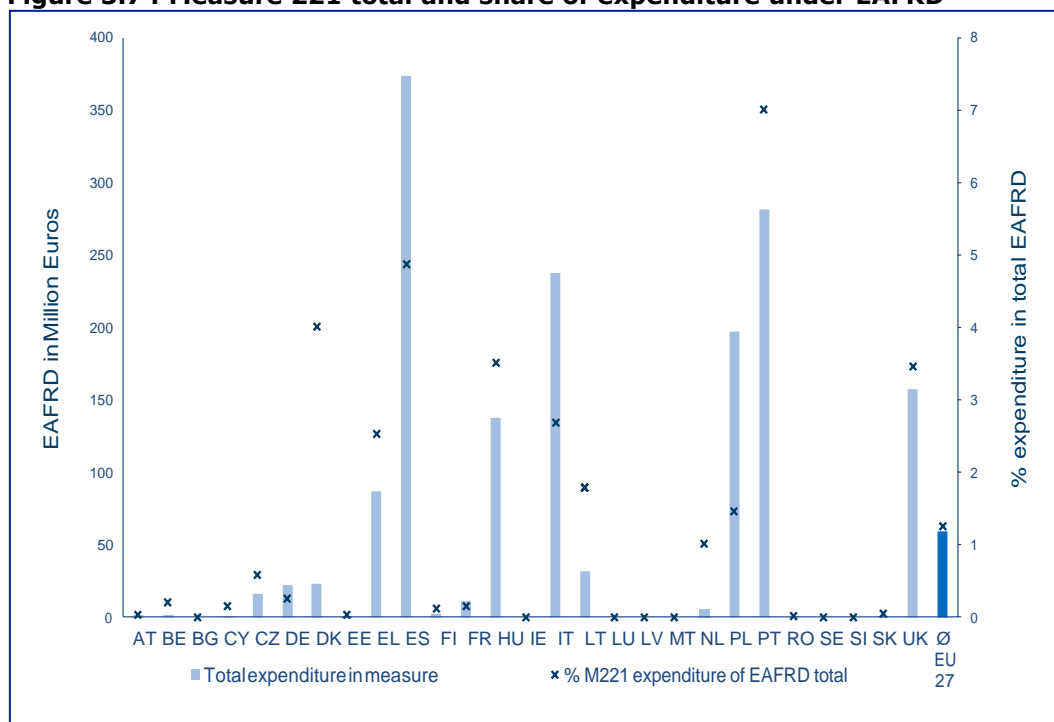
Measure 221: First afforestation of agricultural land

General information about the measure

In a total of 63 reports (20 Member States), Measure 221 was utilised for the afforestation of agricultural land. A total budget of € 1.6 billion was used across all Member States and regions implementing the measure. In addition to the intensification of agricultural land use through transformation into forests and the expansion of the entire forest area, the measure also pursued the goal of introducing sustainable forest management in these areas. Through site-specific afforestation and sustainable use, forests can be established as a long-term carbon sink. Site-specific afforestation measures and programmes can also be used to reduce the risk of soil erosion and the release of potential harmful substances (e.g. pesticides and fertilisers) into surface waters, increase soil water storage capacity and stabilise the local hydrological cycle. Furthermore, forests generally function as a local recreation area, favouring the landscape and also represent a potential income alternative for farmers.

The measure was mainly assessed on the basis of an analysis of existing data. In addition, interviews were conducted with experts and beneficiaries and literature research was undertaken due to the long period of production and development of forests. In support, a number of case studies and more general reference values were used. In some cases, it was hardly possible to carry out an in-depth analysis of the impact of the measure due to low implementation rates.

Figure 3.74 Measure 221 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 221. The relevant output indicators are the number of afforested land (ha) and number of applications approved. The relevant result indicator for this measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.38 Output indicators for Measure 221

Value	Number of afforested land (ha)	Number of applications approved
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	17	17
Range	11 – 55 996	15 – 14 644
Median	3 115	814
Average	11 997	2 502
Total	203 944	42 531

Three Member States that implemented the Measure did not provide information on output indicators.

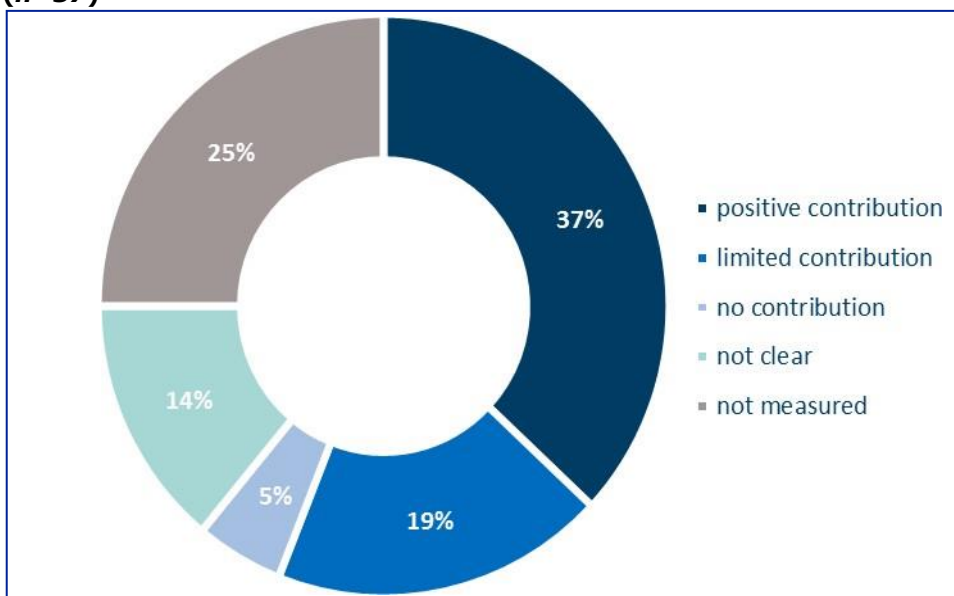
With actions in Measure 221, 0.1 % of the total UAA of the Member States, which offered the measure, was afforested, which corresponds to 0.1 % in the EU as a whole. The total afforested

area makes up 0.2 % of the forest area of the Member States, which implemented the measure, corresponding to 0.1 % at EU level⁹⁴.

Where additional indicators were used to assess the measure, particular reference was made to the reduction and sequestration of greenhouse gases. The number of afforested stands and tree species used were also discussed. In 45 reports, no further information was provided on additional indicators.

SQ23. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?

Figure 3.75 Measure 221's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=57)



In 37 % of the reports of programmes which implemented the measure, the evaluation of the measure's impact on the general environmental situation was positive. This was largely due to the diverse and various ecological functions of forests. Forests are considered to be carbon sinks and hot spots of biodiversity, regulate the water balance and the local climate and also protect soil from erosion and promote soil fauna. Accordingly, forests are assessed positively without further consideration, which means that in the ex-post evaluation reports, the effect of the measure has been regarded several times as equivalent to the area supported. By contrast, the effect of Measure 221 was occasionally neglected due to the small size of the support area achieved in a national comparison. However, the positive aspects listed above were acknowledged in the local context. More detailed evaluations were carried out primarily on the basis of the separately presented environmental aspects of biodiversity, water quality, climate change, soil quality and land abandonment.

A positive, albeit rather small, impact of the measure on the general environmental situation was described in 19 % of ex-post reports. This was predominantly due to relatively low utilisation and, as a result, poor target achievement of the indicators. It was occasionally pointed out that a large part of the afforested area had already been established during the previous funding period and that the area increase observed was relatively low. Yet in one ex- post evaluation report, afforestation was even viewed critically. Although the measure in itself has not been denied its very positive environmental impacts, the fact that e.g. some species- rich grassland areas along forest edges have been afforested must also be taken into account in an overall assessment. Evaluators argue that this may reduce the diversity of species and may also cause important buffer areas between forests and agricultural land to be lost. In addition, if less site-specific species composition is supported during afforestation, this can strongly counteract the actually positive aspects of the new forest.

⁹⁴ The areas of forests refer to 2015 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

In three cases (5 %), the measure was offered but not implemented, or only to a very limited extent. Consequently, measure 221 was assumed to have no impact on the general environmental situation or other environmental aspects.

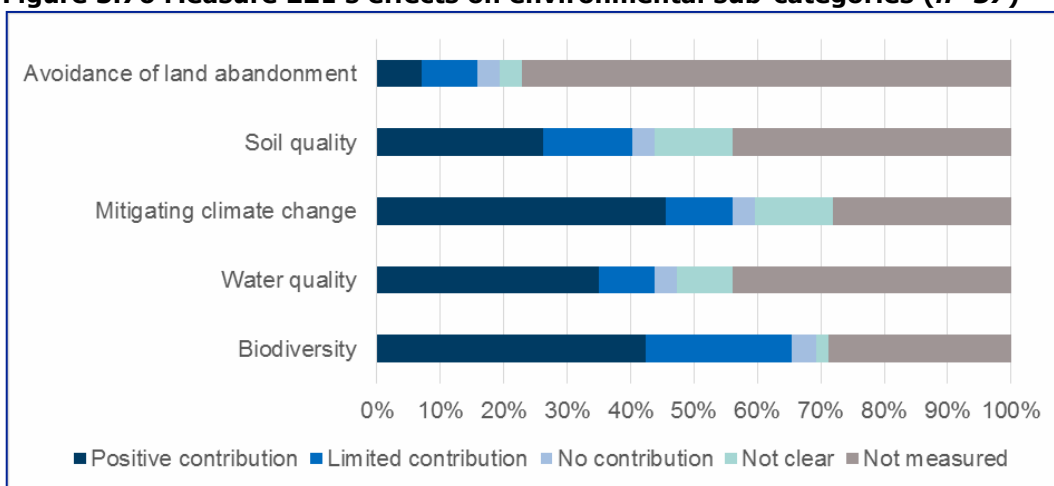
In a small part of the ex-post evaluation reports (14 %), the impact of the measure could not be clearly identified, either because of an insufficient data basis (including low utilisation) or because the evaluation was very limited and specifically focused exclusively on individual aspects and studies (e. g. outside the topic of ecology). These unclear assessments tend to be most likely to rank between no and a minor positive impact on the general environmental situation.

In addition, a fourth of the reports did not examine the environmental situation in general or the impact of Measure 221. These were either old commitments from the previous funding period or simply no general assessment was carried out.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

This section deals with the environmental aspects of biodiversity, water quality, combating of climate change, soil quality and land use tasks. The positive aspects mentioned are particularly taken into account in this context, further classifications are not considered, or only to a limited extent.

Figure 3.76 Measure 221's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=57)



The impacts of the measure on biodiversity were seen as slightly more positive (43 %) than the effect on the general environmental situation, as afforestation projects under the measure resulted in the establishment of new landscape structures (36 % of positive mentions) which develop over a prolonged period (14 % of positive) into habitats and biomes for site-specific and/or emerging species (23 % of positive). In the reports where the contribution is evaluated as positive, it is also shown that the diverse structures are used by many species as stepping stones, ecological corridors and islands, thus contributing to the development of complex animal and plant communities as well as functional links and networks (45 %). In some of these positive cases, the ex-post evaluation reports also state that the intensification of management associated with afforestation generally leads to a higher diversity than on the previous agricultural areas (18 %) – however, some species-rich areas (especially grassland) have also been afforested, which can result in potential species loss and a shift in species composition (9 %). Without questioning the above-mentioned biodiversity aspects, overall 23 % of the reports attested that the measure had little impact on biodiversity, where in 83 % of these cases this was due to low utilization and area of support reached.

It is confirmed in 35 % of the ex-post evaluation reports that the measure had a positive effect on water quality. On the one hand, this positive effect was based on extensive cultivation and the absence of pesticides, fertilizers or other chemicals (35 %). On the other hand, the complex effects of afforestation were presented in detail. For instance, the establishment of new forest stands not only reduces soil erosion (35 % of positive mentions) and thus the input of particles and harmful substances into surface waters but also promotes an ecosystem with considerable potential filtration functions in biomass and soil. Forest soils not only have a significantly higher

water storage capacity and water retention capacity (20 %), but also contribute to the general quality of ground and surface water (25 %) with their special buffering and filtration properties (25 %) and are an essential component of a functioning water cycle (15 %).

In addition, 9 % of the overall reports confirmed a low impact on water quality, which was largely attributed to the low utilisation of the measure (40 %) or the non-optimal targeted areas (20 %).

In 44 % of all cases, there was no detailed examination of the effects of the measures with regard to water quality.

The contribution of the measure to mitigating climate change was also assessed as predominantly positive (46 %). Particular emphasis was placed on the positive effects on CO₂ storage function in biomass and soil of the newly established forest stands (73 %; some calculated the sequestered amount of CO₂ or C), but also the long duration and slow process should be kept in mind (12 %). Since afforestation, in comparison with the previous areas, generally introduces a more extensive management, the measure has also been considered capable of reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by the management of the area (23 %).

A limited contribution to the fight against climate change was attested in 11 % of the reports. The actual effect was justified as described above, but due to low implementation rates, it was estimated to be significantly lower.

Positive effects of Measure 221 on soil quality is confirmed in 26 % of the reports. In just under half of these cases (47 %), this was attributed mainly to the reduction of soil erosion caused by long-term vegetation and soil cover - especially if the measure was implemented in areas with an increased risk of erosion (20 %). In this respect, reference was also made to the general improvement in soil quality, including the water balance, and to the absence of fertilisation (27 %).

In 63 % of the reports in which the effect on soil quality was classified as limited (14 % overall), this was due to the poor utilisation and therefore rather minor support areas achieved. Furthermore, it was sometimes noted that although the measure was effective, only a small proportion of it was carried out in the relevant risk area (25 %), which tended to reduce the overall impact.

Approximately half of all reports (44 %) which evaluated Measure 221 did not include a detailed evaluation of the measure's impact on soil quality.

To a large extent (77 %), the effects of measure 221 on the reduction of land abandonment and marginalisation are not addressed in the ex-post evaluation reports. Only in a few cases, the contribution is regarded as positive or limited (7 % and 9 %, respectively) and justified on the basis of diversification and income alternatives.

Conclusion

In order to improve the environmental situation, a total budget of € 1 586 million has been spent on Measure 221 by 20 Member States across 63 regions, which has resulted in:

- A total output of 203 944 hectares of afforested land in 42 531 supported actions. Across the Member States which offered the measure 0.1 % of the total UAA or 0.2 % of the total forest area were reached with the measure;
- The reported values of the Result Indicator R.6 are often significantly higher than those of the Output Indicator (up to five times larger areas were reported per country). The maximum was reported for the total area with successful land management towards the mitigation of climate change (614 110 hectares).

Due to the large discrepancies in indicator values for this measure, we cannot conclude which indicator values must be used to correctly answer the evaluation question regarding the improvement of the environmental situation.

According to the synthesis, 37 % of the ex-post evaluation reports assessed a positive contribution of the measure to the improvement of the environmental situation (mostly regarding biodiversity, mitigation of climate change and water quality). This was largely

attributed to the diverse and various ecological functions of forests and hence the afforested areas were often assessed positively without further consideration. However, as 39 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not include a detailed examination of the measure's impact on the environmental situation, the available information covers the regions which implemented the measure to a small extent only.

In summary, the measure can contribute to improving the environmental situation depending on the utilisation, design and initial local environmental situation. Due to the large differences in the indicator values and the rather general assessments in the ex-post evaluation reports, it is not possible to give a more precise conclusion and must be considered with caution.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M221, 61 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusion, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ37. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this Measure?

About one third (30 %) of the reports mentioned one or more additional effects of the measure. The frequent references to job creation, diversification and competitiveness of farms are particularly noticeable. Furthermore, the (newly afforested) forest was identified as an important opportunity for local recreation, whereas other aspects were only mentioned in individual cases.

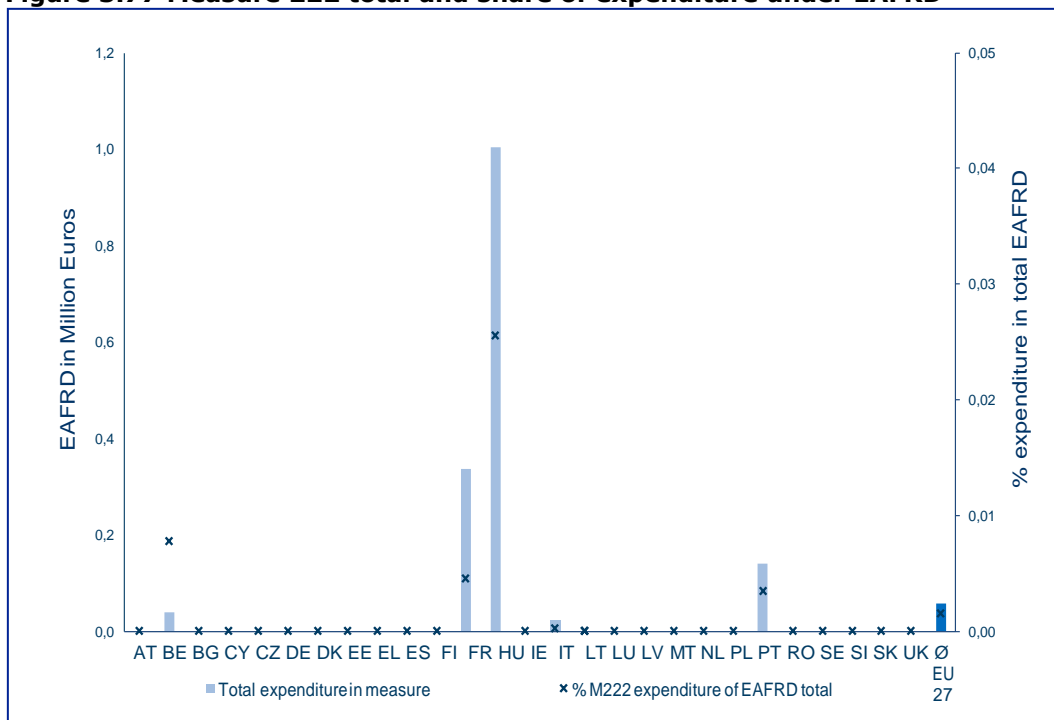
Measure 222: First establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land

General information about the measure

Measure 222 was implemented in only 5 Member States, respectively 8 regions, with a total budget of € 1.5 million for all Member States and regions. As the name implies, the measure was intended to promote the establishment of agroforestry systems on former agricultural land. Agroforestry systems are characterised by the combination of agricultural and forestry use - often in connection with extensive, partly forested pastures.

It should be noted that a detailed evaluation of the measure could often not be assured due to the very low utilisation or implementation.

Figure 3.77 Measure 222 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 222. The relevant output indicators are the utilized agricultural area (UAA) supported (ha) and number of applications approved. The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.39 Output indicators for Measure 222

Value	UAA supported (ha)	Number of applications approved
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	5	5
Range	24 - 1 482	2 - 182
Median	247	17
Average	581	58
Total	2 905	291

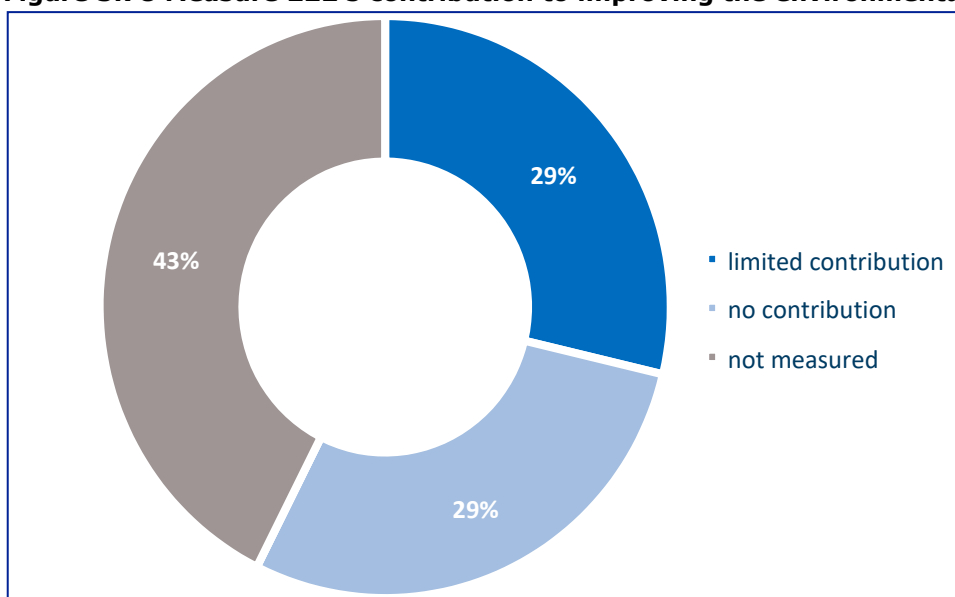
All Member States that implemented the Measure provided information on output indicators.

In comparison with the total UAA of the Members States which implemented the measure, as well as on EU level, the share of UAA supported by Measure 222 is negligible (5.9‰ and 1.7‰ respectively)⁹⁵.

With regard to Measure 222, none of the reports mentioned additional indicators.

SQ23. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?

Figure 3.78 Measure 222's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=7)



In addition to the very small number of samples (n=7), the measure was implemented to a very limited extent, so that no detailed evaluations were possible in the ex-post reports. Due to this,

⁹⁵ Reference data refers to 2013 data.

very low level of utilization, the measure was attributed either very little or no environmental impact or no assessment was made. Therefore, the transitions between the classifications (limited, no contribution and not applicable) are rather fluid and vague.

In two of the seven cases (29 %), the measure was attested to have a low environmental impact, which was mainly due to the low level of implementation based on the target indicators. The measure was not examined in more detail here.

Due to the very low level of implementation, the measure was twice (29 %) considered to have no effects - again, this was justified by the target indicators.

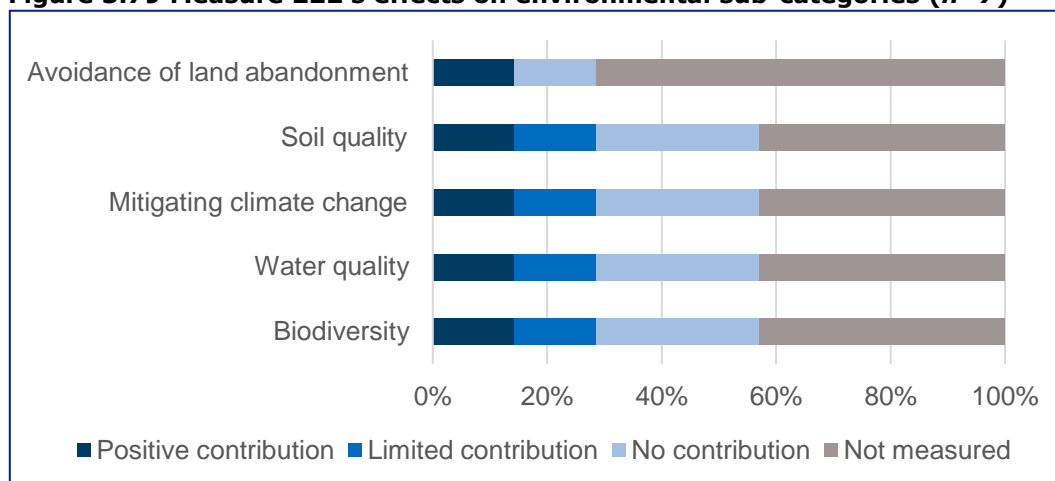
In the rest of the cases (43 %), no detailed assessment was carried out, which in turn was attributed to the very low level of implementation of the measure.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

Due to non-existent or very low implementation, it was barely possible to carry out a detailed evaluation of the measure in other aspects such as biodiversity, water and soil quality, climate change and land abandonment.

In one case, positive impacts on biodiversity, water and soil quality were mentioned. The changes in the habitat resulting from the measure enabled new species of animals, plants and fungi to be established and, by reducing the use of fertilizers and pesticides, soil organisms (e.g. microorganisms) were able to regenerate and deposits in surface and groundwater were reduced. Positive effects with regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation were also attributed to the measure in this case, as atmospheric CO₂ is fixed in the growing biomass. Furthermore, it was postulated that agroforestry systems could potentially counteract land abandonment because they represent a possible alternative source of income for the farmer. However, the positive effects of the measure mentioned above were described as minor in terms of their impact on the general environmental situation due to the limited and local implementation.

Figure 3.79 Measure 222's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=7)



Conclusion

In order to improve the environmental situation, a total budget of € 1.5 million has been spent on Measure 222 by 5 Member States across 8 regions, which has resulted in:

- A total output of 2 905 hectares of supported utilised agricultural area (UAA) in 291 supported actions was achieved. In comparison with other measures, only a very small share of the UAA was supported with Measure 222 (0.0017 % on EU level);
- Furthermore, a comparison of the output and result indicators shows that the supported areas only partly contribute to improving biodiversity, water quality, mitigating climate change, soil quality and avoiding land use abandonment (output > result). Due to the low utilisation of the measure in the RDPs and the limited impact on the individual

aspects of the result indicator, Measure 222 contributed less to improving the environmental situation than other area-based measures.

Since a large part of the ex-post evaluation reports (43 %) of the programmes which implemented the measure did not take a closer look at the contribution of the measure to improving the environmental situation, the available information covers the regions which implemented the measure to a small extent only. Therefore, and due to the very low utilisation of the measure, a meaningful assessment of its effects is almost impossible and should be given utmost caution.

The information presented in Figure 3.78, judging the contribution of the measure, is based on 7 reports of which 57 % reported on the contribution of the measure. We therefore consider the assessment on the contribution not plausible. There are furthermore no reports of a positive contribution of the measure towards improving the environmental situation.

None of the reports that provided a conclusion on M222 stated a positive contribution, and 50 % stated a limited contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a very limited extent. Of the small number of regions in which the measure was implemented, approximately half of the ex- post evaluation reports provided conclusions. We therefore consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ37. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this Measure?

Other impacts in one case were the possible increased competitiveness and improved local recreational function / landscape scenery. These effects may occur only at the most local level, if they are present.

Measure 223: First afforestation of non-agricultural land

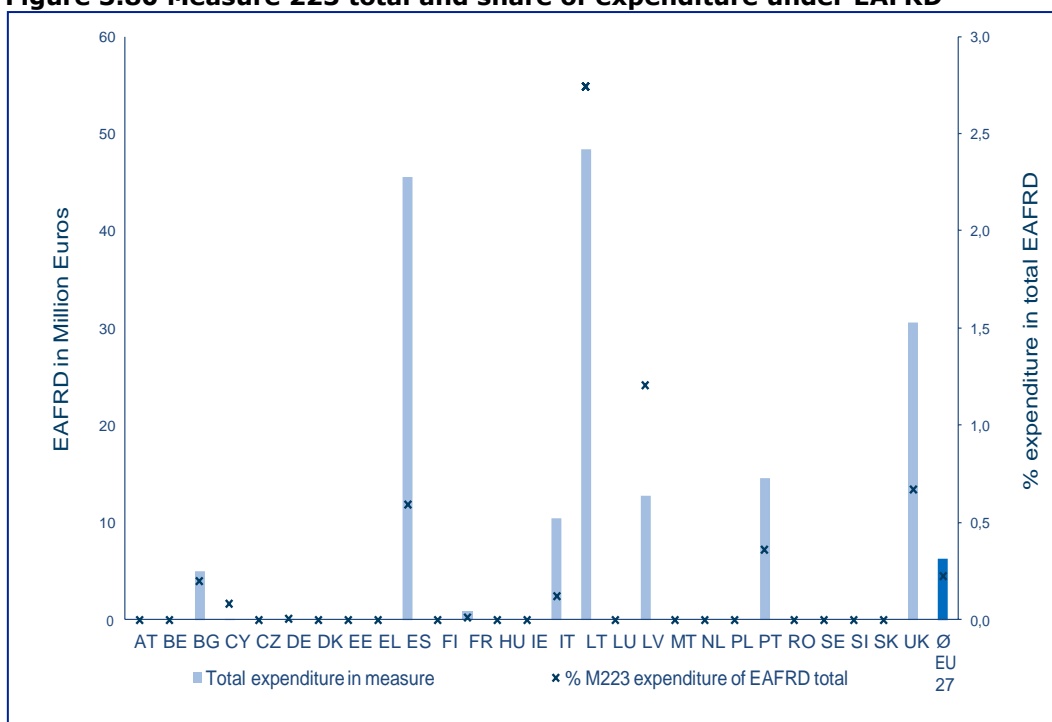
General information about the measure

Measure 223 has been implemented in a total of 10 Member States (32 reports), with a total budget of € 168.2 million for all Member States and regions.

With regard to the objective of the measure, reference is made here to Measure 221, which is a measure targeting afforestation as well. In contrast to Measure 221, Measure 223 used non-agricultural land for reforestation. Nevertheless, the potential effects and objectives of the measures are generally identical, which is why they have been examined together to a considerable extent in the evaluations.

The measure was mainly assessed on the basis of an analysis of existing data, but in some cases, these were not sufficiently suitable for interpretation due to low implementation rates. In addition, interviews were conducted with experts and beneficiaries and literature research was undertaken due to the long period of production and development of forests.

Figure 3.80 Measure 223 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 223. The relevant output indicators are the total afforested land (ha) and number of applications approved. The relevant result indicator for this measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.40 Output indicators for Measure 223

Value	Total afforested land (ha)	Number of applications approved
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	9	9
Range	17 - 35 748	21 - 2 529
Median	3 958	828
Average	8 427	1 068
Total	84 265	10 680

One Member State that implemented the Measure did not provide information on output indicators.

The total afforested area under Measure 223 makes up 0.1 % of the total forest area of the Member States, which implemented the measure. This corresponds to less than 0.1 % in the EU as a whole⁹⁶.

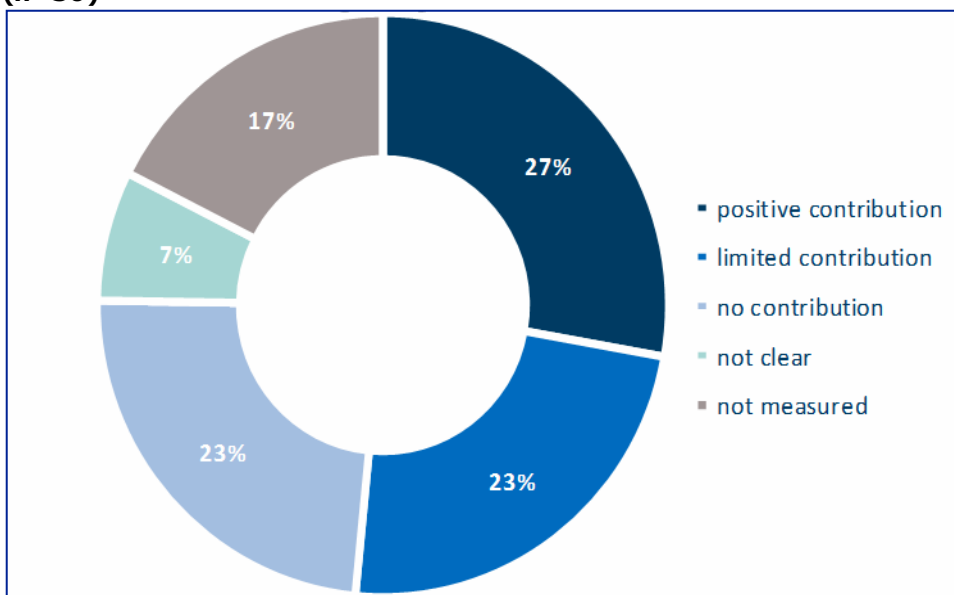
Other indicators are mainly used to measure the number of afforested stands or area, for example in Natura 2000 sites. 24 reports did not mention any additional indicators.

⁹⁶

The areas of forests refer to 2015 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

SQ23. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation

Figure 3.81 Measure 223's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=30)



In the 30 reports, the effect of Measure 223 on the general environmental situation was equally balanced across the four categories 'positive', 'limited', 'no contribution' and 'not measured/unclear'. In comparison to Measure 221, the evaluations are generally more simplified, but often with reference to the in-depth analyses of Measure 221 which was usually implemented on considerably larger areas.

Over a quarter (27 %) of the reports in which the measure was evaluated attested a positive contribution to improving the general environmental situation. Detailed explanations are rarely presented, but the very broad impact of the measure on various environmental aspects has been emphasised (78 % of positive answers).

In around a quarter of the evaluations (23%), the effects of the measures are considered to be limited. In 86% of cases, the small effects were explained by the low utilisation and the resulting small support area.

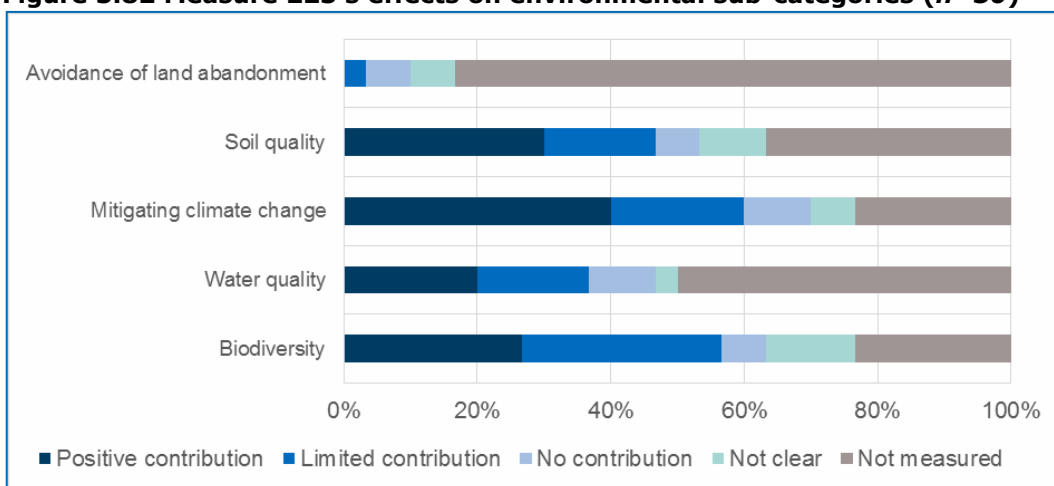
Due to the fact that implementation was even less or hardly existent, 23 % of the overall cases of the measure had no or only negligible impact on the general environmental situation.

Another quarter of the ex-post reports do not include a detailed or an unclear assessment of the environmental impact of the measure.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

This section deals with the environmental aspects of biodiversity, water quality, combating of climate change, soil quality and land use tasks. The positive aspects mentioned are particularly taken into account in this context, further classifications are not considered, or only to a limited extent.

Figure 3.82 Measure 223's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=30)



The effect of the measure on the support and improvement of biodiversity was assessed as positive in 27 % of cases. In half of these, the detailed evaluations under Measure 221 were referred to. If no such reference was made, the positive assessment was nevertheless based on similar arguments such as the creation of habitats, which are used as ecological corridors and offer a wide range of ecologically functional traits and networks.

Approximately one third of the reports (30 %) attested that the measure had only a limited impact. This was largely justified (44 %) by the low utilisation or the fact that the current ecological situation (even in areas with a high share of HNV) is more likely to be maintained but not improved by the measure (33 %).

A positive assessment of the measure with regard to water quality was given in 20 % of all evaluations. In cases where no reference was made to Measure 221, this was associated with improved erosion protection and extensive cultivation.

In a further 17 % of the ex-post reports, afforestation of non-agricultural land has been attributed only limited effects on improving water quality. As before, these minor effects were mainly associated with low or poor implementation (60 %).

In 50 % of all evaluations of the measure, contributions to improving water quality were not addressed, or only to an insufficient extent.

The contribution of the measure to adapting and mitigating climate change was largely assessed as positive (40 %). To 58 % this was attributed to the increased CO₂ storage capacity of forests in comparison with agricultural land - in 1/3 of the positive evaluations, reference was made to the information on Measure 221.

In a further 20 % of all cases, the corresponding effects of the measure were classified as limited, which was itself justified by the poor area-related implementation.

30 % of the available reports rated the contribution of Measure 223 to improving soil quality as positive. The main aspects cited here were the afforestation efforts to protect against soil removal and erosion (67 %) and the overall improvement in soil quality (33 %), e.g. due to deeper root penetration.

In a further 17 % of all reports, this impact was considered to be minor due to the low utilisation of the measure.

The contribution of the measure to the avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment was almost entirely omitted in the ex-post reports (83 %), hence it is not discussed here either.

Conclusion

In order to improve the environmental situation, a total budget of € 168 million has been spent on Measure 223 by 10 Member States across 32 regions, which has resulted in:

- A total output of 84 265 hectares of afforested land in 10 680 supported actions. Across the Member States which implemented the measure, 0.1 % of the total forest area were reached;
- The reported values of the Result Indicator R.6 are relatively close to those of the Output Indicator, whereas the maximum was reported for the total area with successful land management towards the mitigation of climate change (92 034 hectares).

According to the synthesis, 27 % of the ex-post evaluation reports assessed a positive contribution of the measure to the improvement of the environmental situation (mostly regarding the mitigation of climate change). However, detailed explanations were rarely presented, but the very broad impact of the measure on various environmental aspects has been emphasised and reference has been made to the in-depth analyses of Measure 221, which was usually implemented on considerably larger areas. No or limited contributions of the measure were assessed in 23 % of the cases. These evaluations are based on the very low utilisation and area coverage of the measure and therefore not on its design. As 23 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not include a detailed examination of the measure's impact on the environmental situation, the available information covers the regions which implemented the measure to a limited extent only.

In summary, the measure can contribute to improving the environmental situation depending on the utilisation, design and initial local environmental situation.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M223, 37 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a limited extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusion, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ37. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure?

Further effects of the afforestation of non-agricultural land were cited in 30 % of the reports. Particular mention was made of the economic aspects such as diversification and securing and/or increasing income and job opportunities. The aesthetic aspects of the landscape and the recreational function were mentioned as well.

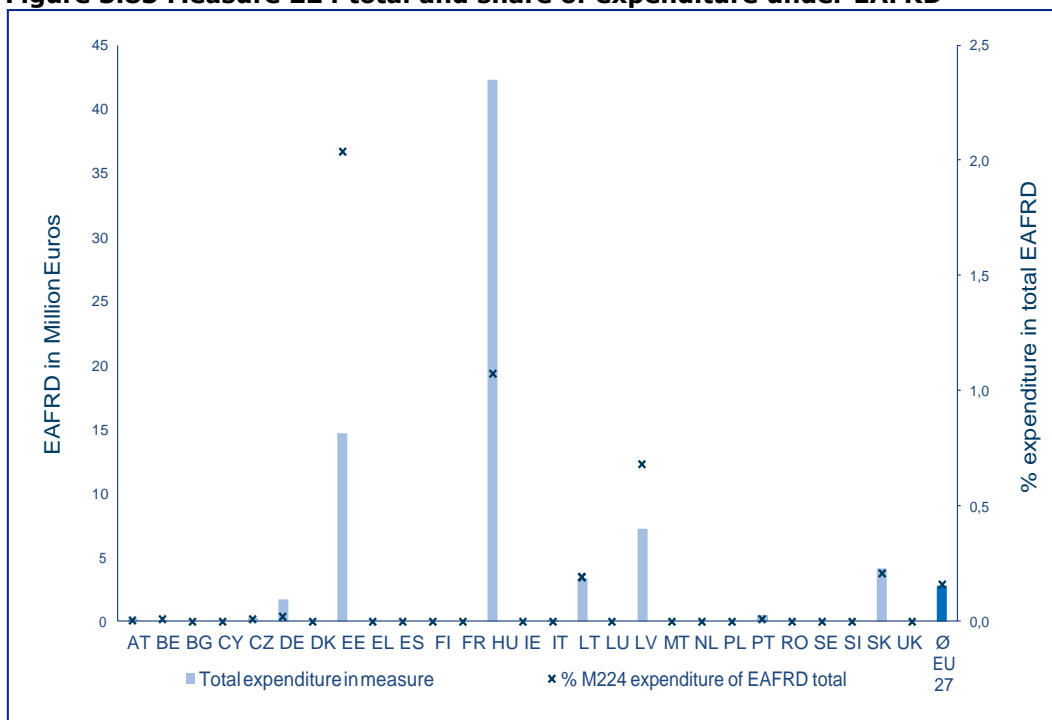
Measure 224: Natura 2000 payments – forestry

General information about the measure

Measure 224 was implemented in eleven Member States in a total of 13 regions, with a total budget of € 74.3 million for all Member States and regions. The main objective of the measure was to compensate for costs incurred and income foregone resulting from the restrictions on the use of forests and other wooded land due to the implementation of Natura 2000 regulations and thus to improve public acceptance of the Natura 2000 network.

Methodologically, surveys (e.g. of beneficiaries), comparative analyses (especially with regard to compensation effects) and literature reviews were used for the evaluation of the measure. In some cases, however, the number of beneficiaries was too small for comprehensive evaluations.

Figure 3.83 Measure 224 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 224. The relevant output indicators are the forestland supported (ha) and number of forest holdings supported. The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.41 Output indicators for Measure 224

Value	Forest land supported (ha)	No of forest holdings supported
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	11	11
Range	52 - 115 494	3 - 6 149
Median	12 753	466
Average	25 361	1 308
Total	278 975	14 391

All Member States that implemented the Measure reported on output indicators.

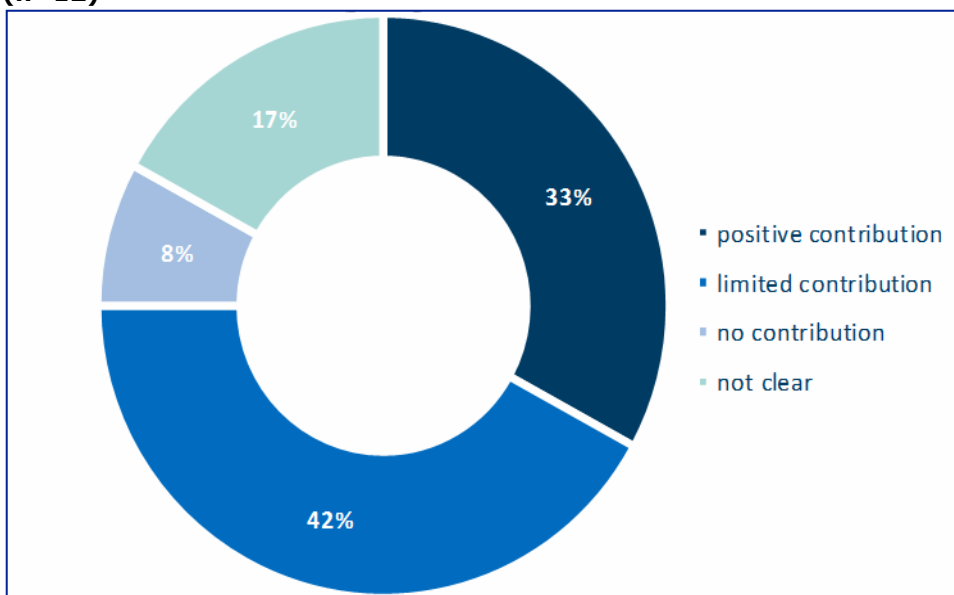
The measure covers 2.3 % of forests in Natura 2000 areas of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 0.7 % of forests in Natura 2000 in the EU as a whole⁹⁷.

Additional indicators used in the evaluation of the measure were for example the area covered by the measure in relation to the total forested area in Natura 2000 areas. Nine reports did not mention any additional or specific indicators.

⁹⁷ The areas of forests in Natura 2000 refer to 2014 and 2015 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

SQ24. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?

Figure 3.84 Measure 224's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=12)



On the one hand, the measure was attested to positively contribute to improving the environmental situation (33 %), the justification being mainly based on the achievement of the target values and not taking a closer look at the individual environmental aspects. Some of the changes that can also be seen in the forest (e.g. deadwood content), which are actually due to higher-level regulations and not the measure itself, are mentioned here.

On the other hand, these regulation-induced changes were taken up in the second group of reports, in which the contribution to the improvement of the environmental situation was evaluated as limited (42 %). Since the restrictions and management requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives are to be complied with even without funding via Measure 224, this measure has generally only had a limited effect on improving the environmental situation. As the measure does not entail additional management requirements, the environmental situation in the Natura 2000 network's high-quality habitats has been preserved through the conservation of deadwood, habitat trees, etc. (by Natura 2000 regulations) but has not generally been improved by the measure.

As Measure 224 is ultimately a compensatory payment for disadvantages caused by regulatory constraints, the knowledge and acceptance of Natura 2000's legal requirements by the beneficiaries could be increased. However, the extent to which this indirect effect has an impact on the environmental situation was not discussed in the context of the ex-post evaluation reports. However, the Natura 2000 payments contributed to environment-conscious economic activities, and as such to the improvement of the state of environment.

Another justification for the limited effect was the often low utilization of the measure as a whole, or that only a fraction of the private forests in Natura 2000 areas was reached by the support. Hence, the measure has not increased the area of highest quality, nature conservation- grade forests.

In one case (8 %), the potential effect of the measure was even assessed as insignificant, since the area, benefiting from the support scheme was deemed to be insufficient.

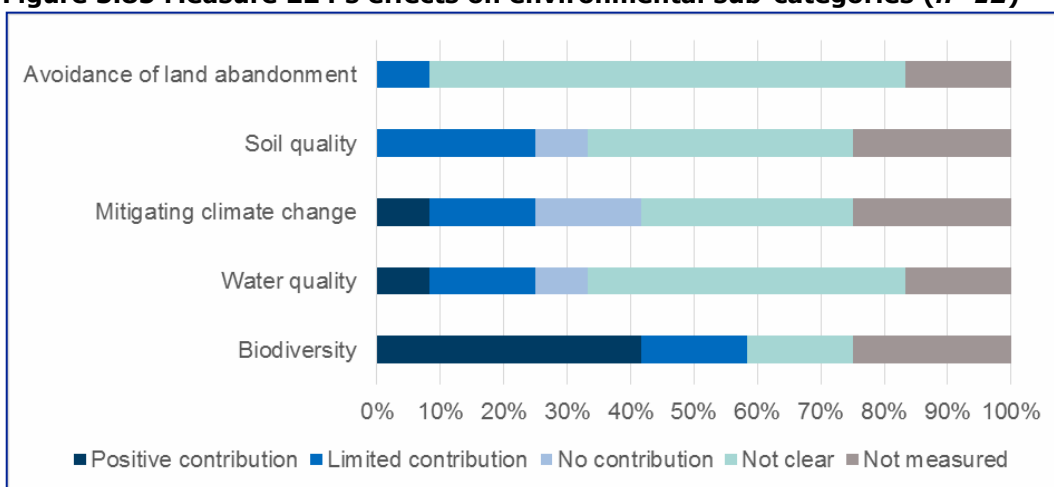
On two occasions (17 %), the impact of the measure was explicitly assessed as ambiguous or indirect, which was justified by the non-quantifiable educational and awareness-raising aspects concerning Natura 2000.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

The sub-categories of the assessment question (biodiversity, water and soil quality, climate change, marginalization and land abandonment) were addressed in a few ex-post assessments, in which cases rather by means of a more general overview than in detail. To a large extent, the ex-post reports did not address potential effects in the areas of water and soil quality, climate change adaptation and mitigation and marginalization and land abandonment. Occasionally, it was reported that the measure had no corresponding effects. In a few cases, the effects in these areas were seen as limited or positive, but the respective interrelationships were not described in detail.

Tree species specific to each habitat and a sufficient proportion of deadwood were highlighted for the improvement of biodiversity. However, it was also clearly noted here that the establishment of these elements initially does not depend on the measure, but on independent legal regulations (FFH regulation Birds and Habitats Directives) and thus only a limited and/or indirect effect can be ascertained.

Figure 3.85 Measure 224's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=12)



Conclusion

In order to compensate the restrictions on the use of forests and other wooded land due to the implementation of Natura 2000 regulations, 11 Member States implemented Measure 214 covering 13 regions and spending a total budget of € 74.3 million. On average, Member States invested less than 0,25 % of their total EAFRD expenditure in Measure 224. This has resulted in:

- An output of 14 391 supported forest holdings and 278 975 hectares woodland covered. The measure covers 2.3 % of forests in Natura 2000 areas of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 0.7 % of forests in Natura 2000 in the EU as a whole⁹⁸;
- Result indicators for this measure are the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment. The respective results are described below. See result indicator tables for Axis II.

To a large extent, the ex-post reports did not address potential effects of Measure 224 on the other sub-categories:

- The area under successful land management contributing to **water quality** amounted to 83 000 hectares across 11 Member States;
- The area under successful land management contributing to biodiversity amounted to 246 000 hectares across 11 Member States;

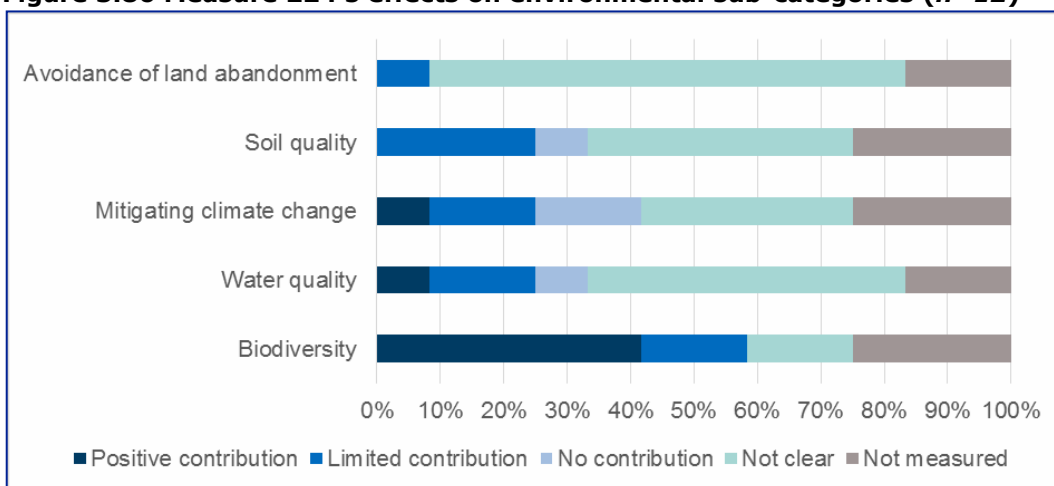
- The area under successful land management contributing to **mitigating climate change** amounted to 79 000 hectares across 11 Member States;
- The area under successful land management contributing to **soil quality** amounted to 92 000 hectares across 11 Member States;
- The area under successful land management contributing to **the avoidance of marginalization and land abandonment** amounted to 82 000 hectares across 11 Member States.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

The sub-categories of the assessment question (biodiversity, water and soil quality, climate change, marginalization and land abandonment) were addressed in a few ex-post assessments, in which cases rather by means of a more general overview than in detail. To a large extent, the ex-post reports did not address potential effects in the areas of water and soil quality, climate change adaptation and mitigation and marginalization and land abandonment. Occasionally, it was reported that the measure had no corresponding effects. In a few cases, the effects in these areas were seen as limited or positive, but the respective interrelationships were not described in detail.

Tree species specific to each habitat and a sufficient proportion of deadwood were highlighted for the improvement of biodiversity. However, it was also clearly noted here that the establishment of these elements initially does not depend on the measure, but on independent legal regulations (FFH regulation Birds and Habitats Directives) and thus only a limited and/or indirect effect can be ascertained.

Figure 3.86 Measure 224's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=12)



Conclusion

In order to compensate the restrictions on the use of forests and other wooded land due to the implementation of Natura 2000 regulations, 11 Member States implemented Measure 214 covering 13 regions and spending a total budget of € 74.3 million. On average, Member States invested less than 0,25 % of their total EAFRD expenditure in Measure 224. This has resulted in:

- An output of 14 391 supported forest holdings and 278 975 hectares woodland covered. The measure covers 2.3 % of forests in Natura 2000 areas of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 0.7 % of forests in Natura 2000 in the EU as a whole⁹⁹;
- Result indicators for this measure are the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and

land abandonment. The respective results are described below. See result indicator tables for Axis II.

To a large extent, the ex-post reports did not address potential effects of Measure 224 on the other sub-categories:

- The area under successful land management contributing to **water quality** amounted to 83 000 hectares across 11 Member States;
- The area under successful land management contributing to biodiversity amounted to 246 000 hectares across 11 Member States;
- The area under successful land management contributing to **mitigating climate change** amounted to 79 000 hectares across 11 Member States;
- The area under successful land management contributing to **soil quality** amounted to 92 000 hectares across 11 Member States;
- The area under successful land management contributing to **the avoidance of marginalization and land abandonment** amounted to 82 000 hectares across 11 Member States.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment:

The area under successful land management contributing to biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry amounted to 246 000 hectares across 11 Member States that reported on Measure 224. The indirect effect of tree species specific to each habitat and a sufficient proportion of deadwood were highlighted as justification for the improvement of biodiversity.

SQ38. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure?

Overall, other effects of the measure were only mentioned in 42 % of reports, and if so, the competitiveness of the holdings or the compensatory effect of the measure was emphasized. As Natura 2000 requirements can have a negative impact on the competitiveness of farms, the compensation payment under the measure has been compared with these disadvantages.

Payments were thus considered partly as adequate but also as insufficient, taking into account the long production period of a forest (> 100 years). In this respect, it was also noted that the payments should be based on the management conditions applicable in the area in question in order to ensure the best possible compensation. The above-mentioned increased acceptance of Natura 2000 regulations and the higher level of information as well as the preservation of biodiversity and habitats was also noted as a side effect.

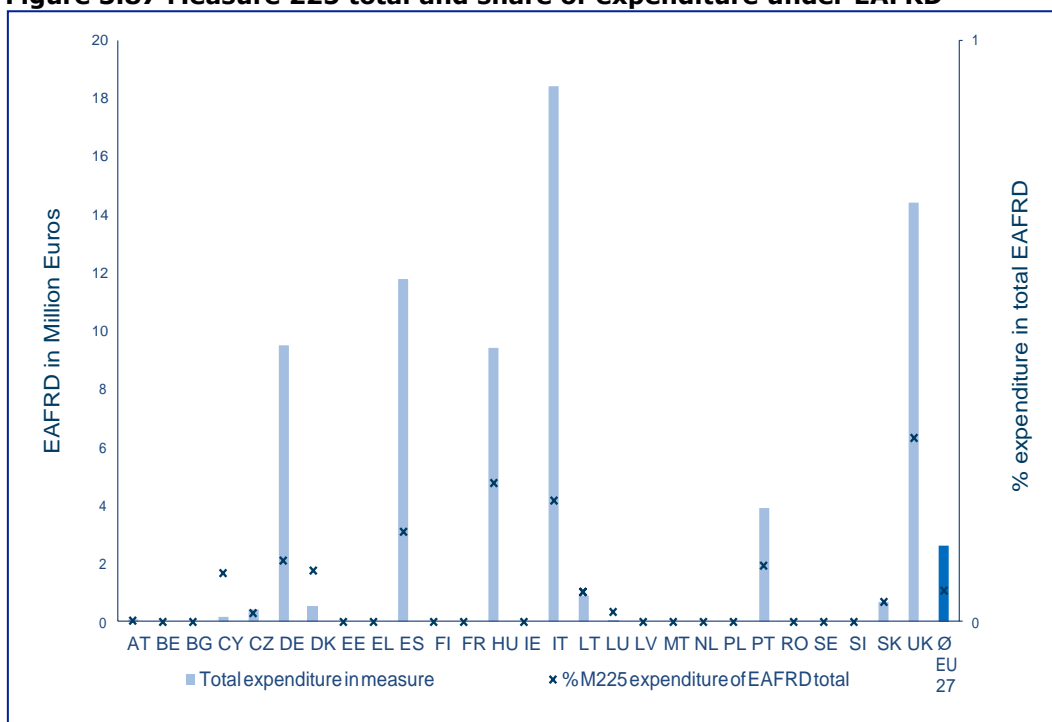
Measure 225: Forest-environment payments

General information about the measure

Measure 225 was implemented in 13 Member States in a total of 27 regions, with a total budget of € 70 million for all Member States and regions. The main objective of the measure was to compensate forest owners who make forest-environmental commitments on a voluntary basis.

A clear indication of the method used was often unclear or missing. However, the reports with an indication mostly used document and literature analyses, beneficiary surveys and expert interviews.

Figure 3.87 Measure 225 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 225. The relevant output indicators are the total forest area supported (ha) and number of contracts. The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.42 Output indicators for Measure 225

Value	Total forest area supported (ha)	No contracts of
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	13	13
Range	22 – 194 936	0 - 5 503
Median	16 552	265
Average	34 105	923
Total	443 365	12 000

All Member States that implemented the Measure reported on output indicators.

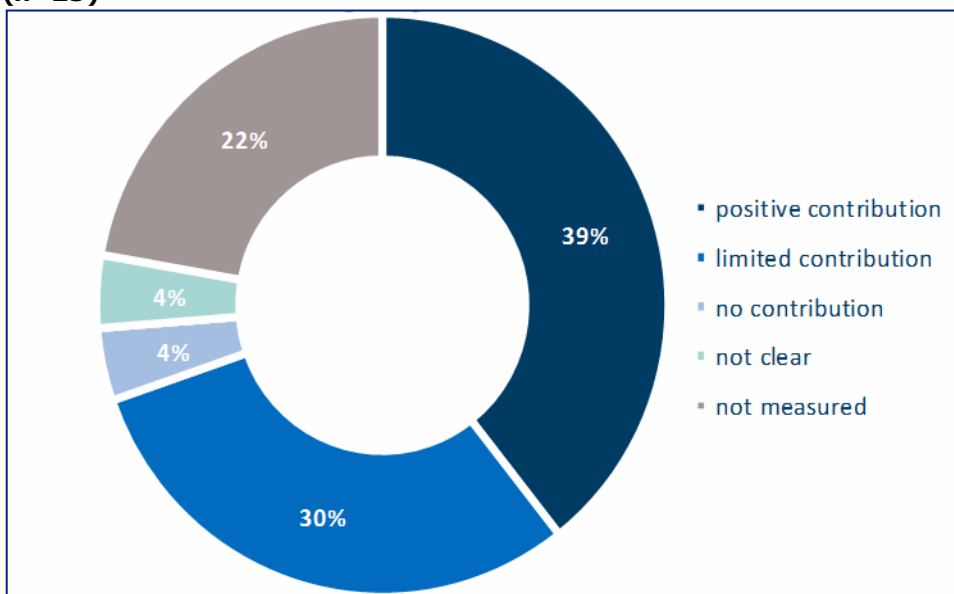
The measure corresponds to 0.6 % of the total forest area of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 0.2 % of the total forest area in the EU as a whole¹⁰⁰.

The percentage of total forest area in Natura 2000 areas was in some reports used as an additional indicator. Most of the reports (20) made use of additional or measure specific indicators.

¹⁰⁰ The areas of forests refer to 2015 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

SQ24. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?

Figure 3.88 Measure 225's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=23)



Considering the 23 available ex-post reports on Measure 225, three different groups are noticeable. 39 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the environmental situation. They mostly see the improvement in higher ecological and biodiversity values (78 %), improved soil quality (33 %), and improved conditions regarding climate change (33 %). Interestingly, a third of the reports (33 %) state that a high share or the majority of benefiting forests are part of Natura 2000 areas.

30 % of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded the measure's effects on the environmental situation were limited. The major reasons for the limited effect are the small land/forest area that benefitted (43 %) and the few participants or the participation below the target value (43 %).

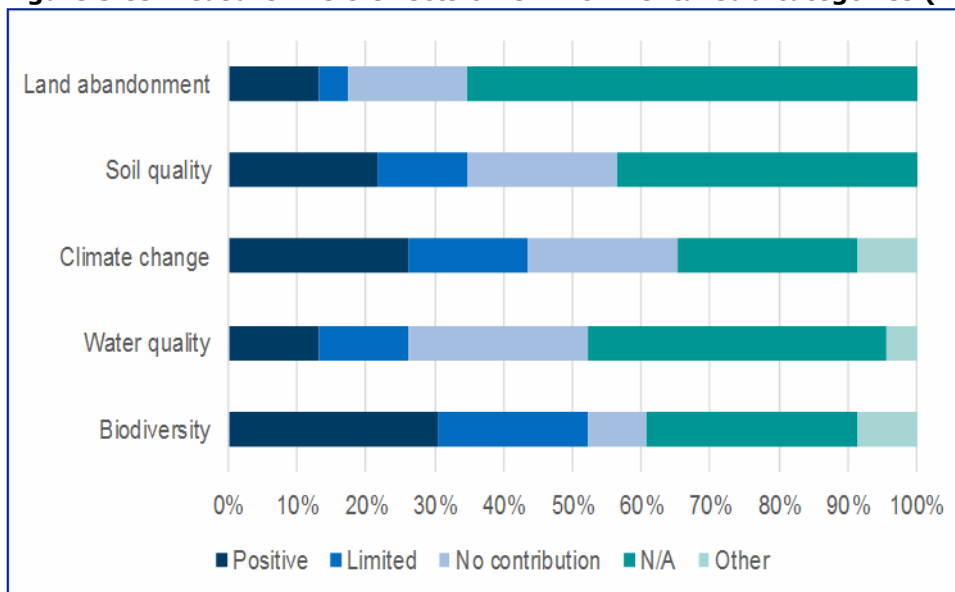
4 % of the ex-post evaluation reports reported no contribution of the measure to the environmental situation. 22 % of the ex-post evaluation reports reported no assessment of the measure regarding the environmental situation and in 4 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was not clearly identified to what extent the measure contributed to the environmental situation.

The major mentioned reasons for these categories are a missing effective or functioning monitoring system and missing evaluations.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

With regard to the effects on biodiversity, water and soil quality, climate change and land abandonment, the evaluations indicate that the measure itself had a weak positive impact on the individual environmental categories. Major positive impacts occurred with respect to biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Figure 3.89 Measure 225's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=23)



The impact of this measure on biodiversity was positive in about one third of the reports (30 %), indicating an environmental impact. For the reports indicating a positive impact on biodiversity, no consistent impact category/biodiversity indicator is used. Most reports do not indicate how biodiversity improved through the measure. The reports indicate a limited impact on biodiversity (22 %) mostly if the uptake of the measure is low (60 %).

The impact of this measure on water quality was only positive in few cases (13 %). For the reports indicating a positive impact on water quality, no consistent impact category/indicator is used. Most reports do not indicate consistently how water quality improved through the measure. The reports indicate a limited impact on water quality (13 %) mostly if the uptake of the measure is low.

The impact of this measure on soil quality was positive in about one fifth of the reports (22 %) with an overall environmental impact. Most reports do not indicate consistently how soil quality improved through the measure. The reports indicate a limited impact on soil quality mostly if the uptake of the measure is low (13 %).

The impact of this measure on climate change was positive in one quarter of the reports (26 %). For the reports assessing a positive impact on climate change, carbon/CO₂ sequestration is the most frequent indicator. Most reports do not indicate consistently how carbon sequestration improved through the measure.

The impact of this measure on the prevention of land abandonment was only positive in few cases (13 %). In these reports, no consistent impact category/indicator is used. However, reports indicate a beneficial impact due to extensive management practices.

Conclusion

In order to improve the environmental situation, a total budget of € 70 million has been spent on Measure 225 by 13 Member States across 27 regions. This has resulted in an output of 0.4 million hectare supported forest area and a total of 12 000 contracts. Relative to the forest area in the EU, the land with forest –environmental payments amounts to 0.2 % of all forest land or to 0.6 % of the forest land in the participating Member States.

As presented in Figure 3.88, 39 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the environmental situation. 30 % of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded the measure's effects on the environment were limited and 4 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. In 78 % of the positive cases the improvement of the environmental situation was attributed to higher ecological and biodiversity values. Improved soil quality and improved conditions regarding climate change were also pointed at as results of the measure which have improved the environmental situation.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M225, 53.4 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusion, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible

SQ38. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure?

The majority of the ex-post reports either did not find additional effects of measure 225 or were not able to clearly identify them (70 % and 17 % respectively). Reports which mentioned additional effects (13 %), the improvement of the recreational quality and the strengthening of the forest bedrock against weathering were mentioned. One report mentioned the positive impact on forest fires, i.e., a reduction through the measure. Non-beneficiaries benefitted with respect to the improved recreational quality of the forest.

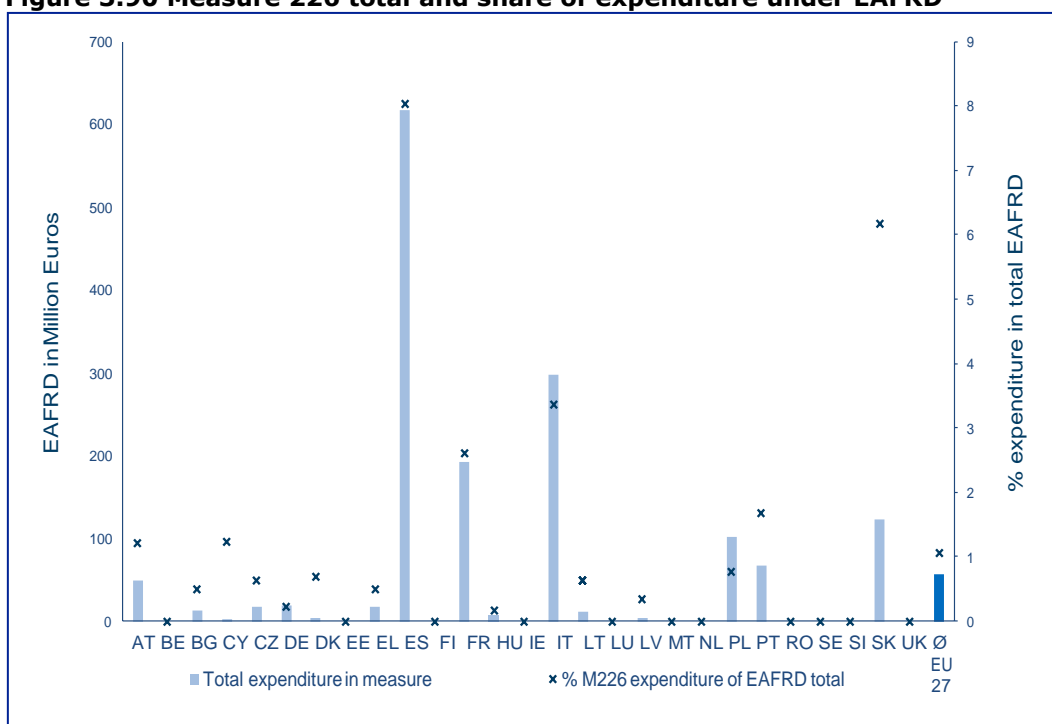
Measure 226: Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions

General information about the measure

Measure 226 was implemented in 16 Member States in a total of 56 regions, with a total budget of € 1.5 million for all Member States and regions. The main objective of the measure was to restore the forestry potential after abiotic and biotic hazards and to introduce prevention actions against these hazards.

A clear indication of the method used was often unclear or missing in the reports. The reports with an indication mostly used document and literature analyses, beneficiary surveys, and expert interviews. Few studies used area specific indicators comparing the current situation with a - counterfactual without the measure. The long-term effect character of the measures makes an evaluation of the effects within the funding period difficult.

Figure 3.90 Measure 226 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 226. The relevant output indicators are the supported area of damaged forests (ha) and number of actions supported. The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.43 Output indicators for Measure 226

Value	Supported area of damaged forests (ha)	Number of actions supported
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	15	15
Range	910 – 6 033 141	111 – 33 569
Median	201 175	734
Average	630 191	4 835
Total	10 083 054	77 359

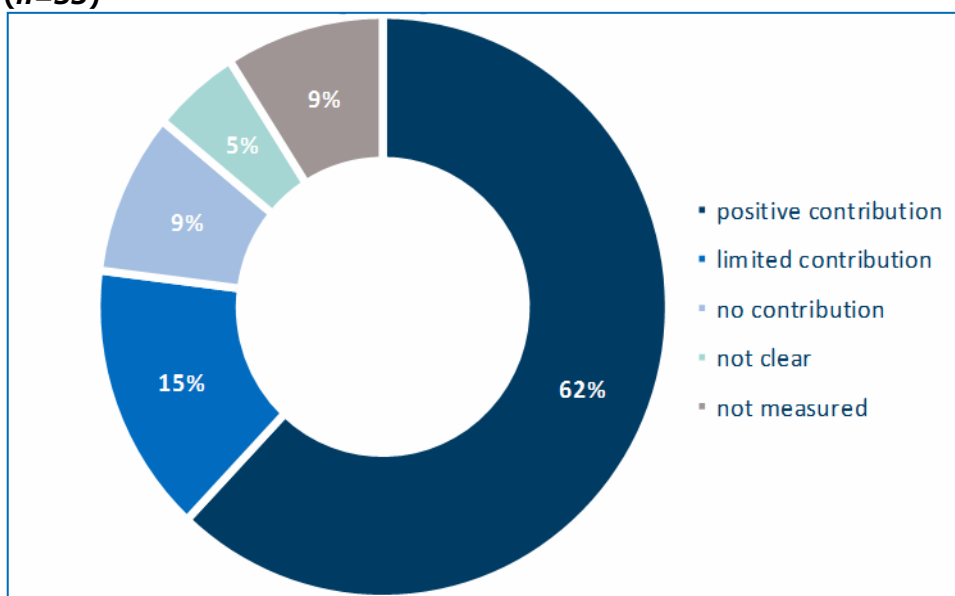
One Member State that implemented the measure did not report on output indicators.

The total supported area of damaged forests corresponds to 9.0 % of the total forest area of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 5.5 % of the total forest area in the EU as a whole¹⁰¹.

Additional indicators in Measure 226 related to either preventive or damage-related effects. For example, the newly constructed water withdrawal points, the number of fires or the size of the damaged area were recorded. 39 reports did not provide any additional indicators.

SQ24. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?

Figure 3.91 Measure 226's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=55)



Considering the 55 available ex-post reports on Measure 226, three different groups are noticeable.

The majority (62 %) of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the environmental situation. They mostly see the improvement in the context of fire damages and prevention (38 %), improved water quality and flood mediation (26 %), improved biodiversity (24 %) and improved soil quality and erosion prevention (21 %).

¹⁰¹ The areas of forests refer to 2015 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

In 15 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the measure's effects on the environmental situation was reported to be limited. The major reasons for the limited effect are the small land/forest area that benefitted/was restored after fires (38 %) and the low suitability for supporting restoration actions as the supports better functions with respect to preventive actions (25 %).

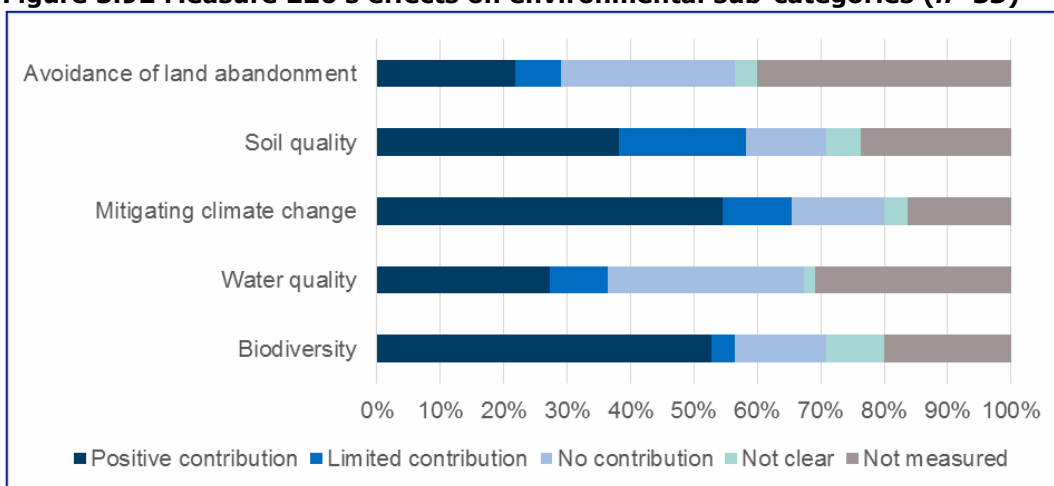
No contribution of the measure was mentioned in 9 % of the ex-post evaluation reports, whereas in another 9 % of the reports no assessment of the measure regarding the environmental situation was made. In 5 % of cases it was not clearly identified to what extent the measure contributed to the environmental situation.

No contribution of this measure is mainly given due to non-occurrence of calamities, an unsuitable spatial scale or missing application. The major reason for no available measurements is the missing explicit mention of evaluation results.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

With regard to the effects on biodiversity, water and soil quality, climate change and land abandonment, the evaluations indicate that the measure itself had a major positive impact on biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation, mostly through forest conversion measures.

Figure 3.92 Measure 226's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=55)



The impact of this measure on biodiversity was slightly less positive than the overall environmental impact. For the reports indicating a positive impact on biodiversity, no consistent impact category/biodiversity indicator is used. Most reports (41 %) state improved closeness to nature of the forests and mediation and prevention of hazardous destruction (especially fire) (38 %) as main reasons for improvement; several reports do not indicate how biodiversity improved through the measure though.

The impact of this measure on water quality was only positive in 27 % of the reports. For the reports indicating a positive impact on water quality, no consistent impact category/indicator is used. Some reports state (27 %) forest preservation and afforestation (e.g. with deciduous tree species) for water purification or erosion and sediment export prevention (20 %) as main reasons for improvement; several reports do not clearly indicate how water quality improved through the measure.

Low uptake of the measure resulted in a limited effect of the measure on water quality in 9 % of all reports.

The impact of this measure on soil quality was positive in 38 % the reports. For the reports indicating a positive impact on soil quality, no consistent impact category/indicator is used. Some reports state (43 %) erosion prevention or prevention of soil degradation (33 %) as main reasons for improvement; several reports do not indicate why soil quality improved through the measure.

A limited impact on soil quality was indicated in 20 % of the reports, mostly if the spatial area affected is low (36 %) and the impact is unclear or hard to track (45 %).

The impact of this measure on climate change was positive in a good half of the reports (55 %). These indicated that this measure positively affected climate change through C storage/avoided CO₂ release (27 %) and increased CO₂ sequestration (43 %). Several reports do not clearly indicate why climate change improved through the measure.

The impact of this measure on the prevention of land abandonment was positive in 22 % of the reports, however, no consistent impact category/indicator was used in the explanatory statement. The reports mostly indicate a beneficial impact due to mediating and preventing natural hazards (42 %) and reduced land abandonment (33 %).

Conclusion

In order to improve the environmental situation, a total budget of € 1 542.1 million has been spent on Measure 226 by 16 Member States across 56 regions. This has resulted in an output of 10 million hectare supported area of damaged forests and a total of 77 359 actions supported. Relative to the forest area in the EU, the land with forest restoration and prevention actions amounts to 9.0 % of all forest land or 5.5 % of the forest land in the participating Member States.

As presented in Figure 3.91, 62 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the environmental situation. 15 % of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded the measure's effects on the environment were limited and 9 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. In 78 % of the positive cases the improvement of the environmental situation was attributed to the fields of fire damages and prevention. Improved water quality and flood mediation and biodiversity were also pointed at as results of the measure which have improved the environmental situation.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M226, 72.1 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusion, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution very plausible.

SQ38. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure?

The majority of the ex-post evaluation reports either did not find additional effects of Measure 226 (55 %) or were not able to clearly identify them (16 %). For reports with additional effects mentioned, the economic impacts of improvement of competitiveness and job creation were the most important. The improvement of the recreational function as well as the touristic potential was equally mentioned. Non-beneficiaries benefitted through improved recreational quality and the created jobs/economic improvement.

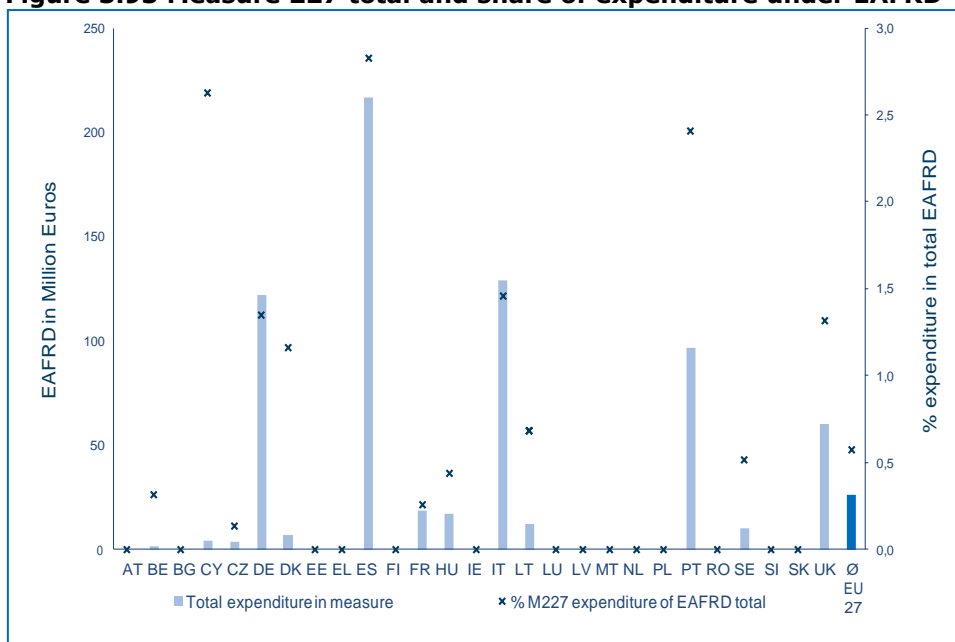
Measure 227: Support for non-productive investments

General information about the measure

Measure 227 was implemented in 13 Member States in a total of 68 regions, with a total budget of € 698.6 million for all Member States and regions. The main objective of the measure was to support non-productive investments in the forest sector (e.g., nature conservation).

The findings were primarily argued through document and literature analyses, beneficiary surveys, and expert interviews. The long-term-effect character of the measures makes it difficult to evaluate the effects within the funding period.

Figure 3.93 Measure 227 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 227. The relevant output indicators are the Investment volume ('000 EUR) and number of forest holders supported. The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the area under successful land management contributing to a) biodiversity and high nature value farming/forestry, b) water quality, c) mitigating climate change, d) soil quality and e) avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.44 Output indicators for Measure 227

Value	Investment volume ('000 EUR)	Number of forest holders supported
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	13	13
Range	3 832 - 543 359	49 - 73 821
Median	26 759	1 128
Average	127 666	10 120
Total	1 659 662	131 555

All the Member States that implemented the Measure have reported on the output indicators.

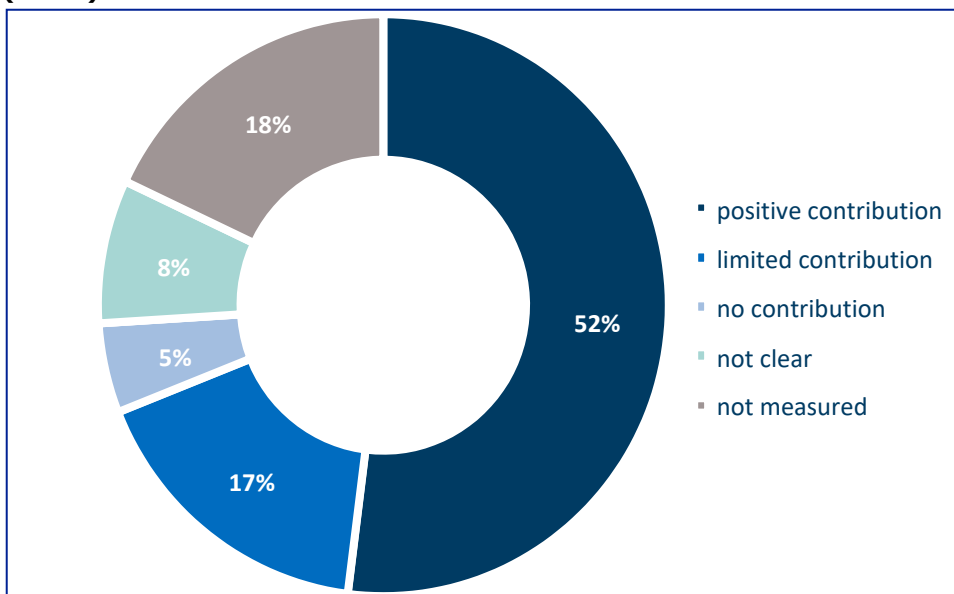
With a total investment volume of nearly € 1.7 billion, the measure corresponds to 0.3 % of the total GVA in forestry of the Member States that have offered the measure. This corresponds to 0.2 % of the total GVA in forestry in the EU as a whole¹⁰².

In Measure 227, additional indicators were used primarily to better assess the area receiving support. For example, this was related to the entire forest or Natura 2000 area. Due to the structure of the measure, however, very specific indicators were also used more frequently. However, most of the reports (47) did not provide any further indicators.

¹⁰² Reference data refers to 2013 data.

SQ25. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?

Figure 3.94 Measure 227's contribution to improving the environmental situation (n=65)



Considering the 65 available ex-post reports on Measure 227, three different groups are noticeable.

Over half (52 %) of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the environmental situation. They mostly see the improvement in the context of biodiversity and nature conservation (56 %), environmental improvements in general (32 %), and forest health improvement and improved forest stability towards hazards (21 %).

A limited effect on the environmental situation was stated by 17 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. The major reasons mentioned for the limited effect were the small forest area/few forest owners that benefitted (45 %) and the limited effectiveness with respect to biodiversity (36 %).

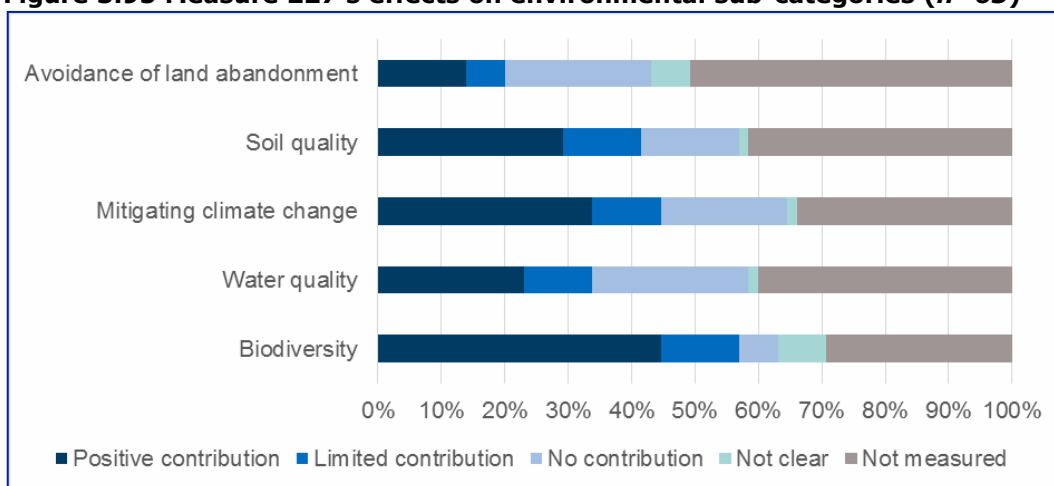
In 5 % of the reports no contribution of the measure to the environmental situation was reported, whereas in 18 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the overall environmental situation was not analysed. 8 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not clearly identify to what extent the measure contributed to the environmental situation.

No contribution of this measure is mainly given as the measure was used to improve recreation instead of the environment. The major reason for missing indications of effects are missing indicators or evaluation approaches for the measure specifically.

Contribution of the measure to biodiversity, water quality, soil quality, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and prevention of land abandonment

With regard to the effects on biodiversity, water and soil quality, climate change and land abandonment, the evaluations indicate that the measure itself had a major positive impact on biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation, mostly through forest conversion measures.

Figure 3.95 Measure 227's effects on environmental sub-categories (n=65)



The impact of this measure on biodiversity was slightly less positive than the overall environmental impact (45 %). For the reports indicating a positive impact on biodiversity, no consistent impact category/biodiversity indicator is used. Most reports state improved habitats of non-wood or endangered species (flora and fauna) (34 %) and improved closeness to nature of the forests (24 %) as main reasons for improvement; in several positive reports a clear indication how biodiversity improved through the measure is partly missing. 12 % of the overall reports indicate a limited impact on biodiversity, which was to 38 % attributed to the low spatial uptake and few beneficiaries of the measure.

The impact of this measure on water quality was positive in 23 % of the reports. However, in the cases where positive impact on water quality was indicated, no consistent impact categories/indicators were used. Most reports state higher shares of deciduous trees to, e.g. reduce nitrate leaching compared to coniferous forests (53 %), the establishment of younger stands (53 %), and liming to bind, e.g., heavy metals (27 %) as main reasons for improvement; in several positive reports a clear indication how water quality improved through the measure is partly missing. 11 % of the overall reports indicate a limited impact on water quality, e.g. due to an unclear indication why water quality improved (57 %).

29 % of the reports mentioned a positive impact of this measure on soil quality, however, no consistent impact category/indicator is used. Mostly a higher share of deciduous trees, liming to raise the pH value and/or an improved humus layer (42 %) or prevented erosion (21 %) were mentioned here; in several positive reports a clear indication how soil quality improved through the measure is partly missing. 12 % of the reports indicate a limited impact on soil quality, mainly due to the missing quantification (e.g. long-term effects beyond the funding period of the programme) (38 %).

The impact of this measure on climate change was positive in 34 % of all reports. In these reports, carbon storage and CO₂ sequestration are the most frequent indicators used. Most reports state the maintained or increased C storage (32 %), CO₂ sequestration and mixed forests instead of coniferous monocultures for mitigation (14 %) or adaptation (9 %) as main reasons for improvement.

The reports indicate a limited impact on climate change (11 % overall) mostly as carbon storage is beneficial in the long term beyond the funding period of the programme (29 %) or a detailed quantification of the impact is missing (43 %).

The impact of this measure on the prevention of land abandonment was positively assessed in just 14 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. For the reports indicating a positive impact, no consistent impact category/indicator is used. However, the reports mostly state the area of the measure (44 %) and the created jobs (22 %) as main reasons. A limited impact on the prevention land abandonment was indicated in additional 6 % of all cases.

Conclusion

A total budget of € 698.6 million has been spent on Measure 227 by 13 Member States across 68 regions. This has resulted in an output of an investment volume of € 1.7 billion and a total of 131.555 forest holders supported. Relative to the GVA in the EU, the investment volume amounts to 0.3 % of the GVA of the EU or 0.2 % of the participating Member States.

As presented in Figure 3.94, 52 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the environmental situation. 17 % of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded the measure's effects on the environment were limited and 5 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. In 56 % of the positive cases, the improvement of the environmental situation was attributed to improved biodiversity and nature conservation. Environmental improvements in general and forest health improvements and improved forest stability towards hazards were also pointed at as results of the measure which have improved the environmental situation.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M227, 70.3 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusion, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ39. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure?

The majority of the ex-post evaluation reports either did not find additional effects of Measure 227 (54 %) or were not able to clearly identify them (14 %). Identified effects include recreational improvements such as landscape aesthetics (48 %), job creation (43 %), and other economic benefits such as the diversification of the rural economy, e.g. increased tourism or a higher value added (52 %). Non-beneficiaries benefitted with respect to the improved recreational quality and the created jobs/economic improvement.

3.4 Axis III Measures-related questions

In this chapter, we present the synthesis of measures under Axis III. Prior to providing the summary of information per measure, we show quantification of result indicators for Axis III.

Result indicators for Axis III

Table 3.45-Table 3.50 provide information on the result indicators related to Axis III. Calculation of the values is reported under Methodology (Section 2.3). The compilation of Axis III result indicators is based on data from RDP annual reports reported by Member States. With 'Number of MS', we refer to the Member States which reported on that specific indicator, and not the Member States which have implemented the measure.

Result indicator 7: Increase in total non-agricultural GVA in supported businesses (in millions of euro's)

Table 3.45 shows that, on average, Measure 312 was more successful in increasing the non-agricultural GVA of the supported businesses than Measures 311 and 313.

Table 3.45 Result indicator 7: Increase in total non-agricultural GVA in supported businesses (in millions of euro's)

Measure	Measure		
	311	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	Number of MS ¹⁰³
			19
			Range
			0,3 – 174,8
			Median
			12,3
			Average
			29,7
			Total
			563,6

M e a s u r e	Measure		
3 1 2	Business creation and development	Number of MS ¹⁰⁴	20
		Range	0,2 – 277,2
		Median	21
		Average	41,2
		Total	823,7
3 1 3	Encouragement of tourism activities	Number of MS ¹⁰⁵	18
		Range	0 – 88,9
		Median	12,4
		Average	19,5
		Total	350,4

Result indicator 8: Gross number of jobs created

From Table 3.46 it follows that, on average, Measure 312 contributed more to creating jobs than Measures 311 and 313.

Table 3.46 Result indicator 8: Total number of jobs created

M e a s u r e	Measure		
3 1 1	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	Number of MS ¹⁰⁶	21
		Range	30 – 13 760
		Median	658
		Average	1 328
		Total	27 881
3 1 2	Business creation and development	Number of MS ¹⁰⁷	22
		Range	8 – 24 038
		Median	1 879
		Average	3 129
		Total	68 843
3 1 3	Encouragement of tourism activities	Number of MS ¹⁰⁸	21
		Range	28 – 2 463
		Median	676
		Average	837
		Total	17 578

¹⁰⁴ 2 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

¹⁰⁵ 2 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

¹⁰⁶ 3 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

¹⁰⁷ 2 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

¹⁰⁸ 3 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

Result indicator 9: Additional number of tourist visits

Table 3.47 3.47 indicates that Measure 313 made a positive contribution regarding the number of tourist visits.

Table 3.47 Result indicator 9: Additional number of tourist visits

M e a s u r e	Type of operation		
3 1 3	Encouragement of tourism activities	Number of MS ¹⁰⁹	23
		Range	3 745 – 10 863 010
		Median	368 989
		Average	1 330 265
M e a s u r e	Type of operation		
		Total	30 596 102

Result indicator 10: Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services

From Table 3.48 it follows that, on average, Measure 323 was more successful in benefiting population in rural areas than Measures 322 and 323.

Table 3.48 Result indicator 10: Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services^{110,111}

M e a s u r e	Type of operation		
3 2 1	Basic services for the economy and rural population	Number of MS ¹¹²	21
		Range	15 311 - 10 672 336
		Median	1 068 109
		Average	2 162 729
		Total	45 417 315
		MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator	2 (LT, NL)
		MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator	2 (EE, IE)
3 2 2	Village renewal and development	Number of MS ¹¹³	21
		Range	897 - 11 679 124
		Median	789 126
		Average	1 904 607
		Total	39 996 742
		MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator	1 (NL)
		MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator	1 (IE)
3 2 3	Simulation of the development of the rural heritage	Number of MS ¹¹⁴	19
		Range	192 - 23 482 397
		Median	1 517 342
		Average	3 496 765
		Total	66 438 533
		MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator	1 (NL)
		MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator	3 (EE, IE, PL)

¹⁰⁸ 5 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing ¹¹⁰ Number of MS refers to number of Member States with EAFRD expenditure and reported Result Indicator R.10.

¹¹¹ The indicator values of the Member States which reported on the indicator but did not have EAFRD expenditures have not been taken into account. However, it should be noted that it was possible to implement Axis III measures within the framework of LEADER, so that the corresponding indicators could nevertheless be determined during the evaluation.

¹¹² 2 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

¹¹³ 1 MS reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

¹¹⁴ 3 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

Result indicator 11: Increase in internet penetration in rural areas

Table 3.49 indicates that Measure 321 made a positive contribution regarding the provision of basis services in rural areas.

Table 3.49 Result indicator 11: Increase in internet penetration in rural areas^{115,116}

M e a s u r e	Type of operation		
3 2 1	Basic services for the economy and rural population	Number of MS ¹¹⁷	17
		Range	5 to 9 421 395
		Median	236 498
		Average	980 049
		Total	16 660 840
		MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator	6 (BG, CY, EE, FI, LT, LU, PT)
		MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator	1 (IE)

¹¹⁵ Number of MS refers to number of Member States with EAFRD expenditure and reported Result Indicator R.11.

¹¹⁶ refer to footnote 111.

¹¹⁷ 1 MS reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

Result indicator 12: Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity

From Table 3.50 it follows that, on average, Measure 331 was more successful in training participants than Measure 341.

Table 3.50 Result indicator 12: Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity.^{118,119}

Measure	Type of operation		
331	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	Number of MS ¹²⁰	13
		Range	154 to 195 203
		Median	31 640
		Average	55 185
		Total	717 401
		MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator	None
		MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator	3 (BG, HU, IE)
341	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	Number of MS ¹²¹	10
		Range	27 - 8 538
		Median	2 392
		Average	3 427
		Total	34 272
		MS with EAFRD expenditure but no reported indicator	4 (AT, CZ, NL, SE)
		MS without EAFRD expenditure but reported indicator	5 (BE, BG, EE, IE, LU)

¹¹⁸ Number of MS refers to number of Member States with EAFRD expenditure and reported Result Indicator R.12.

¹¹⁹ refer to footnote 111.

¹²⁰ 3 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

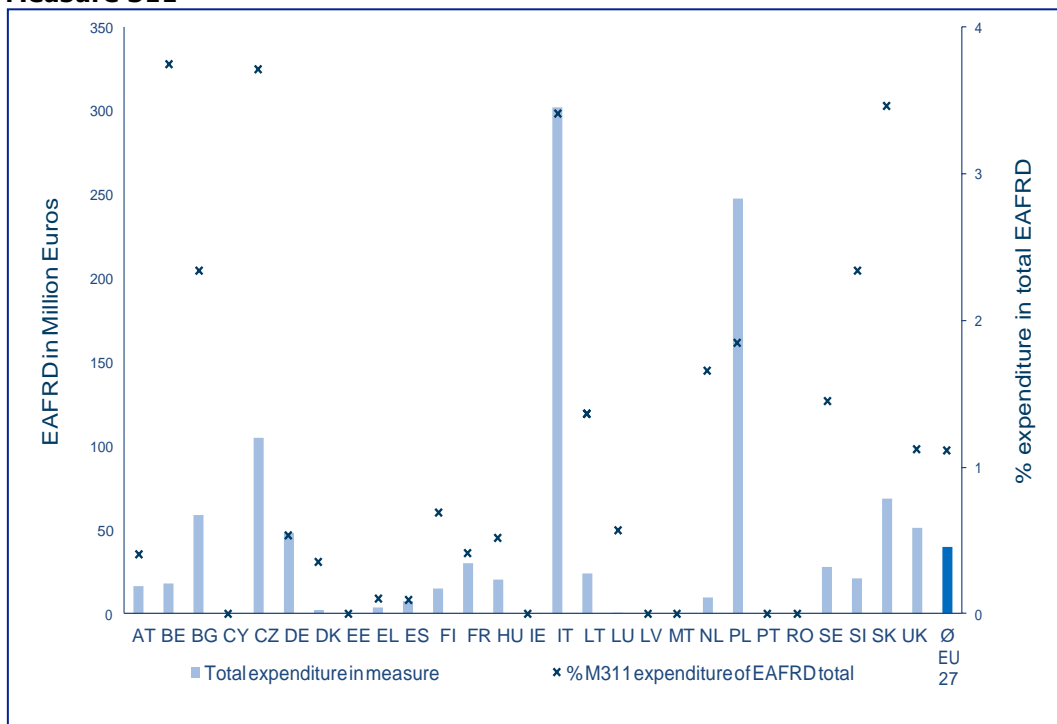
¹²¹ 5 MSs reported indicator values for measures they have not been implementing.

Measure 311: Diversification to non-agricultural activities

General information about the measure

Measure 311 was implemented by 20 Member States across 65 different regions, with total budget of € 1.1 billion for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.95 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure for this Measure. The aim of the measure is to support investments that are necessary for the commencement of supplementary activities on farm, or to update and modernize the existing non-agricultural activities.

Figure 3.96 Distribution of spending and % share expenditure per Member State for Measure 311



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 311. The relevant output indicators are the number of beneficiaries receiving support for efforts to diversify and the total investment volume. The relevant result indicators are the non-agricultural gross value added in supported businesses and the gross number of jobs created. The impact indicators relevant for Measure 311 are employment creation and economic growth.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators have not been measured. Table 3.51 provides information on the relevant output indicators of Measure 311.

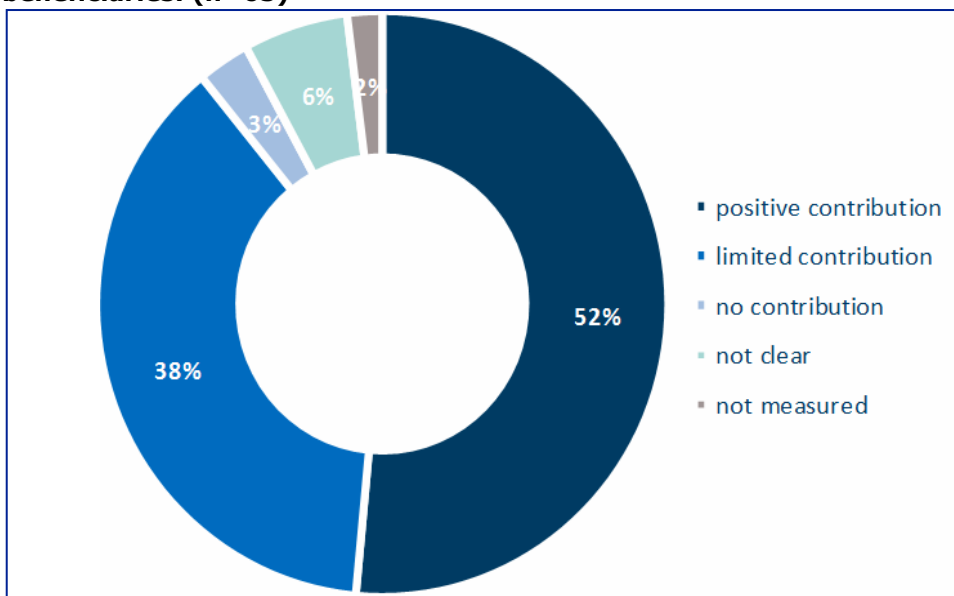
Table 3.51 Output indicators for Measure 311

Value	Number of beneficiaries receiving support for efforts to diversify	Total investment volume (in millions of euros)
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	21	21
Range	17 – 15 343	3 – 1 611
Median	374	104
Average	1 997	245
Total	41 940	5 138

In 2013, less than 1 per cent of the total number of European farmers received support for efforts to diversify. The total volume invested for purposes of diversification in 2013 represents 3 % of the total GVA of the European agricultural sector.

SQ26. How and to what extent has Measure 311 contributed to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.97 Measure 311's contribution to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries. (n=65)



The ex-post evaluation reports provide a range of answers regarding the contribution of the measure to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries. In most of the Member States and regions (52 %) the measure positively contributed to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries. The funded diversification activities in most of the Member States or regions focused on investments in rural tourism, pension horse husbandry or introduced production of (renewable) energy. Through the diversification, the measure contributed to the stabilisation of farms, enabled farmers to increase their overall performance, assisted farm households to maintain or increase their income, supported farms to maintain employment or even to create new jobs.

More than one third (38 %) of the ex-post evaluations noted limited contribution of the measure to diversification of the beneficiaries. Reasons provided in the evaluations were very few projects financed, limited implementation or that targets were not achieved.

In 3 % of ex-post evaluations, there was no contribution of the measure to diversification in while in 6 % of evaluations the contribution was not clearly stated. The measure was not evaluated at all 2 % of reports due to the late start of the programming.

The ex-post evaluation that regarded Finland reported the measure on axis level and divided the axis up in themes. It is unclear what the singular effect of Measure 311 has on the economic diversification of beneficiaries. Data suggests that the programmes measures had a positive effect on the creation of new services and (better) jobs, but it remains unclear whether Measure 311 is the sole cause of all this. The ex-post evaluation notes that as a result of this measure employment in primary production has decreased, but this has been compensated by employment in 'new' jobs.

Diversification into non-agricultural activities in Austria

The effect of implementing Measure 311 in Austria was rather in maintaining jobs than to create new ones. However, the measure substantially contributed to the increase of non-agricultural GVA achieved by the beneficiaries. Measure 311 encouraged farmers to realise a business idea by themselves or in cooperation with others. The beneficiaries received support in technical questions and regarding construction works, particularly for: 1) tourism purposes (holiday on farm, holiday apartments); 2) biomass and biogas facilities (mostly heating, but also electricity) and 3) marketing, consultancy and personnel-related support to open up new business strands.

Diversification into non-agricultural activities in the region of Corse (France) In Corse (France) 78 % of the projects financed by the EAFRD programme under Measure 311 are about on-farm catering. The projects mainly focused on the creation of lodgings ranging from 1 to 5 bedrooms. The gross value added of these projects correspond to 20 % of the investments financed, an average activity per project of € 30 816 per year. Considered that the investments are amortized in 10 years, the added value created over the duration of the investment is approximately € 14 million, to bring back to the grant of € 2.4 million (public expenditure total). On the basis of this estimate of the activity created, it can be deduced that the projects create on average 1 job, corresponding to the farmer's job (or his spouse). The creation of tourist and leisure activities on the farm contributes to the amenity of the rural territories in Corse, which benefitted the whole rural population. Other positive contributions of the diversification of farm activity in rural areas were the maintenance of the agricultural activities and landscapes as well as the enhanced promotion of local agricultural products.

Diversification into non-agricultural activities in the region of North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)

In North Rhine-Westphalia the scope and relevance of Measure 311 was very small. Demand for diversification funding fell short of expectations. In particular, there was relatively little demand for qualification measures and wage cost subsidies. The large proportion of farms with alternative incomes in North Rhine-Westphalia that are close to agriculture shows that there are numerous activities aimed at broadening the income base of agricultural families, even without diversification support. On average, the beneficiaries showed a very dynamic development in terms of GVA. Start-up aid (subsidies for expenditure on staff) was rated positively by many of the beneficiaries with regard to the decision to get involved in diversification and employ external staff for the purpose. It contributed to creating a total of around 118 full-time equivalent jobs in the funded projects. However, hardly any jobs were created in the focus area of animal boarding facilities. The survey among farm managers in North Rhine-Westphalia showed that many of the investments and developments achieved by the implementation of Measure 311 would also have been taken place without the EAFRD support, because funding was generally not a scarce factor and qualification support was hardly used.

Conclusion

A total budget of € 1.1 billion has been spent on Measure 311 by 20 Member States across 65 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 41 940 beneficiaries that received support for efforts to diversify. This amounts to less than 1 % of the total number of European farmers. The total volume of investment under Measure 311 amounts to € 5.1 billion, or 3 % of the total GVA of the European agricultural sector;
- The result indicators for this measure are the increase in total non-agricultural GVA in supported businesses and the total number of jobs created. The increase in non-agricultural GVA in supported businesses is € 563.6 million (on average € 29.7 million per Member State). Compared to other measures, Measure 311 has performed moderately well on this indicator. The total number of jobs created is 27 881 (on average 1 328 per Member State). On this indicator Measure 311 has also performed moderately well.

As presented in Figure 3.96, 52 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries. 38 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded that the effects on the economic diversification of the beneficiaries were limited and 3 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. Through the diversification, the measure contributed to the stabilisation of farms, enabled farmers to increase their overall performance, assisted farm households to maintain or increase their income, supported farms to maintain employment or even to create new jobs. The information presented in Figure 3.96 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 65 reports of which 60 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M311, 56 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries to a medium extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to the economic diversification very plausible.

SQ39. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 311 (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

39 % of the ex-post evaluations indicated there were other effects of this measure. Some of the Member States or regions indicate more than one other effect.

Positive effect on the environment was the most frequently noted other effect (24 % of all other effects) followed by contribution to local competitiveness (19 %), securing employment (19 %) and improving quality of life (18 %). For environment, the reports indicated that Member States or regions enhanced the transition from fossil sources to renewable biomass based sources, installed renewable energy production plants or generally produced energy from renewable sources. One ex-post evaluation indicated other effect of the measure was increase in biodiversity through honey production projects while another one referred to climate mitigation measures through the implemented projects.

In respect to enhancing competitiveness, ex-post evaluation reports indicate that diversification of agricultural holdings contributed to the growth of the rural economy or the agricultural products increased on their value. Diversification also secured household income or working conditions and thereby improved the quality of life. Creating additional sources of income contributed to the maintenance of an area-wide agriculture, which at a hindsight secured local leisure and recreational values. Some projects involved construction or repairs of a building, which resulted in use of previously abandoned or underused buildings by the local inhabitants.

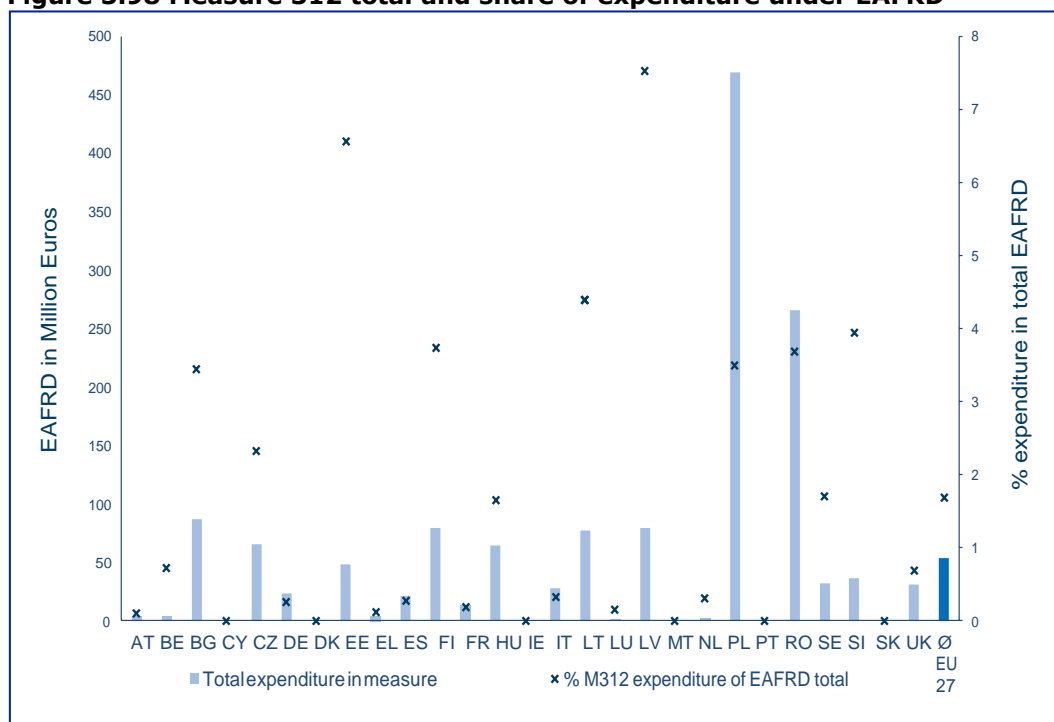
In four instances, there was a negative effect of this measure. In one Member State, the effect of the measure on productivity of labour and profits was negative while in other reports it was indicated that beneficiaries were bothered by the excessive bureaucracy or envied by other inhabitants of the area because they had won a grant and were successful.

Measure 312: Business creation and development

General information about the measure

Measure 312 was implemented by 21 Member States across 46 different regions, with total budget of € 1.4 billion for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.98 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure for this measure. The aim of the measure is to support investments that are necessary for the commencement of supplementary activities on farm, or to update and modernize the existing non-agricultural activities.

Figure 3.98 Measure 312 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 312. The relevant output indicator is the number of micro-enterprises supported. The relevant result indicators are the non-agricultural gross value added in supported businesses and the gross number of jobs created. The impact indicators relevant for Measure 312 are employment creation and economic growth.

The result indicators are reported under axis level, while impact indicators have not been measured. Table 3.52 provides information on the relevant output indicator of Measure 312.

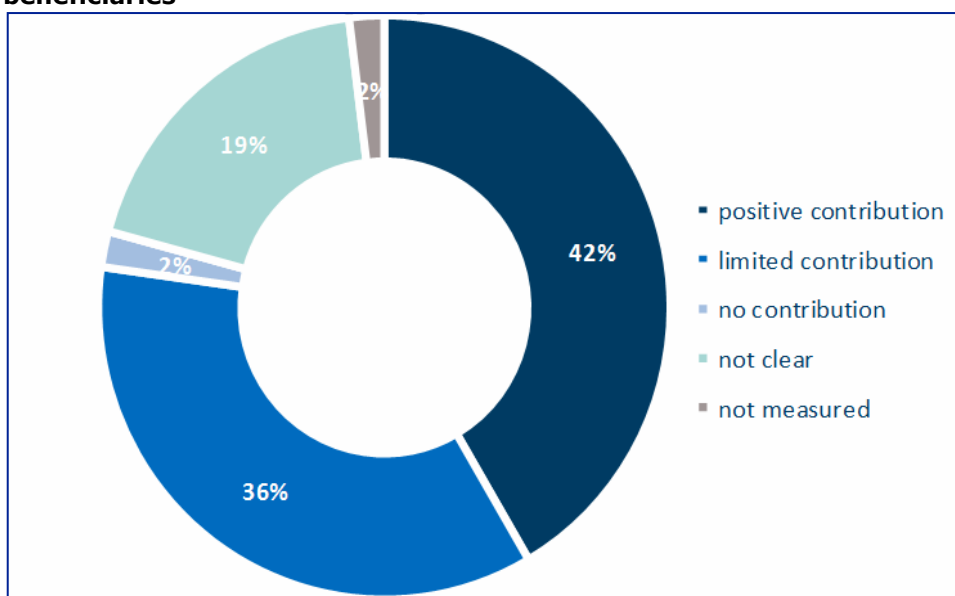
Table 3.52 Output indicator for Measure 312

Value	Number of supported micro-enterprises
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	21
Range	1 – 40 854
Median	952
Average	3 530
Total	74 138

In 2013, 2 % of the European micro-enterprises (enterprises with less than € 2 million of turnover) active in the agricultural sector received support.

SQ26. How and to what extent has Measure 312 contributed to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.99 Contribution of Measure 312 to improving economic diversification of beneficiaries



The ex-post evaluation reports provide a range of answers regarding the contribution of the measure to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries. However, in 19 % of the evaluation the answer on the contribution was not clear, as outcomes of contributions were stated to be 'not clear', 'mixed', or 'not applicable / not available'. 2 % of the ex-post evaluations clearly stated to not having measured its effects and 2 % was identified to have no contribution.

In the remaining Member States or regions, 42 % of the ex-post evaluation reports indicated that the measure somewhat positively contributed to economic diversification of the beneficiaries. However, the reasoning for the positive contribution is seldom stated in the ex- post evaluation report or it is attributed to surpassing of the output targets. Where further advanced reasoning is available, reports indicate that the measure helped to diversify the economy of the beneficiaries through improvements in their companies, which have enabled them to maintain their productive activity in a difficult economic setting. The projects under this measure supported development of existing micro-enterprises - according to some of the reports - rather than on establishing new businesses.

36 % of the ex-post evaluations identified a limited effect to the measure.

The ex-post evaluation that regarded Finland reported the measure on axis level and divided the axis up in themes. It is unclear what the singular effect Measure 312 has on the economic diversification of beneficiaries. Data suggests that the programmes measures had a positive effect on the creation of new services and (better) jobs, but it remains unclear whether Measure 312 is the sole cause of all this.

Business creation and development in the Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, Measure 312 mainly focused on the development of existing micro-enterprises (87 % of projects) and only marginally contributed to the emergence of completely new economic entities in rural municipalities (17 %). Craft activities such as carpentry, blacksmithing, small-scale engineering, as well as small retail services clearly prevailed. As a result of implementing Measure 312, beneficiaries introduced new technologies, which enabled the production of new products. The substantial increase in the revenues of the supported micro-enterprises as well as the increased work productivity and production volume achieved by the beneficiaries were among the benefits of this measure.

Business creation and development in the region of Baden-Wuerttemberg (Germany)

The networks set up by the region of Baden-Wuerttemberg under the EAFRD programme to implement Measure 312 provided a wide range of support services to promote diversification and entrepreneurship in companies run by women. Beneficiaries received support to develop new products and services, which contributed to the diversification of the rural economy. Furthermore, this measure contributed to the networking of economic activities of the women involved.

Business creation and development in Poland

In Poland, Measure 312 granted support to 9 800 existing microenterprises and 3 700 newly established microenterprises. In case of 23.9 % of the supported microenterprises, the provided finances resulted in stopping the agricultural activity. Supported microenterprises were mainly active in the areas of services for the population, construction and installation works or services for farms and forestry. The scope of supported activities was generally more diversified in the case of existing companies than of those newly created. After completion of their project, the beneficiaries showed relatively positive results in terms of income from sales or services.

Conclusion

In order to improve the economic diversification of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 1.4 billion has been spent on Measure 312 by 21 Member States across 46 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 74 138 supported micro-enterprises. This amounts to 2 % of the total number of European micro-enterprises;
- The result indicators for this measure are the increase in total non-agricultural GVA in supported businesses and the total number of jobs created. The increase in non-agricultural GVA in supported businesses is € 823.7 million (on average € 41.2 million per Member State). Compared to other measures, Measure 312 has been successful on this indicator. The total number of jobs created is 68 843 (on average 3 129 per Member State). On this indicator Measure 312 has also been successful in comparison to other measures.

As presented in Figure 3.98, 42 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries. 36 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on the economic diversification of the beneficiaries were limited and 2 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. The reason for this is rarely reported in the ex-post evaluation reports, or is attributed to surpassing the output targets. The information presented in Figure 3.98 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 46 reports of which 36 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M312, 53 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries to a medium extent**. Due to the number of reports that

provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to the economic diversification plausible.

SQ39. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of Measure 312 (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

In 76 % of ex-post evaluations, an 'other effect' was clearly identified. The additional effects have overlapping themes: 'competitiveness', 'diversification', 'employment', 'skill set development', and 'quality of life'.

Effects on employment occurred in 21 % of cases. The support for business creation and micro-enterprises created more (potential) jobs, and provided job opportunities especially for women and young people. The effect on employment was positive outcome in all cases.

Other common effects identified in the reports were the following:

- 19 % of the ex post evaluations referred to an **effect on competitiveness**. An improvement occurred in 80 % of these member states and regions. For some regions, a decrease in competitiveness (7 %) or unclear effects (13 %) on competitiveness occurred;
- 18 % of the ex post evaluations referred to an **effect on diversification**. This is the primary effect of the measure and should not be considered as other effect;
- 17 % of the ex post evaluations referred to an **effect on the quality of life**. An improvement occurred in 92 % of member states and regions. The effect was unclear in 8 % of cases.

Other less common effects identified in the reports are related to environment (9 %) and skill set development (5 %).

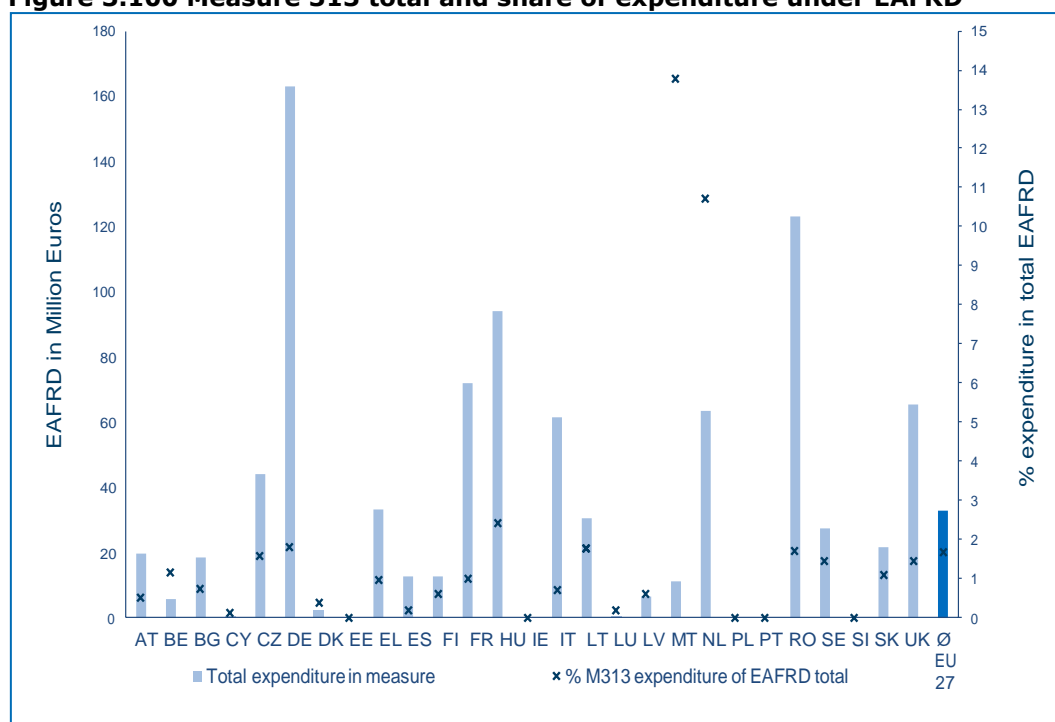
To conclude, the other effects of this measure were positive 93 % of the time, negative 3 % of the time and uncertain 4 % of the time.

Measure 313: Encouragement of tourism activities

General information about the measure

Measure 313 was implemented by 22 Member States across 67 different regions, with total budget of € 887.9 million for all Member States and regions. Figure 3.100 shows the distribution of the spending across the Member States and % share expenditure for this Measure. The aim of the measure is to encourage touristic activities in the regions and Member States.

Figure 3.100 Measure 313 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 313. The relevant output indicators are the number of new tourism actions supported and the total volume of investment. The relevant result indicators are the additional number of tourist visits and the gross number of jobs created. The impact indicators relevant for Measure 313 are employment creation and economic growth.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, while impact indicators are not available for this measure. Table 3.52 - Table 3.53 provides information on the relevant output indicators of Measure 313.

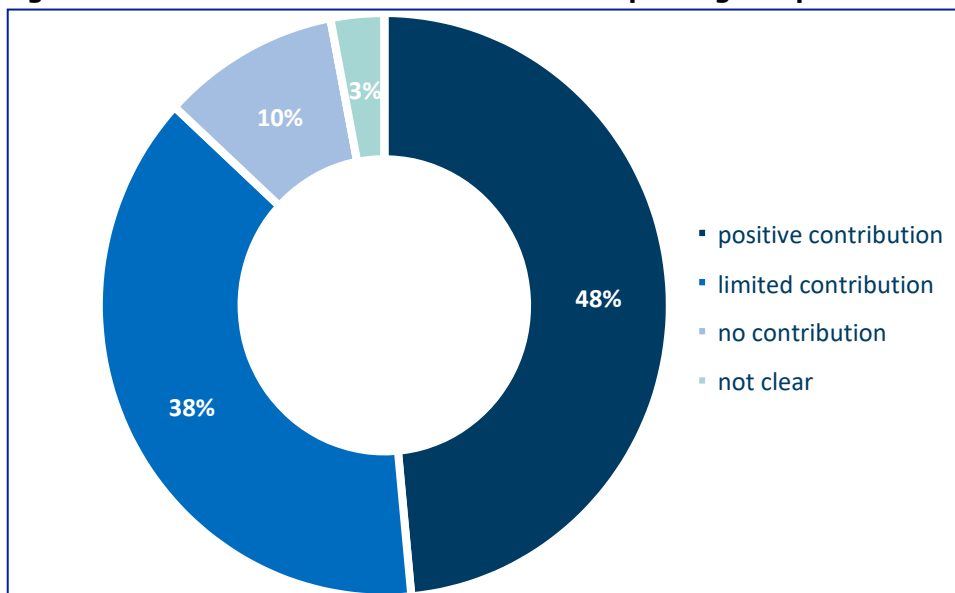
Table 3.52 - Table 3.53 Output indicators for Measure 313

Value	Number of new tourism actions supported	Total volume of investment (in millions of euros)
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	23	23
Range	4 – 4 604	1 - 377
Median	487	68
Average	1 066	119
Total	24 518	2 728

In 2013, the total volume invested in new tourism actions represents 2 % of the total GVA of the European agricultural sector.

SQ26. How and to what extent has Measure 313 contributed to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.101 Measure 313's contribution to improving competitiveness (n=67)



48 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries. 29 % of evaluations that identified a positive outcome stated that the encouragement of tourism activities has led to substantial increases of the revenues from new agricultural products and services. 18 % of evaluations identified a positive influence through the development and planning of new touristic offerings. Related to the development of new touristic offerings, 18 % of evaluations identified that the extension and improvement of infrastructure has a positive effect on the economic diversification of beneficiaries. For two cases (12 %) it was found that the measure had a positive effect on diversification through increased financing and for one case (6 %) through increased job creation.

38 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on economic diversification were limited. In 27 % of evaluations, the measure was found to be limited as implementation and employment targets were not achieved. A minority of projects achieved their target. In 18 % of cases the effect remained limited as effects were difficult to be measured, and did not take into account outside disturbances, for example volcanic eruptions. 18 % of reports identified low contribution to diversification. In several cases, the funds were used for infrastructure investments of public institutions (cycling routes, accommodations etc.). The direct effect on the agricultural sector was therefore limited while other sectors (mainly touristic providers) profited. Another 18 % identified a limited effect of the measure in terms of finance. It is reported that development as a whole was supported at a much greater extent by further support programmes. Hereby making it unclear to what extent the measure has contributed. At last, the measure was stated to be limited in 9 % of cases due to lack of demand.

10 % of the ex-post evaluation reports reported no contribution of the measure to diversification. In one (33 %) case, the low contribution of the measure is caused by the lack of implementation of the measure. In two cases (67 %) The causes are unclear.

3 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not clearly identify to what extent the measure contributed to diversification, partly due to the low implementation rates and partly due to the lack of information.

Encouragement of tourism activities in Andalucía (Spain)

In Andalucía (Spain), Measure 313 clearly contributed to the diversification of the rural economy. Actions related to small scale infrastructure, such as information centres and signposting in touristic places, took up almost half of the support, implying that this measure made a special contribution towards small touristic improvements at local scale. Another third of the actions focused on recreational infrastructure, such as access to natural zones and small accommodations. In addition, one fifth of the support was related to the development and commercialisation of touristic services. To sum up, Measure 313 particularly contributed to improving touristic experiences, strengthening the touristic sector and increasing the quality of life in the rural areas of Andalucía.

Since tourism is a key sector of the Andalusian economy, Measure 313 occupied the second place (after M323) of economic importance in increasing rural diversification.

Conclusion

In order to improve the economic diversification of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 887.9 million has been spent on Measure 313 by 22 Member States across 67 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 24 518 new tourism actions that received support. The total volume of investment under Measure 313 amounts to € 2.7 billion, or 2 % of the total GVA of the European agricultural sector;
- The result indicators for this measure are the increase in total non-agricultural GVA in supported businesses and the total number of jobs created. The increase in non-agricultural GVA in supported businesses is € 350.4 million (on average € 19.5 million per Member State). Compared to other measures, Measure 313 has been lagging on this indicator. The total number of jobs created is 17 578 (on average 837 per Member State). On this indicator Measure 313 has also been lagging in comparison to other measures.

As presented in Figure 3.101, 48 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries. 38 % of the ex-post evaluations concluded the measure's effects on the economic diversification of the beneficiaries were limited and 10 % of the evaluation reports concluded the measure did not contribute. The encouragement of tourism activities has led to substantial increases of the revenues from new agricultural products and services. The information presented in Figure 100 judging the contribution of the measure is based on 67 reports of which 65 reported on the contribution of the measure.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M313, 49 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that **the measure contributed to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries to a limited extent**. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution to the economic diversification very plausible.

SQ40. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

In more than 60 % of the reports, other effects were reported. These concerned an increased economical competitiveness of the region, a general improvement of the quality of life and civic engagement, promotion of the cultural heritage, and support of the environment and biodiversity. In many cases, the touristic sector has benefitted strongly from the measure. As negative effects, both inertia effect and deadweight effect were mentioned once.

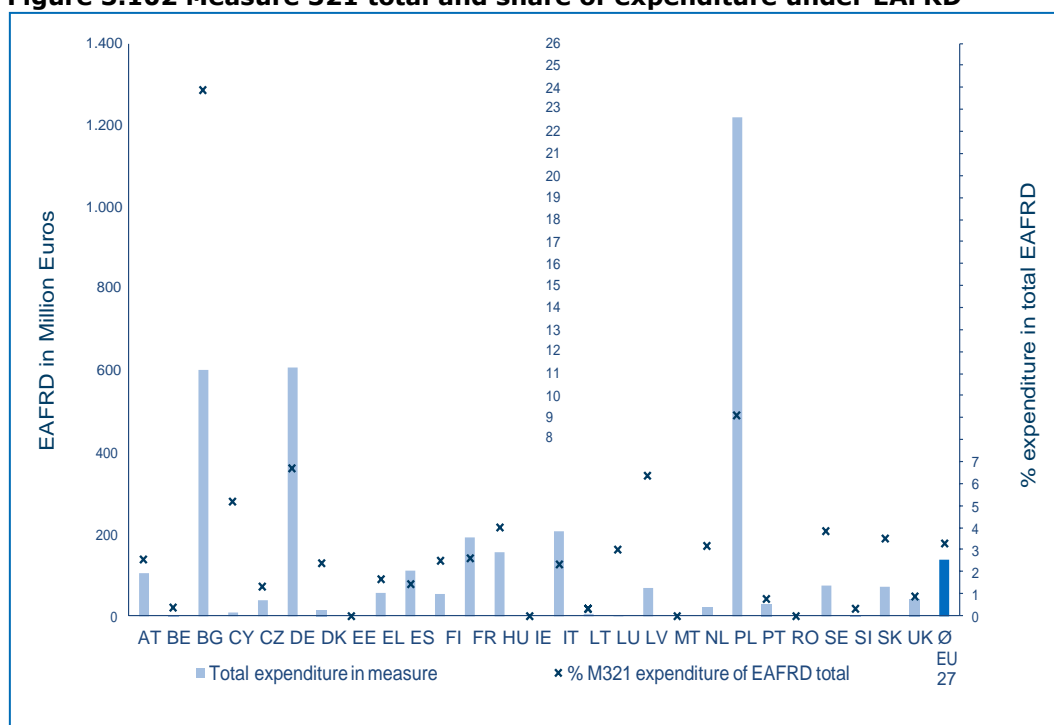
Measure 321: Basic services for the economy and rural population

General information about the measure

Measure 321, Basic services for the economy and rural population, was implemented by 70 regions in 23 Member States, with a total budget of € 3 683 million for all Member States and regions. The overall objective was to increase the attractiveness of rural areas for the population as well as businesses. Amongst others, factors often related to this were: technical infrastructure, notably broadband access and energy supply; services related to elderly people, children and other vulnerable groups; leisure and valorisation of cultural/local heritage for tourism. As far as information is provided in the ex-post evaluation reports, analysis overall relied on mixed (quantitative and qualitative) methods and a combination of data sources.

Reference to a concrete concept of quality of life as an analytical framework varied between reports; relevance of particular quality of life dimensions for evaluation depended also on the specific objectives of the measure in the context of the individual RDPs.

Figure 3.102 Measure 321 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 321. The relevant output indicators are the Number of actions supported and Total volume of investment ('000 EUR). The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services and Increase in internet penetration in rural areas.

The result indicators are reported at axis level, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below, however, provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

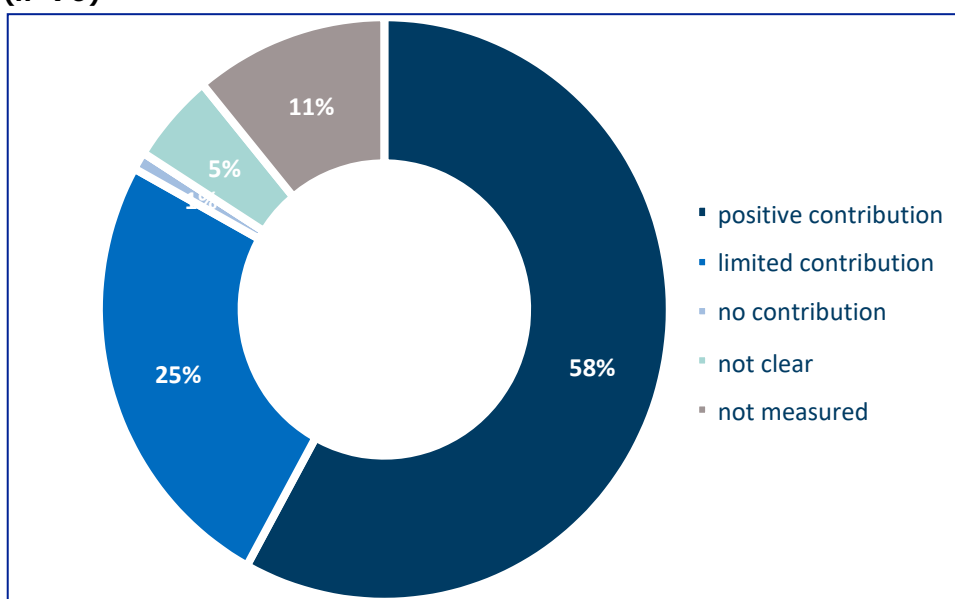
Table 3.54 Output indicators for Measure 321

Value	Number of actions supported	Total volume of investment ('000 EUR)
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	23	23
Range	3 to 29 048	297 to 2 379 114
Median	596	103 304
Average	2 748	348 933
Total	63 215	8 025 451
Number of MS not providing output indicators		1

In relation to the total population of the rural area, in the Member States that have offered the measure, there has been one action per 1 298 people. Considered in the EU-wide context, these are 1 545 people in rural areas per action¹²².

SQ27. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries?

Figure 3.103 Measure 321's contribution to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries (n=76)



Of the ex-post evaluation reports, 58 % found that the measure contributed positively to improving the quality of life. In 20 % of the reports, this positive evaluation was mainly based on values of input, output or result indicators. Equally 20 % of the positive evaluations were not clearly substantiated by quantitative data or qualitative context information. Quality of life dimensions or topics covered by the projects funded can be grouped as follows¹²³:

The social dimension accounted for the largest share (45 %), approximately half of which concerned social infrastructure, mainly related to the thematic complex of daycare, schools, families, community facilities as well as health. In addition, various intangible social dimensions were named (such as participation in local development, civil society capacities and local identity). In well over one third of reports, the social aspects were not specified any further.

¹²² The rural population refers to 2015 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

¹²³ Percentage shares of isolated dimensions provide a rough orientation only. Due to their various interrelations, often the interplay of several dimensions was named in the ex post evaluation reports.

Technical and traffic infrastructure was the second largest thematic cluster (43 %), half of which concerned broadband access, digitalisation and telecommunication. Furthermore, waste/drinking water infrastructure, electricity and heat were named, as well as the field of transport and roads. Tourism, leisure/recreation (14 %) and culture (16 %) formed another field of relevance. The economic dimension, covering aspects such as jobs, diversification, and business advisory services, was named in 14 % of the positive evaluations. Finally, the environmental dimension accounted for 7 %.

It needs to be noted that there were mainly aspects/dimensions named in the ex-post evaluation reports that are not necessarily 'sectors' in a narrow economic sense. In terms of the sectors in which the quality of life was improved, the focus was on the '(public) services' sector in general (64 %) and on the social dimension (16 %). The measure's integrated, cross-sectoral rationale was underlined by very few mentions of individual sectors such as agriculture, while the rural population and rural areas in general were named as the level benefitting from the effects. This thematic focus is also valid for the ex-post evaluation reports assessing the contribution to quality of life as 'limited' (and is therefore not further detailed in the section below).

The measure's contribution to improving the quality of life was assessed as (positive but) limited in 25 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. Explanations of a 'limited' contribution included:

- Effects concerned only limited aspects of quality of life, e.g. the focus of the projects funded was on a particular infrastructure or sector (53 % of 'limited' evaluations);
- The number of projects completed/implemented and/or the amount of funding per project was low (26 %);
- The effect had only a limited spatial scope (11 %);
- Effects vary between sub-measures or dimensions of quality of life (5 %);
- There were problems (not further detailed) with the measure's implementation (5 %);
- Contribution was modest as compared to the actual demand (5 %).

Dimensions/topics covered by the projects funded encompassed: technical and traffic infrastructure, e.g. roads, electricity/heat/water supply, and broadband access (32 %); social and related dimensions, including intangible aspects such as civic involvement and local identity, as well as leisure and health (21 %); economic dimension, e.g. diversification, jobs, material prosperity in general (16 %), as well as overall residential conditions, including environment and regional attractiveness (11 %).

According to only one ex-post evaluation report, there was no contribution of the measure to improving quality of life (1 %). From 5 % of the reports, no clear statement on the measure's contribution could be derived.

The contribution was not measured in 11 % of the reports. This is due to several reasons, as far as specified. First, in some cases the measure was implemented and evaluated under Axis IV/LEADER, and the evaluation is accordingly not included in the ex-post report's Measure 321 chapter. Second, Measure 321 was not evaluated individually but only at the level of an overall 'theme'. Finally, the evaluation focused on questions and topics other than 'quality of life' as considered more appropriate by evaluators, e.g. diversification.

Conclusion

In order to improve the quality of life for the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 3 683 million has been spent on Measure 321 by 23 Member States across 70 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 63 215 supported actions and a total volume of investment of € 8 025 million. In relation to the total population of the rural area, in the Member States that have offered the measure, there has been one action per 1 298 people. Considered the EU-wide context, these are 1 545 people in rural areas per action;
- Result indicators for this measure are the population in rural areas benefiting from improved services and the increase in internet penetration in rural areas. A total of 45 417 315 persons benefitted in rural areas from improved services (on average 2 162 729 per Member State). Additionally, the measure resulted in an increase of internet penetration in rural areas of 16 660 840 persons. See result indicator tables for Axis III.

Figure above shows that 58 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the quality of life of the beneficiaries. Furthermore, 25 % of the of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded the measure's effect on the quality of life were limited and 1 % of the evaluation reports concluded that the measure did not have an effect.

The improvement can be mainly attributed to social infrastructure (such as daycare, schools, community facilities as well as health) and technical and traffic infrastructure (such as concerned broadband access, digitalisation and telecommunication).

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M321, 69 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions (84 %), we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ40. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

Main contributions and other effects were not always clearly differentiated between in the ex-post evaluation reports, nor was the question about other effects always explicitly included in the measure chapters. The largest share of ex-post evaluation reports (43 %) identified additional effects of Measure 321, which were positive with very few exceptions ('not clear' in three cases). In 28 % of the reports, it was not clear whether there were additional effects, and there were no additional effects stated in 26 % of reports.

The additional effects identified can be roughly allocated to the (interrelated) quality of life dimensions below, and were named with regard to beneficiaries as well as non-beneficiaries. At this, it should be regarded that in the ex-post evaluation reports there is not always a clear differentiation between effects on beneficiaries/non-beneficiaries or beneficiaries/rural areas/the rural economy in terms of the level profiting from an improved quality of life. Moreover, there is not one uniform concept of 'beneficiaries' as recipients of funds, but some reports referred to an expanded concept of beneficiaries where regarded more suitable in terms of the measure's rationale. The effects mainly concerned social and related dimensions (76 %), the economic dimension (67 %), and the environmental dimension (55 %), overall attractiveness of rural areas (27 %) and rural development and vitality in general (15 %), as well as technical infrastructure (18 %).

Almost half of the ex-post evaluation reports detect positive additional effects which most often referred to the social dimension, the economic dimension, the environmental dimension and overall attractiveness of rural areas.

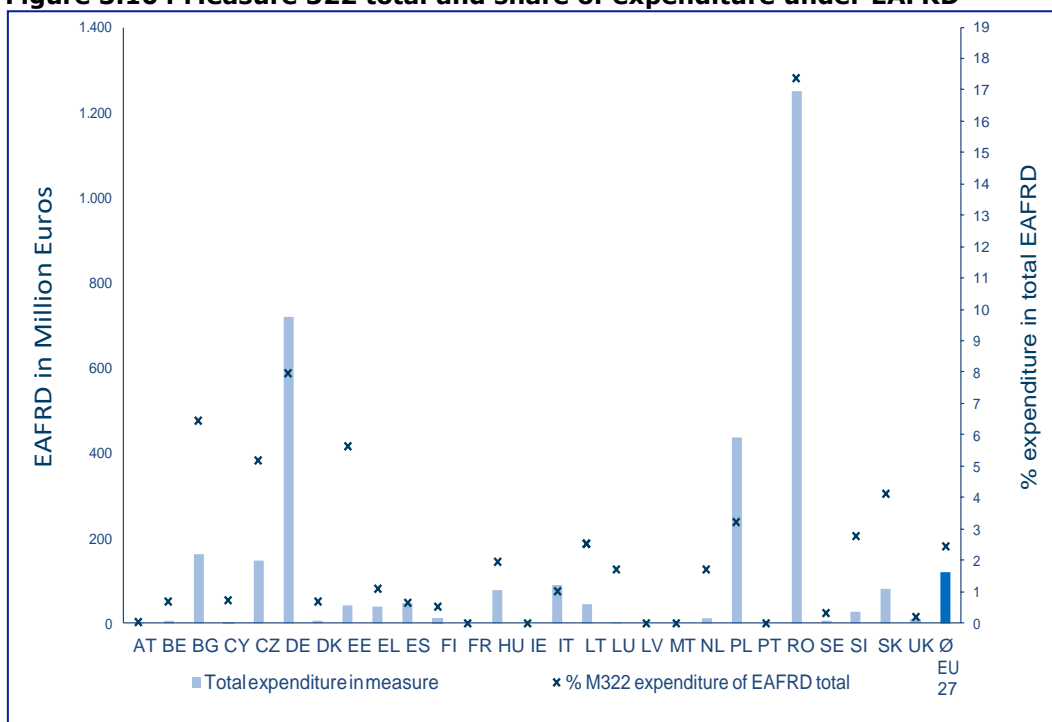
Measure 322: Village renewal and development

General information about the measure

Measure 322, Village renewal and development, was implemented by 50 regions in 22 Member States, with a total budget of € 3 200 million for all Member States and regions. As an overall objective, counteracting population decline by making villages attractive places to live and work, and promoting business activity (not least in the tourism sector) can be named. Amongst others, factors often related to this were: construction, renovation and conversion of buildings especially in village centres; enhancing technical and physical infrastructure such as roads and other public spaces; valorisation of architectural heritage for tourism; facilities for community life, leisure and culture. As far as detailed in the ex-post evaluation reports, analysis overall relied on mixed (quantitative and qualitative) methods and a combination of data sources.

Reference to a concrete concept of quality of life as an analytical framework varied between reports; relevance of particular quality of life dimensions for evaluation depended also on the specific objectives of the measure in the context of the individual RDPs.

Figure 3.104 Measure 322 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 322. The relevant output indicators are the Number of villages where actions took place and Total volume of investment ('000 EUR). The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below, however, provides information on the relevant output indicator for this measure.

Table 3.55 Output indicators for Measure 322

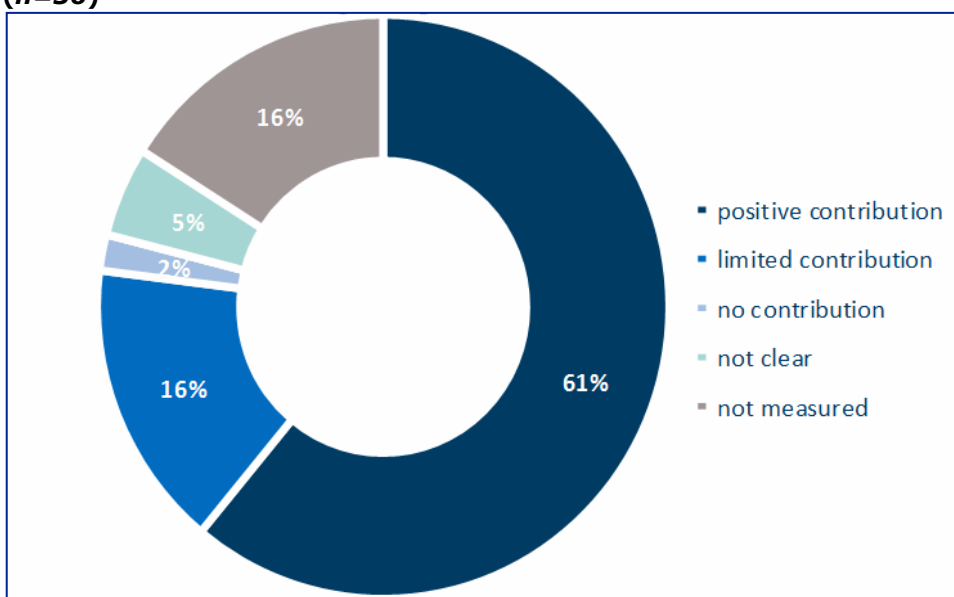
Value	Number of villages where actions took place	Total volume of investment ('000 EUR)
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	22	22
Range	8 to 9 749	0 to 3 306 438
Median	571	81 939
Average	1 890	355 838
Total	41 577	7 828 429
Number of MS not providing output indicators		None

In relation to the total population of the rural area, in the Member States that have offered the measure, there has been one action per 1 651 people. Considered in the EU-wide context, these are 2 348 people in rural areas per action¹²⁴.

124 The rural population refers to 2015 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

SQ27. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries?

Figure 3.105 Measure 322's contribution to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries (n=56)



Of the ex-post evaluation reports, 61 % found that the measure contributed positively to improving the quality of life in rural areas. 18 % of these positive evaluations were mainly based on indicator values (e.g. number of village centres revitalised), while 21 % were not clearly substantiated by quantitative data or qualitative context information. Quality of life dimensions/topics covered by the projects funded can be grouped as follows¹²⁵: quality of life was found to be improved in the social dimension in 50 % of positive evaluations. As far as specified, on the one hand, intangible aspects were concerned, e.g. social cohesion, political participation, collective ownership in shaping the community environment, or local/regional identity. On the other hand, infrastructure such as meeting places in the form of community centres was named. The attractiveness of villages for housing (24 %) and the appearance of villages in terms of buildings (15 %) were another thematic cluster of relevance. Technical and traffic infrastructure (including waste/drinking water infrastructure, roads and other public spaces), played a role in 26 % of the positive evaluations. 15 % of the reports named the economic dimension (e.g. enhanced commercial space), likewise 15 % tourism and leisure, and 6 % named culture (e.g. enhancement of cultural assets). Environmental aspects such as the improvement of green space, unsealing of land, and restoration of waterbodies accounted for 12 % of the positive evaluations.

In terms of the sectors in which the quality of life was improved, the focus was on the '(public) services' sector in general (44 %) and on the social dimension (44 %). As for Measure 321, Measure 322's integrated, cross-sectoral rationale was underlined by very few mentions of individual sectors such as agriculture, while the rural population and rural areas in general were named as the level benefitting from the effects. This thematic focus is also valid for the ex-post evaluation reports assessing the contribution to quality of life as 'limited' (and is therefore not further detailed in the section below).

The measure's contribution to improving the quality of life was assessed as (positive but) limited in 16 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. Explanations of a 'limited' contribution were:

- The target value of result indicator 'population in rural areas benefitting' was not achieved, or effects generally did not meet expectations (22 %);
- Effects concerned only limited aspects of quality of life (22 %);
- The average amount of funding per project was low (11 %).

¹²⁵ Percentage shares of isolated dimensions provide a rough orientation only. Due to their various interrelations, often the interplay of several dimensions was named in the ex post evaluation reports.

Quality of life dimensions and topics addressed by the projects funded included: technical and traffic infrastructure, e.g. electricity and roads (44 %); the appearance of villages in terms of buildings (33 %); social aspects including e.g. community facilities, political participation, and social relations (22 %).

According to only one ex-post evaluation, report there was no contribution of the measure to improving quality of life (2 %). From 5 % of the reports, no clear statement on the measure's contribution could be derived.

For 11 % of the ex-post reports, the category 'not measured' is valid. This is due to several reasons, as far as specified first, in some cases the measure was implemented and evaluated under AxisIV/LEADER, and the evaluation is accordingly not included in the ex-post report's Measure 322 chapter (half of 'not measured' cases). Second, Measure 322 was not evaluated individually but only at the level of an overall 'theme' (17 %). Finally, the evaluation focused on questions and topics other than 'quality of life' as considered more appropriate by evaluators, e.g. diversification (33 %).

Conclusion

In order to improve the quality of life of the beneficiaries, a total budget of € 3 200 million has been spent on Measure 322 by 22 Member State across 50 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 41 577 villages where actions took place and a total number of investment of € 7 828 million. In relation to the total population of the rural area, in the Member States that have offered the measure, there has been one action per 1 651 people. Considered in the EU-wide context, this refers to 2 348 people per action;
- The result indicator for this measure is the population in rural areas benefiting from improved services. A total number of 39 996 742 people benefitted from improved services (on average 1 904 607 people per Member State). See result indicator tables for Axis III.

In 61 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was found that the measure contributed positively to improving the quality of life of the beneficiaries. Furthermore, 16 % of the of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded the measure's effect on the quality of life were limited and 2 % of the evaluation reports concluded that the measure did not have an effect. The improvement can be mainly attributed to intangible aspects (such as social cohesion, political participation, collective ownership in shaping the community environment, or local/regional identity), infrastructure (such as meeting places), the attractiveness of villages for housing and technical and traffic infrastructure (including waste/drinking water infrastructure, roads and other public spaces).

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M322, 77 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions (79 %), we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ40. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

The largest share of ex-post evaluation reports (48 %) identified additional effects of Measure 322, which were positive with very few exceptions ('not clear' in three cases). In 16 % of the reports, it is not clear whether there were additional effects, and there were no additional effects stated in 30 % of reports.

The additional effects identified can be roughly allocated to the following (albeit intertwined) dimensions of quality of life, and – with the exception of municipal development and physical/infrastructural improvement of villages – were named with regard to beneficiaries as well as non-beneficiaries: in 85 % of the ex-post evaluation reports, additional economic effects were named (mainly jobs and diversification). The social dimension played a role in 52 % of the reports, ca. half of which concerning intangible social aspects (such as trust, equal opportunities, joint participatory action), followed by counteracting depopulation (below one third), and social infrastructure (e.g. creation of space for social interaction). 37 % reports named additional effects related to tourism and recreation, likewise 37 % to the overall

attractiveness of rural areas and rural development in general. Additional effects related to the environmental dimension were named in 33 % of the reports (including water quality, bird protection, reduction of GHG emissions/climate protection, and reduction of resources such as land by more compact settlement structures as a result of revitalised village centres). Finally, there were additional effects identified associated with the measure's core topic of municipal development, and physical and infrastructural improvement (26 %).

Almost half of the ex-post evaluation reports detected additional positive effects. The additional effects which were mentioned most often are economic effects (jobs and diversification), social aspects (e.g. trust, equal opportunities), counteracting depopulation and social infrastructure.

Measure 323: Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage

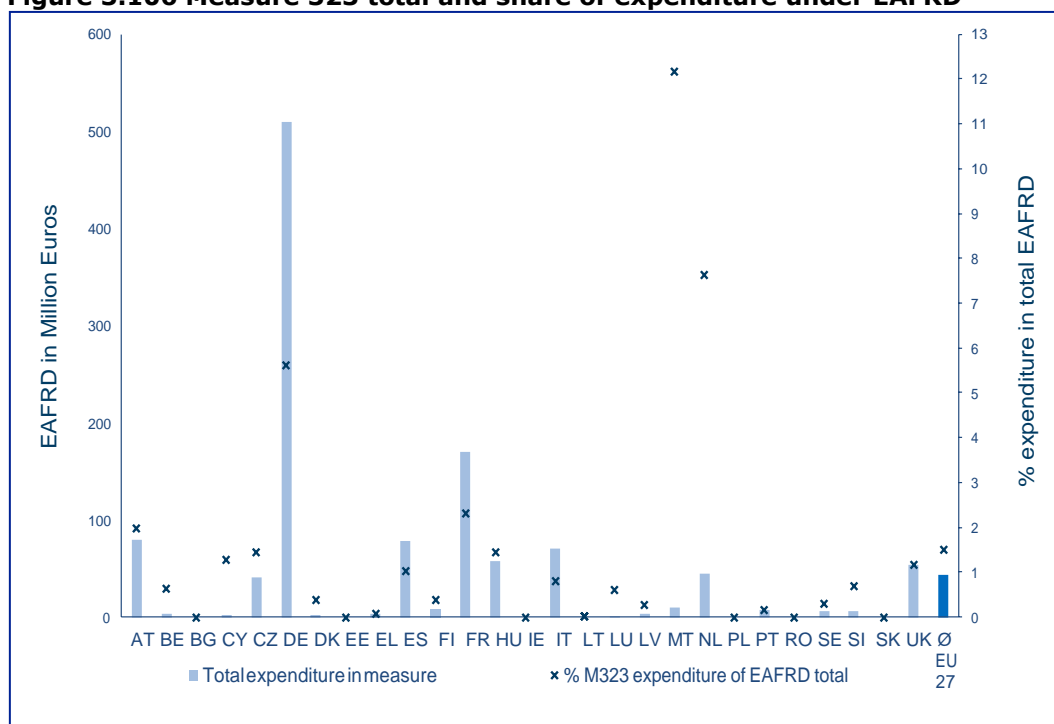
General information about the measure

Measure 323 was implemented in total in 22 Member States, corresponding to 70 regions with rural development programmes, with a total budget of € 1 154.9 million for all Member States and regions.

The main objective of the measure was to stimulate the development of the rural heritage in the Member States. This means on the one hand to maintain and improve the cultural historic heritage and on the other hand to enhance the natural rural heritage, as well as the preparation of Natura 2000 management plans.

The Member States interpreted and developed these objectives partially differently. Especially the cultural historic heritage was interpreted differently. Some Member States supported the architectural historic heritage, others tried to improve the quality of life or the identity and community of the local population, others wanted to increase the regional value added, in particular in the area of tourism. In this field the objectives have been widely spread.

Figure 3.106 Measure 323 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 323. The relevant output indicators are the Number of actions supported and Total volume of investment ('000 EUR). The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below, however, provides information on the relevant output indicator for this measure.

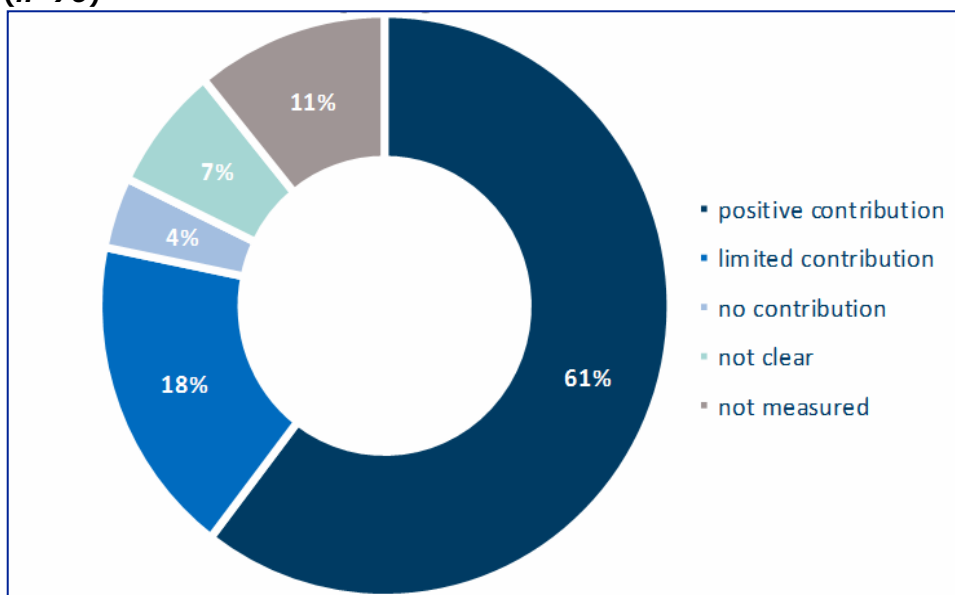
Table 3.56 Output indicators for Measure 323

Value	Number of actions supported	Total volume of investment ('000 EUR)
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	22	22
Range	7 to 54 742	171 to 1 192 161
Median	237	19 207
Average	4 400	124 169
Total	96 807	2 731 725
Number of MS not providing output indicators		None

In relation to the total population of the rural area, in the Member States that have offered the measure, there has been one action per 817 people. Considered in the EU-wide context, this refers to one action per 1 009 people¹²⁶.

SQ27. How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the quality of life of the beneficiaries?

Figure 3.107 Measure 323's contribution to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries (n=76)



In 61 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was found that the measure contributed positively to improving the quality of life of the beneficiaries. Several reports indicated across all positive contributions that the rural population was involved in the project development in different ways.

As varied as the objectives are the positive effects which have been achieved. Three main fields can be specified: tourism, cultural heritage, natural rural heritage. These fields are interrelated and therefore influenced each other mostly. In the following, the improvements are summarised within the different main fields.

The tourist appeal and therefore the economic and job situation as well as the monetary prosperity of the inhabitants were improved by Measure 323. This led to an increased quality of life of the beneficiaries.

¹²⁶ The rural population refers to 2015 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

Furthermore, this field is in a strong relation to the natural and cultural rural heritage. Some reports mentioned that an improvement of the natural heritage equally improved the attractiveness of a region for tourism, which can be seen in the number of visitors in a beneficiary region. This allowed to promote tourism, favouring diversification of the rural economy. Others reported that the rehabilitation of farmhouses, building facades and other types of physical rehabilitation facilitate rural tourism and create employment through the work.

The term cultural heritage was not clearly defined. Some subsidised architectural rehabilitations, others invested in infrastructural measures. Both led to improvements of the quality of life of the inhabitants in general. This field is equally in a strong relation to the natural heritage. Both, improving the living environment and direct investments in rural areas, led to an improvement of the living quality.

The subsidies in the architectural area included improvements of the appearance of communities (reparation of churches, historical buildings, cultural centres of cities/villages, monuments, new accommodation projects, parks and gardens, public spaces for leisure) which as well partially led to a promotion of jobs in the rural regions.

The infrastructure was promoted by investments (museums, further visiting facilities, exhibitions activities, plans, brochures, events and festivals), as well as information centres and similar establishments. Impacts in the area of quality of life were therefore mainly achieved in the educational context through transfer of knowledge about the regional cultural heritage and in the area of leisure and local recreation. A few put their point of view on bringing together services connected to the cultural dominion and the local populations, and increasing the probability of its access.

The term natural heritage was equally not clearly defined and touched a lot of different areas. On the one hand, many reports showed improvements of the attractiveness of rural areas for inhabitants and visitors (adding value to landscape care products, visitor guidance and information in protected areas, improving the offer and access to the natural heritage, enhancing the visual experience for the local population, environmental clean up and improvement schemes, clearing of brook valleys).

On the other hand, other projects focused on the conservation and increase of the landscape and natural value itself (supporting the biodiversity, species and biotopes, protecting the water quality, projects in forest ecosystems, medicinal plants and agricultural value, preserving and developing traditional cultivated landscapes and diversity of use, planting hedges, field trees, orchard meadows or field groves, elaboration of Natura 2000, conservation and protection of protected areas).

In 18 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was concluded that the measure's effects on quality of life were limited. Most of the objectives of Measure 323 were to improve ubiquitous goods like environment, landscape and common well-being. Some reports showed, that there have been problems to estimate improvements in this sector and that progress can only be roughly valued.

Another challenge of this measure was that improvements are just indirectly visible or at their beginning. Especially in the field of natural rural heritage, first improvements are visible but for real changes more time is necessary. Furthermore, some evaluators had problems with the judgment criteria. These criteria seemed not suitable to evaluate the effects.

Just a few reports showed that the objectives really have been reached partially. One report mentioned factors of implementation and management weakness, three others have not reached all of their objectives (without further explanation).

In 4 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was stated that there was no contribution of the measure to quality of life. The only listed reason for this assessment was named by an Italian region. They mentioned that it is not considered that the implemented management plans have the capacity to contribute actively to the quality of life of beneficiaries as defined in the measure¹²⁷. The others did not specify their answers.

Finally, 7 % of the ex-post evaluation reports did not clearly identify to what extent the measure contributed to quality of life. Three reports gave no information about the results or just gave the participation compared to the objective. One report mentioned several criteria

with different output. However, the measure has obvious delays and did not focus on the full utilisation of resources. Another report just gave scarce results. This region invested 75 % of the public expenses in a single project – the renovation of a building of socio-communitarian usage¹²⁸. The contribution to the quality of life of the beneficiaries was not clearly visible.

Conclusion

A total budget of € 1 154.9 million has been spent on Measure 323 by 22 Member States across 70 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 96 807 supported actions and a total volume of investment of € 2 732 million. In relation to the total population of the rural area in the Member States that have offered the measure, there has been one action per 817 people. At EU level this refers to one action per 1 009 people;
- The result indicator for this measure is the population in rural areas benefiting from improved services. A total number of 66 438 533 persons in rural areas benefitted from improved services (on average 3 496 765 persons per Member State). See result indicator tables for Axis III. Compared to the other measures, this measure is the most successful in increasing services in rural areas for the population.

A share of 61 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found the measure contributed positively to improving the quality of life of the beneficiaries. On the other hand, 18 % of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded that the effect of the measure are limited, and 4 % of the evaluation reports that the measure did not contribute.

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M323, 73 % stated a positive contribution. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions (89 %), we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ41. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

More than the half of the ex-post evaluation reports found additional effects of Measure 323. Other common effects identified in the reports were the following:

- The measure created jobs and improved the employment (6) as well as the economic diversification (2), the material prosperity (1), the competitiveness (1), the farm income (1);
- The measure stimulated the biodiversity (5), conserved high-value species/high natural value (3), the development of Natura 2000 (3), an adaption to climate change (2), improved the sustainability/environment in general (2) and the attractiveness of rural areas in general (1);
- The measure improved the cooperation/multiplier effect among the target groups (5);
- The measure avoided depopulation (2), increased the attractiveness of rural areas (1), promoted the diversification of cultural and recreational services (1), supported the maintenance of local culture and celebrating (1), improved people's knowledge of and access to the cluster area's heritage assets (1);
- Six more effects have not been explained further.

Additional effects were recognised by more than half of the ex-post evaluation reports. The effects which were mentioned most often were: creation of jobs, improvement of biodiversity and the improvement of cooperation among the target groups.

Measure 331 Training and Information

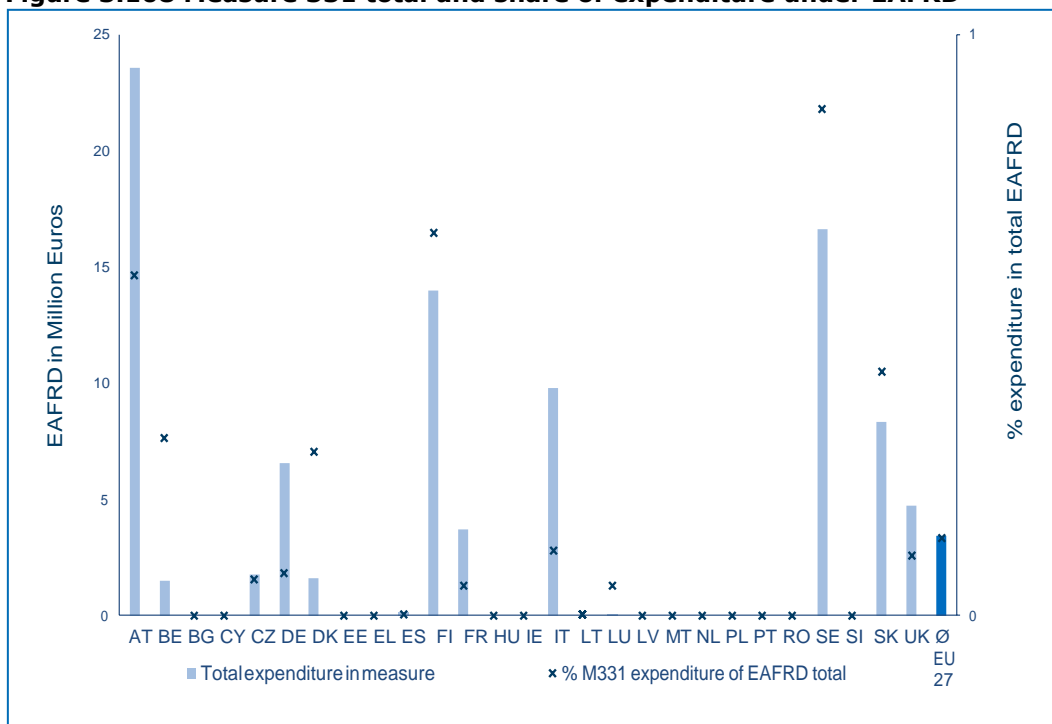
General information about the measure

Measure 331 was implemented by 32 regions in 13 Member States, with a total EAFRD expenditure of € 92.2 million for all Member States and regions. The aim of the measure was to support the implementation of continuous training activities and information to improve

¹²⁸ Spain – Basque country, País Vasco ex-post evaluation report.

personal and professional skills of beneficiaries to successfully implement the other measures of Axis III. This was undertaken in the agricultural sector as well as in the non-agricultural sector. One of the often mentioned goals was to support the establishment of new small and micro businesses.

Figure 3.108 Measure 331 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 331. The relevant output indicators are the Number of economic actors supported and Number of training days received. The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below, however, provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

Table 3.57 Output indicators for Measure 331

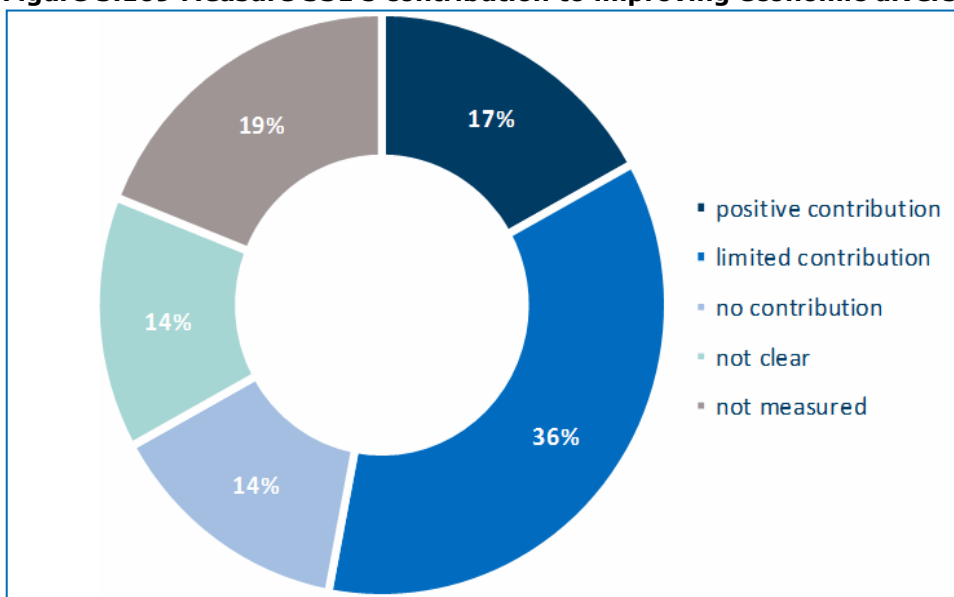
Value	Number of economic actors supported	Number of training days received
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	13	13
Range	1 to 130 071	0 to 160 991
Median	19 956	47 374
Average	41 231	56 773
Total	536 000	738 054
Number of MS not providing output indicators	None	

In the Member States that have offered the measure, the output achieved corresponds to 0.018 training days per person of the working population (15-64 years) in rural areas. In relation to all EU Member States, this refers to 0.011 training days per person of the working population (15-64 years) in rural areas¹²⁹.

¹²⁹ The rural working population refers to 2015 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

SQ28. To what extent has the measure enhanced beneficiaries' capacities to improve economic diversification and quality of life in rural areas?

Figure 3.109 Measure 331's contribution to improving economic diversification (n=36)



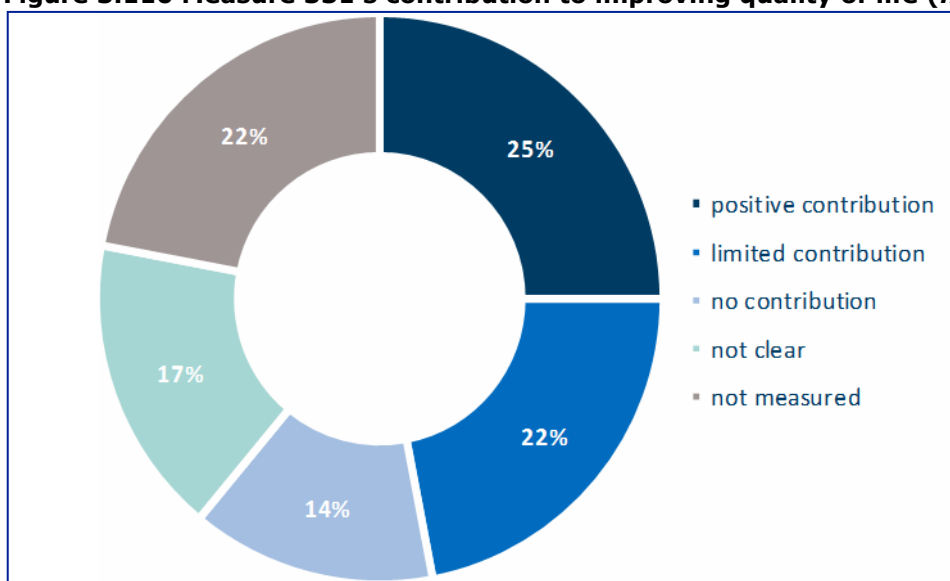
It was found in 17 % of the ex-post evaluation reports that the measure contributed positively to improving the diversification of rural economies. Trainings and courses in these regions reached high numbers of participants and were therefore seen as successful.

In 36 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was concluded that the measure's effects on diversification were limited. The contributing effect of the measures was often seen as indirect because the measures mainly led to improving beneficiaries' personal or professional skills. Nevertheless, this increase in human potential was seen as a means to foster diversification in the long term.

There was no contribution of the measure to economic diversification specified in 14 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. The reasons named in the reports are very scarce. In the region of Basilicata in Italy there was no implementation at all. In mainland France implementation was at very modest levels, therefore the contributing effect was considered very weak. In the other three regions where there was no contribution, reasons were not mentioned in the ex-post evaluation reports.

In 14 % of the ex-post evaluation reports, the contribution to diversification was not clear, mainly because there was no direct impact.

Figure 3.110 Measure 331's contribution to improving quality of life (n=36)



In 25 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was found that the measure contributed positively to improving the quality of life in rural areas. Some reports mentioned that the measure led to the development of new services and products. Furthermore, it is assumed, that the enhancement of personal skills leads to an improvement of the quality of life.

A share of 22 % of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded that the measure's effects on enhancing the quality of life were limited. However, some of the reasons given are actually positive.

There was no contribution of the measure to the improvement of the quality of life depicted in 14 % of the ex-post evaluation reports (same regions as for economic diversification, see above).

In 17 % of the ex-post evaluation reports, the contribution to improving the quality of life was not clear.

Conclusion

A budget of € 92.2 million has been spent on Measure 331 by 13 Member States across 32 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 536 000 economic actors supported and 738 054 days of training received. In the Member States that have offered the measure, the output achieved corresponds to 0.018 training days per person of the working population (15-64 years) in rural areas. In relation to all EU member states, this refers to 0.011 training days per person of the working population (15-64 years) in rural areas;
- The result indicator for this measure is the number of participants that successfully ended a training activity. A total number of 717 401 participants ended a training activity successfully (on average 55 185 participants per Member State). See result indicator tables for Axis III. Compared to Measure 341, this measure managed to help more people to successfully end their training activity.

As presented in Figure 3.109, only 17 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to the improvement of economic diversification. 36 % of ex-post evaluation reports concluded that the measure's effects on economic diversification are limited, and 14 % of the evaluation reports conclude that the measure did not contribute to economic diversification. The contribution to improving life quality is showing a similar pattern: only 25 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving quality of life. 22 % of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded the measure's effects on the quality of life were limited and 14 % concluded that the measure did not contribute (see Figure 3.110).

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M331, 25 % stated a positive contribution in terms of economic diversification, and 41 % in terms of quality of life. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to (a) enhancing beneficiaries' capacities to improve economic diversification to a very limited extent, and (b) improving the quality of life in rural areas to a limited extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions in terms of both economic diversification and quality of life (78 %), we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ41. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

The distribution of the proportions of reports that found additional effects, those that didn't and those where the situation was not clear, is quite even. The additional effects found in 13 regions were all positive and often contributed to the improvement of human potential. Other effects identified were networking, capacity building, positive environmental impacts, strengthening of the tourism sector and indirect effects on the achievement of other measures.

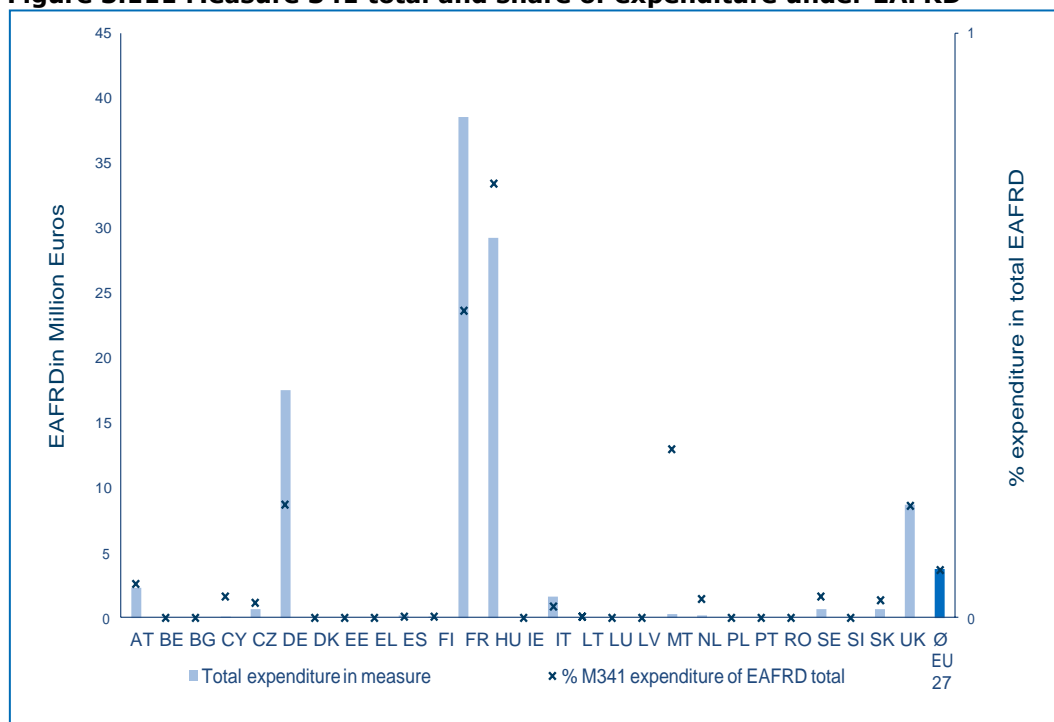
13 regions found additional effects, which were all positive and referred most often to the improvement of human potential.

Measure 341: Supporting skill acquisition for developing local strategies

General information about the measure

Measure 341 was implemented in total in 15 Member States, corresponding to 33 regions, with a total budget of € 100.4 million for all Member States and regions. The measure's objectives were to support the skill acquisition of local actors/action groups for structuring, developing and implementing local development strategies and, as a result, strengthening the local human potential and the partnerships between different target groups.

Figure 3.111 Measure 341 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview

The following indicators are relevant for Measure 341. The relevant output indicators are the Number of actions supported and Number of participants. The relevant result indicator for this Measure is the Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity.

The relevant result indicators for the measure are provided in the introductory section of the corresponding axis, and there is no data on the impact indicators. The table below, however, provides information on the relevant output indicators for this measure.

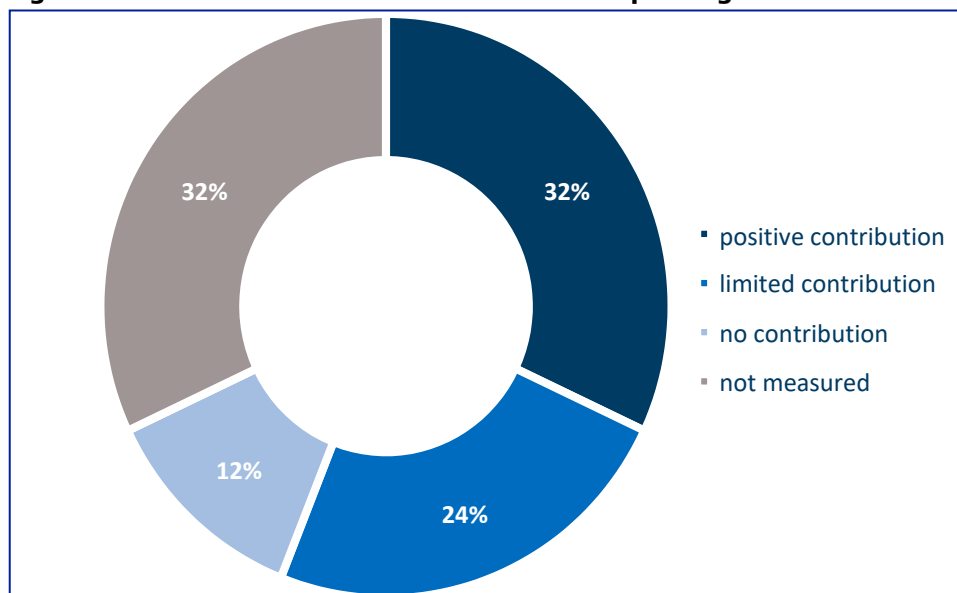
Table 3.58 Output indicators for Measure 341

Value	No of actions supported	No of participants
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	15	15
Range	0 to 85 906	0 to 3 130 123
Median	662	13 527
Average	6 398	239 741
Total	95 975	3 596 112
Number of MS not providing output indicators		None

In relation to the total population of the rural area, in the Member States that have offered the measure, there has been one action per 16 people. Considered in the EU-wide context, this refers to one action per 27 people¹³⁰. It has to be taken into account that some people could have participated in multiple actions. Therefore, the amount of individual participants is lower than suggested in the table above.

SQ28. To what extent has the measure enhanced beneficiaries' capacities to improve economic diversification and quality of life in rural areas?

Figure 3.112 Measure 341's contribution to improving economic diversification (n=34)



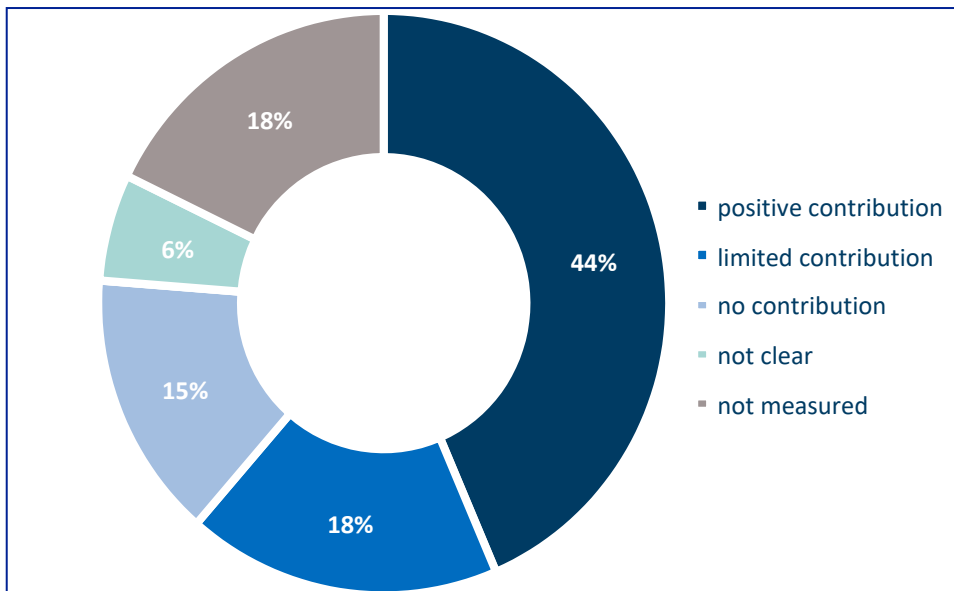
A share of 32 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving the economic diversification of the beneficiaries. Several positive arguments have been listed. For example, Measure 341 tightened the relation between the members and actors/partnerships have been successfully supported/partners mobilised or the capacity/dynamic of local actors have been enhanced. Moreover, an impact on the environment (forests, nature, culture, landscape) and tourism was named by the evaluation.

In 24 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was concluded that the measure's effects on the economic diversification were limited. One reason mentioned was that the contribution on the diversification is more or less indirect, or impacts on the environment will be visible only in the longer term. Other reasons have been, that a low amount of financed actions limited the effects to a very local level, that some projects were still running at the end of the evaluation, that the measure was not primarily geared to support the diversification of economic activities, or that the measure did not directly support the emergence of new services, but only the creation of strategic conditions.

¹³⁰ The rural population refers to 2015 data, all other reference data refers to 2013 data.

There was no contribution of the measure to the economic diversification named in 12 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. The main argument was that the positive aspects of the measure were more indirect and not countable/easy to capture. Furthermore, there was no direct impact on the economic situation visible (but equally in a few cases on other fields, mentioned in the additional effects).

Figure 3.113 Measure 341's contribution to improving quality of life (n=34)



A share of 44 % of the ex-post evaluation reports summarised that the measure contributed positively to the improvement of quality of life of the beneficiaries. Most of the reasons mentioned for this development are corresponding to the arguments of the improvement of economic diversification (see above). The main arguments have been that tightening the partnerships, training the actors, enhancing capacities of local actors, and implementing LEADER activities will lead to private and public projects in different sectors (tourism, leisure activities, promoting the enhancement of natural and cultural heritage, renewable energies, social welfare) which indirectly will improve the quality of life of all residents.

In 18 % of the ex-post evaluation reports it was concluded that the influence of the measure on the improvement of quality of life was limited. Reasons named were that the measure was mainly geared to other objectives and therefore could hardly contribute to the improvement of quality of life, that the objectives have just been reached partially, that a low amount of financed actions limited the effects to a very local level (see above) or that some projects were still running at the end of the evaluation (see above).

There was no contribution of the measure to the improvement of quality of life reported in 15 % of the ex-post evaluation reports. Further reasons have not been mentioned. Only one report named very limited funds as a negative impact on the success of the measure, but did not specify this any further.

In 6 % of the ex-post evaluation reports the contribution to improving the quality of life was not clear. This is because there were no clear statements on the contribution of the measure in the ex-post reports.

Conclusion

In order to enhance beneficiaries' capacities to improve economic diversification and quality of life in rural areas, a budget of € 100.4 million has been spent on Measure 341 by 15 Member States across 33 regions. This has resulted in:

- An output of 95 975 actions supported and a total number of 3 596 112 participants. In relation to the total population of the rural area, in the Member States that have offered

the measure, there has been one action per 16 people. Considered in the EU-wide context, this refers to 27 people per action.¹³¹

- The result indicator for this measure is the number of participants that successfully ended a training activity. A total number of 34 272 participants ended a training activity successfully (on average 3 427 participants per Member State). See result indicator tables for Axis III.

As presented in Figure 3.112 above, 32 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to the improvement of economic diversification. 24 % of ex-post evaluation reports concluded that the measure's effects on economic diversification are limited and 12 % of the evaluation reports concluded that the measure did not contribute to economic diversification. The measure's contribution to improving life quality is seen as more positive:

44 % of the ex-post evaluation reports found that the measure contributed positively to improving quality of life. 18 % of the ex-post evaluation reports concluded the measure's effects on the quality of life were limited and 15 % concluded that the measure did not contribute (see Figure 3.113).

Of those reports that provided a conclusion on M341, 48 % stated a positive contribution in terms of economic diversification, and 54 % in terms of quality of life. Based on these evaluations, we assess that the measure contributed to (a) enhancing beneficiaries' capacities to improve economic diversification to a limited extent, and (b) improving the quality of life in rural areas to a medium extent. Due to the number of reports that provided conclusions (68 % in terms of economic diversification and 82 % in terms of quality of life), we consider the assessment of the measure's contribution plausible.

SQ41. What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

The majority of the ex-post evaluation reports did not find or mention additional effects of Measure 341. Those who identified other effects highlighted additional effects for the environment (preservation of forestry areas and a rise of the awareness for environmental topics) as well as an increased competitiveness, strengthened cooperation and trust among the local actors, capacity building and a further networking between different programmes (for example LEADER) or the private sector and the public.

More than half of the ex-post evaluation did not find additional effects. The ones who did, mentioned only positive effects, which included effects for the environment and a strengthening of cooperation and trust between the local actors.

3.5 Axis IV (LEADER) -related questions

General information about LEADER

LEADER (Axis IV) is a horizontal axis thus affecting aspects of the other EAFRD axes. The different LEADER measures were not separately programmed in several Member States/regions. Especially the Measures 411, 412, and 413 were often jointly programmed and evaluated. As a result, they are reported in the following as M41.

¹³¹ One person can participate in multiple actions.

The following table gives an overview of the main objectives in each LEADER measure:

Table 3.59 LEADER objectives

Measure	Main objectives
M411 M412 M413	Implementation of local development strategies and a focus on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitiveness, • Environment and land management, • Quality of life and diversification
421	Implementation of co-operation projects, inter-territorial and transnational cooperation

Measure	Main objectives
431	Management of local action groups, skills development, support to the functioning of the LAG for capacity development and promotion

The LEADER measures were implemented as follows:

- Measure 411: 22 Member States; 66 regions; total EAFRD expenditure € 471.5 million;
- Measure 412: 16 Member States; 37 regions; total EAFRD expenditure € 58.9 million;
- Measure 413: 27 Member States; 88 regions; total EAFRD expenditure € 3.977 billion;
- Measure 421: 27 Member States; 74 regions; total EAFRD expenditure € 170.8 million;
- Measure 431: 27 Member States; 88 regions; total EAFRD expenditure € 897.7 million.

The following figures show the EAFRD expenditure and the share of LEADER expenditure of total EAFRD expenditure for the respective measure.

Figure 3.114 Measure 411 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD

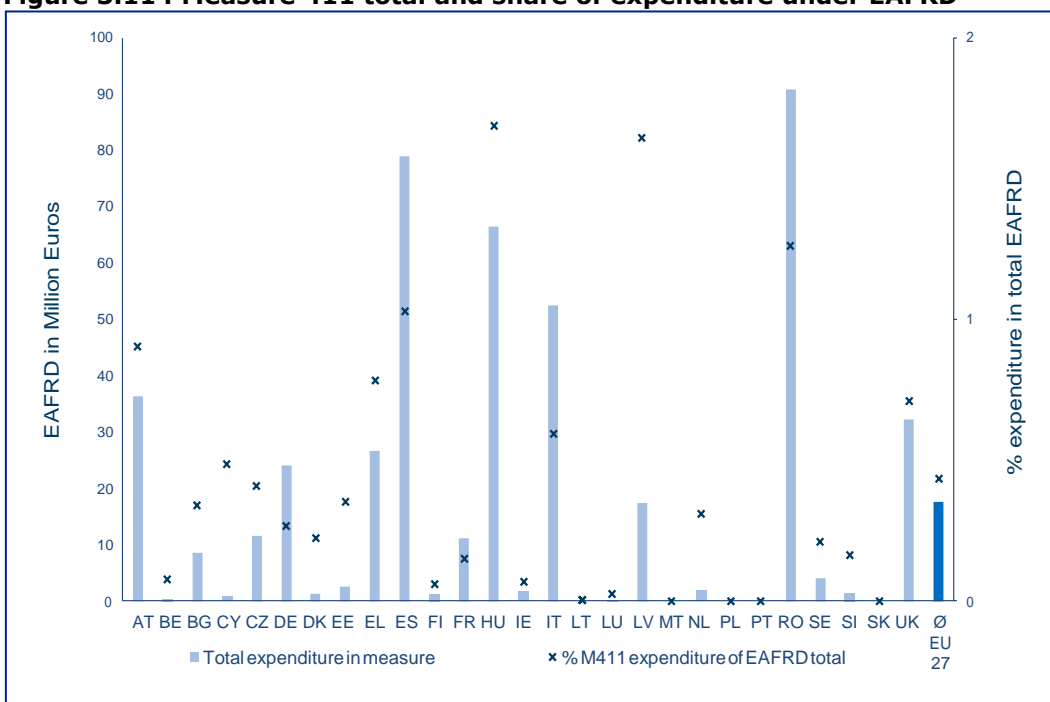


Figure 3.115 Measure 412 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD

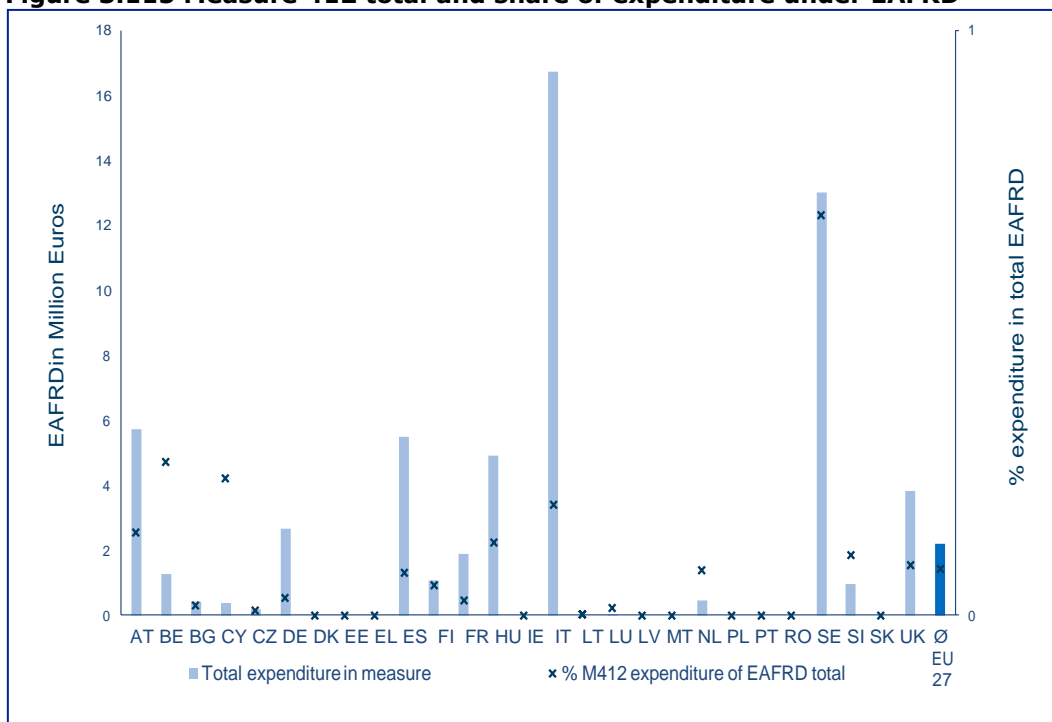


Figure 3.116 Measure 413 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD

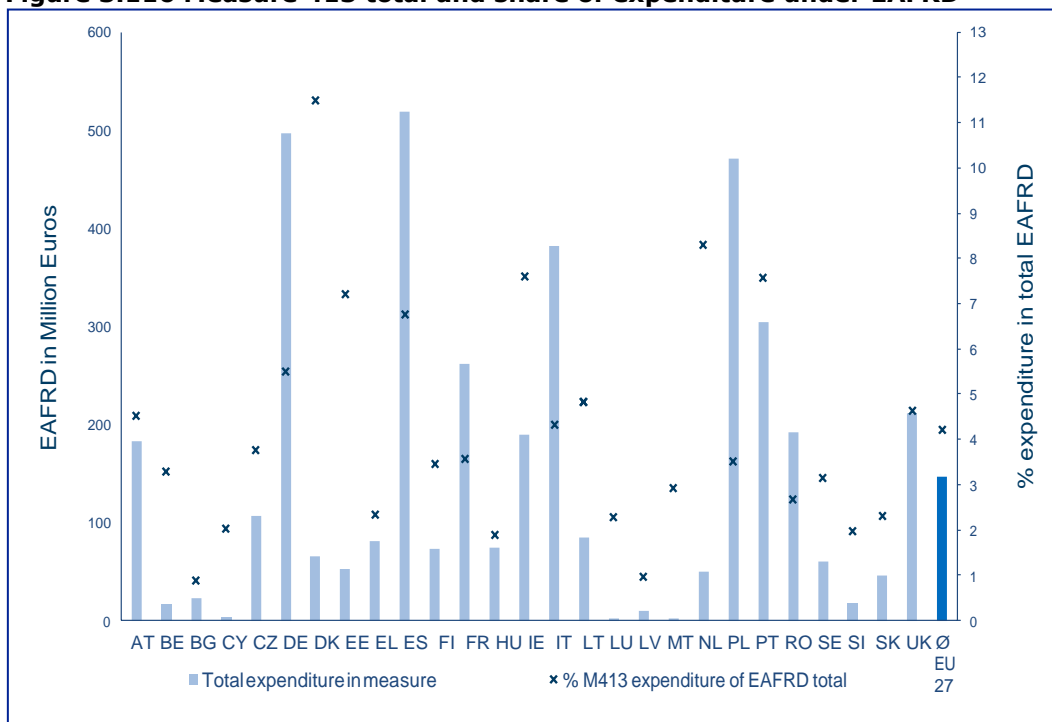


Figure 3.117 Measure 421 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD

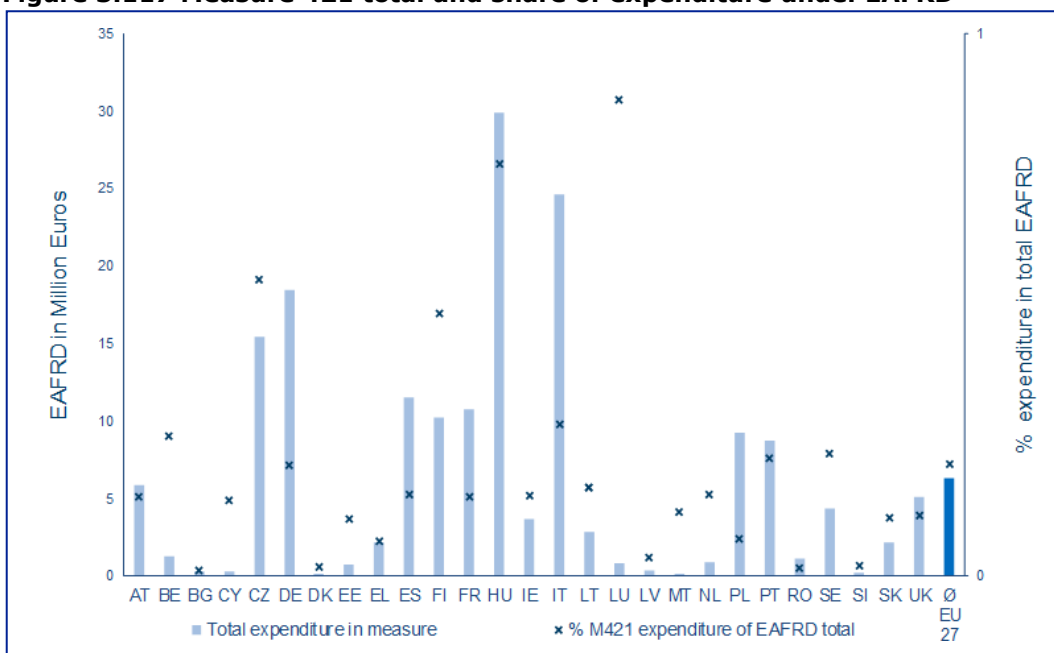
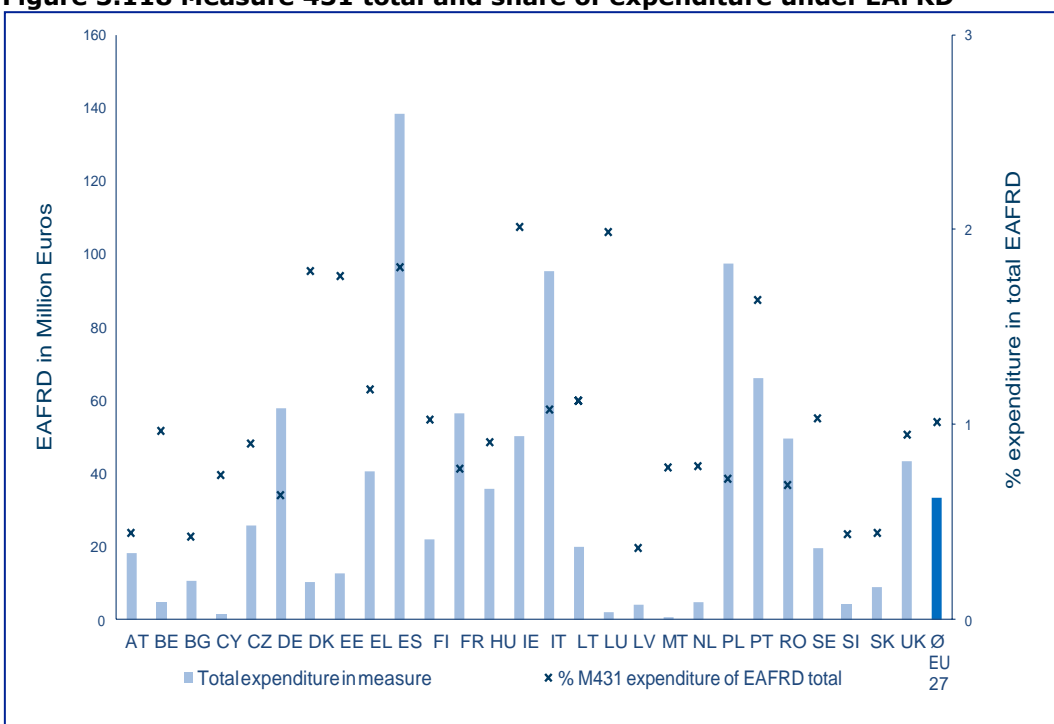


Figure 3.118 Measure 431 total and share of expenditure under EAFRD



Quantitative overview for Axis IV – LEADER

The following indicators are relevant for Measures 411, 412, 413, summarised as M41. The relevant output indicators are the number of local action groups (LAG), total size of the LAG area (km²), total population in LAG area, number of projects financed by LAG and number of beneficiaries.

The relevant output indicators for Measure 421 are the number of supported cooperation projects and number of cooperating LAGs.

The relevant output indicator for Measure 431 is the number of action groups supported.

Table 3.60 Output indicators for Measures 41' (411/412/413)

Value	Number of local action groups	Total size of the LAG area (km ²)	Total population in LAG area	Number of projects financed by LAGs	Number of beneficiaries
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	27	27	27	27	27
Range	3 - 335	288 - 1 074 017	0 - 21 154 780	57 - 40 066	57 - 17 832 775
Median	52	69 357	2 801 917	5 560	3 913
Average	90	152 633	5 310 433	8 252	683 934
Total	2 417	4 121 099	143 381 701	222 794	18 466 208

All Member States reported on output indicators for Measure 41'.

The output indicators however, have to be treated with caution as there are major issues regarding the land size and the population covered. E.g. according to the output indicators, the LAGs cover approximately 200 % of the total rural area in Europe (not possible by definition) or 93 % of the total land area.

Figure 3.119 Output indicator for Measure 41' (411/412/413): Number of local action groups (LAGs)

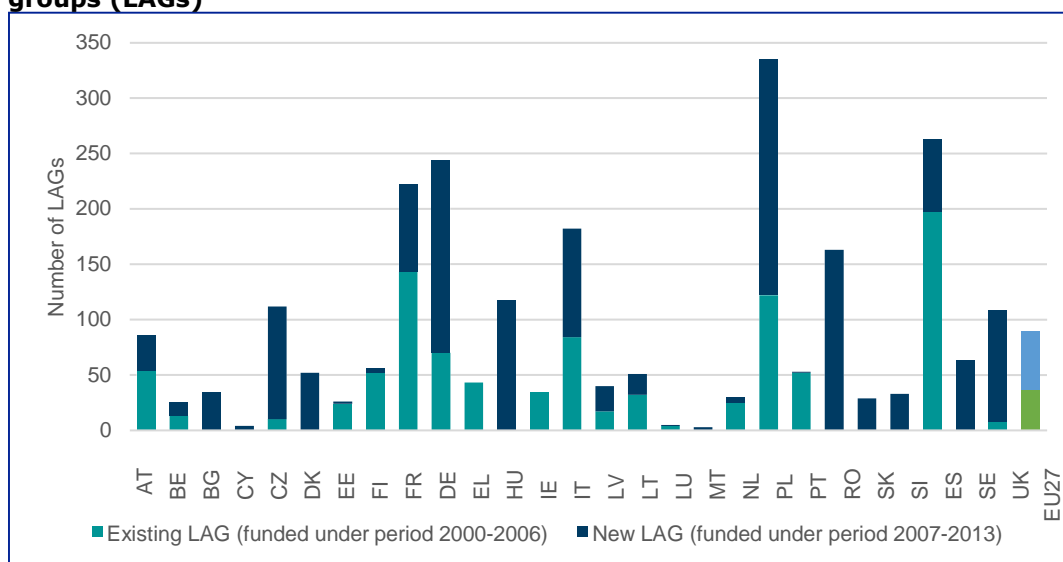


Figure 3.120 Output indicator for Measure 41' (411/412/413): Number of projects financed by LAG

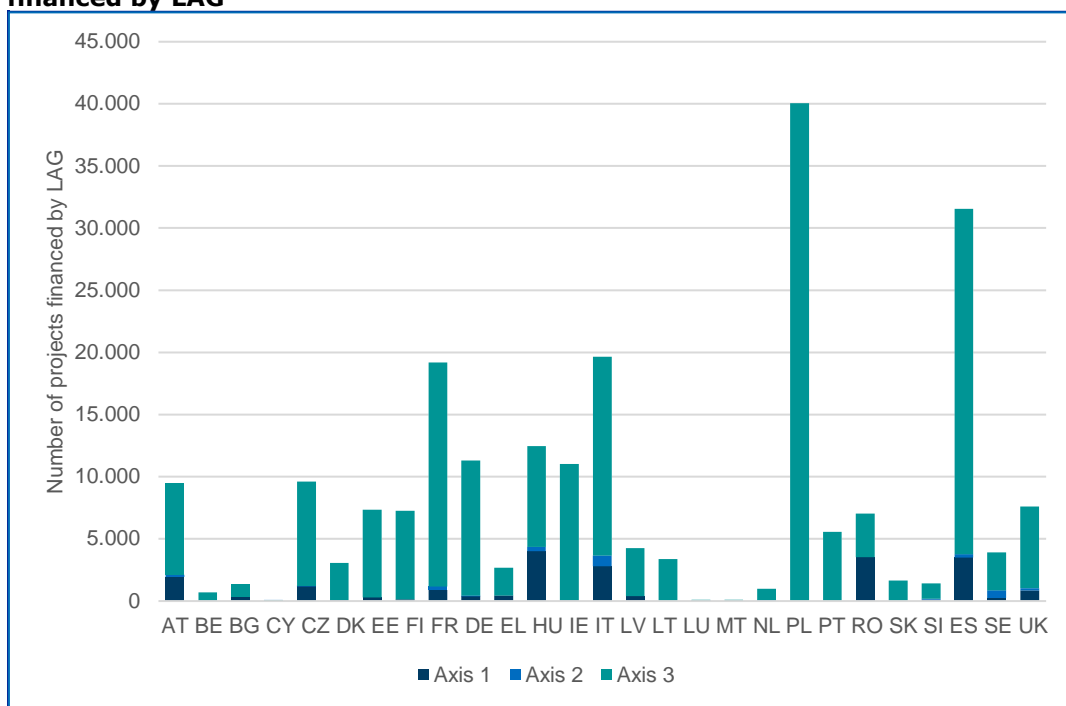


Table 3.61 Output indicators for Measure 421 and Measure 431

Value	Number of supported cooperation projects (M421)	Number of cooperating LAGs (M421)	Number of actions supported (M431)
Number of MS that reported on the indicator	27	27	27
Range	2 – 1 211	3 – 1 222	5 – 120 026
Median	76	142	2 442
Average	205	275	12 928
Total	5 524	7 432	349 061

All Member States reported on output indicators for measure M421 and M431.

Result indicators for LEADER-related measures were not included in the annual implementation reports provided by the Member States; thus there is no complete and consistent data set. However, some ex-post evaluation reports provided data on result indicators such as the gross number of jobs created and the number of participants that successfully ended a training activity as output indicators. As the information is rather patchy it cannot be used for any further summarising judgment.

Table 3.62 Reported result indicators for Axis IV – LEADER (source: reporting template)

R	Value	Gross number of jobs created	Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity - Total
4	Number of reports	30	11
1	Range	6 – 8 938	0 – 89 097
1	Median	367	704
	Average	1 283	13 584
	Total	28 242	149 534
	No values provided (regions)	7	6
4	Number of reports	4	2
1	Total	6 505	58
2	No values provided (regions)	3	0
	Number of reports	19	7
4	Range	0 – 6 505	0 – 9 276
1	Median	216.8	460
3	Average	894.6	1 714
	Total	12 525	11 998
	No values provided (regions)	5	3
4	Number of reports	13	
2	Range	0 – 3 806	
1	Median	24	
	Average	368	
	Total	4 784	
	No values provided (regions)	5	
4	Number of reports	3	5
3	Range		5 – 4 325
1	Median		274
	Average		1 172,6
	Total	382	5 863
	No values provided (regions)	1	3

The following table gives an overview of additional result and other indicators used in the evaluation of Axis IV.

Table 3.63 Additional result and other indicators used in the evaluation of Axis IV - LEADER

	Number of reports				
	M 4 1 1	M 4 1 2	M 4 1 3	M 4 2 1	M 4 3 1
Other result Indicators used					
GVA in supported holdings/enterprises	2	3	1	1	
Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services	1		2	2	
Number of overnight stays	1		1	1	
Additional number of tourist visits			1	1	
Additional other indicator category					
Investment volume	4		3	1	1
Costs/expenditures	1	1	1	1	1
Value added/economic growth	2		4	3	1
Jobs created/maintained	7		2	2	1
Projects/activities (number, cooperation, links to other axes etc.)	2	1	5	3	3
Beneficiaries/participants (number, types)	2		1		3
Other	1	1	1	1	4
(No information)		1	1	2	1

There is no data on the impact indicators.

The following table lists the number of answers provided in the ex-post evaluation reports regarding the respective measure. The separate evaluations of the NRN did not provide information on the LEADER measures.

Table 3.64 Frequencies of answers to LEADER-related questions (n=88)

Measure	Number of answers	In % of all regions
M411	65	72%
M412	32	36%
M413	69	78%
M41 total	166	
M421	78	89%
M431	82	93%

Some mainstream measures (i.e. those under axes I to III) have also been programmed under LEADER. According to the survey, these were mainly Axis III measures (M311, M312, M313, M321, M322 and M331).

SQ42. To what extent has the RDP contributed to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER?

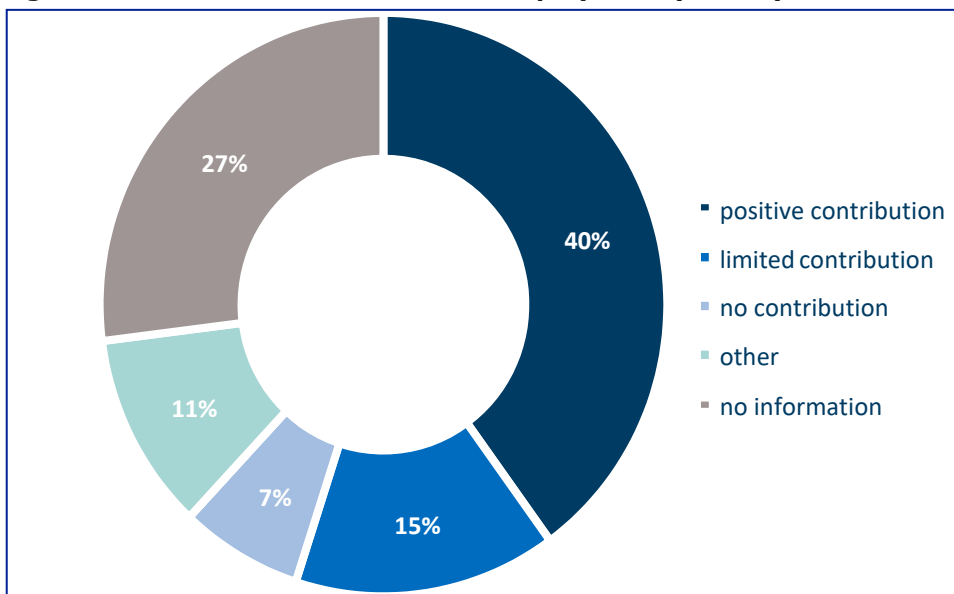
The Figure 3.121 below shows the contribution of Measure 41 to employment. Out of 166 entries¹³², 40 % stated a positive contribution of this measure to employment. A share of 15 % reported a limited contribution. Only 5 % stated no contribution. In less than one third (27 %) of all reports no data is available to assess the contribution of M41 to employment.

¹³² 166 is the sum of the 65 entries in the online survey for measure 411, 32 entries for measure 412 and 69 entries for measure 413. Since the measures 411, 412 and 413 are almost identical - and were also surveyed identically in the questionnaire - they were combined into M 41.

According to the ex-post evaluation reports, 28 242 jobs were created through M411 in 15 MS that reported this indicator, 6 505 through M412 in 3 reporting MS and 12 525 through M413 in 13 reporting MS. Additionally, 149 534 participants successfully ended a training through M411, 58 through M412 and 11 998 through M413.

LEADER positively affected the productive capacity and improved working conditions. In particular, the support in the social and economic sectors created additional employment and income opportunities close to the place of residence and increased women's employment opportunities.

Figure 3.121 Measure 41's effect on employment (n=166)



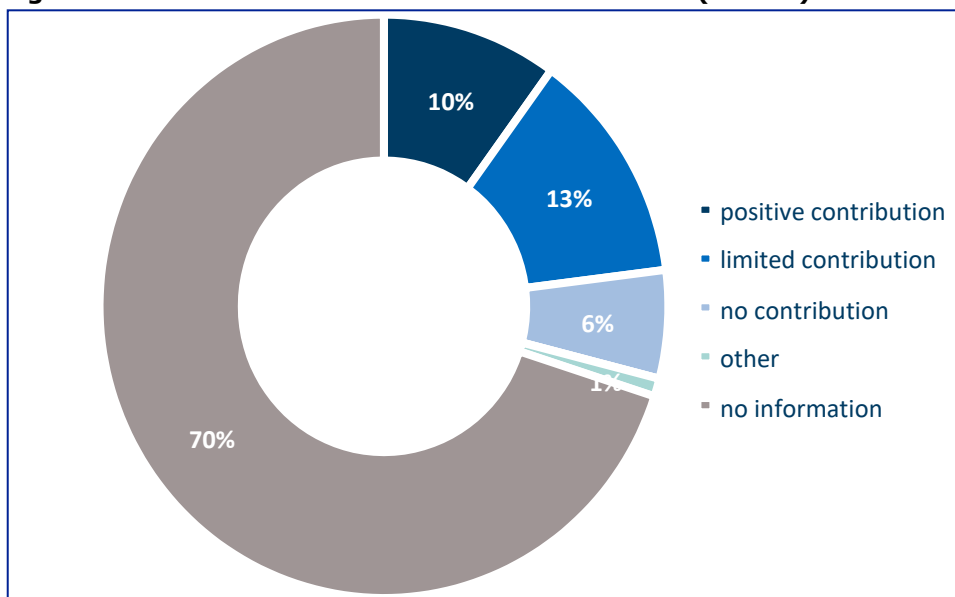
No qualitative information is available about the contribution of Measure 421 to build local capacities for employment. However, according to the reported result indicators 4 784 jobs were created by M421. The number of participants that successfully ended a training activity was not reported for Axis IV.

The contribution of Measure 431 to build local capacities for employment was considered positive in 19 out of 82 reports (23 %). Ten (12 %) reported a limited contribution and in 42 reports (51 %) no data was available. According to the reported result indicators 382 jobs were created. Additionally, 5 863 participants ended a training successfully.

Concerning the contribution of M41 to diversification on farms, 70 % of the reports provided no data. 10 % stated a positive and 13 % a limited contribution to diversification.

Six reports used GVA in supported holdings/enterprises as an additional result indicator. However, no data is available.

Figure 3.122 Measure 41's effect on diversification (n=166)



Conclusion

The implementation of LEADER has resulted in the creation of jobs (gross values) which was reported in about half of the MS. The information however is not sufficiently consistent to allow for a judgment based on it.

According to the synthesis, 40 % of the entries in the reporting template¹³³ found that measure M41 had a positive effect on **employment**. 15 % reported a limited effect, 7 % no contribution and 11 % other effects. As in 27 % no information was available the overall contribution is judged to be limited.

10 % of the entries in the online survey found that measure M41 had a positive effect on **diversification**. 13 % reported a limited effect, 6 % no contribution and 1 % other effects. Since in 70 % of the cases no information was available, it is not possible to make a reliable statement on the total contribution.

The contribution of Measure 431 to **build local capacities for employment** was considered positive in 19 out of 82 reports (23 %). 12% reported a limited contribution and in 42 reports (51 %) no data was available. The qualitative data leads to the conclusion that the measure contributed to building local capacities for employment to a medium extent, with 65 % of all judgments being positive.

The qualitative overview indicates that the RDPs have contributed to employment situation to a limited extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution plausible. The qualitative overview indicates that the RDPs have contributed to diversification to a medium extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution not plausible.

SQ43. To what extent have LAGs contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP?

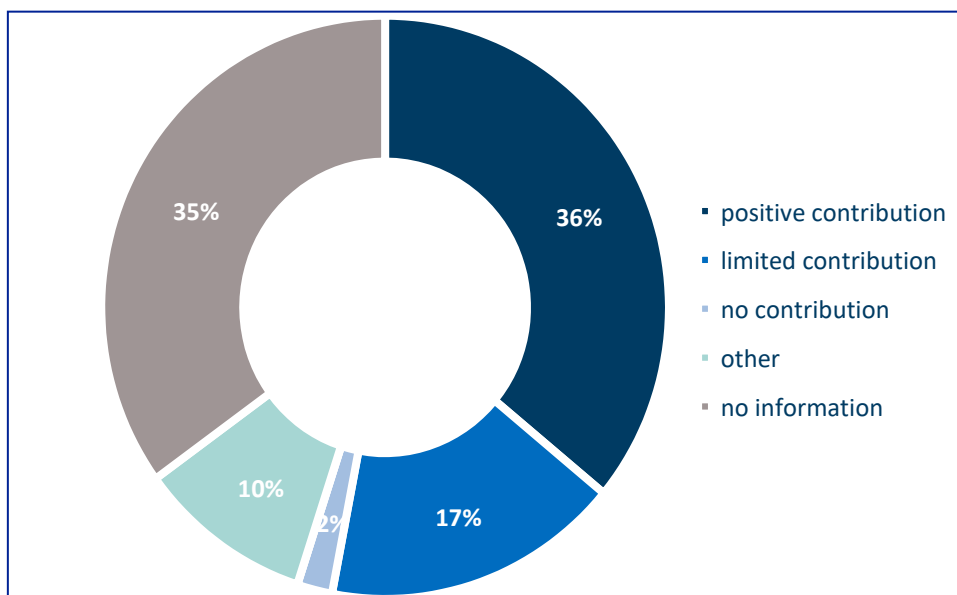
The local development strategies are designed to reflect a multi-sectoral approach, where the priorities cover the needs and expectations of the stakeholders of the regions.

The contributions of Measure 41 to achieve the objectives of the total RDP were tending to be positive (34 %). LEADER contributed to the three main axes of the RDP and to the crosscutting objectives of the EAFRD.

¹³³ Total number of entries is 166. 166 is the sum of the 65 entries in the online survey for measure 411, 32 entries for measure 412 and 69 entries for measure 413. Since the measures 411,412 and 413 are almost identical - and were also surveyed identically in the questionnaire - they were combined into M 41.

LAGs played an important role in the activation of areas by preparing and implementing the local development strategies. The contribution of LEADER to achieve the objectives of the local strategies was considered positive in 36 % of the reports. A number of reports stated a limited contribution (17 %). However, in a substantial number of reports no data was available (35 %).

Figure 3.123 Measure 41's effect on achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP (n=166)



Conclusion

Measure 41 had a positive effect on the objectives of the RDP which was concluded by 34 % of the entries in the online survey. 17% reported a limited effect, 3 % no contribution and 14 % unclear contributions.

36 % of the entries in the online survey found that measure M 41 had a positive effect on the local strategies. 17 % reported a limited effect, 2 % no contribution and 10 % unclear effects. As in 35 % no information was available the overall contribution is judged to be limited.

The information available covers to a small extent the regions which implemented the measures. We therefore consider the contribution of this measure highly uncertain.

The qualitative overview indicates that the LAGs have contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP to a medium extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution not plausible.

SQ44. To what extent has the LEADER approach been implemented?

The LEADER approach consists of several crucial elements such as territorial approach, integrated approach, bottom up, innovation, local public-private partnership, co-operation, networking, and professional management.

The focus of Measure 421 is the implementation of co-operation projects as well as inter-territorial and transnational cooperation. The question therefore specifically addresses to what extent the LEADER approach has been implemented in cooperation projects.

The contribution of Measure 421 to the implementation of the LEADER approach was high (27 %) to medium (17 %). The ex-post evaluation reports mostly did not provide information on the contributions of Measure 421 to the single elements of the LEADER approach. However, reports conclude that LEADER especially contributed to co-operation, networking, and community involvement.

The focus of Measure 431 is the management of local action groups, skills development, support to the functioning of the LAG for capacity development and promotion. The contribution of LAG management (Measure 431) to the implementation of the LEADER approach was great (26 %) to

medium (17 %). Yet again, the contribution to the single elements (see above) of the LEADER approach was not assessable due to missing data in the reports (40 % not measured).

Figure 3.124 Measure 421's contribution to the LEADER approach (n=78)

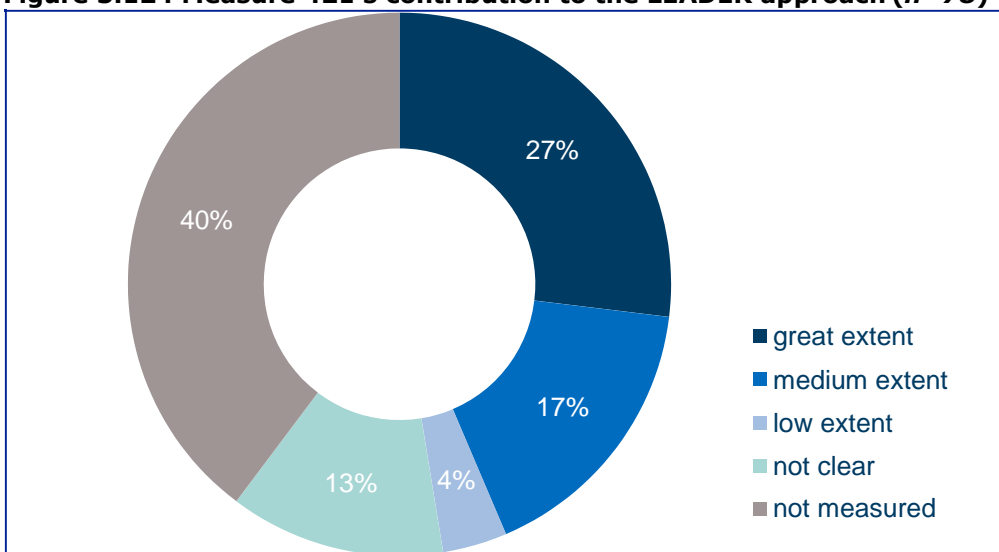
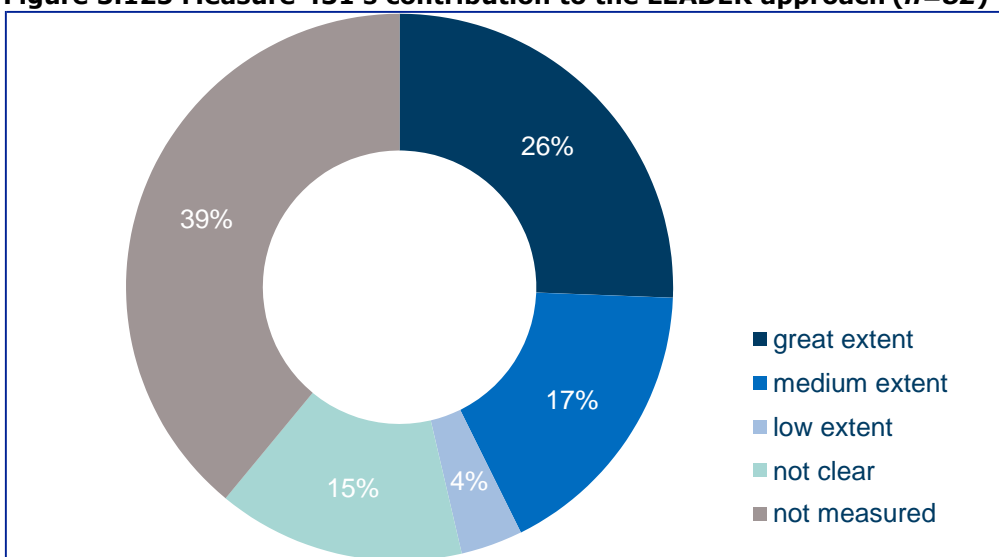


Figure 3.125 Measure 431's contribution to the LEADER approach (n=82)



Conclusion

A total budget of € 471.5 million has been spent on Measure 411 by 22 Member States across 66 regions. This has resulted (according to the Output Indicators for M41¹³⁴) in a total of 2 417 local action groups with a total size of 4 121 099 km². The total population of this area was 143 381 701 inhabitants. In total 222 794 projects were financed by LAGs.

A total budget of € 170.8 million has been spent on Measure 421 by 27 Member States across 74 regions. This has resulted in a total of 5 524 supported cooperation projects in which 7 432 LAGs cooperated with each other. 13 ex-post evaluation reports provided information on the creation of in total 4 784 jobs (gross value).

¹³⁴ Since the measures M411, M412 and M413 are almost identical - and were also surveyed identically in the questionnaire - they were combined into M41. Thus, the output indicators listed in M411 are identical for M 412 and M413.

Over a quarter (27 %) of the answers found that measure M421 contributed to the LEADER approach to a great extent. 17 % reported to a medium extent, 4 % a limited contribution and 13 % an unclear contribution.

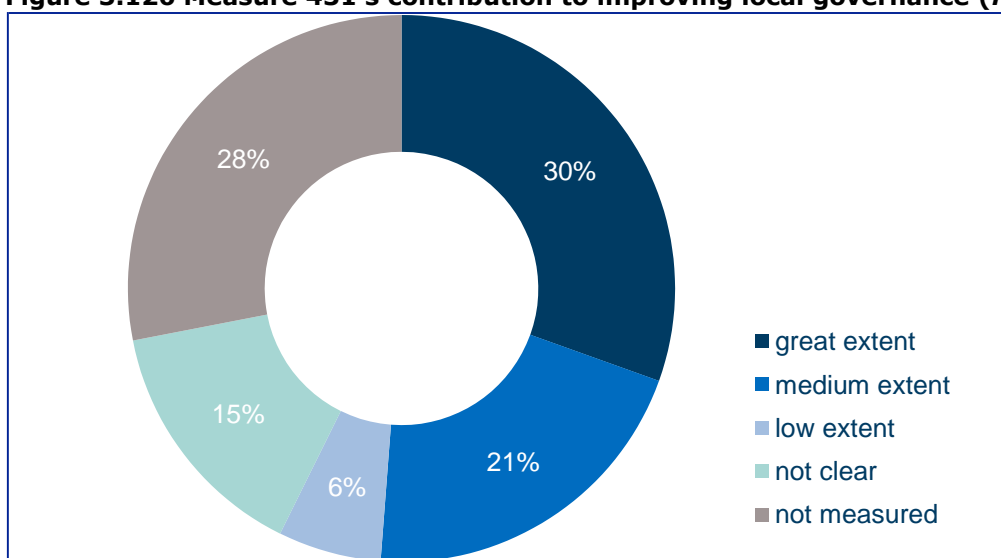
The qualitative overview indicates that the LEADER approach has been implemented to a medium extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution not plausible.

SQ45. To what extent has the implementation of the LEADER approach contributed to improving local governance?

According to the output indicator for M431, 349 061 actions were supported. Unfortunately, it is not clear what kind of actions or projects were supported and in how far they dealt with local governance.

The contribution of Measure 431 to improving local governance was considered "high" (30 %) to "medium" (21 %), although many data was missing (28 %). One of the clearest effects of LEADER was the implementation of public/private partnerships, enabling stakeholders' long-term involvement in the development of a local strategy. In general, this effect was hard to quantify given the lack of indicators to characterise local governance.

Figure 3.126 Measure 431's contribution to improving local governance (n=82)



Conclusion

A total budget of € 897.7 million has been spent on Measure 431 by 27 Member States across 88 regions. This has resulted in:

- 5 863 participants that successfully ended a training activity;
- In total 349 061 actions were supported. Unfortunately, it is not clear what kind of actions or projects were supported.

The contribution of Measure 431 to local governance was considered "high" (30 %) to "medium" (21 %), although many data was missing (28 %). One of the clearest effects of LEADER was the implementation of public/private partnerships, enabling stakeholders' long-term involvement in the development of a local strategy. In general, this effect was hard to quantify given the lack of indicators to characterise local governance.

The qualitative overview indicates that the implementation of the LEADER approach has contributed to improving local governance to a medium extent. Due to the share of reports that provided conclusions, we consider the qualitative assessment of the contribution not plausible.

4 ANSWERS TO SYNTHESIS QUESTIONS

The synthesis questions (SQs) are addressing the overarching aspects of effectiveness, causality, efficiency, coherence, relevance and added value of the RDPs. The SQs build on the programme-, measure- and Axis IV (LEADER)-related questions, and on other information provided. General methodology to answer each of the questions is described in Section 2.4 while question specific methodology and limitation are included under the respective questions in this Chapter.

4.1 Synthesis Question 46: To what extent have the RDPs objectives been achieved?

Understanding of the question

Synthesis Question 46 primarily focuses on assessing the effectiveness of the RDPs. According to the evaluation criteria set by the EU Better Regulation Guidelines, analysing effectiveness of an EU policy should consider *“how successful the EU action has been in achieving or progressing towards its objectives.”*¹³⁵ The analysis should thereafter identify the factors driving or hindering progress and the reasons why objectives/targets have not been achieved. The analysis should also determine whether the objectives can still be achieved and if unintended effects have occurred.

More specifically, Synthesis Question 46 focuses on determining to what extent the objectives set by the RDP have been achieved.

To answer this question, reference is made to the objectives of the Rural Development Policy set up by the Community Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development in the programming period 2007-2013. The objectives are defined as:

1. Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector;
2. Improving the environment and the countryside through land management;
3. Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy;
4. Building local capacity for employment and diversification.

In addition to these four objectives, national and regional programme authorities might have tailored or included additional policy objectives addressing the specific needs of the programme territory. However, in this overview we only refer to the priorities set at the EU level in order to enable a comparison across programmes.

Approach to answer the question

Methodological consideration

The approach to answer this question is based on the qualitative information provided in the answers to the relevant Programme and Axis-IV related questions. Since the Programme questions already comprise an assessment of the effects produced by the different measures, it was agreed that looking at both Programme and Measure-related questions would double-count the effect.

Due to lack and consistency of data, limited quantitative information could be used to answer this Synthesis Question. For each Programme and Axis IV questions, the relevant impact or result indicators are presented. However, they cannot be taken into account when formulating a response to the question, as explained under the limitations section below.

Table 4.1 compares each objective to the relevant Programme and Axis IV-related questions. In some cases the necessary information regarding the achievement of the objective could be found in one question. In other cases in order to provide a satisfactory assessment multiple

¹³⁵ Better Regulation toolbox, tool #47. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/file_import/better-regulation-toolbox-47_en_0.pdf.

questions had to be taken into account. For example, to collect sufficient evidence regarding the achievement of objective 2, we considered the answers to Programme questions 3, 4, 7 and 8. Table 3.4 further illustrates this approach.

Table 4.1 Overview of objectives and relevant SQs

Objective	Relevant SQ
1 Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector	SQ5: To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector?
2 Improving the environment and the countryside	SQ3: To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry? SQ4: To what extent has the RDP contributed to the supply of renewable energy? SQ7: To what extent has the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation? SQ8: To what extent has the RDP contributed to improvement of water management (quality, use and quantity)?
3 Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy	SQ9: To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy? SQ11: To what extent has the RDP contributed to creation of access to broadband internet (including upgrading)?
4 Building local capacity for employment and diversification	SQ42: To what extent has the RDP contributed to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER? SQ43: To what extent have LAGs contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP?

Limitations

For each question, we indicate the relevant impact or result indicator; however it should be noted that not all MS reported data on the indicators and often the data could not be used for lack of quality or clarity. These values should therefore be only considered as indicative. Moreover, since they cannot be compared to targets (as explained in section 2.5 on general limitations), they give limited indication on the degree of achievement of each objective. In responding to the question, we therefore base our judgment on qualitative data only.

Judgment criteria of the answer

The first step we take is to determine the evidence base for each question as explained in the introductory section of the methodology to the synthesis questions. The evidence base determines the plausibility of the judgment, which depends on how many reports have provided relevant data.

Based on this assessment, we use the qualitative data provided in the answers to the relevant Programme and Axis IV - related questions to determine to what extent a certain objective has been achieved. For each Programme and Axis IV-related question an overview is provided showing the number of reports according to which the RDPs have had a positive or limited contribution with regards to that specific objective. To determine the extent to which the different objectives have been achieved we use the scale identified under section 2.5.

Answer to the question

The table below presents for each objective the relevant SQs, the level of the evidence base and the degree of the effect and the relevant impact of result indicator.

Table 4.2 Overview of the extent of the achievement of the objectives

Objective	Relevant SQ	Evidence base (% of clear answers) ¹³⁶	Effects of the RDP	Relevant Impact or Result Indicator (average values)
1 Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector	SQ5: To what extent has, the RDP contributed to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector?	97 %	Positive 59 % Limited 25 % No 13 %	Change in labour productivity: 4,1 %
2 Improving the environment and the countryside	SQ3: To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?	86 %	Positive 61 % Limited / No 12 % Depending on addressed domain 13%	-Farmland bird index change: 23 % -HNV area change: 23% -HNV area change 847359 ha -Reduction of N kg / ha / year: 15,8 ha
	SQ4: To what extent has, the RDP contributed to the supply of renewable energy?	90 %	Positive 54 % Limited/No 26% No 10 %	- MWh: 87 826 -KTOE: 32 (372.16)
	SQ7: To what extent has, the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation?	95 %	Positive 75 % Limited/No 20%	Area under effective management (climate change): 448 443 ha
	SQ8: To what extent has, the RDP contributed to improvement of water management (quality, use and quantity)?	80 %	Positive 64 % Limited/No 16%	Not available
	SQ9: To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy?	62 %	Positive 18 % Limited 9 % Depending on domain 35 %	Not available
3 Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy	SQ11: To what extent has the RDP contributed to creation of access to broadband internet (including upgrading)?	50 %	Positive 35 % Limited 15 %	New or improved access to broadband internet: 8 1315
	SQ42: To what extent has the RDP contributed to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER?	60 %	Positive 40 % Limited no 20 %	Not available
Objective	Relevant SQ	Evidence base (% of clear answers) ¹³⁶	Effects of the RDP	Relevant Impact or Result Indicator (average values)
	SQ43: To what extent have LAGs contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP?	54 %	Positive 34 % Limited/no 20 %	Not available

¹³⁶ The score categorisation is explained under the introduction section.

From this overview, a number of observations can be made regarding the achievement of each of the objectives.

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

This objective was achieved to a moderate extent. There is a very high evidence base for this objective, which also indicates that for regions and MSs it was relatively easy to judge the impact of the RDP on this component.

Objective 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

To assess the degree of achievement of this objective we used several Programme-related questions. Evidence base was sufficient or excellent for all the questions, hence, the assessment is plausible. More specifically, the RDPs have contributed to a high extent to climate change mitigation and water management, and to a moderate extent to the protection of natural resources and landscape. Regarding the supply of renewable energy, most of the reports which have recognised a positive impact, also declared that the extent of the impact was difficult to determine and quantify. Overall the extent of achievement is deemed positive, but it cannot be quantified.

Objective 3 - Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy

Two Programme-related questions are used to provide answer to this objective. Looking at the data, RDP has contributed to a limited extent to the access to broadband internet. Concerning the improvement of quality of life and diversification in rural areas, only 18 % of the reports acknowledged a positive contribution, so we could consider it as limited. However, there are also 35 % of reports, which suggested that the degree of contribution depends on the domain (either quality of life or diversification), and therefore it is difficult to determine and quantify in absolute terms.

Out of the four objectives, this is the objective for which the degree of achievement was more limited, but it is also the one for which we have the lowest evidence base.

Objective 4 - Building local capacity for employment and diversification

Two Axis IV-related questions are used to assess the extent of achievement of this objective. The LAGs contributed to a limited extent to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDPs, while the RDPs have contributed to a medium extent to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER. The evidence base is sufficient so these assessment can be considered plausible.

Overall, the objectives that have been achieved to a higher degree are also those for which the synthesis has produced a better evidence base. These are mostly related to the domain of competitiveness and environment. The objectives which refer to more socio-economic dimensions, such as in the case of interventions to improve the quality of life or linked to the introduction of new approaches like the LEADER, prove to be more difficult to measure and may produce less direct and measurable effects.

4.2 Synthesis Question 47: To what extent can the change in the programme area be attributed to the RDPs?

Understanding of the question

Question 47 should explore the cause-effect relationship between the intervention and the induced changes in the programme area. According to the European Network for Rural Development ex-post evaluation guidelines for the funding period 2007-2013, 'the core of the assessment of the intervention logic's causality looks at the relation between an event (the cause) and a second event (the effect), where the first event is understood to be responsible for the second'.

Given the data at our disposal, we cannot determine a cause-effect relationship or the extent to which a change in the programme area is due to the intervention. However, we can show how the result of the intervention (RDP) relates to broader changes in the targeted programme area.

Approach to answer the question

Methodological considerations

In order to answer the question we follow three main steps:

- First, we present the effects produced by the RDPs;
- Second, we compare these effects to broader changes in the programme area;
- Third, we discuss the extent to which the RDPs could have contributed to such changes.

First, we identify the effects produced by the RDPs based on the result indicators. The 12 result indicators (RI) provide a quantification of the changes produced by the RDP (e.g. gross number of jobs created). Values are aggregated per measure at EU level. In some cases, to avoid double counting they are presented through sub-indicators (as in the case of RI 1, 4, 6, 8 and 9).

Second, we compare the result indicators to the relevant context indicators (CI) from the current period and use values for 2013 and 2016.¹³⁷ The context indicators describe the broader changes in that specific programme area (e.g. total number of persons working in the agriculture, food and forestry sector) and are part of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the CAP 2014-2020. It should be noted that the result indicators refer to the period 2007 – 2013. The comparison with context indicator values collected in 2016 will therefore allow to see what have been changes in the programme area over time.¹³⁸

In some cases, assumptions can be made on how changes in the programme area occurred in the timeframe 2013 - 2016 might have resonated against the RDPs' achievements. This approach helps contextualise the achievements of the RDPs in the relevant programme area although it does not allow to isolate the RDPs' effects from other factors and trends such as, for instance, the economic recession, the effect of a national or local policy, etc.

Both result and context indicators are reported at Member State level and then aggregated at EU level. Context indicators are usually based on the data provided by 28 Member States. Data for Croatia and Bulgaria has been excluded from the values reported below, as these Member States were not covered by the Synthesis.¹³⁹ While context indicators are available for all 26 Member States, it is rare that all Member States report on the result indicators, and in some cases, even if they did, data could not be used because it was inconsistent or unclear. Therefore, in our judgment the evidence base is taken into account for each indicator reported. This allows to estimate how representative the data is and how plausible our judgment can be.

Limitations

The Programme-, Measure-, and Axis IV-related questions provide very limited answers on whether and how the changes in the programme area can be attributed to the RDPs. Ex-post evaluation reports only occasionally mention whether the effects mentioned are to be attributed to the RDP specifically. Even when it is the case, there is no quantification provided, and only qualitative information is available.

Another limitation is the fact that targets could not have been used as a benchmark to assess the extent of achievements of the RDPs. As explained under Chapter 2, target values cannot be considered reliable, as they have been adjusted multiple times during the programme implementation. In some cases, no comparison between result and context indicators can be made. This occurs either because for the first type of indicators data has been provided by a too limited number of member states, or because, as in the case of RI 10, result indicator values are larger than context indicators, which might indicate some inaccuracy or double counting in the data.

By comparing result and context indicators, considerations can be drawn on the achievements of the RDPs. However, it is not possible to draw sound conclusions on cause-effect relationships

¹³⁷ In fact, they are based on data collected in 2013 and 2015 respectively. In two cases, when no data was collected in those years, we use indicators from previous years (2010 – 2013).

¹³⁸ It would have been interesting to compare the RI to CI collected in 2007 and 2013 to see changes before and after the RDPs implementation. However data of CI prior to 2013 was not made available.

¹³⁹ For the result indicators we have excluded Bulgaria and Croatia, while for the RI we have excluded Bulgaria, as Croatia was already not covered.

or to isolate the effects of the RDPs. Context and result indicators are comparable to a certain extent as they are based on different data sources and samples.

Finally while context indicator values are available for 2013 and 2015, for result indicators there are only values for 2013. This means that comparison over time cannot be made.

Judgment criteria

It is highly complex to define judgment criteria for this question. It will not be possible to establish a clear cause-effect relationship between result and context indicators. For each comparison, we will draw some correlations and possible assumptions, to which a specific score cannot be assigned. However, the achievements of the RDPs can be put in a broader context, observing trends by grouping the correlations according to the main Axis objectives - competitiveness, environment and quality of life.

Answer to the question

The table below shows values reported for each result indicator and context indicator. For the latter we include values for both 2013 and 2015. The second column shows how many MS have reported on that result indicator.

Table 4.3 Comparison between result and context indicators

Result indicator (RI)	RI – EU aggregated value (all concerned measures)	#MS that reported on RI	Context Indicator (CI)– EU aggregated values	CI Values
Improving the competitiveness of the agriculture and forestry sector				
RI 1.1 Number of participants passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma)	1 822 278	22	CI 13 Total number of persons employed in agriculture, food and forestry	14 744 200 (2013) 14 307 900 (2015)
			CI 25 Factor income at real prices.	149 948, (2013) 138 504.8 (2015)
RI 1.2 Number of participants implementing the achieved skills	1 987 552.37	15	CI 13 Total number of persons employed in agriculture, food and forestry	14 744 200 (2013) 14 307 900 (2015)
RI 2 Increase in gross value added in supported holdings/enterprises (in millions of euro)	63 524.5	23	CI 14 Total GVA in agriculture (in millions of euro's)	164 126.8 (2013) 161 455.1 (2015)
			CI 17 Total number of agricultural holdings/enterprises	11 644 080 (2010) 10 429 140 (2013)
RI 3 Number of holdings/enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques	200 281	25	CI 17 Total number of agricultural holdings/enterprises	11 644 080 (2010) 10 429 140 (2013)
RI 4 Value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards (in millions of euro's)	17 569.6 (member state label standard)	8 and 9	CI 14. Total GVA in agriculture (in millions of euro's)	164 126,8 (2013) 161 455.1 (2015)
	28 243.8 (European union label standard)			
	13 082	9		38 974 810

Result indicator (RI)	RI – EU aggregated value (all concerned measures)	#MS that reported on RI	Context Indicator (CI)– EU aggregaten values	CI Values
RI 5 Number of farms entering the market			CI 11 Distribution of employment by rural sector	(2011) 38 090 020 (2013)
			CI 17 Total number of agricultural holdings/enterprises	11 644 080 (2010)
				10 429 140 (2013)
Improving the environment and the countryside through land management				
RI 6 Area under successful land management (Ha) -	77 857 027	26	CI 18 Total Agricultural Area - UAA (Ha)	170 023 620 (2010)
Biodiversity				168 153 640 (2013)
Water quality	50 693 637	25		
Climate change	43 804 494	22		
Soil Quality	58 200 947	25		
Avoidance of marginalization and land abondment	82 425 475	26		
Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity				
RI 7 Increase in total non-agricultural GVA in supported businesses	1 737.7 1 627.6	21	CI 14. Total GVA in agriculture (in millions of euro’s)	164 126.8 (2013) 161 455.1 (2015)
RI 8 Gross number of jobs created	RI 8 (1): ^[3] 167 901 161 213	25	CI 11 Distribution of employment by rural sector	38 974 810 (2011)
8 (1) Diversification into agricultural activities + Business creation and development + Encouragement of tourism activities + Axis 1 + Axis 2 + Axis 3	RI 8 (2): ^[4] 148 260	23		38 090 020 (2013)
8(2) On farm jobs + Off Farm jobs			CI 13 Total number of persons working in agriculture, food and forestry	14 744 200 (2013) 14 307 900 (2015)

Result indicator (RI)	RI – EU aggregated value (all concerned measures)	#MS that reported on RI	Context Indicator (CI)– EU aggregated values	CI Values
RI 9.1 Number of overnight stays	5 887 450	21	CI 30 Total number of bed-places in rural areas	11 808 010 (2013) 13 706 577 (2015)
RI 9.2 Number of day visitors	29 718 348	22	CI 30 Total number of bed-places in rural areas	11 808 010 (2013) 13 706 577 (2015)
RI 10 Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services	149 202 783	25	CI 1 Total rural population	109 414 103 (2013) 94 864 000 (2015)
RI 11 Increase in internet penetration in rural areas (in persons)	16 660 843	18	CI 1 Total rural population	109 414 103 (2013) 94 864 000 (2015)
RI 12 Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity	769 578	18	CI 13 Total number of persons employed in agriculture, food and forestry CI 25 Factor income at real prices	14 744 200 (2013) 14 307 900 (2015) 149 948,2 (2013) 138 504,8 (2015)

Based on the data presented in the table observations can be made. Hereby they are presented according to the main objectives of each Axis.

Competitiveness

The number of people who have passed a training, accounts for 12.4 % of the total number of people employed in agriculture, food and forestry in 2013.

While an increase of schooled and higher skilled people could form a basis for increased wages, the overall trend in factor income at real prices in the period after the RDP's programming period (2013-2016) is negative. This finding suggests that there are other trends in the sector which have stronger downward effects than the possibly positive effect of a more skilled work force. Furthermore, people who applied the achieved skills in their jobs account for about 13,5 % of all people employed in agriculture, food and forestry in 2013.

There is a very positive trend regarding the *Increase in gross value added* in supported holdings/enterprises, which in 2013 accounted to 38 % of the total GVA in agriculture. However, in terms of innovation in agriculture, only 1.9 % of the total number of agricultural holdings and enterprises have introduced new products and/or techniques as a result of support from the RDP. This could also be due to the fact that expenditure made to support innovation were generally low

Regarding the value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standard and the number of farms entering the markets, no meaningful comparison can be drawn as only 9 MS have reported on the indicators.

Environment

Regarding the areas for successful land management, the RDPs have been quite successful in all five domains considered. The area which was successful under biodiversity account to about 46 % of the total agricultural area; water quality accounts for 30 %; climate change for 26 %; soil quality about 35 %; and the last one, avoidance of marginalization and land abandonment accounts for 49 %.

Quality of life and diversification

The Increase in non-agricultural GVA in supported businesses accounts for 1 % of the total agricultural GVA. It would be interesting to compare it to the increase in agriculture GVA in the supported businesses, but that is not feasible because for that result indicator, data is very limited.

The gross number of jobs created under RI8.1 and R8.2 amount to respectively 1.1 % and 1.0 % of the total number of people working in agriculture and forestry.

Regarding tourism, the RDPs created about one overnight stay for every two existing bed places. Comparing the number of overnight and day visits, the latter were much more frequent than the former. This might suggest that RDP primarily promoted an increase of day visits.

The number of people that have benefitted from Internet penetration represents about 15 % of the total rural population.

Finally, the total number of participants that successfully ended a training activity accounts for 5 % of the total number of people employed in agriculture, food and forestry in 2013.

Overall, the RDPs have been more successful in promoting competitiveness and improving environment and land management compared to quality of life and diversification. Certainly, it is important to indicate the nuances. For example it seems that the RDPs have been particularly successful in encouraging investments in skills building and training, however there is no evidence that this has resulted in the creation of more jobs, which remain limited. Also we observe that, while it has overall been successful in promoting competitiveness, results under innovation are less visible. Seemingly, internet penetration has been important while being part of quality of life and diversification. These considerations should be taken carefully, as the correlations are affected by a number of limitations. However, these findings resonate against the general conclusions of this study.

4.3 Synthesis Question 48: To what extent were the RDPs costs proportionate to the benefits achieved? In answering this question, the contractor should also address the aspect if there is scope for simplification in RDPs management and control arrangements.

Understanding of the question

This ESQ examines the extent to which the RDP's benefits were achieved in an efficient manner. Efficiency is defined in a limited sense as the '*best relationship between resources employed and results achieved in pursuing a given objective through an intervention*'. For evaluating cost effectiveness encompassing way, all costs, including all public administration costs attributable to the RDP measures applying to a measure studied, or the measures applicable to the topic that is studied, should be taken into account.

Approach to answer the question

Methodological considerations

The Synthesis Question 48 is answered in two parts. The first part answers the question of proportionality of costs. The second part explores the scope of simplification in RDPs' management and control arrangements.

The primary approach to answer the question of proportionality of costs is the calculation of costs per result achieved for each axis. While the Programme-related question "How efficiently have the resources allocated to the RDP been used in relation to achieving the intended outputs?" (SQ14) focusses on the relation of cost per output, the Synthesis Question aims to identify efficiency in relation to benefits or results achieved, thus looking at the outcomes rather than the outputs. In a first step the ratio of costs (input indicators) to achieved outcomes (result indicators) are calculated based on the medium level inputs (indicator tables).

In a second step, the findings of these calculations are compared to those provided under SQ14 "How efficiently have the resources allocated to the RDP been used in relation to achieving the intended output?" This evaluation question assesses the relationship of input to output within the RDPs, and evaluators were asked to judge the efficiency of the programmes. Any inconsistencies are explained.

In a separate section, we summarise limitations in the RDPs' implementation, which are addressed in Synthesis Question 14, but also in all Measure-related Evaluation Questions based on the results from the reporting template. Recommendations regarding the **scope for simplification** have been developed for the main areas of concern identified in a grouping of the limitations of the RDPs. The recommendations were developed by and discussed among the CAP experts involved in this study.

Limitations

The main limitation to this approach is that contextual conditions vary substantially between Member States. Therefore, it is not meaningful to compare calculated levels of efficiency between Member States. Furthermore, there are no benchmarks for the proportionality of costs available, neither from earlier evaluations of programmes, nor at the aggregate EU level. Where individual values for Member States are provided, they aim to illustrate the variability and they are not intended to judge overall proportionality of costs for this Member State.

A further limitation is that total EAFRD expenditure is reported per measure, but result indicators are reported by operations for M111, several measurements (for R4: M131, M132; R9: M313) and for some measures several different indicators are reported (M121 to M124, M131, M311, M312). Expenditure cannot be disaggregated by operation or indicator, therefore efficiency is calculated for each indicator/ operation by dividing it by the total EAFRD expenditure. Thus the outcomes only provide a rough estimation of costs per results and do not take into account double counting.

Judgment criteria

The proportionality of costs is expressed in EAFRD expenditure by achieved results using input and result indicators provided as medium level inputs to the study. The ratio of EAFRD expenditure per achieved results is calculated per axis to indicate efficiency across measures.

Answer to the synthesis question

The proportionality of costs is expressed in EAFRD expenditure by achieved results using input and result indicators provided as medium level inputs to the study. The ratio of EAFRD expenditure per achieved results is calculated per axis to indicate efficiency across measures.

Axis I – R1 to R5

The outcomes of Axis I measures are expressed through 5 Result Indicators:

RI Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity related to agriculture and/or forestry

Achieved results for this indicator were reported for only one measure (M111) by two operations: 1) Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma; and 2) Implementing the achieved skills. It is not obvious if achieved results could have been reported under both operations. Out of the 26 MS who implemented M111, 13 MS reported on both operations, one MS did not provide any information. Extreme values are found in France, Ireland and Portugal, which can be caused by unspecified relation of expenditure to the two operations reported on for R1. They are not considered in the calculation of maximum and average costs.

Table 4.4 Cost per achieved result for R1

R1 participants by type of operation	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	Implementing the achieved skills
Measure reported under R1	M111	
Number of reporting MS	23	15
Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio €)	775.5	686
Total achieved RI (participants)	1 862 341	1 987 552
Minimum cost / participant (€)	36	14
Maximum cost / participant (€)	6 633.5	109 521
Average cost / participant (€)	334.8	333.2

Still, the calculation shows similar efficiency rates for both operations with an average € 334.8 respectively € 333.2 EAFRD expenditure incurred per participant that successfully ended a training activity.

R2 Increase in GVA in supported holdings

The calculations illustrate the costs per increased GVA; i.e. it shows how much an increase in GVA of € 1 000 has costed. The attribution of the effect to the intervention is not quite as clear as in other Result Indicators, as changes in GVA in supported holdings is influenced by a variety of factors, and not only by the effects of the measures. The results of this calculation have therefore to be treated with caution and can only be understood as indicative.

In total, 10 Axis I measures are related to R2; and overall valid 116 entries were provided. Denmark, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands did not report any data on this indicator and are excluded from the calculations. The negative value in the table has to be interpreted as costs that resulted in decrease in GVA. The average cost to achieve an increase of € 1 000 of GVA across all reporting MS is € 332.9. However, the variability is enormous, and 7 measures related a negative relation between costs and GVA increase. Extreme values are found in Belgium, Latvia, and Spain, which may indicate inconsistency in unit of measurements for R2. They are not included in the calculation of minimum, maximum and average costs.

Table 4.5 Cost per achieved result for R2

R2 Increase in GVA in supported holdings	
Measures reported under R2	M112 – M115, M121 – M125, M131
Number of reported values	116
Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio €)	22 536
Total achieved RI	65 777 169
Minimum cost / € 1 000 GVA increase achieved (€)	-317 825
Maximum cost / € 1 000 GVA increase achieved (€)	316 317
Average cost / € 1 000 GVA increase achieved (€)	332.9

Among the relevant measures, and taking into account the evidence base, Measures M122 Improvement of the economic value of forests, and M123 Adding value to agricultural and forestry products have shown the highest effectiveness in cost per achieved output ranging from € 100 to €150 of EAFRD expenditure per € achieved GVA in supported holdings.

R3 Number of enterprises introducing new products and/or techniques

On the 4 measures that reported on R3, a total of 73 valid entries have been made. The introduction of new products or techniques has cost on average € 79 065 per farm holding. It has to be noted that there are large variations in the total number of holdings reported under this result indicator.

Table 4.6 Cost per achieved result for R3 per measure

R3 Number of enterprises introducing new products and/or techniques	
Measures reported under R3	M121 to M124
Number of reported values	73
Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio €)	15 954
Total achieved RI	201 778
Minimum cost / holding (€)	2 550
Maximum cost / holding (€)	2 621 467
Average cost / holding (€)	79 065

In terms of cost per enterprise introducing new products or techniques, M124 Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector shows the best efficiency with an average of €17 800 per enterprise.

R4 Value of agricultural production under recognized quality label

This indicator reports on the value (in € 1 000) that was achieved under recognised quality labels or standards. Results for R4 Value of agricultural production under recognized quality label were disaggregated by the *European label /standards* and *Member state label/standards*. Due to a low number of reporting MS the results have to be treated with caution. Several countries did not report any values despite implementing at least one of the relevant measures. Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands.

The average costs calculated per achieved value (in € 1 000) vary between € 8.1 for European label / standards and €12.5 for Member State label / standard.

Table 4.7 Cost per achieved result for R4

R4 Value of agricultural production	European label / standard	Member State label / standard
Measures reported under R4	M131 to M133	
Number of reported values	15	14
Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio €)	228 890	218 984
Total achieved RI	28 243 760	17 568 550
Minimum cost / (€)	2.4	0.9
Maximum cost / GVA increase achieved (€)	2 019.5	62 662.6
Average cost / GVA increase achieved (€)	8.1	12.5

Given the rather limited evidence base, no clear judgment can be made regarding the comparative effectiveness of measures reported under this Result Indicator.

R5 Number of farms entering the market

Only 12 MS implemented at least one of the two related measures, and only four of them reported on Result Indicator 5, namely Bulgaria, Cyprus, Lithuania and Romania. Thus, the relevance of the findings about efficiency at an aggregate level is low. The calculation of cost per achieved results hints on an average cost for a farm entering the market of € 108 769.

Table 4.8 Cost per achieved result for R5

R5 farms entering the market	
Measures reported under R5	M141 – 142
Number of reported values	4
Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio €)	350 563
Total achieved RI	3 223
Minimum cost / holding (€)	10 277
Maximum cost / holding (€)	3 038 998
Average cost / holding (€)	108 769

Given the rather limited evidence base, no clear judgment can be made regarding the comparative effectiveness of measures reported under this Result Indicator.

Axis II – R6 Areas under successful land management (ha)

Only one Result Indicator R6 is applied to monitor outcomes of Axis II measures. Still, **R6 “Areas under successful land management (ha)”** reports separately for the different objectives biodiversity, water quality, climate change, soil quality and avoidance of marginalization. We take a slightly different approach here by calculating the cost per results at the level of measures, as the same area hectares (in which the corresponding Result Indicator is expressed) can serve several purposes. Often the same areas have been reported for each of the objectives, but they vary for other MS. Particularly for water quality, climate change, soil quality less results were reported. Examples for biodiversity and avoidance of marginalization are provided in the table below. As there are too many gaps in data on the other objectives, and as we do not know which part of the expenditure was used for actions targeting specific objectives, and we cannot rule out double counting, a calculation of cost per benefits for those would be not appropriate.

Table 4.9 Cost per achieved result for R6

Measures	Number of MS implementing	Number of reporting MS	Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio EUR)	Total achieved RI in ha	Minimum cost in € / supports ha	Maximum cost in € / supports ha	Average cost in € / supports ha
Biodiversity							
M211/212	27	25	14 229.7	18 874 369	211	29 653	754
M213	13	12	267.3	1 121 667	62	1 256	238
M214	27	27	23 619.4	42 493 000	252	29 157	556
M215	11	5	360.1	1 158 766	98	228 344	311
M216	16	13	555.1	657 550	41	1 704 450	844
M221	20	18	1 582.9	484 172	1 364	167 639	3 269
M222	5	5	1.5	1 329	285	1 971	1 157
M223	10	8	154.7	80 024	759	401 919	1 933
M224	11	11	74.3	245 736	16 834	1 793	302
M225	13	12	69.9	423 942	21	712	165
M226	16	13	1 516.5	9 584 524	39	11 227	158
M227	13	11	690.6	3 184 830	91	261 073	217
Avoidance of marginalization							
M211/212	27	25	14 229.7	58 145 373	52	90 721	245
M213	13	12	267.3	527 510	112	1 544	391
M214	27	27	23 619.4	19 560 033	315	49 835	1 208
M215	11	5	360.1	10 234	8 300	1 150 179	35 187
M216	16	13	555.1	671 166	32	18 215	844
M221	20	18	1 582.9	279 175	1 721	35 579	5 670
M222	5	5	1.5	1 125	285	1 572	1 267
M223	10	8	154.7	26 313	1 754	15 053	5 877
M224	11	11	74.3	82 418	27	1 193	901
M225	13	12	69.9	207 486	21	9 228	337
M226	16	13	1 516.5	2 623 069	31	15 865	578
M227	13	11	690.6	536 379	527	25 261	1 288

There are large variations in the costs per supported ha, which can be to some extent attributed to the limitations to the calculation. The overall average cost per supported ha for each of the analysed sub-indicators do not vary substantially with € 550 resp. € 525. The most cost efficient measures across both objectives appear to be M213 Natura 2000 payments, M225 Forest-environment payments and M226 Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions.

Given the limitations of potential double counting of areas, and expenditure data only available at an aggregate measure level, the result can only be interpreted with caution. It shows, that some of the forestry measures (particularly M221 to M223) are less cost efficient than those related to agricultural UAA for both of the considered sub-indicators biodiversity and avoidance

of marginalisation. However, this can be explained by the cost intensive nature of these investive measures.

Axis III – R7 to R12

R7 Increase in non-agriculture GVA

Measures related to R7 were implemented in 25 MS out of which 5 did not report any data on it: Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands. In parallel to R2, the calculations show how much an increase in non-agriculture GVA of € 1 000 has cost. On average this amounts to a cost of € 2 013 for an increase in non-agriculture GVA of € 1 000. Again, variations are significant between MS. However, there seems to be no significant difference in efficiency between the different measures. Extreme values are found in Latvia, which may indicate inconsistency in unit of measurements for R6. They are not included in the calculation of minimum, maximum and average costs.

Table 4.10 Cost per achieved result for R7

R7 increase in non-agricultural GVA	
Measures reported under R7	M311 – M313
Number of reported values	50 ¹⁴⁰
Total EAFRD expenditure of reporting MS (in Mio €)	3 232
Total achieved RI in implementing MS	1 567 279
Minimum cost / € 1 000 GVA increase achieved (€)	91
Maximum cost / € 1 000 GVA increase achieved (€)	99 720
Average cost / € 1 000 GVA increase achieved (€)	2 013

R8 Gross number of jobs created

This indicator is relevant not only for Axis III measures, but also for most Axis IV measures. However, no data was reported on LEADER-related measures in the annual monitoring tables. Axis III measures reported under R8 were implemented in 25 MS; Cyprus and the Netherlands did not reports any data on this indicator. The calculations result in an average cost per job created of € 29 414. However, there is a large variability between measures and between MS.

M312 Support for business creation and development of micro-enterprises has the highest efficiency with about € 22 500 of EAFRD expenditure per job created; however this calculation does not take into account the provided national or private expenditure that relates to the measure.

Table 4.11 Cost per achieved result for R8

R8 Gross number of jobs created	
Measures reported under R8	M311 – M313, (M411 – M413, M421)
Number of reported values	46 ¹⁴¹
Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio €)	3 271
Total achieved RI	105 819
Minimum cost / job created (€)	864
Maximum cost / job created (€)	157 972
Average cost / job created (€)	29 414

¹⁴⁰ Only 48 entries have been considered for the calculation, extreme values for M311 in Finland and Lithuania have been excluded.

¹⁴¹ Only 46 entries have been considered for the calculation; extreme values for M313 for Germany and Malta have been excluded.

R9 Additional number of tourist visits

Only Measure 313 Encouragement of tourism activities is reported under R9, which was implemented in 22 MS, of which Cyprus, Latvia, and the Netherlands did not report on the indicator. R9 was reported by two separate measurement: "number of overnight stays" and "number of day visits". As there is no information whether a single activity could have led to effects in both categories, and no disaggregated expenditure data available, the sum of both indicators was used in the calculation. The average cost per additional visit was calculated with € 34.9.

Table 4.12 Cost per achieved result for R9

R9 Additional number of tourist visits	Total number of tourist visits (overnight stays and day visits)
Measures reported under R9	M313
Number of implementing and reporting MS	18
Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio €)	788
Total achieved RI	22 559 577
Minimum cost / additional visit (€)	0.65
Maximum cost / additional visit (€)	1 545
Average cost / additional visit (€)	34.9

R10 Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services

The 3 related measures for R10 have been implemented in 26 MS. Only the Netherlands did not report on the indicator at all. The average cost for an additional person benefitting from improved services is € 52.3. An extreme value is found for Malta, which might indicate an inconsistency of units of measurement. It is not included in the calculation of minimum, maximum and average costs.

Table 4.13 Cost per achieved result for R10

R10 Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services	
Measures reported under R10	M321 – M323
Number of reported values	61
Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio €)	7 958
Total achieved RI	151 852 590
Minimum cost / person benefitting (€)	1.1
Maximum cost / person benefitting (€)	4 219.3
Average cost / person benefitting (€)	52.3

From the calculation it appears that M323 Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage has the lowest average EAFRD expenditure per person benefitting from improved services with only 16.7€. However, the large difference to the other relevant measures can possibly be explained with their different scopes.

R11 Increase in internet penetration in rural areas

The increase in internet penetration in rural areas is measured through the population that has access to (broadband) internet connection. The indicator is only relevant for M321 Basic services for the economy and rural population. Average cost in € per reached additional person has been calculated with € 165. Extreme values are found in Greece, Netherlands and Austria, which may indicate inconsistency in unit of measurements for R11.

Table 4.14 Cost per achieved result for R11

R11 Increase in internet penetration in rural areas	
Measure reported under R11	M321
Number of reported values	17
Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio €)	2 921
Total achieved RI	16 660 841
Minimum cost / person benefitting (€)	1.9
Maximum cost / person benefitting (€)	12 134 055
Average cost / person benefitting (€)	164.5

R12 Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity

In 17 MS measures reported under R12 have been implemented, and they all reported on the indicators (though not all for each of the measures). The average cost per participant that successfully ended a training activity has been calculated with € 200. An extreme value is found for France, which might indicate an inconsistency of units of measurement. It is not included in the calculation of minimum, maximum and average costs.

Table 4.15 Cost per achieved result for R12

R12 Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity	
Measures reported under R12	M331, M341
Number of reported values	23
Total EAFRD expenditure for reporting MS (in Mio €)	188
Total achieved RI (participants)	751 673
Minimum cost / participant (€)	1.8
Maximum cost / participant (€)	47 190.5
Average cost / participant (€)	199.9

The average cost per participant trained is substantially lower for M331 Training and information for economic actors operating in the fields covered by axis 3 (€ 129/participant) than for M341 Skills-acquisition and animation with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy (€ 2 818 /participant). An explanation can be the relatively different target groups for both measures, and the probably more specific content of activities provided under M314.

Axis IV – LEADER-related measures

No data was reported for LEADER sub-objective Implementing the Leader approach in mainstream rural development programming (measures 41. 421, R8 Gross number of jobs created, M41* to 431, R12 Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity). However, a number of MS had reported data under measures which they were not implementing (see **Error! Reference source not found.** 2.4). A possible explanation could be that these measures were funded under the respective Leader measures M411 to M413.

Conclusion

The methodological difficulties in assessing the extent to which the RDPs costs were proportionate to the benefits achieved – namely the lack of information and variable evaluation methods, the questionable reliability of result indicators reported and their aggregation, and the highly variable contexts within the benefits occur – do not allow for a judgment. We therefore consider the evidence base as weak.

It has to be remarked that there is no satisfying approach to assess the proportionality of costs to the benefits achieved based on the ex-post evaluation reports and the input, output, and result indicators tables. Taking into consideration the limitations of the data, the calculation of costs per result achieved is a mere approximation to get a general overview of ranges and averages within MS and across indicators. It is not sufficiently robust to compare MS or to set benchmarks for objectives or indicators, nor to provide an overall judgment of proportionality of EAFRD expenditure with regard to benefits achieved at the EU level.

Scope of simplification in RDPs management and control arrangements

This section summarises limitations that affected efficiency according to the programme-related Evaluation Questions 14 in the Ex-post evaluation reports. These issues concern the general regulatory framework, the design of the programmes or measures, implementation arrangements, as well as requirements to the beneficiaries – often the causes and effects of these issues are interrelated.

Regulatory framework

Limitations to the efficiency have been attributed to an in general “inappropriate regulatory framework” and “the application of the law”. Fundamental design errors of the legal framework, individual regulations and very rigid legal interpretations in terms of error prevention became more pronounced. The changes resulting from the Health Check leading to high adjustment costs due to increasing demands on documentation, data (including IT systems) and reporting, as well as a growing number of higher-level controls and supervisory authorities, were also seen as limiting the efficiency.

Design of programmes and measures

Ex-post evaluation reports also attribute limitations to the design of programmes and measures. In principle, both efficiency at the level of impact and implementation should be taken into account when prioritising support measures. According to one report “it is not advisable to focus mainly on 'standard measures', which are already offered over various funding periods with relatively large financial volumes and are more efficient due to the administrative routine and greater acceptance by beneficiaries than newer measures, which often also have lower financial budgets. The latter are initially more costly to implement, but this must not deter them from being introduced and from incurring greater administrative burdens, especially if they are highly effective.”

Evaluations also hint on the need to better use synergies in programming and designing measures, not only within the RDPs but also with other types of funding. A greater potential is seen in the offer of so-called multi-functional measures, such as organic farming or bog protection measures, which had positive effects for several fields of activity at the same time.

Programme implementation

Some reports raise shortcomings with regard to the steering structure of the RDP. An often mentioned issue is the lack of staff and its insufficient availability, leading e.g. to long waiting time for beneficiaries, or late start of programmes. One report indicates “too strong of a vertical steering” leading to “little opportunity for local development”. Other issues raised with programme implementation are a “lack of innovative actions”, and “difficulties in turning personal knowledge into rural development”. For Axis II and environmental aspects of the programme, evaluators request “increased actions for environmental development” and “improved knowledge structures, indicators, research, development work in order to strengthen the instruments that capture variables for environmentally friendly farming”. There are needs for improvement raised for axes III and IV implementation, e.g. a reduction of the administrative burden that appears to be particularly high for a community-led programme, the development of qualitative indicators to highlight networks, social trust and belief in the future; an increased management of objectives with regards to community led development. Evaluators see ICT as an option to overcome some of these issues.

Low uptake of measures, low expenditure rates

A low uptake of measures, or low expenditure rates have been found in several reports. The causes are on one side seen in an inappropriate design of measures, and formulation of calls, or the lack of sufficient communication in general. A solution is seen in the reduction of the number of measures programmed but with an increased focus on targeting.

4.4 Synthesis Question 49: To what extent were the RDPs projects consistent with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP and EU interventions in the same programme area?

Understanding of the question

This Synthesis Question relates to the cross-cutting Rural Development objectives of 'Ensuring consistency in programming' and 'Complementarity between Community instruments'. The question suggests an assessment at the level of individual project implementation under the RDPs. There is no programme-related question addressing this level of coherence directly. The assessment of general coherence was part of the ex-ante evaluation and could have been taken up by ex-post evaluators in Chapter 1 on the intervention logic, or Chapter 7 Conclusions.

The question is understood as an evaluation question on coherence of the programme. According to the Better Regulation Guidelines, the evaluation of coherence involves looking at how well or not different policy actions and instruments work together. It may highlight areas where there are synergies which improve overall performance; or it may point to tensions e.g. objectives which are potentially contradictory, or approaches which are causing inefficiencies.¹⁴²

Other EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) than the EAFRD play an important role in rural areas. These funds include the European Regional Development Fund, focusing on regional development, economic competitiveness and infrastructure; the European Social Fund, focusing on the development of human resources and the European Fisheries Fund. In most cases, ensuring complementarity between these funds took the form of establishing demarcation lines and coordination mechanisms. Only in some cases a more strategic vision for the coordinated use of EU funds has been chosen by MS. The guiding principles were set in the National Strategy Plans, while some RDPs provide the detailed description.¹⁴³

Approach to answer

Methodological consideration

To answer Synthesis Question 49, two sub-questions are defined:

1. Which guidelines are identified by Member States to ensure consistency with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP and EU interventions in the same programme area?
2. To what extent were the RDP projects consistent with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP and EU interventions in the same programme area?

The guidelines towards the EU Regional Development priorities 5 and 6 are set in the various National Strategy Plans. The National Strategy Plans will be assessed briefly for content, and a general set of guidelines at the EU level will be aggregated from the National Strategy Plans.

The assessment of coherence is a qualitative exercise.¹⁴⁴ The use of quantitative data is not common for the assessment of coherence. Moreover, the ex-post evaluations provided information on the coherence of programming to a limited extent. There are 5 evaluation reports that provided the necessary information and serve as the input to answer the synthesis question.

Judgment of evidence base

Since only 5 out of 91 ex-post evaluations provided information on the coherence and complementarity of RDP projects with other types of funding from the first pillar of the CAP, the evidence base to answer this question is very limited. We cannot provide generalised statements for this question. We can assess the coherence in separate cases where information is available.

¹⁴² Better regulation guidelines.

¹⁴³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0450&from=EN>.

¹⁴⁴ Better regulation guidelines.

Limitations

The consistency of RDP projects with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP has been evaluated in the ex-ante assessments. The answer to this question was not asked to the assessors in order to complete the ex-post evaluations. Therefore, a conclusive answer to this question cannot be provided based on the information available. A thorough scan of the ex-post evaluations has shown that only five ex-post evaluations provide clear comments on the coherence and complementarity with other EU instruments. For these ex-post evaluations, qualitative answer is provided on the coherence and complementarity with other EU instruments. For the other ex-post evaluations, an answer to this question cannot be devised with the information available.

Judgment criteria of the answer

The two sub-questions are answered on a qualitative basis for the five regions which reported on coherence and complementarity. Since the information available for this question is limited, we cannot assess the question with a quantitative scale. We provide binary judgment on the coherence and complementarity of the five regions that reported on the topic. For these regions, judgment on the coherence and complementarity is formulated in the form: 'yes', the projects are coherent and complementary, and 'no', the projects are not coherent and complementary. An overarching answer to the Synthesis question cannot be given with the information available.

Answer to the synthesis question

- In the five regions that reported on this question, different approaches dealing with coherence and complementarity are identified. In the cases of Brandenburg / Berlin, and Castilla la Mancha, the RDPs followed the demarcations that are laid out in the National Strategy Plans. The aim of these demarcations was to strengthen the effects of EU and national funding by creating as many synergies as possible. As a result, coherence and complementarity were ensured. The RDP in Hamburg found a different approach. Rather than stimulating synergies, overlap was cautiously avoided. The EARDF programme took different priorities than the other EU programmes. Because of this, there were no substantive contact points and no synergies with other funding programmes. For England, the demarcation between ESF funding and certain parts of the RDP proved difficult, while in Latvia, the coordination process went smoothly.
- The outcomes of this question are place and context specific. In the five ex-post evaluations that provided information, very different answers were provided. Because of this, a generalised answer cannot be provided but some key lessons can be drawn. In the paragraphs below, the main findings per RDP are highlighted. This section is followed by a general conclusion on Synthesis question 49.

Brandenburg / Berlin, German

Actions to ensure coherence and complementarity in funding are formulated clearly in the German National Strategy Plan. Emphasis is placed on effective coordination between measures individually and the authorities that implement them. It is also indicated that checks of the coherence will be done at several stages in the programming period. An illustrative section of the National Strategy Plan is incorporated in Table below.

Project development in the Brandenburg / Berlin region happened in a coherent manner. Successful integration of funding from different national and EU funds took place. Cooperation between public bodies and other actors in rural areas was also further developed. Targeted coordination of different funds on a common objective was the result of this improvement in cooperation. In the case of Brandenburg / Berlin, EU Rural Development priorities 5 and 6 were achieved.

Table 4.16 Coherence and complementarity in funding in Brandenburg/Berlin, Germany

Delineation in NSP	Comment in Ex-post evaluation
The best use of scarce funding requires coherence between EAFRD support measures, structural EU policies (Structural Funds, Fisheries Funds), national economic and social policies, the first pillar of the CAP and other policies (e.g. Community Forest Strategy, Community Action Plan on Organic Farming, 6th Environment Action Program). At the same time, the goals of environmental and nature protection as well as equal opportunities between men and women must be taken into account. The support measures are coordinated so that double subsidies are avoided.	In the fields of action of the RDP, complex projects were identified, in which individual sub-projects were coordinated. The RDP was thus not only a simple collection of individual projects under a thematic roof, but successfully and coherently integrated
Implementation of the consistency and coherence required by the EU Strategic Guidelines with EU Community policies, including EU support programs, will be ensured at several stages.	funding possibilities of other funds (ERDF, ESF, Country policy Programme). Cooperation with other public bodies, but also the other actors in rural areas, has been further developed. This enabled the targeted coordination of projects of different funds on a common objective and Framework for coherent implementation.

Castilla la Mancha, Spain

The National Strategy Plan of Spain provides a very extensive description of coherence and complementarity between the actions under the RDPs and other funding at national and EU level. There is no concrete summary of this description. A list of main points is provided in Table 4.17. The complete discussion is provided in chapter 5 of the National Strategy Plan.

According to the ex-post evaluation report of the Castilla la Mancha region, the actions performed under the RDP were carried out within this framework. Complementarity between the two pillars of the CAP was ensured. In the case of Castilla la Mancha, EU Rural Development priorities 5 and 6 were achieved.

Table 4.17 Coherence and complementarity in funding in Castilla la Mancha, Spain

Delineation in NSP	Comment in Ex-post evaluation
<p>Main points made in the National Strategy Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objectives of the three axes are closely related and the measures under the axes have synergistic effects between them. • The first pillar of the CAP is full of instruments that affect the objectives of the second pillar. Complementarity between the pillars should be ensured in the RDPs. • Any support granted should be consistent with other Community measures and policies. 	Following the community mandate, the RDP incorporates a series of provisions to ensure the actions are carried out within the framework of complementarity and coherence with other European measures. The different Actions carried out in the framework of the common agricultural policy have ensured the complementarity of the two pillars of the CAP.

England, United Kingdom

The National Strategy Plan of the UK specifies that each national region within the UK should develop demarcation and coordination mechanisms for the coherence and complementarity of funding. This leaves room for the individual RDPs to develop their own methods concerning coherence and complementarity. This can be read in the excerpt in Table 4.18.

In the ex-post evaluation of the RDP of England, it becomes clear that this process is not self-evident. Overlap between the EAFRD and the ERDF was well managed, but there was a lack of clarity concerning the overlap of RDP training programmes and ESF provisions for workforce skills. Managing Authorities had regular informal discussion to ensure proper coordination. In the case of England, EU Rural Development priority 5 was achieved. EU Rural Development priority 6 was not achieved.

Table 4.18 Coherence and complementarity in funding in England, United Kingdom

Delineation in NSP	Comment in Ex-post evaluation
<p>In line with EU regulatory requirements the Rural Development Programmes in the UK will set out the mechanisms for coordination between the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), Structural and Cohesion Funds (SCF) and the European Fisheries Fund where there is overlap between the types of eligible activities that can be supported. The precise arrangements will be developed by individual nations and regions of the UK, due to the need to take account of local priorities and levels of funding available under the different instruments. The programmes will set out the priorities for each fund in each nation and region.</p> <p>Coordination between the funding instruments will be ensured during implementation through close working between the agencies responsible for delivering the different funds in each nation. For rural development this will involve Structural Funds and European Fisheries Fund representation on Programme Monitoring Committees and regular dialogue between deliverers.</p>	<p>The ex-post evaluation finds that the potential for overlap between EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) and ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) were well managed but that there was a lack of clarity about the demarcation between the scope of RDP training programmes and ESF (European Social Fund) provision for workforce skills in rural areas.</p> <p>Managing Authorities had regular informal discussions to ensure that coordination mechanisms provide the required complementarity.</p>

Hamburg, Germany

Actions to ensure coherence and complementarity in funding are formulated clearly in the German National Strategy Plan. Emphasis is placed on effective coordination between measures individually and the authorities that implement them. It is also indicated that checks of the coherence will be done at several stages in the programming period.

The coherence and complementarity in funding for Hamburg was first assessed in the mid-term evaluation. No changes have been observed in the ex-post evaluation. The programme prevented overlapping funding by setting a strong focus on the agricultural setting. Therefore, overlap with other EU funds could not occur. In the case of Hamburg, EU Rural Development priority 5 was achieved. EU Rural Development priority 6 was not achieved, since synergies between different funding programmes were not encouraged.

Table 4.19 Coherence and complementarity in funding in Hamburg, Germany

Delineation in NSP	Comment in Ex-post evaluation
<p>The best use of scarce funding requires coherence between EAFRD support measures, structural EU policies (Structural Funds, Fisheries Funds), national economic and social policies, the first pillar of the CAP and other policies (e.g. Community Forest Strategy, Community Action Plan on Organic Farming, 6th Environment Action Program). At the same time, the goals of environmental and nature protection as well as equal opportunities between men and women must be taken into account. The support measures are coordinated so that double subsidies are avoided.</p> <p>Implementation of the consistency and coherence required by the EU Strategic Guidelines with EU Community policies, including EU support programs, will be ensured at several stages.</p>	<p>This subject was examined in the mid-term review. No changes have been made to the mid-term evaluation. The EAFRD programme was very clearly differentiated from the other programmes, so that there is no need for a stronger exchange. Due to the strong focus on the agricultural sector and the protection of natural resources (Natura 2000 played no role in the ERDF programme), there were no substantive points of contact.</p>

Latvia

The National Strategy Plan of Latvia outlines that complementarity and coherence of funding is ensured through coordination between the different ministries in Latvia. A bureaucratic system of checks at different governmental levels is put in place to ensure coherence and complementarity. Legal documentation related to EU funding has to be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

According to the ex-post evaluation of the Latvian RDP, this process of coordination was successful. The manner of implementation ensured synergies within the CAP itself, and with other EU funds like the ERDF and the ESF. In the case of Latvia, EU Rural Development priorities 5 and 6 were achieved.

Table 4.20 Coherence and complementarity in funding in Latvia

Delineation in NSP	Comment in Ex-post evaluation
Complementarity and non-overlapping between the Latvian Rural Development National Strategy Plan, the National Strategic Reference Framework and the Fisheries Sector Strategy Plan for 2007-2013 are ensured through ministerial co-ordination. All legal documents related to the use of EU funds are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. In addition, the coordination process is facilitated by the meetings of the ministers' secretariats, meetings of the various management committees of the EU funds and intensive coordination work between the relevant ministry experts.	Synergies between community instruments and mutual complementarity of the most direct example is seen in the close ties within the CAP. Good synergies exist with the other funds (ERDF, ESF).

Conclusion Synthesis question 49

The evaluation of this question was part of the ex-ante assessments of the RDPs, and was not mandatory for the ex-post evaluation. The information that is available is qualitative in nature. No quantitative analysis can be made. Furthermore, only five of the ex-post evaluations have provided concrete answers. The information available to answer this question is limited to such an extent that only a qualitative description of the five cases is done.. In Table 4.21, an overview of the outcomes per RDP is shown.

All of the ex-post evaluations that provided input on the coherence and complementarity of the RDPs have concluded that priority 5 (ensuring consistence in programming) was met. This success is attributed to clear coordination between the different managing authorities during the start-up phase of the programmes. For example, in the ex-post evaluation of Brandenburg/Berlin a range complex projects were identified and coordinated in a coherent manner. These projects were split up into sub-projects and managed to integrate funding possibilities towards a single goal. The ex-post evaluations of Castilla la Mancha and Latvia also attribute the successes to clear coordination.

For priority 6 (complementarity between Community instruments), communication and coordination are also seen as important. It was more troublesome to fulfil this priority for the RDP of England. In the UK, each Managing Authority could decide and coordinate their own strategy in the RDP. For England, this turned out to be too loose. This caused issues in complementarity between funding under the EAFRD and the ESF. In Hamburg, complementarity between community instruments was actively avoided. This approach clearly differs from priority 6. However, since Hamburg is a heavily urbanised city state, the choice to avoid the combination of funding for agricultural issues might have been a reasonable one. In this synthesis, however, that level of analysis is not needed.

Table 4.21 Achievement of EU Rural Development priorities 5 and 6.

RDP	Was the EU Rural Development priority achieved?	
	Priority 5	Priority 6
Brandenburg / Berlin	Yes	Yes
Castilla la Mancha	Yes	Yes
England	Yes	No
Hamburg	Yes	No
Latvia	Yes	Yes

Recommendations

Due to the limited information available it is not possible to write recommendations regarding the extent to which the RDPs' projects were consistent with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP and EU interventions in the same programme area. Recommendations regarding the evaluation process however, are relevant.

The primary recommendation related to Synthesis Question 49 is to ensure that evaluators are able to assess the extent with which the RDPs projects were consistent with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP and EU interventions in the same programme area. The lack of information available for Synthesis Question 49 suggests that the ex-post evaluators were not able or did not attempt to provide an assessment on this issue or did not see this as a priority. By enabling and obliging the ex-post evaluators to assess this, a more thorough ex-post evaluation of the coherence and complementarity could be included in the future.

4.5 Synthesis Question 50: To what extent are the outcomes of the RDPs consistent with the overall Rural Development objectives?

Understanding of the question

Synthesis Question 50 aims to identify to what extent the outcomes of the RDPs are consistent with (i.e. do not contradict) the overall Rural Development objectives. According to the EU Better Regulation Guidelines, 'coherence' refers to the extent to which the intervention (i.e. implementation of the RDPs) does not contradict other interventions with similar objectives.¹⁴⁵

The objectives of Rural Development policy set up by Community strategic guidelines for Rural Development in the programming period 2007-2013¹⁴⁶ include:

1. Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector;
2. Improving the environment and the countryside;
3. Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy;
4. Building local capacity for employment and diversification¹⁴⁷.

Approach to answer the question

Methodological consideration

The answer to this Synthesis Question is based on the following sub-questions covering Rural Development objectives:

- To what extent are the outcomes of the RDPs consistent with the objective of improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector?
- To what extent are the outcomes of the RDPs consistent with the objective of improving the environment and the countryside?
- To what extent are the outcomes of the RDPs consistent with the objective of improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy?

¹⁴⁵ Cp Better Regulation toolbox, tool #47: Evaluation criteria and questions, p. 352. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/file_import/better-regulation-toolbox-47_en_0.pdf.

¹⁴⁶ Council of the European Union. Council Decision of 20 February 2006 on Community strategic guidelines for rural development (programming period 2007 to 2013). 2006/144/EC. Official Journal of the European Union. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:l60042>.

¹⁴⁷ Priority 5 'Ensuring consistency in programming' (maximise synergies between axes) is relevant at the level of RDPs' objectives. Priority 6 'Complementarity between Community instruments' is addressed by SQ49.

- To what extent are the outcomes of the RDPs consistent with the objective of building local capacity for employment and diversification?

RDP outcomes, as expressed in the information provided in the answers to the relevant programme-related questions were used as one part of the judgment basis. This information is taken from the answer to Synthesis Question 46 about the extent to which the RDPs' objectives have been achieved; this is justified, as SQ46 uses the above-named Rural Development objectives in line with the Community strategic guidelines for Rural Development (instead of individual RDPs' objectives).

In line with the above definition of 'coherence', the information from SQ46 was combined with information from the ex-post evaluation reports on the existence of negative contributions and contradictory other effects observed under each measure. In detail, we looked at: (a) the answers to SQs 29-41 asking for other effects; at this, deadweight and other effects related to efficiency were not included as a factor in the judgment, but only effects with a direct thematic link to the Rural Development objectives were considered; (b) negative contributions of measures stated in the ex-post evaluation reports.

The links of the four Rural Development objectives to the relevant programme- and LEADER-related SQs are demonstrated in the section on SQ46, Table 4.22 below shows the relevant measure- and LEADER-related SQs that were used to identify negative contributions and contradictory other effects.

Table 4.22 Linking Rural Development objectives to relevant SQs to identify negative/contradictory effects

Rural Development objectives (sub-questions)	Relevant measure- and LEADER-related SQs
1 Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector	<p>SQs for all measure-related questions under Axis I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries? • What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?
2 Improving the environment and the countryside	<p>SQs for all measure-related questions under Axis II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation? • What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?
3 Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy	<p>SQs for all measure-related questions under Axis III:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How and to what extent has the measure contributed to the economic diversification of the beneficiaries? • How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries? • How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving economic diversification and quality of life in rural areas? • What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?

Rural Development objectives (sub-questions)	Relevant measure- and LEADER-related SQs
4 Building local capacity for employment and diversification	SQ42: To what extent has the RDP contributed to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER?

Limitations

There are no particular methodological limitations to be named for SQ50. Limitations named under SQ46 apply as far as the answers of SQ46 were used as an input for answering SQ50.

Judgment criteria of the answer

Judging RDP outcomes' consistency with overall Rural Development objectives was done based on the above-named information sources:

- In a first step, consistency levels of RDPs were assessed for each of the four individual Rural Development objectives (i.e. sub-questions) separately.
- These assessments fed into a concluding summary judgment considering RDPs' overall extent of consistency across all Rural Development objectives.

Table 4.23 presents the judgment criteria used for answering the sub-questions on RDPs outcomes' consistency with Rural Development objectives, based on the answers to SQ46. In case there were significant negative contributions/contradictory other effects at measure level identified (based on number of measures / share of ex-post reports concerned), the judgment derived from SQ46 (e.g. 'high extent') was reconsidered.

Table 4.23 Categories and criteria for judging RDP outcomes' consistency with overall Rural Development objectives

Scale	Clarification
The RDPs' outcomes are consistent to a high extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0.76 – 1
The RDPs' outcomes are consistent to a moderate extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0.51 – 0.75
The RDPs' outcomes are consistent to a limited extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0.26 – 0.50
The RDPs' outcomes are consistent to a very limited extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0.01 – 0.25
The RDPs' outcomes are consistent to no extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0

Answer to the question

Table 4.24 below presents for each Rural Development objective the findings on the achievement of Rural Development objectives from SQ46, together with information on negative contributions and contradictory other effects identified at measure level. In the table below, negative contributions and contradictory other effects are presented by topics, e.g. an Axis I measure from which contradictory environmental effects are arising is listed under objective 2 (Improving the environment and the countryside).

Table 4.24 RDPs' achievement of / consistency with Rural Development objectives

Achievement of Rural Development objectives (based on answer to SQ46)	Negative contributions / contradictory other effects identified at measure level
1 Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector Achievement of objective: moderate extent	Negative contribution:
Evidence base: excellent (→ indicating that for MS/regions judgment of impact was relatively easy)	<p>M142: 11 % of ex-post reports (1 report): negative effect on competitiveness based on negative effect on GVA, productivity, and employment.</p> <p>Other effects:</p> <p>M141: decreased bargaining power of non-beneficiaries.</p> <p>M224: payments were considered partly as insufficient (taking into account the long production period of a forest (> 100 years) → negative impact on the competitiveness of farms</p> <p>M311: negative effect on labour productivity/profit (1 ex-post report).</p> <p>M312: decrease in competitiveness (19 % of reports covered other effects on competitiveness, of which 7 % reported a decrease in competitiveness); related to all ex-post reports covering other effects, negative effects accounted for 3 %.</p>
2 Improving the environment and the countryside	
Achievement of objective: overall positive, but extent cannot be quantified for all domains: (1) Climate change mitigation: high extent (2) Water management: high extent (3) Protection of natural resources/landscape: moderate extent (4) Renewable energy supply: positive impact, but difficult to determine/quantify	<p>Other effects:</p> <p>M121: negative environmental impact (27 % of reports covered other effects on the environment, of which 8 % reported a negative environmental effect); however, overall positive environmental effect of M121; related to all ex-post reports covering other effects, negative effects account for 4 %.</p>
Evidence base: sufficient / excellent	<p>M132: negative environmental impact (34 % of reports covered other effects on the environment, of which 10 % reported a negative environmental effect); related to all ex-post reports, negative effects account for 1 %.</p> <p>M214: 1 ex-post evaluation report (topic unknown).</p>
3 Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy	

<p>Achievement of objective: overall limited extent, but difficult to determine/quantify (→ significant share of ex-post evaluation reports states that RDPs' contribution depends on domains, overall difficult to determine/quantify)</p> <p>(1) Access to broadband internet: limited extent</p> <p>(2) Improvement of quality of life/diversification: limited extent</p> <p>Evidence base: sufficient</p>	None
4 Building local capacity for employment and diversification	
<p>Achievement of objective:</p> <p>(1) LAGs' contribution to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDPs: limited extent</p> <p>(2) RDPs' contribution to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER: moderate extent</p> <p>Evidence base: sufficient</p>	None

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

According to the answer to SQ46, the RDPs have contributed to achieving objective 1 to a moderate extent. A small share of ex-post evaluation reports states negative and contradictory effects on competitiveness, bargaining power and labour productivity/profits. A negative contribution in this respect was reported for only one RDP (M142), contradictory other effects were reported to arise in some cases from Measures 141, 224, 311 and 312. Concluding from this, RDPs' consistency with overall Rural Development objectives is still judged as reaching a moderate extent.

Objective 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

The answer to SQ46 states an overall positive achievement of objective 2. Considering the individual domains (climate change mitigation, water management, protection of natural resources/landscape, renewable energy supply), the extent ranges between moderate and high extent, as far as quantifiable.

For a small share of RDPs, negative environmental effects were reported. They are arising from Measures 121 (while at the same time, the overall environmental effect of the measure was stated to be positive), 132 and 214. The nature of these effects was not further specified. Based on this, it can be concluded that the outcomes of the RDPs are consistent with objective 2 at minimum to a moderate extent.

Objective 3 - Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy

As concluded in the answer to SQ46, the overall extent of RDPs' contribution to achieving objective 3 is difficult to determine and quantify, although a positive contribution was stated in the ex-post evaluation reports. Looking at related programme-related Synthesis Questions leads to concluding on a limited extent. As there were no negative contributions nor contradictory other effects identified in the ex-post evaluation reports, it can be concluded that the outcomes of the RDPs are consistent with objective 3 at minimum to a limited extent. A greater extent can be expected to have been identified if a higher-quality evidence base would have been available.

Objective 4 - Building local capacity for employment and diversification

The answer to SQ46 states a limited to moderate extent of RDPs' contribution to achieving objective 4.

Given the absence of negative contributions or contradictory other effects at measure level, it can be concluded that the outcomes of the RDPs are consistent with objective 4 to a limited, respectively to a moderate extent, depending on sub-aspects.

Conclusions and recommendations

Summarising the above, it can be concluded that the outcomes of the RDPs are overall consistent with the four Rural Development objectives to a limited to moderate extent. Negative contributions were marginal, reported for only one measure in one ex-post evaluation report, and concerning objective 1 (Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector) only. Other effects contradictory to Rural Development objectives were reported for a comparatively small share of RDPs, concerning objectives 1 (see above) and 2 (Improving the environment and the countryside) only. While these relatively few instances of reporting can on the one hand be interpreted as an absence of contradictory other effects at large, this might also be due to evaluators having difficulty in grasping such effects. A recommendation in terms of evaluation practice is thus to support evaluators in a clearer differentiation of other effects from the main intended effects of measures, as well as strengthening evaluation approaches to better grasp the complex interrelations of effects across RDP measures and axes.

Overall, as concluded under SQ46, the achievement of Rural Development objectives appears also to depend on the quality of the evidence base, which is higher for the longer-established domains of Axis I and II. This results in higher visibility of these axes' contributions, as compared to more complex domains such as quality of life and newer approaches such as LEADER. A recommendation is thus to take the aspect of varying conceptual clarity and experience with approaches into account when assessing the performance of RDPs. The validity and reliability of future evaluation can be expected to benefit from the use of common approaches to operationalising complex concepts (e.g. 'quality of life').

4.6 Synthesis Question 51: To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the social, economic and environmental needs within the programme area?

Understanding of the question

Synthesis Question 51 explores the contribution of the RDPs to addressing the social, economic and environmental needs identified in the programme area. According to the EU Better Regulation Guidelines, 'relevance' does not refer to the contribution of RDPs in terms of achievements, but to the level of objectives and their adequacy regarding needs, i.e. the extent to which an intervention's (i.e. implementation of the RDPs) objectives address the needs, problems and issues in the programme area.¹⁴⁸ However, the answer to SQ51 is based on the actual achievements of RDPs, not solely on objective setting.

The main information basis for the needs identified in the programme area are the findings presented in the synthesis of ex-ante evaluations of Rural Development Programmes 2007-2013¹⁴⁹. The needs listed below are identified as most relevant across programme areas EU- wide and can be clustered by dimensions as follows¹⁵⁰:

Social / socio-economic dimension¹⁵¹:

1. Unemployment / disparities / create job-offers / income alternatives;
2. Demographic change (migration, aging, depopulation, brain drain);
3. Basic services (access, provision, housing);
4. Physical infrastructures (creation, adaption access).

¹⁴⁸ Cp Better Regulation toolbox, tool #47: Evaluation criteria and questions, p. 351. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/file_import/better-regulation-toolbox-47_en_0.pdf.

¹⁴⁹ Tödtling-Schönhofer, H., Schuh, B., Lukesch, R., Wimmer, H., Elbe, S., Soto, P., Wortmann, L., 2008. Synthesis of Ex Ante Evaluations of Rural Development Programmes 2007-2013. Final Report, 233 pp. Synthesis of ex-ante evaluations: https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/evaluation/rural-development-reports/2008/rurdev/fulltext_en.pdf.

See previous footnote (Tödtling-Schönhofer et al. 2008). These are needs that are named as "top ten" list of needs in EU rural areas as identified in their SWOTs (i.e. these needs have been listed in the SWOT analyses of several programmes)' (p. 60).

¹⁵¹ Allowing for overlap between social and economic dimensions.

Economic dimension:

1. Structural adjustments and modernisation (productivity deficits, fragmentation, capital, dependency);
2. Value chains, added value, integration between sectors;
3. Lack of specialisation / diversification / de-concentration / quality¹⁵².

Environmental dimension:

1. Natural resources / nature protection;
2. Sustainable practices (in land/forest management), awareness;
3. Biodiversity, ecological structures, habitats.

Approach to answer the question

Methodological consideration

Use of qualitative and quantitative information.

The answer to SQ51 is based on the needs listed above as sub-questions, covering the social, economic and environmental dimensions. These needs are compared to the RDPs' contributions addressing them, as expressed in the information provided in the answers to the relevant programme- and measure-related questions (see Table 4.25). Social/socio-economic needs 3 (Basic services) and 4 (Physical infrastructures) as well as economic needs 6 (Value chains etc.) and 7 (Lack of specialisation etc.) can be related to specific measures; they are therefore linked to the corresponding measure-related questions. The other needs are formulated more broadly and are therefore linked to relevant programme-specific questions.

Findings for these SQs are illustrated by selected relevant result indicators. Selection was based on best correspondence with the topic of the needs. As the needs dimensions can be related to the RDP axes (typically, the four axes were used by regions as a grid of needs assessment in designing their RDP – see section on 'limitations' below), result indicators appear to be the most appropriate type of indicator to consider.

Table 4.25 Linking main needs to relevant SQs

MAIN NEEDS (SUB-QUESTIONS)	RELEVANT PROGRAMME-/MEASURE-RELATED SELECTED RESULT INDICATORS (RI)	SQS AND
Social / socio-economic dimension		
1 Unemployment / disparities / create job-offers / income alternatives	SQ2: To what extent has the RDP contributed to employment creation? SQ42: To what extent has the RDP contributed to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER?	RI8: Gross number of jobs created (2 sub-indicators)
2 Demographic change (migration, aging, depopulation, brain drain)	SQ9: To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy?	
3 Basic services (access, provision, housing)	SQ27: How and to what extent has Measure 321 contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries? (M321: Basic services for the economy and rural population) SQ27: How and to what extent has Measure 322 contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries? (M322: Village renewal and development)	RI10: Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services RI11: Increase in internet penetration in rural areas (in persons)
4 Physical infrastructures	SQ18: How and to what extent has Measure 125 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?	

MAIN NEEDS (SUB-QUESTIONS)	RELEVANT PROGRAMME-/MEASURE-RELATED SELECTED RESULT INDICATORS (RI)	SQS AND
(creation, adaptation access)	(M125: Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry) SQ27: How and to what extent has Measure 322 contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries? (M322: Village renewal and development) SQ27: How and to what extent has Measure 323 contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries? (M323: Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage)	
Economic dimension		
5 Structural adjustments and modernisation (productivity deficits, fragmentation, capital, dependency)	SQ5: To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector? SQ6: To what extent has the RDP accompanied restructuring of the dairy sector?	
6 Value chains, added value, integration between sectors	SQ17: How and to what extent has Measure 123 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries? (M123: Adding value to agricultural and forestry products)	RI2: Increase in gross value added in supported holdings/enterprises (in million EUR)
7 Lack of specialisation / diversification / de-concentration ¹⁵³	SQ17: How and to what extent has Measure 123 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries? (M123: Adding value to agricultural and forestry products) SQ17: How and to what extent has Measure 124 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries? (M124: Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector) SQ19: How and to what extent has Measure 132 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries? (M132: Supporting farmers who participate in food quality schemes) SQ19: How and to what extent has Measure 133 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries? (M133: Supporting producer groups for information and promotion activities for products under food quality schemes)	RI4: Value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards (in million EUR)
Environmental dimension		
8 Natural resources / nature protection	SQ3: To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including, biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry? SQ8: To what extent has the RDP contributed to improvement of water management?	
9 Sustainable practices (in land/forest)	SQ3: To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and	RI 6: Area under successful land management (ha) (5 sub-indicators)

MAIN NEEDS (SUB-QUESTIONS)	RELEVANT PROGRAMME-/MEASURE-RELATED SELECTED RESULT INDICATORS (RI)	SQS AND
management), awareness	landscape including, biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?	
10 Biodiversity, ecological structures, habitats	SQ3: To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including, biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?	

Furthermore, input indicators, i.e. expenditure shares – for the axes thematically mainly corresponding to the main needs – were used as a basis of judgment. This enables at least a simplistic and broad EU-level overview of the degree to which the thematic fields of the needs (which can be related to Axis I-IV) were allowed for in terms of financial resources. This means there is a mismatch if issues play a significant role among the ‘main needs’ identified, while a relatively low share of average expenditures in the thematically related axes indicates limited financial resources to actually achieve results in this thematic field. The benchmark is the average expenditure across Axes I-IV, i.e. ca. € 23 billion (see Table 4.26). We acknowledge that the number and design of measures implemented under each axis is differing; however, the focus here is put on the fact how many financial resources were available overall to address a need, whereby each need is thematically related to one or several axes (based on the SQs related to the needs, e.g. need 4 ‘physical infrastructures creation, adaption access’ is related to SQs 5 and 9, and thus to Axes I and III).

Table 4.26 Basis for judging expenditure volume

Axis	Total EAFRD expenditures (billion EUR, ca.)	Axis share of average (%)
Axis I	30	130 % (medium volume)
Axis II	44.7	194 % (high volume)
Axis III	11.6	50 % (low volume)
Axis IV	5.6	24 % (low volume)
Total Axis I-IV	92	
Average per Axis	23	100 % (average volume)

Judgment of evidence base

Based on the criteria provided in the section on the overall methodology for answering the Synthesis Questions, the evidence base is mainly sufficient to excellent, with a few exceptions (details for each of the relevant programme- and measure-related SQs are provided in the answer to SQ51 below). As already noted under SQs 46 and 50, the evidence base can be stated to be better for longer-established domains of the RDPs (e.g. competitiveness) than for more complex and newer approaches (e.g. quality of life, LEADER).

Limitations

It is not feasible to relate regional-level needs to the way they have been addressed in the same region. It is only possible to provide a comparison of the main EU-level needs to how they have been addressed by RDPs across regions overall. Moreover, these needs identified at EU level in the synthesis of ex-ante evaluations¹⁵⁴ are not specified in detail, so only a part of them can be linked precisely to topics covered by RDP measures and related indicators. Accordingly, the answer to SQ51 can only provide a broader picture.

The synthesis of ex-ante evaluations¹⁵⁵ details some considerations regarding the limitations of SWOT analyses / needs assessments carried out within the framework of RDP elaboration. One

¹⁵⁴ Tödtling-Schönhofer, H., Schuh, B., Lukesch, R., Wimmer, H., Elbe, S., Soto, P., Wortmann, L., 2008. Synthesis of Ex Ante Evaluations of Rural Development Programmes 2007-2013. Final Report, 233 pp. Synthesis of ex-ante evaluations: https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/evaluation/rural-development-reports/2008/rurdev/fulltext_en.pdf.

¹⁵⁵ See previous footnote.

aspect is that using the four axes as a grid of needs assessment necessarily caused a rather narrow view instead of a broader perspective on regional needs. Further aspects are that the issues are not usually defined explicitly in terms of 'needs', and: 'Many programmes do not analyse the needs of rural areas explicitly in social, economic and environmental categories' (p. 61). Moreover, the needs identified are not being ranked in the RDPs: 'It has not been possible to find references to programmes where weaknesses, threats, problems or needs are ranked' (p. 61).¹⁵⁶

Judgment criteria of the answer

Judging the RDPs' contribution to addressing the needs was done as follows: Based on the above-named qualitative and quantitative information (SQs related to needs, selected relevant result indicators, expenditures on related axes), we assessed the level of RDPs' contribution to addressing (1) each of the ten individual main needs across Member States. These assessments per need fed (2) into a summary judgment of contribution levels for the social, economic and environmental needs dimensions, as well as (3) into an overall concluding judgment across the three dimensions.

Table 4.27 shows the judgment criteria used for answering the sub-questions on the RDPs' contribution to addressing the needs within the programme area. Findings are illustrated by selected relevant result indicators. The judgment derived on this basis was further refined by taking into account the level of expenditures (high, medium, low) for the axes thematically related to the need's issues (see Table 4.26):

- low volume of expenditures (<70% of average expenditures per axis);
- medium volume of expenditures (70-130% of average expenditures per axis);
- high volume of expenditures (>130% of average expenditures per axis).

Table 4.27 Categories and criteria for judging RDPs' contribution to addressing the needs

Scale	Clarification
The RDPs did contribute to a high extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0.76 – 1
The RDPs did contribute to a moderate extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0.51 – 0.75
The RDPs did contribute to a limited extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0.26 – 0.50
The RDPs did contribute to a very limited extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0.01 – 0.25
The RDPs did contribute to no extent	Score for the extent of contribution of 0

Answer to the question

This section presents for each of the ten needs, clustered by the social / socio-economic, economic and environmental dimensions:

- the quality of the evidence base;
- the contribution of the RDPs to addressing related SQs' issues;
- selected relevant result indicator values for illustration; as well as
- expenditure volumes with a view to the axes thematically related to each need.

RDPs' contribution to addressing social / socio-economic needs in the programme area

The following main needs identified across Member States can be allocated to the social / socio-economic dimension¹⁵⁷:

- 1: Unemployment / disparities / create job-offers / income alternatives;

¹⁵⁶ More considerations are provided in the synthesis of ex-ante evaluations – see previous footnote (p. 67 f.).

¹⁵⁷ Allowing for overlap between social and economic dimensions.

- 2: Demographic change (migration, aging, depopulation, brain drain);
- 3: Basic services (access, provision, housing);
- 4: Physical infrastructures (creation, adaption access).

In the social / socio-economic dimension, the **contribution of the RDPs** to addressing the issues of the relevant programme- and measure-related SQs is overall moderate (score: 0.54). Considering the relevant **result indicators** corresponding to the needs in the social / socio-economic dimension, this extent of contribution can be illustrated by the following results:

- Regarding need 1 (Unemployment / disparities / create job-offers / income alternatives), the gross number of jobs created (RI8) amounts to respectively 1.2 % and 0.4 % of the total number of people working in agriculture and forestry;
- Regarding need 3 (Basic services: access, provision, housing), the population in rural areas benefiting from improved services (RI10) amounts to 154 336 251 persons. About 15 % of the total rural population benefit from an increase in internet penetration in rural areas (RI11).

The **evidence base** is overall sufficient (the share of clear answers to the relevant programme- and measure-related SQs amounts to 74 %).

Looking at the **volume of expenditures** for the social / socio-economic dimension (as related to the average share of expenditures per axis, i.e. € 23 billion – see Table 4.26 above), it amounts to overall only 54 % of the average, the lowest share among the three dimensions.

Table 4.28 Social/socio-economic dimension: judgment by main needs and overall

Need	Relevant SQ	Evidence base (% of clear answers) ¹⁵⁸	Contribution of the RDPs to addressing the SQ issues	Relevant Result Indicator (average values) ¹⁵⁹	Share of average EAFRD expenditures per related axis (%)	Overall values per need / dimension
1 Unemployment / disparities / create job-offers / income alternatives	SQ2: To what extent has the RDP contributed to employment creation?	76 %	Positive 48 % Limited 24 % No 4 % (0.6)	RI8: Gross number of jobs created: RI8.1 and R8.2 amount to respectively 1,2 % and 0,4 % of the total number of people working in agriculture and forestry	Axis III: 50 %	Evidence base: 69 % (sufficient) Contribution: 0.54 (moderate) Expenditures: 37% (low)
	SQ42: To what extent has the RDP contributed to building local capacities for <u>employment</u> and diversification through LEADER? ¹⁶⁰	62 %	Positive 40 % Limited 15 % No 7 % (0.48)		Axis IV: 24 %	
2 Demographic change (migration, aging, depopulation, brain drain)	SQ9: To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy?	62 %	Positive 18 % Limited 9 % Depending on domain 35 % (0.23)		Axis III: 50 %	Evidence base: 62 % (sufficient) Contribution: 0.23 (very limited) Expenditures: 50 % (low)
3 Basic services (access, provision, housing)	SQ27: How and to what extent has Measure 321 contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries?	84 %	Positive 58 % Limited 25 % No 1 % (0.71)	RI10: Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services: 154 336 251	Axis III: 50 %	Evidence base: 82 % (sufficient) Contribution: 0.7 (moderate)

¹⁵⁸ The score categorisation is explained under the introductory section.

¹⁵⁹ Based on the answer to SQ47.

¹⁶⁰ Effects of M41 are reported separately for (a) employment and (b) diversification (see chapter on Axis IV (LEADER)-related questions, SQ.42).

Need	Relevant SQ	Evidence base (% of clear answers) ¹⁵⁸	Contribution of the RDPs to addressing the SQ issues	Relevant Result Indicator (average values) ¹⁵⁹	Share of average EAFRD expenditures per related axis (%)	Overall values per need / dimension
4 Physical infrastructures (creation, adaption access)				RI11: Increase in internet penetration in rural areas (in persons): about 15% of the total rural population		Expenditures: 50 % (low)
	SQ27: How and to what extent has Measure 322 contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries?	79 %	Positive 61 % Limited 16 % No 2 % (0.69)			
	SQ18: How and to what extent has Measure 125 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?	83 %	Positive 59 % Limited 18 % No 6 % (0.68)		Axis I: 130 %	Evidence base: 82 % (sufficient) Contribution: 0.69 (moderate) Expenditures: 77 % (medium)
	SQ27: How and to what extent has Measure 322 contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries?	79 %	Positive 61 % Limited 16% No 2 % (0.69)		Axis III: 50 %	
	SQ27: How and to what extent has Measure 323 contributed to improving the quality of life of beneficiaries?	83 %	Positive: 61% Limited: 18% No: 4% (0.7)		Axis III: 50 %	
Social / socio-economic dimension overall:						Evidence base: 74 % (sufficient) Contribution: 0.54 (moderate) Expenditures: 54 % (low)

RDPs' contribution to addressing economic needs in the programme area

The following main needs identified across Member States can be allocated to the economic dimension:

- 5: Structural adjustments and modernisation (productivity deficits, fragmentation, capital, dependency)
- 6: Value chains, added value, integration between sectors
- 7: Lack of specialisation / diversification / de-concentration / quality¹⁶¹

In the economic dimension (see table 4.29), the **contribution of the RDPs** to addressing the issues of the relevant programme- and measure- related SQs is overall moderate (score: 0.62).

Considering the **result indicators** corresponding to the needs in the economic dimension, they do not reflect this extent of contribution:

- Regarding need 6 (Value chains, added value, integration between sectors), the increase in gross value added in supported holdings/enterprises (in million EUR) (RI2) is considered as relevant. The GVA amounts to € 66 315.1.
- Regarding need 7 (Lack of specialisation / diversification / de-concentration / quality), the value of agricultural production under recognised quality label/standards (in million EUR) (RI4) is considered as relevant. However, due to very few Member States reporting on the indicator, there are no meaningful results available.

The **evidence base** is overall sufficient (the share of clear answers to the relevant programme-and measure-related SQs amounts to 78 %).

Looking at the volume of expenditures for the economic dimension (as related to the average share of expenditures per axis, i.e. € 23 billion (see Table 4.26 above), overall it corresponds to the average (135 %, i.e. high volume).

Table 4.29 Economic dimension: judgment by main needs and overall

Need	Relevant SQ	Evidence base (% of clear answers) ¹⁶²	Contribution of the RDPs to addressing the SQ issues	Relevant Result Indicator (average values) ¹⁶³	Share of average EAFRD expenditures per related axis (%)	Overall values per need / dimension
5 Structural adjustments and modernisation (productivity deficits,	SQ5: To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the	97 %	Positive 59 % Limited 25 % No 13 % (0.72)		Axis I: 130 %	Evidence base: 70 % (sufficient)

¹⁶¹ Tödtling-Schönhofer et al. (2008) do not specify 'quality' any further. Presumably it mainly relates to quality agricultural production.

¹⁶² The score categorisation is explained under the introductory section.

¹⁶³ Based on the answer to SQ47.

Need	Relevant SQ	Evidence base (% of clear answers)	Contribution of the RDPs to addressing the SQ issues	Relevant Result Indicator (average values)	Share of average EAFRD expenditures per related axis (%)	Overall values per need / dimension
fragmentation, capital, dependency)	competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector?					Contribution: 0.53 (moderate)
	SQ6: To what extent has the RDP accompanied restructuring of the dairy sector?	43 %	Positive 24 % Limited 19 % (0.34)		Axis I, II: 130 % / 194 % (ø 162 %)	Expenditures: 146 % (high)
6 Value chains, added value, integration between sectors	SQ17: How and to what extent has Measure 123 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?	87 %	Positive 66 % Limited 20 % No 1 % (0.76)	RI2: Increase in gross value added in supported holdings/enterprises (in million EUR): € 66 315.1	Axis I: 130 %	Evidence base: 87 % (excellent) Contribution: 0.76 (high) Expenditures: 130 % (medium)
7 Lack of specialisation / diversification / de-concentration / quality ¹⁶⁴	SQ17: How and to what extent has Measure 123 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?	87 %	Positive 66 % Limited 20 % No 1 % (0.76)		Axis I: 130 %	Evidence base: 78 % (sufficient) Contribution: 0.56 (moderate)
	SQ17: How and to what extent has Measure 124 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?	70 %	Positive 33 % Limited 26 % No 11 % (0.46)			Expenditures: 130 % (medium)

¹⁶⁴ Tödting-Schönhofer et al. (2008) do not specify 'quality' any further. Presumably it mainly relates to quality agricultural production.

Need	Relevant SQ	Evidence base (% of clear answers) ¹⁶²	Contribution of the RDPs to addressing the SQ issues	Relevant Result Indicator (average values) ¹⁶³	Share of average EAFRD expenditures per related axis (%)	Overall values per need / dimension
	SQ19: How and to what extent has Measure 132 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?	79 %	Positive 37 % Limited 22 % No 20 % (0.48)	RI4: Value of agricultural production under recognised quality label/standards (in million EUR): No meaningful conclusion possible because only 9 MS have reported on the indicator		
	SQ19: How and to what extent has Measure 133 contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?	74 %	Positive 44 % Limited 15 % No 15 % (0.52)			
Economic dimension overall						Evidence base: 78 % (sufficient) Contribution: 0.62 (moderate) Expenditures: 135 % (high)

RDPs' contribution to addressing environmental needs in the programme area

The following main needs identified across Member States can be allocated to the environmental dimension:

- 8: Natural resources/nature protection;
- 9: Sustainable practices (in land/forest management), awareness;
- 10: Biodiversity, ecological structures, habitats.

In the environmental dimension (see table 4.30), the **contribution of the RDPs** to addressing the issues of the relevant programme-related SQs is overall moderate (score: 0.68).

Considering the relevant **result indicators** corresponding to the needs in the environmental dimension, this extent of contribution can be illustrated by the following results:

- Regarding need 9 (Sustainable practices in land/forest management, awareness), the area under successful land management (ha) (RI 6) is of particular interest. Looking at results by sub-indicators, this area accounts for ca. 46 % of the total agricultural area (biodiversity), 30 % (water quality), 26 % (climate change), 35 % (soil quality), and 50 % (avoidance of marginalisation / land abandonment).

The **evidence base** is overall sufficient (the share of clear answers to the relevant programme-related SQs amounts to 85 %).

Looking at the **volume of expenditures** for the environmental dimension (as related to the average share of expenditures per axis, i.e. € 23 billion – see Table 4.26 above), it overall amounts to the highest share among the three dimensions (194 %, i.e. nearly twice the average).

Table 4.30 Environmental dimension: judgment by main needs and overall

Need	Relevant SQ	Evidence base (% of clear answers) ¹⁶⁵	Contribution of the RDPs to addressing the SQ issues	Relevant Result Indicator (average values) ¹⁶⁶	Share of average EAFRD expenditures per related axis (%)	Overall values per need / dimension
8 Natural resources / nature protection	SQ3: To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including, biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?	86 %	Positive 61 % Limited / No 12 % Depending on addressed domain 13% (0.67)		Axis II: 194 %	Evidence base: 83 % (sufficient) Contribution: 0.7 (moderate) Expenditures: 194 % (high)
	SQ8: To what extent has the RDP contributed to improvement of water management?	80 %	Positive 64 % Limited / No 16 % (0.72)			
9 Sustainable practices (in land/forest management), awareness	SQ3: To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including,	86 %	Positive 61 % Limited / No 12 % Depending on addressed domain 13 % (0.67)	RI 6: Area under successful land management (ha) (5 sub-indicators): (1) Biodiversity: accounts for ca. 46	Axis II: 194 %	Evidence base: 86 % (excellent) Contribution: 0.67 (moderate) Expenditures: 194 % (high)

¹⁶⁵ The score categorisation is explained under the introductory section.

¹⁶⁶ Based on the answer to SQ47.

Need	Relevant SQ	Evidence base (% of clear answers)	Contribution of the RDPs to addressing the SQ issues	Relevant Result Indicator (average values)	Share of average EAFRD expenditures per related axis (%)	Overall values per need / dimension
	biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?			% of the total agricultural area; (2) Water quality: accounts for 30 %; (3) Climate change: accounts for 26 %; (4) Soil quality: accounts for ca. 35%; (5) Avoidance of marginalisation / land abandonment: accounts for 50 %		
10 Biodiversity, ecological structures, habitats	SQ3: To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including, biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?	86 %	Positive 61 % Limited / No 12 % Depending on addressed domain 13% (0.67)		Axis II: 194 %	Evidence base: 86 % (excellent) Contribution: 0.67 (moderate) Expenditures: 194 % (high)
Environmental dimension overall						Evidence base: 85 % (sufficient) Contribution: 0.68 (moderate) Expenditures: 194 % (high)

Conclusions and recommendations

Summarising the above, it can be concluded that **RDPs have contributed to addressing the needs in the programme area** – across the social / socio-economic, economic and environmental dimensions – to a **moderate extent** overall.

It should be considered that this judgment is based on a set of EU-wide needs that are neither defined in sufficient detail to allow clearly relating all of them to individual measures, nor ranked according to priorities. In the social / socio-economic and economic dimensions, there are considerable differences in the extent to which individual needs were addressed by the RDPs, while needs were addressed more homogeneously in the environmental dimension.

More specifically, in the social / socio-economic dimension, this moderate extent is achieved regarding need 1 (unemployment and related issues), need 3 (basic services) and need 4 (physical infrastructures), while the extent is only very limited for need 2 (demographic change).

In the economic dimension, need 5 (structural adjustments and modernisation) and need 7 (lack of specialisation, amongst other issues) are in line with the overall moderate assessment. The contribution to need 6 (value chains and related issues) is even assessed as high.

All needs in the environmental dimension correspond to the overall moderate assessment (i.e. need 8: natural resources / nature protection, need 9: sustainable practices, and need 10: biodiversity, ecological structures, habitats).

The **evidence base** of the programme- and measure-related SQs consulted in order to answer SQ51 is overall **sufficient** for all three dimensions. More specifically, the share of clear answers to the relevant programme- and measure-related SQs ranges from 74 % (social / socio-economic dimension), to 78 % (economic dimension), to 85 % (environmental dimension). It can be stated to be generally better for longer-established topics of the RDPs (e.g. competitiveness) than topics that are more complex or insufficiently defined in conceptual terms, as well as newer approaches (e.g. quality of life, dairy sector restructuring, LEADER). In terms of recommendations derived from this, see SQ50.

Taking into account the **volume of expenditures** per dimension, the highest volume is allocated to the environmental needs (nearly twice the average share of expenditures per axis), followed by the economic needs (higher than the average share of expenditures per axis), while it is significantly lower for the social / socio-economic dimension (approximately half of the average share of expenditures per axis). With all necessary caution (e.g. because there is no information on a ranking of needs available, and the level of individual measures is not taken into account as only a part of the needs can be related to specific measures), these volumes can be understood to only roughly reflect how the thematic fields were potentially allowed for in terms of financial resources. A recommendation is therefore to provide guidance to Member States in identifying regional-level needs more precisely and preparing a ranking, as well as including such information in evaluation reporting more clearly.

4.7 Synthesis Question 52: To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the EU Rural Development (including Health Check) priorities?

Understanding of the question

Synthesis Question 52 is a question on the relevance of the RDPs. According to the Better Regulation Guidelines, relevance analysis should identify if there is any mismatch between the objectives of a policy and the current societal needs. Relevance is considered fundamental as when an intervention does not address needs or problems, it does not matter how effective or efficient it is. The intervention is no longer appropriate.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁷ Better Regulation toolbox, tool #47. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/file_import/better-regulation-toolbox-47_en_0.pdf.

The question asks whether the RDPs have contributed to addressing both the EU Rural Development and Health Check priorities. The EU Rural Development priorities were set before the start of the 2007-2013 programming period. During the programming period, a set of additional priorities known as the Health Check were introduced.

The objectives of Rural Development policy set up by Community strategic guidelines for rural development in the programming period 2007-2013¹⁶⁸ include:

- Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector;
- Improving the environment and the countryside;
- Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy;
- Building local capacity for employment and diversification¹⁶⁹;

With the introduction of the Health Check of the Common Agricultural Policy reform, a new set of Rural Development priorities reflecting recent challenges for EU agriculture and rural areas was added in 2009¹⁷⁰. Those priorities are the following:

- a) Climate change;
- b) Renewable energies;
- c) Water management;
- d) Biodiversity;
- e) Measures accompanying restructuring of the dairy sector;
- f) Innovation linked to the priorities mentioned in points (a) to (d);
- g) Broadband Internet infrastructure in rural areas.

Approach to answer the question

Methodological consideration

The answer to this Synthesis Question is based on the following sub-questions covering EU Rural Development priorities:

- To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector?
- To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the environment and countryside through land management?
- To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy?
- To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the local capacity for employment and diversification?
- To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the consistency in programming?
- To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the complementarity between community instruments?

¹⁶⁸ Council of the European Union. Council Decision of 20 February 2006 on Community strategic guidelines for rural development (programming period 2007 to 2013). 2006/144/EC. Official Journal of the European Union. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISUM:l60042>.

¹⁶⁹ Priority 5 'Ensuring consistency in programming' (maximise synergies between axes) is relevant at the level of RDPs' objectives; it is addressed by SQ46. Priority 6 'Complementarity between Community instruments' is addressed by SQ49.

¹⁷⁰ Council of the European Union, 2009. Council Regulation (EC) No 473/2009 of 25 May 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy, 6 pp <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009R0473&from=EN>.

The same is done regarding the Health Check priorities, i.e. each priority is treated as a sub-question to be answered.

For each of the sub-questions the link is made to the contribution of the RDP as expressed in the information provided in the answers to the relevant Programme- and Leader-related questions Table 4.31. Some of the measure-related questions also investigated the achievements of the RDP objectives, however the programme questions already comprise an assessment of the effects produced by the different measures. Hence, to answer the Synthesis Question, the link is made to programme-specific questions.

The approach to Synthesis Question 52 builds on the approach for Synthesis Question 46 and expands the analyses to all of the EU Rural Development priorities including the Health Check priorities. For each question, evidence base will be indicated showing the percentage of data, which could be used for the assessment.

In some cases one can find the necessary information regarding the achievement of the objective in one question. In other cases one needs to look at more than one question to provide a satisfactory assessment. When more than one question has to be considered for each objective we will calculate an average score both for the evidence base and for the effects of the RDPs for all relevant question. In this way we can obtain one value for evidence base of each sub-question and one value regarding the effect.

Table 4.31 Relevant evaluation questions per EU RD priority

EU RD and Health Check priorities	Relevant questions
1. Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector	SQ5 To what extent has, the RDP contributed to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector?
2. Improving the environment and the countryside	SQ3 To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry? SQ4 To what extent has, the RDP contributed to the supply of renewable energy? SQ7 To what extent has, the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation? SQ8 To what extent has, the RDP contributed to improvement of water management (quality, use and quantity)?
3. Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy	SQ9 To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy? SQ11 To what extent has the RDP contributed to creation of access to broadband internet (including upgrading)?
4. Building local capacity for employment and diversification	SQ42: To what extent has the RDP contributed to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER? SQ43 To what extent have LAGs contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP?
a. Climate Change	SQ7 To what extent has, the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation?
b. Renewable energy	SQ4 To what extent has, the RDP contributed to the supply of renewable energy?
c. Water management	SQ8 To what extent has, the RDP contributed to improvement of water management (quality, use and quantity)?
d. Biodiversity	SQ3 To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?
e. Measures accompanying restructuring of the dairy sector	SQ6 To what extent has the RDP accompanied restructuring of the dairy sector?
f. Innovation linked to the priorities mentioned in points (a), (b), (c), and (d)	SQ10: To what extent has the RDP contributed to introduction of innovative approaches?
g. Broadband in rural areas	SQ11 To what extent has the RDP contributed to creation of access to broadband internet (including upgrading)?

Limitations

For EU Rural Development priorities 5 and 6, limited information is available. These two objectives were not evaluated in the majority of the ex-post evaluations. Because of this, no quantification of the outcomes of priorities 5 and 6 is available. The two priorities have been discussed under Synthesis Question 49. No generalisations can be drawn based on the information available. Therefore, these priorities cannot be addressed under Synthesis Question 52.

Judgment criteria of the answer

The qualitative data results from the different programme questions are used in order to determine the extent of contribution of the RDPs towards addressing the EU Rural Development and Health Check priorities. The judgment criteria follow the methodology as presented in Chapter 2.

Answer to the synthesis question

For each priority, the extent with which the RDPs contributed to addressing the priority objectives are assessed. This is based upon the outcomes of the Programme Questions related to the specific priorities. The different EU Rural Development and Health Check priorities are listed in Table 4.37. Per priority, the relevant Programme Questions, percentage of positive and limited assessments of ex-post evaluations, and score on the extent of the contribution are listed. For a full description of the effects that were analysed under the Synthesis Questions, please see their respective sections in the report.

Table 4.32 Overview of the RDP contributions towards the EU Rural Development priorities.

EU Rural Development priority	Relevant Programme Question	Effects of the RDPs	Score for extent of the contribution of the RDPs to addressing the priority
1 Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector;	SQ5 To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector?	Positive 59 % Limited 25 %	0,72
2 Improving the environment and the countryside;	SQ3 To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?	Positive 61 % Limited / No 12 % Depending on addressed domain 13 %	0,66
	SQ4 To what extent has the RDP contributed to the supply of renewable energy?	Positive 12 % Positive, extent not clear: 42% Limited 26 %	0,39
	SQ7 To what extent has the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation?	Positive 6 % Positive, extent not clear: 69% Limited 19 %	0,49
	SQ8 To what extent has the RDP contributed to improvement of water management (quality, use and quantity)?	Positive 64 % Limited 16 %	0,72
3. Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy;	SQ9 To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy?	Positive 18 % Limited 9 % Depending on domain 35 %	0,40
	SQ11 To what extent has the RDP contributed to creation of access to broadband internet (including upgrading)?	Positive 35 % Limited 15 %	0,43
4. Building local capacity for employment and diversification;	SQ42 To what extent has the RDP contributed to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER?	Positive 40 % Limited/no 15 %	0,47
	SQ43 To what extent have LAGs contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP?	Positive 36 % Limited/no 17 %	0,45

EU Rural Development priority	Relevant Programme Question	Effects of the RDPs	Score for extent of the contribution of the RDPs to addressing the priority
Climate Change	SQ7 To what extent has the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation?	Positive 6 % Positive, extent not clear: 69% Limited 19 %	0,49
Renewable energies	SQ4 To what extent has the RDP contributed to the supply of renewable energy?	Positive 12 % Positive, extent not clear: 42% Limited 26 %	0,39
Water management	SQ8 To what extent has the RDP contributed to improvement of water management (quality, use and quantity)?	Positive 64 % Limited 16 %	0,72
Biodiversity	SQ3 To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?	Positive 61 % Limited / No 12 % Depending on addressed domain 13 %	0,66
Measures accompanying restructuring of the dairy sector	SQ6 To what extent has the RDP accompanied restructuring of the dairy sector?	Positive: 24 % Limited: 19 %	0,34
Innovation linked to the priorities mentioned in points (a), (b), (c), and (d)	SQ10 To what extent has the RDP contributed to introduction of innovative approaches?	Positive: 55 % Limited: 29 %	0,69

To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector?

The first EU Rural Development priority is discussed extensively under Synthesis Question 5. From this Synthesis Question it becomes clear that the contribution of the RDP has improved the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector in 59 % of the Member States and regions. The contribution was limited in 25 % of the Member States and regions. From this information we conclude that **the RDPs have contributed to addressing the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector to a moderate extent.**

To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the environment and countryside through land management?

The improvement of the environment and countryside is assessed under Programme Questions 3, 4, 7 and 8. These Programme Questions assess different elements of environmental improvement and land management (see Table 4.32). Since they are the primary source of evidence for the assessment of the first four Health Check objectives, we will not describe their individual assessments here. Rather, an overarching answer is stated. The table shows that the contribution of the RDPs fluctuate over the different elements.

Since different objectives, actions and financial allocation was provided per Programme Question, the four outcomes cannot be combined by simply taking an average value. There are clear differences in the extent of the contribution of the RDPs towards the different themes. Water management seems to have been addressed to a moderate extent, while renewable energy and climate change were addressed to a more limited extent. It seems like the extent towards addressing this objective is either moderate or limited. Since we are not able to go deeper into this with the information available, the conclusion for this priority is nuanced. Overall, we conclude that **the RDPs have contributed to addressing the environment and countryside through land management to a limited or moderate extent.**

To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy?

The quality of life in rural areas and the diversification of the rural economy was evaluated as a whole in only 26 % of the 91 ex-post evaluation reports. Oftentimes, reports limited the answers to one of the two domains. For 47 RDPs, a clear assessment on the quality of life in rural areas is made. 66 % of these assessments state a positive impact of the RDP on the quality of life. A clear assessment on the diversification of the rural economy was made in 37 ex-post evaluation reports. 62 % of these evaluations were positive about the contribution of the RDP to the diversification of the rural economy.

Because of the limited amount of overall assessments of the contribution to quality of life and diversification, **the RDPs have contributed to addressing this priority to a limited extent.**

To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the local capacity for employment and diversification?

Under Programme- related question 42 it became clear that LEADER positively affected the productive capacity and improved working conditions. The support in the social and economic sectors created additional employment and income opportunities close to the place of residence and increased the employment opportunities of women. A positive contribution to employment is identified in 40 % of the ex-post evaluations that reported on this topic. In 15 % of the evaluations, the contribution was considered to be limited. The RDPs contributed to addressing the local capacities for employment and diversification to a limited extent.

Programme Question 43 discussed the extent with which LAGs contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP. This question is strongly related to EU Rural Development priority 4 and is also included in the assessment. A positive contribution of the LAGs is found in 36 % of the ex-post evaluations that reported on

the Programme Question. The LAGs contributed to addressing the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP to a limited extent.

Overall, **the RDPs contributed to addressing the local capacity for employment and diversification to a limited extent.**

To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing climate change?

Climate change is addressed through to related – but different – subjects: the contribution to climate change mitigation and the contribution to climate change adaptation. In Synthesis Question 7, the extent with which the RDPs contributed to addressing climate change is discussed. The availability of data on this subject is limited. While 79 % of the ex-post evaluations were positive regarding the contribution to climate change, it is unclear whether this is due to climate change mitigation or adaptation. As a result, 69 % of the ex-post evaluations could not express clear judgment towards the contribution of the RDP to climate change mitigation and adaptation. 21 % reported a limited contribution.

If the assessment of the contribution to addressing climate change would solely be based on the positive outcomes of the ex-post evaluations, the RDPs have contributed to a high extent. It is however essential to realise that actual clear judgment could not be provided for a large share of these reports. Therefore, **the RDPs contributed to addressing climate change to a limited extent.**

To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing renewable energies?

The RDPs had significant positive effects on the supply of renewable energy in 12 % of the regions and limited positive effects in 26 % of the regions. In another 42 % of the regions, the impact was positive, but the extent of the impact was unclear. Overall, the extent of the support is rather limited however, due to the fact that in most RDPs, the supply of renewable energy was not programmed from the outset and that number of supported projects in the field was low. **The RDPs contributed to addressing renewable energies to a limited extent.**

To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing water management?

The extent of improvement of water management is discussed under Programme Question 8. The contribution to improved water management was positive in 64 % of the ex-post evaluations. 16 % of the ex-post evaluations found a limited impact. The reports show that there is different understanding of the different aspects of water management. Therefore, individual aspects of water management cannot be assessed properly at the programme level.

Overall, **the RDPs contributed to addressing water management to a moderate extent.**

To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing biodiversity?

Under Programme Question 3 the extent of the contribution of the RDPs towards addressing biodiversity was discussed. The contribution to biodiversity was positive in 61 % of the ex-post evaluations. It was limited in 12 % of the reports. There were differences in sub-domains for 13 % of the reports. The outcomes of Programme Question 3 have to be considered carefully. Overall, **the RDPs contributed to addressing biodiversity to a moderate extent.**

To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the restructuring of the dairy sector?

The extent of the contribution of the RDPs to the restructuring of the dairy sector is discussed under Programme Question 6. The contribution to the restructuring of the dairy sector was positive in 24 % of the ex-post evaluations. It was limited in 19 % of

the reports. These numbers are very low, but we have to take into account that the programming period was a difficult time for the dairy sector. It is reasonable to assume that this is one reason behind the low numbers. Overall, **the RDPs contributed to addressing the restructuring in the dairy sector to a limited extent.**

To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing innovation linked to the Health Check priorities?

The introduction of innovative approaches and the extent of contribution of the RDPs towards this are discussed under Programme Question 10. The contribution of the RDPs towards addressing innovation was positive in 55 % of the ex-post evaluations. This was due to improvements in the production process, product type, new technologies and other types of innovative developments. It was limited in 29 % of the reports. Overall, **the RDPs contributed to addressing the restructuring in the dairy sector to a limited extent.**

Conclusion and Recommendation SQ52

The extent with which the RDPs contributed to addressing the different priorities is shown in Table 4.33. The outcomes are either moderate or limited. This is partially caused by a lack of specific information which limits the degree of quantification that we can apply. For many priorities, it was not possible to fully assess the outcomes because the information is not available in all ex-post evaluations. It is therefore recommended that the ex-post evaluation procedure is streamlined to such an extent that comparable outcomes for the priorities are produced. This counts specifically for priorities with multiple goals and sub-domains, like priority 2 and 3.

Overall, we conclude that the RDPs have contributed to addressing the EU Rural Development and Health Check priorities to a limited extent.

Table 4.33 Extent of contribution of RDPs to addressing the EU Rural Development and Health Check priorities

EU Rural Development Priority	Extent of contribution of RDPs to addressing the priority
1 Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector;	Moderate
2 Improving the environment and the countryside;	Limited or Moderate
3. Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy;	Limited
4. Building local capacity for employment and diversification;	Limited
5. Ensuring consistency in programming;	No information available
6. Complementarity between Community instruments	No information available
Health Check	
Climate Change	Limited
Renewable energies	Limited
Water management	Moderate
Biodiversity	Moderate
Measures accompanying restructuring of the dairy sector	Limited
Innovation linked to the priorities mentioned in points (a), (b), (c), and (d)	Moderate

4.8 **Synthesis Question 53: To what extent has the EAFRD funding via the RDPs ensured EU added value?**

Understanding of the question

Added value is defined as the value resulting from EU interventions that is additional to *the value that would have resulted from interventions initiated at regional or national levels by both public authorities and the private sector*. According to the ENRD's ex-post evaluation guidelines for the funding period 2007-2013, the core of the assessment of the intervention logic's EU added value looks at the value resulting from applying policy measures at the EU level which are additional to the value that would have resulted from applying similar measures at the regional or national level by public authorities or the private sector. In line with the Better Regulation Guidelines¹⁷¹ this question draws together findings on the other evaluation areas:

- Effectiveness: where EU action is the only way to get results to create missing links, avoid fragmentation, and realise the potential of a border-free Europe;
- Efficiency: where the EU offers better value for money, because externalities can be addressed, resources or expertise can be pooled, an action can be better coordinated;
- Synergy: where EU action is necessary to complement, stimulate, and leverage action to reduce disparities, raise standards, and create synergies.

Approach to answer ESQ 53

Methodological considerations

According to the EENRD's ex-post evaluation guidelines for the funding period 2007- 2013, the core of the assessment of the intervention logic's EU added value looks at the value resulting from applying policy measures at the EU level which are additional to the value that would have resulted from applying similar measures at the regional or national level by public authorities or the private sector.

The synthesis of the ex-ante evaluations raised the issue that the "evaluations handled these principles less thoroughly than other aspects related to EU policies [...]. The ex- ante evaluations do not provide the full picture of how these aspects are covered in the national programming system."¹⁷² The authors conclude that at the level of programming the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality have been respected.

Following on from this judgment, the aim of Synthesis Question 53 is therefore to assess whether the EAFRD funding via RDPs has delivered its own and related EU policy priorities to an extent that would not have been achieved by independent action of Member States.

Synthesis Question 53 will be answered through the following sub-questions and judgment criteria deduced from the model of the intervention logic and the background of the Synthesis Question judgment:

- (1) To what extent is the EAFRD funding via RDP **effective** in achieving its own objectives and the key EU policy priorities these objectives are related to?
→ Criterion: The implementation of EAFRD funding via RDP are (or are not) **effective** in:
 - achieving EU level objectives;
 - supporting key EU priorities.
- (2) Are the global objectives of the EAFRD **coherent** with key EU policy priorities?
→ Criterion: RDPs have been implemented (or not implemented) in a way that is **coherent** with the key EU priorities;
- (3) To what extent is the EAFRD funding via RDP effective in ensuring **subsidiarity** in delivering its general objectives across the EU?

¹⁷¹ European Commission (EU Com): TOOL #47 Evaluation criteria and questions, p. 353.

¹⁷² Metis; AEIDL, 2008. Synthesis of Ex Ante Evaluations of Rural Development Programmes 2007-2013. Final Report, Vienna, 233 pp.

→ Criterion: EAFRD funding via RDP ensured (or did not ensure) **subsidiarity** by allocating actions to the EU only where the objectives would not be achieved by giving responsibility for these actions to Member States acting individually.

The approach to answer sub-questions (1) and (2) is to draw together findings from other relevant Synthesis Questions, while it is based on a screening of ex-post evaluation reports for sub-question (3). It will thus consist of mainly a qualitative description on the basis of any information found in the ex-post evaluation reports.

The criteria are covered at least to some extent in the evaluation questions regarding this aspect in the following Synthesis Questions and other information sources:

Table 4.34 Synthesis Questions and other information considered for the judgment of EU added value

Evaluation criteria	Synthesis Question / other information source
(1) Effectiveness	SQ46: To what extent have the RDPs objectives been achieved? (→ Effectiveness) SQ47: To what extent can the change in the programme area be attributed to the RDPs? (→ Causal analysis) SQ48 To what extent were the RDPs costs proportionate to the benefits achieved? (→ Efficiency)
(2) Coherence	SQ49 To what extent were the RDPs projects consistent with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP and EU interventions in the same programme area? (→ Coherence) SQ50: To what extent are the outcomes of the RDPs consistent with the overall rural development objectives? (→ Coherence)
(3) Subsidiarity	There is no directly linked evaluation question that addresses the aspect of subsidiarity. Information on the question whether an action would have not reached the same level of benefits if implemented by national or regional initiative, or whether the effectiveness of a national or regional action would have been higher than an EU-level one are generally not covered in the evaluation reports. We can only approach this question by trying to identify hints that let conclude on this. Aspects relevant to answer this question ought to be covered in Chapter 7 Conclusions and Recommendations) of the ex-post evaluation reports. Other areas where indications for an EU added value / subsidiarity principles could be found in sections related to Leader and the NRN. Evaluation reports will be screened for any qualitative information in the relevant sections. This information will be provided in a descriptive way

Limitations

As the question is not directly addressed in the ex-post evaluation reports, even qualitative information for the judgment is very limited. Substantial issues can be expected in the scientific quality of answers in the ex-post evaluation reports.

Judgment criteria of the answer

For each RDP and based on the quantification provided in the reports we scored achievement levels for each objective area using the criteria provided in Table 4.35. We collated this into a score across each RDP using the scoring below.

Table 4.35 Judgment criteria

Judgment categories	Criteria
The EAFRD funding via the RDPs did contributed to EU added value to no extent	SQ46, 47, 49, 50 show no contributions, and SQ48 low efficiency
The EAFRD funding via the RDPs did contribute to EU added value to a very limited extent	SQ46, 47, 49, 50 show below medium extent
The EAFRD funding via the RDPs did contribute to EU added value to a limited extent	Most of SQ46, 47, 49, 50 show below medium extent, or SQ48 low efficiency
The EAFRD funding via the RDPs did contribute to EU added value to a medium extent	Most of SQ46, 47, 49, 50 show medium or high extent or SQ48 high efficiency
The EAFRD funding via the RDPs contribute to EU added value to a high extent	All SQ46, 47, 49, 50 show high extents and SQ48 high efficiency

Answer to the questions

Effectiveness

The Table 4.36 summarises the evidence base and conclusions of the SQs considered to answer the question "To what extent is the EAFRD funding via RDP effective in achieving its own objectives and the key EU policy priorities these objectives are related to?"

Table 4.36 Effectiveness in achieving objectives and EU key policy priorities

Relevant SQ	Evidence base	Conclusion
SQ46 To what extent have the RDPs objectives been achieved?	Sufficient: Axis I excellent; Axis II sufficient to excellent; Axis III and IV: sufficient	Moderate extent for Axis I objectives; Positive but not quantifiable extent for Axis II; and limited extent. For Axis III and IV.
SQ47 To what extent can the change in the programme area be attributed to the RDPs?	Not available	RDPs have been more successful in promoting competitiveness and improving environment and land management compared to quality of life and diversification, although internet penetration has been quite significant.
SQ48 To what extent were the RDPs costs proportionate to the benefits achieved?	Weak: Substantial limitations caused by unclear database, aggregation of expenditures	No judgment possible due to missing benchmarks or comparative values.

In summary, we conclude that the implementation of EAFRD funding via RDP has been effective in achieving EU level objectives and supporting key EU priorities to a variable extent. It appears that programmes have been more successful and effective in achieving Axis I and II objectives. However, the lower extent reported to achieve Axis III objectives could also be a result of overall difficulties in measuring the effects.

Coherence

Table 4.37 summarises the evidence base and conclusions of the SQs considered to answer the question “Are the global objectives of the EAFRD coherent with key EU policy priorities?”.

Table 4.37 Coherence of EAFRD objectives with key EU policy priorities

Relevant SQ	Evidence base	Conclusion
SQ49 To what extent were the RDPs projects consistent with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP and EU interventions in the same programme area?	Weak: only 5 reports contained information	No generalised answer possible due to low information availability, and high place and context specificities
SQ50 To what extent are the outcomes of the RDPs consistent with the overall rural development objectives?	Variable: sufficient to excellent for consistency; weak for negative and contradictory effects	Outcomes of the RDPs are overall consistent with the RD objectives to a limited to moderate extent . Negative contributions were marginal . Contradictory effects to RD objectives were reported for a small share of RDPs concerning Axis I and II objectives

The evidence base to answer the question of coherence is highly variable. However, we can conclude that the outcomes of the RDPs are overall consistent with the Rural Development objectives to a limited to moderate extent. Negative or contradictory effects were only reported in a few cases. Consistency with other funding cannot be judged at a generalised level.

Subsidiarity

The synthesis of ex-ante evaluations raises relevant points in relation to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Points raised are e.g.:

- The Czech programme has involved private and civic actors at all levels of decision making in the programming process;
- Delegation of tasks to local and regional entities are an opportunity to comply with the principles, as the financing decisions are taken more closely to the final beneficiaries (Finland - main land);
- The EU added value of funding is specifically appreciated, where “the support of rural areas would be extremely difficult” (Greece);
- There are examples of thoroughly described task distribution and delegation (several German, Spanish, Italian, French regional programmes).

Table 4.38 Examples of subsidiarity and proportionality aspects in the reports

Programme	Ex post evaluation findings
Czech Republic	<p>In general, the effects of the RDP cannot be overemphasized, as a number of interventions and external influences have been involved in the rural economy and the players localised in the rural area during the period 2007 – 2013. Firstly, these were both sectoral and regional operational programmes, but a number of national support schemes were also affected. Filtering out the influence of individual interventions or determining their different weights of action is very difficult. Therefore, the influence of RDP should be seen as an unambiguous complement to the remaining interventions conditional for the development of the rural area and its actors. The effect of complementarity is proportionate to the allocated financial resources of the programme.</p> <p>LEADER:</p> <p>Only less than a quarter of municipalities (23%) believe that the activities of LAGs in their territory have improved governance in their community. 61% of respondents expressed negatively on the influence on the management of municipalities. In the management of the region as a higher territorial administrative unit, the LAG's activity has a minimum effect.</p> <p>Axis IV combined support for most measures from the axes I-III, while taking advantage of the strengthened subsidiarity principle, when the role of local partnerships was strengthened in deciding on the focus of support from the rural development.</p>
Finland - main land	<p>The main shortcomings are unstructured responsibilities / leadership, overlapping tasks such as information, role of the regions and way of working and bureaucracy.</p> <p>LEADER:</p> <p>The added value of Leader has been evident. Work division between Leader (smaller projects) and the ELY centres (larger projects) worked well.</p> <p>NRN:</p> <p>Transnational coordination activities of the NRN were not as successful as other tasks of the NRN.</p>
Greece	<p>The operation Coordination Unit has sought the assurance of compatibility check, avoid duplication and ensure complementarity between eligible for financing operations of RSI with the envisaged in the operational Plans of COM and the programme of small islands of the Aegean Sea, with a view to maximising the added value of all interventions in the context of the structure of the ESA RCE.</p>
Hesse, Germany	<p>Area-wide funding → recommendations for the 2014-2020 funding period:</p> <p>Without an adequate implementation framework, which contains clear regulations in detail and in accordance with the subsidiarity principle of the EU constitution, as well as a change in error assessment and calculation methods of the allocation, EU funding will neither result in an efficient use of resources nor will the formulated funding objectives be achieved.</p> <p>Hesse has already embarked on this path with its 2014 to 2020 programme in the area of area-related funding. In the future, only a few area-related measures (e.g. 10.1, 11.1, 11.2, 13.2) will be implemented through the RDP. The vast majority of agri-environmental measures are funded on a purely national basis without reference to the RDP. Under the given framework conditions, this is an economically sound administrative path. (p. 370 f.)</p>
Toscana, Italy	<p>The implementation model of the PSR Toscana 2007-2013 is the result of the application of the principles of subsidiarity and adequacy in the exercise of administrative functions and the allocation of financial resources that characterizes the model of regional programming, and a specific structure of governance of Rural development policies. (→ translation of ex-post report, section 5.1.2, p. ??)</p>

Synthesis of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) ex-post evaluations of

Brandenburg-Berlin, Germany	<p>LEADER</p> <p>The results of integrated rural development based on the LEADER method not only illustrate the successful capacity building of subsidiary planning and decision-making structures, but were also in line with the objectives of an overarching federal state development policy. Economic and socio-political development potentials were effectively tapped and thus contributed to maintaining a minimum degree of equality of living conditions in all sub-regions. The ILE-LEADER concept in Brandenburg was suitable to support the overall objective of rural development promotion. (p. 14)</p> <p>Overall, the LEADER process in Brandenburg is an outstanding example of lived subsidiarity and civil society participation. (p. 480 f.)</p>
Sachsen, Germany	<p>M 323 Cultural heritage / LEADER</p> <p>The measure was implemented almost entirely within the framework of ILEK (Integrated Local Development Concepts). The ILEK's subsidiary planning approach guaranteed that projects to promote cultural heritage were identified exclusively on the spot and that the eligibility for funding was assessed by the Local Action Groups themselves. The state level thus had little influence on the identification and selection of projects and was thus only able to bring cultural policy goals of the state into play to a limited extent. The projects were mainly aimed at intra-local and micro-regional use within the respective ILE/LEADER area. Even though some of the projects generate supra-regional demand, this was not a priority criterion for selection. The micro-regional orientation of the projects is a result of bottom-up planning. (p. 131)</p>
Portugal, NRN	<p>The weak representativeness of PRRN from the Autonomous regions of Portugal (Azores and Madera), and from the region of Algarve should be countered by increasing the availability of human resources in respective focal points. Additionally, call objectivity should be adequately framed to meet the reality of these territories.</p>
Thüringen, Germany	<p>LEADER</p> <p>In the Free State of Thuringia, the area-wide application of the LEADER method was also seen as an essential contribution to the politically desired subsidiarity and the transfer of decision-making powers to the regional level. (p. 440)</p> <p>M 322 Village renewal</p> <p>The village development plans reflect the identified needs of the respective areas from the point of view of local government policy. They are an instrument of decentralised, democratically legitimised and subsidiary territorial development policy. In this respect, the setting of priorities in village development planning reflected the development goals and priorities identified locally. (p. 408)</p>

The principles of subsidiarity and proportionality are respected to variable extents, as far as can be judged from the low evidence base. Some examples illustrate how the programmes ensure compliance with the subsidiarity principles, while others illustrate areas of non-compliance. The question whether a local or national intervention could have brought about the same result at the same cost is not answered directly in any of the reports. Several evaluations provide examples of the positive and limited effects of LEADER, integrated local development approaches, and other measures on increasing capacities in local governance and on contributing to the regional rural development needs. Likewise, the findings about the contribution of the National Rural Networks to safeguard principles of subsidiarity and proportionality are variable.

Conclusion

Based on the overall judgments on the three criteria (**effectiveness** in achieving objectives, **coherence** with EU priorities and complementarity with other instruments, and **subsidiarity**), it has to be concluded that EAFRD funding via the RDPs ensured EU added value to a moderate and variable extent, depending on the aspect considered.

It thus needs to be considered that the judgment varies with regard to the individual criteria. Regarding effectiveness, the evidence base allows us to conclude that the implementation of EAFRD funding via RDPs has been effective in achieving EU-level

objectives and supporting key EU priorities to a variable extent (albeit with the caveat of a better evidence base for Axis I and II than for Axis III objectives).

In terms of coherence, we can conclude that the outcomes of the RDPs are overall consistent with the Rural Development objectives to a limited to moderate extent, and there were only few negative or contradictory effects reported. However, the quality of the evidence base is highly variable. It is not possible to make a generalised judgment of consistency with other funding. While subsidiarity and proportionality are judged to be respected to variable extents, this is based on a weak evidence base. Where these criteria were explicitly addressed by evaluators at all, approaches and findings are variable.

In summary, the quality of reflection upon the question of EU added value is not sufficient in the ex-post evaluation reports nor is information derived from the relevant Synthesis Questions SQ46 to SQ50. In particular, there is no common approach to assess subsidiarity and proportionality at the programme level. Where conformity with these criteria is declared, it is not underpinned with descriptions of the mechanisms ensuring them.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this chapter the outcomes from the previous chapters are brought together. Looking across answers to the synthesis, programme and measure-related questions we conclude on the main development and reflect on the overall lessons learned from the evaluation process.

5.1 Conclusions based on the Synthesis questions

The Synthesis questions address the overall RDP's effectiveness, causality, efficiency, coherence, relevance and added value.

Effectiveness of RDPs

The extent of achievement of the four objectives differs. Objective 1) Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector was achieved to a moderate extent. Objective 2) Improving the environment and the countryside was assessed by looking at achievements in climate change mitigation and water management (high extent) and at the protection of natural resources and landscape (achieved to a moderate extent). Regarding objective 4) Building local capacity for employment and diversification, it was found that LAGs contributed to a limited extent to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDPs, while the RDPs have contributed to a medium extent to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER. Finally objective 3) improving quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy, has been achieved to a more limited extent although the latter proves to be more difficult to measure and may produce less direct and measurable effects in the short term.

Causality

There are challenges associated with drawing strong conclusions on the causal effect of the RDPs. Given the data available, it is hard to establish a cause-effect relationship or the extent to which a change in the programme area is due to the intervention.

However, within this context, it can be observed that the RDPs have been particularly successful in encouraging investments in environment protection and land management, as well as in training and building skills sets although there is no evidence regarding the extent to which this has resulted in the creation of more jobs. While RDPs have been overall successful in promoting competitiveness, results under innovation do not seem to be very significant. Internet penetration has been important while being part of quality of life and diversification. These conclusions should be taken carefully, as the correlations are affected by a number of limitations.

Efficiency of RDPs

There are many challenges associated with quantifying the efficiency of the RDPs, as here is no satisfying approach to assess the proportionality of costs to the benefits achieved based on the ex-post evaluation reports and the input, output, and result indicators tables. Overall, 62 % of reports provided some sort of judgment regarding the efficiency of

resources allocated to the RDPs. Taking into consideration the limitations of the data, the calculation of costs per result achieved is an approximation to get a general overview of ranges and averages within MS and across indicators. It is not sufficiently robust to compare MS or to set benchmarks for objectives or indicators, nor to provide an overall judgment of proportionality of EAFRD expenditure with regards to benefits achieved at the EU level.

Still, reports provided some general findings on the main factors limiting efficiency. Limitations were attributed to inappropriate regulatory framework as well as to the way programmes and measures were designed. Some reports also raised shortcomings with regard to the steering structure of the RDP, including the lack of staff and its insufficient availability, and the low expenditure rates on some of the measures. Often the causes and effects of these issues are interrelated.

Coherence

The outcomes of the RDPs are overall consistent with the four Rural Development objectives/priorities (improving competitiveness, environment, quality of life and building local capacity for employment and diversification) to a limited, respectively to a moderate extent, depending on sub-aspects. Negative contributions were marginally reported. Other effects contradictory to Rural Development objectives were reported for a comparatively small share of RDPs.

The consistency of RDP projects with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP has been evaluated in the ex-ante assessments. The answer to this question was not asked to the assessors in order to complete the ex-post evaluations. Therefore, a conclusive answer to this question cannot be provided based on the information available.

Relevance of RDPs

Overall, RDPs have contributed to addressing the social, economic and environmental needs¹⁷³ in the programme area to a moderate extent.¹⁷⁴ More specifically, in the social/socio-economic and economic dimensions, there are considerable differences in the extent to which individual needs were addressed by the RDPs, while in the environmental dimension needs were addressed more homogeneously. More specifically, within the social needs, RDPs were moderately relevant (in terms of contribution) within the area of basic services (contribution of 0.7) and physical infrastructures (contribution 0.69) and least for demographic change (contribution of 0.23). Regarding economic needs, RDPs were the moderately relevant in the area of value chains, added value, integration between sectors (contribution 0.7). For the environmental needs, RDPs were moderately relevant for all three dimensions: natural resources / nature protection, sustainable practices and biodiversity, ecological structures, habitats.

The RDPs have contributed to achieving the different EU Rural Development priorities (including Health Check) to a limited or moderate extent. This is partly caused by a lack of specific information. For many priorities it was not possible to fully assess the outcomes because the information is not available in all ex-post evaluations.

EU added value

The quality of reflection upon the question of EU added value is not sufficient in the ex-post evaluation reports nor is information derived from the relevant Synthesis Questions. Based on the overall judgments on the three criteria (effectiveness in achieving objectives, coherence with EU priorities and complementarity with other instruments, and subsidiarity), it has to be concluded that EAFRD funding via the RDPs ensured EU added value to a medium and variable extent. It needs to be considered that the judgment varies with regard to the individual criteria.

¹⁷³ It should be considered that this judgment is based on a set of EU-wide needs that are neither defined in sufficient detail to allow clearly relating all of them to individual measures, nor ranked according to priorities.

¹⁷⁴ The evidence base for RDPs addressing the needs is overall sufficient: 74% for social needs, 78 % for economic needs and 85% for environmental needs.

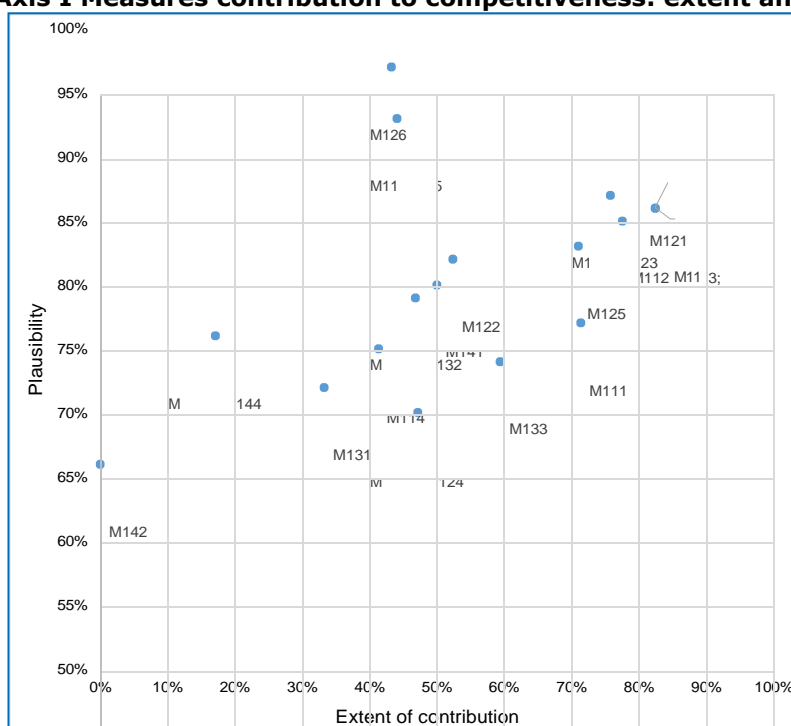
5.2 Conclusions based on the measures-related questions

The answers to measure-related questions are based on two main criteria: the extent of the contribution of the RDPS to the specific objective¹⁷⁵ and the plausibility of the judgment.¹⁷⁶

The following graphs map out the different measures depending on the extent of their intended contribution and the plausibility of the assessment with which we can draw strong conclusions on this contribution. In addition, another graph maps out the different measures depending on the extent of their intended contribution as well as the expenditure on the measure. The comparisons are done on an axis-level.

Outcomes of Axis I Measures

Figure 5.1 Axis I Measures contribution to competitiveness: extent and plausibility



The measures located in the outer corner of quadrant, which we can plausibly say contributed to competitiveness to a great extent, are:

- 112 Setting up of young farmers
- 113 Early retirement of farmers and farm workers
- 121 Modernisation of agricultural holdings

¹⁷⁵ The extent of the contribution refers to the percentage of reports that provide a positive conclusion over those that provided a conclusion on contribution. The percentage of positive contribution report is calculated over the total of reports with clear answers, excluding those that were categorised as not clear or not measured.

¹⁷⁶ The plausibility of the judgement refers to the number of ex-post evaluation report that provided an answer on the contribution. The more evaluation reports we have with a response on the conclusion on the objectives, the more plausible it is to reach an overall assessment. See Chapter 2 for a scale to determine if and to what extent judgment could be considered plausible.

123 Adding value to agri- and forestry products

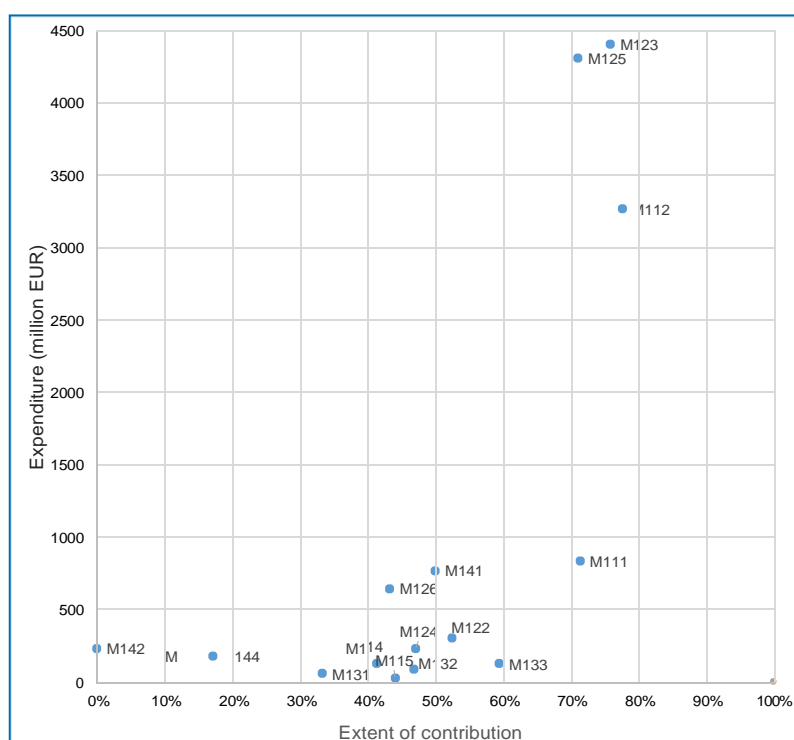
125 Improving and developing infrastructure

When looking at the channels through which these measures aimed to increase competitiveness in the agricultural and forestry sector, there are several factors in common. The positive contributions in all these measures were attributed to the introduction of new or better products, new technologies, increases in production and labour efficiency and reduced costs of production (through for examples, better infrastructure for transport or better water management systems). The measures focussed on modernisation and innovative procedures were both the easiest to measure (with higher plausibility ratings) as well as those that most directly impacted competitiveness (with contributions of a greater extent).

A few measures ranked high in plausibility and did not have a high extent of contribution to competitiveness. This refers particularly to M115 and M126, which aimed to contribute to competitiveness by setting up advisory services and restoring production potential damaged by natural disasters, respectively.

These measures focussed primarily on topics adaptation to stricter legislation, support for compliance with standards, promotion of compliance to statutory requirements. It is important to keep in mind that the judgment criteria point less towards the inefficiencies of these measures, but rather towards the issues in capturing their importance or full effect. This will be expanded on in the following section on points for improvement.

Figure 5.2 Axis I extent of contribution and expenditure



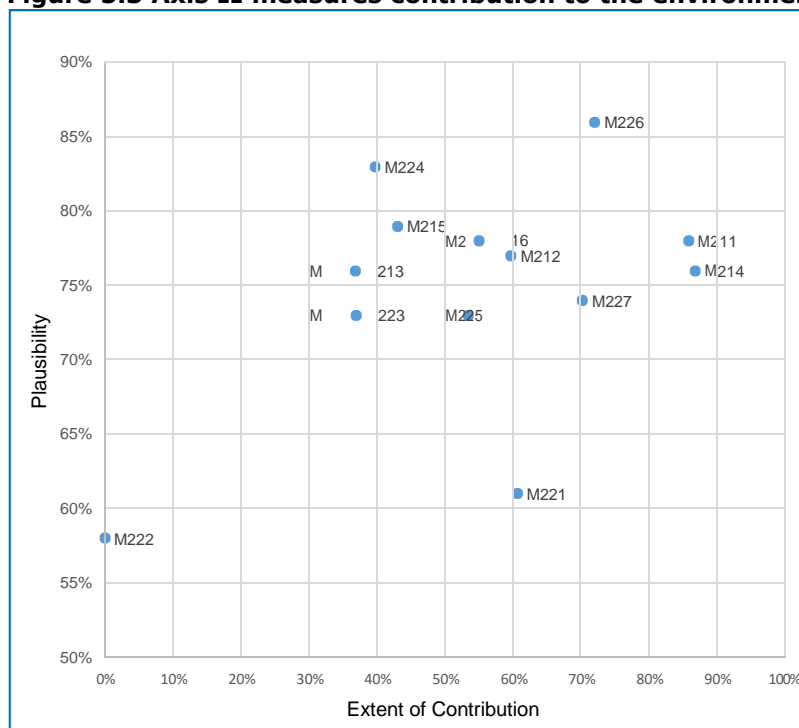
Finally, it is important to point out that overall, there was a positive correlation between the extent of the contribution of the measures to competitiveness and the expenditure on the measures.

In addition to the measure performances according to the judgment criteria, the more frequently reported indirect effects under Axis I were improvements to the

environment, improvements in farmer skills and increased in quality of life. While these additional effects were outside of the scope of competitiveness and this not reflected in the judgment criteria, they were mentioned to a high extent and are therefore additional important results of Axis I.

Outcomes of Axis II Measures

Figure 5.3 Axis II measures contribution to the environmental situation



The measures located in the outer corner of quadrant I, which we can plausibly say contributed to the environmental situation to a great extent, are:

M211 Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain area M214 Agri-environment payments

M226 Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions M227 Support for non-productive investments

When looking at the channels through which these measures were particularly effective in improving the environmental situation, the provided arguments focus on agricultural activities taking natural conservation into account. This was particularly strong in the promotion of biodiversity and protection against soil erosion. Several of these measures highlighted the complementarity between the multi-faceted goals. Results were found for both the increase in agricultural area under these initiatives as well as the effectiveness in improving and maintain high value natural agricultural areas.

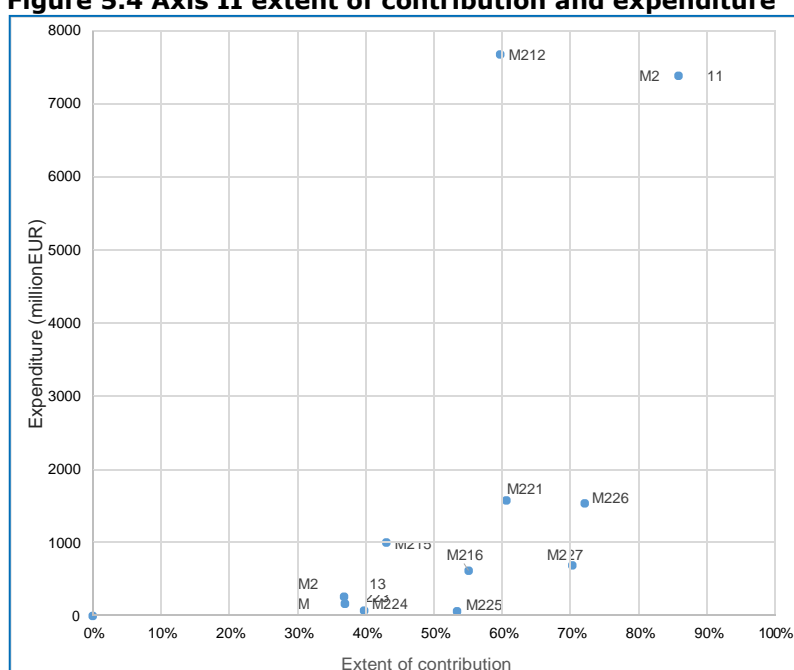
M226, focussing on forestry, was also found to have a strong contribution to the environmental situation. This happened through the prevention of fires, improved water quality and flood mediation. As in the agricultural channels, soil erosion prevention was also significantly mentioned. Likewise, reports on M227 found that forest health improvement and improved forest stability towards hazard was one of the most important contributions.

The measures for which a contribution to the environmental situation was not measured to a great and plausible extent were M213, M222, M223. M213 had issues

with the interrelation with EU directives (e.g. Natura 2000). In individual cases, it was pointed out that the incentive premium of the measure was not sufficient to compensate adequately for the financial disadvantages caused by the underlying regulatory restriction. In the cases of both M222 as well as M223, the issue was on the low levels of implementation and utilisation. This reflects that the measures located in quadrant III were not necessarily there due to not having the right approach towards the objective, but rather due to the very low utilisation and in the case of Measure 213, the underlying regulatory conditions, to which the actual environmental effects are attributable.

In addition to the measure performances according to the judgment criteria, the more frequently reported indirect effects under Axis II were higher employment, more diversification, increased quality of life and improved land management. While these additional effects were outside of the scope of environment and this not reflected in the judgment criteria, they were mentioned to a high extent and are therefore additional important results of Axis II. In addition, since these refer directly to the objectives of the other axes, it makes a good case for highlighting the complementarity in the programme measures across the different axes.

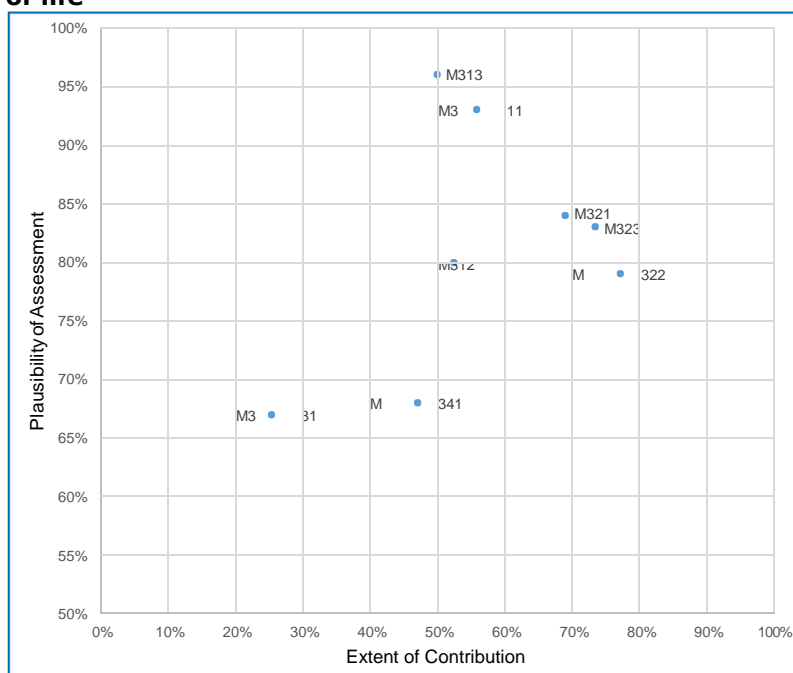
Figure 5.4 Axis II extent of contribution and expenditure



Again, the extent of the contribution of the individual measures seems to be correlated with the expenditure on the measures.

Outcomes of Axis III Measures

Figure 5.5 Axis III measures contribution to economic diversification and quality of life



The measures located in the outer corner of quadrant I, which we can plausibly say contributed to economic diversification and quality of life to a great extent, are:

M321 Basic services for the economy and rural population M322 Village renewal and development

M323 Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage

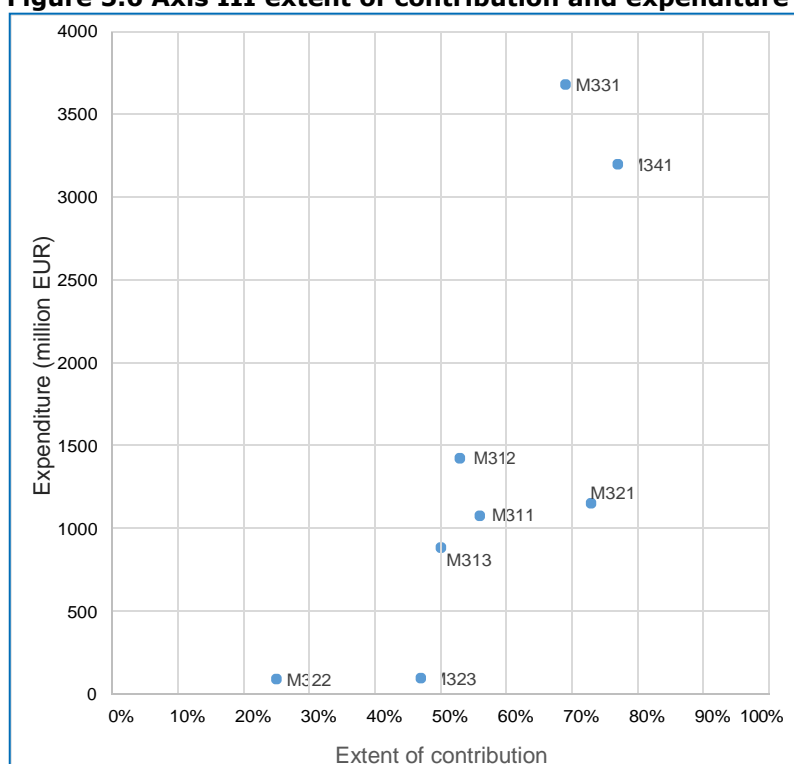
The measures with the greatest extent of contribution to diversification and quality of life did so through the provision of public services in the form of day-care, schools, community facilities as well as health, but also in technical infrastructure, such as telecommunications. Secondly, social dimensions such as participating in local development and creating a local identity were also mentioned, albeit to a lesser extent, as important channels in these three measures. M323 in particular was effective through the channels of tourism, cultural heritage and natural rural heritage.

The measures for which a contribution to diversification and quality of life were not measured to a great and plausible extent were M311 (Diversification into non- agricultural activities) and M313 (Encouragement of tourism activities). These measures were both focussed on training and information and supporting skill acquisition. In the case of M311, the contribution to the economic diversification of beneficiaries was evaluated as reaching a medium extent and was based mainly on investments in rural tourism, pension horse husbandry or production of (renewable) energy. M313 was assessed as contributing to diversification to a limited extent, e.g. through the development and planning of new touristic offers. The ex-post evaluation report explained that measures themselves did improve professional skills but that the increase in skills was seen as contributing to diversification in an indirect and long- term manner.

A few measures ranked high in plausibility but did not have a high extent of contribution to competitiveness. This refers particularly to M311 and M313, which had the objectives of the diversification into non-agricultural activities and the encouragement of tourism activities, respectively. These measures can be interpreted as plausibly having a lower contribution to competitiveness. Overall, there was a very

strong positive correlation between the extent of the measures' contribution to competitiveness and the expenditure on the measures.

Figure 5.6 Axis III extent of contribution and expenditure



In addition to the measure performances according to the judgment criteria, the more frequently reported indirect effects under Axis III were improved environmental conditions, higher competitiveness of the regions, increased employment and better overall technical infrastructure. Again, as the two most-mentioned additional effects to the measures under Axis III related directly to the objectives of Axis I and Axis II we can conclude positively on the complementarity of the axes.

Points for improvement

While the previous conclusions are built on the measures for which we can say with certainty that there was a positive contribution to the intended objective, this does not mean that those with a lower extent of contribution or lower plausibility were inefficient initiatives that did not contribute. As can be seen in the individual measures' contributions, they more often reflect an ex-post evaluation report's lack of a conclusion on contribution than a report's assessment of no contribution. While this is corrected, it is still reflected both in the plausibility as well as in the ex-post evaluation reports. A measure's performance may be categorised as limited contribution due to a lack of concrete measurement with which to make a judgment call.

The extent of contribution is correlated to the ease of measuring this contribution. In addition, there is a strong relation with how long an initiative has been implemented, as the process has already been streamlined and the ways to measure it have been defined more clearly.

5.3 Conclusions based on LEADER-related questions

The findings with regard to the implementation of LEADER are rather partial, due to the limitations caused by the ex-post evaluation and synthesis approaches.

With a view to this caveat, the following conclusions can be drawn for each of the four LEADER-related questions:

With regard to SQ42, creation of jobs (gross values) through the implementation of LEADER is reported in about half of the Member States, the quantitative information not sufficiently consistent to allow for a judgment based on it. Based on the qualitative information available, M41 has contributed to enhancing the employment situation to a limited extent, which is substantiated by plausible evidence from the ex-post evaluation reports. The measure has contributed to diversification to a medium extent.

On SQ43 it is concluded from the qualitative overview that the LAGs have contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP to a medium extent.

The implementation of the LEADER approach (SQ44) has been achieved to a medium extent based on the qualitative information.

The contribution of the LEADER approach to improving local governance (SQ45) is concluded to have been achieved to a medium extent.

However, the assessments presented above regarding SQs 42-45 cannot be considered plausible due to the small share of reports that provided conclusions (with the exception of the contribution to enhancing the employment situation).

A general issue is that quantifiable indicators were not able to capture the specific characteristics and objectives of the LEADER approach, e.g. improving local governance or increasing local participation. The aspects that were quantified are not highly relevant for LEADER (e.g. job effects).

As Axis IV is horizontal, it affects aspects of the other EAFRD axes. Some measures from other axes, especially Axis III, were programmed under LEADER. At times it was not clear whether such measures were reported on under Axis III or IV in the evaluation reports. The synthesis approach did not sufficiently allow for consistently dealing with this aspect, amongst other specifics of LEADER.

Furthermore, consistency was weakened by evaluators using different approaches, i.e. answering either the "old" or the "new" evaluation questions.

Recommendation: A qualitative approach is necessary to capture the effects of LEADER. In order to make findings comparable, a clear definition for central LEADER aspects such as participation or local governance should be provided, together with criteria that allow for a qualitative description of such aspects. These should be translated into result indicators to enable quantification of the effects of LEADER.

5.4 Conclusions based on the programme-related questions

Each programme-related question focuses on a different aspect of the RDP implementation. This inhibits in drawing overall conclusions. The concluding statements below are general observations on the overall contribution of the RDP and possible trends, while more detailed and nuanced information can be found in the concluding sections of each programme question.

For most of the programme-related questions, there is a shortcoming of quantitative data and therefore lack of certitude in the judgment. However, plausibility is overall satisfactory, and therefore most of the observations and conclusions can be drawn based on the qualitative data provided by the reports.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁷ Answers to programme-related questions are on two main criteria: the plausibility and the certitude of the judgment. Where the first one refers to the amount of qualitative data that have been provided whereas the second refers to the quantitative data available for result and impact indicators. As indicated in Chapter 2, a scale has been established to determine plausibility and certainty based on the number of reports or member states which have provided information.

This means that the availability of data shall be taken into account when reading the conclusions to programme-related questions. Here, we present an overview which takes into account the questions for which the criterion of plausibility was respected, which is the case in 10 out of 14 Programme Questions.

We can categorize the 10 Programme Questions according to the extent of RDP contribution that they have recorded. In particular, we can observe that:

- The only domain in which the extent of RDP contribution was considered high is water quality (SQ8), although it should be noted that the reports make use of different approaches to assess quality and it is therefore difficult to compare results across programmes. Contribution was considered medium with regards to growth of the rural economy (SQ1), employment creation (SQ2), promotion of competitiveness (SQ5), introduction of innovative approaches (SQ10), protection and enhancement of natural resources and landscape (SQ3). The synthesis also suggests that the technical assistance contributed to achieving the RDP objectives to a medium extent (SQ13). Regarding the supply of renewable energy (SQ4), while the majority of reports found that the RDP had a positive contribution, the extent of such contribution could not be clearly determined for 42 % of the reports;
- Less positive results were recorded with respect to the climate change mitigation and adaptation (SQ7), and the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy (SQ9);
- The areas in which the RDP produced more positive effects are those which have been part of the CAP for longer time. This is the case for water quality and other environmental provisions such as the protection and enhancement of the natural resources, but also for interventions to boost competitiveness and innovation. Interventions to improve quality of life and diversification are more recent and probably require more time for producing meaningful changes. The questions which have recorded a limited RDP contribution are also referred to changes which are more difficult to measure. This is the case of quality of life, and climate mitigation and adaptation. The case of the supply of renewable energies is particularly insightful in that respect;
- It is important to acknowledge that, even if in some cases the impact of RDP was considered limited, it often played an important mitigation role. This is for instance the case for the growth of the rural economy for which RPD mitigated the effects of the economic recession, as well as for employment, as it helped avoiding the loss of more jobs. The same is true for biodiversity, where RDP helped avoiding further deterioration of natural resources and the landscape. Overall, this shows that quantifying the programs contribution is often difficult, and especially in those areas where social and economic components are more present or where many external factors come into play, the evaluation might fail to capture all the nuances and implications of the interventions, some of which will only be visible in the longer term.

5.5 Conclusion from the evaluation process

This section considers evaluation from different perspectives. We provide some conclusions about the general evaluation approach becoming apparent in the individual ex-post evaluation reports, i.e. the structure, methods and indicators used.

Indicators and targets

The ex-post evaluations on the 2007-2013 funding period were the first ones completed using the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF), and adjustments to the framework were made even during the programming period. Thus, we understand the limitations in the calculation and use of indicators, also in providing realistic target values. There are several aspects however, that seem to need continuous attention:

As evaluators are generally supplied with output, result and impact indicator values by the Managing Authorities, here is no or very limited information presented in the ex- post evaluation reports on how these have been calculated or what the information basis for the calculation was.

Based on our own knowledge as evaluators on the variable calculation methods we emphasise that it is not suitable to aggregate the values at any level. Adding to lack of clarity, in some cases, indicator values were reported under an indicator category different from the one foreseen by the CMEF (e.g. 'total investment volume' being reported under result indicators instead of output indicators).

Finally, the assigned indicators for the specific measures did not always reflect the objectives of the measures. For example, job creation was not the primary objective in the case of many measures and yet was one of the frequently assigned result indicators. This leads to a distorted picture on whether the measures were achieving their objective or not.

Recommendation: A good balance needs to be found between the use of programme-specific indicators, that are required to steer and evaluate programmes within the regional or national contexts, and indicators that are able to be aggregated and to inform EU-level policy makers. Especially for the latter is necessary to know methodologies for measurement and sources of information, as otherwise it is not appropriate to aggregate indicator values. The provision of metadata should be enforced through complying with scientific standards. As an example of good practice found in some ex-post evaluation reports, we recommend making the provision of overview tables containing all output and result indicators compulsory for all measures per axis. The setting of realistic targets is a prerequisite to evaluate key aspects of the programme and its implementation. Guidance should be provided to Managing Authorities and the ex-ante evaluators on how to develop and evaluate targets.

Changes in the targets during the course of the programming period need to be made explicit and explained when and for which reason target indicator values were adjusted. If targets are not met or overdrawn at the end of the funding period, reasons – both internal or external (such as an economic crisis) – should be thoroughly reflected; and findings taken into consideration in future programming.

It should be noted here that target indicators only make sense at the level of results, where political steering is still possible. For example, reducing the use of N fertilizers. It makes no sense to define goals for impacts in connection with rural development programmes – for example, reducing the nitrate content in groundwater because impacts are too far from political control. Nevertheless, it is the task of the evaluation to evaluate effects at the end of funding.

Timing of evaluation

Ex-post evaluation reports had to be completed 2 years after the end of the funding period. Evaluators could often not make use of the latest values of output and result indicators, as these were made available by the Managing Authorities too late to be taken into consideration in the evaluation.

Impact indicators provide information on trends in areas targeted by rural development policy. However, they are rather able to illustrate medium- and long- term trends and it is still questionable which of the impact indicators would already show effects after 1 or 2 years after the end of a funding period. There are in addition methodological difficulties in attributing measured effects to the policy interventions, contributing to the issues of measuring impacts in the defined evaluation timeline.

Recommendation: Evaluation requirements and design should take into account the variable time lag between an intervention expressed in achieved output and results, and the attributable impacts. Ex-post evaluations should focus on the achieved outputs and results, while specific thematic evaluations are necessary to identify the medium and long-term impacts of the programmes.

Definition of terms or concepts

For some terms or concepts covered in the evaluation questions there was no clear definition provided. This was the case e.g. for “quality of life” or “restructuring the dairy sector”. While some ex-post evaluation reports based their assessment on a clear analytical framework of ‘quality of life’, other reports provided no definition; in any case, it is hard to compare evaluation results on quality of life without a common conceptual basis (i.e. a common set of dimensions). Likewise the term “beneficiary” was used differently in the ex-post evaluations. It became apparent that evaluators had difficulties deciding whether effects of a measure were relevant for beneficiaries or for the wider population; this problem of delimiting beneficiaries in the narrow sense from potential wider beneficiary groups applies especially to more integrated measures such as those in Axis III. In terms of the evaluation question for ‘other effects’, ex-post evaluation reports in many cases remained unclear about what ‘other effects’ are. Again, differentiation between ‘other effects’ concerning beneficiaries or wider groups often remained unclear:

Recommendation: Member States should, at an earlier stage, define criteria for contributing to the aspects of the evaluation question. This will probably make it easier to evaluate comparisons with similar or identical criteria.

Reporting structures

We found that reporting structures varied substantially between the reports. Although many of them had used the template suggested by the ENRD ex-post evaluation guidelines, there were major variations in length and content of the different sections. A major concern was the change in the set of evaluation questions to be used during the funding period. While some MS / regions have used the new EQs, others had maintained the original set of questions. Often, it was difficult to spot the answer to the evaluation questions, sometimes there were no clear and concise answers to questions provided, but lengthy background descriptions. At times it was left to the reader to answer the questions based on the information provided. Some reports presented related information in separate sections, making it difficult to read and understand arguments (e.g., some reports split information on one and the same measure into two separate chapters across the ex-post evaluation report, one describing the measure’s objectives and design, one providing the evaluation results). Overall, many reports were far too long, with a lot of information that appeared not foremost necessary to answer the evaluation questions.

Recommendation: A maximum page number (e.g. 200p) and a more prescriptive structure of what is required in which section should be set. When answering evaluation questions, it should be a requirement to provide a clear answer, or state if that is not possible, e.g. in a separate box or by highlighting the text at start or end of the section.

Evaluation design

The evaluation questions developed and answered did not always support the assessment of the Better Regulation requirements, i.e. the need to assess the Efficiency, Effectiveness, Coherence, Relevance and EU Added Value in all evaluations. Besides that, the report structures are foremost developed to cater for the information requirements of the European Commission. In Member States/regions with a more integrated/national view on RDP implementation (e.g. in Denmark) and where this is also used in the structure of the evaluation report, it is difficult to display information in the common EU format.

Recommendation: The assessment of the Better Regulation requirements should be enabled through the design of relevant evaluation questions and approaches. Besides that, there should be enough room left for evaluation priorities and structure to cater for the needs of the Member States/regions. It is instead suggested to limit predefined approaches and structures for those evaluation questions and information needs that are really relevant for EU-level policy information. For these questions, however, the approach on how to judge these questions should be unified.

ANNEX I LIST OF SYNTHESIS QUESTIONS COVERED IN THIS STUDY

Synthesis Questions	
Programme-related CEQs	
SQ1	To what extent has the RDP contributed to the growth of the whole rural economy?
SQ2	To what extent has the RDP contributed to employment creation?
SQ3	To what extent has the RDP contributed to protect and enhance natural resources and landscape including biodiversity and HNV farming and forestry?
SQ4	To what extent has, the RDP contributed to the supply of renewable energy?
SQ5	To what extent has, the RDP contributed to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector?
SQ6	To what extent has the RDP accompanied restructuring of the dairy sector?
SQ7	To what extent has, the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation?
SQ8	To what extent has, the RDP contributed to improvement of water management (quality, use and quantity)?
SQ9	To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy?
SQ10	To what extent has, the RDP contributed to introduction of innovative approaches?
SQ11	To what extent has the RDP contributed to creation of access to broadband internet (including upgrading)?

Synthesis Questions	
SQ12	To what extent has the NRN contributed to RDP objectives?
SQ13	To what extent has the TA contributed to RDP objectives?
SQ14	How efficiently have the resources allocated to the RDP been used in relation to achieving the intended outputs?
Measure-related CEQs	
SQ15	<p>How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 111; • Measure 112; • Measure 113.
SQ16	<p>How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 114; • Measure 115; • Measure 121.
SQ17	<p>How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 122; • Measure 123; • Measure 124.
SQ18	<p>How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 125; • Measure 126; • Measure 131.

Synthesis Questions	
SQ19	<p>How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 132; • Measure 133; • Measure 141.
SQ20	<p>How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 142; • Measure 143; • Measure 144.
SQ21	<p>How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 211; • Measure 212; • Measure 213.
SQ22	<p>How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 214; • Measure 215; • Measure 216.
SQ23	<p>How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 221; • Measure 222; • Measure 223.
SQ24	<p>How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 224; • Measure 225 • Measure 226

Synthesis Questions	
SQ25	How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the environmental situation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 227.
SQ26	How and to what extent has the measure contributed to the economic diversification of the beneficiaries? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 311; • Measure 312; • Measure 313.
SQ27	How and to what extent has the measure contributed to the improving the quality of life of beneficiaries? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 321; • Measure 322; • Measure 323.
SQ28	To what extent has the measure enhanced beneficiaries' capacities to improve economic diversification and quality of life in rural areas? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 331; • Measure 341.
SQ29	What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 111; • Measure 112; • Measure 113.
SQ30	What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 114; • Measure 115; • Measure 121.

Synthesis Questions	
SQ31	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 122; • Measure 123; • Measure 124.
SQ32	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 125; • Measure 126; • Measure 131.
SQ33	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 132; • Measure 133; • Measure 141.
SQ34	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 142; • Measure 143; • Measure 144.
SQ35	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 211; • Measure 212; • Measure 213.

Synthesis Questions	
SQ36	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 214; • Measure 215; • Measure 216.
SQ37	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 221; • Measure 222; • Measure 223.
SQ38	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 224; • Measure 225; • Measure 226.
SQ39	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 227; • Measure 311; • Measure 312.
SQ40	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 313; • Measure 321; • Measure 322.

Synthesis Questions	
SQ41	<p>What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure 323; • Measure 331; • Measure 341.
Axis IV (LEADER)-related CEQs	
SQ42	To what extent has the RDP contributed to building local capacities for employment and diversification through LEADER?
SQ43	To what extent have LAGs contributed to achieving the objectives of the local strategy and the RDP?
SQ44	To what extent has the Leader approach been implemented?
SQ45	To what extent has the implementation of the Leader approach contributed to improving local governance?
Effectiveness	
SQ46	To what extent have the RDPs objectives been achieved?
Causal analysis	
SQ47	To what extent can the change in the programme area be attributed to the RDPs?
Efficiency	
SQ48	To what extent were the RDPs costs proportionate to the benefits achieved? In answering this question, the contractor should also address the aspect if there is scope for simplification in RDPs management and control arrangements.

Synthesis Questions	
Coherence	
SQ49	To what extent were the RDPs projects consistent with other funding from the first pillar of the CAP and EU interventions in the same programme area?
SQ50	To what extent are the outcomes of the RDPs consistent with the overall rural development objectives?
Relevance	
SQ51	To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the social, economic and environmental needs within the programme area?
SQ52	To what extent have the RDPs contributed to addressing the EU Rural Development (including Health Check) priorities?
EU added value	
SQ53	To what extent has the EAFRD funding via the RDPs ensured EU added value?

Annex II Overview of indicators

This Annex includes overviews of result and output indicators used in this study.

Result indicators Overview tables

Result indicator 1: Total number of participants

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
111	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	23	1 862 342	Σ= 3 849 894
	Implementing the achieved skills	15	1 987 552	

Result indicator 2: GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) - Total

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
112	Setting up of young farmers	16	6 920 981	Σ= 67 102 332
113	Early retirement	7	18 859	
114	Use of advisory services	6	642 934	
115	Setting up farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	4	-175 216	

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Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
121	Modernisation of farms	23	19 288 219	
122	Improving the economic value of forests	13	2 754 699	
123	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	23	30 466 614	
124	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	10	120 601	
125	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaption of agriculture and forestry	13	7 072 498	
131	Helping farmers adapt to demanding standards based on the community legislation	1	12 143	
Result indicator 3: Total number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques				
Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
121	Modernisation of farms	25	166 749	

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
122	Improving the economic value of forests	13	7 573	$\Sigma = 201\,778$
123	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	23	14 484	
124	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	13	12 972	

Result indicator 4: Total value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards (in millions of euro's)

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
131-133	European label/standard	8	28 243 760	$\Sigma = 45\,812\,310$
	Member State label/Standard	9	17 568 550	

Result indicator 5: Total Number of farms entering the market

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
141	Semi-subsistence farming	4	3 585	$\Sigma = 14\,605$

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
141	Setting-up of producer groups	6	11 020	

Axis 2:

Result indicator 6: Biodiveristy (ha)

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
214	Agri-environment	27	42 493 298	
222	Agroforestry systems	6	7 750	
215	Animal welfare	5	1 158 766	
221	First afforestation of agricultural land	15	566 679	
225	Forest-environment	11	423 942	
224	Natura 2000	17	1 367 881	
211	Natural handicap payments in mountain area / other areas with handicaps	17	18 874 369	
216 / 227	Non-productive investments	16	3 842 713	

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
213	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	2	114 269	Σ= 78 434 191
226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	12	9 584 524	

Result indicator 6: Water Quality (ha)

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
214	Agri-environment	25	35 746 350	
222	Agroforestry systems	4	1 437	
215	Animal welfare	1	28 410	
221	First afforestation of agricultural land	16	464 420	
225	Forest-environment	7	295 541	
224	Natura 2000	14	833 324	
211	Natural handicap payments in mountain area / other areas with handicaps	20	7 446 484	

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
216 / 227	Non-productive investments	10	2 339 074	Σ= 51 258 107
213	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	1	81 480	
226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	9	4 021 587	

Result indicator 6: Soil Quality (ha)

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
214	Agri-environment	18	25 479 981	
222	Agroforestry systems	5	1 050	
215	Animal welfare	1	136	
221	First afforestation of agricultural land	16	706 143	
225	Forest-environment	8	407 898	

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
224	Natura 2000	10	591 610	Σ= 58 766 722
211	Natural handicap payments in mountain area / other areas with handicaps	21	7 398 055	
216 / 227	Non-productive investments	9	2 318 987	
213	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	1	81 480	
226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	10	7 410 453	

Result indicator 6: Climate Change (ha)

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
214	Agri-environment	26	25 479 981	
222	Agroforestry systems	5	1 050	
215	Animal welfare	1	136	
221	First afforestation of agricultural land	15	706 143	

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
225	Forest-environment	9	407 898	Σ= 44 395 793
224	Natura 2000	14	591 610	
211	Natural handicap payments in mountain area / other areas with handicaps	20	7 398 055	
216 / 227	Non-productive investments	7	2 318 987	
213	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	1	81 480	
226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	12	7 410 453	

Result indicator 6: Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
214	Agri-environment	16	19 560 032	
222	Agroforestry systems	2	1 125	
215	Animal welfare	3	10 234	

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Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
221	First afforestation of agricultural land	8	305 487	
225	Forest-environment	7	207 486	
224	Natura 2000	8	609 928	
211	Natural handicap payments in mountain area / other areas with handicaps	11	58 145 373	
216 / 227	Non-productive investments	5	1 207 545	
213	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	1	81 480	
226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	10	2 623 069	
				Σ= 82 751 759

Axis 3:

Result indicator 7: Non-agricultural gross value added in supported business ('000 EUR)-Total

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
311	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	19	563 635	Σ= 3 849 894
312	Business creation and development	20	823 691	
313	Encouragement of tourism activities	18	350 385	

Result indicator 8: Gross number of jobs created - total

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
311	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	21	27 881	Σ= 114 302
312	Implementing the achieved skills	22	68 843	
313	Encouragement of tourism activities	21	17 578	

Result indicator 9: Total Number of day visitors

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
313	Encouragement of tourism activities	23	30 596 102	Σ= 30 596 102

Result indicator 10: Total population in rural areas benefiting from improved services

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
321	Basic Services	23	45 636 572	Σ=154 336 351
322	Village Renewal	22	40 291 952	
323	Conservation of cultural heritage	22	68 407 827	

Result indicator 11: Increase in internet penetration in rural areas

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
321	Basic services from the economy and rural population	18	16 660 843	Σ= 16 660 843

Result indicator 12: Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity - Total

Measure Number	Type of operation	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
331	Basic services from the economy and rural population	16	725 796	Σ= 782 214
341	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	15	56 418	

Result Indicator 1

Table A.5.1 Data for Result indicator 1

Member State	Type of operation	Number of participants – Total	Classification
Austria	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	431 062	Implemented
Austria	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Belgium	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	37 032	Implemented
Belgium	Implementing the achieved skills	31 476	Implemented
Bulgaria	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	40 062	Implemented
Bulgaria	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Cyprus	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	316	Implemented
Cyprus	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Czech Republic	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	250 986	Implemented
Czech Republic	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Denmark	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	-	Not measured
Denmark	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Estonia	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	43 086	Implemented
Estonia	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Finland	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	5 234	Implemented
Finland	Implementing the achieved skills	24 516	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	Number of participants – Total	Classification
France	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	244	Implemented
France	Implementing the achieved skills	831 879	Implemented
Germany	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	94 462	Implemented
Germany	Implementing the achieved skills	33 385	Implemented
Greece	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	-	No EAFRD
Greece	Implementing the achieved skills	-	No EAFRD
Hungary	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	40 327	Implemented
Hungary	Implementing the achieved skills	61 014	Implemented
Ireland	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	30 234	Implemented
Ireland	Implementing the achieved skills	159	Implemented
Italy	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	90 018	Implemented
Italy	Implementing the achieved skills	40 372	Implemented
Latvia	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	6 134	Implemented
Latvia	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Lithuania	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	37 876	Implemented
Lithuania	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Luxemburg	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	-	Not measured

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Member State	Type of operation	Number of participants – Total	Classification
Luxembourg	Implementing the achieved skills	10 140	Implemented
Malta	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	2 361	Implemented
Malta	Implementing the achieved skills	188	Implemented
Netherlands	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	-	Not measured
Netherlands	Implementing the achieved skills	172 359	Implemented
Poland	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	332 367	Implemented
Poland	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Portugal	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	30 918	Implemented
Portugal	Implementing the achieved skills	180	Implemented
Romania	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	48 319	Implemented
Romania	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Slovakia	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	16 418	Implemented
Slovakia	Implementing the achieved skills	19 639	Implemented
Slovenia	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	8 613	Implemented
Slovenia	Implementing the achieved skills	-	Not measured
Spain	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	231 240	Implemented
Spain	Implementing the achieved skills	77 354	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Number of participants – Total	Classification
Sweden	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	19 795	Implemented
Sweden	Implementing the achieved skills	416 181	Implemented
United Kingdom	Passing by achieving certificate, degree or diploma	65 238	Implemented
United Kingdom	Implementing the achieved skills	268 710	Implemented

Result Indicator 2

Table A.5.2 Data for Result indicator 2

Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Austria	Setting up of young farmers	-	Not measured
Belgium	Setting up of young farmers	-	Not measured
Bulgaria	Setting up of young farmers	32 864	Implemented
Cyprus	Setting up of young farmers	-	Not measured
Czech Republic	Setting up of young farmers	12 025	Implemented
Denmark	Setting up of young farmers	-	Not implemented
Estonia	Setting up of young farmers	659	Implemented
Finland	Setting up of young farmers	93 921	Implemented
France	Setting up of young farmers	552 497	Implemented
Germany	Setting up of young farmers	1 466	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Greece	Setting up of young farmers	664 131	Implemented
Hungary	Setting up of young farmers	-690	Implemented
Ireland	Setting up of young farmers	-	Not measured
Italy	Setting up of young farmers	136 520	Implemented
Latvia	Setting up of young farmers	-10	Implemented
Lithuania	Setting up of young farmers	109 63	Implemented
Luxemburg	Setting up of young farmers	-	Not measured
Malta	Setting up of young farmers	-	No EAFRD
Netherlands	Setting up of young farmers	-	No EAFRD
Poland	Setting up of young farmers	-	Not measured
Portugal	Setting up of young farmers	4 159 492	Implemented
Romania	Setting up of young farmers	14 902	Implemented
Slovakia	Setting up of young farmers	-	No EAFRD
Slovenia	Setting up of young farmers	797 167	Implemented
Spain	Setting up of young farmers	388 162	Implemented
Sweden	Setting up of young farmers	56 911	Implemented
United Kingdom	Setting up of young farmers	-	Not measured

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Austria	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD
Belgium	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD
Bulgaria	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD
Cyprus	Early retirement	-	Not measured
Czech Republic	Early retirement	-	Not measured
Denmark	Early retirement	-	Not implemented
Estonia	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD
Finland	Early retirement	-	Not implemented
France	Early retirement	68	Implemented
Germany	Early retirement	-	Not implemented
Greece	Early retirement	-	Not implemented
Hungary	Early retirement	797	Implemented
Ireland	Early retirement	6 000	Implemented
Italy	Early retirement	1 281	Implemented
Latvia	Early retirement	-	Not implemented
Lithuania	Early retirement	4 272	Implemented
Luxemburg	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD
Malta	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD
Netherlands	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD
Poland	Early retirement	-	Not measured
Portugal	Early retirement	-	Not measured
Romania	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD
Slovakia	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Slovenia	Early retirement	1 077	Implemented
Spain	Early retirement	5 364	Implemented
Sweden	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD
United Kingdom	Early retirement	-	No EAFRD
Austria	Use of advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Belgium	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Bulgaria	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Cyprus	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Czech Republic	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Denmark	Use of advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Estonia	Use of advisory services	24 332	Implemented
Finland	Use of advisory services	-	No EAFRD
France	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Germany	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Greece	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Hungary	Use of advisory services	510 866	Implemented
Ireland	Use of advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Italy	Use of advisory services	36 879	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Latvia	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Lithuania	Use of advisory services	696	Implemented
Luxembourg	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Malta	Use of advisory services	3 700	Implemented
Netherlands	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Poland	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Portugal	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Romania	Use of advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Slovakia	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Slovenia	Use of advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Spain	Use of advisory services	66 461	Implemented
Sweden	Use of advisory services	-	No EAFRD
United Kingdom	Use of advisory services	-	Not measured
Austria	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Belgium	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Bulgaria	Setting up of farm management, farm	-	No EAFRD

Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	relief and farm advisory services		
Cyprus	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Denmark	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Estonia	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Finland	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
France	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	424	Implemented
Germany	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	Not measured
Greece	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Hungary	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Ireland	Setting up of farm management, farm	-	No EAFRD

Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	relief and farm advisory services		
Italy	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	2 502	Implemented
Latvia	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Lithuania	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Luxembourg	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Malta	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	3 700	Implemented
Netherlands	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Poland	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Portugal	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	Not measured
Romania	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Slovakia	Setting up of farm management, farm	-	No EAFRD

Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	relief and farm advisory services		
Slovenia	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
Spain	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-181 842	Implemented
Sweden	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	No EAFRD
United Kingdom	Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services	-	Not measured
Austria	Modernisation of farms	358 570	Implemented
Belgium	Modernisation of farms	79	Implemented
Bulgaria	Modernisation of farms	1 323 306	Implemented
Cyprus	Modernisation of farms	-	Not measured
Czech Republic	Modernisation of farms	399 053	Implemented
Denmark	Modernisation of farms	-	Not measured
Estonia	Modernisation of farms	19 711	Implemented
Finland	Modernisation of farms	136 960	Implemented
France	Modernisation of farms	401 904	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation		GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Germany	Modernisation of farms		388 637,15	Implemented
Greece	Modernisation of farms		2 241	Implemented
Hungary	Modernisation of farms		1 884 290	Implemented
Ireland	Modernisation of farms		42 770	Implemented
Italy	Modernisation of farms		909 484	Implemented
Latvia	Modernisation of farms		1	Implemented
Lithuania	Modernisation of farms		759 945	Implemented
Luxemburg	Modernisation of farms		-	Not measured
Malta	Modernisation of farms		2 942	Implemented
Netherlands	Modernisation of farms		-	Not measured
Poland	Modernisation of farms		801 003	Implemented
Portugal	Modernisation of farms		10 443 021	Implemented
Romania	Modernisation of farms		513 337	Implemented
Slovakia	Modernisation of farms		75 265	Implemented
Slovenia	Modernisation of farms		19 510	Implemented
Spain	Modernisation of farms		618 569	Implemented
Sweden	Modernisation of farms		148 707	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
United Kingdom	Modernisation of farms	38 915	Implemented
Austria	Improving the economic value of forests	179 448	Implemented
Belgium	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Bulgaria	Improving the economic value of forests	-	Not measured
Cyprus	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Improving the economic value of forests	25 273	Implemented
Denmark	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Estonia	Improving the economic value of forests	56 212	Implemented
Finland	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
France	Improving the economic value of forests	7 356	Implemented
Germany	Improving the economic value of forests	454	Implemented
Greece	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Hungary	Improving the economic value of forests	2 430 961	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Ireland	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Italy	Improving the economic value of forests	14 385	Implemented
Latvia	Improving the economic value of forests	-	Not measured
Lithuania	Improving the economic value of forests	42 864	Implemented
Luxembourg	Improving the economic value of forests	-	Not measured
Malta	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Netherlands	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Poland	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Portugal	Improving the economic value of forests	5 934	Implemented
Romania	Improving the economic value of forests	706	Implemented
Slovakia	Improving the economic value of forests	-12 183	Implemented
Slovenia	Improving the economic value of forests	3 297	Implemented
Spain	Improving the economic value of forests	-9	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Sweden	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
United Kingdom	Improving the economic value of forests	-	Not measured
Austria	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	398 848	Implemented
Belgium	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	-	Not measured
Bulgaria	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	1 434 369	Implemented
Cyprus	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	28 888	Implemented
Czech Republic	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	65 585	Implemented
Denmark	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	-	Not measured
Estonia	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	29 239	Implemented
Finland	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	1 127	Implemented
France	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	433 957	Implemented
Germany	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	821 423	Implemented
Greece	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	1 024 438	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Hungary	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	954 023	Implemented
Ireland	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	537 968	Obligation previous period
Italy	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	676 300	Implemented
Latvia	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	519	Implemented
Lithuania	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	158 159	Implemented
Luxemburg	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	-	Not measured
Malta	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	1 598	Implemented
Netherlands	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	-	No EAFRD
Poland	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	622 366	Implemented
Portugal	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	9 863 695	Implemented
Romania	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	489 553	Implemented
Slovakia	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	167 733	Implemented
Slovenia	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	74 449	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Spain	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	12 530 631	Implemented
Sweden	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	18 607	Implemented
United Kingdom	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	113 139	Implemented
Austria	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	82 810	Implemented
Belgium	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD
Bulgaria	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD
Cyprus	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Cooperation for development of new products processes and	9 893	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector		
Denmark	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	Not measured
Estonia	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	29	Implemented
Finland	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	Not measured
France	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	696	Implemented
Germany	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	396	Implemented
Greece	Cooperation for development of	-	No EAFRD

Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector		
Hungary	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD
Ireland	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD
Italy	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	2 452	Implemented
Latvia	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD
Lithuania	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD

Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Luxembourg	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD
Malta	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	72	Implemented
Netherlands	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	Not measured
Poland	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD
Portugal	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	Not measured
Romania	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and	-	No EAFRD

Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	food sector and in the forestry sector		
Slovakia	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD
Slovenia	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	-	No EAFRD
Spain	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	23 298	Implemented
Sweden	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	435	Implemented
United Kingdom	Cooperation for development of new products processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	2 519	Implemented
Austria	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the	287 068	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry		
Belgium	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	Not measured
Bulgaria	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	No EAFRD
Cyprus	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	Not measured
Czech Republic	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	23 820	Implemented
Denmark	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	Not implemented
Estonia	Improving and developing	9 104	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry		
Finland	Improving developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	No EAFRD
France	Improving developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	35 657	Implemented
Germany	Improving developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	63 584	Implemented
Greece	Improving developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	Not measured
Hungary	Improving developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	224 629	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Ireland	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	No EAFRD
Italy	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	16 027	Implemented
Latvia	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	5 777	Implemented
Lithuania	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	4 313	Implemented
Luxemburg	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	Not measured
Malta	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation	-	Not measured

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	agriculture and forestry		
Netherlands	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	Not measured
Poland	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	Not measured
Portugal	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	6 303 188	Implemented
Romania	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	Not measured
Slovakia	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	Not measured
Slovenia	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the	822	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry		
Spain	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	101 569	Implemented
Sweden	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-	Not measured
United Kingdom	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	-3 060	Implemented
Austria	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Belgium	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Bulgaria	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Cyprus	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	Not implemented
Czech Republic	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Denmark	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Estonia	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	Not implemented
Finland	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
France	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	Not measured
Germany	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Greece	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding	-	Not implemented

Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	standards based on community legislation		
Hungary	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	Not measured
Ireland	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Italy	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	12 143	Implemented
Latvia	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	Not implemented
Lithuania	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Luxembourg	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Malta	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on	-	No EAFRD

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
	community legislation		
Netherlands	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Poland	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Portugal	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	Not implemented
Romania	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Slovakia	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
Slovenia	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	Not measured
Spain	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	Not measured

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Member State	Type of operation	GVA in supported holdings/enterprises ('000 EUR) – Total	Classification
Sweden	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD
United Kingdom	Helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation	-	No EAFRD

Result Indicator 3

Table A.5.3 Data for Result indicator 3

Member State	Type of operation		Number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – total	Classification
Austria	Modernisation of farms		-	Not measured
Belgium	Modernisation of farms		2 303	Implemented
Bulgaria	Modernisation of farms		1 040	Implemented
Cyprus	Modernisation of farms		56	Implemented
Czech Republic	Modernisation of farms		-	Not measured
Denmark	Modernisation of farms		1 747	Implemented
Estonia	Modernisation of farms		781	Implemented
Finland	Modernisation of farms		481	Implemented
France	Modernisation of farms		27 193	Implemented
Germany	Modernisation of farms		4 139	Implemented
Greece	Modernisation of farms		7 705	Implemented
Hungary	Modernisation of farms		18 986	Implemented
Ireland	Modernisation of farms		8 985	Implemented
Italy	Modernisation of farms		19 216	Implemented
Latvia	Modernisation of farms		3 730	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	Number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – total	Classification
Lithuania	Modernisation of farms	4 359	Implemented
Luxembourg	Modernisation of farms	38	Implemented
Malta	Modernisation of farms	273	Implemented
Netherlands	Modernisation of farms	3 335	Implemented
Poland	Modernisation of farms	9 672	Implemented
Portugal	Modernisation of farms	12 728	Implemented
Romania	Modernisation of farms	1 550	Implemented
Slovakia	Modernisation of farms	1 775	Implemented
Slovenia	Modernisation of farms	1 558	Implemented
Spain	Modernisation of farms	12 066	Implemented
Sweden	Modernisation of farms	2 946	Implemented
United Kingdom	Modernisation of farms	20 087	Implemented
Austria	Improving the economic value of forests	98	Implemented
Belgium	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Bulgaria	Improving the economic value of forests	-	Not measured

Member State	Type of operation	Number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – total	Classification
Cyprus	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Improving the economic value of forests	-	Not measured
Denmark	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Estonia	Improving the economic value of forests	-	Not measured
Finland	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
France	Improving the economic value of forests	137	Implemented
Germany	Improving the economic value of forests	48	Implemented
Greece	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Hungary	Improving the economic value of forests	372	Implemented
Ireland	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Italy	Improving the economic value of forests	625	Implemented
Latvia	Improving the economic value of forests	2 006	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – total	Classification
Lithuania	Improving the economic value of forests	49	Implemented
Luxemburg	Improving the economic value of forests	-	Not measured
Malta	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Netherlands	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Poland	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
Portugal	Improving the economic value of forests	893	Implemented
Romania	Improving the economic value of forests	5	Implemented
Slovakia	Improving the economic value of forests	350	Implemented
Slovenia	Improving the economic value of forests	1 085	Implemented
Spain	Improving the economic value of forests	1 534	Implemented
Sweden	Improving the economic value of forests	-	No EAFRD
United Kingdom	Improving the economic value of forests	371	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – total	Classification
Austria	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	85	Implemented
Belgium	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	106	Implemented
Bulgaria	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	457	Implemented
Cyprus	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	-	Not measured
Czech Republic	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	-	Not measured
Denmark	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	-	Not measured
Estonia	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	337	Implemented
Finland	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	12	Implemented
France	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	831	Implemented
Germany	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	740	Implemented
Greece	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	117	Implemented
Hungary	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	1531	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	Number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – total	Classification
Ireland	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	17	Obligation previous period
Italy	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	1 383	Implemented
Latvia	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	138	Implemented
Lithuania	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	35	Implemented
Luxemburg	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	12	Implemented
Malta	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	61	Implemented
Netherlands	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	-	No EAFRD
Poland	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	448	Implemented
Portugal	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	1 630	Implemented
Romania	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	645	Implemented
Slovakia	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	517	Implemented
Slovenia	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	326	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	Number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – total	Classification
Spain	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	2 656	Implemented
Sweden	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	431	Implemented
United Kingdom	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	1 969	Implemented
Austria	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	2 795	Implemented
Belgium	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Bulgaria	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Cyprus	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	110	Implemented
Denmark	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	58	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	Number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – total	Classification
Estonia	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	Not measured
Finland	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	1 693	Implemented
France	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	690	Implemented
Germany	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	29	Implemented
Greece	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Hungary	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Ireland	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Italy	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	4 284	Implemented
Latvia	Cooperation for development of	-	No EAFRD

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Member State	Type of operation	Number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – total	Classification
	new products, processes and technologies		
Lithuania	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Luxemburg	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Malta	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	8	Implemented
Netherlands	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	359	Implemented
Poland	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Portugal	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	163	Implemented
Romania	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Slovakia	Cooperation for development of new products,	-	No EAFRD

Member State	Type of operation	Number of holdings / enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques – total	Classification
	processes and technologies		
Slovenia	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	-	No EAFRD
Spain	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	628	Implemented
Sweden	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	272	Implemented
United Kingdom	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies	1 883	Implemented

Result Indicator 4

Table A.5.4 Data for Result indicator 4

Member State	European label/standard- Total	Member state label/standard- Total	Classification
Austria	-	-	not measured
Belgium	31 019	216 314	Implemented
Bulgaria	-	-	No EAFRD
Cyprus	516	-	Implemented
Czech Republic	-	-	No EAFRD
Denmark	-	-	not measured

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Member State	European label/standard- Total	Member state label/standard- Total	Classification
Estonia	-	-	not measured
Finland	-	-	No EAFRD
France	1 089 200	112 700	Implemented
Germany	-	-	not measured
Greece	-	-	not measured
Hungary	-	282 341	Implemented
Ireland	-	-	No EAFRD
Italy	10 856 965	10 296	Implemented
Latvia	-	-	not measured
Lithuania	-	51 248	Implemented
Luxemburg	-	-	No EAFRD
Malta	-	-	not measured
Netherlands	-	-	not measured
Poland	87 258	100 703	Implemented
Portugal	139 372	-	Implemented
Romania	-	-	No EAFRD
Slovakia	-	-	No EAFRD
Slovenia	26 925	8 712	Implemented
Spain	16 012 505	16 752 110	Implemented
Sweden	-	-	No EAFRD
United Kingdom	-	34 126	Implemented

Result Indicator 5

Table A.5.5 Data for Result indicator 5

Member State	Type of operation	Number of farms entering the market	Classification
Austria	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Belgium	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Bulgaria	Semi-subsistence farming	1 523	Implemented
Cyprus	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Denmark	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Estonia	Semi-subsistence farming	-	Not implemented
Finland	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
France	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Germany	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Greece	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Hungary	Semi-subsistence farming	-	Not measured
Ireland	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Italy	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Latvia	Semi-subsistence farming	-	Not measured
Lithuania	Semi-subsistence farming	1 593	Implemented
Luxemburg	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Malta	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Netherlands	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Poland	Semi-subsistence farming	-	Not implemented
Portugal	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Romania	Semi-subsistence farming	371	Implemented

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Member State	Type of operation	Number of farms entering the market	Classification
Slovakia	Semi-subsistence farming	98	Implemented
Slovenia	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Spain	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Sweden	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
United Kingdom	Semi-subsistence farming	-	No EAFRD
Austria	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Belgium	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Bulgaria	Setting-up of producer groups	-	Not measured
Cyprus	Setting-up of producer groups	9	Implemented
Czech Republic	Setting-up of producer groups	-	Not implemented
Denmark	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Estonia	Setting-up of producer groups	98	Implemented
Finland	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
France	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Germany	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Greece	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Hungary	Setting-up of producer groups	6 204	Implemented
Ireland	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD

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Member State	Type of operation	Number of farms entering the market	Classification
Italy	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Latvia	Setting-up of producer groups	-	Not measured
Lithuania	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Luxembourg	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Malta	Setting-up of producer groups	-	Not measured
Netherlands	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Poland	Setting-up of producer groups	4 470	Implemented
Portugal	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Romania	Setting-up of producer groups	89	Implemented
Slovakia	Setting-up of producer groups	-	Not measured
Slovenia	Setting-up of producer groups	150	Implemented
Spain	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
Sweden	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD
United Kingdom	Setting-up of producer groups	-	No EAFRD

Result Indicator 6

Table A.5.6 Data for Result indicator 6

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Austria	Agri-environment	214	3 134 020	3 030 923	2803 563	3 662 354	2718 278	-
Belgium	Agri-environment	214	343 816	411 968	332 197	356 055	47 290	-
Bulgaria	Agri-environment	214	13 014	705	27 453	705	-	-
Cyprus	Agri-environment	214	6 984	-	-	53	16 989	-
Czech Republic	Agri-environment	214	32 124	2341 236	-	2 970 562	1 588 485	-
Denmark	Agri-environment	214	172 952	1 949	-	172 952	-	-
Estonia	Agri-environment	214	499 851	474 929	-	474 929	-	-
Finland	Agri-environment	214	517 920	532 304	516 890	516 890	-	-
France	Agri-environment	214	5 149 029	1 300 576	2 119 067	1 381 629	-	-
Germany	Agri-environment	214	5 430 687	6 398 833	4170 330	5 547 365	1 626 292	-
Greece	Agri-environment	214	62 391	88 310	803 299	652 598	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Hungary	Agri-environment	214	466 200	554 047	20 1234	735 282	288 145	-
Ireland	Agri-environment	214	2 222 104	2 222 104	2 222 104	2 222 104	2 222 104	-
Italy	Agri-environment	214	2 951 908	3 383 792	2 888 150	3 523 824	494 604	-
Latvia	Agri-environment	214	237 809	260 441	-	260 441	-	-
Lithuania	Agri-environment	214	250 898	214 314	-	250 898	-	-
Luxemburg	Agri-environment	214	3 918	26 678	127 262	16 364	-	-
Malta	Agri-environment	214	479	497	292	454	155	-
Netherlands	Agri-environment	214	425 292	-	-	-	-	-
Poland	Agri-environment	214	712 227	861 430	-	1 801 078	-	-
Portugal	Agri-environment	214	1 983 539	2 015 378	60 8438	2 081 688	229 796	-
Romania	Agri-environment	214	1 903 376	2 186 401	1 431 352	342 686	1 843 714	-
Slovakia	Agri-environment	214	485 436	760 779	714 248	526 314	760 779	-
Slovenia	Agri-environment	214	73 523	275 259	275 259	72 279	149 422	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Spain	Agri-environment	214	6 438 883	2 971 026	2 301 838	3 816 012	5 153 455	-
Sweden	Agri-environment	214	1 796 000	80 7000	-	692 000	1 520 000	-
United Kingdom	Agri-environment	214	7 178 918	4 625 471	3 937 005	3 991 645	900 524	-
Austria	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Belgium	Agroforestry systems	222	19	-	38	19	-	-
Bulgaria	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Cyprus	Agroforestry systems	222	6 421	-	-	211	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Denmark	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Estonia	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Finland	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
France	Agroforestry systems	222	222	222	222	222	-	-
Germany	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Greece	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Hungary	Agroforestry systems	222	578	705	276	746	639	
Ireland	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Italy	Agroforestry systems	222	24	24	24	-	-	
Latvia	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Lithuania	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Luxembourg	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Malta	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Netherlands	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Poland	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Portugal	Agroforestry systems	222	486	486	490	490	486	-
Romania	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovakia	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovenia	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Spain	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Sweden	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
United Kingdom	Agroforestry systems	222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Austria	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	No values reported
Belgium	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Bulgaria	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Cyprus	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Czech Republic	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Denmark	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Estonia	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Finland	Animal welfare	215	430 000	-	-	-	-	-
France	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Germany	Animal welfare	215	8 106	-	-	-	8 106	
Greece	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Hungary	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Ireland	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Italy	Animal welfare	215	473 912	-	-	-	2 101	-
Latvia	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Lithuania	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Luxemburg	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Malta	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Netherlands	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Poland	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Portugal	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Romania	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Slovakia	Animal welfare	215	246 612	-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Spain	Animal welfare	215	136	28 410	136	27 201	27	-
Sweden	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
United Kingdom	Animal welfare	215	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Austria	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	80	18	-	182	-	-
Belgium	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	167	167	167	-	-	-
Bulgaria	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Cyprus	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	1	-	-	-	-	-
Czech Republic	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	8 734	8 734	8 734	8 734	-	-
Denmark	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	1 044	1 044	1 043	-	-	-
Estonia	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Finland	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
France	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	458	458	-	-	-
Germany	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	1 725	547	2 120	391	629	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Greece	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	63 542	-	63 542	63 542	-	-
Hungary	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	3 816	1 3440	9 566	13 979	10 937	-
Ireland	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Italy	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	108 919	115 531	120 392	109 058	44 127	-
Latvia	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Lithuania	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	6 318	33	4	6 318	6 318	-
Luxemburg	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Malta	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Netherlands	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	2 494	-	-	-
Poland	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	33 657	-	-	-
Portugal	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	20 664	20 664	20 702	21 117	-	-
Romania	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	-	50	-	-
Slovakia	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	296	296	296	296	296	-
Slovenia	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Spain	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	205 503	170 109	280 248	145 426	216 868	-
Sweden	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
United Kingdom	First afforestation of agricultural land	221	63 362	58 202	70 687	20 747	-	-
Austria	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Belgium	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Bulgaria	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	519	127	209	1 437	332	-
Cyprus	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	1	2	-	2	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Czech Republic	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Denmark	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Estonia	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Finland	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
France	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Germany	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	32	23	49	12	10	-
Greece	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Hungary	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Ireland	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Italy	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	3 344	457	3 642	2 202	1 103	-
Latvia	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Lithuania	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	120	260	11 817	11 817	11 817	
Luxembourg	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Malta	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Netherlands	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Poland	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	2 485	311	-	311	-	No EAFRD
Portugal	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	8 292	8 292	8 293	8 948	8 292	-
Romania	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovakia	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovenia	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Spain	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	59 969	58 433	59 933	60 353	4 758	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Sweden	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
United Kingdom	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	223	7 746	7 272	8 090	4 816	-	-
Austria	Forest-environment	225	370	-	-	185	-	-
Belgium	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Bulgaria	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Cyprus	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Czech Republic	Forest-environment	225	5 520	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	Forest-environment	225	2 971	-	-	-	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Estonia	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Finland	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
France	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Germany	Forest-environment	225	32 780	17 871	17 252	32 474	4 484	-
Greece	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Hungary	Forest-environment	225	13 205	104 18	5 223	11 834	14 692	-
Ireland	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Italy	Forest-environment	225	46 213	42 206	44 674	69 238	1 994	-
Latvia	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Lithuania	Forest-environment	225	1 282	-	1 282	-	1 590	-
Luxemburg	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	709	-	-
Malta	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Netherlands	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Poland	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Portugal	Forest-environment	225	36 590	36 590	36 590	36 590	37 167	-
Romania	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovakia	Forest-environment	225	33 100	33 100	33 100	33 100	33 100	
Slovenia	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Spain	Forest-environment	225	114 517	38	114 459	48	114 459	-
Sweden	Forest-environment	225	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
United Kingdom	Forest-environment	225	137 394	155 318	155 318	155 318	-	-
Bulgaria	Natura 2000	213	83 471	83 471	83 471	83 471	-	-
Cyprus	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Czech Republic	Natura 2000	213	8 734	8 734	-	8 734	-	-
Denmark	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Estonia	Natura 2000	213	21 809	21 809	-	21 809	21 809	-
Finland	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
France	Natura 2000	213	257	-	-	-	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Germany	Natura 2000	213	259 615	107 690	431 39	43 139	47 201	-
Greece	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Hungary	Natura 2000	213	276 620	138 189	73 726	125 412	103 648	-
Ireland	Natura 2000	213	285 473	285 473	285 473	285 473	285 473	-
Italy	Natura 2000	213	17 248	-	-	-	27 455	-
Latvia	Natura 2000	213	69 385	69 385	-	69 385	-	-
Lithuania	Natura 2000	213	19 052	19 052	19 052	19 052	19 052	-
Luxemburg	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Malta	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Netherlands	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Poland	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Portugal	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Romania	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Slovakia	Natura 2000	213	638	638	638	638	638	-
Slovenia	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Spain	Natura 2000	213	64 393	-	-	-	22 235	-
Sweden	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
United Kingdom	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Austria	Natura 2000	213	-	-	-	-	-	No values reported
Belgium	Natura 2000	213	15 229	15 984	7 236	15 229	-	-
Austria	Natura 2000	224	498	-	-	-	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Belgium	Natura 2000	224	19 155	3 831	7 662	3 831	-	-
Bulgaria	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Cyprus	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Czech Republic	Natura 2000	224	3 082	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Estonia	Natura 2000	224	57 272	-	-	-	-	-
Finland	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
France	Natura 2000	224	220	-	-	-	-	No EAFRD
Germany	Natura 2000	224	12 753	3 765	3 765	3 765	3 765	-
Greece	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Hungary	Natura 2000	224	75 432	36 280	29 384	40 661	39 365	-
Ireland	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Italy	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	865	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Latvia	Natura 2000	224	34 002	-	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	Natura 2000	224	5 240	959	-	5 240	-	-
Luxemburg	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Malta	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Netherlands	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Poland	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Portugal	Natura 2000	224	239	-	-	-	358	-
Romania	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovakia	Natura 2000	224	38 064	38 064	38 064	38 064	38 064	-
Slovenia	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Spain	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Sweden	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
United Kingdom	Natura 2000	224	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Bulgaria	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/212	154 210	154 210	154 210	154 210	-	-
Cyprus	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/213	60 060	-	-	-	7 046	-
Czech Republic	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/214	1 696 544	1 696 544	-	-	1 696 544	-
Denmark	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/215	-	-	-	-	27 124	No EAFRD
Estonia	Natural handicap payments in mountain	211/216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
	area/other areas with handicaps							
Finland	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/217	-	-	-	-	2 180 500	-
France	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/218	1 345 800	-	-	7 388	5 373 977	-
Germany	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/219	1 091 963	149 579	759 741	149 579	4 112 224	-
Greece	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/220	2 885 322	-	-	2 885 322	2885 322	

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Hungary	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/221	148 553	183 297	72 132	225 825	281 400	No EAFRD
Ireland	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/222	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Italy	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/223	1 652 062	107 600	205 448	545 994	2 749 288	-
Latvia	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/224	-	-	-	-	1 039 925	No EAFRD
Lithuania	Natural handicap payments in mountain	211/225	1 279 188	639 594	1 279 188	639 594	1 279 188	No EAFRD

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
	area/other areas with handicaps							
Luxemburg	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/226	-	-	-	-	117 415	No EAFRD
Malta	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/227	479	497	292	454	155	No EAFRD
Netherlands	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/228	-	-	-	-	123 147	No EAFRD
Poland	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/229	-	-	-	-	8 631 143	No EAFRD

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Portugal	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/230	681 488	2 880 152	2 880 152	2 884 694	2 963 491	-
Romania	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/231	4 169 931	-	-	521 440	4 169 931	-
Slovakia	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/232	390 788	-	-	-	2 455 881	-
Slovenia	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/233	374 235	-	-	-	374 235	-
Spain	Natural handicap payments in mountain	211/234	2 674 944	1 633 408	2 046 892	2 468 866	6 566 731	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
	area/other areas with handicaps							
Sweden	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/235	268 000	-	-	-	539 716	No EAFRD
United Kingdom	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/236	-	-	-	-	9 016 480	-
Austria	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/212	-	-	-	-	1 554 510	-
Belgium	Natural handicap payments in mountain area/other areas with handicaps	211/212	802	1 603	-	802	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Austria	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Belgium	Non-productive investments	216	3 040	3 040	-	-	-	-
Bulgaria	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Cyprus	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Czech Republic	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Denmark	Non-productive investments	216	657	657	-	63	-	-
Estonia	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Finland	Non-productive investments	216	125	405	-	-	-	-
France	Non-productive investments	216	68	-	-	-	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Germany	Non-productive investments	216	131	-	-	-	-	-
Greece	Non-productive investments	216	2 251	-	-	-	-	-
Hungary	Non-productive investments	216	11 353	7 624	4 248	9 012	4 065	-
Ireland	Non-productive investments	216	81 816	81 816	81 816	-	-	negative EAFRD
Italy	Non-productive investments	216	26 768	13 450	1 387	11 188	9 673	-
Latvia	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Lithuania	Non-productive investments	216	3 108	-	-	-	-	-
Luxemburg	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Malta	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Netherlands	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Poland	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Portugal	Non-productive investments	216	107 662	107 662	107 662	120 681	107 662	-
Romania	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovakia	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovenia	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Spain	Non-productive investments	216	420 437	113 161	94 235	606 784	549 766	-
Sweden	Non-productive investments	216	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
United Kingdom	Non-productive investments	216	134	27	73	26	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Austria	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Belgium	Non-productive investments	227	4 658	431	431	-	-	-
Bulgaria	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Cyprus	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Czech Republic	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Denmark	Non-productive investments	227	36 297	36 297	36 296	-	-	-
Estonia	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Finland	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
France	Non-productive investments	227	72	-	-	-	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Germany	Non-productive investments	227	121 542	273 318	161 673	292 721	929 65	-
Greece	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Hungary	Non-productive investments	227	5 347	1 036	709	1 837	3 731	-
Ireland	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Italy	Non-productive investments	227	31 435	13 050	18 299	26 936	24 454	-
Latvia	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Lithuania	Non-productive investments	227	2 507	-	-	-	-	-
Luxemburg	Non-productive investments	227	333	-	-	-	-	No EAFRD
Malta	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Netherlands	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Poland	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Portugal	Non-productive investments	227	6 551	3 452	3 452	3 452	3 835	-
Romania	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovakia	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovenia	Non-productive investments	227	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Spain	Non-productive investments	227	2 377 000	1 045 913	1 170 971	1 627 556	411 394	-
Sweden	Non-productive investments	227	22 069	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	Non-productive investments	227	577 352	637 735	637 735	637 735	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Austria	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	No values reported
Belgium	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Bulgaria	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Cyprus	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Czech Republic	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Denmark	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Estonia	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Finland	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
France	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Germany	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	32 789	-	-	-	-	-
Greece	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Hungary	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Ireland	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Italy	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	81 480	81 480	81 480	81 480	81 480	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Latvia	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Lithuania	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Luxemburg	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Malta	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Netherlands	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Poland	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Portugal	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Romania	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovakia	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Slovenia	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Spain	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Sweden	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
United Kingdom	Payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC	213	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Austria	Restoring forestry potential and introducing	226	21 129	170	-	140 650	34 215	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
	prevention actions							
Belgium	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Bulgaria	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	325 954	325 954	325 954	325 954	325 954	-
Cyprus	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	427	-	-	567	-	-
Czech Republic	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Denmark	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Estonia	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Finland	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
France	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	2 005 995	138 476	13 8476	13 8476	13 848	-
Germany	Restoring forestry potential and introducing	226	1 731	1 722	1 724	1 717	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
	prevention actions							
Greece	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	326 769	-	561 885	1	555 992	-
Hungary	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	3 803	7 031	4 097	6 353	6 491	-
Ireland	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Italy	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	53 910	17 592	161 965	83 314	18 733	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Latvia	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	no values reported
Lithuania	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	1 609	1 609	1 609	-
Luxemburg	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Malta	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Netherlands	Restoring forestry potential and introducing	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
	prevention actions							
Poland	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	27 043	-	-	-	22 843	-
Portugal	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	261 208	261 208	261 208	263 373	261 208	-
Romania	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Slovakia	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	778 816	778 816	427 784	775 895	-	-

Member State	Type of Operation	Code	Biodiversity (ha)	Water Quality (ha)	Climate Change (ha)	Soil Quality (ha)	Avoidance Marginalisation (ha)	Implementation
Slovenia	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
Spain	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	5 777 739	2 490 618	5 525 751	5 443 987	1 382 176	-
Sweden	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented
United Kingdom	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	226	-	-	-	-	-	not implemented

Result Indicator 7

Table A.5.7 Data for Result indicator 7

Member State	Type of operation	Non-agricultural gross value added in supported business ('000 EUR)-Total	Classification
Austria	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	174 800	Implemented
Belgium	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	Not measured
Bulgaria	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	45 176	Implemented
Cyprus	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	12 346	Implemented
Denmark	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	Not measured
Estonia	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	16 290	Obligation previous period
Finland	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	337	Implemented
France	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	19 088	Implemented
Germany	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	67 063	Implemented
Greece	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	5 389	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Non-agricultural gross value added in supported business ('000 EUR)-Total	Classification
Hungary	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	6 986	Implemented
Ireland	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	704	Obligation previous period
Italy	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	103 799	Implemented
Latvia	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	No EAFRD
Lithuania	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	481	Implemented
Luxemburg	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	Not measured
Malta	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	No EAFRD
Netherlands	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	Not measured
Poland	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	41 911	Implemented
Portugal	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	21 051	Obligation previous period
Romania	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	No EAFRD
Slovakia	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	8 098	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Non-agricultural gross value added in supported business ('000 EUR)-Total	Classification
Slovenia	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	3 066	Implemented
Spain	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	3 523	Implemented
Sweden	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	21 564	Implemented
United Kingdom	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	11 963	Implemented
Austria	Business creation and development	40 470	Implemented
Belgium	Business creation and development	-	Not measured
Bulgaria	Business creation and development	64 898	Implemented
Cyprus	Business creation and development	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Business creation and development	11 163	Implemented
Denmark	Business creation and development	-	No EAFRD
Estonia	Business creation and development	38 442	Implemented
Finland	Business creation and development	1 547	Implemented
France	Business creation and development	16 042	Implemented
Germany	Business creation and development	6 468	Implemented
Greece	Business creation and development	17 791	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Non-agricultural gross value added in supported business ('000 EUR)-Total	Classification
Hungary	Business creation and development	57 460	Implemented
Ireland	Business creation and development	416	Obligation previous period
Italy	Business creation and development	10 513	Implemented
Latvia	Business creation and development	189	Implemented
Lithuania	Business creation and development	778	Implemented
Luxemburg	Business creation and development	-	Not measured
Malta	Business creation and development	-	No EAFRD
Netherlands	Business creation and development	-	Not measured
Poland	Business creation and development	277 240	Implemented
Portugal	Business creation and development	86 847	Obligation previous period
Romania	Business creation and development	65 701	Implemented
Slovakia	Business creation and development	-	No EAFRD
Slovenia	Business creation and development	24 211	Implemented
Spain	Business creation and development	50 242	Implemented
Sweden	Business creation and development	36 262	Implemented
United Kingdom	Business creation and development	17 010	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Non-agricultural gross value added in supported business ('000 EUR)-Total	Classification
Austria	Encouragement of tourism activities	10 200	Implemented
Belgium	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	Not measured
Bulgaria	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	Not measured
Cyprus	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	Not measured
Czech Republic	Encouragement of tourism activities	17 003	Implemented
Denmark	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	Not measured
Estonia	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	No EAFRD
Finland	Encouragement of tourism activities	127	Implemented
France	Encouragement of tourism activities	88 863	Implemented
Germany	Encouragement of tourism activities	5 302	Implemented
Greece	Encouragement of tourism activities	46 386	Implemented
Hungary	Encouragement of tourism activities	31 259	Implemented
Ireland	Encouragement of tourism activities	1 105	Obligation previous period
Italy	Encouragement of tourism activities	43 658	Implemented
Latvia	Encouragement of tourism activities	16	Implemented
Lithuania	Encouragement of tourism activities	5 385	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Non-agricultural gross value added in supported business ('000 EUR)-Total	Classification
Luxembourg	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	Not measured
Malta	Encouragement of tourism activities	1	Implemented
Netherlands	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	Not measured
Poland	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	No EAFRD
Portugal	Encouragement of tourism activities	34 202	Obligation previous period
Romania	Encouragement of tourism activities	5 206	Implemented
Slovakia	Encouragement of tourism activities	3 234	Implemented
Slovenia	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	No EAFRD
Spain	Encouragement of tourism activities	22 430	Implemented
Sweden	Encouragement of tourism activities	14 550	Implemented
United Kingdom	Encouragement of tourism activities	21 457	Implemented

Result Indicator 8

Table A.5.8 Data for Result indicator 8

Member State	Type of operation	Gross number of jobs created - total	Classification
Austria	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	640	Implemented
Belgium	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	Not measured

Member State	Type of operation	Gross number of jobs created - total	Classification
Bulgaria	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	1 342	Implemented
Cyprus	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	1 070	Implemented
Denmark	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	248	Implemented
Estonia	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	114	Obligation previous period
Finland	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	432	Implemented
France	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	414	Implemented
Germany	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	1 568	Implemented
Greece	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	143	Implemented
Hungary	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	658	Implemented
Ireland	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	30	Obligation previous period
Italy	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	2 025	Implemented
Latvia	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	No EAFRD
Lithuania	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	898	Implemented
Luxembourg	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	77	Implemented
Malta	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	No EAFRD
Netherlands	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	Not measured

Member State	Type of operation	Gross number of jobs created - total	Classification
Poland	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	13 760	Implemented
Portugal	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	911	Obligation previous period
Romania	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	-	No EAFRD
Slovakia	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	1 182	Implemented
Slovenia	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	146	Implemented
Spain	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	168	Implemented
Sweden	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	879	Implemented
United Kingdom	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	1 178	Implemented
Austria	Business creation and development	960	Implemented
Belgium	Business creation and development	85	Implemented
Bulgaria	Business creation and development	2 247	Implemented
Cyprus	Business creation and development	-	No EAFRD
Czech Republic	Business creation and development	3 821	Implemented
Denmark	Business creation and development	-	No EAFRD
Estonia	Business creation and development	519	Implemented
Finland	Business creation and development	5 209	Implemented
France	Business creation and development	358	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Gross number of jobs created - total	Classification
Germany	Business creation and development	889	Implemented
Greece	Business creation and development	369	Implemented
Hungary	Business creation and development	3 723	Implemented
Ireland	Business creation and development	55	Obligation previous period
Italy	Business creation and development	323	Implemented
Latvia	Business creation and development	1 671	Implemented
Lithuania	Business creation and development	2 944	Implemented
Luxemburg	Business creation and development	8	Implemented
Malta	Business creation and development	-	No EAFRD
Netherlands	Business creation and development	-	Not measured
Poland	Business creation and development	24 038	Implemented
Portugal	Business creation and development	5 390	Obligation previous period
Romania	Business creation and development	7 751	Implemented
Slovakia	Business creation and development	-	No EAFRD
Slovenia	Business creation and development	757	Implemented
Spain	Business creation and development	2 087	Implemented
Sweden	Business creation and development	2 236	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Gross number of jobs created - total	Classification
United Kingdom	Business creation and development	3 403	Implemented
Austria	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	Not measured
Belgium	Encouragement of tourism activities	135	Implemented
Bulgaria	Encouragement of tourism activities	489	Implemented
Cyprus	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	Not measured
Czech Republic	Encouragement of tourism activities	1 714	Implemented
Denmark	Encouragement of tourism activities	2 463	Implemented
Estonia	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	No EAFRD
Finland	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	Not measured
France	Encouragement of tourism activities	1 777	Implemented
Germany	Encouragement of tourism activities	486	Implemented
Greece	Encouragement of tourism activities	1 680	Implemented
Hungary	Encouragement of tourism activities	1 208	Implemented
Ireland	Encouragement of tourism activities	55	Obligation previous period
Italy	Encouragement of tourism activities	405	Implemented
Latvia	Encouragement of tourism activities	227	Implemented
Lithuania	Encouragement of tourism activities	676	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation		Gross number of jobs created - total	Classification
Luxembourg	Encouragement tourism activities	of	48	Implemented
Malta	Encouragement tourism activities	of	28	Implemented
Netherlands	Encouragement tourism activities	of	-	Not measured
Poland	Encouragement tourism activities	of	88	Obligation previous period
Portugal	Encouragement tourism activities	of	1 842	Obligation previous period
Romania	Encouragement tourism activities	of	779	Implemented
Slovakia	Encouragement tourism activities	of	406	Implemented
Slovenia	Encouragement tourism activities	of	-	No EAFRD
Spain	Encouragement tourism activities	of	898	Implemented
Sweden	Encouragement tourism activities	of	1 398	Implemented
United Kingdom	Encouragement tourism activities	of	777	Implemented

Result Indicator 9

Table A.5.9 Data for Result indicator 9

Member State	Type of operation		Number of day visitors	Classification
Austria	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	1 322 125	Implemented
Belgium	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	349 397	Implemented
Bulgaria	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	877 754	Implemented
Cyprus	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	-	Not measured
Czech Republic	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	90 000	Implemented
Denmark	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	476 221	Implemented
Estonia	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	85 629	Obligation previous period
Finland	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	3 745	Implemented
France	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	368 989	Implemented
Germany	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	1 820 719	Implemented
Greece	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	1 010 946	Implemented
Hungary	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	1 337 868	Implemented
Ireland	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	121 449	Obligation previous period
Italy	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	10 863 010	Implemented
Latvia	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	-	Not measured
Lithuania	Encouragement of tourism activities	of	252 186	Implemented

Member State	Type of operation	Number of day visitors	Classification
Luxembourg	Encouragement of tourism activities	263 594	Implemented
Malta	Encouragement of tourism activities	237 880	Implemented
Netherlands	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	Not measured
Poland	Encouragement of tourism activities	235 722	Obligation previous period
Portugal	Encouragement of tourism activities	1 326 974	Obligation previous period
Romania	Encouragement of tourism activities	19 857	Implemented
Slovakia	Encouragement of tourism activities	22 756	Implemented
Slovenia	Encouragement of tourism activities	-	No EAFRD
Spain	Encouragement of tourism activities	1 039 248	Implemented
Sweden	Encouragement of tourism activities	384 952	Implemented
United Kingdom	Encouragement of tourism activities	8 085 081	Implemented

Result Indicator 10

Table A.5.10 Data for Result indicator 10

Member State	Type of operation	Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services
Austria	Basic services	56 990
Belgium	Basic services	1 684 190
Bulgaria	Basic services	1 404 789
Cyprus	Basic services	20 000

Member State	Type of operation	Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services
Czech Republic	Basic services	518 552
Denmark	Basic services	553 996
Estonia	Basic services	20 874
Finland	Basic services	1 405 448
France	Basic services	1 068 109
Germany	Basic services	5 790 075
Greece	Basic services	2 004 786
Hungary	Basic services	6 561 123
Ireland	Basic services	198 383
Italy	Basic services	3 737 477
Latvia	Basic services	720 655
Lithuania	Basic services	-
Luxemburg	Basic services	277 786
Malta	Basic services	-
Netherlands	Basic services	-
Poland	Basic services	4 344 279
Portugal	Basic services	640 173
Romania	Basic services	-
Slovakia	Basic services	578 912
Slovenia	Basic services	15 311
Spain	Basic services	3 125 830
Sweden	Basic services	236 498
United Kingdom	Basic services	10 672 336
Austria	Village renewal	1 024 715

Member State	Type of operation	Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services
Belgium	Village renewal	504 020
Bulgaria	Village renewal	3 728 679
Cyprus	Village renewal	20 000
Czech Republic	Village renewal	1 284 248
Denmark	Village renewal	897
Estonia	Village renewal	288 579
Finland	Village renewal	970 185
France	Village renewal	-
Germany	Village renewal	11 679 124
Greece	Village renewal	412 058
Hungary	Village renewal	1 895 672
Ireland	Village renewal	295 110
Italy	Village renewal	789 126
Latvia	Village renewal	-
Lithuania	Village renewal	297 421
Luxemburg	Village renewal	165 224
Malta	Village renewal	-
Netherlands	Village renewal	-
Poland	Village renewal	7 832 982
Portugal	Village renewal	-
Romania	Village renewal	1 282 618
Slovakia	Village renewal	782 808
Slovenia	Village renewal	389 037
Spain	Village renewal	2 110 840

Member State	Type of operation	Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services
Sweden	Village renewal	146 357
United Kingdom	Village renewal	4 392 152
Austria	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	3 160 487
Belgium	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	2 734 033
Bulgaria	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	-
Cyprus	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	24 000
Czech Republic	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	1 517 342
Denmark	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	22 844
Estonia	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	5 581
Finland	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	1 433 814
France	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	2 583 140
Germany	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	23 482 397
Greece	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	36 682
Hungary	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	2 130 167
Ireland	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	499 164
Italy	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	3 431 705

Member State	Type of operation	Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services
Latvia	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	127 432
Lithuania	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	-
Luxemburg	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	63 413
Malta	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	192
Netherlands	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	-
Poland	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	1 464 549
Portugal	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	3 179 339
Romania	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	-
Slovakia	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	-
Slovenia	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	204 878
Spain	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	8 533 777
Sweden	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	171 817
United Kingdom	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	13 601 074

Result Indicator 11

Table A.5.71 Data for Result indicator 11

Member State	Type of operation	Increase in internet penetration in rural areas
Austria	Basic services from the economy and rural population	20
Belgium	Basic services from the economy and rural population	10 383
Bulgaria	Basic services from the economy and rural population	-
Cyprus	Basic services from the economy and rural population	-
Czech Republic	Basic services from the economy and rural population	79 182
Denmark	Basic services from the economy and rural population	78 706
Estonia	Basic services from the economy and rural population	-
Finland	Basic services from the economy and rural population	-
France	Basic services from the economy and rural population	9 421 395
Germany	Basic services from the economy and rural population	555 433
Greece	Basic services from the economy and rural population	4
Hungary	Basic services from the economy and rural population	643 969
Ireland	Basic services from the economy and rural population	3
Italy	Basic services from the economy and rural population	1 414 655
Latvia	Basic services from the economy and rural population	-
Lithuania	Basic services from the economy and rural population	1 107

Member State	Type of operation	Increase in internet penetration in rural areas
Luxemburg	Basic services from the economy and rural population	-
Malta	Basic services from the economy and rural population	-
Netherlands	Basic services from the economy and rural population	7
Poland	Basic services from the economy and rural population	4 608
Portugal	Basic services from the economy and rural population	-
Romania	Basic services from the economy and rural population	-
Slovakia	Basic services from the economy and rural population	416 624
Slovenia	Basic services from the economy and rural population	1 610 413
Spain	Basic services from the economy and rural population	1 868 694
Sweden	Basic services from the economy and rural population	236 498
United Kingdom	Basic services from the economy and rural population	319 142

Result Indicator 12

Table A.5.82 Data for Result indicator 12

Member State	Type of operation	Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity - Total
Austria	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	109 060
Belgium	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	78 945
Bulgaria	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	1 039
Cyprus	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-
Czech Republic	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	31 640
Denmark	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	154
Estonia	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-
Finland	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	10 101
France	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	15 487
Germany	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	52 987
Greece	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-
Hungary	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	210

Member State	Type of operation	Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity - Total
Ireland	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	7 146
Italy	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	12 965
Latvia	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-
Lithuania	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-
Luxemburg	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	3 502
Malta	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-
Netherlands	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-
Poland	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-
Portugal	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-
Romania	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-
Slovakia	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	16 348
Slovenia	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	-

Member State	Type of operation	Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity - Total
Spain	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	86 375
Sweden	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	195 203
United Kingdom	Training & information for economic actors operating in the field of axis 3	104 634
Austria	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Belgium	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	3 465
Bulgaria	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	11 597
Cyprus	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	32
Czech Republic	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Denmark	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Estonia	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	6 390
Finland	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and	162

Member State	Type of operation	Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity - Total
	implement a local development strategy	
France	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	135
Germany	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	4 621
Greece	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Hungary	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	8 538
Ireland	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	261
Italy	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	34
Latvia	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Lithuania	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Luxemburg	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	433
Malta	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and	27

Member State	Type of operation	Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity - Total
	implement a local development strategy	
Netherlands	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Poland	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Portugal	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Romania	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Slovakia	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	5 084
Slovenia	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
Spain	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	8 490
Sweden	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	-
United Kingdom	Skills acquisition and animation to prepare and implement a local development strategy	7 149

Output indicators overview tables

Number of training days received

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M111	Vocational training and information actions	25	6 826 136	$\Sigma = 7\,564\,191$
M331	Training and information for economic actors operating in the fields covered by Axis III	12	7 389 055	

Number of Participants in Training

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M111	Vocational training and information actions	26	6 378 034	$\Sigma = 6\,378\,034$

Number of assisted young farmers

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M112	Setting up of young farmers	23	192 003	$\Sigma = 192\,003$

Number of farmers with early retirement

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M113	Early retirement	12	28 398	$\Sigma = 28\,398$

Number of farm workers early retired

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M113	Early retirement	4	231	$\Sigma = 231$

Number of farm workers

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M113	Early retirement	12	493 515	$\Sigma = 493\,515$

Number of farmers supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M114	Use of advisory services	20	178 498	$\Sigma = 178\,498$

Number of forestry holders supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M114	Use of advisory services	10	2 406	$\Sigma = 2\,406$

Number of newly set up services

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M115	Setting up of management, relief and advisory services	7	872	$\Sigma = 872$

Support for agricultural holdings

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M121	Modernisation of agricultural holdings	27	467 324	$\Sigma = 467\,324$

Total volume of investment (‘Million EUR)

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M112	Setting up of young farmers	21	17 429	

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M121	Modernisation of agricultural holdings	27	49 278	
M122	Improvement of the economic value of forests	17	941	
M123	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	26	32 893	
M125	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	21	10 011	
M126	Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention actions	7	2 402	
M311	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	21	5 138	
M313	Business creation and development	23	2 728	
M321	Basic services for the economy and rural population	23	8 025	
M322	Village renewal and development	21	7 828	

M323	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	22	2 732	
				$\Sigma = 139\,405$

Number of forest holdings supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M122	Improvement of the economic value of forests	17	26 322	$\Sigma = 26\,322$

Number of enterprises supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M123	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	26	28 265	$\Sigma = 28\,265$

Number of cooperation initiatives supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M124	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	14	5 112	$\Sigma = 5\,112$

Number of supported operations

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M125	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	21	56 779	$\Sigma = 56\,779$

period 2007-2013

Supported Area of damaged agricultural land total (ha)

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M125	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	12	738 055	$\Sigma = 738\,055$

Number of applications approved

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M131	Meeting standards based on Community legislation	5	37 771	$\Sigma = 618\,620$
M132	Participation of farmers in food quality schemes	15	578 983	
M133	Information and promotion activities	12	1 866	

Number of Beneficiaries

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M131	Meeting standards based on Community legislation	5	29 644	$\Sigma = 29\,644$

Number semi-subsistence farm holdings supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M141	Semi-subsistence farming	4	66 051	$\Sigma = 66\,051$

Number of producer groups supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M142	Producer groups	10	1 766	$\Sigma = 1\,766$

Turnover of supported producer groups ('Million EUR)

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M142	Producer groups	10	10 471	$\Sigma = 10\,471$

Number of holdings

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
211	Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, mountain areas (Article 36 (a) (i) of Reg. (EC) N. 1698/2005)	16	1 049 665	$\Sigma = 3\,092\,424$
212	Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (Article 36 (a) (ii) of Reg. (EC) N. 1698/2005)	25	1 843 831	
213	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD)	13	75 199	
215	Animal welfare payments	11	79 435	

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216	Non-productive investments	15	44 294	
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UAA supported (ha)

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
213	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to	13	1 529 410	

period 2007-2013

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
	Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD)			
222	First establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land	5	2 905	
				$\Sigma = 1532315$

Number of applications approved

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
221	First afforestation of agricultural land	17	42 531	
222	First establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land	5	291	
223	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	10	10 680	
				$\Sigma = 53 502$

Total afforested land (ha)

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
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221	First afforestation of agricultural land	17	203 944	Σ= 288 209
223	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	10	84265	

Number of forest holdings supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
224	Natura 2000 payments	11	14 391	Σ= 145 946

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
227	Non-productive investments	13	131 555	

Forest land supported (ha)

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
224	Natura 2000 payments	11	278 975	Σ= 278 975

Number of actions supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	16	77 359	Σ= 77 359

Supported area of damaged forests (ha)

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	16	10083054	$\Sigma = 10\,083\,054$

Number of hectares supported (ha)

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
211	Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, mountain areas (Article 36 (a) (i) of Reg. (EC) N. 1698/2005)	16	16 052 054	$\Sigma = 52\,888\,496$
212	Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (Article 36 (a) (ii) of Reg. (EC) N. 1698/2005)	25	36 836 442	

Number of livestock units

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
214	Agri-environment payments	27	968 086	$\Sigma = 968\,086$

Number of contracts

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
225	Forest-environment payments	13	443 365	Σ= 4 433 65
215	Animal welfare payments	11	14 3099	
Total area supported (ha)				
Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
214	Agri-environment payments	27	91 029 098	Σ= 91 029 098

Investment volume ('000 EUR)

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
216	Non-productive investments	15	1 190 303	$\Sigma = 2\,849\,965$
227	Non-productive investments	13	1 659 662	

Number of beneficiaries receiving support

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M311	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	21	41 940	$\Sigma = 41\,940$

Number of supported Micro Enterprises

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M312	Business creation and development	21	74 138	$\Sigma = 74\,138$

Number of tourism actions supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M313	Encouragement of tourism activities	23	24 518	$\Sigma = 24\ 518$

Number of actions supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M321	Basic services for the economy and rural population	23	63 215	$\Sigma = 255\ 997$
M323	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	22	96 807	
M341	Skills acquisition, animation and implementation	14	95 975	

Number of villages where actions took place

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M322	Village renewal and development	22	41 577	$\Sigma = 41\ 577$

Number of economic actors supported

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M331	Training and information for economic actors operating in the fields covered by Axis III	13	536 000	$\Sigma = 536\ 000$

Number of participants in action

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M341	Skills acquisition, animation and implementation	14	23 321	$\Sigma = 23\,321$

Number of private public partnerships

Measure Number	Measure name	No. of MS	Total	Grand Total
M341	Skills acquisition, animation and implementation	9	70 495	$\Sigma = 70\,495$

Output indicators raw data

Number of training days received

Measure	Member state	Number of training days received– Total	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (‘Million EUR)
111	Austria	96 291	30,64	61,45
111	Belgium	594 458	14,70	48,96
111	Bulgaria	203 909	7,33	9,16
111	Cyprus	206	0,57	0,80
111	Czech Republic	111 451	8,93	11,91
111	Denmark	1 032	36,94	80,64
111	Estonia	2 081	2,55	3,40
111	Finland	157 768	34,60	76,89

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Measure	Member state	Number of training days received– Total	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
111	France	321 807	145,50	255,81
111	Germany	227 200	16,17	25,42
111	Greece	-	-	-
111	Hungary	2 122 560	53,39	79,04
111	Ireland	54 999	4,20	7,32
111	Italy	677 497	67,08	141,86
111	Latvia	1 715	0,84	1,08
111	Lithuania	348 656	19,95	23,94
111	Luxemburg	-	0,13	0,66
111	Malta	11 454	0,23	0,30
111	Netherlands	47 180	24,00	52,53
111	Poland	26 425	21,25	28,65
111	Portugal	350 680	19,71	23,53
111	Romania	261 591	17,25	19,35
111	Slovakia	103.807	16,51	22,79
111	Slovenia	2 670	1,50	2,00
111	Spain	99 352	43,29	74,03
111	Sweden	667 926	120,45	222,56
111	United Kingdom	333 421	100,92	138,54
331	Austria	23 252	23,55	46,93
331	Belgium	66 387	1,54	5,13
331	Bulgaria	-	-	-
331	Cyprus	-	-	-

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Measure	Member state	Number of training days received– Total	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
331	Czech Republic	24 213	1,77	2,35
331	Denmark	441	2,53	3,22
331	Estonia	-	-	-
331	Finland	51 861	13,83	30,74
331	France	160 991	3,67	6,94
331	Germany	58 570	6,64	11,50
331	Greece	-	-	-
331	Hungary	-	-	-
331	Ireland	-	-	-
331	Italy	157 845	9,79	17,93
331	Latvia	-	-	-
331	Lithuania	-	-	-
331	Luxemburg	-	0,05	0,12
331	Malta	-	-	-
331	Netherlands	-	-	-
331	Poland	-	-	-
331	Portugal	-	-	-
331	Romania	-	-	-
331	Slovakia	17 337	8,33	11,17
331	Slovenia	-	-	-
331	Spain	1 037	0,78	1,04
331	Sweden	128 747	15,76	38,63
331	United Kingdom	47 374	4,71	7,23

Output Indicator: Number of participants in training				
Code	Member state	Number of Participants in Training – Total	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
111	Austria	423 101	30,64	61,45
111	Belgium	1 448 091	14,70	48,96
111	Bulgaria	40 062	7,33	9,16
111	Cyprus	316	0,57	0,80
111	Czech Republic	133 885	8,93	11,91
111	Denmark	26 190	36,94	80,64
111	Estonia	43 086	2,55	3,40
111	Finland	41 975	34,60	76,89
111	France	1 045 272	145,50	255,81
111	Germany	96 882	16,17	25,42
111	Greece		-	-
111	Hungary	234 244	53,39	79,04
111	Ireland	30 234	4,20	7,32
111	Italy	153 162	67,08	141,86
111	Latvia	8 576	0,84	1,08
111	Lithuania	148 381	19,95	23,94
111	Luxemburg	10 140	0,13	0,66
111	Malta	21 203	0,23	0,30
111	Netherlands	172 359	24,00	52,53
111	Poland	332 367	21,25	28,65
111	Portugal	80 347	19,71	23,53
111	Romania	48 321	17,25	19,35
111	Slovakia	48 705	16,51	22,79

Output Indicator: Number of participants in training				
Code	Member state	Number of Participants in Training – Total	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
111	Slovenia	10 412	1,50	2,00
111	Spain	345 593	43,29	74,03
111	Sweden	1 010 703	120,45	222,56
111	United Kingdom	424 427	100,92	138,54

Output Indicator: Number of assisted young farmers				
Code	Member state	Number of assisted young farmers - Total	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
112	Austria	9 375	55,40	112,61
112	Belgium	1 946	19,42	64,74
112	Bulgaria	5 808	92,41	115,51
112	Cyprus	320	4,50	8,13
112	Czech Republic	1 364	41,30	54,90
112	Denmark	-	-	-
112	Estonia	846	24,25	32,34
112	Finland	3 534	41,42	92,17
112	France	34 629	464,73	963,50
112	Germany	325	2,25	4,51
112	Greece	19 128	227,04	265,02
112	Hungary	8 411	191,58	264,54
112	Ireland	862	6,51	12,92

Output Indicator: Number of assisted young farmers				
Code	Member state	Number of assisted young farmers - Total	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
112	Italy	21 114	327,61	686,87
112	Latvia	407	11,17	14,76
112	Lithuania	2 668	77,65	103,53
112	Luxemburg	272	1,44	7,22
112	Malta	-	-	-
112	Netherlands	-	-	-
112	Poland	38 857	570,57	760,76
112	Portugal	8 597	226,81	278,77
112	Romania	12 770	260,50	298,66
112	Slovakia	-	-	-
112	Slovenia	2 651	41,52	55,36
112	Spain	16 272	260,83	495,38
112	Sweden	1 796	19,89	39,89
112	United Kingdom	51	0,88	1,37

Output Indicator: Number of Farmers with early retirement				
Code	Member state	Number of Farmers	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
113	Austria	-	-	-
113	Belgium	-	-	-
113	Bulgaria	-	-	-

Output Indicator: Number of Farmers with early retirement				
113	Cyprus	181	3,45	5,93
113	Czech Republic	642	17,18	22,91
113	Denmark	-	-	-
113	Estonia	-	-	-
113	Finland	-	-	-
113	France	108	2,19	3,32
113	Germany	-	-	-
113	Greece	17	0,30	0,31
113	Hungary	119	1,35	1,84
113	Ireland	600	33,44	49,10
113	Italy	684	17,50	35,64
113	Latvia	-	-	-
113	Lithuania	2 388	18,11	24,14
113	Luxemburg	-	-	-
113	Malta	-	-	-
113	Netherlands	-	-	-
113	Poland	19 947	309,78	413,04
113	Portugal	197	4,42	5,20
113	Romania	-	-	-
113	Slovakia	-	-	-
113	Slovenia	196	4,92	6,56
113	Spain	3 319	91,58	170,27
113	Sweden	-	-	-
113	United Kingdom	-	-	-

Output Indicator: Number of farm workers early retired				
Code	Member state	Number of farm workers	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
113	Austria	-	-	-
113	Belgium	-	-	-
113	Bulgaria	-	-	-
113	Cyprus	-	-	-
113	Czech Republic	-	-	-
113	Denmark	-	-	-
113	Estonia	-	-	-
113	Finland	-	-	-
113	France	-	-	-
113	Germany	-	-	-
113	Greece	-	-	-
113	Hungary	14	0,08	0,11
113	Ireland	-	-	-
113	Italy	21	0,21	0,44
113	Latvia	-	-	-
113	Lithuania	1	0,01	0,01
113	Luxemburg	-	-	-
113	Malta	-	-	-
113	Netherlands	-	-	-
113	Poland	-	-	-
113	Portugal	-	-	-
113	Romania	-	-	-
113	Slovakia	-	-	-

Output Indicator: Number of farm workers early retired				
Code	Member state	Number of farm workers	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
113	Slovenia	-	-	-
113	Spain	195	2,04	3,81
113	Sweden	-	-	-
113	United Kingdom	-	-	-

Number of farm workers (Measure 113)

Member state	Number of farm workers	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Austria	-	-	-
Belgium	-	-	-
Bulgaria	-	-	-
Cyprus	1 060	3,45	5,93
Czech Republic	30 957	17,18	22,91
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	-	-	-
Finland	-	-	-
France	685	2,19	3,32
Germany	-	-	-
Greece	30	0,30	0,31
Hungary	4 121	1,43	1,96
Ireland	19 808	33,44	49,10
Italy	12 763	17,71	36,07

Member state	Number of farm workers	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Latvia	-	-	-
Lithuania	31 984	18,11	24,15
Luxemburg	-	-	-
Malta	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-
Poland	239 112	309,78	413,04
Portugal	2 262	4,42	5,20
Romania	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	2 427	4,92	6,56
Spain	148 306	93,62	174,08
Sweden	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	-

Number of farmers supported (Measure 114)

Member state	Number of farmers supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Austria	-	-	-
Belgium	3 759	1,77	5,90
Bulgaria	38	0,03	0,04
Cyprus	80	0,03	0,05
Czech Republic	4 352	8,69	11,59
Denmark	-	0,00	-
Estonia	2 619	3,02	4,02

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Member state	Number of farmers supported	EAFRD (‘Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (‘Million EUR)
Finland	-	-	-
France	862	0,52	0,86
Germany	8 864	5,20	10,59
Greece	2 142	1,42	1,92
Hungary	14 686	11,26	15,25
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	32 116	27,50	61,21
Latvia	36	0,01	0,01
Lithuania	3 530	2,67	3,56
Luxemburg	2	0,00	0,00
Malta	238	0,11	0,15
Netherlands	1 992	0,52	2,72
Poland	43 826	25,22	33,62
Portugal	2 038	1,15	1,35
Romania	-	-	-
Slovakia	546	0,68	0,92
Slovenia	-	-	-
Spain	55 059	36,89	65,87
Sweden	-	-	-
United Kingdom	1 713	1,08	1,64

Number of forestry holders (Measure 114)

Member state	Number of forestry holders supported	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Austria	-	-	-
Belgium	-	-	-
Bulgaria	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	0,03	0,05
Czech Republic	586	0,93	1,25
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	80	0,08	0,11
Finland	-	-	-
France	-	0,52	0,86
Germany	9	0,01	0,01
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	974	0,39	0,52
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	393	13,64	29,87
Latvia	-	-	-
Lithuania	132	0,05	0,06
Luxemburg	-	-	-
Malta	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-
Poland	4	0,00	0,00
Portugal	-	1,15	1,35
Romania	-	-	-
Slovakia	25	0,03	0,04
Slovenia	-	-	-

Member state	Number of newly set up services	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Malta	1	69,40	92,54
Netherlands	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	-
Portugal	312	15,48	18,98
Romania	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	-	-
Spain	453	11,42	20,89
Sweden	-	-	-
United Kingdom	42	0,42	0,79

Support for agricultural holdings (Measure 121)

Member state	Support for agricultural holdings	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (`Million EUR)
Austria	40 957	257,53	515,73
Belgium	17 599	57,06	175,33
Bulgaria	4 560	444,89	555,74
Cyprus	1 840	23,68	45,39
Czech Republic	4 769	275,02	366,63
Denmark	2 076	57,49	81,04
Estonia	3 138	141,68	188,90
Finland	2 275	90,23	200,77
France	74 307	572,19	1181,05
Germany	23 768	946,39	2043,90

Member state	Support for agricultural holdings	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (`Million EUR)
Greece	6 547	184,58	210,08
Hungary	20 358	980,79	1333,34
Ireland	13 568	87,39	131,75
Italy	48 357	1444,51	2979,65
Latvia	7 625	251,76	334,98
Lithuania	10 112	340,69	453,46
Luxemburg	3 201	18,43	92,13
Malta	363	16,92	22,56
Netherlands	5 855	66,11	196,58
Poland	73 016	1848,11	2449,09
Portugal	15 815	563,27	681,31
Romania	2 835	561,33	650,43
Slovakia	2 199	367,73	496,14
Slovenia	3 181	94,34	125,79
Spain	50 279	551,88	1073,33
Sweden	7 259	155,12	300,67
United Kingdom	21 465	99,76	182,66

Total volume of investment (multiple measures)

Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
112	Austria	-	55,40	112,61
112	Belgium	372,06	19,42	64,74

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Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
112	Bulgaria	184,72	92,41	115,51
112	Cyprus	24,66	4,50	8,13
112	Czech Republic	94,99	41,30	54,90
112	Denmark	-	-	-
112	Estonia	37,16	24,25	32,34
112	Finland	565,51	41,42	92,17
112	France	11035,94	464,73	963,50
112	Germany	24,90	2,25	4,51
112	Greece	333,66	227,04	265,02
112	Hungary	292,83	191,58	264,54
112	Ireland	12,92	6,51	12,92
112	Italy	1005,06	327,61	686,87
112	Latvia	18,53	11,17	14,76
112	Lithuania	103,53	77,65	103,53
112	Luxemburg	-	1,44	7,22
112	Malta	-	-	-
112	Netherlands	-	-	-
112	Poland	827,37	570,57	760,76
112	Portugal	1060,98	226,81	278,77
112	Romania	129,68	260,50	298,66
112	Slovakia	-	-	-
112	Slovenia	55,61	41,52	55,36
112	Spain	748,85	260,83	495,38
112	Sweden	497,91	19,89	39,89

Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
112	United Kingdom	1,75	0,88	1,37
121	Austria	2217,94	257,53	515,73
121	Belgium	2265,88	57,06	175,33
121	Bulgaria	1104,77	444,89	555,74
121	Cyprus	116,87	23,68	45,39
121	Czech Republic	1178,63	275,02	366,63
121	Denmark	212,53	57,49	81,04
121	Estonia	416,44	141,68	188,90
121	Finland	684,31	90,23	200,77
121	France	4014,60	572,19	1181,05
121	Germany	8225,03	946,39	2043,90
121	Greece	951,84	184,58	210,08
121	Hungary	1367,65	980,79	1333,34
121	Ireland	329,36	87,39	131,75
121	Italy	7284,51	1444,51	2979,65
121	Latvia	757,35	251,76	334,98
121	Lithuania	946,25	340,69	453,46
121	Luxemburg	245,40	18,43	92,13
121	Malta	51,64	16,92	22,56
121	Netherlands	668,43	66,11	196,58
121	Poland	6069,56	1848,11	2449,09
121	Portugal	2145,89	563,27	681,31
121	Romania	1878,10	561,33	650,43

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Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
121	Slovakia	1059,86	367,73	496,14
121	Slovenia	373,48	94,34	125,79
121	Spain	2587,92	551,88	1073,33
121	Sweden	1615,93	155,12	300,67
121	United Kingdom	508,26	99,76	182,66
122	Austria	59,17	12,80	24,59
122	Belgium	-	-	-
122	Bulgaria	1,03	0,43	0,53
122	Cyprus	-	-	-
122	Czech Republic	79,61	20,20	26,91
122	Denmark	-	-	-
122	Estonia	26,95	8,76	11,68
122	Finland	-	-	-
122	France	34,74	11,02	20,13
122	Germany	1,60	0,55	0,73
122	Greece	-	-	-
122	Hungary	15,80	12,03	16,41
122	Ireland	-	-	-
122	Italy	215,86	50,79	107,31
122	Latvia	26,66	11,32	15,12
122	Lithuania	27,25	11,27	15,03
122	Luxemburg	0,02	0,00	0,02
122	Malta	-	-	-

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Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
122	Netherlands	-	-	-
122	Poland	-	-	-
122	Portugal	176,33	63,55	76,31
122	Romania	4,47	1,73	1,88
122	Slovakia	71,82	26,83	35,88
122	Slovenia	50,17	17,34	23,12
122	Spain	137,37	29,03	49,30
122	Sweden	-	-	-
122	United Kingdom	11,76	3,33	5,59
123	Austria	662,34	65,86	129,56
123	Belgium	241,46	8,97	25,94
123	Bulgaria	434,88	168,83	210,85
123	Cyprus	35,03	7,79	14,24
123	Czech Republic	330,39	86,25	114,94
123	Denmark	46,39	8,13	16,26
123	Estonia	97,23	34,71	46,28
123	Finland	211,81	19,86	44,42
123	France	1925,48	257,56	496,60
123	Germany	1674,30	157,43	329,45
123	Greece	180,91	74,33	80,06
123	Hungary	226,41	158,65	223,89
123	Ireland	1,17	0,38	0,45
123	Italy	6025,05	516,42	1071,80

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Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
123	Latvia	143,11	50,60	66,73
123	Lithuania	363,34	91,75	119,39
123	Luxemburg	53,31	3,69	18,44
123	Malta	7503,56	2,67	3,55
123	Netherlands	0,00	-	-
123	Poland	2606,11	618,76	825,02
123	Portugal	1430,97	323,03	396,45
123	Romania	1681,33	439,02	503,41
123	Slovakia	431,03	153,49	207,80
123	Slovenia	277,90	61,85	82,46
123	Spain	5457,10	689,69	1328,72
123	Sweden	215,29	20,44	40,96
123	United Kingdom	637,45	150,25	234,99
125	Austria	99,61	21,66	43,85
125	Belgium	0,00	0,00	0,00
125	Bulgaria	0,00	0,00	0,00
125	Cyprus	1,17	0,58	1,16
125	Czech Republic	262,01	148,00	197,34
125	Denmark	0,00	0,00	0,00
125	Estonia	55,66	35,60	47,47
125	Finland	0,00	0,00	0,00
125	France	539,78	210,47	378,63
125	Germany	2450,49	647,01	1831,75

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Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
125	Greece	804,65	332,84	390,00
125	Hungary	74,19	54,05	73,43
125	Ireland	0,00	0,00	0,00
125	Italy	890,75	391,68	750,56
125	Latvia	60,62	38,63	52,08
125	Lithuania	372,75	80,51	107,34
125	Luxemburg	0,00	0,00	0,00
125	Malta	16,04	10,82	14,43
125	Netherlands	112,66	50,70	101,99
125	Poland	649,04	394,13	521,60
125	Portugal	598,97	415,47	507,40
125	Romania	916,32	482,74	525,29
125	Slovakia	79,32	58,82	79,32
125	Slovenia	26,96	12,47	16,63
125	Spain	1782,07	734,04	1303,85
125	Sweden	10,98	1,87	3,75
125	United Kingdom	207,32	68,60	75,92
126	Austria	-	-	-
126	Belgium	-	-	-
126	Bulgaria	-	-	-
126	Cyprus	-	-	-
126	Czech Republic	-	-	-
126	Denmark	-	-	-

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Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
126	Estonia	-	-	-
126	Finland	-	-	-
126	France	3,98	-	-
126	Germany	1799,57	-	-
126	Greece	-	-	-
126	Hungary	-	-	-
126	Ireland	-	-	-
126	Italy	210,18	-	-
126	Latvia	-	-	-
126	Lithuania	-	-	-
126	Luxemburg	-	-	-
126	Malta	-	-	-
126	Netherlands	-	-	-
126	Poland	273,58	-	-
126	Portugal	96,67	-	-
126	Romania	-	-	-
126	Slovakia	-	-	-
126	Slovenia	-	-	-
126	Spain	10,65	-	-
126	Sweden	-	-	-
126	United Kingdom	6,87	-	-
311	Austria	90,33	14,40	25,76
311	Belgium	185,39	16,12	32,63
311	Bulgaria	112,67	58,94	73,49

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Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
311	Cyprus	-	-	-
311	Czech Republic	493,41	105,01	140,01
311	Denmark	3,47	2,06	4,05
311	Estonia	27,15	9,62	12,83
311	Finland	104,25	14,37	31,91
311	France	180,35	30,48	61,12
311	Germany	574,19	47,72	95,88
311	Greece	18,49	3,57	3,79
311	Hungary	29,59	19,97	26,83
311	Ireland	-	-	-
311	Italy	1611,00	291,85	564,87
311	Latvia	-	-	-
311	Lithuania	48,17	23,98	31,97
311	Luxemburg	3,30	0,35	0,99
311	Malta	-	-	-
311	Netherlands	53,51	9,69	18,57
311	Poland	931,18	247,88	330,51
311	Portugal	-	-	-
311	Romania	-	-	-
311	Slovakia	184,28	68,71	91,71
311	Slovenia	68,61	21,34	28,45
311	Spain	45,57	7,77	16,12
311	Sweden	176,81	27,22	54,01

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Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
311	United Kingdom	196,25	49,09	79,57
313	Austria	52,54	19,64	39,16
313	Belgium	19,32	4,85	11,55
313	Bulgaria	27,57	18,59	23,23
313	Cyprus	0,50	0,17	0,21
313	Czech Republic	151,90	46,20	61,60
313	Denmark	-	-	-
313	Estonia	62,70	22,92	30,55
313	Finland	29,93	12,59	27,98
313	France	377,24	72,23	162,90
313	Germany	313,88	162,38	238,93
313	Greece	137,95	32,99	35,02
313	Hungary	129,97	79,67	107,88
313	Ireland	-	-	-
313	Italy	189,81	60,01	117,27
313	Latvia	18,78	6,17	8,24
313	Lithuania	68,28	30,63	40,84
313	Luxemburg	1,20	0,14	0,36
313	Malta	15,42	11,05	14,73
313	Netherlands	130,16	61,82	124,62
313	Poland	219,09	106,23	170,91
313	Portugal	-	-	-
313	Romania	358,98	121,54	135,87

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Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
313	Slovakia	55,81	21,40	28,54
313	Slovenia	-	-	-
313	Spain	43,28	15,82	26,92
313	Sweden	164,07	27,39	66,11
313	United Kingdom	160,09	67,22	117,47
321	Austria	399,42	92,28	185,81
321	Belgium	10,88	1,85	5,42
321	Bulgaria	873,12	600,85	749,25
321	Cyprus	15,65	8,65	11,52
321	Czech Republic	72,44	36,97	49,25
321	Denmark	23,25	22,59	27,35
321	Estonia	0,30	0,18	0,25
321	Finland	146,17	53,13	104,85
321	France	1017,85	192,30	516,92
321	Germany	1370,90	606,70	987,02
321	Greece	136,21	56,79	68,84
321	Hungary	205,17	104,60	141,09
321	Ireland	-	-	-
321	Italy	418,81	182,47	339,62
321	Latvia	103,30	66,98	89,12
321	Lithuania	-	-	-
321	Luxemburg	10,35	1,83	4,58
321	Malta	-	-	-

Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
321	Netherlands	47,65	18,41	39,33
321	Poland	2379,11	1220,11	1848,49
321	Portugal	48,77	29,89	33,34
321	Romania	-	-	-
321	Slovakia	93,38	70,03	93,38
321	Slovenia	3,96	2,98	3,31
321	Spain	254,76	108,88	185,17
321	Sweden	299,56	73,27	176,13
321	United Kingdom	94,45	40,81	63,10
322	Austria	8,08	1,14	2,35
322	Belgium	21,59	3,07	10,22
322	Bulgaria	247,27	162,35	202,93
322	Cyprus	3,81	1,16	1,67
322	Czech Republic	269,78	145,90	194,51
322	Denmark	-	-	-
322	Estonia	53,65	34,13	45,50
322	Finland	32,96	11,19	24,86
322	France	0,00	0,00	0,00
322	Germany	3306,44	718,70	1975,60
322	Greece	77,69	36,50	41,86
322	Hungary	101,84	71,28	96,76
322	Ireland	-	-	-
322	Italy	207,07	89,81	164,60

Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
322	Latvia	-	-	-
322	Lithuania	128,37	49,01	64,17
322	Luxemburg	8,86	1,33	3,32
322	Malta	-	-	-
322	Netherlands	21,43	10,12	20,96
322	Poland	557,98	279,11	421,36
322	Portugal	-	-	-
322	Romania	2420,36	1248,53	1498,50
322	Slovakia	108,51	81,38	108,51
322	Slovenia	86,19	25,24	33,65
322	Spain	120,08	51,97	104,33
322	Sweden	22,57	5,99	14,34
322	United Kingdom	23,93	8,05	14,84
323	Austria	181,57	77,40	154,65
323	Belgium	16,21	2,94	9,24
323	Bulgaria	-	-	-
323	Cyprus	3,97	2,10	3,00
323	Czech Republic	67,59	41,00	54,67
323	Denmark	12,24	2,65	4,14
323	Estonia	0,17	0,09	0,12
323	Finland	18,83	7,95	17,68
323	France	466,57	161,18	347,31
323	Germany	1192,16	507,03	1027,75

Measure	Member state	Total volume of investment (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
323	Greece	4,64	2,75	3,33
323	Hungary	74,14	53,71	73,10
323	Ireland	-	-	-
323	Italy	205,27	64,09	120,34
323	Latvia	3,61	2,67	3,56
323	Lithuania	-	-	-
323	Luxemburg	2,59	0,41	1,03
323	Malta	19,58	9,75	12,99
323	Netherlands	91,88	44,15	85,98
323	Poland	71,58	46,58	67,52
323	Portugal	8,41	6,75	7,48
323	Romania	-	-	-
323	Slovakia	-	-	-
323	Slovenia	16,39	6,20	8,26
323	Spain	157,60	83,05	131,01
323	Sweden	18,32	5,48	13,22
323	United Kingdom	98,39	54,65	64,51

Number of forest holdings supported (Measure 112)

Member state	Number of forest holdings supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (`Million EUR)
Austria	4 291	12,80	24,59
Belgium	-	-	-

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Member state	Number of forest holdings supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (`Million EUR)
Bulgaria	6	0,43	0,53
Cyprus	-	-	-
Czech Republic	1 431	20,20	26,91
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	2 183	8,76	11,68
Finland	-	-	-
France	1 384	11,02	20,13
Germany	48	0,55	0,73
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	706	12,03	16,41
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	3 496	50,79	107,31
Latvia	6 074	11,32	15,12
Lithuania	254	11,27	15,03
Luxemburg	1	0,00	0,02
Malta	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	-
Portugal	1 560	63,55	76,31
Romania	16	1,73	1,88
Slovakia	331	26,83	35,88
Slovenia	1 085	17,34	23,12
Spain	3 135	29,03	49,30
Sweden	-	-	-
United Kingdom	321	3,33	5,59

Number of enterprises supported (Measure 123)

Member state	Number of enterprises supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (`Million EUR)
Austria	994	-	-
Belgium	265	-	-
Bulgaria	455	-	-
Cyprus	193	-	-
Czech Republic	780	-	-
Denmark	136	-	-
Estonia	213	-	-
Finland	550	-	-
France	2 861	-	-
Germany	831	-	-
Greece	476	-	-
Hungary	521	-	-
Ireland	22	-	-
Italy	2 735	-	-
Latvia	165	-	-
Lithuania	207	-	-
Luxemburg	22	-	-
Malta	43	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-
Poland	1 199	-	-
Portugal	913	-	-
Romania	935	-	-
Slovakia	357	-	-

Member state	Number of enterprises supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (`Million EUR)
Slovenia	411	-	-
Spain	6 456	-	-
Sweden	971	-	-
United Kingdom	5 554	-	-

Number of cooperation initiatives supported (Measure 124)

Member state	Number of cooperation initiatives supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Austria	390	7,13	13,50
Belgium	-	-	-
Bulgaria	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-
Czech Republic	68	30,35	41,71
Denmark	172	25,60	31,89
Estonia	26	3,39	4,52
Finland	2.292	25,28	56,17
France	92	3,32	5,07
Germany	34	2,17	2,93
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	-
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	986	77,41	156,89
Latvia	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-

Member state	Number of supported operations	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
Germany	22 086	647,0	1 831,7
Greece	146	332,8	390,0
Hungary	295	54,1	73,4
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	3 271	391,7	750,6
Latvia	841	38,6	52,1
Lithuania	385	80,5	107,3
Luxembourg	-	-	-
Malta	34	10,8	14,4
Netherlands	259	50,7	102,0
Poland	743	394,1	521,6
Portugal	505	415,5	507,4
Romania	679	482,7	525,3
Slovakia	320	58,8	79,3
Slovenia	71	12,5	16,6
Spain	8 774	734,0	1 303,8
Sweden	603	1,9	3,7
United Kingdom	5 871	68,6	75,9
Poland	104 859	-	-
Supported area of damaged agricultural land (ha)			
Portugal	11 784	-	-
Member state	Supported Area of damaged agricultural land total (ha)	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Austria	-	-	-

Member state	Supported Area of damaged agricultural land total (ha)	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Sweden	-	-	-
United Kingdom	14 126	-	-

Number of applications approved (multiple measures)

Measure	Member state	Number of applications approved	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
131	Austria	-	-	-
131	Belgium	-	-	-
131	Bulgaria	-	-	-
131	Cyprus	-	-	-
131	Czech Republic	-	-	-
131	Denmark	-	-	-
131	Estonia	-	-	-
131	Finland	-	-	-
131	France	187	10,20	20,03
131	Germany	-	-	-
131	Greece	-	-	-
131	Hungary	15 027	1,19	1,65
131	Ireland	-	-	-
131	Italy	10 427	6,95	15,79
131	Latvia	-	-	-
131	Lithuania	-	-	-
131	Luxemburg	-	-	-
131	Malta	-	-	-

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131	Netherlands	-	-	-
131	Poland	-	-	-
131	Portugal	11 278	0,33	0,41
131	Romania	-	-	-
131	Slovakia	-	-	-
131	Slovenia	-	-	-
131	Spain	852	0,41	0,64
131	Sweden	-	-	-
131	United Kingdom	-	-	-
132	Austria	212 954	16,03	32,14
132	Belgium	1 330	0,19	0,64
132	Bulgaria	-	-	-
132	Cyprus	516	0,54	1,08
132	Czech Republic	-	-	-
132	Denmark	-	-	-
132	Estonia	-	-	-
132	Finland	-	-	-
132	France	9 981	4,31	8,66
132	Germany	32	0,01	0,04
132	Greece	825	2,20	2,33
132	Hungary	-	-	-
132	Ireland	-	-	-
132	Italy	40 276	11,26	25,51
132	Latvia	-	-	-
132	Lithuania	220	0,59	0,79
132	Luxemburg	-	-	-
132	Malta	4	0,00	0,00
132	Netherlands	1 878	0,46	1,43

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Measure	Member state	Number of applications approved	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
132	Poland	59 534	9,20	12,27
132	Portugal	17 457	10,25	13,82
132	Romania	-	-	-
132	Slovakia	-	-	-
132	Slovenia	1 250	0,42	0,56
132	Spain	219 431	32,08	49,57
132	Sweden	-	-	-
132	United Kingdom	13 295	1,69	2,78
133	Austria	142	11,86	23,53
133	Belgium	23	0,02	0,06
133	Bulgaria	-	-	-
133	Cyprus	7	0,18	0,36
133	Czech Republic	-	-	-
133	Denmark	76	6,47	12,78
133	Estonia	1	0,01	0,02
133	Finland	-	-	-
133	France	716	19,00	39,28
133	Germany	-	-	-
133	Greece	1	0,02	0,02
133	Hungary	-	-	-
133	Ireland	-	-	-
133	Italy	786	50,44	110,35
133	Latvia	-	-	-

Measure	Member state	Number of applications approved	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
133	Lithuania	-	-	-
133	Luxemburg	-	-	-
133	Malta	-	-	-
133	Netherlands	-	-	-
133	Poland	33	3,12	4,16
133	Portugal	11	1,83	2,27
133	Romania	-	-	-
133	Slovakia	-	-	-
133	Slovenia	70	7,41	9,88
133	Spain	1 382	28,35	56,63
133	Sweden	-	-	-
133	United Kingdom	-	-	-

Number of beneficiaries (Measure 131)

Member state	Number of Beneficiaries	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Austria	-	-	-
Belgium	-	-	-
Bulgaria	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-
Czech Republic	-	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	-	-	-

Member state	Number of Beneficiaries	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Finland	-	-	-
France	1 306	10,20	20,03
Germany	-	-	-
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	5 560	1,19	1,65
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	7 088	6,95	15,79
Latvia	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-
Luxemburg	-	-	-
Malta	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	-
Portugal	9 416	0,33	0,41
Romania	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	-	-
Spain	6 274	0,41	0,64
Sweden	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	-

Number of semi-subsistence farm holdings supported (Measure 141)

Member state	Number semi-subsistence farm holdings supported	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Austria	-	-	-
Belgium	-	-	-
Bulgaria	8 635	35,86	44,82
Cyprus	-	-	-
Czech Republic	-	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	-	-	-
Finland	-	-	-
France	-	-	-
Germany	-	-	-
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	-
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	-	-	-
Latvia	1 462	7,63	9,97
Lithuania	3 186	12,95	17,27
Luxemburg	-	-	-
Malta	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	-
Portugal	-	-	-
Romania	52 768	297,82	333,41
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	-	-

Member state	Number semi-subsistence farm holdings supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Spain	-	-	-
Sweden	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	-

Number of producer groups supported (Measure 142)

Member state	Number of producer groups supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Malta	1	0,18	0,24
Netherlands	-	-	-
Poland	1 389	136,05	181,86
Portugal	-	-	-

Member state	Turnover of supported producer groups (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Austria	-	-	-
Belgium	-	-	-
Bulgaria	19,64	0,10	0,12
Cyprus	35,72	0,51	1,03
Czech Republic	-	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	795,96	2,91	3,88
Finland	-	-	-
France	-	-	-

Member state	Turnover of supported producer groups (`Million EUR)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Germany	-	-	-
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	2 870,92	39,71	53,55
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	-	-	-
Latvia	18,72	0,73	0,98
Lithuania	-	-	-
Luxemburg	-	-	-
Malta	2,31	0,18	0,24
Netherlands	-	-	-
Poland	6 531,87	136,05	181,86
Portugal	-	-	-
Romania	103,96	4,95	5,41
Slovakia	79,21	12,70	16,93
Slovenia	12,46	0,48	0,64
Spain	-	-	-
Sweden	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	-

Number of beneficiaries receiving support

Member state	Number of beneficiaries receiving support	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Austria	768	14,40	25,76

Member state	Number of beneficiaries receiving support	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Belgium	2 475	16,12	32,63
Bulgaria	450	58,94	73,49
Cyprus	-	-	-
Czech Republic	374	105,01	140,01
Denmark	44	2,06	4,05
Estonia	213	9,62	12,83
Finland	1 066	14,37	31,91
France	2 161	30,48	61,12
Germany	2 210	47,72	95,88
Greece	53	3,57	3,79
Hungary	326	19,97	26,83
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	6 379	291,85	564,87
Latvia	-	-	-
Lithuania	238	23,98	31,97
Luxemburg	17	0,35	0,99
Malta	-	-	-
Netherlands	372	9,69	18,57
Poland	15 343	247,88	330,51
Portugal	-	-	-
Romania	-	-	-
Slovakia	192	68,71	91,71
Slovenia	301	21,34	28,45
Spain	371	7,77	16,12
Sweden	988	27,22	54,01

Member state	Number of beneficiaries receiving support	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
United Kingdom	7 599	49,09	79,57

Number of holdings supported

Measure Number	Member state	Number of holdings supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR) ¹⁷⁸	Total public expenditure received (`Million EUR)
211	Austria	72891	818105.00	1650117.00
211	Bulgaria	53802	134763.00	164345.00
211	Cyprus	4500	4107.26	7146.08
211	Czech Republic	5956	355805.36	444756.70
211	Finland	31304	442848.00	1581605.00
211	France	69335	1636623.39	2738811.84
211	Germany	14872	126606.16	258057.36
211	Greece	56246	716175.00	912235.00
211	Italy	91770	589440.19	1161501.91
211	Poland	38803	68957.55	87887.15
211	Portugal	138247	574782.12	678857.37
211	Romania	360993	649538.09	770594.16
211	Slovakia	3458	311634.00	389543.00
211	Slovenia	37685.00	217573.07	271966.33
211	Spain	37685	304273.02	524968.46

¹⁷⁸ In the annual implementation provided by the member states, no expenditures were provided for M212

Measure- Number	Member- state	Number-of- holdings supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR) ¹⁷⁸	Total-public- expenditure received (`Million EUR)
211	Sweden	61989	123710.00	282504.00
212	Austria	25756		
212	Belgium	5773		
212	Bulgaria	23136		
212	Cyprus	13000		
212	Czech Republic	9435		
212	Estonia	13005		
212	Finland	22230		
212	France	71847		
212	Germany	134320		
212	Greece	33584		
212	Hungary	16431		
212	Italy	33916		
212	Latvia	67052		
212	Lithuania	109501		
212	Luxemburg	1551		
212	Malta	5823		
212	Netherlands	12408		
212	Poland	886421		
212	Portugal	34665		

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Measure- Number	Member- state	Number-of- holdings supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)- ¹⁷⁸	Total-public- expenditure received (`Million EUR)
212	United Kingdom	46775		
213	Austria	53.00	255.00	468.00
213	Belgium	4862.00	3605.12	10754.62
213	Bulgaria	10217.00	40731.00	49671.00
213	Czech Republic	362.00	2749.63	3437.04
213	Estonia	2344.00	3982.48	4978.10
213	Germany	14838.00	72862.18	122653.06
213	Hungary	13291.00	36828.69	48050.70
213	Ireland	10924.00	58001.09	100666.63
213	Italy	3412.00	21684.22	34883.78
213	Latvia	10040.00	14110.69	17649.85
213	Lithuania	3227.00	2118.10	2647.63
213	Slovakia	21.00	14110.69	17649.85
213	Spain	1608.00	3960.66	5543.27
215	Austria	35566	98897.00	198249.00
215	Estonia	2970	19994.35	24992.95
215	Finland	8333	41924.00	149705.00
215	Germany	13657	52533.96	122852.10
215	Hungary	586	62442.94	72740.43
215	Italy	13491	98800.54	212616.40
215	Romania	898	434615.07	457489.55
215	Slovakia	406	30880.00	39058.00
215	Spain	1462	31054.77	65559.53
215	Sweden	532	12502.00	27609.00

Measure- Number	Member- state	Number-of- holdings supported	EAFRD (‘Million EUR). ¹⁷⁸	Total-public- expenditure received (‘Million EUR)
215	United Kingdom	1534	6951.28	16252.34
216	Belgium	237	275.87	551.75
216	Denmark	2286	35809	53225
216	Estonia	508	2418.4	3023
216	Finland	216	955	3412
216	France	3591	11989	24288
216	Germany	2376	11055.14	18475.49
216	Greece	80	31.99	39.69
216	Hungary	707	4796.07	6062.73
216	Italy	7913	171673.47	297949.91
216	Lithuania	1166	7878.34	9847.93
216	Netherlands	422	24915	41974
216	Portugal	2041	40058.55	46628.11
216	Spain	3677	17425.8	26662.79
216	Sweden	4158	38298	76802

UAA supported (ha)

Measure Number	Member state	UAA supported (Ha)	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
213	Austria	814.00	255.00	468.00
213	Belgium	36386.81	3605.12	10754.62
213	Bulgaria	333884.00	40731.00	49671.00
213	Czech Republic	4366.71	2749.63	3437.04
213	Estonia	35092.38	3982.48	4978.10
213	Germany	155625.82	72862.18	122653.06
213	Hungary	381234.64	36828.69	48050.70
213	Ireland	285473.00	58001.09	100666.63
213	Italy	131358.34	21684.22	34883.78
213	Latvia	69385.00	14110.69	17649.85
213	Lithuania	19052.00	2118.10	2647.63
213	Slovakia	352.26	115.00	157.00
213	Spain	76384.58	3960.66	5543.27
222	Belgium	38.21	37.64	75.28
222	France	1113.50	329.00	624.00
222	Hungary	1482.42	961.55	1211.24
222	Italy	24.00	21.00	28.00
222	Portugal	246.58	138.82	162.79

Number of applications approved

Measure Number	Member state	Number of applications approved	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
221	Austria	46	250.00	351.00
221	Belgium	220	285.35	589.48
221	Cyprus	15	116.85	180.46
221	Czech Republic	1495	11636.82	14545.02
221	Denmark	814	9728.00	17698.00
221	France	138	1049.00	1852.00
221	Germany	5579	4050.10	14048.15
221	Hungary	3714	48598.84	62196.47
221	Italy	4248	29815.52	59077.88
221	Lithuania	1650	26698.95	33373.69
221	Netherlands	19	299.00	598.00
221	Poland	14644	106551.98	133718.28
221	Portugal	405	12525.19	14775.11
221	Romania	18	468.77	510.76
221	Slovakia	28	875.00	1093.00
221	Spain	3500	61507.54	119539.07
221	United Kingdom	5998	131132.56	250643.46
222	Belgium	17	37.64	75.28
222	France	182	329.00	624.00
222	Hungary	83	961.55	1211.24
222	Italy	2	21.00	28.00

Measure Number	Member state	Number of holdings supported	EAFRD (Million EUR) ¹⁷⁸	Total public expenditure received (Million EUR)
223	Spain	2356	45499.83	71916.00
223	United Kingdom	1734	29567.28	63953.47

Total afforested land (ha)

Measure Number	Member state	Total afforested land (Ha)	EAFRD (Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (Million EUR)
221	Austria	63.00	250.00	351.00
221	Belgium	280.93	285.35	589.48
221	Cyprus	10.51	116.85	180.46
221	Czech Republic	3114.80	11636.82	14546.02
221	Denmark	3461.00	9728.00	17698.00
221	France	915.00	1049.00	1852.00
221	Germany	2861.58	4050.10	14048.15
221	Hungary	26737.14	48598.84	62196.47
221	Italy	15996.50	29815.52	59077.88
221	Lithuania	7654.49	26698.95	33373.69
221	Netherlands	133.00	299.00	598.00
221	Poland	33656.76	106551.98	133718.28
221	Portugal	10445.51	12525.19	14775.11
221	Romania	344.98	468.77	510.76
221	Slovakia	147.99	875.00	1093.00
221	Spain	42124.72	61507.54	119539.07
221	United Kingdom	55996.32	131132.56	250643.46

Measure Number	Member state	Total afforested land (Ha)	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
223	Bulgaria	2624.00	4998.00	6094.00
223	Cyprus	17.20	99.05	180.05
223	Germany	32.05	79.20	172.66
223	Italy	2657.78	10163.34	16332.64
223	Latvia	11817.00	12683.19	15965.99
223	Lithuania	18336.92	48358.79	60448.49
223	Poland	3106.39	4222.60	5294.91
223	Portugal	4810.35	6828.99	7817.89
223	Spain	35748.01	45499.83	71916.01
223	United Kingdom	5115.68	29567.28	63953.47

Number of forest holdings supported

Measure Number	Member state	Number of forest holdings supported	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
224	Austria	9.00	119.00	159.00
224	Belgium	466.00	47.04	180.62
224	Czech Republic	21.00	288.24	360.30
224	Estonia	6149.00	14724.03	18405.14
224	Germany	889.00	1707.18	3682.72
224	Hungary	3116.00	29904.19	38113.60

Measure Number	Member state	Number of forest holdings supported	of EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
224	Italy	3.00	23.04	52.37
224	Latvia	2729.00	7205.40	9045.80
224	Lithuania	869.00	3323.28	4154.10
224	Portugal	17.00	427.66	480.12
224	Slovakia	123.00	4125.00	5173.00
227	Belgium	950	1243.36	2516.73
227	Cyprus	82	4332.34	6836.75
227	Czech Republic	61	3689.49	4646.91
227	Denmark	1384	4023	7272
227	France	49	16853.01	23836.03
227	Germany	73821	115611.32	324018.49
227	Hungary	506	6838.41	9037.53
227	Italy	1128	123958.12	221106.27
227	Lithuania	245	12016.16	15020.2
227	Portugal	1181	96873.33	113937.49
227	Spain	10634	198607.38	317786.85
227	Sweden	6073	9735	22438
227	United Kingdom	35441	55212.84	112466.89

Forest land supported (ha)

Measure Number	Member state	Forest land supported (Ha)	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
224	Austria	249.00	119.00	159.00
224	Belgium	16933.30	47.04	180.62
224	Czech Republic	1540.52	288.24	360.30
224	Estonia	72981.91	14724.03	18405.14
224	Germany	12752.70	1707.18	3682.72
224	Hungary	115494.36	29904.19	38113.60
224	Italy	52.00	23.04	52.37
224	Latvia	34002.00	7205.40	9045.80
224	Lithuania	5240.00	3323.28	4154.10
224	Portugal	596.81	427.66	480.12
224	Slovakia	19132.04	4125.00	5173.00

Number of actions supported

Measure Number	Member state	Number of actions supported	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
226	Austria	19243.00	44898.00	89519.00
226	Bulgaria	274.00	12566.00	15324.00
226	Cyprus	116.00	2042.88	3589.98
226	Czech Republic	485.00	18079.14	22579.18
226	Estonia	991.00	866.52	1155.37
226	France	8292.00	84414.66	155273.78

Measure Number	Member state	Number of actions supported	EAFRD (Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (Million EUR)
226	Germany	1949.00	19433.93	24292.37
226	Greece	111.00	17130.71	20620.92
226	Hungary	6446.00	6627.47	8475.92
226	Italy	3327.00	392529.85	519936.12
226	Latvia	370.00	3569.28	4515.38
226	Lithuania	259.00	11013.49	13766.85
226	Poland	740.00	101236.18	125291.01
226	Portugal	728.00	67770.95	77689.93
226	Slovakia	459.00	122638.59	154522.94
226	Spain	33569.00	558682.48	838053.10

Supported area of damaged forests (ha)

Measure Number	Member state	Supported area of damaged forests (ha)	EAFRD (Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (Million EUR)
226	Austria	285690.00	44898.00	89519.00
226	Bulgaria	333193.00	12566.00	15324.00
226	Cyprus	54161.99	2042.88	3589.98
226	Czech Republic	6487.03	18079.14	22579.18
226	Estonia	1715.34	866.52	1155.37
226	France	138548.00	84414.66	155273.78
226	Germany	1525130.67	19433.93	24292.37
226	Greece	410785.64	17130.71	20620.92

Measure Number	Member state	Supported area of damaged forests (ha)	EAFRD (¹ Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (¹ Million EUR)
226	Hungary	14415.47	6627.47	8475.92
226	Italy	249705.75	392529.85	519936.12
226	Latvia	910.00	3569.28	4515.38
226	Lithuania	2732.38	11013.49	13766.85
226	Poland	476950.96	101236.18	125291.01
226	Portugal	152644.41	67770.95	77689.93
226	Slovakia	396842.37	122638.59	154522.94

Number of hectares supported (ha)

Measure Number	Member state	Number of hectares supported (Ha)	EAFRD (¹ Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (¹ Million EUR)
211	Austria	1234507.00	818105.00	1650117.00
211	Bulgaria	359760.00	134763.00	164345.00
211	Cyprus	6500.00	4107.26	7146.08
211	Czech Republic	380628.00	355805.36	444756.70
211	Finland	1149034.00	442848.00	1581605.00
211	France	3074894.21	1636623.39	2738811.84
211	Germany	323386.75	126606.16	258057.36
211	Greece	995340.00	716175.00	912235.00
211	Italy	1665006.26	589440.19	1161501.91
211	Poland	183871.85	68957.55	87887.15
211	Portugal	952775.00	574782.12	678857.37
211	Romania	2112395.50	649538.09	770594.16

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Measure Number	Member state	Number of hectares supported (Ha)	EAFRD (Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (Million EUR)
211	Slovakia	472829.00	311634.00	389543.00
211	Slovenia	271216.75	217573.07	271966.33
211	Spain	2687125.51	304273.02	524968.46
211	Sweden	182784.00	123710.00	282504.00
212	Austria	328073.00	XXX	XXX
212	Belgium	292988.36	XXX	XXX
212	Bulgaria	257079.00	XXX	XXX
212	Cyprus	63000.00	XXX	XXX
212	Czech Republic	467644.00	XXX	XXX
212	Estonia	510428.00	XXX	XXX
212	Finland	1007615.00	XXX	XXX
212	France	2531420.17	XXX	XXX
212	Germany	4465409.20	XXX	XXX
212	Greece	551680.00	XXX	XXX
212	Hungary	475180.54	XXX	XXX
212	Italy	877066.91	XXX	XXX
212	Latvia	1039925.00	XXX	XXX
212	Lithuania	1279188.00	XXX	XXX
212	Luxemburg	117415.00	XXX	XXX
212	Malta	8484.00	XXX	XXX
212	Netherlands	123147.00	XXX	XXX
212	Poland	8447271.11	XXX	XXX
212	Portugal	760457.23	XXX	XXX
212	Romania	2057535.06	XXX	XXX

Measure Number	Member state	Number of hectares supported (Ha)	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (`Million EUR)
212	Slovakia	772711.00	XXX	XXX
212	Slovenia	106173.00	XXX	XXX
212	Spain	4346349.99	XXX	XXX
212	Sweden	400648.00	XXX	XXX
212	United Kingdom	5549553.89	XXX	XXX

Number of livestock units

Measure Number	Member state	Number of livestock	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (`Million EUR)
214	Austria	22755.00	1830599	3531601
214	Belgium	12508.15	84344.79	231347.79
214	Bulgaria	92110.00	379449	462743
214	Cyprus	1063.50	33774.81	49038.52
214	Czech Republic	-	712624.52	890661.49
214	Denmark	-	69756	133484
214	Estonia	4393.00	165432.91	206790.92
214	Finland	5300.00	669985	2360725
214	France	31290.00	1508878.91	2420481.64
214	Germany	20362.98	2028112.86	3664037.98
214	Greece	15385.39	112010.27	143266.3
214	Hungary	26026.79	632679.85	814444.26
214	Ireland	3586.00	1165218.24	1986398.35
214	Italy	134637.34	1345505.61	2578834.28

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Measure Number	Member state	Number of livestock	of EAFRD € (Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received (Million EUR)
214	Latvia	-	107905	136442
214	Lithuania	4526.81	205189.02	256485.5
214	Luxemburg	109.00	20498.82	81995.29
214	Malta	11.60	1278.93	1598.67
214	Netherlands	-	113455	232436
214	Poland	23714.26	1343282.45	1660856.88
214	Portugal	264681.91	380806.91	451088.88
214	Romania	-	1161923.41	1377933.58
214	Slovakia	4923.90	178532	227839
214	Slovenia	7164.05	212373.46	265466.83
214	Spain	293536.28	1268648.46	1956098.69
214	Sweden	-	791549	1691110
214	United Kingdom	-	1375263.77	1990283.04

Number of contracts

Measure Number	Member state	Number of contracts	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
214	Austria	363479	1830599	3531601
214	Belgium	51459	84344.79	231347.79
214	Bulgaria	4880	379449	462743
214	Cyprus	12530	33774.81	49038.52
214	Czech Republic	20764	712624.52	890661.49
214	Denmark	16392	69756	133484
214	Estonia	6074	165432.91	206790.92
214	Finland	128443	669985	2360725
214	France	506425	1508878.91	2420481.64
214	Greece	27197	112010.27	143266.3
214	Hungary	0	632679.85	814444.26
214	Ireland	92664	1165218.24	1986398.35
214	Italy	185279	1345505.61	2578834.28
214	Latvia	8143	107905	136442
214	Lithuania	21064	205189.02	256485.5
214	Luxemburg	4425	20498.82	81995.29
214	Malta	5793	1278.93	1598.67
214	Netherlands	18265	113455	232436
214	Poland	220636	1343282.45	1660856.88
214	Portugal	30074	380806.91	451088.88
214	Romania	663454	1161923.41	1377933.58

Measure- Number	Member- state	Number of contracts	EAFRD ('Million- EUR)	Total public- expenditure- received ('Million- EUR)
215	Slovakia	490	30880.00	39058.00
215	Spain	1484	31054.77	65559.53
215	Sweden	532	12502.00	27609.00
215	United Kingdom	4480	6951.28	16252.34
225	Austria	91	66	132
225	Cyprus	48	136.96	273.91
225	Czech Republic	53	428.28	535.35
225	Denmark	265	480	856
225	Germany	5503	7995.69	18304.18
225	Hungary	0	6853.3	8674.92
225	Italy	844	18394.7	34055.91
225	Lithuania	435	867.77	1084.72
225	Luxemburg	3	1.43	5.73
225	Portugal	424	3889.26	4622.6
225	Slovakia	93	680	850
225	Spain	497	8140.39	17988.94
225	United Kingdom	3744	13553.33	24169.75

Total forest area supported (ha)

Measure Number	Member state	Total forest area supported (Ha)	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
225	Austria	555	66	132
225	Cyprus	604	136.96	273.91
225	Czech Republic	2760	428.28	535.35
225	Denmark	3619	480	856
225	Germany	70371	7995.69	18304.18
225	Hungary	28093	6853.3	8674.92
225	Italy	85340	18394.7	34055.91
225	Lithuania	1704	867.77	1084.72
225	Luxemburg	22	1.43	5.73
225	Portugal	20094	3889.26	4622.6
225	Slovakia	16552	680	850
225	Spain	18716	8140.39	17988.94
225	United Kingdom	194936	13553.33	24169.75

Total area supported (ha)

Measure Number	Member state	Total area supported (Ha)	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
214	Austria	4204142	1830599	3531601
214	Belgium	498704	84344.79	231347.79
214	Bulgaria	675175	379449	462743
214	Cyprus	24028	33774.81	49038.52

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214	Czech Republic	1485844	712624.52	890661.49
214	Denmark	215339	69756	133484
214	Estonia	604005	165432.91	206790.92
214	Finland	5164775	669985	2360725
214	France	31587446	1508878.91	2420481.64
214	Germany	7523520	2028112.86	3664037.98
214	Greece	188825	112010.27	143266.3
214	Hungary	1254617	632679.85	814444.26
214	Ireland	2222104	1165218.24	1986398.35
214	Italy	2956115	1345505.61	2578834.28
214	Latvia	260441	107905	136442
214	Lithuania	307117	205189.02	256485.5
214	Luxemburg	170174	20498.82	81995.29
214	Malta	1557	1278.93	1598.67
214	Netherlands	236 112	113455	232436
214	Poland	3375000	1343282.45	1660856.88
214	Portugal	1081430	380806.91	451088.88
214	Romania	3722153	1161923.41	1377933.58
214	Slovakia	425869	178532	227839
214	Slovenia	340254	212373.46	265466.83
214	Spain	6702594	1268648.46	1956098.69
214	Sweden	2517084	791549	1691110
214	United Kingdom	13284672	1375263.77	1990283.04

Investment volume ('000 EUR)

Measure Number	Member state	Investment volume ('000 EUR)	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received ('Million EUR)
216	Belgium	1237.85	275.87	551.75
216	Denmark	94635	35809	53225
216	Estonia	3049.42	2418.4	3023
216	Finland	20	955	3412
216	France	42705	11989	24288
216	Germany	18419.28	11055.14	18475.49
216	Greece	65.55	31.99	39.69
216	Hungary	8681.19	4796.07	6062.73
216	Italy	294510.79	171673.47	297949.91
216	Lithuania	9847.93	7878.34	9847.93
216	Netherlands	42895	24915	41974
216	Portugal	64765.11	40058.55	46628.11
216	Spain	34312.38	17425.8	26662.79
216	Sweden	89010	38298	76802
216	United Kingdom	486148.34	210564.53	307726.67
227	Belgium	3832	1243.36	2516.73
227	Cyprus	7650	4332.34	6836.75
227	Czech Republic	5579	3689.49	4646.91
227	Denmark	7314	4023	7272
227	France	26759	16853.01	23836.03
227	Germany	543359	115611.32	324018.49

227	Hungary	26450	6838.41	9037.53
227	Italy	236557	123958.12	221106.27
227	Lithuania	16689	12016.16	15020.2
227	Portugal	195285	96873.33	113937.49
227	Spain	382877	198607.38	317786.85
227	Sweden	36000	9735	22438
227	United Kingdom	171311	55212.84	112466.89

Number of supported micro-enterprises (Measure 312)

Member state	Number of supported Micro Enterprises	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Austria	960	3,70	7,59
Belgium	56	3,44	7,04
Bulgaria	747	86,65	107,54
Cyprus	-	-	-
Czech Republic	1 035	64,85	86,32
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	686	37,81	50,41
Finland	3 984	78,99	175,41
France	1 733	12,82	24,93
Germany	534	22,77	30,92
Greece	107	3,74	3,95
Hungary	1 790	59,76	80,75
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	665	27,65	48,05

Member state	Number of supported Micro Enterprises	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Latvia	1 130	79,33	105,84
Lithuania	536	77,33	103,11
Luxemburg	1	0,13	0,33
Malta	-	-	-
Netherlands	64	1,81	3,61
Poland	13 496	467,27	623,03
Portugal	-	-	-
Romania	2 693	259,65	307,88
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	425	35,96	47,95
Spain	952	23,56	38,79
Sweden	1 690	32,14	75,34
United Kingdom	40 854	29,69	48,23

Number of tourism actions supported

Member state	Number of tourism actions supported	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Austria	203	19,64	39,16
Belgium	84	4,85	11,55
Bulgaria	181	18,59	23,23
Cyprus	4	0,17	0,21
Czech Republic	581	46,20	61,60
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	1 329	22,92	30,55

Member state	Number of tourism actions supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Finland	138	12,59	27,98
France	2 111	72,23	162,90
Germany	3 269	162,38	238,93
Greece	487	32,99	35,02
Hungary	2 644	79,67	107,88
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	1 939	60,01	117,27
Latvia	370	6,17	8,24
Lithuania	365	30,63	40,84
Luxemburg	5	0,14	0,36
Malta	104	11,05	14,73
Netherlands	450	61,82	124,62
Poland	1 703	106,23	170,91
Portugal	-	-	-
Romania	1 289	121,54	135,87
Slovakia	330	21,40	28,54
Slovenia	-	-	-
Spain	1 032	15,82	26,92
Sweden	1 296	27,39	66,11
United Kingdom	4 604	67,22	117,47

Number of actions supported (Multiple measures)

Measure	Member state	Number of actions supported	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
321	Austria	1 281	92,28	185,81
321	Belgium	143	1,85	5,42
321	Bulgaria	558	600,85	749,25
321	Cyprus	11	8,65	11,52
321	Czech Republic	270	36,97	49,25
321	Denmark	237	22,59	27,35
321	Estonia	49	0,18	0,25
321	Finland	380	53,13	104,85
321	France	1 781	192,30	516,92
321	Germany	29 048	606,70	987,02
321	Greece	602	56,79	68,84
321	Hungary	5 341	104,60	141,09
321	Ireland	-	-	-
321	Italy	2 582	182,47	339,62
321	Latvia	1 067	66,98	89,12
321	Lithuania	-	0,00	0,00
321	Luxemburg	28	1,83	4,58
321	Malta	-	-	-
321	Netherlands	168	18,41	39,33
321	Poland	5 332	1220,11	1848,49
321	Portugal	6	29,89	33,34
321	Romania	-	-	-
321	Slovakia	596	70,03	93,38

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Measure	Member state	Number of actions supported	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
321	Slovenia	3	2,98	3,31
321	Spain	7 852	108,88	185,17
321	Sweden	976	73,27	176,13
321	United Kingdom	4 904	40,81	63,10
323	Austria	4 566	77,40	154,65
323	Belgium	249	2,94	9,24
323	Bulgaria	-	0,00	0,00
323	Cyprus	7	2,10	3,00
323	Czech Republic	654	41,00	54,67
323	Denmark	203	2,65	4,14
323	Estonia	16	0,09	0,12
323	Finland	83	7,95	17,68
323	France	18 521	161,18	347,31
323	Germany	54 742	507,03	1027,75
323	Greece	39	2,75	3,33
323	Hungary	1 685	53,71	73,10
323	Ireland	-	0,00	0,00
323	Italy	2 426	64,09	120,34
323	Latvia	41	2,67	3,56
323	Lithuania	-	0,00	0,00
323	Luxemburg	12	0,41	1,03
323	Malta	34	9,75	12,99
323	Netherlands	230	44,15	85,98

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Measure	Member state	Number of actions supported	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
323	Poland	776	46,58	67,52
323	Portugal	60	6,75	7,48
323	Romania	-	0,00	0,00
323	Slovakia	-	0,00	0,00
323	Slovenia	150	6,20	8,26
323	Spain	3 264	83,05	131,01
323	Sweden	243	5,48	13,22
323	United Kingdom	8 806	54,65	64,51
341	Austria	662	2 280	4 559
341	Belgium	-	-	-
341	Bulgaria	-	-	-
341	Cyprus	2	60	120
341	Czech Republic	1 072	673	897
341	Denmark	-	-	-
341	Estonia	174	114	142
341	Finland	-	30	59
341	France	1 771	38 621	82 287
341	Germany	2 149	16 869	38 673
341	Greece	-	-	-
341	Hungary	85 906	25 277	34 279
341	Ireland	-	-	-
341	Italy	1 035	1 603	3 362
341	Latvia	-	-	-

Measure	Member state	Number of actions supported	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
341	Lithuania	-	-	-
341	Luxemburg	-	-	-
341	Malta	26	231	308
341	Netherlands	3	168	335
341	Poland	-	-	-
341	Portugal	-	-	-
341	Romania	-	-	-
341	Slovakia	501	598	797
341	Slovenia	-	-	-
341	Spain	16	111	185
341	Sweden	1 101	679	1 510
341	United Kingdom	1 557	8 657	13 727

Number of villages where actions took place (Measure 322)

Member state	Number of villages where actions took place	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Austria	310	1,14	2,35
Belgium	74	3,07	10,22
Bulgaria	747	162,35	202,93
Cyprus	8	1,16	1,67
Czech Republic	983	145,90	194,51
Denmark	22	-	-
Estonia	9 749	34,13	45,50

Member state	Number of villages where actions took place	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Finland	3 743	11,19	24,86
France	-	-	-
Germany	9 588	718,70	1 975,60
Greece	241	36,50	41,86
Hungary	1 806	71,28	96,76
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	359	89,81	164,60
Latvia	-	-	-
Lithuania	3 864	49,01	64,17
Luxemburg	35	1,33	3,32
Malta	-	-	-
Netherlands	54	10,12	20,96
Poland	5 992	279,11	421,36
Portugal	-	-	-
Romania	893	1248,53	1 498,50
Slovakia	667	81,38	108,51
Slovenia	475	25,24	33,65
Spain	1 555	51,97	104,33
Sweden	178	5,99	14,34
United Kingdom	234	8,05	14,84

Number of economic actors supported (Measure 331)

Member state	Number of economic actors supported	EAFRD (‘Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (‘Million EUR)
Austria	108 062	23,55	46,93
Belgium	78 292	1,54	5,13
Bulgaria	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-
Czech Republic	17 971	1,77	2,35
Denmark	115	2,53	3,22
Estonia	-	-	-
Finland	19 956	13,83	30,74
France	20 323	3,67	6,94
Germany	94 861	6,64	11,50
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	-
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	16 809	9,79	17,93
Latvia	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-
Luxemburg	1	0,05	0,12
Malta	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	-
Portugal	-	-	-
Romania	-	-	-
Slovakia	11 652	8,33	11,17
Slovenia	-	-	-

Member state	Number of economic actors supported	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Spain	6 722	0,78	1,04
Sweden	130 071	15,76	38,63
United Kingdom	31 165	4,71	7,23

Number of participants in action (measure 341)

Member state	Number of participants in action	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Austria	9 056	2 280	4 559
Belgium	-	-	-
Bulgaria	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	60	120
Czech Republic	54 028	673	897
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	1 220	114	142
Finland	640	30	59
France	218 480	38 621	82 287
Germany	31 394	16 869	38 673
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	3 130 123	25 277	34 279
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	67 375	1 603	3 362
Latvia	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-
Luxembourg	-	-	-

Member state	Number of participants in action	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Malta	1 390	231	308
Netherlands	502	168	335
Poland	-	-	-
Portugal	-	-	-
Romania	-	-	-
Slovakia	45 051	598	797
Slovenia	-	-	-
Spain	5	111	185
Sweden	13 527	679	1 510
United Kingdom	23 321	8 657	13 727

Number of private-public partnerships (Measure 341)

Member state	Number of privatef public partnerships	EAFRD ('Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. ('Million EUR)
Austria	81	0,69	1,41
Belgium	-	-	-
Bulgaria	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-
Czech Republic	-	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	-	-	-
Finland	-	-	-
France	56	0,57	1,25
Germany	192	10,70	23,38

Member state	Number of privatef public partnerships	EAFRD (`Million EUR)	Total public expenditure received. (`Million EUR)
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	69 349	14,42	19,53
Ireland	-	-	-
Italy	25	0,63	1,43
Latvia	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-
Luxemburg	-	-	-
Malta	3	0,23	0,31
Netherlands	2	0,03	0,06
Poland	-	-	-
Portugal	-	-	-
Romania	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	-	-
Spain	4	0,02	0,06
Sweden	-	-	-
United Kingdom	783	8,66	13,73

*Public expenditure explicitly for this output.

Impact indicators

Overview tabel

Indicator	Measurement	Number of programmes which reported on this indicator	Number of programmes for which data could be used/compared	Quantitative data
1 Economic growth	Net additional value added expressed in PPS	60	33	€ 14 219 Mio (total)
2 Employment creation	Net additional full-time equivalent jobs created	59	41	159 311 (total)
3 Labour productivity	Change in Gross Value Added per full-time equivalent (GVA/FTE)	37	16	4% (average)
4 Reversing Biodiversity decline	Change in trend in biodiversity decline as measured by farmland bird species population	25	21	23% (average)
5 Maintenance of high nature value farmland and forestry	Changes in high nature value farmland and forestry	21	9	23% (average)
6 Improvement in water quality	Changes in gross nutrient balance	44	9	15,8 kg/ha/year (average)
7 Contribution to combating climate change	Increase in production of renewable energy			No data available

Indicator	Measurement	Number of programmes which reported on this indicator	Number of programmes for which data could be used/compared	Quantitative data
	Area under successful land management contributing to mitigating climate change	24		44 395 791 ha (total)
	Reduction of GHG emission		4	478 583 mgCO ₂ Eq (total)
	Reduction of GHG emission		7	742 849 t CO ₂ Eq/a (total)
	Level of carbon sequestration		5	349 387 mgCO ₂ eq/a (total)

Indicator	Measurement	# MS/regions provided qualitative data	Qualitative data
1 Economic growth	Net additional value added expressed in PPS	70	RDPs had positive effects on economic growth in 57 % of the Member States/regions
2 Employment creation	Net additional full-time equivalent jobs created	70	RDPs had a positive effect on the creation of new jobs in 48 % of the Member States/regions
3 Labour productivity	Change in Gross Value Added per full-time equivalent (GVA/FTE)		No data available

Indicator	Measurement	# MS/regions provided qualitative data	Qualitative data
4 Reversing Biodiversity decline	Change in trend in biodiversity decline as measured by farmland bird species population	55	RDPs had a positive contribution to reaching targets related to the Farmland Bird Index in 37 % of Member States/regions
5 Maintenance of high nature value farmland and forestry	Changes in high nature value farmland and forestry	61	RDPs had a positive contribution to high nature value (HNV) farming and forestry in 47 % of the Member States/regions
6 Improvement in water quality	Changes in gross nutrient balance	73	RDPs had a positive contribution to the improvement of water management in 64 % of the Member States/regions
7 Contribution to combating climate change	Increase in production of renewable energy	82	RDPs had a positive contribution to the supply of renewable energy in 12 % of the Member States/regions

Annex III: Qualitative outcomes

This Annex presents an overview of qualitative outcomes used for the synthesis of information as well as those used for developing an answer to the Evaluation Synthesis Questions.

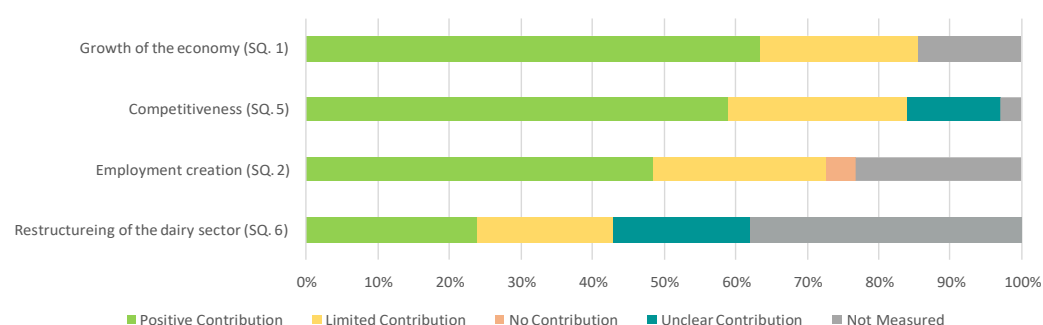
Programme and Measure contributions: Synthesis

The following graphs present the Programme and Measure contributions according to the conclusions reached in the ex post evaluation report. These were categorised by the country experts into the following:

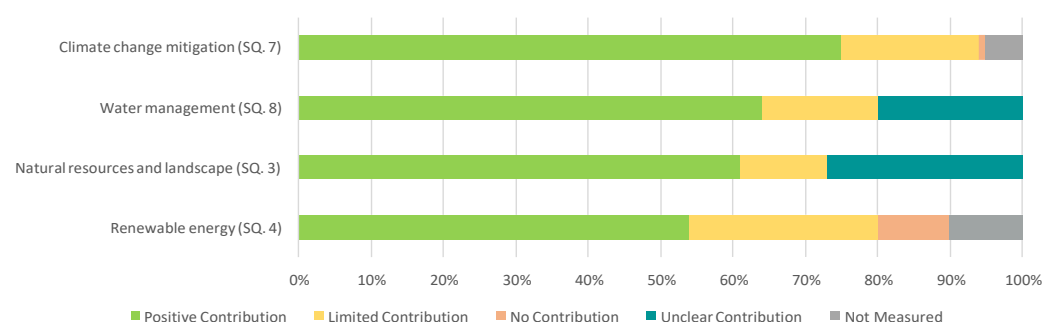
1. Positive contribution
2. Limited contribution
3. No contribution
4. Negative contribution
5. Unclear
6. Not measured

Programme-related

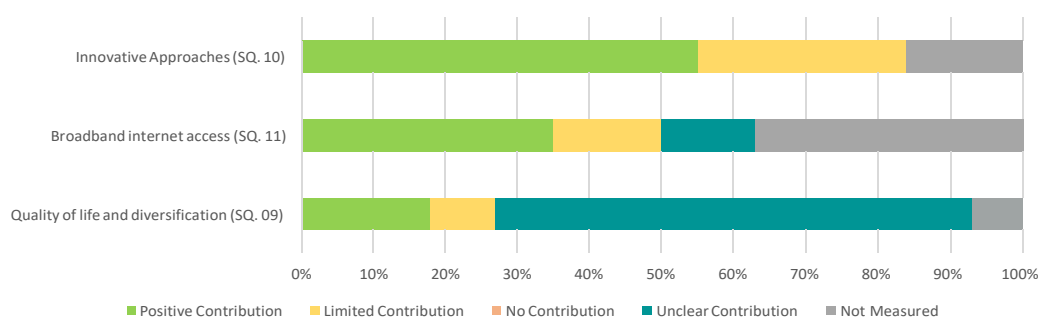
RDP contribution to the **Economy**



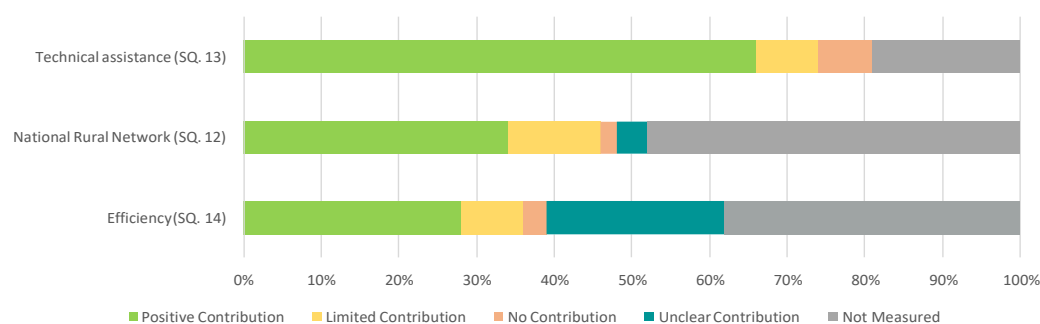
RDP contribution to the **Environment**



RDP contribution to Quality of Life

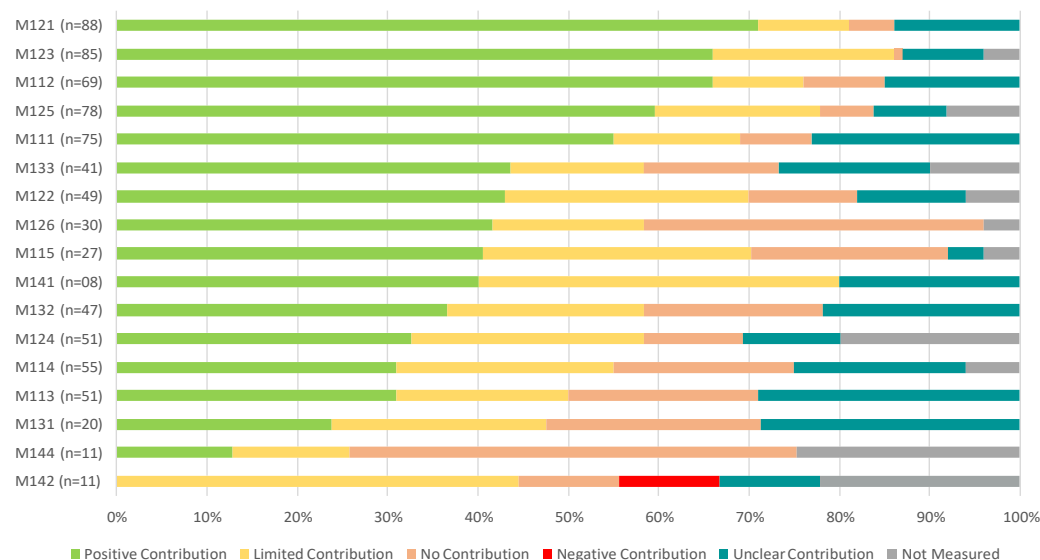


RDP Implementation

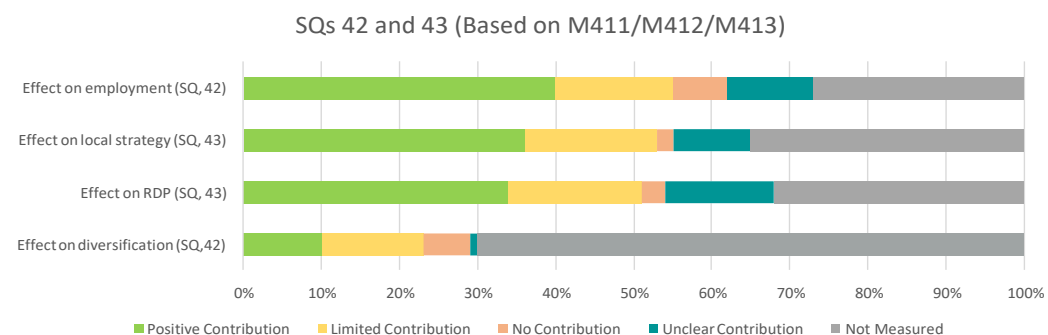
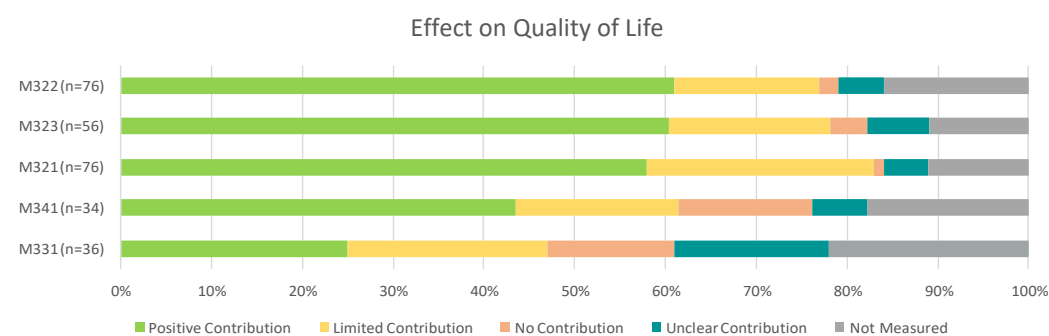
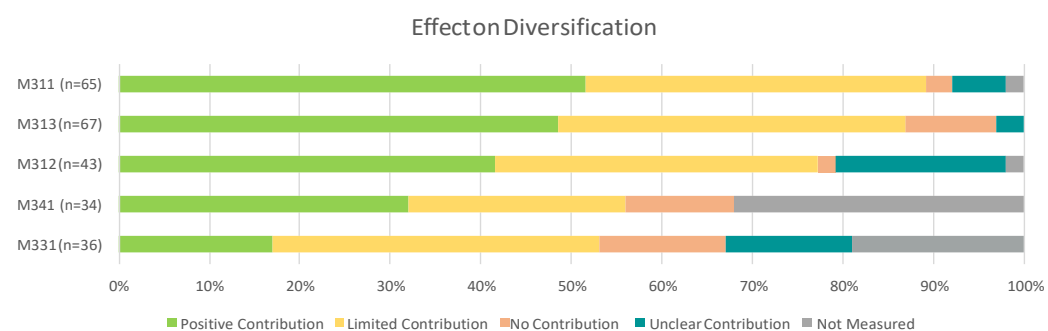
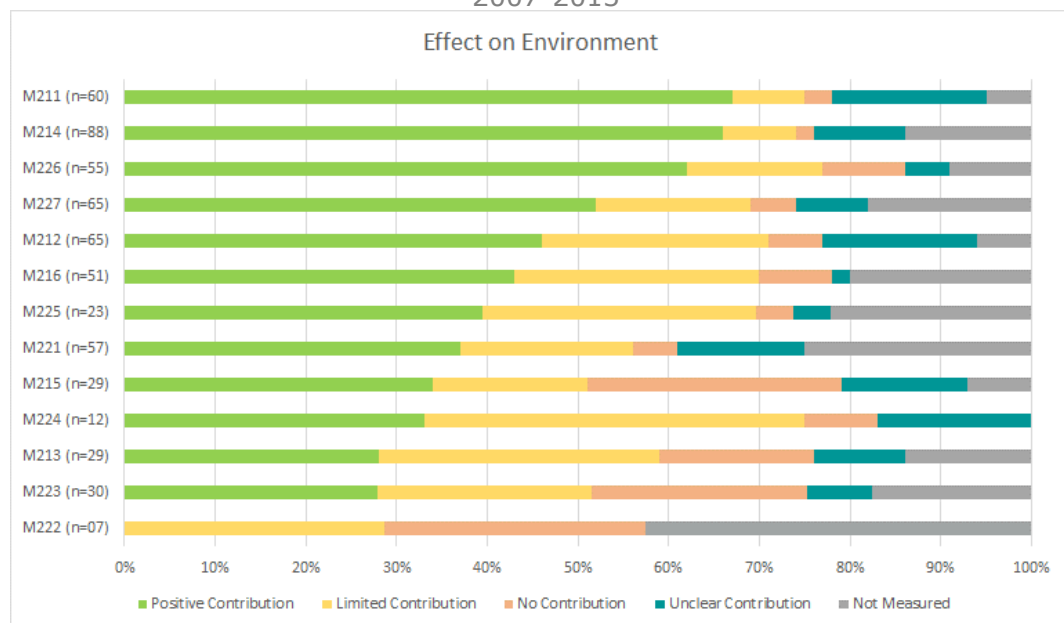


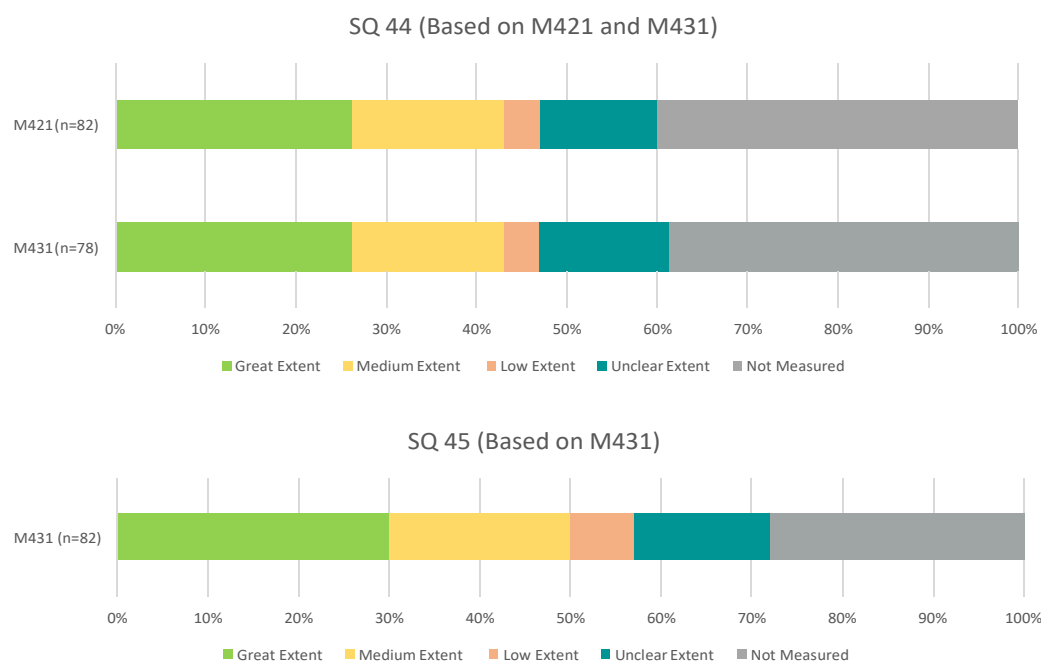
Measure-related

Effect on competitiveness



Synthesis of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) ex-post evaluations of 2007-2013





Programme and Measure contributions: Outcomes provided

The following graphs present the Programme and Measure contributions adjusted to include only the regions for which a clear conclusion was reached in the ex post evaluation reports.

The presented information is based on the following categories:

1. Positive contribution
2. Limited contribution
3. No contribution
4. Negative contribution

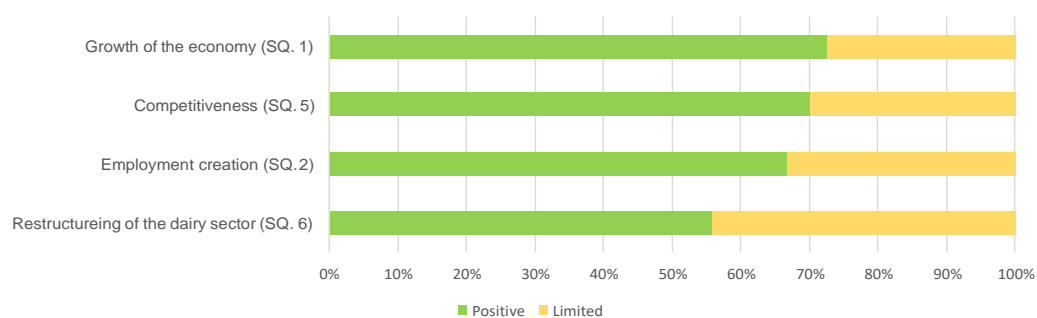
Having excluded the information from the reports with the following contributions:

1. Unclear
2. Not measured

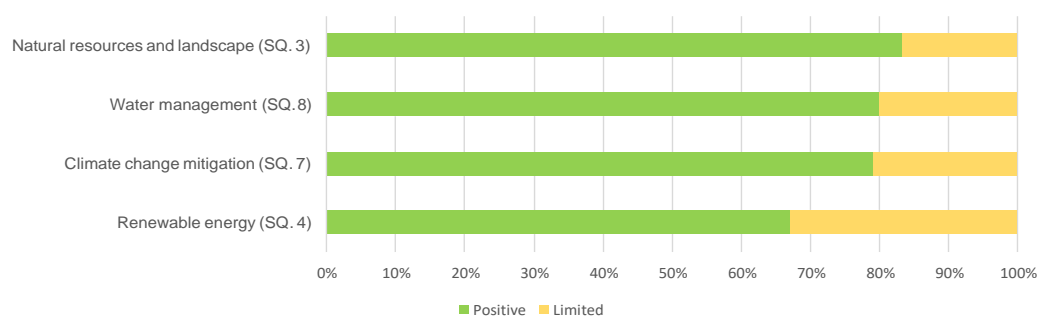
Programme-related

Synthesis of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) ex-post evaluations of 2007-2013

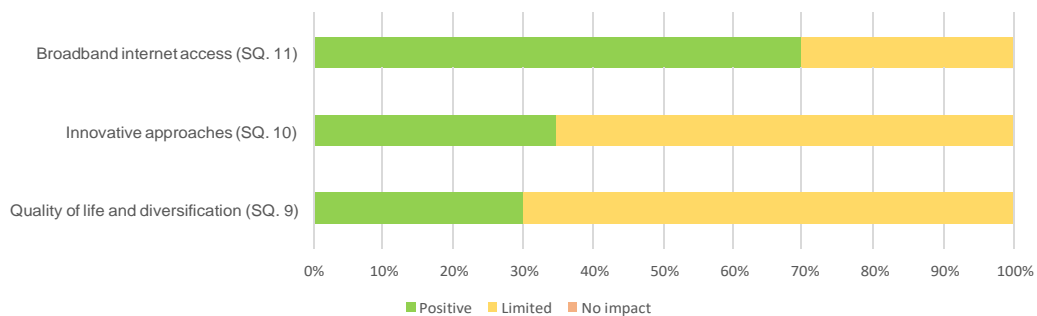
RDP contribution to the **economy**



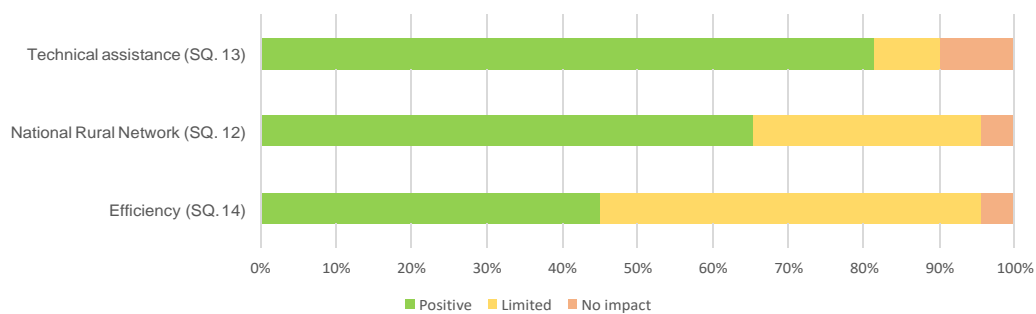
RDP contribution to the **environment**



RDP contribution to **quality of life**



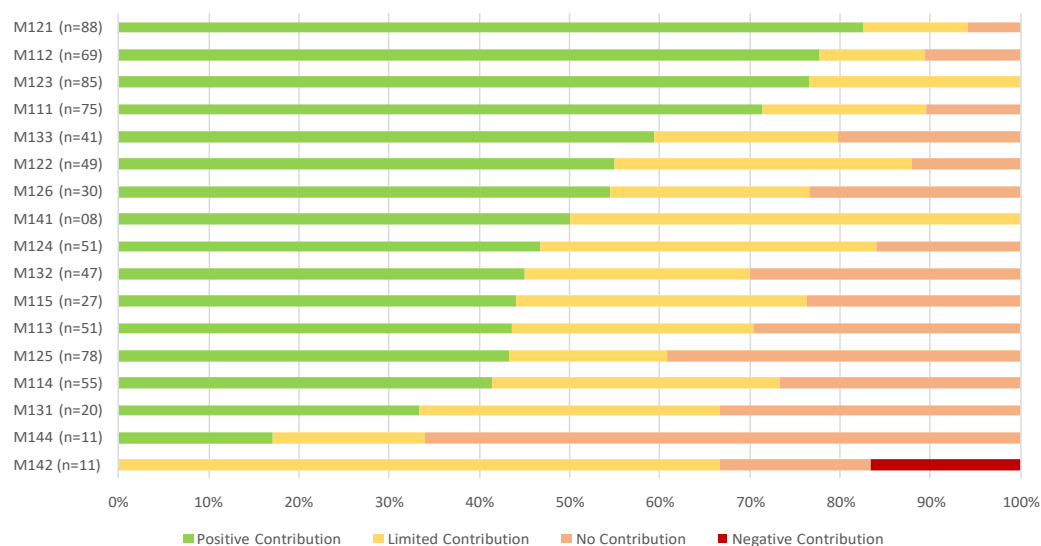
RDP **Implementation**



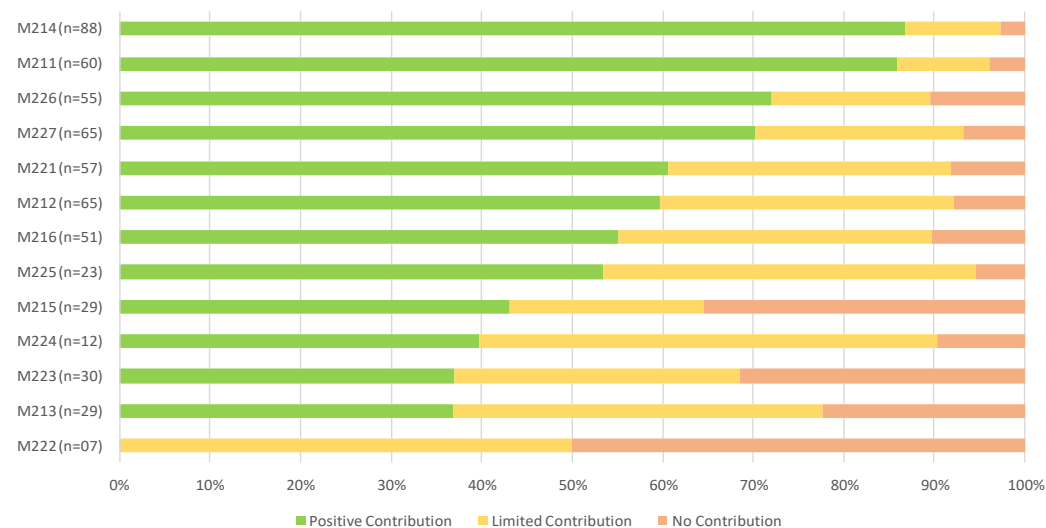
Measure-related

Synthesis of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) ex-post evaluations of 2007-2013

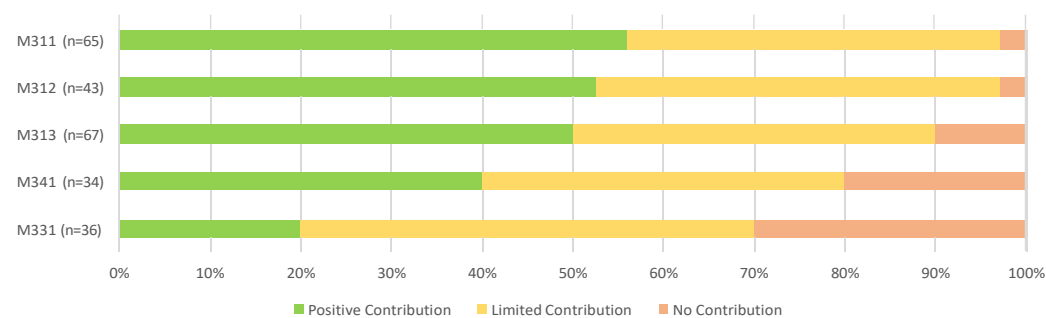
Effect on competitiveness



Effect on the environmental situation

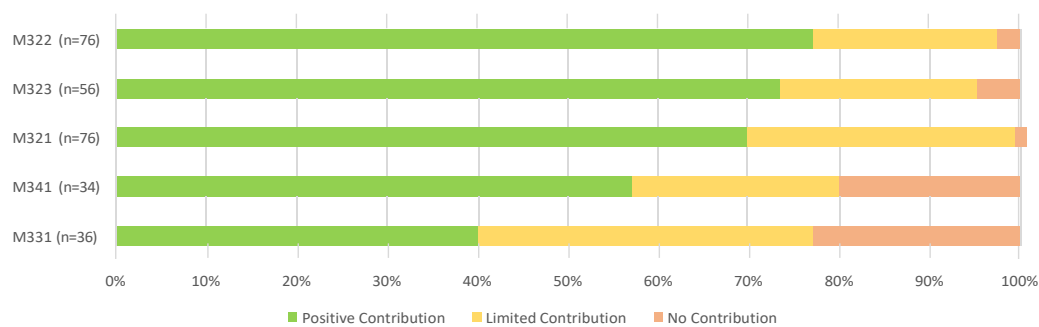


Effect on diversification

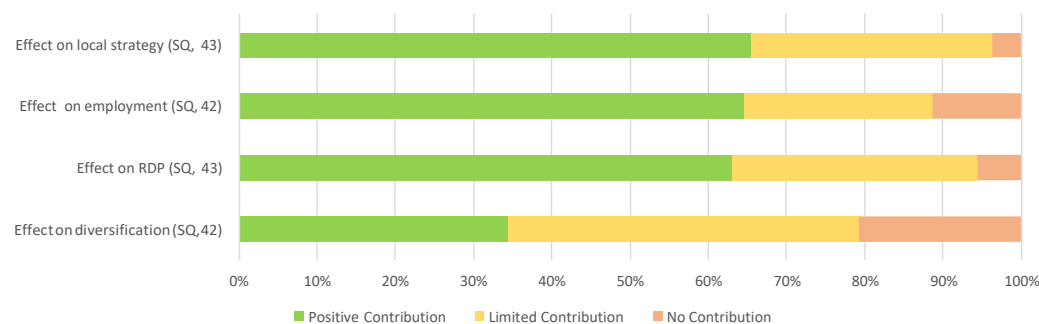


Synthesis of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) ex-post evaluations of 2007-2013

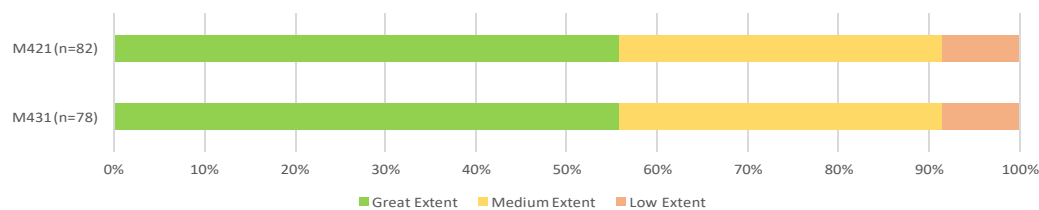
Effect on quality of life



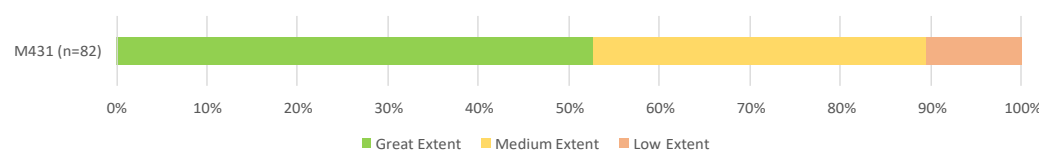
SQs 42 and 43 (Based on M411/M412/M413)



SQ 44 (Based on M421 and M431)



SQ 45 (Based on M431)



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