

## Rural Development Programme (RDP) of Corsica, France

### Programme de développement rural de la Corse 2007-2013<sup>1</sup>

(Rural Development Programme 2007-2013: for a long term sustainable rural development)

### Relevant Contact Details

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#### Other useful links:

Rural Development Programme (RDP):

[http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/country-information/programming/en/programming\\_home\\_en.cfm](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/country-information/programming/en/programming_home_en.cfm)

National Strategy Plan (NSP):

<http://www.odarc.fr/>

French National Rural Network:

<http://www.reseaurural.fr/corse>



**Map of Corsica**  
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## General socio-economic situation in rural areas in the Corsica region

Corsica is a mountainous island with a medium altitude of 568 meters, denoting an irregular and wild terrain, located in the Mediterranean, west of Italy and separated from Sardinia at the south by the Bonifacio Strait. It is divided into two administrative *départements*, Upper Corsica and Southern Corsica, and it is part of France (300 km south-east of the port of Marseilles). Corsica represents 1,6% of the territory of France but only 0,5% of its population, with an estimated 278 650 (2006) inhabitants and a density of 31 inhab/km<sup>2</sup> (the lowest in France). Rural areas cover approximately 80% of Corsica but 84% of the population is concentrated on coastal areas while mountainous and rural areas are predominantly located in the less populated inland areas. Economic and social activities are mainly organised around the two main cities of Bastia (at the north) and Ajaccio (the administrative capital at the south), which jointly represent 50% of Corsica's total inhabitants and around 70% of the number of enterprises. Within the rural areas, the 3,600 farms, of which 48% are professional, and the foodstuff industry play a key role in terms of employment (more than 7,000 jobs), economy (more than €400 million turnover) and €5.5 billion of Gross Regional Domestic Product. Economic indicators in Corsica are contrasting: GDP and employment are amongst the worse in France but recent trends (i.e. a 5,1% growth per year) are above average, and unemployment rate (14.8% in 2004, 8,2% for the second trimester of 2007) although high, is comparable to the country's average. It is worth emphasizing that 98% of Corsica's territory is classified as less favoured areas. The Corsican rural areas are an important recreational and tourist destination. However, the development of tourism should take into account the

<sup>1</sup> Latest updated RDP, following the adoption of the Health Check and European Economic Recovery Package and additional funds from modulation (i.e. adjustments between Pillar 1 (Agriculture) & 2 (Rural Development) of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

management and preservation of the environment. The quality and sustainability of the environment are major rural challenges because tourist activity is dependent on the attractiveness of the natural sites. Moreover, the most innovative and remarkable trend is the development of services. Indeed, the changing needs and the arrival of new types of consumers in rural areas have been accompanied by an increase in tertiary sector supply.

Rural weaknesses include labour demand shortage, with 10 employment offers for only 4 demands, the need to respond to the challenges posed by increasingly ageing local producers (40% are 50-65 years old whereas only 11% are 25-34), strong agricultural dependence of aids and subsidies, vast farming areas without infrastructure or housing which translates into scattered, abandoned, small property sized parcels of land, and difficulty for farmers to develop profitable ventures (this strong handicap derives from tax, legal, technical, natural and other reasons). On the other hand, rural strengths in Corsica, which are intended to be supported through the RDP, include the existence of significant biological and ecological diversity, particularly through the vast forestry potential (43% of the territory), vast agricultural areas with well preserved natural beauty and low pollution intensity, and well structured organisation of agricultural productions that promote controlled quality products.

### **RDP strategic objectives**

The Corsican strategy aims to enhance rural territories through their natural and cultural heritage to ensure economic, social and environmental development based on its two major assets: 'identity and quality'. The island identity can support the development of local quality production and could be a decisive advantage in the future. With a small domestic market, diversification through quality is an essential lever for competitiveness and growth. The quality of the natural environment is also one of the strengths of the island. The objectives of the RDP are: targeting the reduction first of physical and structural handicaps to enable the growth of local production, and enhancing the quality of life in rural areas. Priority is given to measures of axis 2 that absorb 52% of the total financial aid, in particular to compensate for natural handicaps in less favoured areas (38% of the total budget), which cover 98% of the Corsican territory and hinder the development of rural areas.

Following the implementation of articles 6.1. a) and 6.1 c) of EU Regulation n°1974/2006 and modifications relating to the CAP Health Check and European Economic Recovery Package, in recognition of the greater emphasis now being given to the "new challenges" facing agriculture and rural areas, the 2009 revised RDP in Corsica further highlights the need to improve water management (out of a supply that is expected to rarefy in 2015); contribute to the restoration of a good water quality; contribute to the enrichment of biodiversity and natural landscapes; protect the agricultural soils; protect the vegetation and forest cover; prevent fires and other natural hazards; promote efficient energy use and fight against climate change. These alterations are justified by the growing concern of having a more environmentally friendly agricultural process capable of consolidating employments and creating socioeconomic welfare in rural areas. In addition, funds previously allocated to support the Common Market Organisation (CMO) for the wine sector is being reallocated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar of CAP (Rural Development) in order to reach the strategic objectives defined by the EU Council.

Taking into account the additional €4,911,000 EAFRD provided by the CAP Health Check and the European Recovery Package and Modulation to address the "new challenges" greater strategic priority will also now be given to initiatives that contribute to climate change mitigation, renewable energies (€2,269,000; 46%), biodiversity and water management (€2,642,000; 54%).

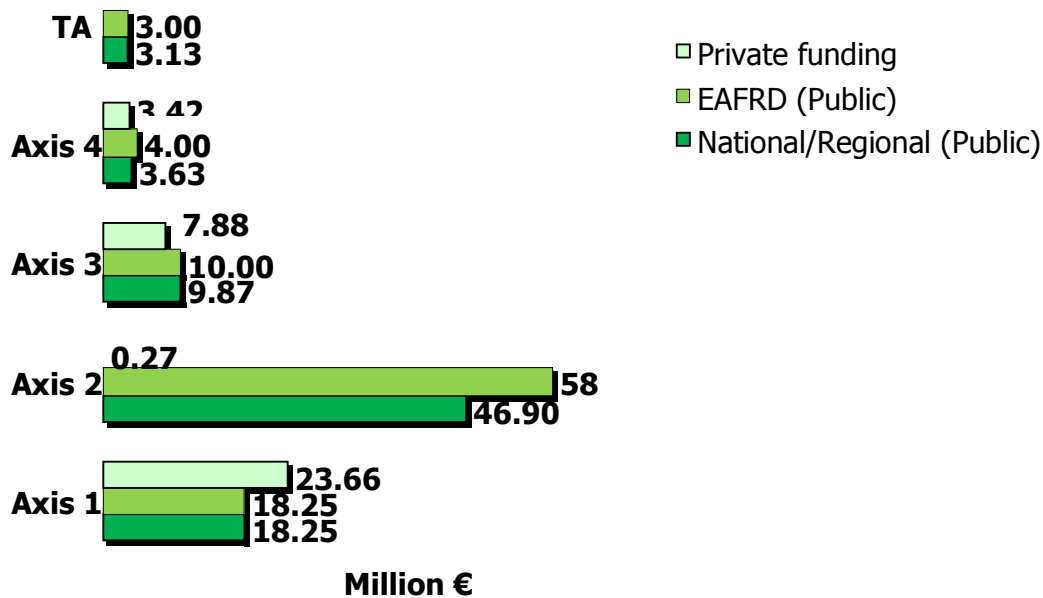
### **Expected impact / outcomes of the policies**

Improving production quality is one of the major strategic orientations of Corsica. Therefore, it is

expected that the number of brands under official quality labels will pass from 7 to 11 in 2013. The value of agricultural production meeting quality standards or corresponding to recognised quality labels is expected to pass from €80 million, which represent 40% of Corsican production, to €120 million representing 60%. Diversification should generate an increase of non-agricultural turnover of approximately €12,000/exploitation, (€1.68 million in total). Support dedicated to 300 very small firms should generate an investment of €1.05 million. Population benefiting from improved services is expected to reach 5,000 inhabitants, with an average of one action of improvement of services per territory of 500 inhabitants. Moreover, to preserve the technical and industrial heritage, it is expected that 50% of the operators (craftsmen, farmers, tourist structures, etc.) will benefit from improved services.

Specific modifications to impact indicators have been made to take account of the alterations to the RDP, as a result of the CAP Health Check and the European Economic Recovery Package and Modulation, of certain funds between Pillar 1 and 2 of the CAP to be targeted at the “new challenges”. Modifications to overall RDP impact targets include targets to develop sustainable agricultural processes; promote renewable energy production; create a risk management system (i.e. fires and other natural disasters); reduce water consumption; support the protection of forestry and consolidate the socioeconomic development of rural areas.

**RDP budget breakdown by axis: Total expenditure (including national/regional + EAFRD + private funding) of €210,615,388**



The RDP budget allocations are broadly divided into four main areas of expenditure, known as axes (namely: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector; Improving the environment and the countryside; Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy; and Leader). Approximately 29% of the overall RDP budget in Corsica is allocated to axis 1 (€60.16 million); 50% is allocated to axis 2 (€105.09 million), 13% to axis 3 (€27.63 million) and 5% to axis 4 (€11.48 million), with around 3% available to fund Technical Assistance (€ 6.26 million).

Within axis 1, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 30% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 30%; and private funds 40%.

Within axis 2, National/Regional public funding represents 44.6% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 55.1%; and private funds 0.3%.

Within axis 3, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 36% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 36% and private funds 29%.

Within axis 4, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 31% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 39%; and private funds 30%.

Within technical assistance, National/Regional public funding represents 50% share of the technical assistance funding and EAFRD the other 50%.

As a consequence of the 2009 RDP amendments, the Corsica region has been assigned a total of €210,615,388 for the entire period (including €8,856,405 additional funds: €4,911,000 EARDF and a further €3,945,405 national/regional public funds) to support “new challenges” (climate change, renewable energy targets etc.) and support water management in rural areas. These funds are intended to reinforce existing actions in Corsica available to support rural areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives, water management improvements, protection of forest and enrichment of biodiversity. The financial evolution between V3 (in place) and V4 (proposed) goes as follows: support from EAFRD has been amended from €85,613,237 to €93,602,237, representing an increase of €7,989,000. Axis 1 has been amended from €16,278,334 to €18,248,734, axis 2 from €53,134,903 to €57,920,903, axis 3 from €8,789,000 to €9,871,600 and axis 4 from €4,281,000 to €4,431,000.

## Axis Information<sup>2</sup>

### **Axis 1 objectives: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector**

The priority on Axis 1 is placed first on modernisation of agricultural holdings (measure 121, representing 36% of the axis total budget), then on increasing the added value of agricultural products (measure 123, 29%) and supporting the setting up of young farmers (measure 112, 15%).

The table below provides an indication of the RDP’s axis 1 priorities.

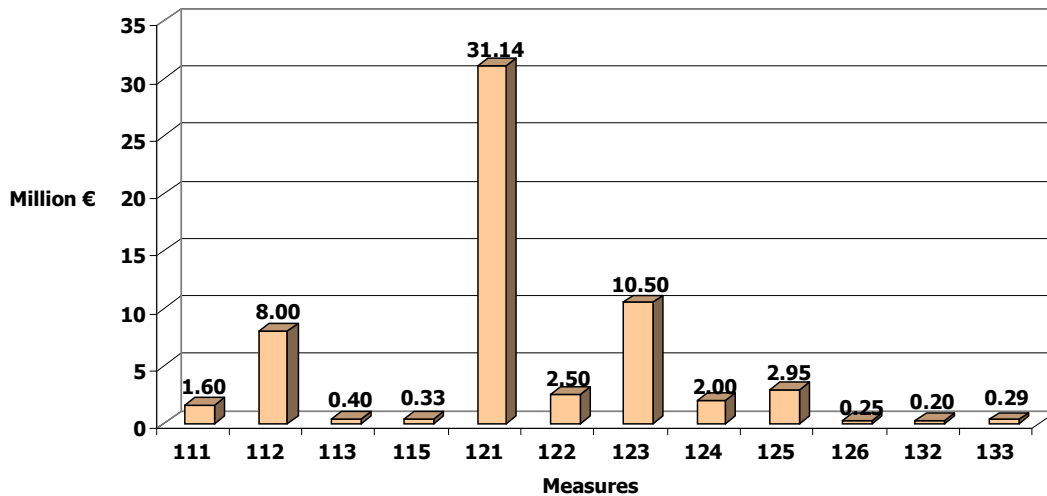
Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Promote the modernisation of agricultural production units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage the study of agronomy as central key to agricultural improvement;</li> <li>- Preserve environmental requirements;</li> <li>- Promote the use of renewable energy to power farms.</li> </ul>
Develop the innovation and adaptation capacity of actives in agro-industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage innovation and adaptation of actives in the agro-industry to new contexts.</li> </ul>
Adapt agriculture and agro-industry production by integrating innovation and quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote quality and innovation;</li> <li>- Support the agro-industries;</li> <li>- Enhance generational continuity;</li> <li>- Modernisation of farms, equipment and materials;</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
Strengthening the efficiency of production processes and commercialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote private initiatives and investment;</li> <li>- Diversify production;</li> <li>- Increase productivity;</li> <li>- Promote certified quality regional products capable of adding value to the agricultural business.</li> <li>- Increase competitiveness in the forestry sector.</li> </ul>

Result targets include an increase of the GVA up to €2,320,000 in farms or holdings supported under measure 121, for modernisation, €1,050,000 in farms supported to increase the added value of agricultural and forestry products under measure 123, and €1,400,000 in farms supported to set up young farmers. Result targets also include 240 participants attending training sessions up to satisfactory completion (measure 111), 80 cooperation initiatives for the development of innovative products (measure 124) and an increase up to €20,400,000 of the value of agricultural productions under official quality labels (measure 132).

<sup>2</sup> A full list of RDP measures can be found in Annex I.

Specific modifications to results indicators have been made to take account of the amendments to the RDP as a result of the Health Check, the European Recovery Package and Modulation including reduction of CO2 emissions through modernisation of farms and forest enterprises (40) to improve energy efficiency and increase the renewable energy production, reduction in water consumption, adoption of fodder production in livestock breeding farms thanks to the creation of additional perennial meadows (220 ha), and modernisation of traditional pastoral systems through modernisation of sheep breeding farms (300) (measure 121). For further information on specific results indicators please refer to the impact indicators table in the RDP programme.

**Axis 1 budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including national/regional public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €60,155,968<sup>3</sup>**



Following the 2009 RDP latest update, the total budget amount for axis 1 is €60,155,968, including an additional €4,538,000 (€2,269,000 EAFRD + €2,269,000 public/regional funds), for fighting climate change and promotion of renewable energy use that is targeted at measure 121 by modernising farms (€1,000,000), implementation of perennial meadows (€269,000) and modernisation of equipment and materials (€1,000,000).

**Axis 2 objectives: Improving the environment and the countryside**

High priority on Axis 2 is placed on compensatory allowances for farmers in mountain areas (measure 211, representing 73% of the axis total budget, and 38% of the whole RDP budget), and secondarily on agri-environmental payments (measure 214, 22%).

<sup>3</sup> Please note that for measures 111, 112, 113, 114, 131, 132, 141, 142 and 143, no private spending has been allocated.

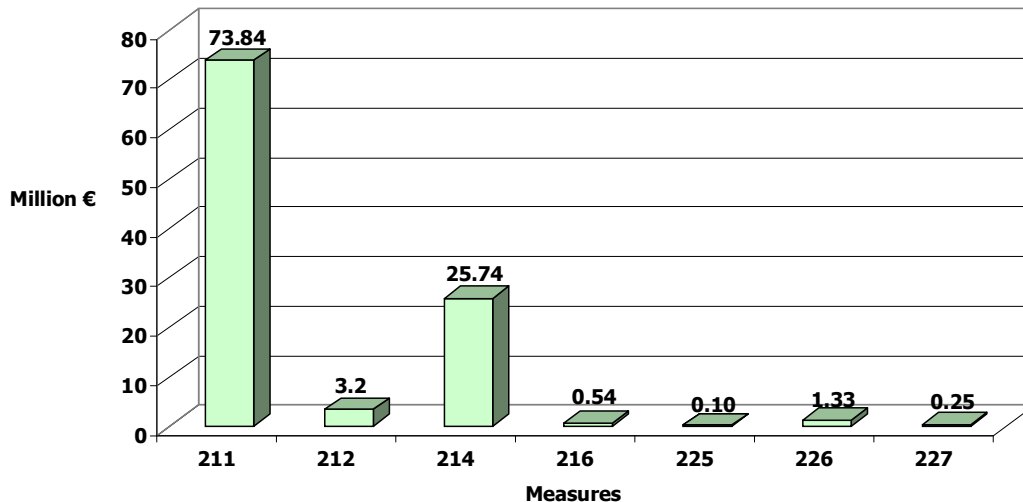
The table below provides an indication of the RDP's axis 2 priorities.

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Contribute to a balanced occupation of the regional area with a view to preserve endogenous economic development capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding to compensate for natural handicaps;</li> <li>- Attract and establish population in the rural areas;</li> <li>- Ensure the follow-up of agricultural activities in the less favoured areas, being at risk of abandonment;</li> </ul>
Conservation of biodiversity and agricultural and forestry areas of high environmental value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure sustainable development and protect the rich natural heritage;</li> <li>- Protect water resources (in terms of quality and quantity);</li> <li>- Introduce and spread organic and extensive farming techniques;</li> <li>- Value the environment and landscape through agricultural and forestry practices.</li> <li>- Improve agricultural practices in order to have a global influence on the preservation of biodiversity and water resources.</li> <li>- Protect the remarkable biodiversity through the Natura2000 Network</li> <li>- Contribute to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive</li> </ul>
Promote forest as an instrument for the sustainable management of the regional area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect the soil;</li> <li>- Contribute to the limitation of greenhouse gases emissions;</li> <li>- Make productions sustainable and prevent natural hazards.</li> </ul>

Result targets include 1,730 farms staying in less favoured areas, including mountainous and other areas, and managing 58,250 as a result of support to compensate handicaps (measures 211 and 212), 350 contracts to support extensive grasslands management (measure 214).

Specific modifications to results indicators have been made to take account of the amendments to the RDP as a result of the Health Check and European Recovery Package and Modulation, including, for measure 214, support to reinforce extensive livestock grazing and maintain permanent grasslands, important for soil conservation and landscape preservation. Targets also include contracts for different agri-environmental sub-measures (from 40 contracts for sub-measure 214C, to maintain organic farming, up to 100 for sub-measure 214A, to maintain extensive grasslands management) and relating areas under agri-environmental management (from 600 ha for sub-measure 214C to 2600 ha for sub-measure 214A).

**Axis 2 budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including national/regional public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €105,092,167<sup>4</sup>**



Following the update of the RDP in 2009, the total budget allocation under axis 2 is € 105,092,167, including additional funds totalling €4,318,405 (61,18% EAFRD co-financed and the remaining €1,676,405 supported by national/regional funds). Alterations to funding under the axis include further support for measure 214 (agri-environmental payments, €2,642,000), including support for sustainable development of rural areas, preserving the environment (i.e. water supplies, protecting the soils against erosion, natural landscape) and promoting biological agriculture (€500,000). Out of the framework of the “new challenges”, additional funds have been allocated to measures 211 and 212 in order to reinforce compensatory allowances for natural handicaps €2,252,000.

**Axis 3 objectives: Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy**

The first priority on Axis 3 is place on support to creation and development of non-agricultural activities (measure 312, 41% of the total axis budget). Other priorities include diversification towards non-agricultural activities (measure 311, 31%) and integrated support schemes to ecological measures (measure 323, 19%).

The table below provides an indication of the RDP’s axis 3 priorities.

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Develop non-agricultural activities indispensable for modern life and improve general conditions in rural areas for inhabitants and enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop agri-tourism and;</li> <li>- Conservation of rural areas to improve the attractiveness for tourism.</li> <li>- Diversify farms activities besides the agricultural production ones;</li> <li>- Maintain and develop micro-enterprises;</li> <li>- Maintain and develop tourist activities;</li> <li>- Ensure an environment suitable to economic activities development.</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> For measures 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225 and 227 no private spending has been allocated.

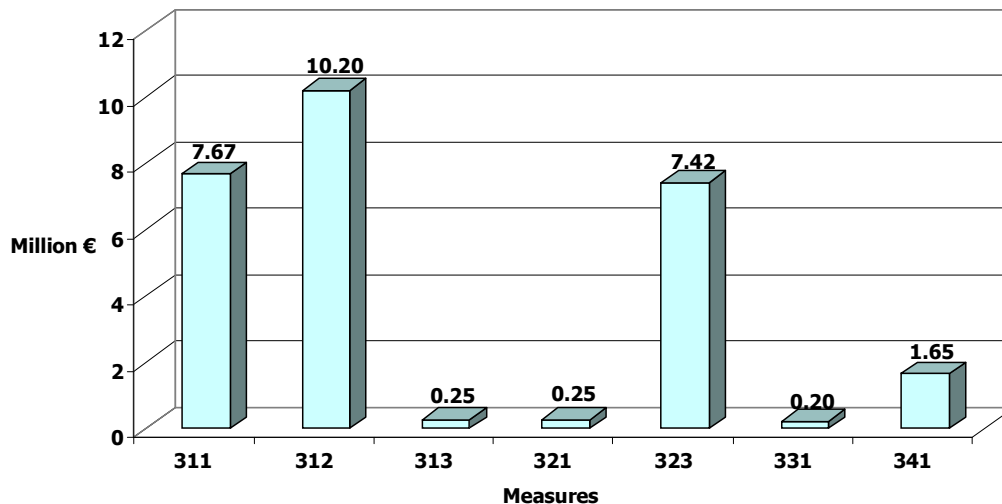


Develop and maintain the attractiveness for inhabitants	- Improvement of the supply of services;
Manage and promote the rural heritage	- Preserve and develop the cultural and natural heritage associated with a strong local identity (i.e. language)
Promote the organisation of the actors around integrated projects for the territories	- Animate territories - Elaborate territorial projects - Train professionals

Result targets include a €1,050,000 investment made by 300 enterprises supported to develop non-agricultural activities (measure 312), a €1,700,000 increase of the non-agricultural net income of 140 farms supported for diversification (measure 311), a €700,000 investment relating to integrating schemes to support ecological measures, in favour of pastoral activities and also Natura 2000 areas management.

No modifications have been made in result targets for axis 3 concerning the amendments of the RDP as a result of the Health Check, the European Recovery Package.

**Axis 3 budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including national/regional public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €27,626,800<sup>5</sup>**



Following the latest revision of the RDP the new total budget allocation for axis 3 is €27,626,800. There is a minor increase of funds to axis 3 (measure 323) from the Reform of the Common Market Organisation concerning the wine sector and no modification in relation to target outputs following the RDP update. For further information on measures please refer to the impact indicators table in the revised RDP.

<sup>5</sup> For measure 322 and 331 no private spending has been allocated.

**Axis 4 objectives: Leader**

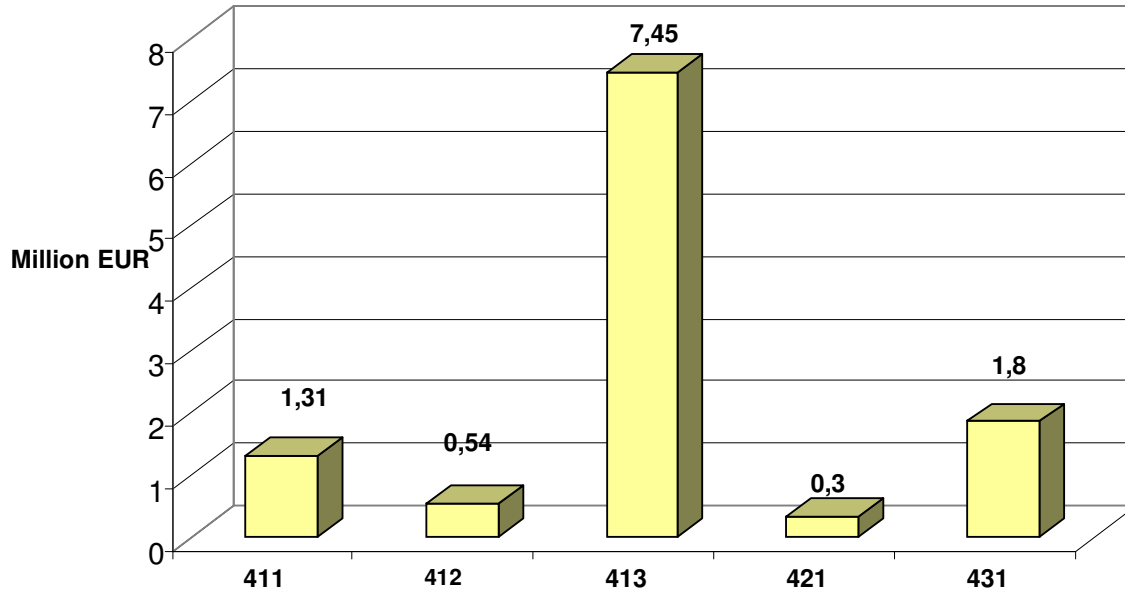
The main priority under axis 4 is support for local development strategies that promote quality of life actions and diversification of rural activities (measure 413) which accounts for almost 65% of the total axis budget allocation. Other support is targeted at running the LAGs, skills acquisition and incentives (measure 431; 16,2%), and implementation of competitiveness actions (measure 411; 11,4%). Funding in axis 4 suffered many modifications in the revised RDP for Corsica (in order to take into account the results deriving from LAGs selections), with a net positive difference of €150,000: measure 411 decreased from €800,000 to €364,061; measure 412 decreased from €450,000 to €180,914; measure 413 increased from €2,144,800 to €2,889,354; measure 421 increased from €30,000 to €176,564 and measure 431 decreased from €856,200 to €820,107. There was also a transfer of €108,000 from the Modulation (wine) to axis 4.

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Strengthen the participation of local communities in defining rural development policies	- Improvement of local participation in defining policies.
Enhance the potential of local development	- Overcome rural isolation; - Value endogenous resources in rural areas. - Implement local, integrated, shared development strategies
Improve the local governance	- Ensure the elaboration and implementation of local strategies in line with the rural development framework.

Number of LAGs operational in the RDP areas as of March 2010 was 4.

No modifications have been made to result targets of the axis 4 during the 2009 RDP update, concerning the amendments of the RDP as a result of the Health Check, the European Recovery Package.

**Axis 4 budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including national/regional public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €11,480,453<sup>6</sup>**



Following the latest revision of the RDP the new total budget allocation for axis 4 no modifications have been made in the framework of the “new challenges”, however a minor increase of this axis has been made after LAGs’ selection on the bases of their projects budgets.

### Monitoring and evaluation strategy

The monitoring and evaluation strategy is the same for all French RDPs. The evaluation activities are under the responsibility of the authorities of Corsica, and the Managing Authority for the RDP. The Rural Committee helps in a participatory initiative to identify the difficulties and evaluate the results of the intervention and thus adjust or redirect the effort of the authority management efforts towards new needs identified by the Rural Committee. Some Specific indicators are supplemented to allow for better evaluation of a specific Corsican orientation. Differentiation through quality is important; therefore, specific indicators would lead to the assessment of the achievement of this objective. For example (number of quality brands, number of operators, which part of the production meets quality standards, development of production quality label, value of agricultural production that meets quality standards).

### Communication and publicity

Information and publicity are necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the public intervention. It is the responsibility of the Territorial Collectivity of Corsica (i.e., the Region) and the RDP Managing Authority to ensure that the provision of information and publicity is respected. The Managing Authority together with the communication unit of the Paying Agency is responsible for developing a communication plan and ensuring its implementation. It has an estimated budget of €310, 000 (EARDF contribution). To

<sup>6</sup> For measure 421 no private spending has been allocated.



ensure the widest possible dissemination of information related to rural development programme, information is available on the Internet, brochures, leaflets, an also through meetings and press conferences. The website of the Territorial Collectivity of Corsica should help in spreading data concerning the RDP and ensuring its understanding. This will contribute towards promoting easier access to information even for rural inhabitants. From 2009, the work done by the rural network will help complete the information gaps on the implementation of the RDP available on Internet.

## Annex I - Measures

Measures selected by the RDP   Measures selected by the updated RDP  

<b>Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector</b>	<i>Promoting knowledge and improving human potential</i>	<b>111</b>	Vocational training and information actions
		<b>112</b>	Setting up of young farmers
		<b>113</b>	Early retirement
		<b>114</b>	Use of advisory services
		<b>115</b>	Setting up of management, relief and advisory services
	<i>Restructuring and developing physical potential and promoting innovation</i>	<b>121</b>	Modernisation of agricultural holdings
		<b>122</b>	Improvement of the economic value of forests
		<b>123</b>	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products
		<b>124</b>	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector
		<b>125</b>	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry
		<b>126</b>	Restoring agricultural production potential
	<i>Quality of agricultural production and products</i>	<b>131</b>	Meeting standards based on Community legislation
		<b>132</b>	Participation of farmers in food quality schemes
		<b>133</b>	Information and promotion activities
	<i>Transitional measures</i>	<b>141</b>	Semi-subsistence farming
		<b>142</b>	Producer groups
<b>143</b>		Providing farm advisory and extension services	
<b>Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside</b>	<i>Sustainable use of agricultural land</i>	<b>211</b>	Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas
		<b>212</b>	Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas
		<b>213</b>	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC
		<b>214</b>	Agri-environment payments
		<b>215</b>	Animal welfare payments
		<b>216</b>	Non-productive investments
	<i>Sustainable use of forestry land</i>	<b>221</b>	First afforestation of agricultural land
		<b>222</b>	First establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land
		<b>223</b>	First afforestation of non-agricultural land
		<b>224</b>	Natura 2000 payments
		<b>225</b>	Forest-environment payments
		<b>226</b>	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions
		<b>227</b>	Non-productive investments
<b>Axis 3 - Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy</b>	<i>Diversify the rural economy</i>	<b>311</b>	Diversification into non-agricultural activities
		<b>312</b>	Support for business creation and development
		<b>313</b>	Encouragement of tourism activities
	<i>Improve the quality of life in rural areas</i>	<b>321</b>	Basic services for the economy and rural population
		<b>322</b>	Village renewal and development
		<b>323</b>	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
		<b>331</b>	Training and information
		<b>341</b>	Skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy
<b>Axis 4 - Leader</b>	<i>Implementing local development strategies</i>	<b>411</b>	Competitiveness
		<b>412</b>	Environment/land management
		<b>413</b>	Quality of life/diversification
	<b>421</b>	Implementing cooperation projects	
	<b>431</b>	Running the LAG, skills acquisition, animation	