

Rural Development Programme (RDP) of Andalucía (Spain)

Programa de Desarrollo Rural de Andalucía¹
(Rural Development Programme of Andalucía)

Relevant Contact Details

Address: Consejería de Economía y Hacienda,
Dirección General de Fondos Europeos y
Planificación, C/ Juan Antonio Vizarrón, Edificio
Torretriana, Isla de la Cartuja, 41092 Sevilla,
Spain

Telephone number: +34 955065015

Managing Authority Website:

<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es>

Other useful links:

Rural Development Programme (RDP):

<http://www.mapa.es/es/desarrollo/pags/programacion/programas/programas.htm>

National Strategy Plan (NSP):

http://www.mapa.es/es/desarrollo/pags/programacion/plan_estrategico/plan_estrategico.htm

Spanish National Rural Network:

<http://www.mapa.es/es/desarrollo/pags/RedRuralNacional/Presentacion/presentacion.htm>



Map of Andalucía

(© European Commission)

General socio-economic situation in rural areas in the Andalucía region

Andalucía is the most populated region of Spain and the RDP notes that a third of the region's residents lives in rural areas. Covering 17 % of the Spanish surface (87,599 km²), Andalucía has a population density of around 85 inhabitants/Km² according to the RDP. Located in the south of Spain it has a geostrategic position in Europe as it constitutes a natural communication link between Europe, America and the North of Africa. Its extensive territory (2% of the EU surface) explains the large diversity of physical and natural characteristics. RDP baseline data states that GDP per capita in Andalucía was 75% of the EU-25 average in 2006, when the unemployment rate was 12.6%.

Socio economic strengths noted in the RDP include a significant proportion of population engaged in agriculture (12% of employment), high socio-economic importance of the agriculture and agri-food sector both at regional and national level (the region being a 'leader' in certain products such as olive oil, fruit and vegetables, whilst total agricultural production represents 25,5% of the national one), high soil and labour productivity that contribute to Andalucía's high productivity indices, efficient production and transformation systems that generate employment and wealth (the region is distinguished for organic and integrated

¹ 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).

farming, extensive livestock production practices and strong development of a very productive agri-food industry, the second industry at national level), while strong cooperative culture and generation of value added confer high quality to agricultural products. Tourism and high value cultural heritage in rural areas also contribute to the region's strengths. However, the rural sector is progressively losing economic importance and registering increasing unemployment rates. Additional weaknesses include uneven distribution of wealth evident in the existence of 'growth' centres and depopulation trends, the latter aggravated by demographic ageing and low attractiveness of labour conditions in rural areas, low efficiency irrigation systems coupled with water resource deficits, deficient rural and service infrastructure (road and energy networks, limited access to education and culture), whilst agricultural products are characterised by reduced economic margin (large surface crops such as cereal, small size of agricultural holdings, sub-sectors sensitive to CAP reforms such as cotton and olive groves) and by excessive dependency on a limited number of crops making the rural sector vulnerable to environmental or economic crises. In terms of the environment, there is a diversity of forest ecosystems of high natural value, while there has been a notable expansion of Natura 2000 areas and progress in the field of renewable energies. The predominantly extensive character of agriculture contributes to environmental sustainability. However, there are serious soil erosion processes and water deficits, exacerbated by climate conditions (droughts and torrential rains).

RDP strategic objectives

In consistency with the Spanish Strategy for Rural Development embodied in the National Strategy Plan and the Spanish National Framework, the fundamental objective of the RDP is to maintain the population in rural areas and to improve the quality of life, by increasing competitiveness of the agri-food and forestry complex (agriculture, livestock, forestry and agri-food industry), sectors that define economically and socially most rural areas. Priorities and objectives of this RDP comprise:

- 1) Competitiveness of the agri-food sector.
- 2) Sustainability and natural environment.
- 3) Diversification of the quality of life in rural areas.
- 4) Development of the local capacity and diversification.

These objectives integrate the needs stemming from the strengths and weaknesses of rural areas, such as promoting employment and revitalising rural areas, improving capacities of those engaged in agricultural activities, introducing structural improvements and innovation as well as sustainable agricultural practices and diversification.

Following the CAP Health Check, and in recognition of the greater emphasis now being given to the 'new challenges' facing agriculture and rural areas, the RDP was revised in 2009. The new challenges related to climate change, water management, biodiversity and soil erosion were already addressed in the RDP in the analysis of strengths and weaknesses. The revised programme takes into account the current economic environment (which differs from the one during preparation and approval of the RDP) and the implications this may have in the reduction of national top-ups for certain programme measures.

The revised emphasis of the programme strategy is justified in an additional chapter on "New

² A full list of the RDP measures can be found in Annex I.

³ A type of wooded pastureland found in the Iberian peninsula

Community challenges". Taking into account the additional financing provided by the Health Check (HC) and the European Economic Recovery Package (EERP), biodiversity, water scarcity and soil erosion & climate change will be prioritised through additional financing to agrarian and forest infrastructure (42% of HC and EERP funds), agri-environment measures (49% of HC and EERP funds) and preventing/restoring forestry potential affected by natural disasters (8% of HC and EERP funds).

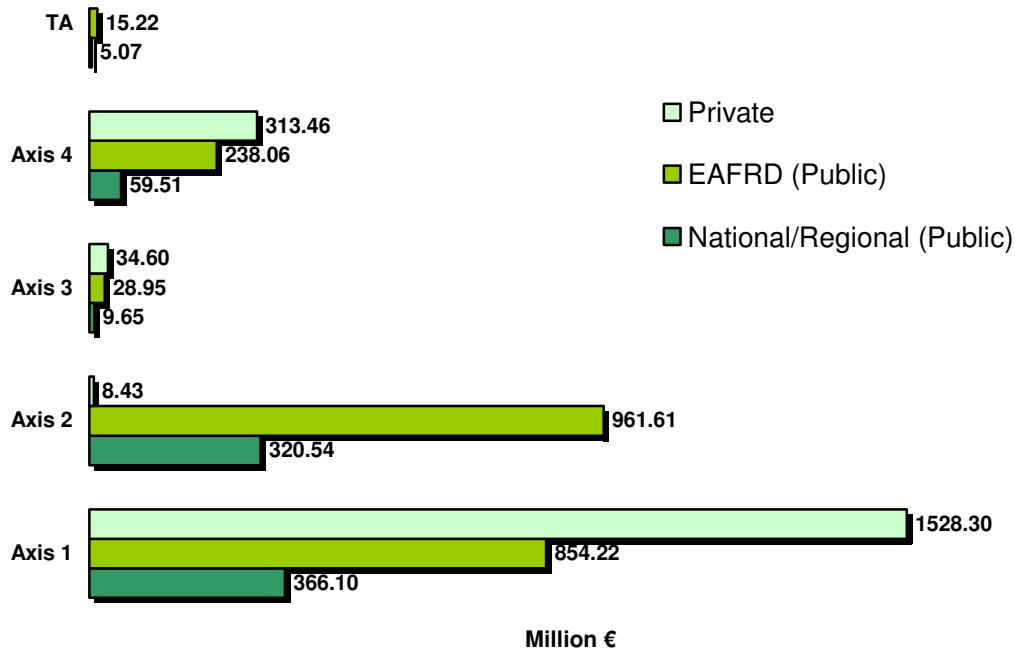
Expected impact / outcomes of the policies

Expected outcomes include improved competitiveness of the agricultural and forest sector by integrating environmental components in production processes, improved management of natural resources (especially water and energy), better management and protection of Natura 2000 areas (promoting synergies between axis 1 and 2 actions) and diversification of rural areas by adding value to natural heritage, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, creating microenterprises and reinforcing the multi-functional character of agriculture and forest surfaces (development of alternative activities, such as leisure, tourism, etc.). Special importance is assigned to improved capacity of actors and a participative territorial approach as a means to contribute to competitiveness, environmental improvements and economic diversification. Expected impacts include:

- Economic growth: 12% increase of net value added expressed in purchasing power parity;
- Employment creation: 12% increase in units of agrarian work;
- Increases in labour productivity: 8% increase in the variation of gross value added / units of agrarian work;
- Reduction of biodiversity deterioration: 5% increase in the population of birds related to agrarian areas;
- Maintenance of agriculture and forest areas of high natural value: 5% increase in the surface of Areas of Community Interest;
- Improvement in the quality of water: +4% in the reduction of water pollution from the use of fertilisers; +20% in water pollution from the use of phytosanitary products;
- Contribution to the fight against climate change: 40% increase in the production of renewable energy.

Modifications to the programme as a result of the HC, EERP, Modulation and wine reform are expected to contribute to: climate change adaptation and mitigation impacts; more sustainable use of water resources; better protected biodiversity; prevention of soil erosion and to safeguard against any potential loss of national top-ups as a result of the current economic crisis. Programme modifications do not have any implications on impact indicators. Changes in result indicators are depicted below under each axis.

RDP budget breakdown by axis: Total expenditure (including national/regional + EAFRD + private funding) of €4,743,731,557



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 58% of the overall RDP budget in Andalucía is allocated to axis 1 (€ 2,748.6 million); approximately 27% is allocated to axis 2 (€ 1,290.6 million), 2% to axis 3 (€ 73.2 million) and 13% to axis 4 (€ 611 million), with 0.4% available to fund Technical Assistance (€ 20.3 million).

Within axis 1, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 13% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 31%; and private funds 56%.

Within axis 2, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 25% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 75%; and private funds 1%.

Within axis 3, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 13% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 40% and private funds 47%.

Within axis 4, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 10% share of the axis funding; EAFRD 39%; and private funds 51%.

Within technical assistance, National/Regional public funding represents approximately 25% share of the technical assistance funding and EAFRD 75%.

As a consequence of the HC and EERP together with the programming of additional money from Modulation/wine reform, the region has been assigned an additional total of

€216,319,759 in terms of EAFRD contribution, of which €79,943,226 is for water management, €110,593,153 is for biodiversity and climate change, €2,434,800 is for soil erosion and €23,348,580 has been allocated for the running costs of Local Action Groups, skills acquisition and animation. Such injections are intended to reinforce existing measures and operations in Andalucía. The new RDP total budget including public, private and EAFRD contributions is €4,743,731,557. The new budget includes a reduction of €72,304,893 in national top-ups for some measures (125, 214 and 431). The amounts deducted from national top-ups will be used to cover the additional co-financing needs required by the allocation of additional EAFRD money injected in the programme. This reduction is justified by the fact that, under the current economic crisis, the initial top-ups foreseen in the programme cannot be guaranteed any more.

Axis Information²

Axis 1 objectives – Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

The emphasis of this axis is on adding value to agricultural products, followed by modernisation of agricultural holdings and infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture.

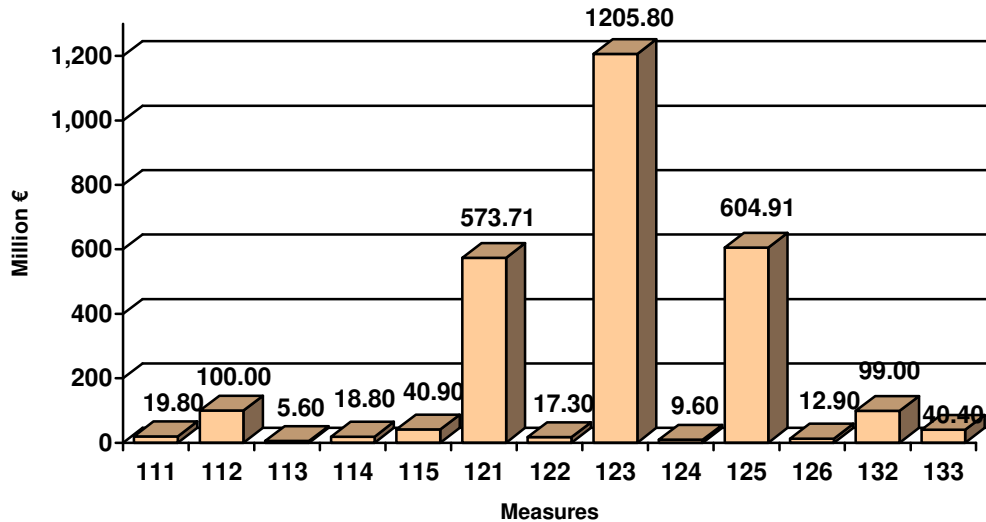
Result targets for axis 1 include an increase in the gross value added of subsidised farms of up to 20%, creation of 6,660 new employment posts (33% of which should be for women), an increase in the number of agricultural holdings or enterprises that have incorporated new products or techniques by as much as 7,000, an increase in the value of agricultural or livestock production under recognised quality systems by as much as €142 million, irrigation water savings of 150 hm³/ha.

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Improve competitiveness of the agriculture and forest sector by promoting restructuring, development and innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of knowledge and improvement in human potential. - Restructuring and development of the physical potential and promotion of innovation. - Improving the quality of production and the agricultural production

The RDP amendments in 2009 modified result indicators related to water management and improvements in the capacity to use water more efficiently. Additional funding for measure 125 has been provided to improve existing systems, rather than develop new irrigation infrastructures. Results from these revised RDP actions are expected to increase the gross value added in agricultural holdings and enterprises by an additional €6,400 million approximately.

Other modifications to measure 121 allow support for modernisation of milk producing holdings and these reflect the need to modernise milk producing holdings in view of the removal of the milk-quotas.

Axis 1 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €2,748,622,198



Following the 2009 RDP update the total budget for axis 1 is €2,748,622,198. This includes an additional €114,204,609 (€79,943,226 EAFRD + €34,261,383 national/regional public) for measure 125 to improve and develop irrigation infrastructures.

Axis 2 objectives - Improving the environment and the countryside

The emphasis of this axis is on agri-environment measures, restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions, and first forestation of agricultural land.

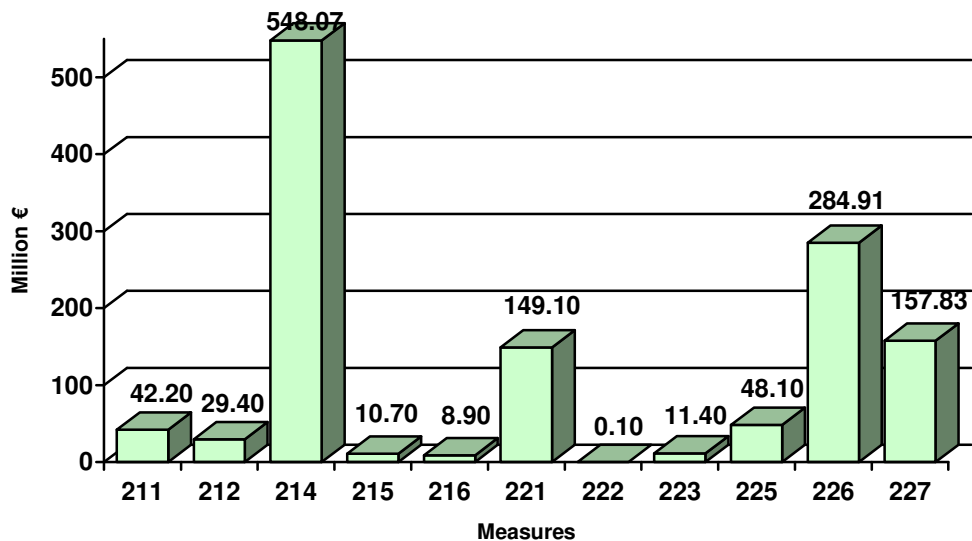
Result targets for axis 2 include a surface of up to 500,000 ha that contributes to improvement of biodiversity and agriculture of high natural value, improvement of water quality, fight against climate change, improvement of soil quality and avoiding land marginalisation and abandonment.

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Improve the natural and rural environment through support for sustainable land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase sustainable management of agricultural and forest land. - Provide incentives to farmers and forest managers so they employ land use methods that are compatible with the preservation of the environment and the natural landscape. - Protect and improve natural resources through the protection of biodiversity, the management of Natura 2000 areas, water and soil protection and the mitigation of climate change, including the reduction in GHG emissions, reduction in ammoniac emissions and sustainable use of pesticides.

As a result of the 2009 RDP modifications, increased support is being provided to biodiversity (conservation of species-rich vegetation types, protection and maintenance of grasslands and conservation of genetic diversity) and climate change (carbon sequestration in forests and avoidance of carbon dioxide emissions as well as reduction of the negative effects of climate

change on forests). More concretely, the surface that contributes to an improvement of biodiversity and agriculture of high natural value, an improvement of water quality, the fight against climate change, improvement of soil quality and avoiding land marginalisation and abandonment will increase for several sub-measures of measure 214 (agri-environment payments) as well as for measure 226 (restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions).

Axis 2 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €1,290,574,185



Following the 2009 RDP update, the total axis 2 budget is €1,290,574,185. The additional EAFRD is divided between the following two measures: 214 (€94,184,324), and 226 (€16,408,828) plus € 36,864,384 national/regional public funding for axis 2. The only change proposed will affect the budget and the output and result indicators. The additional funds for measure 214 will be spent in already existing sub-measures covering apiculture, autochthonous breeds in danger of extinction, organic agricultural and livestock production, integrated production of rice and olive trees and sustainable management of "dehesas"⁷³. An additional EAFRD allocation of €2,434,800 from the wine reform and Modulation is allocated to conservation agriculture for vineyards in slopes (sub-measure 14 of measure 214) to help prevent soil erosion. Other modifications include a small change in agri-environmental commitments in relation to the sustainable cultivation of chestnuts (sub-measure 9 of measure 214).

Axis 3 objectives - The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

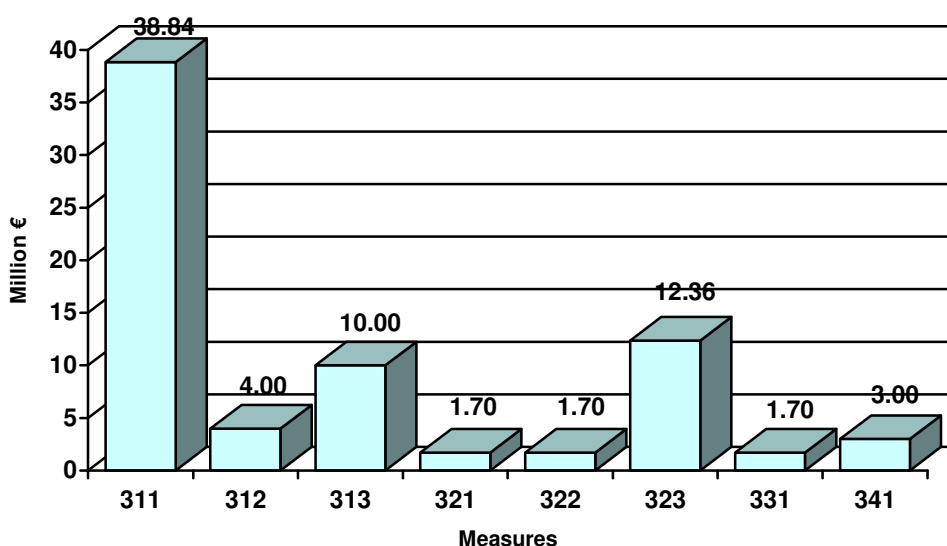
The emphasis of this axis is on diversification into non-agricultural activities, which was allocated more than half of the total budget for axis 3 (53%). This is followed by the conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (17% of the total budget for axis 3) and the encouragement of tourism activities (almost 14% of the total budget for this axis). Other support includes funds for business creation and development (5% of axis 3 funding).

Result targets for axis 3 include a 15% increase in the gross value added of subsidised SMEs

and microenterprises, gross employment creation of as much as 4,000 (depending on the measure), a 10% increase in tourist visits, an increase in the population benefiting from improved services of as many as 3,250 (depending on the measure), an increase in internet coverage (150 ASDL lines per 1,000 inhabitants), an increase in the number of people that have completed satisfactorily training courses (as many as 1,000 depending on the measure).

Strategic objectives	Specific objectives
Improve the quality of life in rural areas and promote diversification of economic activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversification of the rural economy - Improvement in the quality of life in the rural areas. - Reinforcement of the territorial cohesion and the synergies

Axis 3 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €73,208,876



There were no modifications in relation to axis 3 following the 2009 RDP update.

Axis 4 objectives - Leader

The emphasis of this axis is on quality of life and diversification representing a very significant proportion of the total axis 4 budget (almost 64%). This is followed by competitiveness in the implementation of local development (20% of the total budget for axis 4). Other support includes funding for the conservation and upgrading of rural heritage (7% of total axis 4 budget) and for environmental/land management (5% of axis 4 budget).

The main objectives of the application of the Leader approach comprise:

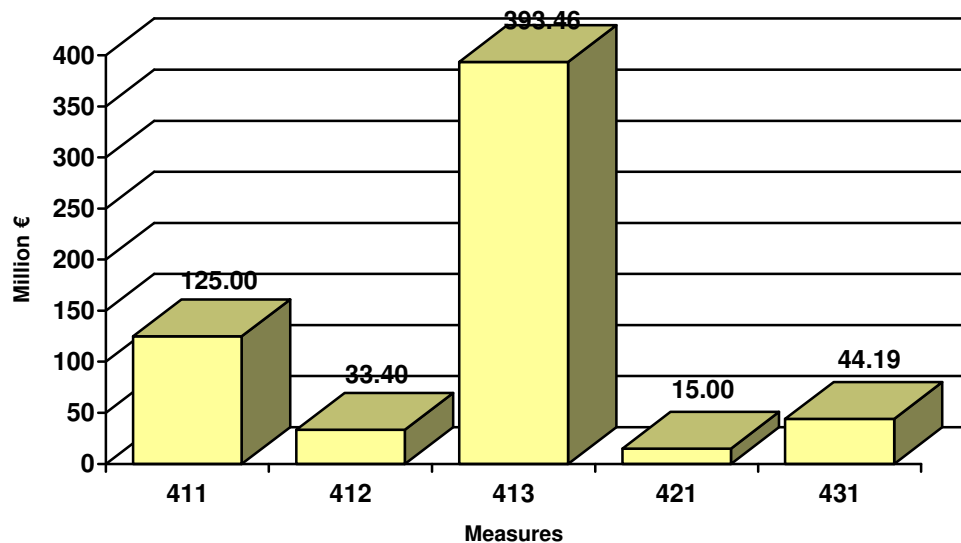
- Contribution to the objectives of axis1 and 3 through the rural development strategies and participation of economic and social actors.
- Improvement in local governance and promotion of cooperation between the private and public sectors.
- Mobilisation of the endogenous development potential of rural areas.

Result targets for axis 4 include 1,100 participants that complete training courses satisfactorily.

Number of LAGs operational in the RDP areas as of March 2010 was 52.

There were no modifications to result targets as a result of the RDP update but additional funds were allocated for LAG activities.

Axis 4 indicative budget breakdown by measure: Total allocated budget (including regional/national public funds + EAFRD + private funds) of €611,037,889



Following the RDP update, the total axis 4 budget is €611,037,889. Some €23,348,580 of additional EAFRD was allocated during the 2009 RDP modifications (from Modulation adjustments) for measure 431 to cover the running costs of LAGs, skills acquisition and animation. This was provided to ensure sufficient funds for the measure in case of reduction of national top-ups as a result of the economic crisis.

Monitoring and evaluation strategy

The monitoring system provides information on programme implementation through financial, output and result indicators. The Monitoring Committee use this information to propose necessary amendments of the RDP for subsequent years. The evaluation strategy comprises an interim and an ex post evaluation to be carried out by independent evaluators. The evaluations will use the output, results and impact indicators defined by the CMEF and some additional specific output and result indicators for some measures in axes 1, 2 and 3, covering aspects related to:

- Gender aspects (numbers or percentages of women), demographic ageing aspects (number of participants over 40 years old), number of activities for sustainable rural production, number of e-training activities, number of young farmers installed in land covered by the early retirement measure, number of participants and advisory services related to integrated production, organic farming, animal welfare, etc, number of organic

- agri-food entities supported, surface covered by irrigation operations, numbers of operations in several small scale infrastructures (axis 1).
- Natura 2000 surfaces under agri-environment commitments, while all forestry measures indicators are to be provided specifically for Natura 2000 areas (axis 2).
 - Actions for the conservation and improvement of elements of natural heritage in farms (axis 3).

Communication and publicity

The aims of the RDP communication strategy are:

- to inform the beneficiaries, authorities and actors about financing opportunities in the context of the RDP (guaranteeing transparency);
- to inform public opinion on the existence and the benefits of EAFRD ("expressive" communication to generate ideas and values for the implementation, management and results of these funds in Andalucía).

Target groups are distinguished between:

- Beneficiaries: potential and actual beneficiaries, LAGs, economic, social and environmental actors, public authorities and the population of rural areas.
- Public opinion: opinion leaders and the media.

The communication plan comprises three main actions: a) inform on the content of the programme; b) promote the participation of interested actors in the programme; c) communicate the results of programme implementation. A variety of communication tools are used to support these actions, including information in the media, information services to beneficiaries and the public, audiovisual tools, leaflets and publications, web page, publicity campaigns, meetings and events (conferences, workshops, participation in fairs, project ideas competition, etc).

Annex I – Measures

Measures selected by the RDP Measures selected by the updated RDP

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