Factsheet on Cohesion Policy implementation and performance

Case study regions in Spain

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| **Basic info** | **Andalucía** | **Castilla y León** | **Spain** | **Unit** |
| Population [2008] | 8118.6 | 2541.7 | 45668.9 | thous. |
| GDP [2008] | 152137 | 57092 | 1116207 | mln EUR |
| Population [2014] | 8388.9 | 2495.7 | 46512.2 | thous. |
| GDP [2014] | 139099 | 52348 | 1041160 | mln EUR |
| ***Total allocation*** |
| Allocation ERDF+CF [2000-2006] | 8913.9 | 3495.4 | 40098.5 | mln EUR |
| Allocation ERDF+CF 2007-2013 | 10313.4 | 1857.0 | 31164.2 | mln EUR |
| Ratio [period 2007-2013 to 2000-2006] | 1.16 | 0.53 | 0.78 | ratio |
| ***Absorption rates ERDF+CF*** |
| Absorption rate 2000-2006 [final] | 99.5 | 99.4 | 99.3 | per cent |
| Absorption rate 2007-2013 [in 2014] | 67.7 | 89.0 | 73.0 | per cent |

When analysing the differences in allocations between Andalucia and Castilla y Leon, one must look first at the eligibility criteria. Under the programming period 2007-2013, Andalucia was classified as a convergence region, while Castilla y Leon was a phasing-in region. This distinction is reflected in total allocations, expressed in per capita terms. The former region has received 1.2 thous. EUR per capita, while the latter 0.7 thous. EUR for the 2007-2013 programming period. In the previous period, the difference had been less pronounced, and in favour of Castilla y Leon.

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| **Thematic structure** [NUTS-2, 2007-13, ERDF+CF] | **Andalucía** | **Castilla y León** | **Spain** |
| ***% of allocation*** |
| Category A “Innovative enivironment”: business support, human resources, IT infrastructure and services, research and technology | 34.6% | 36.9% | 35.5% |
| Category B ”Basic infrastructure”: energy, environment and natural resources, transport infrastructure | 52.4% | 57.5% | 53.1% |
| Category C “Quality of life”: social infrastructure, tourism and culture, urban and rural regeneration | 12.3% | 5.4% | 9.8% |
| ***Rate of absorption [in 2014]*** |
| Category A “Innovative enivironment”: business support, human resources, IT infrastructure and services, research and technology | 59.1% | 127.6% | 62.8% |
| Category B ”Basic infrastructure”: energy, environment and natural resources, transport infrastructure | 70.9% | 69.2% | 79.5% |
| Category C “Quality of life”: social infrastructure, tourism and culture, urban and rural regeneration | 77.4% | 81.7% | 73.0% |

\* % of allocation does not add to 1, because the “technical assistance” is not included in any of the categories.

The thematic structure of allocation shows a similar pattern across the analysed regions, with Category B responsible for over 50% of the total allocations, and Category A receiving over 1/3 of the funds. The only notable difference between the two case study regions is the share of funds dedicated to investments in quality of life, with Andalucia’s allocations over twice as big as Castilla y Leon’s (12.3% vs. 5.4%).

There is a striking difference between the case study regions with regard to the rate of absorption under the Category A. Castilla y Leon shows a significant overspending in this field, noting a rate of absorption of 127.6%, double the value of the national average.The absorption rates for the two remaining categories are more balanced across the analysed regions. However, against the pattern visible at the national level, both regions have absorption rates higher in the Category C, rather than in the Category B.

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| **Regional OP** [ERDF] | **Andalucía** | **Castilla y León** | **Spain** | **Unit** |
| ***Allocations to Regional OPs*** |
| Allocation 2007-2013 | 7428.6 | 940.5 | 20462.7 | mln EUR |
| Allocation 2014-2020 | 2908.3 | 314.4 | 9148.9 | mln EUR |
| Ratio [period 2014-2020 to 2007-2013] | 0.39 | 0.33 | 0.45 | ratio |
| ***Reported achievements: period 2007-2013 [as in 2013]*** |
| Jobs created | 36074 | 7568 | 75438 | jobs |
| Reconstructed roads | 342 | no data | 2458 | km |
| Start-ups supported | 884 | 1660 | 9963 | number |
| Additional population served by water projects | 34151 | 114499 | 1928976 | persons |
| Cooperation projects enterprises-research institutions | 644 | 1127 | 9961 | projects |
| Direct investment aid projects to SME | 7765 | 5100 | 61213 | projects |

The allocations to Regional OPs in both case study regions has fallen significantly when the last two programming periods are concerned. A similar, though less pronounced decline, was observed at the country level, where the share of ERDF funds channelled through Regional OPs has fallen from 67% to 47% in the programming period 2014-2020.

The reported achievements suggest that the Regional OP in Andalucia led to a significant number of jobs being created. However, the Regional OP in Castilla y Leon seems to be more cost-effective in this regard. Both regions perform well when compared with the total number of jobs created in Spain during this period (one should bear in mind that the data on achievements for the national level is taken from a different source, and thus may not be fully comparable with regional data). Castilla y Leon seems to outperform Andalucia with regard to supporting start-ups and implementing projects of cooperation between enterprises and research institutions.