



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

Annual implementation report

Malta - Rural Development Programme (National)

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1. KEY INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND ITS PRIORITIES

1.a) Financial Data

See annexed documents

1.b) Common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values

1.b1) Overview table

Focus Area 1A						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	2014-2020					8.19
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 1B						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	2014-2020					4.00
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 1C						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2020			205.00	2.85	7,200.00
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 2A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)		2014-2020	1.03	111.26	1.03	111.26	0.93
		2014-2019	0.52	56.17	0.52	56.17	
		2014-2018	0.44	47.53	0.38	41.05	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,185,229.32	138.38	18,349,421.14	87.01	21,090,010.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,925,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,185,229.32	125.72	18,349,421.14	79.04	23,215,010.00

Focus Area 2B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)		2014-2020	0.49	102.33	0.49	102.33	0.48
		2014-2019	0.48	100.24	0.48	100.24	
		2014-2018	0.15	31.33	0.15	31.33	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	4,340,000.00	100.93	3,388,000.00	78.79	4,300,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	4,340,000.00	82.52	3,388,000.00	64.42	5,259,597.00

Focus Area 3A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)		2014-2020					1.36
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Nr of operations supported under M4.2 contributing to FA3A (M4.2) (operations)		2014-2020			19.00	76.00	25.00
		2014-2019			15.00	60.00	
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	813,170.67
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	6,298,165.24	87.88	1,093,485.07	15.26	7,166,708.67
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	402,977.00	64.48	0.00	0.00	625,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	6,701,142.24	77.88	1,093,485.07	12.71	8,604,879.34

Focus Area 3B						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T7: percentage of farms participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)	2014-2020					11.97
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Priority P4							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)		2014-2020			12.28	412.21	2.98
		2014-2019			7.46	250.42	
		2014-2018			5.45	182.94	
		2014-2017			2.00	67.14	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)		2014-2020			4.12	138.30	2.98
		2014-2019			4.57	153.41	
		2014-2018			4.12	138.30	
		2014-2017			2.00	67.14	
		2014-2016			1.32	44.31	
		2014-2015					
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)		2014-2020			15.50	243.42	6.37
		2014-2019			15.50	243.42	
		2014-2018			13.48	211.69	
		2014-2017			9.62	151.08	
		2014-2016			9.78	153.59	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	285,000.00	16.19			1,760,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	500,000.00	47.62			1,050,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	24,909,941.24	100.01	12,160,433.97	48.82	24,908,690.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	5,231,921.32	76.74	2,786,142.12	40.86	6,817,953.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	14,077.97	7.04	7,432.08	3.72	200,000.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	13,796,194.49	114.97	10,119,939.72	84.33	12,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,741,641.08	156.67	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	47,478,776.10	94.51	25,073,947.89	49.91	50,236,643.00

Focus Area 5A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T14: percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A)		2014-2020			2.73	50.17	5.44
		2014-2019			0.73	13.41	
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					1,760,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	23,535,520.81	124.40	18,230,913.16	96.36	18,919,719.51
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	23,535,520.81	110.60	18,230,913.16	85.67	21,279,719.51

Focus Area 5B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)		2014-2020					759,597.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					440,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	379,798.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,169,798.00

Focus Area 5C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)		2014-2020	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
		2014-2019	1.00	0.00			
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	9,147.25	0.60	7,852.91	0.52	1,519,194.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	9,147.25	0.43	7,852.91	0.37	2,119,194.00

Focus Area 5D							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		2014-2020			0.01	0.06	16.09
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					220,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	14,316.22	1.37	14,295.03	1.37	1,044,446.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	14,316.22	0.89	14,295.03	0.89	1,614,446.00

Focus Area 5E							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)		2014-2020			8.89	167.36	5.31
		2014-2019			4.00	75.30	
		2014-2018			2.06	38.78	
		2014-2017			0.31	5.84	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,853,291.53	509.89	2,825,185.94	373.85	755,705.67
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,853,291.53	153.78	2,825,185.94	112.75	2,505,705.67

Focus Area 6A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)		2014-2020					24.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	648,491.35	47.91	0.00	0.00	1,353,437.49
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	648,491.35	40.44	0.00	0.00	1,603,437.49

Focus Area 6B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)		2014-2020			2.50	25.00	10.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)		2014-2020					0.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)		2014-2020			105.38	105.42	99.97
		2014-2019			105.38	105.42	
		2014-2018			105.38	105.42	
		2014-2017			99.97	100.00	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	4,237,348.64	65.19	1,457,334.28	22.42	6,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	4,237,348.64	62.78	1,457,334.28	21.59	6,750,000.00

Focus Area 6C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)		2014-2020					0.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Percentage of total public expenditure (M1.1 to M1.3) allocated for ICT actions/interventions (%)		2014-2020					20.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					220,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					220,000.00

1.c) Key information on RDP implementation based on data from a) and b) by Focus Area

Priority 1 - Focus Area 1A

List of measures

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 1A are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M16 – Co-operation

Progress achieved

Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information actions

The sub-measures under M01 all contribute towards FA1A. These are:

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

In 2020, M1.1 saw the implementation of the sole project approved under this sub-measure, a project submitted by the Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology (MCAST) which was awarded in 2019 with a committed value of €285,000 (amount linked to FA4A as per RDP Budget). Through this project, MCAST provided bespoke training to individuals operating in rural areas, a project closely linked to the provision of training in farming and business management practices and specific training linked to the AECMs of the RDP. A brief description of the courses delivered is provided in the table below:

Course Title*	Description
Farming and business management practices	Providing an extensive insight into different farming and business management practices, such as basic skill in running a business, record keeping and the use of information technologies, amongst others. The course also covered cross compliance requirements, Good Environmental and Agricultural Practices (GAEC), quality assurance and the use of efficient production methods.
AECM 1: Controlling Weeds in Orchards and Vineyards by Mechanical, instead of Chemical Methods	The course focuses on how weeds in vineyards and/or orchards can be controlled by mechanical means in vineyards and/or orchards and hence reduce the use of herbicide. The course covered aspects as different types of weeds and their control, troubleshooting equipment, scheduling de-weeding and inter-row cropping management and practical aspects.
AECM 2: Course 3: Maintenance of recommended tree species and integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species	The focus of this course is on the damage caused by invasive species, soil threats, soil erosion and the incorrect pruning of trees. It also delved into the obligations stemming from national legislation in relation to the upkeep of trees.

AECM 3: Introduction of Bee Boxes on Holdings	The course covered basic aspect of apiculture, pollination, and the environmental importance of pollinators. The course also devolved into the bee colony, maintaining a beehive, the Maltese Bee, bee products and organic considerations.
AECM 4: Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) targeting Vineyards and Orchards	Within this course, the pest management evaluations, decisions and controls associated with Integrated Pest Management plans have been discussed to equip the farmer with knowledge to better understand the environmental importance of his practices and relevant actions.
AECM 6: Integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species: the Maltese Black Chicken and the Maltese Ox	The course provided an overview of poultry and oxen production and how the basic requirements of these animals are met on the farm. General discussion on breeding with the aim to maintain a generic diversity and create an opportunity to use these species' unique characteristics to enhance market value.

** Note that courses aimed at beneficiaries of AECM 5 focusing on the implementation of Soil Management Plan (SMP) and Conservation Plan are due to be introduced in 2021.*

The project contributes directly towards FA1A and FA1C and concurrently it also contributes towards P4. During 2020, AECM beneficiaries were asked to participate in one or more of the six courses delivered by MCAST, in line with their respective AECM. As a result of this investment, persons working in the agricultural sector will be equipped with apt knowledge and skills in relation to the business they are running as well as to their respective AECM. Through these courses participants are keeping up with the latest innovative technologies and techniques as well as acquire competences and skills to manage better and/or diversify the activities being carried out on the farm, with the aim to minimise risks and equip the farm to become more resilient to unpredicted events. Furthermore, training courses delve into sustainable development concerns.

Throughout 2020, a total of 205 participants (including repeat participants) attended one or more of the six courses organised by MCAST as part of this project. These courses covered topics related to weed management, maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species, introduction of bee boxes in agricultural parcels and their management, integrated pest management plan, and farm and business management practices. The table below provides a split of the certificates distributed for the different courses:

Course Title	No of Certified Participants
Controlling Weeds in Orchards and Vineyards by Mechanical, instead of Chemical Methods	54
Maintenance of recommended tree species and integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species	50
Introduction of Bee Boxes on Holdings	9
Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) targeting Vineyards and Orchards	16
Integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species: the Maltese Black Chicken and the Maltese Ox	4
Farming and Business Management	72
Total	205

Most of the participants that attended the generic farming and management course attended one or more of the specific courses, depending on the AECM/s they are beneficiaries of. From the specific courses, the weed management and the maintenance of autochthons courses were the ones with the highest participation reflecting the higher number of beneficiaries under these AECM's.

Given that the project is implemented via in-person sessions the delivery of the courses was interrupted in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. MCAST was able to reopen the courses once again between August and October of 2020. While the MA attempted to deliver these courses via remote learning tools such as online lessons in an effort to minimise the interruption in implementation of this contract, the MA found that this was not possible for the target group. Given the nature of these courses which require active participation and the beneficiary's basic IT literacy, the MA opted for a temporary postponement. For this reason, AECM beneficiaries were given a 24-month extension by which they would need to complete all the obligatory training.

In 2020, from the committed budget €285,000 no realised payments had been made. The MA currently has no concrete plans to launch any additional calls under M01 in 2021. M1 will be discussed in further detail during the Annual Review Meeting.

In terms of M1.3, the MA is still considering the possible revision of sub measure 1.3 in the RDP in the near future.

Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

The applicable measure contributing towards FA1A is:

- M2.2 - support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services.

The MA is considering the possible revision of this sub-measure.

Measure 16: Co-operation (art 35)

The applicable sub measures contributing towards FA1A are:

- M16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies; and
- M16.4 - support for horizontal and vertical cooperation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets, and for the promotion activities in a local context relating to the development of short-supply chains and local markets.

In 2020, the MA issued two calls for applications under M16.2 and M16.4, both closing in February and April with an allocated budget of €3 million and €0.375 million respectively. In the case of M16.2 one application was received under the February call, this application was later withdrawn by the applicant. While the April call was met with four applications with a requested budget of circa €3.7 million. Following PSC evaluation two out of the four submitted applications were awarded. An additional three applications were awarded in relation to the calls issued in 2019, bringing the total commitment levels by 2020 to around €3 million. Two of the approved applications contribute towards FA3A and three approved applications contribute to P4. In 2020, no realised payments were made.

As for the calls under M16.4, these were less successful, with one application being received under the February call with a requested budget of circa €628,00 having failed the PSC's evaluation, and no applications received under the April call.

Target Indicator

As at end of 2020, no realised expenditure was recorded under any of these measures in relation to FA1A. Indeed, the result indicator (T1) on the % of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (Focus Area 1A) was at end of 2020 nil. While Measure 1.1 is being currently being implemented, no realised payments have been made under the measure. Progress is expected in 2021 as realised payments will start to be effected for both Measure 1 and Measure 16.

Priority 1 - Focus Area 1B

List of measures

The measure contributing towards Focus Area 1B is:

- M16 – Co-operation (art 35)

Progress achieved

Measure 16: Co-operation (art 35)

The relevant sub-measures under this FA1B are:

- M16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies; and
- M16.6 - support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes.

During 2020, two calls were issued through the MA's open rolling call system for both sub-measures M16.2 and M16.6, closing in February and April. In the case of M16.2, as mentioned above, the 2020 calls led to a total of five applications being submitted, one of which was later withdrawn. Following PSC evaluation two out of the four submitted applications were awarded. An additional three applications were awarded in relation to the calls issued in 2019, bringing the total commitment levels by 2020 to around €3 million. Two of the approved applications contribute towards FA3A and three approved applications contribute to P4. In 2020, no realised payments were made.

As for M16.6 no applications were received under either call of M16.6.

Target Indicators

The total number of co-operation operations supported under the co-operation measure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 amounts to 5. Whilst no realised expenditure was made in relation to these projects, the implementation for them will see that these co-operation operations will be supported. .

Priority 1 – Focus Area 1C

List of measures

The measures contributing towards Focus Area 1C are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M16 – Co-operation

Progress achieved

Measure 1 - Knowledge transfer and information actions

The three sub-measures under M01 contributing towards FA1C, these are:

- M1.1 - support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

In the case of M1.1, 2020 saw advancements as the project awarded in 2019 to MCAST, for a committed value of €285,000, began its implementation through MCAST's delivery of agricultural training courses to individuals operating in rural areas. These training courses are linked to specific knowledge areas as identified in the AECMs of the RDP. The project contributes directly towards FA1A and FA1C and concurrently it also contributes towards P4. This course requires participants to follow courses in line with their respective AECM and is complemented by the obligatory participation in a course on business management practices.

While the implementation of these training courses was interrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, MCAST was able to successfully deliver six courses, with 205 certificates awarded to participants (including repeat participants). Further details are provided under FA1A. Given the interruptions experienced in the delivery of these courses the timeline of this project has been extended, reflecting the 24-month extension given to AECM beneficiaries for whom these courses are geared for. No realised expenditure has been affected during 2020.

As for M1.2 and M1.3, the MA is discussing the possible revisions of these sub-measures, in efforts to determine their possible role in the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM).

Measure 2 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

The two sub-measures under M02 contributing towards FA1C are:

- M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services; and
- M2.3 - support for training of advisors

In 2020 the MA issued the second call for applicants under M2.1, following the unsuccessful call in 2019 in which no applications were received. During the 2020 call, which closed in September, one application was received for the provision of Farm Advisory Service (FAS) by AgriConnect FAS. Following PSC evaluation the contract for FAS was awarded to AgriConnect with a committed value of €0.5 million, aimed at providing support to local farmers in their role as an officially recognised advisor by the Farm Advisory

Registration Board (FASRB) as per Articles 5 & 6 of L.N. 99 of 2019.

As a recognised service provider AgriConnect FAS provides its service in the following subject areas, namely: Cross Compliance; Rural Development Programme measures, including Agri-Environment Climate Measures (AECMs); business and farm management; and the use of New Technologies.

In the case of support for training for advisory (M2.3), similar to last year the MA is still considering its possible revision in the RDP.

Measure 16- Co-operation

The relevant sub-measure contributing towards FA1C is:

- M16.2 - Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

2020 saw the launch of two calls under M16.2, which closed in February and April, under which one and four applications were received respectively, one of which was later withdrawn. Following PSC evaluation two out of the four submitted applications were awarded. An additional three applications were awarded in relation to the calls issued in 2019, bringing the total commitment levels by 2020 to around €3 million. Two of the approved applications contribute towards FA3A and three approved applications contribute to P4. In 2020, no realised payments were made.

Target Indicators

Notwithstanding the difficulties faced in the provision of training during the COVID-19 pandemic, marginal progress was observed in relation to indicator T3 under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in relation to total number of trained participants, where as of end of 2020, 205 participants were given training by MCAST, achieving 2.8% of the 7,200 participant target.

Priority 2 - Focus Area 2A

List of measures

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 2A are:

- M02 – Advisory Services, farm management and farm relief
- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M06 – Farm and business development

Progress achieved

Measure 2: Advisory Services, farm management and farm relief

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

- M2.2 - Support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as

well as forestry advisory services

The MA is currently considering the possible revision of sub measure 2.2 in the RDP in the near future.

Measure 4: Investment in Physical Assets

The applicable M4 sub-measures relating to FA2A are:

- M4.1 - Support for investment in agricultural holdings
- M4.3 - Support for investment in infrastructure related to development, modernisation, or adaptation of agriculture and forestry

During 2020, three further calls were issued under M4.1, which closed in January, April and July of that same year. These three calls were very successful in their launch, having attracted thirteen, forty-seven, and forty-six applications respectively. Following PSC evaluation, sixty four out of the hundred and six applications were approved for funding and contracted in 2020. As a result of the contribution of these sixty-four applications towards FA2A, €5.5m were committed in 2020, leading the total commitment value to €11.4m for M4.1 with a contribution towards FA2A. In 2020, good progress was also registered in terms of implementation leading to realised expenditure of €2.9m, bringing the total realised expenditure to €4.3m.

As for M4.3, similarly to 2019, no new calls were launched in 2020 as the programmed Measure budget has been fully committed. During 2020, the approved projects in previous years registered considerable progress with a realised amount of €3.4m during 2020, bringing the total realised amount to €14.1m for M4.3 under FA2A

Measure 6 – Farm and business development

The relevant sub-measure under this Focus Area is:

- M6.4 - Support for investment in creation and development of non-agricultural activities

In 2020 the MA launched three calls under M6.4, which closed in January, April, and June of that same year. The three calls were met with a positive response, having received five applications in total, and a requested budget of circa €840,000. Following PSC evaluation two projects were approved in 2020, which projects do not contribute towards this FA but towards FA6A.

Target Indicator

As at the end of 2020, realised expenditure amounted to €4.2 million for Measure 4.1 and €14.1 million for Measure 4.3. As a result positive progress has been achieved in terms of the result target indicator (T4) on the % of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation. The value as at end of 2020 amounted to 1.03% of holdings, reflecting 129 holdings. Against this background, the target value of 116 holdings to be attained by 2023, has been surpassed.

In terms of M2.1, there was no realised expenditure as at the end of 2020 as AgriConnect FAS only just started to operate in its capacity as FAS during 2020.

Priority 2 – Focus Area 2B

List of measures

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 2B are:

- M02 – Advisory Services, farm management and farm relief
- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M06 – Farm and business development

Progress achieved

Measure 2: Advisory Services, farm management and farm relief

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

- M2.2 - Support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services

The MA is discussing the possible revision of this sub-measure.

Measure 4: Investment in Physical Assets

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

- M4.1 - Support for investment in agricultural holdings

M4.1 is one of the sub-measures with the highest measure budget of €25 million (Public Expenditure), noting that M4.1 supports projects not only under 2B but also under other Focus Areas, including 2A, 3A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B and 5C.

In 2020 the MA issued further three calls, closing in January, April and July. These three calls were very successful in their launch, having attracted thirteen, forty-seven, and forty-six applications respectively. Following PCS evaluation sixty four out of the hundred and six applications were approved for funding under FA2A and contracted in 2020.

While progress has been registered in terms of quantity of operations contracted, none of the committed applications contributed towards FA2B. All approved applications contributed towards FA2A focusing on improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification.

Measure 6: Farm and business development

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

- M6.1 – Business Start-up for young farmers

During 2020, one operation was contracted under M6.1 as part of the call issued in 2019 and awarded to two beneficiaries carrying out this joint project with a committed value of €140,000.

In 2020 no further calls were issued under M6.1 given that the sub-measure has been fully committed and the MA turned its focus to assisting these beneficiaries in their successful implementation. In this context, realised payments of €84,000 were affected leading the total realised expenditure under FA2B to €3.4m as

at the end of 2020.

Target Indicator

Positive progress has been recorded for result indicator (T5) Number of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan / investment for young farmers (Focus Area 2B), with sub-measure M6.1 having assisted 62 young farmers and therefore reaching the programme target of 60 young farmers.

Priority 3 - Focus Area 3A

List of measures

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 3A are:

- M03 – Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs
- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M16 – Co-operation

Progress achieved

Measure 3 – Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs

The relevant sub-measures that contribute towards FA3A are:

- M3.1 - Support for new participation in quality schemes
- M3.2 - Support for information and promotion activities implemented by group of producers in the internal market

During 2020, the MA issued multiple calls for applications under both M3.1 and M3.2, with calls under M3.1 closing in January, April, and June, while calls under M3.2 closed in July and October. From which one operation was approved under M3.1 with a value of €222,860, for which a Grant Agreement was signed in 2021.

Given that M3.2 is closely linked to M3.1 which itself saw very little uptake, two M3.2 calls which closed in 2020 but no applications were submitted.

Measure 4 – Investment in physical assets

The relevant sub-measures under this focus area are:

- M4.1 – Support for investment in agricultural holdings
- M4.2 - Support for investment in processing/Marketing and /or development of agricultural products

As mentioned previously, operations under M4.1 do not only fall under FA3A but also 2A, 2B, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B and 5C, hence while a large number of contracts were awarded during 2020 only three of which can be listed under FA3A. Nonetheless, the contribution of this sub-measure towards FA3A has seen positive progress over the year, with a cumulative commitment value of €0.8m leading to an uptake of 73% and cumulative realised expenditure of €156,620.

In the case of M4.2, the MA issued the third call for this sub-measure which closed in April of 2020, under which nine applications were received and out of which four operations were awarded, resulting in a committed expenditure of circa €292,500 with a contribution towards FA3A. Therefore, in 2020, the scheme under this FA had reached over-commitment and hence no further calls had been issued, as total committed stood at over €5.5 million. The realised expenditure also registered significant progress under FA3A, in 2020 this added up to €497,000 under M4.2 and a cumulative amount of €0.9m.

Measure 16 – Co-operation

The relevant sub-measures contributing towards this FA are:

- M16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies
- M16.4 - support for horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets, and for promotion activities in a local context relating to the development of short supply chains and local markets

In 2020, the MA launched two calls under both M16.2 and M16.4, these closed in February and April where M16.2 received a total of five applications, and M16.4 received one application. In the case M16.2 three applications were awarded and contracted while the other two were withdrawn and rejected.

Similarly to other sub-measures, M16.2 and M16.4 fall under multiple PA and FA, including 1A, 1B, 1C, 4, and 6A, and hence contracted projects would not necessarily result in progress under all of these Priority Areas. In the case of the three applications received and contracted in 2020 under M16.2 none contribute directly to FA3A, but rather PA4.

In 2020, there were two operations contributing directly to FA3A which were contracted following calls in 2019. The Beneficiary of both these projects is the University of Malta, a brief of these two projects is found below:

- Extending Storage Life of local Agricultural products using postharvest technologies

The project seeks to assess the feasibility of adopting practices which extend the storage life of local produce by individual farmers, researching if the adoption of these technologies will lead to a decrease in product waste and the possibility to sell the product at a premium. This concept will be tried on the bambinella fruit, as this product has already been researched and the fungal contaminants responsible for post-harvest spoilage have previously been identified. This project will continue building on past research and will see to identify a standard for the post-harvest treatment of bambinella, and assess the feasibility of the adoption of these treatments on a local context through economic viability and a pilot project.

- Pilot Projects and other experimental development

This project focuses on safeguarding the Denominazzjoni ta' l-Origini Kontrollata (DOK) certification of Maltese wines. The DOK certification indicates that the Agricultural Directorate has issued this quality standard to select wines produced locally. The beneficiary of this project therefore proposed a blockchain-based solution that enables monitoring at both a producer level as well as a national authority level, for the tracing of wine production and its auditing, using Internet-of-Things sensor data can be integrated into the tracking process. This gives an additional degree of certainty to the consumer and provides a verifiable storyline to each individual bottle or batch of wine, from the grape growth conditions right down to the

bottling and storage process.

Target Indicator

By the end of 2020, the target indicator (T6) the % of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations stood at a nil value as no progress was made. Progress is expected in 2021 as a grant agreement has been signed on Measure 3.1. Positive progress was registered in (T6) the Nr of operations supported under M4.1 and M4.2 (Programme Specific Target Indicator) contributing to FA3A. Indeed, by the end of 2020, this target indicator amounted to 25 operations, such that the target for 2023 has been attained.

Priority 4

List of measures

The list of measures contributing towards Priority 4 are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M08 – Investment in Forest Area Development and improvement of viability of forests
- M10 – Agri-Environment-Climate Measures
- M11 – Organic Farming
- M13 – Payments to Areas Facing Natural or Other Specific Constraints
- M16 – Co-operation

Progress achieved

Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information access

The sub-measures under M01 all contribute towards FA4C and are interlinked with FA1A contributions. These are:

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

In 2020, no further calls under M01 were launched following the project awarded to MCAST in 2019 which has a committed budget of €285,000. While the implementation of this project was interrupted in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the delivery of courses was put on hold in March, MCAST was able to reopen the courses once again between August and October of 2020. MCAST was able to successfully deliver its six courses to a total of 205 participants in 2020.

Acknowledging the interruptions experienced in 2020 and how the delivery of these courses is closely tied to beneficiaries AECM commitment fulfilment the MA granted a 24-month extension to AECM beneficiaries and also MCAST. This extension should allow for all the necessary training to be delivered.

That being said the progress reported by this project accounts for an uptake of nearly 20%, while realised

payments are currently nil as no claim has been submitted by MCAST.

Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

The applicable sub-measures that contribute towards FA4A are:

- M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services; and
- M2.3 - support for training of advisors

Following a previous call in 2019, in 2020 the MA re-issued the call for M2.1 under which one application was received and contracted for €0.5 million following a thorough PSC evaluation. The beneficiary awarded this project was AgriConnect FAS, through which have been recognised as a registered Farm Advisory Service provider in line with Farm Advisory Registration Board (FASRB) as per Articles 5 & 6 of L.N. 99 of 2019.

Via the services offered at their offices at Ghammieri Government Farm in Marsa, AgriConnect FAS supports farmers to achieve all the necessary compliance and technical requirements to access other types of funding and advisory support which can help them tap into diversification opportunities, produce higher quality and/or innovative products and farming techniques, and to plan and structure their farming business effectively in every respect. A service very closely linked to AEEM beneficiaries' advisory obligations.

The result of this being a 50% uptake in M2.1 in relation to PA4, achieved via the €0.5 million committed expenditure. Realised expenditure is yet to be registered for this sub-measure.

Measure 4: Investment in physical assets

The applicable sub measures that contribute towards Priority 4 are:

- M4.1 – Investment in agricultural holdings
- M4.4 - Support for non-productive investment linked to the achievement of agri-environment objectives

In 2020, the MA launched three calls for applications under M4.1, which closed in January, April and July. Whilst for M4.4 one call was launched in the same year, and this closed in April. Similarly to other sub-measures M4.1 and M4.4 contribute to various Priority and Focus Areas and hence progress made in the sub-measure as a whole would not reflect equally amongst these Focus Areas as this is tied to the operation being proposed by the beneficiary.

Similar to previous years, grants approved under M4.1 contributed primarily towards FA2A and FA5A. A few projects also contributed towards FA3A. In this regard, despite the expectations set at Programme level, none of the applications that were received could be registered as contributing towards Priority 4, implying that farmers' major investments are steered more towards competitiveness and efficiency rather than the eco-systems when it comes to investment in the holdings.

M4.4, on the other hand, only contributes to P4. It built on the achievements of previous years as an additional 81 project applications focusing on supporting non-productive investment linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives were approved. The progress recorded in 2020 add up to a committed expenditure of circa €6.9m, leading to a cumulative committed amount of €25m. This resulted in an overcommitment at the level of the measure. Progress was also registered for realised

expenditure, which for the year totalled near €4.3 million.

Measure 8: Investment in Forest Area Development and improvement of viability of forests

The applicable sub-measure for FA4A is:

- M8.5 – Investments improving the resilience and environment value of forest ecosystems

50% of the financial allocation for this sub measure falls under this Focus Area (amounting to €1.75million). The rest of the allocation contributes to FA5E. As reported in the AIR 2018, from consultations carried out by the MA, it clearly emerges that Malta has difficulties in ensuring that this measure is successful, as a result of the limitations of Article 22 (1) of EU Regulation 1305/2013[1]. The MA has tried pre-launching this sub-measure in Q2 of 2019 with the aim to support afforestation initiatives. However, the regulatory restrictions that there are in place make it very difficult to have applications under this measure. In the context of the challenges that M8.5 is facing, discussions are currently ongoing on the future of this measure and its applicability to the local context.

[1] In the case of state-owned land, support may only be granted if the body managing such land is a private body or a municipality.

Measure 10: Agri-Environment Climate Measures

Both sub-measures contribute to the 3 Focus Areas available under Priority 4. The sub-measures are:

- M10.1 – Agri-environment-climate measures
- M10.2 – Conservation of genetic resources

For M10.1, 2020 saw the annual call for beneficiaries as part of the 6 AECMs as established within the RDP. This was carried out between April and May, during the annual payment campaign. In 2020, 785 agreements were in place that are applicable for Measures contributing towards P4.

The 2020 uptake adds up to a committed expenditure value of near €375,000, out of which AECM 1 (measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical methods) accounts for the largest portion of this allocation at circa €364,700. This progress reported in 2020 brings up the measure uptake to 70%. In terms of realised expenditure under M10.1, 2020 saw claims totalling €482,149, bringing the cumulative realised amount as at 2020 to more than €2.7m.

AECMs contributing towards P4	Ongoing Commitments 2020	Realised Amounts 2020
AECM 1: Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical methods.	469	€ 364,698.62
AECM 3: Measure supporting the introduction of bee boxes on holdings	14	€ 42,445.15
AECM 6a: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species -	3	€ 1,900

Maltese Black Chicken		
AECM 6b: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - ox	2	€ 21,801.92
AECM 6c: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - carob and mulberry	297	€ 51,308.82
TOTAL	785	€ 482,149

In the case of M10.2, the MA launched a call for applications at the end of 2019 which closed in February of 2020, this call led to two successful operations being contracted, with a combined committed expenditure of approximately €1.04 million. One of the projects is being led by the Plant Protection Directorate, whilst the other is of the Ministry for Gozo. The former project seeks to establish a national gene bank for the conservation of indigenous and endemic plants, whilst the latter seeks to conserve the local agro-biodiversity. Given that these operations were contracted in 2020 no realised expenditure has been recorded for this same year under either project.

Measure 11: Organic Farming

The contribution of M11 sub-measures is directly related to FA4A. The relevant sub-measures are two:

- M11.1 – Conversion to organic farming
- M11.2 – Maintenance of organic farming

Similar to previous years uptake in M11 was slow however progress was recorded for both sub-measures. As with M10, calls under M11.1 and M11.2 are issued periodically during the annual payment campaign carried out in the months of April and May. Resulting from this call for applications M11.1 received one application, while M11.2 received six applications.

The overall progress of M11.1 and 11.2 as they relate to P4 were noted in terms of percentage uptake at 4.8% and 20%, leading to a committed amount of €616.36 and €3,181.78 respectively.

Measure 13: Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints

The budgetary allocation for this Measure is directly linked to FA4A. The applicable sub-measure in this case is:

- M13.3 – Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints

In 2020 M13.3 continued to see positive progress as uptake under this scheme reached a level of overcommitment of 115% following its annual call in which support is offered on the basis of hectares of agricultural land, aimed at incentivising the conservation of land for agricultural use whilst also protecting the Maltese rural landscape. This 2020 call accounts for a committed expenditure of circa €1.97 million.

Progress was also recorded in 2020 in terms of realised expenditure which added up to more than €2.08 million for the year, and €10.1 million in total.

Measure 16: Co-operation

The relevant sub-measure under the Priority is M16.2. For P4, its financial allocation is linked to both FA4A and FA4C. Overall, M16.2 contributes also towards P1, P3, P5 and P5. Though the highest share allocated under P4 at 58%.

- M16.2 – Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies.

During 2020 the MA issued two calls under M16.2, which closed in February and April, these calls received one and four applications respectively, with three operations submitted under the April deadline having been contracted later that year with a committed value of circa €2.8m.

Given that the three operations approved in 2020 were the first to be contracted under M16.2 along the years of the programme, no realised expenditure contributing to PA4 has been noted till the end of 2020.

Target Indicators

In 2020 steady progress was registered in the sub-measures contributing to Priority Area 4 as they relate to restoring, preserving and enhancing eco-systems related to agriculture and forestry. These developments allow better measurement of the relevant target indicators linked to FA4A, FA4B, and FA4C as shown below.

- R7/T9: % of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A) – the set target for 2023 is 6.37% and the achievements by 2020 amount to 15%.
- R8/T10: % of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B) – the set target for 2023 is 2.98% and the achievements by 2020 amount to 4.12%.
- T12: % of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C) – the set target for 2023 is 2.98% and the achievements by 2020 amount to 12.3%.

Priority 5 - Focus Area 5A

List of measures

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 5A are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M16 – Co-operation

Progress achieved

Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information actions

Similar to P4, the sub-measures under M01 all contribute towards FA5A and are interlinked with FA1A contributions.

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

In 2020, given the interruptions faced by the Covid-19 pandemic the MA's priority was to ensure that the contracted projects under M01 were implemented and given the necessary support through extensions for example. For this reason, no further calls were issued under M01 in 2020.

A project which was significantly impacted by the pandemic was the operation being delivered by MCAST under M1.1, aimed at delivering bespoke training courses to individuals operating in rural areas, ties in with the provision of training in farming and business management practices and specific training linked to the AECMs of the RDP. In 2020 MCAST was able to deliver six courses to a total of 205 participants (including repeat participants), whereby participants attended one or more of the organised courses. The project contributes directly towards FA1A and FA1C and concurrently it also contributes towards P4. Currently, no contribution can be recorded under P5. Further information is provided under P1.

Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

The applicable measures contributing towards FA5A are:

- M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services
- M2.3 - training of advisors

The second half of 2020 saw the establishment of AgriConnect FAS as a registered Farm Advisory Service provider in line with Farm Advisory Registration Board (FASRB) as per Articles 5 & 6 of L.N. 99 of 2019. In line with M2.1 AgriConnect FAS was awarded this operation to provide advisory support to those in the local agricultural sector achieve all the necessary compliance and technical requirements to access other types of funding and advisory support which can help them tap into diversification opportunities, produce higher quality and/or innovative products and farming techniques, and to plan and structure their farming business effectively in every respect.

The provision and implementation of this project is closely tied to AECM beneficiaries' advisory obligations. The operation itself related to relates to PA4 and therefore the committed budget of €0.5 million would not be registered under FA5A.

Measure 4: Investment in physical assets

The applicable sub-measures are:

- M4.1 – support for investment in agricultural holdings
- M4.3 - support for investment in infrastructure related to development, modernisation, or adaptation of agriculture and forestry.

As mentioned, M4.1's approved financial allocation in the RDP contributes towards FA2A, 2B, 3A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D. M4.3 contributes to FA2A, FA4A and FA4C.

Therefore, the three calls launched by the MA in 2020 under M4.1 supported various operations and not only those contributing to FA5A. Noting how out of 106 applications received and 75 awarded in 2020, 10 contributed primarily to FA5A, these amounted to a committed expenditure of circa €689,000. As a result of

the latest calls issued in 2020 the sub-measure saw a 51% uptake as it relates to FA5A.

A significant level of commitment was also noted under M4.3 in 2020 which saw an increase in the committed expenditure by €4.9 million. Water Services Corporation, the beneficiary of this project, in 2020 during implementation requested for an extension of the initiative's reach in order to extend the water distribution to new areas. The MA welcomed this change and approved the beneficiary additional allocation of funds.

Positive progress under M4.1 was also registered in terms of realised expenditure, as 2020 payment claims totalled near €553,600. The same can be said for M4.3 as €2.7m had been realised under FA5A.

Measure 16: Co-operation

The applicable sub measure contributing towards FA5A is:

- M16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies;

During 2020 the MA launched two calls under M16.2, as with other sub-measures applicants were able to submit projects under various Focus Areas, including FA5A but also FA1A, FA1B, FA1C, FA3A, PA4, FA5C, and FA6A. Therefore, while these calls were successful in contracting three operations, none of which contributed directly to FA5A and hence no progress was recorded under this sub-measure.

Target Indicator

The applicable target indicator for this FA is % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system and is set at 5.44% (T14). The operations contributing towards this indicator are primarily projects under M4.1 and M4.3. Given that none of the operations approved under M4.1, contributing towards this indicator, have been completed, the value of the indicator is nil. Also, while there has been progress in the implementation of M4.3 the project on the distribution of treated water is still under progress and targeted to be fully implemented by 2022.

Priority 5 - Focus Area 5B

List of measures

The measure contributing towards Focus Area 5B are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M04 – Investment in physical assets

Progress achieved

Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information actions

The applicable sub-measures are:

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and

- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

In 2020, the MA did not issue any further calls under M1.1 given that in 2019 MCAST had been contracted to carry out training to local farmers in 2020. The project focuses on the provision of training in general training in farming and business management practices and specific training linked to the AECMs of the RDP. In 2020 MCAST was able to deliver six courses to a total of 205 participants. The project contributes directly towards FA1A and FA1C and concurrently it also contributes towards P4. Currently, no contribution can be recorded under P5.

Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

The applicable sub-measures are:

- M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services; and
- M2.3 - support for training of advisors

Similar to other sub-measures those falling under M02 contribute to various Focus Areas and therefore the categorisation as to which FA operations fall under is carried out following award. This means that while in 2020 a call under M2.1 led to the contracting of a recognised FAS through AgriConnect FAS, this was not captured under FA5B as relevant progress.

Measure 4: Investment in physical assets

The relevant sub measure for this FA is:

- M4.1 – support for investment in agricultural holdings

In 2020 a total of 74 new operations were contracted under M4.1 following calls issue that same year, equivalent to a committed expenditure of circa €6.6m. However, whilst M4.1 registered positive progress, and is one of the sub-measures with the highest uptake and budget, these operations did not directly contribute to FA5B and hence no progress was registered in 2020.

Target Indicators

The result indicator (T15) on the total investment in energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B) is currently nil, primarily as a result of the reporting structures which require the allocation of the commitments towards the FA where the pre-dominant allocation is contributing to. As a result, while Measure 4.1 has been programmed under this focus area, most of the applications are primarily contributing towards Focus Areas 2A.

Priority 5 – Focus Area 5C

List of measures

The measure contributing towards Focus Area 5C is:

- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M16 – Co-operation

Progress achieved

Measure 4 – Investment in physical assets

The -measures under M04 contributing towards FA5C is:

- M4.1 – support for investment in agricultural holdings

Looking at M4.1 as a whole in 2020 steady progress was registered, having 74 operations contracted and €6.6m committed expenditure. However, following the process of allocating these operations in line with the reporting structures according to their pre-dominant allocation results no new uptake of M4.1 under FA5C for the year ending 2020.

The progress that has been registered of circa €7,850 in realised expenditure in 2020 is due to previously contracted projects.

Measure 16- Co-operation

The relevant sub-measure contributing towards FA5C is:

- M16.2 - Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

In 2020, out of the two calls issued and three applications contracted no commitment has been registered under FA5C, which as explained earlier is due to the pre-dominant allocation of these projects having been earmarked under other Focus Areas.

Target Indicators

The target indicator linked to FA5C (T16) total investment in renewable energy production € saw progress due to the implementation of a project contracted in 2019 under M4.1 which registered payment claims of €15,706 in 2020, which make up 0.56% of the 2023 target. It is to be noted that this does not necessarily imply that renewable energy components are not being undertaken as part of the investment undertaken by holdings, but rather renewable energy expenditure may be constituting the largest investment component and thus expenditure is captured under other focus areas.

Priority 5 – Focus Area 5D

The measures applicable under FA5D are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M04 – Investment in physical assets

Progress achieved

Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information actions

Similar to FA5A and 5B, the sub-measures under M01 also contribute towards FA5D and are interlinked with FA1A contributions.

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;

- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

Following the launch, evaluation and award of the call for M1.1 in 2019, 2020 saw the initial implementation of this project being carried out by MCAST aimed at delivering bespoke training to individuals operating in rural areas, which ties in with the provision of training in farming and business management practices and specific training linked to the AECMs of the RDP.

In its implementation MCAST, the main further and higher Vocational Education Institution in Malta covering also agriculture and animal sciences related vocational education, experienced disruptions in its planned delivery due to the Covid-19 pandemic causing all training courses carried out in person to be halted and suspended for a significant period of time. Nonetheless, MCAST was able to resume these courses and provide their training to 205 participants under M1.1. However, this achievement contributes to FA1A and FA1C, no contribution can be recorded under P5.

Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

The relevant sub measures that contribute towards FA5D are:

- M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services; and
- M2.3 - support for training of advisors

Similar to other sub-measures those falling under M02 contribute to various Focus Areas and therefore the categorisation as to which FA operations fall under is carried out following award. This means that while in 2020 a call under M2.1 led to the contracting of a recognised FAS through AgriConnect FAS, this was not captured under FA5D as relevant progress.

Measure 4: Investment in physical assets

The relevant sub measure for this FA is:

- M4.1 – support for investment in agricultural holdings

While the MA issued three new calls under M4.1 in 2020 the nature of operations contracted did not align with the reporting structures of FA5D and hence no further commitment has been registered. The progress recorded in 2020 in terms of realised expenditure of circa €14,000 is due to an operation contracted in 2019 which saw its implementation by the following year being captured in this case via realised payments.

Target Indicators

The result indicator (T17) on the % of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus areas 5D) is currently nil. This is due to the fact that most of the projects which are funded under Measure 4.1 are mainly contributing towards the restructuring and modernisation of holdings rather than primarily contributing towards Focus Area 5D.

Priority 5 – Focus Area 5E

The list of measures contributing towards this FA are:

- M08 - Investment in forest areas development and improvement of the viability of forests

- M10 - Agri-Environment-Climate Measures

Measure 8: Investment in Forest Area Development and improvement of viability of forests

The applicable sub-measure for FA5E is:

- M8.5 – Investments improving the resilience and environment value of forest ecosystems

As reported in the AIR 2018, from consultations carried out by the MA, it clearly emerges that Malta has difficulties in ensuring that this measure is successful, as a result of the limitations of Article 22 (1) of EU Regulation 1305/2013 which state that in the case of state-owned land, support may only be granted if the body managing such land is a private body or a municipality. Further information is provided under P4.

Measure 10: Agri-Environment Climate Measures

The applicable sub-measures contributing to FA5E are:

- M10.1 – Agri-environment-climate measures
- M10.2 – Conservation of genetic resources

As done in previous years, in 2020 the MA launched M10.1 during the annual payment claim campaign which takes place in April and May, this campaign saw a total 588 beneficiaries were approved for support. The 2020 uptake falling under FA5E adds up to a committed expenditure value of circa €2.2 million, out of which AECM 5 accounts for the largest portion of this allocation at more than €2.1 million.

In terms of realised expenditure under M10.1 allocated to FA5E, 2020 saw realised payments totalling €1.9 million, with the cumulative realised expenditure being captured as at 2020 at more than €2.8 million. A substantial increase was registered over the previous year as a result of increased applications under AECM 5.

AECMs contributing towards FA5E	Ongoing Commitments 2020	Realised Amounts 2020
AECM 2: Measure for the maintenance of trees	11	€ 2,677.44
AECM 4: Measure for the implementation of an integrated pest management plan targeting vineyards and orchards	20	€107,606.78
AECM 5: Measure for the implementation of soil management and conservation plan on a holding	557	€1,776,302.12
TOTAL	588	€1,886,586.34

In the case of M10.2, the MA launched a call for applications at the end of 2019 which closed in February of 2020, this call led to two successful operations being contracted, with a combined committed expenditure of approximately €1.04 million. However, the committed contribution of these operations was noted under that of PA4 and hence no progress has been counted under PA5E for this sub-measure by end of 2020.

Target indicator

The target indicator for this FA is (T19) % of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E), where the achievement is set at 8.9.

Priority 6 – Focus Area 6A

List of measures

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 6A are:

- M06 – Farm and Business Development
- M16 – Co-operation

Progress achieved

Measure 6: Farm and Business Development

The applicable sub-measure is:

- M6.4 - Support for investment in creation and development of non-agricultural activities

In 2020 the MA issued three calls for applications M6.4 which closed in January, April, and June, aimed at supporting applicants seeking to diversify their agricultural activity. These calls received one, nil, and four applications respectively. These calls together with those issued previously in the second half of 2019 which were also contracted in 2020 resulted in a total of six operations set to begin in 2020. The signing of these contracts led to the achievement of €0.6 million in committed expenditure. These six projects being that they were in their initial stages did not register any realised expenditure in 2020 based on this amount.

Measure 16: Co-operation measures

The relevant sub-measure contributing to FA6A is:

- M16.2 - Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

In 2020, out of the two calls launched by the MA the three applications contracted none were committed to FA6A, due to their pre-dominant allocation being counted under other Priority Areas, namely P3 and P4.

Target Indicators

By the end of 2020, no expenditure was recorded under any of these measures. Indeed, the result T20: Nr of jobs created through supported projects; was at end of 2020 nil. With the approval of projects under Measure 6.4, this indicator is expected to register progress in the upcoming years.

Priority 6 – Focus Area 6B

The relevant measures contributing towards this FA are:

- M16 – Co-operation
- M19 – Support for LEADER Local Development (CLLD)

Progress Achieved

Measure 16: Co-operation

The relevant sub-measure contributing towards this FA is:

- M16.2 - Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

As was the case of FA6A, M16.2 did not register any progress under FA6B in 2020.

Measure 19 - Support for LEADER Local Development (CLLD)

All sub-measures falling under M19 directly contribute towards this FA:

- M19.1 - Preparatory support
- M19.2 - Implementation of operations under the CLLD Strategy
- M19.3 - Preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the Local Action Group
- M19.4 - Running costs and animation

In 2020 the MA in collaborations with the three Local Action Groups (LAGs) in charge of implementing the LEADER programme in their region registered positive progress in implementing M19. The most notable development in 2020 was recorded under M19.2 as 72 operations were selected, resulting in a committed expenditure for the year of circa €1.6 million which amounted to the sub-measure being over-committed by the end of 2020, while realised expenditure registered progress which added up to €202,000 in 2020. Cumulative realised expenditure amounted to €0.5 million by the end of 2020.

When looking at the LAGs individually and their progress over the year the following can be noted:

In 2020 Gal Xlokk issued one call under Measure 1 (Restoration of assets of artistic and cultural value), one call under Measure 2 (Strengthening a healthy cultural identity), seven calls under Measure 3 (Promotion of Cultural Heritage), and seven calls under Measure 4 (Development of Green Infrastructure). From these calls a total of 34 applications were submitted and 25 were approved in 2020.

Majjistral LAG issued nine calls under Measure 1, eleven calls under Measure 2, four calls under Measure 3, and eleven calls under Measure 4 in 2020, out of which a total of 36 applications were submitted and 21 were approved in 2020.

Meanwhile in 2020 the Gozo LAG issued two calls under Measure 2 and Measure 3, and one call under Measure 4. As a result of these calls a total of 9 applications were submitted, of which 5 were approved for funding in 2020.

In their management of these four measures the LAGs adopted an Open Block Calls Procedure similar to that used by the Managing authority, what this means is that a batch of applications received within a respective time block were assessed separately from applications received in subsequent batches, these time blocks were clearly indicated in a timetable issued by each LAG.

Looking holistically at M19.3 in 2020 two operations were selected to carry out their project, with a committed expenditure of more than €200,000, whilst M19.3 also registered its first progress in terms of

realised expenditure amounting to circa €8,250.

As for M19.4, while this did not register any additional progress in terms of new commitments in 2020 due to its previously registered overcommitment, realised expenditure for the year amounted to more than €240,000.

Target indicator

The progress made in 2020 in terms of the three target indicators linked to M19 were as follows:

- (T21) % of rural population covered by local development strategies - The achievement is set at 105.75%. This achievement is the result of the current total population covered by the LAG strategies (as published in strategies) amounting to 283,284 which is 15% higher than the established target in the programme of 268,733. The increase in the population coverage is due to the fact that Malta has experienced an increase in population over the last few years which has also been experienced in rural areas.
- (T23) No of jobs created in supported projects - The achievement by the end of 2020 amounts to 2.5 full time equivalent jobs.

Priority 6 – Focus Area 6C

The relevant measure contributing towards this Focus Area is:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions

Progress Achieved

Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information actions

Similar to P4 and P5, the sub-measures under M01 all contribute towards FA6C and are interlinked with FA1A contributions.

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits.

Following the launch, evaluation and award of the call for M1.1 in 2019, 2020 saw the initial implementation of this project being carried out by MCAST aimed at delivering bespoke training to individuals operating in rural areas, which ties in with the provision of training in farming and business management practices and specific training linked to the AECMs of the RDP.

In its implementation MCAST, the main further and higher Vocational Education Institution in Malta covering also agriculture and animal sciences related vocational education, experienced disruptions in its planned delivery due to the Covid-19 pandemic causing all training courses carried out in person to be halted and suspended for a significant period of time. Nonetheless, MCAST was able to resume these courses and provide their training to 205 participants under M1.1. However, this achievement does not contribute to P6 and is being recorded under P4.

Target Indicators

The target value for the indicator (T24) (which is a programme specific target indicator) on the % of the total public expenditure (M1.1 to M1.3) allocated for ICT actions/interventions (%) was at end of 2020 nil as realised expenditure for the measures which contribute towards this Focus Area such as Measure 1.1 have not been directed towards this Focus Area as yet.

Other Remarks

Transitional Regulation

A transitional regulation extending the Programme by 2 years up to 2022 has been adopted at EU level, with additional budget allocation expected to be introduced into the Programme to cover for the 2-year extension, later in 2021.

Upon validation of the AIR on the SFC the following validation warning were raised:

- Warning 250: as per previous discussions with the European Commission on this warning, this is raised due to an anomaly in the system, whereby while Table B3 captures ANNUAL output realised, table D captures CUMULATIVE data. Naturally, the values in table D, exceed those in table B.
- Warning 270: the Managing Authority has registered an over-achievement in the total area under management contracts, resulting in such warning.

1.d) Key information on achievements towards the milestones set in the performance Framework based on Table F

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2017, 2018 only

1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional]

This is not applicable for Malta's Rural Development Programme.

1.f) Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3), article 111(4)(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

- ☐ EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- ☐ EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- ☐ EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- ☐ EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- ☐ Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

1.g) Currency rate used for conversion AIR (non EUR countries)

Not applicable.

2. THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLAN.

2.a) Description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justification

No modifications were made to the Evaluation Plan as defined in Chapter 9 of the RDP.

2.b) A description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year (in relation to section 3 of the evaluation plan)

The Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the year ending 31st December 2019 was submitted to the European Commission in September 2020. This report presented the results emerging from the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities carried out during 2019, thereby allowing the MA to assess progress in the RDP implementation.

With respect to the individual measures, the following M&E activities were undertaken:

- Measure 1.1: In view of the restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19, the training provided under this measure was largely stalled. As a result, the questionnaires prepared for participants could not be distributed. Nonetheless, during 2020, the evaluators received information from the questionnaires which were filled out before the onset of COVID-19.
- Measure 4.1: The interviews that were planned to be conducted during 2020 had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Measure 4.3: Discussions on data collection were held with the beneficiaries who are currently managing relatively larger projects for the distribution of treated water and the development of rural roads.
- Measure 6.1: In view of the progress recorded in this measure, an evaluation focusing on Measure 6.1 was undertaken. An overview of the evaluation approach adopted in the Thematic Evaluation is described hereunder.
- Measure 10.1: A number of on-site visits which were envisaged to be undertaken during 2020 have been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Measure 19: On 2nd July and 3rd July 2020, the Managing Authority (MA) in collaboration with the National Rural Network (NRN), organised a webinar, where together with the RDP evaluators, it discussed the RDP monitoring and evaluation process, including the monitoring and evaluation of the LEADER at the RDP level and at the local level. During the webinar, the individual LAGs actively participated in discussions related to how to prepare for the evaluation, how to structure and conduct of the evaluation including the forms of LDS evaluation taking into consideration the allocation and the proposed timing and methods and how to monitor and communicate the evaluation findings.

Furthermore, a comprehensive set of indicators was developed and is being updated annually by the individual LAGs. This includes data on the calls issued by the LAGs, on common and specific indicators and the meetings held by LAGs with beneficiaries of LEADER. Finally, in order to gauge the impact of the LEADER measure, a questionnaire template was prepared and is being distributed to beneficiaries by the individual LAGs.

As indicated above, a key evaluation activity that was undertaken during 2020 is the Thematic Evaluation on Young Farmers. The evaluation has been designed in line with the ‘Guidelines on the Assessment of RDP Results: How to prepare for reporting on evaluation in 2017’ issued by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development. As advocated by the European Evaluation Helpdesk, the evaluation consists of a mixed-methods approach which ensures appropriate triangulation of different data sources. More specifically, the evaluation design consists of the following elements:

- **Overview of the implementation of Measure 6.1:** Data from the Operations database were analysed in detail to draw some key observations on the effectiveness of Measure 6.1.
- **An assessment of the Business Plans and Performance Progress Reports submitted by beneficiaries:** The Business Plans submitted by beneficiaries of Measure 6.1 and the Performance Progress Reports (PPRs) which are requested by the Managing Authority (MA) have been a key source of information for the Thematic Evaluation exercise. The Business Plans shed light on the nature of the proposed projects, thereby providing valuable information on the expected impact of the funds as well as the potential secondary contributions of Measure 6.1. The PPRs are designed to monitor the implementation of projects. To this effect, beneficiaries are required to provide a brief description of the major achievements and progress achieved across a specific time period.
- **Telephone survey with beneficiaries of Measure 6.1:** In order to gauge the potential impact of Measure 6.1, a questionnaire consisting of 27 questions was prepared and conducted through telephone interviews with beneficiaries during the month of November 2020. Prior to the telephone interview, a formal letter, approved by the Managing Authority, was sent to the beneficiaries explaining the purpose of the questionnaire and its importance for evaluation purposes. Out of 61 beneficiaries, 58 responded to the telephone interview, achieving an overall response rate of 95%. Unfortunately, the questionnaire could not be conducted amongst non-beneficiaries given the timeframe established to undertake the thematic evaluation and difficulties in identifying sufficient non-beneficiaries within the timeframe.

The objective of the questionnaire was to address the following areas:

- a. Implementation of Measure 6.1
- b. Changes to the business plans and reasons for such changes
- c. Re-affirmation of the needs of young farmers
- d. Extent to which Measure 6.1 met the needs of young farmers
- e. Skills Development
- f. Expected impact of the measure

Specific to the needs of young farmers, the questionnaire took into consideration the needs identified through existing literature on young farmers.

- **Interviews conducted with key stakeholders working with young farmers:** The interviews held with key stakeholders serve to validate the findings stemming from the different methods used in the Thematic evaluation. In this regard, interviews were held with representatives from the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), Ghaqda Bdiewa Attivi (GhBA), Malta Youth in Agricultural Foundation (MaYA) and Atriga Consulting Services.
- **Structured focus groups with selected beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries:** The focus group with the beneficiaries was held online on 7th December 2020. A group of participants were selected based on the identification of a possible innovative element in their business plans. Indeed, these young farmers included farmers engaged in floral production, in hydroponics and in implementing new technology in viticulture and in livestock farming. Innovation is a cross cutting objective in the Rural

Development Programme and the evaluators sought to determine the extent to which innovation is promoted through the implementation of Measure 6.1. This is also important in view of the fact that starting farmers tend to be more engaged in diversifying activities and setting up new markets (Sutherland et al., (2015)).

A second focus group with non-beneficiaries was held online on 14th December 2020. As a result of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the evaluators did not have access to the list of non-beneficiaries and therefore they could not be contacted directly. Consequently, in order to identify the participants for this focus group, agricultural organisations such as MaYA and Ghaqda Bdiewa Attivi promoted the focus group among their members. Seven participants participated in this focus group with some participants coming from a farming family while others were completely new entrants to the sector. These young farmers included farmers engaged in both the crops and livestock sectors.

The evaluators prepared flyers on the objectives of the focus groups which were approved by the Managing Authority (MA) and then distributed by the agricultural groups to their members. Given that the sessions were held online, the number of participants was restricted so as to ensure that an effective conversation could be undertaken. Structured questions were prepared by the evaluators for both groups.

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The evaluators prepared flyers on the objectives of the focus groups which were approved by the Managing Authority (MA) and then distributed by the agricultural groups to their members. Given that the sessions were held online, the number of participants was restricted so as to ensure that an effective conversation could be undertaken. Structured questions were prepared by the evaluators for both groups.

2.c) A description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data (in relation to section 4 of the evaluation plan)

In 2020, several meetings were held to discuss the data required measure by measure, on the basis of the experience acquired during the 2019 AIR. These meetings were held with the Managing Authority, ABACO, the database system administrator, and ARPA, the Paying Agency which collects data from beneficiaries for payment purposes.

The main objective of the meetings held by the evaluators was to discuss the data requirements for each measure, comprehend the variables available and therefore, have a better understanding of the data being collected, by whom and in which database, especially given that different data formats exist depending on the reporting requirements. This also served as an exercise to identify data gaps and to ensure that the required data is attained in the format necessary for evaluation purposes. The evaluators have also prepared excel files with the data required to facilitate the identification of variables that are required and their availability. Therefore, together with ABACO, ARPA and the MA, the evaluators have sought to conduct an exercise to take stock of existing data, highlight the required indicators by measure and focus area and discuss the best way for information to be extracted from databases and presented so as to facilitate data analysis. This has inevitably led to modifications and enhancements of the data system.

For instance, in one of the data reports extracted by ABACO the line items were not linked to Focus Areas

) (FA). Discussions were held with the MA and ABACO to understand if this is possible and the work involved, and it was concluded that such link is possible. Other discussion were held on the possibility to find ways to allow for merging of data from different data sources through a common field between the different datasets, for example the application ID. Accuracy of data was also discussed which led to the data administrator to carry out checks to ensure both consistency and accuracy of data.

For better understanding of the data collected and the databases available discussions were held on the use of Siti Agri System Platform known as IACS (Integrated Administration and Control Systems). The objective of these discussions were to show the evaluators the system and understand what variables are being captured. The MA, PA and other entities using the system, are engaged in continuous discussions to continue improving the IT system while building on the systems that are already available. Such improvements assist the MA and external evaluators in better monitoring and evaluation processes.

With regards to the LEADER, an open channel of communication was maintained with the three LAGs and data on the indicators of each LAG was requested. Specific seminars and meetings were organised with the LAGs for them to understand the importance of data collection and for the evaluators to have a better understanding of the progress, the data available and discuss any improvements that can be undertaken. To ensure data collection with respect to the LAGs progress, two databases for data recording and a questionnaire were prepared and disseminated amongst the LAGs. One database was to assist them in keeping record of all the meetings they attend with potential beneficiaries including information such as date, type of meeting and purpose, whilst the second database is related to data associated with LEADER indicators. This database includes all the specific, result and output indicators and the LAGs are requested to provide all the data available related to the listed indicators. This database was provided and adapted for each of the three existing LAGs. As for the questionnaire, this was prepared for the LAGs to disseminate amongst the LEADER beneficiaries to get information about the project, the contribution of the LEADER, the application process and also any challenges encountered.

In relation to data provision and management of data, the 2020 yearly capacity building event organised by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the Rural Development, was on the identification of possible data gaps and on the monitoring and data management systems for the future CAP Strategic Plans. In fact, one of the main areas of discussions was related to overcoming the challenges in data management and data quality in view of the ex-post evaluation and beyond. The objective of the 2020 yearly event was to achieve a shared understanding among actors concerning the evaluation and draw lessons to increase the quality of future evaluations by considering at the Member State level past experiences. This workshop has led to the following conclusions:

- Data gaps do not necessarily exist but data fragmentation leads to a situation where data users may not necessarily be aware of data availability.
- Data issues are likely to remain for the evaluation of the RDP Programme in Malta due to the challenges associated with applying the counterfactual as the population size is relatively small.
- Enhanced communication is required by entities which collect data on the agricultural sector or which may be relevant to the agricultural sector. This calls for a national data management system.

In addition, the European helpdesk for the Rural Development, organise several workshops during the year on different topics, with the objective to share experiences amongst different members states. In 2020, the evaluators have attended the Good Practice Workshop (GPW) organised by the European helpdesk for the

Rural development on ‘Assessing the Contribution of RDPs to a competitive and Viable Agricultural Sector’. The objective of these workshops is to collect good practices linked to rural development policy evaluation on the basis of expert knowledge, evaluation reports and other information sources. The good practices collected cover both evaluation processes and methodologies. The Good Practice Workshops are meetings open to evaluation stakeholders, to exchange experiences on a specified topic, to provide a forum for discussion of good practices, lessons learned, and to identify and assess approaches to improve evaluation practice. These workshops often address data issues and members states share experiences on the methodologies applied where data is missing. Recently, the evaluators attended another GPW on ‘Improving data management and information systems for the purpose of CAP evaluation’ which however took place in March 2021.

2.d) A list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line

Publisher/ Editor	Managing Authority for the Rural Development Programme (Malta)
Author(s)	Managing Authority for the Rural Development Programme (Malta)
Title	Annual Implementation Report (Malta) for the year ending 31st December 2020
Abstract	<p>Further progress was registered throughout 2020 across most of the measures both in terms of commitments and payments as well as outputs. Despite the challenges faced in the implementation of the Programme in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Managing Authority (MA) and the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency continued accepting applications and payment claims, respectively, in relation to sub-measures launched in 2020 and previous years.</p> <p>While training courses continued to be delivered under M1.1, €0.5m were allocated under M2.1 for the use of advisory service. Sub-measures 4.1 and 4.4 continued to be popular amongst beneficiaries, with new calls being issued and new projects being approved. Implementation of projects under M4.2, M4.3 and M6.4 was also well underway and the MA is closely monitoring their implementation. Considerable progress was also registered under M19, notably M19.2, where rural areas are benefitting from projects as implemented through the LDSs.</p>
URL	https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Pages/Links%20and%20Downloads/Links-and-Downloads.aspx

2.e) A summary of completed evaluations, focussing on evaluation findings

Please summarize the findings from evaluations completed in 2020, per CAP objective (or RDP priority, where appropriate).

Report on positive or negative effects/impacts (including the supporting evidence). Please don't forget to mention the source of the findings.

The Annual Implementation Report submitted in June 2020 covering the year ending 31st December 2019 provided a detailed account of the progress in the implementation of the Rural Development Programme. The implementation of the RDP measures gathered momentum through the launch of most measures during 2019, with 29 out of the 34 RDP measures having been launched by the end of 2019. Indeed, 2019 was characterised by considerable progress across a number of measures, the launch of specific measures, preparations for the launch of additional measures, adjudication of a number of projects and raising awareness with the various stakeholders. Following the launch of a number of sub-measures listed, the Managing Authority continued receiving applications through an open rolling system with set cut-off dates. Throughout 2019, in total, the MA received applications amounting to circa €38 million. The evaluation of progress carried out in the AIR for 2019 pointed towards good progress in sub-measures M1.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and M6.1. The land-based measures, covering agri-environment measures, organic farming and areas facing natural constraints continued with a steady implementation phase. Throughout 2019, considerable progress was also registered in the implementation of Local Development Strategies by the three Local Action Groups supported under the RDP under M19 [1].

While the Thematic Evaluation on Young Farmers was not submitted by the end of 2020, some preliminary findings from the evaluation are the following:

1. Measure 6.1 has been more effective in supporting young farmers who are already in the sector through their family's participation rather than 'new' young farmers who are interested in entering the sector;
2. A total investment of over €7.1 million is expected to be enabled by Measure 6.1, of which about €4.3 million is RDP funded;
3. Around 75% of the total investment expenditure enabled by Measure 6.1 will have a secondary contribution towards Focus Area 2A which relates to Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation;
4. In terms of progress, by the end of June 2020, the average completion rate of the projects being supported by Measure 6.1 stood at around 39%;
5. On the basis of the telephone survey, which was conducted amongst beneficiaries, 71% of the respondents indicated that they would not have executed the project without the support provided through Measure 6.1; and
6. The discussion in the focus groups touched upon several issues, including the budget for the measure which is deemed too low by both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, particularly in the context of rising land prices, the supply chain where young farmers emphasised that further support is required to help them explore and make use of new supply chains and cooperation where it was pointed out that cooperation should be considered from a wider perspective such that it captures cooperation between individual farmers.

Detailed findings of the Thematic Evaluation will be submitted in the AIR for 2021.

[1] Source: Citizens Summary 2019, available at:

https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Downloads%20And%20Links/AIR/2014-2020/Citizens%27%20Summary%20for%20Implementation%20Year%202019_MC%20Circulation_20200616.pdf

2.f) A description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)

Reference shall be made to the evaluation plan, any difficulties encountered in implementation shall be described, together with solutions adopted or proposed.

Date / Period	01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed / disseminated	Annual Implementation Report Malta - Rural Development Programme (National)
Overall organiser of activity/event	Managing Authority
Information channels/format used	Available Online
Type of target audience	Agricultural and rural stakeholders as well as general public
Approximate number of	602

stakeholders reached	
URL	https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Downloads%20And%20Links/AIR/2014-2020/Implementation%20report_2014MT06RDNP001_2019_0_en.pdf

Date / Period	04/12/2020
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed / disseminated	EvaluationWorks! - Improving evidence-based RDP evaluations in view of the ex-post.
Overall organiser of activity/event	European Evaluation Helpdesk/Managing Authority
Information channels/format used	Presentations
Type of target audience	Managing Authority, Evaluators, Data-providers, Paying Agency
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	18

URL	https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Downloads%20And%20Links/AIR/2014-2020/Implementation%20report_2014MT06RDNP001_2019_0_en.pdf
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2.g) Description of the follow-up given to evaluation results (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)

Reference shall be made to the evaluation plan, any difficulties encountered in implementation shall be described, together with solutions adopted or proposed.

Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)	Open channels of communication should continue to be encouraged for LEADER. The LAGs would benefit from training which is specific to the monitoring of their strategies and evaluation. The evaluators are willing to provide specific training in order to assist the LAGs in the collection of data which is useful for evaluation purposes.
Follow-up carried out	A 2 day seminar was organised for the LAGs in July 2020. The seminar was organised by the Managing Authority in collaboration with the NRN and the RDP evaluators. The event focused on the monitoring and evaluation of the LEADER at the RDP level and at the local level. During the second day, the LAGs had the opportunity to engage in discussions on the preparation of evaluation activities, structure and conduct as well as monitoring and communication. The key outcomes of the seminar included: • an understanding of the objectives and requirements of the monitoring and evaluation, both at the RDP level and local level; • an update on the progress of the measures implemented by the LAGs and the challenges faced in the implementation of strategies; • the development of questionnaires and templates which may assist evaluation of LAG measures
Responsible authority for follow-up	Other

Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)	The Interim Evaluation Report noted that effort needs to be channeled to the launch of measures which contribute towards fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture (P1), promoting food chain organisation (P3) and promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas (P6). While it is recognised that the late start of the RDP, it is imperative that measures which had not been launched by the end of 2020, are effective effectively rolled out.
Follow-up carried out	The Managing Authority in 2020 continued to launch Measures such as Measures 16.2 and 16.4 contributing towards Priority 1, 3 and 6. Indeed, the total commitment level for Measure 16.2 by 2020 amounted to around €3 million as the end of 2020. As for M1.2 and M1.3 contributing towards Priority 1, the MA is discussing the possible revisions of these sub-measures. Efforts have also continued on the uptake of measures contributing towards Priority 3. Indeed, in the case of M4.2, the MA issued the third call for this sub-measure in 2020 with Measure 4.2 registering an over-commitment.
Responsible authority for follow-up	Managing authority

Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)	Consideration should be given to budget re-allocations between measures as well as across FAs. For instance, there is scope in increasing the budget allocated to M4.3 and M10.1 which would contribute to a RDP which is centred towards environmental and climate change interventions. The MA should also consider the allocation of the budget for Measure 4.1 across various focus areas as it is becoming increasingly evident that projects funded under this Measure primarily contribute towards FA2A.
Follow-up carried out	The Managing Authority has discussed this recommendation and intends to include these suggestions in the upcoming modification to the RDP.
Responsible authority for follow-up	Managing authority

Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)	Resources are required to ensure that a structured system is in place when it comes to data collection and retrieval. This is a crucial element in the structuring phase of the evaluation and in its absence, the evaluation of the programme is likely to yield less conclusive results. Data required for the result and impact indicators must be collected in an efficient and consistent manner and must be integrated into the IT system for monitoring and evaluation purposes.
Follow-up carried out	Several meetings continued to be held between evaluators, the MA, ARPA and the IT system administrator to ensure a more comprehensive data management system.
Responsible authority for follow-up	Managing authority

Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)	Institutional capacity, by both the MA and ARPA, needs to be maintained to cope with the administration of the Programme and training of staff is to be encouraged. As much as possible the staff turnover rate is to be reduced to ensure that work expertise is maintained.
Follow-up carried out	The MA and ARPA seek to reduce staff turnover and in fact, over the past 4 years, staff turnover has been considerably reduced. Additionally both the MA and ARPA staff has attended several training programmes relevant to their tasks.
Responsible authority for follow-up	Managing authority

3. ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN

3.a) Description of steps taken to ensure quality and effectiveness of programme implementation

Consultation with public and private entities

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, during 2020 consultation sessions were largely limited to online meetings, these included meetings held with critical stakeholders from both private and public entities, such as the Agricultural, Rural and Paying agency (ARPA), and Environment and Resources Authority (ERA).

Prior to this disturbance, at the start of 2020, the MA was able to organise four information sessions with potential beneficiaries of sub-measures M4.2 and M4.4. These sessions were particularly useful in notifying and briefing potential applicants of changes made in the application process in response to the pandemic, ensuring that applicants were armed with all the information necessary to successfully apply under these calls.

Monitoring Committee meetings

One Monitoring Committee (MC) meeting was held during the course of 2020. It was held on 11 December 2020 and was held virtually. This marked the sixth MC for the Rural Development Programme for Malta (2014-2020). The meeting primarily revolved around:

- Update on the implementation of the RDP, covering also forecasts of N+3 and Performance Framework Milestones
- RDP financial execution
- Ongoing evaluation of the RDP
- Update on the ongoing work in preparation for the 2021(3)-2027 Programming Period.

Technical Meeting

On 1 December 2020, the Managing Authority held a meeting with representatives from DG AGRI, during which, discussions were held concerning the progress in implementation of the RDP.

Discussions also focus on the ongoing and ex-post evaluations of the RDP, for which the appointed external evaluators of the programme were present. The evaluators delivered a presentation covering aspects relating to the monitoring system, ongoing evaluation, the evaluation plan and communication activities. Specific attention was directed towards the data management systems to feed into the AIR and the Thematic Evaluation on Young Farmers.

Annual Review Meeting

In line with the provisions of the Common Provisions Regulation Article 51, an Annual Review Meeting was held between the Commission and Malta. The meeting was held on 25 March 2021 and discussion

centred around:

(1) the state of the implementation of the programme, namely:

- Procedural and financial progress (calls, commitments and payments) as at 31st December 2020;
- Forecast commitments, calls, corrective measures and payments, and risk of automatic de-commitment of N + 3 as at 31st December 2020;
- State of achievement of the target values of output and result indicators in relation to targets;
- State of implementation of Local Development Strategies (LEADER);

(2) Forecasts for achievement of performance objectives.

(3) State of implementation of the action plan to reduce the error rate.

(4) Communication and information activities on the results and added value of RDP support (results and effectiveness of these activities).

During this meeting, the European Commission encouraged the MA to accelerate the implementation of all operations, particularly those that have not been launched yet, and to implement all the measures envisaged in order to achieve the objectives as set out in the programme. Furthermore, the European Commission urged the MA to accelerate its preparations concerning the transition and EURI programme amendments.

Concerning the Error rate, the European Commission invited the Maltese Authorities to closely monitor the error rate and all the relevant causes of error found in the course of audits carried out by the said Authorities, by the European Commission and the European Court of Auditors.

Programme Modifications

Programme modifications were discussed at length in the previous year 2019, where the MA in consultation with the MC put forward the recommended modifications to the European Commission.

These changes were accepted and adopted on 30 January 2020. These modifications are described in detail under Section 1.1 of the revised RDP adopted in January 2020 – Version 5.2. In summary these changes related to the Performance Framework, clarification of the text with respect to prospective clients, streamlining of RDP measures, text corrections and the introduction of SCOs, amongst others.

During 2020, the MA focused its efforts on the strategic programme modifications which were/will be put forward for the upcoming Programming Period 2021-2027.

Administrative Capacity Building

In 2020, the MA like all organisations was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the disturbances this brought about. However, nonetheless MA officers were given opportunities to improve their skills and therefore contribute to growing the MA's capabilities.

Training and upskilling initiatives attended by MA officers is listed below:

- Public Management Toolkit course organised by the Institute of Public Services;
- EU Funds Management;

- RDP Evaluation Seminars; and
- European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development meetings, workshops, seminars, and training courses organised by the European Commission.

In terms of the European Evaluation Helpdesk, a specific session was held in Malta on 4 December 2020, which session was held online. The aim of the Evaluation Helpdesk was to carry out this session to follow-up from the evaluation carried out in 2019, overcome the challenges in data management and data quality in view of the ex-post evaluation and beyond, and determining the needs for support across specific areas (use of water, agricultural emissions, and competitiveness). The session was directed to a number of stakeholders, including the Managing Authority, evaluators, data providers, and the Paying Agency.

Project Selection Committee

During the year under review, the two previously established Project Selection Committee's (PSC) were maintained and ran in parallel overseeing the evaluation and selection processes of all RDP measures, bar land-based measures and M19.2.

The remit of these two PSC's is as follows:

- PSC I covers the selection process for M1, M2.1, M19, M4.3, M4.4, M16, M10.2; and
- PSC II covers sector specific calls fall covering M3.1, M4.1, M4.2, M6.1, M6.4.

Calls for Projects

In 2020 the MA maintained its open rolling system with set cut-off dates for all measures launched during the year. The adopted open block calls procedure allowed the MA to split applications by batch and assess these applications separately from subsequent batches. Deadlines for each batch were clearly outlined in the Block Procedure Timetable found on the MA's websites www.eufunds.gov.mt and www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt, regularly updated making this information clear and accessible to interested applicants.

Calls for projects launched in 2020 were accompanied with the relevant information aiding applicants and the general public navigate these calls. Supporting information including Guidance Notes for Applicants, FAQs, Project Plan together with the Application Form.

Given the disturbances which arose from the pandemic the MA put forward two changes to assist applicants in their smooth and simple submission of applications. As of April 2020, the following notices were published:

- Procedure for the receipt of applications during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak; and
- Obligatory documentation in applications.

These notices published on the MA's websites informed prospective applicants that applications submitted via email by the close of deadline would only be accepted. Instructing applicants on the email submission requirements such as capacity and labelling. Also informing them of changes to content changes in the applications, where previously marked 'obligatory' documentation would be changed to 'required' and hence allowing for these documents to be submitted following the batch deadline, therefore the application will be deemed admissible.

Such notices were part of the MA's efforts to ensure that applications received were conformant with measure requirements and thus would be deemed admissible and considered during the evaluation process. Understanding that given the evolving nature of the pandemic and the impact this had on prospective applicants in the lead up to their submission.

Information Sessions

The MA held various information sessions to support prospective applicants in the application process for RDP measures. Throughout 2020, the MA organised the following sessions:

- Information sessions in relation to M4.1 and M4.4 were held as follows:
 - Government Experimental Farm in Xewkija Gozo on the 19th February;
 - Mgarr Farmers' Cooperative in Mgarr on the 21st February;
 - FCCS Cooperative (Pitkalija) in Ta' Qali on the 25th February; and
 - Ghammieri, Marsa on the 28th February;

At the start of 2020 the MA was also present at ARPA Front Offices in Malta and Gozo as part of their effort to reach out to key stakeholders and answer any questions they may have. Details of these initiatives are listed below:

- 29th January: Ta' Qali Front Office, between 7.30am and 3.30pm;
- 30th January: Ta' Qali Front Office, between 7.30am and 3.30pm;
- 30th January: Xewkija Front Office, between 7.30am and 1.30pm.

3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) ¹, proxy automatically calculated

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation ²	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative ³)
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	97,326,898.00	21.08	14.62

¹ Simplified Cost Options shall be intended as unit cost/flat rates/lumps sums CPR Article 67(5) including the EAFRD specific methods under point (e) of that article such as business start-up lump sums, flat rate payments to producers organisations and area and animal related unit costs.

² Automatically calculated from programme version's measures 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

³ Automatically calculated from declarations of expenditure's measures 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs), based on specific detailed MS data [optional]

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative)
Total CPR Article 67(1)(b)(c)(d) + 67(5)(e)	97,326,898.00		
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	97,326,898.00		

E-management for beneficiaries [optional]

	[%] EAFRD funding	[%] Operations concerned
Application for support		
Payment claims		
Controls and compliance		
Monitoring and reporting to the MA/PA		

Average time limits for beneficiaries to receive payments [optional]

[Days] Where applicable, MS deadline for payments to beneficiaries	[Days] Average time for payments to beneficiaries	Comments

4. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME PUBLICITY REQUIREMENTS

4.a) Action taken and state of play as regards the establishment of the NRN and the implementation of its action plan

4.a1) Actions taken and state of play as regards establishment of the NRN (governance structure and network support unit)

The Managing Authority (MA) within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is responsible for all the activities of the network. The NRN's structure comprises of a Steering Committee and Coordination Committee. Members are appointed by the Ministry and represent a wide range of stakeholders. Local Action Groups, Ministry officials, farmers and representatives of NGOs are all invited to participate in the thematic activities of the Network and discussions.

Building on actions undertaken in previous years, in 2020 the Network Support Unit (NSU) and National Rural Network Committee (NRNC) continued to support the MA in the effective and efficient implementation of the Rural Development Programme.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the scheduled NRN meetings were postponed. However, the NRN was present during information sessions held at the start of the year organised by the MA aimed at disseminating information concerning various measures.

The NSU has also kept in contact with the rest of the NRN committee through regular email updates. In September the NSU encouraged its members to take part in the Public Consultation on the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas

In 2020 the NSU has also attended online meetings and workshops with ENRD and other organisations on a regular basis.

4.a2) Actions taken and state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan

In line with Article 54(2) of Regulation No. 1305/2013, the NRN Terms of References, the National Rural Network groups the local organisations and administrations involved in rural development in an effort to:

- increase the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Rural Development Programme;
- improve the quality of implementation of the Rural Development Programme;
- inform the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities; and
- foster innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas.

These four priorities of the NRN were undertaken in 2020 via the following tools.

MA Website

The MA manages the following two websites:

- www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt
- www.eufunds.gov.mt

These websites run by the MA provide the public with information and guidance in their mission to manage to highest standards EU and other funds to achieve the best results, this includes guidance and support as it relates to the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

In 2020, these two websites were the MA's means of communication with its stakeholders, informing them of the latest pre-announcements, calls, newsletters, events, circulars, guidance notes, contact points and other useful resources.

During 2020, the use of this tool was particularly important to inform relevant stakeholders of changes in procedures due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Highlighting procedural changes in the application process, obligatory documentation in applications, and extensions to project deadlines in view of the COVID-19 crisis. These websites were revised regularly by the MA as to ensure that the information available was updated and still relevant.

NRN Information Sessions

Throughout 2020, the MA organised various information sessions disseminating information on upcoming calls. These included:

- Information sessions in relation to M4.1 and M4.4 were held as follows:
 - Government Experimental Farm in Xewkija Gozo on the 19th February;
 - Mgarr Farmers' Cooperative in Mgarr on the 21st February;
 - FCCS Cooperative (Pitkalija) in Ta' Qali on the 25th February; and
 - Ghammieri, Marsa on the 28th February;

The purpose of these information sessions was for the MA to meet and discuss calls with the potential applicants first-hand. This allowed beneficiaries such as farmers and local processors of agricultural products to discuss project ideas with the MA and help determine what best could be funded through such schemes. These information sessions were strategically scheduled months prior to calls closing as to allow for applicants to have enough time to develop their applications

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty and volatility of this period the MA was not able to hold further information sessions in 2020, however, interested applicants were able to submit their queries by email and individual online meetings could then be organised.

NRN Newsletter

In 2020, the 18th, 19th, and 20th issues of the NRN newsletter were issued in April, July and December respectively. This initiative stems back to 2011 when the first NRN newsletter was published by the MA.

The April issue detailed further announcements and pre-announcements of measures 3.1, 6.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 16 and COVID-19 simplification measures. This information clearly detailed the application submission procedure and changes made to this process in order to safeguard all those involved, external and internal stakeholders. The publication went on with highlighting successful projects implemented by beneficiaries of Measure 1.1 and Measure 6.1 of the Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020. The 18th publication of the newsletter was concluded with a summary of November 2019's NRNC meeting and working plan for 2020-21, who's two main thematic areas where the communication, promotion and

simplification of the programme, together with the digitisation pilot project.

The July issue continued to highlight good practice projects supported by the Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020, focusing on two projects falling under Measure 4.2 and Measure 19, aimed at supporting investment in processing, marketing, and development of agricultural products, and strengthening a healthy cultural identity respectively. The newsletter also sought to communicate with its readers the launch of Friends of Earth Malta's 'Malta Farm Map', an initiative aimed at supporting local farmers sell their locally grown fruits and vegetables by connecting them directly to their customers. The 19th newsletter was rounded off with an article on the RDP evaluator's role in the evaluation process and the tasks assigned to them.

Similar to previous publications the December issue kicked off by sharing good practice projects, namely those falling under Measure 4.4 and Measures 4.3 implemented by Ghajnsielem Local Council and Infrastructure Malta respectively. Both projects dealt with improving rural infrastructure, through investment in the reconstruction of rubble walls improving the quality and accessibility of rural roads. The 20th publication of the newsletter was concluded with a notice announcing the MA's award under Measure 2.1 to AgriConnect FAS as Farms Advisory service providers, providing free advice to eligible beneficiaries (farmers) as part of this scheme.

4.b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014)

In line with its EAFRD Communication Strategy 2014-2020, the Managing Authority implemented a number of actions in order to ensure that sufficient information is made available both to potential beneficiaries as well as the general public. The measures undertaken include:

Adverts on local newspapers

During 2020, the MA published 44 notices announcing the launching of measures prior to their deadline. These adverts are normally published on all national Sunday newspapers and on the government gazette. Adverts are published on newspapers that are printed in English and in Maltese.

Information Sessions

Throughout the start of 2020, the MA, through the NRN, organised information sessions in order to disseminate information concerning various measures. Information sessions relay information in relation to:

- funding opportunities and the launching of calls under the RDP;
- the procedures to be followed in order to qualify for funding under the RDP;
- the procedures for assessing applications for funding;
- the eligibility conditions and/or criteria for selecting and evaluating the projects to be funded;
- the responsibility of beneficiaries to inform the public about the aim of the operation and the support from the RDP.

The following information sessions were held during 2020:

- Measures 4.1 and 4.4 - Government Experimental Farm in Xewkija Gozo on the 19th February;
- Measures 4.1 and 4.4 - Mgarr Farmers' Cooperative in Mgarr on the 21st February;

- Measures 4.1 and 4.4 - FCCS Cooperative (Pitkalija) in Ta' Qali on the 25th February; and
- Measures 4.1 and 4.4 - Ghammieri, Marsa on the 28th February 2020.

EU Funds Websites

The Managing Authority of EAFRD continued to promote the websites covering all the funds falling under its remit – www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt and www.eufunds.gov.mt. These websites bring together all the funds that the Funds and Programmes Division manages, and information provided includes: information on the different programmes, the calls for projects, regularly updated guidance notes for applicants for each call, block procedure timetable, access the past publications, newsletters, past events, publicity information, and links and downloads to useful information.

In comparison to previous years the MA was limited in its ability to carry out its traditional outreach events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

This section applies to AIR(s) 2015, 2016 only

6. DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PROGRAMMES

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

7. ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

9. PROGRESS MADE IN ENSURING INTEGRATED APPROACH TO USE EAFRD AND OTHER UNION FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

This section applies to AIR(s) 2018 only

10. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

30A. Has the ex-ante assessment been started ?	No
30B. Has the ex-ante assessment been completed ?	No
30. Date of completion of ex-ante assessment	-
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched ?	No
13A. Has the funding agreement been signed ?	No
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	-

11. ENCODING TABLES FOR COMMON AND PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC INDICATORS AND QUANTIFIED TARGET VALUES

See Monitoring Annex

Annex II

Detailed table showing implementation level by Focus areas including output indicators

Focus Area 1A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
1A	T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	2014-2020					8.19
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 1B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
1B	T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	2014-2020					4.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 1C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
1C	T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2020			205.00	2.85	7,200.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 2A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
2A	T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	2014-2020	1.03	111.26	1.03	111.26	0.93
		2014-2019	0.52	56.17	0.52	56.17	
		2014-2018	0.44	47.53	0.38	41.05	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,185,229.32	125.72	18,349,421.14	79.04	23,215,010.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,185,229.32	138.38	18,349,421.14	87.01	21,090,010.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			24,185,684.88	78.80	30,691,713.00
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			4,272,119.06	52.32	8,165,666.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020			129.00	111.21	116.00
M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			14,077,302.08	108.92	12,924,344.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,925,000.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	4,200,000.00

Focus Area 2B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
2B	T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)	2014-2020	0.49	102.33	0.49	102.33	0.48
		2014-2019	0.48	100.24	0.48	100.24	
		2014-2018	0.15	31.33	0.15	31.33	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	4,340,000.00	82.52	3,388,000.00	64.42	5,259,597.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	1,519,194.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	10.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	4,340,000.00	100.93	3,388,000.00	78.79	4,300,000.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			3,388,000.00	67.76	5,000,000.00
M06.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			3,388,000.00	78.79	4,300,000.00
M06.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020			62.00	103.33	60.00

Focus Area 3A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
3A	T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	2014-2020					1.36
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
	Nr of operations supported under M4.2 contributing to FA3A (M4.2) (operations)	2014-2020			19.00	76.00	25.00
		2014-2019			15.00	60.00	
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
3A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	6,701,142.24	77.88	1,093,485.07	12.71	8,604,879.34
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	813,170.67
M03.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	66.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	6,298,165.24	87.88	1,093,485.07	15.26	7,166,708.67
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			2,186,970.14	15.26	14,333,418.30
M04.1 M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			25.00	40.98	61.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	402,977.00	64.48	0.00	0.00	625,000.00
M16.4	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	105.00

Focus Area 3B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
3B	T7: percentage of farms participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)	2014-2020					11.97
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Priority P4							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
P4	T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2020			12.28	412.21	2.98
		2014-2019			7.46	250.42	
		2014-2018			5.45	182.94	
		2014-2017			2.00	67.14	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
	T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2020			4.12	138.30	2.98
		2014-2019			4.57	153.41	
		2014-2018			4.12	138.30	
		2014-2017			2.00	67.14	
		2014-2016			1.32	44.31	
		2014-2015					
	T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	2014-2020			15.50	243.42	6.37
		2014-2019			15.50	243.42	
		2014-2018			13.48	211.69	
		2014-2017			9.62	151.08	
		2014-2016			9.78	153.59	
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
P4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	47,478,776.10	94.51	25,073,947.89	49.91	50,236,643.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	285,000.00	16.19			1,760,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	1,440,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			205.00	7.12	2,880.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	500,000.00	47.62			1,050,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	630.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	24,909,941.24	100.01	12,160,433.97	48.82	24,908,690.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			15,200,542.46	46.08	32,987,379.00
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			197.00	104.79	188.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00

M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					1,750,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	5,231,921.32	76.74	2,786,142.12	40.86	6,817,953.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			510.81	76.12	671.10
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	14,077.97	7.04	7,432.08	3.72	200,000.00
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			0.75	1.67	45.00
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			7.89	60.69	13.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	13,796,194.49	114.97	10,119,939.72	84.33	12,000,000.00
M13.3	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			8,376.09	96.28	8,700.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,741,641.08	156.67	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00

Focus Area 5A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5A	T14: percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A)	2014-2020			2.73	50.17	5.44
		2014-2019			0.73	13.41	
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	23,535,520.81	110.60	18,230,913.16	85.67	21,279,719.51
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					1,760,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	1,440,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	2,880.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	222.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	23,535,520.81	124.40	18,230,913.16	96.36	18,919,719.51
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			20,814,723.30	91.44	22,762,486.04
M04	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			77.23	50.15	154.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			25.00	47.17	53.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00

Focus Area 5B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5B	T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)	2014-2020					759,597.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,169,798.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					440,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	360,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	720.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	379,798.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	5.00

Focus Area 5C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5C	T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)	2014-2020	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
		2014-2019	1.00	0.00			
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	9,147.25	0.43	7,852.91	0.37	2,119,194.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	9,147.25	0.60	7,852.91	0.52	1,519,194.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			1.00	4.55	22.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600,000.00

Focus Area 5D							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5D	T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	2014-2020			0.01	0.06	16.09
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5D	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	14,316.22	0.89	14,295.03	0.89	1,614,446.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					220,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	180,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	360.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020					230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	14,316.22	1.37	14,295.03	1.37	1,044,446.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			28,590.06	1.37	2,088,891.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			1.00	6.67	15.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)	2014-2020			5.20	0.08	6,700.00

Focus Area 5E							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5E	T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	2014-2020			8.89	167.36	5.31
		2014-2019			4.00	75.30	
		2014-2018			2.06	38.78	
		2014-2017			0.31	5.84	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5E	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,853,291.53	153.78	2,825,185.94	112.75	2,505,705.67
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					1,750,000.00
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020					25.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,853,291.53	509.89	2,825,185.94	373.85	755,705.67
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			1,009.56	165.99	608.20

Focus Area 6A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
6A	T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	2014-2020					24.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	648,491.35	40.44	0.00	0.00	1,603,437.49
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	648,491.35	47.91	0.00	0.00	1,353,437.49
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	2,952,954.52
M06.2 M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020			6.00	27.27	22.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00

Focus Area 6B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
6B	T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	2014-2020			2.50	25.00	10.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
	T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	2014-2020					0.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2020			105.38	105.42	99.97
		2014-2019			105.38	105.42	
		2014-2018			105.38	105.42	
		2014-2017			99.97	100.00	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	4,237,348.64	62.78	1,457,334.28	21.59	6,750,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	4,237,348.64	65.19	1,457,334.28	22.42	6,500,000.00
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2020			283,284.00	105.41	268,733.00
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2020			3.00	100.00	3.00
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			345,014.71	58.11	593,750.00
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			506,197.07	11.44	4,425,000.00
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			8,252.62	2.75	300,000.00
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			597,869.88	50.61	1,181,250.00

Focus Area 6C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
6C	T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)	2014-2020					0.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
	Percentage of total public expenditure (M1.1 to M1.3) allocated for ICT actions/interventions (%)	2014-2020					20.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					220,000.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					220,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	180,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	360.00

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
AIR Financial Annex 2014MT06RDNP001	Financial annex (System)	28-04-2022		Ares(2022)3290475	492618756	AIRfinancialAnnex2014MT06RDNP001_mt.pdf	28-04-2022	nscicken
Citizen Summary for Implementation Year 2020	Citizens' summary	25-06-2021		Ares(2022)3290475	4067635079	Citizen Summary for Implementation Year 2020	28-04-2022	nscicken
Additional information on SFC warnings	Other annex	29-06-2021		Ares(2022)3290475	2182608350	Additional information on SFC warnings	28-04-2022	nscicken

