

Malta's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Version 1.1 (editorially modified following MC clarification of Friday 25th Nov. 2016)

General Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria will apply to all measures in Malta's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020:

- Submitted application is fully completed/filled-in
- Applicant demonstrates that he/she forms part of (or is the legal representative) the beneficiary/applicant organisation
- The proposed project will be implemented within the eligible territory
- Evidence of sufficient financial capacity required to cover the private financial component (where applicable) is provided
- The proposed project contributes to the targets and objectives of the relevant measure/s
- The proposed project contributes to at least one indicator target

Measure Specific Eligibility Conditions

The following conditions, together with the above general criteria, will apply for specific measures/sub-measures as indicated below:

Measure 1 – Knowledge transfer and information actions

- Entities organising and providing knowledge transfer/training, demonstration activities or exchanges
- Possess minimum qualifications/requirements
- Access to necessary logistics for proposed activity
- Possess required technical and financial capacity
- Training provided does not form part of established education system

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

- Advisors, public/private entities possess required competence in relevant sector
- Possess minimum qualifications/requirements
- Access to necessary logistics for proposed activity
- Possess required technical and financial capacity

Measure 3 – Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs

- Farmers and/or groups of farmers, producer groups
- New participation of at least one farmer in producer group
- Eligible National Scheme regulated by Legal Notice 467 of 2014 (S.L. 427.90 – Establishment of Products of Quality)
- Support for organic products provided for products which conform with the conditions stipulated in Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007
- Spirit drinks bearing geographical indication as per Regulation (EU) No 100/2008
- EU PGI, PDO, TSG only granted in respect of products in one of EU registers
- Information and promotion activities must be within internal market

Measure 4 – Investments in physical assets

- Farmers, groups of farmers, businesses, public entities, land managers active in the agriculture/processing/marketing/rural sector
- Environmental Impact Assessment with application (where applicable)
- Processing should concern products listed in Annex I TFEU
- Investments concerning bioenergy must conform with applicable EU Legislation
- Holdings not in financial difficulty, must be efficient and economically viable
- Relevant requirements for irrigation investments must be met (Art. 46 RD Reg)
- Electricity produced from biomass to respect minimum percentage of heat energy utilised

Measure 6 – Farm and business development

- Young farmers according to definition established in Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013, non-agricultural SMEs set up in rural areas, other persons in rural areas, farmers or household members of the holding who diversify into non-agricultural activities
- SMEs as defined by Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013
- Business plan, implementation to start within 9 months of granting of support and to be completed within 4 years
- Adequate vocational skills and competencies by project completion

Measure 8 – Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests

- Natural persons, public/private forest owners, public/private entities or associations thereof
- Projects must contribute to ecological, landscape and environmental objectives for Malta
- Minimum size of area to be supported 0.5 Ha with minimum tree cover of 10% (or will have 10% tree cover following afforestation actions)

- Replanting of trees only during 1st year, unless in the following 5 years damage is higher than 20%
- All woodland holdings over 0.5 ha shall have approved management plan that provides justification for the support being applied for. Action 12 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy must be followed when drafting such plans: afforestation is carried out in accordance with the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines

Measure 10 – Agri-environment-climate

- Farmers, groups of farmers, land managers (AECMs); research institutes, public/private entities, NGOs, producer groups, associations (genetic resources sub-measure)
- Applicant must possess at least 0.1 Ha
- Farmer must be registered in IACS registry
- Farmer must register all land in IACS
- Parcels less than 0.01 Ha will be ineligible for payment
- Respect of minimum requirements of cross compliance
- Obligation to attend training, and benefit from advisory services within first 2 years of commitment
- Conservation of genetic resources in plant species and/or livestock breeds

Measure 11 – Organic Farming

- Farmers, groups of farmers
- Support is provided after the applicant presents evidence of certification issued by the certification authority
- Respect of minimum requirements of cross compliance
- Total of 7 years: 2-3 years for conversion (depending on crop type), 4-5 years for maintenance

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

- Farmers
- Respect of minimum requirements of cross compliance
- Applicants must have a minimum of 0.1 Ha of land
- Farmer must be registered in IACS registry

Measure 16 – Co-operation

- Operational Groups set-up under sub-measure 16.1 comprising farmers (obligatory), researchers, businesses, consultants, NGOs – at least 2 of the above
- Existing OGs will be eligible for support if the activity is new and in conformity with the RDP priorities

- Project proposal and OG composition must be in line and suitable for the relevant sub-measure
- OGs will be bound to disseminate the results of their proposed project/s, including through the EIP network

Measure 17 – Risk management

- Farmers
- Insurance against damages caused by adverse climatic events, animal/plant diseases, pest infestation, environmental incidents
- Crisis must destroy more than 30% of the average annual production of the farmer, assessed by reference to the annual production in the preceding 3-year period

Measure 19 – LEADER

- Potential LAGs, local actors in LAG territory
- One LAG for each territory
- Private component of the Decision Body must make up at least 51% of the decision body
- Cooperation with Non-EU MS the private–public partnership must be similar in form and function to a LAG and operate in a rural area

Project Selection

Selection criteria are designed to assess the fit and contribution of project proposals with the RDP strategy, its target group and its objectives. These criteria are divided in two groups: those that rely on a quantitative assessment and those that require a qualitative assessment. The evaluation will combine both data (quantitative and qualitative) in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the proposal. During the 2014-2020 programming period an open call procedure will be applied, where calls for submission of project proposals will remain open until the entire budgetary allocation of the relevant sub-measure is entirely used up. Evaluations of received project proposals will be carried out periodically.

The project has to obtain at least 50% of the marks available in total (both general and measure-specific criteria) in order to be considered for funding. Projects will be ranked according to marks and funds allocated to those projects which obtain the highest marks. In cases of over-demand for funding, other projects which obtain the pass mark but which are not funded/selected will be placed on a reserve list according to marks obtained and funding offered if and when funds become available.

The voting members shall decide how the project proposal addresses each of the criteria and assign points according to the following guide:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| ➤ Excellent | 81 to 100% of points; |
| ➤ Very good | 76 to 80% of points; |
| ➤ Satisfactory | 50 to 75% of points; |
| ➤ Very poor | 26 to 49% of points; |
| ➤ Unacceptable | 01 to 25% of points. |

General Selection Criteria – total maximum scoring of 100 marks

The following selection criteria will apply for all sub-measures except for sub-measures 10.1, 11.1, 11.2, 13.3, 17.1 and 19.4:

- Project proposal targeting multiple indicators – max marks 20

Applicants are awarded points on the basis of how well their project proposal targets more than one indicator, and how well the proposal fits within the relevant RDP/LDS priorities.

- Preparedness / Readiness – max marks 10

Applicants are awarded points according to the level of preparedness with regard to permits, drafting of tenders, CBAs, etc. as and where applicable.

- Organisational capacity – max marks 20¹

Points awarded according to the administrative capacity, competence and technical resources available to the organization, and how well the project demonstrates long term sustainability. Consideration will be made of how the project will continue to benefit the business/sector/rural area after RDP funding comes to an end. Application should demonstrate evidence of applicant's financial viability.

- Cost effectiveness – max marks 20²

Points awarded according to evidenced added value, effectiveness and reasonableness of costs proposed. Consideration will be made as to whether the applicant considered other forms of funding and set out clearly the impact the funding will make on the business and/or the surrounding market. The outputs and outcomes of the proposal should be proportionate to the level of funding offered. Project deliverability will also be assessed on the basis of whether competitive quotes have been sought, clear rationale in cases where the lowest valid offer is not chosen, whether the costs are realistic and whether the application shows how the project will be successful at the end of the contract.

- Complementarity – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the potential of the proposed project to lead to funding opportunities under other measures/funds.

- Horizontal Priorities (Social Criterion) – max marks 20

Points awarded on the basis that the proposed intervention/s contribute towards the promotion of equal opportunities, equality, non-discrimination and improved accessibility whilst targeting sustainable development in the areas of economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection. Consideration will be made of whether the applicant has an appropriate policy on equality and diversity (eg. as an employer), access requirements have been taken into account (eg. for buildings, websites), and whether any jobs created are open to a diverse range of applicants.

Measure-specific selection criteria

The following selection criteria, together with the above general selection criteria, will apply for specific measures/sub-measures as indicated below:

¹ Applicants will be required to obtain a minimum of 10 marks from this selection criterion.

² Applicants will be required to obtain a minimum of 10 marks from this selection criterion.

Measure 1 – Knowledge transfer and information actions

Sub-measure 1.1 – support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Innovation – max marks 40

Points awarded in relation to the degree of innovation showed in terms of the subject/elements being addressed by the training module/demonstration activities/exchanges as well as the methodologies to be used.

Sub-measure 1.2 – support for demonstration projects and information actions – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Innovation – max marks 40

Points awarded in relation to the degree of innovation showed in terms of the subject/elements being addressed by the training module/demonstration activities/exchanges as well as the methodologies to be used.

Sub-measure 1.3 – support for short-term farm and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Innovation – max marks 40

Points awarded in relation to the degree of innovation showed in terms of the subject/elements being addressed by the training module/demonstration activities/exchanges as well as the methodologies to be used.

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

Sub-measure 2.1 – support to help benefit from the use of advisory services – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Quality of proposed plan of consultancy services – max marks 30

Points awarded on the basis of the quality and detail provided in the consultancy services plan submitted with the application.

- Dissemination – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

Sub-measure 2.2 – support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Quality of proposed plan of consultancy services – max marks 30

Points awarded on the basis of the quality and detail provided in the consultancy services plan submitted with the application.

- Dissemination – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

Sub-measure 2.3 – support for training of advisors – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Quality of proposed plan of consultancy services – max marks 30

Points awarded on the basis of the quality and detail provided in the consultancy services plan submitted with the application.

- Dissemination – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

Measure 3 – Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs

Sub-measure 3.1 – support for new participation in quality schemes – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Dissemination (M3.1) – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

- Partnership – max marks 20

Points awarded according to the number of producers/farmers forming part of the PO/PG/Farmer group submitting the application.

- Young Farmers – max marks 10

Points awarded if the applicant or at least one of the farmers forming part of the PO/PG/Farmer Group applying falls within the definition of young farmer stipulated by Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

Sub-measure 3.2 – support for information and promotion activities implemented by groups of producers in the internal market – total maximum scoring of 160 marks

- Partnership – max marks 20

Points awarded according to the number of producers/farmers forming part of the PO/PG/Farmer group submitting the application.

- Young Farmers – max marks 10

Points awarded if the applicant or at least one of the farmers forming part of the PO/PG/Farmer Group applying falls within the definition of young farmer stipulated by Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

- Promotional Activities – max marks 30

Points awarded according to the type of promotional activities to be implemented, design and development of information actions and/or demonstration activities.

Measure 4 – Investments in physical assets

Sub-measure 4.1 – support for investments in agricultural holdings – total maximum scoring of 210 marks

- Young Farmers – max marks 10

Points awarded if the applicant or at least one of the farmers forming part of the PO/PG/Farmer Group applying falls within the definition of young farmer stipulated by Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

- Dissemination – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

- Agri-environment-climate – max marks 20

Applicant awarded points if also participating in at least one of the AEMs (Agri-Environmental Measures) Measure 214 – Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 or at least one of the AECMs under Measure 10 - Agri-environment-climate (Rural Development Programme 2014-2020).

- Energy efficiency – max marks 20

Points awarded on the basis of the project's contribution towards increased efficiency as well as the inclusion of measures targeting the improvement of air quality, sustainable management/use of water and energy, better soil management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- Effective water savings – max marks 20

Points awarded if the project proposals are envisaged to result in a high percentage of effective water savings.

- Improvement of production efficiency and resource efficient management – max marks 20

Preference will be given to project proposals which aim at improving production efficiency and enabling more resource-efficient management of animal wastes, proposals for improvement in water capture, storage and distribution, smart irrigation, soil testing, quality assurance, and proposals submitted by groups of farmers rather than individuals. In this way support will be more targeted towards the livestock and horticultural sectors.

- Participation in training/advisory services – max marks 10

Points awarded to applicants providing evidence of participation in relevant training or advisory services in the two years preceding the submission of the application.

Sub-measure 4.2 – support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products – total maximum scoring of 190 marks

- Young Farmers – max marks 10

Points awarded if the applicant or at least one of the farmers forming part of the PO/PG/Farmer Group applying falls within the definition of young farmer stipulated by Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

- Dissemination – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

- Agri-environment-climate – max marks 20

Applicant awarded points if also participating in at least one of the AEMs (Agri-Environmental Measures) Measure 214 – Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 or at least one of the AECMs under Measure 10 - Agri-environment-climate (Rural Development Programme 2014-2020).

- Energy efficiency – max marks 20

Points awarded on the basis of the project's contribution towards increased efficiency as well as the inclusion of measures targeting the improvement of air quality, sustainable management/use of water and energy, better soil management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- Improvement of production efficiency and resource efficient management – max marks 20

Preference will be given to project proposals which aim at improving production efficiency and enabling more resource-efficient management of animal wastes, proposals for improvements in water capture, storage and distribution, smart irrigation, soil testing, quality assurance, and proposals submitted by groups of farmers rather than individuals. In this way support will be more targeted towards the livestock and horticultural sectors.

- Participation in training/advisory services – max marks 10

Points awarded to applicants providing evidence of participation in relevant training or advisory services in the two years preceding the submission of the application.

Sub-measure 4.3 – support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation and adaptation of agriculture and forestry – total maximum scoring of 200 marks

- Young Farmers – max marks 10

Points awarded if the applicant or at least one of the farmers forming part of the PO/PG/Farmer Group applying falls within the definition of young farmer stipulated by Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

- Dissemination – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

- Agri-environment-climate – max marks 20

Applicant awarded points if also participating in at least one of the AEMs (Agri-Environmental Measures) Measure 214 – Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 or at least one of the AECMs under Measure 10 - Agri-environment-climate (Rural Development Programme 2014-2020).

- Energy efficiency – max marks 20

Points awarded on the basis of the project's contribution towards increased efficiency as well as the inclusion of measures targeting the improvement of air quality, sustainable management/use of water and energy, better soil management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- Effective water savings – max marks 20

Points awarded if the project proposals are envisaged to result in a high percentage of effective water savings.

- Improvement of production efficiency and resource efficient management – max marks 20

Preference will be given to project proposals which aim at improving production efficiency and enabling more resource-efficient management of animal wastes, proposals for improvements in water capture, storage and distribution, smart irrigation, soil testing, quality assurance, and proposals submitted by groups of farmers rather than individuals. In this way support will be more targeted towards the livestock and horticultural sectors.

Sub-measure 4.4 – support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives – total maximum scoring of 180 marks

- Young Farmers – max marks 10

Points awarded if the applicant or at least one of the farmers forming part of the PO/PG/Farmer Group applying falls within the definition of young farmer stipulated by Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

- Dissemination – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

- Agri-environment-climate – max marks 20

Applicant awarded points if also participating in at least one of the AEMs (Agri-Environmental Measures) Measure 214 – Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 or at least one of the AECMs under Measure 10 - Agri-environment-climate (Rural Development Programme 2014-2020).

- Agri-environment-climate (2) – max marks 20

Priority will be given to applications which include interventions which are of greater benefit to agri-environment-climate objectives/targets and which are complementary to the schemes established under M10.1 of Malta's RDP.

- Groups of farmers – max marks 10

Points will be awarded to proposals submitted by more than one farmer, cooperatives, POs/PGs, etc.

- Participation in training/advisory services – max marks 10

Points awarded to applicants providing evidence of participation in relevant training or advisory services in the two years preceding the submission of the application.

Measure 6 – Farm and business development

Sub-measure 6.1 – business start-up aid for young farmers – total maximum scoring of 130 marks

- Energy efficiency – max marks 20

Points awarded on the basis of the project's contribution towards increased efficiency as well as the inclusion of measures targeting the improvement of air quality, sustainable management/use of water and energy, better soil management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- Dissemination – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

Sub-measure 6.4 – support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Dissemination – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

- Diversification – max marks 30

Points awarded according to the number of areas of diversification being addressed by the project being proposed as stipulated by Malta's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

Measure 8 – Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests

Sub-measure 8.5 – support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems – total maximum scoring of 160 marks

- Dissemination – max marks 10

Points awarded according to the adequateness and strategy for result dissemination, including a strategy for promotion of EU funding which goes over and above the minimum obligations established by applicable legislation.

- Implementation of actions – max marks 20

Points awarded on the basis of the number of eligible actions to be implemented as per project proposal.

- Carbon impact and actions linked to the mitigation of climate change – max marks 30

Points awarded if the project proposed includes measures targeting the improvement of air quality, sustainable management/use of water, better soil management, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

Measure 10 – Agri-environment-climate

Sub-measure 10.1 – payment for agri-environment-climate commitments – no selection criteria apply

It is assumed that potentially all beneficiaries of each measure provide the same environmental benefits as they are subject to the same commitments; therefore there is no need to undertake any selection of beneficiaries. Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 does not require establishing selection criteria for AECM.

However, due to the significant additional benefits likely to arise if management actions are spatially planned at a landscape scale, priority in applications will be given to those which have been endorsed by a local area landscape manager (as established under Measure 2), as being coherent with the aims and targets of a local area management plan. Priority will also be given to applications in or which positively impact Natura 2000 areas.

Sub-measure 10.2 – support for conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Education, awareness and promotion – max marks 40

Priority will be given to those proposals which aim to integrate not just conservation measures but also have built in components linked to education, awareness and promotion.

Measure 11 – Organic Farming

Sub-measure 11.1 – payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods – no selection criteria apply

It is assumed that potentially all beneficiaries of this measure provide the same environmental benefits as they are subject to the same commitments; therefore there is no need to undertake any selection of beneficiaries. For this reason Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 does not require establishing selection criteria for organic farming measure.

Sub-measure 11.2 – payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods – no selection criteria apply

It is assumed that potentially all beneficiaries of this measure provide the same environmental benefits as they are subject to the same commitments; therefore there is no need to undertake any selection of beneficiaries. For this reason Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 does not require establishing selection criteria for organic farming measure.

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

Sub-measure 13.3 – compensation payment to other areas affected by specific constraints – no selection criteria apply

It is assumed that all beneficiaries of each measure provide the same environmental benefits as they are subject to the same commitments regarding cross compliance and the maintenance of land in agriculture; therefore there is no need to undertake any selection of beneficiaries.

Moreover, the whole territory of Malta was recognised as an area with natural or specific constraints thus it is important to tie in all eligible land for its conservation and protection.

In instances where the demand for support under Measure 13 exceeds the available budgetary allocation, the Managing Authority will employ a modulation system, which will be detailed in the relevant measure guidelines.

Measure 16 – Co-operation

Sub-measure 16.1 – support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Young Farmers - max marks 10

Points awarded if the applicant or at least one of the farmers forming part of the cooperation/OG applying falls within the definition of young farmer stipulated by Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

- Composition of OG/Cooperation – max marks 10

Points awarded on the basis of the complementary and targeted composition of entities/organisations forming part of the cooperation/OG vis-à-vis the nature of the applicant's project proposal.

- Dimensions of initiative – max marks 20

Points awarded according to the size of the initiative proposed (sectoral, multi-sectoral, or National).

Sub-measure 16.2 – support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies – no selection criteria apply

Applicants selected under sub-measure 16.1 will be automatically selected for support under the most relevant sub-measure (16.2, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 OR 16.9) on the basis of their project proposal.

Sub-measure 16.3 – (other) co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources, and developing/marketing tourism – total maximum scoring of 140 marks

- Young Farmers - max marks 10

Points awarded if the applicant or at least one of the farmers forming part of the cooperation/OG applying falls within the definition of young farmer stipulated by Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

- Composition of OG/Cooperation – max marks 10

Points awarded on the basis of the complementary and targeted composition of entities/organisations forming part of the cooperation/OG vis-à-vis the nature of the applicant's project proposal.

- Dimensions of initiative – max marks 20

Points awarded according to the size of the initiative proposed (sectoral, multi-sectoral, national).

Sub-measure 16.4 – 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 – no selection criteria apply

Applicants selected under sub-measure 16.1 will be automatically selected for support under the most relevant sub-measure (16.2, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 OR 16.9) on the basis of their project proposal.

Sub-measure 16.5 – support for joint action undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change, and for joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices – no selection criteria apply

Applicants selected under sub-measure 16.1 will be automatically selected for support under the most relevant sub-measure (16.2, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 OR 16.9) on the basis of their project proposal.

Sub-measure 16.6 – support for co-operation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes – no selection criteria apply

Applicants selected under sub-measure 16.1 will be automatically selected for support under the most relevant sub-measure (16.2, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 OR 16.9) on the basis of their project proposal.

Sub-measure 16.9 – support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food – no selection criteria apply

Applicants selected under sub-measure 16.1 will be automatically selected for support under the most relevant sub-measure (16.2, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 OR 16.9) on the basis of their project proposal.

Measure 17 – Risk management

Sub-measure 17.1 – crop, animal and plant insurance

Risk management related measures are exempt from the requirement to set selection criteria in order to foster the widest possible participation of farmers in risk management schemes and create a sufficient critical mass for the instruments to operate efficiently. Support funds will, however, be limited, therefore some priority will be given to applicants who can show evidence of undertaking clear risk management planning, as indicated by uptake of relevant training and advice.

Measure 19 – LEADER

Sub-measure 19.1 – preparatory support – total maximum scoring of 170 marks for the selection of the LDS

No selection criteria will be established for preparatory support. All applicants (potential LAGs) which fulfil the eligibility criteria will be eligible for preparatory support. However, the submitted LDS will be selected and the following measure-specific selection criteria, together with the general selection criteria, will apply:

- Development of local priorities and evidence base – max marks 30

Points awarded according to the extent to which local priorities have been developed in the submitted local development strategy (LDS), and the evidence presented as a basis for the formulation of the LDS.

- Degree of engagement with local stakeholders – max marks 20

Points awarded according to the extent to which the potential LAG has engaged and consulted with the local stakeholders in its territory during the formulation of the proposed LDS.

- Action planning to begin implementation – max marks 20

Points awarded according to whether the LDS demonstrates efficient and realistic action planning with respect to its implementation.

Sub-measure 19.2 – implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy – selected LAG will define selection criteria

The Managing Authority will provide all LAGs with a list of selection principles, on the basis of which they will be required to propose selection criteria according to the characteristics of the territory covered and the respective LDS. The selection process will be proportionate, open, transparent and fair throughout the programming period and will set out clearly the criteria that will apply. The principles will be based on the general selection criteria stipulated earlier in this document.

Sub-measure 19.3 – preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the Local Action Group – total maximum scoring of 180 marks

- Innovation – max marks 20

Points awarded in relation to the degree of innovation showed in terms of the transnational co-operation project/activities proposed.

- Cross-benefit results – max marks 20

Points awarded on the basis as to whether cross-benefit results for various sectors/areas will be achieved as a result of the proposed project.

- Project relevance – max marks 40

Points awarded according to how relevant the project is to overarching RDP/LDS objectives and targets.

Sub-measure 19.4 – running costs and animation – no selection criteria will apply

LAGs selected on the basis of the LDS selection will be automatically eligible for support for running costs and animation.