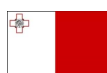




## European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

### Rural Development Programme for Malta

#### Monitoring Committee Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017



The Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020  
Part financed by the European Union  
*European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)*  
Co-financing rate: 75% EU funds; 25% National Funds



*Europe Investing in Rural Areas*



## Agenda

- [i] Programme Implementation
- [ii] RDP modifications
- [iii] The Rural Directors' Meeting
- [iv] Communication Activities
- [v] Training Activities
- [vi] Evaluation Activities



## Programme Implementation



### Sub-measure 3.1 Launch

During 2016, **extensive discussions** were held with the Agriculture Directorate in order to facilitate the eventual implementation of this sub-measure.

The MA pre-announced sub-measure 3.1 on 7th April 2017, with applications open in June.

This sub-measure provides support for farmers and groups of farmers to join **quality schemes** which serve as a guarantee of product quality.

The sub-measure will also provide support for new **participation in Malta's 'Products of Quality' National Scheme** as well as in the established **EU quality schemes**, such as organic farming.

## Measure 4 Launch

The MA **pre-announced** sub-measures 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4 on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 14<sup>th</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 respectively.

Applications for:

- i. Sub-measure 4.1 were received as from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017;
- ii. Sub-measure 4.3 were received as from 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017;
- iii. Sub-measure 4.4 were received as from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

Applications are still being received through an **'Open Block Call procedure'**

## Measure 6.1 Launch

The MA pre-announced sub-measure 6.1 on 4th February 2017.

Applications were received as from 4th April 2017.

The measure aims to encourage entry of young farmers into the agricultural sector; support is provided for facilitating the **first setting up (as head of holding)** of the young farmer.

## Sub-measure 10.1 Launch

In November 2016, the MA issued a pre-announcement call for the following (new) Measure 10.1- AECMs:

- AECM 2: Measure for the **maintenance of trees**;
- AECM 3: Measure supporting the **introduction of bee boxes** on holdings;
- AECM 4: Measure for the **implementation of an Integrated Pest Management Plan** targeting vineyards and orchards;
- AECM 6a: Measure for the **integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species** (Maltese Black Chicken).

## Measure 19 – LEADER

An **Expression of Interest** was launched in February 2016 for interested Local Action Groups to **develop a LDS** for the respective regions.

**Three LDSs** were submitted in September 2016.

The strategies were assessed over the course of 2017 and **LAGs shall be contracted in the coming days.**

The LAGs plan on **launching their first measures** under sub-measure 19.3 Q4 2017/Q1 2018.

## Applications received during 2017 and currently being assessed (as end September)

Sub-Measure	No. of Applications Received	Requested Amounts
4.1	75	€6,344,799
4.3	30	€18,666,558
4.4	59	€2,594,739
6.1	15	€980,000

## Payment Claims received during 2017

Sub-Measure	No of Applications	Area Claimed
10.1 – AECMs	1,532	1,099Ha
13.3 – ANC	6,295	8,341Ha

## **Indicative list of Measures to be launched in 2018**

- Measure 1 – Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions;
- Measure 2 – Advisory services, farm Management and Farm relief services;
- Measure 4.2 – Support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products;
- Measure 6.4 – Support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities;
- Measure 8 – Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests;
- Measure 10.2 – Support for conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture;
- Measure 11.1 – Payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods;
- Measure 16 – Co-operation;
- Measure 17 – Risk Management (expression of interest).

## **RDP Modifications**

## RDP Modifications

Following a **written consultation** process with the Monitoring Committee held in December 2016, the Managing Authority had submitted requests for **RDP modifications** to the Commission.

Discussions were held with the respective Commission Services throughout 2017.

The request for modifications is now in its **final stages**.

Once the current request is finalised, the MA shall be considering a **new set of modifications aimed at facilitating RDP implementation**.



## Informal Meeting of the Directors of Rural Development

## Informal Meeting of the Directors of Rural Development

- Held between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2017
- The Role of Pillar II in Supporting the Future of Young Farmers

## Participants

- Two participants from each Member State;
- European Commission representatives;
- Representatives from Maltese authorities;
- Young Farmers;
- Other stakeholders with expertise in the sector.





## Communication Activities

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## Information Sessions with potential beneficiaries

2016

- Held throughout 2016 in both Malta and Gozo;
- Sessions held in April and May were related to AECMs;
- Sessions held between October and December focused on sub-measure 4.4 and sub-measure 4.1

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## Information Sessions with potential beneficiaries

2017



- Xewkija, Gozo – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017
- Ta' Qali, Malta – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017
- MOAM/MCAST, Malta – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- FPD Offices – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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## Information Sessions with Local Councils on Measure 4.3

2017

- Directorate of Local Governance, Marsa – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017
- Directorate of Local Governance, Gozo – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017



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## Communication Activities – MA Annual Event



– Held on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
August 2017

– ‘Festa Għeneb’ was  
organised by Siggiewi  
Local Council in Pjazza  
San Nikola, Siggiewi.

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## National Rural Network newsletter



– 14th edition of the NRN  
newsletter (January 2017):

- RDP 2014-2020 measures  
overview;
- The Malta Youth in Agriculture  
Foundation;
- Local Development Strategy  
overview.

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# National Rural Network newsletter

NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK MALTA



## Introduction and Overview

OF THE INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE DIRECTORS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT 22ND - 24TH OF MARCH 2017

The Informal Meeting of the Directors for Rural Development was held in Malta between the 22nd and 24th of March 2017, as part of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the period of January - June 2017. The Informal Meeting was held on Thursday 22nd March at the Conference Room 10, George's Hall, St. Catherine's. It was attended by the Director for Rural Development, Mr. John Galea, and a visit to an RDP 2014-2020 project was organised on the following day on Friday 24th March.

Representatives from Member States, the European Commission, ECDF, CEJA as well as other local key actors from Malta participated in the meeting, giving both EU- and country-specific perspectives throughout the meeting.

The theme for this Informal Meeting was "The Role of Pillar II in Supporting the Future of Young Farmers". The focus of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

regional young farmers, and despite the various challenges faced by young farmers in different Member States. Pillar II of the CAP has been recognised at the forefront to assist young farmers. The purpose of this Informal Meeting was to inform the Director for Rural Development of the latest young farmers in recent years and how Pillar II can better address the needs of young farmers in the future.

Throughout the first plenary session, the topics presented and discussed included the relevance and importance of Pillar II for young farmers and the development of the agricultural sector especially since 2015. The objective of the second plenary session was to draw attention to the difficulties faced by young farmers in the various Member States. Responding to this, the aim of the plenary sessions was to highlight the degree of urgency of the challenges faced by young farmers. These challenges



- 15th edition of the NRN newsletter (July 2017):
- Overview of the Informal Meeting of the Directors for Rural Development;
- Information concerning sub-measures 3.1 and 6.1 and AECMs 6A and 4



Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020  
Part of the Rural Development Program  
The European Union (EU) Department of Malta  
The European Commission  
Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020



## Informazzjoni fuq uħud mill-Miżuri tal-Programm tal-Iżvilupp Rurali għal Malta 2014-2020

- Miżura 4.1: Appoġġ għall-investimenti f'Azjendi Agrikli
- Miżura 4.4: Appoġġ għal Investimenti Mhux Produttivi marbuta mal-Iluq tal-Objettivi tal-Klima Agroambjentali
- Miżura 6.1: Għajjuna tal-Bidu għall-Bidiewa Żgħira
- Miżura 10.1: Appoġġ għall-investimenti f'Azjendi Agrikli
- Miżura 13.3: Pagamenti għal zoni li għandhom nuqqasijiet naturali jew nuqqasijiet speċifiċi oħra



Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020  
Part of the Rural Development Program  
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The European Commission  
Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020

## Information leaflet

- Contains information concerning various RDP measures;
- Distributed to both farmers and the general public.

## Training Activities

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## Training Activities



- Technical training included sessions aimed at facilitating programme/project management and implementation.

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## Training Activities

MA staff and related stakeholders attended various training seminars in 2017, including:

- Training Seminar, 'Evaluation Works!' hosted by the MA and the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development - 2nd December 2016;
- New Public Procurement Regulations at the Department of Contracts - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017;
- Cross compliance seminar - 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017;
- Farm Advisory Services information session - 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

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## Field trip for MA officers



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## Evaluation Activities

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## Annual Implementation Report

- The Annual Implementation Report for 2016 was submitted by 30th June, in line with Article 75, paragraph (a) of Regulation 1305/13.
- Prior to submission, this report was circulated amongst members of the Monitoring Committee.
- Evaluation questions included in the AIR template could not be answered due to the fact that the programme is still at its early stages of implementation.

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## Dissemination of evaluation results

- The report for 2014 and 2015 was made available to the general public on MA website;
- The report for 2016 will also be uploaded once any pending observations have been addressed.

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## Ex-post evaluation

- Throughout the course of 2016, the ex-post evaluation report was prepared and submitted through the respective channels within the stipulated deadline;
- The report was accepted by the Commission Services;
- The final version of the ex-post evaluation report is also available for download from the Managing Authority website.

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## The EAFRD Database

- Throughout 2016 and 2017 Regular meetings were held between the MA and the developer [ABACO], with the support of MITA, in order to discuss various aspects allowing the enhancement of the various modules.
- The operational and functional aspects of each developed module are being tested by the Managing Authority and any identified issues are continuously being rectified accordingly by the developer, prior to live implementation.

## Thank you for your attention

**EAFRD Managing Authority**  
[rdd.meae@gov.mt](mailto:rdd.meae@gov.mt)

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