



**Rural Development Programme for Malta
2014 – 2020**

**EAFRD Monitoring Committee
16th May 2018**



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Agenda
Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020

- [i] Programme Implementation
- [ii] Financial Execution
- [iii] Forecasts of N+3 and Performance Framework Milestones
- [iv] Evaluation Activities
- [v] Programme Modifications
- [vi] Administrative Capacity Building
- [vii] Communication and Events

Programme Implementation

Sub-measures Launched

Sub-measure	Launch Date	Budget allocation (Public, €)
3.1 – Support for new participation in Quality Schemes	June 2017	4,140,000
4.1 – Support for Investments in Agricultural Holdings	January 2017	18,989,920
4.3 – Support for Investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry	February 2017	15,000,000
4.4 – Support for non-productive investments	December 2016	12,000,000
6.1 – Business start up aid for young farmers	April 2017	4,300,000
10.1 – Payment for Agri-Environment-Climate Commitments	March 2016	6,000,000

Sub-measures Launched

Sub-measure	Launch Date	Budget allocation (Public, €)
11.1 – Payment to Convert to Organic Farming Practices and Methods	April 2018	170,000
11.2 – Payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods	April 2018	30,000
13.3 – Compensation payment to other areas affected by specific constraints	February 2015	12,000,000
19 – LEADER	February 2016	6,500,000
20 – Technical Assistance	January 2016	5,190,768

Sub-measure 1.1

- This sub-measure will provide funding for the provision of training courses for farmers and other rural entrepreneurs.
- The MA is in the process of finalising the Guidance Notes and the Application Form.
- This sub-measure will be launched in Q2 of 2018.

Sub-measure 2.1

- This sub-measure will provide financial support to farmers and other entities that request advice from advisory services.
- The MA is also currently in the process of finalising Guidance Notes for this sub-measure.
- This sub-measure will be launched in Q2 of 2018.

Sub-measure 3.1

- Sub-measure 3.1 provides support to farmers and groups of farmers joining quality schemes that serve as a guarantee of product quality.
- This measure was launched in June 2017.
- No applications have been received as yet.
- The sub-measure will 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

- Sub-measure 4.1: applications received as from 11th January 2017.
- Sub-measure 4.3: applications received as from 14th February 2017.
 - This measure is currently closed for investments related to rural roads;
 - It has been re-launched in April 2018 for investments related to water.
- Sub-measure 4.4: applications received as from 5th December 2016.

Measure 4.2

- This sub-measure aims to support farmers and processors in adding value to primary products or in developing new products, and/or opening up new markets.
- The MA is in the process of finalising the Guidance Notes and the Application Form.
- This sub-measure will be launched in Q3 of 2018.

Measure 4

30/04/18

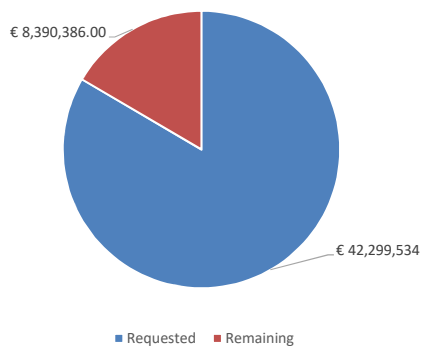
Sub-measure	No. of Applications received	Funds Requested Public (€)
4.1	109	9,046,917
4.3	30	18,666,558
4.4	121	14,586,059
Total	260	42,299,534

Grants Awarded

- Sub-measure 4.3: Grant Award Letters were distributed to 17 Batch 1 beneficiaries in December 2017 and to 12 Batch 2 applicants in April 2018.
- Sub-measure 4.4: Grant Award Letters were distributed to 19 Batch 1 beneficiaries in December 2017.

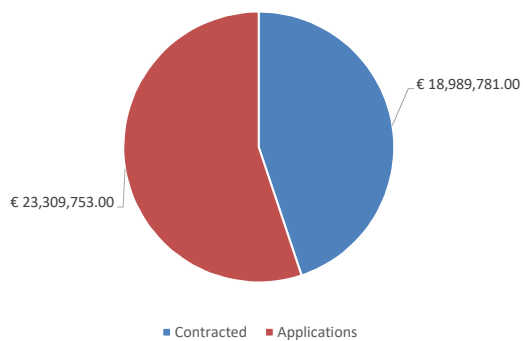
Measure 4

Measure 4 - Requested/Remaining



Measure 4

Measure 4 - Contracted/Received



Grants Awarded



Some applicants awarded funding through Measure 4.3 have already started the implementation stage of their projects.

Sub-measure 6.1

- This sub-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.
- Applications were received as from 4th April 2017.
- Throughout March and April 2018, the MA, in collaboration with Malta College of Arts Science Technology (MCAST), has assessed the occupational skills and competence of applicants through a series of oral interviews.

Sub-measure 6.1

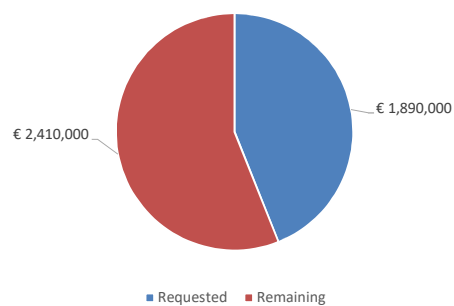
30/04/12

Sub-measure	No. of Applications received	Funds Requested (Public, €)
6.1	21*	1,890,000

* 21 applications were received, however, some applications have been received from groups of young farmers, therefore, the number of young farmers actually requesting funding adds up to 27.

Measure 6.1

Measure 6.1 - Requested/Remaining



Sub-measure 10.1

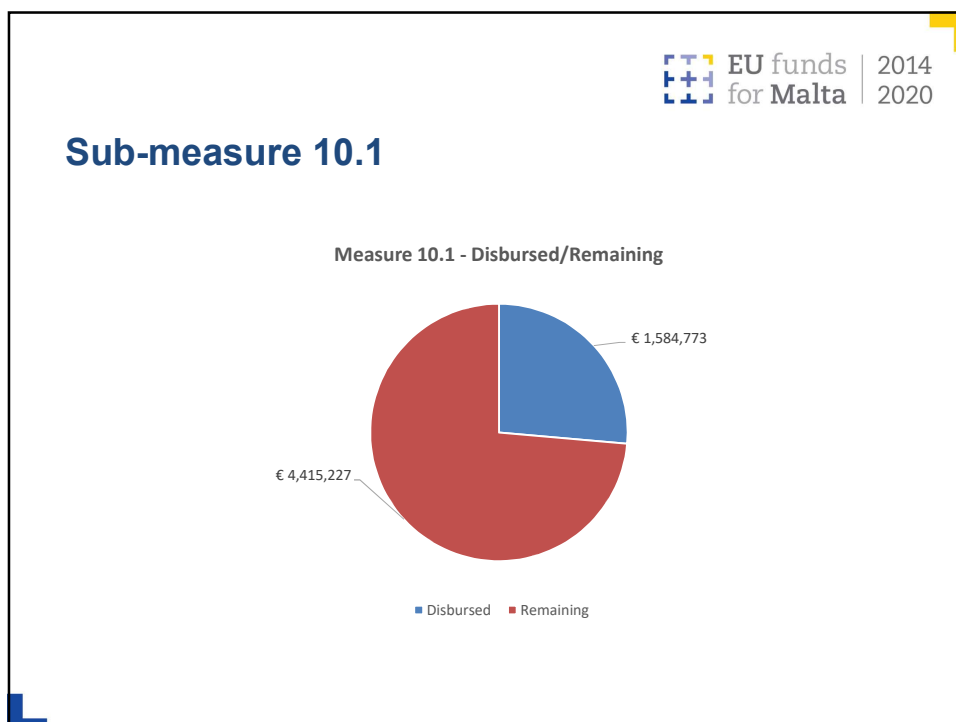
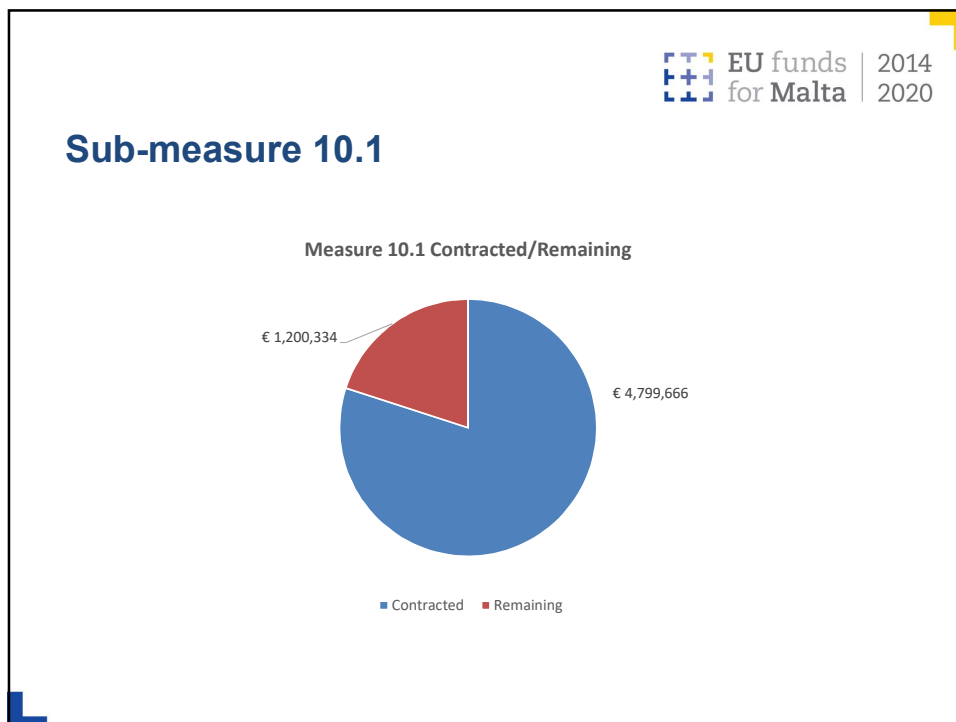
By end December 2017, the MA had launched and received applications for:

- AECM 1 - Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical, methods
- AECM 2A - Support for the maintenance of tree species planted on slopes and terraces
- AECM 2B - Support for the maintenance of tree species planted to replace invasive alien species
- 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

Sub-measure 10.1

- AECM 6A – Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species – Maltese Black Chicken
- AECM 6B – Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species – Maltese Ox
- AECM 6C - Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species – Carob & Mulberry

In January 2018, AECM 5 – Measure for the implementation of a soil management and conservation plan on a parcel was launched, applications were received during the March – May 2018 payment claims campaign period.



Sub-measure 11.1

- This sub-measure provides payment on a per hectare basis for farmers who are in the process of converting to organic farming practices and methods.
- Sub-measure was launched in April 2018.



Sub-measure 11.2

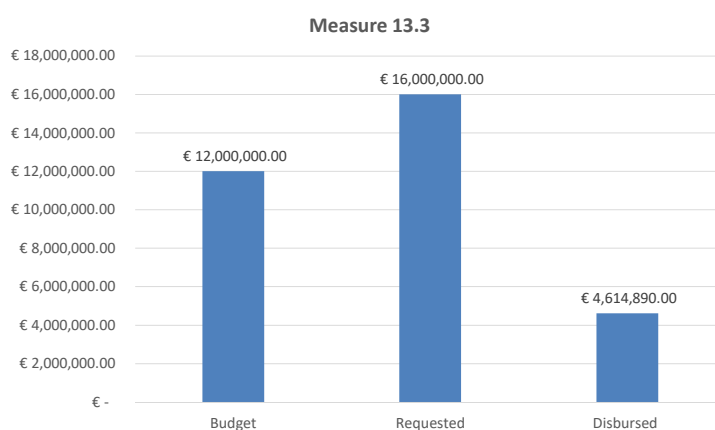
- This sub-measure provides payment on a per hectare basis for farmers who practice organic farming methods on their holding.
- Sub-measure was launched in April 2018.



Sub-measure 13.3

- This sub-measure was launched in 2015.
- Support under this measure offers beneficiaries a simple, standard payment per hectare of agricultural land.

Sub-measure 13.3



Summary – Land-based Measures

30/04/18

Sub-measure	Area claimed (ha)	Disbursement (Public, €)
11.1	3.41	0
11.2	0.6	0
10.1	1,099	1,584,773
13.3	8,341	4,614,890
Total	9,444	6,199,663

Expenditure under this measure also includes AEM (M214) commitments and LFA (M212) from the RDP 2007 – 2013 transitional arrangements.

Measure 16

- The MA is currently drafting the respective Guidance Notes and Application Form.
- The first sub-measure will be launched by end of Q2 of 2018:
 - 16.1 – support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability
 - 16.2 – support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies
 - 16.3 – (other) co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources, and for developing/marketing tourism

Measure 16

- 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
- 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
- 16.6 - support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes
- 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

Measure 19

- Local Development Strategies were assessed over the course of 2017.
- LAGs were awarded in Q4 of 2017.
- LAGs are expected to start implementing their Local Development Strategies and launching their calls in the coming months.



GAL Xlokk Foundation (GXF)



Majjistral Action Group
Foundation (MAGF)



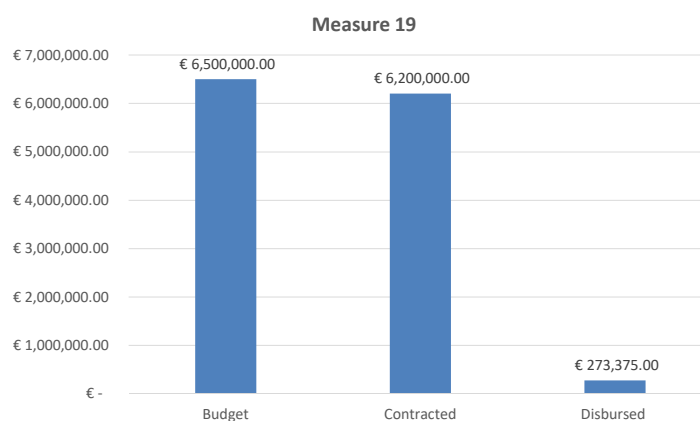
Gozo Action Group
Foundation (GAGF)

Measure 19

Sub-measure	No. of Applications	Contracted (Public, €)
19.2	3*	4,468,000
19.4	3*	1,192,000
	Total	5,660,000

* Three Local Action groups have been contracted and in view of this, all funding allocated towards this measure is deemed committed. Sub-measure 19.3 will be launched in due course.

Measure 19



Summary – Value of Applications Received

30/04/18

Sub-measure	EAFRD (€)	Public (€)
3.1	0	0
4.1	6,785,188	9,046,917
4.3	13,999,919	18,666,558
4.4	10,939,544	14,586,059
6.1	1,417,500	1,890,000
10.1	3,599,749	4,799,666

Summary – Applications Received

30/04/18

Sub-measure	EAFRD (€)	Public (€)
11.1	3,090	4,121
11.2	249	333
13.1	12,000,000	16,000,000
19	4,523,227	6,030,969
Total*	53,268,466	71,024,623

*This Total does not include Technical Assistance requests

Applications Received

Latest Developments

Sub-measure	29.09.17		30.04.18	
	No. of Applications	Public (€)	No. of Applications	Public (€)
4.1	75	6,344,799	109	9,046,917
4.3	30	18,666,558	30	18,666,558
4.4	59	2,594,739	121	14,586,059
6.1	14	980,000	21	1,890,000
Total	178	28,586,096	281	44,189,534

Schedule of Calls

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

Sub-measure	...	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6	Block 7
3.1		23.04.18	25.09.18	-	-
4.1		30.10.17	29.01.18	23.04.18	25.09.18
4.4		05.10.17	11.01.18	09.04.18	11.09.18
4.3*		01.06.18	-	-	-
6.1		15.01.18	28.05.18	04.09.18	-

*Funding allocated for investments related to roads has been used up, however, the sub-measure has been re-launched in April 2018 for investments related to water.

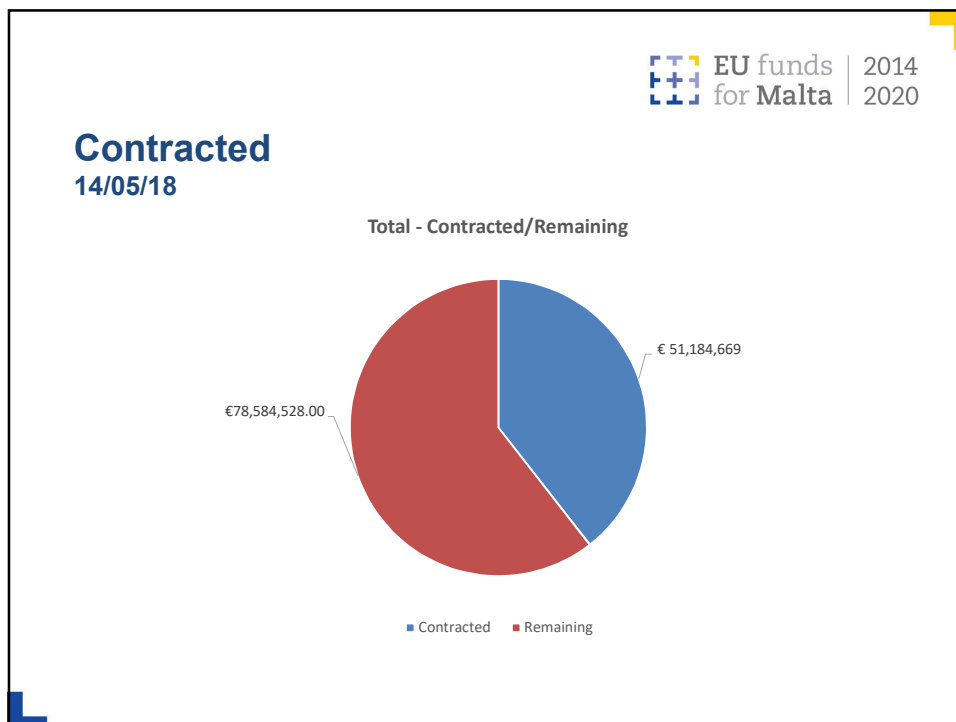
Indicative List of Measures – 2018

Measure		Provisional Date
Measure 1	Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions	Q2 2018
Measure 2	Advisory services, farm Management and Farm relief services	Q2 2018
Measure 4.2	Support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products	Q2 – Q3 2018
Measure 6.4	Support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities	Q3 2018
Measure 8	Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests	Q4 2018
Measure 16	Co-operation	Q2 – Q3 2018

Contracted

14/05/18

Sub-measure	EAFRD (€)	Public (€)
4.3	13,576,231	18,101,641
4.4	666,105	888,140
10.1 (+AEMs)	3,599,749	4,799,666
11.1	3,090	4,121
11.2	249	333
13.3 (+LFA)	12,000,000	16,000,000
19	4,650,000	6,200,000
20	3,893,076	5,190,768
Total	38,388,500	51,184,669



Disbursed

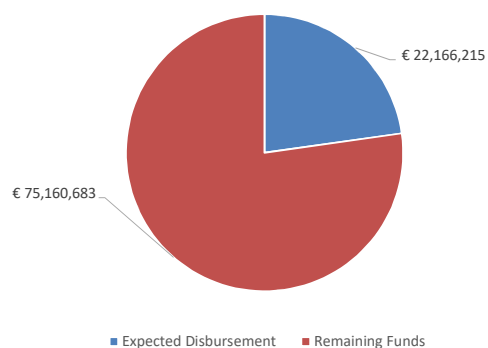
30/04/18

Sub-measure	EAFRD (€)	Public (€)
10.1	1,188,580	1,584,773
13	3,461,167	4,614,890
19	205,031	273,375
20	441,014	588,019
Total	5,295,792	7,061,057

Expected Disbursements

31/12/18

Total - Expected Disbursement/Remaining Funds



Forecasts of N+3 and Performance Framework Milestones

N+3 assessment

- It is expected that the N+3 target of €20,905,107.00 is reached by end 2018.

Year	Target (EAFRD)	Actual (EAFRD)
2018	€19,695,800*	€8,215,599*

*Both values include €2,919,806.94 pre-financing which MT has received for 2014, 2015 and 2016, in line with Article 35 (1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013.

Target (EAFRD) excludes the Performance Reserve of €1,254,306.42

Performance Framework

PA	Indicator	RDP 2018 Milestone
2	Public expenditure	5,171,396
2	Number of holdings supported	38
3	Public expenditure	3,176,183
3	Number of holdings supported (M3)	240
3	Number of holdings supported (M17)	200
4	Public expenditure	10,491,109
5	Public expenditure	5,050,388
5	Agricultural and forest land (Ha)	128.38
5	Number of investment operations	62
6	Total Public Expenditure	2,655,952
6	Population covered by LAG	268,733

Performance Framework

PA	Indicator	RDP 2018 Milestone
2	Public expenditure	5,171,396
2	Number of holdings supported	38
3	Public expenditure	3,176,183
3	Number of holdings supported (M3)	240
3	Number of holdings supported (M17)	200
4	Public expenditure	10,491,109
4	(ALT) Area (ha) under specific constraints (4A) + improving water management (ha) (focus area 4B) + improving soil management and/preventing soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)	4,656.05
4	(ALT) Nr of operations supported by M04 and M08 under P4	139.00
5	Public expenditure	5,050,388
5	Agricultural and forest land (Ha)	128.38
5	Number of investment operations	62
6	Total Public Expenditure	2,655,952
6	Population covered by LAG	268,733
6	(ALT) Nr of beneficiaries (holdings) receiving start up aid/support for investment in non-agric activities in rural areas (focus area 6A)	12.80

Programme Modifications

Programme Modifications

December 2017

- In December 2017, the MA submitted a request for a programme modification.
- The Monitoring Committee was consulted via written procedure that was launched on December 15th.
- Most modifications were of an editorial nature and aimed to simplify and streamline implementation.

Programme Modifications

June 2018

- The MA is planning to submit another request for a programme modification.
- A written procedure will be launched by the MA in the coming weeks.

Evaluation Activities

Annual Implementation Report 2017

- The Annual Implementation Report for 2017 is currently being drafted by the Managing Authority.
- The AIR will be submitted by 30th June 2018, in line with Article 75, paragraph (a) of Regulation 1305/13.
- Prior to submission, this report will be circulated amongst members of the Monitoring Committee for its consideration and approval via written procedure.

Annual Implementation Report 2016

- During 2017, the AIR for 2016 was submitted in line with Article 75, paragraph (a) of Regulation 1305/13.
- Prior to submission, this report was circulated amongst members of the Monitoring Committee.
- The Citizen Summary and the final version of the AIR 2016 can be downloaded from the MA website.

Evaluation 2014 – 2020

- External consultants have been engaged by the MA to support it in the drafting of the tender for external evaluators;
- The MA plans to launch the tendering process for contracting of external evaluators in the course of 2018.
- The Terms of Reference have been completed and submitted to the Department of Contracts for vetting.

Administrative Capacity Building

Administrative Capacity

- In November 2017, a public call for the recruitment of Senior Managers, Programme Managers and Programme Officers, in order to mitigate the shortage of staff experienced across all ESIF Managing Authorities.

Administrative Capacity – Outsourcing

- The MA also outsourced a number of its functions to third parties including the drafting of the evaluation tender and drafting of certain measure guidance notes.
- Services of Audit Technicians were also procured in summer 2017.
- The MA will be issuing a similar call for the procurement of services of Audit Technicians in the coming weeks.

Training Activities 2017/18

MA staff attended various training events, including:

- Public Management Toolkit Courses and other courses organised throughout the year by the Institute of Public Services;
- New Public Procurement Regulations at the Department of Contracts – 5th March 2017;
- Cross compliance seminar – 5th April 2017;
- Farm Advisory Services information session – 30th August 2017;
- Training seminar, hosted by the MA and the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development – 10th January 2018.

Communication and Events

Informal Meeting of the Directors of Rural Development

- Held between the 22nd and the 24th of March 2017.
- The Role of Pillar II in Supporting the Future of Young Farmers.
- Participants from each Member State, the European Commission, Maltese authorities, young farmers and other stakeholders with expertise in the sector.
- Also included farm visits around the Maltese Islands.



Information sessions with potential M4.1, M4.3 and M4.4 applicants

- Directorate of Local Governance, Gozo – 31st January 2017
- Directorate of Local Governance, Marsa – 6th February 2017
- Xewkija, Gozo – 21st February 2017
- Ta' Qali, Malta – 22nd February 2017
- MOAM/MCAST, Malta – 29th March 2017
- FPD Offices – 17th May 2017
- FPD Offices (sheep and goat sector) – 9th May 2018

Information sessions with potential applicants - AECM 5 2018

- Salini Salt Pans, L/O St Paul's Bay – 2nd March 2018
- Experimental Farm, Xewkija, Gozo – 22nd March 2018

Information sessions held at ARPA

- The MA also participated in three information sessions organised by the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency for applicants who had been awarded funding.
- During these sessions, the MA explained issues related to the Grant Agreement whereas ARPA gave an overview of the payment and control processes:
 - Measure 4.3, Batch 1 – 6th February 2018
 - Measure 4.4, Batch 1 – 9th February 2018
 - Measure 4.3, Batch 2 – 3rd May 2018



Information Session held at ARPA on 3rd May, 2018

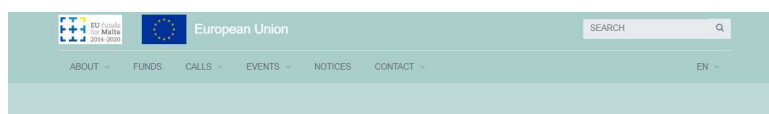
Short Message Service (SMS)

- The MA also sent out SMSs to potential applicants upon launching of its sub-measures.
- SMSs were also sent out to potential applicants informing them about the information sessions previously mentioned.

New EU Funds Website

- A new EU Funds website was launched in April 2018.
- This website has a very user-friendly interface and includes information concerning all funds managed by the Funds and Programmes Division, including the EAFRD.
- The website is also device responsive for an enhanced browsing experience.

New EU Funds Website



FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES DIVISION

The Funds and Programmes Division (FPD) was set up in July 2011 as part of an administrative structure required to handle the management of EU Funds (with the exception of Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund) and other Funds allocated to Malta and to provide guidance and support to the focal points of the EU and other Programmes that are managed directly by the European Commission or other EU institutions.

FUNDS OPEN CALLS



ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND
INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF) 2014-2020
€ 20,514,146



EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS 2014-2021
€ 8,000,000



ENI CBC MED PROGRAMME 2014-2020
€ 234,000,000



EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD)
2014-2020
€129,767,197

<http://www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt>

MA Annual Event

- Held on 27th August 2017.
- ‘Festa Għeneb’ was organised by Siggiewi Local Council in Pjazza San Nikola, Siggiewi.



Europe Day 2018

- Held on 6th May in Victoria, Gozo and on 9th May in Valletta, Malta.
- Events were organised by Europe Direct Information Centres (EDIC) in Malta.



Press Events

- Press events were held announcing launching of sub-measures and awarding of grants:
 - LEADER Award Letters – 6th November 2017
 - Sub-measures 4.3 and 4.4 Batch 1 Award Letters – 16th December 2017
 - Launch of AECM 5 and sub-measure 11.1 – 13th February 2018
 - Sub-measure 4.3 Batch 2 Award Letters – 6th April 2018



Press conference – LEADER Award Letters

Thursday, April 5, 2018, 17:00

61 rural roads to be upgraded



Photo: Renée Piscopo, DOI

Eleven councils and Transport Malta are to benefit from €11.3 million for the upgrade of 61 rural roads.

The works will be cofinanced by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, European Funds Parliamentary Secretary Aaron Farnugia said.

Press conference – sub-measure 4.3 Batch 2 Award Letters

This article is also available in English



€1 miljun f'fondi Ewropej biex jghinu lill-bdiewa

Stampa: Renée Piscopo, DOI

Mil-500 bidwi jidghu jibbenefikaw minn għajjuna biex itejbu l-immanigjar u l-konservazzjoni tal-Namrija u għal prattici u metodi organici fir-raba'. Chai dawn iż-żewġ miżuri, il-Gvern alooka aktar minn miljun ewro mill-fondi Ewropej.

Press conference – launch of AECM 5 and sub-measure 11.1

Newspaper Adverts


- Newspaper adverts are published on various newspapers including the Government Gazette and in both Maltese and English informing prospective applicants of measures and sub-measures that have been or are soon to be launched.

National Rural Network newsletter


- The 14th and 15th editions were published over the past eighteen months.

- o Included articles concerning RDP 2014 – 2020 measures, LEADER Local Development Strategies, Information concerning sub-measures 3.1 and 6.1 and AECMs 6A and 4.

- The 16th edition is currently being prepared.



Information leaflet



- Contains information concerning various RDP measures.
- Distributed to both farmers and the general public during events in which the MA participates.
- The MA is currently preparing an updated version of this leaflet.

Thank you for your attention.







European Union
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