

NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK MALTA

**PROJECT EXAMPLES
FROM RURAL
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME
2007-2013**

Investing in our Rural Communities, Environment and Quality of Life

Following months of consultation and intense negotiations, we find ourselves on the cusp of a new financial programme that will see an array of measures and interventions that will inject a new lease of life into our rural community.

This publication will provide you with a short showcase of just a few of the hundreds of projects carried out in Malta and Gozo financed by the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. As you will see, the European Agricultural Funds for Rural Development (EAFRD) allows for a wide variety of interventions which include strengthening of the rural economy and competitiveness

of agriculture, the creation of new jobs, safeguarding the environment and our rural heritage as well as empowering rural communities with decision making tools through LEADER.

For the 2014-2020 programming period a package of 132 Million Euros was negotiated successfully under the new CAP to finance rural development initiatives. Careful attention will be paid to ensure that the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme addresses specific needs of the Maltese and Gozitan rural territories and communities as we believe in safeguarding the environment and the countryside, valorise agriculture and farming, support locally



Hon Dr. Ian Borg
Parliamentary Secretary
for the EU Presidency 2017
and the EU Funds



based approaches like LEADER, improve the quality of life and the development and growth of the rural economy.

This programme will see a wide range of stakeholders and proposals being supported ranging from: training, farm modernisation, research and innovation initiatives, investment in social capital, culture and rural heritage preservation and the diversification of rural products and services amongst many more. Farmers, Agro-Processors, Local Councils,

NGOs, Local Action Groups, SME's and all those with innovative projects in the rural sector are all set to benefit.

For this reason we encourage all those with valid ideas and projects to seek support on how to make the best use of these funds so that we make sure that our rural areas are preserved and developed in the most sustainable way possible.

This government is committed to invest in our Rural Communities and in our

environment. To achieve this we need your proposals, your ideas and suggestions. Your enthusiasm fuels us with further motivation to provide the necessary instruments that can make your life and your daily work easier. We are proud of what our land can produce and bring to our families and we are dedicated to keep on contributing towards such a rich potential. Capitalizing on this, I am certain we can improve the general quality of our family lives.

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Axis 1

Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector—building and improving human capacity and supporting investments to increase competitiveness in the agricultural and agro-food sectors.

Measure 121: Modernisation of Agricultural Holdings

The scope of this measure is to support farm investment and to assist agricultural holdings to improve their economic performance through better use of the production factors. This includes the introduction of new technologies and innovation, targeting quality, animal welfare, the environment, waste management occupational safety and hygiene of agricultural holdings. This measure also aims to facilitate investments that are made in order to comply with EU standards.



Project: Refurbishment and modernisation of a pig farm-construction.

Beneficiary: Mario Abela

Main Activity: Farmer and Pig Breeder

Results and Benefits: The building of a new extension and modernisation of the farm provides the farm with better general facilities and increased the production performance making it more sustainable and viable. The underground reservoir minimises reliance on ground water. The photovoltaic panes reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the economic performance of the farm as it uses electricity to provide essential treatments to the livestock such as ventilation, heating, water pumping, food mixing machine, lighting and water heating - being an alternative source of energy requirement.

Project Value: €321, 895

Grant Amount: €150,000

Measure 123: Adding value to agricultural products

This measure increases the competitiveness of agro-processing enterprises and the value added by local industry as well as facilitating improvements.

Project: Automation of filling & packing of traditional Maltese ricotta cheese

Beneficiary: Malta Dairy Products

Results and Benefits: The automation of the process including filling and packing equipment.

Project Value: €253, 830

Grant Amount: €101, 530





Measure 124: Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sectors

This measure aims to increase the competitiveness of the farming sector and of the agro-food processing industry through the development of new products (goods and services), processes and technologies and to develop better working relationships between producers and processors, to raise the level of innovation in the agricultural and food sectors, to increase the marketability of agricultural products and to broaden their consumer base, and to improve consumers' perception of high quality local food products.

Project: Vinegar from Maltese tomatoes - an innovative niche product.

Beneficiary: Għaqda Għawdxija tal-produtturi tat-tadam

Results and Benefits: This project seeks to use locally grown tomatoes and possibly

use also discarded tomatoes currently left in the fields during the picking of tomatoes for processing. Two main aspects of the new process leading to the new product that are critical for its success need to be identified: the fermentation element of tomato pulp and the variety of tomatoes that suits best such product to enable the maximum integration of the tomatoes originally earmarked for processing but discarded during picking. It will give local farmers the opportunity to sell fresh tomatoes by providing tomato growers with new market outputs so as to increase the overall value of their production. Moreover this project will be carried out in line with the needs of sustainability expressed by the eco-Gozo policy.

Project Value: €164, 630

Grant Amount: €68,255

Measure 125: Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture.

This measure facilitates the

development and adaptation of agriculture by supporting the development of the necessary infrastructure to address two of the major limitations affecting agricultural land quality and productivity - water scarcity and farm accessibility.

Project: Groundwater borehole metering and reclaimed water supply for agricultural use.

Beneficiary: Water Services Corporation

Results and Benefits: The supply and installation of water meters on private groundwater boreholes intended to account for all private abstraction aimed solely for agricultural use. A pipeline leading treated sewage effluent to agricultural areas in the North of Malta. Strategic hydrants equipped with multi-card water metering and supply system units will be also installed.

Project Value: €5, 528 750

Grant Amount: €4,600 000

Axis 2

Improving the environment and the countryside – targeting environmental challenges in a sustainable manner.

Measure 212:

Less Favoured Areas

Malta is designated as “less-favoured”, meaning agricultural production is more difficult because of natural handicaps leading to a risk of agricultural land abandonment and loss of biodiversity, desertification, fires and the loss of highly valuable rural landscape. To mitigate these risks, the Less Favoured Areas (LFA) payment scheme is an important tool which supports farmers in areas with handicaps to compensate for the disadvantaged conditions in which they operate.

Beneficiaries: over six thousand (6,000) farmers in Malta and Gozo.

Total budget for this measure: €16 125, 370



Measure 214:

Agri-Environment payments

Measure 214 consists of ten (10) Agri-environment measures: . AEM 1-9 are designed to encourage farmers to protect and enhance the environment on their farmland by paying them for the provision of environmental services and AEM 10 supports project type actions directly focused on conservation procedures of local endangered species and breeds.

Project under AEM10: The study and sustainable conservation of varieties of local plants

Beneficiary: Plant Health Directorate

Results and Benefits: This project aims to conserve a number of local species and varieties whether cultivated or wild which are under high threat of disturbance or disappearance and are at risk of genetic erosion. Furthermore, such plants being of traditional, agricultural and cultural importance need to be conserved in order to halt their eventual extinction. This project shall create local public awareness on the valuable plant genetic resources of the Maltese islands and their sustainable use.

Total budget for this measure: €9, 525 000



Axis 3

Improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy – encouraging new ways and methods that will improve rural areas and promote the diversification of rural products.

Measure 313 Encouragement of Tourism Activities

This measure aims to improve quality of life in rural areas while simultaneously supporting the conservation, restoration and upgrading of rural heritage; increasing awareness of the value of the natural and built rural heritage; and ensuring the sustained use of rural heritage resources for economic and social benefits.



Project: Diar il-Bniet

Beneficiary: Mifsud Local Enterprise Ltd

Results and Benefits: The creation of an alternative interactive tourist experience of the culture, tradition and foods attributed to the Dingli village's main resource of farming and agriculture, the village and its culture, economic growth and rural

Project Value: € 203,835

Grant Amount: € 101, 915

Project: Malta goes rural - sustaining rural tourism in the Maltese islands

Beneficiary: Malta Tourism Authority

Results and Benefits: To promote the Maltese rural heritage through the set up of walking trails and small scale infrastructural interventions with the main aim to improve accessibility in semi-rural, rural and natural areas. This project is aimed at both tourist and locals.

Project Value: €1, 600 000

Grant Amount: € 1, 600 000

Measure 323 Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage

The measure aims to improve the quality of life in rural areas while also supporting the conservation, restoration and upgrading of the rural heritage; increasing awareness of the value of the natural and built rural heritage; and ensuring the sustained use of rural heritage resources for economic and social benefits



Project: Restoration and conservation of Buskett farmhouses

Beneficiary: Restoration Unit, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

Results and Benefits: The preparation of a management plan for the Buskett site and the restoration of three (3) farmhouses at Buskett built during the reign of Grand Master Lascaris (1636-1657): Razzet tal-Bagħal, Razzet ta' I-Ispirtu and Razzet tal-Bosk.

Project Value: €509,120

Grant Amount: € 460,500



Project: Natura 2000 Management Plans for Malta and Gozo

Beneficiary: Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA)

Results and Benefits: The aim of the project was to develop the management plans and legal provisions for the management of all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites in the Maltese Islands while increasing awareness amongst the general public and stakeholders.

Project Value: € 1, 276, 200

Grant Amount: €1, 263, 435

Axis 4

LEADER – introducing a new approach of local governance in a more targeted manner.

Under LEADER, the three Local Action Groups (LAGs) Xlokk (GALXLOKK), Majjistral (MAGF) and Gozo (GAGF) implement an integrated local development strategy for their region. The LAGs cover 46 localities with a population of 260, 635 and covering 287 square kilometres.



Majjistral Action Group Foundation
www.leadermajjistral.eu

Measure 413.5 Creation of a rural tourism network

Project: The creation, management and promotion of a rural tourism network within the Northwest region of Malta.

Beneficiary: Entertainment com Ltd

Results and Benefits: The identification, sharing and promotion of good practices and information flow from one rural generation to another, to local people and tourists. To promote the exchange of information related to rural issue, culinary heritage and sustainable agriculture. The increase of rural tourism and rural economy.

Project Value: € 112, 210

Grant Amount: €89, 765

Photo: Christopher Magri ▶



Xlokk Local Action Group
www.galxlokk.com

Measure 413.A2 Artisanal and Agricultural Activities

Project: Acquisition of automatic bottling line, oak bariques and restoration of visitor's centre.

Beneficiary: San Niklaw Estate

Results and Benefits:

Improvement of production and wine quality, reduction of operational and production costs and restoration of visitor's centre which is also utilised for wine and olive tasting. Increase in revenue.

Project Value: € 65, 200

Grant Amount: €50,000



Gozo Local Action Group GAGF
www.leadergozo.eu

A number of actions have been launched in Gozo, to address the specific needs of the island and these are being defined together with rural communities including economic operators, local councils and all interested entities. Among these are:

Measure 413.1

The Promotion of Gozo as a Distinct Destination provides support for the development and implementation of marketing initiatives focused on Gozo's distinctiveness in six (6) main areas which are: agriculture, environment, landscape, culture, heritage and gastronomy

Measure 413.2

Folk and Traditional Activities Support whose purpose is to provide assistance to initiatives that aim at enhancing and revalorizing the intangible heritage of Gozo. The maintenance of local traditions and their transmission to new generations is a crucial factor to keep local identity alive.

Further information on funding and measures can be found on the GAGF web site. Budget for the actions launched €845, 400.00

Contact us



LINK WITH OUR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS

European Network for Rural Development (ENRD):
enrd.ec.europa.eu



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Photo: Christopher Magri



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Europe Investing in Rural Areas



**PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT
FOR THE EU PRESIDENCY 2017 AND EU FUNDS**
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