

NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK MALTA

EDITION 19 JULY 2020

Good Practices Projects

MEASURE 4.2 - SUPPORT FOR INVESTMENTS IN PROCESSING/ MARKETING AND/OR DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS

ADDING VALUE TO LOCAL PORT MEAT THROUGH FURTHER PROCESSING, MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Project Duration:** 2019 - 2020
- **Total Project Budget:** €233,000
- **Beneficiary:** Nigret Butcher
- **Location:** Rabat, Malta

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

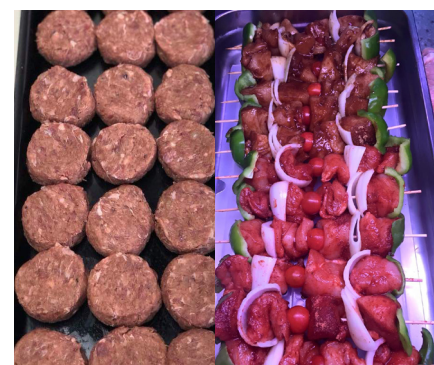
This project which just opened its doors this July is spearheaded by two young farmers, Kurt and Kylie Gatt who, after being trained in their father's meat shop, have formed a partnership and are now opening up a processing facility to add value to the pig meat they themselves produce on farm.



CONTEXT AND ACTIVITIES

This project adds value to the local pork product by enabling innovative and competitive retail cuts that are convenient, healthy and of a wide variety. Raw materials received are lowered to the processing area, using a goods lift, for further processing. At this level (Level -1), the investment includes conveying systems, cold rooms, work tops and freezers. The refrigeration technology used throughout the facility is based on CO₂. This cooling technology is a leader in industrial refrigeration because of its overall better solution to growing global warming concerns and rising energy costs. A Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) system will be used for space cooling/heating. Both systems reverse the damage done by old systems. At street level, the investment includes packaging and labelling equipment to guarantee that the cuts have all the statutory information on the label. Labelling also facilitates product recall. The

packaging equipment ensures that the product always reaches the customer in the best possible condition for it to be enjoyed fresh. At this level, the investment also includes display facilities as well as other systems for the sampling of products and dissemination of information on nutrients and accompaniments.



RESULTS

The applicants knew that the only way to ascertain long term sustainability for the farm and the butcher shop they took over from their father is to invest in innovation. They stated that they can only retain and increase their market share by creating new and innovative products. For this reason, they sought assistance from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development to reach their objective.



Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020

Part financed by the European Union
Co-financing Rate:
75% European Union; 25% Government of Malta



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

Good Practices Projects

MEASURE 19 - LEADER

SUB-MEASURE 2 - STRENGTHENING A HEALTHY CULTURAL IDENTITY



- **Project Duration:** 2017 - 2020
- **Total Project Budget:** €440,000
- **Beneficiary:** Various Beneficiaries
- **Location:** South-East Rural Territory, Malta

DESCRIPTION

The GAL XLOKK Foundation is one of the three local action groups administering the LEADER programme. After having experienced the 2007-2013 programme, the administration of the Foundation started issuing its measures as part of the Local Development Strategy. The main characteristics distinguishing LEADER from other programmes is its unique design. In fact, LEADER strategies are drafted using a bottom-up approach that emphasises local participation and territorial inclusiveness.

CONTEXT AND ACTIVITIES

A total of five measures have been designed targeting three objectives. One of the most sought actions as part of the strategy, is measure 2 - Strengthening a healthy cultural identity. The analysis of the territory and public consultations have demonstrated a uniquely strong element of the community's need to establish its identity. For this reason, the local action group has allocated the sum of €440,000 of the total budget as part of measure 19.2. The main beneficiaries of this measure are registered voluntary organisations regularly operating within the south east territory.

Until the publication of the article, the Foundation has already awarded a total of 29 applicants, with the limited remaining forecasted to be awarded in the next few months. Nearly half

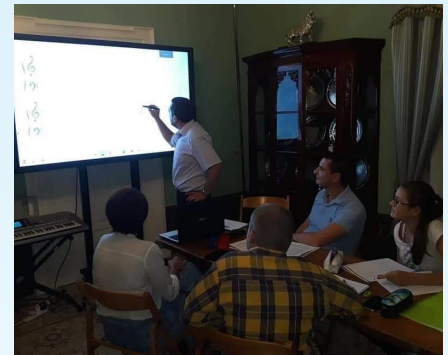
of these projects are already completed. Therefore, several organisations from different sectors including music, culture, heritage, sports and life skills have managed to improve their infrastructure to sustain their activities in the long term.

RESULTS

Projects under this call vary from the installation of lifts, the purchasing of new equipment and instruments, renovation of a number of halls and improvement to immovable property. Such interventions are aimed at fostering local development with the aim of promoting social inclusion through the capitalisation of rural assets, improve the quality of life and the attractiveness of the local area.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.galxlokk.com



Promoting our mission statement through quality improvement



Investing in a community arts space



Extraordinary Artistic Wooden cabinet (Arkivju) for the preservation and storing of Music related items

FoE Malta launches Malta Farm Map

AIMS TO CONNECT FARMERS AND CUSTOMERS DIRECTLY

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MALTA THIS MONTH LAUNCHED ITS “MALTA FARM MAP”. THIS INITIATIVE AIMS TO SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS SELL THEIR LOCAL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES BY CONNECTING FARMERS AND CUSTOMERS DIRECTLY.

Farmers put a lot of work and passion into growing food, and we want citizens to get a glimpse of that. Right now people want to support local farmers but are finding it hard to purchase from them. Customers can now locate their nearest friendly farmer and buy their fresh local produce directly. In that way they will be promoting the local farming community which had already been struggling even before the current crisis.

As part of our mission to preserve permanently local farmland and communicate with

the public about the importance of eating local, FoEM published a farm map focusing on local farms and producers who wish to retail their products directly to the consumers without including any third party for the sale-purchase of products in Malta and Gozo.

Through this map it is aimed consolidate a direct sales platform for agriculture producers and customers to know how and where to purchase products and services from local farms. In thus doing, our motivation is to bridge the distance between small and local producers and the people.

WHY FARM MAP?

Agriculture produce in Malta is predominantly sold through a central market in Ta Qali. Farmers deliver fresh fruit and vegetables which are then sold off at an auction by middleman, who take away a cut of the profits to pay for their services. Aside from seeing their profit margins

crumble, in many instances farmers have to face serious issues of mismanagement leading to further profit reductions which is resulting in a general lack of initiative amongst producers to preserve existing farmland from generation to the next.

The twice weekly emergence of the farmer's market in Ta Qali and in Birgu has redrawn the way farmers sell off their products and this has left a positive impact on farmers and consumers alike. Though the growth in the accessibility to direct sales represents an exciting opportunity for both food producers and consumers, the benefits of farmers' markets are not evenly distributed, leaving large swathes of the Islands without any access to the possibility to buy local products.

With the demand growing for sourcing local and sustainably-grown fresh products, direct sales offer a tremendous benefit to local agriculture in that they sustain directly the people who are responsible for bringing food to our table. In thus doing, the concept of direct buying from the producers ensures numerous economic and social benefits.

LINK TO MAP:

www.foemalta.org/maltafarmmap



Malta Farm Map
buy directly from your local farmer

 **Farmers in your area**
 **Farm Shops**
 **Farmers' Markets**
 **Organic farms & vendors**

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR MALTA (2014-2020):

The evaluators' role in the evaluation process

THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2014-2020, WHICH HAS A BUDGET OF €129 MILLION OF PUBLIC MONEY (€97 MILLION FROM EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD) AND €32 MILLION OF NATIONAL CO-FINANCING), REGISTERED CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS DURING 2019. BY THE END OF 2019 BUDGET COMMITMENT RATES STOOD AT AROUND 70%, EQUIVALENT TO CIRCA €90 MILLION AND 28 OUT OF 34 RDP MEASURES WERE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED. CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS WAS ALSO REGISTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES BY THE THREE LOCAL ACTION GROUPS (LAGS) SUPPORTED UNDER THE RDP UNDER M19.

During the first half of 2020, the evaluators were tasked with the evaluation of the local Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP), as executed by the Managing Authority (MA), including the drafting of the Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for implementation year 2019. This report, which is a regulatory requirement, is drafted annually by the MA, with input of evaluators, and is submitted to the European Commission. The purpose of this report is to provide information on the implementation of the RDP as of 2019 to the European Commission and to other stakeholders.

The process of collecting information for this report included access to data reports containing pertinent information as well as meetings with key beneficiaries and stakeholders, such as the Managing Authority, the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA) and the IT System Service Provider another public entities, including line ministries and authorities. These meetings were held with

the aim to ensure data validation, which is an essential factor in the preparation of the AIR. Prior to official submission of the AIR, this was circulated for feedback and presented to the Monitoring Committee for approval. In parallel, with the aim of feeding the ongoing evaluation of the programme and its ex-post evaluation.

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THE EVALUATORS INITIATED A SEPARATE DATA COLLECTION PROCESS WHICH INCLUDED SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH DATA PROVIDERS INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RDP AS WELL AS INTERVIEWS AND QUESTIONNAIRES FROM BENEFICIARIES.

The process has been delayed as a result of the challenges brought about by COVID-19.

In March, an Interim Evaluation Report was also submitted to the MA. It focused on the recommendations from past evaluations, the methodological approach, progress on programme, focus areas and budget, evaluation questions; and proposed modifications to the programme.

In July, the evaluators in collaboration with the NRN, held a two-day webinar with the MA and the three Local Action Groups - Majjistral, Xlokk, and Gozo Action Groups - to discuss the monitoring and evaluation of the LEADER at the RDP level and at the local level.

The aim of these activities was to assess the impact of the programme in terms of reaching its objectives. This is done by analysing and quantifying the effect the awarded projects and beneficiary efforts have had towards the various indicators set out in the programme as well as by evaluating the progress Malta has reached in terms of the goals previously identified as indicators.

ALL CURRENT MEASURES:

Prospective applicants are to note that the majority of measures are currently closed.

It is suggested to kindly follow our websites for further information

www.eufunds.gov.mt and www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt.