

NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK MALTA

EDITION 20 DECEMBER 2020

Good Practices Projects

MEASURE 4.4 - SUPPORT FOR NON-PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENTS LINKED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AGRI-ENVIRONMENT-CLIMATE OBJECTIVES



RESTORATION OF HABITATS AND LANDSCAPES IN GHAJNSIELEM

- **Project Duration:** 2018 - 2020
- **Total Project Budget:** €133,000
- **Beneficiary:** Ghajnsielem Local Council
- **Location:** Ghajnsielem, Gozo

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The Ghajnsielem Local Council have embarked on this project to make sure that three main criteria are achieved for the local landscape, these include; Restoration of Habitats and Landscapes, Soil Conservation and Water Management.

The proposed interventions presented by the Ghajnsielem local council involve the vital reconstruction of rubble walls that are bordering agricultural lands.

Hence with these interventions the project shall have a widespread impact on the rural landscape, the zealous and functional infrastructure for agricultural holdings and the restoration of habitat for flora and fauna found in Ghajnsielem.

CONTEXT AND ACTIVITIES

The Ghajnsielem local council noticed that there is a need that was not being met when it comes to the soil conservation and local eco system of the locality.

Therefore, they sought the aid of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development to achieve such needs.

To obtain this goal the Ghajnsielem local council will be repairing rubble walls throughout the locality. Rubble walls build in a traditional manner.

The rubble walls will be preventing soil erosion from happening, this is because they allow water to pass through without loss of soil. A significant amount of water management benefits will be seen when the project is concluded as the rubble walls promote an efficient water management system which can especially be seen in heavy rainfall season.



Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020

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

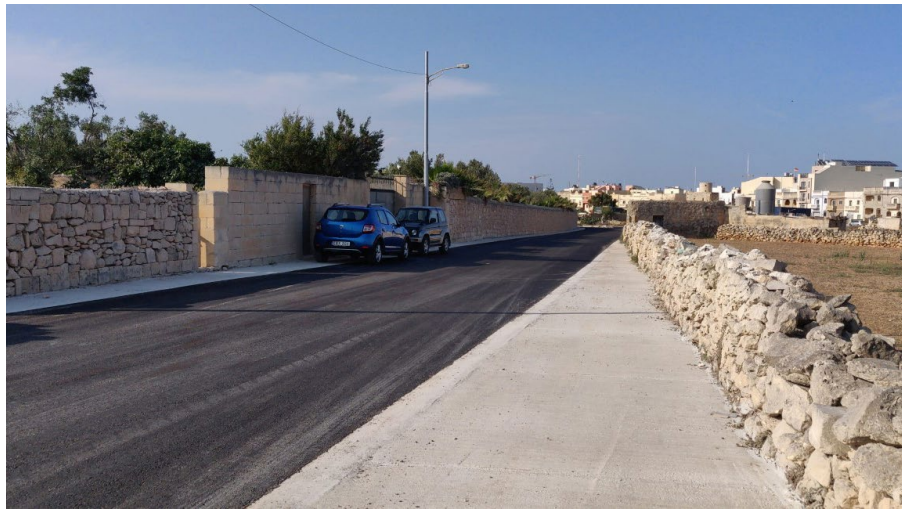


*The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas*

RESULTS

With the awarded amount of €131,000, the Ghajnsielem Local Council have reconstructed and constructed an impressive number of over 1,200 cubic metres of rubble walls in the locality, to help support the local eco-system.

The rural character of the landscape has been enhanced with this project, with the rubble walls being tended to and given the maintenance required, they are also more appealing to locals and tourists alike.



MEASURE M4.3: SUPPORT FOR INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT, MODERNIZATION OR ADAPTATION OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

RURAL ROADS

- **Project Duration:** 2014 - 2020
- **Project allocation:** €9,873,637.40
- **Beneficiary:** Infrastructure Malta

SCOPE:

Accessibility remains a major challenge within the agricultural sector as inadequate access road add to the difficulties posed by the fragmented nature of land-holdings. These difficulties make access particularly problematic for farms, both in terms of inputs (delivery

of items to be used on farms) and also when it comes to transporting produce for marketing purposes.

The efficient management of local infrastructure is not only vital to ensure competitiveness in agriculture but also to ensure the sustained preservation of farm holdings that are increasingly under threat of land abandonment. The improvement in accessibility to farm holdings through the upgrading of farm access roads will increase farm utilisation, improve farm management and increase farm efficiency.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Infrastructure Malta is engaged in the implementation of Measure 4.3 of the EAFRD, focusing on the improvement in the quality and accessibility of rural roads serving as access to the lands utilized by the local agricultural sector.

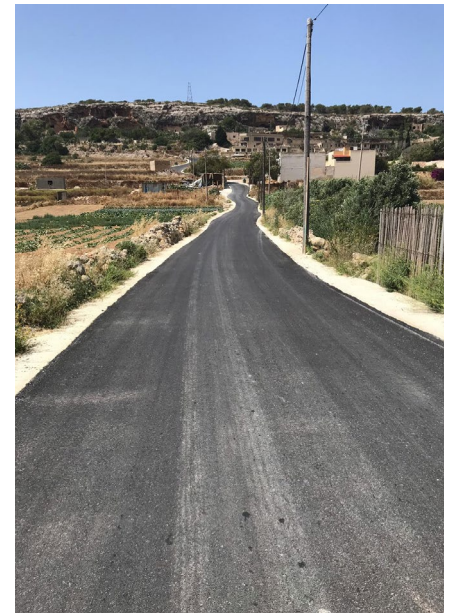
Through this project, Infrastructure Malta has already reconstructed more than 50 countryside roads in over 15 different localities in Malta. It is currently concluding similar works co-financed through Measure 4.3 in another few rural roads.



At the same time, the agency is also providing technical and administrative assistance to other entities, such as local councils, to help them complete the upgrading of some 16 other rural roads for which they secured funds through the same Measure.

Rebuilding rural roads is not simply a matter of resurfacing them with a new layer of asphalt. Asphalt laying is in fact the final step in a comprehensive process to maximize the benefits of this EU-funded investment by building longer-lasting road structures with lower risks of damages by stormwater or by the need to dig them up again in the near future for underground network installations.

Before rebuilding a rural road, Infrastructure Malta consults the local utilities and other entities that may have underground pipelines or cables in these roads, such as water, electricity and telecommunication companies. Based on the feedback of these organizations, the agency plans the reconstruction works required, which will start with the maintenance or repairs of existing underground networks or the installation of new networks to

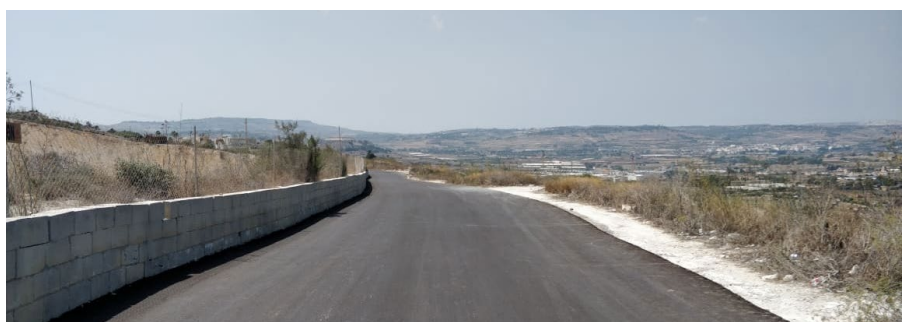
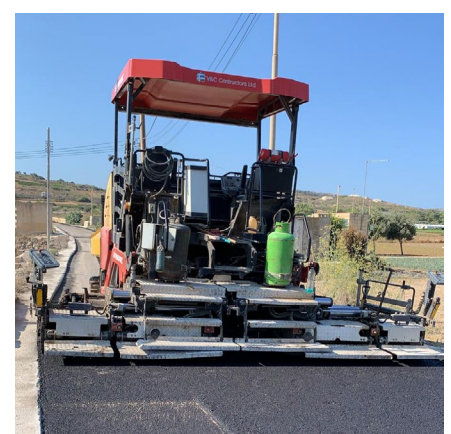


provide improved water, electricity and telecommunication services to nearby landowners, including many farmers.

In the roads that Infrastructure Malta rebuilt through the financial assistance of the EAFRD, it has installed 25.5 kilometers of new underground potable water pipelines and 6.2 kilometers of new underground ducts for Internet and other telecommunication ducts. It has also installed another 5.4 kilometers of underground pipes to

help make the recently introduced polished reclaimed water (New Water) available to more farmers in different locations. At the same time, to alleviate flooding difficulties in some low-lying rural roads, the agency has also worked with the relevant authorities to install new catchments and stormwater pipelines in some of these roads as well.

The installation of these underground networks during the reconstruction of a rural road is





ROADS ALREADY REBUILT THROUGH THIS PROJECT:

| Street Name | Locality |
|--|--------------------|
| Triq ir-Remel | Haz Zebbug |
| Unnamed Road near Airport | Hal Far |
| Unnamed Road leading to St Peter's Pool and off Triq Delimara | Marsaxlokk |
| Triq I-Gharix & Triq Ta' San Niklaw | Qrendi |
| Unnamed Road in San Niklaw Area | Siggiewi |
| Unnamed road in ic-Cens I-Iswed & Wied Buzbiez Areas | Bahrija, Rabat |
| Triq il-Gebel | Hal-Far |
| Unnamed road in Iz-Zebbug Area | Marsaxlokk |
| Trejjet Kostinjus | Naxxar |
| Triq Il-Kotob u Triq Santu Kristu | Zejtun |
| Triq Xrobb I-Ghagin & Triq Delimara (part of) | Marsaxlokk |
| Triq Torri Mamo | Marsascale |
| Unnamed road intersecting Triq San Guzepp | Zabbar |
| Triq Hal Far & Triq Ta' Benghisa | Zurrieq - Hal Far |
| Triq it-Torri | Marsaxlokk |
| Unnamed road in limits of Buskett | Siggiewi |
| Sqaq Ir-Ramlija | Hal Kirkop |
| Unnamed Road near Airport | Hal Far |
| Triq il-Palma | Mellieha/Mgarr |
| Triq Wied is-Sewda | Zebbug |
| Triq Tal-Papa | Hal-Far |
| Unnamed Road off Triq Delimara (next to kalanka) | Marsaxlokk |
| Triq Il-Wilga | Manikata, Mellieha |
| Sqaq Skarpell | Marsascale |
| Triq iz-Zinzell | Marsascale |
| Triq Burmarrad | Naxxar |
| Trejjet San Frangisk | Zabbar |
| Sqaq NRU. 3 fi Triq Strejnu and Sqaq tal-Usif NRU. 2 | Zejtun |
| Triq Hal-Mula | Zebbug/Qormi |
| Triq John Adye | Naxxar |
| Triq tal-Ghaqba (Wied Qirda) | Zebbug |
| Unnamed road in Kuncizzjoni area, Bahrija | Rabat |
| Triq San Pawl tal-Pitkali, Triq il-Wilga and Triq Misrah Suffara | Dingli |
| Triq John Ayde | Naxxar |
| Triq Wied Xkora | Siggiewi |
| Triq tal-Milord | Bidnija |
| Sqaq tal-Qasam and Triq I-Apparell | Dingli |
| Triq il-Ballut in Wardija | Mosta |
| Triq Serena limits of fomm ir-rih | Rabat |
| Triq ta Loreto | Gudja |
| Triq tat-Troll | Zebbug |
| Sqaq ta B'xejn | Zurrieq |
| Sqaq ic-Cawl | Gharghur |

| Street Name | Locality |
|---|----------|
| Sqaq il-Hofra | Gharghur |
| Sqaq il-Qieghed | Gharghur |
| Sqaq fi Triq tal-Ferha | Gharghur |
| Triq Santa Marija taz-Zellieqa | Gharghur |
| Sqaq tan-Nadur | Siggiewi |
| Last piece of Triq il-Fawwara (joining to Triq Bur il-Kbir) | Siggiewi |
| Triq ta Bellu | Siggiewi |
| Triq ta Bur ix-xewk | Siggiewi |

REBUILDING WORKS NEARING COMPLETION:

| Street Name | Locality |
|--|-------------|
| road in limits of Ta Santi | Rabat/Mgarr |
| p/o Triq tat-Taqsisa/Triq tal-Haddedin/Trejqa tal-Qala | Mgarr |
| Triq Qortin | Zurrieq |
| Triq ta Lampat | Gudja |
| Triq ta Ghar Lapsi (ta srug) | Siggiewi |

necessary to minimize the risk of having to dig trenches in these roads soon after they are upgraded with a new asphalt surface. This will ensure that these roads will remain in a good condition for a longer time. To further improve these roads, Infrastructure Malta is rebuilding them with stronger foundations, using appropriate materials. In some cases, rural roads are further reinforced with concrete gutters to reduce the risk of stormwater damage to the asphalt surfaces.

CONCLUSION:

Infrastructure Malta was established in 2018 to implement the Maltese Government's commitment to improve the quality, efficiency, safety and sustainability of the country's public infrastructure. The agency is investing an unprecedented annual budget of over €120 million in the upgrading and reconstruction of road and maritime transport infrastructure. The implementation of this rural roads project as part of EAFRD Measure 4.3 contributes to this objective by improving the quality

of the routes mostly used by the country's agricultural sector. In addition to the €9,873,637.40 allocated through this project, the agency is allocating substantial shares of its annual national funds allocation for the rebuilding of many other rural roads.

Since 2019, through local and EU funds, the agency has carried out rebuilding or improvement works in over 230 countryside roads. It will continue supporting the local agricultural sector with works in many other rural roads and other related structures in 2021 and beyond.



A Farm Advisory Service body awarded under Measure 2.1:

‘SUPPORT TO HELP BENEFITING FROM THE USE OF ADVISORY SERVICES’

THE MANAGING AUTHORITY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT A FARM ADVISORY SERVICE BODY HAVE NOW BEEN AWARDED UNDER MEASURE 2.1: ‘SUPPORT TO HELP BENEFITING FROM THE USE OF ADVISORY SERVICES’.

This beneficiary will now be able to provide free advice to the end beneficiaries (farmers) up to €1500 per event. This measure is aimed at improving human potential through training and by providing incentives to farmers to

seek direct advice to address their specific situation.

Advisory Support will be beneficial to farmers in various ways including

- providing assistance with Cross Compliance and legal obligations;
- drafting fertilizer plans if necessary;
- assisting farmers with keeping relevant records and document where applicable.

This Measure will also assist beneficiaries under M10.1 Agri-environment Climate Measures of the RDP since under this measure

beneficiaries are obliged to receive advice by officially recognised advisors (not necessarily under M2.1) as part of their obligations.

AgriConnect FAS are officially recognised by the Farm Advisory Registration Board (FASRB) as per Articles 5 & 6 of L.N. 99 of 2019. For the full list of all the officially recognised FAS (not just those receiving aid under M2.1) one can visit the ARPA website on the following link: <https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/arpa/Pages/farmAdvisoryServices.aspx>

The measure has an allocated budget of €500,00.

