

National Rural Network Malta

newsletter

7th Edition
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National Rural Network
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Dear Readers,

The Rural Development Programme (2007-2013) will soon come to an end. As written in previous editions, the Managing Authority together with a wide spectrum of stakeholders has discussed the requirements and necessary elements for a new sustainable rural development programme. In this edition, the priorities emanating as a result of the consultation process that addresses the needs of our rural communities will be explained.

The major activities held by the Managing Authority and project beneficiaries, and planned events in the past quarter since the last edition, will be highlighted together with the announcement of upcoming events.

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Malta's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 - An overview of the Consultation Process and Conclusions so far

Core Delivery Areas

Rural Economy –provide support for diversification, adding value, and innovation in the rural economy.

- Support for diversification to non-agricultural activities
- Support scheme for diversification of those actively involved in agriculture
- Improving competitiveness of business through more efficient use of resources
- Support scheme to provide quality assurance for agro food products
- Modernisation and re-organisation of food supply chains
- Support of small scale local projects to provide improvements in the rural economy



The priority areas of the new Rural Development Programme for Malta for 2014-2020 were identified after a lengthy consultation process with stakeholders. They will address 10 proposed programme areas. The first five proposals are core delivery areas that will help with the delivery of the programme benefits. The latter are focused on programme support to maximize the delivery of the programme.



Resource Management – provision of expert advice through farm visits and one-to-one discussions to develop action plans to improve efficiency of resource management.

- Provision of expert advice for conversion to energy efficient operations and renewable energy
- Provision of expert advice on water management, storage and alternative cropping systems.
- Provision of expert advice on soil and nutrient management



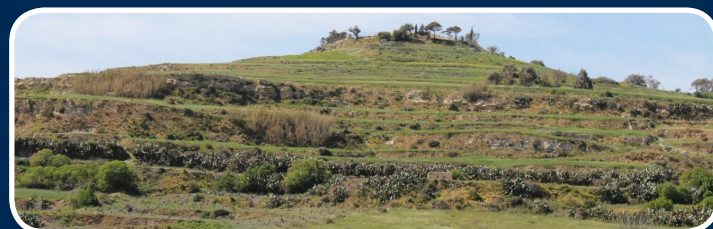
Rural Tourism and Quality of life in Rural Areas – programme to support improvement in the quality of life in rural areas and enable rural access to visitors to explore rural Malta

- Support the provision of projects to enhance social inclusion
- Support of Local Action Groups
- Support protection and management of NATURA 2000 sites
- Support studies and investments in maintaining, restoring and upgrading of cultural and natural heritage



Sustainable Livestock – programmes to improve the economic and environmental sustainability of the livestock industry by improving the health and welfare of farmed animals.

- Improving animal welfare
- Controlling incidence of disease and improve veterinary and laboratory services
- Support the provision of training for improved nutrition



Landscape and Environment – programmes to support the restoration and maintenance of environmental and ecological quality.

- Support for restoration and maintenance of rubble walls
- Protection and management of natural environment and habitat
- Support for actions to minimize climate change impacts

An overview of the Consultation Process and Conclusions so far

Business Development and Support



Support - Training and skills development

Provision of wide range of knowledge transfer activities, including training to support modernization and increase competitiveness of the food and farming sector

- Basic Skills: Support for undertaking basic skills courses.
- Specialised training: Support for undertaking advanced/specialised training in key sectors.
- Farm visits: support for short term farm-management exchange and farm visits.
- Train the trainers: building local capacity



Support - Advise and Business Support

Creation of a centralised farm and rural support centre.

- Establishment and operation of a “rural resource hub” to underpin all programme areas with advise and expertise.
- Innovation partnership
- Financial Instruments



Support - Investing in young farmers

Provision to help young farmers.

- Business start-up aid for young farmers
- Young farmer apprenticeship scheme
- Knowledge transfer and information actions, provision of advisory services, including learning of traditional skills.



Support - Technical Assistance

Support for programme delivery

- National rural network
- Laboratory and veterinary services provision
- Training advisors and Managing Authority/Paying Agency personnel
- Specialized training to build capacity
- Communication activities

An overview of the Consultation Process and Conclusions so far



Comments from stakeholders



"...a good opportunity to discuss together with others our unique situation and how is the best way to overcome our challenges in the period 2014-2020, Hope that the managing authority will organise such events in the future"

- **Brian Vella (Dairy Sector)**



".... The meetings in my opinion were very helpful to help identify where the major funds should be applied in order that farmer will apply for them. The Managing authority should do more frequent meetings to get more in contact with the farmer showing him the funds available and on the other hand listen to the problems the farmer is facing" - **Alex Tabone (Crop Sector)**



" I am sure that the next programme will better reflect the needs of all those that operate in the agricultural sector".

- **Joe Spiteri (Agro-tourism)**



"The fact that this was a bottom-up approach is encouraging because the stakeholder's voice will be heard and ultimately will have an effect on decision taken."

- **Mary Camilleri (Mgarr Farmers'Co-op)**



"It was a great personal satisfaction to attend these meetings when I saw the willingness of fellow farmers during these meetings as well as the enthusiasm of those who were conducting the meetings. What struck me very positively was the attitude and the explanations by foreign experts, not only the technical part of this process but also their interest to get to know and understand the local situation" - **Frans Sammut (Crop Sector)**



NRN Activities

between March 2013 - June 2013

The Maltese NRN is particularly instrumental in promoting the Rural Development Programme. NRNM played an important role in setting up the development of the LEADER approach in Malta. It is continuously working to involve and include the participation of all rural actors and stakeholders on horizontal thematic areas.

1. Payment Claims Campaign

Following the Payment Claims Campaign Conference held in Qawra on 15th February, another three locality meetings were held at:

- Mġarr Farmers Coop, 9th April,
- Żabbar Parish Hall, 4th April,
- Government Farm Hall, Xewkija Gozo, 11th April.



2. NRN Committee meeting

One NRN committee meeting was held on 14th June, 2013. This meeting informed the committee members about state of play of Malta's rural development programme for 2014-2020, conclusions of the consultation process so far, and LEADER now and post 2013.



3. Monitoring Committee Meeting

The Monitoring Committee Meeting was held on May 9th, 2013. During this meeting, the committee was given an update/summary of last year's activities. This included implementation and execution of the RDP programme and also progress on the financial execution. Members also approved modifications to the programme.

NRNM is constantly working in parallel with DG AGRI and ENRD. Throughout the year NRNM organises Steering Committee and Coordination Committee meetings to discuss the current situation of Rural Development in Malta and ways forward for the agricultural sector. NRNM representatives also attend and participate in NRN meetings organised by the different Member States.

4. Participation in Fairs

During this period, the Managing Authority participated in three fairs, namely:

- Festa tal-halib, Gharghur, 28th April 2013
- Wirja Agrarja, Dingli, 4th May 2013
- Festa tal-hut, Żurrieq, 2nd June 2013



Festa tal-hut, Żurrieq



Festa tal-halib, Gharghur

For these events, the Managing Authority set up a stand to promote Rural Development activities. The general public was the target audience of these promotional activities, enabling more awareness on the opportunities and achievement of the RDP 2007-2013 funds.



Wirja Agrarja, Dingli

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events from Local Action Groups:



MAGF shall launch 3 actions

- Action 413.7 Support for the Formation of Foundation of Territorial Rangers
- Action 413.8 Branding and Communication of the Majjistral Region
- Measure 313 Encouragement of Tourism Activities



GAGF shall launch 3 actions

- Action 413.1 Promotion of Gozo as a Distinct Destination
- Action 413.5 Signposting
- Action 413.3 Open Call: Crafts (2nd Call)
- Measure 313 Encouragement of Tourism Activities



GXF will be issuing 3 actions

- Action 413.1b Setting up of a Tourist Hub
- Action 413.5 Embellishment Projects
- Action 413.6 Culture and Educational Activities

Link with our European Counterparts:

European Network for Rural Development (ENRD):

<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>

Spread the word:

Inform and encourage other stakeholders to be added to our mailing list by sending us an email on:

rdd.mrra@gov.mt

Make a link to the MA website on your own website.

www.mrra.gov.mt/ma

Let us know what you're up to:

Send us information about relevant news, campaigns and initiatives within your organisation, area or region to be promoted on our website.

Do you have any feedback or suggestions?

The NRN newsletter team looks forward to receiving feedback and suggestions as to continue improving this publication. Send us an email on:

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Rural Development Programme for Malta 2007 – 2013



Co-financed through Technical Assistance
The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Co-financing Rate: 75% European Union, 25% Government of Malta



Europe Investing in Rural Areas