



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

# Annual implementation report

## Malta - Rural Development Programme (National)

Annual implementation report	
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# 1. KEY INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND ITS PRIORITIES

## 1.a) Financial Data

See annexed documents

## 1.b) Common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values

### 1.b1) Overview table

Focus Area 1A						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	2014-2021					6.38
	2014-2020					
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 1B						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	2014-2021			5.00	100.00	5.00
	2014-2020					
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 1C						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2021			309.00	4.29	7,200.00
	2014-2020			205.00	2.85	
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 2A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)		2014-2021	1.28	96.62	1.28	96.62	1.32
		2014-2020	1.03	77.75	1.03	77.75	
		2014-2019	0.52	39.25	0.52	39.25	
		2014-2018	0.44	33.21	0.38	28.68	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	32,382,030.13	90.85	21,787,026.11	61.12	35,645,094.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	32,382,030.13	90.34	21,787,026.11	60.78	35,845,094.00

Focus Area 2B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)		2014-2021	0.49	64.63	0.49	64.63	0.76
		2014-2020	0.49	64.63	0.49	64.63	
		2014-2019	0.48	63.31	0.48	63.31	
		2014-2018	0.15	19.78	0.15	19.78	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	4,340,000.00	65.10	3,612,000.00	54.18	6,666,667.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	4,340,000.00	56.91	3,612,000.00	47.36	7,626,264.00

Focus Area 3A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)		2014-2021	0.02	1.47	0.01	0.73	1.36
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Nr of operations supported under M4.2 contributing to FA3A (M4.2) (operations)		2014-2021					25.00
		2014-2020			19.00	76.00	
		2014-2019			15.00	60.00	
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	222,860.00	27.41	0.00	0.00	813,170.67
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	6,313,880.78	88.10	2,397,080.07	33.45	7,166,708.67
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	402,977.00	64.48			625,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	6,939,717.78	80.65	2,397,080.07	27.86	8,604,879.34

Priority P4							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)		2014-2021			12.28	412.21	2.98
		2014-2020			12.28	412.21	
		2014-2019			7.46	250.42	
		2014-2018			5.45	182.94	
		2014-2017			2.00	67.14	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)		2014-2021			4.12	138.30	2.98
		2014-2020			4.12	138.30	
		2014-2019			4.57	153.41	
		2014-2018			4.12	138.30	
		2014-2017			2.00	67.14	
		2014-2016			1.32	44.31	
		2014-2015					
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)		2014-2021			13.34	152.58	8.74
		2014-2020			15.50	177.28	
		2014-2019			15.50	177.28	
		2014-2018			13.48	154.18	
		2014-2017			9.62	110.03	
		2014-2016			9.78	111.86	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	285,000.00	16.19	3,224.14	0.18	1,760,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	500,000.00	47.62	6,349.88	0.60	1,050,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	26,998,052.72	100.33	14,634,351.45	54.39	26,908,690.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	5,670,599.91	45.16	3,224,820.71	25.68	12,556,079.00



M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	14,077.97	1.39	9,471.20	0.93	1,016,000.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	15,755,907.74	101.63	12,079,652.97	77.92	15,502,714.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	2,741,641.08	75.29			3,641,510.52
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	51,965,279.42	78.02	29,957,870.35	44.98	66,608,326.52

Focus Area 5A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T14: percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A)		2014-2021			2.78	22.22	12.51
		2014-2020			2.73	21.82	
		2014-2019			0.73	5.84	
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			1,760,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	23,535,520.81	54.83	22,814,026.51	53.15	42,921,356.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			250,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	23,535,520.81	51.98	22,814,026.51	50.38	45,281,356.00

Focus Area 5B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)		2014-2021					759,597.00
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			440,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	379,798.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,169,798.00

Focus Area 5C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)		2014-2021	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
		2014-2020	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	
		2014-2019	1.00	0.00			
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	9,147.25	0.60	7,852.91	0.52	1,519,194.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	2,993,200.00	498.87			600,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	3,002,347.25	141.67	7,852.91	0.37	2,119,194.00

Focus Area 5D							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		2014-2021			0.01	0.06	16.09
		2014-2020			0.01	0.06	
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			220,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	14,316.22	1.37	14,296.03	1.37	1,044,446.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	14,316.22	0.89	14,296.03	0.89	1,614,446.00

Focus Area 5E							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)		2014-2021			8.89	167.42	5.31
		2014-2020			8.89	167.42	
		2014-2019			4.00	75.33	
		2014-2018			2.06	38.79	
		2014-2017			0.31	5.84	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	5,533,598.62	429.55	4,505,493.03	349.74	1,288,246.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	5,533,598.62	101.32	4,505,493.03	82.49	5,461,579.00

Focus Area 6A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)		2014-2021					28.00
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	648,491.35	19.78	277,318.32	8.46	3,278,438.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			250,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	648,491.35	18.38	277,318.32	7.86	3,528,438.00

Focus Area 6B								
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025	
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)		2014-2021			2.50	25.00	10.00	
		2014-2020			2.50	25.00		
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)		2014-2021					0.00	
		2014-2020						
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)		2014-2021			105.38	105.42	99.97	
		2014-2020			105.38	105.42		
		2014-2019			105.38	105.42		
		2014-2018			105.38	105.42		
		2014-2017			99.97	100.00		
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			250,000.00	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	6,354,572.29	66.94	2,785,294.76	29.34	9,493,333.00	
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	6,354,572.29	65.22	2,785,294.76	28.59	9,743,333.00	

Focus Area 6C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)		2014-2021					0.00
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Percentage of total public expenditure (M1.1 to M1.3) allocated for ICT actions/interventions (%)		2014-2021					20.00
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			220,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			220,000.00

## 1.c) Key information on RDP implementation based on data from a) and b) by Focus Area

### Priority 1 - Focus Area 1A

List of measures

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 1A are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M16 – Co-operation

#### **Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information actions**

The sub-measures under M01 all contribute towards FA1A (committed amount is linked to FA4A as per RDP Budget). These are:

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

No new commitments were registered for M1 across the three sub measures, since no new calls for projects were issued. For the vocational training project approved in 2019 under M1.1, a project which is being led by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), limited progress was registered with realised amounts reaching only circa €3,000. Given that this is a vocational training project it was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, in view of COVID-19 related risks, the training courses provided to AECM beneficiaries were postponed for a considerable period, before in-person teaching resumed in 2021. As a result, the project was extended to July 2023. During 2020, the beneficiary had attempted to deliver these courses via remote learning tools such as online lessons in an effort to minimise the interruption in implementation of this contract, however the beneficiary found that this was neither possible nor feasible for the target group.

Throughout 2021, a total of 104 participants (including repeat participants) participated in three of the six courses available reflecting the demand of the AECM beneficiaries. These courses covered topics related to weed management, maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species, introduction of bee boxes in agricultural parcels and their management, integrated pest management plan, and farm and business management practices. The table below provides a split of the certificates distributed for the different courses:

Course Title	No of Certified Participants
1. Farming and Business Management	75
2. Controlling Weeds in Orchards and Vineyards by Mechanical, instead of	28

Chemical Methods	
3. Maintenance of recommended tree species and integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species	1
4. Introduction of Bee Boxes on Holdings	-
5. Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) targeting Vineyards and Orchards	-
6. Integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species: the Maltese Black Chicken and the Maltese Ox	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>

Most of the participants that attended the specific courses also attended the generic farming and management course.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2021.

### **Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services**

The applicable measure contributing towards FA1A is:

- M2.2 - support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services.

No calls were launched under this Measure.

### **Measure 16: Co-operation (art 35)**

The applicable sub measures contributing towards FA1A are:

- M16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies; and
- M16.4 - support for horizontal and vertical cooperation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets, and for the promotion activities in a local context relating to the development of short-supply chains and local markets.

By the end of 2021, M16.2 was supporting five projects related to pilot studies and research studies. No new calls for projects were launched in 2021, however, one project (contributing also to FA5C) was approved under M16.2 for which the call was launched during 2020. While no realised expenditure has been affected, the implementation of projects under this measure is progressing well, with investments and research relating to projects awarded under this measure taking place during 2021.

### **Target Indicator**

As at end of 2021, some realised expenditure was recorded under Measure 1 in relation to FA1A. As a



result, the result indicator (T1) on the % of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (Focus Area 1A) stood at 0.002% at end of 2021.

### **Priority 1 - Focus Area 1B**

#### **List of measures**

The measure contributing towards Focus Area 1B is:

- M16 – Co-operation (art 35)

#### **Progress achieved**

#### **Measure 16: Co-operation (art 35)**

The relevant sub-measures under this FA1B are:

- M16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies; and
- M16.6 - support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes.

In 2021, no new calls for projects were launched under these two measures. One project (contributing also to FA5C) was however approved under M16.2 for which the call was launched during 2020. The project achieved a commitment value close to €3m. While no realised expenditure has been affected, the implementation of projects under this measure is progressing well.

As for M16.6, following the calls issued in 2020 under which no projects were approved, no new calls for applications were launched in 2021 and therefore no progress was registered.

#### **Target Indicator**

The total number of co-operation operations supported under the co-operation measure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 amounts to 5. While no realised expenditure was made in relation to these projects, their implementation is progressing well.

### **Priority 1 – Focus Area 1C**

#### **List of measures**

The measures contributing towards Focus Area 1C are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M16 – Co-operation

#### **Progress achieved**

## **Measure 1 - Knowledge transfer and information actions**

The three sub-measures under M01 contributing towards FA1C, these are:

- M1.1 - support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

No new commitments were registered for M1 across the three sub measures, since no new calls for projects were issued. For the vocational training project approved in 2019 which is being led by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), limited progress was registered with realised amounts reaching only circa €3,000. Given that this is a vocational training project it was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, in view of COVID-19 related risks, the training courses provided to AECM beneficiaries were postponed for a considerable period, before in-person teaching resumed in 2021. As a result, the project was extended to July 2023. During 2020, the MA had attempted to deliver these courses via remote learning tools such as online lessons in an effort to minimise the interruption in implementation of this contract, however the MA found that this was not possible for the target group.

Throughout 2021, a total of 104 participants (including repeat participants) attended one or more of the six courses organised by MCAST as part of this project. These training courses are linked to specific knowledge areas as identified in the AECMs of the RDP. The project contributes directly towards FA1A and FA1C and concurrently it also contributes towards P4. During 2021, participants were only engaged in first three courses reflecting the demand of AECM beneficiaries. Further details are provided under FA1A.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2021.

## **Measure 2 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services**

The two sub-measures under M02 contributing towards FA1C are:

- M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services; and
- M2.3 - support for training of advisors

During 2021, no further commitments were made to the €0.5 million committed in 2020 to AgriConnect for the provision of Farm Advisory Services to local farmers in their role as an officially recognised advisor by the Farm Advisory Registration Board (FASRB) as per Articles 5 & 6 of L.N. 99 of 2019. AgriConnect is the only beneficiary under M2.1. During the year under review, AgriConnect provided a basic advisory package to AECM beneficiaries, whereby the advice provided focused on the implementation of AECMs. Beneficiaries also have the option to register for the full package of advice, which advice would be funded through M2.1. As for payments made, realised expenditure is yet to be reported.

Overall, major setback for progress under this measure has been the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted the implementation of the training under M1.1.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2021.

## **Measure 16- Co-operation**

The relevant sub-measure contributing towards FA1C is:

- M16.2 - Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

In 2021, no new calls for projects were launched under this measure. One project (contributing also to FA5C) was however approved under M16.2 for which the call was launched during 2020. The project achieved a commitment value of circa €2.9m leading to a substantial over commitment of more than €2m under FA1A. While no realised expenditure has been affected, the implementation of projects under this measure is progressing well.

### **Target Indicator**

Notwithstanding the difficulties faced in the provision of training during the COVID-19 pandemic which extended to 2021, progress was observed in relation to indicator T3 under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in relation to total number of trained participants. Indeed, by the end of 2021, 309 participants were given training by MCAST, achieving 4.3% of the 7,200 participants target.

## **Priority 2 - Focus Area 2A**

### **List of measures**

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 2A are:

- M02 – Advisory Services, farm management and farm relief
- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M06 – Farm and business development

### **Progress achieved**

## **Measure 2: Advisory Services, farm management and farm relief**

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

- M2.2 - Support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services

No calls were launched under this Measure.

## **Measure 4: Investment in Physical Assets**

The applicable M4 sub-measures relating to FA2A are:

- M4.1 - Support for investment in agricultural holdings
- M4.3 - Support for investment in infrastructure related to development, modernisation, or adaptation of agriculture and forestry

Considerable progress was registered under M4.1, which also led to an additional allocation of circa €4.8

million following programme modifications to cater for the EURI Funds. Following the calls for applications launched in 2020, an additional 32 projects were awarded under this measure with a commitment value of circa €3.2 million during 2021. As a result of these projects, the total commitment for this measure under P2 amounted to circa €14.6 million, supporting 161 projects. Most of the approved applications for sub-measure 4.1 have been primarily taken up to restructure and modernise operations, contributing towards the enhancement of farm viability and competitiveness. Despite the additional allocation, this Measure under FA2A is now overcommitted by circa €1.6 million. €3.5 million were also realised in 2021, leading the total realised value to €7.7 million.

As for M4.3, similarly to 2020, no new calls were launched in 2021 as the programmed Measure budget has been fully committed. As a result of the programme modifications that were approved by the end of 2021 following the integration of the transitional funds, an additional budget of circa €9.7 million was allocated. The Measure now has an uncommitted amount of €5.7 million. Overall, 29 projects are being implemented under this Measures in relation to FA2A, including 16 projects led by local councils aiming to facilitate access to farms.

### **Measure 6 – Farm and business development**

The relevant sub-measure under this Focus Area is:

- M6.4 - Support for investment in creation and development of non-agricultural activities

No calls were launched in 2021 in relation to this Measure. The projects that were approved under M6.4 in 2020 did not contribute towards this FA but towards FA6A. Following programme modifications, all the allocation for this Measure under this FA, was shifted to FA6A.

### **Target Indicator**

As at the end of 2021, cumulative realised expenditure amounted to €7.8 million for Measure 4.1. As a result, positive progress has been achieved in terms of the result target indicator (T4) on the % of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation. The value as at end of 2021 amounted to 1.28% of holdings, reflecting 161 holdings, surpassing the target of 0.93% outlined in the programme prior to the allocation of the transitional funds. In terms of M2.2 and M4.3, there was no realised expenditure as at the end of 2021.

### **Priority 2 – Focus Area 2B**

#### **List of measures**

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 2B are:

- M02 – Advisory Services, farm management and farm relief
- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M06 – Farm and business development

#### **Progress achieved**

### **Measure 2: Advisory Services, farm management and farm relief**

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

- M2.2 - Support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services

No calls were launched under this Measure.

#### **Measure 4: Investment in Physical Assets**

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

- M4.1 - Support for investment in agricultural holdings

M4.1 is one of the sub-measures with the highest measure budget of €25 million (Public Expenditure), noting that M4.1 supports projects not only under 2B but also under other Focus Areas, including 2A, 3A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B and 5C. However, the projects approved under Priority 2 all contribute to FA2A and none contribute towards FA2B. No other calls were launched in 2021.

#### **Measure 6: Farm and business development**

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

- M6.1 – Business Start-up for young farmers

Following the success of this measure, additional funds of circa €2.4 million were added under this FA as part of the programme modifications which were approved in December 2021. No further commitments were made during 2021 as by the end of the year the available budget at the time was all signed for in Grant Agreements and therefore no new calls were launched. The projects that were approved over the previous years of the programme progressed in their implementation and registered a realised amount of circa €0.2 million during 2021, bringing the total realised amount to circa €3.6 million. The progress is also being registered in project implementation, with several projects being successfully implemented during 2021.

#### **Target Indicator**

Given that no further commitments were made during 2021 since the available budget at the time had already been committed, no progress was recorded in terms of the result indicator (T5) Number of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan / investment for young farmers (Focus Area 2B), such that it stood at 62 young farmers. While no progress was registered in the target indicator, projects supported under M6.1 for young farmers have been progressing well.

#### **Priority 3 - Focus Area 3A**

##### **List of measures**

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 3A are:

- M03 – Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs
- M04 – Investment in physical assets
  
- M16 – Co-operation

##### **Progress achieved**

### **Measure 3 – Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs**

The relevant sub-measures that contribute towards FA3A are:

- M3.1 - Support for new participation in quality schemes
- M3.2 - Support for information and promotion activities implemented by group of producers in the internal market

During 2021, the MA signed a Grant Agreement for a project pertaining to M3.1 which was selected following the calls for projects issued during 2020. This is the first operation approved under this Measure contributing towards FA3A leading to a commitment value of circa €0.2 million. This project is being led by the *Koperattiva Produttori tal-Halib* (KPH) and focuses on adherence with the products of quality national scheme. The scope of this project is to encourage the uptake of quality schemes by the dairy sector. No realised expenditure was reported.

No progress has been registered for M3.2, primarily because of the close link to M3.1 and its slow take-up.

### **Measure 4 – Investment in physical assets**

The relevant sub-measures under this focus area are:

- M4.1 – Support for investment in agricultural holdings
- M4.2 - Support for investment in processing/Marketing and /or development of agricultural products

As mentioned previously, operations under M4.1 do not only fall under FA3A but also 2A, 2B, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B and 5C, hence while considerable contracts were awarded during 2021 only one is attributable to FA3A. As a result of this operation, an additional commitment of €15,715 was registered for M4.1 under the FA, bringing the total commitment value to close to €0.8 million. Progress was also registered in terms of realised expenditure, with circa €0.16 million reported under 2021. As at 2021, the total realised expenditure amounted to circa €0.32 million.

In the case of M4.2, no new calls were issued during 2021, also because the Measure is fully committed. Implementation of the approved operations progressed considerably with more than €1.1 million reported in realised expenditure for 2021. The cumulative realised expenditure for this Measure under FA3A amounts to circa €2 million, more than doubling the total amount that was reported last year.

### **Measure 16 – Co-operation**

The relevant sub-measures contributing towards this FA are:

- M16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies
- M16.4 - 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

The two operations approved in 2020 with a direct contribution to FA3A proceeded with their implementation during 2021. While no realised expenditure has been affected, the implementation of projects under this measure is progressing well.

### **Target Indicator**

By the end of 2021, the target indicator (T6) the % of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations stood at a nil value as no progress was made. Progress is expected in 2022 as a grant agreement has been signed on Measure 3.1. Marginal positive progress was registered in (T6) the Nr of operations supported under M4.1 and M4.2 (Programme Specific Target Indicator) contributing to FA3A. Indeed, by the end of 2021, this target indicator amounted to 26 operations.

### **Priority 4**

#### **List of measures**

The list of measures contributing towards Priority 4 are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
  
- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M08 – Investment in Forest Area Development and improvement of viability of forests
- M10 – Agri-Environment-Climate Measures
- M11 – Organic Farming
- M13 – Payments to Areas Facing Natural or Other Specific Constraints
  
- M16 – Co-operation

#### **Progress achieved**

#### **Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information access**

The sub-measures under M01 all contribute towards FA4C and are interlinked with FA1A contributions. These are:

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

No new commitments were registered for M1 across the three sub measures since no new calls for projects were issued. For the vocational training project approved in 2019 which is being led by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), limited progress was registered with realised amounts reaching only circa €3,000. Given that this is a vocational training project it was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, in view of COVID-19 related risks, the training courses provided to AECM beneficiaries were postponed for a considerable period, before in-person teaching resumed in 2021. As a

result, the project was extended to December 2023. During 2020, the MA had attempted to deliver these courses via remote learning tools such as online lessons in an effort to minimise the interruption in implementation of this contract, however the MA found that this was not possible for the target group.

Throughout 2021, a total of 104 participants (including repeat participants) attended one or more of the six courses organised by MCAST as part of this project. These training courses are linked to specific knowledge areas as identified in the AECMs of the RDP. The project contributes directly towards FA1A and FA1C and concurrently it also contributes towards P4. During 2021, participants were only engaged in first three courses reflecting the demand of AECM beneficiaries. Further details are provided under FA1A.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2021.

### **Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services**

The applicable sub-measures that contribute towards FA4A are:

- M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services; and
- M2.3 - support for training of advisors

In terms of M2.1, during 2021, no further commitments were made to the €0.5 million committed in 2020 to AgriConnect for the provision of Farm Advisory Services to local farmers in their role as an officially recognised advisor by the Farm Advisory Registration Board (FASRB) as per Articles 5 & 6 of L.N. 99 of 2019. AgriConnect is the only beneficiary under M2.1. During the year under review, AgriConnect provided a short version of the advisory package to AECM beneficiaries, whereby the advice provided focused on the implementation of AECMs. Beneficiaries have the option to register for the full package of advice, which advice would be funded through M2.1. During 2021, a total of 62 farmers were provided advice on cross compliance. As for payments, realised expenditure of €6,349 was reported during 2021.

Overall, major setback for progress under this measure has been the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted the implementation of the training under M1.1.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2021.

### **Measure 4: Investment in physical assets**

The applicable sub measures that contribute towards Priority 4 are:

- M4.1 – Support for investment in agricultural holdings
- M4.4 - Support for non-productive investment linked to the achievement of agri-environment objectives

As reported in 2020 AIR, Grants approved under M4.1 in previous years contributed primarily towards FA2A and FA5A with a few projects also contributed towards FA3A. None of the approved projects contributed towards P4, implying that farmers' major investments are steered more towards competitiveness and efficiency rather than the eco-systems when it comes to investment in the holdings. In this regard there is no progress to report pertaining to this Measure under P4 and the allocated amount of circa €2.5 million



remains uncommitted.

In terms of M4.4, a new operation was signed in 2021 with a commitment value of more than €2 million. The total number of projects under this Measure contributing to P4 was 198 by the end of 2021 with a cumulative commitment value of nearly €27 million. The Measure is currently overcommitted by circa €2.5 million under this FA. Realised expenditure of circa €2.5 million was reported in 2021, leading to a cumulative realised amount of circa €14.6 million. Significant progress in project implementation was also registered by beneficiaries during 2021.

### **Measure 8: Investment in Forest Area Development and improvement of viability of forests**

The applicable sub-measure for FA4A is:

- M8.5 – Investments improving the resilience and environment value of forest ecosystems

50% of the financial allocation for this sub measure falls under this Focus Area (amounting to €1.75million). The rest of the allocation contributes to FA5E. As reported in the AIR 2018, from consultations carried out by the MA, it clearly emerges that Malta has difficulties in ensuring that this measure is successful, as a result of the limitations of Article 22 (1) of EU Regulation 1305/2013[1]. The MA has tried pre-launching this sub-measure in Q2 of 2019 with the aim to support afforestation initiatives. However, the regulatory restrictions that there are in place make it very difficult to have applications under this measure.

In the context of the challenges that M8.5 was facing, the MA proposed modification to this Measure which were encompassed in the revised programme approved in December 2021. As a result of the EURI and Transition Facility, the allocation of this Measure was increased substantially under both P4 and FA5E by circa €2.4 million under each FA. The scope of the measure was also widened to also capture integrated measures, allowing for the provision of support for afforestation operations (sub-measure 8.1), prevention and restoration activities (sub measure 8.4). An updated list of trees that could be supported was also widened, with the trees included are all native and indigineous trees and as recommended by the Environment and Resources Authority. The improvement of woodland and planting of new trees will assist Malta in meeting carbon sequestration goals. Following these revisions, the MA now plans to launch calls for projects in the coming months.

[1] In the case of state-owned land, support may only be granted if the body managing such land is a private body or a municipality.

### **Measure 10: Agri-Environment Climate Measures**

Both sub-measures contribute to the 3 Focus Areas available under Priority 4. The sub-measures are:

- M10.1 – Agri-environment-climate measures
- M10.2 – Conservation of genetic resources

For M10.1, 2021 saw the annual call for beneficiaries as part of the 6 AECMs as established within the RDP. This was carried out between April and May, during the annual payment campaign. In 2021, 940

agreements were in place that are applicable for Measures contributing towards P4.

The 2021 uptake adds up to a committed expenditure value of near €0.44 million, out of which AECM 1 (measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical methods) accounts for the largest portion of this allocation at circa €0.3 million. Considerable number of agreements were also signed for AECM 6c, leading to a commitment value of €50,297 during 2021. With cumulative commitment values by 2021 amounting to more than €4.6 million, the progress registered brings the uptake to 59.2%. In terms of realised expenditure under M10.1, 2021 saw claims close to €0.4 million, bringing the cumulative realised amount as at 2021 to more than €3 million.

<b>AECMs contributing towards P4</b>	<b>Ongoing Commitments 2021</b>	<b>Committed Amounts 2021</b>
<b>AECM 1: Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical methods.</b>	620	€323,094.27
<b>AECM 3: Measure supporting the introduction of bee boxes on holdings</b>	19	€32,998.90
<b>AECM 6a: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - Maltese Black Chicken</b>	2	€2,700.00
<b>AECM 6b: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - ox</b>	3	€29,588.32
<b>AECM 6c: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - carob and mulberry</b>	296	€50,297.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>€438,678.59</b>

In terms of M10.2, further to the progress registered during 2020, no additional progress was registered for the two operations selected.

### **Measure 11: Organic Farming**

The contribution of M11 sub-measures is directly related to FA4A. The relevant sub-measures are two:

- M11.1 – Conversion to organic farming
- M11.2 – Maintenance of organic farming

For M11.1 no progress was registered in relation to both committed and realised amounts, whereas the 6 operations approved in 2020 for M11.2, reported €6,212.14 in realised payments. Both measures were allocated additional budget from transitional funds – close to €0.7 million under M11.1 and more than €120,000 under M11.2. These additions reflect the increasing relevance of organic schemes within the local context, in line with the needs analysis and SWOT assessment of the CAP SP. These sources are thus being directed towards organic production which is also in line with Malta’s low carbon development strategy

which favours further incentives for the development of organic farming.

### **Measure 13: Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints**

The budgetary allocation for this Measure is directly linked to FA4A. The applicable sub-measure in this case is:

- M13.3 – Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints

In 2021 M13.3 continued to see positive progress as uptake under this scheme reached a level of overcommitment of 101% despite the additional allocation of circa €3.5 million allocated from the transitional funds. The total allocation to the measure now stands at €15.5 million. Realised payments progressed at a steady pace to reach circa €1.8 million in 2021, bringing the cumulative amount realised under the programme to close to € 12 million. The area for support covered by M13.3 amounts to 8,376 hectares, contributing towards the attainment of land-based targets under Priority 4.

### **Measure 16: Co-operation**

The relevant sub-measure under the Priority is M16.2. For P4, its financial allocation is linked to both FA4A and FA4C. Overall, M16.2 contributes also towards P1, P3, P5 and P5. Though the highest share is allocated under P4 at 58%.

- M16.2 – Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies.

By the end of 2021, M16.2 was supporting five projects related to pilot studies and research studies, of which three contribute towards P4. No new calls for projects were launched in 2021, and no new projects were approved in 2021 pertaining to P4. Therefore, there were no new commitment values in 2021. While no realised expenditure has been affected, the implementation of projects under this measure is progressing well.

### **Target Indicators**

In 2021, steady progress was registered in the sub-measures contributing to Priority Area 4 as they relate to restoring, preserving and enhancing eco-systems related to agriculture and forestry. As at the end of 2021, the values for the relevant target indicators linked to FA4A, FA4B, and FA4C were as shown below:

- R7/T9: % of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A) – the set target for 2025 is 8.74% and the achievements by 2021 amount to 15.5%.
- R8/T10: % of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B) – the set target for 2025 is 2.98% and the achievements by 2021 amount to 4.12%.
- T12: % of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C) – the set target for 2025 is 2.98% and the achievements by 2021 amount to 12.3%.

## **Priority 5 - Focus Area 5A**

### **List of measures**

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 5A are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M16 – Co-operation

### **Progress achieved**

#### **Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information actions**

Similar to P4, the sub-measures under M01 all contribute towards FA5A and are interlinked with FA1A contributions.

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

No new commitments were registered for M1 across the three sub measures, since no new calls for projects were issued. For the vocational training project approved in 2019 which is being led by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), limited progress was registered with realised amounts reaching only circa €3,000. Given that this is a vocational training project it was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout 2021, a total of 104 participants (including repeat participants) attended one or more of the six courses organised by MCAST as part of this project. These training courses are linked to specific knowledge areas as identified in the AECMs of the RDP. The project contributes directly towards FA1A and FA1C and concurrently it also contributes towards P4. Currently, no contribution can be recorded under P5.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2021.

#### **Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services**

The applicable measures contributing towards FA5A are:

- M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services
- M2.3 - training of advisors

In terms of M2.1, during 2021, no further commitments were made to the €0.5 million committed in 2020 to AgriConnect for the provision of Farm Advisory Services to local farmers in their role as an officially recognised advisor by the Farm Advisory Services Registration Board (FASRB) as per Articles 5 & 6 of L.N. 99 of 2019. AgriConnect is the only beneficiary under M2.1. The provision and implementation of this

project is closely tied to AECM beneficiaries' advisory obligations. The operation itself related to relates to PA4 and therefore the committed budget of €0.5 million would not be registered under FA5A.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2021.

#### **Measure 4: Investment in physical assets**

The applicable sub-measures are:

- M4.1 – support for investment in agricultural holdings
- M4.3 - support for investment in infrastructure related to development, modernisation, or adaptation of agriculture and forestry.

As mentioned, M4.1's approved financial allocation in the RDP contributes towards FA2A, 2B, 3A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D. M4.3 contributes to FA2A, FA4A and FA4C.

By the end of 2021, 24 operations were being implemented under this Measure that contribute towards FA5A. These projects were all committed up to 2020 and no new commitments were made in 2021, also because the Measure under this FA was fully committed by 2020. Progress was registered in terms of realised amounts to nearly €0.7 million in 2021 leading to a total cumulative amount to circa €1.3 million.

The integration of transitional funds in the RDP led to an allocation of €24 million for sub-measure 4.3 with a contribution towards FA5A. Under this FA, this amendment provides for further investment in the distribution of treated water to farmers whereby the additional support is envisaged to lead to a wider distribution system which reaches more farmers and covers more agricultural land. In 2021, no further calls were issued as the budget was overcommitted. However, with the new allocation, the uptake is now at 52%. In this regard, the MA is planning to launch new calls during 2022 to progress towards the implementation of additional operations under this FA and ensuring timely absorption. Considerable progress was made in relation to realised payment for which in 2021, circa €3.8 million were reported, bring the cumulative amount realised to nearly €21.5 million. The project focused on water management through the supply of highly polished tertiary treated water for agricultural use.

#### **Measure 16: Co-operation**

The applicable sub measure contributing towards FA5A is:

- M16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies;

None of the M16.2 approved projects contribute directly to FA5A. Hence no progress was recorded under this sub-measure.

#### **Target Indicator**

The applicable target indicator for this FA is % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system and is set at 12.51% (T14). The operations contributing towards this indicator are primarily projects under M4.1 and M4.3. Given that none of the operations approved under M4.1, contributing towards this

indicator, have been completed, the value of the indicator is nil. Also, while there has been considerable progress in the implementation of M4.3, the project on the distribution of treated water is still under progress.

## **Priority 5 - Focus Area 5B**

### **List of measures**

The measure contributing towards Focus Area 5B are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M04 – Investment in physical assets

### **Progress achieved**

#### **Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information actions**

The applicable sub-measures are:

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

No new commitments were registered for M1 across the three sub measures, since no new calls for projects were issued. For the vocational training project approved in 2019 which is being led by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), limited progress was registered with realised amounts reaching only circa €3,000. Given that this is a vocational training project it was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout 2021, a total of 104 participants (including repeat participants) attended one or more of the six courses organised by MCAST as part of this project. These training courses are linked to specific knowledge areas as identified in the AECMs of the RDP. The project contributes directly towards FA1A and FA1C and concurrently it also contributes towards P4. Currently, no contribution can be recorded under P5.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2021.

#### **Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services**

The applicable sub-measures are:

- M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services; and
- M2.3 - support for training of advisors

Similar to other sub-measures those falling under M02 contribute to various Focus Areas and therefore the categorisation as to which FA operations fall under is carried out following award. This means that while in 2020 a call under M2.1 led to the contracting of a recognised FAS through AgriConnect FAS, this was not

captured under FA5B as relevant progress.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2021.

#### **Measure 4: Investment in physical assets**

The relevant sub measure for this FA is:

- M4.1 – support for investment in agricultural holdings

Overall, whilst M4.1 registered positive progress across the RDP, and is one of the sub-measures with the highest uptake and budget, these operations did not directly contribute to FA5B and hence no progress was registered in 2021.

#### **Target Indicator**

The result indicator (T15) on the total investment in energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B) is currently nil, primarily as a result of the reporting structures which require the allocation of the commitments towards the FA where the pre-dominant allocation is contributing to. As a result, while Measure 4.1 has been programmed under this focus area, most of the applications are primarily contributing towards Focus Areas 2A.

#### **Priority 5 – Focus Area 5C**

##### **List of measures**

The measure contributing towards Focus Area 5C is:

- M04 – Investment in physical assets
- M16 – Co-operation

##### **Progress achieved**

#### **Measure 4 – Investment in physical assets**

The -measures under M04 contributing towards FA5C is:

- M4.1 – support for investment in agricultural holdings

During 2021, M4.1 registered progress under P2 and P3 with 33 new operations being approved leading to a commitment value for 2021 of €3.2 million and a realised amount of €3.5 million for the same year. However, following the process of allocating these operations in line with the pre-dominant allocation results no new uptake of M4.1 under FA5C for the year ending 2021.

No progress has been registered in terms of realised payments and the uptake of the Measure remains only at 1%.

## **Measure 16- Co-operation**

The relevant sub-measure contributing towards FA5C is:

- M16.2 - Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

In 2021, a project which was approved in relation to calls issued in 2020 contributed towards FA5C. It had a commitment value of nearly €3 million. A project led by the Farmers Central Co-Operative Society Ltd focusing on recovering value from pig and cow slurry to promote environmental synergies (SYNECO). While no realised expenditure has been affected, the implementation of projects under this measure is progressing well.

### **Target Indicator**

Given that no progress has been registered in terms of realised payments under M4.1 in relation to FA5C, the target indicator linked to FA5C (T16) total investment in renewable energy production (€) remained unchanged from the value of €15,706 reported for 2020. The value of investment in renewable energy production makes up 0.52% of the 2025 target value. It is to be noted that this does not necessarily imply that renewable energy components are not being undertaken as part of the investment undertaken by holdings, but rather, renewable energy expenditure may not be constituting the largest investment component and thus expenditure is captured under other focus areas.

## **Priority 5 – Focus Area 5D**

The measures applicable under FA5D are:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions
- M02 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- M04 – Investment in physical assets

### **Progress achieved**

## **Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information actions**

Similar to FA5A and 5B, the sub-measures under M01 also contribute towards FA5D and are interlinked with FA1A contributions.

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

No new commitments were registered for M1 across the three sub measures, since no new calls for projects were issued. For the vocational training project approved in 2019 which is being led by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), limited progress was registered with realised amounts reaching only circa €3,000. Given that this is a vocational training project it was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout 2021, a total of 104 participants (including repeat participants) attended



one or more of the six courses organised by MCAST as part of this project. These training courses are linked to specific knowledge areas as identified in the AECMs of the RDP. The project contributes directly towards FA1A and FA1C and concurrently it also contributes towards P4. Currently, no contribution can be recorded under P5.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2021.

### **Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services**

The relevant sub measures that contribute towards FA5D are:

- M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services; and
- M2.3 - support for training of advisors

Similar to other sub-measures those falling under M02 contribute to various Focus Areas and therefore the categorisation as to which FA operations fall under is carried out following award. This means that while an operation is being implemented under M2.1 leading to the contracting of a recognised FAS through AgriConnect FAS, this was not captured under FA5D as relevant progress.

### **Measure 4: Investment in physical assets**

The relevant sub measure for this FA is:

- M4.1 – support for investment in agricultural holdings

During 2021, M4.1 registered progress under P2 and P3 with 33 new operations being approved leading to a commitment value for the year of €3.4 million. However, following the process of allocating these operations in line with the reporting structures according to their pre-dominant allocation results no new uptake of M4.1 under FA5D for the year ending 2021.

No progress has been registered in terms of realised payments as the operation approved in 2019 was completed in 2020. The uptake of the Measure remains only at 1%.

### **Target Indicators**

The result indicator (T17) on the % of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus areas 5D) is currently nil. Similarly, the result indicator (T18) on the % of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D) is also nil. This is due to the fact that most of the projects which are funded under Measure 4.1 are mainly contributing towards the restructuring and modernisation of holdings rather than primarily contributing towards Focus Area 5D.

### **Priority 5 – Focus Area 5E**

The list of measures contributing towards this FA are:

- M08 - Investment in forest areas development and improvement of the viability of forests
- M10 - Agri-Environment-Climate Measures

### **Measure 8: Investment in Forest Area Development and improvement of viability of forests**

The applicable sub-measure for FA5E is:

- M8.5 – Investments improving the resilience and environment value of forest ecosystems

50% of the financial allocation for this sub measure falls under this Focus Area (amounting to €1.75million). The rest of the allocation contributes to FA5E. As previously reported, from consultations carried out by the MA, it clearly emerges that Malta has difficulties in ensuring that this measure is successful, as a result of the limitations of Article 22 (1) of EU Regulation 1305/2013[1]. The regulatory restrictions that there are in place make it very difficult to have applications under this measure.

In the context of the challenges that M8.5 was facing, the MA proposed modification to this Measure which were encompassed in the revised programme approved in December 2021. As a result of the EURI and Transition Facility, the allocation of this Measure was increased substantially under both P4 and FA5E by circa €2.4 million under each FA. The scope of the measure was also widened to also capture integrated measures, allowing for the provision of support for afforestation operations (sub-measure 8.1), prevention and restoration activities (sub measure 8.4). An updated list of trees that could be supported was also widened, with the trees included are all native and indigineous trees and as recommended by the Environment and Resources Authority. The improvement of woodland and planting of new trees will assist Malta in meeting carbon sequestration goals. Following these revisions, the MA now plans to launch calls for projects in 2022.

[1] In the case of state-owned land, support may only be granted if the body managing such land is a private body or a municipality.

#### **Measure 10: Agri-Environment Climate Measures**

The applicable sub-measures contribute contributing to FA5E are:

- M10.1 – Agri-environment-climate measures
- M10.2 – Conservation of genetic resources

As done in previous years, in 2021 the MA launched M10.1 during the annual payment claim campaign which takes place in April and May, this campaign saw a total 540 beneficiaries were approved for support. The 2021uptake falling under FA5E adds up to a committed expenditure value of circa €1.7 million, out of which AECM 5 accounts for the largest portion of this allocation at more than €1.6 million.

<b>AECMs contributing towards FA5E</b>	<b>Ongoing Commitments 2021</b>	<b>Committed Amounts 2021</b>
<b>AECM 2: Measure for the maintenance of trees</b>	11	€ 2,300.41
<b>AECM 4: Measure for the implementation of an integrated pest management plan targeting vineyards and orchards</b>	19	€61,290.10
<b>AECM 5: Measure for the implementation of soil management and conservation plan on a holding</b>	510	€1,616,716.58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>€1,680,307.09</b>

In terms of realised expenditure under M10.1 allocated to FA5E, 2021 saw realised payments totalling €1.7 million, with the cumulative realised expenditure being captured as at 2021 at more than €4.5 million. Progress registered was on the same lines as the achievements obtained in 2020.

In the case of M10.2, the MA launched a call for applications at the end of 2019 which closed in February of 2020, this call led to two successful operations being contracted, with a combined committed expenditure of approximately €1.04 million. However, the committed contribution of these operations was noted under that of PA4 and hence there is no progress to report on under PA5E.

### **Target Indicator**

The target indicator for this FA is (T19) % of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E), where the achievement is set at 8.89%, thereby exceeding the target set for 2025 which stands at 5.31%.

### **Priority 6 – Focus Area 6A**

#### **List of measures**

The list of measures contributing towards Focus Area 6A are:

- M06 – Farm and Business Development
- M16 – Co-operation

#### **Progress achieved**

#### **Measure 6: Farm and Business Development**

The applicable sub-measure is:

- M6.4 - Support for investment in creation and development of non-agricultural activities

The 6 projects that were committed in 2020 registered good implementation progress in 2021 and out of the circa €0.65 that were committed, realised amounts were reported at circa €0.28 million (at 42% of the committed amounts). Projects are being implemented by individual farmers and most of the diversified investment was directed towards the leisure and tourism.

This Measure under FA6A benefitted from an additional allocation following the incorporation of the transitional and EURI funds in the programme. The total allocation now reached circa €3.3 million from the original allocation of circa €1.4 million as a result of a shift of funds from M6.4 under FA2A. Based on the new allocation the uptake of the Measure under this FA stands at 20%. In this light, the MA is planning new calls for this Measure to secure timely commitment of the funds.

#### **Measure 16: Co-operation measures**

The relevant sub-measure contributing to FA6A is:

- M16.2 - Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

None of the M16.2 project are committed to FA6A, due to their pre-dominant allocation being counted under other Priority Areas, namely P3 and P4.

### **Target Indicator**

By the end of 2021, the result T20: Nr of jobs created through supported projects stood at nil. With the good progress registered in the projects under Measure 6.4, this indicator is expected to register progress in the upcoming years.

### **Priority 6 – Focus Area 6B**

The relevant measures contributing towards this FA are:

- M16 – Co-operation
- M19 – Support for LEADER Local Development (CLLD)

### **Progress Achieved**

#### **Measure 16: Co-operation**

The relevant sub-measure contributing towards this FA is:

- M16.2 - Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies.

As was the case of FA6A, the three projects contracted, none were committed to FA6B, due to their pre-dominant allocation being counted under other Priority Areas, namely P3 and P4.

#### **Measure 19 - Support for LEADER Local Development (CLLD)**

All sub-measures falling under M19 directly contribute towards this FA:

- M19.1 - Preparatory support
- M19.2 - Implementation of operations under the CLLD Strategy
- M19.3 - Preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the Local Action Group
- M19.4 - Running costs and animation

In 2021, the MA in collaborations with the three Local Action Groups (LAGs) in charge of implementing the LEADER programme in their region registered positive progress in implementing M19. The most notable development in 2021 was recorded under M19.2 as 75 operations were selected, resulting in a committed expenditure for the year of more than €2 million which amounted to a cumulative amount of €4.3 million commitments for the sub-measure. This sub-measure and sub-measure 19.1 under FA6B benefitted from an additional allocation following the incorporation of the transitional and EURI funds in the programme. The total allocation for M19.2 now reached circa €6.6 million from the original allocation of circa €4.4 million. Based on the new allocation the uptake of the Measure under this FA stands at 65%. In

this light, the MA together with the LAGs is planning new calls for this Measure to secure timely commitment of the funds. For the other M19 sub-measures no commitments were registered during 2021.

In the case of M19.1, the revised budget is of circa €0.87 million registering an increase of 46%. As a result of the new allocation the uptake by 2021 was of 42%.

In terms of realised expenditure under M19.2, a considerable amount of circa €1.2 million was reported bringing the total realised amount to circa €1.7 million. M19.3 and M19.4 also registered progress in relation to realised expenditure of €29,421.49 and €240,593.78 respectively.

During 2021, the following applications were received and approved:

<b>Majjstral Action Group Foundation</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Measure 1 - Restoration of Assets Of Artistic and Cultural Value	13	12
Measure 2 - Strengthening a Healthy Cultural Identity	11	9
Measure 3 - Promotion of the Cultural Heritage	4	3
Measure 4 - Development of Green Infrastructure	14	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>36</b>

<b>Gozo Local Action Group</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Measure 4 - GAG4 - Rejuvenating Gozo' (Second Call)	6	5

<b>Xlokk Local Action Group</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Measure 1 - Restoration of assets of artistic & cultural value	15	13
Measure 2 - Strengthening a healthy cultural identity	15	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>

**Target indicators**

As at the end of 2021, the target values for the target indicators linked to M19 were as follows:

- (T21) % of rural population covered by local development strategies - The achievement is set at 105.75%. This achievement is the result of the current total population covered by the LAG strategies (as published in strategies) amounting to 283,284 which is 15% higher than the established target in the programme of 268,733. The increase in the population coverage is due to the fact that Malta has experienced an increase in population over the last few years which has also been experienced in rural areas.
- (T23) No of jobs created in supported projects - The achievement by the end of 2021 amounts to 2.5 full time equivalent jobs.

### **Priority 6 – Focus Area 6C**

The relevant measure contributing towards this Focus Area is:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions

### **Progress Achieved**

#### **Measure 1: Knowledge transfer and information actions**

Similar to P4 and P5, the sub-measures under M01 all contribute towards FA6C and are interlinked with FA1A contributions.

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and
- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits.

No new commitments were registered for M1 across the three sub measures, since no new calls for projects were issued. For the vocational training project approved in 2019 which is being led by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), limited progress was registered with realised amounts reaching only circa €3,000. Given that this is a vocational training project it was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout 2021, a total of 104 participants (including repeat participants) attended one or more of the six courses organised by MCAST as part of this project. These training courses are linked to specific knowledge areas as identified in the AECMs of the RDP. The project contributes directly towards FA1A and FA1C and concurrently it also contributes towards P4. Currently, no contribution can be recorded under P6.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2021.

### **Target Indicator**

The target value for the indicator (T24) (which is a programme specific target indicator) on the % of the total public expenditure (M1.1 to M1.3) allocated for ICT actions/interventions (%) was nil as at end of 2021 since realised expenditure under Measure 1 has not been directed towards this Focus Area as yet.

**Upon validation of the AIR on the SFC the following validation warning were raised:**

1. Warning 255:

For T9, the value submitted in 2019 in Table D took into consideration the AEMs (from the previous programme). From 2020 onwards, it was agreed that this will not be taken into account in the calculations. If AEMS (716.53 hectares) are to be included together with the values derived in 2021 (based on max hectares), the value of the indicator would increase beyond 15.5% to 19.79%.

For T10, the value submitted in the AIR in 2020 amounted to 4.12% which is lower than the 2019 value of 4.57%. In 2019, AECM6 was also being captured in the derivation of the target value. From 2020 onwards, it was agreed that AEMs will not be taken into account in the calculations. In fact the value was revised to 4.12% both for 2020 and 2021.

2. Warning 270:

The Managing Authority has registered an over-achievement in the total area under management contracts, resulting in such warning.

**1.d) Key information on achievements towards the milestones set in the performance Framework based on Table F**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2017, 2018 only

**1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional]**

Not applicable.

**1.f) Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies**

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3), article 111(4)(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)







**1.g) Currency rate used for conversion AIR (non EUR countries)**

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## **2. THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLAN.**

### **2.a) Description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justification**

No modifications were made to the Evaluation Plan as defined in Chapter 9 of the RDP.

### **2.b) A description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year (in relation to section 3 of the evaluation plan)**

The Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the year ending 31st December 2020 was submitted to the European Commission in June 2021. This report presented the results emerging from the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities carried out during 2020, thereby allowing the MA to assess progress in the RDP implementation.

As part of the evaluation, in early 2022, a series of interviews were held with the MA, selected beneficiaries across several RDP measures and other stakeholders to assess the implementation progress of the measures, mainly in 2021. The discussion focused on the monitoring progress and challenges experienced throughout the implementation process.

Specific to these measures, the following M&E activities were undertaken:

- Measure 1.1: In view of the restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19, the training provided under this measure was largely stalled. However, the courses resumed face-to-face once again in September 2021. As a result, the questionnaires prepared for participants on the training courses could continue to be redistributed. In essence, the questionnaires seek to collect data on the effectiveness of the training and the application of skills.
- Measure 2.1: There is one advisory services provider under this measure and in early 2022, a meeting was held with AgriConnect to understand the advisory services provided through the measure and the progress registered. The discussion focused mainly on the year 2021 to understand the impact on the implementation of measure 2.1 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The discussion addressed the work being done by AgriConnect and the support being given to farmers, their implementation and monitoring progress as well as challenges faced.
- Measure 4.1: In early 2022 a meeting was held with the MA specifically on M4.1. The evaluators together with the MA discussed the progress and challenges experienced in the implementation of this measure during the year 2021. Most of the challenges were related to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions which led to a number of change requests.
- Measure 4.3: Interviews were conducted with the Managing Authority and with the main beneficiaries of this measure who are currently managing relatively larger projects for the distribution of treated water and the development of rural roads. The discussion focused on data collection, challenges experienced and implementation status. The roads project is near completion whilst the water project is still work in progress as some tasks registered delays.
- Measure 4.4: In view of the progress recorded in the implementation of this measure, a thematic evaluation focusing on soil is being undertaken. An overview of the evaluation approach adopted in the Thematic Evaluation is described hereunder.
- Measure 10.1: Interviews were carried out with key stakeholders as part of the thematic evaluation

described hereunder.

- **Measure 19:** A meeting was held with the three LAGs to provide an overview of the progress in the implementation of the respective strategies and the monitoring and evaluation arrangements adopted by LAGs. Specifically the discussion focused on the progress which has been undertaken over the last year in terms of collection of data, meetings with applicants, ongoing meetings with beneficiaries and challenges experienced.

Furthermore, an update of the comprehensive set of indicators and questionnaire that were developed in 2020 was updated by each individual LAG. The indicators template includes data on the calls issued by the LAGs, on common and specific indicators and the meetings held by LAGs with beneficiaries of LEADER, while the questionnaire template was prepared to gauge the impact of the LEADER measure.

As indicated above, a key evaluation activity that was undertaken during 2021 is the Thematic Evaluation on Soil Management. The evaluation has been designed in line with the ‘Guidelines on the Assessment of RDP Results: How to prepare for reporting on evaluation in 2017’ issued by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development. As advocated by the European Evaluation Helpdesk, the evaluation consists of a mixed-methods approach which ensures appropriate triangulation of different data sources. More specifically, the evaluation design consists of the following elements:

- **Overview of the Rural Development Programme instruments and measures related to soil quality and management:** This Thematic Evaluation focuses on Focus Area (FA) 4C of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Malta which is concerned with the prevention of soil erosion and the improvement in soil management. This FA is mainly addressed through Measures 4.4 (support for non-productive investment linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives) and 10.1 (payment for agri-environment commitments) of the RDP, with the bulk of the programme budget being allocated towards Measure 4.4.
- **An overview of the soils in Malta:** A detailed description of the different soils in Malta is provided to understand the soil parameters. This section is mostly based on published literature and databases.
- **Data from the Managing Authority and ARPA on contract status for AECMs:** To compute the output and result indicators, information related to beneficiaries was obtained from the Managing Authority (MA) and the Paying Agency (ARPA). This data was used and compared to national statistics to estimate the relevant indicators. It is noted that although GIS data was requested for the Evaluation, this was not provided by the time of writing both the Evaluation and this Report.
- **GIS representation and analysis of rubble wall data:** To compute context indicators on soil erosion Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data was requested. ARPA was requested to provide the evaluators with the shape file of all the rubble walls funded under Measure 4.4. Since LPIS GIS data was not made available, the identification of parcels benefitting from restored rubble walls were plotted manually for Gozo.

Soil Organic Matter (SOM) data was also obtained from ARPA. The information gathered from beneficiaries under measure 10.1, specifically AECM 5, relates to measured SOM annually over a 5-year period. Data was obtained as an excel file; although shape file GIS data was requested this was not made available at the time of writing the Thematic Evaluation and this Report. While the former was used to estimate SOM values and annual average values, the GIS data was intended to be used to spatially represent

the SOM figures in Malta and Gozo.

- **Analysis of field data for Soil Organic Matter:** The evaluation of Soil Organic Matter was assessed by descriptive statistics and geostatistical analysis. Using Soil Organic Matter (SOM%) as a marker of soil recovery, the descriptive statistics assessment was carried out through the calculation of average and trends of SOM% from 2018 to 2020 on the parcels that benefitted from SOM. Moreover, with the land use cultivations information (arable land, tree planting, etc) it was possible to evaluate the differences of SOM content on parcels before and after implementation to demonstrate the improvements in soil quality. The latter information was not made available to date.

**Interviews with key beneficiaries and key stakeholders:** The evaluation also used qualitative data through several interviews with key beneficiaries and other stakeholders including the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency. Interviews were mainly held with beneficiaries under Measure 4.4 due to the large budget allocated to this measure.

## **2.c) A description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data (in relation to section 4 of the evaluation plan)**

In 2021, several meetings were held to discuss the data required by measures, based on the experience acquired during the 2020 AIR. These meetings were held with the Managing Authority, ABACO, the database system administrators, and ARPA which collects data from beneficiaries for payment purposes.

The main objective of the meetings held by the evaluators was to discuss the data requirements, comprehend the variables available by measures and therefore, have a better understanding of the data being collected, by whom and in which database, especially given that different data formats exist depending on the reporting requirements. This continued to serve as an exercise to identify data gaps and to ensure that the required data is attained in the format necessary for evaluation purposes. Every year, the evaluators and the MA commence with a series of meetings to go over the data collected, and the work done in the previous year and analyse what reports and data should remain the same and what needs to be improved to allow better monitoring and evaluation. The meetings with the MA serve to ensure consistency and reliability amongst the different databases and work produced. In cases of inconsistencies or doubts during the data analysis, meetings were held to better understand the data provided, discuss the accuracy of data, and correct the data as necessary.

With regards to LEADER, an open channel of communication was maintained with the three LAGs and data on the indicators of each LAG was requested. Specific meetings were organised with the LAGs for the evaluators to have an update on the progress in the implementation of the measures. To ensure data collection with respect to the LAGs progress, the two databases for data recording and a questionnaire that were prepared in 2020 were sent again to the LAGs to be updated and compiled with new data. One database was developed to assist the LAGs in keeping record of all the meetings they attend with potential beneficiaries including information on frequency and objective whilst the second database focuses on the collection of data for the indicators identified in the respective strategies and in the RDP. This database includes all the specific, result and output indicators and the LAGs are requested to provide all the data

available related to the listed indicators. This database was provided and adapted for each of the three existing LAGs. As for the questionnaire, this was prepared for the LAGs to disseminate amongst the LEADER beneficiaries to get information about the project, the contribution of the project towards the objectives of LEADER, the application process and any challenges encountered.

In relation to data provision and management of data, part of the 2021 yearly capacity building event in Malta organised by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the Rural Development, was on the planning of data management for evaluation with a focus on data quality and better use of databases like the FADN. In fact, the objectives of the 2021 yearly capacity event were to:

- Reflect on the current data management systems and identify points for improvement to be considered in the future Evaluation Plan of the CAP Strategic Plans.
- Better use FADN for evaluation by raise awareness on the use of FADN for evaluation amongst different evaluation stakeholders and reflect on action points for improvement.

The objective of the 2021 yearly event was to achieve a shared understanding among actors concerning the evaluation and draw lessons to improve data management with a focus on the FADN database to make better use of the database for evaluation.

This workshop has led to the following conclusions:

- The role of qualitative data should not be undermined in evaluations. The information which can be collected through interviews and approaches such as focus groups should not be underestimated.
- A forum such as a steering committee on evaluation should be developed to bring data stakeholders together. This is particularly important during the drafting of a Programme such as the CAP SP so that data gaps can be identified early with workable solutions development between the stakeholders.
- A common identifier between different databases is needed as it necessitates the merging of datasets and allows policy makers and evaluators to use all data available in a comprehensive manner.

**2.d) A list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line**

<b>Publisher /Editor</b>	Managing Authority
<b>Author(s)</b>	E-Cubed Consultants, EMCS Ltd, and Adi Associates
<b>Title</b>	Thematic Evaluation on Young Farmers
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>In 2020, a thematic evaluation focusing on the effectiveness and impact of Measure 6.1 - Business Start-up aid for young farmers (under 41 years), was carried out. With a budget of €4.3 million, this measure constitutes over 80% of the budget allocated under Focus Area 2B- Facilitating generational renewal in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>The implementation of M6.1 in Malta has registered very good progress, with 61 beneficiaries being supported under FA2B, reaching a committed expenditure of circa €4.2 million and realised expenditure at circa €3.3 million by 2019. The focus of the Evaluation is CEQ5 - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and in particular, generational renewal?</p> <p>The evaluation is designed in line with the ‘Guidelines on the Assessment of RDP Results and consists of a mixed-methods approach which ensures appropriate triangulation of different data sources.</p> <p>The study was published in 2021.</p>
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation/RDP%202014-2020/Thematic%20Evaluation_YF%20Final_20210720.pdf">https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation/RDP%202014-2020/Thematic%20Evaluation_YF%20Final_20210720.pdf</a>

<b>Publisher/Editor</b>	Managing Authority
<b>Author(s)</b>	Adi Associates, E-Cubed Consultants and EMCS Ltd
<b>Title</b>	Thematic Evaluation on Soil
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>In 2021, a thematic evaluation focusing on soil management was carried out covering the CEQ - <i>To what extent have RDP interventions supported the prevention of soil erosion and improvement of soil management?</i></p> <p>This Evaluation is related to FA4C of the RDP for Malta which focuses on the prevention of soil erosion and the improvement in soil management. This FA is mainly addressed through Measures 4.4 and 10.1, covering a budget of €17.1 million and €5 million respectively.</p> <p>The evaluation has been designed in line with the ‘Guidelines on the Assessment of RDP Results and consisted of a mixed-methods approach which ensures appropriate triangulation of different data sources.</p>



	<b>The study started in 2021 and the initial results were ready by the end of 2021. The first draft of the Thematic Evaluation was submitted beginning 2022 but has not been published as at the end of the AIR period. The Thematic Evaluation is expected to be published in Q3 2022.</b>
<b>URL</b>	tbc

## 2.e) A summary of completed evaluations, focussing on evaluation findings

Please summarize the findings from evaluations completed in 2020, per CAP objective (or RDP priority, where appropriate).

Report on positive or negative effects/impacts (including the supporting evidence). Please don't forget to mention the source of the findings.

The Annual Implementation Report submitted in June 2021 covering the year ending 31st December 2020 provided a detailed account of the progress in the implementation of the Rural Development Programme. Whilst, considerable progress was registered in a number of measures, the implementation of the RDP measures slowed because of COVID-19 measures which restricted a lot of activities and therefore interfered with the progress of the RDP implementation. For instance, the implementation of Measure 1 was interrupted, and the courses provided by MCAST had to be temporary postponed.

Regardless of the difficulties encountered in the implementation or progress of certain measures, 2020 was characterised by considerable progress across a number of measures, the launch of specific measures, preparations for the launch of additional measures, adjudication of a number of projects and raising awareness with the various stakeholders.

The evaluation of progress carried out in the AIR for 2020 pointed towards good progress in sub-measures 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, and 6.1. The land-based measures, covering agri-environment measures, organic farming and areas facing natural constraints registered considerable uptake. Considerable progress was also registered in the implementation of Local Development Strategies by the three Local Action Groups supported under the RDP under M19.

While the Thematic Evaluation on Soil Management was not submitted by the end of 2021, some preliminary findings from the evaluation are the following:

- The focus of the evaluation was on measures 4.4 and 10.1. The uptake of both measures registered very good progress with the allocated budgets for both measures being exceeded. The target of 3% of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion was exceeded and the indicator as at the end of 2021 was estimated at 12.6%. The indicator is very close to the EU target of 14.3%[1]. The success of the measure is attributed to the uptake of AECM 5.
- In terms of soil erosion and soil organic matter, data obtained from ARPA and the Managing Authority was used to assess the impact on the programme. The data shows that 171,960 linear metres of walls were funded (of which 78,645 m were in Gozo and 93,315 m in Malta). It was further estimated that the area of soil protected by the rubble walls in Malta and Gozo is 8,104,499 m<sup>2</sup>. Assuming that the UAA is 10,730 ha (or 107,300,000 m<sup>2</sup>) then the area of soil protected by rubble walls in the RDP is 7.55% of the UAA.
- In terms of soil erosion, it was estimated that the average annual soil loss for those parcels that benefitted under measure 4.4 is substantially reduced because of the rubble walls. It was estimated that there is a 66% reduction in soil loss due to the rubble walls. This estimate can be further refined when GIS data of land parcels is made available.
- With regards to soil organic matter the data obtained from the beneficiaries of AECM 5 was collected and analysed for the years 2018 to 2020 (the years where SOM data was collected). The

evaluation showed that there has been a substantial increase (over 50%) in SOM between 2013 and 2018. Furthermore, when the AECM was launched in 2018 the average SOM has also increased by about 11% over the two years on those parcels that implemented AECM5.

AIR 2020 available at:

[https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation/RDP%202014-2020/Annual%20Implementation%20reports/Implementation%20report\\_2014MT06RDNP001\\_2020\\_2\\_en.pdf](https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation/RDP%202014-2020/Annual%20Implementation%20reports/Implementation%20report_2014MT06RDNP001_2020_2_en.pdf)

[1] PowerPoint Presentation (europa.eu)

**2.f) A description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)**

Reference shall be made to the evaluation plan, any difficulties encountered in implementation shall be described, together with solutions adopted or proposed.

<b>Date / Period</b>	01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021
<b>Title of communication activity/event &amp; topic of evaluation findings discussed / disseminated</b>	Annual Implementation Report Malta - Rural Development Programme (National)
<b>Overall organiser of activity/event</b>	Managing Authority
<b>Information</b>	Available Online

<b>channels/ format used</b>	
<b>Type of target audience</b>	Agricultural and rural stakeholders as well as general public
<b>Approximate number of stakeholders reached</b>	179
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation/RDP%202014-2020/Annual%20Implementation%20reports/Implementation%20report_2014MT06RDNP001_2020_2_en.pdf">https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation/RDP%202014-2020/Annual%20Implementation%20reports/Implementation%20report_2014MT06RDNP001_2020_2_en.pdf</a>

<b>Date Period</b>	/ 27/09/2021
<b>Title of communication activity/event &amp; topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated</b>	EvaluationWorks! - Data Management for Evaluation
<b>Overall organiser of activity/ event</b>	European Evaluation Helpdesk/Managing Authority
<b>Information channels/ format used</b>	Presentations
<b>Type of</b>	Managing Authority, Evaluators, Data-providers, Paying Agency

<b>target audience</b>	
<b>Approximate number of stakeholders reached</b>	19
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Pages/Past%20Events/27th-September-2021-%E2%80%93-Evaluation--Works-Seminar-.aspx">https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Pages/Past%20Events/27th-September-2021-%E2%80%93-Evaluation--Works-Seminar-.aspx</a>

<b>Date / Period</b>	17/09/2021
<b>Title of communication activity/event &amp; topic of evaluation findings discussed / disseminated</b>	Thematic Evaluation on Young Farmers - The results of the study were presented to the members of the National Rural Network
<b>Overall organiser of activity/event</b>	National Rural Network
<b>Information channels/format used</b>	Online meeting
<b>Type of target audience</b>	Agricultural and rural stakeholders as well as general public
<b>Approximate number of stakeholders reached</b>	179

<b>mate number of stakehol ders reached</b>	
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation/RDP%202014-2020/Thematic%20Evaluation_YF%20Final_20210720.pdf">https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation/RDP%202014-2020/Thematic%20Evaluation_YF%20Final_20210720.pdf</a>

**2.g) Description of the follow-up given to evaluation results (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)**

Reference shall be made to the evaluation plan, any difficulties encountered in implementation shall be described, together with solutions adopted or proposed.

<p><b>Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding &amp; mention source in brackets)</b></p>	<p>In the thematic evaluation on young farmers, one of the recommendations made in the report is for the measure to be extended and supported further through the provision of transitional funds. This is due to the effectiveness of the measures towards Focus Area 2B and the strong take up of the measure.</p>
<p><b>Follow-up carried out</b></p>	<p>The MA together with other relevant authorities have discussed the results and the possibility of extending the measure further through the provision of transitional funds.</p>
<p><b>Responsible authority for follow-up</b></p>	<p>Managing authority</p>

### **3. ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN**

#### **3.a) Description of steps taken to ensure quality and effectiveness of programme implementation**

##### **Consultation with public and private entities**

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, during 2021 consultation sessions were largely limited to online meetings, these included meetings held with critical stakeholders from both private and public entities, such as the Agricultural, Rural and Paying Agency (ARPA), and Environment and Resources Authority (ERA).

##### **Monitoring Committee meetings**

One Monitoring Committee (MC) meeting was held during the course of 2021. It was held on 17 December 2021 and was held virtually. This marked the seventh MC for the Rural Development Programme for Malta (2014-2020). The meeting primarily revolved around:

- Update on the implementation of the RDP, covering also forecasts of N+3 and Performance Framework Milestones
- Update on the financial execution of the RDP
- Provision of information on the ongoing evaluation of the RDP
- Update on the ongoing work in preparation for the 2023-2027 Programming Period.

##### **Technical Meeting**

On 10 December 2021, the Managing Authority held a meeting with representatives from DG AGRI, during which, discussions were held concerning the progress in implementation of the RDP.

##### **Annual Review Meeting (ARM)**

The ARM meeting for 2020 was held on 25 March 2021.

##### **Programme Modifications**

During 2021, the MA proceeded with the submission of the fifth modification of the RDP. This was considered as a strategic modification and took into account the (under Article 11(a)(i) (First subparagraph of Article 4(2) of R.808/2014)):

- Transitional arrangement and funding for the RDP (€66.3 million (Public)million); and
- EU Recovery Instrument (EURI) funding allocation for Malta (€8.8 million).

The amendment provided for:

- The programming of the measures for transitional funding and the EURI for 2021 and 2022.
- Additional modifications to the Programme in terms of budgetary shifts across the measures and



focus areas.

- Adjustments to the financial plans and the respective indicators due to aforementioned amendments.

The Commission adopted the proposed amendment on the 9 December 2021. Section 1.1 of the revised version of the RDP (6.1) provides a detailed account of the adopted changes.

### **Administrative Capacity Building**

During 2021, the MA like all organisations was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the disturbances this brought about. However, nonetheless MA officers were given opportunities to improve their skills and therefore contribute to growing the MA's capabilities.

Training and upskilling initiatives attended by MA officers is listed below:

- Public Management Toolkit course organised by the Institute of Public Services;
- EU Funds Management;
- RDP Evaluation Seminars; and
- European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development meetings, workshops, seminars, and training courses organised by the European Commission.

In terms of the European Evaluation Helpdesk, a specific session was held in Malta on the 27th September 2021. The aims of the session were to build capacity for improving data management with a focus on FADN and dealing with a changing context in monitoring and evaluation. The objective was to bridge the evaluation-related capacities of the current programming period with a view on the next one. The session was attended by a number of stakeholders, including the Managing Authority, the ARPA evaluators, data providers. In the specific the agenda focused on data quality, indicators, and future evaluations, including contextual change.

### **Project Selection Committee**

During the year under review, the project selection committee continued the evaluation of RDP applications received under calls issued during the previous year.

### **Calls for Projects**

No calls for projects were launched during 2021 as most of the RDP measures (and budgets) were committed. In the specific case of M1, no calls were issued due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The implementation of these measures requires human interaction and therefore it is challenging to implement during this period. In this regard, no corresponding calls were launched. Resorting to an online option was not considered feasible. This was tested during 2020, where the MA had attempted to deliver courses under M1.1 via remote learning tools however the MA found that this was not possible for the target group.

In terms M8.5, as previously reported, from consultations carried out by the MA, it clearly emerges that Malta has difficulties in ensuring that this measure is successful, as a result of the limitations of Article 22 (1) of EU Regulation 1305/2013. The MA has tried pre-launching this sub-measure in Q2 of 2019 with the

aim to support afforestation initiatives. However, the regulatory restrictions that there are in place make it very difficult to have applications under this measure. In the context of the challenges that M8.5 was facing, the MA proposed modification to this Measure which were encompassed in the revised programme approved in December 2021.

### Information Sessions

Following a pre-announcement of new calls, it was announced that information session/s covering multiple calls would be held in early 2022.

### 3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms

#### Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) <sup>1</sup>, proxy automatically calculated

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD + EURI]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation <sup>2</sup>	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative <sup>3</sup> )
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	149,263,879.00	20.84	11.70

<sup>1</sup> Simplified Cost Options shall be intended as unit cost/flat rates/lumps sums CPR Article 67(5) including the EAFRD specific methods under point (e) of that article such as business start-up lump sums, flat rate payments to producers organisations and area and animal related unit costs.

<sup>2</sup> Automatically calculated from programme version's measures 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

<sup>3</sup> Automatically calculated from declarations of expenditure's measures 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

#### Simplified Cost Options (SCOs), based on specific detailed MS data [optional]

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD + EURI]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative)
Total CPR Article 67(1)(b)(c)(d) + 67(5)(e)	149,263,879.00		
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	149,263,879.00		

#### E-management for beneficiaries [optional]

	[%] EAFRD + EURI funding	[%] Operations concerned
Application for support		
Payment claims		
Controls and compliance		
Monitoring and reporting to the MA/PA		

#### Average time limits for beneficiaries to receive payments [optional]

[Days] Where applicable, MS deadline for payments to beneficiaries	[Days] Average time for payments to beneficiaries	Comments

## **4. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME PUBLICITY REQUIREMENTS**

### **4.a) Action taken and state of play as regards the establishment of the NRN and the implementation of its action plan**

4.a1) Actions taken and state of play as regards establishment of the NRN (governance structure and network support unit)

The Managing Authority (MA) within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is responsible for all the activities of the network. The NRN is made up of several members representing a wide range of stakeholders, including Local Action Groups (LAGs), NGOs and public entities. . Representatives from these organisations are all invited to participate in the thematic activities of the Network and discussions.

Building on actions undertaken in previous years, in 2021 the Network Support Unit (NSU) and National Rural Network Committee (NRNC) continued to support the MA in the effective and efficient implementation of the Rural Development Programme.

During the year under review, the NRN met online on 17 September 2021. The focus of the discussion was on the:

- Thematic Evaluation on Young Farmers;
- M16 project directed towards recovering from pig and cow slurry to promote environmental synergies
- Overview of the services offered by the Farm Advisory Services.

The NSU has also kept in contact with the rest of the NRN committee through regular email updates. In September the NSU encouraged its members to take part in the Public Consultation on the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas

In 2021 the NSU has also attended online meetings and workshops with ENRD and other organisations on a regular basis.

4.a2) Actions taken and state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan

In line with Article 54(2) of Regulation No. 1305/2013, the NRN Terms of References, the National Rural Network groups the local organisations and administrations involved in rural development in an effort to:

- increase the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Rural Development Programme;
- improve the quality of implementation of the Rural Development Programme;
- inform the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities; and
- foster innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas.

These four priorities of the NRN were undertaken in 2021 via the following tools.

## **MA Website**

The MA manages the following two websites:

- [www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt](http://www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt)
- [www.eufunds.gov.mt](http://www.eufunds.gov.mt)

These websites run by the MA provide the public with information and guidance in their mission to manage to highest standards EU and other funds to achieve the best results, this includes guidance and support as it relates to the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

In 2021, these two websites were the MA's means of communication with its stakeholders, providing information on newsletters, events, circulars, guidance notes, contact points and other useful resources. These websites are revised regularly by the MA as to ensure that the information available was updated and still relevant.

## **NRN Information Sessions**

Following a pre-announcement of new calls, it was announced that information sessions would be held.

## **NRN Newsletter**

In 2021, two new NRN newsletters were issued covering the 21st and 22nd editions . The former was issued in May and the latter in August.

The newsletter issued in May focused on the Thematic Evaluation on Young Farmers. It gave an overview of the evaluation undertaken, including:

- background on the agricultural sector, including young farmers in Malta;
- general information on Measure 6.1, which is dedicated to young farmers;
- challenges faced by young farmers; and
- key evaluation findings.

In addition, this newsletter also covered a specific investment supported under Measure 4.1. Information on corbelled stone structures of the Maltese Islands was also provided.

The August newsletter put the spotlight on:

- SYNECO Project which is a project directed towards recovering value from pig and cow slurry to promote environmental synergies;
- Farm Advisory Services provided by AgriConnect; and

ACT Malta – an NGO set-up in 2018 which carried out a workshop called “Itmanna” in the beginning of June to show participants how to grow their own fruits and vegetables as well as learning about local trees and shrubs.

#### **4.b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014)**

In line with its EAFRD Communication Strategy 2014-2020, the Managing Authority implemented a number of actions in order to ensure that sufficient information is made available both to potential beneficiaries as well as the general public. The measures undertaken include:

##### **Adverts on local newspapers**

Newspaper adverts were issued on all national Sunday newspapers and on the government gazette. Adverts are published on newspapers that are printed in English and in Maltese.

##### **Information Sessions**

Following a pre-announcement of new calls, it was announced that information sessions would be held.

##### **EU Funds Websites**

The Managing Authority of EAFRD continued to promote the websites covering all the funds falling under its remit – [www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt](http://www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt) and [www.eufunds.gov.mt](http://www.eufunds.gov.mt). These websites bring together all the funds that the Funds and Programmes Division manages, and information provided includes: information on the different programmes, the calls for projects, regularly updated guidance notes for applicants for each call, block procedure timetable, access the past publications, newsletters, past events, publicity information, and links and downloads to useful information.

In comparison to previous years the MA was limited in its ability to carry out its traditional outreach events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

##### **Social Media**

RDP funds and projects are also publicised on social media networks, including facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/eufundsmalta>).

##### **RDP beneficiaries**

The EAFRD Visual Identity Guidelines published on the MA's website provide a detailed guide on the beneficiaries' obligations to ensure that all publicity and information actions are implemented to increase public awareness about EU funding.

## **5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2015, 2016 only

**6. DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PROGRAMMES**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

## **7. ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only



**8. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only



## **9. PROGRESS MADE IN ENSURING INTEGRATED APPROACH TO USE EAFRD AND OTHER UNION FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2018 only

**10. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

30A. Has the ex-ante assessment been started ?	No
30B. Has the ex-ante assessment been completed ?	No
30. Date of completion of ex-ante assessment	-
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched ?	No
13A. Has the funding agreement been signed ?	No
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	-

## **11. ENCODING TABLES FOR COMMON AND PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC INDICATORS AND QUANTIFIED TARGET VALUES**

See Monitoring Annex

## Annex II

Detailed table showing implementation level by Focus areas including output indicators

Focus Area 1A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
1A	T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	2014-2021					6.38
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 1B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
1B	T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	2014-2021			5.00	100.00	5.00
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 1C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
1C	T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2021			309.00	4.29	7,200.00
		2014-2020			205.00	2.85	
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 2A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
2A	T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	2014-2021	1.28	96.62	1.28	96.62	1.32
		2014-2020	1.03	77.75	1.03	77.75	
		2014-2019	0.52	39.25	0.52	39.25	
		2014-2018	0.44	33.21	0.38	28.68	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	32,382,030.13	90.34	21,787,026.11	60.78	35,845,094.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	32,382,030.13	90.85	21,787,026.11	61.12	35,645,094.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			31,060,894.82	60.73	51,142,039.00
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			7,709,724.03	59.40	12,978,427.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2021			161.00	96.99	166.00
M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			14,077,302.08	62.11	22,666,667.00

**Focus Area 2B**

FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
2B	T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)	2014-2021	0.49	64.63	0.49	64.63	0.76
		2014-2020	0.49	64.63	0.49	64.63	
		2014-2019	0.48	63.31	0.48	63.31	
		2014-2018	0.15	19.78	0.15	19.78	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
<b>2B</b>	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	4,340,000.00	56.91	3,612,000.00	47.36	7,626,264.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	1,519,194.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	10.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	4,340,000.00	65.10	3,612,000.00	54.18	6,666,667.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			3,612,000.00	46.59	7,751,938.00
M06.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			3,612,000.00	54.18	6,666,667.00
M06.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2021			62.00	65.26	95.00



Focus Area 3A								
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025	
3A	T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	2014-2021	0.02	1.47	0.01	0.73	1.36	
		2014-2020						
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	Nr of operations supported under M4.2 contributing to FA3A (M4.2) (operations)	2014-2021						25.00
		2014-2020			19.00	76.00		
		2014-2019			15.00	60.00		
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
3A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	6,939,717.78	80.65	2,397,080.07	27.86	8,604,879.34	
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	222,860.00	27.41	0.00	0.00	813,170.67	
M03.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2021			1.00	1.52	66.00	
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	6,313,880.78	88.10	2,397,080.07	33.45	7,166,708.67	
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			4,794,280.14	33.45	14,333,418.30	
M04.1 M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			26.00	50.00	52.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	402,977.00	64.48			625,000.00	
M16.4	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	2014-2021					105.00	

Priority P4								
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025	
P4	T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2021			12.28	412.21	2.98	
		2014-2020			12.28	412.21		
		2014-2019			7.46	250.42		
		2014-2018			5.45	182.94		
		2014-2017			2.00	67.14		
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2021				4.12	138.30	2.98
		2014-2020				4.12	138.30	
		2014-2019				4.57	153.41	
		2014-2018				4.12	138.30	
		2014-2017				2.00	67.14	
		2014-2016				1.32	44.31	
		2014-2015						
	T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	2014-2021				13.34	152.58	8.74
		2014-2020				15.50	177.28	
		2014-2019				15.50	177.28	
		2014-2018				13.48	154.18	
		2014-2017				9.62	110.03	
		2014-2016				9.78	111.86	
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
P4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	51,965,279.42	78.02	29,957,870.35	44.98	66,608,326.52	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	285,000.00	16.19	3,224.14	0.18	1,760,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021					1,440,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			309.00	10.73	2,880.00	
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	500,000.00	47.62	6,349.88	0.60	1,050,000.00	
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			62.00	9.84	630.00	
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	26,998,052.72	100.33	14,634,351.45	54.39	26,908,690.00	
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			18,292,939.31	51.55	35,487,379.00	

M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			198.00	97.54	203.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	5,670,599.91	45.16	3,224,820.71	25.68	12,556,079.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			510.13	76.01	671.10
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	14,077.97	1.39	9,471.20	0.93	1,016,000.00
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	240.00
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			2,039.12	2,265.69	90.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	15,755,907.74	101.63	12,079,652.97	77.92	15,502,714.00
M13.3	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			7,838.79	90.10	8,700.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	2,741,641.08	75.29			3,641,510.52

Focus Area 5A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5A	T14: percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A)	2014-2021			2.78	22.22	12.51
		2014-2020			2.73	21.82	
		2014-2019			0.73	5.84	
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	23,535,520.81	51.98	22,814,026.51	50.38	45,281,356.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			1,760,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021					1,440,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	2,880.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	222.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	23,535,520.81	54.83	22,814,026.51	53.15	42,921,356.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			26,524,584.74	53.72	49,378,388.00
M04	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			78.54	22.19	354.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			25.00	46.30	54.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			250,000.00

Focus Area 5B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5B	T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)	2014-2021					759,597.00
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,169,798.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			440,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021					360,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	720.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	379,798.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	5.00

### Focus Area 5C

FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5C	T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)	2014-2021	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
		2014-2020	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	
		2014-2019	1.00	0.00			
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	3,002,347.25	141.67	7,852.91	0.37	2,119,194.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	9,147.25	0.60	7,852.91	0.52	1,519,194.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			1.00	4.55	22.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	2,993,200.00	498.87			600,000.00

Focus Area 5D							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5D	T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	2014-2021			0.01	0.06	16.09
		2014-2020			0.01	0.06	
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5D	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	14,316.22	0.89	14,296.03	0.89	1,614,446.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			220,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021					180,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	360.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	14,316.22	1.37	14,296.03	1.37	1,044,446.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			28,590.06	1.37	2,088,891.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			2.00	13.33	15.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)	2014-2021			5.20	0.08	6,700.00

**Focus Area 5E**

FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5E	T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	2014-2021			8.89	167.42	5.31
		2014-2020			8.89	167.42	
		2014-2019			4.00	75.33	
		2014-2018			2.06	38.79	
		2014-2017			0.31	5.84	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5E	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	5,533,598.62	101.32	4,505,493.03	82.49	5,461,579.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	25.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	5,533,598.62	429.55	4,505,493.03	349.74	1,288,246.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			894.55	147.13	608.00



**Focus Area 6A**

FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
6A	T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	2014-2021					28.00
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	648,491.35	18.38	277,318.32	7.86	3,528,438.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	648,491.35	19.78	277,318.32	8.46	3,278,438.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			544,636.64	7.61	7,152,955.00
M06.2 M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2021			6.00	26.09	23.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			250,000.00

Focus Area 6B								
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025	
6B	T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	2014-2021			2.50	25.00	10.00	
		2014-2020			2.50	25.00		
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	2014-2021						0.00
		2014-2020						
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2021				105.38	105.42	99.97
		2014-2020				105.38	105.42	
		2014-2019				105.38	105.42	
		2014-2018				105.38	105.42	
		2014-2017				99.97	100.00	
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
6B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	6,354,572.29	65.22	2,785,294.76	28.59	9,743,333.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			250,000.00	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	6,354,572.29	66.94	2,785,294.76	29.34	9,493,333.00	
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2021			283,284.00	105.41	268,733.00	
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2021			3.00	100.00	3.00	
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			345,014.71	39.81	866,666.67	
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			1,665,462.13	25.23	6,601,333.33	
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			37,674.11	12.56	300,000.00	
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			737,143.81	42.72	1,725,333.00	

### Focus Area 6C

FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025	
6C	T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)	2014-2021					0.00	
		2014-2020						
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	Percentage of total public expenditure (M1.1 to M1.3) allocated for ICT actions/interventions (%)	2014-2021						20.00
		2014-2020						
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
6C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			220,000.00	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00	0.00			220,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021					180,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	360.00	

## Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
AIR 2021 Warning Description	Other annex	28-06-2022		Ares(2022)4729070	504511981	AIR 2021 warning description	28-06-2022	nscicken
Citizen Summary for Implementation Year 2021	Citizens' summary	14-06-2022	Citizen Summary for Implementation Year 2021	Ares(2022)4729070	2302491483	Citizen Summary for Implementation Year 2021	28-06-2022	nscicken
AIR Financial Annex 2014MT06RDN001	Financial annex (System)	06-05-2022		Ares(2022)4729070	2553313228	AIRfinancialAnnex2014MT06RDN001_mt.pdf	28-06-2022	nscicken

