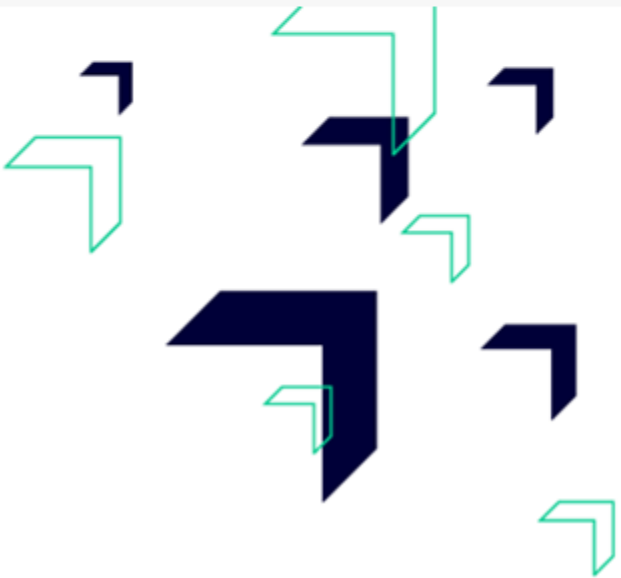


Intervention 77.3 - LEADER

CAP SP 2023-2027 Expression of Interest



Co-funded by
the European Union

What is LEADER?



- LEADER approach is based on 7 specific principles
 - *Bottom-up approach;*
 - *Area based local development strategies, Integrated & Multi-sectoral Strategies;*
 - *Local partnerships from both public and private local socioeconomic interest;*
 - *Networking;*
 - *Innovation, Cooperation.*
- Co-funded under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) through Malta's CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027

LEADER in Malta



- Programme will be delivered across **3 sub-regional areas**
- Xlokk, Majjistral, Għawdex
- Delivered by **foundations** in line with Maltese legislation acting as Local Action Groups (LAG)
- Local Development Strategy (LDS) is to outline the actions to be followed in the implementation of the programme

Sub-Regional Areas



- Every rural Locality is covered by only ***one of the sub-regional area***
- Each sub-regional area is to be covered by ***one LAG and LDS***
- **Xlokk Region**

Birżebbuġa

Għaxaq

Gudja

Kalkara

Kirkop

Luqa

Marsascala

Marsaxlokk

Mqabba

Qormi

Qrendi

Safi

Santa Luċija

Xgħajra

Żabbar

Żejtun

Żurrieq

Sub-Regional Areas



• Majjistral Region

Attard

Għargħur

Mtarfa

Siggiewi

Dingli

Mellieħa

Mdina

Swieqi

Iklin

Mgarr

Naxxar

San Pawl il-Baħar

Lija

Mosta

Rabat (Malta)

Żebbuġ (Malta)

• Għawdex Region

Fontana

Kerċem

Rabat (Għawdex)

Xagħra

Għajnsielem

Munxar

San Lawrenz

Żebbuġ (Għawdex)

Għarb

Nadur

Sannat

Għasri

Qala

Xewkija

Local Action Group



- Legally established ***foundations (at the point of submitting the EOI)***, built on public-private partnerships representing the territory. LAG shall come together in a legally constituted common structure.
- Central to the formation of the LAG is the partnership principle
 - *Where no single interest group controls the decision-making &*
 - *To include the involvement of public, private and NGOs, including young people, women, marginalised groups etc. in the decision making at all stage of the LDS design and implementation*
 - *Private component of the Decision body must make up at least 51% of the body*
 - *Local Councils involved in the group must pertain exclusively to the rural sub-regional area covered by the potential LAG.*

Local Action Group Role



- Design and Implementation of the LDS
- Building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations;
- Drawing up selection procedure and criteria for supporting operations;
- Preparing and publishing calls for proposals;
- Selecting operations and fixing the amount of support;
- Monitoring progress toward the achievement of objectives of the strategy;
- Evaluating the implementation of the strategy;
- Promotion of the LEADER programme;
- Any other guidance/task as issued by the MA and ARPA.

Local Development Strategy



- The focus of Stage 2 of the process;
- Plan the strategy for your identified area;
- Developed in consultation with communities in the area
 - *Bottom up approach*
 - *All stakeholder should be involved in the development of the LDS*
- LDS is to continue building on what has already been achieved to date, with special attention towards the new emerging needs of the region;
- LDS is to include:
 - *Implementation of operations under the LDS*
 - *Implementation of cooperation activities by the LAG*
- Further information is provided within Guidelines **‘How to design and develop a Local Development Strategy’**
- *Submitted LDS will be subject to a selection process. **Draft** selection criteria can be found in the ‘EOI Guidelines’ (Selection Criteria is still subject to approval)*

Local Development Strategy



- ***Specific Objective 8: To promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry.***
- The LDS is to contribute to the following:
 - Strengthening the local identity and the local profile;
 - Improving the quality of life and the attractiveness of the local area;
 - Creation and safeguarding of jobs in rural areas;
 - Improvement of equal opportunities of youth, women, elderly people, disabled persons and members of minorities;
 - Increasing the local added value and competitiveness of the area;
 - Contribute to the preservation of resources and environmental protection;
 - Establishment of an integrated approach to rural development.

Budget



- **Up to € 50,000 for each LAG** as preparatory support to submit a LDS
 - *Encompasses all relevant costs, including costs related to Project Management, in order to develop the LDS*
 - *The Cost of design of LDS **by an external Consultancy Firm, independent from the foundation***

- **€ 5.2M** funding available for the period 2023-2027
 - *These will be **split equally between three selected LAGs***
 - *The budget includes*
 - *Implementation of operations under the LDS*
 - *Cooperation activities (Around 3% of budget)*
 - *Support for running costs and animation*

Application and Selection Process



- **Stage 1 EOI - now open**

- *Expression of Interest by eligible groups to apply to be considered a LAG for new programme*
- *Guidance Documents and Application form available on website: fondi.eu*
- *Application form must be submitted by email to rds submissions.mefl@gov.mt*
- *Closing date is **12:00pm (noon) on Thursday 15th June 2023***
- *Application can be submitted earlier if ready in order to proceed with LDS preparation following EOI approval*

Application and Selection Process



• **Stage 2 – Development of LDS**

- *Will open once a Stage 1 successful applicant has been notified through a formal letter of confirmation*
- *Development of LEADER strategies*
- *LDS has to be submitted by 1st October 2023*
- *Strategy can be submitted earlier if ready*
- *Funding will be provided to all groups progressing to Stage 2 subject that LDS is deemed to satisfy the criteria established in Guidelines ‘How to design and develop a Local Development Strategy’. Not necessary to have your submitted LDS selected in order to receive preparatory support funding*
- *Independent Project Selection Committee will assess and select the strategies*
- *Funding will be paid after the Project Selection Committee has completed its review*
- *LAGs must be operational by end November 2023*

EOI Application Form



- **Part A – Administrative forms**

- Details of foundation
- Indicate the sub-regional area you are applying for

- **Part B – Technical description**

- Outline and demonstrate how the foundation in the capacity of the LAG will be capable to design and implement a LDS in line with the criteria and areas being requested

- **Supporting Documentation**

- Submission of documentation including application form, Tax Compliance certificate, Audited financial statements, Foundation Statute, Foundation registration certificate and signed declaration by decision committee member of foundation
- **Signed declarations of at least 40% of the Local Councils** within their regions supporting the EOI application

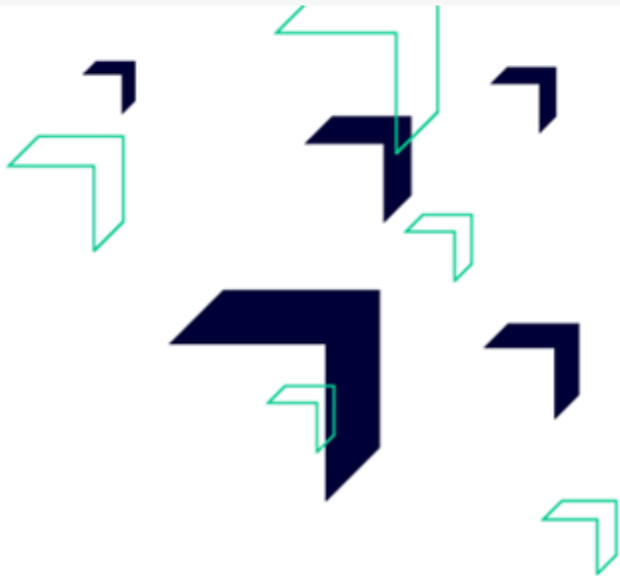
Next Steps



- Closing date for receipt of completed EOIs is **12:00pm (noon) on Thursday 15th June 2023**
- Stage 2 will open upon submission of successful EOI – up till 1st October 2023 latest
 - MA will issue a confirmation letter with further detail regarding the budget. Foundations will be requested to submit a declaration by an accountant/lawyer attesting the liquid funds are available to match the private financing.
- Submission of draft LDS by 1st October 2023
 - Foundation to submit signed declaration of at least 40% of the local councils supporting the LDS
- LAGs to be operational by end November 2023
- Any queries email rdd.mefl@gov.mt

Questions?

Thank you !



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