



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

Annual implementation report

Malta - Rural Development Programme (National)

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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)	2014-2022			0.40	6.27	6.38
	2014-2021					
	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)	2014-2022			5.00	100.00	5.00
	2014-2021			5.00	100.00	
	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)	2014-2022			1,043.00	14.49	7,200.00
	2014-2021			309.00	4.29	
	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)		2014-2022	1.47	110.96	1.47	110.96	1.32
		2014-2021	1.28	96.62	1.28	96.62	
		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	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	34,672,703.62	97.27	25,273,929.94	70.90	35,645,094.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	34,672,703.62	96.73	25,273,929.94	70.51	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)		2014-2022	0.65	85.73	0.65	85.73	0.76
		2014-2021	0.49	64.63	0.49	64.63	
		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	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	5,670,000.00	85.05	4,564,000.00	68.46	6,666,667.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	5,670,000.00	74.35	4,564,000.00	59.85	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)		2014-2022	0.01	0.73	0.01	0.73	1.36
		2014-2021	0.02	1.47	0.01	0.73	
		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)		2014-2022					25.00
		2014-2021					
		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	2014-2022	222,860.00	27.41	0.00	0.00	813,170.67
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	8,119,911.10	113.30	3,446,864.31	48.10	7,166,708.67
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	402,977.00	64.48	0.00	0.00	625,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	8,745,748.10	101.64	3,446,864.31	40.06	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)		2014-2022			12.28	412.21	2.98
		2014-2021			12.28	412.21	
		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)		2014-2022			4.12	138.30	2.98
		2014-2021			4.12	138.30	
		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)		2014-2022			14.11	161.38	8.74
		2014-2021			13.34	152.58	
		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	2014-2022	285,000.00	16.19	3,224.14	0.18	1,760,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	500,000.00	47.62	42,022.68	4.00	1,050,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	26,998,052.72	100.33	16,507,038.50	61.34	26,908,690.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	6,035,058.10	48.06	3,575,178.89	28.47	12,556,079.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	18,213.80	1.79	13,607.03	1.34	1,016,000.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	15,755,907.74	101.63	12,079,652.97	77.92	15,502,714.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	2,741,641.08	75.29	640,550.16	17.59	3,641,510.52
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	52,333,873.44	78.57	32,861,274.37	49.34	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)		2014-2022			2.78	22.22	12.51
		2014-2021			2.78	22.22	
		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	2014-2022					1,760,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	23,535,520.81	54.83	23,203,854.82	54.06	42,921,356.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	250,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	23,535,520.81	51.98	23,203,854.82	51.24	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)		2014-2022					759,597.00
		2014-2021					
		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	2014-2022					440,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	379,798.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	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)		2014-2022	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
		2014-2021	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	
		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	2014-2022	9,147.25	0.60	7,852.91	0.52	1,519,194.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	2,993,200.00	498.87	89,855.70	14.98	600,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	3,002,347.25	141.67	97,708.61	4.61	2,119,194.00

Focus Area 5D

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)		2014-2022			9.60	59.68	16.09
		2014-2021			0.01	0.06	
		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	2014-2022					220,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	14,316.22	1.37	14,925.03	1.43	1,044,446.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	14,316.22	0.89	14,925.03	0.92	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)		2014-2022			8.89	167.42	5.31
		2014-2021			8.89	167.42	
		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	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	7,060,226.62	548.05	6,152,738.44	477.61	1,288,246.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	7,060,226.62	129.27	6,152,738.44	112.65	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)		2014-2022					28.00
		2014-2021					
		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	2014-2022	845,540.20	25.79	360,303.34	10.99	3,278,438.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	250,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	845,540.20	23.96	360,303.34	10.21	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)		2014-2022			2.50	25.00	10.00
		2014-2021			2.50	25.00	
		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)		2014-2022					0.00
		2014-2021					
		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)		2014-2022			105.38	105.42	99.97
		2014-2021			105.38	105.42	
		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	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	7,800,910.67	82.17	3,944,956.70	41.56	9,493,333.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	7,800,910.67	80.06	3,944,956.70	40.49	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)	2014-2022					0.00	
	2014-2021						
	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 (%)	2014-2022					20.00	
	2014-2021						
	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	2014-2022					220,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022					220,000.00

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

. Overall budget of Malta's Rural Development Programme

Following the adoption of the Transitional and EURI budgets to Malta's RDP in December 2021, the Programme saw an increase in the budget of several measures as provided in the Table below. The total new allocation under Transitional and EURI was more than €66 million and brought the total RDP budget to €196,101,681 from €129,769,198. Nearly half of the additional funds were allocated to M4.3, of which circa 70% was allocated to FA5A and 30% to FA2A.

The allocation of these additional funds took the RDP commitment rate down to around 70%. As indicated later in this section, during 2022, the Managing Authority issued several calls to ensure the successful absorption of Transitional and EURI funds allocated to the programme.

Table on the Allocation of the Transitional and EURI budgets per Sub Measure

Sub-Measure	EURI (EAFRD)	Transitional (PUBLIC)
4.1- support for investments in agricultural holdings	4,812,761.25	
4.3-support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry (FA5A)		24,001,636.00
4.3-support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry (FA2A)		9,742,322.67
4.4- support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives		2,000,000.00
6.1- business start up aid for young farmers		2,366,666.67
8.5- Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests		4,846,666.67
10.1- Agri-environment-climate measures		5,333,333.33
10.2- support for conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture		937,333.33
11- Organic		816,000.00
13.3- compensation payment to other areas affected by specific constraints	3,502,713.75	-
16.2- Cooperation		1,891,510.52
19.1- Support for implementation of operations under the community-led local development strategy		326,666.67
19.2- Preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action		2,133,333.33

19.4- Support for running costs and animation		533,333.33
20- Technical Assistance	435,000.00	2,653,205.96
	8,750,475.00	57,582,008.48

. 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

Whilst provision of training continued, no new commitments were registered for M1 across the three sub measures, since no new calls for projects were issued. The Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology proceeded with the implementation of its project on vocational training which was approved in 2019 under M1.1. During the year under review, albeit no realised payments were registered, 734 farmers benefitted from training on farming and business management. Overall, such participation translated into 903 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2022.

Given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

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 and given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the

Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

LN 99 of 2019 was enacted in 2019, regulating the setting up of the farm advisory services system and the recognition and registration of farm advisory service provider, replacing LN 113 of 2010 to align with the applicable regulatory framework. At that juncture, the MA prioritised its efforts at the provision of advice to farmers under M2.1.

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.

In 2022, no new calls for projects have been launched under this Measure in general. The projects that were approved under M16.2 in previous years, were in their implementation stage. The approved projects contributed towards P3, P4 and P5. For P3 there was no realised expenditure registered, whilst for P4 circa €0.64 million and for P5 circa €90,000 were recorded in realised expenditure. During 2022, the MA continued the monitoring of projects committed under this measure.

Calls under M16.4 were issued in 2019 under this measure and the MA held information sessions to interested parties. While the calls open for four batches and the information sessions were held, no applications were received under this sub-measure.

Target Indicator

As at end of 2022, realised expenditure was recorded under Measure 16.2 in relation to FA1A. As a result, the result indicator (T1) - % of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013(Focus Area 1A) stood at 0.374% representing realised expenditure of € 0.7 million.

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 2022, no news calls for projects have been launched under this Measure in general. The projects that were approved under M16.2 in previous years, were in their implementation stage. The approved projects contributed towards P3, P4 and P5. For P3 no realised expenditure was registered, whilst for P4 circa €0.64 million and for P5 circa €90,000 were recorded in realised expenditure. During 2022, the MA continued the monitoring of projects committed under this measure.

Calls under M16.6 were issued in 2019 under this measure and the MA held information sessions to interested parties. While the calls open for four batches and the information sessions were held, no applications were received under this sub-measure.

Target Indicator

The committed value under M16 and the realised expenditure is supporting a total of 5 co-operation operations.

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. The Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology proceeded with the implementation of its project on vocational training which was approved in 2019 under M1.1. During the year under review, albeit no realised payments were registered, 734 farmers benefitted from training on farming and business management. Overall, such participation translated into 903 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2022.

Given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

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 2022, 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. Therefore, AgriConnect remains the only beneficiary under M2.1.

During the year under review, AgriConnect provided ‘Compliance to Statutory Requirements and Agri-environment-climate Measures’ to AECM beneficiaries. Advice was provided to 81 farmers and the measure registered €35,672 in realised expenditure.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2022.

Given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

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 2022, no news calls for projects have been launched under this Measure in general. The projects that were approved under M16.2 in previous years, were in their implementation stage. The approved projects contributed towards P3, P4 and P5. For P3 no realised expenditure was registered, whilst for P4 circa €0.64 million and for P5 circa €90,000 were recorded in realised expenditure.

Target Indicator

Progress was observed in relation to indicator T3 under Article 14 (EU) No 1305/2013, in relation to total number of participants to training. Indeed, by the end of 2022, training participants more than doubled reaching 734 compared to 309 participants in 2021.

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 and given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

LN 99 of 2019 was enacted in 2019, regulating the setting up of the farm advisory services system and the recognition and registration of farm advisory service provider, replacing LN 113 of 2010 to align with the applicable regulatory framework. At that juncture, the MA prioritised its efforts at the provision of advice to farmers under M2.1.

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

During the first half of 2022, 4 calls for applications were launched under M4.1 covering the different FAs under the programme. The calls received substantial interest resulting in 71 submitted applications carrying a budget of €12.2 million. Out of the 38 approved applications, 22 projects carrying an additional commitment value of circa €1.6 million had their Grant Agreement signed in 2022. All new commitments were registered under EURI. As a result of savings registered under the Measure pertaining to this FA during the year, the total commitment value amounted to €0.8 million.

As at the end of 2022, the total commitment values for M4.1 under FA2A amounted to more than €15 million. 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. The budget under this measure for FA2A has all been committed.

There was also steady progress in relation to realised expenditure amounting to circa €3 million and an additional small amount of circa €2,000 was registered under EURI. As at 2022, total realised amounts under M4.1 contributing towards FA2A amounted to more than €10 million. Over the years, 183 projects

were approved, and by the end of 2022, there were 112 projects completed with a realised value of circa €8.9 million.

As for M4.3, as a result of the new budget allocation which now reached a total of €22.6 million for the measure under FA2A, a new call for projects was also launched during 2022. 11 applications were received carrying a budget of close to €17 million, of which 8 projects were approved leading to an increased commitment value of €2.3 million. The total commitment value up to 2022 now reads €19.2 million leading to a total commitment of 85%. The measure also registered €0.4 million in realised expenditure during the year. Out of the 37 projects approved over the years, by 2022 there were 20 completed projects amounting to a realised value of €11.7 million.

Target Indicator

As at the end of 2022, cumulative realised expenditure amounted to €10.8 million for Measure 4.1 and €13.9 million for Measure 4.3. Realised expenditure was also registered in 2022 for the allocation of EURI funds under M4.1. Indeed, these funds supported a total of 23 holdings (EURI) in addition to 161 holdings such that the result target indicator (T4) on the % of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation reached 1.47% of holdings surpassing the target of 1.32% outlined in the programme. In terms of M2.2 there was no realised expenditure as at the end of 2022.

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 and given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

LN 99 of 2019 was enacted in 2019, regulating the setting up of the farm advisory services system and the recognition and registration of farm advisory service provider, replacing LN 113 of 2010 to align with the applicable regulatory framework. At that juncture, the MA prioritised its efforts at the provision of advice to farmers under M2.1.

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 under Malta's RDP and which had an additional allocation under the transition/ EURI allocation. M4.1, not only contributes towards FA2B but also other Focus Areas, including 2A, 3A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B and 5C. However, the projects approved, including the ones in 2022, under this measure all contribute to the other FAs and none contribute towards FA2B.

Measure 6: Farm and business development

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

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

As a result of the additional funds of circa €2.4 million allocated to this FA resulting from 2021 programme modifications, four new calls for projects were launched in January 2022. 68 applications were received in response to this call carrying a budget of circa €4.8 million and 29 applications were selected. 19 of the selected projects had their Grant Agreement signed in 2022. The remaining contracts were signed in 2023. The commitment value of the applications signed in 2022 amounts to €1.3 million bringing the total commitment value of the measure under this FA to €5.7 million, representing 85% of the measure budget under the FA. Projects that were approved over the previous years were in their implementation stage and 34 projects carrying a realised amount of circa €2.4 million were completed by 2022.

Target Indicator

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 81 young farmers by the end of 2022 representing 0.65% of total holdings. Total realised expenditure amounted to €4.6 million.

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

No new calls for projects were launched during 2022 for M3.1 and the project that was approved during 2021, was terminated due to difficulties encountered in its implementation, with the beneficiary not meeting the targeted deliverables under the support.

No progress has been registered for M3.2, primarily because of the close link to M3.1 and so far no progress has been registered under the Measure. Given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

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 over the years only one is attributable to FA3A. In 2022 no new projects contributing towards FA3A were awarded and as at 2022 the commitment amount represented slightly more than 30% of the budget allocation. The two operations that contribute towards this FA, are in the implementation phase and during 2022 contributed towards a realised expenditure of €0.22 million. As at 2021, the total realised expenditure amounted to circa €0.54 million.

In the case of M4.2, a new call was issued during 2022, and four new projects were approved, with a commitment value of €1.8 million. Implementation of the approved operations progressed considerably with more than €0.83 million reported in realised expenditure for 2022. The cumulative realised expenditure for this Measure under FA3A amounts to circa €2.9 million. Ten projects, which were approved over previous years, were also completed with a realised value of €11.7 million.

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.

In 2022, no news calls for projects have been launched under this Measure in general. The projects that were approved under M16.2 in previous years, were in their implementation stage. The approved projects contributed towards P3, P4 and P5. For P4 circa €0.65 million and for P5 circa €90,000 were recorded in realised expenditure. No realised expenditure was registered for P3.

Calls under M16.4 were issued in 2019 under this measure and the MA held information sessions to interested parties. While the calls open for four batches and the information sessions were held, no applications were received under this sub-measure.

Target Indicator

By the end of 2022, the target indicator (T6) representing 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. Positive progress was registered in (T6B) the Nr of operations supported under M4.2 (Programme Specific Target Indicator) contributing to FA3A. Indeed, by the end of 2022, this target indicator amounted to 23 operations. In total 30 operations were supported as at the end of 2022 under M4.1 and M4.2 with realised expenditure amounting to €3.4 million.

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. The Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology proceeded with the implementation of its project on vocational training which was approved in 2019 under M1.1. During the year under review, albeit no realised payments were registered, 734 farmers benefitted from training on farming and business management. 63.5% of these farmers were receiving support under AECMs pertaining to P4, whilst the remaining 36.5% pertained to AECMs under FA5E. Overall, such participation translated into 903 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2022.

Given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

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

During 2022, 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. Therefore, AgriConnect remains the only beneficiary under M2.1.

During the year under review, AgriConnect provided ‘Compliance to Statutory Requirements and Agri-environment-climate Measures’ to AECM beneficiaries. Advice was provided to 81 farmers and the measure registered €35,672 in realised expenditure.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2022.

Measure 4: Investment in physical assets

The applicable sub measures that contribute towards Priority 4 are:

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

During the first half of 2022, 4 calls for applications were launched under M4.1 covering the different FA under the programme. The calls received substantial interest resulting in 71 submitted applications carrying a budget of €12.2 million. In all 22 projects were approved during 2022 carrying an additional commitment value of circa €1.6 million. All new commitments were registered under EURI. As at the end of 2022, there were no projects that contributed towards P4, as the approved projects contributed towards FA2A amounted. Consequently, there was no realised expenditure contributing towards this Priority.

In terms of M4.4, no new calls for projects were launched during 2022. Cumulatively, 198 projects were

overall approved under this FA and 136 were considered closed leading to realised amount of €5.5 million. During 2022, €1.9 million were registered in realised expenditure.

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 emerged that Malta had challenges in ensuring that this measure is successful. Following a programme modification on the measure, mainly addressing the list of supported trees, as well as bilateral discussions between the Maltese Authorities and the European Commission, including clarifications on eligible expenditure and applicability of regulatory articles, the measure was launched in April 2023.

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, during 2022 extensions to ongoing commitments were provided in line with the applicable transition regulation. In 2022, 939 extensions applicable for Measures contributing towards P4 were in place.

The 2022 uptake adds up to a committed expenditure value of near €0.36 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 €0.28 million. Considerable number of agreements were also signed for AECM 6c, leading to a commitment value of €46,866 during 2022. With cumulative commitment values by 2022 amounting to close to €5 million, the progress registered brings the uptake to circa 46%, noting also that the total budget of the measure nearly doubled (now amount to more than €10 million) from the increased allocations of the Transition allocations. In terms of realised expenditure under M10.1, 2022 saw claims close to €0.4 million, bringing the cumulative realised amount as at 2022 to more than €3.4 million.

AECMs contributing towards P4	Ongoing Commitments2022	Committed Amounts 2022
AECM 1: Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical	620	€281,280.68

methods.

AECM 3: Measure supporting the introduction of bee boxes on holdings	19	€25,567.85
AECM 6a: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - Maltese Black Chicken	2	€1,400.00
AECM 6b: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - ox	2	€9,343.68
AECM 6c: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - carob and mulberry	296	€46,865.98
TOTAL	939	€364,458.19

In terms of M10.2, further to the progress registered during 2020, no further commitments nor realised expenditure 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 committed amounts and a contribution of €608 was registered under realised amounts. Extensions were provided in line with the Transitional regulation. The operations that were supported under M11.1, then moved for support under M11.2, where a realised amount of €3,527 was reported.

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 2022, M13.3 continued to see positive progress as uptake under this scheme reached a level of overcommitment of 114% despite the additional allocation of circa €3.5 million allocated from the Transitional/EURI allocation. The total allocation to the measure now stands at €15.5 million. Realised payments progressed at a steady pace to reach circa €1.9 million in 2022, bringing the cumulative amount realised under the programme to close to € 13.8 million. The committed area for support for 2022 amounted to 7,701 square metres and the number of contracts amount to 6,217.

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 2022, M16.2 was supporting five projects related to pilot studies and research studies, of which one contributes 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 2022, though there were €0.65 reported as realised expenditure under the three projects that were being implemented under this Priority.

Target Indicators

As at the end of 2022, the values for the relevant target indicators linked to FA4A, FA4B, and FA4C were as follows:

- 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 2022 amounts to 14.1%.
- 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 2022 amount to 4.12% implying that the target has been surpassed.
- 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 2022 amount to 12.28% implying that the target has been surpassed.

Specifically, for T9 it is to be noted that values submitted from AIR2020 onwards exclude AEMs from the previous programme. This explains the drop in the value of this result indicator from 2019. Notwithstanding, it is stressed that that target value has already been surpassed.

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. The Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology proceeded with the implementation of its project on vocational training which was approved in 2019 under M1.1. During the year under review, albeit no realised payments were registered, 734 farmers benefitted from training on farming and business management. 63.5% of these farmers were receiving support under AECMs pertaining to P4, whilst the remaining 36.5% pertained to AECMs under FA5E. Overall, such participation translated into 903 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2022.

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

During 2022, 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. Therefore, AgriConnect remains the only beneficiary under M2.1.

During the year under review, AgriConnect provided ‘Compliance to Statutory Requirements and Agri-environment-climate Measures’ to AECM beneficiaries. Advice was provided to 81 farmers and the measure registered €35,672 in realised expenditure.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2022.

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 2022, 25 operations were being implemented under this Measure that contribute towards

FA5A. Progress was registered in terms of realised amounts to nearly €0.4 million in 2022 leading to a total cumulative amount to circa €1.7 million.

Following the additional allocation of the Transitional Funds to M4.3, leading the measure under this FA to a total budget allocation of €41 million, no further progress was registered during 2022 neither in committed amounts nor in realised values, with the project awarded under this measure nearing its final implementation stages. A new call with the allocations of transitional funds was launched in late 2022, with the awarding of projects taking place in 2023.

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 with progress as at end of 2022 registered at 2.78%. The operations contributing towards this indicator are primarily projects under M4.1 and M4.3. In total, 25 operations have been supported under M4.1 and M4.3. Total realised public expenditure in 2022 amounted to €23.2 million leading to a total investment of €27.3 million.

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. The Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology proceeded with the implementation of its project on vocational training which was approved in 2019 under M1.1. During the year under review, albeit no realised payments were registered, 734 farmers benefitted from training on farming and business management. 63.5% of these farmers were receiving support under AECMs pertaining to P4, whilst the remaining 36.5% pertained to AECMs under FA5E. Overall, such participation translated into 903 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2022.

Given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

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

During 2022, 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. Therefore, AgriConnect remains the only beneficiary under M2.1.

During the year under review, AgriConnect provided ‘Compliance to Statutory Requirements and Agri-environment-climate Measures’ to AECM beneficiaries. Advice was provided to 81 farmers and the measure registered €35,672 in realised expenditure.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2022

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 2022.

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.

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

M4.1 is one of the sub-measures with the highest measure budget under Malta's RDP and which had an additional allocation under the transition/ EURI allocation. M4.1, not only contributes towards FA5C but also other Focus Areas, including 2A, 3A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B and 5C. However, the projects approved in 2022, under this measure all contribute to the other FAs and none contribute towards FA5C. There was one project that contributed towards this FA, which was approved in 2019 and concluded in the same year. In this regard, no progress has been registered in terms of commitment values and 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). During 2022, this project proceeded with its implementation and contributed close to €90,000 in realised expenditure.

Target Indicator

Given that no further progress was registered in 2022 in terms of realised payments under M4.1 in relation to FA5C, the target indicator linked (T16) total investment in renewable energy production (€) remained unchanged from a value of €15,706. 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. The Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology proceeded with the implementation of its project on vocational training which was approved in 2019 under M1.1. During the year under review, albeit no realised payments were registered, 734 farmers benefitted from training on farming and business management. 63.5% of these farmers were receiving support under AECMs pertaining to P4, whilst the remaining 36.5% pertained to AECMs under FA5E. Overall, such participation translated into 903 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2022.

Given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

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

During 2022, 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. Therefore, AgriConnect remains the only beneficiary under M2.1.

During the year under review, AgriConnect provided ‘Compliance to Statutory Requirements and Agri-environment-climate Measures’ to AECM beneficiaries. Advice was provided to 81 farmers and the

measure registered €35,672 in realised expenditure.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2022.

Given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

Measure 4: Investment in physical assets

The relevant sub measure for this FA is:

- M4.1 – support for investment in agricultural holdings

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 2022, 25 operations were being implemented under this Measure that contribute towards FA5A. These projects were all committed up to 2022 and no approved project contributed towards FA5D. No progress was registered in terms of realised amounts in 2022 contributing towards FA5D since the one project that was 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 is estimated at 9.6%. In total there was 1 operation funded under M4.1 contributing towards FA5D with realised expenditure amounting to €14,295. Once again, 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 P4 (amounting to €1.75million) and the rest of the allocation contributes to FA5E. As reported in the AIR 2018, from consultations carried out by the MA, it clearly emerged that Malta had difficulties in ensuring that this measure is successful. After several bilateral discussions between Maltese Authorities and the European Commission, followed by changes to the programme, the measure was launched in April 2023.

[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

For M10.1, during 2022 extensions to ongoing commitments were provided in line with the applicable transition regulation. This campaign saw a total 540 beneficiaries were approved for support. The 2022 uptake falling under FA5E adds up to a committed expenditure value of circa €1.5 million, out of which AECM 5 accounts for the largest portion of this allocation at more than €1.6 million.

AECMs contributing towards FA5E	Ongoing Commitments	Committed Amounts
	2022	2022
AECM 2: Measure for the maintenance of trees	11	€ 2,300.41
AECM 4: Measure for the implementation of an integrated pest management plan targeting vineyards and orchards	19	€74,956.45
AECM 5: Measure for the implementation of soil management and conservation plan on a holding	510	€1,449,731.14
TOTAL	540	€1,526,628.00

In terms of realised expenditure under M10.1 allocated to FA5E, 2022 saw realised payments totalling €1.6 million, with the cumulative realised expenditure being captured as at 2022 at more than €6.2 million. Progress registered was on the same lines as the achievements obtained in 2021.

In the case of M10.2, no progress was registered in relation to this FA.

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% 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

During 2022, two calls for projects were launched and both calls closed in 2022. In all, the calls together had a budget allocation of €5.3 million. Despite this effort only 2 applications were submitted, and one resulted into a Grant Agreement, leading to a commitment value of €0.2 million. This commitment is being registered as contributing towards FA6A as the project focuses on an investment in an agri-tourism experience. Progress was also registered in relation to realised amounts pertaining to previously approved projects. These amounted to circa €82,000. Based on the new allocation the uptake of the Measure under this FA stands at 26%. The budget for M6.4 was allocated towards M22 to support Ukraine in an RDP Modification submitted in March 2023.

Given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

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

As at the end of 2022, the result indicator T20: Nr of jobs created through supported projects stood at nil. With positive progress registered in the projects under Measure 6.4, this indicator is expected to register progress in the upcoming years. Indeed, in total there were as at the end of 2022 7 beneficiaries under M6.4 with realised expenditure amounting to €360,303.

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, none of the approved M16.2 projects were committed to FA6B, due to their predominant 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 2022, 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 2022 was recorded under M19.2 as 55 operations were selected, resulting in a committed expenditure for the year of circa €1.2 million which amounted to a cumulative amount of €5.5 million commitments for the sub-measure. Based on the new allocation resulting from the Transition/EURI Funds the uptake of the Measure under this FA stands at 83%. 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 a new commitment of close to €0.3 million was registered for M19.4.

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 €0.86 million was reported bringing the total realised amount to circa €2.5 million. M19.3 and M19.4 also registered progress in relation to realised expenditure of circa €0.1 million and €0.19 million respectively.

During 2022, the following applications were received and approved:

Majjstral Action Group Foundation	Applications Received	Applications Approved
Measure 1 - Restoration of Assets of Artistic and	19	16

Cultural Value		
Measure 2 - Strengthening a Healthy Cultural Identity	13	11
Measure 3 - Promotion of the Cultural Heritage	5	5
Measure 4 - Development of Green Infrastructure	7	6
Total	44	38

Gozo Local Action Group	Applications Received	Applications Approved
Measure 3- GAG3 - 'Gozo Attractions and Innovative Events for all Season's (Second Call)	4	0

Xlokk Local Action Group	Applications Received	Applications Approved
Measure 1 - Restoration of assets of artistic & cultural value	10	14
Measure 2 - Strengthening a healthy cultural identity	14	9
Measure 3 - Promotion of the Cultural Heritage	3	3
Total	27	26

Target indicators

As at the end of 2022, 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 105.38%. 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 268,814. 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 as at the end of 2022 amounted 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. The Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology proceeded with the implementation of its project on vocational training which was approved in 2019 under M1.1. During the year under review, albeit no realised payments were registered, 734 farmers benefitted from training on farming and business management. 63.5% of these farmers were receiving support under AECMs pertaining to P4, whilst the remaining 36.5% pertained to AECMs under FA5E. Overall, such participation translated into 903 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2022.

Given the low uptake under this measure under the RDP, the Managing Authority may consider the revision of the measure in the RDP.

Target Indicator

The target value for the indicator (T24B) (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 2022 since realised expenditure under Measure 1 has not been directed towards this Focus Area.

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.

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, 2021 and 2022.

2. Warnings 270:

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

resulting in such warning.

3. *Warning 290:*

The warnings linked to Public Expenditure and Actions under the dimension of Area Size (' ≥ 20 ha to < 50 ha') reflect recent changes in the size of holdings of Beneficiaries when compared to the categories/brackets reported in previous AIRs under this category/bracket. As a result, these beneficiaries are now being reported under another category/bracket.

Other notes:

Over the coming months, and following the ongoing CAP SP modification, the MA will start engaging with the Commission services on the required RDP modification. The modification will aim to address gaps in the implementation of some measures as well as enable a smooth programme closure in 2025. Within this context, the MA is currently assessing the nature of such a modification, also in view of the outcome of ongoing calls and the uptake of measures under the CAP SP.

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:

Not applicable.

- 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)

Not applicable.

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)

In 2022, the Soil Thematic Evaluation was published. Prior to its publication, a preliminary version of the study was submitted for review to the Managing Authority. This led to a series of meetings between the evaluators and the Managing Authority to discuss the recommendations provided in the evaluation and any other feedback. Details of the evaluation activities in terms of data collection and analysis and interviews with key beneficiaries and stakeholders were documented in the 2021 AIR.

A key evaluation activity that was undertaken during 2022 is the Thematic Evaluation on LEADER. The evaluation has been designed in line with the 'Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD 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 measure related to LEADER:** This Thematic Evaluation focuses on Focus Area (FA) 6B of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Malta which is concerned with the extent to which RDP interventions support local development in rural areas. This FA is mainly addressed through Measures 19 (LEADER) of the RDP with a total approved budgetary allocation including transitional of €9.4 million (Public) accounting for 97% of the allocation under Focus Area 6B.
- **An overview of the three LAG strategies:** A overview of the three LAG strategies is provided to understand the context of the LEADER implementation within the three regions of Gozo, Xlokk and Majjistral.
- **Analysis of data from Project Closure Reports and LAGs administrative data:** To collect comprehensive and timely data, the evaluators have developed a set of excel-based tables which are filled by the LAGs on an annual basis. This dataset aims to track the progress registered by each of the three LAGs and includes data from 2018 onwards. These tables were updated by the LAGs and analysed by the evaluators. An analysis of the closure reports submitted for projects that have benefitted from LEADER support and which have been completed, was also undertaken.
- **Organisation of Focus Groups with selected LAG beneficiaries:** Three focus groups were organised in November 2022, one for the Gozo region, another one addressing Measure 1 and Measure 2 for the Xlokk and Majjistral regions and a third focus group which dealt with Measure 3 and Measure 4 for the Xlokk and Majjistral regions.
- **Organisation of meetings with LAG Committee/LAGs and the MA:** To explore the impact of the LEADER measure on the governance aspect, meetings were held with the Decision Committee (DC) of each of the three LAGs and with the Managing Authority (MA). Whilst the MA is responsible for the implementation of the LEADER measure as part of the RDP for Malta, the DC engaged within

each LAG is responsible for the decision-making processes related to the implementation of the LDS

- **Beneficiaries' survey:** The surveys were prepared by the evaluators and disseminated by the respective LAGs. The objective of these surveys is to explore the degree to which the LEADER intervention has an impact on the environmental, social, cultural and economic aspects of the rural community.
- **Case Studies:** This analysis was undertaken following the assessment of data provided by the LAGs, including the closure reports, and the meetings held with the LAG beneficiaries and LAGs. In this manner, a good understanding of the diverse range of projects that have benefitted from LEADER support could be obtained. The aim of the case study analysis was to capture in more detail the impact of the LEADER on the local community and to explore the different nature of the projects which have been supported by 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 2022, several meetings were held to discuss the data required by measure, based on the experience acquired during the 2021 AIR. These meetings were held with the Managing Authority, ABACO, the database system administrators, and ARPA which collects data from beneficiaries for payment 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.

During the Thematic Evaluation on Soil (Focus Area 4c), ARPA made available GIS parcel data to enable the consultants to spatially identify beneficiaries, in particular for the land-based measures. Although the data could not be used in the Evaluation due to delivery timeframes, it will be used for upcoming evaluations, including the thematic evaluation on biodiversity (Focus Area 4a) due in 2023.

With respect to the LEADER Thematic Evaluation, various sources were utilised to gather data as explained above, which was made possible through an open channel of communication maintained with the three LAGs. Specific meetings were organised with the LAGs to update evaluators on the progress of the strategies implementation. One of the sources of data was the LAGs' administrative data. This is provided on an annual basis but was updated to June 2022 specifically for the LEADER thematic evaluation. This administrative data includes information on meetings held by the LAGs with beneficiaries, as well as data on indicators identified in their respective strategies and the RDP. In addition to the databases, a questionnaire was prepared and distributed by the LAGs to beneficiaries to obtain information about their projects, their contributions to LEADER objectives, the application process, and any challenges encountered. For the purpose of the LEADER thematic evaluation, the evaluators requested all questionnaires received by the LAGs. Furthermore, closure reports of completed projects were requested from each LAG and analysed accordingly.

The evaluation of the LEADER Thematic Evaluation utilised focus groups with selected LAG beneficiaries as another data source. In November 2022, three focus groups were organised. Additionally, a meeting was conducted with the Managing Authority and with the decision committee of each LAG to examine the impact of the LEADER measure on the governance aspect. While the Managing Authority is responsible for implementing the LEADER measure as part of the RDP for Malta, the DC engaged within each LAG is responsible for the decision-making processes related to the implementation of the LDS.

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

Publisher/Editor	Managing Authority
Author(s)	Adi Associates, E-Cubed Consultants and EMCS Ltd
Title	Soil Thematic Evaluation
Abstract	The soil management thematic evaluation assesses the impact of RDP interventions on preventing soil erosion and improving soil management, answering CEQ - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the prevention of soil erosion and improvement of soil management? This evaluation is related to FA4C of Malta's RDP, which aims to address soil erosion and management through Measures 4.4 (with a budget of €17.1 million) and 10.1 (with a budget of €5 million). The evaluation applied a mixed-methods approach for RDP result assessment.
URL	https://fondi.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Thematic-Evaluation_Soil-Final-Nov-2022.pdf

Publisher/Editor	Managing Authority
Author(s)	E-Cubed Consultants, EMCS Ltd, and Adi Associates
Title	Leader Thematic Evaluation
Abstract	<p>The thematic evaluation on LEADER assessed the effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of the LEADER approach in promoting rural economic, cultural, social, governance and environmental development. To an extent, this evaluation addresses CEQ 17, related to Focus Area 6B which measures the impact of RDP interventions on local rural development. As Measure 19 (LEADER) absorbs 97% of the total allocated budget for FA6B, this evaluation attempts to answer the CEQ by evaluating the performance of Measure 19 in the RDP with a total approved budgetary allocation of €7.2 million. Malta's LEADER is implemented through three LAGs, each with a unique LDS. The evaluation followed a mixed-methods approach for data triangulation.</p> <p>The study began in 2022 and produced initial results by the end of that year. The first draft of the Thematic Evaluation was submitted in early 2023, it has not yet been published as of the end of the AIR period.</p>
URL	n/a

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.

Soil Thematic Evaluation

The Thematic Evaluation on Soil Management was concluded in 2022. The following is a summary of the main findings:

- 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, in particular Measure 4.4 on the maintenance and construction of rubble walls. 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 m². Assuming that the UAA is 10,730 ha (or 107,300,000 m²) 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 parcels that implemented AECM5.

LEADER Thematic Evaluation

While the Thematic Evaluation on LEADER was not submitted by the end of 2022, some preliminary findings from the evaluation are presented hereunder:

- There has been relatively good progress in the implementation of LEADER. As at the end of 2021, over 40% of realised expenditure was recorded for M19.1 and 19.4. The availability of transitional funds has allowed for a greater contribution towards M19.2 and M19.4.
- In terms of approved projects, administrative data provided annually by the LAGs, indicates that over the period 2018 to mid-June 2022, there were a total of 220 approved applications. Of these, 83 represent completed projects, such that the share of completed projects is estimated to stand at 38%

of approved applications. The number of approved applications has been consistently increasing year-on year. On the other hand, due to the impact of COVID, the number of completed projects suffered a set-back by declining in 2020 and 2021.

- The result target for FA 6B namely % rural population covered by local development strategies has been met with the entire rural population covered by the strategies. With a target of 10 jobs, the number of jobs created at (2.5FTE) as at the end of 2021 has not, as yet, been met. It is however to be stressed in this regard, that the objectives of LEADER in Malta does not focus explicitly on the creation of jobs. This is in part due to the fact that the rural employment rate at 78% (2019) is relatively high even when compared to the EU level of 73%. Rather, the local development strategies focus more intently on the cultural heritage, social and environmental assets (Majjistral and Xlokk). In Gozo and Comino, the strategy focuses on the preservation of the rural community, the development of agricultural products as well as the attraction of the area for young families.
- It is evident that LEADER addresses the local needs. The strategies themselves were based on extensive stakeholder consultation. Furthermore, in a questionnaire conducted among the beneficiaries, 94% agreed that the strategy address the needs of the locality. According to the participants, LEADER is crucial to develop and implement projects that would have otherwise never been carried out. The projects presented by the beneficiaries are of local interest and have all in some way contributed to the various aspects of the rural life, be it cultural, social, environmental, and rural.
- Specific to culture, almost 80% of approved projects address cultural value, identity and heritage. An assessment of target indicator values at the level of the LAGs indicates that the target value of restoration projects (69) with a cultural value has been achieved. As for the target value of new/improved quality cultural and/or social activities in the Xlokk and Majjistral areas is almost met.
- In terms of the environment, 27 projects have received support for the development of green infrastructure, representing 12% of approved projects (2018 – mid-2022). The target on green infrastructure (20).
- LEADER has also had a positive impact in terms of enhancing social capital. Based on results obtained from the closure reports, an average of 48% of the projects have contributed in some way to the social aspect of LEADER with the majority contributing to the increase in knowledge and awareness (67%). One important aspect of the projects with a social capital element is that they strengthen community ties. In fact, the analysis of the closure reports shows that 46% of the completed projects have contributed to strengthen community ties. In addition, there has also been strong cooperation and collaboration from local entities which were not directly involved.
- Cooperation is also evident at the Inter-territorial and trans-national level with M19.3 enabling exchange of knowledge and experience at the international level. Through Majjistral and Xlokk, there are five cooperative projects involving 37 local operators and stakeholders.
- Whilst the scope of many projects was to increase the cultural and traditional value, many projects did it in an innovative way including an educational element to inform and educate people.
- On the basis of the questionnaire distributed to beneficiaries, the respondents indicated that in the absence of LEADER support, they would have either abandoned the project or reduced the project to a much smaller scale and implement it at a later stage This result is further corroborated by the outcome of the discussions that took place during the focus groups, whereby those present confirmed that the projects would have not been possible without the financial assistance of LEADER.
- Finally, this thematic evaluation has also sought to assess whether LEADER has contributed towards multi-level governance. The MA has provided training necessary to the LAGs and seeks to maintain open channels of communication to assist the LAGs in their implementation of LEADER. In addition, there appears to be good coordination among members of the DC.
- The LEADER approach has contributed towards involving the relevant actors of the socio-economic

spectrum of the area in the decision-making process.

Soil Thematic Evaluation available at: https://fondi.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Thematic-Evaluation_Soil-RDP-2014-2020_Summary.pdf

The LEADER Thematic Evaluation was submitted in early 2023, it has not yet been published as of the end of the AIR period.

[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.

Date / Period	01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	Thematic Evaluation on Soil
Overall organiser of activity/ event	Managing Authority
Information channels/ format used	Available Online
Type of target audience	Agricultural and rural stakeholders as well as general public
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	149
URL	https://fondi.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Thematic-Evaluation_Soil-RDP-2014-2020_Summary.pdf

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>Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)</p>	<p>1. Further measures to avoid soil degradation should be considered in the CAP SP. 2. New CAP instruments / measures should be designed to address harmful practices and on-going trends (e.g. use of plastic in fields, enlargement of field size). 3. Since Measure 4.4 was a successful measure, it should be considered again. 4. Support the consolidation of knowledge to farmers on sustainable soil management 5. Selection criteria related to soil / water management could be given some weighting.</p>
<p>Follow-up carried out</p>	<p>The above recommendations are currently being evaluated in the CAP SP.</p>
<p>Responsible authority for follow-up</p>	<p>Managing authority</p>

<p>Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)</p>	<p>1. Gather more information from beneficiaries. For example, to assess soil erosion, information on soil depth is provided at the start of the project and at the end. Data should all be inputted into a GIS so that analysis can be undertaken spatially. 2. As far as possible data is supplied to the evaluators in GIS. This would allow for a spatial analysis of the programme implementation. 3. Use the FADN sample to monitor environmental impacts, such as the quantity of plant protection products</p>
<p>Follow-up carried out</p>	<p>The above recommendations are currently being evaluated in the CAP SP.</p>
<p>Responsible authority for follow-up</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

The main consultation sessions that were carried out during 2022 occurred within the framework of information sessions organised by the MA and ARPA, with the support of the NRN, to mark the launch of RDP measures during the course of the year. The information sessions targeted the potential beneficiaries of these calls, to inform them about the opportunities available, their role and the corresponding responsibilities. Information sessions were held in relation to the following sub-measures, for which calls were issued during 2022:

- M4.1 - Support for investments in agricultural holdings
- M4.2 - Support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products
- M4.3 - Support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry
- M6.1 - Business start-up aid for young farmers
- M6.4 - Support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities

Monitoring Committee meetings

The Monitoring Committee earmarked for 2022, was held in 2023. This marked the eight MC for the Rural Development Programme for Malta (2014-2020). It was held on 9 March 2023. 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.

During this meeting, the Monitoring Committee also provided its positive opinion on the introduction of Measure 22 (Exceptional temporary support to farmers and SMEs particularly affected by the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine) in the RDP.

Annual Review Meeting

On the 28th November 2022, the European Commission and the Maltese Authorities held the Annual Review Meeting covering implementation year 2021. During this meeting, an update on the implementation of the RDP was provided (including performance, output and target indicators, and implementation of Local Development Strategies), together with an update on N+3 commitments, update on the Error Rate and communication activities.

The Annual Review Meeting covering implementation year 2022 was held on the 8th March 2023 and included discussions of the adoption of M22, M11 (Organic farming), together with an update on the progress registered in the implementation of the RDP.

Programme Modifications

No RDP modifications were submitted during 2022.

Administrative Capacity Building

During 2022, 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;
- European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development meetings, workshops, seminars, and training courses organised by the European Commission;
- training on financial management, control and audit requirements in ESIF; and
- training on Anti-Fraud and Corruption. This training was attended by Maltese Managing Authorities and Responsible Authorities, and provided a basic overview on corruption and fraud, fraud symbols, the detection of fraud, fraud risk tools and fraud detection software.

Project Selection Committee

During the year under review, the project selection committees met several times to evaluate the applications received under the various calls issued under different 5 sub-measures during 2022. Of the 13 calls issued along the year, the applications submitted under the first 11 calls were evaluated and the corresponding award or non award letters were issued. The only 2 calls for which project evaluation was not carried out was because the closure of this call was scheduled for the beginning of 2023. Overall, in 2022, the PSC received 154 project applications and approved 78, circa 50% of those received.

Calls for Projects

During 2022, several calls for proposals were issued covering 13 batches under 5 sub-measures. They were all issued in the first half of the year, except for 2 calls under M4.3 which were launched in the last quarter. All calls issued in the first half of 2022, were closed and adjudicated during the same year. The 2 calls under M.3 that were launched in the last quarter of the year eventually closed in 2023.

The table below provides a synthesis of the number of calls issued, the applications received, and the number of projects approved under the RDP during 2022.

Table on calls issued in 2022

Measure	No. of Calls	Applications Received	Approved Applications
M4.1	4	71	38
M4.2	1	4	4
M4.3	3	11	8
M6.1	4	68	29
M6.4	1	2	1
TOTAL	13	154	78

3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) ¹, proxy automatically calculated

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD + EURI]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation ²	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative ³)
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	149,263,879.00	20.84	14.36

¹ 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.

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

³ 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) 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, no NRN meetings were held, however the network was active in assisting the Managing Authority and ARPA in the delivery of information sessions, engagement with applicants and the general public, and also in ensuring the publicity of the RDP. Promotion was also undertaken as explained in the following section.

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 2022 via the following tools.

MA Website

During 2022, the following websites below were the main gateway for engagement with RDP stakeholders:

- www.eufundsmalta.gov.mt
- www.eufunds.gov.mt

These websites run by the MA and the NRN 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 2022, 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.

In January 2023, a new website (FONDI.eu) was launched and acts as a one-stop shop for all information about EU funds. This website will continue to be the main portal in accessing information on EU funds, including the RDP and the CAP SP. It now replaced the previous two websites that were available.

NRN Information Sessions

Information sessions were held in January 2022 in relation to the following sub-measures, for which calls were issued during the said year:

- M4.1 - Support for investments in agricultural holdings
- M4.2 - Support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products
- M4.3 - Support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry
- M6.1 - Business start-up aid for young farmers
- M6.4 - Support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities

NRN Newsletter

In 2022, one new NRN newsletter was issued covering the 23rd edition. This was issued in August and the primary focus was to create awareness with the relevant stakeholders about the relaunched calls for applications under the RDP during the same year for Measures 4.1, 6.1 and 6.4. In this context, information about the different measures and what they intend to achieve was provided. The budget available and the eligibility criteria for each call were also provided. In this newsletter, an article providing information on "Crop wild relatives in the Maltese Islands" was also included.

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.

In addition to the above, advertising of the programme was undertaken, which is explained in the following section.

Public events

The NRN, together with the MA attended the first edition of the AgriFair held in May 2022. The Fair was organised by the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights, aiming towards promoting local produce, machinery, systems and technological developments in the agricultural and fisheries sectors, with the main aim of bringing together major stakeholders in the field, from large organisations to small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs). The Fair provided a platform for both the local farming community, as well as producers, to inform and communicate to the public about the industries' products and services.

During this Fair interested parties were able to understand the meaning of the Farm to Fork strategy, whereby the food chain system of food production, harvesting, processing, distribution, and consumption is

demonstrated in the most visual, innovative and interactive manner.

The NRN and MA were also present at the Europe Day events held in Valletta in May 2022.

During these events (including information sessions mentioned above) the MA and NRN informed RDP stakeholders of the possibilities offered by the RDP and the rules for gaining access to programme funding as well as by informing beneficiaries of the Union contribution and the general public on the role played by the Union in the programme.

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

Newspaper adverts were issued prior to calls for applications issued by the MA. These were issued on all national Sunday newspapers (printed in Maltese and English) and on the government gazette.

Promotional clips were also issued on the MA's website.

Information Sessions

Following a pre-announcement of new calls, it was announced that information sessions would be held. Information about the information sessions is provided within the context of the NRN, in the previous section.

EU Funds Websites

During 2022, the Managing Authority of EAFRD continued to promote the websites covering all the funds falling under its remit. Information provided on its website includes: information on the different programmes, the calls for projects, regularly updated guidance notes for applicants for each call, block procedure timetable, access to the past publications, newsletters, past events, publicity information, and links and downloads to useful information.

As noted earlier, a new EU Funds portal (FONDI.eu) was launched in January 2023.

SMS

Various text messages were sent to interested parties prior to calls for applications issued by the MA.

Public Events

As referred to in the previous section, the MA together with the NRN participated in AgriFair held in May 2022 and in Europe Day events held in Valletta in May 2022.

BiedjaCam

The BiedjaCam mobile application features crop plan management and a streamlined storm damage application process based on geo-tagged photo technology.

Farmers can insert the crops growing in their fields with photos of the growth progress taken directly through BiedjaCam. In case of storms, the photos in BiedjaCam taken before such storm will serve as proof of what crops were being grown. This process will help the Government to better aid the farmers.

The app also includes the following functionalities:

- Receive important reminders and notifications from ARPA
- Reply to messages sent by ARPA
- See registered parcels for the app user
- Follow EU aid applications
- See all payments received.

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)	2014-2022			0.40	6.27	6.38
		2014-2021					
		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)	2014-2022			5.00	100.00	5.00
		2014-2021			5.00	100.00	
		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)	2014-2022			1,043.00	14.49	7,200.00
		2014-2021			309.00	4.29	
		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)	2014-2022	1.47	110.96	1.47	110.96	1.32
		2014-2021	1.28	96.62	1.28	96.62	
		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	2014-2022	34,672,703.62	96.73	25,273,929.94	70.51	35,845,094.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	34,672,703.62	97.27	25,273,929.94	70.90	35,645,094.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2022			37,671,784.31	73.66	51,142,039.00
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			10,788,344.97	83.13	12,978,427.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2022			161.00	96.99	166.00
M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			14,485,584.97	63.91	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)	2014-2022	0.65	85.73	0.65	85.73	0.76
		2014-2021	0.49	64.63	0.49	64.63	
		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
2B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	5,670,000.00	74.35	4,564,000.00	59.85	7,626,264.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	1,519,194.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	10.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	5,670,000.00	85.05	4,564,000.00	68.46	6,666,667.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2022			4,564,000.00	58.88	7,751,938.00
M06.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			4,564,000.00	68.46	6,666,667.00
M06.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2022			81.00	85.26	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)	2014-2022	0.01	0.73	0.01	0.73	1.36	
		2014-2021	0.02	1.47	0.01	0.73		
		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)	2014-2022						25.00
		2014-2021						
		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	2014-2022	8,745,748.10	101.64	3,446,864.31	40.06	8,604,879.34	
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	222,860.00	27.41	0.00	0.00	813,170.67	
M03.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	66.00	
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	8,119,911.10	113.30	3,446,864.31	48.10	7,166,708.67	
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2022			6,893,728.62	48.10	14,333,418.30	
M04.1 M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2022			30.00	57.69	52.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	402,977.00	64.48	0.00	0.00	625,000.00	
M16.4	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2022			12.28	412.21	2.98	
		2014-2021			12.28	412.21		
		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)	2014-2022				4.12	138.30	2.98
		2014-2021				4.12	138.30	
		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)	2014-2022				14.11	161.38	8.74
		2014-2021				13.34	152.58	
		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	2014-2022	52,333,873.44	78.57	32,861,274.37	49.34	66,608,326.52	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	285,000.00	16.19	3,224.14	0.18	1,760,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			3,224.14	0.22	1,440,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2022			1,043.00	36.22	2,880.00	
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	500,000.00	47.62	42,022.68	4.00	1,050,000.00	
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2022			143.00	22.70	630.00	

M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	26,998,052.72	100.33	16,507,038.50	61.34	26,908,690.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2022			20,633,798.13	58.14	35,487,379.00
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2022			198.00	97.54	203.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	6,035,058.10	48.06	3,575,178.89	28.47	12,556,079.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2022			360.30	53.69	671.10
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	18,213.80	1.79	13,607.03	1.34	1,016,000.00
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2022			0.50	0.21	240.00
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2022			6.35	7.06	90.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	15,755,907.74	101.63	12,079,652.97	77.92	15,502,714.00
M13.3	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2022					8,700.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	2,741,641.08	75.29	640,550.16	17.59	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)	2014-2022			2.78	22.22	12.51
		2014-2021			2.78	22.22	
		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	2014-2022	23,535,520.81	51.98	23,203,854.82	51.24	45,281,356.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022					1,760,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	1,440,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	2,880.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	222.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	23,535,520.81	54.83	23,203,854.82	54.06	42,921,356.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2022			27,304,241.36	55.30	49,378,388.00
M04	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2022			78.54	22.19	354.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2022			25.00	46.30	54.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			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)	2014-2022					759,597.00
		2014-2021					
		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	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,169,798.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022					440,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	360,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	720.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	379,798.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2022			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)	2014-2022	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
		2014-2021	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	
		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	2014-2022	3,002,347.25	141.67	97,708.61	4.61	2,119,194.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	9,147.25	0.60	7,852.91	0.52	1,519,194.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2022			15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2022			1.00	4.55	22.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	2,993,200.00	498.87	89,855.70	14.98	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)	2014-2022			9.60	59.68	16.09
		2014-2021			0.01	0.06	
		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	2014-2022	14,316.22	0.89	14,925.03	0.92	1,614,446.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022					220,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	180,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	360.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	14,316.22	1.37	14,925.03	1.43	1,044,446.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2022			28,590.06	1.37	2,088,891.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2022			1.00	6.67	15.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)	2014-2022			3,998.00	59.67	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)	2014-2022			8.89	167.42	5.31
		2014-2021			8.89	167.42	
		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	2014-2022	7,060,226.62	129.27	6,152,738.44	112.65	5,461,579.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	25.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	7,060,226.62	548.05	6,152,738.44	477.61	1,288,246.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2022			877.45	144.32	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)	2014-2022					28.00
		2014-2021					
		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	2014-2022	845,540.20	23.96	360,303.34	10.21	3,528,438.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	845,540.20	25.79	360,303.34	10.99	3,278,438.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2022			720,606.68	10.07	7,152,955.00
M06.2 M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2022			6.00	26.09	23.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			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)	2014-2022			2.50	25.00	10.00	
		2014-2021			2.50	25.00		
		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)	2014-2022						0.00
		2014-2021						
		2014-2020						
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2022				105.38	105.42	99.97
		2014-2021				105.38	105.42	
		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	2014-2022	7,800,910.67	80.06	3,944,956.70	40.49	9,743,333.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022	7,800,910.67	82.17	3,944,956.70	41.56	9,493,333.00	
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2022			283,284.00	105.41	268,733.00	
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2022			3.00	100.00	3.00	
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			345,014.71	39.81	866,666.67	
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			2,529,077.39	38.31	6,601,333.33	

M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			140,991.11	47.00	300,000.00
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			929,873.49	53.90	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)	2014-2022					0.00	
		2014-2021						
		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 (%)	2014-2022						20.00
		2014-2021						
		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	2014-2022					220,000.00	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022					220,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	180,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2022			0.00	0.00	360.00	

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Citizens' Summary for Implementation Year 2022	Citizens' summary	13-06-2023		Ares(2023)4556600	1683413126	Citizens' Summary for Implementation Year 2022	30-06-2023	ncamanth
AIR Financial Annex 2014MT06RDNP001	Financial annex (System)	17-04-2023		Ares(2023)4556600	2693850913	AIRfinancialAnnex2014MT06RDNP001_mt.pdf	30-06-2023	ncamanth

