

## Selection Criteria for the CAP SP

There shall be 4 main routes of selection criteria depending on the nature of the proposal, which are:

1. Selection of the Local Action Groups supported via COOP-Leader. Operations with the highest total score are prioritised.
2. Investments clearly targeting environmental purposes or carried out in connection with restoration activities, specifically:
  - 2.1 RD On-Farm Non-Productive Investments
    - 2.1.1 Establishing, restoring, or re-instating rural infrastructure
    - 2.1.2 Support for planting of trees and ancillary works
  - 2.2 RD Off-Farm Non-Productive Investments and Afforestation
    - 2.2.1 Support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems.
    - 2.2.2 Reconstruction and upgrading of rubble walls by Public entities
    - 2.2.3 Rehabilitation of valleys around the Maltese Islands
    - 2.2.4 Support for planting of trees and ancillary works (not on agricultural parcels)
3. Interventions in line with Article 79 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2115/2021, where operations with the highest total score are prioritised.
  - 3.1 Investments going beyond route 2, specifically:
    - 3.1.1 On-farm Productive Investments
    - 3.1.2 Off-Farm Productive Investments (Including Processing)
    - 3.1.3 Off-Farm Investments Infrastructure
  - 3.2 setting-up of young farmers,
  - 3.3 cooperation (with the exclusion of LEADER)
  - 3.4 knowledge exchange and dissemination of information.
4. Selection Criteria for 'on-farm productive investments' for the Selection of Operations under the EUR15,000 in project grant value

## 1. Selection Criteria of Local Action Groups supported via COOP-Leader

Selection criteria		
Criterion	Marks (max)	Sub-criteria
1. Degree of engagement with local stakeholders	10	Points awarded according to the extent to which the potential LAG has engaged and consulted with the local stakeholders in its territory during the formulation of the proposed LDS.
	10	Points awarded according to the targeted involvement of local community actors in the implementation of the proposed interventions in the LDS.
2. Identification and development of local priorities	30	<p>Points awarded according to the extent to which local priorities have been developed in the submitted local development strategy (LDS), and the evidence presented as a basis for the formulation of the LDS.</p> <p>Up to 5 marks for each theme covered but with a total maximum of 30 points combined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strengthening the local identity and the local profile;</li> <li>• improving the quality of life and the attractiveness of the local area;</li> <li>• creation and safeguarding of jobs in rural areas;</li> <li>• improvement of equal opportunities for youth, women, elderly people, disabled persons and members of minorities;</li> <li>• increasing the local added value and competitiveness of the area;</li> <li>• contribute to the preservation of resources and environmental protection;</li> <li>• establishment of an integrated approach to rural development.</li> </ul>
3. Action planning to begin implementation	10	Points awarded according to whether the LDS demonstrates realistic action planning with respect to its implementation.
	10	Points awarded according to the capacity of the proposed LAG to implement the LDS, in terms of organisational set-up, relevant experience, and skills.

4. Relevance of Cooperation Activities	30	<p>The assessment is carried out on the level of direct contribution towards the identified local priorities, deemed to be addressed by the cooperation sub-intervention in relation to the LDS.</p> <p>≤ 2 priorities addressed: 15 Marks  &gt; 2 priorities addressed: 30 Marks</p>
<p>Total Score:  Pass mark:</p>	<p>100  50%</p>	<p><b><i>Proposals with the highest total score are prioritised.</i></b></p>

## **2. Investments clearly targeting environmental purposes or carried out in connection with restoration activities.**

In line with Article 79 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2115/2021, there shall be no selection criteria where investments are clearly targeting environmental purposes or carried out in connection with restoration activities.

In cases where applications need to be prioritised in view of budgetary limitations, priority will be given to:

- operations within a Natura 2000 area.
- If further prioritisation would be required, then the next criterion would be proximity to Natura 2000 areas.

**3.A Interventions in line with Article 79 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2115/2021 which are investments, setting-up of young farmers, cooperation, knowledge exchange and information for the Selection of Operations over EUR50,000 in project grant value, specifically:**

- a. Investments going beyond route 2, namely:
  - i. On-farm Productive Investments
  - ii. Off-Farm Productive Investments (Including Processing)
  - iii. Off-Farm Investments Infrastructure
- b. setting-up of young farmers,
- c. cooperation (with the exclusion of LEADER)
- d. knowledge exchange and dissemination of information.

The Assessment and Selection of operations shall be undertaken by a Project Selection Committee.

A project must achieve 50% of the marks to be considered for funding. Projects will be ranked according to marks and funds allocated to those projects which obtain the highest marks.

In cases of over-demand for funding, other projects which obtain the pass mark, but which are not funded will be placed on a reserve list according to marks obtained.

Selection criteria		
Criterion	Marks (max)	Sub-criteria
The proposed project addresses the Needs as expressed in the specific objectives	15	<p>The assessment is carried out on the level of Needs deemed to be addressed by the project proposal in relation to the Specific Objective under which the intervention is taking place, within the spirit of the CAP SP.</p> <p>≤ 2 Needs addressed: 5 Marks            &gt; 2 ≤ 4 Needs addressed: 10 Marks            &gt; 4 Needs addressed: 15 Marks</p>
Contribution of the project towards the Farm to Fork Strategy	15	<p>Evidence that the project proposal is deemed to contribute towards the Farm to Fork Strategy, including, <i>inter alia</i>, the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring Sustainable Food Production, incl. Shift to Organic Farming</li> <li>• Ensuring Food Security</li> <li>• Stimulating sustainable food processing, wholesale, retail, hospitality and food services practices</li> <li>• Promoting sustainable food consumption and facilitating shift to healthy, sustainable diets</li> <li>• Reducing food loss and waste</li> <li>• Combating food fraud along the food supply chain</li> <li>• Research, innovation, technology and investments</li> <li>• Advisory services, data and knowledge sharing, and skills</li> </ul> <p>≤ 2 actions addressed: 5 Marks            &gt; 2 ≤ 4 actions addressed: 10 Marks            &gt; 4 actions addressed: 15 Marks</p>
Potential of the project to enhance/result in (the adoption of) innovation/ use of state-of-the-art technology in the sector/ partnership	5	<p>The assessment is carried out on the level of potential contribution of the project to enhance/result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (the adoption of) innovation/ use of state-of-the-art technology in the sector (max 3 marks)</li> <li>• Partnership with other actors (max 2 marks)</li> </ul>

<p>Contribution towards Results</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Where the Intervention is related to: <b>RD COOP EIP</b> and <b>RD KNOW</b></p> <p>&lt; 10% contribution towards one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- R1 Enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation</li> <li>- R2 Linking advice and knowledge systems</li> <li>- R28 Environmental or climate-related performance through knowledge and innovation – 2 marks</li> </ul> <p>≥10% contribution towards one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- R1 Enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation</li> <li>- R2 Linking advice and knowledge systems</li> <li>- R28 Environmental or climate-related performance through knowledge and innovation – 5 marks</li> </ul> <p>Under the intervention <b>RD KNOWLEDGE</b>, the following sub-criteria will also be taken into account (max 10 marks):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) quality of the project proposals to deliver training, advice, demonstration or information actions, and farm exchanges/visits</li> <li>(b) competencies of the training provider, where applicable;</li> <li>(c) the level of integration of advisors in the actions, where applicable.</li> </ol> <p>For <b>Cooperation- EIP OGs</b>: the following sub-criteria will also be taken into account (max 10 marks):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- developing innovative solutions focusing on farmers' needs while also tackling the interactions across the whole supply chain where useful;</li> <li>- bringing together partners with complementary knowledge such as farmers, advisors, researchers, enterprises or non-governmental organisations in a targeted combination as best suited to achieve the project objectives;</li> <li>- co-deciding and co-creating all along the project;</li> <li>- integrating advisors as much as possible; and</li> <li>- Elements of hands-on / pilot projects / best practice / lighthouse projects that can be replicated by farmers / members of cooperation and even upscaled by the farming sector and industries.</li> </ul> <p><b>For other interventions (max 15 marks):</b></p> <p>Where the operation contributes towards a result indicator that is a simple unique count at operational level, the level of contribution towards the programme result indicator will be considered on a qualitative merit by the project selection committee maintaining a similar logic to the above.</p>
-------------------------------------	-----------	---

Readiness	5	<p>Risk associated with the implementation and timeline of the project as proposed by the Applicant</p> <p><b><u>Sub-Criteria 1</u></b>          Planning Permit Approved / No Permits Required – 3 Marks          Planning Permit Pending Decision – 1 Mark          Planning Permit Application (if required) not Submitted – 0 Marks</p> <p><b><u>Sub-Criteria 2</u></b>          Risks Identified and Mitigated in the Proposal are justified – 2 Marks</p>
Quality of operation proposal	15	<p>Clarity &amp; Sequence – 10 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The proposal is not well-defined and poorly sequenced. Central ideas are not focused to support the intended outcomes and following the thread of thought. Description appears disconnected (0 marks).</li> <li>○ The central purpose of the proposal is identified and presented in a logical sequence. Ideas are generally focused in a way that supports the desired outcomes and reader is able to follow with little or no difficulty (5 marks).</li> <li>○ The central purpose of the proposal is clear and supporting ideas are well-focused presented in a logical sequence which flows naturally. Details are relevant and enrich the proposal and are engaging to the audience (10 marks).</li> </ul> <p>Description – 5 marks</p> <p>Adequate description of the purpose of the proposal (as may also be guided through the application process). The consideration shall be proportionate to the level of funding being requested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description is poor and provides no understanding to the audience of the activities to be implemented to achieve the intended outcomes (0 marks)</li> <li>• Description is adequately presented that the reader can follow with little or no difficulty (3 marks)</li> <li>• Description is well detailed and is engaging to the audience (5 marks)</li> </ul>



Sustainability	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidenced plans towards facilitating increased participation of women, young farmers<sup>1</sup>, young persons<sup>2</sup>, other minorities, and ensuring Equal Opportunities – <b>5 Marks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased participation on one of the above = 3 marks</li> <li>○ Combination of two or more of the above = 5 marks</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 action from the below = 5 marks; 2 actions = 10marks, 3+ actions = 15 marks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- actions that reduce ammonia emissions</li> <li>- actions that promote animal welfare (<i>interalia</i> proposals that achieve housing systems, and in particular alternative systems for laying hens, free farrowing for sows as well as extended time in group housing for sows and calves (beyond the minimum time required by the EU legislation).</li> <li>- actions that promote circular economy</li> <li>- actions that target the use of anti-microbials</li> <li>- Adoption/facilitating the adoption of agricultural practices which are deemed as contributing towards enhanced sustainability</li> <li>- Investments in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Systems</li> <li>- reduction of nutrient losses, while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility</li> <li>- carbon Capture / Sequestration Potential</li> <li>- increased capacity of water holding in the landscape by the proposed interventions</li> <li>- make efficient use of existing legitimate buildings, structures and infrastructure, so as to avoid new development pressures scattered in the countryside;</li> <li>- restore already degraded land, natural habitats and landscapes where reasonably possible as well as prevent adverse environmental impacts that may arise from indirect and consequential</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
----------------	----	---

---

<sup>1</sup> Under 41 years of age

<sup>2</sup> Under 41 years of age

		<p>implications of development, such as impacts associated with widening of rural roads, infrastructure, rural tourism, etc; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improve/restore specific aspects of the environment, including the protection and conservation of the natural/rural environment, including site topography, natural physical features, valleys and watercourses, cliffs/escarpments, old rubble walls, traditional terraced fields, mature trees (e.g. carobs), areas of garrigue(xaghri), maquis or mosaic landscapes (made up of a mix of patches of arable land and patches of garrigue/maquis, and/or characterised by non trivial rock outcrops, etc.).</li> </ul>
<p>Total Score: 90 Pass mark: 50%</p>		<p><b><i>Operations with the highest total score are prioritised.</i></b></p>

**3.B. Interventions in line with Article 79 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2021 which are investments, setting-up of young farmers, cooperation, knowledge exchange and information for the Selection of Operations under EUR50,000 in project grant value, specifically:**

Selection criteria		
Criterion	Marks (max)	Sub-criteria
The proposed project addresses the Needs as expressed in the specific objectives	15	<p>The assessment is carried out on the level of Needs deemed to be addressed by the project proposal in relation to the Specific Objective under which the intervention is taking place, within the spirit of the CAP SP.</p> <p>≤ 2 Needs addressed: 5 Marks            &gt; 2 ≤ 4 Needs addressed: 10 Marks            &gt; 4 Needs address: 15 Marks</p>
Contribution towards Results	15	<p>Where the Intervention is related to: <b>RD COOP EIP</b> and <b>RD KNOW</b></p> <p>&lt; 10% contribution towards one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- R1 Enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation</li> <li>- R2 Linking advice and knowledge systems</li> <li>- R28 Environmental or climate-related performance through knowledge and innovation – 2 marks</li> </ul> <p>≥10% contribution towards one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- R1 Enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation</li> <li>- R2 Linking advice and knowledge systems</li> <li>- R28 Environmental or climate-related performance through knowledge and innovation – 5 marks</li> </ul> <p>Under the intervention <b>RD KNOWLEDGE</b>, the following sub-criteria will also be taken into account (max 10 marks):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(d) quality of the project proposals to deliver training, advice, demonstration or information actions, and farm exchanges/visits</li> <li>(e) competencies of the training provider, where applicable;</li> <li>(f) the level of integration of advisors in the actions, where applicable.</li> </ul> <p>For <b>Cooperation- EIP OGs</b>: the following sub-criteria will also be taken into account (max 10 marks):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- developing innovative solutions focusing on farmers' needs while also tackling the interactions across the whole supply chain where useful;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bringing together partners with complementary knowledge such as farmers, advisors, researchers, enterprises or non-governmental organisations in a targeted combination as best suited to achieve the project objectives;</li> <li>- co-deciding and co-creating all along the project;</li> <li>- integrating advisors as much as possible; and</li> <li>- Elements of hands-on / pilot projects / best practice / lighthouse projects that can be replicated by farmers / members of cooperation and even upscaled by the farming sector and industries.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>For other interventions (max 15 marks):</b></p> <p>Where the operation contributes towards a result indicator that is a simple unique count at operational level, the level of contribution towards the programme will be considered on a qualitative merit by the project selection committee maintaining a similar logic to the above.</p>
Readiness	5	<p>Risk associated with the implementation and timeline of the project as proposed by the Applicant</p> <p><b><u>Sub-Criteria 1</u></b>  Planning Permit Approved / No Permits Required – 3 Marks  Planning Permit Pending Decision – 1 Mark  Planning Permit Application (if required) not Submitted – 0 Marks</p> <p><b><u>Sub-Criteria 2</u></b>  Risks Identified and Mitigated in the Proposal are justified – 2 Marks</p>

Quality of operation proposal	15	<p>Clarity &amp; Sequence – 10 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The proposal is not well-defined and poorly sequenced. Central ideas are not focused to support the intended outcomes and following the thread of thought. Description appears disconnected (0 marks).</li> <li>○ The central purpose of the proposal is identified and presented in a logical sequence. Ideas are generally focused in a way that supports the desired outcomes and reader is able to follow with little or no difficulty (5 marks).</li> <li>○ The central purpose of the proposal is clear and supporting ideas are well-focused presented in a logical sequence which flows naturally. Details are relevant and enrich the proposal and are engaging to the audience (10 marks).</li> </ul> <p><b>Description – 5 marks</b></p> <p>Adequate description of the purpose of the proposal (as may also be guided through the application process). The consideration shall be proportionate to the level of funding being requested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description is poor and provides no understanding to the audience of the intended outcomes (0 marks)</li> <li>• Description is adequately presented that the reader can follow with little or no difficulty (3 marks)</li> <li>• Description is well detailed and is engaging to the audience (5 marks)</li> </ul>
Sustainability	20	<p>Evidenced plans towards facilitating increased participation of women, young farmers<sup>3</sup>, young persons<sup>4</sup>, other minorities, and ensuring Equal Opportunities – 5 Marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased participation on one of the above = 3 marks</li> <li>• Combination of two or more of the above = 5 marks</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 action from the below = 5 marks; 2 actions = 10marks, 3+ actions = 15 marks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- actions that reduce ammonia emissions</li> <li>- actions that promote animal welfare (<i>interalia</i> proposals that achieve housing systems, and in particular alternative systems for laying hens, free farrowing for sows as well as extended time in group housing for sows and calves (beyond the minimum time required by the EU legislation).</li> <li>- actions that promote circular economy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Under 41 years of age

<sup>4</sup> Under 41 years of age

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- actions that target the use of anti-microbials</li> <li>- Adoption/facilitating the adoption of agricultural practices which are deemed as contributing towards enhanced sustainability</li> <li>- Investments in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Systems</li> <li>- reduction of nutrient losses, while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility</li> <li>- carbon Capture / Sequestration Potential</li> <li>- increased capacity of water holding in the landscape by the proposed interventions</li> <li>- make efficient use of existing legitimate buildings, structures and infrastructure, so as to avoid new development pressures scattered in the countryside;</li> <li>- restore already degraded land, natural habitats and landscapes where reasonably possible as well as prevent adverse environmental impacts that may arise from indirect and consequential implications of development, such as impacts associated with widening of rural roads, infrastructure, rural tourism, etc; and</li> <li>- improve/restore specific aspects of the environment, including the protection and conservation of the natural/rural environment, including site topography, natural physical features, valleys and watercourses, cliffs/escarpments, old rubble walls, traditional terraced fields, mature trees (e.g. carobs), areas of garrigue(xaghri), maquis or mosaic landscapes (made up of a mix of patches of arable land and patches of garrigue/maquis, and/or characterised by non trivial rock outcrops, etc.).</li> </ul>
<p>Total Score: Pass mark</p>	<p>70 50%</p>	<p><b><i>Operations with the highest total score are prioritised.</i></b></p>

#### 4. Selection Criteria for ‘on-farm productive investments’ for the Selection of Operations under the EUR15,000 in project grant value

Selection criteria		
Criterion	Marks (max)	Sub-criteria
Applicant	10 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant is a Young Farmer (5 marks) <sup>5</sup></li> <li>The Applicant is certified in-conversion or Organic Farmer (5 marks)</li> </ul>
Quality of operation proposal and alignment to the policy objectives	90 marks	<p><b>Clarity &amp; Sequence – 70 marks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The central purpose of the investment is identified and demonstrates potential of improvements of the Applicant’s agriculture activity (40 marks).</li> <li>The central purpose of the proposed investment is clear and complimentary from a technical point of view. It is well-focused and coherent when presenting its operational benefits (70 marks).</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Description – 20 marks</b></p> <p>Adequate description of the purpose of the proposal and its alignment to the policy objectives (as may also be guided through the application process). The consideration shall be proportionate to the level of funding being requested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed investment contributes to further farm economic sustainability (10 marks).</li> <li>The proposed investment contributes to environmental sustainability (climate mitigation and adaptation/ conservation of biodiversity/ conservation of soil/ resource efficiency/ animal welfare) (10 marks).</li> </ul>
Total Score: Pass mark	100 marks 50 marks	<b><i>Operations with the highest total score are prioritised.</i></b>

<sup>5</sup> Under 41 years of age