



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)	2014-2023			0.98	15.35	6.38
	2014-2022			0.40	6.27	
	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)	2014-2023			4.00	80.00	5.00
	2014-2022			5.00	100.00	
	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)	2014-2023			1,349.00	18.74	7,200.00
	2014-2022			1,043.00	14.49	
	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)		2014-2023	1.60	120.77	1.28	96.62	1.32
		2014-2022	1.47	110.96	1.47	110.96	
		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	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	38,210,329.81	107.20	29,716,179.00	83.37	35,645,094.00
M22	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	1,642,120.00	74.64			2,200,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	39,852,449.81	104.75	29,716,179.00	78.11	38,045,094.00

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)		2014-2023	0.77	101.56	0.77	101.56	0.76
		2014-2022	0.65	85.73	0.65	85.73	
		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	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	6,790,000.00	101.85	6,020,000.00	90.30	6,666,667.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	6,790,000.00	89.03	6,020,000.00	78.94	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)		2014-2023	0.01	0.73	0.01	0.73	1.36
		2014-2022	0.01	0.73	0.01	0.73	
		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)		2014-2023					25.00
		2014-2022					
		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	2014-2023	222,860.00	27.41	0.00	0.00	813,170.67
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	8,147,170.12	113.68	4,672,047.25	65.19	7,166,708.67
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	402,977.00	64.48	168,889.61	27.02	625,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	8,773,007.12	101.95	4,840,936.86	56.26	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)	2014-2023			12.28	412.21	2.98
	2014-2022			12.28	412.21	
	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)	2014-2023			4.12	138.30	2.98
	2014-2022			4.12	138.30	
	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)	2014-2023			14.11	161.38	8.74
	2014-2022			14.11	161.38	
	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	2014-2023	285,000.00	16.19	90,125.96	5.12	1,760,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	500,000.00	47.62	83,284.84	7.93	1,050,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	26,998,052.72	100.33	17,138,910.66	63.69	26,908,690.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	6,114,724.99	48.70	3,770,234.84	30.03	12,556,079.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	20,292.49	2.00	15,685.72	1.54	1,016,000.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	15,755,907.74	101.63	13,984,960.73	90.21	15,502,714.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	2,741,641.08	75.29	972,823.49	26.71	3,641,510.52
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	52,415,619.02	78.69	36,056,026.24	54.13	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)		2014-2023			2.78	22.22	12.51
		2014-2022			2.78	22.22	
		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	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	1,760,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	43,110,047.64	100.44	33,130,347.88	77.19	42,921,356.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	43,110,047.64	95.20	33,130,347.88	73.17	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)		2014-2023					759,597.00
		2014-2022					
		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	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	440,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	379,798.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	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)		2014-2023	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
		2014-2022	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	
		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	2014-2023	9,147.25	0.60	7,852.91	0.52	1,519,194.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	2,993,200.00	498.87	606,260.70	101.04	600,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	3,002,347.25	141.67	614,113.61	28.98	2,119,194.00

Focus Area 5D							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		2014-2023			9.60	59.68	16.09
		2014-2022			9.60	59.68	
		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	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	220,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	14,316.22	1.37	14,925.03	1.43	1,044,446.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	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)		2014-2023			8.89	167.42	5.31
		2014-2022			8.89	167.42	
		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	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	8,435,291.46	654.79	7,182,047.84	557.51	1,288,246.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	8,435,291.46	154.45	7,182,047.84	131.50	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)		2014-2023					9.00
		2014-2022					
		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	2014-2023	845,540.20	78.40	443,439.51	41.12	1,078,437.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	845,540.20	63.65	443,439.51	33.38	1,328,437.00

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)	2014-2023			4.50	45.00	10.00
	2014-2022			2.50	25.00	
	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)	2014-2023					0.00
	2014-2022					
	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)	2014-2023			105.38	105.42	99.97
	2014-2022			105.38	105.42	
	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	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	9,691,735.72	102.09	5,993,313.93	63.13	9,493,333.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	9,691,735.72	99.47	5,993,313.93	61.51	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)		2014-2023					0.00
		2014-2022					
		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 (%)		2014-2023					20.00
		2014-2022					
		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	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	220,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	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 Plan

No changes were recorded in the Programme's overall budget from 2022 to 2023, with the total RDP budget remaining €196,101,681. Notwithstanding, there were two changes in two measures. The first change is the introduction of measure M22 under Priority 2, Focus Area 2A, having a budget of €2.2 million. Measure 6.4 under Priority 6 registered a proportional decrease in budget of €2.2 million. The changes are provided in the Table below. For all other measures and sub-measures, no budget changes were recorded.

*Table on the change in budgets*

Priority	Focus Area	Sub-Measure	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Difference in Budget
P2	2A: Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification	22: Exceptional temporary support re Russia's invasion of Ukraine	0	2,200,000	2,200,000
P6	6A: Facilitating diversification, creation, and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation	6.4: Support for investment in creation and development of non-agricultural activities	3,278,437	1,078,437	-2,200,000

#### Priority 1 - Focus Area 1A

List of measures

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

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

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

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

- M1.1- support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions;
- M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions; and

- M1.3 - support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

No new commitments were registered for M1 across the three sub measures, since no new calls for projects were issued. The project undertaken by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology on vocational training (approved in 2019 under M1.1) was drawing to a close in 2023. The realised expenditure for 2023 was €86,902, bringing the total realised value of the project to €90,125. Considerable savings are expected to be registered compared to the commitment value of €285,000, as the project experienced several challenges emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic that prompted unprecedented public health measures, including lockdowns and a shift towards remote learning. Considering the nature of the audience being targeted, remote learning was not considered as an effective approach. In parallel, the Ministry for Agriculture held extensive training possibilities for farmers including those benefiting from the RDP, however this training was not delivered under M1.1.

During the year under review, 306 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 383 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2023.

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

The applicable measure contributing towards FA1A is:

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

No calls were launched under this Measure.

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

The applicable sub measures contributing towards FA1A are:

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

In 2023, no new calls for projects have been launched under this Measure in general for both M16.2 and M16.4 and subsequently there were no new commitments under 2023. The projects that were approved under M16.2 in previous years, were still ongoing in 2023, one of which was in its closing stage. These projects contributed towards P3 (FA3A), P4 and P5 (FA5C). €168,890, €332,274, and €516,405 were recorded in realised expenditure for the three priorities respectively.

### **Target Indicator**

As at end of 2023, realised expenditure was recorded under Measure 1.1, Measure 2.1 and Measure 16.2 in relation to FA1A. Consequently, the result indicator (T1) - % of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of

Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 Focus Area 1A) stood at 0.98% representing realised expenditure of € 1.92 million. While this is lower than the target established in the Programme, the calls issued in 2024 for M1 and M2 should lead to further progression towards this indicator value. Additionally, as from the earlier days of RDP implementation, the Ministry for Agriculture held extensive training possibilities for farmers including those benefiting from the RDP, however this training was not delivered under M1.1.

### **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 2023, no news calls for projects have been launched under this Measure in general, capturing both M16.2 and M16.6. Therefore, no new commitments were recorded. The already approved projects under M16.2, also contributing towards P3 (FA3A), P4 and P5 (FA5C).

#### **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

The approved intervention under M1.1 contributes towards FA1A rather than FA1C. There are no other approved interventions that contribute towards this FA.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2023.

### **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 2023, no further commitments were made under M2.1 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, the projects was still ongoing, registering €41,262 in realised expenditure.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2023.

### **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

Therefore no new commitments were recorded. The already approved projects under M16.2, also contributing towards P3 (FA3A), P4 and P5 (FA5C).

## **Target Indicator**

Progress was observed in relation to indicator T3 under Article 14 (EU) No 1305/2013, related to the total number of participants to training. Indeed, by the end of 2023, training participants increased further, rising by almost 30% to 1,349. Slow progress across this target indicator has in part been driven by the delays in

implementation for M1 due to COVID-19. The latter coincided with a critical juncture of the RDP, therefore also affecting the launch of M1.2 and M1.3. Additionally, as from the earlier days of RDP implementation, the Ministry for Agriculture held extensive training possibilities for farmers including those benefiting from the RDP, however this training was not delivered under M1.1. With another call issued in 2024 for M1, further progress is expected to be registered in the forthcoming period.

## **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
- M22 – Exceptional temporary support re Russia's invasion of Ukraine

### **Progress achieved**

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

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

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

No calls were launched under this Measure.

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

The applicable M4 sub-measures relating to FA2A are:

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

During 2023, 16 projects were awarded with a commitment value of €1.7 million. These Grant Agreements pertain to calls issued prior to 2023.

In addition, 1 new call for applications was launched under M4.1, with Grant Agreements signed between Q1 and Q2 of 2024. The call received substantial interest, resulting in 57 submitted applications, carrying a budget of €8.06 million.

As at end of 2023, the total commitment values for M4.1 under FA2A amounted to more than €17 million, including EURI. Until 2022, projects' value had to be capped at €150,000, indicating that projects had to be small in nature. This capping was removed in 2023.

Compared to previous years, 2023 saw a larger realised expenditure of circa €3.3 million (including EURI),

bringing the total realised amounts under M4.1 contributing towards FA2A to €14 million (including EURI), as at 2023. Overall, there are now 188 projects approved under the measure.

Three new projects were committed under M4.3 in 2023 with a value of €3.5 million, bringing the total committed amount to €22.8 million. As at end of 2023, this measure is overcommitted by 100.5%. In 2023, €1.8 million were recorded as realised amounts, bringing the total to €15.7 million.

### **Target Indicator**

As at the end of 2023, cumulative realised expenditure amounted to €14.1 million for M4.1 and €15.7 million for M4.3. EURI funds provided in 2023 supported a total of 16 holdings (EURI). Cumulatively the total number of holdings supported under M4.1 amounted to 200 holdings of which 39 have been funded through EURI. Consequently the result target indicator (T4) on the % of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation reached 1.60% of holdings slightly surpassing the target of 1.32% outlined in the programme. In terms of M2.2 there continues to be no realised expenditure as at the end of 2023.

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

The relevant sub-measure under this Focus Area is:

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

As a result of the programme modification, all the allocation for this Measure under this FA, was shifted to FA6A.

### **Measure 22 – Exceptional temporary support re Russia's invasion of Ukraine**

The relevant sub-measure under this Focus Area is:

- M22 - Exceptional temporary support to farmers and SMEs particularly affected by the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine

The latest RDP amendment, adopted on the 14 April 2023[1], introduced exceptional, temporary support to farmers particularly affected by the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This sub-measure is intended to provide support to forage-dependent livestock sectors covered by Voluntary Coupled Support Mechanisms, namely Dairy Production, Beef Production and Sheep. This measure was applicable until 15th October 2023[2].

The number of farmers supported are 328, of which 83 are from Dairy Production, 127 from Beef Production, 83 relate to the Sheep sector and the remaining 35 fall under the Goats Sector. A farmer can benefit under more than one sector, with the number of unique beneficiaries being 241. The total budget allocated to this one-time measure was of €2.2 million of which €1,642,120 have been committed and realised. The uncommitted budget of €557,880 will be transferred towards other measures of the RDP in a



forthcoming modification.

## **Priority 2 – Focus Area 2B**

### **List of measures**

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

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

### **Progress achieved**

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

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

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

No calls were launched under this Measure.

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

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

- M4.1 - Support for investment in agricultural holdings

M4.1, 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 committed in 2023, 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

The last call for this measure was launched in June 2022, closing in September 2022. Following this call, 12 new projects were contracted in 2023. The total number of young farmers contracted in 2023 however adds up to 15, since this includes those committed from other batches. This led to a commitment amount of circa €1.1 million in 2023, bringing the total close to €6.8 million as at end of 2023. The realised amount for the year under review is close to €1.5 million, such that the total as at 2023 is more than €6 million.

### **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

96 young farmers by the end of 2023 representing 0.77% of total holdings. This marginally surpassed the indicator target value of 95 young farmers. Total realised expenditure amounted to €6.0 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 2023 for M3.1 and M3.2. The two measures will be launched together in calendar year 2024.

#### **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

Under M4.1, one new call was launched in 2023, with a commitment value of €27,259.02, bringing the total to €812,631. No realised expenditure was reported in 2023.

In the case of M4.2, no new calls were launched in 2023, as the measure is overcommitted. Implementation of the approved operations progressed considerably with circa €1.2 million reported in realised expenditure for 2023. The cumulative realised expenditure for M4.2 under FA3A amounts to more than €4.1 million. As at end 2023, project implementation was progressing steadily, with most project nearing completion.

#### **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

In 2023, no new calls for projects have been launched under this Measure in general. The three operations approved in 2020 with a direct contribution to FA3A proceeded with their implementation, during 2023. The implementation of projects under this measure is progressing well, and during 2023, realised expenditure amounted to €168,890.

For M16.4, no calls were launched during 2023.

### **Target Indicator**

By the end of 2023, the target indicator (T6) representing the % of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations remained nil. Despite calls for both Measures 3.1 and 16.4 throughout the implementation of the Programme, as at the end of 2023, there remained no uptake for these measures. A new call has been issued for M3.1 in 2024 which depending on its uptake, may lead to developments in this indicator value.

## **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 project undertaken by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology on vocational training (approved in 2019 under M1.1) was drawing to a close in 2023. The realised expenditure for 2023 was €86,902 in 2023, bringing the total realised value of the project to €90,125. Considerable savings are expected to be registered compared to the commitment value of €285,000, as the project experienced several challenges emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic that prompted unprecedented public health measures, including lockdowns and a shift towards remote learning. Considering the nature of the audience being targeted, remote learning was not considered as an effective approach. In parallel, the Ministry for Agriculture held extensive training possibilities for farmers including those benefiting from the RDP, however this training was not delivered under M1.1.

During the year under review, 306 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 383 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2023.

## **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 2023, no further commitments were made under M2.1 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, the measure registered €41,262 in realised expenditure, bringing the total realised amount to €83,285.

In the case of M2.3, as in previous years, no calls for applications were launched in 2023.

## **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

As mentioned previously, operations under M4.1 do not only fall under P4, but also under other priorities covering the following Focus Areas of 2A, 2B, 3A, 5A, 5B and 5C. None of the approved projects under M4.1 throughout the programme cycle contribute towards P4.

In terms of M4.4, a new call was issued in 2023. The call received substantial interest, resulting in 82 submitted applications, carrying a budgetary request of €12.9 million. In all, 72 projects were approved. Applications were received in 2023 and the subsequent evaluation and selection process took place during the same year. The award letters however were issued in 2024 and will therefore be captured during reporting year 2024.

As at end of 2023, the total commitment values for M4.4 under FA4B and FA4C amounted to €26.2 million (excluding the projects approved under the last call, as referred to above). As at 2023, total realised amounts under M4.4 contributing towards this FA amounted to €17.1 million. Over the years, 198 projects were approved. Until 2022, projects' value were capped at €150,000, such that the projects had to be small in nature. This capping was not applicable for projects of national dimension, as defined in the Guidance Notes. This capping was removed in 2023.

### **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.

During 2023, 1 call for applications was launched under M8.5. The call saw 5 submitted applications, carrying a budget of €20.3 million. In all, there is a commitment of €8,346,667, which will be signed in 2024. Therefore, this project will be captured during reporting year 2024. The non-selected projects were placed on a reserve list.

### **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, 2023 saw the annual call for beneficiaries as part of the 6 AECMs as established within the RDP. In 2023, 940 agreements were in place that are applicable for Measures contributing towards P4.

The 2023 uptake adds up to a committed expenditure value of €78,361, 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 €46,733. A considerable decline in the committed expenditure was recorded in 2023 when compared to the previous years. This is due to the fact that as from 2023, new

commitments were made under the CAP SP 2023 – 2027. Also, there were a number of contracts that had ran their course (5 years) and were thus renewed under CAP SP. The AECCs programmed under the CAP SP are similar to those programmed under the RDP.

Considerable number of agreements were also signed for AECM 6c, leading to a commitment value of €16,570 during 2023. With cumulative commitment values by 2023 amounting to over €5 million, the progress registered brings the uptake to circa 46%, noting also that the total budget of the measure nearly doubled (now amounting to more than €10 million) from the increased allocations of the Transitional allocation. In terms of realised expenditure under M10.1, 2022 saw claims close to €0.2 million, bringing the cumulative realised amount as at 2023 to more than €3.6 million.

<b>AECMs contributing towards P4</b>	<b>Ongoing Commitments 2023</b>	<b>Committed Amounts 2023</b>
<b>AECM 1: Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical methods.</b>	620	€46,733.05
<b>AECM 3: Measure supporting the introduction of bee boxes on holdings</b>	19	€4,156.35
<b>AECM 6a: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - Maltese Black Chicken</b>	2	€0.00
<b>AECM 6b: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - ox</b>	3	€10,900.96
<b>AECM 6c: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species - carob and mulberry</b>	296	€16,570.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>€78,361.11</b>

During 2023, 1 call for applications was launched under M10.2 for which 4 applications were submitted, carrying a budget of €2.3 million. The call closed in January 2024 and the evaluation of applications will be concluded in 2024. No realised expenditure was registered for the selected operations.

### **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 and realised amounts, whilst under M11.2, a realised amount of €2,078.69 was recorded. The operations that were supported under M11.1, then moved for support under M11.2, where a realised amount of €2,078 was reported during 2023.

### **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 2023, M13.3 continued to see positive progress as uptake under this scheme is overcommitted despite the additional allocation of circa €3.5 million allocated from the EURI allocation. The total allocation to the measure now stands at €15.5 million (of which €3.5 million are allocated from EURI). Realised amounts of €1.9 million were recorded in 2023, bringing the cumulative amount realised under the programme is more than €15 million. The committed area for support for 2023 amounted to 7,714 square metres and the number of contracts amount to 6,307.

### **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.

In 2023, no news calls for projects have been launched under this Measure in general. The implementation of projects that were approved under M16.2 in previous years, progressed steadily during 2023. No new commitments were recorded under Measure 16.2, while realised amounted for the year amounted to €332,273 in relation to the project approved in 2020.

### **Target Indicators**

As at the end of 2023, 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 2023 amounts to 14.1 %. While progress under M11 has been relatively low, the amount of hectares supported under M10 has surpassed the originally envisaged values leading to an overachievement for this target indicator.
- 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 2023 amount to 4.12% implying that the target has been surpassed. This target has been surpassed due to developments under AECM1 and AECM4.
- 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 2023 amount to 12.28% implying that the target has been surpassed. This target indicator value has been surpassed due to developments under AECM1, AECM4 and AECM5.

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**

The relevant 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 project undertaken by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology on vocational training (approved in 2019 under M1.1) was drawing to a close in 2023. The realised expenditure for 2023 was €86,902, bringing the total realised value of the project to €90,125. Considerable savings are expected to be registered compared to the commitment value of €285,000, as the project experienced several challenges emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic that prompted unprecedented public health measures, including lockdowns and a shift towards remote learning. Considering the nature of the audience being targeted, remote learning was not considered as an effective approach. In parallel, the Ministry for Agriculture held extensive training possibilities for farmers including those benefiting from the RDP, however this training was not delivered under M1.1.

During the year under review, 306 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 383 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2023.



## **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 2023, no further commitments were made under M2.1 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, the measure registered €41,262 in realised expenditure bringing the total realised amount to €83,285.

In the case of M2.3, as in previous years, no calls for applications were launched in 2023.

## **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.

M4.1, not only contributes towards F5A but also other Focus Areas, including 2A, 2B, 3A, 4B, 4C, 5B, 5C and 5D. There were 2 new projects that were approved in 2023 that contributed towards FA5A, with a new commitment value of €74,526. These projects pertain to calls issued before 2023, which were however signed for in 2023.

In addition, during 2023, 1 call for applications was launched under M4.1, for which the Grant Agreements were signed between Q1 and Q2 of 2024. The call received substantial interest, resulting in 57 submitted applications, carrying a budget of €8.06 million.

The measure under this FA also registered progress in 2023 in terms of realised amount at €176,494, which brings the cumulative realised values to €1.89 million.

M4.3 contributes to FA2A, FA4A and FA4C. In 2023, one call was issued under measure 4.3 through which a new project was awarded to the Water Services Corporation (WSC). The project carries a budget of €19.5 million bringing the total committed amounts under the measure for this FA to €40.9 million and a 100% commitment rate. Progress was also registered in terms of realised amounts to reach €9.75 million in 2023, bringing the total realised values to €31 million.

## **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.

No new calls were issued under Measure 16.2.

### **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 2023 registered at 2.46%. The operations contributing towards T14 are projects falling under M4.1 whereby the bulk of the expenditure refers to water related investment. In actual fact, at the level of line item, there are a number of investment components such as water capture investments which for reporting purposes are not being captured under this FA as they are not the largest expenditure component in the agreements. In total, as at end of 2023, 24 operations have been supported under M4.1 and M4.3. Total realised public expenditure as at end of 2023 amounted to €33.1 million, leading to a total investment of €38.5 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 project undertaken by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology on vocational training (approved in 2019 under M1.1) was drawing to a close in 2023. The realised expenditure for 2023 was €86,902, bringing the total realised value of the project to €90,125. Considerable savings are expected to be registered compared to the commitment value of €285,000, as the project experienced several challenges emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic. that prompted unprecedented public health measures, including lockdowns and a shift towards remote learning. Considering the nature of the audience being targeted, remote learning was not considered as an effective approach. In parallel, the Ministry for Agriculture held extensive training possibilities for farmers including those benefiting from the RDP, however this training was not delivered under M1.1. Progress under this project is being reported under P4.

During the year under review, 306 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 383 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2023.

### **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 2023, 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, the measure registered €41,262 in realised expenditure bringing the total realised amount to €83,285. Progress under this project is being reported under P4

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2023.

### **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 there is no progress to report on.

### **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, not only contributes towards FA5C but also other Focus Areas, including 2A, 2B, 3A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B and 5D. However, no new progress was achieved in 2023 in relation to this FA.

#### **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 2023, no news calls for projects have been launched under this Measure in general and therefore there were no new commitments in 2023. The implementation of projects that were approved under M16.2 in previous years, progressed steadily during 2023. In relation to this FA, the project approved in 2021 (with a commitment value of €2.9 million, recorded further realised expenditure in 2023 of €0.5 million bringing the total of circa €0.6 million. The project focuses on establishing a pilot facility in to effectively manage pig and cow slurry, converting it into 50% clean irrigation water, 10% organic matter for soil improvement, and 40% liquid biomass acting as a nutrient-rich fertiliser substitute. The project also aims to evaluate the shift from imported to organic fertilisers, which could enhance soil quality and regulate fertiliser use. Education and guidance are also key aspects of this project, to ensure successful implementation of circular agricultural practices.

### **Target Indicator**

Given that no further progress was registered in 2023 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. It is however to be stressed that this does not imply that renewable energy components are not being undertaken, but rather, renewable energy expenditure may not be constituting the largest investment component and thus expenditure is being captured under other focus areas where the primary contribution lies. Indeed, an assessment of the expenditure components at the line item level indicates that there are multiple holdings which have invested in PV panels and solar water heaters but the respective expenditure is not captured under this FA.

## **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 project undertaken by the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology on vocational training (approved in 2019 under M1.1) drawing to a close in 2023. The realised expenditure for 2023 was €86,902, bringing the total realised value of the project to €90,125. Considerable savings are expected to be registered compared to the commitment value of €285,000, as the project experienced several challenges emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic. that prompted unprecedented public health measures, including lockdowns and a shift towards remote learning. Considering the nature of the audience being targeted, remote learning was not considered as an effective approach. In parallel, the Ministry for Agriculture held extensive training possibilities for farmers including those benefiting from the RDP, however this training was not delivered under M1.1. Progress under this project is being reported under P4.

During the year under review, 306 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 383 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2023.

#### **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 2023, 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, the measure

registered €41,262 in realised expenditure bringing the total realised amount to €83,285. Progress under this project is being reported under P4.

In the case of M2.3, no calls for applications were launched in 2023.

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

The relevant sub measure for this FA is:

- M4.1 – support for investment in agricultural holdings

M4.1, not only contributes towards FA5D but also other Focus Areas, including 2A, 2B, 3A, 4B, 4C, 5A and 5C. There was one project approved in 2019 that contributes to this FA, which was completed in 2020 and there is no other progress pertaining to 2023 to report on.

#### **Target Indicators**

The result indicator (T17) on the % of LU concerned by investments in livestock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions remains unchanged 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

During 2023, 1 call for applications was launched under M8.5. The call saw 5 submitted applications, carrying a budget of €20.3 million. In all, 1 project was approved, which contributes to P4 rather than to this FA.

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

The applicable sub-measures contribute contributing to FA5E are:

- M10.1 – Agri-environment-climate measures

- M10.2 – Conservation of genetic resources

As done in previous years, in 2023 the MA launched M10.1 during the annual payment claim campaign which takes place in April and May, this campaign saw a total 540 beneficiaries approved for support. The 2023 uptake falling under FA5E adds up to a committed expenditure value of circa €1.37 million, out of which AECEM 5 accounts for the largest portion of this allocation at more than €1.36 million.

<b>AECEMs contributing towards FA5E</b>	<b>Ongoing Commitments 2023</b>	<b>Committed Amounts 2023</b>
<b>AECEM 2: Measure for the maintenance of trees</b>	11	€ 116.97
<b>AECEM 4: Measure for the implementation of an integrated pest management plan targeting vineyards and orchards</b>	19	€9,233.87
<b>AECEM 5: Measure for the implementation of soil management and conservation plan on a holding</b>	510	€1,365,714.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>€1,375,064.84</b>

In terms of realised expenditure under M10.1 allocated to FA5E, 2023 saw realised payments of more than €1 million, with the cumulative realised expenditure being captured as at 2023 at more than €7.2 million.

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

No new calls were issued during 2023 under this measure. This measure saw a decline in budget from 2022 of €2.2 million, with this budget being transferred to M22 under FA2A. No new commitments were recorded in 2023, though €83,136 realised expenditure was recorded from ongoing projects that were committed during previous years.

### **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

No new calls issued under measure 16.2.

### **Target Indicator**

As at the end of 2023, the result indicator T20: Nr of jobs created through supported projects remained nil. Overall, under Measure 6.4, 4 operations have been selected and are ongoing in 2023 with realised expenditure amounting to €0.4 million.

### **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, no new calls were issues under measure 16.2.

### **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

With respect to M19.1, €150,000 were committed while €7,952 were realised during the year under review. With respect to M19.2, €1.4 million were committed in 2023, tallying the total committed amount to €6.9 million. More than €1.6 million were realised in 2023 under the same sub-measure.

During 2023, no commitments were recorded for Measure 19.3 and €125,278 have been realised as the LAG's cooperation projects drew to a close. With respect to M19.4, €1.8 million were committed and €218,164 were realised during 2023. During 2023, the following applications were received and approved:

<b>Majjistral Action Group Foundation</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Measure 1 - Restoration of assets of artistic and cultural value	4	4
Measure 2 - Strengthening a Healthy Cultural Identity	3	3
Measure 4 - Development of Green Infrastructure	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Gozo Local Action Group</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Measure 3 – Promotion of Cultural heritage	4	4
Measure 4 - GAG4 - Rejuvenating Gozo' (Second Call)	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Xlokk Local Action Group</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Measure 1 - Restoration of assets of artistic & cultural value	19	7
Measure 2 - Strengthening a healthy cultural identity	15	13
Measure 3 - Promotion of Cultural heritage	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>22</b>

### Target indicators

As at the end of 2023, the 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% surpassing the target indicator value of 99.97%. This achievement is the result of an increase in the rural population which is covered by the LAG strategies (as published in strategies) amounting to 283,284. This 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 2023 amounted to

4.5 full time equivalent jobs. While this falls short of the target set in the Programme of 10 jobs, it is to be appreciated that the objectives of LEADER in Malta do not explicitly focus on job creation. The LDSs focus more intently on the cultural heritage, social and environmental assets, as well as the preservation of the rural community (Thematic Evaluation on LEADER).

## **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 (approved in 2019 under M1.1) was drawing to a close in 2023. The realised expenditure for 2023 was €86,902, bringing the total realised value of the project to €90,125.

Considerable savings are expected to be registered compared to the commitment value of €285,000, as the project experienced several challenges emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic. that prompted unprecedented public health measures, including lockdowns and a shift towards remote learning.

Considering the nature of the audience being targeted, remote learning was not considered as an effective approach. In parallel, the Ministry for Agriculture held extensive training possibilities for farmers including those benefiting from the RDP, however this training was not delivered under M1.1. Progress under this project is being reported under P4.

During the year under review, 306 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 383 training days.

For M1.2 and M1.3 no calls for applications were launched during 2023.

### **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 2023 since realised expenditure under Measure 1 has not been directed towards this Focus Area.

[1] Source: “Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for Malta”. Available at: [https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/6721920c-b017-4f53-803f-20cd38de240d\\_en?filename=rdp-factsheet-malta\\_en.pdf](https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/6721920c-b017-4f53-803f-20cd38de240d_en?filename=rdp-factsheet-malta_en.pdf)

[2] Source: “ARPA: Guidelines for exceptional temporary support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in response to the impact of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine”. Available at: <https://arpa.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/guidelinesForageSchemeEN.pdf>

#### **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]**

N/A

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

The *Annual Implementation Report (AIR)* for the year ending 31st December 2022 was submitted to the European Commission in June 2023. This report presented the results emerging from the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities carried out during 2022, thereby allowing the Managing Authority (MA) to assess progress in the Rural Development Programme (RDP) implementation.

As part of the evaluation, in early 2024, a series of meetings were held with the MA to assess the implementation progress of the measures in 2023. The discussion focused on the monitoring progress and challenges experienced throughout the implementation process.

A key evaluation activity that was undertaken during 2023 is the *Thematic Evaluation on Biodiversity*. The evaluation focused on Focus Area (FA) 4A of the RDP, which aims to restore, preserve, and enhance biodiversity, particularly in Natura 2000 areas and regions facing natural constraints. This evaluation aimed to determine the effectiveness of RDP interventions in supporting these goals. The evaluation examined the effect of RDP measures on all biodiversity components and the landscape. Key measures impacting biodiversity are M4.4, M8.5, M10.M1, M11, and M13.3.

The evaluation method included data analysis, interviews with beneficiaries and stakeholders, and spatial analysis, in line with the ‘*Guidelines on the Assessment of RDP Results: How to prepare for reporting on evaluation in 2017*’ issued by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development. As advocated by the European Evaluation Helpdesk, the evaluation consists of a mixed-methods approach which ensures appropriate triangulation of different data sources.

The Biodiversity Thematic Evaluation was completed in 2023 and submitted in February 2024. Similarly, the LEADER Thematic Evaluation, prepared in 2022, was submitted in 2023.

### 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 2023, several meetings were held to discuss the data required by measure, based on the experience acquired during the 2022 AIR. These meetings were held with the Managing Authority 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. 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.

For the Biodiversity Thematic Evaluation, various sources were utilised to gather data, which was made possible through an open channel of communication maintained with the MA and the relevant stakeholders. Specific meetings were held with the MA to obtain data on beneficiaries and on the progress of the measures, data that helped the evaluators compute the output and result indicators. Meetings with ARPA were also held with respect to the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data on the AECMs. This data was used to analyse the spatial distribution of the AECMs including in relation to Natura 2000 areas and Areas of High Landscape Value. Soil Organic Matter (SOM) data (both in terms of measurements as well as the spatial data) was also obtained from the MA. While the former was used to estimate SOM values and annual average values, the GIS data was used to spatially represent the SOM figures in Malta and Gozo.

The evaluation also used qualitative data through a number of interviews with key beneficiaries and other stakeholders including the Managing Authority; the Paying Agency; the Food Systems Directorate within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights; and the Wild Birds Regulation Unit within the Ministry for Gozo. Interviews were also held with beneficiaries under Measure 10.1.

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

<b>Publisher/Editor</b>	Managing Authority
<b>Author(s)</b>	Adi Associates, E-Cubed Consultants and EMCS Ltd
<b>Title</b>	Biodiversity Evaluation
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This ad hoc report evaluates Focus Area 4A of Malta's Rural Development Programme, focusing on biodiversity preservation and enhancement, particularly in Natura 2000 sites and areas facing constraints. It notes a decline in biodiversity, with a portion of habitats in poor conservation status. Efforts like afforestation and agri-environmental measures aim to mitigate biodiversity loss but face challenges such as limited participation and insufficient data. Recommendations are provided at both national and programme levels, advocating for promoting organic farming, addressing land fragmentation, and improving monitoring practices. Overall, the report underscores the need for more coordinated actions through targeted policies, increased funding, and enhanced monitoring and evaluation efforts.</p> <p>The study began in 2023 and was submitted in early 2024; MA review will take place in 2024. The evaluation will be published in line with Article 76 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.</p>
<b>URL</b>	N/A

<b>Publisher/Editor</b>	Managing Authority
<b>Author(s)</b>	E-Cubed Consultants, EMCS Ltd, and Adi Associates
<b>Title</b>	Leader Thematic Evaluation
<b>Abstract</b>	<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 was submitted in early 2023.</p>

<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://fondi.eu/important_documentat/eafnd-evaluation-14-20">https://fondi.eu/important_documentat/eafnd-evaluation-14-20</a>
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## **2.e) A summary of completed evaluations, focussing on evaluation findings**

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

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

### **The Annual Implementation Report (AIR)**

This section refers to the AIR submitted in June 2023 which covers the year 2022.

In 2022, a significant number of proposals were submitted in response to project calls, resulting in the approval of 144 new projects, including 64 through the LEADER programme. Grant agreements for these projects were signed between 2022 and early 2023. Under M4.1 38 projects were approved with a budget of €3.5 million, while under M6.1, 29 projects for young farmers were approved, totalling approximately €2 million. These initiatives primarily aimed to enhance farm competitiveness and support young farmers in upgrading operations and assuming leadership roles.

This led to substantial progress in the program's budget commitment, notably in Priority 3, which is nearly fully committed, followed by Priorities 2 and 4. Realised expenditure exceeded €10 million in 2022, with Priority 4 showing the highest spending, followed by Priorities 2 and 5.

Investment projects received the largest share of commitment values, supporting various agricultural initiatives, including farm improvements and young farmer support. Additionally, efforts were made to address water scarcity through projects like facilitating access to recycled water, with an allocation of over €21 million under M4.3.

The LEADER Programme played a pivotal role, awarding 64 projects across different geographical action groups, focusing on local needs such as culture and green infrastructure. Land-based measures, training interventions, and advisory services for farmers also contributed significantly to the program's objectives. These initiatives, alongside technical assistance, are essential components in supporting administrative stakeholders in program management, implementation, and evaluation.

### **Biodiversity Evaluation**

The thematic evaluation on FA4A provides a comprehensive analysis of the RDP impacts on biodiversity. The evaluation, highlights several key findings as summarised hereunder:

### **Context for the Evaluation**

- The evaluation noted that as outlined in the Census of Agriculture (New Release 015/2022), there has been a decrease in Utilised Agricultural Area from 11,445 hectares in 2010 to 10,730 hectares in 2020 representing a 6.2% reduction.

- The latest Agriculture Census also shows a decline in Agricultural Holdings amounting to a 14.8% from 12,268 in 2010 to 10,449 in 2020.
- Also, the Agricultural Labour Force fell by 25.8%, from 18,212 persons in 2010 to 13,511 in 2020. Notably, only 23.7% of the workforce is under 45 years old, indicating an ageing demographic.

### **Result Indicator: R7/T9**

- Biodiversity and Landscape Management: The target at the EU level is 19.2% of agricultural land under biodiversity-supporting management contracts. By 2022, Malta achieved 14.1%, surpassing its RDP target of 8.74% but still below the EU average of 18.2%.

### **Common Context Indicators**

- CCI 34 - Natura 2000 Areas: 8% of Malta's agricultural land is within Natura 2000 sites, compared to the EU average of 12%.
- CCI 35 - Farmland Bird Index: Reflects changes in farmland bird populations, a proxy for biodiversity health. The index has declined across Europe. Malta's Farmland Bird Index (2013), showed a decline in the index, estimated at 81.93% compared to 2008. There haven't been further computations of the index since then[1].

### **Analysis by Measure**

#### **Measure 4.4: Restoration Projects: Impact on Biodiversity**

- Measure 4.4 primarily focuses on Focus Area 4C but includes projects such as dry-stone wall restoration, which positively impacts biodiversity. The evaluation discusses the allocation of funds and the types of projects funded. However, the quantifiable impact on biodiversity is challenging to determine due to a lack of before-and-after surveys.

#### **Measure 10.1: Agri-Environment Climate Measures (AECMs)**

- Measure 10.1 includes various AECMs that all contribute to FA4A. AECM 1 and 6 are the most widely distributed and successful. The evaluation assesses the spatial distribution of parcels benefiting from these measures and their impact on biodiversity. The evaluation discusses the distribution of AECM parcels in relation to Natura 2000 sites and Areas of high Landscape Value, highlighting areas of overlap and potential conservation benefits.

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

- Measure 11 focuses on organic farming, highlighting Malta's low organic farming rates compared to the EU average, standing at 0.6% of total utilised agricultural areal, the lowest in the EU (Source: Eurostat). The evaluation discusses factors inhibiting organic farming conversion and the government's action plan to promote organic farming. The evaluation assesses the impact of policy measures in increasing organic farming rates, including financial incentives, support for producers, and efforts to stimulate the organic market.

### **Measure 13: Payments to areas facing Natural Constraints**

- The evaluation emphasises the importance of these payments for maintaining farmland habitats and agricultural landscapes. Due to the unavailability of GIS data, the evaluation could not conduct spatial analysis to assess the direct impact of Measure 13 on biodiversity conservation.

These findings demonstrate the varied impacts of the FA4A programme, highlighting areas of progress and identifying challenges, particularly in organic farming and biodiversity support, which require continued and enhanced efforts to meet EU targets and support environmental sustainability.

The Biodiversity Thematic Evaluation was submitted in early 2024 but it has not yet been published as of the end of the AIR period.

[1] The Farmland Bird Index for Malta is expected to be computed for the year 2024, with data available at a later stage. Therefore, such data could not be presented in this Evaluation.

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

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

<b>Date / Period</b>	01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
<b>Title of communication activity/event &amp; topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated</b>	Annual Implementation Report Malta - Rural Development Programme (National)
<b>Overall organiser of activity/ event</b>	Managing Authority

<b>Information channels/ format used</b>	Available online
<b>Type of target audience</b>	Agricultural and rural stakeholders as well as general public
<b>Approximate number of stakeholders reached</b>	50
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://fondi.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Annual-Implementation-report-for-Year-2022.pdf">https://fondi.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Annual-Implementation-report-for-Year-2022.pdf</a>

<b>Date / Period</b>	01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023
<b>Title of communication activity/event &amp; topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated</b>	Thematic Evaluation on Biodiversity (Not yet published)
<b>Overall organiser of activity/ event</b>	Managing Authority
<b>Information channels/ format used</b>	N/A
<b>Type of target audience</b>	Agricultural and rural stakeholders as well as general public
<b>Approximate number of stakeholders reached</b>	0
<b>URL</b>	N/A

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

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

<b>Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding &amp; mention source in brackets)</b>	Biodiversity Thematic Evaluation – the study has not yet been published
<b>Follow-up carried out</b>	The conclusions derived from the study are currently being reviewed by the MA.
<b>Responsible authority for follow-up</b>	Managing authority



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

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

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

As in previous years, the main consultation sessions that were carried out during 2023 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 and CAP SP measures during the course of the year. The information sessions were targeted towards 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 2023:

- M4.1 – Support for investments in agricultural holdings.
- M4.4 – Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives.
- M8.5 Support for investments improving the resilience & environmental value of forest ecosystems.
- M10.2 – Support for conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture.

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

Two Monitoring Committee meetings were held in 2023, one in March (covering the year 2022) and another in October (for the year 2023). The former meeting marked the eight MC for the Rural Development Programme for Malta (2014-2022). It was held on the 9th of March in person in Valletta. The meeting primarily revolved around:

- An update on the RDP implementation, including information on the programme implementation and forecasts of N+3 and Performance Framework Milestones.
- An update on the RDP Financial Execution.
- Information on ongoing evaluation of the Rural Development Programme.

The second meeting was held on the 6th of October 2023 in person at the premises of the Managing Authority, in Hamrun. The meeting represented the ninth MC for the Rural Development Programme for Malta (2014-2022) and it primarily revolved around:

- An update on RDP implementation, including information on programme implementation and forecast of N+3 and Performance Framework Milestones.
- An update on the RDP Financial Execution.
- An update on the Evaluation of the Rural Development Programme.

## **Technical Meeting**

No technical meeting was held during 2023. However, there were several bilateral technical meetings on the implementation of the programme.

## **Annual Review Meeting**

The Annual Review Meeting was held on the 8th of March 2023 and the focus of the meeting was on:

1. The results of the implementation of the RDP Malta 2014-2022, in light of the 2021 Annual Implementation Report, as regards financial implementation on the last declaration of expenditure, and progress towards the achievement of the quantified targets.
2. Error rate (including EU audits and national audits) and corrective and preventive actions.
3. Communication and information activities on the results and added value of RDP support (results and effectiveness of these activities), including National Rural Network Activities.
4. Activities and results of the 2021 annual evaluation. This includes follow up(s) on the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluator in relation to the previous year's evaluations.
5. Next programme amendments.
6. Planning of future monitoring committee meetings.

Another Annual Review Meeting was held on the 5th of October 2023. The focus of the meeting was on:

1. The results of the implementation of the RDP Malta 2014-2022, in light of the 2022 Annual Implementation Report, as regards financial implementation on the last declaration of expenditure, and progress towards the achievement of the quantified targets.
2. Error rate (including EU audits and national audits) and corrective and preventive actions.
3. Communication and information activities on the results and added value of RDP support (results and effectiveness of these activities), including National Rural Network Activities.
4. Activities and results of the 2022 annual evaluation. This includes follow up(s) on the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluator in relation to the previous year's evaluations.
5. Planning of 2023-2024.

## **Programme Modifications**

On the 9th of March 2023, the Monitoring Committee was consulted and provided a favourable opinion on the amendment of the programme proposed by the Managing Authority. The amendment fell under the "Decision Article 11 (a)(i) (First subparagraph of Article 4(2) of R.808/2014)" category and was related to

emergency measures. The amendment introduced Measure 22 – Exceptional temporary support to farmers and SMEs particularly affected by the impact of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

This modification was required following the Russian invasion of Ukraine that has directly and indirectly, resulted in an emergency for societies and a major shock to the global and Union’s economies across a multitude of sectors, including the Maltese agriculture. Agricultural production in Malta is characterised by an inherent difficulty to obtain the necessary inputs required. The very small size of Malta combined with the island’s insularity creates several geophysical and structural disadvantages. All the inputs used in local agriculture are heavily reliant on imports from other European and third countries; furthermore, due to the small size of Maltese holdings, producers fail to take advantage of bulk buying strategies and consequently they are very disadvantaged in terms of bargaining power when negotiating with their suppliers. This situation is leading to higher fixed and variable costs, crunching on the profit margins of these producers.

Subsequently, this -measure was intended to provide support to forage-dependent livestock sectors covered by Voluntary coupled Support Mechanisms, namely Dairy Production, Beef Production and Sheep. With the introduction of M22 through this amendment, the forage-dependent livestock sector most affected could be supported through a lump sum amount.

This amendment impacted the following indicators:

1. Focus Area 2A.

- Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2022: This is a new inclusion of public expenditure of €2.2 million, which is expected to support 200 holdings (indicative).

2. Focus Area 6A.

- Target Indicator: T20: Jobs created in supported projects: 9.
- Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2022: Number of beneficiaries (holdings) receiving start up aid/support for investment in non-agric activities in rural areas (6.2 and 6.4): 7.

This reduction in targets is a result of the fact that funding was transferred from M6.4 to M22.

### **Administrative Capacity Building**

During 2023, MA officers were given the opportunities to further improve their skills and therefore contribute towards growing the MA’s capabilities.

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

- Public Management Toolkit course organised by the Institute of Public Services.
- EvaluationWORKS Capacity Building Event organised by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP Strategic Plans.
- EU CAP Network events including workshops, Networks Meetings and Good Practice Workshops

on evaluation.

- Training in relation to EU Funds General Eligibility Rules for the 2021 – 2027 programming period and publicity requirements for EU funded projects.
- Training in relation to conflict of interest, organised by the Financial Control Unit.
- Training on Anti-Fraud and Corruption, that provided a basic overview on corruption and fraud, fraud symbols, the detection of fraud, fraud risk tools and fraud detection software as well as at an advanced level for senior management.
- One MA Officer completed a Course in In Corruption Risk Management by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy.
- Outline of the new 2021-2027 Programmes including the CAP Strategic Plan.
- Training on Ultimate Beneficiary owners as provided by the Malta Business Registry.
- Training on Audit Findings presented by the Financial Control Unit.
- Leadership Development Programme for senior management.
- Training on the Anti-Fraud Strategy and Cycle provided by the Financial Control Unit.
- Training on basic Information Systems Security provided by MITA.

To enhance the effectiveness and outcomes of the RDP, the European Evaluation Helpdesk conducts capacity-building events across Member States. These events serve as platforms for knowledge sharing and learning, to address the needs and interests of each Member State. In 2023, three events were organised by the Geographical Expert in Malta for the European Evaluation Helpdesk.

The first event was an 'EvaluationPeers', a capacity building event between Member States. This capacity building event, held on the 25th of January between Malta and Cyprus, focused on the CAP impacts on environment and climate. The objectives were to share good assessment practices for biodiversity (Cyprus) and soil (Malta), to build a capacity of evaluation stakeholders in Cyprus and Malta on assessing CAP impacts on the environment and climate and discuss the new challenges of the PMEF 2023-2027.

The second event was an 'EvaluationWorks' event held on the 29th of August 2023. The aim was to inform stakeholders and discuss critical evaluation concepts for the 2023-2027 period, as outlined in Regulation (EU) 2022/1475. This session focused on evaluating CAP Strategic Plans, delving into the Evaluation Plan's purpose, structure, and content.

Following this, another 'EvaluationWorks' took place on the 30th of November 2023, focusing on identifying and addressing Data Gaps. The objective was to understand how to approach the assessment of the factors of success and possibly identify potential data gaps for selected factors of success. This session also featured workshops where participants were grouped to discuss various Specific Objectives. Discussions revolved around the Factors of Success, relevant indicators, required data, and existing data gaps, including possible solutions as a way forward.

All events were attended by different stakeholders, including the Managing Authority, the Paying Agency, evaluators, and data providers.

### **Project Selection Committee**

During the year under review, the project selection committee met several times to evaluate the project proposals received under the various calls issued under different 4 sub-measures. Of the 4 calls issued along the year, two calls were evaluated, and the corresponding award or rejection letters were issued. For one of the calls, the award letters were issued in 2024. The only call for which project evaluation was not carried out in 2023 was because the closure of this call was scheduled for the beginning of 2024. Overall, the PSC reviewed 144 (excluding the 4 applications under M10.2) project applications and awarded 123, circa 85% of those received.

### **Calls for Projects**

During 2023, several calls for proposals were issued covering 4 batches under 4 sub-measures. One was issued in the first half of the year, while 3 calls under M10.2 were launched in the last quarter. Except for M10.2, all calls issued in 2023 were closed and adjudicated during the same year. The call under M10.2 that was launched in the last quarter of the year was eventually closed in 2024. The table below brings together the calls issued under the different measures, the applications received, and the number of projects approved.

Table on calls issued in 2023

Measure	No. of Calls	Applications Received	Approved Applications
M4.1	1	57	50
M4.4	1	82	72
M8.5	1	5	1*
M10.2	1	4	TBD
TOTAL	4	148	123

\*The other four projects were placed on a reserve list.

### **Information Sessions**

Information sessions were held in relation to the following sub-measures, for which calls were issued during 2023:

- M4.1 – Support for investments in agricultural holdings.
- M4.4 – Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives.
- M8.5 – Support for investments improving the resilience & environmental value of forest ecosystems.
- M10.2 – Support for conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in

agriculture.

For Measures M4.1, M4.4, and M8.5, joint information sessions were held on 9th March 2023 at Ghammieri Malta between 17:00 and 19:00 and on the 30th of March 2023 in Xewkija Gozo between 10:00 and 12:00.

For Measure 10.2, an information session was held on the 23rd of October 2023 at SEM Offices.

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

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

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD + EURI]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation <sup>2</sup>	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative <sup>3</sup> )
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	149,263,879.00	19.73	16.92

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

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

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

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

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

E-management for beneficiaries [optional]

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

Average time limits for beneficiaries to receive payments [optional]

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

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

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

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

The Managing Authority (MA) 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.

Calendar year 2023 can be considered as a transition year. The NRN under the RDP 2014-2022 transitioned to the newly formed CAP Network under the CAP Strategic plan 2023-2027. The CAP network was officially launched on 24th November 2023 with the signing of the Resolution by the Member State.

Building on actions undertaken during the previous programming period in 2023 the Network Support Unit (NSU) launched the CAP Network and continued to support the MA in the effective and efficient implementation of the Rural Development Programme and the CAP SP.

During the year under review, no NRN meetings were held as the network was focusing on shifting from the NRN for the RDP to the newly formed CAP Network for the CAP SP. The network was however 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 and the CAP SP. 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 126 of regulation (EU) 2021/2115 the CAP Network was launched with the aim of focusing on the following objectives:

- a. Increase the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of CAP Strategic Plans and, where relevant, in their design.
- b. Accompany the Member States' administrations in the implementation of CAP Strategic Plans and the transition to a performance-based delivery model.
- c. Contribute to improving the quality of implementation of CAP Strategic Plans.
- d. Contribute to the information of the public and potential beneficiaries on the CAP and funding opportunities.
- e. Foster innovation in agriculture and rural development and support peer-to-peer learning and the inclusion of, and the interaction between, all stakeholders in the knowledge-exchange and knowledge-building process.
- f. Contribute to monitoring and evaluation capacity and activities.
- g. Contribute to the dissemination of CAP Strategic Plans results.

**MA Website**

Following the start of the new programming period, in January 2023, a new website was launched which acts as a one-stop shop for all EU funds. This website, [fondi.eu](https://fondi.eu) will continue to be the main portal in accessing information on EU funds, including the RDP and the CAP SP. It now replaced the two websites that were previously used by the MA and NRN.

The CAP Network plans to use this website to help promote the CAP SP, communicate with its stakeholders and provide the necessary updates on calls events.

### **NRN Information Sessions**

As explained in Section 3, information sessions related to the following measures were held:

- M4.1 – Support for investments in agricultural holdings.
- M4.4 – Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives.
- M8.5 – Support for investments improving the resilience & environmental value of forest ecosystems.
- M10.2 – Support for conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture.

### **NRN Newsletter**

The 24th edition of the NRN newsletter was issued in January 2023. This newsletter served to promote the newly launched CAP SP funds which were officially launched during the same month.

The new CAP SP AECCs, which were launched for the very first time in 2023, were also introduced in this newsletter. Prospective applicants had the opportunity to learn about these schemes, for which, applications were then launched later on in 2023.

An Executive Summary of the Thematic Evaluation of the Soil under the RDP2014-2020 which was carried out in November 2022 by the evaluators of the programme was also featured in this newsletter. This gave the readers the opportunity to see the benefits RDP funded environmental measures had on Maltese soil.

The newsletter also featured an article related to a project in Gozo that was implemented thanks to LEADER funds and aimed to transform two historical sites into modern, accessible and fully equipped venues capable of hosting cultural and networking events that would promote the island of Gozo.

### **Public events**

The NRN, together with the MA participated during Festa Gheneb that was held in Siggiewi between the 15th and 16th of September 2023, organised by Siggiewi Local Council.

During these public events and information sessions the MA and NRN informed RDP stakeholders and the general public 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 2014-2022, 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.

##### **Information Sessions**

Following a pre-announcement of new calls, prospective applicants were informed that information sessions would be held. Information about the information sessions is provided within the context of the NRN, with further information provided in the previous section.

##### **SMS**

Various text messages were sent to interested parties prior to calls for applications issued by the MA to inform them about the opportunities to tap into EU funding.

##### **Public Events**

As referred to in the previous section, the MA together with the NRN participated in Festa Gheneb held in September 2023.

##### **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. For example, 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.

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## **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)	2014-2023			0.98	15.35	6.38
		2014-2022			0.40	6.27	
		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)	2014-2023			4.00	80.00	5.00
		2014-2022			5.00	100.00	
		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)	2014-2023			1,349.00	18.74	7,200.00
		2014-2022			1,043.00	14.49	
		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)	2014-2023	1.60	120.77	1.28	96.62	1.32
		2014-2022	1.47	110.96	1.47	110.96	
		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	2014-2023	39,852,449.81	104.75	29,716,179.00	78.11	38,045,094.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	38,210,329.81	107.20	29,716,179.00	83.37	35,645,094.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2023			45,515,607.79	89.00	51,142,039.00
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			14,059,835.01	108.33	12,978,427.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2023			200.00	120.48	166.00
M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			15,656,343.99	69.07	22,666,667.00
M22	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	1,642,120.00	74.64			2,200,000.00
M22	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2023					220.00

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)	2014-2023	0.77	101.56	0.77	101.56	0.76
		2014-2022	0.65	85.73	0.65	85.73	
		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	2014-2023	6,790,000.00	89.03	6,020,000.00	78.94	7,626,264.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	1,519,194.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	10.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	6,790,000.00	101.85	6,020,000.00	90.30	6,666,667.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2023			6,020,000.00	77.66	7,751,938.00
M06.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			6,020,000.00	90.30	6,666,667.00
M06.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2023			96.00	101.05	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)	2014-2023	0.01	0.73	0.01	0.73	1.36
		2014-2022	0.01	0.73	0.01	0.73	
		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)	2014-2023					25.00
		2014-2022					
		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	2014-2023	8,773,007.12	101.95	4,840,936.86	56.26	8,604,879.34
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	222,860.00	27.41	0.00	0.00	813,170.67
M03.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	66.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	8,147,170.12	113.68	4,672,047.25	65.19	7,166,708.67
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2023			9,344,094.50	65.19	14,333,418.30
M04.1 M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2023			31.00	59.62	52.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	402,977.00	64.48	168,889.61	27.02	625,000.00
M16.4	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	2014-2023			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)	2014-2023			12.28	412.21	2.98
		2014-2022			12.28	412.21	
		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)	2014-2023			4.12	138.30	2.98
		2014-2022			4.12	138.30	
		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)	2014-2023			14.11	161.38	8.74
		2014-2022			14.11	161.38	
		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	2014-2023	52,415,619.02	78.69	36,056,026.24	54.13	66,608,326.52
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	285,000.00	16.19	90,125.96	5.12	1,760,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			90,125.96	6.26	1,440,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2023			1,349.00	46.84	2,880.00
M02	O1 - Total public	2014-2023	500,000.00	47.62	83,284.84	7.93	1,050,000.00



	expenditure						
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2023			324.00	51.43	630.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	26,998,052.72	100.33	17,138,910.66	63.69	26,908,690.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2023			21,423,638.33	60.37	35,487,379.00
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2023			198.00	97.54	203.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	6,114,724.99	48.70	3,770,234.84	30.03	12,556,079.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2023			591.10	88.08	671.10
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	20,292.49	2.00	15,685.72	1.54	1,016,000.00
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	240.00
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2023			3.90	4.33	90.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	15,755,907.74	101.63	13,984,960.73	90.21	15,502,714.00
M13.3	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2023			7,689.13	88.38	8,700.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	2,741,641.08	75.29	972,823.49	26.71	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)	2014-2023			2.78	22.22	12.51
		2014-2022			2.78	22.22	
		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	2014-2023	43,110,047.64	95.20	33,130,347.88	73.17	45,281,356.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	1,760,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	1,440,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	2,880.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	222.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	43,110,047.64	100.44	33,130,347.88	77.19	42,921,356.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2023			38,490,562.42	77.95	49,378,388.00
M04	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2023			78.64	22.21	354.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2023			28.00	51.85	54.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2023					759,597.00
		2014-2022					
		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	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,169,798.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	440,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	360,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	720.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	379,798.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	759,597.00
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2023			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)	2014-2023	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
		2014-2022	15,705.82	0.52	15,705.82	0.52	
		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	2014-2023	3,002,347.25	141.67	614,113.61	28.98	2,119,194.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	9,147.25	0.60	7,852.91	0.52	1,519,194.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2023			15,705.82	0.52	3,038,387.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2023			1.00	4.55	22.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	2,993,200.00	498.87	606,260.70	101.04	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)	2014-2023			9.60	59.68	16.09
		2014-2022			9.60	59.68	
		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	2014-2023	14,316.22	0.89	14,925.03	0.92	1,614,446.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	220,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	180,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	360.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	14,316.22	1.37	14,925.03	1.43	1,044,446.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2023			28,590.06	1.37	2,088,891.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2023			1.00	6.67	15.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)	2014-2023			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)	2014-2023			8.89	167.42	5.31
		2014-2022			8.89	167.42	
		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	2014-2023	8,435,291.46	154.45	7,182,047.84	131.50	5,461,579.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	4,173,333.00
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	25.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	8,435,291.46	654.79	7,182,047.84	557.51	1,288,246.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2023			1,018.01	167.44	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)	2014-2023					9.00
		2014-2022					
		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	2014-2023	845,540.20	63.65	443,439.51	33.38	1,328,437.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	845,540.20	78.40	443,439.51	41.12	1,078,437.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2023			886,879.02	59.13	1,500,000.00
M06.2 M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2023			6.00	85.71	7.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2023			4.50	45.00	10.00
		2014-2022			2.50	25.00	
		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)	2014-2023					0.00
		2014-2022					
		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)	2014-2023			105.38	105.42	99.97
		2014-2022			105.38	105.42	
		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	2014-2023	9,691,735.72	99.47	5,993,313.93	61.51	9,743,333.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	9,691,735.72	102.09	5,993,313.93	63.13	9,493,333.00
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2023			283,284.00	105.41	268,733.00
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2023			3.00	100.00	3.00



M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			352,967.37	40.73	866,666.67
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			4,226,129.93	64.02	6,601,333.33
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			266,268.38	88.76	300,000.00
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			1,147,948.25	66.53	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)	2014-2023					0.00
		2014-2022					
		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 (%)	2014-2023					20.00
		2014-2022					
		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	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	220,000.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	220,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	180,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2023			0.00	0.00	360.00

## Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
AIR Financial Annex 2014MT06RDNP001	Financial annex (System)	06-06-2024		Ares(2024)4686223	2058025107	AIRfinancialAnnex2014MT06RDNP001_mt.pdf	28-06-2024	nscicken
Citizen Summary for Implementation Year 2023	Citizens' summary	25-06-2024		Ares(2024)4686223	947663891	Citizen Summary for Implementation Year 2023	28-06-2024	nscicken

