



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)	2014-2024			2.10	50.97	4.12
	2014-2023			0.98	23.79	
	2014-2022			0.40	9.71	
	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)	2014-2024			4.00	80.00	5.00
	2014-2023			4.00	80.00	
	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)	2014-2024			1,349.00	89.93	1,500.00
	2014-2023			1,349.00	89.93	
	2014-2022			1,043.00	69.53	
	2014-2021			309.00	20.60	
	2014-2020			205.00	13.67	
	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)		2014-2024	1.81	115.12	1.81	115.12	1.57
		2014-2023	1.60	101.77	1.28	81.41	
		2014-2022	1.47	93.50	1.47	93.50	
		2014-2021	1.28	81.41	1.28	81.41	
		2014-2020	1.03	65.51	1.03	65.51	
		2014-2019	0.52	33.07	0.52	33.07	
		2014-2018	0.44	27.99	0.38	24.17	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	48,822,117.73	126.14	38,692,585.94	99.97	38,705,013.18
M22	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	1,642,120.00	100.00			1,642,120.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	50,464,237.73	125.08	38,692,585.94	95.90	40,347,133.18

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)		2014-2024	0.73	100.52	0.73	100.52	0.73
		2014-2023	0.77	106.02	0.77	106.02	
		2014-2022	0.65	89.50	0.65	89.50	
		2014-2021	0.49	67.47	0.49	67.47	
		2014-2020	0.49	67.47	0.49	67.47	
		2014-2019	0.48	66.09	0.48	66.09	
		2014-2018	0.15	20.65	0.15	20.65	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	796,023.37
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	6,790,000.00	107.01	6,034,000.00	95.10	6,345,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	6,790,000.00	95.08	6,034,000.00	84.50	7,141,023.37

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)		2014-2024			0.01		0.00
		2014-2023	0.01		0.01		
		2014-2022	0.01		0.01		
		2014-2021	0.02		0.01		
		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)		2014-2024			19.00	76.00	25.00
		2014-2023					
		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	2014-2024	222,860.00	495.24	0.00	0.00	45,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	8,475,244.24	137.81	5,424,089.41	88.20	6,150,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	687,464.00	197.81	282,994.25	81.43	347,540.91
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	9,385,568.24	143.45	5,707,083.66	87.23	6,542,540.91



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)	2014-2024			12.28	412.21	2.98
	2014-2023			12.28	412.21	
	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)	2014-2024			4.12	138.30	2.98
	2014-2023			4.12	138.30	
	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)	2014-2024			14.31	231.82	6.17
	2014-2023			14.11	228.58	
	2014-2022			14.11	228.58	
	2014-2021			13.34	216.10	
	2014-2020			15.50	251.10	

		2014-2019			15.50	251.10	
		2014-2018			13.48	218.37	
		2014-2017			9.62	155.84	
		2014-2016			9.78	158.43	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	1,769,772.30	589.92	97,744.08	32.58	300,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	900,000.00	339.74	117,789.74	44.46	264,909.76
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	32,573,554.05	112.22	19,563,638.96	67.40	29,027,075.96
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,400,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	6,426,924.82	51.19	3,939,108.97	31.37	12,556,078.93
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	20,711.67	89.02	16,104.90	69.22	23,267.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	17,700,294.74	109.92	14,385,199.65	89.33	16,102,714.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	3,862,216.08	76.29	1,940,250.71	38.33	5,062,295.47
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	63,253,473.66	92.02	40,059,837.01	58.28	68,736,341.12

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)		2014-2024			3.00	23.98	12.51
		2014-2023			2.78	22.22	
		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	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88,303.25
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	43,611,591.01	101.39	35,186,440.42	81.81	43,012,422.43
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	347,540.91
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	43,611,591.01	99.69	35,186,440.42	80.43	43,748,266.59

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)		2014-2024					796,023.00
		2014-2023					
		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	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88,303.25
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	398,011.69
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	561,314.94

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)		2014-2024	15,705.82	0.49	15,705.82	0.49	3,184,093.00
		2014-2023	15,705.82	0.49	15,705.82	0.49	
		2014-2022	15,705.82	0.49	15,705.82	0.49	
		2014-2021	15,705.82	0.49	15,705.82	0.49	
		2014-2020	15,705.82	0.49	15,705.82	0.49	
		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	2014-2024	9,147.25	0.57	7,852.91	0.49	1,592,046.74
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	2,993,200.00	861.25	1,678,261.50	482.90	347,540.91
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	3,002,347.25	154.79	1,686,114.41	86.93	1,939,587.65

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)		2014-2024			9.60	59.68	16.09
		2014-2023			9.60	59.68	
		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	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,500.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88,303.25
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	14,316.22	1.31	14,925.03	1.36	1,094,532.13
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	14,316.22	1.17	14,925.03	1.22	1,220,335.38

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)		2014-2024			8.89	167.42	5.31
		2014-2023			8.89	167.42	
		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	2014-2024	10,801,173.80	200.02	5,376,918.50	99.57	5,400,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	8,765,814.23	680.45	8,718,473.06	676.77	1,288,246.39
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	19,566,988.03	292.56	14,095,391.56	210.75	6,688,246.39

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)		2014-2024					9.00
		2014-2023					
		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	2014-2024	845,540.20	134.85	519,257.83	82.82	627,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	347,540.91
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	845,540.20	86.76	519,257.83	53.28	974,540.91



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)	2014-2024			4.50	45.00	10.00
	2014-2023			4.50	45.00	
	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)	2014-2024					0.00
	2014-2023					
	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)	2014-2024			105.38	105.42	99.97
	2014-2023			105.38	105.42	
	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	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	347,540.91
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	10,146,106.66	106.88	7,410,105.44	78.06	9,493,333.44
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	10,146,106.66	103.10	7,410,105.44	75.30	9,840,874.35

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)		2014-2024					0.00
		2014-2023					
		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 (%)		2014-2024					20.00
		2014-2023					
		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	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,500.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,500.00

### 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

The changes made in 2024 do not affect the core goals of the RDP, which remain focused on improving, inter alia, economic, environmental and social conditions within the agricultural community and in rural areas by offering training, advice, support for farm modernisation, encouragement of new business initiatives, and strengthening of rural communities.

The programme's overall budget remained unchanged from 2023 to 2024, maintaining a total of €196,101,681. However, the budget allocation across individual sub-measures has varied from year to year which was approved in a Programme Amendment in October 2024. The changes are provided in the Table below.

*Table on the change in budgets*

Sub-Measure	New Relevant Focus Area	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Difference in Budget
M1.1	1A, 4C, 5A, 5B, 5D, 6C	3,600,000	750,000	↓ by 79.17%
M1.2	N/A	200,000	0	↓ by 100%
M1.3	N/A	600,000	0	↓ by 100%
M2.1	1C, 4A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B, 5D	1,900,000	529,822	↓ by 72.11%
M2.2	N/A	400,000	0	↓ by 100%
M2.3	N/A	200,000	0	↓ by 100%
M3.1	N/A	713,171	0	↓ by 100%
M3.2	3A	100,000	45,000	↓ by 55%
M4.1	2A, 2B, 3A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D	18,703,091	19,600,00	↑ by 5%
M4.2	3A	4,700,000	5,400,000	↑ by 14.89%
M4.3	2A 5A	22,666,667	23,500,000	↑ by 3.68%
M4.4	4A, 4C	24,440,000	26,440,000	↑ by 8.18%
M6.1	2B	6,666,667	6,345,000	↓ by 4.83%
M6.4	6A	1,078,437	672,000	↓ by 37.69%

M8.5	4A, 5E	8,346,667	10,800,000	↑ by 29.39%
M11.1	4A	863,333.33	6,968.54	↓ by 99.19%
M11.2	4A	152,666.67	16,298.81	↓ by 89.32%
M13.3	4A	12,000,000	12,600,000	↑ by 5%
M16.2	1A, 1B, 1C, 3A, 4A, 4C, 5A, 5C, 6A, 6B	4,891,511	6,800,000	↑ by 39.02%
M16.4	N/A	375,000.00	0	↓ by 100%
M16.6	N/A	350,000.00	0	↓ by 100%
M19.1	6B	866,667	491,657	↓ by 43.27%
M19.2	6B	6,601,333	6,907,890	↑ by 4.64%
M19.3	6B	300,000	266,268	↓ by 11.24%
M22	2A	2,200,000	1,642,120	↓ by 25.36%

In the case of M1.2, M1.3, M2.2, M2.3, M3.1, M16.4, and M16.6 the total budget was reduced to zero, since they were removed from the RDP due to challenges that emerged from the implementation of these measures, as already reported in previous AIRs.

### **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

### **Progress achieved**

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

The remaining sub-measure under M01 that contributes towards FA1A is **M1.1 – Support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions**.

The other measure that was applicable was M1.2 – Support for demonstration activities and information

actions, however it was removed from the RDP in the amendment of October 2024.

A commitment value of circa €1.48 million was recorded for 2024 under M1.1, which included actions similar to those envisaged under M1.3, such as farm visits abroad as part of the training programmes, following the launch of a single call in the second quarter (May) of that year, which closed a month later. In response to this call, four applications were submitted, requesting a total budget of €1.6 million. All four applications were approved,

The beneficiaries of these four projects are the Ministry for Gozo and Planning, the Public Abattoir, and the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Rights and the University of Malta. These projects aim to strengthen the knowledge and skills of the rural community involved in the agri-environmental sector. Specifically, they focus on:

- general agrology training and topics of relevance to the Maltese agricultural sector
- training related to slaughterhouse operations,
- enhancing understanding of Conditionality and Agricultural Environmental and Climate Management Commitments, and
- improving crop nutrition and fertiliser planning.

Furthermore, the realised expenditure for 2024 was €7,618.12 for the MCAST project that was awarded in 2019, bringing the total realised value for M1.1 to €97,744.08. During 2024, no training activities took place under the existing MCAST project, as the project was drawing to a close in 2024, as noted in AIR 2023. Progress in realised payments expected through 2025, as training sessions are held.

In relation to the newly approved projects no training activities were carried out during 2024 as the Grant Agreements were signed towards the end of 2024. Overall, efforts in 2024 focused on onboarding participants and formalising the necessary processes. Various training sessions kicked off in the first months of 2025.

Unlike previous MCAST Project, the training envisaged under the 4 approved projects in 2024 is not obligatory, and is primarily aimed to continue equipping stakeholders in the agriculture, food, and forestry sectors with essential knowledge and skills, enabling them to effectively respond to the evolving standards and demands of this broad and dynamic field.

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

The applicable sub-measures contributing towards FA1A are:

- M2.1 – Support to help benefitting from the use of advisory services.
- M2.2 – Support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services.

In the RDP, M1.1 now incorporates activities relating to and M2.3; whilst the latter was removed from the RDP in the amendment approved in October 2024, the actions linked to M2.3 were made possible under M1.1.

In 2024, one intervention was approved, committing €0.4M under M2.1 which contributes towards FA1C rather than FA1A and services for this measure will start being given in 2025. There are no other approved interventions that contribute towards this FA.

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

The relevant sub-measures that contribute to FA1A are:

- 16.2 – Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies.
- 16.4 - Support for horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and the local markets, and for promotion activities in a local context relating to the development of short supply chains and local markets.

As of 2024, no new calls for projects have been issued under this Measure for either of the two sub-measures M16.2 and M16.4. Particularly, M16.4 was removed from the RDP following the approved amendment as of October 2024.

On the other hand, although no new calls have been issued, M16.2 includes a few ongoing projects, two of which received increased allocations to extend the scope of their project during the year under review. These include the University of Malta whose grant amount increased by c.€0.28M in 2024, and the Ministry for Agriculture Fisheries Food and Animal Rights, whose grant amount also increased by c.€1.1M in 2024. These increases stemmed from a request to broaden the project's scope, allowing for the implementation of new and additional activities. As a result, 2024 recorded a commitment value of c. €1.4 million, and with a realised value of €2.2 million for 2024, bringing the total realised amounts for €3.9 million.

### **Target Indicator**

As at end of 2024, 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) increased to 2.10% representing realised expenditure of € 4.12 million. While this remains lower than the target of 4.12% established in the Programme, further progress is expected to be achieved in 2025 with a number of training courses being provided under M1.

## **Priority 1 – Focus Area 1B**

### **List of measures**

The measure contributing towards this Focus area is:

- M16 – Co-operation

### **Progress achieved**

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

The corresponding sub-measures under this FA1B are:

- M16.2 – Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies.
- 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 2024, an RDP amendment that was adopted in October, removed M16.6 from Malta's Rural Development Programme. As noted above, the commitment level of M16.2 increased, since ongoing projects requested additional support to expand the scope of their intervention. However, no contributions were made towards FA1B since the measure does not solely contribute to this FA.

### **Target Indicator**

The implementation of M16 led to the development of 4 co-operations, in view of following a number of co-operations projects that were withdrawn. Consequently, this resulting figure falls marginally lower than the target of 5 cooperations established in the RDP.

## **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 & farm relief.
- M16 – Co-operation

### **Progress achieved**

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

The three sub-measures under M01 which contribute towards FA1C are:

- M1.1 – Support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions.
- M1.2 – Support for demonstration activities and information actions.
- 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.

In 2024, no calls were launched for M1.2 and M1.3 and both sub-measures were removed from the RDP with the approval of the RDP amendment in October 2024.

#### **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.
- M2.3 - Support for training of advisors.

In the latest version of the RDP, M1.1 now encompasses elements that were previously included under M2.3 in relation to training of advisors, and M2.3 was removed from the RDP with the approval of the amendment in October 2024.

In 2024, a call for M 2.1 was issued in April with a budget per call of €1.9 million. Initially two applications were submitted under this call, however, only one was approved leading to a commitment value of €0.4



million. The commitment is towards a project put forward by AgriConnect Farm Advisory Services with a focus on offering advice to farmers.

A realised expenditure of circa €0.034M was recorded from the previously contracted project. The allocation to this measure decreased to circa €0.5 million for the year under review. Savings are envisaged to be registered under this Measure, also following the amendment to the CAP SP regulation whereby small farmers falling below the 10ha threshold are now exempted from controls and penalties for conditionality non-compliance. . Therefore, uptake related to conditionality advice, which was one of the main services being offered to farmers, has reduced. Therefore, regulatory changes have impacted the relevance and implementation of this advisory activity. Services under the new project will start being given in 2025.

### **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.

M16.2 has an approved intervention contributing to FA1A instead of FA1C, and no additional interventions have been approved for this FA.

### **Target Indicator**

No progress was observed in relation to indicator T3 under Article 14 (EU) No 1305/2013, related to the total number of participants to training. Slow progress across this target indicator was in part due to the delays in implementation for M1 due to COVID-19 and subsequently to challenges in the provision of training during the COVID period. However, in 2024, M1.1 was once again launched with 4 projects selected and expected to be implemented in 2025. Consequently the number of trained participants is expected to rise further in 2025.

### **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 applicable 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 issued under this sub-measure but rather, it has been removed from the RDP following an amendment approved in October 2024.

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

The sub-measures relevant to this focus area 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.

No new calls were issued in 2024 for **sub-measure 4.1**, however, additional support was provided to beneficiaries requesting to extend the scope of the project.

The latest call was approved in December 2023, with grant agreements subsequently signed in the first quarter of 2024. A total of 57 applications were submitted under this call, requesting a combined budget of around €8 million. Of these, 45 applications were approved in 2024 in relation to FA2A.

In 2024, the allocation for this sub-measure under FA2A was increased to €10.4 million as a result of the October 2024 amendment – an increase of €0.89 million, whilst the EURI amount of circa €4.8 million remained the same. As at the close of 2024, total commitment values under Measure M4.1 within the FA2A framework exceeded €22.5 million, driven also by new commitments undertaken during the year, including allocations from EURI funds. Overall, 227 projects were or are being implemented under this measure contributing towards FA2A.

Notably, 2024 recorded the highest realised expenditure to date for FA2A, reaching approximately €3.9 million (including EURI), as project implementation progressed significantly and bringing the cumulative realised amount under M4.1 contributing to the FA2A to more than €17.4M, as at 2024.

Furthermore, for M4.3, no new calls were issued in 2024 for either roads or water projects. However, in the case of two investments in agricultural farm access roads by Infrastructure Malta, the project scope was broadened with an additional allocation of circa 5M.. The approved commitment value as at 2024 reached nearly €28M. In terms of realised vales, 2024 figures amounted to €4.3M bringing the total realised values to €21.3M.

#### **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.

This measure is nearing completion, with only one project still ongoing, that of Marsovin Winery Ltd. As a result of the programme amendment adopted in October 2024, the budget allocated towards this measure was decreased by €0.4M, as no further calls are foreseen.

#### **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.

This measure has been closed, with a cut-off date for payment, emanating from the respective regulation, set in 2023, and no further progress and commitments recorded thereafter. The remaining uncommitted budget was reallocated to other interventions of the RDP during the amendment adopted in October 2024.

### **Target Indicator**

As at the end of 2024, cumulative realised expenditure amounted to €17.4 million for Measure 4.1 (including EURI) and €21.3M for Measure 4.3. EURI funds provided for Measure 4.1 supported a total of 39 holdings (EURI) in addition to a further 188 holdings such that the result target indicator (T4) on the % of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation reached 1.81 % of holdings surpassing the target of 1.58% outlined in the programme.

### **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 issued under this measure since it was removed from the RDP following an approved amendment in 2024.

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

The relevant sub-measure under this FA is:

- M4.1 – Support for investment in agricultural holdings.

Although various grant agreements were signed granting support under M4.1 following the latest call, there are no approved interventions that contribute towards FA2B.

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

The applicable sub-measure under this FA is:

- 6.1 – Business start-up aid for young farmers.

Several projects have already been successfully closed, while approximately 26 projects that remain ongoing, many of which are nearing completion. No additional calls were issued under this measure as all available funds have been fully utilised.

### **Target Indicator**

As at the end of 2024, 91 beneficiaries were 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 the result target has been reached at 0.73% of total holdings. Total realised expenditure increased marginally to €6.03 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.

The RDP links M3.1 and M3.2, with both calls required to be issued at the same time. In fact, both calls were issued in May 2024. In the case of M3.1, there was no uptake however, M3.2 attracted one application that was eventually awarded subject to certain conditions; however, these conditions were not met, and the applicant withdrew its application. As a result, no projects were committed under either sub-measure throughout the duration of the RDP as the project that was approved in 2021 for M3.1, was then withdrawn in 2022.

## **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.

Although, various grant agreements were signed granting support under M4.1 following the latest call, there were no approved interventions under FA3A. In terms of realised expenditure, €27,259.02 were registered in 2024 leading to total realised values for M4.1 under FA3A to circa €0.5 million.

Meanwhile, for M4.2 in 2024, one ongoing project by Marsovin Winery Ltd requested additional support to expand the scope of its project, increasing the allocation by circa €0.55 million in 2024. As a result, this contributed towards an increase in commitment levels for the measure. In terms of realised expenditures, €0.8 million was recorded in 2024, bringing the total realised expenditure to €4.9 million as at 2024.

### **Measure 16 – Co-operation**

The relevant sub-measure 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.

No new project calls were launched under either of these sub-measures in 2024; and in the case of M16.4 it was removed from the RDP in line with the amendment approved in October 2024. In the case for M16.2, despite not having any new calls issued under this sub-measure, one of the projects contributing to this FA titled Vinoveritas: An Authority To Consumer Wine Audit Solution by the university of Malta requested additional support to increase the scope of the project. Commitment level increased by circa €0.28M. Total realised expenditure for this measure amounted to close to €0.3 million.

### **Target Indicator**

By the end of 2024, 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. Both M3.1 and M3.2 were issued again in May 2024. In the case of M3.1, there was no uptake however, M3.2 attracted one application that was eventually awarded subject to certain conditions; however, these conditions were not met, and the applicant withdrew its application. Furthermore, M16.4 has been removed from the programme as explained above. Following the RDP amendment which was approved in October 2024, T6 no longer remains valid.

### **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.
- M1.3 – Support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits.

No new commitments were registered for M1.2 and M1.3 and these measures were eventually removed from the RDP in the amendment adopted in 2024. On the other hand, M1.1 recorded a commitment value of circa €1.48 million in 2024 following a call was issued in the second quarter of 2024. Four applications were submitted in response to this call, amounting to a requested budget of circa €1.6 million. All four applications were approved in 2024.

These four interventions all contribute towards P4 and further information on the progress of this measure is provided under FA1A.

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

The applicable sub-measures that contribute towards P4 are:

- M2.1 – Support to help benefitting from the use of advisory services.
- M2.3 – Support for training of advisors.

Given that sub-measures M2.2 and M2.3 were removed from the RDP following an approved amendment in October 2024, M1.1 now also provides for the training of advisors, that was previously supported under M2.3.

In April 2024, one new application was approved under this measure contributing towards P4, and also FA1C. Further information on progress of this measure is provided under FA1C.

### **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.

Throughout the implementation of the RDP, no projects under M4.1 with a contribution towards P4 were awarded. As previously noted, operations under M4.1 are not limited to P4 but also span other priorities,

encompassing the Focus Areas of 2A and 5A.

On the other hand, in the case of M4.4, the project evaluation process for the last call that was launched in 2023 and for which 82 applications were submitted was concluded in 2024. Indeed award letters were issued in the first quarter of 2024 and contracts signed in the second quarter of the year. Under this call, 75 projects were approved with 59 that effectively signed the grant agreement.

Overall, M4.4 recorded a commitment value of €5.6 million in 2024 under Priority 4, following the approval of the last call and a request from some beneficiaries to extend the scope of their project. realised amounts reached €19.6 million by the end of 2024.

### **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 reliance and environment value of forest ecosystems.

Operations under M8.5 are not confined to P4 but also extend to Focus Area 5E. 3 operations selected under this measure with a value of more than €10 million, all contributing towards FA5E. Further information is provided under that FA.

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

The applicable sub-measures contributing towards Priority 4 are:

- M10.1 – Payment for Agri-environment commitments.
- M10.2 – Support for conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture.

Similar to previous years, in 2024 the MA launched M10.1 during the annual payment claim campaign which takes place in April and May and this resulted in €22,367.39 in new commitments for 2024.

For M10.2, the most recent call opened in 2023 and closed in January 2024. The call received four applications, all of which were issued award letters in 2024. However, only one project proceeded to contract signing. The committed amount for this sub-measure in 2024 stood at approximately €0.3 million, bringing the cumulative commitment to €1.3 million. Furthermore, the realised expenditure for 2024 amounted to €0.1 million, which also represents the total expenditure under this measure to date, as it marks the first year in which payments were disbursed.

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

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

- M11.1 – Payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods.
- M11.2 - Payments to maintain organic farming practices and methods.

With respect to M11.1, no commitment or realised expenditure was recorded in 2024. Furthermore, the approved allocation for this sub-measure saw a significant decline from €863,333 to €6,969. Similarly, M11.2 also experienced a notable reduction in approved allocation, decreasing from €152,666 in 2023 to €16,299 in 2024. No committed expenditure was registered for 2024; while realised amount were of c.

€1,800 for the same year.

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

The budget allocation for this Measure is closely tied to FA4A. The relevant sub-measure applicable in this case is:

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

By the end of 2024, M13.3 reached a total realised value of €16.1 million, of which €3.4 is a EURI allocation. For the 2024, the allocation of €400,238.92 was realised and was allocated to ANC EAFRD, as the EURI budget had all been absorbed.

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

The applicable sub-measure under the Priority is:

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

For P4, the financial allocation of this sub-measure is linked to both FA4A and FA4C. As a whole, M16.2 also contributes towards P1, P3, P5, and P6, however, the majority of the allocation goes to P4.

While no new calls were launched, M16.2 under P4 comprises one ongoing project, that was granted additional funding during the year under review. This project is being implemented by the Ministry for Agriculture Fisheries Food and Animal Rights whose grant amount increasing by c.€1.1M in 2024. The increase resulted from a request to expand the project's scope, enabling the addition of new activities which contributed towards an increase in commitment at the level of the measure.

Overall, 2024 recorded a realised expenditure of circa €1 million under this measure with a contribution towards P4; leading to an overall realised value of €1.9 million as at 2024.

### **Target Indicators**

As at the end of 2024, 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 6.17% and the achievement by 2024 reached 14.3 %. 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 2024 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 2024 is



significantly higher at amount to 12.28%. This target indicator value has been surpassed due to developments under AECM1, AECM4 and AECM5.

For T9 and T10 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 measures that contribute 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 corresponding sub-measures are:

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

Contributions under M1.1 do not fall solely under P5, but also under P4 and P6. In the case of M1.1 the approved projects in 2024 do not contribute towards FA5A. Information on the progress on M1.1 is provided under P1.

On the other hand, no calls were issued under sub-measures 1.2 and 1.3 since they were removed from the RDP in October 2024.

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

The applicable measure contributing towards FA5A are:

- M2.1 – Support to help benefitting from the use of advisory services
- M2.3 – Training of advisors

M2.1 now captures all elements previously included under M2.2 and M2.3 since they were removed from the RDP due to low uptake. Approved interventions under M2.1 do not contribute towards FA5A but contribute to other Focus Areas. Details on progress for M2.1 is provided under P1.

#### **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.

In 2024, sub-measure 4.1 did not see any new calls issued. Nonetheless, the latest call issued in 2023 had the grant agreements finalised in the first quarter of 2024. Two of the approved projects contributed towards FA5A with a total commitment value of €0.5 million. Moreover, a realised expenditure of circa €0.2 million was recorded for 2024.

Similarly, M4.3 also registered no new calls in 2024 for neither roads nor water projects. Road related operations under M4.3 do not contribute towards this FA but towards FA2A. On the other hand the water related operations are considered as direct contributors to this FA. In this case, there are two projects that are currently being implemented by the Water Services Corporation. No further commitments were registered in 2024, whilst close to €2 million worth of realised expenditure was recorded as the implementation of the new water distribution continues to progress.

### **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 Sub-measure 16.2. This sub-measure consists of ongoing projects including one that was recently completed and two that received increased allocations. Approved interventions under M16.2 do not contribute towards FA5A but contribute to other Focus Areas.

### **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 2024 registered at 3.0%. The operations contributing towards T14 are projects falling under M4.1 whereby the bulk of the expenditure components for the respective projects are related to investment in water. 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 2024, 29 operations have been supported under M4.1 and M4.3. Total realised public expenditure as at end of 2024 amounted to €35.29 million, leading to a total investment of €40.9 million.

### **Priority 5 – Focus Area 5B**

#### **List of Measures**

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

Operations under M1.1 do not fall solely under P5, but also under FA4. In the case of M1.1 the approved projects in 2024 do not contribute towards FA5C. Information on the progress on M1.1 is provided under P1.

On the other hand, no calls were issued under sub-measures 1.2 and 1.3 since they were removed from the RDP in October 2024.

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

The applicable sub-measures are:

- M2.1 – Support to help benefitting from the use of advisory services.
- M2.3 – Support for training of advisors.

M1.1 now captures elements previously included under M2.3, as previously noted. Approved interventions under M2.1 do not contribute towards FA5C but contribute to other Focus Areas. Details on progress for M2.1 is provided under P1.

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

The relevant sub-measure for this FA is:

- M4.1 – Support for investment in agricultural holdings.

In 2024, no new calls were launched under sub-measure 4.1. However, additional support remained accessible for projects requesting supplementary funding to broaden their scope. Overall, while M4.1 showed strong progress across the RDP and remains one of the sub-measures with the highest levels of uptake and funding, its activities did not directly support FA5B, and therefore no progress can be reported in that area.

### **Target Indicator**

The result indicator (T15) on the total investment in energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B) remains nil, due to the reporting structures which require the allocation of the commitments towards the FA where the predominant allocation is contributing to. An assessment of the expenditure at the level of the line items indicates that investment is being undertaken for energy efficiency purposes though it does not reflect the major categories of the expenditure.

### **Priority 5 – Focus Area 5C**

## **List of Measures**

The measures contributing towards Focus Area 5C are:

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

## **Progress achieved**

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

The sub-measure under M04 contributing towards FA5C is:

- M4.1 – Support for investment in agricultural holdings

As mentioned earlier, no new calls were issued under this measure in 2024. Despite being one of the sub-measures with the highest uptake, it does not only contribute towards FA5C, and in 2024, no new progress was achieved in relation to this FA.

### **Measure 16 – Co-operation**

The relevant sub-measures contributing towards FA5C are:

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

No new calls were launched under sub-measure 16.2. This sub-measure includes ongoing projects, one of which contributes towards this FA. Indeed, during 2024 considerable progress was registered in terms of realised expenditure reaching €1.1 million.

On the other hand, M16.6 no longer forms part of the RDP following an amendment which was agreed upon in 2024.

## **Target Indicator**

No further progress was registered in 2024 in terms of realised payments under M4.1 in relation to FA5C, whereby the value of the target indicator linked (T16) total investment in renewable energy production (€) remains at €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 is not 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 measure 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**

Parallel to FA5A and 5B, the following 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
- M1.3 – Support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

M1.1 contributions do not fall solely under P5, but also under P4 and P6. In the case of M1.1 the approved projects in 2024 do not contribute towards FA5D. Information on the progress on M1.1 is provided under P1.

On the other hand, no calls were issued under sub-measures 1.2 and 1.3 since they were removed from the RDP in October 2024.

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

The corresponding sub-measures that contribute towards FA5D are:

- M2.1 – Support to help benefitting from the use of advisory services
- M2.3 – Support for training of advisors

M1.1 now captures elements previously included under M2.3, as previously noted. Approved interventions under M2.1 do not contribute towards FA5D but contribute to other Focus Areas. Details on progress for M2.1 is provided under P1.

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

The applicable sub-measure for this FA is:

- M4.1 – Support for investment in agricultural holdings

As mentioned earlier, no new calls were issued under this measure in 2024. One project was approved that contributed towards this FA. The project was approved in 2019 with a commitment value of €0.01M which were realised in the subsequent years. In this context, no progress was registered for M4.1 under FA5D.

### **Target Indicators**

The result indicator (T17) which refers to 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 directly 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 towards Focus Area 5D.

### **Priority 5 – Focus Area 5E**

The list of measures pertaining to 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 corresponding sub-measure for FA5E is:

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

During 2024, this sub-measure was allocated additional funding as part of the amendment to the RDP adopted in October 2024. A call for projects was launched in 2023 and in response a total of five applications were received. Grant Agreements for 3 beneficiaries were signed in 2024.

All approved projects contribute towards FA5E, with a commitment value of circa €11 million registered in 2024, also representing the total commitment for this measure under FA5E. The realised expenditure for 2024 amounted to €5.4 million also reflecting the total realised expenditure as at 2024.

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

The applicable measures pertinent 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. The 2024 uptake falling under FA5E adds up to a committed expenditure value of circa €0.33 million.

In terms of realised expenditure under M10.1 allocated to FA5E, 2024 recorded realised payments of more than €1.5 million, with the cumulative realised expenditure being captured as at 2023 at more than €8.8 million.

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

### **Target Indicator**

The target indicator for FA5E is (T19) % of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E), where the achievement has been registered at 8.89% exceeding the target set for 2025 which stands at 5.31%.

## **Priority 6 – Focus Area 6A**

### **List of Measures**

The following measures contribute towards FA6A:

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

### **Progress Achieved**

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

The corresponding sub-measure appearing in FA6A is:

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

This measure is approaching completion, with just one project remaining in progress, that of Marsovin Winery Ltd. As a result of the programme amendment adopted in October 2024, the budget allocated toward this measure was decreased by €0.4M, as no further calls are foreseen.

In 2024, the realised expenditure amounted to €75,818, bringing the total realised value to €0.5 million.

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

The applicable sub-measure is:

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

No new calls were published, this sub-measure includes ongoing projects, however none of the projects contribute towards this FA.

### **Target Indicator**

As at the end of 2024, the result indicator T20: Nr of jobs created through supported projects reached 7.5 FTE, coming close to the target of 9 FTE jobs. It is important to note, however, that job creation was a secondary outcome of the intervention, with the main focus being on economic diversification. Malta is experiencing full employment and very low unemployment rates, making job creation in non-agricultural activities in rural areas less of a priority. Therefore, the slight shortfall in job creation is less significant when viewed in the context of the measure's broader success in achieving economic diversification, as evidenced by the variety of projects implemented.

Overall, under Measure 6.4, a total of seven calls were issued between 2018 and 2022, resulting in 14 applications. Of these, some of the applications were rejected such that ultimately, six projects received support under M6.4, five of which have now been completed.

## **Priority 6 – Focus Area 6B**

The relevant measures contributing towards FA6B are:

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

## **Progress Achieved**

### **Measure 16 – Co-operation**

The applicable sub-measure under this FA is:

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

As was the case for FA6A, this sub-measure had no new calls issued but rather included increases in the funding of two projects. Just like FA6A, no commitment and realised expenditure were reported for this sub-measure.

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

All sub-measures under M19 directly support the achievement of FA6B, these are:

- 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

Starting off, with M19.1 this measure is concluded, as all associated projects have been successfully completed. However, this measure still recorded a realised expenditure of €138,486, since during 2024, payments continued to be made, as the drafting of the LDS for the 2023-2027 period was financed through the RDP.

Furthermore, M19.2 also recorded commitment and realised expenditure respectively. In 2024, 28 new projects were approved. In terms of realised expenditure, considerable progress was registered as €1.1 million of realised expenditure was recorded. During 2024, the following applications were received and approved under Measure 19.2:

<b>Majjistral Action Group Foundation</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Measure 1 – Restoration of assets of artistic and cultural value	6
Measure 2 – Strengthening a Healthy Cultural Identity	4
Measure 4 – Development of Green Infrastructure	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Gozo Local Action Group</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Measure 3 – Promotion of Cultural heritage	1



<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Xlokk Local Action Group</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Measure 1 – Restoration of assets of artistic & cultural value	4
Measure 2 – Strengthening a healthy cultural identity	9
Measure 3 – Promotion of Cultural heritage	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>

Source: RD Investment Data

There is no progress to be measured for M19.3 in 2024 since this measure is closed. Moreover, with respect to M19.4, €243,082 were realised during 2024.

### **Target Indicators**

As at the end of 2024, 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 2024 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 pertinent measure which contributes towards this Focus Area is:

- M01 – Knowledge transfer and information actions

#### **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. These are:

- M1.1 – Support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions

- M1.2 – Support for demonstration activities and information actions
- M1.3 – Support for short-term and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

Operations under M1.1 do not fall solely under P6, but also under P4 and P5. In the case of M1.1 the approved projects in 2024 do not contribute towards FA6C. Information on the progress on M1.1 is provided under P1.

On the other hand, no calls were issued under sub-measures 1.2 and 1.3 since they were removed from the RDP in October 2024.

### **Target Indicator**

The target value for the indicator (T24B) (which is a programme specific target indicator) on % of rural population benefiting from new or improved IT infrastructures is nil given that Measure 1 is the only measure selected under this focus area and it is not aimed at new or improved IT infrastructures.

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

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

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

Not applicable.

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

The *Annual Implementation Report (AIR)* for the year ending 31st December 2023 was submitted to the European Commission in June 2024. This report presented the results emerging from the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities carried out during 2023, thereby allowing the Managing Authority (MA) to assess progress in the Rural Development Programme (RDP) implementation.

In 2024, the *Thematic Evaluation on Biodiversity* was submitted. 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. While there are a range of measures impacting biodiversity, the focus of the evaluation was on M4.4 and M10.1 since other measures under this focus area were not launched by 2022 or did not have enough take-up.

In terms of the findings of the evaluation, it is concluded that the achievement of the target for FA4A (% of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes) by 2022 stood at 14.1%, thereby surpassing the target of 8.74% set for 2025. Although the RDP target has been exceeded, the current level remains marginally below the 2022 EU27 average of 18.2% and the 2025 EU target of 19.2%. Notwithstanding the attainment of the target for FA4A, this evaluation showed that the most popular AECMs are related to soil management, such as AECM 5, so the actual impact on biodiversity is somewhat limited. The evaluation noted that since M4.4 funded a large number of dry stone walls, impacts on both biodiversity and landscape would have ensued. Recommendations are provided at both national and programme levels, advocating for promoting organic farming, addressing land fragmentation, and improving monitoring practices. The evaluation is under MA review.

Furthermore, evaluation work also took place during 2024 was work undertaken for the *Thematic Evaluation: Technical Assistance and the National Rural Network*. This thematic evaluation assesses the effectiveness of Technical Assistance (TA) and the National Rural Network (NRN) in supporting the implementation of Malta's Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020, as mandated under Articles 59(1) and 51(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and 1305/2013 for Technical Assistance, and Article 54(2) for the NRN. The evaluation focuses on Common Evaluation Questions CEQ20 and CEQ21, assessing the extent to which TA and NRN supported RDP objectives, improved programme delivery, reduced administrative burden, and engaged rural stakeholders.

This evaluation is based on a consideration of relevant Guidelines issued by the EU CAP Network. In particular, the Guidelines published in 2017, on the Common Evaluation Questions (namely CEQ 20 and 21) have been sought as well as the Guidelines on the Evaluation of National Rural Networks 2014–2020. The methodology adopted for this evaluation is based on the provision of readily available information as submitted through the Annual Implementation Reports, mainly Chapter 2 on the progress in implementing

the evaluation plan as well as Chapter 4 on the steps taken to implement technical assistance and programme publicity requirements. This was complemented by additional data requests made to the MA, PA and the NRN. Furthermore, a series of in-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders directly involved in the implementation and management of the Rural Development Programme (RDP), specifically on Technical Assistance and the NRN. The interviews aimed to gather detailed insights on the institutional capacity, communication, monitoring and evaluation improvement and administrative burden related to Technical Assistance and operational aspects, challenges, and contributions of the NRN in relation to its role in stakeholders' engagement, capacity building, communication, rising public awareness and its impact on RDP Implementation and Innovation. This evaluation was concluded in 2025.

During 2024, evaluation work also focused on a *Thematic Evaluation of Focus Area 6A*. This has been based on an analysis of projects implemented under M6.4, with the aim of addressing Common Evaluation Question (CEQ) 16. This evaluation assesses the extent to which RDP interventions under Focus Area 6A have contributed to the diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, and job creation. It examines the relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the measure, providing a comprehensive response to the evaluation question. A mixed-methods approach is utilised, including an analysis of beneficiaries' applications, business plans, and closure reports, alongside primary data gathered from interviews with beneficiaries and key stakeholders involved in the RDP's implementation process, including the Managing Authority (MA) and the Paying Agency (ARPA). This evaluation was also concluded in 2025.

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

Discussions were also held between the evaluators and the MA in order to develop a timeframe for upcoming thematic evaluations as well as a timeframe for the completion of the ex-post evaluation in 2026. On this basis, the intention is for Common Evaluation Questions 1 to 21 covering all of the relevant focus areas, operational performance, NRN and Technical assistance, to be covered by the end of 2025 with 2026 dedicated to answering the remaining common evaluation questions and the completion of the ex-post evaluation. For each thematic evaluation that is being conducted, the evaluators discuss with the MA the evaluation questions and the judgement criteria as well as the methodology to be adopted to address the evaluation questions.

## **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 2024, several meetings were held to discuss the data required by measure, based on the experience acquired during the reporting on the 2023 AIR. These meetings were held with the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency 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 ***Thematic Evaluation: Technical Assistance and the National Rural Network***, readily available information as submitted through the Annual Implementation Reports was complemented by additional data requests made to the MA, PA and the NRN. Furthermore, a series of in-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders directly involved in the implementation and management of the Technical Assistance and the NRN.

For the **Thematic Evaluation of Focus Area 6A**, various sources were used to gather data, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative methods, thereby ensuring a comprehensive triangulation of different data sources. These included an evaluation of the applications, business plans and project closure reports submitted by the beneficiaries and an analysis of the operations database, Annual Implementation Reports and updates on the implementation of the programme relevant to Focus Area 6A. In terms of qualitative data, structured interviews with beneficiaries of M6.4 were carried out and served as case studies for this Focus Area. Structured interviews were also done with the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency as key stakeholders in the implementation process of the RDP.

**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 report evaluates Focus Area 4A of Malta's RDP, focusing on biodiversity preservation and enhancement, particularly in Natura 2000 sites and areas facing constraints. It notes ongoing challenges in biodiversity, with some habitats still in poor conservation status. In terms of programme contribution, it confirms that the target associated with FA4A has been reached. 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. The report stresses the need for more coordinated actions through targeted policies, increased funding, and enhanced monitoring and evaluation efforts. The study began in 2023, was submitted in 2024, and is under review by the MA for publication under Article 76 of Reg.(EU)1305/2013.</p>
<b>URL</b>	N/A

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

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

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

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

This section refers to the AIR submitted in June 2024 which covers the calendar year 2023.

The AIR reported that no changes were recorded in the Programme's overall budget between 2022 to 2023, with the total RDP budget remaining €196,101,681. Notwithstanding, there were two changes in two measures. These were the introduction of measure M22 under Priority 2, Focus Area 2A, having a budget of €2.2 million and a proportional decrease in the budget of Measure 6.4 under Priority 6. For all other measures and sub-measures, no changes were recorded.

During 2023, a considerable number of applications were received in response to calls for proposals under Measures 4.1, 4.4, 8.5 and 10.2, which led to the award of 123 new projects. The grant agreements for these projects were signed between 2023 and early 2024. Under M4.1, 50 projects were approved carrying a budget of €8 million.

This led to substantial progress in the programme's budget, notably in Priority 2, followed by Priority 5 and Priority 3. Overall, as at the end of 2023, the programme's level of commitment was 91.68%. Realised expenditure exceeded €24 million in 2023, with Priority 5 showing the highest spending, followed by Priority 2 and Priority 4.

The largest share of commitment values till the end of 2023 was directed towards investment projects which support farmers, agricultural holdings, and young farmers in various initiatives. Additionally, further progress was made in addressing water scarcity. In fact, during 2023, the Water Services Corporation (WSC) embarked on a new project "Malta South New Water Capacity Upgrade and Southwest Network Extension" whose aim is to expand the Malta South polishing plant capacity whilst extending the New Water distribution network to the Southwest of the island. This project was allocated a grant of €19.5 million under M4.3.

The LEADER Programme continued to play a pivotal role. 2023 saw the award of an additional 61 projects, under the different local action groups, namely: Gozo, Majjistral, and Xlokk Local Action Groups. Land-based measures, training interventions, and advisory services for farmers also contributed significantly to the program's objectives. Land based measures carry the second largest share of funds approved in support towards farmers in relation to environmental actions. In terms of training and advice, circa 306 farmers benefitted from training on farming and business management and circa 181 farmers received advice. 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 reached 14.1%, significantly surpassing its RDP target of 8.74% and making substantial progress toward 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].

The findings of the study demonstrate the varied impacts of the measures linked to FA4A of the programme, highlighting areas of progress and identifying challenges, particularly in organic farming and biodiversity support, where sustained and enhanced efforts are needed to meet EU targets and advance environmental sustainability.

The Biodiversity Thematic Evaluation was submitted in 2024.

[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>	01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023
<b>Title of communication</b>	Annual Implementation Report Malta - Rural Development Programme

<b>activity/event &amp; topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated</b>	(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/important-documentation/reference-documents/annual-implementation-reports/2014-2020-programming-period/eafrd/">https://fondi.eu/important-documentation/reference-documents/annual-implementation-reports/2014-2020-programming-period/eafrd/</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 2024 occurred within the framework of information sessions organised by the MA and the Paying Agency, with the support of the CAP Network, 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. In terms of the RDP, information sessions were held in relation to the following sub-measures, for which calls were issued during 2024:

- M1.1: Support for vocational training and skills acquisitions actions.
- M2.1: Support to help benefitting from the use of advisory services.
- 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.

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

During 2024, one RDP Monitoring Committee meeting was held on the 6th of December, within the premises of the Managing Authority in Hamrun. The agenda 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.

##### **Technical Meeting**

No technical meeting was held during 2024. However, there were several bilateral technical meetings on the implementation of the programme.

##### **Annual Review Meeting**

The Annual Review Meeting was held on the 5th of December 2024 and the focus of the meeting was on:

- The results of the implementation of the RDP Malta 2014-2022, taking into account the 2023 Annual Implementation Report, with a focus on the financial implementation on the last declaration of expenditure, and progress towards the achievement of the quantified targets.
- Error rate (including EU audits and national audits) and corrective and preventive actions.

- Communication and information activities on the results and added value of RDP support (results and effectiveness of these activities), including CAP Network activities.
- Activities and results of the 2023 annual evaluation. This includes follow up(s) on the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluator in relation to the previous year's evaluations.
- Next programme amendments.

### **Programme Modifications**

On the 22nd of August 2024, 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 included various budget shifts among measures of the RDP. Further details on the modifications that were affected are provided in Section 1c of this AIR.

### **Administrative Capacity Building**

During 2024, MA officers were given opportunities to further improve their skills and therefore contribute towards growing the MA's skill set. Training and upskilling initiatives attended by MA officers are listed below:

- 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 on VAT Principles, provided by the VAT Department;
- 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;
- Training on Audit Findings presented by the Financial Control Unit;
- Training on the Anti-Fraud Strategy and Cycle provided by the Financial Control Unit;
- The use of SCOs in EU Funds (Basic Principles on the use of SCOs, Setting Up SCOs, Off-the-shelf/Established SCOs);
- Training on procurement principles, including customised training on Best Price Quality Ratio (BPQR) provided by the Department of Contracts;
- Regulatory Commitments with respect to the New Technical Assistance;
- Training on General Principles for SOPs on COI and UBO;
- Risk Based management verifications and audit approach to irregularities in the 2021-2027 period;
- Seminar on optimising the increased possibilities for SCOs and financing not linked to costs in the



2021-2027 programming period;

- TAIEX -REGIO multi-country Workshop on Simplifying Calls for Project Proposals, Small Projects and Audits.

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 2024, one event was organised by the Geographical Expert in Malta for the European Evaluation Helpdesk, in October 2024. The focus of the event was on the Assessment of CAP Income Support. During this event, the activities of the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP were explained together with the delivery of presentations covering the following topics:

- Assessment of CAP Income Support
- Preparing for the Evaluation
- Assessing the effectiveness of on farm income level, on farm volatility and on farm income distribution.
- Needs for support per Member State.
- This event was attended by different stakeholders, including the Managing Authority, the Paying Agency, the Evaluation Unit within the Ministry for European Funds, Unit, evaluators, and data providers.

### **Calls for Projects**

During 2024, several calls for proposals were issued covering 4 batches under 4 sub-measures.

Table on calls issued in 2024

Measure	No. of Calls	Applications Received	Approved Applications
M1.1	1	4	4
M2.1	1	2	1
M3.1	1	0	0
M3.2	1	1	1*
M10.2**	1	4	4***
TOTAL	5	11	10

\*Application approved; however it was withdrawn by the applicant.

\*\*Call was issued in 2023 and closed in January 2024.

\*\*\*Three of the approved applications withdrew their application after the receipt of the Award Letter.

### **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 5 sub-measures, one of which was issued in

2023, with the call closing in January 2024, while the rest were launched during 2024, and the process closed during the same year. Indeed, the corresponding award or rejection letters were issued in 2024. Overall, the PSC reviewed 11 project applications and awarded 10, circa 90% of those received.

### Information Sessions

As indicated earlier on in this section, information sessions were held in relation to the following sub-measures, for which calls were issued during 2024:

- M1.1: Support for vocational training and skills acquisitions actions.
- M2.1: Support to help benefitting from the use of advisory services.
- 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.

### 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	19.17	17.93

<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) was responsible for all the activities of the Network, that 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.

In 2023 the NRN under the RDP 2014-2022 transitioned to the 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, with a member composition that is similar to that of the NRN.

The 2024 meeting was held in November, updating members on the CAP SP's progress and ongoing RDP projects. The network, covering both the CAP Network and AKIS, aims to foster stakeholder collaboration and best practice sharing. The Department of Agriculture serves as its secretariat.

The CAP Network was also active in assisting the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency 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, referred to earlier, 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**

Throughout the course of 2024, the MA continued to ensure that the [fondi.eu](https://fondi.eu) website, which acts as a one-

stop shop for all EU funds, is continuously updated.

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

### **Information Sessions**

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

- M1.1: Support for vocational training and skills acquisitions actions.
- M2.1: Support to help benefitting from the use of advisory services.
- 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.

### **Public events**

The CAP Network together with the MA participated in the AgriFair, that was held between the 12th and 14th April 2024 at the MFCC in Ta' Qali. AgriFair aimed to bring together major stakeholders within the agriculture, fisheries, and food sectors. It also provided a platform for the local farming/fishing community and producers, to inform and communicate their products and services. During the course of this fair, the MA participated in a TV programme and in a public information session, with the aim of promoting the CAP SP and its interventions.

During these public events and information sessions the MA and CAP Network informed stakeholders and the general public on the possibilities offered by the RDP and CAP SP 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 CAP

Network, 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 CAP Network participated in Agri Fair held in April 2024.

## **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.

## **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)	2014-2024			2.10	50.97	4.12
		2014-2023			0.98	23.79	
		2014-2022			0.40	9.71	
		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)	2014-2024			4.00	80.00	5.00
		2014-2023			4.00	80.00	
		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)	2014-2024			1,349.00	89.93	1,500.00
		2014-2023			1,349.00	89.93	
		2014-2022			1,043.00	69.53	
		2014-2021			309.00	20.60	
		2014-2020			205.00	13.67	
		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)	2014-2024	1.81	115.12	1.81	115.12	1.57
		2014-2023	1.60	101.77	1.28	81.41	
		2014-2022	1.47	93.50	1.47	93.50	
		2014-2021	1.28	81.41	1.28	81.41	
		2014-2020	1.03	65.51	1.03	65.51	
		2014-2019	0.52	33.07	0.52	33.07	
		2014-2018	0.44	27.99	0.38	24.17	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	50,464,237.73	125.08	38,692,585.94	95.90	40,347,133.18
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	48,822,117.73	126.14	38,692,585.94	99.97	38,705,013.18
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2024			58,466,438.51	103.44	56,521,137.47
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			17,409,010.90	114.50	15,205,013.18
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2024			227.00	115.23	197.00
M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			21,283,575.04	90.57	23,500,000.00
M22	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	1,642,120.00	100.00			1,642,120.00
M22	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2024					241.00

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)	2014-2024	0.73	100.52	0.73	100.52	0.73
		2014-2023	0.77	106.02	0.77	106.02	
		2014-2022	0.65	89.50	0.65	89.50	
		2014-2021	0.49	67.47	0.49	67.47	
		2014-2020	0.49	67.47	0.49	67.47	
		2014-2019	0.48	66.09	0.48	66.09	
		2014-2018	0.15	20.65	0.15	20.65	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	6,790,000.00	95.08	6,034,000.00	84.50	7,141,023.37
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	796,023.37
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	1,592,046.74
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	10.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	6,790,000.00	107.01	6,034,000.00	95.10	6,345,000.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2024			6,034,000.00	81.78	7,377,906.98
M06.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			6,034,000.00	95.10	6,345,000.00
M06.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2024			91.00	100.00	91.00

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)	2014-2024			0.01		0.00
		2014-2023	0.01		0.01		
		2014-2022	0.01		0.01		
		2014-2021	0.02		0.01		
		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)	2014-2024			19.00	76.00	25.00
		2014-2023					
		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	2014-2024	9,385,568.24	143.45	5,707,083.66	87.23	6,542,540.91
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	222,860.00	495.24	0.00	0.00	45,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	8,475,244.24	137.81	5,424,089.41	88.20	6,150,000.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2024			10,848,178.82	88.20	12,300,000.00
M04.1 M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2024			25.00	83.33	30.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	687,464.00	197.81	282,994.25	81.43	347,540.91

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)	2014-2024			12.28	412.21	2.98
		2014-2023			12.28	412.21	
		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)	2014-2024			4.12	138.30	2.98
		2014-2023			4.12	138.30	
		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)	2014-2024			14.31	231.82	6.17
		2014-2023			14.11	228.58	
		2014-2022			14.11	228.58	
		2014-2021			13.34	216.10	
		2014-2020			15.50	251.10	
		2014-2019			15.50	251.10	
		2014-2018			13.48	218.37	
		2014-2017			9.62	155.84	
		2014-2016			9.78	158.43	
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
P4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	63,253,473.66	92.02	40,059,837.01	58.28	68,736,341.12
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	1,769,772.30	589.92	97,744.08	32.58	300,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			97,744.08	32.58	300,000.00

M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2024			1,349.00	224.83	600.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	900,000.00	339.74	117,789.74	44.46	264,909.76
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2024			419.00	279.33	150.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	32,573,554.05	112.22	19,563,638.96	67.40	29,027,075.96
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2024			24,454,548.70	63.98	38,224,151.91
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2024			235.00	115.76	203.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,400,000.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	5,400,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	6,426,924.82	51.19	3,939,108.97	31.37	12,556,078.93
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2024			1,638.53	244.16	671.10
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	20,711.67	89.02	16,104.90	69.22	23,267.00
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	5.86
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2024			3.28	10.93	30.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	17,700,294.74	109.92	14,385,199.65	89.33	16,102,714.00
M13.3	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2024			9,350.45	107.48	8,700.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	3,862,216.08	76.29	1,940,250.71	38.33	5,062,295.47

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)	2014-2024			3.00	23.98	12.51
		2014-2023			2.78	22.22	
		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	2014-2024	43,611,591.01	99.69	35,186,440.42	80.43	43,748,266.59
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	300,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	600.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88,303.25
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	62.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	43,611,591.01	101.39	35,186,440.42	81.81	43,012,422.43
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2024			40,852,577.58	82.43	49,560,521.30
M04	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2024			84.94	23.99	354.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2024			29.00	53.70	54.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	347,540.91

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)	2014-2024					796,023.00
		2014-2023					
		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	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	561,314.94
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	75,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	150.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88,303.25
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	70.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	398,011.69
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	796,023.37
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	6.00

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)	2014-2024	15,705.82	0.49	15,705.82	0.49	3,184,093.00
		2014-2023	15,705.82	0.49	15,705.82	0.49	
		2014-2022	15,705.82	0.49	15,705.82	0.49	
		2014-2021	15,705.82	0.49	15,705.82	0.49	
		2014-2020	15,705.82	0.49	15,705.82	0.49	
		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	2014-2024	3,002,347.25	154.79	1,686,114.41	86.93	1,939,587.65
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	9,147.25	0.57	7,852.91	0.49	1,592,046.74
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2024			15,705.82	0.49	3,184,093.48
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2024			1.00	4.35	23.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	2,993,200.00	861.25	1,678,261.50	482.90	347,540.91



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)	2014-2024			9.60	59.68	16.09
		2014-2023			9.60	59.68	
		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	2014-2024	14,316.22	1.17	14,925.03	1.22	1,220,335.38
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,500.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	37,500.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	75.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88,303.25
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	70.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	14,316.22	1.31	14,925.03	1.36	1,094,532.13
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2024			28,590.06	1.31	2,189,064.27
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2024			1.00	6.25	16.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)	2014-2024			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)	2014-2024			8.89	167.42	5.31
		2014-2023			8.89	167.42	
		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	2014-2024	19,566,988.03	292.56	14,095,391.56	210.75	6,688,246.39
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	10,801,173.80	200.02	5,376,918.50	99.57	5,400,000.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			5,376,918.50	99.57	5,400,000.00
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2024			3.00	12.00	25.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	8,765,814.23	680.45	8,718,473.06	676.77	1,288,246.39
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2024			2,035.84	334.84	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)	2014-2024					9.00
		2014-2023					
		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	2014-2024	845,540.20	86.76	519,257.83	53.28	974,540.91
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	845,540.20	134.85	519,257.83	82.82	627,000.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2024			1,038,516.66	70.83	1,466,181.82
M06.2 M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2024			6.00	150.00	4.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	347,540.91

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)	2014-2024			4.50	45.00	10.00
		2014-2023			4.50	45.00	
		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)	2014-2024					0.00
		2014-2023					
		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)	2014-2024			105.38	105.42	99.97
		2014-2023			105.38	105.42	
		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	2014-2024	10,146,106.66	103.10	7,410,105.44	75.30	9,840,874.35
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	347,540.91
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	10,146,106.66	106.88	7,410,105.44	78.06	9,493,333.44

M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2024			283,284.00	105.41	268,733.00
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2024			3.00	100.00	3.00
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			491,453.38	99.96	491,657.42
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			5,261,352.45	76.16	6,907,889.73
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			266,268.38	100.00	266,268.38
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			1,391,031.23	76.12	1,827,517.91

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)	2014-2024					0.00
		2014-2023					
		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 (%)	2014-2024					20.00
		2014-2023					
		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	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,500.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,500.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	37,500.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2024			0.00	0.00	75.00

## Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
AIR Financial Annex 2014MT06RDNP001	Financial annex (System)	03-06-2025		Ares(2025)5206267	910907202	AIRfinancialAnnex2014MT06RDNP001_mt.pdf	30-06-2025	ncamanth
Citizen Summary 2024_AIR 2024	Citizens' summary	27-06-2025		Ares(2025)5206267	436116308	Citizen Summary 2024_AIR 2024	30-06-2025	ncamanth

