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MALTA

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN
AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT
FOR EUROPEAN FUNDS

Id-Divizjoni għall-Fondi u Programmi

Funds and Programmes Division

MA CIRCULAR 01/2020

To Local Action Groups (LAGs) RDP 2014 - 2020
From Head of the Managing Authority, EAFRD
Date 18th November 2020
Subject Implementation timelines of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020

This circular sets out guidelines that are to be followed by the LAGs with respect to deadlines for the implementation of the LEADER Programme for the period 2014-2020. The below timelines take into consideration the exceptional circumstances related to the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

Measure 19.2

LAGs are to note that all beneficiaries applying under the respective sub-measures with regards to Measure 19.2 are to be contracted on IACS by **Friday 30th April 2021¹**. The IACS system will not allow movements for new grant agreements to status 'SIGN' after this date and hence the LAG will be unable to create new contracts (after this date). This means that such grant agreements will not fall within the funding of the RDP 2014-2020 and hence it remains the responsibility of the LAG to take all the necessary actions to ensure that each LAG commits all allocated budgets and move the grant agreements to status 'SIGN' by this date.

Moreover, implementation of projects under M19.2 is to be of no more than 12 months (irrespective of previous batches under the same measure) from the signing of the contract for calls/batches issued on or after the date of this circular.

¹ As per bilateral meetings held during September 2019, this target date was set at 01/10/2020. However, in view of Covid-19, certain revisions were deemed necessary.

Change Requests

Change requests seeking M19.2 project extensions beyond 2nd May 2022 shall only be considered by the LAG in exceptional circumstances². Such requests are to be considered by the LAG in the first instance as per standard procedure. If these are approved at the level of the LAG, the request is then to be sent to the MA for approval. Only after that stage shall approval or otherwise be communicated to the M19.2 beneficiary.

The MA will only be reviewing change requests that involve extensions in time beyond 2nd May 2022 and solely on that component, even if the change request encompasses other changes.

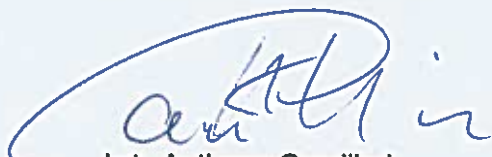
Measure 19.3

The MA will not be considering any extension requests beyond the 30th of June 2022 for projects under Measure 19.3. Justified and substantiated change requests for project extensions will only be considered up to the above-mentioned date.

Other Remarks

It is important that LAGs proceed in a swift and efficient manner on both M19.2 and M19.3 implementation and perform frequent monitoring of contracted M19.2 projects, in order to avoid loss of funds under M19.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your continued cooperation.



Ing. Anthony Camilleri

Director General – Funds and Programmes Division

² Projects that as at the date of this circular have an implementation period extending beyond this date are not impacted and shall maintain their original implementation period. However, if extensions are sought, the same procedure as described in this circular shall apply.