



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 2023
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)	2014-2017					19.80
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 1B						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
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)	2014-2017					18.00
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 1C						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2017					7,200.00
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 2A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)		2014-2017					0.93
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,434,474.00	78.80			8,165,666.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			3,850,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,434,474.00	52.67			12,215,666.00

Focus Area 2B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)		2014-2017					0.48
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			994,597.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			4,300,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			5,494,597.00

Focus Area 3A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
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)		2014-2017					9.58
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Nr of operations supported under M4.2 contributing to FA3A (M4.2) (operations)		2014-2017					50.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,500,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			6,278,538.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,502,381.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,380,919.00

Focus Area 3B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T7: percentage of farms participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)		2014-2017					11.97
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M17	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00

Priority P4							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)		2014-2017			2.00	67.14	2.98
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)		2014-2017			2.00	67.14	2.98
		2014-2016			1.32	44.31	
		2014-2015					
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)		2014-2017			9.62	157.33	6.11
		2014-2016			9.78	159.95	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,200,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,050,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	888,188.00	4.62			19,218,690.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	2,837,822.92	41.62	1,363,358.73	20.00	6,817,953.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	7,986,642.44	66.56	4,301,722.08	35.85	12,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			9,318,902.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	11,712,653.36	22.33	5,665,080.81	10.80	52,455,545.00

Focus Area 5A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T14: percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A)		2014-2017					2.01
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,200,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			6,898,992.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,160,083.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			11,609,075.00

Focus Area 5B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)		2014-2017					1,135,597.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			550,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			567,798.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,467,798.00

Focus Area 5C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)		2014-2017					9,792,387.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			7,521,194.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,052,381.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			8,573,575.00

Focus Area 5D							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		2014-2017					16.09
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			275,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,044,446.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,669,446.00

Focus Area 5E							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)		2014-2017			0.31	5.84	5.31
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	54,223.00	29.79	47,493.00	26.09	182,047.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	54,223.00	2.81	47,493.00	2.46	1,932,047.00

Focus Area 6A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)		2014-2017					77.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			3,850,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,052,381.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			4,902,381.00

Focus Area 6B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)		2014-2017					10.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)		2014-2017					0.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)		2014-2017			99.97	100.00	99.97
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,602,381.00
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,154,000.00	94.68	196,208.00	3.02	6,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,154,000.00	75.95	196,208.00	2.42	8,102,381.00

Focus Area 6C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)		2014-2017					0.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Percentage of total public expenditure (M1.1 to M1.3) allocated for ICT actions/interventions (%)		2014-2017					20.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			275,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			275,000.00

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

Key Information on RDP Implementation by Focus Area

This section will list contribution towards the Focus Areas 2A, 3A, 5E and 6B, and Priority 4.

Focus Area 2A

The sub-measures contributing to this Focus Area are sub-measures 2.2, 4.1, 4.3 and 6.4.

Throughout calendar year 2017, the MA has committed €6,434,474 (public funds) through sub-measure 4.3 of the Rural Development Programme - 17 applicants have been awarded funding through this sub-measure. Realised expenditure remains at €0 given that these grants were awarded in December 2017. Therefore, implementation is expected to start throughout 2018. Additionally, the Project Selection Committee will be assessing a second batch of applications requesting funding through sub-measure 4.3.

As regards sub-measure 4.1 that also contributes to this Focus Area, 90 applications, requesting €7,414,696.80 (public funds) were received throughout 2017. The Project Selection Committee is expected to start assessing these applications during the first quarter of 2018. In view of this, by end 2017, no funds were committed and no expenditure was realised.

Focus Area 2B

The sub-measures contributing to this Focus Area are sub-measures 2.2 - support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services. Malta has drafted a new subsidiary legislation covering farm advisory services; upon adoption of this legislation, the MA will be in a position to launch sub measures related to measure 2.

By end of 2017, the MA was yet to approve investment projects relating to young farmers under measure 6.1, contributing under this focus area, hence no measure 4.1 (FA2B) contribution was committed.

Concerning sub-measure 6.1, despite the significant interest from potential applicants, the MA only received a total of 21 applications. From feedback received, it transpires that one of the major limitations in this measure is the restrictive Standard Output brackets. These applications are being reviewed by a dedicated PSC which is also liaising with an external review board to determine the level of knowledge and skills required by applicants to successfully implement the business plan.

Focus Area 3A

The sub-measures contributing to this Focus Area are sub-measures 3.1, 3.2, 11.1, 11.2, 16.2 and 16.4.

Sub-measure 3.1 was launched in June 2017, however, no applications have been received and no commitments have been registered and no expenditure has been realised through this sub-measure.

Priority 4

The sub-measures contributing to this Priority Area are sub-measures 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 11.1, 13.3, and 16.1, 16.2 and 16.5.

Under sub-measure 4.1, contributing towards FA4B and FA4C, a total of 15 applications were received by

end of 2017. The average grant requested for such applications was €89,000.

Sub-measure 4.3 was launched by the MA in 2017. However, the call related to water investments will be launched in 2018, hence no action was registered under this priority.

As indicated in Section 1.b, throughout calendar year 2017, the MA committed €888,188 (public funds) through sub-measure 4.4 of the RDP, contributing to FA4A and FA4C. A total of 19 applications were awarded for funding through this sub-measure. Realised expenditure remains at €0, given that grants were awarded in December 2017. Implementation of projects is expected to start in 2018. Throughout 2018, the Project Selection Committee will be assessing more applications requesting funding through this sub-measure.

Sub-measure 10.1 also contributes to this Priority. In 2017, the MA has committed €773,191 (public funds). Payments realised in 2017 add up to €630,988 (public funds) covering 148 ha and supporting 226 contracts. The cumulative payments realised by end 2017 add up to €1,363,358 (public funds). The payment claims campaign will be re-launched in 2018, with the MA expecting new applicants to be contracted following this campaign.

Also contributing to this Priority Area is sub-measure 13.3. Commitments in 2017 add up to €2,090,893.00 (public funds), supporting 7,534ha. Payments realised in 2017 add up to €2,036,520.00 (public funds). The cumulative payments realised by end 2017 add up to €4,301,722 (public funds). The payment claims campaign will be re-launched in 2018, therefore, additional applications may be received.

Focus Area 5E

The sub-measures contributing to this Focus Area are sub-measures 8.5, 10.1 and 10.2.

Sub-measure 10.1, namely AECM 2 and 4 contribute to this Focus area. As at end 2017, €54,223 have been committed, whereas €47,493.00 have been realised. The payments claim campaign is expected to re-open in 2018 and more applicants are expected to express their interest in these AECMs.

Focus Area 6B

The sub-measures contributing to this Focus Area are sub-measures 16.2, 19.1, 19.2, 19.3 and 19.4.

Three Local Action Groups were awarded in November 2017, after the three Local Development Strategies had been assessed and approved by the Project Selection Committee. The MA committed €344,000 (public funds) under Measure 19.1, €4,468,000 (public funds) through Measure 19.2 and €1,192,000 (public funds) through Measure 19.4.

In view of the fact that Local Action Groups were awarded late in 2017, realised expenditure of €196,208 is related to preparatory costs, funded through sub-measure 19.1.

Measure launch schedule

Sub-measures 1.1 and 2.1 will be launched in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Sub-measures 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.3 will be launched in 2019. The MA has nonetheless carried out significant preparatory groundwork to ensure smooth and efficient implementation of this measure. Sub-measures 2.1 and 2.3, both contributing to FA4A, FA4B and FA4C, are linked to farm advisory services. Malta has drafted a new subsidiary legislation covering farm advisory services; upon adoption of this legislation, the

MA will be in a position to launch sub-measures related to measure 2. This is expected to come into effect during 2018.

Sub-measure 3.2 will be launched after the first successful participation under sub-measure 3.1.

Sub-measure 4.2 and 6.4 will be launched by the fourth quarter of 2018, while sub-measure 8.5 will be launched in late 2018.

AECM 5 under Measure 10.1, and sub-measures 11.1 and 11.2 will be launched in the first quarter of 2018. Measure 10.2 will be launched in 2019.

Concerning Measure 16, significant preparatory work including consultation with various stakeholders has taken place. With the latter measure, there appears to be significant obstacles; with respect to fostering innovation, taking into consideration the fact that 98% of all holdings are run by sole owners (with the vast majority being part-timers), the possibility of diverting limited resources away from their core activity for research and innovation purposes is very limited. Such limitations are also accentuated by to the size of the primary producer holdings as well as the size of the limited number of agro-food stakeholders.

The current RDP restriction of linking all operations to EIP is limiting interest and the opportunity for the local sector to set cooperation groups, which groups would still be likely to introduce components of innovation. Not ensuring facilitation of this measure may be jeopardising the limited bottom up opportunity for innovation that exists.

In 2018, the MA will carry out an exercise aimed at streamlining this measure in order to ensure the best contribution towards the local sector. Furthermore, in order to foster cooperation and encourage the take up of M16.2, the eligibility for this measure will be modified in line with Article 35 (3) of EU Reg. 1303/2013.

Sub-measure 19.3 will be launched in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Additional Relevant Information

Launch of RDP measures

Between the 1st January 2017 and 31st December 2017, the Managing Authority launched Measure 3.1, Measure 4.1, Measure 4.3, and Measure 6.1. These Measures contribute towards Focus Areas 2A, 2B, 3A, 4A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D. Additionally, the MA also relaunched Measures 10.1 and 13.3 - payment claims for these measures were also received in 2017. These sub-measures contribute towards Focus 4A, 4B, 4C and 5E.

The late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 in November 2015, the closure of the RDP 2007 – 2013 and Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union throughout the first six months of 2017 have impacted on the desired implementation of the RDP 2014 – 2020. With these commitments now successfully achieved, the MA shall continue focusing on the selection of application submitted throughout the course of 2017 and implementing all measures that will impact on the other FA's, namely FA's 1A, 1B, 1C, 3B, 5E, 6A.

The sub-measures launched in 2017 were as follows:

- Sub-measure 3.1 – launched in June 2017;

- Sub-measure 4.1 – launched in January 2017;
- Sub-measure 4.3 – launched in February 2017;
- Sub-measure 6.1 – launched in April 2017.

Sub-measure 4.4 was launched in December 2016.

Measure 3.1: Support for new participation in Quality Schemes

Marketing and quality assurance were identified as areas for development for the Maltese agricultural sector. The aim of this measure is to assist farmers to join a quality scheme which serves as a guarantee of product quality or attributes. It can also be used to promote products certified as attaining the standards of quality schemes. In 2014 Malta established its first National Quality Scheme. The Department of Agriculture developed the necessary regulatory documentation and published Legal Notice 467 of 2014 – “Establishment of Products of Quality – National Scheme Regulations” (Subsidiary Legislation 427.90 on the Establishment of the ‘Products of Quality’ National Scheme Regulations), with the aim of establishing a national scheme for the purpose of granting support under Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

This quality scheme is open to all interested actors who form part of a recognised agricultural value chain. Sub-measure 3.1 of the Rural Development Programme aims to primarily support farmers to join the National scheme with possibilities for some products to also seek EU established quality schemes, namely those for organic produce or PGI, PDO or TSG. Sub-measure 3.1 is not able to promote the development of such schemes directly.

Sub-measure 3 support covers new participation by farmers and groups of farmers in EU quality schemes, namely:

- Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council - quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs
- Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 - organic production and labelling of organic products
- Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council - definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/91 - laying down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of aromatized wines, aromatized wine- based drinks and aromatized wine product cocktails, Part II, Title II, Chapter I, Section 2 of Council Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 - as concerns wine.

As indicated in Figure 1 below, this measure will contribute towards Focus Area 3A.

No applications had been received by the MA by end December 2017.

Measure 4.1: Support for Investments in Agricultural Holdings

On the 11th of November 2016, the Managing Authority announced that it will be accepting applications under Measure 4.1- Support for Investments in Agricultural Holdings the 11th of January 2017, hence giving potential applicants a pre-notification period for adequate preparation and submission of project proposals.

The aim of the scheme is to support investments in cost-effective and environmentally efficient systems concerned with soil management, water capture and use, renewable energy, waste management, and improved efficiency of fertilizer and pesticide use and control. Support will also target improved productivity on holdings, subject to the adoption of techniques and farming systems that will not cause

environmental damage.

Given the predominance of highly diverse horticulture as the main agricultural land-user in Malta, the sub-measure will address competitiveness and environmental sustainability. Livestock and arable farms will benefit from support to invest in more efficient equipment that reduces water, fertiliser and pesticide usage. Applicants may also invest in technologies related to energy consumption, capture, storage, and use of water, wastes or energy. They may also invest in bio-energy production for on-farm use.

Livestock farms may also benefit from investments to modernise the storage and handling of manure and slurry, and activities that lead to enhanced nutrient budgeting and management. Arable farms may benefit from investment in improved crop storage or other activity to improve the quality of the product. This may include buildings for specialised handling, storage, provision of ventilation, insulation and refrigeration.

Both sectors can benefit from projects to improve the quality and value of home-grown fodder production. Significant latent demand exists for these forms of investment support although this demand also needs strengthening through training and advice. Lack of suitable funding, combined with lack of awareness of potential financial benefits, has been a barrier to improving efficiency and reducing environmental impacts of some farm activities, in the past.

Between October and December 2016, the Managing Authority held several information sessions in Malta and Gozo concerning various measures, including Measure 4.1, providing a general overview of each measure.

As will be indicated later on in this implementation report and also in Figure 1 below, this measure will contribute towards Focus Area 2A, 2B, 3A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, depending on the nature of the investments being proposed by the applicant.

By end December 2017, the Managing Authority had received 90 applications requesting funding through this sub-measure.

Measure 4.3: Support for Investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry

On the 14th of December 2016, the Managing Authority announced that it will be accepting applications under Measure 4.3 from the 14th of February 2017, hence giving potential applicants a pre-notification period for adequate preparation and submission of project proposals.

The fragmented nature of land-holdings and small size of individual fields and parcels of land make access a particular problem for Maltese farms, both in terms of delivering inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, water and transporting produce following harvesting. Water management and associated soil management are activities that have lacked investment over previous decades. Farmers need support to invest in more effective and modern water capture, storage, and distribution systems that fit into the landscape and enable improved scope for sharing of structures and equipment. Livestock farms need support for investment in water treatment and recycling technology, and storage facilities.

Off-farm interventions funded through sub-measure 4.3 will include investments that are of benefit to both farmers and the wider community. This sub-measure will support the construction or improvement of farm access roads, footbridges, protection and consolidation works, marking and information systems, measures to decrease soil erosion, redefining boundaries, installations/infrastructure for distribution of renewable energy to and from the holding using biomass and other renewable energy sources, water collection and

treatment, by laying of an agricultural treated sewage effluent distribution network and investment in further polishing of second class water to make it suitable for agricultural use.

In January and February 2017, the Managing Authority held information sessions in Malta and Gozo concerning this sub-measure, providing a general overview to prospective

As indicated in Figure 1 below, this measure will contribute towards Focus Area 4B, 5A, 5C, 5D.

By end December 2017, the Managing Authority had received 30 applications requesting funding through sub-measure 4.3. By end December 2017, 17 applicants had been informed that they have been awarded funding.

Measure 4.4: Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives

On 4th October 2016, the Managing Authority announced that it will be accepting applications for funding through Measure 4.4 - Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives as from the 4th December 2016, hence giving potential applicants a pre-notification period for adequate preparation and submission of project proposals.

Measure 4.4 provides for investment envisaged to contribute to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives and includes the restoration of habitats and landscapes, soil conservation, and water management where there is no significant economic return to a farm or other rural business from such action. Support may be provided for capital works within the framework of an agri-environment-climate schemes, including collective landscape management groups as well as individual farm-level contracts and may include, for example management plans, and works, establishing, restoring, or re-instating infrastructure needed for management of habitats. This includes rubble wall (or other suitable boundary feature) establishment or restoration, terracing, and soil conservation measures.

Between October and December 2016, the Managing Authority held several information sessions in Malta and Gozo about Measure 4.4. A general overview of this measure was provided during these information sessions.

This measure will contribute towards Focus Areas 4A and 4C.

By end December 2017, the Managing Authority had received 84 applications requesting funding through this sub-measure. By end December 2017, 19 applicants had been informed that they have been awarded funding.

Measure 6.1: Business start-up aid for young farmers

Young farmers frequently require support to be able to enter into the agricultural sector. Barriers exist in the form of difficulties in accessing land through the high costs of either purchasing or renting, fragmentation of land, and difficulties in obtaining loans for business investment through regular commercial channels. Young farmers also face problems in accessing markets and resistance from older farmers who are not open to new ideas, innovation in production and marketing, or investment in new processes. Despite significant numbers of young people attending agricultural courses in Malta, few enter the farming sector due to these barriers, the limited financial returns and long working hours associated with the sector. This measure is thus a key element to encourage a more attractive, innovative and efficient sector.

This sub-measure aims to provide support for facilitating the setting up of young farmers and the start of their agricultural activities, through the provision of a €70,000 grant. Support under this measure will be granted following the submission of a business plan that has to be approved by the Project Selection Committee.

In 2017, the MA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics and Animal Sciences. This Centre will support the MA in assessing the competences of Measure 6.1 applicants and eventually recommend further action to be undertaken by applicants in order to boost their knowledge in the agricultural sector.

This sub-measure will contribute towards Focus Areas 2B.

By end December 2017, the Managing Authority had received 21 applications requesting funding through this sub-measure.

Measure 10.1: Agri-environment-climate

Agri-environment-climate measures (AECMs) aim to encourage farmers to protect and enhance the environment on the land that they manage. They provide payments to farmers in return for a service, in the form of a multi-annual commitment to observe a set of prescribed management practices over a period of five years. AECMs aim to enhance cultivation methods adapted to the local environment and enhance Maltese biodiversity and ecosystem services, promote water conservation and water quality improvement and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation principally by increasing efficiency of input use and improving soil management.

Supporting management practices that are more sustainable contributes to the maintenance of a favourable landscape and environment for the benefit of the wider Maltese population, tourists and other visitors. Application of support for AECMs granted on land-based measures are subject to cross compliance controls.

Traditional agricultural practices have shaped the landscape and habitat types of Malta over many centuries and many of its semi-natural habitats (garigue, maquis) and cultural landscape features (terraced fields, permanent crops, traditional reservoirs and drainage channels) are dependent on the continuation of appropriate management. They are threatened both by the intensification of agriculture, its generation of wastes but also by land abandonment via marginalization of farming as an economic activity. This partly explains Malta's recognition of the importance of introducing AECMs across the whole-territory rather than only within smaller areas. Furthermore, Maltese Natura 2000 areas are interspersed across the farmed landscape, which makes their condition unavoidably linked to that of neighbouring areas.

Six AECMs have been selected on the basis of performing multiple functions in an agro-ecosystem context and complementing other RDP actions for climate and environment, notably including knowledge transfer and investment actions. It should be noted that the very small scale of most Maltese farm holdings, at an average size of less than one hectare, and the high value of typical crop incomes per hectare renders AECMs relatively financially unattractive, by comparison with capital items offered in the RDP.

All AECMs will have a positive impact on biodiversity, enhancing the countryside and promoting practices which work in harmony with our unique ecosystems. They will cover the following 8 key objectives:

- increasing the population of pollinators;
- enhancing farmland soil conservation and soil quality which are both currently poor;
- supporting the control of invasive alien species;

- increasing tree cover and greening of relatively denuded landscapes;
- protecting and enhancing nature-rich valley systems under threat from neglect, pollution and encroachment;
- reducing contamination of water by pesticides and nutrients;
- supporting biological and mechanical pest control (in place of chemical methods which overwhelmingly predominate in Malta today); and
- promoting agricultural/genetic biodiversity conservation through support for rare, indigenous breeds of plants and livestock.

As at end December 2017, the MA had launched five out of six AECMs – the last AECM to be launched, AECM 5, was eventually launched in January 2018. The AECMs launched as at end 2017 were as follows:

- AECM 1 - Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical, methods
- AECM 2 – Support for the maintenance of recommended tree species replacing Alien Species or planted on slopes and terraces to prevent soil and wind erosion
- AECM 2A – Support for the maintenance of tree species planted on slopes and terraces
- AECM 2B – Support for the maintenance of tree species planted to replace invasive alien species
- AECM 3 – Measure supporting the introduction of bee boxes on holdings
- AECM 4 – Measure for the implementation of an Integrated Pest Management Plan targeting Vineyards and Orchards
- AECM 6:
- AECM 6A – Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species – Maltese Black Chicken
- AECM 6B – Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species – Maltese Ox
- AECM 6C – Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species – Carob & Mulberry

AECMs contribute to various Focus Areas, namely 4A, 4B, 4C and 5E, with different AECMs contributing to different Focus Areas, as can be noted in Figure 1 below.

In 2017, 1,532 payment claims were received, requesting support through the various AECMs, with a total supported area of 1,099Ha.

Measure 13.3: Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints

This sub-measure provides an area-based compensation to farmers to ensure continued agricultural land use, across the rural areas of Malta. During accession negotiations, the EU agreed that all of the agricultural land in the Maltese islands should qualify for support through this measure. Agriculture production in the Maltese islands faces several specific constraints, including: the high opportunity cost of land, the loss of agricultural land through urbanisation plus land abandonment; the fragmentation of farms and the increasing number of smaller fields, as a result of customary inheritance practices on Malta. These factors all contribute to the degradation of the rural landscape. Lack of water resources constitutes a significant restriction on the productivity of the Maltese agriculture sector, given the long dry, hot summers, elevated evapotranspiration

rates and low, unpredictable and highly variable annual rainfall.

Scarcity of arable land with a trend towards over-cropping, together with poor soil fertility, increasing soil erosion, low yields per hectare and lack of crop rotation methods are crucial constraints as well. Maltese soils are all rather young or immature since pedological processes are slow in calcareous soils particularly where acidic drainage water is very limited in quantity. Soil erosion is one of the factors contributing to the loss of agricultural land and the viability of land in terms of agricultural production.

The main objective of the measure is to prevent land abandonment in areas that are disadvantaged. This sub-measure was launched in 2015 and offers a simple, standard payment per hectare of agricultural land. This sub-measure contributes to Focus Area 4A.

In 2017, 6,295 payment claims were received, requesting support through the various AECMs, with a total supported area of 8,341Ha.

**Measure 19.1- Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development):
Preparatory support**

This measure allowed Local Action Groups to receive the necessary preparatory support for the design and development of a local development strategy for their respective territories following an extensive consultation process within the region. The consultation process served as a means for the LAG to actively engage with a wide range of people and organisations operating in one form or another within the respective territory to explore development needs and opportunities, and act as a mechanism for active engagement with the local population. This process fed into a wider SWOT analysis which identified the needs and subsequently a complementary set of measures.

These Local Development Strategies were assessed over the course of 2017 and three Local Action Groups were awarded in the fourth quarter of 2017. Local Action Group are expected to start implementing their LDSs in 2018.

Sub-measure	Focus Areas											
	2A	2B	3A	4A	4B	4C	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	6B
3.1			x									
4.1	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		
4.3					x		x		x	x		
4.4				x		x						
6.1		x										
10.1 (AECM 1)				x	x	x						
10.1 (AECM 2)				x							x	
10.1 (AECM 3)				x								
10.1 (AECM 4)				x	x	x					x	
10.1 (AECM 6)				x								
13.3				x								
19.1												x

Figure 1

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

Priority 2

The Measures contributing towards this priority are:

- Sub-measure 2.2
- Sub-measures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3
- Sub-measures 6.1 and 6.4

In December 2016, the Managing Authority launched sub-measure 4.4 while throughout 2017, the MA launched sub-measure 4.1 in January and sub-measure 4.3 in February. As at end 2017, the Managing Authority had received the following applications:

- Sub-measure 4.1: 90 applications, requesting €7,414,696.80 (public funds)
- Sub-measure 4.3: 30 applications, requesting €18,666,558.10 (public funds)
- Sub-measure 4.4: 84 applications, requesting €4,360,325.38 (public funds)

This indicates that out of the total budget allocated to Measure 4 (€50,689,920), as at end 2017, applications were received requesting a total of €30,441,580.28; applicants requested funding that adds up to 60.1% of the available budget.

Throughout the last quarter of 2017, the Project Selection Committee evaluated Measure 4.3 and Measure 4.4 applications: 17 sub-measure 4.3 applicants and 19 sub-measure 4.4 applicants were awarded funding. During the course of 2018, the Project Selection Committee will evaluate and adjudicate more applications submitted through these sub-measures.

Sub-measures 4.1 and 4.4 are expected to remain open throughout the course of 2018, subject to availability of funds. Sub-measure 4.3 is considered as fully subscribed as regards the resurfacing of rural roads – the call for applications was in fact closed. The MA may re-launch this sub-measure throughout the course of 2018.

The MA is planning to launch Measure 2 during 2018 since discussions were being held in relation to a Legal Notice regulating Farm Advisory Services throughout 2017. Discussions concerning the Legal Notice are expected to be concluded in 2018.

Sub-measure 6.1 was launched in April 2017. As at end December 2017, the Managing Authority had received 21 applications, requesting €1,890,000; applicants have therefore requested funding that adds up to 44.0% of the available budget. Throughout the course of 2018, the Project Selection Committee is expected to evaluate and adjudicate these applications. The sub-measure is expected to remain open throughout 2018. Following a RDP modification that has widened the Standard Output range, the MA is expecting this sub-measure to continue attracting applications from a wider variety of sectors.

Achievement of PF indicators

As regards the 'Realised performance framework indicators', there are two indicators under Priority 2: (1) total public expenditure and (2) number of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation + holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investment for

young farmers.

Sub-measures contributing to PA2 are as follows: 2.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 6.1 and 6.4.

As regards indicator (1), realised expenditure adds up to €0, given that the 17 applicants contracted through sub-measure 4.3 were awarded in December 2017 – therefore, no expenditure was registered through this sub-measure. A second batch of applicants have also submitted applications through sub-measure 4.3. Applications were received for both sub-measure 4.1 and 6.1, however, none of the applicants were committed in 2017.

As regards indicator (2), the number of holdings supported adds up to 0. However, by end December 2017, 90 applications have been submitted through sub-measure 4.1 while 21 applicants have requesting funding through sub-measure 6.1.

Sub-measures 2.2, 4.2 and 6.4 have not been launched as yet.

Priority 3

The Measures contributing towards this priority are:

- Sub-measures 3.1 and 3.2
- Sub-measures 11.1 and 11.2
- Sub-measures 16.2 and 16.4
- Measure 17

Sub-measure 3.1 was launched in June 2017, however, no applications had been received as at end 2017, given that following the launch of the Products of Quality National Scheme for milk, dairy producers have not yet applied to join the voluntary PQNS. The Agriculture Directorate is liaising with the respective cooperative to address this impasse.

Measure 11 will be launched by the Managing Authority in April 2018 – both sub-measures 11.1 and 11.2 will be launched. A RDP modification was carried out in December 2017 to extend the eligibility of sub-measure 11.2 to farmers that are already certified as organic producers. This modification was required since in the original version of the RDP, eligibility for sub-measure 11.2 was restricted to those transitioning from in-conversion to organic with the support of sub-measure 11.1.

The number of applicants and the number of hectares expected to be contracted through these sub-measures is not expected to be very high, given that the number of organic holdings in the Maltese Islands is rather limited.

Measure 16 will also be launched by the Managing Authority in 2018, in the third or fourth quarter, however, the MA intends to re-dimension this Measure through a RDP modification in the course of 2018.

As regards Measure 17, the Managing Authority held discussions with the Maltese insurance association where it was noted that in view of the severe lack of data, operators in the insurance sector are not interested in providing insurance policies for the local agricultural sector. The MA intends to submit a RDP modification in 2018, order to remove this measure from the RDP. Funding will be re-allocated towards

other sub-measures.

Extensive discussions with the main stakeholders in Malta on the possibility of introducing a risk management scheme for holdings have been held between early July 2017 and 19th April 2018.

The outcome of such discussions has led to the conclusion that the provision of insurance schemes is currently not implementable, as it is not possible to establish and quantify the relevant insurable interest with the data that is currently at hand.

In the absence of such an insurance scheme, Malta will nonetheless be supporting investment opportunities aimed at mitigating adverse situations (climatic events, diseases, etc) under other measures within the programme. Moreover, Malta will also consider support to farmers via advisory services as well as training opportunities in relation to risk management. Going forward, Malta shall continue discussions with relevant stakeholders, with a view to identify all means of support to farmers to mitigate such risks that may be enabled through the fund

Achievement of PF indicators

There are two performance framework indicators under Priority 3: (1) number of supported agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets/short supply circuits and producer groups and (2) number of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes.

Sub-measures contributing to PA3 are as follows: 3.1, 3.2, 11.1, 11.2, 16.2 , 16.4 and 17.

As regards indicator (1), the value stands at 0 since despite the fact that the sub-measure was launched in June 2017, no applications were received, as discussed above.

As regards indicator (2), again, the value stands at 0 since this measure has not been launched and the MA intends to remove this measure from the RDP, as discussed above.

Sub-measures 3.2, 11.1, 11.2, 16.2 and 16.4 have not been launched as yet.

Priority 4

The Measures contributing towards this priority are:

- Sub-measures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3
- Sub-measures 2.2 and 2.3
- Sub-measures 4.1 and 4.4
- Sub-Measure 8.5
- Sub-measures 10.1 (AECM 1, 3 and 6) and 10.2
- Sub-measure 13.3
- Sub-measures 16.2

The MA is envisaging launching Measure 1 during the third quarter of 2018. Discussions concerning this measure were held with various entities in the course of 2017, therefore, the majority of the groundwork has already been finalised.

Details concerning Measure 2 and Measure 4 can be found under Priority 2.

As regards sub-measure 8.5, launching is envisaged towards the fourth quarter of 2018.

The MA has launched Measure 10.1 in 2016. Payment claims for AECM 1, 6b and 6c have been received since 2016 while those for AECM 2,3,4 and 6a have been received in 2017. AECM 5, the only AECM that has not been launched as at end 2017, will be launched in January 2018 and the MA is expecting applications during the March – May payment claims period.

As regards Measure 13, the MA has been receiving payment claims since 2015, with the process continuing in 2016 and 2017.

Ongoing commitments under M212 (Support for areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas) and M214 (Agri-environmental commitments and conservation of biodiversity) under the RDP 07-13 were still ongoing in 2017; such commitments are also reflected in Chapter 19 'Transitional Arrangements' of RDP 14-20.

Details concerning Measure 16 can be found under Priority 3.

Achievement of PF indicators

There are two performance indicators under Priority 4: (1) Total public expenditure and (2) agricultural land under management contracts contributing to biodiversity.

Sub-measures contributing to PA4 are as follows: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 4.1, 4.4, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 13.3, and 16.2.

As regards indicator (1), as at end 2017, total public expenditure adds up to €5,665,080 – this means that 10.8% of the 2023 target has been achieved. This value includes payments related to sub-measure 13.3 and sub-measure 10.1, AECMs 1, 3 and 6. No expenditure had been registered as at end 2017 as regards sub-measure 4.4, given that applicant were awarded in December 2017. Similarly, even though 90 applications have been received through sub-measure 4.1, none of these had been contracted by end 2017, therefore, no expenditure has been registered as yet.

As regards indicator (2), as at end 2017, 148ha had been contracted under management contracts contributing to biodiversity – this means that 21.1% of the 2023 target has been achieved. This value captures management contracts through AECM 1, 3 and 6. The payment claims campaign will be re-opened in 2018, whereby applicants can register their interest in participating in such schemes.

Out of the three alternative performance framework indicators, two fall under Priority Area 4, namely (3) area (ha) under specific constraints + improving water management (ha) + improving soil management and/preventing soil erosion (ha) and (4) number of operations supported by M04 and M08 under P4,

As regards indicator (3), the indicator captures area under sub-measure 13.3 and sub-measure 10.1 (AECMs 2 and 4), therefore, the value adds up to 7,692ha or 82.5% of the 2023 target. The payment claims campaign will re-opened in 2018, whereby applicants can register their interest in participating in both sub-measure 10.1 and 13.3.

Concerning indicator (4), the number of operations stands at 0 since applications received through sub-measure 4.1 are yet to be assessed by the Project Selection Committee whereas projects awarded through sub-measure 4.4 are expected to start implementation throughout the course of 2018, since they were awarded in December 2017. Sub-measure 8.5 has not been launched as yet.

Sub-measures 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 8.5, 10.2 and 16.2 have not been launched as yet.

Priority 5

The Measures contributing towards this priority are:

- Sub-measures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3
- Sub-measures 2.2, 2.3
- Sub-measures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3
- Sub-Measure 8.5
- Sub-measures 10.1 (AECM 2, 4 and 5) and 10.2
- Sub-measures 16.2 and 16.6

Details concerning Measure 1 can be found under Priority 4.

Details concerning Measure 2 and Measure 4 can be found under Priority 2.

Details concerning Measure 8.5 and 10 can be found under Priority 4.

Details concerning Measure 16 can be found under Priority 3.

Achievement of PF indicators

There are three performance indicators under Priority 5: (1) Total public expenditure, (2) number of investment operations in energy savings and efficiency + in renewable energy production, and (3) Agriculture and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) + agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions + irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha).

Sub-measures contributing to PA 5 are as follows: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 8.5, 10.1, 10.2, 16.2 and 16.6.

The value realised for indicator (1) currently stands at €47,493 or 0.19% of the 2023 target. This value is expected to increase in the course of 2018, since as regards 4.1, applications have been received and assessment by the Project Selection Committee will take place during 2018 whereas as regards sub-measure 4.3, applicants awarded in 2017 are expected to implement their projects throughout 2018. Another batch of M4.3 applicants is expected to be awarded in the first months of 2018. As regards AECMs, the payment claims campaign will re-opened in 2018, whereby applicants can register their interest in participating in such schemes.

Concerning indicator (2), the realised value currently stands at 0 given that the sub-measures that contribute to this indicator are either yet to be launched (sub-measures 4.2, 16.4, 16.6) or have been launched but not yet committed (sub-measure 4.1).

As regards indicator (3), the realised number of hectares stands at 36.0ha, or 19.3% of the 2023 target. This value is related to management contracts under AECMs 2 and 4. The payment claims campaign will re-open in 2018, whereby applicants can register their interest in participating in such schemes. Measure 4.3 is expected to be re-launched in 2018, this measure will increase the area of land switching to more efficient irrigation.

Sub-measures 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 4.2, 8.5, 10.2, 16.2 and 16.6 have not been launched as yet.

Priority 6

The Measures targeting this priority are:

- Sub-measures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3
- Sub-measure 6.4
- Sub-measure 16.2
- Sub-measures 19.1, 19.2, 19.3 and 19.4

Details concerning Measure 1 can be found under Priority 4.

Details concerning Measure 6 can be found under Priority 2.

Details concerning Measure 16 can be found under Priority 3.

An expression of interest was launched within 45 days of adoption of programme for the set up of Local Action Groups under Measure 19. During the final months of 2015, both the MA and Local Action Groups set up during the RDP 2007-2013, were engaged in the closing off of the RDP 2007-2013 implementation. This resulted in delays in the process to set up of Local Action Groups.

The three applicants that submitted their interest to set up Local Action Groups had requested a postponement of 4 months for the submission of their respective Local Development Strategies to ensure that a thorough, bottom up approach is undertaken. After evaluation, this request was accepted by the MA in order to ensure the best possible strategies representing the needs and values of the respective regions. The MA agreed to this extension to ensure that the best, long term value for EU funds is obtained. The Local Development Strategies were submitted in 2016 and evaluated throughout the course of 2017 – Local Action Groups were awarded in quarter 4 of 2017, in an Award Ceremony that was held in November 2017.

Achievement of PF indicators

There are two performance indicators under Priority 6, namely (1) total public expenditure and (2) population covered by LAG.

Sub-measures contributing to PA6 are: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 6.4, 16.2, 19.1, 19.2, 19.3 and 19.4.

The value realised for indicator (1) currently stands at €196,208 – or 1.48% of the 2023 target – mainly due to preparatory costs incurred by the LAGs. Local Action Groups were awarded in November 2017, therefore implementation of the Local Development Strategies is expected to start in 2018. This will lead to expenditure being registered through sub-measures 19.2 and 19.4.

Concerning indicator (2), the three awarded Local Action Groups cover the target population, therefore, this target has already been reached.

The third alternative performance framework indicator (3) number of beneficiaries (holdings) receiving start-up aid/support for investment in non-agricultural activities in rural areas falls under Priority Area 6.

With respect to indicator (3), the number of holdings receiving support through sub-measure 6.1 and 6.4 stands at 0. Despite this, 21 applications have already been received, requesting funding through sub-

measure 6.1. The Project Selection Committee will be assessing these applications throughout the course of 2018. Sub-measure 6.4 has not been launched as yet.

Sub-measures 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 6.4, 16.2 and 19.3 have not been launched as yet.

Notes:

Where applicable, this AIR adopts the amendments as per Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/276, amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 215/2014, with regard to changes to the determination of milestones and targets for output indicators in the performance framework.

A document entitled (*Annex*) *Table F _AIR 2017_Performance Framework_Milestones_Comments* containing more information concerning the Performance Framework has been annexed to the AIR in the 'Documents' section.

1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional]

Project Selection Committee

In 2017, a Project Selection Committee was appointed, tasked to assess applications submitted based on eligibility and selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee. This Committee is made up of a chairperson and members, all of whom are external to the MA. The MA provides support to the PSC and also acts as its secretariat.

Outsourcing

In order to boost its administrative capacity, the MA outsourced some of its functions to third parties. Throughout summer 2017, a number of audit technicians were engaged while external experts were engaged to support the MA in the drafting of the evaluation tender and certain measure guidance notes.

In the course of 2018, the MA intends to launch a similar call for the procurement of services of audit technicians to further boost its administrative capacity.

Administrative Capacity

In order to boost the administrative capacity and mitigate the shortage of staff experienced across all ESIF Managing Authorities, in November 2017, a public call for the recruitment of Senior Managers, Programme Managers and Programme Officers was launched. The recruitment process is expected to take place and conclude in 2018.

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

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

Not applicable.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

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

Not applicable.

2. THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLAN.

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

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

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

By end 2017, the external evaluators for the RDP 2014-2020 had not been contracted. The fact that few applications had been awarded in 2017, also limits the scope of engagement of external evaluators.

During the last quarter of 2017, the MA engaged external consultants to provide the necessary support in the drafting of the tender for external evaluators. The MA aims to launch the tendering procedure throughout the course of 2018.

As indicated in Chapter 9.3 of the RDP, the MA ensured that applications drafted and Grant Agreements signed cover for the required capturing of data. This was ensured by including requirements for information at application stage as well as binding applicants/beneficiaries with obligations to commit to submitting data and feedback as and where necessary.

On the 10th of January, the Managing Authority, in collaboration with the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development held EvaluationWORKS!, will organise the yearly capacity building event. This capacity building will concern the Member States' Annual Implementation Report submitted to the European Commission on an annual basis. The capacity building workshop aims to:

- Provide an annual forum for information exchange and learning to the benefit of all stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in RDP evaluation;
- Lead discussions on challenging topics to strengthen the evaluation capacity of all participants;
- Collect and synthesize the content of the discussions in the Member States and their outcomes, and share it with as many evaluation stakeholders as possible across the EU.

Various stakeholders will be invited to attend this meeting, including the Managing Authority, the Paying Agency and a representative from the Malta Information Technology Agency.

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)

Discussions with several entities and ABACO*, the computer system administrator have continued throughout 2017. Now that the MA has started receiving applications, the MA, the PA and other entities

involved in the data input in the system, have continued their discussions to improve the IT system, building on the systems used for the RDP 2007-2013. Such improvements would assist the MA and external evaluator in better monitoring and evaluation processes.

In 2017, the IT system was enhanced through the inclusion of modules related to the selection process, the possibility of digitising rubble walls submitted through Measure 4.4, and the generation of various reports for information and monitoring purposes.

*ABACO Spa had been contracted by the CIO Office within the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change to provide an IT solution that would allow the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA) to implement an IT system in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 640/2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 with regard to the integrated administration and control system and conditions for refusal or withdrawal of payments and administrative penalties applicable to direct payments, rural development support and cross compliance and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 907/2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 with regard to the paying agencies and other bodies, financial management, clearance of accounts, securities and use of euro. As deliverables of the contract, Abaco provide application software services and operating software services. Application software services include maintenance and support activities as well as additional services like software development and technology refresh. Operating Software Service encompass the required services for the administration and maintenance of operating environment software. EAFRD Technical assistance funding covers only those apportionments related to EAFRD obligations.

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

No completed evaluations defined

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

N/A

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

No communication activities defined

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

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

<p>Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)</p>	<p>The RDP 07-13 ex-post report, submitted on December 28, 2016, brings forward a number of recommendations. These recommendations impact the effectiveness, the internal coherence and complementarity and efficiency of the Programme.</p>
<p>Follow-up carried out</p>	<p>Although no formal follow up on the recommendations of the ex-post evaluation was undertaken, the MA is committed to ensuring that these considerations are indeed followed through. Indeed, throughout the course of 2018, the MA will be submitting a request for a RDP modification, also based on the findings of this ex-post report that was not available at the time of drafting of the RDP 2014 - 2020. Recommendations highlight the possibility to look into evaluating environmental impacts and the monitoring of environmental impact indicators, which evaluation was challenging in the 2007-2013 period. Programme-level, measure-specific and thematic evaluations and targeted impact assessments using a balanced mix of quantitative and qualitative methods (in particular, theory-based evaluations and counterfactual impact evaluations, or a combination of those) may be considered to be given a greater role in the current RDP, backed by data collection arrangements among respective stakeholders.</p>
<p>Responsible authority for follow-up</p>	<p>Managing authority</p>

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

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

Consultation with public and private entities

Apart from the several information sessions held throughout the year, the MA holds several consultation sessions with different public entities, including but not limited to the Department of Agriculture, the Paying Agency, the Environment and Resources Authority, the Planning Authority, Transport Malta and the Water Services Corporation. Private entities including NGOs and private companies were also consulted on several sector specific issues.

Monitoring Committee meetings

In 2017, the Monitoring Committee (MC) met on 29th September 2017. During this meeting, the Monitoring Committee discussed the following items:

- A presentation by the MA concerning RDP implementation;
- Another Presentation by the Paying Agency concerning an RDP commitments;
- The MA also delivered another presentation concerning amendments to Eligibility and Selection Criteria; and
- A brief update concerning the state-of-play of ex-ante conditionalities.

Presentations delivered during the Monitoring Committee can be downloaded from the MA website: <https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Pages/Monitoring-Committee-2014-2020.aspx>

Technical Meeting

On the eve of the Monitoring Committee, on 28th September 2017, the Managing Authority held a meeting with representatives from DG AGRI, during which, discussions were held concerning the progress in implementation of the RDP. The agenda of this meeting included:

- A general update on RDP implementation;
- An update on RDP commitments;
- A discussion concerning an update to the eligibility and selection criteria;
- An update on ex-ante conditionalities; and
- Information concerning the Partnership Agreement progress report.

Annual Review Meeting

On the 8th of November 2017, the MA and DG AGRI held the Annual Review Meeting, in line with Article 51 of Regulation 1303/13. During this meeting, various aspects of implementation were discussed, including:

- An update on the financial implementation of the RDP;
- State of play and schedule of calls for applications;
- Forecasts for the achievement of the performance framework milestones; and

- Ex-ante conditionalities.

Joint Annual Review Meeting

On the following day, the 9th of November, representatives from the various ESIF Managing Authorities met with representatives from various Commission Directorates General, including DG REGIO, DG AGRI and DG MARE. Once again, various aspects of implementation across ESI Funds were discussed, including:

- Progress in the implementation of the Partnership Agreement;
- State of implementation of implementation of ESIF programmes;
- Communication activities; and
- Evaluation activities.

Programme modifications

In December 2017, the MA submitted a second round of RDP modifications that included numerous editorial modifications and clarifications aimed at facilitating the implementation of the programme. Main changes included the widening of the Standard Output range for 6.1 sub-measure; the introduction of the possibility of using subrogation for all measures except for measures 10.1, 11 and 13.3; and the introduction of the possibility for certified organic farmers to apply for funding through sub-measure 11.2.

Training provided to Managing Authority staff

Throughout 2017, the Managing Authority has attended various training seminars and workshop both locally and abroad. These include:

1. New Public Procurement Regulations [5th March 2017];
2. Cross compliance seminar [5th April 2017];
3. Farm Advisory Services information session [30th August 2017];
4. Various courses provided by the Institute for the Public Services, including Public Management Toolkit Courses.

The adoption of the open block procedure

The MA adopted an Open Block Call procedure for the submission of proposals. This operates, to a certain extent, in a similar manner to the Open Calls Procedure; the procedure adopted by the MA can be considered as a set of semi-open calls. A batch of applications received within each respective time block will be processed and evaluated by the PSC separately from applications received in subsequent batches. The time blocks are defined by the MA and are published on the MA website (www.eufunds.gov.mt). The Open Block Procedure shall close either once the allocated budget has been committed or the call is withdrawn through a notification by the MA. The MA may eventually re-issue the call in a similar or different format. The selection under the Open Block procedures remains consistent throughout the duration of the open call, unless MA notifies otherwise as explained above. The budget of each call is indicated before opening the call.

Measure implementation guidance documents

The implementation guidance documents, together with the application forms for the launched measures during 2016, have all been uploaded on the MA website (www.eufunds.gov.mt). These guidance documents provide an overview of the measure, targeted priority areas, eligible applicants and costs and beneficiary obligations.

Ongoing enhancement on IT system

The MA acknowledges that the IT system is the backbone of monitoring and evaluation requirements. Therefore it is in constant contact with the IT system administrator to manage and improve the IT system. The system has been updated to receive Measure 6.1 applications; testing was carried out in 2017 to ensure that applications can be uploaded on the IACS system. Considerable improvements have also been added to the system with regards to Measure 4 technical requirements.

Other activities

- The MA participates in various inter-ministerial meetings mainly aimed at avoiding double funding of projects, simplification and ensuring clear delimitation between one programme and another. Such committees include representation from the various ESI Funds.
- The MA also participates in various EU committees and meetings (including RDCs, Expert Group on Monitoring and Evaluation of the CAP, ENRD and EIP workshops and seminars).
- During the first half of 2017, Malta held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In March 2017, the MA hosted the Informal Meeting of the Directors for Rural Development between the 22nd and the 24th of March 2017. Representatives from various Member States, the European Commission, ECORYS, CEJA as well as other local key actors from Malta participated in the meeting, giving both an EU- and country-specific perspective throughout the meeting. The theme for this Informal Meeting was “*The Role of Pillar II in Supporting the Future of Young Farmers*”. The future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) hinges on young farmers, and despite the various challenges faced by young farmers in different Member States, Pillar II of the CAP has been increasingly at the forefront to assist young farmers. The purpose of this Informal Meeting served as a platform to discuss how Pillar II has assisted young farmers in recent years and how Pillar II can better address the needs of young farmers in the future).
- The MA also held numerous information sessions around Malta and Gozo to generate interest on several RDP measures. The following information sessions were held:
 - M4.3: Directorate of Local Governance, Gozo – 31st January 2017;
 - M4.3: Directorate of Local Governance, Malta – 6th February 2017;
 - M4.1, M4.4 and M6.1: Xewkija, Gozo – 21st February 2017;
 - M4.1, M4.4 and M6.1: Ta’ Qali, Malta – 22nd February 2017; M4.1, M4.4 and M6.1: MOAM/MCAST, Malta – 29th March 2017;
 - FPD Offices. Malta – 17th May 2017.

The MA also plans to hold information sessions concerning AECM 5 in the first quarter of 2018, in view of the fact that AECM 5 will be launched in January 2018.

3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) ¹, proxy automatically calculated

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation ²	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative ³)
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	97,326,898.00	24.04	4.00

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

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

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

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

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] 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)	97,326,898.00		
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	97,326,898.00		

E-management for beneficiaries [optional]

	[%] EAFRD 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)

Throughout the course of 2017, the Managing Authority experienced a high staff turnover and despite acknowledging that the NRN provides an important platform that promotes rural development and brings together numerous stakeholders, the MA had to prioritise its tasks. MA resources were allocated towards preparing for the Informal Rural Directors Meeting, the launch of various sub-measures as previously noted, providing information to prospective applicants, preparing guidance notes and application forms, carrying out the respective administrative checks on applications and supporting the Project Selection Committee.

As a consequence, NRN related actions were mainly focused on the preparation of two editions of the NRN newsletter. The 14th and 15th editions of these newsletter can be downloaded from the MA website: <https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Pages/Newsletter/Newsletter.aspx>

NRN Information Sessions

- The MA also held numerous information sessions around Malta and Gozo to generate interest on several RDP measures. The following information sessions were held:
- M4.3: Directorate of Local Governance, Gozo – 31st January 2017;
- M4.3: Directorate of Local Governance, Malta – 6th February 2017;
- M4.1, M4.4 and M6.1: Xewkija, Gozo – 21st February 2017;
- M4.1, M4.4 and M6.1: Ta' Qali, Malta – 22nd February 2017; M4.1, M4.4 and M6.1: MOAM/MCAST, Malta – 29th March 2017;
- FPD Offices. Malta – 17th May 2017.

The MA also plans to hold information sessions concerning AECM 5 in the first quarter of 2018, in view of the fact that AECM 5 will be launched in January 2018.

Annual Event in Siggiewi

On the 27th August 2017, the MA held the annual event at Festa Gheneb (Grape Fest) in Siggiewi, a rural village located in the west of Malta. During this event, the MA met with both farmers and the general public, distributing various information leaflets and promotional materials. The MA met various prospective applicants and answered several queries related to the various RDP measures.

New MA website

A new EU Funds website is expected to be launched in 2018. This website will provide a better user experience, allowing visitors to browse through information concerning the various funds. The website will also allow users to search for funding opportunities based on the type of beneficiary. This website will also include information concerning projects supported through the various funds.

4.a2) Actions taken and state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan

The main aim of the NRNM is to ensure an efficient exchange of information and communication between the various rural stakeholders. Therefore, the NRN needs to use a variety of networking tools and communication tools to achieve this objective.

The NRN published the 14th and 15th editions of the NRN Newsletter throughout the course of 2017

The 14th edition focused on Measures 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4 that had just been launched or pre-launched by the MA. The newsletter also provided information concerning the AECMs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. Reference was also made to the Local Development Strategies that were being prepared by the three prospective Local Action Groups.

The 15th edition, published in June 2017 focused on the Informal Rural Directors Meeting that was held in Malta in March 2017 and on sub-measure 3.1 and 6.1, that had just been launched.

These newsletters can be downloaded from the MA website:

<https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Pages/Newsletter/Newsletter.aspx>

The NRNM remains committed in the remaining programming period to:

1. Provide publicity and information activities supporting the launch of Measures as part of the *RDP for Malta 2014-2020*;
2. Provide animation of the “partnership approach” underpinning delivery of the *RDP for Malta 2014-2020*;
3. Provide training and networking for LAGs and other stakeholder groups;
4. Provision of networking for advisors and innovation support services to support the piloting of Operational Groups under the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability;
5. Partner search for establishment of potential Operational Groups;
6. Collect examples of projects covering all 5 themes of the *RDP for Malta 2014-2020*;
7. Participate in, and contribute to, the activities and events of ENRD;
8. Hold information and communication activities aimed at the broader public (in line with RDP Communication Strategy);
9. Facilitate thematic and analytical exchanges between stakeholders, and sharing and dissemination of findings;
10. Facilitate co-operation among LAGs, in particular technical assistance for inter-territorial and transnational co-operation;
11. Share and disseminate monitoring and evaluation findings.

4.b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014)

As indicated in the communication strategy (link: <http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/MC/EAFRD%20Communication%20Strategy%202014-2020.pdf>), adopted by the Monitoring Committee during its first meeting in December 2015, the MA is committed to promote the role of the EAFRD and ensure transparency, increase visibility and awareness of EU funding.

Adverts on local newspapers and radio programmes

During 2017, the MA published adverts announcing the launching of measures, prior to formal launch. These adverts are normally published on Sunday newspapers and on the government gazette. Adverts are published on newspapers that are published in English and in Maltese.

Notices are also published on the MA's website www.eufunds.gov.mt and eventually, in the new Funds and Programmes Division website that will be launched in 2018. Radio programmes were also held, by invite from stations, whereby listeners are given the opportunity to present their queries during the programme.

Notification to registered farmers before measure launch

Registered farmers are also alerted via a SMS regarding information sessions being held as well the launch of relevant RDP measures. This is done in liaison with the Paying Agency, who has the responsibility to accept and administratively check eligibility for AECM and ANC applications

Availability of MA staff at Front Office to answer queries from the public

The main point of contact for farmers in Malta is the Front Office, with an office located in Ta' Qali, Malta and another office in Xewkija, Gozo. The scope of the Front Office is to offer a one-stop shop experience to farmers, including the place where Pillar I applications are received as well as applications for other National Schemes. Amongst other things, requests for transfer of Agricultural Land is also handled at this office. The Malta office is also located within proximity of the *Pitkali Markets' Centre*, which is the place where local grown fruit and vegetables are deposited by farmers and sold to licensed hawkers through middlemen (known as pitkala). It is also located within walking distance from the main Farmers' Market in Malta.

Amongst the services provided, the front office provides technical advice with respect to (Note that the below support is not offered by MA staff present at Front Office):

- Procedures to be followed for the transfer of land;
- A detailed explanation of payments issued;
- Eligibility criteria of EU and National Aid Schemes;
- Regulations and policies to be adopted by an applicant in order to be compliant for such measures.

In order to take advantage of this facility and in order to ensure that the MA is within reach to farmers, whilst at the same time extending the one-stop shop experience for farmers, MA staff is regularly present at the Front Office, Ta' Qali, Malta and Xewkija Gozo to answer any queries from the farmers and public concerning RDP measures.

Applications for funding through RDP investment measures, including sub-measures 4.1, 4.4 and 6.1, are

also received by the MA at the Front Offices in Malta and Gozo. **Information sessions in Malta and Gozo**

Several information sessions are held before and during measure launch. These information sessions tackle the following:

- funding opportunities and the launching of calls under the RDP;
- the procedures to be followed in order to qualify for funding under the RDP;
- the procedures for assessing applications for funding;
- the eligibility conditions and/or criteria for selecting and evaluating the projects to be funded;
- the responsibility of beneficiaries to inform the public about the aim of the operation and the support from the RDP.

Annual Event at Siggiewi

On the 27th August 2017, the MA held the annual event at Festa Gheneb (Grape Fest) in Siggiewi, a rural village located in the west of Malta. During this event, the MA met with both farmers and the general public, distributing various information leaflets and promotional materials. The MA met various prospective applicants and answered several queries related to the various RDP measures.

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 2023
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)	2014-2017					19.80
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 1B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
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)	2014-2017					18.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 1C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
1C	T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2017					7,200.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 2A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
2A	T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	2014-2017					0.93
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,434,474.00	52.67			12,215,666.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,434,474.00	78.80			8,165,666.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					16,331,331.00
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					8,165,666.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2017					116.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			3,850,000.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					8,400,000.00

Focus Area 2B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
2B	T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)	2014-2017					0.48
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			5,494,597.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			994,597.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					1,989,194.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2017					10.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			4,300,000.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					5,000,000.00
M06.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					4,300,000.00
M06.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2017					60.00

Focus Area 3A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
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)	2014-2017					9.58
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
	Nr of operations supported under M4.2 contributing to FA3A (M4.2) (operations)	2014-2017					50.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
3A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,380,919.00
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,500,000.00
M03.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2017					700.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			6,278,538.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					12,557,077.00
M04.1 M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017					90.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017					22.50
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017					6.50
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,502,381.00
M16.4	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	2014-2017					500.00

Focus Area 3B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
3B	T7: percentage of farms participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)	2014-2017					11.97
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
3B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00
M17	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00
M17.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					2,500,000.00
M17.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2017					1,500.00

Priority P4								
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023	
P4	T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2017			2.00	67.14	2.98	
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2017				2.00	67.14	2.98
		2014-2016				1.32	44.31	
		2014-2015						
	T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	2014-2017				9.62	157.33	6.11
		2014-2016				9.78	159.95	
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
P4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	11,712,653.36	22.33	5,665,080.81	10.80	52,455,545.00	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,200,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					1,440,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017					2,880.00	
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,050,000.00	
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017					630.00	
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	888,188.00	4.62			19,218,690.00	
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					21,687,379.00	
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			19.00	3.17	600.00	
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00	
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					1,750,000.00	
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	2,837,822.92	41.62	1,363,358.73	20.00	6,817,953.00	
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			148.00	22.05	671.10	
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017					22.50	
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017					6.50	
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	7,986,642.44	66.56	4,301,722.08	35.85	12,000,000.00	
M13.3	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			7,534.00	86.60	8,700.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			9,318,902.00	

Focus Area 5A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5A	T14: percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A)	2014-2017					2.01
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			11,609,075.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,200,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					1,440,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017					2,880.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017					222.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			6,898,992.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					8,797,984.00
M04	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017					57.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017					191.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			2,160,083.00

Focus Area 5B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5B	T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)	2014-2017					1,135,597.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,467,798.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			550,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					360,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017					720.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017					230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			567,798.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					1,135,597.00
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017					76.00

Focus Area 5C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5C	T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)	2014-2017					9,792,387.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			8,573,575.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			7,521,194.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					9,792,387.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017					234.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,052,381.00

Focus Area 5D							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5D	T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	2014-2017					16.09
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5D	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,669,446.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			275,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					180,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017					360.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017					230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,044,446.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					2,088,891.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017					84.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)	2014-2017					6,700.00

Focus Area 5E							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5E	T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	2014-2017			0.31	5.84	5.31
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5E	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	54,223.00	2.81	47,493.00	2.46	1,932,047.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					1,750,000.00
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017					25.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	54,223.00	29.79	47,493.00	26.09	182,047.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			36.00	5.92	608.20

Focus Area 6A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
6A	T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	2014-2017					77.00
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			4,902,381.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			3,850,000.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017					8,400,000.00
M06.2 M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2017					64.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,052,381.00

Focus Area 6B								
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023	
6B	T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	2014-2017					10.00	
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	2014-2017						0.00
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2017				99.97	100.00	99.97
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
6B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,154,000.00	75.95	196,208.00	2.42	8,102,381.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			1,602,381.00	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,154,000.00	94.68	196,208.00	3.02	6,500,000.00	
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2017			268,733.00	100.00	268,733.00	
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2017			3.00	100.00	3.00	
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017			196,208.00	130.81	150,000.00	
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					4,125,000.00	
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					600,000.00	
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					1,625,000.00	

Focus Area 6C								
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023	
6C	T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)	2014-2017					0.00	
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	Percentage of total public expenditure (M1.1 to M1.3) allocated for ICT actions/interventions (%)	2014-2017						20.00
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
6C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			275,000.00	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00			275,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017					180,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017					360.00	

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Reply to correspondence Ares(2018)4378717 - 24/08/2018	Other annex	24-09-2018		Ares(2018)4891100	731189249	MT reply to observation letter	24-09-2018	nscicken
AIR Financial Annex 2014MT06RDNP001	Financial annex (System)	07-09-2018		Ares(2018)4891100	1337938619	AIRfinancialAnnex2014MT06RDNP001_mt.pdf	24-09-2018	nscicken
Citizens' summary - Updated	Citizens' summary	24-09-2018		Ares(2018)4891100	1433619072	Citizens' summary	24-09-2018	nscicken

