



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

Annual implementation report

Malta - Rural Development Programme (National)

Annual implementation report	
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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)	2014-2016					19.80
	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)	2014-2016					18.00
	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)	2014-2016					7,200.00
	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)		2014-2016					0.93
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,165,666.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,850,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	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)		2014-2016					0.48
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	994,597.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,300,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)		2014-2016					9.58
		2014-2015					
Nr of operations supported under M4.2 contributing to FA3A (M4.2) (operations)		2014-2016					50.00
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,500,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,278,538.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,502,381.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	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)		2014-2016					11.97
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M17	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)		2014-2016					2.98
		2014-2015					
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)		2014-2016			1.32	44.31	2.98
		2014-2015					
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)		2014-2016			9.78	159.95	6.11
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,200,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,050,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,218,690.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	2,064,631.92	30.28	732,370.73	10.74	6,817,953.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	5,895,749.44	49.13	2,265,202.08	18.88	12,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,318,902.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	7,960,381.36	15.18	2,997,572.81	5.71	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)		2014-2016					2.01
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,200,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,898,992.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,160,083.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)		2014-2016					1,135,597.00
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	550,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	567,798.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)		2014-2016					9,792,387.00
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,521,194.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,052,381.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)		2014-2016					16.09
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	275,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,044,446.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)		2014-2016					5.31
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	182,047.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	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)		2014-2016					77.00
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,850,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,052,381.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)		2014-2016					10.00
		2014-2015					
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)		2014-2016					0.00
		2014-2015					
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)		2014-2016					99.97
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,602,381.00
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	150,000.00	2.31	0.00	0.00	6,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	150,000.00	1.85	0.00	0.00	8,102,381.00

Focus Area 6C

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)		2014-2016					0.00
		2014-2015					
Percentage of total public expenditure (M1.1 to M1.3) allocated for ICT actions/interventions (%)		2014-2016					20.00
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	275,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	275,000.00

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

Launch of RDP measures

Between the 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2016, the Managing Authority launched Measure 4.4, Measure 10.1, Measure 13.3 and Measure 19.1. These Measures contribute towards FA 4A, 4B, 4C, 5D and 6B.

The special circumstances related to the late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 (November 2015), the ongoing commitments linked to the closing of the RDP 07-13, where implementation and payments ran until 31st December 2015 with formal closure requiring significant input throughout 2016, Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the preparation for the organisation of the Informal Rural Directors Meeting held in March 2017 have impacted on the desired implementation of the RDP 14-20. With these commitments now successfully achieved, the MA can dedicate all energy and focus on implementing all measures that will impact on the other FA's, namely FA's 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5E, 6A.

M4.4 was launched in December 2016, but no applications were received by the end of the year. Hence, results cannot be assessed 2016 since first applications were submitted 2017 so these will be detailed in the next AIR 2017.

FA 4A: Restoring and preserving biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas and HNV farming and the state of European landscapes

List of launched Measures under this Focus Area:

- Measure 4.4: Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives
- Measure 10.1 Agri-environment-climate: Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical, methods (AECM 1)
- Measure 10.1 Agri-environment-climate: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species (AECM 6)

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

On the 4th October 2016, the Managing Authority announced that it should be accepting applications under 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 and Measure 10.1. A general overview of these measures was provided during these information sessions.

As will be indicated later on in this implementation report and also as indicated in Figure 1 below, both of these measures contribute to the respective target areas. All measures launched to date target Focus Area 4a: Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes. AECM 1 contributes towards Focus Area 4B: Improving water management and Focus 4C: Improving soil erosion and management. Measure 4.4 contributes towards Focus Area 5D: Reducing nitrous oxide and methane emissions from agriculture.

Measure 10.1: - Agri-environment-climate Measures

Applications were open for:

- ***AECM 1- Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical methods***

The objective of this measure is to incentivise farmers to clear weeds growing in vineyards and orchards between 15th October and 15th March, using mechanical means. The control of weeds through mechanical means all year round does not provide sufficient pest control in the Maltese climatic environment. In addition, the spread of seeds for certain weeds if controlled solely through mechanical means would not be economically and ecologically viable.

- ***AECM 6- Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species***

The aim of this measure is to promote the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the autochthonous Maltese farm species. Its specific objectives are to encourage an increased level of awareness and responsibility amongst those farmers applying under this measure.

This measure aims at focusing on 2 species of livestock: the Maltese Ox, and the Maltese black chicken. In addition to the prior it will also provide support for Carob/ Mulberry trees.

The Black Maltese Chicken is a rustic, egg-type breed of Mediterranean poultry now critically endangered, and survives in small numbers (< 50 breeding adults). An in-situ conservation project for this breed has managed to temporarily create a small flock of chickens at the MCAST, derived from separate sub-populations of Black Maltese.

Maltese Ox

The Maltese Ox breed, better known as "Il-Baqra Maltija", is a critically endangered indigenous breed and in dire need of conservation owing to the small number of remaining specimens. This breed was utilised solely as a working animal.

A few decades ago, the ox was a common farm animal however, with the introduction of mechanisation, its rearing has decreased dramatically and only a few animals survive.

Carob/ Mulberry

Support for the conservation and maintenance of plant species was calculated on the basis of the additional labour (to normal practice) involved (such as: canopy management, training and production pruning, green

pruning, fruit tinning, pest control and rationalization of fertilizer and pesticide treatments) to maintain these species on farmland in view of their lower productivity and high maintenance required, especially in terms of pest control.

Valid Payment claims received during 2016 concerned AECM 1 and AECM 6c only; between the 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2016 , the total committed expenditure under AECM 1 was €149,229.34, covering 151.5142 hectares of land. On the other hand, committed expenditure under AECM 6 6 during 2016 was €2,690.31, covering 5.7351 Hectares. To a certain extent, these two AECM's (1 and 6c) represented a continuation over similar AEM's adopted in the previous programming period.

Following the deadline of the payment claim period in line with Reg (EU) 809/2014 Recital 11, the MA received applications for AECM's 2, 3, 4 , 6a and 6b. However, payment claims for these applications, if eligible, will be reflected in the first payment claims in Year 2017. Difficulties encountered in implementing these AECM's were mainly linked to the identification of respective Competent Authorities, conveying of clear information to potential beneficiaries and ensuring that these clearly understand the commitments under the respective AECM.

The initial response to some of the adopted AECM's was rather worrying in terms of uptake; despite the significant interest generated through the MA's promotional initiatives for AECM's 3, 6a and 6b, less than 10 eligible applications were received (for payment claim year 2017). This will therefore require a review of the same AECM's since the envisaged impact of the AECM's cannot be achieved with such small numbers.

- ***Measure 13.3:***

Support under this measure offers beneficiaries a simple, standard payment per hectare of agricultural land in order to help ensure that this land remains under agricultural management. The total committed expenditure for **ANC** during 2016 was €1,152,346.01 covering an area of 4,612.20 hectares. There has also been a committed expenditure concerning the **LFA** from the RDP 2007-2013 transitional arrangements. This expenditure during 2016 amounted to €1,112,856.07, covering 4,512.64 hectares.

A breakdown of the applications received under each AECM and ANC is given below:

Between the 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2016 , the total committed expenditure under **AECM 1** was €149,229.34, covering 151.5142 hectares of land. On the other hand, committed expenditure under **AECM 6** during 2016 was €2,690.31, covering 5.7351 Hectares.

During this period, there has also been a committed expenditure resulting from the RDP 2007-2013. As indicated in chapter 19 of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, there are commitments with beneficiaries under Measure 212, rolling into years 2016, 2017 and 2018, which be financed from Malta's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. These cover the following AEMs:

- AEM1: Support for the use of environmentally friendly plant protection products in vineyards
- AEM2: Support for the traditional cultivation of sulla through crop rotation
- AEM3: Support for low input farming
- AEM4: Support to suppress the use of herbicides in vineyards and fruit orchards
- AEM5: Support for the establishment and maintenance of conservation buffer strips
- AEM6: Support for the conservation of rural structures providing a natural habitat for fauna and flora

- AEM7: Support for providing a healthy forage area for bees

The committed expenditure for *AEMs* during 2016 is €687,561.49, covering 956.41 hectares.

An overview of this expenditure is provided in the table 'Measure expenditure overview'.

FA 6B: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

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 LAG 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.

Local stakeholders and representatives of a range of different organisations and interests worked together to develop strategies that will be mutually beneficial for their interests and local communities.

Measure and Focus Area	FA 4A: Restoring and preserving biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas and HNV farming and the state of European landscapes	FA 4B: Improving water management	FA 4C: Improving soil management	FA 5D: Reducing nitrous oxide and methane emissions from agriculture	FA 6B: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas
Measure 4.4: Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives	x			x	
Measure 10.1 Agri-environment-climate: Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical, methods (AECM 1)	x	x	x		
Measure 10.1 Agri-environment-climate: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species AECM 6	x				
Measure 13.3: Compensation payment to other areas affected by specific constraints	x				
Measure 19.1: Preparatory support					x

Measure launch by Focus Area

	AEMs (in EUR)	Area (in Ha)		AECMs (in EUR)	Area (in Ha)		AEM/AEM (in EUR)	Area (in Ha)
AEM 1	7,511.77	10.71		AECM 1	149,229.34	151.51	GRAND TOTAL	839,481.14
AEM 3	427,147.06	647.02		AECM 6	2,690.31	5.74		
AEM 4	85,991.10	142.30						
AEM 6	31,721.24	57.94						
AEM 7	9,614.96	22.40						
AEM 8	5,583.86	5.98						
AEM 9	72,117.00	32.67						
PCK 2	47,874.50	37.38						
TOTAL	687,561.49	956.41		TOTAL	151,919.65	157.25		

	LFA (in EUR)	Area (in Ha)		ANC (in EUR)	Area (in Ha)		LFA/ANC (in EUR)	Area (in Ha)
TOTAL	1,373,070.32	5,492.24		TOTAL	719,497.34	2,887.96	GRAND TOTAL	2,092,567.66
								8,380.21

Measure expenditure overview

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:

- Measure 2
- Measure 4
- Measure 6

In December 2016, the Managing Authority launched Measure 4.4, with an allocated public expenditure of €12m. Applications were received as from December 2016 and the Project Selection Committee (PSC) shall start adjudicating these application throughout 2017. Measure 4.1 will be launched in January 2017 with an allocated budget of €18.9m. Adjudication of grants to commence in 2017. Measure 4.3 was launched in February 2017 with an allocated budget of €15m. Adjudication of grants will also commence in 2017. Budget commitment under this priority (and therefore Focus Areas) shall be considerably improved during 2017 with the launch of Measure 4, including Measure 4.1, Measure 4.2 and Measure 4.3. Realised expenditure is also expected to hugely improve during 2017 once the grants are adjudicated to applicants.

The MA is planning to launch Measure 2 during 2017 pending clearance of implementation difficulties namely linked to the principles of selection and public procurement incorporated in the measure.

Measure 6.1 will be launched in April 2017 with the first open block procedure closing on 5th June and adjudication shall also commence later in 2017 .

Priority 3

The Measures contributing towards this priority are:

- Measure 3
- Measure 4
- Measure 11
- Measure 16
- Measure 17

The MA will be launching Measure 3.1 in June 2017, with the adjudication of grants also envisaged to commence in 2017.

In December 2016, the Managing Authority launched Measure 4.4, with an allocated public expenditure of €12m. Applications were received as from December 2016 and the Project Selection Committee (PSC) shall start adjudicating these application throughout 2017. Measure 4.1 will be launched in January 2017 with an allocated budget of €18.9m. Adjudication of grants to commence in 2017. Measure 4.3 was launched in February 2017 with an allocated budget of €15m. Adjudication of grants will also commence in 2017. Budget commitment under this priority (and therefore Focus Areas) shall be considerably improved during 2017 with the launch of Measure 4, including Measure 4.1, Measure 4.2 and Measure 4.3. Realised expenditure is also expected to hugely improve during 2017 once the grants are adjudicated to applicants.

The MA will be launching Measure 11 during 2017, with the adjudication of grants also commencing in 2017 or early 2018.

The MA aims at launching Measure 16 during 2017, with the adjudication of grants also commencing in 2017 or early 2018.

The MA will be launching Measure the expression of interest linked to 17 during 2017, with the adjudication of grants also commencing in 2017 or early 2018. The main challenge encountered thus far is the lack of availability of insurance companies which meet the requirements emanating from the regulation.

Priority 4

The Measures contributing towards this priority are:

- Measure 1
- Measure 2
- Measure 4
- Sub-Measure 8.5
- Measure 10
- Measure 11
- Measure 13
- Measure 16

It is envisaged that Measure 1 and Measure 2 will be launched during 2017.

In December 2016, the Managing Authority has launched Measure 4.4, with an allocated public

expenditure of €12m. Applications were received as from December 2016 and the Project Selection Committee (PSC) shall start adjudicating these application throughout 2017. Measure 4.1 will be launched in January 2017 with an allocated budget of €18.9m. Adjudication of grants to commence in 2017. Measure 4.3 will be launched in February 2017 with an allocated budget of €15m. Adjudication of grants will also commence in 2017. Budget commitment under this priority (and therefore Focus Areas) shall be considerably improved during 2017 with the launch of Measure 4. Realised expenditure is also expected to significantly improve during 2017 once the grants are adjudicated to applicants.

The MA will be launching Measure 8.5 during 2017, with the adjudication of grants also commencing in 2017 or early 2018.

The MA has launched Measure 10.1 in 2016 were it has received applications for AECM 1, 6b and 6c. AECM 2,3,4 and 6a payment claims shall be received during 2017.

The MA will be launching Measure 11 during 2017, with the adjudication of grants also commencing in 2017 or early 2018.

The MA started receiving Measure 13 payment claims in 2015. This process continued throughout 2016.

The MA will be launching Measure 16 during 2017, with the adjudication of grants also commencing in 2017 or early 2018.

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 2016; such commitments are also reflected in Chapter 19 'Transitional Arrangements' of RDP 14-20.

Priority 5

The Measures contributing towards this priority are:

- Measure 1
- Measure 2
- Measure 4
- Sub-Measure 8.5
- Measure 10
- Measure 16

Measure 1 and Measure 2 will be launched during 2017.

In December 2016, the Managing Authority has launched Measure 4.4, with an allocated public expenditure of €12m. Applications were received as from December 2016 and the Project Selection Committee (PSC) shall start adjudicating these application throughout 2017. Measure 4.1 will be launched in January 2017 with an allocated budget of €18.9m. Adjudication of grants to commence in 2017. Measure 4.3 will be launched in February 2017 with an allocated budget of €15m. Adjudication of grants will also commence in 2017. Budget commitment under this priority (and therefore Focus Areas) shall be considerably improved during 2017 with the launch of Measure 4. Realised expenditure is also expected to hugely improve during 2017 once the grants are adjudicated to applicants.

The MA will be launching Measure 8.5 before 2018, with the adjudication of grants during 2018.

The MA has launched Measure 10.1 in 2016 where it has received applications for AECM 1, 6b and 6c. The objective of AECM 1 is to incentivise farmers to cut down weeds growing in vineyards and orchards between 15th October and 15th March, using a mower/ grass cutter. In order to be eligible to apply for support under this AEM; farmers must have 1 tumuli of either vineyards or orchards. Upon applying for aid the farmer is obliged to ensure all parcels of land registered to him/her which is classified as vineyards/ orchards must comply with all conditions outlined for this measure.

On the other hand, the aim of AECM 6 is to promote the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the autochthonous Maltese farm species. Its specific objectives are to encourage an increased level of awareness and responsibility amongst those farmers applying under this measure.

AECM 2,3,4 and 6a payment claims shall be received during 2017.

The MA will be launching Measure 16 during 2017, with the adjudication of grants also commencing in 2017 or early 2018.

Priority 6

The Measures targeting this priority are:

- Measure 1
- Measure 6
- Measure 16
- Measure 19

Measure 1 will be launched during 2017.

Measure 6.1 will be launched in April 2017 and adjudication shall also commence in 2017.

The MA will be launching Measure 16 during 2017, with the adjudication of grants also commencing in 2017 or early 2018.

An expression of interest was launched within 45 days of adoption of programme for the set up of Local Action Groups under Measure 19. Since both the MA and Local Action Groups set up during the RDP 2007-2013, were both heavily engaged in the closing off of the RDP 2007-2013 implementation, this naturally resulted in efforts being temporarily also focused on both the 07-13 and the 14-20 RDP's. Ultimately, this contributed to certain delays in the process to set up of Local Action Groups.

The three applicants that have submitted their interest in the set up of the Local Action Groups have, prior to the deadline of the first submission, 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. While the MA acknowledges that although this situation represents a delay on the obligations stipulated under Article 33 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the MA sought to ensure that the best, long term value for EU funds is obtained; this priority has resulted in such a delay. The MA remains committed to see the launching of the LDS at the very earliest.

As stated previously, the special circumstances related to the late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 (November 2015), the ongoing commitments linked to the closing of the RDP 07-13, where implementation and payments ran until 31st December 2015 with formal closure requiring significant input throughout 2016, Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the preparation for the organisation of the Informal Rural Directors Meeting held in March 2017 have impacted on the desired implementation of the RDP 14-20. With these commitments now successfully achieved, the MA can dedicate all energy and focus on implementing all measures hence contributing in a holistic manner towards all Priority Areas.

1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional]

In October 2016, the Network Support Unit within the Managing Authority published the 13th issue of the National Rural Network Newsletter. This issue provided a background of several RDP measures, including AECMs, Measure 1, Measure 2, Measure 4, Measure 6 and Measure 19. This issue has also provided an overview of the RDP 2007-2013 Measures and the LEADER programme.

The Newsletter may be accessed

at: <http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Newsletter/13th%20Issue-%20%20October%202016.pdf>

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. During 2017, the MA will follow the activities planned and take the necessary actions accordingly.

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

By end of year, the external evaluators for the RDP 2014-2020 had not been contracted; the delayed adoption of the programme subsequently resulted in the delayed launch of RDP measures, including both the set up of the NRN as well as the Local Action Groups. The fact that few measures have been launched in 2016 also limits the scope of engagement of external evaluators. The Managing Authority also awaited the publication in September 2016 of the 'Assessment of RDP results: how to prepare for reporting on evaluation in 2017' guidelines which would have assisted in a better procurement services for the external evaluation requirements.

s indicated in Chapter 9.3 of RDP, the MA ensured that applications drafted and contracts signed in 2016 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. The MA is committed to following the Evaluation Plan in its entirety, not least the targets outlined in section 3.

On this note, on the 2nd December 2016, the Managing Authority, in collaboration with the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development held EvaluationWORKS! - organised the yearly capacity building event. This capacity building aimed to:

- Ensure a common understanding on the reporting requirements for the AIR submitted in 2017;
- Facilitate the correct filling of the SFC template for AIR submitted in 2017, point 7;
- Discuss the specific issues in relation to the assessment of results and answering the common evaluation questions.

This event also proved beneficial to several entities and stakeholders to discuss several issues concerning the reporting requirements. This event also brought together several entities involved, directly or indirectly, in the compilation of the Annual Implementation Report, including the Managing Authority, the Paying Agency, representative from The Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA), the Department of Agriculture (DoA), the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) and a representative from Ministry For Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change. It is expected that this event facilitates future involvement of the same stakeholders vis-a-vis evaluation.

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 2016. Now that the MA has started receiving the 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.

*ABACO Spa have a contract with the CIO Office within the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change to provide an IT solution that will 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 only covers the apportionment of the EAFRD related obligations.

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

Publisher/Editor	MA MT
Author(s)	MA MT Evaluators
Title	RDP 07-13 Ex-post Evaluation
Abstract	<p>This ex post evaluation report provides information regarding the performance, results and impacts of the “Rural Development Programme for Malta 2007-2013; this was submitted on December 28, 2016. The evaluation develop approaches which could approximate the ‘net’ contribution of the implementation of the RDP to the observed effects, i.e. the effects that would not have been achieved had the programme not been in place.</p> <p>Albeit this ex-post is naturally linked to the previous RDP period, the results, outcomes and most importantly the lessons learnt and recommendations are taken into consideration by the MA for better implementation and evaluation of the current RDP period.</p>
URL	N/A

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

Ex-post Evaluation Report

Background, scope and objectives of the evaluation

The Ex post evaluation report provides information related to the performance, results and impacts of the 'Rural Development Programme for Malta 2007-2013'.

Article 86 of Council Regulation 1698/2005 specifies the function of the ex post evaluation as follows:

“The mid-term and ex post evaluations shall examine the degree of utilisation of resources, the effectiveness and efficiency of the programming of the EAFRD, its socioeconomic impact and its impact on the Community priorities. They shall cover the goals of the programme and aim to draw lessons concerning rural development policy. They shall identify the factors which contributed to the success or failure of the programmes' implementation, including as regards sustainability, and identify best practice.”

Accordingly, the objectives of the evaluation are defined by the Terms of Reference as

- to report objectively on the progress of the programme in relation to its stated goals as well as its output, result and impact indicators,
- to identify possible weaknesses in the programme and to put forward recommendations on how the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the programme can be improved,
- to suggest possible amendments to the programme where deemed necessary for the successful completion of the programme,
- to analyse current data collection methods currently in place and to propose any improvements or new methods that will enhance the data collection function,
- to serve as a quality management mechanism and an early warning system,
- to identify data collection requirements necessary for the implementation of the programme as well as for reporting purposes,
- to collect the necessary data for the verification of result and impact indicators, and to review the programme indicators on an annual basis and to suggest possible refinements to such indicators

Tasks performed by the evaluators

- Review of the analysis and description of the RDP, measures and budget
- Telephone interviews with institutional representatives of MA, PA and LAGs (15)
- Analysis of the FADN farm level data for the period 2008-2014
- Counterfactual impact evaluation for measure 121 (fixed effects regression: GVA, FTE, GVA/FTE)
- Counterfactual impact evaluation for measure 123 (fixed effects regression: GVA, FTE, GVA/FTE)
- Complementary input/output analysis (I/O) for measure 121 and 123
- Project level case studies under Axis I, II, III, IV
- Beneficiary surveys among farmers (2013, 2015)
- Interviews with the FAS Consortium (3)
- Various GIS-based analyses under Axis II
- Expert discussion for analysis regarding GNB

- Group discussion related to training measure
- LAG benchmarking in the Mediterranean region
- Desk research, document analysis, including APRs (40+)
- Analysis of monitoring data and detailed financial data provided by the MA
- Analysis of the relevance and effectiveness of the measures implemented
- Provision of answers to measure-specific evaluation questions
- Provision of answers to horizontal evaluation questions based on the review of all measures
- Formulation of conclusions and recommendations

Previous evaluations

Prior to the Ex-post Evaluation report, nine evaluations have been carried out in relation to the Maltese RDP 2007-2013.

The **Ex ante evaluation of the RDP** was carried out prior to the acceptance of the programme. The evaluation also included the preparation of Strategic Environmental Assessment and thereby the evaluation of consequence of programme implementation on certain environmental domains.

The **Strategic Monitoring Report 2007-2009** was approved by the Commission in June 2011. The paper has made an overview on the progress of the RDP, taking note of the financial implementation and the achievement of indicator targets as well.

The **mid-term evaluation (MTE)** of the RDP evaluated programme implementation until 30 June 2010 and the final version was submitted to the Commission on 31 December 2010.

The **Interim Evaluation Report 2010-2011** covered the period of 30 June 2010 – 31 December 2011, final version of the report was approved by the Managing Authority in June 2012.

The final version of **Strategic Monitoring Report 2010-2011** was submitted to the Commission in August 2012.

The **Interim Evaluation Report 2012** evaluated programme implementation for the period of 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012. The final version of the report was approved by the Managing Authority in May 2013.

Focus of the **Interim Evaluation Report 2013** was shifted towards supporting successful programme closing and efficient utilisation of funds. In addition, the report moved on to explore interim results of interventions and capture long-term impacts were available. The report concluded programme implementation for the period of 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013.

The **Third Strategic Monitoring Report**, covering years 2012-2013 has been submitted to the Commission services in September 2014.

In the **Interim Evaluation Report 2014** the analysis of results and impacts of the RDP were more in the focus. The report provided in-depth assessment of the progress of implementation, which became even more important towards the end of the programming period.

The Ex-post Evaluation Report

The first draft of the Ex-post Evaluation Report was submitted by the Evaluators by the 30th of August

2016.

On the 20th October 2016 the MA organised a focus group discussion inviting the various stakeholders, whereby the Ex-post evaluators gave a brief presentations of their findings followed by an interacting discussion. This meeting served as a means for the various stake holders to provide feedback and voice their opinion as regards to the implementation of the RDP 2007-2013, whilst also helping the Evaluators to finalise the Report.

This event was attended by:

- The Managing Authority,
- The Paying Agency,
- Department of Agriculture,
- Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change,
- Malta College of Arts Science and Technology,
- Sustainable Energy and Water Conservation Unit,
- Environment and Resources Authority,
- Local Action Groups,
- Ministry for Gozo,
- KPMG - the Ex-post Evaluators,
- The Office of the Prime Minister and
- National Statistics Office

The feedback received following the group discussion was compiled and forwarded to the evaluators, which was then utilised by the evaluators to finalise the report.

On the 30th October 2016, Ex-post evaluators submitted the final draft of the Report.

On the 31st December 2016, the report was submitted to the European Commission.

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

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

Date / Period	20/09/2016
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	Dissemination of Ex-Post Evaluation Report results
Overall organiser of activity/ event	Managing Authority
Information channels/ format used	Focus Group
Type of target audience	RDP stakeholders
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	30
URL	www.eufunds.gov.mt

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.

Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)	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.
Follow-up carried out	Although no formal follow up on the recommendations of the ex-post evaluation was undertaken as at 2016, the MA is committed to ensuring that these considerations are indeed followed through. 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.
Responsible authority for follow-up	Managing authority

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

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

Consultation with public and private entities

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. These entities (public and private) were consulted before and during the drafting of the National Implementation Guidelines (Measure Guidelines).

Monitoring Committee meetings

The Monitoring Committee (MC) met on the 25th November 2016. During this meeting the MC discussed the following items:

1. An update on the state-of-play of Ex-Ante conditionalities;
2. A presentation by the Paying Agency on the financial execution during the current programming period;
3. The MA gave a presentation on the current implementation status of the RDP 2014-2020.
4. The MA also gave a presentation on the training, communication and evaluation activities during 2015 and 2016.
5. A short presentation on an update on the selection criteria has also been delivered.

Programme modifications

During 2016, the MA has presented to the European Commission several RDP modifications which are meant to clarify several sections in the RDP. While most of these modifications are editorial changes, the MA has submitted several modifications which remove some restrictions for farmers (ex. land based eligibility for AECMs 6a and 6c).

Training provided to Managing Authority staff

Throughout 2016, the Managing Authority has attended various training seminars and workshop both locally and abroad. These include:

1. New Public Procurement Regulations Conference [28th March 2016];
2. Project Selection Committee Training [10th June 2016] ;
3. Training provided by the Managing Authority of the Rural Development Programme for England on several RDP topics [22-24th June 2016];
4. NRN training by ENRD [21-22nd July 2016];
5. Anti-Fraud Policy & Anti-Fraud Strategy for the FPD [27th July 2016];
6. FPD Corporate Risk Register [12th August 2016];
7. Performance Auditing Seminar [26-27th September 2016];
8. ePPS Training [24-26th October 2016];
9. IAID Training seminar Programming Period 2014-2020 [15-16th November];
10. EvaluationWORKS! - Getting prepared for reporting on evaluation in AIR submitted in 2017 [2nd

December 2016]

11. Various courses provided by the Institute for the Public Services.

The adoption of the open block procedure

The MA adopted an Open Block Calls for proposals. This operates, to a certain extent, in a similar manner to the Open Calls Procedure, however these are considered a set of semi-open calls. Batch of applications received within each respective time block will be processed separately from applications received in subsequent batches. The time blocks are defined by the MA and published on the MA website (www.eufunds.gov.mt). The Open Block Procedure shall close either once the allocated budget has been committed or call 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 the 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 10.1 and Measure 20 (technical assistance) applications. 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 by the MA at various EU committees and meetings (ex. RDCs, ENRD and EIP workshops and seminar).
- In 2016, following intensive consultation, Malta has chosen the theme for its informal rural directors' meeting concerning **young farmers** (the Informal Meeting of the Directors for Rural Development was held in Malta between the 22nd and the 24th of March **2017**, as part of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the period of January – June 2017. Representatives from 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).

- As indicated in other sections of this report, the NRN holds several information sessions around Malta and Gozo to generate interest on several RDP measures. The following information sessions were held:
 - Information sessions on Measure 4 (including Measure 4.1, Measure 4.3 and Measure 4.4) and Measure 10.1
 - Xewkija, Gozo on the 12th April 2016;
 - Zabbar, Malta on the 15th April 2016;
 - Mgarr, Malta on the 26th April 2016;
 - Ta' Qali, Malta on the 29th April 2016.
 - An Information session with Gozitan beekeepers on AECM3(Support for bee boxes on holdings) was held on the 29th November 2016;
 - An Information session with Maltese beekeepers on AECM3(Support for bee boxes on holdings) on the 30th November 2016;
 - A series of information sessions on Measure 4.1 (investments on agricultural holdings) and Measure 10.1(AECMs) were held in:
 - Xewkija, Gozo on the 8th November 2016;
 - Mgarr, Malta on the 10th November 2016;
 - Ta' Qali, Malta on the 11th November 2016;
 - Hal-Far, Malta on the 15th November 2016.
- A field trip was carried out for the members of the Managing Authority where the staff had the opportunity to visit various agricultural holdings on the 3rd of June

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	2.31

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)

Between the 21-22nd July 2016, the MA organised a 2 day training session facilitated by the ENRD and the regional expert for Malta; the scope of the meeting was to better empower the MA with identifying and meeting the obligations of the NRN implementation but more importantly to facilitate the establishing of the NRNM Intervention Logic. Discussions covered the NRNM overall aim, strategic objectives, NRN Tasks and how the NRN can better actively engage rural stakeholders as fully and effectively as possible in the successful delivery of the RDP for Malta 2014-2020.

The training was organised in Malta.

As part of the outcomes of the same training, the below roles were identified:

The Managing Authority

The role of the MA is to ensure the smooth and effective running of the NRNM, as well as the setting and achieving of targets as established in both the RDP and the multi-annual work plan of the NRNM. The MA shall recognise the network as an active partner and at the same time allow the NRNM the space to be creative in the formulation and implementation process. The MA shall maintain a close and administrative role to the Network Support Unit . Although Financial Budgeting is assigned to the NSU, the MA maintains overall responsibility for sound financial management.

National Rural Network Committee

The NRNC shall give the Strategic direction to the scope of the NRNM. It shall establish a set of Terms of Reference, endorsed by the MA, to which it shall abide. The NRNC shall approve the multi-annual work plan (MAWP), to be reviewed annually if and as necessary and shall also facilitate the implementation and evaluation of the RDP as well as NRNM specific activities.

Network Support Unit (NSU)

The NSU will act as a liaison between the strategic partners of the NRNM i.e. the MA and the NRNC and the NRNM members, as well as ensuring the implementation of the MAWP. The NSU, with the support of an external service provider (where applicable) shall facilitate the implementation steps necessary for the rolling of the Action Plan. The NSU reports to both the MA and the NRNC, although administratively it is linked to the MA. Whilst the NRNC develops the strategic direction, the NSU will develop a set of actions aimed at reaching the said strategic direction.

To ensure a good implementation of the NRN, the NSU has attended several seminars and workshops, including a seminar held in Malta with the ENRD.

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.

Following the publication of the NRN newsletter in December 2015, the NRN has published issue number 13 of its NRN Newsletter. This issue included articles on:

1. launched measures during 2016;
2. an overview of RDP 07-13 Axes and projects;
3. an overview on measure 1, measure 2, measure 10 and measure 19.

Newsletter may be accessed

on: <http://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Newsletter/13th%20Issue-%20%20October%202016.pdf>

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 contribution 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, 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 2016, before formal launching of measure, the MA published adverts announcing the launch of such measures. These adverts are normally published on Sunday newspapers and on the government gazette. Notices are also published on the MA's website www.eufunds.gov.mt. 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 an SMS of several information sessions being held as well the launch of relevant RDP measures. This is done in liaison with the Paying Agency, who has a responsibility to accept and administratively check eligibility for AECM and ANNC 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 (central) Front Office, with an office in Malta and another office in 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 the 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 our 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 (on Mondays and Thursday) and Xewkija Gozo to answer queries from the farmers and public concerning RDP measures.

Several Information session 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 Farmers' market

On the 12th November 2016, the MA held the annual event at the Ta' Qali Farmers' Market. During this event, the MA met those interested in the RDP measures in its stand in the Farmers' Market. Remarkable interest was shown in RDP measures, while the MA also distributed leaflets containing general information on the RDP and promotional material.

5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

5.a) Unfulfilled criteria of general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criterion
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5.b) Actions taken to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criterion	Actions to be taken	Deadline	Body responsible for fulfilment	Actions taken	Date of fulfilment of the action	Commission position	Comments
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5.c) Unfulfilled criteria of priority-linked ex-ante conditionalities

Priority-linked ex-ante conditionality	Criterion
P3.1 - Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account climate change adaptation	P3.1.a - A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: A description of the process, methodology, methods and non-sensitive data used for risk assessment as well as of the risk-based criteria for the prioritisation of investment;
P3.1 - Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account climate change adaptation	P3.1.b - A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: A description of single-risk and multi-risk scenarios;
P3.1 - Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account climate change adaptation	P3.1.c - A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: Taking into account, where appropriate, national climate change adaptation strategies.
P5.1 - Energy efficiency: actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	P5.1.a - Measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and the Council;
P5.1 - Energy efficiency: actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	P5.1.b - Measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU;
P5.2 - Water sector: the existence of a) a water pricing policy which provides adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and b) an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services at a rate determined in the approved river basin management plan for investment supported by the programmes.	P5.2.a - In sectors supported by the EAFRD, a Member State has ensured a contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services by sector consistent with Article 9, paragraph 1 first indent of the Water Framework Directive having regard where appropriate, to the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery as well as the geographic and climatic conditions of the region or regions affected.

5.d) Actions taken to fulfil applicable priority-linked ex-ante conditionalities

Priority-linked ex-ante conditionality	Criterion	Actions to be taken	Deadline	Body responsible for fulfilment	Actions taken	Date of fulfilment of the action	Commission position	Comments
P3.1	P3.1.a	<p>A national risk assessment for disaster management is being developed.</p> <p>In order to fulfil this ex-ante conditionality, the following action plan is being followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft and Publish an Invitation to Tender for Interested Economic Operators to carry out the Risk Assessment (completed) • Adjudication and Award of Tender (completed) • Hold meetings with stakeholders and analyse the feedback received – 31/09/2015 • Formulation of the risk assessment document and finalisation – 31/12/2015 <p>The contracting authority (MHAS/CPD) is following the tender implementation closely, so as to abide by the committed deadlines. The OPM/MCIP is facilitating the process.</p>	31/12/2015	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security (MHAS)</p> <p>Civil Protection Department (CPD)</p> <p>Malta Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit (OPM/MCIP)</p>		16/01/2017	Positive	European Commission letter acknowledging fulfillment: ARES N°: Ref. Ares(2017)232949 - 16/01/2017
P3.1	P3.1.b	<p>A national risk assessment for disaster management is being developed.</p> <p>In order to fulfil this ex-ante conditionality, the following action plan is being followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft and Publish an Invitation to 	31/12/2015	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security (MHAS)</p> <p>Civil Protection Department (CPD)</p>		16/01/2017	Positive	European Commission letter acknowledging fulfillment: ARES N°: Ref. Ares(2017)232949 - 16/01/2017

		<p>Tender for Interested Economic Operators to carry out the Risk Assessment (completed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjudication and Award of Tender (completed) • Hold meetings with stakeholders and analyse the feedback received – 30/09/2015 • Formulation of the risk assessment document and finalisation – 31/12/2015 <p>The contracting authority (MHAS/CPD) is following the tender implementation closely, so as to abide by the committed deadlines. The OPM/MCIP is facilitating the process.</p>		Malta Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit (OPM/MCIP)				
P3.1	P3.1.c	<p>A national risk assessment for disaster management is being developed.</p> <p>In order to fulfil this ex-ante conditionality, the following action plan is being followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft and Publish an Invitation to Tender for Interested Economic Operators to carry out the Risk Assessment (completed) • Adjudication and Award of Tender (completed) • Hold meetings with stakeholders and analyse the feedback received – 31/09/2015 • Formulation of the risk assessment document and finalisation – 31/12/2015 <p>The contracting authority (MHAS/CPD) is following the tender implementation closely, so as to abide</p>	31/12/2015	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security (MHAS)</p> <p>Civil Protection Department (CPD)</p> <p>Malta Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit (OPM/MCIP)</p>	16/01/2017	Positive	<p>European Commission letter acknowledging fulfillment: ARES N°: Ref. Ares(2017)232949 - 16/01/2017</p>	

		by the committed deadlines. The OPM/MCIP is facilitating the process.						
P5.1	P5.1.a	<p>In order to review the minimum requirements for dwellings and non-dwellings, the following action plan is being followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting-up of a committee, to be chaired by the Building Regulation Office involving all relevant stakeholders in order to implement the action plan for the review of minimum requirements for dwellings and non-dwellings (completed). • Public discussion process with stakeholders on the basis of the findings and implications of the report (31/08/2015: vide https://secure2.gov.mt/epc/home?l=1) • Drawing up of updated minimum technical requirements and relevant Legal Notice on basis of outcome of above consultations (30/09/2015) • Promotional campaign with public and relevant stakeholders (estate agents, contractors etc.) including the holding of a seminar and publication/dissemination of promotion material; (31/12/2015) • Enter into force of new Minimum Technical Requirements (01/01/2016) 	01/01/2016	Acting as the technical arm reporting to the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, the Building Regulations Office (BRO)		28/07/2016	Positive	Ref. Ares(2016)3979432 - 28/07/2016
P5.1	P5.1.b	<p>Updating of Energy Performance Certificate to ensure its compliance with the provisions of Article 11 of the EPBD.</p> <p>In order to fulfil this ex-ante conditionality, the following action plan is being followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and evaluate technical information to be included in the new Certificate (30/09/2015) • Draft new Certificate on the basis of 	31/12/2015	Building Regulations Office (BRO)		28/07/2016	Positive	Ref. Ares(2016)3979432 - 28/07/2016

		<p>the technical information required (30/09/2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web Portal will be upgraded to be able to generate certificates in the new format (31/12/15) 						
P5.2	P5.2.a	<p>MT is developing its 2nd RBMP according to the requirements of the WFD.</p> <p>This process is on track, :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) 2nd RBMP - MT undertakes that as required by Art 9 of the WFD, MT's 2nd RBMP will take into account the principle of recovery of costs of water services. The 2nd RBMP will incorporate the pertinent economic analysis. (completed) • Public Consultation on (Draft) 2nd RBMP (30/09/2015) • Review of the (Draft) 2nd RBMP (30/11/2015) • Publication of 2nd RBMP (20/12/2015) • Submission of 2nd RBMP through WISE (30/03/2016) <p>The 2nd RBMP will fulfil ALL the requirements outlined. Specifically with regards to surface water bodies, discussions are ongoing between the Maltese Authorities (MEPA) and DG Environment on the implementation of the WFD. MT needs to prepare :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a monitoring programme for inland surface waters 2. an updated Programme of Measures and an economic assessment. <p>Detailed action plan (Annex 27) presented in the approved PA shall apply. in Annex VII to the WFD.</p>	22/12/2015	<p>Water Policy Unit (MEH)</p> <p>MSDEC</p> <p>MEPA</p> <p>Malta Resources Authority</p>	<p>Malta submitted its River Basin Management Plan and considers the ex-ante conditionality fulfilled. Since this submission, Malta has received observations from the Commission in relation to this ex-ante conditionality, which are currently being addressed and expected to be closed off in the next in the next months.</p>	Not informed		

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5.e) (Optional) additional information to complement the information provided on the 'actions taken' table

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6. DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PROGRAMMES

Malta has not foreseen any sub-programmes.

7. ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

7.a) CEQ01-1A - To what extent have RDP interventions supported innovation, cooperation and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.b) CEQ02-1B - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the strengthening of links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.c) CEQ03-1C - To what extent have RDP interventions supported lifelong learning and vocational training in the agriculture and forestry sectors?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.d) CEQ04-2A - To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to improving the economic performance, restructuring and modernization of supported farms in particular through increasing their market participation and agricultural diversification?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.e) CEQ05-2B - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and in particular, generational renewal?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.f) CEQ06-3A - To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to improving the competitiveness of supported primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain

through quality schemes, adding value to the agricultural products, promoting local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organization?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.g) CEQ07-3B - To what extent have RDP interventions supported farm risk prevention and management?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.h) CEQ08-4A - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the restoration, preservation and enhancement of biodiversity including in Natura 2000 areas, areas facing natural or other specific constraints and HNV farming, and the state of European landscape?

7.h1) List of measures contributing to the FA

From the list of currently launched measures, the following Measures contribute to Focus Area 4A:

- Measure 4.4: Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives
- Measure 10.1: Agri-environment-climate measures
 - AECM 1: Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical methods
 - AECM 6: Measure for the integration and maintenance of autochthonous Maltese species
 - AECM 6B: Maltese Ox
 - AECM 6C: Carob/Mulberry
- Measure 13.3: Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints*

Transitional Measures from RDP 07-13: support for areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas (M212) and Agri-environmental measures (M214) from RDP 2007-2013

- M212: Support for areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas*
- AEM1: Support for the use of environmentally friendly plant protection products in vineyards
- AEM2: Support for the traditional cultivation of sulla through crop rotation
- AEM3: Support for low input farming
- AEM4: Support to suppress the use of herbicides in vineyards and fruit orchards
- AEM5: Support for the establishment and maintenance of conservation buffer strips
- AEM6: Support for the conservation of rural structures providing a natural habitat for fauna and flora
- AEM7: Support for providing a healthy forage area for bees
- Support for organic farming
- Support for the conservation of species in danger of genetic erosion
- Support for the conservation of genetic resources in agriculture

*In line with European Commission Working Document for the Rural Development Committee (Aug 2015):RURAL DEVELOPMENT MONITORING (2014-2020) – IMPLEMENTATION REPORT TABLES, more specifically section '*List and definitions of pre-defined output indicators used for the performance framework*' p.24, M13.3 will be included for the scope of expenditure under P4 but not for area covered under FA 4A, despite this being a Measure that feeds into this FA.

7.h2) Link between judgment criteria, common and additional result indicators used to answer the CEQ

Judgment criteria	Common result indicator	Additional result indicator
Biodiversity on contracted land has been restored, preserved and enhanced	R6 / T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	

Biodiversity on contracted land has been restored, preserved and enhanced	R7 / T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	
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7.h3) Methods applied

As referred to in previous sections, the special circumstances related to the late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 (November 2015), the ongoing commitments linked to the closing of the RDP 07-13 (in 2016), where implementation and payments had ran until 31st December 2015 with formal closure requiring significant input throughout 2016, Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the preparation for the organisation of the Informal Rural Directors Meeting held in March 2017 have impacted on the desired implementation of the RDP 14-20.

The limited implementation also allowed for little scope in carrying out in-depth evaluation of the measures. Also, as at end 2016, the MA had not formally contracted an external evaluator, hence it is planned that more in-depth evaluation will be undertaken in the future.

The method applied this year was limited to a quantitative method, with basic analysis of quantitative data involving basic descriptive statistics. The rationale behind using this method was that data was readily available, valid and reliable.

No particular challenges were encountered, however it is acknowledged that this method offers basic evaluation. It is envisaged that once implementation is underway, evaluation methods will include a mixed method approach including input/output analysis, GIS-based spatial analysis, counterfactual impact analysis, statistical data from various National and EU Level sources, descriptive statistics and also qualitative methods.

Propensity score matching and difference in differences techniques would also be considered; the scope would include approximating the 'net' contribution of the programme to the observed effects as well as evaluating the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency using both primary and secondary data.

The MA remains committed to implementing the Evaluation Plan as per the Evaluation Plan outlined in Chapter 9 of the RDP 14-20.

Measure 4.4:

The Non-Productive Investments Measure supports applicants through the provision of grants to support non-productive investments that are linked to the achievement of agri-environmental and climate objectives.

Eligible actions include tangible and/or intangible investments that are intended for non-productive purposes and are linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives, including the improvement of the biodiversity conservation status of species and habitats and enhancing the public amenity value of a Natura 2000 area.

Measure 10.1- AECM 1:

The measure obliges farmers to use a grass cutter/ mower to control weeds growing in vineyards and orchards during the winter season.

In order to ensure that this measure is successfully implemented farmers are required to attend a short

course on vineyards/ orchards to ensure that they have a basic knowledge of what is required of them, and the environmental benefits arising from the introduction of this measure. The intention of this course is to potentially encourage the continuation of this practice even once the 5 year commitment has been fulfilled. The courses should be concise and involve a practical aspect.

Measure 13.3:

This measure essentially refers to areas affected by specific handicaps, in which farming should be continued, where necessary and subject to certain conditions, in order to conserve or improve the environment, maintain the countryside and preserve the tourist potential of the area or in order to protect the coastline. This will also include areas with low production that results from marginal productivity due to the prevailing natural environment that appreciably provides low yields.

7.h4) Quantitative values of indicators and data sources

Indicator type	Indicator code and name (unit)	Ratio	Indicator value	Calculated gross value	Calculated net value	Data and information sources
Common result indicator	R6 / T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	No				
Common result indicator	R7 / T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	Yes	10.94%			Monitoring data compiled from data items recorded at operation level by the Managing Authority (MA) and Paying Agency (PA) in the operations database, including IACS/application form/payment claim. Working: AEM+AECM/UAA.

7.h5) Problems encountered influencing the validity and reliability of evaluation findings

Data for Measure 4.4 could not be extracted since the measure was launched in December 2016 and grants have not been awarded yet (to be awarded later during 2017). This is naturally a result of no commitments having been made under measure 4.4.

7.h6) Answer to evaluation question

The restoration, preservation and enhancement of biodiversity including in Natura 2000 areas, areas facing natural or other specific constraints and HNV farming, and the state of European landscape are being implemented through the following interventions:

RDP 14-20 AECM1:

This measure promotes biodiversity and supports local flora and fauna. Farmers are also supplying

temporary foraging area for bees leading to a potential increase in the pollinator population which is an essential component of Maltese agricultural systems and elemental to enhancing the diversity of its animal and plant life. This measure performs multiple functions and achieve several objectives in an agro ecosystem simultaneously.

RDP 14-20 AECM 6b and AECM 6C:

These sub-measures ensure that these species survival and maximize their potential in agricultural systems. The aim of this measure is to conserve and maintain biodiversity by preserving Maltese indigenous breeds in danger of genetic erosion in particular the species mentioned above, by supporting the rearing and breeding of these species.

This measure directly promotes agricultural biodiversity which is a sub-set of biodiversity. It encompasses species directly relevant to agriculture. Genetic erosion in agricultural and livestock biodiversity is the loss of genetic diversity, including the loss of individual genes, and the loss of particular combinations of genes (or gene complexes) such as those manifested in locally adapted breeds. This measure aims at the conservation, sustainable use and enhancement of plant and animal genetic resources.

RDP 14-20 Measure 13.3:

Support under this measure offers beneficiaries a simple, standard payment per hectare of agricultural land in order to help ensure that this land remains under agricultural management.

This measure supports and encourages undertaking of agri-environment-climate commitments and thus facilitates the uptake of actions that have a direct positive impact on the environment. Support for areas with handicaps also helps to reinforce the respect of environmental standards and the protection of natural habitats and landscape features in these areas.

Transitional

The total area covered by the separate measures above is as follows:

RDP 14-20 Measure 10.1:

AECM 1: 151.5142 Hectares, covering over 859 parcels. Of these 859 parcels, 123 parcels were claimed on NATURA 2000 sites, covering 16.6792 Hectares.

AECM 6: 5.7351 Hectares, covering over 123 parcels. Of these 123 parcels, 3 parcels were claimed on NATURA 2000 sites, covering 0.2296 Hectres.

RDP 14-20 Measure 13:

Measure 13.3: 2887.9612 Hectares, covering over 19203 parcels. Of these 19203 parcels, 2190 parcels were claimed on NATURA 2000 sites, covering 244.9208 Hectres.

RDP 07-13 (Transitional) Measure 212 (LFA):

4,512.64 Ha

RDP 07-13 (Transitional) Measure 214 (AEMs)

1,095.92 Ha

7.h7) Conclusions and recommendations

7.h7.a) *Conclusion / Recommendation 1*

Conclusion:

Further data and information could be provided once other measures targeting this focus area are being implemented.

Recommendation:

The MA is committed to launch the other measures contributing to this focus area to ensure that the targets stipulated in the RDP are achieved.

7.i) CEQ09-4B - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the improvement of water management, including fertilizer and pesticide management?

7.i1) List of measures contributing to the FA

Measure 10.1:- Agri-Environment-Climate Measures

- AECM 1: Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical methods

7.i2) Link between judgment criteria, common and additional result indicators used to answer the CEQ

Judgment criteria	Common result indicator	Additional result indicator
Water quality has improved	R8 / T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	
Water quality has improved	R9 / T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	

7.i3) Methods applied

As referred to in previous sections, the special circumstances related to the late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 (November 2015), the ongoing commitments linked to the closing of the RDP 07-13 (in 2016), where implementation and payments had ran until 31st December 2015 with formal closure requiring significant input throughout 2016, Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the preparation for the organisation of the Informal Rural Directors Meeting held in March 2017 have impacted on the desired implementation of the RDP 14-20.

The limited implementation also allowed for little scope in carrying out in-depth evaluation of the measures. Also, as at end 2016, the MA had not formally contracted an external evaluator, hence it is planned that more in-depth evaluation will be undertaken in the future.

The method applied this year was limited to a quantitative method, with basic analysis of quantitative data involving basic descriptive statistics. The rationale behind using this method was that data was readily available, valid and reliable.

No particular challenges were encountered, however it is acknowledged that this method offers basic evaluation. It is envisaged that once implementation is underway, evaluation methods will include a mixed method approach including input/output analysis, GIS-based spatial analysis, counterfactual impact analysis, statistical data from various National and EU Level sources, descriptive statistics and also qualitative methods.

Propensity score matching and difference in differences techniques would also be considered; the scope would include approximating the 'net' contribution of the programme to the observed effects as well as evaluating the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency using both primary and secondary data.

The MA remains committed to implementing the Evaluation Plan as per the Evaluation Plan outlined in

Chapter 9 of the RDP 14-20.

Measure 10.1- AECM 1:

The measure obliges farmers to use a grass cutter/ mower to control weeds growing in vineyards and orchards during the winter season.

In order to ensure that this measure is successfully implemented farmers are required to attend a short course on vineyards/ orchards to ensure that they have a basic knowledge of what is required of them, and the environmental benefits arising from the introduction of this measure. The intention of this course is to potentially encourage the continuation of this practice even once the 5 year commitment has been fulfilled. The courses should be concise and involve a practical aspect.

7.i4) Quantitative values of indicators and data sources

Indicator type	Indicator code and name (unit)	Ratio	Indicator value	Calculated gross value	Calculated net value	Data and information sources
Common result indicator	R8 / T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	Yes	1.32%			Monitoring data compiled from data items recorded at operation level by the Managing Authority (MA) and Paying Agency (PA) in the operations database, including IACS/application form/payment claim. Working: AECM 1 / UAA.
Common result indicator	R9 / T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	No				

7.i5) Problems encountered influencing the validity and reliability of evaluation findings

This is the first year of implementation and therefore full potential of sub-Measures under this FA could not be fully evaluated.

7.i6) Answer to evaluation question

The improvement of water management, including fertilizer and pesticide management, including in Natura 2000 areas, are being implemented through the following interventions:

RDP 14-20 AECM1:

This measure promotes biodiversity and supports local flora and fauna. Farmers are also supplying temporary foraging area for bees leading to a potential increase in the pollinator population which is an essential component of Maltese agricultural systems and elemental to enhancing the diversity of its animal and plant life. This measure performs multiple functions and achieve several objectives in an agro

ecosystem simultaneously.

The total area covered by the separate measures above is as follows:

RDP 14-20 Measure 10.1:

AECM 1: 151.5142 Hectres, covering over 859 parcels. Of these 859 parcels, 123 parcels were claimed on NATURA 2000 sites, covering 16.6792 Hectres.

7.i7) Conclusions and recommendations

7.i7.a) Conclusion / Recommendation 1

Conclusion:

Further data and information could be provided once other measures targeting this focus area are being implemented.

Recommendation:

The MA is committed to launch the other measures contributing to this focus area to ensure that the targets stipulated in the RDP are achieved.

7.j) CEQ10-4C - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the prevention of soil erosion and improvement of soil management?

7.j1) List of measures contributing to the FA

From the list of currently launched measures, the following Measures contribute to Focus Area 4C:

- Measure 10.1: Agri-environment-climate measures
 - AECM 1: Measure to control weeds in orchards and vineyards by mechanical, instead of chemical methods

7.j2) Link between judgment criteria, common and additional result indicators used to answer the CEQ

Judgment criteria	Common result indicator	Additional result indicator
Soil management has improved	R10 / T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	
Soil management has improved	R11 / T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	
Soil erosion has been prevented		Additional information on soil erosion of the land under management contracts.

7.j3) Methods applied

As referred to in previous sections, the special circumstances related to the late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 (November 2015), the ongoing commitments linked to the closing of the RDP 07-13 (in 2016), where implementation and payments had ran until 31st December 2015 with formal closure requiring significant input throughout 2016, Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the preparation for the organisation of the Informal Rural Directors Meeting held in March 2017 have impacted on the desired implementation of the RDP 14-20.

The limited implementation also allowed for little scope in carrying out in-depth evaluation of the measures. Also, as at end 2016, the MA had not formally contracted an external evaluator, hence it is planned that more in-depth evaluation will be undertaken in the future.

The method applied this year was limited to a quantitative method, with basic analysis of quantitative data involving basic descriptive statistics. The rationale behind using this method was that data was readily available, valid and reliable.

No particular challenges were encountered, however it is acknowledged that this method offers basic evaluation. It is envisaged that once implementation is underway, evaluation methods will include a mixed method approach including input/output analysis, GIS-based spatial analysis, counterfactual impact analysis, statistical data from various National and EU Level sources, descriptive statistics and also

qualitative methods.

Propensity score matching and difference in differences techniques would also be considered; the scope would include approximating the ‘net’ contribution of the programme to the observed effects as well as evaluating the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency using both primary and secondary data.

The MA remains committed to implementing the Evaluation Plan as per the Evaluation Plan outlined in Chapter 9 of the RDP 14-20.

Measure 10.1- AECM 1:

The measure obliges farmers to use a grass cutter/ mower to control weeds growing in vineyards and orchards during the winter season.

In order to ensure that this measure is successfully implemented farmers are required to attend a short course on vineyards/ orchards to ensure that they have a basic knowledge of what is required of them, and the environmental benefits arising from the introduction of this measure. The intention of this course is to potentially encourage the continuation of this practice even once the 5 year commitment has been fulfilled. The courses should be concise and involve a practical aspect.

7.j4) Quantitative values of indicators and data sources

Indicator type	Indicator code and name (unit)	Ratio	Indicator value	Calculated gross value	Calculated net value	Data and information sources
Common result indicator	R10 / T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	Yes	1.32%			Monitoring data compiled from data items recorded at operation level by the Managing Authority (MA) and Paying Agency (PA) in the operations database, including IACS/application form/payment claim. Working: AECM 1 / UAA.
Common result indicator	R11 / T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	Yes	0%			
Additional result indicator	Additional information on soil erosion of the land under management contracts.	No	0.00			

7.j5) Problems encountered influencing the validity and reliability of evaluation findings

This is the first year of implementation and therefore full potential of sub-Measures under this FA could not be fully evaluated.

7.j6) Answer to evaluation question

The improvement of water management, including fertilizer and pesticide management, including in Natura 2000 areas, are being implemented through the following interventions:

RDP 14-20 AECM1:

This measure promotes biodiversity and supports local flora and fauna. Farmers are also supplying temporary foraging area for bees leading to a potential increase in the pollinator population which is an essential component of Maltese agricultural systems and elemental to enhancing the diversity of its animal and plant life. This measure performs multiple functions and achieve several objectives in an agro ecosystem simultaneously.

The total area covered by the separate measures above is as follows:

RDP 14-20 Measure 10.1:

AECM 1: 151.5142 Hectres, covering over 859 parcels. Of these 859 parcels, 123 parcels were claimed on NATURA 2000 sites, covering 16.6792 Hectres.

7.j7) Conclusions and recommendations

7.j7.a) Conclusion / Recommendation 1

Conclusion:

Further data and information could be provided once other measures targeting this focus area are being implemented.

Recommendation:

The MA is committed to launch the respective measures contributing towards this focus area by the stipulated timeframes in section 1D of this Annual Implementation Report.

7.k) CEQ11-5A - To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.l) CEQ12-5B - To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.m) CEQ13-5C - To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by-products, wastes, residues and other non-food raw material for purposes of the bio-economy?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.n) CEQ14-5D - To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to reducing GHG and ammonia emissions from agriculture?

7.n1) List of measures contributing to the FA

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

7.n2) Link between judgment criteria, common and additional result indicators used to answer the CEQ

Judgment criteria	Common result indicator	Additional result indicator
GHG and ammonia emissions from agriculture has been reduced	R18: Reduced emissions of methane and nitrous oxide (focus area 5D)*	
GHG and ammonia emissions from agriculture has been reduced	R19: Reduced ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)*	
GHG and ammonia emissions from agriculture has been reduced	R16 / T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	
GHG and ammonia emissions from agriculture has been reduced	R17 / T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	

7.n3) Methods applied

No applications were received under the sub-measures contributing to this FA, hence no evaluation could be undertaken.

7.n4) Quantitative values of indicators and data sources

Indicator type	Indicator code and name (unit)	Ratio	Indicator value	Calculated gross value	Calculated gross value out of which Primary contribution	Calculated gross value out of which Secondary contribution, including LEADER/CLLD contribution	Calculated net value	Data and information sources
Common result indicator	R18: Reduced emissions of methane and nitrous oxide (focus area 5D)*	No						
Common result indicator	R19: Reduced ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)*	No						
Common result indicator	R16 / T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or	No						

	ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)							
Common result indicator	R17 / T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	No						

7.n5) Problems encountered influencing the validity and reliability of evaluation findings

Data for Measure 4.4 could not be extracted since the measure was launched in December 2016 and grants have not been awarded yet (to be awarded later during 2017). Naturally there have be no commitments under measure 4.4.

7.n6) Answer to evaluation question

Since applications are currently being evaluated by the project selection committee, no grants have been awarded and therefore, evaluation cannot be fully completed.

7.n7) Conclusions and recommendations

7.o) CEQ15-5E - To what extent have RDP interventions supported carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.p) CEQ16-6A - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the diversification, creation and development of small enterprises and job creation?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.q) CEQ17-6B - To what extent have RDP interventions supported local development in rural areas?

7.q1) List of measures contributing to the FA

Measure 19.1: Preparatory support

7.q2) Link between judgment criteria, common and additional result indicators used to answer the CEQ

Judgment criteria	Common result indicator	Additional result indicator
		Percentage of RDP expenditure in Leader measures with respect to total RDP expenditure
		Number of projects/initiatives supported by the Local Development Strategy
Employment opportunities have been created via local development strategies	R24 / T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	
Rural territory and population covered by LAGs has increased	R22 / T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	
Access to services and local infrastructure has increased in rural areas	R23 / T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	
Services and local infrastructure in rural areas has improved	R23 / T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	
Rural people have participated in local actions		
Rural people have benefited from local actions		

7.q3) Methods applied

As referred to in previous sections, the special circumstances related to the late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 (November 2015), the ongoing commitments linked to the closing of the RDP 07-13 (in 2016), where implementation and payments had ran until 31st December 2015 with formal closure requiring significant input throughout 2016, Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the preparation for the organisation of the Informal Rural Directors Meeting held in March 2017 have impacted on the desired implementation of the RDP 14-20.

The limited implementation also allowed for little scope in carrying out in-depth evaluation of the measures. Also, as at end 2016, the MA had not formally contracted an external evaluator, hence it is planned that more in-depth evaluation will be undertaken in the future.

The method applied this year was limited to a quantitative method, with basic analysis of quantitative data involving basic descriptive statistics. The rationale behind using this method was that data was readily available, valid and reliable.

No particular challenges were encountered

This operation allowed LAGs 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 LAG 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 will feed into a wider SWOT analysis which will identify the needs and subsequently a complementary set of measures.

Local stakeholders and representatives of a range of different organisations and interests worked together to develop strategies that will be mutually beneficial for their interests and local communities.

7.q4) Quantitative values of indicators and data sources

Indicator type	Indicator code and name (unit)	Ratio	Indicator value	Calculated gross value	Calculated net value	Data and information sources
Common result indicator	R22 / T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	No				
Common result indicator	R23 / T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	No				
Common result indicator	R24 / T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	No				
Additional result indicator	Number of projects/initiatives supported by the Local Development Strategy	No				
Additional result indicator	Percentage of RDP expenditure in Leader measures with respect to total RDP expenditure	No				

7.q5) Problems encountered influencing the validity and reliability of evaluation findings

The three applicants who have submitted their interest in the set up of the Local Action Groups have also requested a postponement of 4 months for submission of Local Development Strategies to ensure that a thorough, bottom up approach is undertaken. This request was accepted by the MA in order to ensure the best possible strategies representing the needs and values of the respective regions. While the MA acknowledges that although this situation represents a delay on the obligations stipulated under Article 33 (4) of Regulation(EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the MA ensures that the best, long term value for EU funds is obtained; thus priority has resulted in such a delay. The MA

remains committed to launch the LDS at the very earliest.

7.q6) Answer to evaluation question

In Feb 2016, the MA launched an expression of interest for interested local action groups to develop an LDS for respective regions involved. Following approval under Measure 19.1, 3 LDSs were submitted; these strategies reflect the bottom up and participatory approach dictated by the nature of this community led local development (CLLD) scope. The preparation of these strategies included various interventions within the communities in the form of studies and in-depth consultation process. It is envisaged that the new strategies will be built on the progress made under RDP LEADER 2007-2013.

Initial evaluation of the LDS provided assurance that the targets under corresponding Focus Areas, as well as the scope of CLLD, will be reached with the implementation through these three potential LAG's.

7.q7) Conclusions and recommendations

7.q7.a) *Conclusion / Recommendation 1*

Conclusion:

While the Local Development Strategies have been submitted for approval, the full potential of Measure 19 may be fully evaluated once the strategies are implemented.

Recommendation:

The implementation of Local Development Strategies will ensure that the targets set for this measure are achieved.

7.r) CEQ18-6C - To what extent have RDP interventions enhanced the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Measures contributing towards this Focus Area have not been launched yet, therefore evaluation is not possible at the time.

7.s) CEQ19-PE - To what extent have the synergies among priorities and focus areas enhanced the effectiveness of the RDP?

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

Since the MA has launched Measure 10.1, Measure 13 and Measure 19.1, the synergies among priorities

and focus areas and how these enhanced the effectiveness of the RDP could not be fully evaluated to give a true and fair view.

7.t) CEQ20-TA - To what extent has technical assistance contributed to achieving the objectives laid down in Art. 59(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Art. 51(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013?

7.1) Support for technical assistance (other than NRN)

The Managing Authority has defined the interventions under Measure 20 (M20) for the 2014-2020 programming period as follows:

Technical, Administrative and Managerial Support

This is a fundamental element in order to ensure constant and appropriate support to the activities and phases linked with the RDP, in terms of preparation, programming, financial execution and budgeting of the various measures within the programme.

In order to have such support in place an information system is necessary. This system will cater for the requirements of both the EAFRD MA and the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA), hereinafter referred to as the Paying Agency (PA), according to the roles and functions established in the relevant Regulations, and in Malta's RDP 2014-2020. This system will aid in the simplification of the administrative procedures, application process, and information archive thereby catering for the monitoring of the programme as well as the reporting obligations.

A System for Monitoring and Evaluation

This information system allows the EAFRD MA to measure in a tangible way the implementation, efficiency and execution of the programme against a set of targets and objectives.

For this monitoring requirement the data required for the input, output and result indicators will be collected as follows:

- Information system (capturing all application data);
- Surveys (to collect data that could not be captured at time of application).

For this scope all beneficiaries are obliged to provide any information requested for monitoring and evaluation purposes thus guaranteeing conformity with reporting obligations. Where data is collected through application documents this will be captured by the system and it will facilitate the compilation of the various data requirements pertaining to the output, result and impact indicators.

This system will be an effective and important tool for the EAFRD MA in order to comply with the obligations arising from Article 75 of the EAFRD Regulation which states that an annual report must be submitted to the Commission by the 30th June of 2016 and of each subsequent year after being examined and approved by the MC.

The impact of the programme will be assessed and evaluated through the ongoing, ex post and ex ante evaluations.

Information and Communication

Information and Publicity are an integral part of the Programme and the European Commission stresses the importance of having an instrument by which correct information on the programme objectives reaches the general public and especially potential beneficiaries.

Article 66 of the EAFRD Regulation establishes that the Managing Authority has the obligation to ensure publicity for the programme, including through the national rural network, of the possibilities offered by the programme and the rules for gaining access to programme funding, as well as by informing

beneficiaries of the Union contribution and the general public on the role played by the Union in the programme.

In order to establish a clear delineation of the various activities that can be financed under Measure 20, as well as to establish the priority areas that are mandatory, the eligible activities have been categorized under 6 areas of intervention, as well as a dedicated area for NRN which will likely include various horizontal activities.

7.t2) Link between judgment criteria, common and additional result indicators used to answer the CEQ

Judgment criteria	Common result indicator	Additional result indicator
Institutional and administrative capacities for the effective management of the RDP have been strengthened		Number of staff involved in RDP management
Institutional and administrative capacities for the effective management of the RDP have been strengthened		Skills of staff involved in RDP management
Institutional and administrative capacities for the effective management of the RDP have been strengthened		Functionality of the IT system for programme management
Capacities of relevant partners as defined by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Art. 5(1) have been reinforced		Types and number of capacity building activities
RDP has been communicated with the public and information has been disseminated		Number of RDP communication and dissemination activities
RDP has been communicated with the public and information has been disseminated		Number of people receiving information about the RDP
RDP has been communicated with the public and information has been disseminated		Information on the use of evaluation results
Monitoring has been improved		
Evaluation methods have been improved and have provided robust evaluation results		
The RDP implementation has been improved		The length of the application and payment process
Administrative burden on beneficiaries has been reduced		

7.t3) Methods applied

As referred to in previous sections, the special circumstances related to the late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 (November 2015), the ongoing commitments linked to the closing of the RDP 07-13 (in 2016), where implementation and payments had ran until 31st December 2015 with formal closure requiring significant input throughout 2016, Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the

preparation for the organisation of the Informal Rural Directors Meeting held in March 2017 have impacted on the desired implementation of the RDP 14-20.

The limited implementation also allowed for little scope in carrying out in-depth evaluation of the measures. Also, as at end 2016, the MA had not formally contracted an external evaluator, hence it is planned that more in-depth evaluation will be undertaken in the future.

The method applied this year was limited to a quantitative method, with basic analysis of quantitative data involving basic descriptive statistics. The rationale behind using this method was that data was readily available, valid and reliable.

No particular challenges were encountered

The following actions were taken to fulfil the targets of the Technical Assistance measure:

- Acquisition of hardware and software for the management, control and monitoring of the programme
- Development and implementation and maintenance of information systems for the management, control and monitoring of the programme
- Restructuring works, office furniture and materials
- Human resources on a defined period
- Collaboration and provision of service by professionals (including technical experts participating in selection/appeals boards)
- Costs of studies, research, surveys (including expenses related to publication and diffusion of results)
- Expenses related to participation in events directly related with the management of the programme (even abroad)
- Expenditure related to programme evaluation
- Organization of study visits
- Training of personnel involved in the running of the programme, national rural network in terms of preparatory activities, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and controls
- Interpretation and translation services
- General expenditure related to the running of the structures involved in programme implementation (such as stationary)
- Expenditure related to the launching of measures
- Expenditure related to the functioning of the Monitoring Committee such as interpretation, translation, renting.

7.t4) Quantitative values of indicators and data sources

Indicator type	Indicator code and name (unit)	Ratio	Indicator value	Calculated gross value	Calculated net value	Data and information sources
Additional result indicator	Number of people receiving information about the RDP	No	685.00			Information sessions attendance sheets
Additional result indicator	Information on the use of evaluation results	No	0.00			

Additional result indicator	Types and number of capacity building activities	No	12.00			MA registry
Additional result indicator	Functionality of the IT system for programme management	No	0.00			
Additional result indicator	Number of staff involved in RDP management	No	7.00			
Additional result indicator	Skills of staff involved in RDP management	No				
Additional result indicator	Number of RDP communication and dissemination activities	No	11.00			MA registry
Additional result indicator	The length of the application and payment process	No				

7.t5) Problems encountered influencing the validity and reliability of evaluation findings

Despite the late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020, the budget allocated to the technical assistance measure and to the specific actions specified in the RDP is on track. The TA allocation on the NRN is expected to improve in 2017.

7.t6) Answer to evaluation question

Technical Assistance has contributed towards the achievement of the objectives laid down in Article 59(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Art. 51(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013:

Preparation and management

- The Managing Authority and Paying Agency staff attend several training courses including seminars and workshops on:
 - Technical Assistance training seminars delivered by several institutions;
 - National Rural Network workshops delivered by the ENRD and the European Commission;
 - Measure 16: Cooperation seminars delivered by the EIP AGRI;
 - Measure 1 and Measure 2 workshops delivered by the ENRD;
 - Several courses delivered by the Institute for Public Services (ex. Public procurement regulations and processes);
 - The Managing Authority

Monitoring and evaluation

In December 2016, the Managing Authority in collaboration with the European Evaluation Helpdesk delivered the yearly capacity building event which is organised in each Member State of the EU to provide a platform for strengthening the evaluation capacity among the rural development evaluation stakeholders.

The capacity building workshop aimed to:

- Ensure a common understanding on the reporting requirements for the AIR submitted in 2017
- Facilitate the correct filling of the SFC template for AIR submitted in 2017, point 7
- Discuss the specific issues in relation to the assessment of results and answering the common evaluation questions

Information and communication

The MA held several information sessions aimed at raising the interest and knowledge on RDP measures. These information sessions were held in both Malta and Gozo and a remarkable interest and participation was shown in every session held. A breakdown of these information sessions is provided below:

- Information sessions on Measure 4 (including Measure 4.1, Measure 4.3 and Measure 4.4) and Measure 10.1
 - Xewkija, Gozo on the 12th April 2016;
 - Zabbar, Malta on the 15th April 2016;
 - Mgarr, Malta on the 26th April 2016;
 - Ta' Qali, Malta on the 29th April 2016.
- An Information session with Gozitan beekeepers on AECM3(Support for bee boxes on holdings) was held on the 29th November 2016;
- An Information session with Maltese beekeepers on AECM3(Support for bee boxes on holdings) on the 30th November 2016;
- A series of information sessions on Measure 4.1 (investments on agricultural holdings) and Measure 10.1(AECMs) were held in:
 - Xewkija, Gozo on the 8th November 2016;
 - Mgarr, Malta on the 10th November 2016;
 - Ta' Qali, Malta on the 11th November 2016;
 - Hal-Far, Malta on the 15th November 2016.

7.t7) Conclusions and recommendations

7.t7.a) Conclusion / Recommendation 1

Conclusion:

The Managing Authority has managed to bring the general public closer to the availability of funding through the Rural Development Programme.

Recommendation:

Further involvement in the social media would allow the Managing Authority to better reach out the general public.

7.u) CEQ21-RN - To what extent has the national rural network contributed to achieving the objectives laid down in Art. 54(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013?

7.u1) Intervention logic of the NRN

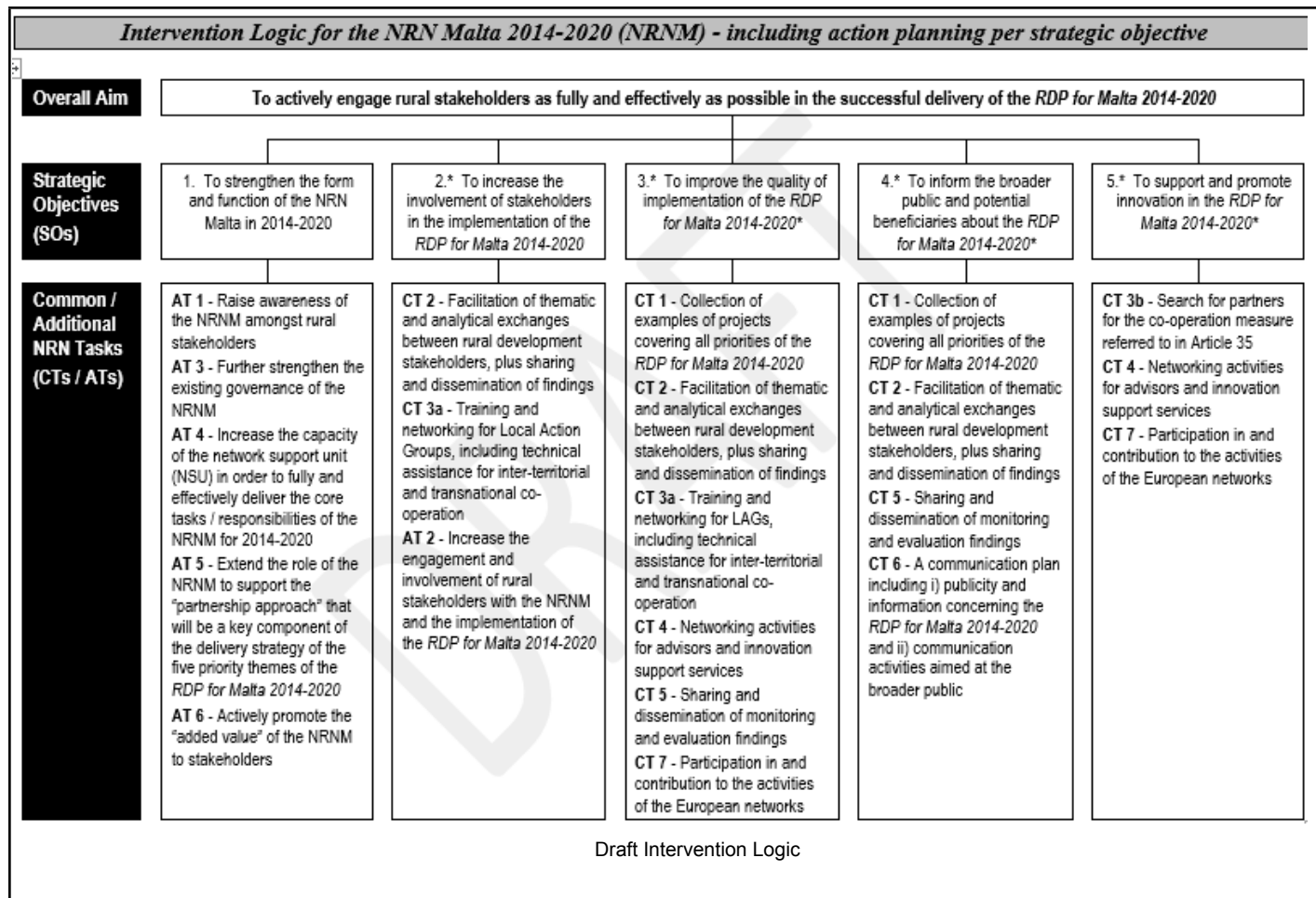
The core function of the NRNM remained that of sharing and exchanging of information, practices, experiences, ideas and resources amongst all relevant rural development stakeholders in Malta. This function has been enhanced by i) the comprehensive process of stakeholder mapping (target groups, needs and influences) already undertaken in preparation for the *RDP for Malta 2014-2020*, and; ii) co-ordination of the NRNM Annual Work Plan (AWP) with the implementation of the Maltese RDP Communications Strategy.

Based upon a SWOT analysis and needs assessment of the existing experiences / activities of the NRNM during the 2007-2013 programme period, the following actions have been undertaken to fulfil the targets of the NRN:

- bringing together and engaging with rural stakeholders;
- developing and enhancing channels of communication through information activities;
- building a common understanding of the *RDP for Malta 2014-2020*;
- stimulating dialogue between rural stakeholders on key issues of common concern;
- collecting, analysing, disseminating and exchanging experiences, know-how and good practices amongst rural stakeholders;
- encouraging and enhancing bottom-up initiatives by targeted groups of rural stakeholders e.g. young farmers and rural youth;
- assisting Local Action Groups through training programmes and joint actions, including the promotion of inter-territorial and trans-national cooperation initiatives.

NB: schematic of the NRNM Draft Intervention Logic is attached.

Intervention Logic for the NRN Malta 2014-2020 (NRNM) - including action planning per strategic objective



7.u2) Link between judgment criteria, common and additional result indicators used to answer the CEQ

Judgment criteria	Common result indicator	Additional result indicator
Number and types of stakeholders involved in RDP implementation has increased		Number of stakeholders (by type) participating in the implementation of the RDP due to activities of the NRN (including those through LAGs)
The quality of implementation of the RDP has been improved through the activities of the NRN, e.g. Improved capacity of RDP beneficiaries Improved evaluation awareness Lessons from evaluations are taken into account in programme implementation		Number of RDP modifications based on evaluation findings and recommendations from thematic working groups organized by the NRN)
Broader public and potential beneficiaries are aware of the rural development policy and funding opportunities through activities of the NRN		Percentage of RDP implemented projects encouraged by NRN(P) activities)
Broader public and potential beneficiaries are aware of the rural development policy and funding opportunities through activities of the NRN		Number persons that have been informed about the rural development policy and funding opportunities through the NRN communication tools)
Innovation in agriculture, food production forestry and rural areas has been fostered by the NRN opportunities		Percentage of innovative projects encouraged by NRN out of the total number of innovative projects supported by the RDP(s)

7.u3) Methods applied

As referred to in previous sections, the special circumstances related to the late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 (November 2015), the ongoing commitments linked to the closing of the RDP 07-13 (in 2016), where implementation and payments had ran until 31st December 2015 with formal closure requiring significant input throughout 2016, Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the preparation for the organisation of the Informal Rural Directors Meeting held in March 2017 have impacted on the desired implementation of the RDP 14-20. This has also impacted the development of the NRN.

The limited implementation also allowed for little scope in carrying out in-depth evaluation of the measures. Also, as at end 2016, the MA had not formally contracted an external evaluator, hence it is planned that more in-depth evaluation will be undertaken in the future.

The method applied this year was limited to a quantitative method, with basic analysis of quantitative data involving basic descriptive statistics. The rationale behind using this method was that data was readily available, valid and reliable.

No particular challenges were encountered

In the future, the NRN is committed to:

- Facilitate thematic and analytical exchanges between rural development stakeholders, sharing and dissemination of findings.
- Provide networking for advisors and innovation support services.
- Develop a communication plan including publicity and information concerning the rural development programme in agreement with the Managing Authority and information and communication activities aimed at a broader public.
- Provide training and networking for local action groups and in particular technical assistance for inter-territorial and transnational co-operation, facilitation of co-operation among local action groups and the search of partners for the measure referred to in Article 35.

7.u4) Quantitative values of indicators and data sources

Indicator type	Indicator code and name (unit)	Ratio	Indicator value	Calculated gross value	Calculated net value	Data and information sources
Additional result indicator	Number persons that have been informed about the rural development policy and funding opportunities through the NRN communication tools)	No	685.00			
Additional result indicator	Percentage of innovative projects encouraged by NRN out of the total number of innovative projects supported by the RDP(s)	No	0.00			

Additional result indicator	Percentage of RDP implemented projects encouraged by NRN(P activities)	No	0.00			
Additional result indicator	Number of RDP modifications based on evaluation findings and recommendations from thematic working groups organized by the NRN)	No	0.00			
Additional result indicator	Number of stakeholders (by type) participating in the implementation of the RDP due to activities of the NRN (including those through LAGs)	No	0.00			

7.u5) Problems encountered influencing the validity and reliability of evaluation findings

The late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 has resulted in a delayed set up of the NRN. The NRN has still managed to organise several events concerning the promotion of RDP 2014-2020. Further activities are planned during 2017 and beyond.

7.u6) Answer to evaluation question

The NRN has contributed to achieving the objectives laid down in Article 54(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 mainly by:

1. involving all the stakeholders in different sectors in the drafting of measure specific National Implementation Guidance documents.
 - This process ensured that the MA publishes holistic measure guidelines which would not have a negative impact on the agricultural sector.
 - This process also assisted the MA in analysing sectorial issues and how RDP funding may assist such issues.
2. The National Rural Network also held the Annual Event at the Ta' Qali farmers' market. During this event, the Network handed several information guidance documents and was also open to any questions which the general public had regarding possibilities for funding. This event proved to be a success as it targeted directly the farmers and other individuals which may be interested in RDP funding.
3. The NRN also held several information sessions:
 - Information sessions on Measure 4 (including Measure 4.1, Measure 4.3 and Measure 4.4) and Measure 10.1
 - Xewkija, Gozo on the 12th April 2016;
 - Zabbar, Malta on the 15th April 2016;

- Mgarr, Malta on the 26th April 2016;
- Ta' Qali, Malta on the 29th April 2016.

- An Information session with Gozitan beekeepers on AECM3(Support for bee boxes on holdings) was held on the 29th November 2016;
- An Information session with Maltese beekeepers on AECM3(Support for bee boxes on holdings) on the 30th November 2016;
- A series of information sessions on Measure 4.1 (investments on agricultural holdings) and Measure 10.1(AECMs) were held in:
 - Xewkija, Gozo on the 8th November 2016;
 - Mgarr, Malta on the 10th November 2016;
 - Ta' Qali, Malta on the 11th November 2016;
 - Hal-Far, Malta on the 15th November 2016.

The above mentioned actions lay a strong foundation for the NRNM which is expected to hold more events and assist the general public in other ways in the future, including but not limited to implementation of Measure 16 by assisting the establishment of Operational Groups.

7.u7) Conclusions and recommendations

7.u7.a) Conclusion / Recommendation 1

Conclusion:

The late adoption of the RDP 2014-2020 may have delayed the set up of the NRN for Malta. Despite the NRN is still its early stages of implementation, it has managed to reach out to the general public in a solid manner and managed to gather a considerable interest in RDP funding.

Recommendation:

The NRN is being encouraged to continue with the implementation its action plan and continue building on its solid foundation through further meeting and information sessions. Presence on the social media would also help bridging the gap between the younger generation and sources of RDP funding.

7.v) PSEQ01-FA - Programme specific evaluation question linked to programme specific focus areas

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

The Managing Authority has not yet set Programme-specific evaluation questions (PSEQs); it is the intention of the MA to facilitate the development of same through the external evaluators to better capture programme-specific achievements.

7.w) PSEQ02-FA - Programme specific evaluation question linked to programme specific focus areas

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

The Managing Authority has not yet set Programme-specific evaluation questions (PSEQs); it is the intention of the MA to facilitate the development of same through the external evaluators to better capture programme-specific achievements.

7.x) PSEQ03-FA - Programme specific evaluation question linked to programme specific focus areas

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

The Managing Authority has not yet set Programme-specific evaluation questions (PSEQs); it is the intention of the MA to facilitate the development of same through the external evaluators to better capture programme-specific achievements.

7.y) PSEQ04-FA - Programme specific evaluation question linked to programme specific focus areas

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

The Managing Authority has not yet set Programme-specific evaluation questions (PSEQs); it is the intention of the MA to facilitate the development of same through the external evaluators to better capture programme-specific achievements.

7.z) PSEQ05-FA - Programme specific evaluation question linked to programme specific focus areas

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

The Managing Authority has not yet set Programme-specific evaluation questions (PSEQs); it is the intention of the MA to facilitate the development of same through the external evaluators to better capture programme-specific achievements.

7.aa) PSEQ01-TOPIC - Programme specific evaluation question linked to programme specific evaluation topic

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

The Managing Authority has not yet set Topic-specific evaluation questions (PSEQs); it is the intention of the MA to consider the development of same through the external evaluators to better capture topic-specific achievements.

7.bb) PSEQ02-TOPIC - Programme specific evaluation question linked to programme specific evaluation topic

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

The Managing Authority has not yet set Topic-specific evaluation questions (PSEQs); it is the intention of the MA to consider the development of same through the external evaluators to better capture topic-specific

achievements.

7.cc) PSEQ03-TOPIC - Programme specific evaluation question linked to programme specific evaluation topic

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

The Managing Authority has not yet set Topic-specific evaluation questions (PSEQs); it is the intention of the MA to consider the development of same through the external evaluators to better capture topic-specific achievements.

7.dd) PSEQ04-TOPIC - Programme specific evaluation question linked to programme specific evaluation topic

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

The Managing Authority has not yet set Topic-specific evaluation questions (PSEQs); it is the intention of the MA to consider the development of same through the external evaluators to better capture topic-specific achievements.

7.ee) PSEQ05-TOPIC - Programme specific evaluation question linked to programme specific evaluation topic

This question is marked as not relevant for this AIR version

The Managing Authority has not yet set Topic-specific evaluation questions (PSEQs); it is the intention of the MA to consider the development of same through the external evaluators to better capture topic-specific achievements.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

8.a) Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination (Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

One of the selection criteria as adopted by the Monitoring Committee during its first meeting concerns *horizontal priorities*. In this 'Social Criterion', applicants are awarded a maximum of 20 marks on the basis that the proposed intervention/s contribute towards the promotion of equal opportunities, equality, non-discrimination and improved accessibility whilst targeting sustainable development in the areas of economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection. Consideration will be made of whether the applicant has an appropriate policy on equality and diversity (eg. as an employer), access requirements have been taken into account (eg. for buildings, websites), and whether any jobs created are open to a diverse range of applicants.

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) is also represented in the Monitoring Committee. The NCPE safeguards equality on the grounds of gender and family responsibilities, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, racial or ethnic origin, and gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics in employment, education as well as in banks and financial institutions; equality on the grounds of gender and race/ethnic origin in the access to, and provision of, goods and services; and equality with regards to freedom of movement for workers in the EU.

8.b) Sustainable development (Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

The adopted selection criteria favours proposed applications submitted by the beneficiaries that aim at preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment. These selection criteria tackle energy efficiency, effective water savings, the improvement of production efficiency and resource efficient management, participation in Agri-environment-climate measures, designed to encourage farmers to protect and enhance the environment on the land that they manage.

Project guidelines make it obligatory on projects to ensure that projects are implemented with the necessary issuing of permits; the MA has also held bilateral meetings with the two main entities responsible for issuing such permits (Planning Authority and the Environment and Resources Authority) to facilitate such processes. Project selection criteria also support those projects that have such permits in hand at application stage, although this is not obligatory to have at application stage.

The Malta RDP also makes it obligatory on farmers participating in the AECM (M10.1) to follow Training and Advice under RDP Measures 1 and 2. Such training and advice shall further contribute to the Union's Priority for Rural Development in the framework of sustainable development.

8.c) The role of the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the implementation of the programme

Through representation on the RDP Monitoring Committee, Malta ensured that a wide representation of society, in line with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, is represented on the Monitoring

Committee. The EAFRD 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee list can be found at <https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/MC/Membership%20of%20the%20EAFRD%20Monitoring%20Committee%202014-2020%20-.pdf>

During past Monitoring Committees, it has been noted that most of the participants have actively participated in such meetings, bringing forward both concerns faced by these entities. More importantly, familiarisation with RDP targets by the different entities representing civil society as well as Government, facilitated a better implementation of the RDP. throughout 2016, the MA was actively engaged in facilitating the implementation of measures launched in 2016 as well as preparatory work for launching of measures in the first half of 2017. Such work included meetings to ensure that applicants application process is facilitated (for example by including a specific contact point for request of documentation from other Ministries as part of the application process) as well as ensuring that said Measures are indeed implementable, hence avoiding applicants encountering situations where certain project investments reach an impasse.

Other sectorial meetings had the scope of identifying technical specificities for the successful implementation of the measure (example, meetings with the bees and dairy sector).

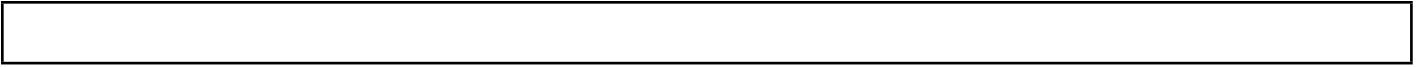
In 2016, the Managing Authority held several information sessions for the general public in Malta and Gozo. These information sessions are held before measure launch, including AECMS, Measure 4.1, Measure 4.4 and Measure 6.1. During these meetings, the MA presents important aspects of forthcoming measures while the general public is given the opportunity to put forward their queries.

The National Rural Network

The main aim of the NRN 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 priorities for the NRNM are set as follows:

1. Publicity and information activities supporting the launch of Measures as part of the *RDP for Malta 2014-2020*
2. Animation of the “partnership approach” underpinning delivery of the *RDP for Malta 2014-2020*
3. Provision of 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. Collection of examples of projects covering all 5 themes of the *RDP for Malta 2014-2020*
7. Active participation in, and contribution to, the activities and events of ENRD
8. Information and communication activities aimed at the broader public (in line with RDP Communication Strategy)
9. Facilitation of thematic and analytical exchanges between stakeholders, and sharing and dissemination of findings
10. Facilitation of co-operation among LAGs, in particular technical assistance for inter-territorial and transnational co-operation
11. Sharing and dissemination of monitoring and evaluation findings



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)	2014-2016					19.80
		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)	2014-2016					18.00
		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)	2014-2016					7,200.00
		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)	2014-2016					0.93
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,215,666.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,165,666.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	16,331,331.00
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	8,165,666.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	116.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,850,000.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					0.48
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,494,597.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	994,597.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	1,989,194.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	10.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,300,000.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	5,000,000.00
M06.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	4,300,000.00
M06.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					9.58
		2014-2015					
	Nr of operations supported under M4.2 contributing to FA3A (M4.2) (operations)	2014-2016					50.00
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
3A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,380,919.00
M03	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,500,000.00
M03.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	700.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,278,538.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	12,557,077.00
M04.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	90.00
M04.2							
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	22.50
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	6.50
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,502,381.00
M16.4	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					11.97
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
3B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
M17	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
M17.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
M17.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					2.98
		2014-2015					
	T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2016			1.32	44.31	2.98
		2014-2015					
	T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	2014-2016			9.78	159.95	6.11
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
P4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	7,960,381.36	15.18	2,997,572.81	5.71	52,455,545.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,200,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	1,440,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	2,880.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,050,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	630.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,218,690.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	21,687,379.00
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	600.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	2,064,631.92	30.28	732,370.73	10.74	6,817,953.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2016			1,095.92	163.30	671.10
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	22.50
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	6.50
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	5,895,749.44	49.13	2,265,202.08	18.88	12,000,000.00
M13.3	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2016			4,612.20	53.01	8,700.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					2.01
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,609,075.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,200,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	1,440,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	2,880.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	222.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,898,992.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	8,797,984.00
M04	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	57.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	191.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					1,135,597.00
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,467,798.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	550,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	360,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	720.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	567,798.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	1,135,597.00
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					9,792,387.00
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,573,575.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,521,194.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	9,792,387.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	234.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					16.09
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5D	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,669,446.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	275,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	180,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	360.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	230.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,044,446.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	2,088,891.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	84.00
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					5.31
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5E	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,932,047.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	25.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	182,047.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					77.00
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,902,381.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,850,000.00
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	8,400,000.00
M06.2 M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	64.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					10.00	
		2014-2015						
	T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	2014-2016						0.00
		2014-2015						
	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2016						99.97
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
6B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	150,000.00	1.85	0.00	0.00	8,102,381.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,602,381.00	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	150,000.00	2.31	0.00	0.00	6,500,000.00	
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	268,733.00	
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	3.00	
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	150,000.00	
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	4,125,000.00	
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	600,000.00	
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2016					0.00	
		2014-2015						
	Percentage of total public expenditure (M1.1 to M1.3) allocated for ICT actions/interventions (%)	2014-2016						20.00
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
6C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	275,000.00	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	275,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	180,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2016			0.00	0.00	360.00	

Annex III

Summary table of quantified results

Result indicator name and unit (1)	Target value (2)	Main value (3)	Secondary contribution (4)	LEADER/CLLD contribution (5)	Total RDP (6)=3+4+5
R1 / T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	0.93	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R2: Change in Agricultural output on supported farms/AWU (Annual Work Unit) (focus area 2A)*	N/A				
R3 / T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)	0.48	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R4 / 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)	9.58	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R5 / T7: percentage of farms participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)	11.97	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R6 / T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)			N/A		
R7 / T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	6.11	9.78	N/A	0.00	9.78
R8 / T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2.98	1.32	N/A	0.00	1.32
R9 / T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)			N/A		
R10 / T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2.98	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R11 / T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)			N/A		
R12 / T14: percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A)	2.01	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R13: Increase in efficiency of water use in agriculture in RDP supported projects (focus area 5A)*	N/A				
R14: Increase in efficiency of energy use in agriculture and food-processing in RDP supported projects (focus area 5B)*	N/A				
R15: Renewable energy produced from supported projects (focus area 5C)*	N/A				

R16 / T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	16.09	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R17 / T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R18: Reduced emissions of methane and nitrous oxide (focus area 5D)*	N/A				
R19: Reduced ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)*	N/A				
R20 / T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	5.31	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R21 / T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	77.00	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R22 / T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	99.97	0.00	N/A		0.00
R23 / T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R24 / T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	10.00	0.00	N/A		0.00
R25 / T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
RDP 2014-2020 EAFRD Citizen Summary (2016)	Citizens' summary	10-07-2017	Citizens' summary	Ares(2017)5774844	1989534664	Citizens' summary 2016	27-11-2017	nsceraph
AIR Financial Annex 2014MT06RDNP001	Financial annex (System)	15-11-2017		Ares(2017)5774844	3631578124	AIRfinancialAnnex2014MT06RDNP001_mt.pdf	27-11-2017	nsceraph

