

Citizen Summary for implementation year 2016
Malta - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
MT06RDNP001

Year 2016 marked the first full implementation year for the RDP 2014-2020 where a number of measures were launched, first payments made and preparatory work for most measures undertaken. ARPA has continued to accept payment claims under Measure 13.3. As per standard practice, interested beneficiaries registered their interest at the Front Offices in Ta' Qali, Malta and Xewkija, Gozo. Payment claims related to M10.1 applications were also received in 2016.

Following a call for expression of interest, three potential Local Actions Groups have submitted three local development strategies under Measure 19.1. These strategies will be evaluated by the project selection committee in 2017.

The MA has launched the first of the investment measures, Measure 4.4, in December 2016, with applications being received using the block procedure. This means that a batch of applications received within a respective time block will be assessed separately from applications received in subsequent batches. Measures remain open unless otherwise notified by the MA.

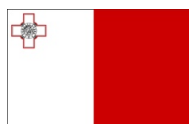
During 2016, the MA also held several information sessions concerning different RDP measures; such information sessions and activities went not limited to the measures launched in 2016, but covered measures envisaged for launching in 2017. This to ensure higher awareness amongst potential applicants. These information sessions were attended by the general public and several sectorial groups.

Project applications received in 2016 shall be assessed by an independent Project Selection Committee during 2017.

Measure implementation guidelines were drafted in consultation with several public and sectorial representatives including but not limited to the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Paying Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the Water Services Corporation, several NGOs, the Planning Authority, the Environment and Resources Authority and Malta College of Arts Science and Technology.

The MA has also continued to promote RDP measures through other media including radio programmes, newspapers, TV programmes and through its website (www.eufunds.gov.mt).

On the 6th November 2016, the MA held its annual event, aiming at promoting and assisting the general public with several RDP measures. This event was held at the farmers' market, where one may find the produce of farmers and other organizations. During this event, the



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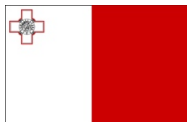
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75% European Union; 25% Government of Malta



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MA distributed promotional material, including leaflets, battery packs and pens. The public had the opportunity to ask MA staff queries on launched RDP measures and also forthcoming RDP measures.

For 2017, the MA remains committed to launch several other RDP measures, including Measure 3, Measure 4.1, Measure 4.2, Measure 4.3, Measure 6.1, components of Measure 16.1, Measure 17 and Measure 19.2. The MA is also expecting an increased uptake under Measure 10.1 (AECMS) while disbursement is also being expected to increase due to the launch of the mentioned RDP measures.



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