



Rural Development Programme for Malta 2007-2013

Annual Progress Report for 2008

**Rural Development Department
Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Annual Progress Report to the European Commission on the Malta Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2008 and is submitted in accordance with Article 82 of Council Regulation No1698/2005.
- 1.2 The structure and elements of the annual progress report is guided by Article 82 of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005. In accordance with Community regulations, the annual report is accompanied by a detailed set of common monitoring tables setting out key input and output data in a format applicable to all Member States.
- 1.3 Malta's Rural Development Programming Document (RDP) for the period 2007-2013 sets out a strategic plan for the use of European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Following a detailed sectoral analysis, four priorities were identified:
 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector
 - Improving the environment and the countryside
 - Improving the quality of life in Rural areas and diversification of the rural economy
 - Leader

In addition, Technical Assistance has been allocated to assist in the implementation of the Programme.
- 1.4 Each priority axis is divided into a number of measures. There is a total of 18 measures: 10 measures under Priority Axis 1, 2 measures under Priority Axis 2, 3 measures under Priority Axis 3 and 3 measures under Priority Axis 4.
- 1.5 In 2008 three calls were launched with one call for Measure 121 of Priority Axis 1 and two calls under Priority Axis 2, one call for Measure 212 and another for Measure 214 respectively. By end of 2008 the necessary checks and controls for the calls under Measure 212 and 214 were being completed.
- 1.6 Payments originally foreseen for 2008 were not effected and no requests for reimbursement had been submitted to the Commission as at end of 2008.
- 1.7 The major risks include the following:
 - Insufficient administrative capacity in key organizations including the Managing Authority;
 - Delays in roll out of Measures with consequent delay in absorbing funds;
 - Steep learning curve for new officer on the interpretation and implementation of certain EU procedures;
 - Lengthy process in development the Rural Development IT Database.
- 1.8 Action taken by the Managing Authority to mitigate these risks can be found under Section F.
- 1.9 By way of conclusion, the year 2008 was taken up by the drafting of application templates and guidelines for a set of measures, controls and checks undertaken by the Control Unit; the drafting of contracts for beneficiaries who had applied in the 2007 call launched under Measure 212, the drafting of the manual of procedures and the development of the Rural Development IT Database.

SECTION A CHANGES TO THE GENERAL CONDITIONS (ARTICLE 82(2)(A) OF REGULATION (EC) NO 1698/2005)

This section examines changes in the agricultural and rural economy sectors in the period since Rural Development Programme was approved by the Commission, updating as appropriate the information contained in the previous annual reports. In accordance with the structure prescribed in Article 82 of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, this part of the report provides information about changes to conditions and trends and main policy developments and the impact they had on agriculture and rural environment.

The Rural Development Programme is part of a wider programme of action to deliver economic, social and environmental outcomes in rural areas. Consequently, one aim of this section is to explain any changes to the wider context within which the RDP operates.

The economy in 2008

In January 2008 Malta experienced a smooth and co-ordinated change-over from the Maltese Lira to the Euro currency. The path towards the euro adoption necessitated that Malta successfully meets strict criteria relating to fiscal targets, inflation, interest rates and exchange rates. This transition towards the euro currency coincided with a rather volatile backdrop in the international macroeconomic landscape. Undoubtedly, the ongoing global financial crisis has considerably increased the downside risks in respect of the near term economic prospects of the Maltese economy. In this regard it is pertinent to point out that the main impact of the global downturn on Malta is likely to influence the real sector rather than the financial sector of the economy.

Following the buoyant real growth of 3.9% that was registered in 2007, the pace of economic expansion declined to 2.7% during 2008. The deceleration in economic growth was more pronounced in the latter part of 2008, as the global economic crisis intensified. Thus, the quarterly rate of economic growth decelerated from an average growth of 3.3 per cent in the first three quarters, to an economic growth rate of 0.7 per cent in the final quarter of the year.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during 2008 reached €5.7 billion in nominal terms, an increase of 5.2 per cent when compared to 2007. The contribution of the agricultural sector towards economic growth was marginally negative at 0.1 percentage points during 2008. Nevertheless, the share of the agricultural sector in GDP remained largely unchanged at 1.3 per cent in 2008, compared to the 1.4 per cent share registered by the sector in 2007.

During 2008 an upward trend in domestic inflation was registered, with the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) exhibiting an increase of 4.7 per cent, following the historically low level of inflation registered in 2007. Over the same period the labor market has experienced a marginal deceleration in the rate of employment growth (national accounts definition) to 2.5 per cent, following the robust growth of 3.1 per cent registered in the preceding year.

Agriculture in general

Local agricultural production consists mainly of fruits and vegetables, livestock and dairy products. These constitute inputs for the domestic processing of produce such meat and meat preparation, canning of fruits and vegetables, wines and beer, and animal feeds. Even though the small size of the agricultural industry might be unfavorable to its performance, this industry still bears an important role in the Maltese economy. The Maltese agricultural sector, however, faces the problems of water irrigation scarcity, a setting of fragmented land ownership as well as the absence of economies of scale.

The agriculture sector comprises a small share of the Maltese economy. Over the last five years the agricultural sector has maintained a low but stable share in the Maltese economy. In 2008 this sector's contribution to the total economy dropped in Value Added while increases in Gross Value

Added ranged from 7.7% in quarter two to 1.0 per cent in quarter four compared to the corresponding periods in 2007. Agriculture provides an integrated framework within the varied produce of its sector and in marketing and distribution. Agriculture serves the welfare of the farming community and also helps to enhance the islands' countryside as well as the rural landscape.

The Special Market Programme for Maltese Agriculture provides financial assistance as well as incentive schemes with the aim of assisting the Maltese agricultural sector to adapt to the liberalised trade environment which resulted following the removal of levies on imported agricultural and agro-food products in 2004. The SMPPMA programme gave assistance to producers in the form of direct income support, additional aid on an area basis, marketing aid, plant aid, restructuring aid and quality enhancement. During 2008, the total aid given by Government in agricultural support schemes amounted to €10.93 million. It is envisaged that the SMPPMA programme will continue to operate until 2010 in the case of animal products such as dairy, pigmeat, egg and broiler sectors. In the case of the crop sector such as tomatoes for processing, wine, fresh fruit and vegetables (including potatoes), the SMPPMA will operate until 2014. It is worth noting that due to the fact that the Government accounting system runs on cash basis there will be payments which fall into arrear and will be paid later than the dates indicated above. However, subsidies will be calculated as at the end of 2010 for animal products and as at end of 2014 for the crops sector.

The total volume of pork slaughtered in 2008 amounted to 8,497 tonnes in 2008 while beef slaughtering reached a total amount of 1,480 tonnes which result in an increase of 6% and 6.8% respectively when compared to the total amount of pork and beef slaughtered in 2007. Total volume of broiler slaughtering amounted to 3.1 million in 2008 which resulted in an increased of 7.6% when compared to the total amount of broiler slaughtered in 2007. The producer value of animals slaughtered at licensed slaughterhouses during the fourth quarter of 2008 amounted to €7.1 million, resulting in an 11.2% increase from €6.4 million in the comparative period of the preceding year. The producer value of pig meat rose by 11.0% on account of a steady rise in the price per kilogram fetched for pig meat. This price rose to €1.78 per kilogram in the fourth quarter of 2008. The producer value of broiler meat increased by 17.3% , mainly on account of an increase in the average price per kilogram carcass, from €1.42 in the fourth quarter of 2007 to €1.59 in the fourth quarter of 2008.

The volume of fresh fruit and vegetables that passed through the official markets in the fourth quarter of 2008 increased by 5.3% rising to 8.8 million kilograms over the comparative period in 2007. Similarly, the wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables registered an increase of 5.3%, from €4.44 million in the fourth quarter of 2007 to €4.67 million in the fourth quarter of 2008. The wholesale value of fresh vegetables supplied during this period rose by 5.3% to €4.35 million. The supply and wholesale value of fresh fruit rose by 0.9% and 6.3% respectively in the fourth quarter of 2008 over the fourth quarter of 2007, with the wholesale value increasing from €0.31 million to €0.33 million, mainly on account of an increase in the wholesale value of strawberries, which increased by 224.0%. The volume of fresh fruit and vegetables that was supplied by Maltese farmers increased by 5.8% in fourth quarter of 2008 over the corresponding period in 2007, to 8.0 million kilograms. This volume represented 90.5 per cent of the total supply in the fourth quarter of 2008. The wholesale value of fresh fruit and vegetables rose by 6.8% , from €3.83 million in the fourth quarter of 2007, to €4.09 million in the fourth quarter of 2008. Gozitan farmers produced a total of 0.8 million kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables, or 9.5% of the total supply. The volume of fresh fruit and vegetables increased marginally by 0.8%, whereas the wholesale value declined by 4.0% over the comparative period in 2007.

Socio- Economic Trends

The total population of Malta at the end of 2007 estimated using the 2005 Population and Housing Census figures as basis, stood at 410,290. Females accounted for 50.3% of the total population. The number of residents having a Maltese citizenship amounted to 394,830 persons equivalent to 96.2% of the total population.

The Labor Force Survey showed that there was a statistically significant change in average employment in the 3rd quarter of 2008, where the total number of persons employed reached 162,954 which results in an increase of 7,086 persons when compared to the previous year. The rise in employment was reflected in the female participation to employment. The level of unemployment stood at 10, 113 persons. The total inactive reached 172,672 persons. During the period under the review, 59.6 % of the persons in the age bracket 15 and 64 were working or unemployed (activity rate). Amongst the total employed males, 18.4 % were engaged in manufacturing activities, followed by 15.7% in the whole sale and retail trade sector. By contrast, most females were employed in education-related activities reaching 16.3%. Between 2007 and 2008 there was a statistically insignificant change in the number of unemployed which was mostly related to the age bracket of 15 and 24. The unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2008 stood at 5.8%.

The latest data available indicated that the agricultural labor force stood at 17,148 persons and 4,220 annual work units. Part-time employment amounted to 15,385 persons (89.7%) while 1,763 persons (10.3 %) worked on a full time basis. Males (80%) predominated in the agricultural labor force.

Contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during 2008 reached €5.7 billion in nominal terms, an increase of 5.2 per cent when compared to 2007. The contribution of the agricultural sector towards economic growth was marginally negative at 0.1 percentage points during 2008. Nevertheless, the share of the agricultural sector in GDP remained largely unchanged at 1.3 per cent in 2008, compared to the 1.4 per cent share registered by the sector in 2007.

Legislative Changes in 2008

There were no legislative changes during the period under review which had an impact on the conditions for implementing the Rural Development Programme with the exception that following the general election held in March 2008, the Line Ministry responsible for rural development changed its portfolio with the inception of the new Cabinet of Ministers. The Ministry which was formerly known as the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment become the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs thus encompassing the new portfolio assigned to the Line Ministry.

Environmental Policy

As a small, densely-populated island state, Malta faces a number of environmental challenges. Aside from limestone, the islands' possess limited natural resources; freshwater is scarce and fossil fuels (largely oil), on which Malta remains almost solely dependent on for energy are imported. Despite Malta's potential for renewable energy such as solar and wind power, penetration of these technologies remains limited and the country's energy demand is strongly linked to its economic performance.

The steps Malta has taken to reduce the environmental impact of its economic growth include incentives to encourage the uptake of small-scale renewables installed on domestic properties as well as 'leading by example' by fitting such units on to a number of government buildings. Market incentives to encourage the purchase of more energy-efficient appliances and the use of biofuel have proven reasonably successful and participation in the EkoSkola environmental education

programme increased markedly in the 2007/08 academic year. EkoSkola is managed by Nature Trust Malta which is in turn the representative of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

In October 2008, Enemalta Corporation and the Water Services Corporation signed a contract with IBM for a four year project to install an automated smart meter management system, which will be used to implement demand management particularly of electricity consumption.

Malta has undertaken the rehabilitation of the generation of electricity from landfill gas and biological waste but at present the combined potential of these sources is not believed to account for more than 0.5% of electricity consumption by 2010. WasteServ Malta is in the process of preparing the application to Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) for the construction of the gas collection and power generation facility at the now-closed landfill in Ta' Zwejra and is carrying out tests to determine the optimum gas mix. Part of the rehabilitation work on the former landfills of Maghtab and Qortin involves the conversion of these areas into recreational parks. The final design for Maghtab was selected through a competition run by the MRRA and will be realised in a phased development involving an estimated €30m of EU funds. The first draft designs for the Qortin site were shown at the end of 2007 and will be presented as part of the Project Description Statement in the application process to MEPA. WasteServ Malta is in the process of registering the recovery and utilisation of landfill gases from the Ta' Zwejra site as the country's first Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project. The extent to which the gas will be used to generate electricity (as opposed to just flaring it) rests on the gas' methane content. The project provided the impetus for the establishment of the necessary regulatory framework for CDMs on Malta and is considered as something of a pilot for future projects.

Photovoltaic systems are still considered quite expensive in Malta and the country plans to put greater emphasis on off-shore wind power in its stead. Because of this, it is likely that the majority of take-up of solar energy will be focused on the production of warm water.

Raising energy efficiency is still seen as the principal route to reducing the country's energy dependency and there exist a number of awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to subsidise more energy-efficient practices (such as capital grants on small-scale domestic energy installations). The Energy Efficient Appliances Rebate on domestic goods was seen as a particularly successful initiative.

A feasibility study examining the options available for connecting Malta to the European grid has been submitted and currently being analysed.

Malta has continued to increase the sufficiency of areas protected by the Habitats Directive. In October 2008, MEPA announced that the country's Natura 2000 network would be extended with the designation of the 'Wied Moqbol to Il-Ponta ta' Benghisa' area (a coastal region in the south-west of the country) as an SPA to protect local seabirds. Ta Cenc has also been designated as an SAC and the boundaries of the SPA have been extended.

In its 2009 pre-Budget, the government has set out plans to treat all sewage effluent discharged to sea by the end of 2009 and to reduce the water leakage index by 5% compared to 2008 figures. Longer-term plans include the completion of the South Sewage Infrastructure that connects the Marsa pumping station to the planned sewage treatment plant at Ta'Barkat. Various infrastructure improvements and extensions have also been announced including 6 km of new water distribution infrastructure, 10 km of wastewater infrastructure and a 50 km addition to the country's electricity distribution network.

| In total, three sewage treatment plants were planned for operation in Malta. The Gozo plant and the Malta North plant are operating in compliance with requirements under the UWWTD. The Malta South plant will be by far the largest of the three plants with over ten times the treatment capacity of Malta North.

| The government has announced its intention to revise its policy on plastic bags in order to reduce waste. Two options are being considered: requiring bags to be sold over the counter; and the imposition of a ban on non-degradable and non-biodegradable bags.

With regard to road transport, which is considered to be one of the main contributor to Malta's emissions, the government hopes to promote a modal shift away from private transportation towards public transportation and thus reduce Malta's high incidence of per capita vehicle ownership.

The Government appointed a Climate Change Group of Experts in 2008 to assist in the development of a National Strategy for Climate Change. The consultation on this document closed at the end of September 2008. In 2008, the National Commission for Sustainable Development was reconstituted and the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy was monitored.

SECTION B PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAMME IN RELATION TO THE OBJECTIVES SET, ON THE BASIS OF OUTPUT AND RESULT INDICATORS (ARTICLE 82.(2).(B) OF COUNCIL REGULATION 1698/2005)

Following completion of negotiations with the European Commission, the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 was formally adopted in December 2007 through Commission Decision CCI Number 2007 MT06RPO001

As reported in the Annual Progress Report for 2007, a call was launched under Measure 212 of Priority Axis 2 in 2007 which provides support for areas with handicaps. A second call under this same Measure was launched in March 2008 together with a call for nine sub-measures under Measure 214 of Priority Axis 2. In the last quarter of the year under review, a call was also launched under Measure 121 of Priority Axis 1.

Measure 121 – Modernisation of agricultural holdings

The legal basis for this measure is found in Article 20.b.i and Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005.

This Measure seeks to support farm investment to assist agricultural holdings to improve their economic performance through better use of the production factors including the introduction of new technologies and innovation, targeting quality, organic products, including non-food sectors and energy crops as well as improving the environmental, occupational safety, hygiene, and animal welfare status of agricultural holdings. Furthermore, this measure is also intended to facilitate investments that are made in order to comply with the newly introduced Nitrate Directive that has come into force in Malta.

This Measure consists of three sub-Measures with the support to be granted towards three types of investments:

1. General modernisation and improvements in the performance of agricultural holdings (sub-measure 1);
2. Environmental investments (sub-measure 2);
3. Investments in order to comply with the newly introduced Nitrate Directive (sub-measure 3).

The total financial allocation for this Measure amounts to €13,460,000 of which €10,095,000 is the contribution from EAFRD.

A call was launched on for all three sub-measures on 15th November 2008 with the closing date set for 30th January 2009¹. Applicants could apply for one or more of the sub-measures. As at the end of the period under review, the implementation status of this Measure was still '0'.

Measure 212 – Support for areas with handicaps

The legal basis for this measure is found in Article 37 of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005.

The objective of this measure is to ensure the continued farming of areas that are naturally disadvantaged as a result of the poor climate conditions and low soil productivity prevalent in Malta. Support for areas with handicaps is aimed to compensate, at least in part, for the disadvantage that farming in these areas implies.

Support for areas with handicaps shall be available to all farmers who have at least 1 tumolo (0.1124 ha) of utilisable agricultural land in all the territory of Malta. Farmers receiving support commit to farm the area in respect of which compensatory payment is being granted for a

¹ A total of 357 applications were submitted upon closing date. 138 were from the livestock sector while 219 from the crop production sector. Full details on this call will be provided in the Annual Progress Report for 2009.

minimum of five years following the first payment. The farmers must apply on an annual basis whereby they annually declare their interest in continuing with the commitment undertaken.

The total financial allocation for this Measure amounts to €14,500,000 of which €11,600,000 is the contribution from EAFRD. The EU co-financing rate for this Measure is 80%.

2007 Call

As reported in the Annual Progress Report for 2007, the total number of applicants who applied for LFA under the 2007 amounted to 6,042 covering an area of 9,040.54 ha.

Following closure of the call, the Control Unit undertook on-the-spot checks on applications submitted in accordance with article 12 of Commission Regulation (EC) 1975/2006. A total of 755 on-the-spot checks were carried out on eligible applications submitted. The control sample consisted of 555 beneficiaries which were selected on the basis of 9% random/risk sample in accordance with article 12 of Commission Regulation (EC) 1975/2006 and 200 beneficiaries selected under other schemes.

The eligible area determined following the creation of the GIS layer containing the ineligible features, was taken into consideration as additional control and the discrepancy was determined between the determined eligible area and the declaration in the respective application.

In accordance with article 27 of Regulation (EC) 796/2004, the control sample was selected based on a risk analysis criteria consisting of:

- 12 % randomly selected
- 16 % of largest aid applications declared as Arable or Olives
- 10 % of largest aid applications declared as Horticulture
- 10 % of the aid applications having the largest number of parcels applying for (Arable, Olives, Horticulture)
- 23.5% of aid applications having administrative anomalies (administrative overlaps)
- 14 % negative outcome from previous year (applications having a discrepancy of 3% or more in 2006)
- 10 % of the applications which have never been selected (white list)
- 2 % of aid applications having the largest area under permanent crops
- 1 % of the applications for LFA just above the minimum size (i.e. > 0.1124 Ha for LFA)
- 1.5 % applied as Livestock Breeder and/or Milk Producer and has no land declared

Following completion of the above checks and controls, the Paying Agency issued a total of 5055² contracts of which, 4593 were accepted and signed by the respective beneficiaries while 264 beneficiaries lodged an objection and 198 contracts had not been returned to the Paying Agency³. The process was still under way during the period under review and no payments had been issued in relation to the 2007 call.

2008 Call

A second call under Measure 212 was launched on 17th March 2008 and the call was open for two months, closing on 15th May 2008. A total of 5,898 applicants applied under this call which amounted to 9010Ha of land claimed by farmers under this call. The total number of applications received in 2008 results in a decrease of 144 applications when compared to the total number of applications submitted through the 2007 call. This was due to the fact that a number of farmers

² This exercise involved identifying the traceability and continuation of commitment for Measure 212. Therefore, those beneficiaries who applied in 2007 had an obligation to submit an application in 2008 in order to ensure that their 2007 application would not be considered as ineligible and revoked.

³ Examples of objections and withdrawals resulted due the applicants not agreeing with the area allocated to them, requests by applicants to remove a parcel/s, and some cases of force majeure.

who had applied in 2007 did not renew their commitment in the 2008 call. Therefore the 2007 commitment of these farmers will be withdrawn and no payments will be effected for their respective commitment made in 2007.

The Control Unit undertook the necessary checks with 560 beneficiaries being selected for control. The control rate was of a minimum of 9% and the sample was extracted on the following criteria:

20% randomly selected

80% based on a risk analysis based on

- o Largest amount of aid involved 20%
- o Largest number of agricultural parcels 20%
- o Farmers who just above limits relevant for the grant aids 30%
- o Not checked holdings for that same measure during the previous year 30%

During the inspection the inspector had to verify that what has been declared by the farmer is actually found on site. The OTS inspections for all parcels extracted were carried through Remote Sensing. For those parcels which the operator had any doubts or the inspection had any negative outcomes a field inspection was performed.

When inspectors were sent on site, they verified whether the features found on the field match the features indicated on the site map. If any anomalies or discrepancies were found, the site map was corrected as to match with what was actually found on site and such changes were subsequently entered into the IT system. The process was still being completed as at end of 2008 therefore, the number of beneficiaries eligible for payment under Measure 212 was not yet available at the end of the period under review. As at the end of the period under review, the implementation status of this Measure was still '0'.

Measure 214 – Agri-environment measures

The legal basis for this measure is found in Article 39 of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005.

Agri-environment measures compensate farmers for voluntarily entering a 5 year commitment to carry out actions considered to be of benefit to the environment. This concept was introduced in Malta with the first Rural Development Programme for 2004-2006. Different actions carry different levels of support, however, across all measures the payment is calculated on an area basis.

The total financial allocation for this Measure amounts to €10,525,000 of which €8,420,000 is the contribution from EAFRD which amounts to a co-financing rate of 80% with the remaining 20% being provided by the Maltese Government.

Nine agri-environment sub-measures of Measure 214 were launched on 17th March 2008 with the call closing on 15th May 2008. Applicants could apply for one or more measures (limited to specified sets of combinations of sub-measures which were explained in the guidelines to the application), depending on which is the most suited to the agricultural area in question. A total of 1835 applications were received under this call. The table below indicates the number of applications submitted under the respective Measure⁴:

⁴ Due to the fact that applicants could apply for more than one sub-measure, there is an element of double counting in the table thus the total number of applications in the table exceeds the actual total number of applications submitted (1,835).

Sub-Measure	Name of the Sub-Measure	Nos of applications targeting the sub-measure
1	Use of environmentally friendly plant protection products in vineyards	87
2	Traditional cultivation of sulla through crop rotation	2
3	Low input farming	1108
4	Suppression of use of herbicides in vineyards and fruit orchards	527
5	Establishment and maintenance of conservation buffer strips	14
6	Conservation of rural structures providing a natural habitat for fauna and flora	137
7	Provision of healthy forage area for bees	54
8	Organic farming	2
9	Conservation of species in danger of genetic erosion ⁵	306

Following closure of the call, the Control Unit undertook its mandatory checks on a sample of 120 beneficiaries. The sample was extracted on the following criteria

- 24% selected randomly
- 76% selected on a risk analysis:
 - Largest amount of aid involved 20%
 - Largest number of agricultural parcels 20%
 - Farmers who just above limits relevant for the grant aids 30%
 - Not checked holdings for measure LFA during the previous year (2007) 30%

In the case of AEM 2, all 8 applicants were selected for the check.

On-the-Spot Control

During the on-the-spot checks which were all carried out on site (field inspections), the inspectors verified that what has been declared by the farmer in the application, was actually found on site. The inspectors verified that the features found on the site map are exactly as they are on the actual field. If any discrepancies were detected from what has been declared on the site map to what was actually found on site, changes were carried out on the map and were subsequently entered into the IT system.

Beside the eligible feature the inspectors also had to verify that the beneficiaries observed the obligations set out under Measure 214. A checklist was drafted for each sub measure with the respective checklist being divided into two sections – one section concerning checks that had to be carried out on site while the other section consisted of checks that needed to be verified with the farmer such as those pertaining to record keeping. Furthermore the Control Unit conducted laboratory analysis, to check for herbicide residues. The process was still being completed as at end of 2008 therefore, the number of beneficiaries eligible for payment under Measure 214 was not yet available at the end of the period under review. As at the end of the period under review, the implementation status of this Measure was still '0'.

⁵ This sub-measure consists of three actions of which one action, Conservation of Genetic Resources in Agriculture, was not launched.

OTHER MEASURES OF THE RPD

Priority Axis 1:

No call was launched as at end of 2008 for the following Measures falling under Priority Axis 1:

Measure Nos	Title of the Measure	Total Allocation for the Measure	EAFRD Allocation for the Measure	Implementation Status as at 31/12/2008
Measure 111	Training information and diffusion of knowledge	1,160,000	870,000	0
Measure 114	Use of Advisory Services by farmers	3,000,000	2,250,000	0
Measure 115	Setting up of Farm Advisory Services	600,000	450,000	0
Measure 123	Adding value to agricultural products	7,000,000	5,250,000	0
Measure 124	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sectors	1,000,000	750,000	0
Measure 125	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture	5,200,000	3,900,000	0
Measure 132	Participation of farmers in food quality schemes	1,200,000	900,000	0
Measure 133	Information and promotion activities on food quality schemes	670,000	502,500	0
Measure 142	Setting up producer groups	990,000	745,500	0

Due to the fact that no call had been launched for the above listed Measures, there was no progress to report in relation to the target indicators set for the respective Measures as is reported in the tables attached as Annex II & III to this report. Calls for the above listed Measures should be launched in 2009.

Priority Axis 3:

No call was launched as at end of 2008 for the following Measures falling under Priority Axis 3:

Measure Nos	Title of the Measure	Total Allocation for the Measure	EAFRD Allocation for the Measure	Implementation Status as at 31/12/2008
Measure 313	Encouragement of tourism activities	11,536,667	8,652,500	0
Measure 323	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	21,000,000	15,750,000	0
Measure 341	Skills acquisition and animation with a view to preparing and implementing a Local Development Strategy	450,000	337,500	0

Due to the fact that no call had been launched for the above listed Measures, there was no progress to report in relation to the target indicators set for the respective Measures as is reported in the tables attached as Annex II & III to this report. Calls for the above listed Measures should be launched in 2009.

Priority Axis 4:

No call was launched as at end of 2008 for the following Measures falling under Priority Axis 4:

Measure Nos	Title of the Measure	Total Allocation for the Measure	EAFRD Allocation for the Measure	Implementation Status as at 31/12/2008
Measure 41	Implementation of Local Development Strategy	2,600,000	2,080,000	0
Measure 412	Inter-territorial and transnational cooperation	500,000	400,000	0
Measure 431	Running costs, acquisition of skills and animation	775,000	620,000	0

Due to the fact that no call had been launched for the above listed Measures, there was no progress to report in relation to the target indicators set for the respective Measures as is reported in the tables attached in Annex II & III to this report. Calls for the above listed Measures will be launched once the Local Action Groups set out their respective strategy following the call to be launched under Measure 341 of Priority Axis 3.

SECTION C FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME GIVING, FOR EACH MEASURE, A STATEMENT OF THE EXPENDITURE PAID TO BENEFICIARIES (ARTICLE 82.(2).(C) OF COUNCIL REGULATION 1698/2005)

As explained in Section B above, the focus in 2008 centred around the launching of a number of Measures, undertaking the necessary controls and checks on applicants for the two calls issued under Measure 212 and the call issued for Measure 214, both Measures falling under Priority Axis 2. A call for applications was launched in the 4th quarter of 2008 for Measure 121 with the call set to close in January 2009. Following closure of the call for applications, the PA will commence the administrative checks to ensure that applicants have submitted all the requested information with the aim to proceed to the selection process. In addition, efforts were also being channeled towards drafting the applications and guidelines for a number of other Measures with the scope of launching the calls for these Measures in the former half of 2009⁶. As reported above, the process of identifying the final eligible beneficiaries and financial commitment due to the beneficiaries under the respective Measure (M212 and M214) were being completed as at end of 2008 thus no payments had been processed under the RDP 2007-2013 from the EAFRD in 2008. Due to the fact that the call for Measure 121 was due to close in January 2009, the number of eligible applicants was not available for the period under review and no payments had been issued for this Measure.

SECTION D SUMMARY OF THE ONGOING EVALUATION ACTIVITIES (ARTICLE 86(3) OF REGULATION (EC) No 1698/2005)

Following the completion of the Ex-ante Evaluation in August of 2007 and the approval of the Rural Development Plan 2007-2013, the focus of evaluation within the Managing Authority started to shift towards meeting the requirements for the on-going evaluation throughout the programming period and also the mid-term evaluation.

In accordance with Article 84 of Council Regulation 1698/2005, the Managing Authority commenced the necessary preparatory work to undertake on-going evaluation throughout the 2007-2013 programming period. The overall objective of the on-going evaluation will be to provide an independent on-going review of the Rural Development Programme by means of an external evaluation carried out by 3rd party evaluators who will be engaged through a service tender. The on-going evaluation will be a means through which the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee examine the progress of the programme in relation to the objectives set out by means of the attainment of the indicators established in the RDP. The focus of the on-going evaluation will be:

- 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 made recommendations on how the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the RDP can be improved;
- to suggest possible amendments to the programme where deemed necessary for the successful completion of the programme;
- 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.

⁶ As reported in Section B above, a call was launched in November 2008 for project applications to be submitted under Measure 121 to Priority Axis 1.

The information to be gathered through the on-going evaluation will be used to feed into the work to be undertaken in the mid-term evaluation which, in accordance with Article 86.4 of Council 1698.2005, is scheduled for 2010. Though as at the end of the period under review, the terms of reference for the on-going evaluation had not yet been drafted, the MA will commence drafting of the terms of reference in early 2009 with the objective of issuing the tender towards the end of the 2nd quarter of 2009/beginning of 3rd quarter 2009.

In 2008, the Managing Authority appointed two officials as its representatives on the Evaluation Expert Committee and the latter officials attended meetings of the Committee in 2008. This fora provided the Member State officials and the Commission representatives the opportunity to exchange views on the objectives, methodology and procedures to be adopted in carry out evaluations on the Rural Development Plan. In addition, the Managing Authority also organised a workshop for a Focus Group on the Evaluation Network in Malta with the scope of enhancing the local knowledge and capacity on the subject. The focus of the workshop was that of identifying the evaluation methodology to be adopted and means of improving the process of undertaking evaluation, support needed to address such methodology, the input that the local evaluation experts can give to the European Evaluation Expert Network.

SECTION E STEPS TAKEN BY THE MANAGING AUTHORITY AND THE MONITORING COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (ARTICLE 82.(2).(E) OF COUNCIL REGULATION 1698/2005)

This section provides an overview of the action taken to ensure high quality and effective implementation and a summary of the major problems encountered in managing the Rural Development Plan 2007-2013.

Managing Authority

The Rural Development Department (RRD) within the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs has been designated as the Managing Authority (MA) in terms of Article 74.2(b) of Regulation (EC) 1698/2005. The Managing Authority has the overall responsibility for the programming, selection, management, coordination and monitoring of the programme. The Managing Authority is headed by a Director who has a number of senior agricultural officers and agricultural officers who report directly to the Director. Each officer has been assigned a set of tasks which contribute towards the setting up of the initial structures of the programme, coherence with Community Policies, financial control, evaluation and collection of data. In addition, the MA also has the support from a Project Manager from the Malta Information Technology Agency who is responsible for the development of the Rural Development IT system for the 2007-2013 programme.

On a day to day basis, the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency will utilise an IT system which will assist in the provision of data, project application process and monitoring. The MA commissioned the services of an IT company to develop the Rural Development IT system for the RDP 2007-2013 and the latter are developing the system under the supervision of the Project Manager from the Malta Information Technology Agency which is the national agency entrusted for the development of all Government IT related systems.

The modules of this system have been developed in the form of a Software framework which supports the implementation of Rural Development measures. The Framework will support the EU recognised hierarchy determined as Operational Program. The Rural Development Software will also include the following modules:

- i. **Beneficiary Registry** - A registry of all beneficiaries which has been developed to operate alongside the existing Farmers' Registry. The Beneficiary Registry stores all information required for reporting on the applicants for Rural Development investment measures. This information includes personal, address, contact, company information amongst other information requested by the Paying Agency.
- ii. **Applications & Selection Module for Axis 1 and 3** - A module to allow the submission of applications for Rural Development plan measures from axis 1 and 3. The module allows for the formal registering of an application for a particular measure and submission of all required documentation. Following inputting of all the data, the application will be registered for ranking and further downstream processes. This will provide a transparent and automated ranking process that can be audited whenever required.
- iii. **Contract Management Module** - A module to allow Rural Development to manage issuance and maintenance of contracts for investment measures.
- iv. **Payments Module** - A module to allow the Paying Agency to manage Payment schedules detailed in the contracts signed with beneficiaries for Rural Development investment measures.
- v. **Link to the PAMS System** - A link to the Paying Agency Management System to permit the transfer of data between the two systems.

- vi. **Reporting Module** - A module to allow the Managing Authority to generate and submit reports requested for the Rural Development investment related Measures. These reports will provide information on the status of progress achieved to date on the respective Measure.

Monitoring Committee (MC)

The Monitoring Committee for the Rural Development Plan for 2007-2013 was established on 2nd July 2008 and is chaired by the Head of the Managing Authority. It is comprised of Government representatives, social and economic partners, representatives, NGOs and the European Commission (in an advisory capacity).

The tasks of the Monitoring Committee consist of:

- Assessing and approving the selection criteria for operations that will be financed through the programme;
- Review progress made towards achieving the specific targets of the programme on the basis of the documents submitted by the Managing Authority;
- Examine the results of implementation, particularly achievements of the targets set for each axis and ongoing evaluations;
- Consider and approve annual progress reports and the last progress report prior to onward submission to the European Commission;
- Propose to the Managing Authority any adjustments or review of the programme aimed at achieving the objectives of the programme as defined in Article 4 or in improving the management of the programme; and
- Consider and approve any proposal to amend the content of the Commission decision on the contribution from the EAFRD.

The Committee met twice in 2008 (2nd July and 10th November).

Decisions of the Monitoring Committee during 2008

On 2nd July 2008 the Monitoring Committee met for the first time and approved its terms of reference and rules of procedure and the selection criteria. On 10th November 2008 the Monitoring Committee met again to approve the final selection criteria for Measure 121 of Priority Axis 1. Following this meeting, the Managing Authority issued the call for project proposals under this Measure on 15th November 2008. .

In 2008 the Monitoring Committee's decisions focused mainly on the approval of the selection criteria and the approval of the Annual Progress Report for 2007 for the RDP for 2004-2006 and 2007-2013 programming period.

Annual meeting between the Commission and the Managing Authority

An annual meeting was held between the European Commission and the Managing Authority on 21st November 2008 to discuss the main results of the Annual progress Report for 2007 for the 2007-2013 programming period and targets to be set for 2009. The following issues were discussed and agreed upon:

- **Review of strategic documentation:** The National Strategic Plan for Malta would be reviewed and updated to include recent data that has become available following completion of specific studies, additional indicators (including baseline indicators) and the results of the ex-ante evaluation of the RDP2007-2013. It was agreed that necessary modification to the RDP would also be done and submitted once the NSP review would be completed.

- **Annual Progress Report:** The European Commission confirmed that the annual progress report for 2007 in respect of the RDP2007-2013 has been accepted however the Commission expressed its concerns and stressed the need to commence disbursement of funds to meet the first n+2 commitment.
- **State of implementation of the RDP 2007-2013:** Roll out of the respective measures was discussed to ensure that measures are launched at the earliest possible as well as the preparations for the tender for on-going evaluation, the setting up of the National Rural Network and the submission of the Communication Plan.

SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN MANAGING THE PROGRAMME

Restructuring of the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs

As a result of the major restructuring that took place within the Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs, officers were assigned to different departments or assigned different tasks thus resulting in knowledgeable officers being assigned to other duties while newly assigned officers required time to familiarise themselves with the procedures and responsibilities, thus they experienced a steep learning curve.

Action Taken

This issue should be resolved once that the required capacity building is in place however, as a means of accelerating the process of rollout of the Measures of the RDP 2007-2013, in 2008 the Managing Authority contracted the services of third parties services to assist with drafting of guidelines and application templates of a number of measures. In addition, progress had been achieved in the development of the IT system, though the development of the system has been designed in a number of phases.

Insufficient administrative and technical capacity in key organisations

In 2008 several events led to periods of limited administrative capacity in a number of key organisations, including the Managing Authority. As explained above officers from the Managing Authority were posted to other duties and several others took up employment elsewhere. The situation has led to the Rural Development Department being understaffed in comparison to the work. The Rural Development Department's achievements are constrained by a lack of resources and this situation has resulted in delaying the preparatory work for the launching of measures.

Action Taken

The Managing Authority has initiated a restructuring procedure which will enhance the structure and human resource complement as required. The Managing Authority initiated the administrative procedure to recruit additional staff – some to replace officers that had sought employment elsewhere and also additional staff. In addition as a means of accelerating the process of rollout of the measures of RDP 2007-2013, in the 4th quarter of 2008 the Managing Authority contracted the services of third party services to assist with the drafting guidelines and application templates of a number of measures.

USE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The legal basis for technical assistance is Article 66 of Council Regulation 1698/2005, The Technical Assistance allocation in the Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013 will be used to finance activities and costs required to ensure the smooth implementation of the programme. The technical assistance will be managed by the Managing Authority and will be utilised for the

preparation, management appraisal and selection, monitoring, evaluation, information and control functions of the programme. In addition, the technical assistance allocation will be utilised for the establishment and operations of the National Rural Network including the implementation of the action plan and the structures required to run the network. As at the period under review, the National Rural Network had not yet been set up.

As at end of 2008, no funds had been committed or disbursed under the Technical Assistance allocation of the 2007-2013 programme in view of the fact that the funds under the Technical Assistance allocation of the 2004-2006, were still being absorbed.

Other programme-wide activities

i. Information and Publicity

The Managing Authority compiled the first draft of the communication plan which outlines the basis of the aims and targets that shall be reached together with procedures how these should be implemented according to the audiences that should be reached. It is envisaged that the communication plan will be submitted to the European Commission at the on-set of 2009.

Due to the discrepancy in timing, communication activities planned by the Managing Authority have preceded the actual plan. To this effect the Managing Authority forecasted coordination with involved entities so as to assure that all activities already held were in line with the contents of the drafted communication plan as well as in accordance with the requirements of the EU regulations which outline the framework of the communication activities.

In 2008 the Managing Authority was responsible for two types of communication activities which consisted of information that relates to the various opportunities offered via the Rural Development Programme and measure specific actions which summarise the contents of the specific measures.

Publicity actions already held include meetings with different entities to provide information on what type of aid shall be available. To this end various informative material has also been published and distributed. Measure specific actions include those related to Measure 121 of Priority Axis 1 and Measure 212 and 214 of Priority Axis II with the aim to give a brief overview of the measures in question, eligibility conditions and administrative procedures to be followed to qualify for the specific aid schemes embedded in the Rural Development Programme.

All calls for project applications together with guidelines issued were publicised by way of Government press releases with the scope of ensuring that the notification reaches all interested parties. Meetings held with co-operatives or producer groups to raise awareness on the aid available under the RDP and the respective Measure launched, have been broadly successful in promoting the call for applications and raising awareness among potential applicants in the agricultural sectors and this is demonstrated by the high level of response to calls for project applications.

Information material such as the production of video clips concerning the aid available under Measure 212 and 214 was produced and aired repeatedly in the Applications Section front office in order to raise awareness amongst potential applicants. Footage included the obligations and the commitments for LFA and agri-environmental measures. Television spots have also been produced and aired on the Maltese TV stations to raise further awareness of the calls, the target audience and the type of investment that can be funded under the respective Measure. Billboards were also set up in strategic locations as a means to convey the message announcing the launch of the Measures. In addition promotional material such as posters and leaflets have also been produced with the scope of providing information on the Measures launched.

The website managed by the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs (agri.gov.mt) has a dedicated page to Rural Development including the Rural Development Programmes thus giving

more information to interested bodies or parties and regarding EAFRD. As the programme progresses, the website is updated with useful information. The website includes:

- General information about Rural Development;
- The respective Rural Development Programme;
- A page featuring the relevant legal framework within which the RDP operates in; and
- A page featuring useful downloads of templates, applications and guidelines for calls under EAFRD.

ii. Manual of Procedures

The year 2008 was also a challenge in terms of setting guidelines and formulating instructions to stakeholders: the Managing Authority developed a very comprehensive user manual for the implementation of the programme and a manual was being prepared with respect to the Rural Development Database which gathered all the necessary information for the respective measure.

iii. Coordination with relevant stakeholders to ensure complementarity and demarcation with other EU Financial Instruments

In order to ensure that there is a clear demarcation between the type of actions to be funded through the EAFRD and other financial instruments, demarcation criteria have already been established in the RDP. The Managing Authority has also held consultation and cross-checking with relevant entities whenever deemed necessary. In order to ensure coordination with other stakeholders, the Managing Authority for the Structural Funds Programme for 2004-2006 and for Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 is also a member of the Monitoring Committee for EAFRD. A representative of the Managing Authority will also attend the envisaged meetings for the Intermediate Body Network where all IBs will participate in this fora where best practices will be discussed. In addition, the MA for EAFRD will also participate in the Coordination Committee which will consist of all entities and national contact points involved in the management of EU financial instruments. The latter will be chaired by the Managing Authority for Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 with the scope of ensuring coordination and demarcation are adhered to.

SECTION F DECLARATION ON COMPLIANCE WITH COMMUNITY POLICIES, INCLUDING IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND THE MEASURES ADOPTED TO DEAL WITH THEM (ARTICLE 82.(2).(F) OF COUNCIL REGULATION 1698/2005)

The execution of the Rural Measures has been according to Regulation No 1257/1999 and No 1698/2005 in compliance with Community policies and has respected conformity to regulations.

Within the Rural Development Programme for Malta 2007-2013, management arrangements have been put in place to ensure that there is effective demarcation with other EU funding streams, in order to ensure that investment delivers optimal value for money. As explained above, these arrangements were created to ensure that there is no duplication of funding. In line with the Community Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development, they will encourage synergies between the funds concerned, ensuring complementarity and coherence.

The Rural Development Department ensured coherence in the day to day management of socio-economic support under the EAFRD and EAGGF Guarantee Funds. The Managing Authority ensured that work carried out under the two funds was complementary. Administrative arrangements were in place to ensure complementarity and co-ordination.

The Managing Authority has taken all necessary steps within the framework of assistance to ensure conformity with Community policies in particular respect of the Common Agricultural Policy as well as environmental policies. In order to ensure such compliance from the onset, the Managing Authority has taken the necessary steps to inform all potential applicants of their obligations emanating from such policies and attendant regulations. This through various publications distributed to potential applicants as well as information in the guidelines for applicants of the respective measures. Moreover applicants were asked to seek the advice of the relevant organization responsible for the main policies, in particular MEPA for planning permits and environmental policies, and to submit where relevant the required supporting documentation with the application form. In addition, to ensure protection of the environment, applicants have been informed that their proposed investment as, for example under Measure 121, must be in conformity with the Water Framework Directive. Where proposed investment concerned water facilities, applicants have been instructed that the Malta Resources Authority (MRA) must verify that the proposal respects the provisions of the Water Framework Directive.

The Managing Authority strengthened its close coordination and collaboration with the various Departments and Ministries to ensure conformity and compatibility with Community Policies.

Applicants for the three Measures launched in 2008 have been asked to submit three quotations for the respective cost component envisaged in the respective application. In addition where public entities are eligible to apply for calls under EAFRD, the MA will instruct the entities to follow public procurement regulations thus ensuring fair competition and transparency in the procurement process. The delivery of both the old and new programme operated within the established legal framework. The proactive promotion of equality at all stages of the programme was encouraged. This included for example, the preparation of publicity material, guidance for applications processors. All applications for support under the Programme during 2008 were equally judged on their merits by the respective bodies. During 2008 the Managing Authority ensured that discrimination was prevented at the implementation stage. In the case of beneficiaries being public entities, provisions for equal opportunities are incorporated within the basic tender templates issued by the Department of Contracts of the Government of Malta. When submitting bids in relation to tenders for projects co-financed through EAFRD, the standard principles for gender opportunities applied by the Department of Contracts will be applied, in that bidders will be instructed (and subsequently screened) to ensure that the principle of gender equality is applied and shall thus refrain from discriminating on the grounds of gender, marital status or family responsibility. Tenderers are generally instructed to ensure that these principles are manifested in the organigram of the company and that the principles aforementioned, including the selection criteria for access to all jobs or posts, are amply proven at all levels of the

occupation hierarchy. The nature of the projects implemented by public entities constitute a service for the public good, and are therefore non-discriminatory. In addition, when the beneficiary is a private enterprise, the beneficiary is encouraged to ensure that the principles of equal opportunities are manifested in the organigram of the company and that these principles including the selection criteria for access to all jobs or posts, are amply manifested at all levels of the company's structure.

SECTION G NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK

In accordance with Article 68 of Council Regulation 1698/2005, a National Rural Network will be set up in Malta. The Maltese RDP, in common with all other member states, incorporates a networking forum which embraces the four axes of the Programme. This forum is known as the National Rural Network.

The purpose of the National Rural Network is to assist in the efficient and effective implementation of the Rural Development Programme. It will operate across all axes and will seek to promote synergies across measures, encouraging individuals and organisations to work together and expand the possibilities available to farmers and all other rural stakeholders. The NRN will have a key role in supporting stakeholders to address issues of common and pressing concern, issues which effect farm income and the future of rural communities together with global issues such as climate change which are having a real impact on how we can live and farm. These issues will be addressed in a comprehensive manner focusing on practical opportunities and challenges.

In Malta the National Rural Network falls under the responsibility of the Rural Development Department as the designated Managing Authority for the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. In 2008 it was decided that the structure needed to run the network will be established within the MA however part of the functions of the NRN will be outsourced to a third party service provider in order to compliment the limited human resources within the MA. The envisaged structure must be able to implement the tasks that will be identified in the action plan to be established for the NRN and to be the contact of the European Rural Network and other national networks and to provide the support to transnational cooperation.

In accordance with Article 68 of Council Regulation No1698/2005, an allocation from the technical assistance fund shall be used to cover costs associated with:

- a) The structures needed to run the network; and
- b) For an action plan containing at least the identification and analysis of good transferable practices and the provision of information about such practices, network management, the organisation of exchanges of experience and know-how, the preparation of training programmes for local action groups in the process of formation and technical assistance for inter-territorial and trans-national co-operation.

The indicative budget allocation for the Malta National Rural Network is estimated to be approximately €1million for the entire programming period. Of this allocation, approximately 25% will be utilised for the structure needed to run the network, while the remaining 75% will be dedicated to the implementation of the action plan of the NRN.

As at the end of the period under review, the National Rural Network for Malta had not been established and no related expenditure had been incurred.

Annex 1 Financial plan by axis

Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

Financial plan by axis (in EUR total period)

<i>Axis</i>	<i>Public Contribution</i>		
	<i>Total Public</i>	<i>EAFRD contribution rate (%)</i>	<i>EAFRD Amount</i>
Axis 1	34,280,000	75	25,710,000
Axis 2	25,025,000	80	20,020,000
Axis 3	32,986,667	75	24,740,000
Axis 4	3,875,000	80	3,100,000
Technical Assistance	4,084,473	75	3,063,355
Total	100,251,140		76,633,355

