

Citizen Summary for Implementation Year 2017
Malta - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
MT06RDNP001

Year 2017 was characterised by the launch of various measures, preparations for the launch of additional measures and adjudication of a number of projects. Throughout 2017, the Managing Authority also received numerous applications pertaining to several investment measures.

The Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency and the Managing Authority continued accepting payments in relation to sub-measure 10.1 and sub-measure 13.3. As in previous years, applicants registered their interest at the Front Offices in Ta' Qali, Malta and Xewkija, Gozo.

The MA has launched the first of the investment measures, Measure 4.4, in December 2016, with applications being received using the 'block procedure', where a batch of applications received within a respective time block are being assessed in one 'batch', separately from applications received in subsequent batches. Through this procedure, measures remain open unless otherwise notified by the MA. In 2017, the MA launched another four sub-measures, namely:

- Sub-measure 3.1 – launched in June 2017;
- Sub-measure 4.1 – launched in January 2017;
- Sub-measure 4.3 – launched in February 2017;
- Sub-measure 6.1 – launched in April 2017.

Throughout 2017, in total, the MA received 225 applications, distributed as follows:

- Sub-measure 4.1: 90 applications, requesting the global amount of €7,414,696.80;
- Sub-measure 4.3: 30 applications, requesting the global amount of €18,666,558.10;
- Sub-measure 4.4: 84 applications, requesting the global amount of €4,360,325.38;
- Sub-measure 6.1: 21 applications, requesting the global amount of €1,890,000.

Meanwhile, committed and realised expenditure **during 2017** was distributed as follows:

Focus area	Committed Expenditure	Realised Expenditure
Focus area 2A	Measure 4.3	
	€6,434,474	
Priority 4	Measure 4.4	
	€888,188	
	Measure 10.1	
	€773,191.00	€630,988.00
	Measure 13.3	
	€2,090,893.00	€2,036,520.00
Focus area 5E	Measure 10.1	
	€54,223.00	€47,493.00
Focus Area 6B	Measure 19.1	
	€344,000.00	€196,208.00
	Measure 19.2	
	€4,468,000.00	
	Measure 19.4	
	€1,192,000.00	

As at end 2017, all sub-measures mentioned above except sub-measure 4.3 were still open, receiving applications. Project applications received throughout 2017 are being assessed by an independent Project Selection Committee.

Three Local Actions Groups that had submitted Local Development Strategies for the implementation of the LEADER Programme, funded through Measure 19, were awarded during the last quarter of 2017, following selection by the Project Selection Committee.

Measure Guidance Notes 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, the Agriculture and Rural Payments 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.

As in previous years, the MA also held several information sessions concerning different RDP measures that were launched or were in the process of being launched throughout the year. These sessions, held in both Malta and Gozo, are held to ensure awareness amongst potential applicants and are attended by numerous farmers, farmers' representatives and land managers.

The MA has also continued promoting RDP measures through other media including radio programmes, newspapers, TV programmes and through its website (www.eufunds.gov.mt). On the 27th August 2017, the MA participated in Festa Għeneb in Siġġiewi aiming to promote Rural Development Programme measures with both prospective applicants and the general public. During this event, the MA distributed promotional material and information leaflets concerning various sub-measures of the Rural Development Programme.

Between the 22nd and 24th of March, the MA hosted the Informal Meeting of the Directors for Rural Development, as part of the events held throughout the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU. Representatives from various Member States, the European Commission and other stakeholders actively participated during this meeting. The theme chosen for this Informal Meeting was “The Role of Pillar II in Supporting the Future of Young Farmers”.

In 2018, the MA remains committed to launch other RDP measures, including sub-measure 1.1, sub-measure 2.1, sub-measure 4.2, AECM 5 as part of sub-measure 10.1, Measure 11 and 16. The MA is also expecting an increased disbursement, following the adjudication of various investment projects.



Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020

Part financed by the European Union

Co-financing Rate:

75% European Union; 25% Government of Malta



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