

Il-Pjan ta' Zvilupp Rurali ghall- perjodu 2007-2013

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Harsa lejn il-programm

- Il-programm operazzjonali għall-infieq tal-fondi Ewropej ta' l-izvilupp rurali gie mhejji fl-2007, u approvat f'Dicembru ta' l-istess sena.
- Il-programm ikopri 7 snin sal-2013, ghalkemm jistghu jibqghu isiru hlasijiet sal-2015.
- Il-bagitt għal dan il-programm huwa ta' 100 miljun ewro, li minnhom 76 miljun huma fondi mill-Ewropa mill-fond ta' EAFRD, u 24 miljun jigu kkontribwiti mill-fondi nazzjonali.

Ghanijiet tal-programm

- Fi ftit kliem, il-programm ta' zvilupp rurali ghandu l-ghanijiet li:
 - Jghin biex is-setturi ta' produzzjoni primarja (laham, hxejjex u frott) jsiru iktar kompettitivi;
 - Jghin biex jithares iktar l-ambjent rurali u jissahhah ir-rwol li ghandu l-bidwi f'dan il-process;
 - Jghin biex titjeb il-kwalita' ta' hajja fiz-zoni rurali, u jigi esplorat il-potenzjal li ghandhom dawn iz-zoni;
 - Jghin biex tizdied il-partecipazzjoni tal-kommunita' ta' dawk kollha li ghandhom interess fit-titjeb tas-settur tal-biedja u ta' l-ambjent rurali.

Assi u mizuri ta' ghajnuna

- Il-programm huwa mfassal madwar 5 assi:
 - Assi 1 – jigbor mizuri immirati lejn titjeb fil-produzzjoni primarja, jinkludi 10 mizuri, b'allokazzjoni ta' ftit iktar minn 34 miljun ewro
 - Assi 2 – jigbor mizuri immirati sabiex tinghata ghajnuna diretta lill-bdiewa biex dawn jipprovdu servizz ta' titjeb ta' l-ambjent agrikolu; jinkludi 2 mizuri, b'allokazzjoni ta' 25 miljun ewro
 - Assi 3 – jigbor mizuri li jaghtu ghajnuna sabiex isiru progetti li jtejbu l-ambjent rurali, li jsahhu s-servizzi provduti, johlqu iktar opportunita' ghal turizmu, u biex jigi mhares il-patrimonju naturali u kulturali f'dawn iz-zoni
 - Assi 4 – mizuri tal-programm msejjah LEADER, li jinkoraggixxi l-partecipazzjoni tal-gruppi lokali (gruppi azzjoni lokali) fuq bazi regionali
 - Assi 5 – jipprovdi assistenza teknika biex l-istituzzjonijiet involuti jkunu jistghu jaghmlu uzu minn servizzi u prodotti ghall-implementazzjoni tal-programm u biex jigi mwassal il-messagg lill-pubbliku

Measure	Title	Total public funding	% total (100 M)
M111	Training, information and diffusion of knowledge	1,160,000	1.2
M114	Use of advisory services by farmers	3,000,000	3.0
M115	Setting up of advisory services	600,000	0.6
M121	Modernisation of agricultural holdings	13,460,000	13.4
M123	Adding value to agricultural products	7,000,000	7.0
M124	Co-operation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sectors	1,000,000	1.0
M129	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture	5,200,000	5.2
M132	Participation of farmers in food quality schemes	1,200,000	1.2
M133	Information and promotion activities on food quality schemes	670,000	0.7
M142	Setting up of producer groups	990,000	1.0
M212	Support for areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas	14,500,000	14.5
M214	Rural areas conservation scheme Agri-environment standalone measures	10,525,000	10.5
M313	Encouragement of tourism activities	11,536,667	11.5
M323	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	21,000,000	20.9
M341	Skills acquisition and animation with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy	450,000	0.4
M41	Leader	3,875,000	3.9
M511	Technical assistance	4,084,473	4.1

Training and advisory services

Measure	Scope and actions	Beneficiaries	Rate of support	Quantified targets
M 111: Training, information and diffusion of knowledge	covers training that does not form part of the normal programmes or systems of agricultural education at secondary or higher levels, as well as demonstration activities and diffusion of information actions	adult persons that are engaged in activities related to agriculture and food, including public officers having a regulatory function	100%	2,500 participants to training

Training and advisory services

Measure	Scope and actions	Beneficiaries	Rate of support	Quantified targets
M 114: Use of advisory services by farmers	Covers costs arising from the use of farm advisory services to improve overall performance of holding and to comply with statutory requirements	farmers that make use of advisory services offered by registered consultants or companies.	80% of eligible cost not exceeding a maximum of 1,500€ per farmer per comprehensive service	2,000 farmers supported
M 115: Setting up of farm advisory services	tangible and intangible investments carried out by FAS entities in order to strengthen their institutional capacity	legal entities that are recognised as FAS providers according to the requirements of LN 66/2007	100% of total eligible costs up to 100,000 € paid over 5 year period	6 newly set up advisory service providers

Restructuring and developing physical potential and promoting innovation

Measure	Scope and actions	Beneficiaries	Rate of support	Quantified targets
M 121: Modernisation of agricultural holdings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ General modernisation and improvements in the performance of agricultural holdings (<i>sub-measure 1</i>); ➤ Environmental investments (<i>sub-measure 2</i>); ➤ On-farm investments in order to comply with Nitrate Directive (<i>sub-measure 3</i>) (expires on the 30th April 2011) 	farmers and enterprises engaged in agricultural production	50% of total eligible expenditure up to a maximum not exceeding 150,000 €	400 farm holdings supported
M 123: Adding value to agricultural products	Investments should bring about a tangible benefit to the primary production sector , and should be oriented to exploit or enhance certain <i>intrinsic characteristics</i> of the primary products, including freshness (so as to improve integration in the agri-food chain) and quality .	micro, small and medium-sized enterprises	50% of the total eligible investment up to a maximum of 150,000 €; medium sized: 40%; large: 25%	80 enterprises supported

Restructuring and developing physical potential and promoting innovation

Measure	Scope and actions	Beneficiaries	Rate of support	Quantified targets
<p>M124: Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sectors</p>	<p>The cooperation project must involve at least <i>two actors</i>, one of which must always be a <i>primary producer</i>, and should focus on the development of a New product; New process; or New technology.</p>	<p>Partners: enterprises from every sector of agriculture, the processing industry, and third parties</p>	<p>60% of the total eligible costs up to 120,000 € per project over a maximum duration of three years</p>	<p>8 cooperation initiatives supported</p>
<p>M125: Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture</p>	<p>•Off-farm investment-type actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ increase <i>harvesting of rainwater</i> ➤ increase the <i>utilisation of treated sewage effluent</i> ➤ increase <i>accessibility to agricultural holdings</i> 	<p>legal entities forming part of central or local government, including ministries, authorities, corporations and local councils, legally constituted farmers' groups and associations, and non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>90% of the total eligible cost</p>	<p>Number of actions not relevant because of disparate size and nature of actions</p>

Improving the quality of agricultural production and products

Measure	Scope and actions	Beneficiaries	Rate of support	Quantified targets
M 132: Participation of farmers in food quality schemes	agricultural products intended for human consumption and recognised by either	Farmers participating in the quality scheme for organic production	100% of cost	400 farm holdings participating in food quality scheme supported
M133: Information and promotion activities on food quality schemes	organisation of, and/or participation in, fairs and exhibitions, similar public relation exercises and advertising via the different channels of communication or at the points of sale.	producer groups	70% of eligible cost	7 actions supported

Transitional measures

Measure	Scope and actions	Beneficiaries	Rate of support	Quantified targets
M 142: Setting up of producer groups	support to cover the setting up and administrative operation of recognised producer groups in specific sectors that are not supported through CMO	Producer groups	flat rate calculated on the group's annual marketed production, over five years, not exceeding: €100,000 in the first and second years €80,000 in the third year €60 000 in the fourth year €50 000 in the fifth year	4 producer groups supported

M313: Encouragement of tourism activities

Objective	Scope and actions	Beneficiaries	Rate of support	Quantified targets
<p>To promote economic growth in rural areas and to promote the rural heritage as a tourist product</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Small scale infrastructure for tourism and countryside recreation •Creation, facilitation and maintenance of access to areas of high-nature, cultural value •Setting up of trails •Provision and maintenance of small-scale recreational amenities, such as parks •Development of tourism products, including arts and crafts centres •Development of marketing services including ICT 	<p>Natural persons, private entrepreneurs, public entities</p>	<p>Public entities: 100%; Private entities: 50% of eligible expenditure</p>	<p>60</p>

M323: Conservation and upgrading of rural heritage

Objective	Scope and actions	Type of actions	Beneficiaries	Rate of support	Quantified targets
To make rural areas more attractive to live within and to visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Drawing up of protection and management plans relating to N2000 sites and other areas of high value* •Studies and investments associated with maintenance and restoration of these sites 	<p>Operations Type 1: Studies and Plans</p> <p>Operations Type 2: Environmental awareness and educational actions and events</p> <p>Operations Type 3: Tangible Investments Conservation, restoration and upgrading of heritage</p>	<p>Actions 1, 2, 3i: public entities and NGOs</p> <p>Action 3ii: Local councils only</p>	<p>Action 1: 100%</p> <p>Action 2: 90%</p> <p>Action 3i: 90%</p> <p>Action 3ii: 90%</p>	12 natural + 6 cultural rural heritage actions supported

II-Programm Leader

- *Mizura 341*: Skills acquisition and animation with a view to preparing and implementing a Local Development Strategy
- Eligible actions:
 - Studies of the area;
 - Measures to provide information about the area
 - Training of staff involved in the preparation and implementation of the strategy
 - Promotional events and training of Leaders
- Beneficiaries: Public-private partnerships according to Article 59 of 1698/2005

Local Action Groups

Leader areas and planned number of LAGs

- The rural area of Malta, as defined in the National Rural Development Strategy Plan (NSP), is made up of 47 local councils, 14 of which are located in Gozo. All the rural localities can participate in the Leader initiative, hence there is the potential for 100% participation of rural areas. However, each locality as defined by Local Council delineations has the right to participate in only one Local Action Group.

Public-private partnerships according to Article 59

- The composition of the partnership and the private component of the Decision Body must be consistent with the provisions of Measure 41, which stipulate that:
- The Local Development Strategy must be built on local public-private partnership, reflect the bottom-up approach adopted in decision making, and have an integrated multi-sectoral approach.
- The Local Councils involved in the group must pertain exclusively to the rural territory covered by the proposed LAG.
- The private component of the Decision Body which embodies representatives from the economic and social partners, and civil society must make up at least 51% of decision body.
- Only one action group per territory is allowed, and no overlapping of localities is permitted.
- A minimum of eight Local Councils must be involved in the public-private partnership.
- The number of inhabitants in the partnership must not exceed the 150,000. The only exception, although this is to be avoided, is in the case where only 1 LAG is established to cover all rural regions in Malta.
- All the rural localities, as defined in the National Rural Strategy Plan, can participate in the Leader initiative, hence there can be 100% participation of rural areas.

II-Programm Leader

Mizura 41: Implementation of the local development strategies

The quality of the partnership will be assessed amongst other things on the:

- Representativeness of the partnership vis-à-vis the regional community it represents. This means that a multi-sectoral partnership that draws on many segments of the community will be preferred. It is expected that the partnership will encompass a broad range of stakeholders including women's groups, young people and possibly other minority groups, environmental and cultural interest groups, farmers, entrepreneurs, the business community, voluntary groups, civil society and any other interest group that identifies itself as such.
- Soundness of the partnership. This will be determined by the way the group presents itself in its proposal and by the synergy it demonstrated during its formation and elaboration of the strategy i.e. the stages supported through Axis 3.
- Understanding it shows on administration of funding and on the coherence of the organizational and administrative structure it proposes.

II-Programm Leader

Mizura 41: Implementation of the local development strategies

- The quality of the strategy will be assessed amongst other things on the basis of:
 - The integrity of the SWOT analysis of the region.
 - How well the proposed measures and actions:
 - reflect the region's weakness and strengths identified in the SWOT;
 - reflect a bottom-up approach which should have characterized the identification of areas of intervention and elaboration of the measure/action characteristics;
 - respond to the needs of various groups and not just one in particular.
 - focus on objectives that are considered to have a high value added for the local community such as focus on women and youths, continuous learning, diversification, improvement in quality of life, protection and amelioration of the landscape, etc.
 - How the financial projections fit the priorities of the LAG and how the private contribution element has been taken into account.
 - Whether innovative approaches are proposed.
 - Whether co-operation projects are envisaged.

L-assistenza tecnica

- The type of eligible operations that may be supported under technical assistance may include:
 1. Integration of knowledge and expert advice for the preparation of new programmes for the next programming period or programme amendments within the current programming period
 2. Institutional capacity building, including training of public officials within the managing authority and the delegated bodies for the successful administration and management of the programme
 3. Assistance in the animation of the territory in respect of certain measures, particularly agri-environmental measures, including training of the animators
 4. Expert assistance and acquisition of special skills for the appraisal and selection of beneficiaries in respect of certain measures for which the managing authority does not have the necessary competence and expertise in-house, including environmental investment schemes, research development and innovation, tourism activities, and conservation actions
 5. Assistance and capacity building for the receipt, handling, and administrative first controls of aid applications

Assistenza tecnica

6. Expert assistance for monitoring and evaluation framework, including the analysis, review and quantification of baseline data and monitoring indicators, the acquisition and preparation of supporting information for the annual and final reports, the development, enhancement and maintenance of software/computerized databases and systems, and the improvement of evaluation methods and exchange of information on good practices
7. Analysis of current information needs and subsequent dissemination of information, including direct publicity actions
8. Organisation of consultation and information sessions and activities, including seminars, workshops, and other events aimed at the exchange of information and the dissemination and publicity of the programme
9. Sub-contracting specific studies aimed at ensuring the successful implementation of the programme and the quality of individual operations within the programme, including pilot studies in respect of certain measures, e.g. agri-environmental and N2000 measures, model studies, e.g. for research and development/conservation of genetic resources projects, and feasibility studies e.g. for quality schemes
10. Establishment and operation of the national rural network including the implementation of the action plan as well as the structure needed to run the network.

Allokazzjoni ta' fondi fi hdan l- assistenza teknika

- Total ta' madwar 4M€
- Allokazzjoni ghat-thaddim tal-pjan ta' komunikazzjoni: 0.4M€ (10%)
- Allokazzjoni ghat-twaqqif u thaddim tan-network nazzjonali rurali: 1M€