



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



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Annual implementation report

Ireland - Rural Development Programme (National)

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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)	2014-2020			2.72	75.66	3.60
	2014-2019			2.39	66.48	
	2014-2018			1.61	44.78	
	2014-2017			0.78	21.70	
	2014-2016			0.24	6.68	
	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)	2014-2020			1,483.00	122.56	1,210.00
	2014-2019			1,258.00	103.97	
	2014-2018			791.00	65.37	
	2014-2017			655.00	54.13	
	2014-2016			328.00	27.11	
	2014-2015			86.00	7.11	

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)	2014-2020			94,953.00	85.08	111,600.00
	2014-2019			93,648.00	83.91	
	2014-2018			92,598.00	82.97	
	2014-2017			67,689.00	60.65	
	2014-2016			24,730.00	22.16	
	2014-2015			549.00	0.49	

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)	2014-2020	5.46	59.91	5.46	59.91	9.11	
	2014-2019	4.04	44.33	4.04	44.33		
	2014-2018	2.66	29.18	2.66	29.18		
	2014-2017	1.38	15.14	1.37	15.03		
	2014-2016	0.57	6.25	0.57	6.25		
	2014-2015	0.37	4.06	0.37	4.06		
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	27,663,990.00	158.76	15,038,507.17	86.30	17,425,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	333,000.00	66.60			500,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	182,296,000.00	117.38	89,451,572.43	57.60	155,300,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,114,000.00	120.80	950,905.76	54.34	1,750,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	212,406,990.00	121.39	105,440,985.36	60.26	174,975,000.00

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)		2014-2020	3.05	106.67	3.05	106.67	2.86
		2014-2019	2.07	72.39	2.07	72.39	
		2014-2018	1.16	40.57	1.16	40.57	
		2014-2017	0.41	14.34	0.41	14.34	
		2014-2016	0.04	1.40	0.04	1.40	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	204,367,000.00	179.27	119,250,833.74	104.61	114,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,991,000.00	92.03	1,573,619.07	48.42	3,250,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	207,358,000.00	176.85	120,824,452.81	103.05	117,250,000.00

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)		2014-2020					0.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Percentage of agricultural holdings supported under the animal welfare measure (Farms)		2014-2020			13.04	54.33	24.00
		2014-2019			13.28	55.33	
		2014-2018			14.42	60.08	
		2014-2017			14.79	61.63	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	650,000.00	216.67	4,500.00	1.50	300,000.00
M14	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	84,949,260.00	84.95	67,642,664.88	67.64	100,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	540,000.00	54.00	357,661.54	35.77	1,000,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	86,139,260.00	85.03	68,004,826.42	67.13	101,300,000.00

Focus Area 3B

Focus Area 3B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
Number of Participants in Knowledge Transfer Groups (focus area 3B) (Persons)		2014-2020			1,324.00	4.98	26,600.00
		2014-2019			17,256.00	64.87	
		2014-2018			17,063.00	64.15	
		2014-2017			13,958.00	52.47	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	27,663,990.00	158.76	15,037,840.19	86.30	17,425,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	4,115,400.00	68.59	1,614,320.28	26.91	6,000,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,030,000.00	116.12	6,137,641.08	24.55	25,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	8,300,000.00	830.00			1,000,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	69,109,390.00	139.83	22,789,801.55	46.11	49,425,000.00

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)		2014-2020			18.29	101.19	18.08
		2014-2019			18.58	102.79	
		2014-2018			18.30	101.24	
		2014-2017			16.39	90.68	
		2014-2016			12.86	71.15	
		2014-2015			5.96	32.97	
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)		2014-2020			20.36	97.36	20.91
		2014-2019			20.67	98.84	
		2014-2018			20.42	97.65	
		2014-2017			18.40	87.99	
		2014-2016			12.86	61.50	
		2014-2015			5.96	28.50	
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)		2014-2020			18.23	87.77	20.77
		2014-2019			16.59	79.88	
		2014-2018			18.21	87.68	
		2014-2017			16.97	81.71	
		2014-2016			12.86	61.92	
		2014-2015			5.96	28.70	
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	44,062,150.00	149.74	26,678,699.21	90.67	29,425,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	59,000.00	5.90			1,000,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	176,034,000.00	174.81	36,087,553.24	35.84	100,700,000.00
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	8,845,000.00	147.42	4,540,135.31	75.67	6,000,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,122,870,000.00	183.54	1,182,837,901.50	102.27	1,156,605,630.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	59,740,580.00	106.68	40,973,937.79	73.17	56,000,000.00
M12	O1 - Total public	2014-2020	111,802,650.00	231.72	44,718,104.41	92.68	48,250,000.00

	expenditure						
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,579,711,950.00	166.86	1,538,384,422.74	99.51	1,546,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	21,090,000.00	49.62	18,719,994.81	44.05	42,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	5,124,215,330.00	171.58	2,892,940,749.01	96.87	2,986,480,630.00

Focus Area 5A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
Number of Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects Operational Groups (Groups)		2014-2020					1.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00

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)		2014-2020	15,234,176.11	30.47	15,234,176.11	30.47	50,000,000.00
		2014-2019	10,879,044.71	21.76	10,879,044.71	21.76	
		2014-2018	6,203,582.73	12.41	6,203,582.73	12.41	
		2014-2017	1,138,745.32	2.28	1,138,745.32	2.28	
		2014-2016	30,260.60	0.06	30,260.60	0.06	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	11,732,000.00	58.66	6,751,057.96	33.76	20,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	11,732,000.00	52.14	6,751,057.96	30.00	22,500,000.00

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)		2014-2020					0.00	
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
Number of Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects Operational Groups (Group)		2014-2020			2.00	200.00	1.00	
		2014-2019			2.00	200.00		
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	290,000.00	11.60	726,945.19	29.08	2,500,000.00	
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	290,000.00	11.60	726,945.19	29.08	2,500,000.00	

Focus Area 5D							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		2014-2020			11.77	109.10	10.79
		2014-2019			12.34	114.38	
		2014-2018			12.45	115.40	
		2014-2017			11.17	103.54	
		2014-2016			7.87	72.95	
		2014-2015			4.73	43.84	
T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		2014-2020			6.12	3,079.90	0.20
		2014-2019			2.82	1,419.17	
		2014-2018			1.22	613.97	
		2014-2017			0.45	226.46	
		2014-2016			0.08	40.26	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	48,588,920.00	154.13	25,730,739.38	81.62	31,525,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	28,000.00	5.60	157,877.47	31.58	500,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,631,000.00	296.31	22,946,729.49	229.47	10,000,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	613,735,050.00	204.85	264,569,031.90	88.31	299,600,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	691,982,970.00	201.08	313,404,378.24	91.07	344,125,000.00

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)		2014-2020			0.08	25.15	0.32
		2014-2019			0.08	25.15	
		2014-2018			0.08	25.15	
		2014-2017			0.08	25.15	
		2014-2016			0.05	15.72	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	138,260,000.00	184.84	68,799,038.00	91.98	74,800,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	138,260,000.00	178.86	68,799,038.00	89.00	77,300,000.00

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)		2014-2020			698.84	22.54	3,100.00
		2014-2019			466.43	15.05	
		2014-2018			181.93	5.87	
		2014-2017			1.50	0.05	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)		2014-2020					0.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)		2014-2020			82.02	124.77	65.74
		2014-2019			82.02	124.77	
		2014-2018			82.02	124.77	
		2014-2017			82.02	124.77	
		2014-2016			62.12	94.50	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	373,530,000.00	149.41	123,947,306.11	49.58	250,000,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	373,530,000.00	149.41	123,947,306.11	49.58	250,000,000.00

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

The purpose of this section is to explain the scheme data contained in the Monitoring Axes. The legislative framework governing EU Rural Development policy for the current programming period has 6 objectives or priorities which are in turn sub-divided in 18 focus areas (FAs). For convenience, these are enumerated along with the various measure and sub-measure codes in the legend at the end of the Monitoring Annex to this document.

Total public of the operations which have additional contributions to other Focus Areas (AIR) – CUMULATIVE

Indicator	Priority	Focus Area	Total public - YEAR 2020 Cumulative (total programmed FA)
O1 - Total public expenditure	P1		106,591,610.07
O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2A	105,440,985.36
O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2B	120,824,452.81
O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3A	68,004,826.42
O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3B	22,789,801.55
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4		2,892,940,749.01
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5A	0.00
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5B	6,751,057.96
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5C	726,945.19
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5D	313,404,378.24
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5E	68,799,038.00
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6A	0.00
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6B	123,947,306.11
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6C	0.00

The following information outlining the progress made in implementing Ireland's RDP for the calendar year 2020 is structured according to the focus areas most relevant to each Programme scheme. Total public expenditure on the RDP in 2020 amounted to over €652m, including approximately €69m in additional national top-ups which are not co-funded by the EU. The additional national funding was applied to the Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme under Measure 13 and the Sheep Welfare Scheme under Measure 14. The highest levels of expenditure in 2020 were recorded for Measure 4 (€75m), Measure 10 (€244m), Measure 13 (€247m) and Measure 19 (€46m).

PRIORITY 1

Priority 1 of the RDP, which is sub-divided into 3 related FAs, concerns fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas.

Focus Area 1A

This FA is specifically concerned with fostering innovation, co-operation and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas.

The combination of measures contributing to the target indicator for FA 1A are:

- Measure 1 - Knowledge Transfer (KT) Groups and training for BDGP and GLAS participants;
- Measure 2 - Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health and Welfare (TASAHW) and Continued Professional Development (CPD) for agricultural advisors; and
- Measure 16 - General European Innovation Partnership (EIP) projects and the Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme.

The realised expenditure at the end of 2020 for FA 1A was 75.66% of the 2023 target figure. Cumulative expenditure on Measure 1 schemes amounted to €82,5m at the end of 2020. Measure 16 is discussed in the context FA 1B while Measure 2 is addressed in the context of FA 3B. KT was the main contributor to this FA.

Measure 1 – Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions

This measure consists of:

- Sub-measure 1.1: support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions –**Knowledge Transfer (KT) Groups**; and
- Sub-measure 1.1: support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions **training delivered in support of Measure 10 i.e. the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) and the Green Low-carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS).**

Knowledge transfer discussion groups for beef, sheep, dairy, equine, poultry and tillage sectors.
In 2020, payments of circa €2.4m issued to 1,324 beneficiaries under the Knowledge Transfer Programme (KT). The 3 year KT Scheme concluded on 31st July 2019 with approximately 18,557

farmers active in circa 1,164 groups facilitated by circa 479 advisors. Only residual payments issued in respect of 2020. Residual payments of €864,611 was paid to participating farmers for attendance at meetings and completion of farm improvement plans in respect of all 3 years of the scheme including correcting payments on foot of completed payment appeals. In addition, €1.8m in payments issued to KT Group facilitators for organisational and advisory activities relating to paid participants within their approved groups.

Participants are paid for attendance at a combination of 5 meetings and/or approved national events and for completion of a farm improvement plan for their specific enterprises relevant to the KT Sector they are participating in.

Training for farmers in the BDGP

- This training is provided to participants who are approved into the BDGP which, is programmed under Measure 10 of the RDP. It aims to optimise the implementation of the BDGP and while the scheme intervention logic and contribution is linked to Measure 10, funding for this training is allocated under Measure 1.
- There are two elements to the BDGP training. The first element is a four-hour general course designed to provide participating farmers with the information and skills necessary to meet their scheme commitments and to improve their knowledge of genomics and breeding strategies. The second element consists of two hours of personalised coaching on the use of a carbon navigator – a compulsory element of the scheme that must be completed annually by each participant. The carbon navigator is an online decision support tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from livestock production systems; it estimates the potential environmental and financial gains that can be made on each holding through carbon-efficient farming practices (e.g. by turning animals out to grass two weeks earlier in spring, a farmer can save on feed costs and increase herd performance by getting more grass into its diet).
- Residual expenditure on BDGP training amounted to just €13,760 in 2020. Additionally, a residual balancing sum of €25,493 was paid to advisors in 2020 for GLAS training sessions completed in 2019. Total expenditure on these training schemes (including some outstanding liabilities arising from training undertaken during the previous RDP) €22.3m at the end of 2020. At the end of the reporting period, all active scheme participants had attended the general element of BDGP training and over 99% of GLAS participants had attended the compulsory one-day training course for that scheme.
- **Focus Area 1B**
This FA is specifically concerned with strengthening linkages between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation thereby improving environmental management and performance.

The planned output indicators for FA 1B refer to the number of operational groups supported under the EIP (sub-measure 16.1) and the number of co-operation operations supported under the Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme (sub-measure 16.3). By the end of 2019, the programme target figure for 2023 was achieved. This was, mainly due to supported operations under the Collaborative Farming Scheme.

Note:

The target indicator for FA 1B has been achieved due to the success of both the Collaborative

Farming and EIP schemes. The target set out in the RDP for this focus area was 1,210 and at the end of 2020 the target achieved was 1,483. While the targets have been exceeded, mainly due to the Collaborative Farming measure proving more popular than was first expected, it should be noted that the average cost of setting up a collaborative arrangement is a lot less than was originally provided for under the Scheme, resulting in no additional budgetary implications.

Those Measure 16 schemes, for which cumulative expenditure amounted to almost €8.9m at the end of 2020, are described here.

Measure 16 – Co-operation

This measure is comprised of the following four elements.

Sub-measure 16.1: support for the establishment of operational groups under the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for agricultural productivity and sustainability:

- General EIPs;
- Locally-led Hen Harrier and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Projects; and
- Locally-led environmental and climate projects.

Sub-measure 16.3: Co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources – **Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme**.

EIP Operational Groups are clearly linked to supporting innovation and best practice. Specifically, they will be intended to address some or all of the following:

- promoting a resource efficient, productive and low emission agricultural sector, working in harmony with the essential natural resources on which farming depends;
- improving processes to preserve the environment and agricultural landscapes, address biodiversity challenges, enhance water quality, adapt to climate change and mitigate it; and
- Creating added value by better linking research and farming practice and encouraging the wider use of available innovative practices.

There are two funding streams for EIP groups depending on the themes they seek to address in their project proposals.

- The general stream which focuses on projects relating to farm viability, economic performance, sustainable forest management and innovative technologies; and
- The locally-led stream focusing on projects dealing with environmental, biodiversity and climate change.

Open calls for proposals under both streams were announced in 2016 and 2017 resulting in 21 proposals being selected for implementation. Two locally-led projects on the conservation of the Hen Harrier and the Freshwater Pearl Mussel were the subject of procurement competitions.

The Hen Harrier Programme was launched in 2017 and will run for five years. Its main area of focus is farmers managing the habitats in the six designated hen harrier SPAs. In 2020 payments over €3.1 million issued to farmers.

The Pearl Mussel Project (PMP) commenced in May 2018 and the project will run until December

2023. The aim of the project is to develop a results-based agri-environmental programme to ensure the long-term co-existence of freshwater pearl mussel populations and farming in the top eight freshwater pearl mussel catchments in Ireland. In 2020 approximately €673,000 issued to farmers. The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) initiative funds co-operation between different stakeholders including farmers, researchers, advisors and businesses to identify innovative solutions to particular challenges. It was developed to respond to challenges at a local level by stimulating and developing innovative approaches in dealing with environmental issues. One of the important aspects of the whole EIP initiative is its place in the local community, and the initiative is designed to encourage innovation at a local level. The farmers are an integral part of the process and with researchers, scientists and advisors come together in Operational Groups to address a specific local environmental issue.

A fund of €24 million was set aside for the EIP projects which were selected from two competitive open calls. The Department received over 170 project proposals of which 12 projects were selected for implementation from the first call and a further 9 from the second call. These projects cover a wide range of topics including organic production, pollinators, water quality, flood management, biodiversity, soils, farming in an archaeological landscape and targeting unutilised agricultural biomass.

Just over €441,000 was paid towards implementation costs to three prospective general EIP groups, involving 44 partners, in 2020.

In 2020, approximately €8.9m was paid to 20 locally-led groups with most expenditure absorbed by the Hen Harrier and Fresh Water Pearl Mussel projects as described above. Of the 20 locally-led groups, two new EIP operations were approved for funding in 2020:

- Duncannon Blue Flag
- Enable Conservation Tillage

Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme

Collaborative approaches to farming can address some of the structural challenges facing Irish agriculture such as limited land availability and intergenerational transfer. This scheme is specifically aimed at encouraging the formation of new farm partnerships by contributing up to 50% of vouched legal, accounting and advisory costs incurred in drawing up a partnership agreement, subject to a maximum payment of €2,500.

In 2020, approximately €335,000 was paid towards costs incurred in establishing 223 farm partnerships – 184 of these were to facilitate generational renewal and 39 to facilitate mergers. A cumulative sum of €1.9m was paid to support the creation of 1,460 registered partnerships in the period to the end of 2020.

Focus Area 1C

This FA is specifically concerned with fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

The target indicator for FA 1A is the number of farmers trained under Measure 1. Approximately 94,949 or 85.08% of the 2023 target figure for the total number of trained participants was achieved by end of 2019 and this remained the case in 2020 due to the ending of these schemes in 2019. The number of participants in relevant schemes trained to date can be disaggregated as follows:

- KT – 18,557.
- BDGP – 25,920.
- GLAS – 50,472.

It should be noted that KT training is repeated annually, over the 3 years of the programme, whereas training for BDGP and GLAS participants occurs only once over the duration of those schemes. The information relevant to FA 1A is, therefore, equally applicable to FA 1C and will not be repeated here.

PRIORITY 2

Priority 2 of the RDP is concerned with enhancing farm viability and competitiveness and with promoting innovative farm technologies.

Focus Area 2A

This FA is specifically concerned with improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation with a view to increasing market orientation as well as agricultural diversification.

The target figures for FA 2A is the number of agricultural holdings supporting investments in restructuring or modernisation calculated on the basis of holdings receiving grants under 4 strands of the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (see Measure 4 description below). At the end of 2020, almost 60% of the 2023 target had been achieved.

The following RDP measures and schemes are programmed as contributing to FA 2A:

- Measure 1 - Knowledge Transfer (KT) Groups;
- Measure 2 - Continued Professional Development (CPD) for advisors;
- Measure 4 - Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme; and
- Measure 16 - General EIP projects and the Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme.

Measures 1 and 16 have already been described in relation to Priority 1 above. Measure 2 training for agricultural advisors is relevant to this FA but TAMS supports collectively constitute the main expenditure item.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

No advanced facilitator training for agricultural advisors was funded under this heading in calendar year 2020. Cumulative expenditure on CPD until the end of 2020 was €157,780.

Note:

The allocation of expenditure for M02 CPD between Focus Area 2A and 5D was reported wrongly in previous AIR's. The data recorded in TABLE_B1_O1_M02_P2_2A is as per DAFM Finance division returns and we are satisfied that the 2020 data need not be changed.

Table B4_2 shows the total public expenditure of all the operations having additional contributions

to other FA's. The total public additional contribution to FA 5D states FA 5D is less in 2020 that was recorded in 2019. This is due to the reporting error that occurred in previous years AIR's for table B1 M02 FA 2A and B1 M02 FA 5D. This has had a knock on effect in TABLE_B4_2_O1_P1 because it contributes to the overall P1 amount. The 2019 value M02 FA 5D was wrongly reported under M02 FA 2A meaning the overall P1 total for TABLE_B4_2_O1_P1 was wrong. This is now corrected, and we confirm the 2020 M02 FA 5D figures are correct and remain in profile for indicator 01 of TABLE_B4_2_O1_P1.

Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme

The TAMS supports programmed, either partly or wholly, under FA 2A are animal housing and nutrient storage, dairy equipment, organic and tillage capital investment schemes. With a budget allocation of €155.3m, these schemes are expected to attract almost 13,000 supported holdings over the duration of the RDP.

Measure 4 – Investments in Physical Assets

This measure consists of:

- Sub-measure 4.1: support for investments in agricultural holdings – **Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS II)**; and
- Sub-measure 4.4: support for non-productive investments which are potentially available through the GLAS and Burren schemes. As the underlying logic of this sub-measure is intrinsically linked to the achievement of agri-environment objectives, funding is allocated under Measure 10.

TAMS II will make €395m available to Irish farmers for investment in infrastructure, facilities and equipment under the suite of seven measures (listed below) which are opened for applications in rolling three-month tranches.

- Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme;
- Dairy Equipment Scheme;
- Organic Capital Investment Scheme;
- Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme;
- Low Emissions Slurry Spreading;
- Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme; and
- Tillage Capital Investment Scheme.

Of the €74.9m expended on Measure 4 in 2020, TAMS grants were paid to 5,764 farm enterprises and supported more than 6,208 investments worth €141.8m. The overall number of TAMS beneficiaries at the end of 2020 was approximately 21,294.

The main expenditure items for TAMS 2 were the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme, the Dairy Equipment Scheme and the Animal Welfare and Nutrient Storage Scheme at €35.4m, €13.5m and €11m respectively. A further €9.6m was spent on funding the acquisition of Low Emissions Slurry Spreading equipment.

Transitional expenditure on AEOS non-productive investments incurred zero expenditure in 2020 compared to just under €18m incurred during 2014 to 2016. AEOS non-productive investments was carried over from the 2007-2013 programming period and as expected the transitional expenditure tapers off with the maturation of liabilities from the previous RDP.

Cumulative public expenditure on all Measure 4 investments in physical assets amounted to €280.6 m at the end of 2020.

Focus Area 2B

This FA is specifically concerned with facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into agriculture and, in particular, generational renewal.

The target value for FA 2B is the percentage of holdings supporting investments for young farmers. At the end of 2020, the percentage of uptake of the 2023 target was exceeded at 106.67%. The Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme (TAMS II) is a demand led scheme and it has seen a huge interest and uptake over the course of the RDP programme, particularly as it incurs a higher rate of funding of 60% compared to the rest of TAMS II focus areas which are funded at 40%.

The following RDP measures and schemes are programmed as contributing to FA 2B:

- Measure 4 - TAMS II; and
- Measure 16 - General EIP projects and the Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme.

The relevant TAMS support is the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme for which 1,567 beneficiaries (51 female), received €35.4m in grant aid, out of total investments of €54.4m. Measure 16 schemes were previously elaborated under Priority 1.

PRIORITY 3

Priority 3 of the RDP is concerned with promoting food chain organisation, including the processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture.

Focus Area 3A

This FA is specifically concerned with improving the competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations.

The target value for FA 3A is the percentage of holdings supported under Measure 14 (see below for measure description). By the end of 2020, approximately 54% of the 2023 target had been achieved.

The measures contributing to FA 3A are:

- Measure 2 - Support for Beef Producer Organisations;
- Measure 14 - Animal Welfare (Sheep) Scheme; and

- Measure 16 - General EIP projects.

EIP's were discussed under FA 1B.

The principal contributory measure to this FA is the Sheep Welfare Scheme.

Measure 2: (c) – Advisory Services to Beef Producer Organisations

This measure provides support for the use of advisory services for the establishment of Beef Producer Organisations (Measure 2.1 C)

Targeted Advisory Services provided by approved advisers under two categories.

- Business advice/training provided by approved facilitators to POs
- Legal advice/training provided by approved facilitators to POs

Business advice and training

A facilitator providing business advice and training must ensure at least one of the below outcomes is met by a Producer Organisation for Beef:

- *Ensure that production is planned and adjusted to demand, particularly in terms of quality and quantity*
- *Concentration of supply and the placing on the market of the products produced by its members, including through direct marketing*
- *Optimise production costs and returns on investments in response to environmental and animal welfare standards, and stabilising producer prices*
- *Carry out research and develop initiatives on sustainable production methods, innovative practices, economic competitiveness and market developments*
- *Promote, and provide technical assistance for, the use of environmentally sound cultivation practices and production techniques, and sound animal welfare practices*
- *Develop products with a protected designation of origin, with a protected geographical indication or covered by a national quality label;*
- *Contributes to the sustainable use of natural resources and to climate change mitigation*
- *Develops initiatives in the area of promotion and marketing*
- *Provides the necessary technical assistance for the use of the futures markets and of insurance schemes.*

Legal advice and training

A facilitator providing legal advice and training must ensure at least one of the below outcomes is met by a Producer Organisation for Beef:

- *Guidance on the application of rules adopted by the producer organisation relating to production reporting, production, marketing and protection of the environment*
- *Guidance on how to amend the rules of a PO*
- *Guidance on rules that allow producer members to work together in a democratic manner*
- *Guidance on penalties for infringement of obligations under the statutes, particularly for non-payment of financial contributions, or of the rules laid down by the producer organisation*
- *Guidance on the rules on the admission of new members, and in particular the minimum period of membership which may not be less than one year*
- *Finally, guidance on the accounting and budgetary rules necessary for the operation of the*

organisation.

The Department approved tenders through the Office of Public Procurement for seven advisers in December 2017 for a three year period. These contracts were subsequently extended by a one year ex-ante approval for each in January 2021. In 2020, the first payments of this scheme occurred. €4,500 was paid to two facilitators for advisory services provided during the formal establishment of two Producer Organisations in 2019.

Measure 14 – Animal Welfare

- Measure 14: payment for animal welfare – Sheep Welfare Scheme

The objective of the Sheep Welfare Scheme is to develop the Irish sheep production system through targeted interventions that exceed mandatory standards. It contributes to improved animal welfare by requiring farmers to carry out actions in the areas of lameness control, parasite control, flystrike control pregnancy scanning, feeding lambs and appropriate mineral supplementation. Sheep farmers with breeding ewes can apply for payment based on two actions they choose to undertake from a menu of options appropriate to their flock type. Selected actions must be undertaken for the duration of the scheme. Hill flocks are those with more than 50% hill type ewes and lowland flocks have more than 50% lowland ewes.

Payment under the scheme, subject to fulfilling all scheme criteria, is based on the number of eligible breeding ewes in an individual flock. In 2020, total public expenditure of €16.75m – including additional national (i.e. non co-funded) financing of €8.4m – was paid to 18,247 farmers in respect of almost 260,000 livestock units (based on the number of eligible ewes held by participants).

Focus Area 3B

This FA is specifically concerned with supporting farm risk prevention and management. The Targeted Animal Health and Welfare Advisory Service under Measure 2 is exclusively programmed under FA 3B.

Note:

TAMS was discussed under FA 2A however the allocation of expenditure for M04 between Focus Area P3 3B and P4 was reported wrongly in previous AIR's. The data recorded in table B1_O1_M04 3B is as per DAFM Finance division returns and we are satisfied that the 2020 data need not be changed. Due to the reporting error that occurred in previous years AIR's for field B1 M04 FA 3B, this has had a knock on effect in TABLE_B4_0_O1_P3_3B because it contributes to the overall P3 3B amount. The 2019 value M04 FA 3B was wrong meaning the overall P1 total for TABLE_B4_0_O1_P3_3B was wrong. This field is now corrected, and we confirm the 2020 P3 3B figure of €22,789,801.55 is correct and remain in profile for indicator 01 of TABLE_B4_0_O1_P3_3B.

The target for FA 3B is based on the number of participants in KT groups paid and was calculated at 64% at the end of 2019. 2020 saw residual payments to 6,018 training participants due to the ending of this scheme in 2019.

Measure 2 – Advisory Services

This measure includes support for the use of advisory services (sub-measure 2.1) and support for the training of advisors (sub-measure 2.3).

Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health and Welfare (TASAHW) incorporating

- Sub-measure 2.3: Animal Health & Welfare – Training for advisors; and
- Sub-measure 2.1: Animal Health & Welfare – On-farm advice.

TASAHW training and advice

This scheme aims to limit the costs associated with certain animal diseases. Animal Health Ireland is responsible for setting up and organising the provision of an advisory service to farmers on the control and prevention of diseases falling within the scope of the scheme which include Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Johne's Disease (JD), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), and mastitis in dairy herds as well as biosecurity and welfare issues in the pig and poultry sectors. Specialist advice is provided on request to individual farmers by eligible private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) who have undertaken TASAHW training on the relevant disease. The PVPs are paid by DAFM for up to three hours of advice per visit.

In 2020, €350,721 was paid for the provision of on-farm advice and the training of PVPs. A total of 1,125 herd health investigations were conducted, principally for BVD cases.

Scheme expenditure to the end of 2020 amounted to over €1.64m and 5,237 farmers benefitted from the advisory service in that period.

Cumulative expenditure on Measure 2 schemes amounted to €1.77m at the end of 2020.

PRIORITY 4

Priority 4 of the RDP is concerned with restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry.

The 2023 target values for P4 are calculated on the basis of the percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to support biodiversity, improve water and soil management. The realised uptake for each of the three targets at the end of 2020 were 87%, 97% and 101% respectively.

Note:

The percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management contributing to FA 4B is less in 2020 than in 2019. A total of the percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management contributing to FA 4B is less in 2020 than in 2019. A total of 1,016,033.51 was declared in 2020 which calculates as 20.36% in comparison to 1,031,893.05 and 20.67% for 2019.

The relevant data entered in Tables D & B3 are not directly comparable because they are calculated differently.

The target area is the area under GLAS (M10) that has a primary or secondary effect on water management (FA 4B) summed from Table 11.4 of the RDP, i.e. 980,910 ha which is added to the area forecast under Organic Farming (62,880 ha) as per Commission guidance on target indicators. Therefore, the T10 target value is 980,910 ha plus 62,880 ha = 1,043,790 ha. Individual GLAS actions are considered to have multiple environmental benefits for monitoring purposes, particularly in relation T9, T10 and T12 but also extend to T18 and T19. The realised value is 960,384.51 (GLAS water management actions) plus 55,649 ha (area under OFS) giving a total of 1,016,033.51 ha.

Focus Areas 4A, 4B & 4C

FA 4A deals with restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscape. FA 4B deals with improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management. FA 4C deals with preventing soil erosion and improving soil management.

Although other schemes under Measures 1, 2, 4 and 16 also contribute to the objectives of these FAs, the principal contributors are agri-environment-climate schemes – especially GLAS, organic farming and support for areas facing natural or other constraints. It should be noted too that the Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme, linked to GLAS is programmed under FA 4A only. All the following schemes contribute to a greater or lesser extent to the goal of restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems:

- GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings (GLAS TFB) - Sub-measure 7.6;
- The Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS) - Sub-measure 10.1;
- The Burren Programme - Sub-measure 10.1;
- The Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) - Sub-measures 11.1 & 11.2;
- Natura 2000 payments – Sub-measure 12.1; and
- Areas of Natural Constraints with specific support for offshore island farming (ANC) - Sub-measures 13.2 and 13.3.

Note:

The percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C) is lower in 2020 than reported in 2019. The realised value for 2020 is calculated as 912,766.02 ha and is correctly entered in Table D. This target area is the area under GLAS (M10) that has a primary or secondary effect on soil management (FA 4C) summed from Table 11.4 of the RDP, i.e.839,308ha which is added to the area forecast under Organic Farming (62,880 ha) as per Commission guidance on target indicators. Therefore, the T12 target value is 839,308ha plus 62,880 = 902,188ha. The realised value is 857,127.02ha (GLAS soil management actions) plus 55,649 ha (area under OFS) giving a total of 912,776.02 ha.

Measure 7 – Rural Services and Renewal

Sub-measure 7.6: support for investments associated with the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages and rural landscapes – GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme

This scheme provides once-off grant aid for approved conservation work to traditional farm buildings and associated structures that are now used for agricultural purposes or available for such use. It ensures that traditional farm buildings and other structures are restored and conserved for practical agricultural use. It is administered by the Heritage Council on behalf of DAFM. Participation in the GLAS is a primary eligibility condition for entry to the scheme.

In 2020, €1.09 m was paid to support the restoration of 90 buildings on 76 farms. When private funding is taken into account, the total amount invested in these operations was €1.57m. Total

scheme spend, including private investment, at the end of 2020 was approximately €6.5m with grant aid comprising approximately 70% of that figure.

Measure 10 – Agri-environment-climate

- Sub-measure: 10.1: payment for agri-environment-climate commitment

The table below provides a breakdown of all the schemes contributing to spending under Measure 10. The total spend for this measure in 2020 was €243.57m comprised of €243.57m on current RDP schemes (i.e. the GLAS, BDGP and Burren Programme in order of importance) and €9k in transitional spending related to the previous RDP.

2020	Expenditure (€)	Total Area (ha)[1]	Number of contracts
GLAS	202.5m	1,166,282	48,163
BDGP*	39.8m	302,451	21,088
Burren Programme	1.27m	11,206	320
REPS / AEOS (2007-2013 RDP)	8,037	0	12
Organic Farming Scheme (2007-2013 RDP only)	1,682	12	1

* See FA 5D for implementation information on the BDGP.

[1] Note that individual holdings may be counted under more than one scheme if different types of agri-environment contracts are being implemented on the same area of land.

GLAS promotes agricultural production methods with environmental benefits related to climate change mitigation, improving water quality and the preservation of priority habitats and species. Scheme payments totalled €202.5m on 48,000 contracts in 2020 and the total scheme spend at the end of 2020 was approximately €944.6m (excluding training).

The Burren Programme is focused specifically on the conservation of the unique limestone landscape predominant in that region in counties Clare and Galway. It promotes a particular farming model that couples traditional farming practices with scientific assessment of environmental health at field level.

Public expenditure of €1.27m was paid on 11,206 hectares (ha) to 320 farmers in 2020. Total scheme spend at the end of 2020 was approximately €4.7m.

Transitional payments for REPS / AEOS totalled €8,027 for 12 residual contracts in 2020. Transitional payments for the Organic Farming Scheme totalled €1,681 for 1 residual contract in 2020. Transitional measures are ongoing commitments from the previous programming period that are being funded from the current Programme budget, particularly those related to Measures 4, 10 and 13. This arrangement is a normal feature of Programme implementation to ensure measure continuity over different programming periods and is tapering off as expected.

Cumulative expenditure on all Measure 10 schemes amounted to €1,516 at the end of 2020.

Measure 11 – Organic Farming

Measure 11 consists of:

- Sub-measure 11.1: payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods; and
- Sub-measure 11.2: payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods.
The Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) aims to encourage farmers to convert from conventional to organic farming methods and to maintain those methods after the initial two-year conversion period. Public expenditure of €8.4m was paid in respect of almost 55,649 hectares (ha) on 1,488 holdings under the OFS in 2020. The area supported by maintenance payments accounted for the bulk of supported area because the higher conversion rate for 2016 entrants expired after 24 months. A residual conversion area of almost 2,788 ha in 2019 relates to additional land brought into the scheme after the first year of the scheme.
The total scheme spend at the end of 2020 was approximately €41m. Additionally, minimal residual spend of €1,681 issued in transitional money, is reported under Measure 10 in the current Programme.

Measure 12 – Natura 2000 payments

- Sub-measure 12.1: Compensation payment for Natura 2000 agricultural areas.
Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of protected areas designated as being of special value and importance for the endangered animals, plants and habitats that they contain. These sites comprise both Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and species. Some sites are designated as both an SPA and an SAC.

The measure is programmed solely under FA 4A to provide for ongoing commitments from the 2007-2013 RDP as Natura sites are targeted under Measure 10 in the current RDP. The scheme supports farmers in dealing with specific disadvantages arising from the conservation of natural habitats and the effective management of those ecologically important sites. It thus contributes to the appropriate environmental management of farmed Natura sites in compliance with EU rules. A sum of €50,000 was spent on supporting the management on 4 holdings in 2020. Total scheme funding in the current programming period has so far amounted to just over €44.7m.

Measure 13 – Areas facing natural or other specific constraints

The measure consists of the following two sub-measures:

- Sub-measure 13.2: compensation payment for other (i.e. non-mountain) areas facing significant natural constraints; and
- Sub-measure 13.3: compensation payment to other areas affected by specific constraints (referring to island farming).

In terms of allocation and spend, the ANC is the largest RDP support available to farmers. Support under these two sub-measures is disbursed nationally under a single Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) scheme similar to the previous Less Favoured Areas and Disadvantaged Areas Schemes. The scheme provides important environmental and social benefits by compensating farmers for additional costs and income foregone related to constraints on agricultural production in the areas concerned. A separate category of support is available to compensate island farmers in recognition of the specific constraints on agricultural activity in those locations.

Total public expenditure of €247.32m, including additional national financing of €60.4m was paid to over 98,200 farmers in respect of 2.21m ha under Measure 13 in 2020. This brings total ANC payments in the current programming period to €1,538m.

PRIORITY 5

Priority 5 of the RDP is the promotion of resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors.

Focus Areas 5A, 5B and 5C

FAs 5A and 5B are specifically concerned with increasing water use efficiency in agriculture, and improving energy efficiency in agriculture and food processing. FA 5C is about promoting renewable energy sources as well as the use of by-products, wastes, residues and other non-food raw material for development of the bio-economy.

The relevant Programme schemes are the tillage, pig and poultry strands of TAMS II and locally-led environmental / climate projects under the EIP.

Approximately €1.5m was paid in grant aid to 142 energy efficiency investments worth almost €3.7m in the tillage sector during 2020. In addition, €472,667 was paid in grant aid to 45 energy efficiency investments worth €0.7m in 2020. Realised uptake to the end of 2020 equates to 30.4% of the target for total investment in energy efficiency.

Most of the locally-led EIP projects are programmed under P4 for which expenditure totalled €8.5m in 2020 with €325,529 spent under FA 5C. The target values for FA 5A and FA 5C are based on the number of locally-led EIP groups programmed under those FAs which is determined by the themes addressed in their project proposals and whether they successfully negotiate the selection process. There are currently no EIP groups operating under those FAs.

Focus Area 5D

This FA is concerned with reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) and ammonia emissions from agriculture.

The targets for FA 5D are the percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) and/or ammonia emissions and the percentage of livestock units concerned by investments to reduce GHG/ammonia emissions. The 2023 target values have already been achieved with uptake at 109% and 3,079% respectively.

Although the target values have been achieved, the percentage of agricultural land declared under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions is slightly less in 2020 compared to 2019 and 2018. The slight reduction of agricultural land under management contracts for targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emission is due to full withdrawal and rejection cases, withdrawal and rejection of certain actions/parcels, reductions following BPS remote sensing and reductions following Admin checks. A total of 327 GLAS applications were fully withdrawn or rejected during 2020.

Note:

The difference between the realised and target values for this target arises because the average number of Livestock Units (LUs) per holding participating in the scheme turned out to be more than double the number originally anticipated.

The Commission definition only counts LUs supported for FA 5D under article 17 (i.e. Measure 4). LUs supported under BDGP do not count for this FA and the only relevant part of TAMS II Low Emissions Slurry Scheme (LESS) does not really concern LUs directly. A total of 250 operations are envisaged for support under LESS and based on an average of 46 Livestock units per holding (CSO Ag Census), the target equates to 11,500 LUs.

Target indicator for FA 5D of 11.77% exceeds the value of the planned target of 10.79%. The realised target of 11.77% equates to 587,677 hectares as a percentage of total UAA. This figure is taken from the relevant area under GLAS plus the area under BDGP.

The expected area under GLAS that is programmed under FA 5D is 163,490 ha derived from the combined totals of the Low Emissions Slurry Spreading (LESS) and Environmental Management of Fallow Land (EMFL) options in Table 11.4 of the RDP. LESS plus EMFL values equated to 285,226.41ha in 2020.

The target area under the BDGP is 375,000 ha. The realised BDGP total area of 302,451 ha is calculated by dividing the number of reference dams by 1.5 to determine the maximum payable area for each herd (as per the scheme T&Cs). The payable area in each year is further limited by the forage area declared under the BPS application. Total realised output for T18 is 587,677.41 ha or 11.77%.

In 2020, the data showed 190,861 LU's for 1,076 LESS operations or an average of 177 LUs per operation. A cumulative total of 353,929 LUs for the period 2014 to 2020 yields an achievement rate of more than fourteen times the target value. It may be necessary to amend or delete this indicator in future AIRs.

The Low Emission Slurry Spreading (LESS) equipment scheme provides grant-aid for investments in mobile slurry tanks and umbilical systems with attached low emission spreading equipment. The total number of supported operations in 2020 was 1,077. This strand of support under the measure is not subject to overall investment ceilings applicable under the other strands of support introduced under TAMS II in order to encourage the purchase of this specialised equipment.

While Measures 1, 2, 4 and 16 are programmed as contributing to this FA, the principal intervention is the BDGP. Because other contributory schemes have already been described, the state of play on the BDGP, which is entirely programmed under FA 5D, is discussed here.

The BDGP requires participating farmers to undertake a range of actions designed to accelerate genetic improvement in the beef herd resulting in climate benefits associated with lower greenhouse gas emissions. The target area for BDGP is 375,000 ha and is based on 560,000 cows in receipt of payment and a co-efficient of 0.6666 (to convert animals into area figures). In 2020 under the BDGP Scheme €39.8m was paid to almost 21,088 beneficiaries covering 302,451 ha.

The total scheme spend at the end of 2020 was approximately €250m against the overall target spend

of €280.9m.

Focus Area 5E

This FA is concerned with fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry.

The target value is the percentage of agricultural land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation. The achievement rate at the end of 2020 was 25% of the 2023 target.

GLAS is the only operational RDP measure contributing to that objective as no EIP projects are programmed under this FA at present. GLAS actions on hedgerows (i.e. planting / laying / coppicing) and traditional orchards and planting a grove of native trees are assigned to FA 5E. Expenditure on those actions for the creation and upkeep of ecological features amounted to €14.2m in 2020; and a total of €68.8m from 2014-2020.

PRIORITY 6

Priority 6 of the RDP is concerned with promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

Focus Area 6B

LEADER is the only measure programmed as contributing to this FA which is specifically concerned with fostering development in local areas.

There are two targets set out in the RDP for FA 6B: the percentage of the rural population covered by local development strategies, which is 124% of the target; and the number of jobs created in LEADER supported projects, which stands at 22% of the 2023 level.

Note:

The implementing division is satisfied with the accuracy of the population data (i.e. 3.1m) for T21 which is derived from aggregate population covered by the Local Development Strategies. All the strategies were compiled on the same basis using CSO data which was checked by Pobal.

Measure 19 – LEADER

There are 4 sub-measures to LEADER:

- Sub-measure 19.1: Preparatory support;
- Sub-measure 19.2: Support for implementation of operations under the Community-led Local Development strategy;
- Sub-measure 19.3: Preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of Local Action Groups; and
- Sub-measure 19.4: Support for running costs and animation.

The LEADER programme, which is co-funded by the EU, is based on a local-led, bottom-up approach to rural development. The programme supports projects from local community groups and businesses which, amongst other objectives, promote economic development, social inclusion and the protection of the rural environment.

The programme is administered at local level by 29 Local Action Groups (LAGs) across the country that are responsible for selecting and awarding LEADER funding to projects within their own geographical area. At the end of December 2020, over 4,200 projects with a value of over €170 million have been approved for LEADER funding by the LAGs since 2016. The investment in these projects makes a significant contribution to the development of rural communities across Ireland. The LEADER Programme has continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 crisis period with LAG and Implementing Partner (IP) staff working remotely. DRCD has issued a number of circulars to the LAGs to guide and assist, in the context of COVID-19. These include a number of administrative flexibilities such as permitting Evaluation Committee and LAG Decision Making Meetings to be held via telephone or video conference facilities and the use of electronic signatures on forms to assist with processing of payment claims. In addition, and where necessary, the use of photographic evidence in lieu of the Capital Site visit is permitted. The impact of these initiatives is evidenced by the number of project applications approved, and claims paid during the crisis period. Cumulative expenditure under Measure 19 amounted to €124m at the end of 2020, with €46m issued in 2020 specifically.

In addition to the scheme indicator data, presented annual or cumulatively in the Monitoring Annex to this report, Table B2.3 refers to expenditure on the Technical Assistance budget.

Measure 20 - Technical Assistance

- Sub-measure 20.1: Support for technical assistance (other than the National Rural Network (NRN)); and
- Sub-measure 20.2: Support for establishing and operating the NRN.

Technical assistance (TA) supports evaluation, information, communication and other activities that contribute to the effective management of the RDP and strengthen stakeholder capacity.

Cumulative payments of €5.7m (including VAT) were made from the TA budget in the period 2014 to 2020. A sum of just over €1.2m was paid in technical support for Programme implementation in 2020. TA is reported under two distinct categories:

- support for establishing and operating the NRN, and
 - non-NRN support comprised of administrative and other costs.
- The 2020 spend was split equally between NRN support and non-NRN support with the latter comprised mostly of administrative costs for the Burren Programme together with contract payments for the GLAS evaluation project, the Burren Programme Assessment, the Mid Term Evaluation report and an Ex Ante Evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plan.
- NRN activities for 2020 included organising 2 consultation exercises with stakeholders, 7 meetings of thematic working groups and 47 events. It also disseminated 56 project examples as well as 55 publications in printed and electronic formats (see Section 4a2 for more detail on NRN activities in 2020).

Finally, Table E of the Monitoring Annex includes expenditure on the Early Retirement Scheme.

Measure 113 – Early Retirement Scheme

Cumulative expenditure under Measure 113 amounted to €7.6m at the end of 2020, these are

residual payments under the previous Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. No payments were made to scheme beneficiaries in 2020.

1.d) Key information on achievements towards the milestones set in the performance Framework based on Table F

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2017, 2018 only

1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional]

There is nothing to report under this heading.

1.f) Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3), article 111(4)(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

As per the Partnership Agreement, the Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy does not apply to Ireland's EAFRD.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

1.g) Currency rate used for conversion AIR (non EUR countries)

N/A

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 changes were made to the evaluation plan as set out in chapter 9 of the RDP during the reporting period.

A sixth meeting of the RDP Monitoring Committee was convened at Backweston Campus on 4 November 2020. The topics discussed included:

1. An update on Programme implementation, expenditure carried out under the different measures, controls and audit of expenditure and information and publicity strategy.
2. A presentation by ADAS Ltd. on their evaluation of the Green Low-carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS), including the results of the GLAS Evaluation Synthesis Report, describing the outputs of the evaluation.
3. A presentation by AECOM Ireland Ltd. on its evaluation of the Burren Programme including the economic, social and environmental impacts of the Burren Programme.
4. A presentation on the progress of CAP Strategic Plan negotiations, DAFM preparations to date and stakeholder engagements.

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

DAFM is committed to a number of specific initiatives as part of the RDP evaluation process, including an ongoing evaluation of GLAS, a spending review of the BDGP, a series of case studies on LEADER projects and EIP OGs, and a mid-term evaluation by Indecon Economic Consultants. Evaluation activities undertaken in 2020-2021 were as follows:

- ADAS RSK Ltd. was contracted in 2015 to conduct a longitudinal evaluation of the impact of GLAS actions across 3 thematic areas i.e. biodiversity, climate change and water quality. A number of reports were finalised in the 2020-2021 period.
- AECOM Ltd. was contracted in early 2020 to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of the Burren Programme.
- The National Rural Network (NRN) also continues to prepare a number of case studies on LEADER, farm viability, and environmental issues. The NRN also prepared a new series of videos and publicity on women in agriculture. Ongoing support was provided to the EIP-AGRI Operational Groups to publicise their progress and successes.

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)

In 2020 the IT Executive Project Board, comprised of RDP implementing divisions as well as Information and Management Technology (IMT) Division, continued to meet on a regular basis to co-ordinate and determine work priorities in relation to the provision and management of RDP measure data.

The IT Executive Project Board met at least twice a month to oversee the development, implementation and maintenance of information management systems to support the operation of RDP schemes. This forum also facilitates communication between the Managing Authority, the Paying Agency and IMT. Any new requirements with regards to IT functionality are raised in this forum. It is also a useful mechanism for dealing with interconnectivity issues between the many schemes – for example, IT functionality on M11 Organic Farming Scheme is closely related to M10 GLAS.

The Department's Generic Claims Processing System (GCPS) software supports RDP Implementing Divisions operating various RDP schemes with support from its Geospatial Information System (GIS), Land Parcel Information System (LPIS) and Agriculture Field Inspection and Testing System (AFIT) and Basic Payment Scheme (BPS). A number of steps were taken in 2020 to enhance IT software including shorter and more frequent releases of functionality (GCPS), alignment of the testing process to the best international standard - ISO 29119 and the introduction of a new Route Cause Analysis process to identify the causes of defects and the best method of ensuring they don't re-occur.

During 2020 we developed the facility for GLAS/OFS/BDGP applicants who had reached the end of the application 5 year period to extend for a further year.

We commenced the CAP 2023-2027 process mainly around identifying new schemes to be developed and this process will intensify over the coming year. We have also commenced the re-development of GCPS (AgSchemes) in preparation for CAP 2023-2027. This will enable the provision of critical functionality to the Department over the coming years, provide better support to the user and will also improve the efficiency, navigation and ease of use of interface screens.

2020 was dominated by the COVID-19 outbreak. This necessitated the shutdown of DAFM offices and the requirement to work from home. Despite this we were able to meet all of our payment deadlines throughout 2020 as per timelines agreed at start of 2020. This was achieved through the provision by DAFM IT Infrastructure of full access to all DAFM systems through Citrix/VPN and the use of Webex for regular meetings.

The data requirements for the RDP measure monitoring and evaluation for the 2020 AIR and the evaluation report were discussed at the IT Executive Project Board throughout the year. The relevant RDP Implementing Divisions were tasked with liaising with IMT and in some instances with external bodies such as the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation, Animal Health Ireland and the Heritage Council, to ensure the timely provision of the mandatory and additional indicator data. Regular sub-group meetings between IMT, RDP Implementing Divisions and RDP Division were also carried out where more detailed discussions are required.

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

Publisher/Editor	National Rural Network (NRN)
Author(s)	NRN
Title	NRN
Abstract	Case studies and EIP Operational Groups booklet and a new Women in Agriculture series available on the NRN website.
URL	https://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie/

Publisher/Editor	DAFM
Author(s)	ADAS RSK Ltd.
Title	Evaluation of the GLAS Scheme
Abstract	The GLAS Synthesis Report was finalised in 2020 and published on the Department's website.
URL	https://assets.gov.ie/98469/3ea1d456-49dd-4a21-9eca-2c57e9465d16.pdf

Publisher/Editor	DAFM
Author(s)	AECOM Ltd.
Title	Evaluation of The Burren Programme
Abstract	The Burren Evaluation Report was prepared and published in 2020 on the Department's website. The evaluation examined the environmental, economic and social effects of the Burren Programme on its participants, the Burren and wider society.
URL	https://assets.gov.ie/98196/f13c1130-66d6-4da2-af34-378c92ccb571.pdf

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

Please summarize the findings from evaluations completed in 2020, per CAP objective (or RDP priority, where appropriate).

Report on positive or negative effects/impacts (including the supporting evidence). Please don't forget to mention the source of the findings.

ADAS RSK Ltd. was contracted in 2015 to conduct a longitudinal study of the impact of GLAS actions across three thematic areas i.e. biodiversity, climate change and water quality. Interim reports are published on the Department's website. The purpose of the project is to assess the effectiveness of GLAS as a contributory measure towards sustainable Irish agriculture and assess its contribution towards the achievement of wider environmental objectives.

The contribution of GLAS actions to scheme biodiversity goals is being assessed by means of a field survey of over 300 GLAS farms repeated 3 times over the duration the scheme.

The latest field survey of GLAS biodiversity actions found that most actions have been well implemented and that some implementation problems have arisen due to issues of understanding of prescriptions and/or capacity to implement and maintain actions. The evaluators consider it too early to measure outcomes for most actions, but evidence of likely outcomes is generally positive.

Impacts on water quality and climate are difficult to measure directly and the contribution of GLAS actions to those objectives is assessed through a proprietary modelling approach developed by the contractor. The latest modelling suggests that GLAS delivers moderate nitrate, phosphorus, nitrous oxide and methane reductions. It was found that overall contribution to reduction in pollutant loads and climate change mitigation is modest at a national scale and higher impacts would require a greater proportion of intensive farmers to enter the scheme and take up relevant actions.

The findings from the GLAS evaluations reports will be used to inform arrangements for agri environment-climate schemes in the transitional period and in the CAP Strategic Plan.

Burren Programme

AECOM Ltd. was contracted in early 2020 to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of the Burren Programme. The Burren Programme is a locally-led agri-environmental scheme, which works with farmers to help them to conserve the Burren's environment whilst allowing them to continue producing quality livestock. It was developed in the Burren, for the Burren, by working with local farmers and building on the success of the Burren LIFE and the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme.

The evaluation found that the Burren Programme has been successful in encouraging sustainable grazing and feeding systems and removing encroaching scrub on over 23,000 hectares, providing space for rare flowers, such as orchids and gentians, to flourish. It estimates that the value of habitat and landscape improvements delivered amount to €32.8 million since 2010, and highlights that the Burren Programme is an efficient and effective model for delivering environmental improvements.

In addition, it estimated that the Burren Programme and its predecessor, the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme, also provided a boost to the local economy and generated €30.3 million in

economic activity since 2010. The report notes that the local economic impact has been particularly high, as farmers are encouraged to use local contractors, businesses and crafts people.

It noted the significant social impacts, and the Programme's success in strengthening ties among farmers in the Burren, as well as fostering a shared Burren farming identity. The Programme has also been successful in strengthening ties between farmers and other stakeholders and organisations outside of the region, including with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

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	01/11/2020
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	Burren Programme
Overall organiser of activity/ event	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Information channels/ format used	Website, PDF document
Type of target audience	RDP stakeholders, the general public
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	100
URL	https://assets.gov.ie/98196/f13c1130-66d6-4da2-af34-378c92ccb571.pdf

Date / Period	01/11/2020
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	GLAS evaluation reports
Overall organiser of activity/ event	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Information channels/	Website, PDF document

format used	
Type of target audience	RDP stakeholders, the general public
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	100
URL	https://assets.gov.ie/98469/3ea1d456-49dd-4a21-9eca-2c57e9465d16.pdf

Date / Period	04/11/2020
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	Monitoring Committee for the Rural Development Programme; evaluators ADAS and AECOM gave a presentation to attendees on the findings of their evaluation findings.
Overall organiser of activity/ event	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Information channels/ format used	PowerPoint presentation given to attendees
Type of target audience	RDP stakeholders
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	100
URL	N/A

Date / Period	30/11/2020
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	NRN newsletter, infographic illustrating findings of the evaluation findings was displayed.
Overall organiser of activity/ event	NRN
Information channels/ format used	Animation on Facebook page
Type of target audience	Farmers, Rural Community, RDP stakeholders
Approximate number	2000

of stakeholders reached	
URL	https://www.facebook.com/157776714971/videos/361947414905600

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.

<p>Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)</p>	<p>Recommendations (from GLAS and Burren Programme evaluations) will be followed-up in the design of the CAP Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>Follow-up carried out</p>	<p>On-going development of interventions under the CAP Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>Responsible authority for follow-up</p>	<p>Managing authority</p>

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

Ireland's percentage drawdown for EU funding stood at 91.7%, at end December 2020, against the EU average of 68.7% and second only to Finland at 94.2%.

Notwithstanding the effectiveness of Programme management evidenced in the drawdown figures, DAFM has taken several initiatives to further enhance the quality and effectiveness of Programme implementation. These actions are described below.

The Department's Generic Claims Processing System (GCPS) software supports business units operating various RDP schemes such as GLAS, TAMS II, Knowledge Transfer and Organic Farming Schemes as well as AEOS and TAMS I schemes under the previous Programme. Since 2014, DAFM has adopted a policy of implementing fully digital end-to-end support for all but the smallest schemes. The vast majority of schemes are delivered by enhancing the capability of GCPS software, with support from its Geospatial Information System (GIS), Land Parcel Information System (LPIS) and Agriculture Field Inspection and Testing System (AFIT).

We provided the facility in late 2020 to extend the 5 year OFS / GLAS / BDGP schemes.

Among the steps taken to enhance the IT software for processing scheme claims in 2020 were:

- Continued introduction of AGILE development to GCPS, providing shorter and more frequent releases of functionality to Production;
- Alignment of the testing process to the best international standard (ISO 29119);
- Introduction of a new Route Cause Analysis process to identify causes of defects and best methods of ensuring that they do not re-occur; and
- Introduction of a 'Continuous Performance Testing' approach within GCPS

In preparation for CAP 2023-2027, we introduced the redevelopment of GCPS called AgSchemes during 2020. This will enable the provision of critical functionality to the Department over the coming years, and provide better support to the user. In addition, it will also improve the efficiency, navigation and ease of use of interface screens.

In 2019 a number of units within the Department began collaborating on a Data Analytics project to develop a farm topology database. When available this database will provide functionality to examine data in a certain way and gather information on particular areas and enterprises within those areas. It will also facilitate the ability to provide improved management information. This work has continued throughout 2020.

While Programme quality is addressed primarily at business area level, an internal Payments Delivery Group (PDG) was set up to monitor progress on application processing and delivery of payments with a view to improving operational performance - particularly prompt payment to scheme beneficiaries - and predictability of outcomes. The PDG, which began work in January 2017, is an oversight group comprising

senior management from Finance, IMT and business areas dealing with farm supports and controls.

It contributes to programme effectiveness by:

- optimising co-ordination within the department's farm sector supports and controls business areas, including exploiting synergies and focusing on interdependencies between Pillar I and II schemes; and
- facilitating, co-ordinating and planning best use of ICT resources to support delivery of RDP schemes.

It was considered successful, particularly with regard to the Control Report and GLAS payments, and continued in 2020 with a similar remit and additional focus on CAP 2023-2027.

The LEADER Programme has continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 crisis period with LAG and IP staff working remotely. DRCD has issued a number of circulars to the LAGs to guide and assist in the context of COVID-19. These included a number of administrative flexibilities such as permitting Evaluation Committee and LAG Decision Making meetings to be held via telephone or video conferencing facilities and the use of electronic signatures on forms to assist with processing of payment claims. In addition, and where necessary, the use of photographic evidence in lieu of the Capital Site visit was permitted. The impact of these initiatives is evidenced by the number of project applications approved, and the number of claims paid during the crisis period.

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)	2,190,589,653.00	77.85	76.58

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)	2,190,589,653.00		
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	2,190,589,653.00		

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)

Irish Rural Link in partnership with the Wheel, NUI Galway and Philip Farrelly & Co. was awarded the contract to run Ireland's National Rural Network (NRN) for the current programming period in January 2016. Action plans detailing the NRN's annual work programme are agreed following discussions with the MA and are subject to regular performance reviews by DAFM.

NRN Advisory Sub-Committees

In late 2016, 5 advisory sub-committees were established to support the NRN's effective engagement with the RDP under a number of specific themes including EIP-Agri, LEADER, viability of farming communities, climate change, biodiversity and EU LIFE. The sub-committees will achieve this goal through:

- providing advice and support to the NRN;
- sharing learning and identifying best practice examples;
- identifying key thematic issues of concern to the NRN; and
- providing input to the NRN Action Plan

Members of the sub-committees, which meet twice yearly, are selected by the relevant NRN project team lead member for their expertise in the relevant thematic areas. They include individuals from DAFM, farming bodies, agricultural advisors and third level institutions as well as Local Action Groups, Birdwatch Ireland, the feed industry and LIFE projects.

The advisory committees meet regularly throughout the year. The biodiversity, climate change and EU LIFE subcommittees amalgamated last year as many of the issues were aligned.

The NRN continues to update all subcommittee members every quarter between meetings on the work of the consortium. The members are invited to share any information from their organisation relevant to the wider NRN membership.

The National Support Unit (NSU) monitors the action plan and ensures all actions are completed to the highest standard. The NSU members met regularly with DAFM to ensure the highest standards are being achieved for reporting. The NSU also complied with a yearly audit administered by DAFM.

4.a2) Actions taken and state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan

The NRN's role is to increase the visibility of all aspects of the RDP. Highlights of its activities in 2020 can be summarised as follows.

Events

In 2020, the NRN organised or made a significant contribution to 47 events. Due to COVID-19, no face-to-face events took place from March 2020. There were 11,536 attendees at events in 2020.

- Agricultural Gaseous Emissions technical training event;
- 38 Signpost Series webinars;
- RURALIZATION Horizon 2020 Project - Online conference: Facilitating our Future Farmers: National and International Perspectives;
- Agriculture Supporting Biodiversity webinar;
- Biodiversity Farmer of the Year Awards;
- Farming for Nature Awards;
- 4 x Advisory Subcommittee meetings.

Website

- Innovative content added weekly to the NRN website, including interactive story maps, blogs and videos;
- 29,078 unique visitors to the website and 131,622 page views.

Social media and engagement

- Facebook and Twitter accounts for the NRN were updated daily by NRN partners.
- The following targets were achieved:
 - 4,072 Facebook followers (increase of 28.4% since start of year); 599 Facebook posts reaching an average 38,665 people per month)
 - 4,561 Twitter followers (increase of 9.9% since start of year); 561 tweets reaching an average of 69,692 people per month
- 8 monthly e-bulletins were designed and distributed to over 8,800 members (membership increased by 174% during the year).
- 1,660 copies of the Quarterly Newsletter were designed and distributed in hard copy version to key stakeholders along with an electronic version disseminated to the NRN membership.

Printed materials

The NRN publications in 2020 consisted of 8 e-bulletins; 4 quarterly printed newsletters; 1 LEADER newsletter; 2 EU LIFE newsletters; 1 infographic on NRN achievements; 2 GLAS infographics; 1 Beef Data Genomics Programme infographic; 3 Farm Safe Nature Farm Colouring Competition posters; Bioeconomy Glossary of Terms poster; 21 press releases; 11 blogs (7 EIP-AGRI; 3 Farm Viability; 1 Biodiversity).

Multimedia

97 videos produced (8 x Women in Agriculture videos; Biodiversity Farmer of the Year 2019 Winner video; 2 x promotional LEADER Impact Campaign videos; 13 x EIP-AGRI Operational Group videos; Burren Evaluation Animation; 33 x LEADER Impact Campaign videos; Agriculture Supporting Biodiversity video; 38 Signpost Series webinar videos) ; 5 radio interviews (Ocean FM - Social Farming in Ireland; Cork FM, BBC Radio, Kerry Radio, Midlands 103 - Women in Agriculture); Farm Safe Farm Nature colouring competition; website content updated; NRN sponsored Biodiversity Farmer of the Year award at Macra na Feirme Young Farmer of the Year awards; NRN partnered with Burren Beo trust for Farming for Nature awards; 11 blogs published on the website (7 x EIP-AGRI; 3 x Farm Viability; 1 x Biodiversity).

Implementation of the action plan

To operationalise the NRN, 8 work packages on a number of governing themes are outlined in the NRN action plan. These are:

- Network management;
- EU networking;
- Biodiversity and environmental challenges;
- Climate change and the farming community;
- Viability and Competitiveness of the Farming Community;
- LEADER;
- The LIFE Programme and European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Listed below are the main actions taken by the NRN to implement the plan in 2019.

Work Package 1 – Network Management

- Held bi-monthly NRN consortium meetings to ensure the efficient operation of the network;
- Grew the NRN membership to 8,809 – up 175% since the start of the year;
- Submitted quarterly financial and narrative reports to the Managing Authority.
- Published
- 97 videos produced and disseminated, including 33 LEADER Impact Campaign videos and 5 Women in Agriculture Videos
- Supported 3 sub-committees to advise the NRN on its work programme and to maximise the dissemination of information on the RDP.
- 21 press releases sent to local and national media.

Work Package 2 – EU Networking

- Participated in the 10th, 11th and 12th European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) Thematic Group (TG) meeting on the EU Smart Villages initiative;
- Participated in an EIP-AGRI seminar on ‘New skills for digital farming’ that took place in Aranjuez, Spain from the 5th to 6th of February 2020;
- Participated in the 3rd and 4th ENRD Thematic Group Meeting on ‘Bioeconomy and Climate Action in Rural Areas’ in Brussels, Belgium on 19th February and online on 28th April;
- Presented on Ireland’s engagement on the CAP Strategic Plan during Facilitation Techniques workshop at 16th NRN’s meeting in Spain from 3rd to 5th March;
- Participated in the 11th and 12th European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) Thematic Group (TG) meetings on the EU Smart Villages initiative that took place on April 1st and June 2nd

2020 via webinar;

- Participated in the 16th NRN's meeting in Spain and the 18th and 19th NRN's meetings via webinar;
- Participated in the ENRD's digital communications workshop on 16th June 2020 via webinar and presented on adaptation of NRN's communications plan due to COVID-19;
- Participated in European Rural Networks' Assembly's permanent Sub-group on LEADER/ CLLD on the 18th of September;
- Presented at EIP-AGRI online seminar on 'CAP Strategic Plans: the key role of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in Member States' from 16th to 18th September;
- Participated in Long-Term Rural Vision 2040 Thematic Group which met three times;
- Infographic of Ireland's 23 EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects was featured in the 7th edition of the EIP-AGRI Service Point's Agrinnovation magazine;
- Collaborated with the 'Smart Rural 21' project, supported by the European Commission (DG AGRI), to highlight a video about Grow Remote's Chapter in Tubbercurry and South Sligo featured on their website and YouTube Channel as a Smart Solution;
- Presented on Long-Term Rural Vision during 18th edition of Interreg Europe's 'European Week of Regions and Cities' virtual event from 12th to 15th October;
- Participated in the ENRD Thematic Lab on Developing local strategic approaches to address green issues on 26th November.

Work Packages 3 - Biodiversity & Environmental Challenges

- Produced Case studies of the Quarterly Newsletters on Organic Farming, Curlew Conservation Programme, Water Quality Biodiversity Young Farmer of the Year: Profile
- 24 published articles on Biodiversity section of E-Bulletin
- Designed and hosted an online quiz featuring Bees
- Designed a colouring competition to promote RDP Agri-environmental Schemes GLAS & BDGP, targeted towards national school children. Over 400 entries received. Promoted the competition in Association with AgriKids. Over 46,000 people were reached through social media
- Liaised with Liam Lysaght National Biodiversity Data Centre and Niall Ryan, Nitrates and Biodiversity Section DAFM, delivered a webinar which focused on Agriculture Supporting Biodiversity. Over 130 participants registered for event.
- Represented NRN by attending the following events: Ag Climatise, Mount Wolseley Hotel Tullow; Climate Action in Agriculture – A Balance Approach (IFA); ACA AGM
- Participated in radio interview with Cork Radio
- Participated in Macra, Young Farmer of the Year Awards 2020, liaised with Macra to identify best options for Macra Young Farmer of the Year Awards. Participated in planning calls, participated as a panel judge at semi-final rounds, completed additional interviews of short list of applicants for the NRN Biodiversity Young Farmer of the Year Award; Pre-recorded video of presentation of the 2020 NRN Biodiversity Award – Award was announced on Facebook Live with over 2k views
- Published updated GLAS top 10, and GLAS uptake per county infographics

Work Packages 4 - Climate Change

- Produced Case studies of the Quarterly Newsletters on Young Farmers Scheme and TAMS II funding, Energy in Agriculture – Kerry Pig Farmer, focus on key topics covered in Signpost Webinar Series.
- 27 short articles published on Climate change section of E-Bulletin

- Held Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions training day in Fermoy in collaboration with Teagasc ConnectED, Dairy Sustainability Ireland, Food and Drink Ireland Skillnet attended by over 75 advisors and other Agri-professionals in the public and private sector. Following COVID-19, event moved online:
 - Participate in weekly review of feedback content from each webinar
 - Bi-weekly team meeting to plan next webinars
 - Weekly updating of email invitation to NRN members
 - Weekly updating of NRN website and Agenda
 - Promotion of each webinar
 - Summary report: 2020 Signpost Series

A total of 38 webinars were held in 2020 with a total participation of 10,921.

- Represented NRN by attending the following events: Ag Climatise, Mount Wolseley Hotel Tullow; Climate Action in Agriculture – A Balance Approach (IFA); ACA AGM
- Liaised with SEAI to produce up to date content for NRN website to promote the SEAI energy grants available to communities
- Published updated BDGP infographic

Work Package 3&4 – Biodiversity & Environmental Challenges and Climate Change Sub-committee

- Hosted sub-committee meeting in Q4 online to provide an update to members on current status of CAP Strategic Plan.

Provided in-depth review of work packages

Ultan Waldron DAFM provided update

Facilitation of Q&A session

Compiled and circulation of meeting minutes.

Work Package 5 – Viability and Competitiveness of Farming Communities

- Published 3 x Farm Viability blogs by guest contributors
- Published 10 articles in relation to the topic of Farm Viability and Competitiveness in NRN E-bulletins
- Developed a Women in Agriculture Video Series, featuring 5 farmers from across Ireland & across the sectors to highlight the pivotal role of women in agriculture and to tell their story of farming in contemporary Ireland;
- Published 8 Farm Viability Case Studies on the website and in newsletters;
- Supported the National Farming for Nature Award 2020, participated in the planning, judging process and promotion of shortlisted candidates;
- Ran a Bioeconomy Awareness Campaign as part of Ireland's Bioeconomy Week 2020 NRN Bioeconomy Glossary of Terms developed and included in the Winter 2020 edition of the NRN Quarterly Newsletter.

Work Package 7 – LEADER

- Ran a 'LEADER Programme Promotion Week' across the NRN's social media channels in Q2/3;

- Published 41 LEADER articles in monthly e-bulletin and 8 articles in quarterly newsletters;
- Published fifth LEADER newsletter and disseminated to NRN members and LEADER LAGs and IPs;
- Published 11 LEADER case studies on the website and in newsletters
- Launched a LEADER Impact Campaign asking LEADER projects to tell us the impact of LEADER funding on their project, organisation, community, enterprise or environment by creating their own short vide. 33 LEADER Projects entered and 5,000+ people participated in the public vote;

Work Package 8 – EIP-AGRI

- Launched a Video Blog (Vlog) series on the NRN YouTube channel and produced 3 Vlogs;
- Published 35 EIP-AGRI articles in NRN e-bulletins;
- Produced a new booklet of all EIP-AGRI guest blog posts featured on the NRN website over the course of the RDP 2014-2020 entitled ‘Multi-Actor Perspectives’;
- Presented how the lessons learned from Ireland's existing EIP-AGRI Operational Groups are helping to build future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) interventions in an Irish context at the ‘CAP Strategic Plans: the key role of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) in Member States’ online seminar held by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and the EIP-AGRI Service Point from the 16th to 18th of September 2020;
- Chaired a session entitled ‘Sharing lessons learned and how these might help to inform Ireland’s CAP Strategic plan’ at the Burren Winterage School’s EIP-AGRI Symposium in October 2020;
- Produced an infographic of Ireland's 23 EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects for the 7th edition of the EIP-AGRI Service Point's Agrinnovation magazine (p.6) in October 2020;
- Collaborated with the Burrenbeo Trust, to produce a series videos featuring the 13 EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects who presented at the EIP-AGRI Symposium entitled ‘Sharing lessons learned and how these might help to inform Ireland’s CAP Strategic plan’ at the Burren Winterage School 2020;

Featured in a new video by the EIP-AGRI Service Point speaking about the value of the EIP-AGRI model's multi-actor approach in helping to bring about innovation and sustainability at farm level. This video was released at the 7th Rural Networks Assembly meeting on the 4th of December 2020.

4.b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014)

The purpose of the Information and Publicity Strategy is to increase awareness and understanding of rural development policy interventions.

The 2019 Information and Publicity Strategy for the 2014-2020 RDP was submitted to the Monitoring Committee in August 2020. It identified the information and publicity actions necessary to ensure that the specific target groups have full access to current information on the Programme.

The Managing Authority has responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the strategy. This task is shared with the various implementing line divisions and with the Department of Rural & Community

Development (DRCD). As DRCD is responsible for the LEADER element of the programme, it has a pivotal role in implementing the Information and Publicity Strategy for that measure. The National Rural Network (NRN) also ensures that RDP supports are publicised to the widest possible audience (see section 4.a2).

A number of information and publicity actions were carried out in 2020 and some of these are outlined below:

- **43 press releases providing information on RDP measures (including 2 on LEADER) were prepared and distributed to key stakeholders and media outlets;**
- **8 information and training sessions were held on RDP schemes (relating to Animal Welfare ie PHC Biocheck & Poultry Biocheck, BVD, TB and Cellcheck training. There was also 1 session on TAMS)**
- **15 DRCD circulars were sent to LEADER Local Action Groups; and**
- **During 2020 the NRN in conjunction with Teagasc organised weekly webinars which covered a huge range of topics, some of which were Green House Gases, Land Management, Water Quality, Climate Change, Irish Hedgerows and many more.**
- A number of publications have been produced to create awareness of RDP measures and schemes among stakeholders. A RDP summary booklet containing a general description of each scheme as well as information on eligibility criteria and support rates was published in September 2015. This booklet was updated in 2016 and 2017 to take account of the changes made following adoption of Programme amendments. A 2021 update is currently being prepared. The booklet published in September 2017 is available online and at Department offices. It has been distributed at the National Ploughing Championships and NRN events. Other publications include a factsheet on the LEADER programme which is produced and distributed by DRCD and an internal information note on RDP implementation and management structures for operational divisions.

A dedicated online RDP portal is located on www.gov.ie/. The content of online material on each measure and scheme provided on this website and on various social media platforms run by both DAFM and DRCD is updated regularly. The NRN also has a separate website and social media accounts to promote the RDP. Finally, DAFM uses a text messaging service to remind beneficiaries of important deadlines such as scheme opening and closing dates.

5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

This section applies to AIR(s) 2015, 2016 only

6. DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PROGRAMMES

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

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

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

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

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

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 ?	Yes
30B. Has the ex-ante assessment been completed ?	Yes
30. Date of completion of ex-ante assessment	02-02-2018
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)	2014-2020			2.72	75.66	3.60
		2014-2019			2.39	66.48	
		2014-2018			1.61	44.78	
		2014-2017			0.78	21.70	
		2014-2016			0.24	6.68	
		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)	2014-2020			1,483.00	122.56	1,210.00
		2014-2019			1,258.00	103.97	
		2014-2018			791.00	65.37	
		2014-2017			655.00	54.13	
		2014-2016			328.00	27.11	
		2014-2015			86.00	7.11	

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)	2014-2020			94,953.00	85.08	111,600.00
		2014-2019			93,648.00	83.91	
		2014-2018			92,598.00	82.97	
		2014-2017			67,689.00	60.65	
		2014-2016			24,730.00	22.16	
		2014-2015			549.00	0.49	

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)	2014-2020	5.46	59.91	5.46	59.91	9.11
		2014-2019	4.04	44.33	4.04	44.33	
		2014-2018	2.66	29.18	2.66	29.18	
		2014-2017	1.38	15.14	1.37	15.03	
		2014-2016	0.57	6.25	0.57	6.25	
		2014-2015	0.37	4.06	0.37	4.06	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	212,406,990.00	121.39	105,440,985.36	60.26	174,975,000.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	27,663,990.00	158.76	15,038,507.17	86.30	17,425,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			15,038,507.17	60.15	25,000,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			4,639.25	69.76	6,650.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	333,000.00	66.60			500,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020					375.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	182,296,000.00	117.38	89,451,572.43	57.60	155,300,000.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			191,966,097.24	49.44	388,250,000.00
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			89,451,572.43	57.60	155,300,000.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020			7,643.00	59.95	12,750.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,114,000.00	120.80	950,905.76	54.34	1,750,000.00

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)	2014-2020	3.05	106.67	3.05	106.67	2.86
		2014-2019	2.07	72.39	2.07	72.39	
		2014-2018	1.16	40.57	1.16	40.57	
		2014-2017	0.41	14.34	0.41	14.34	
		2014-2016	0.04	1.40	0.04	1.40	
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	207,358,000.00	176.85	120,824,452.81	103.05	117,250,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	204,367,000.00	179.27	119,250,833.74	104.61	114,000,000.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			188,671,188.62	99.30	190,000,000.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020			4,263.00	106.58	4,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,991,000.00	92.03	1,573,619.07	48.42	3,250,000.00

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)	2014-2020					0.00	
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	Percentage of agricultural holdings supported under the animal welfare measure (Farms)	2014-2020				13.04	54.33	24.00
		2014-2019				13.28	55.33	
		2014-2018				14.42	60.08	
		2014-2017				14.79	61.63	
		2014-2016						
2014-2015								
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
3A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	86,139,260.00	85.03	68,004,826.42	67.13	101,300,000.00	
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	650,000.00	216.67	4,500.00	1.50	300,000.00	
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020					7,000.00	
M14	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	84,949,260.00	84.95	67,642,664.88	67.64	100,000,000.00	
M14	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020			18,247.00	53.67	34,000.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	540,000.00	54.00	357,661.54	35.77	1,000,000.00	

Focus Area 3B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
3B	Number of Participants in Knowledge Transfer Groups (focus area 3B) (Persons)	2014-2020			1,324.00	4.98	26,600.00
		2014-2019			17,256.00	64.87	
		2014-2018			17,063.00	64.15	
		2014-2017			13,958.00	52.47	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
3B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	69,109,390.00	139.83	22,789,801.55	46.11	49,425,000.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	27,663,990.00	158.76	15,037,840.19	86.30	17,425,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			15,037,840.19	60.15	25,000,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			4,639.25	69.76	6,650.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	4,115,400.00	68.59	1,614,320.28	26.91	6,000,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			5,237.00	52.37	10,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,030,000.00	116.12	6,137,641.08	24.55	25,000,000.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			22,991,953.25	36.79	62,500,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	8,300,000.00	830.00			1,000,000.00

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)	2014-2020			18.29	101.19	18.08	
		2014-2019			18.58	102.79		
		2014-2018			18.30	101.24		
		2014-2017			16.39	90.68		
		2014-2016			12.86	71.15		
		2014-2015			5.96	32.97		
	T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2020				20.36	97.36	20.91
		2014-2019				20.67	98.84	
		2014-2018				20.42	97.65	
		2014-2017				18.40	87.99	
		2014-2016				12.86	61.50	
		2014-2015				5.96	28.50	
	T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	2014-2020				18.23	87.77	20.77
		2014-2019				16.59	79.88	
		2014-2018				18.21	87.68	
		2014-2017				16.97	81.71	
		2014-2016				12.86	61.92	
		2014-2015				5.96	28.70	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
P4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	5,124,215,330.00	171.58	2,892,940,749.01	96.87	2,986,480,630.00	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	44,062,150.00	149.74	26,678,699.21	90.67	29,425,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			26,678,699.21	72.69	36,700,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			55,115.25	97.29	56,650.00	
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	59,000.00	5.90			1,000,000.00	
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020					750.00	
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	176,034,000.00	174.81	36,087,553.24	35.84	100,700,000.00	
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			60,360,612.31	29.19	206,750,000.00	
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020					9,700.00	
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	8,845,000.00	147.42	4,540,135.31	75.67	6,000,000.00	

M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,122,870,000.00	183.54	1,182,837,901.50	102.27	1,156,605,630.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			887,735.59	76.16	1,165,579.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	59,740,580.00	106.68	40,973,937.79	73.17	56,000,000.00
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			2,466.00	15.41	16,000.00
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			53,183.00	113.44	46,880.00
M12	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	111,802,650.00	231.72	44,718,104.41	92.68	48,250,000.00
M12.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			40.95	0.03	141,560.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,579,711,950.00	166.86	1,538,384,422.74	99.51	1,546,000,000.00
M13.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			2,201,722.56	66.69	3,301,559.00
M13.3	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			10,374.32	2.56	404,648.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	21,090,000.00	49.62	18,719,994.81	44.05	42,500,000.00

Focus Area 5A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5A	Number of Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects Operational Groups (Groups)	2014-2020					1.00
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00

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)	2014-2020	15,234,176.11	30.47	15,234,176.11	30.47	50,000,000.00
		2014-2019	10,879,044.71	21.76	10,879,044.71	21.76	
		2014-2018	6,203,582.73	12.41	6,203,582.73	12.41	
		2014-2017	1,138,745.32	2.28	1,138,745.32	2.28	
		2014-2016	30,260.60	0.06	30,260.60	0.06	
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	11,732,000.00	52.14	6,751,057.96	30.00	22,500,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	11,732,000.00	58.66	6,751,057.96	33.76	20,000,000.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			15,234,176.11	30.47	50,000,000.00
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			611.00	122.20	500.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00

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)	2014-2020					0.00	
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	Number of Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects Operational Groups (Group)	2014-2020				2.00	200.00	1.00
		2014-2019				2.00	200.00	
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
5C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	290,000.00	11.60	726,945.19	29.08	2,500,000.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	290,000.00	11.60	726,945.19	29.08	2,500,000.00	

Focus Area 5D								
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023	
5D	T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	2014-2020			11.77	109.10	10.79	
		2014-2019			12.34	114.38		
		2014-2018			12.45	115.40		
		2014-2017			11.17	103.54		
		2014-2016			7.87	72.95		
		2014-2015			4.73	43.84		
	T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	2014-2020				6.12	3,079.90	0.20
		2014-2019				2.82	1,419.17	
		2014-2018				1.22	613.97	
		2014-2017				0.45	226.46	
		2014-2016				0.08	40.26	
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
5D	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	691,982,970.00	201.08	313,404,378.24	91.07	344,125,000.00	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	48,588,920.00	154.13	25,730,739.38	81.62	31,525,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			25,730,739.38	65.81	39,100,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			30,559.25	73.37	41,650.00	
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	28,000.00	5.60	157,877.47	31.58	500,000.00	
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020					375.00	
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,631,000.00	296.31	22,946,729.49	229.47	10,000,000.00	
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			54,974,708.45	219.90	25,000,000.00	
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			2,265.00	906.00	250.00	
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)	2014-2020			353,929.00	3,077.64	11,500.00	
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	613,735,050.00	204.85	264,569,031.90	88.31	299,600,000.00	
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			587,677.41	109.13	538,490.00	
M16	O1 - Total public	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00	

	expenditure						
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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)	2014-2020			0.08	25.15	0.32
		2014-2019			0.08	25.15	
		2014-2018			0.08	25.15	
		2014-2017			0.08	25.15	
		2014-2016			0.05	15.72	
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5E	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	138,260,000.00	178.86	68,799,038.00	89.00	77,300,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	138,260,000.00	184.84	68,799,038.00	91.98	74,800,000.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			4,538.58	24.69	18,385.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00	0.00			2,500,000.00

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)	2014-2020			698.84	22.54	3,100.00	
		2014-2019			466.43	15.05		
		2014-2018			181.93	5.87		
		2014-2017			1.50	0.05		
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	2014-2020						0.00
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2020				82.02	124.77	65.74
		2014-2019				82.02	124.77	
		2014-2018				82.02	124.77	
		2014-2017				82.02	124.77	
		2014-2016				62.12	94.50	
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
6B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	373,530,000.00	149.41	123,947,306.11	49.58	250,000,000.00	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	373,530,000.00	149.41	123,947,306.11	49.58	250,000,000.00	
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2020			3,082,317.00	124.77	2,470,308.00	
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2020			29.00	103.57	28.00	
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			1,317,515.16	188.22	700,000.00	
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			77,565,600.07	39.91	194,350,000.00	
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			762,520.41	7.63	10,000,000.00	
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			44,301,670.47	98.56	44,950,000.00	

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
2020 Citizens' summary	Citizens' summary	29-06-2021		Ares(2021)4260490	1165294220	Citizens' summary	30-06-2021	n006nimk
AIR Financial Annex 2014IE06RDNP001	Financial annex (System)	10-05-2021		Ares(2021)4260490	482254832	AIRfinancialAnnex2014IE06RDNP001_en.pdf	30-06-2021	n006nimk

