



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)	2014-2019			2.39	66.48	3.60
	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)	2014-2019			1,258.00	103.97	1,210.00
	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)	2014-2019			93,648.00	83.91	111,600.00
	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)		2014-2019	4.04	44.33	4.04	44.33	9.11
		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	2014-2019	27,660,000.00	110.64	14,404,074.73	57.62	25,000,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	353,000.00	70.60	157,781.79	31.56	500,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	123,766,000.00	79.69	64,678,728.47	41.65	155,300,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	1,824,000.00	104.23	620,659.17	35.47	1,750,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	153,603,000.00	84.14	79,861,244.16	43.75	182,550,000.00

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)		2014-2019	2.07	72.39	2.07	72.39	2.86
		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	2014-2019	141,957,000.00	124.52	83,879,165.39	73.58	114,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	2,371,000.00	72.95	1,298,620.98	39.96	3,250,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	144,328,000.00	123.09	85,177,786.37	72.65	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)		2014-2019					0.00
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Percentage of agricultural holdings supported under the animal welfare measure (Farms)		2014-2019			13.28	55.33	24.00
		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	2014-2019	100,000.00	33.33			300,000.00
M14	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	84,880,000.00	84.88	50,882,282.54	50.88	100,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	510,000.00	51.00	187,465.71	18.75	1,000,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	85,490,000.00	84.39	51,069,748.25	50.41	101,300,000.00

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)		2014-2019			17,256.00	64.87	26,600.00
		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	2014-2019	27,660,000.00	110.64	14,404,074.73	57.62	25,000,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	3,065,400.00	51.09	1,263,694.74	21.06	6,000,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	18,360,000.00	73.44	8,245,397.50	32.98	25,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	8,300,000.00	830.00	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	57,385,400.00	100.68	23,913,166.97	41.95	57,000,000.00

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)		2014-2019			18.58	102.79	18.08
		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)		2014-2019			20.67	98.84	20.91
		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)		2014-2019			16.59	79.88	20.77
		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	2014-2019	44,051,000.00	120.03	26,142,719.45	71.23	36,700,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	59,000.00	5.90			1,000,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	91,234,000.00	90.60	30,892,991.54	30.68	100,700,000.00
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	6,745,000.00	112.42	3,449,380.61	57.49	6,000,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	1,904,820,000.00	164.69	996,435,401.84	86.15	1,156,605,630.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	59,705,000.00	106.62	32,557,599.71	58.14	56,000,000.00
M12	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	111,820,000.00	152.66	44,668,204.86	60.98	73,250,000.00
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	2,578,960,000.00	172.97	1,291,069,447.14	86.59	1,491,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	10,500,000.00	24.71	10,140,236.36	23.86	42,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public	2014-2019	4,807,894,000.00	162.22	2,435,355,981.51	82.17	2,963,755,630.00

	expenditure						
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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)		2014-2019					1.00
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			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)		2014-2019	10,879,044.71	21.76	10,879,044.71	21.76	50,000,000.00
		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	2014-2019	6,492,000.00	32.46	4,725,936.58	23.63	20,000,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	6,492,000.00	28.85	4,725,936.58	21.00	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)		2014-2019					0.00
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Number of Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects Operational Groups (Group)		2014-2019			2.00	200.00	1.00
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	180,000.00	7.20	401,415.71	16.06	2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	180,000.00	7.20	401,415.71	16.06	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)		2014-2019			12.34	114.38	10.79
		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)		2014-2019			2.82	1,419.17	0.20
		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	2014-2019	48,585,000.00	124.26	24,824,173.73	63.49	39,100,000.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	28,000.00	5.60			500,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	20,011,000.00	200.11	13,306,015.13	133.06	10,000,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	476,445,050.00	159.03	221,539,326.12	73.95	299,600,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	545,069,050.00	154.98	259,669,514.98	73.83	351,700,000.00

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)		2014-2019			0.08	25.15	0.32
		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	2014-2019	102,930,000.00	137.61	54,522,042.33	72.89	74,800,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	102,930,000.00	133.16	54,522,042.33	70.53	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)		2014-2019			466.43	15.05	3,100.00
		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)		2014-2019					0.00
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)		2014-2019			82.02	124.77	65.74
		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	2014-2019	184,590,000.00	73.84	77,940,647.86	31.18	250,000,000.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	184,590,000.00	73.84	77,940,647.86	31.18	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 2019Cumulative (total programmed FA)
O1 - Total public expenditure	P1		93,844,917.10
O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2A	79,861,244.16
O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2B	85,177,786.37
O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3A	51,069,748.25
O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3B	23,913,166.97
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4		2,435,355,981.51
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5A	0.00
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5B	4,725,936.58
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5C	401,415.71
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5D	259,669,514.98
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5E	54,522,042.33
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6A	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6B	77,940,647.86
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6C	

Total public expenditure on the RDP in 2019 amounted to over €684m including approximately €68m 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 2019 were recorded for Measure 1 (€22.5m), Measure 4 (€76m), Measure 10 (€256m), Measure 13 (€248.5) and Measure 19 (€41.8m).

The following information outlining the progress made in implementing Ireland's RDP for the calendar year 2019 is structured according to the focus areas most relevant to each Programme scheme.

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 2019 for FA 1A was 66.48% of the 2023 target figure. Cumulative expenditure on Measure 1 schemes amounted to €79.7m at the end of 2019. Measure 16 is discussed in the context FA 1B while Measure 2 is addressed in the context of FA 3B. KT is 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 2019, payments in the amount of €22.2m issued to 17,256 beneficiaries under the Knowledge Transfer Programme. €12.67m was paid to participating farmers for attendance at meetings and completion of farm improvement plans in respect of all 3 years of the scheme resulting in an average payment of circa €613 per farmer. In addition €9.48m 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. 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.

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 the 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 €480 in 2019. Additionally, a sum of €408,860 was spent on GLAS training sessions which were attended by 853 scheme participants in 2019. Total expenditure on these training schemes (including some outstanding liabilities arising from training undertaken during the previous RDP) was €22.1m at the end of 2019. 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 2019 the target achieved was 1,258. 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 €7m at the end of 2019, 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 2019 payments over €4.3 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 2019 approximately €1m 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.

In 2019, in conjunction with the National Rural Network, a range of support material was produced including an EIP-AGRI booklet, posters and interactive database.. This booklet sets out the activities and

background of each of the successful EIP-AGRI projects

Approximately €365,000 was paid towards implementation costs to three prospective general EIP groups, involving 44 partners, in 2019.

In 2019, approximately €7m was paid to 18 locally-led groups of which 10 were funded for operational activities. Most expenditure was absorbed by the Hen Harrier and Fresh Water Pearl Mussel projects as described above. The other locally-led EIP operations funded in 2019 were:

- Caomhnú Árann
- Rathcroghan Resource Community
- National Biodiversity Data Centre
- FORUM Commemara Operational Group
- Lárionad Acmhainní Nadurtha Centre (LAN)
- Inishowen upland farmers
- River Allow Catchment Management Group
- Mulkear Integrated Catchment Management Partnership
- Biorefinery Glas
- Small Biogas Demonstration Group

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 2019, approximately €600,000 was paid towards costs incurred in establishing 454 farm partnerships – 392 of these were to facilitate generational renewal and 62 to facilitate mergers. A cumulative sum of €1.6m was paid to support the creation of 1,237 registered partnerships in the period to the end of 2019.

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 93,650 or 83.15% of the 2023 target figure for the total number of trained participants was achieved by end of

2019. The number of participants in relevant schemes trained to date can be disaggregated as follows:

- KT – 17,256.
- 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 2019, almost 45% 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)

Advanced facilitator training for agricultural advisors was funded under this heading in calendar year 2019. Expenditure on CPD for the year was €40,425. Cumulative expenditure on CPD until the end of 2019 was €151,780.

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 €76.5m expended on Measure 4 in 2019, less than €3,000 related to spending on ongoing TAMS 1 investments from a previous programme. TAMS grants were paid to 5,124 farm enterprises and supported more than 5,500 investments worth €142.7m. The overall number of TAMS beneficiaries at the end of 2019 was approximately 15,530.

The main expenditure items for TAMS 2 were the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme, the Animal Welfare and Nutrient Storage Scheme and the Dairy Equipment Scheme at €36.8m, €13.7m and €13m respectively. A further €6.5m was spent on funding the acquisition of Low Emissions Slurry Spreading equipment.

Transitional expenditure on AEOS non-productive investments accounted for less than €50,000 compared to €11.8m in 2014-15. These investments completed on 84 holdings were carried over from the 2007-2013 programming period. This transitional expenditure as expected tapers off with the maturation of liabilities from the previous RDP.

Cumulative public expenditure on all Measure 4 investments in physical assets amounted to €205.7 m at the end of 2019.

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 2019, the percentage of uptake of the 2023 target was 72%.

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 1,147 beneficiaries (39 female), received €36.8m in grant aid, out of total investments of €56.3m. 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 2019, 55% 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.

None of the allocated money (€0.3m) for advisory services to Producer Organisations was drawn down in 2019. EIP's were discussed under FA 1B.

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

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 2019, total public expenditure of €17.4m – including additional national (i.e. non co-funded) financing of €8.7m – was paid to 18,580 farmers in respect of over 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.

The target for FA 3B is based on the number of participants in KT groups and was calculated at 64% at the end of 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 2019, €251,500 was paid for the provision of on-farm advice and the training of PVPs. A total of 907 herd health investigations were conducted, principally for BVD cases.

Scheme expenditure to the end of 2019 amounted to over €1.26m and 4,112 farmers benefitted from the advisory service in that period.

Cumulative expenditure on Measure 2 schemes amounted to €1.42m at the end of 2019.

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 2019 was 80%, 99% and 102% respectively.

Note:

The realised T10 value is 976,058 ha (GLAS water management actions) plus 55,835 ha (area under Organic Farming Scheme) giving a total of 1,031,893 ha. This area exceeds the output values for A-E schemes in Table B3 which is calculated differently and includes other Measure 10 schemes - i.e. the Burren Programme, Transitional REPS/AEOS and Transitional Organics Farming Scheme – as well as Organic Farming Scheme under Measure 11.

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

The numerator for 2019 is calculated as 1,031,893.05 ha and is correctly entered in Table D. 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. As already mentioned above, the realised value is 976,058 ha (GLAS water management actions) plus 55,835 ha (area under OFS) giving a total of 1,031,893 ha.

By contrast, the output values for under A-E schemes in Table B3 is broken down by the various categories and sub-categories of land management which are further subdivided according to whether they programmed under P4 or P5 (i.e. FAs 5D and 5E). Accordingly, the total area figure of approx. 1.18m ha for GLAS is assigned to the appropriate type of land management, of which 886,683 ha relates to P4. But the total realised output value also includes other M10 schemes – i.e. the Burren Programme, transitional REPS / AEOS and transitional OFS – as well as OFS under M11.

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 supporting biodiversity and/or

landscapes contributing to FA 4A is less in 2019 than in 2018. A total of 828,172.89 ha was declared in 2019 which calculates as 16.09% in comparison to 908,954.20 ha and 18.21% for 2018. The slight reduction of agricultural land under management contracts for supporting biodiversity 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 233 GLAS applications were fully withdrawn or rejected during 2019.

While the value of the realised target for T12 which is the percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion(FA 4C) has exceeded the target as set out in the RDP, the realised value for 2019 is calculated as 927,147 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. 839,308 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 839,308 ha plus 62,880 ha = 902,188 ha. The realised value is 871,312 ha (GLAS soil management actions) plus 55,835 ha (area under OFS) giving a total of 927,147 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 2019, €1.13m was paid to support the restoration of 112 buildings on 76 farms. When private funding is taken into account, the total amount invested in these operations was €1.6m. Total scheme spend, including private investment, at the end of 2019 was approximately €4.9m 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 2019 was €256.6m comprised of €256m on current RDP schemes (i.e. the GLAS, BDGP and Burren Programme in order of importance) and €0.6m in transitional spending

related to the previous RDP.

<i>2019</i>	<i>Expenditure (€m)</i>	<i>Total Area (ha)[1]</i>	<i>Number of contracts</i>
GLAS	213.3	1,183,284	48,763
BDGP*	41.9	323,805	22,136
Burren Programme	1.35	11,294	322
REPS / AEOS (2007-2013 RDP)	0.5	88	251
Organic Farming Scheme (2007-2013 RDP only)	0.1	3,084	85

* 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 €213.3m on 48,000 contracts in 2019 and the total scheme spend at the end of 2019 was approximately €741.5m (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 €1.35m was paid on 11,294 hectares (ha) to 322 farmers in 2019. Total scheme spend at the end of 2019 was approximately €3.5m.

Transitional payments for REPS / AEOS totalled €0.5 for 87 holdings in 2019. Transitional payments for the OFS totalled €0.1m for 84 contracts in 2019. 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 €1,272m at the end of 2019.

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 €9.2m was paid in respect of almost 55,834 hectares (ha) on 1,494 holdings under the OFS in 2019. 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 2019 was approximately €32.5m. Additionally, €0.1m in transitional money, for 85 unexpired contracts relating to the previous period, 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 €0.1m was spent on supporting the management of 1,324 ha on 89 holdings in 2019.

Total scheme funding in the current programming period has so far amounted to €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 €248.5m, including additional national financing of €59m was paid to 98,000 farmers in respect of 2.18m ha under Measure 13 in 2019. This brings total ANC payments in the current programming period to €1,291m.

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 €1.6m was paid in grant aid to 151 energy efficiency investments worth almost €4m in the tillage sector during 2019. In addition, €0.5m was paid in grant aid to 61 energy efficiency investments worth €0.8m in 2019. Realised uptake to the end of 2019 equates to 21.7% of the target for total investment in energy efficiency.

Most of the locally-led EIP projects are programmed under P4 for which expenditure totalled €6.6m in 2019 with €373,675 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 114% and 1,419% 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 2019 than 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 233 GLAS applications were fully withdrawn or rejected during 2019

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.

In 2019, the data showed 92,722 LU's for 597 LESS operations or an average of 155 LUs per operation. A cumulative total of 163,068 LUs for the period 2014 to 2019 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 2019 was 597. 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. In 2019 under the BDGP Scheme €41.9m was paid to almost 22,136 beneficiaries. The total scheme spend at the end of 2019 was approximately €211m.

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 2019 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 €15.1m in 2019; and a total of €54.5m from 2014-2019.

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 15% 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.

LEADER aims to address local needs under the broad themes of economic development, social inclusion and rural development. Local communities direct where this funding is provided through their participation in Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the implementation of Local Development Strategies (LDSs) formulated by the LAGs. LAGs have been selected in all 28 sub-regional areas covering a population of 3.1m rural dwellers.

LEADER expenditure in 2019 exceeded €41.8m with most of this sum provided for funding of project implementation. Steps to improve the effectiveness of LEADER (see Section 3a for details) have undoubtedly had a significant positive impact on measure implementation. This effect is evidenced by the substantial increase in the number of projects approved for funding in 2019. Consequently, project payments have increased considerably reaching €30.2 million in 2019 compared to €11.8m in 2018.

Given the growing pipeline of projects approvals, it is anticipated that the momentum now evident in LEADER will ensure a full drawdown of available funding over the programming period. Cumulative

expenditure under Measure 19 amounted to almost €80m at the end of 2019.

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 €4.5m (excluding VAT) were made from the TA budget in the period 2014 to 2019. A sum of almost €1.2m was paid in technical support for Programme implementation in 2019. TA is reported under two distinct categories:

- support for establishing and operating the NRN, and
- non-NRN support comprised of administrative and other costs.

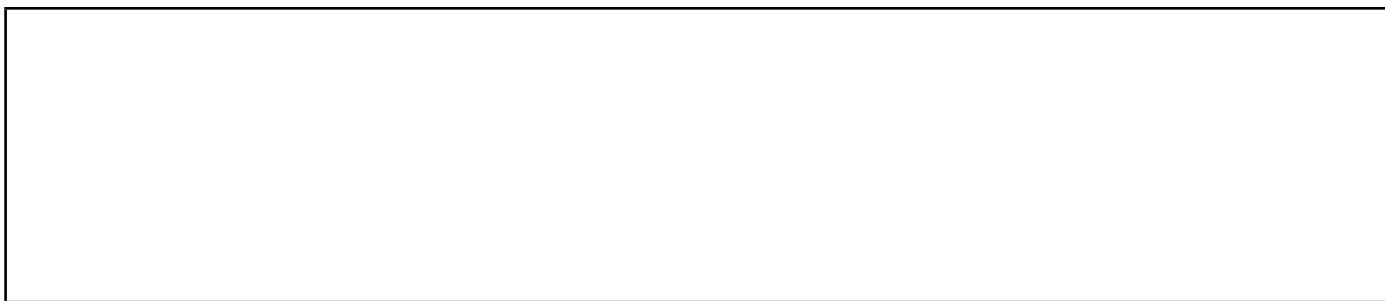
The 2019 spend was split equally between NRN support and non-NRN support with the latter comprised mostly of administrative costs for the Burren Programme together with contract payments for the GLAS evaluation project, the Mid Term Evaluation report and an Ex Ante Evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plan.

NRN activities for 2019 included organising 3 consultation exercises with stakeholders, 4 meetings of thematic working groups and 33 events. It also disseminated 91 project examples as well as 81 publications in printed and electronic formats (see Section 4a2 for more detail on NRN activities in 2019).

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

Measure 113 – Early Retirement Scheme

A sum of €173,700 was paid to 54 scheme beneficiaries in 2019. This compares to €0.8m paid to 117 beneficiaries in 2018. No transitional funding was paid on this scheme during the years 2014 and 2015. Cumulative expenditure under Measure 113 amounted to €7.6m at the end of 2019.



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]

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 fifth meeting of the RDP Monitoring Committee was convened at Backweston Campus on 10 October 2019. 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 Indecon Economic Consultants on their Mid-Term Evaluation of the RDP, including background to the evaluation, methods used and programme impacts.
3. A presentation on the progress of CAP Strategic Plan negotiations, DAFM preparations to date and stakeholder engagements.

The sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee is scheduled to take place in the fourth quarter of 2020.

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 2019-2020 were as follows:

- The Mid-Term Evaluation, by Indecon International Economic Consultants, was completed in June 2019 and has been published on the Department's website.
- ADAS RSK Ltd. were contracted in 2015 to conduct a longitudinal evaluation of the impact of GLAS actions across three thematic areas i.e. biodiversity, climate change and water quality.
- The National Rural Network (NRN) also prepared a number of case studies on LEADER, farm viability, and environmental issues. The NRN also prepared a comprehensive booklet of all EIP Operational Groups funded under the RDP.

In addition to the evaluation activities in the evaluation plan, Ireland has also commenced an evaluation of the Burren Programme in 2020. Following a procurement process, AECOM and Fitzpatrick associations were appointed to carry out the evaluation to assess the economic, social and environmental impact of the Burren Programme. Outputs from this evaluation are expected in the second half of 2020.

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 2019 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 meet 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 2018/2019 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 cause of defects and best method of ensuring they don't re-occur.

The data requirements for RDP measure monitoring and evaluation for the 2019 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 are also carried out where more detailed discussions are required.

Over the coming 12-24 month period and in preparation for New CAP Post 2020 there are plans to redevelop some of the systems that support the functionality for the RDP Schemes. From a business perspective it will enable the provision of critical functionality to the Department over the coming years, better support to the user and will also improve the efficiency, navigation and ease of use of interface screens.

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

Publisher/Editor	DAFM
Author(s)	Indecon International Economic Consultants
Title	Mid-term evaluation of the 2014-2020 RDP
Abstract	See summary below
URL	https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironmentsustainability/ruraldevelopmentprogrammerdp2014-2020/

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

Publisher/Editor	DAFM
Author(s)	ADAS RSK Ltd.
Title	See summary below
Abstract	<p>Year 2 attitudinal (GLAS participants) and counterfactual (non-participant) reports were finalised.</p> <p>Year 2 Biodiversity and Modelling reports were finalised. The modelling report was updated in 2020 on foot of work on the Synthesis report.</p> <p>An adviser survey was conducted 4 November, and has fed into the GLAS Synthesis Report.</p> <p>Work commenced on the GLAS Synthesis Report in 2019, and the report is due to be finalised shortly.</p>

URL

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironmentsustainability/ruraldevelopmentprogrammerdp2014-2020/>

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

The **mid-term evaluation** by Indecon suggests that the RDP has performed well against its various key targets. The evaluators noted that some of the overall impacts of the RDP are not fully observable yet. Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) prevents land abandonment and the indicative estimate of the landscape value generated by the RDP is around €285 million per annum. BDGP will take several years before impacts are measurable. However, preliminary evidence indicates that BDGP cows are calving at younger ages which is consistent with the objectives of the BDGP scheme. TAMS was found to have a positive impact on farm output (by 6 – 7%) and an increase in productivity (by 5 – 6%).

The evaluators also noted some competing objectives between different measures, e.g. TAMS investment increasing output which may have negative environment impacts. Knowledge Transfer Groups have a positive impact on farm output and agricultural incomes. Indecon also found that many beneficiaries would not have participated in a knowledge transfer group without the RDP support, which suggests relatively low levels of deadweight.

The Year 2 reports and the Synthesis report of the **GLAS evaluation** by ADAS RSK Ltd. suggests that many of the design features of GLAS have been well received by participants and Advisers, including the mandatory requirement for a planner to be involved at the application stage and through training input. The tiered structure of GLAS, focusing on priority environmental assets has been effective to the extent that priorities for biodiversity and High Status Water Areas are well covered. However, this has been less effective in addressing key environmental pressures, notably vulnerable water catchments. The latter is linked closely to the overall payment cap and payment rates, which as noted, have failed to engage larger and more intensive farms. Estimates of additionality for individual actions range from 20% (managing hedgerows) to 67% (minimum tillage) based on the participant survey.

In the context of the CAP support to farmers, additionality is not always paramount as a key objective is often to retain existing features and practices. Scheme administration is generally good, with low levels of non-compliance and high scores in the participant and Adviser surveys. GLAS has been innovative in establishing a programme monitoring and evaluation with multiple site assessments and repeat attitudinal surveys.

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	01/07/2020 - 31/07/2020
Title of communication activity/event	GLAS evaluation reports

& topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	
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://www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironmentsustainability/ruraldevelopmentprogramm/erdp2014-2020/

Date / Period	20/08/2019
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	Mid Term Evaluation report published on Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine website
Overall organiser of activity/ event	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Information	Website, PDF document

n channels/ format used	
Type of target audience	RDP stakeholders, the general public
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	100
URL	https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/ruralenvironment/ruraldevelopment/ruraldevelopmentprogramme2014-2020/FinalReportMidTermReviewoftheRDP081019.pdf

Date / Period	10/10/2019
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	Monitoring Committee for the Rural Development Programme; evaluators Indecon International Economic Consultants gave a presentation to attendees on the findings of their Mid-Term Evaluation of the RDP.
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	19/12/2019
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	NRN newsletter, infographic illustrating findings of the Mid-Term Evaluation was displayed.
Overall organiser of activity/ event	NRN

Information channels/ format used	Newsletter
Type of target audience	Farmers, Rural Community, RDP stakeholders
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	2000
URL	N/A

Date / Period	17/09/2019 - 19/09/2019
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	National Ploughing Championships, an infographic illustrating findings of the Mid-Term Evaluation was displayed in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine marquee.
Overall organiser of activity/ event	National Ploughing Association
Information channels/ format used	Leaflets, graphic display panels
Type of target audience	Farmers, farming organisations/stakeholders, general public
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	1000
URL	N/A

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>1. Monitor the effectiveness of new action points to reduce administrative burden on LEADER (Mid-term evaluation). 2. Areas where there is likely to be underspend should be identified by the end 2019 and where underspend is likely funding should be reallocated (Mid-term evaluation) Other recommendations (from Mid-term evaluation and the GLAS evaluations) will be followed-up in the transitional period and the next programming period.</p>
<p>Follow-up carried out</p>	<p>1. Leader Unit have followed up via regular meetings with representatives of Ireland’s LEADER stakeholder groups. 2. The financial allocations for the measures have been reviewed to ensure that all funding can be drawn down and sufficient funding is available for other measures. The 8th amendment moved unused funds from Measure 1 – Knowledge Transfer, and Measure 12 – transitional REPS/AEOS to ensure sufficient funding is available for Measure 13 Areas of Natural Constraints in 2020. A more comprehensive review will be carried out as part of the transitional amendment later in 2020.</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

At the end of 2019, Ireland had spent over 70% of its EAFRD allocation which is above the 50% average figure for all Member States.

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).

Among the steps taken to enhance the IT software for processing scheme claims in 2018/2019 were:

- 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

Over the coming 12-24 month period and in preparation for New CAP Post 2020 there are plans to redevelop some of the systems that support the functionality for the RDP Schemes. From a business perspective it will enable the provision of critical functionality to the Department over the coming years, better support to the user and 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 the database will provide functionality to examine data in a certain way and gather information on certain areas and enterprises within those areas. It will also facilitate the ability to provide improved management information.

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 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 2019 with a similar remit and additional focus on CAP 2020.

A strategic review of the organic farming sector was carried out in 2018 to assess the justification for a targeted reopening of the Organic Farming Scheme. Based on this assessment, the OFS was reopened in December 2018 for areas that are in deficit and where market demand is growing such as organic horticulture, tillage and dairy. Successful applications were given a 5-year contract with a commencement date of 1 January 2019.

Following a LEADER forum in 2017 which was hosted with representatives from all the Local Action Groups (LAGs) and their implementing Partners, 31 actions arising from were implemented throughout 2017 and 2018.

Since the implementation of these action points, the LEADER unit have had direct visibility on their effectiveness, through the communication channels that are in place between LEADER and Ireland's LEADER stakeholder groups. As well as a dedicated mailbox for LEADER stakeholder queries, the more prominent communication channels are regular face-to-face meetings between the head of the LEADER business unit, and representatives of Ireland's LEADER stakeholder groups. These face-to-face meetings provide a forum where:

- LEADER stakeholder groups can raise programme administration concerns; and
- potential resolutions to any issues can be brought forward

Since the implementation of the aforementioned action points, there has been a notable shift in the types of concerns raised at these events; the focus has veered away from the need to reduce the administrative burden previously associated with LEADER and towards other aspects of the programme, and more recently to discussions on the next iteration of LEADER.

In essence, the regular meetings between the head of the LEADER business unit with representatives of Ireland's LEADER stakeholder groups, and a simple monitoring database that is used to record and monitor email queries received from LEADER stakeholders, are two prominent activities completed by Ireland's LEADER programme administrators, which focus on the evaluation results, and specifically Indecon's recommendation with regard to Ireland's LEADER Programme i.e. *'to monitor the effectiveness of new action points to reduce administrative burden of LEADER'*.

3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) ¹, proxy automatically calculated

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned	[%] realised expenditure
--	--	-------------	--------------------------

		SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation ²	through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative ³)
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	2,190,589,653.00	77.13	65.42

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 2019 can be summarised as follows.

Events

In 2019, the NRN organised or made a significant contribution to 27 national and international events:

- EIP-AGRI operational groups capacity building workshop on communications and data protection;
- 13th NRN meeting with ENRD in Athlone;
- Generational Renewal workshop in Athlone with ENRD;
- Presentation on 'Human side of farm succession and retirement in later life: a roadmap for future generational renewal';
- 7th EUGEO Congress on the Geographies of Europe in NUI Galway;
- Irish NRN stand at 'networX - Inspiring Rural Europe' event in Brussels;
- Researching the Rural: Going Global and Staying Local presentation in NUI Galway;
- IRL Climate Change conference presentation on connection between climate action and EIP-AGRI;
- 2 x EIP-AGRI operational group booklet launches and operational group poster exhibitions in Dublin and Wexford;
- NRN national seminar 'Smart Villages and Rural Towns in Ireland: Revitalising rural areas through community-led innovation';
- 2 x presentations on biodiversity and farming at National Ploughing Championships;
- Consultation event on SWOT Analysis for the CAP strategic plan post 2020;
- Workshop on 'EIP-AGRI; Lessons learned through shared experiences - Burren Winterage School 2019';
- Agricultural Gaseous Emissions technical training event;
- 2 x Rural Community workshops;
- Biodiversity Farmer of the Year awards; Farming for Nature Awards;
- 7 x Advisory Subcommittee meetings (2 x LEADER; 3 x Biodiversity/Climate Change; 2 x EIP-AGRI);
- IRL information day

Website

- Innovative content added weekly to the NRN website, including interactive story maps, blogs and videos.
- The NRN website, which was redeveloped to address the increased functionality requirements, was launched on 31st January.
- 16,348 unique visitors to the website and 61,034 page views.

Social media and engagement

- Facebook and Twitter accounts for the NRN were updated daily by NRN partners.
- The following targets were achieved:
 - 3,292 Facebook followers (increase of 33% since start of year); 550 Facebook posts reaching an average 65,535 people per month
 - 4,151 Twitter followers (increase of 10% since start of year); 571 tweets reaching an average of 81,333 people per month

- Monthly e-bulletins are designed and distributed to over 3,200 members
- 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 2019 consisted of 7 e-bulletins, 4 quarterly printed newsletters, 1 LEADER newsletter, 1 EU LIFE newsletters, 5 blogs (Farm viability and EIP-AGRI); 1 infographic on NRN achievements; 2 GLAS infographics; 1 LEADER infographic; 2 LEADER infographics; 27 EIP-AGRI operational group posters*; 1 Farming for Nature poster; 4 LEADER and Rural Environment posters; 4 LEADER and Social Inclusion posters; 12 press releases. In addition, three NRN case studies were published in the Project Ireland 2040 report 'Strengthening Rural Economies and Communities'. *The 27 EIP-AGRI posters featured profiles of each of the 23 operational groups.

These materials were distributed at events such as the National Ploughing Championships.

Multimedia

29 videos produced; 2 radio interviews; 2 online quizzes; 1 photo competition; website content updated

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 3,205 – up 540 since the start of the year (+ 20.3%).
- Submitted quarterly financial and narrative reports to the Managing Authority.
- 29 videos produced, including 8 LEADER video case studies and 6 smart villages and rural towns videos
- Supported 5 sub-committees to advise the NRN on its work programme and to maximise the dissemination of information on the RDP.
- 15 press releases sent to local and national media.

Work Package 2 – EU Networking

- Participated in 2 Smart Villages thematic group meetings and created 5 Smart Villages videos for sharing on social media; invited ENRD senior policy advisor to give presentation at national Smart Villages and Rural Towns seminar
- Participated in LEADER Simplification meeting via Skype, 6th Rural Network LEADER/CLLD meeting in Brussels
- Shared 4 LEADER co-operation partner searches with Local Action Groups and Implementing Partners; co-organised LEADER Cooperation conference in Scotland with 70 participants, including 15 from Ireland.
- Attended National Rural Network meetings in Ireland, Romania, France and Finland;
- Nominated 2 rural enterprises that were shortlisted for the ENRD Rural Inspiration Awards in Brussels
- 10 Irish case studies have been shared with the ENRD for wider dissemination.
- Collaborated with the EIP-AGRI Service Point to feature the DANÚ Farming Group EIP-AGRI Project in the November 2019 edition of the EIP-AGRI Service Point's monthly newsletter. This piece also includes a link to Ireland's EIP-AGRI Operational Group booklet.
- 9 EIP-AGRI project abstracts uploaded to EIP-AGRI SP database; 3 case studies uploaded to ENRD Projects and Practice database; EU Action for Smart Villages case study; article on impact and success of Irish NRN in ENRD Rural Connections magazine

Work Packages 3 & 4 – Biodiversity and climate change

- Produced 7 case studies on these topics for distribution through the NRN newsletter and website.
- Published 14 articles on Biodiversity and Climate Change in the NRN quarterly newsletter
- Held Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions seminar in Navan in collaboration with Teagasc ConnectEd, Dairy Sustainability Ireland, Food and Drink Ireland Skillnet attended by over 90 advisors and other agri-professionals in the public and private sector.
- Made joint presentation with DAFM at the ACA AGM to more than 80 agricultural advisors.
- Delivered two presentations on Biodiversity and Agriculture in Department of Agriculture marquee at the National Ploughing Championships
- Ran a Biodiversity Photo Competition with more than 100 entries to promote biodiversity among the agricultural community. The entries were used to create a slideshow and disseminated at the National Ploughing Championships.
- Ran a Biodiversity quiz on social media to coincide with the National Ploughing Championships.
- Organised the second Biodiversity Farmer of the Year award in partnership with Macra na Feirme and FBD. Alan Doyle was announced the winner at an awards ceremony in Dublin.

Work Package 5 – Viability and Competitiveness of Farming Communities

- Jointly organised and hosted international Generational Renewal workshop in Athlone with 90+ participants
- Published 4 articles on farm viability in quarterly newsletter
- Published guest blog on Farm viability section of website - 'How do we transition to Smart Farming in Ireland?'
- Eight new videos related to 'Women in Agriculture' and 5 new videos about 'Young Farmers' were added to the Farm Viability and Competitiveness themed video database on the NRN website
- The NRN sponsored the Farming for Nature Ambassador award and was a member of the judging panel for the award

Work Package 7 – LEADER

- Created 8 LEADER project videos and published a project example booklet to highlight the work of LEADER-funded projects.
- Published two storyboards – with 8 LEADER project videos and on LEADER and Social Inclusion highlighting 26 projects – on the NRN website
- Nine articles on LEADER included in quarterly newsletters.
- LEADER newsletter published and disseminated.
- Designed and produced 4 posters promoting projects funded under the Rural Environment LEADER theme.
- Co-organised UK and Ireland LEADER co-operation conference in Glasgow.
- Jointly organised and hosted national ‘Smart Villages and Rural Towns in Ireland: Revitalising rural areas through community-led innovation’ seminar with more than 90 participants

Work Package 8 – EIP-AGRI

- Published and launched EIP-AGRI operational group booklet in English and Irish languages and ran exhibition of 23 EIP-AGRI operational group project posters.
- Organised and ran an EIP-AGRI workshop entitled 'EIP-AGRI: Lessons Learned Through Shared Experiences' with the Burren Programme and DAFM at the Burren Winterage School.
- Four EIP-AGRI guest blogs uploaded to the website – ‘Realising the potential of forestry in Ireland through EIP-AGRI’; 'The role of EIP-AGRI operational groups to realign policies’; 'OviData EIP-AGRI project for sheep genetic improvement’; 'Merging knowledge and the EIP-AGRI application process: some research findings and reflections’.
- Published 6 articles on EIP-AGRI in quarterly newsletters.
- Published updated versions of 27 EIP-AGRI posters, featuring profiles of each of the 23 operational groups.
- 36 videos added to the EIP-AGRI themed video database on the NRN website.
- Produced a booklet of the 6 EIP-AGRI guest blog posts that were featured on the NRN website in 2018
- Collaborated with the EIP-AGRI Service Point to feature Ireland's EIP-AGRI Operational Group booklet on their website. This publication was also promoted on the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) social media pages.

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 2018 Information and Publicity Strategy for the 2014-2020 RDP was submitted to the Monitoring Committee in April 2019. 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 2019 and some of these are outlined below:

- **28 press releases providing information on RDP measures (including 2 on LEADER) were prepared and distributed to key stakeholders and media outlets;**
- **33 information and training sessions were held on RDP schemes (relating to GLAS, BDGP, Beef Producer Organisations and the Burren plus 3 organised by Leader). Additionally, there were 3 seminars devoted to EIPs and 1 on Traditional Farm Buildings;**
- **13 organic demonstration farm walks were organised;**
- **2 DAFM circulars were issued on GLAS action and 15 DRCD circulars were sent to LEADER Local Action Groups; and**
- **Leader organised a seminar in July 2019 on Smart Villages & Rural Towns in Ireland Revitalising Rural Areas through Community Led Innovation**

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 2020 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 both DAFM's and the DRCD websites. The content of online material on each measure and scheme provided on these websites and on various social media platforms run by both Departments 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)	2014-2019			2.39	66.48	3.60
		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)	2014-2019			1,258.00	103.97	1,210.00
		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)	2014-2019			93,648.00	83.91	111,600.00
		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)	2014-2019	4.04	44.33	4.04	44.33	9.11
		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	2014-2019	153,603,000.00	84.14	79,861,244.16	43.75	182,550,000.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	27,660,000.00	110.64	14,404,074.73	57.62	25,000,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			14,404,074.73	57.62	25,000,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2019			4,314.00	64.87	6,650.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	353,000.00	70.60	157,781.79	31.56	500,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2019					375.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	123,766,000.00	79.69	64,678,728.47	41.65	155,300,000.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2019			147,348,642.40	37.95	388,250,000.00
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			64,678,728.47	41.65	155,300,000.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2019			5,653.00	44.34	12,750.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	1,824,000.00	104.23	620,659.17	35.47	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)	2014-2019	2.07	72.39	2.07	72.39	2.86
		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	2014-2019	144,328,000.00	123.09	85,177,786.37	72.65	117,250,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	141,957,000.00	124.52	83,879,165.39	73.58	114,000,000.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2019			134,201,127.16	70.63	190,000,000.00
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2019			2,901.00	72.53	4,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	2,371,000.00	72.95	1,298,620.98	39.96	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)	2014-2019					0.00	
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	Percentage of agricultural holdings supported under the animal welfare measure (Farms)	2014-2019				13.28	55.33	24.00
		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	2014-2019	85,490,000.00	84.39	51,069,748.25	50.41	101,300,000.00	
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	100,000.00	33.33			300,000.00	
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2019					7,000.00	
M14	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	84,880,000.00	84.88	50,882,282.54	50.88	100,000,000.00	
M14	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2019			18,580.00	54.65	34,000.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	510,000.00	51.00	187,465.71	18.75	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)	2014-2019			17,256.00	64.87	26,600.00
		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	2014-2019	57,385,400.00	100.68	23,913,166.97	41.95	57,000,000.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	27,660,000.00	110.64	14,404,074.73	57.62	25,000,000.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			14,404,074.73	57.62	25,000,000.00
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2019			4,314.00	64.87	6,650.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	3,065,400.00	51.09	1,263,694.74	21.06	6,000,000.00
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2019			4,112.00	41.12	10,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	18,360,000.00	73.44	8,245,397.50	32.98	25,000,000.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2019			18,899,316.79	30.24	62,500,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	8,300,000.00	830.00	0.00	0.00	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)	2014-2019			18.58	102.79	18.08	
		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)	2014-2019				20.67	98.84	20.91
		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)	2014-2019				16.59	79.88	20.77
		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	2014-2019	4,807,894,000.00	162.22	2,435,355,981.51	82.17	2,963,755,630.00	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	44,051,000.00	120.03	26,142,719.45	71.23	36,700,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			26,142,719.45	71.23	36,700,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2019			54,786.00	96.71	56,650.00	
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	59,000.00	5.90			1,000,000.00	
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2019					750.00	
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	91,234,000.00	90.60	30,892,991.54	30.68	100,700,000.00	
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2019			49,209,735.07	23.80	206,750,000.00	
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2019					9,700.00	
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	6,745,000.00	112.42	3,449,380.61	57.49	6,000,000.00	
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	1,904,820,000.00	164.69	996,435,401.84	86.15	1,156,605,630.00	
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2019			900,866.81	77.29	1,165,579.00	
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	59,705,000.00	106.62	32,557,599.71	58.14	56,000,000.00	
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2019			2,788.18	17.43	16,000.00	
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2019			53,046.36	113.15	46,880.00	
M12	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	111,820,000.00	152.66	44,668,204.86	60.98	73,250,000.00	
M12.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2019			1,324.00	0.94	141,560.00	
M13	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	2,578,960,000.00	172.97	1,291,069,447.14	86.59	1,491,000,000.00	
M13.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2019			2,182,466.00	66.10	3,301,559.00	

M13.3	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2019			10,496.52	2.59	404,648.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	10,500,000.00	24.71	10,140,236.36	23.86	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)	2014-2019					1.00
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			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)	2014-2019	10,879,044.71	21.76	10,879,044.71	21.76	50,000,000.00
		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	2014-2019	6,492,000.00	28.85	4,725,936.58	21.00	22,500,000.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	6,492,000.00	32.46	4,725,936.58	23.63	20,000,000.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2019			10,879,044.71	21.76	50,000,000.00
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2019			424.00	106.00	400.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			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)	2014-2019					0.00	
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	Number of Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects Operational Groups (Group)	2014-2019				2.00	200.00	1.00
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
5C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	180,000.00	7.20	401,415.71	16.06	2,500,000.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	180,000.00	7.20	401,415.71	16.06	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)	2014-2019			12.34	114.38	10.79	
		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)	2014-2019				2.82	1,419.17	0.20
		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	2014-2019	545,069,050.00	154.98	259,669,514.98	73.83	351,700,000.00	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	48,585,000.00	124.26	24,824,173.73	63.49	39,100,000.00	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			24,824,173.73	63.49	39,100,000.00	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2019			30,234.00	72.59	41,650.00	
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	28,000.00	5.60			500,000.00	
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2019					375.00	
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	20,011,000.00	200.11	13,306,015.13	133.06	10,000,000.00	
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2019			31,862,481.91	127.45	25,000,000.00	
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2019			1,188.00	475.20	250.00	
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)	2014-2019			163,068.00	1,417.98	11,500.00	
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	476,445,050.00	159.03	221,539,326.12	73.95	299,600,000.00	
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2019			615,781.52	114.35	538,490.00	
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00	

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)	2014-2019			0.08	25.15	0.32
		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	2014-2019	102,930,000.00	133.16	54,522,042.33	70.53	77,300,000.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	102,930,000.00	137.61	54,522,042.33	72.89	74,800,000.00
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2019			4,624.70	25.15	18,385.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			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)	2014-2019			466.43	15.05	3,100.00	
		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)	2014-2019						0.00
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2019				82.02	124.77	65.74
		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	2014-2019	184,590,000.00	73.84	77,940,647.86	31.18	250,000,000.00	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019	184,590,000.00	73.84	77,940,647.86	31.18	250,000,000.00	
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2019			3,082,317.00	124.77	2,470,308.00	
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2019			29.00	103.57	28.00	
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			1,317,515.16	188.22	700,000.00	
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			42,787,998.74	22.02	194,350,000.00	
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			72,229.98	0.72	10,000,000.00	
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2019			33,762,903.98	75.11	44,950,000.00	

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
AIR Financial Annex 2014IE06RDNP001	Financial annex (System)	07-04-2020			1427341443	AIRfinancialAnnex2014IE06RDNP001_en.pdf		

