



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



Annual implementation report

Ireland - Rural Development Programme (National)

Annual implementation report	
Period	01/01/2014 - 31/12/2015 ¹
Version	2015.1
Status - Current Node	Accepted by EC - European Commission
National reference	2016AIR - V2
Monitoring committee approval date	18/07/2016

Programme Version in force	
CCI	2014IE06RDNP001
Programme type	Rural Development Programme
Country	Ireland
Region	IE - National
Programming period	2014 - 2020
Version	1.4
Decision Number	C(2015)3490
Decision Date	26/05/2015
Managing authority	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Rural Development Division

¹ AIR version 2015, submitted by 30 June 2016, shall cover calendar years 2015 and 2014

Table of contents

1. KEY INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND ITS PRIORITIES	4
1.a) Financial Data	4
1.b) Common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values	4
1.b1) Overview table.....	4
1.c) Key information on RDP implementation based on data from a) and b) by Focus Area.....	8
1.d) Key information on achievements towards the milestones set in the performance Framework based on Table F	14
1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional].....	15
2. THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLAN.....	16
2.a) Description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justification	16
2.b) A description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year (in relation to section 3 of the evaluation plan).....	16
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).....	17
2.d) A list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line	19
2.e) A summary of completed evaluations, focussing on evaluation findings	20
2.f) A description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)	20
2.g) Description of the follow-up given to evaluation results (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan).....	21
3. ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN.....	22
3.a) Description of steps taken to ensure quality and effectiveness of programme implementation.....	22
3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms	23
4. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME PUBLICITY REQUIREMENTS.....	25
4.a) Action taken and state of play as regards the establishment of the NRN and the implementation of its action plan.....	25
4.a1) Actions taken and state of play as regards establishment of the NRN (governance structure and network support unit).....	25
4.a2) Actions taken and state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan	25
4.b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014)	27
5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES.....	28
5.a) Unfulfilled criteria of general ex-ante conditionalities	28
5.b) Actions taken to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities	29
5.c) Unfulfilled criteria of priority-linked ex-ante conditionalities	30

5.d) Actions taken to fulfil applicable priority-linked ex-ante conditionalities	31
5.e) (Optional) additional information to complement the information provided on the 'actions taken' table	32
6. DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PROGRAMMES	33
7. ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME	34
8. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013.....	36
8.a) Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination (Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	37
8.b) Sustainable development (Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).....	38
8.c) The role of the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the implementation of the programme	39
9. PROGRESS MADE IN ENSURING INTEGRATED APPROACH TO USE EAFRD AND OTHER UNION FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS.....	40
10. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	41
11. ENCODING TABLES FOR COMMON AND PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC INDICATORS AND QUANTIFIED TARGET VALUES	42
Annex II	43
Documents	56

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	Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	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)		0.00	3.60

Focus Area 1B			
Target indicator name	Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	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)		86.00	1,210.00

Focus Area 1C			
Target indicator name	Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)		549.00	111,600.00

Focus Area 2A					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)		Target 2023	
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)		0.37		9.11	
Combinations of measures	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
M01					25,000,000.00
M02					500,000.00
M04			5,897,718.44	4.15	142,000,000.00
M16	20,000.00	1.14	19,929.20	1.14	1,750,000.00
Total	20,000.00	0.01	5,917,647.64	3.50	169,250,000.00

Focus Area 2B							
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)		Realised 2014-2015		Target 2023	
T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)		0.00		0.00		2.86	
Combinations of measures	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP		
M04			0.00	0.00	120,000,000.00		
M16	60,000.00	2.67	59,787.61	2.66	2,250,000.00		
Total	60,000.00	0.05	59,787.61	0.05	122,250,000.00		

Focus Area 3B							
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)		Realised 2014-2015		Target 2023	
Number of Participants in Knowledge Transfer Groups (focus area 3B) (Persons)						26,600.00	
Combinations of measures	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP		
M01					25,000,000.00		
M02	13,400.00	0.22	13,428.33	0.22	6,000,000.00		
M04			1,710,135.95	6.84	25,000,000.00		
Total	13,400.00	0.02	1,723,564.28	3.08	56,000,000.00		

Priority P4					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)		Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)				5.96	20.77
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)				5.96	20.91
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)				5.96	18.08
Combinations of measures	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
M01			58,547.55	0.16	37,000,000.00
M02					1,000,000.00
M04			11,783,154.64	10.34	114,000,000.00
M07					6,000,000.00
M10	14,300,000.00	1.18	274,637,739.54	22.63	1,213,750,630.00
M11	3,000,000.00	5.36	1,844,023.67	3.29	56,000,000.00
M12	13,200,000.00	18.02	37,279,930.23	50.89	73,250,000.00
M13	194,400,000.00	14.19	400,787,333.08	29.25	1,370,000,000.00
M16					2,000,000.00
Total	224,900,000.00	7.83	726,390,728.71	25.28	2,873,000,630.00

Focus Area 5B					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)		Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023
T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)				0.00	50,000,000.00
Combinations of measures	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
M04			0.00	0.00	20,000,000.00
Total			0.00	0.00	20,000,000.00

Focus Area 5D					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)		Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023
T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)				0.00	0.20
T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)				4.73	10.79
Combinations of measures	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
M01					39,100,000.00
M02					500,000.00
M04			0.00	0.00	4,000,000.00
M10	47,303,050.00	15.79	28,989,048.42	9.68	299,600,000.00
M16					1,000,000.00
Total	47,303,050.00	13.74	28,989,048.42	8.42	344,200,000.00

Focus Area 5E					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)		Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)				0.00	0.32
Combinations of measures	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
M10					74,800,000.00
Total					74,800,000.00

Focus Area 6B					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)		Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)				0.00	74.40
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)				0.00	0.00
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)				0.00	3,100.00
Combinations of measures	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
M19	1,250,000.00	0.50	765,683.51	0.31	250,000,000.00
Total	1,250,000.00	0.50	765,683.51	0.31	250,000,000.00

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

Overview

Generally speaking, scheme implementation is in line with or in some cases has exceeded MA expectations. For example, the new Organic Farming Scheme has proved extremely successful, attracting more new applicants than any previous scheme and encouraging a significant number of farmers to convert to organic farming systems.

For operational reasons and to ensure effective scheme delivery, implementation of Knowledge Transfer (KT) groups did not begin until mid-2016 causing consequential effects on realised output indicators for some FAs (e.g. 1B, 1C& 3B). With registered applications of approximately 20,000 farmers in six sectors, the KT scheme is on target to reach the expected level of 27,000 participants over its duration.

As no payments were made in 2015 under TAMS2, current RDP commitments are not reflected in the relevant output indicators (e.g. FA 2A). To date, almost 9,000 (8,924) applications have been received. This represents a significant level of interest in investment in the sector and exceeds expectations. There have been a markedly high number of applications in the Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme which is open to all farmers and allows, inter alia, for investment in building structures for animal housing on farms. The volume of payment claims has been somewhat slower than expected owing to the current economic climate (e.g. commodity prices) but is expected to gather pace during 2017 as farmers complete approved building works.

A detailed description of the current state of play in relation to each scheme is presented in the following pages.

Measure 1 – Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions

This measure consists of:

- Sub-measure 1.1 – support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions – **KnowledgeTransfer (KT) Groups**; and
- Sub-measure 1.1 – support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions **training delivered in support of Measure 10 (GLAS & BDGP)**.

The total public expenditure of approximately €59,000 reported under Measure 1 to end December 2015 relates to transitional money for training of 594 REPS4 participants. No expenditure was incurred for discussion groups or for GLAS / BDGP training during the reporting period.

Knowledge transfer discussion groups for beef, sheep, dairy, equine, poultry and tillage sectors

The ranking and selection process for KT Groups has been completed and approval notices have issued to associated group facilitators. The deadline for facilitators to register farmer details for each of their groups was 14 July 2016. Following group formation, a verification exercise will be undertaken to establish the eligibility of each participant. On confirmation, notification of group approval will issue and group meetings can commence.

Under this measure, DAFM-approved advisors will also provide training for farmers in both the GLAS and the BDGP in order to optimise delivery of these schemes. This training is scheduled to begin later in

2016.

Measure 2 – Advisory Services

This measure consists of the following elements.

- Sub-measure 2.3 - **Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Agricultural Advisors.**
- **Advisory Service on Animal Health and Welfare incorporating:**
- Sub-measure 2.3 Animal Health & Welfare - Training for advisors &
- Sub-measure 2.1 Animal Health & Welfare - On farm advice

No expenditure was incurred in respect of CPD during the reporting period. Public expenditure of approximately €13,000 was spent on the Animal Health and Welfare Advisory Service to end December 2015.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Agricultural Advisors

The first element of CPD is aimed at advisors who want to deliver training to farmers on the carbon navigator through the BDGP and/or KT scheme. This training is now reaching completion.

The second element of CPD covering KT meeting facilitation skills is currently being delivered to approved facilitators.

Animal Health and Welfare Training provides training to specialist advisors to enable them deliver on-farm advisory services. Training in relation to the treatment of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea is already completed and training on Johne's disease will start later this year.

The contract for delivery of the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health and Welfare was awarded to Animal Health Ireland in September 2015 in accordance with national and EU public procurement rules. Total public expenditure of approximately €13,000 was incurred in respect of venues and materials for the training of veterinarians. A total of 117 private veterinary practitioners were trained and 11 training courses were held during the reporting period.

Measure 4 – Investments in Physical Assets

Measure 4 consists of:

- TAMS II with various strands of support is programmed under sub-measure 4.1 – support for investments in agricultural holdings: and
- A number of non-productive investments (programmed under sub-measure 4.4), which are delivered nationally through GLAS. The logic underlying this sub-measure is intrinsically linked to GLAS in Measure 10 and funding is allocated under the dominant measure.

Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes (TAMS II) will make €395m available to Irish farmers for investment in equipment, facilities and infrastructure.

No payments were made for TAMS II supports during the reporting period. All Measure 4 spending related to the funding of ongoing commitments from the previous Programme. Total transitional expenditure of €19.4m is comprised of €7.6m in respect of 1,474 TAMS I operations (under Focus Areas

2A & 3B) plus €11.8m for 8,809 recorded as AEOS non-productive investments (under Priority 4).

All TAMS II schemes are now open for applications. A total of 2,983 applications were received for the first tranche, 2,222 applications for the second tranche and 2,000 applications for the third tranche. The scheme is open for applications in rolling 3-month tranches with sheep fencing recently included in the list of eligible investments. Payments for approved investments are expected to commence later in 2016.

A breakdown of the combined number of scheme applications for the three tranches to date is shown below.

Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme - 1,630

Dairy Equipment Scheme - 1,967

Pigs & Poultry Investment Scheme - 103

Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment - 527

Animal Welfare, Safety, and Nutrient Storage Scheme - 2,581

Organic Capital Investments - 397

Approvals are issuing on an ongoing basis with supports for dairy and slurry equipment prioritised initially. Over 2,400 approvals have issued to date as enumerated below.

Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme - 455

Dairy Equipment Scheme - 1,030

Pigs & Poultry - 23

Low Emission Slurry Spreading - 154

Animal Welfare, Safety, and Nutrient Storage Scheme - 638

Organic Capital Investments - 144

Support under this measure is also provided for *Non-Productive Investments* that will be delivered via GLAS. As these non-productive investments pertain to the list of actions in tier 3, they will thus form part of GLAS applications.

Measure 7 – Rural Services and Renewal

Sub-measure 7.6 – GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings

No expenditure was incurred in respect of this measure during the reporting period.

This scheme provides a once-off grant aid for approved conservation work to traditional farm buildings and associated structures that are used for agricultural purposes or available for such use. It builds upon the success of a previous Heritage Buildings Scheme and ensures that small traditional farm buildings and other structures are restored and conserved for renewed practical agricultural use. As this is a complementary measure to GLAS, participation in GLAS is a primary eligibility condition for entry to

the scheme.

The scheme is administered by the Heritage Council on behalf of DAFM. A first tranche of applications was opened in April 2016 and attracted over 500 applications which are now being ranked and assessed. Further applications will be invited at regular intervals throughout the Programming period to end December 2020.

Measure 10 – Agri-environment-climate

This Measure contains the following two sub-measures:

- 10.1 – payment for agri-environment-climate commitments – the Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS); and
- 10.1 – payment for agri-environment-climate commitments – the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP).

Public expenditure payments of €11.5m and €28.9m were incurred in respect of GLAS and BDGP respectively during the reporting period. Additionally, transitional monies amounting to €263.2m were spent on legacy REPS and AEOS supports in 2014 and 2015. Various indicators for recorded Measure 10 expenditure are set out below.

M10 –

2014 & 2015 contracts	Priority / Focus Area	Public Expenditure (€m)	Total Area (Ha)	No. of contracts
Transitional				
REPS / AEOS (2014)	P4	187.79 (2014)	734,633 (2014)	31,540
(2015)		75.39 (2015)	218,375 (2015)	17,732
BDGP	5D	28.99	236,261	15,914
GLAS	P4	11.45	257,630	17,509

BDGP – Approximately 24,000 farmers are actively participating in the scheme. Currently, over 21,500 farmers have been paid €29m in respect of the 2015 scheme year. Payment runs are proceeding on an ongoing basis as farmers’ compliance with scheme conditions are confirmed.

Scheme participants must complete additional actions in 2016 along with the data notification and genotyping requirements. These actions include attendance at a general training course and the completion of a carbon navigator in consultation with a DAFM-approved advisor. The general training contract was awarded to Teagasc (the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority) and training courses have already commenced.

Meanwhile advisors are being trained on various aspects of the carbon navigator allowing them to subsequently complete carbon navigators for BDGP applicants.

GLAS – Tiers 1 and 2 are based on Priority Environmental Assets and Actions and if a farmer has one on their holding or chooses to do a specific action, they gain priority access to the scheme. Tier 3 is made up of more general actions, some of which are more environmentally beneficial than others and are thus weighted to match their importance.

Under the first tranche, which opened in March 2015, over 26,000 farmers were approved into *GLAS* while 11,500 farmers were approved under the second tranche of *GLAS*, which opened in October 2015. This brings the aggregate number of farmers in the scheme to some 38,000 - a record number of entrants to an agri-environment scheme in a single year.

At present, around 21,000 *GLAS* I farmers have received a first instalment of their 2015 part-year payment, representing up to 85% of the total amount due for the 2015 part year. These payments were in respect of Priority 4 actions only. *GLAS* Tranche 3, which aims to bring the participation rate to 50,000, is due to open in Autumn 2016.

Locally-led schemes promote local solutions to specific issues and complement the national and more broadly-based *GLAS* scheme supported under the RDP. The expansion of the Burren conservation scheme is the first such locally-led scheme that will recruit farmers in 2016.

Over 400 applications were received by the closing date of 21 December 2015 and 200 farmers have been admitted to the first tranche. It is planned to seek applications for an intake of another 100 farmers later this year.

The next locally-led schemes to be launched will be the Hen Harrier and the Freshwater Pearl Mussel followed by an open call before the end of 2016. Both these schemes will most likely fall under Measure 16 subject to European Commission approval.

Measure 11 – Organic Farming

- 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 general structure, administration and implementation of the previous Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) are continued in the 2014-2020 RDP. Public expenditure of €1.84m was incurred in respect of the OFS for the present programming period and €10.63m in transitional money relating to the previous period is reported under Measure 10 in the current Programme. OFS was a stand-alone scheme under Measure 214 in the 2007-2013 Programme.

The first tranche of the 2014-2020 OFS attracted a record 870 applications. Approval letters were issued to 725 successful applicants and an 85% moiety of the first year payment was issued to 548 applicants in December 2015.

The second tranche of the ‘new’ OFS, which closed on 31 December 2015, attracted 332 applicants. In addition, 500 farmers from the 2007-2013 OFS transitioned to the new RDP scheme.

M12 - Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments

- Sub-measure 12.1 - compensation payment for Natura 2000 agricultural areas

This measure does not form part of the 2014-2020 RDP, as Natura areas are targeted through Measure 10.

This measure is programmed exclusively to provide for ongoing commitments from the 2007-2013 programming period. Transitional monies amounting €37.3m were spent on REPS and AEOS in respect of 13,434 holdings during the reporting period.

Measure 13 – Areas facing natural constraint

The measure consists of the following two sub-measures:

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

Support under these two sub-measures is disbursed nationally via a single Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) Scheme based on the previous Less Favoured Areas and Disadvantaged Areas Schemes. Its objective is to compensate farmers for income foregone and additional costs linked to the disadvantage of the area concerned. A separate category of support is available to compensate island farmers in recognition of the specific constraints faced in those areas. Total public expenditure in excess of €400m, including transitional monies of €8.1m, was reported under Measure 13 to end December 2015

These Less Favoured / Disadvantaged Areas (with the exception of the islands) must, by 2018, be replaced by newly designated Areas of Natural Constraint. A scientific process is currently underway to delineate these areas in accordance with the required biophysical criteria. This process will feed into the identification of eligible areas for the 2018 scheme.

Measure 16 – Co-operation

This measure will comprise of the following elements:

- Sub-measures 16.1 - Support for European Innovation Partnerships (EIP); and
- Sub-measure 16.3 - Support for Collaborative Farming.

No public expenditure was incurred in respect of support for EIPs during the reporting period. Payments totalling €81,000 were made in respect of the Collaborative Farming Scheme which was activated in 2015.

European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) aim to create greater linkages between research and on-farm implementation. An EIP Stakeholder Conference will be held in the third quarter of 2016 and calls for proposals will be published in late 2016 / early 2017. This measure will now be administered together with locally-led AECMs under Measure 16 with a common approach to delivering both strands of support.

Collaborative Farming – all new farm partnerships are eligible to receive a contribution of 50% towards the vouched costs of legal, accounting and advisory services involved in setting up the partnership (up to a maximum of €2,500). To date, 86 farm partnerships have been supported under this scheme.

Measure 19 – LEADER

A sum of approximately €0.77m was paid in respect of support for the preparation of Local Development

Strategies and none in respect of LEADER start-up funding during the reporting period.

Resulting from the transfer of ministerial functions under the new government, LEADER is now administered by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The selection of Local Action Groups (LAGs) to deliver LEADER Local Development Strategies in 28 sub-regional areas is nearing conclusion. Contracts have already been signed for 20 areas with contracts for the remaining areas expected to be finalised over the coming months. Funding will commence under the programme as contracts are signed with the respective LAGs.

Measure 20 – Technical Assistance

No public expenditure was incurred in respect of setting up and running the National Rural Network (NRN) during the reporting period. The NRN for the previous Programme ceased operations in December 2013 and the NRN for the current RDP was selected in January 2016.

Payments of approximately €65,000 (excluding VAT) were made from the Technical Assistance budget. The two main expenditure items were €20,000 for setting up a database for the Animal Health and Welfare Advisory Service and around €41,000 for the preparation of reports on the RDP ex-ante assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Measure 113 – Early Retirement Scheme

The Early Retirement Scheme (ERS) was paid entirely from the 2007-2013 EAFRD during the reporting period. However, transitional monies are being drawn down since the beginning of 2016.

Financial Instruments (FIs) were not a feature of the Irish RDP during the reporting period. FIs can only be introduced by way of an amendment and there is a requirement to first undertake an ex-ante evaluation to examine where market gaps, if any, exist. A tender request to carry out an ex-ante evaluation on the use of FIs as part of the Irish RDP and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Operational Programme was published on 28 June. The mandatory evaluation can take up to 12 months to complete.

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 only

1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional]

Nothing to report under this heading.

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 significant modifications were made to the RDP evaluation plan during the reporting period.

The Monitoring Committee was convened in April and September 2015. The September meeting was the first following formal adoption of the 2014-2020 RDP. All members of the outgoing Monitoring Committee for the previous Programme were invited to join the new Monitoring Committee together with additional bodies identified through the consultation process for the new RDP. Additional members of the Monitoring Committee for the current Programme period include delegates from the travelling community and the newly-formed Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly. Separate representation was accorded to BirdWatch Ireland which was previously included under the Environmental Pillar. As before, the Environmental Pillar retains the right to nominate two representatives to the Monitoring Committee.

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 evaluation of GLAS, the BDGP and LEADER interventions. The possible inclusion of another RDP scheme during the next cycle of of DAFM's own evaluative work is also under consideration.

Following a public procurement competition, ADAS UK Ltd was commissioned in September 2015 to undertake a quantitative and qualitative environmental assessment of GLAS. This assessment will complement the mandatory indicator reporting requirements of the RDP evaluation plan and assist the Managing Authority in identifying any necessary future improvements required to achieve policy aims.

The GLAS evaluation contract is comprised of the three distinct components:

1. A detailed literature review of the existing research on agri-environment measures in Ireland;
2. A longitudinal (5-year) field-based assessment of scheme actions including an attitudinal of sampled participants; and
3. A post-implementation, desk-based evaluation of the scheme to provide recommendations relevant to the drafting of any new agri-environment measure for the next programme period.

The first phase of the evaluation project – the literature review – was recently completed and published on the DAFM website. This review sought to capture and synthesise work on agri-environment measures in Ireland produced since 2010. Focused mainly on REPS and AEOS, it also examined other agri-environment measures, as well as other relevant research projects or national reports on biodiversity, climate and water quality. The published report can be accessed at the link below.

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironment/ruraldevelopmentprogrammerdp2014-2020/>

The literature review highlighted important points for the overall GLAS evaluation, in particular the need for a national scale long-term evaluation using a consistent methodology. It will be important to verify

that any changes detected can be attributed to GLAS as opposed to mandatory requirements or previous schemes. Data collection pre-scheme or at inception is important, as is the regular collection of data at sufficient intervals.

The next phase of the GLAS evaluation will take on board the broad methodological issues discussed in the literature review and will seek to carry out a national scale and longitudinal study across the scheme as a whole. It will also seek to establish baseline information so that any changes in the monitored variables can be more clearly attributed to the scheme itself. A counterfactual scenario (i.e. non-uptake) will also be investigated as part of the attitudinal component of the evaluation. The next phase of the project involves a baseline survey of a representative sample of GLAS farms which will commence during the summer of 2016 once the sampling strategy has been agreed between the MA and the contractor.

The BDGP was initially selected for a Focused Policy Assessment as part of the 2015-17 cycle of DAFM's evaluative activities. It is provisionally scheduled for 2017, year three of the intervention, as foreseen in the RDP evaluation plan. Any evaluation will be conducted independently of the MA.

DAFM's programme of analysis also includes a Value for Money review of an RDP scheme. No final decision has yet been made on topic selection because it was too early to identify one when the programme was being compiled. The area to be examined will be one with substantial activity and expenditure but many new RDP schemes will not be long enough in existence to realistically assess scheme efficiency and effectiveness in time for the submission of the enhanced AIR in 2017. The choice of topic will be determined the CAP Steering Group in due course.

In relation to LEADER, the delegated Paying Agency is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation that component of the RDP. As the LAG selection process is only nearing completion, there was no operational activity during the reporting period. Arrangements for LEADER evaluation will be discussed as part of ongoing collaboration in Programme implementation between the MA and the delegated PA.

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)

An IT Executive Project Board meets regularly to co-ordinate and determine work priorities in relation to the various RDP schemes. Comprised of RDP implementing divisions as well as Information and Management Technology (IMT) Division, its task is to oversee the development, implementation and maintenance of information management systems to support the operation of RDP schemes. This forum also facilitates communication between business users and IMT while providing a useful mechanism for dealing with interconnectivity issues across the many schemes. Work on required IT functionality is ongoing and progressing well.

Implementing divisions are aware of the data requirements for scheme monitoring and evaluation including the need for effective communication and linkages in some instances with external bodies such as the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation, Animal Health Ireland and the Heritage Council for relevant measures. A common text is included in the terms and conditions of each scheme advising that information provided by participants can be used by DAFM or other bodies for evaluation purposes. This explicit consent has been used to exchange data with Teagasc and ADAS using secure transfer protocols. The data provided to Teagasc relates to beneficiaries of Pillar 2 schemes participating in the National Farm Survey and the data to

ADAS is used in connection with the GLAS evaluation contract.

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

No completed evaluations defined

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

Not applicable. See 2.b) above.

2.f) A description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)

No communication activities defined

2.g) Description of the follow-up given to evaluation results (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)

No follow-up defined

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

As previously noted, not all Programme schemes were operationalised during the reporting period. The following schemes were activated in 2015: Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health and Welfare (M.02) TAMS II (M.04), BDGP (M.10), GLAS (M.10), Organic Farming Scheme (M.11), ANC (M.13), Collaborative Farming Scheme (M.16) and LEADER (M.19).

In order to ensure the quality and effectiveness of Programme implementation, the Managing Authority (MA) proposed a number of modifications to the approved RDP, notably in relation to GLAS, KT and TAMS II. The first Programme amendment was officially submitted in December 2015 and approved in June 2016. Arising from a review of the applications received for the first tranche of GLAS, changes were made to the scheme specification annex in response to the achievement of certain targets and to address emerging issues affecting the selection of some actions. Other material changes included the introduction of the Burren Programme as a locally-led scheme, the extension of TAMS supports to include the tillage sector and allowing farmers to participate in KT groups in different sectors and moving from simplified/lump sum costs to payment of costs incurred.

Given the complexity in developing a simplified costs approach that would be capable of meeting the needs of the LEADER programme, the RDP was amended to provide that administration funding will be reimbursed on the basis of costs actually incurred and paid. The potential for simplified costs will be kept under consideration and the approach will be reviewed where an effective manner of using simplified costs is identified.

Besides Programme amendments, the MA has worked to improve Programme implementation through better error rate monitoring, training courses for advisors and farmers and the development of IT solutions.

In the past, production of the Control Report was a cumbersome and mostly a manual process. A new IT system developed for schemes under the 2014-2020 RDP - including a fully integrated penalty framework – is being introduced to streamline the reporting process over the lifetime of the current Programme. Furthermore, in 2016 a dedicated IT team was established to provide support for data formatting and data amalgamation in relation to the 2015 report, in order to ensure compliance with the more technical requirements of the new ‘WinCheck’ format of the Control Report. As a result, the data for the Control Report is more easily extracted and analysed, and Control Report deadlines are expected to be met in the future.

Line divisions have taken pro-active steps to ensure the effectiveness and quality of the schemes that they administer. On KT, a number of CPD / training supports have been rolled out to enhance measure implementation. For example, training in facilitation skills and a similar module in relation to farm health and safety for KT facilitators will support the delivery of the KT Programme.

In addition, training on the Carbon Navigator has been delivered as CPD for advisors and as training for scheme participants to support the

delivery of KT Groups (M1) and BDGP (M10). These activities demonstrate the cross-cutting supports between RDP measures.

Line divisions have also sought to harness cross-cutting benefits on overall CAP implementation. The ANC application is integrated into the BPS application process. As we move to implement the target of 100% online BPS applications by 2018, ANC online application rates are likewise increasing with attendant implementation benefits. In addition, the introduction of preliminary BPS checks this year has also had a consequential benefit for the ANC scheme in terms of early identification and correction of land errors that could impact positively on ANC applications.

3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) ¹, proxy automatically calculated

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation ²	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative ³)
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	2,190,592,153.00	78.59	20.23

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)	2,190,592,153.00		
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	2,190,592,153.00		

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)

The contract for the management of Ireland's NRN for the previous RDP ended in December 2013.

A tender request for the the provision of an NRN service for the current RDP was issued in October 2015. Resulting from this competitive open call, Irish Rural Link in partnership with the Wheel, NUI Galway and Philip Farrelly and Co. was chosen to run Ireland's NRN.

The contract was awarded in January 2016 and an action plan was finalised following discussions with the MA and implementing line divisions.

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

To operationalise the National Rural Network, nine work packages identifying a number of governing themes were outlined in the NRN action plan.

The work packages include: Network Management, Best Practice, 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.

Below are some key actions taken in the first quarter of 2016 by Ireland's NRN.

Work Package 1- Network Management

- An inception meeting of all NRN consortium members with the MA took place on 27 January.
- Submission of a revised Action Plan, which included a website and communications plan, to the MA by the agreed deadline of end February.
- Held weekly meetings between all NRN consortium members.
- Finalised the quarterly financial report templates for consortium partners.

Work Package 2 - Best Practice

- Researched and produced a report on three Best Practice models which are largely based on the previous Rural Development Programme and the LEADER programme. All three Best Practices: Irish Seed Savers Association Ltd.; Kilbeggan Organic Foods and #DigitalClare were all funded during the previous Rural Development Programme. The Best Practices were disseminated via the website, the weekly bulletin and the NRN Newsletter.

Work Package 3- EU Networking

- January: Attended EvaluationWORKS! 2015, relating to the establishment of a Common Monitoring and Evaluation System for the MA and NRN.
- February: Attended the European Conference ‘Unlocking the Potential of the Rural Development Programmes’.
- March: Attended and presented at European Network for Rural Development workshop relating to the role of LEADER/CLLD and networking in supporting social inclusion in rural areas.

Work Package 7: LEADER

- Represented and presented a presentation regarding the newly appointed NRN and our role at two recent events relating to LCDC (Local Community Development Committees) – via the Department of Environment: Capacity building sessions for LCDC representatives at locations in Dublin and Limerick in February and March.

The NRN Communication Plan

WEBSITE

Progress to date:

- Designed, developed and populated a website by end Feb. More content will be added as it becomes available.
- Created a membership ‘sign-up’ form on the website to harvest a distribution / contacts list.
- Conducted Google ‘search engine optimisation’ on the website and google search rankings are being improved upon.
- Arranged for the previous NRN website (at www.nrn.ie) to point its traffic towards the new domain.

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Progress to date:

- Branded and upgraded the transferred social media platforms.

NEWSLETTER & E-BULLETIN REACH

Progress to date:

- Monthly: e-mail format with structured HTML-produced design. Short articles linking to website. Targeted primarily at recipients of RDP programme.
- Quarterly: hard copy (A4 4x-pages). Targeted primarily at the public / those outside the RDP. Will be distributed both in hard & soft copy. Archives of each edition to be stored on website.

PRINTED MATERIALS

Progress to date:

- The following printed materials will be used to publicise the NRN: A5 flyers, A3 posters, pull-up banners, headed paper and business cards.

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

The Information and Publicity Strategy for the 2014-2020 RDP was submitted to the Monitoring Committee in November 2015.

It identified the information and publicity actions that will ensure the specific target groups have full access to current information on the Programme. The strategy is available at:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/ruralenvironment/ruraldevelopment/ruraldevelopmentprogramme2014-2020/InformPublicStrat040116.pdf>

Annex 1 of the strategy lists all the activities carried out in 2014 and 2015. These included:

- 68 press releases providing information on all RDP measures;
- 36 Circulars on GLAS;
- 8 presentations on Ireland's RDP to a number of visiting international delegations;
- Information sessions and seminars on KT Groups, GLAS, TAMS, BDGP, Commonages, LEADER and locally-led schemes;
- Advice to beneficiaries on responsibilities in terms of acknowledging EAFRD support in line with Regulation No. 808/2014;
- Production in September 2015 of a RDP summary booklet containing a general description of each scheme as well as information on eligibility criteria and support rates;
- Consultative meetings with both internal and external stakeholders on creating awareness and understanding the RDP;
- Production of a factsheet on the LEADER programme;
- Preparation of an internal information note on RDP implementation and management structures for operational divisions;
- Provision of a dedicated online portal for the RDP located on both DAFM's and the Department of Environment Community and Local Government's websites;

Use of text messaging service and social media to provide information on RDP measures.

5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

5.a) Unfulfilled criteria of general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criterion
--------------------------------	-----------

5.b) Actions taken to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criterion	Actions to be taken	Deadline	Body responsible for fulfilment	Actions taken	Date of fulfilment of the action	Commission position	Comments
---------------------------------------	------------------	----------------------------	-----------------	--	----------------------	---	----------------------------	-----------------

5.c) Unfulfilled criteria of priority-linked ex-ante conditionalities

Priority-linked ex-ante conditionality	Criterion
--	-----------

5.d) Actions taken to fulfil applicable priority-linked ex-ante conditionalities

Priority-linked ex-ante conditionality	Criterion	Actions to be taken	Deadline	Body responsible for fulfilment	Actions taken	Date of fulfilment of the action	Commission position	Comments
--	-----------	---------------------	----------	---------------------------------	---------------	----------------------------------	---------------------	----------

5.e) (Optional) additional information to complement the information provided on the 'actions taken' table

N/A

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

8.a) Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination (Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

8.b) Sustainable development (Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

8.c) The role of the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the implementation of the programme

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)

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			
Target indicator name	Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	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)		0.00	3.60

Focus Area 1B			
Target indicator name	Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	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)		86.00	1,210.00

Focus Area 1C			
Target indicator name	Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)		549.00	111,600.00

Focus Area 2A					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023	
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)		0.37	0.37	9.11	
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
2A total	20,000.00	0.01	5,917,647.64	3.50	169,250,000.00
M01	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
					25,000,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure			
O12 - Number of participants in trainings				6,650.00	
M02	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
					500,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised			
M04	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
			5,897,718.44	4.15	142,000,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023

		O2 - Total investment	14,744,296.10	4.15	355,000,000.00
	M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	5,897,718.44	4.15	142,000,000.00
		O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	512.00	4.02	12,750.00
M16	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
	20,000.00	1.14	19,929.20	1.14	1,750,000.00

Focus Area 2B					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023	
T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)		0.00	0.00	2.86	
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
2B total	60,000.00	0.05	59,787.61	0.05	122,250,000.00
M04	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
			0.00	0.00	120,000,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
		O2 - Total investment			200,000,000.00
	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported			4,000.00
M16	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
	60,000.00	2.67	59,787.61	2.66	2,250,000.00

Focus Area 3B					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023	
Number of Participants in Knowledge Transfer Groups (focus area 3B) (Persons)				26,600.00	
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
3B total	13,400.00	0.02	1,723,564.28	3.08	56,000,000.00
M01	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
					25,000,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure			25,000,000.00
		O12 - Number of participants in trainings			6,650.00
M02	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
	13,400.00	0.22	13,428.33	0.22	6,000,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised			10,000.00
	M04	Total public expenditure			
Committed expenditure 2014-2015		Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
			1,710,135.95	6.84	25,000,000.00
Output indicators					
Sub-measure		Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
		O2 - Total investment	4,275,339.88	6.84	62,500,000.00

Priority P4					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023	
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)			5.96	20.77	
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)			5.96	20.91	
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)			5.96	18.08	
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
P4 total	224,900,000.00	7.83	726,390,728.71	25.28	2,873,000,630.00
M01	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
			58,547.55	0.16	37,000,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	58,547.55	0.16	37,000,000.00
O12 - Number of participants in trainings		549.00	0.97	56,650.00	
M02	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
					1,000,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised			750.00
M04	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP

			11,783,154.64	10.34	114,000,000.00
Output indicators					
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
		O2 - Total investment	11,783,154.64	5.61	210,000,000.00
	M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported			9,700.00
Total public expenditure					
M07	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
					6,000,000.00
Total public expenditure					
M10	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
	14,300,000.00	1.18	274,637,739.54	22.63	1,213,750,630.00
Output indicators					
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	476,005.00	38.21	1,245,809.00
Total public expenditure					
M11	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
	3,000,000.00	5.36	1,844,023.67	3.29	56,000,000.00
Output indicators					
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	14,000.00	87.50	16,000.00
	M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	26,000.00	55.46	46,880.00
Total public expenditure					
M12	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
	13,200,000.00	18.02	37,279,930.23	50.89	73,250,000.00

	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M12.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	141,560.00	76.11	186,000.00
M13	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
	194,400,000.00	14.19	400,787,333.08	29.25	1,370,000,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M13.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2,862,230.00	84.13	3,402,000.00
	M13.3	O5 - Total area (ha)	8,183.00	54.55	15,000.00
M16	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
					2,000,000.00

Focus Area 5B					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023	
T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)		0.00	0.00	50,000,000.00	
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
5B total			0.00	0.00	20,000,000.00
M04	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
			0.00	0.00	20,000,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
		O2 - Total investment			50,000,000.00
	M04.1, M04.2, M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported			400.00

Focus Area 5D					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023	
T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)			0.00	0.20	
T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)			4.73	10.79	
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
5D total	47,303,050.00	13.74	28,989,048.42	8.42	344,200,000.00
M01	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
					39,100,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure			39,100,000.00
		O12 - Number of participants in trainings			41,650.00
M02	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
					500,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised			375.00
M04	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
			0.00	0.00	4,000,000.00
	Output indicators				

	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
		O2 - Total investment			10,000,000.00
	M04.1, M04.3, M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported			250.00
		O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)			11,500.00
	Total public expenditure				
M10	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
	47,303,050.00	15.79	28,989,048.42	9.68	299,600,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	236,261.00	43.87	538,490.00	
	Total public expenditure				
M16	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
					1,000,000.00

Focus Area 5E					
Target indicator name		Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023	
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)			0.00	0.32	
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
5E total					74,800,000.00
M10	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
					74,800,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)			18,385.00

Focus Area 6B					
Target indicator name	Based on approved 2014-2015 (when relevant)	Realised 2014-2015	Target 2023		
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)		0.00	74.40		
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)		0.00	0.00		
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)		0.00	3,100.00		
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
6B total	1,250,000.00	0.50	765,683.51	0.31	250,000,000.00
M19	Total public expenditure				
	Committed expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (committed) (%)	Realised expenditure 2014-2015	Level of implementation (realised) (%)	Planned expenditure from RDP
	1,250,000.00	0.50	765,683.51	0.31	250,000,000.00
	Output indicators				
	Sub-measure	Output indicator	Realised 2014-2015	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
		O18 - Population covered by LAG			2,470,308.00
		O19 - Number of LAGs selected			28.00
	M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	765,683.51	109.38	700,000.00
	M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure			194,350,000.00
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure			10,000,000.00	
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure			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)	14-02-2017		Ares(2017)2073163	1654222283	AIRfinancialAnnex2014IE06RDNP001_en.pdf	21-04-2017	ncaeilis

