



Independent Evaluation Service of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 of the Campania Region under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

CIG: 7205166314 - CUP: B29G17000550009

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT 2023
Non-Technical Summary

Rome, March 2023



Unione Europea

Fondo europeo agricolo
per lo sviluppo rurale:
*l'Europa investe
nelle zone rurali*



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1. Introduction



The **2023 Annual Evaluation Report (AAR)** analyses the use of resources, the state of implementation and the verification of the effectiveness and efficiency of the RDP 2014-2022 of the Campania Region as at 31/12/2022.

The document is structured as follows:

- ▶ Updating the context of the Programme and elements related to its implementation.
- ▶ Illustration of the methodological approach adopted for conducting the analyses (with a detail of the survey techniques and how to define the set of beneficiaries for the sample surveys) and a description of the main information sources.
- ▶ Presentation and analysis of information gathered - financial and procedural progress.
- ▶ Analysis of Good Practices in RDP organisation and management.
- ▶ Enhancement of complementary result and impact indicators.
- ▶ Description of the areas under analysis, broken down by:
 - Analysis of RDP beneficiary companies and the development trajectories undertaken;
 - The evaluation of the trajectories of farms in Campania;
 - The territorial impact of agri-environmental measures;
 - Analysis of the effectiveness of the selection criteria;
 - Analysis by FA and response to Common Assessment Questions.
- ▶ LAG Campania 2014-2022 self-assessment process.
- ▶ Description of activities carried out in cooperation with the independent evaluator of the ERDF, ESF and EMFF, and the Environmental Authority.
- ▶ Report on the implementation of financial instruments.
- ▶ Conclusions and recommendations according to the 'logbook' structure.

2. Methodological Approach

This chapter describes the **main survey and analysis techniques adopted**, consistent with the tender documents and reports prepared by the evaluator for the structuring of activities, with particular reference to the Annual Evaluation Plan.

With reference to the **methodological approach**, in addition to the documentary analysis, qualitative-quantitative methods were applied to explore the causal mechanisms through which to explore and gather elements of analysis and information useful for the various phases of the evaluation process; in particular, these methods made it possible to articulate the answers to the

evaluation questions and construct the evaluation tools, specifically the questionnaire for the sample survey.

In detail, the types of analysis identified required:

- (i) in-depth analysis of the **programming and implementation documentation and monitoring data** from the regional monitoring system and AGEA (National PA), as well as **discussion with the regional contact persons of the MA staff**;
- (ii) **direct survey addressed to a sample of beneficiary farms** to verify the **results** achieved and/or expected thanks to the RDP resources, through the administration of a structured questionnaire using CAWI and CATI methods. The results of these surveys were also appropriately exploited to answer the **evaluation questions** of this Report concerning some FAs;
- (iii) **analysis of farm trajectories** aimed at investigating both the effects produced by RDP interventions and the development trajectories of farms supported by the Programme. In this context, a survey was carried out, among other things, targeting the same farms as in point (ii), providing a specific section in the questionnaire to examine the **typological characteristics of the farms¹ and their development prospects** with respect to macro-indicators of competitiveness and environmental footprint.
- (iv) **Direct survey addressed to a sample of agricultural holdings benefiting from interventions 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 6.4.1** in order to collect data useful for the valorisation of result indicator **R2**.
- (v) **Participatory techniques**:
 - a. **Interviews with privileged witnesses: interviews with RT RT 4.1.1b), 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 for the analysis of the selection criteria; with RT 7.6.1 and 16.1.2 RTs as part of the survey on good management/procedural practices**; with the **Regional Manager of SNAI** as part of a focus on this topic.
 - b. **Focus group**
 - c. **Focus group** addressed to a **panel of experts** in the field with the aim of presenting the data from the sample survey launched in 2020 and **defining the business trajectories** of the Campania agricultural clusters.
 - d. **Direct survey** - in the form of a questionnaire - addressed to **LAGs** to initiate an initial evaluation process with respect to their **internal staff**, the **skills** available and improvable, and the **activities** that need more attention to avoid problems in implementing the strategy.

3. Progress of the Programme

The spending capacity of the Campania RDP stands at around 53%: as in the previous year, the greatest progress is recorded among the area or head measures (75%) compared to the structural measures (40%).

As far as the 2014-2022 RDP is concerned, the progress of expenditure as at 31/12/2022 reached a total of 66.2%, with payments for csd. "area/head measures" reaching 95.7% (compared to 75% in the previous survey). Also contributing to the result were the discrete performances of the

¹ The typological analysis is related to the possibility of associating the beneficiaries of the sample with the *clusters* of Campania's farms defined thanks to the Delphi analysis addressed to a Panel of experts carried out in the course of 2021, the results of which were returned in the AER 2021 and a summary of which is given in Section 3.2 of this report.

individual priorities with values above 50%. Only PR 6 lags behind, reaching 46.9% of the planned expenditure, however, an increase compared to the 2022 survey of about 11%.

Table 1 - Planned resources and expenditure as at 31.12.2022

Measures	Planned (€)	Expenditure incurred (€)	New Programming	Drags (€)	Spending capacity (%)
Structural Measures*	1.497.764.032,67	722.382.291,72	672.495.367,70	49.886.923,98	48
Surface or head measurements	913.377.297,27	874.172.372,6	836.028.646,7	38.143.725,86	95,7
Total	2.411.141.329,94	1.596.554.664,32	1.508.524.014,40	88.030.649,84	66,2

Table 2 - Progress by priority on target to 2025

Priorities	Planned expenditure (€)	Expenditure incurred (€)	Progress on target to 2025 (%)
2	750.657.284,13	411.915.150,70	54,9
3	272.544.526,59	159.990.224,18	58,7
4	1.010.581.260,07	846.470.697,70	83,8
5	63.978.488,19	34.110.659,35	53,3
6	280.898.144,08	131.787.047,27	46,9

Priority 2 - Enhancing farm profitability and agricultural competitiveness

The spending capacity of AF 2A shows an advance of 54%. Main contributors to this figure are measures 21 (T.I. 21.1.1/2), 4 (mainly T.I. 4.1.1) and 6 (T.I. 6.4.1). 12% of payments correspond to carry-overs from old programming.

The spending capacity of FA 2B increased by 14% compared to 2021, reaching 56% in 2022. The measures with the highest spending progress are M1 with 59%, M4 (T.I. 4.1.2) with 59%, and M6 (T.I. 6.1.1) with 50%. Lagging behind the other measures is M2, although compared to AER2022 some additional projects were financed, bringing the progress from 15% to 20%.

Table 3- Total expenditure PR 2

Measure	Planned (€)	Payments (€)	Spending capacity %
2A	465.784.992,34	252.689.008,68	54
2B	284.872.291,79	158.313.624,69	56

Priority 3 - Promoting food chain organisation and risk management

The spending capacity of FA 3A stands at 63%. It is worth noting the progress of expenditure of the M9 by 100% (intervention 9.1.1), of the M14 by 91% (with 975 projects started), and of the M4 by 48% (with intervention 4.2.1 has 93 projects started and 51 paid). Finally, carryovers constitute only a residual part of the expenditure of the M14.

FA 3B is only affected by M5 (interventions 5.1.1 and 5.2.1), which, however, has a low spending capacity of only 24%. Comparing the data of the previous AER 2022 with the updated ones, a stable spending capacity (stuck at 24%) emerges with a higher number of projects started, however, compared to the previous year.

Table 4- Total expenditure PR 3

Measure	Planned (€)	Payments (€)	Spending capacity %
3A	244.918.638,51	153.369.091,15	63
3B	27.625.888,08	6.601.133,03	24

Priority 4 - Preserve, restore and enhance ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

The spending capacity of Priority 4 stands at 83.7%. The highest progress is recorded by measure 13, which contributes 45% to the overall progress of expenditure for PR4 followed by measures 10 and 11 (at 12 and 10% respectively). The performance of paid claims for structural measures related to PR4 is excellent, with an average of 46.6% of projects "paid in full" with respect to all the measures financed.

Table 5- Total expenditure PR 4

Priorities	Planned (€)	Payment (€)	Spending capacity (%)
Priority 4	1.010.581.260,07	815.864.567,61	81

Priority 5 - Promoting resource efficiency and the transition to a low-carbon economy

For AF 5A, apart from measure 1, measures 2, 4 and 16 are financially advanced. Measure 2 has initiated and welded 4 projects, and a very limited spending capacity (4%). M4, on the other hand, has several projects started, especially with respect to intervention type 4.1.4 (60 of which 24 welded), and its spending progress reaches 47%. It should be noted that 26% of the payments for this measure (M4) can be attributed to carryovers. FA5C reaches a spending capacity of 46%. Except for measure 1, all measures contribute to the advancement of expenditure, respectively with 31% (M2), 49% (M7) and 24% advancement (M16). On the other hand, for measure 1 no resources have yet been spent and the expenditure progress is 0. The spending capacity of FA5D reaches 71%. The measures that contribute most to progress are measure 16 (100%) and measure 4 (72%). Compared to the previous AER there was a further advance in spending capacity, from 61% to 71%,

and overall, the number of beneficiaries paid increased from 18 to 30. On FA5E there were payments for all measures except for 1. With regard to operation 8.1.1 (Afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land) there is expenditure of more than €8 million, or 72% of the planned expenditure. Measure 2 records significantly lower expenditure at 1% of the programmed total. Of these spent funds, however, 86% concern interventions activated in the previous programming period and linked to measures 221 Afforestation of agricultural land, 223 Afforestation of non-agricultural land, measure h - Reg (EC) 1257/99 and afforestation measures linked to EC Reg. 2080/1992.

Table 6- Total expenditure PR 5

Focus Area/Priority	Planned (€)	Paid (€)	Spending capacity (%)
5A	32.117.216,75	14.508.212,09	45,1
5C	8.978.976,08	4.108.754,43	46
5D	9.088.530,04	6.494.479,54	71
5E	13.678.081,47	9.409.664,57	69

Priority 6 - Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

The spending capacity of FA 6A shows a further increase compared to AER2022 to 56% (from 44%). With respect to total payments, it should be noted that about 14% of the resources spent relate to carryovers from past programming entirely attributable to M7. FA 6B shows a spending capacity of 35%, linked to a share of carryovers from previous programming (equal to 6%). However, a 10% increase in payments with respect to AER2022 should be noted, mainly due to an advancement of expenditure as regards T.I. 19.2.1, with the other T.I. recording an almost complete ratio of projects started and paid. Below are the details of the payments for the interventions foreseen under the M19 entirely programmed in this FA. In FA 6C, the programmed resources are concentrated on intervention 7.3.1 concerning the implementation of broadband and a minimal share is dedicated to M1, which does not record any payment. Therefore, the spending capacity of 67% of the programmed resources (up by 22% compared to AER2022) refers exclusively to the specific intervention of M7 (table below).

Table 7- Total expenditure PR 6

Focus Area/Priority	Planned (€)	Paid (€)	Spending capacity (%)
6A	133.424.073,32	74.670.261,92	56
6B	126.749.329,59	43.860.975,62	35
6C	20.724.741,17	13.661.701,33	67

4. Survey outcomes and analysis of company trajectories

The following is an analysis of the merits of the responses stratified over the years following the subdivision of the different sections of the questionnaire: a total of 425 beneficiaries for a number of responses that varies from time to time according to the actual contribution entered on the 'Survey Monkey' platform.

► **Company development strategies**

In the area of competitiveness and the market, most of the actions implemented concern actions dedicated to adhesion to quality systems, proving the interest of farms in this issue (the same actions, of course, then decrease among the "planned" activities). This is followed by the introduction of product and/or production process innovation, which also figures consistently among the "in progress" and "planned" actions. Finally, we find the introduction/development of direct sales to the consumer and the desire to introduce/develop the supply chain - processing - within the farm (16% of 'planned' activities). This is followed by the development of non-agricultural activities, the introduction of product and process innovation, and again the adhesion to quality systems.

On the subject of attention to the environment, most of the actions carried out concern the production of energy from renewable sources (17.3%) and the improvement of regulation systems (drains, drainage, etc.). Ongoing actions include those related to the improvement of organic matter inputs and the introduction of conservative farming techniques. In the future (% of planned actions out of the total number of responses) are actions to implement more efficient irrigation systems and to introduce precision farming techniques (both around 12.8%).

The final macro-theme is that related to the "link with the territory": the greatest number of actions were carried out to adhere to promotional campaigns for local agricultural products, and these actions are also the most numerous among current and future activities. In particular, there is a strong desire to adhere to local business networks to coordinate the offer of local products and services, and the need to adhere to short supply chain projects for the development of local markets remains present.

► **Results of RDP participation and achievements of RDP co-financed interventions**

Up to 2021, 219 participants declared, by means of the dichotomous answer option 'YES/NO', that the interventions carried out had made it possible to address the main development bottlenecks (57 negative answers) mainly in the area of competitiveness and the market (147 answers). Therefore, during the last three surveys, participants were able to give their answers in a more nuanced manner: out of 122 useful answers (2022 and 2023 surveys), 13% declared themselves to be not very satisfied with the results achieved thanks to the interventions carried out with the RDP, while 41% (50 beneficiaries) declared that the interventions had contributed "enough" to business development (34% declared "very much" and 23% "sufficiently"). Selecting only positive responses (303 items), the area in which the best results were recorded was the one related to 'Competitiveness and market' (65% of responses). Very close to each other were the other two fields of action 'environment and climate' and 'link with the territory', which recorded 44 and 41% of the preferences respectively.

► **The effects of the war in Ukraine on business units**

The 53 respondents of the 2023 survey (referring to 2022) were asked whether the war in Ukraine, which broke out at the end of February 2022, was having an impact on the routine business of the farm: the repercussions on the entire world economic system as a result of the increase in the cost of raw materials (many coming from or passing through Ukrainian territory), the increase in the cost of energy (coming from Russia against which international sanctions have been activated) and/or changes in the supply/demand of agricultural products on the market are well known. In the case of the survey, 36 farms - predominantly cereal and oil and protein crop farms and cereal and oil and

protein crop farms - stated that they had been affected: first of all, the increase in the prices of raw materials and energy (28 responses) with the consequent drop in revenue (18 responses) and the increase in the prices of other products. The same companies also reported an increase in fertiliser prices.

► **Future perspectives**

Finally, in order to detect trust in the RDP as a tool, a channel, a means of development for the Campania territory, the participants in the 2021 and 2022 surveys were asked to give a clear answer to the question "In the future will you still participate in the opportunities offered by the RDP?": out of 121 valid answers, 114 respondents answered YES and 7 answered NO, citing as the reason the onerousness of participation in the RDP in terms of economic resources to be advanced while waiting for reimbursements. All the others, on the other hand, would continue to invest in their farms - 111 valid answers - preferring interventions that fall mainly in the sphere of mitigating the environmental impact of agricultural activities (46 preferences, equal to 41.4%): among them are present with a certain number of young people (7 beneficiaries TI 6.1.1), 6 beneficiaries TI 6.4.1, 3 beneficiaries of TI 4.2.1 and 4 beneficiaries of TI 4.1.3. The theme of competitiveness remained present with 43 preferences (8 RT 4.1.2 and 6 RT 6.4.1 beneficiaries: these statements confirm the centrality of the M4 and M6, which was probably exploited as a pivot to start a business development path. Finally, 22 respondents stated that they would invest in improving the link with the territory.

► **Business trajectory analysis**

The methodology

The object of the evaluation consists in observing the change in behaviour induced by the RDP, within a fluid social context, characterised by the interaction between farmers, processing enterprises, institutions and all the other actors living in the territories (residents, tourists, enterprises linked upstream and downstream with the farm).

The methodology chosen to be used involved the reconstruction of typological profiles of farms in Campania through a panel of experts. With this report the methodology reaches a new stage, the results of the surveys carried out by the VI from 2020 to the present, through the use of the incremental sample, will be presented for the first time through the categorisation into clusters identified last year and reported below. A focus group with a panel of experts was held in March 2023 to present the results and define the trajectories of the Campania clusters.

Groups and their location in trajectory space

Phase 1 was initiated by providing the experts with the following list of possible groups of companies²:

1. Small wineries (social wineries) (in the province of Benevento)
2. Viticulture (large groups) (in the province of Avellino)
3. Extensive arable farming (Cereals)
4. Zootechnical and extensive (extensive in inland areas)
5. Olive growing - permanent crops
6. Buffalo (>100 head) (Casertano and Salernitano)
7. Fruit and vegetables IV gamma and protected
8. Field-scale fruit and vegetables

² The list was reconstructed by the evaluator with a group of regional officials

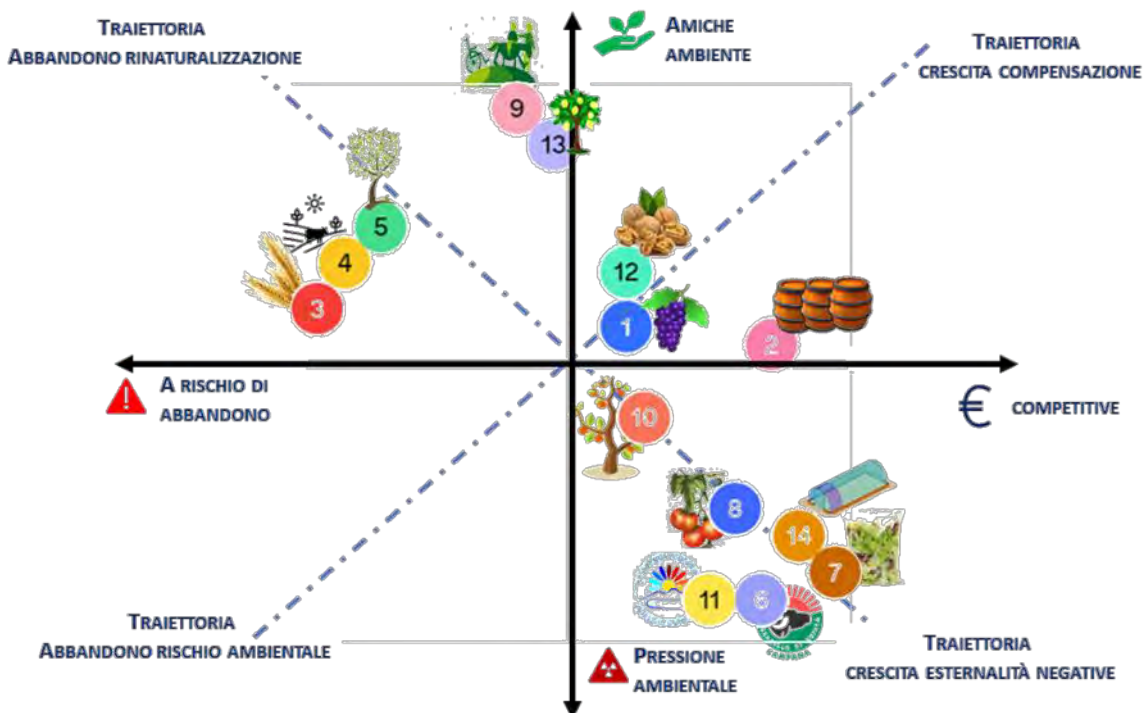
9. Multifunctional
10. Other permanent crops (citrus fruit and nuts)

The experts were asked to connote the groups, enriching the identified groups with more detailed descriptions, or to supplement and/or modify the proposed set-up, only if they deemed it necessary, thus identifying new groups.

The outcome of the first phase was the identification of the following 14 groups (in blue and bold the modified groups):

1. Small wineries (social wineries)
2. Viticulture (large groups)
3. Extensive arable farming (cereals)
4. Livestock and extensive
- 5. Olive growing**
6. Buffaloes (with more than 100 head)
- 7. IV range**
- 8. Open field horticulture**
9. Multifunctional (**including small and very small holdings and beekeepers**)
- 10. Permanent crops (Peach, Kiwi, etc.)**
- 11. Floriculture**
- 12. Nuts**
- 13. Citrus fruits**
- 14. Protected horticulture**

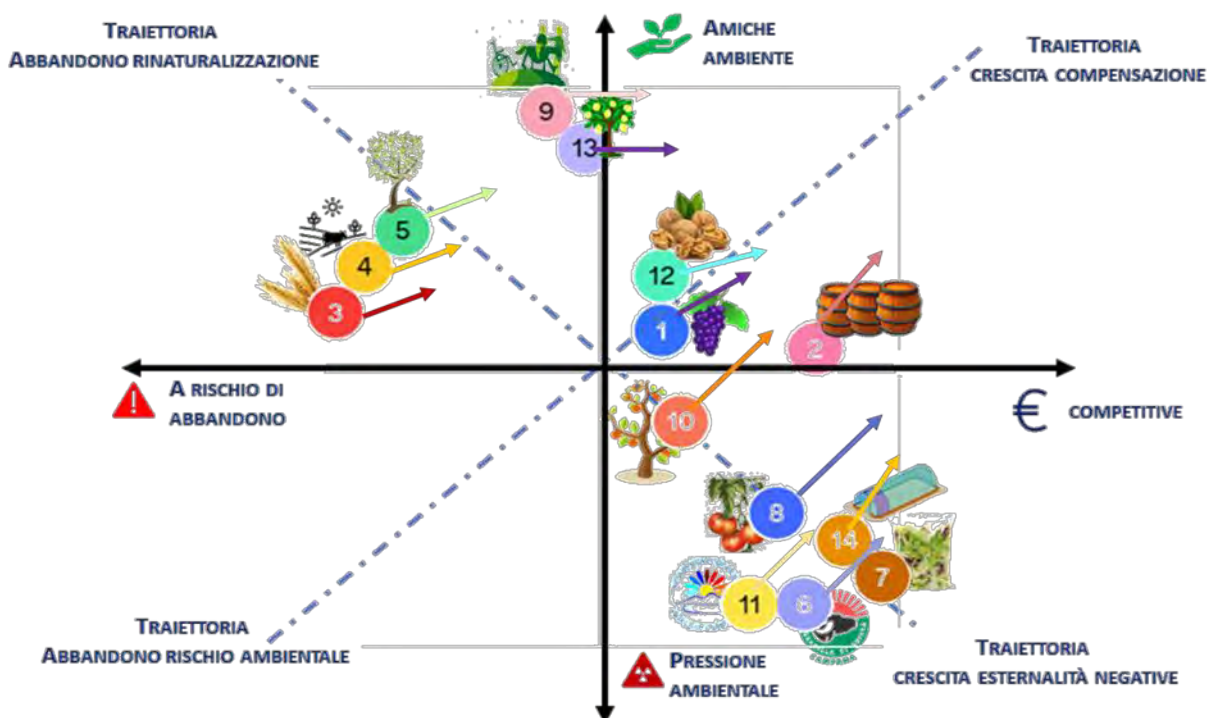
The panel of experts was also asked to place the typological clusters of farms in Campania within a space describing the different attitudes of farms towards competitiveness and the environment (► see figure below).



In the table below, the distinction between the various clusters can be seen, the most populated being number 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9. It is important to remember that the location of the clusters and their consistency are strongly influenced by the definition of the sample. It can thus be seen that the companies extracted so far tend to over-sample some clusters to the detriment of others. The proportional stratification with which the sample is constructed tends to favour the beneficiaries of so-called surface measures to the detriment of structural ones. Considering that this is an analysis that will rely on further surveys, it is expected that these differences may be narrowed, also through optimal sampling techniques. As far as the analyses are concerned, due to the minimal number populating the citrus cluster, this will not be taken into account for the following analyses.

Cluster		n°	%
1	Small wineries	28	7%
2	Large-scale viticulture	23	6%
3	Extensive arable farming (cereals)	60	15%
4	Extensive animal husbandry	62	15%
5	Olive growing	59	14%
6	Buffaloes with more than 100 head	18	4%
8	Horticulture	44	11%
9	Multifunctional	31	8%
10	Permanent crops	45	11%
11	Floriculture	31	8%
12	Nuts	8	2%
13	Citrus fruits	4	1%
Total		413	100%

Thanks to the elements gathered from the IA and the input provided by the experts during the focus group on 27 March, it was possible to better frame the trajectories that the clusters could take. In the graph below, it is possible to observe the trajectories identified for each cluster.



A number of useful insights also emerged for the programmer, which are given in the table below.

Cluster	Indications and potential development strategies
Small-scale viticulture	Training and consultancy for better market positioning (wine quality, processing and marketing)
	Developing non-agricultural diversification - food and wine tourism
	Potential of LEADER and cooperation measures to link with the territory and develop integrated local supply chains
Large-scale viticulture	Need to improve environmental performance
	Greater valorisation of typicality and traditional processing
	Greater integration between small and large companies - sectoral integration (tourism, exchange of experience)
Extensive cereal cultivation	Promoting processing and marketing - accompanying activities on sector potential
	Potential of LEADER and cooperation measures to link with the territory and develop integrated local supply chains
	Training and advice on possibilities to diversify production (evolutionary populations, higher quality varieties)
Olive groves	Promoting processing and marketing - accompanying activities on sector potential
Bufaline	Possibility of introducing funding for composting plants - integration with IV gamma chain is an interesting alternative source of income
	Tackling the problem of non-standard companies (ZVN)
	Extend M14 - Animal Welfare to reduce sources of livestock waste
Horticulture	Training and advice on pesticide and fertiliser use - need to improve environmental performance
Permanent crops	Promoting processing and marketing - accompanying activities on sector potential
	Potential of LEADER and cooperation measures to link with the territory and develop integrated local supply chains
Floriculture	Possibility of introducing countercyclical measures to support the cluster in the style of the M21
Citrus fruits	Potential of LEADER and cooperation measures to link with the territory and develop integrated local supply chains
	Unveiling and promoting the cluster's tourism potential (landscape typicality)

► **Report on the implementation of financial instruments (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

For the next programming cycle, it is recommended not to abandon the offer of this type of instrument, which is necessary to foster, among other things, the coverage of the private share of investments financed with non-reimbursable capital. Easier access to credit capital seems all the more strategic in a context that is very different from the one that characterised the 2014-2022 RDP - when the cost of money was close to zero - whereas now we are in an inflationary spiral that public intervention is trying to counter with a significant rise in interest rates.

Experience shows that guarantee funds should be conceived as complementary instruments to existing ones and not as alternatives. In order to do this, the maximum share of aid that can be granted should not be exhausted, e.g. if the maximum aid intensity amounts to 50%, it would be a good idea to set the non-repayable share at a slightly reduced percentage so as to leave room for a possible guarantee instrument dedicated to the same beneficiaries and which would have the advantage of facilitating the availability of the private share. This would also make it possible to reach a larger number of beneficiaries with the non-repayable fund and offer them the additional opportunity of the guarantee fund, which would then become practically feasible.

► **Analysis of the effectiveness of selection criteria for interventions 4.1.1 and 4.2.2**

With respect to the Interventions considered, the selection criteria adopted are consistent with the aims identified by the Programme Manager.

The characteristics of the selected applications, limited to the few beneficiaries analysed for Measures 4.1.1 - Action B and 4.2.2, correspond to those sought mainly for project properties, less so for the profile of the applicant.

The Criteria therefore played a role in directing investment proposals towards the need to strengthen the Campania agrifood sector, introducing new technologies, shortening supply chains, reducing environmental impacts and supporting quality production.

They did not, however, play a role in selecting the best projects among those submitted, since the applications that were granted subsidies were in fact those that had met the eligibility conditions by passing the technical-administrative inquiry. For all ineligible applications, in fact, it was not possible to calculate a score based on the selection criteria due to the absence or poor quality of the required documentation needed to make the assessments.

In order to limit the likelihood of good but incorrectly submitted projects being excluded in the future, the reasons for this should be investigated in more detail. For example, this could be the need for more time to submit the application or more guidance on how to write the application correctly. In one case, one could think of extending the opening period of the calls for applications, in the other of providing pre-filled or pre-set documents to be filled in, or a sample outline, or alternatively video tutorials to be published on the Region's website.

Partly in this direction is the adaptation of the new notice published for Measure 4.2.2, which more explicitly states when a document is considered mandatory, in response to the misunderstandings about the documentation to be submitted, which were found in the previous notice.

A second problem that emerged for Measure 4.1.1 - Action B concerns the significant portion of the budget allocated for the call that remains to be spent, given the small number of applications that received financial support. As was already done for Measure 4.2.2, these resources could be used for the publication of new calls that would allow excluded companies to be able to reapply correctly.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

Topic/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
FA2A	<p>The public resources disbursed up to 2022 for operations contributing to FA.2A correspond to 57% of the total programmed resources, a figure slightly higher than in 2021 (51%) and resulting mainly from progress in TI 4.1 and 6.4.1. The elements that characterise the financed operations are confirmed: high participation of businesses led by young people (36% of beneficiaries) and/or operating in mountain areas or with other constraints (70%) and/or in rural areas C and D (85%), mainly in OTE specialised in tree crops and arable or mixed type (polyculture); reduced participation of businesses with livestock.</p> <p>Improving the economic results and environmental performance of the enterprise are the effects of investments in farm restructuring/modernisation (TI 4.1.1) or in diversification of activities (TI 6.4.1) that are most perceived by beneficiary farmers.</p> <p>This judgement is confirmed by the aggregate results of the <u>analyses carried out on a sample of beneficiary companies</u>: a significant increase (+49%) on average in labour productivity between pre- and post-investment periods, as the effect of an average growth in revenues (+62%) significantly higher than that of labour employment levels (+9%) and therefore ultimately not to their detriment. In contrast to these average values, however, there is considerable variability within the sample of companies according to OTE and their initial economic size. With respect to the latter variable, the increase in the R2 indicator is greater in medium-sized companies (+62%) than in both large (+48%) and small companies (+49%).</p> <p>In the holdings with less specialised or mixed OTEs, there are lower productivity gains or even reductions in productivity: in some cases, due to the greater use of labour resulting from a still present growth in production levels (and thus in revenues); in others, as in the holdings of OTE 16 (specialised in other arable crops) due to the reduction in both revenues and labour employed, signs of the progressive economic marginalisation of the company's activities.</p> <p>However, trends common to the majority of the beneficiary farms surveyed, particularly in those specialised in tree crops (viticulture, olive growing, fruit growing, in horticulture) are the relevant ante-post increase in the value of production, accompanied by a smaller increase or even stationarity in the use of labour; this is made possible by processes of on-farm transformation of basic agricultural production (mainly in medium-small enterprises) and by the greater and more rational mechanisation of cultivation operations (especially in medium and large enterprises). That is, the effect of productive reconversions, technical and managerial innovations presumably permitted or accelerated by RDP support.</p> <p>The <u>counterfactual analyses</u> (with comparisons between beneficiary and non-beneficiary companies) conducted only in companies with investments concluded up to 2019 and investigated in 2022 (not also in those of 2023) and repeated for 9 groups of OTEs, in part confirm and explain</p>	<p>The analyses carried out confirm the advisability and usefulness (with respect to present needs) of continuing and further strengthening support for farm restructuring/modernisation and diversification investments. This corresponds to farmers' perceptions of their effectiveness in relation to competitiveness and environmental objectives, but also in light of the initial results of the evaluation surveys carried out. In fact, these show a reasonable causal link, in many beneficiary farms, between the increase in farm labour productivity (Indicator R2) and the investments supported by the RDP (TI 4.1.1 above all).</p> <p>Potential margins for improving the effectiveness of investment support are identifiable - in the face of conditions of objective shortage of financial resources in relation to potential and real demand - in its focusing on the business realities in which its 'net effect' is potentially greater. That is, the greater the improvement that the supported investment brings about in the productivity of the enterprise with respect to the situation without it</p>

Topic/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>the effects of investments on productivity but "net" of the variations exerted by the context in which the companies themselves operate. In this case, the average value of Indicator R2 is +53%, obtained by subtracting from the "gross" ante-post variation of +55% the smaller value that would have been obtained in counterfactual conditions (+2%). These total average values derive from variations between the sub-groups of companies considered, which are very diversified in intensity and direction, depending on the development strategies adopted by the companies or their response/defence against the opportunities and crisis factors of the context in which they operate. In contrast to the non-counterfactual analysis based only on the ante-post comparison in the beneficiary companies, the net increase in productivity, when it occurs, is the result of a differential between the (ante-post) increase in revenues and the increase in labour employment levels that is positive or at least greater than in the non-beneficiary companies (counterfactual situation).</p> <p>The greatest increases occur in holdings specialising in floriculture and ornamental plants, olive growing, nut production and tropical fruit production. Lower net effects in mixed farms with polyculture, specialised with several combined arable crops or specialised in the production of quality wines.</p> <p>The different magnitude of the R2 indicator can be attributed in some OTEs (e.g. specialised olive farms or mixed farms with polyculture and high economic size) to diversified but always increasing productivity developments in both 'factual' and 'counterfactual' situations: in other words, investment support reinforces and accelerates already existing and more widespread productivity growth trends (higher inertial effects).</p> <p>On the other hand, in other OTEs (e.g. mixed farms in polyculture with low revenues, farms specialised in floriculture and nursery gardening or in tropical fruit cultivation) the net increase is amplified by a negative evolution of the Indicator in the counterfactual situation, a sign of the wider presence in the same sector of production realities that are not supported and in which there is an insufficient growth in revenues compared to the levels of employment of labour. It is therefore in these sectors that investment support determines the greatest net effects, expressed in fact by higher values of the Common Indicator R2.</p>	<p>('counterfactual'). This programmatic approach is already pursued by the RDP through the priority given to enterprises run by young people and/or operating in disadvantaged/mountainous and rural type C and D areas. The same approach could be further broadened by giving priority to support in those sectors or technical-economic orientations in which - in light also of these very first and to be reconfirmed evaluative analyses - the net increase is amplified by a negative evolution of the Indicator in the situation 'without intervention', as for example occurs in mixed farms in polyculture of reduced economic size. More generally, in company types or specific sectors in which there is the presence of numerous production units characterised by an insufficient growth in revenues compared to the levels of employment of labour or even a reduction in both variables. It is in fact in such realities that the investment support provided would be most effective in determining positive 'net' effects on labour productivity.</p>
<p>FA 2B</p>	<p>As at 31/12/2022, the spending capacity of FA 2B is 56% in 2022 (+14% compared to 2021). The measures with the highest spending progress are M1 and M4 (T.I. 4.1.2) with 59%, and M6 (T.I. 6.1.1) with 50%. During 2022, the M2 also accelerated in terms of expenditure and realisation.</p>	

Topic/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>Compared to 2022, completed projects increase by about 39% for TI 4.1.2 and by about 37% for TI 6.1.1. 86% of the awards for TI 6.1.1 are accompanied by applications for TI 4.1.2.</p> <p>The progress of the initiated projects and IT expenditure, to be recorded for the achievement of the targets, marks significant improvements (above 50% of the 2025 targets) in the indicator framework.</p>	
FA 3A	<p>The T6 target indicator for 2025 is set at 0.51 as the percentage of farms receiving support for participation in quality schemes, local markets and short supply chains, and in producer associations/organisations. I.T. 3.1.1, 9.1.1 and 16.4.1 contribute to this target, and by 31.12.2022 the value achieved is 0.17%. Considering that T.I. 9.1.1 and 16.4.1 have cleared almost all the programmed resources and have already reached the target output values by 2025 in terms of beneficiaries, the reason for this slowdown lies in the low implementation speed of T.I. 3.1.1, which has only reached 3.75% of the target value (18 beneficiaries out of the 480 pre-set by 2025). The implementation process of MS 16.1 also remained unchanged: during 2022, only the % of expenditure rose to about 13%, a clear improvement over the 2022 survey where it was about 3.8%.</p>	
	<p>With regard to TI 4.2.2 'Processing, marketing and development of agricultural products for agro-industrial micro-initiatives', a new call for tenders was published in July 2022 with a budget of 10 million to incorporate the arrival of new funds made available through the NextGenerationEU plan, the European Union's temporary instrument for economic recovery from the damage caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The spending capacity of RT 4.2.1 as of 31/12/2022 stands at 49%, slightly above the 47% recorded in the previous year, as does the procedural progress, which remains around 36%. The TI has financed 93 projects of which 70 have been settled (with 42 agro-industrial and 19 combined arable crop farms) that received an average funding of 182,000 euro. Approximately 30% of the interventions concerned the 'Purchase of new plant, machinery and equipment for the primary processing, transformation and marketing of agricultural products' while 23.5% concerned the 'Construction, extension and improvement of real estate for the processing, transformation and marketing of agricultural products'. 12.5% of interventions concerned the installation or improvement of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources, showing a certain attention to the environmental performance of the farm.</p>	
	<p>The AF promotes the adoption of management practices aimed at improving animal welfare on farms. The M14 contributes to this aim through the annual payment of a premium to farms that undertake to maintain standards above those set by law. The target indicator <i>number of beneficiaries</i> programmed to 2025 is set at 700. As at 31.12.2022, the figure stood at 972 holdings: the regional decision to increase the budget to the current 95 million euro has continued to receive a positive response from the area. These companies are mainly located in area B (47%) and D (33%), which received an average award of between 21,000 and 9.000 euros: the actions that received the highest number of applications concerned "dairy buffaloes" and the improvement of loose housing for both action B "Prolongation of the suckling period of calves after calving on dairy buffalo farms" and action</p>	

Topic/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	C "Improvement of breeding conditions for cattle and buffaloes to contain the spread of diseases" with 26.6% and 34.9% respectively of the total number of actions activated by individual farm.	
FA 3B	As reported in the analysis of Measure 5, the beneficiaries' perception of the contribution that risk management measures bring to the prevention of on-farm adverse events is positive.	
	The last two published calls for proposals of TI 5.1.1 Action A and Action B still do not register any started projects. Attention must remain high especially for the call for public beneficiaries.	

Topic/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
FA 4A	<p>The agricultural area of the RDP that has a positive effect on biodiversity is 258,877 hectares, representing 39.5 % of the regional UAA. It is mainly the area related to allowances that contributes to this result. The distribution of SOI shows that there is a higher concentration of SOI in protected areas and Natura 2000 areas than the regional average.</p>	
	<p>Based on the analysis carried out, the agricultural areas of the RDP that contribute to the maintenance of high and very high nature value (HNV) areas are 70,454 hectares or 37.5% of the UAA, which does not allow for a greater concentration in these areas</p>	
	<p>The forest area covered by RDP Sub-measure 15.1 is 55,711 hectares: 93% of this area involves protected areas, and 87% Natura2000 areas Contributing to this result is above all the area of clearing cover. The location shows high rates of commitment implementation in areas where the environmental effect is maximised by strengthening both the biodiversity protection system and the connectivity between habitats to the benefit of wildlife</p>	
FA 4B	<p>The quality status of water in the region is sub-optimal, especially for groundwater surface water: it is hoped that the new delimitation of NVZs approved in 2017 (coming into force in 2019) will lead to an improvement in water quality.</p>	
	<p>The area of the RDP that has a positive effect on water quality is 152,039 hectares or 23.2% of the regional agricultural area, higher than in the previous programming period.</p>	
	<p>The territorial distribution of the intervention surface area does not appear to be optimal in that it does not result in the desired 'concentration' in the priority areas, i.e. where the environmental risks are greatest: in the NVZs the SOI/SA ratio is 18.2 % of the total agricultural surface area, while the same index, calculated for the region as a whole, is 23.2 %. One of the probable causes is that it is less economical for farmers in these areas (where the most intensive and productive agriculture is located) to adhere to agri-environmental actions.</p>	<p>In the next programming period, strengthen the bonus for farms with areas in NVZs in order to concentrate interventions in the areas of greatest need</p>
	<p>The effectiveness of the measures in reducing the nitrogen surplus in SOI is high at about 56%, while phosphorus is reduced by 15%, overall in the regional UAA the reductions in the two macronutrients are 17% for nitrogen and 4.7% for phosphorus</p>	
FA 4C	<p>The area of the RDP that has a positive effect on soil quality is 181,506 hectares or 27.7 % of the regional agricultural area. The distribution of SOI in areas at risk of non-tolerable erosion (>11.2 t/ha year) shows a concentration of 29%, compared to the regional average of 27.7%, showing a moderate effectiveness of the measures on the erosion phenomenon.</p>	
	<p>The analysis shows that the RDP commitments reduce erosion by 1,318,088 Mg/year, corresponding to 47.3% of the total erosion in the 181,505 hectares involved. It is estimated that the agro-climatic-environmental actions as a whole bring the average value of erosion in the areas of intervention from 15.3 to 8.1 Mg/ha/year, thus the reduction is 7.2 Mg/ha/year (I13).</p>	

	<p>The RDP measures do not seem to have a real impact on the increase of organic carbon in soils as this increase due to the measures is only 0.066%. However, the analysis shows that the measure dedicated to the increase of organic matter in soils (10.1.2) results in an increase of SOC equal to 0.13%.</p>	
FA 5A	<p>The RDP of Campania 2014/2020 deploys a wide range of interventions with the aim of saving water resources, from 'dedicated' measures (4.1.4, 4.3.2) to what is subsidised under measures with different primary objectives (above all, operation 4.1.1). On the other hand, the resources allocated to this objective are on the whole limited (just over 2% of the RDP total).</p>	
	<p>The delays accumulated in the start-up of the measures seem to have been made up, at least as far as operation 4.1.4 is concerned, which, with the investments on the reservoirs settled in 2022, has brought to a conclusion almost all of the projects accepted for contribution. On the other hand, with regard to the other measure dedicated to water saving, operation 4.3.2 aimed at the Land Reclamation Consortia, which finances much larger interventions, the first projects will probably be completed this year.</p>	
	<p>The results, in line with what has been observed in previous years, are on the whole satisfactory, at least in terms of impact at farm level: in the sphere of operation 4.1.4, a fairly homogeneous set of interventions aimed at introducing high-efficiency irrigation systems (drip systems with 90% efficiency) on farms to replace obsolete and inefficient systems has been completed. These have been joined more recently by interventions for the construction and restoration of reservoirs and tanks for storing rainwater, to be used for irrigation purposes. In both cases, these are investments with a limited scope for the system, but capable of contributing to the saving of resources and the environmental sustainability of production, while at the same time strengthening the farms from an economic point of view thanks to the quantitative and qualitative improvement of production. This structural adjustment of the beneficiary farms has led to a considerable reduction in water consumption for irrigation purposes, both in absolute terms (-43%) and in relation to the value of production (-57%).</p>	
	<p>The contribution to water saving of the investments made under operation 4.1.1 is, on the other hand, quite limited: both under the first call for measures, analysed in 2021, and the first projects of the second call concluded by 31.12.2022, investments with limited effects on farm water saving are made, mainly aimed at the purchase of small rainwater storage tanks.</p>	
	<p>The interviews conducted also revealed a strong awareness on the part of farmers regarding the issue of water saving and the importance of protecting the resource, also forced by an evident worsening of the situation in terms of the actual availability of water for irrigation. There is, however, a certain propensity to invest further in this direction, also by leveraging the new tools made available by information technology. Contradictorily, however, the actual use by beneficiary farmers of the 'irrigation advice' tools made available with the Regional</p>	<p>It is hoped that in the future, in line with the aims and objectives of the so-called <i>new green deal</i>, the region will pay even greater attention to the so-called 4.0 agriculture and the tools it makes available to farmers, both at a planning level (e.g. ACA 2 measure in the next</p>

	Irrigation Advice Plan is still very limited, reflecting an overall lack of information on their existence and a certain underlying distrust regarding their actual usefulness	programming period) and in terms of information, promotion, dissemination and training.
FA 5C	Campania's Rural Development Plan intervenes in the direction of energy production from renewable sources through various funding lines and involving different subjects, from farms to local authorities. However, the operations that the RDP prioritises for this objective, especially operation 7.2.2, have implementation delays that are partly connected to their innovative nature and partly to the nature of the plants to be built, which are publicly owned and managed and of considerable operational size.	It is recommended that the preparatory and implementation process of operations 7.2.2 directly aimed at energy production from renewable sources be accelerated as much as possible, with the ultimate goal of increasing the amount of renewable energy produced.
	The investments completed as at 31.12.2021 that involve the construction of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources are almost exclusively those financed within the framework of operations aimed at agricultural holdings (4.1.1 and 4.1.2) and at processing companies (4.2.1) and aimed above all at their economic consolidation. A total investment of close to EUR 9 million, for more than 500 implemented projects, however, mostly concerns the simple installation of photovoltaic panels for the production of electricity.	
	The energy that can be produced by these plants is interesting in absolute terms, amounting to 578 tonnes of oil equivalent, but is negligible when considered in relative terms, both with reference to the overall 'green energy' produced by the primary sector and to the Burden Sharing targets.	
	Looking ahead, the gradual completion of the 27 projects admitted for funding under operation 7.2.2, which, as mentioned, are of considerable size (more than 470,000 euros in average expenditure), may contribute over the next two or three years to further enhance these results, which can already be considered, on the whole, satisfactory.	
FA 5D	The area of the RDP resulting in GHG reduction is 157,464 hectares or 24% of the regional agricultural area. The total reduction in GHG emissions is 222,138 MgCO ₂ eq per year; of this, 7,712 MgCO ₂ eq is due to the reduction of mineral fertilisers and 214,426 MgCO ₂ eq is the amount achieved through the absorption of C-sink in agricultural soils.	
	The RDP measures examined do not seem to have a significant impact on GHG reduction in the agricultural sector, accounting for only 0.47% of total agricultural emissions and 5.6% in the mineral fertiliser sector.	
	The effects of the interventions show a reduction of 312.5 t/year in ammonia emissions from mineral/synthetic fertilisers, which account for 1.8% of NH ₃ emissions from regional agriculture.	
FA 5E	Overall, contributed forest areas that contribute to carbon sequestration or conservation account for 1.9% of the total regional forest area.	
	Considering the total afforestation areas (2014-2020 programming and those carried over from the previous programming period, it is estimated that they will result in a total of about	

	20,784 tCO _{2eq} /year. However, it should be noted that most of the c-sink (97%) is attributable to commitments made in previous programming periods and only 3% is attributable to commitments from the current programming period.	
FA 6A	With regard to TI 6.2.1, which provides for the creation of non-agricultural micro and small enterprises, the physical and financial progress figures are progressively approaching the target objectives.	
	The Collective Projects show a rather limited progress, of 80 projects only 27 have started. This translates into 27 out of 80 municipalities having received at least one payment to develop investments under TI 7.6.1 action B1. The 14.10.2021 ranking list shift has helped to increase the number of projects, but there is some slowness. With regard to private beneficiaries, out of 252 beneficiaries eligible for funding, 119 were started, of which 70 were paid out (about 30% of the total).	
	The implementation process of IT 16.7.1 is currently in the important phase of completing the operational design and starting the consequent implementations. An initial and reconnaissance examination of the two Projects (AFAl in Alta Irpinia and AGIRE in the Vallo di Diano) for which the operational design has already been submitted has made it possible to highlight how, while the general development strategies are substantially similar, the modalities, the types of specific interventions and the related support instruments may differ significantly.	This increases the opportunity, and the need, to set up and develop parallel 'in itinere' evaluation activities capable of identifying and analysing the results gradually achieved and any criticalities that may have emerged, relating both to the capacity and mode of implementation of individual interventions and to their effectiveness with respect to the objectives pursued.
FA 6A 16.7.1 supporting the National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI) in the Campania region.	The implementation process of TI 16.7.1 is currently in the important phase of completing the operational planning for the four identified inland regional areas (Alta Irpinia, Vallo di Diano, Cilento Interno and Tammaro-Titerno) and of starting the consequent implementations, albeit with different timelines There is therefore an increased opportunity, and need, to set up and develop parallel "in itinere" evaluation activities capable of identifying and analysing the results gradually achieved and any criticalities that may have emerged, relating both to the capacity and method of implementing the individual interventions, and to their effectiveness with respect to the objectives pursued. Main objective The main objective of this in-depth thematic study was to provide a contribution in this direction.	Further develop the current in-depth analysis as a specific component of the "in itinere" evaluation of the 2014-2020 RDP but from which to draw cognitive and propositional elements useful for the 2023-2027 regional rural development programming in relation to the SNAI. It is proposed to adopt a method of analysis that considers the project as a single 'case study' of which to highlight the specificities and differences in the path (strategy) with respect to similar general objectives. Profiles of evaluation analysis that it seems realistic and appropriate to develop within the next year:

		<p>a) the ability of the proposing and direct beneficiaries/implementers to implement the specific actions, also in comparison with the forecasts, and identification of factors internal or external to the project that may have led to possible delays;</p> <p>b) the first results generated by the individual interventions in relation to the project objectives, perceived by the target group/beneficiaries and/or possibly "measurable" through appropriate indicators;</p> <p>c) the management and coordination activities of the Project as a whole by the Lead Partner and the development of information, sharing and exchange relations between the different partners;</p> <p>d) the identification and analysis of forms of collaboration between partners on individual initiatives or even organic projects that go beyond the SNAI project in question, albeit addressing the same general purposes</p> <p>e) the identification and analysis of any critical elements and obstacles to the positive evolution of the Project related to the management methods, implementation processes and/or its objectives and types of intervention adopted;</p> <p>The specific objectives, the analysis methods and tools, and the expected products of the in-depth assessment of projects financed with RT 16.7 under the regional SNAI, will be the subject of a specific technical proposal drawn up by the Assessment Group and submitted to the Region for examination and approval.</p>
<p>FA 6B</p>	<p>There is positive cooperation with regional interlocutors at both central and provincial level.</p>	<p>Strengthen the dialogue between the LAGs and between them and the Region, including</p>

		through their LAG coordination structure, so that there is greater sharing and co-participation in strategic and implementation choices. To this end, it is suggested to define formal and regular moments of confrontation.
	Implementation progress appears uneven and monitoring data show situations where resources are fully committed against others where they are practically nil.	Supporting LAGs that are lagging behind in implementation, either directly or through a structured exchange between them, to share experiences and good practices
	The LAGs of Campania have all joined cooperation projects. At the moment, however, the implementation of these initiatives is conditioned by restrictions related to the ongoing health emergency.	Pay attention to 19.3, which is most affected by the difficulties introduced by the pandemic crisis.
	Comparison with the LAGs reveals a strong need for greater autonomy, especially in contexts where a leading role in local development processes has been consolidated.	
	There was interest in evaluation activities as a tool to support OSH programming and implementation.	It is recommended to continue with regular self-assessment activities and collegial meetings with the evaluator in order to consolidate knowledge and an informed use of these tools.
	The LAGs have expressed the need to refine the distribution of time to be devoted to the various activities for which they are responsible. Administrative tasks and the preliminary investigation phase may prove counterproductive to a valorisation of the LEADER approach, but this should be managed internally by the LAGs by reorganising their internal resources. Beyond internal reorganisation, LAGs have shown the need to strengthen certain skills within their staff with a focus on planning, procedural and relational skills.	Envisage possible training and consultancy activities, within or outside AKIS, also for LAGs, which have expressed the need to strengthen specific competences.
FA 6C	Under FA 6C, TI 1.1.1 has not progressed either in physical or financial terms with respect to the year 2020. The progress in terms of expenditure of MS7.3 reaches 67% of the planned resources. The population reached that currently benefits from the improved services is 92,955, and corresponds to 82.5% of the target value - T24: <i>percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructure (ICT)</i> (specific aspect 6C)	In view of the complexity of the territory's BUL infrastructure, it is recommended that the Regional Administration monitor with particular attention the implementation of the interventions managed by the Ministry of Economic Development and implemented by Infratel Italia, so that they can fully meet the objectives of the BUL Strategy for Italy, also in integration with the new instruments put in place during 2021, such as the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) - Mission 1 (Digitisation, Innovation and Competitiveness, Culture and Tourism) and

		<p>the Italian Strategy for Ultra Broadband ("Towards the Gigabit Society).</p> <p>In this direction, it is recommended to make sure that the provider of the infrastructure in question satisfies as best as possible the reaching of the largest number of residential/production units, also connecting the so-called scattered houses. In fact, this appears essential for the achievement of the objectives shared with the EU, which refer to reaching those areas that would not otherwise be served by economic operators in a free market regime, as works whose realisation is not economically advantageous and precisely for this reason subject to public intervention.</p>
<p>QVC20</p>	<p>As far as the implementation of the Programme is concerned, a rather low average processing time (149 days) was recorded compared to previous years. In general, there is a considerable commitment of the regional administration to introduce procedural simplifications aimed at reducing the administrative burden.</p> <p>The evaluation products realised to date stem from a widespread culture of evaluation that reinforces its usefulness. The <i>knowledge</i> sharing activities, the sharing of results and the subsequent follow-up have continued to characterise the fruitful collaborative relationship between the IA, stakeholders (RdM, Management, etc.) and the MA of the Programme.</p> <p>As far as communication is concerned, the main web channels (agricoltura.regione.campania.it and PSRCampania Comunica) are confirmed as the main showcases of EAFRD programming in Campania, also in the light of the new 2023-2027 programming phase.</p>	<p>Continue along the path started, further strengthening the tools and solutions aimed at easing the bureaucratic burden for the beneficiaries and for the administration itself.</p> <p>It is suggested for the future, also in the light of the dictate of the new programming on evaluation, to go further in defining the topics to be evaluated and deepened in order to ensure an alignment with the cognitive needs that may accrue during the programme's implementation period.</p>
<p>Procedural and management BPs</p>	<p>The changes introduced with RT 16.1.2 -innovative with respect to those used in the previous RT 16.1.1 other RDP intervention lines- create conditions for the submission, selection and then financing of cooperation projects that are more effective in relation to the programme objectives and according to more efficient implementation procedures and tools in terms of technical and human resources employed and implementation times.</p> <p>The in-depth analysis carried out has made it possible to verify the achievement of the second efficiency objective (for the first it is necessary to wait for the realisation of the</p>	<p>Develop similar in-depth analyses in other RDP intervention lines, also aimed at verifying the transferability in them of the procedural changes made (with positive results) to RT 16.1.2. Changes also aimed at improving procedures and implementation rules according to criteria of greater effectiveness and efficiency.</p>

<p>individual projects) in terms of both the shorter <i>time required to complete the procedural steps</i> (significant shortening of the period between the closure of the Call for Proposals and the approval of the final regional ranking list) and the <i>lower level of human resources</i> required by the new implementation method. Results attributable to the changes made to it mainly concerning the selection criteria, the procedure for the presentation and selection of project proposals and applications for support, and the introduction of standard costs.</p>	
<p>The Collective Projects in question represent an innovative support instrument with which functional integration and potential synergy effects between public infrastructure intervention and private investments aimed at starting up entrepreneurial activities are promoted at local level.</p> <p>Following an implementation process that was not without its delays and difficulties, 38 collective projects were financed and almost all started, for a total eligible expenditure (public + private share) of 48.8 M€ and a total public contribution of 44.8 M€, of which 67% came from TI 7.6.1.B1 and 33% from TI 6.4.2.</p> <p>The greater participation of the territories falling within the provinces of Benevento and Salerno, as compared to the provinces of Avellino and Caserta, is highlighted. The average total public expenditure per collective project is about 1.180 M€, of which 0.864 M€ on average for public operations carried out by the municipalities and 0.864 M€ for private operations, the latter divided into 151 individual operations receiving on average a public contribution of 80,000 €</p> <p>The procedural, financial and implementation progress of collective projects - hindered by numerous contextual factors (health emergency, price increase, difficulties in finding raw materials and specialised labour, regulatory changes) is still modest for public operations and better for private operations, with completion rates (in the balance phase) of 13% and 48% respectively.</p> <p>The brief analysis of 4 collective projects made it possible to verify how this support instrument could be developed at territorial level.</p> <p>The projects have quite a few elements in common with each other both in their aims and in the general and operational strategies implemented. This is the effect not only of the programming and implementation guidelines set by the RDP, but also of the common elements of potential and criticality and ultimately of the intervention needs. These are, in fact, always areas with a high level of rurality, inland, with a relatively important and characterising primary sector but in need of modernisation and service structures, a</p>	<p>Pursue in-depth analysis of the collective project in question, accompanying its implementation phase to verify its actual results and impacts on the local context in which it is implemented. Results in terms especially of creation/development of entrepreneurial activities, impacts in economic and employment terms. Assessing whether and how they have been influenced by the use of the public-private collective project method. The subject of possible future in-depth analysis is also the connection/integration between collective projects and other public and/or private actions in the municipal area (or in the Borgo itself) also competing in the strategy of enhancing the present heritage.</p>

	<p>weak economic and social fabric, with intense depopulation phenomena and often environmental degradation. At the same time, areas with a rich and widespread environmental, natural, cultural and historical heritage and still strong identity values in local communities. In this context, the chosen development strategy inevitably hinges on the protection, recovery and therefore valorisation, also in economic terms, of this heritage. A strategy to which to entrust the desire for social redemption and the attempt to overcome or at least reduce the present critical economic and social situation.</p> <p>In this approach, the action of protection, conservation recovery and functional improvement (also with technological innovations) of public assets and spaces, or those which in any case have an impact on the quality and attractiveness of the village (e.g. the façades of private buildings) is entrusted to the actions of the Municipalities financed by TI 7.6.1.B1, while the strictly economic valorisation, i.e. the creation of income and employment, is incentivised by TI 6.4.2 with support for the birth or consolidation of enterprises able to offer non-hotel tourist accommodation. The aim is to increase and satisfy, with the set of measures, mainly the demand for accommodation and services coming from environmental, historical-cultural or even experiential tourism based on the valorisation of the links between agri-food and craft products, people, knowledge and know-how, and the territory as a whole.</p> <p>The first examination of the project elements and the expected results that can be obtained "ex-ante" from the Strategic Documents, highlight the qualitative consistency between strategies and interventions. The elements of uncertainty to be investigated concern the "quantitative" relevance of the latter with respect to the aims of the former, i.e. their actual impact on the local context of intervention in satisfying/orienting a new tourism demand and thus generating measurable benefits in terms of income and employment. This also in the light of other public and/or private actions carried out or underway that are equally competing with the common strategy.</p>	
<p>Financial Instruments</p>	<p>Experience shows that guarantee funds should be thought of as complementary instruments to existing ones and not as alternatives.</p>	<p>For the next programming cycle, it is recommended not to abandon the offer of this type of instrument, acting appropriately on the critical elements highlighted in the analysis. Easier access to credit capital appears even more strategic in the current context of significantly rising interest rates.</p>