



Independent Evaluation Service of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 of the Campania Region under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

CIG: 7205166314 - CUP: B29G17000550009

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT 2024
Non-Technical Synthesis

Rome, March 2024



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

Unione Europea



INDEX

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Methodological approach	3
3.	Progress of the Programme.....	4
4.	Survey outcomes and analysis of company trajectories.....	8
5.	Conclusions and recommendations	17

1. Introduction

The **2024 Annual Evaluation Report** (AER) 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 31/12/2023.

The document is structured as follows:

- ▶ Updating the context of the Programme and the components 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 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 RDP agri-environmental measures;
 - RDP support for organic farming in the Campania Region;
 - 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, suggestions, recommendations and proposals

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 (first and foremost, of regional monitoring files), qualitative-quantitative methods were applied to explore the causal mechanisms through which to explore and collect 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 Payment Agency), 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 Focus Areas;

- (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, 6.4.1 and 8.6.1** in order to collect data useful for the valorisation of result indicator **R2**.
- (v) **Participatory techniques:**
 - a. **Interviews with privileged witnesses:** to **16.7.1 Regional officers in the framework of the survey on good management/procedural practices**; to **managers/referents of the Department of Agriculture** and to **technicians of the SNAI (National Strategy for Inner Areas) Single Office** in the framework of a focus on RDP interventions in support of the regional SNAI.
 - 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** - addressed to **LAGs (Local Action Group)** to continue the evaluation process with respect to **internal staff**, available and improvable **skills** and **activities** that need more attention to avoid problems in strategy implementation.

3. Progress of the Programme

The spending capacity of the 2014-2022 RDP of the Campania Region stands at around 75.1%: as in the previous year, the greatest advancement is recorded among the surface or head measures (98.1%) compared to the structural measures (60%).

Table 1 - Planned resources and expenditure as at 31/12/2023

Measures	Planned (€)	Expenditure incurred (€)	New programming (€)	Drags (€)	Spending capacity (%)
	(A)	(B)			(B/A)
Structural Measures	1.436.506.748,33	861.256.175,93	810.739.674,90	50.516.501,03	60,0
Surface or head measurements	945.114.596,33	927.340.126,31	899.987.336,04	27.352.790,27	98,1
Total*	2.381.621.344,66	1.788.596.302,24	1.710.727.010,94	77.869.291,30	75,1

Source: RDP v. 12 and regional monitoring files

* TA resources, equivalent to approximately EUR 32 million, have been excluded.

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 3.1.1 of this report.

As far as the individual priorities are concerned, they all register a spending capacity of more than 60 per cent, with only P5 lagging behind at 40.3 per cent of the planned expenditure, a decrease compared to the ratio of 2023 (relative to the year 2022), due to an increase in the budget during the year 2023.

Table 2 - Progress by priority on target to 2025

Priorities	Planned expenditure (€)	Expenditure incurred (€)	Progress on target to 2025 (%)
2	722.899.921,64	476.972.403,73	66,0
3	263.060.986,39	173.487.928,81	65,9
4	1.025.221.856,21	923.434.318,89	90,1
5	91.315.879,97	36.786.590,78	40,3
6	276.663.226,95	166.022.332,58	60,0

*In the PF, the resources of Priority 1 are included in the other Priorities, acting by their nature in support of all the specific objectives (FA) of the RDP.

Source: RDP v. 12 and regional monitoring files

Priority 2 - Enhancing farm profitability and agricultural competitiveness

The spending capacity of FA 2A shows an advance of 65.7%, some 11 percentage points higher than in the last AER. M4 is the main contributor to this figure, and, in addition, progress on M21 and M22 also plays an important role. 10.2% of payments come from carryovers from the old programming. 98% of the beneficiaries have already received the balance for their projects. The details of the payments are presented in the table below.

The spending capacity of FA 2B has increased significantly by almost 10 percentage points since AER2023, reaching 65.8% as at 31/12/2023. The measures with the highest spending capacity are M4 with 71.3% spending capacity (4.1.2), M6 (6.1.1) with 55.8% spending capacity, and M1 (1.1.1) with 53.4% spending capacity. Lagging behind the other measures is M2, with a spending capacity of 37.8%. 65% of the beneficiaries have already received the balance for implemented projects.

Table 3- Total expenditure PR 2

Focus Area	Planned (€) (A)	Payments (€) (B)	Spending capacity (%) (B/A)
2A	435.973.169,89	286.634.470,73	65,7
2B	286.926.751,75	188.701.480,24	65,8

Priority 3 - Promoting food chain organisation and risk management

The spending capacity of FA 3A stands at 69.3%, an increase of about 6 percentage points compared to the last AER, when, however, the financial envelope allocated to the FA was higher - a decrease in programmed resources of about EUR 6 million materialised. It is worth noting the progress of expenditure for the M9 equal to 100% (intervention 9.1.1) and the M14 equal to 95%. Finally, carryovers constitute only a residual part of the expenditure (0.2%)

concerning the M14 alone. About 96% of the beneficiaries received the balance for completed projects.

FA 3B is exclusively affected by M5 (5.1.1 and 5.2.1), which, however, shows a particularly low spending capacity of 34.1%, to be considered together with the reduction of the budget by about EUR 3 million that occurred in 2023. Comparing this figure with that of previous AERs, however, shows an increasing spending capacity after two years of standstill, when it stood at 24%.

Table 4- Total expenditure PR 3

Focus Area	Planned (€) (A)	Payments (€) (B)	Spending capacity (%) (B/A)
3A	238.081.352,96	164.980.879,82	69,3
3B	24.979.633,4	8.507.048,9	34,1

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

The spending capacity of Priority 4 reaches almost 90%, an increase of almost 10 percentage points compared to RVA2023 where the budget was, moreover, about EUR 15 million lower than in this report. The highest state of progress is marked by M13 and M10 whose expenditure reaches almost 100% of the planned resources. The M15 and M11 also show a high spending capacity of 97.5% and 93% respectively. On the contrary, M2 and M7 show a much lower spending capacity than the P4 average, 15.8% and 5.4% respectively.

Table 5- Total expenditure PR 4

Priorities	Planned (€) (A)	Payments (€) (B)	Spending capacity (%) (B/A)
Priority 4	1.025.221.856,21	921.930.817,11	89,9

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

Compared to the previous AER, the resources allocated to M1 on FA 5A have been fully reallocated, while the resources allocated to M16 have been halved and those allocated to M4 have been doubled. As a result of this reallocation, the M16 has a higher spending capacity than the others (equal to 49.7%), followed by the M4 (equal to 23.6%) and M2 (equal to 7.2%), an increase of about 3 percentage points compared to last year. It should be noted that about 25% of the payments for M4 are due to carryovers from the previous programming period. Overall, AF 5A shows a lower spending capacity of about 22 percentage points compared to

last year, an inevitable phenomenon considering that payments have not advanced much, and the budget has practically doubled over 2023.

FA 5C reaches a spending capacity of 65.5%, some 20 percentage points higher than in the previous AER2023, an increase, however, partly due to a decrease in the overall budget allocated under FA 5C. Again, M1 resources were fully reallocated.

As a result of the reduction in the financial envelope, the spending capacity for FA 5D as at 31/12/2023 has increased significantly, by about 25 percentage points, compared to AER2023. The measure that contributes most to the advancement of spending is FA 4 (with 97.4% spending capacity). It should also be noted that M16 has reached the planned spending target. On the other hand, there is no progress for M2 in terms of spending capacity. Finally, the number of beneficiaries who received the balance for their projects increased, to 82%.

On FA 5E there are payments under all Measures except for 1. Concerning operation 8.1.1 (Afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land) there is an expenditure of more than 10 million euro, equal to 81.1% of the programmed expenditure. 84.5% of this expenditure concerns the 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. Measure 2 records almost zero expenditure, less than 1% of the total programmed of these funds.

Table 6- Total expenditure PR 5

Focus Area	Planned (€) (A)	Payments (€) (B)	Spending capacity (%) (B/A)
5A	63.068.770,24	14.845.445,84	23,5
5C	7.762.026,84	5.093.065,58	65,6
5D	6.931.812,96	6.713.435,38	96,8
5E	13.553.269,93	10.545.095,29	77,8

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

The expenditure capacity of FA 6A shows an increase compared to AER reaching 68.1% at the end of 2023 (from 56% recorded in 2022) even if fuelled by a reduction, albeit minimal, of the financial envelope - about EUR 6 million. With respect to total payments, it should be noted that about 8.8% of the resources spent refer to carryovers from the past programming period entirely attributable to the M7. The M6 contributes most to the advancement of AF expenditure, with 91.5% spending capacity, and also the M7 with 73.9% spending capacity. In line with the progress of payments, the percentage of beneficiaries who received the balance for their projects was 72%.

FA 6B shows a considerable increase in spending capacity, by about 15 percentage points compared to AER. It should be emphasised that this is mainly due to an advancement in spending on M19.2.1. The percentage of settled beneficiaries is also more than half, at about 54%.

In AF 6C, the programmed resources are concentrated on intervention 7.3.1 concerning the implementation of broadband, which is 68.8% ahead of schedule, a slight increase compared to the previous AER.

Table 7- Total expenditure PR 6

Focus Area	Planned (€) (A)	Payments (€) (B)	Spending capacity (%) (B/A)
6A	129.413.897,36	88.128.975,83	68,1
6B	126.749.329,59	64.315.266,25	50,7
6C	20.500.000,00	14.106.374,16	68,8

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 495 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. Lastly, we find the introduction/development of direct sales to the consumer and the desire to diversify crops and livestock breeding... becoming stronger. This is followed by the introduction/development of the processing of farm produce on the farm, the development of non-agricultural activities and adherence to supply chain agreements with processing companies.

On the subject of attention to the environment, most of the actions carried out concern the improvement of water regulation and storage systems (46%), the production of energy from renewable sources and participation in training activities and the use of advisory services (43%). Ongoing actions include those related to the improvement of organic matter inputs and the introduction of conservation agriculture techniques. In the future (% of planned actions out of the total number of responses) are the introduction of precision farming techniques (57%), drought- and disease-resistant crops or varieties (55%) and the improvement of feeding systems and herd control (56%).

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 not only to continue working in this direction, but also to join local business networks to coordinate the supply of local products and services and short supply chain projects for the development of local markets.

► 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 measures implemented 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 the participants were able to give their answers in a more nuanced manner: out of 144 useful answers (2022, 2023 and 2024 surveys), 8% declared themselves to be not very satisfied with the results achieved thanks to the interventions carried out with the RDP, while 36% (52 beneficiaries) declared that the interventions had contributed "enough" to business development (28% declared "very much" and 24% "sufficiently"). Selecting only the positive responses (312 items), the area in which the best results were recorded was that related to 'Competitiveness and market' (67% of responses). Very close to each other were the other two fields of action 'environment and climate' and 'link with the territory', which recorded 40% and 44% of the preferences respectively.

► **The organic sector in the Campania Region**

The survey conducted in 2024 explored the topic of organic production, with the aim of finding out how satisfied organic farms were with the RDP's contribution to the sector. It should also be pointed out that the survey was only addressed to a sample of certified beneficiary farms. Out of 67 respondents, 34 farms converted to organic production methods, mainly (in just over 70% of cases) to reduce the pressure of agriculture on the environment and to increase the quality and wholesomeness of their agricultural production. The remaining 49% of respondents, on the other hand, did not convert their production to organic mainly (in almost 40% of cases) because of technical difficulties and the bureaucratic burden of obtaining certification. For 65% of respondents the organic premium was only partly (and on average 40%) sufficient to compensate for the higher costs involved. On average, only about 23% of certifiable production is marketed under the organic label, since in most cases (32%) there is little demand for labelled product. 73% of organic farms would continue to use the organic production method even in the absence of subsidy. However, the majority of organic farms responding to the survey suggest that in order to support the organic sector, the Campania Region should activate real promotion, information and awareness-raising campaigns for organic farming (44%) and support research and innovation in organic farming (32%).

► **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 2023 and 2024 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 118 valid answers, 109 respondents answered YES and 9 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 - 108 valid answers - preferring interventions that fall mainly in the sphere of mitigating the environmental impact of agricultural activities (46 preferences, or 43%): among them are present with a certain number of young people (7 beneficiaries 6.1.1), 8 beneficiaries 6.4.1, 5 beneficiaries of 4.2.1 and 4 beneficiaries of 4.1.3.

The theme of competitiveness remains present with 44 preferences (while only 18 respondents said they would invest in improving links with the local area.

► Business trajectory analysis

The methodology

The proposed methodological approach assumes that the farm is the main and most relevant target of RDP resources. The farm is the medium through which it is possible to grasp the influence of the RDP on Pillar II objectives. The focus of the methodology consists in observing the change in farm behaviour induced by the RDP, within a fluid social context, characterised by the interaction between farmers, processing firms, institutions and all the other subjects living in the territories (residents, tourists, firms linked upstream and downstream with the farm). The RDP provides a 'menu' of measures that allows the farmer to consolidate or stimulate his business development strategy according to the reading he gives to the dynamics of the context. The farm is the centre of gravity of the CAP, which finds in the RDP the tools to impact on the needs considered priorities by the stakeholders (policy-makers and representatives) of the agricultural and agrifood system.

The methodology starts from the reconstruction of typological profiles of farms in the regional context through two steps:

1. initially use multivariate statistical techniques applied to a specific selection of variables extracted from existing sources, the FADN, to hypothesise the main clusters of companies,
2. in a second phase, a panel of experts is convened to confirm or reconstruct the typological profiles of regional farms. The experts convened can be identified among the Measure Managers of the MA, Agriculture Assistance Center technicians, agronomists, representatives of the main trade associations and farmers.

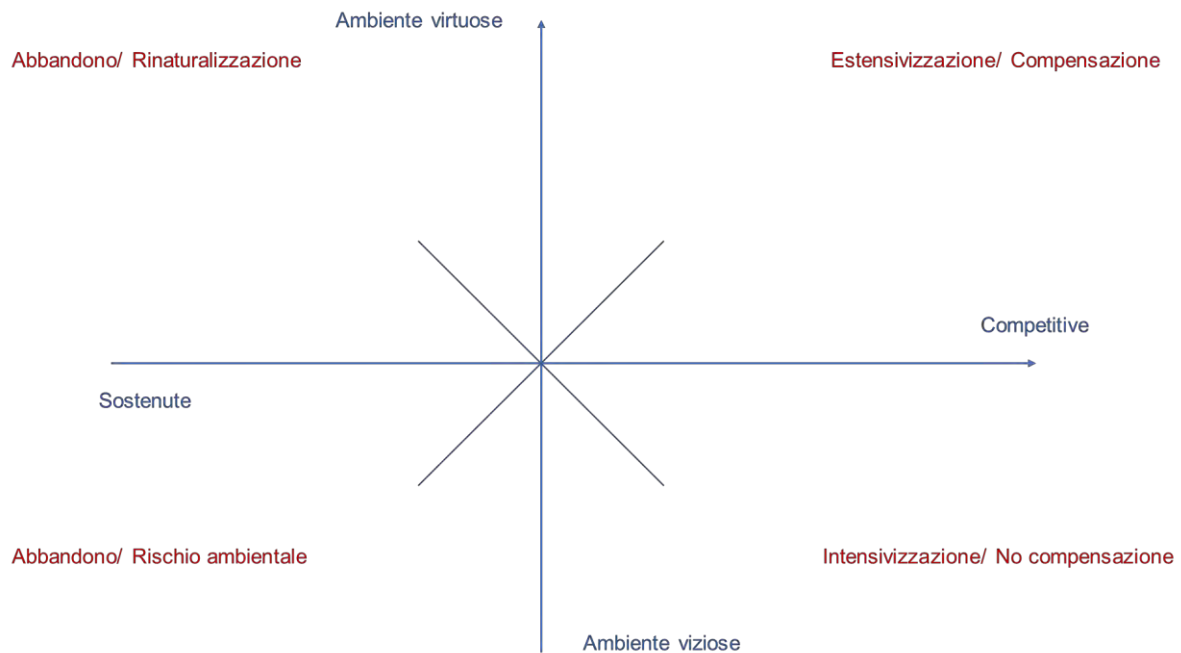
The evaluation process can, in this way, benefit from an alternative reading of the intervention context, based on a representation of the agricultural system, the object of the policy, through the dynamics of groups of farms. This representation makes it possible to return the outcomes of the evaluation process in an information format that is more comprehensible to RDP stakeholders. The definition of clusters represents an important step in the conception of rural areas and farms. Recognition of the primary sector as articulated and heterogeneous, rather than monolithic, is an essential prerogative to support policy planning that can best identify its targets and generate positive effects for farms and consequently for the entire rural territory.

Following the identification of clusters, the trajectories that clusters will follow are defined according to their characteristics and the opportunities offered by the RDP. In fact, the methodology places the clusters within a Greimas diagram in which each axis is described dichotomously by two terms that are the opposite of each other: thus competitiveness is represented by the market/support dichotomy and the environment by virtuous ecological footprint/vicious ecological footprint. Each quadrant is summarised by a trajectory (red line) representing the possible combinations of competitiveness and environment:

1. the first quadrant, describes the attitude of the most market-oriented companies, which pursue a trajectory of increasing company competitiveness through extensification or environmental compensation processes (re-use of waste for energy production, use of renewable sources, minimum or zero *tillage*, precision agriculture, etc., or through supply chain policies that focus on quality);
2. the second quadrant, describes the attitude of those who, always market-oriented, pursue trajectories based on intensification processes (concentration and/or supply chain policies on quantity) that generate pressure on the environment with little compensation;

3. In the third quadrant are farms that are holding on thanks to aid and may be slipping along a trajectory of abandonment of activity that risks creating environmental pressure (due to the preservation function of the territory in environmental or alternative land use);
4. in the fourth quadrant, farms supported by public aid that may 'slide' along a trajectory of abandonment, but in a context in which the renaturalisation of areas (forests) can have a positive function for the environment.

Graph 1 - Greimas diagram



This method thus makes it possible to provide the policy-maker with a map of the policy context by outlining the positioning of farms by typological clusters with respect to two macro-objectives of the CAP, competitiveness and environmental sustainability. Moreover, thanks to the comparison with experts, it is possible to outline the development trajectories of each cluster as a result of the RDP at a stage of programming where the impact of the RDP is only potential and relative to a limited number of concluded projects that have not yet unfolded their effects.

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

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

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**

Main conclusions

With the placement of the companies within the clusters, the analysis of the data collected through the direct surveys and the second confrontation with the panel of experts, the methodology has reached an advanced stage for which it is possible to develop precise indications per cluster, but also generalisable.

Cluster	Indications and potential development strategies
All clusters	<p>A crucial element that emerged from the definition of the positioning indices of the clusters calibrated on the beneficiaries of the RDP is the different positioning of the clusters on the diagram compared to the regional scenario defined with the experts.</p> <p>This aspect cannot be overlooked at the time of programming, as companies that have already benefited from RDP funding to solve certain critical issues may develop needs and requirements that differ from those of companies in the regional context. This differentiation requires careful analysis by the planner in order to best capture the interests of potential beneficiaries.</p>
Small-scale viticulture	Training and consultancy for better market positioning (wine quality, processing and marketing)
	Developing non-agricultural diversification - food and wine tourism
	Both of the above elements are confirmed by surveys of RDP beneficiaries, promoting investments aimed at meeting the needs of companies to improve their economic performance.
	Potential of LEADER and cooperation measures to link with the territory and develop integrated local supply chains

Cluster	Indications and potential development strategies
Large-scale viticulture	Need to improve environmental performance - evidence underlined by the survey results that shows little involvement of this cluster in pursuing investments to improve this aspect, however, the willingness of beneficiaries to work in this direction is indicated
	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)
	Monitor the pressure on the environment of this cluster and promote awareness-raising and training initiatives on less impactful techniques
Olive groves	Promoting processing and marketing - accompanying activities on sector potential
	Monitor the pressure on the cluster's environment - results emerging from the analysis of responses to the IE survey underline a low propensity to invest in improving environmental performance (focus on abandonment risk)
Intensive animal husbandry	While companies at the regional level have a low environmental footprint and record negative economic performance, companies benefiting from the RDP within this cluster perform in the opposite way. Identify the different needs of these two clusters with the aim, on the one hand, to improve the economic performance of those outside the RDP circuit and, on the other hand, to decrease the environmental footprint of those that are already beneficiaries.
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
	Companies relatively outside the RDP circuit except for very specific measures, given the need to invest to improve economic performance and pressure on the environment, also promotes participation in other measures
Horticulture	Training and advice on pesticide and fertiliser use - need to improve environmental performance

Cluster	Indications and potential development strategies
Permanent crops	Promoting processing and marketing - accompanying activities on sector potential
	The cluster's willingness to focus investments on the introduction of drought- and disease-resistant varieties and crop (and variety) diversification in order to decrease vulnerability to adverse weather phenomena that are increasingly common due to climate change is emphasised
	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)**

At the time of writing, no financial instruments have yet been activated to support the beneficiaries of the Regional Complement for Rural Development 2023-2027 - CSR, but there is full awareness of the importance of proposing such instruments and work is underway to define different solutions (mixed system) to identify those best suited to the multiple needs of economic operators. E.g. small-sized companies, for which access to credit is more complex and difficult, the guarantee fund could be the answer, while processing and agrifood companies might be more interested in subsidised interest rates, considering the increase in the cost of money in recent years.

The types of intervention for which the activation of SF is being hypothesised are SRD01 'Agricultural productive investments for the competitiveness of agricultural holdings' and SRD13 'Investments for the processing and marketing of agricultural products'. On the other hand, there are no plans to propose a specific instrument for young farmers, since the CSR for now only supports the first setting up through the premium by activating the SRE01 intervention in single form and not with the Multi-measure Package, for which, if activated, the SF for the farm investment component could instead make sense.

With reference to the entities (e.g. credit institutions, ISMEA, etc.) to be involved for the management of the FIs, verifications are underway in view of the different opportunities offered at national level, the ongoing regional experiences (specifically the 2021-2027 ERDF PR) and their cost-effectiveness.

Once the choices have been made, in order to include the financial instruments in the Campania Region's rural development strategy, the regional CSR and thus the CAP Strategic Plan (SPP) 2023-2027 for Italy, in whose programming framework the CSR fits, will have to be amended.

► **Interventions in support of the regional SNAI: the case studies of the A.F.A.I. Projects in Alta Irpinia and Ag.I.Re. in the Vallo di Diano'.**

From the analysis carried out, the following areas for reflection and further study can be drawn, which are useful to make the cooperation projects envisaged for the new 2023-27 programming period of the regional agricultural and rural development policy more effective (maximising their "added value") and efficient (minimising their objectively greater complexity):

- carry out an "ex-ante" evaluation of the added value of cooperation projects;
- define procedures and implementation rules for cooperation projects that are proportionate to their specificities and easier and faster to apply ;
- strengthening the tools and functions for coordinating and supporting the elaboration of the Plan and the design and implementation of interventions;

Also not to be overlooked is the need for a *substantial improvement in the procedures and methods for 'uploading' support applications for collective projects to SIAN (national monitoring system)* - as the cause of major delays, particularly in the Ag.I.Re project - by agreeing with AGEA on faster and simpler procedures for the resolution of any (and always possible) material errors and by favouring a more effective and coordinated support activity by the CAAs.

In addition, the systemisation and further development of the tried and tested *innovative tools and working methods already used by the Regional Managers/Reporters in performing coordination and guidance functions* for the two projects under review, such as explanatory circulars, document sharing and information communication tools ("clouds", shared folders),

preparation of common formats for the activities of collecting expressions of interest or bids, planning, preliminary investigation and also, in view of the next phase of investment implementation, to facilitate the reporting of expenses and the collection of monitoring information.

Finally, it should be noted that the above-mentioned improvement hypotheses, already identified to a large extent by the competent Regional Offices, as well as finding general application in the measure sheet SRG07 of CSR 2023-27, could soon already be, at least in part, used for the two SNAI projects in the Tammaro-Titerno and Cilento Inland areas for which, once Action A of the current M16.7.1 is concluded, the Call for Action B is expected to be opened soon.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
BP - SNAI	<p>The long and articulated process of construction and implementation of the two Projects, A.F.A.I. in Alta Irpinia and Ag.I.Re. in Vallo di Diano, within the framework of the regional SNAI and with the support, M16.7.1 is characterised by the following main elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intense partnership activity in the context analysis, identification of needs, definition of the strategy and the related Plan of Interventions, with the subsequent submission of applications for support under the RDP, 	<p>The Recommendations take up and complement the adaptation hypotheses for the future SRG07 measure sheet that have already been identified and are being studied in depth by the competent regional office and manager:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> envisage an effective "ex-ante" assessment of the added value of cooperation projects using a selection criterion based on the stability of the partnership in the phase following their conclusion, to which must be added others such as the commitment to carry out specific actions aimed at: (i) fostering the future maintenance of the active partnership (e.g. the A.F.A.I. Forestry Agency); (ii) creating an effective functional link with other subjects/interventions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the supporting, animating, guiding role played by the Lead Partners, but hampered by the structural weakness of the municipal technical offices, aggravated by the unavailability of financial resources already in the first phase; the direct support and simplification actions carried out by the IT 16.7.1 managers/reporters at central and provincial level; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define procedures and implementation rules for cooperation projects that are proportionate to their specificities and simpler and faster to apply, therefore: (i) eliminate the current distinction between Action (or phases) A and B, by directly preparing the Plan of Interventions in a single phase; (ii) avoid the current "double selection" of individual operations (support applications) by providing in a first phase the exclusive preliminary assessment and evaluation of merit (of the cooperation project as a whole, and then proceeding to the presentation and preliminary assessment of individual interventions.

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
BP - SNAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the supporting, animating, guiding role played by the Lead Partners, but hampered by the structural weakness of the municipal technical offices, aggravated by the unavailability of financial resources already in the first phase; the direct support and simplification actions carried out by the IT 16.7.1 managers/reporters at central and provincial level; 	<p>Strengthen the tools and functions of coordination and support to the elaboration of the Plan and the planning and implementation of the interventions, in particular:</p> <p>(i) strengthen the functionality of the Lead Partner and the Coordinator, foreseeing the initial disbursement of financial resources to be allocated to the strengthening in technical staff and tools of the related technical offices; (ii) improve the modalities of "uploading" on SIAN of the support applications related to the collective projects, agreeing with AGEA faster and simpler procedures for the resolution of possible (and always possible) material errors and favouring a more effective and coordinated activity by the CAA (iii) systematising and further developing the innovative tools and working methods already used by the regional managers/referents in carrying out coordination and steering functions for the two projects under consideration</p>
	<p>Concerning the potential "added value" of the two cooperation projects, the results of the analyses do not allow as yet to verify the existence of an actual functional and direct integration between the individual interventions, since these are still to be implemented; on the other hand, the "relationship capital", determined by the participative and collaborative modalities between the various partners with which the two projects were built and are being implemented today, already appears to be widely expressed.</p>	<p>It should be noted that the above-mentioned improvement hypotheses, in addition to their general application in the measure sheet SRG07 of CSR 2023-27, could soon already be used, at least in part, for the two SNAI projects in the Tammaro-Titerno and Cilento Inland areas, for which the Call for Proposals for Action B of TI 16.7.1 is expected to be opened soon</p>

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
FA2A	<p>The overall average value between the different OTEs of Indicator R2 (the 'net' change in labour productivity) determined by investments is only 17,360 Euro/ULT (+35.21%): this result is arrived at by subtracting from the 'gross' ante-post change of 23,327 Euro/ULT (+47%) that which would have been obtained in counterfactual conditions of 5,965 Euro/ULT (+12%).</p>	
	<p>The different magnitude of the net increase in productivity in the beneficiaries (i.e. indicator R2) can be attributed in some groups (specialised in other crops and arable crops and specialised in viticulture, olive growing and different combinations of permanent crops) to diversified but always increasing productivity trends not only in the 'factual' but also in the 'counterfactual' situation. Ultimately in these sectors, investment support from the RDP would seem to reinforce and accelerate already existing and more widespread (productivity) growth trends. In other groups, on the other hand (e.g. mixed and specialised in fruit and citrus growing), the net increase is amplified by a limited or negative evolution of the Indicator in the counterfactual situation, a sign of the wider presence in the same sector of productive realities not involved by the Programme in which the tendency to reduce productivity due to an insufficient growth in revenue compared to the levels of employment of labour persists. 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>These elements are useful to the planner who can consider in the new outgoing calls for tenders effective strategies both to involve the groups of farms that are most in difficulty, thus avoiding creating regional imbalances, and to promote those sectors that are performing well and can create added value for the regional agricultural sector.</p>
	<p>For the counterfactual analysis that divided the beneficiary companies according to T.I., both groups perform better than the sample of non-beneficiary companies in terms of change in labour productivity (4.1.1 +50%, 4.1.2 +52% and counterfactual +22%). The RDP thus seems to accelerate and enhance development processes that also occur, at a lower intensity, within non-beneficiaries. One element that should be emphasised is the positive performance in terms of the change in production of the 4.1.2 beneficiary farms, which increase their revenues by more than 100%; this value, however, is somewhat predictable since in the ante situation, the farm is in a practically embryonic state in which production and UL are relatively low. The net effect calculated for the R2 indicator is positive in both cases, + 6,627 €/ULT for 4.1.1 beneficiaries and + 4,075 €/ULT for farms led by young people.</p>	<p>The crucial role of the RDP for youth-led enterprises should guide the MA in the choices of the next programming period, taking into account the fragility of these enterprises but also their potential in terms of economics, innovation and connection with the territory.</p>
FA 2B	<p>As of 31/12/2023, the spending capacity of FA 2B reached 65.8% (+9.8 percentage points compared to 2022).</p>	
	<p>The measures with the highest spending capacity are: M4 with 71.3% spending capacity (TI 4.1.2); M6 (TI 6.1.1) with 55.8% spending capacity; and M1 (TI 1.1.1) with 53.4% spending capacity. M2 still lags behind, although up from the last RVA (when it was 29%), showing a spending capacity of 37.8%.</p>	<p>It is recommended to sustain the spending buoyancy recorded in recent years.</p>
	<p>Using the data of the 7th ISTAT Census, the profile of young farm holders in Campania in 2020 has been restored. In short, they are on average younger than Italian and southern farmers: in Campania, in fact, 15.4% of conductors are under 44 years of age, while in Italy as a whole the under 44s are 13.5% of conductors and in the South, they are 12.1%. The difference with respect to the national average and the average for the Mezzogiorno is even more consistent if we consider the incidence of young female farm managers under 44 years of age on the total number of young farm managers:</p>	

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>in Campania young female managers account for about 32.4% of young farm managers compared to the average of 29.9% in the South and 26.7% in Italy.</p>	
<p>FA 3A</p>	<p>The target indicator T6 percentage of holdings receiving support for participation in quality schemes, local markets and short supply chains, as well as in producer associations/organisations planned for 2025 is set at 0.51 as. The M3.1.1, 9.1.1 and 16.4.1 contribute to this target and by 31.12.2023 the value achieved is 0.47%. This value is getting closer to the target and is at 92% utilisation. The M9.1.1 and 16.4.1 have reached the 2025 target for beneficiaries, while 3.1.1 still has a margin to fill, which will help to reach 100% of the total. However, it should be noted that for 3.1.1, the projects accepted for funding have all started. Compared to 2022, the implementation process of M16.1 has accelerated from a spending capacity of 13% to 28%.</p> <p>The IA survey noted the positive results achieved by M3.1.1 beneficiary companies in terms of adhesions to quality systems, participation in product promotion events and supply chain contracts or other similar initiatives. In addition, respondents' positive perception of the effects of participation in the RDP is noted.</p>	
	<p>As for the second criterion, this refers to TI 4.2.1 "Processing, marketing and development of agricultural products in agro-industrial enterprises" and 4.2.2 "Processing, marketing and development of agricultural products for agro-industrial micro-initiatives". The spending capacity of TI 4.2.1 as of 31/12/2023 stands at 66% while for 4.2.2 at 0.5%. The ITTs have financed 99 and 2 projects respectively, 82 of which pertain to 4.2.1 alone. The target to be reached by 2025 is 232 companies; for the time being, the figure stands at 101, but it must be considered that there are 16 4.2.1 projects that have yet to receive a payment and the resources relating to the last call for about EUR 11 million of 4.2.2 have yet to be allocated.</p> <p>With respect to T.I. 4.2.1, 60% of the resources granted are dedicated to the purchase of new plant, machinery and equipment, 26% to the construction, extension and improvement of real estate, 2.2% to the development of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources, and 0.3% to intangible investments. The beneficiaries of T.I. 4.2.1 who were contacted and responded to the IE survey almost all (96%) stated that the RDP played a fundamental role in favouring an increase in competitiveness and better market positioning.</p>	
<p>RDP support for organic farming in the Campania region</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 31.12.2023, the figure stood at 1,111 companies: the regional decision to increase the budget to the current 95 million euro has continued to receive a positive response from the territory. These companies are mainly located in area B (60%) and D (27%), which received an average premium of about EUR 14,000.</p>	
	<p>The regional Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) conducted with organic farming production methods will reach a total extension of 101,759 hectares in 2022, corresponding to 19.3% of the total UAA, with a steady growth of organic areas from 2014 to 2022, in fact a variation of +395% over the period.</p>	

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>The distribution of the regional organic UAA by type of cultivation (table below) is characterised by the prevalence of pasture grassland (28% of the organic UAA), fodder crops (15% of the organic UAA), olive growing (13% of the UAA), cereals (12%) and nuts (11%); these crop categories account for almost 80% of the total regional organic UAA.</p> <p>Overall, the organic surface area supported by the RDP is 57,767 hectares, representing 57% of the total organic surface area of the Campania region. Analysing the individual crop groups, the highest incidences are found in fodder crops (98%), cereals (97%), industrial crops (78%), olives (76%) and fruit (75%).</p> <p>Organic areas generally show a higher profitability than conventional ones for fruit and vegetable crops, while they show a much lower profitability in arable crops.</p> <p>From 2020 to the present day, in contrast to an increase in organic areas and production, which in Campania has risen by 57 % and in the number of producers by 47.3, there has been no corresponding increase in consumption, which at a national level shows a modest increase of 0.5 %. Based on the findings of the direct surveys, only a small amount of the production, 23.9%, is marketed with the organic label. The reasons why the product is not marketed with an 'organic' label are that in most cases (60%) there is limited demand for the labelled product in the target markets.</p>	<p>Undertake actions aimed at spreading the consumption of organic products in public and private canteens and increasing the share of organic products in the consumer market by improving consumer awareness, information and promotion.</p>
FA 4A	<p>Also in view of the fact that in 2023 calls for tenders were issued only for measures 8.1, 11.1, 11.2, while for the other agri-environmental commitments and allowances the calls were issued under the 2023-2027 NSP, the agricultural area of the RDP that has a positive effect on biodiversity is 47,756 hectares, representing 7.3 % of the regional UAA.</p> <p>The analysis shows that the Committed Area falling in Protected Areas (13,460 ha) and in the subset of Natura 2000 Areas (9,293 ha) results in a higher concentration (SOI/SAU ratio) of the intervention area in these areas (8.24% and 8.00% respectively) than the regional total of 7.29%.</p> <p>The spatial correlation between the Commitment Object Area and the areas with a different degree of naturalistic value showed that the ratio between the SOI of the Measures/Typologies of intervention considered and the SAU is 6.0% in AVN-Low areas, 8.3% in Medium areas, while in AVN-High and AVN-High areas this ratio is 7.5% and 7.6% respectively. Overall, therefore, the SOI in the two highest classes is 14,127 hectares and corresponds to 7.5% of the SAU in the same areas, a value that is slightly higher than the regional average concentration, highlighting a modest specific intervention capacity of the RDP in reference to the issue in question.</p>	
FA 4B	<p>An analysis of the reported background data reveals a worrying situation regarding the state of quality and pressures of agriculture on water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Campania region, the sales trend (ISTAT) in the period 2013-2021 of mineral nitrogen and phosphorus is increasing (+32% and +73% respectively), a similar trend for unit loads of nitrogen and phosphorus per hectare of fertilisable area. The latter are lower than the national average, but higher than those recorded for the other southern Italian regions. 	

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering ISTAT statistics on livestock numbers in the period 2011-2021, a worrying increase of buffaloes +19% is observed, while for the other species there is a general decrease with values of -20% for cattle, -42% for pigs and -29% for sheep. 	
	<p>In the year 2023, only Calls for Measures 11.1 and 11.2 were opened; the Calls for Measure 10.1.1 were issued under the NSP 2023-2027; in total, the area under commitment (SOI) contributing to the improvement of water quality is 47,581 hectares, 7.3% of the regional Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA).</p>	
	<p>The SOI falling in NVZs is 2.4% of the agricultural area while the incidence of SOI/SAU in the region is higher (7.3%), thus showing a low concentration in the areas where there is a greater need for intervention. Although NVZs were considered a priority for farms under measure 11, the selection criteria were not applied as the financial resources were sufficient to meet the applications submitted, so the desired higher concentration in NVZs did not occur.</p>	<p>In the next programming period, strengthen the bonus for farms with areas in NVZs in order to concentrate interventions in areas of greatest need.</p>
	<p>The estimate of the overall impact on nitrogen surplus over the entire regional territory as a result of the implementation of the two actions shows a decrease in nitrogen potentially polluting surface and groundwater of 1.8 kg/ha, equal to a reduction of 5.5%.</p>	
FA 4C	<p>Overall, the area under commitment (SOI) contributing to soil quality improvement is 47,581 hectares, 7.3% of the regional Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA).</p>	
	<p>Considering the concentration of the surface area favourable to reducing erosion in the Medium, High and Very High classes, i.e. in the classes with an erosion value greater than 11.2 t/ha/year (the value of erosion considered tolerable by the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture -Usda), it can be seen that in these three classes together 19,751 hectares of SOI are distributed (42% of the total SOI), corresponding to 7.9% of the agricultural surface area of the same areas, compared to a regional distribution figure of 7.3% of SOI/SA. There is therefore a moderate impact of the RDP in the highest risk areas.</p>	
	<p>The RDP measures have a modest impact on the increase of organic carbon in soils since, considering that, according to the JRC organic carbon content map, the average organic carbon content in Campania's arable land is 1.86% (corresponding to an organic matter content of 3.2%), in the SOI the average value would stand at 1.99% after seven years (corresponding to an organic matter content of 3.4%).</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 have gradually been made up, at least as far as operation 4.1.4 is concerned, which, with the investments on the reservoirs settled in 2023, 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 addressed to the Land</p>	

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>Reclamation Consortia, which finances much larger interventions, the first projects will probably be concluded in the course of 2024.</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 significant reduction in water consumption for irrigation purposes, both in absolute terms (-55%) and in relation to the value of production (-65%). This considerable impact at the individual farm level is, however, almost negligible when considered at the regional level (0.6% of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems), since the number of farms making water-saving investments is very limited (89 completed interventions in all).</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. Moreover, there is 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 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.</p>	<p>With a view to the 2023/27 programming cycle, it is desirable to speed up the processing of well applications at the provincial level, otherwise there is a risk of a curb on demand, which seems to have been the case in the present programming period.</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 programming period) and in terms of information, promotion, dissemination and training.</p>
FA 5C	<p>Campania's Rural Development Plan intervenes in the direction of energy production from renewable sources through various funding lines and involving different actors, from farms to local authorities. The operations that the RDP prioritises for this objective, especially operation 7.2.2, presented some initial implementation delays, which have been largely resolved. During 2023, four major projects were concluded, which led to a marked acceleration in expenditure.</p> <p>The almost 800 operations completed as of 31.12.2023 involving the construction of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources mobilise a total investment of more than €15 million. These include both operations directly aimed at energy production within the framework of operation 7.2.2 dedicated to this (mainly biomass plants), and those financed within the framework of operations aimed at farms (4.1.1 and 4.1.2) and processing companies (4.2.1) mainly aimed at their economic consolidation (almost exclusively installation of photovoltaic panels for the production of electricity).</p> <p>The energy that can be produced by these plants is in absolute value interesting and growing during 2023, and amounts to 1,010 tonnes of oil equivalent, but is quite negligible when considered in</p>	

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>relative terms, both with reference to the overall 'green energy' produced by the primary sector, and to the Burden Sharing targets.</p> <p>Continuing the promising completion trend observed during 2023, the 20 projects eligible for funding under operation 7.2.2 and not yet completed, as mentioned above, of considerable size (more than 470,000 euro in average expenditure), will be able to contribute to improving the values of renewable energy produced thanks to the RDP.</p>	
FA 5D	<p>Overall, the area under commitment (SOI) contributing to GHG reduction is 47,581 hectares, 7.3% of the region's agricultural area. The total reduction in GHG emissions is 139,867 MgCO₂eq per year; of this, 2,351 MgCO₂eq is due to the reduction of mineral fertilisers and 137,516 MgCO₂eq is the amount achieved through the absorption of C-sink in agricultural soils.</p> <p>The RDP measures examined do not seem to have a significant impact on GHG reduction in the agricultural sector, accounting for only 0.14% of total agricultural emissions and 1.9% in the mineral fertiliser sector.</p> <p>The effects of the interventions expressed in terms of ammonia emission reductions (R19) show a reduction of 97.4 t/year in emissions from mineral/synthetic fertilisers. Comparing this value with the NH₃ emissions from regional agriculture shows that these account for 0.5%, but if only the emissions accounted for in sector 100100 - Fertiliser Crops (except animal fertilisers) are taken into account, the incidence rises to 6.0%.</p>	
FA 5E	<p>The percentage of forest land under management contracts that contribute to carbon sequestration or conservation' is 491,259 ha and represents 1.9% of the total regional forest area. Most of the areas (97.7%) concern carryovers from previous programming periods</p> <p>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 21,572 tCO₂eq/year. However, it should be noted that most of the c-sink (98%) is attributable to commitments made in previous programming periods and only 2% is attributable to commitments from the current programming period.</p>	
FA6A	<p>With regard to the IT contributing to the FA, it can be observed that the numbers relating to physical and financial progress are progressively approaching the target objectives, albeit with longer delays for interventions with public beneficiaries.</p>	
FA6A - Rural tourism	<p>In the regional tourism sector, the emergence from the health emergency sees confirmed trends towards growth and diversification of supply - especially in the non-hotel sector - as well as changes in the behaviour and expectations of visitors/tourists, many of which can be found in the region's more inland and disadvantaged rural areas (Areas C and D).</p> <p>The public and private investments made with the support of the RDP 2014-22 on the supply side of tourist accommodation appear to be consistent with these dynamics. However, the initial and partial results of the survey carried out among a sample of enterprises benefiting from M6.4.1 and 6.4.2 do not yet allow for significant signs of their exhaustive structural and managerial adaptation capable of</p>	<p>In the light of the evidence that has emerged, it is suggested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve and enhance non-hotel accommodation capacity and especially related services, for which there is considerable room for improvement; these should be pursued in the definition and application of the implementation

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>fully grasping the opportunities present and adapting the offer to the qualitative changes taking place in demand.</p>	<p>modalities for the relevant Regional Complementary Strategic Plan 2023-27 intervention sheets;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and diversify public interventions on infrastructure and services and protection, to enable sustainable, informed and agile tourist visits to the area, especially in inland rural areas C and D; • reintroduce forms of direct functional integration (e.g. collective projects) between private and public investments aimed at achieving the two previous specific objectives; • ensure, in the implementation of the CSR's actions for the development of rural tourism, consistency and functional connection with what is planned and implemented by the Region's other structures; • Strengthen and expand study and survey activities on recent qualitative and quantitative changes in tourism demand that can be met in rural areas C and D of the region.
<p>FA 6B</p>	<p>Most of the SSL are characterised by a very good commitment capacity, exceeding 80% of the programmed resources. Payments, on the other hand, are lagging behind, with some LAGs showing a spending capacity of less than 30%.</p> <p>The LAGs of Campania have all joined cooperation projects. After an initial phase of difficulties mainly related to the restrictions imposed to slow down the Covid19 pandemic, the projects financed by the M19.3 were launched: 10 LAGs have so far received at least one payment to support cooperation activities. In the self-assessment phase, a further aspect of complexity emerged that seems to have compromised the full potential of MS19.3 to create added value by lengthening the already long time it takes to implement activities: many LAGs report that they do not have the most appropriate planning and implementation framework to ensure the effectiveness of projects involving complex management and coordination, due to the high number of actors involved.</p> <p>Discussions with the LAGs reveal a strong need for greater autonomy, especially in those contexts where a leading role in local development processes has been consolidated. In this regard, it should</p>	<p>Supporting LAGs that are lagging behind in implementation, either directly or through a structured exchange between them, to share experiences and good practices.</p> <p>Support LAGs in the programming and implementation phases of cooperation projects also by "decoupling", by anticipating, the programming of M19.3 from those of the other types of intervention.</p> <p>In the 2023-27 programming period, the space of autonomy granted to LAGs will be very wide. This</p>

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>be added that not all the LAGs have made the most of the spaces granted to them to make changes to the calls for proposals under MS 19.2 (e.g. selection criteria, scores, rates, etc.) and/or to activate direct actions under MS 19.4. This evidence points to different interests and/or capacities among the 15 LAGs in Campania, a hypothesis also supported by the different implementation performances.</p>	<p>choice opens the way for potentially even more effective strategies, as they are more closely tailored to the needs of the territory. However, attention must be paid to the challenges that LAGs will have to face, with even high risks for some of them, considering the poor implementation performance in some cases. It is therefore recommended that LAGs be adequately supported and their progress monitored, in order to intervene promptly to remove any critical issues.</p>
	<p>There was interest in evaluation activities as a tool to support planning and implementation. However, from the self-assessment exercises conducted, with a few exceptions, some still emerge in the implementation of self-assessment and valorisation of the results.</p>	<p>It is recommended that self-assessment activities and collegial meetings with the evaluator be continued on a regular basis, in order to consolidate knowledge and conscious use of these tools. To achieve more effective use of the self-assessment tool, the IA invited LAGs to focus their efforts on a small number of evaluation questions. This principle will also be reinforced during 2024, when the LAGs, in agreement with the IA, will focus on the issue of added value.</p> <p>At the same time, dedicated training at the start of the new programming period could further promote the dissemination of the evaluation culture throughout the LAGs and, consequently, a more effective implementation of the exercise.</p>
<p>FA 6B</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Beyond internal reorganisation, LAGs have shown the need to strengthen certain skills within their staff with a focus on planning, procedural and interpersonal skills.</p> <p>The animation activities carried out through M19.4 are considered effective and appropriate to the needs of LAGs. They are in most cases <i>standard</i> and not very innovative actions. The fact that almost all the LAGs made use of the expenditure ceiling set for M19.4 (25% of the budget for M19.3 and 19.4) denotes the importance the LAGs attach to animation.</p>	<p>Envisage possible training and consultancy activities, within or outside AKIS, also for LAGs, which have expressed the need to strengthen specific competences.</p> <p>It is recommended that the possibility of raising the expenditure ceiling be made conditional on the implementation of animation activities in order to allow LAGs more room for manoeuvre, especially in the implementation of innovative animation and communication activities, which require specific skills.</p>

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
FA 6B	<p>All LAG websites present the main information on the composition and governance of the LAGs, as well as on the calls for tenders; however, they are more lacking with regard to the OSH, which is often absent from the sites, and especially project descriptions.</p> <p>Moreover, although animation and communication activities, especially the former, are satisfactorily developed by the LAGs, much of the information on their initiatives is lost in poorly managed dissemination of the results achieved.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the LAGs' tasks related to communication be made more explicit, but also the opportunities that can be derived from these activities for the LAGs. In particular, it is suggested that LAGs improve the management of their communication channels (website first and foremost), especially in terms of user experience and completeness of information, and the dissemination of projects implemented, and results achieved.</p>
Farms' trajectories	<p>The different results that emerged between the analysis of the beneficiaries' answers and the meeting with the experts are a representation of the differences that characterize the beneficiary companies with respect to the agricultural context of Campania. This aspect cannot be overlooked at the time of programming, as companies that have already benefited from RDP funding to solve certain critical issues could develop different needs and requirements from those of companies in the regional context. This differentiation requires careful analysis by the planner in order to best capture the interests of potential beneficiaries.</p> <p>The trajectory model developed with the experts on clusters at regional level and the one based on the analysis of the responses of the RDP beneficiaries provide relatively different scenarios. In both cases, the hypothesis of the Campania Region to use a package combining SRD01 - Agricultural productive investments for farm competitiveness and SRD02 - Agricultural productive investments for environment, climate and animal welfare in the 2023-2027 programming period may be a winning choice in both cases. Looking at the trajectories constructed with the experts, it can be seen that these are exclusively oblique, i.e. they all point towards the highest point in the upper right quadrant. This scenario is the desirable one for all clusters, with due particularities, and is the line of business development underlying the CAP and the New Green Deal. The package, especially if the only way to access these two interventions, can fully reflect this approach. In a specular way, the package in question could be very effective in countering those clusters that, according to the reconstruction of the responses of the RDP beneficiaries, identify only that of competitiveness as their prevailing development trajectory. If the package instrument is adopted in such a way as to ensure a compulsory % of expenditure on SRD02 if SRD01 is to be activated, the trajectories of these clusters will also unintentionally converge towards better environmental performance.</p>	<p>An in-depth mapping of the needs of farms within the same sectors (or rather clusters) is recommended, with special attention to the differences between those already benefiting from the RDP and those not.</p> <p>In the development of the Competitiveness and Environment package (SRD01 + SRD02), it is recommended that the potentially decisive role of a mandatory spending constraint on SRD02 be taken into account so that beneficiaries' business development trajectories can be more effectively influenced in terms not only of economic performance, but also of environmental footprint.</p>
QVC Technical Support	<p>As for the implementation of the programme, there was an improvement in the average processing time (229 days) compared to previous years.</p> <p>Generally speaking, there has been considerable commitment on the part of the regional administration to introduce procedural simplifications aimed at reducing administrative burdens.</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 also recommended not to renounce proposing multimeasure and/or integrated implementation tools, capable of supporting more effective interventions for the development of rural areas and</p>

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
		<p>increasing the competitiveness of farms, but rather to aim at removing the specific critical factors (also identified with the support of the evaluator) that in the past have prolonged the time needed for the preliminary investigation.</p>
	<p>With reference to monitoring, in 2022 the Campania Region discontinued its own regional monitoring system, SISMAR, which was the only additional source of information that could significantly enrich the information provided by the national OPDB AGEA. This choice, which, moreover, took place in the midst of the Programme's implementation, invalidates the effort made so far by the Regional Administration to broaden its knowledge base in relation to a complex programme such as the RDP. The repercussions also appear significant for the evaluation, as well as for the programming period that is now beginning.</p>	<p>It is strongly recommended that the Region strengthen the tools at its disposal for an adequate monitoring and control system, especially in view of the need to adequately oversee the new programming cycle, which poses additional elements of complexity in the light of the renewed programming framework.</p>
	<p>The products of evaluation realised to date stem from a widespread culture of evaluation that reinforces its usefulness.</p> <p><i>The knowledge</i> sharing activities, the sharing of results and the subsequent follow-up continued to characterise the fruitful collaborative relationship between the IA, stakeholders (Regional officials, management, etc.) and the programme's MA.</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>As far as the communication theme 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 start of the 2023-2027 Programming and the approval of the Regional Complementary Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The effort made by Regione Campania in the timely preparation of activities also during 2023 pending the policy and governance choices of the national coordination is emphasised.</p>	<p>Maintaining a high focus on institutional communication activities as achieved over the past few years.</p> <p>The perseverance in monitoring the topic and feeding it with ever new input is a point of credit to the administration.</p>