



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 2021
Non-Technical Summary

Rome, March 2022



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



INDEX

1. Introduction.....3

2. Methodological approach3

3. Progress of the Programme4

4. Characteristics of the survey participants **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

5. Survey results and analysis of company trajectories7

6. Conclusions and recommendations11

1. Introduction



The **2022 Annual Evaluation Report (RVA)** analyses the use of resources, the state of implementation and the verification of the effectiveness and efficiency of the 2014-2020 RDP of the Campania Region as at 31/12/2021.

The document is structured as follows:

- ▶ Update on the context of the Programme and the elements related to its implementation
- ▶ Illustration of the methodological approach adopted for conducting the analyses (with a detail of the survey techniques and the way of defining the set of beneficiaries for the sample surveys) and description of the main information sources
- ▶ Presentation and analysis of information collected - 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 (analysis of the farms benefiting from the RDP and of the development trajectories undertaken; results of the sample survey; evaluation of the trajectories of Campania's farms; territorial impact of the Agri-environmental Measures; analysis by FA and response to the VCFs; Insight intervention 6.4.1; Insight intervention 6.2.1);
- ▶ Self-assessment process of the Campania LAGs 2014-2022;
- ▶ Description of the activities carried out in collaboration 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 detection and analysis techniques adopted**, in coherence with what is indicated in the tender documents and in the reports drawn up by the Assessor for the structuring of the activities, with particular reference to the PAV.

With reference to the **methodological approach**, in addition to the documentary analysis, qualitative-quantitative methods were applied to explore the mechanisms of causality 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 have required an in-depth examination of the **programming and implementation documentation and monitoring data** from the regional monitoring systems, SISMAR and AGEA, as well as the comparison with the regional representatives of the MA staff:

- (i) **direct survey addressed to a sample of farms (CAWI and CATI methods)** to verify the results achieved and/or expected thanks to the RDP resources. The results of these surveys

have also been appropriately used to answer the evaluation questions of this report concerning some FAs.

- (ii) **analysis of farm trajectories** aimed at investigating both the effects produced by RDP interventions and the development trajectories of farms supported by the Programme.
- (iii) **Direct survey of a sample of farms benefiting from interventions 4.1.1 and 4.1.2** for the evaluation of result indicator **R2**.
- (iv) **Participatory techniques**:
 - a. Interviews with privileged witnesses: interviews with the **representatives of the LAGs "Colline Salernitane", "I Sentieri del Buon Vivere" and "Taburno"** for an in-depth analysis of intervention 6.4.1, intervention 6.2.1 and the analysis of the effectiveness and added value of LEADER under FA 6B.
 - b. **Interview with privileged witnesses** (regional referent for M4.1.1 and the youth integrated project) for in-depth study of good practices.

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 for area or head measures (75%) compared with structural measures (40%).

Table 1- Overall progress of the Programme as at 31/12/2021

Measures	Planned expenditure	Expenditure incurred	Spending capacity
Structural measures*	1.497.764.032,67 €	592.846.593,03 €	40%
Surface or head measurements	913.377.297,27 €	686.982.008,92 €	75%
Total	2.411.141.329,94 €	1.279.828.601,95 €	53%

*M20 - technical assistance has also been taken into account.

At the level of the individual Priorities, the progress of expenditure has achieved discrete results for Priorities 3 and 4, which, compared to the financial targets for 2023, record values of 51% and 64% of the planned value respectively. The priority that lags furthest behind the target values by 2025 is Priority 6, which reached 35% of the planned amount, an increase of about 15% compared to the previous year.

Table 2- Progress by Priority of the RDP 2014-2022 as at 31/12/2021

Priorities	Planned expenditure (€)	Expenditure incurred (€)	Progress towards the 2025 target (%)
2	750.657.284,13	354.603.594,81	47%
3	272.544.526,59	138.621.836,04	51%
4	1.010.581.260,07	659.987.510,68	65%
5	63.978.488,19	27.543.714,15	43%
6	280.898.144,08	99.071.946,27	35%

Priority 2 - Enhancing farm profitability and agricultural competitiveness

The spending capacity of FA 2A shows an advance of 51%. The main contributors to this figure are measures 21 (intervention 21.1.1/2), 4 (mainly intervention 4.1.1) and 6 (intervention 6.4.1). 12% of payments correspond to carry-overs from the old programming. The spending capacity of FA 2B has increased by 11% compared to 2020, reaching 42% in 2021. The measures with the highest progress in spending are M1 with 49%, M4 (intervention 4.1.2) with 43% and M6 (intervention 6.1.1) with 40%. M2 lags behind the other measures, even if some projects have been financed compared to RAV2021, bringing the progress from 0 to 15%.

Table 3- Total expenditure PR 2

Focus Area/Priority	Planned expenditure (€)	Paid (€)	Spending capacity (%)
2A	465.784.992,34	235.408.293,21	50,5
2B	284.872.291,79	119.195.301,60	41,8
Total	750.657.284,13	354.603.594,81	47,2

Priority 3 - Promoting food chain organisation and risk management

P3 sees an increase in its available resources of 64.7%. This increase is due to the additional resources allocated to measures 14, 4, 16 and 3 within FA 3A. On the other hand, with regard to FA 3B, there is a considerable increase in the allocation of measure M5. The spending capacity of the FA 3A stands at 54% and the progress in spending of the M9 by 100% (intervention 9.1.1) and of the M14 by 73% (with 605 projects started) should be underlined. FA 3B is only affected by M5 (interventions 5.1.1 and 5.2.1), which has a low spending capacity of only 24%.

Table 4- Total expenditure PR 3

Focus Area/Priority	Planned expenditure (€)	Paid (€)	Spending capacity (%)
3A	244.918.638,51	132.104.956,29	53,9
3B	27.625.888,08	6.516.879,75	23,6
Total	272.544.526,59	138.621.836,04	50,9

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

Priority 4 shows an increase in available resources of 37.8%, mainly due to the increase in resources allocated to measures 4 and 11. The spending capacity for this priority is about 65%, the highest progress is recorded by measures 13 and 15 (respectively 83% and 77% progress in spending). Among the various operations, the one that absorbs most of the resources is intervention 13.1.1, i.e. the compensatory payment for mountain areas, which has involved and paid off 20,123 farms. Operation 13.2.1 (Compensatory payment for areas subject to natural constraints), which involved and settled 5,348 farms, was also quite successful.

Table 5- Total expenditure PR 4

Priorities	Planned expenditure (€)	Payment (€)	Spending capacity (%)
Priority 4	1.010.581.260,07	659.987.510,68	65,3

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

The resources for Priority 5 undergo a slight increase of 1.7% (+3.5% for FA 5A), and, overall, the advancement of expenditure stands at 43.1%. Within FA 5A only measures 2 and 4 show progress in expenditure, reaching 34% in total. The FA 5C instead reaches a spending capacity of 31% and the measures that contribute most are 2 and 7 (27% and 35% respectively), while for measures 1 and 16 no payment has been made yet. FA 5D reaches a spending capacity of 61% (up from 32% in RAV2021) and the measures that contribute most are 16 (100%) and 4 (62%). Finally, for the FA 5E, payments have been made only for operation 8.1.1 (Afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land), while the overall progress of expenditure stands at 61% of the programmed amount.

Table 6- Total expenditure PR 5

Focus Area/Priority	Planned expenditure (€)	Paid (€)	Spending capacity (%)
5A	32.232.900,60	10.854.426,48	33,7
5C	8.978.976,08	2.812.108,56	31,3
5D	9.088.530,04	5.581.333,92	61,4
5E	13.678.081,47	8.295.845,19	60,7
Total	63.978.488,19	27.543.714,15	43,1

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

For priority 6 there is a slight increase in programmed resources (6.6%) and the spending capacity stands at 35.3%. The progress in spending of FA 6A undergoes a significant increase compared to the 2021 survey, going from 27% to 44%. In FA 6B, on the other hand, there is a spending capacity of 25%, and an increase in payments of 10% compared to what was detected in RAV2021 (mainly due to intervention 19.2.1). Finally, in FA 6C, the spending capacity is 45% and the programmed resources are concentrated on intervention 7.3.1 (related to the implementation of broadband), while a minimum share is dedicated to M1, which, however, does not record any payment.

Table 7- Total expenditure PR 6

Focus Area/Priority	Planned expenditure (€)	Paid (€)	Spending capacity (%)
6A	133.424.073,32	58.709.990,58	44,00
6B	126.749.329,59	31.107.470,69	24,50
6C	20.724.741,17	9.254.485,00	44,70
Total	280.898.144,08	99.071.946,27	35,30

4. Survey results and analysis of company trajectories

The survey carried out by the evaluator from 2020 onwards has a total participation of 372 beneficiaries. Regarding the gender of the respondents 119 are women, 245 men and 8 unspecified with an average age of about 46 years. Regarding the legal form, the prevalence (about 82%) is composed of sole proprietorships. The average value of UAA is almost 22.7 ha and the prevailing OTE - 339 useful answers - is the one related to polyculture (20%), followed by farms specialised in fruit and citrus growing (15.3%), farms specialised in other crops (13%) and wine farms (12%). The prevailing average size of the responding farms (332 useful answers) is the economic class ranging from 25,000 euros to less than 50,000 euros (20.5%) followed by those belonging to the class "less than 8,000 euros". (17%).

► Company development strategies

With regard to the theme "**Competitiveness and market**", most of the actions carried out concern actions dedicated to the adhesion to quality systems, proving the interest of farms in this theme (the same actions, of course, decrease then among the "planned" activities). On the subject of **environmental measures**, actions for the implementation of energy from renewable sources (94 responses) and for the improvement of drainage systems (drains, drainage etc.) were completed. In addition, other respondents (85 answers) declare to have successfully concluded other training activities. The final macro theme is "**link with the territory**": as can be seen from the graph below, 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.

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

Up to 2021, 219 respondents declared, through the dichotomous answer option "YES/NO", that the measures implemented had made it possible to tackle the main development problems (57 negative answers) mainly in the area of competitiveness and the market (147 answers). Thanks to this additional year of the survey, the 147 preferences expressed towards competitiveness have increased to 182, confirming the tendency of companies to focus on company modernisation with a view to opening up to the market. Moreover, thanks to the changes made to the response options, the overall judgement on the interventions was more nuanced: out of 72 respondents (2022 survey), only 8.3% declared themselves to be not very satisfied with the results achieved thanks to the interventions carried out with the RDP, while 40% (29 subjects) declared that the interventions contributed "quite a lot" to business development (26% declared "very much" and 23% "sufficiently"). The other two areas of intervention, "environment and climate" and "link with the territory", are very close, with 119 and 115 preferences respectively.

► Young people and generational change

According to the answers given by the young beneficiaries of the intervention 4.1.2 and 6.1.1 to the sample survey carried out in 2022, the implementation of the Business Development Plan thanks to the RDP has had a certain effectiveness in guaranteeing the introduction of new technologies in the farm together with the support to quality productions that, probably, push the farms towards a greater

specialisation and differentiation of the offer. These same subjects, expressing their opinion on the main problems faced in the presentation of the young project, highlighted the limits linked to the access to credit and the waiting time for the conclusion of the procedure.

► **Future prospects**

In order to detect trust in the RDP as a development tool for the rural territory of Campania, participants 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 70 valid answers, 68 respondents answered "yes" and 2 answered "no", citing as a reason the cost of participating in the RDP in terms of economic resources to be advanced while waiting for reimbursements. All the others, however, would continue to invest in their farm - 66 valid answers - preferring interventions that fall mainly in the sphere of mitigating the environmental impact of agricultural activities (27 preferences, equal to 40%).

► **Business trajectory analysis**

The methodology

The object of the evaluation is to observe the change in behaviour brought about by the RDP, within a fluid social context, characterised by the interaction between farmers, processing enterprises, institutions and all 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 Independent Evaluator (IE) 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.

Groups and their location in the trajectory space

Phase 1 was initiated by providing the experts with the following list of possible groups of companies¹ :

1. Small wine-growers (social wineries) (in the province of Benevento)
2. Viticulture (large groups) (in the province of Avellino)
3. Extensive arable farming (Cereals)
4. Livestock and extensive (extensive in inland areas)
5. Olive growing - permanent crops
6. Bufaline (>100 heads) (Casertano and Salernitano)
7. Fruit and vegetables IV range and protected
8. Field-scale fruit and vegetables
9. Multifunctional
10. Other permanent crops (citrus and nuts)

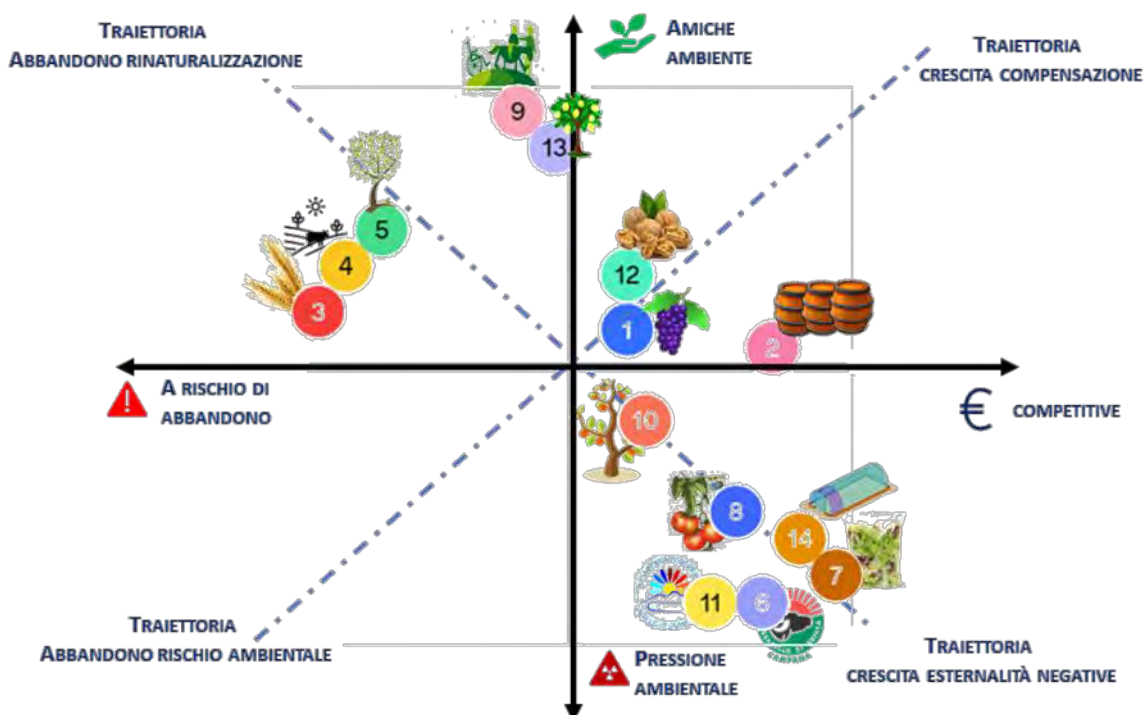
Experts were asked to connote the groups, enriching the identified groups with more detailed descriptions, or to supplement and/or modify the proposed set-up, only if they considered it necessary, thus identifying new groups.

¹ The list was reconstructed by the evaluator with a group of regional officials.

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

1. Small wineries (social wineries)
2. Vineyards (large groups)
3. Extensive arable farming (cereals)
4. Livestock and extensive farming
5. **Olive growing**
6. Buffaloes (with more than 100 animals)
7. **IV range**
8. **Open field horticulture**
9. Multifunctional (including small and very small enterprises 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).



The placement of the surveyed companies in the years 2020-2021-2022 within the different clusters, which will be discussed again with the experts to assess their appropriateness and confirm or conversely refute the reading of the IA, gives the following picture:

N°	Cluster membership	Companies in the sample	Weight in the sample
1	Small wineries	24	7%
2	Large-scale wineries	21	6%
3	Extensive arable farming (cereals)	47	13%
4	Extensive animal husbandry	55	15%

N°	Cluster membership	Companies in the sample	Weight in the sample
5	Olive growing	51	14%
6	Buffaloes with more than 100 head	15	4%
7	Horticulture	43	12%
8	Multifunctional	28	8%
9	Permanent crops	42	12%
10	Floriculture	31	9%
11	Nuts	5	1%
12	Citrus fruits	2	1%
Total		364	100%

To date, having said that, the analysed data already offer some interesting insights at cluster level. For instance, the cluster of small wine-growing enterprises shows a marked tendency to want to develop non-agricultural activities and look for alternative sales channels. They also seem to be predisposed to want to create, or at least participate in, a system of networks and for the coordinated promotion of both products and services. On the contrary, the buffalo cluster is not interested in aspects of connection with the territory considering that it already works within a solid and structured supply chain. The main aspects on which the RDP has acted for these companies are competitiveness and environment, on the one hand there is the need to modernise in order to increase production efficiency and on the other hand there is a growing attention towards dynamics linked to animal welfare and/or ecological footprint. The RDP can therefore play an important role for this cluster if it offers opportunities targeted to the objectives of the farms.

- ▶ **Main outcomes of the thematic study on intervention 6.4.1 "Creation and development of diversification of agricultural enterprises" and 6.2.1 "Start-up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas".**

From the point of view of expenditure, the implementation of interventions for economic diversification on farms financed through intervention 6.4.1 is in line with the planned targets of 66% (total public expenditure as of 31/12/2021) of the 2025 target. The majority (55.6%) of the interviewed entrepreneurs confirmed the improvement of economic results obtained with the introduction/enhancement of economic diversification activities on the farm, despite the restrictive measures introduced due to the COVID-2019 health emergency. Aid put in place in 2020 to mitigate the effects of the latter (M21) was disbursed in a timely manner to 1,340 agro-tourism farms.

As far as intervention 6.2.1 is concerned, which instead constitutes an aid to the start-up of enterprises for non-agricultural activities, the results of the two analysis profiles developed - processing of the overall monitoring data and examination of the final technical reports of the completed operations - together provide an adequate cognitive framework for an initial (albeit not definitive) evaluation of the entrepreneurial processes of non-agricultural diversification initiated thanks to the support of intervention 6.2.1. On the whole, the evaluation is positive in terms of pertinence with respect to the present needs, as well as in terms of effectiveness in relation to the Programme's objectives, and is mainly based on the potentialities expressed by the interventions launched and examined, rather than on a more decisive "ex-post" evaluation of their consolidated effects, necessarily postponed in time.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
FA 1A	<p>The contribution to stimulating the dissemination of knowledge through information actions, inter-company exchanges/visits of training and information actions is relevant and has contents directly related to the capacity to innovate and the development of knowledge. Measure 1 and 16 show a good level of implementation compared to 2020. The percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Reg. (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (T1) is 0.2% of the target value in 2025.</p>	<p>It is recommended to continue with a rapid implementation of M2.</p>
FA 1B	<p>At the moment, it is not yet possible to make substantial evaluations regarding the establishment of long-term partnerships. Only in the future it will be possible to assess in depth the effects of co-operation projects on the capacity to innovate by means of a future evaluation survey and as soon as all projects of Measure 16 are completed, with particular reference to GO Projects of Action 2 of intervention 16.1.1. MS 16.1 involved the participation of some 274 actors, including research facilities and many individual and associated private actors. As far as MS 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.9 are concerned, the total number of partners involved was 635: the Project Leaders represent for the most part agricultural enterprises and Associations representing widespread and collective interests. In general, measure 16 is adequate to support a cooperative strategy and the identification of innovative ideas in the various productive sectors.</p>	<p>In general, a rapid acceleration of the reporting phase (M16) is recommended.</p>
FA 1C	<p>The contribution to stimulating the dissemination of knowledge through training actions progressed significantly from 2018 to 2021, with an increase in the number of courses delivered and the number of training participants. A total of 4,420 people were involved in training activities useful for the purpose of lifelong learning and improving knowledge and entrepreneurial skills.</p> <p>The courses offered mainly concerned aspects related to business management and development, with particular reference to the first establishment and the attainment of the certificate of qualification for the purchase and use of plant protection products (PAN), so in most cases they were compulsory courses for the management of production activities, whose needs can be considered satisfied by the current training offer. On the basis of an analysis of the people trained, a strong imbalance of traditional training hours on compulsory topics and a lower interest in training actions on innovation or transversal topics can be noted. Training, in fact, is still not seen as an opportunity to increase personal skills in order to make the company more competitive and more sustainable.</p>	<p>In order to facilitate a better match between training supply and demand, the RC could envisage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ strengthen awareness of the importance of continuous training as an opportunity for professional growth through information campaigns, also in cooperation with trade associations; ○ give more recognition in terms of scores in the selection criteria in the calls for proposals of the various measures of the Campania RDP for those who have undertaken training

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
		on topics related to those covered by the calls for proposals.
<p>FA 2A</p>	<p>The assessment of the impact of the co-financed farm investments is overall favourable. The implementation of the interventions for the restructuring and modernisation of the beneficiary farms is progressing steadily. The total public expenditure realised by 2021 has reached 45% of the target set for 2025 (4.1.1). The selection criteria focused support on farms run by young people (36.5%), located in mountain areas or subject to natural or other specific constraints (69.2%) and of small to medium economic size. Investments aimed at improving the environmental performance of the farm prevail (73.1%). The majority (67.2%) of the interviewed entrepreneurs confirmed the improvement of the economic performance of the farm and the increase of the economic size of the farms benefiting from intervention 4.1.1. The farm surveys carried out following the implementation of the investments estimated an average increase of 50% in labour productivity, which was higher on farms with a smaller initial economic size.</p> <p>The implementation of interventions for economic diversification on farms is in line with the planned targets. The total public expenditure realised in 2021 reached 66% of the planned target in 2025 (6.4.1). The majority (55.6%) of the interviewed entrepreneurs confirmed the improved economic performance achieved by introducing/enhancing economic diversification activities on the farm, despite the restrictive measures introduced due to the COVID-2019 health emergency.</p> <p>The RDP response was appropriate to the COVID-19 crisis situation that particularly affected the agri-tourism and wine sector. Exceptional support, introduced in 2020, was timely delivered to 1,340 agri-tourism farms and wine SMEs (84% of the target) for a total public expenditure amounting to 67% of the financial envelope (M21).</p>	<p>Proceed with the use of the increased budget following the extension of the RDP, in particular to meet new investment needs for innovation, modernisation and restructuring of farms.</p>
<p>FA 2B</p>	<p>In the sample interviewed by the Assessor, 39% of the companies are of medium-small size (up to 50,000 euros), 31% are in the class between 25 and 50,000 euros, 13% between 50 and 100,000 euros and 10% have an economic size above 100,000 euros².</p> <p>With regard to the macro theme of 'competitiveness and the market', most young farmers state that they have made investments in joining quality systems (37%) and a further 18% are currently doing so. 21% have focused on crop and livestock diversification and 28% are currently making such investments. Finally, 27% of respondents have completed actions to introduce on-farm processing and/or direct sales to consumers.</p> <p>Investments aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change concerned, in particular, the improvement of organic matter in the soil (25%), the improvement of water regulation</p>	

² The remaining 7% did not provide an answer.

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>and storage systems (21%), the purchase of machinery and equipment for the adoption of conservative farming techniques (24%) and the construction of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources (24%). Training, in which 40% of the young people interviewed took part, also contributed to improving the environmental sustainability of production processes.</p> <p>22% of the sample stated that they would like to carry out interventions in the future for the "introduction of crops or varieties resistant to drought and phytopathologies", evidently in order to stem the economic losses resulting from the loss of production by improving (and learning about) the changes in the species cultivated.</p> <p>The link with the territory has been strengthened mainly through the adhesion to local networks of enterprises for the development and coordinated offer of territorial products and services (28%), while current and planned activities in the future will focus mainly on the adhesion to campaigns for the promotion of local agricultural products (29%) and projects for the development of short supply chains for local markets (28%).</p> <p>Completed projects still represent a relatively modest part of the projects started and are negligible compared to the target value set for 2025. However, 2021 was a profitable year for payments related to this FA, and the answers given by the beneficiaries interviewed present a rather positive scenario with respect to the capacity of young people to create sustainable, competitive companies linked to their territory.</p>	
<p>FA 3A</p>	<p>The T6 objective indicator foreseen 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, as well as in producer groups/organisations. I.T. 3.1.1, 9.1.1 and 16.4.1 contribute to this objective and by 31.12.2021 the value reached is 0.17%. Considering that I.T. 9.1.1 and 16.4.1 have liquidated 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 poor implementation speed of I.T. 3.1.1, which has reached only 3.75% of the target value (18 beneficiaries out of the 480 set by 2025). M16 is also lagging behind in terms of expenditure and beneficiaries, in particular T.I. 16.1.1 and 16.2.1. The former has slowed down in all FAs due to the health emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19. The cooperative and aggregative nature of this intervention provides for meetings and events between GO participants to plan activities which, again, often have to be conducted with the participation of several actors. After about two years, however, alternative ways of aggregating that are useful for planning have become commonplace and it is expected that GOs, which bring together a multiplicity of different types of actors, will also be able to adapt to the changes that have taken place in order to be able to carry out their intervention. As for 16.1.2, this was included in the RDP with the approval of the latest version 10.1 and no call for proposals has been published yet.</p>	

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>Regarding T.I. 4.2.1 - Processing, marketing and development of agricultural products in agro-industrial enterprises The Campania Region has instead published two calls, one in 2018 and one in 2018, related to T.I. 4.2.1. The output indicator is set at 254 beneficiaries and at 31.12.2021 these are 92, which means that the % of implementation is 36%. The expenditure capacity related to MS 4.2 stands at 47%, a value that can be considered satisfactory considering that 20 mln of the programmed resources have just been added for 4.2.2 - Processing, marketing and development of agricultural products for agro-industrial micro initiatives. The latter was introduced with the approval of the latest version 10.1 of the RDP and has a budget of €20 million entirely covered by the EURI fund. The new typology, which is intended to target younger companies with lower turnovers, aims to strengthen those companies that have suffered most under COVID-19 due to a less consolidated business activity and a weaker structure. At the moment, it is not possible to verify either the implementation or the effects of this I.T. because no call for proposals has been published yet, but it will be interesting to assess the repercussions on the territory.</p>	
	<p>The AF promotes the adoption of management practices aimed at improving animal welfare in livestock farming through the M14, which provides for the annual payment of a premium for farms that undertake to maintain standards higher than those set by law. The measure shows a financial and procedural trend in line with the timetable and the territory has responded rather satisfactorily to the regional initiative, also considering the important increase in resources during the programming period. There are, however, elements for improvement that were discussed in detail in the single-issue report delivered last February. There is an urgent need to identify commitments that can significantly improve animal welfare conditions without placing an excessive burden on farmers. The importance of developing and using a regional, or even national, system that can measure the actual increase in animal welfare both directly and indirectly also emerged. Classyfarm is a tool that can do this and although it is already in use, its uptake is still limited. A future application of Classyfarm at RDP level would allow to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the measure, as well as to support the identification of the most effective commitments, objectives for which there is an increased awareness both from consumers and farmers.</p>	
FA 3B	<p>As reported in the analysis of M5, the beneficiaries' perception of the contribution that risk management measures bring to the prevention of on-farm disease is positive.</p>	
FA 4A	<p>The agricultural area of the RDP that has a positive effect on biodiversity is 259,200 hectares, representing 39.6 % of the regional UAA. This is mainly due to the area of allowances. 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>	

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>The FBI index in 2020 is 83.59, a decrease of 16.4%, compared to 2000, and a slight recovery from the progressive decline recorded since 2010. 83.6 The regression analysis carried out in the framework of the RAV 2021, in order to highlight correlations between the presence of agro-environmental measures and the presence and number of bird species linked to agricultural environments, although it has not produced results that can accurately measure the impact on biodiversity of the application of agro-environmental measures as a whole, has however confirmed the importance of maintaining agricultural activity in mountain areas through Measure 13.1, and in fact it has highlighted how, for many mountain habitats, agriculture, intended in the cultural form of extensive cultivation and forage cultivation linked to livestock breeding, preventing the evolution of habitats towards woodland, maintaining a mosaic of different landscapes in space and time, reducing the risk of fires, favours the presence of target species of avifauna.</p>	
	<p>On the basis of the analysis carried out, the agricultural areas of the RDP that contribute to the maintenance of areas of high and very high nature value (HNV) are 70,488 hectares, i.e. 37.5% of the UAA.</p>	
	<p>The forest area covered by the RDP Submeasure 15.1 is 48,514 ha: 93.6% of the area is protected and 86.5% Natura2000 areas. The location shows high rates of implementation of commitments 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>	
<p>FA 4B</p>	<p>The quality status of water in the region is sub-optimal, especially for groundwater: 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 RDP area that has a positive effect on water quality is 139,449 hectares and represents 21% of the regional agricultural area, higher than in the previous programming period.</p>	
	<p>The territorial distribution of the intervention area does not appear to be optimal, since it does not lead to the desired 'concentration' in the priority areas, i.e. where the environmental risks are greatest: in the NVZs the SOI/SA ratio is 15.8% of the total agricultural area, while the same index, calculated for the region as a whole, is 21.1%. One of the probable causes is that it is less economically viable for farmers in these areas</p>	

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	(where the most intensive and productive agriculture is located) to participate in agri-environmental actions.	
	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 7% for nitrogen and 4% for phosphorus.	
FA 4C	The RDP area that has a positive effect on soil quality is 157,522 hectares or 24.1% of the regional agricultural area. The distribution of SOI in areas at risk of non-tolerable erosion (>11.2 t/ha per year) shows a concentration of 24.7%.	
	On the basis of the analysis carried out, it emerges that the RDP commitments reduce erosion by 1,148,297Mg/year, corresponding to 47.6% of the total erosion present in the 157,522 hectares involved. It is estimated that the agri-environmental-climatic actions as a whole reduce the average value of erosion in the areas of intervention from 15.3 to 8.1 Mg/ha/year, thus reducing erosion by 7.2 Mg/ha/year (I13).	
	The RDP measures do not seem to have a real impact on the increase of organic carbon in soils, as the increase due to the measures is only 0.062%. However, the analysis shows that the measure dedicated to the increase of organic substance in soils (10.1.2) determines an increase of SOC equal to 0.13%.	
FA 5A	The RDP of Campania 2014/2020 provides 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 within 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 total). In this regard, the importance of reserving, also in the future, a dedicated financial endowment for this type of investments is underlined, otherwise there is the risk that these interventions will assume a marginal weight among the projects financed by the investment measures.	
	The results, in line with those of last year, 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 on farms (drip systems with 90% efficiency) to replace obsolete and inefficient systems has been completed. These are investments with a limited scope of the system, but able to contribute to the saving of resources and to the environmental sustainability of the productions and at the same time to strengthen the farms from an economic point of view thanks to the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the productions. This structural adjustment of the beneficiary farms has led to a significant reduction in water consumption for irrigation purposes, both in absolute terms (-50%) and in relation to the value of production (-60%).	

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>The contribution to water saving of the investments made in the framework of operation 4.1.1 is instead limited: both in the framework of the first call for measures, analysed in 2021, and of the first projects of the second call concluded by 31.12.2021, subject to an evaluation focus during 2022, investments are made with limited effects on business water saving, mainly aimed at the purchase of rainwater storage tanks.</p> <p>From the interviews carried out, a strong awareness on the part of farmers regarding the issue of water saving and the importance of protecting the resource was also noted, as well as a certain propensity to invest further in this direction, also making use of 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 rather limited, reflecting a certain underlying distrust of their actual usefulness.</p> <p>The results of the investigations carried out on the projects carried out under intervention 4.1.4 will however have to be integrated and clarified with the results of the new projects that will be completed over time on the subject of water saving. Reference is made here above all to operation 4.3.2, aimed at the land reclamation consortia, which has yet to complete its first projects, which are, moreover, much larger in scope than the 4.1.4 operations.</p>	<p>Therefore, in line with the aims and objectives of the so-called <i>new green deal</i>, it is to be hoped that in the future the Region will pay even greater attention to the so-called agriculture 4.0 and the tools it makes available to farmers, both at the planning level (e.g. ACA 2 measure in the next programming period) and in terms of training, information, promotion and dissemination.</p>
<p>FA 5C</p>	<p>The Rural Development Plan of Campania intervenes in the direction of energy production from renewable sources through different funding lines and involving different actors, from farms to local authorities. However, the operations that the RDP prioritises for this objective, especially intervention 7.2.2, have implementation delays, partly due to their innovative nature, partly due to the nature of the plants to be built, which are publicly owned and managed and of considerable operational size.</p> <p>The investments completed as at 31.12.2021 involving the construction of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources are almost exclusively those financed within the framework of the operations aimed at agricultural holdings (4.1.1 and 4.1.2) and processing companies (4.2.1) and aimed above all at their economic consolidation. A total investment of almost 9 million euros, for more than 500 projects carried out, however, mostly concerns the simple installation of photovoltaic panels for the production of electricity.</p> <p>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</p>	

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	terms, both in terms of the overall "green energy" produced by the primary sector and in terms of Burden Sharing targets.	
	Looking ahead, the gradual completion of the 27 projects admitted to funding under operation 7.2.2, as mentioned above, of considerable size (over 470,000 euro of average expenditure), may contribute in the next two or three years to further increase these results, which can already be considered, on the whole, satisfactory.	
FA 5D	The area of the RDP that determines a GHG reduction is 157,464 hectares, equal to 24% of the regional agricultural surface. The total reduction of GHG emissions is 222,138 MgCO _{2eq} year; of these, 7,712 MgCO _{2eq} is due to the reduction of mineral fertilizers and 214,426 MgCO _{2eq} is the quantity obtained thanks to the absorption of C-sink in agricultural soils.	
	The RDP measures examined do not seem to have a significant impact on the reduction of GHG from the agricultural sector, representing only 0.47% of total emissions from agriculture and 5.6% from 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.	
	Overall, contributed forest areas contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation represent 1.9% of the total regional forest area.	
FA 5E	Considering the total of the afforested areas (2014-2020 programming period and those carried over from the previous programming period, it is estimated that they could result in a total of approximately 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 in the current programming period.	
	With regard to intervention 6.2.1, which provides for the creation of non-agricultural micro and small enterprises, the figures for physical and financial progress are progressively approaching the target objectives.	
FA 6A	The rate of progress on indicators related to the first criterion is very good. Considering the large number of applications accepted for funding but which have not yet received a payment (especially for M7 and 16), a significant increase in expenditure is expected during 2022. M16 is the one with the most difficulties in advancing spending - spending capacity is stuck at 0.7%.	
	MS 16.7, which has a budget of more than EUR 15 million, has not yet recorded any payments. For this reason we refer to subsequent evaluations for a more extensive response to the relevant judgment criterion.	It is recommended to continue with a rapid implementation of MS16.7.

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
FA 6B	There is positive cooperation with regional stakeholders at both central and provincial level.	Strengthen the dialogue between the LAGs and between the LAGs and the Region, including 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 rather different situations among LAGs in terms of spending capacity. The commitment of resources reaches satisfactory levels for all LAGs.	Supporting LAGs whose implementation is lagging behind, 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 linked to the current 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.	Check the possibility of introducing direct actions into the SSL in the future so that the LAGs' action can be more effective with regard to the specific needs of the territories.
	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.
FA 6C	Under FA 6C, intervention 1.1.1 has not progressed either physically or financially compared to the year 2020. The expenditure progress of MS7.3 reaches 45% of the programmed resources. The population reached currently benefiting from improved services is 52,956, corresponding to 45% of the O15 objective value, and 2.6% 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 Ultra Broadband infrastructure of the territory, it is recommended to 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 Ultra Broadband 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 (Digitalization, Innovation and Competitiveness, Culture and Tourism) and the Italian Strategy for Ultra Broadband ("Towards the Gigabit Society). It is

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
		<p>recommended in this direction to make sure that the provider of the infrastructure in question satisfies as best as possible the attainment of the greatest number of housing/production units, connecting also 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, there has been an increase in the time required for the preliminary investigation, with respect to which, however, there has been a considerable commitment by the regional administration to introduce procedural simplifications aimed at reducing the administrative burden.</p>	<p>Continue along the path initiated, further strengthening the tools and solutions aimed at easing the bureaucratic burden for beneficiaries and for the administration itself.</p>
	<p>The evaluation products produced to date (e.g. the thematic reports on the environment, youth and innovation) are the result of a widespread culture of evaluation that reinforces its usefulness.</p> <p>Results sharing activities and subsequent follow-up were ensured even during the pandemic period without interrupting a fruitful collaboration between Regione Campania and the IE and stakeholders.</p>	<p>It is suggested that, in the future, greater flexibility be allowed in defining the topics to be subjected to vertical evaluations, in order to ensure alignment with the knowledge needs that may develop during the period of implementation of the programme.</p>
	<p>On the subject of communication, the IE is more than positive about the interpretation of the communication function as closely synergistic with the needs of programming and implementation.</p>	<p>It is suggested to consider carrying out a customer satisfaction survey focused only on communication activities in the strict sense, in order to verify the effectiveness of the implemented activities.</p>
<p>Procedural and management BPs</p>	<p>Faced with the criticalities that emerged for the 2017 calls for proposals of intervention 4.1.1 and the Youth integrated project, the Campania Region introduced tools and solutions aimed at simplifying the procedural process and in general the burdens on beneficiaries and the administration itself. Among the various initiatives, we highlight the introduction of Simplified Costs (SC) for intervention 4.1.1 for the streamlining and simplification of procedures, the containment of the error rate, the targeting of interventions and the achievement of results.</p> <p>In the context of young farmers setting up as farm leaders for the first time, the Region, when amending the RDP in 2021, has oriented its action by returning to the implementation</p>	<p>For the future, it seems necessary to continue along the path already started by the Campania Region in 2021, applying the simplification strategies provided for by the regulations in force and at EU level, creating an integrated system that strengthens the relations between the various subjects involved and between the regional information systems, rationalising, where possible, the bureaucratic impact for the</p>

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>of ordinary intervention 6.1.1, instead of the youth integrated project, giving centrality to the farm development plan.</p>	<p>beneficiary, simplifying relations with the public administration and increasing its efficiency. It is recommended to continue working on the simplification of procedures through concrete actions, to be implemented above all for those RDP measures that are characterised by a relevant attractiveness for farms and by a particular complexity of procedures, such as investment measures and integrated projects.</p>
<p>In-depth study 6.4.1 Initiation and development of economic and employment diversification activities in agricultural enterprises (intervention 6.4.1)</p>	<p>intervention 6.2.1 has favoured the creation or strengthening, in rural areas, of numerous processes of economic and occupational diversification of agricultural enterprises, almost exclusively in the agri-tourism sector, with good potential for success due to the subjective characteristics of the promoters (prevalence of young people and high female participation), the innovativeness of the products and services offered (with respect to existing potential demand) and location (concentration in areas with greater demographic decline and need/request for new entrepreneurship). Within this overall positive framework, however, it should be noted that intervention 6.4.1 makes little contribution to the launch of diversification paths based on the development of educational or social activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure continuity and further strengthen, in terms of financial allocation and technical support (information, animation), the support through intervention 6.4.1 to agricultural business initiatives of economic and employment diversification. • To encourage (by means of more effective selection criteria) and promote (by means of specific information and animation and accompanying actions) the creation/strengthening within the farm enterprise of educational and/or social activities capable of contributing to the creation of new employment and to the improvement of living conditions and therefore of the permanence of the population in rural areas.
<p>In-depth study 6.4.1 Evaluation of results achieved in intervention 6.2.1</p>	<p>The technical-economic documentation foreseen by the implementation procedure and the monitoring system of intervention 6.2.1 allow an "ex-ante" evaluation of the individual business initiatives proposed but not a sufficient "ex-post" verification of the direct effects (results) deriving from their implementation. The potential impact of the operations in the regional agri-tourism sector is significant in terms of companies involved and additional accommodation capacity to that already present in the region, in agri-tourism hospitality and catering. In-depth analyses at the level of individual operations ("case studies") have made it possible to analyse the effectiveness and efficiency in creating new jobs, of the (different)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the level of each completed operation, provide for an "ex-post" evaluation phase upon completion of the investments, focusing on the initial economic and employment results achieved by the enterprise and the conditions for maintaining or increasing them.

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>entrepreneurial diversification strategies. Better results are achieved in the improvement processes of already existing agritourism activities characterised by: not high investment costs; prevalent enhancement of the catering and tasting capacity and of the other services offered including outdoor areas for sport and recreation; increase and diversification of the farm's agricultural production to satisfy the increased "internal" demand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Especially in areas where the supply of tourist accommodation is already sufficient and in existing agri-tourism enterprises, investments should be directed towards improving/expanding tangible and intangible services for tourists and visitors. • Promote and encourage, in parallel with the introduction/improvement of diversification services, the enhancement and differentiation of farm production.
<p>In-depth study 6.4.1 Leader "added value" in intervention 6.4.1</p>	<p>The results of the analysis of some operations 6.4.2 financed and implemented in the framework of some SSL (Leader approach), beyond the differences found among them, especially in terms of % increase of labour needs, therefore of "efficiency", are characterised by the common requirements of innovation in the quality and differentiation of the offer and of high efficiency in the use of financial resources in relation to the employment objective (euro invested/increase of working hours). This appears to be the result not only of differences in the implementation rules, but also of the animation and information action carried out by the LAG during the phases of construction of the project proposals, which is a substantial specificity of the Leader approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accompanying the actions of financial support directed to the introduction/improvement of diversification activities of agricultural enterprises, with actions of information support guidance and animation in order to maximise the requirements of intersectoral integration, functional connection between operators, innovation. • Consider overcoming, at least in "Leader" intervention areas, the overlap in implementation with intervention 6.4.1 between the LAG's call for proposals and the regional call for proposals.
<p>In-depth study 6.2.1 Start-up and development of entrepreneurial activities for non-agricultural diversification</p>	<p>intervention 6.2.1 has favoured the creation or strengthening, in rural areas, of a significant number of entrepreneurial realities in non-agricultural sectors (tourism and commerce mainly) with a good potential for success due to the subjective characteristics of the promoters (prevalence of young people and high female participation), the innovativeness of the products and services offered (with respect to the existing potential demand) and the location (concentration in areas with a greater need/request for new entrepreneurship). It is worth highlighting the use by the new enterprises of a cross-sectoral approach: they tend to integrate on the prevailing activity (e.g. tourist offer) the offer of goods and services deriving from other economic sectors (e.g. agricultural products and handicrafts) This in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure continuity and further strengthen, in terms of financial allocation and technical support (information, animation), the support through intervention 6.2.1 to business initiatives of non-agricultural diversification. • Encourage (with more effective selection criteria) and promote (with specific information and animation actions, accompaniment) the creation/strengthening of enterprises whose main economic activity

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	<p>application of a business development strategy based on the enhancement of territorial resources as a competitiveness factor.</p> <p>In this framework, however, the scarce development of entrepreneurial experiences in the sector of social and personal services should be noted, despite the priority given to them in the Programme, through the selection criteria.</p>	<p>is the provision of social and personal services, able to contribute also to the improvement of living conditions and therefore to the permanence of the population in rural areas.</p>
<p>In-depth study 6.2.1 Evaluation of the results achieved</p>	<p>The technical-economic documentation foreseen by the implementation procedure and the monitoring system of intervention 6.2.1 allow a good "ex-ante" evaluation of the single business initiatives proposed but not yet a sufficient "ex-post" verification of the direct and immediate effects (results) deriving from their implementation and against the above-mentioned (high) potential.</p> <p>This is with reference to the employment impact of the operations launched - which is considered significant but underestimated - and the first commercial or economic results achieved.</p> <p>It is important to verify the ability of new enterprises to network with each other and with other economic and social players in the area. This is an essential condition for ensuring minimum levels of competitiveness for entrepreneurial realities that are limited in size, with reduced margins of specialisation and above all operating in an increasingly limiting and uncertain macroeconomic framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve and extend, in its content and structure (which should be pre-defined in the Call for Proposals), the Report certifying the conclusion of the SAP and accompanying the request for payment of the balance. • Strengthen monitoring and evaluation activities of operations 6.2.1 in particular in the "ex-post" phase the conclusion of the start-up activities foreseen in the SAP.
<p>In-depth study 6.2.1 The "added value" Leader</p>	<p>The results of the analysis of some operations 6.1.2 financed and implemented within two SSL (leader approach) have highlighted, in a more evident way than in similar "ordinary" operations, the requirements of integration among economic activities, of functional connection among operators, of innovation,</p> <p>That is, the conditions that can give greater competitiveness and opportunities for success to the entrepreneurial experiments launched also in the subsequent stages of development.</p> <p>This potential "added value" of Leader operations seems to be mainly the effect of the information, guidance and animation functions/activities carried out by LAGs, rather than implementation procedures or differentiated selection criteria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accompanying the actions of direct financial support to the creation/strengthening of non-agricultural enterprises, with actions of information support, guidance and animation to maximise the requirements of intersectoral integration, functional connection between operators, innovation. • Consider overcoming, at least in the "Leader" intervention areas, the overlap in implementation with intervention 6.2.1 between the LAG's call and the regional call.