



InfoNitrates - Information and communications campaign for the proper use and management of nitrates in agriculture and livestock breeding

LIFE10 INF/MT/000092



[Project description](#) [Environmental issues](#) [Beneficiaries](#) [Administrative data](#)  
[Read more](#)

#### Contact details:

Contact person : Mario SPITERI

Tel: +356 2590 4275

Fax: +356 2590 4202

Email: [mario.j.spiteri@gov.mt](mailto:mario.j.spiteri@gov.mt)

---

#### Project description:

##### Background

The EU Nitrates Directive (1991) aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices. The directive forms an integral part of the Water Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural pressures. Compliance with the Nitrates Directive has proved quite demanding for various reasons, especially for countries that only recently entered the EU, such as Malta. While the goals and guiding principles of the directive are clear and the associated Action Plan has been adopted nationally, many stakeholders (farmers) in Malta report significant difficulties in handling its correct implementation. Awareness-raising initiatives should help to remedy this

situation.

## Objectives

The project aims to communicate to Malta's farmers and livestock breeders their key obligations under the Nitrates Action Plan – including the potentially harmful health problems resulting from improper management of manure, and of ways to reduce groundwater contamination. As an overall result of these initiatives, a reduction in the level of nitrates found in groundwater is expected. An extensive information and communications campaign will be carried out by the beneficiary, the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs, in order to convey the key project messages. Furthermore, training sessions will be held for the country's 850-plus full-time farmers, as well as more than 1 700 part-time farmers (those with more than 1.5 ha of land) and 900-plus livestock breeders. Other members of farming households will also be invited to the training sessions.

Specific project objectives are:

- To assist farmers and livestock breeders with compliance with the obligations of the Nitrates Directive;
- To make the farmers and their households aware of the harmful effects on health of excessive application of nitrogen that contaminates groundwater resources;
- To make livestock breeders and their households aware of the harmful effects on health of improper management of animal manure that contributes to contamination of groundwater resources;
- To train farmers in changing their farming practices so that nitrogen levels in soil are reduced through the correct application of nitrogen fertilisers; and
- To train livestock breeders in the proper management of animal manure so that nitrogen levels in soil are reduced.

Expected results:

- At least 60% of Malta's full-time farmers, 50% of part-timers and 75% of livestock breeders to be aware of their main obligations under the Nitrates Directive, and of the harmful effects on health of groundwater contamination;
- At least 75% of full-time and part-time farmers to be trained and provided with soil analysis kits to use nitrogen fertilisers more conscientiously;

- Levels of gross nitrogen balance for Malta's land parcel will diminish by at least 30%;
- At least 75% of livestock breeders will be informed about the proper management of animal manure; and
- At least 50% of livestock breeders will comply with the requirements of the National Nitrates Action Plan.

## Results

[Top](#)

---

Environmental issues addressed:

Keywords

diffuse pollution, agricultural method, environmental training, pollution prevention, groundwater,

[Top](#)

---

Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs
Type of organisation	National authority
Description	The Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs (MRRA) is the main government authority responsible for the climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy in Malta, in addition to other tasks related to the promotion of the environment, agriculture, natural resources and energy matters.
Partners	None

[Top](#)

---

Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE10 INF/MT/000092
Duration	01-SEP-2011 to 31-DEC -2013
Total budget	1,388,584.00 €
EU contribution	689,339.00 €
Project location	Malta

[Top](#)

---

Read more:

[Top](#)

---

[Project description](#) [Environmental issues](#) [Beneficiaries](#) [Administrative data](#)  
[Read more](#)