ESF+ Programme
ESIF 2021-2027

Fostering the socioeconomic wellbeing of society through the creation of opportunities for all and investment in human resources and skills

Call for Project Proposals

Information Session: General Overview

3rd October 2024

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

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Co-funded by the European Union

Legal Basis

- (EU) 2021/1060: Common Provisions Regulation

- https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060

- (EU) 2021/1057: Fund Specific Regulation (ESF+)

- https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1057

- National Eligibility Rules

- https://fondi.eu/important-documentation/reference-documents/eligibility-selection-rules-criteria/2021-2027-programming-period/

Introduction

- **Partnership Agreement** - overarching strategy delineates the main areas of intervention under the **European Structural and Investment Funds**

- **European Structural and Investment Funds**
  - ▸ European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
  - ▸ Cohesion Fund (CF)
  - ▸ Just Transition Fund (JTF)
  - ▸ **European Social Plus Fund (ESF+)**
  - ▸ European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

Intervention Logic

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Priority	Specific Objective	Interventions	Expected Results	Output Indicators	Result Indicators
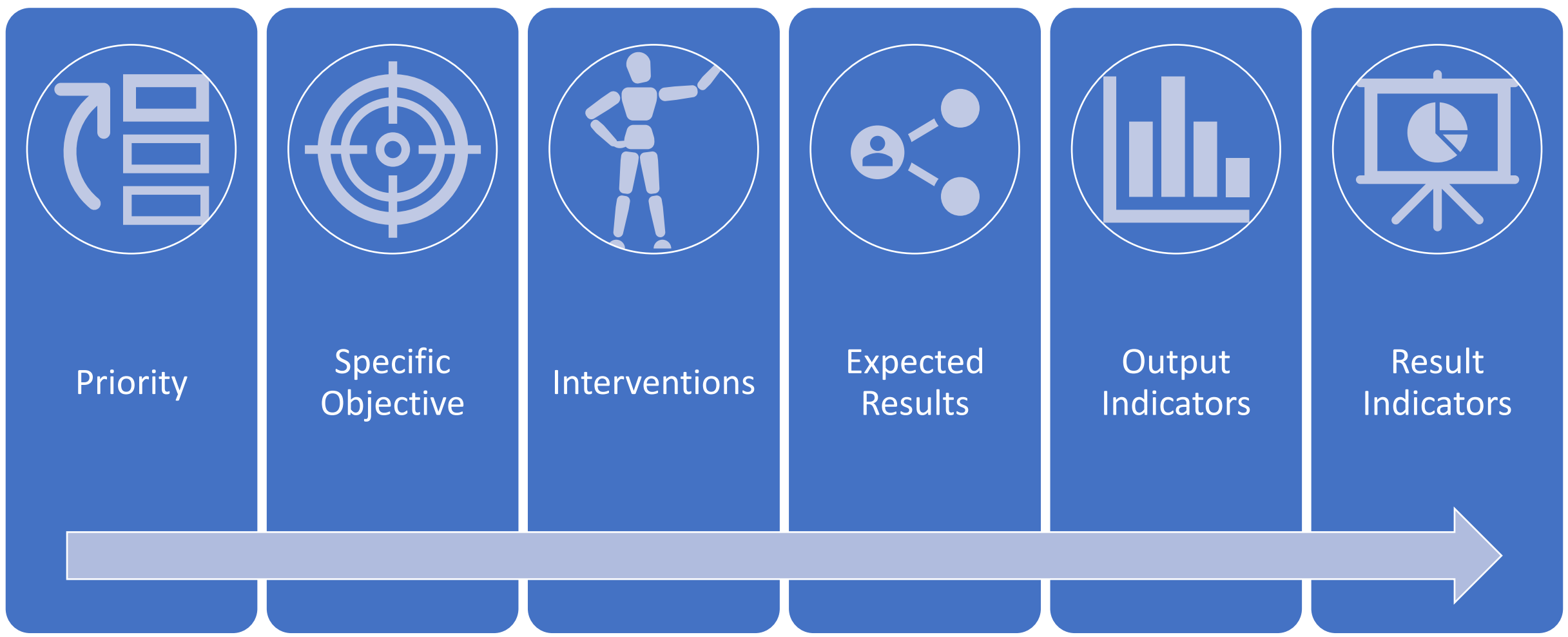
ESF+ Programme

▪ **A total of Five Priorities are financed through ESF+ funds**

▪ Priorities 1 to 5 funded under **ESF+** with key priority areas including:

❑ Priority 1: Enhancing employability and labour market resilience;

❑ Priority 2: Fostering active inclusion for all;

❑ Priority 3: Quality and inclusive education and enhanced lifelong learning for growth;

❑ Priority 4: Addressing material deprivation; and

❑ Priority 5: Enhancing social innovation.

The applicable **co-financing rate** for the 2021-2027 Programme is:

▪ 60% EU share and 40% MT share

Key Questions to be asked

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- Are you an **Eligible Applicant**?

- Is the project in line with the **scope** of the relevant source of funds?

- Do the project activities **fit** within the **Priority and Specific Objectives** currently open under these calls?

Call for Project Proposals

Priority: 2. Fostering Active Inclusion for All.

- Specific objective: **ESO4.11**. Enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services

- Budget Allocation for Call 9 is **€18,600,000.**

Call for Project Proposals

Priority: 2. Fostering Active Inclusion for All.

- Specific objective: **ESO4.9**. Promoting socio-economic integration of third country nationals, including migrants.

- Budget Allocation for Call 10 is **€979,000.**

Call for Project Proposals

Priority: 1. Enhancing Employability and Labour Market Resilience

▪ Specific objective: **ESO4.3**. Promoting a gender-balanced labour market participation, equal working conditions, and a better work-life balance including through access to affordable childcare, and care for dependent persons.

▪ Budget Allocation for Call 11 is **€5,000,000.**

General Principles

- Eligible Applicants: **Government departments, public entities**, **social partners, Non-Governmental Organisations, and voluntary organisations.**

- Project proposals that involve State Aid **will be** considered, provided that the Applicant agrees to implement the project in line with the applicable State Aid Rules. The involvement of State Aid is not necessarily tied to the legal status of the Applicant but to the nature of the activity.

General Principles

- The selection process is carried out by the **Project Selection Committee (PSC).**

- Members of the PSC may include public service officers and/or non-public service officers.

- Ad hoc experts may be invited to support the Committee in its deliberations.

- Secretariat services to the PSC are provided by the MA;

- If an applicant wishes to proceed with a grievance on the outcome of the PSC, then the applicant may send a request of appeal to the **Project Selection Appeals Board.**

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- Approved by the **Monitoring Committee in November 2022**

- **Eligibility Criteria**:
  - If **one** of these criteria is not met, the project will not proceed to the second round, i.e. the selection process

- **Selection Criteria**:
  - Marks will be allocated in line with the established qualitative and quantitative criteria
  - Projects will be rated and ranked accordingly

Part I: Eligibility Criteria (1)

1) Is the Application Form **complete?**

   - The Applicant must present a complete application form, filled in with all relevant details and documentation using the system made available by the MA.

   - Submission of project proposals must be made within the time-limit set for receipt of applications.

2) Is the Applicant Organisation an **eligible applicant**?

   - Supporting documentation related to the legal status of the Applicant, as required in the call would need to be provided by the Applicant.

Part I: Eligibility Criteria (2)

3) Can the Applicant confirm that it is not in an **exclusion situation** in accordance with Art 136 (1) and Art 141 (1) of 2018/1046 Financial Regulation and CPR Art 73(2)(i)?

  - The Applicant should declare that they or any person involved in the project are not in an exclusion situation in accordance with the Financial Regulation and Common Provisions Regulation.

4) Is the project being proposed within your **remit** as the Applicant Organisation?

  - Applicants must be publicly mandated or authorised to implement the project by virtue of the applicable law establishing the organisation or by the respective Statute, in the case of NGOs.

Part I: Eligibility Criteria (3)

5) Is the Project being implemented within the **eligible territory**?

   ▪ Project must either be implemented in Malta and/or Gozo or for the direct benefit of the eligible territory.

6) Is there proof of **co-financing**? (where applicable)

   ▪ This could be in the form of a Statement from the bank or the person responsible for finances within the organisation.

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7) Does the project contribute to the **Specific Objective** as published in the call?

   ▪ Only proposals that selected the relevant Specific Objective/s as published in the call will be considered.

8) Does the project contribute towards at least **one** output indicator and **one** result indicator?

9) Is the status of operation **ongoing** or **not yet started**?

Interventions and Expected Results

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Priority	Specific Objective (ESO)	Interventions		Expected Result (ER)
2	ESO4.11: Equal access to quality, social and healthcare services	1. Training for Health Professionals, including in long-term care and disability		1. Improved health and care services, including long-term care, social protection services and reduced health inequalities
		2. Specialised training in Child Protection Services		
		3. Child Guarantee Initiatives		
		4. Addressing children's developmental/ medical needs holistically		
		5. Support for Social Partners and other NGOs		
		6. Complementarities/synergies with other priorities under this programme and other initiatives		

Interventions and Expected Results

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Priority	Specific Objective (ESO)	Interventions		Expected Result (ER)
2	ESO4.9: Promoting socio-economic integration of third country nationals, including migrants.		1. Facilitating the socioeconomic integration of TCNs	1. Increase the socioeconomic integration of TCNs
			2. Complementarities/synergies with other priorities under this Programme and other programmes/initiatives	

Interventions and Expected Results

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Priority	Specific Objective (ESO)	Interventions		Expected Result (ER)
1	ESO4.3: Gender balanced labour market participation		1. Facilitating female participation in the labour market and promoting gender balance	1. Increasing female participation in the labour market
			2. Complementarities/synergies with other priorities	

Indicators - Specific Objective ESO.4.11

Output Indicator	Target			Result Indicator	Target		
	Malta	**Gozo**	**Total**		**Malta**	**Gozo**	**Total**
EECO01: Total number of participants (measurement unit: persons)	☐	☐	☐	EECR03: Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving (measurement unit: persons)	☐	☐	☐
PSO03: Number of non-governmental organisations supported (measurement unit: number)	☐	☐	☐	PSR01: Participants gaining a certification upon leaving (measurement unit: percentage)	☐	☐	☐
				PSR03: Improved/Introduced new systems/services (measurement unit: number)	☐	☐	☐

Indicators - Specific Objective ESO.4.9

Output Indicator	Target			Result Indicator	Target		
	Malta	**Gozo**	**Total**		**Malta**	**Gozo**	**Total**
EECO13: Third country nationals (measurement unit: persons)	☐	☐	☐	EECR01: Participants engaged in job searching upon leaving (measurement unit: persons)	☐	☐	☐
				PSR02: Vulnerable persons with improved well-being upon leaving (measurement unit: percentage)	☐	☐	☐

Indicators - Specific Objective ESO.4.3

Output Indicator	Target			Result Indicator	Target		
	Malta	**Gozo**	**Total**		**Malta**	**Gozo**	**Total**
EECO01: Total number of participants (measurement unit: persons)	☐	☐	☐	EECR05: Participants in employment six months after leaving (measurement unit: persons)	☐	☐	☐
PSO02: Number of actions supported (measurement unit: number)	☐	☐	☐	PSR01: Participants gaining a certification upon leaving (measurement unit: percentage)	☐	☐	☐
				PSR03: Improved/Introduced new systems/services (measurement unit: number)	☐	☐	☐

Eligibility Criteria in detail (3):
Contribution towards indicators

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What are indicators?

- Indicators are numerical **targets** to be achieved as a result of EU support
- ESF+ Programme – contains output and result indicators
- **Divided per** Priority, and per Specific Objective
- ESF+ Regulation (Annex I) – common indicators
- **Each project needs to contribute to at least one output and one result indicator from Malta's ESF+ Programme**

Difference between output and result indicators:

- Output indicators:
  - **Measure** the direct **deliverables** of a project
  - **For** project participants, they record the situation at the **start** of EU support

- Result indicators:
  - Measure the **effects** of a project **(the change)**
  - For project participants, they record the situation at the **end** of EU support (ex: 4 weeks / 6 months after)

Understanding the Indicator tables found in Malta's ESF+ Programme:

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2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 8 ERDF and CF Regulation

Table 2: Output indicators

EN   35   EN

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
1	ESO4.3	ESF+	Transition	EECO01	Total number of participants	persons	180.00	1,269.00
1	ESO4.3	ESF+	Transition	PSO02	Number of actions supported	Number	0.00	2.00

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference Year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
1	ESO4.3	ESF+	Transition	EECR05	Participants in employment six months after leaving	persons	44.10	2021	45.00	MA monitoring tool	
1	ESO4.3	ESF+	Transition	PSR01	Participants gaining a certification upon leaving	Percentage	72.90	2019	75.00	MA monitoring tool	
1	ESO4.3	ESF+	Transition	PSR03	Improved/Introduced new systems/services	Number	2.00	2013	2.00	MA monitoring tool	

Common ESF+ Indicators (Annex I of ESF+ Regulation)

Apart from the indicator tables in the ESF+ Programme, projects need to contribute also to the **common indicators** which are listed in the ESF+ Regulation – **Annex I, II, III** (Annex I applies to the majority of projects).

- Applicants do **NOT** need to include the common indicators from the Annexes in their Application Form (choose only from the tables in the Malta ESF Programme).

- However, indicator reporting **WILL** include these common indicators during the course of project implementation.

- The MA will provide a '**Data on Participants Form**' and a **reporting template** to assist Beneficiaries in collecting and reporting this data related to the common indicators.

Selection Criteria (Scoring) – (1)

Selection Criteria	Marks
Capacity of the organisation	10
Contribution of the project to the Relevant Development Needs	10
Potential of the project to contribute to the achievement of the Expected Results	10
Contribution towards indicators	10
Readiness	15
Project Sustainability	10
Partnership	5
Horizontal principles – Equal opportunities and non-discrimination	10
Horizontal principles – Sustainable Development	10
Quality of application form	10

Selection Criteria in detail (1)

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Capacity of Organisation (10 marks):

- Capacity is assessed both in terms of adequate human resources, as well as previous experience in the implementation of EU projects. Marks may also be awarded for similar nationally funded initiatives.

Contribution of the project to the Relevant Development Needs (10 marks):

- Is the project adequately addressing the relevant interventions in the OP?
- Evidence of real demand for the project (qualitative and quantitative evidence)

Potential of the project to contribute to the achievement of the Expected Results (10 marks):

- How will the project achieve the desired results and specific objectives?
- How will the partners contribute to the achievement of the Expected Results?

Selection Criteria in detail (2)

Contribution towards indicators (10 marks):

- Marks will be awarded if the project contributes towards the indicators beyond the minimum required (i.e. for eligibility purposes).

- Additional marks will be awarded if the project contributes to the milestone (Refer to online Guidance notes on Indicators).

- Marks will be allocated to the clarity and quality in the methodology and verification.

- An assessment of any unrealistic indicator targets which are not achievable will also be carried out.

Readiness (15 marks):

- Have the related procurement/recruitment procedures been prepared/launched/awarded?

- Has the CBA/FFS/FS (if required) been finalised?

- Has the Applicant identified any mitigation measures for the identified risks?

- Marks will be awarded for projects that are in an **advanced state of readiness.**

Selection Criteria in detail (3)

Project Sustainability (10 marks):

- How will the benefits of the project continue to be delivered after the grant has ended?

- How will long-term economic sustainability of the project be ensured? Do you require a Financial Feasibility Study; Cost Benefit Analysis?

Partnership (5 marks):

- Is the project involving any partners?

- Is there clear evidence of the mutual benefit of the proposed partnership?

- What is the added value in the involvement of such partners in achieving the expected results?

Selection Criteria in detail (4)

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Horizontal Priorities (20 marks):

- Equal opportunities (Equality; Non-discrimination; Accessibility)
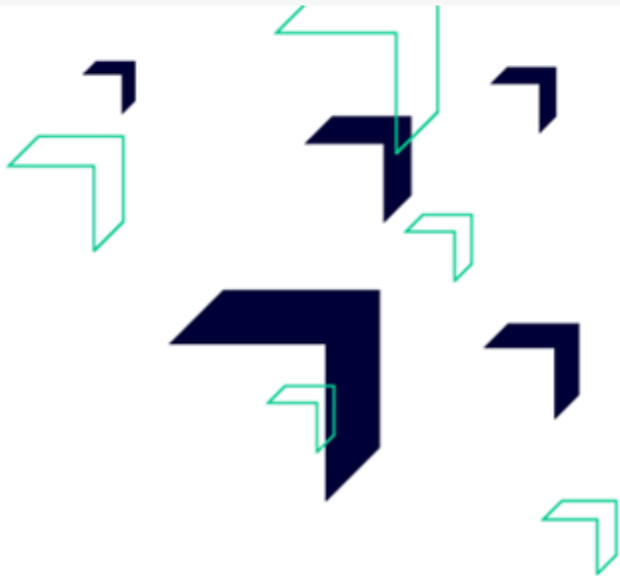- Sustainable Development with special reference to Environmental Sustainability

Quality of the Application Form (10 marks):

- Marks will be awarded for exceptional quality
- Coherence between different sections of the proposals
- General presentation of the proposals
- Budget in line with the activities
- Adequate results

Contact Details

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Thank you !