



## Screening & Scoping Report Addendum No.2


For the Provision of the SEA of the ESF+, ERDF, CF  
Programmes and the JTF Plan 2021-2027

# Report



SCREENING & SCOPING REPORT ADDENDUM No.2  
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PART OF 



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11/12/2025	2.0	Second Version – addressing SID comments	
12/12/2025	3.0	Third Version – addressing SID comments	
18/12/2025	4.0	Fourth Version – addressing SID comments	

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

In 2025, the Strategy and Implementation Division (SID) carried out the Mid-Term Review (MTR) process in accordance with Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, as well as taking into account the broader scope of the same process enabled through Regulation (EU) 2025/1914. As a result of the MTR process, a series of programme modifications were proposed across the ERDF, CF & JTF Programme, which included transfers from existing priorities with the resultant effect of the creation of two new priorities. This Screening & Scoping Report serves as an addendum to the SEA Screening and Scoping Report already carried out at programming stage. The objective of this assignment included the analysis of the new priorities, and the linked amendments with a view to re-evaluate how the proposed changes to the ERDF, CF & JTF Programme influence the outcome of the SEA process.

## 2 ADDENDUM

Taking into consideration the modifications introduced through Regulation EU) 2025/1914 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1058 and (EU) 2021/1056 as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges in the context of the mid-term review<sup>1</sup>, changes to the ERDF, CF & JTF Programme propose the restructuring of measures and the redistribution of underutilized funds towards the creation of two new priorities under Policy Objective (PO) 2 of strategic relevance for Malta and the Union: (i) Energy; and (ii) Affordable and Sustainable housing. Below is an outline of the amendments to the programme which are included as part of the modification:

- PO 1, Priority 1 – Competitiveness and Digitalisation:  
Targets and scope for private-sector research and innovation (R&I) have been revised down due to limited uptake. Plans for a new loan guarantee instrument for SMEs have been dropped to avoid duplication with existing InvestEU facilities, with a linked top up of MT window planned through RRP instead.
- PO 2, Priority 2 – Green Transition:  
The energy efficiency objective will be refocused to avoid overlap with InvestEU instruments for industry, while a new financial instrument for the domestic sector is proposed, with a plan to covering both energy efficiency and renewables. Support for offshore wind requires further technical studies, which are not able to be financed through the programme. Thus, the allocated resources are planned to be transferred.
- PO 4, Priority 3 – Social Inclusion:  
Planned mental health infrastructure investments will not be implemented within the current programme period, and related funds are recommended for reallocation to new priorities.
- PO 5, Priority 4 – Urban Development (Gozo):  
Part of the funds allocated under this priority are reallocated to fund phase 1 of a new intervention targeting Gozo's energy interconnectivity under the new Energy priority.
- PO 2, Priority 6 – Sustainable Urban Mobility:  
Electric vehicle charging infrastructure will be financed through alternative models. Targets for clean transport infrastructure are revised to reflect budgetary allocations requested as part of Connection for Safer Active Mobility (C-SAM).
- PO 3, Priority 7 – A More Connected Europe:  
The focus shifts from road to maritime infrastructure, prioritising investments in TEN-T seaports and new cargo facilities at the Grand Harbour to address bottlenecks and improve logistics.


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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1914/oj/eng>

**New Priorities Introduced:**

- **PO 2, Priority 10 - Strategic Energy Infrastructure:** A new priority aims to strengthen Malta's energy resilience, accelerate the green transition, extending funding to the second Italy-Malta Interconnector and initiating phase 1 of a new intervention planned at extending interconnectivity benefits to Gozo through dedicated infrastructure upgrades.
- **PO 2, Priority 11 - Affordable Housing:** A new priority aims to address housing affordability for middle-income households, supporting the development of energy-efficient, sustainable dwellings through a revolving grant model.

## Updated ERDF, CF and JTF Screening Template

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SEA Screening Template</b></p> <p>Based on S.L. 549.61 (L.N. 497 of 2010, as amended by Act XXV of 2015 and LN82 of 2019)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">December 2025</p>
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This screening template has been drafted by the SEA Focal Point based on the SEA Regulations and is being distributed in document format for ease of use. Submitted versions shall only be considered if they align with this original version also available on the SEA website.

Part A – Plan/Programme (PP) & Responsible Authority (RA)	
Title of PP: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Cohesion Fund (CF) and Just Transition Plan (JTF) Programme	
Responsible Authority: Strategy and Implementation Division, Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral programme	
Contact Person: Maria Pia Pace	Position: Director General (Strategy and Implementation Division)
Contact Address: 280, level 3, Republic Street, Valletta, Malta	
Email: <a href="mailto:maria-pia.a.pace@gov.mt">maria-pia.a.pace@gov.mt</a>	Telephone: +356 25552131
Date: 17/12/2025	
As per S.L., when more than one entity is responsible for the PP (or parts thereof), a single responsible authority should be nominated by agreement between the authorities responsible for the PP.	

Part B – General Information about the Plan/Programme (PP)
<p>Purpose of PP:</p> <p><u>European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):</u></p> <p>The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) fund aims to reduce economic, environmental and social disparities and foster a green and sustainable socio-economic growth.</p> <p><u>Cohesion Fund (CF):</u></p> <p>The Cohesion Fund (CF) provides financial support for investments in the field of environment and trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure (TEN-T).</p>



Just Transition Plan (JTF) Programme & Plan:

The JTF provides a programme for investments which aim to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy in Europe transpires in a fair manner.

Period Covered by PP: 2021-2027

Envisaged updates/modifications: N/A

Area covered by PP (also attach map): Malta (Figure 1)

Summary of PP content: Areas of support under ERDF, CF and the JTF are outlined in one programme, which aims to foster socio-economic development across various sectors. The proposed changed measures with respect to their associated Policy Objective and respective priorities are outlined below:

Policy Objective 2, Priority 2 outlines proposed measures aimed to mitigate the impacts of the energy sector on the environment, and address climate and environmental challenges. Additional investments are also needed for better energy storage in relation to Malta's dependence on non-renewables, whilst also investing in sustainable water management vis-à-vis wastewater. Further planned interventions are also foreseen in the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. Under Priority 5, the Programme aims to address potable water, the extension of the Waste Separation and Collection Services, as well as clean mobility. As part of the PP updates, Priority 10 will now be introduced extending the investments in the energy sector. Through this new priority an additional two measures are planned to be introduced, i.e. extending finance to the second Italy-Malta Interconnector and to initiate Phase 1 of the Gozo Energy regional link by extending the benefits of the second Italy-Malta Interconnector to Gozo.

Under PO2 A Greener, Low-Carbon and Resilient Europe, Priority 2, the intervention tied to Financial instruments is planned to be adjusted, in such way that the PP focuses on the domestic sector covering both FI for EE and RES. The originally planned FI for industry is being removed in view that such efforts are identified to be available through other financing routes i.e. InvestEU instrument. With regards to offshore wind plans under Priority 2, further technical and environmental studies are required. Therefore, the infrastructural investments will need to take place as part of a longer-term plan falling outside of the programming period. The timelines are also aligned with the NECP, with such investments expected to be realised post 2030. Under Priority 6, sustainable urban mobility targets were also revised, reflecting the budgetary allocations requested for the planned

interventions and also the removal from the PP of the EV infrastructure in view of an alternate financing route being utilised instead. Finally, as part of the proposed budget transfers from existing priorities, the revised programme is proposing the introduction of two new priorities under PO2:

- Priority 10 Strategic Energy Infrastructure which aims to strengthen Malta's energy resilience and accelerates its green transition by supporting through further EU financing of the second Sicily–Malta electricity interconnector and by financing the first phase of extending interconnectivity benefits to Gozo through investments in support infrastructure and distribution networks in Gozo. dedicated grid upgrades.
- Priority 11 Affordable and Sustainable Housing which aims to address housing affordability for middle-income households by supporting the development of energy-efficient, sustainable dwellings through a revolving grant model.

Under Policy objective 3, Priority 7 includes actions relating to TEN-T infrastructure, particularly the Core and Comprehensive Network, thus contributing towards enhanced connectivity, interoperability and competitiveness at the local level. As part of the most recent PP update, the proposed investments in TEN-T will shift from roads to cover port network TEN-T infrastructure given the strategic prioritisation needs.

Under PO4 A More Social and Inclusive Europe, planned investments under Priority 3, in mental health infrastructure will not materialise within the current programming period. Consequently, related resources are recommended for reallocation to emerging priorities, ensuring funds are directed toward interventions that can be delivered within the timeframe.

#### Part C – Applicability of the SEA Regulations

Criterion	Yes/No	Explanation
<b>Exemptions – Regulation 4(9)</b>		
Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency? <b>OR</b>	No	The PP's sole purpose is not to serve national defence or civil emergency.

Is this a financial or budget PP?	Yes	<p>The PP presents a programme for the reduction of economic, environmental and social problems in urban areas.</p> <p>The updates to the PP are being subjected to a screening exercise in order to determine whether the proposed new measures could have a significant effect on the environment.</p>
<b>Qualification of PP - Regulation 3</b>		
Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional, or local authority? <b>OR</b>	Yes	Strategy and Implementation Division (SID) within the Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral programme
Is the PP prepared by an authority for adoption through legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? <b>AND</b>	Yes	<p>Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy requires that programmes are submitted by Member States and adopted by the Commission as part of the programming amendment process.</p> <p>The revised PP is taking into consideration evolving priorities and implementation realities, across each Specific Objective (SO) taking into consideration the opportunities and flexibilities brought about by Regulation (EU) 2025/1914, as well as a result of the recommendations highlighted as part of the</p>

		Mid-Term review carried out in line with Art 18 of regulation 2021/1060.
Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Yes	As above.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Regulations 4(1) to 4(4)</b></p> <p>The SEA Regulations require that a strategic environmental assessment, in accordance with regulations 5 to 10, shall be carried out by the responsible authority for PPs referred to in sub-regulations 4(2) to 4(4) which are likely to have significant environmental effects, as follows:</p> <p>(i) Regulation 4(2) identifies PPs that are already considered to have a significant environmental effect. Moreover, Regulation 4(2)(b) requires liaison with the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) as the authority responsible for the Habitats Directive and protection of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).</p> <p>(ii) Responsible authorities should determine, in line with the provisions of the SEA Regulations, whether PPs identified in Regulations 4(3) to 4(4) are likely to have significant environmental effects [also see Regulation 4(5) below].</p>		
<b>Regulation 4(2) – SEA required automatically</b>		
Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use? <b>AND</b>	Yes	<p>The original PP was prepared to facilitate the involvement of interventions concerning tourism, energy and water management, industry, waste and transport. The original PP has already been subjected to the full SEA process.</p> <p>The scope of the revised PP remains unchanged. Some of the original measures involving the construction of new buildings as well as the funding for R&amp;I projects no longer form part of the revised PP.</p> <p>Additional measures introduce new interventions in the energy sector and</p>

		housing, which may generate land use impacts.
Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC – as updated by Directive 2014/52/EU). [These Annexes are transposed as Schedule 1 in the national EIA Regulations] <b>OR</b>	No	The revised PP has no effect on the development consent of any projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC – as updated by Directive 2014/52/EU). These Annexes are transposed as Schedule 1 in the national EIA Regulations. The projects included in the list of PP proposed measures would still be subject to the planning development procedures and the provisions of the EIA Directive 85/337/EEC – as updated by Directive 2014/52/EU and local EIA regulations S.L. 549.46.
Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment (Appropriate Assessment) under Articles 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)?	No	The revised PP presents some minor revisions for the reduction of economic, environmental and social problems in urban areas. While any development applications which are covered by the PP will be subjected to an assessment as per the AA screening in line with the Habitats Directive, the AA procedure is not applicable to the revised PP itself.
<b>Regulation 4(3) – Applied only for PPs referred in 4(2)</b>		
Does the PP in 4(2) determine the use of small areas at a local level? <b>OR</b>	Yes	The revised PP includes new measures which could determine the use of small land areas at a local level.
Is it a minor modification of a PP referred in 4(2)?	Yes	The revised PP is a minor modification of an existing PP referred to in 4(2) and previously subject to the full SEA process. The measures proposed in the revised PP include the redistribution of funds from the original PP measures to add EU financing towards the

		<p>second interconnector in view that the funds allocated under Policy objective 2, Priority 2 covered only part of the value of the global project; as well as the commencement of Phase 1 works for an improved electrical connectivity &amp; distribution network in Gozo. Phase 1 works in Gozo do not entail the laying of cables between the Maltese islands as such major interventions are envisaged at a later date through other funding mechanisms.</p> <p>The measure is also introducing the demolition of dilapidated buildings and repurposing of the site for the construction of new affordable and sustainable housing units.</p> <p>With the withdrawal of several land-use projects from the original PP, such as the Ten-T road upgrades, the acute mental health hospital, and the offshore renewable energy pilot projects, the impacts of the newly proposed infrastructure measures are adequately counterbalanced by the impacts of the projects that have been removed.</p>
<b>Regulation 4(4) – Applied only for PPs <u>not</u> referred in 4(2)</b>		
Is the PP, which set the framework for future development consent of projects, likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	N/A	N/A since the PP is referred to in 4(2)

**Part D – Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment referred to in Regulation 4(5) (Schedule II)**

Regulation 4(5) – Applied for PPs referred to in 4(3) and 4(4)		
Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects? Yes/No	Explanation on the significant environmental effects (both positive and negative)
Characteristics of the PP		
The degree to which the PP sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating condition; or by allocating resources	No	<p>The measures proposed in the revised PP include the redistribution of funds from the original PP measures to add EU financing towards the second interconnector, the commencement of Phase 1 works for an improved electrical connectivity &amp; distribution network in Gozo, as well as the demolition of dilapidated buildings and repurposing of the site for the construction of new affordable and sustainable housing units. With the removal of other land use projects from the original PP, such as upgrades to the Ten-T road network, the development of an acute mental health hospital and the development of pilot projects for renewable energy, one may conclude that the new measures are being partly or completely offset by the removal of the infrastructural measures proposed in the original PP.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the locations of the newly proposed measures are not currently known and no details on the interventions are included in the PP. Once such information is available, these individual projects would be screened in accordance with the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC – as updated by Directive 2014/52/EU), local</p>

		EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46), the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (transposed in Malta by S.L. 549.44) and the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC (transposed in Malta by S.L. 549.42).
The degree to which the PP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	The measures proposed in the revised PP aim to foster socio-economic development across various sectors through the following priority areas: mitigating the impacts of the energy sector on the environment through further strengthening of investments on the interconnector and initiating the extension of its benefits towards Gozo. In addition, addressing the needs of middle-wage earners with respect to housing affordability, through the availability of affordable energy efficient housing. Certain proposed measures complement those included in other existing plans and programmes that are already being implemented, such as the NECP, LCDS National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion (2025-2035) and Malta's Vision 2050 which is still undergoing public consultation.
The relevance of the PP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	The revised measures of the updated PP will focus on energy efficiency and energy investments aiding in the improvement of energy efficiency and hence reduction of GHG emissions through the development of sustainable energy efficient housing units as well as the extension of the interconnectivity energy benefits to Gozo



		through Phase 1. The removal of other sustainable measures which included the electrification of the vehicle fleet and the upgrades of the TEN-T road infrastructure network offset the impacts of the additional measures being proposed.
Environmental problems relevant to the PP	No	The measures proposed in the revised PP target various environmental problems such as energy efficiency and extending energy connectivity and stability of Gozo's electricity grid, strengthening increased integration of Renewable energy in Gozo.
The relevance of the PP for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (eg. PPs linked to waste management or water protection)	No	The measures proposed in the revised PP do not directly contribute to water and waste management. The newly revised measures of the updated PP will focus on energy efficiency and energy interconnection and distribution investments, as well developing new affordability and sustainable energy efficient households.
<b>Characteristics of the effects and area likely to be affected</b>		
The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects	No	The measures proposed in the revised PP are not expected to involve any additional physical interventions not already assessed in the previous SEA screening. Nonetheless, any new measures involving physical interventions which could give rise to environmental effects will be subjected to screening at project-stage, in line with the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC – as updated by Directive 2014/52/EU), local EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46), the Habitats

		<p>Directive 92/43/EEC (transposed in Malta by S.L. 549.44) and the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC (transposed in Malta by S.L. 549.42).</p> <p>For example, the proposed housing measure seeks to demolish vacant dwellings in Malta to construct new buildings at affordable prices in their stead. The repurposing of existing built sites, minimises the take-up of additional land cover and protects Malta's natural resources (including soil and other natural habitats) from additional erosion, encroachment and permanent loss.</p>
The cumulative nature of the effects	No	<p>The locations of the new interventions proposed in the revised PP are currently unknown, meaning that site-specific cumulative effects cannot yet be assessed. Nevertheless, the proposed projects are expected to be local in scale and will be subject to project-specific assessments that evaluate cumulative impacts arising during both construction and operation.</p> <p>Furthermore, the new PP measures are not anticipated to introduce any cumulative effects beyond those already considered and assessed in the previous SEA.</p>
The transboundary nature of the effects	No	<p>The measures proposed in the revised PP are not expected to involve additional physical interventions that could give rise to significant environmental effects beyond those already assessed in the previous SEA, including effects of transboundary nature.</p>

The risks to human health or the environment (eg. due to accidents)	No	<p>The measures proposed in the revised PP are not expected to involve additional physical interventions that would pose risks to human health or the environment. Upgrades to Gozo's energy infrastructure and the repurposing of a site occupied by derelict buildings into new affordable and sustainable housing units are anticipated to enhance residents' quality of life and reduce GHG emissions, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation. The reconstruction of vacant buildings also protects the rural environment from further land take up. The removal of certain original PP measures that would have supported emissions reductions (such as fleet electrification) is expected to be offset by these newly proposed measures. Furthermore, any new infrastructural developments will be subject to EIA and AA screening at the project stage, in accordance with the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU), Malta's EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46), the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, and the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC.</p>
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected)	No	<p>The revised PP proposes reallocating funds from the original measures to support new priorities, including EU financing towards the second interconnector, the initiation of Phase 1 works to enhance Gozo's electrical connectivity and distribution network, as well as the demolition of dilapidated buildings and repurposing of the site for</p>

		<p>the construction of new affordable and sustainable housing units.</p> <p>Several land-use projects included in the original PP have been removed, such as upgrades to the TEN-T road network, the development of an acute mental health hospital, and pilot projects for renewable energy.</p> <p>Overall, the measures introduced in the revised PP are not expected to result in additional physical works that could generate significant environmental effects. The physical impacts arising from the newly proposed measures are effectively offset by the removal of the infrastructural projects included in the original PP.</p>
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</li> <li>II) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values</li> <li>III) Intensive land use</li> </ul>	No	<p>The measures proposed in the revised PP are not expected to involve any additional physical interventions which could give rise to significant environmental effects. The physical impacts brought about by the newly proposed changes are offset by the removal of the infrastructural measures proposed in the original PP. Nonetheless the proposed developments will be subjected to EIA and AA screening at project-stage, in line with the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC – as updated by Directive 2014/52/EU), local EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46), the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (transposed in Malta by S.L. 549.44) and the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC (transposed in Malta by S.L. 549.42). The EIA and/or AA processes will identify the</p>

		value and vulnerability of the area/s likely to be affected.
The effects on areas or landscapes which have recognized national, community or international protection status	No	The new measures introduced in the revised PP may involve physical works that affect areas or landscapes with national, EU, or international protection status. However, information on the areas affected are still not known. All such developments will be subject to EIA screening at the project stage, in accordance with the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU). Through the EIA process, the landscape value and sensitivity of any areas likely to be affected will be identified and assessed.

#### Part E – Summary of Environmental Effects

Provide a comprehensive statement on the significant environmental effects of the PP.

The areas of support under the ERDF, the CF, and the JTF are consolidated into a single programme designed to promote socio-economic development across multiple sectors. The original PP includes measures addressing several priority areas, namely: mitigating the environmental impacts of the energy sector; implementing TEN-T infrastructure actions; responding to the specific needs and challenges of Gozo; and advancing Malta's decarbonisation objectives, including the reduction of GHG emissions.

The implementation of the PP measures will be subject to project-specific requirements arising from relevant EU and national legislation, including the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (transposed by S.L. 549.44), the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC (transposed by S.L. 549.42), the Ambient Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC (transposed by S.L. 549.59), the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU (transposed by S.L. 545.33), the Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001 (transposed by S.L. 423.19), and the Paris Agreement (ratified by Malta on 5 October 2016).

The measures introduced in the revised PP are expected to involve physical infrastructural interventions that may give rise to certain significant environmental effects. These include construction-related impacts associated with works on Gozo's electricity infrastructure and distribution network, which are required to meet increasing demand, strengthen the interconnection for Gozo and allow for increased renewable energy investment in Gozo. Additional impacts may result from the redevelopment of derelict site and buildings to provide affordable and energy-efficient dwellings. Although these interventions may generate environmental effects during development and operation, such impacts are anticipated to be offset by the removal of original PP measures that would have generated comparable effects, namely, the upgrade of the TEN-T road network, the construction of an acute mental health hospital, and offshore wind renewable-energy pilot projects. The newly proposed measures place greater emphasis on investing in energy efficiency while minimising land take, partly through the retrofitting of derelict buildings into energy-efficient housing.

At this stage, the locations of most of the proposed measures remain unknown, and no detailed information on the specific interventions is available. Such information is essential to assess the magnitude and spatial extent of potential impacts, the value and vulnerability of affected areas, and any risks to landscapes with national, EU, or international protection status. Once details become available, these specific projects may be subject to EIA and AA screening in accordance with the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU), Malta's EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46), the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, and the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC.

The expected physical interventions are likely to be limited to the development sites and their immediate surroundings. As a result, any associated impacts are expected to be localised. The cumulative nature of impacts will depend on the specific location of each proposed development and will be assessed more thoroughly during project-level EIA screening.

With respect to the proposed Malta–Gozo energy interconnection intervention, the revised PP foresees upgrades solely to Gozo's energy infrastructure and distribution network during this phase. Subsequent phases, fall outside of this PP.

Several proposed measures are also intended to improve existing human health and environmental conditions. The extension of interconnection to Gozo can enable further integration of renewable energy systems on the island, and the retrofitting of derelict buildings to enhance energy efficiency is expected to contribute to improved air quality by reducing emissions of GHGs and other pollutants. These measures will further support climate change mitigation, thereby reducing the risks that local communities and the environment face from sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and other climate-related impacts.

Given that the proposed interventions are not expected to give rise to additional environmental, health, cumulative, or transboundary impacts, a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the revised PP is not required.

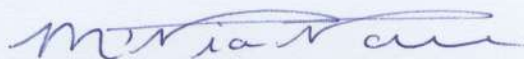
#### Part F – Screening Outcome

Following the screening, as required under the Strategic Environmental Assessment regulations, including all required consultations, the RA is of the view that:

- ☐ A SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of regulation 4(2)
- ☐ A SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of regulation 4(3) and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- ☐ A SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of regulation 4(4) and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- ☒ A SEA is not required because the PP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

Maria Pia Pace

Name of Officer responsible for this report



Signature of Officer responsible for this report

**Maria Pia Pace**  
**Director General**

Name and Stamp of Responsible Authority  


18-12-2025

Date

Notes to Responsible Authority

A signed copy of this document should be provided to the SEA Focal Point after conducting all consultations. The RA should also attach:

- the draft plan/programme
- a copy of the public notification obligatory under Regulation 4(7)
- If appropriate, a copy of the notification for public participation (see Schedule III Article 5 (3) to S.L.549.61)
- Copy of consultation correspondence by the Responsible Authorities to designated authorities





FIGURE 1: AREA COVERED BY THE PP (MALTA)

## **APPENDIX**

### FEEDBACK FROM DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

Ms. Maria Pia Pace  
Director General  
Strategy and Implementation Division

16<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**ERDF, CF & JTF 2021–2027 Programme Modification: SEA Screening - Consultation in terms of Regulation 4(6) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations (S.L.549.61)**

Dear Ms. Maria Pia Pace,

Reference is made to the above SEA screening consultation on this programme modification, which the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) received on 12th December 2025.

ERA has reviewed the information provided and concurs that, strategically, the proposed modifications do not require further assessment. The general comments in ERA's previous response to the SEA for the full programme, dated July 2022, also apply to the new priorities.

Specific projects, funded under this programme, would require environmental screening by ERA once that more details are available, to ensure that project-level environmental impacts are examined and suitably addressed.

Yours sincerely,

The block contains a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Mercieca". Below the signature is the official logo of the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA), which consists of a stylized green and blue geometric design followed by the letters "ERA".

Mr. Kevin Mercieca  
Chief Executive Officer  
Environment and Resources Authority

