SEA SCREENING TEMPLATE

Part A – Plan/Programme (PP) and Responsible Authority

Title of PP: [Modifications to] Operational Programme I

Responsible Authority: Planning & Priorities Coordination Department (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

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Part B – Key Facts

Responsible Authority:
Planning & Priorities Coordination Department (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

Title of PP:
[Modifications to] Operational Programme 1

Purpose of PP:
Operational Programme (OP) I, entitled Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life, is one of three programming documents setting out the framework within which funds made available through the Cohesion Policy are spent over the 2007 – 2013 programming period. In Malta, there are two Operational Programmes that have been guided by the strategic priorities identified in the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF): OP I and OP II.

OP I is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund. The OP and its components take account of the needs and priorities as emanating from the NSRF and the National Reform Programme exercises, the strong link between Cohesion Policy and the achievement of the Lisbon objectives, as well as priorities emerging from national sectoral strategies in addressing (primarily) the infrastructural needs of the country. This is done through 7 Priority Axes that focus on: a) Enhancing Knowledge and Innovation; b) Promoting Sustainable Tourism; c) Developing the TEN-T; d) Climate Change and Resource Efficiency; e) Safeguarding the Environment and Risk Prevention; f) Urban Regeneration and Improving the Quality of Life; g) Technical Assistance. Together, the priorities proposed constitute a plan of action for the period 2007-2013, whereby investment in the various sectors is not seen as an end in itself but rather, as a means of contributing to the realisation of the vision and the attainment of the underlying strategic objectives. The OP is not

exhaustive of Malta's needs in the identified sectors, it is based on one of the cardinal principles of Cohesion Policy, namely financial concentration.

The OP was prepared in 2007 and amended in 2009. Some changes were approved by the Commission in 2009. The changes were mainly carried out to shift the fund through which the two Major Projects were going to be financed from. The Major Project envisaged under Priority Axis 4 entitled Urban Waste Water Treatment Plant for the South of Malta was included under Priority Axis 5, whilst the Major Project entitled 'An Integrated Water Management Approach to Flood Relief and Water Conservation' was included under Priority Axis 4 and was renamed to 'National Flood Relief Project'. This was done following a preliminary technical analysis by JASPERS experts and although the primary scope (Flood Relief) did not change, the extent of the project intervention was reduced as were the budget and the target indicator.[1]. The Managing Authority, PPCD, is now considering some further changes to OPI. **The proposed changes to OPI are the focus of this screening note.** The proposed changes to OPI are described below.

Is the PP the result of legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? Explain.

In line with Article 32 of EC REG No. 1083/2006, the activities of the Funds in the Member States shall take the form of operational programmes within the National Strategic Reference Framework.

It is within this framework that the Operational Programme I was prepared.

Period covered by PP:
2007-2013

Envisaged Frequency of Updates:

Article 33 of EC REG No, 1083/2006 does not indicate the frequency of updates but the instances that give rise to the need for a modification of an operational programme. A modification can be done at the initiative of the Member State or the Commission in agreement with the Member State concerned. The following are the instances that are quoted in the regulation: (a) following significant socio-economic changes; (b) in order to take greater or different account of major changes in Community, national or regional priorities; (c) in light of the evaluation referred to in Article 48(3); or (d) following implementation difficulties.

The current update is being done in line with point (c) and (d) above.

Area covered by PP (ideally also attach map):
The Maltese Islands

Summary of PP content:
This Screening Note assesses whether the modifications to the OPI require a SEA. The proposed changes are therefore described here. The changes to the approved OP (2009) are summarised in **Table 1** at the end of the document. Minor changes are proposed to Priority Axes (PA) 1, 2 and 3, and more substantial changes are proposed in Axes 4, 5 and 6 where new interventions have been added. Priority Axis 4 has also been reworded from *mitigation and adaptation to climate change* to

[1] This was subsequently confirmed by independent studies

climate change and resource efficiency while PA5 has been changed from *safeguarding the environment* to *safeguarding the environment and risk prevention*.

The **main changes** to OPI (that was approved by the Commission in 2009) relate to the addition of the following actions:

- Addition of the project in PA4 to invest in infrastructure to generate energy from natural sources;
- Addition of the project in PA 4 for actions that seek to make better use of resource available (including the further treatment of Treated Sewage Effluent (TSE) for further use); and
- Addition of the project in PA6 to construct the Oncology Centre.

The following parts of this Screening Template therefore assess the proposed modifications to OPI (2009) and **not** the entire OPI. It is further noted that a SEA was carried out in 2006 on the draft OP.

Part C – SEA Criteria

SEA Criterion	Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Explanation
Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government (Regulation 3)	Yes	Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund requires that operational programmes are submitted by Member States and adopted by the Commission as part of the strategic reference framework setting out a development strategy using a coherent set of priorities. OPI has been drawn up in order to fulfil this obligation. The proposed modifications will also be adopted by the Commission.
Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Regulation 3)	Yes	As above.
Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Regulation 4(2)(a))	Yes	The proposed modifications to the Operational Programme are actually cross-sectoral, as is the entire Programme itself. One of the proposed projects (the treatment of manure) is an Annex II project of the EIA Directive.
Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Articles 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Regulation 4(2)(b))	No	None of the proposed modifications are likely to affect a Natura 2000 site.
Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level OR	Yes	The proposed changes are at project level. The main thrust of the OP has remained the same, however the proposed modifications entail changes at

SEA Criterion	Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Explanation
is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Regulation 4(2)(a) (Regulation 4(3))		project level.
Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Regulation 4(4))	Yes	The proposed changes to the OP including the construction of an Oncology hospital within the existing Mater Dei Hospital and the construction of polishing plants is considered to set the framework for future development consent. These projects are outside the scope of the EIA Directive.
Is the PP likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Regulation 4(5))	No	The proposed modifications are likely to have effects. On a national level the environment is likely to benefit as the proposed projects are largely environmental projects. The project for the treatment of manure is likely to have a slight positive effect on GHG emissions while the reuse of TSE is likely to have positive groundwater impacts should the project lead to reduced abstraction of groundwater. The construction of these plants and the Oncology Centre is likely to generate some impacts at a local level. However, on a national level the impacts are not considered significant.
Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7 OR Is it a financial or budget PP?	No	The proposed modifications to OPI go beyond budgetary modifications.

Part D – Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Responsible Authority: Planning & Priorities Coordination Department (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

Title of PP: [Modifications to] Operational Programme 1

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	**Likely to have significant environmental effects? Yes/No** (no other answer except Yes/No)	**Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)**
the degree to which the PP sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	No	The proposed modifications to the OP mainly comprise proposals that emanate from other plans that have undergone or are undergoing a SEA. The generation of energy from waste is one of the key policy areas within the Waste Strategy – a SEA was already carried out on the Strategy. Water related activities are contemplated in the draft Water Policy – a SEA is currently being carried out. Energy related activities are contemplated in the Energy Policy – a SEA was carried out. The construction of the Oncology Centre is a national project that is currently underway.
the degree to which the PP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	The proposed modifications actually stem from initiatives in other national plans that have already been subject to SEA. These include the draft Water Policy 2009 and the Waste Strategy for the Maltese Islands 2009.
the relevance of the PP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Yes (positive)	The generation of energy from waste and the reuse of treated sewage effluent are considered to result in positive effects on the environment and promote sustainable development.
environmental problems relevant to the PP	Yes (positive)	The proposed changes directly seek to apply the waste

		hierarchy and improve water resources. These changes will also contribute to mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, respectively.
the relevance of the PP for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. PPs linked to waste management or water protection	No.	The proposed Oncology Centre is not relevant to the implementation of environmental community legislation. The reuse of TSE, while considered beneficial, is not actually a legal requirement. Similarly the treatment of manure and the generation of energy is considered a positive environmental effect, however is not a legal requirement. The latter will help reduce impact on groundwater through the reduced application of manure on fields.
the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	The construction impacts such as dust and noise of the proposed projects are likely to be temporary and localised in nature. Operational impacts are unlikely to be significant with mitigation measures in place.
the cumulative nature of the effects	No	Cumulative impacts would largely depend on the location of projects. The OP indicates that the plant for the treatment of manure would be located within an area of intensive agricultural use and therefore there may potentially be cumulative odour impacts. Mitigation measures and management of any odour impacts generated by the project would need to be developed at project level to reduce or eliminate any residual impacts and cumulative effects. With regards to the construction of plants for the further treatment of TSE, cumulative impacts are not anticipated given the scale of the works. The Oncology Centre Project is located within the existing footprint of the Mater Dei Hospital at Tal-Qroqq. While

		some temporary impacts such as dust generation and noise during construction are anticipated these are likely to be of a short duration. Operational impacts are not likely to be significant. Following screening, an Environmental Impact Assessment was not requested by MEPA, implying that no significant environmental effects were expected from the project.
the transboundary nature of the effects	No	No transboundary impacts are anticipated from any of the proposed projects as the impacts are localised.
the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	No	Risks to human health or the environment are not expected to be significant during construction of any of the proposed plants so long as there is good site management. Operational impacts from the operation of the Oncology Centre are likely to be localised and comprise mainly emissions from traffic. Operational impacts from the manure treatment plant are likely to include odour emissions that can be regulated through abatement equipment and site management measures. No significant operational impacts are anticipated from the plants to further treat TSE.
the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The magnitude of impacts during construction of all the proposed developments are expected to be typical of construction sites including dust generation and noise. These are mainly localised impacts and are temporary. With regards to the operational impacts of the hospital, these may be due to additional traffic generated. However, following a screening exercise, an Environmental Impact Assessment has not been requested by MEPA implying that the Authority does not

		expect significant environmental effects from this Project. Effects from the plants to treat TSE are likely to be limited as plants would be constructed within footprint of existing sewage treatment plants and the pipes to distribute treated sewage effluent to industry will be laid underground using existing infrastructure. Disruption to traffic would occur should existing roads need to be dug up. The latter would cause temporary impacts. Operational impacts of the manure treatment plant include odour emissions. These are likely to be controlled through abatement equipment and site management rendering the impact not significant.
the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values (iii) intensive land-use	No	The OP indicates that the plant for the treatment of manure would be located within an area of intensive agricultural use. It is therefore unlikely that the value of the area would be significantly affected, given that the plant will be located adjacent to 12 cattle farms. This would be subject to assessment at a local level through the planning process. With regards to the treatment of TSE, protected areas are unlikely to be affected because existing infrastructure will be used. The Project to construct the Oncology Centre is located within the existing footprint of the Mater Dei Hospital at Tal-Qroqq, adjacent to the San Gwann Industrial Estate. Significant impacts on the natural environment and cultural heritage are not likely. An Environmental Impact Assessment has not been requested by MEPA.
the effects on areas or	No	The Oncology Centre is located

landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status		within the existing footprint of the Mater Dei Hospital at Tal-Qroqq. Significant impacts on landscape are not likely. The plant for the treatment of TSE will be within the footprint of an existing plant/s and infrastructure will be located underground rendering impacts on landscape insignificant. The proposed manure treatment plant in Siggiewi is not located in an Area of High landscape Value.

Part E – Summary of Environmental Effects

(Provide a summary of the significant environmental effects of the PP)

As described above the modifications to OPI are not anticipated to generate significant environmental effects on a national scale, although the two environmental projects are expected to improve the environment. The main changes to the OP result in the potential funding of three new project types including plants for the further treatment of treated sewage effluent, a relatively small plant to treat manure and generate electricity and construction of an Oncology Centre within the footprint of the existing Mater Dei Hospital. The assessment above shows that while some impacts are anticipated at a local level these are not considered significant at a national level. Construction impacts are anticipated such as noise and dust generation but these are likely to be localised and temporary in nature. In terms of operational impacts, some impacts have been identified including traffic generation for the Oncology Centre and odour emissions from the manure treatment facility. Any potential impacts are likely to be localised impacts. At a strategic level, positive impacts would emanate from the implementation of the projects to treat manure and TSE. The former has positive implications on climate change while the latter would help to improve groundwater quality.

In addition, the above assessment noted that most of the proposed projects emanate from other national plans that have undergone or are undergoing SEA.

The Removal of the intervention under Priority Axis 4 for the reduction of emissions from power generation (modification and application of best available technologies to the boilers at the existing Delimara Power Station) is being done because Enemalta (the company responsible of power generation in Malta) have implemented mitigation measures to reduce emission through their own funds and thus no actions are needed as the plant is now compliant with LN329/2002 (Directive EC/80/2001).

Part F – Screening Outcome

Screening is required under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2010 (Legal Notice 497 of 2010). It is our view that:

☐	An SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of Regulation 4(3) of the Regulations and is likely to have significant environmental effects
☐	An SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of Regulation 4(4) of the Regulations and is likely to have significant environmental effects
☑	An SEA is not required because the PP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

Mr Jonathan Vassallo

Name of Officer responsible for the Screening Report

Signature of Officer responsible for the Screening Report

Planning & Priorities Coordination Department (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

Name of Responsible Authority

14th December 2011

Date

Table 1: Proposed changes to the approved OP

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
3	Section 3.4	Change in title of Priority Axes 4 and 5 to: *Priority Axis 4 – Climate Change and Resource Efficiency;* *Priority Axis 5 – Safeguarding the Environment and Risk Prevention*
3	Table 3.3	Changes in allocations and priority themes (mainly in PA5)
4	Priority Axis 1: Objectives	ADDITION OF 2 OBJECTIVES: • *To undertake a number of smart investments in the knowledge infrastructure* • *To support S&T related investments in the formal and informal education streams, including infrastructure to increase the S&T pool in the long-term* REPLACE THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVE: • *To explore the potential for RES and promote electricity produced from RES.* WITH • *To undertake research projects within upgraded / new facilities*
4	Priority Axis 1: Focus areas of intervention: Investment in RTDi and RTDi-related Infrastructure and ICT	ADDITION OF : *the strengthening of science popularization media which needs to be complemented by infrastructure, acting as learning environments that provide the opportunity for individual experience and skill development by virtue of means of interaction and experimentation rather than the more traditional conservative way of teaching S&T;* *Special emphasis needs to be placed on secondary school students by inculcating in them the necessary desire and enthusiasm required to opt for and remain interested in such subjects.* *Priority will be given to initiatives whose focus is to increase the potential take up of S&T at post-secondary*

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
		and Tertiary level.
4	Priority Axis 1: Summary List of Potential Interventions	ADDITION OF: *Investment in RTDi, ICT and other S&T related infrastructure in the formal and informal education set-up, to promote a high value-added knowledge economy and attract more pupils and students to S&T subjects.* Removal of: • *Upgrade the National R&I Statistic Framework:* • *Investment in studies and pilot projects (developing of prototypes) in strategic areas*
4	Priority Axis 2: Focus Areas of Intervention	REMOVAL OF: *Malta's beaches, for example, are saturated in the summer months. The upgrading of existing beaches remains a priority and the Government has started to create beach areas whilst preserving the coastal stretch and eco-systems. Moreover, a number of tourism zones have been identified in the Tourism Policy (and Chapter 1 of this document) and it is the Government's objective to provide particular attention to these zones as part of the overall product development upgrade. The Government intends to ensure that the identified zones are equipped with basic facilities including a clean urban environment, beach cleaning (where required), availability of public amenities, landscaping, proper signage and interpretation of key sites. Also, each tourism zone has a particular characteristic which will be highlighted and these zones will be presented as complementary to and not in competition with each other. The objective is to encourage tourists to visit and experience different zones during their stay, thereby contributing to the achievement of a fairer distribution of income and employment opportunities on the Islands whilst alleviating some of the pressure off the more visited sites and locations.*
4	Priority Axis 2: Summary List of Potential Interventions	MINOR ADDITION OF TEXT (in bold): • *Investment in the upgrading of the Maltese (and Gozitan) tourism product across all identified tourism niches and segments, including, inter alia, upgrading of coastal areas; enhancement of tourism zones* ***as defined by the Tourism Policy.****; restoration of fortifications, restoration and revalorization of cultural sites; and nature protection interventions (including implementation of NATURA 2000 plans) that impact on the tourism industry*

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
4	Priority Axis 3: Focus Areas of Intervention: Road Transport Links	ADDITION OF: *The noise generated from vehicular traffic can also be reduced through the introduction of noise barriers along the TEN-T network*
4	Priority Axis 3: Financial Allocation	Reduction in overall PA budget.
4	Priority Axis 4: Objectives	REPLACE CURRENT OBJECTIVES: • To reduce airborne emissions resulting from electricity generation; • To study the viability of interconnection with mainland Europe and other means to secure supply (through, for example, large offshore RES farms), including, the expansion of the current distribution system to cater, inter alia, for increased electricity generation; • To promote measures resulting in energy efficiency and reduction in the use of non-renewable energy sources; • To promote the use of RES and energy efficiency measures at the domestic and enterprise levels; • To develop infrastructure to minimise the effects of storm water and reduce the incidence of flash flooding, as well as, develop storm water catchments and re-use facilities. WITH • *To undertake studies in areas related to the objectives of the Priority Axis;* • *To promote measures resulting in best use of available resources;* • *To promote the use of RES and energy efficiency measures at all levels of governance, including the public, the domestic and enterprise levels;* • *Reduction in the use of non-renewable energy sources;* • *To undertake investments intended to reduce GHG emissions.*

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
	Priority Axis 4: Focus Areas of Intervention: Energy	REMOVE: *Intervention under this Priority Axis is primarily foreseen in two areas: (a) in relation to reducing emissions from power generation and (b) distribution. OP I will support national initiatives through a project which consists of the modification and application of best available technologies to the boilers at the existing Delimara Power Station with a view to improving air quality and bring it in line with emission standards required by L.N. 329 of 2002, transposing Directive EC/80/2001.* REPLACE WITH: *Intervention under this Priority Axis are focused on the reduction our reliance on imported fuel through the active promotion and increase in use of renewable sources as well as the promotion of Energy Efficiency measures.*
	Priority Axis 4: Focus Areas of Intervention: Energy	ADDITION OF: *In this regard pilot actions intended to explore the potential of large offshore wind farms as well as studies to promote a better understanding of the potential exploitation of RES will be eligible for financing under Priority Axis 4. Towards this purpose, the Maltese Government is thinking of promoting research in any RES technology which it believes could be suitable for the Maltese context or where Malta could provide the 'real laboratory environment' for research projects to develop technologies.*
	Priority Axis 4: Focus Areas of Intervention: Energy	REMOVAL OF TEXT FROM PARA BEFORE LAST: *In terms of public awareness on sustainable energy, the Government will integrate RES and EE in a single approach for future action. The aim of the campaign is that of disseminating and spreading information on the benefits of sustainable energy concepts through effective, well-balanced promotional programmes, in order to overcome resistance towards RES and EE. The Government will also use the unique potential of the aid schemes to identify lighthouse initiatives and to raise their profile as show cases, in order to boost replication of best practice and innovative sustainable schemes throughout Malta.*
	Priority Axis 4: Focus Areas of	REMOVAL OF FLOOD RELIEF INTERVENTION TO BE REPLACED BY:

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
	Intervention: Flood Relief	*Resource Efficiency* *Natural resources underpin the functioning of an economy (competitiveness) and the quality of life of people. These resources include raw materials such as fuels, minerals and metals but also food, soil, water, air, biomass and ecosystems. Continuing our current patterns of resource use is not an option. Using resources more efficiently will be key in making progress to deal with climate change and to achieve our targets of reducing GHG emissions. Interventions under this Priority* *Axis will focus on biomass and water resource efficiency. The increased demand in energy and the high cost for natural gas and oil has heightened the interest in alternative and renewable energy sources. Animal manure is an example of such a potential source of energy biomass. Malta's approach to RES will employ a combination of the most energy efficient technology best suited for Malta. Such choice will be geared at exploiting potential energy biomass sources such as animal manure whilst simultaneously mitigating possible environment effects associated with manure.* *Government is exploring the possibility of relocating a number of dairy cattle farms from urban areas to agricultural zones. The zone is planned to be home to the farm cluster as well as a manure treatment plant, with a capacity to receive circa 42,000 tonnes of manure generated from the surrounding farms. The measure is not only contributing towards a rehabilitation of the urban environment through the removal of the nuisance effect but could also contribute towards isolating a specific waste component that, if treated appropriately, can generate biogas whilst improving the quality of sewage in the public network and hence assisting in the treatment of sewage effluent, potentially improving the quality of the resultant treated effluent.The current process for manure storage and application is associated with significant impacts on the environment, including climate change due to the GHG emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions are released from the manure heaps and the improper management of manure. The long-term storage of manure also causes pollution of the groundwater. However, if properly treated, manure produces biogas which is an important source of energy that cannot be overlooked. Considering that Malta has been given a very ambitious target of 10% of the share of energy generated from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy by 2020, it is of extreme importance that any resources that generate energy such as solar, wind and cogeneration in waste to energy projects, are exploited to the maximum possible extent. The renewable energy generated, replaces the use of fossil fuels and reduces the overall quantities of greenhouse gasses emitted into the atmosphere as a result of electricity generation.* *Another Government target within the resource efficiency objective is the potential re-use of treated sewage*

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
		effluent. In Malta 56%168 of Water is produced through SWRO plants. Whilst desalination provides a solution to the water supply problem, it is undoubtedly energy intensive. It is estimated that over 40%169 of all water in Malta is consumed for non potable usage. Following the completion of the waste water treatment plant in the South of Malta, which is financed under Priority Axis 5 of this OP, all of Malta's sewage is now being treated prior to disposal. This resource, if further treated can replace the non-potable portion of potable water used as well as provide an alternative source to some of the direct extraction of groundwater. In this regard tests have already been undertaken and based on 2010 figures, the specific energy consumption of the SWRO production was 4.65 kWh/m3. A pilot project which undertook tests on highly polished reclaimed water shows that in a worst case scenario (where salinities near 11,500µS/cm), the specific energy consumption that would be expected would amount to 1.5 kWh/m3. *This means that by supporting the further treatment of sewage effluent, not only would Government be maximizing its current resources, but also registering a saving of about 3.15kWh/m3 when compared to the energy required by SWRO plants for the same volume of water. In the light of the existing water deficit as a result of the groundwater depletion, this Priority Axis, in line with Government policy, shall seek to support actions aimed at the further treatment of treated sewage effluent (TSE) in order to make use of an available resource.*
4	Priority Axis 4: Major Project	REMOVE *Reduction of Emissions from the Delimara Power Station* *This project consists in the modification and application of best available technologies to boilers 1 and 2 at the Delimara Power Station in order to achieve optimum NOx, dust and SO_2 emissions abatement by 2010. This project will result in a reduction of NOx emissions by 18 per cent, a reduction of dust by at least 59 per cent and a reduction of SO_2 by 30 per cent from their present levels. A call for tenders for the services of consultants to advise on the applicability of best available abatement techniques (BAT) will determine to what extent the emissions can be further abated to below the limits established by L.N. 329 of 2002 transposing Directive EC/80/2001. These reductions will result in an improvement in ambient air quality, and assure that the plant can be operated till the end of its lifetime while complying with future anticipated environmental legislation expected to be ratified by Malta. The project will enable modifications in the combustion system of each boiler to reduce emissions of NOx using BAT. Additional BAT equipment (e.g. electrostatic precipitators or fabric filters) to reduce emissions of particulates will be installed on the Delimara*

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
		boilers. The reduction of SO_2 through the use of SOx equipment will also be investigated. *National Flood Relief Programme* *This project will consist of a storm water management system in storm water catchments areas most susceptible to problems of flooding, mainly due to the unfavourable topography. The different components include a network of storm water collectors located on the streets of a number of villages that link into a tunnel system and conveys flash floods to a stormwater outlet.* *These tunnels, in turn, will be used as stormwater retention basins during normal downpours so that gathered water can be-used mainly for aquifer re-charge. Other components provide for the collection of stormwater and its transfer to the sea while another component will clean the existing natural watercourse, enlarge a number of existing stormwater retention basins and improve a number of bridges crossing the watercourse. The project is currently receiving assistance under the JASPERS Initiative.*
		MODIFICATION OF SUMMARY OF LIST OF INTERVENTIONS: FROM • Modifications and application of BAT to the boilers at the Delimara Power Station; • Studies in relation to security of supply and potential large scale RES; • Schemes for RES and energy efficiency for various players, including households and enterprises; • RES and energy efficiency projects for public sector buildings; • Publicity and educational information campaigns to support measures related to RES and energy efficiency under this axis; • Setting up of a stormwater management system to develop infrastructure to minimize the effects of stormwater and reduce the incidence of flash flooding TO: • *R&D&I actions (including pilot projects) and studies in relation to Climate Change;* • *Schemes for RES and energy efficiency for various players, including households and enterprises;* • *RES and energy efficiency projects for public; public equivalent; and NGO buildings;*

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
		• *Educational information campaigns to support measures related to RES and energy efficiency under this axis;* • *Actions (equipment, infrastructure and accompanying soft measures) that seek to make better use of resource available (including the further treatment of TSE for further use) ;* • *Infrastructures for the generation of RES from natural source (including animal manure)*.
5	Priority Axis 5: Objectives	ADDITION OF: ▪ *To develop infrastructure to minimise the effects of storm water and reduce the incidence of flash flooding*
	Priority Axis 5: Focus Areas of intervention: Water and Waste Water	FIRST PARAGRAPH AMENDED TO READ: *The quality of potable water has a direct impact on the health and quality of life of the citizens of the country as well as on the general appeal and attractiveness of the country. Urbanisation, agriculture, tourism and industrial development have increased the pressure on the environment and have led to a rapid degradation of the Islands' natural environment and resources, in particular freshwater resources* ***as explored under Priority Axis 4.*** *While some groundwater abstraction is still prevalent, Malta has been increasingly relying on sea-water desalination as the major source of supply of potable water. In this regard Malta will continue to work to improve the quality of drinking water as well as its storage and distribution. Exploration of alternative sources of water as a resource (such as treated effluent) will be dealt with under Axis 4.*
	Priority Axis 5: Focus Areas of intervention: Water and Waste Water	SECOND PARAGRAPH TO READ: *Until recently Malta was discharging most of its sewage untreated into the sea. The management of waste effluent within the parameters mandated by environmental principles and targets under the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC remains a national ongoing commitment. Within this context the South Sewage Treatment Infrastructure complements the existing two wastewater treatment plants (in Gozo and in the North of Malta) to ensure that all sewage is treated prior to its safe disposal at sea in line with the Urban Wastewater Directive 91/271/EC* *Now that Malta is treating all its raw sewage before discharge to the marine environment, the impending planned interventions will be directed towards the strengthening of the collection network (in line with the stipulations laid down in Annex I (A) of the EU Urban Wastewater Directive) through the application of more*

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
		advanced technology, better suited for Malta's territorial specificities and high urban density.
	Priority Axis 5: Focus Areas of intervention: Flood Relief	ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING: *Within the context of climate change, risk prevention is becoming an increasingly higher priority for the Government. Malta's topography tends to contribute to the phenomenon of flash flooding on the occurrence of heavy storms during the autumn and winter months. This phenomenon frequently leads to heavy damage to the physical environment, economic disruption and occasionally, to loss of human life. In this regard, the formulation of a proactive approach to this problem, particularly the development of infrastructural solutions to address the incidence of high storm water volumes, constitutes a major priority. Studies within the context of the Formulation of a Storm Water Master Plan to ascertain and identify the priority projects and the relevant technology options were undertaken under the 2004-2006 Cohesion Fund. The National Flood Relief Project seeks to mitigate flooding in eleven different localities in Malta with four Catchment Basins. This involves site interventions in four storm water catchment areas and the strengthening of the Valley Management and Storm Water Units to be able to monitor and maintain a sustainable valley management and storm water system. The primary objective of this project is to limit the impacts of urban flooding. In dealing with the flooding issue, the project will also seek to explore and develop, where possible, flood water catchments and potential re-use facilities.*
	Priority Axis 5: Major projects	ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING MAJOR PROJECT: *National Flood Relief Project* *This project will consist of a storm water management system in three storm water catchment areas most susceptible to problems of flooding, mainly due to the unfavourable topography. The different components include a network of storm water collectors located on the streets of a number of towns and villages that are linked to a system of underground tunnels and conveys flash flood waters to a stormwater sea outlet. In two components of this project, namely that of the B'Kara-Msida and the Zabbar-M'Scala catchments. Part of these tunnels, in turn, will be used to capture an amount of stormwater that occurs during normal downpours so that this gathered water can be directed to soakaway reservoirs or dams mainly for aquifer re-charge. Another component provide for the rehabilitation and upgrading of an existing storm water canal and the replacement a number of road bridges crossing the canal. The project is currently receiving assistance under the JASPERS Initiative.*
	Priority Axis 5: Major	Amendment to the text on Mechanical and Biological Treatment Plant to read:

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
	projects	*This project will involve the setting up of one or more Mechanical and/or Biological Treatment Plants (MBT) to primarily treat municipal solid waste (MSW), some commercial waste and other waste capable of undergoing biological treatment. The co-mingling of waste products such as manure to MSW, to yield a better end product is being explored and may be considered as part of this project. The treatment combines the mechanical process of separating dry recyclables such as glass, plastic, paper/cardboard and metals, leaving an organic fraction.* *Fundamentally, the objective of the Malta North plant is to treat municipal waste. Still, considering the space limitations in Malta, the possibility of accepting manure waste at these plants to the extent that it is technically and economically advantageous to the entire system of waste management shall be considered. It is considered that there exist synergies and economic opportunities by co-mingling manure with municipal waste which could potentially (i) improve the desirable qualities of the output from the municipal waste system in terms of biogas production and final compost quality; and (ii) reduce the overall costs of treatment.* *The implementation of waste treatment plants will thus enable Malta to:* ▪ *meet the targets established in the Waste Management Landfill Regulations of 2002 (LN168 of 2002) and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and* ▪ *abide to LN 233/2004 – Protection of Waters against Pollution form Agricultural Sources.* *Thereby this reduces the risks that would otherwise be imposed on the environment should the waste remain untreated.*
	Priority Axis 5: Summary List of Potential Interventions	ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING INTERVENTION ▪ *Setting up of a storm water management system to develop infrastructure to minimize the effects of storm water and reduce the incidence of flash flooding.*
	Priority Axis 6: Focus Areas of Intervention: <u>Education, Social and Health-related Infrastructure</u>	ADDITION OF: *It is the Government's commitment that Malta should make every effort towards the over-arching goal of developing excellent quality and patient-centric services and treatment propositions which are entirely designed around the clinical and non-clinical needs of the patient. As part of the broader Draft National Cancer Plan 2010 – 2015, the quality of care expected to be provided through the new oncology centre forms part of selected priority areas of intervention including (i) prevention (ii) screening (iii) research and (iv)*

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
		evaluation. The attainment of this national and strategic goal prescribes: (i) the replacement of existing clinical and non-clinical infrastructure which also includes the replacement of existing outdated equipment with contemporary clinical and nonclinical technologies; (ii) the implementation of a concerted effort towards apposite capacity building and training of specialised personnel across both the clinical and non-clinical spectrum; (iii) the Development of oncology palliative care service within the new Centre; and (iv) making full use of the upgraded infrastructure. Furthermore, this Project will also have indirect effects upon the families of cancer patients. Some examples include: elevating the burden of care (and associated productivity reductions) that comes hand in hand with aiding family members find curative, and palliative, private treatments and reducing the severity of resultant traumatic family experiences.
	Priority Axis 6: Major Projects	ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING MAJOR PROJECT: *Mater Dei Hospital Oncology Centre* *This project consists in the setting up of Oncology facilities offering advanced cancer treatment modalities in a comprehensive care setting. The project will increase the number of Oncology inpatients beds as well as expand the current day care facilities and outpatients clinics. A new Palliative Care Unit will be set up focusing on optimal symptom control, psychological, social and spiritual support. The Paediatric Oncology Unit will also be expanded in order to offer a service to adolescents and young persons suffering from cancer, while an increase in Haematology inpatient and day care beds will also occur. Additional facilities for psychosocial care, patient and carers' facilities, educational and interdisciplinary facilities will also be provided. The planned infrastructure will also seek to increase screening facilities and introduce organised screening programmes, improve diagnostic facilities (endoscopic, imaging, cyto/pathological), and also increase, improve and introduce new modalities for treatment (surgical, radiotherapy and chemotherapy). The main aim of the planned improvements on the current oncology infrastructure is to improve cancer survival that will be the cumulative result of all these interventions.*
	Priority Axis 6: Summary List of Potential Interventions	ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING TEXT (BOLD): • *Investment in public health infrastructure and equipment**, including the establishment of new oncology centre;***
	4.9: List of Major	LIST AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Chapter in OP	Section in OP	Description of change
	projects	REMOVAL OF: Reduction of Emissions from the Delimara Power Station from PA 4 ADDITION OF: Mater Dei Hospital Oncology Centre in PA6