

Update on Implementation 2007-2013 Programming Period

Operational Programme II – *Empowering People for More
Jobs and a Better Quality of Life*

Monitoring Committee
26th February 2016



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Outline

- Monitoring and Reporting
- Indicators
- Structural Funds Database
- Audits
- Information and Publicity
- Evaluation
- Closure Process
- Concluding Remarks

MA Focus in 2015

- **Monitoring of 113 projects, including 2 schemes and TA**
- **Focus on the processing of payments by the regulatory deadline**
- **Constant communication with all beneficiaries and stakeholders involved to ensure that project implementation is facilitated**
- **After the registration of substantial savings under PA 4, the MA launch a final call for small projects**

Launch of new call for Small Projects

- OP provision for small projects was triggered
- A call for projects from Ministries and Social Partners was launched
- The MA looked at simplifying the Application Process
- 38 projects submitted
- 25 Grant Agreements signed
- Budget allocated - €1.2M

Monitoring Tool	Tasks carried out
High level Bi-Lateral Meetings	Between May and December 2015 OP11 projects were reviewed in 7 separate meetings held with 12 different Ministries
Ministerial Project Steering Committees	17 meetings held by 5 Line Ministries since May 2015 where a total of 31 projects and 2 schemes were reviewed and discussed
Monthly Memos	Between May and December monthly MEMOs were sent to Ministries Permanent Secretaries highlighting the financial progress of each project and the set in place up to December.
Intermediate Body Steering Committee (IBSC)	Held in June and again in December 2015. Updates on the implementation and issues faced under the Training Aid Framework and the Employment Aid Programme were discussed with all stakeholders.

Monitoring Tool	Tasks carried out
Management Verifications	<p>The MA continued to conduct management verifications, both administrative and physical. In 2015 c.184 physical checks on training being funded were undertaken.</p>
Project Progress Reports	<p>PPRs were received for the reporting period January – June 2015 for all ESF projects.</p>
Project Closure Reports	<p>The MA is currently working on the closure reports of those ESF projects which were still under implementation in 2015.</p>

Indicators



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Priority Axis 1 – Progress on Output Indicator (Achieved)

	Indicator	Target	Achievement
A	Indicator 1: Number of persons participating in further or higher education & training programmes	600	813
B	Indicator 2: Number of persons participating in S&T or ICT in further or higher education & training programmes	3,000	3,081

Priority Axis 1 – Progress on Output Indicator (Achieved)

	Indicator	Target	Achievement
C	Indicator 5: Number of persons trained through capacity building courses	750	1,390
	Indicator 6: Number of persons trained through supplementary courses, modules or credits for better skills matches	3,000	15,300

Priority Axis 1 – Progress on Output Indicator (Achieved)

	Indicator	Target	Achievement
C	Indicator 7: Number of actions supporting educational quality, relevance, structures, systems, campaigns and research	20	22

Priority Axis 1 – Progress on Output Indicator (Verification of indicators ongoing)

Indicator		Target	Achievement	Committed
B	Indicator 3: Number of persons participating in S&T or ICT capacity building education & training	250	82	71
	Indicator 4: Number of S&T or ICT actions/studies/campaigns/research activities carried out	10	8	8

Priority Axis 1 – Progress on Result Indicator (Achieved)

Indicator		Target	Achievement
B	Indicator 3: % of participants gaining a qualification/certification in capacity building education/training	80%	96%
C	Indicator 4: % of participants gaining a qualification/certification	80%	86%

Priority Axis 1 – Progress on Result Indicator (Verification of indicators ongoing)

Indicator		Target	Achievement	Committed
A	Indicator 1: % of participants gaining a further or higher education & training qualification	75%	62%	87%
B	Indicator 2: % of participants gaining a further or higher education & training qualification in S&T or ICT	75%	69%	78%

Priority Axis 2 – Progress on Output Indicator (Achieved)

Indicator		Target	Achievement
A	Indicator 1: Number of persons trained/supported	45,000	57,590
	Indicator 2: Number of actions supporting educational structures, systems, campaigns and research	5	12

Priority Axis 2 – Progress on Result Indicator (Achieved)

	Indicator	Target	Achievement
A	Indicator 1: % of participants in employment or further study 6 months after receiving assistance	20%	25%
	Indicator 2: % of participants gaining a qualification/certification	60%	74.5%

Priority Axis 2 – Progress on Output and (Achieved)

Indicator		Target	Achievement
B	Output Indicator 3: Number of undertakings supported	700	4,358
B	Result Indicator 3: % of participants gaining a qualification/certification	60%	98%

Priority Axis 3 – Progress on Output Indicator (Achieved)

Indicator		Target	Achievement
B	Indicator 4: Number of vulnerable persons trained/supported	6,500	11,699
	Indicator 5: Number of persons trained in capacity building courses	600	1,743
	Indicator 6: Number of studies, actions, campaigns, research activities carried out	10	21

Priority Axis 3 – Progress on Output Indicator (Verification of indicators ongoing)

Indicator		Target	Achievement	Committed
A	Indicator 1: Number of actions supporting a lifecycle approach to work	10	4	4
	Indicator 2: Number of women trained/supported	2,000	999	870
	Indicator 3: Number of families benefiting from childcare	1,600	—*	—*
B	Indicator 7: Number of civil society projects	50	4	4

* This is being achieved through a nationally funded initiative

Priority Axis 3 – Progress on Result Indicator (Achieved)

Indicator		Target	Achievement
A	Indicator 1: % of participants in employment or further study 6 months after receiving assistance	20%	42%
B	Indicator 3: % of vulnerable persons in employment of further study 6 months after receiving assistance	20%	71.73%

Priority Axis 3 – Progress on Result Indicator (Achieved)

Indicator		Target	Achievement
B	Indicator 4: % of participants in capacity building gaining a qualification/certification	80%	90.76%

Priority Axis 3 – Progress on Result Indicator (Verification of indicators ongoing)

Indicator		Target	Achievement	Committed
A	Indicator 2: % of participants gaining a qualification/certification	50%	42%	46%

Priority Axis 3 – Progress on Output and Result Indicator (Achieved)

Indicator		Target	Achievement
B	Output Indicator 4: Number of vulnerable persons trained/supported	1,910	2,838
B	Result Indicator 3: % of vulnerable persons in employment or further study 6 months after receiving assistance	50%	84%

Priority Axis 4 – Progress on Output Indicators (Achieved)

Indicator		Target	Achievement
A	Indicator 1: Number or persons participating in training in a year	9,000	24,711

Priority Axis 4 – Progress on Output Indicators (Verification of indicators ongoing)

	Indicator	Target	Achievement	Committed
A	Indicator 2: Number of studies/ actions/ campaigns /research activities carried out	30	15	35
B	Indicator 3: Number of projects supporting partnerships	7	5	12

Priority Axis 4 – Progress on Result Indicators (Achieved)

	Indicator	Target	Achievement
A	Indicator 1: % of participants gaining a qualification/certification	80%	92%
B	Indicator 2: % increase in the technical capacity (secretariat) at MCESD to support Council (and sub-committees) in reaching informed opinions in policy issues	50%	50%

Impact Indicators (1)

Increasing the employment rate	Achievement	62.3%*
	Target	57%
	Baseline	54.3%
% increase in participation rates in upper secondary education level or more, of 20-24 years old	Achievement	75.6%*
	Target	70%
	Baseline	53.7%

* Source, Eurostat 2014

Impact Indicators (2)

% Decrease of early school leaving rate	Achievement	20.2%*
	Target	22%
	Baseline	38.9%
% Increase in the number of adults (25-64 years) participation in lifelong learning	Achievement	7.5%*
	Target	8%
	Baseline	5.4%
% Increase in female employment	Achievement	49.3%*
	Target	41%
	Baseline	33.9%

* Source, Eurostat 2014

Structural Funds Database



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- **Closure** of the 2007-13 programme
 - ICT efforts were mainly focused on resolving ad hoc issues rather than developing enhancements to such system
 - Creation of new Accounts
 - Revocation of Rights (where applicable)
 - Installation of desk-based SFD Application by appointment
- **Training** on SFD 2007-2013
 - Provided through CDRT and focused on all payment processes (from project level till invoice level), reporting, statement of expenditure and Annex XXIII.
 - During the first two quarters training was provided on a monthly basis to all SFD users.
 - Towards the end of the year additional ad hoc training was provided to new beneficiaries of ESF small projects.
- **Support**
 - By the end of 2015 there were 557 Active Users linked to ESF on the SFD system.
 - Hands-on Support was provided through phone calls, exchanges of emails and ad hoc meetings.

Audits



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Audits

- During 2015, an audit was carried out by IAID on a sample of operations that had expenditure declared to EC in 2014
- The number of operations audited was 30
- Operations were selected using simple random sampling
- The outcome of the 2015 audits were presented to the Commission in December 2015.

Thematic/Performance Audits

- The MA continued to provide input to Audit Bodies on ongoing audits
- In February 2015, the National Audit Office (NAO) published an audit that evaluation errors in public procurement detected with OP I and OP II during the period 2010 to 2012
- The principle objectives of this audit were to:
 - Evaluate the types of errors in EU and national public procurement detected within Structural Funds Programmes
 - Analyse these errors and establish their causes
- NAO reviewed and analysed the population of projects where errors were detected by the MA, the CA, the AA, as well as the beneficiaries

Information and Publicity



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Communication Actions

- As an annual event for the year 2015, the MA produced a daily 5-minute TV documentary called TEBQA over a 12-week period
- MA officials attended the 41st Informal Network of ESF Information Officers (INIO) network meeting in Finland which was held on the 4th-5th June 2015
- As part of its publicity measures, the MA finalised the necessary work to publish a publication highlighting the EU-funded projects carried out in Malta and Gozo

Communication Actions

- The draft Media Action Plan was submitted in November 2015
- With regard to the Investing In Your Future website, in June 2015 there were the following changes on the homepage: the inclusion of EU emblem (linking to Europa portal), link to eufunds.gov.mt, and link to 2014-2020 programming period in header

Evaluation



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Evaluation Activities: Cohort Study

- The Cohort Study measure the participants' labour status a year after attending the ESF training/course
- the study is based on the participants' perception
- When interpreting results one has to keep in mind the main aim and objectives of the project, the target group, the participants' labour status at the time of participation and at the time of the study and education level prior to attending the course/course. These factors play a role on how the participants' answer the survey

Evaluation Activities: Cohort Study

Demographic Profile

- The following tables represent the total population as the sample size for each Wave was 500 participants
- Distribution of participants by gender

	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
Male	40.7%	32.7%	40.9%
Female	59.3%	67.3%	59.1%
Total of Participants	2,191	3,498	2,456

Evaluation Activities: Cohort Study

Demographic Profile

- Distribution of participants by gender and age group

Age Group	Wave 7		Wave 8		Wave 9	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
15-24	12%	10.9%	6.8%	3%	5.6%	3.7%
25-54	67.5%	68.6%	59%	53.4%	77.5%	78.8%
55-64	19.2%	19.5%	28.9%	37.5%	15.2%	15.9%
65 +	1.2%	1.1%	5.3%	6%	1.7%	1.6%

Evaluation Activities: Cohort Study

Demographic Profile

- Distribution of participants by gender and region

	Wave 7		Wave 8		Wave 9	
Region	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Malta	91.7%	89.4%	90.5%	90.7%	87.5%	78.6%
Gozo	8.3%	10.6%	9.5%	9.3%	12.5%	21.4%

Evaluation Activities: Cohort Study

Labour Status: After Completion of Training

	Wave 7		Wave 8		Wave 9	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Positive Change	29.4%	21.3%	13.3%	12.8%	15.7%	14.8%
No Change	69.5%	78.2%	84.3%	86.3%	84.0%	85.2%
Negative Change	1.2%	0.5%	2.4%	1.0%	0.3%	0%

Evaluation Activities: Cohort Study

Perceived Contribution of ESF Training: Short Term

	Wave 7		Wave 8		Wave 9	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Change for the Better due to ESF	65.9%	79.9%	81%	56.8%	80.0%	84.5%
Maintaining and/or Enhancing Employability	68.5%	63.0%	59.8%	52.3%	70.9%	76.3%
Improving Skills/ Knowledge	95.4%	93.9%	94.2%	96.4%	97.1%	93.1%

Evaluation Activities: Cohort Study

Perceived Contribution of ESF Training: Long Term

Gender	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
Male	93.2%	88%	92.1%
Female	92.7%	92.3%	96.1%

Evaluation Activities: Cohort Study

Final Report

- A final report aggregating all the 9 Waves was presented to the Managing Authority in December 2015.
- It also included four case studies: ESF1.25, ESF2.85, ESF3.64, ESF4.100.

Thematic Evaluation

- Task 2 of Thematic Evaluation for Operational Programme II was approved after the main findings and recommendations were presented to the Evaluation Steering Group
- An internal assessment was undertaken of the recommendations put forward in order to take them into account when planning the system for the 2014-2020
- A collaborative discussion between all stakeholders will be held during the ESG meeting planned on 8th April 2016 to discuss such recommendations

Thematic Evaluation

Recommendation	Follow-Up
More information on how specific projects contribute the achievements of the impact indicators	This will be taken into consideration when preparing the final report.
Enhanced central Government support and training for project leaders, project managers and administrators	The training strategy as prepared includes the holding of a series of training sessions addressed to Project leaders, Project Managers and Administrators. First Session to be held in June 2016.

Thematic Evaluation

Recommendation	Follow-Up
<p>Consider whether proposed projects should also include post-delivery interventions to assess the realization of the intended project outcomes. This approach will in itself also improve the quality of project output and outcome indicators. The Cohort Study being carried out by the MA could be developed further in this regard</p>	<p>During the 2014-2020 programming period, the Cohort Study will be improved in line with the monitoring requirements and after discussions with the National Statistics Office. Internal discussions already took place in this regard in order to incorporate lessons learnt</p>

Thematic Evaluation

Recommendation	Follow-Up
<p>More guidance could be provided to project applicants especially in those areas where successful project applications were low. This was particularly the case for projects directly targeting the training of women and for civil society projects aimed at contributing towards the integration, retention and progression of disadvantaged groups in the labour market</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prior to every call for projects applications, the MA is organising Information Sessions wherein guidance on procurement, project implementation, indicators, etc. will be provided.2. Besides the Information Sessions, the MA provides continuous guidance3. During the Monitoring Committee, the MA will be highlighting those areas where project applications are still low and therefore the achievements of the Programme's objectives still lack behind.

Thematic Evaluation

Recommendation	Follow-Up
<p>From a monitoring point of view, targets should be set in a way, which allows more detailed analysis of results to be made. This would make it possible to have a more detailed and meaningful analysis of achieved results</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Beneficiaries will be obliged to keep record of micro-data, and tracking participants in line with Annex I of Regulation (EU) 1304/20132. The Managing Authority will also be asking such data from the Beneficiaries for evaluation purposes

Thematic Evaluation

Recommendation	Follow-Up
<p>With regard to reporting requirements, more synergies are needed so as to avoid repetitive work in different formats</p>	<p>1. During the 2014-2020 programming period more use of SFD14-20 to reduce the administrative burden</p>

Thematic Evaluation

Recommendation	Follow-Up
<p>A greater emphasis needs to be placed on the horizontal priorities for the next programming period, with more interventions aimed towards concretely addressing these priorities</p>	<p>The 2014-2020 programming period will include an ex-ante and ex-post assessment by the equality bodies to ensure that all equality dimensions are properly and adequately taken into consideration in the implementation of ESF operations</p>

Thematic Evaluation

Recommendation	Follow-Up
<p>1. A greater emphasis needs to be placed on innovation for the next programming period, with more interventions aimed towards concretely addressing this area</p> <p>2. Most projects in the current programme related to training activities. More innovative ideas/projects should be encouraged for new programme</p>	<p>Further marks at selection stage will be given to projects which include innovative ideas</p>

Evaluation Meetings

- The Managing Authority attended two Evaluation Network Meetings organised by DG EMPL on 10th June and 13th November 2015
- Officers from the Managing Authority also attended a Conference on the Results of the Pilot Counterfactual Impact Evaluation organised by DG EMPL in 12th November 2015
- On 11th November, the Managing Authority organised the Evaluation Steering Group meeting whereby Waves 7 and 8 of the Cohort Study and the final results and recommendations of the Thematic Evaluation were presented. The common elements of the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for 2014-2020 for ESF and ERDF and CF were also presented to all members present

Closure Process



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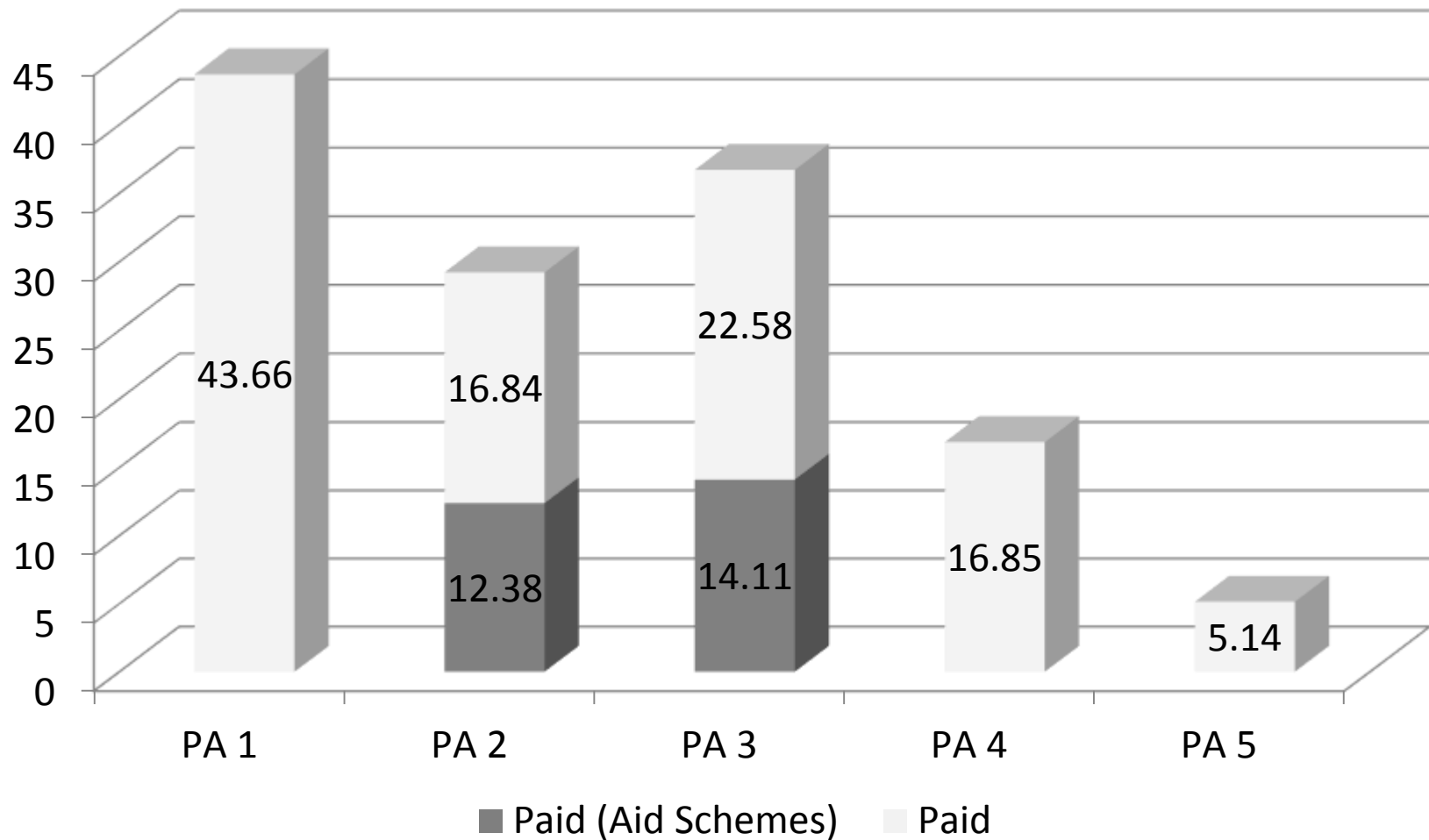
Programme Closure

Elements related to Programme Closure to be completed in 2016:

- Verification and validation of Indicators
- Monitoring Sustainability and Results
- Final audits related to closure
- Evaluation and Publicity Activities
- Verifications – physical and documentary
- Statement of Expenditures and Certification



Reimbursed Payments



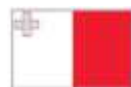
Concluding Remarks

- Beneficiaries and key stakeholders will still be working on closures related activities up to March 2017
- Ongoing verifications will require the timely replies from Beneficiaries
- Reporting related to closure is critical and everyone's input is very important



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