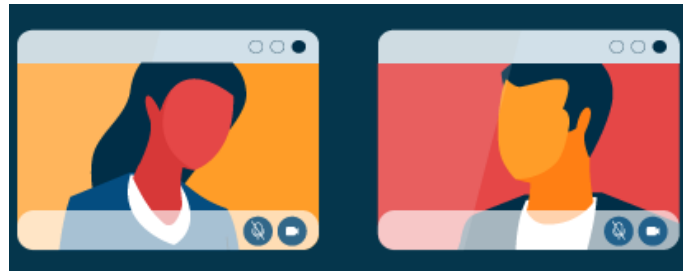


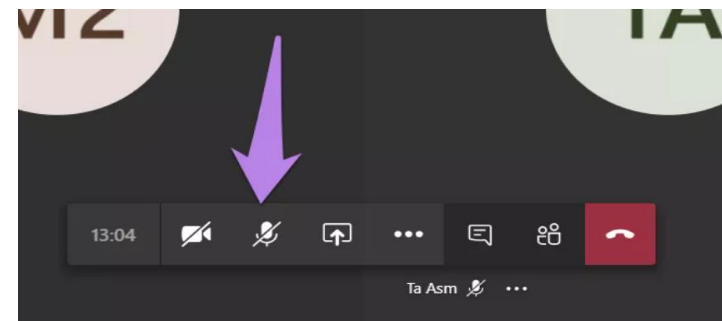
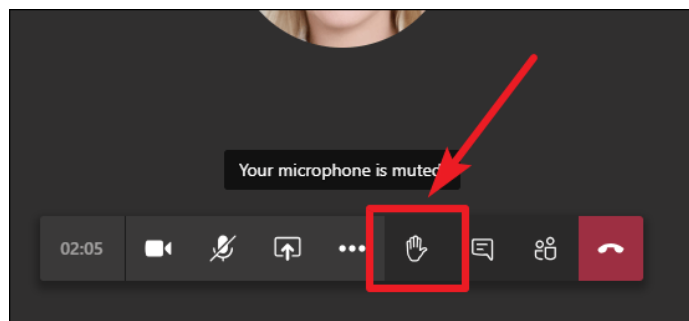
Welcome to the Monitoring Committee Meeting!

Please find some House Rules to ensure the smooth running of the meeting:

1. Keep your microphone muted throughout the meeting unless you want to intervene in the discussion.



2. In that case, click on the raise hand option and await your turn. Once Chair gives you the floor, unmute your microphone and share your views!



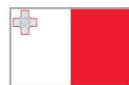
Update on Implementation

Operational Programme I - *Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges*

SME Initiative Operational Programme – *Stimulating private sector investment for economic growth*

Operational Programme II – *Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society*

**Monitoring Committee
29th October 2020**



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Presentation overview

- Overview of Operational Programmes I and II
- Programme Commitment Table
- Progress in the Implementation on the ground – Operational Programme I
- Progress in the Implementation on the ground – Operational Programme II
- Support to enterprises (Aid Schemes progress on the ground) – OPI and OPII
- Progress in the Implementation on the ground – SMEi Initiative
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Communication Activities
- Capacity Building
- Disbursement Targets
- Concluding Remarks

Overview

Intervention Logic:

- 12 Priority Axes for Operational Programme I
- 5 Priority Axes for Operational Programme II

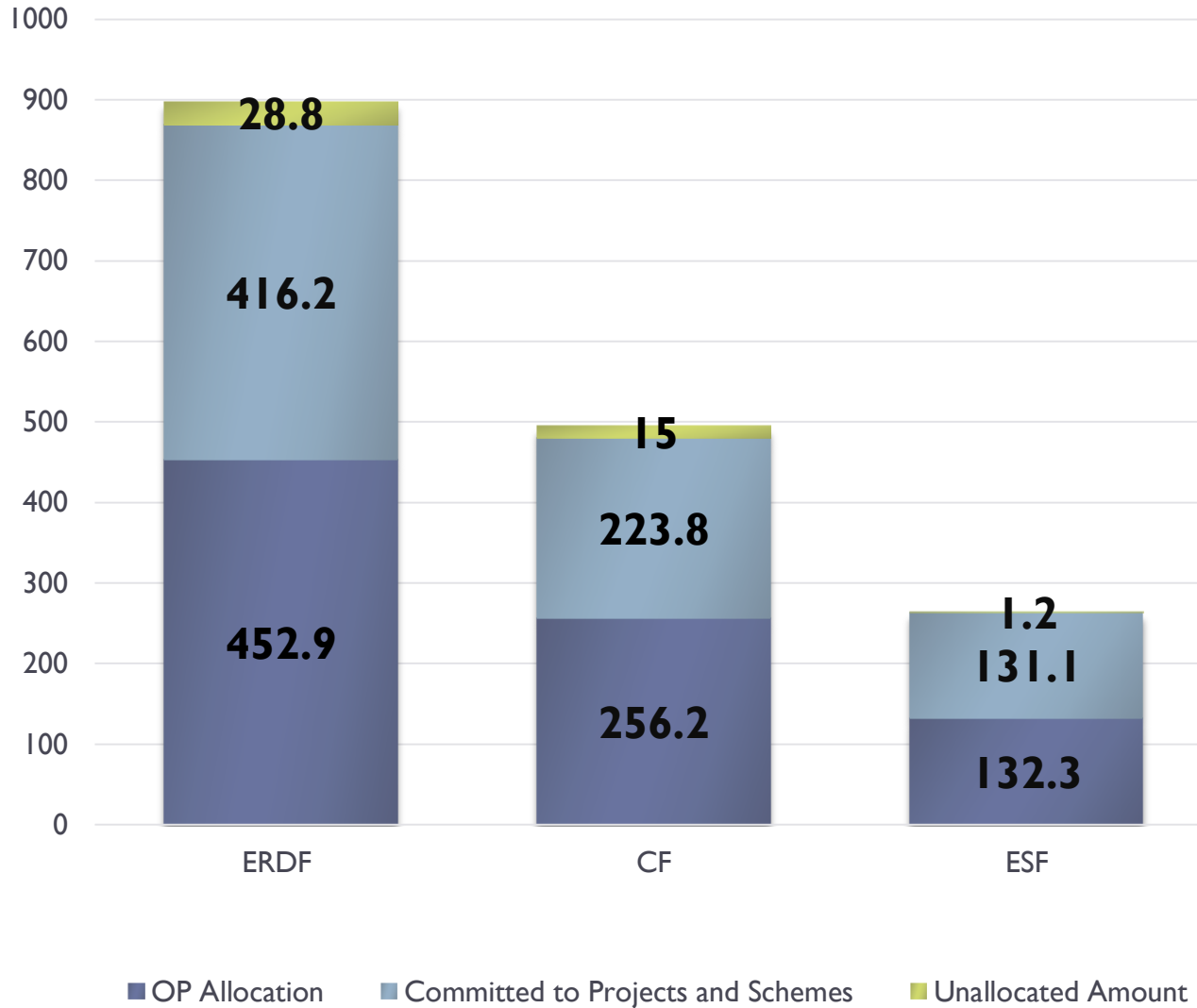
Implementation Timeframe:

- Programme spans from 2014 to 2020
- Eligibility of costs until 2023

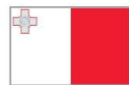
Financial Allocation:

- ERDF – EU Share: €362M, MT Share: €91M, **Total: €453M** (80% co-financing rate)
- CF – EU Share: €218M, MT Share: €38M, **Total: €256M** (85% co-financing rate)
- ESF – EU Share: €106M, MT Share: €26M, **Total: €132M** (80% co-financing rate)

Commitment Table by Fund



Progress in the Implementation of Operational Programme I

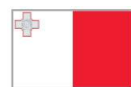


European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



PA 1 - Investing in Research, Technological Development & Innovation

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €72M | €72M | €54.3M | €26.4M | €22.4M | €22.4M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



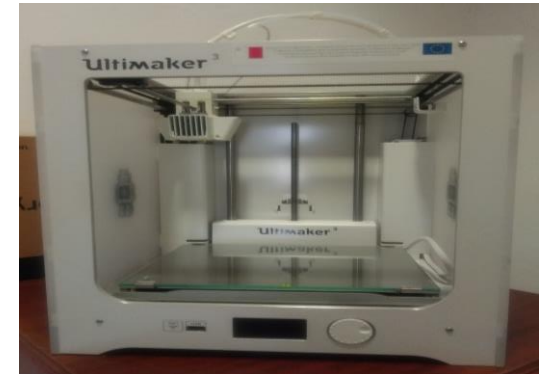
Key Achievements – PA1

Two mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €52M** currently being implemented.

Major achievements to-date include:

Sustainable Living Complex (SLC)

- Excavation works and structural designs nearly completed;
- Construction works expected to commence in Q4 2020;
- Contracts for M&E and Finishes and Fictures recently recommended for award;
- Further contracts for purchase of lab equipment enabling research related to resource-efficiency in buildings have been awarded.



3D Printer



Concrete rheometer used for rheology analysis on concrete

Key Achievements – PA1

TRAKE

- Works at the TRAKE's main building are well underway; expected completion date: Q4 2020;
- The M&E and Finishes works of the Metallurgy and Materials Engineering Laboratories (MMEL) ongoing; expected completion date: Q1 2021;
- Research activities under TRAKE have already started with the recruitment of 2 researchers to work on 2 different research projects:
 - the EyeDesign project covering systems and control engineering; and
 - the FLUENT project covering electronic systems engineering.



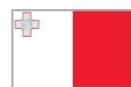
Construction works at TRAKE's main building



Ongoing works at MMEL – Level -1

PA 2 - Consolidating Investment within the ICT Sector

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €38.4M | €38.5M | €33.3M | €32.9M | €27.3M | €25.7M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA2

Two mainstream projects with a **public eligible value of €33.5M**

SIntegraM – focusing on the development of a single platform for data gathering and storing that allows multiple Government Ministries and entities to access the same data.

Deliverables include:

A. Government-to-Public services:

- Scanning of historical artefacts, national sites such as Għar Dalam, Valletta underground network, and Calypso cave.

<https://newsbook.com.mt/en/step-3000-years-into-the-past-at-tas-silg/>

- Immersion data services for University students and academics
- Orthophotos services

B. Government-to-Government services:

- Land Registry (Base data provision)
- Environment-related service such as remote sensing data service for quarry volume analysis
- Crime scene reconstruction for investigations and court procedures



Scanning of historical national sites

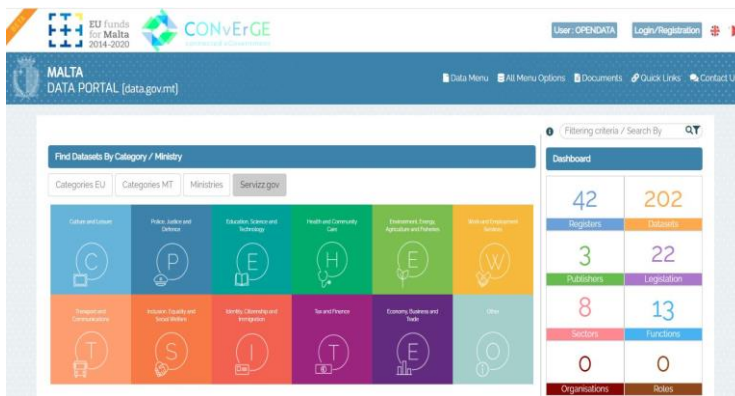


Crime scene reconstruction

Key Achievements – PA2

CoNvErGE – focusing on the setting up e-Service applications beneficial to business and citizens, continues to deliver new **e-services such as:**

- National Data Portal (<https://open.data.gov.mt/>)
- Workflow Engine (<https://workflow.gov.mt>)



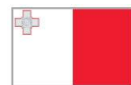
National Data Portal



Workflow Engine

PA 3 - Enhancing Malta's Competitiveness through Investments in SMEs

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €44.6M | €44.6M | €41.6M | €23.7M | €22M | €22M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA3

Three mainstream projects and five Aid Schemes with a public eligible value of €44.6M are being implemented under this PA.

Major achievements to-date include:

- The **Xewkija Industrial Workshop Complex** in Gozo is hosting 8 tenants skilled in light engineering works and other light industry.
- One lease agreement was signed for enterprises to operate from the **Xewkija Enterprise Hub** in Gozo with another three enterprises currently in discussions with Malta Enterprise.



External and internal views of the workshops at the Xewkija Industrial Workshop Complex

Key Achievements – PA3

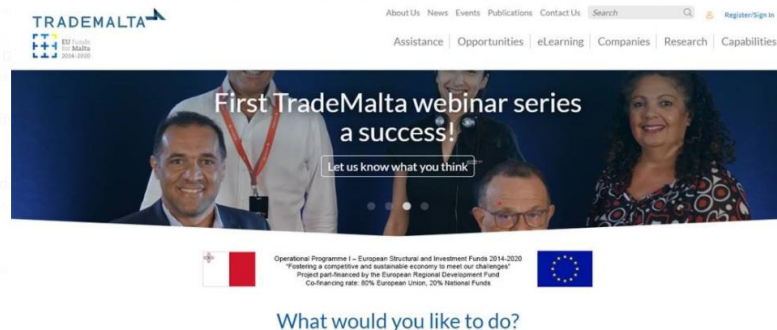
- Following the conclusion of road and main embellishment works within the **Crafts Village at Ta' Qali**, 22 tenants invested in their individual units, 14 of which have completed the rehabilitation works.
- Malta Industrial Parks have also continued to complement the EU funding under this project through investment in complementary actions such as the rehabilitation of an old Nissen hut, and the construction of an incubation centre.
- To date, 19 tenants are operating from the Crafts Village; these produce and sell different kinds of crafts and beautiful artefacts mainly in ceramics, woodwork, glass making, stone work and metals.



Examples of Ta' Qali Crafts Village local handmade crafts

Key Achievements – PA3

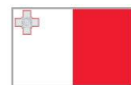
- Up till June 2020, 296 unique enterprises benefitted from the **Internationalisation Knowledge Platform** in several manners, including but not limited to:
 - Use of research material available on the platform; and
 - Production of promotional videos by a further 10 enterprises, resulting in a total of 30 productions funded under this project.
- TradeMalta also invested in attracting Gozo-based enterprises to benefit from the new information knowledge platform. Earlier this year it trained two Malta Enterprise officials to handle first-line enquiries by Gozo-based enterprises at the Gozo Business First office. An information seminar in Gozo on TradeMalta's incentives and online services found on the platform is also being planned.



Webinars organized by TradeMalta

PA 4 - Shifting Towards a Low-Carbon Economy

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €57.7M | €35.8M | €35.6M | €20.4M | €18.4M | €16.6M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA4

Three mainstream projects related to **Energy Efficiency** with a **total public eligible value of €6.3M** are being implemented.

Major achievements to-date include:

- The installation of over 3,000 smart LED **street lighting**, covering Malta's main arterial and distributor roads, which has resulted in a decrease of c. 775 tonnes of CO2 equivalent and a decrease of primary energy consumption of c. 1,649 MW/h;
- Energy efficiency measures in 9 of the wards at **St. Vincent de Paul Residence** have been fully completed, whilst works in another ward are currently ongoing and expected to be completed by Q4 2020;
- The installation of double-glazing apertures at the **Gozo Administration Centre** has been completed.



Energy Efficiency measures installed at Lourdes Ward, St Vincent de Paul Residence



Double-glazing apertures installed at the Gozo Administration Centre

Key Achievements – PA4

Five mainstream projects related to **Renewable Energy** with a **total public eligible value of €14.8M** were being implemented, one of which was concluded in 2018.

Major achievements to-date include:

- The **Domestic Grant Scheme** continued to prove to be very successful with **6,291 households** benefitting from financial support to undertake investment in RES by installing PV panels;
- The PVs installed have produced 21.6MW of additional capacity of renewable energy production;
- NGO-led projects registered progress with the conclusion of installation of PVs at the **OASI Foundation building** and the ongoing installation of PV systems at two **Church schools** (B’Kara and Mosta).



PVs installed at the OASI Foundation, generating 29.68KWp of renewable energy

Financial Instrument – PA4

€15M have been allocated towards a Financial Instrument to generate a portfolio of guaranteed loans of c. €54M to €60M to **households and enterprises** to carry out **RES and EE measures**.

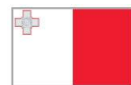
Examples of eligible measures include:

- insulation, windows and doors, other building-envelope related measures with impact on thermal performance
- space heating, domestic hot water, ventilation systems, cooling, lighting, building and Energy management systems, connection to energy supplies, integrated renewable energy investments, charging stations for electric vehicles
- renewable energy investments, such as photovoltaic farms not directly linked to building
- electric vehicles (for corporates)
- other energy efficiency investments which aim at reduction of energy consumption
- water efficiency measures

Two commercial banks have been selected to implement this Financial Instrument, and will be signing the operational agreements in Q4 2020.

PA 5 - Protecting our Environment – Invest in Natural and Cultural Assets

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €72M | €68.9M | €44.9M | €28.1M | €23M | €22.3M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA5

Twenty-eight cultural and natural heritage projects with a public eligible value of **€68.9M** are being implemented under this PA.

Major achievements to-date include:

- The main works tender for **MICAS** has been awarded and preparatory works on site started. This will see a dilapidated historical area transformed into a space for contemporary art;
- Ongoing rehabilitation works at **Chadwick Lakes** with c. 50,000m² of material removed, increasing the water catchment by 35,000m². Old rubble walls were re-constructed and new ones built to restore the water course and enhance the ecology of the lakes. The Family Park is at an advance stage of completion.



Artistic impression of MICAS – exhibition space for contemporary art



Ongoing works at the Family Park at Chadwick Lakes

Key Achievements – PA5

- 608 volumes from the **Notarial Archives** have undergone conservation treatment as part of a project which will also include the digitisation and cataloguing of the archives, apart from restoration works on the building itself;
- A new virtual museum titled '**Reliving The Sacra Infermeria**' was inaugurated at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta. Visitors will now be able to experience how this historical hospital operated, through their mobile phone cameras at 18 different stations. The museum also includes a hologram of Grandmaster La Valette. The roof terrace offers an added value of unique scenarios of the Grand Harbour;



Conservation of notarial archives



'Reliving The Sacra Infermeria' mobile app

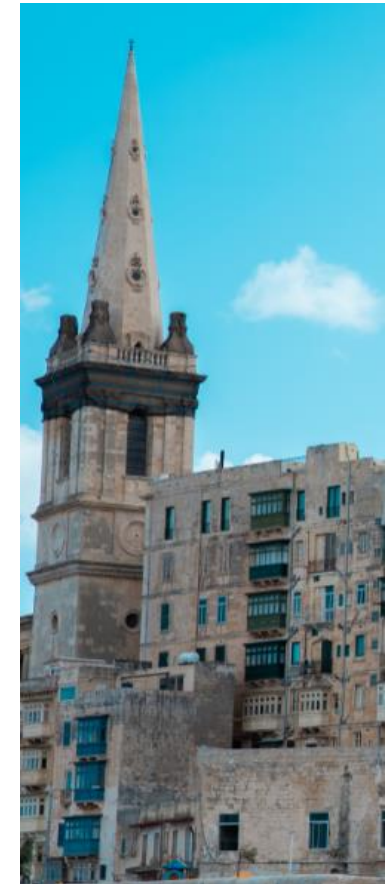
Key Achievements – PA5

Projects led by NGOs and Local Councils have also registered progress:

- Restoration of the tower stone fabric & other investigative & ancillary works at **St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral Tower and Church** commenced in the first quarter of 2020;
- The contract for the restoration of **St Thomas Tower** and sea battery in Marsascala, serving as a museum dedicated to the history of piracy, was awarded and works are expected to commence shortly.



St Thomas Tower Marsaskala



Restoration of St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral Tower and Church

Key Achievements – PA5

- The restoration of the **Tunnara Westreme Battery** in Mellieħa is nearly complete and the upgrading of the interpretation centre is expected to be finalised early next year.
- Works at the ecclesiastical museum at **St Dominic's Priory** in Rabat encompassing a display of historical ecclesiastical artefacts, are nearly completed. This museum will be complemented with an audio-visual centre creating a space for deeper insights for religious tourists.
- Rehabilitation works at the **Attard Embankment** and the **Birkirkara Railway station**, both showcasing the railway era in Malta have been completed.



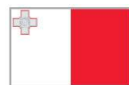
Tunnara Westreme Battery



Birkirkara Railway station

PA 6 - Sustainable Urban Development

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €24M | €24M | €18.6M | €10M | €6.6M | €6.6M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA6

- The **Regeneration of the Lower Valletta** area has undergone extensive restoration. Works included the restoration of 12.5 km² of bastions, the facades of the Auberge de Bavière and the House of Catalunya and the refurbishment of pavements in the Marsamxett area.
- An additional investment was undertaken at **Marsamxett** which has resulted in improved open spaces in this area.
- The development of the **Marsamxett Heritage Trail Mobile Application** is in its final stages and is expected to be launched by end of this year;



Restoration of Valletta fortifications



Heritage Trail Mobile Application

Key Achievements – PA6

- **11 families** are benefitting from **refurbished social housing units** after extensive works carried out on previously dilapidated building in Carmelite Street. Additional refurbishment works are being undertaken on a further 8 housing units in Old Mint Street, and a further 20 units in West Street, which are at an advanced stage of implementation;
- **1 Passenger lift** has been installed and has facilitated accessibility for **11 families** at a housing unit in Carmelite Street. A further 4 lifts are being installed in other housing units in Old Mint Street, in Charles Street and in West Street;
- Works for the conversion of the Old Abattoir site in Valletta have continued to progress at a very steady pace; the rehabilitated building will host the **Valletta Design Cluster**, which will offer meeting rooms, and studios to NGOs and individuals working in the cultural and creative sector.



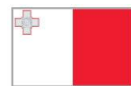
Upgrading of 90, West Street



Development of the Valletta Design Cluster

PA 7 - Shifting Towards a More Low-Carbon Transport Sector

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €35.5M | €35.5M | €23.9M | €16.8M | €9.3M | €8.6M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA7

Allocation for Priority Axis 7 - €35.5M with one mainstream project (**SMITHS**) being implemented.

Major achievements to-date include:

- The continuation of the **Bormla and Sliema ferry landing sites** aimed to increase the potential of collective Maritime transport as an alternative mode to road private transportation.
- Civil works on the **Pedestrian Bridge Blata I-Bajda**, which was completed in July 2020. The bridge provides a safer and quicker arterial road-crossing for pedestrians and cyclists whilst facilitating the commute of many passengers who use this area to change buses on their way to and from the south of Malta.



Ongoing works at the Bormla ferry landing site



The completed Pedestrian Bridge at Blata I-Bajda

Key Achievements – PA7

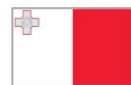
With regards the multi-modal hub in Gozo, **6 fully electric powered buses** were delivered. The multimodal hub, complemented by a park and ride service operated with these electric buses, aims to alleviate the traffic congestions being experienced in and around the Mġarr port in Gozo.



One of the 6 fully-electric powered buses delivered to Gozo, to complement the multi-modal hub in Gozo

PA 8 - Investing Towards a More Socially-Inclusive Society

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €59M | €47M | €43M | €16M | €12.5M | €11.9M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA8

Major achievements to-date include:

- In the area of **social housing**, order to start works for 70 Blocks was issued through which works commenced in 53 Blocks. As a result, 21 lifts were installed, benefitting 393 residents from improved accessibility, out of which 8 persons with a physical impairment.
- Excavation works on Zone 2 at the **Paola Regional Hub** are in their final stages whilst ERA permission granted to initiate excavations in both Zone 1 and 3.
- The NGO-led project for the development of the **Caritas Community Centre** progressed significantly with the finalisation of the construction phase, and the commencement of the M&E works and finishes package.



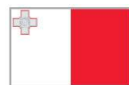
Paola Regional Hub - excavation works



Caritas Community Centre - M&E and Finishes works

PA 9 - Developing our Future through Education, Training and Lifelong Learning

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €33.6M | €33.9M | €33.4M | €20.6M | €14.8M | €14.8M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA9

Two mainstream projects with a total public eligible value of **€33.9M** are currently being implemented.

Major achievements to-date include:

- Under **INVEST**, all 78 VET labs have been fully completed with a total capacity of 8,029.
- During the 2019-2020 scholastic year, a total of 2,508 students from Forms 3, 4, and 5 benefitted from these VET labs for the first time.



Hairdressing and Beauty Lab at San Ġorg Preca College



Textiles and Fashion Lab at San Ġorg Preca College – Ħandaq Secondary School

Key Achievements – PA9

- Construction works on the new **Institute of Information, Communication and Technology (IICT)** and on the **Resource Centre** at **MCAST** are currently ongoing.
- The tender for the purchase of equipment and furniture of the Resource Centre is currently being evaluated and is expected to be awarded by end of year.



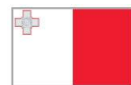
Advanced construction works at the Resource Centre



Ongoing construction works at the IICT

PA 10 - Investing in a More Environmentally-Friendly Society

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €166.5M | €186M | €148.6M | €84.9M | €61.8M | €61.3M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA10

Seven mainstream projects including a Major Project with a **total public eligible value of €186M** are being implemented under this PA.

In the **waste sector**, major achievements to-date include:

- Ongoing rehabilitation works of the former landfill at **Wied Fulija** included the covering of waste mounds with a regulating layer, and the construction of a reservoir and a retaining wall. This will be followed by laying the topsoil and landscaping, which will result in the former landfill being made accessible to the general public through foot-paths on site.
- Excavation works at the **Multi-Material Recovery Facility** in Hal Far were followed by construction works on the foundations on site, under this project aimed to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by re-utilisation and exportation.



Construction of reservoir at Wied Fulija landfill site



Construction of foundations at the MMRF site

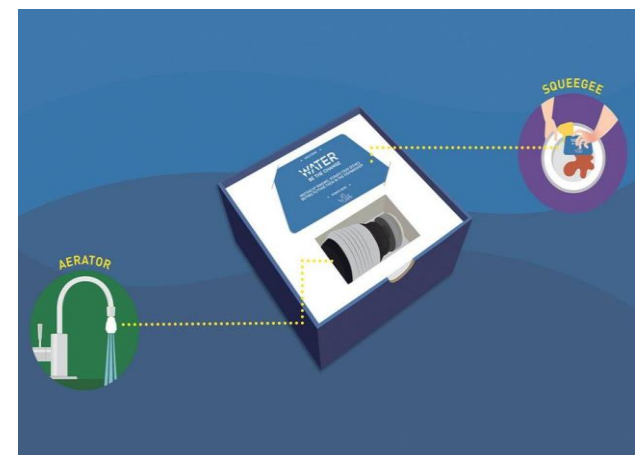
Key Achievements – PA10

Two information campaigns in the areas of waste and water are being carried out.

- The **waste campaign** continued with the separation of waste at source through 5 kerbside collection vehicles, distribution of bins and collection of non-cytotoxic medicinal waste from pharmacies.
- As part of the **water campaign**, the mobile unit visited 7 localities and distributed around 7000 gift packs and c. 6000 Water Conservation Kits to households up till March 2020.
- Adverts, mass and social media marketing kept rolling out as originally planned.



Non-cytotoxic waste bins distributed to pharmacies.



Water campaign educational publicity

Key Achievements – PA10

- Under the **Water Major project**, the underground tunnel from Pembroke RO to reservoirs in Ta' Qali progressed with 6.4km of drilling ready. The Iklin–Ibraġġ section was successfully dug up. This tunnel will improve energy efficiency, optimise blending process and reduce operational costs during water conveyance.
- The retrofitting of **Sant'Antnin Wastewater treatment plant**, which will result in the increased availability of waste-water treatment capacity, is nearly finalised. Works on the micro-tunnel pipe from Ta' Barkat to Sant Antnin in Marsaskala are progressing.
- Under the **RainWiin project**, works for the excavation and construction of water basins and water retention commenced in June 2020. This project is contributing to valley management and to the utilisation of rainwater storage infrastructure.



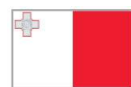
Water Major Project: Iklin-Ibraġġ breakthrough



Basin excavation works under the RainWiin pilot project

PA 11 - Investing in TEN-T Infrastructure

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €89.7M | €82.8M | €58.9M | €50.9M | €33.1M | €33.1M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA11

Three projects with a **total public eligible value of €83M** are being funded under this PA.

TEN-T Roads:

- Works on the **Santa Luċija Underpass** and the **Marsa Junction** continued during 2020.
- The completion of these components is expected by end of year, resulting in 1.34km of enhanced TEN-T road section, with increased road safety and reductions in journey time.

TEN-T Ports:

- Tender for the dredging works within the **Grand Harbour port** is currently under evaluation whilst the main civil works tender for a new cargo facility located at Ras Hanzir is currently on the market.
- This project is expected to increase the operational capacity of the Grand Harbour Port in Valletta, together with the setting up of a new cargo facility.

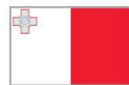


Santa Luċija Underpass – TEN-T Road Infrastructure



Site of new cargo facility

Progress in the Implementation of Operational Programme II

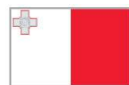


European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



PA 1 - Investing in the employability and adaptability of human capital

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €26M | €27.5M | €17.9M | €13.2M | €1.2M | €11.2M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA1

Two mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €15.5M** currently being implemented.

Major achievements to-date include:

- The TFE supported 2,767 participation instances with 2,593 unique. 2,519 (over 97%) of these individuals exited the project and out of these, 35% were in employment. In 2020 alone, the TFE saw an increase of 380 participants, over 93% of which are under the Work Exposure Scheme and the Developing Skills Scheme.
- In 2020, 104 participants entered the Youth Guarantee Programme under the NEET Activation Scheme. During Summer 2020, 599 youths followed the SEC prevention Classes which were offered in Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Maltese and English.

EU funds for Malta 2014-2020

Pibaku

MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
FOR EU FUNDS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

What are the benefits of a Traineeship or Work Exposure Scheme?

- You can get **hands-on experience** in a real work environment
- You receive a **training allowance**
- You enhance **your employability**

Who can apply?

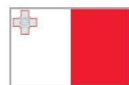
Unemployed and Persons who are **not in Education or Training**

Need more information?
Call us on
t: 22201635/6/7/8

Operational Programme 1 - European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020
"Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the well-being of society"
Project part-financed by the European Social Fund
Co-financing rate: 80% European Union; 20% National Funds

PA 2 - Towards a more inclusive society

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €40M | €41.7M | €32.4M | €20.9M | €1.1M | €16.03M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



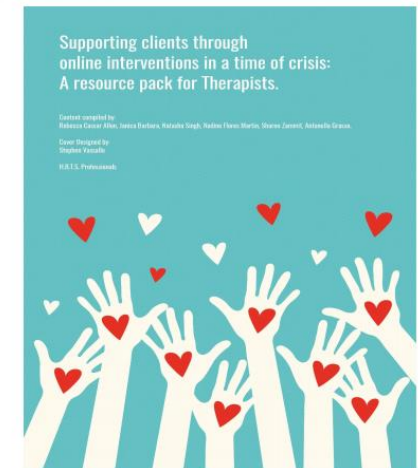
Key Achievements – PA2

Eleven mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €41.7M** currently being implemented.

Major achievements to-date include:

Social Inclusion

- 681 vulnerable persons received training in order to develop their skills to be prepared for the working environment through VASTE and INK.
- Training and intervention services for vulnerable groups continued to be provided through the Home-Based Therapeutic Services with 44 new participants introduced to the service in 2020. 3,504 therapeutic interventions, adapted according to families' needs, took place between January and June 2020. Until June 2020, a total of 628 vulnerable persons benefitted from HBTS.



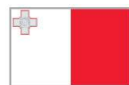
Key Achievements – PA2

Approval of two research studies in view of Covid-19:

- A research with the aim to monitor the psychological wellbeing of the nation as the coronavirus pandemic impacts Malta and Gozo under ESF.02.049 (Richmond Foundation).
- A research study on how this pandemic might have influenced the mental health of persons who had been impacted by different Social Determinant of Health factors prior to the start of the pandemic; and the resulting effect on other persons who due to the Covid-19 pandemic would have encountered socio-economic difficulties that might have negatively influenced their wellbeing.

PA 3 - Investing in people through Education, Training and Life Long Learning

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €47.4M | €38.4M | €30.5M | €25.9M | €3.7M | €17.1M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA3

Five mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €30.8M** currently being implemented.

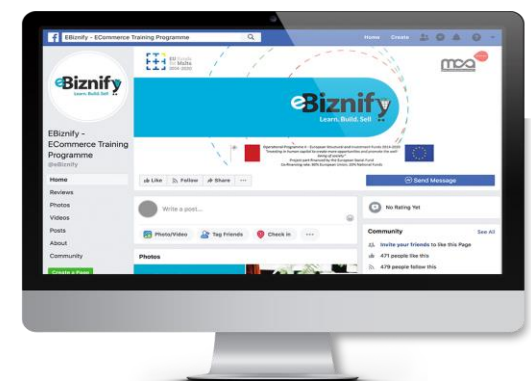
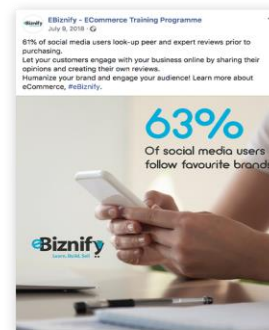
Major achievements to-date include:

- The One Tablet Per Child tablets became a critical tool for students and teachers to continue learning and teaching during the COVID-19 school closure.
- A National Strategy for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills is going to be developed and funded through the OTPC project.
- Virtual Reality technology will be introduced for special education needs students to ease understanding and bring the curriculum to life.



Key Achievements – PA3

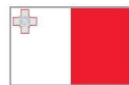
- An important investment which reaped its benefits during the pandemic was the eCommerce training programme eBiznify which provided an opportunity to participants to gain more insight and knowledge on how one can build upon or improve their online presence and business operations.
- Through the programme participants managed to gain momentum through skills acquired through the online training platform.



Key Achievements – PA3

- Endeavour Call 5 was issued in 2019. Following the selection process of this call, 165 scholars (57% women) studying an MQF 7 course were awarded with a grant. In total, these grants amount to €1,477,094 and will be disbursed through Simplified Cost Options based on the number of ECTS obtained. Call 6 under the Endeavour Scholarship Scheme was launched in July 2020. The applications received under this call are still under evaluation.
- The remaining two projects approved under IP10iv have been withdrawn by the Beneficiaries.

Further Studies Made Affordable (FSMA) ESF Financial Instrument (IP10ii)



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds

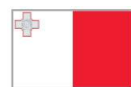


FSMA – key achievements

- The FSMA supports the development of human capital and meet the financing needs of students seeking to pursue a study programme for accredited courses in MQF levels 5, 6, 7 and 8, as well as other internationally-recognized courses.
- €5.2M out of €5.5M have been committed to 135 students equivalent to 96% with the average loan size being €39K. As at to date, €1.5M have been disbursed by the banks.
- 34% of the loan awardees are women.
- 45% of the loans were provided to Internationally Recognised Courses followed by 42% for Level 7 and Level 8 courses and 13% for Level 5 and Level 6 courses.
- Following the successful performance of the FSMA, an additional €1M was allocated to the scheme to reach the maximum allocation of €3M to this financial instrument. This would enable a higher portfolio available from €5.5M to €8.25M.

PA 4 - Building the Institutional Administrative Capacity

| PA Allocation | Committed | Contracted | Disbursed | Verified | Certified |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| €11M | €15.6M | €11.7M | €6.5M | €188K | €3.3M |



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Key Achievements – PA4

Fifteen mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €15.6M** currently being implemented.

Major achievements to-date include:

- The Planning Authority continued to enhance the skills of its employees through training in various areas and introduced a mentoring booth for staff to develop their problem-solving skills.
- PA employees who participated in the Spatial Train courses are currently engaged in a new approach for updating of the national basemap based on the use of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).
- Between January and June 2020, the Mystery Shopper project continued to emphasize adherence to Directive 4-1 (Standards for excellence offered by the public administration) and the Once Only Principle.



Key Achievements – PA4

- Training in Industrial Relations and Human Resources to GWU members, training and up-skilling of Malta Chamber of SME's staff members through the HR in PR activity and Basic Training in Financial Services and capacity building amongst social partners and civil society organisations continued to be provided in 2020, reaching a total of 135 participants (35% women).
- An awareness campaign was launched by the Malta Chamber of SME's in January 2020 to increase awareness on the role of Social Partners and enhance social dialogue in Malta.

PROJECT PART FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



Operational Programme II – European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020
"Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the well-being of society"
Project part-financed by the European Social Fund
Co-financing rate: 80% European Union; 20% National Funds



Login | Register



MEMBERS LOGIN

Username

Password

LOGIN

[Forgot Password?](#)

[Register](#)

Support to Enterprises

Operational Programme I:
Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes

Operational Programme II:
A2E and Investing in skills



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds

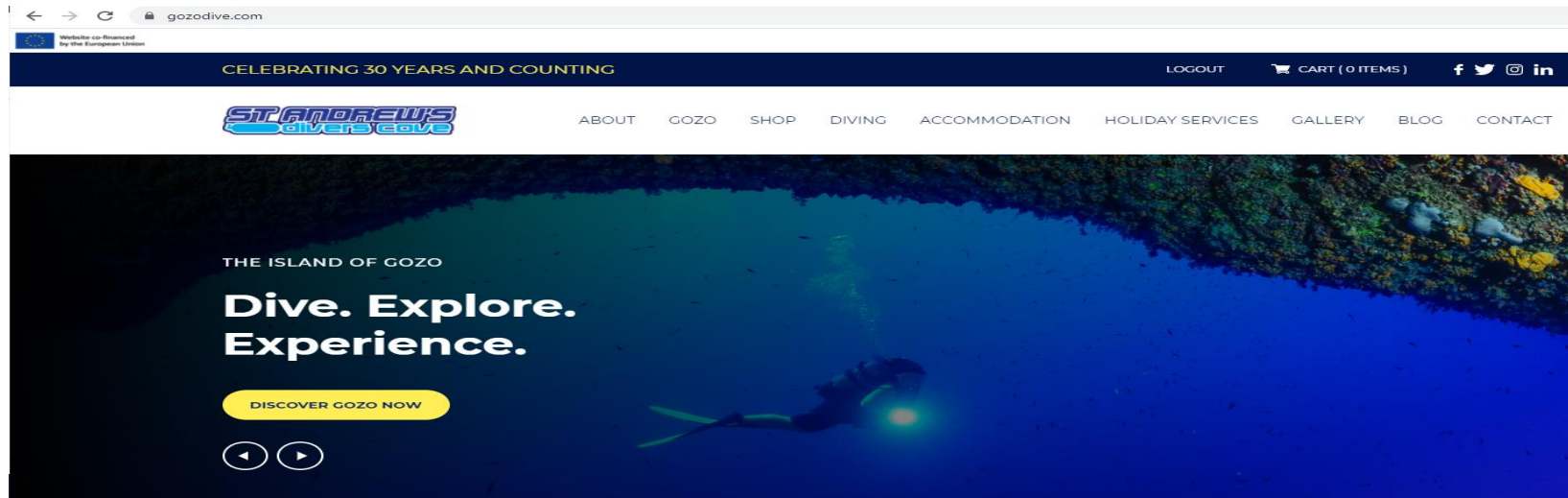


ERDF Grant Schemes Progress

Under the ERDF, 7 Grant Schemes are being funding with a total amount of €51M.

Under the **R&D&I scheme (PA1)**, to date an open-rolling call with 9 cut-off dates was published, with 1 application approved with an allocation of €0.4M. In view of the low number of applications and take-up, a reduction in the budget allocated to this scheme is being proposed through the OP changes being referred to this MC for approval.

Under the **E-Commerce Grant scheme (PA2)**, to date an open-rolling call with 15 cut-off dates was published, under which 15 grants out of 39 applications were approved with total value of €59K.



ERDF Grant Schemes Progress

- **5** Aid Schemes are being implemented under **PA 3** aimed to assist undertakings in **growth, start-up investment, diversification and innovation, internationalisation** and **consultancy**.
- In 2020, the open rolling calls resulted in 64 new grants out of 159 applications, with a total value of €4.2M, with 50 micro, 9 small and 5 medium-sized companies recipients of aid.
- To date, **the total number of companies benefitting under all 5 Aid Schemes** amounts to **298** for a total assistance of **€17.4M**.



“Our enterprise has invested in distillery equipment to set-up the first distillery in the Maltese Islands. We have undertaken this investment initiative to provide the local market with locally produced pure alcohol products as the Maltese market was solely reliant on imported similar products.”

Gozo Distillers Ltd (Start-up Investment Grant Scheme)

ESF Aid Schemes Progress

Access to Employment (€12 million) - provides employment aid to enterprises in Malta and Gozo to promote the recruitment of the more challenged amongst jobseekers and inactive persons.

- From Call 2 and Call 3 (Oct 2020) rates were updated to a subsidy of €104 per week per new recruit for 26 weeks, 52 weeks or 104 weeks, depending on the target group. In the case of registered disabled persons, a subsidy of €155 per week for a maximum of 156 weeks is provided.
- As at end September 2020, 1,510 grants were signed amounting to €9.2M, whilst €6.6M were paid.

EU funds for Malta 2014-2020

jobsplus

RECOVER PART OF YOUR NEW STAFF COSTS
with the **Access to Employment Scheme**
FIND OUT MORE

*Terms and conditions apply

Operational Programme II - European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020
"Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the well being of society"
Aid scheme part-financed by the European Social Fund
Co-financing rate: 80% European Union; 20% National Funds

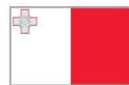
ESF Aid Schemes Progress

Investing in Skills (€5 million) - intended to promote access to the training of persons actively participating in the Maltese labour market, with a view to increasing productivity and enhancing adaptability by improving the knowledge and skills of employed persons.

- Eligible training can be either Classroom style, one-to-one training or on-the job training, online live training sessions, or accredited distance learning. As of 6th May 2020, the scheme was further broadened to include accredited online self-led training.
- As at end September 1,983 grants have been signed amounting to €3.4M, resulting in over 6,000 participants trained, 47% of which were women.



Progress in the Implementation of SMEi Initiative Operational Programme



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



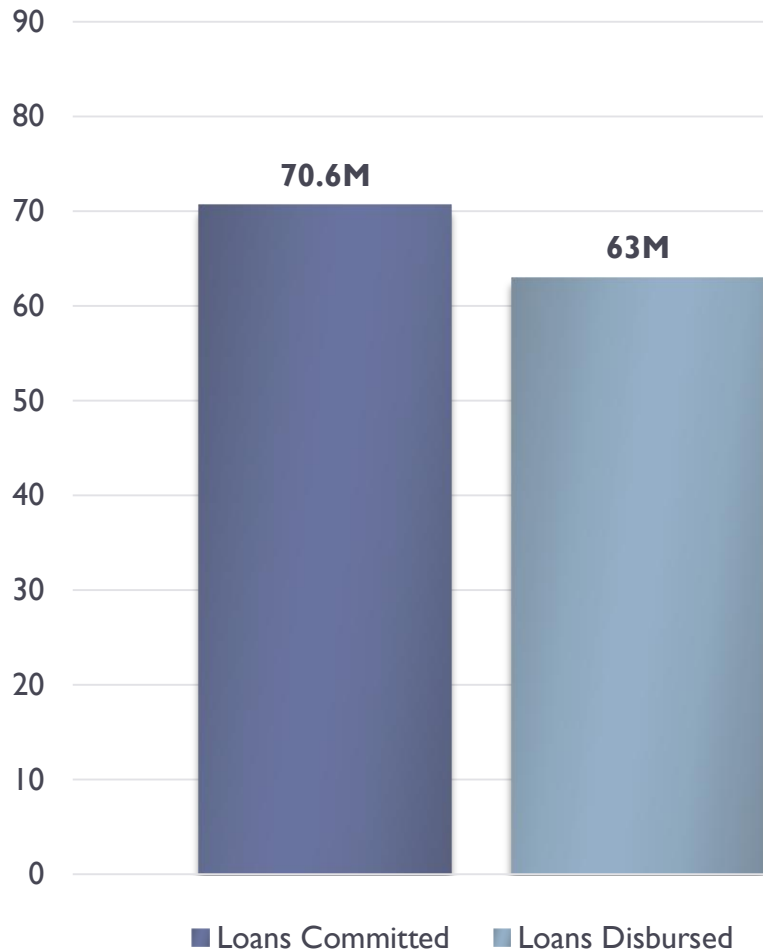
Overview

- The SME Initiative aims at improving competitiveness of SMEs by facilitating SMEs access to finance.
- It provides an uncapped guarantee for a portfolio of new loans to SMEs.
- The implementation period has now been extended until 31st December 2023.
- **A top up of €7M is being envisaged to increase the allocation to this financial instrument to €29M.**
- The new Maximum Portfolio Volume (MPV) of loans shall now amount to **€116M**.
- As at 30/06/2020, **€70.6M** have been committed to **706 SMEs** through **836 transactions**. Average size of loans stands at €84k.

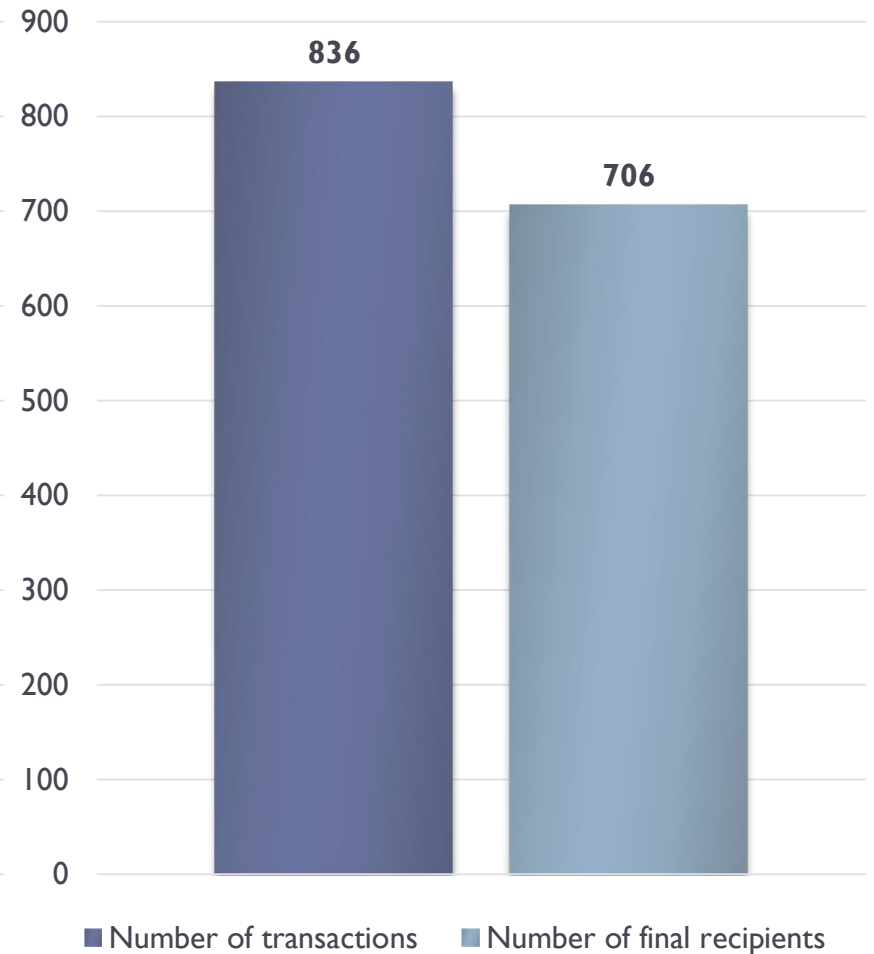
The instrument will achieve a leverage of 4x of ERDF resources committed to the instrument.

Progress as at June 2020

Loans committed and disbursed (millions)

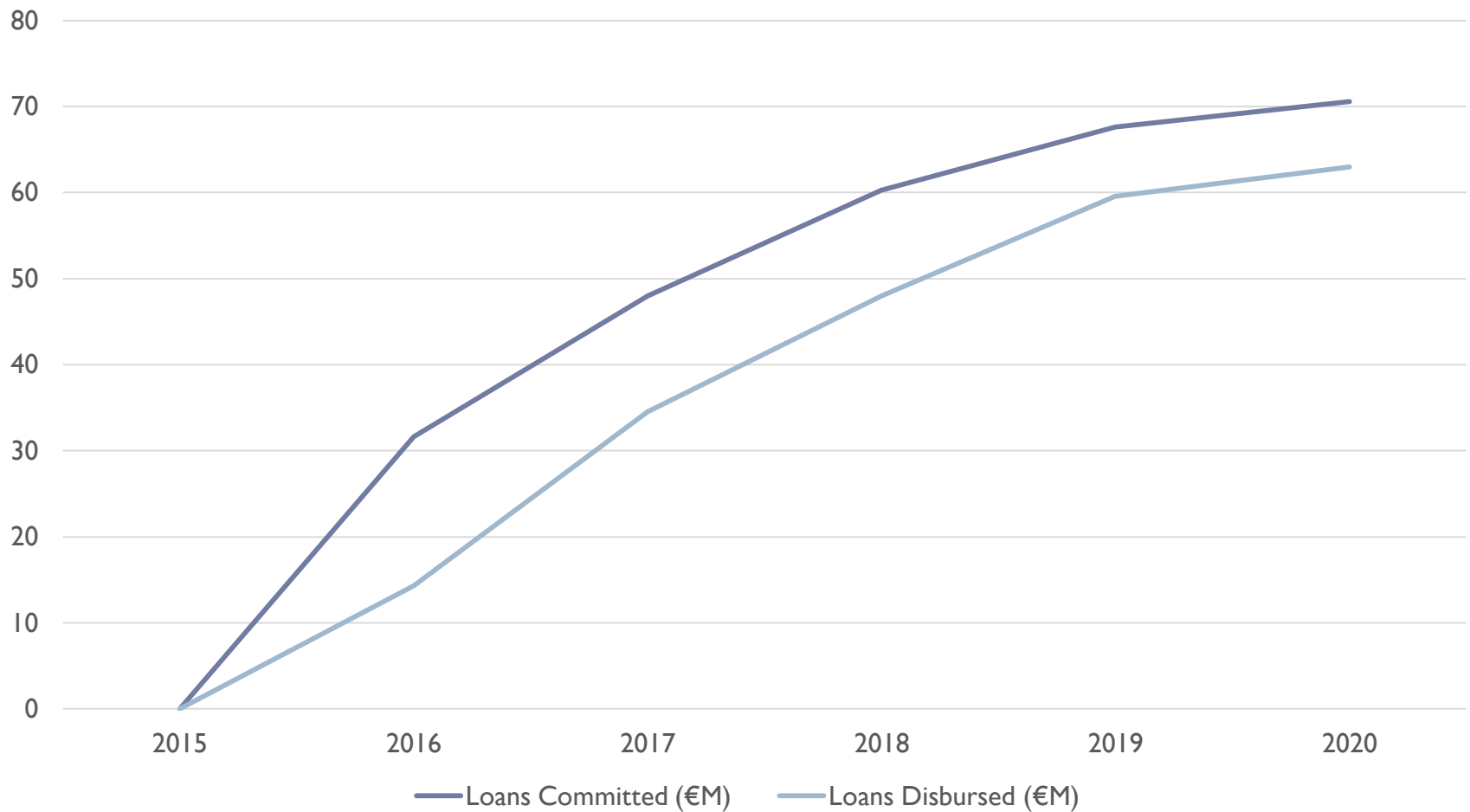


Number of transactions and final recipients

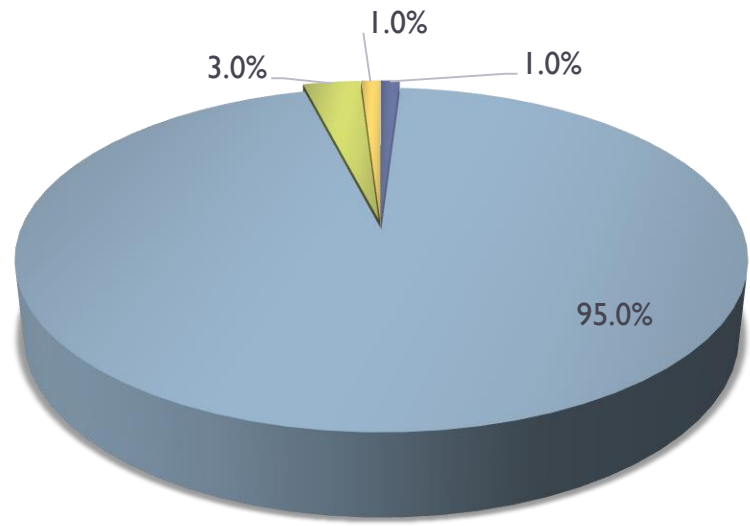


Build up of Portfolio – Loans Committed and Disbursed

Loans Committed and Disbursed (cumulatively)

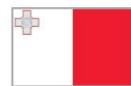


Loan Purpose



- Working capital
- Tangible investment
- Intangible investment
- Business Transfer

Challenges brought about on implementation due to COVID - 19



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Challenges in implementation due to Covid-19



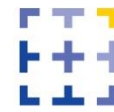
EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020

Some projects experienced delays and/or changes due to COVID-19 for several reasons, such as:

- lack of full capacity of personnel on site in infrastructural projects;
- delays in procurement and delivery of equipment and material needed from overseas;
- unavailability of foreign experts required for commissioning of equipment and training originally planned overseas or locally with participation of foreign experts;
- public engagement activities such as campaigns and research had to be suspended/delayed due to COVID-related restrictions;
- students studying abroad had to return to Malta or change the modality of their studies following lock-down.

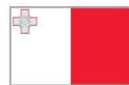
Mitigation measures undertaken in view of Covid-19



EU funds | 2014
for Malta | 2020

- Necessary revisions to factor the possibility for participants following ESF-funded activities to undertake such activities remotely where the nature of the task/s permitted;
- Possibility of online training and provision of new online resources to complement training activities;
- Trainers, social mentors, and job coaches continued their work through telephone calls with clients assisting to their needs, and updated training methods including the introduction of videos;
- Contract modifications to allow extensions in view of this *force majeure*.

Monitoring



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Monitoring of Indicators

- In order to facilitate and standardise the collection of indicators, ECU created an Implementation Progress Report which is to be submitted by BNs bi-annually in September and February.
- The September report covers implementation from January to June, whilst the report to be submitted in February covers the months of July to December.
- BNs are asked to report the achievement of the indicators in line with the established definition and methodology but also the progress of the activities undertaken and any issues hindering progress.
- In order to verify the indicators, ECU makes sure that all the supporting documentation is available and that it provides adequate evidence that the indicator was effectively achieved.
- As part of the verification process, ECU also verifies that each indicator is recorded in accordance to the pre-established definition and methodologies as outlined in an SoP issued earlier this year and its annexes to ensure consistency across all PAs

Monitoring of Projects' Implementation

- Monitoring of the projects' implementation continued to be critical to ensure progress on the ground through the collation of Project Progress Reports, including data on indicators, physical checks, general administrative checks and the day-to-day monitoring of projects by MA officers.
- Procurement checks undertaken to ensure that the claimed expenditure is legal and correct and in line with the objectives of the Grant Agreement.
- Eligibility checks for ESF projects undertaken as part of the validation of indicators.
- Administrative verifications undertaken to verify expenditure paid to be claimed from the European Commission.

Key Processes Review on the implementation of the ERDF, CF and ESF OPs:

- Following an assessment of by the Commission Evaluation Helpdesk in May 2020, the document was restructured to provide a more detailed description of the context within which the EU funding process occurs and a further analysis of the feasibility of the comments and recommendations made by respondents.
- The report is now being concluded by the MA and will be presented to the Evaluation Steering Committee by end of year.

TO3 Evaluation:

- The objective of this evaluation is to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the assistance available to SMEs. Tender is now on the market.
- Lot 1: evaluation of the SMEi financial instrument and an ex-ante assessment which is to be used as the basis for the new programming period.
- Lot 2: evaluation of the ERDF Business Enhance aid schemes and the ESF Investing in Skills schemes. An ex-ante study is also being commissioned as a basis for the new programming period

Communication Activities in 2020

- All planned physical communication events for had to be cancelled.
- In order to continue raising awareness on EU funds, PPCD placed all efforts in its social media page and collaborated with the Commission's *EU in my Region* team to create content for sharing and engaged in an information campaign on PBS.

 EU Funds Malta
23 September at 07:40 · 🌐

More than €700M in 🇪🇺 funds are being invested in 🇲🇹 to support the socio-economic development of the country. Over €70M from such funds have been used to help circa 1,000 SMEs by providing them the necessary capital to invest in their companies, grow their operations, whilst increasing their competitive advantage both locally and internationally.

[Fondi Ewropej Europe in my region](#)

#eufunds4 🇲🇹 #SMEs #economicgrowth #euinmyregion

 EU Funds Malta
7 October at 09:14 · 🌐

€132M have been specifically allocated towards the investment of human capital in order to provide new employment opportunities. Circa €30M in 🇪🇺 Funds have been allocated to various initiatives in order to facilitate access to employment through training for jobseekers, inactive young people who are at risk of social exclusion and vulnerable people 📚 📦

[Fondi Ewropej Europe in my region](#)

#eufunds4 🇲🇹 #humancapital #employment #training #education #euinmyregion





EU Funds Malta posted a video to the playlist Fun Fact Friday.

9 October at 08:52 · 🌐

...

Welcome to the EU Funds Malta Fun Fact Friday series 🤓

Every 2 weeks, our Fun Fact Friday videos bring you interesting facts about EU funded projects.

Massive thanks to [Europe in my region](#) for producing this video about the [#streetlighting](#) project which saw many roads in Malta and Gozo being upgraded with energy-efficient LED street lamps, all thanks to the [#EuropeanRegionalDevelopmentFund](#) 🙌👍

Fondi Ewropej

[#eufunds4](#) 🇲🇹 [#euinmyregion](#) [#funfactfriday](#) [#didyouknow](#)

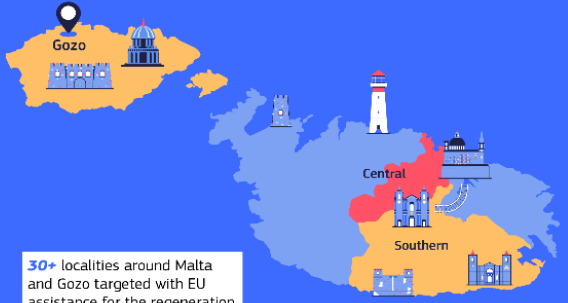


DID YOU KNOW?

[#EUinmyregion](#)

MALTA

EU funds for cultural heritage



30+ localities around Malta and Gozo targeted with EU assistance for the regeneration of urban patrimony



+€700M in EU funds invested to support socio-economic development in Malta



€75M of EU funds invested in Malta's heritage

[#EUinmyregion](#)



EU funds for Malta | 2014 2020



EU Funds Malta

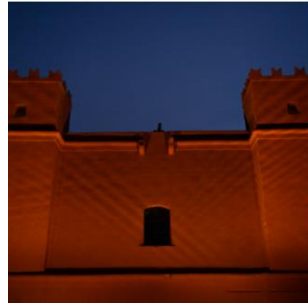
6 October at 08:19 · 🌐

...

Have you visited the Red Tower recently? If not, enjoy these awesome photos for now but we recommend that you visit very soon!

The Red Tower in Mellieha was restored this year thanks to the [#EuropeanRegionalDevelopmentFund](#), together with the help of the [Malta Tourism Authority](#).

Almost €250k in EU funding were allocated towards the Red Tower project which focused on restoration works consisting of the reinstatement of the external and internal surfaces. Other works included... [See more](#)



+10

Social Media – Boosted posts results in 2020

- 10 posts in the past weeks (5 containing videos and 5 photos) were boosted as part of the **EU in my Region** Social Media Campaign taking place in all MS.
- Total reach (unique persons who saw the content) was 127,395.
- 36,039 thruplays of our videos (played to completion or for at least 15 seconds).
- 4,663 post engagements (performed actions on the content) on the photo posts.

#eufunds4 #euinmyregion #funfactfriday #didyouknow



21,620
People Reached

1,778
Engagements

Boost Again

Boosted on October 9 at 9:00 AM Completed
By Nathalie Schembri

People Reached 21.6K

ThruPlays 7.2K



23,844
People Reached

2,400
Engagements

Boost Again

Boosted on October 20 at 9:08 AM Completed
By Nathalie Schembri

People Reached 21.9K

Post Engagements 2.2K

Communication Activities in 2020 and Beyond

Plans for 2021: A roaming photographic exhibition will be set up in the summer months in prominent open spaces in different regions in Malta and Gozo. The preparations for the procurement process (such as market research) for this exhibition has already started and tender is to be launched at a later stage.



Capacity Building

SFD training session for Beneficiaries was held in March;

Online training on Simplified Cost Options for MA officers was held in March, May and June;

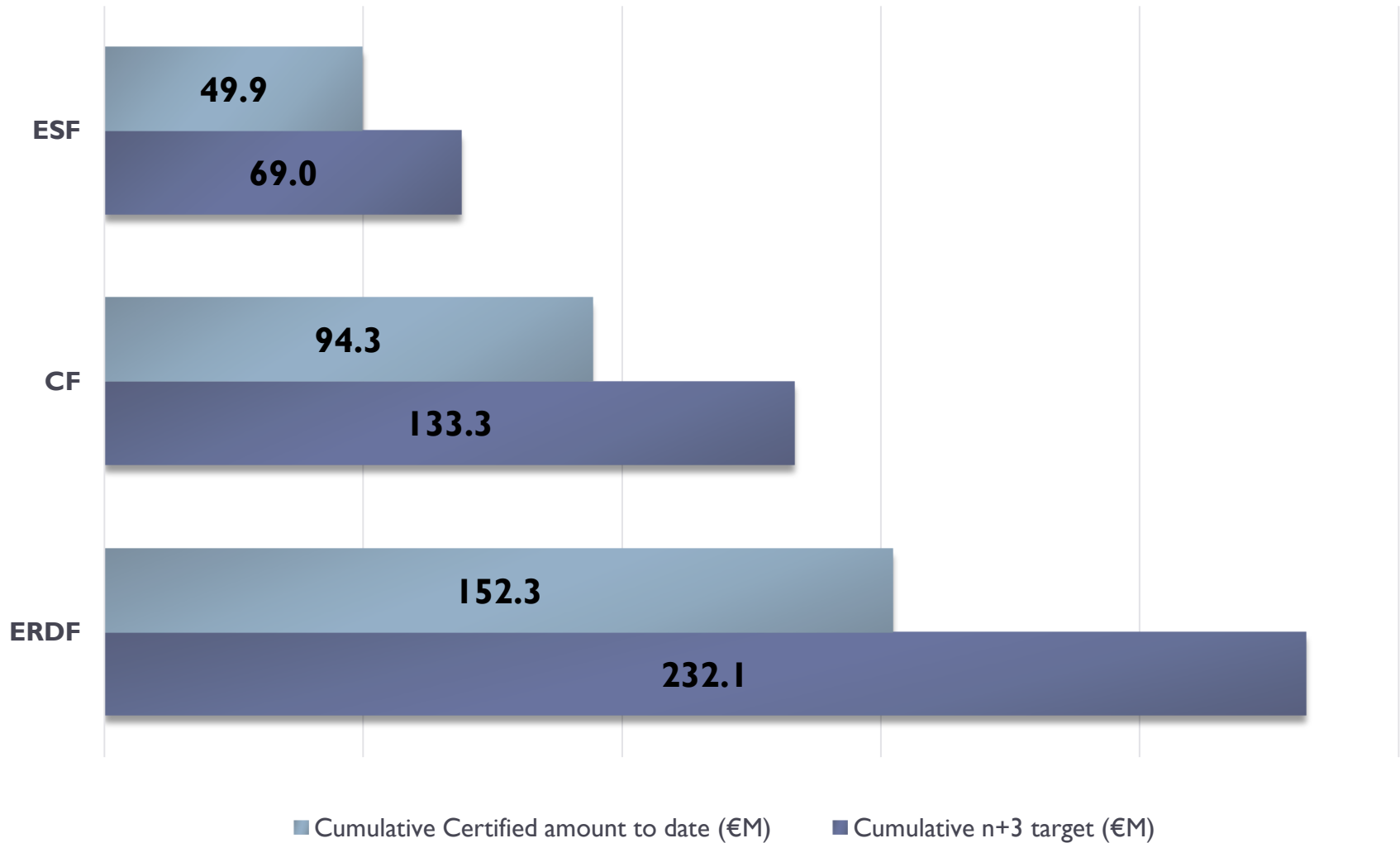
TAIEX Training on GDPR held on 16-17 July with 18 participants from the MA;

An online in-house training course was developed on management verifications composed of some 17 modules between July and November;

MA officers also participated in training courses pertaining to their individual expertise with a view to continue to develop and strengthen the existing skills set to match the business needs



Update on Implementation: N+3 Disbursement 2020



Concluding Remarks

- In view of the progress in the implementation of the Programme, visible and actual progress of projects on the ground was recorded, resulting in further achievements of output and financial targets.
- 2020 was mirrored with issues linked to the challenges that COVID-19 brought with it. These challenges are expected to persist in the coming months.
- All stakeholders need to identify mitigation measures to be implemented to gain the same momentum recorded in previous years to ensure full absorption of EU funding.
- The coming weeks will be critical from an audit perspective, with 10 mainstream operations and 40 operations being implemented by IBs, will be subject to an audit by the Programme Audit Authority. All stakeholders' timely input for the successful outcome of this process is critical.
- The proposed Programme modifications seek to mobilise funds to support the Maltese economy in an effective way, complementing other initiatives currently being implemented under other EU and national funding.

Contact Details

Secretariat to the Monitoring Committee,
Planning and Priorities Co-ordination Division,
Triq il-Kukkanja,
Santa Venera

Tel: + 356 22001142

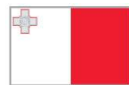
Fax: + 356 22001141

Email: info.eufunds@gov.mt

Website: www.eufunds.gov.mt



 **EU funds** | 2014
for Malta | 2020



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds

