

European Fisheries Fund programme 2007-2013

Malta

Annual Report 2010

June 2011

Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs

List of Acronyms

AA	Audit Authority
CA	Certifying Authority
EFF	European Fisheries Fund
EU	European Union
FB	Final Beneficiary
IB	Implementing Body
MA	Managing Authority
MGOZ	Ministry for Gozo
MMA	Malta Maritime Authority
MRRA	Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs
OP	Operational Programme
WMFFF	Wholesale Markets and Fishing Fleet Facilities

Annual Report on Implementation of the Maltese Operational Programme as per Article 67 of Council Regulation 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund

1. IDENTIFICATION

Member State: Malta

Operational programme	Programme number (CCI No):	2007MT14FP0001
Report on implementation	Reporting year:	2010
	Date of approval of the annual report by the monitoring committee	

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Priority Axis 1 – Measures for the adaptation of the Maltese fishing fleet

Measure 1.1 – Public Aid for permanent cessation of fishing activities

The main objective of the measure was to reduce the fishing capacity of the Maltese registered fishing fleet through the permanent cessation of fishing vessels.

A Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan has been prepared in line with Article 22 of Regulation 1198/2006 and published in the Government Gazette. The Plans presented measures that the Maltese fisheries administration has planned in order to adjust the fleet and to comply with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union.

Guidelines for applicants for the permanent cessation of fishing activities scheme has been published on the Government Gazette and the MRRA website, notice boards and copies were sent to both cooperatives and to the MGOZ. The call was published on the 16th March 2010 and closed on 14th April 2010. By the closing date, 67 applicants applied to benefit from this scheme.

During 2010, 8 vessels have been scrapped under this call. From these 8 vessels, 6 were vessels over 12 meters in length and 2 were vessels under 12 meters in length. The vessels amounted to a total of 133.67 Gross Tonnage and 1,040.67 Kw. The GT and the KW have been deleted from the Malta and European Fishing Vessel Register.

During the first launch of the scheme about € 1.1 million were disbursed. It is expected that another € 56,000 will be disbursed during the first 2 quarters of 2011.

Fishing vessels which were granted aid under the Permanent Cessation Scheme

The fishing vessels being demolished



Measure 1.3 – Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity

The measure was intended specifically to improve the existing fishing fleet through modernisation and will be managed in such a way that the fishing capacity does not exceed the tonnage and power of the existing fishing fleet. This could be reached through improvements of safety on board, working conditions on board, enhance hygiene, improve product quality, improve energy efficiency and increase selectivity of fishing gear provided that these do not increase the ability of the vessel to catch fish.

Guidelines for applicants for the Investments on Board Fishing Vessels and Selectivity scheme have been published on the Government Gazette and the MRRA website, notice boards and copies were sent to the fisheries cooperatives and to MGOZ. The call was published on the 16th March 2010 and closed on 14th April 2010. By the closing date, 50 applicants applied to benefit from this scheme.

From the 50 applications, 5 were ineligible. All the eligible applicants received an acceptance letter in order to sign an agreement with the WMFFF. 33 fishers entered into an agreement to avail themselves of the funds. 12 applicants classified as eligible but opted not to enter into an agreement with the Intermediate Body (IB) to avail themselves of the funds. The fact that the fishers have to finance 60% of the project, the limitations with regards to investments concerning fishing capacity, and the administrative obligations connected to these investments might be reasons for the low up take. Other reasons include doubts about the future sustainability of the economic activity.

One of the Maltese Traditional Fishing Vessel that will be granted aid under the Investments on Board Fishing Vessels and Selectivity



Measure 1.4 – Socio-economic compensation for the management of the community fishing fleet

Measure 1.4 of Priority Axis 1 deals with the socio-economic compensation for the management of the community fishing fleet. During 2010, a service provider was commissioned to provide training courses to 827 fishers.

The main aim of this training was to provide fishers with better knowledge of health and safety measures at sea, and focused on the following elements:

- Basic survival at sea
- Health and safety techniques
- Basic first aid
- Basic fire prevention and fire-fighting
- Knowledge about diversification of activities
- Promotion of equal rights

The courses commenced by the end of December 2010 and will be concluded by May 2011.

Basic First Aid and Basic Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting lessons which were held in 2010



Priority Axis 2 – Aquaculture, Inland fishing, Processing and Marketing of Fishery and Aquaculture Products

Measure 2.1 – Productive investments in aquaculture

Measure 2.3 – Investments in processing and marketing

Measure 2.1 – Productive investments in aquaculture

A tender for the preparation of an Aquaculture strategy for Malta was drafted in 2010. The strategy, which will be funded through Technical Assistance, will lay down a structured path for sustainably developing aquaculture in Malta and identify the domains that are essential for a profitable and sustainable industry in Malta. The aim of the strategy is to optimise the sustainable growth of the aquaculture sector by 2015.

Measure 2.3 – Investments in processing and marketing

The measure is intended to give support to a number of processing facilities within the fisheries sector. Investments concern capital projects in the construction, extension, procurement and modernising of processing equipment of fish products which involve fish handling, fish treatment, storage and distribution between the time of landing or harvesting and the end product stage but not at retail stage.

The last marketing and processing call under the FIG 2004-2006 was launched in 2008. The interest for this call was low, with only 3 enterprises submitting an application and 2 enterprises completing the project; it was decided to issue the marketing and processing call under EFF 2007-2013 during the last quarter of 2010, also to give more time to enterprises to recover from the economic crisis.

The Marketing and Processing call was published on 28th September 2010 and closed on 2nd November 2010. There were two eligible applications. The agreements with these 2 applicants, amounting to € 780,006, will be signed during the first quarter of 2011.

Priority Axis 3 – Measures of Common Interest

Measure 3.1 – Fishing Ports, landing sites and shelters

Fishing Ports

Port infrastructure will be enhanced through the procurement of service pillars which will provide electricity and fresh water to be used for maintenance, repair and cleaning of fishing vessels.

Landing Site and Shelters

Measure 3.1 deals with fishing ports, landing sites and shelters. The proposed designated ports in Malta still lack some basic amenities necessary for the proper control of landings. Moreover, the Mediterranean Regulation has further increased the obligations with respect to landings of tuna, swordfish and trawled fish. Catches of such species have now to be landed at designated ports. Investments will be made in four designated ports; Marfa, Valletta, Marsaxlokk and Mgarr Gozo, which have been indentified as the most advantageous sites for landings.

The site chosen for the new fish market is in Marsa and is adjacent to the Civil Abattoir. Discussions with MEPA were held as part of the assessment process. Work has started on the first draft of the tender dossiers.

The departmental tender for the modification of the existing slipway at the hard standing facilities Kavallerizza punta tal-qrejten Marsaxlokk was awarded and is being implemented.

Priority Axis 5 – Technical Assistance

Calls for the recruitment of 2 officials (1 for MA, 1 for IB) were published during 2010. An official from the Ministry for Finance, the Economy and Investment is performing the function of Certifying Authority for EFF and will therefore be co-financed through Technical Assistance. EFF will pay 75% of their salary while the balance of 25% will be paid by national funds.

A wave study to identify the best possible solution to the high wave disturbance experienced by fishermen at the hard standing facility and at the fishing berthing basin was financed through Technical Assistance.

A tender for the interim evaluation of the EFF was issued in December 2010. It is envisaged that the tender will be awarded in early 2011. A tender for the preparation of an Aquaculture strategy for Malta was drafted in 2010 and is expected to be awarded in early 2011. It is envisaged that an Alternative Site Assessment (ASA) for the marine hatchery and Bluefin tuna spawning facility (that is earmarked under Measure 2.1), will be conducted during 2011. The ASA will identify the most advantageous site after a comparative assessment.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME BY PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Information on the physical progress of the priority axes

Priority axis 1 – Measure for the adaptation of the Community Fishing Fleet

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 1: 6% reduction in fishing capacity of Malta fleet sector for declining species (Blue Fin Tuna & Swordfish) by 2015	Achievement				1,040.67 kW & 133.67 GT resulting in a 7.9% reduction in BFT and a 2.7% reduction in swordfish						1,040.67 kW & 133.67 GT. A 7.9% reduction was achieved for BlueFin Tuna, and a 2.7% reduction was achieved for swordfish.
	Target ¹										Gross tonnage of vessels to be scrapped 200 Average kW to be scrapped 1,252

¹ The target can be given annually or for the whole programming period

Baseline - gross tonnage of vessels in Fishing Vessel Register by end 2006 - 15,166											
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Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 2: More modern fishing fleet – 1% of total fleet would have undertaken modernisation by 2015	Achievement	0	0	0	0						
	Target										Number of vessels to be modernised by 2015 – 15 vessels
	Baseline – number of vessels in the Fishing										

	Vessel Register in 2006 which had already undertaken modernisation during the period 2004-2006 – 7										
Indicator 3 – Number of engines replaced with lower emissions- 7	Achievement	0	0	0	0						
	Target										Number of vessels with engines replaced for lower emissions by 2015 – 7 (876 kW)
	Baseline – Total engine power of all vessels										

	in the Fishing Vessel Register in 2006 – 98,744 kW										
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Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 4: Minimum 50% of trainees satisfied or very satisfied with training received	Achievement	0	0	0	0						
	Target										Number of fishers having received formal training during the period 2007-2013 – 30
	Baseline – Number of fishers which had received formal training on										

	professional skills during the period 2004-2006 – nil										
Indicator 5: Minimum 50% of trainees satisfied or very satisfied with training received	Achievement	0	0	0	0						
	Target										Number of fishers receiving formal training for occupations outside sea fishing during the period 2007-2013 – 30
	Baseline – Number of fishers which had received formal training for occupation										

	s outside sea fishing during the period 2004-2006 – nil										
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Priority Axis 2: Aquaculture, Processing and Marketing of Fishery and Aquaculture Products

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 6 – Accompanying investment by recipient farms by 2015	Achievement										
	Target										Number of new species cultivated – 1
	Baseline - Number of different species currently being cultivated in 2006 - 3										
Indicator 7 - % of projects undertaken by fin-fish farms that have an element of environmental protection – 25%	Achievement										
	Target										Number of fish farms that undertake

											environmentally friendly initiatives - 3
	Baseline – Number of environme nt protection projects undertaken by 2006 – 1										
Indicator 8 – Increase in average quantity of exports during the period 2007-2015 (+10%)	Achieveme nt										
	Target										Number of new species cultivated and exported by 2015 – 1
	Baseline – Number of species exported in 2006 – 2										

Indicator 9- Average number of fry commercially produced in 2015 – 1 million	Achievement										
	Target										Number of fish farms commercially producing fry – 1
	Baseline – Average number of fry commercially produced in 2006 – nil										
Indicator 10 – More modern fish processing and packaging industry – 80% of all plants are either new or modernised by 2015	Achievement										
	Target										Number of new processing and packaging facilities in operation by

											2015 - 2
	Baseline – Number of processing and packaging facilities in place in 2006 – 5										
Indicator 11: More modern fish processing and packaging industry – 80% of all plants are either new or modernised by 2015	Achieveme nt										
	Target										Number of existing plants undertaking action to modernise their processing facilities during the period 2007-2015 - 2
	Baseline – Number of processing										

	and packaging facilities in place in 2006 – 5										
Indicator 12: Increase in average quantity of exports (aquaculture and fisheries products) during the period 2007-2015 (+10% on the average quantity registered during the period 2004-2006)	Achievement										
	Target										Number of promotion and marketing projects undertaken – 1
	Baseline - Average quantity of exports (aquaculture and fisheries products)										

	during the period 2004-2006 – 301,972 kgs										
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Priority axis 3: Measure of Common Interest

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 13: Number of ports available for the landing and storage of fish – 7	Achievement										
	Target										Number of upgrading projects on major infrastructural facilities undertaken by 2010 – 1
	Baseline – number of ports having the necessary landing and storage facilities in 2006 – 1										
Indicator	Achievement										

14: All fish markets in operation by 2015 are new											
	Target										Number of newly developed fish markets by end 2015 – 1
	Baseline – number of fish market in areas in 2006 - 1										
Indicator 15: Increase in the average national per capita consumption of fish	Achievement										

(kg/year) during period 2007- 2015 (+3%)											
	Target										Number of marketing and promotional campaigns organised during the period 2007-2015 - 4
	Baseline – Average national per capita consumption of fish during period 2000-2006 – 6.58 kg/year										

Priority Axis 5: Technical Assistance

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Indicator 16: More efficient management of the OP	Achievement										
	Target										1 ex-ante evaluation, 1 interim evaluation, enhanced software system
	Baseline – Insufficient staff numbers and equipment										
Indicator 17: public access to information concerning the OP	Achievement										

	Target											Information concerning the EFF OP on website
	Baseline											

3.2 Specific information for priority axes and measures

A Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan has been prepared in line with Article 22 of Regulation 1198/2006. The Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan for Blue Fin Tuna was published on 22nd October 2010 in the Government Gazette.

The table below is an analysis of the results in implementing the fishing effort adjustment plan using the indicators defined in the EFF Operational Programme:

Objective	Baseline	Target by 2015	Achieved by 2010
Adjustment of the fishing capacity	Gross tonnage of vessels in Fishing Vessel Register by end 2006 – 15,166GT	Gross tonnage of vessels to be scrapped - 200	133.67 GT was scrapped
		Average kW to be scrapped – 1,252	1040.67 KW was scrapped

It is envisaged that the indicators as defined in the Operational Programme will be fully achieved through another Permanent Cessation call that will be published during 2011.

3.3. Financial information (all financial data shall be expressed in Euro)**Regions eligible under the convergence objective**

	Expenditure paid by the beneficiaries included in payment claims sent to the Managing Authority	Corresponding public contribution	Corresponding EFF contribution	Expenditure paid out by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries	EFF committed by the Managing Authority	Total payment requested from the Commission Specify the basis for calculating the Community contribution (Article 76 (1) or 76 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006)	Total payments received from the Commission A first advance payment to the amount of EUR 586,063.03 was executed on 23 rd December 2008, (bank value date). (a second advanced payment to the amount of EUR 586,063.03 was requested on 17 th June 2009 and was executed on 14 th

							September 2009 (bank value date).
Priority Axis 1	665,879.11	658,760.46	494,070.35	665,879.11	894,109.94	665,879.11	494,070.35
Priority Axis 2							
Priority Axis 3							
Priority Axis 4							
Priority Axis 5	29,283.09	29,283.09	21,962.32	29,283.09	21,962.32	29,283.09	21,962.32
Grand total	695,162.20	688,043.55	516,032.67	695,162.20	916,072.26	516,032.66	1,688,158.73

3.4 Qualitative analysis

Priority Axis 1

Priority Axis 1 registered the highest commitment, with € 1.5 million representing 52% of budget already committed by 31 December 2010. 43% of these commitments were consumed until end 2010, resulting in a 23% achievement rate.

The Permanent Cessation Measure resulted in 1,040.67 Kw and 133.57 GT being scrapped compared to the targets of 1,252 kW and 200 GT listed in the Operational Programme. It is expected that both targets will be reached through another Permanent Cessation call which will be launched during 2011.

The call for application in relation to the Investment on Board fishing vessels and selectivity resulted to be unpopular. Out of 45 eligible applicants, only 33 signed the grant agreement and are implementing the projects. The total commitments on these projects only accounts for 22% of the budget, 2% of which was consumed by 31 December 2010. Nevertheless, it is expected that the number of vessels to be modernised as per Operational Programme (15 vessels) will be fully achieved by 2011.

The courses under the Socio Economic Compensation measure are underway, with 827 fishers having registered for the training. Therefore, the number of fishers having received formal training during the period 2007-2013 as specified in the Operational Programme (30 fishers) is expected to be achieved.

Priority Axis 2

The Marketing and Processing call was published on 28th September 2010 and closed on 2nd November 2010. There were two eligible applications. The agreements with these 2 applicants will be signed during the first quarter of 2011, and it is expected that the indicator specified in the Operational Programme, i.e. number of existing plants undertaking action to modernise their processing and/or packaging facilities during the period 2007-2013 – 2, will be achieved.

No further information on achievements can be provided at this stage as projects will be implemented during 2011

With regards the promotion of equal opportunities between men and women, the calls under measures 1.3 and 2.3 were designed to favour vessels and companies that are owned by or employed women.

Priority Axis 3

Investments will be made in four designated ports; Marfa, Valletta, Marsaxlokk and Mgarr Gozo, which have been identified as the most advantageous sites for landings. The site chosen for the new fish market is in Marsa and is adjacent to the Civil Abattoir. All of these projects are still at a very early stage of development, therefore no further information on achievement can be provided at this stage.

Priority Axis 5

Funds allocated to technical assistance have mainly been utilised to commission expert studies that are required before projects are undertaken and approved under Axis 2 and 3. Funds have also been used to foster effective programme management.

3.5 Monitoring arrangements

The Monitoring Committee was established in its first meeting on 26th May 2009, and held its second meeting on 27th November 2009. Two meetings were held in 2010, in June and November 2010. The following subjects were treated by the MC:

- Rules of Procedures for the Monitoring Committee
- Project Selection Criteria for selecting operations
- Annual Reports
- Ministry website
- Management and Control Systems of the OP and Compliance Assessment Report
- European Transparency Initiative
- Status reports on the state of play of OP implementation

- Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan

The Operational Programme has been subject to an ex ante-evaluation and will be subject to an interim and an ex post evaluation in accordance with the provisions of Articles 48, 49 and 50 of Council Regulation 1198/2006. The interim evaluation is due by 30 June 2011.

The aim of the evaluations is to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance from the EFF and the implementation of the OP. The evaluation will appraise the impact with respect to the guiding principles set out in Article 19, the relevant parts of the National Strategic Plans and specific problems affecting Malta, while taking account of the needs of sustainable development in the fisheries sector and the environmental impact.

The EFF Structural Funds Database 2007-2013 is the main tool that will be used for the monitoring of OP implementation and data collection. The Structural Funds Database 2007-2013 is a web enabled system developed for the Government of Malta for the management of EU funds during the period 2007-2013. The SFD 07-13 forms part of the government's project management database system. The backbone of the SFD 07-13 is the financial mechanism for the management of funds from programme to invoice level.

The database is a centralised system linked to the structural funds' stakeholders, which include the Managing Authority, Treasury, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority, Line Ministries, Intermediate Bodies and the Beneficiaries.

Monitoring with respect to evaluation and on-the-spot checks

During the evaluation and project selection process of aid schemes, an application is subject to a range of checks to confirm that it complies with all eligibility requirements. All projects deemed eligible for consideration for support will be presented to a duly appointed evaluation committee for consideration. Panel members will examine the working papers during the Project Evaluation Committee meetings. Applications relating to capital projects are assessed by the Managing Authority through a standard checklist.

With respect to the verification of operations, the Managing Authority carries out on-the-spot checks on all national projects, whilst the Intermediate Body carries out on-the-spot checks

on all the beneficiaries of the aid schemes. On-the-spot verifications of individual operations are usually carried out on a sample basis in accordance with the detailed rules adopted by the Commission; however 100% checks are carried out by the Managing Authority on investments that carry a greater element of risk. A risk assessment is carried out by the Managing Authority to identify its ex-post on-the-spot checks sample.

Both documentary as well as physical on-the-spot checks are standardised and documented to include, amongst other information, the date of the check, the expenditure checked, the results of the verification, whether any irregularities were detected and the measures to be undertaken and by whom.

In addition, in accordance with its Manual of Procedures, the Managing Authority also has the intention to procure third party expertise to support the technical verification during the on-the-spot checks.

The Managing Authority uses the Structural Funds Database (electronic system) to carry out administrative desk based checks on payments during the verification process. In these cases, 100% checks are carried out by the Managing Authority during the Statements of Expenditure.

3.6 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems were encountered during 2010.

3.7 Recommendations from the Commission following annual examination of the Operational Programme

The Commission has not issued any formal recommendations.

3.8 Assistance repaid or re-used

No assistance was repaid or re-used.

3.9 Substantial modification within the meaning of Article 56 of Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006

There was no substantial modification within the meaning of Article 56 of Regulation (EC) No. 1198/2006.

3.10 Changes in the context and general conditions to the implementation of the Operational Programme

The Operational Programme has been revised due to the changes in the implementing bodies, namely the Managing Authority, the Intermediate Body and the Certifying Authority. The technical assistance measure now includes a strategy leading to a more sustainable aquaculture industry. The financial table has also been revised to incorporate the shift in budget from Axis 2 to Axis 5, thus including the budget allocated to the aquaculture strategy.

The calendar of implementation has also been revised to reflect the actual progress of calls. There has been a slight change in the swordfish close season as this has been amended to 1 October till 30 November.

The Monitoring Committee section in the Operational Programme has also been amended. The list of members has been replaced and now generally comprises representatives of the sector, government agencies, authorities and NGOs involved in the sector.

The revised Operational Programme has been approved by the EFF Monitoring Committee through written procedure on 27th May 2010.

Adverse market conditions resulting in lower profit margins have had an impact on the programme's implementation and may have influenced the decision of the fishers to move out of the BlueFin Tuna sector, which resulted in a high take up of the Permanent Cessation of fishing activities scheme. Other reasons for this take up might include the ever reducing BFT quota which provides no long term stability for the fishers. An increasing number of vessels are being withheld the authorisation to fish because of an individual quota which is lower than 200 kilos.

4. THE USE MADE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Calls for the recruitment of 2 officials (1 for MA, 1 for IB) were published during 2010. Another official from the MFEI is performing duties related to the EFF. EFF will pay 75% of their salary while the balance of 25% will be paid by national funds.

A wave study to identify the best possible solution to the high wave disturbance experienced by fishermen at the hard standing facility and at the fishing berthing basin was financed through Technical Assistance.

A tender for the interim evaluation of the EFF was issued in December 2010. It is envisaged that the tender will be awarded in early 2011. A tender for the preparation of an Aquaculture strategy for Malta was drafted in 2010 and is expected to be awarded in early 2011. 0.26% of the total EFF's contribution allocated to the Operational Programme has been spent and claimed under technical assistance during the December 2010 Statement of Expenditure

5. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

Publicity measures were used in the publishing calls under the Permanent Cessation, Investment on Board Fishing Vessels and Selectivity and Investments in processing and marketing and when requesting quotations in case of Technical Assistance.

The Ministry's website was arranged for the following documents:.

- a. National Strategy
- b. Operational Programme
- c. Manual of Procedures
- d. Systems Description
- e. Official Minutes of Monitoring Committee meeting
- f. Grant Schemes Guidelines and Application forms
- g. Information on beneficiaries according to the European Transparency Initiative

The website address reads: http://vafd.gov.mt/eur_traninit

An e-mail address is provided for information requests which should give rise to a compilation of frequently asked questions: eff.mrra@gov.mt

All calls for proposals were published on the MRRA website and on the Government Gazette and copies of the Guidelines and application forms were sent to fisheries cooperatives and to the Ministry for Gozo. An information session open to all potential beneficiaries was organised to provide further explanations and guidance on the application process. The results of the adjudication process are also published electronically and on the Government Gazette. All communications included EFF publicity. The communication system is considered to be effective in terms of visibility as stakeholders confirm their awareness of such initiatives and it was reported that the information sessions facilitated the application process.

Publicity plaques will be placed on the Beneficiaries' vessels/premises. Publicity measures in the form of media events are also being planned in respect of the training courses under the Socio Economic Compensation for the management of Community fishing fleet.

6. INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLIANCE WITH COMMUNITY LAW

No significant problems have been encountered with respect to compliance with Community law.

7. COMPLEMENTARITY WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS

EU Regulations governing the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development (EAFRD) and the Structural Funds specify that the respective strategies and Operational Programmes must set out how the different funding streams will complement each other. In Malta, the Managing Authority for Cohesion Policy is the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), the Managing Authority for the EAFRD is the Rural Development Department within the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs (MRRA), whilst for the

EFF, the Managing Authority is the EU Affairs Directorate within the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs (MRRA).

The NSRF, the NSP and the RDP have all been developed with particular attention being given to areas where programme activity could indeed overlap.

Furthermore, the EFF Managing Authority is represented on the Inter Ministerial Co-ordination Committees that were set up by the Managing Authority for Cohesion Policy in order to enhance co-ordination between the different funding mechanisms and also to ensure synergy and complementarity between the different initiatives in order to minimise risks with regard to overlaps and duplication of effort.