



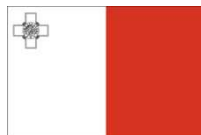
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ERDF Grant Scheme for Childcare Facilities – The Regeneration of Child Care in Malta

Scheme part-financed by
European Regional Development Funds
2007-2013

*Department for Social Welfare Standards
Ministry for Social Policy*



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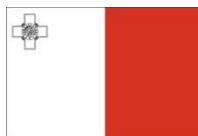
Priority Axis 6:

Urban Regeneration and Improving the Quality of Life

Focus Area of Intervention:

Education, Social and Health-Related Infrastructure

Public eligible funds for this scheme is € 500,000. 85% of which will be co-financed through EU Funds.



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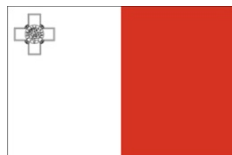


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The Scheme supports Government's central policy to promote and sustain quality childcare services in order to enable a better work-family/life balance and encourage an increased participation of females in the local workforce.

It also contributes towards attaining the EU targets of providing child placements for at least 33% of children aged between 0-3 years in Malta.



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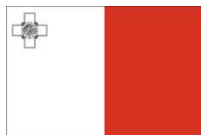


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Aid scheme aims to:

- **Improve existing child care facilities;**
- **Relocate child care facilities to more appropriate location (in accordance with National Standards); and**
- **Encourage the establishment of new child care facilities (start-ups), for early education and development.**



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The Aid Scheme is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- To facilitate entry and retention of the female workforce;
- To support families to achieve a better work-life balance;
- To enhance the quality of life;
- To promote entrepreneurship amongst providers of child care; and
- To increase employment opportunities within child care provision sector.



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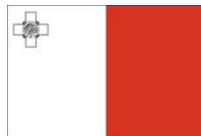


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Project Current Status



- The first call for application closed on 22 May 2009.
- 23 applications were received.
- 13 were officially approved by the Project Selection Committee.
- 10 were rejected, out of which 5 appealed.
- 1 appeal was reversed by the Project Selection Appeals Board.
- One of the original projects approved is opting out of the grant. This brings the total approved to 13 projects.
- Approval letters are currently being drafted and the Grant Agreements will be signed by the end of 2009.
- The 13 beneficiaries will benefit from a total public grant amounting to €396,878.



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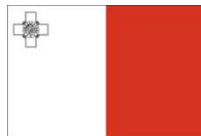


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Reasons for Rejection by the Project Selection Committee

- **Failure to obtain 50% of the marks in the selection process;**
- **Provision of inaccurate information in the application;**
- **Failure to obtain a proper budget breakdown; and**
- **Failure to satisfy the eligibility criteria.**



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Profile of the Beneficiaries

Out of the 13 beneficiaries:

- 4 beneficiaries will receive funds to upgrade their childcare facility, in order to better conform with the National Standards for Child Day Care Facilities;
- 2 beneficiaries will relocate from their present service provision to another venue, in order to be able to accommodate more childcare places in their facility;
- 7 beneficiaries will establish new childcare centres in different localities in Malta.

In total the 13 beneficiaries will create:

- 47.5 full time workers, that will be employed in their childcare centres.
- 289 additional childcare places.



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Way Forward



- **Monitoring of projects that will be implemented through the scheme**
- **Checking the effective implementation of the projects**
 - **Regular on-the-spot visits**
 - **Monthly certification of payments**
 - **Provision of guidance**
- **Possibility of a further call**



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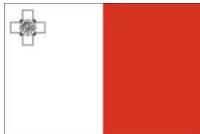
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Thank you



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