

# Evaluation of the Projects under the Swiss – Maltese Cooperation Programme

May 2015



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

Supported by the Swiss-Maltese Grant



## Agenda

- Scope of the Evaluation
- Methodology
- Evaluation Scoring
- Project 1: Establishing Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography (PET/CT) Scanning in the Maltese Islands
- Project 2: Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)
- Conclusions and Recommendations



## Scope of the Evaluation

In accordance with Article 1 of Annex 1 to the Bilateral Framework Agreement between Switzerland and Malta that specifically indicates that

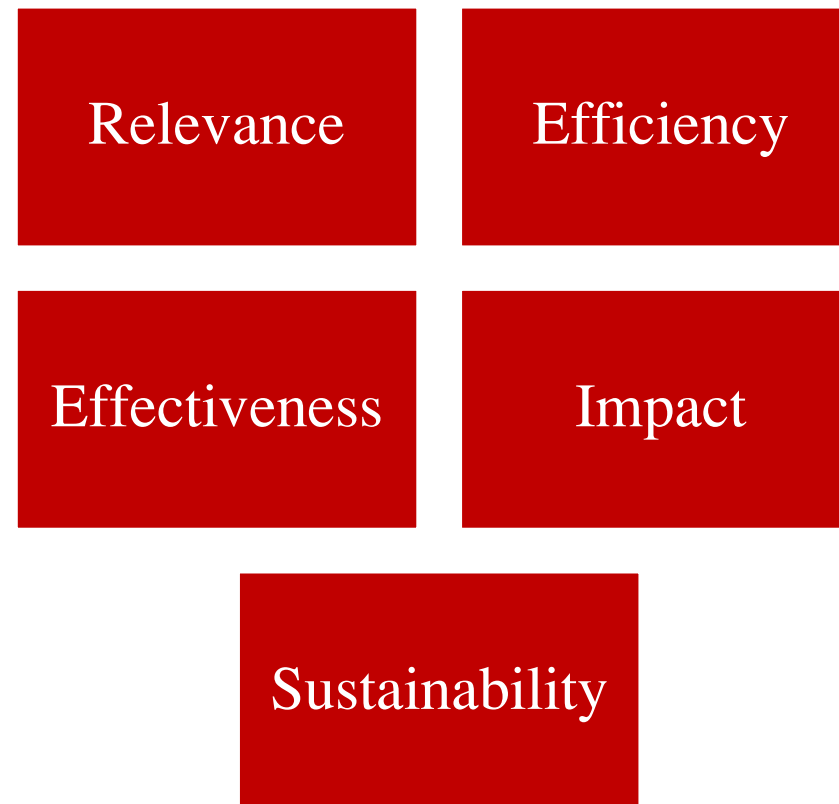
*“Towards the end of the implementation period of the Swiss Contribution, both Parties may jointly decide on a global evaluation of the results achieved by the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme”.*

Such decision was taken during the Annual Meeting held on 8 May 2014.



## Scope of the Evaluation

In line with the tender '*Contract Objectives and Outputs*', the evaluation sought to assess project:





## Projects for Evaluation

- **Project 1:** Establishing Positron Emission

Tomography / Computed Tomography (PET/CT) Scanning in  
the Maltese Islands

- **Project 2:** Support to the Mediterranean Academy of  
Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)



# Methodology

## Research

### Qualitative

- One-to-one meetings

### Quantitative

- Data analysis from Mater Dei's IT system
- Questionnaire distributed to Alumni



## Scoring

**Relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact**

- Highly satisfactory
- Satisfactory
- Moderately satisfactory
- Moderately unsatisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Highly unsatisfactory



# Scoring

## Sustainability

- Likely
- Moderately likely
- Moderately unlikely
- Unlikely





# Project 1: Establishing PET / CT Scanning in the Maltese Islands

**Relevance** - Highly satisfactory

- PET/CT scanner relates to health and ensures high-quality standards in the provision of health-care facilities
- Is in line with one of the main objectives of the Swiss Maltese Cooperation Programme that seeks  
*“To contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities within Malta and between Malta and the more advanced countries of the enlarged EU”, with the project also deemed to “...support a sustainable, economically and socially balanced development”.*
- Is in line with national strategies that revolve around “better quality of life” with Malta's national health system strategy (objective 3B) revolving around the ‘Safe, high quality and efficient services’



# Project 1: Establishing PET / CT Scanning in the Maltese Islands

## Efficiency - Satisfactory

Two indicators for efficiency relate to:

- Whether project timelines were met; and
- Whether there were any external issues that effected the smooth provision of service offering.
  - Procurement process took longer than expected
  - The project implementation phase was managed well
  - Successful collaboration with Swiss authorities in the drafting of the technical specifications
  - A potential risk relates to the fact that there are currently only two nuclear medicine physicians
  - An issue regarding the efficiency of the payments related to the conversion of payments into Swiss Francs



# Project 1: Establishing PET / CT Scanning in the Maltese Islands

## Effectiveness – Satisfactory

Project objectives have been reached with the equipment assisting doctors/specialists and their patients in both diagnostics and treatments

- Output indicator for oncology PET scanning has to date been partially achieved with just under 1,000 PET scans relating to oncology in 2014 (*2000 PET scans annually in oncology patients*)
- Neurological PET scans are set to start in the second half of 2015 (*100 neurological PET scans annually*)
- Cardiac PET scanning is being planned for 2016 (*100 cardiac PET scans annually*)
- Operational flexibility with respect to human resources, - limited



## **Project 1: Establishing PET / CT Scanning in the Maltese Islands**

**Impact** – Highly satisfactory

PET/CT scanner greatly improving diagnostic and staging capability for cancer, with the CT component of the system able to be used also as a stand-alone component

Furthermore, apart from the pre-set output indicators, there are other benefits that the Medical Imaging Department derived from this project:

- Backup scanner to the 16-slice CT scanner;
- Its utilisation for radiotherapy planning during migration of services;
- Decrease in waiting time;
- Its utilisation for interventional procedures such as biopsies and RFA (radio frequency ablation) as well as for cases of suspected or confirmed cancer.



# Project 1: Establishing PET / CT Scanning in the Maltese Islands

## Sustainability – Likely

Main issues affecting sustainability of the project relate primarily to:

- The running costs involved in operating the equipment (more specifically the servicing and maintenance of the equipment); and
- The human resources required to operate the equipment.
  - Government of Malta is highly committed to the project, well aware of its usefulness for the quality of life of patients
  - The human resource component - the need for additional resources has been identified with the hospital in the process of recruiting another nuclear medicine physician



## Project 2: Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)

### Relevance – Highly Satisfactory

- Is in line with one of the main objectives of the Swiss Maltese Cooperation Programme that seeks to assist “*in the reduction of economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union*”.

Furthermore the project is compliant with one of the four thematic areas for funding by the Swiss Contribution that revolves around “*human and social development*”.

- Fall’s within the national objectives of Malta that has placed emphasis on the provision of education, training and research.
- Is consistent with the EU’s endeavours to build bridges between neighbours with an understanding that “*Cooperation and sharing experience between regions can be a key trigger in stimulating a dynamic, forward-looking regional development process*”.



## Project 2: Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)

### Efficiency – Highly Satisfactory

Two indicators for efficiency relate to:

- Whether project timelines were met; and
- Whether there were any external issues that effected the smooth provision of service offering.
  - MEDAC completed the four consecutive scholastic years of the Project, and provided the indicative 10 to 15 scholarships per year.
  - No external issues were evidenced during the evaluation process.
  - The project was well planned and there were no issues of concern.
  - There were some minor shifts in expenditure claims, however these always followed pre-established procedures of Project Financing Requests, in line with Articles 3 and 4 of the Project Agreement and Annex 2 of the Framework Agreement
  - An issue regarding the efficiency of the payments related to the conversion of payments into Swiss Francs



## **Project 2: Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)**

### **Effectiveness – Highly Satisfactory**

The provision of assistance to MEDAC for four consecutive scholastic years, this was achieved and easily calculated.

As for the main objective of the project: *“Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) to make a contribution to confidence building, peace and stability in the Mediterranean region through a close partnership between Malta and Switzerland”*.

MEDAC did not have any instruments in place to collate such information.

EMCS designed a questionnaire that was consequently distributed to the MEDAC alumni network through the group’s Facebook page . The results evidence that the course attained its pre-set targets with an overall mean score (for the various criteria analysed) above 4 (where a score of 1 indicates extremely negative and a score of 5 indicates highly positive).





## Project 2: Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)

### Impact – Highly satisfactory

The overarching goal – that of assisting MEDAC through financial support for four consecutive scholastic years has been achieved.

- The project's impact was also determined based on its immediate and likely future benefits. Once again the evaluators relied on primary data attained from alumni through the questionnaire:
  - The alumni perceive the course to be highly beneficial, and likely to be of assistance to them both in their current job and in their future work progression with mean scores above 4.5 (with 5 being the maximum positive score attainable).
  - Of the total respondents (24), just under 80% indicated to have a current job that is deemed as a progression in their career. As for the remainder, 3 indicated to have maintained the same post they occupied prior to the course, 1 indicated to have continued studying (is currently a student) while another (Libyan) is currently without a job (in view of the current unrest in the country in question).



## **Project 2: Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)**

### **Sustainability – Likely**

- MEDAC has been successful in establishing a German Chair, funded by the Government of Germany, which has recently been extended for another 5-year period.
- MEDAC has been able to attract funding from a number of international organisations (such as the EU, OSCE, PfP) for the organisation of conferences and similar events in Malta thus placing the operation on a more sustainable footing.



# Conclusions

Project	Relevance	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Impact	Sustainability
PET/CT Scanner	Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory	Likely
MEDAC	Highly Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory	Likely



# Recommendations

## General

- Overall project proposals ought to have SMART objectives - Specific, Measurable, Aligned, Realistic/Relevant, and Time-bound
- Prior to projects commencing, a data needs analysis ought to be carried out and potential sources of information verified.
- For future projects it is recommended that specific efforts are made to ensure that all the key data generated by the individual projects is made easily available to the general public and in a format which (where possible) is easily understandable. This will help enhance visibility and impact of projects.



## Recommendations

### PET/CT Scanner

- It is of paramount importance for the project to have a contingency plan should the laboratory in Rome not be able/capable of supplying the required PET tracers. Having an established agreement with another laboratory is deemed of essence in this regard to mitigate such a risk.
- A medium term option could be that of setting up a cyclotron in Malta.



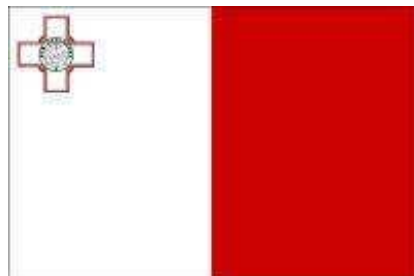
## Recommendations

### MEDAC

- The selection criteria by which MEDAC carries out its selection process in the eventuality that it receives far more eligible candidates than available scholarships, are unclear and therefore could give rise to a feeling of lack of transparency. To mitigate this MEDAC could establish second tier criteria or indeed make admission (in the case of over subscription) subject to an interview (personal or via the net).
- As for the project's impact, it is recommended that MEDAC strengthens further its data collection and analysis tools, e.g. via tracer studies and yearly surveys.



Thank you for your attention



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

Supported by the Swiss-Maltese Grant