

# *Interim Evaluation of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund*

*Monitoring Committee, 24 November 2017*

Strategy and Implementation Division



Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund  
2014-2020  
Co-financing rate: 75% EU Funds 25% Beneficiary's Funds  
Sustainable Management of Migration Flows



# Interim Evaluation of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund



EU funds  
for Malta

2014  
2020

## Regulatory Framework - Regulation (EU) No 514/2014

*Article 57 - By 31 December 2017 – submit to the Commission an interim evaluation report on the implementation of actions and progress towards achieving the objectives of their national programmes*

*Article 56 - The evaluations shall be carried out by experts who are functionally independent of the Responsible Authorities, the Audit Authorities and the Delegated Authorities. Those experts may be affiliated to an autonomous public institution responsible for the monitoring, evaluation and audit of the administration. The Commission shall provide guidance on how to carry out evaluations.*

- The Strategy and Implementation Division (MEAE) was designated as the evaluator to carry out the interim evaluation on AMIF.

# Interim Evaluation of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

## Purpose :

- Assess the progress made and results achieved through the implementation of the Fund between 1 January 2014 and 30 June 2017.

## Methodology:

- Questionnaires were compiled to target the RA, Policy Makers (Line Ministries) and Beneficiaries;
- Interviews with relevant stakeholders as necessary; and
- Questionnaires were analysed and, clarifications were sought directly with the responsible entities, as necessary.

## State of Play:

- Finalising draft report particularly indicators and conclusions.

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## Context

- 9 calls issued, Committed: 43%, Supporting: 13 projects.
- Early stage of implementation.

## Effectiveness

- SO1 – Asylum/migration – 4 projects: Improved security in open centres and a more efficient asylum procedure.
- SO2 – Integration – 5 projects:
- SO3 – Return – 3 projects: approx. 190 persons returned voluntarily or removed between 2014 and June 2017 – low return rate.
- Special cases – 1: 65% of pledges achieved by June 2017.

## Efficiency

- Actual project costs and HR were in line with planned budget and HR forecasts.

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## Relevance

- Projects being implemented address the objectives of the National Programme, relevant national policies and needs.

## Coherence

- Managing Authorities for ESIF Funds fall under MEAE; and
- the Inter Ministerial Coordination Committee (IMCC) brings together all stakeholders involved in the coordination, management and implementation of Union funds.

## Complementarity

- Ensured at programming stage and implementation stage through the IMCC.

## EU added value

- Contributing towards addressing the challenges brought about by the migration crisis.

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## Sustainability

- Agreements between the beneficiaries and the RA as well as the spill over effects of capacity building measures

## Simplification and reduction of administrative burden

- Efforts to reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries in line with regulatory requirements example reduction in number of progress reports.

## Assessment of the Mid-term Review

- The mid-term report was submitted by the RA on 15 September 2017 which mainly focus on proposed changes with a view to address relevant emerging needs.

## Indicators and financials

- These are currently being finalised

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## Main challenges:

- Meeting de-commitment targets;
- Demarcation between eligible target groups which may not be funded under both SO 1 (asylum seekers) and SO 2 (TCNs);
- Delays in the approval of project applications due to a significant number of clarification requests;
- Slow implementation in the initial stages of the projects' life-cycle due to procurement procedures and the processing of planning permits;

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## Main challenges:

- Low-rate of disbursement on return measures due to difficulties in obtaining travel documentation and resistance of target groups to return to their country of origin; and
- Ring-fencing of funds under SO 1 (asylum and reception) and SO 2 (legal migration and integration) limits the RA's flexibility to respond to ad hoc pressures;

## Deviations:

- No major changes reported



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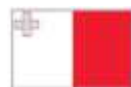
## Next Steps

- Participate at the evaluation network meeting on 30 November 2017;
- Update report taking into account any relevant feedback from Evaluation Network; and
- Upload report in the SFC.



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

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