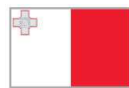
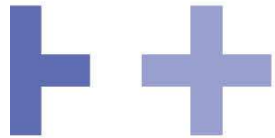
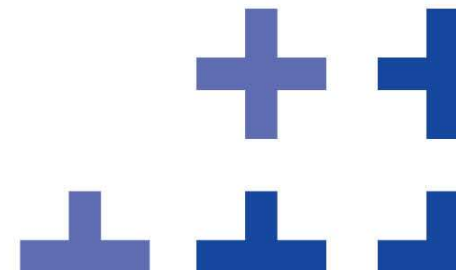


Evaluation and Monitoring (2014-2020)

Monitoring Committee Meeting
November 2019



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



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



Objectives

- Analysis of the processes and practices involved in the implementation of the Operational Programmes;
- Analysis of challenges faced by different stakeholders in meeting obligations relating to EU funded projects;
- Analysis of the strengths and weaknesses within the funding process;
- Lessons learnt and recommendations.



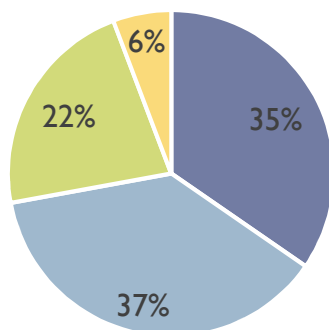
Methodology



➤ Qualitative data analysis

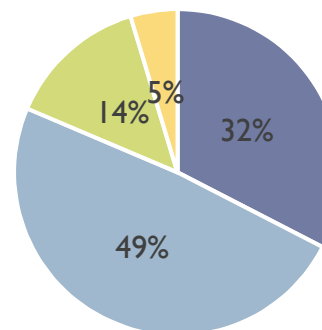
- Interviews with MA management
- Interviews/Surveys with Stakeholders
- Interviews/Surveys with 43 Beneficiaries (out of 103):
 - OPI: 25 BNs amounting to 45% of total PE
 - OPII: 18 BNs amounting to 48% of total PE

Ratio of Beneficiaries



■ Ministries/Gov Depts ■ Public Entities
■ NGOs ■ LCs

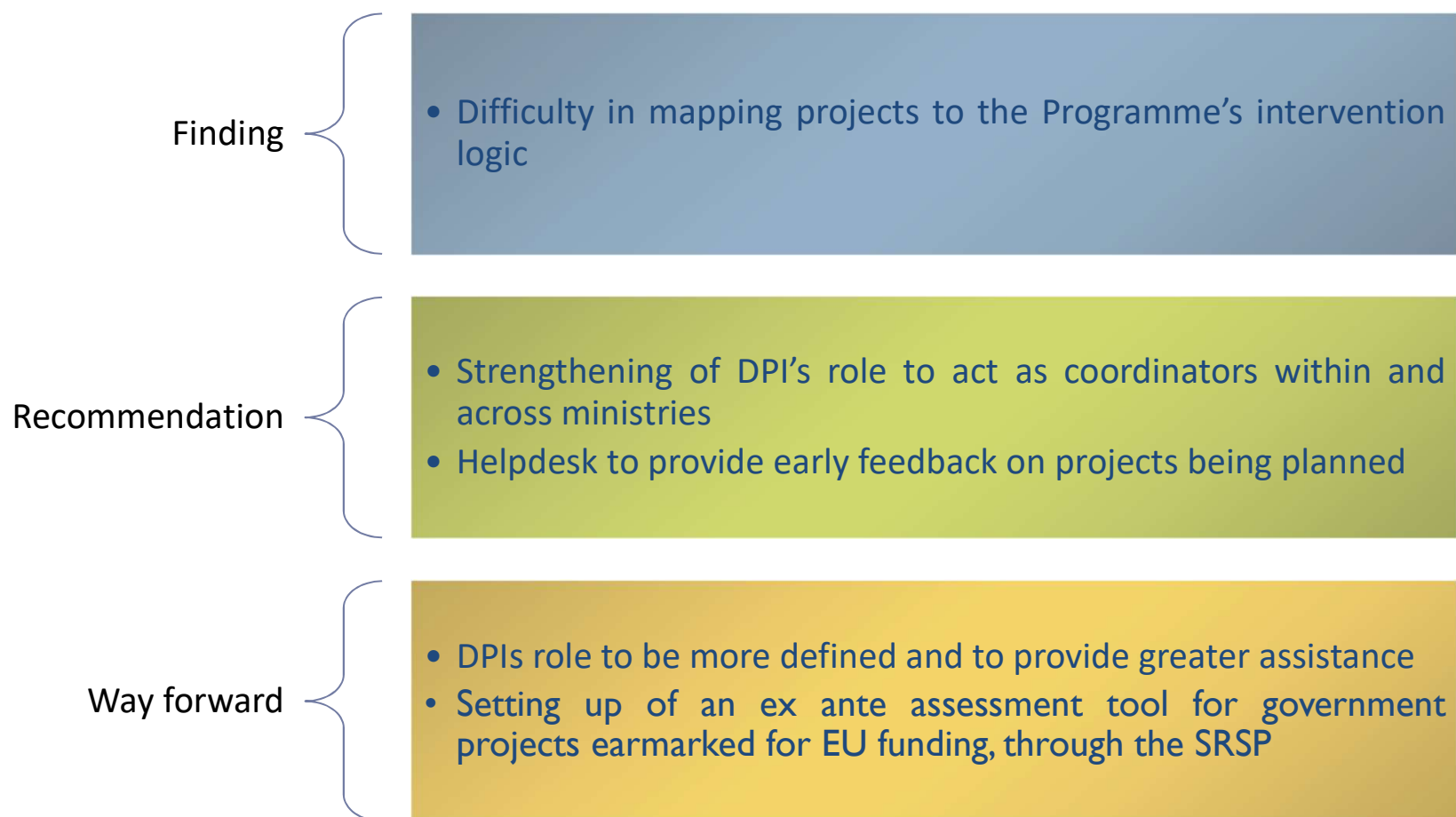
Response Rate



■ Ministries/Gov Depts ■ Public Entities
■ NGOs ■ LCs



Findings and recommendations from stakeholders – *Project Identification*



Findings and recommendations from stakeholders - *Project application*

Finding

- Challenges faced by applicants due to time restrictions, planning of Calls, and timing of information sessions

Recommendation

- Reviewing the timeframes for the publication of a Call to reflect the complexity of projects to be submitted for the PA in question
- Providing a pre-set schedule for the publication of Calls per OP at the beginning of the year
- Improved publicity when calls are published, including DPIs to disseminate information about Calls as applicable
- Single guidance document to be issued, including methodology for indicators, to facilitate compilation of project application

Way forward

- The setting up of a new website that will include registration of contact details for a mailing list to be created
- Where possible the Managing Authority to publicize plan of Calls at the beginning of the year
- Deadline for submission of proposals to be adapted according to the complexity of the Call
- Simplification of application in case of smaller projects to be implemented by NGOs and LCs



Findings and recommendations from stakeholders – *Project Selection*

Finding

- Delays in project selection lead to changes in the project plans

Recommendation

- More meetings with the Project Selection Committee to allow for the provision of clarifications and thus shorten timeframes of selection
- Project Selection process to be adapted for calls which attract smaller projects

Way forward

- Only eligibility checks for projects which are defined in the OP as projects of strategic importance
- Simplification of the Project Selection Process for smaller projects, including an assessment of eligibility prior to the preparation of the project application



Findings and recommendations from stakeholders – *Project Implementation*

Finding

- Capacity is a major challenge amongst most stakeholders and beneficiaries
- Poor project planning leading to delays in the implementation
- Unforeseen circumstances leading to delays in implementation
- SCOs involve a lot of ex ante work

Recommendation

- The Project Leader's role should be given due importance
- Strengthening of DPI's role to provide assistance
- Increase training to be provided to stakeholders and beneficiaries
- The MA and stakeholders to make use of the proportionality principle when dealing with Project Leaders

Way forward

- Project Leaders should be appointed by Perm Sec to ensure commitment at the level of the entity to the project
- Training is one of the main tasks of the newly set up unit within the MA dedicated towards Evaluation and Communication
- Beneficiaries should be advised in advance and in a coordinated way when information is sought



Conclusions

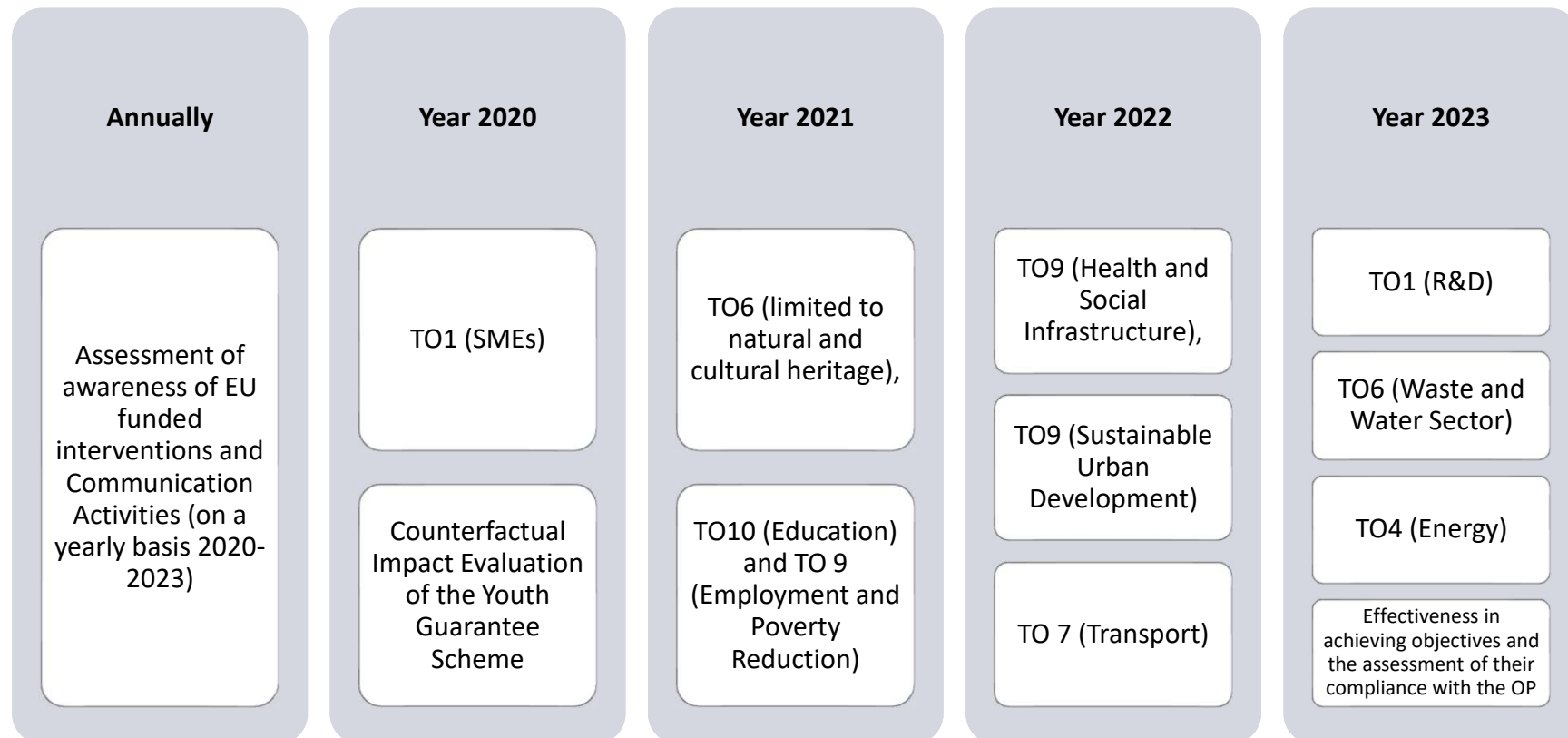
- Simplification is needed across the whole process
- Delays in the selection process should be addressed
- Move away from one size fits all: applications and verifications to depend on complexity and risk
- Capacity concerns need to be addressed





Evaluation Plan 2020-2023

Following the set up of a newly dedicated unit for Evaluation, and taking into account the progress achieved and expected to be achieved in the implementation of the Programme, the evaluation plan is being proposed for amendment as per the below proposal:



The timing of each Thematic Evaluation will still depend on the progress of implementation and the readiness of the interventions to be evaluated.



Evaluation Plan 2020-2023

Title	Assessment of awareness of EU funded interventions and Communication Activities
Objective	i. Assessment the communication activities held in line with the Communication Strategy 2014-2020 and the awareness of the General public of EU funded interventions by means of a yearly survey to be carried out by the National Statistics Office.
Fund	ERDF, CF, and ESF

Title	Thematic Evaluation I: Enhancing SMEs Competitiveness
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Analysis of the role of EU funding in enhancing SMEs internationalisation, employment, and profitabilityii. Assess the private investments carried out as a direct cause of public investment, and their leverage affects and other effects on profitability, employment and internationalisationiii. Explore the contribution of ERDF support to observed results, as well as the success factors leading to such results.
Fund	ERDF



Evaluation Plan 2020-2023 (2)

Counterfactual Impact Evaluation of the Youth Guarantee Scheme	
Title	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Analysis of available data and of additional data required to conduct a counterfactual impact evaluation of the Youth Guarantee Schemeii. Provide recommendations on how additional data can be collectediii. Propose the most applicable counterfactual method for this type of study and what measures are to be undertaken to ensure that data is statistically representative.
Fund	ESF

Thematic Evaluation 2: Culture and Tourism	
Title	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Assess to what extent did the interventions help in improving the quality of life in the regenerated areas (e.g. effect on the environment and creation of employment and SMEs);ii. Assess to the private investments carried out as a direct cause of public investment;iii. Assess the ERDF contribution to the culture and tourism sectors (including niche markets, employment, product development).
Fund	ERDF





Evaluation Plan 2020-2023 (3)

Title	Thematic Evaluation 3: Education and Employment
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Assess to what extent did the interventions help in improving the quality and scope of education;ii. Assess the impact of the interventions on the early school leaving rate of the country;iii. Assess the impact of the ESF and ERDF contribution to the employability and versatility of the Maltese labour market.
Fund	ERDF and ESF

Title	Thematic Evaluation 4: Social and Health Related interventions
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Assess to what extent did the interventions help in improving the quality of health and social care provision;ii. Assess the impact of the interventions on the health of the general public and the efficiency with which health care is being provided;iii. Assess the impact of the interventions of the reduction of social exclusion and the lifting of vulnerable cohorts out of the risk of poverty.
Fund	ERDF



Evaluation Plan 2020-2023 (4)

Title		Thematic Evaluation 5: Sustainable Urban Development
Objective	i.	Analyse the socio-economic activities in the Southern Harbour, mainly related to employment, social inclusion and urban infrastructure which occurred due to the interventions.
Fund		ERDF

Title		Thematic Evaluation 6: Transport and Network Infrastructure
Objective	i.	Assess the main trends and developments in areas of transport and network infrastructure during the 2014-2020 programming period;
	ii.	Assess to what extent were such interventions were sufficient to address the challenges and development needs (both immediate and short to medium term), and in what areas are further investments required.
Fund		ERDF and CF



Evaluation Plan 2020-2023 (5)

Title		Thematic Evaluation 7: Research and Development
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Industry – Assess the value added of the collaboration with industry and academia, the participation in incubators or clusters, profile of industry companies/clients for future strategies, the type of research output in the industry/business, the focus and diversity of research collaborations and partnerships; ii. In view of aid schemes specifically related to R&D, the MA may consider assessing the increase of profitability of firms supported, size of grant and the correlation with the business performance; iii. Public sector – Assess the volume of research with/for the public sector; trends in patents; assessing the ratio of public to private investment in research, technological development and determining how much private investment is caused by public investment. 	
Fund	ERDF (and potentially ESF)	

Title		Thematic Evaluation 8: Environment
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Assess the contribution of the water and waste interventions towards quality of life and socio-economic development of the country. 	
Fund	ERDF and CF	



Evaluation Plan 2020-2023 (6)

Title	Thematic Evaluation 6: Energy Efficiency
Objective	i. Assess the impact of the increased share of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency through interventions and initiatives for households, enterprises and society at large; ii. Assess to what extent the interventions addressed energy inefficiencies and reduce energy consumption.
Fund	ERDF

Title	Assessment on how support from the ESI Funds has contributed to the objectives for each Priority
Objective	i. Analyse how the interventions have contributed to the specific objectives of the PAs and their relevance to the Programmes, the Europe 2020 strategies, National Reform Programme, Country Specific Recommendations; ii. Assess the contribution to the interventions to the relevant national / European strategies, in particular those that are part of the specific ex ante conditionalities; iii. Assess the extent to which the initiatives and their intended outputs and results are consistent with the priorities and needs of the intended beneficiaries (i.e. relevance).
Fund	ERDF, CF, and ESF



