

Thematic Evaluation: An Evaluation of the Contribution of Operational Programme I Initiatives to Competitiveness and Improvement of Quality of Life

*Monitoring Committee
19th April 2013*



Introduction

- Background to the Terms of References
- Details of Methodology and Deliverables
- Role of Stakeholders



Tendering Process

- Launched on the market: June 2012
- Deadline for submission of bids: August 2012
- Contract signed: January 2013
- Approval of the first Inception Report: March 2013
- Value of the contract: €499,180.80

Background to OP I and ToRs

- Evaluation is an essential element of implementation of EU Structural Funds
- Council Regulation 1083/2006 provides for shift towards more flexible demand driven approach to evaluation
- Article 47(2) distinguishes between evaluations of a strategic nature and those of an operational nature. Evaluations such as the thematic Evaluation aim “to examine the evaluations of a programme in relation to community and national policies”

Background to OP I and ToRs

Objectives

- Analyse contribution of OPI interventions towards sustaining and even increasing Malta's competitiveness
- Analyse contribution of OPI interventions to overall improvement of quality of life

Background to OP I and ToRs

Scope of the Evaluation

- Assessment on achievement of interventions and their contribution to competitiveness and improved quality of life
- Assessment of what operations have achieved in terms of indicators and other secondary impacts
- Assessment of impact to cross cutting themes
- Identification of potential actions through which ERDF and CF could intervene and how actions could be strengthened
- Identify constraints on implementation of Cohesion Policy
- Identify good practices for each theme and recommendations that could serve for next programming period

Background to OP I and ToRs

- Seven themes are grouped into broader groups:
 - Competitiveness
 - Quality of Life

- Thematic Evaluation will also assess the contribution of OP I initiatives in relation to the cross cutting themes:
 - Equal Opportunities
 - Environmental sustainability

Background to OP I and ToRs

Common across the seven Themes

- Assess the extent to which interventions are effective in addressing the Programme's objectives and national strategies
- Achievement of output, result and impact indicators
- Examples of good practice
- Identification of gaps not being addressed by the current Programme as well as how these can be strengthened in future in line with new Regulatory Package (2014-2020)

Background to OP I and ToRs

THEME 1: Enterprise Infrastructure , investment and competitiveness of SMEs

- Assessment of optimal mix of different type of interventions being supported with reference to current economic situation
- How effective interventions related to enterprise infrastructure have been
- Effectiveness of primary aid schemes noting how they can be improved
- Effectiveness of Financial Engineering Instruments – access to finance and creation of jobs

Background to OP I and ToRs



THEME 2: National Capacity for Research, Technological Development and Innovation, Science and Technology and Information and Communication Technologies

- Assessment of effectiveness in so far as interventions lead to an increase in formal educational set up, increase in S&T students in long term and further actions to sustain this increase

Background to OP I and ToRs

THEME 3: Improvement in tourism product

- Effectiveness of operations in reaching target results
- Assessment of tourism aid scheme in enhancing competitiveness as well as offering diversified tourism product and innovative products
- Assessment of effect of different stakeholders and actions in terms of contribution to overall aim

Background to OP I and ToRs

THEME 4: Transport

- Extent to which interventions are contributing to national priorities including transit challenges and increased competitiveness

Background to OP I and ToRs

THEME 5: Climate Change and Energy

- Extent to which the various interventions have reached targets and results in the OP
- How various stakeholders are contributing to the common goal of using RES and any other results that emanated from the various schemes

Background to OP I and ToRs

THEME 6: Environment and Risk Prevention

- Effectiveness of major projects as well as other measures which will minimise land filling of waste, rehabilitate disused landfills, increase the capacity of waste treatment for energy recovery
- Effectiveness of interventions in supporting the development of infrastructure to minimise the effects of storm water and reduce flash flooding

Background to OP I and ToRs

THEME 7: Education, Social and Health Infrastructure and E-Accessibility

- Extent to which interventions contribute towards enhancing quality of life by increasing life expectancy and reducing premature death rates
- Assessment of e-government services and other e-accessibility initiatives funded through OP interventions
- Contribution of interventions in social and education infrastructure and whether this led to improved access to e-services and improvement in quality of life
- How interventions have impacted or will impact educational infrastructure interventions with ESF component

Deliverables

Three Tasks

- Task 1 focuses on the initial evaluation reports
 - The cut-off date of Task 1 is 31st January 2013
- Both Task 2 and Task 3 include update of evaluation reports from Task 1 (and include newly approved projects)
- Task 2 will include an assessment of the impact indicators and an update on the output and result indicators
- Task 3 will also include a final update of the data, analysis, conclusions and recommendations of the results achieved

Deliverables

Deliverables	Expected completion
Preliminary Report on Competitiveness (Task 1)	Q3 2013
Preliminary Report on Quality of Life (Task 1)	Q3 2013
Final Report on Competitiveness (Task 1)	Q1 2014
Final Report on Improved Quality of Life (Task 1)	Q1 2014
Implementation Report	Q1 2014
Any respective updates of Inception Report prior to commencement of Task 2	Q2 2014
Preliminary Updated Report on Competitiveness (Task 2)	Q3 2014
Preliminary Updated Report on Quality of Life (Task 2)	Q3 2014
Final Updated Report on Competitiveness (Task 2)	Q4 2014
Final Updated Report on Improved Quality of Life (Task 2)	Q4 2014
Implementation Report following Task 2	Q1 2015
Any respective updates of Inception Report prior to commencement of Task 3	Q1 2015
Preliminary Consolidated Report on Competitiveness and Improved Quality of Life (Task 3)	Q2 2015
Final Consolidated Report on Competitiveness and Improved Quality of Life (Task 3)	Q3 2015
Implementation Report following Task 3	Q4 2015

Methodology

Methodological Approaches for all Tasks

Phase 1: Structuring

- Agreement on the overall approach
- Assemble documentation to quantitative data collection
- Finalise approach to quantitative data collection
- Finalise approach to data collection including case studies and focus groups

Methodology

Methodological Approaches

Phase 2: Observing

- Collection of detailed data
- Sample design for survey research
- Undertake survey research
- Finalise consultation programme interviews, focus groups

Methodology

Methodological Approaches

Phase 3: Analysing

- Detailed quantitative analysis
- Analysis of qualitative findings
- Integration of analysis

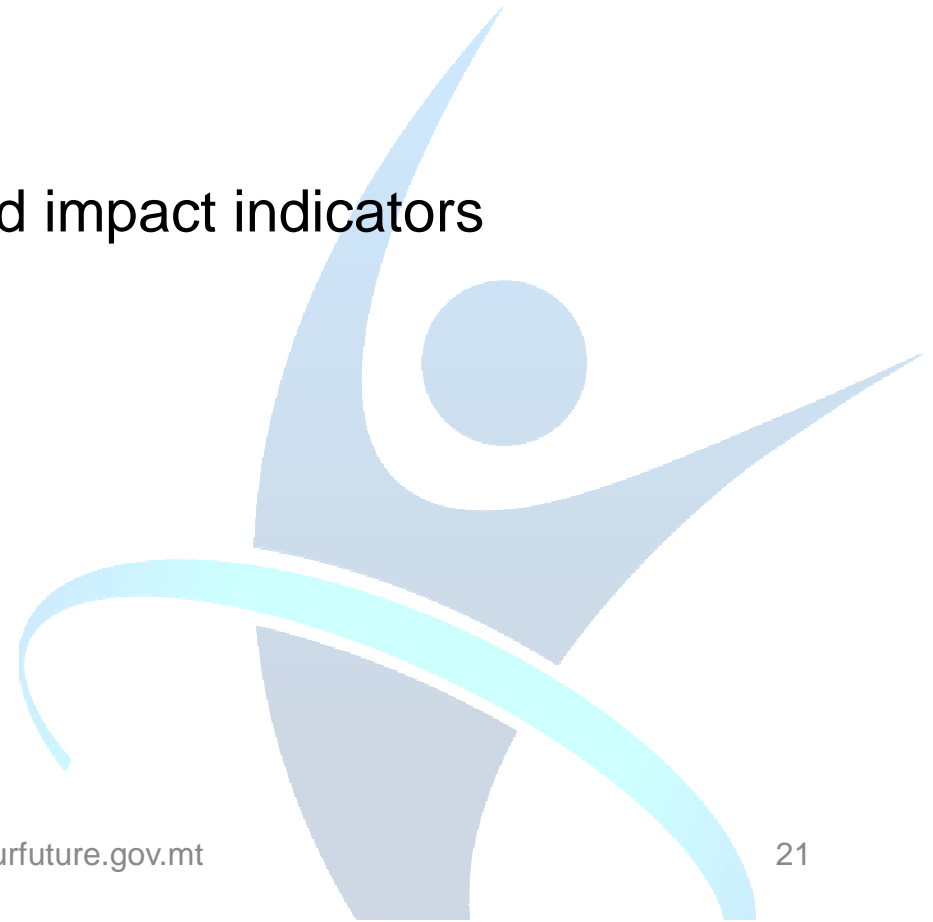


Methodology

Methodological Approaches

Phase 4: Judging

- Assessment of output, results and impact indicators
- Overall conclusions
- Key lessons and best practice
- Recommendations



Methodology

Quantitative Methods

- Collection of data to allow for further quantified analysis
- Quantitative analysis of the various output, result and impact indicators

Methodology

Qualitative Methods

- In depth interviews/meetings with the MA, policy experts, stakeholders and beneficiaries
- Survey of all main beneficiaries
- Focus group meetings
- Case studies
- Group information sessions
- Detailed stakeholder consultations
- In depth examination of key issues



Stakeholders' Information Session

- Held on 28th March 2013
- The primary aims for all the stakeholders are to:
 - Understand the nature of this evaluation
 - Understand the need for their contribution and importance of their role
 - Familiarise themselves with Terms of Reference
 - Get to know better how the project will evolve

Stakeholders Roles (1)

Stakeholders will contribute towards the success of this thematic evaluation by:

- Actively participating
- Dedicating some of their time to evaluation effort
- Provide structured and adequate feedback on their experience and knowledge within their field of work
- Support London Economics with data collection

Stakeholders Roles (2)

Types of stakeholder involvement

- Information requests
- Survey requests
- Participation in focus groups
- Possible involvement with case studies

Thank you!

