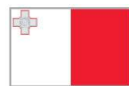


Update on Implementation 2014 – 2020 Programming Period

Operational Programme I - *Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges*

**Monitoring Committee
22nd November 2016**



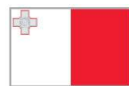
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Outline

- ▶ Setting up of Systems
- ▶ First Steps towards Implementation
- ▶ Monitoring and Evaluation
- ▶ Communication Activities
- ▶ Capacity Building

Setting up of Systems 2014-2020



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Designation of Authorities

- ▶ The MA finalised all the documentation required for the designation process under ERDF/CF, ESF and FEAD on the **14th October, 2016**.
- ▶ Subject to an Independent Audit Body (IAB) opinion, assessing whether the authorities fulfil the criteria set out in Art. 124(2) and Annex XIII of the CPR.
- ▶ Following the opinion issued by the IAB, the MA and the CA were officially designated through a Ministerial Decision.
- ▶ Designation documents were communicated to the Commission in October 2016. Acknowledgment received from Commission in November 2016.

The Importance of the Designation



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- ▶ Confirm that Management Control Systems for MA and CA give reasonable assurance that they are in a position to fulfil their responsibilities for the OP.
- ▶ Stronger accountability at Member State level.
- ▶ Strict supervision over Intermediate Bodies (Article 123 (6,7) CPR).
- ▶ Emphasis on ESIF effectiveness & performance.

Designation Criteria

- ▶ Internal Control Environment
- ▶ Risk Management
- ▶ Management and Control Activities (MA and CA)
- ▶ Monitoring (MA and CA)

Internal Control Environment

- ▶ Organisational structure within the IB, MA & CA.
- ▶ Plan for allocation of appropriate staff with technical skills at all levels, including training and awareness activities.
- ▶ Delegation of tasks to IB and definition of respective responsibilities and obligations, verification of capacity as well as reporting and monitoring procedures in place.

Risk Management

- ▶ Prepare a risk management plan on the basis of proportionality.

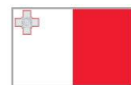
Monitoring & Control Activities

- ▶ The MA needs to ensure that the following procedures are in place:
 - ▶ Preparation of Project Proposals/ selection of operations/ instructions and guidance to beneficiaries as well as Grant Agreements;
 - ▶ Management verifications (administrative & on-the-spot);
 - ▶ Payment claim process;
 - ▶ Support the work of the Monitoring Committee;
 - ▶ Drawing up Annual and Final Implementation Reports.

Monitoring & Control Activities

- ▶ The CA needs to ensure that the following procedures are in place:
 - ▶ Certification of interim payment applications to Commission;
 - ▶ Drawing up of accounts;
 - ▶ Adequate audit trail & accounting records in computerized form – including amounts recoverable, recovered, withdrawn for each operation;
 - ▶ The exchange of information between the MA and the CA.

Structural Funds Database and Online Application Form (2014-2020)



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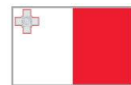
E-Cohesion

- ▶ The majority of the requirements stipulated in Article 122 (3) of the Common Provisions Regulations 1303/2013 have been implemented and further actions will be implemented as part of an action plan;
- ▶ The electronic data exchange is one single system used by the MA, CA, AA, IBs. It also covers all types of beneficiaries including beneficiaries of mainstream projects, aid schemes and Technical Assistance;
- ▶ The necessary data is in place for a number of requirements including reporting on progress, declaration of expenditure and exchange of information related to management, verifications and audits;
- ▶ The ‘only once’ encoding principle has been addressed and the system also allows for the elimination of paper flow of documents;
- ▶ SFD 2014-2020 ensures data integrity and confidentiality;
- ▶ Two targets set in OPI namely, the introduction of e-forms at application stage as well as the creation of the SFD 2014-2020 have been achieved

Online Application Form

- ▶ Development and launch of the online application form extended to **Aid Schemes**:
 - ▶ July 2016 – Call 1 (PA3: SME Growth Grant Scheme & Start-Up Investment Grant Scheme);
 - ▶ October 2016 – Call 1 (PA3: SME Diversification and Innovation & SME Internationalisation Grant Scheme);
 - ▶ November 2016 – Call 1 (PA2: E-Commerce Grant Scheme; PA3: SME Consultancy Services Grant Scheme).
- ▶ **Focus Groups** held on how to improve sections of the Application Form (mainstream projects).

Steps in the Implementation of 2014-2020



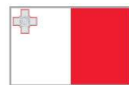
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Milestones achieved to date

- ▶ Total value of launched calls for proposals - **€607M**
(Call I, Call II, Call III and Calls intended to support enterprises)
- ▶ Total value of approved projects - **€120M**
(Call I projects including values of support schemes to enterprises launched)
- ▶ Envisaged value of projects to be approved by the end of 2016 - c. **€70M**
- ▶ Total value of projects under evaluation - **€138M**
- ▶ Approximate amount allocated for Call III - **€286M**

PA 1 - Investing in Research, Technological Development and Innovation



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Investment Priority 1a

Specific Objective: Stimulating participation in R&D&I through the development of the necessary public infrastructure in line with the Smart specialisation strategy.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase in researchers working in improved research infrastructure.

Investment Priority 1b

Specific Objective: Strengthening the competitiveness of the private sector through R&D&I in line with the Smart specialisation strategy.

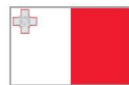
Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase in number of enterprises receiving support.

PA 1 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 1- **€72M**
- ▶ PA 1 Ex-ante Conditionalities fulfilled.
- ▶ Calls under this PA will be launched in the coming weeks.

PA 2 - Consolidating Investment within the ICT Sector



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Investment Priority 2b

Specific Objective: Strengthen the Digital Economy by increasing the use of e-commerce supported by e-Services.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase in the number of enterprises receiving support and grants.

Investment Priority 2c

Specific Objective: Consolidating and further developing the provision of e-Government services for G2C, G2B and G2G.

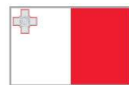
Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase in new e-services applications in the areas of health, environment, customs and interdepartmental services.

PA 2 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 2- **€38.4M**
- ▶ Call II targeted **IP 2c** where a total of **5 projects** were submitted. This call is still **under evaluation** and should be finalised by end of 2016.
- ▶ This Priority Axis also includes support to enterprises. One out of six support schemes, **e-Commerce Grant Scheme**, was approved under OP I, **IP2b**.
- ▶ This scheme was launched and is currently ongoing and will remain open until funds are absorbed.

PA 3 - Enhancing Malta's Competitiveness through Investments in SMEs



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Investment Priority 3a

Specific Objective: Creation of Employment opportunities through the provision of infrastructure, financial incentives as well as supporting services.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase in the number of enterprises receiving support or grants and a number of enterprises receiving non-financial support;
- ▶ An employment increase in supported enterprises.

PA3 IP3a Status

- ▶ This Priority Axis includes support to enterprises. Five out of six support schemes which were approved under OP I falls under this **IP3a**.

- ▶ These include the **SME Growth Grant Scheme** and **Start-up Investment Grant Scheme**, with both schemes being launched and applications are currently being assessed.

- ▶ The following schemes were also launched and are currently ongoing:
 - ▶ **SME Diversification and Innovation Grant Scheme**
 - ▶ **SME Internationalisation Grant Scheme**
 - ▶ **SME Consultancy Services Grant Scheme**

- ▶ These calls for support to enterprises will remain open until funds are absorbed.

Output Indicators for PA 3 (IP3a)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value
PA 3	Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	160	0
	Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalent	70	0
	Private investment matching public funds	Euro	€22M	0

Investment Priority 3d

Specific Objective: Nurture the growth potential of SMEs at a regional, national and international level through the provision of infrastructure, grants, financial instruments as well as supporting service.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase in the number of enterprises receiving support or grants and a number of enterprises receiving support through public infrastructure investments;
- ▶ An employment increase in supported enterprises.

PA3 IP3d Status

- ▶ 3 projects were approved under Call I for this Priority Axis IP3d.
- ▶ 2 projects **The Redevelopment of TA' Qali Crafts Village** and **The Extension of Xewkija Industrial Park** will create new workshops for businesses with an investment of **€30M**.
- ▶ The third project **Enhancing Malta's competitiveness through investment in SMEs** will assist SMEs to better internationalise by investing in a knowledge infrastructure with an investment of **€1M**.
- ▶ These investments aim to encourage SMEs to expand their product and service delivery. These projects will also aim to increase concrete support to SMEs.

Output Indicators for PA 3 (IP3d)



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Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value
PA 3	Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	350	195
	Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalent	100	167
	Private investment matching public funds	Euro	€40M	€6M

PA 4 - Shifting towards a low-carbon Economy



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Investment Priority 4a

Specific Objective: Promoting the use of RES through financial incentives for the domestic sector and undertakings not carrying out an economic activity.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An additional capacity of renewable energy production;
- ▶ An estimated annual decrease in GHG.

PA 4 IP 4(a) Status

- ▶ 1 project was approved under Call I for this PA.
 - ▶ The approved project under IP4a relates to a **Renewable Energy Source (RES) support scheme** which provides **financial support** to cover **part of the costs of PV systems for domestic use**.
 - ▶ The aim of this project is to increase demand and attract more consumers to make use of RES in the domestic sector.
- ▶ Call IV targeting **Local Councils and NGOs will be issued on 27th November 2016**.

Output Indicators for PA 4 (IP4a)



EU funds | 2014
for Malta | 2020

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value
PA 4	Additional capacity of Renewable energy capacity	MW	16	18.33
	GHG reduction	Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	23,000	21,181

Investment Priority 4b

Specific Objective: Promoting the use of RES and EE within the commercial and industrial sectors through financial incentives and financial instruments.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase in the number of enterprises improving their energy classification;
- ▶ An additional capacity of renewable energy production;
- ▶ An estimated annual decrease in GHG.

Investment Priority 4c

Specific Objective: The use of RES and EE within the public property as well as EE in housing through grants.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An additional capacity of renewable energy production;
- ▶ A decrease of annual primary energy consumption through RES and EE measures;
- ▶ An estimated annual decrease in GHG.

PA 4 IP 4(b) & IP 4(c) Status

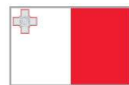
- ▶ Call III which has been launched in October 2016 targets **IP 4c**. This call will close on 2nd December 2016.

Financial Instruments

In 2017, the MA will be issuing a tender for **Ex Ante Assessment on Financial Instruments to be co-financed under Priority Axis 4.**

- ▶ The objectives of the *ex ante* assessment are to:
 - ▶ Identify market failure or suboptimal investment;
 - ▶ Assess the adequacy of the envisaged FIs against these identified situations and ensure that they will contribute to the achievement of the Programme and ESIF's objectives.

PA 5 - Protecting our Environment – Invest in Natural and Cultural Assets



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Investment Priority 6c

Specific Objective: To improve the Maltese competitiveness within the tourism sector through the promotion and protection of natural/cultural/ historical assets in the public domain.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase in the number of visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites and cultural assets.

PA5 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 5 - **€72.1M**
- ▶ 11 projects were approved under Call I of this Priority Axis.
- ▶ Project proposals to be undertaken by **Local Councils** and **NGOs** under this PA will also be targeted under Call IV which will be issued on **27th November 2016**.

PA 5 Status (cont.)

- ▶ **3 projects** namely ‘**The Rehabilitation of the Notarial Archives building and historic collection**’, ‘**Re-living the Sacra Infermeria**’ and ‘**Enhancing the Cultural Tourism Experience through Digitization**’ (PBS).
- ▶ The 3 projects aim to develop, maintain and make Malta’s cultural and historical heritage accessible to the public through the preservation of unique historical information.

PA 5 Status (cont.)

- ▶ Another **4 projects** approved under Call I are located in the Valletta area. These include: **MUZA** – The National Community Art Museum, **Grandmasters' Palace** Regeneration Project, The **MICAS Galleries** and The Upgrading of the **Manoel Theatre**.
- ▶ The investment in these 4 projects aim to provide a **quality tourism product** in order to contribute concretely towards the improvement of the overall **Maltese cultural tourism experience**.
- ▶ Furthermore, these projects also aim to **boost the economic development** in the area through the **increase in visitors** in Valletta in a holistic manner.

PA 5 Status (cont.)

- ▶ Another project approved under Call I for this Priority Axis is entitled 'Invest in **Chadwick Lake** for Tourism Purposes'.
- ▶ This project aims to regenerate and valorise the Chadwick Lake, creating an **innovative venue for natural heritage tourism**, whilst generating sensitivity towards biodiversity.
- ▶ The project also aims to contribute towards the **reduction of seasonality** given that the site also has a high potential to attract visitors during the winter months.

PA 5 Status (cont.)

- ▶ Another 2 projects were approved under this call namely ‘The Establishment of a **Regional Museum for Gozo**’ and ‘The Rehabilitation of **Xewkija Windmill**’.
- ▶ Both projects will improve Gozo’s cultural and historical assets and will **strengthen competitiveness and sustainability of the tourism industry** on the island.
- ▶ The projects aim to stimulate further **demand during the lean months** as it would provide another option for tourists during the winter months.

PA 5 Status (cont.)

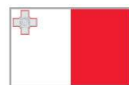
- ▶ Another project approved under Call I for this Priority Axis is entitled '**The Malta Carnival Experience**'.
- ▶ This project aims to ameliorate the **intangible cultural heritage**.
- ▶ This project seeks to increase Malta's cultural tourism offer by **offering an all-year round cultural destination** which showcases the different art forms of the Maltese Carnival.
- ▶ This therefore aims to increase the number of visitors on the island through investment in this new niche market.

Output Indicators for PA 5 (IP6c)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value	Indicators target to be achieved as a result of approved projects
PA 5	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural or natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	12,000	*160,000 +
	Rehabilitated/Preserved Land	Square metres	5,000	5,000

* This amount is equivalent to the increase in expected number of visits in the year 2023

PA 6 - Sustainable Urban Development



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Investment Priority 6c

Specific Objective: Improve the urban environment in the Southern Harbour in line with the preservation and promotion of cultural/ historical assets in the public domain intended to improve employment opportunities in social deprived areas.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase in the expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural or natural heritage and attractions.

Investment Priority 9b

Specific Objective: Improve the urban environment in the Southern Harbour in line with the preservation and promotion of cultural/ historical assets in the public domain intended to improve employment opportunities in social deprived areas.

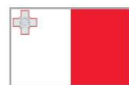
Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An area of constructed heritage upgraded or renovated in urban areas.

PA 6 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 6 - **€24M**
- ▶ PA 6 Ex-ante Conditionalities were fulfilled.
- ▶ The implementation is expected to start in Q1 2017.

PA 7 - Shifting towards a more Low-Carbon Transport Sector



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Investment Priority 7c

Specific Objective: Infrastructural investment in collective public transport to increase patronage.

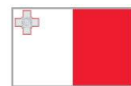
Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Number of persons reached by campaigns or actions intended to promote modal shift;
- ▶ Actions intended to decrease greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector.

PA 7 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 7 - **€35.5M**
- ▶ Call III which has been launched in October 2016 targets **IP 7c**. This call will close on **27th January 2017**.

PA 8 - Investing towards a more Socially-Inclusive Society



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Investment Priority 9a

(i) Specific Objective: Investment in public health infrastructures with the aim to alleviate the pressures from the main hospital and to promote a healthy life style.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase of the population covered by improved health services;
- ▶ An increase in the number of persons benefitting for new or upgraded infrastructure.

(ii) Specific Objective: Support the integration of vulnerable persons within the community through public infrastructure and community based centres intended to provide necessary social services to vulnerable groups and to bring vulnerable persons closer to the labour market.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase of the population covered by improved social services;
- ▶ An increase in the number of people in sheltered employment.

Investment Priority 9b

(i) Specific Objective: Integration of deprived families through the upgrading of public social housing.

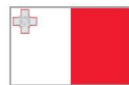
Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ An increase in upgraded public housing and regeneration of public open spaces.

PA8 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 8 - **€59M**
- ▶ Call II targeted PA 8 (**IP 9a and IP 9b**) where a total of **9 projects** were submitted.
- ▶ This call is still **under evaluation** and the Project Selection Committee should finalise this call by **end of 2016**.

PA 9 - Developing our future through education, training and lifelong learning



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Investment Priority 10a

Specific Objective: Invest in public infrastructure aimed to provide education and training facilities to reduce early school leavers as well as improve tertiary education attainment.

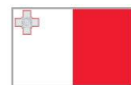
Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Capacity in VET and Tertiary education infrastructure.

PA 9 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 9 - **€33.6M**
- ▶ Call II targeted PA9 (IP10a) where a total of 3 projects were submitted.
- ▶ This call is still under evaluation and the Project Selection Committee should finalise this call by end of 2016.

PA 10 - Investing in a more Environmentally-Friendly Society



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Investment Priority 6i

Specific Objective: Increase recycling of waste and reduce the volume of waste going to landfill through investment in waste management related infrastructure.

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Additional waste recycling capacity;
- ▶ An increase in the total surface area of rehabilitated land;
- ▶ An increase in tonnes of waste processed in waste to energy per annum.

Investment Priority 6ii

Specific Objective: Investment to improve the sustainability of water resources through the consolidation of investment in groundwater, rain water harvesting and desalination

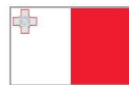
Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Number of households targeted through campaigns;
- ▶ M³ of new/upgraded harvesting infrastructure;
- ▶ Additional population served by improved water supply;
- ▶ Public groundwater abstractions showing a reduction in chloride content;
- ▶ Upgraded water/sewage network infrastructure;
- ▶ Annual production capacity of desalinated water.

PA10 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 10 - **€166.5M**
- ▶ Call III which has been launched in October 2016 targets **PA10 (IP6i and IP6ii)**.
- ▶ This call will close on **27th January 2017**.

PA 11 - Investing in TEN-T Infrastructure



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Investment Priority 7i

Specific Objective: Investment in (TEN-T) both land transport and maritime with a view to reduce journey time , including the facilitation of movement of goods.

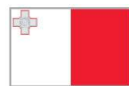
Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Increase in length of reconstructed or upgraded TEN-T roads;
- ▶ New or upgraded port infrastructure;
- ▶ Measures aimed to improve customs operations.

PA11 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 11 - **€89.7M**
- ▶ This Priority Axis was targeted under Call I. Approval for the project submitted under this call is still pending the **fulfilment of the ex-ante conditionality.**
- ▶ Call III which has been launched in October 2016 also targets **PA11 (maritime transport infrastructure)** which will close on **27th January 2017.**

Horizontal Priorities- Article 4 of Regulation (EC) 1303/2013



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Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Non-discrimination including accessibility (Article 110 (f) of EU 1303/2013)

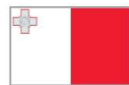
- ▶ The application form structure of this section has been strengthened to assist potential beneficiaries in:
 - ▶ identifying the minimum legal obligations;
 - ▶ to propose additional measures (beyond the legal requirement).
- ▶ Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project ideas with the relevant Bodies (NCPE, KNPD) for advice on the legal obligations and on how to best integrate such priorities (beyond the legal requirements) within their projects.
- ▶ Additional marks are awarded to applicants that properly integrate Gender Equality, Equal Opportunity and Non Discrimination in an integrated way within their project application.
- ▶ Additional conditionalities/obligations may be imposed at eventual Grant Agreement stage to ensure the implementation of such horizontal priorities.

Sustainable Development

(Article 110 (g) of EU 1303/2013)

- ▶ Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project ideas with the relevant authority (MSDEC) on how to best address this priority within their project ideas.
- ▶ Additional marks are awarded to applicants that properly integrate Sustainable Development measures in an integrated way within their project application.
- ▶ Additional conditionalities/obligations may be imposed at eventual Grant Agreement stage to ensure the implementation of this horizontal priority.

Monitoring and Evaluation (2014-2020)



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- ▶ In order to monitor progress towards the objectives and targets set for each priority, a performance framework has been built on a set of indicators to establish clear, realistic and measurable milestones and targets set for 2018 and 2023.
- ▶ Where there is evidence based on financial and output indicators of a serious failure in achieving a priority's milestones due to implementation weaknesses, the Commission may suspend all or part of interim payments for this priority.

Performance Framework of Approved Projects

Performance Framework for Area of Investment – PA 3 (excluding Aid Schemes)

Output Indicator	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving support		
OP Targets	70	510
Approved Projects	50	195
Financial Indicator	Financial Output for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	€13.3M	€53.3M
Approved Projects	€18.6M	€18.6M

Performance Framework for Area of Investment – PA 4

Output Indicator	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
Additional capacity of renewable energy production		
OP Targets	7	31
Approved Projects	12.83	18.33

Financial Indicator	Financial Output for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	€14.3M	€57.7M
Approved Projects	€15M	€15.5M

Performance Framework for Area of Investment – PA 5

Output Indicator Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	3,000	12,000
Approved Projects	34,000	160,000
Financial Indicator	Financial Output for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	€17.9M	€72.1M
Approved projects	€20.2M	€40M

Monitoring Activities

- ▶ As per the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy, the following monitoring mechanisms will be in place:
 - ▶ Day-to-day monitoring by the MA on the basis of preliminary agreements and grant agreements signed with BN;
 - ▶ Structural Funds Database 2014-2020 (SFD14-20);
 - ▶ Bi-Annual Projects' Progress Reports through the SFD14-20;
 - ▶ Bi-Annual Ministerial/Intermediate Bodies Projects' Steering Committees;
 - ▶ High Level Monitoring Meetings between the MA, Project Leader, LM and other relevant horizontal stakeholders;
 - ▶ Quarterly meetings with respect to projects contributing to the Performance Framework.

Evaluation Activities in 2016

- ▶ The Managing Authority has finalised the ERDF Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy in coordination with DG REGIO, taking into consideration feedback received from the Monitoring Committee and Evaluation Steering Group.
- ▶ DG REGIO, in collaboration with the Managing Authority, organised a training seminar, *Developing Quality Terms of Reference for Impact Evaluation*, between 5th October – 7th October 2016.
- ▶ Following the Evaluation Steering Group Meeting held on 30th March 2016, a second one was held on 11th November 2016 to discuss the way forward.

Evaluation Activities Way Forward

The MA will be working on the following tasks:

- ▶ Tendering procedures for: Feasibility study to carry out Counterfactual Impact Evaluation in Malta; Ex Ante Assessment on Financial Instruments to be co-financed under PA1 and 4 of OPI and Assessment of the key process within the ESI Funds in Malta.
- ▶ Contribution in terms of assessment of the Strategies, verification and validation of indicators in the preparation of the Progress Report (August 2017) and Strategic Report (December 2017).

Monitoring and Evaluation Activities in 2017

Meetings

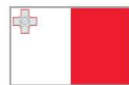
- ▶ **Evaluation Steering Group Meetings:**

Two meetings will be organised in Q2 and Q4 2017.

- ▶ **DG REGIO and DG EMPL Evaluation Meetings:**

The MA will be participating in these meetings wherein Member States discuss very practical evaluation issues through a combination of presentations from experts in the field and exchange of Member States' experience.

Communication Activities (2014-2020)



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Communication Activities in 2016



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- ▶ Provided constant feedback to the Beneficiaries on the Visual Identity Guidelines 2014-2020.
- ▶ Implemented the Media Action Plan and the Communication Strategy, including the setting up and approval of visuals, logos and banners.
- ▶ Awarded the photographic services contract in June 2016.
- ▶ Participated in the 44th INIO/INFORM meeting. (The next INFORM meeting will be held between 1st and 2nd December 2016).
- ▶ In Q3 and Q4 2016, organised six information sessions on pre-announcement Call IV and Call III for project proposals under OPI 2014-2020.

Communication Activities in 2016



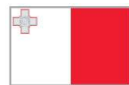
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- ▶ On Sunday 8th May 2016, the MA organised the Open Door event as part of the Europe in my Region campaign in line with Annex XII of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.
- ▶ Fort St. Angelo, Birgu Ditch, Fortress Builders Museum, Malta, Citadella and il-Hagar Museum, Gozo, were open free of charge to the general public.
- ▶ A structured media campaign on all media channels (TV and newspaper adverts, online banners and FB adverts) was undertaken to advertise this event.
- ▶ Around 4,000 participants visited these sites on the day. More than 550 people took part in the guided tours which were offered at different times were offered in all sites.

Communication Activities in 2017

- ▶ The MA is planning to hold an information campaign to promote the 2014-2020 programming period to the general public, potential beneficiaries and beneficiaries about the socio-economic benefits of EU funding as well as funding opportunities available.
- ▶ Moreover, a communication campaign with media and public relations will be organised.
- ▶ The Local Information & Publicity Network (LIIP) will be held in Q1 2017.
- ▶ The MA's website, *Investing in your future*, will be further enhanced.

Capacity Building (2014-2020)



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Capacity Building Activities in 2016



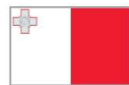
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- ▶ Simplified Cost Options Seminar
- ▶ Foundation and Advance ECDL Excel Training
- ▶ Cost Benefit Analysis Training
- ▶ 2014 – 2020 Systems Seminar
- ▶ Training Abroad

Upcoming Capacity Building Activities

- ▶ Capacity Building Events in Q4 2016 and Q1 2017
- ▶ Training on Horizontal Priorities in Q4 2016
- ▶ Training for new Beneficiaries in Q4 2016
- ▶ Training for new Recruits in Q1 2017
- ▶ Training on Public Procurement in Q1 2017
- ▶ TAIEX REGIO Peer-to-Peer in Q2 2017

Looking Forward (2014-2020)



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Looking Forward

- ▶ Finalisation of PSC Call II – by December 2016;
- ▶ Launch of Call IV – in November 2016;
- ▶ Ongoing meetings with new beneficiaries;
- ▶ Signing of Preliminary Agreements and Grant Agreements with Beneficiaries;
- ▶ Constant monitoring on the newly approved projects in order to ensure that the 2018 milestones are achieved.
- ▶ Continuation of evaluation work;
- ▶ Ensuring appropriate actions are taken to promote the programme and the programme activities.

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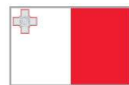
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