



MONITORING COMMITTEE for Operational Programme I

*Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life
Cohesion Policy (2007-2013)*

Priority Axis 1 – Enhancing Knowledge and Innovation

**Aid Scheme – Stimulating Environmental Excellence in Maltese
Enterprises**

Friday 17th October 2008



Operational Programme I – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life
Aid Schemes part-financed by the European Union
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Co-financing : EU Funds; National Funds; Private Funds



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Presentation Outline

1. Introduction;
2. Eligible Enterprises;
3. Eligible Actions;
4. Eligibility Criteria;
5. Evaluation Criteria.

1. Introduction

Rationale for Merging the Innov-Act & MEPA Scheme

- Achieve stronger synergies between schemes;
- Reduce Fragmentation (also for businesses);
- More effective resource utilisation in the implementation of aid schemes.

1. Introduction

Implementation Modalities

- Two Calls with different objectives & budgets
 - Call 1 - Innovation Actions Grant Scheme (€4million)
 - Call 2 - Environmental Actions Grant Scheme (€5million);
- Indicators - OP Indicator of assisting 100 SMEs in adopting environmental friendly technology remains the target.

2. Eligible Enterprises

- Manufacturing;
- ICT;
- Research and Development;
- Waste Treatment, Environmental Solutions and Eco-Innovations;
- Biotechnology; and
- Other Innovative high value adding operations.

2. Eligible Enterprises

The following sectors are excluded:

1. NACE Code C – Quarries;
2. NACE Code F – Construction; and
3. NACE Code I – Transport.

3. Eligible Actions

All actions foreseen under MEPA scheme can be included under Innov-Act's approved eligible actions:

Call 1 – Innovation Actions Grant Scheme – (€4million) :

- Consultancy & Other Services;
- Investments in Tangible Assets; and
- Investments in In-tangible Assets.

Call 2 – Environmental Actions Grant Scheme - (€5million):

- Environmental management audits, recognised environmental certification, including EMAS, ISO, Eco-Label and other standards recognised by the MSA;
- Investments in environmental technologies, operating systems and processes;
- This cost item may be utilised to purchase a licence for a particular technology to improve environmental performance.

4. Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria of both schemes have remained the same:

1. The application form is complete;
2. The application fits with one of the focus areas of the aid scheme;
3. The applicant has honored/rectified any past obligations or conditions set by the IB (Malta Enterprise);
4. The aid being requested is in line with the respective State Aid rules (General Block Exemption Regulation);
5. Where applicable the project complies with the laws pertaining to the interventions being proposed for funding;
6. The applicant is eligible (Eligible enterprises / SME's); and
7. The project will be completed within the stipulated timeframes.

5. Evaluation Criteria

The Evaluation Criteria are split into two criteria the Preliminary and (35%) Strategic Criteria (65%).

The preliminary evaluation criteria of the (original) Innov-Act Scheme and the (original) MEPA Scheme have remained the same (As approved for Innov-Act on the 5th Dec 2007). These include:

1. Risk Appraisal;
2. Extent of need for Support;
3. Holistic Nature of the project.

5. Evaluation Criteria

The strategic evaluation criteria are split into thematic priorities (55%) and horizontal priorities (10%). The basis of the evaluation will be the thematic and horizontal priorities for the Innov-Act scheme.

To incorporate the nature of the MEPA scheme, the project impact and OP Indicators section in the thematic priority will be altered to evaluate activities which minimise the environmental impact of SMEs in the sectors of air, water and waste.

5. Evaluation Criteria

The Thematic Priorities (55%) include:

- **Project Impact** (25%) - expected environmental benefits derived from the project in the air, water and waste sectors;
- **Innovation** (10%) - the novelty of the project vis-à-vis the industry it is working in;
- **Operational Programme I indicators** (10%) - the degree to which the project increases investments in environmental friendly technologies; and
- **Employment** (10%) - Potential to ensure job retention & create possible new employment in the future.

5. Evaluation Criteria

The Horizontal Priorities (10%) include:

- Environmental sustainability – project to address issues such as carbon neutrality & climate change, water, waste, air quality & nature protection were applicable;
- Equal opportunities - involvement of disadvantaged groups, increased participation of females, ensuring accessibility for all & family friendly measures.

Thank You for your attention



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