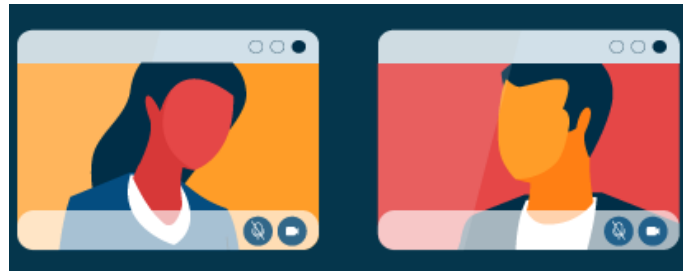


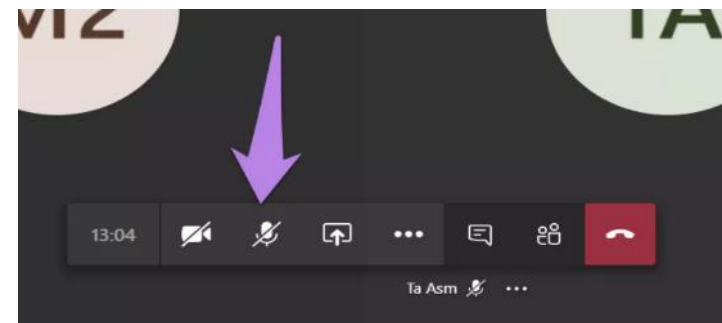
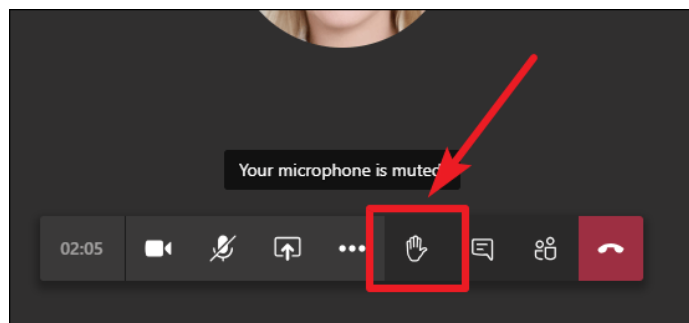
Welcome to the Monitoring Committee Meeting!

Please find some House Rules to ensure the smooth running of the meeting:

1. Keep your microphone muted throughout the meeting unless you want to intervene in the discussion.



2. In that case, click on the raise hand option and await your turn. Once Chair gives you the floor, unmute your microphone and share your views!



Annual Implementation Report (2020) & Update on Implementation

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

Operational Programme II - *Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society*

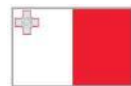
Monitoring Committee
20th May 2021



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Programme Commitment Table



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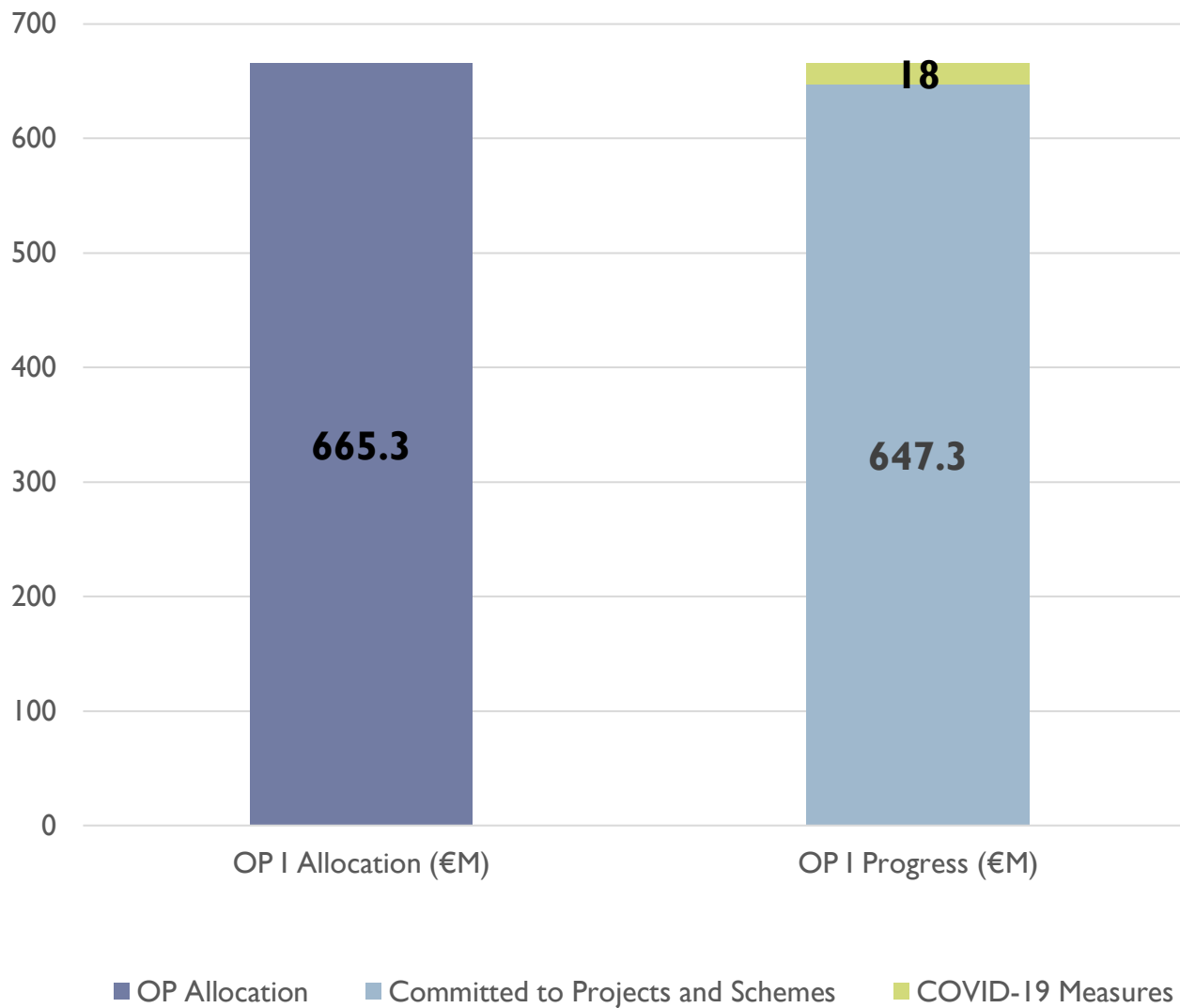
OPI Programme

Commitment Table as at end Dec 2020



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020



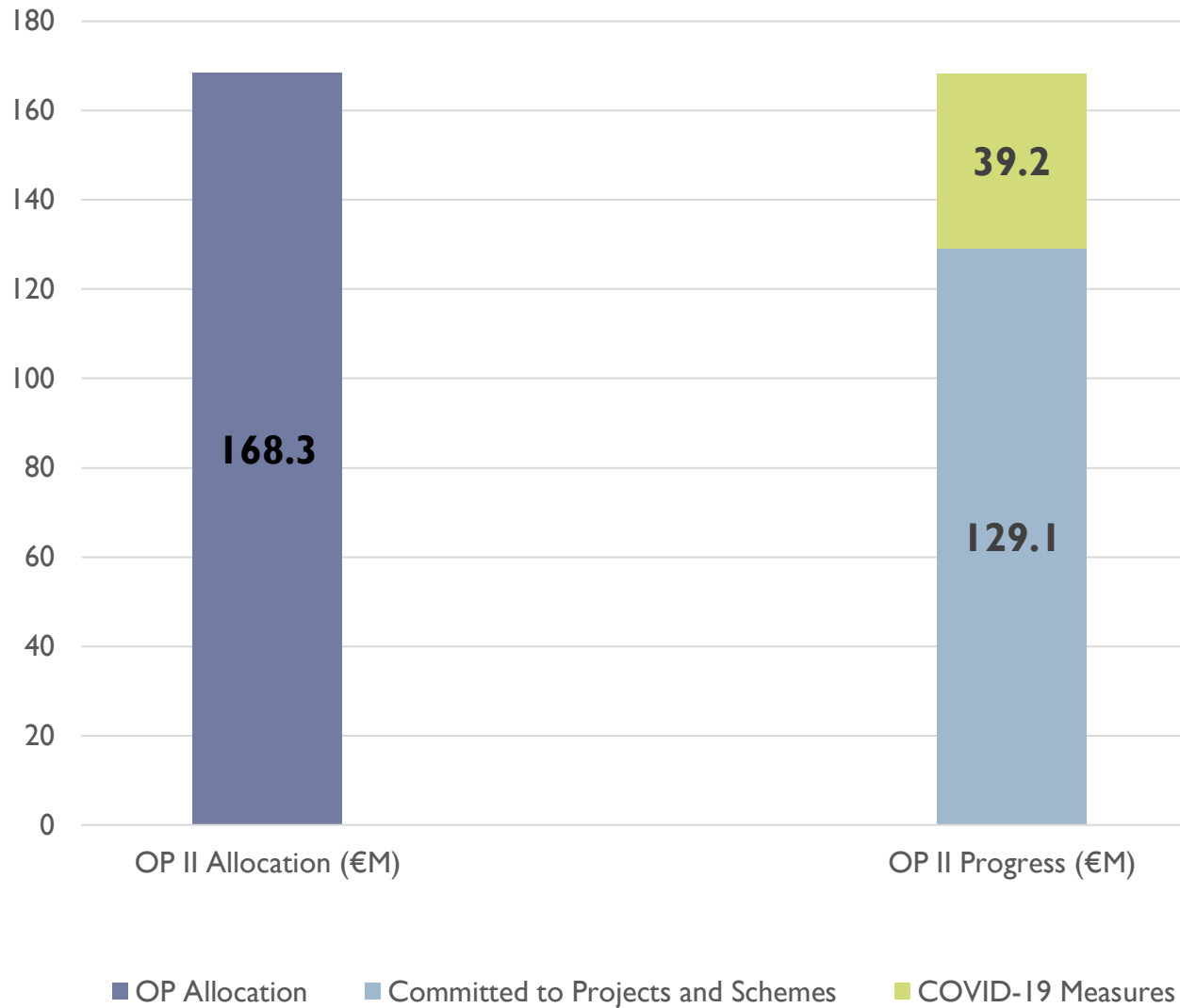
OPII Programme

Commitment Table as at end Dec 2020



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020



Actions carried out to commit the Operational Programmes by end 2020

New calls

- In July 2020, the **4th Call for projects** under ESF was launched, further investing in the capacity building of social partners and in enabling NGOs to implement actions to support those most vulnerable in society.
- **16 new projects** have been approved for an allocation of c. €1.5M with the aim of supporting c.1500 persons.

Financial Instruments

- An **additional €1M** was allocated to the FSMA financial instrument under OP11, bringing the total amount allocated to this FI to €3M. This increase has an impact on the portfolio available which increased from €5.5M to €8.25M.
- Following the allocation of €15M under OPI for the setting up of EERE-Malta, **the first products under this FI** providing support for RES and EE measures were launched on 18th December 2020.

Actions carried out to commit the Operational Programmes



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Actions carried out to commit the Operational Programmes by April 2021



EU funds | 2014
for Malta | 2020

New Calls under OPI in 2021

- ▶ Launch of Call XI under **PA 4** open to Ministries, Government Departments and Public Sector entities for investments supporting **Energy Efficiency in public infrastructure and public buildings**.

Deadline for submission of proposals: **4th June 2021**.

- ▶ Launch of Call XII under **PA 8** restricted to projects to be submitted by the Ministry for Health targeting **COVID-19 related measures**.

Deadline for submission of proposals: **30th June 2021**.

Modification to Operational Programme I and Operational Programme II



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Actions carried out to address the COVID-19 pandemic

➤ **Modification to the Operational Programme I**

- Align the OP allocation to ensure that account is taken of the impacts brought about by COVID-19 on the implementation of the OP resulting in the allocation of:
 - €35M to OPII to support COVID-19 related measures;
 - €8.75M as a top-up to the SMEi for the benefit of private enterprises
 - €25M to a number of PAs, amongst which an allocation of €18M towards COVID-19 related investments.

➤ **Modification to the Operational Programme II**

- The creation of a new PA: Enabling job maintenance in the context of the COVID pandemic crisis (PA 6);
- Other revisions to the programme as a result of the withdrawal of key projects as a result of challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Update to the Programme financials

OPI

	Previous OP	Modified OP	Financial Change
PA 1	€72,066,375	€62,066,375	-€10,000,000
PA 2	€38,435,400	€47,435,400	+€9,000,000
PA 4	€57,653,100	€32,653,100	-€25,000,000
PA 5	€72,066,373	€63,316,373	-€8,750,000
PA 8	€58,998,338	€64,998,338	+€6,000,000
PA 10	€166,508,672	€141,508,672	-€25,000,000
PA 11	€89,658,515	€99,658,515	+€10,000,000
ERDF	€452,942,496	€424,192,496	-€28,750,000
CF	€256,167,187	€241,167,187	-€15,000,000

	Previous OP	Modified OP	Financial Change
SMEi	€22,000,000	€29,000,000	+€7,000,000

Additional modifications under OP II

New modification proposed to the Operational Programme II

- The introduction of a new Priority Axis (PA7): 'REACT-EU Additional support for job maintenance in the context of the COVID pandemic crisis' with an allocation of €111.1M;
- Shift of unallocated resources under PA 3 to PA 6 to further support the wage subsidy scheme and the management of such funds.

Update to the Programme Financials OPII

	Previous OP	Modified OP	Financial Change
PA 1	€26,000,000	€26,000,000	€0
PA 2	€40,000,000	€40,00,000	€0
PA 3	€44,924,810	€40,924,810	-€4,000,000
PA 4	€13,500,000	€13,500,000	€0
PA 6	€35,937,500	€38,500,000	+€2,562,500
PA 7		€111,196,276	+€111,196,276
PA 5	€7,942,000	€9,379,500	+€1,437,500
ESF	€168,304,310	€279,500,586	+€111,196,276

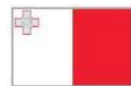
Progress in the Implementation of Operational Programme I



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PA 1 - Investing in Research, Technological Development and Innovation



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Implementation Progress – PA1

PA Allocation: €62M

2 mainstream projects and 1 Aid Scheme

Major achievements in mainstream projects by end of 2020 include:

TRAKE

- Metallurgy & Materials Engineering Labs (MMEL) nearing completion;
- Construction works in main TRAKE building, which **shall house 30 labs**, progressing well. This investment shall improve the competitiveness of the local industry through knowledge transfer and commercialisation of research outputs;
- New lab equipment received in the new research facilities housed more than 50 FTE researchers. By end 2020, **36 research studies** in the fields of Mechanical & Electrical engineering, and Science in Engineering were concluded;
- **8 applications for patents submitted** in the areas of HVAM, Transport, Health, Resource efficiency in Buildings, Environment & Climate Change.



Construction works on TRAKE main building



M&E services at the MMEL

Implementation Progress – PA1

Sustainable Living Complex (SLC)

- Excavation works on the SLC were completed.
- With the finalisation of the structural engineering design, construction works **started in Q4 2020**.
- Mitigation measures to accelerate construction works, including works on the M&E in parallel with construction works, are expected to be put in place to mitigate against the delays so far.



Ongoing construction works on the SLC building



Status update as at April 2021

TRAKE

- Completion of Metallurgy & Materials Engineering Labs, now awaiting commissioning.
- Preparations for publication of tender for provision of furnishings of the main TRAKE building ongoing.

SLC

- Construction works continued to progress, expected to be finalised Q3 2022.
- Awarding of supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of an Air Conditioning Test Rig.
- Other procurements related to the finishing of the SLC is well under way and expected to be published by Q3 - Q4 2021.



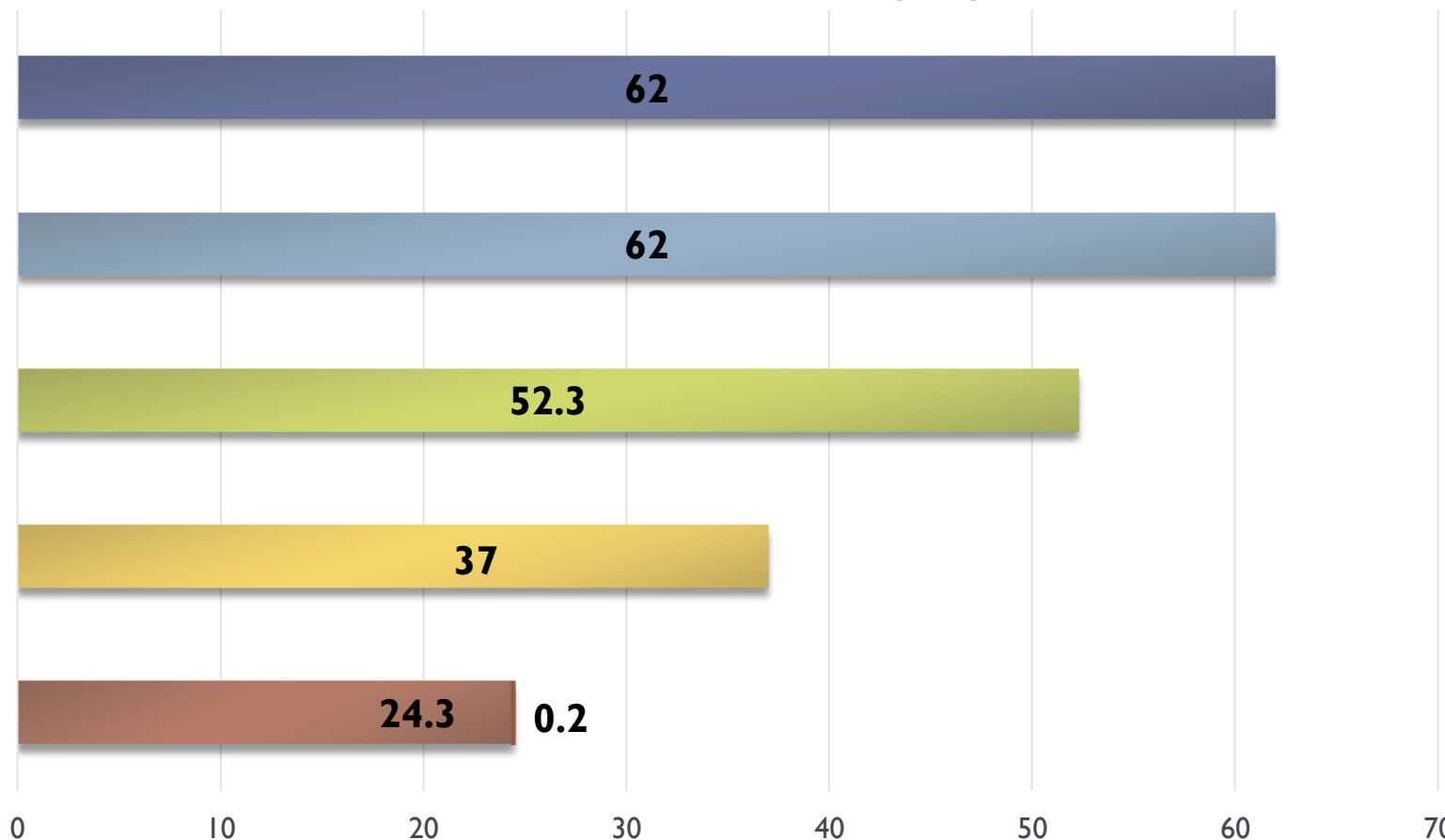
Progress on M&E and Finishes at the Materials Lab (TRAKE)



Construction works – core foundation and perimeter wall (SLC)

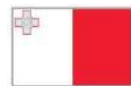
Implementation Progress – PA 1

Financial Progress (€M)



■ PA Allocation ■ Committed Amount ■ Contracted ■ Disbursed ■ Certified ■ Verified

PA 2 - Consolidating Investment within the ICT Sector



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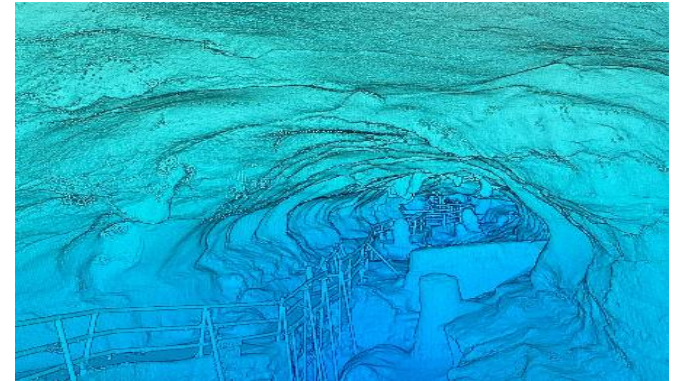


Implementation Progress – PA 2

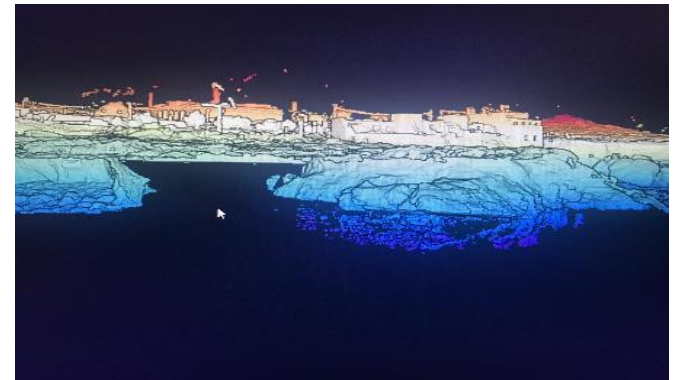
PA Allocation: €47M

Major achievements in mainstream projects by end of 2020 include:

- The **SIntegraM** project, aimed at removing information redundancy & preparing a common spatial dataset for Malta is being used in various fora such as:
- **Digitisation of heritage sites**, such as the scanning of the Għar Dalam Cave & of a complex and multi-storey underground construction in Valletta for documentation purposes;
- **3D reconstruction of crime scenes** to aid police investigations;
- **Mapping of Malta's topography and surrounding sea waters** for planning purposes, sea-level rise analysis, and quarry stock volumes, and in cases of emergency (earthquakes or tsunami), amongst others.



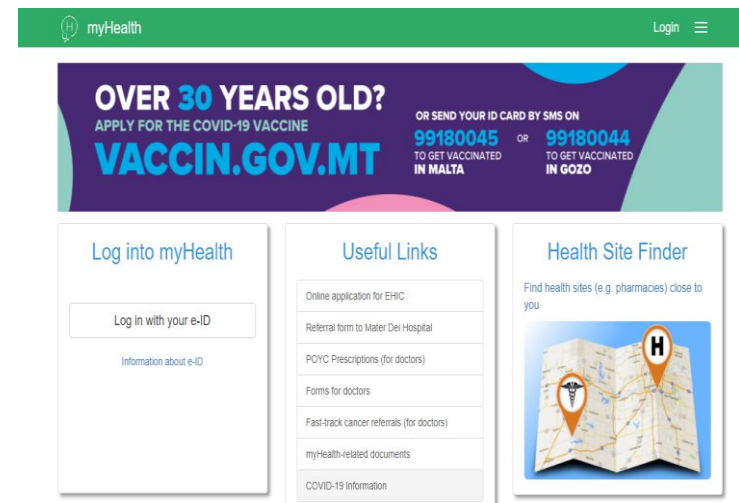
Scanning of Għar Dalam Cave



Subterranean analysis for planning purposes

Implementation Progress – PA 2

- The other larger mainstream project is **CONvErGE**, aimed at strengthening the public service through development of ICT systems.
- Investments carried out within the **e-health** landscape proved to be priceless in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic in that:
 - The **Patient Registries Software** helped the Ministry for Health identify persons more at risk of severe COVID-19 morbidity and mortality, for the purpose of shielding in 2020;
 - Investment on the **horizontal layer** hosted on the **Azure cloud** enabled the provision of the following services: **Vaccin.gov.mt**; **Contact Tracing App**; **Rapid Antigen Tests Application** and **Test Registration and Tracking System**.



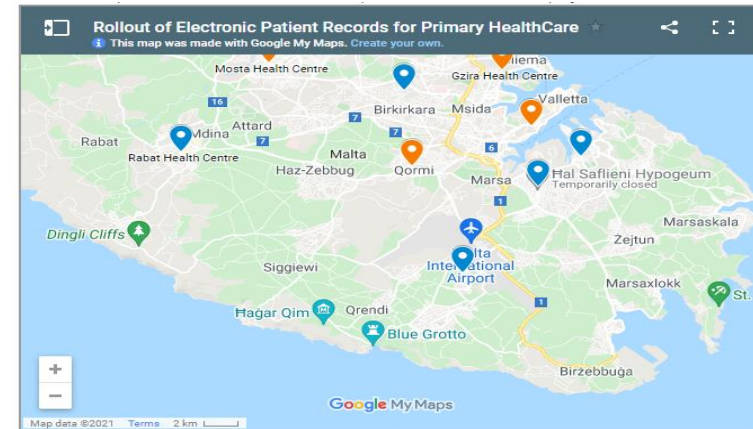
myHealth Portal

Status update as at April 2021

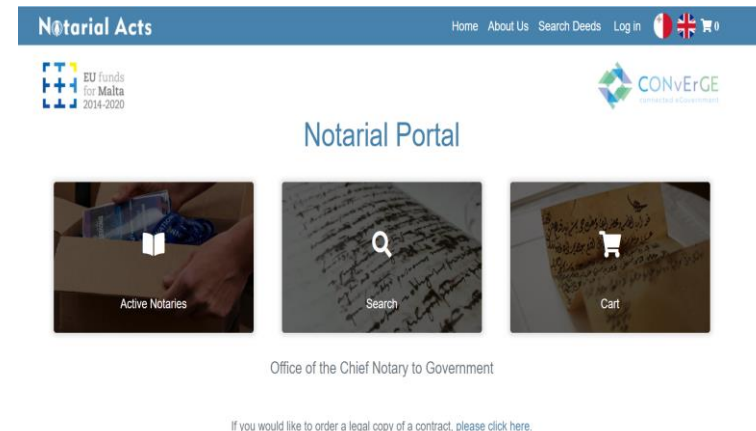
- Investment in **e-health** under **CONVerGE** continued to be invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic once the vaccine became available in 2021 in that:
 - The **Patient Registries Software** was used by the health authorities to identify the persons more at risk for the purposes of priority vaccination this year;
 - The **Electronic Patients Record** was used to book vaccination appointments, as well as log vaccinations given during the vaccination roll-out;

- Progress registered on the new **Online Tax Return system** providing online services for taxpayer registration, tax return processing and VAT return processing for businesses and the general public.

- The **Notarial Archives online service** was launched during Q1 2021, enabling customers to acquire copies of public deeds and wills from the Notarial Archives through an online service, including payment of relative fees.

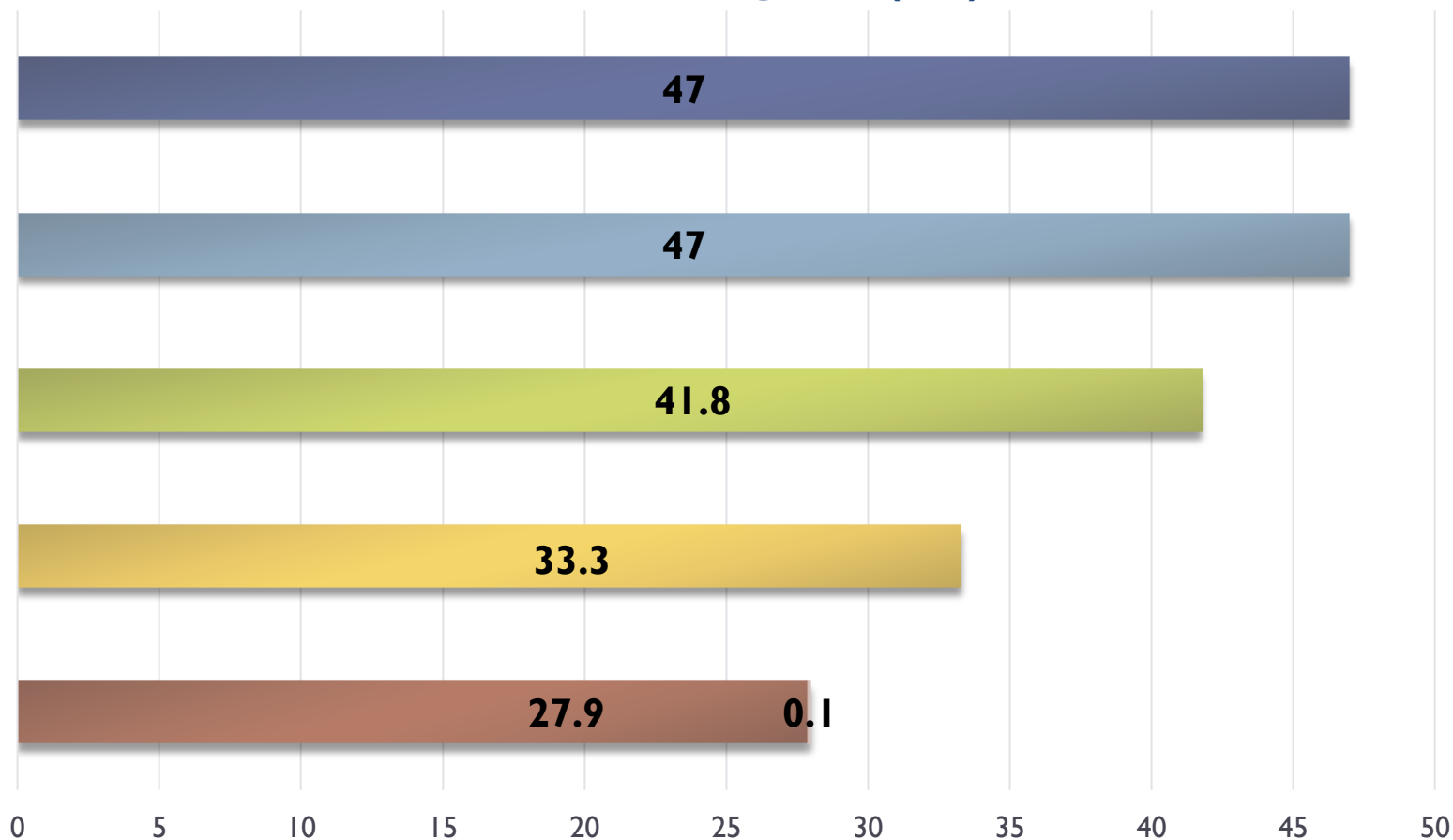


Roll out of the Electronic Patients Records for Primary Health Care



Implementation Progress – PA 2

Financial Progress (€M)



■ PA Allocation ■ Committed Amount ■ Contracted ■ Disbursed ■ Certified ■ Verified

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



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Implementation Progress – PA 3

PA Allocation: €44.6

Three mainstream projects and five Aid Schemes with a public eligible value of €44.6M are being implemented under this PA.

Major achievements by end of 2020 include:

- Transformation of **Ta' Qali Crafts Village** into a modern site for local artisan work encouraging tenants to continue investing in their workshops. 17 tenants completed their workshop whilst another 10 workshops were being constructed;
- **Series of articles on news portals** funded through national funds to promote local crafts at Ta' Qali, which will be followed by a full marketing campaign after the completion of other activities being nationally funded to complement the activities within the village;
- 2 lease agreements signed at **Xewkija Enterprise Hub** in Gozo & further 8 tenants started operating from the **Industrial Workshop Complex**;
- 440 unique enterprises benefitted from the **Internationalisation Knowledge Platform**, including accessing research material & the production of another 10 promotional videos showcasing export stories of local companies.



Promoting Maltese art at Ta' Qali Crafts Village



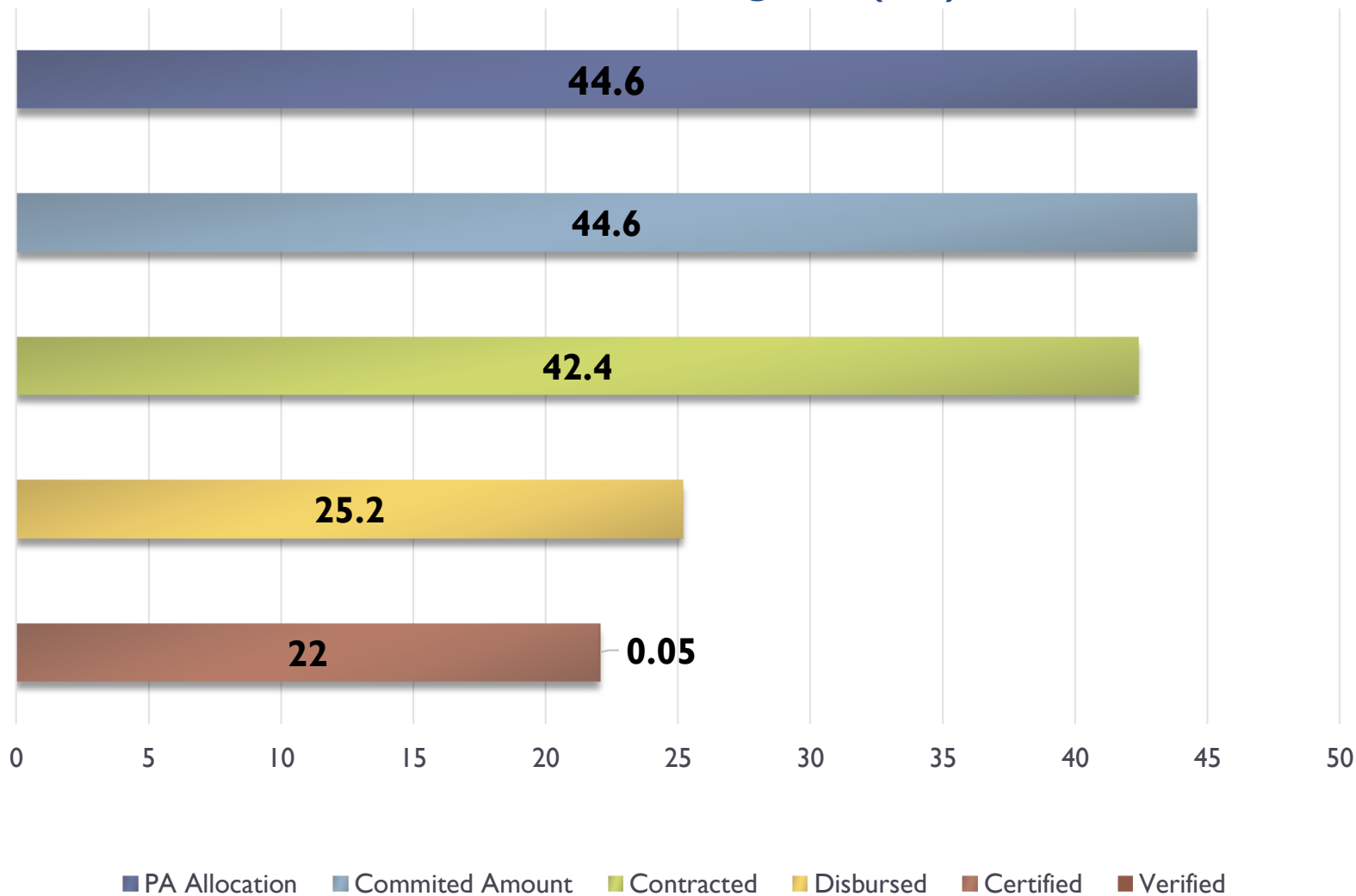
Industrial Workshop Complex, Xewkija

Status update as at April 2021

- With the reality of the COVID-19 restrictions, the prevalence of telework continued to intensify also in 2021, resulting in a potential change in the business model of high-tech industry, such as those targeted by the Gozo Innovation Hub, which may now need less rental space.
- Notwithstanding this, negotiations to lease more office space at the **Xewkija Innovation Hub** are ongoing & another 2 tenancy agreements were signed in 2021 whilst negotiations are ongoing with another potential 6 tenants.
- **INDIS Malta** continues to generate awareness about the **Innovation Hub** through features in publications, a dedicated website & on social media, features on TV, as well as by hosting & supporting events that serve as a platform to promote the Hub as an investment location. Preparations to launch a tender for marketing are also ongoing. These are covered from national funds.
- At **Xewkija Industrial Park**, another 3 new tenancy agreements were signed and negotiations are ongoing with another potential 3 tenants.
- The existence of the **Internationalisation Knowledge Platform** continued to enable TradeMalta to virtually support local export companies during the pandemic, when other traditional support incentives and schemes became more or less ineffective.

Implementation Progress – PA 3

Financial Progress (€M)



PA 4 - Shifting Towards a Low-Carbon Economy



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Implementation Progress – PA4

PA Allocation: €33M

Apart from a Financial Instrument (FI) covering EE and RES, this PA also includes 5 projects covering RES and 3 covering EE measures.

More projects focusing on EE measures are expected to be approved under a **call launched in 2021**.

Major achievements in mainstream projects by end of 2020 include:

- The project focusing on **RES in households** has successfully reached its targets in 2020, with the creation of an **additional capacity of RES of 21.7MW**.
- Another success story was the **Street Lighting project**, under which the project will give rise to **annual energy savings of 468,854kWh** with more than 3000 LED luminaires installed in Malta's arterial and distributor roads.



Generation of RES in households



Street Lighting

Implementation Progress – PA4

- Two projects involving retrofitting actions in an **Elderly People's Home** and an **Administration Centre in Gozo** are ongoing despite delays due to COVID restrictions involving importation of material & equipment & mandatory quarantine of key experts.
- Mitigation measures put in place to recover, at least partially, the said delays in 2021 included the delivery of material from abroad by Q1 2021.



Energy efficiency measures at St Vincent de Paule Elderly People's Home

Status update as at April 2021

- **St. Vincent de Paul Residence – Elderly People’s Home** installation of HVAC and lighting systems was completed in 11 wards whilst works in another 2 wards are still ongoing and in their final stages.
- At the **Gozo Administration Centre**: all double-glazed apertures installed, roof insulation completed & reinstatement of PV panels nearly complete. Delivery of the air-conditioning units on site.



Reinstatement of PV panels at Gozo Administration Centre



Double-glazed apertures at Gozo Administration Centre

Financial Instrument – PA 4

APS Green Finance



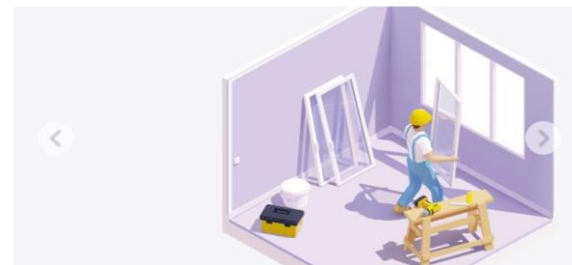
Save by going green

with APS Green Finance

- **€15M of ERDF** allocated towards a guarantee and an interest rate subsidy to provide more attractive loans for those wishing to invest in RES/EE actions.
- Open for **private individuals and companies** to finance investments related to upgrading of buildings with insulation, apertures as well as renewable energy and water efficiency measures amongst others.
- Following the publication of the Call for EoI by EIF in January 2020, BOV & APS were approved to act as Financial Intermediaries., and have launched eco/ green loans products.
- Instrument launched on 18th December 2020.
- A webtool for standardized measures was created and presented to the MA and the Financial Intermediaries as part of technical assistance package that will support the implementation of the financial instrument.

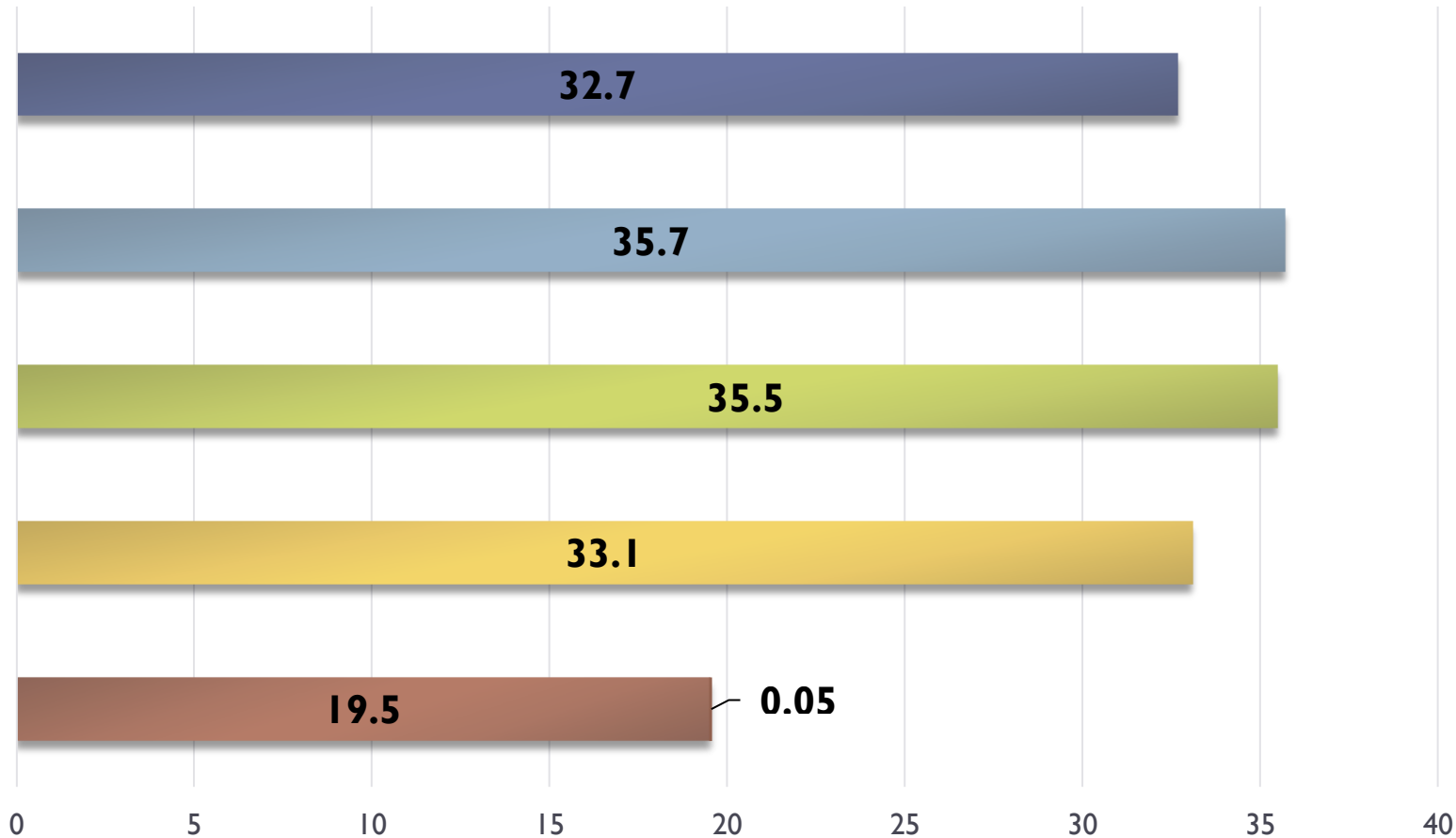
BOV Personal Energy Loan

The BOV Personal Energy Loan is a low-cost financing solution designed to assist you invest in lifestyle choices that will reduce your carbon footprint. You can enjoy advantageous interest rates and other great benefits including a 2.0% p.a. interest rate subsidy for the first 3 years of the loan.



Implementation Progress – PA 4

Financial Progress (€M)



■ PA Allocation ■ Committed Amount ■ Contracted ■ Disbursed ■ Certified ■ Verified

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



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Implementation Progress – PA 5

PA Allocation: €63.3M

Twenty-five cultural and natural heritage projects with a public eligible value of **€63.3M** are being implemented under this PA.

Major achievements by end of 2020 include:

- Technology met heritage through the launch of a mobile app using augmented reality, enabling visitors to relive what happened in the **Sacra Infermeria** in bygone years.
- 20,000 notarial volumes at the **Notarial Archives** have been disinfested. These will now be digitised to be preserved for future generations;
- 35,000 sqm of land at the **Chadwick Lakes** have been rehabilitated and now are offering a new life to this area, open to visitors to enjoy Malta's natural heritage.



Mobile app using Augmented Reality at MCC



Rehabilitation of the Chadwick Lakes

Implementation Progress – PA 5

- Restoration and conservation works of **churches, chapels, belfries, paintings & other religious artefacts**, aimed at preserving religious heritage for future generations, were completed across Malta and Gozo.
- The restoration of various **coastal watch towers** around Malta and Gozo was ongoing;
- Works at **St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta** are focused on restoring neglected and underutilised historical spaces & the creation of a Caravaggio centre, promoting an educational experience reflecting his lifetime and works.



Restoration of paintings at Mosta Church



Restoration of Xlendi Tower in Gozo

Status update as at April 2021

- Inauguration of an **18th century windmill in Gozo**, now offering another historical treasure to the Gozitan tourism product;
- Commencement of works on the Visitors' Centre & the reinstatement of the Palace Armoury in its original location at the **Grandmasters' Palace**;
- Ongoing excavation works and piling at the **MICAS galleries**, which will serve as Malta's international contemporary arts space, aimed to strengthen Malta's cultural infrastructure.



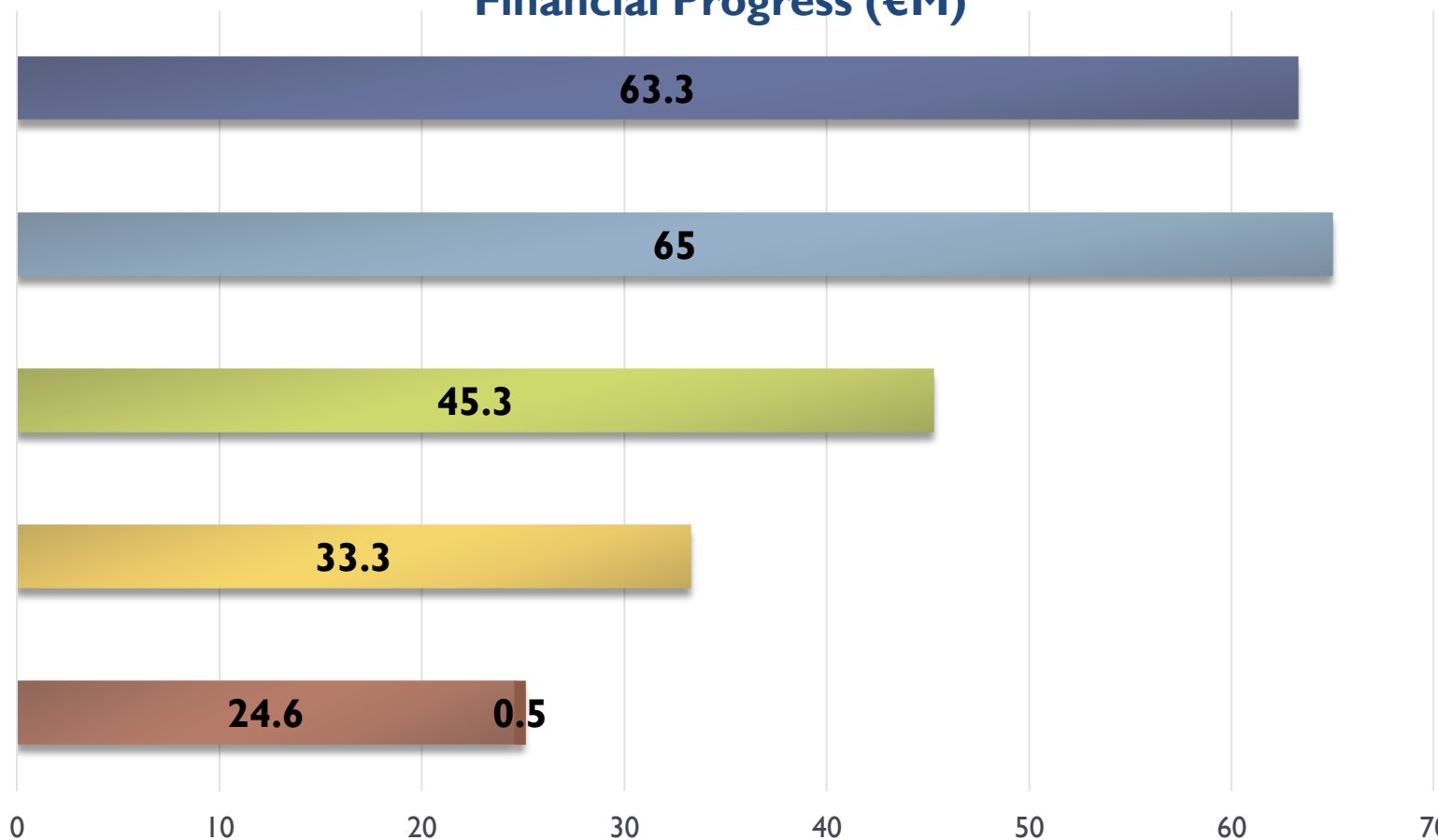
Rehabilitation of windmill in Xewkija, Gozo



Restoration works at the Grandmasters' Palace in Valletta

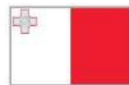
Implementation Progress – PA 5

Financial Progress (€M)



■ PA Allocation ■ Committed Amount ■ Contracted ■ Disbursed ■ Certified ■ Verified

PA 6 - Sustainable Urban Development



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Implementation Progress – PA 6

PA Allocation: €24M

Major achievements by end of 2020 as part of the **Sustainable Urban Development project in Lower Valletta** include:

- A **Heritage Trail mobile app** giving a new life to the history of Marsamxett area;
- **An additional 11 housing units** for vulnerable persons have been completed;
- **Social dimension component** kick-started with recruitment of community workers & mentors and the preparations for a financial literacy programme for disadvantaged persons.



Social event organised at Lower Valletta



Restoration of a dilapidated building for social housing purposes

Status update as at April 2021

The **Valletta Design Cluster** has been formally inaugurated in March 2021. Following the restoration and rehabilitation works of a dilapidated site in Lower Valletta known as the 'old abattoir', this space was transformed into a hub for the creative art industry aimed to provide facilities to assist creatives and entities working in design to fulfil their aspirations & serving as a bridge between Valletta's 450-year-old history and its future.



Transformation of part of the building housing the Niche of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, now forming part of the Valletta Design Cluster.

Status update as at April 2021 (cont'd)

- Commencement of works to replace **5 bridges** in Triq il-Funtana to enhance accessibility and safety.
- Completion of restoration works of the “**Parapett tal-Blata**” area including structural reinforcement work, directly affecting families living in the surrounding areas.
- Commencement of restoration works at social housing accommodation around **Mattia Preti Square** in January. Works include stone restoration, cleaning, removal of cables and other accumulations.



Reconstruction of 5 bridges in Triq il-Funtana.

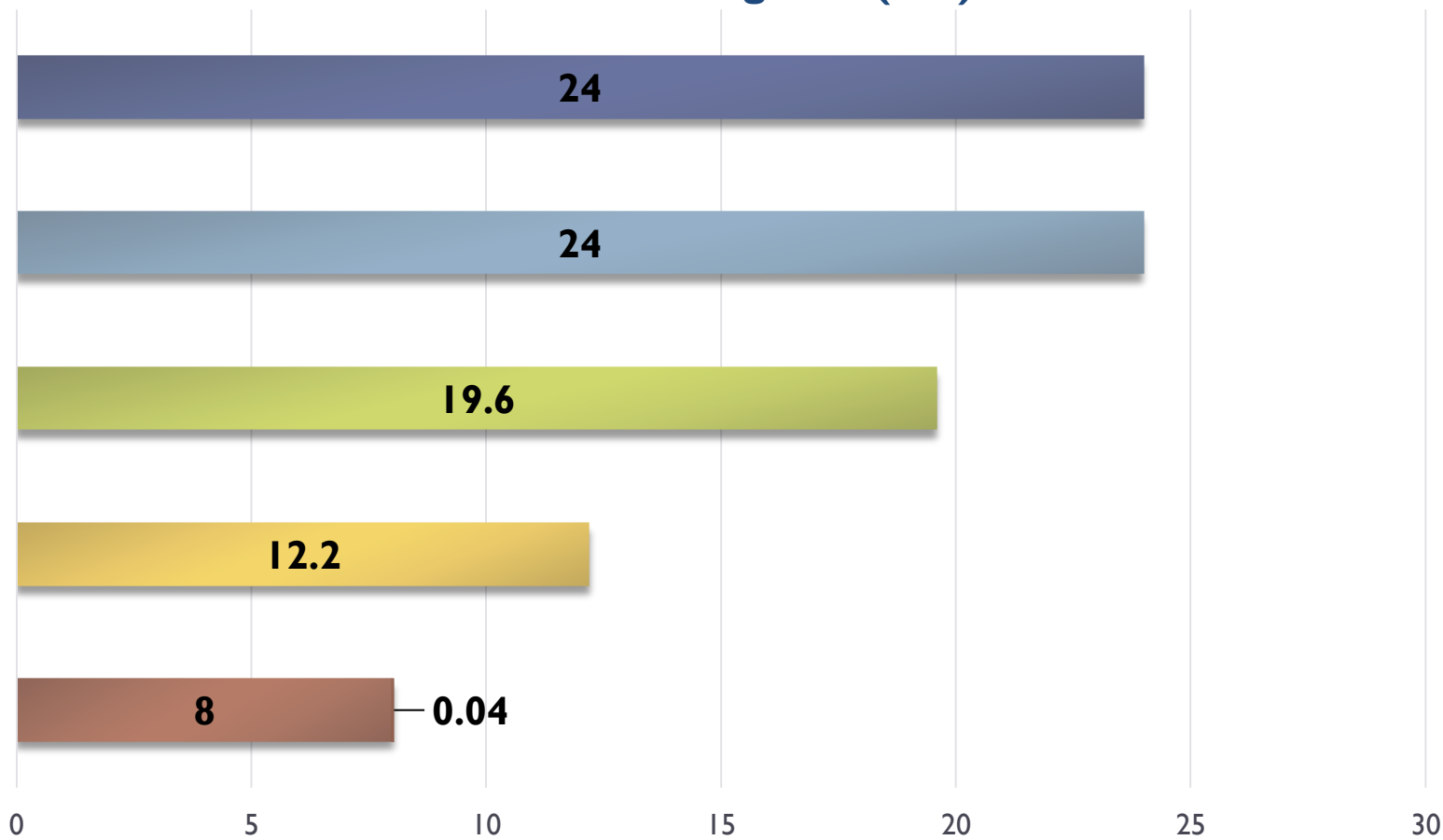


Photo: DOI - Clifton Fenech

Restoration works at Tal-Blata.

Implementation Progress – PA 6

Financial Progress (€M)



■ PA Allocation ■ Committed Amount ■ Contracted ■ Disbursed ■ Certified ■ Verified

PA 7 - Shifting Towards a More Low-Carbon Transport Sector



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Implementation Progress – PA 7

PA Allocation: €35.5

One mainstream project with an allocation of €35.5M is being implemented under this PA with the main aim to encourage modal shift through sustainable & alternative low-carbon transport modes.

By end 2020, progress was achieved with respect to:

- **Ongoing** works on the **ferry landing sites** at Bormla & Sliema and the cycling lanes on the **Mrieħel – Ta' Srina** stretch of road
- **Delivery of 6 electric buses** as part of the investment in Gozo, expected to be operational as from 1st June 2021
- **Completion of 3 pedestrian bridges** offering safer commutes to pedestrians, bus passengers and cyclists, whilst encouraging use of alternative modes of transport. All bridges are equipped with ramps, stairs & passenger lifts to ensure easy access for persons with reduced mobility.



Pedestrian Bridge in Luqa

Status update as at April 2021

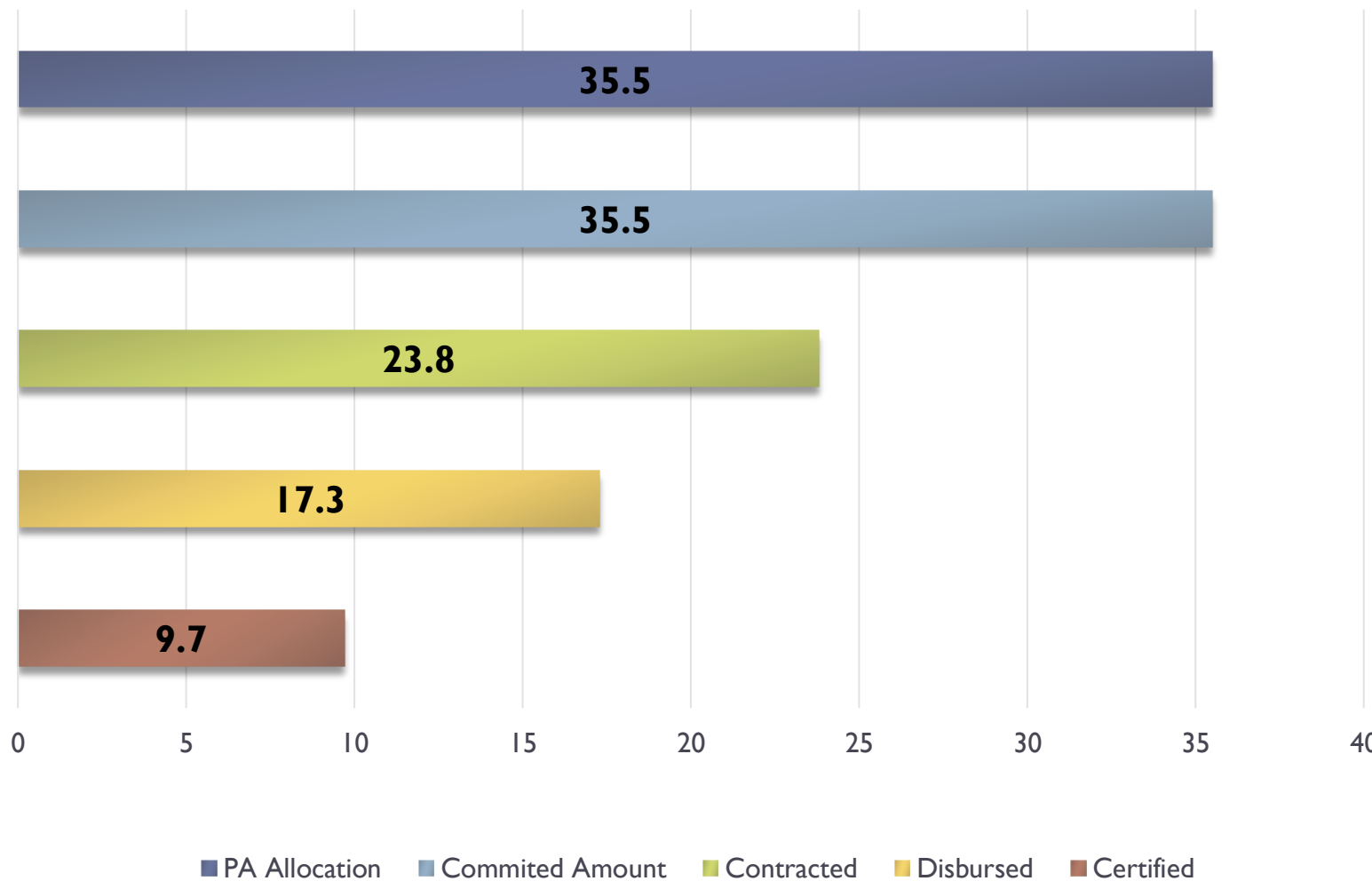
- Following the installation of a number of electric charging pillars in late 2020, further preparatory work is currently ongoing to file planning applications for the installation of more charging pillars.
- Progress on the Bormla and Sliema ferry landing site continued with 95% and 65% of the civil works completed respectively. It is envisaged that works on the superstructures including ramps, railings and gangways for these landing places will commence later on this year.



Ongoing works at ferry landing sites in Bormla and Sliema

Implementation Progress – PA 7

Financial Progress (€M)



PA 8 - Investing Towards a More Socially-Inclusive Society



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Implementation Progress – PA 8

PA Allocation: €65M

Apart from 6 projects being implemented under this PA, a new commitment of €18M to ensure an adequate response to the COVID-19

Major achievements by end of 2020 include:

- The flagship health project – the construction of a **Primary Health Care Centre** in the Southern region - has overcome difficulties during excavations due to archaeological findings, site restrictions and COVID-related delays in delivery of material from abroad, mandatory quarantine and limitation of available workforce.
- Progress was registered with approval of building designs for all levels and construction started with more than 50% progress on concrete casting of foundations by 2020.



Aerial view of construction works at Paola Regional Hub Primary Health Care Centre

Implementation Progress – PA 8

- In the area of **social housing**, improved accessibility through the installation of energy efficient lifts has been provided in 127 units up till end 2020, with c. 455 residents benefitting from such improvements.
- Two projects implemented by NGOs are progressing well. **The Palliative Care** project led by Hospice Malta has completed 30% of the works, with procurement of equipment reaching 70% progress. Works at the **Caritas Community Centre**, have advanced steadily with all construction finalised, with electrical, mechanical and finishes being implemented in parallel.



Caritas Community Centre – M&E and finishes



Palliative Care Project – construction works within the Inpatient Unit

Status update as at April 2021

- In the area of **social housing**, the contract for landscaping works was published in Q1 2021 and is currently under evaluation.
- Ongoing works in a total of 75 blocks comprising c. 420 social housing units.
- The interior and exterior proposed designs of the **Primary Health Care Centre** completed and awaiting approvals.
- Preparations for launch of Call for COVID-related measures under PA 8 to cover procurement of PPEs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment and provision of bed spaces.

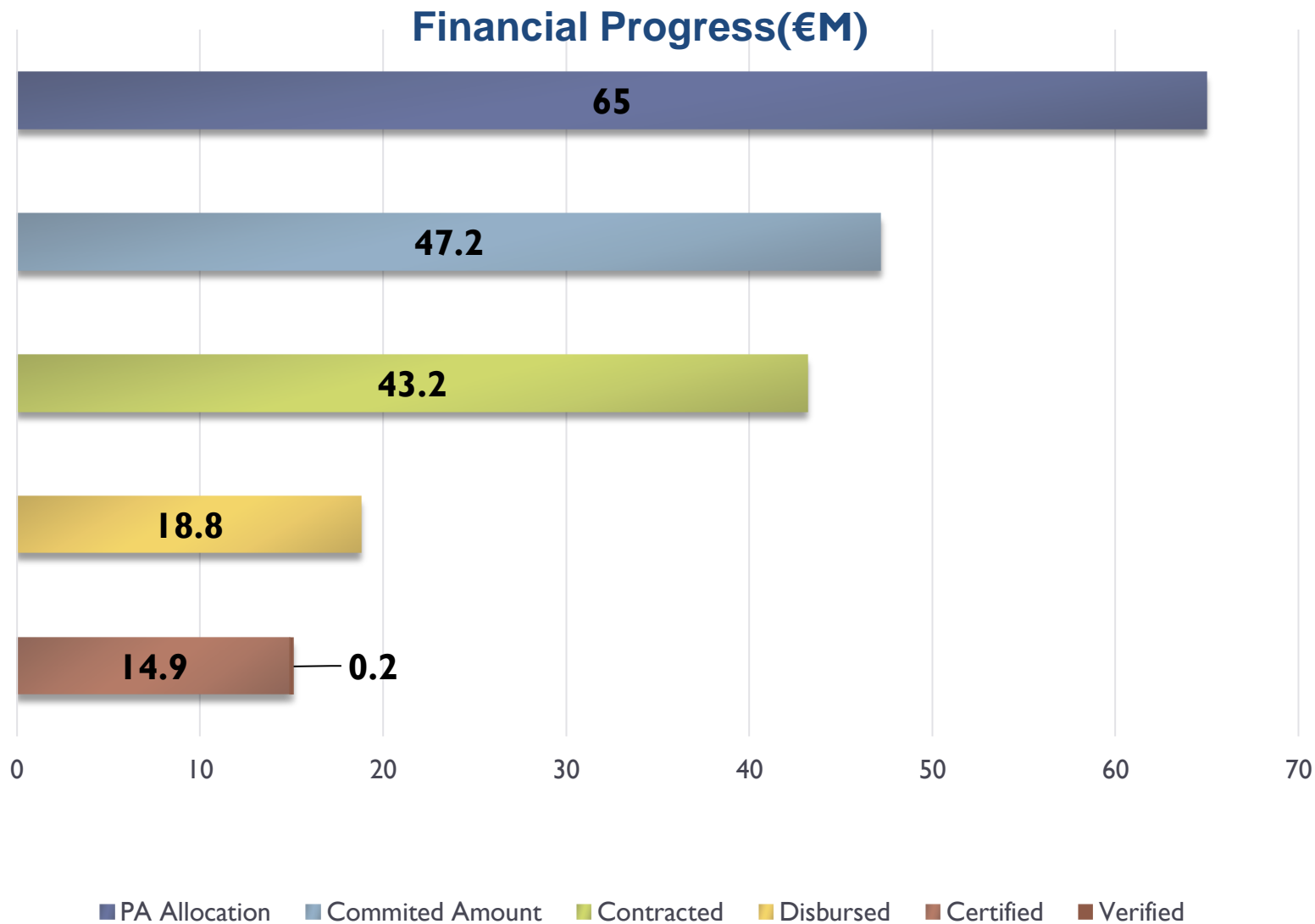


Current landscape at St. Lucia Social Housing Estate



Proposed landscape design layout plan

Implementation Progress – PA 8



PA 9 - Developing our Future through Education, Training and Lifelong Learning



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Implementation Progress – PA 9

PA Allocation: €33.6

2 mainstream projects are being implemented under this PA dedicated to investments in the education sector, which is fully committed.

Major achievements by end of 2020 include:

- The **INVEST** project saw the completion of 7 new VET labs, totalling now to 78 labs fully functional by mid-2020 in 14 different schools including 1 Learning Support Centre.
- This project sees the educational sector moving towards a more inclusive learning system, supporting individual talents and different needs through academic, vocational and applied learning programmes.
- A tangible result of this project is the increase in Year 9 students in state schools who opt to study at least 1 vocational or applied subject.



Health and Social Care Lab



Retail Lab

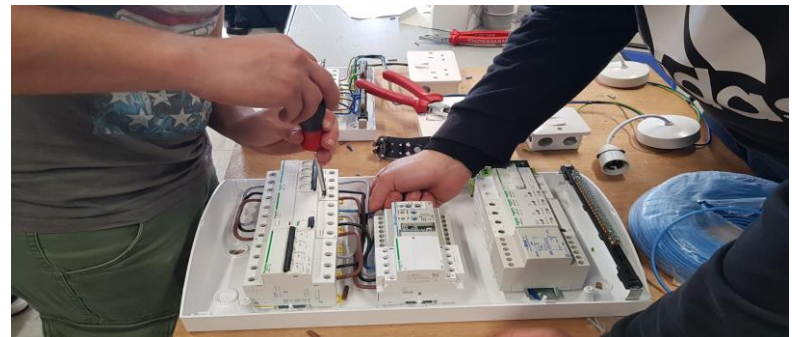
Implementation Progress – PA9

MCAST Campus Master Plan (Phase II):

- Courses being delivered by the 'Institute of Engineering and Transport' at the MCAST campus, ranging from level 1 to level 7 in several subject areas such as marine engineering construction, HVAC, electrical installation and welding.
- The Resource Centre's building works have been completed and work on the mechanical and electrical installations and finishes is currently in progress. The newly-built Centre will open its doors to staff and students by the new academic year in October 2021.
- Construction work at the 'Institute of Information and Communication Technology' ongoing but delayed due to COVID-related restrictions.



Students at the Institute of Engineering and Transport



Status update as at April 2021

- 74% of construction and structural works on the IICT site have been concluded. Works are envisaged to be concluded by September 2021.
- Mechanical and electrical works and installation of luminaires are expected to commence in June 2021, once construction works are at a more advanced stage.
- Internal finishes to commence by August 2021 with works on the façade expected to start in October 2021.

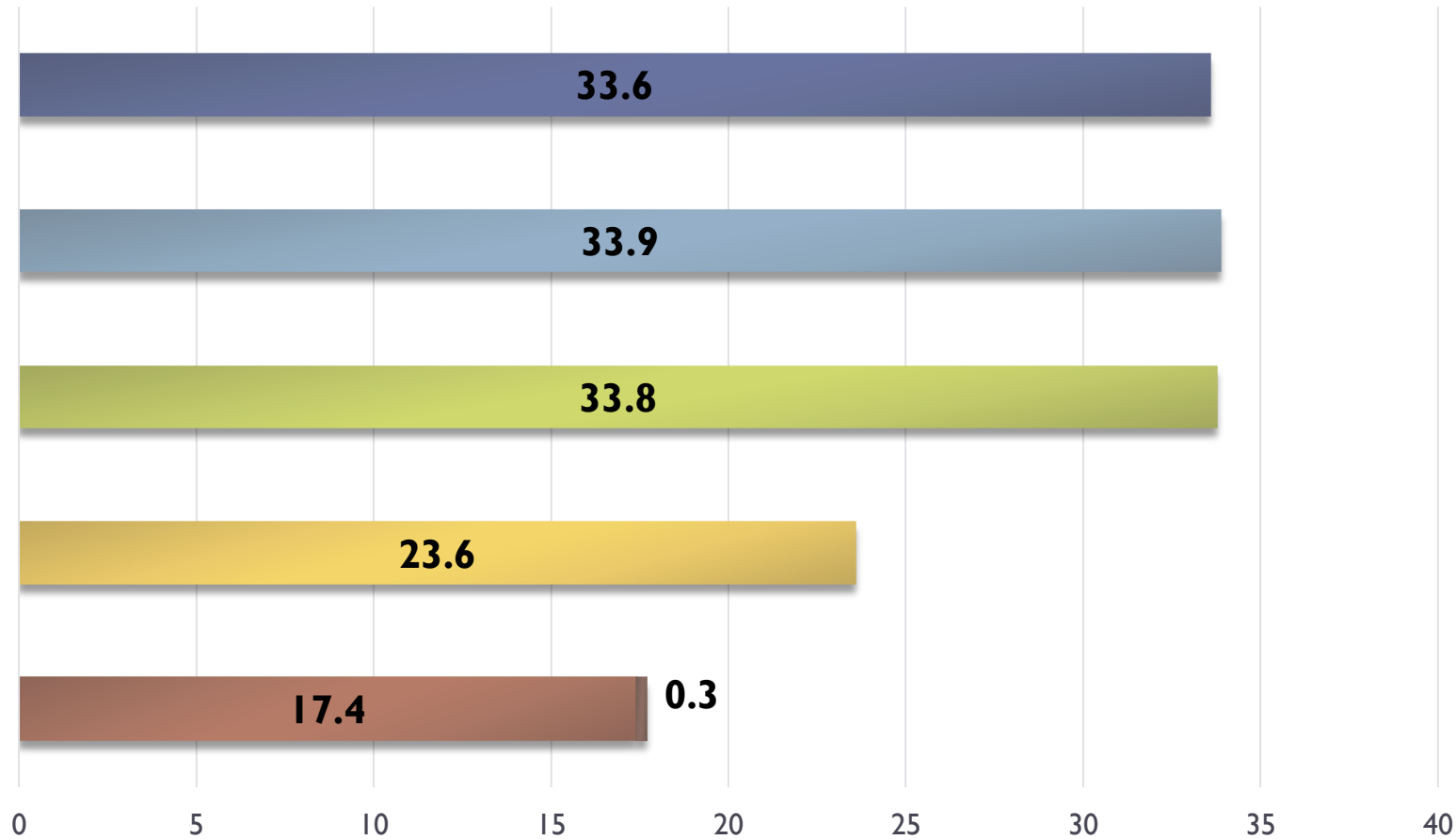


Works in progress on the IICT Building



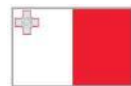
Implementation Progress – PA 9

Financial Progress(€M)



■ PA Allocation ■ Committed Amount ■ Contracted ■ Disbursed ■ Certified ■ Verified

PA 10 - Investing in a More Environmentally-Friendly Society



European Union
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Implementation Progress – PA 10

PA Allocation: €141.5M

Seven mainstream projects including a Major Project with a total public eligible value of €141.5M are being implemented under this PA.

In the **waste sector**, progress registered in 2020:

- Rehabilitation works at **Wied Fulija** progressed well with the landfill being turned into a green area embellished with indigenous plants and including a paved pathway for public access.
- 90% of the excavations works on the **Multi-Material Recovery Facility** within the grounds of the Civic Amenity site in Ħal Far were completed.



Rehabilitation works at Wied Fulija landfill

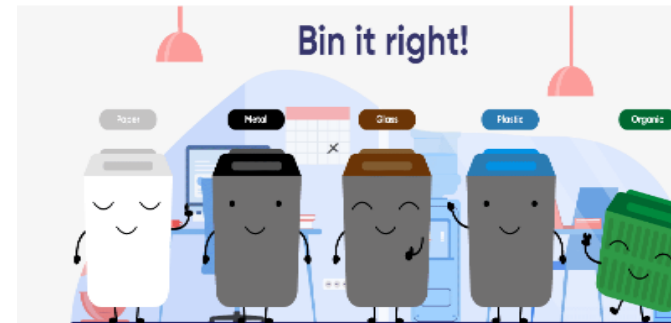


MMRF ongoing excavations

Implementation Progress – PA 10

The information campaigns on **waste** and **water** continued with a more virtual presence due to many public events being cancelled due to the pandemic.

- Under the **waste** campaign project, a series of informative e-mails were sent to all government employees to increase awareness on proper separation of waste at the place of work.
- Under the **water** campaign, the distribution of water saving packs resumed in July 2020 whilst the domestic visits although slowed down, continued to take place.
- Digital presence continued with TV & radio spots, social media posts & online articles as well as with the participation in the Science and the City Online event.



Bin it right! – Waste campaign



Water Campaign Stand at the Valletta Green Festival

Implementation Progress – PA 10

Apart from dissemination of information, both the **waste and water campaign** include other concrete activities linked to waste and water management, such as:

- Under the **waste campaign project**, a new rudimentary line was approved with the aim to increase Malta's capacity to treat all source-segregated dry recyclables.
- Under the **water campaign project**, the development of improved ground water monitoring infrastructure will result in an upgraded monitoring network.



Ongoing preparations for the installation of the water monitoring network

Implementation Progress – PA 10

By end of 2020, progress was registered on different actions in the **water** sector:

- Under the **Water Major Project**, another milestone was reached, in a 2nd tunnel breakthrough connecting the Pembroke RO plant to Ta' Qali reservoirs.
- Significant progress was also made on the Gozo RO plant which will result in the production of c. 9,000m³ per day.
- Works also continued on trenching and pipelaying, resulting in 36.9km on the potable water supply network and 9.3km on the sewer network.
- 75% of the works on the **Sant' Antnin** wastewater plant completed; it is envisaged that the project would be completed by Q3 2021.
- Excavation of basins and the construction of water retentions at Wied il-Għasel under the **Rainwiin** project are ongoing.



Pembroke – Ta' Qali tunnel

Status update as at April 2021

- Works on Wied il-Għasel under the **RainWiin** project continued to progress with excavation and the removal of deposited sediments from basins to reach the maximum withholding capacity. Concurrently, remodelling works on the embankments that lead to the water course as well as on the adjacent dirt tracks to improve the aesthetic value and accessibility of the valley are ongoing.
- As regards the **Major Project**, progress continued with regards to trenching and pipe laying works across the island. As at end of April, 65% of the works at the Gozo RO have been completed and completion is envisaged by Q3 2021.
- Following the lifting of travel restrictions, works related to the installation & commissioning of a real time monitoring water network, which allows sampling from different depths in unsaturated zones under **CF.10.096**, have commenced in Q2 2021.



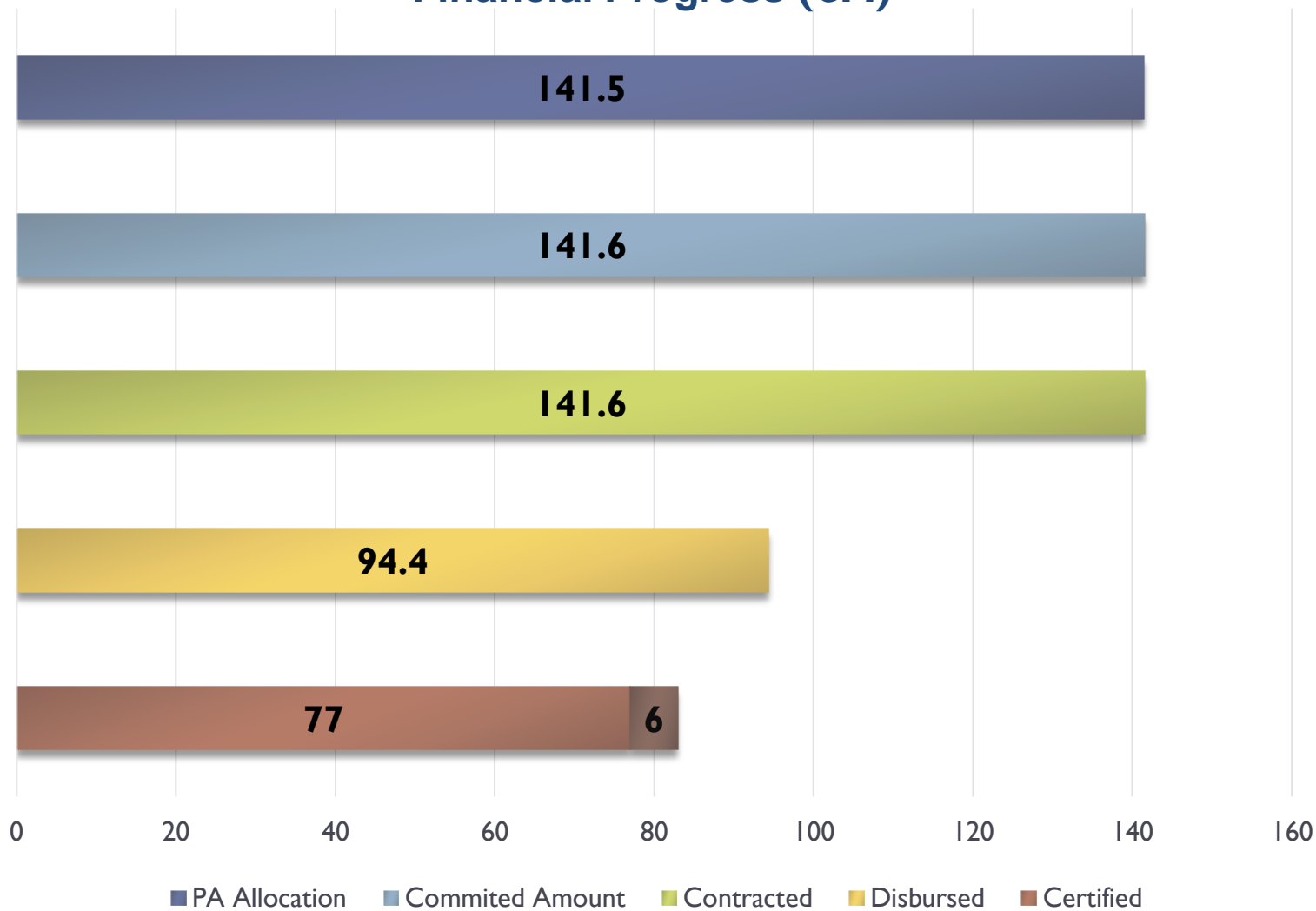
Works on RainWiin project



Ongoing works for the installation of a real time monitoring water network.

Implementation Progress – PA 10

Financial Progress (€M)



PA 11 - Investing in TEN-T Infrastructure



European Union
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Implementation Progress – PA 11

PA Allocation: €99.7M

3 projects with a total public eligible value of **€99.7M** are being funded under this PA with the aim to upgrade major arterial junctions with the scope to remove existing traffic bottlenecks as well as enhancing the capacity of the Port of Valletta by the setting up of a new cargo facility.

Major achievements in 2020:

- The evaluation of the dredging tender under the **Ten-T Ports** project was ongoing whilst the tender for the setting up of the cargo facility was at publication stage.
- Works on the Santa Luċija underpass and surrounding roads under the **Ten-T Roads** project was completed with this component contributing towards an additional 2.03km of reconstructed and upgraded roads. Progress has also been made on the Mrieħel – Ta' Srina junction whereby the first part opened for public use in September 2020.



Santa Luċija underpass

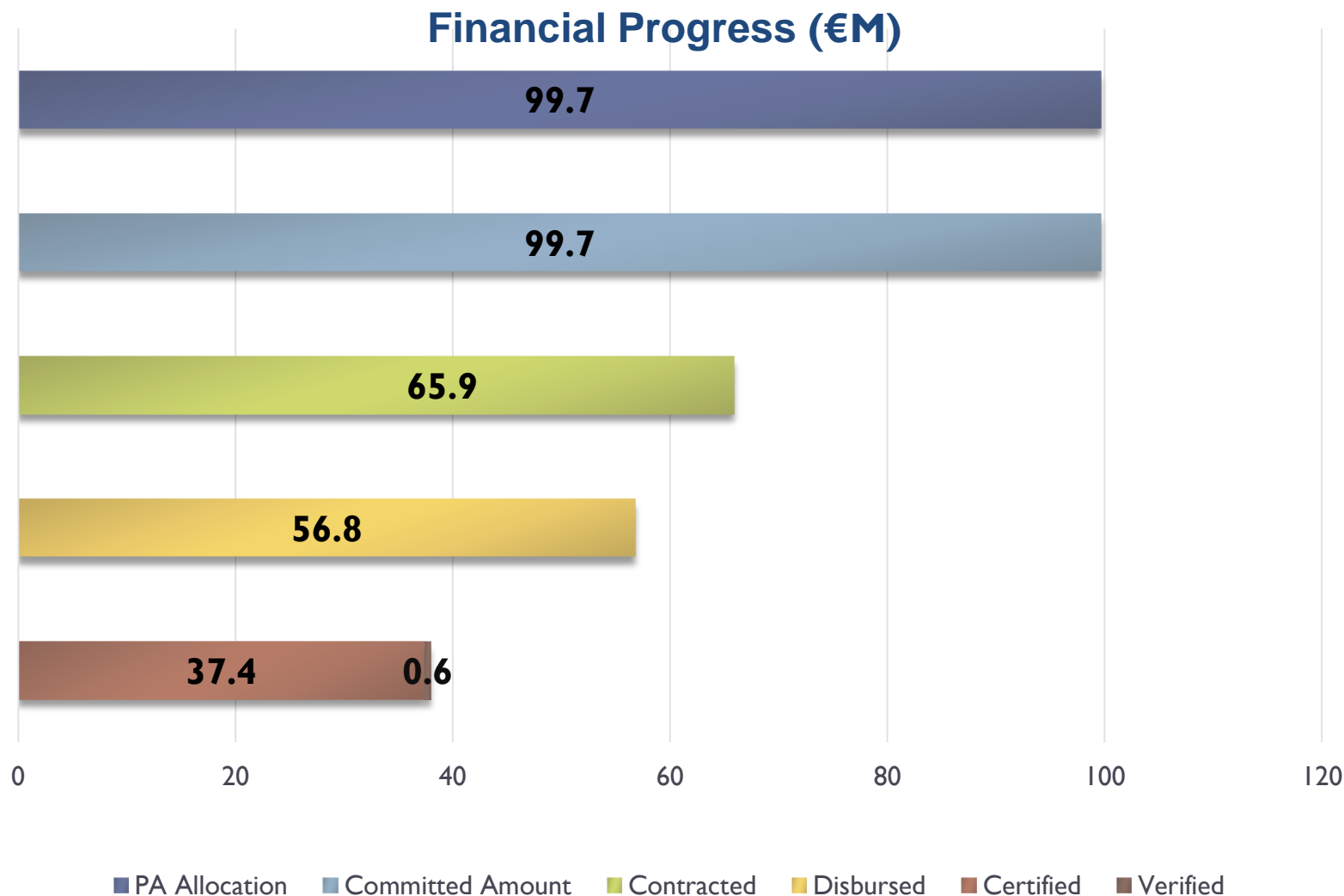
Status update as at April 2021

- Notwithstanding challenges brought about by the COVID pandemic, such as delays in supply of materials, rescheduling of works due to restricted travelling of overseas experts, and several instances of quarantine for the workforce assigned on the road projects, implementation continued to progress.
- Works on the Mrieħel – Ta' Srina Bypass continued in 2021.
- The ports project progressed with the award of the dredging contract, which is expected to commence in June 2021. The evaluation of the cargo facility tender is ongoing.



Mrieħel – Ta' Srina by-Pass

Procurement Progress – PA 11



Progress in the Implementation of Operational Programme II



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PA 1 - Investing in the employability and adaptability of human capital



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Implementation Progress – PA 1

PA Allocation: €26M

Two projects and one Aid Scheme are being implemented under this PA with a total public eligible value allocation of €27.4M.

Major achievements by end 2020:

Training for Employment

- In 2020 the developing skills scheme saw an increased demand for support to follow short courses, circa 100% more than any other year.
- The TFE supported 3,343 participation of which 3,158 were the unique participants. 3,084 (98%) of these individuals exited the project and out of these, 27% were in employment.

What does a Work Exposure Scheme involve?

- An opportunity to get pre-employment training at a place of work
- A 20 hour weekly commitment for 12 weeks
- Entitles the trainee for a training allowance payable by Jobsplus

Who is eligible to apply?

Unemployed and Persons who are not in Education or Training

Need more information?
Get us on:
t: 77201635/6/7/8

Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment
EU funds for Malta 2014-2020

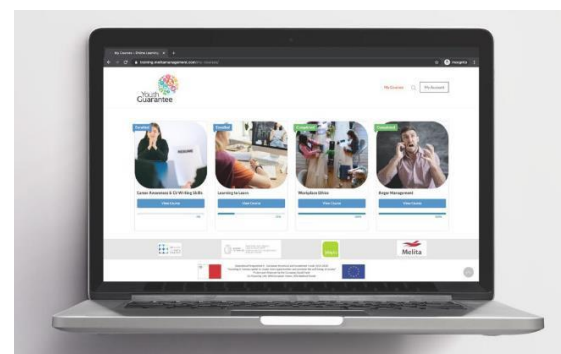
Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment
EU funds for Malta 2014-2020

Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment
EU funds for Malta 2014-2020

Implementation Progress – PA 1

Youth Guarantee

- In 2020, **125 NEETS** were successfully profiled, entering the Youth Guarantee pathway under the NEET activation scheme. Participants followed tailor made training and were subsequently offered an opportunity to continue in further education or work exposure. 91 participants successfully completed the scheme and achieved a certification.
- The SEC Prevention classes were offered to **610 students**. To assist students in this challenging period derived from the Covid-19 pandemic, participants were provided with additional learning material through an online platform equipped with self-study short videos and tests covering all topics.
- In the 2020 edition of the MCAST Prevention Classes **77 students** were supported of which which **88% were successfully assisted** hence could continue with their education pathway.



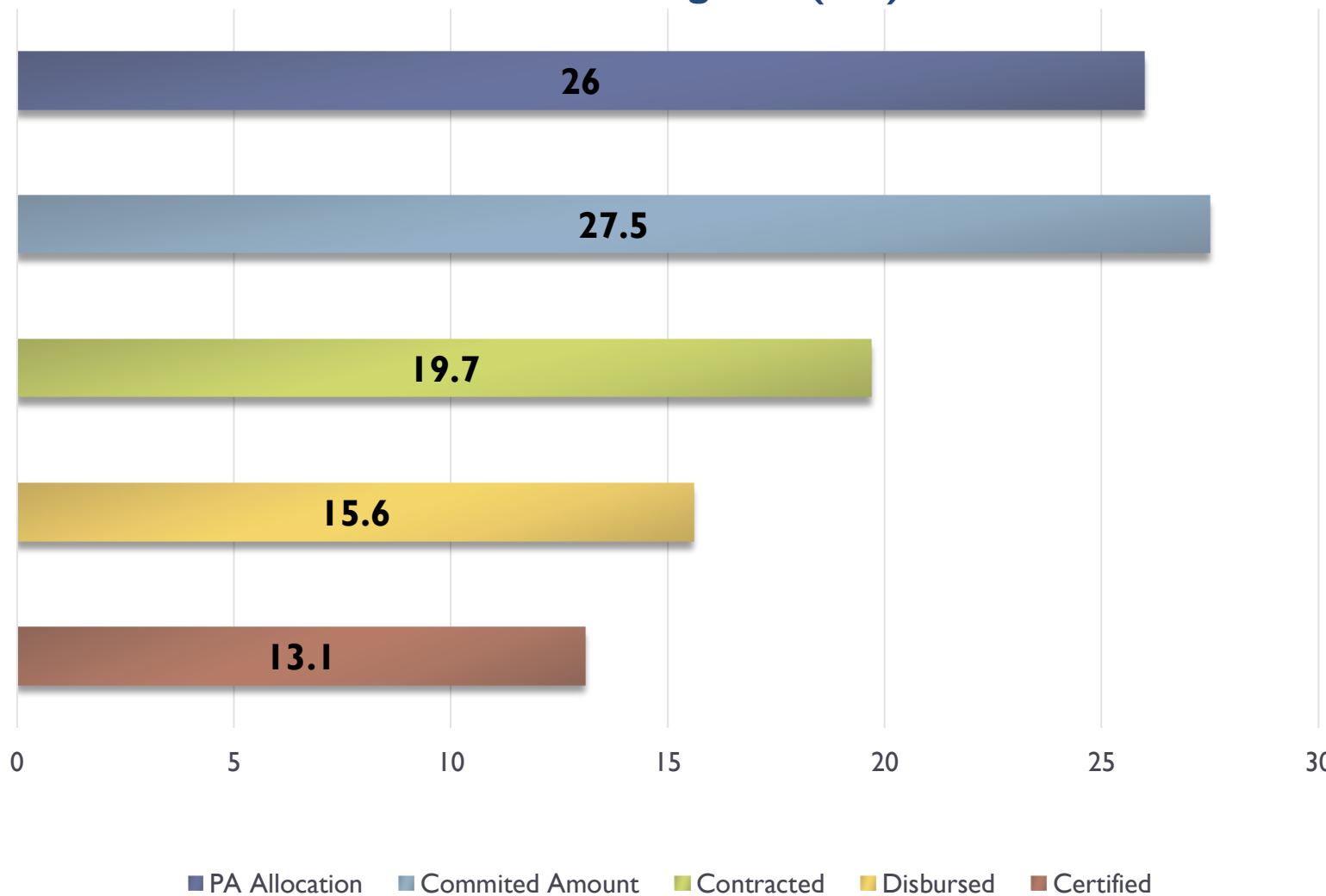
Implementation Progress – PA 1

- **16 professionals** working with vulnerable youth were offered a Professional Upskilling Course .
- From the beginning of the programme, YG supported **4,164 unique participants**.



Implementation Progress – PA 1

Financial Progress (€M)



PA 2 - Towards a more inclusive society



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Implementation Progress – PA 2

PA Allocation: €40M

Eleven mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €41.7M** currently being implemented with a disbursement of **€23.7M** out of which **€16.4M** were certified.

Major achievements by end 2020:

Social Inclusion

Through collaboration between MFSC and MFED, **82 vulnerable youths** participated in two pilot projects; one project provided **holistic therapies** to students with disabilities, while the other project is a **hands-on programme** bringing together financial education, food, nutrition and health through the implementation of hands-on workshops.

Research studies were also undertaken to better understand the implications of discrimination tied to persons having a disability. These measures will serve as the foundation for future policies that will be the basis for projects and initiatives to be considered in the future.



Implementation Progress – PA 2

Social Inclusion

By the end of 2020, through the **VASTE** and **INK** initiatives, over 1,700 vulnerable persons and persons with disabilities received training to prepare them for the work environment and were provided opportunities to maximise their abilities. This is being achieved through skills audit assessments, tailor-made training as well as work placements in the open labour market.



Implementation Progress – PA 2

Adding Value: Nurturing Learning Journeys at the MCAST Foundation College (ESF.02.058)

- The project helps vulnerable students with learning difficulties and provides learning structures such as the skills kits training programmes and mentoring sessions.
- Mentors reach out to provide personalised support to students with learning difficulties including difficult family, financial and emotional situations. Through the programme mentors and mentees have managed to create a **learning partnership**, where mentors were instrumental in helping students navigate the complexities of college education. To date **1,750 students** received mentoring services.

Assistance to vulnerable students through mentoring proved successful

- In 2020 a research on the mentoring activity was undertaken. It concluded that mentors are contributing to improve the students' skills particularly in time-management, responsibility and their independence. The study found that mentoring is contributing to tackle the early school leaving dropout rate which is predominant amongst vulnerable students.



Status update as at April 2021

Health

A research to study on the impact of Covid-19

Richmond Foundation is regularly surveying the nation's mental health to monitor the psychological wellbeing of the nation as the coronavirus pandemic impacts Malta and Gozo. Since May 2020 the research conducted showed that:

- **52%** of the respondents aged 16 to 24 years **felt lonely more than three days a week**
- **49%** of this group of teenagers and young adults have felt **fearful** and
- **55%** felt **depressed more than 3 days a week**

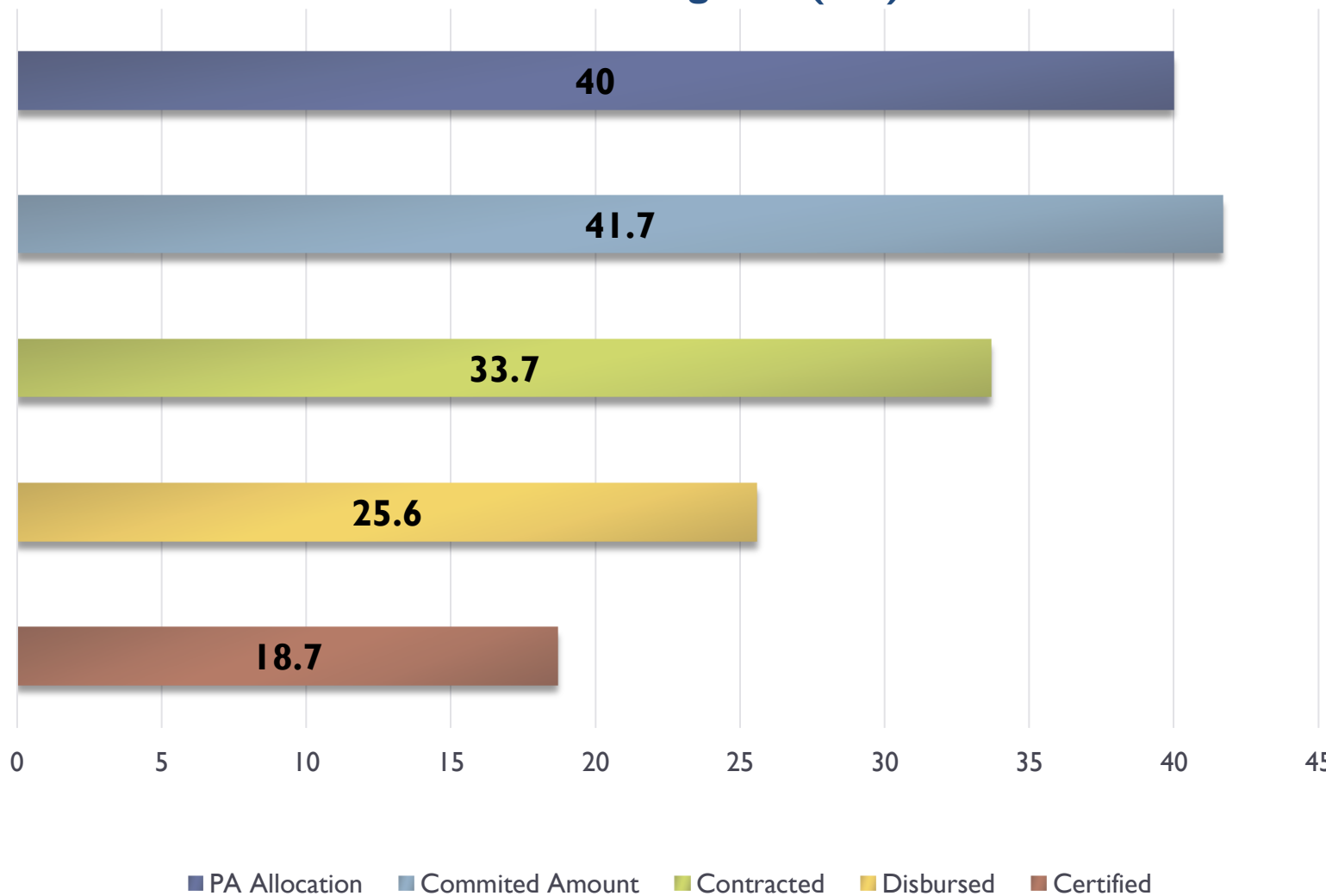
Through this research Richmond Foundation is monitoring any emerging mental health problem, allowing Richmond Foundation to respond with the necessary interventions and put in place mechanisms to support vulnerable groups to reduce mental health issues and boost wellbeing.

Status updated as at April 2021

- **12 projects** amounting to **€1.14M** have been approved under the 4th ESF Call for projects resulting in further investment **to enable NGOs to support at alleviating the risk of poverty through specialised small projects.**
- The project activities will include training, design of programmes/services, psycho/social support, research and campaigns supporting various target groups. **These being persons residing in care homes with a view to support de-institutionalisation, bullying at the place of work, suicide, mental health, disadvantaged children, youth victims of substance abuse, persons with disability and asylum seekers.**
- The projects will be run by: Richmond Foundation, Malta Association Of Supported Employment, bBrave, Church Schools Children's Fund, Fondazzjoni Caritas Malta, Fondazzjoni Għall-Opri Soċjali FI-Arcidjocesi Ta' Malta, aditus Foundation, Prisms, Victim Support Malta, The Malta Trust Foundation, Fondazzjoni Sebħ, JRS Malta Foundation.
- A number of these organisations are benefitting from ESF funding for the first time, and to this end **tailor made training was offered** to these organisations in March 2021.

Implementation Progress – PA 2

Financial Progress (€M)



PA 3 - Investing in people through education, training and lifelong learning



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Implementation Progress – PA 3

PA Allocation: €44.9M

Five mainstream projects, **one** Aid Scheme and **one** Financial Instrument with a **total public eligible value of €36.7M** currently being implemented with a disbursement of **€26.6M** out of which **€20.4M** were certified.

Major achievements by end 2020:

- The abrupt schools closure brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has reconfirmed the need for students to have personal devices to help them continue with their learning with the least of interruptions.
- The OTPC project was crucial to restore equity in the **access to digital technology in the teaching and learning process.**
- A research Study on the introduction of portable technology in Middle And Secondary School was undertaken. The recommendations are expected to be included in the National Digital Education Strategy.



Implementation Progress – PA 3

- Endeavour Call 6 was issued in 2020. Following the selection process of this call, **101 scholars** (54% women) studying an MQF 7 course were awarded a grant.
- Up to end 2020: **1,045 scholars** received between them grants amounting to above €10 Million.
- Call 7 under the Endeavour Scholarship Scheme will be launched by end May 2021.

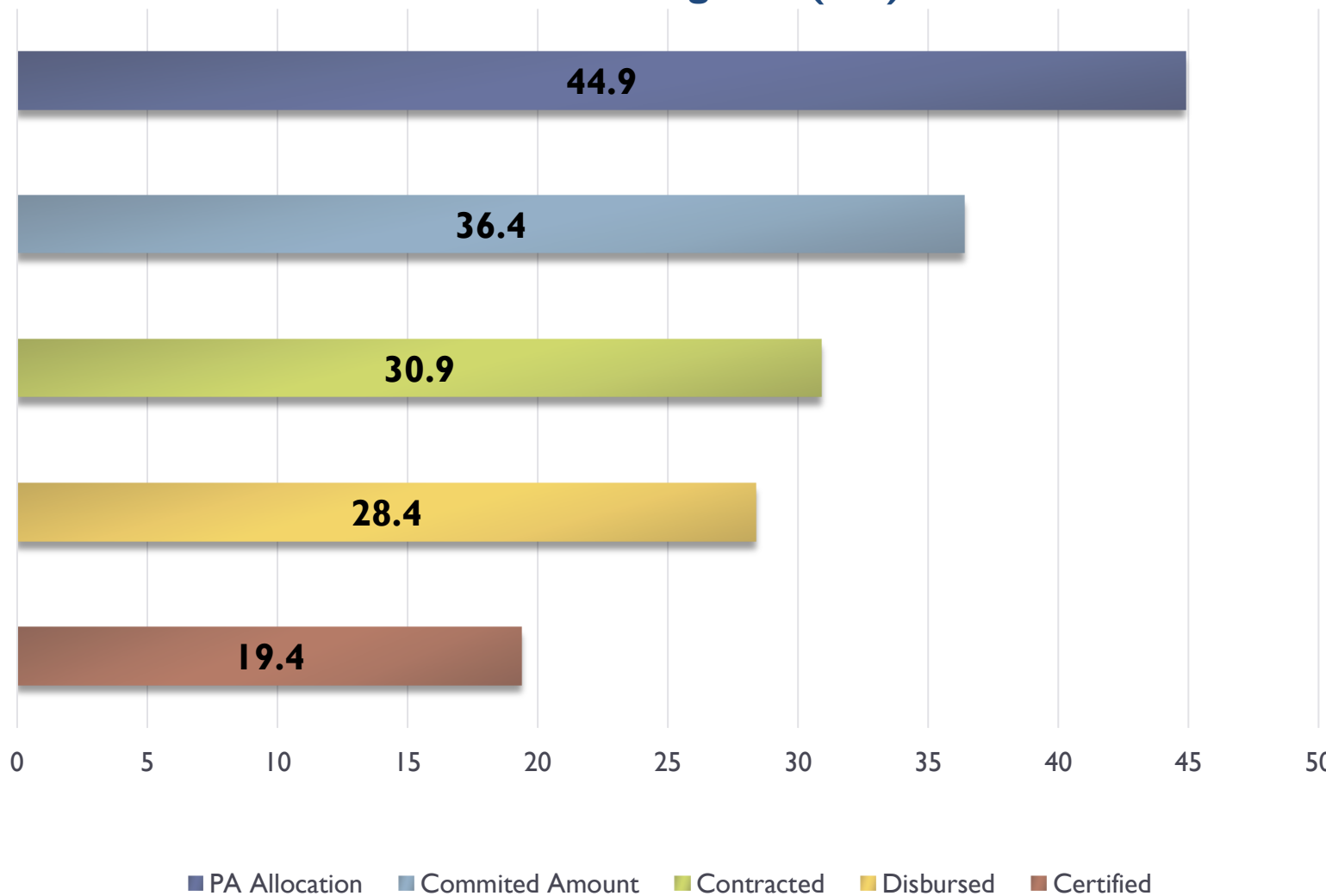


Implementation Progress – PA 3

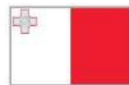
- During the year under review the FSMA FI continued to provide support to individuals who wants to pursue an accredited study programme at MQF levels 5, 6, 7 & 8 as well as other internationally recognized courses. As at end of 2020, €6.3M out of €8.25M of the portfolio has been committed supporting 177 students with their studies.
- Almost €28K in interest generated were covered by the subsidy by the end of the year.
- As at end of 2020, €2.2M have been disbursed by the bank which is equivalent to 35% of the loans committed.
- The Level 7 and the internationally recognized courses are the most popular taking 85% of the loans provided, followed by Level 6 courses which is 11%.
- 32% of those benefiting from the instrument are women.

Implementation Progress – PA 3

Financial Progress (€M)



PA 4 - Building the institutional administrative capacity



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Implementation Progress – PA 4

PA Allocation: €13.5M

Fifteen mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €15.6M** currently being implemented with a disbursement of **€7M** out of which **€3.6M** were certified.

Major achievements by end 2020:

Capacity building in the Public Administration

- In 2020 alone, under the ESF.04.083 project, UM provided 32 employees with PRINCE II training, 77 employees received at least one ISO training, and 30 employees attended a training course in EU Funds Management. In total, 120 unique persons have been trained (of which 101 in 2020).

Implementation Progress – PA 4

Mystery Shopper

- The implementation of **Mystery Shopping exercises** continued throughout 2020. Visits were carried out at Public Administration service sites related to education, social welfare both in Malta and in Gozo.
- The project is **improving customer service** by identifying issues and making recommendations, most of which have already been implemented. Typical improvements include identifying staff training and development needs and ensuring that data is shared in a way that reduces the administrative burden for citizens and businesses (the Once-Only principle).



Implementation Progress – PA 4

Social partners

- Staff members of the Malta Chamber of SMEs (ESF.04.093) received training on Financial Services with an aim to enable the union to offer new services to accommodate the needs of its members. This BN invested in an awareness campaign with the intent of communicating the role of the organisation whilst promoting the importance of social dialogue in this particular year when SMEs faced various challenges due to the pandemic.
- GWU continued to strengthen its internal capacity particularly on Industrial Relations and Employment Law. Since the beginning of the project, GWU has provided training to **109 members**, of which 85 have already received a certificate.

Status update as at April 2021

Implementation of SCOs

Following discussions with the Institute of Public Services, reimbursements for Academic Sponsorships at MQF Level 7 will be processed through SCOs. Contracts signed so far amount to nearly 60% of contracts signed representing 70% in value.

- As part of the Action Plan for MEUSAC which was based on the research study under ESF.04.086 – ‘Analysis on Stakeholder Engagement in Malta’, the agency implemented a change in its services offered to Stakeholders and the General Public. Through this change, SEM took over the functions previously carried out by MEUSAC and assumed new functions, mainly in terms of outreach and assistance in the implementation of EU-funded projects. Servizzi Ewropej f’Malta – SEM was established as an agency in 2020

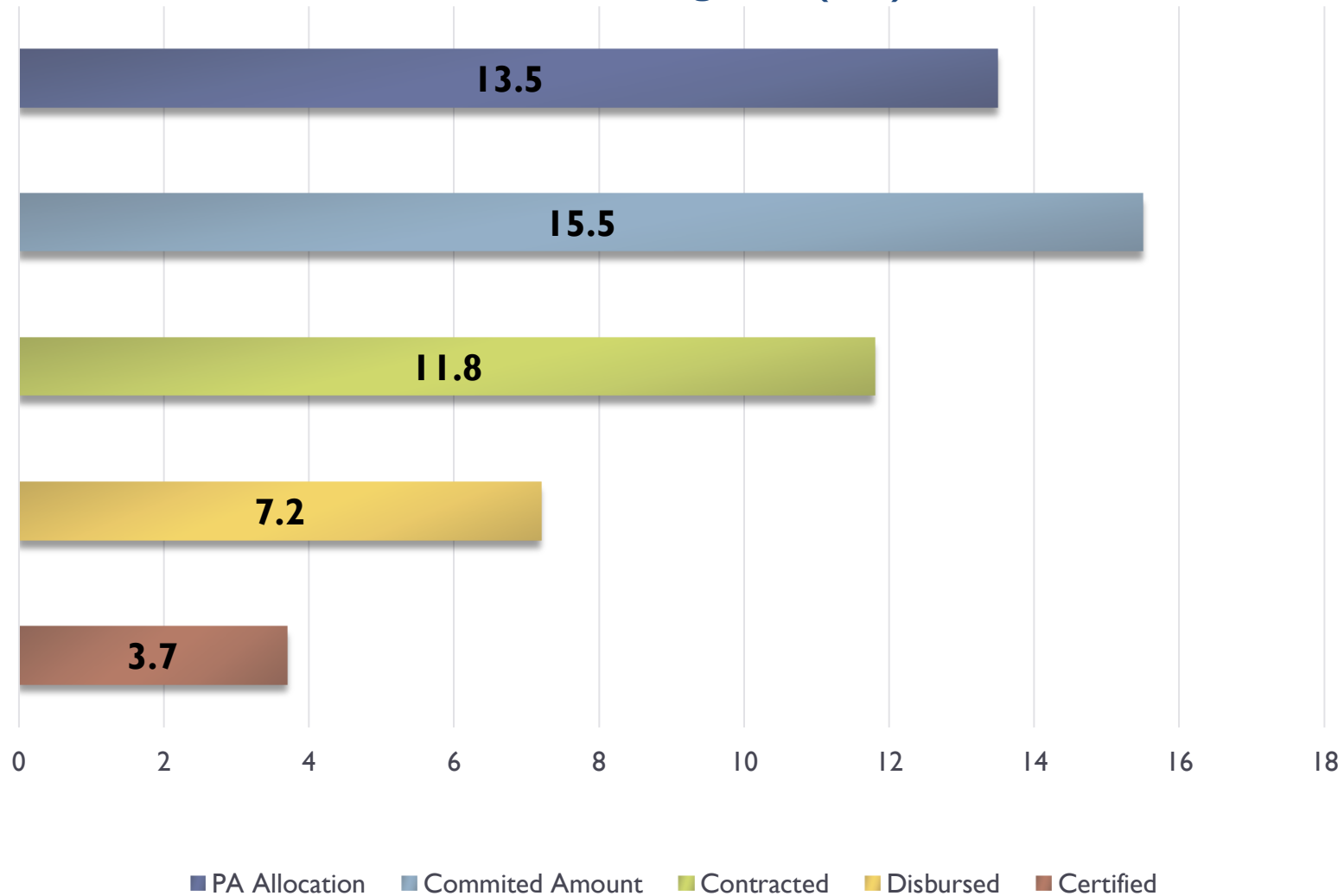


Status update as at April 2021

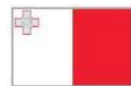
- **4 projects** amounting to **€353K** have been approved under the 4th ESF Call for projects resulting in further **investment in capacity building of social partners**.
- The Capacity building for social partners will be investing in research to strengthen social dialogue process through more evidence-based policy making; investing in IT systems to improve efficiency in provision of service with a view to enhance engagement in the social dialogue process; as well as supporting training of staff and members of social partners
- The projects will be run by: Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association, Malta Council For Economic And Social Development, Malta Chamber Of SMEs And General Workers' Union

Implementation Progress – PA 4

Financial Progress (€M)



PA 6 - Enabling job maintenance in the context of the COVID pandemic crisis



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Implementation Progress – PA 6

PA Allocation: €35.9M



➤ **Priority Axis 6**

- Enabling job maintenance in the context of the COVID pandemic crisis has been introduced under OPII.

➤ **IP8v**

- Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change.

➤ **Objective**

- To curb the immediate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, while prioritising the need to ensure people maintain their employment during this period of economic downturn.

➤ **Targets**

- Participants benefitting from support in short time work - 37,500.

Status update as at April 2021

- Finalisation of the Covenant with Malta Enterprise as the Intermediate Body entrusted by Government for the implementation of the wage subsidy scheme.
- Setting up of the Management and Control System.
- Awaiting approval from EC for an increase in funds through REACT-EU to further support the scheme.

Priority Axis 7 ‘REACT- EU Additional support for job maintenance in the context of the COVID pandemic crisis’

Allocation	€111,196,276
Specific Objective	Fostering job maintenance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
Expected Result	Adequate job maintenance for a resilient and sustained economy
Action	Wage subsidy scheme implemented by Malta Enterprise provides employees and businesses with a basic wage cover to address the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Target	Companies of all sizes and also self-employed that have been negatively affected during this period, in order to sustain their business and preserve employment of full-time and part-time workers who are duly registered as employed. 37,500 Participants are expected to benefit from the support

Support to Enterprises

Operational Programme I:
Business Enhance ERDF Grant
Schemes

Operational Programme II:
A2E and Investing in skills

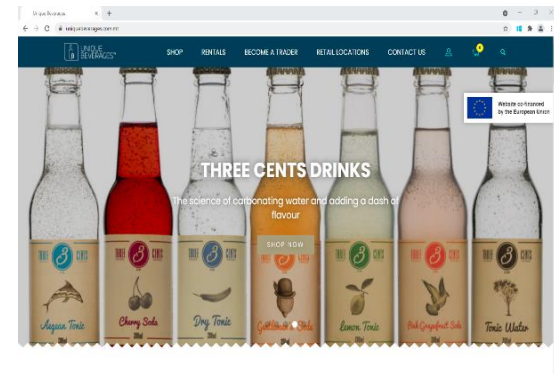


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Aid Scheme Progress – end 2020

- The **Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes** are being implemented through open rolling calls with different cut-off dates to give the opportunity to the private sector to submit proposals regularly.
- Frequency of cut-off dates was increased by the IB to provide more flexibility to SMEs to apply for funding from a timing point of view.
- In 2020, there were 101 cut-off dates issued under the 7 schemes being implemented under ERDF, resulting in 253 applications received out of which 104 applications were approved for funding amounting to €4.7M.
- 84% of the approved grants were submitted by micro enterprises.
- 2020 saw an increase in the number of grants awarded under the Consultancy Grant Scheme (64 in all) showing that during the pandemic period, business owners took the opportunity to analyse their businesses and explore further options by conducting research through a business plan and feasibility study, providing an insight on ways to expand or diversify their products/services.



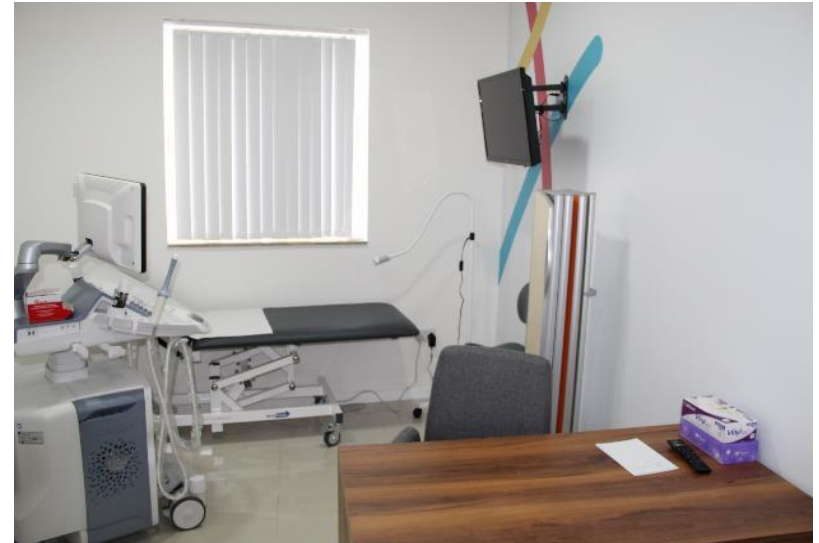
ERDF.02.S1.Call1.0147 (E-commerce Grant Scheme)

Aid Schemes Progress – end 2020

Aid Schemes	Applications Received	Applications under evaluation	Grants Contracted	Grants Contracted (€)
Business Enhance RD&I (PA 1)	2	2	0	0
E-Commerce Grant Scheme (PA 2)	44	4	18	€79,449.25
Start-up Investment (PA 3)	18	7	8	€1,357,256.47
SME Diversification and Innovation (PA 3)	14	4	10	€2,353,529.83
SME Internationalisation (PA 3)	1	0	0	€0.00
SME Consultancy (PA 3)	150	19	64	€256,000.00
SME Growth (PA 3)	24	4	4	€688,263.89
Total	253	40	104	€4,734,499.44

Aid Scheme Progress – April 2021

- In 2021, there were 24 cut-off calls out of which 20 grants have been selected for funding for a value of €700k under Consultancy, Start-up and Diversification & Innovation Aid Schemes.
- To date, the SMEs benefitting from the schemes amount to 403 of which 262 are micro, 106 small and 35 medium.



“With the help of the scheme, I have invested in medical equipment for the setting up of the Sweet Valley Clinic with the aim to offer a new holistic approach to modern medicine.”

Emma Beck (Start-up Investment Grant Scheme)

ESF Aid Schemes Progress

Access to Employment (€12 million) - provides employment aid to enterprises in Malta and Gozo to promote the recruitment of the more challenged amongst jobseekers and inactive persons.

- As at end December 2020, over €10M was committed, of which €7.02M were paid resulting in 1,677 employed persons of which 23% were participants with disabilities.
- Following numerous simplification measures the number of applications submitted increased exponentially from 580 applications in 2020 up to **455 applications in Q1 2021 only**.
- SCO rates are now also being revised on an annual basis to reflect the increase in cost of living.



EU funds
for Malta
2014-2020

jobsplus

**SUBSIDIES
TO INCREASE
YOUR
WORKFORCE**

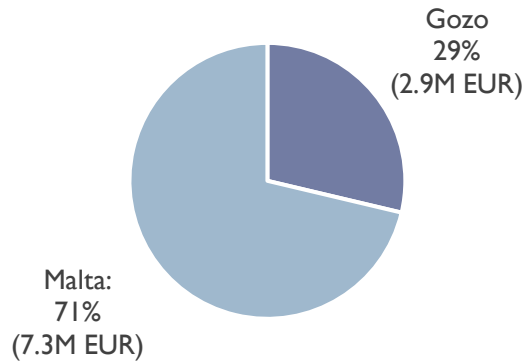
**apply for the
Access to Employment
Scheme**

*Terms and conditions apply

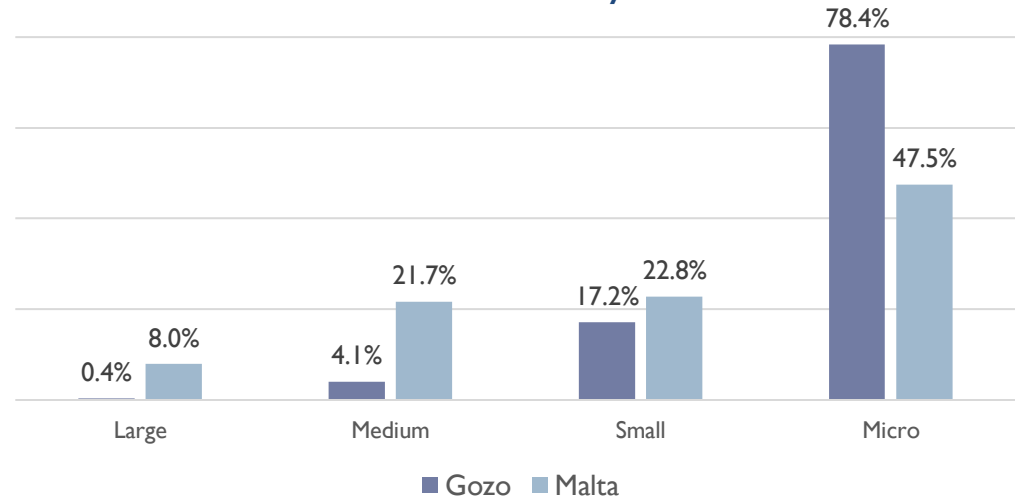
Operational Programme II - European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020
"Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the well being of society"
Aid scheme part-financed by the European Social Fund
Co-financing rate: 80% European Union; 20% National Funds

A2E Scheme - *Beneficiaries*

Amount Allocated



Size of Entity



ESF Aid Schemes Progress

Investing in Skills (€5 million) - intended to promote access to the training of persons actively participating in the Maltese labour market, with a view to increasing productivity and enhancing adaptability by improving the knowledge and skills of employed persons.

- Eligible training can be either Classroom style, one-to-one training or on-the job training, online live training sessions, or accredited distance learning or accredited online self-led training. During 2020 most of the training was shifted online.
- As at end December €3.7M have been committed, of which €2.5M were paid. These resulted in over 14,800 participants trained, 49% of which were women.



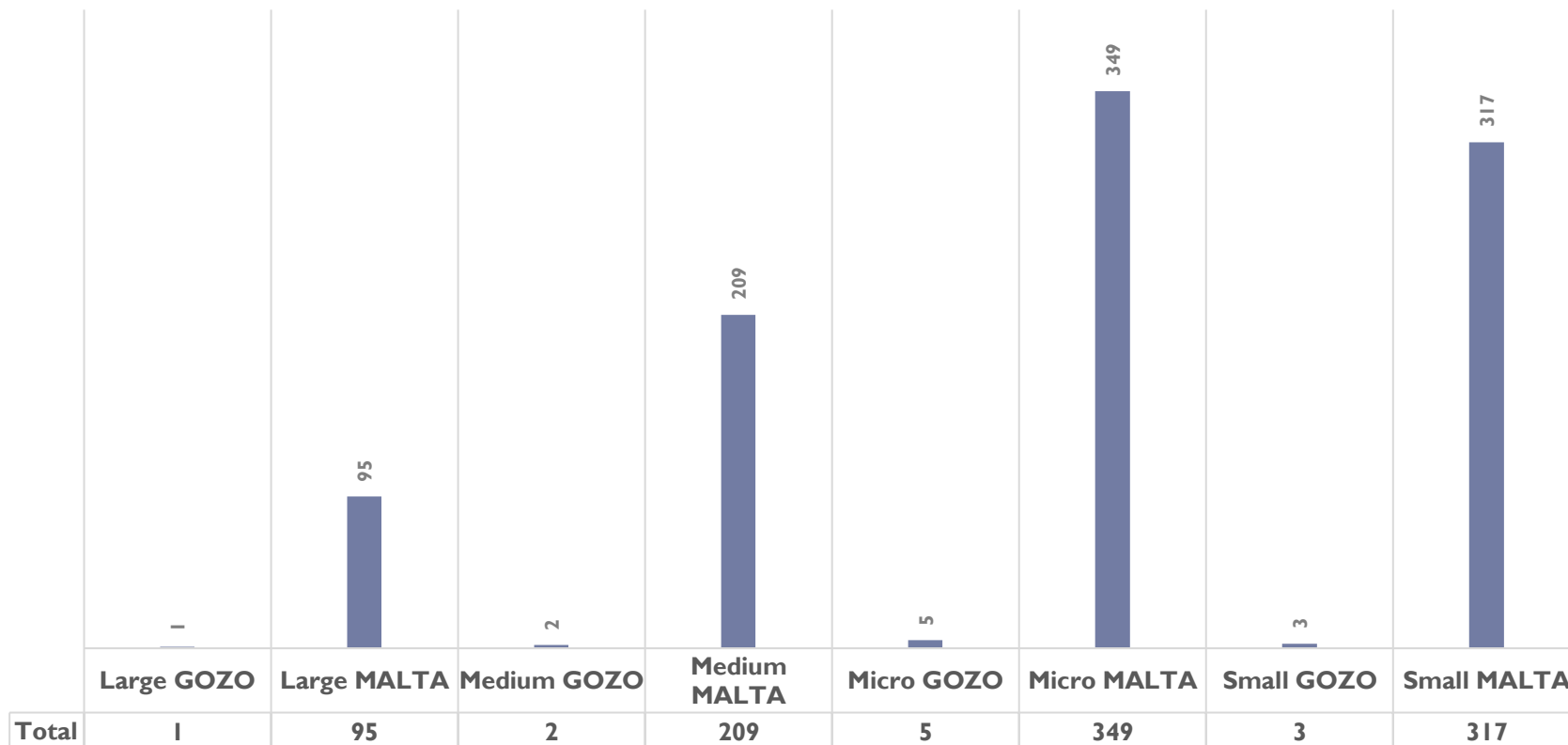
EU funds for Malta 2014-2020

jobplus

MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
PARLAMENTARJU SEKTOR TAL-
FONDJI EWROPEJ U DIALOGU SOĊJALI

Operational Programme II - European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020
"Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the well-being of society"
Project part-financed by the European Social Fund
Co-financing rate: 80% European Union; 20% National Funds

IIS Scheme - Beneficiaries



From the start of the scheme, a total of 3,224 applications were received till the end of 2020. These were submitted by 981 unique applicants.

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



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Non-discrimination including accessibility

The MA ensures that projects being implemented under the Programme target the following areas:

- Equality between men and women and non-discrimination;
- Equal opportunities, including accessibility, widely defined, for persons with disabilities and the vulnerable.

To do so, the MA strives to ensure that the infrastructure is physically accessible to all, free of discriminatory stereotypes and that Beneficiaries provide information that is socially inclusive.

Moreover, the investments funded through EU funds respect the principles of non-discrimination on all grounds. In fact, the MA considers the importance of the involvement of NCPE and CRPD to provide assessment and support during the project's design stage as well as during the project's promotion and implementation.

Sustainable Development

Projects submitted for approval need to include Sustainable Development measures in line with the *Sustainable Development Strategy for the Maltese Islands 2007-2016* and the *Sustainable Development Act*, including:

- **Contribution towards economic growth:** through for instance increased efficiency in use of the water resources which will lead to a lower operational costs to households and economic sectors (Major Project), projects targeting development of improved transport infrastructure which will attract substantial investment (TEN-T ports and roads), education and training facilities through investment in human capital (INVEST and MCAST projects);
- **Social cohesion:** projects are encouraged to include measures aimed to reduce poverty and social exclusion: better social housing facilities through the installation of lifts and embellishment of common areas which ensures increased safety for the residents and facilitate anti-age discriminatory practices within housing estates and provide easier access to disadvantaged people (Regeneration of Social Housing), more effective and efficient online public services (CONVERGE);

Sustainable Development

- **Protection of the environment:** project proponents are encouraged to apply good practices in the use and sustainable management of natural resources: projects investing in the reduction of energy usage of street lighting systems through the installation of LED luminaires (Street lighting project), and storm water management through the reduction of flooding (Rainwiin);
- **Impact on carbon neutrality:** upgrading of infrastructure that takes into consideration climate change effects (Gozo Administration project), Building Management Systems to monitor and control HVAC systems (St Vincent de Paul), and reduction in CO2 emissions by encouraging a shift away from the high dependability on combustion engine vehicles to collective public transport thus aiming for a modal shift (SMITHS).

Programme Territorial Earmarking

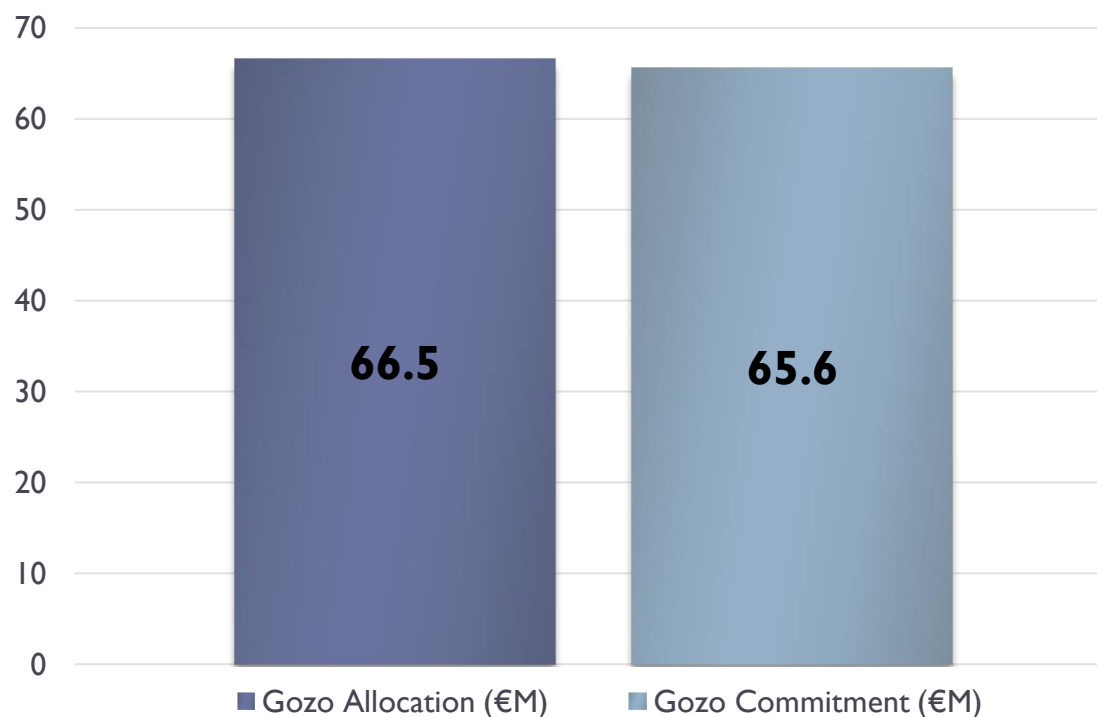


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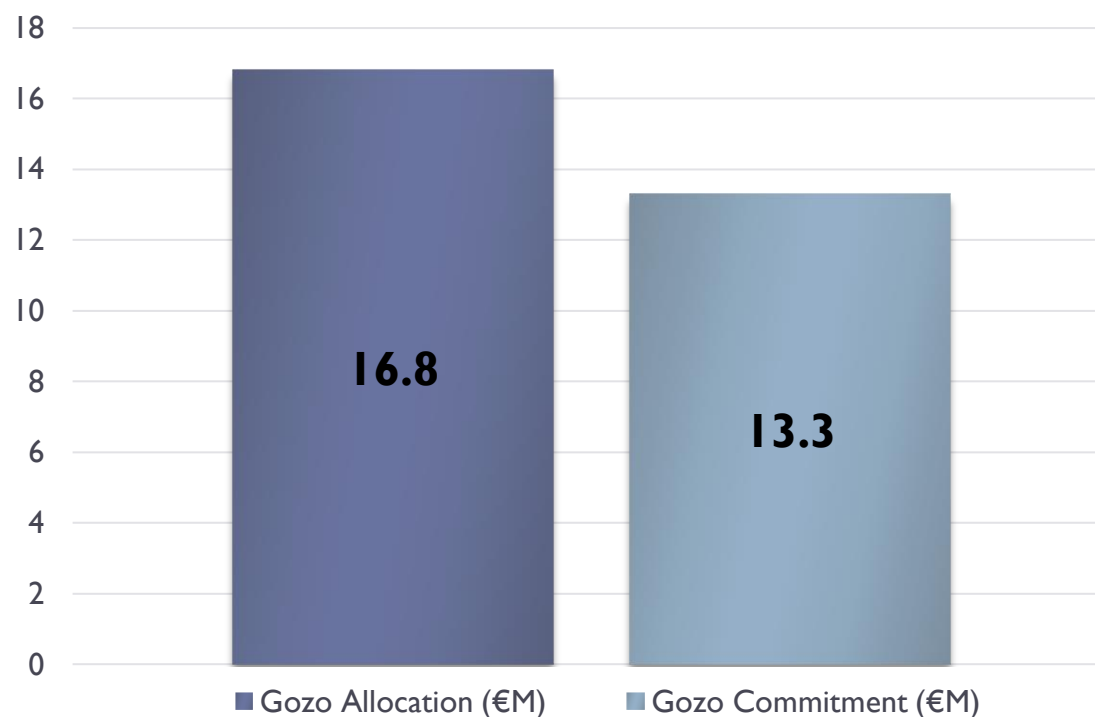
OPI Territorial Earmarking: 10% commitment for Gozo

- The following amount to a commitment of circa 98.65% (€65.6) towards the 10% (€66.5M) Gozo commitment target for ERDF and CF:
 - 7 ERDF Gozo-based projects;
 - 78 beneficiaries under the SMEi Financial Instrument;
 - 47 Grant Schemes Beneficiaries; and
 - 16 ERDF projects with a Gozo component.



OPII Territorial Earmarking: 10% commitment for Gozo

- The following amounts to a commitment of circa 79% (€13.3) towards the 10% (€16.8M) Gozo commitment target for ESF:
 - 33 mainstream projects, 1 financial instrument, and 2 Aid Schemes;
 - investing in Gozo participants, and
 - with activities with expenditure incurred in Gozo



Involvement of JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions)



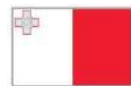
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JASPERS Assistance

- JASPERS is a technical assistance partnership between the European Commission, EIB and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development providing independent advice to MS to help prepare high quality major projects of national importance to be co-financed by the ERDF and the CF.
- JASPERS has been involved in Malta throughout the 14-20 programming period, providing assistance in the review of CBAs as well as projects focusing on Water, Waste, R&I and Sustainable Urban Development.
- In 2020, JASPERS were mainly involved in providing assistance as part of the fulfilment of the Enabling condition for Transport for the new Programming Period 2021-2027 as well as generic advice for pipe-line projects in the transport sector.

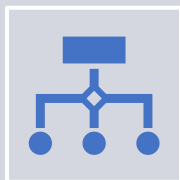
Monitoring and Evaluation (2014-2020)



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Monitoring of Indicators



Implementation Progress Report (IPR) submitted by BNs bi-annually in September and February has now been digitised and data is extracted from the SFD.



Twice yearly verification exercise is carried out to monitor the achievement of indicators and ensure that reporting in AIR is being done correctly and in accordance with established definitions and methodologies.



In order to verify the indicators, the evaluation unit makes sure that all the supporting documentation is available and that it provides adequate evidence that the indicator was achieved.

Update on Indicators Achievement

Operational Programme I

- During 2020 several Priority Axes saw an increase in the number of indicators on which progress is being reported.
- As expected, the Covid-19 pandemic affected the progress achieved by state aid-schemes due to its effect on the operations of SMEs. Another indicator effected related to visits to supported sites. This requires further monitoring in the coming months.
- Several operations as well as the FI under IP4b are still under implementation. Progress on related indicators is expected to be reported towards Programme closure.

Update on Indicators Achievement

Operational Programme II

- By end 2020, several Common Output indicators were achieved. It is being expected that all other Common Output indicators will be achieved by the closure of the Programme.
- Following a rigorous assessment on the progress on indicators a number of modifications were made through the OP change.
- Following discussions with the Commission, the reporting under the two Aid Schemes was revised to reflect the full extent and impact of the scheme, hence the increase achievement as compared to the previous years.

Evaluation (1)

Assessment of Key Processes in the Implementation of ESIF

- Following meetings held with the EC Evaluation Helpdesk the report was updated in line with the feedback received.

- The main recommendations are as follows:
- Simplification across the process
 - Improve consultation process
 - Review of application form
 - Faster selection process
 - Review and improvement of rating and scoring process
 - Move away from one size fits all: applications and administrative checks to depend on complexity and risk
 - Foster and improve communication among stakeholders
 - Streamlining and timelines of guidance internally and across stakeholders
 - Addressing of capacity issues

The report was presented at the Evaluation Steering Group Meeting held on 12th May, and will be submitted formally as a final document shortly.

Evaluation (2)

TO3 Evaluation

- The objective of this evaluation is to assess the assistance provided to SMEs through the Financial Instruments and aid schemes financed under both ERDF and ESF, as well as acting as an ex-ante assessment for similar assistance to be deployed in the 2021-2027 Programming Period.
- A call for tenders with 2 lots was issued. A total of 14 bids were received for both lots.
- The tender was awarded on 3rd May with the kick off meeting to be held on 26th May
- A meeting with the Commission's evaluation helpdesk is also planned to obtain feedback on the inception report to be submitted by the Contractor following award.

Evaluation (3)

Youth Guarantee 2.0

- The ToRs for the evaluation of the YG are in the process of being finalised and a tender shall be issued in the coming weeks. Feedback on the draft ToRs was also obtained from the Evaluation Helpdesk.
- The evaluation of the YG is expected to include a mix of theory based and counterfactual methods.
- As part of the preparation required for this evaluation the MA identified a number of data variables such as ISCED levels, NACE codes, employment status and information on households, amongst others, and entered into an agreement with NSO and was provided with anonymised data for each of the data variables identified.
- The Contractor will be expected to complement this data through desk based research.

Evaluation (4)

Update on ESF longer-term indicators

- The MA opted to report on the longer-term indicators in AIR 2023 but has committed to collate data on an ongoing basis.
- A survey was carried out by NSO amongst 14,959 ESF participants who completed/left training between 1st July 2018 – 31st December 2019.
- Operations targeting the inactive, unemployed & disadvantaged are showing strong results in pushing participants to find employment within the first six months following the ESF intervention.
- Responses to date indicate that ESF interventions had also a positive impact on those participants who were already in employment (71.5%), with 27.9% of these reported an improvement in their job situation.
- As regards education, 31.7% of participants experienced an improved educational attainment.

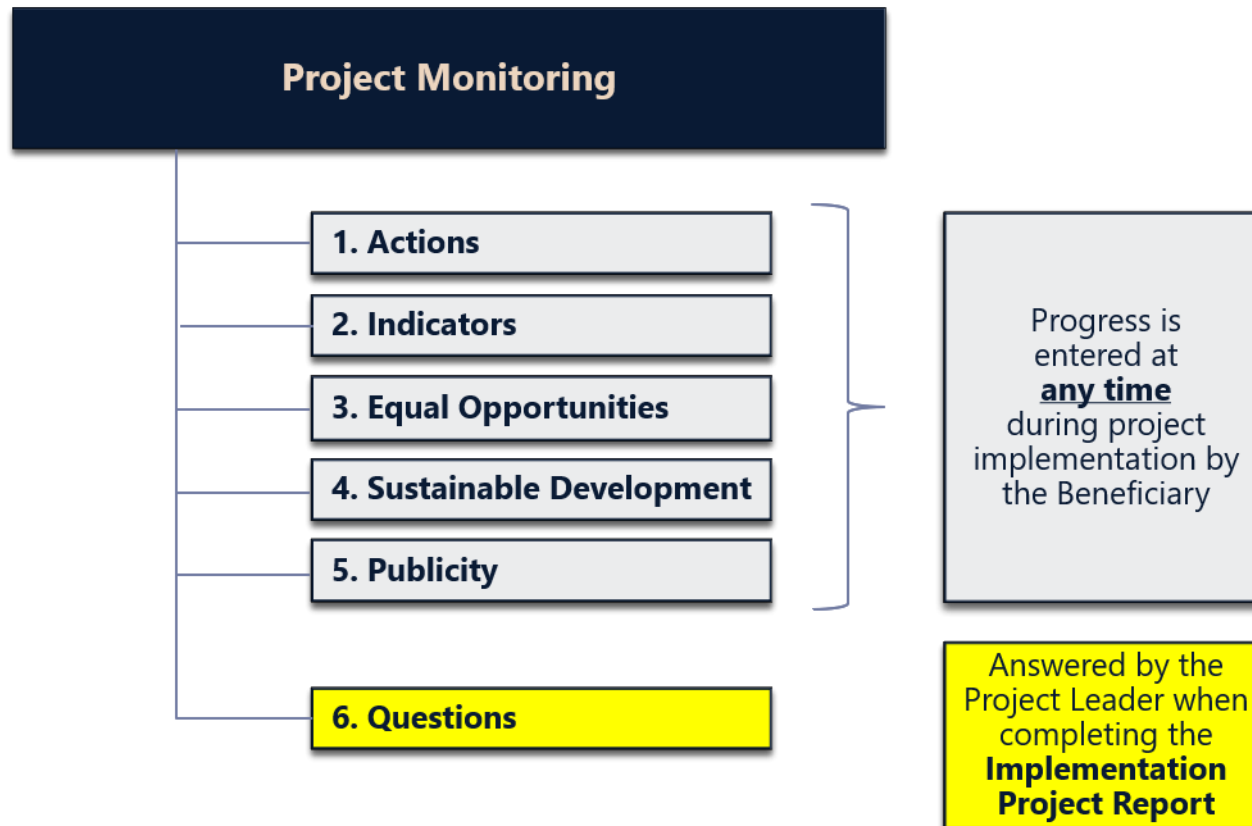
Evaluation (5)

Upcoming Evaluation

- An evaluation of TO 8 and 10 is now being planned. The aim of this evaluation is to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of EU funding in the areas of education and employment based on the planned actions and results foreseen in Operational Programmes I & II relating to ERDF and ESF respectively.
- A programme theory has already been devised and the interventions to be included in this evaluation and their respective target audience have also been identified.
- The tender document is now being drafted and is planned to be issued by Q3 2020.

SFD updates: Implementation Progress Report

- Introduced *Encoding Once Principle*, whereby at IPR stage, the Project Leader answers a set of questions, whilst the rest of the report is taken from data in the system entered by the MA or Beneficiary.





A screenshot of a login interface. It features a dark grey header with the word "Login" in white. Below the header is a light grey form area containing two input fields: "Username" and "Password". The "Password" field is partially obscured by a grey shadow effect.

SFD Enhancements

- Released Publicity module including reporting.
- Published Implementation Progress Report.
- Enhanced Indicators, Actions, Equal Opportunities, Sustainable Development, Data on Participants, Payments, MA Reporting, document management system, system audit, system security.
- Improved user experience at SOE by Operation and Payment Authorisation.

Communication Activities (2014-2020)




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Communication Activities

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic the focus of the MA's communication activities was on making the best use of its social media platforms. In this regard various content was created, even through the engagement of a photographer and videographer. In addition, collaboration with the Commission's *EU in my Region* team was established to create content for sharing.

 **EU Funds Malta**
Published by Nathalie Schembri · April 1 at 10:04 AM · 🌐

PPCD is proud to present this first video in a series about EU funded works in Gozitan villages. This one is about Kerċem's Our Lady of Perpetual Help church.

The works carried out here form part of the project Enhancing Gozo's ecclesiastical and artistic cultural patrimony for present and future generations, which project is co-financed under the [#EuropeanRegionalDevelopmentFund](#). The project aims to restore a number of architectural gems dating back hundreds of years, locat...
See More



 **EU Funds Malta**
Published by Nathalie Schembri · March 26 at 12:12 PM · 🌐

This is Malta's One Tablet Per Child project supported by the [#EuropeanSocialFund](#).


Over **11,000** tablets have been distributed to primary school pupils. This way, all children can continue learning when schools are closed due to [#COVID19](#).

Learn more 👉 <https://europa.eu/!Ky99HN> ... See More



Communication Activities (2)

Professional photos used for social media posts ensured considerable reach and high impact, such the photo-based post about the Rehabilitation of the Xewkija Windmill project.

 **EU Funds Malta**
Published by Nathalie Schembri · April 19 at 8:30 AM ·


We are proud to present the Rehabilitation of Xewkija Windmill project which consisted of the restoration of Gozo's oldest standing windmill thanks to the [#EuropeanRegionalDevelopmentFund](#).

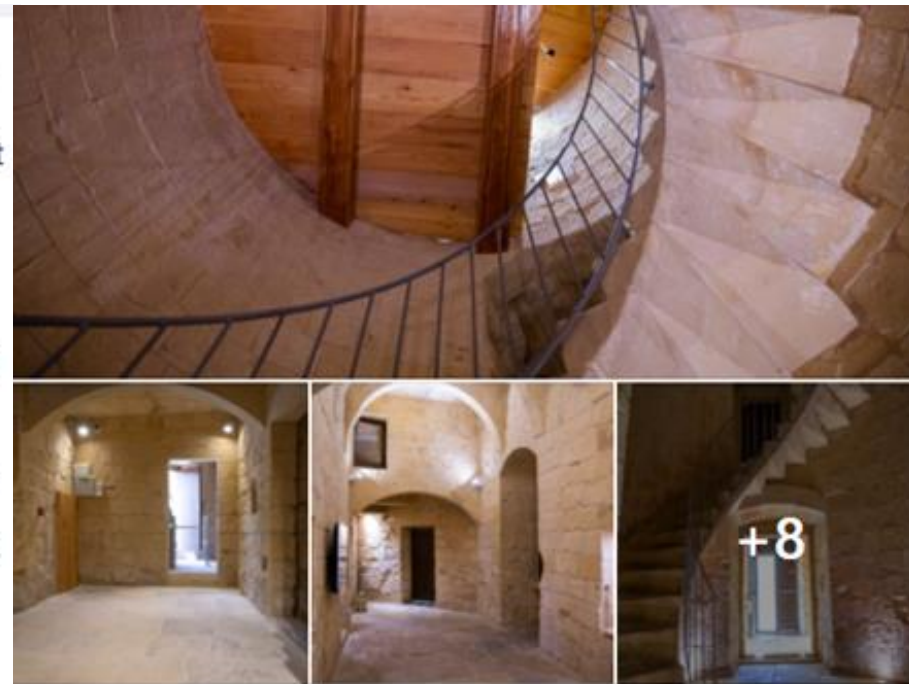
Works consisted of restoration works to the windmill's exterior and interior, mechanical and electrical installation works, along with embellishment works to the area surrounding the windmill, improving accessibility and enhancing visitors' experience. Moreover, the mechanism was meticulously built from scratch because the original mechanism was burnt during an accident which happened around the 1920s. This complex mechanism masterpiece was fully manufactured by two carpenters from the Carpentry Section at the Ministry for Gozo.

The project is enhancing Gozo's tourism product, whilst safeguarding an important historical and cultural structure, being the only windmill in Gozo that has a tower with an octagonal base!

[Fondi Ewropej Europe in my region Cultural Heritage Directorate, Ministry for Gozo](#)

[#eufunds4MT](#) [#EUinmyregion](#) [#culture](#) [#tourism](#) [#heritage](#)

 Steffi De Martino Media



29,068
People Reached

2,773
Engagements

Boost Unavailable

 You and 94 others

14 Comments 33 Shares

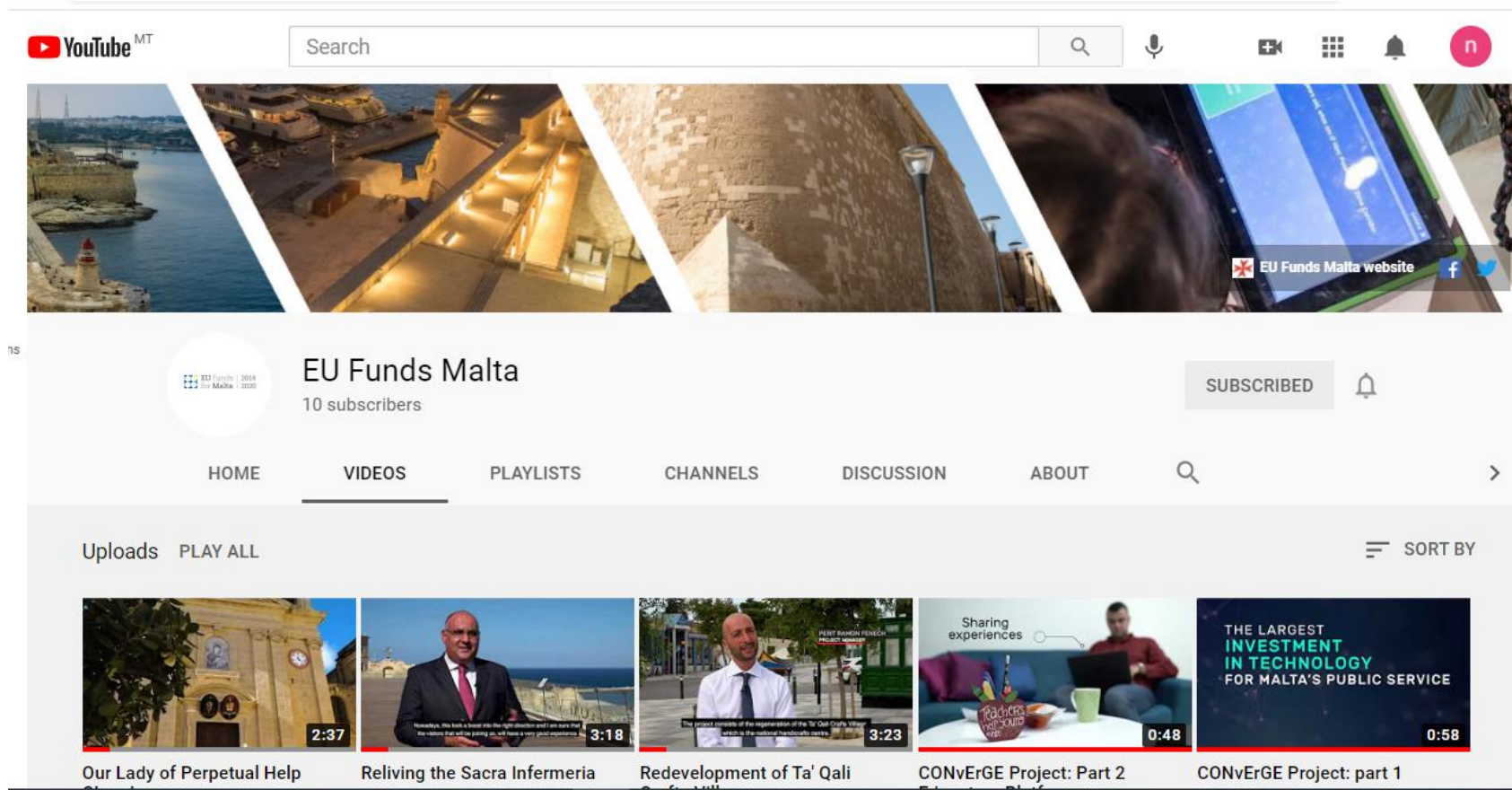
Communication activities (3)

Social media was also used for the dissemination of short information clips that served as a taster for longer videos created and shared on YouTube, such as the below related to the project carried out at the Sacra Infermeria.



EU Funds Malta YouTube Channel

 EU funds for Malta | 2014 2020



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for 'EU Funds Malta'. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation icons. Below the header is a banner image featuring four panels: a harbor scene, an aerial view of a building, a stone wall, and a person using a tablet. The channel name 'EU Funds Malta' is displayed with a profile picture and '10 subscribers'. A 'SUBSCRIBED' button and a notification bell are visible. The navigation menu includes 'HOME', 'VIDEOS', 'PLAYLISTS', 'CHANNELS', 'DISCUSSION', and 'ABOUT'. Under 'Uploads', there are five video thumbnails with their titles and durations:

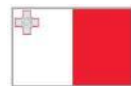
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help** (2:37)
- Reliving the Sacra Infermeria** (3:18)
- Redevelopment of Ta' Qali** (3:23)
- CONvErGE Project: Part 2** (0:48)
- CONvErGE Project: part 1** (0:58)

2021 Annual Event

Upon easing of the COVID-19 restrictions, the roaming photographic exhibition that was planned for 2020 is envisaged to take place in Q3 of 2021 and will serve as a way to physically reach out to the general public and provide information and aware raising activities in prominent open spaces in different regions in Malta and Gozo.



Capacity Building activities (2014-2020)



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Training activities



**STRUCTURAL
FUNDS
DATABASE**



**SIMPLIFIED
COST
OPTIONS**



**MANAGEMENT
VERIFICATION
S**



**CYBERSECURI
TY**



**FIDIC
CONTRACTS**



Training activities (2)



Training in Procurement for NGOs



Training on Overview of EU Funds



Training in Public Speaking and Presentation Skills



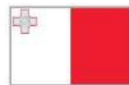
Training re new Sectoral Procurement Directorate



Online Training re Implementation Progress Report



Audits



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Status update – Audits on Operations

Reference Period: 1st July 2019 – 30th June 2020

Audit Period: 1st July 2020 – 14th February 2021

In 2020, the sample issued by the AA resulted in 11 projects and 39 beneficiaries out of 8 schemes to be audited;

This sample was extracted out of a total population of 70 projects and 8 schemes which were certified in the accounting year 2019/2020. The audited sample amounted to circa 24% out a total of circa EUR90M in terms of the certified population.

Results:

- No systematic errors;
- The error which had a financial implication was limited to one scheme for ERDF and two schemes for ESF with the Error Rate remaining well below the 2% threshold of materiality level.

All recommendations from the 2019/20 audits conducted on both projects and stakeholders though Systems Audits were taken on board by the Beneficiaries, the MA and other stakeholders.

Status update – Audits on Operations

Current update

- Audit Authority to separate the sample of 2020-2021 Accounting year in 2 semesters
- Ground work and documentation on the sample of semester to be selected by the AA is currently being prepared;
- Work on the required follow-ups for the System Audits on the MA is currently ongoing.

Other Audit work carried out through 2020/2021

- European Court of Audits, audit in relation to 2007 - 2014 programme;
- Assistance to IAID with the Commission Audit on the ESF 2014 - 2020 programme which is currently still ongoing;
- Commission Audit on SME Initiative 2014 – 2020;
- Assistance to NAO with European Court of Auditors on Audit concerning Conflict of Interest in Shared Management – 2021 which is currently still ongoing;

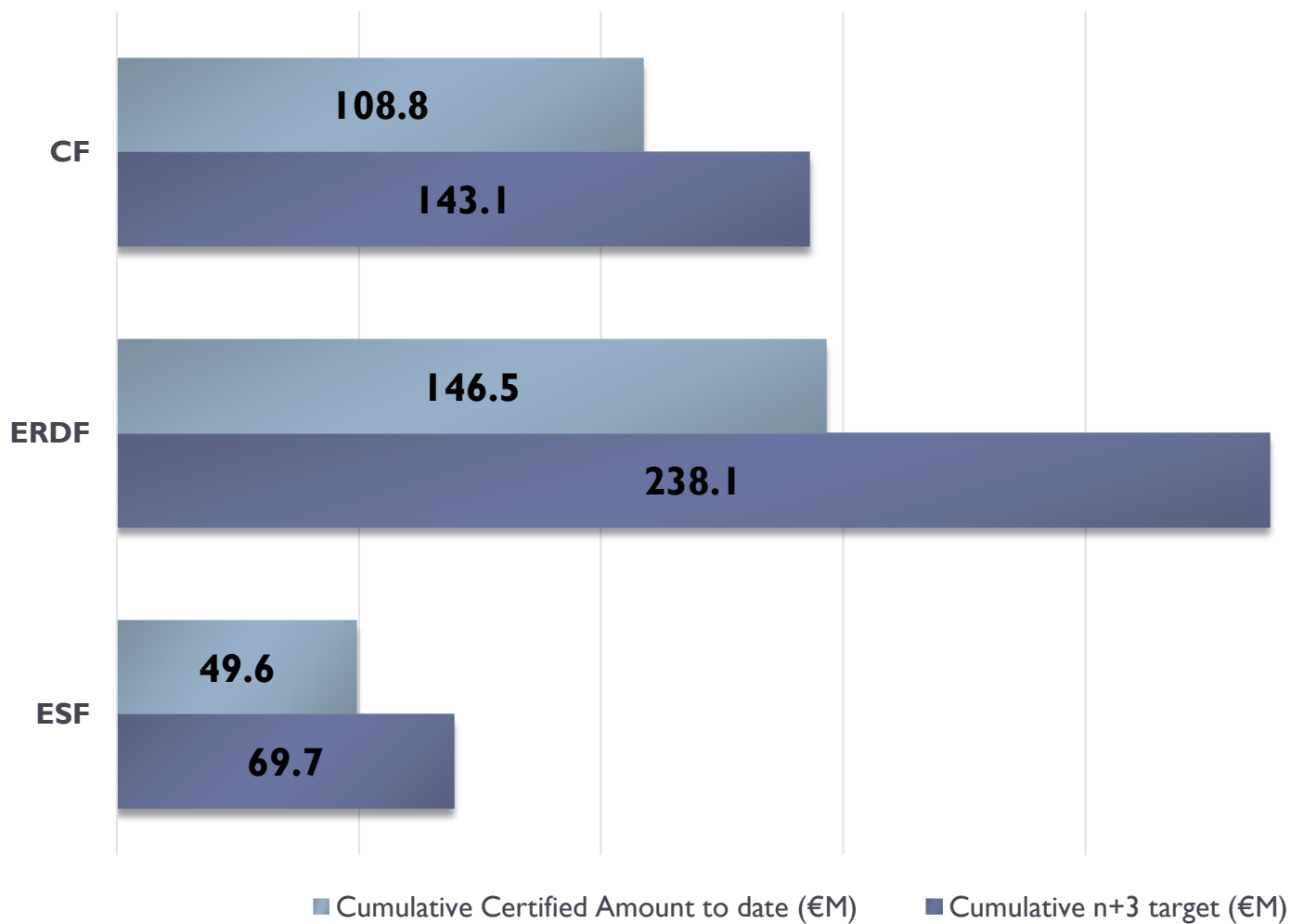
Disbursement Targets



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Update on Implementation: N+3 Disbursement 2021



Concluding Remarks

- 2020 and the first half of 2021 were challenging times for the implementation of the Operational Programmes stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The programmes' modifications as approved by this monitoring Committee sought to mitigate some of the impacts.
- Notwithstanding this the programmes recorded the achievement of a number of output and financial targets.
- Looking forward, 2021 needs to be a year where we recover some of the delays experienced in the last 18 months.
- The targets ahead are still ambitious and require the concerted effort of all the stakeholders involved in the implementation.
- Now that we are seeing results on the ground it is even more important that we focus on communicating the impact that EU support is having on the day-to-day life of the citizens living in Malta and Gozo.
- As you were informed during the ESG meeting a number of evaluations are planned. The input from all those involved in the implementation of the Operational Programme is critical.

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