

MONITORING COMMITTEE - 2014-2020

for

Operational Programme I

Fostering a Competitive and Sustainable Economy to Meet our Challenges

Proposed Eligibility and Selection Criteria for the Selection of operations under OPI (2014-2020)

This draft working paper aims at highlighting the eligibility and selection criteria that are being proposed to be adopted in the programming period 2014-2020 for the selection of proposals under Operation programme I (both ERDF and CF mainstream Operations).

As explained in Table 1 below, the criteria of assessment are divided in two parts: Eligibility criteria and Selection criteria.

- **Eligibility criteria** are the essential criteria that all projects must meet in order to be admissible for a further qualitative assessment. Such eligibility criteria are normally assessed through a technical assessment, and consist in a gateway assessment which ensures that all applications have reached a minimum standard. Projects which do not comply with the gateway eligibility criteria will not proceed to full appraisal and scoring.

- **Selection criteria** are designed to assess the fit and contribution of project proposals with the OP strategy, its target groups and its objectives. These may be further refined in calls for project proposals to include criteria which are specific to one type of activity, area or target group. These criteria are divided in two groups: those that rely on a quantitative assessment and those that require a qualitative assessment. The evaluation will combine both data (quantitative and qualitative) in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the proposal.

Table 1: The table below offers a screenshot of the eligibility and selection criteria being proposed

Eligibility Criteria		Selection criteria	
Criterion	Assessment	Criterion	Marks (max)
Complete Application form	Yes/No	Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum required	10
Project remit within mandate of Beneficiary	Yes/No	Readiness	15
Project leader from beneficiary organisation	Yes/No	Project Sustainability	10
Project implemented within the Eligible Territory	Yes/No	Capacity of the organisation	10
Proof of co-financing where applicable	Yes/No	Contribution to the development needs	10
Contribution towards Investment Priorities (IPs)	Yes/No	Potential of the project to contribute to the achievement of the expected results	15
Proposal in line with the relevant Specific Objective and Expected results of the IP	Yes/No	Horizontal priorities Environmental Sustainability and Equal Opportunities	10
Contribution towards one indicator	Yes/No	Other Horizontal Priorities and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation	10
		Quality of application form	10

PART 1 - Eligibility Criteria¹

The project must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for further assessment:

1. Complete application form

The Applicant must present a complete Application Form, filled in with all relevant details and documentation.

2. Project remit within mandate of Beneficiary

Applicants must be publicly mandated to carry out the task of the project. The project's remit must fall within the mandate of the Beneficiary.

3. Project leader from beneficiary organisation

The project leader carries the overall financial and legal responsibility for the implementation of the project on behalf of the Beneficiary and hence, his/her direct association with the Beneficiary organisation is fundamental, especially with a view to ensure that the grant will exclusively be used for the purpose stipulated in the project proposal.

4. Project implemented within the Eligible Territory

The eligible territory for the Operational Programme is the whole territory of the Republic of Malta. In cases of publicity / training abroad/marketing, actions may be aired or distributed outside the territory if the benefit clearly targets the eligible territory.

5. Proof of co-financing where applicable

In cases where Government is not co-financing the project from the national budget, the entity committing itself to provide the co-financing (public and other organisations) must produce proof that co-financing over the whole period of the project is available. A joint declaration by the Executive/Head and Treasurer/Financial Controller of the organisation, stating that the organisation commits to co-financing obligations and to finance any ineligible costs must be attached to the Application Form. The Applicant must also provide a set of audited accounts of the last 2 financial years including a note from the organisation's auditor stating that the organisation is likely to be able to meet the co-financing obligations and cover any ineligible costs. It is important to note that co-financing in kind is NOT eligible.

6. Contribution towards Investment Priorities (IPs)

Only projects that will address one or more of the relevant Investment Priority/ies of the PA as specified in the call can be considered as eligible.

7. Proposal in line with the relevant Specific Objective and Expected results of the IP

¹ Additional conditions for the signature of the Grant will be applicable at project level related to ex ante conditionalities, such as, but not limited to, the smart specialisation for Priority Axis 1 projects.

Only proposals that will contribute to the achievement of the relevant specific objective/s and the expected result/s will be considered as eligible.

8. Contribution towards one indicator

The project must have clearly identifiable and measurable targets that comply with at least one of the indicators set in the relevant Priority Axis (output and results indicators).

PART 2 – SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum required (max 10 marks)

Marks will be awarded if the project can demonstrate a clear contribution to the indicators (output/result) beyond the minimum requirement. The Applicant must also provide a clear explanation of **how** the targets for 'outputs,' and 'results' have been calculated and **the method of verification** that will be used.

2. Project Sustainability (max 10 marks)

Magnitude of post-operating costs in terms of assessment of the degree of risks attributed to: post operating costs; Anticipated revenue: Reliability of revenue; and Organisation/financial stability;

3. Readiness (max 15 marks)

Negative marking as applicable for non-preparation/launch of tenders; non-submission/issue of MEPA permits, lack of cost benefit analysis/financial feasibility (as applicable) and other risks hindering implementation.

4. Capacity of the organisation (max 10 marks)

Adequate overall expertise within the organisation and past experience with EU/similar projects.

5. Quality of application form (10 marks)

Marks will be awarded on the overall Coherence between different sections of the proposal; adequate description of the main activities; whether budget in reflecting activities included and on the general presentation of the proposal.

6. Contribution to the Development needs (max 10 marks).

The Applicant should demonstrate that the proposed project is adequately addressing the relevant development need as identified in the OP.

7. Potential of the project to contribute to the achievement of the expected results (max 15 marks)

The PSC will be expected to assess the results expected to be achieved through the implementation of the approved operation in terms of the innovative solutions and risks that can hinder the achievement of the identified results.

8. Horizontal priorities – Equality between men and women, non-discrimination and accessibility and Sustainable development (max 10 marks)

Equality and Equal Opportunities: Promotion of equality between men and women as well as non-discrimination and accessibility are identified in the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The PSC will assess how the projects will contribute to the attainment of the horizontal

priority of Equal Opportunities, in its broadest sense, as well as Sustainable Development. Sustainable development covers economic growth, social cohesion and the protection of the environment, which will be taken into account throughout the life of the supported activity.

9. Carbon Impact and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation (max 10 marks)

Assessment based on the extent of which the application incorporates measures to improve Air Quality, Sustainable Water Management and Climate change mitigation and adaptation as defined in implementing on methodology for climate change support.