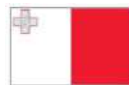


Update on Implementation of OPI

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

Monitoring Committee
23rd November 2018



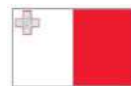
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Presentation overview

- Overview of Operational Programme I
- Programme Commitment Table
- Actions carried out to commit the OP
- Progress in the Implementation on the ground: Update by PA
- Programme Territorial Earmarking
- Financial Instruments
- JASPERS Involvement
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Communication activities
- Disbursement Targets
- Concluding Remarks

Overview of Operational Programme I



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Overview

Intervention Logic:

- 11 Priority Axes leading to 19 Investment Priorities with 20 different Specific Objectives, translated into a number of Development Needs, Expected Results, Actions and Indicators.

Implementation Timeframe:

- Programme spans from 2014 to 2020
- Eligibility of costs until 2023

Financial Allocation:

- ERDF – EU Share: €363M, MT Share: €90M, **Total: €453M** (80% co-financing rate)
- CF – EU Share: €218M, MT Share: €38M, **Total: €256M** (85% co-financing rate)

Programme Commitment Table



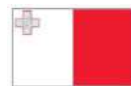
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Programme Commitment Progress



Actions carried out to commit the Operational Programme since last MC



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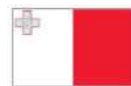
Actions carried out to commit the Operational Programme

- Launched Call VII (PA10), VIII (PA8), IX (PA5) and X (PA6).
- Closure of Call IV targeting the areas of Energy (PA 4) and Culture (PA 5) for interventions undertaken by NGOs and LC. Twenty four (24) projects were submitted out of which twenty two (22) were approved.
- Closure of Call V targeting the area of Research and Innovation (PA 1). Ten (10) projects were submitted out of which two (2) were approved.
- Closure of Call VI (PA 11) targeting the area of TEN-T in Roads and Maritime. Two (2) projects were submitted and approved.
- Closure of Call VII (PA 10) targeting the areas of Water and Waste. Six (6) projects were submitted and approved, including the Water Major Project which is currently at IQR.

Actions carried out to commit the Operational Programme (Cont'd)

- The PSC started the evaluation of Call VIII (PA8) targeting the health and social infrastructure. Four (4) projects were submitted, three (3) of which were submitted by NGOs and one (1) by the Ministry for Health.
- The PSC also started the evaluation of Call IX (PA 5) targeting Culture. Three (3) projects were submitted, out of which two (2) were submitted by NGOs and one (1) by the Restoration Directorate.
- By year end, the PSC is also expected to conclude most of the work of the remaining open Calls.

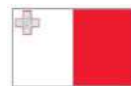
Progress in the Implementation on the Ground: Update by PA



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PA 1 - Investing in Research, Technological Development and Innovation

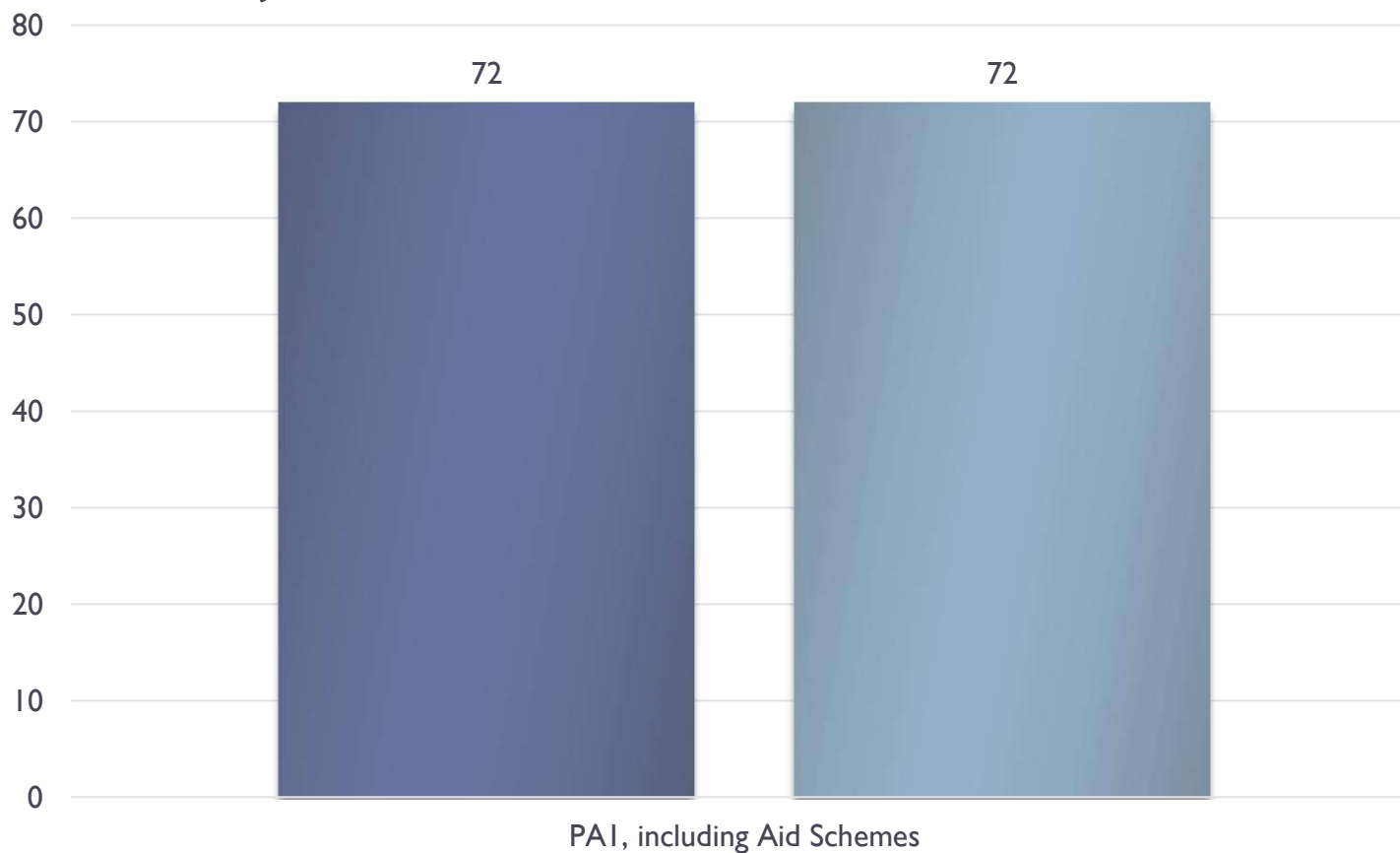


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Allocation under PA 1

Projects Under PA I incl. Aid Schemes



■ PA allocation (€ million) ■ Approved projects (€ million)

Implementation Progress – PA1

Two mainstream projects with a total value of **€77M** were approved in Q3 2018 and are currently being implemented:

Sustainable Living Complex (SLC) whose primary objective is to achieve a model resource-efficient building, labelled as a “live laboratory” to monitor a range of resource-efficient technologies in a real-life context. Apart from providing a basis for policy-making on sustainable development issues, this project will create an infrastructure for indigenous innovation in the construction industry and provide a best-practice model;

The **Transdisciplinary Research and Knowledge Exchange (TRAKE) Complex** at the University of Malta will seek to create a modern research facility aimed to enable and support technology transfer, entrepreneurship and knowledge exchange with industry whilst focusing on the valorisation of ongoing research.

Implementation Progress – PA1

Main achievements during 2018:

- The relevant planning permits regarding major works tenders were approved by the Planning Authority;
- In the case of TRAKE, works related to the Materials Engineering Laboratories, as well as the main excavation works of the TRAKE building are well in advance;
- In the case of SLC, the main tender on the substructure and superstructure is currently under evaluation;
- Procurement in relation to equipment is gradually picking up and a number of tenders are at evaluation stage or contracting stage.

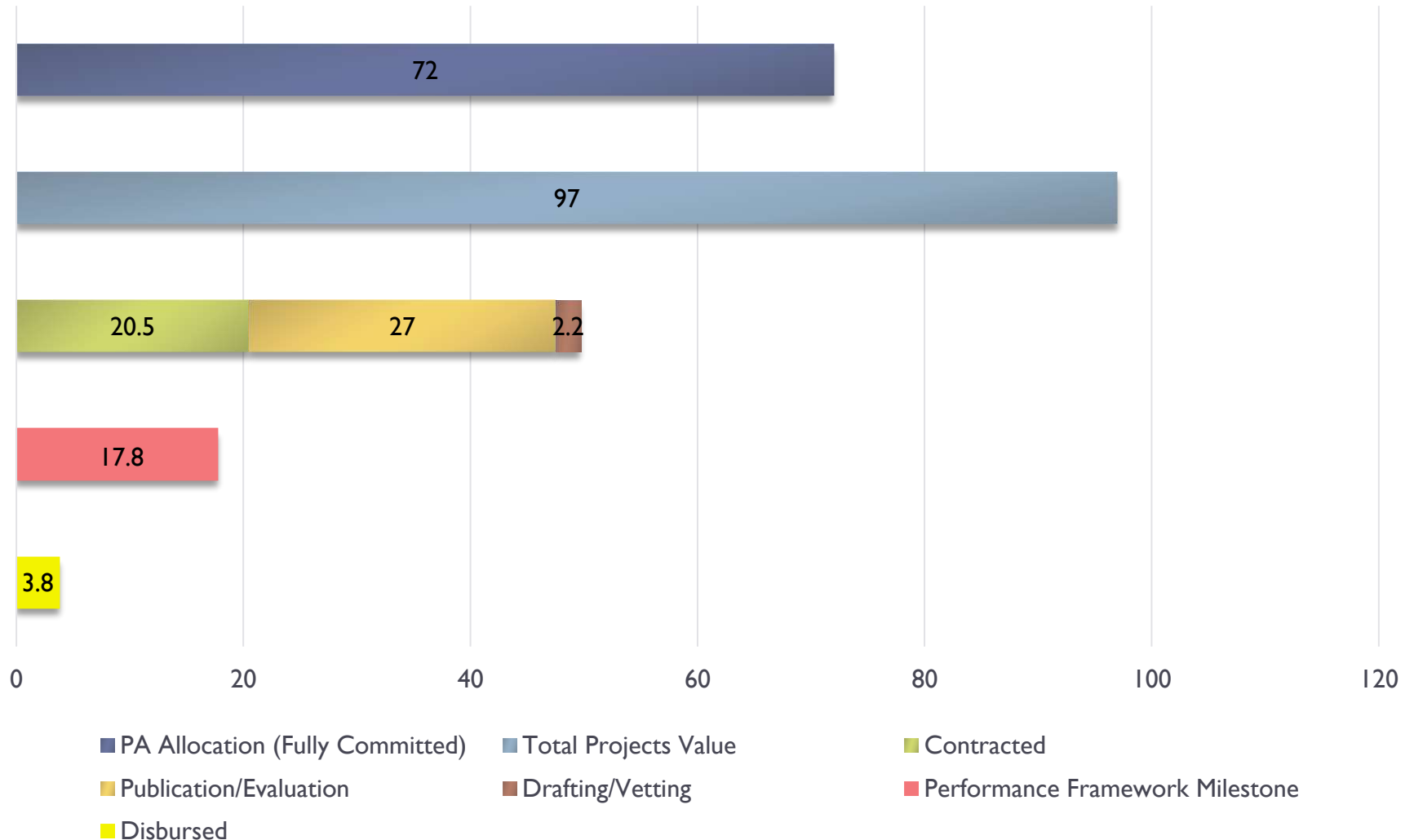
Aid Scheme Progress – PA 1

Under the Business Enhance RD&I Grant scheme, four measures were launched under IP1b in January 2018.

- Measure 1: Feasibility Studies
- Measure 2: R&D Projects
- Measure 3: Investment in Shared Research Infrastructure & Measure
- Measure 4: Process Innovation

The scheme is being implemented through open rolling calls with different cut off dates. Cut-off Dates in 2018 expired at the end of June and August.

Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 1



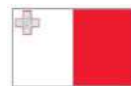
Output Indicators for PA 1 (IP1a)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievement
PA 1	Research Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	FTEs	100	155	-
	Number of research facilities	Number	3	3	2

Output Indicators for PA 1 (IP1b)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Target Value as per Covenant	Actual Achievement
PA 1	Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	45	45	-
	Private Investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	Euro	39,000,000	39,000,000	-

PA 2 - Consolidating Investment within the ICT Sector

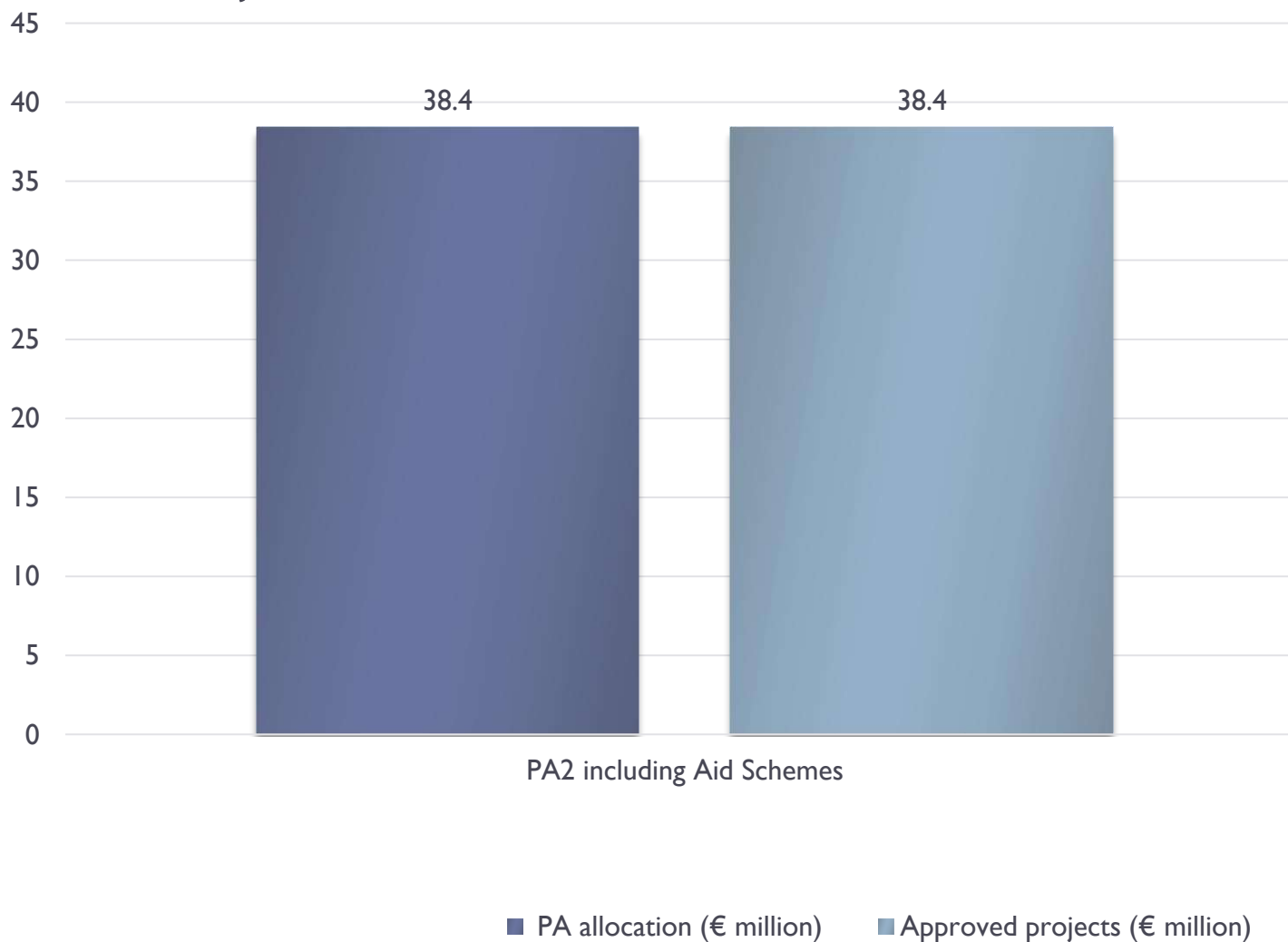


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Allocation under PA 2

Projects Under PA 2 incl. Aid Schemes



Implementation Progress – PA 2

Two mainstream projects with a total value of **€33.4M** are currently being implemented, aimed at:

- developing and implementing a national spatial data infrastructure (**Sintegram**); and
- creating a number of eService applications in the areas of Government to Business (G2B), Government to Customers (G2C) and Government to Government (G2G) (**Converge**).

Implementation is progressing well, with all contracting being completed under Sintegram, and at a very advanced stage under Converge. An online educational portal falling under Converge was launched on 19th November 2018.

Aid Scheme Progress – PA 2

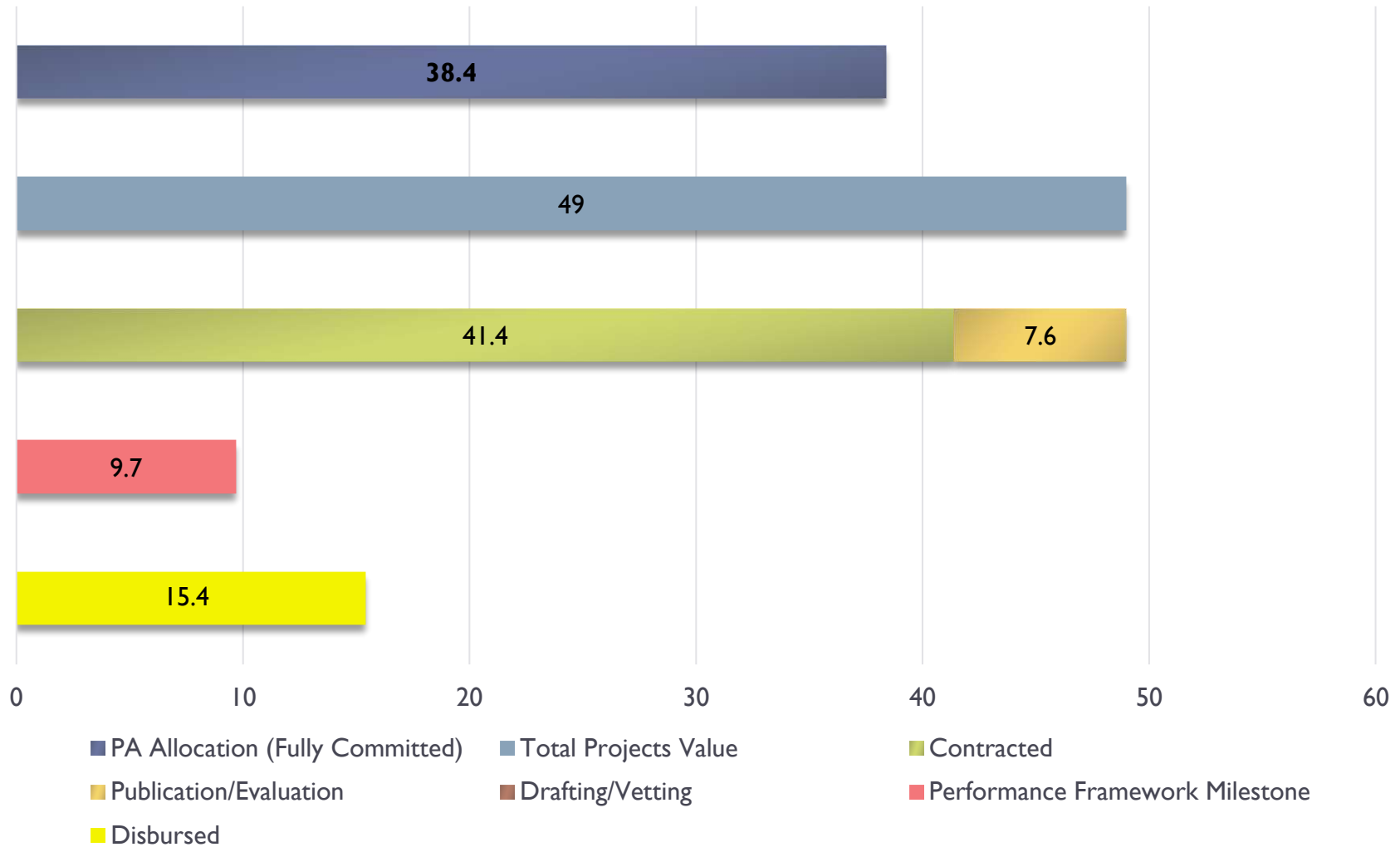
The **Aid Scheme (E-Commerce Grant Scheme)** is aimed to assist undertakings to part-finance investment to develop or upgrade an e-commerce website and/or mobile application that enables online payments or booking systems through the integration of an online payment gateway.

The scheme is being implemented through open rolling calls with different cut off dates. Cut-off Dates in 2018 expired at the end of February, April, August and October.

To date:

- 101 applications were submitted out of which 6 are still pending evaluation and;
- **49 grants** were approved with a total value of €234k.

Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 2



Output Indicators for PA 2 (IP2b)

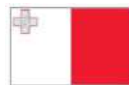
Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value*	Target Value as per Covenant	Achieved to date
PA 2	Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	50*	200	6
	Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	50*	200	6

**OP Target Value is being revised as part of the ongoing change to the Operational Programme*

Output Indicators for PA 2 (IP2c)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Achieved to date
PA 2	New e-services applications in the areas of health, environment, customs and interdepartmental services	Number	3	5	4

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

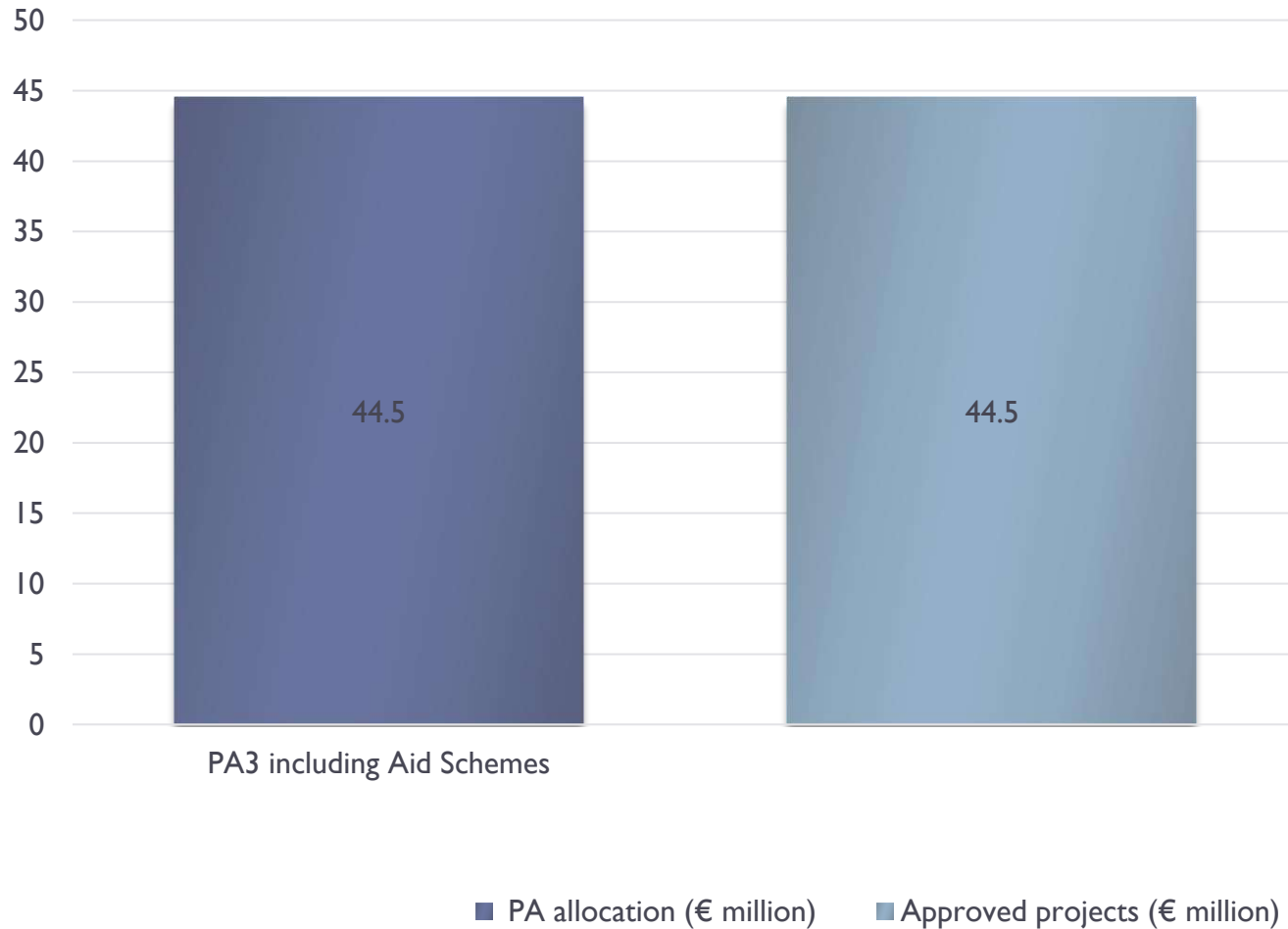


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Allocation under PA 3

Projects Under PA 3 incl. Aid Schemes



Implementation Progress – PA 3

Main Achievements of 2018:

- Following the installation of underground services at the **Ta' Qali Crafts Village**, the road within the built-up area has been asphalted and landscaping works together with the installation of street lighting are at an advanced stage;
- At the **Enterprise Hub in Xewkija, Gozo**, following the excavations for a large water reservoir, restoration and conservation works of the scheduled building were carried out whilst the infrastructure of the new office building is ongoing with the first floor being roofed;
- **Trademalta** officially launched its new portal being financed on the 15th November 2018, enabling businesses in Malta with an interest in going global to utilise this new online platform to seek advice and seek international opportunities.

Implementation Progress – PA 3 (2)



Road Works at Ta' Qali Crafts Village



Construction and Landscaping Works
at Ta' Qali Crafts Village



Installation of pillars at Xewkija Enterprise Hub

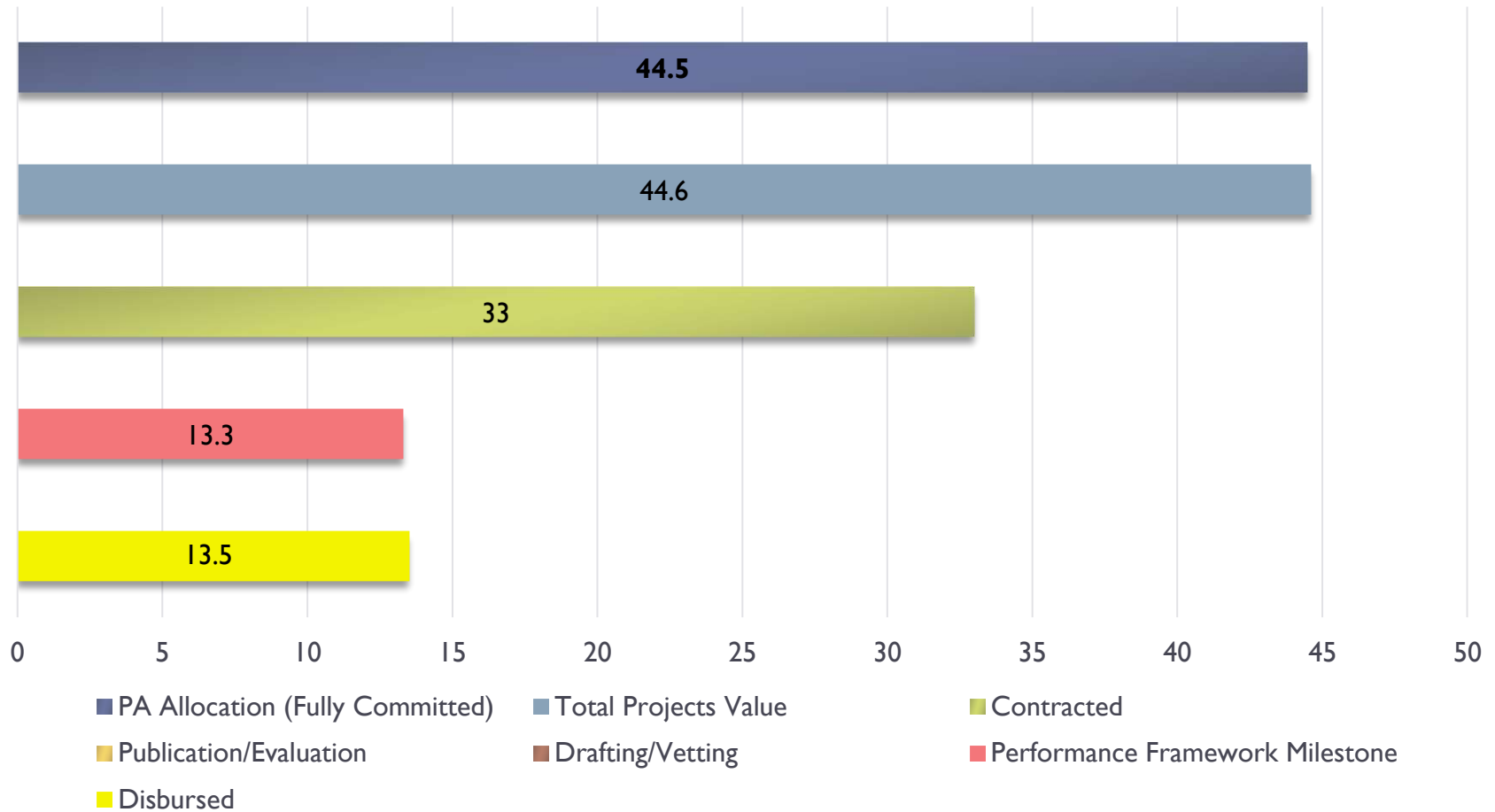


TradeMalta Internationalisation Knowledge
Platform Goes-Live

Aid Schemes Progress – PA 3

Aid Schemes	Applications Received	Applications under evaluation	Grants Contracted	Grants Contracted (€)
SME Growth	80	0	25	€5,387,507.21
Start-up Investment	52	5	16	€2,934,148.95
SME Diversification and Innovation	54	1	27	€2,911.886.19
SME Internationalisation	15	2	2	€6,239.50
SME Consultancy	135	17	91	€346,288.00
Total	336	25	161	€11,586,069.85

Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 3

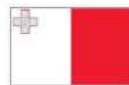


Output Indicators for PA 3

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects/ Covenant Target Value	Actual Achievement
PA 3	Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	510*	38	213
	Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	280*	590	38
	Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	50*	-	-
	Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	80*	195	175
	Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalent	170	257	-
	Private investment matching public funds	Euro	€62M*	€43.7M	-

**OP Target Value is being revised as part of the ongoing change to the Operational Programme*

PA 4 - Shifting Towards a Low-Carbon Economy

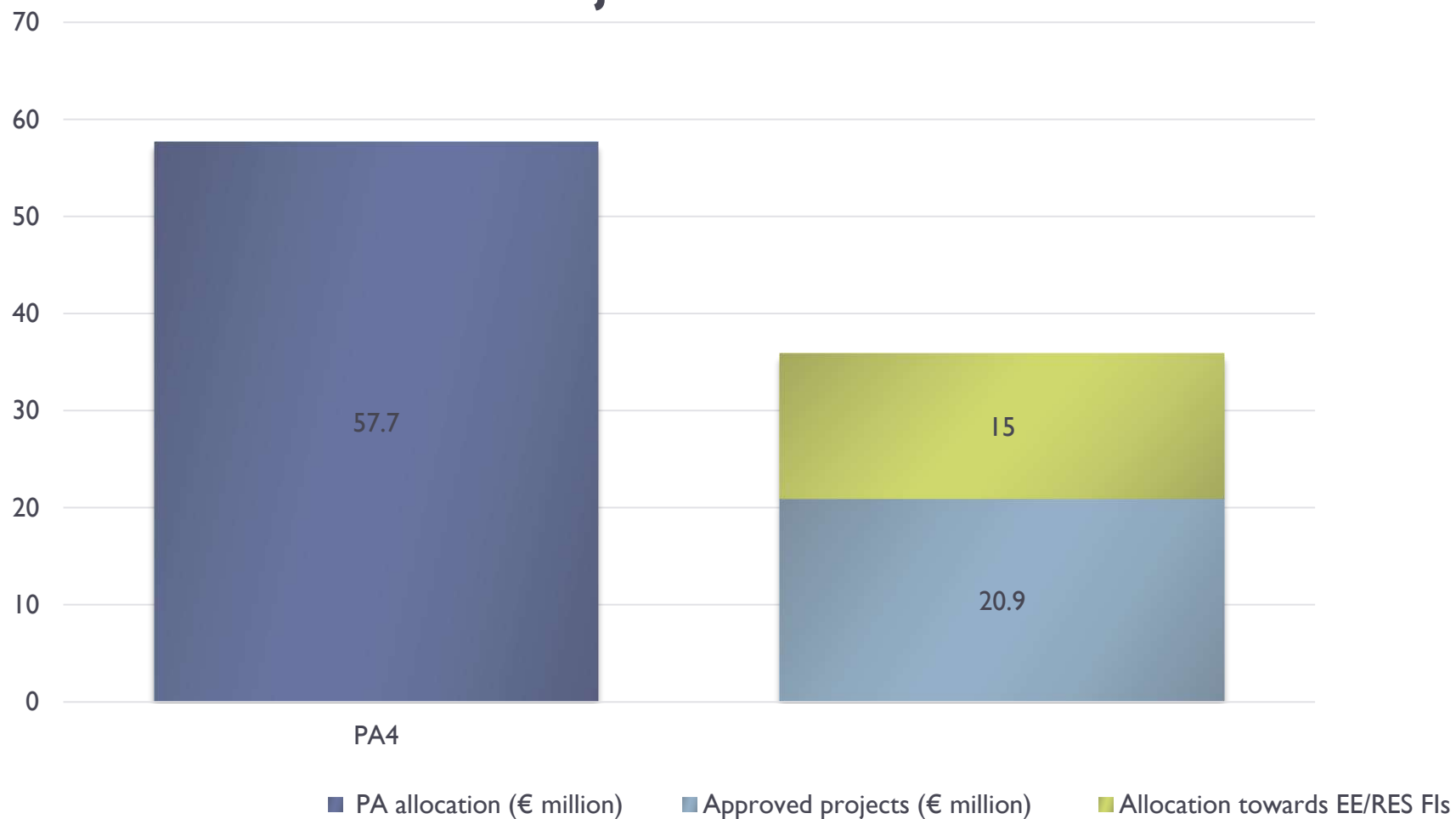


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Allocation under PA 4

Projects Under PA 4



Implementation Progress – PA 4

Eight mainstream projects with a total value of **€20.9M** were approved. Seven are currently being implemented while one project was concluded in 2017.

Main achievements for 2018:

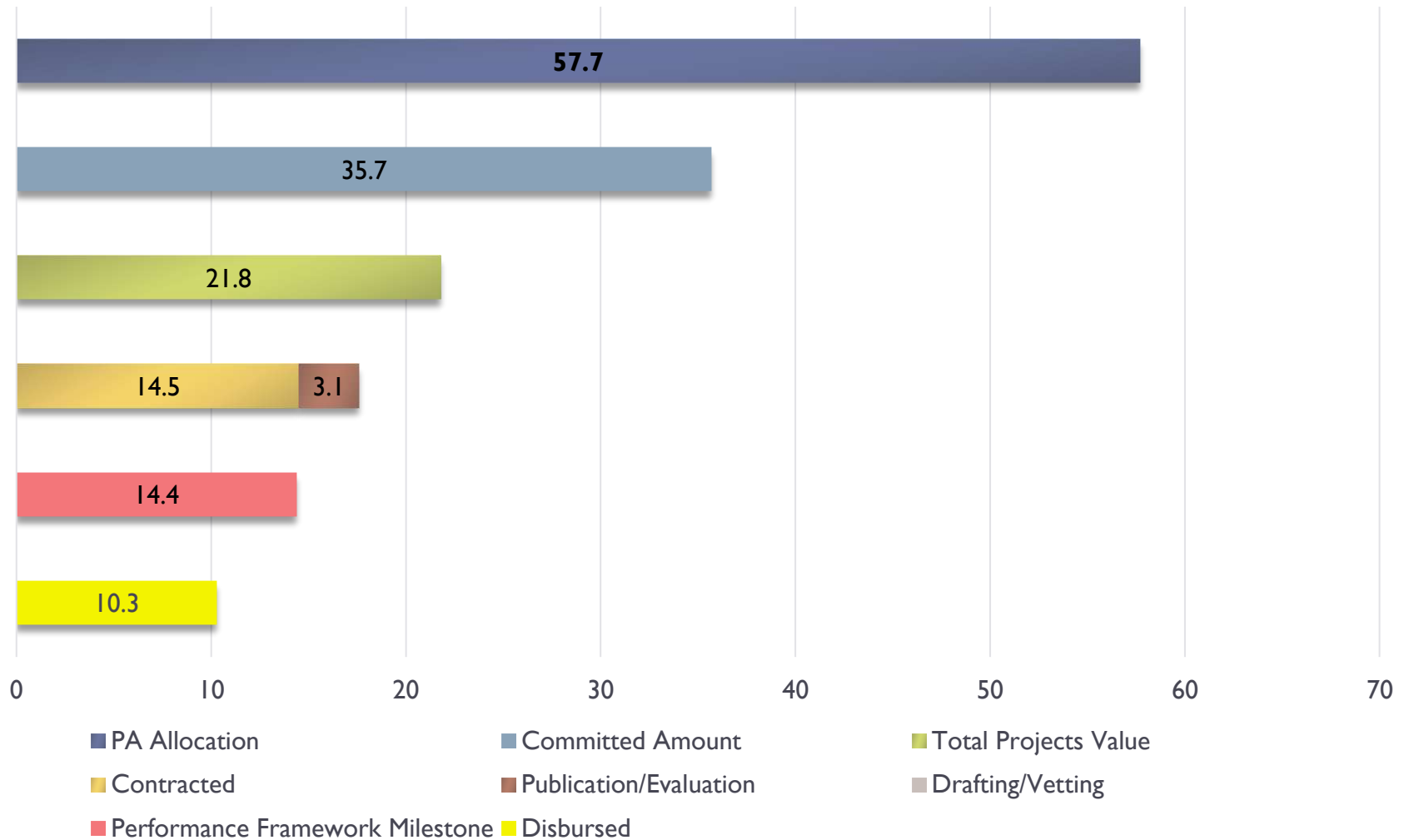
- The **Domestic Household Scheme** for the installation of PV systems is proving to be very successful with 5,808 households receiving commitment of financial support to undertake investment in Renewable Energy Systems (RES). In terms of actual claims, 4,622 payments were issued, amounting to circa €10.1M;
- The tender for the implementation of energy efficiency measures at **San Vincenz de Paule Residence** is at publication stage and the tender for the installation of smart **Street lighting** is currently being implemented;
- The main works tender for the installation of energy efficient measures at the **Ministry for Gozo Administration centre** has been recently awarded and is expected to start implementation by early December 2018;
- Three projects focused on the installation of RES are also being implemented by NGOs whilst the **MITA Data Centre Photovoltaic system** has installed a 50.18kWp system on its rooftop and has been operational since end of 2017.

Implementation Progress – PA 4

Financial Instruments

- Presently discussions are ongoing with EIB and EIF on the type of instrument that would best suit the Maltese market, taking into account both the need to create demand, and possible State Aid considerations.
- The Funding Agreement for the €15M allocation for both the domestic and commercial sector will be signed in the coming weeks.

Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 4



Output Indicators for PA 4 (IP4a)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievement
PA 4	Renewables: Additional capacity of Renewable energy production	MW	16*	18.33	15.34
	GHG reduction	Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	23,000*	24,142	17,828

**OP Target Value is being revised as part of the ongoing change to the Operational Programme*

Output Indicators for PA 4 (IP4b)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value
PA 4	Number of enterprises improving their energy classification	Number	50	0
	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	37,500*	0
	Estimated annual decrease in GHG	Tonnes of CO2 equivalent	33,000*	0
	No. of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	200	0
	Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	150*	0
	No. of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	50*	0

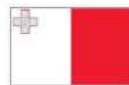
**OP Target Value is being revised as part of the ongoing change to the Operational Programme*

Output Indicators for PA 4 (IP4c)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value
PA 4	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	22,500*	0.05
	Decrease of Annual primary energy consumption (common output)	KwH/year	170,000*	3,257,888
	Estimated annual decrease in GHG	Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	1,100*	1,415.02

**OP Target Value is being revised as part of the ongoing change to the Operational Programme*

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

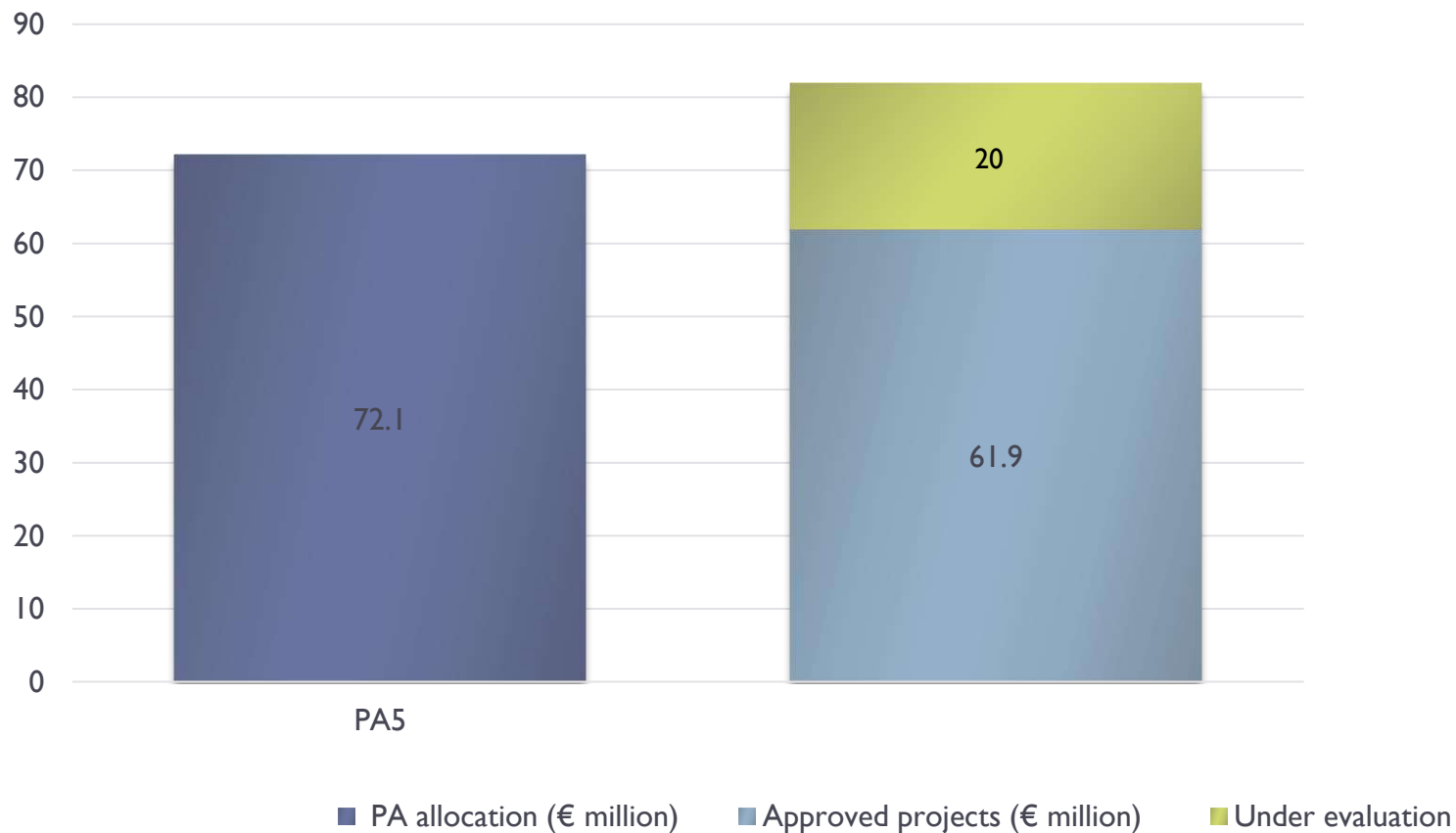


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Allocation Under PA 5

Projects Under PA 5



Implementation Progress – PA 5

29 mainstream projects with a total value of **€61.9M** are being implemented so far.

The main achievements of 2018:

- Official opening of the **Manoel Theatre** following project completion for the preservation and upgrading of the oldest working national theatre in the World and a Grade 1 listed, and scheduled building in Valletta in September.
- Official opening of the **MUZA**, Malta's new museum of art hosted in a historic site within the Capital City of Valletta took place in November, welcoming its first visitors.
- Work has also started for the regeneration of the **Grandmasters' Palace**, another important cultural and historical gem in Valletta.

Implementation Progress – PA 5

- An additional 18 projects being implemented by NGOs (12 projects) and Local Councils (6 projects) amounting to **€17.6M in public eligible value** have been approved in May 2018.
- Another call under PA 5 (Call IX) was launched in September and closed in November 2018; it is currently under evaluation and it is estimated that the remaining balance of **€11M** under this PA will be absorbed through this call.

Implementation Progress – PA 5



Manoel Theatre - Valletta

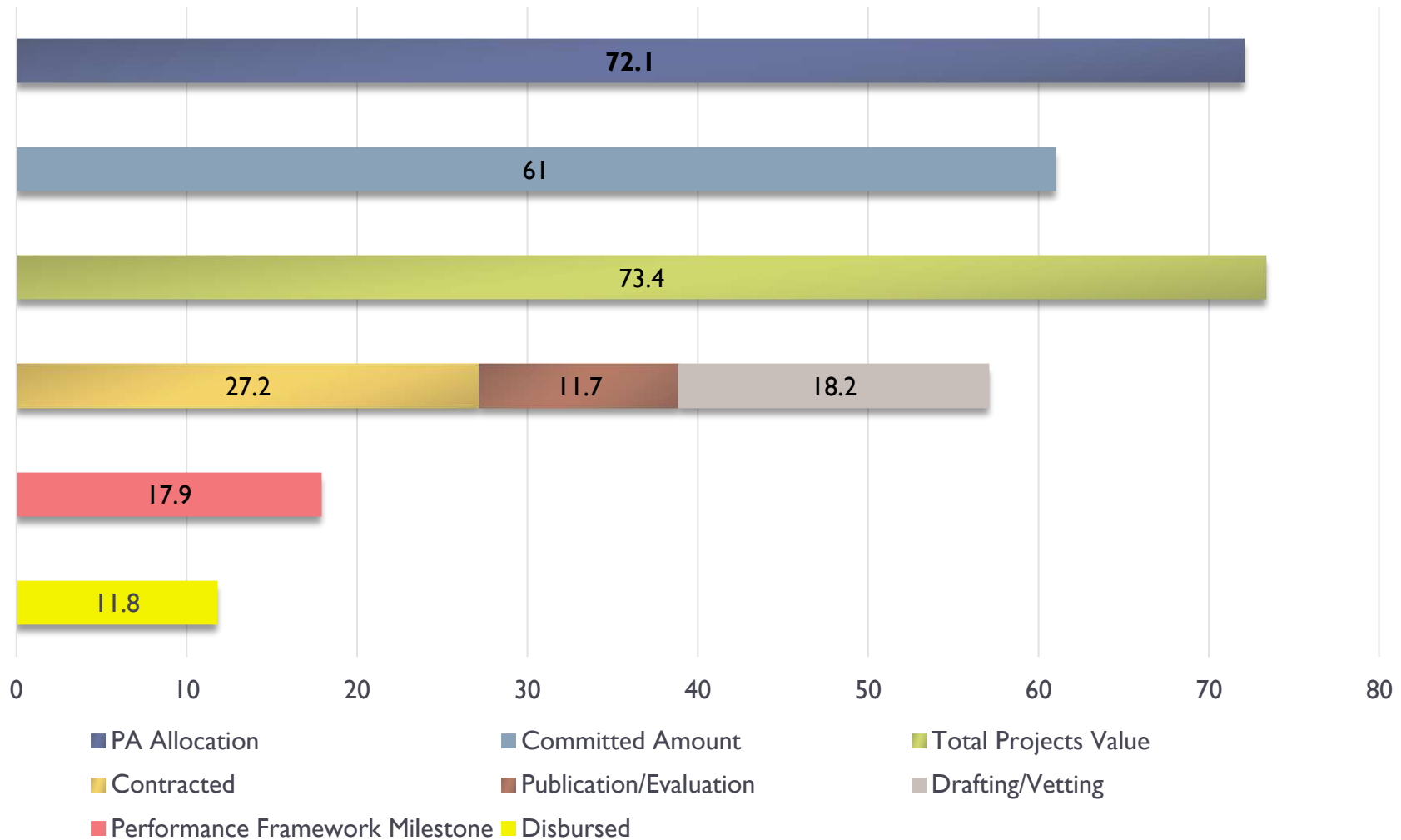


MUZA official opening in November



Paintings exhibited at MUZA

Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 5



Output Indicators for PA 5 (IP6c)



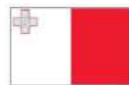
EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievd
PA 5	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural or natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	12,000*	-.*	5,000
	Rehabilitated/Preserved Land	Square metres	5,000	5,000	-

* OP Target Value is being revised as part of the ongoing change to the Operational Programme

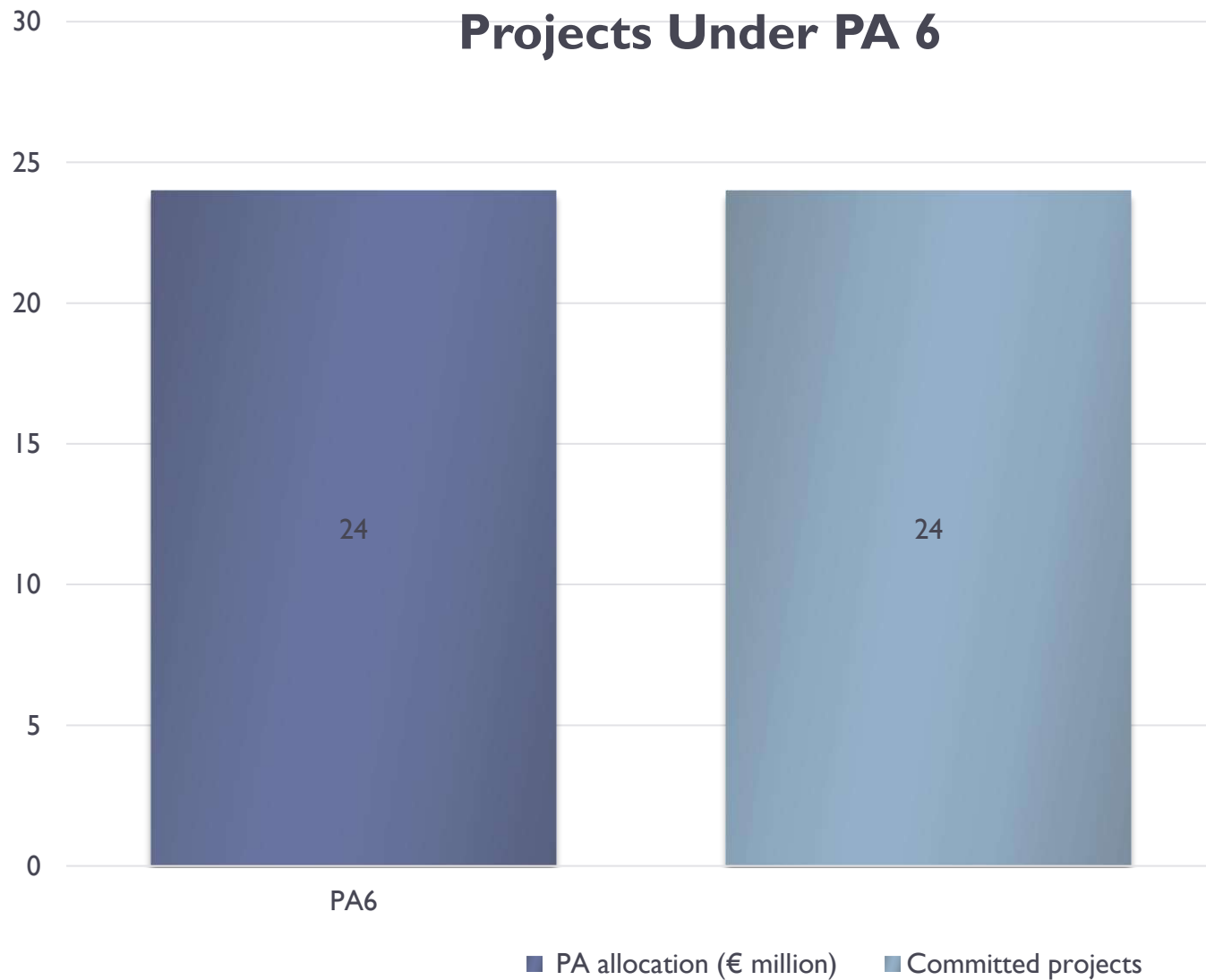
PA 6 - Sustainable Urban Development



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Allocation Under PA 6



Overview

This PA focuses on the need for an integrated approach to address the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges affecting targeted urban areas in Malta. The Southern Harbour Area in Valletta has been identified as the urban area where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are mostly needed to address the specific needs of the communities with a view to improve the quality of life of persons living in the area.

- Actions supported under this PA will focus on :
 - the upgrade of cultural heritage assets in the Southern Harbour area;
 - uplift of public social housing as well as open public spaces within the same area; as well as
 - the creation of spaces where SMEs can set up shop and develop further.

Main achievements in 2018:

- Concept Designs and architectural drawings for almost all actions being proposed have been carried out;
- Tender dossiers on most contracts have been drafted, published or awarded;
- Most of the relevant planning permits have been approved or their application is at an advanced stage;

Implementation Progress – PA 6

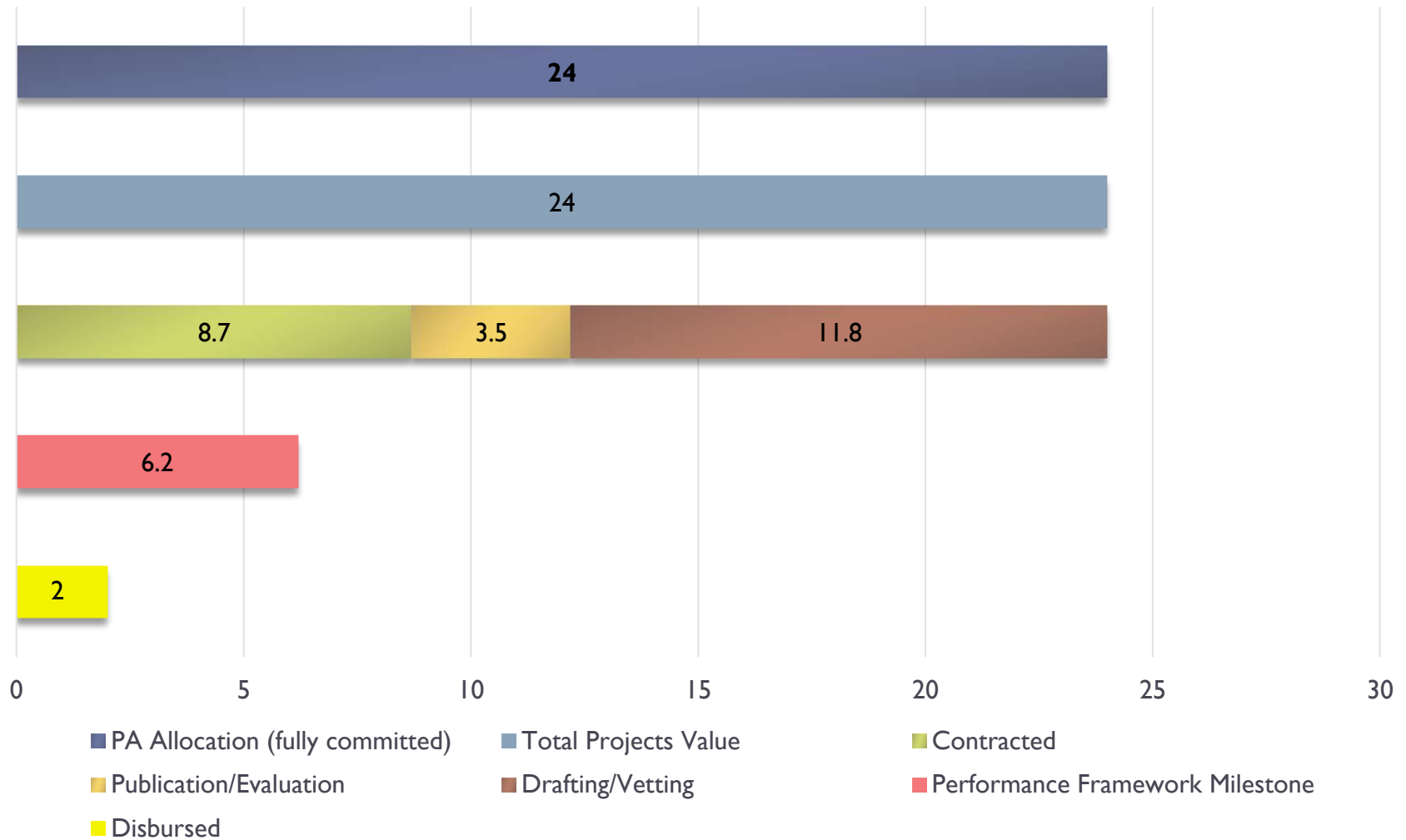


Restoration of important shrines in Lower Valletta



Restoration of common areas in Lower Valletta

Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 6



Output Indicators for PA 6 (IP6c)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achieved
PA 6	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	5,000	-*	-
	Area of constructed heritage upgraded or renovated in urban areas	Square metres	6,000	-*	-

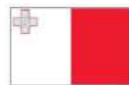
* Assessment still ongoing

Output Indicators for PA 6 (IP9b)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achieved
PA 6	Urban Development: Rehabilitated housing in urban areas	Units	50	-*	-
	Urban Development: Public/commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	Square metres	6,000	-*	-
	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	Persons	120,000	-*	-

* Assessment still ongoing

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

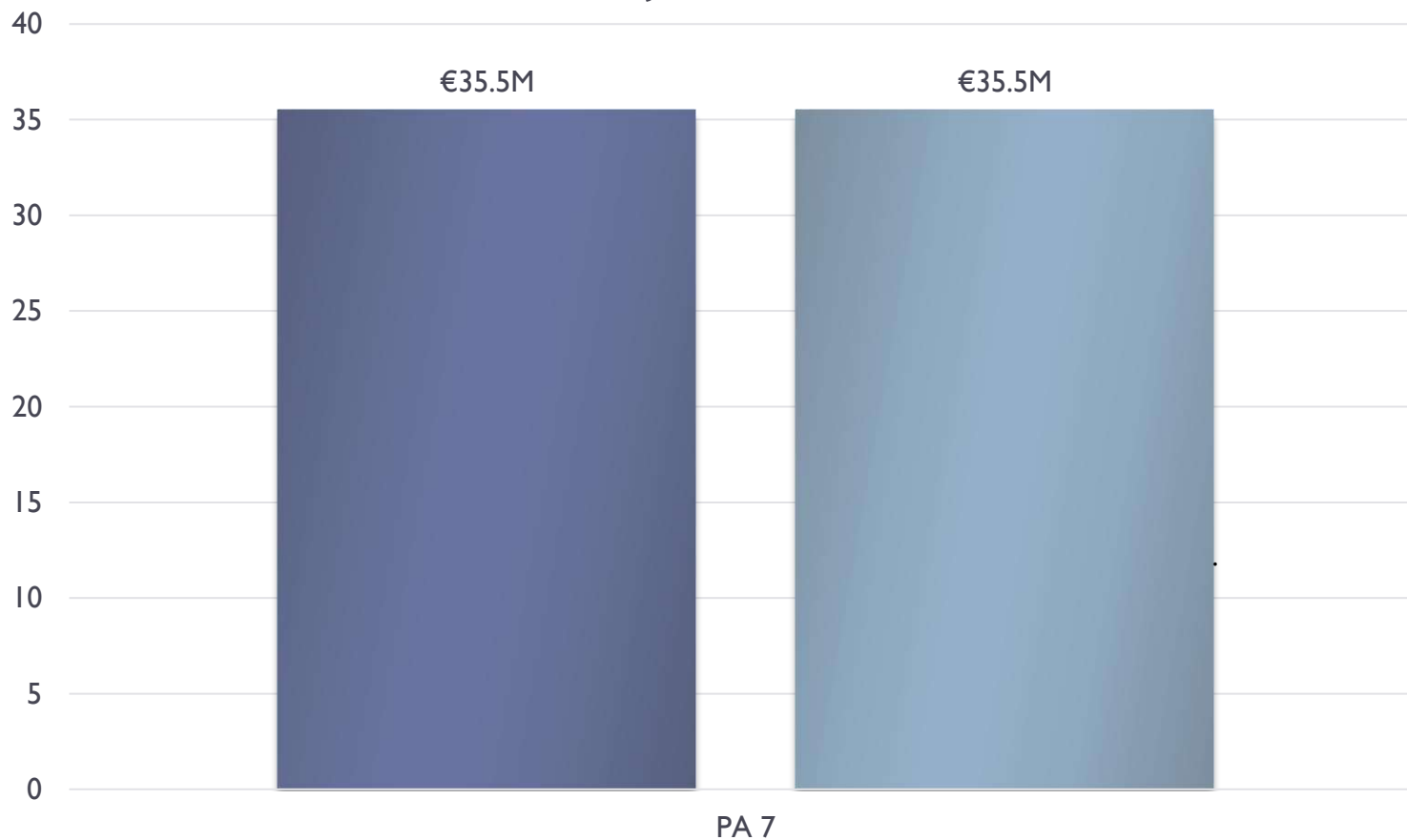


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Allocation under PA 7

Projects Under PA 7



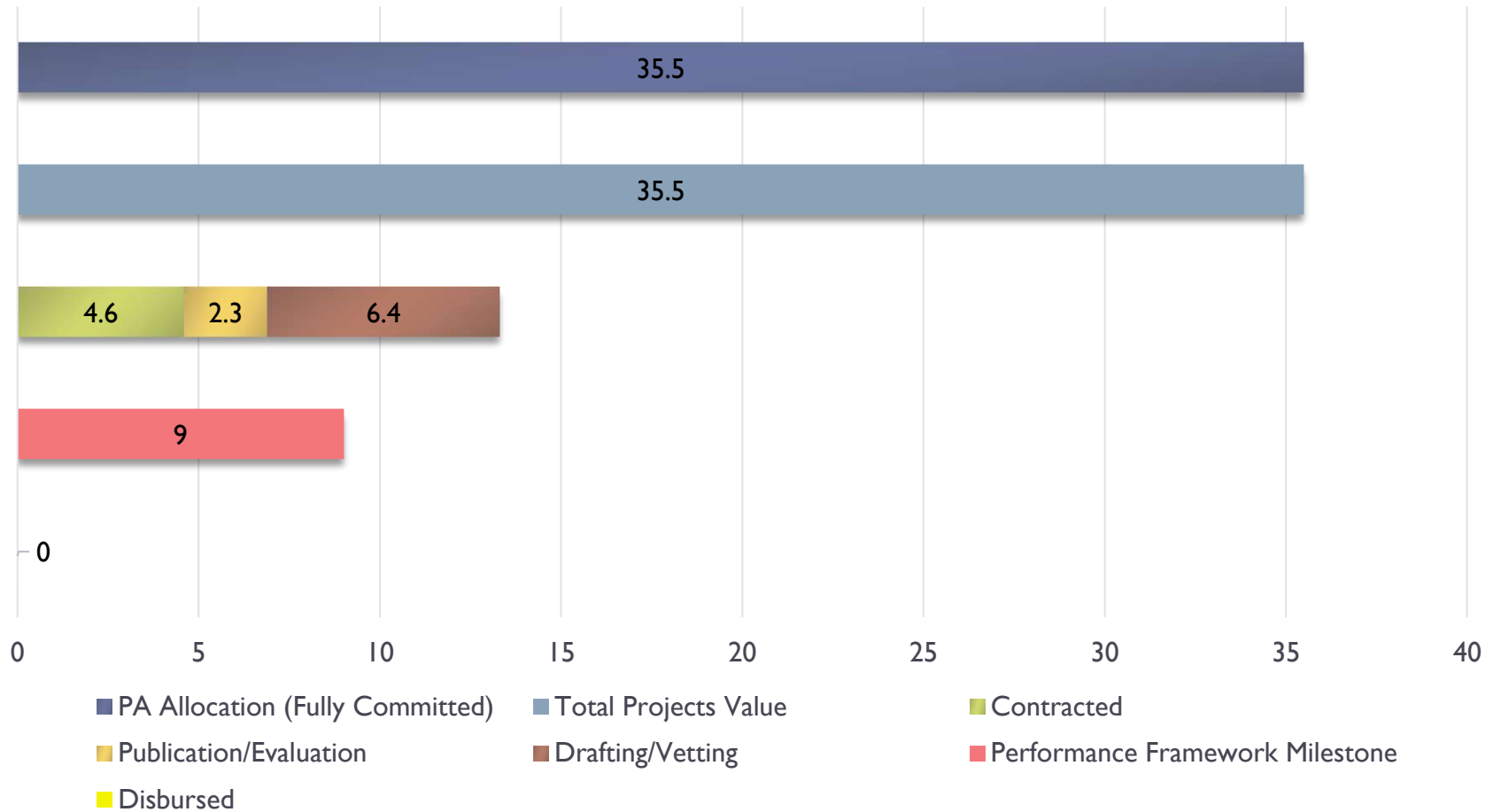
■ PA allocation (€ million) ■ Approved projects (€ million)

Allocation for Priority Axis 7 - €35.5M

The PA allocation was fully committed for the **SMITHS** (Sustainable Multi Intermodal Transport HubS) project which aims to encourage a modal shift from private car use to collective, sustainable & alternative low-carbon transport modes and introducing different transport hubs, both land and sea.

Under this project, procurement still has not picked up to the levels expected at application stage due to a number of procurement processes which failed. This failure was a result both of lack of interest from commercial operators in a number of tenders as well as due to administrative or technical incompliance in a number of other tenders. The first payments under this project are in the process of being paid.

Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 7

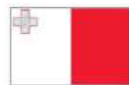


Output Indicators for PA 7 (IP7c)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievement
PA 7	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2	11,000	15,254	-
	Number of persons reached by campaigns*	Persons	100,000	100,000	-
	Modal Shift projects promoting collective transport methods*	Number	2	1	1

* Wording of OP indicator is being revised as part of the proposed change to the Operational Programme

PA 8 - Investing Towards a More Socially-Inclusive Society

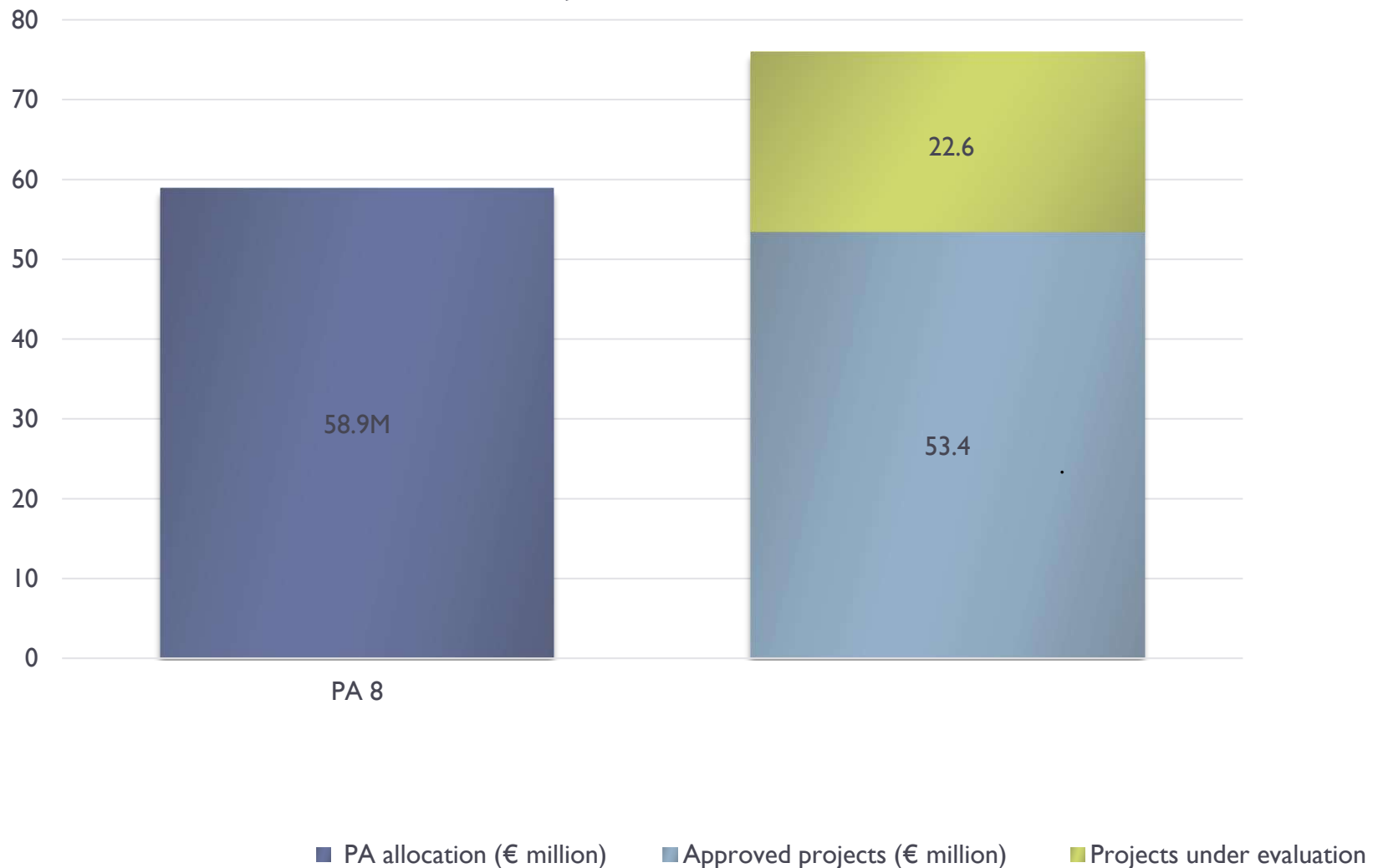


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Allocation under PA 8

Projects Under PA 8



Implementation Progress – PA 8

Six mainstream selected projects with a total value of **€53.4M** are currently being implemented.

Main Achievements of 2018:

- Excavation works began on site of the **REACH** project, which is aimed at the promotion and advocacy of independent living for people with disability. The Design and Build tender was contracted in November 2018.
- The Project Management, the Design and Build, Furniture and part of the Medical Equipment Tenders for **Paola Primary Health Care Southern Regional Hub** were awarded.
- Works on the ground on ca 20 blocks have commenced under the **Regeneration of Social Housing Areas**.

Implementation Progress – PA 8



Architectural Rendering for the Paola Hub Project

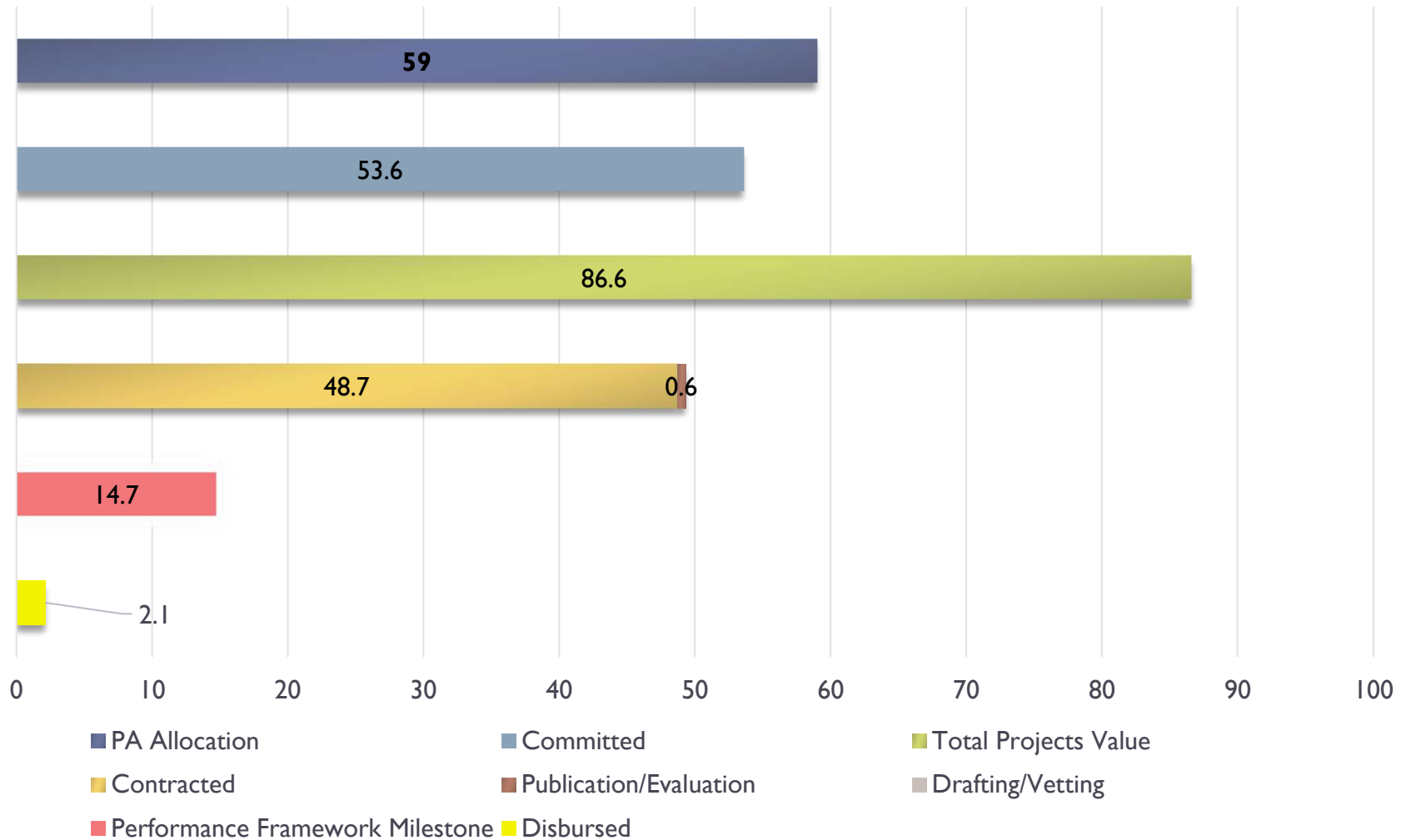


Lift Shaft – Ongoing works for lift installation (Zejtun)



Architectural Rendering for the REACH project

Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 8



Output Indicators for PA 8 (IP9a)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievement
PA 8	Health: Population covered by improved Health Services	Persons	151,000*	125,480	-
	Persons benefitting from new/upgraded infrastructure (including equipment/services etc)	Persons	208,800*	3,450*	-
	Population covered by improved social services*	Persons	151,000*	6,300*	-
	Number of people in sheltered employment	Persons	200*	102	-
	Urban Development: Rehabilitated housing in urban areas	Housing Units	100	689	-

* OP Target Value is being revised as part of the ongoing change to the Operational Programme

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



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Allocation under PA 9

Projects Under PA 9



Two mainstream projects with a total value of €33.6M are currently being implemented

Main achievements in 2018:

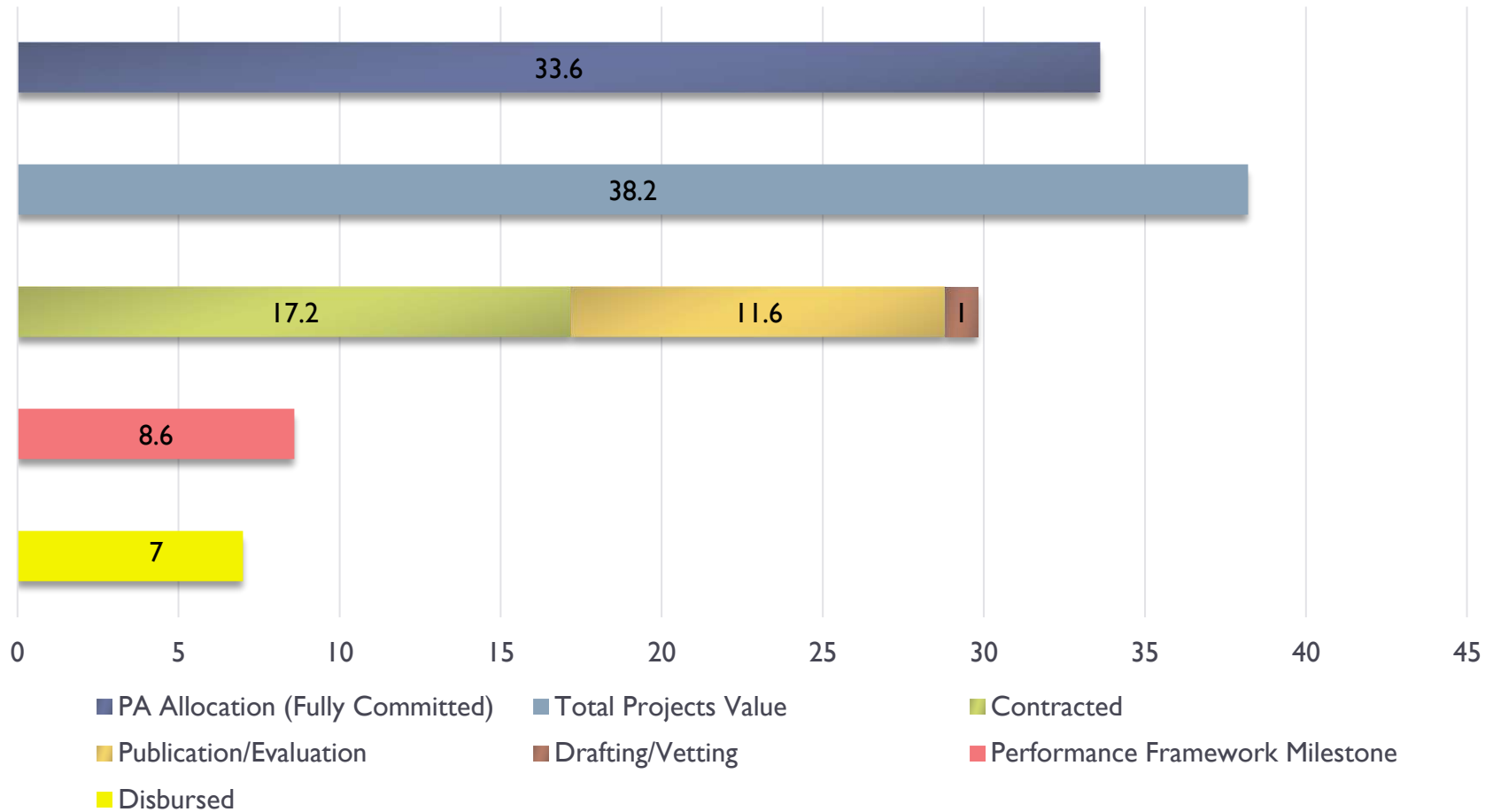
- Works on the **MCAST Campus Master-Plan: Phase 2** project is at an advanced stage. The Institute of Engineering and Transport Building is in the final stages of construction and finishing and mechanical works are ongoing. Initial works commenced on the other two buildings: the MCAST Resource Centre and the Institute of Information Communication and Technology. To date MCAST contracted a total of circa €16.6M.
- The **INVEST** project is in the process of issuing and awarding tenders to set up 78 laboratories across schools in Malta and Gozo to cover 9 applied subjects such as Hospitality, Media, Engineering and Agribusiness.

Implementation Progress – PA 9



Ongoing works at Institute of Engineering and Transport (IET)

Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 9



Output Indicators for PA 9 (IP10a)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievement
PA 9	Capacity of VET and Tertiary education infrastructure	Persons	10,000	13,496	-

PA 10 - Investing in a More Environmentally-Friendly Society

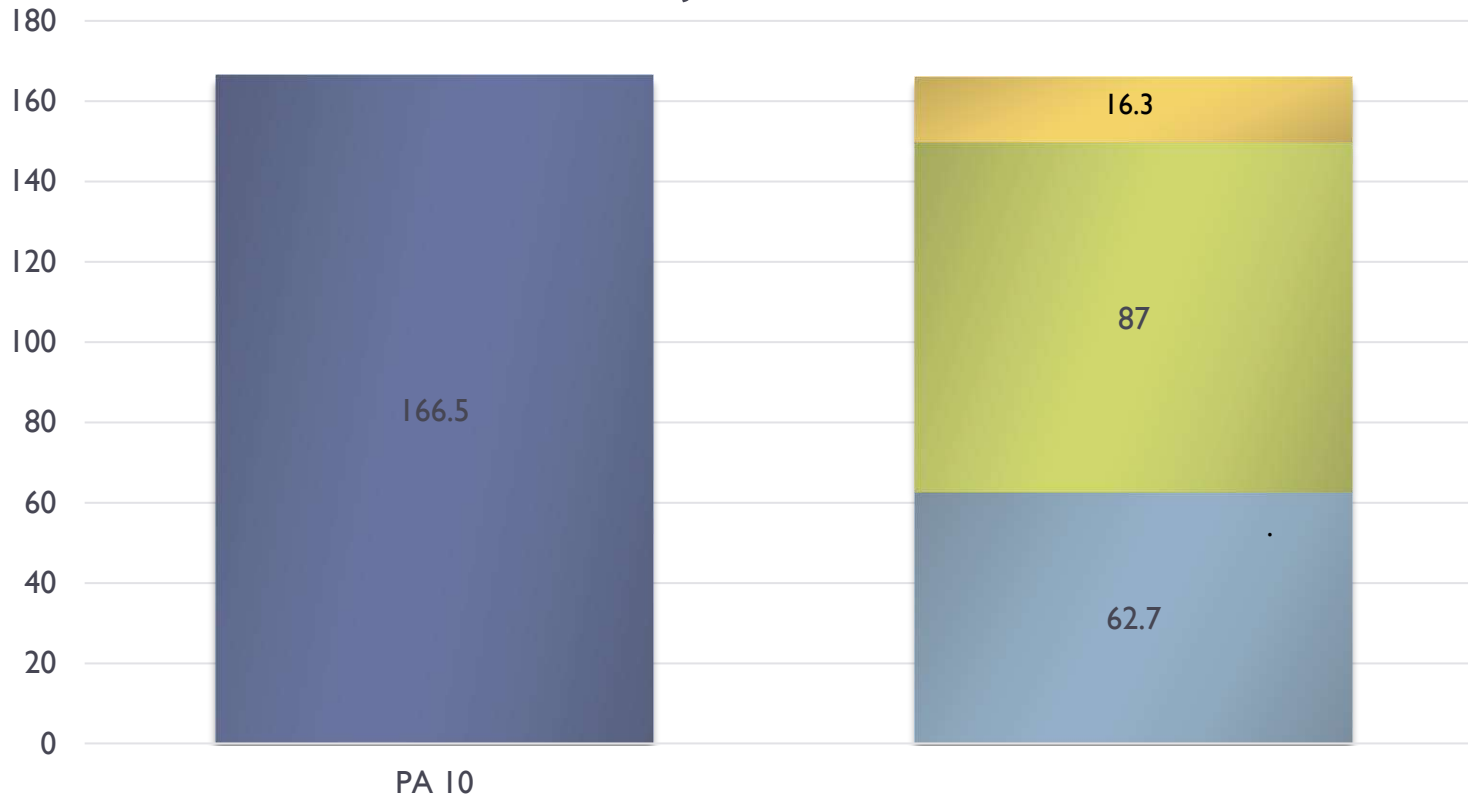


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Allocation under PA 10

Projects Under PA 10



■ PA allocation (€ million)

■ Approved projects (€ million)

■ Allocation towards MP

■ Unallocated Amount

PA 10 Status

To date, 6 projects under the area of waste and water were selected for a total value of €128.5M.

The projects aim at:

- Rehabilitating a former **landfill at Wied Fulija**, setting up a of **multi-material Recovery Facility** and encouraging **Sustainable Waste Practices** in households and beyond (Sort It Out!);
- Setting up of a **rain water integrated infrastructure network, pilot project dealing with wastewater**, and integrating water resource management **towards a net zero impact water utility.**

PA 10 Status (2)

A **Water Major Project** proposed by the WSC:

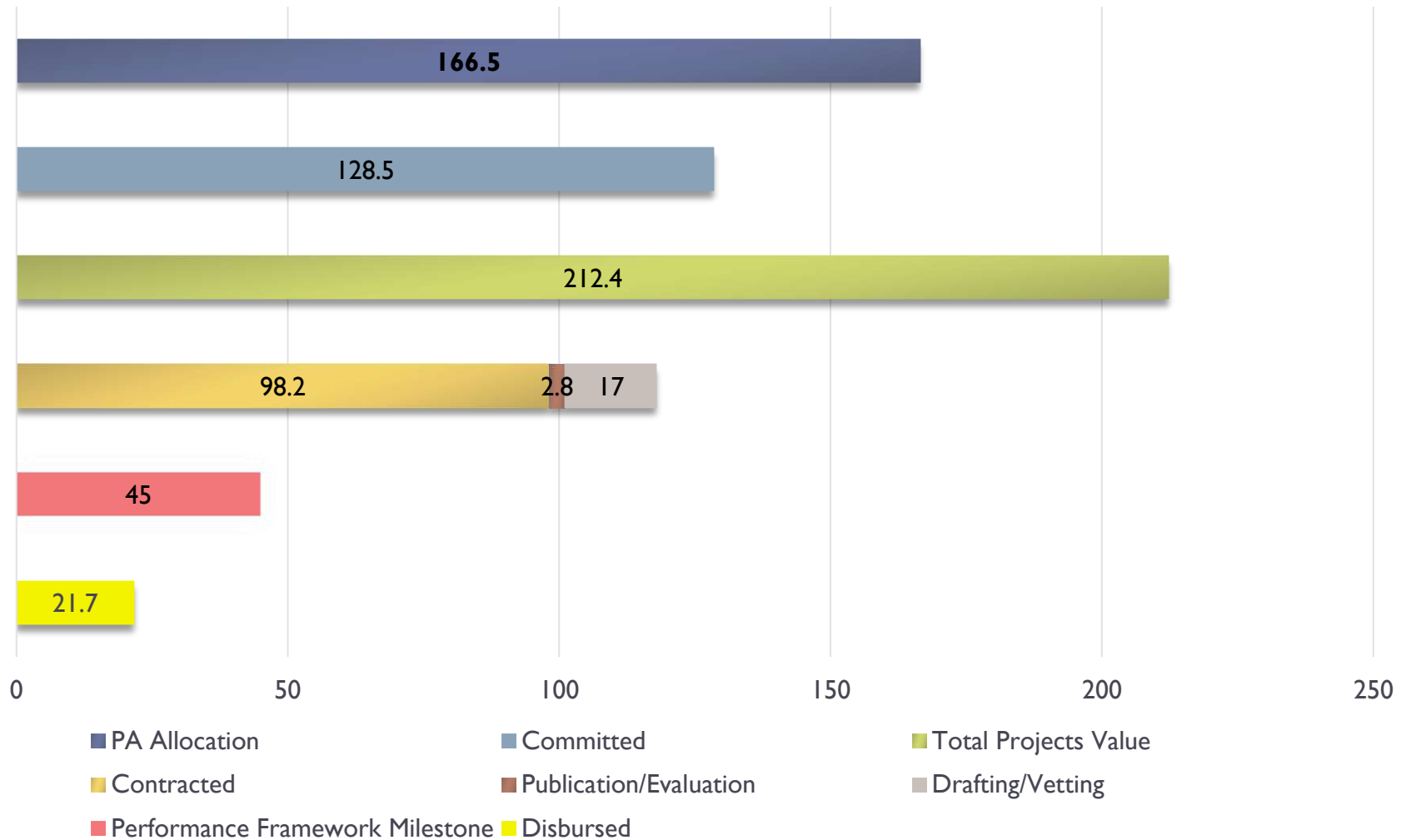
- seeks to reconcile the supply and demand in terms of quantity and quality, in a context where consumption of water has been growing over the years mainly as a result of the positive developments in economic activity, population growth and water-conservation practices
- consists of 3 components: drinking water, wastewater, and highly polished tertiary treated water (HPTTW).

PA 10 Status (3)

Status of Approval of the Water Major Project:

- Submitted for JASPERS IQR in November 2018
- Completeness check finalised and a first assessment of the project is expected by December
- Planned commencement of implementation: Q1 2019 but procurement is already progressing very well
- JASPERS has provided assistance in the compilation of the necessary studies and the Major Project Application Form. The collection of data to be included in the CBA was also reviewed.

Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 10



Output Indicators for PA 10 (IP6ii)



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value*	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievement
PA 10	Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply	Persons	32,000	434,403	-
	M ₃ of new/upgraded harvesting infrastructure	Cubic metres	200,000*	45,000	-
	Number of households targeted through campaigns	Households	100,000	180,000	-
	Public groundwater abstraction stations showing a reduction in the chloride content of abstracted groundwater	Number	25	25	-
	Upgraded water/sewage network	Kilometres	100	83.60	-
	Additional annual production capacity of desalinated water	Cubic metres	200,000*	9,125,000	-

*OP Target Value is being revised as part of the ongoing change to the Operational Programme

Output Indicators for PA 10 (IP6i)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value*	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievement
PA 10	Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity	Tonnes per year	9,000		-
	Land rehabilitation: Total surface area of rehabilitated land	Hectares	9.5*	9.10	-
	Tonnes of waste processed in waste to energy plant per annum	Tonnes	75,000*	-	-

*OP Target Value is being revised as part of the ongoing change to the Operational Programme

PA 11 - Investing in TEN-T Infrastructure

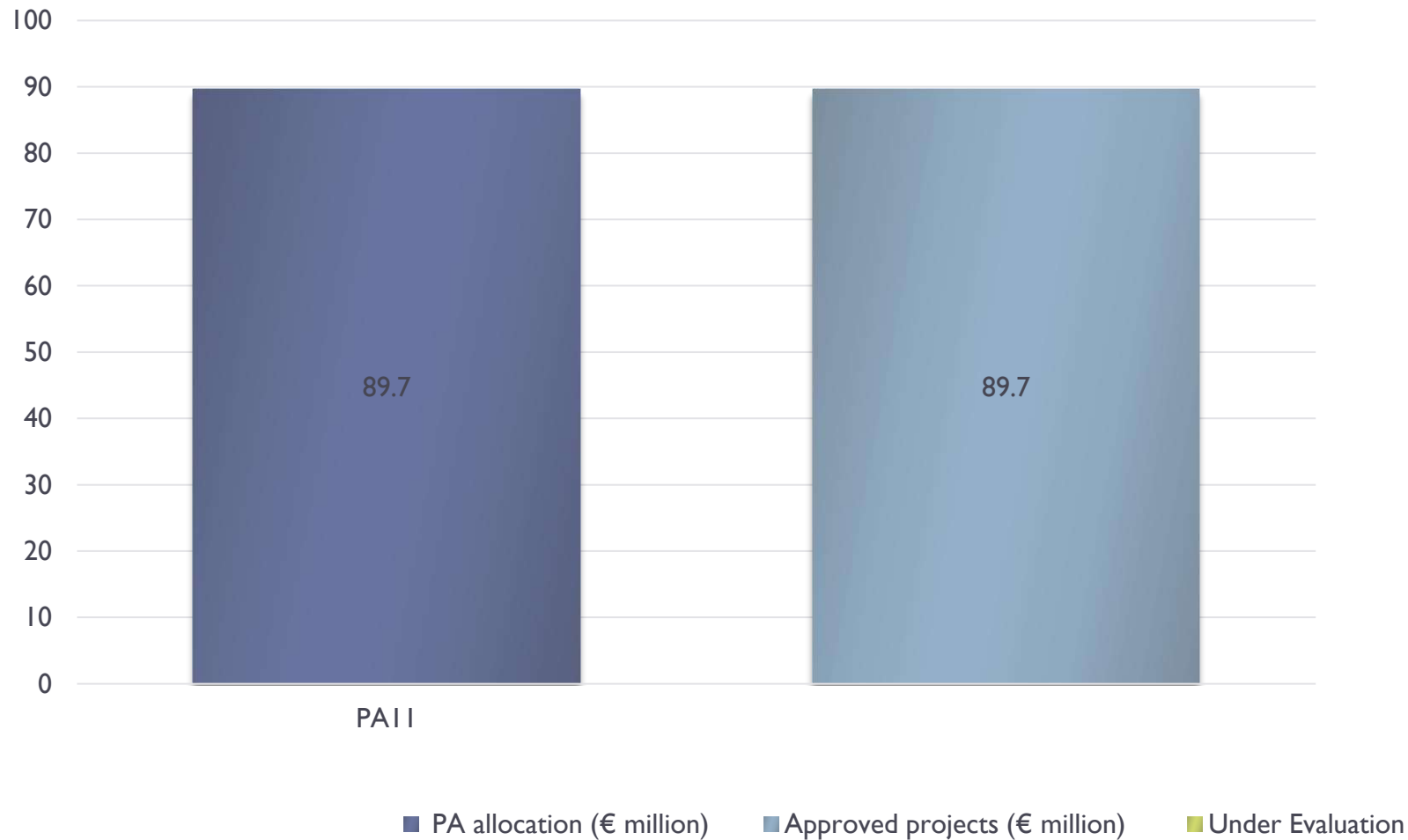


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Allocation Under PA 11

Projects Under PA II



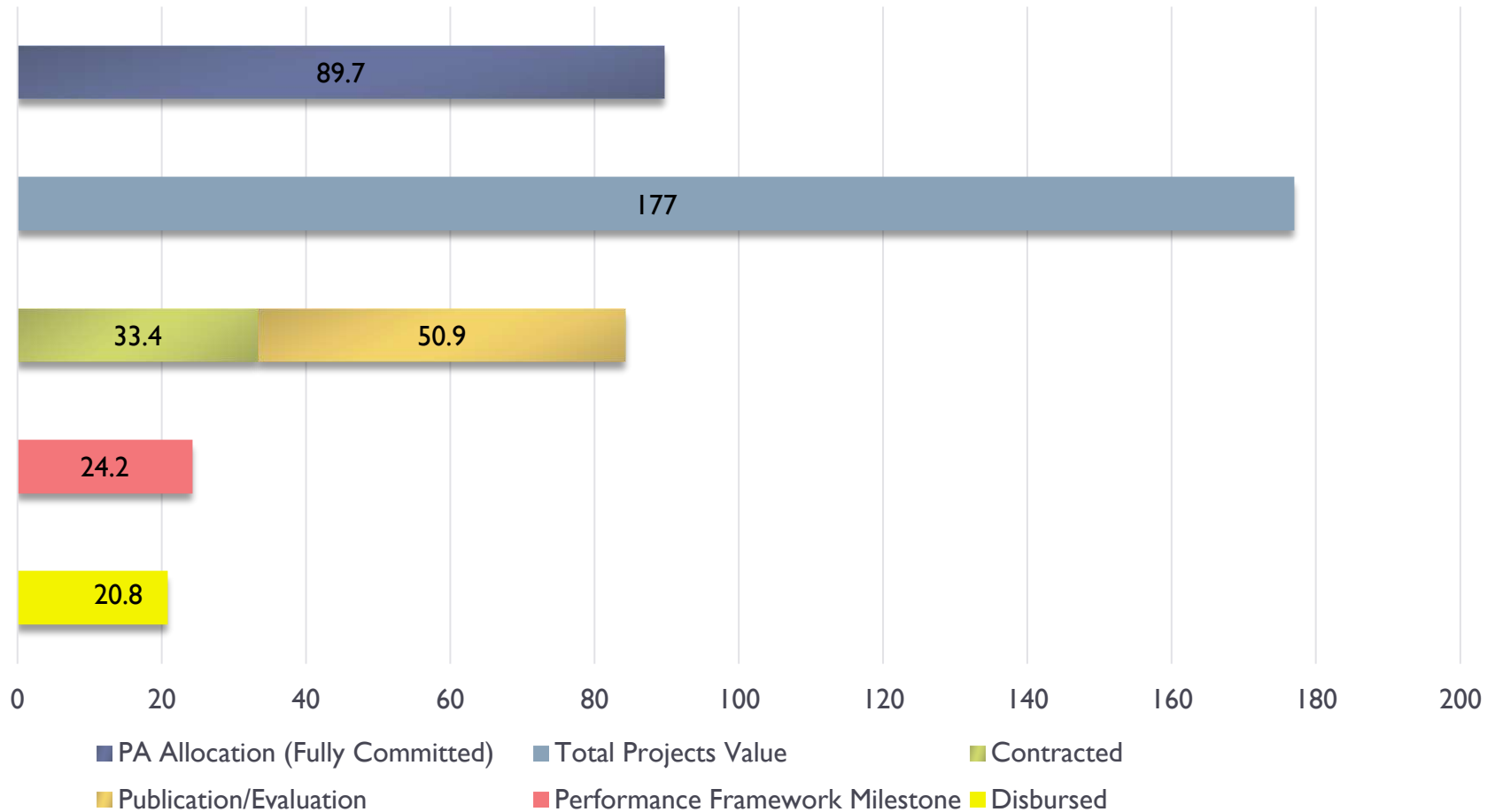
Ongoing Call under PA 11

To date, 3 projects, dealing with TEN-T road infrastructure and maritime infrastructure **were selected for a public eligible value of €177M.**

The **Kappara Junction** project was completed early in 2018, while in November 2018, the **TEN-T Roads network project** was selected to eliminate the bottleneck at Marsa and other identified roads and improve connectivity, accessibility, road safety, and sustainability.

Also, a maritime project to enhance the capacity of the **Core TEN-T Port of Valletta** was also approved under Call VI for project proposals.

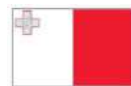
Procurement and Disbursement Progress – PA 11



Output Indicators for PA 11 (IP7i)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievement
PA 11	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads: of which TEN-T (common indicator)	km	2.5	7.98	1.5
	Square metres in new/upgraded in port infrastructure	Sq/m	5000	56,650	-
	Measures aimed to improve customs operations	Measures	1	-	-

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



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Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Non-discrimination including accessibility

Prior to submitting project proposals, Applicants are always encouraged to discuss their project ideas with the NCPE (National Commission for the Promotion of Equality) and CRPD (Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability). A number of horizontal measures are being implemented under different projects, such as:

- Accessibility of roads and pavements, access for pushchairs / support frames
- Appropriate signage and gender neutral publicity
- Baby changers installed in both the male and female toilets
- Methods of interpretation for people with special needs so as not to discriminate against the visually and sound impaired
- Training opportunities and/or job shadowing opportunities to disadvantaged persons, such as persons over 50 or any registered disabled person under national law

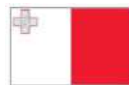
Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Non-discrimination including accessibility (cont'd)

- Following project approval, the Applicant is requested to confirm that it will follow any reasonable recommendation put forward by the horizontal bodies following an ex-ante assessment and agree to remedy any reasonable recommendation put forward by the same bodies following ex-post assessment.
- This will ensure that the project is faithful to the parameters which such bodies consider to be positive in furthering the benefits of different users.

Prior to submitting project proposals, Applicants are encouraged to make reference to the *Sustainable Development Strategy for Malta 2007-2016*. A number of horizontal measures are being implemented under different projects, such as:

- Provision of the necessary infrastructure to increase employment and secure a sustainable economic growth;
- Creation of new sustainable investment in Gozo;
- Introduction and use of renewable energy sources;
- Creation of an improved, diversified and strengthened tourism product that will result in economic growth but also in ecological conservation;
- Improvement of competitiveness by means of an improved transport infrastructure and accessibility resulting in a reduction of over-dependence on private car use;
- Achievement of increased efficiency in use of water and reduction of groundwater abstraction.

Programme Territorial Earmarking

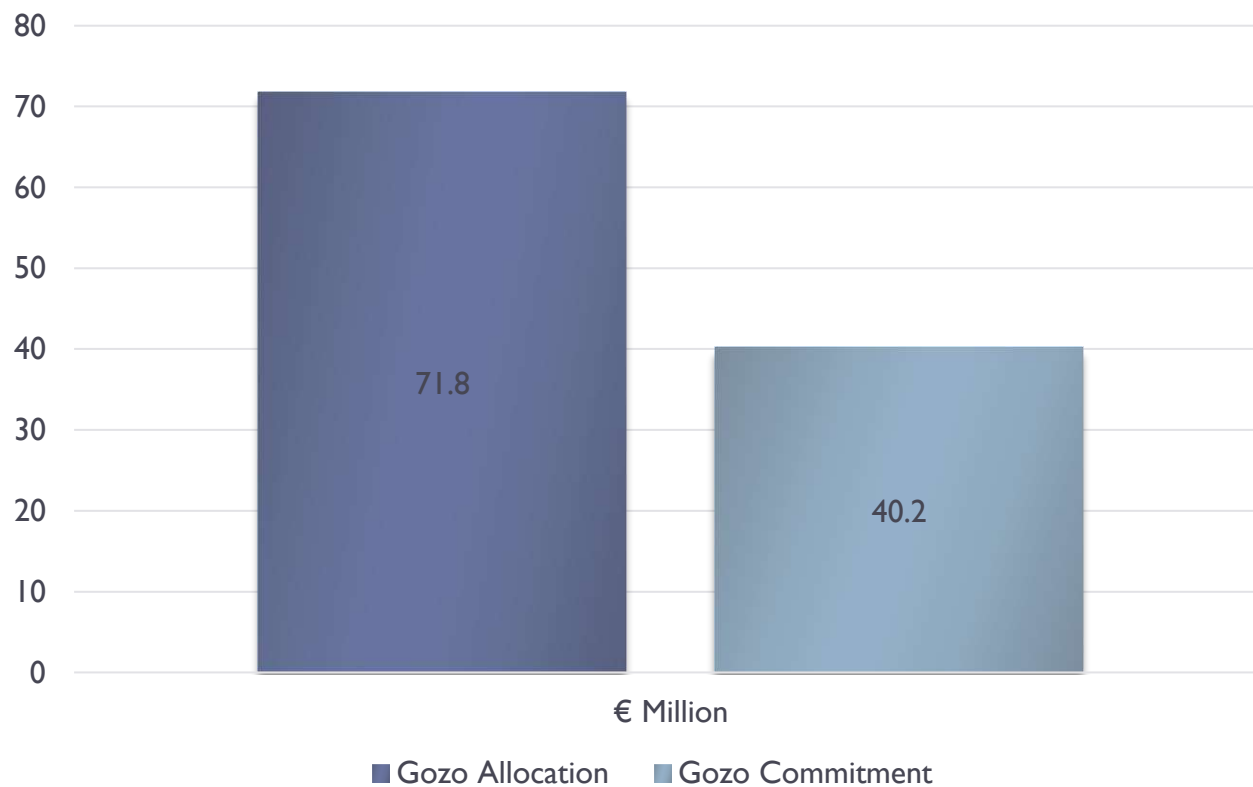


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Territorial Earmarking: 10% commitment for Gozo

- These amount to a commitment of circa 59% (€41.5M) towards the 10% (€70M) Gozo commitment target for ERDF and CF.
- 8 ERDF Gozo-based projects;
- 21 Grant Schemes Beneficiaries; and
- 13 ERDF projects with a Gozo component.



Financial Instruments



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- PA 3 (IP3d) - a request for an OP change to shift €8.5M previously allocated towards a FI under PA 3 to the SMEi OP was made in November 2018. This shift will consolidate the implementation of the guarantee instrument through the SMEi dedicated programme and immediately release an extra €7M to local SMEs in the forms of loan guarantees.
- PA 4 (IP4b) – a draft version of the ex-ante assessment required for the setting up of a Financial Instrument was submitted to the MA in Q2 2018 and discussions are ongoing with the EIB group on how to create the most advantageous instrument for local households and SMEs wanting to invest in EE measures. A Funding Agreement for this Financial Instrument is expected to be signed in the coming weeks.

Objectives:

As per the Operational Programme, the SME Initiative aims at improving competitiveness of SMEs in Malta by facilitating SMEs access to finance by:

- ▶ reduce pricing of SME financing; and
- ▶ reducing the collateral requirement for SME loans

Description of the Financial Instrument:

- ▶ Uncapped guarantee for a portfolio of new loans to SMEs supporting 75% of the risk of each loan originated by the selected financial intermediary/ies

Purpose of the loan:

- ▶ Investment by SMEs, in both intangible and tangible investments as well as related working capital where and as needed

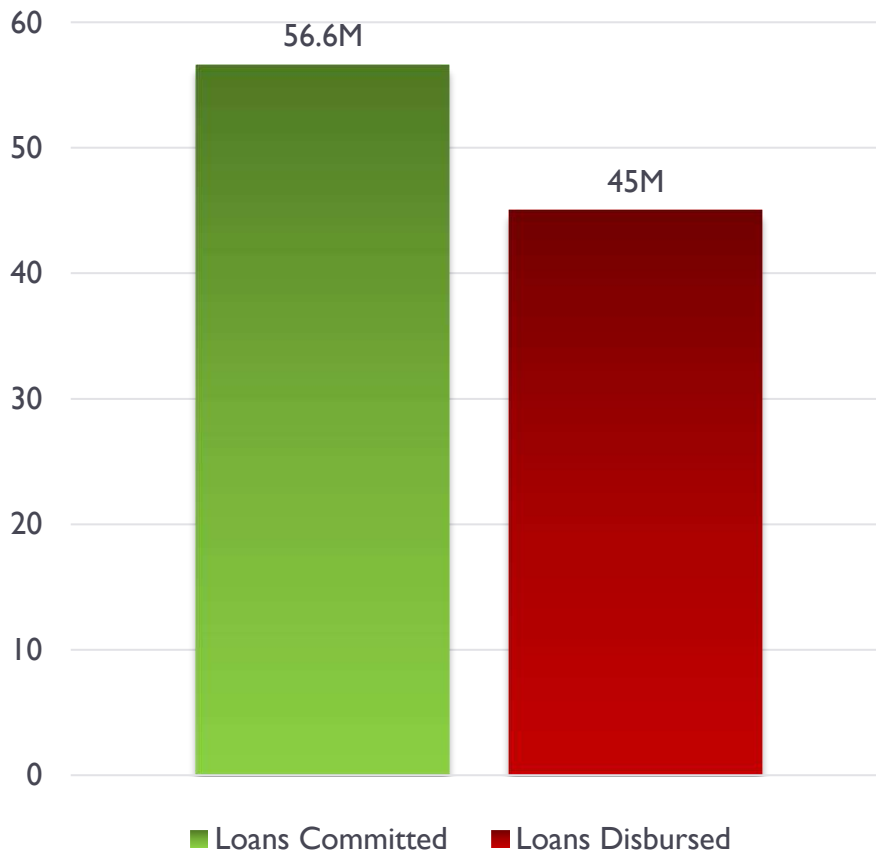
Status of Financial Instruments – SMEi (2)

- ▶ Malta had originally earmarked EUR 15m of ERDF resources for this initiative, increased to EUR 22m in July 2018
- ▶ To date, €21.3M have been made available to SMEs by means of 4 payment requests issued by the EIF
- ▶ Upon signature of the amended and restated ICA, the resources blending by EIB Group and EC will amount to **EUR 47.6m**

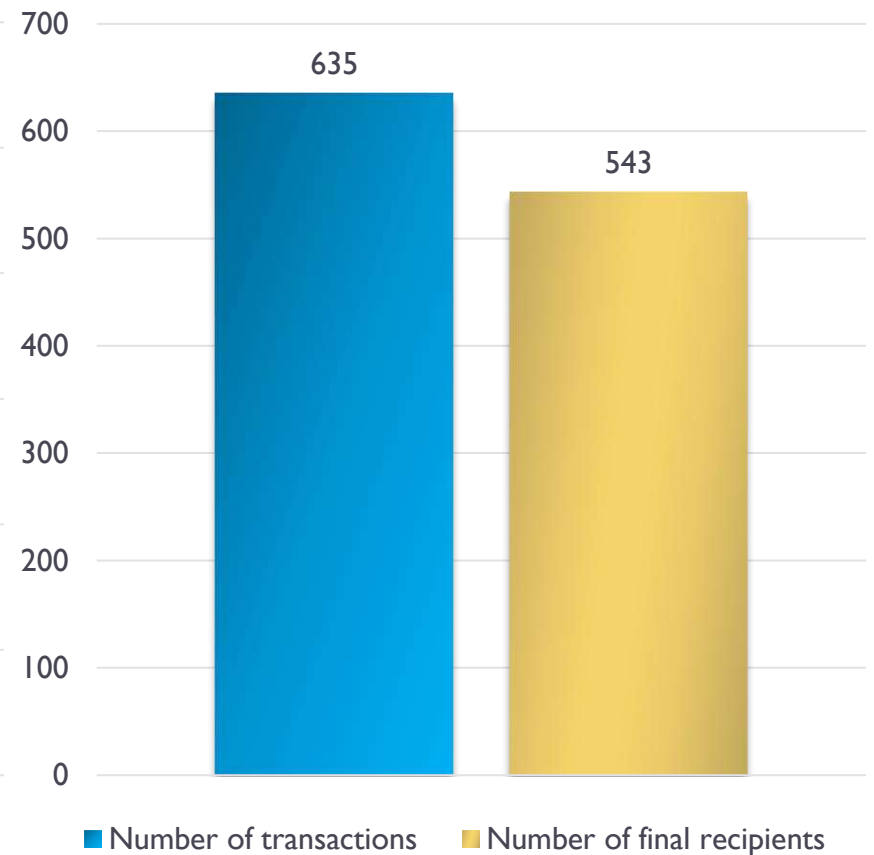
The instrument will achieve a leverage of 4x of ERDF resources committed to the instrument.

Latest informal figures as at September 2018

Loans committed and disbursed (millions)

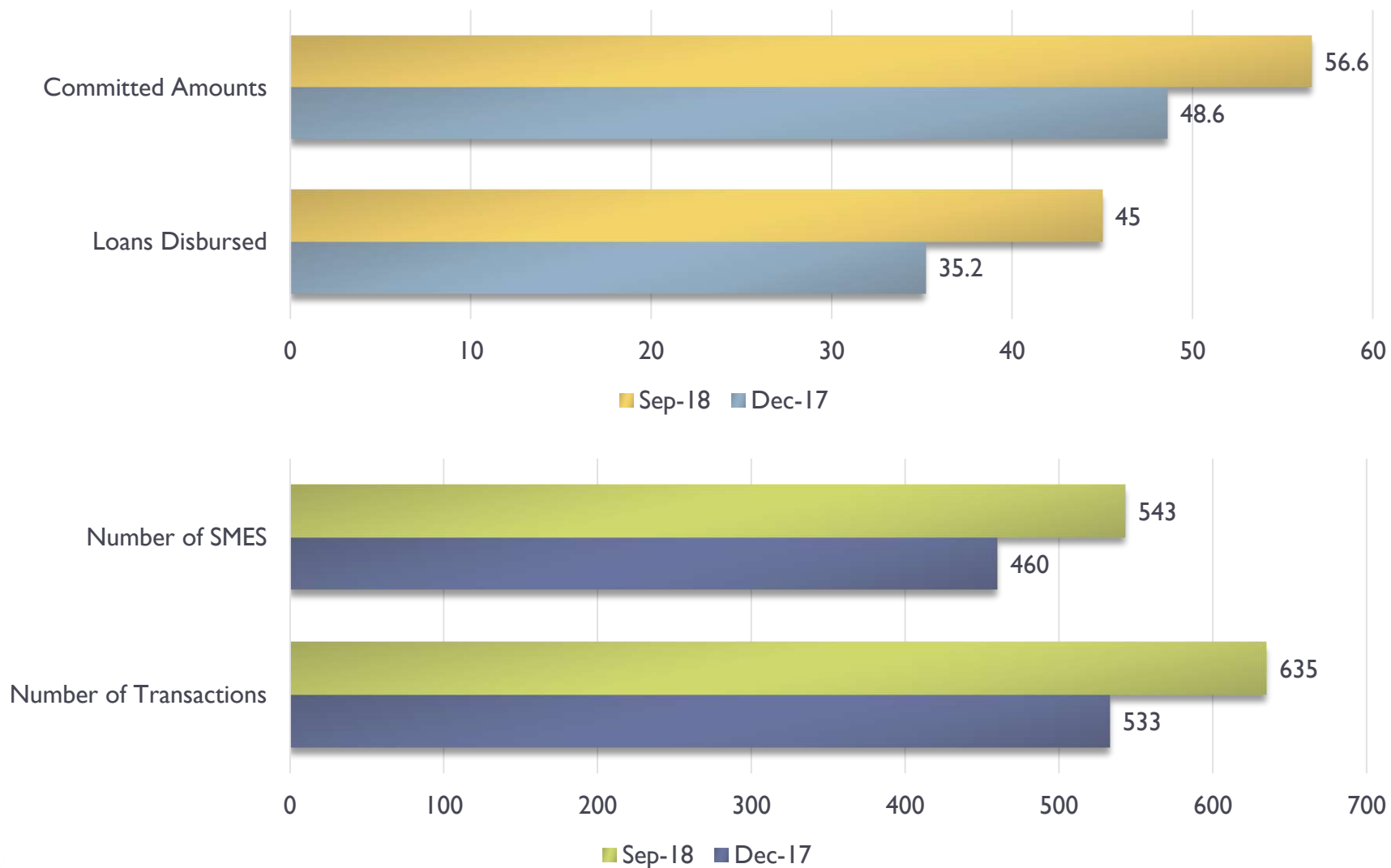


Number of transactions and final recipients

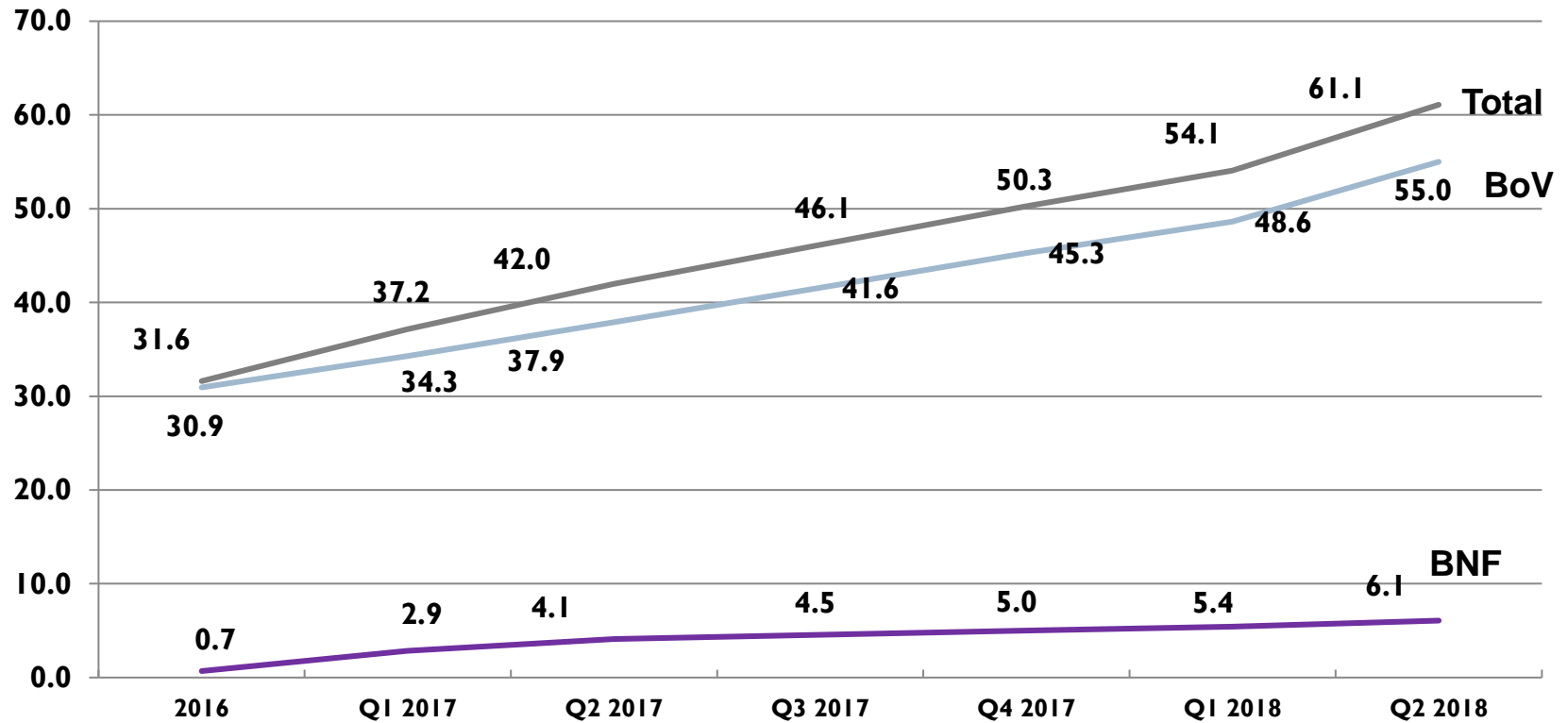


Progress since December 2017 (last update)

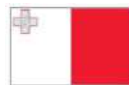
Progress Update



Estimates until Q2 2018



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



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JASPERS assignments

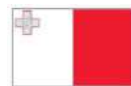
During 2018, JASPERS experts were involved in the following assignments:

- **Water** (Priority Axis 10): assistance in the drafting and submission of Applications related to the water sector under Call 7. (ACN issued in September 2018).
- Assistance included extensive work on the Major Project application for the Water Sector and included monthly meetings and continuous assistance until its submission to the Independent Quality Review section in November 2018. The ACN was issued in October 2018..
- **Waste** (Priority Axis 10): assistance in the review of the CBA related to Waste project applications submitted in September 2018. The assignment is ongoing and to date 3 guidance notes were issued.

JASPERS assignments (2)

- **Cultural and Natural Heritage** (Priority Axis 5): guidance on Cultural Projects CBAs related to MUZA and Grandmaster Palace. Assistance is ongoing.
- **Transport (Priority Axis 11)**: JASPERS concluded the ACN for Kappara and Marsa Projects in March 2018.
- **Horizontal Assistance**: Technical Advisory Support on R&D&I Sector - PA1 Projects – Completion Note is in final stages.
- **Horizontal Assistance** is also ongoing on ToRs related to a training course in collaboration between PPCD, EPD and JASPERS.
- **Looking forward**: Discussions are ongoing with regard to further JASPERS assistance in the immediate on the post- 2020.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication & Training Activities



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Evaluation

- The fourth meeting of the Evaluation Steering Group (ESG) for this programming period was held on 27th September.
- During this meeting, the MA launched the first Review Assessment of the European Structural Investment Fund.
- This assessment forms part of the list of evaluations planned to be undertaken as part of Malta's Evaluation Plan for OPI in line with Articles 54 - 57 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

ESIF Review Assessment

Purpose	To conduct a detailed analysis of the processes involved to implement the Operational Programmes related to ERDF, CF and ESF
Objectives	<p>Provide a review of the progress and current practices in place for the implementation of ESIF programmes;</p> <p>Identify additional actions to further strengthen the programme mechanisms in order to contribute to greater efficiency and simplification;</p> <p>Formulate recommendations for the remaining years of the current Programme/s, as well as identify basis for discussion for the next programming period</p>
Stakeholders involved	Those involved in the management and delivery of ESIF operations

Timeline

Stage	Timing
Inception Report	Mid-December 2018
Preliminary data collection and document review	End of December 2018
Interviews, questionnaires, workshops, meetings	Mid-January 2019
Preliminary Findings	End February 2019
Final Report	End March 2019

Training provided by the MA

- Training on the Structural Funds Database (ongoing basis);
- Training on 'Combating Fraud in EU Funding' (May 2018);
- Public Procurement training sessions (April, May, October & November 2018) for MA officers, beneficiaries & other Stakeholders involved in Cohesion Policy;
- Specific training sessions aimed at Intermediate Bodies (3 sessions held in October and November) focusing on public procurement, risk management, publicity requirements, first and second level of control as well as potential irregularities and fraud;
- A module dedicated to 'Regulatory Framework and Operational Programmes': a 40-hour module delivered to students reading for a BA (Hons) (Public Projects) at MCAST.

Communication activities

The Cittadella public vote campaign

Following the nomination of the Cittadella project in Gozo for the RegioStars Award, a publicity campaign was launched which including the following activities:

- A press conference and the launch of a promotional video in several languages;
- Distribution of promotional items, including postcards & bookmarks to the general public
- Launch of a landing page for votecittadella.com;
- Participation in several events including Science in the City; Notte Bianca and University's freshers' week;
- Sharing of adverts on social media by several stakeholders shared adverts and tv presenters on the local media.

Communication activities

Outcome of the public vote campaign:

The Cittadella project placed third in the public vote campaign with a total of **30,847** votes:

- Facebook with 8,699 votes
- Twitter with 160 votes
- Regiostars website with 21,988



Third place in the overall public vote

- **First place in the Facebook vote**
- **First place in the Twitter vote**

Communication activities

Examples of Cittadella public vote campaign promotional items





Did you Know Campaign

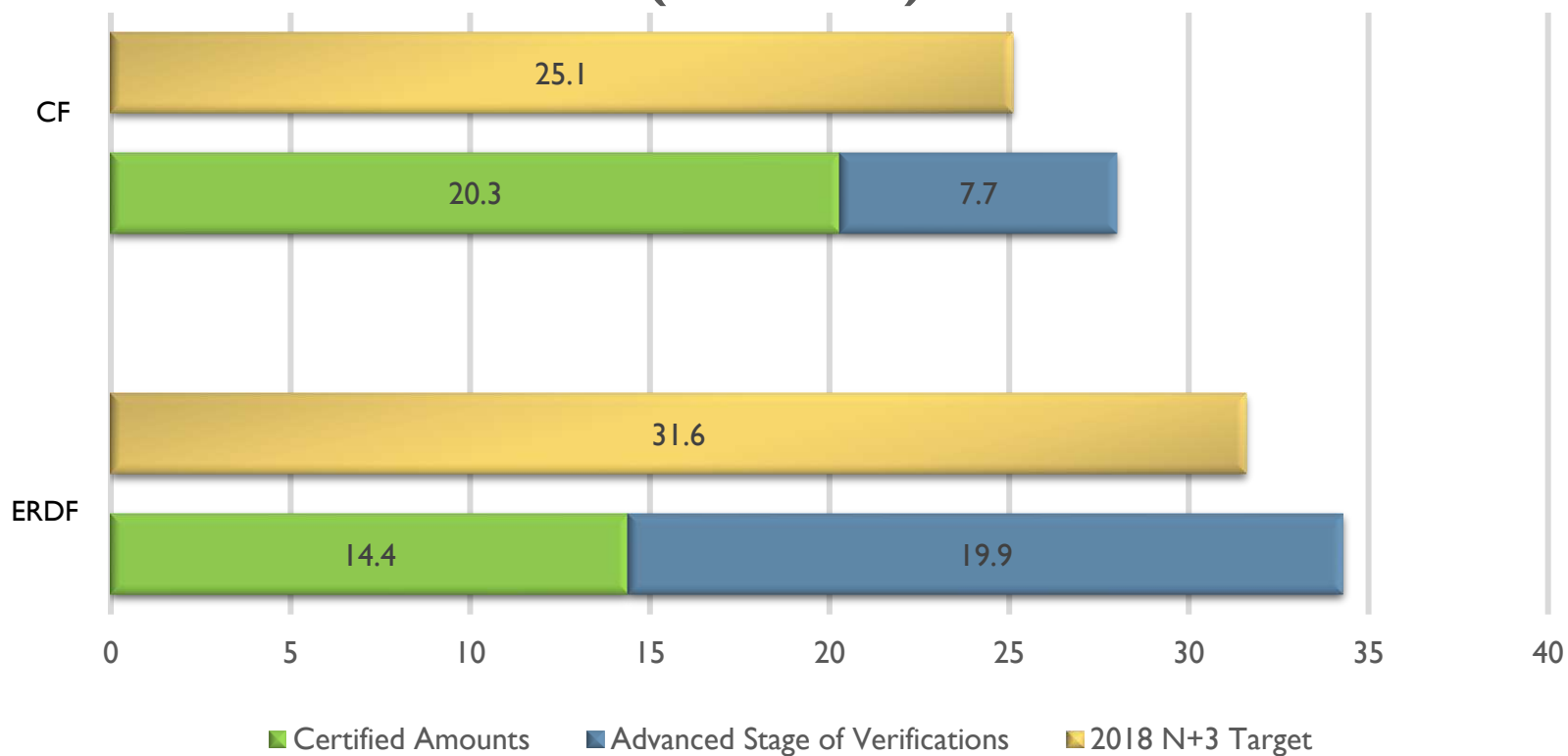
Annual Event:

- An open day event at Malta's Interactive Science Centre (Esplora) will be held on the **13th December 2018** for school children in Years 4, 5 & 6;
- A total of **400 students** from across all primary schools in Malta and Gozo are expected to participate;
- The event will involve a science quest which children will undertake using tablets financed through ESF;
- Promotional items will be distributed to the participants.
- Esplora will also host the Cohesion 30 Emblematic project between the 1st & 20th December 2018



Update on Implementation: N+3 Disbursement in 2017

N+3 Disbursement 2017 (€millions)



Concluding Remarks

- Significant progress has been achieved in committing the Programme through the launch of several calls throughout the year and the finalisation of the selection process resulting in 28 newly approved projects in 2018.
- The procurement processes have gradually picked up and works on the ground have also geared up in a number of projects approved earlier in the Programme
- Efforts, together with constant monitoring, are required by all stakeholders to ensure the achievement of the difficult and onerous Performance Framework Milestones of 2018, both from a financial and an indicators' perspective.

Contact Details

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