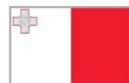


Update on Implementation of OPI

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

Monitoring Committee
12th November 2019



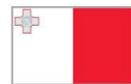
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Presentation overview

- Overview of Operational Programme I
- Programme Commitment Table
- Progress in the Implementation on the ground: Update by PA
- Programme Territorial Earmarking
- Financial Instruments
- JASPERS Involvement
- Update on the Use of Simplified Costs Option
- Communication & Training activities
- Audits undertaken by the Audit Authority
- 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.

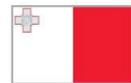
Implementation Timeframe:

- 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)

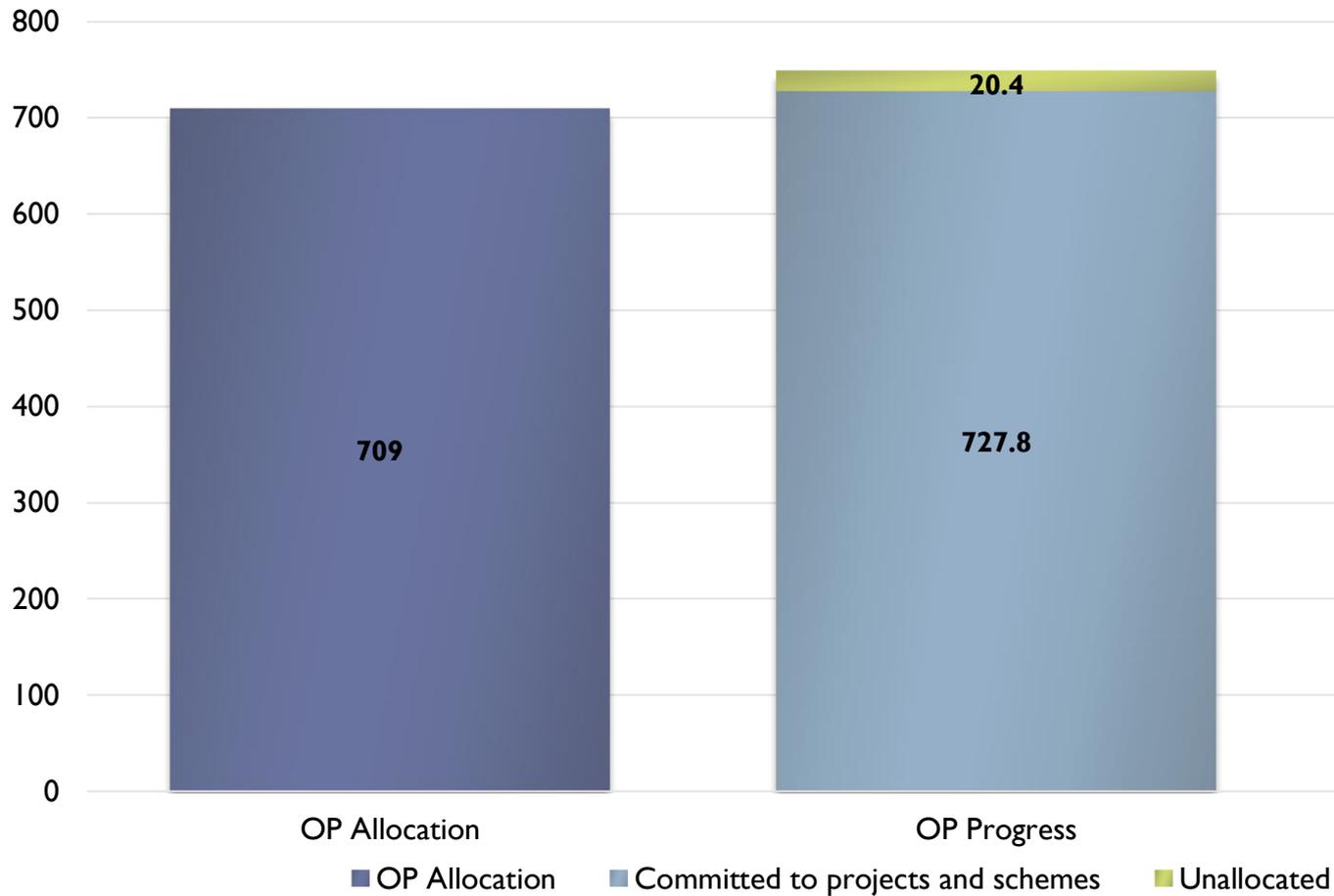
Programme Commitment Table



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Programme Commitment Progress



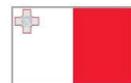
Progress in the Implementation on the Ground: Update by PA



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PA 1 - Investing in Research, Technological Development and Innovation

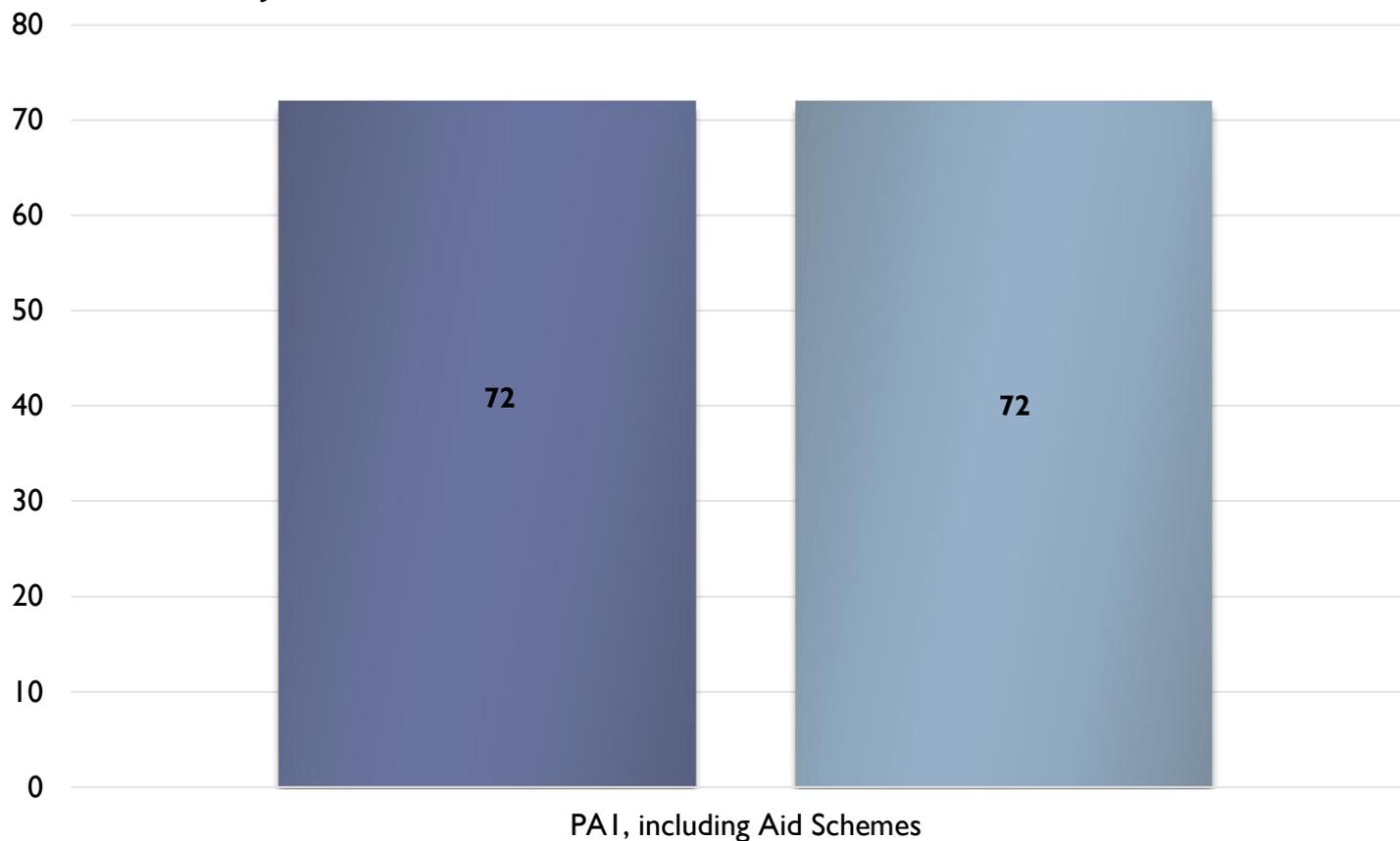


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Allocation under PA 1

Projects Under PA I incl. Aid Schemes



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

Implementation Progress – PA1

Two mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €52M** are currently being implemented by the University of Malta (UoM).

The projects are contributing towards the *National Research and Innovation Strategy 2020* by:

- Increasing capacity for climate change adaptation through the development of a "live laboratory" to monitor a range of resource-efficient technologies in a real-life context (**Sustainable Living Complex**);
- Achieving a stronger knowledge base by investing in a dedicated space for researchers which:
 - Is equipped for advanced transdisciplinary research in select specialised areas;
 - Attracts high calibre researchers, postdocs and support staff to work and train;
 - Supports technology transfer and collaboration with industry that can be translated into commercialisation and valorisation of ongoing research, as well as collaborative R&I projects with industry (**TRAKE**).

Implementation Progress – PA1

Further to what was reported in the last Monitoring Committee:

Structural works on the Metallurgy and Materials Engineering Laboratories (**TRAKE**) have been completed and M&E works are expected to commence once contract is awarded.



MMEL top view



TRAKE main building excavation

Excavation works on **TRAKE** main building have now been completed and work on the substructure building is underway.

Implementation Progress – PA1

A total of 60 supply contracts for the procurement of equipment as part of the **TRAKE** project have been awarded, out of which the equipment procured under 51 contracts has been delivered and commissioned.



XRD - X-ray diffractometer used for imaging and identification of various types of materials

The MRI equipment procured through **TRAKE** has been installed at Mater Dei Hospital in September 2019, following an Agreement between UoM and Mater Dei Hospital on its use and collaboration for research between the two parties.



MRI equipment installed at Mater Dei Hospital

Implementation Progress – PA1

Further to what was reported in the last Monitoring Committee:

The contracts for excavation works and construction works on the **Sustainable Living Complex** are being implemented in parallel;

Eleven supply contracts for the procurement of equipment at the **Sustainable Living Complex** have been awarded, out of which the equipment procured under nine contracts has been delivered and commissioned.



Ongoing excavation and construction works



PIV of Geotechnical Characterization Equipment

Aid Scheme Progress – PA 1

Under the Business Enhance RD&I Grant scheme, 4 measures were launched 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. In 2019, there were five cut-off dates, with the latest being in October 2019.

Aid Scheme Progress – PA 1

To address the particular local context and promote RD&I in Malta and the take-up of this Scheme, the IB has undertaken extensive publicity to promote the measures in place, through:

- Collaborations with the Malta Chamber of Commerce
- Information Sessions with over 160 participants
- Annual participation in the SME week in 2018 and 2019
- Adverts on this specific Grant Scheme published on several publications such as the Malta CEOs 2019 and 2020, the Malta Business Observer, Business Agenda, together with online articles on maltachamber.org.mt
- Liaising with MCST and ME to identify enterprises that have the potential to conduct R&D activities.

Aid Scheme Progress – PA 1

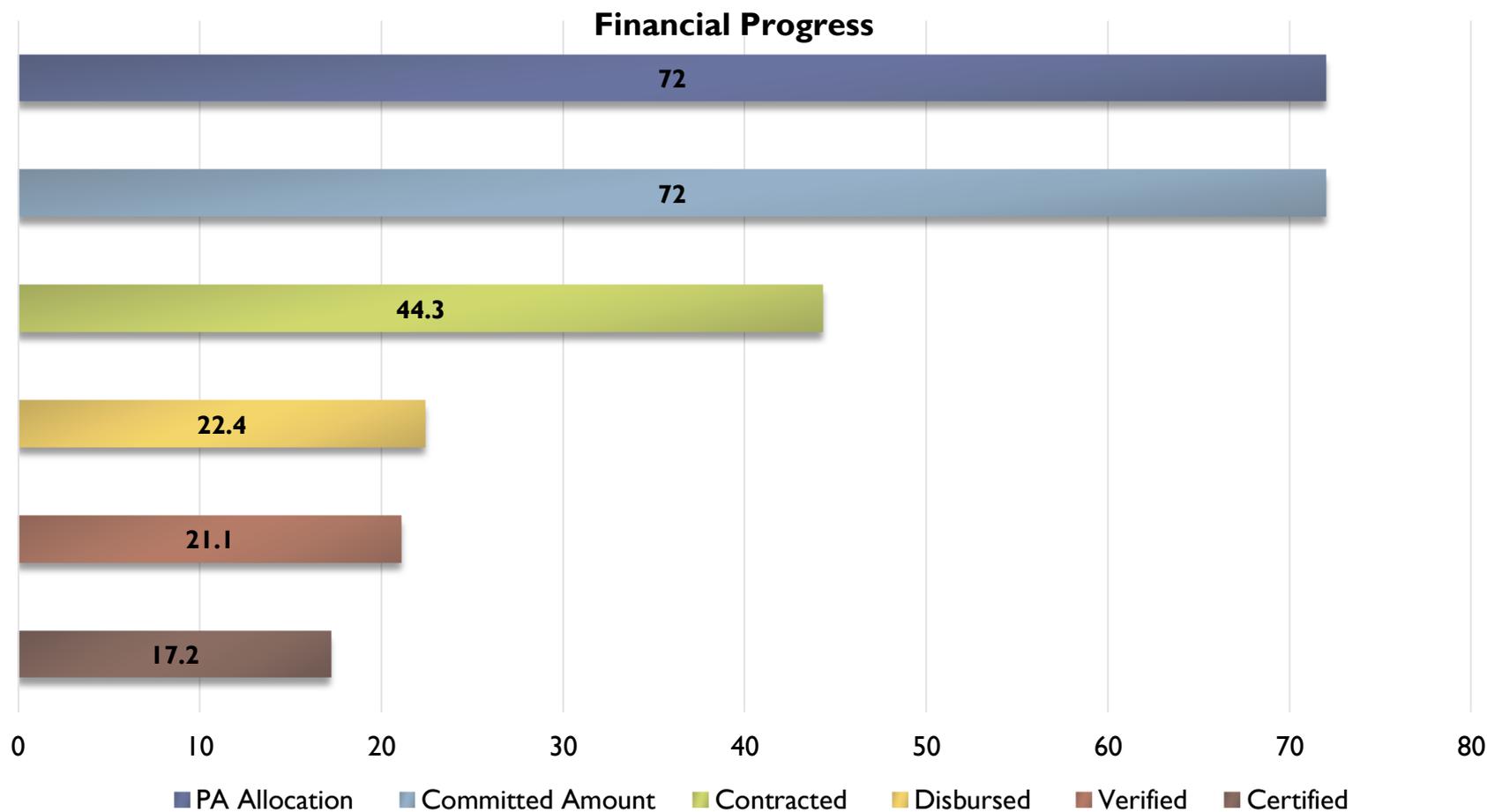
Under this Scheme:

- In 2018, 7 applications were submitted, and none were approved.
- In 2019, 1 application was submitted under Measure 2, and was approved with a total public eligible of €433,427.

Way forward:

- Additional and more tailor-made frequent Information Sessions specifically on this Grant Scheme;
- Continue collaboration with MCST and ME to identify potential Applicants with more one-to-one meetings with the latter.

Implementation 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	-
	Number of research facilities being implemented (constructed) or completed	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

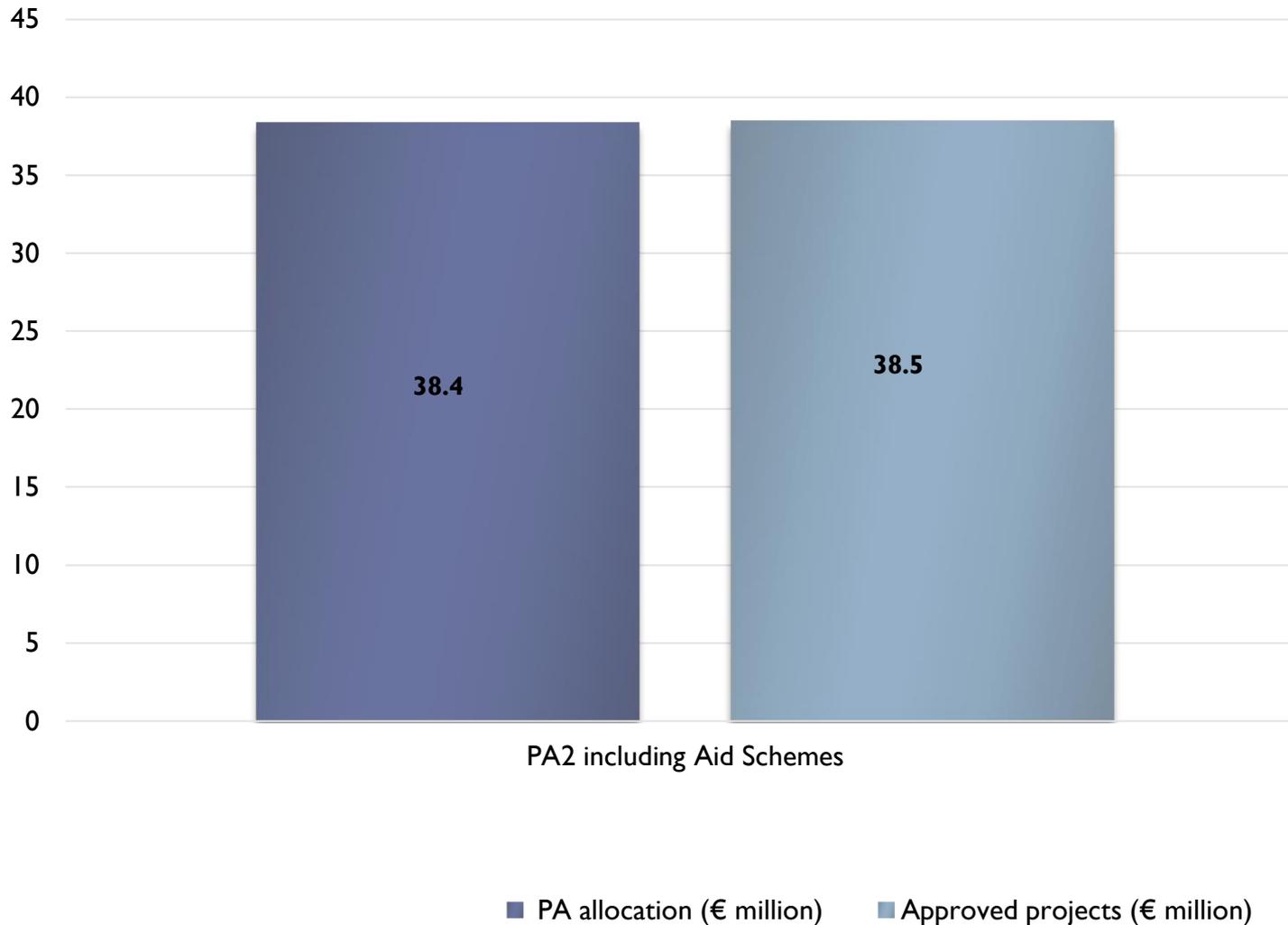


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Allocation under PA 2

Projects Under PA 2 incl. Aid Schemes

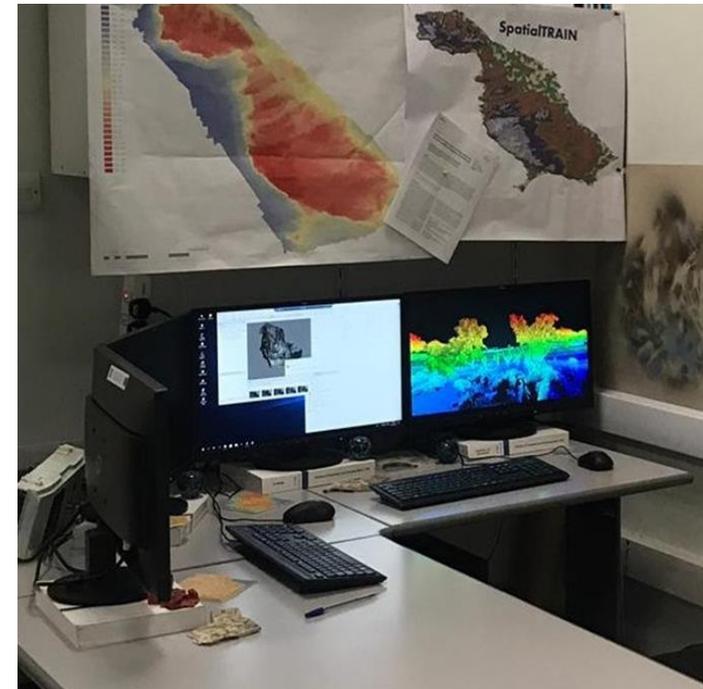


Implementation Progress – PA 2

Two mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €33.5M** are currently being implemented.

The project **Sintegram** offers a new strategic approach into how spatial data is collected, managed, analysed and made available.

- A new base map has been created using the latest aerial, terrestrial and marine technologies to make accurate in-depth analysis for planning, scenario building, predictive modelling and accident control;
- The project enables free exchange of data and cost-sharing across governmental entities through a secure structure.



Spatial train mapping software

Implementation Progress – PA 2

To ensure that within government entities there is human capacity and expertise to plug in and maximise the holistic advantages of this new infrastructure, a scheme offering scholarships in the field of geospatial technology (Geomatics) is being implemented through **ESF investment**.



SIntegraM mapping equipment

Implementation Progress – PA 2

The project **Converge** focuses on the creation of eService applications in the areas of Government to Business (G2B), Government to Customers (G2C) and Government to Government (G2G).

Five new e-services have now been achieved:

- The Institute for Education Online Portal
- E-court services
- Enhanced Automated reporting platform
- E-disaster management system
- Digital Tourism Platform

A mobile app was launched by the Malta Tourism Authority (Visit Malta) under the Digital Tourism Platform (DTP) providing customised relevant information about local attractions for tourists.

Implementation Progress – PA 2



Visit Malta +

Aid Scheme Progress – PA 2

The **E-Commerce Grant Scheme** is aimed to assist undertakings:

- to develop or upgrade an e-commerce website
- to develop or upgrade a mobile application

both of which enable online payments or booking systems for the said undertakings.

The scheme is being implemented through open rolling calls with different cut off dates. Latest cut-off dates for this Scheme was October 2019.

To date:

- 134 applications were submitted out of which 4 are still pending evaluation and;
- **52 grants** were approved with a total value of €240k.

Aid Scheme Progress – PA 2

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- to develop or upgrade an e-commerce website
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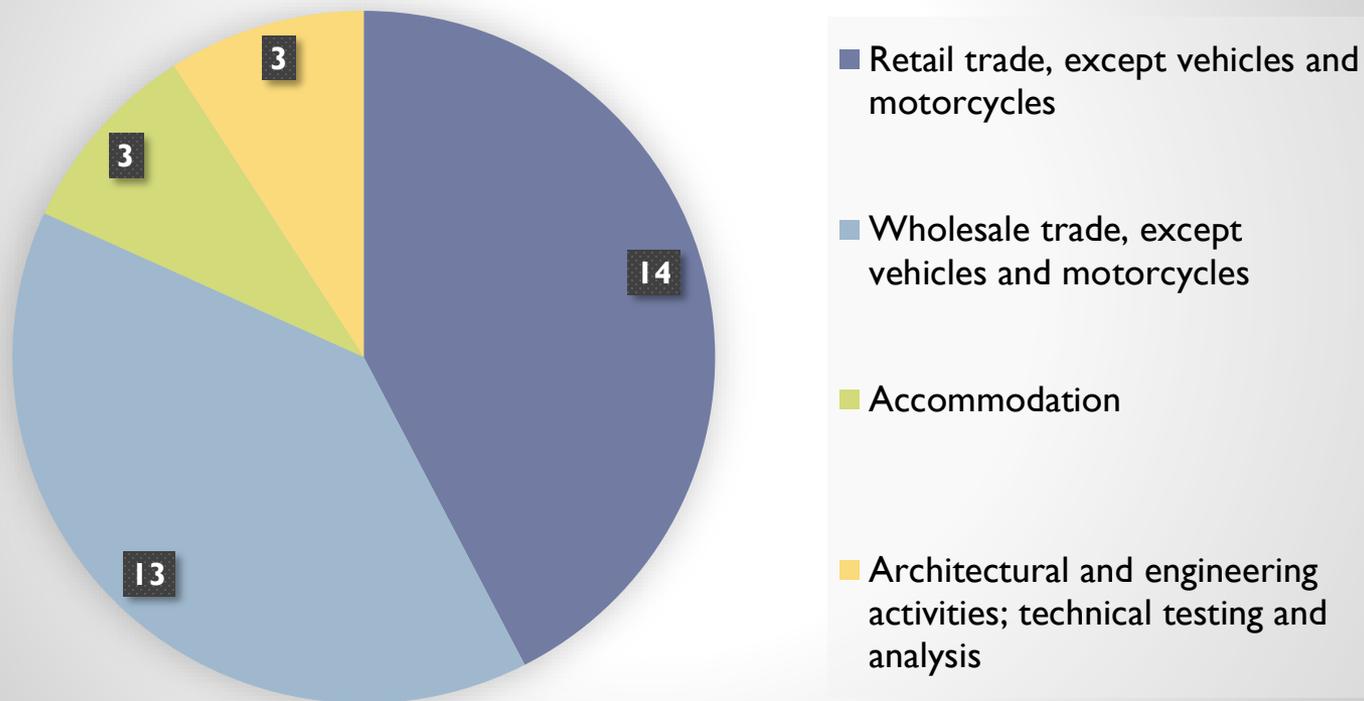
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Aid Scheme Progress – PA 2

Most Frequent Sectors Receiving Grants



Aid Scheme Testimonial – PA 2



CO-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

LOGIN

REGISTER



BETA



**BETA Centre Ltd website
E-Commerce Grant Scheme**

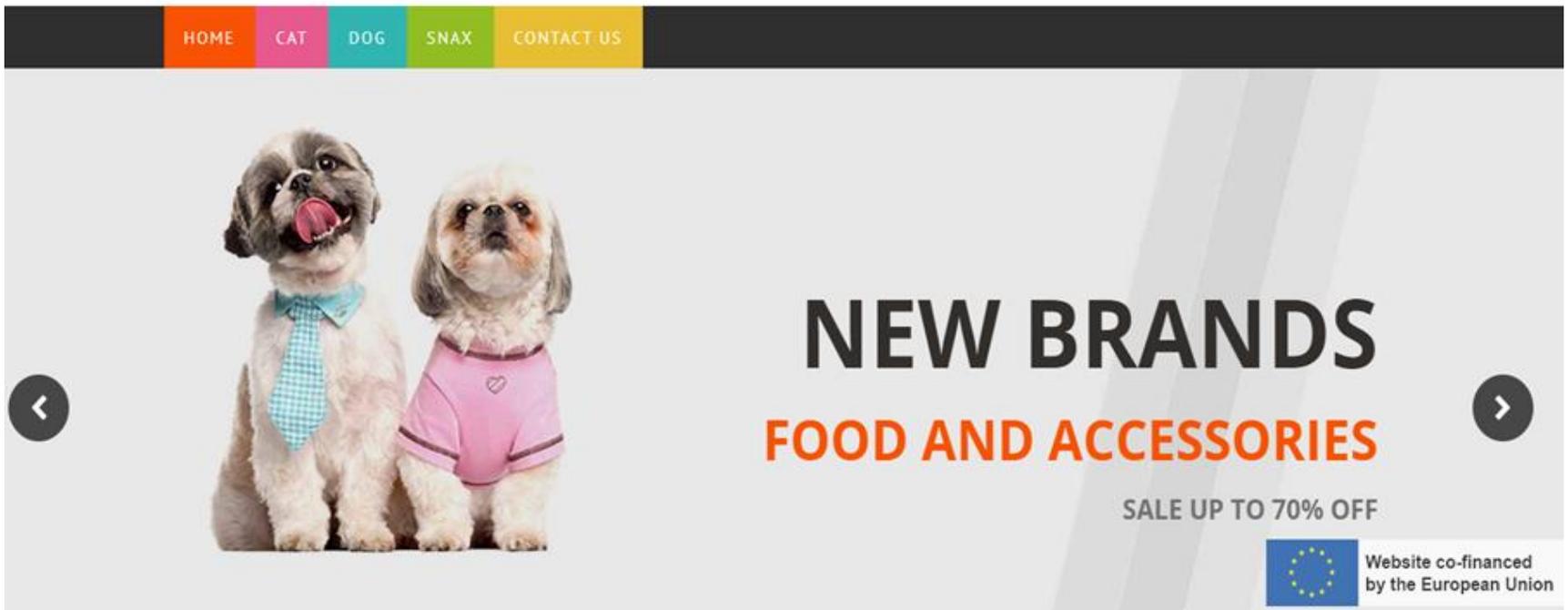
Aid Scheme Testimonial – PA 2

EU funds | 2014
for Malta | 2020



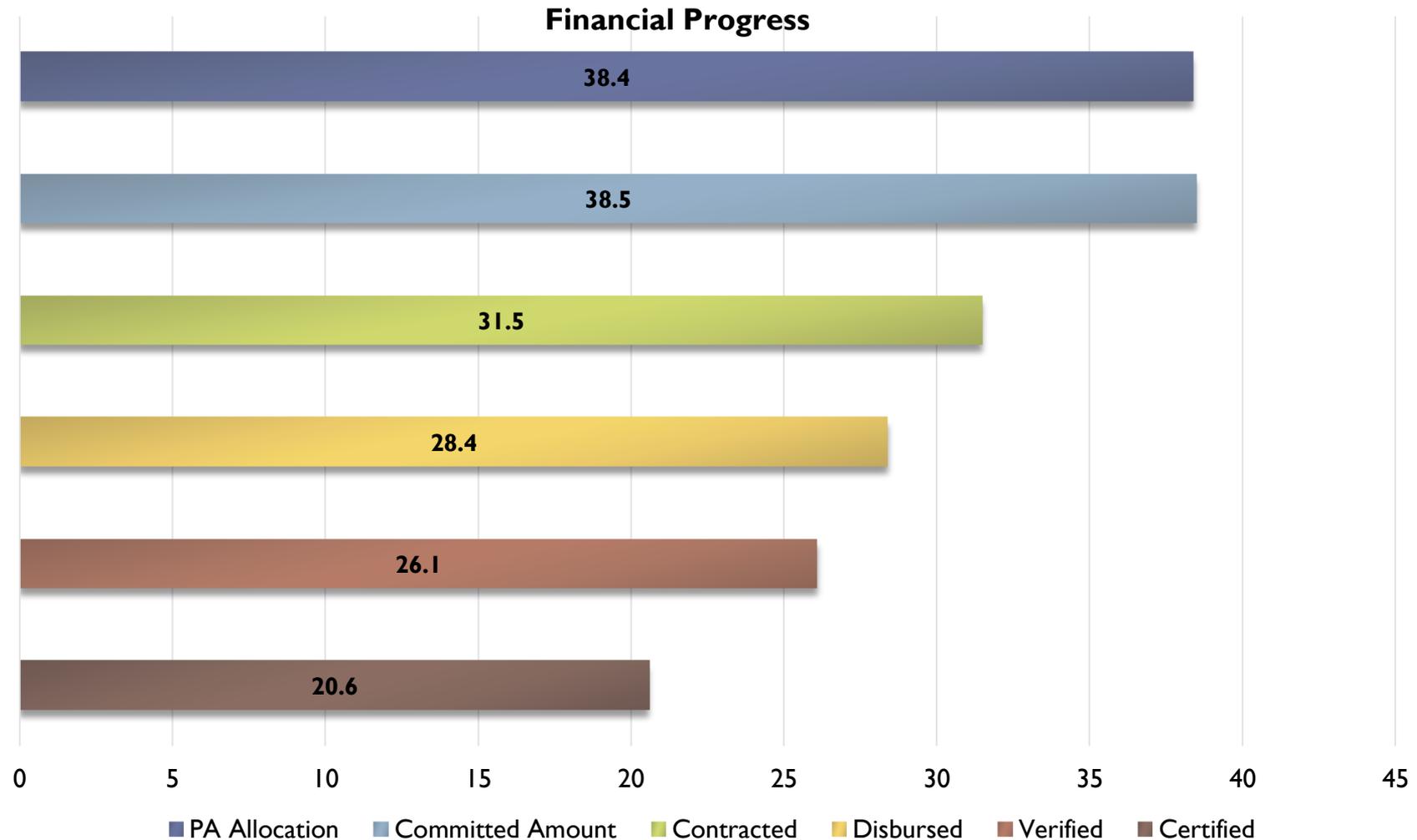
Email Address:

info@happypets.com.mt



CHMA Ltd website
E-Commerce Grant Scheme

Implementation 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	200	200	25
	Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	200	200	25

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	5

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

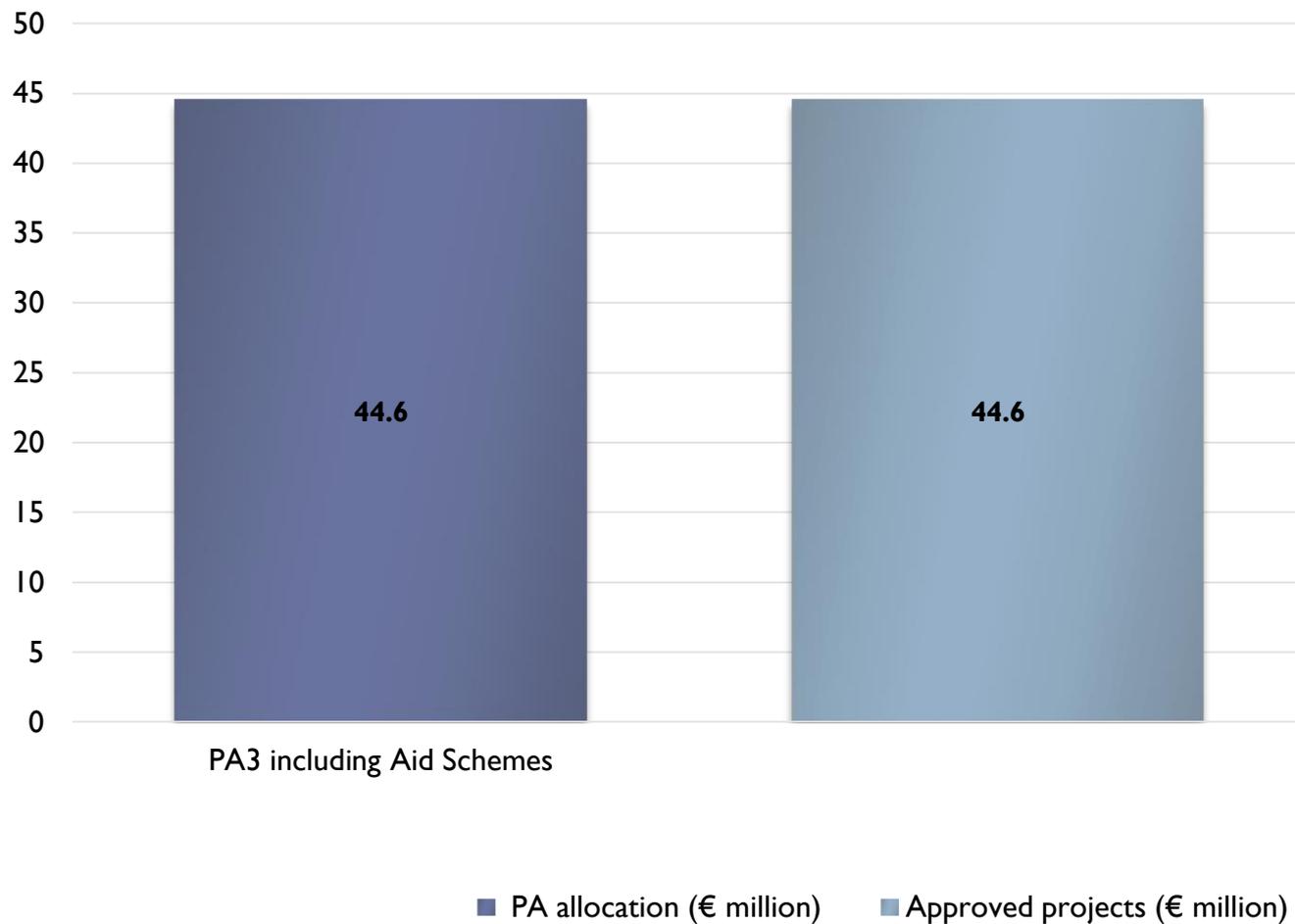


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Allocation under PA 3

Projects Under PA 3 incl. Aid Schemes



Implementation Progress – PA 3

A project with a value of **€10M** focuses on two main components within the **Xewkija Industrial Estate in Gozo**:



Gozo Innovation Hub – officially opened on 7th November

The **Gozo Innovation Hub** has been inaugurated on the 7th November 2019. The building, formerly a dairy products factory, has been transformed into a centre, already hosting companies working in the field of artificial intelligence, data analytics, productivity and efficiency such as the Noovle Group and J2Group2, which is a Gozitan company which teamed up with Microsoft.



The **Hofra Industrial Workshop Complex** is now structurally completed and 11 enterprises shall be signing lease agreements by mid-November. These private investors, who are expected to generate a further private investment of €700k, will thus be given the space and opportunity to invest and grow further.

Implementation Progress – PA 3 (2)

Following the renovation and upgrading works in the common areas at **Ta' Qali Crafts Village**, with a public eligible value of **€7.8M**, which were completed in March 2019, the tenants have proceeded to develop their workshops through private investment.

Out of a total potential 50 tenants,

- 2 tenants have completed their workshops and are now open to the public
- 6 tenants are at an advanced stage of implementation
- 11 tenants are at initial stages and
- 15 tenants will start work within a few weeks.

Circa €4M is expected to be invested by the private sector.



Private investments by tenants at Ta' Qali Crafts Village



Implementation Progress – PA 3 (2)

The EU funding has also stimulated further development at the **Ta' Qali Crafts Village**, including the development of Incubation spaces, an Interpretation Centre, a Start-up Centre and a Centre for Dying Crafts.

Such investment will thus help the revival of the Maltese artisanal product and protection of artisanal trades, creating a new route of competitiveness for the Maltese artisanal product, with potential sales channels to resident and tourist visitors, as well as direct exports.



EU investment on public infrastructure at Ta' Qali Crafts Village

Implementation Progress – PA 3 (4)

Since the official launch of the **Internationalisation Knowledge Platform** in November 2018, with a public eligible value of €0.8M, over 500 users were registered on the Platform.

In 2019 Trade Malta has developed several e-learning courses for the platform and organised several information seminars as well as an event for early stage exporters.

It has also produced 20 company videos to promote local capabilities and developed an Exporters' Directory which helps to promote close to 400 local companies through the portal.



E-learning courses organised by Trade Malta

Aid Schemes Progress – PA 3

A total of 5 Aid Schemes are being implemented under PA 3:

- SME Consultancy Services
- SME Internationalisation
- SME Diversification and Innovation
- SME Growth
- Start Up Investment

The schemes are being implemented through open rolling calls with different cut off dates. Latest cut-off dates for these Schemes was September/October 2019.

To date:

- 496 applications were submitted out of which 21 are still pending evaluation and;
- **228 grants** were approved with a total value of €14.7M.

Aid Schemes Progress – PA 3

Aid Schemes	Applications Received	Applications under evaluation	Grants Contracted	Grants Contracted (€)
SME Growth	109	2	35	€7,076,719.78
Start-up Investment	72	2	21	€3,262,920.64
SME Diversification and Innovation	76	2	38	€3,866,851.04
SME Internationalisation	17	1	2	€5,585.00
SME Consultancy	222	14	132	€505,798.03
Total	496	21	228	€14,717,874.49

Aid Schemes Testimonial – PA 3

“Poultons Ltd. has introduced innovative processes to its operations and, as a result of this, increased its market share. This innovative printing process generates zero printing waste, whilst maintaining the best printing quality”.

Poultons Ltd.
SME Growth Grant Scheme



“Support under the SME Growth Grant Scheme has facilitated the manufacturing of a new product line and the tapping of new foreign markets. Through this initiative, waste products generated during the bottling process are being recycled and material reused.”

Nibe Beverages Ltd.
SME Growth Grant Scheme

Aid Schemes Testimonial – PA 3



“Our enterprise has invested in innovative technology to innovate processes and provide new products to the market. [This enabled] our skilled employees to focus better on deliverables as the automation process undertakes the heavy tasks”.

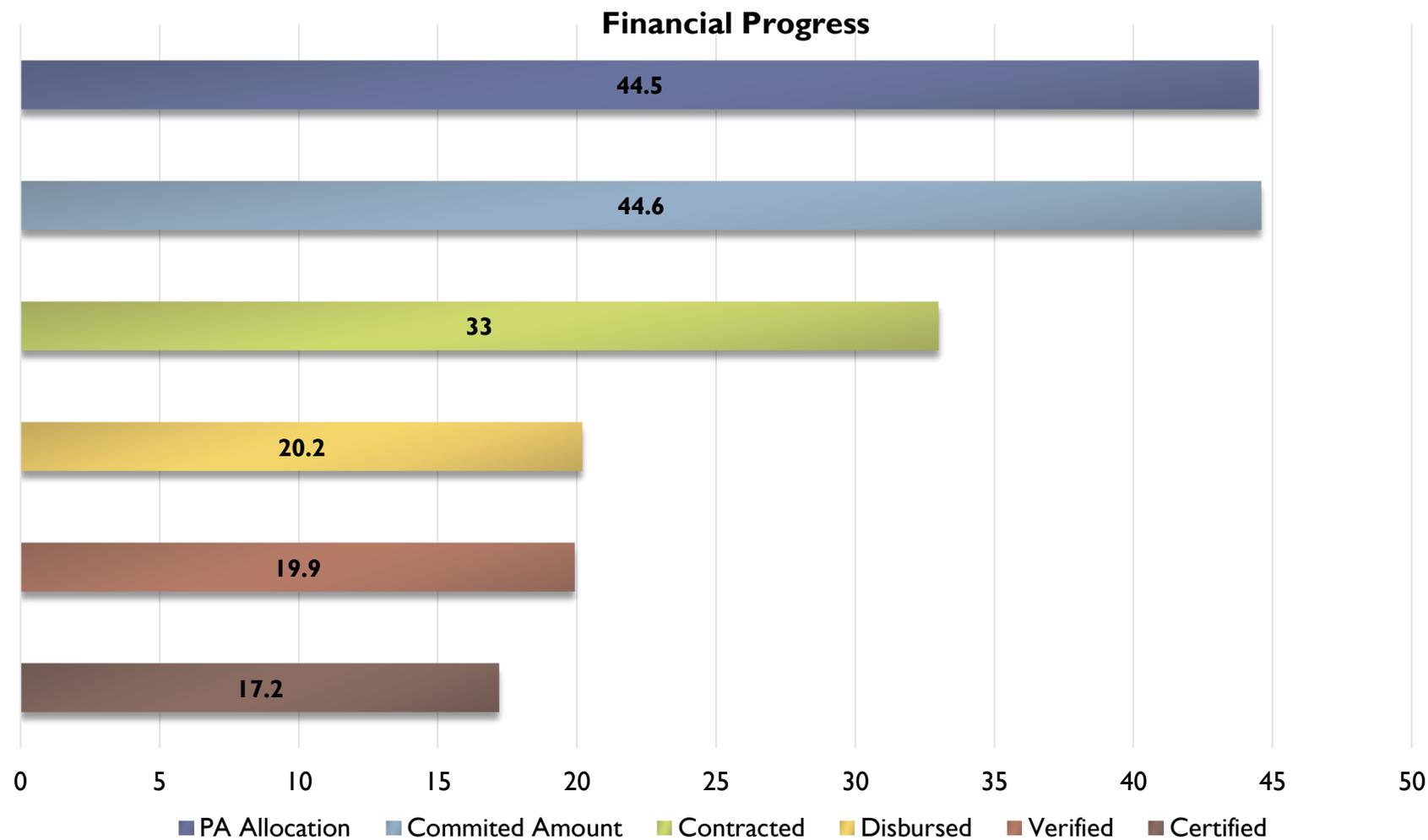
E&L Enterprises Ltd.
SME Diversification & Innovation Grant Scheme

“EU funds have supported my goal, that of opening the first Equine Clinic in Malta. As a result of this initiative, surgical procedures on horses have already been held with success”.

Katiucha Galea
SME Diversification & Innovation Grant Scheme



Implementation Progress – PA 3



Output Indicators for PA 3 (IP3a)

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	590	590	92
	Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	590	590	92
	Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalent	70	90	102
	Private investment matching public funds	Euro	€30M	€35.9M	€5.9M

Output Indicators for PA 3 (IP3d)

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	180	195	217
	Total area constructed / upgraded for enterprise infrastructure	Square metre	9,400	9,400	9,400
	Number of projects improving infrastructure in support for SMES	Number	1	2	1
	Productive Investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	180	195	217
	Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalent	100	167	-*
	Private investment matching public funds	Euro	€5M	€6M	€1.8M

* Data is still being compiled

PA 4 - Shifting Towards a Low-Carbon Economy

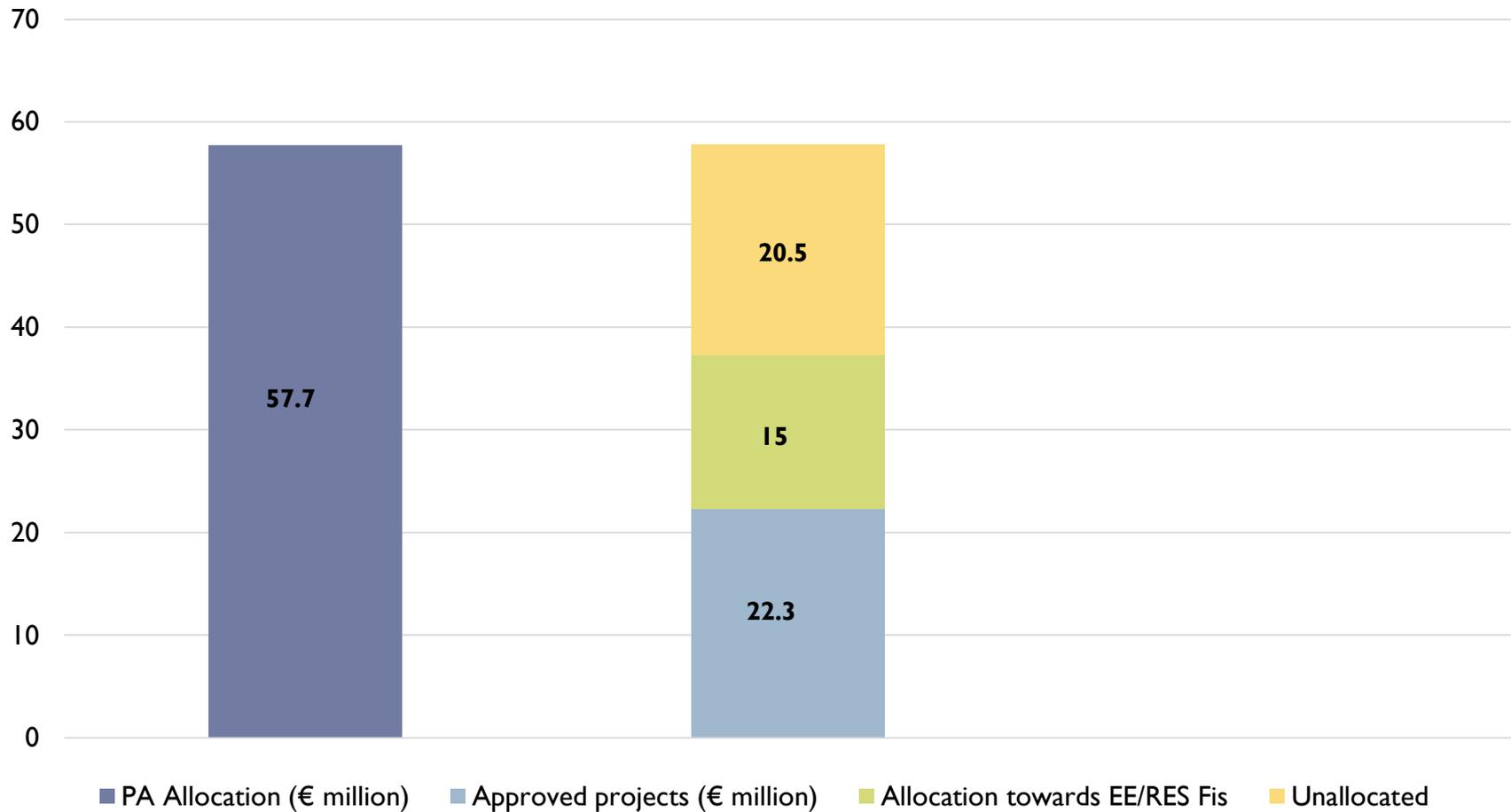


European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Allocation under PA 4

Projects under PA 4



Implementation Progress – PA 4

In order to reach the Energy Efficiency targets, Malta needs to increase its efforts to decrease its primary and final energy consumption.

Three mainstream projects related to **Energy Efficiency** with a total public eligible value of **€6.6M**, are currently being implemented:

The contract for the installation of **smart street lighting** is currently in its final stages of implementation. Over 3,000 luminaries, covering 100% of Malta's arterial and distributor roads, were installed to reduce the carbon footprint produced by the generation of electricity for street lighting. Up till end of June 2019, the project has decreased 586MWh of annual primary energy consumption and decreased 238 tonnes of CO₂.

*Smart street lighting installed
in one of Malta's arterial roads*



Implementation Progress – PA 4

The main works tender for the installation of energy efficiency measures at the **Ministry for Gozo Administration Centre** was awarded in 2018. Works are currently ongoing to replace single glazed apertures with double glazed apertures, and to insulate the roof. 54% reduction in energy consumption is expected.

The main tender for the implementation of **energy efficiency measures at San Vincenz de Paule Residence** was awarded in Q3 2019. Once the project is fully implemented, it is expected to decrease its annual primary energy consumption by 32.8%.

Implementation Progress – PA 4

Five mainstream projects related to **Renewable Energy** with a total public eligible value of **€15.6M** and an additional private investment of **€29.5M** were being implemented, one of which was concluded.

- The **Domestic Household Scheme** for the installation of PV systems proved to be very successful with 5,735 households having received grants to cover part of the costs of PV systems installed. The PV panels have generated a total of 18.4MWp of additional capacity of renewable energy production;
- Installation of PVs in public buildings (**Malta Information Technology Agency**), as well as in buildings owned by NGOs (**Malta Red Cross, Oasi Foundation and Church School Association**) to shift energy generation from RES. The projects are expected to produce 0.29MW of additional capacity of renewable energy production.



PV panels installed at MITA Data Centre – Santa Venera

Financial Instrument = Guarantee + Interest Rate Subsidy

- The Financial Instrument, amounting to **€15M** public eligible, shall be available to Private individuals, SMEs and Mid-Caps, to provide better access to finance through the provision of an uncapped guarantee for **portfolios related to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**.
- It is expected to create a leverage effect of €54M to €60M.
- It will also offer a €3M of **interest rate subsidies** allocated to selected financial intermediaries. The refund of interests will be capped at 1.75% per annum on the whole loan portfolio during the initial three years.
- The Call of Expression of Interest for Financial Intermediaries is expected to be finalised in November for publication by mid-December.

Financial Instrument – PA 4

Eligibility Criteria

	Standardised Measures	Non-Standardised Measures
Target Group	Private individuals, SMEs and Mid-Caps	SMEs and Mid-Caps
Type of Investments	Investment linked to building and compliance with Minimum Energy Efficiency Performance as defined by the Maltese Regulation	Investments undertaken as a result of an ex-ante energy efficiency audit
List of Eligible Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Investments related to building envelope (insulation, windows and doors, other building-envelope related measures with impact on thermal performance) b) Investments related to building system (space heating, domestic hot water, ventilation systems, cooling, lighting, building and energy management systems, connection to energy supplies, integrated renewable energy investments, charging stations for electric vehicles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Renewable energy investments, such as PV farms not directly linked to buildings; b) Electric vehicles; c) Other energy efficiency investments which aim at reducing energy consumption, that are guided by an energy audit, energy performance certificate and/or any other equivalent method to estimate the energy savings d) Water efficiency measures

Financial Instrument – PA 4

Process for the selection of Financial Intermediary

➤ **Pre-Selection:**

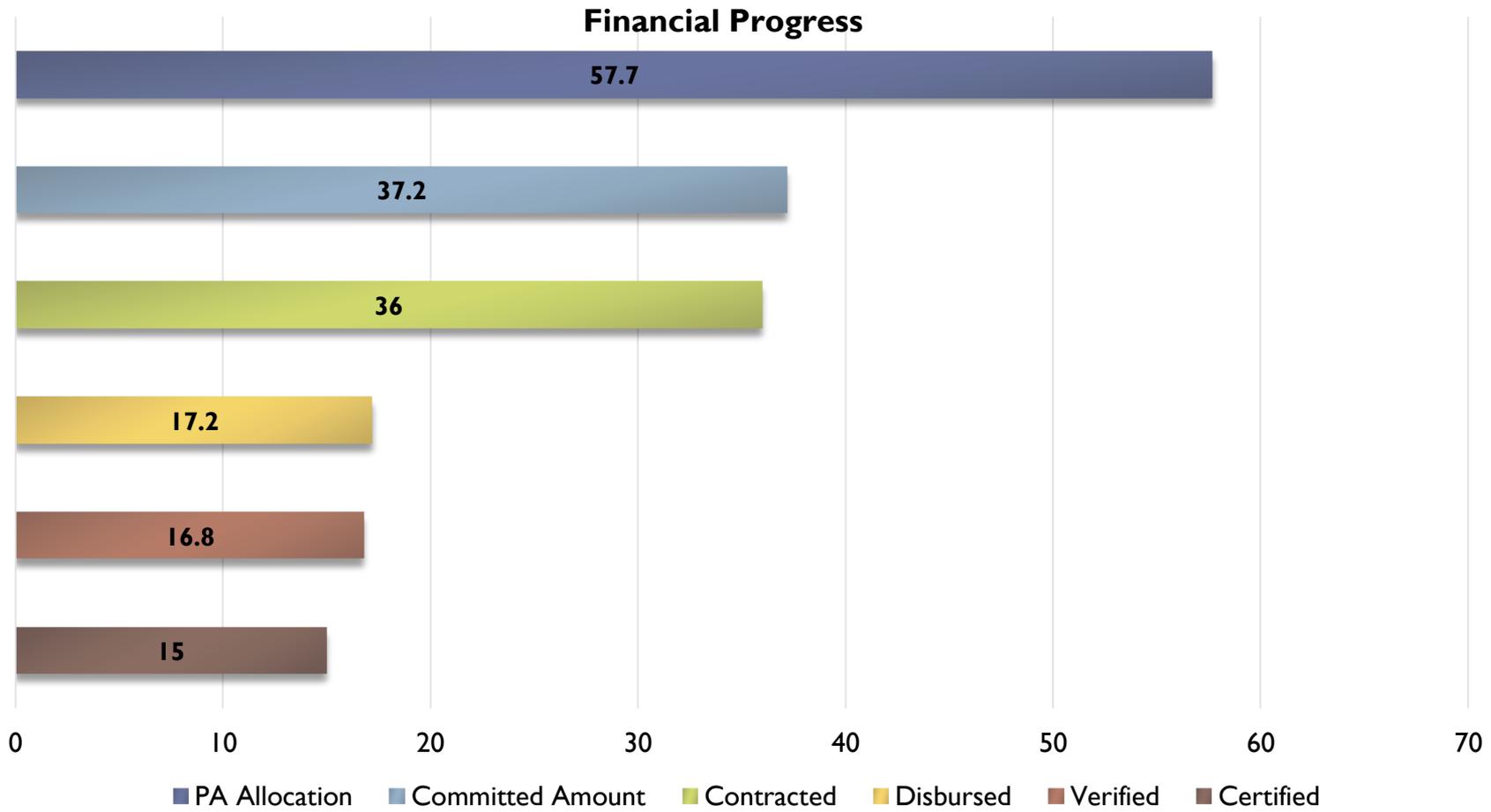
- Step 1: Formal assessment of the answer to the Call for Expression of Interest;
- Step 2: Qualitative assessment of the answer to the Call for Expression of Interest;
- Step 3: Assessment of the financial soundness of Applicant.

➤ **Due Diligence:**

- Additional information from Applicants could be asked for;
- Due diligence with pre-selected financial intermediary according to EIF internal process.

➤ **Final Selection of Financial Intermediary**

Implementation 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	18	18.57	18.40
	GHG reduction	Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	12,000	13,089	12,972

Output Indicators for PA 4 (IP4b)

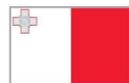
Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value*
PA 4	Number of enterprises improving their energy classification	Number	50	-
	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	25	-
	Estimated annual decrease in GHG	Tonnes of CO2 equivalent	16,875	-
	No. of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	200	-
	Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	150	-
	No. of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	50	-

* The financial instrument will contribute to the achievement of the indicators under this IP.

Output Indicators for PA 4 (IP4c)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievement
PA 4	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	5.40	0.05	0.05
	Decrease of Annual primary energy consumption (common output)	KwH/year	14,000,000	3,257,888	586,000
	Estimated annual decrease in GHG	Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	10,000	1,412.22	360.77

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

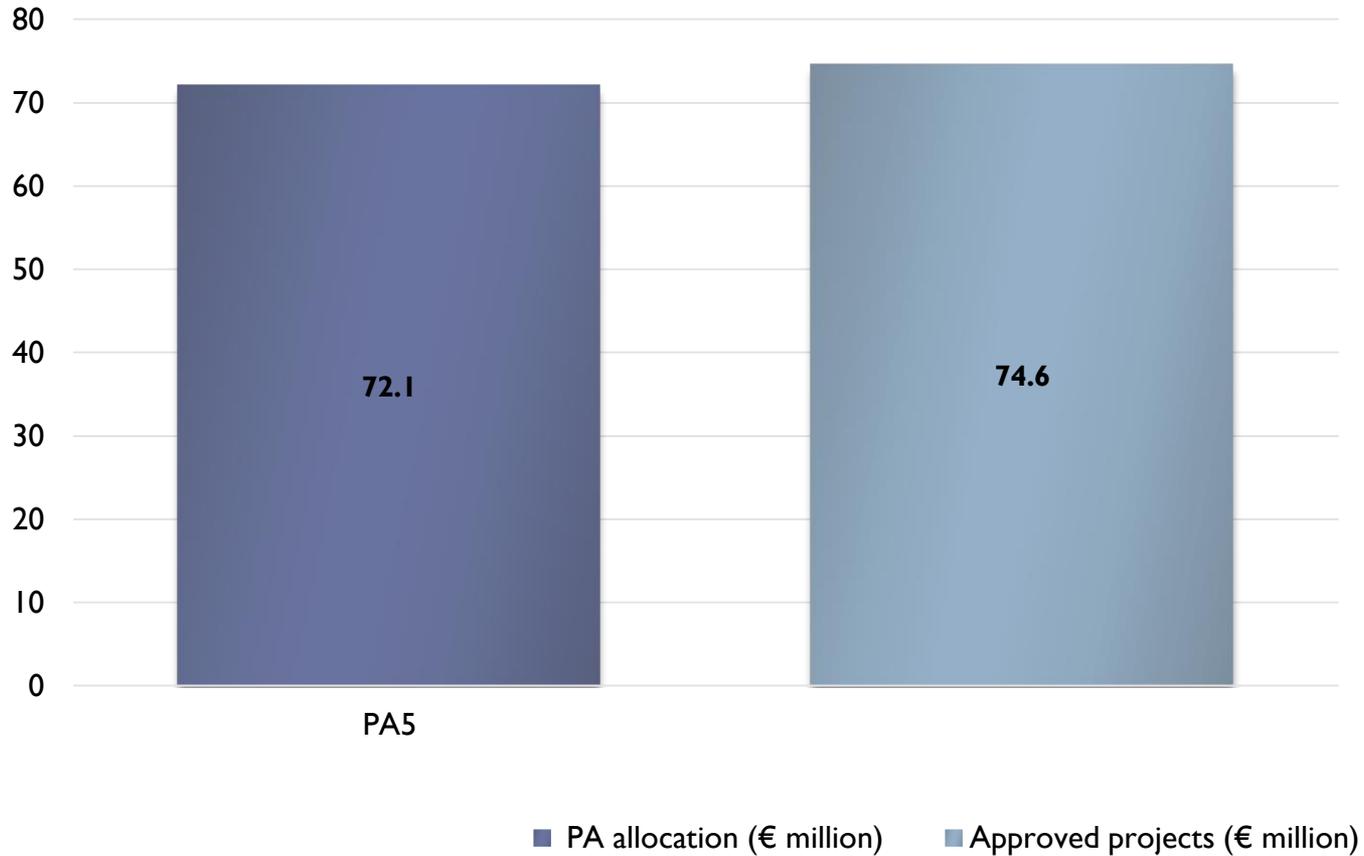


European Union
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Allocation Under PA 5

Projects Under PA 5



Implementation Progress – PA 5

29 mainstream projects with a total value of **€74.6M** are being implemented to improve the Maltese competitiveness standing within the tourism sector.

The tourism sector contributes to circa 27% of Malta's GDP.

EU investment is aimed at the promotion, protection and preservation of natural, cultural and/or historical assets to improve the Maltese cultural tourism experience whilst maintaining increased tourist flows.

Examples of projects targeting cultural and historical assets are the restoration works at the **Grand Master's Palace** and at the **Sacra Infermeria at the Mediterranean Conference Centre** where an Augmented Reality application is currently being developed.



Restoration Works at the
Grandmaster's Palace

Implementation Progress – PA 5

The **Xewkija Windmill**, the oldest surviving windmill in Gozo, has been given a much-needed upgrading, including the restoration of the internal and external building fabric, and the relevant M&E services in order for it to be used as an Interpretation Centre Dancing that will help to keep alive traditional, folkloristic dance and other intangible cultural assets which make up Gozo's distinctive identity.



Restoration Works at Xewkija Windmill

The **Manoel Theatre** project completed in May 2019 now has a climate control system enabling the hosting of performances during the Maltese hot summer months.



Manoel Theatre

Implementation Progress – PA 5

Works at the **Chadwick Lakes** will contribute to maintain and consolidate one of Malta's important and unique sites of natural and cultural heritage.

The valley has a historical wealth related to the development of water resources dating back to Punic times. In the sixteenth century, the valley was also valorised for its abundance of springs and its potential for sustaining the demand of the new capital city of Valletta, then being developed by the Knights of St John.

Currently works are focusing on the identification of endemic vegetation and the restoration and cleaning of rubble walls, dams and valley embankments.

The project will create a space for visitors to rest from the hectic normal pace of everyday life whilst enjoying Malta's natural assets. The Water Conservation Awareness Centre in its vicinity will include information on this valley and its water management and ecological features.



Ongoing rehabilitation works at Chadwick Lakes



Aerial view of Chadwick Lakes

Implementation Progress – PA 5

Projects being implemented by Local Councils and NGOs have also registered progress including:

- the ongoing restoration and renovation works of **two historic train stations** and the setting up of an Interpretation Centre dedicated to Malta's historic railway;
- the restoration works on both **St. Agatha Tower** (Red Tower, Mellieha) and **Santa Marija Battery** in Comino are in the final phases of implementation whilst more tenders for the restoration of other military towers in Malta and Gozo will be tentatively published in the coming weeks.



Interpretation Centre at the Birkirkara Railway station



Restoration Works at the Red Tower

Implementation Progress – PA 5

Ecclesiastical heritage is a main contributor towards Malta's rich cultural landscape and is a popular cultural activity amongst tourists, with 68% visiting churches during their stay in Malta.

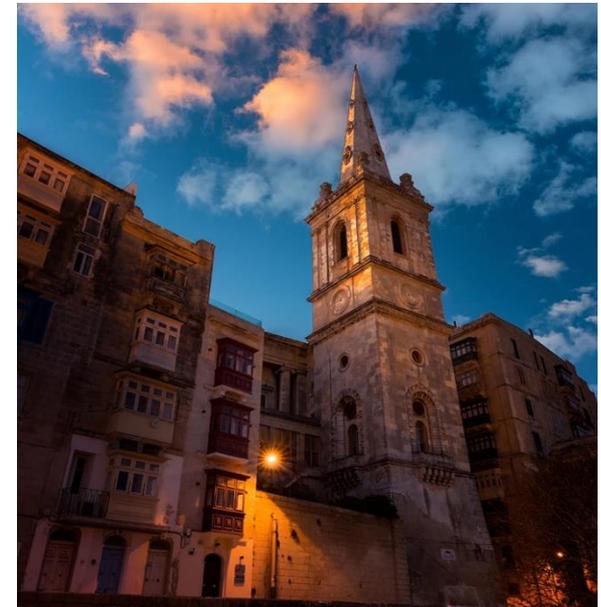
The **restoration and reconstruction works on churches** and other **religious artefacts** have been ongoing with numerous works tenders contracted, most of which are either completed or at an advanced stage of implementation.

The **St John's Co Cathedral** in Valletta, which is the most visited site by tourists, will see the restoration of its crypt and basement to serve as exhibition spaces and the restoration of adjoining premises to serve as a Caravaggio Centre aiming to increase awareness on renowned artist Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio.

The restoration works at **St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral Tower and Church** in Valletta seeks to restore and repair the iconic Cathedral and also to turn it into a thriving and attractive communal and tourism centre. The restoration project will address the severe problems threatening the tower, the spire and the external and internal stonework.

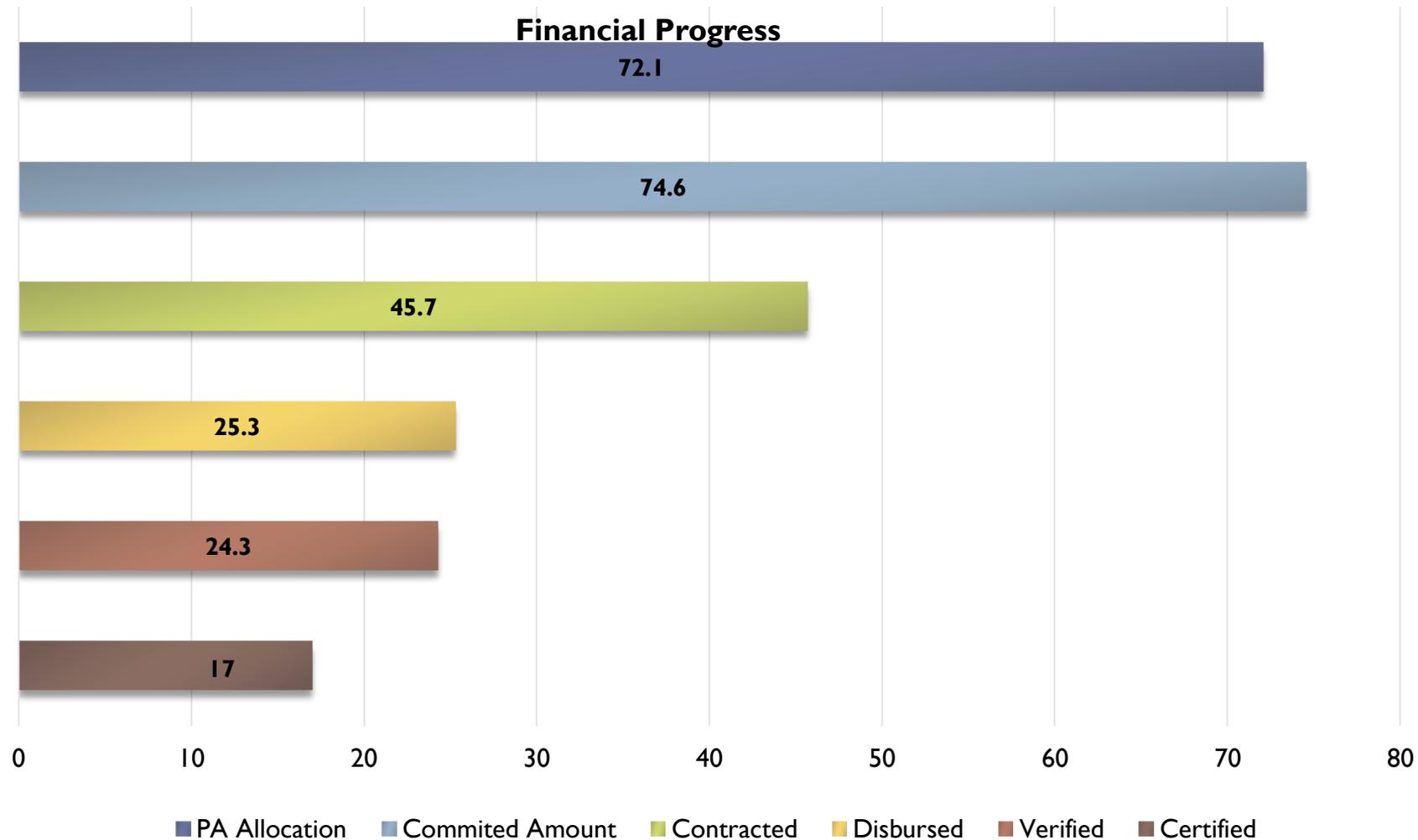


Restoration works at Xaghra Church in Gozo



St Paul's Anglican Church

Implementation Progress – PA 5



Output Indicators for PA 5 (IP6c)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achieved
PA 5	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural or natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	180,000	180,000	11,376
	Rehabilitated/Preserved Land	Square metres	5,000	37,000	13,000

PA 6 - Sustainable Urban Development

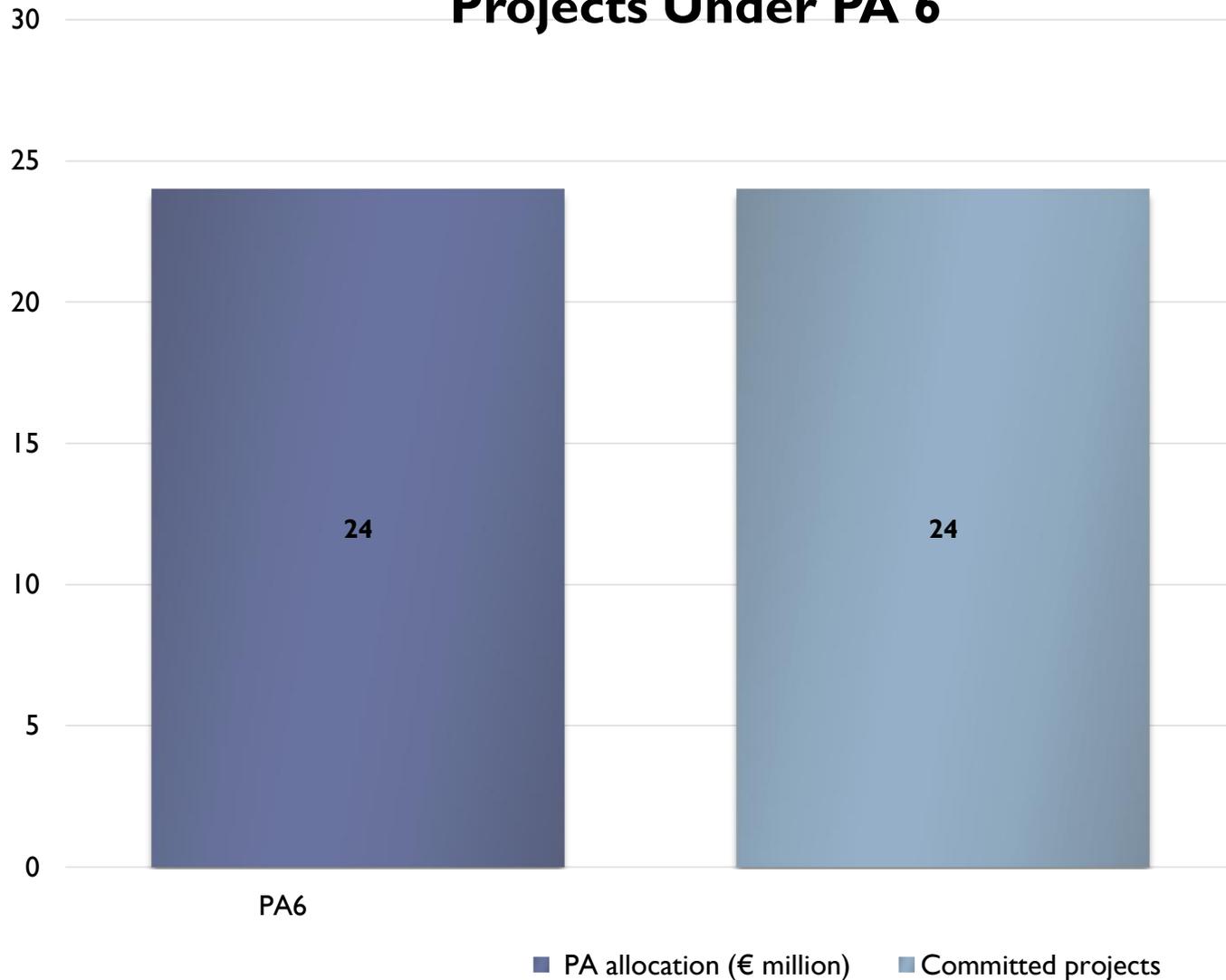


European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Allocation Under PA 6

Projects Under PA 6



Overview

The **Regeneration of Lower Valletta**, with a public eligible value of **€24M**, is aimed to improve the urban environment in the Southern Harbour area.

Interventions in the housing sector to offer facilities which accommodate and empower people living in the lower part of Valletta include the provision of 64 new housing units, of which

- 11 new units at Carmelite Street have been completed.
- and works on an additional 33 new units are ongoing.

To further inject interest among the residents at lower Valletta in upgrading their residences, a Balcony Grant Scheme for residences at Marsamxett has been launched to incentivise the restoration and maintenance of traditional timber balconies in the area.



Housing units in Lower Valletta



A traditional Maltese balcony in Valletta

Overview

The regeneration of Lower Valletta will be maximised through the **rehabilitation of cultural and historical assets** such as auberges, historical houses and religious niches.

This investment will contribute to an increase in the tourism dimension and create more job opportunities in an area which is synonymous with socio-economic challenges.



Restored niche of Madonna of the Rosary in Valletta



Restored cupola of Carmelite Church in Valletta



Restoration of Auberge de Baviere, Valletta

Valletta Design Cluster

The **Valletta Design Cluster** is aimed to create facilities to support cultural and creative practitioners operating in the cultural and creative sector.

Restoration works are being undertaken on one of Valletta's earliest buildings which was first used as an abattoir in 1636.

Construction began in March 2018 with the Civil Works completed in January 2019. The Mechanical, Engineering and Finishes works are ongoing.

In parallel, the Valletta Cultural Agency also invested effort in building up its community of future users, including individual practitioners, target communities, and organizations, by establishing relationships with a range of organizations in the areas of enterprise, education, design, and social well-being, with whom they would like to partner in delivering programming once the Valletta Design Cluster opens.

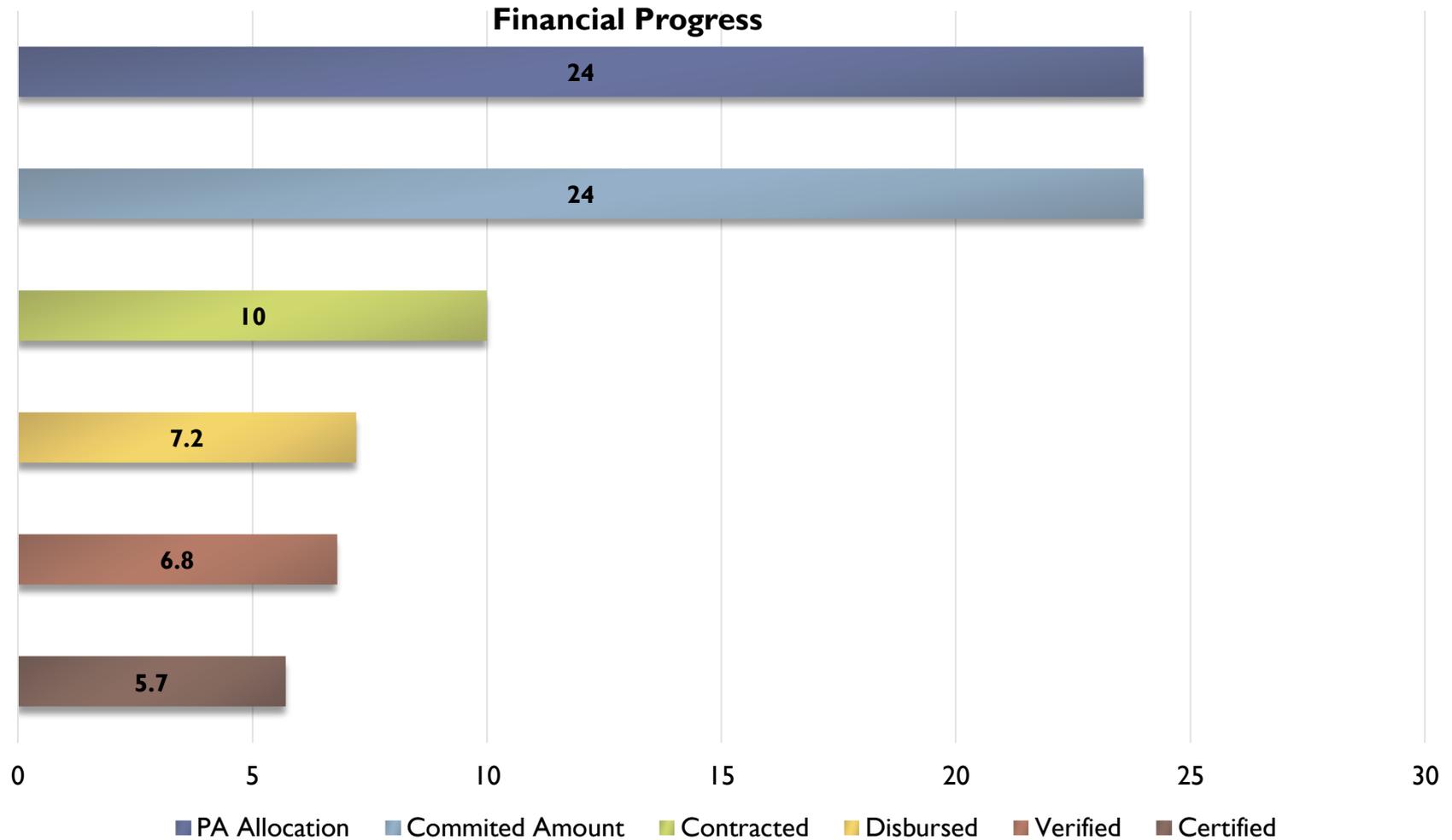


Restoration Works at Valletta Design Cluster



Valletta Design Cluster 3D rendering

Implementation 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	5,586	-
	Area of constructed heritage upgraded or renovated in urban areas	Square metres	6,000	15,803	7,342

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	64	11
	Urban Development: Public/commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	Square metres	6,000	16,154	4,390
	Urban Development: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies	Persons	120,000	120,000	120,000

Output Indicators for PA 6 (IP3a)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achieved
PA 6	Urban Development: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	Square metre	2,500	3,552	-

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

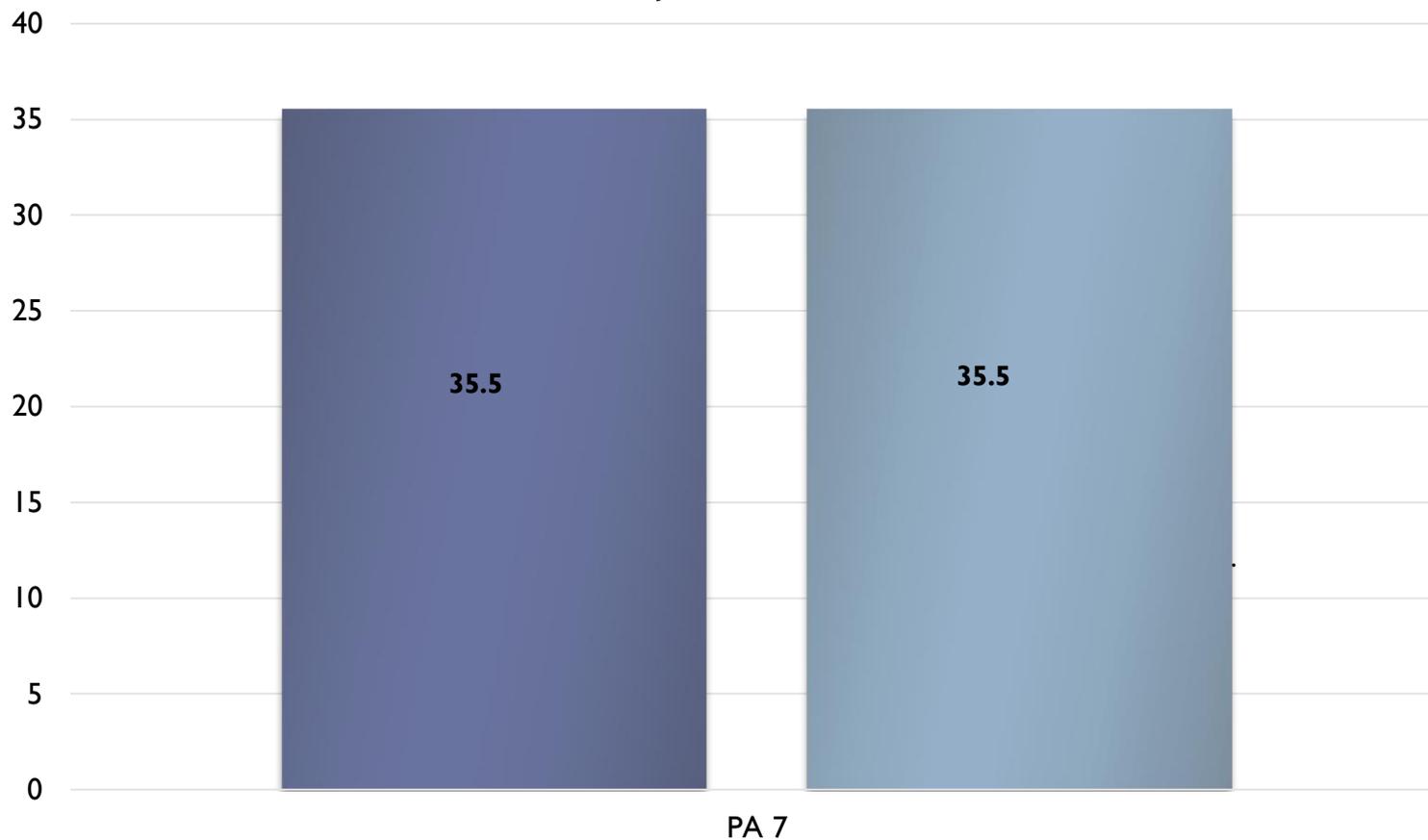


European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Allocation under PA 7

Projects Under PA 7



■ PA allocation (€ million)

■ Approved projects (€ million)

PA 7 Status

Project implementation

The allocation of this PA is fully committed through the **SMITHS** (Sustainable Multi Intermodal Transport HubS) project aimed to facilitate inter-modality and to support the provision of alternative means of transport by:

- upgrading the inner-harbour ferry network;
- introducing safe shared routes particularly for cyclists along residential areas;
- addressing cleaner air by introducing a new Gozo Park and ride facility;
- deploying clean collective modes of public transportation in Gozo;
- extending the national EV charging network across Malta and Gozo; and
- the setting up of the National Traffic Control Centre to manage the Intelligent Transport System and the CCTV network on bus corridors through which real time data is obtained.

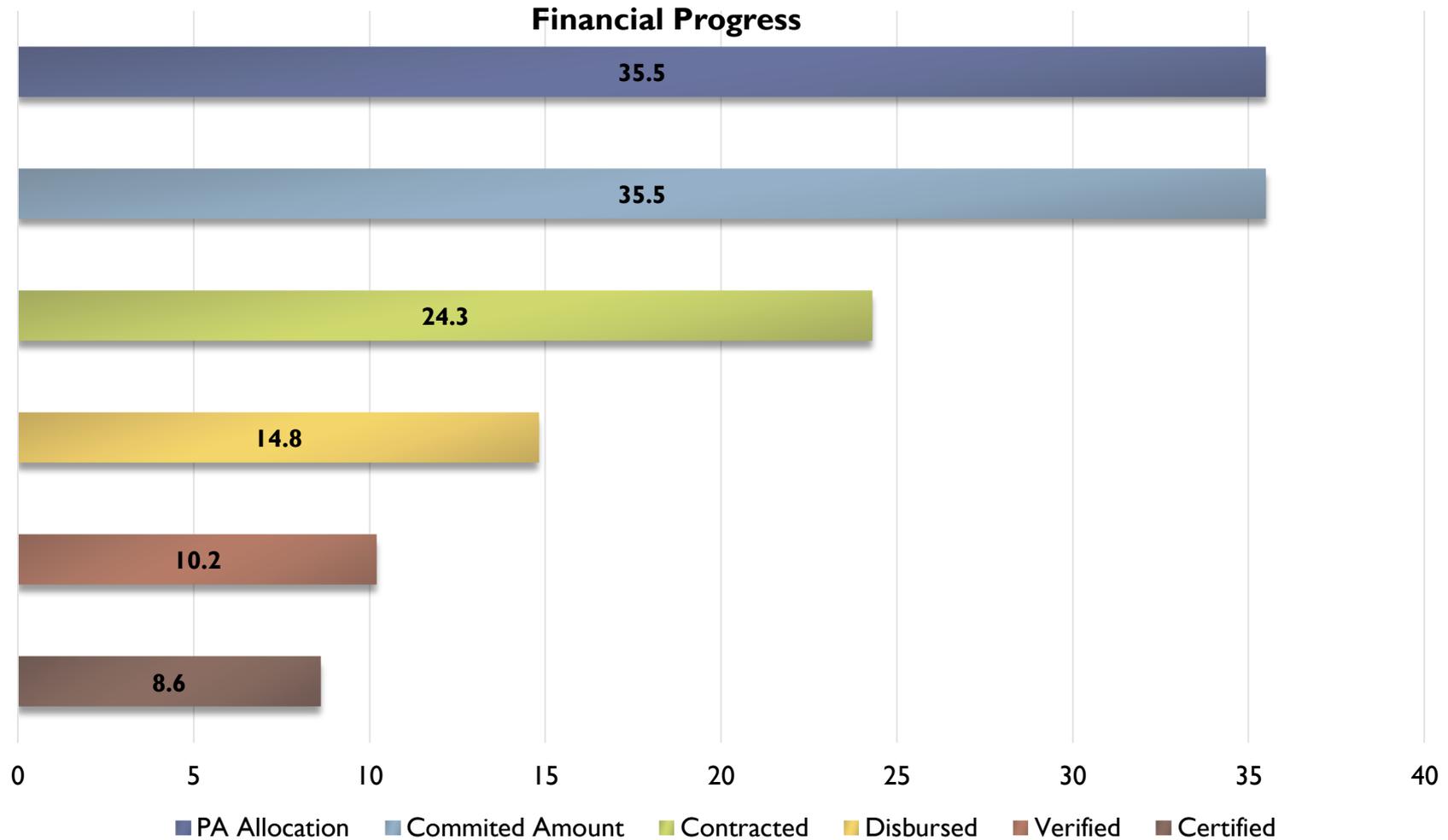


Cycling and pedestrian lanes



Rendering of the National Traffic Control Centre at Sa Maison

Implementation 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 CO ₂ eq	11,000	11,000	-
	Number of persons reached by campaigns	Persons	100,000	100,000	-
	Projects and schemes promoting and/or exploring collective transport methods	Number	2	1	-
	Projects and/or schemes promoting and/or exploring cleaner transport methods	Number	2	1	-

PA 8 - Investing Towards a More Socially-Inclusive Society

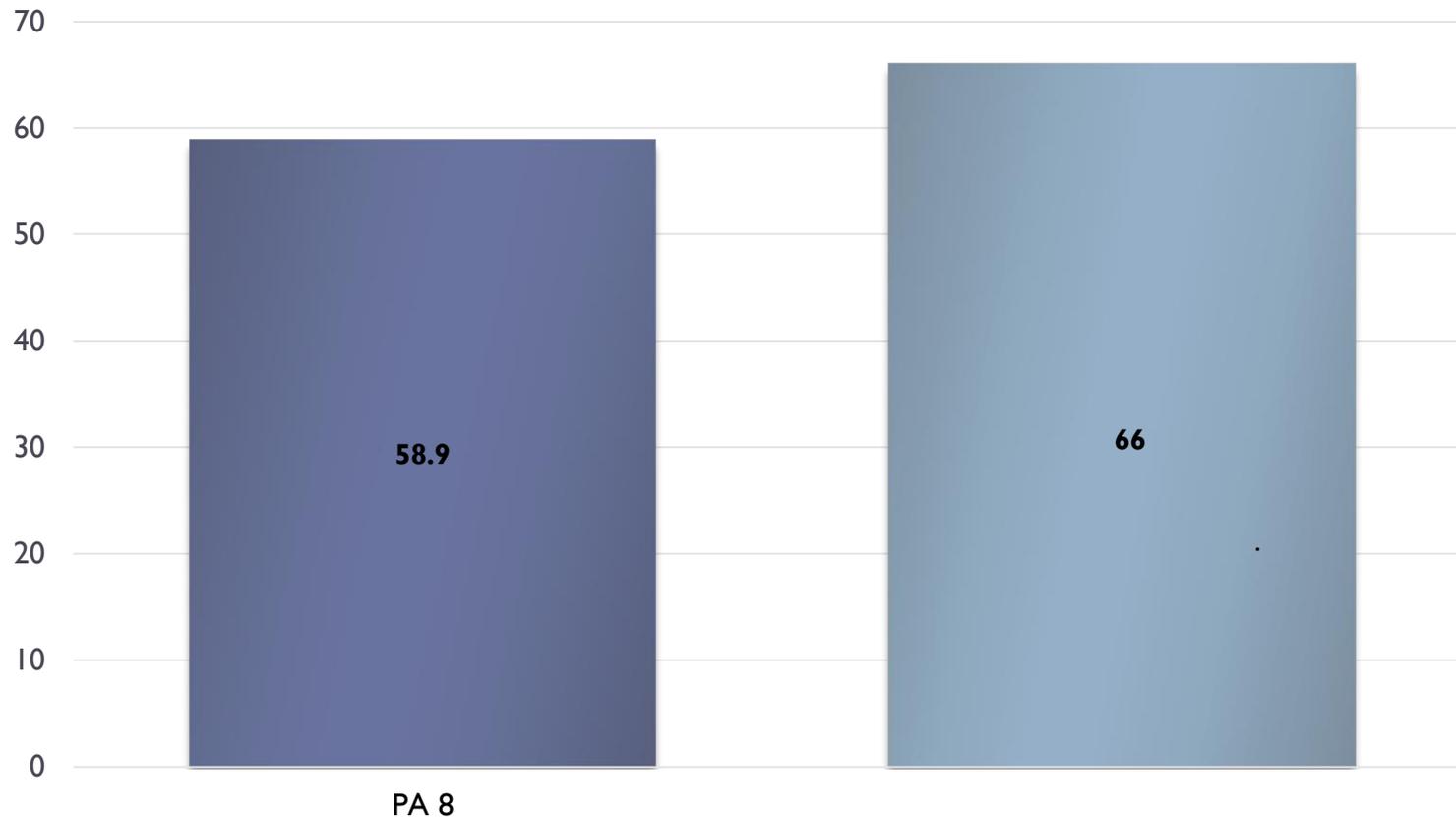


European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Allocation under PA 8

Projects Under PA 8



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

Implementation Progress – PA 8

Eight mainstream projects covering health infrastructure, social infrastructure and the housing sector, with a public eligible value of **€65.96M** are currently being implemented.

Health infrastructure:

Studies have been concluded and the main tenders relating to the Project Management, the Design and Build, Furniture and part of the Medical Equipment Tenders for **Paola Primary Health Care Southern Regional Hub** were contracted. Excavation works have started but works were delayed due to archaeological findings and structural enhancements needed.



Architectural Rendering for the Paola Hub Project

Implementation Progress – PA 8

The project focusing on the development of a new **Blood Bank** in Malta is in its early stages of implementation; the tender for project management is at evaluation stage and the Design and Build tender is at vetting stage.



Architectural Rendering for the Blood Bank

The project focusing on **Palliative Care** being implemented by an NGO is also at its initial stages, with the Works/Building and Construction tender at evaluation stage.



Architectural rendering of one of the therapy rooms of the Palliative Care Project

Implementation Progress – PA 8

Social Infrastructure:

Excavation works on the **REACH** project, aimed to support the integration of vulnerable persons within the community, are ongoing; the design of this facility is currently being carried under the D&B contract.

Following the opening of **The Meeting Place** in May 2019, over 50 NGOs representing social, health and educational issues have used the premises to outreach disadvantaged groups.

The **Caritas Community Centre** project, focusing on the necessary infrastructure to centralise the non-residential community services to vulnerable and marginalised persons into one community centre, is currently under implementation with five tenders awarded. Works on site have commenced.



Architectural Rendering for the REACH project



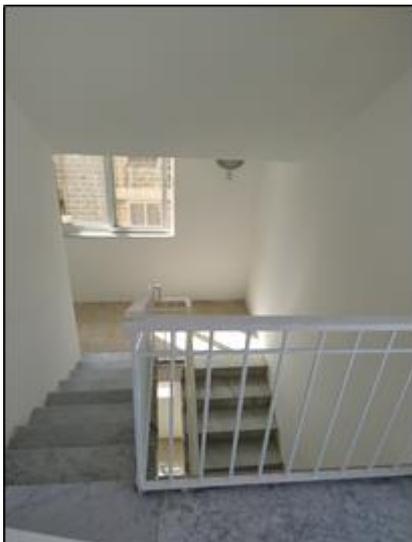
The Meeting Place
Officially opened in May 2019

Implementation Progress – PA 8

Housing sector

Aimed to increase accessibility and to improve the state of living in social housing blocks and estates, the **Housing project** has been progressing significantly with a total of 49 units benefitting through the installation of 6 lifts and embellishment of common areas.

Works for the installation of additional lifts are ongoing for the benefit of another 329 housing units; an additional 66 lifts were ordered and are expected to be installed in the coming months.

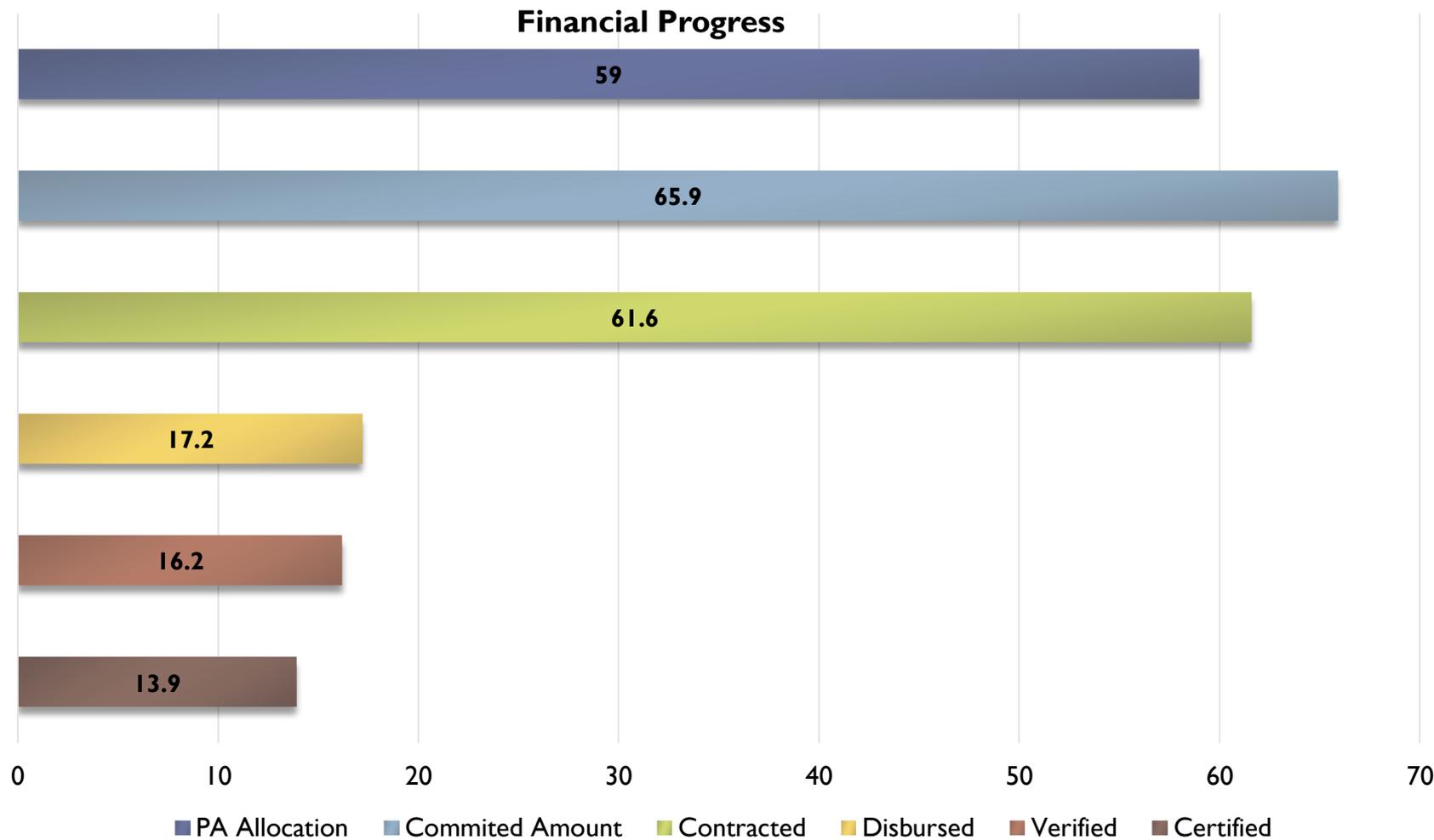


One of the enhanced common areas of one of the blocks - Marsa

Interior of one of the lifts installed - Qormi



Implementation 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	460,000	460,000	-
	Persons benefitting from new/upgraded infrastructure (including equipment/services etc)	Persons	8,000	11,000	-
	Number of admissions using new/upgraded infrastructure	Persons	350,000	350,000	-
	Vulnerable persons covered by improved social services	Persons	115,000	116,071	-
	Number of people in sheltered employment	Persons	100	88	-
	Value of total public eligible cost contracted (health)	Euro	29,000,000	33,000,000	29,946,602.26

Output Indicators for PA 8 (IP9b)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	OP Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value	Actual Achievement
8	Urban Development: Rehabilitated housing in urban areas	Housing Units	600	689	37

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

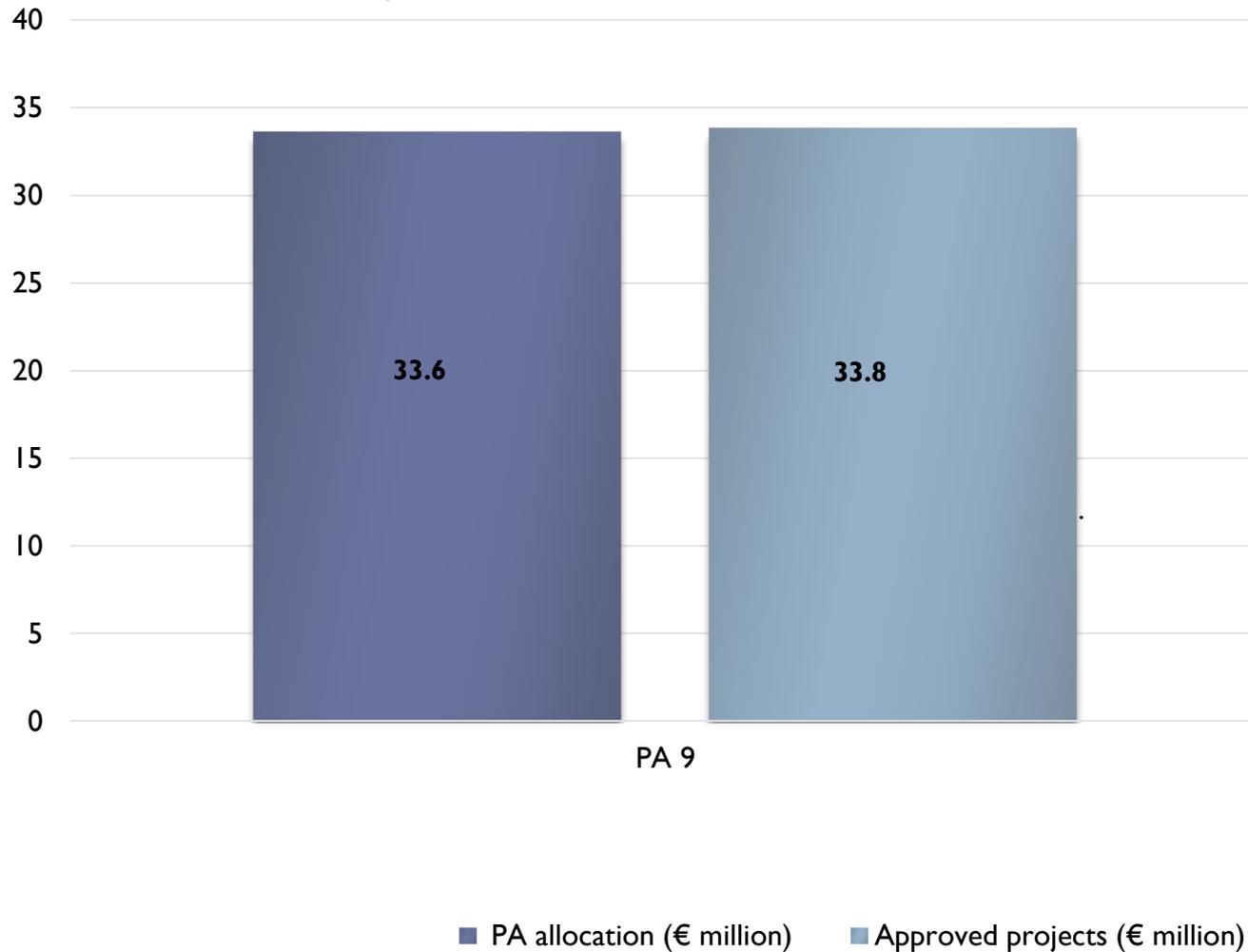


European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Allocation under PA 9

Projects Under PA 9



Implementation Progress – PA 9

Two mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €33.8M** are currently being implemented.

The projects are in line with *A Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Early School Leaving in Malta* which includes measures and actions to tackle ESL.

The **INVEST project** involves the setting up of 76 VET labs in 13 secondary state schools in Malta and Gozo. The demand for these subjects is evidenced in a statistical report by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE) showing that 53.3% of students follow academic further education, while 46.7% of students follow further education in the vocational field.



Health and Social Labs



Engineering and Technology Labs

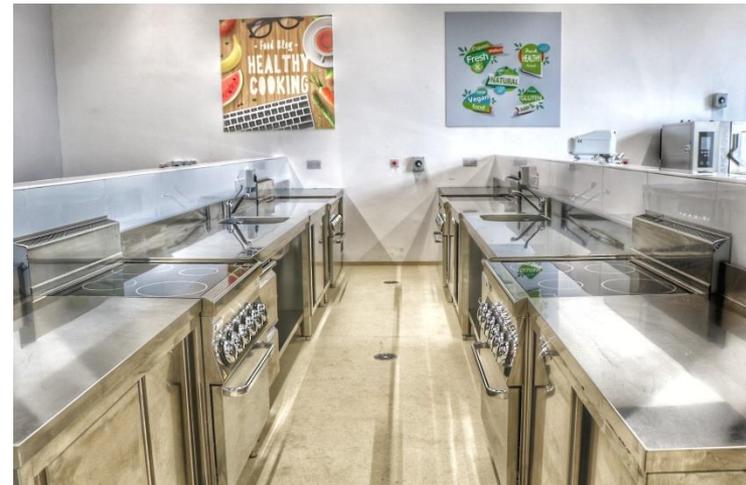
Implementation Progress – PA 9

As from the 2019-2020 scholastic year, students who selected the VET and applied subjects can now make use of the high-end VET facilities. Out of the 76 VET labs, 65 VET labs are now fully operational.

Approximately 950 students opted for VET subjects while 600 students chose the applied subjects.



Textile and Fashion Labs



Hospitality Labs

Implementation Progress – PA 9

The investments under the INVEST project naturally lead to an educational pathway at MCAST, which is the leading vocational education provider in Malta, offering a wide ranging and unique remit in the post-secondary sector with courses ranging from Level 1 to Level 6 in a broad range of subject areas.

The **MCAST project** being Phase II of the Campus Masterplan includes:

- The construction of a new Institute of Information, Communication and Technology (IICT) and an Institute of Engineering and Transport (IET) Faculty;
- The construction of a resource centre hosting library resources to enhance its capacity and offer better provision in the quality of library services;
- The setting up of a College Management Information System aimed to provide a data management framework for the collection of students' records.

Implementation Progress – PA 9

The Institute of Engineering and Transport (IET) has been fully completed and started hosting students from the current scholastic year. It is currently offering courses ranging from foundation courses to Bachelor's degrees to a total of 454 students.

The MCAST Resource Centre (MRC) is at an advance stage of implementation.

Construction works on the Institute of Information, Communication and Technology (IICT) have commenced.

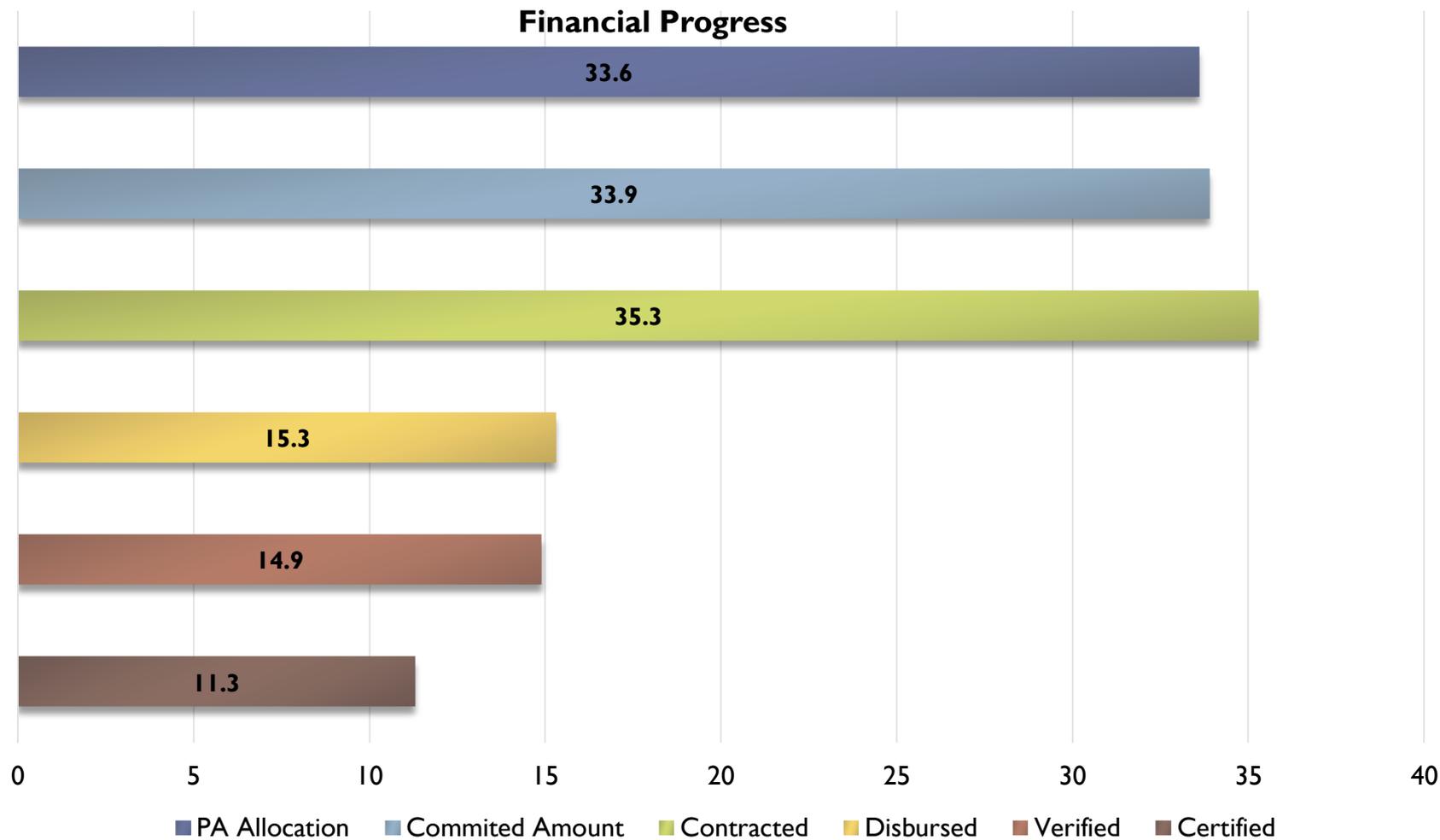
The College Management Information System (CMIS) is currently being pilot-tested to ensure its smooth running.



Institute for Engineering and Transport



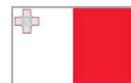
Implementation Progress – PA 9



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	6,203

PA 10 - Investing in a More Environmentally-Friendly Society

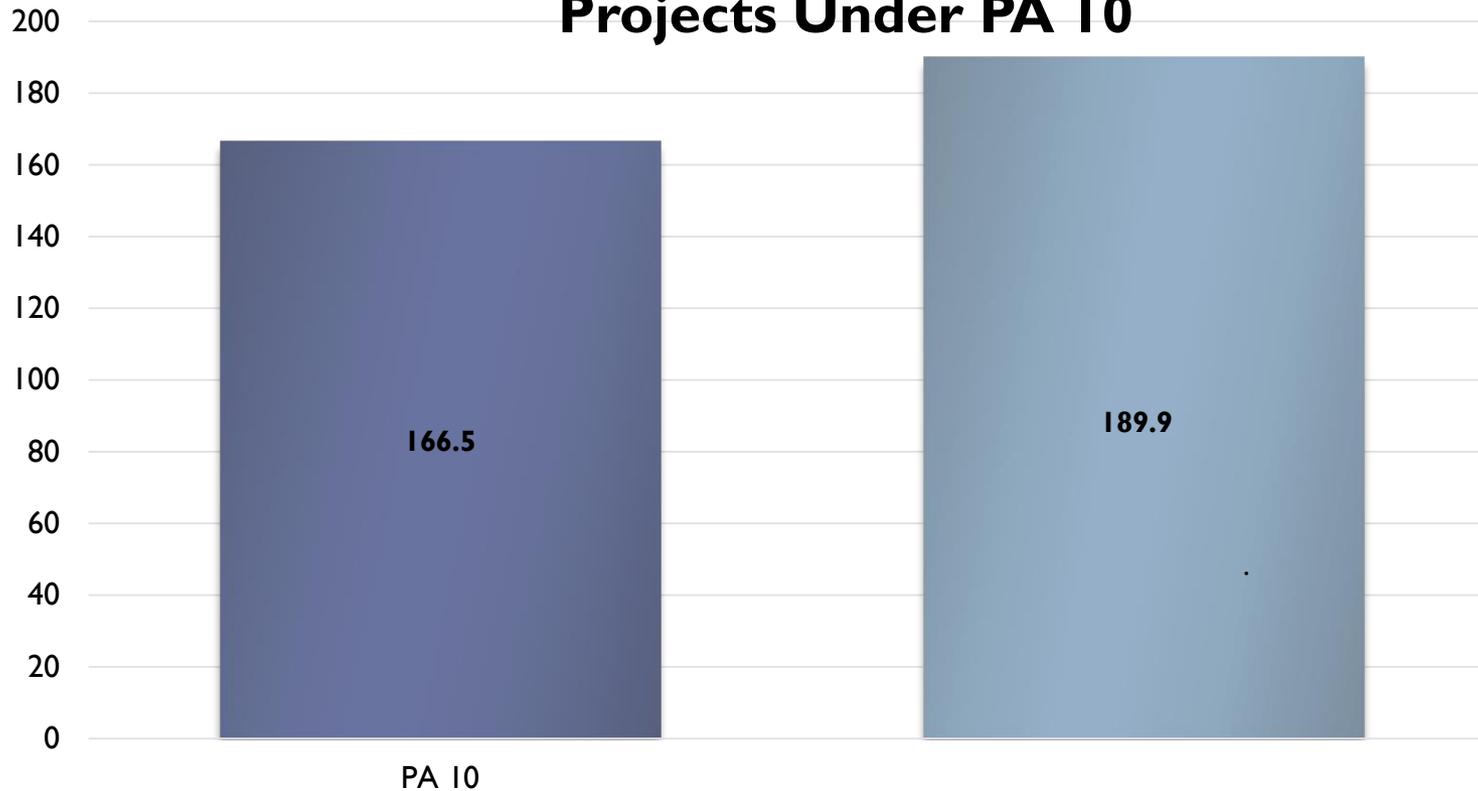


European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Allocation under PA 10

Projects Under PA 10



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

PA 10 Status

To date, **6 mainstream projects**, 3 under the waste sector and 3 projects under the water sector, were selected for a total value of **€189.9M**. 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**, **Retrofitting of Sant'Antnin Waste Water Treatment Plant**, and a **National Campaign for Improved Water Resource Management**.

In addition, the **Water Major Project** being implemented by Water Services Corporation, with a public eligible value of €87M, was approved by the European Commission in April 2019.

PA 10 Status (2)

In order to reduce waste and increase separation at source, a number of measures are being implemented through the **Waste Campaign**.

Activities are aimed to achieve a behavioural change by educating the general public to increase the separation of municipal waste at source.

The objective of the Waste Campaign is to divert organic waste away from landfills and increase the recycling of Waste.

The media campaigns have so far reached 168,576 households.



Pharmaceutical waste bins



Vehicles promoting and collecting separated waste from towns and villages

PA 10 Status (3)

Rehabilitation of the Wied Fulija landfill

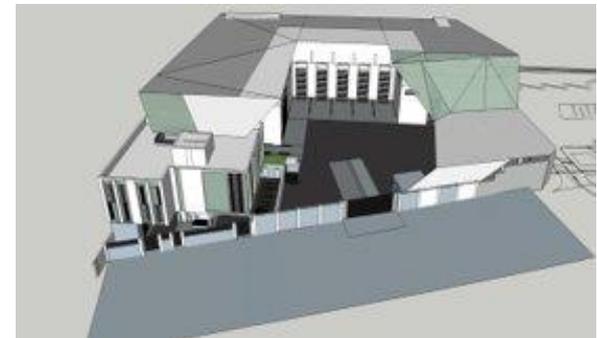
The first phase of the project, involving a remodelling exercise whereby the existing landfill is being re-shaped to more stable gradients, is currently ongoing. Once this activity is concluded, the entire area of the site shall be capped with a regulating layer, a layer of subsoil and finally a layer of topsoil.



Aerial view of the Wied Fulija landfill

Multi-Material Recovery Facility

This project, which is in its initial implementation phase with ongoing excavations on site, will enable the gathering of different waste streams for preparation and storage for eventual re-utilisation and export of waste, where applicable. This will naturally reduce amounts of waste channelled towards landfilling.

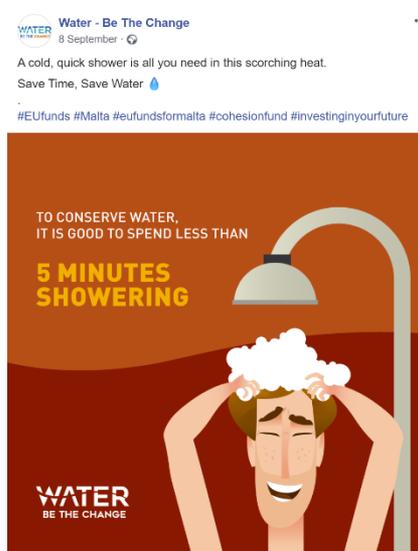


Multi Material Recovery Facility

PA 10 Status (4)

The **National Campaign for Improved Water Resource Management** aims to achieve a high level of awareness on the better use and conservation of water through the use of various tools such as traditional audio-visual media, social media campaigns, informative house visits and technical workshops.

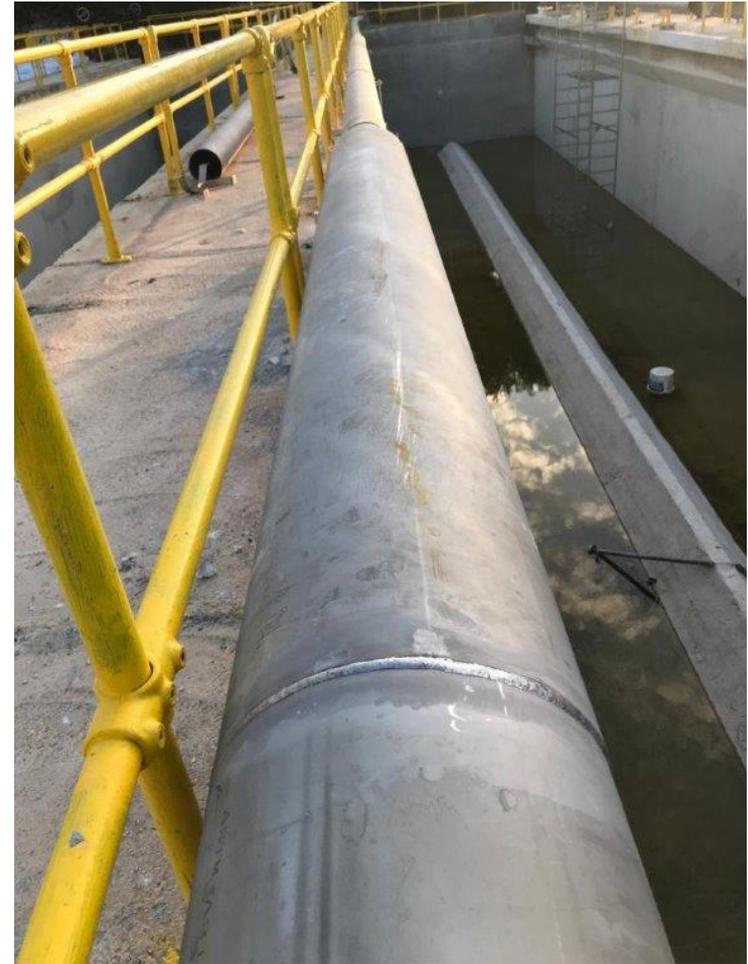
Through its information component, the project will enable the sourcing of new information on the quantitative and qualitative status of water resources, which will in turn enable the improvement of water (natural and extracted) quality and supply.



PA 10 Status (5)

The **RainWiiN** is a small-scale project which will result in the development of plans and project proposals for five catchment areas in Malta. Ultimately, the project will contribute to an increased hydrological monitoring capacity to address existing information gaps. Currently, the tenders for studies and the main works and supplies tender are being prepared for eventual publication by end of year.

The **retrofitting of Sant Antnin Waste Water Treatment Plant** with innovative activated sludge-based technologies will result optimal operation efficiency and will potentially contribute towards water re-use by offering opportunities for the augmentation of new water production. Two main works contracts are currently ongoing and implementation is progressing well.



Retrofitting of Sant Antnin WWTP

PA 10 Status (6)

Status update of Water major project

The water major project focuses on 3 components, namely drinking water, waste water and treated water for agricultural re-use.

Progress was registered on:

- the new Reverse Osmosis plant in Gozo for drinking water;
- the drilling of the Pembroke – Ta' Qali tunnel for drinking water distribution;
- interventions along the Maltese island for the upgrade in the waste-water network.



Work on the new RO in Gozo



Ongoing drilling in the Pembroke – Ta' Qali tunnel

Implementation Progress

Through the upgrades in the existing RO plants, WSC has already achieved 4,124,500 m³ of desalinated water.

The upgrade of the sewage network is ongoing and ca 9.5km of pipes were laid in different localities.



Upgrades in existing RO plant equipment

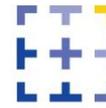


Delivery of pipes following the contracting of various tenders



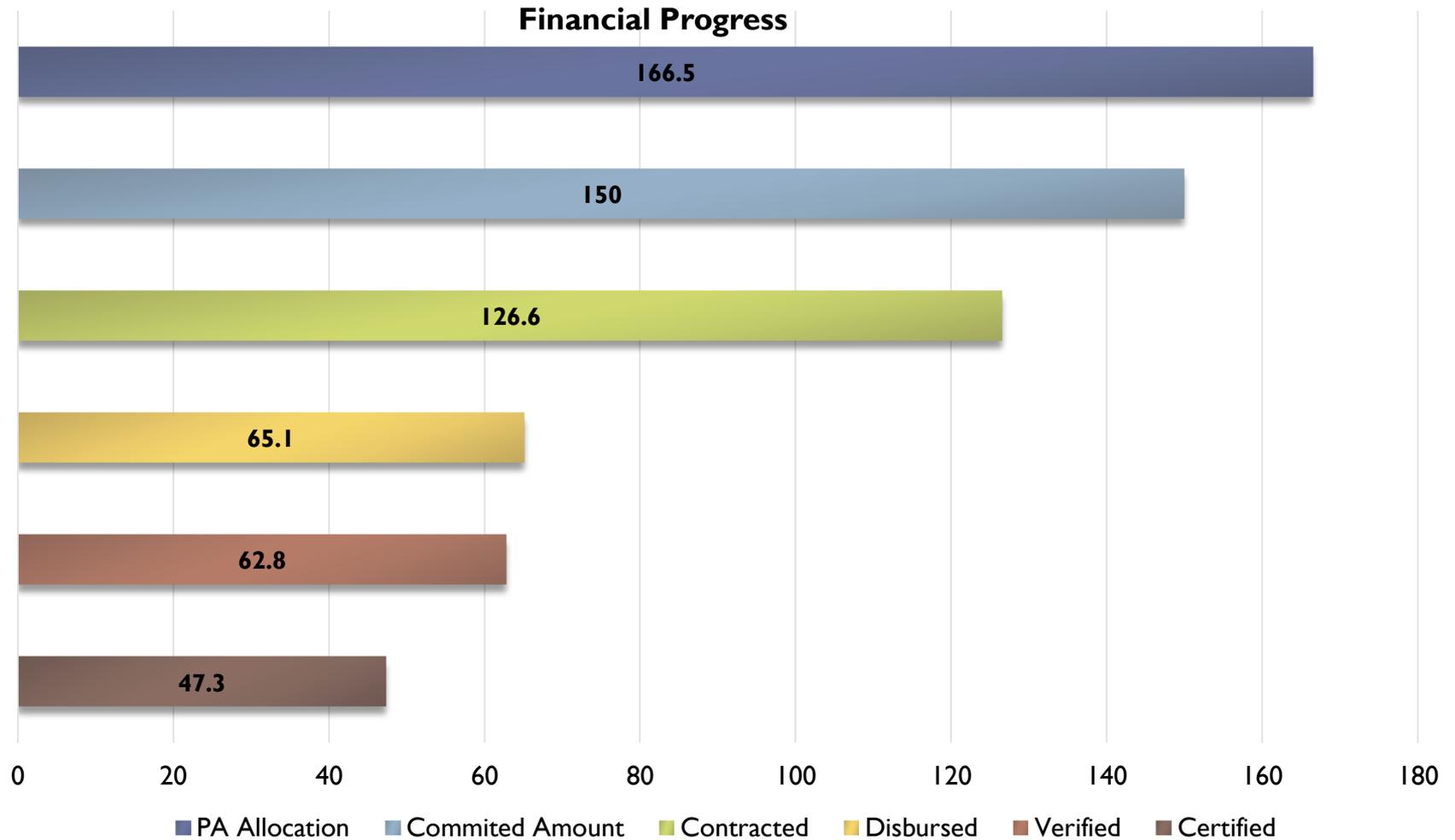
Laying of pipe works in Siggiewi

Implementation Progress – PA 10



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020



Output Indicators for PA 10 (IP6i)



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020

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	14	9.10	-
	No of households targeted through campaigns	Number	200,000	180,000**	168,576
	No. of Waste Recovery Facility	Number	1	1	-

* To date none of the projects are contributing to this indicator

** The target value matches the current total number of households as per latest NSO statistics

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	32,000*	-
	M ³ of new/upgraded harvesting infrastructure	Cubic metres	40,000	45,000	-
	Number of households targeted through campaigns	Households	100,000	100,000	-
	Public groundwater abstraction stations showing a reduction in the chloride content of abstracted groundwater	Number	25	25	5
	Upgraded water/sewage network	Kilometres	75	81.6	9.49
	Additional annual production capacity of desalinated water	Cubic metres	5,000,000	5,000,000	-
	Upgraded new wastewater treatment/polishing Plant	Number	1	1	-
	No. of monitoring networks	Number	5	5	5
	Value of total public eligible cost contracted (water)	Euro	96,800,000	95,400,000	106,920,267

* This is reflecting the OP target

PA 11 - Investing in TEN-T Infrastructure

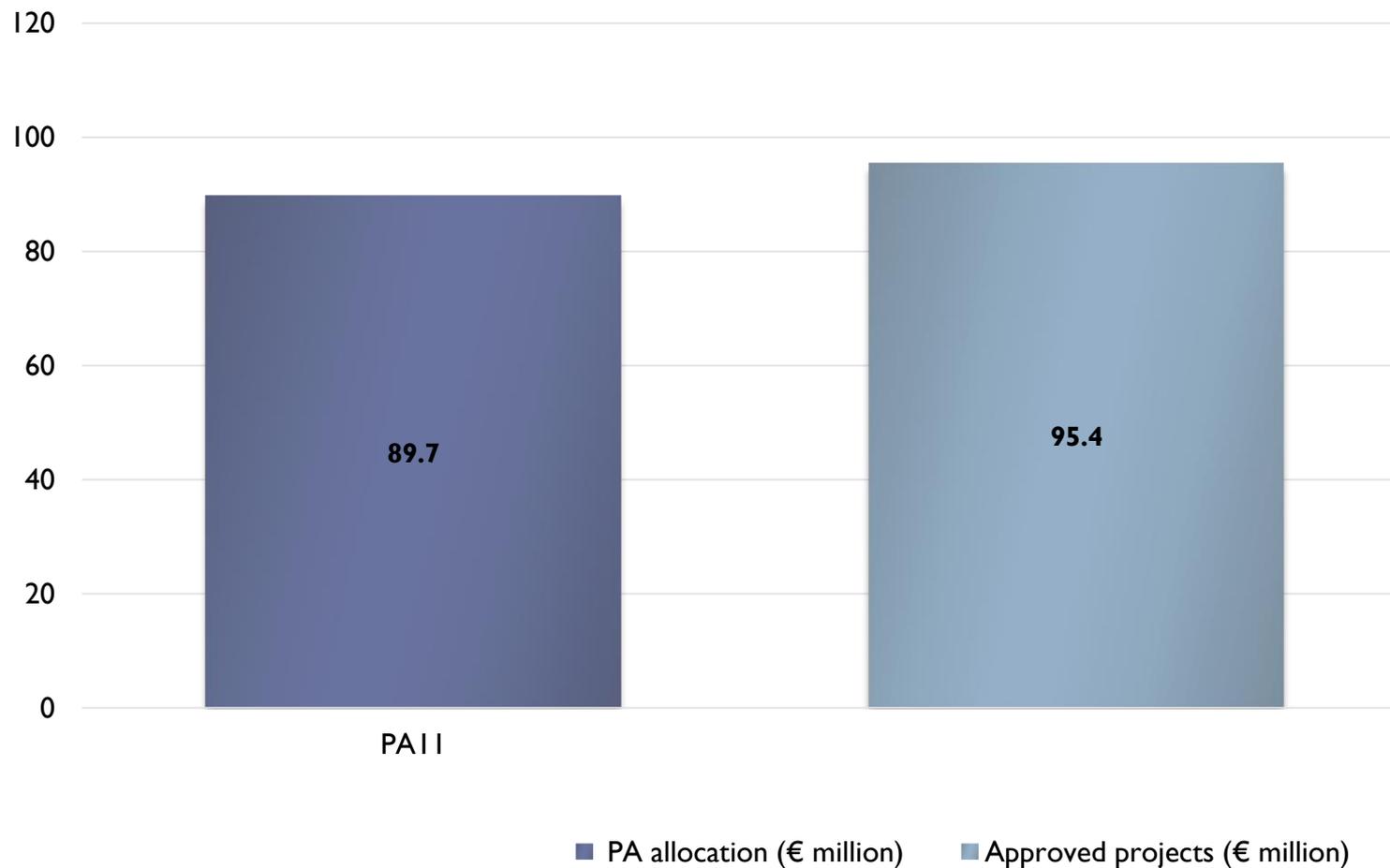


European Union
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Allocation Under PA 11

Projects Under PA II



Ongoing Call under PA 11

To date, **3 projects**, dealing with TEN-T road and maritime infrastructure aimed to increase internal and external accessibility and connectivity, were selected for a **public eligible value of €95.4M**.

- The **Kappara Junction** project was completed early in 2018 and opened to the public
- The **TEN-T Roads network project**, aiming to eliminate the bottleneck at Marsa Junction and to improve connectivity, accessibility, road safety and sustainability in other identified roads, was approved in 2018 and is currently under implementation
- A maritime project to enhance the capacity of the **Core TEN-T Port of Valletta** was also approved but is still in its initial design stage

Status update of the projects

Kappara Junction

Works were all completed, with the road opened to motorists in January 2018 with the subsequent installation of VMS and CCTV cameras.

Time travel surveys are currently ongoing to record achievements in relation to time saved as a result of this project.



Works undertaken at Kappara Junction



Status update of the projects

Ten-T road network project

Works for the widening of Marsa-
Ħamrun bypass were completed and the
road is fully operational.

Works at St. Luċija and Marsa Junction
are ongoing with the first flyover in
Marsa opened last September.

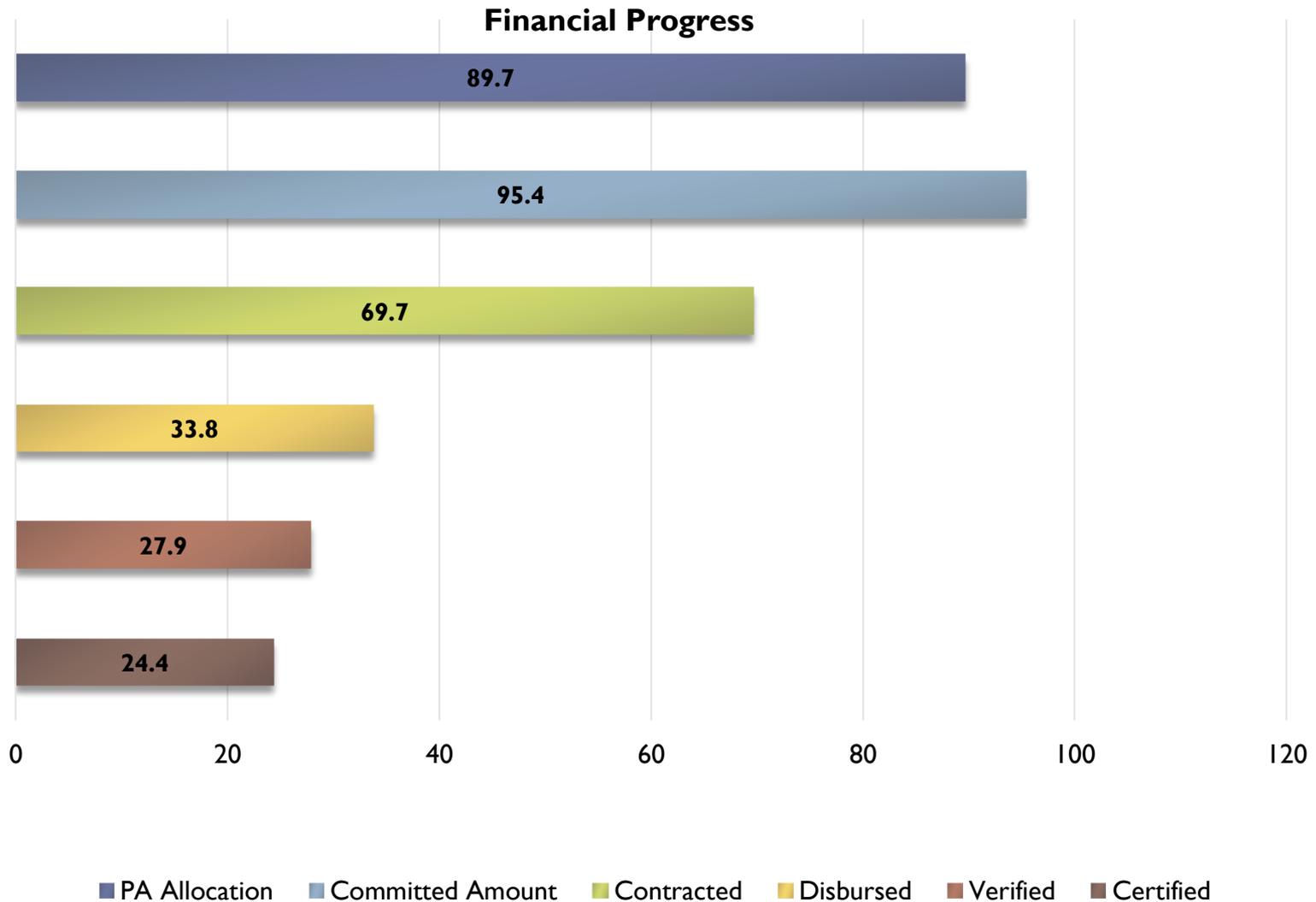


Architectural rendering of the Marsa
Junction Flyovers



The first Marsa Junction Flyover
opened in September 2019

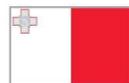
Implementation Progress – PA 11



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	2.5	2.6
	Square metres in new/upgraded in port infrastructure	Sq/m	5,000	5,000	-
	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).

Examples of concrete measures already in place following the completion of projects

Kappara project:

- Road and pavements designed to ensure accessibility and a safe pedestrian environment for non-car road users.
- Road design with the correct gradient for ramps at crossings, implementing footpaths with the adequate width and utilising specialised surfacing materials at parts of footprints as an aid for people with disability to use the road infrastructure safely.
- Messages shown on the traffic signs in a clear manner for all vehicle drivers.

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

MUŻA - The National Community Art Museum

- The museum has been designed to empower access across different knowledge levels, beyond gender stereotypes.
- Artworks are presented within broad thematic narratives and the chosen interpretation strategy caters for different knowledge levels.
- The reduction, wherever possible, of differences in levels, the introduction of ramps with adequate gradient and lifts to ensure access to wheelchair users and visitors with physical disabilities throughout the visitor areas.
- MUŻA is accessible to the visual and hearing-impaired visitors, through the correct lighting levels, font size, sounds, sign languages displayed in various AVs, and FITA certified website, amongst others.

Examples of concrete measures undertaken during the implementation of completed projects

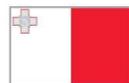
Kappara project

- Environmental measures to compensate for the land taken up at Wied Għollieqa through, amongst others, the planting of trees and shrubs;
- Collection of rainwater through a designed storm water system which is connected to the National Flood Relief System as well as to a reservoir incorporated within the project and which is used for irrigation of landscaped areas;
- Complementing national efforts of achieving carbon neutrality through the reduction in emissions.

MUŻA - The National Community Art Museum

- Renovations included retrofitting energy-efficient systems and implementing green-powered measures to minimise the site's carbon footprint.

Programme Territorial Earmarking



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Territorial Earmarking: 10% commitment for Gozo

- The following amount to a commitment of circa 74% (€52.5M) towards the 10% (€70.9M) Gozo commitment target for ERDF and CF:
 - 8 ERDF Gozo-based projects;
 - 31 Grant Schemes Beneficiaries; and
 - 13 ERDF projects with a Gozo component.



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



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JASPERS Assignments

During 2019, JASPERS experts were involved in the following assignments:

- **Research and Development** (Priority Axis 1): assisting the University of Malta mainly on the demand analysis of the Cost Benefit Analysis as well as a strategic document for the development of research partnerships, business cooperation and technology transfer activities;
- **Horizontal Assistance** is also ongoing on ToRs related to a training course in collaboration between PPCD, EPD and JASPERS. A Workshop on Article 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive was delivered in October to the National Competent Authorities;

Update on the use of Simplified Cost Options



European Union
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Current use of SCOs

Standard Scale of Unit Costs being used for:

- Salaries; Travel; Renewable energy

Lump Sums being used for:

- Consultancy; eCommerce

Flat Rate being used for:

- Other direct eligible costs (apart from staff costs) under Technical Assistance and under the RD&I Grant Scheme

Studies carried out for the further use of SCOs for the private sector:

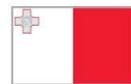
Consultancy Grant Scheme

- concluded a study to establish a lump sum covering consultancy services

eCommerce Grant Scheme

- Ongoing study to establish an SCO for e-Commerce services

Communication Activities (2014-2020)



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European Week of Regions & Cities 2019

Visual presentation of cultural sites and digitally innovative projects

- Multimedia event organised by the Polish Ministry of Investment and Economic Development between 7th and 10th October in Brussels, together with 9 countries which are celebrating the 15th anniversary of joining the EU along with Poland.
- The event under the slogan “***Europe Can Be More ... thanks to Cohesion Policy***” showcased various areas and aspects, diverse investments from Cohesion Policy, and how it affected the lives of European citizens.
- Malta participated by providing photos and information regarding
 - ❖ the Manoel Theatre,
 - ❖ MUŻA – National Museum of Art,
 - ❖ Ċittadellafeatured on the following link:
<https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/en/site/europe-can-be-more/>

European Week of Regions and Cities 2019 (2)

Preserving cultural heritage for the future generations



Photo 3: EU Funds preserve cultural heritage for the future generations. The Manoel Theatre was upgraded in order to provide a high-quality experience to patrons from a revamp in the roof to seating and flooring in order to improve the acoustics of this unique opera venue (Malta). Phot. Alex Turnbull

Renovating and revitalising historical buildings



Photo 7: The cohesion policy funds help to preserve cultural heritage, renovate the historical buildings and revitalise them. We adapt the space and facilities to the needs of people with reduced mobility. Accessibility to the Cittadella Gozo for visitors was improved with the introduction of lifts, chair-lifts and lifting platforms (Malta). Phot. Alex Turnbull

Merging environmentally-friendly and green contemporary construction designs within historical contexts and cultural heritage

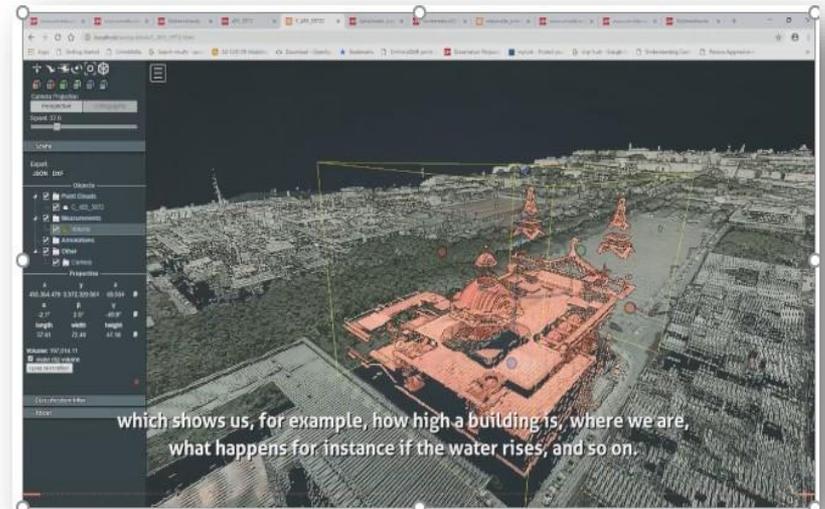
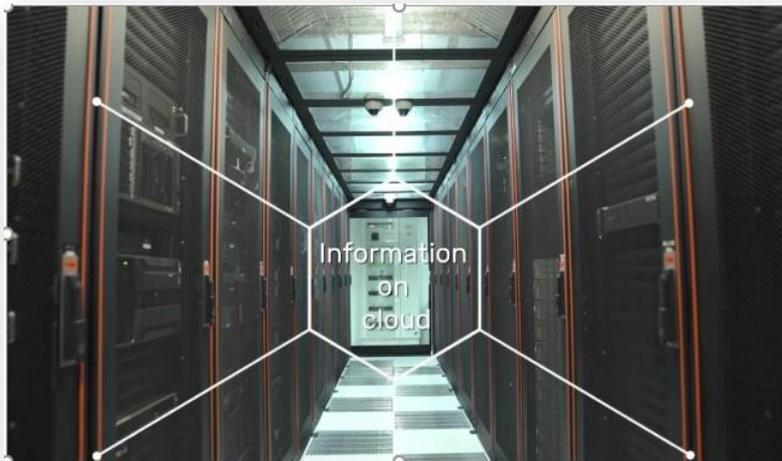


Photo 4: The cohesion policy funds merge environmentally-friendly and green contemporary construction designs within historical contexts and cultural heritage. National Museum of Art (MUŻA) not only promotes culture, but also supports sustainability by generating energy from natural resources (solar panels) (Malta). Phot. Alex Turnbull

Source: *European Funds Portal*,
04/10/2019

European Week of Regions and Cities 2019 (3)

The MA also produced and submitted videos that showcased two projects (**Sintegram** & **CONvErGE**) during a 4-day multimedia exhibition:



Use of social media

The European Commission made available a small allocation of funds to use for social media presence. This resulted in:

- An outreach of 93,408 unique persons, equivalent to one fifth of Malta's population.
- Just under 8,000 people engaging with the posts, or performed actions such as liking a post, clicking on a link, sharing a post or commenting on an image.
- A total of 1,150 link clicks on the seven boosted posts.
- A post on the *Manoel Theatre* project had a reach of 50,851. The engagement on it was 3,846. More than 1,000 people liked the post and 43 shared it. There were 47 comments beneath the post, mostly positive ones.

Annual Event 2019

Open Day at MUŻA and Grand Master's Palace



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Open Days

MUŻA & Grandmaster's Palace
2 November
Free admission 09.00 – 17.00 hrs*

State Rooms Conservation Tours free of charge by prior booking
* last admission 16.30 hrs

 Operational Programme I – European Structural and Investment Funds 2014–2020
"Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges"
Project part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
Co-financing rate: 80% European Union Funds, 20% National Funds

 
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT
FOR EUROPEAN FUNDS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

On Saturday 2nd November, Heritage Malta opened two of its sites: MUŻA & the Grandmaster's Palace for visitors to showcase the EU investments as well as to inform the same visitors about the benefits of EU funding.

Open Day Event 2019 (2)

A limited edition puzzle was given to all those who visited the GMP, while a publication about MUŻA was given to all those who visited the museum.

Information about ESF projects was also disseminated together with promotional items that sought to sensitize the general public regarding sustainability.



Limited edition puzzle



Publication about MUŻA

Open Day Event 2019 (3)

This event also served as an educational opportunity for both adults and children:

- 4 art classes at the **MUŻA**
- 4 conservation tours at the State Rooms at the **Grandmaster's Palace** to learn about the Restoration process of the affrescoes that is supported through EU funding

The aim was to reach out to the community in order to create interest in art and restoration techniques and a general appreciation towards the country's cultural heritage, whilst emphasizing the benefits of EU funding.



Art classes at MUŻA



Conservation tours at the Grandmaster's Palace

Training Activities (2014-2020)



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Training provided by the MA in 2019

- Training on the Structural Funds Database (ongoing basis) with two sessions held on March to ESF and ERDF PLs, and another session held in May 2019 for ESF PLs, PPCD officers also attended;
- Training on Arachne held in February 2019. The training was delivered to staff from PPCD, MSD, FPD and MITA and highlighted how the Arachne tool can be used to help in combating fraud;
- Public Procurement Regulations training sessions held in May and June (2 sessions) 2019 targeting NGOs, Local Councils, Entities and Line Ministries;
- Training on Project Implementation and Monitoring (NGOs and LCs) held on July 2019;
- Training on Common Errors in Public Procurement and Determining Financial Corrections for Non-Compliance with EU Regulations held in September (2 sessions), October (2 sessions), December (2 sessions) targeting Project leaders who are directly involved with the project's implementation.

Training provided by the MA in 2019 – internal training

- Training on Grant Agreement (ongoing basis) for MA's officers held in March 2019; and
- Training on Common Errors in Public Procurement and Determining Financial Corrections for Non-Compliance with EU Regulations held in July (2 sessions).

Upcoming training sessions for PPCD staff :

- SFD
- SCOs
- Indicators
- Arachne
- PowerPoint
- Business English
- SharePoint
- Training through TAIEX
- Tailor-made courses with Lexxion
- Induction Training

Audits by the Audit Authority



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Status update – Audits on Operations

In 2019, audits are currently being carried out on:

- ten mainstream projects; and
- 20 interventions financed under the ERDF Aid Schemes implemented by the Intermediate Body

Current update:

- Kick-off meetings with the Beneficiaries were held during the first week of November;
- Audit work will continue with further procurement and physical checks undertaken by the Audit Authority;
- The contradictory procedure with the Managing Authority is expected to take place in December;
- Audits are expected to be concluded by January 2019.

Ongoing Systems audits:

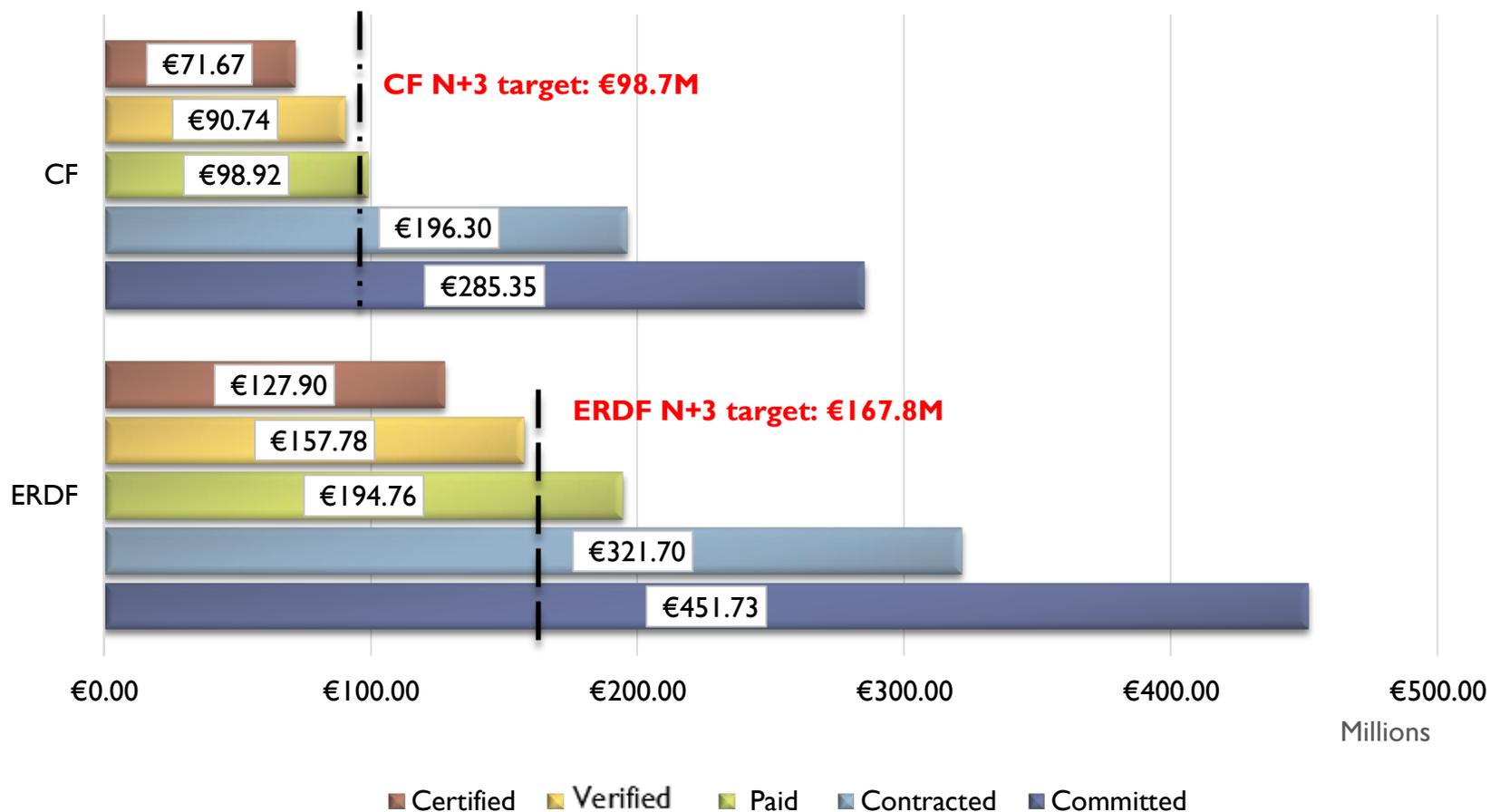
Managing Authority (MA)

Audits on Key Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 are currently ongoing by the Audit Authority.

ERDF SME Consultancy Services Grant Scheme lump sum study

Audit was carried out in Q3 2019. The MA replied to the Contradictory report and took on board the recommendations put forward.

Update on Implementation: N+3 Disbursement in 2019



Concluding Remarks

- Significant progress has been achieved in terms committed and contracted.
- The challenge now is in relation to the implementation and effective progress on the ground.
- Monitoring of the project execution at this stage is critical to ensure that we reap the benefits of the implementation and ensuring that the expected results are achieved.
- Efforts are required by all stakeholders to ensure the achievement of the N+3 targets through timely verification and certification of expenditure.
- Cooperation needed from all stakeholders for the upcoming audits on operations.

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