

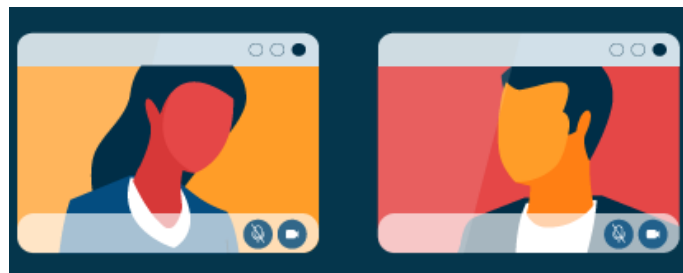
Welcome to the Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting!



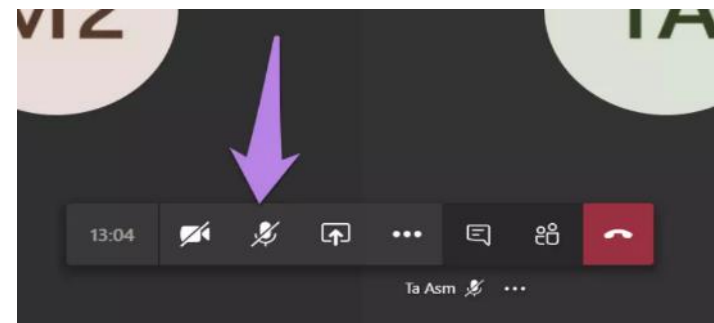
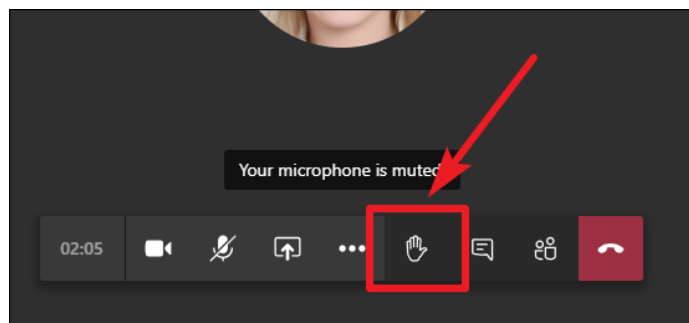
EU funds
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2020

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

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



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



Annual Implementation Report (2021) & Update on Implementation

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

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

Operational Programme SMEi -
Stimulating private sector investment for economic growth

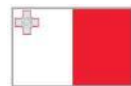
Monitoring Committee
27th April 2022



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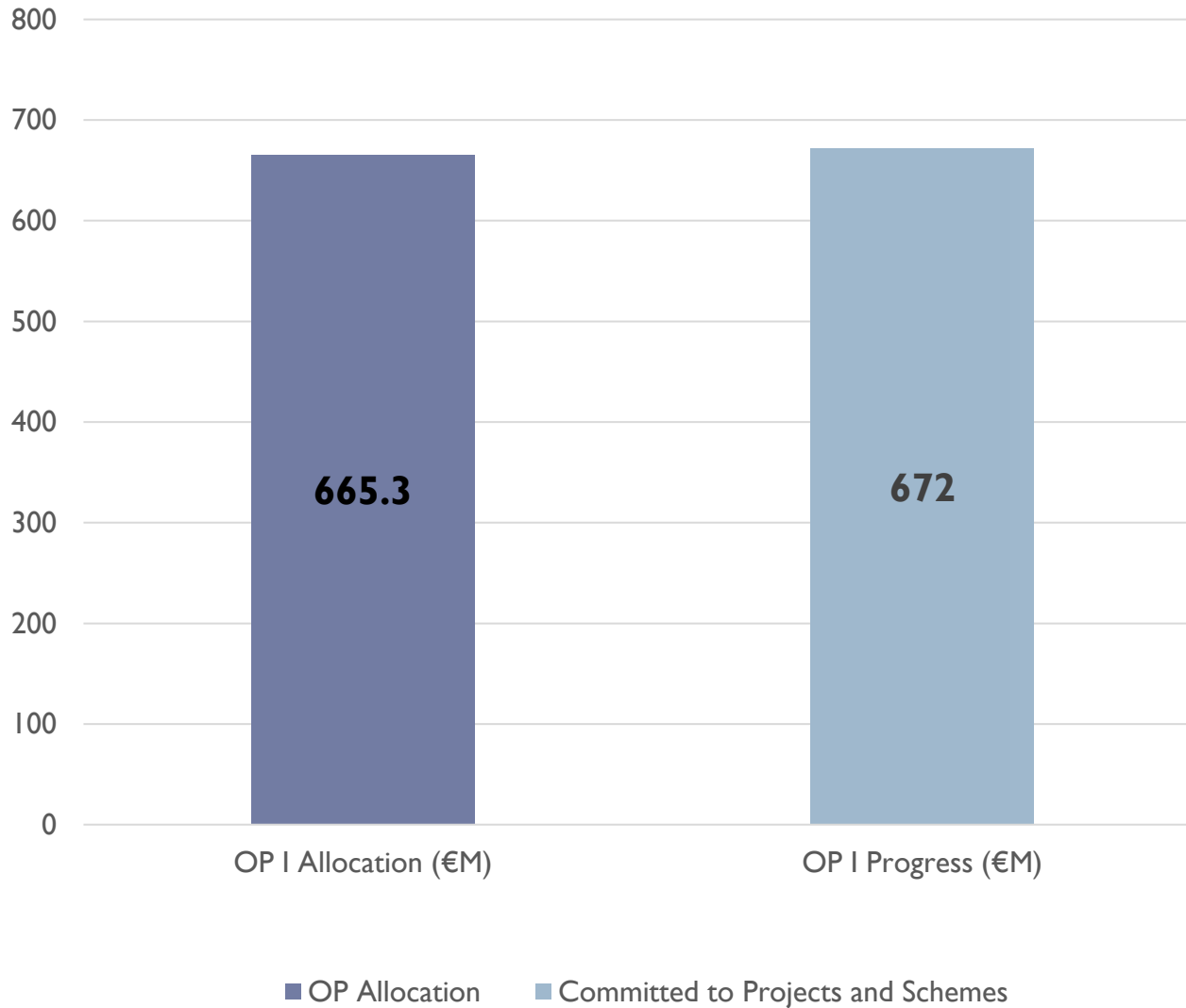
Programme Commitment Table



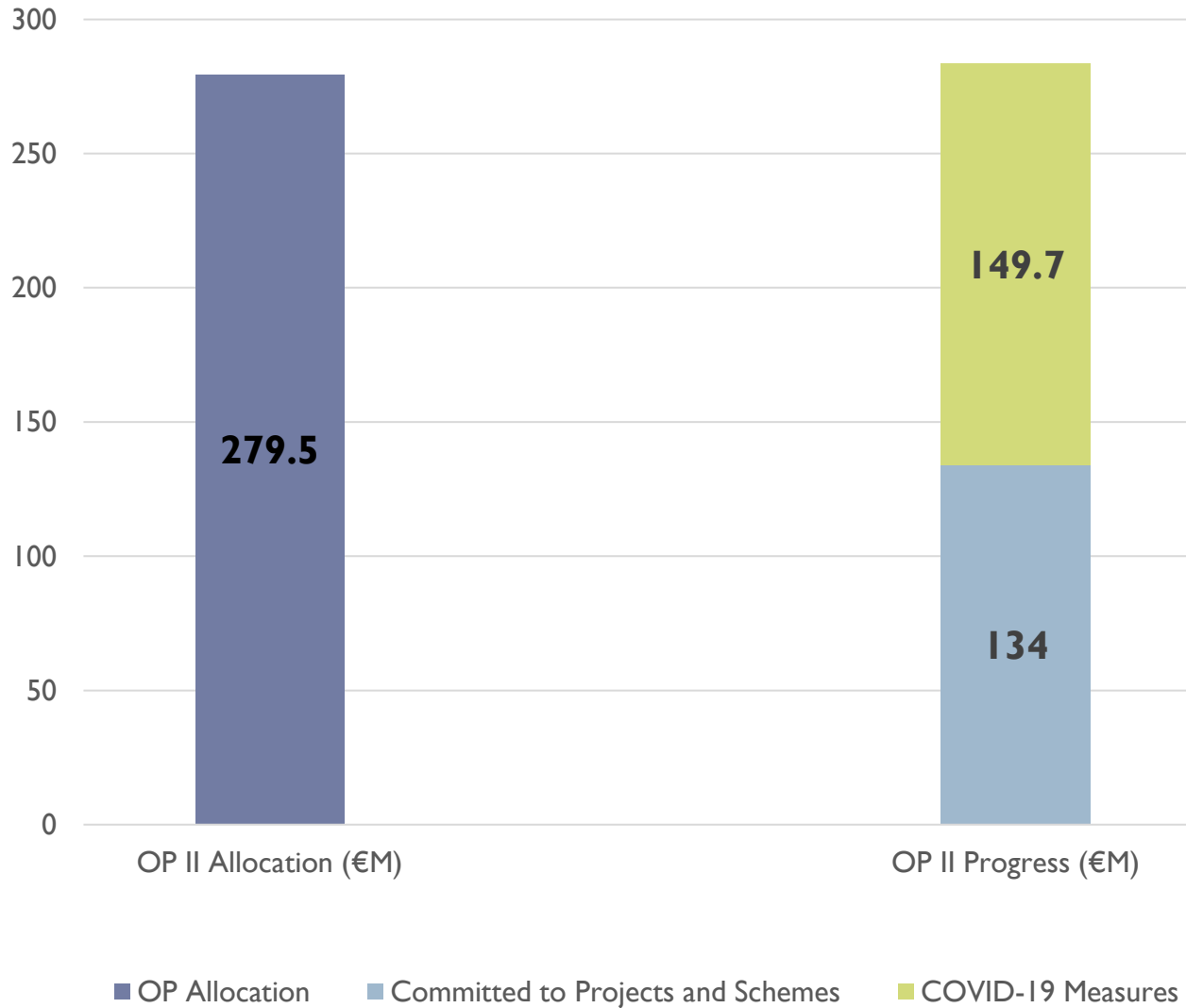
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OPI Programme Commitment Table - Dec 2021



OPII Programme Commitment Table - Dec 2021



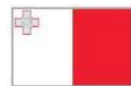
Progress in the Implementation of Operational Programme I



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PA 1 - Investing in Research, Technological Development and Innovation



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Implementation Progress – PA1

PA Allocation: €62M

Two mainstream projects with a public eligible value of €62M are being implemented under this PA.

Major achievements by end of 2021 include:

TRAKE (a complex of 30 research labs at the UoM & equipment in other locations focusing on research outputs, knowledge exchange and collaboration with industry)

- M&E and finishing works at the main TRAKE building and at the Metallurgy & Materials Engineering Labs (MMEL) nearing completion;
- Ongoing procurement related to purchase of more research equipment

SLC (a resource efficient building with state-of-the-art research facilities creating the best environment for interdisciplinary research)

- Progress has been registered in the construction works
- M&E works & finishing services undertaken concurrently with D&B works with both contractors working on different zones within the same site.



Construction of steel structures at SLC



Entrance to the MMEL Building (TRAKE)

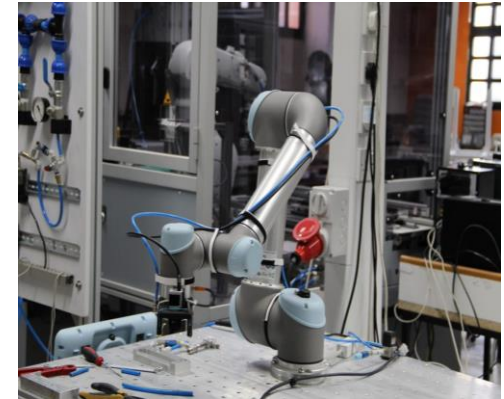
Implementation Progress – PA1

PA Allocation: €62M

Major achievements in mainstream projects by end of 2021 include:

TRAKE

- Equipment procured gives the opportunity and boosts UoM efforts to embark on research projects with more than 61 FTE researchers using the new facilities.
- 38 post-grads are currently conducting research.
- Over 120 research studies undertaken in the fields of health; mechanical engineering; metallurgy and materials engineering; industrial and manufacturing engineering.
- 9 applications for patents submitted in the areas of HVAM, Transport, Health, Resource Efficiency in Buildings, Environment & Climate Change.
- UoM and Mater Dei collaborating on research activities linked to the investment in the MRI located at Mater Dei.



Industrial robotic arm used in teaching, demonstration and research activities



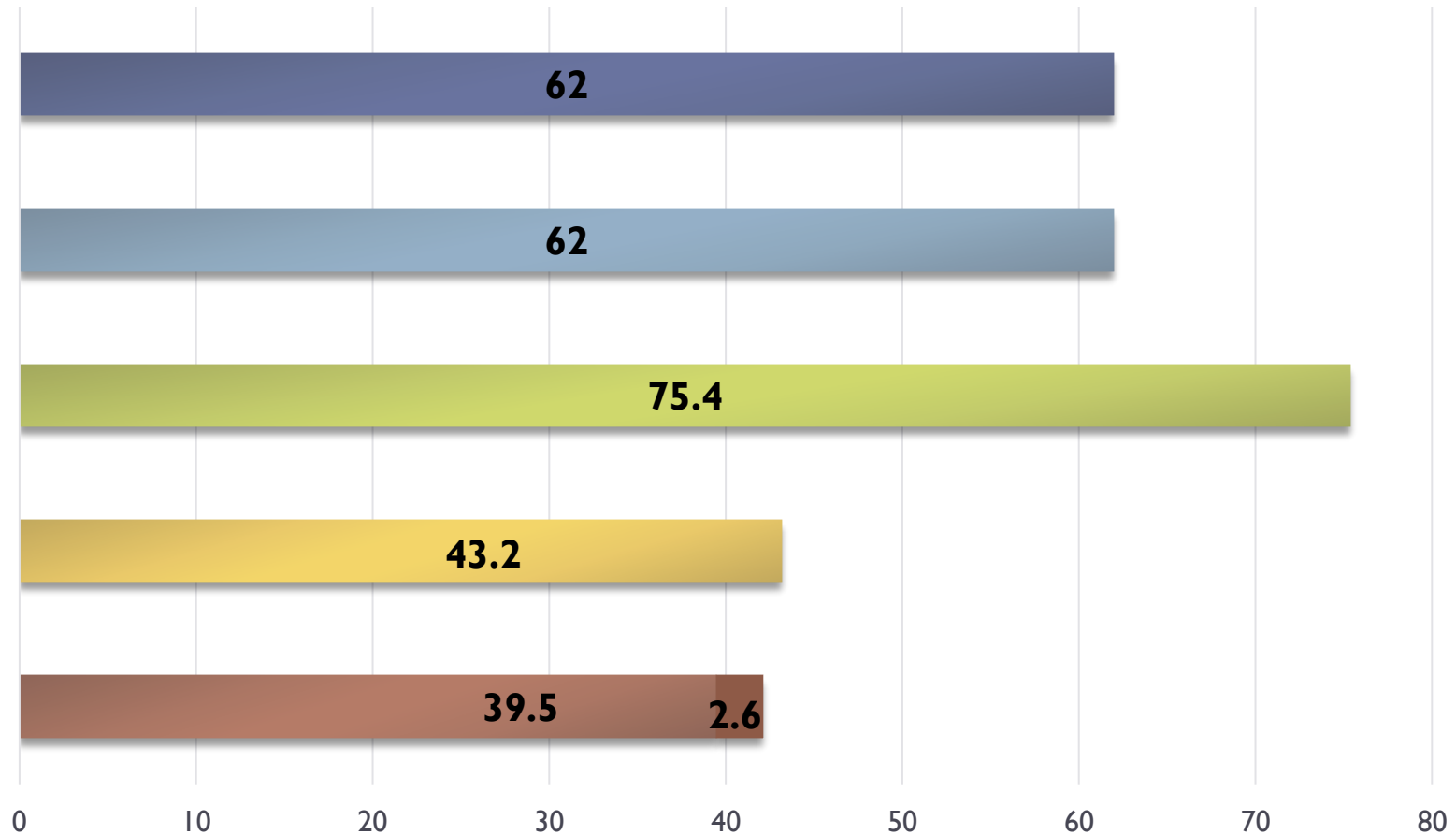
Magnetic Resonance Unit (MRI) at Mater Dei

Implementation Progress to date – PA 1



EU funds
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Financial Progress (€M)



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

PA 2 - Consolidating Investment within the ICT Sector



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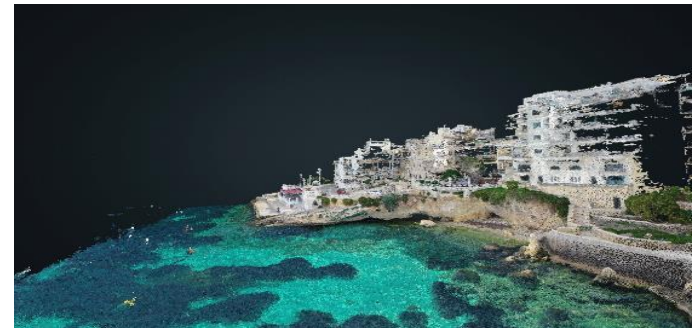
Implementation Progress – PA 2

PA Allocation: €47M

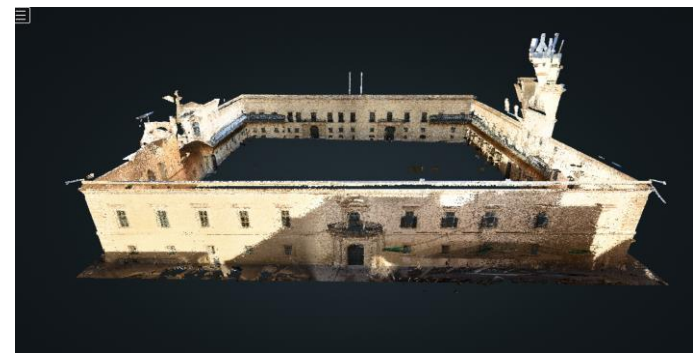
Two mainstream projects and one Aid Schemes with a public eligible value of €47.4M are being implemented under this PA.

Major achievements in mainstream projects by end of 2021 include:

- The **Sintegram project** continued with investment to cover new applications, targeting thematic areas previously not available, which complements the existing GI system and adds value to input and output capture and analysis funded in the initial stages of the project.
- This project has provided Malta with a common spatial dataset used for various tasks such as water resources enforcement, planning subterrain analysis, crime scene analysis, digitisation of heritage sites and flora and fauna protection.



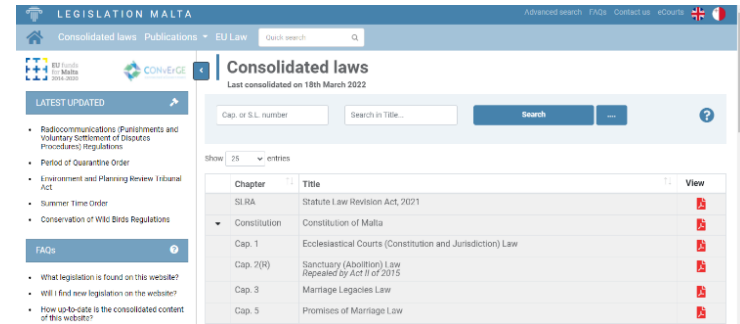
Planning subterrain analysis









Digitisation of Heritage Sites

Implementation Progress – PA 2

- The other larger mainstream project **CONvErGE** is aimed at strengthening the public service through development of ICT systems and consolidating digital capacity.
- An increase from 14 to 25 new e-services applications in the areas of health, environment, customs and interdepartmental services has been achieved.
- Such services shall further increase citizens' use of online services; strengthen internal digital systems so that public officers work more efficiently; and above all put into practice the Once-Only Principle, whereby a citizen using any government service is asked for personal information only once.



The screenshot shows the 'LEGISLATION MALTA' website. The main heading is 'Consolidated laws' with a sub-heading 'Last consolidated on 18th March 2022'. There is a search bar and a table of laws. The table has columns for 'Chapter', 'Title', and 'View'. The 'View' column contains red icons that likely represent the Legislation Identifier.

Chapter	Title	View
SI, RA	Statute Law Revision Act, 2021	
Constitution	Constitution of Malta	
Cap. 1	Ecclesiastical Courts (Constitution and Jurisdiction) Law	
Cap. 2(R)	Sanctuary (Abolition) Law Repealed by Act II of 2015	
Cap. 3	Marriage Legacies Law	
Cap. 5	Promises of Marriage Law	

Legislation Identifier enabling users to view earlier versions of the consolidated documents



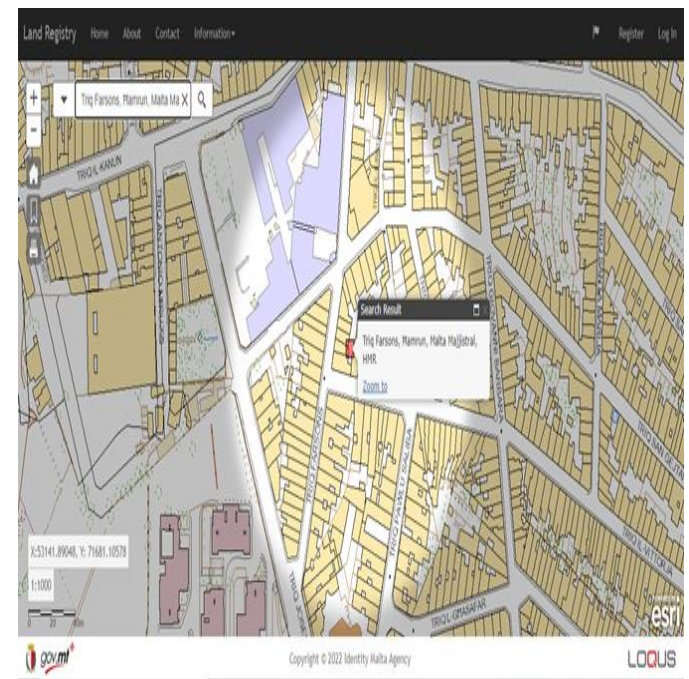
The screenshot shows the 'education.gov.mt' website. The main banner features a group of children and the text 'SUPPORT IS KEY' and 'THE EARLIER CHILDREN WITH AUTISM GET HELP, THE BETTER'. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'THE SCREENING PROCESS: Screening for Autism in Infants between eighteen (18) and thirty (30) months of age'.

System to help identify signs of developmental delays, learning difficulties and/pr educational needs at an early stage.

Implementation Progress – PA 2

CONvErGE ongoing eServices developments:

- **Land Registration Agency pLotter** project being developed as an online paperless system facilitating the registration of new properties and/or the transfer of properties.
- **SpaceForEnsiCS** – Mobile Forensics Laboratory Technology enabling the creation of digital crime scenes.
- **Case Management System for the Department of Active Ageing and Community Care** – once the new system is in place, health professionals will be able to communicate better, share reports and assessments.



Land Registration Agency pLotter project

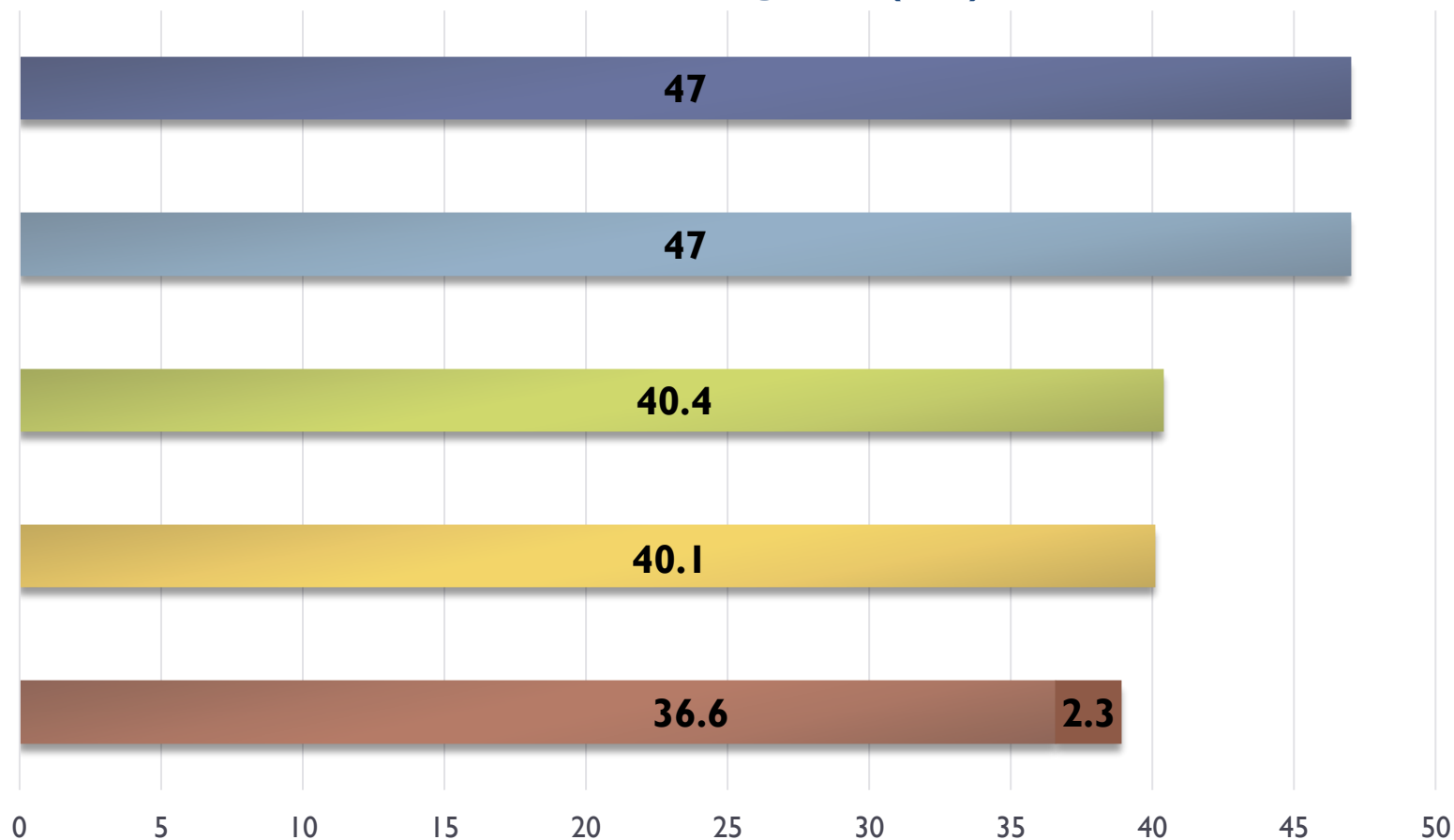
Implementation Progress to date – PA 2



EU funds
for Malta

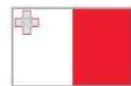
2014
2020

Financial Progress (€M)



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

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



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Implementation Progress – PA 3

PA Allocation: €44.5M

Three mainstream projects and five Aid Schemes with a public eligible value of €44.5M are being implemented under this PA.

- The embellishment & upgrading of infrastructure of common areas **Ta' Qali Crafts Village** was an incentive for 33 traditional artisans who have invested in new workshops.
- The consistent patterns used in the design & finishes to reflect a traditional Maltese townscape provide an element of authenticity to the experience of tourists and locals who visit this village to view the production of local artefacts.



Artisan at work at Ta' Qali Crafts Village



A workshop at Ta' Qali Crafts Village

Implementation Progress – PA 3

- At end of 2021, the **Gozo Innovation Hub** in Gozo had 4 lease agreements in place whilst the **Industrial Workshop Complex** had 10 lease agreements in place.
- An additional 23 new FTE have been created at the **Gozo Innovation Hub**.
- The **Internationalisation Knowledge Platform** continues to give Maltese exporters access to various types of trade information services, such as market insights, international market intelligence databases, or e-learning training courses. Due to COVID restrictions, this has once again proved to be invaluable for Maltese companies, substituting traditional assistance such as exhibitions & trade missions.



A workshop in use at the Xewkija Industrial Workshop Complex



Internationalisation Knowledge Platform

Implementation Progress – PA 3

Work during 2021 covered through national funds continued to complement EU funding at **Ta' Qali Crafts Village** with the following developments:

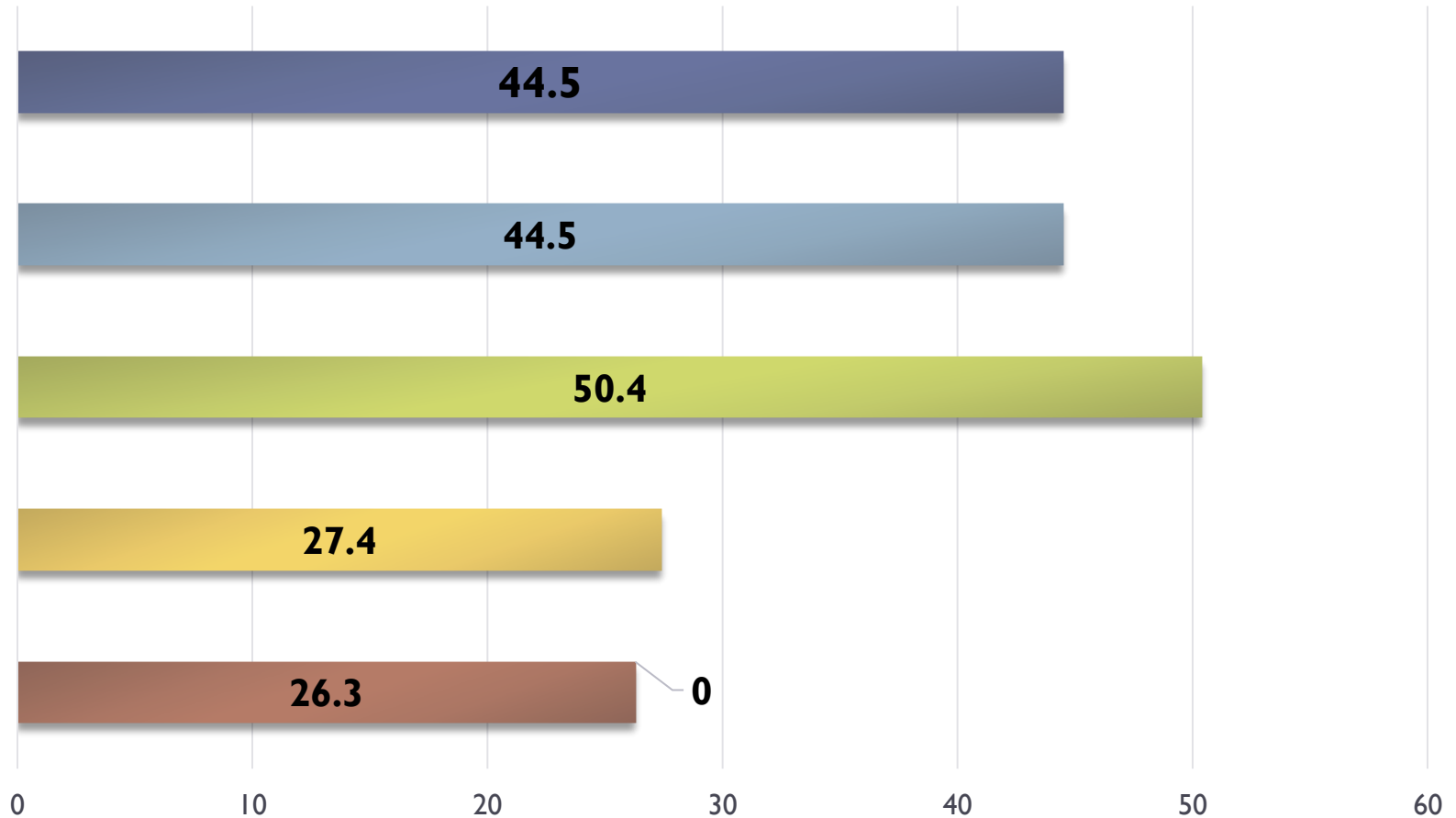
- The **Incubation Centre** at Ta' Qali Crafts Village has been completed with only finishing touches remaining to be done, while the interior of the adjoining interpretation centre is being fitted out.
- Preparations for the commencement of works on site for the **Start-up Centre** at Ta' Qali have started, with excavation works expected to commence next month.
- The tender for the setting up of a **Centre for Vanishing Crafts** is currently under evaluation.

Implementation Progress to date – PA 3



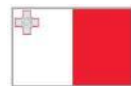
EU funds
for Malta | 2014
2020

Financial Progress (€M)



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

PA 4 - Shifting Towards a Low-Carbon Economy



European Union
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Implementation Progress – PA4

PA Allocation: €32.7M

Apart from a Financial Instrument (FI) covering EE and RES, this PA also includes 5 projects covering RES and 6 covering EE measures.

Major achievements in mainstream projects by end of 2021 include:

- Works at the **Elderly People's Home** involving retrofitting actions progressed well, with 20 out of 24 actions completed.
- The RES project implemented by **OASI** has been completed.
- The RES scheme for private households continued to contribute by 0.55% towards Malta's achievement of national target of energy generated from RES.
- The successfully implemented street lighting project resulted in a decrease of 1.7KWh of annual primary energy consumption.



Energy Efficiency measures at SVDP Elderly People's Home



Renewable Energy measures at OASI Foundation – Gozo

Implementation Progress – PA4

In 2021, 3 new projects focusing on EE measures with a total commitment of €1.7M were approved:

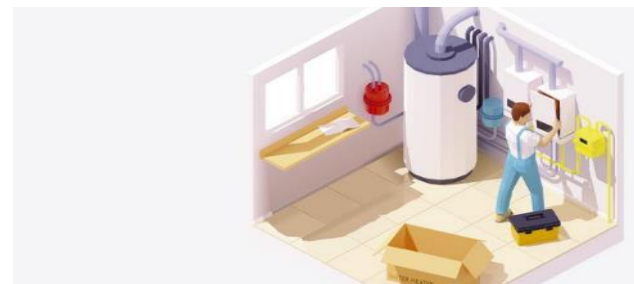
- **Towards Carbon Efficiency within AFM Buildings** - upgrade aimed at improving the EE of a number of the buildings within the Defence Estate.
- **Improving Energy Efficiency within public buildings** – a number of EE measures foreseen.
- **Investing in Energy Efficient Measures at St. Vincent de Paul Long Term Care Facility (Phase II)** – a number of EE interventions foreseen.



EE measures at the Defence Estate of the Armed Forces of Malta

Financial Instrument – PA 4

- The FI with an allocation of **€15M**, will generate a portfolio of c. €54M - €60M providing guarantees and an interest rate subsidy giving the opportunity to both **private individuals and companies** to carry out **RES** and **EE** measures.
- By year end, 37 loans were granted amounting to c. €1M.
- Due to low uptake, discussions are ongoing on the possibility to widen the eligibility criteria in line with the findings of the ex-ante assessment and government policy intended to support the decarbonisation of the economy.



Potential EE and RES measures eligible under the FI

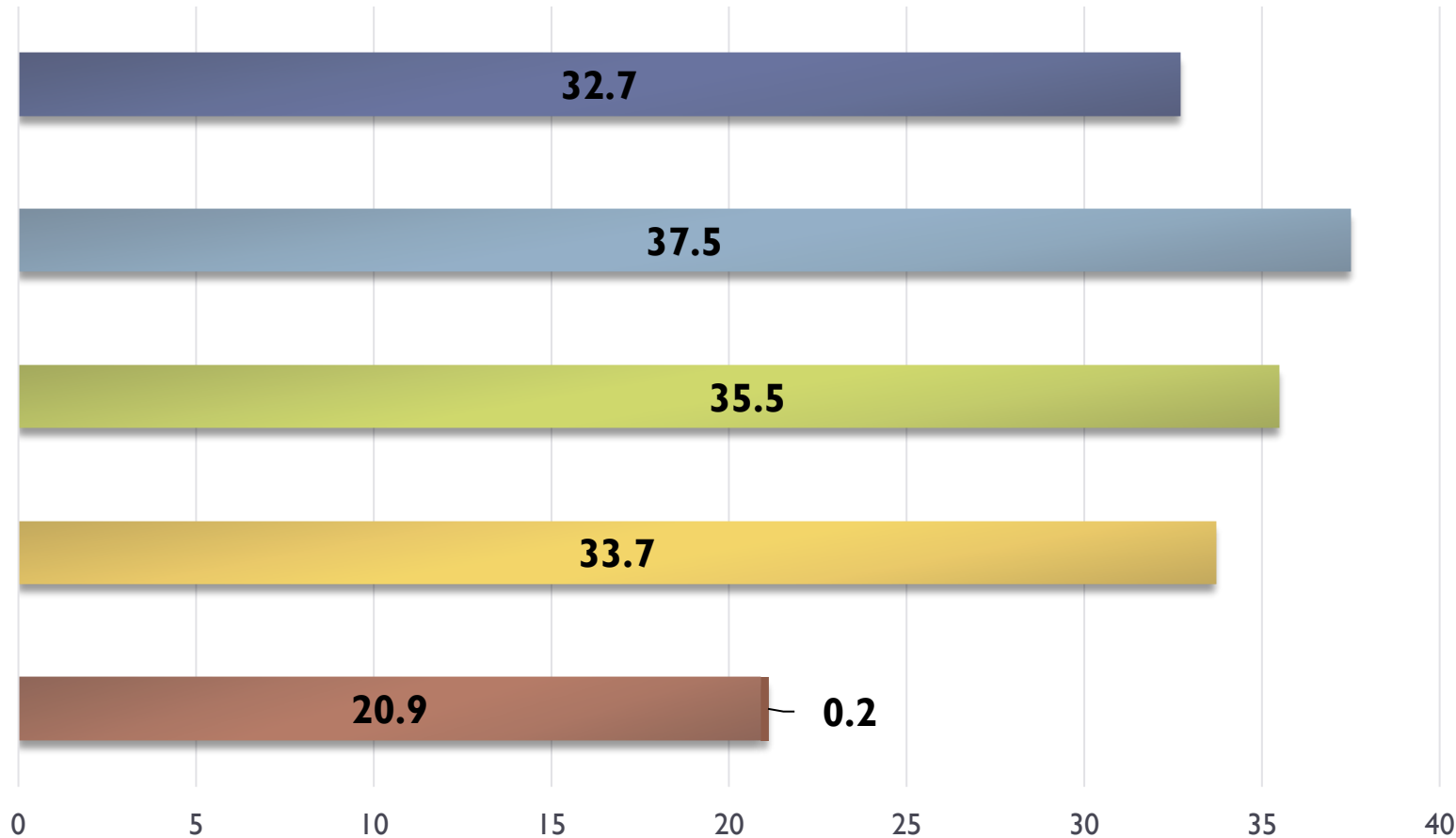


Implementation Progress to date – PA 4



EU funds for Malta | 2014
2020

Financial Progress (€M)



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

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



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Implementation Progress – PA 5

PA Allocation: €63.3M

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

Major achievements by end of 2021 include:

- ▶ Meticulous restoration on the walls, lunettes, soffit & polychromed marble floors within the Piano Nobile corridors was nearly completed, which will give a new experience for future visitors at the **Grandmaster's Palace**.
- ▶ Another significant intervention in Valletta, offering visitors a new experience, is the creation of a '**Caravaggio Centre**' at St. John's Co-Cathedral Museum, which is currently being fitted with museum showcasing.
- ▶ Following completion of all excavation and foundation works, the **Malta International Contemporary Arts Space (MICAS)** is currently undergoing construction of the superstructures.



Piano Nobile at the Grandmaster's Palace



Caravaggio Centre at St John's Cathedral

Implementation Progress – PA 5

- Following restoration works, the **oldest surviving windmill in Gozo**, on the main road midway between the port & the main town, was inaugurated in Jan 2021.
- The digitisation of the massive collection of historical volumes at the **Notarial Archives** is nearing completion & the preservation of these documents will be housed in a museum following the restoration of 2 buildings in central Valletta.
- Restoration works of landmarks such as **coastal watch towers & religious buildings and shrines** around Malta and Gozo are being undertaken by different NGOS with the intention to diversify Malta's tourism product.
- The setting up of intricate scaffolding around **St Paul's Anglican Cathedral** belfry has facilitated access for restoration works on the belfry exteriors.



The Xewkija windmill in Gozo



Restoration of the Fontana church
façade and parvis

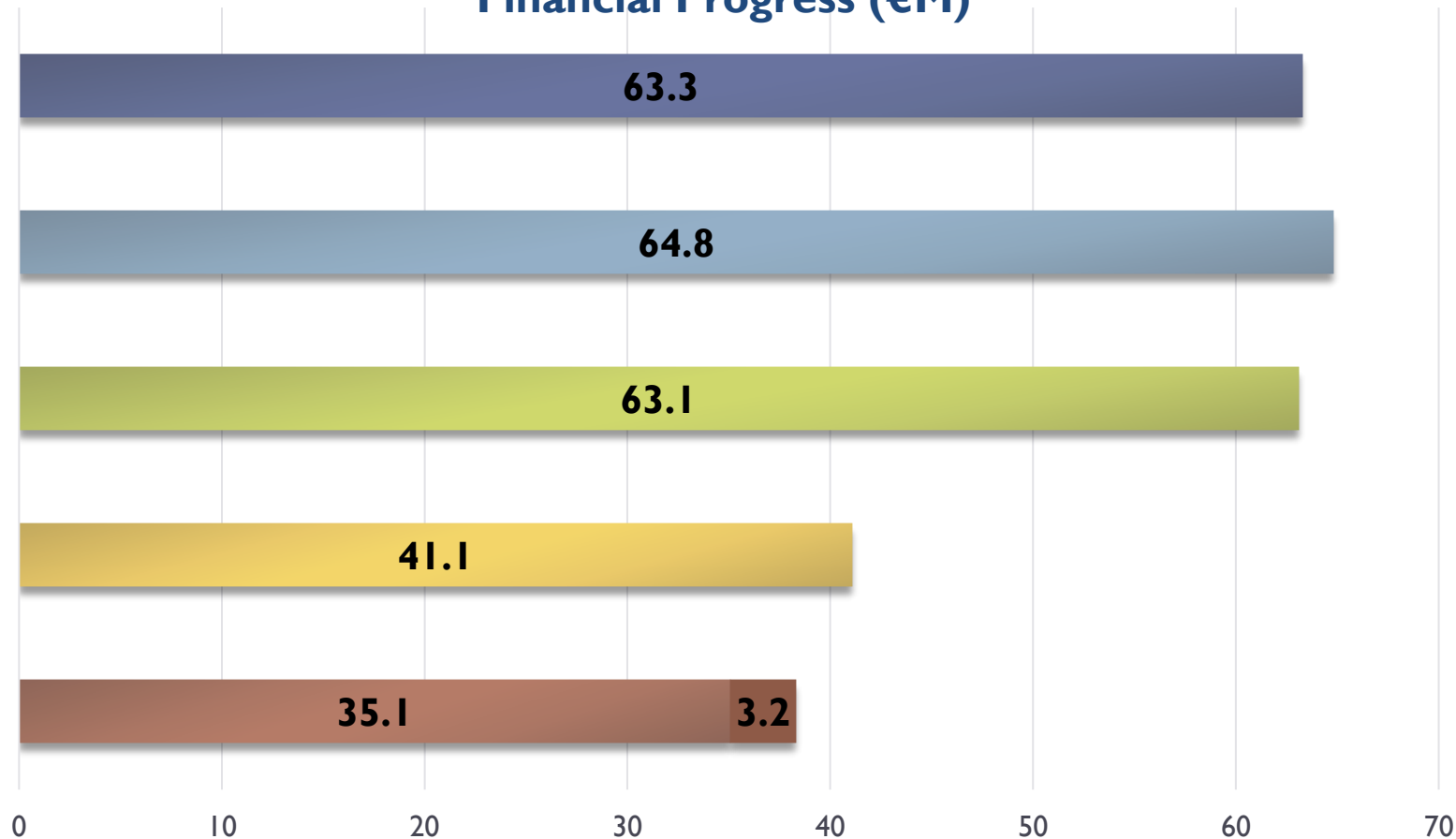
Implementation Progress to date – PA 5



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020

Financial Progress (€M)



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

PA 6 - Sustainable Urban Development



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Implementation Progress – PA 6

PA Allocation: €24M

Major achievements by end of 2021 as part of the **Sustainable Urban Development project in Lower Valletta** include:

- **45 housing units** for vulnerable persons have been completed.
- The **façade of 25 housing apartments** including Maltese balconies, decorative lighting work, structural reinforcement works as well as underground services system have been carried out.
- Household owners were invited to contribute towards the improvement of the traditional streetscapes through incentives aimed to preserve the **typical Maltese** balconies characteristic of this area with the approval of 29 requests for funding.



Housing units in Charles Street, before and after restoration



A restored balcony at lower Valletta

Implementation Progress – PA 6

PA Allocation: €24M

- The first action of the social component of this project, known as **Hiliet il-Komunità**, focused on the community mapping, with the participation of **390 individuals**.
- Aim of mapping was to assess readiness to social mobility & provide skills auditing.
- The second action focuses on professional assistance & skills capacity building.
- In practical terms, this component aims to support the community by providing skills related to employment, parenting, housing stability as well as financial literacy, enabling residents to identify their resources, overcome their challenges and promote sustainability.
- Initiatives held in 2021 were:
 - **Narratives of Valletta:** a storytelling project aimed to bring together Valletta residents of all ages;
 - **A Coffee for an Idea:** exchange of ideas and coffee to facilitate community engagement and participation;
 - **School Gate Engagement Activity:** asking parents for suggestions for parenting empowerment.



'Narratives of Valletta' event



'A Coffee for an Idea' initiative

Implementation Progress – PA 6

- The **Valletta Design Cluster** which has now been in operation for the past year is aiming at bridging gaps which may feature in the current cultural and creative environment by actively engaging with practitioners working on initiatives targeting cultural and social wellbeing.
- It provides facilities, expertise and opportunities to artists, creatives, entrepreneurs and organisations willing to generate positive social value through innovation and creativity.



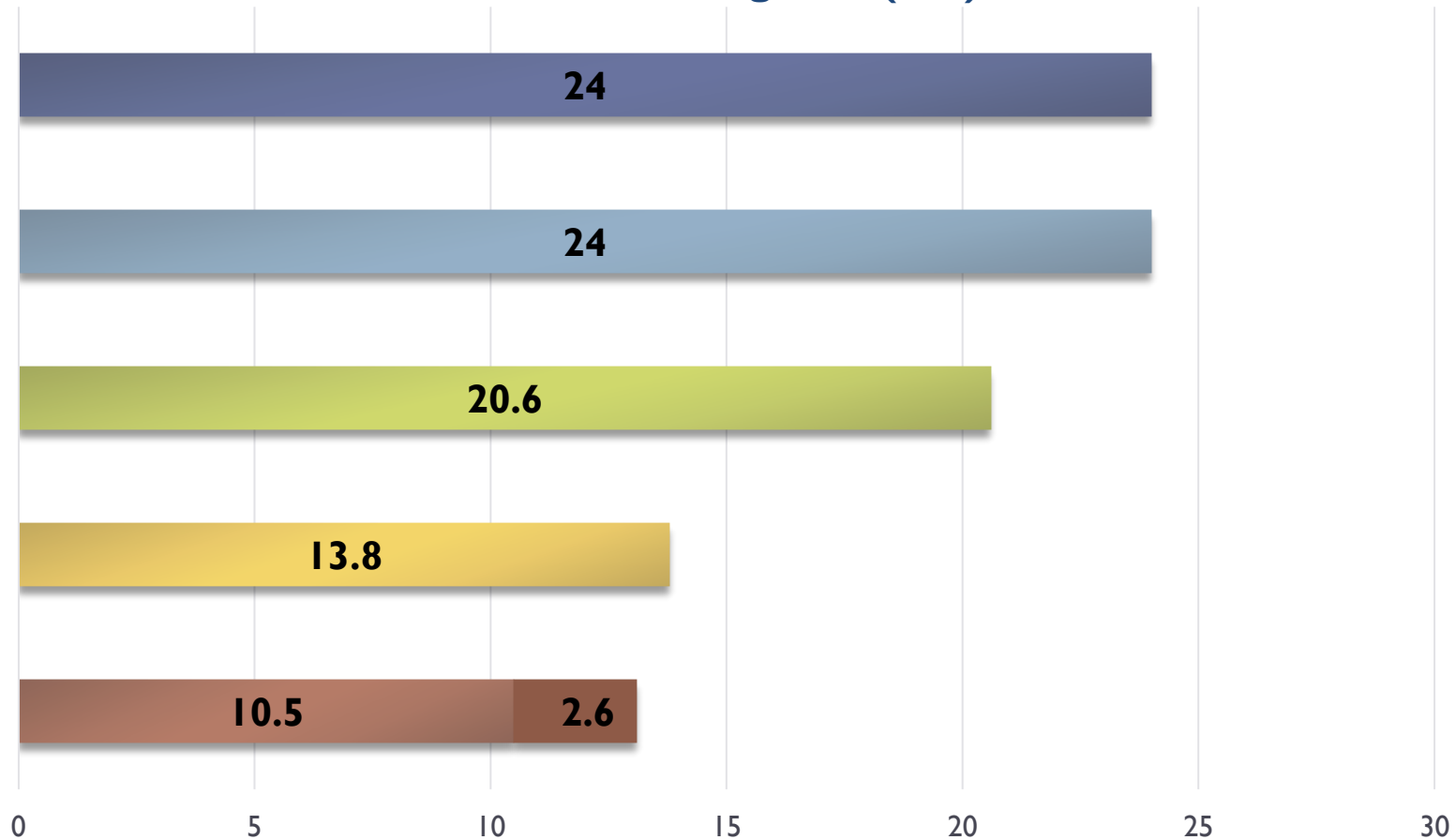
Various events being held at the Valletta Design Cluster

Implementation Progress to date – PA 6



EU funds
for Malta | 2014
2020

Financial Progress (€M)



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

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



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Implementation Progress – PA 7

PA Allocation: €35.5M

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

By end 2021, progress was achieved with respect to:

- **100 charging pillars** (77% of the total to be installed) installed and commissioned.
- **6 electric buses** started operating as shuttle bus service from the Gozo heliport parking to the Mgarr Port with the service being offered free to commuters from 05:00 till 21:00.
- Works on the superstructures of the **Bormla & Sliema ferry landing** are ongoing; these include installation of shelters & ramps for improved accessibility and more resistant facilities for use in inclement weather, making the services offered more attractive to users.
- Tender for works on the **Marsamxett ferry landing site** was under evaluation in December 2021.

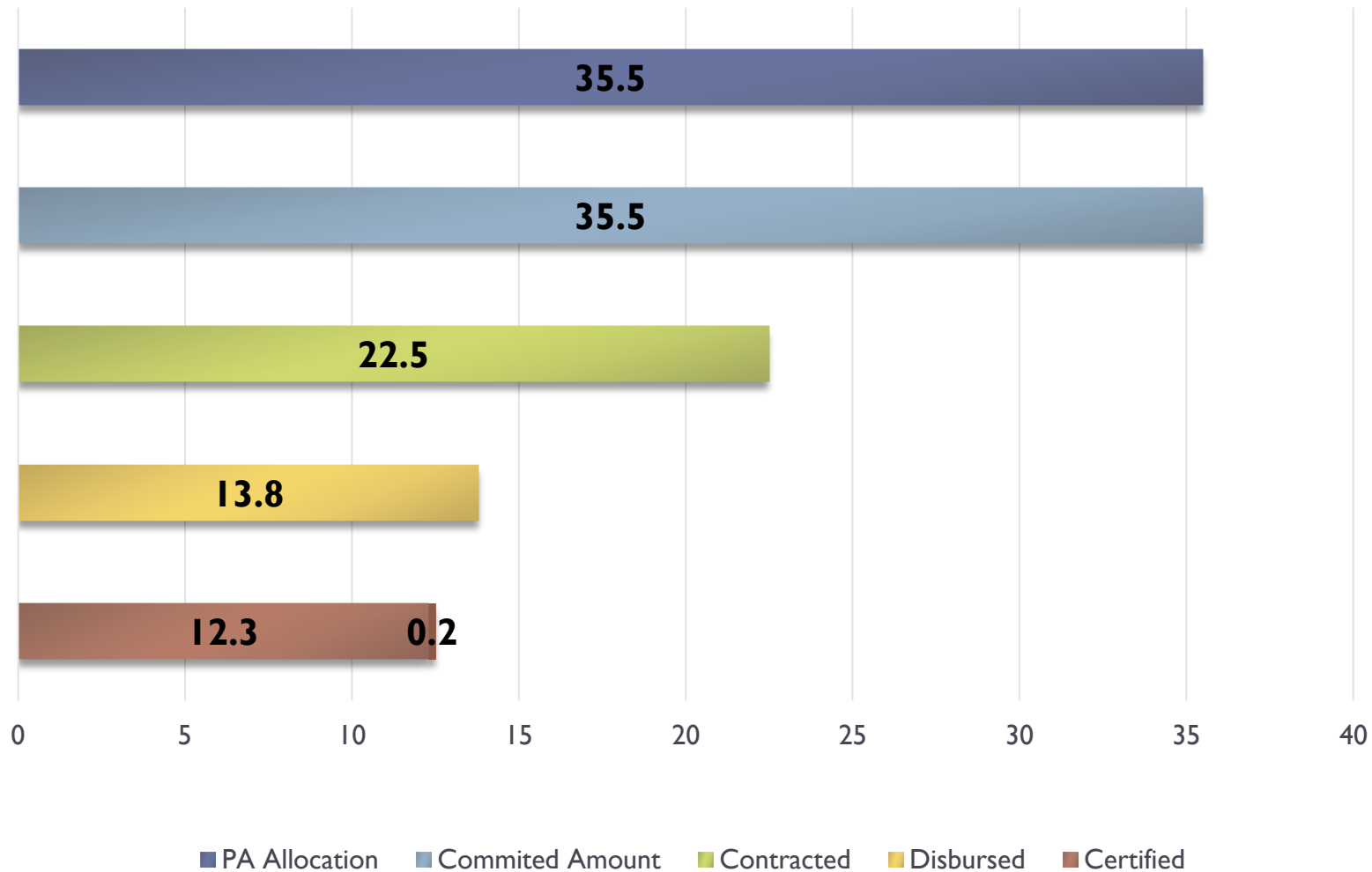
All activities aim to encourage alternative modes of transport and viable commuting options expected to result in less congestion and a decrease in GHG emissions.

Charging pillars with the aim to decreasing GHG emissions

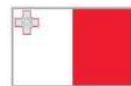


Implementation Progress to date – PA 7 EU funds for Malta | 2014 2020

Financial Progress (€M)



PA 8 - Investing Towards a More Socially-Inclusive Society



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Implementation Progress – PA 8

PA Allocation: €65M

7 mainstream projects are being implemented under this PA with a public eligible value of €65.2M.

Major achievements by end of 2021 include:

- The flagship health infrastructure project (**Paola Primary Health Care Centre**) saw construction reaching completion up to level 15. Works related to M&Es & architectural finishes are expected to be completed by Q3 2022.
- In the area of **social housing**, energy efficient lifts were installed to cater for 247 units in 51 blocks, with c. 987 residents benefitting from improved accessibility.



Construction works at Paola Regional Hub Primary Health Care Centre

Implementation Progress – PA 8

Two projects implemented by NGOs are progressing well.

- An important milestone was reached by the project managed by **Caritas Malta** aiming at supporting the integration of vulnerable people in society, with over 800 clients welcomed at the new premises by end 2021.
- The other project managed by an NGO to set up a new **Palliative Care** complex is progressing well with the completion of civil works for the Day Therapy, Outpatient & Loan Equipment areas. Project is expected to be completed by Q1 2023.
- **Covid-related measures:** A total of €13.8M for the procurement of vaccines was claimed from the Commission. By end of Dec 2021, c. 440,000 of the population were vaccinated, equivalent to 85% of the population.



Caritas Community Centre breakout room



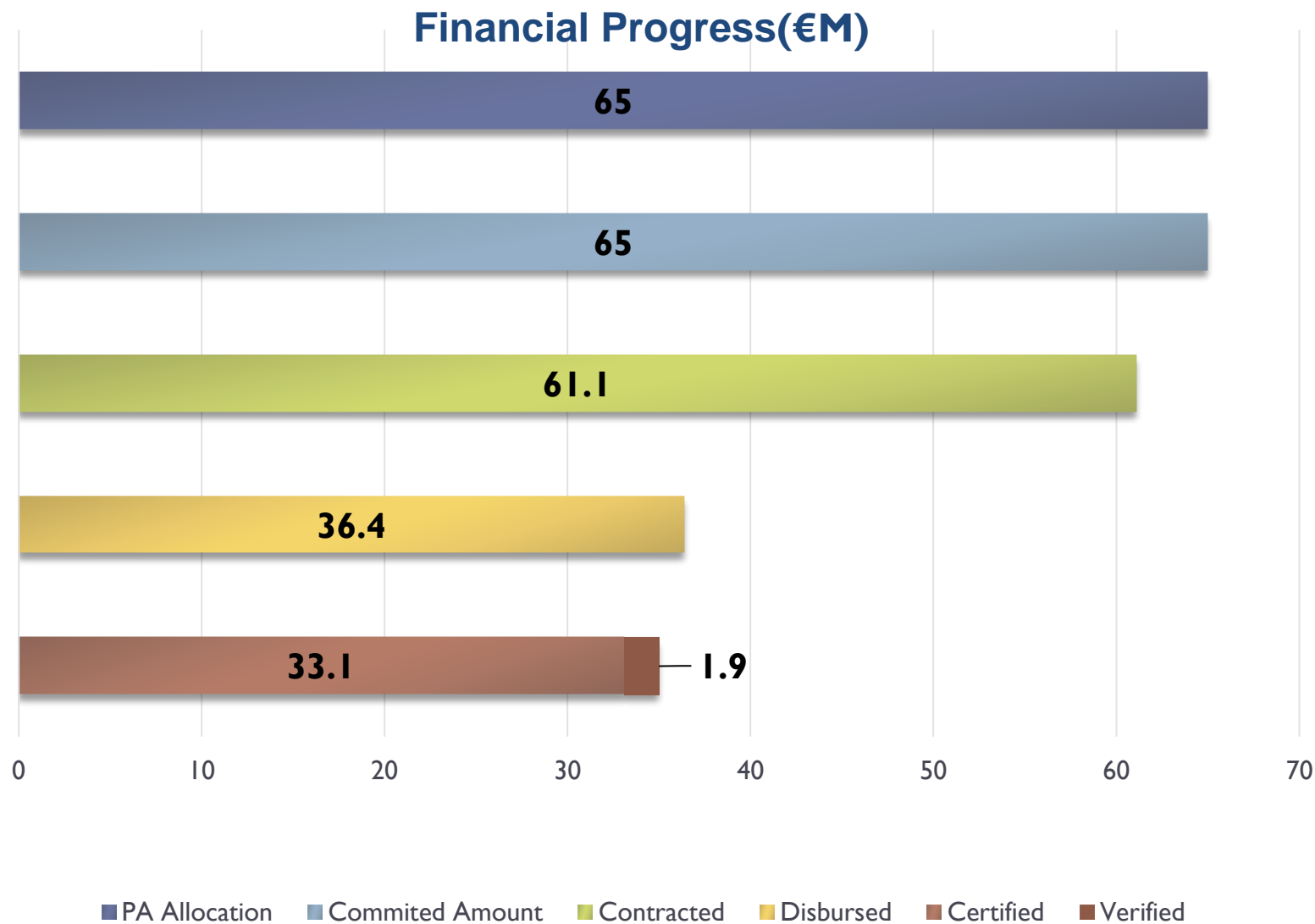
85% of the population were vaccinated by December 2021

Implementation Progress to date – PA 8



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020



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



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Implementation Progress – PA 9

PA Allocation: €33.6M

2 mainstream projects are being implemented under this PA with a public eligible value of €33.8M.

Major achievements by end of 2021 include:

- More than 8,000 students have made use of 78 VET labs in 14 different schools under **INVEST** up till Dec 2021, covering areas ranging from hospitality, engineering, IT, health and social care, fashion and textiles, agribusiness, media, retail and hairdressing and beauty.
- The new **MCAST Resource Centre** is complete and has welcomed its students in January 2022.



MCAST Resource Centre (VIDEO)

Implementation Progress – PA9

- The Institute of Engineering & Transport is fully functional and in 2021 c.1163 students (FT & PT) participated in different courses including those offered by the Automotive Department and the Aerospace Programme. Areas of study undertaken at IET are Mechanical Engineering; Construction; Maritime; Automotive; Electrical Engineering; Electronics and Aviation.
- The Institute of Information and Communication Technology is currently being constructed.
- The student population making use of the facilities financed by ERDF was c. 7800 (FT & PT) in December 2021.



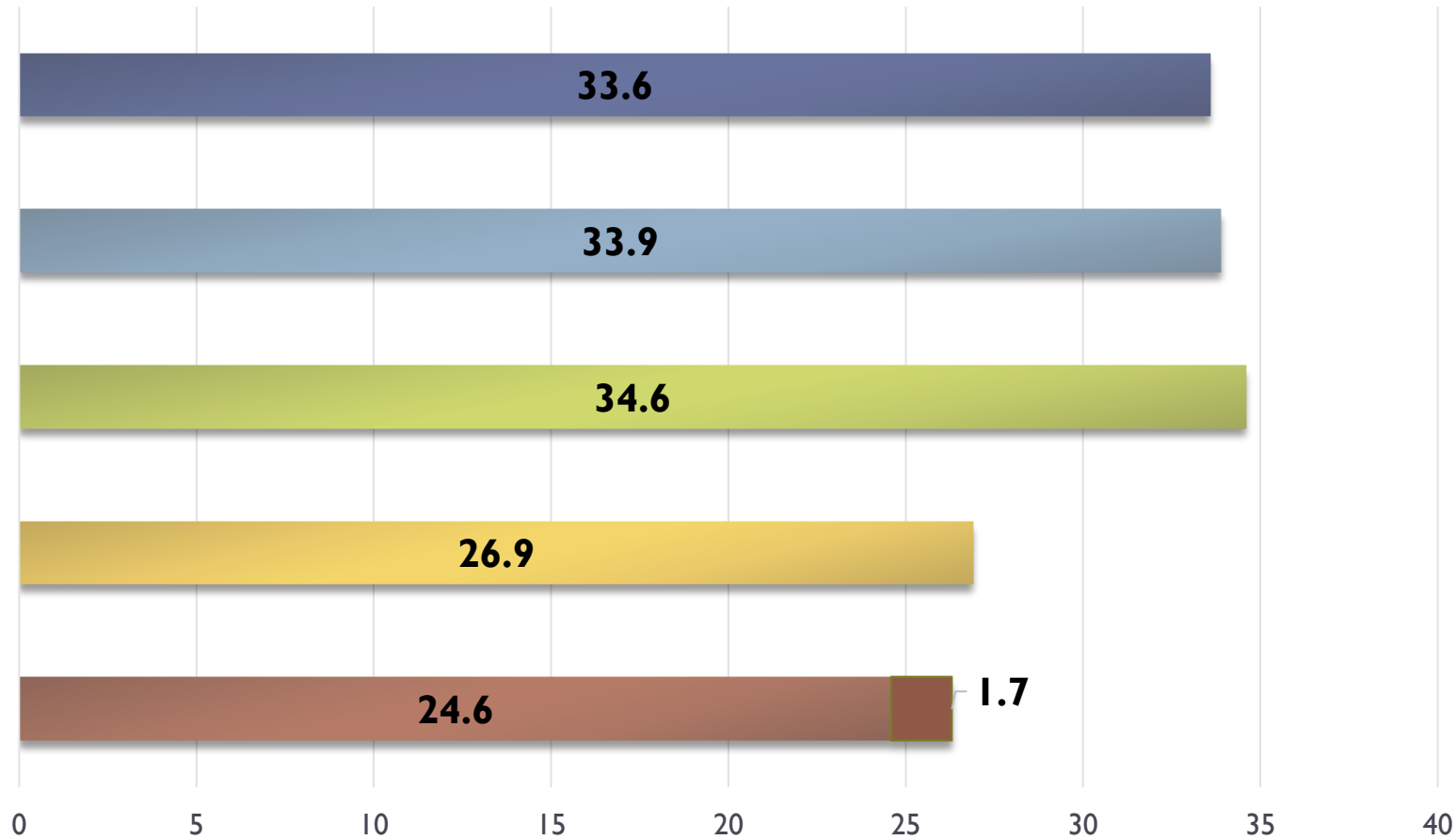
Students within the Automotive Department
(Institute of Engineering & Transport)



The MCAST Aerospace Programme
launched at the Institute of Engineering &
Transport

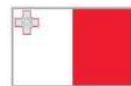
Implementation Progress to date – PA 9

Financial Progress(€M)



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

PA 10 - Investing in a More Environmentally-Friendly Society



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Implementation Progress – PA 10

PA Allocation: €141.5M

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

In the **waste sector**, progress registered in 2021:

- Rehabilitation works at **Wied Fulija** were completed by year end, with the site now fully accessible to the public.
- Works on the **Multi-Material Recovery Facility** progressed well with the ground floor and first floor facility nearing completion. The project is expected to be operational by end of 2022.



Wied Fulija landfill rehabilitated into a public site



Loading bays with runner beams & part of canopy structure at the MMRF

Implementation Progress – PA 10

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

- Under the **waste** campaign project, 2021 saw the initial actions to set up *Reuse Centres* aimed to further promote the concepts of ‘reuse’ and ‘recycling’.
- The tender to set up an *Educational Centre* to offer an enhanced interactive experience to students and to address the need to increase awareness and recycling rates was under evaluation.
- Under the **water** campaign, the distribution of water saving packs continued with more than 20,000 kits distributed.
- The initiative related with the monitoring infrastructure to assess quantitatively and qualitatively the status of natural water resources is currently ongoing.



Proposed façade of the Marsaskala Education Centre



Monitoring infrastructure as part of the water awareness campaign

Implementation Progress – PA 10

By end of 2021, progress registered on different actions under the **Water Major** project:

- The tunnel connecting Pembroke RO plant to Ta' Qali reservoirs has been completed and will eventually provide improved drinking water quality for the whole Maltese population.
- EE equipment at the Lapsi RO plant is expecting to increase the production capacity by 3400m³ per day.
- The Gozo RO plant officially launched in November will result in a secure supply of improved quality water for Gozo and less reliance on extracted ground water.
- Further investments in the water distribution and sewage network continued in 2021 with 195k households expected to benefit.



Final breakthrough in Pembroke – Ta' Qali underground tunnel



The new Hondoq ir-Rummien RO plant in Gozo



Implementation Progress – PA 10

By end of 2021, progress was registered on different actions in the **water** sector:

- Works at the Sant'Antnin Wastewater Treatment Plant have been completed; with its operation focusing on treatment of wastewater expected to start in early 2022.
- Under the **Rainwiin** project, works continued focusing on valley management and rainwater storage infrastructure.



New water infrastructure at Sant'Antnin Wastewater Plant



Ongoing works at the water basin 7 at Wied il-Ghasel under the Rainwiin Project

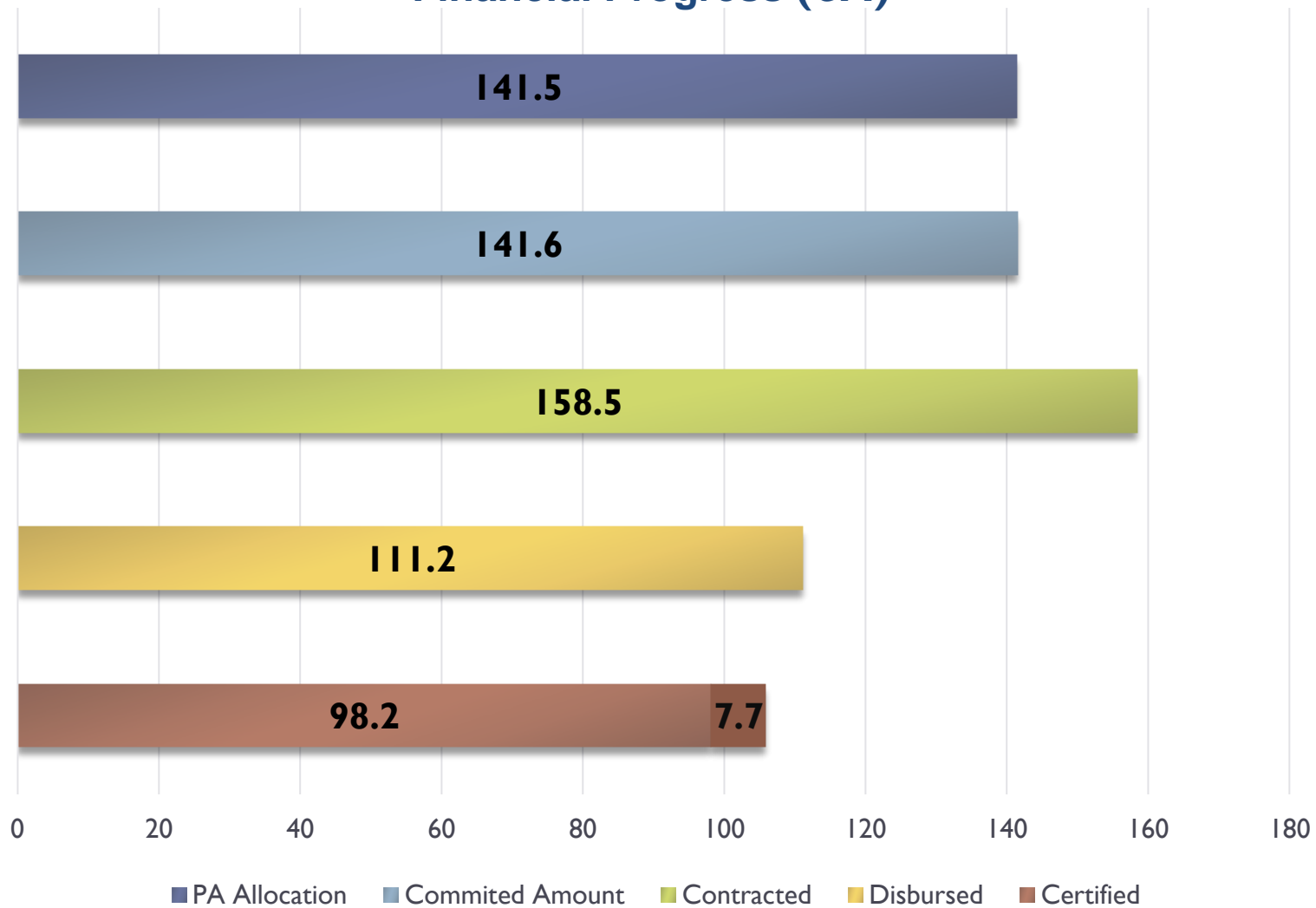
Implementation Progress to date – PA 10



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020

Financial Progress (€M)



PA 11 - Investing in TEN-T Infrastructure



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Implementation Progress – PA 11

PA Allocation: €99.7M

3 projects with a total public eligible value of **€99.7M** are being funded under this PA.

Major achievements in 2021:

- The **Ten-T Ports** project is aimed to increase the operational capacity of the Grand Harbour port in Valletta through the construction of a new general-purpose quay.
- The tendering process to set up the new cargo facility was ongoing at end of 2021.
- Dredging works within the Grand Harbour, which will complement the operational capacity of the port commenced in Q4 2021.
- Under the **Ten-T Roads** project, the Mrieħel – Ta' Srina Junction Bypass which is contributing to 3.7km of reconstructed and upgraded roads was nearly completed by end of year.
- As at to date, a total of 8.33km of upgraded roads have been registered. The projects are addressing bottlenecks in road infrastructures resulting in less time on the roads.



Rendering of the new Cargo Facility



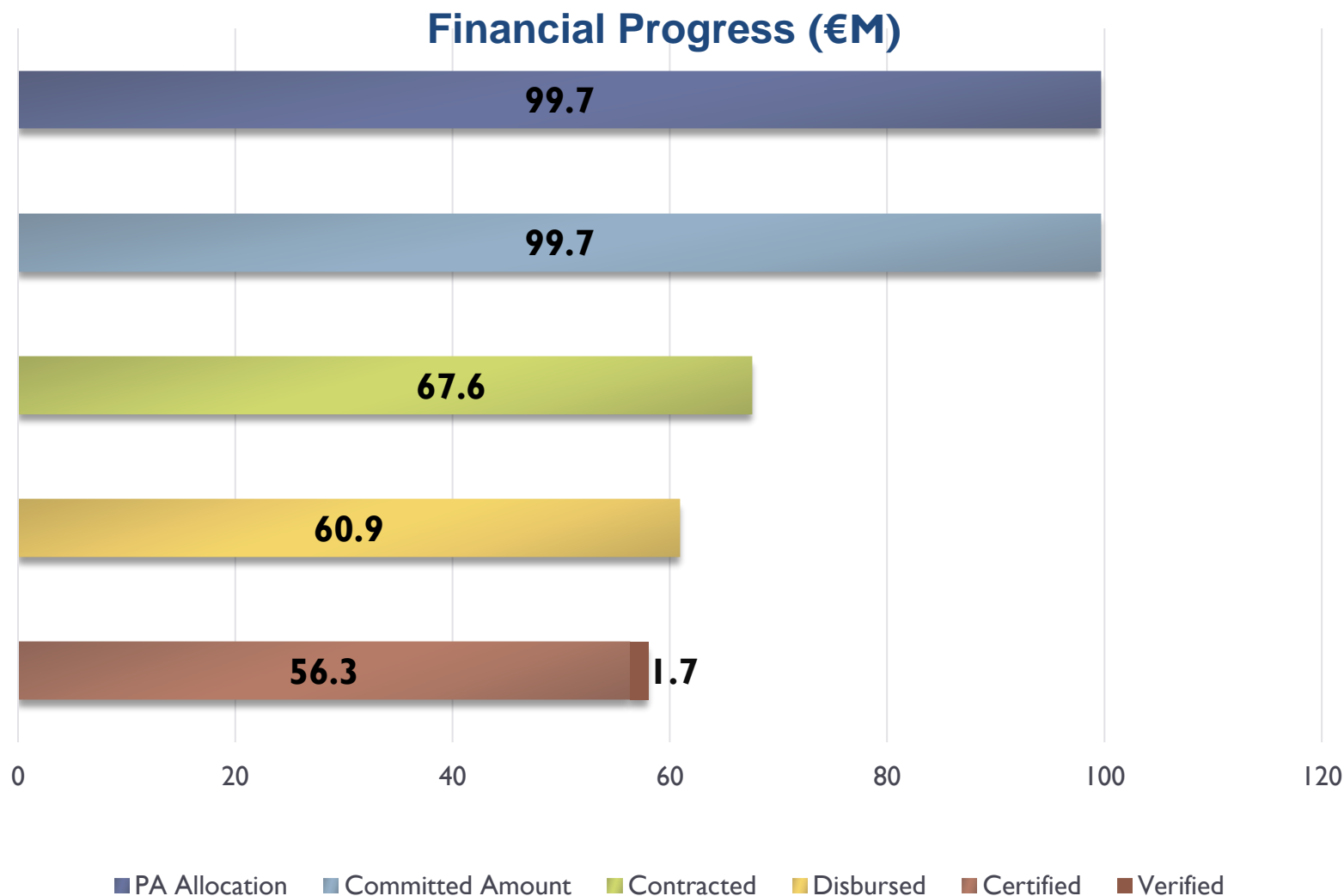
The Mrieħel - Ta' Srina Junction Bypass

Procurement Progress to date – PA 11

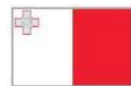


EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020



PA 13 - Fostering resilience in the healthcare system



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Implementation Progress – PA 13

- Following the approval by the MC in December 2021 for the allocation of **€11.1M** from the **REACT-EU** to a new Priority Axis (PA 13) entitled '**Fostering resilience in the healthcare system**', the said modification was officially adopted by the European Commission in February 2022.
- This new PA is aimed to support the resilience of the healthcare system through investments to equip the public health facilities with the latest advanced technologies in health infrastructure and equipment to improve patient treatment.
- A restricted call will be issued in Q2 2022 for project proposals submitted by the Ministry for Health being the responsible competent authority to implement the operations in question.

Progress in the Implementation of Operational Programme II



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



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



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Implementation Progress – PA 1

PA Allocation: €26M

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

Major achievements by end 2021:

Training for Employment

- The TFE supported 5,868 participants, of which 5,434 were unique participants.
- In 2021 alone, the TFE invested in 1,635 persons receiving support, of which 1,296 completed.
- In 2021 the Developing Skills Scheme saw a 192% increase in the number of persons receiving funds, almost double the 2020 figures.

EU funds
for Malta
2014-2020

ibocis

MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
FOR EU FUNDS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

What are the benefits of a Traineeship or Work Exposure Scheme?

You can get **hands-on experience** in a real work environment

You receive a **training allowance**

You enhance **your employability**

Who can apply?

Unemployed and Persons who are **not in Education or Training**

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Call us on
t: 22201635/6/7/8

Operational Programme 1 - European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020
"Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the well-being of society"
Project part-financed by the European Social Fund
Co-financing rate: 80% European Union, 20% National Funds

Implementation Progress – PA 1

Youth Guarantee

- In 2021 the project reached 805 participants (49.5% were women) that participated in the SEC and MCAST prevention classes and the NEET activation scheme.
- Reaching 4,950 participants up to end 2021 (49% women). 83% (4128) obtained a result, out of which 49.6% women.
- Bespoke digital platform provided all materials online.



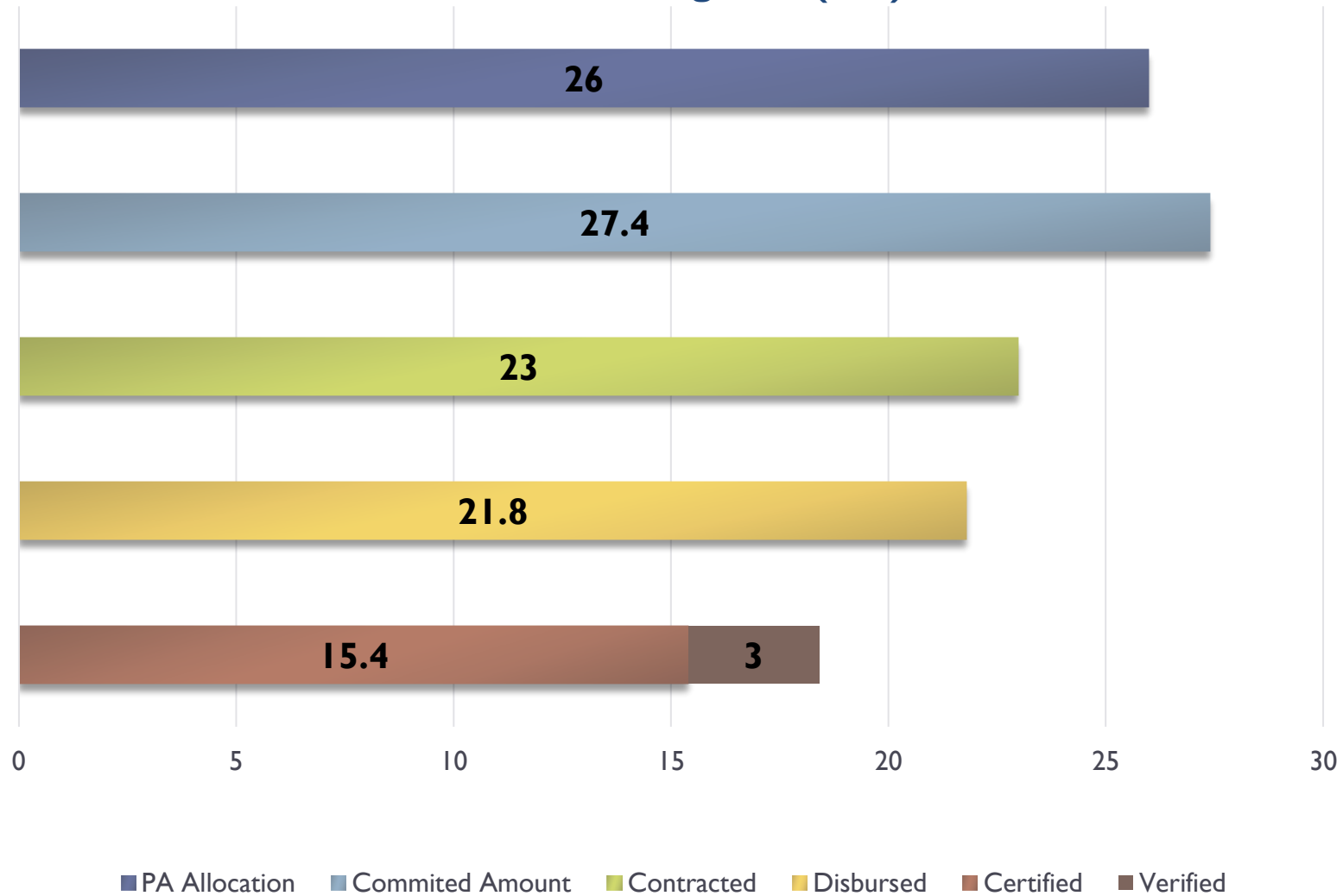
Implementation Progress to date – PA 1



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020

Financial Progress (€M)



PA 2 - Towards a more inclusive society



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Implementation Progress – PA 2

PA Allocation: €40M

Twenty-three mainstream projects with a **total public eligible value of €42.3M.**

Major achievements by end 2021:

Social Inclusion

12,349 participants benefitted from this PA (2,739 in 2021)

- 55% women; 19% inactive; 22% unemployed; 59% in employed, 12% Pwd, 6% persons with foreign background.

Various studies:

- A research study on the early intervention services for disabled children in Malta
- Two studies have been concluded with the aim to refine Malta's social protection programs and tax benefits

- MCAST research activities ongoing



Implementation Progress – PA 2

Social Inclusion

By the end of 2021, through the **VASTE** and **INK** initiatives, over 2,127 vulnerable persons and persons with disabilities received training.

Capacity building provided job coaches, employers and parents amongst other the required skills to help PwD became more independent.



Implementation Progress – PA 2

Small projects

- Disadvantaged children and youths are being supported through various interventions, with the aim to break the cycle tied to poor life opportunities.
- Young vulnerable adolescents in residential care receiving training targeting intrapersonal and life skills.



- Training for educators and teaching resources are also being offered.

Implementation Progress – PA 2

Health

8 Trainees (7 women) successfully completed their studies in 2021 and graduated in the following sectors :

3 in Orthoptics
2 in Optometry and
3 in Genetic Counselling.

They have commenced work as qualified professionals.



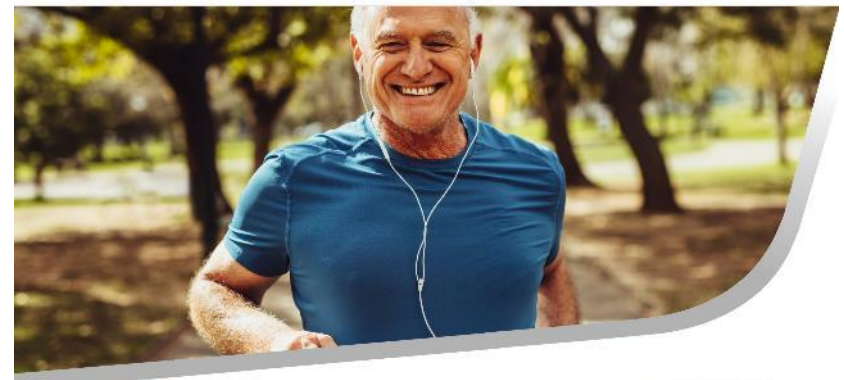
Implementation Progress – PA 2

Health

- An awareness campaign was launched with the aim to raise awareness on the main factors of social determinants of health and how to improve our lifestyle.



**ESTABLISH HEALTHY
ROUTINES AND HABITS
TO ENJOY BETTER HEALTH AS A FAMILY**

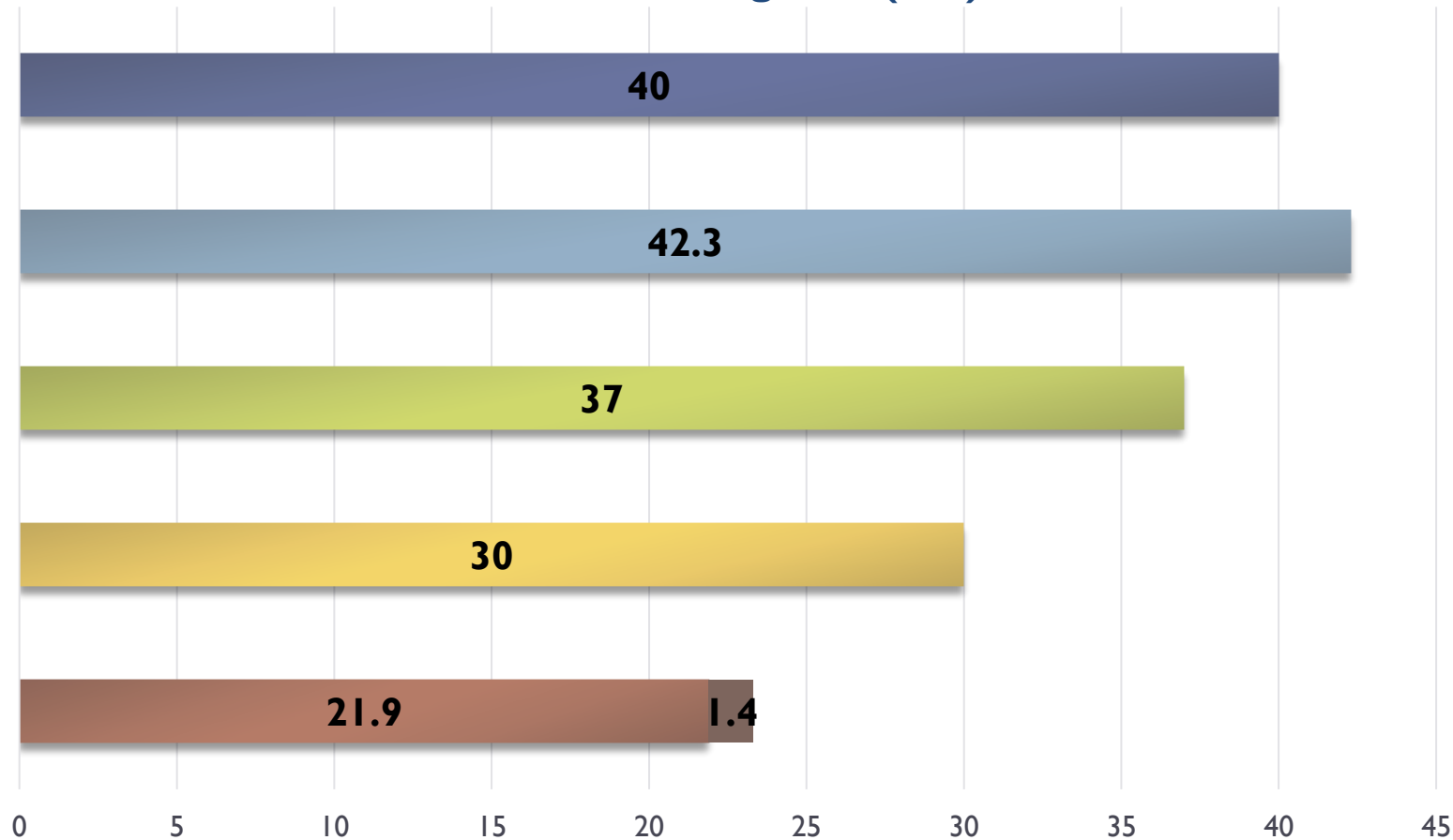


**A LITTLE EVERYDAY,
FOR A HEALTHIER ME**



Implementation Progress to date – PA 2

Financial Progress (€M)



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

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



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Implementation Progress – PA 3

PA Allocation: €40.9M

Five mainstream projects, **one** Aid Scheme and **one** Financial Instrument with a **total public eligible value of €39M**

A total of 24,651 (52% women) participants benefited from activities under PA 3.

Major achievements by end 2021:

- The OTPC project continued to be crucial to restore equity in the **access to digital technology in the teaching and learning process**.
- As part of Malta's COVID response, **catch-up learning classes** were introduced with the aim to contribute towards the prevention of early-school leaving measures and to improve performance of students-at-risk.



Implementation Progress – PA 3

- Endeavour Call 7 was issued in 2021. Following the selection process of this call, **96 scholars** (56% women) studying an MQF 7 course were awarded a grant.
- Up to end 2021: **1,136 scholars** (50% women) received between them grants amounting to above €10.6M. With 39% of Scholars following a course in STEM subjects.

DO YOU WANT TO
FURTHER
YOUR STUDIES AT
MQF LEVEL 7?

Applications open
between
14 June and 9 July 2021
until noon local time

Visit myscholarship.gov.mt
for more details.

Scholarships Unit
Ministry for Education
Freephone: 163
visit www.myscholarship.gov.mt
for further information

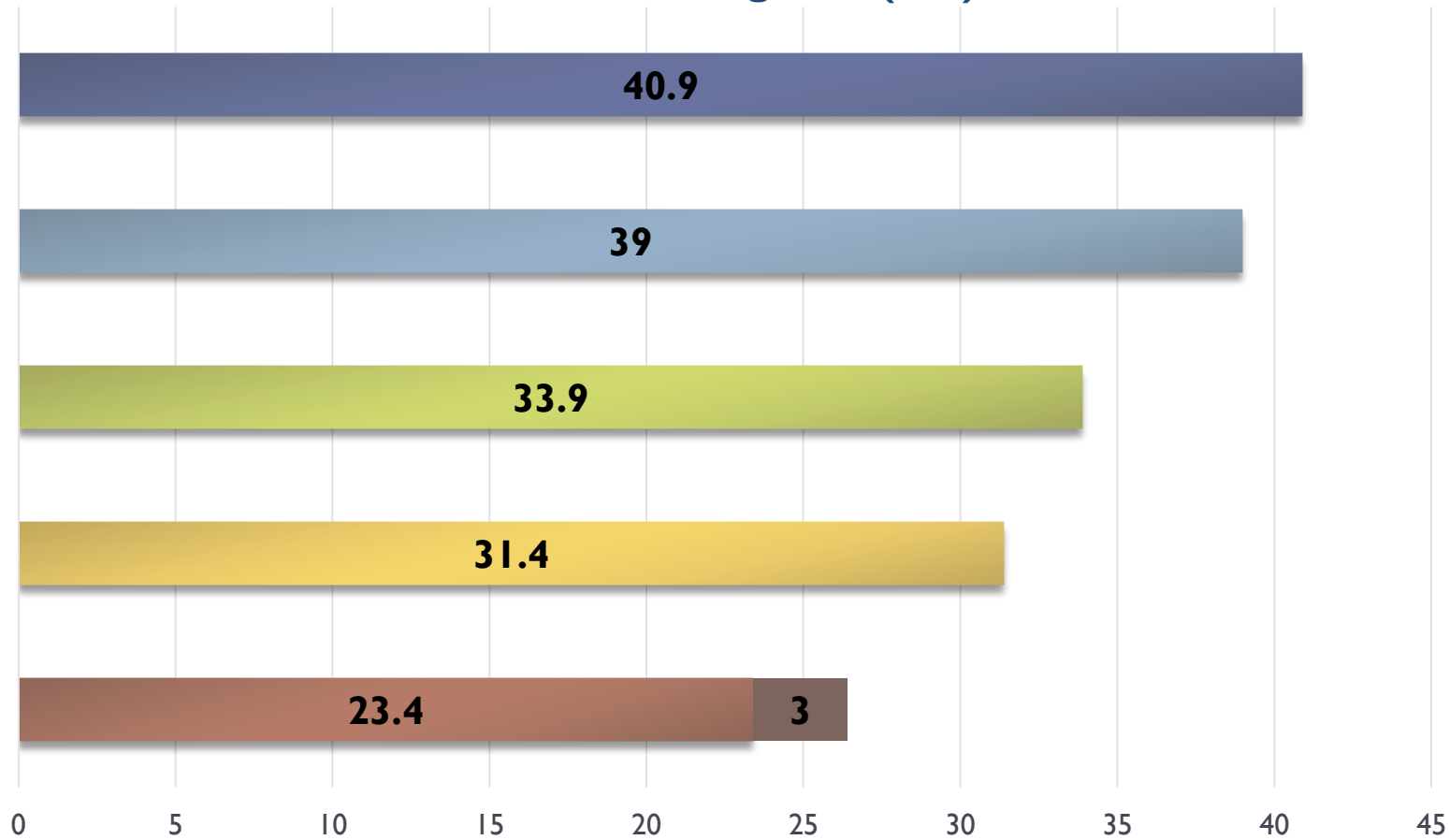


Implementation Progress – PA 3

- As at end of 2021, the FSMA FI under PA 3, with a portfolio of €9.45M, has committed €9.24M in loans given to 278 students. The FI is supporting individuals in their studies at MQF level 5 – 8 as well as other internationally recognized courses.
- The FI has covered c. €123K in interest generated covered by the subsidy by the end of the year.
- As at end of 2021, €5.1M have been disbursed by the bank which is equivalent to 54% of the loans committed.
- The Level 7 and the internationally recognized courses are the most popular taking 83% of the loans provided, followed by Level 6 courses which is 13%.
- 37% of those benefiting from the instrument are women.

Implementation Progress to date – PA 3

Financial Progress (€M)



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

PA 4 - Building the institutional administrative capacity



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Implementation Progress – PA 4

PA Allocation: €13.5M

Nineteen mainstream projects with a total public eligible value of €15.2M

3,666 participants benefitted from training under this PA (51% women). 3,485 individuals were from the public sector/service (IP11i) whilst 181 benefitted from projects targeting social dialogue (IP11ii).

Major achievements by end 2021:

- With further calls for **Academic Sponsorships under ESF.04.085**. With areas of studies including Leadership, Management and Business Administration at MQF level 7 as well as emerging areas in Building Services Engineering with Sustainable Energy, and health-related areas.
- **4 technical courses to staff** working at the University of Malta were launched under ESF.04.083
- **Mystery Shopping** exercises continued throughout 2021 (including the national blood transfusion services, the Lands Authority, Sports Malta, and the Court Services Agency). 161 of 534 recommendations fully implemented by end of year.

Implementation Progress – PA 4

- **4 new projects** amounting to circa **€0.4M** started to be implemented under IP11ii, for projects resulting in further **investment in capacity building of social partners**.

- These projects are :
 - Being implemented by Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association, Malta Council For Economic And Social Development, Malta Chamber Of SMEs and General Workers' Union.

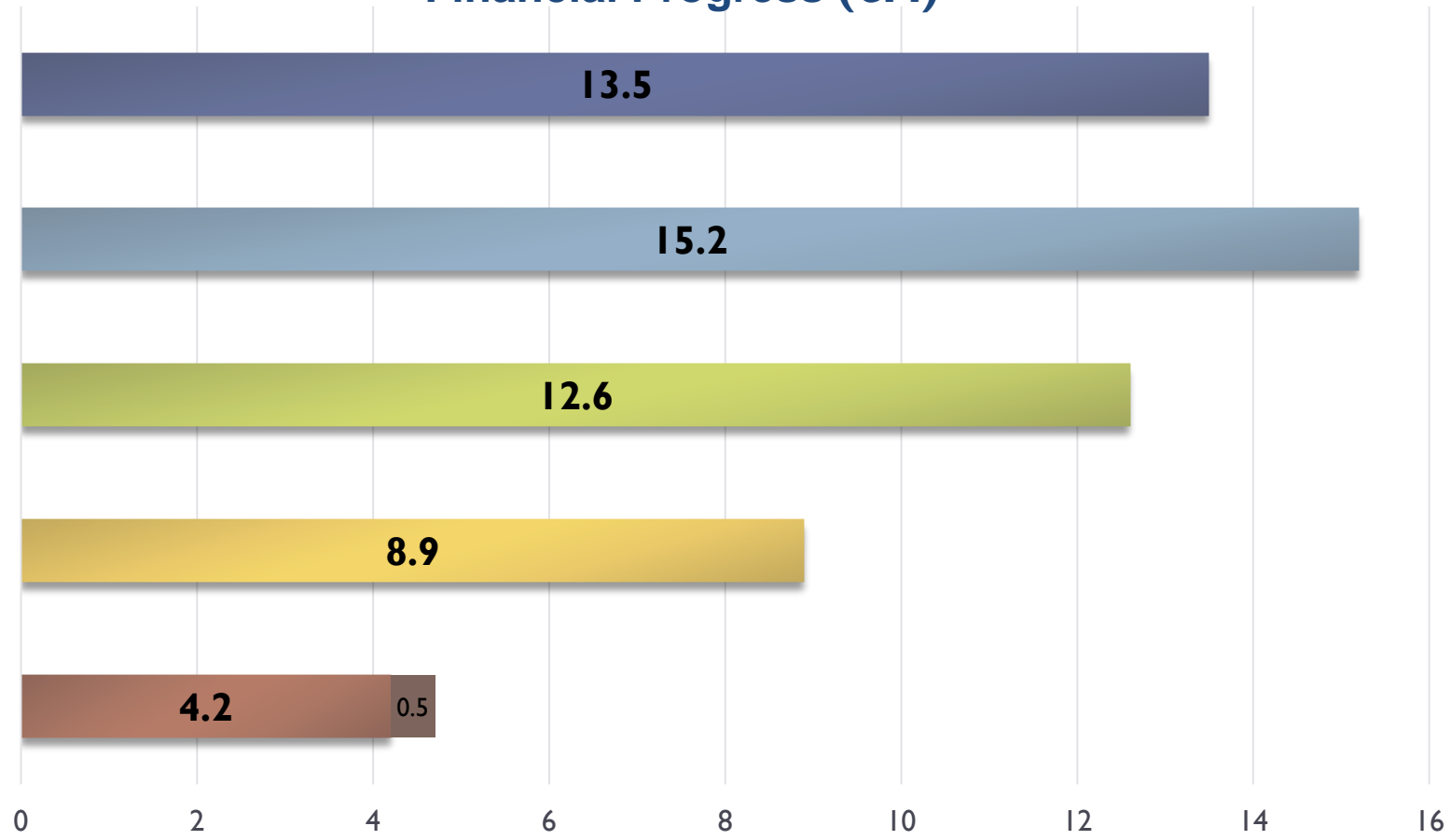
 - Include different actions intended to enhance engagement in the social dialogue process; as well as supporting training of staff and members of social partners.

Implementation Progress to date – PA 4



EU funds
for Malta | 2014
2020

Financial Progress (€M)

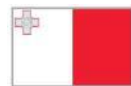


■ PA Allocation ■ Committed Amount ■ Contracted ■ Disbursed ■ Certified ■ Verified

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

And

PA 7 - REACT- EU Additional support for job maintenance in the context of the COVID pandemic crisis



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Implementation Progress – PA 6 and PA 7

- The Wage Supplement Scheme as launched through government notice 389 of 2020 and subsequent amendments is being supported through ESF and REACTeu for the period October 2020 to March 2021.
- On the ground, Malta Enterprise has processed and paid all related claims to employers, including the self-employed. The linked reimbursement claims are being processed through the Structural Funds Database, with reimbursements up to end December amounting to €108M.
- Verifications are currently underway by the Managing Authority, with the assistance of key stakeholders including Jobsplus and Commissioner for Revenue.
- First linked certification with a value of €38.5M was presented by end of 2021, with over 62,000 persons supported.

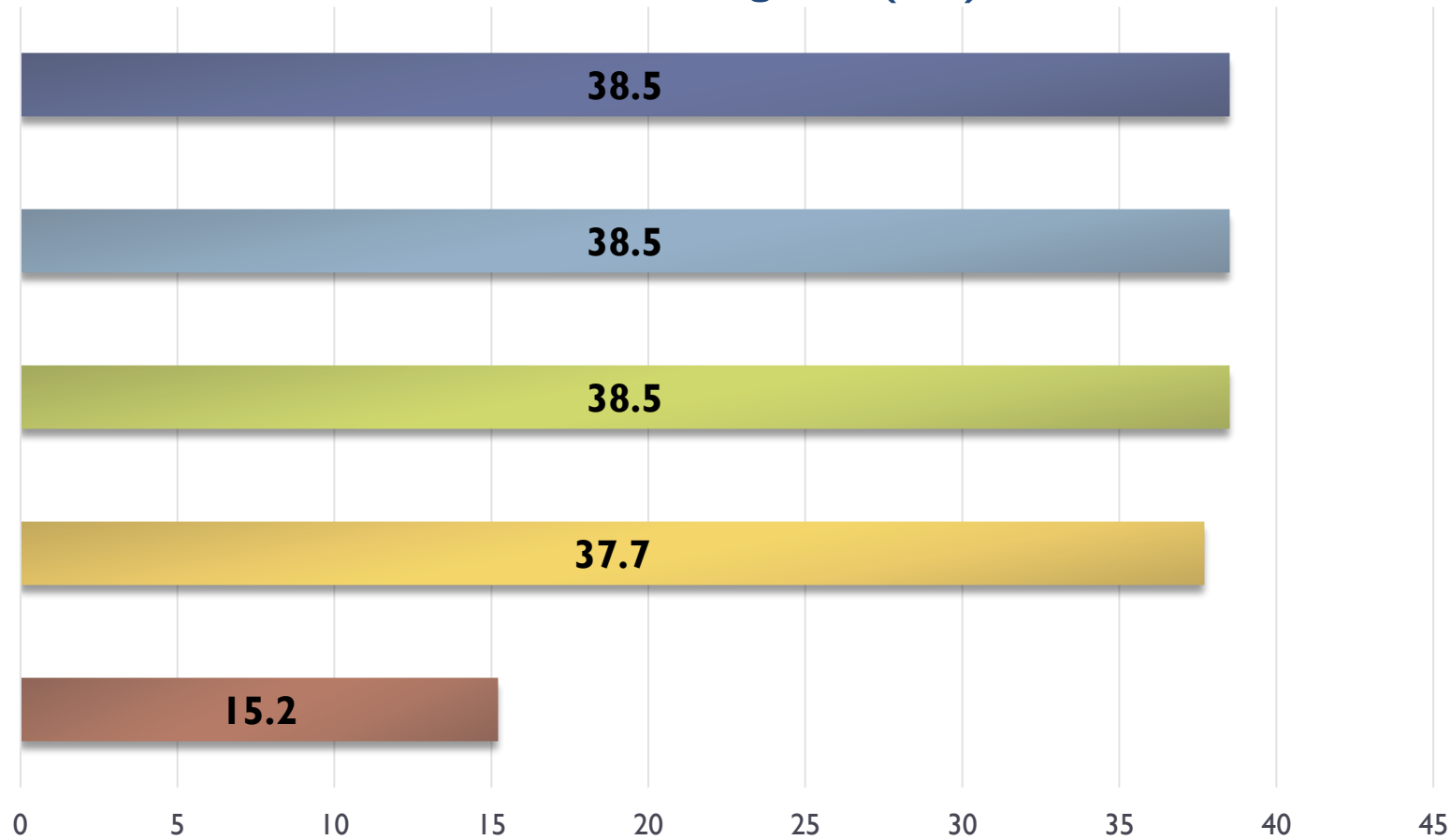


Implementation Progress to date – PA 6



EU funds
for Malta | 2014
2020

Financial Progress (€M)



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

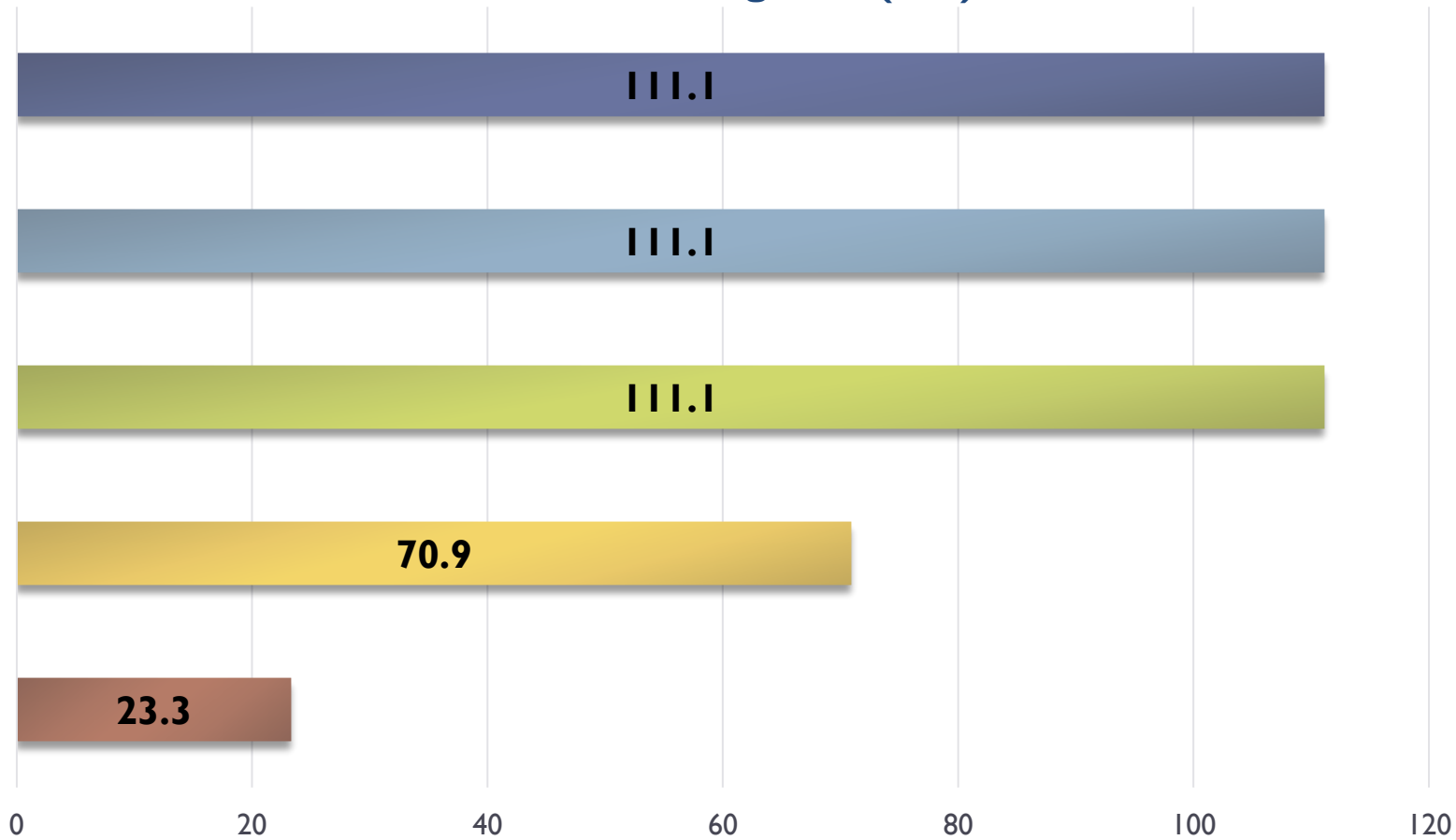
Implementation Progress to date – PA 7



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020

Financial Progress (€M)

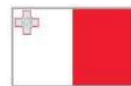


■ PA Allocation ■ Committed Amount ■ Contracted ■ Disbursed ■ Certified

Support to Enterprises

Operational Programme I:
Business Enhance ERDF Grant
Schemes

Operational Programme II:
A2E and Investing in skills

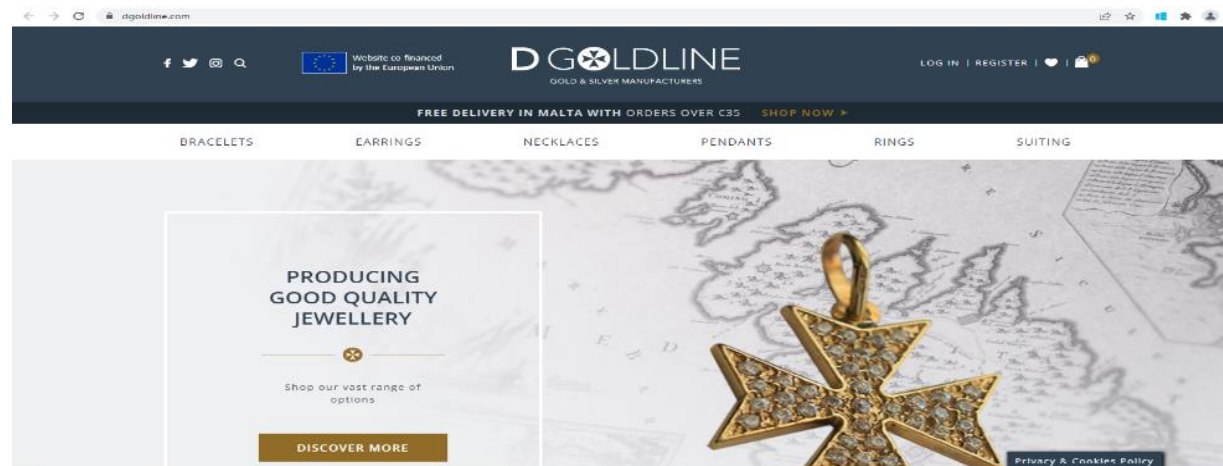


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Aid Schemes Progress – end 2021 OPI

- The **Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes** are being implemented through open rolling calls with different cut-off dates to give the opportunity to the private sector to submit proposals regularly.
- In 2021, there were 96 cut-off dates issued under the schemes being implemented, resulting in 281 applications received out of which 162 applications were approved, whilst 18 were still under evaluation.
- The total amount of grants approved was €8.2M.
- 68% of the approved grants were submitted by micro enterprises.



ERDF.02.S1.Call 1.0138 –
D Goldline Ltd
(e-Commerce Grant
Scheme)

Aid Schemes Progress – end 2021

OPI

Aid Schemes	Applications Received in 2021	Applications under evaluation in 2021	Grants Contracted in 2021	Grants Contracted in 2021 (€)
RD&I (PA 1)	0	0	0	€0
E-Commerce (PA 2)	41	4	13	€47,955
Start-up Investment (PA 3)	20	3	15	€2,490,300
SME Diversification & Innovation (PA 3)	29	4	18	€1,821,085
SME Internationalisation (PA 3)	0	0	0	€0
SME Consultancy (PA 3)	141	7	88	€352,000
SME Growth (PA 3)	50	0	28	€3,529,194
Total	281	18	162	€8,240,537

Aid Schemes Progress OPI



“Our enterprise has invested in a Tecnam P2006T MkII Twin-Engined aircraft equipped with the Garmin G1000 Nxi (next-generation) suite equipped with autopilot. This new equipment and technology will assist the business to offer innovative and diverse niches in aviation.”

ERDF.03.S3.Call 1.0102 – **Malta School of Flying Co. Ltd** (SME Diversification and Innovation Grant Scheme)

Aid Schemes Progress – end 2021

OPII

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

- All the €12M were committed, of which €9.62M were paid resulting in 1,181 employed persons of which 19% were participants with disabilities.
- The A2E scheme played a key role in addressing the pandemic complementing other employment measures such as the Wage subsidy scheme.
- 1013 persons were supported in 2021 (of which 53% women, 6% with PwD, 6% with foreign background).



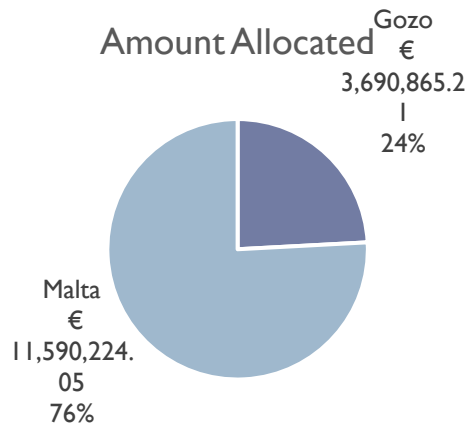
Aid Schemes Progress – end 2021

OPII



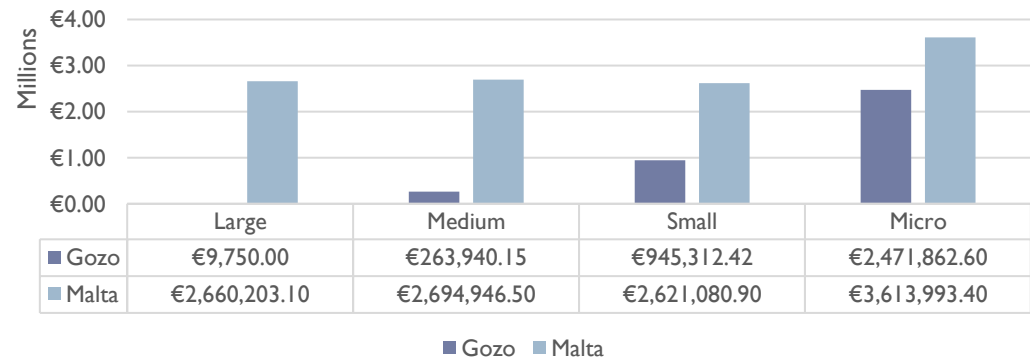
EU funds
for Malta | 2014
2020

Overview of committed

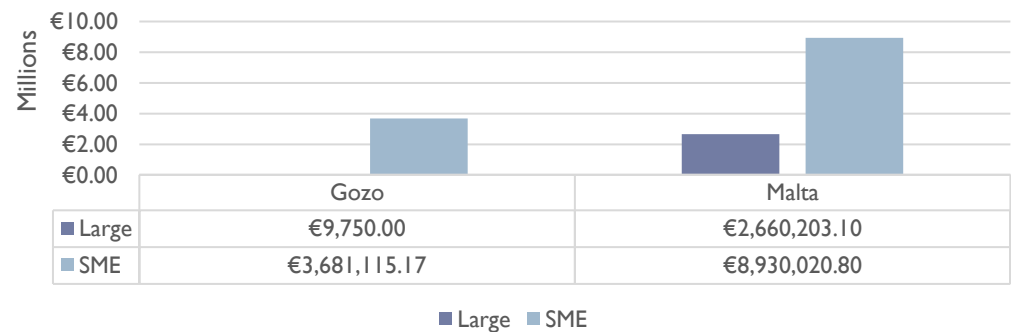


Island	Participants
Gozo	747
Malta	1,920

Amount Allocated by Size of Entity



Amount Allocated between Large and SME



Aid Schemes Progress – end 2021

OPII

Investing in Skills

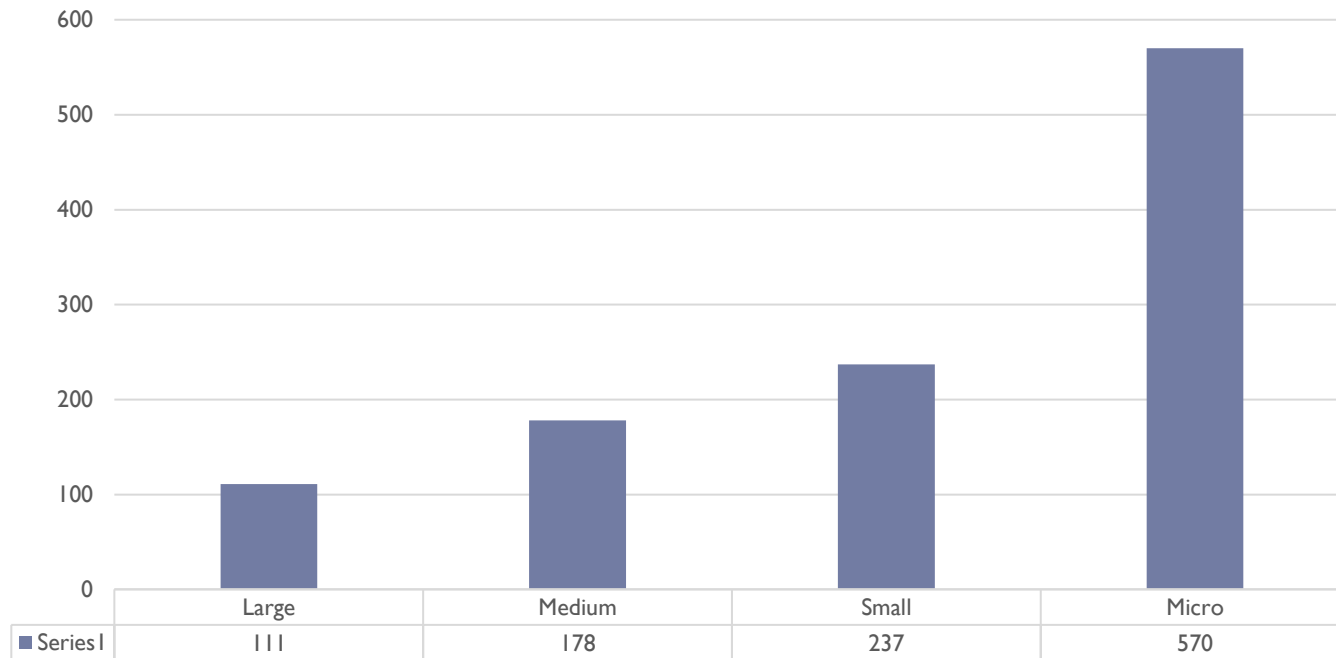
- Budget increased to €6.65M in December 2021.
- During 2021 most of the training was held online. Out of the 1,487 applications that were received in 2021, 937 (63%) were for training held online.
- Over €5.5M have been committed, of which more than €3.5M were paid. **These resulted in over 20,700 participants trained, over 49% of which were women.**



Aid Schemes Progress – end 2021

OPII

IIS Scheme - *Beneficiaries*



From the start of the scheme, a total of 3,175 grants remained valid by the end of 2021. These pertained to 1,096 unique Beneficiaries with undertaking size as above.

SME Initiative Malta

Update on Implementation

Operational Programme SME -
Stimulating private sector investment for economic growth



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds

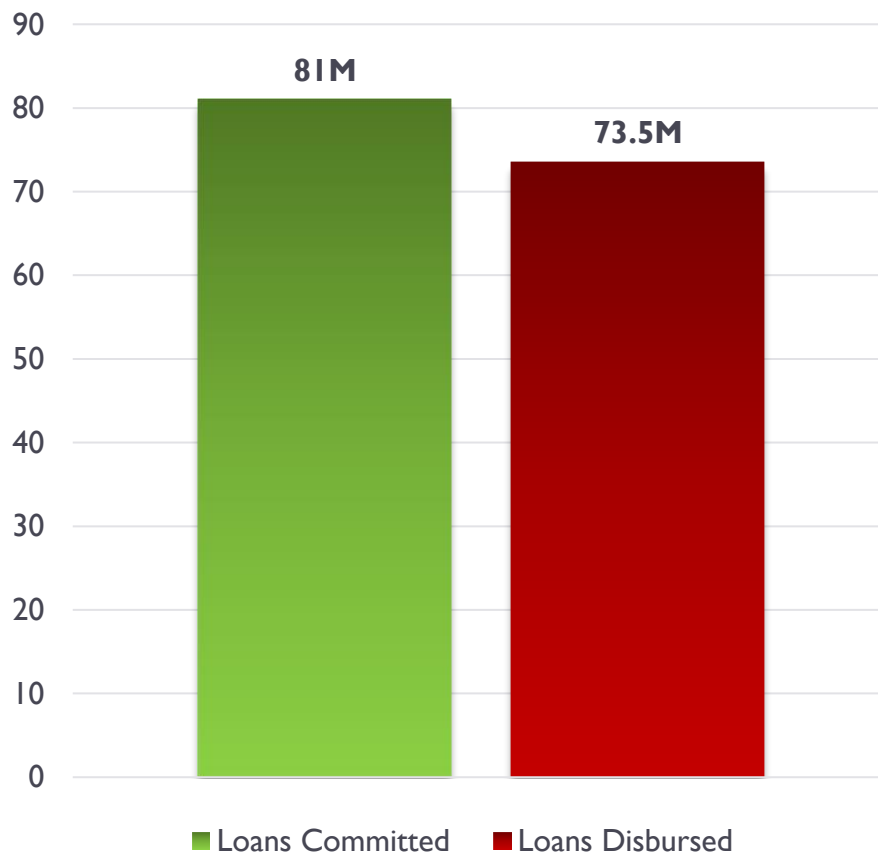


Overview

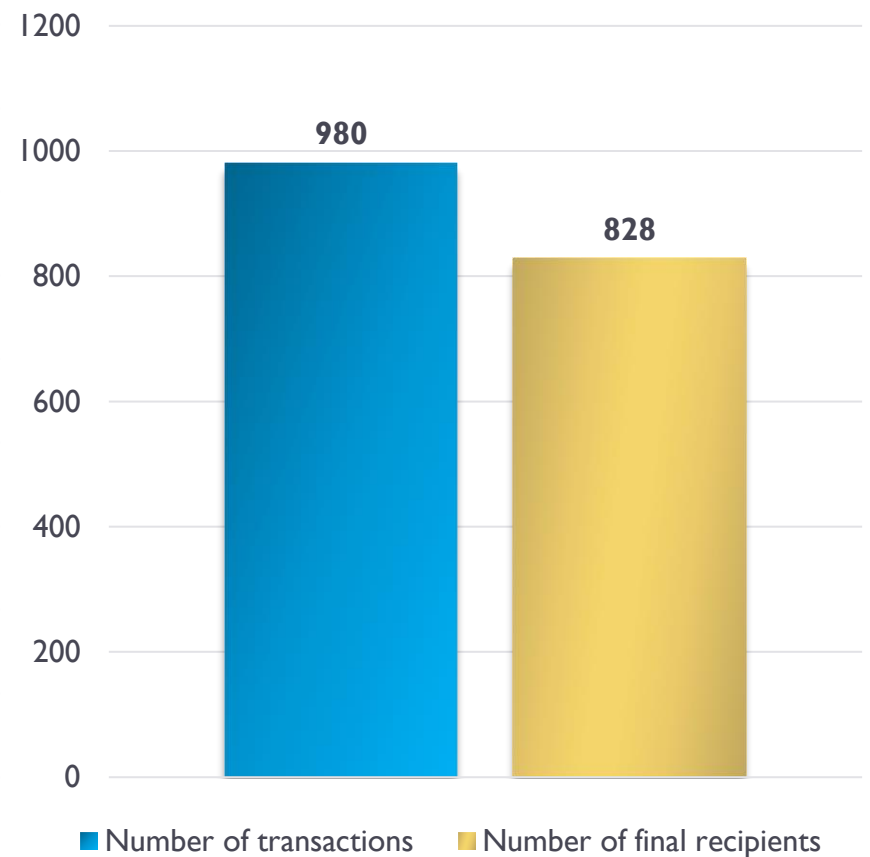
- The implementation of the SME Initiative continued in 2021, showcasing the ongoing success of this instrument, and its ability to adapt to the economic realities of the Maltese islands, even when facing unprecedented scenarios such as a global pandemic.
- An increase in the allocation of a Financial Intermediary (BOV) was signed in Q4 2021. Subsequently the portfolio of available loans under the SMEi increased from €89.5M to **€118M**.
- Up to the end of 2021, a total of **€81M** in new loans have been committed to SMEs in Malta and Gozo, which represents **91%** of absorption rate with respect to budget pre-increase (€89.5M) or **69%** with respect to target of post-increase budget (€118M).
- By the end of 2021, **980 guaranteed loans** had been disbursed by the two selected Fis to a total of 828 SMEs.
- C. 82% of the SMEs which benefitted from this instrument employed less than 10 employees and 98.8% less than 50; 50% of the SMEs assisted were start-ups.

Progress as at December 2021

Loans committed and disbursed (millions)

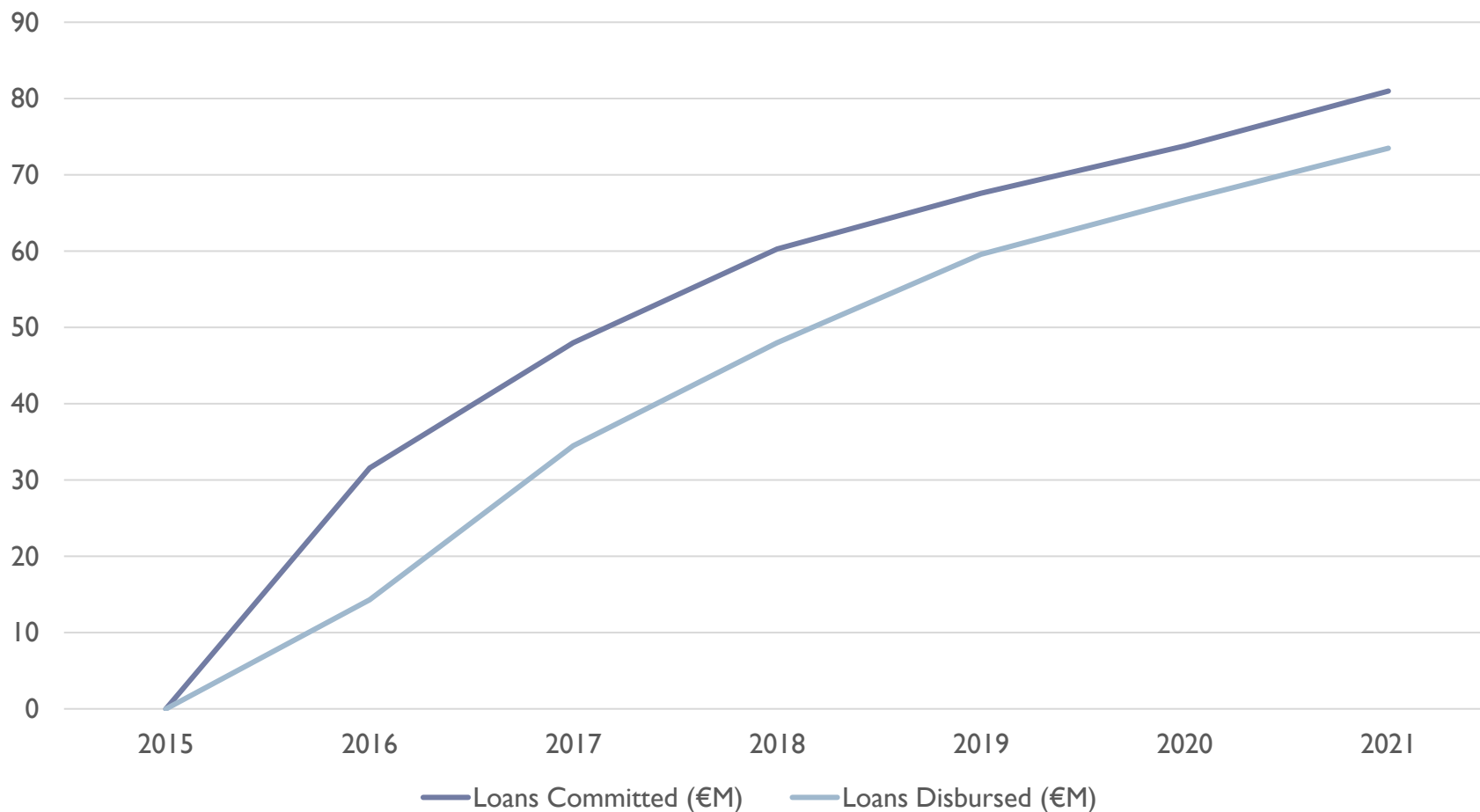


Number of transactions and final recipients



Build up of Portfolio – Loans Committed and Disbursed

Loans Committed and Disbursed (cumulatively)

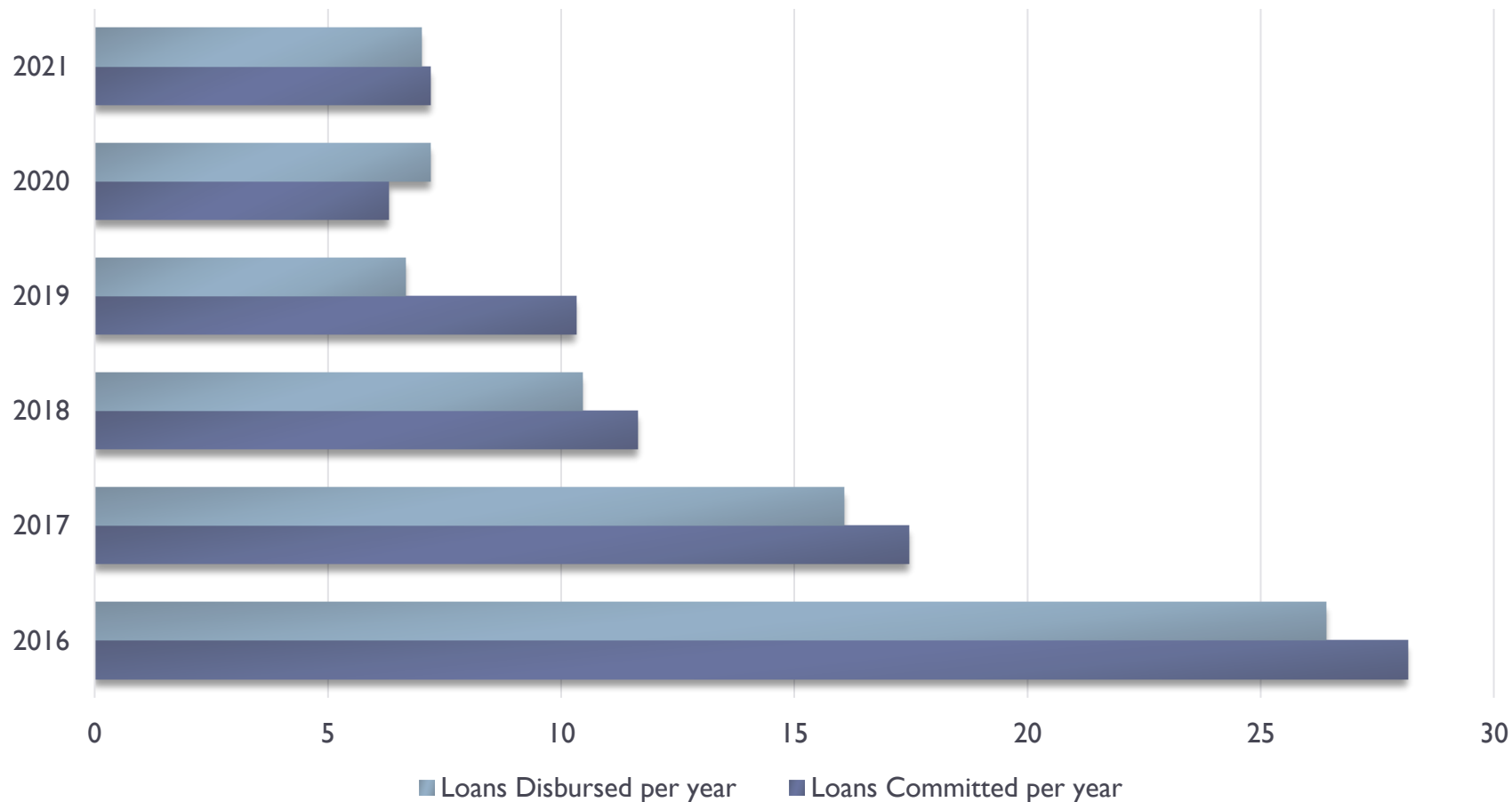


Build up of Portfolio – Loans Committed and Disbursed



EU funds
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2020

Loans Committed and Disbursed (per year)

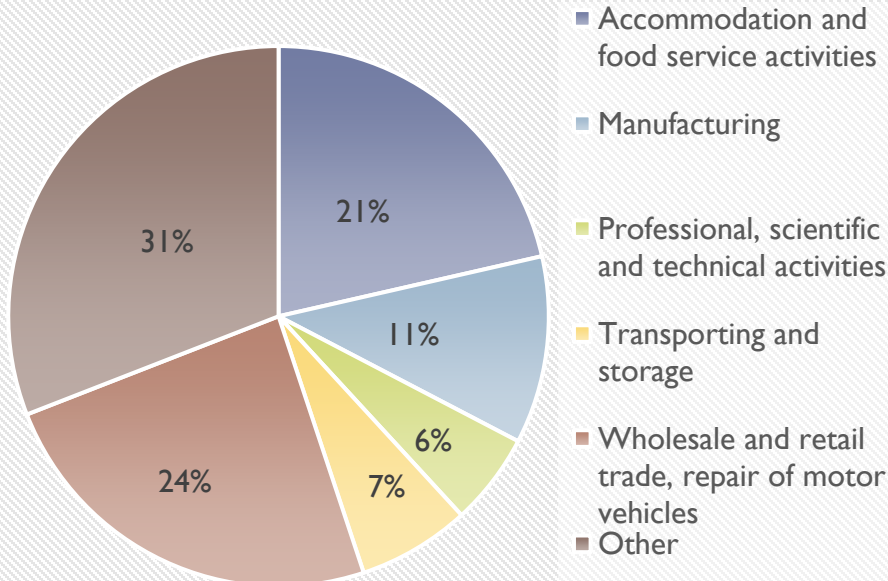


Profile of final recipients

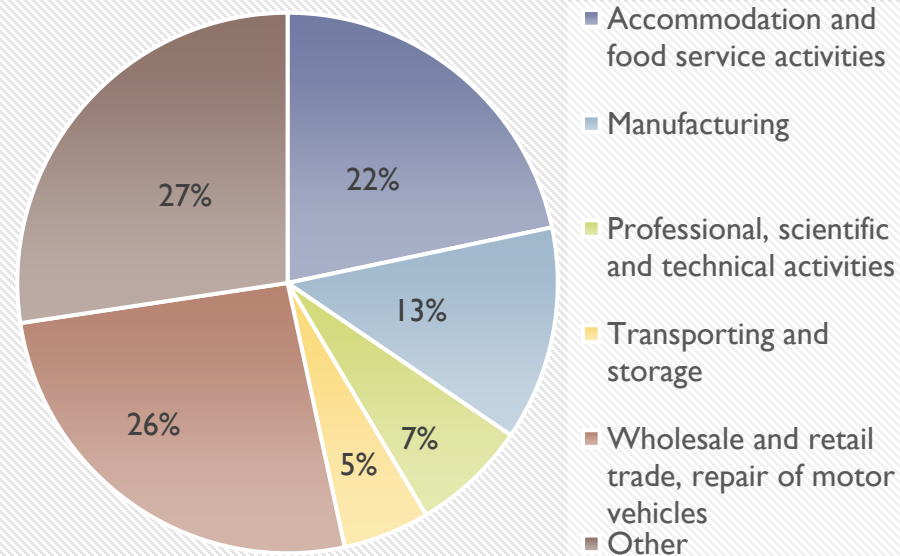
Diversification by Sector

- ▶ **65 sectors** received financing (NACE code level 2)
- ▶ **5 sectors account for approx. 59%** of SMEs receiving financing

By Number of Transactions

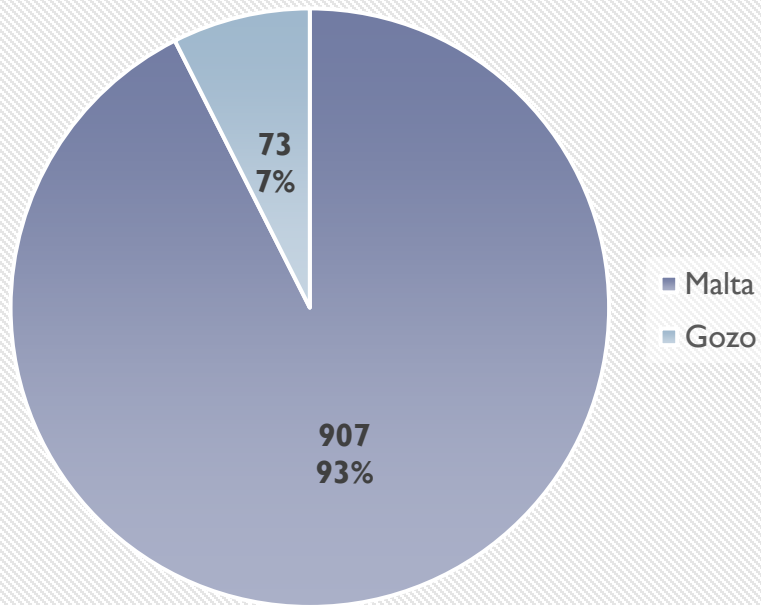


By Committed Amount

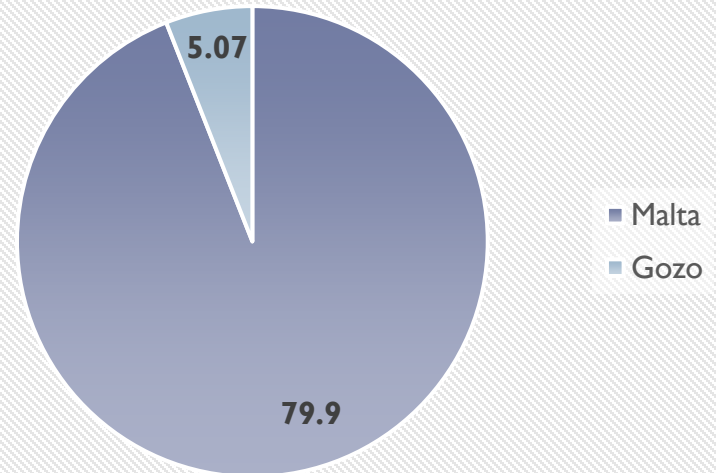


Assistance by Territory (Dec 2021)

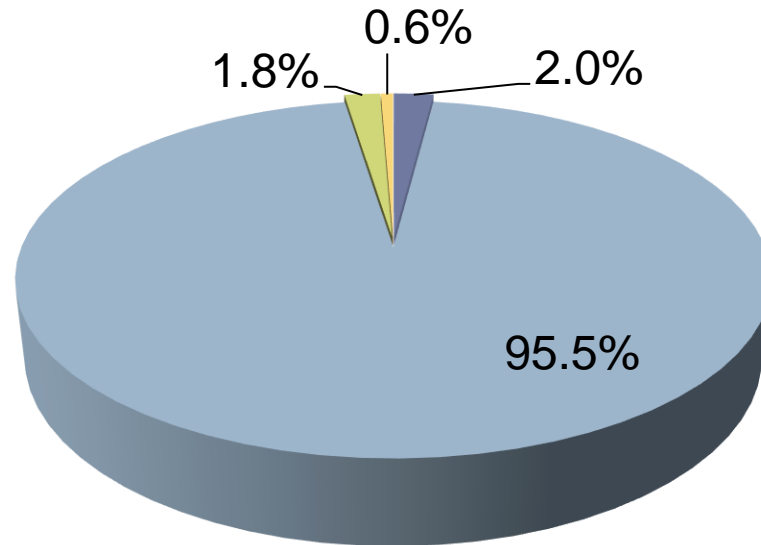
Assisted SMEs



Loan Amounts Committed in (€M)



Loan Purpose

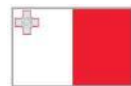


- Working capital
- Tangible investment
- Intangible investment
- Business Transfer

Conclusion

- ▶ The SMEi Malta is also being adapted to react to the realities brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ It is in fact envisaged that this instrument would assist an additional 57 SMEs (cumulatively 885) in accessing a total of €118M in loans, which include a specific allocation towards Working Capital Relief.
- ▶ The evaluation exercise to be carried out with regard to assistance to SMEs will also include an ex-ante assessment of how the Financial Instruments already in place can be further adapted to meet the needs of the developing market in the 21-27 Programming Period.

Programme Territorial Earmarking

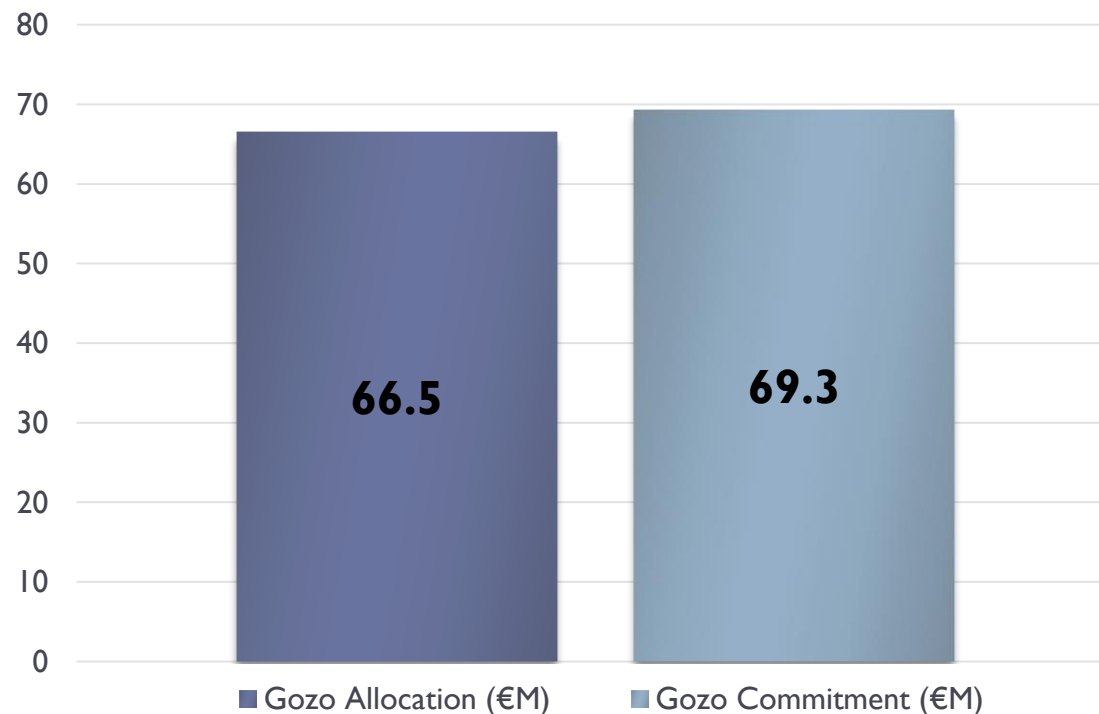


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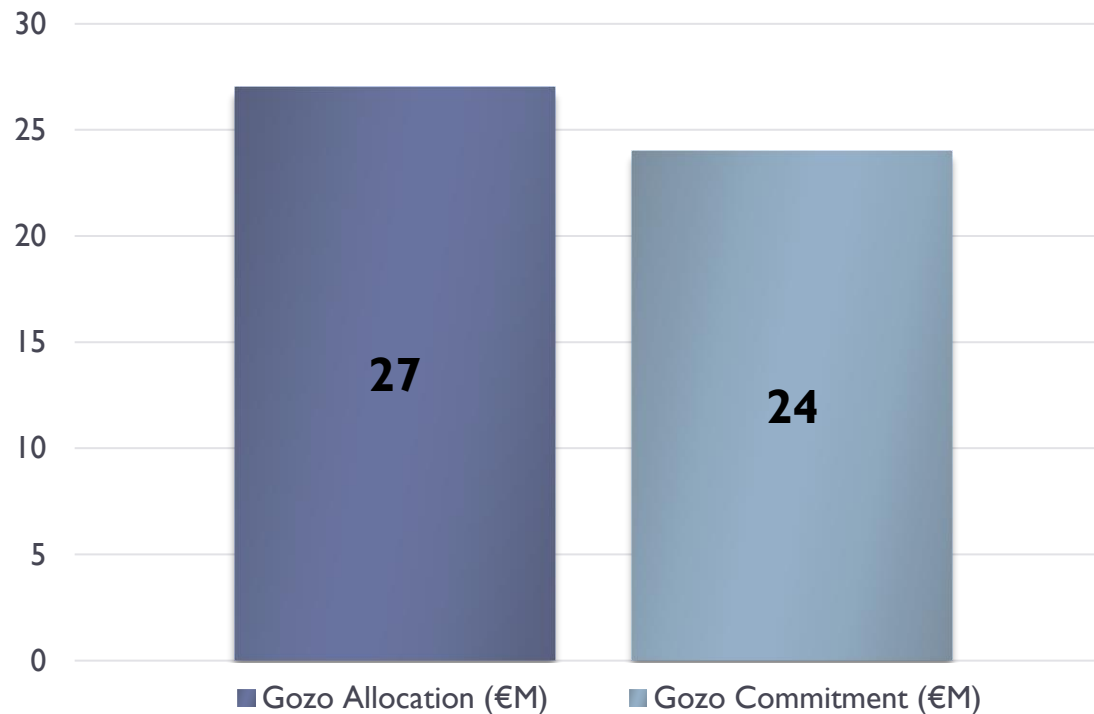
OPI Territorial Earmarking: 10% commitment for Gozo

- The following amount to a commitment of 100% (€69.3M) towards the 10% (€66.5M) Gozo commitment target for ERDF and CF:
 - 7 ERDF Gozo-based projects;
 - 73 beneficiaries under the SMEi Financial Instrument;
 - 78 Grant Schemes Beneficiaries; and
 - 16 ERDF projects with a Gozo component.



OPII Territorial Earmarking: 10% commitment for Gozo

- The following amounts to a commitment of circa 88% (€24M) towards the 10% (€27M) Gozo commitment target for ESF:
 - 54 mainstream projects including 1 financial instrument and 3 Aid Schemes.



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



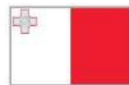
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JASPERS Assistance

- For the 14-20 Programming Period, JASPERS provided assistance on CBA reviews as well as projects focusing on Water, Waste, R&I, Transport and Sustainable Urban Development.
- In 2021, JASPERS continued to assist Transport Malta on the definition of the pipeline investments and the update of the Transport Malta Plan in line with the National Energy and Climate Plan objectives; Project Fiche was finalised in July 2021 with kick-off meetings held in November.
- Also in 2021, the MA and Wasteserv started discussions with JASPERS to seek assistance on the Organic Processing Plant project being proposed for the new Programming Period. Discussions are ongoing with the Project Fiche expected to be finalised in 2022.

Monitoring and Evaluation (2014-2020)



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Monitoring of Indicators



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



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



In order to verify the indicators, the evaluation unit makes sure that all the supporting documentation is available, and that Beneficiaries provide adequate evidence backing the figures reported.

Update on Indicators Achievement

OPI Performance Framework

Output Indicator	Target Value 2023	Total Committed to date	Achieved to date
PA 1- Number of research facilities (PSO1)	3	3	0
PA 2 - New e-services applications in the areas of health, environment, customs and interdepartmental services (PSI2a)	25	29	26
PA 3 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support (CO01)	770	785	701
PA 4 - Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production (CO30) (MW)	24.8	18.62	21.90

Update on Indicators Achievement

OPI Performance Framework

Output Indicator	Target Value 2023	Total Committed to date	Achieved to date
PA 5 - Rehabilitated/ Preserved Land (PSR5a) (m ²)	5,000	37,000	37,000
PA 5 - Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions (CO09) (visits/year)	150,000	150,000	31,711
PA 6 - Urban Development: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas (CO39) (m ²)	8,500	19,706	11,602
PA6 - Urban Development: Rehabilitated housing (CO40) (housing units)	50	64	45

Update on Indicators Achievement

OPI Performance Framework

Output Indicator	Target Value 2023	Total Committed to date	Achieved to date
PA 7 - Projects and/or schemes promoting and/or exploring cleaner transport methods (PSO7e)	1	1	1
PA 8 - Health: Population covered by improved health services (CO36) (persons)	460,000	460,000	0
PA 8 - Urban Development: Rehabilitated housing (CO40) (housing units)	600	600	247
PA 9 - Capacity of VET and Tertiary education infrastructure (PSO9a) (persons)	10,000	13,496	13,936

Update on Indicators Achievement

OPI Performance Framework

Output Indicator	Target Value 2023	Total Committed to date	Achieved to date
PA 10 - Water supply: Additional population served by improved water supply (CO18) (persons)	32,000	32,000	0
PA 11 - Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads, of which: TEN-T (CO14a) (km)	2.5	9.93	8.33

Update on Indicators Achievement

OPII Performance Framework

Output indicator	Target Value 2023	Total Committed to date	Achieved to date
PA 1 (IP8i) – Persons supported (O1)	2900	6157	7733
PA 2 (IP9i) – Persons participating in training/support measures (O6)	8500	8160	6159
PA 3 (IP10i) - The provision of digital technologies to students (O11)	12000	11400	11479
PA 3 (IP10ii) - Persons participating in tertiary education (O13)	700	1258	1204

Update on Indicators Achievement

OPII Performance Framework

Output indicator	Target Value 2023	Total Committed to date	Achieved to date
PA 3 (IP10iii) - Persons participating in training/support measures (O6)	6000	6200	20880
PA 4 (IP11i) - Number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level (CO22)	9	11	11
PA 6 (IP8v) - Participants benefitted from support in short-time work (CVST)	37500	62000	62000*

**data still being verified*

Update on Indicators Achievement

OPI

- In 2021, several operations across various Priority Axes continued their progress in the achievement of the Programme's output indicators,
- 14 Output indicators (6 of which are Performance Framework indicators) are reporting full achievement to date.
- Four Result indicators under PAs 2 and 3 are also being reported as achieved.
- However, the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic continue to be felt, in particular with respect to the operations of several SMEs, in turn affecting the progress achieved in terms of indicators by Aid Schemes under PAs 2 and 3.
- It is to be noted that in cases where indicators have not yet been achieved, several operations, as well as the FI under PA4, are still under implementation and thus most progress on related indicators is expected to be reported towards Programme closure.

Update on Indicators Achievement

OP II

- As at end 2021, 53,737 participants (PA 1 to PA 4) were trained of which 52% are females. In 2021, over 9,700 persons were trained/supported.
- Through WSS (PA 6 and PA 7) as at end 2021, over 62,000 persons were supported. (40% women, 32% foreign background).
- 12 output indicators (of which 5 are Performance Framework Indicators) have been achieved whilst 7 result indicators have reached the target.
- It is to be noted that in cases where indicators have not yet been achieved, a number of operations are still under implementation and thus further progress is expected to be reported towards Programme closure.

Evaluation (1)

TO3 evaluation – Assistance provided to SMEs



- The objective of this evaluation is to assess the assistance provided to SMEs through the SMEi and non-repayable grants financed under both ERDF and ESF, as well as drawing up *ex-ante* assessments for similar assistance to be deployed in the 2021-2027 Programming Period.
- Following an in-depth evaluation of the different funding instruments, the contractor has started to present the draft conclusions and recommendations on their implementation during the 2014-2020 Programming Period.
- The *ex-ante* assessments are expected to be presented in the coming weeks.

Evaluation (2)

Evaluation of the Youth Guarantee 2.0

- The objective of this evaluation is to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Youth Guarantee through a counterfactual impact exercise between the eligible cohort that participated and those eligible individuals who applied but did not participate.
- Apart from a counterfactual exercise, the evaluation will also be producing a microeconomic analysis of the local scenario as well as policy recommendations.
- Evaluation work is at the initial stages.



YOUTH GUARANTEE

NEET ACTIVATION SCHEME II

Find out more



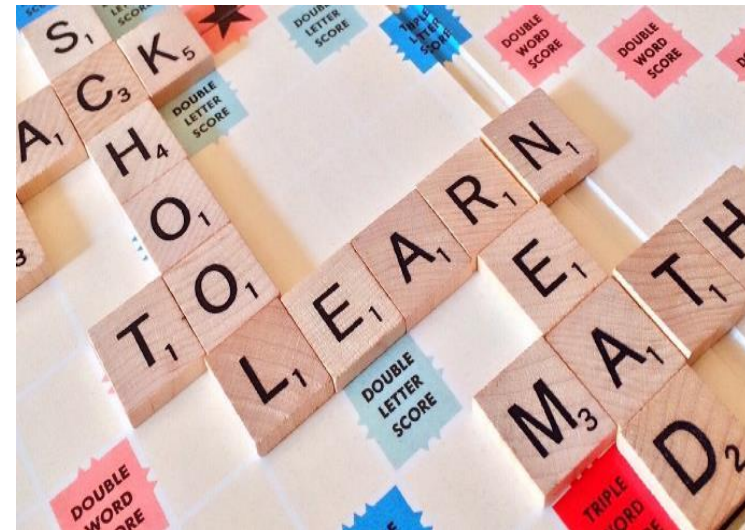
Operational Programme II - European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020
"Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the well-being of society"
Project part-financed by the European Social Fund
Co-financing rate: 80% European Union, 20% National Funds



Evaluation (3)

TO8 – TO10 – Employment and Education

- The objective of this evaluation is to assess the contribution of different ESF funding instruments implemented during the 2014-2020 Programming Period in terms of their effectiveness, efficiency, and impact vis-a-vis the planned actions and results foreseen in Operational Programme II 2014-2020.
- Lot 1 will assess the employability related actions.
- Lot 2 will assess the education dimension.
- The evaluation is still at procurement stage.



Evaluation (4)

ESF Cohort Study – Wave 3 Main Findings:

- Of the participants who were already in employment, 15.3% improved their job situation, and of these, 53.5% attributed this improvement to the ESF project.
- Unemployed/inactive participants: 23% found employment six months after; 64% of this cohort attributed this success to the ESF project.
- 88.6% of total participants declared an improvement in their skills; 94.4% of all participants declared that the ESF intervention had met their expectations.
- 19.7% of participants improved their educational attainment; 67% of this cohort associated this change directly to the ESF project.
- Disadvantaged inactive/unemployed participants: 53% found employment six months after.
- Participants with a registered disability: 87.6% found the ESF project to be well adapted to their needs.
- Impact of covid: impacted 7.4% of employed persons who experienced a negative change six months after their participation. Of those who were unemployed at entry, 11.2% had been made redundant from previous employment, of whom 54.2% were made redundant due to covid. However, only 1% of inactive participants failed to undertake further courses/training due to COVID-19.



A screenshot of a login form. The form has a dark grey header with the word "Login" in white. Below the header, there are two input fields. The first field is labeled "Username" and the second field is labeled "Password". Both fields are currently empty.

SFD Enhancements

- SFD Enhancements intended to improve the reporting capacity of the system, such as:
 - project implementation progress;
 - actions related to promote Equal Opportunities and 'Sustainable Development';
 - publicity actions;
 - Common Output Indicators Report and other reporting functions.
- Strengthening of the systems from an audit and security perspective.

Communication Activities (2014-2020)



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Communication Activities in 2021



EU funds
for Malta | 2014
2020

- ▶ Roaming photographic exhibition as part of the Europe In My Region campaign.
- ▶ Exhibiting 16 of Malta's most impressive EU funded projects and toured 12 localities around Malta and Gozo between 30th August until the end of the year.
- ▶ Provided interesting information and updates to the general public on the featured projects, whilst also increased awareness of how European Funds have helped Maltese Citizens.
- ▶ Complementing the physical exhibition, the PPCD implemented a social media campaign in collaboration with the Commission's EU in my Region team
- ▶ The aim was to maximise the number of people residing locally who see the adverts and are thus made aware of the Roaming Exhibition. The campaign consisted of a mix of photo and (professionally produced) video posts.
- ▶ With a budget of less than €1,000 made available through this campaign, the boosted posts resulted in a total reach of 1,404,235, with 221,510 thurplays for the video posts.

Roaming Exhibition set up in various localities



Birżebbuġia Promenade



Victoria Gozo



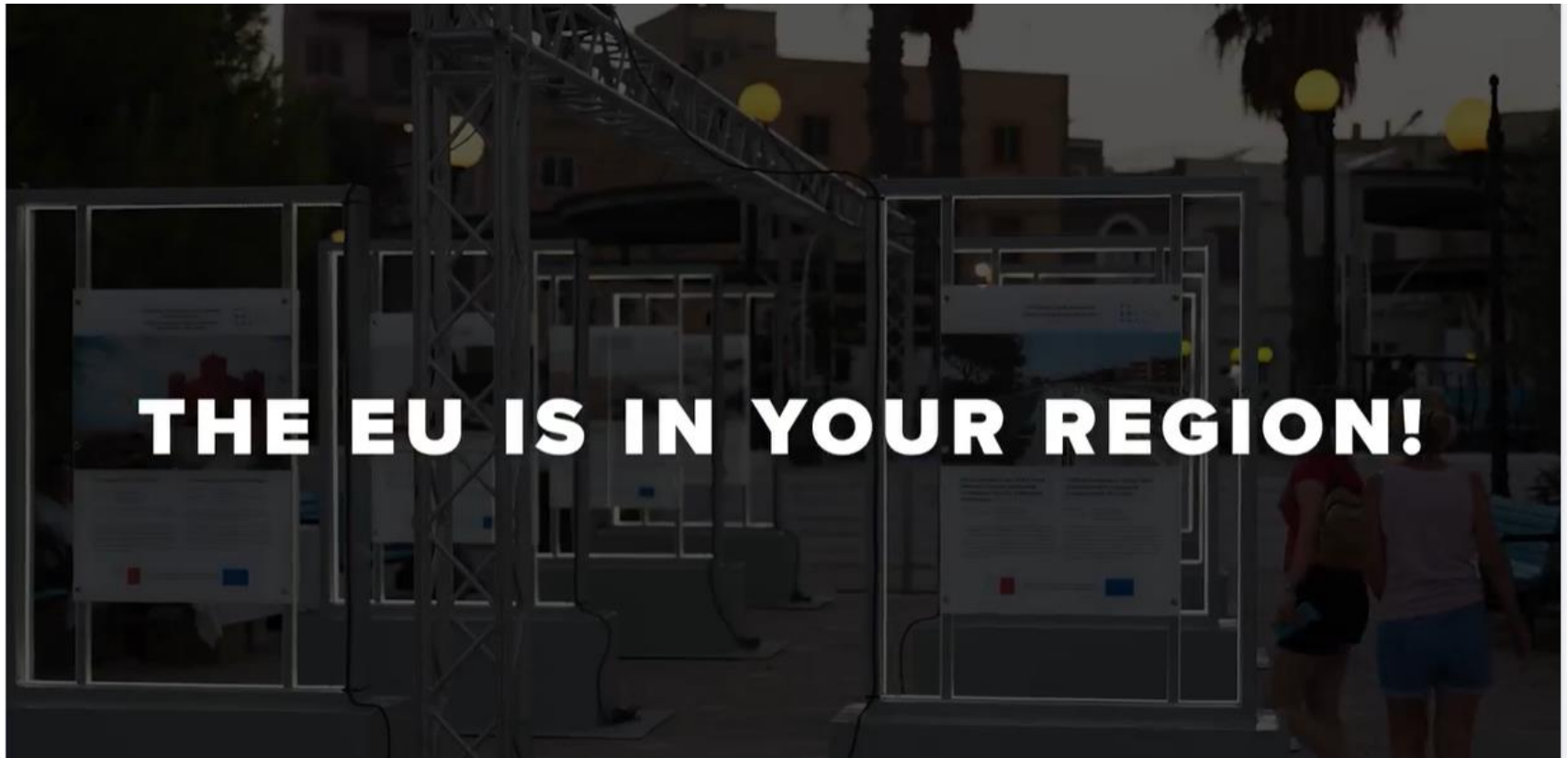
Sliema Promenade



Sliema Tigne'

Video post on social media showing Roaming Exhibition

 EU funds
for Malta | 2014
2020



Continued Social Media Presence



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020

EU Funds Malta
14 March at 07:18 · 🌐

#EUFunds4MT #ESF



INCREASE YOUR EMPLOYABILITY.

Develop your digital skills.

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

Youth Guarantee
10 March at 16:46 · 🌐

👉 **GET PAID TO ENHANCE YOUR DIGITAL SKILLS!**

Aged between 15 to 24 years and would like to start OR complete your ECDL standard modules OR enhance your digital ... [See more](#)

EU Funds Malta
2 March at 08:35 · 🌐

The MCAST's new state-of-the-art MCAST Resource Centre (MRC) was recently inaugurated 🎉

The building houses state-of-the-art facilities and includes the MCAST Library, the Learning Support Unit and the Centre for Applied Research and Innovation 🏢

This is part of 🇪🇺 funded project MCAST Campus MasterPlan: Phase 2. Investing in MCAST is a direct investment in Malta's students and in our future workforce, whilst helping to decrease Malta's early school-leavers 🙋

Fond... [See more](#)



EU Funds Malta
22 March at 11:32 · 🌐

Want to learn more about the first phase of restoration works at the Grandmaster's Palace? Watch this documentary on TVM tonight!

#EUFunds4MT #ERDF



Vjaġġ ta' 450 sena jissokta

22.03.2022 9.30pm

Heritage Malta
21 March at 10:41 · 🌐

🇪🇺 Opportunità biex tara palazz jiehu r-ruh! Nhar it-Tlieta 22 ta' Marzu fid-9.30pm l-istazzjon nazzjonali TVM se jxandar 'Vjaġġ ta' 450 sena jissokta' dokument. [See more](#)

EU Funds Malta
8 February · 🌐

👉 The Innovation Fund's Large-Scale Projects 1.5 Billion EUR Call has opened!!

🇪🇺 The Innovation Fund, centrally managed by the European Commission, is one of the world's largest funding programmes for demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies. The emphasis is on truly innovative projects that can commit to delivering a significant amount of GHG emission reduction, that are not yet commercially available but mature enough for a first-of-kind commercialisation or la... [See more](#)

INNOVATION FUND
Second call for large-scale projects

GRANTS	SECTORS	DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS
EUR 1.5 billion from the EU Emissions Trading System	Renewable energy Energy intensive industries Carbon capture use and storage Energy storage	3 March 2022

Capacity Building activities (2014-2020)



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Training activities



TRAINING ON
CONFLICTS OF
INTEREST



TRAINING ON FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND
AUDIT REQUIREMENTS OF THE
EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND
INVESTMENT FUNDS



TRAINING ON PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT



TRAINING ON
STRUCTURAL FUNDS
DATABASE



Audits



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Status update – Audits on Operations

Reference Period: 1st July 2020 – 30th June 2021

Audit Period: 1st July 2021 – 14th February 2022

In 2021, the sample issued by the AA resulted in 11 (ESF & ERDF) operations and 39 beneficiaries under 5 schemes that were audited;

This sample was extracted out of a total population of 70 projects and 8 schemes which were certified in the accounting year 2020/2021.

Results:

- No systematic errors;
- A total of four financial corrections were issued by the Audit Authority. These included 2 errors under schemes, 1 ERDF and 1 ESF as well as a financial correction under CF and ERDF mainstream operations. It is to be noted that the Error Rate remained below the 2% threshold of materiality level.

All recommendations from the 2020/21 audits conducted on all projects were taken on board by the Beneficiaries.

Status update – Audits on Operations

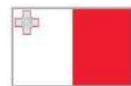
Current update

- Audit Authority to separate the sample of 2021-2022 Accounting year in 2 semesters.
- Groundwork and documentation on the sample of semester 1 to be selected by the AA is currently being prepared.
- Work was ongoing in 2021 to close off the follow-ups of the System Audit, concluded in Feb 2022.

Other Audit work carried out through 2021/2022

- Assisting AA to finalise the Commission Audit on the ESF 2014 - 2020 programme, which was closed in August 2021.
- Feedback through the NAO on the audit carried out by the ECA concerning Conflict of Interest in Shared Management.

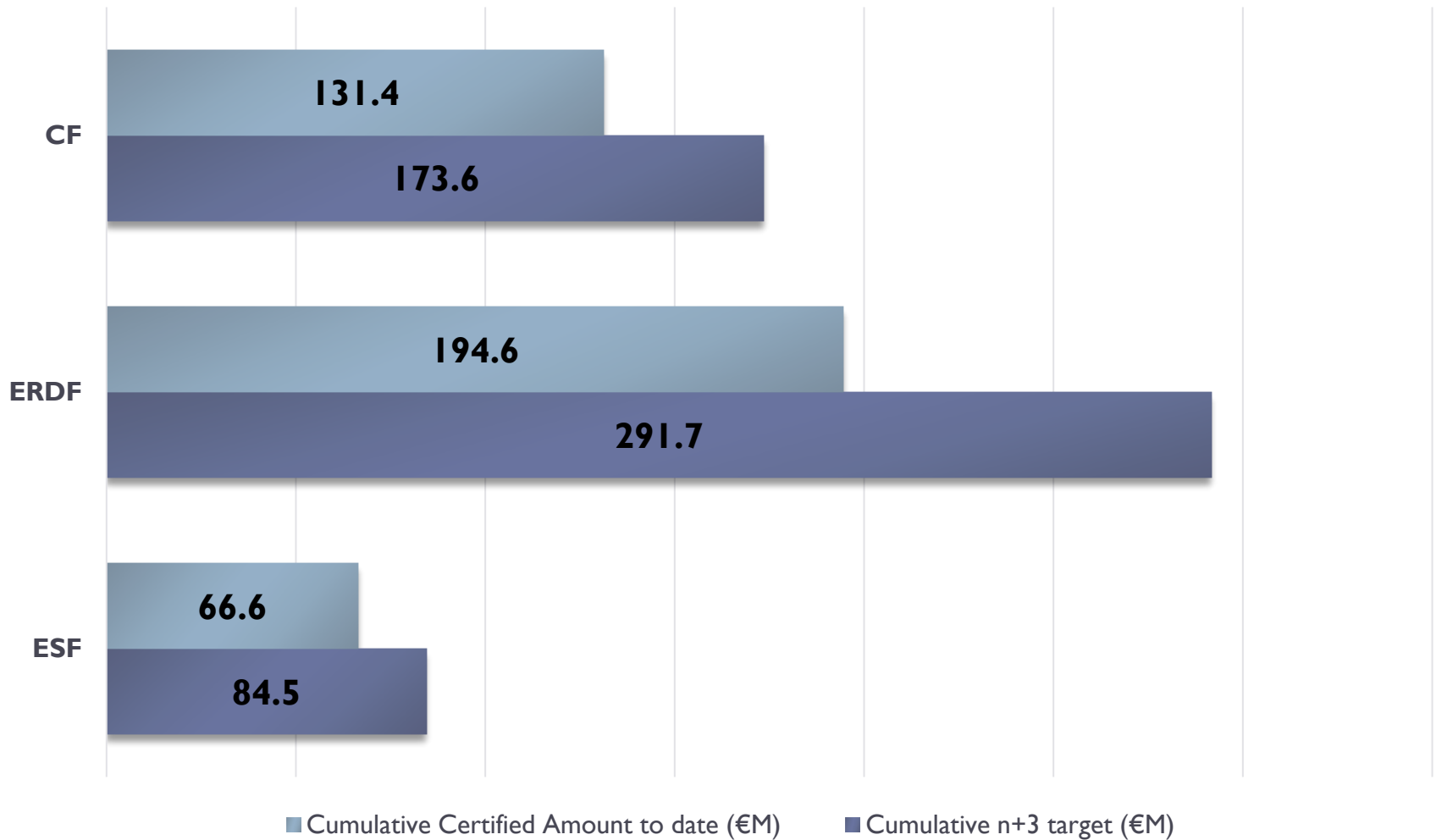
Disbursement Targets



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Update on Implementation: N+3 Disbursement 2022



Status Update and Looking Forward



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Status Update and Looking Forward OPI

TRAKE (PA 1)

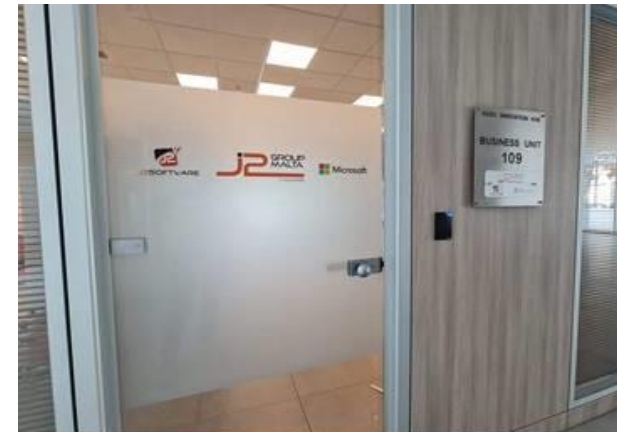
- Final works being undertaken as part of the M&E and finishes on the TRAKE main building and the MMEL; expected to be completed by Q2 2022.
- 15 tenders for equipment are currently in the process of being awarded.



Construction works on the TRAKE main building

Xewkija Enterprise Hub (PA 3)

- A fifth company signed its lease agreement at the Gozo Innovation Hub. All 15 units at the Xewkija Industrial Workshops have been taken up with the final three tenants in the process of signing their lease agreement.



Gozo Innovation Hub Offices

Status Update and Looking Forward

OPI

St Dominic's Priory in Rabat (PA 5)

- A new cultural and religious tourism experience has been inaugurated: rooms surrounding the cloister were transformed into an ecclesiastical museum, audio-visual centre, and an auditorium.



St Dominic Priory Rabat Interpretation Centre

Sustainable Urban Development (PA 6)

- Through the social component, 18 community members are being trained to become mentors, after which they will be able to support mentees in the areas of employment and employment readiness, housing and household stability, financial literacy & income stability and parenting empowerment.
- Preparations to launch a tender for the development of a Talent platform app under the social component are ongoing.



Sustainable Urban Development: Community Roots

Status Update and Looking Forward

OPI

Social Housing (PA 8)

- The contract for landscaping works has been awarded. Works to start in Q2 2022. Ongoing works in a total of 34 blocks comprising c. 195 social housing units.

Paola Regional Hub (PA 8)

- Structural works for Level 16 almost completed. Works on Level 17 have been initiated. The façade of the building to be completed in 2022.

MCAST Masterplan (PA 9)

- Ongoing works at the Institute of Information and Communication Technology (IICT). Works are expected to be completed by Q1 2023, with installation of equipment & furniture expected to be concluded by Q3 2023.



Paola Regional Hub – structural works up to Level 16 almost completed



Construction works at an advanced stage at IICT Building

Status update and Looking forward OPI

Major Water Project (PA 10)

- progress continued with the award of a new tender for trenching and pipe-laying works for second class water in the North of Malta with a value of €5.7M. Expected to be implemented by Q1 2023.
- Moreover, extensions on the sewer network at the Ħandaq, Qormi and Wied Għomor, St. Julian's commenced in Q1 2022 and expected to be completed by Q2 2022

Water Campaign (PA 10)

- As part of the World Water Day in March, **the water campaign project** set up an info-point stand in Valletta for a week to continue delivering easy-to-apply water conservation methods at home and at work.

Ten-T Roads (PA 11)

- The Mrieħel – Ta' Srina Bypass was completed and officially inaugurated in Jan 2022.



Upgrade of RO under the Major Project



Info-point stand during the week leading to World Water Day.



The Mrieħel - Ta' Srina Junction Bypass

Status update and Looking Forward

OPI

Aid to Enterprises

- In 2022, there were 24 cut-off calls out of which 11 grants have been selected for funding for a value of €46.4k under the Consultancy and e-Commerce Aid Schemes.
- To date, the SMEs benefitting from the schemes amount to 569, of which 376 are micro, 147 small and 46 medium.
- More open rolling calls are expected to continue be launched in the coming months
- In 2022, the SMEI is progressing well, with the instrument expected to continue gaining momentum following the slowing down brought by the covid-19 pandemic.

Status Update and Looking Forward



EU funds | 2014
for Malta | 2020

▶ PA 1

An additional €2.6M committed towards A2E scheme in Q1 of 2022.

Preparations are underway for the 2022 Youth Guarantee SEC and MCAST preventative classes

▶ PA 2

Research symposium held in March 2022 (ESF.02.058)

6 trainees are in their final semester of studies in sectors of Genetic counselling and Optometry (ESF.02.053)

A quantitative research on social determinants of sexual and reproductive health (ESF.02.065) and an awareness campaign (ESF.02.061) on tackling problem gambling will be carried out

Continuation of after school Intervention programme for Literacy and Numeracy skills for children (ESF.02.153).

Status Update and Looking Forward

OPII



EU funds
for Malta | 2014
2020

▶ PA 3

ESF.03.059 – continuation of catch-up classes with the aim to contribute towards the prevention of early-school leaving measures and to improve performance of students-at-risk.

IIS aid scheme - As at end March 2022 3,373 grants amounting to €5,873,485 were contracted of which € 3,760,731 were disbursed

ESF Financial Instrument continues to support students in their studies.

▶ PA 4

MCESD strengthening its knowledge base for evidence-based social dialogue. First two thematic areas completed by February 2022. (1) enhancement of female participation in social dialogue and (2) improvement of technical capabilities of social partners. Further research will be underway in another two areas

MHRA to undertake a carrying capacity study of tourism in the Maltese Islands.

ESF longer-term result indicators (to be reported in 2023)

- The MA will formally report on the longer-term result indicators in the AIR 2023, but it is still committed to collect data on an ongoing basis in order to be in a position to monitor progress.
- Building on two previous surveys, a third survey was carried out by NSO based on those ESF participants who completed/left training between 1st January 2020 to 30th June 2021. Out of the 10,777 persons who were eligible to participate in the survey, 1,529 participated following a system of random sampling.
- The survey has the aim of collecting the data needed to report on the ESF longer-term result indicators (measuring participants' status 6 months after leaving the intervention). In addition, the survey collects additional data which provides the MA with direct feedback from participants, allowing the MA to assess the success of its operations through a bottom-up approach.

Looking forward: Communication Activities



- Participation in Europe Day Activities on 9 May.
- Providing information about EU funded projects in an event organized by SEM in front of the Parliament Building.

Looking forward: Communication Activities



- ▶ Participation in the EU in my School campaign, in collaboration with the EC Representation in Malta and SEM as part of 'The European Year of Youth'.
- ▶ Site visits are being organised for European Studies students to 3 different EU-funded projects. The visits include a workshop led by SEM which will then be followed by an art competition whereby these students are encouraged to create an artistic drawing/piece inspired by their visits.
- ▶ The submissions of eight finalists will be exhibited on 9th May in front of Parliament and subsequently in all participating schools.

Looking forward: Communication Activities



- The INFORM Plenary Meeting to be held in Valletta between 23-25 May with 350 delegates from all over Europe.
- The conference will include Keynote Speeches, fund specific meetings, project site visits and the expert group meeting of the National Communications Coordinators.
- The 3 winners of the EU in my School competition will be given the opportunity to address the INFORM Plenary meeting and present their competition entry.
- *Photo credit:*
<https://www.instagram.com/intl.fritzphotography/>

And finally ...

New website

COMING SOON TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU

Concluding Remarks

- Implementation on the ground has continued to progress under all OPs.
- Disbursements under OPI were impacted more with implementation challenges on the ground, including COVID related restrictions and now impacted by the war in Ukraine.
- The ongoing Cohort Study shows that the ESF is leaving a positive effect, even in terms of long-term results.
- Verifications of expenditure continued steadily throughout the year leading to an increase in certification which now amounts to €363M (OPI) and €106M (OPII).
- Further verifications are currently ongoing but timely implementation of projects leading to disbursement is crucial to enable Malta to reach its N+3 targets.
- As we approach closure, further output and result indicators are being reported as achieved. Work by the MA will continue in terms of monitoring of their achievement and linked verifications.
- Further work on evaluation activities undertaken will continue to be carried out and the input of all those concerned is encouraged. Moreover, a new evaluation activity will be initiated tied to ESF TO9 for social inclusion.
- All stakeholders are once again reminded to continue with their communication efforts to showcase the impact that EU support is having on the day-to-day life of the citizens living in Malta and Gozo.

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