

MONITORING COMMITTEE for Operational Programme I

Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life

Implementation Update 17th October 2008

Operational Programme I – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
Event part-financed by the European Union
European Regional Development Fund



Recalling:

- The first advance payment of € 8,879,560 (ERDF) and € 7,103,625 (CF) was received from EC – 12th July 2007
- Launch of Operational Programme – 18th July 2007
- 1st Monitoring Committee – 19th July 2007
- 2nd Monitoring Committee – 5th December 2007
- Calls for Proposals
 - 1st Call for Project Proposals – 25th July 2007
 - 2nd Call for Project Proposals – 10th January 2008
 - 3rd Call for Project Proposals – 23rd July 2008

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Call for Project Proposals



Priority Axis	Issued on	Deadline
CALL 1	25 th July 2007	7 th September 2007
CALL 2	10 th January 2008	22 nd February 2008
CALL 3 (NGOs)	23 rd July 2008	16 th September 2008

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Projects submitted under each PA per call



Call 1	Priority Axis 1 [FA: Enterprise Infrastructure; Investment in RTDi and RTDi related Infrastructure and ICT]	20 projects
	Priority Axis 2 [FA: Product Development; Niche Market Development and Branding]	24 projects
	Priority Axis 6 [FA: Internal Mobility; Education, Social and Health-related Infrastructure]	28 projects
Call 2	Priority Axis 1 [FA: Enterprise Infrastructure; Investment in RTDi and RTDi related Infrastructure and ICT]	13 projects
	Priority Axis 4 [FA: Upgrading Services of General Economic Interest-Energy]	15 projects
	Priority Axis 6 [FA: Urban Regeneration; E-Accessibility]	12 projects
Call 3	Priority Axis 2 [FA: Product Development; Niche Market Development and Branding]	19 projects

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Funds allocated and committed for each call



		ALLOCATED	COMMITTED
CALL 1	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2 Priority Axis 6	EUR 45 EUR 80 EUR 45	EUR 38,241,795 EUR 75,471,642 EUR 43,422,942
CALL 2	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 4 Priority Axis 6	EUR 25 EUR 15 EUR 25	EUR 20,731,783 EUR 12,985,107 EUR 10,358,457
CALL 3 (NGOs)	Priority Axis 2	EUR 7	Still Under Evaluation

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Aid Schemes



In March the MA asked Intermediate Bodies to submit proposal and the call was opened on the 11th March 2008 and the following was submitted by the 21st April 2008.

Aid Schemes	Priority Axis 1: International Competitiveness; R&D Grants; Innov Act; Small Start Up; E-Business Development.	5 proposals
	Priority Axis 2: Grant Scheme for Tourism Projects by Enterprises.	1 proposal
	Priority Axis 4: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in the Commercial Sector	1 proposal
	Priority Axis 6: Grand Schemes for Childcare Facilities – The Regeneration of Childcare in Malta.	1 proposal

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Cont...

Aid Schemes		ALLOCATED	COMMITTED
Priority Axis 1: International Competitiveness; R&D Grants; Innov Act; Small Start Up Grant Scheme; E-Business Development Grant Scheme.		EUR 2,500,000	EUR 2,500,000
		EUR 3,500,000	EUR 3,500,000
		EUR 9,000,000	EUR 9,000,000
		EUR 2,500,000	EUR 2,500,000
		EUR 2,500,000	EUR 2,500,000
Priority Axis 2: Grant Scheme for Tourism Projects by Enterprises.		EUR 10,000,000	EUR 9,764,196.80
Priority Axis 4: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in the Commercial Sector		EUR 10,000,000	EUR 10,000,000
Priority Axis 6: Grand Schemes for Childcare Facilities – The Regeneration of Childcare in Malta.		EUR 500,000	Still under discussion

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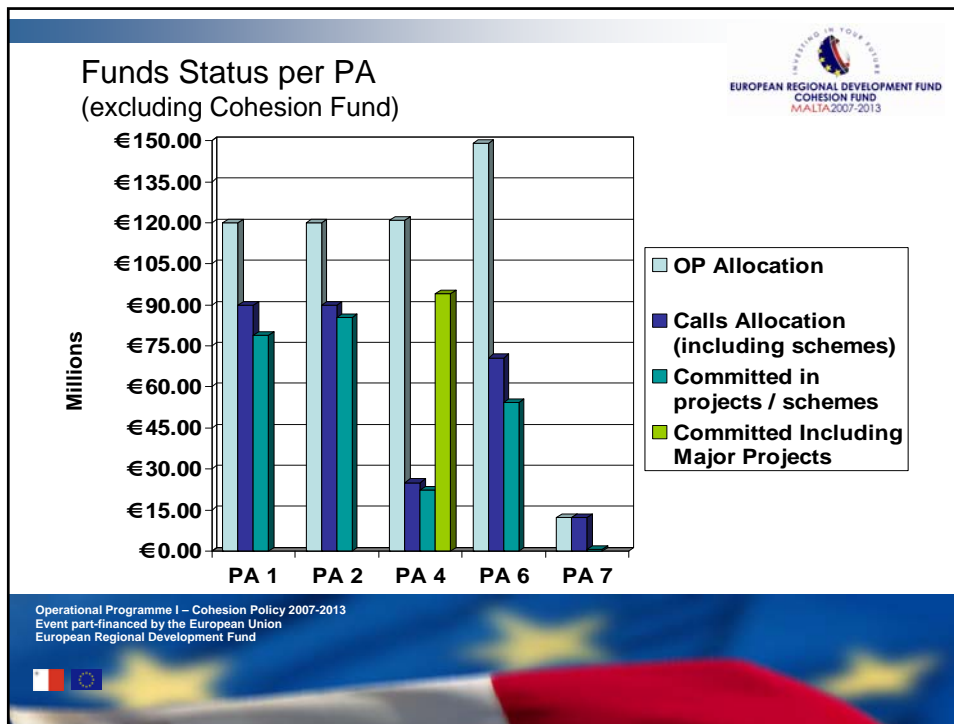


Summary

Call for proposals	1	2	3
Total funds made available	170 million	65 million	7 million
Applications received	72	40	19
PSC meetings	36 meetings	38 meetings	On-Going
Proposals approved	22 projects	16 projects	Not Yet Available
Total funds committed	EUR 157,136,378.52	EUR 44,075,346.52	n/a
% allocated	92.4%	66.5%	n/a

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- ### Actions related to Implementation
- Drafting of detailed Eligibility Rules (MA);
 - Drafting and submission of the Evaluation Plan (MA);
 - Finalisation of the Audit Strategy (AA);
 - Approval of the Communication Plan by the EC (MA);
 - Finalisation (following testing period) of first modules of SFD '07 (MA);
 - Processing of first payments (Treasury Division);
 - Submission of the Annual Implementation Report (MA);
 - Submission of the Management and Control System (MA).
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Description of Management and Control Systems (MA)



- Requirement as per Art 21 [Reg 1828/2006]
- Model description annexed to Regulation [Annex XII]
- Provides details of:
 - the functions and organizational set up of the MA, the IBs, the CA and the AA;
 - the project selection procedure;
 - payment process and details of the accounting system;
 - the eligibility rules for expenditure for OPI;
 - the audit trail;
 - the financial and monitoring information system.
- Includes depictions of the organizational relationship, relevant organigrams and financial and audit flowcharts.
- Submission of system description and compliance assessment to EC on 26th June 2008 by Audit Authority.

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Detailed Manual of Procedures 2007-2013 [Beneficiaries]



- Draft MOP Outline:
 - Roles & Responsibilities;
 - Compliance with Community Policies;
 - Project Submission & Selection Process;
 - Contracting;
 - Financial Management incl. Payments;
 - Monitoring & Reporting;
 - Audit and Control;
 - Reporting on Irregularities;
 - Information and Publicity;
 - Retention of Documents.
- Circulation of MOP to all relevant stakeholders for feedback (deadline 3rd October)

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Structural Funds Database 2007 - 2013



- Web enabled system developed for the Government of Malta;
- Designed to manage National Strategic Framework and relative Programmes;
- Financial mechanism for the management of funds from Programme to Invoice level;
- Includes a Payment Management System;
- Uses Web Services to enable it to integrate with other databases;
- Centralised system linked to other stakeholders, each having access to customized functionality roles, and access to specific projects;
- System is an on-going project with modules and reports being added over its lifetime;
- Currently the development team is finalising the Certification and Verification module.

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Financial Update



- Receipt of second instalment of the advance payment of €13,319,340 (ERDF) and €11,365,800 (CF) on the 18th February 2008
- SFD payments which are in process €1,642,000 [excl VAT]

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Publicity : Annual Publicity Event

- A major information event is being organised by the MA in line with Article 7.2 (b) of Commission Regulation 1828/2006 and as described in the Communication Plan, Section 3.6.1.
- Date of Event: 14th – 15th November 2008
- Event consists of an outdoor walk-through Information event:
 - Raising Visibility and Awareness of Cohesion Policy, whilst ensuring transparency;
 - Outlining the OPI and OPII strategies and present achievements;
 - Targeting the general public;
 - Set up in a strategic place to reach maximum visibility;
 - Will include entertainment, promotional material and other activities.



Evaluation Activities

- An analysis is currently underway on a sample of ERDF 2004-2006 projects. This study, which has been commissioned by the MA, is intended to provide recommendations which can be used in relation to the overall monitoring and collection of data from projects financed under OPI, but
- Preparations are underway for the Mid-Term Evaluation of Operational Programme I, which is intended to be launched in 2009.



Capacity Building

- The MA has launched calls for employment at all levels of management, desk officer level as well as middle and senior management. Calls are under evaluation;
- MA has approved capacity building for the Certifying Authority, the Department of Contracts as well as the Treasury under Priority Axis 7: Technical Assistance;
- An open call for Fund Managers and Fund Officers will be launched prior to the end of year to beef up the Line Ministry function.



Capacity Building cont...

- 2nd round of training sessions for Project Leaders and Contact Persons, addressing the following topics [Nov/Dec 2008]:
 - Intro to Cohesion Policy Administrative Structures
 - Cohesion Policy - Basic Principles of Control
 - Cohesion Policy - Publicity Requirements
 - Intro to Project Management
 - Project Scheduling and Monitoring
 - National Procurement Regulations
 - Drafting and Researching ToRs and Specs
 - The Tender Evaluation Procedure



Thank you for your attention

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Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds.



Investing in your future.

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