

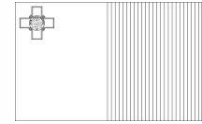
4th Monitoring Committee

**The EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM
and
The NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM**

2009–2014

National Focal Point – Malta

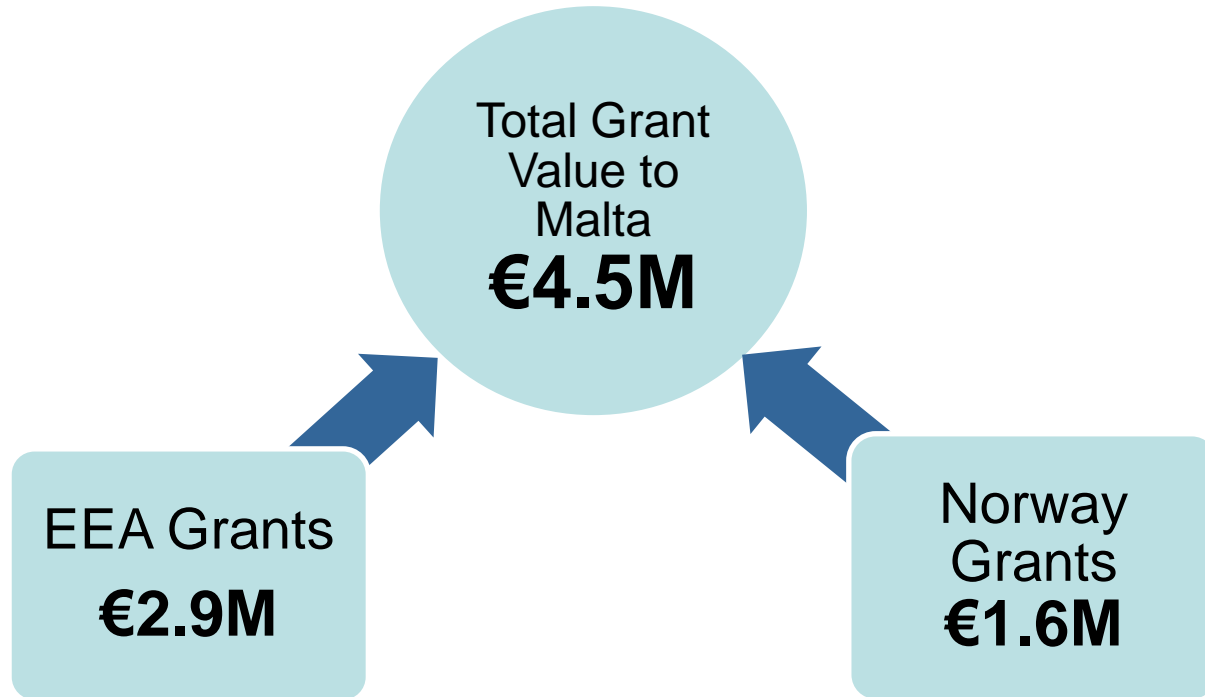
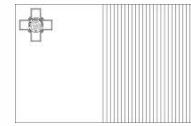
Leonie Aquilina Xuereb, 5 February 2015



Overall Objectives - EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014

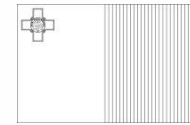
**To reduce economic and social disparities
with the European Economic Area**

**To strengthen bilateral relations between
Donor States and Beneficiary States**



Programme period: 5 December 2012 – 30 April 2017

Projects' eligibility deadline – 30 April 2016



Pre-defined projects (EEA Grants)



EEA GRANTS
2009-14

Adaptation to Climate Change



EEA GRANTS
2009-14

Conservation and Revitalisation
of Cultural and Natural Heritage

Oil/HNS Spill Response Capacity Building for the Protection of Malta's Seas

Transport Malta

Grant: €442,202

Donor Partner: The Norwegian Coastal Administration (Kystverket)

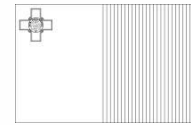
A new environment management system for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum World Heritage Site

Heritage Malta

Grant: €748,425

Pre-defined projects (EEA Grants)

– *cont'd*



Programme area no. 1



Priority sector:
Environmental Protection and Management

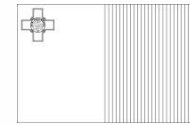
EEA GRANTS
2009-14

Integrated Marine and Inland
Water Management

Malta Water Conservation Awareness Centre
Office of the Prime Minister + PARK
Grant: €806,288

Pre-defined projects (EEA Grants)

– cont'd



Fund Operator: SOS Malta

Grant: €500,000

12 projects addressing horizontal concerns



EEA GRANTS 2009-14

The EEA Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between the EEA EFTA States — Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway — and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Funds for Non-Governmental Organisations

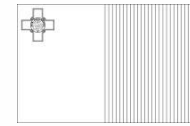
Objective

Strengthened civil society development and enhanced contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development

Expected outcomes

- Active citizenship fostered
- Increased involvement of NGOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments
- Cross-sectoral partnerships developed, particularly with government organisations at local, regional and/or national level

- Democratic values, including human rights, promoted
- Advocacy and watchdog role developed
- Developed networks and coalitions of NGOs working in partnership
- Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted
- Increased contribution to sustainable development achieved
- Provision of welfare and basic services to defined target groups increased
- Empowerment of vulnerable groups



Pre-defined projects (Norway Grants)



Priority sector:
Human and Social Development

NORWAY
GRANTS
2009-14

Capacity-building and Institutional
Cooperation between Beneficiary State
and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local
and Regional Authorities

A Partnership for Creative Governance

Department for Local Government

Grant: €273,680

Partners: Norwegian Association of Local
and Regional Authorities (KS), Council of
Europe, Local Councils Association



Priority sector:
Justice and Home Affairs

NORWAY
GRANTS
2009-14

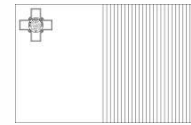
Correctional Services, including
Non-custodial Sanctions

Renewing the Centre of Residential Restorative Services (CoRRS)

Ministry for Home Affairs and National
Security

Grant: €1,092,720

Pre-defined projects (Norway Grants) – cont'd



Enhancing Social Dialogue and Labour Institutions

Department of Industrial and Employment Relations

Fund Operator: Innovation Norway

Grant: €16,000

Programme area no. 22

Priority sector:
Promotion of Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue

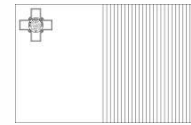
NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthening the bilateral relations between Norway and the Beneficiary States. The programme area shall contribute to these two overall objectives.

Objective
Decent work promoted and tripartite cooperation improved between employers' organisations, trade unions and public authorities in supporting equitable and sustainable economic and social development

Expected outcomes

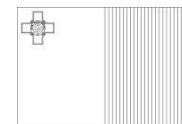
- Improved social dialogue and tripartite dialogue structures and practices
- Enhanced understanding of the benefits of decent work
- Enhanced access to employment and participation in the labour market
- Enhanced focus on the social dimension of workforce mobility
- Advancement of gender equality and non-discrimination in the workplace
- Improvement of work, family and private life balance
- Worker adaptability and lifelong learning opportunities improved



**Overview of the implementation of
the EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM
and
the NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM
2009 – 2014**

2014

Key activities – 2014



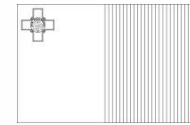
January

- Official launch of Transport Malta project



- Third meeting of the Monitoring Committee
- Submission of the first combined Strategic and Annual Programme Reports, Technical Assistance Report and Audit Plan for 2014
- Revision of the Monitoring Plan
- Requirements Analysis for CARS finalised

Key activities – 2014 (cont'd)



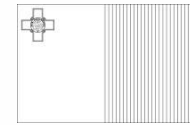
February

❑ Official launch of Department for Local Government project



❑ Forecasts of likely payment applications

Key activities – 2014 (cont'd)

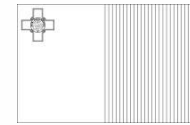


March

- ❑ Communication Workshop organised by FMO in Bucharest
- ❑ Interim Financial Report (IFR) 7 for Technical Assistance and IFRs 2 for EEA Programme and Norway Programme
- ❑ Annual Meeting with Donors and FMO



Key activities – 2014 (*cont'd*)



May

- Forecasts of likely payment applications

July

- IFR 8 for Technical Assistance and IFRs 3 for EEA Programme and Norway Programme

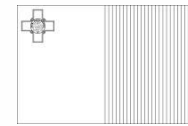
August

- Issue of Expression of Interest for bilateral initiatives between Project Promoters and Donor Partners

September

- Participation of NFP and Certifying Authority at Risk Management and Good Governance Seminar organised by the FMO in Tallinn
- Forecasts of likely payment applications

Key activities – 2014 (cont'd)



October

- ❑ Promoting the Grants at Notte Bianca
- ❑ Bilateral seminar organised with MFSS: Launch of draft 'Positive Parenting Policy'



Raising Children with a Positive Parenting Approach

"Hey Karl, you've arrived! If you give me a minute, we can sit down and have some tea together."



"Ok mum, just let me take out a couple of books from my school bag. This bag is so heavy!"

"You're right Karl, that bag is really heavy. Now, you'd better sit down. You look dead beat!"

"I surely won't say that you've been the one to beat me. Mum, haven't you heard that it is now illegal to hit children?"

"I meant you look very tired. I would not even dream of beating you. I've always disagreed with hitting as a form of discipline, Karl. I don't like it and I totally agree that it is now being officially recognised as an illegal act."

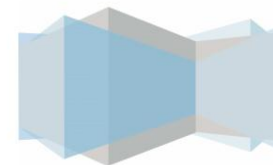
"I also heard that a policy on positive parenting, is soon to be introduced."



A Positive Parenting Policy for Malta

2014-2018

Draft Copy for Public Consultation



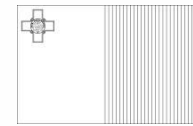
This policy will guide parents in keeping their kids' best interests at heart. The parents' positive actions will support their children's development.



The policy's aim is to help parents to better communicate with their children, reach out more to them, and also find a balance between their work and their role as parents.

Below are the suggestions that are being put forward. Parents and children are invited to give their opinions about these proposals and/or to submit other recommendations. While it is planned that new services will be introduced, some existent ones will be further developed.

Key activities – 2014 (*cont'd*)



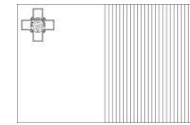
November

- IFR 9 for Technical Assistance and IFRs 4 for EEA Programme and Norway Programme
- Participation of NFP at FMO annual workshop, Brussels

December

- Forecasts of likely payment applications

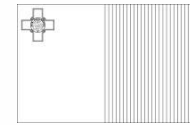
Key activities – 2014 (*cont'd*)



Along the year....

- Bilateral Meetings held regularly with Project Promoters and line Ministries (Programme Implementation Departments)**
- Project Progress Reports filled by Project Promoters tri-annually**
- Administrative and on-the-spot checks**
- Manual of Procedures updated (www.eeagrants.gov.mt / www.norwaygrants.gov.mt)**

Project Achievements – 2014



❑ Transport Malta

- award of contract 'Studies on pollution risks from oil industry offshore drilling' - €33,000

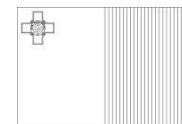
❑ Heritage Malta

- award of contract 'Condition Assessment of Hypogeum' - €30,250

❑ Department for Local Government

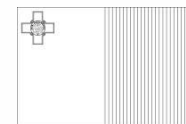
- Training Needs Analysis concluded
- National Training Strategy started
- Performance Management Indicators identified

Budget review



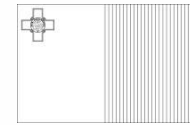
	Total eligible expenditure (€)	Contracted by end 2014 (€)	Total incurred by end 2014 (€)	Incurred 2014 (€)	IFRs 2014 - Verified + claimed (€)
TA/ BFn	67,500	30,963	23,657	7,034	13,442
MT02 - EEA	2,516,471	262,479	57,144	25,321	24,039
MT 04 - Norway	1,694,118	135,346	72,809	63,822	62,210

Indicative work plan – 2015



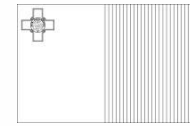
Period	Activity	Responsibility
January	Submission of draft Annual Meeting Agenda to FMO	NFP
February	Monitoring Committee	
	Submission of combined Strategic and Annual Programme Reports + Annexes to FMO	
March	Annual Meeting and approval of Strategic and Annual Programme Reports	NFP + > FMC/NMFA
	Interim Financial Reports for Programmes MT01 (EEA), MT02 (Norway) and MT04 (Technical Assistance)	NFP/PO>CA
Q1	Launch of Project MT02/7: Malta Water Conservation Awareness Centre	Project Promoter: Office of the Prime Minister
	Launch of Project MT04/2: Renewing the Centre of Residential Restorative Services (CoRRS)	Project Promoter: Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
	Implementation of enhancements to the Computerised Accounting Records System (CARS)	NFP

Indicative work plan – 2015



Period	Activity	Responsibility
April	Publishing of Strategic and Annual Programme Reports and Annual Meeting minutes on FPD website	NFP
Q2	Mid-term promotional and information activity (€4,812)	NFP/PO+FMO+FMC+NFMA
July	Interim Financial Reports for MT01, MT02 and MT04	NFP/PO>CA
September	Submission of annual TA budget for the following year	NFP > CA> FMC/NMFA
November	Interim Financial Reports for MT01, MT02 and MT04	NFP/PO>CA

Monitoring Plan for 2015



One on-site visit on one chosen project per programme (1 EEA + 1 Norway)

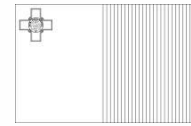
Administrative checks upon award of contracts and prior to verifications

Bilateral meetings with Project Promoters and line Ministries

Project Progress Reports – tri-annually

Regular financial and physical monitoring of projects

Regular monitoring of CARS - financial management and expenditure

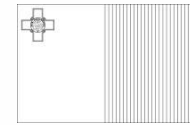


**Audit Authority found no
systematic risks**

**Irregularities detected before
IFRs – no financial recoveries**

- **EEA – Hypogeum project
– RfQ Vs product**
- **Norway – DLG project
– selected quotation Vs
invoice**

Information and Publicity – *Project launch events*

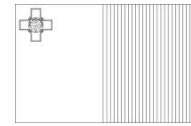


**Oil/HNS Spill Response Capacity Building
for the Protection of Malta's Seas -
Transport Malta
22 January 2014**



**A Partnership for Creative Governance –
Department for Local Government
20 February 2014**

Information and Publicity – *Participation in national events*

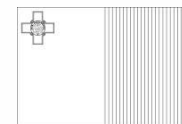


**Learning about the Hypogeum project
'Science in the City'
27 September 2014**



**Promoting the Grants
'Notte Bianca'
4 October 2014**

Information and Publicity – Websites



The screenshot shows the EEA Grants website with a search bar and navigation menu. The main content area features a large image of an oil spill containment boom in the sea. Below the image is the article title 'KEEPING OIL AWAY FROM MALTESE SHORES' and a short paragraph of text. The article is dated 20.2.2014 and includes social media sharing icons.

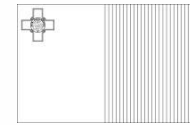
The screenshot shows the website for the Ministry of the Environment, Planning and Infrastructure (eufunds.gov.mt). It features a navigation menu with categories like 'PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY', 'OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES', 'EU FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES', and 'INFORMATION'. The main content area includes a gallery of images, a 'CONTACT INFORMATION' section with postal, telephone, and email details, and a 'USEFUL LINKS' section with various resources. The website also displays logos for EEA Grants and Norway Grants.

Grants' website www.eeagrants.org
featuring Transport Malta project

'Learn more' about the Grants on the
Ministry's website www.eufunds.gov.mt

Bilateral relations

- *National Level*

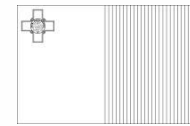


Experts from Norway and Malta shared studies on constructive parenting during the launch of draft 'Positive Parenting Policy'

10 October 2014

Bilateral relations -

Donor Project Partners

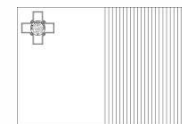


Transport Malta and Norwegian Coastal Administration



**Steering Committee meeting
Department of Local Government,
Norwegian Association of Local and
Regional Authorities (KS), Council of
Europe, and Local Councils Association**

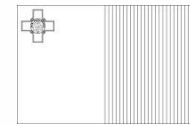
Risks – *National Level*



more prominent being....

Risk	Mitigation measure
Insufficient time for project implementation	Regular contact between National Focal Point/ Programme Operator (NFP/PO) and Project Promoters (PP)
Possible delays in procurement	Regular contact between NFP/PO and PP. Regular contact between NFP/PO and Department of Contracts.

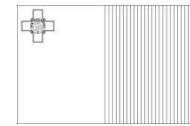
Risks – Programme Level



common concerns....

Risk	Mitigation measure
Delays in tender adjudication / appeals that would have a direct impact on the overall timely execution	Source out appropriately briefed adjudicating committee members well in advance
	Undertake market research prior to tender issue
	List clear requirements on tenders to avoid misinterpretation
	Project Promoters who have not yet signed project contracts are strongly advised to start the procurement process and stop before signing procurement contracts (expenditure eligibility issue)

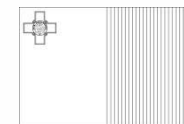
Risks – Programme Level (cont'd)



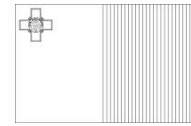
common concerns....

Risk	Mitigation measure
Shortened project eligibility period (from April 2017 to April 2016) = less time to implement projects	Carry out some project activities sooner than planned to win time
Resignation of staff = further project delays	Appoint replacement at the earliest
Loss of expertise along the course of project implementation	Engage expertise on contractual basis to ensure availability and continuity of work, and against performance guarantee
Delays in securing MEPA planning permit	MEPA is on board and aware of project eligibility deadline + projects' significance
	MEPA was an active partner in the CoRRS' site selection process

Risks – Programme Level (cont'd)



Risks	Mitigation
Other risks identified within each project	Hold regular bilateral meetings with Project Promoters to detect possible risks and together discuss mitigation measures
	Carry out administrative and on-the-spot checks to detect irregularities prior to verification
Non-timely cooperation between stakeholders	Perform consistent and vigilant monitoring
	Follow up on actions by responsible body



Thank you

More information can be found on: www.eeagrants.gov.mt / www.norwaygrants.gov.mt
and www.eeagrants.org