

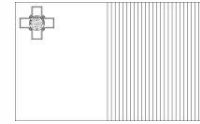
5th Monitoring Committee

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

2009–2014

National Focal Point – Malta

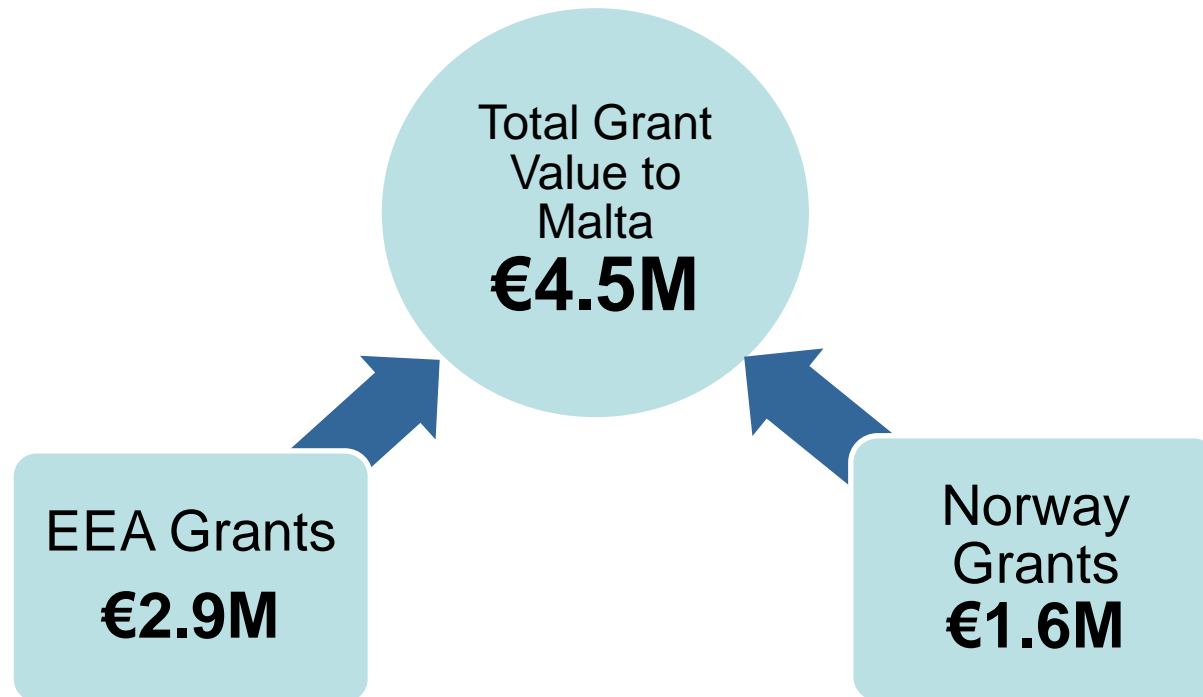
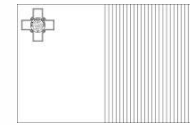
Nicholas Bugeja, 20 January 2016



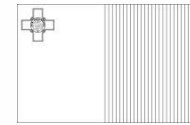
Overall Objectives - EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014

**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 2017 (Extended in October 2015)



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

Total eligible costs: €520,238

Grant: €442,202

Donor Partner: The Norwegian Coastal Administration (Kystverket)

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

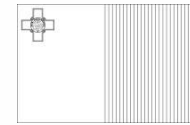
Heritage Malta

Total eligible costs: €1,065,000

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

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Malta Water Conservation Awareness Centre

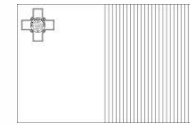
Sustainable Energy and Water Conservation Unit
Ministry for Energy and Health (Energy)+ PARK, ELC,
Ekoskola and MITA

Total eligible costs:€1,508,340

Grant: €806,288

Pre-defined projects (EEA Grants)

– cont'd



Fund Operator: SOS Malta

Grant: €500,000



programme area no. 10

Priority sector:
Civil Society

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

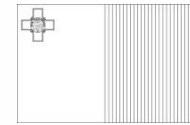
Strengthened civil society development and enhanced contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development

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)



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

Total eligible costs: €321,461

Grant: €273,680

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



NORWAY
GRANTS
2009-14

Correctional Services, including
Non-custodial Sanctions

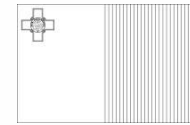
Renewing the Centre of Residential Restorative Services (CoRRS)

Ministry for Home Affairs and National
Security

Total eligible costs: €1,285,553

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

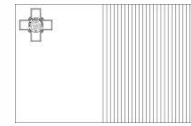
NORWAY GRANTS 2009-14

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

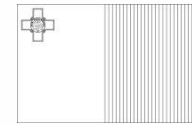
- Improved social dialogue and tripartite dialogue structures and practices
- Enhanced understanding of the benefits of decent work
- Enhanced access to employment and participation in the labour market
- Enhanced focus on the social dimension of workforce mobility
- Advancement of gender equality and 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**

2015

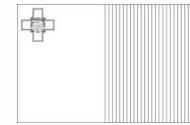
Key activities – 2015



February

- Fourth meeting of the Monitoring Committee**
- Submission of the combined Strategic and Annual Programme Reports, Technical Assistance Report and Audit Plan for 2015**
- Revision of the Monitoring Plan**
- Ongoing monitoring of projects through bilateral meetings, CARS and On the spot checks**

Key activities – 2015 (cont'd)



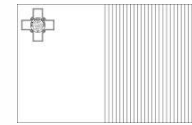
March

- ❑ Forecasts of likely payment applications
- ❑ Annual Meeting with Donors and FMO
- ❑ Site visit to the current Centre for Residential Restorative Services (CoRRS) premises in Mtañleb by the Donor State Delegation together with the National Focal Point

Ongoing monitoring of projects through bilateral meetings, CARS and On the spot checks



Key activities – 2015 (*cont'd*)



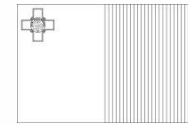
March

- FPD Signs a contract with MITA to improve monitoring service and backup media (CARS)
- Interim Financial Report (IFR) 10 for Technical Assistance and IFRs 5 for EEA Programme and Norway Programme
- Ongoing monitoring of projects through bilateral meetings, CARS and On the spot checks

April

- Communication Workshop organised by FMO in Bucharest
- Ongoing monitoring of projects through bilateral meetings, CARS and On the spot checks

Key activities – 2015 (cont'd)



May

- Forecasts of likely payment applications
- PO concluded enhancement of CARS
- Ongoing monitoring of projects through bilateral meetings, CARS and On the spot checks

June

- Mid-term information activity
- Ongoing monitoring of projects through bilateral meetings, CARS and On the spot checks
- Cabinet approval for Water project

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MINISTRY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
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Investing in Malta's social and economic development.
Strengthening cooperation between
Malta and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

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and www.eeagrants.org / www.norwaygrants.org
EMAIL fpd.meim@gov.mt

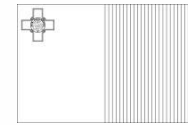
EEA and Norway Grants - Working together for our future



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Key activities – 2015 (cont'd)



July

- ❑ IFR 8 for Technical Assistance and IFRs 3 for EEA Programme and Norway Programme
- ❑ Mid-term information activity
- ❑ Amendment to MOUs between Malta and EEA, Malta and Norway
- ❑ Ongoing monitoring of projects through bilaterals and On the spot checks



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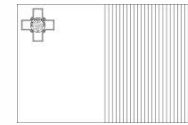
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EEA and Norway Grants - Working together for our future



Supported by a grant from Iceland,
Liechtenstein and Norway through the
EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014.

Key activities – 2015 (cont'd)



August

- ❑ Mid-term information activity
- ❑ FMO approved detailed budget for new project MT02/7 (Malta



Water Conservation Awareness Centre and revised budget for MT04/2 (CoRRs)

- ❑ Ongoing monitoring of projects through bilateral meetings, CARS and On the spot checks

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Promote water conservation measures
Protect the sea from damaging oil spills
Preserve the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum, UNESCO World Heritage Site
Empower Local Councils to provide a high quality service
Reform young inmates through training and personal development

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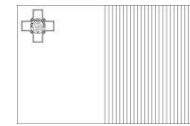
EEA and Norway Grants - Working together for our future

September

- ❑ Forecasts of likely payment applications
- ❑ Mid-term information activity



Key activities – 2015 *(cont'd)*



October

- Extension of date of eligibility up to April 2017

November

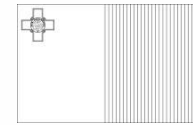
- IFR 9 for Technical Assistance and IFRs 4 for EEA Programme and Norway Programme

December

- Forecasts of likely payment applications

Ongoing monitoring of projects through bilateral meetings, CARS and
On the spot checks

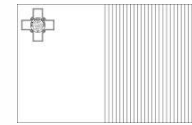
Key activities – 2015 (*cont'd*)



Along the year....

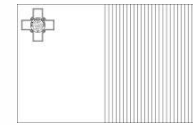
- Bilateral Meetings held regularly with Project Promoters and line Ministries (Programme Implementation Departments)**
- Project Progress Reports filled by Project Promoters bi-annually**
- Administrative and on-the-spot checks**
- Manual of Procedures updated (www.eeagrants.gov.mt / www.norwaygrants.gov.mt)**

Project Achievements – 2015

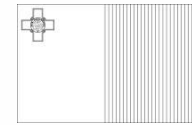


- **MT02/2-OIL/HNS Spill response capacity building for the protection of Malta seas (TM)**
- **Completion of contract ‘Studies on pollution risks from oil industry offshore drilling’**
- **Award of contract ‘Service of consultant to study and identify emergency response team requirements-May 2015**
- **Tenders for the provision of equipment/training courses will be issued January 2016/February 2016**

Project Achievements – 2015



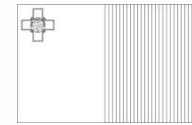
- **MT02/3 A new environment Management System for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum World Heritage Site (HM)**
 - **Contract ‘Condition Assessment of Hypogeum’ – to be concluded by February 2016**
 - **Award of contract ‘Biological Survey of Hal Saflieni’ –June 2015 to be completed by March 2016**
 - **Re issue of Tender related to structural works closing 28 January 2016**



□ **MT04/1 A Partnership for Creative Governance (DLG)**

- **National Training Strategy presented in March 2015**
- **Performance Management Programme(PMP)- reached full implementation in May 2015**
- **Visit to Norway as part of the PMP to establish Performance Indicators for Local Government in Malta**
- **Pilot project with the participation of 19 Local Councils- final report concluded in July 2015, together with the Manual for PMP and printed in August 2015**
- **First 2 phases of Leadership Academy Programme (LAP) were held in July 2015 and will be concluded early 2016**

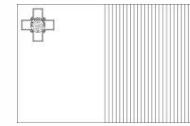
Project Achievements – 2015



❑ **MT 04/2 Renewing the Centre of Residential Restorative Services (CoRRS) (MHAS)**

- **Project Contract signed in September 2015**
- **March-Donors visited site and suggested the involvement of the Directorate of the Norwegian Correctional Facilities (KDI)**
- **MEPA Approved extension of the CoRRS premises**
- **Tender for Structural works published in August and closed in October. Award of tender is expected in January/February 2016**

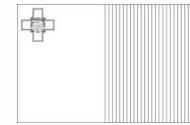
Project Achievements – 2015



- ❑ **MT 02/7 Malta Water Conservation Awareness Centre (Sustainable Energy and Water Conservation Unit SEWCU)**
 - **Project Contract signed in September 2015**
 - **Removal of trees and excavation works started March 2015 which was part of the Planning Permit**
 - **April 2015- Superintendence of Cultural Heritage held investigations on archaeological findings-Amphorae found at the project site**



Project Achievements – 2015

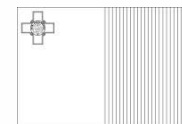


❑ **MT 02/7 Malta Water Conservation Awareness Centre (Sustainable Energy and Water Conservation Unit SEWCU)** *(cont'd)*

- **April 2015- archaeological findings- Vine trenches at the project site**
- **July 2015 – Closing date for Structural works Tender. Expected award early 2016**
- **Project will be launched once works start on site**
- **Parallel to structural works- Discussions with MITA and Ekoskola on the production of interactive and educational material**
- **Collaboration with PARK for Landscaping and upkeep**

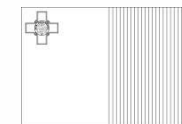


Budget review



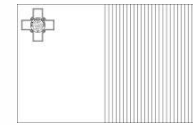
	Total eligible expenditure (€)	Contracted by end 2015 (€)	Total incurred by end 2015 (€)	IFRs by 2015 - Verified + claimed (€)
TA/ BFn	67,500	40,643	29,791	25,827
MT02 - EEA	2,516,471	387,843	193,451	85,536
MT 04 - Norway	1,694,118	249,197	122,054	111,551

Indicative work plan – 2016



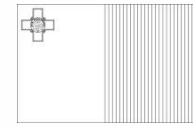
Period	Activity	Responsibility
January	<p>Monitoring Committee</p> <p>Submission of combined Strategic and Annual Programme Reports together with Annexes</p> <p>Submission of draft Annual Meeting Agenda to FMO</p>	NFP
March	<p>Annual Meeting and approval of Strategic and Annual Programme Reports</p> <p>Interim Financial Reports for Programmes MT01 (EEA), MT02 (Norway) and MT04 (Technical Assistance)</p>	<p>NFP + > FMC/NMFA</p> <p>NFP/PO>CA</p>
Q1	<p>Launch of Project MT02/7: Malta Water Conservation Awareness Centre</p> <p>Launch of Project MT04/2: Renewing the Centre of Residential Restorative Services (CoRRS)</p>	<p>Project Promoter: SEWCU, Ministry for Energy and Health (Energy)</p> <p>Project Promoter: Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security</p>

Indicative work plan – 2016



Period	Activity	Responsibility
April	Publishing of Strategic and Annual Programme Reports and Annual Meeting minutes on FPD website	NFP
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 2016



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

Administrative checks upon award of contracts and prior to verifications

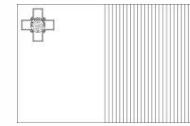
Bilateral meetings with Project Promoters and line Ministries

Project Progress Reports – Bi-annually

Regular financial and physical monitoring of projects

Regular monitoring of CARS - financial management and expenditure

Irregularities and Audits

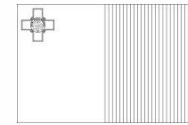


**Audit Authority
found no systematic
risks**

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

- **EEA – MT02/2 Oil/HNS Spill response Capacity building for the protection of Malta's seas**
- **Selected option not cheapest**
- **Contractor did not offer the proper bank guarantee**

Information and Publicity – Mid Term Publicity Event



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- Reform young inmates through training and personal development

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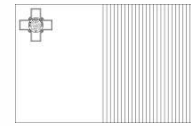
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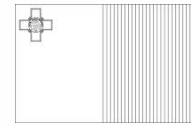
**Adverts used for the Promotion of the EEA and
Norway Grants on Air Malta's in- flight Magazine
Bizzilla**

Information and Publicity – *MT02/2*

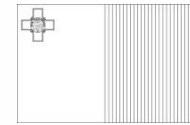


Mr. Mevric Zammit, Project Manager of MT02/2: *Oil Spill Response Capacity Building for the Protection of Malta's Seas* addressing the audience during the stakeholders' workshop on 31st July 2015, in Malta

Information and Publicity – *MT02/2*



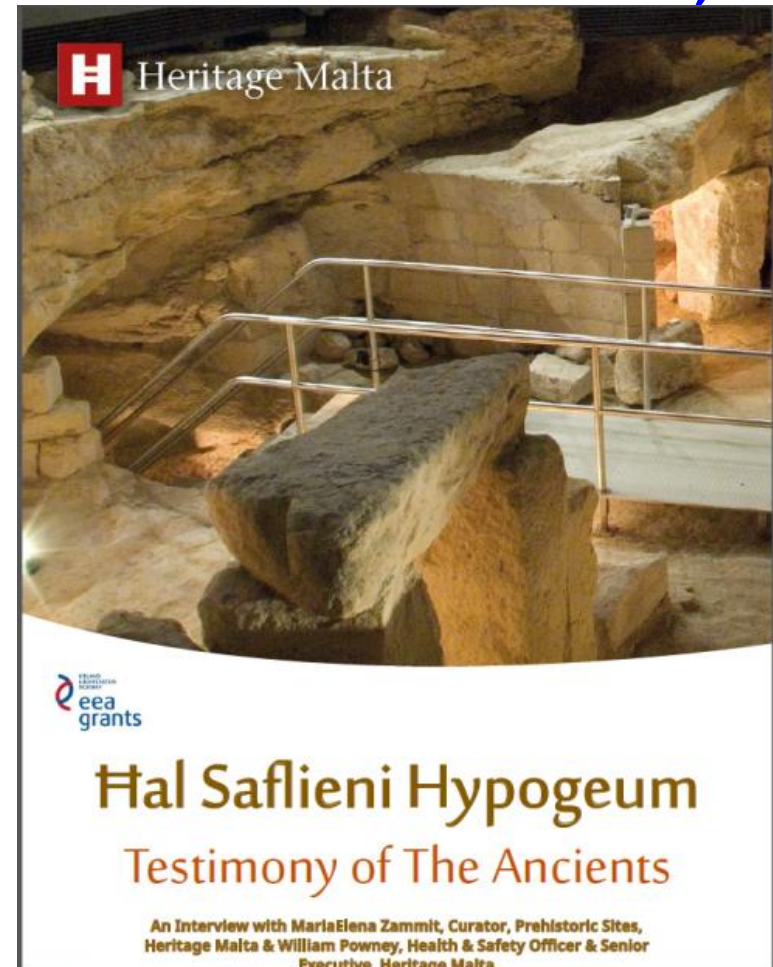
Ms. Maria Elena Zammit, Project Leader and Ms Katya Sammut, Project Manager of MT02/3: *'A New Environmental Management System for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum'* presenting the project to the stakeholders in the tourism industry



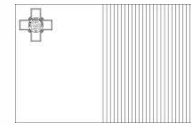
***International Magazine- Health and Safety and Environment
Worldwide featured interview with Ms. Maria Elena Zammit,
Project Leader***

- Importance of preservation and conservation of UNESCO site
- Health and safety for visitors

<https://www.facebook.com/HypogeumMalta/?fref=nf>

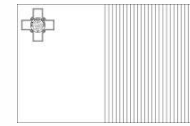


Information and Publicity – *MT02/7*



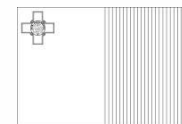
Hon Dr Ian Borg together with Ms Carmen Dalli, Director Programmes and Projects within the Funds and Programmes Division and Mr. Manuel Sapiano, SEWCU, Project Leader of MT02/7: Malta Water Conservation Awareness Centre

Information and Publicity – *MT04/1*



Mr. Adrian Mifsud, Project Leader of MT04/1: A Partnership for Creative Governance together with the Maltese Delegation and the Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government in Oslo between 25 and 29 May 2015

Information and Publicity – Websites



The screenshot shows the homepage of the eea grants website. The header includes the logos for 'eea grants' and 'norway grants', a search bar, and navigation links: NEWS, WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, WHERE WE WORK, HOW TO APPLY, PARTNERSHIPS, RESULTS & DATA. The main content area features a news article titled 'KEEPING OIL AWAY FROM MALTESE SHORES' with a large image of an oil spill containment boom in the sea. The article text includes a quote from Captain Richard Gabriele of Transport Malta (TM) and mentions funding from Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.

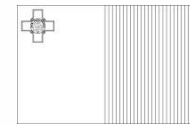
Grants' website www.eeagrants.org
featuring Transport Malta project

The screenshot shows a project update page on the Ministry's website. The page is titled 'Update' and contains text about the tender for the Biological Survey of Mġ Safien. It mentions that the tender was awarded on 26 June 2015 and that the work has been completed. The page also features a small image of an underground cave system.

Ministry's website www.eufunds.gov.mt

Bilateral relations

- *National Level*



Minister, Hon. Dr George Vella and H.E. Elsbeth Tronstad at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Malta on

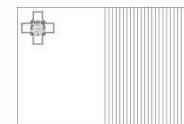
October 2015



A private tour of the Hypogeum to the delegation explaining the activities co-financed through the project

Bilateral relations

- National Level

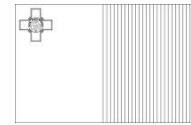


The Parliamentary Secretary Hon. Dr Ian Borg and H.E. Elsbeth Tronstad at the Ministry for European Affairs and the Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto

30 October 2015



Negotiations on renewing the EEA/Norway Financial Mechanisms until 2021 - Her Excellency stated that it is being hoped to be finalised very soon.



Bilateral relations

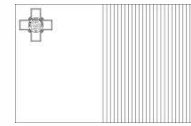
- *National Level*

Visit at the CoRRS premises by the Donor State Delegation and the National Focal Point on 11 March 2015



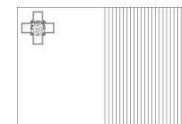
Bilateral relations

- National Level



Communications workshop organised by the Financial Mechanism Office, Prague April 2015. This workshop served as a valuable opportunity for building a good working relationship with the FMO whilst establishing new contacts with representatives of other countries.

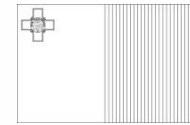
Risks – *National Level*



more prominent being....

Risk	Mitigation measure
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.

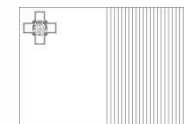
Risks – Programme Level



common concerns....

Risk	Mitigation measure
<p>Delays in tender adjudication / appeals that would have a direct impact on the overall timely execution</p>	<p>Ensure that adjudicating committee members are resourced and available at the appropriate time, and that they are well briefed on the procedures adopted in tender adjudication. Tender documentation is reviewed considerably prior to issuing tender to ensure that there are no areas that may give rise to misinterpretation.</p>

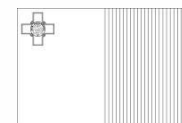
Risks – Programme Level (cont'd)



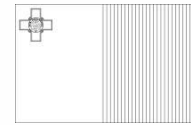
common concerns....

Risk	Mitigation measure
Tendering offers may be above the allocated budget resulting in cancellation of awards of tenders or lack of funding. This could delay implementation.	Crosscutting measures can be set and assistance sought from Government in the first year. It is to be ensured that sufficient financial provision is made in the government annual estimates during the project period.
Lack of value in tender offers and/or the event of appeals that may delay project implementation.	Ensure that a good market research is carried out before allocating budgets. Proper and careful evaluation of tenders with well detailed explanations included in evaluation report and refusal letter to avoid appeals.

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



Thank you

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