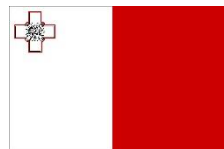


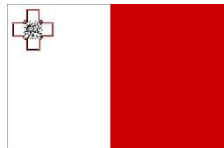
3rd Annual Meeting
EEA and NORWAY GRANTS
2014–2021

Wednesday 27 May 2020
National Focal Point



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**Overview of the implementation of
the EEA and the NORWAY GRANTS
2014 – 2021
for
Calendar Year 2019**



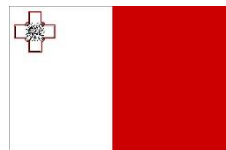
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Key activities in 2019

In January 2019, the NFP as PO submitted the Combined Strategic and Annual Report for year 2018. The NFP also organised the first bilateral meetings for 2019 with the four PDPs and SGSO respectively.

On 7 and 8 February 2019, the FMO organised a two day training seminar in Malta. Training on day 1, delivered by Mr Marius Henriksen and his team, focused on Financial Reporting, IFRs and Forecasts, Introduction to Grace and the submission of the IFR and Forecast in Grace, the Eligibility of expenditure, verification of projects and follow up on the Management and Control System (MCS) and the final balance for the closure of Programme 2009-2014. The Certifying Authority and the NFP were invited to this training.

Training on day 2, delivered by Mr Anton Popic and Ms Emily Harwit, focused on Monitoring for Results, Survey Design and Implementation, and Reporting on the Combined Annual and Strategic Report, especially indicators. All projects promoters as well as representatives from SOS Malta and the Maltese NFP were present for this training.



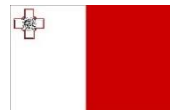
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20th February 2019: The Certifying Authority submitted the forecast of likely payments

15th March 2019: The NFP submitted the IFR to the FMO. In this IFR Malta had no expenditure to claim from the Donors.

On the **20th March 2019**, the NFP together with the JCBF committee met for the 3rd JCBF meeting. During this meeting the Committee discussed the strategic priorities and the revision of the Work plan, the pre-defined projects and Open call for projects, the budget annual allocation and eligibility criteria. The Committee also approved the minutes of the 2nd JCBF meeting, held in 2018.

On the **21st March 2019**, the NFP together with the Donors and the FMO organised the 2nd Annual Meeting for the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 Programmes in Malta. During this meeting, the Donors approved the Strategic Report presented in the beginning of the year, covering the 2018 events under the same Programme. Proposed amendments to the Programme Agreement were also discussed, with an approval to modify the PA at a later date when baselines for the output indicators for PDP3 and PDP4 could be provided.



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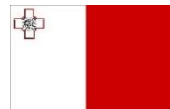


20th April 2019: The Certifying Authority submitted the Forecast of Likely Payments on GRACE.

8th-9th May 2019: The NFP, in conjunction with the PO, held the bilateral meetings with all Project Promoters for PDP1, PDP2, PDP3, PDP4 and the SGSO.

17th-18th July 2019: The NFP, in conjunction with the PO, held Bilateral meetings with all Project Promoters for PDP1, PDP2, PDP3, PDP4 and the SGSO.

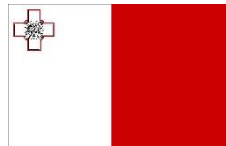
20th September 2019: The Certifying Authority submitted the Forecast of Likely Payments on GRACE.



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The 25th Anniversary of the EEA Grants

5th October 2019: The NFP in Malta organised a Multicultural event, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the EEA Grants. The event was held at Fort St Elmo during Notte Bianca on Saturday 5 October 2019, between 19:00 and 24:00.



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Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants

Norway grants

National Focal points from 5 participating beneficiary countries namely Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Romania participated and showcased their traditional food, artisan crafts and literature. Short presentations were given by each country, including information about projects being carried out under these same grants. The NFP in Malta was also represented throughout the event, together with delegates from the Donor countries namely Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the Financial Mechanism Office in Brussels.

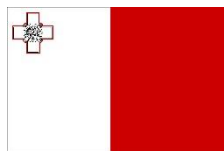
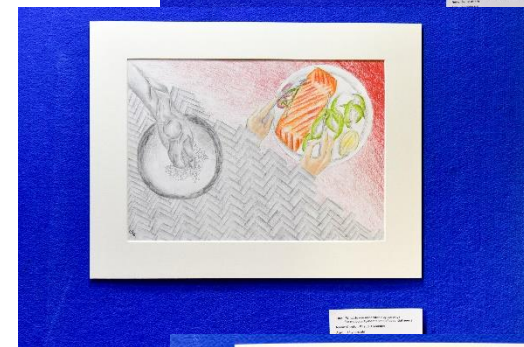
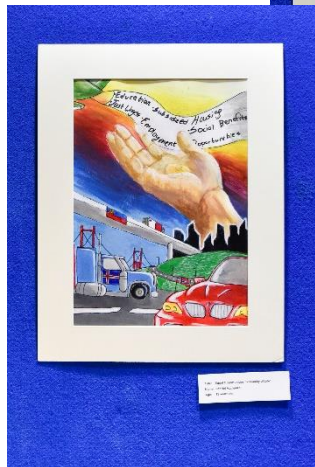
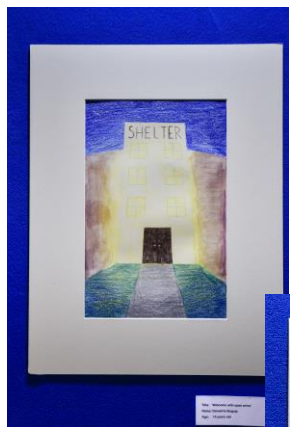


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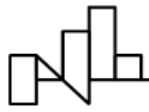
Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Norway
grants

An art exhibition, based on a drawing competition open for 12 to 16 year olds, with the theme of Poverty Reduction was also put up and, during the evening, the winners were announced and prizes presented by the then Hon Minister for European Affairs and Equality, Dr Edward Zammit Lewis. The general public was invited to visit the stands throughout the duration of Notte Bianca.



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Technical Assistance



Activity	Grant amount total €340,000	Expenditure disbursed to date (27.05.20) €87,069.61	Expenditure Incurred in IFR €70,690.20	Remarks
Staff Costs	212,000	73,999.51	58,226.20	Current staff complement is of four persons namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director General/ Head on NFP (Eng. Anthony Camilleri replacing Mr. Raphael Scerri as from 1 April 2020); • Director/ NFP as PO (Ms. Carmen Dalli); • Programme Manager/ NFP (Ms. Angele Azzopardi) – 100% of salary claimed through the TA Funds • Programme Manager / NFP as PO (Ms. Alison Grech)
Annual and Other Meetings	50,000	5,303.95	5297.85	
Promotional and Informational Activities	30,000	6,380.03	5780.03	
Meetings and Conferences to share Experiences	28,000	1,386.12	1386.12	
Reviews and Evaluations	20,000	0	0	



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Programme Operator Costs

Activity	Public Eligible amount 100% (EEA/N + MT share) €352,470.59	Expenditure disbursed to date (27.05.20) €82,218.55 (100% EEA/N +MT)	Expenditure Incurred in IFR 85% EEA/N share only	Remarks
Staff Costs	300,000	58,969.95	42,786.14	100% of the salary of Ms. Alison Grech as NFP as PO is being claimed through the PO Costs
Publicity and Dissemination	27,070	12,482.26	12,482.26	
External Experts – including monitoring, audits, reviews and cost of reporting	10,000	0	0	
CARS II	15,400	10,766.34	10,392.00	



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Project Expenditure recorded

Project Title	Grant Amount 85% EEA/N share	Public Eligible amount 100% (EEA/N + MT share)	Expenditure recorded on CARSII up till and including 27/05/2020 (Public eligible covering 100% EEA/N and MT share)	Expenditure reported in March 2020 IFR (EEA/N Share only)
PDP1 – Reduction in Social Inequalities in Health and the Burden of Disease	€2,046,000	€2,407,059	€783,505.37	€186,209.85
PDP2 – Opportunity Knocks (OK)	€800,000	€941,176	€40,449.93	€18,349.87
PDP3 – Training of Local Council Staff in Principles of Good Governance, Transparency and Accountability	€170,000	€200,000	€16,669.89	€13,427.89
PDP4 - The Malta Maritime Museum: local development through cultural heritage	€1,713,200	€2,015,529	0	0
Small Grant Scheme	€850,000	€1,000,000	0	0
PO SGS	€105,200	€123,764	€18,743.10	€12,314.37



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PDP 1: Reduction in social inequalities in health and the burden of disease

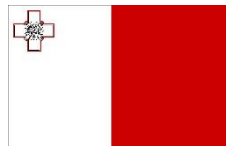
Project Promoter: Ministry for Health

This project shall focus on three main areas in health:-

- Sensory Integration Therapy (SIT),
- Screening for phenylketonuria (PKU) and
- Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAT).

Sensory Integration Therapy (SIT)

The SIT Centre will provide an opportunity for accessibility and equality in health services within the EU society. SIT aims to help children with sensory processing difficulties by exposing them to sensory stimulation in a structured, repetitive way. The theory behind it is that over time, the brain will adapt and allow children to process and react to sensations more efficiently.

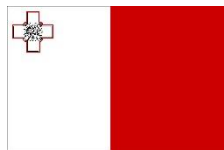


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PDP 1: Reduction in social inequalities in health and the burden of disease [cont'd]

Screening for phenylketonuria (PKU)

Screening for PKU shall enable professionals to recognise a genetic disorder that affects children at a very early stage of their lives in order to give ample time for modification of their diet and hence prevent the devastating mental degeneration that accompanies exposure to wrong diet.

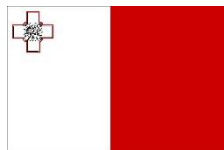


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PDP 1: Reduction in social inequalities in health and the burden of disease [cont'd]

Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAT)

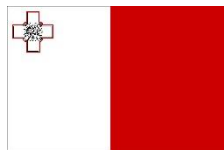
The NAT testing is a technique utilised to detect a particular nucleic acid, virus or bacteria which acts as a form of germ in blood, tissue and urine. The NAT system differs from other tests in that it detects genetic materials rather than antigens or antibodies. Part of this project shall be dedicated to the investment of hardware and capacity building specifically for NAT testing.



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Status of PDP 1

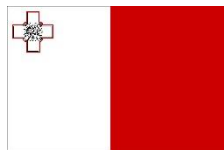
- Tender for the **Structural and Finishing Works** - Works are undergoing but are proceeding very well. Delays in the shipment from Italy and UK, and at times even in manufacturing, of certain items were experienced by the contractor, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In view of this, works might not be fully completed by June 2020, as planned.
- Tender for the **Mechanical and Electrical Works** – Works under this tender were projected to be finished by mid-May but due to the current situation, works might be delayed since supplies, ordered from Italy, experienced delays in manufacturing due to the lockdown restrictions in the country.
- Tender for the Supply, Installation & Commissioning of **Vertical Transportation System (Lifts)** – The lift is now installed and shall be soon operational. The contract was still extended to a further 20 weeks.



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Status of PDP 1 [cont'd]

- Tender for the provision of **training in Sensory Integration Therapy** - Phase 1 training for 12 Occupational Therapists (OTs) has been completed. Phase 2 training has commenced for 8 Maltese and 2 Norwegian OTs, 2 Physio-therapists and 2 Speech Language Pathologists. Module 3 of phase 2 training is an onsite module and therefore the trainers have postponed this module to October 2020. The flight tickets for the 2 Norwegian OTs, who would have come to Malta to sit for this module, were luckily not purchased. CLASI, the training service provider, has confirmed that the training can proceed with modules 4 and 5, as these can be delivered online. Module 4 will commence in June 2020.
- Tender for the supply of **Standardized Assessment Tools** for the SIT unit in Marsa has also been awarded and the contract signed on 6 December 2019. Delivery is planned for June 2020. Eligible amount is €28,692. These items are being stored in a room on site, until they are installed in place.



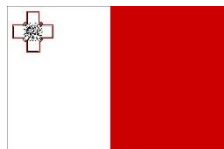
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Status of PDP 1 [cont'd]

Tender for the procurement of the **Sensory Integration Equipment** was awarded in two lots. Both suppliers were informed of the award and contracts signed. This equipment was delivered by June 2019, but it is still being stored in a safe room until all works are completed. Both payments have been effected through CARS.

The service of **Mentoring** for SIT shall be awarded to the same contractor, who is offering the SIT Training. Contract for this service is yet to be signed.

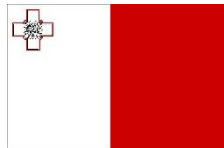
Tender for the Provision of '**Training for Psychological School Services** – The training on ADOS (Phase 1) has been delivered by a Norwegian expert, Dr Elin Antoniussen. An MOU was signed between the Norwegian Partner and the Project Promoter. Phase 2 of ADOS training was offered online in January 2020. Other training modules to be given to psychologists still need to be discussed between the project team.



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Status of PDP 1 [cont'd]

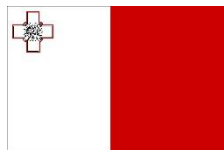
- **NAT Equipment and Training** - The machine has been delivered, installed, commissioned and successfully validated. Reagents and consumables delivered as well. Testing is progressing routinely and monthly invoices are being regularly uploaded in CARS, with the last one being in March 2020.
- **PKU Equipment** - First trial runs have been performed. Identified some technical issues with the methodology used, which have been tackled with supplier and support from parent company. Modifications to the methodology have also been tested. All payments related to this tender were processed and paid and disbursement under this activity was of €68,460.16, excluding VAT.
- **PKU Consumables** - Current situation with COVID19 has disrupted lab operations, but these are right now stable and testing will resume. A new order for kits was placed towards the first week of May. Estimated cost for these kits is of €2,973.57.



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Status of PDP 1 [cont'd]

- Tender for **publicity material** was awarded and signed. Eligible amount is of €10,000, while the contracted amount to date is €4,200, covering publicity material such as a billboard at façade of Marsa Primary School, leaflets, roll-up banner and a plaque. The billboard was attached to the school's façade on 14 March 2019. The leaflets shall be disseminated to the parents of children attending the Marsa Primary school during a parents' day in order to be familiar with the project. The PO suggests that a video covering the three main components of this project is prepared in the future



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PDP 2: Opportunity Knocks (OK)

Project Promoter: Foundation for Social Welfare Standards (FSWS)

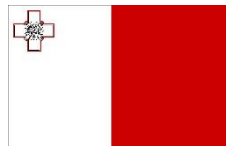
The Ok project pivots round the below four pillars:

- OK Pack
- Fast Track
- Home Pack
- On Track



Project activities shall include:

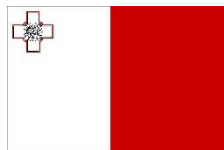
- Campaign focused on rights and duties of young people towards leading an independent healthy life;
- Multi-disciplinary team of professionals providing professional services to the participating cohort of young people;
- ‘safe house’ setting supporting highly vulnerable and young individuals coming from dysfunctional families/ background needing a sheltered environment
- ‘start-up and employment opportunities for individuals entering into duty-oriented agreements



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Status of PDP 2

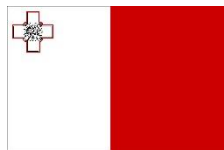
- The Project Promoter has been issuing calls throughout all 2019, and still ongoing, in order to engage a multidisciplinary team of professionals offering the integrated services. Unfortunately, a few of those, employed on the project, left the Foundation after a very short period of time and therefore the calls had to be re-issued several times. Some of the calls did not even attract any interest from prospective applicants. The reasons behind this issue could be that the contract of employment could only be offered for one year until the project's termination. The project promoter recognised this issue as a high risk and for this and other reasons (including repercussions resulting from COVID-19) has submitted a request for an extension to the project of another six months i.e. from December 2020 to June 2021 in order to be able to recruit the necessary staff and carry out the planned outputs. The project can lose out on substantial funds if the extension is not granted.
- The PP is also proposing that €15,000 reported as savings under the Integrated Services will be transferred to Publicity and Dissemination, which shall now amount to €33,600. A 30 second and a 3 minute video were prepared and these shall be shown on the project's Facebook page as well as aired on TV. The PP is also working on a dedicated webpage. The PP also distributed 1688 cube nets to the vulnerable youths as part of the OK pack.



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Status of PDP 2 [cont'd]

- The Project Promoter has also started providing opportunities to improve skills and provide future jobs to vulnerable youths. These opportunities vary from the skill of applying for a job and filling in a CV, hairdressing courses, courses provided by the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) and many more. Unfortunately, such courses had to be paused due to the Covid-19 situation. In the last bilateral meeting held online with all PPs in April, the NFP suggested that the Project Promoter looks for alternative online opportunities, that might be provided to these youths in an attempt for the project to continue its activities towards reaching the desired outcomes.



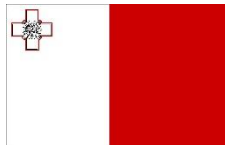
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PDP 3: Training of Local Council Staff in Principles of Good Governance, Transparency and Accountability and the Small Grant Scheme

Project Promoter/ SGS Operator: Local Government Division

This project is focussing on different forms of measures of capacity building to Local Council Staff and Members, which may include:-

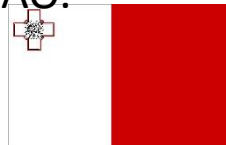
- the mapping out and identification of current community realities;
- Training to local council staff on principles of good governance, accountable institutions and transparency with special emphasis on managing the grant scheme and thereby increasing the capacity of local councils to successfully implement projects under the SGS.
- Thematic networking initiatives in order to share experience and best practices for eligible urban localities;
- Fostering of dialogue between the political and administrative arms of Local Councils between the Local Government Division, the Local Councils and other Regional Authorities;
- Internships and/or study visits and/or stages and/or experience exchanges networks both on national and international level for Local Council Staff;
- Training to newly elected councillors following the local elections held in May 2019.



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Status of PDP 3

- The tender on **Project Management** was awarded to RSM Ltd. €27,060 has been recorded as savings in this budget heading and it is being suggested that this amount is transferred to other training services to be carried out by LCA. Awaiting PA amendments, the LCA shall be officially considered as a partner on this project and will be offering training modules to local councils staff and members.
- **Training of Administrative Staff** as part of Training in good governance - The event was organised in July 2019. A savings of €3944.80 from the overall agreement with the KS was recorded since the KS's involvement was limited to the advice on course content and did not provide any training during event.
- **Teambuilding & Internships** - no tender will now be issued but the Local Council Association will be taking charge of this activity, once it is confirmed as partner with LGD. Agreement with LCA to be further discussed and finalised, while savings or otherwise shall be noted on this activity. Internships and study visits (to be managed by KS) shall be done both locally and internationally. On a local level, it is being proposed that internships/study visits shall be held at the LGD, DOC, MEUSAC and NAO.



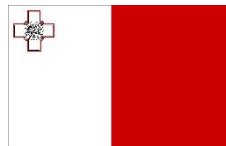
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Status of PDP 3 [cont'd]

- **Training of elected councillors** - Training was scheduled for week starting 11/05/2020 and it was agreed that whilst PP would also discuss the matter with MPU, the procurement of the venues for this training would be split in different RFQs as the 5 events had to be organized in 4 or 5 different venues, based on the best proximity for practical reasons for the targeted attendees of 5 Regions. Due to the Covid-19 situation, this training had to be postponed to a further date when hopefully the situation is back to normal.
- **Publicity** – The launch of both the SGS and PDP 3 project were held in 2019. The Project Promoter created a Facebook page for both PDP3 and the SGS and included a link for each project on the Division’s website (localgovernment.gov.mt).

Status of SGS

- A training session to provide eligible applicants with addition information on the scheme was held on 30 July 2019.
- The Call for Proposal of the Scheme was launched on 17 December 2019.
- Deadline for the submission of applications was the 28 February 2020.



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PDP 4: The Malta Maritime Museum: local development through cultural heritage

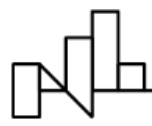
Project Promoter: Heritage Malta (HM)

The main activities of this project are

- the restoration and structural upgrading of the Malta Maritime Museum, leading to an increase in the total area of visitor facilities, museum and exhibition space
- Innovative presentation of the Malta Maritime Museum's collection supported through assets' digitisation



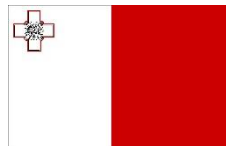
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Status of PDP 4



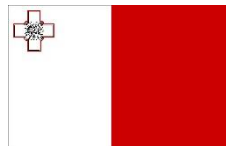
- The Tender for **Project Management** was never published for various reasons and ultimately HM recruited Mr Tony Cassar, who has now been on board with Heritage Malta since late February 2020. Procedures to recruit another 5 professionals (photographer, videographer, archivists etc) are currently underway, with interviews set for May (Photographer), and the rest to be finalised by end June 2020. All 5 recruits shall be on board by Summer 2020, saving unforeseen circumstances due to Covid-19.
- **Tender for** Restoration and upgrading of the Maritime Museum has been awarded to AX Constructions Ltd. The period of works covers 16 months. Cleaning and excavation works have already started on site.
- Heritage Malta Technical Staff attended the Museum and Heritage Fair in London in May 2019 in order to obtain knowledge on digitisation of historical artefacts. This event was covered through Heritage Malta Budget.



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Status of PDP 4 [cont'd]

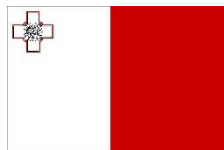
- A video of the Museum was prepared by Heritage Malta as a marketing exercise. The video would have been instrumental in demonstrating the Museum during the Maltese delegation's visit to Stavanger Museum, as part of the bilateral initiative.
- HM has installed a tablet at the door of the Maritime Museum in order for visitors to report their experience at the Museum. This exercise was needed in order to determine the baseline of the Average audience experience rating (on scale of 1 to 5). The baseline is 3.12 and it has to reach a +1 result, once the Museum is open again for public after the restoration works are finished.



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**Risks Associated with the Projects
Programmatic risks**

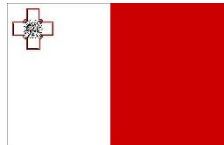
MEDIUM – HIGH		MEDIUM – LOW		LOW	
Risk Description	Response	Risk Description	Response	Risk Description	Response
Delays in Programme implementation due to the current situation attributable to the Covid-19 pandemic.	The wider use of technological online means of communication including the bi-monthly bilateral meetings with the PPs	Technological issues related to CARS 1421	Ongoing IT support; training to all users; Help screens as reference	Low absorption of funds during one year	Efforts are being made by the PO to encourage partners to incur as much expenditure as possible while at the same time due to the Covid-19 situation OTSs are being postponed to a later stage in order not to stall the IFR process. Desk-based checks are still being carried out by the PO.



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Risks Associated with the Projects
Operational risks

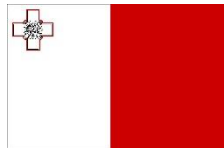
MEDIUM – HIGH		LOW	
Risk Description	Response	Risk Description	Response
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some targeted result indicators might not be reached by the end of the project e.g. PDP 1 – the number of children and adolescents receiving SIT in Malta = 800; PDP 2 – the number of youths (16-25) in education employment or training 12 months after having received the services = 50; PDP 4 – annual number of visitors to the MMM = 25,351	One suggestion can be discussed with Donors and FMO: While all efforts will be made to finalise all activities until the end date of the projects, the target values envisaged in the PA are measured up till the end date of the Programme i.e. end of April 2024	Tender offers exceeding available budget	Official request accepted by the Ministry for Finance to commit national funds for the over budget required by the awarded bid. Furthermore, savings reported can be transferred to the works budget heading (depending on the Donors' approval of increasing the 50% condition on hard measures).
Possible delays in the manufacture and importation of specialized equipment due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in Italy and UK.	Situation is beyond our control and all measures are being taken to resume procurement processes immediately as soon as restrictions are lifted.	Retain the recruited staff on the projects	The PPs are encouraged to retain these members of staff once the project ends.



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Communication

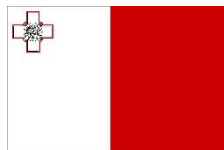
The **Communication Workshop** was attended by Ms Angele Azzopardi and Ms Alison Grech in Krakow, Poland between the 21st and 23rd October 2019, in order to share best communication practices and discuss common challenges and plans, now that most of the MSs had submitted their Communication Strategies and Plans, including Malta.



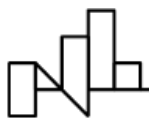
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Communication

The NFP issued various requests for quotations for publicity material particularly to be disseminated to the general public. These include pens, pencils, notepads, notebooks and pen drives. A Nomadic stand and two banners were also prepared and used during the Notte Bianca event. A video was also prepared and shared on our website. At the end of the year, the NFP also worked on publishing a calendar for year 2020. This calendar included the six drawings that were exhibited during the Notte Bianca 2019.



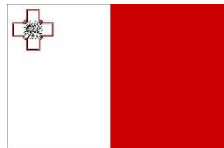
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Thank
you

and

STAY SAFE!



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