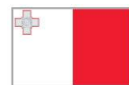


Update on Implementation 2014 – 2020 Programming Period

**Operational Programme II - *Investing in Human Capital
to Create More Opportunities and Promote the
Wellbeing of Society***

**Monitoring Committee
11th October 2017**










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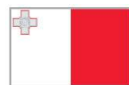
Outline

- ▶ Follow-up to Last MC
- ▶ Update on OP implementation
- ▶ Use of Simplified Cost Options
- ▶ Monitoring and Evaluation
- ▶ Communication Activities
- ▶ Capacity Building
- ▶ Horizontal priorities
- ▶ Looking forward

Follow up to last MC

- ▶ Notification on SFC for fulfilment of general ex-ante conditionalities G7 
- ▶ Follow-up to the ex-ante assessment 
- ▶ Conclusion of Call II evaluation 
- ▶ Start the assessment of projects submitted under Call III 
- ▶ Continue the negotiation and follow-up the implementation for Call I and Call II beneficiaries 
- ▶ Evaluation of Call III to be concluded by Q3 of 2017 By end 2017
- ▶ Application of 2nd delegated act for IIS 
- ▶ Further simplification efforts for broader areas 
- ▶ First payment claim under the ESF By end 2017
- ▶ Issuing pre-announcement for Call IV Q1 of 2018

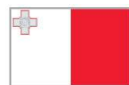
Update on OP Implementation 2014-2020



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



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Investment Priority 8i

Access to employment for job seekers and inactive people, including the long term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility.

Through investment under this IP :

- ▶ It is intended to have employment opportunities for job seekers/workers, including older workers and women in the labour market. This also by steering individuals to consider business ownership as an alternative form of occupation.

Training for employment

- ▶ The aim is to facilitate the access to developing the knowledge, skills and competences of the working age population.
- ▶ The initiatives, implemented by Jobsplus, offer training assistance to jobseekers needing to improve their skills to enter the labour market and to upgrade the existing skills of those individuals who wish to re-enter the labour market, find alternative employment and/or acquire new skills to meet the labour market demands.

Training for employment

	Total	Gender		Age				Employment Status		
		Men	Women	15 - 24	25 - 54	55 - 64	65+	Unemployed	Inactive	Employed
Work Exposure Scheme	396	186	210	249	131	16	0	396	0	0
Traineeship Scheme	473	313	160	240	225	8	0	473	0	0
Work Placement Scheme	94	4	90	27	64	3	0	94	0	0
Training Pays Scheme	20	4	16	6	14	0	0	2	2	16

Training for employment

- ▶ Participants who have successfully completed the scheme:
 - ▶ Work Exposure Scheme – 83% (304 of 365 participants)
 - ▶ Traineeship Scheme – 57% (239 of 418 participants)
 - ▶ Work Placement Scheme – 86% (70 of 81 participants)
- ▶ Jobsplus attracted 419 unique employers who offered placement in a variety of occupations. Occupations range from clerical and administrative work, pharmacy assistants, research/project assistants and others.
- ▶ The schemes are offering first-hand experience in a real working environment to the participants.
- ▶ During these Schemes, Employers have the opportunity to evaluate the trainees' abilities and may consider offering them employment at the end of the scheme.

Training for employment

- ▶ Real life stories
 - ▶ Through the Work Placement Scheme a participant who had been unemployed for two years and had no experience in child care successfully attained an MQF Level 4 in child care and completed the placement. Following the scheme, she was employed with a child care centre first on a part-time basis, then on a full-time basis and is still employed there today.
 - ▶ Through the Work Exposure Scheme, a young History of Art graduate with no experience in the field, is currently gaining work experience as a Museum Operator and Researcher with one of the most prominent heritage sites on the island and in the field she is academically qualified in.

Access to Employment Scheme

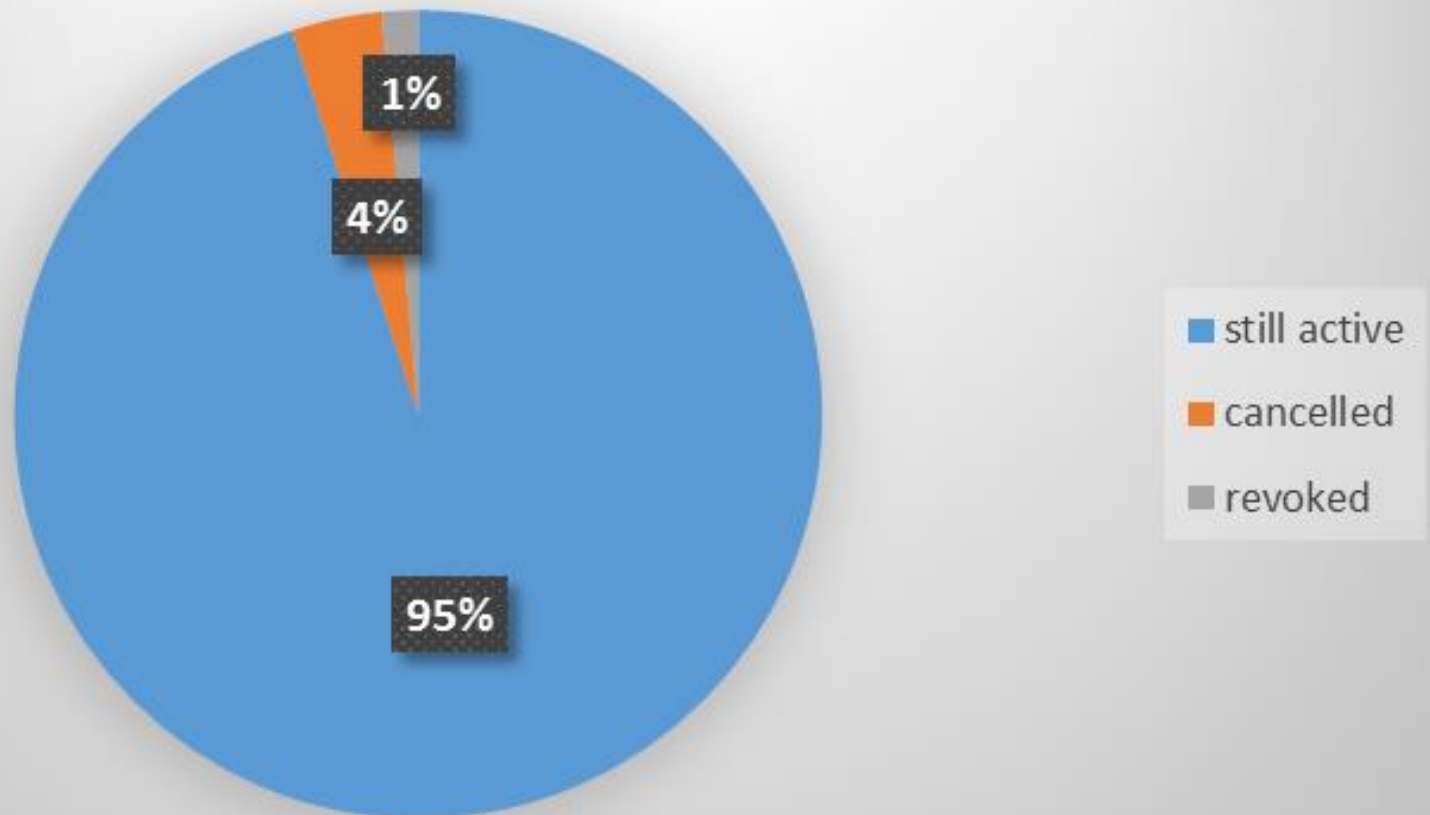
A2E aid scheme provides employment aid to enterprises in Malta and Gozo to promote the recruitment of the more challenged amongst jobseekers and inactive persons. Through this scheme the integration in the labour market is facilitated by:

- ▶ Enhancing opportunities to access the labour market and providing work experience to those furthest away from gainful employment;
- ▶ Bridging the gap between labour market supply and demand;
- ▶ Increasing social integration
- ▶ Increase work-life duration for older workers

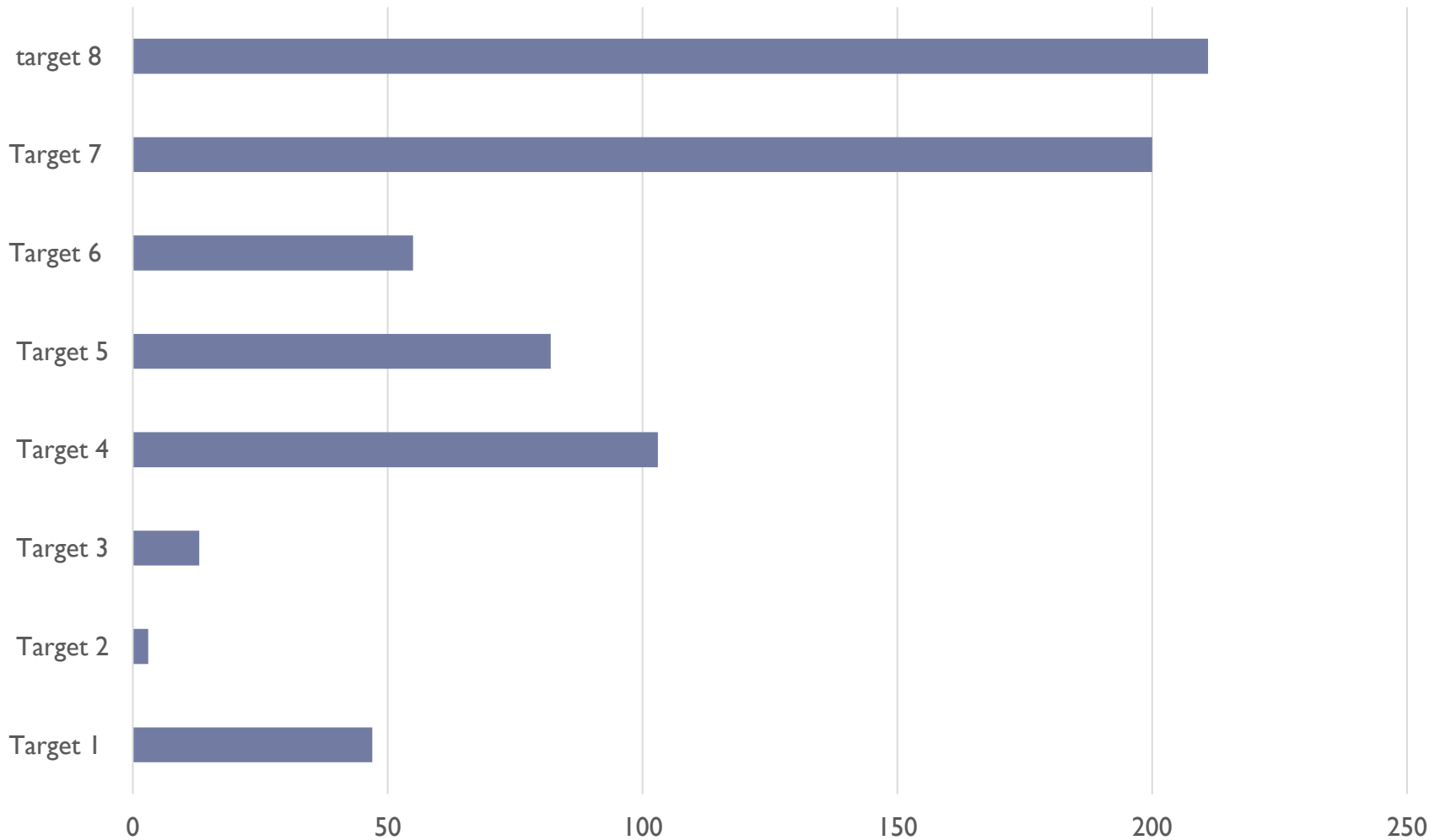
Intermediate Body: Jobsplus

Status update

A2E Grant Agreements signed

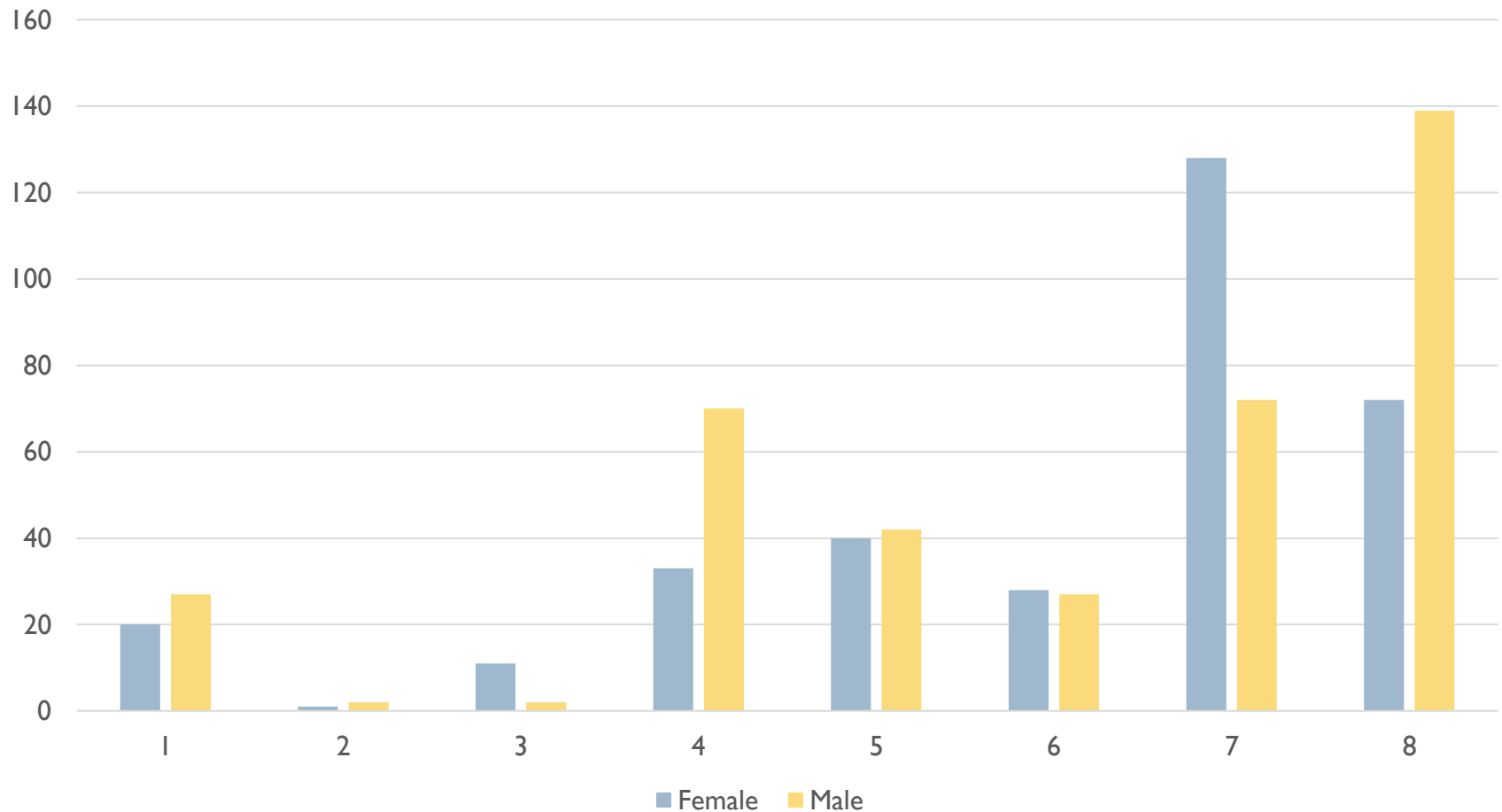


A2E – by target group (1)



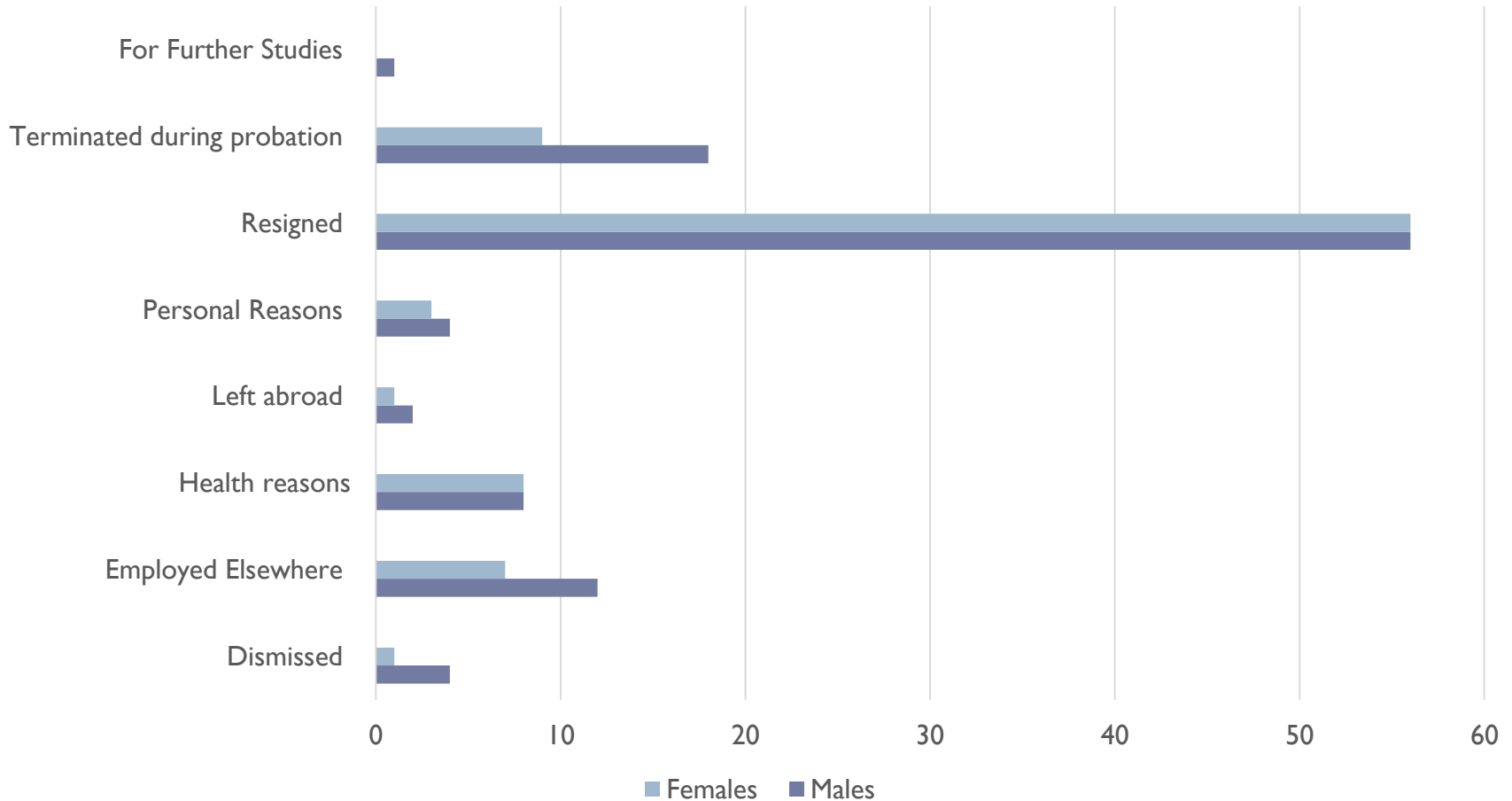
A2E – by target group (2)

Target Group – Gender Distribution



A2E – premature terminations

Premature Terminations



Investment Priority 8ii

*Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those **not in employment, education or training**, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.*

Through investment under this IP:

- ▶ Reducing youth unemployment levels and NEET rates by facilitating access to further learning and sustainable employment

Youth Guarantee 2.0

- ▶ The Youth Guarantee, which is implemented by Jobsplus, has the aim to provide training and personalised assistance to youths at risk of social exclusion and youth that are at risk of becoming long-term unemployed.
- ▶ The project focuses on both the current stock of NEETs as well as on those at risk of becoming NEETs or young unemployed through a mix of interventions tailor-made for the specific cohorts. Additional initiatives are embedded in YG 2.0 to facilitate the transition from education to employment.

Youth Guarantee 2.0

- ▶ In total 1,782 persons under the age of 25 have been supported under various activities as at to date as follows:

Persons supported under the age of 25		
2016		
Males	Females	Total
514*	423	937
2017		
Males	Females	Total
463	382	845

**includes 9 'others'*

Youth Guarantee 2.0

- ▶ In 2017 various activities were implemented including the:
 - ▶ NEET activation scheme;
 - ▶ IT level 2 and ECDL courses for ALP students;
 - ▶ Preventative actions; and
 - ▶ Work exposure scheme.
- ▶ In line with the Partnership principle, a steering committee was set up bringing together different organisations including DLL, GWU, Agenzija Zghazagh, Maltese National Youth Council (KNZ), GRTU, The Gozo Business Chamber, Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry.

Youth Guarantee 2.0

▶ Outreach

- ▶ The participants are being outreached through a number of different measures including traditional media as well as social media.
- ▶ Furthermore, application forms are made available in both printed as well as digital format. Special provisions are also available and participants may be assisted by an administrator to apply on the phone or by visiting the YG2 office directly.
- ▶ Outreach activities also include visits by the Youth Guarantee staff to all ten colleges in Malta and Gozo through the psycho-social teams as well as individual visits to the potential beneficiaries to inform them about the NEET activation scheme II. In the coming months outreach activities will also include outreach by social workers in different localities through a targeted approach.

Youth Guarantee 2.0

- ▶ Information on Employers' experience
 - ▶ According to the employers, participants of the NEETS Activation Scheme fulfilled the criteria requested thus indicating that the matching of participants with employer is proving effective.
 - ▶ Participants were for the most part described as being hard workers who learnt quickly and had the ability to adapt to different instructions provided to them by their employers.
 - ▶ A significant number of participants have been offered the possibility to continue working with the employer. Moreover, in some cases participants found better offers, or decided to go back into education.

Youth Guarantee 2.0

- ▶ Participants expectations and feedback
 - ▶ An anonymous questionnaire was circulated in 2017 with the aim at providing contemporary monitoring and a comprehensive impact evaluation of measures implemented within the NEET Activation Scheme II.
 - ▶ Assessment is still ongoing

Youth Guarantee 2.0

► Success Stories (1)

One of the participants expressed interest in a hands-on job was placed with a locally renowned electrical and mechanical company. Subsequently the participant of the scheme has recently been offered a full-time position with the same company.

Youth Guarantee 2.0

► Success Stories (2)

A participant that found it difficult to integrate in the Youth Guarantee programme, through the support of various professionals as part of the project is finding it more easy to integrate amongst peers.

During the second placement, the participant was provided with the opportunity to work as a gym assistant in a very popular gym and as at to date has been retained.

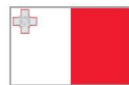
Output Indicators for PA 1 (IP8i)

Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value	Committed	Actual
CO07. above 54 years of Age	Number	100	75	67
O1. Persons supported	Number	2900	5325	1697
O2. Capacity building measures for PES and EURES support services	Number	2	n/a	n/a
O3. Persons supported through family friendly measures including through financial support	Number	100	n/a	n/a
O4. Persons participating in entrepreneurship related measures	Number	180	n/a	n/a

Output Indicators for PA 1 (IP8ii)

Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	Committed	Actual
CO06. below 25 years of Age	Number	2700	5499	1782
O5. Persons participating in up-skilling and re-training Programmes	Number	25	35	0

PA 2 - Towards a more inclusive society



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Investment Priority 9i

Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Through investment under this IP:

- ▶ Provide vulnerable individuals with improved life chances opportunities, including capacity building of support systems

Investment Priority 9iv

Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high quality services, including health care and social services of general interest

Through investment under this IP:

- ▶ Provide individuals with knowledge and healthier lifestyle options, increase awareness of health and safety issues at the workplace and strengthen the capacity building of systems and structures

Overview – PA 2

13 projects approved amounting to circa €42M

2 of the 13 projects will be implemented by NGO/Social partners: one project by the Richmond Foundation and another project to be implemented by GWU in collaboration with UHM

Ministries under which projects will be implemented:

- ▶ Ministry for Education and Employment
- ▶ Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity
- ▶ Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
- ▶ Ministry for Health
- ▶ Officer of the Prime Minister

Areas of interventions

Disability	Long term unemployed / inactive	Children & Youths	Inmates	Other Vulnerable groups	Health including Health and Safety at work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheltered employment • Dedicated training opportunities • Independent Living Hubs • Training for employers and peers • Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual profiling, training and work placement • Addressing the benefits trap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital literacy and life skills • ICT in residential homes and in LEAP community centres • Mental health first aid for youths • Bite size programmes • Innovative technologies • Mentoring to engage vulnerable students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on how to cope with their everyday life once they exit prison • Training relating to education, employment skills and health and care issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of professionals (gambling addictions) • other socially-challenged individuals will have access to sheltered employment, and dedicated training opportunities • At risk of poverty in view of lack of financial literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-technical skills training for health care professionals • Strengthening of capacity in specialized areas • Research and training in health inequalities • Research, training and awareness raising on health and safety at work

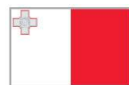
Output Indicators for PA 2 (IP9i)

Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value	Committed	Actual
O6 Persons participating in training/support measures	Number	8,500	7,312	0
O7 Persons supported towards the deinstitutionalisation through the provision of skills and support services	Number	30	0	0
O8 Research activities and campaigns focusing on vulnerable groups	Number	6	34	0
O9 Persons participating in up-skilling and re-training including partners	Number	1,200	2,548	0

Output Indicators for PA 2 (IP9iv)

Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value	Committed	Actual
O10 Information activities relating to healthier lifestyles as well as health and safety at work	Number	3	6	0
O5 Persons participating in up-skilling and re-training programmes	Number	300	6,985	0

PA 3 - Investing in people through Education, Training and Life Long Learning



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Investment Priority 10i

*Reducing and preventing **early school leaving** and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training*

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Improved educational experience and enhanced education systems and structures to address ESL related issues

One-tablet-per-child

- ▶ The aim of this project is to provide a technical and pedagogical framework for the tablet to be effectively used in a teaching and learning environment with particular emphasis being made on literacy, digital literacy and numeracy and will be introducing the necessary human, technical, hardware and software infrastructure locally for increased computer aided learning within formal schooling.
- ▶ Budget - €9,967,335 public eligible
- ▶ 3,847 tablets were distributed for scholastic year 2016/2017. A similar amount of tablets is currently being distributed for scholastic year 2017/2018.

One-tablet-per-child

Different types of training has been carried out including:

- ▶ Training for educators – Inset September 2016, July 2017 and September 2017. This is a 3 day course training which is compulsory for all educators dealing with year 4 students
- ▶ Training for Education Officers and technicians
- ▶ Training for students teachers who are following a B.ED course.
- ▶ As at to date 1,017 church and state school educators have participated in training.

One-tablet-per-child

Experiences from teachers:

‘Having a digital resource in class was a challenging experience both for me as an educator and for the pupils. This was a motivation to face the new situation with enthusiasm. Tablets have transformed the way learning is conveyed. Children were also euphoric and their anticipation of possessing a new gadget was contagious’.

‘ClassConnect gave us, the educators, the possibility to design lesson profiles according to the class’s needs in a variety of subjects. The flexibility to design lessons accordingly was imperative for a successful experience. Through the Dashboard of this classroom management system the pupils had the experience to share their work with their peers; the pride on these pupils’ faces was indescribable! The ability to push lessons on individual tablets and view what is happening facilitated the management of the classroom itself’

Investment Priority 10ii

*Improving the quality and efficiency of, and access to, tertiary and equivalent education with a view to **increasing participation and attainment levels**, especially for disadvantaged groups*

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Increase number of participants pursuing and succeeding within the tertiary tier of education

Endeavour Scholarship Scheme

- ▶ 3 Calls have been issued and in total 1,093 applications were received.
- ▶ Out of the 614 applicants received under Call 1 and 2 - 53% were males and 47% were females.

Priority Areas	Call 1		Call 2	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Advanced Manufacturing	8	2	12	4
Creative Industries	18	19	16	18
Financial Services and Support	37	25	26	26
International Educational Services	8	10	4	15
Life Sciences	26	24	22	55
Tourism	3	9	1	6
Transport and Advanced Logistics	2	0	7	3
STEM	77	44	60	27
TOTAL	179	133	148	154

Endeavour Scholarship Scheme

- ▶ 236 contracts were signed under Call 1 of which:
 - 120 contracts were to be completed by 2016;
 - 50 contracts to be completed by end of 2017
 - 66 contracts to be completed in 2018 – 2020
 - 92% at MQF level 7 and 8% at MQF level 8

- ▶ 221 contracts were signed under Call 2 of which:
 - 7 contracts were to be completed by 2016;
 - 96 contracts to be completed by end of 2017
 - 118 contracts to be completed in 2018 – 2020
 - 94% at MQF level 7 and 6% at MQF level 8

Investment Priority 10iii

*Enhancing equal access to **lifelong learning** for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences*

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Increase participation in LLL with a view to upgrade skills/qualifications/skills, as well as uptake of post doctoral research studies

Reach High Scholars Programme Post-Doctoral Grants



EU funds | 2014
for Malta | 2020

Post-Doctoral research forms an increasingly important part of any country's economic and social agenda. Through this scheme Malta aims to strengthen the research performance, through investment in Post-Doctoral research programmes to increase the human capital supply that can effectively contribute towards R&I investment.

The key objectives of the Post-Doctoral Grants are:

- Producing well-rounded, professional researchers who contribute to the advancement of their fields of knowledge internationally, using a variety of relevant skills
- Promoting researcher development that engages in (two-way) knowledge transfer with various external stakeholders, including research organisations, employers, policy-makers, nongovernmental organisations, the media, and the wider public
- Strengthening the research competence by building expertise in areas of strategic economic importance for Malta
- Increase the number of Post-Doctoral graduates so as to create a stronger knowledge base to better compete internationally, and
- Contribute towards research in identified areas of national priority and contribute towards the achievement of the EU2020 strategy.



- ▶ List of research areas of scholars include the following:

Research Areas	No. of Grants
Medical/Pharmaceutical	4
Science & Engineering	5
Education	2
Energy and Climate Change, built environment, water and the blue economy	3
Social, Anthropological, Cultural & Behavioural Sciences	1
ICT	1
	16

Reach High Scholars Programme EU funds | 2014 for Malta | 2020

- ▶ The researchers have participated in a number of conferences held in different countries, such as, UK, USA, Greece, Switzerland, Netherland, Malta, Italy, Finland whereby the research was presented in different types of media.
- ▶ In addition, 12 papers were published.

Investing in Skills

Investing in Skills scheme assists employers in training their staff both locally and abroad.

Investing in Skills is intended to promote access to the training of persons actively participating in the Maltese labour market, with a view to increasing productivity and enhancing adaptability. It seeks to increase and/or improve the knowledge and skills of employed persons through funds granted by the scheme.

Intermediate Body: Jobsplus

Investing in Skills

- The Investing in Skills was launched in March 2017.
- As at to date a total of 297 applications received, of which 127 grants were signed amounting to around **€ 320K**:

Sizes of Undertaking	No of Applications/Grants	No of Trainees *
Large	34	508
Medium	45	607
Small	32	320
Micro	16	31
Totals	127	1,466

** As per application*

Investing in Skills

Different types of training are being covered including amongst others:

- Computer use and computer science
- Engineering, manufacturing and construction
- Finance, banking, insurance, accounting and taxation
- Management and Administration
- Personnel Development, working life
- Wholesale and retail sales, marketing and advertising

Investment Priority 10iv

Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Increased number of participants pursuing and succeeding in vocational education

Output Indicators for PA 3 (IP10i)

Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	Committed	Actual
O11 – The provision of digital technologies to students –	Number	12,000	11,400	3,847
O5 – Persons participating in up-skilling and re-training programmes	Number	4,500	1,772	1,017
O12 Pupils/students supported through monitoring and preventive early school leaving measures (10i)	Number	200	0	0

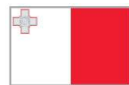
Output Indicators for PA 3 (IP10ii)

Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	Committed	Actual
O13. Persons participating in tertiary education	Number	700	924	457
O14. Persons within tertiary education Institutions participating in up-skilling and re-training Measures	Number	50	0	0

Output Indicators for PA 3 (IP10iii)

Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value	Committed	Actual
O15. Persons participating in second chance Education programmes	Number	50	0	0
O16. Number of postdoctoral research and fellowships	Number	10	16	16
O6. Persons participating in training/support Measures	Number	6,000	6216	0

PA 4 - Building the Institutional Administrative Capacity



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Investment Priority 11i

*Investment in institutional capacity and in the **efficiency of public administrations and public services** at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance*

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Improving the overall performance of the public administration and increased competences of workers and professionals working within the judicial system to streamline processes

Investment Priority 11ii

Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Increased/improved participation from stakeholders

PA 4 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 4 - **€11M**
- ▶ Call III issued **IP11i and IP11ii** – closed 27th January 2016
- ▶ Evaluation expected to be concluded by end of 2017

Performance Framework

- ▶ In order to monitor progress towards the objectives and targets set for each priority, a performance framework has been built on a set of indicators to establish clear, realistic and measurable milestones and targets set for 2018 and 2023.
- ▶ Where there is evidence based on financial and output indicators of a serious failure in achieving a priority's milestones due to implementation weaknesses, the Commission may suspend all or part of interim payments for this priority.

Performance Framework – PA 1

Output Indicator Persons Supported	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	250	2,900
Approved Projects	3,310	5,325
Actual	1,697	1,697

Performance Framework – PA 1

Financial Indicator	Financial Output for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	€ 7,819,554.30	€ 26,000,000
Approved Projects	€ 9,399,328.70	€ 25,671,519.0
Disbursed to date	€ 1,627,633.79	€ 1,627,633.79

**Values may change upon finalisation of negotiations for GA*

Performance Framework – PA 2

Output Indicator Persons participating in training/support measures	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	1,000	8500
Approved Projects	3,499	7,312
Actual	0	0

Performance Framework – PA 2

Financial Indicator	Financial Output for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	€10,868,152.59	€ 40,000,000.00
Approved Projects	€12,202,292.30	€ 36,521,784.00
Disbursed to date	0	0

*Values may change upon finalisation of negotiations for GA

Performance Framework – PA 3

Output Indicator Persons participating in tertiary education	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	150	700
Approved Projects	620	924
Actual	457	457

Performance Framework – PA 3

Output Indicator Persons participating in training/support measures	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	1600	7400
Approved Projects	1736	6216
Actual	0	0

Performance Framework – PA 3

Financial Indicator	Financial Output for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	€ 14,288,118.40	€ 47,424,810.00
Approved Projects	€ 20,181,677.80	€ 32,358,876.80
Disbursed to date	€ 9,115,690.25	€ 9,115,690.25

**Values may change upon finalisation of negotiations for GA*

***At evaluation stage (IP10iv)*

Performance Framework – PA 4

Output Indicator Number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	1	3
Approved Projects	n/a	n/a
Actual	n/a	n/a

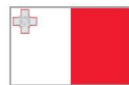
Performance Framework – PA 4

Financial Indicator	Financial Output for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	€ 2,988,742.00	€ 11,000,000.00
Approved Projects	n/a	n/a
Disbursed to date	n/a	n/a

**At evaluation stage (IP11i and IP11ii)*

Use of Simplified Cost Options

State of play



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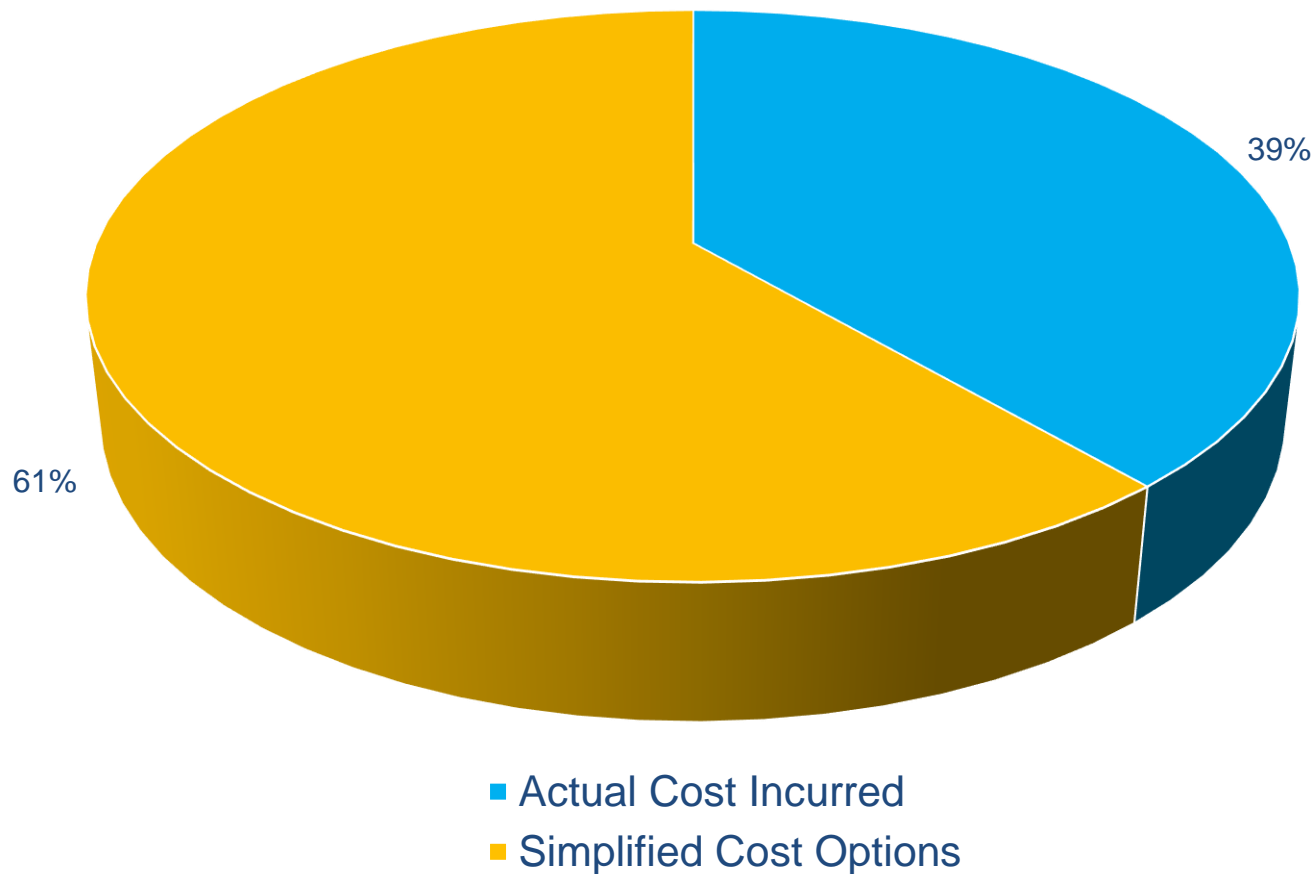
Current use of Simplified Cost Options vs. Actual Costs Incurred



EU funds
for Malta

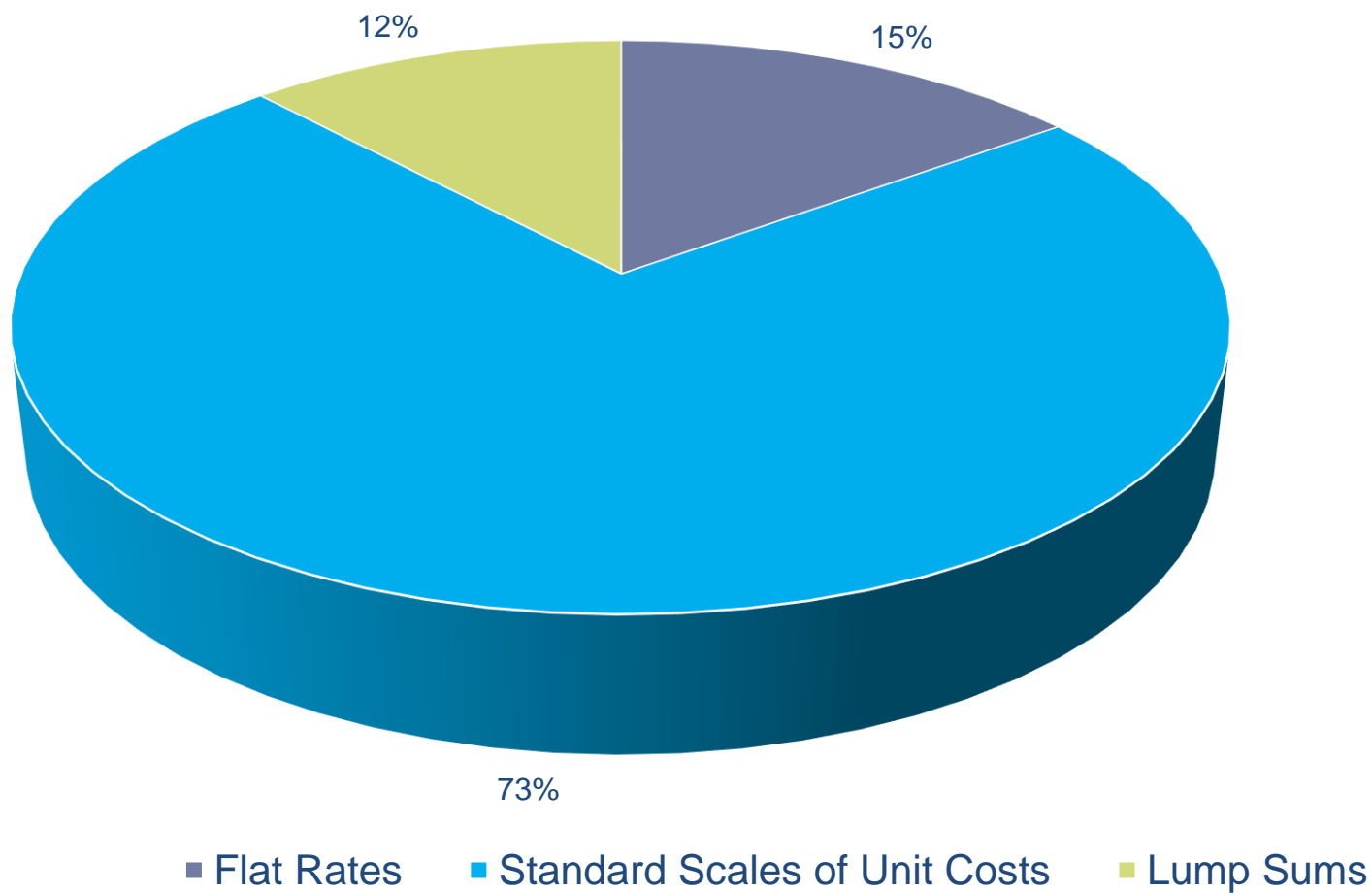
2014
2020

Public Eligible



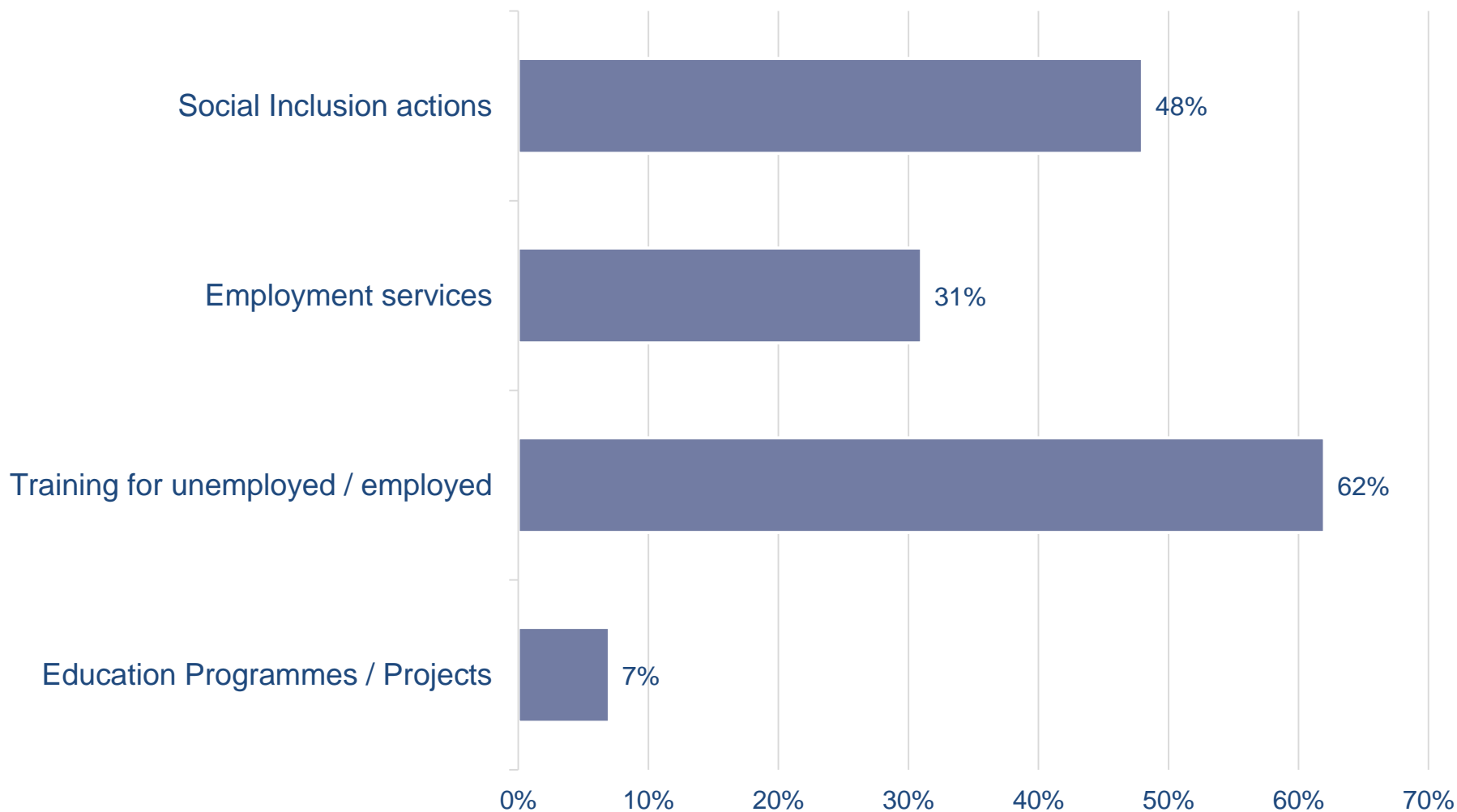
Current use of SCOs

Simplified Cost Options



Current use of SCOs

Type of Cost implemented via SCOs



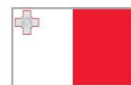
SCOs already in use

- ▶ Access to Employment (A2E) scheme – based on the National Minimum Wage – to cover the wages of employees
- ▶ Staff costs in line with Article 68(2) of the CPR (i.e. using 1720 hours rule)
- ▶ Flight costs in line with the ERASMUS+ distance calculator and corresponding rates
- ▶ Per diem in line with the rates issued by MFIN
- ▶ Flat Rate to cover a set of indirect costs based on the eligible direct costs of a project – Article 68(1)(a) of the CPR

Steering Committee on Simplification

- ▶ Good practice highlighted among MSs
- ▶ Meeting held in February 2017.
- ▶ Another meeting is planned for Q4 2017
- ▶ Including IAID, NAO, Treasury, CA, FPD, and IBs where necessary
- ▶ To inform horizontal stakeholders of SCOs being used and in the pipeline
- ▶ To gather feedback

Monitoring and Evaluation (2014-2020)



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Peer Review Meeting

- The Managing Authority, together with the European Commission, organised a peer-to-peer review meeting between 4th and 5th May 2017.
- The main aim was to promote a two-way learning approach through discussions on how to mitigate challenges, promote good evaluation practices, and discuss identified issues and potential way forward.
- Present to this meetings were representatives from DG REGIO, DG EMPL, Key Experts, the Managing Authority (MA), as well as members from the Ismeri Europa team.
- The review was held on a period of two days:
 - First day: Concluded thematic evaluation from the 2007-2013 programming period;
 - Second day: Terms of Reference for a counterfactual impact evaluation for the 2014-2020 programming period.

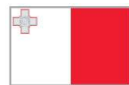
Other Evaluation Activities

- The Managing Authority also participated in the following evaluation activities which were carried out by the Commission:
 - A questionnaire on justice related EU-funded projects to develop an evidence-base understanding about the extent to which and how Member States have made use of the ESF and the ERDF in the programming periods 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 to support their justice systems;
 - A web survey on the use and intended use of simplified cost options in ESF, ERDF, and CF wherein feedback was provided in September 2017;
 - A web survey on ESF monitoring and evaluation requirements to understand the pros and cons of the current monitoring and evaluation requirements in order to formulate proposals for the next programming period wherein feedback was provided in September 2017.

Way forward

- The peer review emphasised the fact that the evaluator is less of a policeman to a way-forward looking agent.
- There is the need for more synergies between evaluations.
- As a way forward, the MA is currently carrying out an internal assessment to review the Evaluation Plans.
- The ToRs of the CIE will be revised on the basis of the outcome of the meeting and further internal discussions, and will be presented to our desk officer.
- As a follow-up of the peer to peer review, the Managing Authority will be revising the Evaluation Plan and the terms of reference for the CIE.
- The implementation of the Cohort Study will commence and will obtain their feedback on the ESF-funded course/training as well as their labour status.

Communication Activities (2014-2020)



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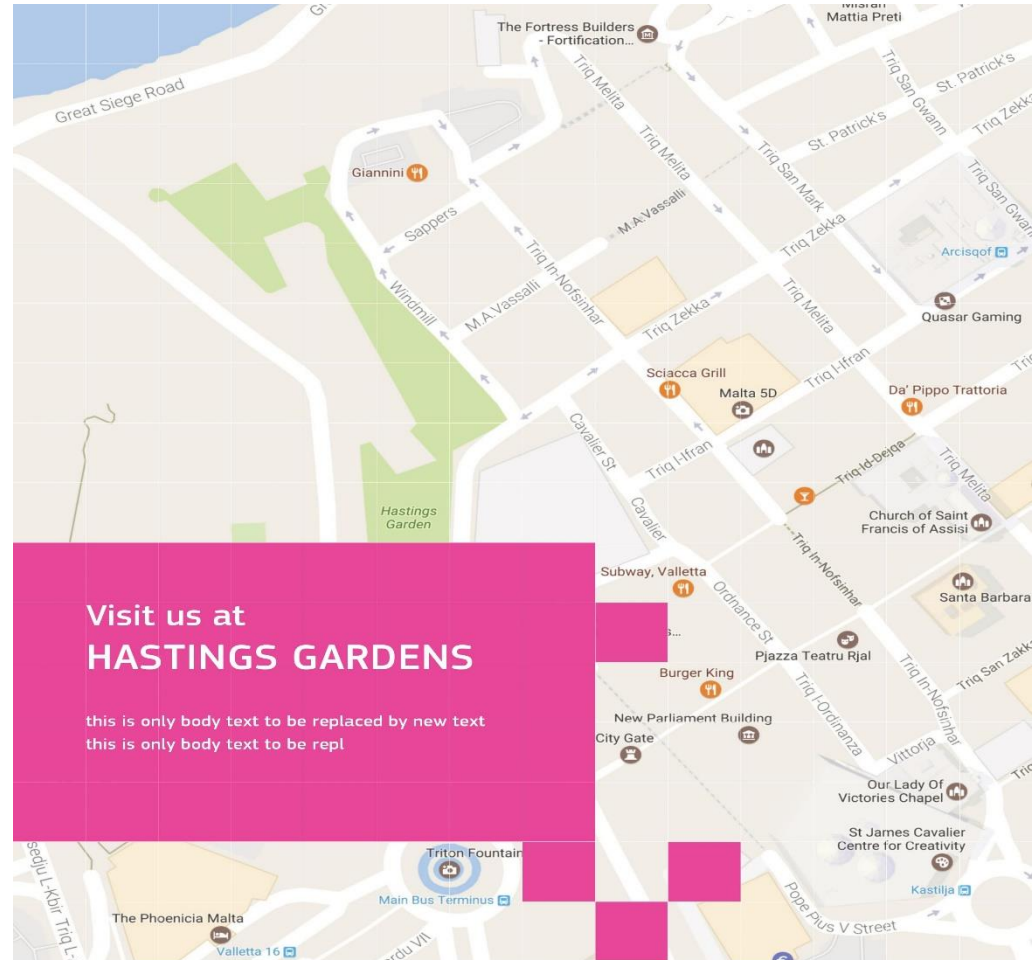
- ▶ ESF Exhibition and Info desk held between the **18th and 28th April 2017 at Hastings Garden, Valletta**
- ▶ On the occasion of **60 years of ESF**, which illustrated the evolution of the European Social Fund along the years, each time ensuring relevance and demonstrating its **added value and the difference it manages to achieve in peoples lives**
- ▶ Staff of the MA were available at the exhibition to answer first hand queries with the general public
- ▶ The promotion of the ESF exhibition included a structured media campaign
- ▶ The general public who visited the exhibition had the opportunity to participate in a general quiz on ESF.

European Social Fund EXHIBITION

18th till 28th April
Hastings Gardens, Valletta

For more information
[click here](#)

Online poster



Map of flyer showing location of exhibition

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Over 165,000 persons supported/trained through ESF 2007-2013 programming period whose projects and schemes were completed by end December 2015.



- LEAP**
€2.2 Million aimed to combat social exclusion and poverty with over **270** traineeship placements offered in 90 different NGOs and public entities.
- Institute for the Public Service (IPS)**
€3.2 Million invested as part of training capacity building in public administration, providing training to over **10,000** persons working within the public administration.
- Equality Certified Companies**
The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) developed the Equality Mark concept with the support of ESF. The Commission continued to promote and award the Equality Mark beyond the project's end date. In December 2015, there were **61** certified entities with more than **16,000** employees.



Public Employment Services (Jobplus)

€7.8 Million investment in further training to enhance the employability chances of individuals; over **53,000** persons benefited including over **9,900** women who were not in employment.

1,030 companies benefited from **€7.9 Million** investment to train over **32,000** of which **12,000** were women.

1,100 employers gave job opportunities to **2,800** disadvantaged people and persons with disability through an investment of **€14 Million**.



Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)

€34 Million invested in MCAST: 22 courses re-designed and 65 new courses designed; as well reviewed all Pathway and Level 1 to 3 programmes (49 courses in total) to facilitate the progression of vulnerable students to higher level vocational programme and ultimately employment. Reformulation of 26 courses to be delivered through blended learning – a combination of on-line and classroom study that will encourage more people to invest in their careers.



Kunsill Malta għall-Isport (KMS)

€377k support to develop a training programme for Public Sector Sports Administrators. This was intended for sports organisations being better run, leading to more professional individuals in the sector.



Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE)

€13.6 Million ST/PS and Master III Programmes providing over **1,450** scholarships at level 7 and level 8.



€3 Million invested in young people under 25 not in employment, education or training to access labour market or education. Over **2,249** youths supported through the Youth Guarantee.



Malta Film Commission (Rinella)

€808k investment for training in film industry over **700** persons participated in the different types of training offered.



Ministry for Gozo

57 persons trained at diploma and/or degree level in Gozo. Courses provided addressed skills mismatches and facilitated participation.



Oncology Hospital

€3.4 Million for the creation of a Masters programme in medical physics at the UoM and purchasing of training equipment for Oncology hospital.



University of Malta (UoM)

€1.6 Million invested: (i) 2407 access to the library system for students, academic staff and non-academic staff; (ii) a new programme at level 7 part time offered at UoM on entrepreneurship, encouraging new start-ups and innovative ideas.

Figures of persons supported may include repeat participants across the different training opportunities provided.

ESF map used on leaflets to promote major ESF projects



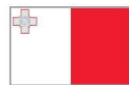
Other Communication Activities 2017

- Continuous assistance was provided to the potential Beneficiaries and Beneficiaries on the visual requirements.
- Between 30th May and 1st June, the Managing Authority attended the INFORM and INIO networks. The meeting focused on how to make the results of Cohesion Policy more visible, including story-telling and the open-data platform. <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>
- Training was provided to all new recruits within the Line Ministries and other stakeholders on the publicity requirements to ensure that these are followed by the Beneficiaries to mitigate potential financial corrections.
- The tender to further enhance the single website on EU Funds is currently underway and it is being envisaged that it will be launched in Q1 2018.

Communication Activities 2018

- During 2018, the Managing Authority will be organising an online campaign, with the theme '**Did you know?**'. This as part of the commitment to scale up communication of cohesion policy following the General Affairs Council of April 2017.
- The campaign will seek to present stories of opportunities made possible through the ESF. This will be done through ESF testimonials.
- The campaign will include the use of social media, website, using audio-visuals.
- Prior to the campaign, a study will be held in order to gauge the general public awareness on EU funding and the respective interventions. This will be followed up by another study following the campaign to assess the increase in visibility and awareness of EU funds.

Capacity Building activities (2014-2020)



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Capacity Building Activities in 2017

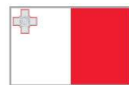
- Training session for new recruits to provide a general introduction to EU funding was held on 24th and 31st July.
- Training session for ESF Beneficiaries on Simplified Cost Options organised on 25th September.
- Training session for new recruits, Beneficiaries, and Managing Authority on the national requirements and legislations related to EU funding held on 4th and 11th October.
- Ongoing training on the Structural Funds Database 14-20 to potential Beneficiaries, Beneficiaries, Line Ministries, and Managing Authority.
- Internal capacity building training sessions.



Upcoming Capacity Building Activities

- The foreseen training sessions are as follows:
 - Three-day seminar on Public Procurement;
 - Management Verifications;
 - Induction training for new recruits.
 - Publicity training to be held on 25/10 for new beneficiaries

Horizontal priorities (2014-2020)



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Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Non-discrimination including accessibility (Article 110 (f) of EU 1303/2013)

- ▶ The application form structure of this section has been strengthened to assist potential beneficiaries in:
 - ▶ identifying the minimum legal obligations
 - ▶ to propose additional measures (beyond the legal requirement)
- ▶ Applicants should discuss their project ideas with the relevant Bodies (NCPE, KNPD) for advice on the legal obligations and on how to best integrate such priorities within their projects.
- ▶ Part of the award criteria
- ▶ Conditionalities/obligations may be imposed at eventual Grant Agreement stage to ensure the implementation of such horizontal priorities.

Sustainable Development

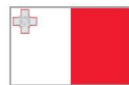
(Article 110 (g) of EU 1303/2013)

- ▶ Applicants should discuss their project ideas with the relevant authority (MESDC) on how to best address this priority within their project ideas.
- ▶ Part of the award criteria
- ▶ Conditionalities/obligations may be imposed at eventual Grant Agreement stage to ensure the implementation of this horizontal priority.

Progress Update

- ▶ The MA organised and led one-to-one meetings with the horizontal equality stakeholders on all Call I projects, outcome of such meetings will feed into the relevant sections of the Grant Agreements
- ▶ Similar one-to-one meetings to be carried out for Call II and Call III projects
- ▶ Schemes and mainstream projects are requested to carry out continuous assessment of their activities from a horizontal perspective

Looking forward



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Looking forward

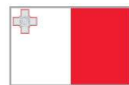
- ▶ Conclusion of Call III evaluation by end 2017
- ▶ Issuing pre-announcement for Call IV
- ▶ Continue the negotiation and follow-up the implementation for Call I and Call II beneficiaries
- ▶ Application of 4th delegated act for Training for Employment
- ▶ First payment claim under the ESF by end of 2017
- ▶ Assessment post completion of Call III vis-à-vis OP
- ▶ Coordination with Line Ministries for support in physical checks to be carried out
- ▶ Follow-up to the evaluation Peer Review

Contact Details

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