



GOVERNMENT  
OF MALTA



## ESF+ Programme ESIF 2021-2027

*Fostering the socioeconomic wellbeing of society  
through the creation of opportunities for all and  
investment in human resources and skills*

**Call for Project Proposals**

**Information Session: General Overview**

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

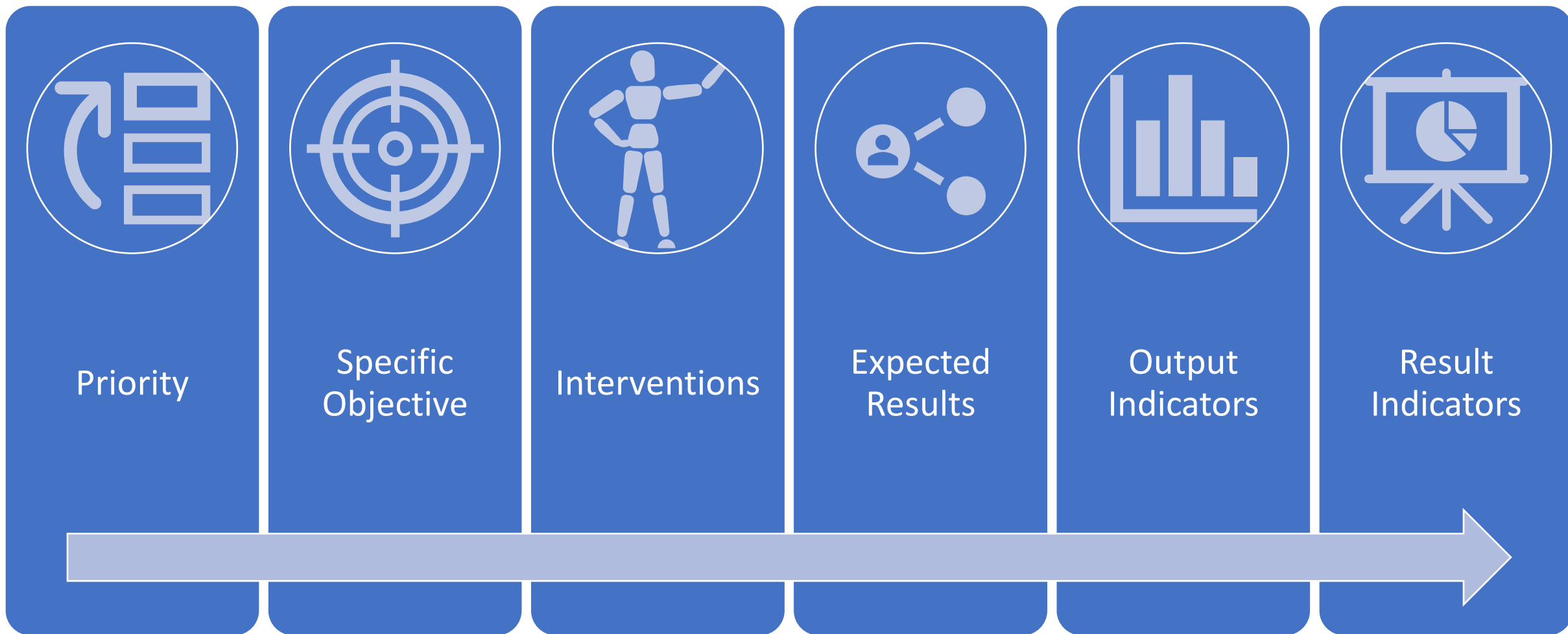
# Legal Basis

- (EU) 2021/1060: Common Provisions Regulation
- <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060>
- (EU) 2021/1057: Fund Specific Regulation (ESF+)
- <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1057>
- National Eligibility Rules
- <https://fondi.eu/eligibility-rules/2021-2027-eligibility-rules/>.

# Introduction

- **Partnership Agreement** - overarching strategy delineates the main areas of intervention under the **European Structural and Investment Funds**
  
- **European Structural and Investment Funds**
  - ▶ European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
  - ▶ Cohesion Fund (CF)
  - ▶ Just Transition Fund (JTF)
  - ▶ **European Social Plus Fund (ESF+)**
  - ▶ European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

# Intervention Logic



# ESF+ Programme

- **A total of Five Priorities are financed through ESF+ funds**
- Priorities 1 to 5 funded under **ESF+** with key priority areas including:
  - Priority 1: Enhancing employability and labour market resilience;
  - Priority 2: Fostering active inclusion for all;
  - Priority 3: Quality and inclusive education and enhanced lifelong learning for growth;
  - Priority 4: Addressing material deprivation; and
  - Priority 5: Enhancing social innovation.

The applicable **co-financing rate** for the 2021-2027 Programme is:

- 60% EU share and 40% MT share

## Key Questions to be asked

- Are you an **Eligible Applicant**?
- Is the project in line with the **scope** of the relevant source of funds?
- Do the project activities **fit** within the **Priority and Specific Objectives** currently open under this call?

# Call for Project Proposals (1)

## P3 – Quality and inclusive education and enhanced lifelong learning for growth.

- Specific objective: ESO4.6. Promoting **equal access to and completion of quality and inclusive education and training**, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities (ESF+).
- Budget Allocation for Call 2.1 is €63,827,262.

## Call for Project Proposals (2)

### P3 – Quality and inclusive education and enhanced lifelong learning for growth.

- Specific objective: ESO4.7. **Promoting lifelong learning**, in particular flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility (ESF+).
- Budget Allocation for Call 2.2 is €4,000,000.



## Call for Project Proposals (3)

### P1 – Enhancing employability and labour market resilience.

- Specific objective: ESO4.1. Improving **access to employment and activation measures** of all jobseekers, in particular youth people, especially through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and of inactive people, as well as through the promotion of self-employment and the social economy (ESF+).
- Budget Allocation for Call 2.3 is €22,500,000.

# General Principles

- Eligible Applicants: **Government departments, public entities, social partners, Non-Governmental Organisations, and voluntary organisations.**
- Project proposals that involve State Aid **will be** considered, provided that the Applicant agrees to implement the project in line with the applicable State Aid Rules. The involvement of State Aid is not necessarily tied to the legal status of the Applicant but to the nature of the activity.

# General Principles

- The selection process is carried out by the **Project Selection Committee (PSC)**
- Members of the PSC may include public service officers and/or non-public service officers.
- Ad hoc experts may be invited to support the Committee in its deliberations.
- Secretariat services to the PSC are provided by the MA;
- If an applicant wishes to proceed with a grievance on the outcome of the PSC, then the applicant may send a request of appeal to the **Project Selection Appeals Board**

# Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- Approved by the **Monitoring Committee in November 2022**
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - If **one** of these criteria is not met, the project will not proceed to the second round, i.e. the selection process
- **Selection Criteria:**
  - Marks will be allocated in line with the established qualitative and quantitative criteria
  - Projects will be rated and ranked accordingly

## Part I: Eligibility Criteria (1)

- 1) Is the Application Form **complete**?
  - The Applicant must present a complete application form, filled in with all relevant details and documentation using the system made available by the MA.
  - Submission of project proposals must be made within the time-limit set for receipt of applications.
  
- 2) Is the Applicant Organisation an **eligible applicant**?
  - Supporting documentation related to the legal status of the Applicant, as required in the call would need to be provided by the Applicant.

## Part I: Eligibility Criteria (2)

- 3) Can the Applicant confirm that it is not in an **exclusion situation** in accordance with Art 136 (1) and Art 141 (1) of 2018/1046 Financial Regulation and CPR Art 73(2)(i)?
  - The Applicant should declare that they or any person involved in the project are not in an exclusion situation in accordance with the Financial Regulation and Common Provisions Regulation.
- 4) Is the project being proposed within your **remit** as the Applicant Organisation?
  - Applicants must be publicly mandated or authorised to implement the project by virtue of the applicable law establishing the organisation or by the respective Statute, in the case of NGOs.

## Part I: Eligibility Criteria (3)

- 5) Is the Project being implemented within the **eligible territory**?
  - Project must either be implemented in Malta and/or Gozo or for the direct benefit of the eligible territory.
  
- 6) Is there proof of **co-financing**? (where applicable)
  - This could be in the form of a Statement from the bank or the person responsible for finances within the organisation.

## Part I: Eligibility Criteria (4)

- 7) Does the project contribute to the **Specific Objective** as published in the call?
  - Only proposals that selected the relevant Specific Objective/s as published in the call will be considered.
- 8) Does the project contribute towards at least **one** output indicator and **one** result indicator?
- 9) Is the status of operation **ongoing** or **not yet started**?



# Interventions and Expected Results

Priority	Specific Objective (ESO)	Interventions	Expected Result (ER)
3	<i>ESO4.6. Quality and inclusive education and training systems.</i>	1. Promoting quality education and reducing ESL	1. Reduce ESL rates, improve levels of basic skills and increase overall attainment rates
		2. Developing Inclusive Education pathways	2. Enhance digital literacy and improve quality, inclusiveness, and accessibility of education at all levels
		3. Enhancing Further and higher education	3. Increase participation in tertiary education
		4. Addressing skills gaps through the development and running of new courses	
		5. Improving the quality and effectiveness of education and training systems	
		6. Complementarities/synergies with other priorities under this Programme and other initiatives	

# Indicators - Specific Objective ESO.4.6

Output Indicator	Target			Result Indicator	Target		
	Malta	Gozo	Total		Malta	Gozo	Total
EECO01: Total number of participants (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EECR03: Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EECO09: Participants with lower secondary education or less (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSR01: Participants gaining a certification upon leaving (measurement unit: percentage)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EECO11: Participants with tertiary education (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSR03: Improved/Introduced new systems/services (measurement unit: number)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PSO02: Number of actions supported (measurement unit: number)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

# Interventions and Expected Results

Priority	Specific Objective (ESO)	Interventions	Expected Result (ER)
3	<i>ESO4.7. Lifelong learning and career transitions</i>	1. Investing in postdoctoral research and fellowships	1. Increased adult participation rate in education, training and LLL, including for low-skilled adults.
		2. Complementarities / synergies with other priorities under this Programme and other initiatives	

# Indicators - Specific Objective ESO.4.7

Output Indicator	Target			Result Indicator	Target		
	Malta	Gozo	Total		Malta	Gozo	Total
EECO05: Employed, including self-employed (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EECR03: Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EECO19: Number of supported micro, small and medium sized enterprises (measurement unit: entities)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EECR06: Participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				PSR01: Participants gaining a certification upon leaving (measurement unit: percentage)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Interventions and Expected Results

Priority	Specific Objective (ESO)	Interventions	Expected Result (ER)
1	<i>ESO4.1. Access to employment and activation measures for all.</i>	1. Youth Guarantee	1. Increasing employment rates, including for older workers, women and youth
		2. Training for Employment Initiative	2. Increasing the number of individuals with skills related to the digital and green transformation of the labour market
		3. Work Programme Initiative	
		4. Complementarities / synergies with other priorities.	

# Indicators - Specific Objective ESO.4.1

Output Indicator	Target			Result Indicator	Target		
	Malta	Gozo	Total		Malta	Gozo	Total
EECO01: Total number of participants (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EECR01: Participants engaged in job searching upon leaving (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EECO02: Unemployed, incl. long-term unemployed (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EECR03: Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EECO04: Inactive (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EECR05: Participants in employment six months after leaving (measurement unit: persons)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PSO01: Total number of participants below 30 years of age (measurement unit: number)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSR01: Participants gaining a certification upon leaving (measurement unit: percentage)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Eligibility Criteria in detail (3):

## Contribution towards indicators

### What are indicators?

- Indicators are numerical **targets** to be achieved as a result of EU support
- ESF+ Programme – contains output and result indicators
- **Divided per** Priority, and per Specific Objective
- ESF+ Regulation (Annex I) – common indicators
- **Each project needs to contribute to at least one output and one result indicator from Malta's ESF+ Programme**

### Difference between output and result indicators:

- Output indicators:
  - **Measure** the direct **deliverables** of a project
  - **For** project participants, they record the situation at the **start** of EU support
- Result indicators:
  - Measure the **effects** of a project (**the change**)
  - For project participants, they record the situation at the **end** of EU support (ex: 4 weeks / 6 months after)

# Understanding the Indicator tables found in Malta's ESF+ Programme:

## 2.1.1.1.2. Indicators


Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR and Article 8 ERDF and CF Regulation

Table 2: Output indicators

EN

35


EN



Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
1	ESO4.3	ESF+	Transition	EECO01	Total number of participants	persons	180.00	1,269.00
1	ESO4.3	ESF+	Transition	PSO02	Number of actions supported	Number	0.00	2.00

Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 3: Result indicators



Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference Year	Target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
1	ESO4.3	ESF+	Transition	EECR05	Participants in employment six months after leaving	persons	44.10	2021	45.00	MA monitoring tool	
1	ESO4.3	ESF+	Transition	PSR01	Participants gaining a certification upon leaving	Percentage	72.90	2019	75.00	MA monitoring tool	
1	ESO4.3	ESF+	Transition	PSR03	Improved/Introduced new systems/services	Number	2.00	2013	2.00	MA monitoring tool	



# Common ESF+ Indicators (Annex I of ESF+ Regulation)



Apart from the indicator tables in the ESF+ Programme, projects need to contribute also to the **common indicators** which are listed in the ESF+ Regulation – **Annex I, II, III** (Annex I applies to the majority of projects).

- Applicants do **NOT** need to include the common indicators from the Annexes in their Application Form (choose only from the tables in the Malta ESF Programme).
- However, indicator reporting **WILL** include these common indicators during the course of project implementation.
- The MA will provide a '**Data on Participants Form**' and a **reporting template** to assist Beneficiaries in collecting and reporting this data related to the common indicators.

## Selection Criteria (Scoring) – (1)

Selection Criteria	Marks
Capacity of the organisation	10
Contribution of the project to the Relevant Development Needs	10
Potential of the project to contribute to the achievement of the Expected Results	10
Contribution towards indicators	10
Readiness	15
Project Sustainability	10
Partnership	5
Horizontal principles – Equal opportunities and non-discrimination	10
Horizontal principles – Sustainable Development	10
Quality of application form	10

## Selection Criteria in detail (1)

### **Capacity of Organisation (10 marks):**

- Capacity is assessed both in terms of adequate human resources, as well as previous experience in the implementation of EU projects. Marks may also be awarded for similar nationally funded initiatives.

### **Contribution of the project to the Relevant Development Needs (10 marks):**

- Is the project adequately addressing the relevant interventions in the OP?
- Evidence of real demand for the project (qualitative and quantitative evidence)

### **Potential of the project to contribute to the achievement of the Expected Results (10 marks):**

- How will the project achieve the desired results and specific objectives?
- How will the partners contribute to the achievement of the Expected Results?

## Selection Criteria in detail (2)

### Contribution towards indicators (10 marks):

- Marks will be awarded if the project contributes towards the indicators beyond the minimum required (i.e. for eligibility purposes).
- Additional marks will be awarded if the project contributes to the milestone (Refer to online Guidance notes on Indicators).
- Marks will be allocated to the clarity and quality in the methodology and verification.
- An assessment of any unrealistic indicator targets which are not achievable will also be carried out.

### Readiness (15 marks):

- Have the related procurement/recruitment procedures been prepared/launched/awarded?
- Has the CBA/FFS/FS (if required) been finalised?
- Has the Applicant identified any mitigation measures for the identified risks?
- Marks will be awarded for projects that are in an **advanced state of readiness**.

## Selection Criteria in detail (3)

### Project Sustainability (10 marks):

- How will the benefits of the project continue to be delivered after the grant has ended?
- How will long-term economic sustainability of the project be ensured? Do you require a Financial Feasibility Study; Cost Benefit Analysis?

### Partnership (5 marks):

- Is the project involving any partners?
- Is there clear evidence of the mutual benefit of the proposed partnership?
- What is the added value in the involvement of such partners in achieving the expected results?

## Selection Criteria in detail (4)

### Horizontal Priorities (10 marks):

- Equal opportunities (Equality; Non-discrimination; Accessibility)
- Sustainable Development with special reference to Environmental Sustainability

### Quality of the Application Form (10 marks):

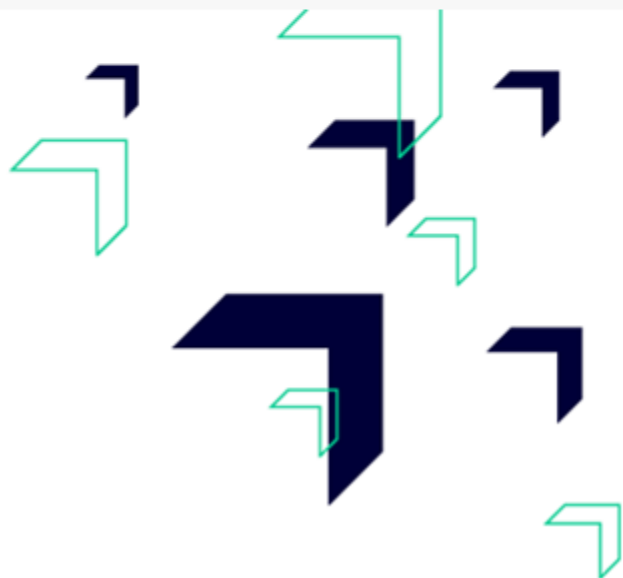
- Marks will be awarded for exceptional quality
- Coherence between different sections of the proposals
- General presentation of the proposals
- Budget in line with the activities
- Adequate results

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Thank you !



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