

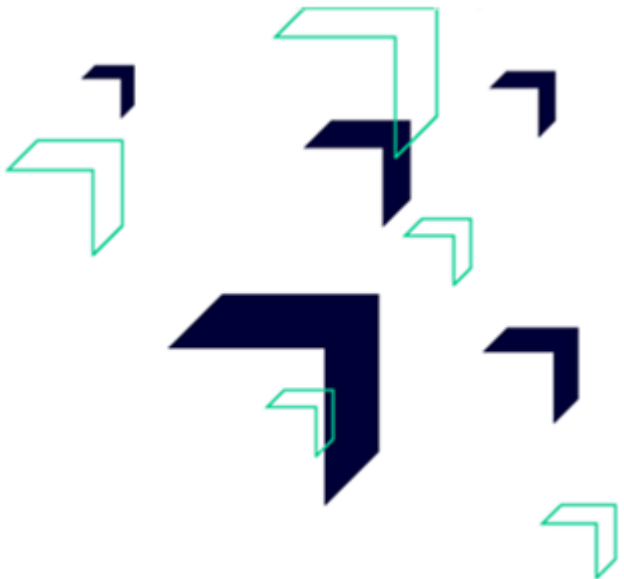


**GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA**



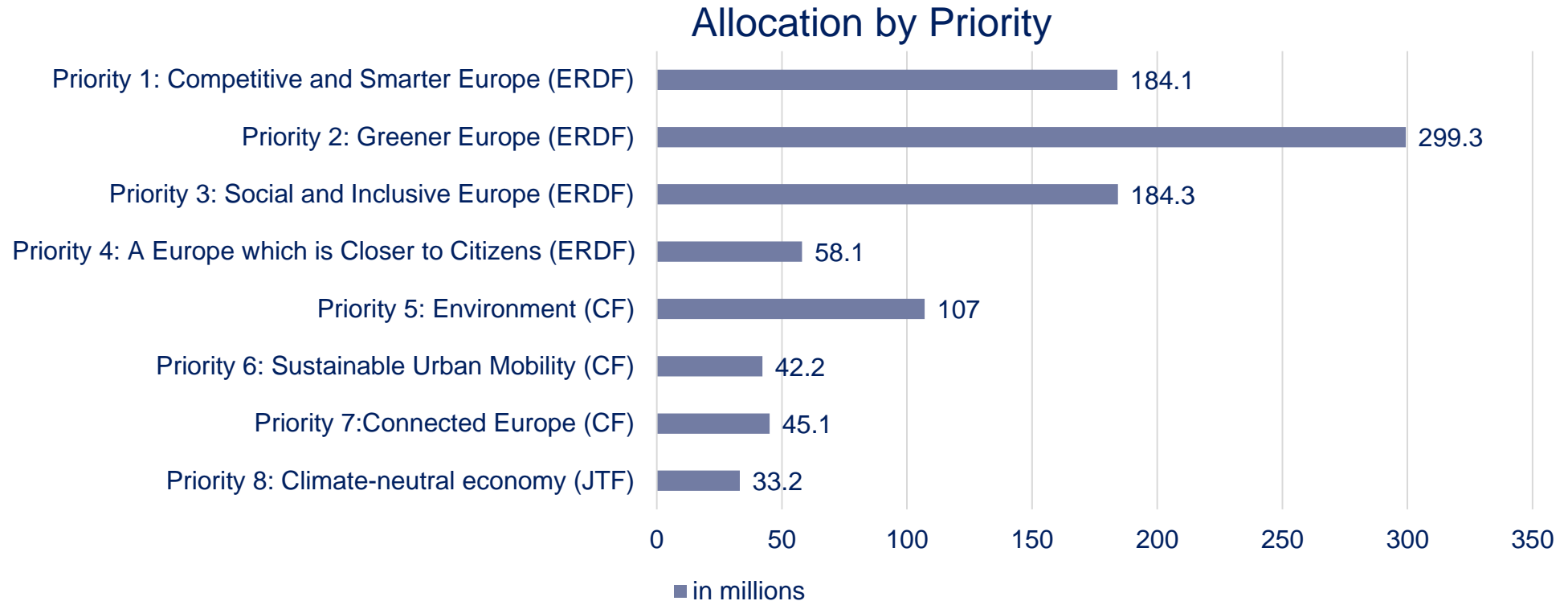
FONDI.eu

Update on the Implementation of the 2021-2027 Programmes (ERDF/CF/JTF & ESF+)



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

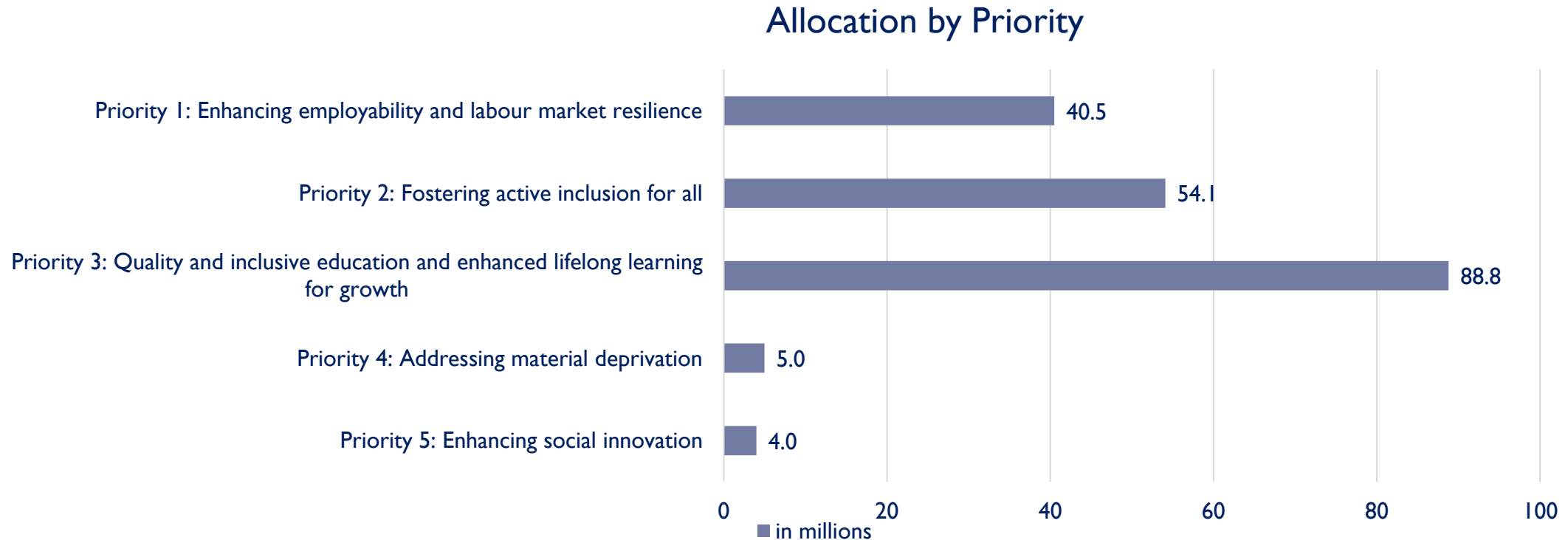
ERDF/CF/JTF Programme



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

- 60% EU share and 40% MT share for ERDF
- 70% EU share and 30% MT share for JTF
- 85% EU share and 15% MT share for CF

ESF+ Programme

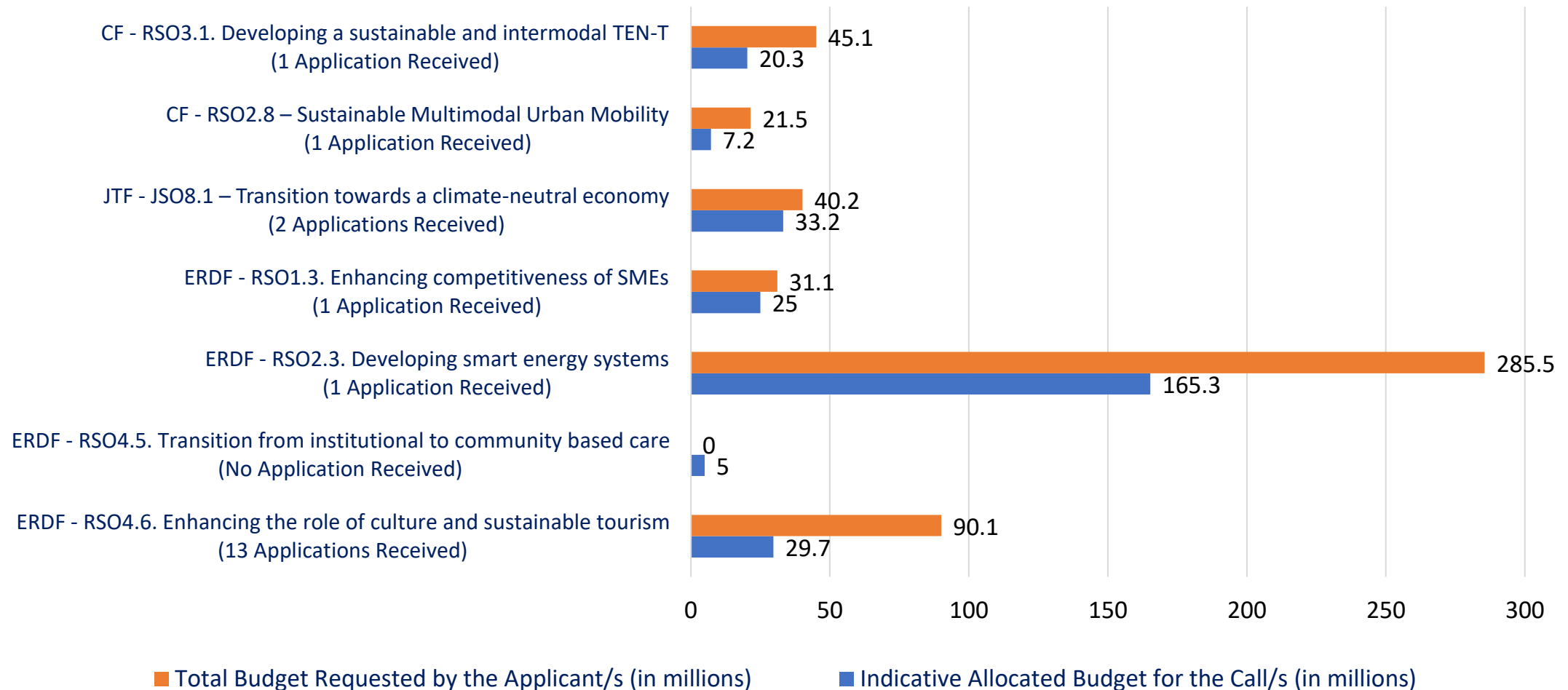


The applicable co-financing rate for the 2021-2027 Programme is:

- 60% EU share and 40% MT (P1, 2,3, and 5)
- 90% EU share and 10% MT (P4)

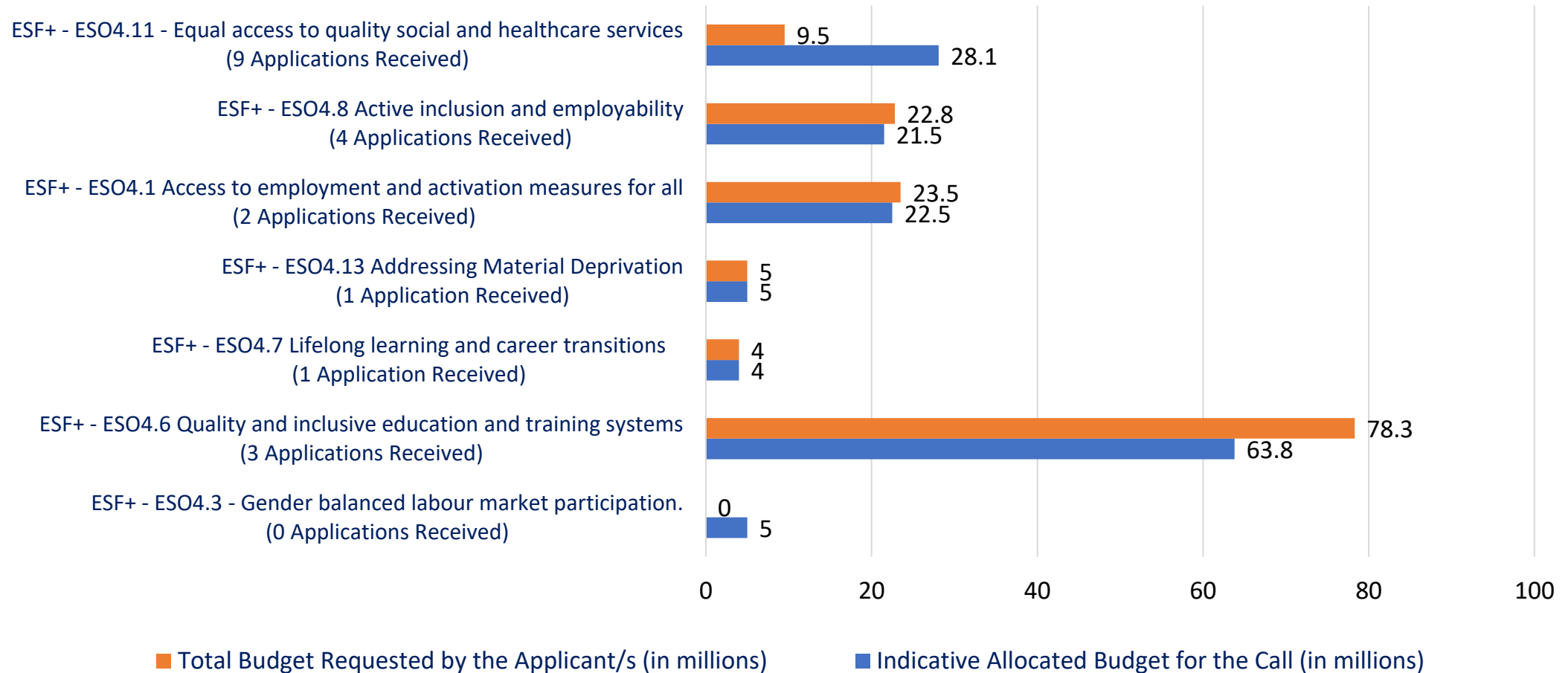
ERDF/CF/JTF Programme

Calls closed as at 24th May 2024



ESF+ Programme

Calls closed as at 24th May 2024



Approved Projects - ERDF



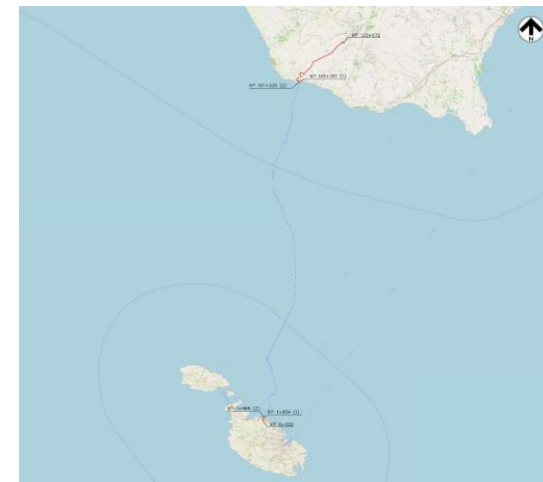
ERDF.02.986 - Development, Construction, and Commissioning of a Second Electrical Cable Interconnector between Malta and Italy

The project will be undertaken by Interconnect Malta within the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Regeneration of the Grand Harbour with an allocation of **€165.3 million** under ERDF.

- The project shall consist of an underwater and onshore AC cable link with a total length of 122km, operating at 220kV between Malta (Maghtab) and Sicily (Ragusa).
- Amongst others, this project aims to:
 - Increase the electricity interconnectivity with the European electricity network to meet the forecasted increase in the island's electricity demand.
 - Cater for contingency/emergency situations such as temporary damage to the existing cable link.
 - Contribute to Malta's future strategy in reaching its 2030 climate and energy targets, and in the longer term, the 2050 decarbonisation strategy.
 - Achieve better optimisation of local power generation.
 - Improve the security of energy supply by diversifying energy sources.



Interconnector equipment



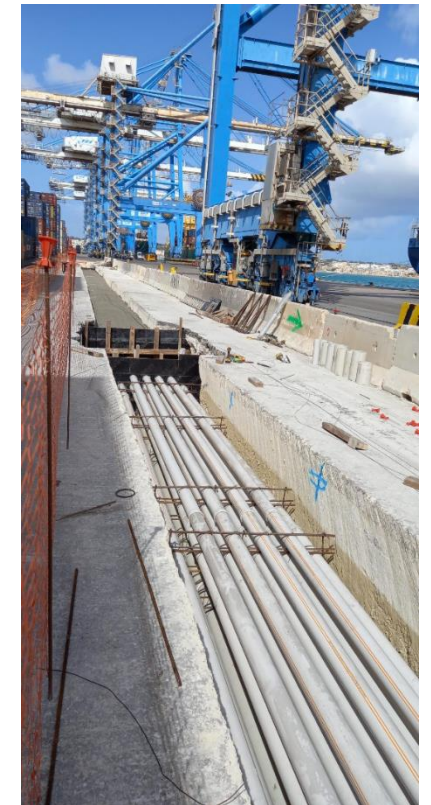
Map showing location of project

Approved Projects- JTF

JTF.08.988 - Provision of High voltage shore connections system along North Quay Terminal 1 and North Quay Terminal 2 within Malta Freeport in the TEN-T Core Port of Marsaxlokk

The project will be undertaken by Malta Freeport Corporation within the Ministry for the Economy, Enterprise and Strategic Projects with an allocation of **€9.9 million** under JTF.

- The project seeks to invest in the provision of onshore high-frequency power supply along the North Quay of Terminal 1 and the North Quay of Terminal 2, with the scope of providing electrical power to the berthed vessels.
- Amongst others, this project aims to:
 - Increase competitiveness through more efficient use of resources.
 - Reduce GHG emissions such as CO₂, NO_x, SO₂ , reduce particulates released into the air, as well as reduce noise pollution.
 - Create a cleaner and healthier environment for residents and those frequenting the touristic areas of Marsaxlokk and Birżebbuġia.



Ongoing works at the Malta Freeport

Approved Projects – JTF

JTF.08.989 - Provision of High and Low Onshore Power Supply System in the South Harbour Region of the Grand Harbour

The project will be undertaken by Infrastructure Malta within the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works with an allocation of **€23.4 million** under JTF.

- The proposed investment for the provision of **Onshore Power Supply**, along the southern region of the Grand Harbour entails the development of onshore power supply infrastructure along quays within the region to extend the supply of shore-side electricity to ships berthing in this area.

- Amongst others, this project aims to:
 - Increase competitiveness through more efficient use of resources.
 - Reduce GHG emissions such as CO₂, NO_x, SO₂ , reduce particulates released into the air, as well as reduce noise pollution.
 - Create a cleaner and healthier environment for residents and those visiting the Grand Harbour area.



Stock photo of OPS equipment

Approved Projects – ESF +

ESF+.03.184 One Device Per Child (ODPC)

One Device Per Child project by the Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills Directorate within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, has been approved **amounting to €54 million**.

- This project seeks to adopt a **multifaceted approach to progressively equip all secondary school students in Malta and their educators with a device, training, online tools, and digital content.**

- The EU funded project will focus on:
 - Providing devices to secondary students and their educators
 - Professional development for educators and school leaders
 - Providing Digital Educational Content for various curricular subjects
 - Setting-up of Classroom Management System
 - Updating the endpoint Protection and Web Filtering Solution for Students and Educators



Stock photo of students



Stock photo of students

Approved Projects – ESF + ESF+.03.185 - Endeavour II Scholarships Scheme



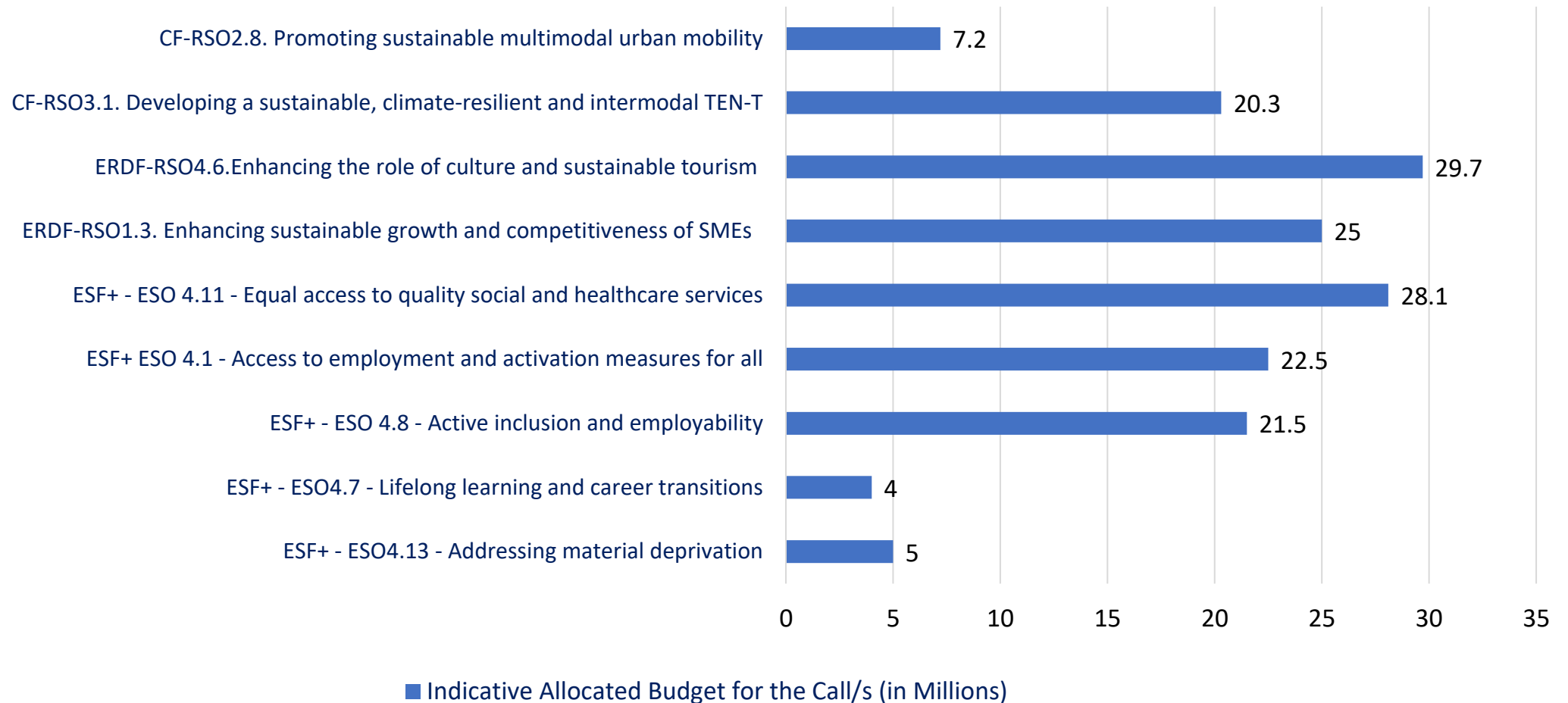
Scholarships awarded in the following areas:

- 51% STEM
- 21% Health
- 15% ICT
- 10% Environmental Studies and Sustainability
- 3% Other Areas

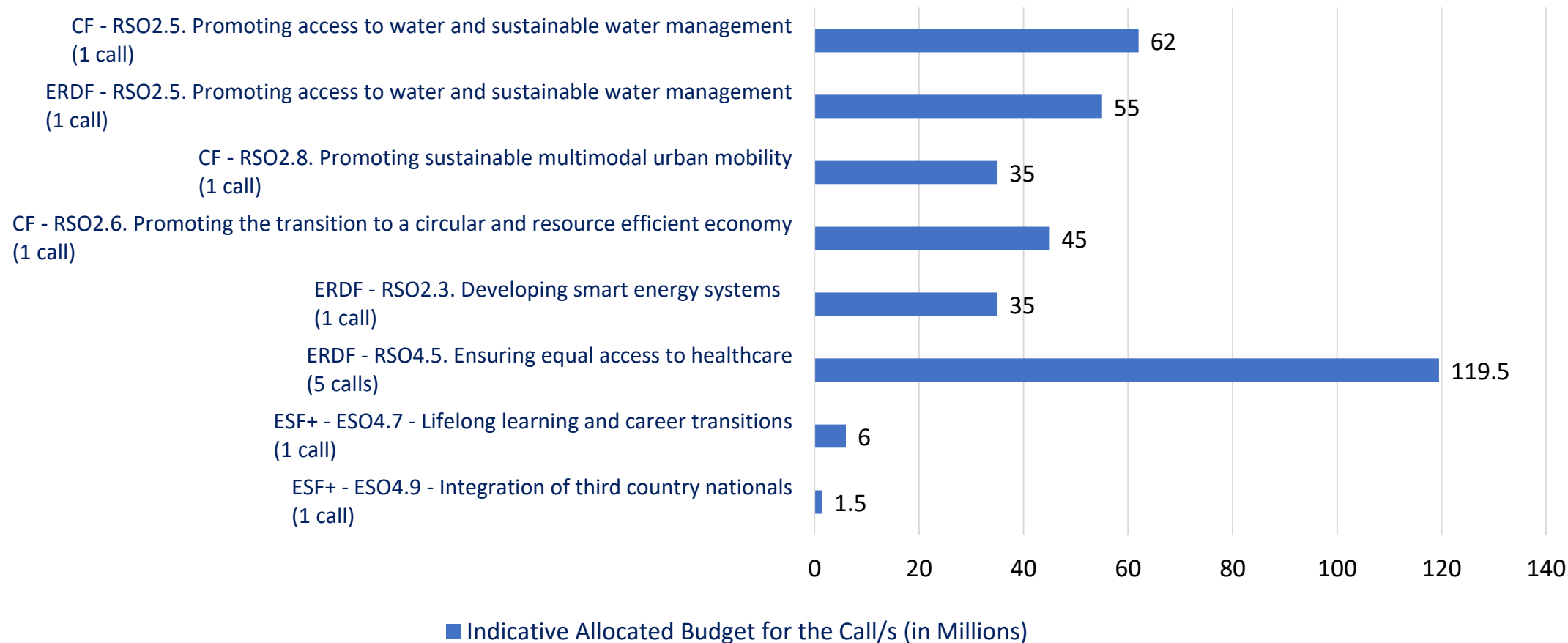
3rd Call issued on 15th May and is currently open

Closed calls and pending evaluation as at 24 May 2024

ERDF/CF/JTF Programme and ESF+ Programme



Calls issued and still open as at 24th May 2024



Planned calls up to July 2024

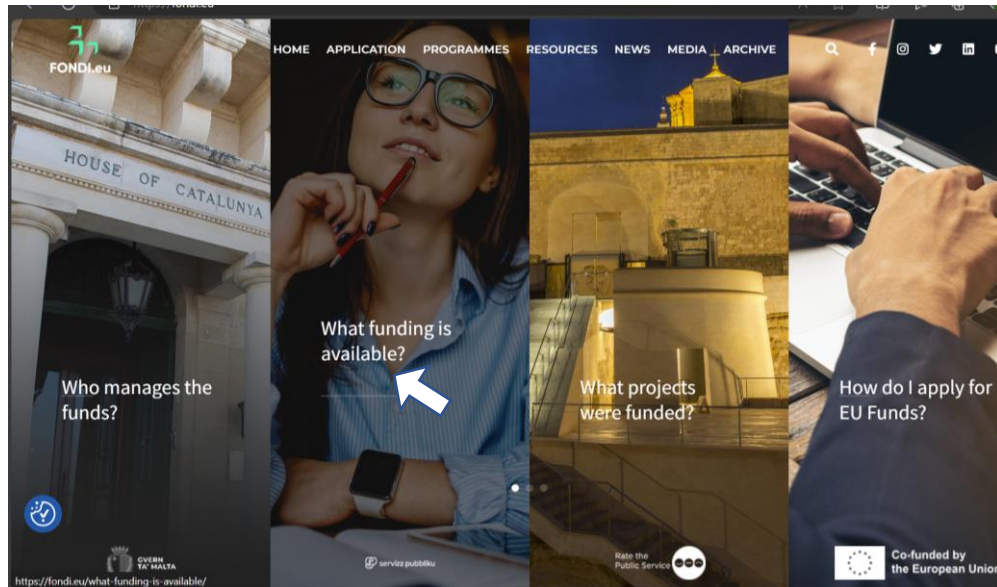
Fund	Specific Objective	Indicative Total Amount	Launch of Call
ERDF	RSO1.2 Reaping the benefits of digitalisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities (2 calls)	€45M	May-24
ERDF	RSO5.1 Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas	€58.1M	May-24
ESF+	ESO4.1 Access to employment and activation measures for all	€1M	Jul-24
ESF+	ESO.4.8 Active inclusion and employability (Social innovation priority)	€4M	Jul-24

Priority: 4. PO 5 - ERDF: A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all type of territories and local initiatives

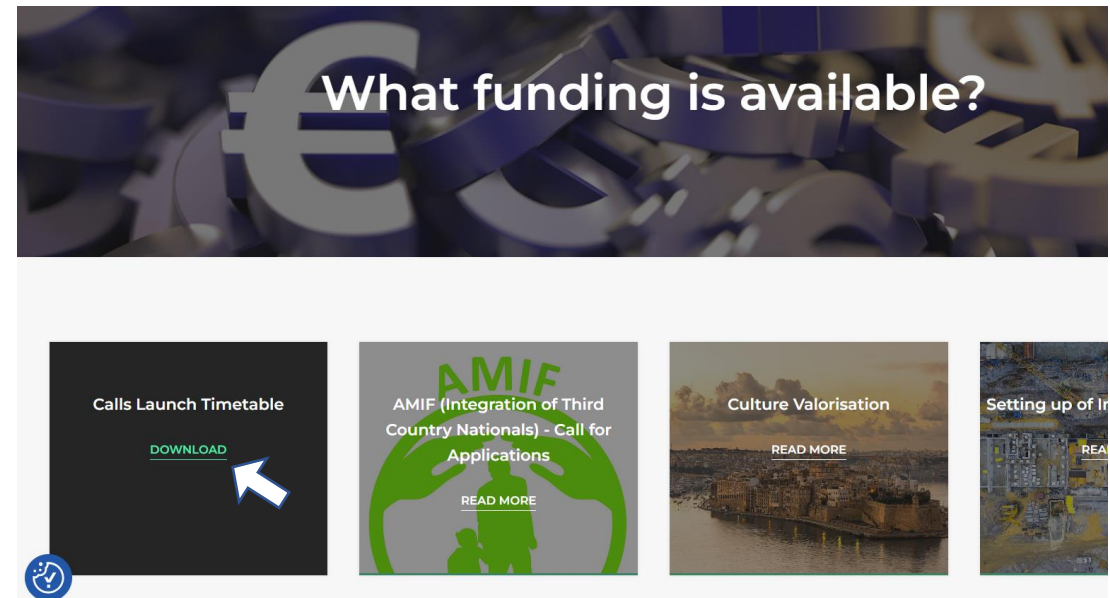
- Under this Priority, resources will be mobilised to **promote Gozo's identity and offering**, aiming to contribute towards economic activity and the creation of quality jobs and enhancing the potential of sustainable tourism in Gozo.
- A **Committee** (COCOSUD) was set up to assist with the identification of actions targeting investments which can be considered for funding under this priority.
- In view of the COCOSUD report, which has now been finalised, the project proposal to be submitted in response to the call for applications could, amongst other things, include the following **potential actions**:
 - Investments in **open green spaces** for the community;
 - **Green mobility initiatives** and publicity campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable modes of transportation;
 - **Supporting social integration**, particularly the more vulnerable and disadvantaged cohorts as well as fostering integration measures to improve the community aspect and safety;
 - The creation of a **smarter and safer urban environment**, through the installation of security and safety systems.
- A Call for applications will be launched by the end of May and expected to close in September 2024.

Timetable of planned calls for proposals

- **Article 49 of the Common Provisions Regulation** requires “a *timetable of the planned calls for proposals that is updated at least three times a year*”.
- The timetable of planned calls can be accessed through the following link: <https://fondi.eu/what-funding-is-available/>.
- It is updated regularly.



Screenshot from Fondi.eu website



Screenshot from Fondi.eu website

Support to Enterprises

ERDF/CF/JTF:

Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes

ESF+:

A2E and Investing in skills

Update on ERDF Aid Schemes

Fund	Priority & Specific Objective	Description	Date of Issue of Call	Date of Closure of Call	Total Amount Available	Applications Received	Applications Under Evaluation	Applications Approved	Committed Amounts for Applications Approved
ERDF	Priority 1, RSO1.3	Business Reports for SMEs	June 2023	Open rolling call with cut-off dates falling twice a month	€1.5M	101	14	60	€240,000
ERDF	Priority 1, RSO1.3	SME Enhance (de Minimis)	June 2023	Open rolling call with cut-off dates falling twice a month	€10M	164	67	71	€3,827,954
ERDF	Priority 1, RSO1.3	SME Enhance (GBER)	June 2023	Open rolling call with cut-off dates falling twice a month	€5M	15	7	8	€2,352,348
ERDF	Priority 1, RSO1.3	Start-up Enhance	June 2023	Open rolling call with cut-off dates falling twice a month	€5M	13	10	1	€41,359
					€21.5M	293	98	140	€6,461,661

ERDF Aid Schemes - Planned calls up to July 2024

Fund	Specific Objective	Indicative Total Amount	Launch of Call
ERDF	RSO1.1 Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of the advanced technologies (2 schemes)	€12M	June/July

Update on ESF Aid Schemes

Fund	Priority & Specific Objective	Description	Date of Issue of Call	Date of Closure of Call	Total Amount Available	Applications Received	Applications Evaluated	Applications Approved	Committed Amounts for Applications Approved
ESF	Priority 1, ESO4.1	Access to Employment Scheme (A2E)	January 2023	Open rolling call	€12M	994	945	547	€5,697,662
ESF	Priority 3, ESO4.7	Investing in Skills Scheme (IIS)	Sept 2023	Open rolling call	€10M	1,074	810	518	€1,045,622
					€22M	2,068	1,755	1,065	€6,743,284

Financial Instruments

ESF+ Programme:
FSMA+

ERDF/CF/JTF Programme:
Invest_EU
Support to enterprises

Update on Financial Instruments



Photo taken during information session held by the European Investment Fund (EIF)

- **ESF+ Financial instrument**, 'Further Studies Made Affordable' (FSMA) will continue with a total of €5M from the 2021-2027 ESF+ programme. An addendum to the funding agreement was signed in December 2023. As at April 2024, €9.1 million in loans to students have been committed.
- With a total contribution of €15M, the new Financial Instrument **INVEST_EU** is reflecting the transfer of €9.4M from ERDF Funds and the balance from JEREMIE reflows. This FI is intended to build-up a portfolio leveraged by a factor of 4.1, resulting in an available finance amount of €61.4M in investments for SMEs. It is expected that the application of the first Bank is approved in June 2024 with signature of funding agreement following in July 2024.

Update on Communication and Visibility Actions

Events

Annual Event: Public Service Expo from the 15th to the 19th of May 2024 held at the MFCC in Ta' Qali, including immersive room showcasing 6 productions of success stories of EU funding. C. 55,000 visitors attended the Expo.

EU Fair: EU Fair organized on the 1st of May and projected the 20th Anniversary logo on the Mdina fortifications.

Europe Day: On the 9th May, a musical performance by students from The Malta Visual And Performing Arts School was delivered. On the 10th May, EU related information providers and services provided visitors with information and assistance on the rights and opportunities of EU citizens.

Outreach efforts: information sessions (150+ attendees), calls for proposals, social media posts (75+ and new followers), QR coded newspaper adverts.

TV and radio slots: 36+ slots and 13 eight-minute features; slots addressing success stories and testimonials of EU funded projects.



Photo of information session

Photo of immersive room at Public Service Expo



Photo of 20th anniversary projection



Photo of network event setup

Network of Networks

Europe Direct Valletta, hosted by SEM, have established and maintained a network of EU national contact points and information providers.

On **23 November 2023**, a meeting was held to discuss the European Green Deal, the social economy, the future of agriculture and sustainable tourism, and on **7 March 2024** another meeting was organized focusing on:

- preparations for this year's Europe Day celebrations in Malta and Gozo
- commemorating the 20th anniversary of Malta's accession to the EU
- updates relating to the European Elections 2024.

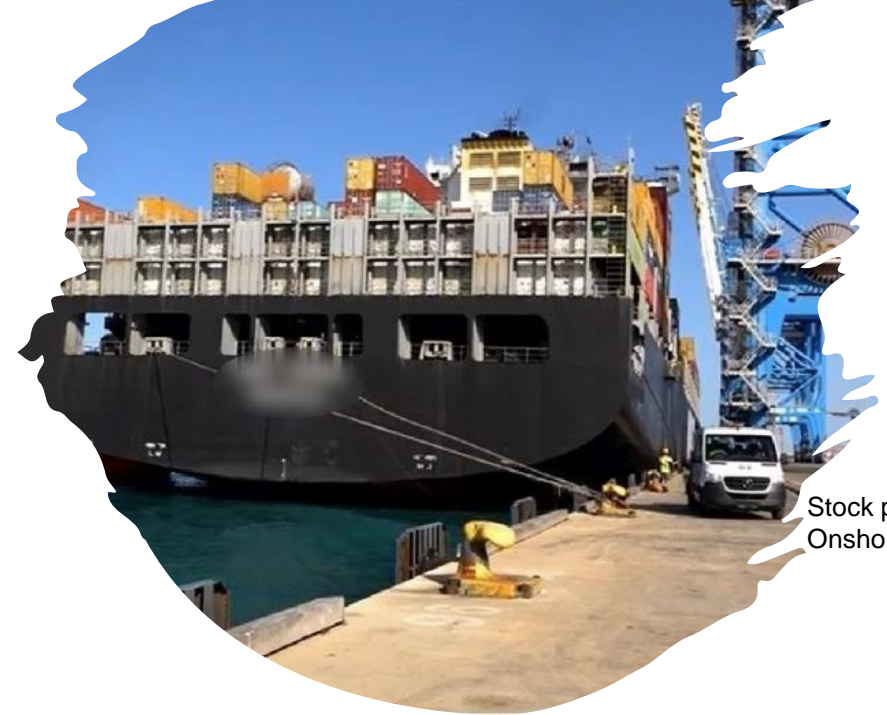
Europe Direct Gozo, Fondi.eu, EC Rep, EPLO and Core Group amongst other contact points attended these network of networks meetings.

Operations of Strategic Importance

An Overview



Stock photo of interconnector infrastructure



Stock photo of Onshore Power Supply

Article 73(5) CPR on Selection of operations by the MA

Visibility of approved Operations of Strategic Importance was provided to the Commission through SFC. Information to the public was disseminated on the Fondi.eu social media platforms and on beneficiaries' websites.

Article 46(a) CPR on Visibility

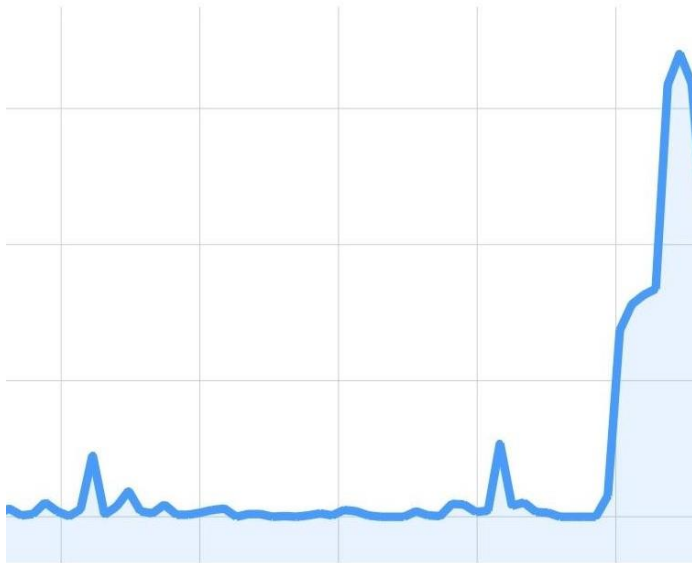
A communication plan is being drafted by beneficiaries, identifying milestones and communication activities linked to each respective milestone.

Operations of Strategic Importance

Social media engagement

11,132
Engagement ⓘ

+1K% from previous 90 days



- Posts on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram
- Coverage of around 2000 followers across social media platforms
- Engagement with Fondi.eu Facebook profile for the period February – May 2024 (11,132 engagements).



Fondi.eu

7 May · 🌐

The European Green Deal is steering the EU towards climate neutrality by 2050 with a focus on a transition that is not only green but also just.

Great news! The proposal for Onshore Power Supply (OPS) system in the South Harbour Region of the Grand Harbour has been approved for [#JustTransitionFund](#) financing [#JTF](#) 🇪🇺. Ships that dock 🚢 along the quays of the port will be able to switch off the engines and connect to the electricity grid. The investment will result in a substantial decarbonisation in the maritime sector, and a decrease in pollution of the marine environment, air emissions as well as noise, and improved quality of life. Let's power up the future, sustainably! ⚡🌍

[#grandharbour](#) [#maritime](#) [#electricity](#)
[#decarbonisation](#) [#sustainability](#)

SEM - Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta | Fondi Ewropej |
Is-Servizz Pubbliku | Infrastructure Malta





GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA

2ND MALTA-SICILY CABLE LINK

The project consists of a new **~118km**
long 225MW HVAC electrical cable
interconnection through a submarine
cable operating at 220kV between



Fondi.eu

7 May · 🌐

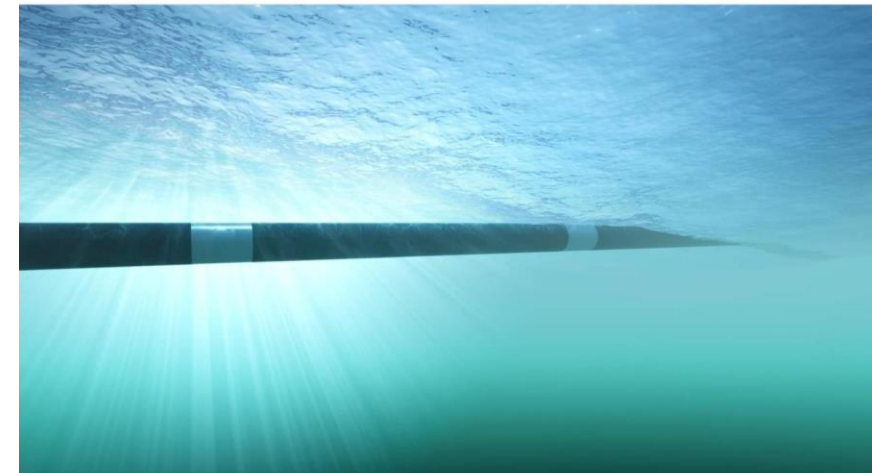
The EU is actively pushing forward with Smart Energy Systems and increased storage solutions to double our connectivity with the European electricity network. The proposal for a 112km underwater and onshore second cable interconnector between Malta and Sicily, aimed at boosting our 🇲🇹 energy security, stability, and resilience—including green energy—has just been approved for

[#EuropeanRegionalDevelopmentFund](#) financing 🇪🇺. Let's power up the future, sustainably! ⚡🌍

[#connectivity](#) [#greenenergy](#) [#sustainability](#)

📷 credit: [InterConnect Malta](#)

[SEM - Servizi Ewropej f'Malta](#) | [Fondi Ewropej](#) | [Is-Servizz Pubbliku](#) | [InterConnect Malta](#)





Single Portal Enhancements

More enhancements were carried out on the single national portal for European Funds, with the ultimate aim to improve, streamline and facilitate the communication aspect of EU funds.

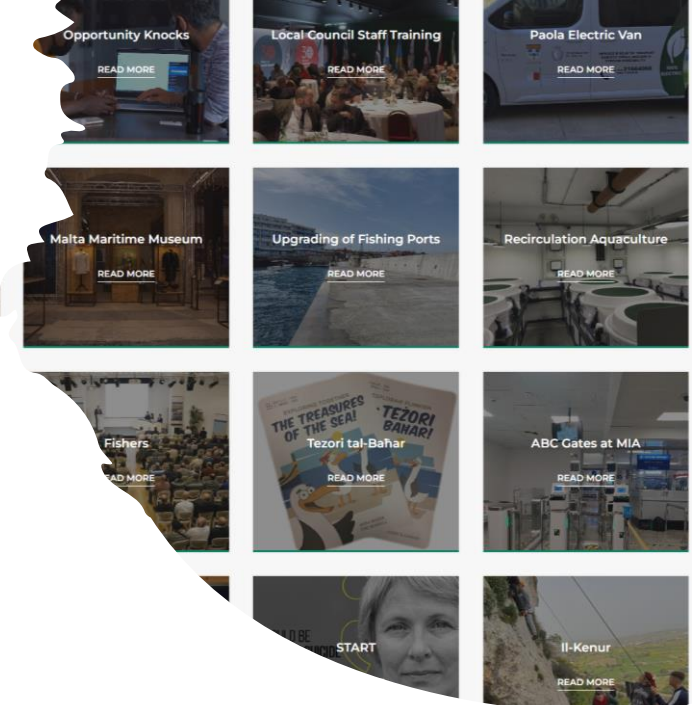
- Improved user interface for open calls
- Added more projects and success stories in the 'What projects were funded?' section.



Eligible Beneficiaries

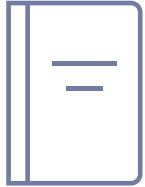


Applicator

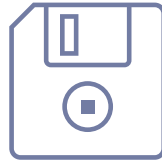


Monitoring and Evaluation

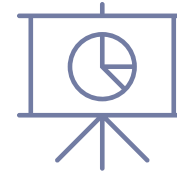
Monitoring and Evaluation



Guidance Calls on Indicators prepared per Call (including indicator definitions, methodology, list of supporting documentation to be presented by BNs). Guidance Calls provide information and ensure a common interpretation of the indicators across operations.



Bi-annual **Transmission of Data** – Evaluation Unit validates indicator data to be reported, prior to each transmission in January and July. Verification of data values will be carried out on a sample basis, following MA's verification checks.



Preparations for the **Mid-Term Review** have started, including liaison with the MAs and other Units / Ministries to source data needed for the review.



Preparatory work tied to **Evaluation Plan** consolidation and work to **externally contract experts** for evaluation activities

Update on Evaluation work

Evaluation - Update



Description	FUND	STATUS
Evaluation Plans for the 2021-2027 programming period (across all funds)	Including ERDF/CF/JTF, ESF+	Consolidation Phase
Framework Agreement for evaluation and programming activities	All Funds	Planned Q3 2024
Framework Agreement for the provision of various professional services	All Funds	Planned Q3 2024
Preparatory Data Availability Study (across all funds)*	Including ERDF/CF/JTF, ESF+	Planned Q3 2024
Structured Survey: Material Deprivation**	ESF+	Planned Q3 2024
Longitudinal and retrospective tracer study tied to opportunities enabled through ESF*	ESF+	Planned Q4 2024
NSO Cohort Study 21-27 (Longer-Term Result Indicators and additional data)	ESF+	Planned Q4 2024

* *Planned to be covered by a Framework Agreement*

** *To be reported by June 2025*

Update on the status of the Enabling Conditions

Enabling Conditions

- Article 40 of the CPR - the Monitoring Committee shall examine the fulfilment of Enabling Conditions and their application throughout the programming period.
- The Member State shall ensure that enabling conditions remain fulfilled and respected throughout the programming period.

Enabling Conditions – Fulfilled

- Since the last monitoring committee, these two enabling conditions were deemed fulfilled by the European Commission.

Thematic Enabling Condition	Fund/s	Status of Fulfilment
T2.2 – Governance of the Energy Sector	ERDF	The fulfilment of these conditions will be reflected in the next programme amendment
T2.5 – Updated planning for required investments in water and wastewater sectors	ERDF & CF	

- 12 out of the 13 applicable Thematic Enabling Conditions are now fulfilled.

Enabling Conditions – Fulfilled

- Follow up actions on fulfilled conditions

Thematic Enabling Condition	Fund/s	Update
T2.2 - Governance of the energy sector	ERDF	Revised NECP – no impact on fulfilment foreseen
T4.3 - Strategic policy framework for the education and training system at all levels	ERDF / ESF+	Strategy being developed in line with education framework - no impact on fulfilment foreseen
T4.4 - National strategic policy framework for social inclusion and poverty reduction	ESF+	New strategy will replace existing strategy – fulfilment to be re-assessed

- Programme modifications will reflect updates to enabling conditions

Enabling Conditions – Not Fulfilled

Thematic Enabling Condition	Fund	Status of Fulfilment
T3.1 – Comprehensive transport planning at the appropriate level	CF	Pending the finalisation of the National Transport Plan 2025, its eventual publication and the Commission's assessment.

Enabling Conditions – Monitoring

- The Division will continue to monitor the fulfilment of all enabling conditions through engagement and follow up actions, as necessary.
- In the coming months SID will introduce a new online monitoring tool system that will ease communication and facilitate the monitoring of EC's.
- The system will be part of the SFD structure that most MC members are familiar with.
- The system will improve transparency and record keeping of communication on all EC's.
- Training and guidelines on the use of the tool will be held in the next months, and the system is foreseen to be up and running as from September 2024.

Enabling Conditions – Monitoring



MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL INFORMATION SYSTEM

Maintenance | Enabling Condition

Enabling Conditions 19:21   

ID	Description	Version
T2.5	Updated planning for required investments in water and wastewater sectors	

1 2 3

Viewing Records 21-21 out of 21

Enabling Condition

ID:

Description:

Version:

Is Horizontal:

Thematic:

Search

Clear

Amend

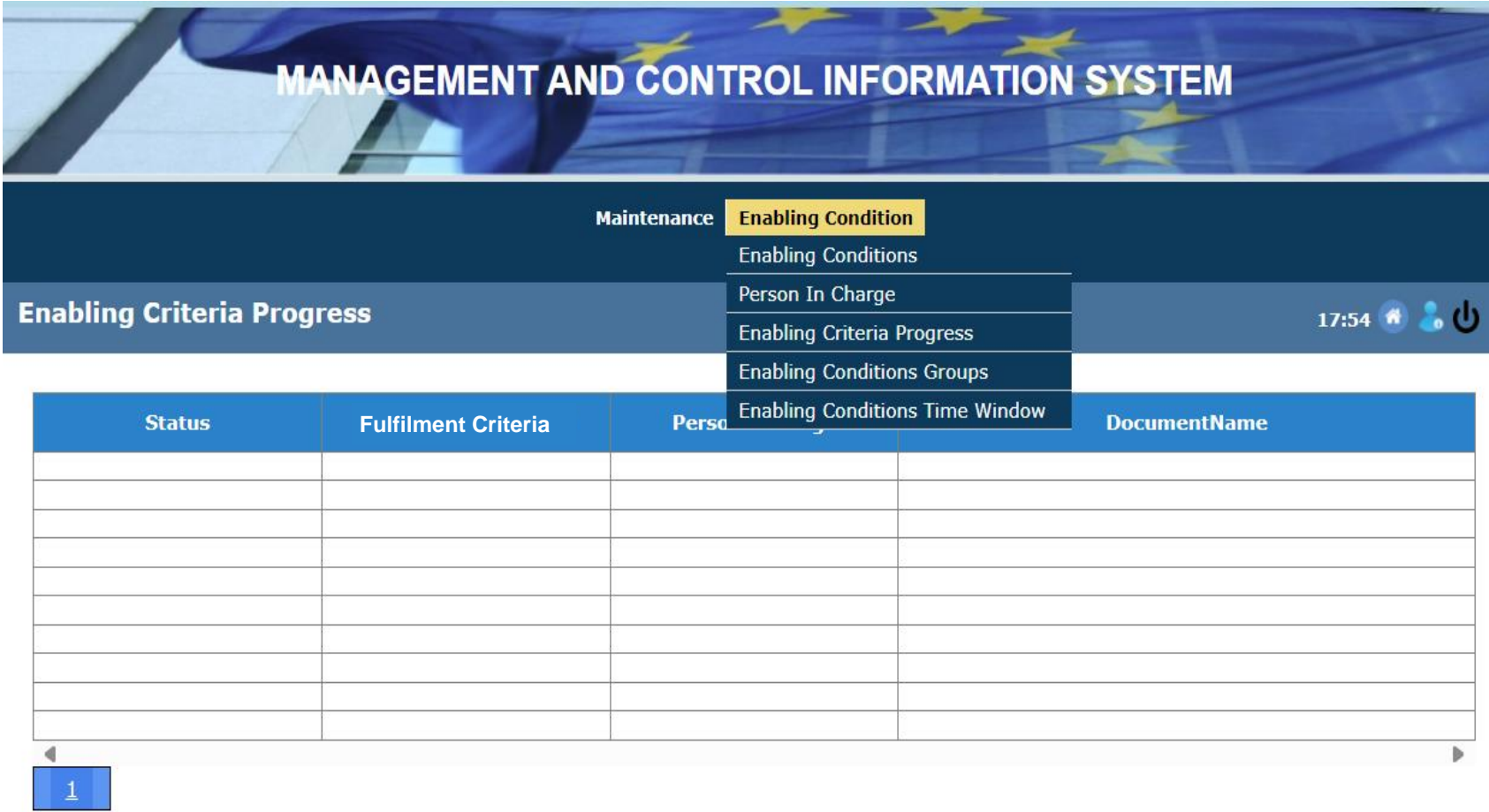
Insert

Save

Undo

Screenshot of how the IT system will look like

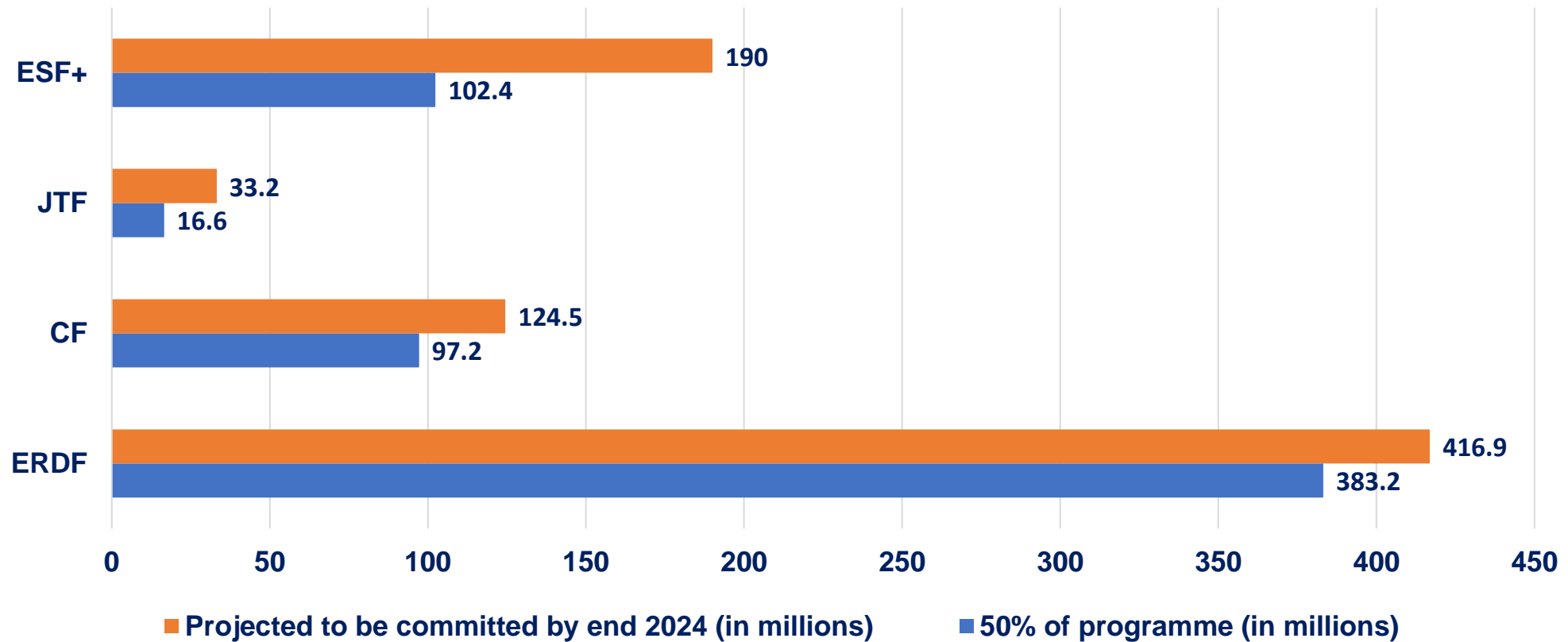
Enabling Conditions – Monitoring



The screenshot displays the 'MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL INFORMATION SYSTEM' interface. At the top, there is a header with the text 'MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL INFORMATION SYSTEM' over a background of the European Union flag. Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with the following items: 'Maintenance', 'Enabling Condition' (highlighted in yellow), 'Enabling Conditions', 'Person In Charge', 'Enabling Criteria Progress', 'Enabling Conditions Groups', and 'Enabling Conditions Time Window'. On the right side of the navigation bar, there is a clock showing '17:54' and three icons: a home icon, a user profile icon, and a power icon. Below the navigation bar is a table titled 'Enabling Criteria Progress'. The table has four columns: 'Status', 'Fulfilment Criteria', 'Person', and 'DocumentName'. The table is currently empty. At the bottom left of the screenshot, there is a small blue box containing the number '1'.

Screenshot of how the IT system will look like

Conclusion: Projected level of commitment per fund by end 2024



Conclusions

- The 2021-2027 Programmes are designed to support Malta in achieving its socio-economic goals.
- A steady momentum has been maintained in issuing calls. Whereas 10 mainstream calls (ERDF/CF/JTF/ESF+) were issued prior to the last Monitoring Committee held in November, an additional 17 calls were issued over the past 6 months. To date, the majority of calls have now been issued.
- The updated timetable for the call published earlier in May on the Fondi.eu website provides a preview of the timing of most pending calls expected in the upcoming weeks and months. Applicants are encouraged to maximise this lead-time to prepare high-quality applications.
- All stakeholders involved in different phases of the project cycle should ensure timely implementation on the ground and the successful delivery of tangible results in line with the Programme commitments.
- The Managing Authority looks forward to continuing collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the 2021-2027 Programmes in Malta, by maximising the use of EU funding for the benefit of all.