



GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA



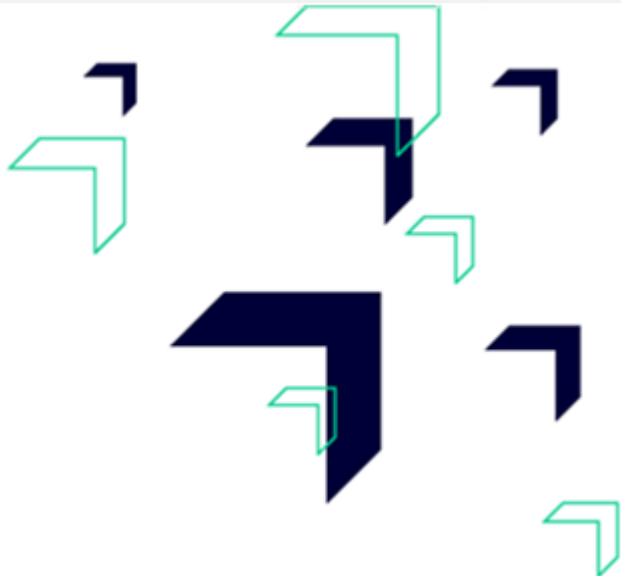
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Closure of Operational Programmes 2014-2020

Operational Programme I - *Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges*

SME Initiative Operational Programme – *Stimulating private sector for economic growth*

Operational Programme II – *Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society*



Co-funded by
the European Union

Overview

Intervention Logic:

- 14 Priority Axes for Operational Programme I as per OP change
- 7 Priority Axes for Operational Programme II

Implementation Timeframe:

- Programmes span from 2014 to 2020
- Eligibility of costs until 2023

Financial Allocation:

- ERDF – EU Share: €339M, MT Share: €85M, Total: €424M (80% co-financing rate)
- CF – EU Share: €205M, MT Share: €33M, Total: €238M (85% co-financing rate) including SAFE Package as per OP change proposed (100% EU share)
- ERDF REACT-EU – EU Share: €11.2M, Total: €11.2M (100% co-financing rate)
- ESF – EU Share: €134M, MT Share: €34M, Total: €168M (80% co-financing rate)
- ESF REACT-EU – EU Share: €111M, Total: €111M (100% co-financing rate)

Results on the Implementation



Enhancing the Education Experience



ERDF

Two mainstream projects dedicated to education, training and lifelong learning with a total public eligible value of **€35.3M**

- INVEST
- MCAST Campus Master Plan

ESF

Three mainstream projects and One Financial Instrument dedicated to investments in the education sector with a total public eligible value of **€27.5M**

- Development of Training Programmes At MQF Level 7
- Endeavour
- One Tablet Per Child – OTPC
- Financial instrument



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Key Achievements

+8,000 students benefitted from specialized facilities designed to immerse students in real-world fields like Agribusiness, Engineering Technology and under ERDF

The overall MCAST student population of c. 11,000, including full-time and part-time learners, is benefitting from the significant investments in technical and vocational education, under ERDF and ESF

Funding of the Resource Centre (MRC) - including a well-equipped library, collaborative workspaces, and specialized support services, aimed at enhancing the academic experience, under ERDF

The construction, finishing and furnishing of two new institutes, namely, Engineering and Transport and Information & Communication & Technology under ERDF

Over 12,000 tablets distributed in Primary Schools (Years 4 – 6), under ESF

1,300 students participated in tertiary education level including vocational degree programmes, under ESF



Financial Instrument

ESF

- FSMA supporting individuals in their studies at MQF level 5 – 8 as well as other internationally recognized courses
- Committed Programme contribution - **€2.14M**
- Disbursed amount by the bank – **€8.1M**
- Number of loans/students supported – **273**
- % of which women – **36%**
- Loans are mostly requested by participants in courses at MQF Level 7 (Masters Level)
- The studies focused on a number of different areas including Pilots courses, Administration and Management, Engineering, Technology, Medicine amongst many others.



Lifelong Learning and Employment

ESF

Three mainstream projects dedicated to Employment and lifelong learning with a total public eligible value of **€28.9M**

- Training for Employment
- Youth Guarantee 2.0
- eCommerce Training Programme

Three Aid Schemes aimed to provide employment aid to undertakings in Malta and Gozo and promote access to the training of persons actively participating in the Maltese labour market with a total public eligible value of **€175M**

- Access to Employment (A2E)
- Investing in Skills (IIS)
- Wage Supplement Scheme (WSS) supported through ESF and REACT-EU



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Key Achievements

Provided training and assistance to 6,169 youths and facilitated the transition from education to employment.

IIS Scheme: 45,000 participants trained, of which +54% were women.

1,157 unique undertakings benefitted, of which 1,010 are SMEs

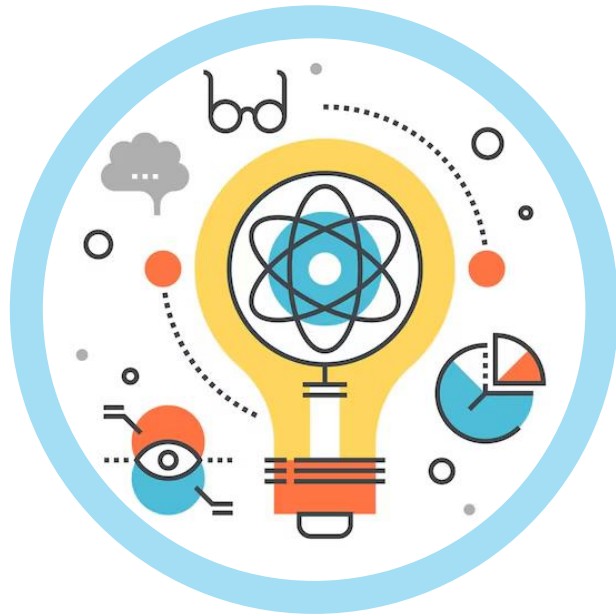
A2E Scheme: 3,290 persons gained employment, of which 52% women and 14% persons with disabilities.

1,498 unique undertakings benefitted, of which 1433 are SMEs

Enhanced employment opportunities for 9,077 job seekers/workers with a view to improve employment prospects.

+72,550 individuals and 13,900 companies supported through the Wage Supplement Scheme (WSS)





Research, Innovation and Digitalisation

ERDF

Two mainstream projects dedicated to investments in research, technological development and innovation with a total public eligible value of **€61.4M**

- TRAKE (Engineering Research and Innovation Laboratories)
- SLC (Sustainable Living Complex)

Two mainstream projects dedicated to investments within the ICT Sector with a public eligible value of **€51.3M**

- SINTEGRAM (Developing Spatial Data Integration for the Maltese Islands)
- CONVERGE (Connected E-Government)

ESF

One mainstream project dedicated to post-doctoral research with a total public eligible value of **€2.56M**

- Reach High Scholars Programme Post-Doctoral Grants

Key Achievements – Research and Innovation

Funding of a model building for monitoring a range of resource-efficient technologies in a real-life context – Sustainable Living Complex

Funding of new laboratories offering essential space, facilities, equipment, and expertise to support the development of research and business concepts – TRAKE

25 patent applications showcasing commitment to innovation, signalling the development of new technologies, products, or processes that are unique and potentially market-changing

A total of 127 research studies relating to mechanical and electrical engineering

75 FTE PhD Students, 109.3 FTE Research Support Officers & Academics providing support to enhance the overall educational experience

58 partnerships with enterprises, indicating a robust engagement with the private sector





Investing in the Health Sector



ERDF

Three mainstream projects dedicated to investments in the health sector with a total public eligible value of **€34.7M**

- Provision of support to the national health system to mitigate the risk factors due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Improving Palliative Care in Malta
- REACT-EU – Fostering resilience in the healthcare system

ESF

Four mainstream projects with a total public eligible value of **€8.6M**

- Non-Technical Skills Training for Healthcare Personnel
- Developing Allied Health Capacity to Sustain Health Care Needs
- Establishing a National Platform to Address Social Determinants of Health
- Reform in the public health system to maximize efficiency gains and enhance governance

Key Achievements

A facility setting a new benchmark for palliative care, administered by an NGO (Hospice Malta), funded under ERDF

Purchase of high technology equipment for Mater Dei Hospital and Saint Vincent De Paul Residence, under REACT - EU

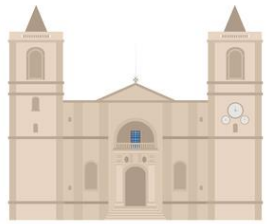
Extension of medical services in Gozo through the purchase of an MRI Machine for the Gozo General Hospital, under REACT - EU

Circa 4,000 Health Care Professionals participated in up-skilling and re-training programmes under 4 ESF projects

Malta benefitted from the supply of COVID 19 vaccines and PPEs, under ERDF

Extension of Medical Services into the Community through the purchase of outreach electrical vehicles, under REACT-EU





Investments in Natural and Cultural Assets

ERDF

Twenty-four mainstream projects dedicated to the protection of our environment through the investment of natural and cultural assets with a total public eligible value of **€72.2M**, namely:

- 20 projects focused on preserving cultural and historical assets
- 2 projects aimed at conserving and promoting ecclesiastical heritage
- 2 projects dedicated to enhancing natural trails.



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Key Achievements

13 establishment of interpretation centres at heritage sites to enhance understanding and appreciation

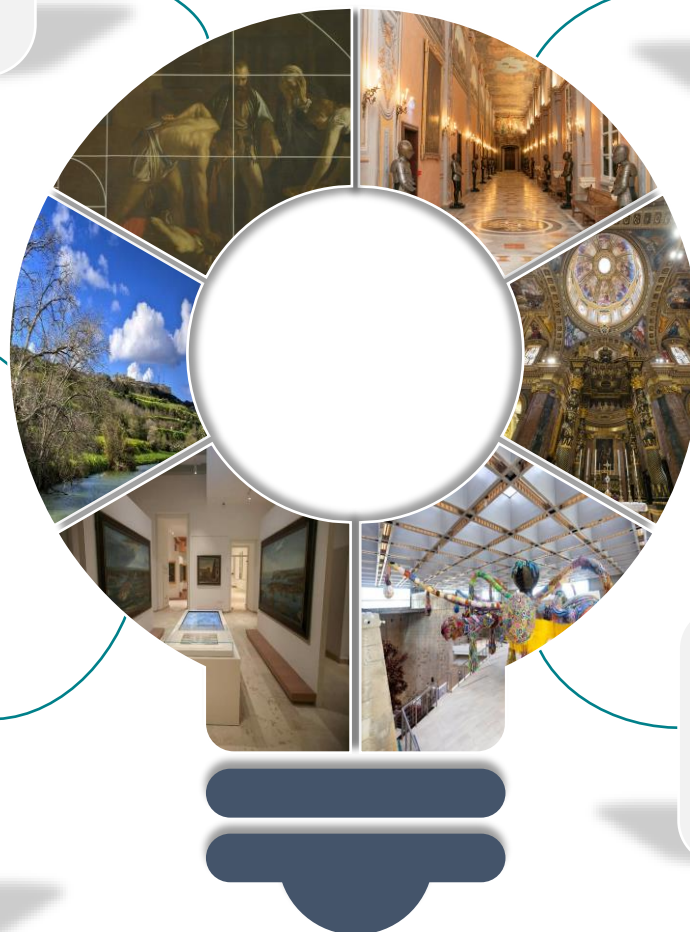
Restoration and enhancement of Malta's national cultural heritage – Grand Masters' Palace

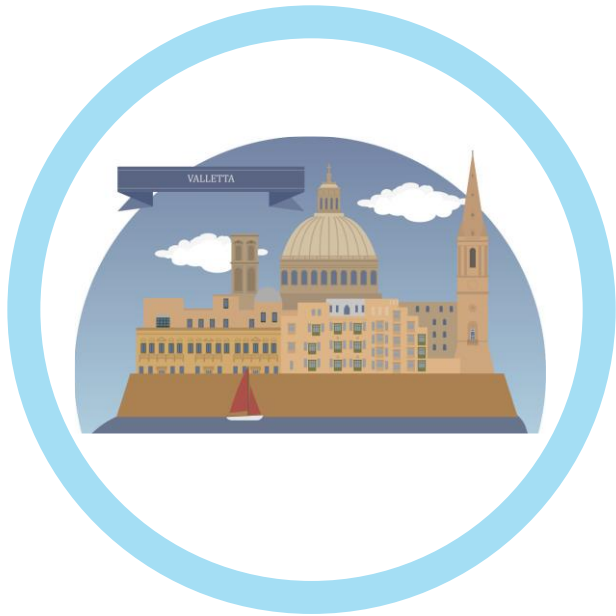
Revitalization and enhancement of 2 nature reserve trails, fostering ecological balance and enriching visitor experiences

Development of 2 heritage trails that celebrate history and cultural significance

A museum exhibiting an extraordinary collection of rich and diverse cultural artworks, highlighting artistic traditions from around the world - MUZA

A contemporary art space dedicated to fostering creative innovation – MICAS





Sustainable Urban Development – Lower Valletta

ERDF

Four mainstream projects dedicated to the regeneration of Lower Valletta with a total public eligible value of **€24.4M**

- Regeneration of Lower Valletta
- Marsamxett Balconies Scheme
- Hiliet il-Komunità
- Valletta Design Cluster

Key Achievements

Strategic initiatives designed to bridge the gap between the community and the dynamic job market – *Fliliet il-Komunità*

A dedicated space for artists, creatives and entrepreneurs focused on generating meaningful social impact within the community – *Valletta Design Cluster*

60 grants awarded for the restoration of balconies, enhancing the traditional streetscape of Marsamxett, aiming to preserve the cultural heritage of Lower Valletta while revitalizing its urban environment

Renovation of external façades & common areas across 4 social housing blocks in Lower Valletta, aiming to modernize and enhance the visual appeal while improving living conditions for residents





Optimising Transport Links

ERDF

One mainstream project dedicated to shifting towards a more low-carbon transport sector with a total public eligible value of **€26.7M**

- SMITHS: Introduction of Sustainable Multi Modal Intelligent Transport Hubs across Malta and Gozo

EERE, a financial instrument providing loans to finance investments in electric vehicles (EVs) by private individuals and enterprises.

CF

Three mainstream projects dedicated to investing in TEN-T infrastructure with a total public eligible value of **€77M**

- Removal of bottleneck on TEN-T (Node EA15-Kappara)
- Enhancement of the TEN-T Road Network through investment channelled towards addressing bottlenecks
- Enhancement of the infrastructure within the TEN-T Port of the Grand Harbour

Key Achievements – Multi-modal hub and schemes



Key Achievements – TEN-T infrastructure (Roads and Maritime)





Investing Towards a More Socially-Inclusive Society

ERDF

Two mainstream projects dedicated to investing towards a more socially-inclusive society with a total public eligible value of **€13.1M**

- Regeneration of Social Housing Areas
- Caritas Community Centre

CF

One mainstream project dedicated to vulnerable households with a total public eligible value of **€24M**

- SAFE - Exceptional measures to support vulnerable households to help them meet their energy consumption costs

ESF

Twenty mainstream projects dedicated to investing towards a more socially-inclusive society with a total public eligible value of **€33.17M**

- Persons with disabilities; vulnerable individuals, specialised healthcare professionals, multi-stressed families, prison inmates, and the general public amongst others benefitted from interventions implemented by Ministries, Government Departments and Entities
- Mental health first aiders, job coaches and volunteers, vulnerable individuals, young substance abusers, third country nationals, minority groups and broken families, amongst others benefitted from interventions implemented by NGOs



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Key Achievements

Over 8,000 vulnerable persons and persons with disabilities received training to be prepared for the work environment, under ESF

The construction, finishing and furnishing of the Caritas Community Centre (NGO) – to empower the integration of vulnerable individuals into society and positive community transformation, under ERDF

2,314 residents gained improved accessibility in social housing through the installation of EE lifts, enhancing mobility and independence, under ERDF

Supporting 44,042 vulnerable households to meet increasing energy costs, under SAFE (CF)

Home Based Therapeutic Services offered support to 780 individuals within multi-stressed families in their communities, under ESF

1,500 professionals benefitted from upskilling and re-training measures, under ESF





Treating water as a precious resource



CF

Four mainstream projects dedicated to investing in a more environmentally-friendly society in terms of water management with a total public eligible value of **€20.7M**

- Enhancing National Monitoring and Public Engagement Capacity for improved Water Resources Management
- RainWater Integrated Infrastructure Network – Phase 1
- Retrofitting of Sant' Antnin Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Towards a Net Zero Impact Utility - Ensuring an Integrated Water Resource Management

Key Achievements

Hondoq RO Plant –
Gozitans enjoying
independent production
of high-quality water

St. Antnin Treatment Plant
increased production of New
Water for agricultural
purposes

- Water Major Project:
- 106.34 km upgraded water/sewage network infrastructure
 - 11,479,250 m³ of annual production capacity of desalinated water
 - 24 public groundwater abstraction stations

The installation of 6 real time
hydrological monitoring
networks

Sustainable water
practices across Malta

Increasing the groundwater
recharge in Wied il-Għasel





Upgrading Malta's waste management infrastructure

CF

Three mainstream projects dedicated to investing in a more environmentally-friendly society in terms of waste management with a total public eligible value of **€20.7M**

- Rehabilitation of the former landfill at Wied Fulija
- The setting up of a Multi Material Recovery Facility
- Encouraging Sustainable Waste Practices in Households and Beyond

Key Achievements

Cutting down on landfill waste through the Multi-Material Recovery Facility

Nationwide campaign targeting waste separation in households

Investing in an automated glass line for better sorting and reutilisation

Upgrade of the rudimentary line to improve dry-recyclable waste separation

Wied Fulija – rehabilitation of contaminated land and transformation into a green open space

The Multi-Material Recovery Facility caters for waste to amount to about 14,000 tonnes in the initial years, rising to almost 20,000 tonnes by 2029.





Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

ERDF

- Eleven mainstream projects dedicated to the shifting towards a low-carbon economy with a public eligible value of **€35.2M**
 - Renewable Energy Scheme
 - Street Lighting
 - St Vincent De Paule Home for the Elderly
 - Gozo Admin Offices
 - St Monica Schools
 - Armed Forces of Malta
 - Office of the Prime Minister
 - Foundation for Tomorrow Schools

EERE, a financial instrument providing loans to finance investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy measures by private individuals and enterprises.

Key Achievements

The Elderly People's Home – SVDP now features 22 fully equipped wards, upgraded with energy-efficient retrofitting solutions to improve comfort and sustainability

Street lighting project resulting in a reduction of over 70% in annual primary energy consumption, contributing to enhanced energy efficiency and sustainability

Residential PV Energy Scheme leading to a reduction of 15,276 tons in greenhouse gas emissions

Energy efficiency measures across 14 public schools in Malta and Gozo, contributing to sustainability and energy independence

Financial Instrument: 603 individuals and 20 enterprises benefitted from subsidised loans supporting the implementation of energy-efficient and renewable energy measures





Supporting the Private Sector

ERDF

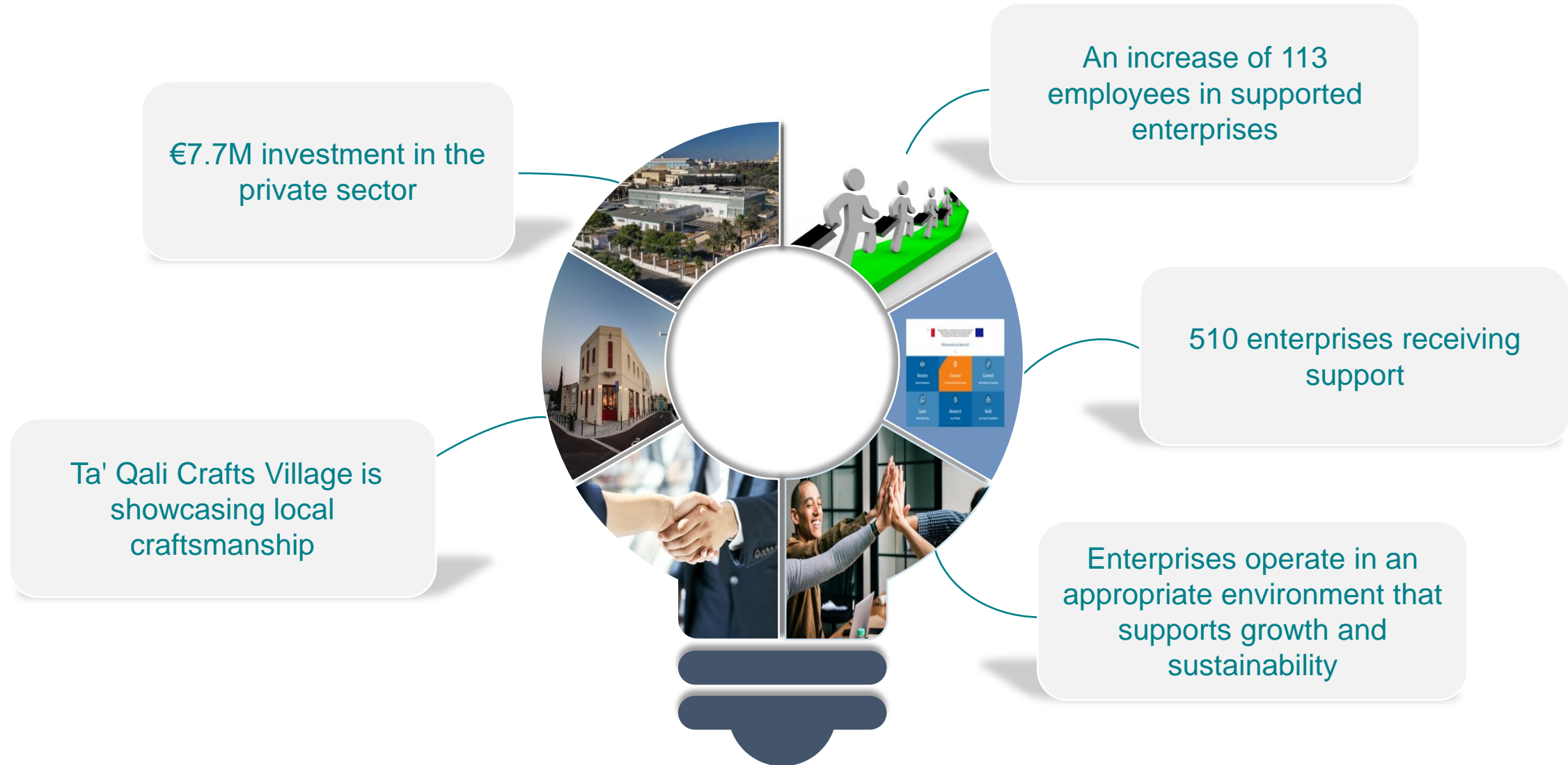
Three mainstream projects dedicated to enhancing Malta's competitiveness through investments in SMEs with a total public eligible value of **€18.4M**

- Ta' Qali Crafts Village
- Xewkija Innovation Hub
- International Knowledge Platform

EERE, a financial instrument providing loans to finance investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy measures and electric vehicles (EVs) by enterprises.

Seven Grant Aid Schemes dedicated to enhancing Malta's competitiveness through investments in SMEs with a total public eligible value of **€22.8M**.

Key Achievements – Mainstream Projects



Key Achievements – Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes and Financial Instruments

€35.7M in private investment matching public funds through 7 Grant Schemes, driving economic development

Employment in supported enterprises increased by 513.5, contributing to job creation and economic growth

570 enterprises received support under 7 Grant Schemes aimed at fostering business development, digitalisation, diversification, innovation and growth across various sectors

Financial instrument: 20 enterprises benefitted from subsidised loans, supporting the implementation of energy-efficient and renewable energy measures

€22.8 million in grants disbursed to support the business sector, aimed at fostering growth, digitalisation, innovation, and business development

Financial Instrument: 58 enterprises benefitted from subsidised loans designed to support the adoption of electric vehicles, promoting sustainable transportation





Public Administration and Social Dialogue

ESF

16 mainstream projects, with a total public eligible value of €8.7M, dedicated to enhancing and Improving the performance and efficiency of the Public Administration and Strengthening the institutional capacity of stakeholders involved in the delivery of education, employment and social policies.

Key Achievements

10 projects targeting public administration, aimed at improving the performance and efficiency of the Public Administration



6 projects run by NGOs and Social partners, aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of stakeholders involved in the delivery of education, employment and social policies

3,733 public sector/ service participants trained out of which 52% were woman.

Areas covered include Science, Leadership and Management, Education, Engineering and Law

213 participants benefitted projects promoting social dialogue, out of which 34% were woman

3,381 participants gained a formal qualification or certification including qualification at Masters and PhD level

SMEI Operational Programme

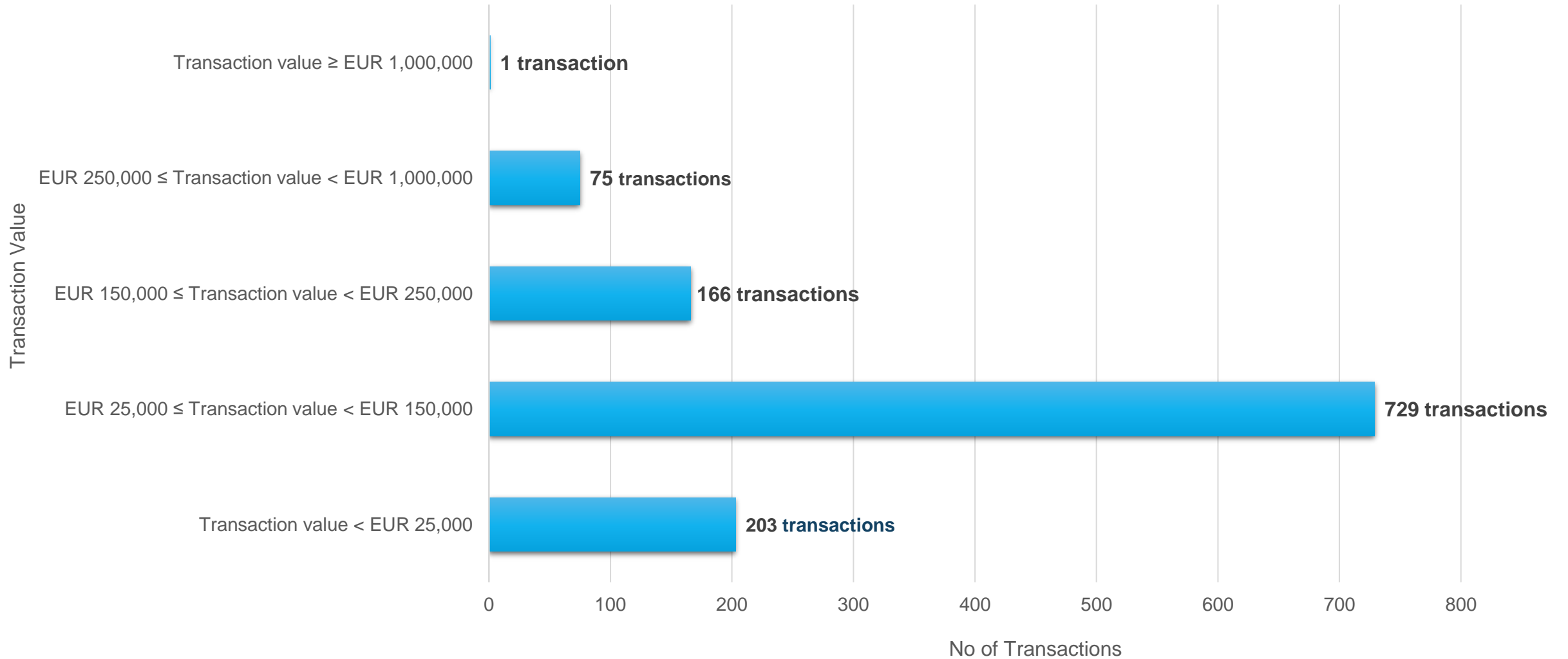
Overview

Apart from the Grant Schemes, SMEs had the possibility to obtaining financing under the **SMEI Malta Financial Instrument** offering loans with lower interest rate and collateral.

As at December 2023:

- **A portfolio volume of €118.2M of portfolio** was reached, representing **99.5%** of the budget.
- A total of **1,174 guaranteed loans** have been disbursed to **982 Maltese SMEs** for a total **€113.8M**.
- The number of **defaulted loans** is **3**.
- Based on the projections on the amortization, the **first return of funds** could take place as from **2026**.

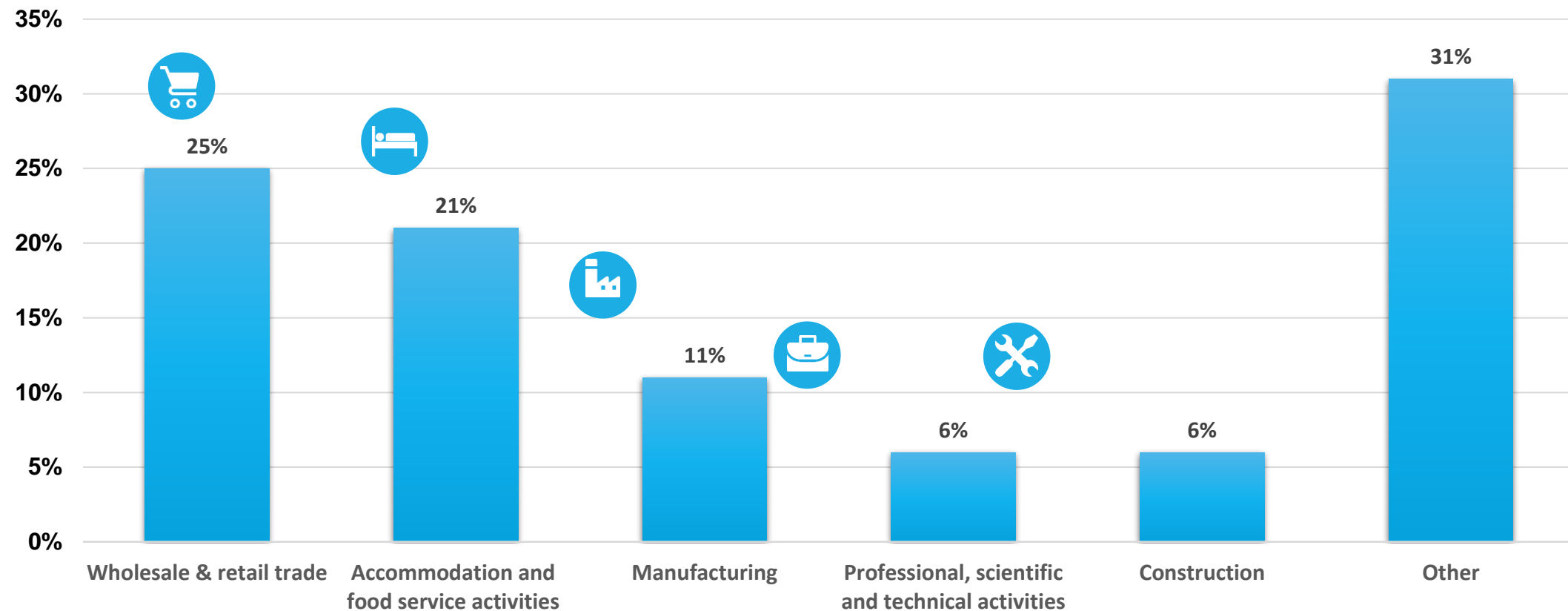
No of Transactions by size



Profile of Final Recipients

Diversification by Sector

- **69 sectors** received financing (NACE code level 2)
- **5 sectors** account for approx. **69% of SMEs** receiving financing through the financial instrument



Financial Progress – ERDF and CF

ERDF Financial Progress



Priority Axis (A)	Fund (B)	Allocation (€) EU Share (C)	Certification to date (€) (D)	Additional expenditure for certification (€) * (E)	Overbooking (€) (D-C)
PA 1	ERDF	49,653,100	51,052,372	-	1,399,272
PA 2	ERDF	37,948,320	43,190,759	-	5,242,439
PA 3	ERDF	35,653,100	34,750,948	334,345	(567,807)
PA 4	ERDF	26,122,480	30,040,852	-	3,918,372
PA 5	ERDF	50,653,098	58,251,063	-	7,597,965
PA 6	ERDF	19,217,700	20,898,775	-	1,681,075
PA 7	ERDF	28,403,760	32,664,324	-	4,260,564
PA 8	ERDF	51,998,670	32,366,458	-	(19,632,212)
PA 9	ERDF	26,904,780	29,574,842	-	2,670,062
PA 12	ERDF	12,798,989	13,607,478	1,111,359	1,919,848
Total	ERDF	339,353,997	346,397,871	1,445,704	8,489,578

**This may increase further due to the flexibility introduced in the STEP Regulation for further certification in 2025*

CF Financial Progress



Priority Axis (A)	Fund (B)	Allocation (€) EU Share (C)	Certification to date (€) (D)	Additional expenditure for certification (€) * (E)	Overbooking (€) (D-C)
PA 10	CF	120,282,371	122,332,862	303,632	2,354,123
PA 11	CF	60,709,738	67,437,358	-	6,727,620
PA 14	CF	24,000,000	24,000,000	-	-
Total	CF	204,992,109	213,770,221	303,632	9,081,743

**This may increase further due to the flexibility introduced in the STEP Regulation for further certification in 2025*

REACT-EU Financial Progress

Priority Axis	Fund	Allocation (€)	Certification to date (€)	Additional expenditure for certification (€) *
PA 13	ERDF REACT-EU	11,162,285	5,971,335	5,190,950
Total	ERDF REACT-EU	11,162,285	5,971,335	5,190,950

**This may increase further due to the flexibility introduced in the STEP Regulation for further certification in 2025*

ESF Financial Progress



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Priority Axis (A)	Fund (B)	Allocation (€) EU Share (C)	Certification to date (€) (D)	Additional expenditure for certification (€) * (E)	Overbooking (€) (D-C)
PA 1	ESF	24,000,000	29,226,499	675,000	5,226,499
PA 2	ESF	30,400,000	31,149,929	657,500	749,929
PA 3	ESF	31,539,848	32,408,731	96,000	868,883
PA 4	ESF	9,600,000	9,254,082	425,000	-345,918
PA 5	ESF	31,600,000	35,960,148	-	4,360,148
PA 6	ESF	111,196,276	111,483,442	-	287,166
PA 7	ESF	7,503,600	8,169,131	-	665,531
Total	ESF	134,643,448	146,168,519	1,853,500	11,525,071
Total	ESF REACT- EU	111,196,276	111,196,276	-	-
Grand Total		245,839,724.00	257,651,960.99	1,853,500	11,812,237

**This may increase further due to the flexibility introduced in the STEP Regulation for further certification in 2025*

Financial Closure (Step Regulation)

Regulation (EU) 2024/79 of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) and amending, amongst others, EU Regulation 1303/2013 in February 2024 provided flexibility to Member States to ensure a balanced distribution of certifications in 2024, with a 1% cap in 2025. The final closure documents need to be submitted before February 15, 2026.

The MA is closely monitoring the 4 projects whose implementation is still ongoing to ensure timely conclusion thereof:

- Sustainable Living Complex (SLC)
- Enhancement of the infrastructure within the TEN-T Port of the Grand Harbour
- SMITHS: Introduction of Sustainable Multi Modal Intelligent Transport Hubs across Malta and Gozo
- Major Project “Towards a Net Zero Impact Utility - Ensuring an Integrated Water Resource Management”

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring: Output and Result Indicators

- **Regular monitoring** of the achievement of the output and result indicators is carried out by the MA and reviewed by the Evaluation Unit.
- For **ERDF/CF operations**, 100% indicator checks are carried out bi-annually by the Evaluation Unit, confirming the methodology used and validating the supporting documentation substantiating the indicator values reported by beneficiaries.
- For **ESF operations**, indicator checks by the Evaluation Unit are carried out on a sample basis.
- This process promotes the **four-eyed principle** which ensures more accurate and reliable indicator reporting.
- The MA and Evaluation Unit closely monitored the progress towards the achievement of the Performance Framework Indicators. As already reported in previous MC, **all Performance Framework Indicators are achieved.**

Evaluation – Update 2014-2020

DESCRIPTION	CONTRACT CODE	FUND	STATUS
Ex-post Evaluation on TO 8 (Employment) (Lot 1)	SPD7/2021/076	ESF	Concluding
Ex-post Evaluation on TO 10 (Education) (Lot 2)	SPD7/2021/076	ESF	Concluding
REACT-EU Evaluation (Lot 1 – Wage Supplement Scheme and Lot 2 – Health resilience)	SPD7/2023/062	REACT-EU (OPI and OPII)	Concluding
Evaluation addressing Article 56(3): How support from the ESI Funds has contributed to the objectives for each priority.	N/A	ESF, ERDF, CF	Planned Q3 2025
ESF Cohort Study (Wave 5 and consolidation)	NSO	ESF	Ongoing

Update on Evaluations



ESF Cohort Study Wave 5

- Wave 5 is ongoing covering participants completing/exiting from an ESF intervention between **1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023**.
- Like previous waves, the study is being carried out via telephone surveys, through a stratified random sampling process. The National Statistics Office is the contractor carrying out this study and data collection exercise.
- **Wave 5 report expected in Q1 2025.**
- A final amalgamated report will cover all 5 waves, a summary of which will be reported in the Final Implementation Report.

REACT-EU

- Two evaluations are ongoing, assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of REACT-EU resources in Malta, under the respective Operational Programmes.
- Status: Both evaluations are at an advanced stage. A presentation on the initial findings will be delivered by each respective contractor.
- Final reports are planned to be concluded by mid-December 2024, ahead of the 31 December 2024 Regulation deadline.

Concluding Remarks

- The last certification of expenditure under ERDF/CF/ESF/REACT-EU is expected to be undertaken in Q1 2025.
- In view of the closure deadline for the Final Implementation Report, beneficiaries are requested to liaise with the MA with the aim of concluding the closure reports for the different projects.
- In preparation for the submission of the Closure documentation, the MA together with the Evaluation Unit will continue its work on verification of indicators, with a special focus on the Performance Framework Indicators; evaluations and work related to audits. Cooperation from all stakeholders is critical to ensure the timely and successful conclusion of the 2014-2020 Programmes.

Thank you