

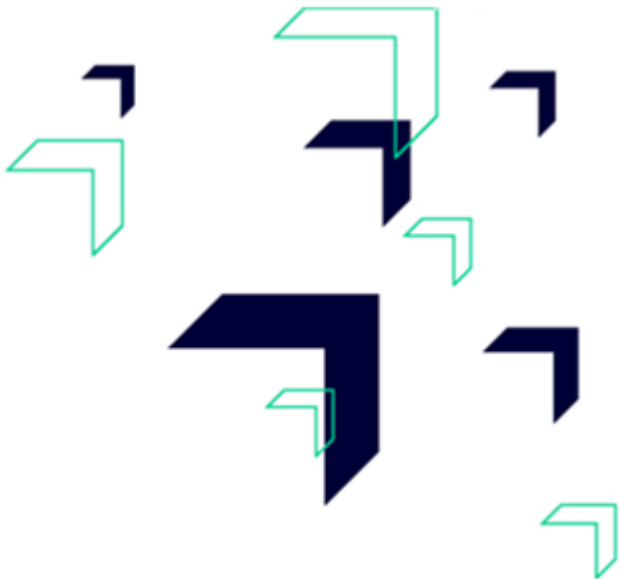


**GOVERNMENT  
OF MALTA**



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



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

**Priority 1:**  
**Competitive & Smarter Europe**  
(ERDF)



**Priority 2:**  
**Greener Europe**  
(ERDF)



**Priority 3:**  
**Social & Inclusive Europe**  
(ERDF)



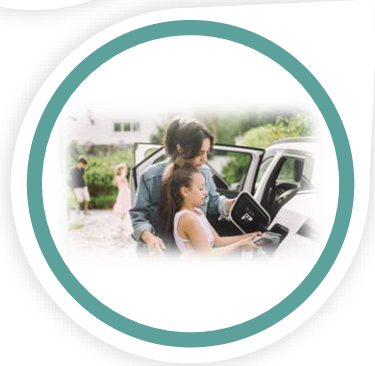
**Priority 4:**  
**A Europe which is closer to Citizens**  
(ERDF)



**ERDF, CF,  
& JTF  
Priorities**



**Priority 5:**  
**Environment**  
(CF)



**Priority 6:**  
**Sustainable Urban Mobility**  
(CF)



**Priority 7:**  
**Connected Europe**  
(CF)



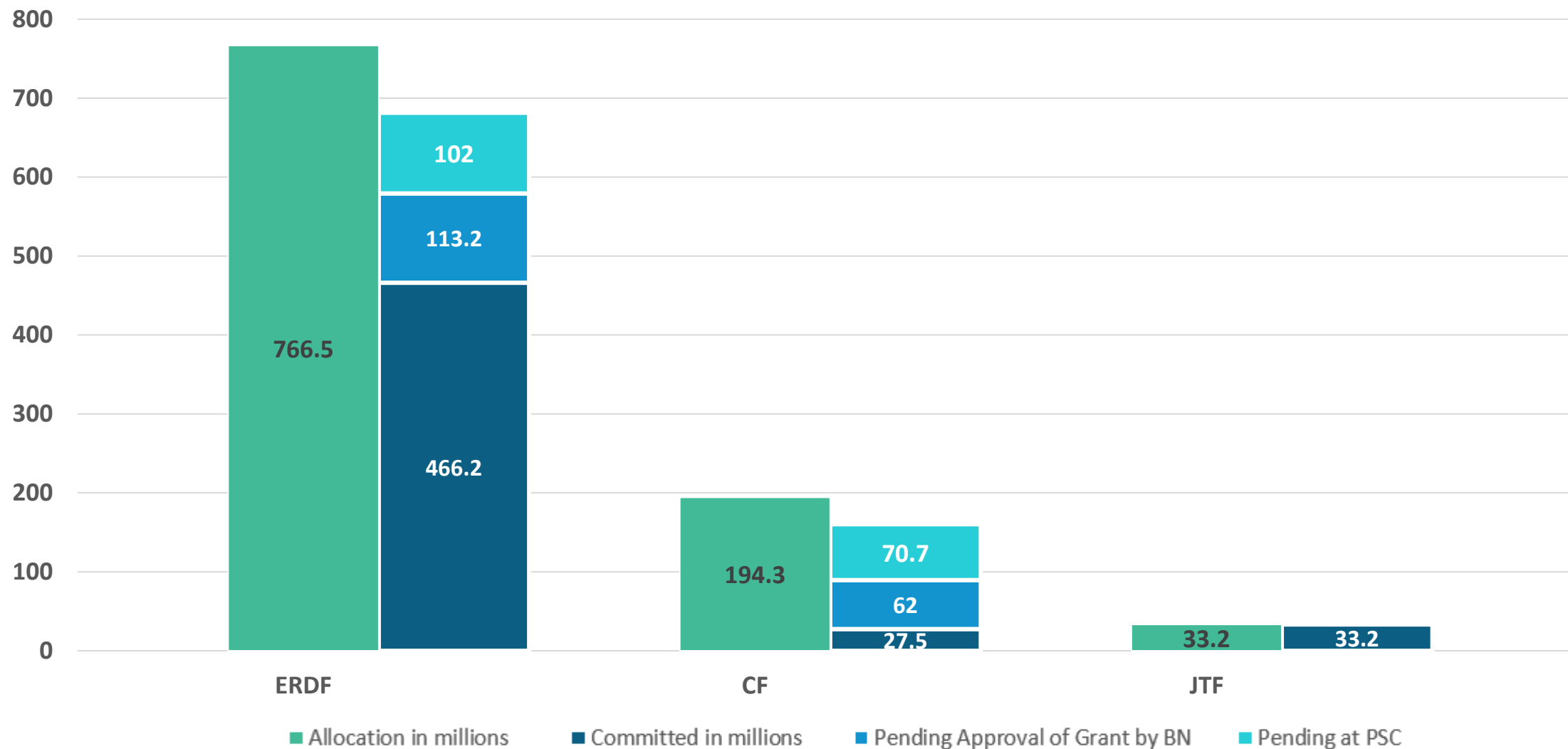
**Priority 8:**  
**Climate Neutral Economy**  
(JTF)

# ECJ Programme



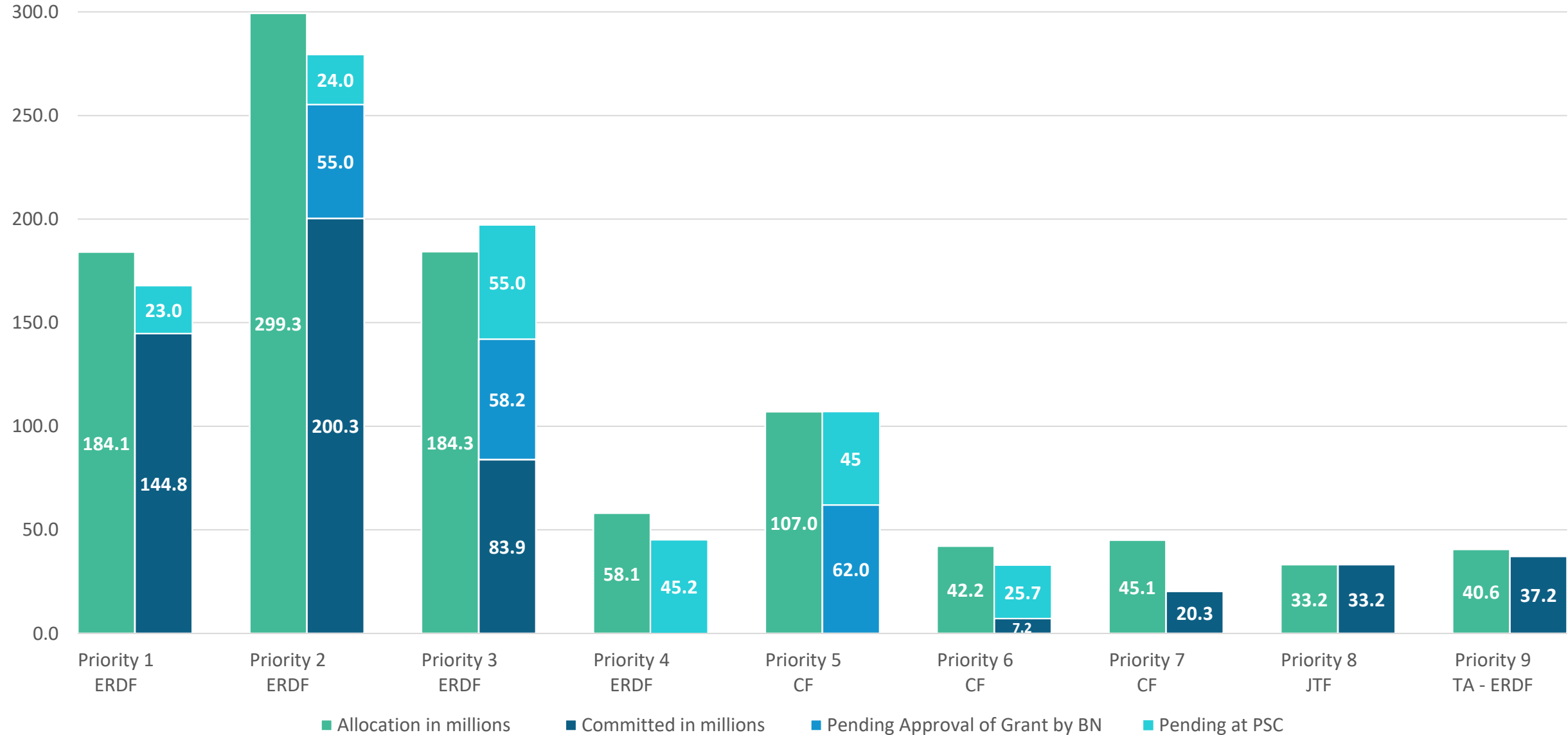
FONDI.eu

Status Update (€M)



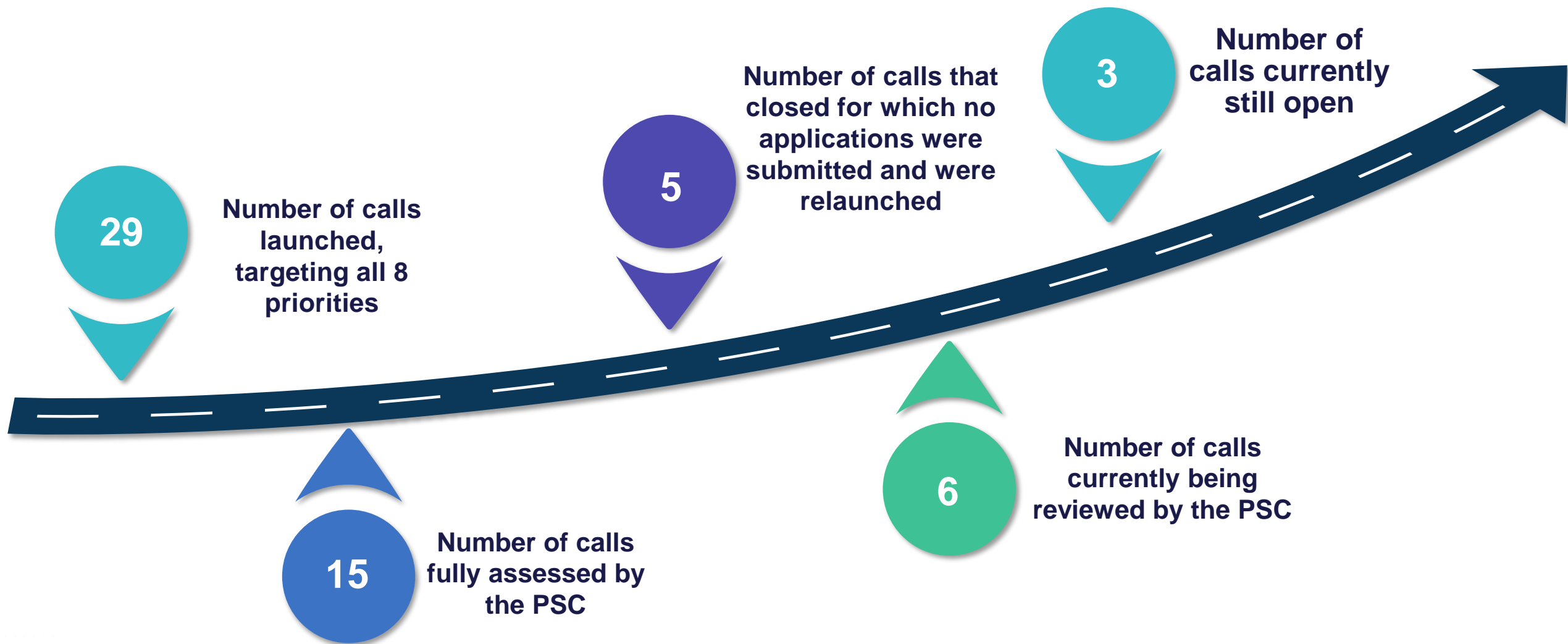
# ERDF/CF/JTF Programme: Allocation & Commitment by Priority

Status Update (€M)



# ERDF/CF/JTF Programme

## Status of Calls





**Priority 1:**  
**Enhancing employability and  
labour market resilience**



**Priority 2:**  
**Fostering active  
inclusion for all**



**Priority 5:**  
**Enhancing social  
innovation**



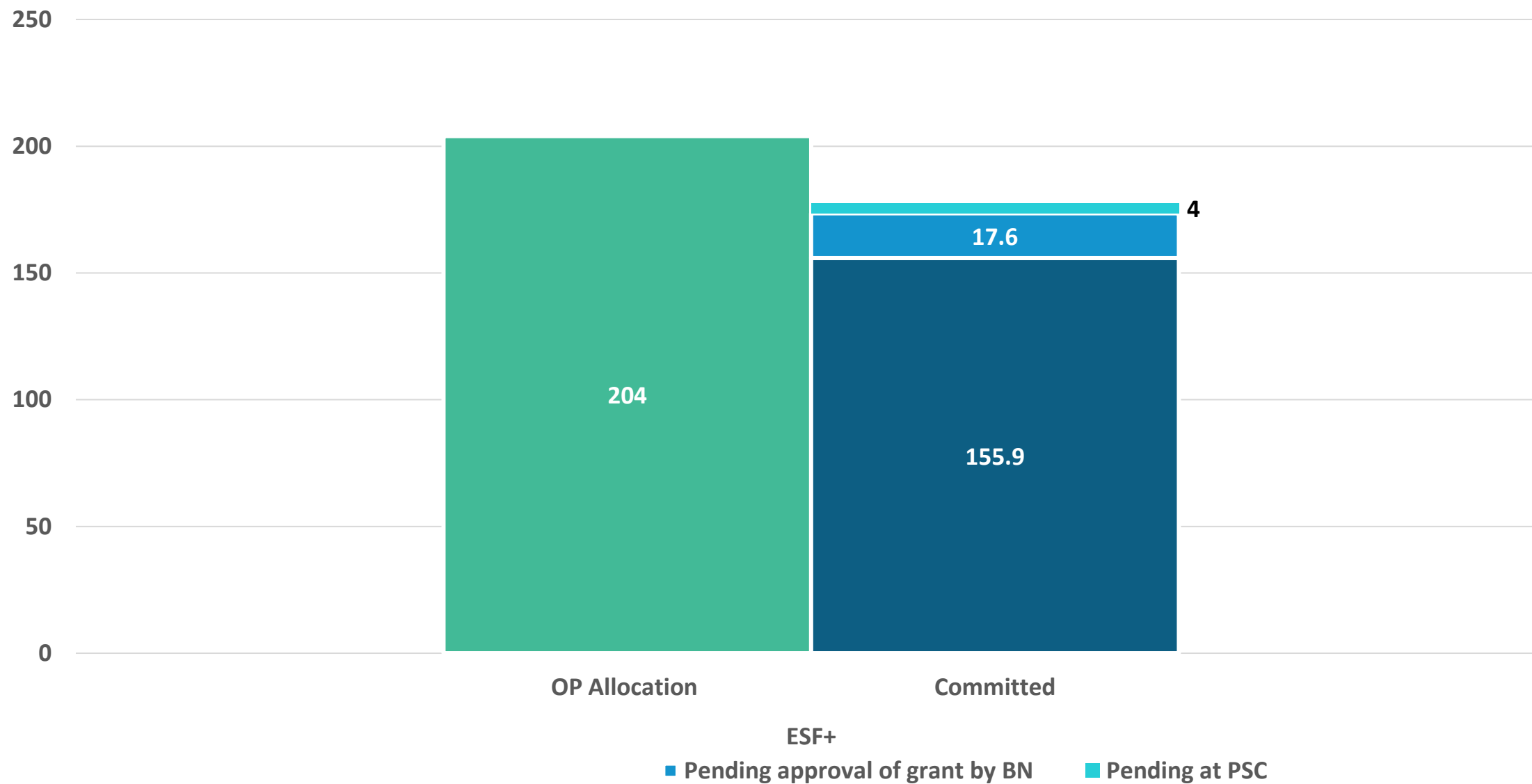
**Priority 4:**  
**Addressing material  
deprivation**



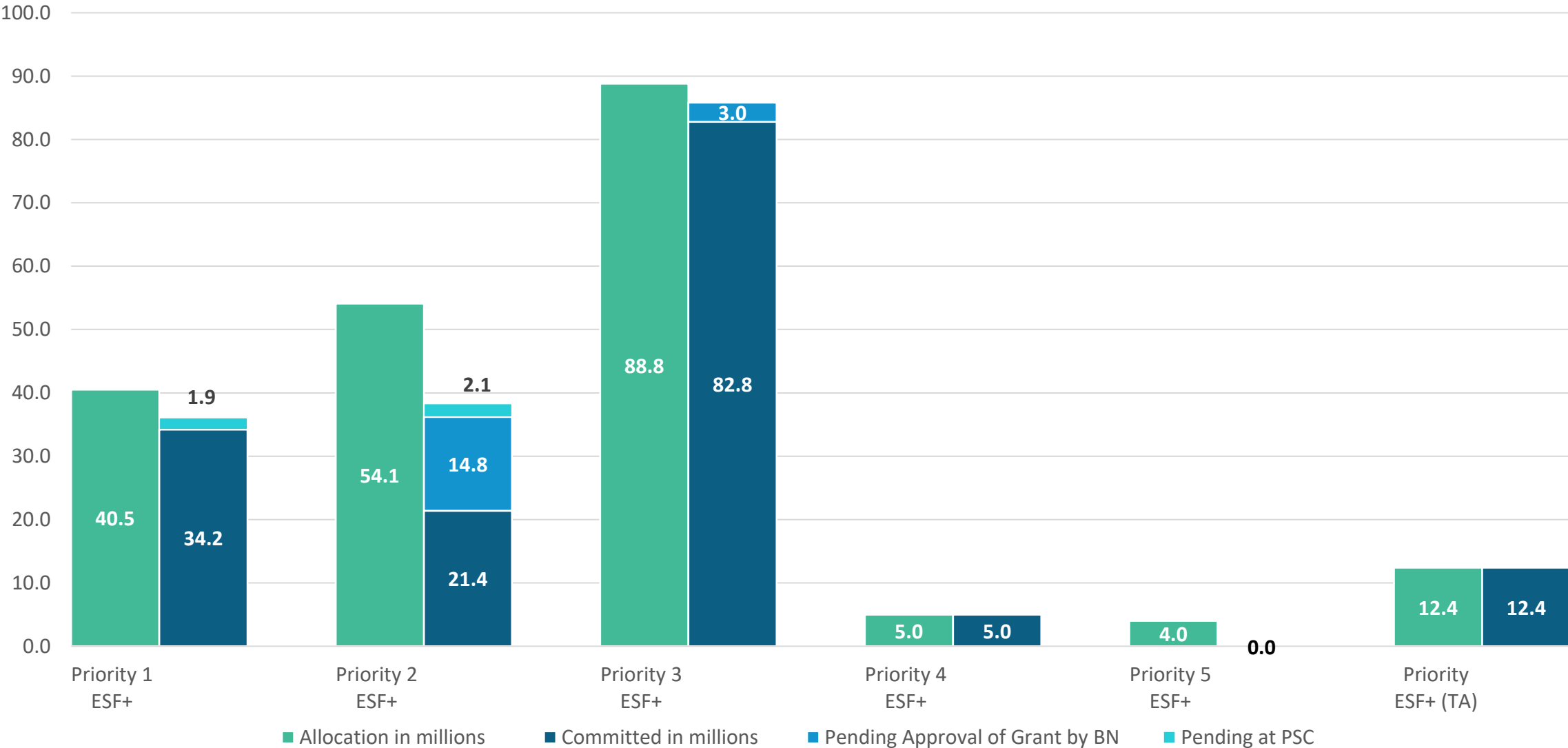
**Priority 3:**  
**Quality and inclusive  
education and enhanced  
lifelong learning for growth**

# ESF+ Programme

## Status Update (€M)



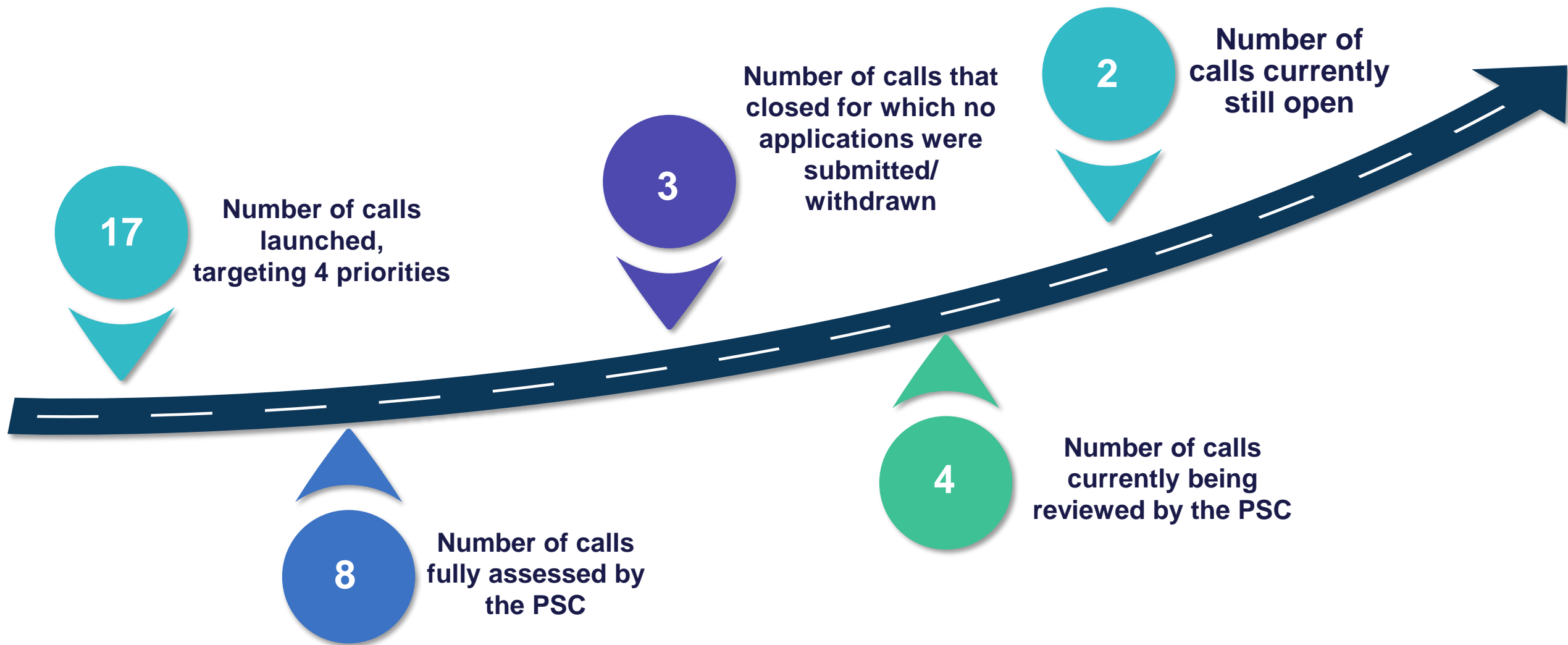
# ESF Programme: Allocation & Commitment by Priority





# ESF+ Programme

## Status of Calls

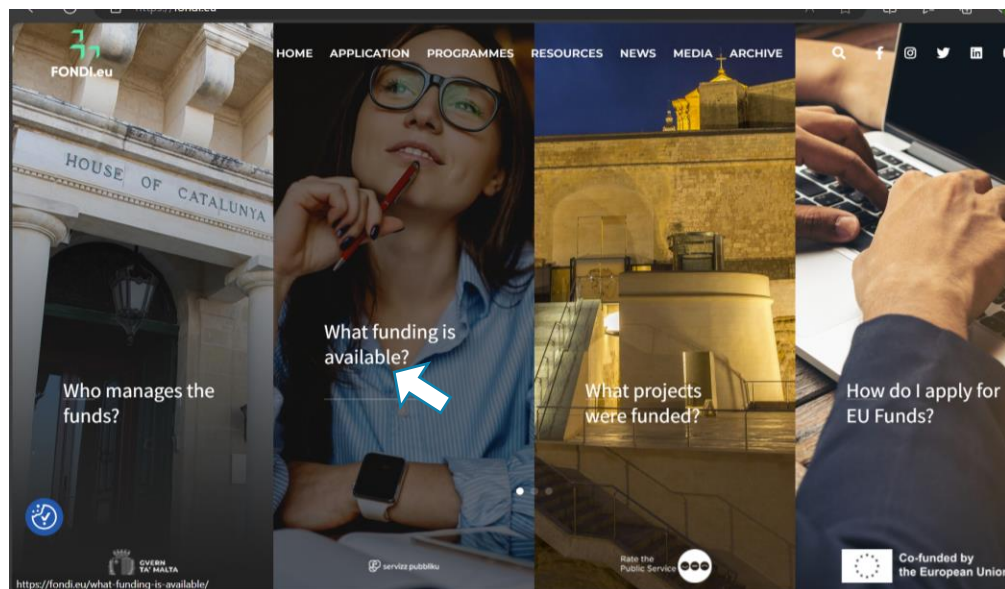


## Calls currently still open ERDF/CF/JTF and ESF+ Programmes

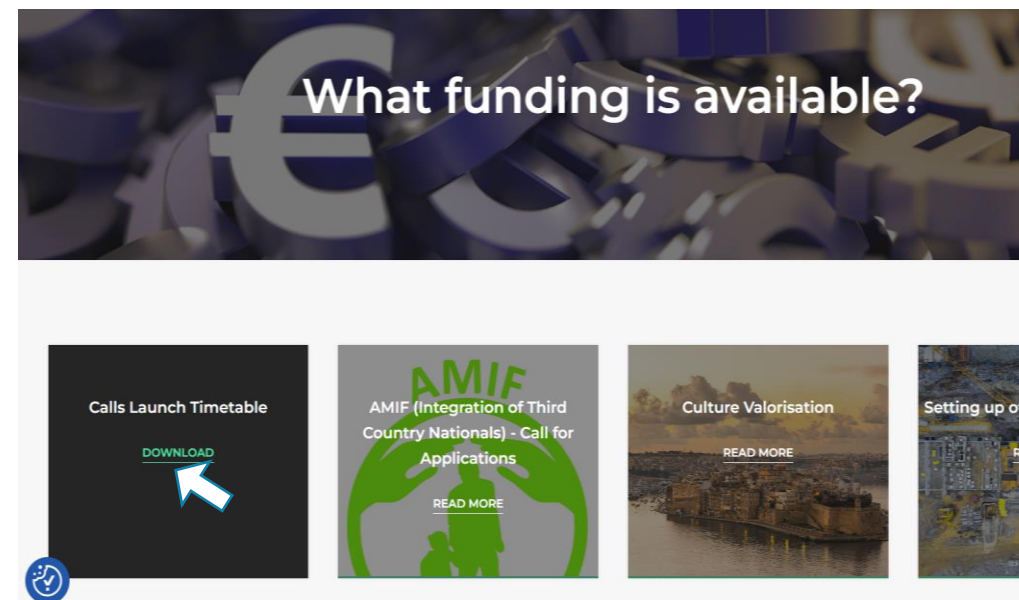
Fund	Call	Indicative Total Amount	Closure Date
ERDF	Call 27: Facility for the integration of paediatric rehabilitation services	€10,000,000	Jun-25
ERDF	Call 28: Public Sector investment in R&I	€3,000,000	Aug-25
ERDF	Call 29 : Equal access to healthcare and fostering resilience of health systems	€35,000,000	Aug-25
ESF	Call 14: P1 - Enhancing Employability and Labour Market Resilience ESO 4.1 - Access to employment and activation measures for all	€773,125	Jul-25
ESF	Call 15: P3 - Quality and inclusive education and enhanced lifelong learning for growth ESO 4.7 - Lifelong learning and career transitions	€2,998,054	Jul-25

# 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, with the last update taking place in June 2025.



Screenshot from Fondi.eu website



Screenshot from Fondi.eu website

## **Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee**



**Priority 2:  
Greener Europe  
(ERDF)**

# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

ERDF.02.270 - Design & implementation of a Utility-Scale Battery Energy Storage Facility in Delimara Power Station – BESS

Beneficiary: **Interconnect Malta Ltd on behalf of the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Public Cleanliness**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€35 million**

With a minimum capacity of 64MWh (32MW), this project enables a higher share of renewable energy sources in the Maltese electricity system by shifting the periods of high-RES generation from photovoltaics during the day to the evening peak hours, thereby reducing the use of fossil-fuelled power plant and resulting GHG emissions.

- **The main contract has been awarded, pending appeal.**



Planned location of the BESS in Delimara



Site plan Delimara



# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

ERDF.02.260 -Towards a Sustainable and more Resilient Wastewater Sector for the Maltese Islands

Beneficiary: **Water Services Corporation**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€55 million**

This project aims to strengthen the wastewater treatment and collection infrastructure of the Maltese Islands through the upgrading of two wastewater treatment plants serving the Gozo and Malta North agglomeration, and upgrades on the wastewater collection network to address identified weaknesses and capacity shortfalls.

- More than **€17M already contracted** with works ongoing in South of Malta Birzebbuga, Rabat-Dingli mains connection and works in North at St. Pauls Bay and Xemxija.
- **Paid amount (to date) to be processed from MCIS – circa €4M.**



St.Paul's Bay - HDD Drilling



Birzebbuga – Triq il-Bajja s-Sabiha



**Priority 3:  
Social & Inclusive Europe  
(ERDF)**



# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

ERDF.03.273 - Procurement of Medical Equipment for Entities within the Ministry for Health and Active Ageing Malta

Beneficiary: **Ministry for Health and Active Ageing**  
Public Eligible Allocation: **€59 million**

- This project aims to enhance healthcare service delivery by procuring advanced medical equipment, replacing outdated devices, and filling critical gaps to meet patient care demands more effectively.
- Additionally, it seeks to strengthen the resilience of Malta's healthcare sector against large-scale risks such as public health emergencies, disease outbreaks, and mass casualty events.
- Several supplies contracts which are either ongoing or have been concluded amount to **€7.6M**. Furthermore, around **€2.9M** has been paid by the beneficiary.



CT Scanner procured for the Gozo General Hospital

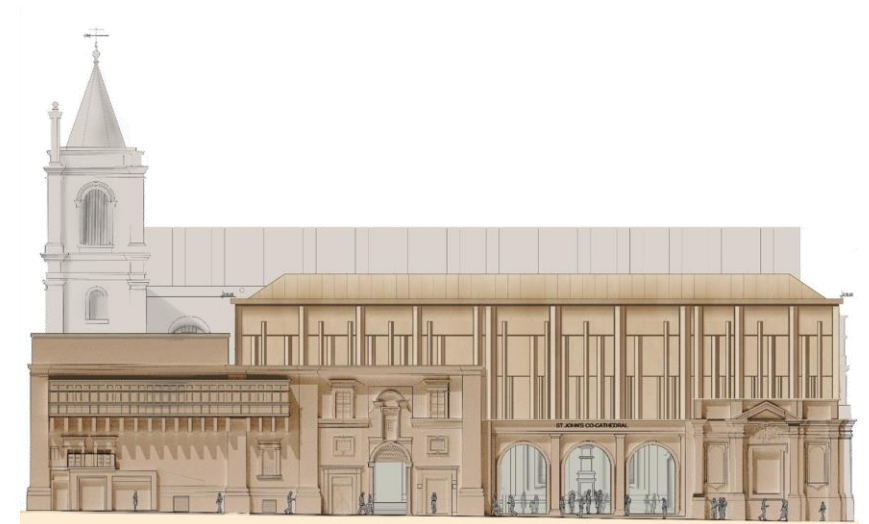
# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

## Social Infrastructure and Culture

- In total, **six projects** have been selected in the sphere of Social Infrastructure. Five of these will be implemented by NGOs with a public eligible allocation of **€13.2M**. The other project, which will be implemented by MSPC, has an allocated budget of **€5M**.
- **One project** to be implemented by an NGO, has also been selected under the Culture sphere, with an allocation of **€5M**.
- The objectives of the projects selected include investments in specialised recreational facilities for persons with a disability or illness and their families; a youth rehabilitation centre; and enhancing and valorising Malta's tourism product.
- Introductory meetings between the MA and the beneficiaries will start soon to monitor implementation and process potential payments.



Dar ta' Saura, Rabat



St John's Co-Cathedral Museum (Design)

# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

## Education

- The three following projects have been selected under the Education sphere with a total **Public Eligible allocation of €35M**:
  - ERDF.03.275: Edu-STEM Lab Project
  - ERDF.03.279: MCAST Campus Master Plan: Phase 3
  - ERDF.03.280: Enhancing educational facilities in Naxxar through the construction and setting up of a new primary school
- Introductory meetings between the MA and the beneficiaries will start soon to monitor implementation and process potential payments.



Naxxar Primary School (Render)



**FONDI.eu**



**Priority 5:  
Environment  
(CF)**



# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

CF.05.259 - Enhancing Malta's Resilience – Sustainable Potable Water Infrastructure for a Changing Climate

Beneficiary: **Water Services Corporation**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€62 Million**

Project will ensure that Malta will continue to enjoy uninterrupted, good quality drinking water that is produced and distributed in the most efficient and sustainable manner.

- A number of supplies contracts for RO upgrades are ongoing, circa **€7M are already contracted**. These relate to Energy Recovery Devices, high pressure fittings, pumps, vessels and lab equipment. **Paid amount (to date) to be processed from MCIS – €4M.**
- A number of works tenders are currently in drafting stage, mainly contract for upgrade of the potable network in the Cottonera Area, Selmun-Xemxija, Ta' Qali-Ċirkewwa and Fiddien-Buqanna Mains.



Reverse Osmosis Equipment



## Priority 2: Fostering active inclusion for all (ESF+)



# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

Social Inclusion: ESF+02.223 – VASTE II

Beneficiary: **Jobsplus**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€18 million**

- The project aims to enhance the skills and confidence of vulnerable groups to improve their employability and support their active participation in the Maltese economy. The initiative targets persons with disabilities, the unemployed, and those at risk of poverty and social exclusion.
- The project objective is to empower disadvantaged jobseekers by equipping them with skills, enhancing their overall wellbeing, and supporting them in securing employment or self-employment, ultimately fostering economic independence.
- To date, 231 participants have been supported through the VASTE Project, receiving informal training, access to professional services, and assistance in finding employment through job coaching and mentoring.



Kitchen hand simulation programme



Shelter Employment Training

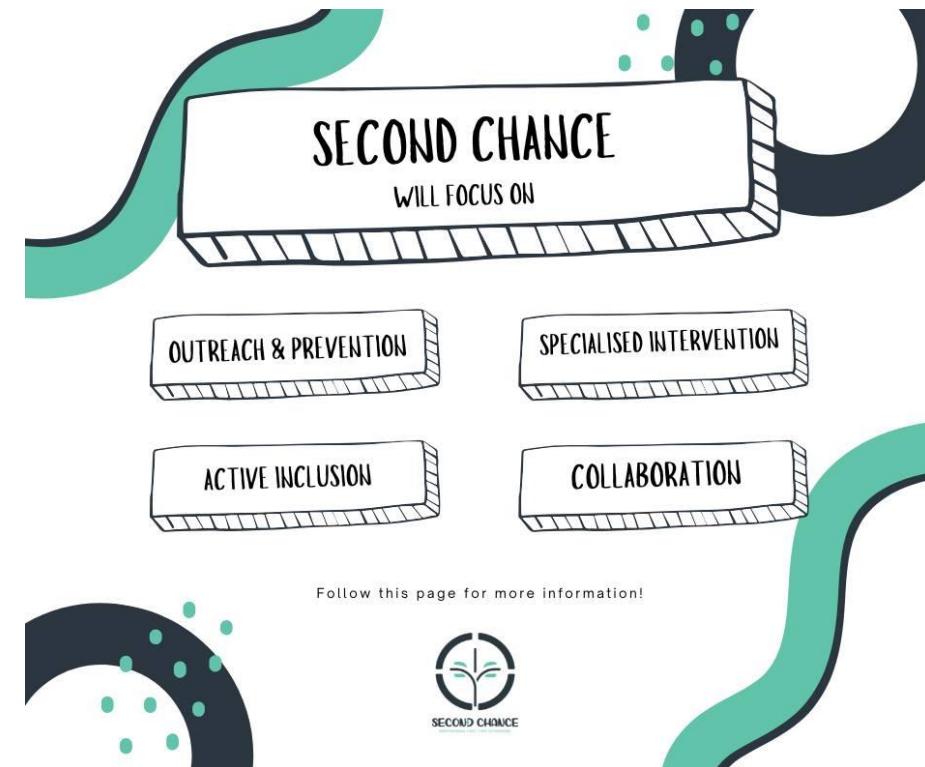
# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

ESF+.02.226 – Second Chance Empowering First Time Offenders in Malta

Beneficiary: **Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS)**

**Public Eligible Allocation: €3.28M**

- In Malta, a growing concern exists around **first-time youth offenders** and the **risk of their progression into recurrent criminal behaviour**. Recognizing this, need the Second Chance project aims to intervene early, **offering these youths a transformative opportunity to redirect their paths** towards positive societal contributions through a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach.
- The **Malta Police Force** and the **HALT foundation (Netherlands)** are partners within this project.
- To date, calls for social worker professions and support workers have been issued.





# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

**7 projects**, with an investment of **€11.6M** by the **Ministry of Health and Active Ageing (MHA)** have been selected. The key strategic initiatives for healthcare transformation are as follows:

- **Upskilling** of health care professionals, mentoring/coaching, specialist clinical supervision and cultural competence training.
- Investing in **Research Studies** to explore various medical, clinical and public health aspects, such as obesity.
- Reform of **Diagnosis Related Groups** (DRG's) to ensure more accurate cost control, forward planning and adequate standards are maintained.



# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

- **2 projects** by the **Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) NGO** with a total investment of **€1.1M**. One project will focus on addressing the complex health and integration needs of asylum seekers, and the other one on the integration of vulnerable asylum seekers by the provision of specialised and coordinated multi-disciplinary and community building services.
- **1 project** by **The Church Schools Children's Fund (CSCF) NGO** with an investment of **€144K** to deliver **specialised training**, including promoting well-being and fostering inclusivity, for professionals working within the Secretariat for Catholic Education.
- A dedicated project will be implemented exclusively in Gozo by **Inspire NGO** with an investment of **€1.5M**. Through this project, Inspire will provide 5 new services that will enhance the overall care that is provided to young persons with disabilities in Gozo.





**Priority 3:  
Quality and inclusive  
education and enhanced  
lifelong learning for growth  
(ESF+)**



# Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

**3 projects** have been selected and will be contributing towards life-long learning in the following themes with a total investment of **€3M**:

- A project submitted by **Arts Council Malta** with an investment of **€1M**, aimed at upskilling both public employees in cultural organisations and the broader artistic community in a number of beneficial areas.
- An upskilling program implemented by the **Malta Tourism Authority** with an investment of **€1.4M**, aimed at enhancing the capabilities of individuals operating within the tourism industry across Malta and Gozo
- A lifelong learning initiative by the **Local Government Division**, with an investment of **€529K**, with the aim to equip the regional and local government stakeholders with better skills to improve local governance in Malta.



## **Update on Implementation of Approved Projects**



**Priority 1:  
Competitive & Smarter Europe  
(ERDF)**

# Approved Projects – ERDF

## ERDF.01.210 - Hal Far Business Incubation Centre

Beneficiary: **INDIS Malta Ltd.**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€25 million**

- The centre will focus on engaging local and international enterprises across a range of sectors, such as Additive Manufacturing, Microelectronics, and Maritime Technology.
- The tender for the design and build of the BIC including the respective excavation, infrastructure and part finishes was published in April and closes in June



Aerial Photo of BIC site at Hal Far



**Priority 2:  
Greener Europe  
(ERDF)**



# Approved Projects – ERDF

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

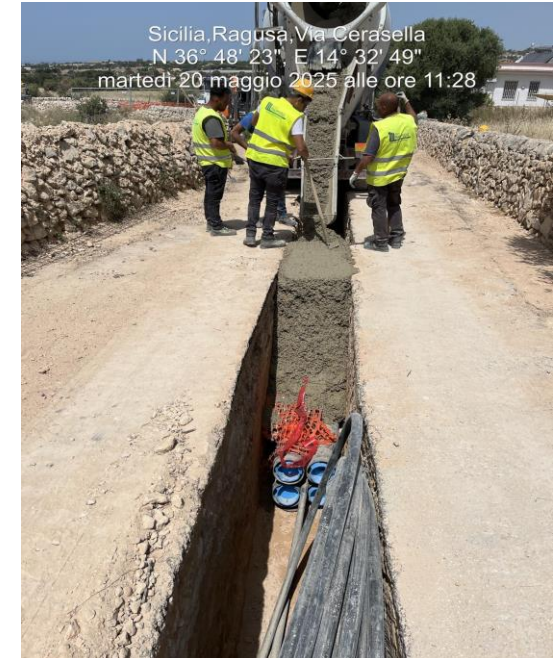
Beneficiary: **Interconnect Malta**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€165.3 million**

The Project will strengthen the security of supply of the Maltese distribution system, cater for the projected increase in the electricity demand, facilitate RES integration and growth, and reduce local emissions.

The following are the key achievements to date:

- **Over €250M were contracted and implementation has started onshore.** For offshore, cables are being manufactured. 2 pending contracts are currently under evaluation. **€44M have been paid to date.**
- The Maltese permit was approved in August 2023, and the Single Authorisation decree was granted on 19th December 2024 by the Italian Authorities.
- Project implementation started with onshore works ongoing in Ragusa, with cables already onsite and being laid.



Ongoing works in Ragusa



Supplies onshore cables



## **Priority 3: Social & Inclusive Europe (ERDF)**



# Approved Projects – ERDF

## ERDF.03.204 - A home fit for a Queen – The rehabilitation of Villa Guardamangia

Beneficiary: **Heritage Malta**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€10.3 million**

- Currently in a dilapidated state, the villa will undergo full restoration which includes structural rehabilitation, energy-efficient upgrades, accessibility improvements and the re-creation of its historical interiors reflecting the period of royal residence.
- **The works contract has been recently awarded**, with restoration and conservation activities expected to commence in the coming weeks.



Garden of Villa Guardamangia

# Approved Projects – ERDF

## ERDF.03.207 - KUL(T)ARTI – The Development of a Culture and Arts Complex in Marsa

Beneficiary: **Festivals Malta**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€15 million**

- Through this investment, the complex will provide a variety of cultural and artistic spaces, including dance and music rehearsal areas, facilities for carnival activities and a parade ground, a cinematography area, a theatre, an audiovisual studio, and a carnival museum.
- The demolition and excavation contract has been recently awarded with works planned to commence shortly.



Project site



KUL(T)ARTI (Design)





**Priority 6:  
Sustainable Urban Mobility  
(CF)**



# Approved Projects – CF

## CF.06.987 - Expansion of the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Network Across Malta and Gozo

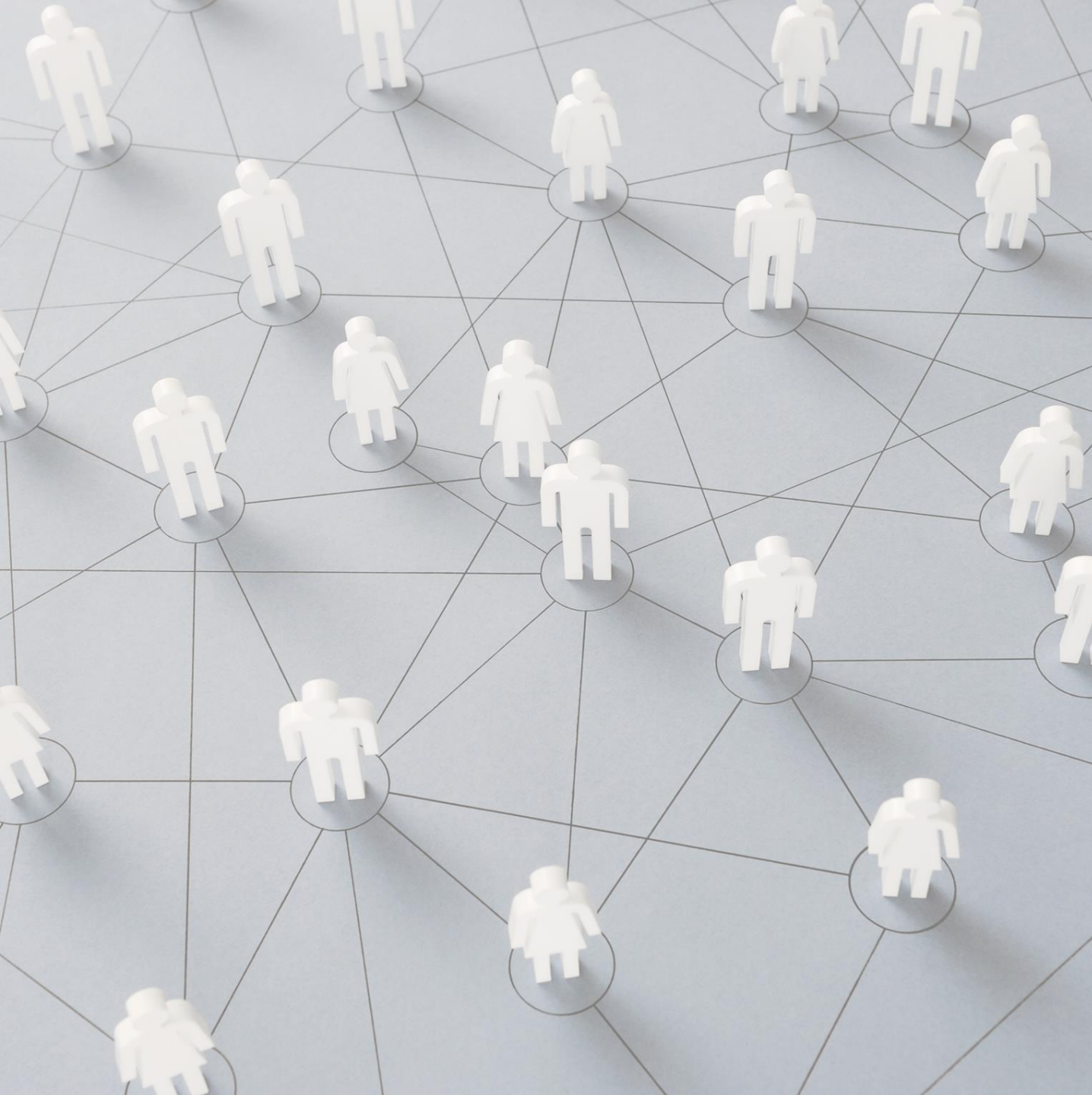
Beneficiary: **Energy and Water Agency**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€7.2 million**

- The project aims to enhance the existing EV charging infrastructure by installing 1,200 new medium and fast charging points covering 600 sites across Malta and Gozo.
- Civil, electrical and preparatory works in connection with the installation of charging pillars are ongoing. Three specific contracts covering 260 sites have been awarded, a tender having 150 sites is on the market, and others will be published during this year.
- The main tender with regards to the installation, commissioning, operation and maintenance of the charging infrastructure was published. One of the specific tenders targeting 180 pillars is at evaluation stage, another specific tender targeting 210 pillars is on the market, whilst other specific tenders will be published in the coming months.



EV Charging Infrastructure



## **Priority 7: Connected Europe (CF)**

# Approved Projects – CF

## CF.07.227 - Eliminating Bottlenecks in the TEN-T Core Port of Valletta

Beneficiary: **Infrastructure Malta**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€20.3 million**

- Key components of the project, some of which are already underway, include the demolition of existing structures, land reclamation using recycled materials, the construction of a quay wall, and the installation of quay deck pavement and underground services across an area of approximately 22,500 square meters.
- The original contract for the project was terminated by the Contracting Authority due to delays. The new tender is expected to be published in mid-August.



Photomontage of the site





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## **Priority 8: Climate Neutral Economy (JTF)**

## 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

Beneficiary: **Malta Freeport Corporation**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€9.9 million**

- In terms of public procurement, the sole Contract Agreement being funded through the project has been signed and pre-financing payment of c. **€1.9M** was paid.
- Recently trench works have been completed in relation to the end stretch of work on the quay which connects the cable management system, this is one of the connection points for berthed ships.



Ongoing works at the Malta Freeport



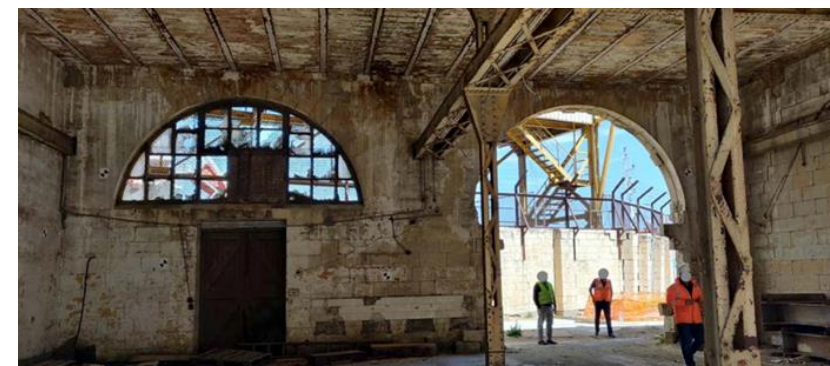
## Approved Projects – JTF

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

Beneficiary: **Infrastructure Malta**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€23.4 million**

- In terms of public procurement, the sole Contract Agreement being funded through the project has been signed and mobilisation payment of **circa €4M** was paid.
- Implementation is currently focusing on the detailed designs of all aspects of the works, particularly the electrical component of the OPS, buildings and equipment specifications.



One of the sites where the Frequency Converter Station will be set up



**Priority 1: Enhancing  
employability and labour  
market resilience  
(ESF+)**

# Approved Projects – ESF+

ESF+.01.194 – Youth Guarantee 3.0

Beneficiary: **Jobsplus**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€10 million**

- The **Youth Guarantee 3.0** aims at providing specialized re-skilling and upskilling programs and support to youth between the ages of 15 and 29 who are not currently engaged in education, employment, or training.
- **150 youths** are currently attending training.
- **SEC Revision Classes:** The SEC Revision Classes offer essential support to students who did not pass their SEC level exams. This scheme provides five weeks of free tuition in key subjects: English, Maltese, Mathematics, Physics, and Biology, to help students prepare for their resit examinations.
- In 2024, **570 youths** attended SEC Revision Classes, out of which 49% achieved at least one O level SEC exam.



Sec revision classes



# Approved Projects – ESF+

ESF+.01.195 – Training for Employment

Beneficiary: **Jobsplus**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€12 million**

- This project aims to facilitate the access to developing the knowledge, skills and competences of the working age population.
- In March 2025, calls opened for **Work Exposure Scheme** and **Traineeship Scheme**. Whilst the Work Exposure Scheme is open for a wide variety of roles, from technical roles to services and sales positions, the Traineeship Scheme is more focused on vocational training in Health and Social Care, Child Care and Career Essentials.
- To date 82 persons applied under both schemes. Placements and traineeship activities commenced in March 2025.
- In April 2025, the call for **Work Exposure Scheme (Summer Students)** was launched. This scheme offers full-time students an opportunity to gain practical work experience during the summer months.
- 415 students are eligible and will commence their placement in the coming weeks.



Poster: Work Exposure Scheme for Summer Students



**Priority 3:  
Quality and inclusive  
education and enhanced  
lifelong learning for growth  
(ESF+)**

# Approved Projects – ESF +

ESF+.03.184 One Device Per Child (ODPC)

Beneficiary: **Ministry for Education Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€54.1 million**

- Whilst the project delivery has a baseline provision of a **laptop device per child**, students will also be granted access to a variety of **digital content and resources** which is the focus of the project.
- Training is currently being provided to train educators and schools' administrators to use the innovative Classroom Management system being introduced. So far, 784 teachers and administrators were trained.
- To date, several contracts have been awarded with a total value of c. **€20.8M, of which circa €1M has been paid.**
- Delivery of the devices is expected in the next scholastic year.



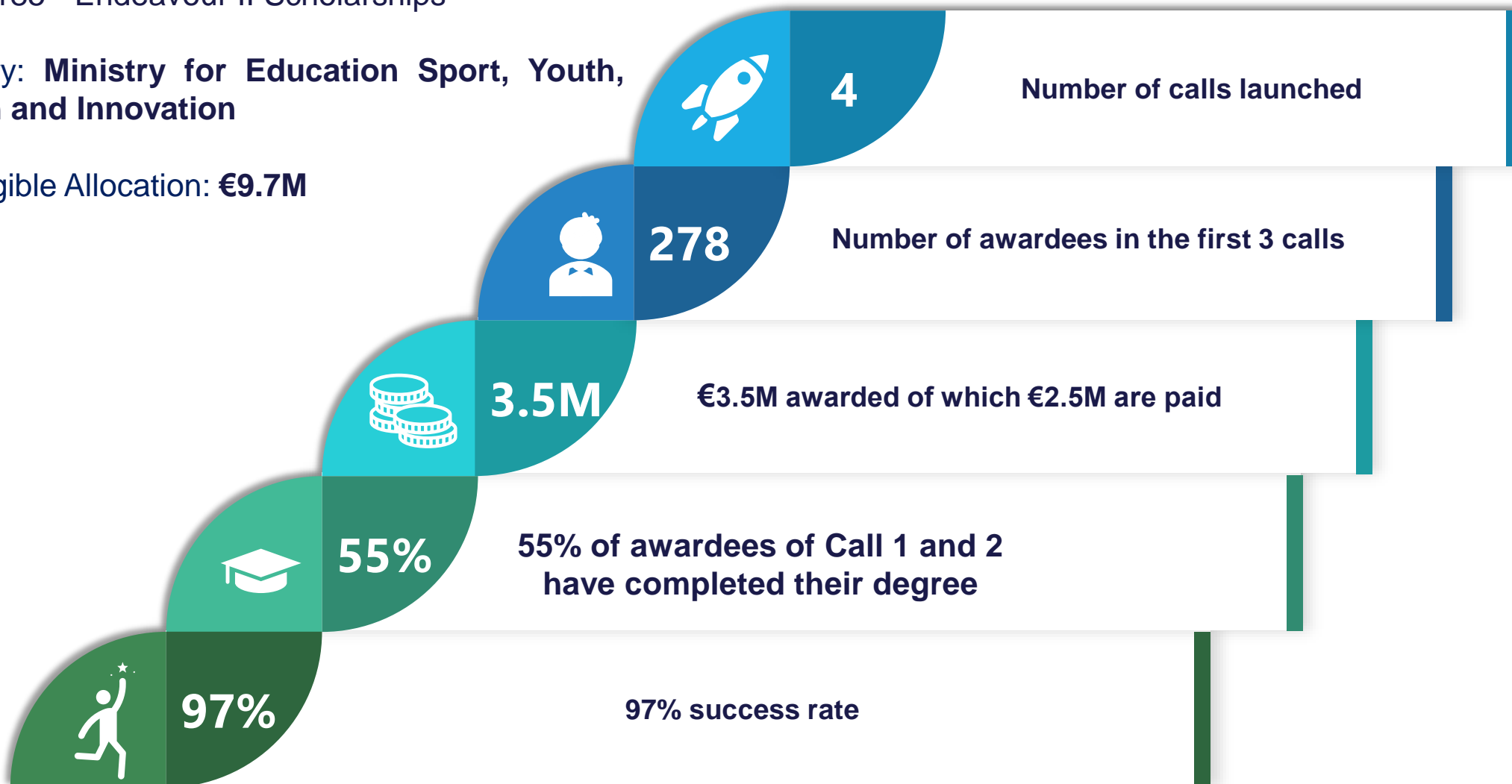
In depth training on classroom management given to the Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills Directorate

# Approved Projects - ESF+

ESF+.03.185 - Endeavour II Scholarships

Beneficiary: **Ministry for Education Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€9.7M**





# ESF+.03.185 - Endeavour II Scholarships Scheme



## ➤ Testimonial 1

### ***Sarah Catania (Masters in General Surgery)***

*I'm truly grateful for the Endeavour II Scholarship, which made it possible for me to pursue my Master in General Surgery at the University of Edinburgh. The Endeavour team offered exceptional support throughout the application process. This experience has been truly transformative, and I strongly encourage other students to apply.*

## ➤ Testimonial 2

### ***Katrina Drake (Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability)***

*The Master's programme's mobility focus, supported by the Endeavour II Scholarship, allowed me to study at leading European universities. This enriched my perspective, boosted my adaptability, and deepened my professional growth. This scholarship is not just an investment in my education, but in Malta's future. It supports national goals in research, innovation, and skills development. I'm gaining the tools to become a changemaker and look forward to contributing to Malta's growth on a global scale.*

A poster for the Endeavour II Scholarships Scheme. The top section is light green and contains the logos of the Government of Malta, the Endeavour II Scholarships Scheme, and FONDI.eu. Below this is a photograph of two students, a woman and a man, looking at books in a library. The bottom section is dark green and contains text about the 4th Call Regulations 2025, the dates 9th May 2025 - 13th June 2025, and the time Noon (local Time). It also mentions that the scheme is administered by the Scholarships Unit, Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, and provides contact information: Freephone: 153, Website: http://myscholarship.gov.mt, and Email: endeavour.meyr@gov.mt. The European Union flag logo is also present, indicating co-funding by the European Union.

**4th Call Regulations 2025**  
**9th May 2025 - 13th June 2025**  
**Noon (local Time)**

This scheme is administered by the  
SCHOLARSHIPS UNIT  
Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation

Co-funded by  
the European Union

Freephone: 153  
Website: <http://myscholarship.gov.mt>  
Email: [endeavour.meyr@gov.mt](mailto:endeavour.meyr@gov.mt)

Endeavour Poster





**Priority 4:  
Addressing material  
deprivation  
(ESF+)**

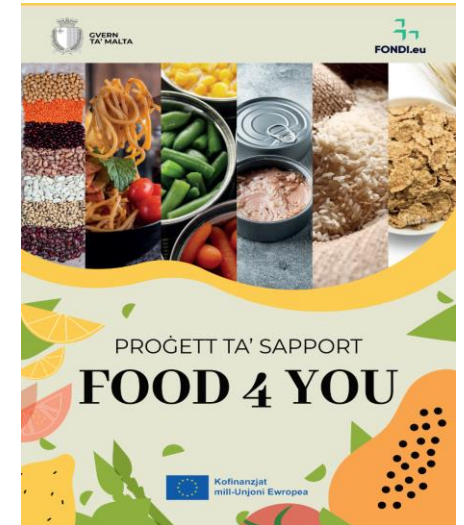
# Approved Projects – ESF +

## ESF+.04.188 – Food 4 You Support Project

Beneficiary: **Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights**

Public Eligible Allocation: **€5 million** (of which €648K have been disbursed).

- The aim of the project is to help the most vulnerable through food support.
- So far, 2 distribution of food were carried out, with 12,146 **food packages** distributed reaching a total of **2,133 families**. Another distribution is currently underway and is expected to be concluded by end of June.
- Complementary to the food support provided through the project, the Partner Organisation implemented a range of accompanying measures designed to enhance the overall well-being and social integration of the target group.
- The accompanying measures included direct assistance to beneficiaries through the helpline and helpdesk at distribution points. In the distributions carried out, households with children under the age of 16 also benefitted from one or more book packages.



Food 4 You Support Project Poster



Food 4 You Products



## **Support to Enterprises**

**ERDF:**

*Business Enhance Aid Schemes*

**ESF+:**

*Access to Employment (A2E)*

*Investing in skills (IIS)*



## **Support to Enterprises**

**ERDF:**  
*Business Enhance Aid Schemes*



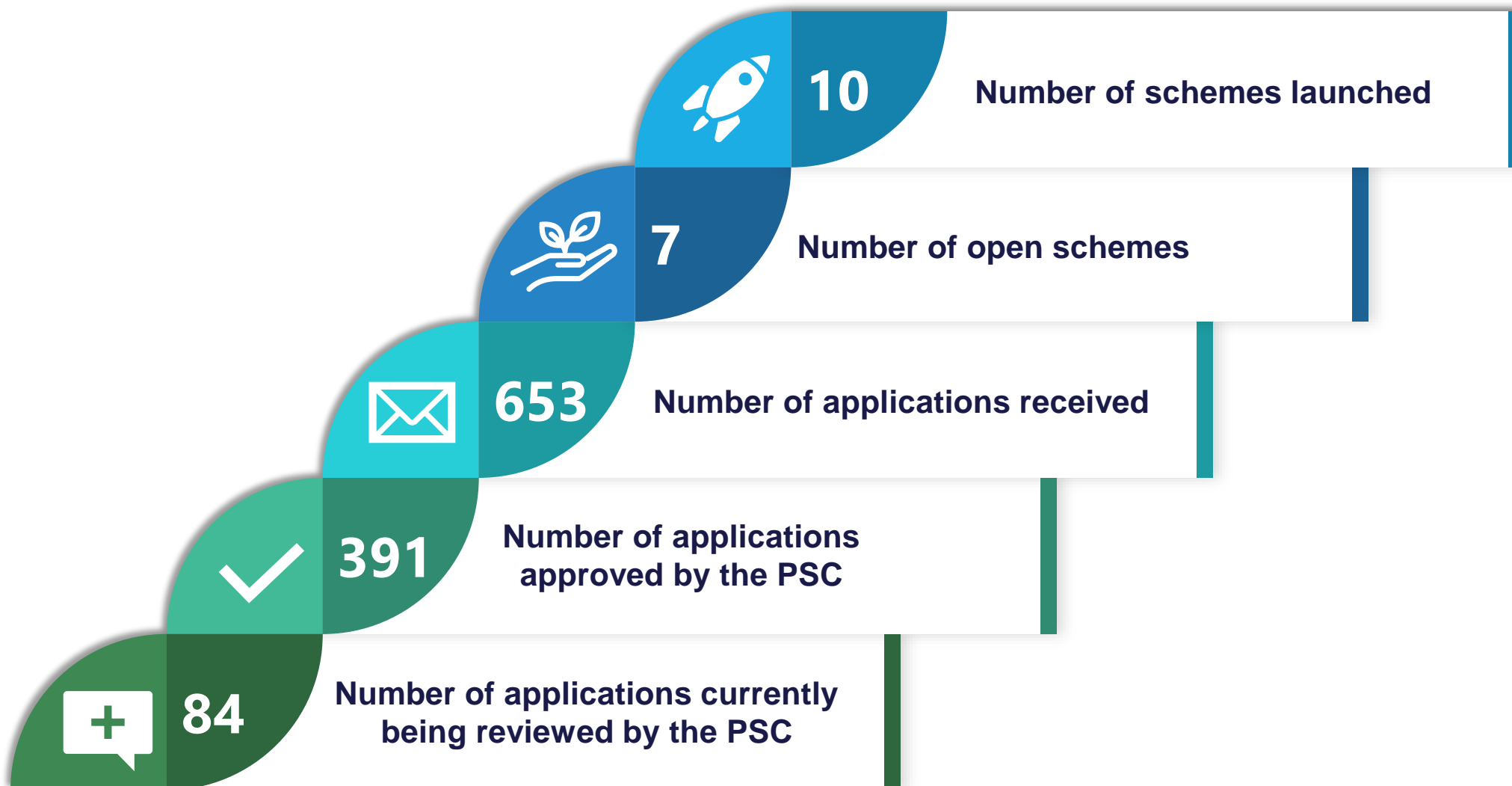
# Business Enhance Aid Schemes: Implementation Progress

Intermediate Body: **Measures and Support Division**

Business Enhance Aid Schemes provide grants to enterprises in Malta and Gozo to support investment, innovation, and productivity. These include:

1. SME Enhance (De minimis)
  2. SME Enhance (GBER)
  3. Start-up Enhance
  4. SME Enhance
  5. Business Reports for SMEs
  6. Marketing Strategy for Micro & Small Enterprises
  7. Internationalisation Strategy for SMEs
  8. Standards & Awards for SMEs
  9. Digitalise your SME
  10. Feasibility Studies
- } Closed

# Business Enhance Aid Schemes: Implementation Progress



# Business Enhance Aid Schemes: Implementation Progress (Open Calls)



Priority 1: Specific Objective	Description	Date of Issue	Call Status	Call Budget	Number of Application s Received	Number of Applications Approved	Number of Applications Under Evaluation	Committed Amounts
RSO 1.1	Feasibility Study	June 2024	Open rolling call	€2M	0	0	0	€0
RSO 1.2	Digitalise your SME	March 2025	Open rolling call	€5M	16	0	12	€0
RSO 1.2 RSO 1.3	SME Enhance	March 2025	Open rolling call	€6M	31	0	29	€0
RSO 1.3	Business Reports for SMEs	June 2023	Open rolling call	€1.5M	194	126	17	€504,000
RSO 1.3	Internationalisation Strategy for SMEs	May 2025	Open rolling call	€0.5	0	0	0	€0
RSO 1.3	Marketing Strategy for SMEs	May 2025	Open rolling call	€0.5	0	0	0	€0
RSO 1.3	Standards & Awards for SMEs	May 2025	Open rolling call	€0.5	0	0	0	€0
Grand Total				€16M	241	126	58	€504,000

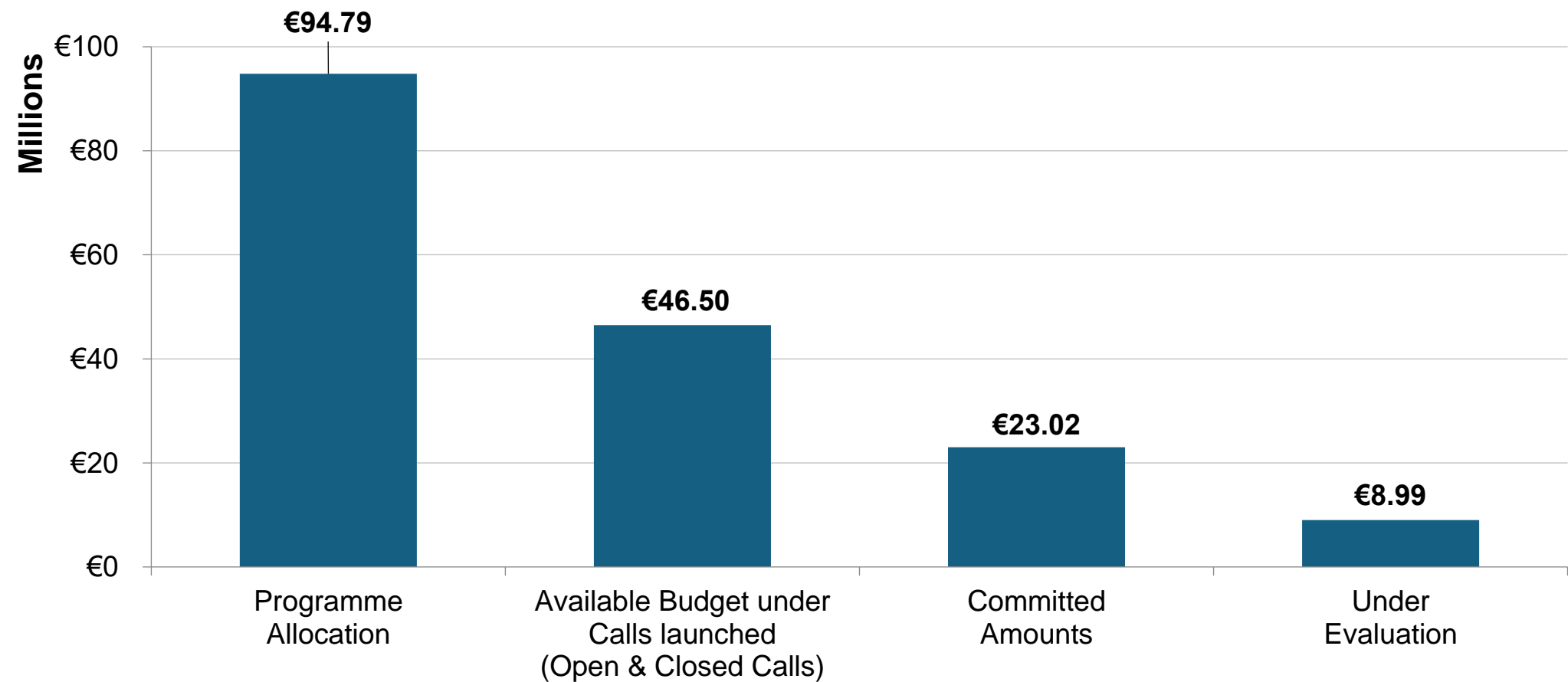
# Business Enhance Aid Schemes: Implementation Progress (Closed Calls)



Priority 1: Specific Objective	Description	Date of Issue	Call Status	Call Budget	Number of Application s Received	Number of Application s Approved	Number of Applications Under Evaluation	Committed Amounts
RSO 1.3	SME Enhance (de Minimis)	June 2023	Closed Call	€17.5M	336	238	7	€16,233,553
RSO 1.3	SME Enhance (GBER)	June 2023	Closed Call	€8M	48	19	15	€5,180,593
RSO 1.3	Start-up Enhance	June 2023	Closed Call	€5M	28	8	4	€1,100,176
Grand Total				€30.5M	412	265	26	€22,514,322

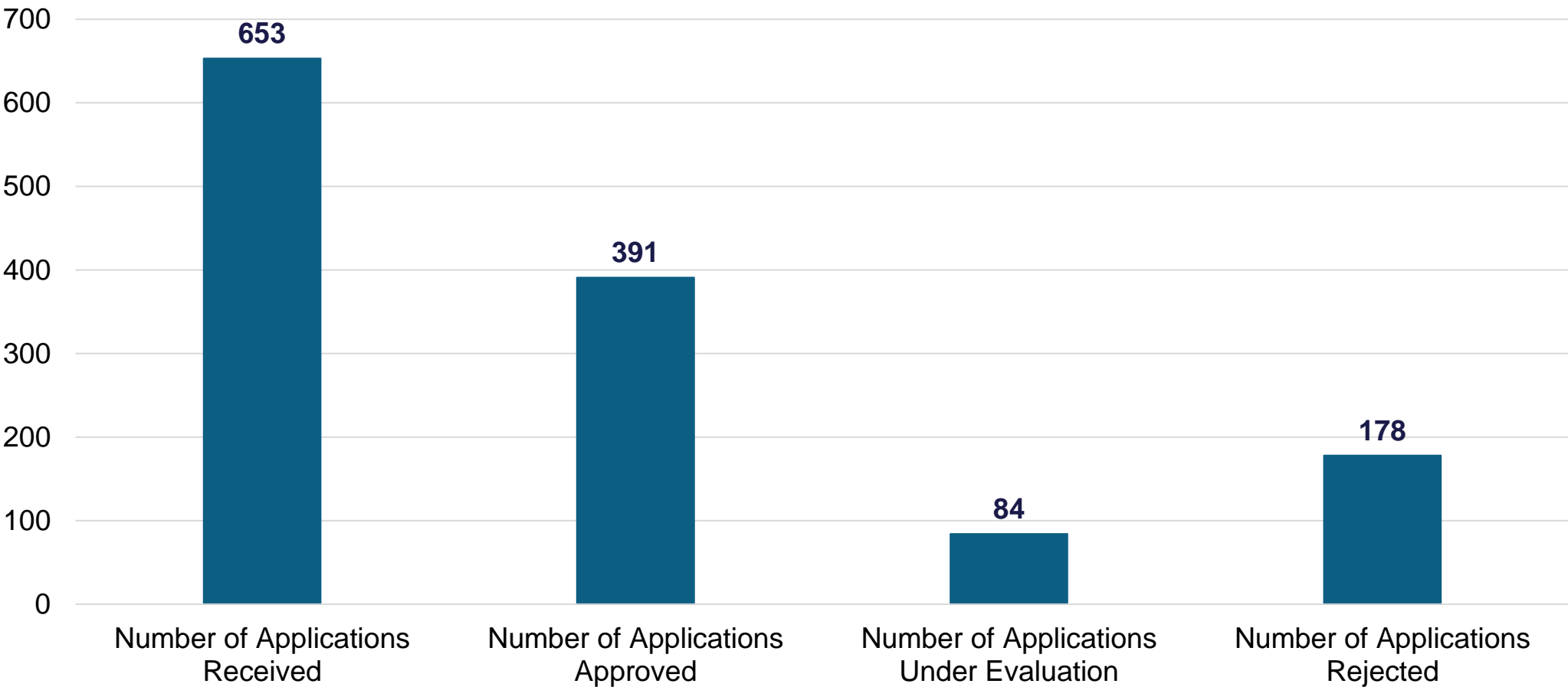


# Business Enhance Aid Schemes - Implementation Progress



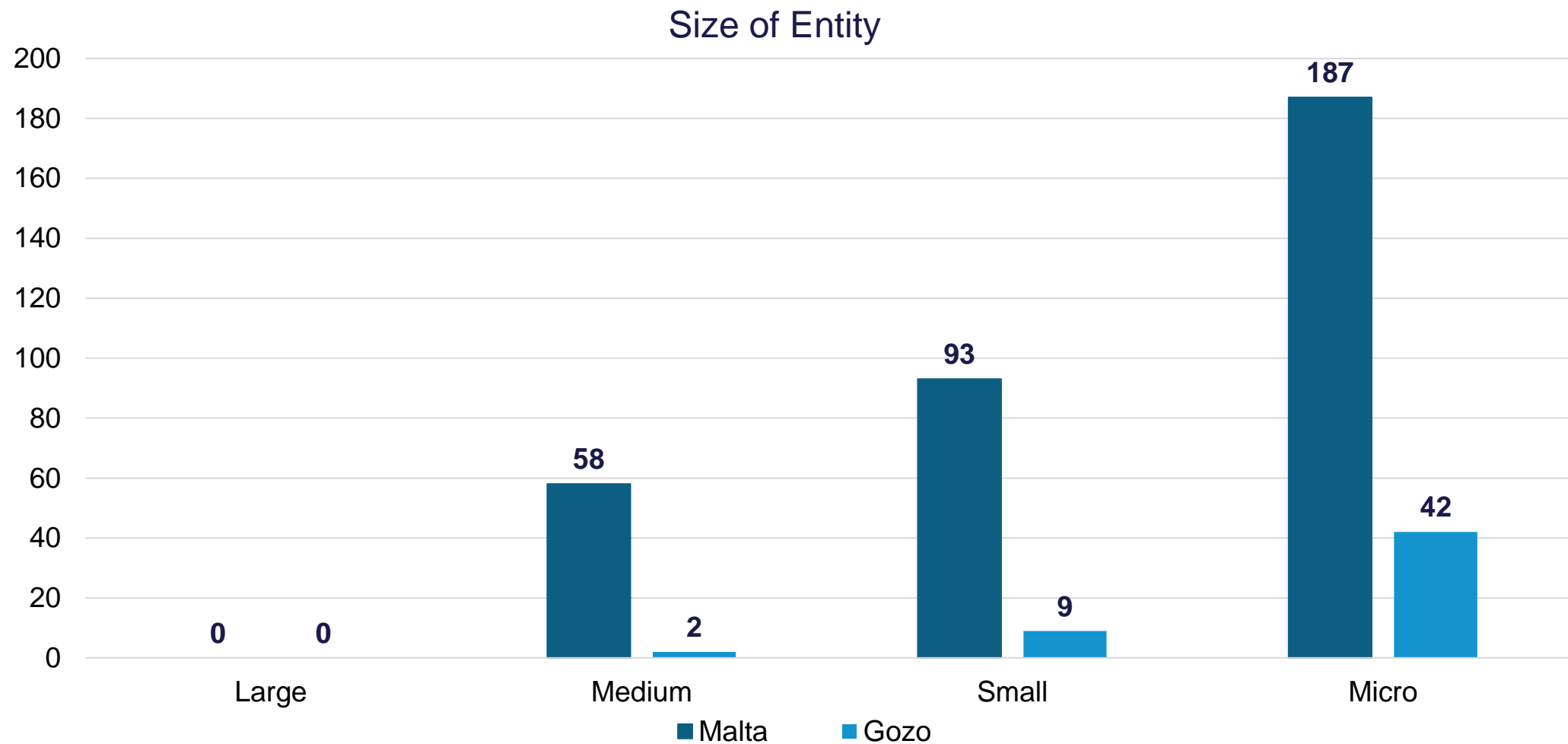
As of end of May 2025, **50%** of the initial budget has been allocated to SMEs, with **19%** currently under evaluation.

# Business Enhance Aid Schemes - Implementation Progress



As of end of May 2025, **653** applications were received with **391** applications being approved, **84** applications currently under evaluation, and **178** applications being rejected.

# Business Enhance Aid Schemes - Implementation Progress



As at end May 2025, **338** applications were approved in Malta and another **53** applications in Gozo.



## **Support to Enterprises**

**ESF+:**

*Access to Employment (A2E)*

*Investing in skills (IIS)*



# 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	1,675	1,521	1,056	10.9M
ESF	Priority 3, ESO4.7	Investing in Skills Scheme (IIS)	Sept 2023	Open rolling call	€10M	2,966	2,281	1,636	€2.84M
					€22M	€4,641	€3,802	€2,692	€13.74M

# A2E Scheme Implementation Progress

Intermediate Body: **Jobsplus**  
Public Eligible Allocation: **€12 million**

**Access to Employment (A2E)** provides employment aid to enterprises in Malta and Gozo to promote the recruitment of the more challenged amongst jobseekers and inactive persons.

To date, a total of 1,056 Grant Agreements were awarded for a total value of **€10.9M**, by virtue of which **€4.9M** were paid under this Scheme.

## Key achievements:

- 1,056 persons gaining employment, of which 51% were women and 15% were persons with disabilities.
- 535 women returning to work, 12% of which were unemployed/inactive for at least two years and 26% of which were unemployed/inactive for one year.
- 640 unique entities benefitted from the scheme, out of which 94% are SMEs.

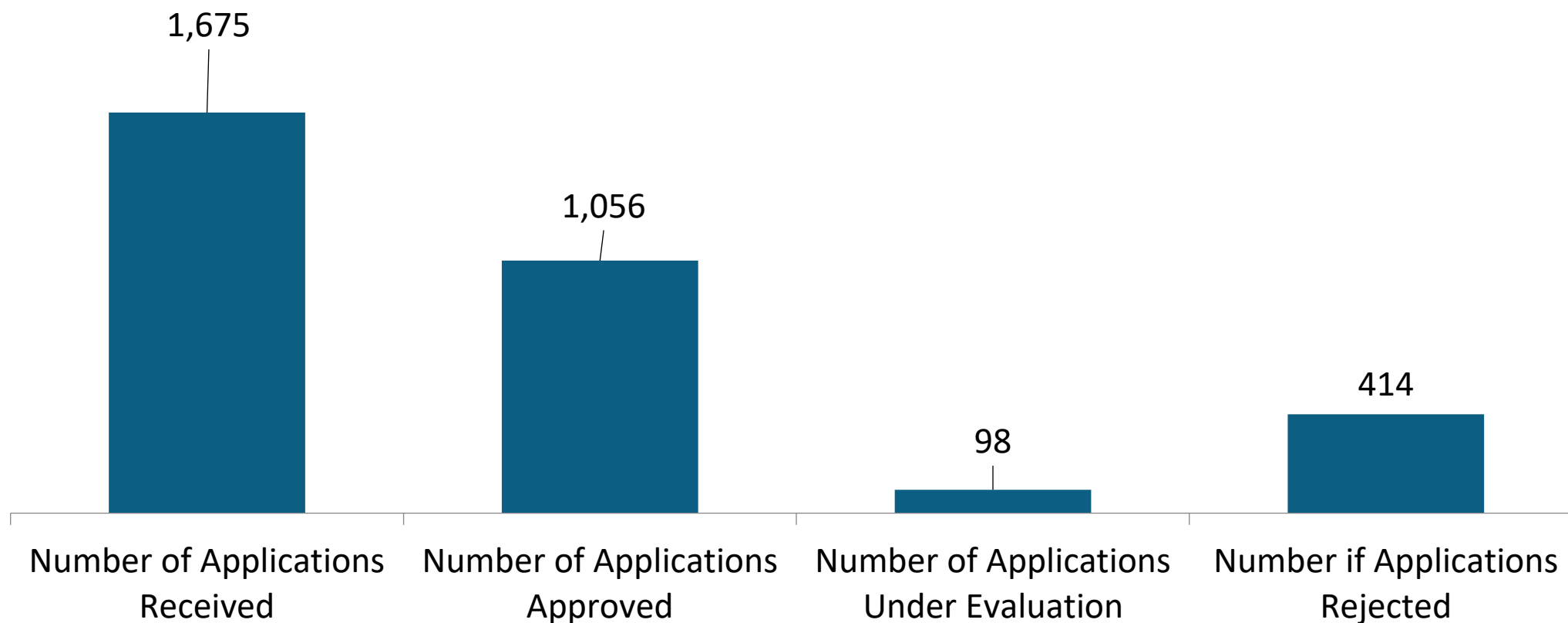


# A2E Scheme Implementation Progress



As of end of May 2025, **91%** of the initial budget has been allocated,  
with **9%** currently under evaluation.

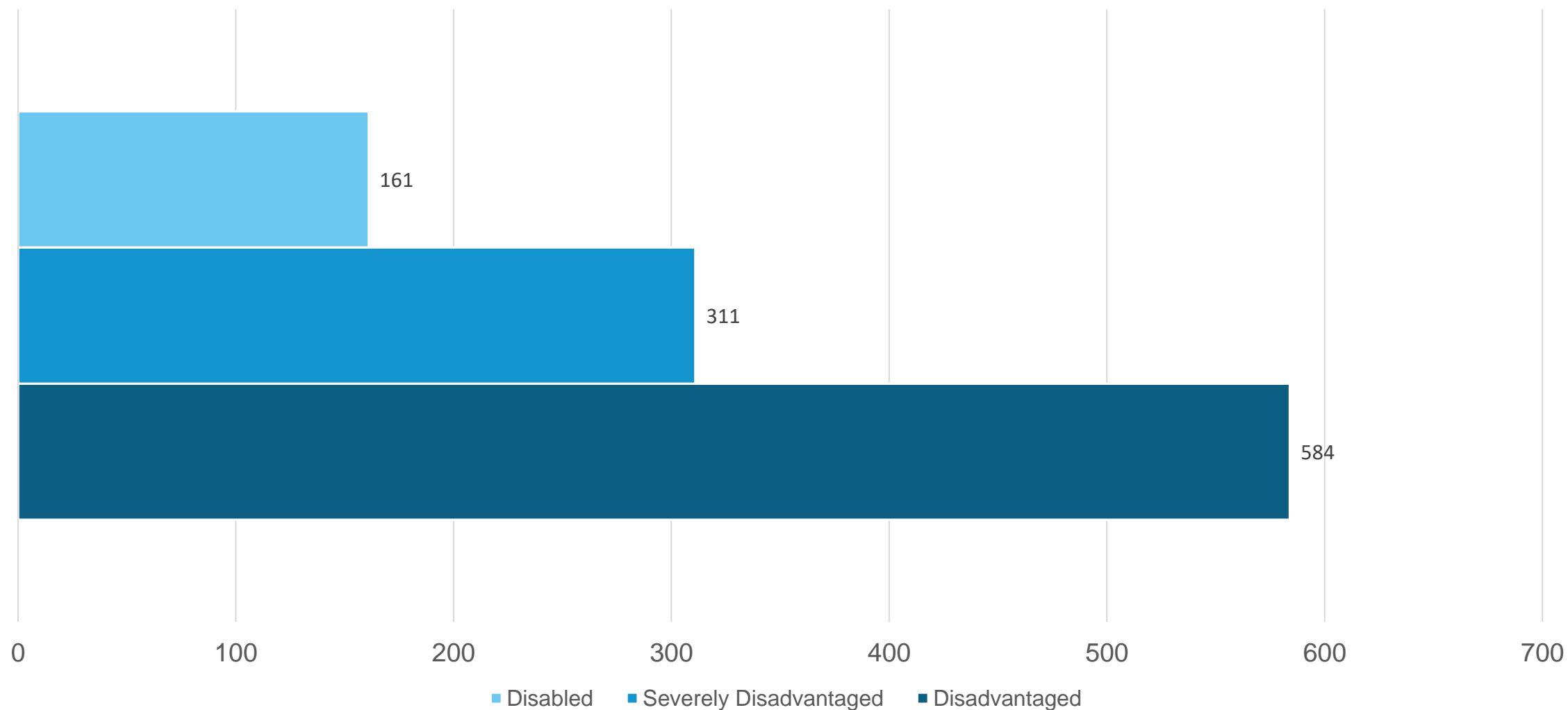
## A2E Scheme Implementation Progress



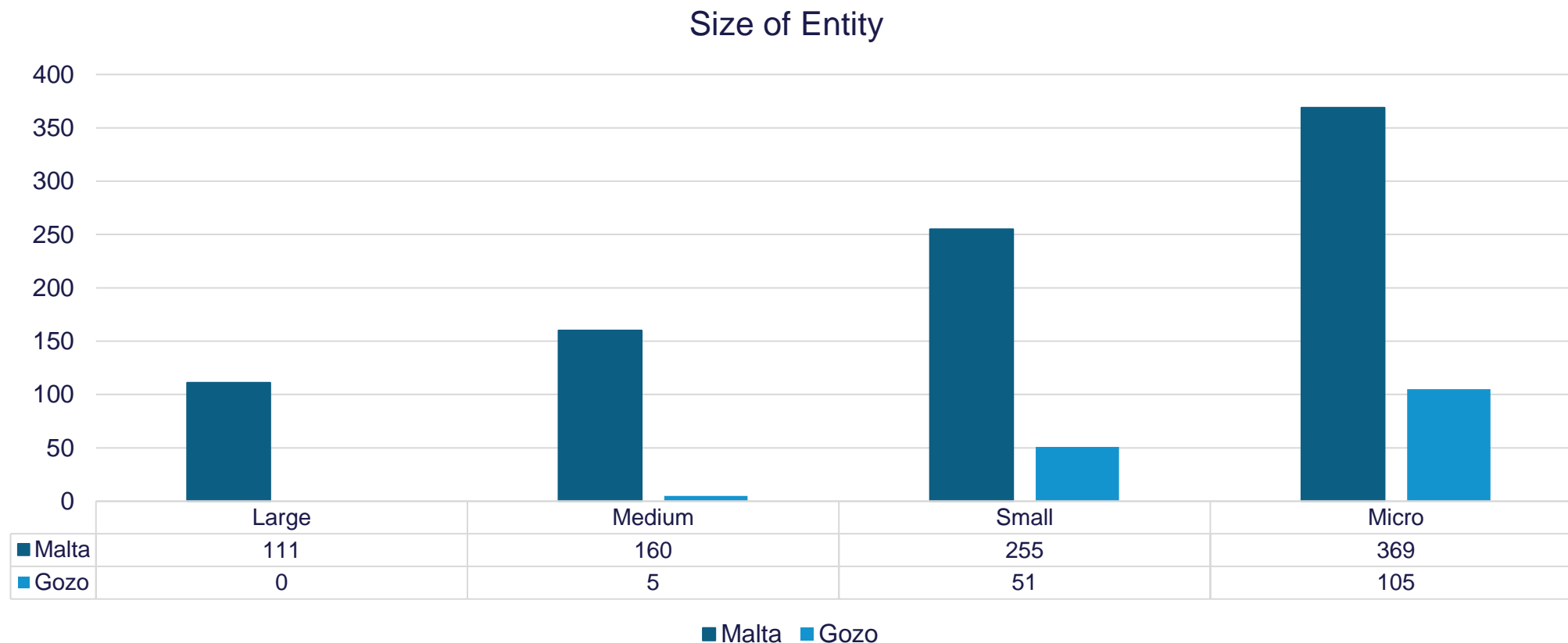
As of end of May 2025, **1,675** applications were received with **1,056** applications being approved, **98** applications currently under evaluation, and **414** applications being rejected



# A2E Scheme Implementation Progress – Grants awarded by target group



# A2E Scheme Implementation Progress – Beneficiaries



As at end April 2025, **895** grants were signed in Malta and another **161** grants in Gozo.

# IIS Scheme Implementation Progress

Intermediate Body: **Jobsplus**  
Public Eligible Allocation: **€10M**

**Investing in Skills (IIS)** 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 by improving the knowledge and skills of employed persons.

Types of eligible training include classroom style training, one-to-one training or on-the job training, online live training sessions, accredited distance learning or accredited online self-led training.

**To date**, over **€2.84M** have been committed under this scheme, of which more than **€1.18M** were paid.

## Key achievements:

- **1,635 grants** signed
- **6,840** participants trained, of which 54% were women
- **546 unique entities (grants)** benefited out of which 428 (78%) were SMEs. **348 unique entities were paid**, out of which 76% are SMEs.



The advertisement features a photograph of an older man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a grey turtleneck, and a younger man with dark curly hair and glasses, wearing a blue plaid shirt. They are both looking down at a document or screen. The background is a blurred office setting. The advertisement is divided into sections with yellow, purple, and black backgrounds. The text 'FUEL YOUR COMPANY'S GROWTH ENGINE' is prominently displayed in white on a purple background. At the bottom, there is a QR code, the IIS logo, and contact information.

**FUEL YOUR COMPANY'S  
GROWTH ENGINE**

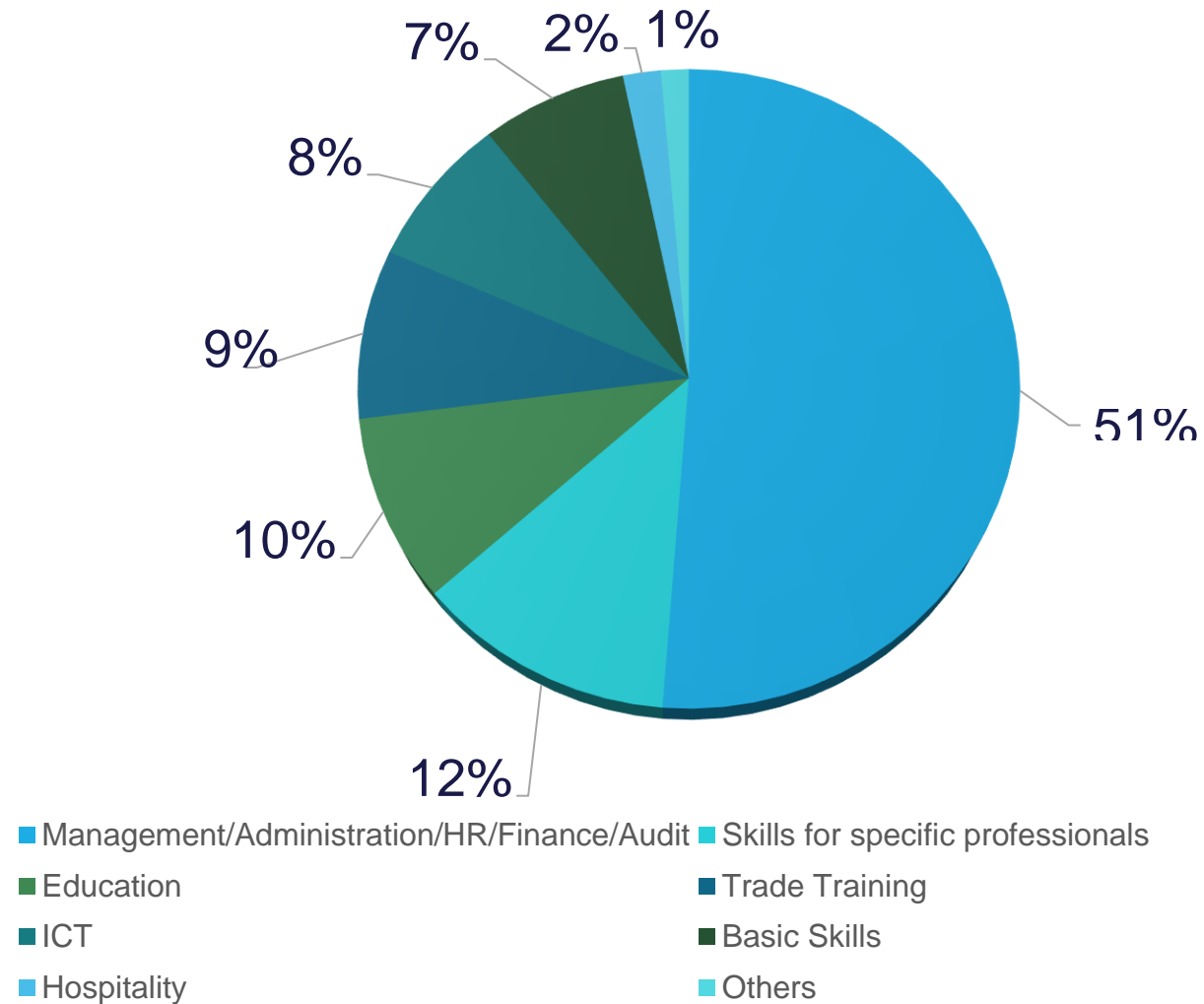
**IIS**  
INVESTING IN SKILLS

**Learn More**

QR code

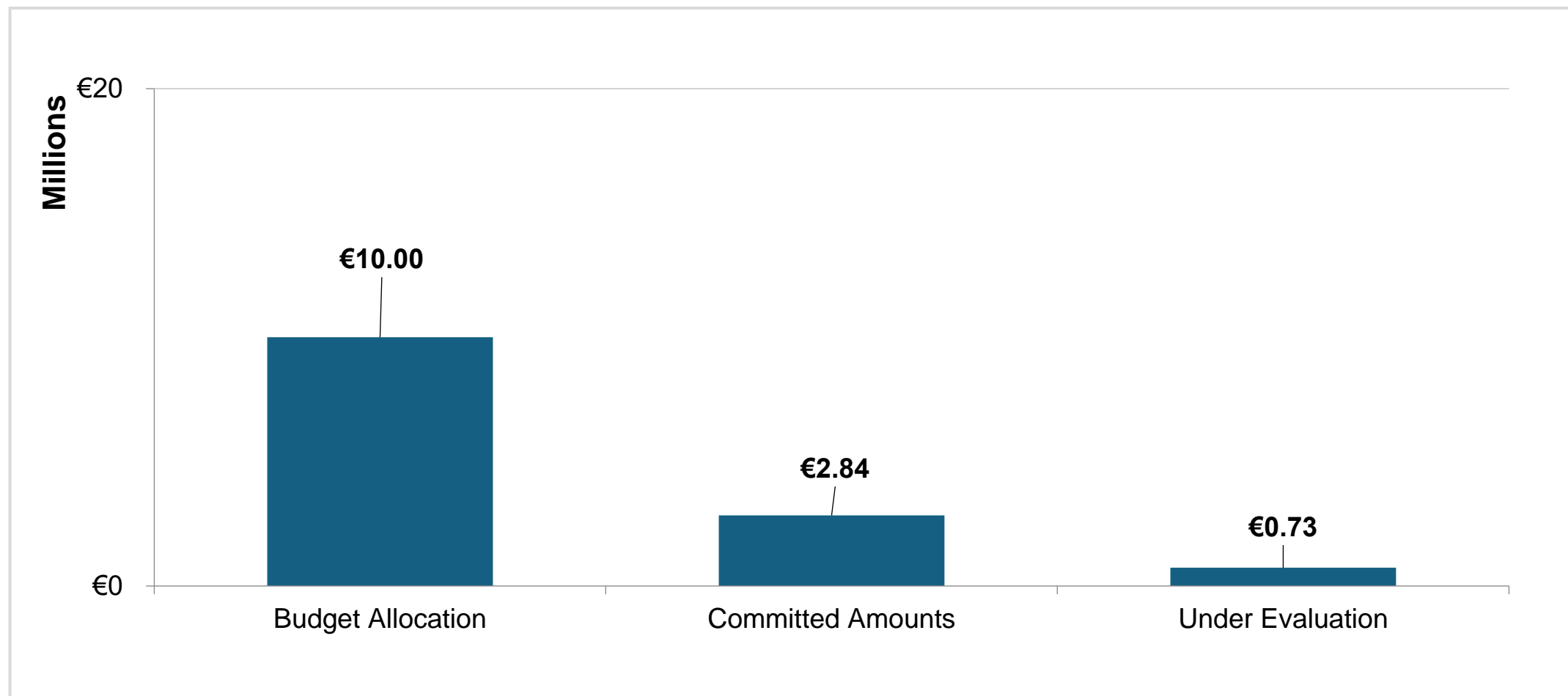
e: [iis.jobsplus@gov.mt](mailto:iis.jobsplus@gov.mt)  
t: (+356) 153

# IIS Scheme Implementation Progress – Areas of Training in 2025



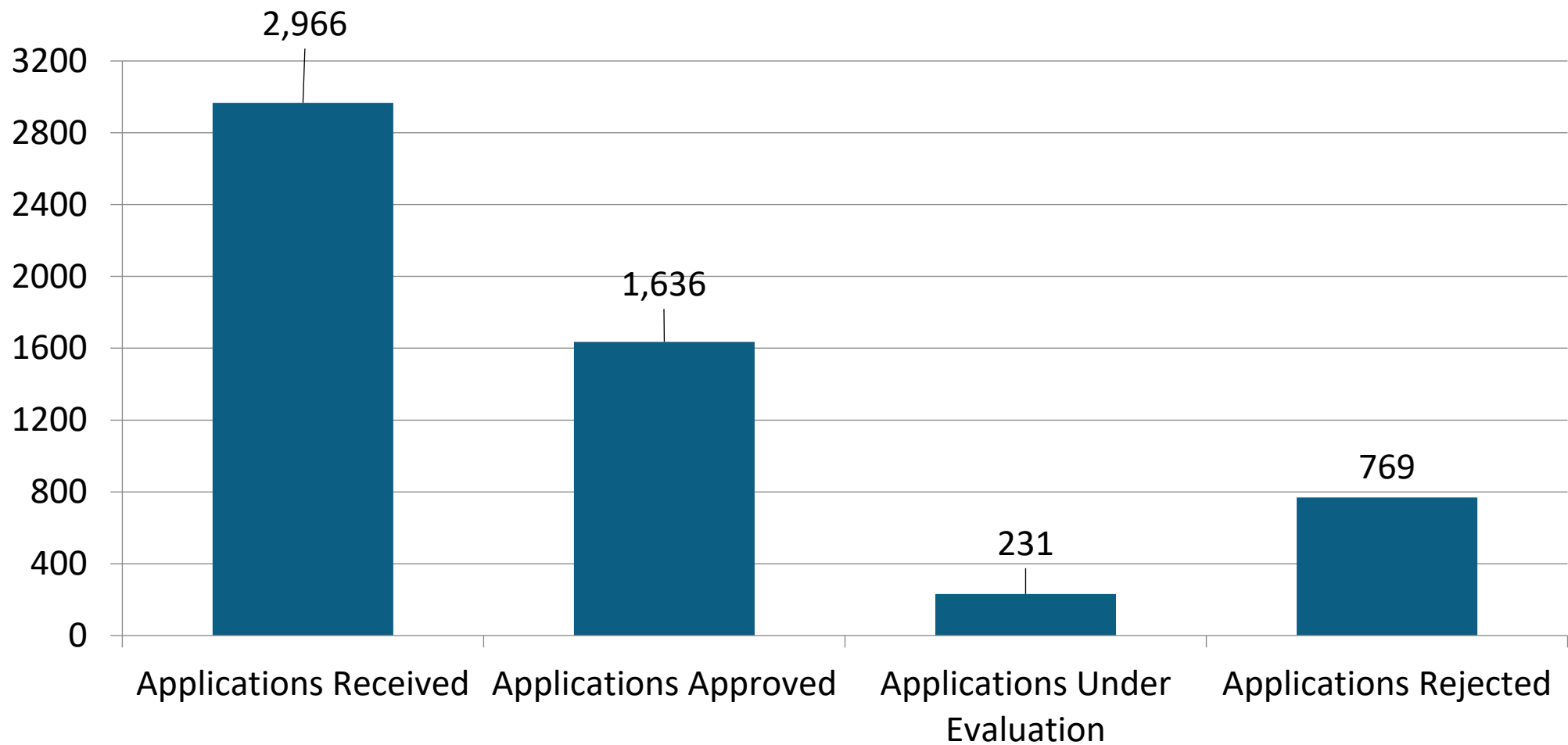


# IIS Scheme Implementation Progress



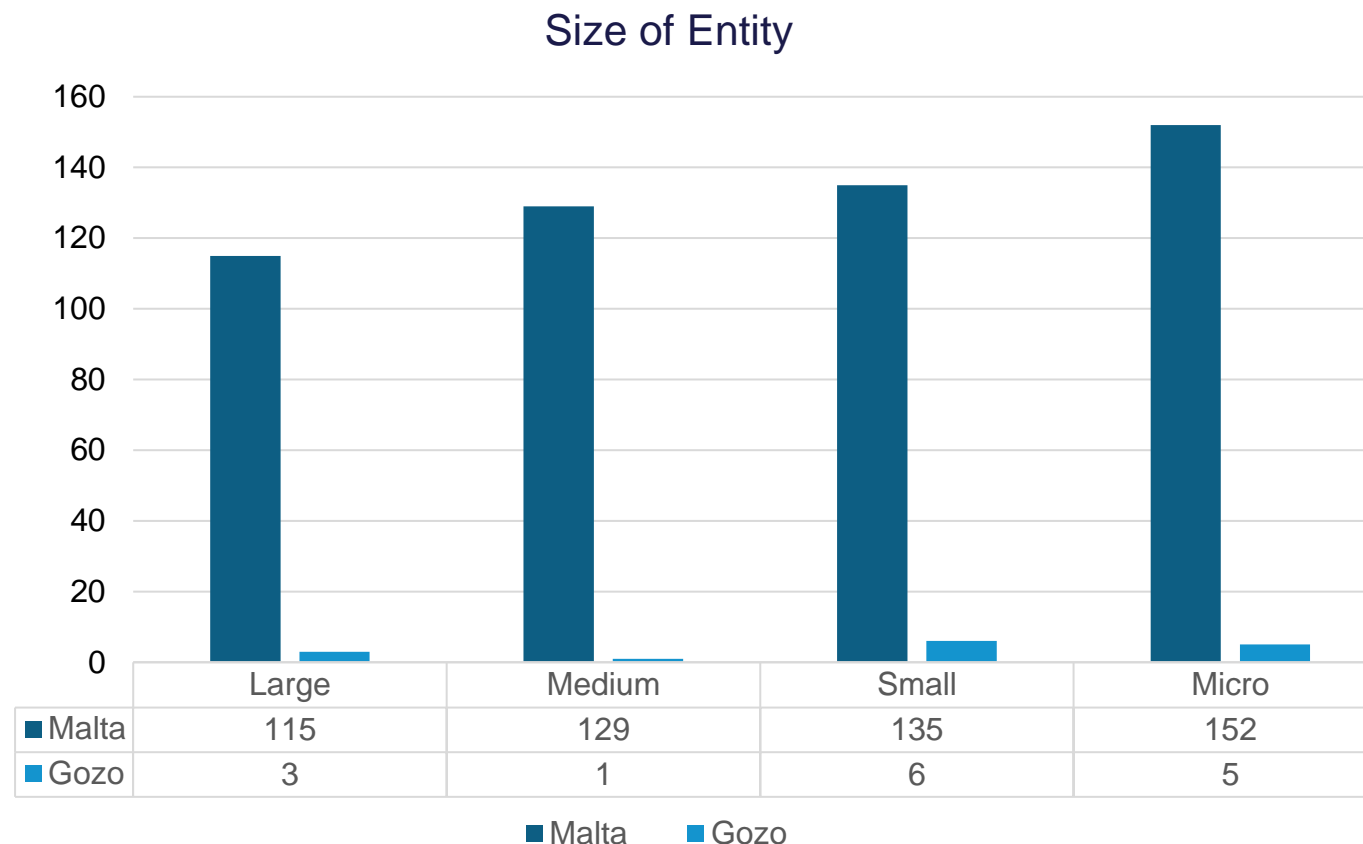
As of end of May 2025, **28%** of the initial budget has been allocated.

# ESF Aid Schemes - IIS+ Implementation Progress



As of end of May 2025, **28%** of the initial budget has been allocated, out of which 12.8% to SMEs, with 7.4% currently under evaluation.

# IIS Scheme Implementation Progress - Beneficiaries



From the start of the scheme, a total of **2,966** applications were received out of which **1,636** grants were signed. These resulted in **546** unique beneficiaries who are benefitting from the scheme, out of which **428** are SMEs. Thus, the target milestone for 2024 has been reached.



**Financial Instruments**  
*InvestEU*  
*Support to enterprises*



# Update on the Financial Instrument under the InvestEU Programme



**October 2023**

Launch of the Member State  
Compartment under the  
InvestEU Programme



**October 2024**

Launch of an initiative under  
the InvestEU Programme

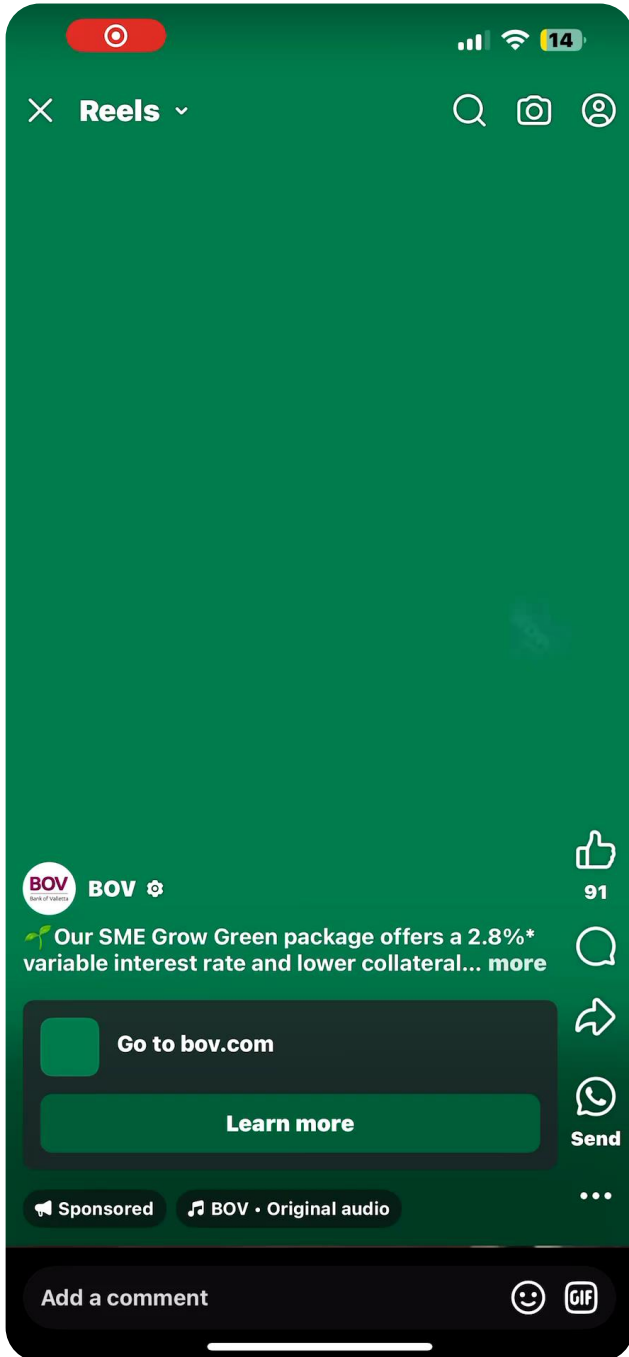
Launch of two guaranteed  
products by BOV (*SME Grow*  
*and SME Grow Green*)



**October 2024 onwards**

Implementation & Monitoring

**Timeline**



Source: Sponsored post by BOV related to SME Grow Green

## Update on the Financial Instrument under the InvestEU Programme



- So far, **€10.5 million** have been deployed from the **Member State Compartment**, together with €19.5 million from EIF resources, for a **€30 million guarantee instrument**, unlocking **€60 million in new financing** through the Bank of Valletta (BOV).
- Following the launch of SME Grow and SME Grow Green by BOV in October 2024, the Managing Authority has closely monitored the implementation of the financial instrument under the InvestEU Programme.
- **SME Grow** offers a competitive fixed interest rate of 3.8%, designed to support a broad range of business development needs.
- **SME Grow Green** targets environmentally conscious investments, with a reduced interest rate of 2.8% to incentivize the adoption of green technologies. Eligible investments include renewable energy systems, energy-efficient upgrades, and other low-carbon initiatives.

# Update on the Financial Instrument under the InvestEU Programme



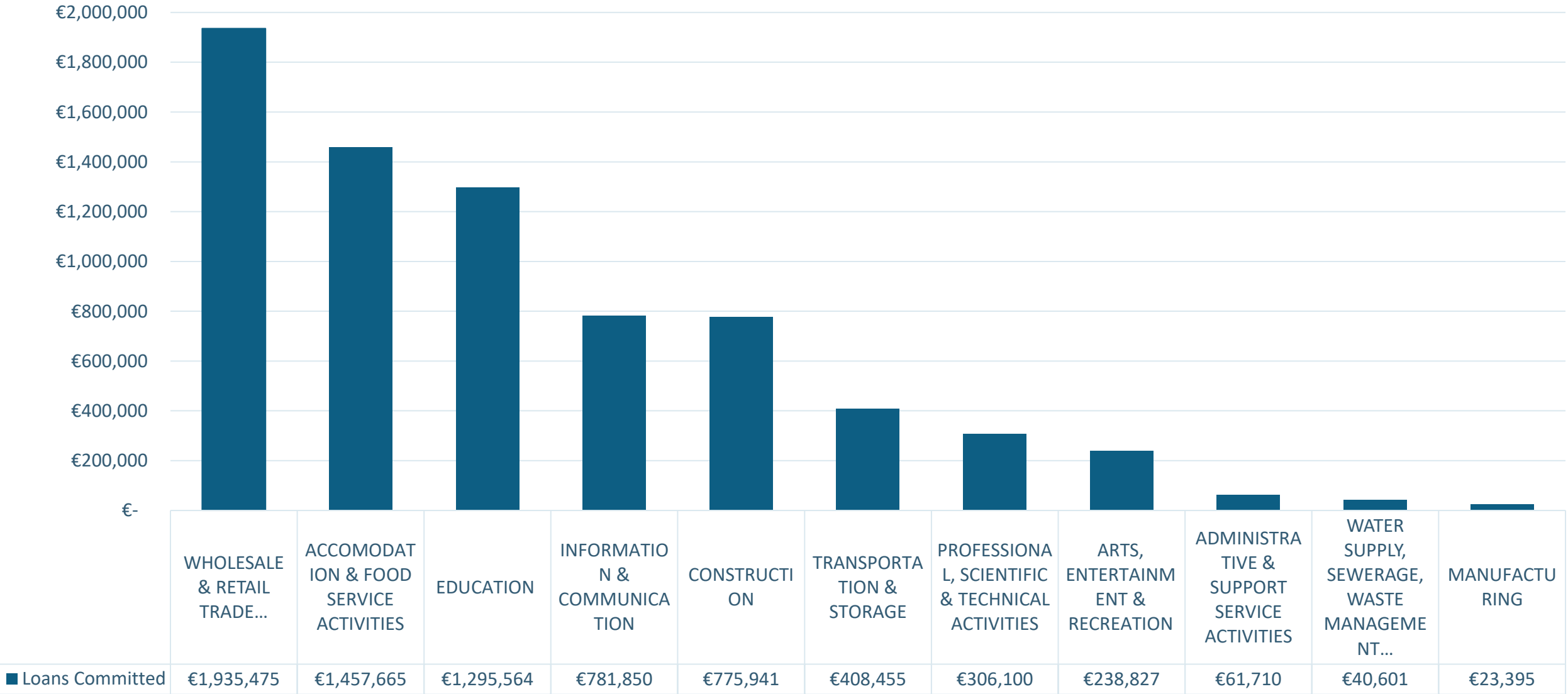
The data provided by the bank indicates a strong initial uptake, with €7,325,583 awarded to 31 unique beneficiaries within the first eight months of the product launch.

- Number of Loans Committed: **34**
- Total value of Loans Committed: **€7,325,583**
- Number of Loans Disbursed: **19**
- Total value of Loans Disbursed: **€2,732,023**
- Average Loan Size: **€215,458**

# Update on the Financial Instrument under the InvestEU Programme



Value of Loans Committed per NACE Code Category



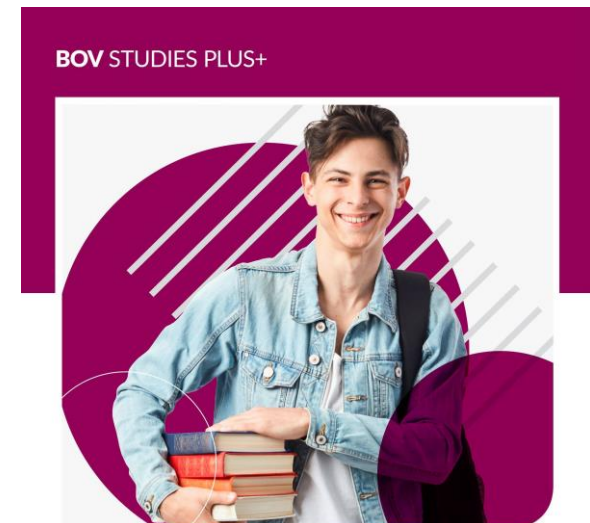
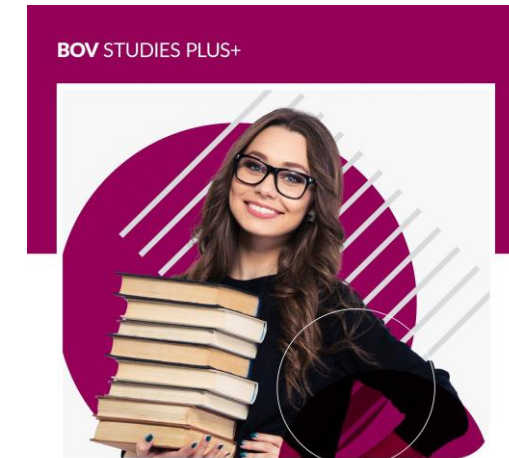




**Financial Instruments**  
**ESF+**  
***FSMA+***

# Update on the Financial Instrument Further Studies Made Affordable (FSMA+)

- The FSMA+ Financial Instrument, supports the development of human capital and aims to meet the needs of eligible students interested in **pursuing a study programme** for accredited courses in MQF levels 5, 6, 7 and 8, as well as internationally recognised certificates
- **An investment of €5M** was made through ESF+ (2021 – 2027).
- The financial instrument provides students with **guaranteed loans** together with a **subsidy to cover the interest generated during the moratorium period**.
- **Malta Development Bank (MDB)** acts as the body implementing the Financial Instrument and BOV as the commercial bank selected through a public call for service to act as Financial Intermediary.
- Following the success of the financial instrument, a request was submitted by MDB to increase the investment allocated under the FSMA+.



## Update on FSMA+ under ESF+

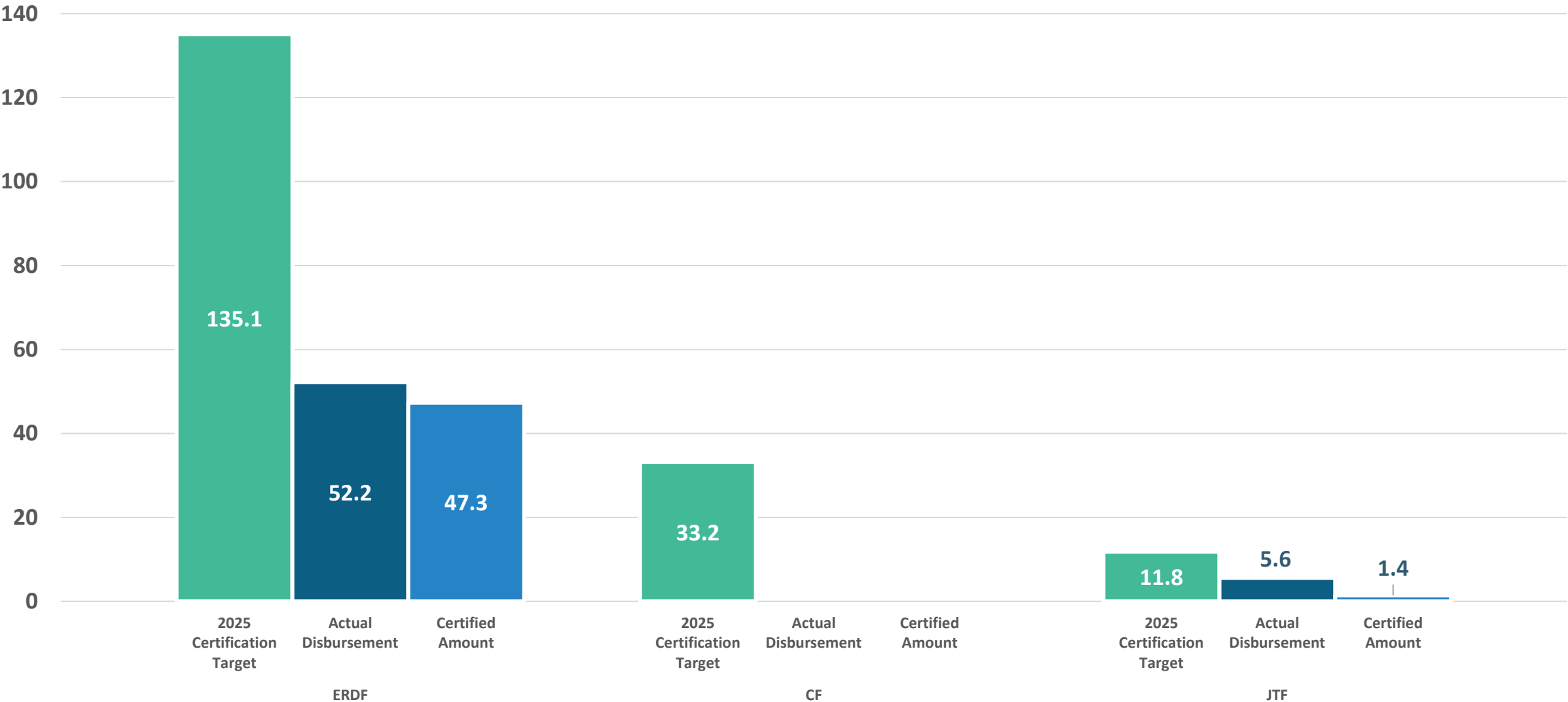
➤ As at end of May 2025, the status of the FSMA+ was as per below:

Data as at May 2025	FSMA+
Portfolio	€25.1M
Committed in loans	€25.1M
Number of loans/students supported	478
% of which women	40%
Interest generated covered by the subsidy	€274K
Disbursed amount by the bank	€11.8M
% of loans disbursed over committed	47%

## **Update on Financial Progress**

# ECJ Programme

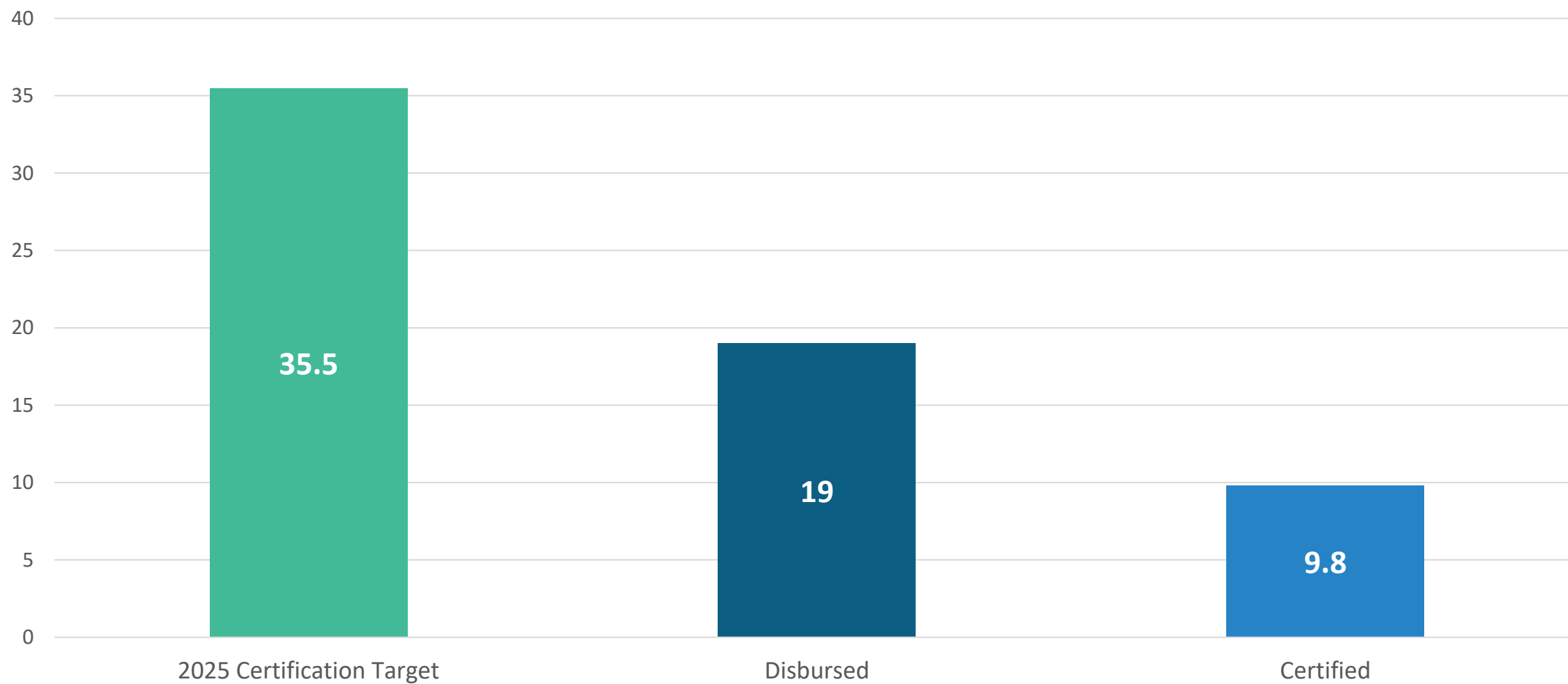
Status Update (€M)





# ESF+ Programme

## Status Update (€M)



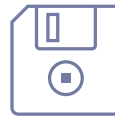
# **Monitoring and Evaluation**

# Monitoring and Evaluation



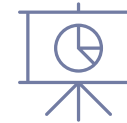
## Training and Guidance on Indicators.

Guidance documents issued 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.



The **Mid-Term Review** was successfully submitted for ESF+. As for ERDF/CF/JTF, work remains ongoing.



Work tied to **Evaluation Plan** consolidation is underway and work in ongoing to **externally contract experts** for evaluation activities

# Training on Indicators

- The Evaluation Unit carried out training to **MA officers** in April, highlighting the specificities and obligations tied to indicator quantification, reporting and verification. During these sessions information was provided on the recent enhancements made available on the SFD.
- To the same aim, the Evaluation Unit held several training sessions in May for ERDF/CF/JTF and ESF+ **Beneficiaries**.
- The training aimed to ensure a **common understanding** of indicator requirements, **closing knowledge gaps**, whilst promoting **good practices** in the collection and reporting of indicator data.
- Training was instrumental in strengthening the correct and effective use of the updated **SFD modules and reporting** on indicators, facilitating in particular for ESF+, the efficiency in relation to the automation of quantification of participant records and their contribution towards the respective indicators.



## **Update on Evaluation work**



# Evaluation Plan\* (Horizontal)

DESCRIPTION	FUND	STATUS
Preparatory Data Study	ALL FUNDS	<b>Drafting stage</b>
Communication Impact Evaluation	ALL FUNDS	Planned Q3 2026 – Q3 2027
Effectiveness and Efficiency of key processes of EU funds	ALL FUNDS	Planned Q3 2026 – Q4 2027
Summative evaluation EU funding across locations in Malta and Gozo	ALL FUNDS	Q1 2027 – Q2 2028
Mid-term review	ESF+	submitted
Mid-term review	ERDF/CF/JTF	Pending review following Commission Proposal

*\*Currently in the final stages of the consolidation exercise with other funds*

## Evaluation Plan (ESF+)

DESCRIPTION	FUND	STATUS
Structured Survey (Material Deprivation)*	ESF+	<b>Ongoing</b> (Q4 2024 – Q2 2028)
Longitudinal and retrospective tracer study tied to opportunities enabled through ESF	ESF+	Planned Q4 2025 – Q4 2029
Impact Evaluation on the priorities of ESF+ 2021-2027 Programme	ESF+	Planned Q1 2028 – Q2 2029
NSO Cohort Study 21-27 (Longer-Term Result Indicators and additional data)	ESF+	<b>Contracting Stage</b>

*\*1<sup>st</sup> report to be reported by June 2025*

# Evaluation Plan (ERDF/CF/JTF)



DESCRIPTION	FUND	STATUS
A socio-economic assessment on the added-value of supporting SMEs	ERDF/CF/JTF	Planned Q1 2027 – Q4 2027
Impact Evaluation in the thematic priorities of the ERDT/JTF/CF 2021-2027 Programme	ERDF/CF/JTF	Planned Q1 2028 – Q2 2029
Thematic study assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and synergies in reaching objectives linked to Health	ERDF/CF/JTF	Planned Q2 2028 – Q4 2029

## Structured Survey (ESF+)

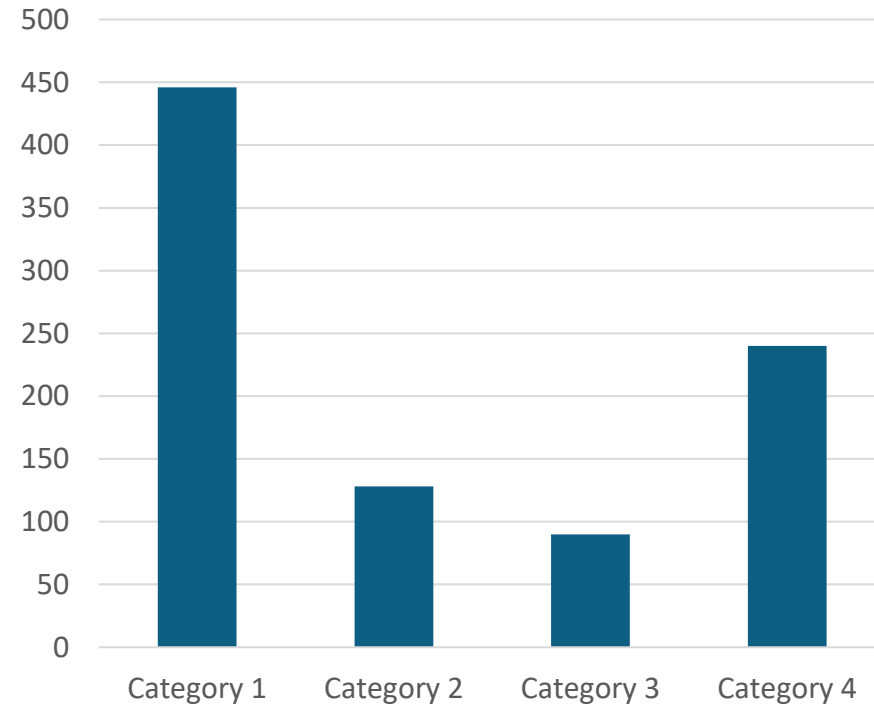
- Survey run during November – December 2024 food distribution.
- Where out of 2497 eligible households across the four target groups, a sample of 904 responses was obtained.
- **Objective:**
  - to obtain information from end-recipients in line with obligations in the ESF+ regulation tied to the structured survey;
  - to further gauge end-recipients expectations on the programme (such as on mode of support, and other guidance they want to be assisted on).

# Profile of Participants

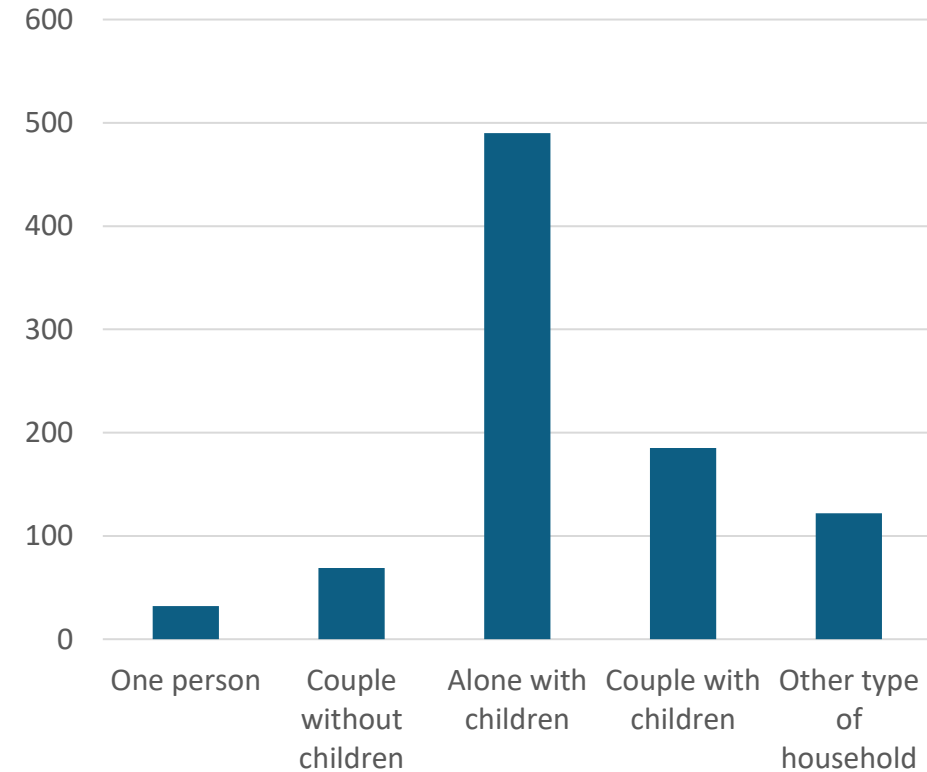
Gender Distribution



Respondents by Household category



Household Type



- Total respondents: 904 | 93.9% reside in Malta, 6.1% in Gozo;
- Age breakdown: 18–29 (93), 30–64 (631), 65+ (178)
- 78.7% report no employment income; 86.2% depend on social benefits.
- 15% of respondents received accompanying measures

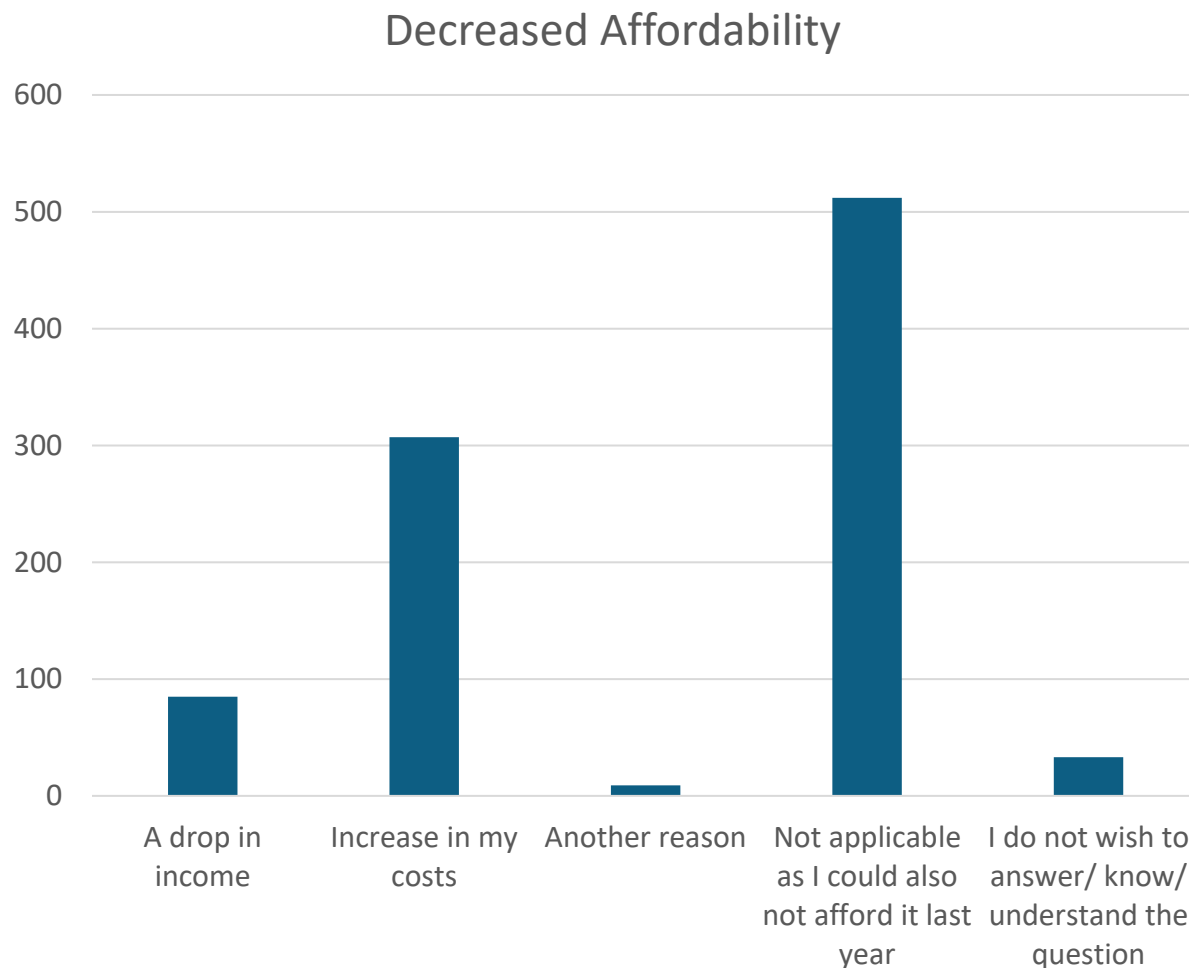


# Structured Survey (ESF+)

## Outcome of Structured Survey quantitative

- **The continued promotion of social inclusion and support in a dignified way**
  - End-beneficiaries continued to find the support useful, however to a lesser extent than what was reported in previous surveys
- **Ensuring equality and access**
  - **Over 80% of respondents reported no challenges** in receiving assistance. The main challenge among those who did was logistical (“Other reason”: 12.2%)
  - **30.4% of households** include someone with a **disability**
- **Accompanying measures** provided as part of the Food 4 You Support Programme
  - Over 80% of respondents receiving this type of assistance rated it as “Very Useful”. An increase of 31.7% from 2017 (51.4% in 2017).
  - The main form of support provided was in the form of psychological and therapeutic support, health advice, and food storage and nutrition.
  - Continue monitoring the provision and accessibility of this support
- The Support Programme continues to directly support **individuals most at risk of poverty**, reinforcing ESF+ and the **European Pillar of Social Rights’** commitments **towards the EU 2030 Poverty Reduction Targets**
  - **Over 90% consider the programme effective** in mitigating the impacts of poverty and social exclusion
  - **70.6% received food 1–2 times** during 2024; **25.7% received it 3 or more times.**

## Other key findings and recommendation (decreased affordability)



**Opportunity to strengthen collaboration with other ESF+ interventions using accompanying measures.**

By raising awareness on options available

By systematically sharing knowledge on schemes available

By facilitating access and support to such interventions through professionals

Cohorts to be considered for targeted efforts: persons with disability, unemployed/inactive and elderly

## Structured Survey (ESF+)

### Other recommendations:

- Maintain the support to cohorts in terms of food, ensuring it continues to serve vulnerable individuals and families
- Continue exploring feasibility of different food options to better cater for the needs and preferences of end-recipients
- Out of those respondents who did not find scheme effective (8%) - 58.1% of respondents of these indicated to prefer food vouchers as an alternative method of assistance; this aspect to be further studied

## **Update on the status of the Enabling Conditions**

## Enabling Conditions

- As stipulated in Article 40(1) of the Common Provisions Regulation, 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.
- The Strategy & Programming Unit, within the SID, takes on the role of monitoring the fulfilment of the Enabling Conditions.
- No changes to be reported on since the last Monitoring Committee, with all Enabling Conditions being fulfilled with the exception of the thematic enabling condition relating to Transport.



## Enabling Conditions - Unfulfilled

Thematic Enabling Condition	Fund	Status of Fulfilment
T3.1 – Comprehensive transport planning at the appropriate level	CF	Pending the finalisation of the revised National Transport Plan

- Malta is currently finalising a first consolidated draft of the revised transport plan.

The updated draft National Transport Masterplan 2030 is foreseen to be finalised for public consultation in Q3 2025.

## Enabling Conditions – Monitoring

- As previously announced, we are pleased to introduce a digital tool designed to **monitor Enabling Conditions** more efficiently and effectively.
- This tool is now **fully integrated into the Structural Funds Database** and has successfully passed all internal testing, including rigorous trials on the live environment.
- Today marks the launch of a pilot phase on the live module. Selected Ministries will have the opportunity to test the system in real conditions, covering both horizontal and thematic Enabling Conditions. This phase is expected to be **concluded over the summer period**.
- In the meantime, all applicable Ministries will be asked to confirm the contact points for each enabling condition.
- Once the pilot is successfully completed, a comprehensive **training session for all users** is planned for Q4 2025/Q1 2026. This will include the introduction of user-friendly guidelines, integrated within the system to support smooth and effective adoption of the tool.
- The **full roll-out (operational)** of the tool is foreseen by Q2 2026.

## Final Overview

- The 2021-2027 Programmes are designed to support Malta in achieving its socio-economic goals.
- More progress has been registered on the launch of calls, with the majority of calls under both Programmes now issued. **In total, for mainstream projects 29 calls were launched under the ERDF/CF/JTF Programme and 17 calls were launched under the ESF+ Programme.**
- The updated timetable for calls, last published in June 2025 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.
- **The first N+3 commitment for Malta is due in 2025 amounting to €180M (Public Eligible) for ERDF/CF/JTF and €35.5M (Public Eligible) for ESF+. All stakeholders are to take note of their respective commitments in terms of disbursement.**
- 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.

**Thank you**