

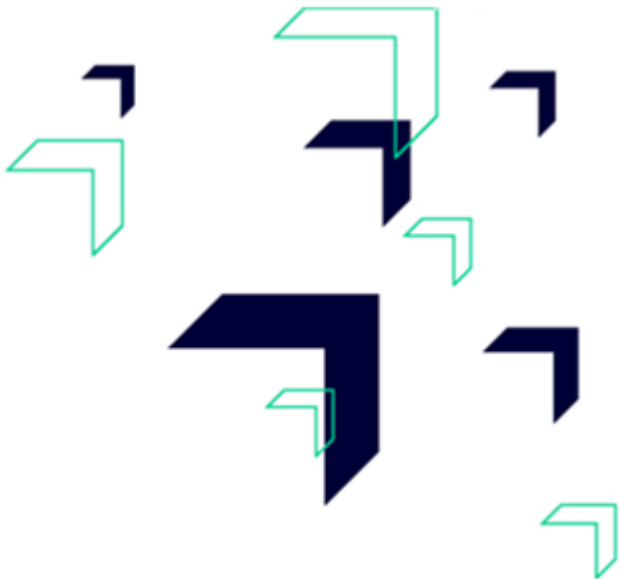


**GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA**



FONDI.eu

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)



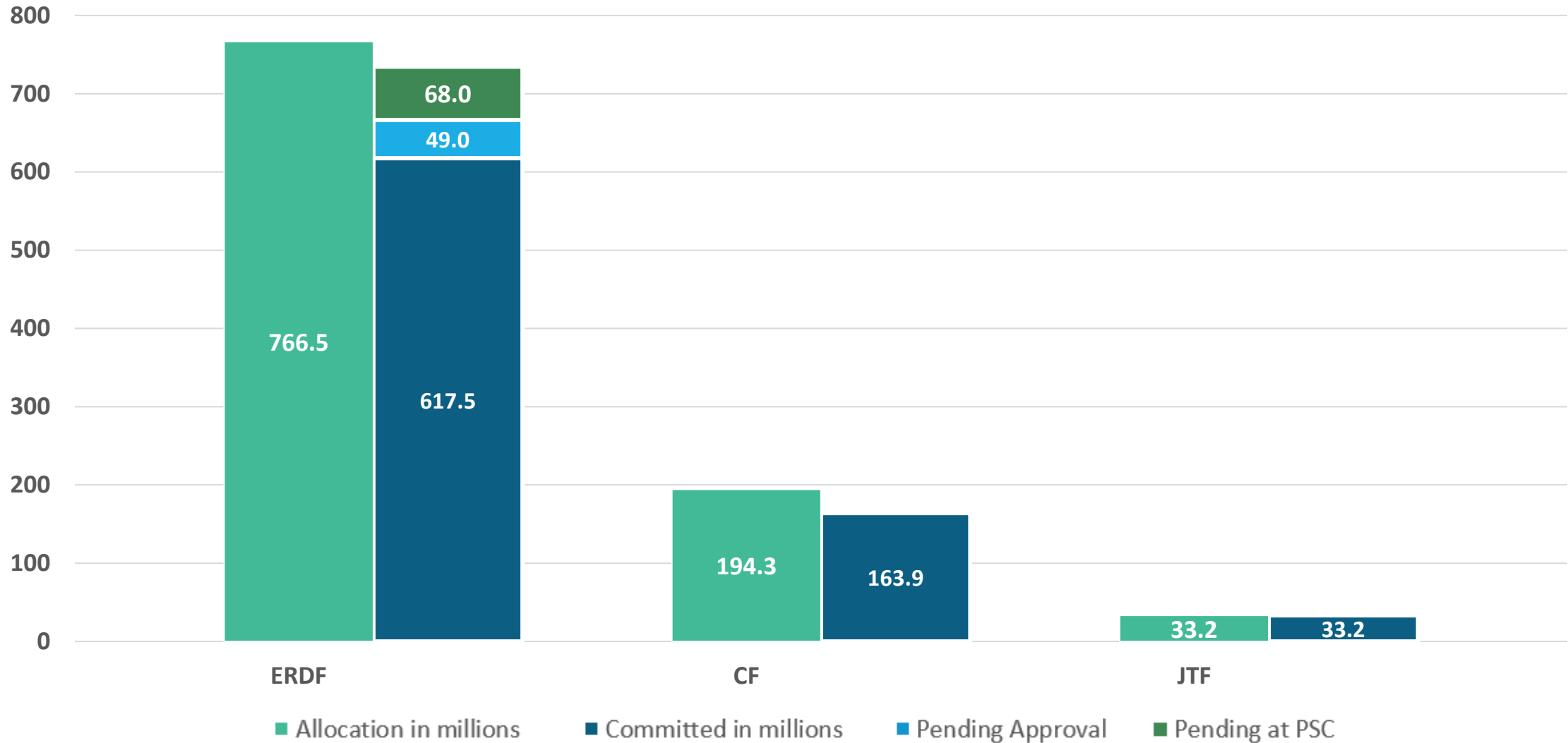
Priority 7:
Connected Europe
(CF)



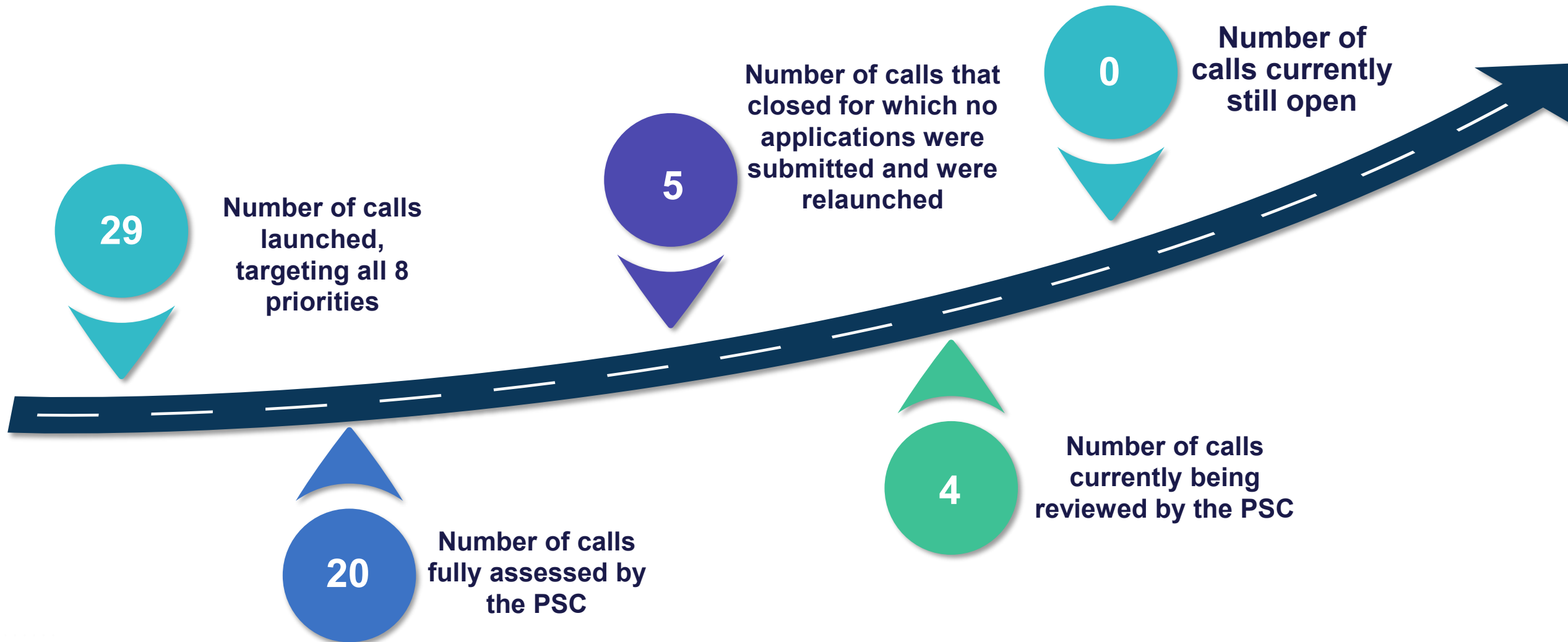
Priority 8:
Climate Neutral Economy
(JTF)

ECJ Programme

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**



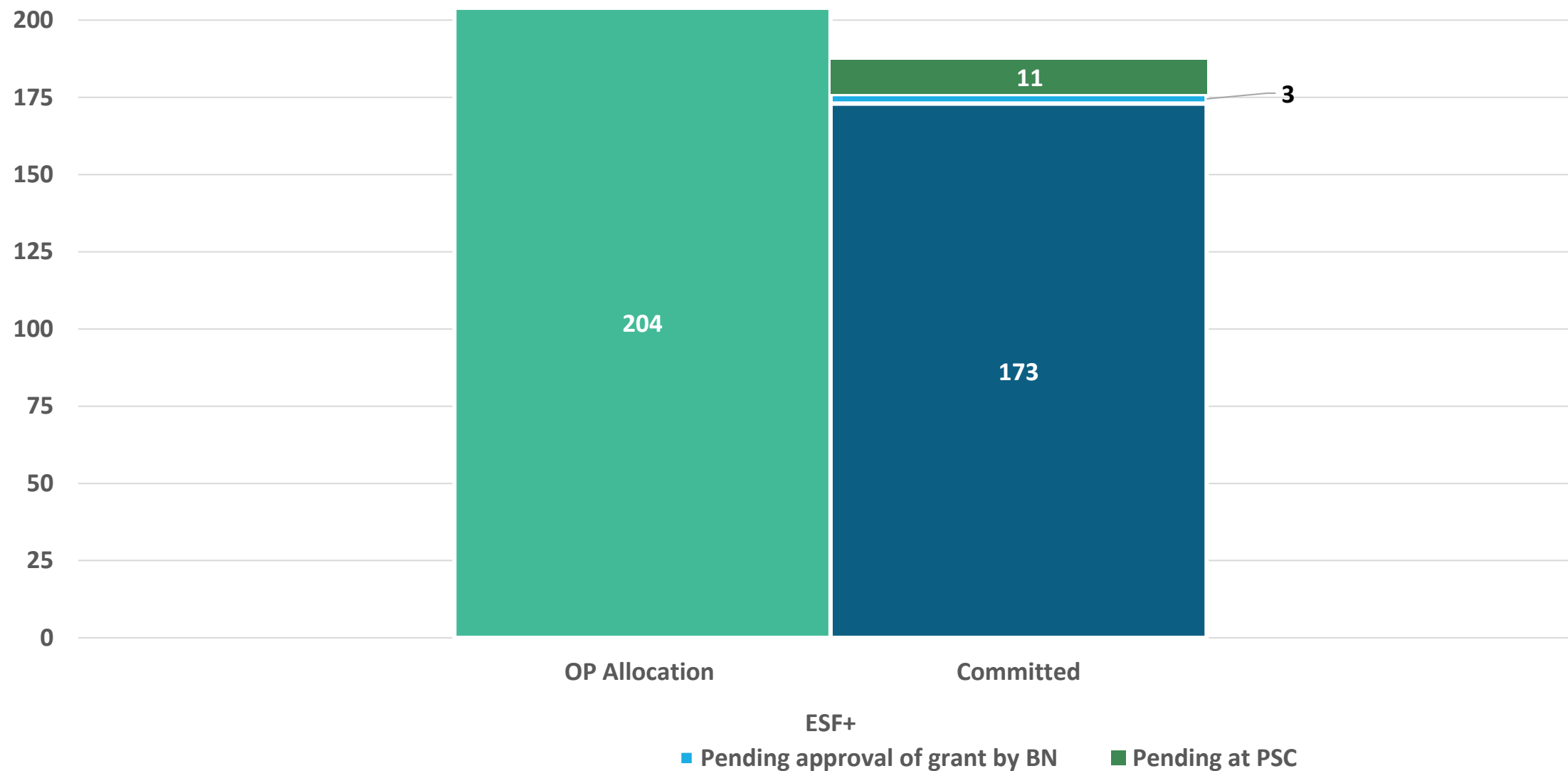
Priority 4:
**Addressing material
deprivation**



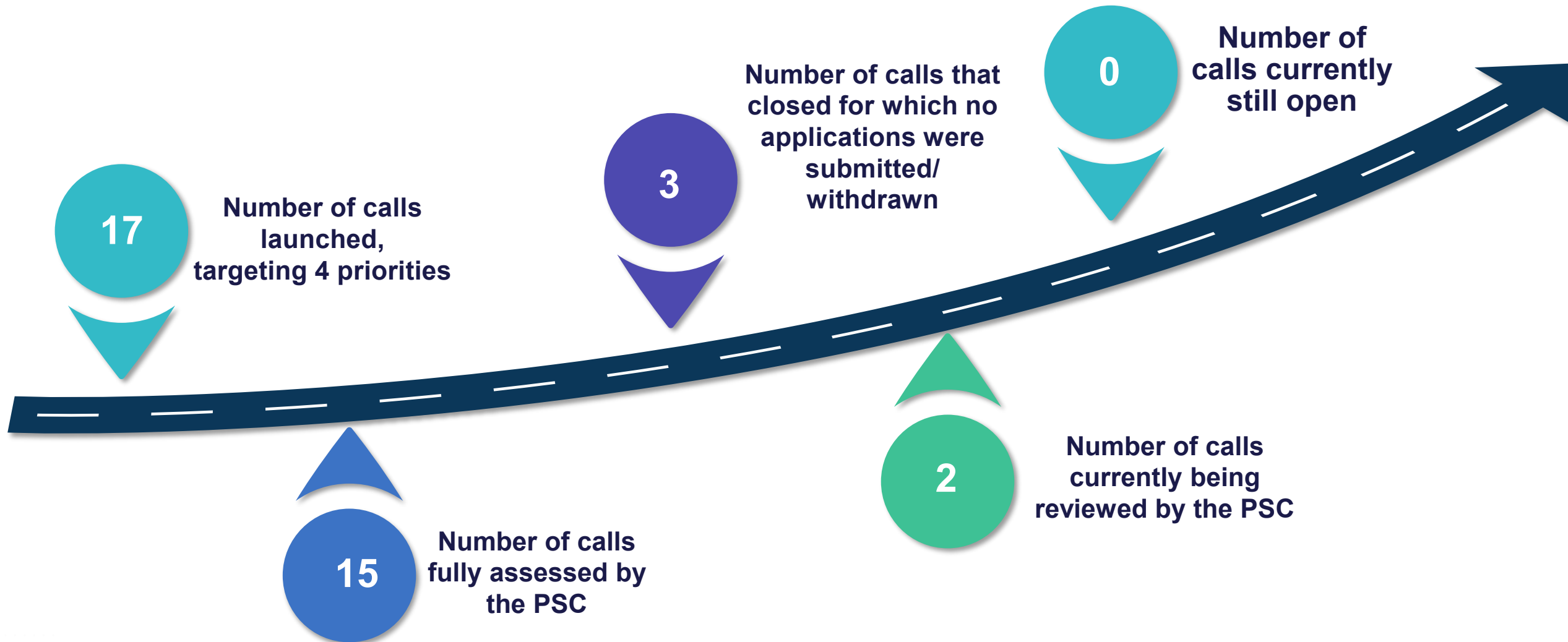
Priority 3:
**Quality and inclusive
education and enhanced
lifelong learning for growth**

ESF+ Programme

Status Update (€M)

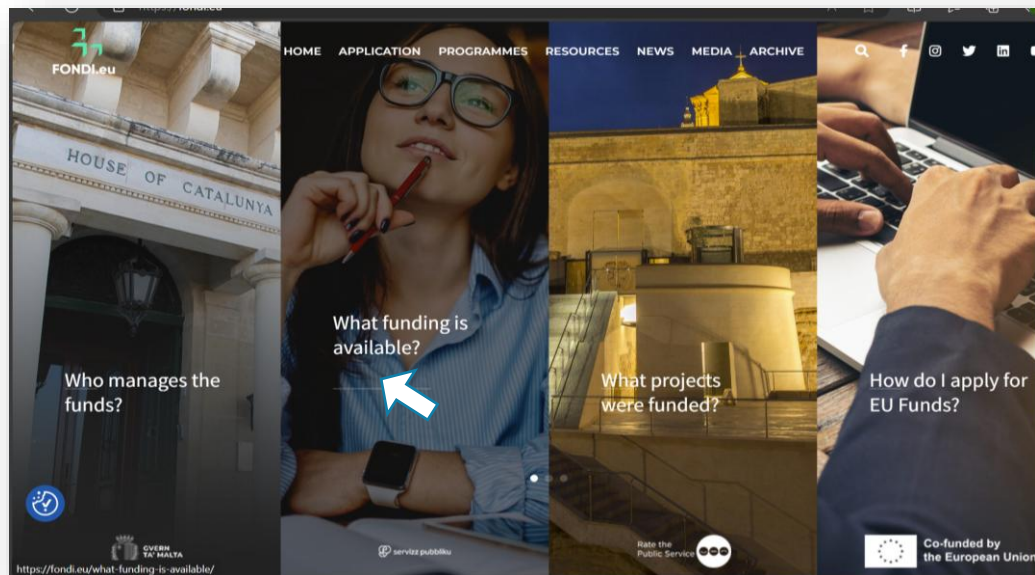


ESF+ Programme Status of Calls

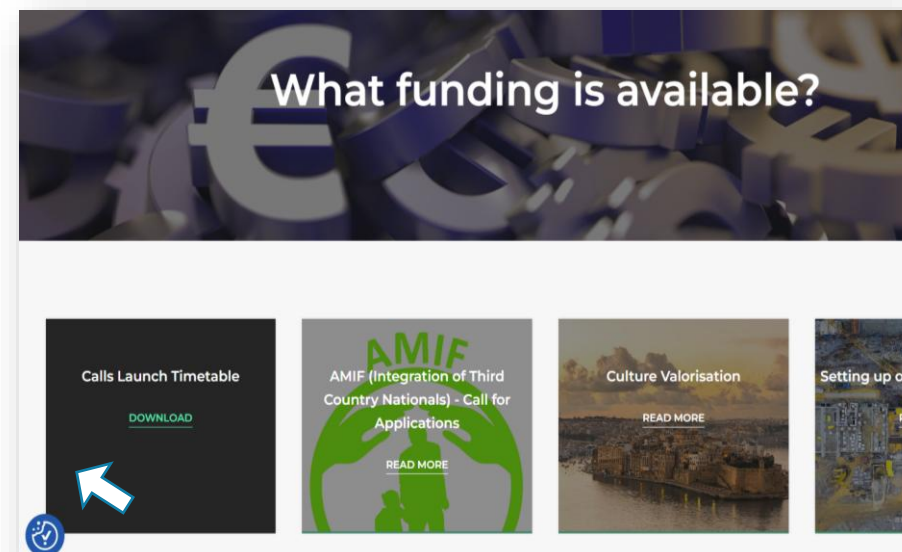


Timetable of planned calls for proposals

- **Article 49 (2) 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 October 2025.



Screenshot from Fondi.eu website



Screenshot from Fondi.eu website

Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee



**Priority 4:
Europe closer to citizens
(ERDF)**

Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

ERDF.04.268: Improving the Living Standards of the Urban Area in Gozo

Beneficiary: Ministry for Gozo

Public Eligible Allocation: €58 million

The project aims to enhance living standards in Gozo's urban areas through sustainable development, focusing on urban greening, heritage preservation, mobility, and social inclusion.

Urban greening initiatives: The project will create new green spaces such as the Victoria Parks, regenerate urban gardens in Qala, Kercem and Xewkija.

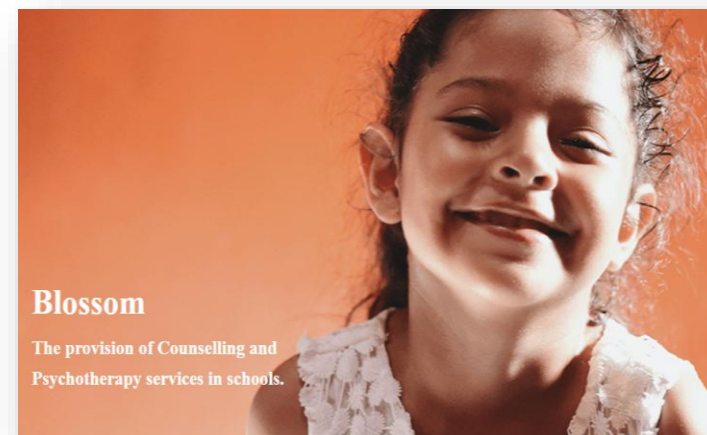
Heritage preservation: Restoration of culturally significant buildings, such as the Vajringa Building and St Augustine's Priory, and an ad hoc scheme to restore residential facades in Gozo's urban conservation areas.

Active mobility: Walking corridors, with added greening and amenities, to enhance users' experiences along key routes to encourage active mobility.

Social inclusion: The project will focus on initiatives aimed for the inclusion of vulnerable groups to prevent social isolation, addressing service gaps with new social infrastructure.



Built Heritage Scheme



The Blossom Project



**Priority 5:
Environment
(CF)**

Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

CF.05.255: The Organic Processing Plant: A sustainable Solution for Malta's Waste Management

Beneficiary: Wasteserv Malta Ltd

Public Eligible Allocation: €45million

The project involves the **construction of a new automated Organic Processing Plant (OPP) to process biowaste** from residential and commercial sources, with the following key objectives:

- Reducing the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfills.
- Producing biogas, decreasing dependence on non-renewable energy sources.
- Generating digestate for use as a soil improver in agriculture.

It incorporates advanced technologies setting new standards for innovation in waste management. Its scalable design allows adaptation to seasonal changes and future increases in waste, ensuring long-term efficiency.

The D&B Tender for this project is currently under evaluation.



Visualisation of the Organic Processing Plant



FONDI.eu



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



Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

CF.06.276: Connections for Safer Active Mobility (C-SAM)

Beneficiary: Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works

Public Eligible Allocation: €29.4 million

The project aims to **promote sustainable urban mobility** through:

- the development of active mobility infrastructure, and
- supported by IT infrastructure to promote an integrated multi modal approach.



E-bike sharing equipment



Bridge San Tumas

The project focuses on developing safe and continuous active mobility routes within the **Northern Harbour and Southern Harbour regions**, making it easier for people to travel by bicycle or on foot. It consists of the construction of **safe pedestrian paths, cycle lanes and construction of bridges** seeking to connect urban areas and new public open spaces.

The project also includes **e-bike sharing equipment** and infrastructure and the deployment of **ITS infrastructure such as CCTVs and VMSs** aimed to promote multi-modality and ensure provision of real time information and road safety.



**Priority 1:
Enhancing Employability
and Labour Market
Resilience (ESF+)**

Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee



ESF+.01.269: Regional Empowerment Centres (REC)
Beneficiary: Foundation for Social Initiatives within the Archdiocese of Malta
Public Eligible Allocation: circa €120K

This project supports vulnerable groups by improving employability through community-based skills training and social enterprise initiatives.

Two centres focusing on **sewing and design and on a kitchen garden and sustainable food skills** will be set up.

The project is expected to target 90 participants.



Fondazzjoni għall-Opri Soċjali
fl-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta

ESF+.01.346: Trinkets Social Enterprise
Beneficiary: Richmond Foundation
Public Eligible Allocation: €134K



Trinkets is a pilot **social enterprise initiative** to support individuals facing mental health challenges and young people with developmental disabilities.

It will set up a **creative studio and workshop** where participants design and produce locally inspired merchandise using traditional crafts and digital tools.

The project is expected to provide training to 60 participants (youths between 16 and 30 yrs).



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



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

Selected Projects since last Monitoring Committee

ESF+.02.272: Capacity Building in the Field of Palliative Care

Beneficiary: Ministry for Health & Active Ageing

Public Eligible Allocation: €586K

The project aims to train a total of **254 professionals in different levels, from Certificate to Masters level, in the various aspects of palliative care.**

It will promote a holistic approach that upholds the dignity of patients with chronic or terminal illnesses and offers support to their families, including during bereavement.

Special attention will be given to paediatric palliative care, recognising the distinct needs of children as both patients and relatives.

ESF+.03.345: A Career of Service – a lifelong learning experience within the Public Administration

Beneficiary: Institute for Public Services (IPS)

Public Eligible Allocation: €2.7 million

This project aims to enhance the skills of the public administration both locally and abroad.

More than **365 officers are expected to benefit** from academic sponsorships, seminars, placements and skills gained within their respective roles.



Academic Sponsorships

The Academic Sponsorships call for doctorate or Masters level is currently open.

Update on Implementation of Approved Projects



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

ERDF: Priority 1

ERDF.01.210: 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 D&B is currently at evaluation stage.



Site Plan

ERDF.01.265: Electronic Medical Records across the Health System

Beneficiary: Ministry for Health and Active Ageing

Public Eligible Allocation: €25 million

The current system will be replaced with an off-the-shelf EMR solution to significantly impact and increase the efficiency, access to and quality of healthcare services.

It will result in increased clinician and nurse productivity, reduced administrative staff costs and reduced patient waiting time.

Currently the tender is being vetted by DoC.



Electronic Medical Records



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

ERDF: Priority 2

ERDF.02.986: Second Electrical Cable Interconnector between Malta and Italy

Beneficiary: Interconnect Malta o.b.o the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Public Cleanliness

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:

- All permits for Malta and Italy have been approved, all studies completed.
- Contracts for all key equipment have been secured, ensuring that critical infrastructure will be in place for smooth project execution.

Onshore Works: In Sicily, 18% of works have been completed. The second batch of onshore cables was manufactured and tested successfully, with delivery to both Sicily and Malta. Trenching in Malta is scheduled to begin shortly.



Onshore works

ERDF: Priority 2

ERDF.02.986: Development, Construction, and Commissioning of a Second Electrical Cable Interconnector between Malta and Italy (2)

Offshore Works:

- Marine cable production is on schedule with route surveys completed.
- Factory Acceptance Tests (FATs) for the Fibre Optic cable were successfully carried out.
- Offshore and nearshore surveys are now completed.
- Copper stranding of the subsea cable is expected to finish by end of the year.
- High-voltage factory testing was successfully conducted, and assembly of the first 10km of subsea cable is in progress.



Offshore works

ERDF: Priority 2

ERDF.02.270: Utility-Scale Battery Energy Storage Facility in Delimara Power Station (BESS)

Beneficiary: Interconnect Malta Ltd o.b.o the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Public Cleanliness

Public Eligible Allocation: €35 million

This project enables **a higher share of renewable energy sources (RES) 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 but is subject to appeal proceedings.



Planned location of the BESS in Delimara

ERDF: Priority 2

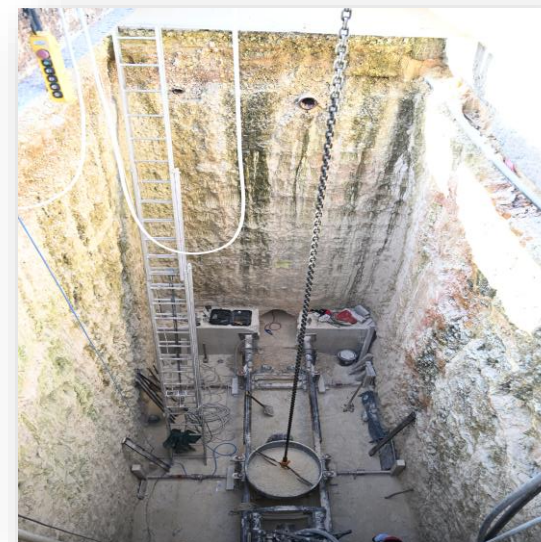
ERDF.02.260: Towards a Sustainable and more Resilient Wastewater Sector for the Maltese Islands

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 worth of works have been contracted with works ongoing in Birżebbuġa, Rabat-Dingli mains connection, St. Paul's Bay and Xemxija.



St. Paul's Bay - HDD Drilling



Birżebbuġa – Triq il-Bajja s-Sabiha



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



ERDF: Priority 3

ERDF.03.204: Rehabilitation of Villa Guardamangia

Beneficiary: Heritage Malta

Public Eligible Allocation: €10M

The villa, currently in a dilapidated state, is set to undergo a comprehensive restoration. This includes structural reinforcement, energy-efficient upgrades, improved accessibility, and meticulous recreation of its historic interiors to reflect the era of royal residence.

The main contract was recently signed, with restoration and conservation works currently ongoing.

ERDF.03.207: Culture and Arts Complex in Marsa

Beneficiary: Festivals Malta

Public Eligible Allocation: €15M

The complex will feature a diverse range of spaces dedicated to culture and the arts, including rehearsal rooms, areas for carnival events and a parade ground, facilities for cinematography, a theatre, an audiovisual studio, and a carnival museum.

The demolition and excavation contract is currently being re-evaluated.



Visualisation of the elevated walkway at Villa Guardamangia



KUL(T)ARTI (Visualisation)

ERDF: Priority 3

ERDF.03.273: Medical Equipment 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, and filling critical gaps** to meet patient care demands more effectively.

The project 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.

The beneficiary has paid circa €6.7M on several supplies contracts, which include CT scanners, ultrasound machines, X-ray systems, and neurosurgical microscopes.

Social Infrastructure Projects

Beneficiary: NGOs and Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights
Public Eligible Allocation: €18.2M

A total of six projects have been selected under the Social Infrastructure category, namely

- Five projects led by NGOs, with a total public eligible allocation of €13.2M, **focusing on specialised recreational facilities** for individuals with disabilities or illnesses and their families.
- A **youth rehabilitation centre**, led by the Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights, with a budget of €5M.

ERDF: Priority 3

ERDF.03.280: Enhancing educational facilities in Naxxar through the construction and setting up of a new primary school

Beneficiary: Foundation for Tomorrow's Schools

Public Eligible Allocation: €20 million

This project will consist of the **development of a modern, sustainable primary school** on the site of the existing building, blending historical and contemporary design to provide an inclusive, accessible learning environment. It will include modern classrooms, a multipurpose hall, library, and community spaces, designed to accommodate more than 900 students.

Works on the main contract commenced in the past months with the clearing of site, demolition, shoring of facades, excavation works and works related to archaeological findings are currently ongoing.



Visualisation of the building



Shoring for the retaining of façade



**Priority 5:
Environment
(CF)**



ERDF: Priority 5

CF.05.259: Sustainable Potable Water Infrastructure for a Changing Climate

Beneficiary: Water Services Corporation

Public Eligible Allocation: €62 million

The 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.

Implementation is ongoing, mainly on the works and supplies related to the RO and water quality component.

Circa €17.5M worth of contracts have been awarded. Several tenders related to the distribution system, namely the changing of main trunks and related infrastructure, will be published in 2026.



Reverse Osmosis Equipment



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

CF: Priority 6

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

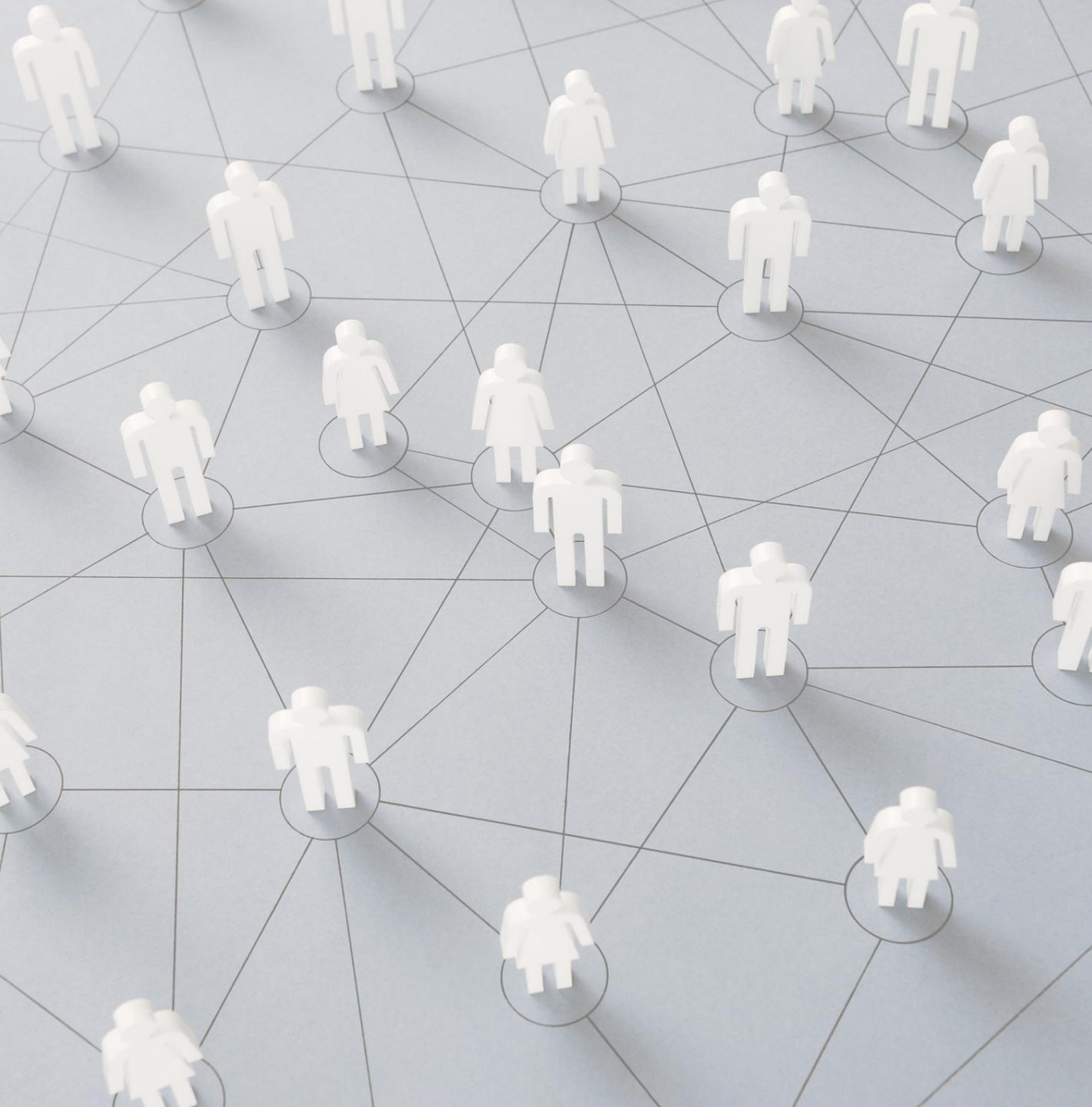
The project aims to **enhance the existing EV charging infrastructure** by installing 1,200 new medium and fast charging points covering 600 sites across Malta and Gozo.

The establishment tenders for civil works and supplies were launched, and specific tenders were awarded, while others are under evaluation and some still to be launched.

Currently the procurement process is on hold pending discussions related to State Aid.



EV Charging Infrastructure



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

CF: Priority 7

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

Beneficiary: Infrastructure Malta

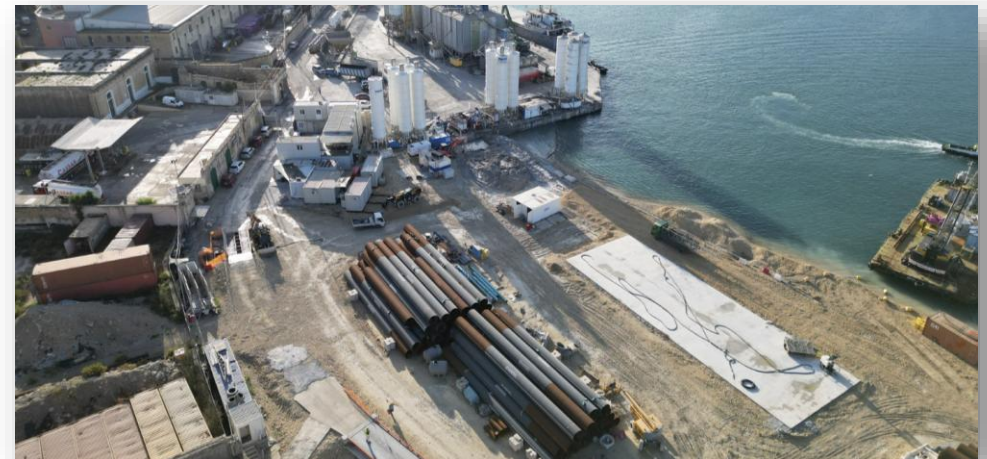
Public Eligible Allocation: €20.3 million

The project's key components include **demolishing existing structures, reclaiming land with recycled materials, constructing a quay wall, and installing quay deck pavement** along with underground services across an area of approximately 22,500 square meters.

Following the termination of the original contract by the Contracting Authority due to delays, a new tender is expected to be published in the coming months.



Visualisation of the cargo handling facility at Ras Hanžir



Site of the cargo handling facility at Ras Hanžir



FONDI.eu



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

JTF: Priority 8

JTF.08.988: OPS Freeport (Marsaxlokk)

Beneficiary: Malta Freeport Corporation

Public Eligible Allocation: €9.9 million

The project seeks to invest in the provision of on-shore high frequency power supply with the scope to provide electrical power to the berthed vessels.

- The majority of the civil works have been completed.
- Advanced progress with the procurement and shipments of the essential electrical equipment.
- The onshore connection boxes are being designed prior to commencing their fabrication.

JTF.08.989: OPS (Grand Harbour)

Beneficiary: Infrastructure Malta

Public Eligible Allocation: €23.4 million

An update on the implementation of the project will be provided by the Beneficiary in a separate presentation.



OPS Freeport - Works for the Frequency
Convertor Station



OPS Freeport - Quay Shore Supply selector
box



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

ESF+ Priority 1

ESF+.01.194: Youth Guarantee 3.0

Beneficiary: Jobsplus

Public Eligible Allocation: €10 million

- The **Youth Guarantee 3.0** comprises five initiatives; four are currently in progress, and one is planned for next year.
- **EmpowerYOUth** offers training to NEETs during which they gain hands-on work experience through placements and industry exposure.
- 307 participants have started the **profiling** process; 61 participants have attended the start-up phase and 37 have started the second phase (technical training).
- In summer 2025, 480 students attended **SEC revision classes** in Maths, English, Maltese Physics and Biology.
- A total of 140 students attended **MCAST remedial classes** in Maths, English, Maltese and vocational subjects.



EmpowerYOUth profiling



SEC Revision 2025 - Mosta

ESF+ Priority 1

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. The project offers 4 schemes.

- The **Work Exposure Scheme** caters to a wide range of occupations, while the **Traineeship Scheme** focuses on vocational training in Health and Social Care, Child Care, and Career Essentials. To date 45 participants entered the Work Exposure Scheme, and 24 participants started the Traineeship Scheme.
- The **Work Exposure Scheme (Summer Students)** offers full-time students an opportunity to gain practical work experience during the summer months. 231 participants took part in this scheme.
- The **My Skills Scheme** was launched on 12th November. The aim of this scheme is to encourage individuals to develop and upgrade their skills by providing financial assistance for participation in accredited or industry recognised training courses.



Work Exposure as a Draughtsman



Work Exposure (summer students) within a Paralegal Office



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

ESF + Priority 2 (Social Inclusion)

ESF+02.223 – VASTE II

Beneficiary: Jobsplus

Public Eligible Allocation: €18 million

The project aims to **provide disadvantaged jobseekers the tools they need to improve their wellbeing** and work towards employment, helping them become **more independent and financially secure**.

During the training, participants engage in various practical simulations, including Kitchen Hand, Gardening, Sewing, Stacking and Retail.

To date, **circa 319 participants have been supported**.

ESF+.02.236 - Building blocks for a more equitable health system for migrants;

ESF+.02.250 - Building Communities where everyone thrives

Beneficiary: The Jesuits Refugee Services (JRS)

Public Eligible Allocation: €520K + €119K

The first project focuses on **researching the challenges asylum seekers face in accessing healthcare**, including a Malta-based study targeting 140 participants.

The second project **promotes the integration of asylum seekers** through multi-disciplinary services and community-building initiatives, **aiming to support 200 TCNs**.

ESF + Priority 2

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

Beneficiary: Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS)

Public Eligible Allocation: €3.28M

- This project is a **rehabilitation and prevention** initiative for young people aged 13–25 who are at risk of criminal behaviour or already have a criminal record.
- FSWS is leading a **National Stakeholders' Network** to address juvenile delinquency, particularly first-time youth offenders. This involves collaboration with the Malta Police Force, Ministry for Education, Caritas Malta, and others to identify and support at-risk youths at an early stage.
- The network will map out **areas of concern**. To date, two network meetings have been held.
- **Training** on adolescent development and effective intervention techniques has been **provided to 10 community policing officials**.



Training to Commuting Policing Officials



National Stakeholders' Network Meetings

ESF + Priority 2

Beneficiary: Ministry for Health & Active Ageing

7 projects, with an investment of **€11.6M**, with the aim to invest in key strategic initiatives for healthcare transformation including upskilling and research.

In particular under the **ESF+.02.234 - Advancing Clinical Nursing and Midwifery Leadership: An International perspective** (Public Eligible Allocation: €1.2M)

- This project aims to provide opportunities for nurses and midwives, both within the management and specialisation streams, to gain theoretical and practical (shadowing) experience in Ireland.
- The first group of 25 nurses undertook their two-week job shadowing experience in October and received hands-on training under the supervision of the host clinic.
- This project aims to reach 100 health professionals.



Job shadowing experience

ESF + Priority 2

ESF+.02.235 – Bridging Abilities: Advancing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Gozo

Beneficiary: Inspire Malta

Public Eligible Allocation: €897K

Inspire will provide **5 new services** that will enhance the overall care that is provided to young persons with disabilities in Gozo:



- Baby and Me - parental empowerment programme
- Click and Connect - a digital literacy programme for youths with intellectual abilities
- “SHABI” friends – an after-school programme to support youths with disabilities
- Be Well Summer camp programme for children with disabilities; and
- Be Well - complementary therapies for children and their families

Inspire is aiming to support **100 children** and youths with disabilities in Gozo.

ESF+.02.229 – Nurturing Growth

Beneficiary: Church Schools Children's Fund (CSCF)

Public Eligible Allocation: €86K

A podcast studio was set up and a number of podcasts were developed to share insights and strategies on how to support children’s holistic development needs.

Around **90 educators** have received training in **SCERTS** (an educational and therapeutic framework that helps children with autism) and in **TEACCH** (a structured teaching approach designed to help individuals with autism learn more effectively and independently).



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



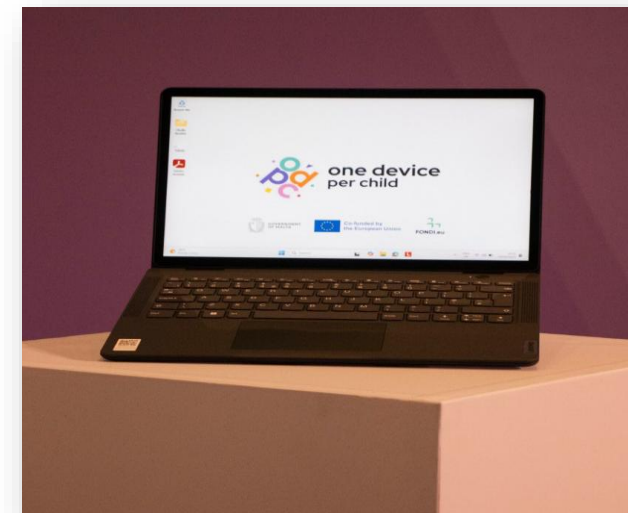
ESF + Priority 3

ESF+.03.184 One Device Per Child (ODPC)

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

Public Eligible Allocation: €54.1 million

- The first distribution of devices has now been completed with **circa 14,000 devices delivered** in state and non-state secondary schools.
- Apart from the devices, 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. So far, **827 teachers and administrators were trained to enhance their digital competencies.**



Showcase of Device



Distribution of device to students

ESF + Priority 3

ESF+.03.185 - Endeavour II Scholarships

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

Public Eligible Allocation: €9.7M

A total of **278 awardees** were selected during the first 3 calls. Of these, 44% have successfully completed their studies with a 98% success rate.

171 participants under the fourth call are expected to finalise the scholarship contract agreement in the coming weeks. **Out of 59 applicants in STEM subjects 33 are women.**



Visit by Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness Roxana Minzatu, with four Endeavour II scholars.

ESF+.03.186 – Reach High II

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

Public Eligible Allocation: €4M

The Project focuses on the provision of **post-doctoral grants**.

Through the first call, **6 researchers accepted the grants** in the following areas: STEM (3 grants), Education (2 grants) and Green Innovation (1 grant).

The second call opened in Summer 2025, and the evaluation process is currently ongoing.

ESF + Priority 3

ESF+.03.243: Strengthening Malta's Creative Sectors through Lifelong Learning

Beneficiary: Arts Council Malta

Public Eligible Allocation: €1M

The project addresses **skill gaps** in areas such as Sustainability and Creative Entrepreneurship, with Digitalisation as a cross-cutting theme.

The call for public sector employees to benefit from training grants within the relevant areas was launched in September 2025.

The project is expected to train over 400 professionals.

ESF+.03.244: Tourism Excellence
Beneficiary: MTA

Public Eligible Allocation: €1.4M

This project is a **strategic upskilling** initiative aimed at enhancing the skills of tourism professionals in Malta and Gozo.

It focuses on areas such as digitalisation, marketing, cultural awareness, sustainability, and innovation in tourism management.

It is expected to enhance the skills of 2,000 tourism professionals in Malta and Gozo.

ESF+.03.246 – Lifelong learning at a regional and local level

Beneficiary: Local Government Division

Public Eligible Allocation: €530K

Launched in September 2025, the project aims to enhance the **skills of regional and Local Government stakeholders** through training which will include study visits and work placements both locally and abroad.

A total of 125 participants are expected to be trained.



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

ESF + Priority 4

ESF+.04.188 – Food 4 You Support Project

Beneficiary: Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights

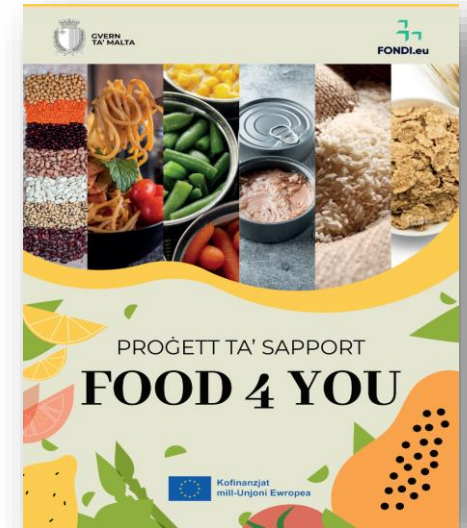
Public Eligible Allocation: €5 million

The aim of the project is to help the most vulnerable through food support.

So far, **4 distributions** of food were carried out, with **23,453 food packages** distributed reaching a total of **2,450 families**. Another distribution is currently underway and is expected to be concluded by end of December.

Complementary to the food support, 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. 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)



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:

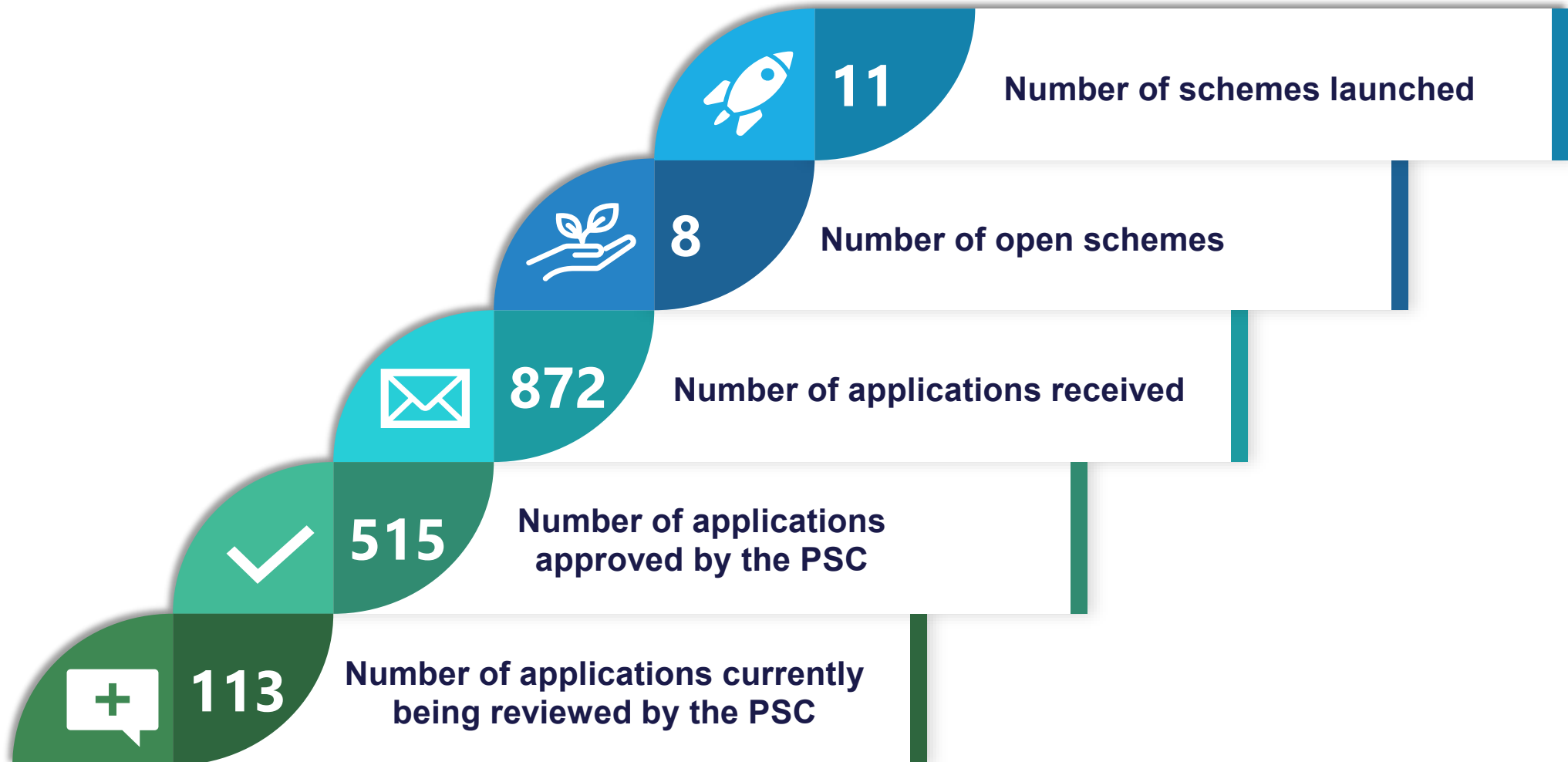
- Feasibility Studies
- Digitalise your SME
- SME Enhance (RSO1.2 - Digitisation)
- SME Enhance (RSO1.3 - Competitiveness)
- Business Reports for SMEs
- Marketing Strategy for Micro & Small Enterprises
- Internationalisation Strategy for SMEs
- Standards & Awards for SMEs
- SME Enhance (De minimis)
- SME Enhance (GBER)
- Start-up Enhance

} **Closed**



Aid Schemes to Support investment, innovation and productivity

Business Enhance Aid Schemes: Implementation Progress

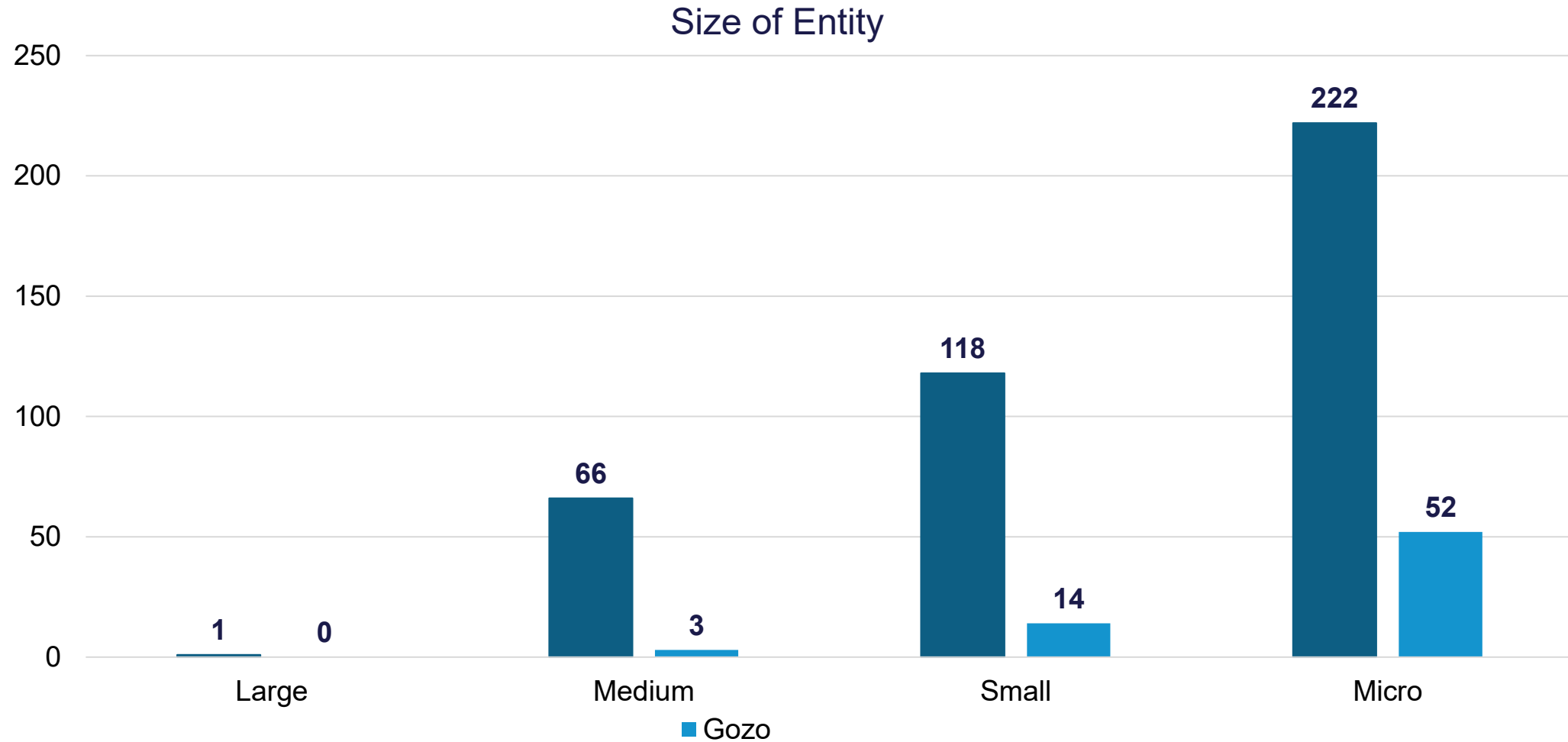


Business Enhance Aid Schemes - Implementation Progress



Circa **69%** of the initial budget has been allocated to SMEs, with an additional **15%** currently under evaluation.

Business Enhance Aid Schemes - Implementation Progress



A total of **407** applications were approved in Malta and another **69** applications in Gozo.

Business Enhance Aid Schemes: Implementation Progress (Open Calls)

Priority 1: Specific Objective	Description	Date of Issue	Call Status	Call Budget	Number of Applications Approved	Number of Applications Under Evaluation	Committed Amounts
RSO 1.1	Feasibility Study	June 2024	Open rolling call	€2M	1	0	€41,000
RSO 1.2	Digitalise your SME	March 2025	Open rolling call	€5M	18	37	€1,254,770.54
RSO 1.2	SME Enhance	March 2025	Open rolling call	€1M	10	0	€58,567.78
RSO 1.3	SME Enhance	March 2025	Open rolling call	€5M	53	43	€3,380,509.52
RSO 1.3	Business Reports for SMEs	June 2023	Open rolling call	€1.5M	148	16	€592,000
RSO 1.3	Internationalisation Strategy for SMEs	May 2025	Open rolling call	€0.5	0	0	€0
RSO 1.3	Marketing Strategy for SMEs	May 2025	Open rolling call	€0.5	1	2	€9,000
RSO 1.3	Standards & Awards for SMEs	May 2025	Open rolling call	€0.5	1	1	€5,250
Grand Total				€16M	232	113	€5,341,097.84

Business Enhance Aid Schemes: Implementation Progress (Closed Calls)

Priority 1: Specific Objective	Description	Date of Issue	Call Status	Call Budget	Number of Applications Approved	Number of Applications Under Evaluation	Committed Amounts
RSO 1.3	SME Enhance (de Minimis)	June 2023	Closed Call	€16.5M	241	0	€16,363,994.90
RSO 1.3	SME Enhance (GBER)	June 2023	Closed Call	€8.5M	31	0	€8,830,346.73
RSO 1.3	Start-up Enhance	June 2023	Closed Call	€1.5M	11	0	€1,421,988.33
Grand Total				€26.5M	283	0	€26,616,329.96



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	1,959	1,801	1,220	€12M
ESF	Priority 3, ESO4.7	Investing in Skills Scheme (IIS)	Sept 2023	Open rolling call	€10M	3,626	2,912	2,213	€3.84M
					€22M	5,585	4,713	3,433	€15.84M

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, **1,130** Grant Agreements were awarded for a total value of **€12.M**, thus fully committing the scheme. A programme amendment to shift funds from Priority 2 to Priority 1 is thus being proposed.

Key achievements to date:

- 1,130 persons gaining employment, of which 51% were women and 14% were persons with disabilities.
- 573 women returning to work, 12% of which were unemployed/inactive for at least two years and 27% of which were unemployed/inactive for one year.
- 676 unique entities benefitted from the scheme, out of which 93% are SMEs.

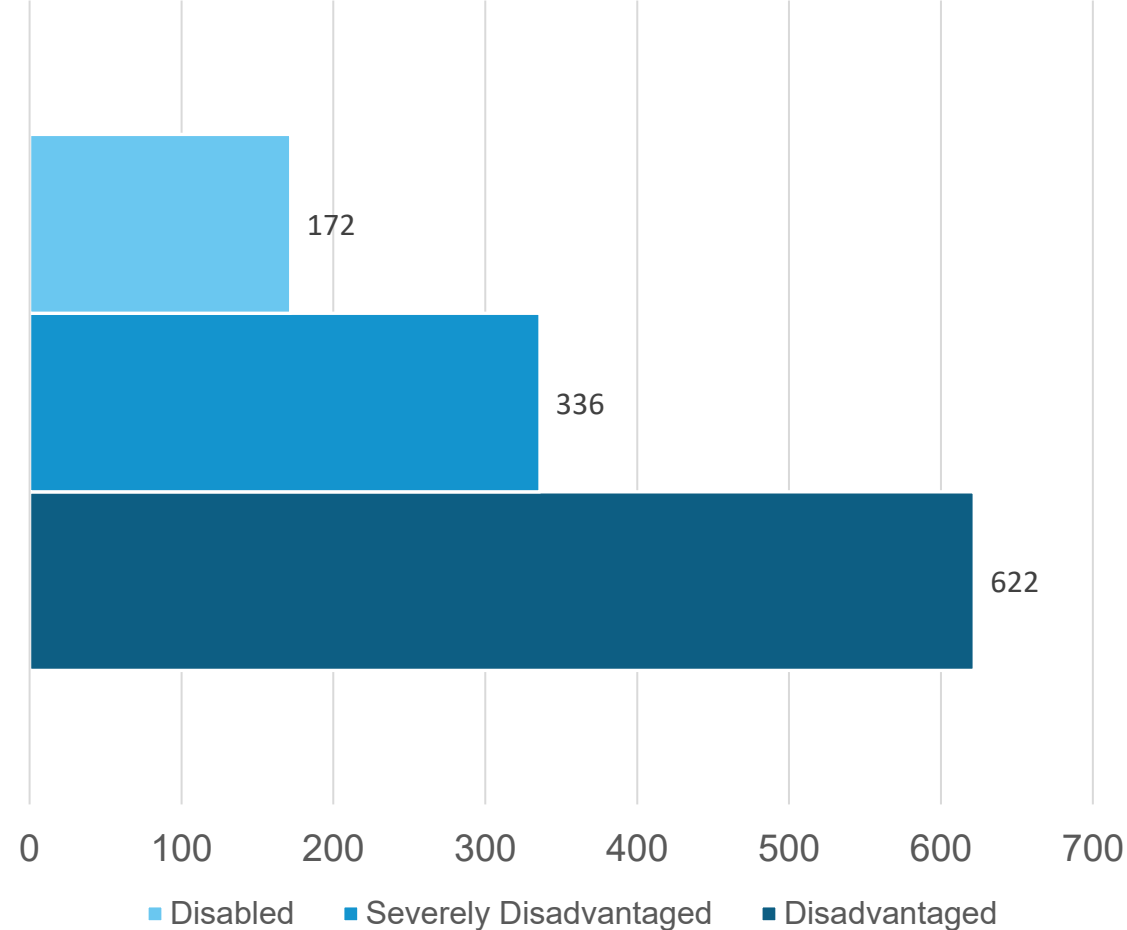


A2E beneficiary

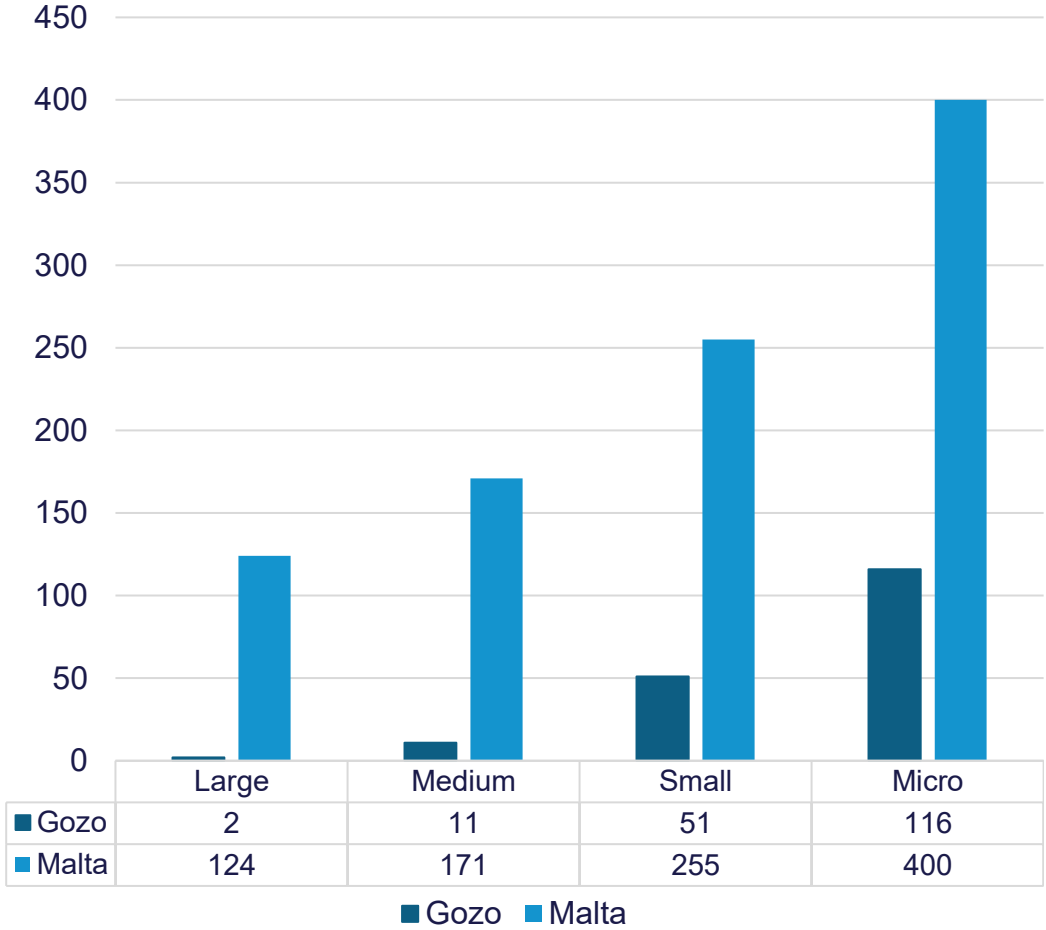
A2E Scheme: Implementation Progress



Target Groups



Size of Entity



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 €3.84M have been committed under this scheme.

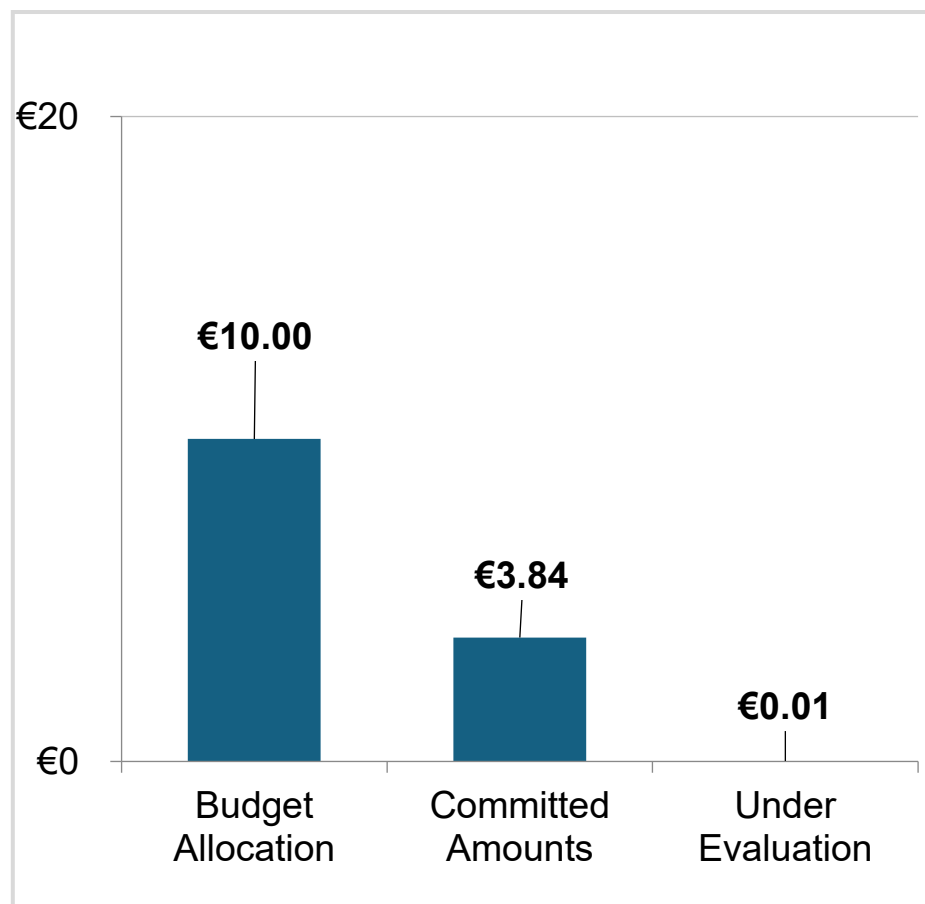
Key achievements:

- 2,213 grants signed
- 8,935 participants trained, of which 53% were women
- 643 unique entities are benefiting out of which 523 (80%) are SMEs.

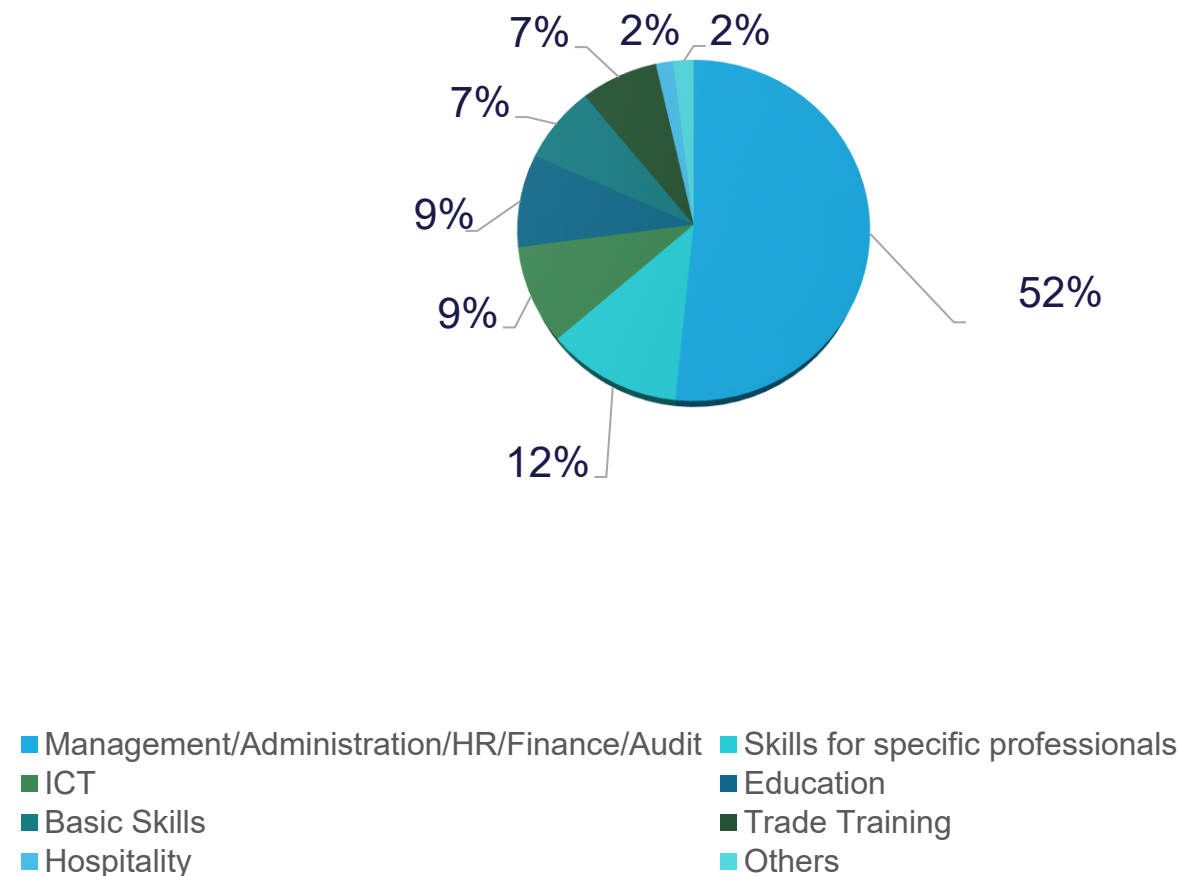


Training financed through IIS

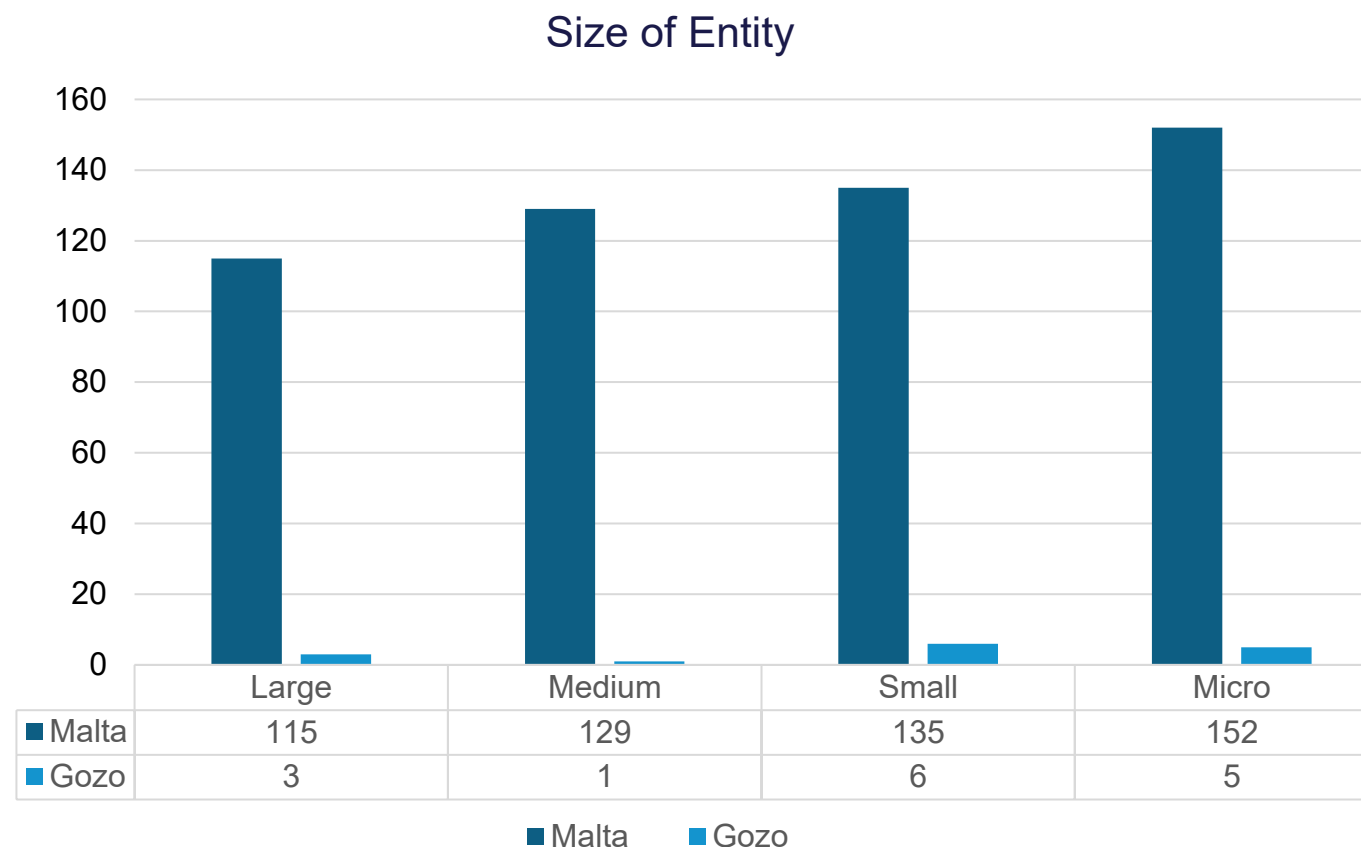
IIS Scheme: Implementation Progress



Circa **38%** of the initial budget has been allocated, out of which 28% to SMEs



IIS Scheme: Implementation Progress - Beneficiaries



From the start of the scheme, a total of **3,626** applications were received, out of which **2,213** grants were signed. These resulted in **649** unique beneficiaries who are benefitting from the scheme, out of which **523** are SMEs.



Financial Instruments
InvestEU
Support to enterprises

ESF+
FSMA+

Update on the Financial Instrument under the Invest EU Programme

The Financial Instrument is designed to **enhance access to finance for SMEs** by offering loans with improved terms, including lower interest rates, reduced collateral requirements, and decreased down-payment obligations.

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 Financial Intermediary. Two guaranteed financial products, BoV **SME Grow** and BoV **SME Grow Green** were introduced to support Maltese SMEs.



Update on the Financial Instrument under the Invest EU Programme

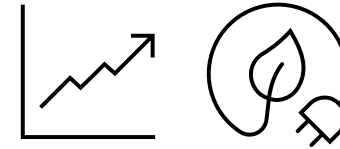


SME Grow

Competitive interest rate designed to support a **broad range of business development needs**.

Loan Features:

- *Variable interest rate:* 3.8%
- *Maximum loan amount:* €750,000
- *Minimum loan term:* 1 year
- *Maximum loan term:* 10 years
- *Maximum collateral:* 30% of the loan value
- *Customer contribution:* 5%



SME Grow Green

Targets **environmentally conscious investments**, with a reduced interest rate to incentivize the adoption of **green technologies**. Eligible investments include renewable energy systems, energy-efficient upgrades, and other low-carbon initiatives.

Loan Features:

- *Variable interest rate:* 2.8%
- *Maximum loan amount:* €750,000
- *Minimum loan term:* 1 year
- *Maximum loan term:* 10 years
- *Maximum collateral:* 30% of the loan value
- *Customer contribution:* 5%

Update on the Financial Instrument under the InvestEU Programme

The data provided by the financial intermediary indicates a **strong initial uptake**.

Key updates on the implementation of the Financial Instrument:

- Number of Loans Committed: **52**
- Total value of Loans Committed: **€11,611,801**
- Number of Loans Disbursed: **38**
- Total value of Loans Disbursed: **€6,608,258**
- Average Loan Size: **€200,203**



The Fund of Funds Manager (EIF) has prepared a **Market Assessment**, and a potential **top-up** is presently being considered.

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



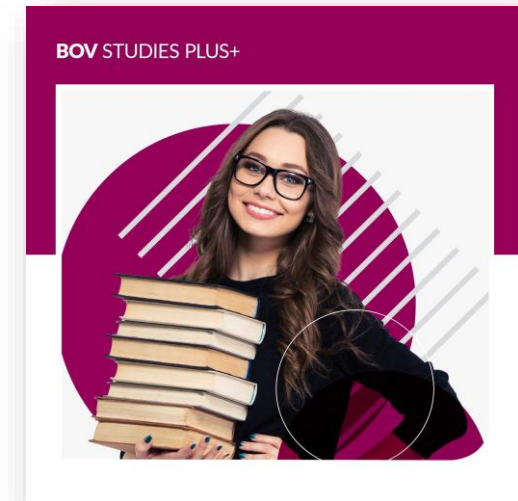
The FSMA+ Financial Instrument, supports the development of human capital and aims to meet the needs of eligible students interested in **pursuing a study programme** for accredited courses in MQF levels 5, 6, 7 and 8, as well as internationally recognised certificates

An investment of €9M 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**.

A new call for service for commercial banks was issued by the Malta Development Bank and two banks were selected to act as Financial Intermediaries.

The new scheme was launched in November and will leverage a total portfolio of €6.25 million in loans for students to further their education. It is expected to support over 150 students.



Update on FSMA+ under ESF+

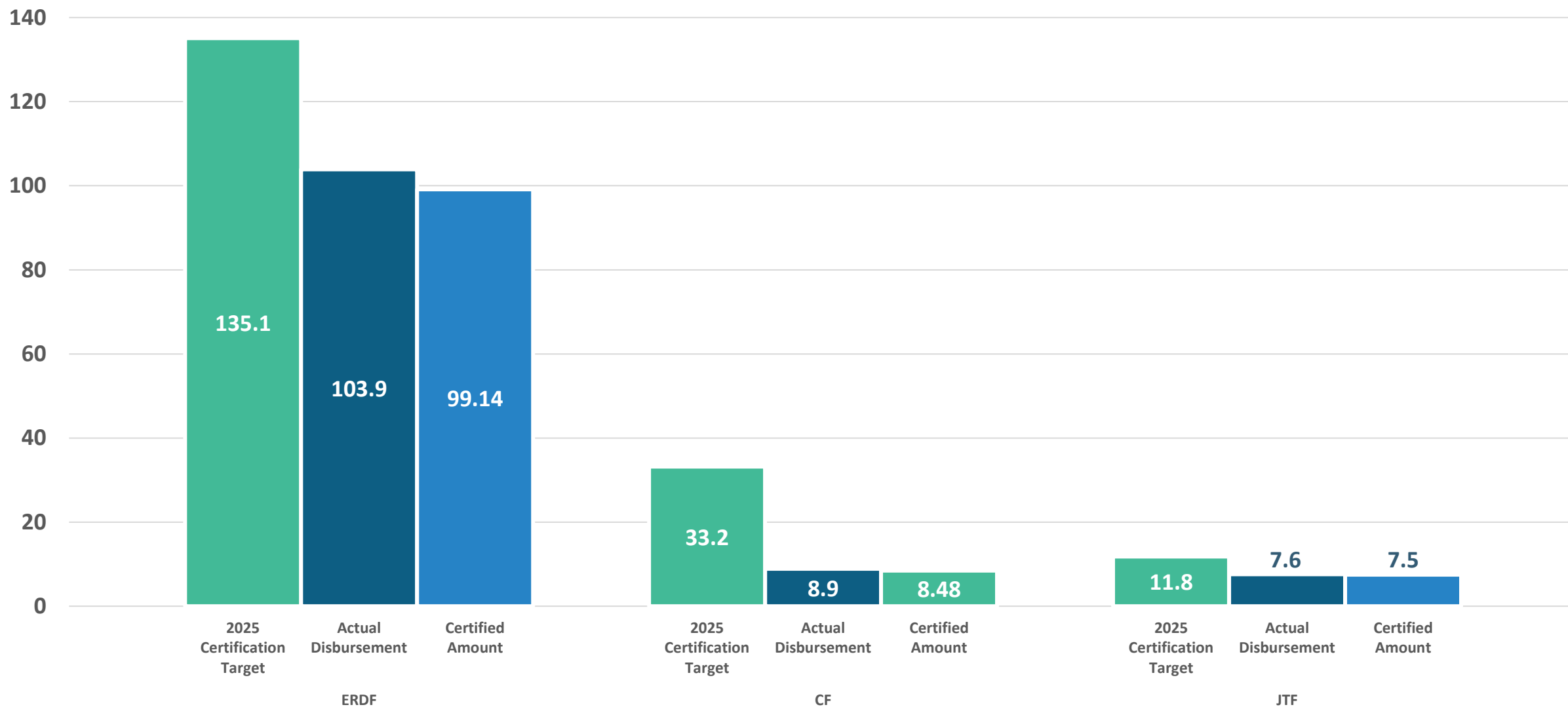
As at end of June 2025, the status of the FSMA+ was as per below:

Data as at June 2025	FSMA+
Portfolio	€25.1M
Committed in loans	€25.1M
Number of loans/students supported	509
% of which women	40%
Interest generated covered by the subsidy	€397K
Disbursed amount by the bank	€12.1M
% of loans disbursed over committed	48%

Update on Financial Progress

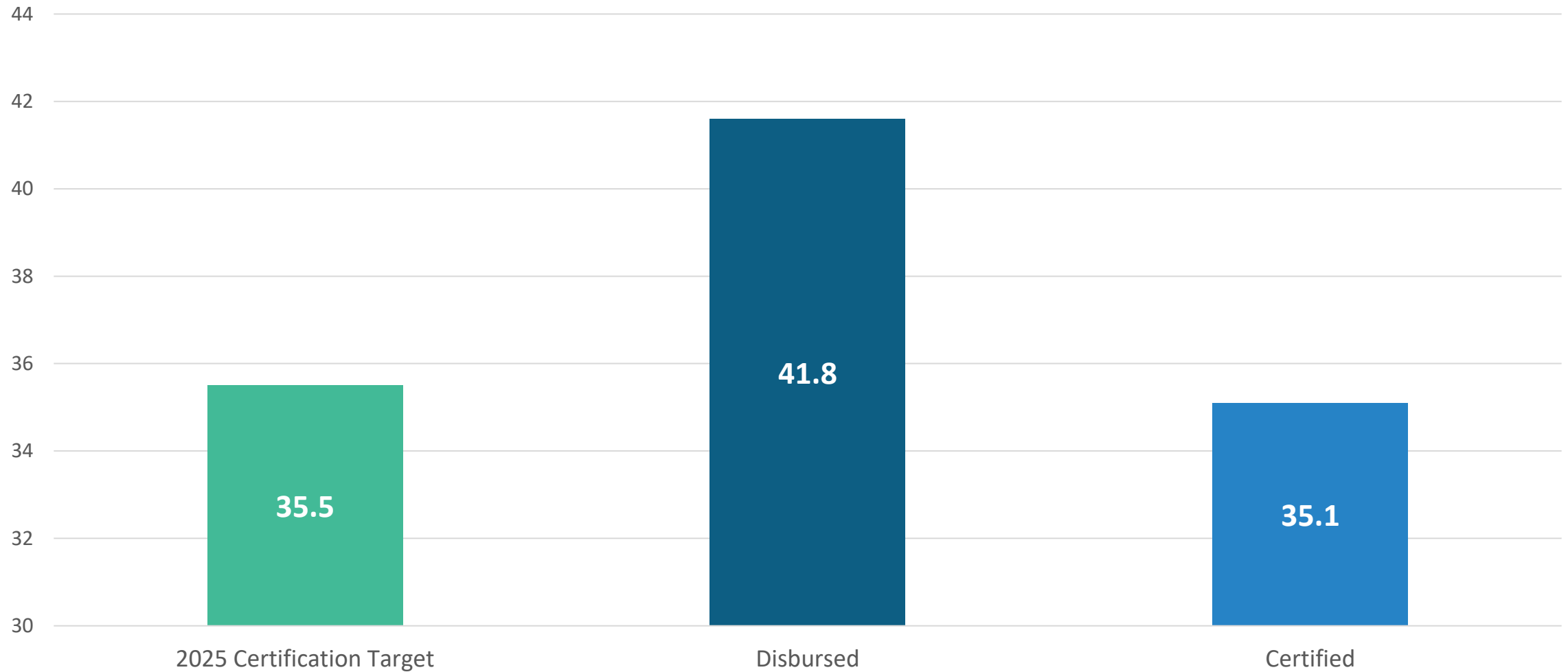
ECJ Programme

Status Update (€M)



ESF+ Programme

Status Update (€M)



Final Overview

The 2021-2027 Programmes are designed to support Malta in achieving its socio-economic goals.

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+.**

The Maltese authorities have triggered the one-off use of **Article 91(5) CPR allowing advance payments to State aid interventions**, which will help Malta reach its N+3 targets for 2025, in view of the delays in the Implementation of the project time-frames resulting in shortfalls in actual disbursements.

Following the MTR exercise, Malta will also be submitting **proposed changes to its Programme** in view of new priorities identified, focusing on energy security and affordable housing.

Looking forward for 2026, intensive efforts need to be taken to ensure that sufficient progress is reached in Implementation to reach Malta's certification targets for 2026, again standing at €180M for ERDF/CF/JTF and €35.5M for ESF+, and partially amortise the advance payments which will be paid under Article 91(5) CPR.

Thank you