

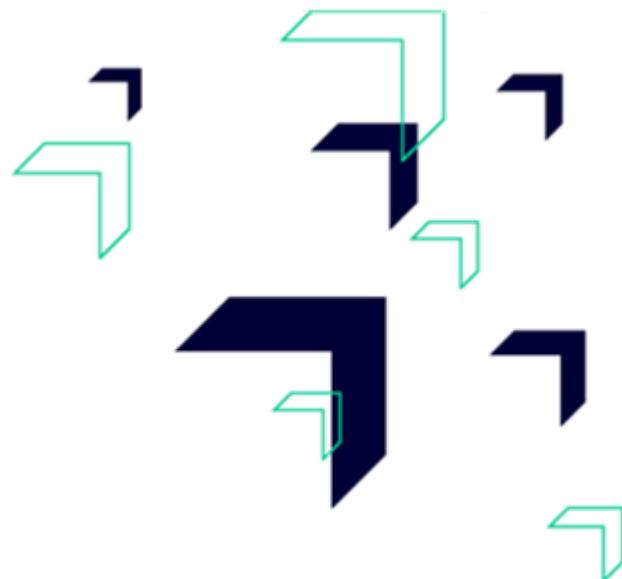


GOVERNMENT
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Proposed changes to the ESF+ Programme



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Background

Access to Employment (A2E) with a budget of €12M provides employment aid to enterprises in Malta and Gozo to promote the recruitment of the more challenged amongst jobseekers and inactive persons.

The A2E was launched in January 2023 and is being implemented by Jobsplus (Intermediate Body).

The demand for the scheme remains positive as in previous programming periods, and the budget allocated has now been fully committed. As a result, the Intermediate Body has requested a top up to meet the current demand.

Proposed Shift of Funds

The assessment carried out by the MA indicated that, with a total allocation of €54.1M, commitments under Priority 2 are as follows:

- ESO 4.8 – Active inclusion and employability with a budget of €23M, out of which €21.4M are committed
- ESO 4.9 – Integration of third-country nationals with a budget of €1.5M, out of which €0.5M are committed
- ESO 4.11 – Equal access to quality social and healthcare services with a budget of €29.6M, out of which €13.2M are committed
- A total of 7 calls have been issued across the 3 different SOs.
- A total of 14 projects with a value of €35M have been approved.
- An additional 14 projects with a budget estimate of circa €10.7M are currently under evaluation.
- As a result, there are **currently circa €8M of unutilised funds under Priority 2**.

Within this context, the MA is proposing to undertake a **programme modification whereby €4M Public Eligible are shifted from Priority 2 to Priority 1** to address the current need identified under the A2E scheme.

Proposed change - Shift of funds from Priority 2 to Priority 1

The proposed budgetary shift between priorities is being represented hereunder:

	Before proposed Shift PE Amount (€)	Shift	After Proposed Shift PE Amount (€)
Priority 1	€40,500,000	+ €4,000,000	€44,500,000
Priority 2	€54,100,000	- €4,000,000	€50,100,000

Proposed change – Indicators

At this stage, **no changes are being proposed to Priority 1 indicators**, since as already indicated during the last MC meeting held in June 2025, these **will be part of future modifications to the Programme** which will include adjustments to reflect refinements in employability actions and gender equality measures.

In relation to **Priority 2 indicators**, it is being proposed that these are **reduced to represent the percentage decrease in budget**, as per below.

Priority	Specific objective	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target (2029)	Proposed revision	Justification
2	ESO4.11	Total number of participants	persons	6,549.00	5,664.00	The revised amount of total number of participants represents the percentage decrease in budget.

Thank you