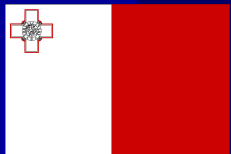


Monitoring Committee for the EFF Operational Programme

Description of Management and Control Systems under Article 71 of Regulation (EC) No.1198/2006 and Article 47 of Regulation (EC) No. 498/2007

Friday 27th November 2009

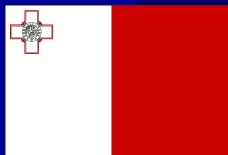


Fisheries Operational Programme
European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013
Event part financed by the European Union
Investing in sustainable fisheries



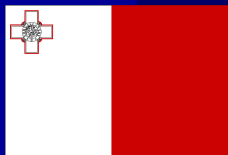
System Structure - Main Stakeholders

- Managing Authority – EU Affairs Directorate, MRRA
- Intermediate Body – Operations Division, MRRA
- Certifying Authority – EU Paying Authority, MFEI
- Audit Authority – IAID



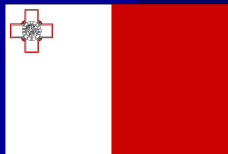
The Managing Authority and its main functions

- The EU Affairs Directorate has been entrusted with the management, and overall coordination of the EFF Operational Programme



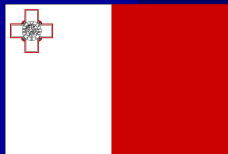
Organisation of the Managing Authority

- The Managing Authority has a staff complement of 3 officials working on the EFF Operational Programme
- The Managing Authority is headed by a Director who acts as Head of the Managing Authority



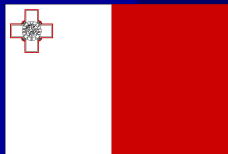
Written procedures

- The Managing Authority has compiled a Manual of Procedures (version 1 – October 2009)
- The Manual of Procedures has been circulated to all stakeholders



Description of procedures for selecting and approving operations

- A call is issued highlighting which Priority Axis is open and who are the eligible applicants
- The criteria for selecting the operations were approved by the Monitoring Committee
- All funding decisions on eligible applications will be considered by the Project Selection Committee convened for the duration of the Programme
- Unsuccessful applicants are informed about the outcome of the selection process and are also given an opportunity to appeal against the decision
- Successful applicants will sign an agreement with the Operations Division
- In the case of Technical Assistance, requests can be submitted throughout the lifetime of the Programme



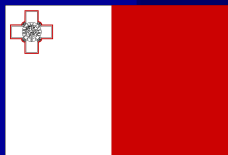
Description of the procedures for verification

- Prior to effecting payment to third parties, the Beneficiary certifies the works/products/services, however the Beneficiary is not entrusted with authorizing payment from the pre-financing budget
- The Line Ministry carries out checks prior to raising commitment
- When the commitment is raised, the request for payment is passed on to the Treasury which effects the payment to third parties



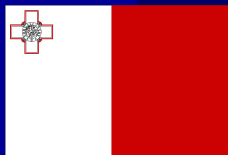
Description of the procedures for verification (cont)

- These payments are recorded in the Structural Funds Database
- All relevant authorities have access to this information
- Three to four times a year, the Managing Authority initiates a verification process whereby all payments in the system undergo a verification by the Managing Authority and Intermediate Body prior to be sent to the Certifying Authority for a request for reimbursement from the European Commission



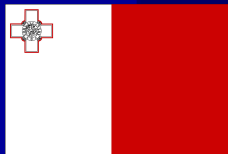
Description of the procedures for verification (cont)

- The Certifying Authority has access to the SFD, therefore it is not directly dependent on the Managing Authority or any other stakeholder for information and can carry out its own checks at any time



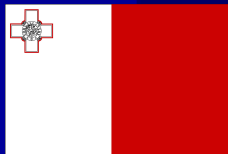
Audit trail

- Documents will be stored in hard copies
- Electronic copies will be available on the SFD
- Project Leader and the IB will also keep hard copies of all documents



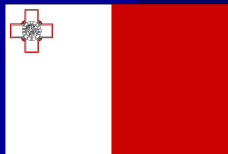
Irregularities and recoveries

- Irregularity should be reported to the Managing Authority, copying the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority
- The Managing Authority has to ensure that all the necessary procedures are undertaken to ensure the recovery of funds
- Details of irregularities will be furnished to DG OLAF by IAID according to Article 55 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 498/2007



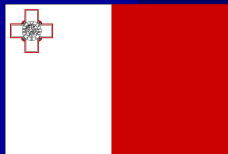
The Intermediate Body

- The Operations Division within MRRA will carry out the function of Intermediate Body for schemes.
- The tasks which were delegated to the Intermediate Body are outlined in an Agreement drawn up between the Intermediate Body and the Managing Authority



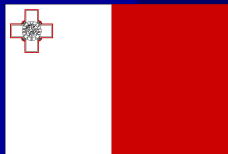
The main functions of the Intermediate Body

- Designing and launching of schemes
- Monitoring the implementation of schemes
- Undertaking documentary verification of expenditure including on-the-spot checks
- Initiating request for payment following the necessary checks
- Ensuring compliance by Beneficiaries of publicity and information requirements
- Retaining the relevant documentation
- Supporting the Managing Authority in the compilation of annual and final reports



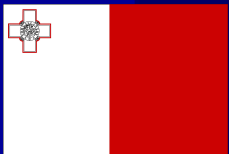
Certifying Authority

- The EU Paying Authority within the MFEI was designated as the Certifying Authority for EFF



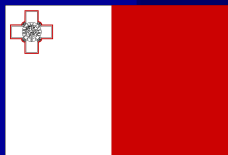
The main functions of the Certifying Authority

- Certifies statements of expenditure and applications for payment before they are sent to the Commission



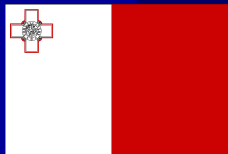
Accounting system

- The pre-financing allocation provided by the national budget for the implementation of the projects is located in the Departmental Accounting system (DAS)
- Payments are effected through the Treasury – EU Funds Management Unit
- All transactions effected through DAS are reflected in the SFD



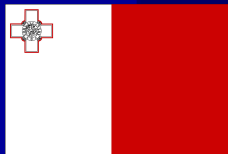
The Audit Authority

- The Internal Audit and Investigations Division (IAID) has been appointed as the Audit Authority for EFF 2007-2013
- The IAID is an independent unit within the Cabinet Office of the Office of the Prime Minister and is functionally independent from the Managing Authority and the Certifying Authority



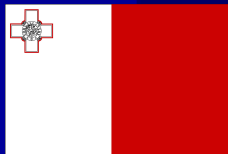
The main function of the Audit Authority

- The Audit Authority is responsible for verifying the effective functioning of the management and control system

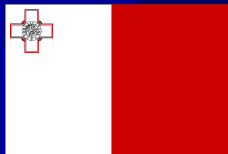


Information System

- The Structural Funds Database (SFD) is a web enabled system developed for the management of funds
- Centralised system linked to all stakeholders
- The database management system has the facility to generate a number of reports, including the Statements of Expenditure (SoEs), payment related reporting, and project dossiers



Thank you



Fisheries Operational Programme
European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013
Event part financed by the European Union
Investing in sustainable fisheries

