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# Press Release

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**SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2009-2014 AND THE NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2009-2014**

Malta has been allocated a total of €4.5 million by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway by means of two separate Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) signed today between the Donor States and Malta on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the 2009-2014 period. €2.9 million have been allocated under the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism with the remaining €1.6 million under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

In addition to identifying the priority and programme areas to be targeted in Malta through the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009-14, the MoUs also establish a framework for cooperation in order to ensure the effective implementation of the two Financial Mechanisms. Dr John Paul Grech, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed the MoUs on behalf of Maltese Government whilst Ambassador Ms Ingrid Schulerud, MoU Co-ordinator signed on behalf of the Donor States. Mr Tord Tukun, Minister Counsellor at the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Malta and Italy in Rome and Ms Stine Anderson, Director of the Financial Mechanism Office in Brussels, formed part of the delegation from the Donor States.

The EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms were established following an agreement between Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union through which these three Donor States will contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to strengthen relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States (including Malta) to the mutual benefit of their peoples. Apart from these two overall objectives, the two Financial Mechanisms aim to enhance co-operation between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State to contribute to securing a stable, peaceful and prosperous Europe, based on good governance, democratic institutions, the rule of law, respect for human rights and sustainable development.

The priority and programme areas being targeted in Malta through the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-14 are:

<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Programme Area</b>
Climate Change and Renewable Energy	Renewable Energy
	Adaptation to Climate Change
Civil Society	Fund for Non-governmental Organisations
Protecting Cultural Heritage	Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage

Under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-14, Malta is set to benefit under the following priority and programme areas:

<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Programme Area</b>
Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue	Global fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue
Human and Social Development	Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Beneficiary State and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities
Justice and Home Affairs	Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions

Furthermore, to complement the signing of the MoU, the delegation visited two of the seven projects which benefitted from assistance under the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2004-09: the Xrobb l-Ghagin Nature Park and Sustainable Development Centre in Marsaxlokk and the Hal-Saflieni Hypogeum in Paola. In the 2004-09 funding period, Malta had been allocated €3.6 million: €1.9 million under the EEA Financial Mechanism and €1.7 million under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

The Funds and Programmes Division within the Office of the Prime Minister is the designated National Focal Point (NFP) for these two Financial Mechanisms in Malta.

For further information please contact the NFP on 2200 1164 or through the web links: [www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org) or [www.ppcd.gov.mt/eeanorwegian](http://www.ppcd.gov.mt/eeanorwegian)