



Launch of EEA and Norway Grants programmes

On the 9 April, the EEA and Norway Grants programmes will be launched in Malta. The total allocation amounts to more than four million Euros.

Malta will receive a total of €4.5 million from the Grants, €2.9 from the EEA Grants and €1.6 million from the Norway Grants. The funding supports programmes in the following areas: climate change and renewable energy, civil society, protection of cultural heritage, decent work and tripartite dialogue, capacity building in the field of local government and correctional services.

Call for proposals

For two out of three programmes, the projects have already been defined. For the civil society sector programme, however, interested organisations will soon be able to apply for funding through a call for proposals. The civil society programme will be operated by SOS Malta and focuses on the strengthening of civil society platforms and networks; social and human rights projects; and environment and climate-change related projects.

Among the projects that have already been defined, one will be carried out by Transport Malta. The project will strengthen Transport Malta's capacity to safeguard Malta's territorial waters in the eventuality of an oil spill by enhancing its levels of preparedness and response. The project includes training of different key personal. As part of the project, a study will be conducted regarding the risks associated with offshore drilling. The project will be carried out in partnership with the Norwegian Coastal Administration (Kystverket).

Bio-fuel

Another project, to be carried out by WasteServ Malta Ltd, will build a facility for producing 20 tonnes of bio-fuel annually through the cultivation of micro algae from carbon dioxide that is emitted from the Magtab landfill. After the formal launch, members of the press will have the opportunity to visit the site of the facility together with Parliamentary Secretary Dr Ian Borg, officials from the Donor States delegation and from the Funds and Programmes Division.

Both the Transport Malta project and the WasteServ project are co-financed by the EEA Grants. The EEA Grants will also further support Heritage Malta in its efforts to protect the Hal-Saflieni Hypogeum from wall surface deterioration through the installation of an environmental control system.

Local Government

A project led by the Local Government Department (DLG) and involving the Local Councils Association, Norwegian partners and the Council of Europe will empower local councillors and administrative staff to provide the general public with enhanced quality services.

Another project by the Ministry for Home Affairs will move the Young Offenders' Unit of Rehabilitation Services (YOURS) out of the Corradino Correctional Facility to dedicated premises and establish new programmes designed to foster new correctional practices that aim to help young offenders from possible relapse and properly re-integrate them into society.

Separately, another project will be implemented by the Department of Industrial and Employment Relations (DIER). The scope of this project is to analyse the current labour market situation particularly with regards to flexible employment and the current regulatory provisions.

The DLG project, the Ministry for Home Affairs project and the DIER project are co-financed by the Norway Grants.

All programmes under the Grants aim to strengthen bilateral relations between Malta and the three donor countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Two of the predefined projects will be carried out together with entities from the donor countries.

The formal launch starts at 14.30 and will take place at the Phoenicia Hotel in Floriana.

For more information, see the attached programme or contact the National Focal Point (NFP) for the EEA and Norway Grants in Malta, the Funds and Programmes Division within Parliamentary Secretariat for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds at the Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto.

Telephone: 2200 1862

Email: stephen.calleja@gov.mt

Website: <https://secure2.gov.mt/fpd/home>

www.eeagrants.gov.mt

www.norwaygrants.gov.mt

EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Through the EEA and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute to reducing disparities in Europe and to strengthening bilateral relations with 15 countries in Central and Southern Europe. Funding worth €1.788 billion has been set aside for 2009 to 2014. Areas of support includes environmental protection and management, climate change and renewable energy, civil society, human and social development, protecting cultural heritage, research and scholarships, decent work and tripartite dialogue and justice and home affairs. Norway contributes 97% of the funding.