

## The EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM and the NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2009 – 2014

*1<sup>st</sup> Monitoring Committee meeting*

Antonella Seguna, NFP  
Malta, 30 March 2012

## EEA & Norway Grants



### 2004-09

- Total allocation to Malta: € 3.6 million
- Three Priority Areas:
  - Protection of the Environment, including the human environment -> 2 projects
  - Conservation of European Cultural Heritage, including public transport and urban renewal -> 3 projects
  - Implementation of Schengen Acquis -> 2 projects
- Total of seven projects (*excluding TA*)
  - Six concluded projects
  - One given an extension until end April 2012

# EEA & Norway Grants



## 2009-14

The EEA Grants and Norway Grants are **Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's** contribution to **reducing economic and social disparities** in the European Economic Area and to the **strengthening of bilateral relations** with the 15 beneficiary states in Central and Southern Europe

- 32 Programme Areas for 2009-14
  - 19 under the EEA Grants
  - 13 under the Norway Grants



## Malta's net allocation



- **Total net allocation = € 4.16 million**
  - EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) : € 2,682,500
  - Norway: € 1,480,000
- **Malta's co-financing: minimum 15%**
- Malta signed two MoU with the Donor States on 27 September 2011
  - Establishes the framework for cooperation, and
  - contains:
    - The designation of national entities involved in the implementation of these financial mechanism
    - An implementation framework consisting of financial and control structures
- **Seven priorities for Malta**
  - 5 Programme Areas with one pre-defined project each
  - 2 Programme Areas operated outside the NFP

## Pre-defined projects



Programme Areas for Malta	Programme Grant (€)	Pre-defined project	Project Promoter	Project Partner
<b>EEA Financial Mechanism Programme</b>				
PA 6: Renewable Energy	850,000	CO2 Energy – Development of Algae-derived Bio-Fuel Production Plant for CO2 Sequestration from Waste Management Activities in Malta	WasteServ	-
PA 7: Adaptation to Climate Change	500,000	National Oil Spill Contingency System	Transport Malta	The Norwegian Coastal Administration (Kystverket)
PA 16: Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage	789,000	A new environment management system for the Hal-Saflieni World Heritage Site	Heritage Malta	-

## Pre-defined projects *(cont.)*



Programme Areas for Malta	Programme Grant (€)	Pre-defined project	Project Promoter	Project Partner
<b>Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme</b>				
<b>PA 25:</b> Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Beneficiary State and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities	300,000	Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation with Norwegian Public Institutions and Local and Regional Authorities	Department for Local Government (DLG) and the Local Councils Association (LCA)	The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), Royal Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, and the Council of Europe
<b>PA 32:</b> Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions	1,140,000	Re-organisation of the Young Offenders' Unit of Rehabilitation Services (YOURS), including staff training	Corradino Correctional Facility (CCF)	-

## Other Programmes



*Operated outside the NFP*

Programme Areas for Malta	Programme Grant (€)	Fund Operator	Calls
<b>EEA Financial Mechanism</b>			
<b>PA 10:</b> Funds for Non-governmental Organisations	500,000	<i>(TBA by the FMO)</i>	Call for an MT NGO to act as a Fund Operator  Call for project proposals to follow on selection of Fund Operator
<b>Norwegian Financial Mechanism</b>			
<b>PA 25:</b> Fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue	16,000	Innovation Norway	Launched: Oct 2011 Deadline: 22 April 2012 (noon, Norwegian time)



## Overview of the implementation of The EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM and the NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2009 – 2014

27 September 2011 – 30 March 2012

## Key activities to date



- **27 September 2011** -> Signing of two **MoU**
- **17 November 2011** -> Signing of the **TA Agreement**
- **29 November 2011** -> Submission of the *Workplan* and the *Brief Description of the implementation system for the fund for bilateral relations at national level*
  - Workplan revised and re-submitted following feedback from FMO
- **December – March 2012** -> Preparations for the establishment of the **Monitoring Committee**
- **14 February 2012** -> Submission of the **Communications Strategy** (NFP)
- **7 March 2012** -> **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting** with the Donors
- Publicised **PA22** call to potential beneficiaries
- Works-in-progress on establishing **new payments database (SFD)**
- Drafting of the two **Programme Proposals**

## Status of preparation of Programme Proposals



- **Two Programmes** will be implemented in Malta:
  - The EEA Financial Mechanism Programme
  - The Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme
- **NFP = Programme Operator (PO) for both Programmes**
- Drafting of programme proposals based on:
  - Details provided by PPs in their *Detailed Project Description Forms*
  - Clarifications from PPs on information provided
  - Regular follow-up on state of play of project preparations
- Programme Proposals envisaged to be submitted to FMO by end March 2012

## Funds for Bilateral Relations



- At national level (Art. 3.5 of Regulations)
  - **0.5% (min.) of the total allocation**
  - To strengthen bilateral relations between Donor States and the Beneficiary States within the programme areas
  - Managed by the NFP
- At programme level (Art. 3.6 of Regulations)
  - **1.5% (min.) of the eligible expenditure of the programme**
  - To facilitate search for partners, preparatory meetings with partners, and networking
  - Managed by the PO (NFP)

## Fund for Bilateral



### Relations *at national level*

- **29 November 2011** -> NFP submitted to the FMO the *Work plan* and the *Brief description of the implementation system*
  - Work plan amended and resubmitted to FMO following discussions with FMO and the Royal Norwegian Embassy
- Activities in this workplan:
  - Participation to relevant conferences and workshops organised by the FMO and/or the Donor States;
  - One- or two-day seminar tackling a theme of common interest for participants from the respective countries.

## Programmes operated outside NFP



- In accordance with article 5.13 of the Regulations
- **PA 10: Funds for NGOs (FMO)**
  - FMO organised an NGO stakeholder meeting held on 6 March 2012
  - Selection of a Fund Manager (by FMO)
  - Call for project proposals for MT NGOs to follow
- **PA 22: Global fund for Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue (Innovation Norway)**
  - NFP disseminated the call amongst potential beneficiaries in Malta
  - An Information Session was organised by NFP in collaboration with MEUSAC on 8 March 2012 (afternoon)
  - Deadline for the Open Call for Project Applications: 22 April 2012 (noon, Norwegian time)

## Status of the Progress



### on the National Implementation set-up

#### The national management and control structure

- MoU defines the roles and responsibilities of:
  - the NFP
  - the Certifying Authority (CA)
  - the Audit Authority (AA)
- AA responsible for the preparation and submission of irregularities reports
- NFP will act as the PO for both Programmes
- The description of the management and control systems of the NFP, the CA and the AA covering both Financial Mechanisms to be submitted to FMO by 27 September 2012

## Status of the Progress



### on the National Implementation set-up *(cont.)*

#### The Monitoring Committee

- The Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure of the Monitoring Committee (MC) drafted
- Nominations of representatives from heritage, environment, equal opportunities and inclusion non-governmental sectors to sit on the MC
  - NFP called upon the relevant Ministries to facilitate a transparent process for nominations
- First meeting convened today, 23 March 2012
- Main item on agenda is the approval of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure



## Status of the Progress



### on the National Implementation set-up *(cont.)*

#### The TA Agreement

- TA Budget:
  - TA: € 45,000 [€ 29,000 (EEA) + € 16,000 (N)]
  - BFn: € 22,500 [€ 15,500 (EEA) + € 8,000 (N)]
- TA budget (2011 – 2017: one budget for both FMs)
- TA Agreement was signed on **17 November 2011** by both parties
- No advance payment was requested
- Submission of 1<sup>st</sup> Interim Financial Report (TA and BFn) by NFP to FMO through CA on 13 March 2012 (deadline 15 March 2012)

#### Interest-bearing bank accounts

- Creation of separate interest-bearing bank accounts dedicated to the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism

## Publicity and Communication



#### At NFP level

- Publicised the signing of the MoU
- Drafted and submitted Communication Strategy
  - Budget 2012-2016: € 2,500
  - Three main activities: launch (press conference), mid-term (seminar) and closing (press visits)
- Incorporated the new logos on its information and promotional material (incl. 2004-09 material)
- Answered queries from the general public concerning the grants
- Created a new webpage:  
(<http://www.ppcd.gov.mt/eeanorway0914>)

## Publicity and Communication *(cont.)*



### At PO level

The PO's Communications Plan -> **Joint approach** with NFP's Communication Strategy

- to ensure a more powerful and wider impact
- to balance the financial contribution to boost the common objectives of the NFP and the PO, i.e. raising awareness and increasing the visibility of the Grants.

## Indicative Implementation Plan for the next year

*(covering April 2012 – March 2013)*

Period	Activity	Responsibility
Q2-Q3/2012	Implementation of the payments database for the 2009-14 Programmes	NFP + PO
Q1/2013	Submission to the FMO the 'Description of the management and control systems of the PO'	NFP
Q3/2012	Submission to the FMO of the 'Description of the management and control systems of the NFP, CA and AA'	NFP
Q3/2012	Envisaged approval of the Programme Proposals, leading to signing of the Programme Agreements	NFP + PO
Q3-Q4/2012	Envisaged organisation of the new programmes public launch event	NFP
Q3-Q4/2012	Envisaged signing of the Project Contracts between the PO and the PPs followed by the Kick-off of the implementation of the projects	PO
January 2013	Submission of combined Strategic Report and Annual Programme Report to the FMO	NFP + PO
March 2013	Organisation of the Annual Meeting 2013	NFP + PO



**Thank you**