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**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

Supported by the Swiss-Maltese Grant

Swiss-Maltese Co-operation Programme 2007-2017

Annual Report for the period 1 May 2012 to 30 April 2013

INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report on the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme 2007-2017 for the period 1 May 2012 to 30 April 2013. It covers a Swiss-Maltese Contribution totalling SFr 6.385 million, of which SFr 4.744 million¹ is Swiss funding and the remaining SFr 1.641 million is national co-financing.

The Funds and Programmes Division (FPD) is the designated National Coordination Unit (NCU). As a result of the reallocation of portfolios following the general elections in March 2013, responsibility for FPD migrated from the Office of the Prime Minister to the Office of the Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds within the Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto (MEAIM). The NCU notified SDC accordingly on 4 April 2013.

In terms of implementation, the following key results were achieved during the 12-month reporting period:-

1. *The project titled 'Establishing Positron Emission Tomography / Computed Tomography (PET/CT) scanning in the Maltese Islands'*

The objective of the project is to provide access to PET/CT diagnostic facilities in Malta to all patients by installing a PET/CT scanner in the Medical Imaging Department at Mater Dei Hospital and to provide the full range of services in the oncology field in Malta, from diagnosis to treatment.

The initial project implementation period was twenty-five (25) months, starting on 1 May 2010 and ending on 30 June 2012. An extension to 31 May 2013 was granted on the 20 April 2012.

The project eligible costs total €2,691,913. Switzerland's contribution to cover such costs amounts to a maximum SFr 2,794,000 (€2,296,375²). The balance is being provided as co-financing by the Maltese Government through allocations in the national budget. The Swiss co-financing is being applied at the maximum 85% rate up to the Grant amount of SFr 2,794,000. The Maltese authorities have accepted the implication that the final reimbursement (which will ensure that the overall total requested does not exceed the SFr 2,740,000) may have lower Swiss co-financing.

Moreover, the component 'Partnership Mater Dei – IOSI' is being wholly financed by Malta funds.

As stated in the Annual Report for the previous period, the supply contracts were awarded as recommended by the Evaluation Committee and as approved by the General Contracts Committee:-

TrioMed Ltd: Lot N°1 (PET / CT complete with a five year Servicing and Maintenance Agreement and the design and set up of the allocated area to house the PET / CT and the Fractionator Unit);

Technoline Ltd: Lot N°2 (Fractionator Unit complete with a five year Servicing and Maintenance Agreement).

Following signature of the contracts all supplies were delivered and the necessary works and acceptance testing were completed by January 2013, the scanner

¹ An additional allocation of up to SFr 0.250 million for Swiss administration of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme is managed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

² €1 = SFr 1.2167 (12 April 2013)

being ready to be put into clinical use in the first week of February 2013. The PET/CT facility was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi on 6 February 2013, in the presence of H E Bernardino Regazzoni, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to Malta.



€1,671,166.65 of eligible costs were incurred by this project during the reporting period and two interim reports /claims for reimbursement were submitted to SDC by the Paying Authority. The remaining claims for reimbursement shall be submitted to SDC by November 2013, as per the approved Disbursement Plan.

Three meetings of the Ministerial Project Steering Committee were held during the reporting period to discuss the progress of the project's implementation. These meetings took place on 27 June 2012, 2 October 2012 and 11 December 2012.

Finally, the NCU submitted the third Project Annual Report to SDC on 20 March 2013. The report, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2012, was accompanied by the Interim Audit Report.

2. *The project titled 'Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)'*

The objective of this project is to make a contribution to confidence building, peace and stability in the Mediterranean region through a close partnership between Malta and Switzerland.

The total eligible cost of the project is SFr 2,620,000 (€2,153,365.66³) million. Switzerland's share amounts to a maximum SFr 1,900,000 (€1,561,601⁴) million with the balance being financed by the Maltese Government.

During the year 2012, MEDAC completed its academic programme 2011-2012, and commenced its 2012-2013 programme. The 2011-2012 intake included thirty-three (33) students from seventeen (17) different countries, with fifteen (15) benefitting from a scholarship, whereas the 2012-2013 intake comprised forty-three (43) students from eighteen (18) different countries, with sixteen (16) benefitting from a scholarship. As in previous years, participants have been following courses in international relations, international law, international history, international economics and the practice of diplomacy.

At the end of April 2012, MEDAC carried out its annual study visit to Geneva and Berne. In Geneva, students had the opportunity to visit several international organisations. In Berne, the participants visited the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, where they were addressed by its Assistant Director-General, Mr Kurt Kunz. The students also paid a visit to the Swiss parliament.

³ €1 = SFr 1.2167 (rate as at 12 April 2013)

In July 2012, MEDAC organised its annual human rights summer school within the framework of its Human Dimension Programme. The theme of the summer school was 'Human Rights, Protest and Change'. Its main objectives were to introduce and explore key ideas concerning human rights and how human rights practice has helped deliver political change through active citizenship. Participants included diplomats, officials as well as civil society activists from around the Mediterranean region.

During 2012, MEDAC continued to maintain close links with its alumni body and has strengthened its alumni network. In May 2012 an alumni event featuring H E Felipe de la Morena, Ambassador of Spain to Malta was held. In November 2012 the annual International Cuisine Night was organised by the MEDAC Alumni Association, which brought together both MEDAC alumni and current MEDAC students. Moreover, in the course of 2012 several alumni reunions were organised by Swiss Embassies in countries where MEDAC alumni are posted.

In 2012 MEDAC also organised a number of conferences and workshops on various topics pertaining to the Mediterranean region. These included:

- A Human Rights Seminar on democratic transitions, which was organised in the framework of the MEDAC Human Dimension Programme (16 March 2012);
- A book launch event organised under the auspices of the Chancellor of the University of Malta, Prof. David Attard, where MEDAC launched its publication *Change and Opportunities in the Emerging Mediterranean* (25 April 2012);
- Two Euromed Information and Training Seminars (funded primarily by the European Commission), held on 11-14 May 2012 and 9-12 November 2012, respectively.

Two MEDAC Board meetings were held in Malta during the reporting period. Apart from the Maltese Board members, Prof. Juerg Martin Gabriel from Switzerland and Ambassador Carl Andreas von Stenglin from Germany took part in the Board meetings.

In June 2012, MEDAC Chairman Dr. Joe Borg, accompanied by Prof Juerg Martin Gabriel and Prof. Stephen Calleya, met with Ambassador Martin Dahinden, Director-General of SDC in Berne to discuss further joint projects between SDC and MEDAC in the Mediterranean region.

During the reporting period, MEDAC released a number of publications including the following:

- An essay by Prof. Bahri Yilmaz on *The Role of Turkey in the European Energy Market* (within the framework of MEDAC's MED Agenda Series);
- An edited volume on *Democratic Transitions: Perspectives and Case Studies* (within the framework of MEDAC's MED Agenda Series);
- An essay by Ambassador Bernardino Regazzoni on *Objectives, Principles and Recent Development of Swiss Foreign Policy* (within the framework of MEDAC's Med Agenda series);
- An updated version of MEDAC's academic prospectus;
- Two MEDAC newsletters which provide an overview of its activities during the previous six months. The newsletters include a feature article by Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter.

A payment claim for the reimbursement of eligible costs incurred during the period 1 January to 30 June 2012 was included with Interim Report 4. This was certified and forwarded to SDC by the Paying Authority on 4 October 2012. The relative amount was transferred by the Swiss authorities to the Central Bank of Malta on 28 November 2012.

Similarly, a payment claim for the reimbursement of eligible costs incurred during the period 1 July to 31 December 2012 will be included with Interim Report 5. This is due to be certified and forwarded to SDC by the Paying Authority during May 2013.

Following a request by the NCU on behalf of MEDAC, SDC approved on 19 April 2013 the reallocation of SFr 110,000 from the 'Running costs, infrastructure and library' budget category to the 'Academic Activities' category. This amount is within the 15% limit permitted by the Project Agreement and was necessary because funds under the 'Academic Activities' heading were exhausted.

Finally, the NCU submitted the third Project Annual Report and the interim Audit Report to SDC on 15 April 2013.

3. *The Technical Assistance Fund*

The Technical Assistance Fund amounts to SFr 50,000 (€35,397.44⁴) and is being used by the Maltese authorities for the administration of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme.

The following actions are identified in Annex 1 to the Technical Assistant Fund Agreement as eligible for support:

- Hiring of consultants for the preparation, monitoring and review of Project(s) financed by the Contribution and of the Cooperation Programme
- Participation in meetings with Swiss authorities held outside of Malta
- Organisation of Annual Meetings
- Publicity at Programme level

Two activities under the Technical Assistance project were implemented during the reporting period. These were:-

1. The fourth Annual Meeting, which took place at the offices of the National Co-ordination Unit (the Funds and Programmes Division) in Malta on 4 May 2012.

An annual meeting is required to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme, serving to keep track of progress of implementation and providing a suitable forum within which any problems or issues encountered can be discussed and potential solutions proposed.

The final agreed version of the minutes of the meeting was forwarded to the Swiss authorities on 25 May 2012. The same document is also available on the internet site of the National Coordination Unit (NCU)⁵.

2. Participation in the workshop entitled 'The implementation in the next five years' that took place in Thun, Switzerland between the 18 and 22 September 2012. Mr Raphael Scerri and Mr Stephen Calleja represented the Maltese NCU at this event.

No publicity activities at programme level took place during the review period. However a tender dossier has been compiled and the intention is to have the

⁴ Please refer to workings at Table on page 12.

⁵ https://secure2.gov.mt/fpd/swiss_programme or <http://www.swiss-contribution.gov.mt>

tender on the market by the end of May 2013. Publicity activities are envisaged to take place during the second and third quarters of 2013. Meanwhile however, the page dedicated to the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme was revamped and migrated to the Funds and Programmes Division's web site⁵.

TA Fund budget revision (January 2013)

The actual amount from the TA Fund utilised in 2012 is SFr 5157. Out of that, SFr 4943 was required to cover travel expenses incurred by the NCU for two officials to participate in the workshop 'The implementation in the next five years' that took place in Thun, Switzerland from the 18 to 22 September 2012. To compensate for the excess expenditure under 'Expenditure for participation in meetings outside Malta' in 2012 (budget was SFr 3000), the following adjustments to the TA Budget (compared to the budget formally agreed between SDC and OPM on 18 January 2012) were introduced:

'Expenditure for participation in meetings outside Malta' was reduced to SFr 1000 for each of the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017;

Expenditure for Annual Meetings: reduced from SFr 360 to SFr 214 (2012), from SFr 300 to SFr 250 (2013) and from SFr 350 to SFr 250 (2014);

General Publicity Measures: the amount has been reduced by SFr 147 and wholly transferred to 2013.

The revised TA Fund budget was agreed between the NCU and SDC on 7 January 2013.

Payment claims

Payment claims for the reimbursement of the certified, eligible costs incurred during the reporting period were included in Interim Reports 6 and 7. These costs included hospitality in connection with the Annual Meeting 2012 and travel expenses incurred by the NCU for two officials to participate in the workshop 'The implementation in the next five years' that took place in Thun, Switzerland from the 18 to 22 September 2012. The relative amounts were transferred from the pre-financing of SFr 40,000 deposited by the Swiss authorities in May 2010 at the Central Bank of Malta.

Finally, the NCU submitted the Technical Assistance Fund Annual Report to SDC on 4 March 2013.

FINANCIAL TABLES ILLUSTRATING ACTUAL AND ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE (excluding VAT)

Establishing Positron Emission Tomography / Computed Tomography (PET/CT) scanning in the Maltese Islands					
Budget Year / Quarter	Actual Realised Payments⁶		Future Estimated Expenditure⁷		Total Expenditure (Cumulative)
	Swiss Funds	Malta Funds	Swiss Funds	Malta Funds	
2010					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2011					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2012					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	€429,556.93	€75,804.17	-	-	€505,361.10
Quarter 4	€990,934.72	€174,870.83	-	-	€1,671,166.65
2013					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	€855,172.35	€165,574.00	€2,691,913.00
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	€1,420,491.65	€250,675.00	€855,172.35	€165,574.00	

⁶ In this Annual Report the figures are posted in the quarter corresponding to the cut-off date of the relevant Project Interim Report.

⁷ Future Estimated Expenditure (Eligible Costs only) in Swiss Francs remains as per Annex 2 to the Project Agreement signed on 11 June 2010. The Euro equivalent given in this table is based on the actual contract values (excluding VAT). 'Malta Funds' includes expenditure on training at IOSI Belinzona.

Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)					
Budget Year / Quarter	Actual Realised Payments⁸		Future Estimated Expenditure⁹		Total Expenditure (Cumulative)
	Swiss Funds	Malta Funds	Swiss Funds	Malta Funds	
2010					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	€84,598.21	€32,056.79			€116,655.00
2011					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	€178,574.39	€67,667.19			€362,896.58
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	€204,234.27	€77,390.48			€644,521.33
2012					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	€244,670.19	€92,712.86	-	-	€981,904.38
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	€162,486.86	€61,571.14	-	-	€1,205,962.38
2013					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2			€176,500.00	€67,000.00	€1,449,462.38
Quarter 3			-	-	-
Quarter 4			€176,500.00	€67,000.00	€1,692,962.38
2014					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	€333,884.46	€126,518.82	€2,153,365.66
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	€874,563.92	€331,398.46	€686,884.46	€260,518.82	

⁸ In this Annual Report, the figures are posted in the quarter corresponding to the cut-off date of the relevant Project Interim Report.

⁹ Future Estimated Expenditure (Eligible Costs only) in Swiss Francs remains as per Annex 2 to the Project Agreement signed on 10 September 2010. The amount for 2013 is that actually provided in the national budget (€353,000 Swiss Contribution, €134,000 Malta co-financing). The exchange rate SFr 1.2167 = €1 (ECB rate as at 12 April 2013) has been applied to estimate the Euro equivalent for 2014. Moreover, the amount for Q2 2014 represents the difference between expenditure foreseen up to Q4 2013 and the total project cost in Euro (SFr 2,620,000 at the Rate of Exchange of SFr 1.2167 = €1).

Technical Assistance Fund					
Budget Year / Quarter	Actual Realised Payments ¹⁰		Future Estimated Expenditure ¹¹		Total Expenditure (Cumulative)
	Swiss Funds	Malta Funds	Swiss Funds	Malta Funds	
2010					
Quarter 1	€215.25	-	-	-	€215.25
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	€606.40	-	-	-	€821.65
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2011					
Quarter 1	€423.44	-	-	-	€1,245.09
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	€4,425.48	-	-	-	€5,670.57
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2012					
Quarter 1	€74.58	-	-	-	€5,745.15
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2013					
Quarter 1	€3,589.08	-	-	-	€9,334.23
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	€7,459.46	-	€16,793.69
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2014					
Quarter 1	-	-	€11,608.55	-	€28,402.24
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	€4,211.04	-	€32,613.28
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2015					

¹⁰ In this Annual Report, the figures are posted in the quarter corresponding to the cut-off date of the relevant Project Interim Report.

¹¹ Future Estimated Expenditure amounts in Swiss Francs are as agreed on 7 January 2013 between SDC and OPM. The exchange rate applied to estimate the euro equivalent given in this table is SFr 1.4367 = €1. This is the rate at which the amount of SFr 39,684.64 (i.e. SFr 40,000 advance payment by SDC less SFr 315.36 certified by the Paying Authority on 18 February 2010 in connection with Interim Report 1) was converted into euro on 20 April 2010.

Quarter 1	-	-	€696.04	-	€33,309.32
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2016					
Quarter 1	-	-	€696.04	-	€34,005.36
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2017					
Quarter 1	-	-	€696.04	-	€34,701.40
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	€696.04	-	€35,397.44
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	€9,334.23	-	€26,063.21	-	

AUDIT

The Internal Audit and Investigations Department (IAID) in the Cabinet Office within the Office of the Prime Minister has been appointed as Audit Organisation for the projects to be implemented under the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme. IAID is the assigned audit body by the Government of Malta to conduct financial audits on all EU and Bilateral funds received by Malta.

The Audit Organisation carried out two interim financial audits during the period ending 30 April 2013.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE SWISS-MALTESE CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME AND THE PROJECT/S IMPLEMENTED

Publicity is of critical importance to generate public awareness of the Swiss-Maltese Contribution. With the aim of providing the general public with information about the Contribution and the support provided by Switzerland through the Cooperation Programme, a list of potential activities to be undertaken has been defined by the NCU. These include:

- Billboards;
- Press releases;
- Articles in newspapers;
- Interviews on local radio and/or TV stations;
- Publicity on local radio.

The above should constitute publicity at Programme level and would be financed through the Technical Assistance Fund. All publications would refer to the Technical Assistance Fund as a "Swiss-Maltese Grant".

The physical implementation of the PET/CT scanner project was successfully completed in February 2013 while the MEDAC project is currently in the third academic year of implementation. Accordingly, the NCU believes that the time is appropriate to have publicity at programme level. With this in mind, a tender dossier has been compiled by the NCU services and the aim is to have it on the market by the end of May 2013. Publicity activities at programme level are envisaged to take place late in the second quarter and during the third quarter of 2013.

The Executing Agencies implementing the projects in the 'Health' and 'Research and Development' focus areas are responsible for publicity at project level.

Agreements, calls for tenders, contracts and similar documentation carry the Swiss Contribution logo.

Annex 1

National Coordination Unit

Name	Funds and Programmes Division, Office of the Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds, Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto
Address	Triq il-Kukkanja Santa Venera
Postcode	SVR 1410
Country	Malta
Contact Name	Stephen Calleja
Telephone Number	(+356) 2200 1862
E-mail	stephen.calleja@gov.mt

Executing Agency (PET/CT scanner)

Name	Ministry for Health
Address	Palazzo Castellania 15, Merchants Street Valletta
Post Code	VLT 2000
Country	Malta
Contact Name	Dr Anthony Samuel
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Executing Agency (Support to MEDAC)

Name	Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)
Address	University of Malta Msida
Post Code	MSD 2080
Country	Malta
Contact Name	Prof. Stephen Calleya
Telephone Number	(+356) 2340 2233
E-mail	stephen.calleya@um.edu.mt

Annex 2 – Tenders, contract awards and successful bidders

The tender procedure for the procurement of a Positron Emission Tomography / Computed Tomography (PET/CT) scanner was concluded on 9 March 2012 and the relevant details were provided in Annex 2 of the Annual Report for 2012.

No further tenders were launched during the review period.