



Swiss-Maltese Co-operation Programme 2007-2017

Annual Report for the period 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011

INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report on the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme 2007-2017 for the period 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011. 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.

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

1. *Annual Meeting*

The second Annual Meeting took place at the offices of the National Co-ordination Unit (the Planning and Priorities Coordination Department in the Office of the Prime Minister) on 23 June 2010.

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 agreed minutes of the meeting together with the second Annual Report for the period 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010 are available on the internet site of the National Coordination Unit (NCU)².

2. *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.

At the end of the previous reporting period, the next step prior to the commencement of project implementation on the ground was to be the signature of the Project Agreement (between SDC and the NCU) and of the corresponding Implementation Agreement (between the NCU and the Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care).

The Project Agreement was signed in Malta on 11 June 2010. It includes a Memorandum of Understanding between Mater Dei Hospital, Malta and the Istituto Oncologico della Svizzera Italiana (IOSI) for the provision of technical assistance and professional training. The project implementation period runs from 1 May 2010 to 30 June 2012.

The Implementation Agreement was signed on 21 July 2010.

The total eligible cost of the project is SFr 3.714 (€2.836³) million. Switzerland's share amounts to a maximum SFr 2.794 (€2.133³) million. The balance is being provided as co-financing by the Maltese Government.

Between July and September 2010, tender specifications were drawn up by the Biomedical Department and the Medical Imaging Department at Mater Dei

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 http://www.ppcd.gov.mt/swiss_fund or <http://www.swiss-contribution.gov.mt>

³ €1 = SFr 1.3097 (rate as at 6 April 2011)

Hospital in collaboration with an expert from IOSI. On 20 September 2010, a copy of the tender documents in English was submitted to Switzerland for non-objection from its side. The tender was divided into two lots:-

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;

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

Following receipt of Switzerland's clearance on 18 October 2010, the complete tender dossier (including the specifications and other contents like instructions to tenderers, etc) was finalized by the end of November 2010 and forwarded to the Department of Contracts for publication. The tender procedure was launched on 4 February 2011 and the period for the submission of offers closed on 29 March 2011.

Four bidders have submitted an offer on Lot N° 1, with a single offer being received on Lot N° 2. At the cut-off date of this Report the offers received were still being appraised by the Evaluation Committee set up for this purpose by the Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care (the Executing Agency).

No eligible costs were incurred by this project during the reporting period and therefore no claims for reimbursement / Interim Reports were submitted to SDC.

Meanwhile, four 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 21 July 2010, 1 September 2010, 1 December 2010 and 16 March 2011.

Separately, on 1 October 2010 a delegation from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, led by Ambassador Martin Dahinden visited the Medical Imaging Department at Mater Dei Hospital for talks to enable Dr Dahinden to gain a better understanding of the project and the context within which it is being carried out.

Finally, the NCU submitted the first Project Annual Report to SDC on 15 April 2011.

3. 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.

At the end of the previous reporting period, the next step was to be the submission of the final project proposal. This was done on 7 May 2010. The project implementation period is 10 September 2010 to 30 September 2014.

Following the agreement of the European Commission for Switzerland to allocate the additional SFr 2 million to Malta, SDC approved the final proposal on 29 July 2010.

In light of the above, it was necessary to amend Annex 1 of the bilateral Framework Agreement, in order to introduce a second Focus Area, 'Research and Development'. The amendment entered into force on 26 August 2010.

The Project Agreement was signed in Malta on 10 September 2010, with the Implementation Agreement between the NCU and MEDAC being signed on 21 January 2011.

The total eligible cost of the project is SFr 2.620 (€2.0⁴) million. Switzerland's share amounts to a maximum SFr 1.900 (€1.450⁴) million with the balance being financed by the Maltese Government.

On 30 September 2010, MEDAC commenced its academic programme 2010-11. Twenty-two students from thirteen different countries were enrolled in the programme, with eleven benefitting from an M. Dip scholarship. Participants have been following courses in international relations, international law, international economics, international history and the practice of diplomacy.

During this period, MEDAC continued to maintain close links with its alumni body.

From 27 to 30 December 2010, MEDAC together with DIPLO Foundation organized the thirty-eighth Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT). Over eighty participants from all continents took part in the Forum. The principal themes addressed during the Forum included e-diplomacy, the challenge of training foreign diplomats, pilot training of the European External Action Service, quality assurance of diplomatic training and the future of diplomatic training.

In November 2010, MEDAC published its eleventh newsletter, providing an overview of its activities during the previous six months. MEDAC also published an essay by Ambassador Martin Dahinden, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, within the framework of its Med Agenda series.

A payment claim for the reimbursement of eligible costs certified during the reporting period was included with Interim Report 1. This was forwarded to SDC by the Paying Authority on 28 February 2011. The relative amount was transferred by the Swiss authorities to the Central Bank of Malta on 9 March 2011.

Finally, the NCU submitted the first Project Annual Report to SDC on 25 April 2011.

4. The Technical Assistance Fund

The Technical Assistance Fund amounts to SFr 50,000 (€37,150⁵) 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*

⁴ €1 = SFr 1.3097 (rate as at 6 April 2011)

⁵ Please refer to workings at Table on page 10.

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

- i. The second Annual Meeting, which took place in Malta on 23 June 2010 (see above).
- ii. Participation in the NCU Seminar and Annual Conference, that took place in Switzerland between the 17 and 19 November 2010. Mr Stephen Calleja represented the Maltese NCU at the event.
- iii. The implementation of activities under the heading 'Hiring of consultants for the preparation, monitoring and review of Project(s) financed by the Contribution and of the Cooperation Programme' is closely linked to the implementation of the Health sector project entitled 'Establishing Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanning in the Maltese Islands'. In this connection the Istituto Oncologico della Svizzera Italiana – Belinzona, in September 2010 provided its expert input on the technical specification for a minimum 64-slice PET/CT scanner. That technical specification then became part of the tender dossier that was published on 4 February 2010.

On 13 August 2010, a revised TA Fund project proposal (Annex 1 to the TA Fund Agreement) and accompanying revised budget were agreed between the NCU and SDC.

The introduction of the TA Fund project proposal was amended to reflect the approval of the project entitled 'Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)' and the allocation of an additional SFr 2 million to Malta.

The main change (compared to the one approved by SDC on 10 July 2009) in the accompanying budget concerned the line 'Hiring of Consultants for project preparation'. This was increased by SFr 1200 to SFr 21,000 in accordance with the provisions of article 3.4 of the PET/CT Project Agreement.

The yearly amounts under 'Expenditure for Annual Meetings' were also adjusted, not only in order to reduce the estimate of cost for the 2010 Annual Meeting but also to make provision for an Annual Meeting in 2012. The result was an increase of SFr 300 in the overall allocation under this heading.

The above-mentioned increases were off set by a reduction of SFr 1500 under 'Expenditure for participation in Meetings outside Malta'. That was achieved by removing the amount for 2009 as no such meetings took place that year.

Payment claims for the reimbursement of eligible costs certified during the reporting period were included in Interim Reports 2 and 3. 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.

The NCU also received a request from the Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care for the refund of expenditure incurred on IOSI expertise on the PET/CT scanner technical specification. This request was still being processed on 30 April 2011 and the payment to be made by the NCU would eventually form part of the claim for reimbursement to be included in Interim Report 4.

Finally, the NCU submitted the Technical Assistance Fund Annual Report to SDC on 25 February 2011.

FINANCIAL TABLES ILLUSTRATING ACTUAL AND ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE (excluding VAT)

Establishing Positron Emission Tomography / Computed Tomography (PET/CT) scanning in the Maltese Islands					
Year / Quarter	Actual Realised Payments		Future Estimated Expenditure⁶		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	-	-	€533,146	€172,354	€705,500
2012					
Quarter 1 (Training)	-	-	-	€13,743	€719,243
Quarter 2	-	-	€1,599,430	€517,057	€2,835,730
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2013					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2014					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-

⁶ Future Estimated Expenditure (Eligible Costs only) in Swiss Francs remains as per Annex 2 to the Project Agreement signed on 11 June 2010. The exchange rate SFr 1.3097 = €1 (rate as at 6 April 2011) has been applied to estimate the Euro equivalent given in this table.

Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2015					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2016					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2017					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	€2,132,576	€703,154	

Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)					
Year / Quarter	Actual Realised Payments		Future Estimated Expenditure⁷		Total Expenditure (Cumulative)
	Swiss Funds	Malta Funds	Swiss Funds	Malta Funds	
2010					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	€83,149.39	€33,505.61	-	-	€116,655
2011					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	€203,654	€77,248	€397,557
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	€149,346	€56,649	€603,552
2012					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	€217,500	€82,500	€903,552
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	€145,000	€55,000	€1,103,552
2013					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	€217,500	€82,500	€1,403,552
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	€145,000	€55,000	€1,603,552
2014					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	€287,757	€109,149	€2,000,458
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-

⁷ Future Estimated Expenditure (Eligible Costs only) in Swiss Francs remains as per Annex 2 to the Project Agreement signed on 10 September 2010. The exchange rate SFr 1.3097 = €1 (rate as at 6 April 2011) has been applied to estimate the Euro equivalent given in this table.

2015					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2016					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2017					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	€83,149.39	€33,505.61	€1,365,757	€518,046	

Technical Assistance Fund					
Year / Quarter	Actual Realised Payments		Future Estimated Expenditure ⁸		Total Expenditure (Cumulative)
	Swiss Funds	Malta Funds	Swiss Funds	Malta Funds	
2009					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	€215.25	-	-	-	€215.25
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2010					
Quarter 1	€606.40	-	-	-	€821.65
Quarter 2	€62.79	-	-	-	€884.44
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	€360.65	-	-	-	€1,245.09
2011					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	€4,578	-	€5,823.09
Quarter 3	-	-	€11,758	-	€17,581.09
Quarter 4	-	-	-	-	-
2012					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	€191	-	€17,772.09
Quarter 3	-	-	€12,007	-	€29,779.09
Quarter 4	-	-	€1,146	-	€30,925.09
2013					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	€229	-	€31,154.09
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	€1,146	-	€32,300.09
2014					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-

⁸ Future Estimated Expenditure amounts revised from those agreed on 13 August 2010 between SDC and OPM. To be confirmed during Annual Meeting 2011. The exchange rate Sfr 1.3097 = €1 (rate as at 6 April 2011) has been applied to estimate the Euro equivalent given in this table

Quarter 2	-	-	€267	-	€32,567.09
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	€1,146	-	€33,713.09
2015					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	€1,146	-	€34,859.09
2016					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	€1,146	-	€36,005.09
2017					
Quarter 1	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 2	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 3	-	-	-	-	-
Quarter 4	-	-	€1,146	-	€37,151.09
TOTAL	€1,245.09	-	€35,906	-	

AUDIT

The Internal Audit and Investigations Division (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 a public institution of recognised professional reputation and in line with the International Standards Board (IAASB) of the International Federation of Accountants.

In view of the fact that no substantive activities or financial transactions were executed, no financial audits on the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme were carried out during the reporting period.

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

Publicity is key 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 main focus of publicity at programme level during the reporting period was the agreement to allocate the reserve of 2 million Swiss francs to Malta. This development was reported in the national media and it also featured prominently on the front page of issue 38 of 'MEUSAC News' published on 19 June 2010.

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

In terms of the project 'Establishing Positron Emission Tomography / Computed Tomography (PET/CT) scanning in the Maltese Islands', a press call was issued by the Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care, inviting the media to attend the Project Agreement signing ceremony on 11 June 2011. A press release - including photographs - was also issued on the same day. The event received extensive news coverage on television, radio and the print and online edition of newspapers. The coverage included references to the speeches given by Dr Joseph Cassar, Minister for Health, the Elderly and Community Care and by His Excellency Bernardino Regazzoni, Ambassador of Switzerland to Malta.

With regard to the project 'Support to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)', a press event was held on 10 September 2011 at the premises of the Academy on the campus of the University of Malta. This too received wide coverage on television, radio and the print and online edition of newspapers with extracts from the speeches given by Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC and by His Excellency Bernardino Regazzoni, Ambassador of Switzerland to Malta.

Annex 1

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Executing Agency (PET/CT scanner)

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Executing Agency (Support to MEDAC)

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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 launched on 4 February 2011. The period for the submission of offers closed on 29 March 2011. No contracts were awarded by the cut-off date of this Annual Report, i.e. 30 April 2011.