Masterplan: Development of Applied Science and Business and Commerce Institutes

2007-2013 Programming Period

MCAST. March 2017
The Beneficiary: Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)

- Established in 2000
- The main vocational institution in Malta
- From the provider of traditional vocational courses (art, design, hair and beauty, business, electrical and mechanical engineering), MCAST expanded its range of programmes to address knowledge-intensive economic sectors like health care, ICT, environmental science, financial services, marine engineering, aviation and media.
- Broadened its course offerings to:
  - Levels 1 and 2 programmes to create the support structure to reduce the early school leavers rate;
  - Levels 5 and 6 courses to address the European strategy of securing high-quality vocational education and training at higher qualification levels.
Investment in Educational Capacity Infrastructure
First phase of Corradino New Campus Project (19,000m²)

- Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS)
- Institute of Business Management and Commerce (IBMC)
- Students’ House
- IT labs for the Institute of Information and Communication Technology (IICT)
- Sports Facilities
- Underground car park

Complimented by ERDF Project 9.036: MCAST Campus Master-Plan: Phase 2 funded under the programming period 2014-2020
ERDF Project 164 was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the programming period 2007-2013

Fits squarely with the objective of the Operational Programme:
… the ambition to increase the level of participation in education at post-secondary levels will need to be supported by infrastructural expansions and upgrades and other capital investment in the main post-secondary and tertiary institutions in Malta and Gozo.

Objective 2: Improving Malta’s Attractiveness and Quality of Life

Priority Axis 6: Urban regeneration and improving the quality of life

Operational Objective: To continue investment in the health, social and educational sectors

Focus area of intervention: Education, Social and Health-related Infrastructure (Formal Education

Priority Theme: Education Infrastructure.
As a result of this investment MCAST is in a position to address urgent national challenges:

- increase students’ participation rates at post-secondary levels
- increase the number of students taking up science subjects
- address skills shortages/new occupational needs in health care, science related industries, ICT, financial services sectors
- enhance the students’ knowledge by providing them with hands on experience on equipment which is being used in the labour market, hence ensuring a better trained workforce

The number of MCAST’s students have increased by 20% since 2009:
- an overall increase of 780 students at IBMC and IAS equivalent to an 85% increase in these areas
- an increase of 500 students following science related subjects.
**Added Value**

- The construction of the first Phase of the MCAST New Campus project was implemented at a much faster rate.

- MCAST’s educational infrastructure capacity has been enhanced and the attractiveness of post-secondary training specifically the vocational education sector has been increased.

- MCAST is in a position to actively contribute towards the provision of skilled labour for the enterprise being targeted for foreign direct investment.

- MCAST is directly contributing to Malta’s competitiveness by providing the necessary skills required to address knowledge-intensive economic sectors like science, health care, ICT and finance; hence reducing the social and economic disparities between member states.
Project complements other initiatives funded under ERDF 2007-2013 Programmes:

- **ERDF 054:** Setting Up of a Multimedia Training Centre at the Institute of Art and Design, MCAST
- **ERDF 056:** Upgrading and Expansion, MCAST Institute of Mechanical Engineering Malta / Gozo
- **ERDF 062:** Language Lab with Contact Training Facility at MCAST Institute of Business Commerce Malta and Gozo
- **ERDF 065:** Expansion of MCAST Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- **ERDF 066:** Computer Systems and Computer Laboratories at MCAST ICT Institute, Malta/Gozo
Other complementary projects co-financed by ESF 2007-2013

Projects targeting IVET included:
- ESF 1.36: Professional Development Programmes for MCAST Staff and Student's Top-Up Degrees
- ESF 1.130: Making VET Education More Relevant and Attractive
- ESF 3.102: Inclusion for Employment

Projects targeting CVET included:
- ESF 2.85: Linking Industrial Needs and VET to Optimise Human Capital
- ESF 2.139: Increasing Accessibility, Flexibility and Innovation to MCAST Life-Long-Learning Course

Projects targeting New Sectors/Lack of Resources:
- ESF 1.33: Increasing ICT Student Capacity in Malta
- ESF 1.34: Addressing Skills Mismatches in the Aviation Maintenance Industry

Complements ESF Project 3.003: Development of Training Programmes at MQF Level 7 funded under the programming period 2014-2020
Thank You

EU funds for Malta | 2014 2020

Tigne Point
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European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds