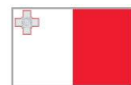


Update on Implementation 2014 – 2020 Programming Period

**Operational Programme II - *Investing in Human Capital
to Create More Opportunities and Promote the
Wellbeing of Society***

**Monitoring Committee
7th December 2016**











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Outline

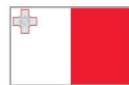
0. Follow-up to Last MC
1. Designation of Authorities
2. Update on OP implementation
3. Use of Simplified Cost Options
4. E-Cohesion
5. Monitoring and Evaluation
6. Communication Activities
7. Capacity Building
8. Horizontal priorities
9. Looking forward

Follow-up to last MC

- ▶ Finalisation of designation – end of May 2016 
- ▶ Finalisation of PSC Call 1 – by April 2016 
- ▶ Launch of Call 3 – in April 2016 
- ▶ Followed by Evaluation of Call 2 – to be concluded by September 2016
- ▶ Adoption of Delegated Act for A2E expected by mid-2016 
- ▶ Ex-ante conditionalities – baselines to be established by end of year 
- ▶ SCOs work will continue and discussions with potential beneficiaries 
- ▶ Continuation of evaluation work 
- ▶ Finalisation of Ex-ante assessment on financial instruments 

IP10i and IP 9iv by 2016
IP9i by early 2017

1. Designation of Authorities 2014-2020



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Designation of Authorities

- ▶ The MA finalised all the documentation required for the designation process under ERDF/CF, ESF and FEAD on the **14th October, 2016**.
- ▶ Following the opinion issued by the IAB, the MA and the CA were officially designated through a Ministerial Decision.
- ▶ Designation documents were communicated to the Commission in October 2016. Acknowledgment received from Commission in November 2016.

The Importance of the Designation



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- ▶ Confirm that Management Control Systems for MA and CA give reasonable assurance that they are in a position to fulfil their responsibilities for the OP.
- ▶ Stronger accountability at Member State level.
- ▶ Strict supervision over Intermediate Bodies (Article 123 (6,7) CPR).
- ▶ Emphasis on ESIF effectiveness & performance.

Designation Criteria

- ▶ Internal Control Environment
- ▶ Risk Management
- ▶ Management and Control Activities (MA and CA)
- ▶ Monitoring (MA and CA)

Internal Control Environment

- ▶ Organisational structure within the IB, MA & CA.
- ▶ Plan for allocation of appropriate staff with technical skills at all levels, including training and awareness activities.
- ▶ Delegation of tasks to IB and definition of respective responsibilities and obligations, verification of capacity as well as reporting and monitoring procedures in place.

Risk Management

- ▶ Prepare a risk management plan on the basis of proportionality.

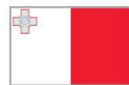
Monitoring & Control Activities

- ▶ The MA needs to ensure that the following procedures are in place:
 - ▶ Preparation of Project Proposals/ selection of operations/ instructions and guidance to beneficiaries as well as Grant Agreements;
 - ▶ Management verifications (administrative & on-the-spot);
 - ▶ Payment claim process;
 - ▶ Support the work of the Monitoring Committee;
 - ▶ Drawing up Annual and Final Implementation Reports.

Monitoring & Control Activities

- ▶ The CA needs to ensure that the following procedures are in place:
 - ▶ Certification of interim payment applications to Commission;
 - ▶ Drawing up of accounts;
 - ▶ Adequate audit trail & accounting records in computerized form – including amounts recoverable, recovered, withdrawn for each operation;
 - ▶ The exchange of information between the MA and the CA.

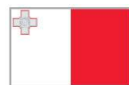
2. Update on OP Implementation 2014-2020



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PA 1 - Investing in the employability and adaptability of human capital



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Investment Priority 8i

Access to employment for job seekers and inactive people, including the long term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility.

Through investment under this IP :

- ▶ It is intended to have employment opportunities for job seekers/workers, including older workers and women in the labour market. This also by steering individuals to consider business ownership as an alternative form of occupation.

Investment Priority 8ii

Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.

Through investment under this IP:

- ▶ Reducing youth unemployment levels and NEET rates by facilitating access to further learning and sustainable employment

PA 1 Status (1)

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 1- **€26M**
- ▶ Call I targeted both IP8i and IP8ii. The evaluation of Call 1 was concluded in August 2016.
- ▶ **Training for Employment** project was approved under IP8i which is being implemented by Jobsplus.

PA 1 Status (2)

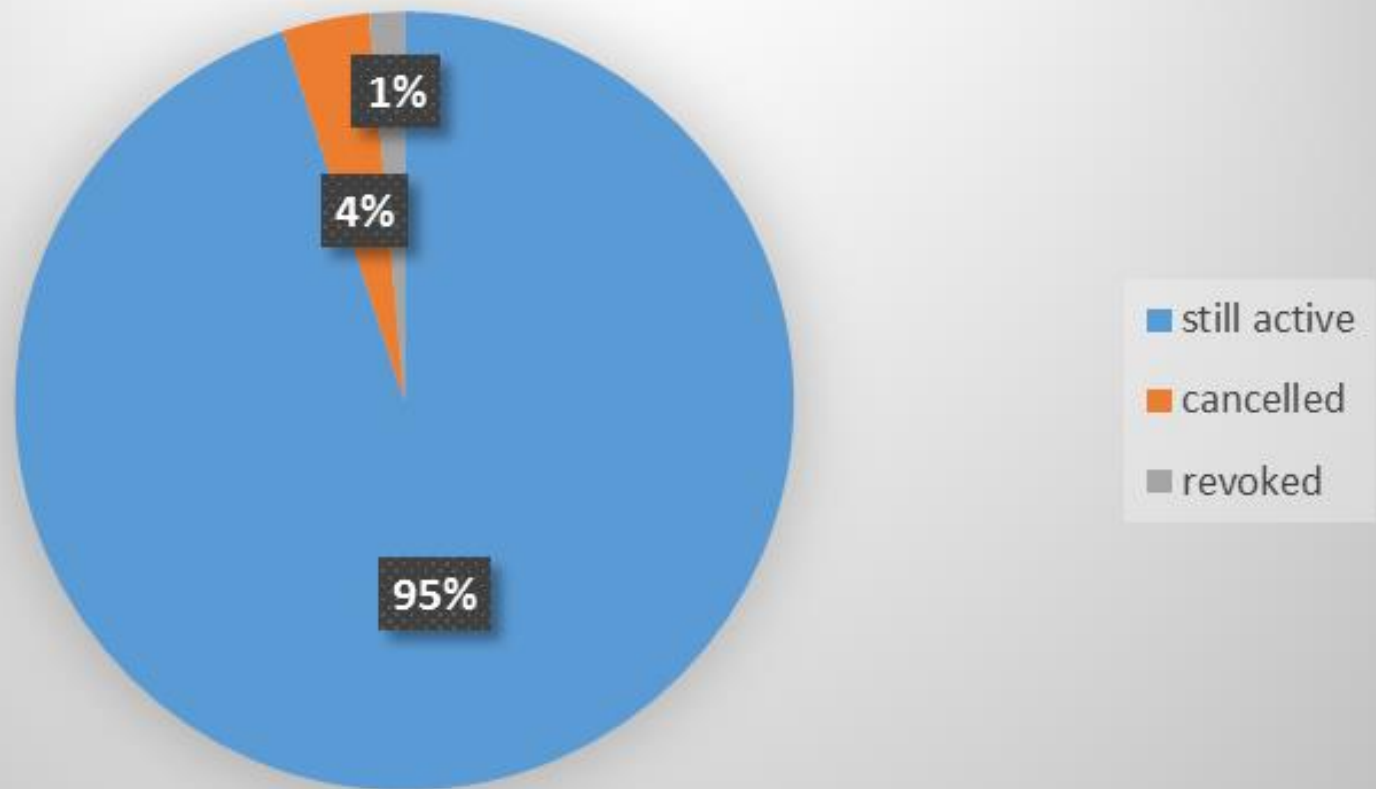
- ▶ **Youth Guarantee 2.0** project was approved under IP8ii which is being implemented also by Jobsplus.
- ▶ This Priority Axis also includes the **Access to Employment Scheme (A2E)**.

Access to Employment Scheme

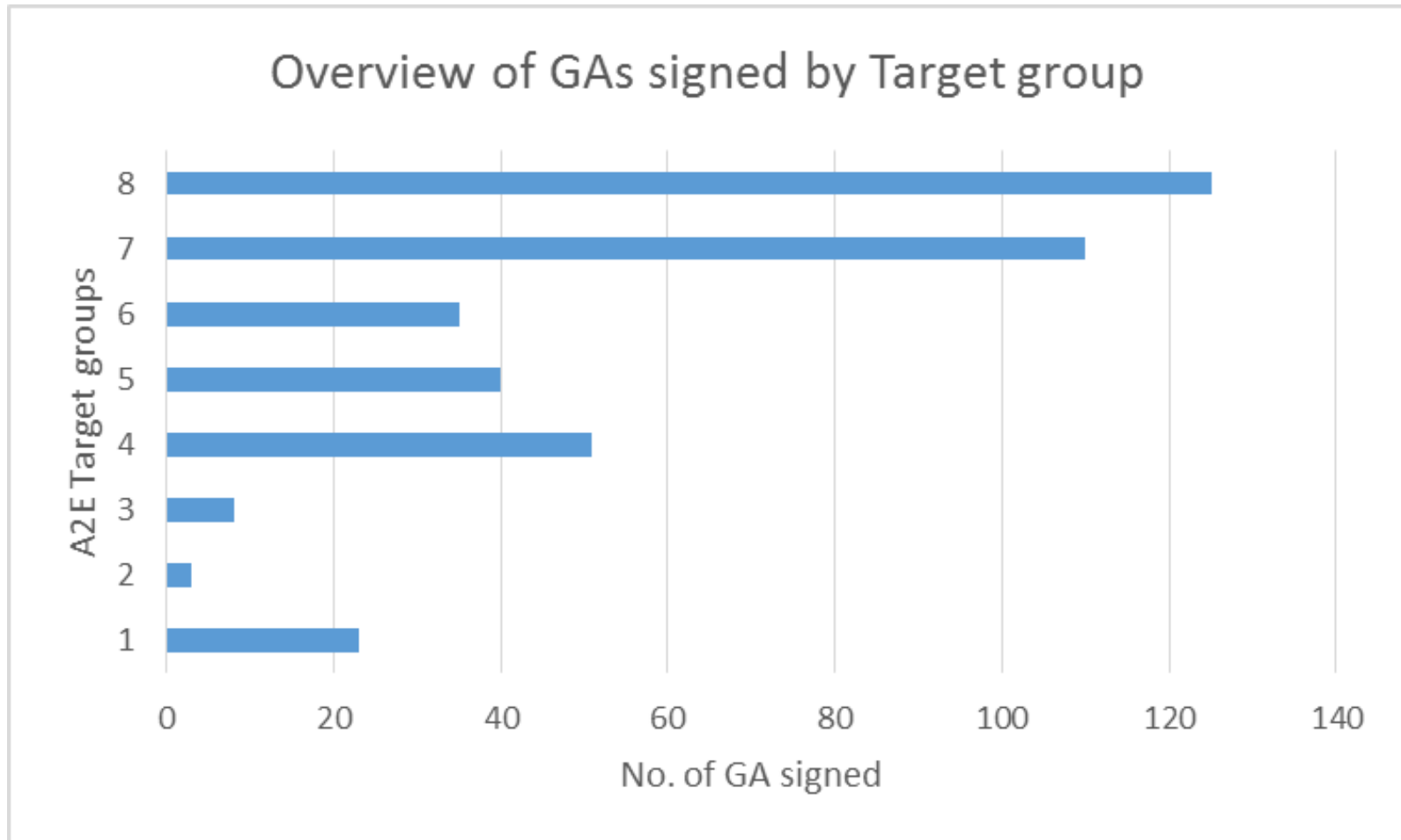
- Applications started being received on **1st June 2015**
- Applications will be received up till the end of the programming period or until funds are exhausted
- Delegated Act (Article 14(1) of Reg. 1304/13) to **simplify the implementation of the scheme.**

Status update

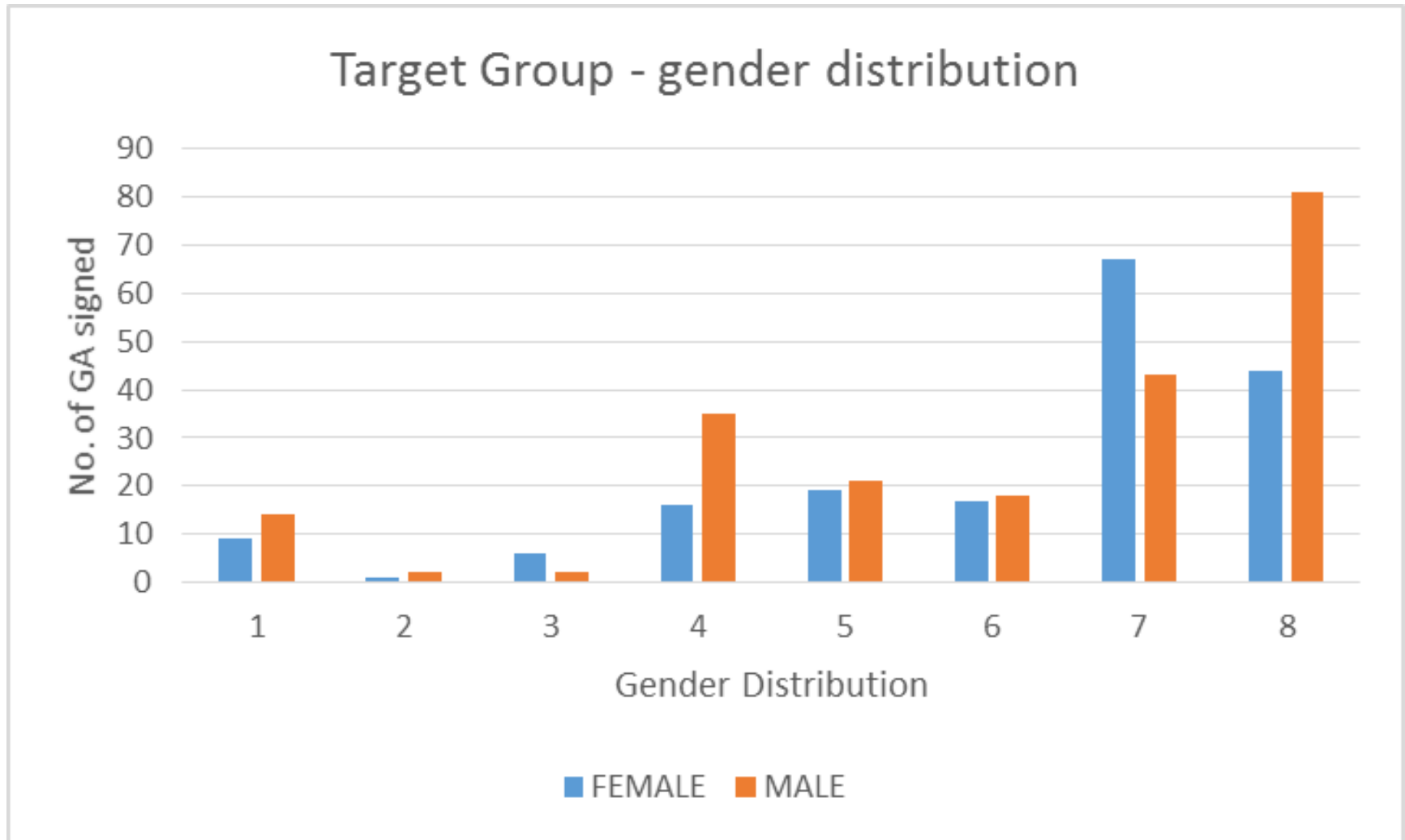
A2E Grant Agreements signed



A2E – by target group (1)

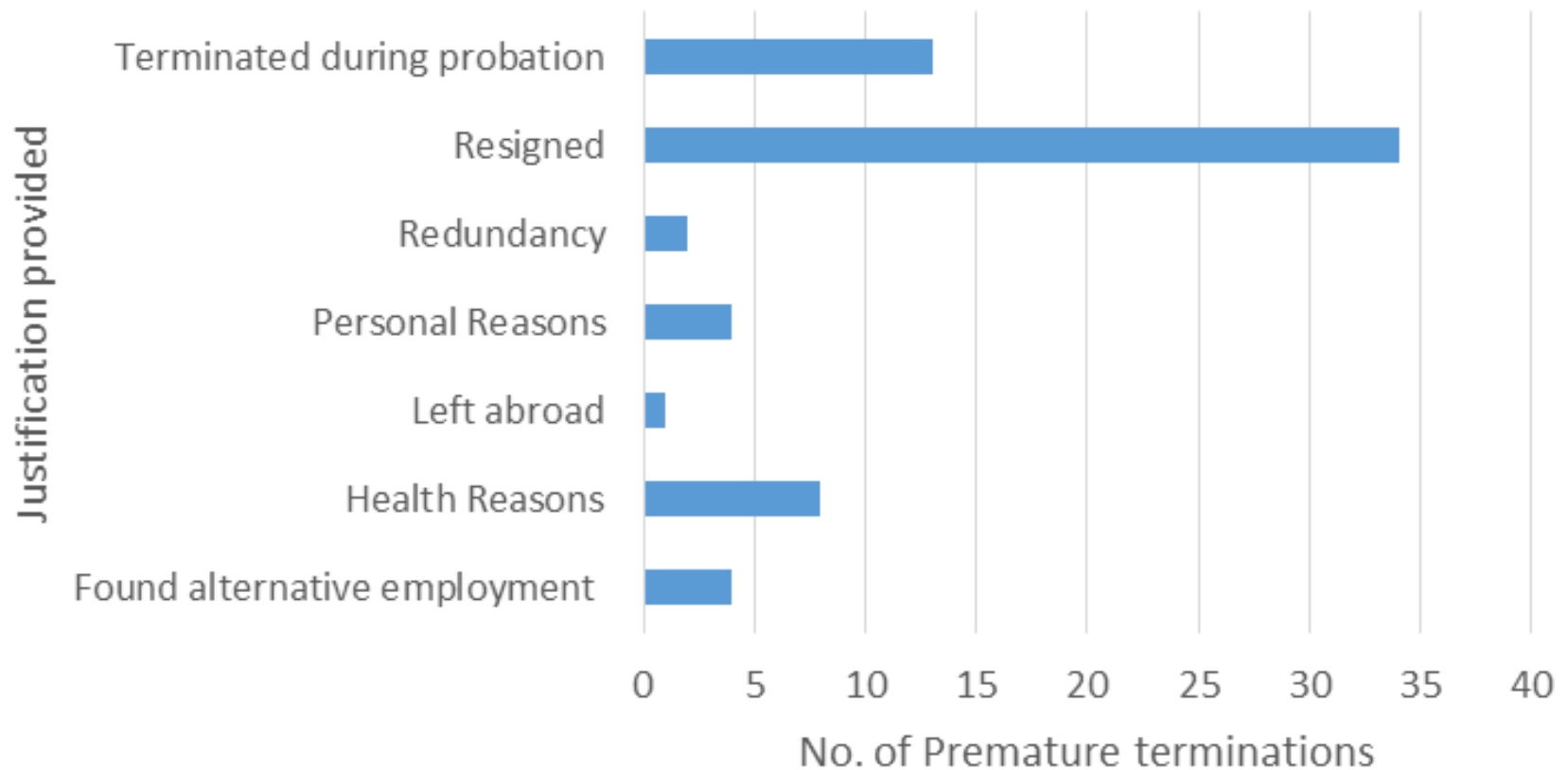


A2E – by target group (2)



A2E – premature terminations

Premature terminations



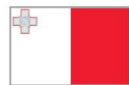
Output Indicators for PA 1 (IP8i)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value
PA 1	CO07. above 54 years of Age	Number	100	75 (*)
	O1. Persons supported	Number	2900	4325 (*)
	O2. Capacity building measures for PES and EURES support services	Number	2	n/a (*)
	O3. Persons supported through family friendly measures including through financial support	Number	100	n/a
	O4. Persons participating in entrepreneurship related measures	Number	180	n/a

Output Indicators for PA 1 (IP8ii)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	Approved Projects Target Value
PA 1	CO06. below 25 years of Age	Number	2700	5250(*)
	O5. Persons participating in up-skilling and re-training Programmes	Number	25	(*)

PA 2 - Towards a more inclusive society



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Investment Priority 9i

Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Through investment under this IP:

- ▶ Provide vulnerable individuals with improved life chances opportunities, including capacity building of support systems

Investment Priority 9iv

Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high quality services, including health care and social services of general interest

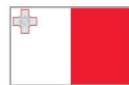
Through investment under this IP:

- ▶ Provide individuals with knowledge and healthier lifestyle options, increase awareness of health and safety issues at the workplace and strengthen the capacity building of systems and structures

PA 2 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 2 - **€40M**
- ▶ Call II issued **IP9i and IP9iv** for which 11 and 5 projects were received respectively and are being evaluated. Expected **to be concluded by early 2017**.
- ▶ Out of these submissions 3 projects were received from **NGOs and social partners**.

PA 3 - Investing in people through Education, Training and Life Long Learning



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Investment Priority 10i

Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Improved educational experience and enhanced education systems and structures to address ESL related issues

Investment Priority 10ii

Improving the quality and efficiency of, and access to, tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels, especially for disadvantaged groups

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Increase number of participants pursuing and succeeding within the tertiary tier of education

Investment Priority 10iii

Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Increase participation in LLL with a view to upgrade skills/qualifications/skills, as well as uptake of post doctoral research studies

Investment Priority 10iv

Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Increased number of participants pursuing and succeeding in vocational education

PA 3 Status (1)

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 3 - **€47.4M**
- ▶ Call II issued **IP10i** for which 3 projects were received and are being evaluated. Expected to be concluded by end 2016.
- ▶ Call I issued **IP10ii and IP10iii**. This call was concluded in August 2016; 2 projects received under each IP, all of which were approved.

PA 3 Status (2)

- ▶ IP10ii:
 - ▶ **Development of Training Programmes at MQF level 7**, being implemented by MCAST
 - ▶ **Endeavour Scholarships Scheme** project being implemented by MEDE

- ▶ IP10iii:
 - ▶ **Reach High Scholars Programme Post-Doctoral Grants**, being implemented by MEDE Scholarships Unit
 - ▶ **eCommerce Training Programme**, being implemented by MCA

- ▶ Call III issued **IP10iv** – closing date 27th January 2016

PA 3 Status (3)

- ▶ This Priority Axis also includes the **Investing in Skills Scheme (IIS)** under IP10iii.
 - ▶ Study completed and based on that another Delegated Act is being drafted.
 - ▶ IB drafting guidance notes for IIS
 - ▶ Planned to be launched in Q1 2017

- ▶ **An ex-ante assessment** carried out to see if there is a financing gap which can be addressed and supported through the use of a **financial instrument**.

Output Indicators for PA 3 (IP10ii)

Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	Approved Projects Target Value
PA 3	O13. Persons participating in tertiary education	Number	700	924
	O14. Persons within tertiary education institutions participating in up-skilling and re-training measures	Number	50	50 (*)

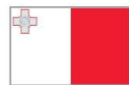
Output Indicators for PA 3 (IP10iii)



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Priority Axis	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value	Approved Projects Target Value
PA 3	O15. Persons participating in second chance Education programmes	Number	50	n/a (*1)
	O16. Number of postdoctoral research and fellowships	Number	10	16
	O6. Persons participating in training/support Measures	Number	6000	6150 (*2)

PA 4 - Building the Institutional Administrative Capacity



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Investment Priority 11i

Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

- ▶ Improving the overall performance of the public administration and increased competences of workers and professionals working within the judicial system to streamline processes

Investment Priority 11ii

Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels

Through investment under this IP, there should be:

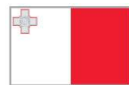
- ▶ Increased/improved participation from stakeholders

PA 4 Status

- ▶ Allocation for Priority Axis 4 - **€11M**
- ▶ Call III issued **IP11i and IP11ii** – closing date 27th January 2016

3. Use of Simplified Cost Options

State of play and next steps



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Investing in Skills (IIS)

- ▶ Study carried out
- ▶ MA to apply for a Delegated Act under Art. 14(1)
- ▶ Expected to have one rate for training

Scholarships 2014-2020

- ▶ Study ongoing
- ▶ Aiming to establish standard scales of unit costs:
 - ▶ Per ECTS
 - ▶ According to Modality (Part-time, Full-time, Distance learning)
 - ▶ According to Country (Malta, UK, Others)
 - ▶ According to MQF level (Level 7 – Postgraduate, Level 8 – PhD)

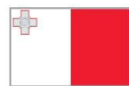
Online application form for project proposals

- ▶ Introduction of potential use of SCOs at application stage
- ▶ Info sessions and workshops highlight the importance and introduction of SCOs in projects
- ▶ MA issued watered down Guidance Document on the potential SCOs that can be applied to MT project proposals
- ▶ Automatic calculation by the application form when it comes to the use of flat rates

Steering Committee on Simplification

- ▶ Good practice highlighted among MSs
- ▶ Another meeting will be scheduled in Q1 2017
- ▶ Including IAID, NAO, Treasury, CA
- ▶ To inform horizontal stakeholders of SCOs being used and in the pipeline
- ▶ To gather feedback

4. E-Cohesion (2014-2020)



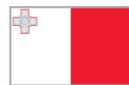
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E-Cohesion

- ▶ The majority of the requirements stipulated in Article 122 (3) of the Common Provisions Regulations 1303/2013 have been implemented and further actions will be implemented as part of an action plan;
- ▶ The electronic data exchange is one single system used by the MA, CA, AA, IBs. It also covers all types of beneficiaries including beneficiaries of mainstream projects, aid schemes and Technical Assistance;
- ▶ The necessary data is in place for a number of requirements including reporting on progress, declaration of expenditure and exchange of information related to management, verifications and audits;
- ▶ The 'only once' encoding principle has been addressed and the system also allows for the elimination of paper flow of documents;
- ▶ SFD 2014-2020 ensures data integrity and confidentiality;

5. Monitoring and Evaluation (2014-2020)



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Performance Framework

- ▶ In order to monitor progress towards the objectives and targets set for each priority, a performance framework has been built on a set of indicators to establish clear, realistic and measurable milestones and targets set for 2018 and 2023.
- ▶ Where there is evidence based on financial and output indicators of a serious failure in achieving a priority's milestones due to implementation weaknesses, the Commission may suspend all or part of interim payments for this priority.

Performance Framework of Approved Projects

Performance Framework – PA 1 (excluding Aid Schemes)

Output Indicator Persons Supported	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	250	2900
Approved Projects	1760	2650

Financial Indicator	Financial Output for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	€ 6,255,643.44	€ 20,800,000
Approved Projects	€ 4,706,815.48	€ 10,496,248.50

*Values may change upon finalisation of negotiations for GA

Performance Framework – PA 3 (excluding Aid Schemes)

Output Indicator Persons participating in tertiary education	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	150	700
Approved Projects	620	924

Output Indicator Persons participating in training/support measures	Output Milestone for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	1600	7400
Approved Projects	150	150

Performance Framework – PA 3 (excluding Aid Schemes)

Financial Indicator	Financial Output for 2018	Final Target for 2023
OP Targets	€ 11,430,494.74	€ 37,939,848.00
Approved Projects	€7,618,665.23	€10,402,203.60

*Values may change upon finalisation of negotiations for GA

Evaluation Activities in 2016

- The Managing Authority has finalised the ESF Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy in coordination with DG EMPL, taking into consideration feedback received from the Monitoring Committee and Evaluation Steering Group.
- DG REGIO, in collaboration with the Managing Authority, organised a training seminar, *Developing Quality Terms of Reference for Impact Evaluation*, between 5th October – 7th October 2016. The training provided was also useful for ESF related evaluations.
- An Evaluation Steering Group Meeting was held on 30th March and 11th November 2016 in view of activities to be carried out in 2017

Ex-ante assessment FI

- During 2016, the Managing Authority conducted **an ex ante assessment on ESF Financial Instruments** in order to identify the market gap between the supply (financial institutions, scholarships, etc.) and demand (current/potential students).
- Therefore, the market gap will be estimated over a five year period, and annual average as follows:

Market Gap Estimate = Demand for Financing – Supply of Funding

Ex-ante assessment FI

- The **demand side** was estimated through:
 - On-line e-survey addressed to students and potential students over the age of 18 years. There were 1,607 valid responses in total.
 - Consultation meetings with various stakeholders, including University of Malta, MCAST, MEDE – Scholarships Unit, Maintenance Grants Section and Directorate for Lifelong Learning, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, National Commission for Further and Higher Education, Jobsplus, Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability, and National Commission for the Promotion of Equality
- The **supply side** was measured through meetings with four of Malta's main banks, being Bank of Valletta, HSBC, APS, and Banif. Moreover, both national and EU assistance will also be taken into consideration.

Evaluation Activities in 2016 - 2017

- The Managing Authority will be carrying out the following assessments:
 - Feasibility study to carry out Counterfactual Impact Evaluation in Malta
 - Assessment of the key process within the ESI Funds in Malta
 - Cohort / Tracking Study for ESF Participants

Monitoring Mechanisms

- As per the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy, the following monitoring mechanisms will be in place:
 - Day-to-day monitoring by the Managing Authority;
 - Structural Funds Database 2014-2020 (SFD14-20);
 - Bi-Annual Projects' Progress Reports which will be generated through the SFD14-20;
 - Bi-Annual Ministerial/Intermediate Bodies Projects' Steering Committees between the Intermediate Body / Line Ministry and Project Leaders;
 - High Level Monitoring Meetings between the Managing Authority, Project Leader, the Ministry and other relevant horizontal stakeholders will be organised as the needs arises but not less than one every quarter;
 - Quarterly meetings with respect to projects contributing to the Performance Framework.

Data Collection Mechanisms

- Throughout the year, the Managing Authority will continue enhancing its monitoring process through the **refinement of its data collection mechanism**. Moreover, the Managing Authority will embark on continuous collaboration with the National Statistics Authority to obtain the necessary data.
- **A Guidance Document** including the definition of all result and output indicators, how data is to be gathered and measured, the sources and channels to be used, etc. to establish a systematic approach across all interventions, will be drawn up.

Monitoring Activities in 2017

- The Managing Authority will continue building on its monitoring structure of **Annex I** of Regulation (EU) 1304/2013, by continuously liaising with other stakeholders
- There will also be continuous liaising with MITA to discuss **inbuilt verification and validation mechanisms** for when the Beneficiaries / participants are inputting data.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit will continue providing its **assistance to the Projects' Selection Committee** on any issues related to the computation of indicators at application stage.

Reporting requirements in 2017

- In line with Articles 52 and 53 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, the Managing Authority also has the obligation to:
 - Submit the Progress Report (August 2017) and
 - Strategic Report (December 2017), to which the Unit will contribute to in terms of assessment of the Strategies, verification and validation of indicators, etc.

Upcoming meetings

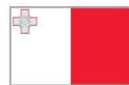
- **Evaluation Steering Group Meetings:**

Two meetings will be organised in Q2 and Q4 2017.

- **DG REGIO and DG EMPL Evaluation Meetings:**

The Managing Authority will be participating in these meetings wherein Member States discuss very practical evaluation issues through a combination of presentations from experts in the field and exchange of Member States' experience.

6. Communication Activities (2014-2020)



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Communication Activities in 2016



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for Malta | 2020

- Corporate image
 - Provided constant feedback to the Beneficiaries on the Visual Identity Guidelines 2014-2020.
 - Development of the publicity tool kit for beneficiaries to help them to compile to the requirements of publicity in terms of visuals, logos and banners
- Awarded the photographic services contract in June 2016.
- Participation in INIO/INFORM meeting

Communication Activities in 2016



EU funds | 2014
for Malta | 2020

- On Sunday 8th May 2016, the MA organised the Open Door event as part of the Europe in my Region campaign in line with Annex XII of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.
 - A structured media campaign to promote the open door event on all media channels (TV and newspaper adverts, online banners and FB adverts) was undertaken to advertise this event.
- Leaflets including information on key ESF projects across Malta and Gozo were developed, designed and distributed during the Open Door event.
 - This leaflet also included a map to better showcase the ESF spread across Malta and Gozo, whilst promoting the main benefits achieved.

Communication Activities in 2016



EU funds
for Malta

2014
2020



LEAP
€2 Million aimed to combat social exclusion and poverty with over 270 traineeship placements offered in 50 different NGOs and public entities.



Centre for Development Research & Training (CDRT)
€3.1 Million invested as part of training capacity building in public administration, providing training to 9,700 person working within the public administration.



Equality Certified Companies
The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) developed the Equality Mark concept with the support of ESF. The Commission continued to promote and award the Equality Mark beyond the projects end date. In December 2015, there were 61 certified entities with more than 16,000 employees.



Employment and Training Corporation (ETC)
€7.5 Million investment in further training to enhance the employability chances of individuals; over 47,500 persons benefited including over 8,400 women who were not in employment.

1,050 companies benefited from €8 Million investment to train 50,000 of which 11,000 were women.

1,100 employers gave job opportunities to 2,800 disadvantaged people and persons with disability through an investment of €3.4 Million.



Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)
€26.8 Million invested in MCAST: 22 courses re-designed and 40 new courses designed, as well reviewed all Pathway and Level 1 to 3 programmes (40 courses in total) to facilitate the progression of vulnerable students to higher level vocational programme and ultimately employment. Reformulation of 26 courses to be delivered through 'blended learning' – a combination of online and classroom study that will encourage more people to invest in their careers.



Kunsliet Malta għall-Isport (KMS)
€380k support to develop a training programme for Public Sector Sports Administrators. This was intended for sports organisations being better run, leading to more professional individuals in the sector.



Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE)
€137 Million STEPS and Master III Programmes providing over 1,500 scholarships at level 7 and level 8.



€3 Million invested in young people under 25 not in employment, education or training to access labour market or education. Over 600 youths supported through the Youth Guarantee.



Malta Film Commission (Kinellek)
€956k investment for training in film industry, over 450 persons participated in the different types of training offered.



Ministry for Gozo
57 persons trained at diploma and/or degree level in Gozo. Courses provided addressed skills mismatches and facilitated participation.



Oncology Hospital
€2.8 Million for the creation of a Masters programme in medical physics at the UoM and purchasing of training equipment for oncology hospital.



University of Malta (UoM)
€1.6 Million invested in 24h/7 access to the library system for students, academic staff and non-academic staff. A new programme at level 7 part time offered at UoM on entrepreneurship, encouraging new start-ups and innovative ideas.

ESF leaflets distributed during the Open Door Event

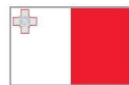
Annual Major Information Event

- In line with Annex XII of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 the MA focused on building on previous years experiences in providing information on the new programme to potential beneficiaries.
- A dedicated effort was ensured through the organisation of various information sessions for each ESF call for project proposals 2014-2020
- During these information sessions, attendees were given a general overview on the Operational Programme, promoting and explaining the funding opportunities and the specific context of each respective call.
- Innovative concept of polls during same sessions
- Total number of sessions 7:
 - In Q1 2016, the MA organised four information sessions on Call II (PA2, and IP10i of PA3)
 - In Q4 2016, the MA organised three information sessions on Call III (IP10iv PA3 and PA4) for project proposals under OP11 2014-2020.

Communication Activities in 2017

- The MA is planning to hold an information campaign to promote further the 2014-2020 programming period to the general public, potential beneficiaries and beneficiaries about the socio-economic benefits of EU funding as well as funding opportunities available.
- Information sessions will be continued to be organized for potential beneficiaries on various calls for project proposals related to different PA's
- The Local Information & Publicity Network (LIIP) will be held in Q1 2017.
- The MA's website, *Investing in your future*, will be further enhanced.

7. Capacity Building activities (2014-2020)



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Capacity Building Activities in 2016



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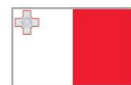
2014
2020

- ▶ Capacity Building Event
- ▶ Simplified Cost Options Seminar
- ▶ Development of tailored made checklist and organisation of dedicated SFD training sessions
- ▶ Foundation and Advance ECDL Excel Training
- ▶ Cost Benefit Analysis Training
- ▶ 2014 – 2020 Systems Seminar

Upcoming Capacity Building Activities

- ▶ Capacity Building Events in Q4 2016 and Q1 2017:
 - ▶ Training on Horizontal Priorities in Q4 2016
 - ▶ Training for new Beneficiaries in Q4 2016
 - ▶ Training for new Recruits in Q4 2016
 - ▶ Training on Public Procurement in Q1 2017

8. Horizontal priorities (2014-2020)



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Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Non-discrimination including accessibility (Article 110 (f) of EU 1303/2013)

- ▶ The application form structure of this section has been strengthened to assist potential beneficiaries in:
 - ▶ identifying the minimum legal obligations
 - ▶ to propose additional measures (beyond the legal requirement)
- ▶ Applicants should discuss their project ideas with the relevant Bodies (NCPE, KNPD) for advice on the legal obligations and on how to best integrate such priorities within their projects.
- ▶ Part of the award criteria
- ▶ Conditionalities/obligations may be imposed at eventual Grant Agreement stage to ensure the implementation of such horizontal priorities.

Sustainable Development

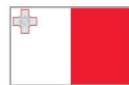
(Article 110 (g) of EU 1303/2013)

- ▶ Applicants should discuss their project ideas with the relevant authority (MSDEC) on how to best address this priority within their project ideas.
- ▶ Part of the award criteria
- ▶ Conditionalities/obligations may be imposed at eventual Grant Agreement stage to ensure the implementation of this horizontal priority.

Progress Update

- ▶ Projects submitted under Call 1 where ensured to have their potential mainstreaming integrated in the project design and implementation plan.
 - ▶ This will also be confirmed with the horizontal stakeholders
- ▶ For A2E scheme monitoring data which disaggregates information relevant to the horizontal priorities is being requested, so that ongoing review is possible.

9. Looking forward



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Looking forward

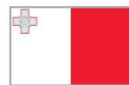
- ▶ Notification on SFC for fulfilment of general ex-ante conditionalities G7
- ▶ Follow-up to the ex-ante assessment
- ▶ Conclusion of Call II evaluation
- ▶ Start the assessment of projects submitted under Call III
- ▶ Continue the negotiation and follow-up the implementation for Call I and Call II beneficiaries
- ▶ Evaluation of Call III to be concluded by Q3 of 2017
- ▶ Application of 2nd delegated act for IIS
- ▶ Further simplification efforts for broader areas
- ▶ First payment claim under the ESF
- ▶ Issuing pre-announcement for Call IV

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