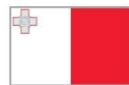


Eligibility and Selection Criteria 2014-2020

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

Monitoring Committee Meeting

13th March 2015



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Project Selection Processes for Mainstream Projects

The selection of mainstream projects involves:

- The launch of open calls for project proposals by the MA;
- The preparation of the application forms and guidance notes;
- The publication of the calls in the media, on the website of the MA as well as other Government websites;
- The organisation of information sessions for interested applicants by the MA;
- The online submission of application forms by interested applicants.

Project Selection Processes for Mainstream Projects (2)

The selection of the mainstream projects involves:

- The setting up of the Project Selection Committee (PSC), which may include Public and/or non public service officers. Ad hoc experts may be invited to support the Committee in its deliberations;
- The MA will provide the Secretariat of the PSC.

Aid Schemes

- No public calls will be issued for the management of Aid schemes
- Employment Training Corporation (ETC) is the designated Intermediate Body for the implementation of two Schemes:
 - Access to Employment (Priority Axis 1)
 - Investing in Skills (Priority Axis 3)
- A Covenant between the MA and the IB will be signed for the implementation of the schemes

Project Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The criteria for the selection of mainstream projects are divided as follows:

- **Eligibility Criteria** which consist in a gateway assessment which ensures that all applications have reached a minimum standard;
- **Selection Criteria** which are designed to assess the fit and contribution of project proposals with the OP strategy, its target groups, and its objectives.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Complete application form** - all relevant details and support documentation must be provided;
- **Project remit within mandate of Beneficiary** - applicants must be publicly mandated (or authorised by virtue of their statute in the case of NGOs) to carry out activities planned under the proposed project;
- **Project Leader must be from Beneficiary Organisation** - the direct association of the PL with the beneficiary organisations is fundamental to ensure that the grant will exclusively be used for the purpose stipulated in the project proposal;
- **Project must be implemented within/for the direct benefit of the eligible territory** - the eligible territory of OP11 is the whole territory of the Republic of Malta;

Eligibility Criteria (2)

- **Proof of co-financing (where applicable);**
- **Contribution towards Investment Priorities (IP)** - project must address one or more of the relevant IP of the OP as specified in the call;
- **The project is in line with the relevant Specific Objective and expected results of selected IP** - project must contribute towards at least one of the specific objectives of the selected IP and towards the related expected result/s;
- **Contribution towards one indicator** - project must contribute towards at least one of the relevant OP indicators.

Selection Criteria

- **Contribution towards indicators beyond the minimum requirement** - assessed in terms of further contribution towards the OP indicators beyond the minimum required (i.e. for eligibility purposes);
- **Project Sustainability** - assessed in terms of how the benefits of the project will continue to be delivered after the grant has ended;
- **Readiness** - assessed in terms of stages of tender preparation and submission of studies supporting the proposal (where applicable);
- **Capacity of Organisation** - assessed both in terms of adequate human resources, as well as previous positive experience in the implementation of EU projects, preferably Structural Funds/Cohesion Fund or similar;

Selection Criteria (2)

- **Quality of the Application Form** - assessed in terms of, amongst others, coherence between different sections of the proposals; adequate description of the main activities; budget in line with the activities; general presentation of the proposals;
- **Partnership** – assessed in terms of number of partners involved in project implementation to stimulate sharing of information, research, knowledge and expertise between the different stakeholders;
- **Contribution to development needs** - applicant should demonstrate that the proposed project is adequately addressing the relevant development need(s) as identified in OP;
- **Potential of project to contribute to the achievement of expected results**
 - PSC will assess the results expected to be achieved through the implementation of the approved operation in terms of the solutions and risks that can hinder the achievement of the identified results;

Selection Criteria (3)

- **Horizontal Priorities** - assessment of how the project addresses the horizontal priorities of Environmental sustainability and Equal opportunities;
- **ESF Principles**
 - **Social Innovation** – assessed in terms of how the project is capable of integrating various stakeholders to address social needs and societal challenges;
 - **Transnationality** – assessed in terms of how the transnational partner is contributing towards the innovative dimension.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria Aid Schemes under Operational Programme II (2014-2020)

Aid Schemes under Operational Programme II

Two Schemes are envisaged to be implemented under OP II:

- **Access to Employment** - to be funded under Priority Axis 1 'Investing in the employability and adaptability of human capital' ;
- **Investing in Skills** - to be funded under Priority Axis 3 'Investing in people through Education, Training and Life Long Learning'.

The Employment and Training Corporation (ETC) will be designated as Intermediate Body (IB) for the implementation of these Schemes.

Common Eligibility Criteria

- **Complete documentation** - the Beneficiary must present an application form filled in with all relevant details and documentation;
- Project implemented within / for the direct benefit of the **eligible territory**;
- **All undertakings** engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form. These include self-employed persons, family businesses, partnerships, associations or other body of persons.

Specific Eligibility criteria under Access to Employment

The specific eligibility criteria under Access to Employment Scheme refer to the **employers** and to the **participants**.

Eligible criteria for the Employers

- Undertakings must recruit at least one (1) disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged or disabled person;
- Where the recruitment does not represent a net increase, compared with the average over the previous twelve months, in the number of employees in the undertaking concerned, the post or posts shall have fallen vacant following voluntary departure, disability, retirement on grounds of age, voluntary reduction of working time or lawful dismissal for misconduct and **not as a result of redundancy**.

Specific Eligibility criteria under Access to Employment

Eligibility criteria for Participants

Disadvantaged participants:

- Any person who has not been in regular paid employment for the previous 6 months; or
- Any person who has not attained an upper secondary educational or vocational qualification (International Standard Classification of Education 3) or is within two years after completing full-time education and who has not previously obtained his or her first regular paid employment; or
- Any person who is between 15 and 24 years of age; or
- Any person who is over the age of 50 years; or
- Any person who lives as a single adult with one or more dependents.

Specific Eligibility criteria under Access to Employment

Disabled participants:

- Any person who is recognised as a worker with disabilities under national law

Severely disadvantaged participants:

- Any person who has not been in regular paid employment for at least 24 months or
- Any person who has not been in regular paid employment for at least 12 months and belongs to one of the disadvantaged target groups.

Specific Eligibility criteria under Investing in Skills

Eligibility Criteria for Employer

- **Training programme** – Aid shall **not** be granted for training which undertakings carry out to comply with National Mandatory Standards on training;
- The trainee needs to be **employed** with the beneficiary;
- A written application for the aid shall be submitted **before** work on the project or activity starts (*incentive effect*).

Eligible Costs under Access to Employment

Target Group	Duration	Aid Intensity
Disadvantaged participants	Maximum period of 12 months	50% of the wage costs
Severely disadvantaged participants	Maximum period of 24 months	50% of the wage costs
Disabled participants	Maximum period of 48 months	75% of the wage costs

Eligible Costs under Investment in Skills

- Trainers' personnel costs, for the hours during which the trainers participate in the training;
- Trainers' and trainees' operating costs directly relating to the training project such as travel expenses, materials and supplies directly related to the project;
- Costs of advisory services linked to the training project;
- Trainees' personnel costs for the hours during which the trainees participate in the training.

Eligible Costs under Access to Employment

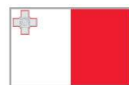
Undertaking Size	Aid Intensity (<i>Not exceeding</i>)
Large	50% of the eligible cost
Medium	60% of the eligible cost
Small & Micro	70% of the eligible cost

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