

MONITORING COMMITTEE - 2014-2020

for

Operational Programme II

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

Eligibility and Selection Criteria for the Selection of operations under OPII (2014-2020)

This working paper aims at highlighting the eligibility and selection criteria that were proposed and adopted in the programming period 2014-2020 for the selection of proposals under Operational Programme II.

As explained in Table 1 below, the criteria of assessment are divided in two parts: Eligibility criteria and Selection criteria.

- **Eligibility criteria** are the essential criteria that all projects must meet in order to be admissible for a further qualitative assessment. Such eligibility criteria are normally assessed through a technical assessment, and consist in a gateway assessment which ensures that all applications have reached a minimum standard. Projects which do not comply with the gateway eligibility criteria will not proceed to full appraisal and scoring.
- **Selection criteria** are designed to assess the fit and contribution of project proposals with the OP strategy, its target groups and its objectives. These may be further refined in calls for project proposals to include criteria which are specific to one type of activity, area or target group. These criteria are divided in two groups: those that rely on a quantitative assessment and those that require a qualitative assessment. The evaluation will combine both data (quantitative and qualitative) in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the proposal.

- Table 1: The table below offers a screenshot of the eligibility and selection criteria

Eligibility Criteria		Selection criteria	
Criterion	Assessment	Criterion	Marks (max)
Complete Application form	Yes/No	Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum required	10
Project remit within mandate of Beneficiary	Yes/No	Readiness Project Sustainability	10
Project leader from beneficiary organisation	Yes/No	Readiness	10
Project implemented within the Eligible Territory	Yes/No	Capacity of the organisation	10
Proof of co-financing where applicable	Yes/No	Quality of application form	10
Contribution towards Investment Priorities (IPs)	Yes/No	Partnership	5
Proposal in line with the relevant Specific Objective and Expected results of the IP	Yes/No	Contribution to the development needs	10
Contribution towards one indicator	Yes/No	Potential of the project to contribute to the achievement of the expected results	15
		Horizontal priorities Environmental Sustainability and Equal Opportunities	10
		ESF Principles: Social Innovation & Transnationality	10

PART 1 - Eligibility Criteria¹

The project must fulfil the following gateway criteria to be eligible for further assessment:

1. Complete application form

The Applicant must present a complete Application Form, filled in with all relevant details and documentation.

2. Project remit within mandate of Beneficiary

Applicants must be publicly mandated to carry out the task of the project. The project's remit must fall within the mandate of the Beneficiary.

3. Project leader from beneficiary organisation

The project leader carries the overall financial and legal responsibility for the implementation of the project on behalf of the Beneficiary and hence, his/her direct association with the Beneficiary organisation is fundamental, especially with a view to ensure that the grant will exclusively be used for the purpose stipulated in the project proposal.

4. Project implemented within the Eligible Territory

The eligible territory for the Operational Programme is the whole territory of the Republic of Malta. In cases of publicity / training abroad/marketing, actions may be aired or distributed outside the territory if the benefit clearly targets the eligible territory.

5. Proof of co-financing where applicable

In cases where Government is not co-financing the project from the national budget, the entity committing itself to provide the co-financing (public and other organisations) must produce proof that co-financing over the whole period of the project is available. A joint declaration by the Executive/Head and Treasurer/Financial Controller of the organisation, stating that the organisation commits to co-financing obligations and to finance any ineligible costs must be attached to the Application Form. The Applicant must also provide a set of audited accounts of the last 2 financial years including a note from the organisation's auditor stating that the organisation is likely to be able to meet the co-financing obligations and cover any ineligible costs. It is important to note that co-financing in kind is NOT eligible.

6. Contribution towards Investment Priorities (IPs)

Only projects that will address one or more of the relevant Investment Priority/ies of the OP as specified in the call can be considered as eligible.

7. Proposal in line with the relevant Specific Objective and Expected results of the IP

¹ Additional conditions for the signature of the Grant will be applicable at project level to ex-ante conditionalities as applicable.

Only proposals that will contribute to the achievement of the relevant specific objective/s and the expected result/s will be considered as eligible.

8. Contribution towards one indicator

The project must have clearly identifiable and measurable targets that comply with at least one of the indicators set in the relevant Priority Axis (output and results indicators).

Approved

PART 2 – SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Contribution towards indicators beyond minimum required (max 10 marks)

Marks will be awarded if the project can demonstrate a clear contribution to the indicators (output/result) beyond the minimum requirement. The Applicant must also provide a clear explanation of how the targets for 'outputs,' and 'results' have been calculated and the method of verification that will be used.

2. Project sustainability (10 marks)

Projects need to demonstrate their sustainability after completion. The project proponent must show how the benefits of the project will continue to be delivered after grant support comes to an end. This criterion will be assessed against the magnitude of post-operating cost and the organisation financial stability.

3. Readiness (10 Marks)

Negative marking as applicable for non-preparation/launch of tenders and other risks hindering implementation. The more advanced the project, the more marks will be awarded. Evidence of readiness should be provided.

4. Capacity of the organisation (10 marks)

Adequate overall expertise within the organisation and past experience with EU/similar projects.

5. Quality of application form (10 marks)

Marks will be awarded on the overall Coherence between different sections of the proposal; adequate description of the main activities; whether budget is reflecting activities included and on the general presentation of the proposal.

6. Partnership (max 5 marks)

Operational Programme II considers the establishment of partnership for the implementation of the projects as important. Thus, partnership as a way to stimulate sharing of information, research, knowledge and expertise between the different stakeholders projects that are implemented between two or more partners will gain additional points.

7. Contribution to the Development needs (max 10 marks)

The Applicant should demonstrate that the proposed project is adequately addressing the relevant development need as identified in the OP.

8. Potential of the project to contribute to the achievement of the expected results of the Operational Programme II (max 15 marks)

The PSC will be expected to assess the results expected to be achieved through the implementation of the approved operation in terms of the innovative solutions and risks that can hinder the achievement of the identified results.

9. Horizontal priorities - Environmental Sustainability and Equal Opportunities (max 10 marks)

Equality and Equal Opportunities: Promotion of equality between men and women as well as non-discrimination and accessibility are identified in the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The PSC will assess how the projects will contribute to the attainment of the horizontal priority of Equal Opportunities, in its broadest sense, as well as Sustainable Development. Sustainable development covers economic growth, social cohesion and the protection of the environment, which will be taken into account throughout the life of the supported activity.

10. ESF Principles – Social Innovation & Transnationality (max 10 marks)

Projects will be assessed on how the project contributes towards the specific objectives of the investment priority under which the project is submitted; incorporates the development and implementation of innovative solutions addressing social needs; and implementation of the project with at least another interested stakeholder. In terms of transnationality, the project will be assessed on how the transnational partner is contributing towards the innovative dimension.