

## Monitoring Committee for Operational Programme II

Empowering People for more Jobs and a better quality of life  
Training Aid Framework 2007 - 2013



Operational Programme II – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013  
*Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life*  
Aid Schemes part-financed by the European Union  
European Social Fund (ESF)  
Co-financing : EU Funds; National Funds; Private Funds  
*Investing in your future*



## Training Aid Framework

Cohesion Policy 2007 -13 – OP II - ESF

### Scope of the Aid Scheme

The Training Aid Framework offers opportunity of part-refund of training costs to employers.

### **The TAF is intended to:**

- promote access to training of persons actively participating in the Maltese Labour Market.
- increase and/or improve the skills of persons employed
- enable undertakings to become more competitive through the adaptation of skills and knowledge

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**Intermediate Body:** Employment and Training Corporation (managed by the Training Services Division)

**Funding** – Priority Axis 2 '*Investing in employability and adaptability of the workforce*' under the ESF Operational Programme

**Target group:** Undertakings (employers from all sectors excluding support to farmers and fishermen and the Public sector)

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- The TAF was originally based on the Commission Regulation (EC) No 68/2001 (Training Aid Block Exemption)
- **In August 2008, the Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 revised and updated the above regulation (General State Aid Block Exemption);**
- This, amongst others, affected the criteria of **Enterprise Size and the capping of aid applicable.**

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General change: throughout the document –

- the word ‘skills’ has been replaced by ‘qualification’; and
- the word ‘enterprise’ has been replaced by ‘undertaking’

to be in line with the text of the new state aid regulation.

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### Amended Eligibility Criteria:

- i. **The trainee needs to be employed with the applicant organisation – in**

in the case of **definite employment contract** the criterion has been defined as follows:

- in cases of General Training: a definite contract of employment must be for a period exceeding three months;
- in the cases of Specific Training: a definite contract of employment must be of at least 12 months' duration.

in the case of **part-time employment** (primary employment) – the duration of employment should be at least 20 hours a week rather than 8.

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### New Eligibility Criteria:

#### **k. Maximum aid grant allowable in a year per trainee:**

The maximum public aid (EU and Malta) paid on behalf of an employee in any one year is capped at a maximum of €4,000 per trainee per year. The only exception is in the case of employees pursuing a training programme leading to a qualification that is equivalent MQF (EQF) level 5 or higher, in which case the entitlement for any one trainee will be €10,000 per year.

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Aid intensity - will depend on the size of the undertaking and category of training ( in line with EU Regulation)

Size	Old Regulation		New Regulation	
	General	Specific	General	Specific
<b>Small:</b> •not exceed 50 workers. •Turnover and/or •Balance Sheet not exceeding EUR 10 m	80%	45%	80%	45%
<b>Medium:</b> •not exceed 250 workers •Turnover not exceeding EUR 50 m •Balance Sheet not exceeding EUR 43 m			70%	35%
<b>Large:</b> Exceed Medium	60%	35%	60%	25%

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The **Categories of Training:**

General Training – involves tuition which is not applicable only or principally to the employee's present or future position in the undertaking, but which provides qualifications that are largely transferable to other undertakings or fields of work.

Specific Training – shall mean training involving tuition directly and principally applicable to the employee's present or future position in the assisted undertaking and providing skills which are not or only to a limited extent transferable to other firms or fields of work.

**In line with 2008's EC Regulation: where the specific or general character cannot be established, aid intensities applicable to specific training shall apply.**

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Thank you

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