

## CITIZENS' SUMMARY

**Funds: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF)**

**Programming Period: 2014-2020**

**Budget Available: €718 Million**

**Reporting Year: 2016**

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### **What are ERDF and CF and what do they finance?**

The ERDF and the CF are two European Union Funding instruments intended to support infrastructural investments in less developed regions.

ERDF in Malta supports infrastructural investments in education, health, social infrastructure, cultural heritage, research and innovation, renewable energy and competitiveness. On the other hand, CF supports infrastructural investments in road and maritime infrastructure as well as investments in the water and waste sectors.

### **How can one access these funds?**

Calls for project proposals are issued, from time to time, by the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) acting as the Managing Authority. Calls are advertised on all local newspapers and online in order to ensure maximum visibility. Target groups for calls include Public Administration including local councils, NGOs, and social partners. Extensive guidance is provided throughout the process both through information sessions as well as through the provision of supporting documentation. An on line desk also supports any queries from prospective applicants. ERDF also supports enterprises through grant schemes which are managed by a dedicated Division, i.e. the Measures and Support Division. The Measures and Support Division supports prospective enterprises in a similar manner as outlined above.

## **Progress by end of 2016**

Four calls for project proposals were issued in 2016. Forty two projects were submitted and a total of 16 projects were approved. The approved projects approved focus on investments in the areas of Cultural Heritage, Roads, Renewable Energy, and Enterprise Infrastructure, and the main objectives of such projects are the increase of the number of tourists visiting our islands, the upgrading of roads and reduction in traffic bottlenecks, reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions, as well as the provision of support to SMEs and the resulting generation of jobs.

A more detailed description of the investments approved for funding in 2016 can be found below:

### Assistance to SMEs:

Two projects aimed to encourage entrepreneurship, start-ups and the development of SMEs through the development of enabling infrastructure in Ta' Qali Crafts Village and Xewkija Industrial part. Another project aims to provide assistance to SMEs to be better prepared to face the international market. The total available budget of these three projects amount to €18.6M, with a target of assisting about 200 enterprises.

### Renewable energy:

A project providing grants to households wishing to install photovoltaic panels on their roofs in order to incentivise the use of renewable energy in Malta. With a budget of €15.5M, a total of approximately 6,500 households are expected to benefit from such grants.

### Cultural heritage:

Eleven projects aimed at preserving Malta's cultural and natural sites with a view to sustain Malta's tourism industry. With a total budget of €40.2M, these projects are expected to indirectly incentivise further private sector investment in the Maltese tourism economy. Our capital city of Valletta will be the centre-stage for a number of funded projects, amongst others: the rehabilitation of the Grand Master's Palace, the rehabilitation of the Auberge d'Italie to host the Fine Arts Museum and the restoration of the Sacra Infermeria at the Mediterranean Conference Centre with the introduction of a new augmented reality which will allow visitors to experience different scenes from the era of the Knights of St John and epic battles from both World Wars. Other projects include the setting up of a contemporary art museum (MICAS) at the Ospizio in Floriana and the Gozo Museum in Victoria.

### Transport:

With a budget of €33M, the Kappara project will seek to remove bottle-necks and reconstruct a stretch of 1.5km, including a fly-over, in one of the busiest sections of the Maltese road network which faces daily traffic volume of over 90,000 cars.

Furthermore, also in order to support enterprises, during the year under review, seven Aid Schemes were launched. In fact, a total of €51M have been made available through seven different schemes focusing on several needs experienced by local enterprises, such as the need to grow, innovate, diversify and expand beyond the local market.

### **What's next...**

The implementation of the programme is expected to gain momentum in 2017. Furthermore the evaluation of projects, as well as the launching of further calls targeting various sectors, will continue during the course of 2017 to ensure the achievement of the targets set out by the ERDF and CF Operational Programme.

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### **For more information:**

[info.eufunds@gov.mt](mailto:info.eufunds@gov.mt) – subject ERDF and CF Citizens' Summary 2016

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*“Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges”*

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