



## CITIZENS' SUMMARY

**Fund: European Social Fund (ESF)**

**Programming Period: 2014-2020**

**Budget Available (Malta): €132 Million (10% for Gozo)**

**Reporting Year: 2016**

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### What is ESF (MALTA) all about?

The ESF is a European Fund aimed at improving peoples' lives by supporting the vulnerable, helping people learn new skills or strengthen existing skills, all in order to empower people to find better jobs. The ESF Programme in Malta will providing funding in these key areas:

1. Actions to facilitate Employment and the employability of people;
2. Actions to enable Inclusion in society, through employment of disadvantaged persons;
3. Actions to support the development in Education and educational system as well as actions to support lifelong learning; and
4. Actions that are earmarked to support the increased effectiveness of Public Administration and the role of social partners in society

### How does it work to access this fund?

Calls for projects are issued by PPCD (Managing Authority) from time to time and these are advertised on all local newspapers, on [eufunds.gov.mt](http://eufunds.gov.mt) (under OPEN CALLS Section) and the Government Gazette. Applications are received from Public Administration including local councils, NGOs and social partners. Guidance notes and information sessions are held prior to each call to support those interested with the application process.

Applications must address the goals, targets, as defined within the Malta ESF Operational Programme. Subsequently those projects that are approved for financing would work with people targeted by the actions as defined above.

### What projects have been funded in 2016?

By the end of 2016, three calls for projects were issued. The following projects and schemes are being funded and have started their activities in 2016, from which over 2,500 persons are already benefiting.

- a. Addressing employability:
  - i. A2E – This scheme, which has already helped 428 persons, is run by Jobsplus to increase access to employment for those who may have difficulties finding work on

their own, such as persons with a disability and unemployed persons over 50. The budget of €12M supports companies by covering up to between €85 and €125 per week of salary costs.

- ii. Training for employment – This project increases employability by providing a grant to people to attend training and hands on experience in a real working environment. The project is run by Jobsplus and has a budget of €6.9M. In 2016 714 persons benefitted from one of the schemes under this project.
- iii. Youth Guarantee 2.0 – This project aims to fight youth unemployment and in 2016 assisted 947 persons under the age of 25. It provides training and personalised assistance to youths at risk of social exclusion and those youths who are at risk of becoming long-term unemployed. This is another project run by Jobsplus with a budget of €5M.

b. Education and lifelong learning:

- i. Endeavour Scholarships Scheme – Implemented by the Scholarships Unit under the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE). 453 participants have been assisted with pursuing their education at Level 7 and 8 (MA and PhD). The scheme with a budget of €7.4M is aimed to support those pursuing tertiary education to succeed both at the level of education attainment as well as contributing effectively towards the economy.
- ii. Reach High Scheme – Implemented by the Scholarships Unit (MEDE) with budget of €3.5M, provides recently graduated doctoral students the opportunity to propose research projects with Higher Education Institution in Europe and within a varied set of prioritized fields. Selected research projects are provided with a grant to cover a sufficient stipend for the researcher / researchers and in 2016, 16 post-doctoral candidates have been successful in undertaking research in science and engineering, medical and pharmaceutical, social science, education, energy and climate change, built environment and the blue economy, and in ICT.

### What's next...

In 2017, more projects are expected to be approved, particularly in the areas of inclusion and to strengthen public administration for better efficiency and less administrative burden with a view of improving service delivery.

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### For more information:

[Info.eufunds@gov.mt](mailto:Info.eufunds@gov.mt) – subject ESF Citizen Summary 2016

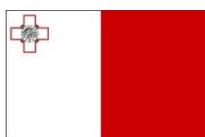
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