

CITIZEN SUMMARY

Fund: European Social Fund (ESF)

Programming period: 2014-2020

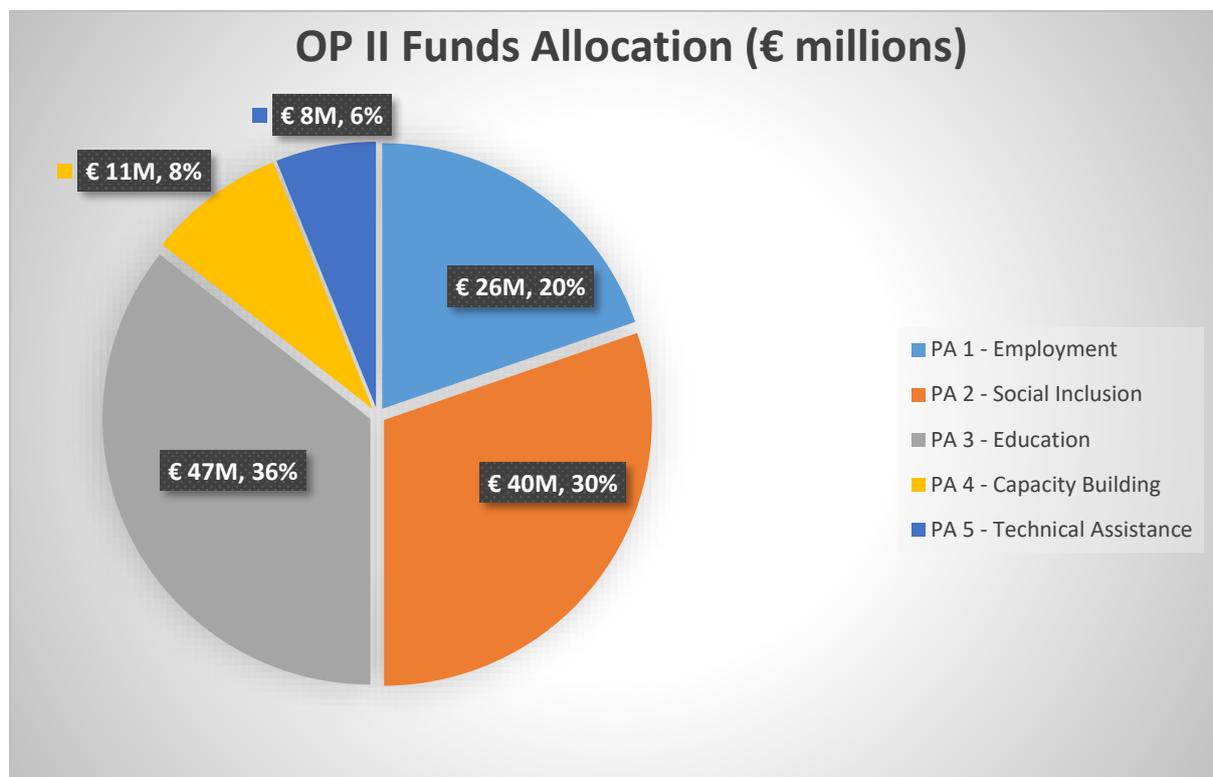
Budget available (Malta): €132 Million

Reporting Year: 2018

What is ESF (MALTA) all about?

The European Social Fund, ESF, finances projects that aim at improving peoples' lives through programmes intended to teach people new skills or strengthen existing ones leading them in finding better jobs. The objective of Malta ESF *Operational Programme II - Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society* (2014-2020) is to support people in increasing their employability; supporting inclusion, particularly for those at a higher risk of exclusion; improving educational attainment; and improving the delivery of the public service while supporting social partners to engage in dialogue with government.

The financial allocations in the respective areas are the following:

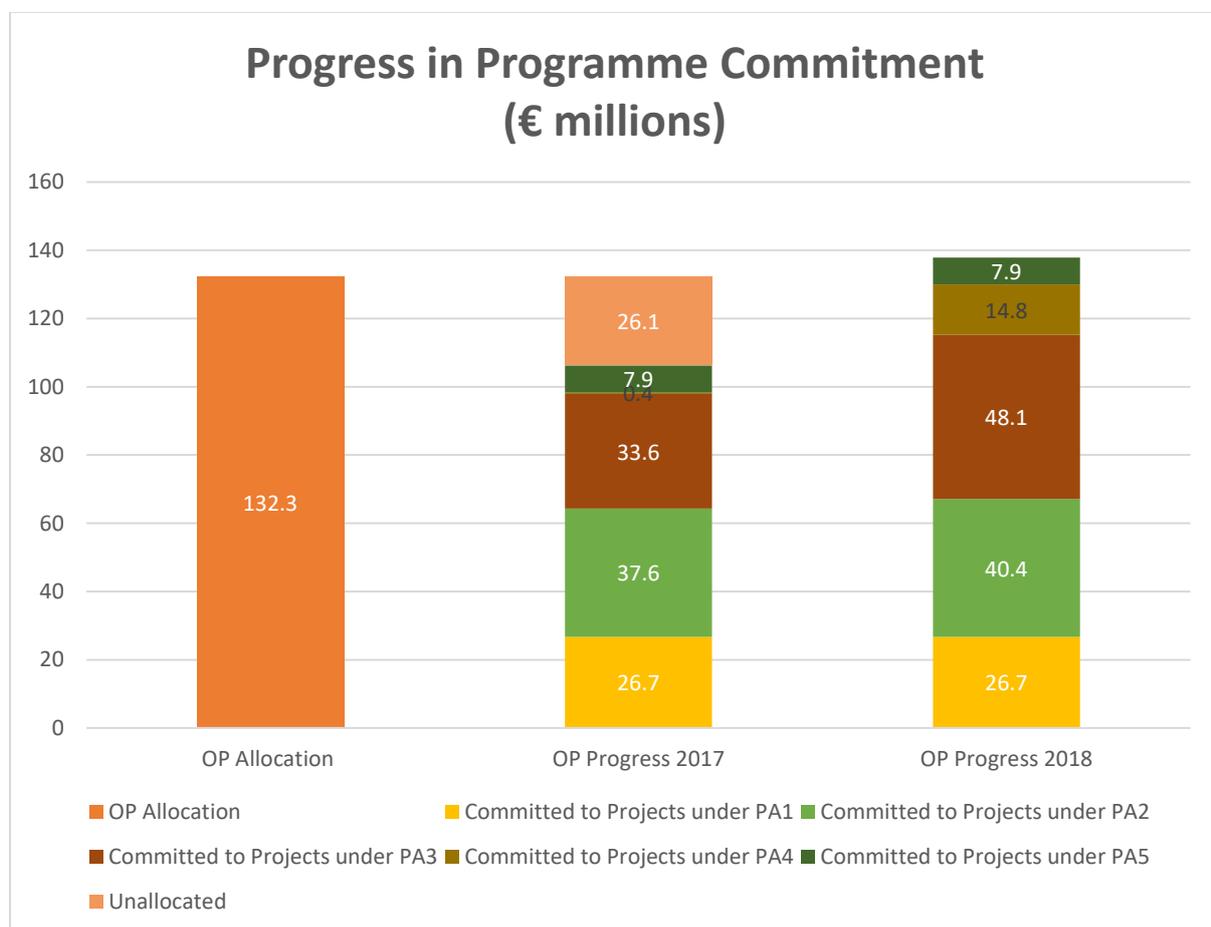


No calls for new projects were issued in 2018 since ESF Malta focused on finalising the assessment of projects that had been received. Any upcoming call for projects will be advertised on all local newspapers and on www.eufunds.gov.mt (under OPEN CALLS Section).

Progress by end of 2018

Whilst in 2017 the implementation of operations started to gain momentum, in 2018 implementation started to peak with forty-one (41) operations, including two Aid schemes, under implementation. The list of operations and Aid schemes can be found on www.eufunds.gov.mt.

From the beginning of the programme up to the end of 2018, three calls for projects were issued. As a result of call 3, in 2018, sixteen (16) new projects have been approved for an additional investment of €24.6M. In view of this, the total funds committed under the Programme has increased and, as at end of year stood at €137.9M, which represents 104.2% of the total funds available, as depicted in the table below.



Progress has been registered also under the two Aid schemes: Access to Employment (A2E) and Investing in Skills (IIS), both implemented by Jobsplus. Enterprises continued to submit applications for grants through the open call system adopted under both schemes. As at end of 2018, a total number of 1156 applications by the private sector were approved for EU assistance, amounting to €7.8M. List of beneficiaries under the Aid schemes can be found here: www.eufunds.gov.mt.

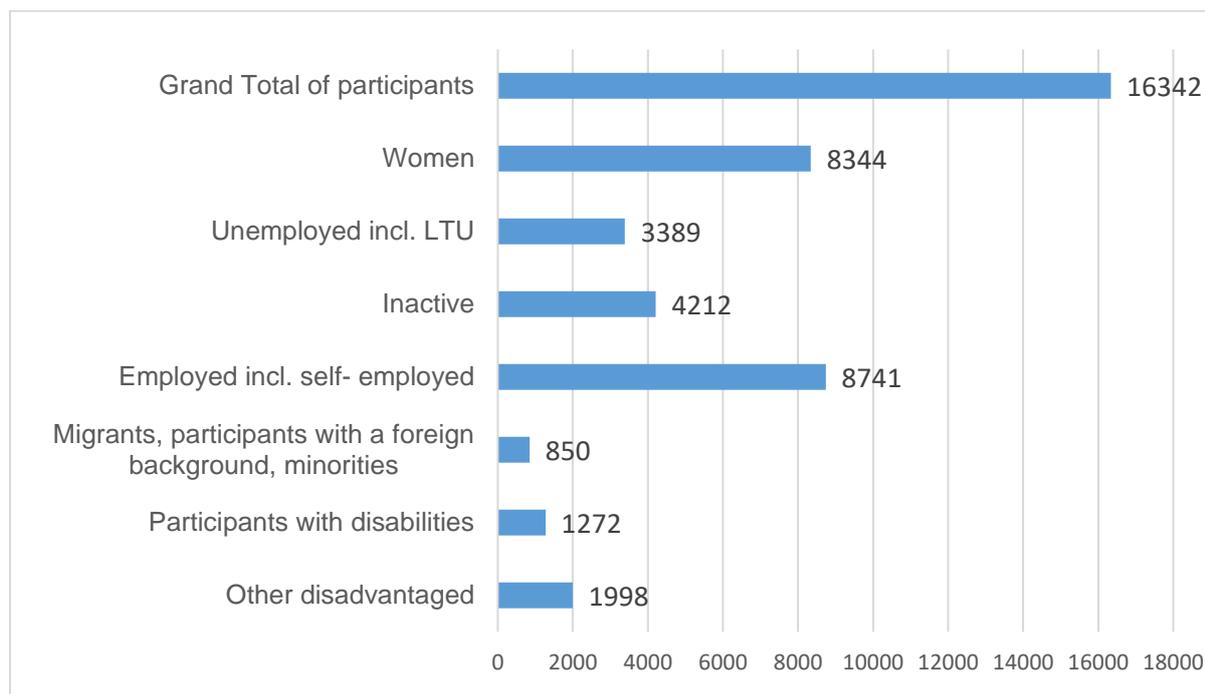
This intense level of activity has resulted in concrete results being registered in terms of participants of ESF projects, with a total of 16,342 participants (of which 51% women) benefitting from ESF interventions during the current programming period, of which over 8,000¹ participants benefitted from ESF actions across all Priority Axes (PAs) in 2018. Out of these, 52% were women² whilst 27% were unemployed or inactive. Participants started also accessing employment, gaining certification and/or qualifications whilst a number of research projects were under implementation. From the financial aspect, the Programme has also managed to make strong headway in 2018 reaching €42.2Mof expenditure disbursed by the end of the year.

Thanks to all the implemented actions and to the efforts of all the stakeholders involved, the Programme managed to achieve all the milestones set for 2018 under the performance framework (PF) which consist of financial and output indicators. All PAs, in fact registered successful achievements on all performance indicators and financial milestones.

Results achieved as at the end of 2018

Given that Malta's sole natural resource is the human capacity, the ESF contribution continues to be crucial for the attainment of a more knowledgeable and competitive workforce.

As anticipated, in terms of achievements on the ground, over 16,000 people benefitting from actions supported through ESF funding, addressing the following categories.



In terms of progress in the implementation of the projects approved for funding and results achieved on the ground, details can be found below:

¹ 8082 in total

² 4217 women

Priority Axis (PA)	Progress achieved
<p data-bbox="256 981 507 1014">PA 1 – Employment</p>	<p data-bbox="587 241 1391 315">Two projects and one aid scheme are being implemented under this axis.</p> <p data-bbox="587 383 963 416">Total funding amounts to €26M.</p> <p data-bbox="587 472 1391 595">The aim is to enhance employment opportunities with a view to improve employment prospects of different target groups and reducing the unemployment levels of youths.</p> <p data-bbox="587 656 1391 730">A total of 5,222 participants benefited from Projects/actions being implemented out of which 2,632 participants were youths.</p> <p data-bbox="587 790 1391 1025">Enhance employment opportunities for job seekers/workers with a view to improve employment prospects is the objective of Training for Employment, which has registered significant results by 2018. Specifically, 1,565 participants were supported under Training for Employment, out of which 30% were in employment upon leaving</p> <p data-bbox="587 1086 1391 1435">Increasing employment opportunities for current NEETs as well as on those at risk of becoming NEETs or young unemployed through training and personalised assistance reducing their risk of becoming long-term unemployed is the aim of Youth Guarantee 02. A total number of 2632 youths benefited from this project out of which 77% managed to be in education/training, gaining a qualification/certification or in employment, including self employment, by end of 2018.</p> <p data-bbox="587 1496 1391 1753">With regards to the Access to Employment Scheme (A2E) implemented by Jobsplus, which aims at enhancing opportunities to access the labour market and providing work experience to those furthest away from gainful employment, as at the end of 2018, there were 1,025 participants benefitting of this scheme. Of these 48% were women³ and 25% were persons with disabilities</p>
<p data-bbox="236 1839 528 1872">PA 2 – Social Inclusion</p>	<p data-bbox="587 1776 1238 1809">Thirteen projects were under implementation in 2018.</p> <p data-bbox="587 1865 1050 1899">Total EU Funding amounts to €40.3Mil.</p>

³ 492

	<p>Nine projects are related to active inclusion of vulnerable groups and four projects are related to access to high quality services, including health care and social services of general interest. As at end 2018 a total of 3,138 participants benefited from projects being implemented under Priority Axis 2 of which 1,379 were women, 747 were inactive, 1,492 unemployed and 899 in employment.</p> <p>Projects such as VASTE continued their implementation during the year under review, achieving their first results on the ground, such as the creation of the Vocational Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Centre to assist persons with vulnerability; multiple training and support, such as pre-employment training; sheltered employment training. The project saw over 900 participants benefiting of the various services. The Work Programme Initiative, provided individual profiling, training and work placement and, as a result, saw, by end of 2018, 1533 participants involved, 161 in employment or further studies and 1063 participants gained qualification/certification. Other projects under this PA were launched in 2018 and geared up in terms of implementation throughout the year. Of these INK project offers training and job shadowing programme to equip vulnerable participants with skills for employment and independent living. As at end 2018, 149 participants benefitted from this project's activities. Of particular relevance under this PA is the project being implemented by Richmond Foundation, Mental Health first aid for youth. This project is equipping different cohorts and tailored a training programme to reach different groups namely educators, employers, youth and youth leaders and secondary and higher secondary students with the aim to train individuals in detecting symptoms of mental illnesses and direct that individual to seek professional help. During the year under review, 192 participants, participated in the project activities.</p>
<p>PA 3 – Education</p>	<p>Ten projects were under implementation in 2018 with a total EU Funding amount of €48.1M. By end of year, a total of 6,658 participants of which 3,689 were women participated in training under this axis.</p> <p>Aiming reducing early school leaving, the One Tablet per Child project continued with the distribution of tablets in schools which went beyond the immediate cohort (i.e. teachers and students) to</p>

	<p>include also to related centres and units such as the resource centre for special Education Needs.</p> <p>Following the success of the first three calls under the Endeavour scholarships scheme another call was issued in 2018, with the most popular priority area being STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) followed by financial services and life sciences.</p> <p>Looking at post-doctoral grants, under Reach High Scholars Programme, 15 awardees were carrying out their research and by the end of year under review most scholars were finalising the different research activities. With regards to the Investing in skills scheme, intended to promote access to training of persons actively participating in the Maltese Labour market, with a view to increasing productivity and enhancing adaptability, continued to be implemented in 2018. During the year under review, 2,870 persons were supported through the scheme with a total investment of €582,368. By end 2018, 660 Grant agreements were signed for a total value of €1,140,530. During the year under review a total of 183 SMEs and 34 large unique enterprises benefitted from this Scheme. The IB launched an awareness campaign to help increase the uptake of the scheme.</p> <p>In 2018, four projects were approved aiming at facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality, bringing the total number of projects under this PA to 10. Their implementation is expected to gain momentum in 2019.</p>
<p>PA 4 – Public administration</p>	<p>Fifteen projects are currently being implemented with a total funding amounting to 14.7 Mil.</p> <p>As at end 2018, a total of 1324 participants benefited from projects being implemented under this axis out of which 644 participants were women, 7 were inactive, 1 unemployed and 1316 in employment. Such figures are expected to see an increase in 2019, once project implementation continues to pick up pace.</p> <p>Key actions implemented by approved projects in 2018 included but were not limited to specific training such as in the areas of arts and culture, geospatial training as well as training to public officials of a more general nature both locally and internationally, scholarships for public officers, international events, academic sponsorships, participation in study visits, side international meetings, research / studies as well as various publicity initiatives such as awareness</p>

	campaigns all with the overall aim of improving the day to day roles of public officials within the public administration.
PA 5 – Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance (TA) supports the overall implementation of the Programme. In 2018, actions under this axis were mainly related to strengthening the capacity of the MA through financing of staff costs for officers working with the MA; support in the organisation of Monitoring Committees' meetings; the Project Selection Committee meetings; high level Bilateral Meetings; and costs related to ICT support services and system related to the management of the Operational Programme concerned.

2019: Looking Forward

The ESF funded projects have been designed to help people to improve their work skills and job prospects, integrating disadvantaged people into society and ensuring fairer life opportunities for all. The main challenges for the next year will be to sustain progress in implementation of ESF actions on the ground which should ensure primarily the delivery of outcomes and results which will impact positively the lives of citizens, especially people in need, for years to come in the areas of employment and education whilst ensuring the inclusion in society of all citizens.

For more information:

Info.eufunds@gov.mt – subject ESF Citizen Summary 2017

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PA1

Investing in the employability and adaptability of human capital

THREE PROJECTS WITH A TOTAL EU FUNDING AMOUNT OF €26.6M AIMED AT PROVIDING ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT TO JOB SEEKERS AND INACTIVE PEOPLE AND AT SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THE LABOUR MARKET

**€26.6
MILLION
APPROVED**

3

PROJECTS

THESE PROJECTS ARE:

- **TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT**
- **ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT (A2E)**
- **YOUTH GUARANTEE 2.0**



PA2

Towards a more inclusive Society

THIRTEEN PROJECTS WITH A TOTAL EU FUNDING AMOUNT OF €40.3M CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS ACTIVE INCLUSION, PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ENHANCING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND HIGH-QUALITY SERVICES

**€40.3
MILLION
APPROVED**

**6
MAIN
PROJECTS**

THESE PROJECTS ARE:

- **THE VASTE PROGRAMME**
- **MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR YOUTH**
- **NON-TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING FOR HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL**
- **DEVELOPING ALLIED HEALTH CAPACITY TO SUSTAIN HEALTH CARE NEEDS**
- **THE WORK PROGRAMME INITIATIVE**
- **ADDING VALUE**



PA3

Investing in people through Education, Training and Life Long Learning

TEN PROJECTS WITH A TOTAL EU FUNDING AMOUNT OF €48.1M CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS REDUCING ESL, BETTER ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION, LIFELONG LEARNING AND IMPROVING THE LABOUR MARKET RELEVANCE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEMS

€**48.1**
MILLION
APPROVED

6
MAIN
PROJECTS

THESE PROJECTS ARE:

- REACH HIGH SCHOLARS PROGRAMME
- ENDEAVOUR SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME
- ONE TABLET PER CHILD
- ACHIEVING VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE THROUGH ENHANCED WORK BASED LEARNING
- MY JOURNEY
- INVESTING IN SKILLS


ENDEAVOUR
SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME



one
tablet / child

PA4 Building the Institutional Administrative Capacity

FIFTEEN PROJECTS WITH A TOTAL EU FUNDING AMOUNT OF €14.7M INVESTING IN INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY; STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR STAKEHOLDERS

**€14.7
MILLION
APPROVED**

**6
MAIN
PROJECTS**

THESE PROJECTS ARE:

- IMPROVING GWU CAPACITY FOR BETTER SOCIAL DIALOGUE
- MYSTERY SHOPPER
- REFORM IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY GAINS AND ENHANCE GOVERNANCE
- TOWARDS A MORE PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE IN THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
- ENGAGE
- STAR

