

## PART E

# ESF and ERDF Funding Opportunity Review

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### **Introduction to the Section**

The potential for funding opportunities exist for SeCollege, which could also serve as a basis for other funding opportunities due to its focus on various social parameters.

SeCollege research, particularly part C resulted in the identification of zones that have a high concentration of dilapidation. It also depicted those zones that have a high concentration of poverty/unemployment as well as areas that show concentration of single-benefit and multiple benefit recipient concentrations.

Funding opportunities are varied but due to the nature of this project, it was deemed that the ERDF/ESF function was the best available, particularly due to the high rate of expenditure required in order to rehabilitate the Tal-Ferha Estate as a SeCollege, which in turn also serves the community of Gharghur well.

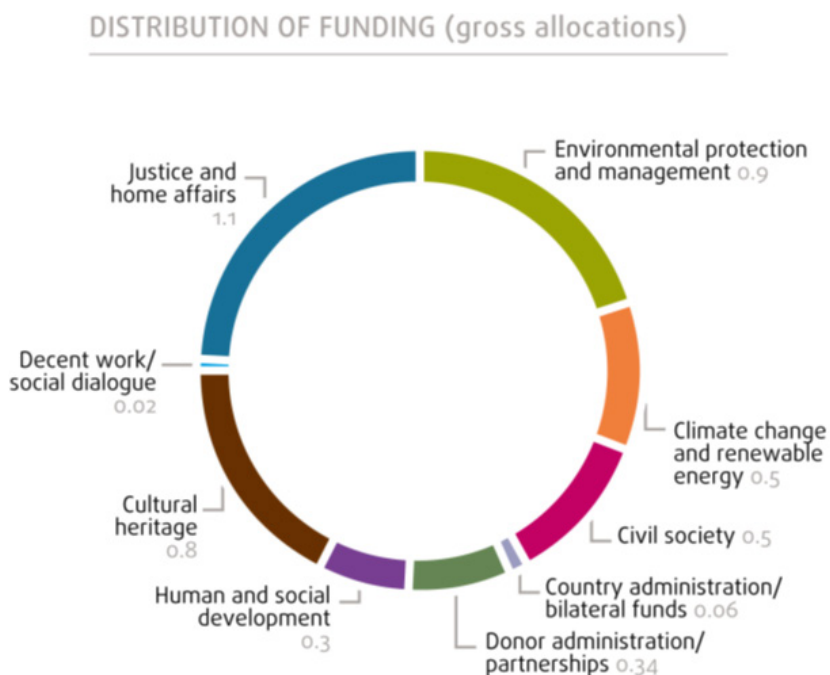
### **EEA and Norway Funding Mechanism**

In addition, the EEA Grants and Norway Grants had identified the funding opportunities specifically for the theme under study. The relevant Key Area of Support was identified as “Improving correctional services for young offenders” (Source: <http://eeagrants.org/Where-we-work/Malta>).

The funding was used to tap support for two projects structured to ensure that Malta met the necessary requirements for Schengen membership, which funding was acquired during the earlier 2004-2009 period.

Funding from this scheme during the period 2009-2014 was one of €4.5 million (EEA Grants = €2.9m and Norway Grants = €1.6m). Figure F.1 shows the funding distribution.

Figure F.1: Funding Mechanism distribution



In terms of the theme under study, the Norway grants would fit the SeCollege perfectly due to its emphasis on Correctional facilities for young persons as stated:

#### “IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

The Grants support efforts to improve correctional services in several countries. The aim is to support reforms that raise compliance standards in regard to international human rights. Much is at stake when a young person is imprisoned; in later life, persistent young offenders have greater problems for example with unemployment, substance abuse and depression. This vulnerable group needs targeted, special attention in order to avoid a possible life-long criminal career.”

The Norwegian Grants had identified under the programme “Correctional Services” and the partner “Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service” had earmarked €1.1m as available funds. The Grants support the renewal of the Centre of Residential Restorative Services in Malta. Support includes training for staff dealing with young offenders. Read more about all the programmes: [www.eeagrants.org/malta](http://www.eeagrants.org/malta)

***Why is the programme needed?***

Well-functioning public institutions contribute to social and economic development. Malta’s local government needs to be less centralised while professional capacity should be vested in its local councils. Developing public sector capacity at local level is crucial for building sustainable localities and enhancing quality and efficiency of service delivery for citizens and businesses.

Prison overcrowding is a growing challenge in Malta with the prison population having swelled considerably over the past few years. Malta also has one of the EU’s highest rates of young offenders amongst its prison population. However, juvenile offenders are currently housed in a youth section alongside adults in the country’s only correctional facility. A dedicated facility with specially trained staff catering specifically to the needs of young offenders, particularly the female population which is increasing and not properly addressed, is urgently needed.

***What will the programme achieve?***

In the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the Parties agreed that due to the size of the allocation to Malta, the support will be provided through a flexible funding set-up. Therefore, the Norwegian Financial Mechanism programme in Malta will include two pre-defined projects:

- A Partnership for Creative Governance under Programme Area 25 - Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Beneficiary State and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities;
- Renewing the Young Offenders’ Unit of Rehabilitation Services (YOURS) under Programme Area 32 - Correctional Services, including Non-custodial Sanctions

The main aim of the first pre-defined project, A Partnership for Creative Governance, is the development of human resource capacity in public institutions as well as in local and regional authorities, resulting in improving quality services for the communities concerned. The project aims to launch a National Training Strategy based on a comprehensive assessment of training needs, to establish a Performance Management Programme, to set up a Leadership Academy Programme and to launch a Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at local level and the European Label for Good Democratic Governance.

### KEY FACTS

**Objective:**  
 Strengthened institutional capacity and human resource development in public institutions, local and regional authorities in the Beneficiary States within the agreed priority sectors through cooperation and transfer of knowledge with similar institutions in Norway

Improved correctional services system in compliance with relevant international human rights instruments

<b>Programme operator:</b> Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto	<b>Donor programme partner:</b> N/A
<b>Programme number:</b> MT04	<b>Date of approval:</b> 05 December 2012
	<b>Total grants amount:</b> € 1,440,000.00
<b>From EEA Grants:</b>	<b>From Norway Grants:</b> € 1,440,000.00

**Programme areas:**  
 PA25 - Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Beneficiary State and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities

» PA32 - Correctional services, including non-custodial sanctions

🕒 The projects may be implemented until 2016/2017

Source: <http://eeagrants.org/programme/view/MT04/PA32>

***How will it be achieved?***

This will be achieved through:

- Developing several strategies for innovation and good governance at local level in accordance with European standards while also conducting a National Training Strategy and establishing a Leadership Academy;
- Constructing new premises for the YOURS while also training the correctional staff and adjusting the rehabilitation programme in accordance with European standards.

***How will bilateral relations be strengthened?***

The programme will facilitate networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practices between the two project promoters of the pre-defined projects and relevant entities in Norway through the use of the bilateral fund. The Norwegian Association of Local Municipalities (KS) and the Council of Europe (CoE) will be actively involved as donor project partners in the implementation of the pre-defined project under Programme Area 25.

Source: <http://eeagrants.org/programme/view/MT04/PA32>

***Past acquisitions and potential future opportunities***

Under the programme Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme: Norway Grants, Malta (MT04), the MHAS had applied for funding for the Project MT04/2 'Renewing the Centre of Residential Restorative Services (CoRRS), aimed at rehabilitating the Mtahleb SATU complex. The project is still in progress as identified through the Strategic and Annual Programme Report 2014, Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-14 (Refer to App E1) for the Annual Report dated 22 April 2015. In effect funding was not effected as at the publishing of the 2014 report.

It is imperative that this fund is tapped should more funding be made available for similar programmes under this funding mechanism.

## **ESF and ERDF Funding**

This project can fit within the ERDF and ESF funding mechanism, with the training component being taken up the ESF (Table F.2), whilst the funding for the rehabilitation of the Tal-Ferha Estate would be facilitated through the ERDF (Table F.1) mechanism.

### **ESF**

Reference is made to the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 document, Operational Programme II “investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the wellbeing of society”, as financed through the European Social Fund, identifies the following issues that cover the project theme. The extracts below were taken verbatim from the document and are to be used for the application.

#### **Page 21: 1.2.1 Thematic Objective 8: Employment**

Furthermore, constraints faced by youths especially in terms of youth unemployment and increasing NEET rates also need to be addressed. In this regard, circa 25% of the ESF allocation dedicated to this objective has been specifically ring-fenced for the youth investment priority. This approach is expected to guarantee sufficient resources towards this target group in order to ensure that young people are equipped with the necessary employability and adaptability skills to thrive in the labour market. Increasing youth employment levels will also directly contribute towards increasing the overall employment rate.

PA 1: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.

- SO 1 - Smoothing the transition of youth from education to employment.

In addition, Malta is also experiencing increasing rates for youth who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). Particularly challenging are youth with low levels of education since they are more pronounced to become unemployed or fall within the NEET category, which can eventually lead to risk of poverty.

In order to address youth challenges holistically, Government has launched its Draft Youth Policy Framework in 2014 with a view to direct investment towards addressing the myriad of issues faced by this target group focusing mainly on achieving a smooth transition from education to employment. In terms of employment, the Draft National Youth Policy Framework[4] focuses on providing the learning tools which will equip young people with the necessary employability skills whilst also ensuring the sustainability of young people's entry into the labour market and their future employment, occupational or professional prospects.

### **Page 21: 1.2.2 Thematic Objective 9: Social Inclusion**

In a bid to reach its national target of lifting around 6,560 people out of risk of poverty and social exclusion, Government has allocated approximately 30% of the ESF resources to Thematic objective 9, which goes well beyond the 20% threshold established in Article 4(2) of the ESF Regulation. This commitment also stems from Government's strong stance on combating poverty and social exclusion which is clearly reflected in the Green Paper on Poverty. Interventions in this regard, will also complement interventions under the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived.

PA 2: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability.

- SO 1 - Enhancing active inclusion by creating opportunities for all

*Note that the Actions supported under the investment priority include:*

#### **2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)**

Indicative Target groups, beneficiaries and territories targeted.

Target groups: the poor, persons at risk of poverty, persons facing social exclusion, the materially deprived, persons facing discrimination, employers, employees, stakeholders working with vulnerable groups, general public.

Beneficiaries: Public, Administration, Local Government, Social Partners, Voluntary Organisations. Territories: Malta and Gozo

### ***List of Potential Interventions***

#### *Improving the life chances for disadvantaged children and young persons*

One of the objectives of Government is to tackle social exclusion and poverty through a holistic approach by tackling the problem from its roots as far as possible. In this regard, it is the intention of Government to invest in children, including for example young people who have been dependent on residential services, with a view to eventually enabling them to become positive citizens through active participation within the labour market. Government believes that efforts directed towards increased labour market participation would render the desired outputs if Government also focuses on limiting, as much as possible, the impact of negative social inheritance in children. In addition, Government also recognises that some children and young persons have more complex situations than others and therefore require focused support so as to overcome barriers and lead a fruitful life. Within this context, measures offering therapeutic services and assistance will be further invested upon, so as to target young persons, caring professionals and also their families. Such investment will aid in interrupting the negative life-cycle these children and young people very often find themselves in, so as to enable them to go beyond what life circumstances have offered them and provide them with real life chances that will help them make a success of their future.

#### *Family Resource Centres*

Government aims to establish Social Development Centres (SDCs) within the different districts located across Malta to promote socio-economic development of the territory by fostering the social cohesion of the area and the quality of life and social justice for those living in the territory. Within the Social Development Centres, Government will also set up Family Resource Centres (FRCs) which will act as catalysts for sustainable and healthy community development through a collaborative, participatory, holistic and empowering approach which covers initiatives at different levels. The aim is to emphasise the need to strengthen the family, in its functional role as a social unit, so as to improve social cohesion and quality of life.

The FRCs will adopt a bottom up approach and will offer holistic and integrated assistance (including profiling, self-assessment and individual action plans) to the individuals and families in the area based on the collaboration of all relevant stakeholders that will be involved in tackling the individual problems. Within this context, stimulating partnerships together with sharing of information, research, knowledge and expertise between the different stakeholders is of utmost importance.



In particular, focus will also be directed towards stimulating the development of parenting skills and competencies so as to foster the stability of the families. In this regard, active and positive parenthood will be promoted and vulnerable families will be assisted so that they will also have the opportunity to maintain and sustain good quality living and self-sufficiency. Families will be assisted through a multi-disciplinary approach and interventions will predominantly include integration into labour market of unemployed, and support those who are already employed to retain their work.

Through the FRC concept, Government aims to provide professional information, advice, assistance, support and education especially to individuals coming from disadvantaged groups whilst also developing a concept of lifelong learning. By strengthening parents and families as well as empowering the different target groups to prevent dependency and promote/facilitate independent living as much as possible, Government believes that such a holistic approach will provide a preventive approach to mitigate the rise in poverty levels.

#### *Measures supporting social enterprises*

With the aim to promote the development of social and professional competencies necessary for a process of integration and inclusion of individuals and families of vulnerable groups, this investment priority will target funds towards the creation of social enterprises. Individuals will be supported through measures helping them identify their own potential and support them in the development of their talents in order to attain different sources of income. Actions will cover training, mentoring, coaching and other learning schemes addressing the upgrade of the skills, knowledge and competencies of the persons concerned to ensure their social and labour market integration. Social enterprises are considered as an important tool through which new income streams for the individuals and the community may be provided.

#### *Up skilling and re-skilling of persons working with vulnerable groups as well as parents*

Discrimination and maltreatment of vulnerable groups can have negative effects and repercussions both on the persons suffering the abuse as well as on society in general. It is therefore important that these individuals receive the necessary assistance and guidance. Government understands that persons who work with vulnerable groups (including educational psychologists, counsellors, social and youth workers, etc) need proper training, skills and competencies to be able to give the proper assistance and advice. In this respect, training and development programmes will be supported.

Taking into account the important role of social work interventions in assisting vulnerable groups, measures with a view to ensure effective social work interventions will be provided. Through continuous professional development programmes social workers will maintain, improve and broaden their skills, knowledge and expertise, as well as develop the required qualities for professional practice. Through such training, social workers would feel more empowered and capable of dealing with complex situations and thus will be helping their service users with the best practice methods to ensure a better quality of life. Other professional and ancillary support services will also be supported with the aim to provide a holistic service to the target group. Special attention will also be directed towards the investment in the capacity building of institutions to facilitate the de-institutionalisation of persons in residential care.

Parents also play an important role in helping to create an environment which is conducive to accept and view persons who are different in an inclusive manner. Parents/guardians have strong influences on their children and it is important that they understand their role, also as 'educators', through adequate information and training. These measures will complement actions undertaken in tandem with the authorities, and will contribute towards the creation of a more inclusive and tolerant society.

### **Page 22: 1.2.3 Thematic Objective 10: Education**

Given the challenges Malta faces in terms of early school leaving (ESL) rates, participation rates in tertiary levels of education and the need to increase the labour market relevance of education and training to address skills gaps as specified in Malta's Country Specific Recommendations; Malta has allocated its biggest share of its ESF allocation to Thematic Objective 10 amounting to more than a third of the ESF Resources. Government is aware that its ability to secure economic and social development is dependent on the quality of its human resources. Thus, this TO aims to improve the quality of education at all levels, reduce illiteracy, increase participation rates in education and ultimately help the country in becoming a centre of excellence in education and research.

PA 3: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning.

10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training.

- SO 1 - Reducing early school leaving (ESL) through monitoring and preventive measures as well as the enhancement of the education experience including the provision of electronic tablets and related e-content. This investment priority will also aim to improve literacy outcomes and invest in capacity building of education systems and structures as well as provide training to parents.

### ***List of Potential Interventions***

#### ***Measures to monitor and prevent early school leaving***

The ESL Strategic Plan places considerable importance on the identification, monitoring and co-ordination measures necessary to tackle ESL as efficiently and as effectively as possible. Government has set up an Early School Leaving Monitoring Unit to tackle ESL related issues in a comprehensive manner.

In this context, the plan is to direct resources towards measures identified in the ESL strategic plan including, amongst others, the understanding of this phenomenon through the conduction of studies and research activities together with the setting up of a statistical framework in order to tackle the issues and steer strategy and policy design appropriately.

Focus through this OP will also be directed towards the establishment of early detection measures in compulsory education so as to minimise and address disengagements from the education system as early as possible. Complementary to this, Government intends to identify measures that will remove systematic obstacles whilst also providing specific targeted interventions to individuals in need to be re-engaged in the process. In this context, Government aims to intervene at different levels such as for example through measures tackling absenteeism, improved student support services, specialised counselling services, one to one tuition, and the provision of alternate study / training programmes. Providing the necessary support to colleges, schools and educational institutions to assist them in determining the needs of children and young people at risk of disengaging or already disengaged from the education system and to help them develop preventive and intervention measures is also considered essential.[1]

Special attention will be paid to individuals facing particular difficulties, including persons with disability, gifted students[2] and other students with difficult backgrounds and the potential social, emotional and behavioural difficulties that these can face. In this

regard, it is important that monitoring, prevention and intervention measures addressing these target groups are appropriately designed to ensure that they meet the needs of these students.

### *Enhanced education systems and structures to address ESL related issues*

Combating early school leaving calls for specific intervention which focuses on strengthening the capacity of the education structures at all levels within the compulsory education cycle. The up skilling and re-skilling of different workers within the education sector is seen as an essential tool for Government to achieve its ESL targets. In this process educators have a key role to play given their direct day to day contact with students. In this regard, it is important for educators to be trained to meet students' aspirations in the teaching methodologies to ensure that students are continuously engaged in the education experience. Equally important is for educators to be able to identify and report any behaviour which might require action through different approaches

with the aim to help the student and address their needs appropriately. Government recognises that teachers have a pivotal role to play and it is important that they are equipped with the necessary skills and competencies which help them understand and assist students facing difficulties.

Continuous training and education programmes for educators and other workers within the education sector is necessary to ensure that they have the necessary understanding, skills and tools to contribute towards achieving the ESL targets as well as to successfully deliver the new curriculum framework which has a clear focus on improving the quality of education and raising student achievement levels.

The new curriculum framework calls for readiness to depart from the traditional curriculum structures and practices that may restrict learning and therefore places considerable focus on education leaders to embrace these changes and bring them to the classroom level. This requires that different stakeholders, including the Faculty of Education within the University of Malta, ensure that adequate continuous professional development of all educators is pursued.[5]

The role of youth workers will also be given prominence, since youth workers very often have a direct contact with youth experiencing difficulties in engaging themselves in the education experience. In this regard, Government will strengthen the capacity of youth workers by investing further in their skills and competencies, including by investing

in the tools and capabilities they need to strengthen the relationship between the college and school as well as parents and the local community. This will complement actions envisaged under Priority Axis 1.

Recognizing the important role of parents in ESL, appropriate communication, information and training will be provided to parents on educational and career paths in order for them to be able to support and guide their children in their educational journey. Parents will also be provided with training in parenting skills that would enable them to better support children whose educational attainment is low.

## **ERDF**

Reference is made to the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 document, Operational Programme I “Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges”, as financed through the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund, identifies the following issues that cover the project theme. The extracts below were taken verbatim from the document and are to be used for the application.

### **• *Sustainable Urban Development***

The Northern and Southern Harbour districts are the two most densely populated districts in Malta and Gozo with a population density amounting to 4,997 persons/km<sup>2</sup> and 3,026 persons/km<sup>2</sup> respectively.[36] This area is characterised by a high concentration of rich urban fabric including a significant concentration of historical and cultural buildings which have a direct effect on the economic and tourism activity in the area. Moreover, this area is characterised by a high concentration of old properties including residential buildings that lack accessibility and are in a state of decay resulting in a sizeable vacancy rate.[37]

The Harbour area has the highest rate of persons at risk of poverty[38] and the area is characterised by high unemployment particularly for youths.[39] The challenges faced by youth are also reflected in the high rate of authorised absences from school and high crime and vandalism rate in the area.

The high population density coupled with the high level of urbanisation and the socio-economic inequalities of the Harbour area call for an integrated targeted approach to comprehensively address the needs and problems of the area. In this regard, Government shall prepare the pertinent integrated urban development strategy with a view to

improve the urban and socio-economic environment. The strategy will form the basis for investment and will include measures aimed at ameliorating the urban environment including through investment in cultural heritage and investment targeting the social needs of the community living in the area including social housing.[40]

#### 1.1.1.2.3 Social, health and educational developments

Addressing the myriad of challenges within the social, health and educational sectors requires a multifaceted approach. These challenges include social and health inequalities; poverty; low educational attainment; improving the sustainability of the health system and developing education and social infrastructure and services, amongst others. Within this context, OP I will invest in these key areas with a view to improve the well-being of society.

- **Health**

With an increasingly ageing population, the provision of adequate primary health care and the shift towards active and healthy ageing are necessary to ensure the minimum levels of health inequalities and to promote the long term participation of citizens in the labour market. This need has also been identified under the relevant CSR whereby the importance of pursuing healthcare reforms, in particular by strengthening public primary care provision is being highlighted.

Whilst the standardised mortality rates for circulatory diseases have decreased from 426 per 100,000 in 1990 to 189 per 100,000 in 2010, the rate experienced in Malta remains higher than the average EU-15.[41] According to a study on Health Behaviour in school children by the World Health Organisation, Malta has the second highest proportion of obese or overweight children amongst 11 and 13 year olds and the overall highest proportion of obese and overweight 15 year olds when compared to the other 41 countries participating in the study.[42] Within this context, there is a need to instil a culture shift towards an active and healthy lifestyle from a young age with a view to prevent health problems during adulthood.[43]

- **Social Inclusion**

Apart from health provision and promotion, addressing social exclusion and poverty remain high on Malta's agenda. According to Eurostat figures, the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Malta has increased at a faster rate than that

registered at EU level reaching 24% of the total population in 2013.[44] An analysis of the at-risk-of-poverty rate by district shows that the highest rates in 2012 are registered in the Western Region (at 15.6%), followed by the Southern Harbour Area (15.4%). However, the localities with the highest rate of persons receiving supplementary allowances are the Southern Harbour Area with the highest locality (Valletta) registering 18.7% followed by Floriana at 16.1%. Moreover, according to the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey issued by NSO, in 2013, the material deprivation rate amongst households stood at 19.4% while the severe material deprivation rate stood at 9.5%.[45]

Statistics also show that the lower the educational attainment of youths and adults, the higher the likelihood of falling into poverty, social exclusion or unemployment.[46] Studies reveal that the main target groups which raise particular concerns when it comes to poverty and social exclusion related matters include children, youths, the elderly, women, persons with disability, the working poor and the unemployed amongst others. In 2012, employment rates ranged from 47.9% for individuals with less than upper secondary and post-secondary education to 86.7% for those who had achieved tertiary education qualifications.[47] The unemployment rate amongst persons of less than 25 years of age was 14.2%. Although this rate is lower than the EU average rate for 2012 which was 22.8%,[48] the high rate of unemployed youths remains a challenge which necessitates concrete action in order to ensure that Malta moves towards an inclusive society where every citizen is being given the opportunity to strive for prosperity.

- ***Education***

With the vulnerability of falling into poverty being intrinsically linked to education attainment, the further development of the education sector is necessary to ensure that more students pursue further and higher education. Since 2007, Malta has registered a significant decrease in its early school leaving (ESL) rate. Nonetheless, in 2013 the rate of ESLs stood at 20.8%, which was high when compared to the EU-28 average rate of 12.0% for the same year.[49] The need to address ESL is also highlighted in Malta's NRP and in the relevant CSR, which emphasize the importance of pursuing policy efforts to reduce early school leaving.

Moreover, whilst the overall tertiary education attainment (15-64 year olds) has been on the increase between 2008 and 2012, the participation rate in tertiary education or equivalent of 30-34 year olds remained relatively constant between 2006 and 2010 with gradual improvements between 2011 and 2013, reaching 26% in 2013. This rate remains lower than the EU-28 average of 36.9% that was reached in 2013 and is still distant from

the national EU 2020 target of 33%.[50] Within this context improving the range and standard of courses available, narrowing the skills gaps, and improving access to lifelong learning are necessary to address vocational and tertiary educational attainment. This will contribute towards increased labour market participation as indicated in the relevant CSR as well as towards a more inclusive society.

PA 6: 09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

9b - Providing support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities in urban and rural areas.

- SO 2 - Regeneration of public open spaces and public social housing within deprived neighbourhoods to lift people out of risk of poverty. In addition, this investment priority will be supported through infrastructure in education / community centres which will be complimented by ESF type of measures.

The expected result of this investment priority is to renovate public social housing and open spaces in the Southern Harbour thus reducing the number of dilapidated housing and public areas. Furthermore, this investment priority will support the provision of educational and/or community centres in urban neighbourhoods to provide the necessary skills/ employment opportunities to deprived communities thus empowering citizens to lift them out of risk of poverty.

PA 8: 09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.

- SO 1 - Investment in public health infrastructures as well as other small scale infrastructural investments aimed to alleviate the pressures from the main hospital as well as measures to promote a healthy lifestyle.

- SO2 - Support the integration of vulnerable persons within the community through public infrastructure and community based centres intended to provide necessary social services to vulnerable groups and to bring vulnerable persons closer to the labour market.



### *Types of interventions*

The quality of life of communities is intertwined with the quality of the environment therefore Government aims to improve the urban environment and revitalise the commercial and social activity of the Southern Harbour area. Interventions relate to physical renovation and upgrading of existing social housing stock primarily, and rehabilitation of social housing including the development and refurbishment of landscaped and recreational areas in the neighbourhood to ensure high quality safe[3] public spaces and modernised infrastructure through better and improved urban design. Interventions are also envisaged for the creation of community centres and educational facilities to address family needs in the area which will be complemented with ESF type of measures aimed to improve the skills/employment opportunities of people living in the area. These interventions will be carried out within the context of the integrated sustainable urban development strategy that will be developed in line with Article 7 of ERDF regulation.

### *List of Potential Interventions*

- **Development and renovation of social housing and open public spaces within urban areas**

Government recognises that there is a high concentration of social housing within the Harbour area that is in a state of decay. The lack of good quality housing has a significant impact on the quality of life of residents which put strain on health, accessibility and social issues. Adequate housing infrastructure is a basic need and therefore Government aims to support the necessary investment to ensure that residents living in inadequate housing conditions within the Harbour area can benefit from improved quality of housing and surrounding areas.

Interventions envisaged include the renovation of very old housing blocks which need to be rehabilitated to meet household needs as well as the upgrading of existing social housing stock including the introduction of accessibility measures for persons with disability and the elderly; improved energy performance in building through renewable energy sources and energy efficient measures; and the introduction of water conservation measures.[4]

Physical interventions are also envisaged for the surrounding areas of housing estates with open spaces for recreational areas for children, elderly and families living in the social housing estate in line within the integrated sustainable urban development strategy. Improved landscaped areas give way for more liveable surroundings which can be utilized for leisure, educational and social purposes. These initiatives will be developed with the assistance of local councils and NGOs working within the community so as to meet the specific needs of this generation and especially address social challenges in an innovative way.

Besides interventions within social housing estates, Government aims to invest in the development of high quality public spaces in the Southern Harbour. The objective is to utilise public land to develop and increase the number of available public spaces and pedestrian zones across the identified urban areas. Innovation in the design and use of public spaces, will directly affect the quality of life of the community through enhanced region identity, improved urban environment and the creation of more lively communities. Within this context, Government envisages to support investments that can provide for a makeover of deprived neighbourhoods to make them more environmental friendly, more accessible, and more responsive to people's needs. The development of public spaces and pedestrian zones will be also promoting resource efficiency and renewable energy sources, thus promoting respect for the environment through resource efficiency, both in terms of energy and water, as well as the generation of energy through clean sources thus contributing towards improved air quality within urban areas.

**• Community spaces to address family needs in urban areas supported by ESF type of measures aimed to improve skills/employment opportunities**

For Government to address the needs of socio-economic deprived communities within the Harbour area interventions are envisaged to ensure that community space and public facilities to assist families are in place. This community space is necessary to promote active participation within the community and to empower residents to be part of the regeneration of their community. Community space can be used for social and educational purposes targeting children, families and elderly as well as for cultural activities that can bring together locals and tourists. These spaces enhance social integration of families and ensure integration of communities within the neighbourhood.

This community space can be developed within a framework to provide services to families that have social and financial problems to ensure sustainable regeneration. These services can include amongst others, the development of child care centres and child services as a measure to stimulate social and educational integration including emotional and behavioural development of young children whilst providing more flexibility for parents to look for work as well as health related services for children, families and the elderly. Similar services for the development of day care centres for elder dependents are also envisaged. The creation of accessibility to such services in deprived neighbourhoods is necessary to tackle social exclusion, mitigate risks of aggressive behaviour and delinquency particularly among children, to stimulate employment and to empower communities with the necessary skills and knowledge to integrate within society. These interventions will be supported by ESF type of measures aimed to improve skills/employment opportunities for communities living in the identified urban areas.

PA 09: 10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning.

10a - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructures.

- SO 1 - Invest in public infrastructure aimed to provide education and training facilities for academic and vocational education and training (VET) to reduce early school leavers as well as improve tertiary education attainment.

### *Type of interventions*

Interventions under this investment priority will focus mainly on developing and rehabilitating public social housing infrastructure with the aim of regenerating deprived communities. Moreover, in line with Government's strategy of adopting a multifaceted approach when addressing the needs of persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion, Government will not only support investments in social housing per se but will also focus on interventions aimed at improving the surrounding area, through increased community facilities, recreational areas, open spaces and the provision of support services. These interventions will be carried out within the framework of integrated plans complementing interventions in sectors such as employment, education, health care and social integration. Such interventions will be consistent with the Sustainable Urban Development strategies and actions to be implemented under priority axes 6.[1]

### ***List of Potential Interventions***

- Regeneration and upgrade of public social housing infrastructure

Given the long waiting list for social housing and the precarious state of a number of public social housing estates, Government believes that the development and renovation of such buildings is an important part of the integrated approach that is being adopted to reduce poverty and address social exclusion.

Within this context, Government will support measures aimed at developing, upgrading and improving the accessibility of housing estates and the development of adequate dwellings in terms of space and commodities. Furthermore, interventions foreseen will aim to maximise resource efficiency, in particular water and energy efficiency measures, as well as energy generation through renewable sources.

In this respect, in an effort to revitalise deprived areas, Government will also support interventions such as the building of recreational areas, childcare facilities as well as day care centres for the elderly.

### ***Conclusions***

Whilst the Norway Grants offered an ideal opportunity, which could be tapped should such an open be negotiated again, the ESF and ERDF programmes offer a better option for implementation, particularly due to the high level of expenditure required.

The above mention priority axis and the relevant interventions could be employed to apply for the main fund, which includes both the ESF and ERDF components.

It is envisaged that the ESF component would partake to the training aspect and skills upgrading whilst the ERDF aspect would partake to the investment in the Tal-Ferha rehabilitation.

Costings identified:

***ERDF: Component***

Table F.1: Estimate of the works required for the completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2

	Title	Net (€)	VAT (€)	Total (€)
A	MEPA Application Fees	141,943.30	-	141,943.30
B	Professional Fees	174,375.00	31,387.50	205,762.50
	Phase 1			
C	Civil Works	517,070.00	93,072.60	610,142.60
D	Mechanical & Electrical Works	118,400.00	21,312.00	139,712.00
E	Finishes	191,000.00	34,380.00	225,380.00
F	Apertures	88,800.00	15,984.00	104,784.00
G	Furniture	88,800.00	15,984.00	104,784.00
H	External Areas	571,400.00	102,852.00	674,252.00
				1,859,054.60

	Title	Net (€)	VAT (€)	Total (€)
	Phase 2			
I	Restoration of Underground Spaces	230,000.00	41,400.00	271,400.00
J	Mechanical & Electrical Works	61,600.00	11,088.00	72,688.00
K	Finishes	69,300.00	12,474.00	81,774.00
L	Apertures	46,200.00	8,316.00	54,516.00
M	Furniture	46,200.00	8,316.00	54,516.00
				534,894.00

### *Summary*

	MEPA Application Fees	141,943.30	-	141,943.30
	Professional Fees	174,375.00	31,387.50	205,762.50
	Phase 1	1,575,470.00	283,584.60	1,859,054.60
	Phase 2	453,300.00	81,594.00	534,894.00

GRAND TOTAL				2,741,654.40
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**ESF: Component**

Table F.2 : Costings of the Training Component

Name of Tender/Call/ Employment contract	Type of tender	Procedure	Contract Duration	Indicative Estimated Value	Social Security contributions and Income Tax	VAT	Total (Including VAT, Social Security Contributions and Income Tax)
<b>Tenders</b>				(€)	(€)	(€)	(€)
<i>Tender for Strategy Interventions, Care Plan Drafting and training</i>	Service	Dept. Tender	18 months	35,000	n/a	6,300	41,300
<i>Tender for Launching Ceremony Venue</i>	Supply	Dept. Tender	1 month	15,000	n/a	2,700	17,700
<i>Tender for Training Materials</i>	Supply	Dept. Tender	5 months	18,441	n/a	3,319	21,760
<i>Tender for Psychological/Social Technologies</i>	Supply	Dept. Tender	18 months	35,500	n/a	6,390	41,890
<i>Sub-total Tenders</i>							<b>€ 122,650.38</b>
<b>Employment Contracts</b>							
<i>Training Manager</i>	n/a	Employment	10 months	24,195	2,420	n/a	26,615
<i>Project Administrator</i>	n/a	Employment	30 months	63,074.13	6,307	n/a	69,382
<i>Sub-total Employment Contracts</i>							<b>€ 95,996.04</b>

Table F.2 : Costings of the Training Component

Name of Tender/Call/ Employment contract	Type of tender	Procedure	Contract Duration	Indicative Estimated Value	Social Security contributions and Income Tax	VAT	Total (Including VAT, Social Security Contributions and Income Tax)
<b>Others</b>							
<i>Staff Costs Trainers and Training Administration</i>	n/a	Partners Direct	20 months	120,000.00	n/a	n/a	120,000.00
<i>MCAST – Training Materials, Venue and Certifications &amp; QA</i>	n/a	Partners - Direct	10 months	6,000.00	n/a	n/a	6,000.00
<i>Consumables</i>	n/a	Call for Quotations	20 months	8,000.00	n/a	1,440	9,440
<i>Design, Supply and Installation of Plaque</i>	n/a	Request for Quotations	1 month	1,500.00	n/a	270	1,770
<i>Adverts for Tenders and Call for Quotations</i>	n/a	Request for Quotations	6 months	12,000.00	n/a	2,160	14,160
<i>Projectors, Laptops and Screens</i>	n/a	Call for Quotations	1 month	8,000.00	n/a	1,440	9,440
<i>Sub-total Others</i>							<b>€ 160,810</b>
<b>Overheads</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	<b>€ 37,945.64</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>€ 417,402.07</b>



Table F.3: Grand Total Costings:

ERDF	Net (€)	VAT (€)	Total (€)
MEPA Application Fees	141,943.30	-	141,943.30
Professional Fees	174,375.00	31,387.50	205,762.50
Phase 1	1,575,470.00	283,584.60	1,859,054.60
Phase 2	453,300.00	81,594.00	534,894.00
ERDF SUB TOTAL			2,741,654.40
ESF	Net (€)	VAT (€)	Total (€)
Tenders	103,941.00	18,709.38	122,650.38
Employment Contracts	95,996.04	-	95,996.04
Others	155,500.00	5,310.00	198,755.64
ESF SUB TOTAL			417,402.07
GRAND TOTAL			3,159,056.47

