

Delivering Policy Analysis on the Performance of Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
Policy Paper on Innovation - Malta
Comments from the Maltese Managing Authority
November 2010

| <i>Page</i> | <i>Section</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|-------------|---|--|
| 4 | 1 st paragraph – 1 st bullet | The specific reference made by the evaluators in the first paragraph may be misleading since the number of self-employed individuals in Malta is quite substantial. According to the MA this may not in fact impose a challenge to the EU Cohesion Policy co-financed measures. In fact according to the NSO News Release entitled “Gainfully Occupied Population” issued on 6 th October 2010, the number of registered self-employed stands at 17,449. |
| 5 | 1 st paragraph | The above statistical figure for self-employed can be also related to this paragraph. As such the MA agrees that a general culture of innovation still needs to be developed; in fact Malta lacks equipment and investment in innovation rather than entrepreneurship. The latter can be counter argued by the statistical figure provided. |
| 6 | Last paragraph | It would be beneficial to note that the Operational Programme I primarily <i>supports amongst other initiatives</i> investment in business development, infrastructure, RTDi, tourism, transport, environment, energy, education and social infrastructure, urban regeneration, health and e-society. |
| 8 | 2 nd paragraph | The evaluators reported that “a number of infrastructural projects and the purchasing of equipment for both formal and informal education sector as well as RTDI are planned and financed under PA 6” however the MA would like to clarify that PA 6 also includes investment in health infrastructure. Is this being taken in such analysis since investment in health infrastructure is considered as one of the main areas under innovation. Moreover, till now RTDi is not planned and financed under PA6. |
| 10 | 2 nd bullet | In relation to this bullet the MA would like to comment that in addition to ERDF investments, “softer” projects are ongoing by the Malta Council for Science and Technology and the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family (MEEF) under ESF to encourage a higher take-up of science and technology subjects at various levels (including degrees and doctorates). |
| 10 | 5 th bullet | It may be useful if this bullet would also reflect the investment for science, R&D and IT and equipment for education institutions including the University. The main aim of these projects is to enhance the capacity in order to ensure that better science and technology teaching and learning is being carried out. |
| 11 | 3 rd paragraph | It would be useful to include that the Technology Transfer |

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| | under section entitled “knowledge transfers, clusters and poles” | Centre is found at the University of Malta. On the other hand the MA does not agree that the third, fourth and fifth bullet should be included in this section. Instead of the third bullet in this paragraph the MA thinks that it would be more appropriate to include the third bullet which is found on page 12 in the paragraph which describes the initiatives managed by the Malta Enterprise. On the other hand the fourth and fifth bullet under this paragraph would be more appropriate if they are moved under the section titled “Boosting applied research and product development” under the third paragraph. |
| 13 | Conclusion section | The MA agrees with the challenges facing the EU Cohesion Policy as suggested by the evaluator however it would to further add to the fourth bullet that the encouraging of the diffusion of sciences disciplines can be achieved through science polarisation, infrastructure and actions aimed at supporting the cultural change of the entire population and nurturing a more innovative friendly environment. |
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