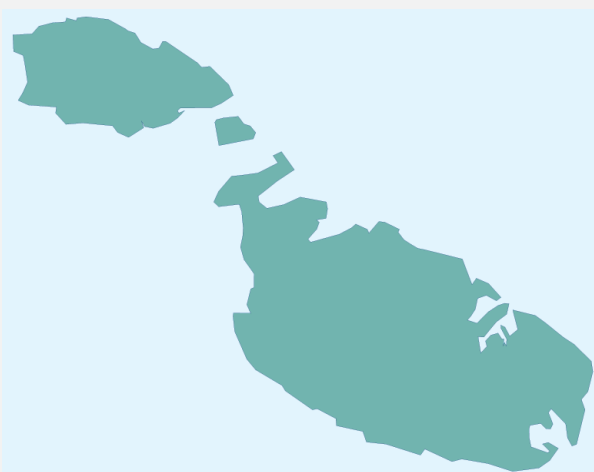


## EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS<sup>1</sup>



### MALTA

With a budget of **EUR 454 billion** for 2014-2020, the **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds)** are the European Union's main investment policy tool. The ESI Funds combine five Funds: **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**; **European Social Fund (ESF)**; **Cohesion Fund (CF)**; **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**; and the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**.

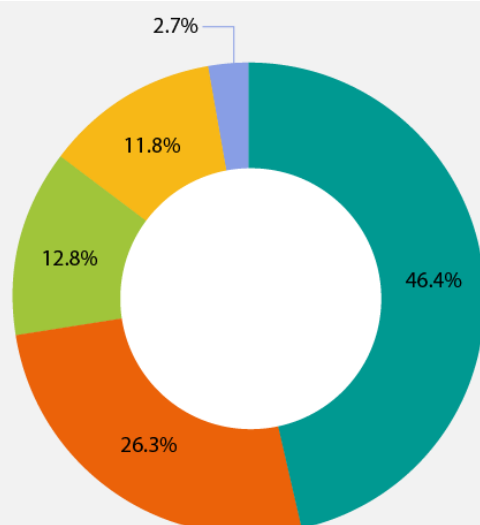


Categories of regions for the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD 2014-2020  
 ■ Transition regions (GDP/head between  $\geq 75\%$  and  $< 90\%$  of EU-27 average)

Through five national programmes, Malta has been allocated **EUR 828 million** from ESI Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a national contribution of **EUR 196 million**, Malta has a total budget of **EUR 1.02 billion** to be invested in various areas, from creating **jobs** and **growth** to promoting **innovation** and **competitiveness** as well as protecting the **environment** and improving **health** and **well-being**.

### ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR MALTA (2014-2020)

- EUR 384 million through the ERDF
- EUR 218 million through the CF
- EUR 106 million through the ESF
- EUR 97 million through the EAFRD
- EUR 23 million through the EMFF



<sup>1</sup> Data included in this factsheet have been extracted from the ESIF Open Data platform which is accessible online at <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>. Data on target achievements are based on officially agreed common indicators or, for the ESF, programme specific indicators (reference date for data: November 2015).

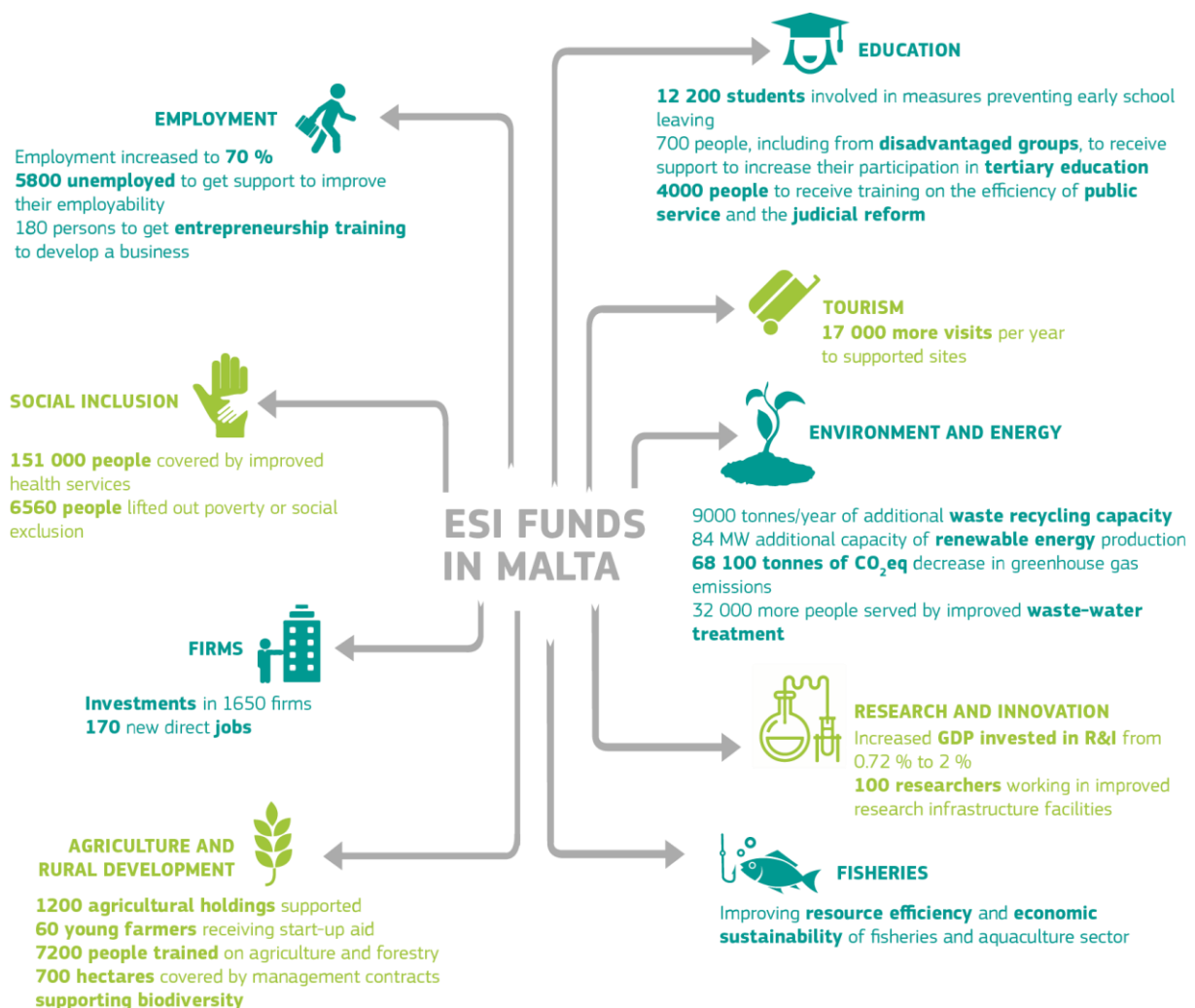
## MAIN PRIORITIES

### ESI FUNDS IN MALTA WILL:

- Boost competitiveness by promoting innovation and creating a business-friendly environment.
- Increase capacity for **research, development** and **innovation** by investing in public infrastructure and research facilities.
- Stimulate **business investment** and encourage links between businesses and research and education.
- Strengthen and develop **new ICT products** and applications so to improve, among others, the efficiency of public services.
- Support public and private investment in **renewable energy** and **energy efficiency**, and investment in **agriculture** and the **water** and **waste sectors**.
- Create sustainable and high-quality **employment opportunities** by investing in **human capital** and improving **health** and **well-being**.
- Ensure **greater social inclusion** and tackle poverty and discrimination.
- Promote **vocational education** and training.
- Increase the **capacity of government** institutions and authorities.

### TARGETS

All funds are designed to support Malta's **socio-economic development**. The expected results (**targets**) give an overall view of where Malta should be on key parameters by 2020.



## HOW WILL MALTA ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

Malta will work towards the efficient spending of the EU Funds, based on a multidimensional approach.

### FULFILLING PRECONDITIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF ESI FUNDS

To ensure that ESI Funds are used efficiently and focus on results, the Commission has set some preconditions when allocating ESI Funds to the Member States.

The main purpose of these conditions, also called '*ex-ante* conditionalities', is to help all Member States and their regions to tackle issues that past experience has shown to be particularly relevant to the efficient implementation of the Funds. These principles could be linked, for example, to the implementation of EU legislation, the financing of strategic EU projects, or administrative evaluation and institutional capacity.

These *ex-ante* conditionalities cover most investment areas: improvements to regional research and innovation (R&I) strategies as well as strategic plans linked to environmental protection, energy resources, transport, socio-economic inclusion, health services, education and training.

### ENCOURAGING THE USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND TERRITORIAL TOOLS

The funds available for financial instruments will top EUR 34 million, which is three times more than that for the previous period 2007-2013. It will be invested in sustainable development (preservation of cultural and historical assets), improving employment opportunities, and supporting the economic and social regeneration of deprived communities.

### SIMPLIFICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES

Managing authorities for ESI Funds are developing ways of reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries and public administration. These include greater use of simplified cost options and an improved common information helpdesk.

## SUCCESS STORIES: EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS USING ESI FUNDS (2007-2013)

### A NATIONAL FLOOD RELIEF PROJECT

The project aims to develop an integrated approach to storm water and valley management along with mitigating the increasingly adverse effects of climate change on urban areas that are particularly susceptible to flash floods. It involves constructing a network of underground tunnels, canals and bridges which will be capable of draining flood water into the sea. The project foresees 10 000 cubic metres of water retained in the Gzira reservoir along with a potential 600 000 cubic metres in the form of residual water in the tunnels. The project is raising the number of people protected from the storm water from 5000 to 50 000.

Total budget: **EUR 60 100 000**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from ERDF: **EUR 43 100 000**

More information: <http://europa.eu/ky63qd>

## MCAST: CREATING WORLD-CLASS VOCATIONAL TRAINING

With 6000 students and working closely with industry and employers, the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) is dedicated to equipping people with the particular and practical skills that the country's industry and economy need. For example, the 'Inclusion for employment' programme trained staff, adapted curricula and offered foundation courses in order to help poorly qualified students gain valuable skills, irrespective of their previous school performance. In another ESF project, 'Making courses more relevant and attractive', MCAST is boosting its co-operation with local industry to improve teaching and launch new courses in subjects that Maltese businesses need – such as sustainable tourism and niche manufacturing.

Total budget: **EUR 26 869 247**

**EU budget contribution to the projects** from ESF: **EUR 22 838 860**

More information: <http://europa.eu/!Gj87dC>

## METERING PRIVATE GROUNDWATER SOURCES

The project aims to develop on-farm infrastructures required to measure and monitor the amount of groundwater extracted for agricultural purposes. It will help alleviate farmers' groundwater problems and contribute to water conservation.

Total budget: **EUR 2 222 000**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from EAFRD: **EUR 1 499 850**

More information: <http://europa.eu/!xX78JY>

## PROMOTING FRESH FISH CONSUMPTION IN MALTA

The national strategy for a healthy weight for life (2012 – 2020) indicated that more than 40% of the Maltese never consumed fish. In the inception phase of the project, a study was carried out which showed a lack of awareness of the multitude of fish species available locally for consumption and a lack of knowledge on the distinct benefits associated with the consumption of fish. The project sought to address the above shortcomings and increase the number of people eating fish by 20%, through a nationwide campaign focused on five main pillars: Promoting fresh fish as a healthy natural meal which is tasty and easy to cook; highlighting the importance of eating fish regularly; reinforcing the message that different fish species have specific nutritional values.

Total budget: **EUR 527 925**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from EFF: **EUR 395 944**

(During the 2007-2013 period, the EMFF was known as European Fisheries Fund or EFF)

More information: <http://eatfreshfish.com.mt/>

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ESI FUNDS IN MALTA

- ESI Funds: <http://ec.europa.eu/esif>
- ESI Funds Open Data Platform: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/countries/MT>
- ERDF & CF: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/atlas/malta](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/malta)
- ESF: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=391&langId=en>
- EAFRD: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index_en.htm)
- EMFF: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-malta-factsheet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-malta-factsheet_en.pdf)
- The EU Representation in Malta: <http://ec.europa.eu/malta/>
- EU project examples: [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects/list\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects/list_en)
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