



EU4U

European Union
Structural Funds
for Malta
2004 - 2006

HOW MALTESE AND GOZITANS ARE BENEFITING FROM EU MEMBERSHIP

PROJECTS WORTH OVER €86 MILLION BEING IMPLEMENTED

As a result of its entry into the European Union in May 2004, Malta had qualified for Structural Funds support under Objective 1 status. Projects amounting to €86 million, financed during the period 2004 to 2006, are aimed to help Malta to improve structures and to achieve a more balanced development through activities in a number of priority areas.

The Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister, has been entrusted with the task of acting as the Managing Authority. Ms Marlene Bonnici as Director General of the PPCD had the advantage of having been involved in the pre-accession negotiations and has been instrumental in ensuring that the adoption of new EU processes, procedures and delivering Structural Funds for the first time, moves ahead as smoothly as possible within the constraints of time and human resources.

78 PROJECTS SELECTED

To date 78 projects have been successfully selected from the call for applications. Even the number of projects is impressive, considering that Malta had to establish Project Selection Procedures which comply with EU regulations and best practice guidance.

When are we going to see the tangible results of these funds? Perhaps few people realize the delicate

process which every project funded by EU has to go through. After all it is in the interest of each and every one of us that the funds are well spent and that the funds are dedicated to the projects which the country needs for the benefit of the whole population.

The long period of preparation is now coming to an end as we see more and more projects coming on line. All Maltese and Gozitans are directly benefiting from accession to the European Union. Not that these projects will solve all the problems but they certainly go a long way towards improving our way of life and help us become more competitive in the larger market that we now operate in.

€86.3 MILLION ALREADY COMMITTED

To date a total of €86.3 million or 99% of all available funds under the Structural Funds Programme for Malta, have been committed. These are being spent on approved projects.

The Structural Funds for the period 2004-2006 have been allocated to different priorities directed at individual areas such as the environment, roads, tourism, human resources, rural development and fisheries.

Close to €55 million were allocated to Priority 1: Strategic Investments and Strengthening Competitiveness. €11.6 million were allocated to Priority 2: Developing People whilst €10 million were allocated to Priority 3: Rural Development and Fisheries. Gozo's special needs as Priority 4 was allocated 10% of the available funds – €8.6 million.

All these projects, which are partly funded by the European Union, will benefit the Maltese people from all walks of life.



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STRUCTURAL FUNDS FOR MALTA 2004 - 2006

- Projects worth over €86 million
- Projects that benefit all sectors of population
- 78 Projects selected and being implemented
- Improving the Environment
- Support to Tourism Infrastructure
- Human Resources Development
- Specific projects for Gozo
- Agriculture & Fisheries



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Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004 - 2006.
Project part-financed by the European Union - European Regional Development Fund.
Co-financing rate: 75% EU: 25% Government of Malta.



A BETTER ENVIRONMENT A STRONGER INFRASTRUCTURE

Improving the environmental situation is a top priority in the Structural Funds Programme and this is well reflected in terms of the amount of funds allocated. The state of the natural environment has a profound effect on the health and quality of life, as well as on the attractiveness of the country in general, especially in a small country like ours.

Some of the projects funded by the EU Structural Funds Programme 2004 - 2006 tackle issues concerning the generation and management of waste and the management of ground water resources. Interventions to be supported under this measure cover improvement of quality of coastal waters, waste prevention, recycling and recovery activities, ground water management and improvement of quality of drinking water as well as air quality control. By addressing these issues, Malta will be able to upgrade its product as a tourist destination, which means a better standard of living and sustainable economic development.

Specifically the projects will reduce sewage overflows, minimise use of landfills, reduce waste generated, improve air quality, improve the quality of drinking water throughout the Maltese Islands, protect nature and promote renewable energy.

BETTER WASTE MANAGEMENT: BRING-IN-SITES

Around 260 tonnes of paper, 92 tonnes of plastic, 48 tonnes of metal and 139 tonnes of glass were collected by Wasteserv from 50 bring-in-sites during 2004. Waste Separation will be extended through the establishment of a total of 400 bring-in-sites for the separate collection of four waste fractions (plastic, glass, metal and paper) with a ratio of one site per 320 households on average. The forecasted amount of recyclable waste collected annually is expected to reach 1,300 tonnes.

CIVIC AMENITY SITES REDUCE ILLEGAL DUMPING

To date, the bulky refuse collected by local councils from households is mixed and dumped at Ta' Zwejra waste facility. Wasteserv employees then separate and handpick those items that can be recycled.

The establishment of 5 civic amenities (four in Malta and one in Gozo) for the collection of bulky items, such as furniture, white goods and hazardous waste from households and small shops and companies (not large industries) will go a long way towards reducing illegal dumping of furniture and white goods.

HIGHER QUALITY DRINKING WATER

The main objective of this project is the improvement of drinking water quality in our taps. This is achieved through the blending process of combining 50% groundwater with 50% better quality desalinated water. An improvement in the quality of desalinated water is being achieved through the refurbishing and upgrading of the existing Reverse Osmosis Plants.

This project will improve water quality and capacity of existing plants by 35% through an improvement of groundwater collection and water transfer network and the replacement of unlined pipes causing discoloured water; it will reduce the chloride level in water and reduce power consumption.

BETTER ROADS - HAL-FAR ROAD, PHASE III

The improvement of the Hal-Far road forming part of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) aims to provide a high uniform level of service, comfort and safety for road users.

Corrections will be carried out to the existing road alignment to eliminate accident black spots. Road safety features include road surfacing, crash barriers, high quality road equipment and accessories, materials and features. The project consists of road widening, asphalt, construction and improvement of footpaths and a cycle lane, surface water drainage facilities, maintenance of engineering structures, the installation of new street lighting, signage, lighting bollards, utility diversions where necessary, environment protection facilities and landscaping which is to include the building of rubble walls. Traffic management will be carried throughout the project's implementation. Overall the 3km to be upgraded includes the improvement of six junctions, four roundabouts and two priority junctions.

UPGRADING OF MANUEL DIMECH BRIDGE

Manuel Dimech Bridge is one of the major bridges and has strategic importance along the country's Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) road network. This project will reconstruct two, three span 36.5m-54.86m-36.5m bridges. A total of €6 million have been allocated to this project

The works on the bridge are to include site and structural investigation, topographical surveys, structural calculations and design, the demolishing of the existing bridge decks and their reconstruction, repair of piers and abutments, and the installation of fittings and components such as expansion joints, bridge bearings and guard rails. Throughout the implementation of the project priority will be given to traffic management and to the protection of existing supports and neighbouring buildings.

VESSEL TRAFFIC MONITORING SYSTEM

This project, on which €1.4 million will be spent, is required in order to give Malta the means to successfully monitor all Maltese waters and shores, a mandatory

requirement in the EU. Most EU Member States already have or will have a vessel traffic monitoring system (VTMIS). It is the most effective tool available to assist in fulfilling the monitoring obligations under the EU's vessel traffic monitoring regulations. The project will enhance port security and border control capacity, vessel traffic control and maritime safety.

This project will procure and install the equipment needed in order to enhance enforcement capabilities and safety standards and to protect Maltese waters and shores from adverse effects of shipping, whether navigating around Malta or within its territorial water, port approaches and ports. The implementation of the VTMIS will significantly enhance the maritime vessel monitoring capabilities of the Malta Maritime Authority and the Armed Forces of Malta.

HIGHER STANDARDS FOR OUR CARS

The motor car of today consists of a series of complex systems that combine advanced mechanical assemblies with electro-mechanical, electro-hydraulic, electro-pneumatic, electrical/ electronic control and monitoring systems. It is with these developments in mind that the auto-lab at MCAST was designed, installed, tested and commissioned. This auto-lab will provide the necessary skills to reduce the skills shortage in the above areas, and will benefit the motor vehicle sector to adhere to new standards introduced as a result of EU membership.

Specialised didactic equipment for the provision of vehicle training programmes has already been procured for the automotive lab and engineering workshops, and the lab is already in operation, expected to cater for over 100 students per year.

MCAST LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTRE

The project aims to provide a student learning and resource centre for both MCAST full-time and part-time students and the local community, supporting the curriculum being offered in all MCAST Institutes, and enabling the increased capacity for the effective and efficient use of technology in the provision of information and knowledge.



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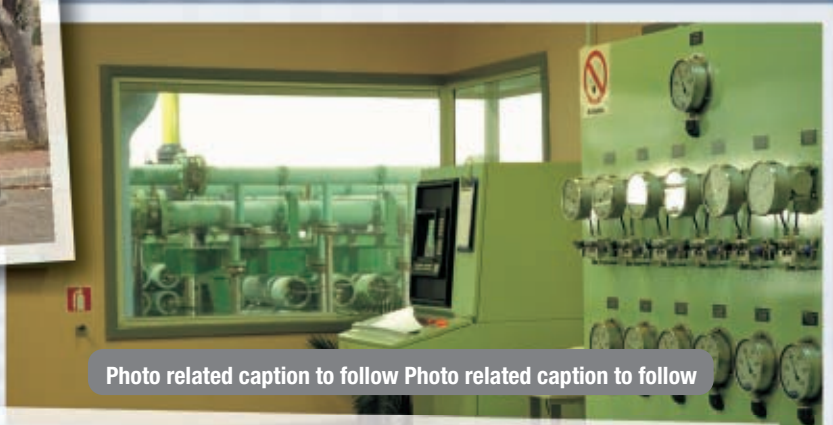


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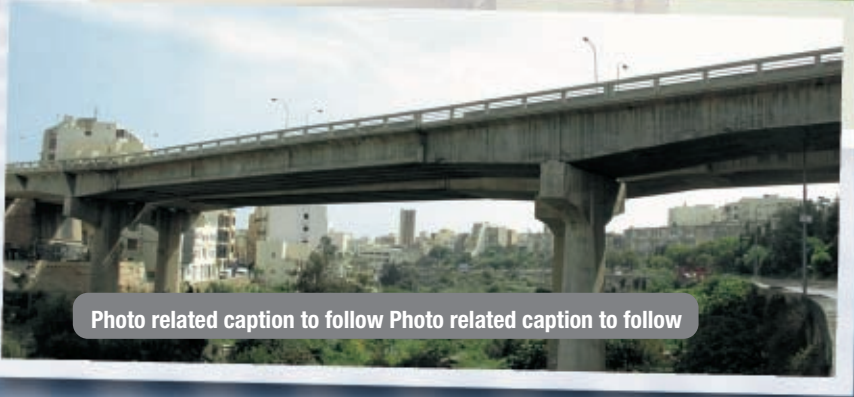


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SPECIFIC PROJECTS FOR GOZO

EXTENSION OF GOZO SCHOOL OF ART & CRAFT AND SETTING UP OF A CRAFTS INCUBATION CENTRE

The need to increase the facilities at the Gozo School for Art and Craft to offer new courses to students in Gozo had long been felt. Through the inclusion of this project in the Structural Funds Programme, this requirement is now being met.

The project also involves the construction and setting up of a Crafts Development Centre within the premises of the Gozo School for Art and Craft. This incubation centre will provide the technical, logistical and management support for those people who wish to start their own business in the crafts sector.

A study on the certification and authentication of Gozo local crafts has been undertaken, whilst work on the extension to the school and the new crafts incubation centre is due to commence very soon.

The incubation centre will allow Gozitan people to start their own crafts business by offering floor space within the incubation centre, tools and management support. In addition, tourists will be able to visit the incubation centre to view the crafts. This incubation centre will give the tourists the opportunity to see the typical Gozitan crafts being manufactured.

The project is aimed to increase employment opportunities for Gozitan people and to have an added attraction where tourists can admire & purchase the typical Gozitan craft products. The end result is to increase employment in Gozo and to strengthen the tourism industry which is a pillar of the Gozitan economy.

GOZO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY DISPLAY

The upgrading of the Gozo Museum of Archaeology also features among the projects funded through the EU Structural Funds Programme.

The procurement of nine state of the art showcases that have been installed at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology will be used to display a number of artefacts from the Xaghra Stone Circle that date back to 3,500 BC. These are specialised climate control showcases which are necessary in order to protect the artefacts. Without these showcases, the Museum could not display these important artefacts.

These artefacts could not be exhibited before. Now with the showcases in place, the Museum will be able

to attract more tourists particularly those with an interest in culture.

The project will contribute to the development of the niche market of cultural tourism and will attract more tourists to Gozo even during the shoulder months.

BETTER ROADS IN GOZO

Government is fully aware of the fact that better roads and improved road transport will have a positive impact on the tourism industry in Gozo. Better roads and better traffic flow will also result in easier & shorter transportation as well as safer roads.

A major road infrastructural project for Gozo is the upgrading of the arterial road network from Dwejra to Rabat. The route to be upgraded will be from Victoria to San Lawrenz Square which forms part of the TINA Road Network in Gozo.

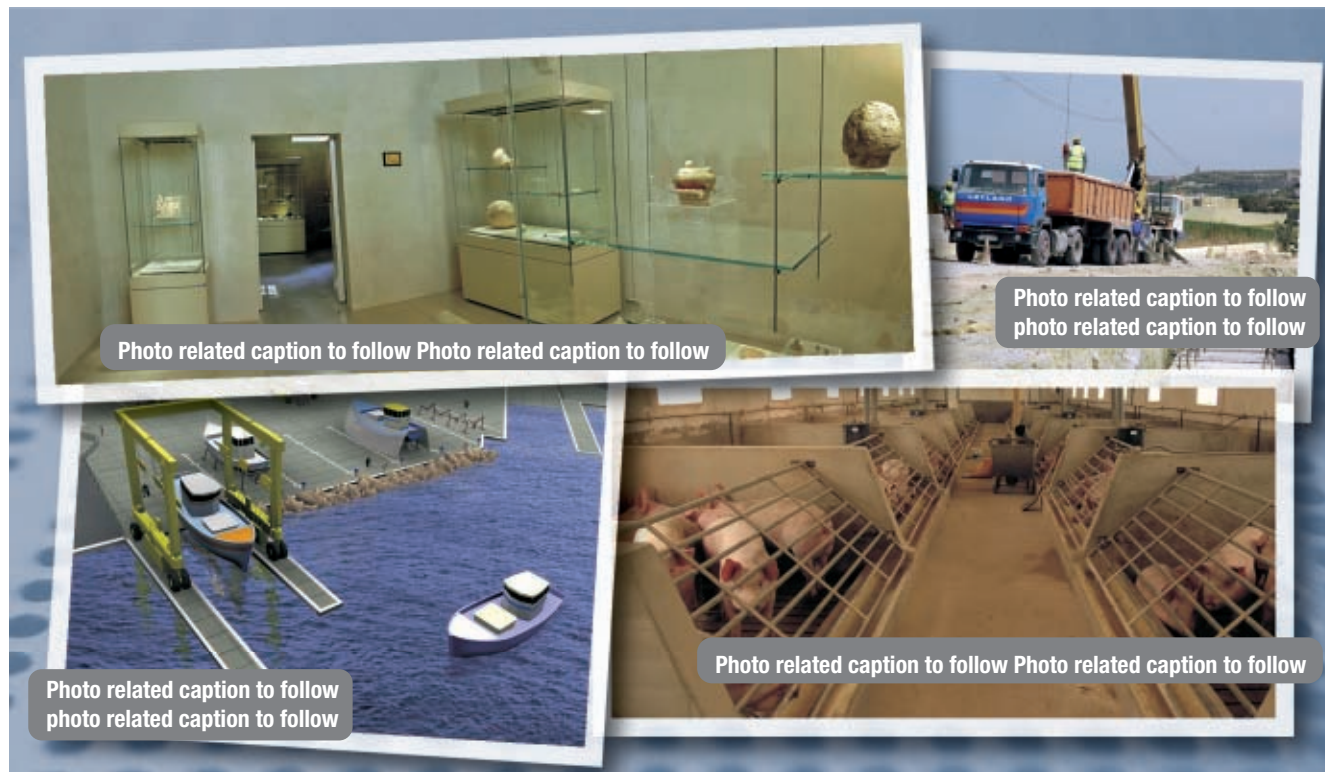
BOOSTING TOURISM

Tourism in Gozo will be given a further boost through another project aimed at supporting the diving industry as a niche tourism market for Gozo.

The project involves the creation of an artificial dive site by scuttling a diving wreck (old boat). Such dive-sites are proving to be very popular with divers around the world. The actual scuttling of the vessel will be an important event in itself for diving enthusiasts.

A multi-purpose recompression chamber facility at the Gozo General Hospital will also be set up as part of the project. This is a medical facility, currently not available in Gozo, essential for a destination that aims to attract divers. This is one of the issues divers take into consideration when choosing a diving destination. Should diving accidents occur, the divers will be treated immediately in Gozo without having to be transported to Malta. The project also involves the training of the medical staff.

The third part of the project consists of an overseas marketing campaign to promote Gozo as a diving destination. This marketing campaign will specifically market Gozo.



AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

HELPING FARMERS

EU Structural Funds have also been allocated to projects aimed at the agricultural sector. One of these projects consists of an aid scheme whereby the focus is on the consolidation of agricultural holdings pertaining to farmers.

Funds from this project are intended to improve production efficiency, animal welfare, and hygiene through investment in new and improved housing and technology; support building or building refurbishment if it complies with relevant national legislation; purchase new or second-hand equipment; purchase of land; overcome the inefficiencies of multiple ownership of land and small land parcels through common management and use of pooled resources; improve product quality and timeliness through technological improvements including farm mechanisation, irrigation, and protective cropping; invest in water collection and distribution systems; improve and construct new field/farm access private roads; provide for establishment costs for new holdings (purchase

of livestock and/or perennials); provide for work inputs by the applicant or family member which are the subject of a contribution in kind (number of hours of work to execute actions proposed and use of own equipment or machinery); cater for investments made by a group of farmers.

FISHING PORT FACILITIES

The project aims at increasing the dry-standing facilities and introduces new crainage facilities in an area termed as 'Kavallerizza Ponta tal-Qrejtien' in Marsaxlokk. Marsaxlokk is the major base port for 70% of the Maltese fishing fleet. The project envisages the improvement of servicing facilities to fishing vessels. These will include the supply of fuel, ice and water, repairs and maintenance, loading, handling, grading and transport of fishing products and septic tanks unloading facilities.

The modernisation of the existing port facilities, will result in less harmful wastage. Therefore, there will be less dumping, and improvement in sanitary and environmental conditions.

ALL THE BENEFITS 4 U

- Easier & Safer disposal of household waste
- Establishment of Civic Amenity Sites
- Higher Quality Drinking Water
- Safer Roads
- Improved Port Security and Border Control Capacity
- Modern Auto-Lab
- Updated Library & Resource Centre at MCAST
- Assistance to Operators in Tourist Enterprises
- Increased tourist attractions in Gozo
- Better Protection of Heritage Sites
- Increased employment opportunities for Over 40's
- More Diving Sites in Gozo
- Decompression facilities in Gozo
- Preservation of Traditional Maltese Crafts
- Retraining and Reskilling of Employees
- Training and Employment Exposure Scheme
- Investment in Agricultural Holdings
- Improved Fishing Port Facilities



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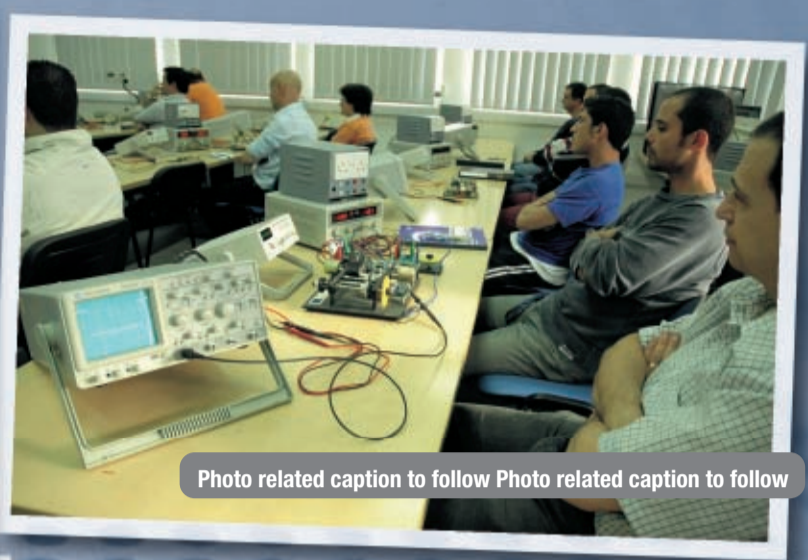


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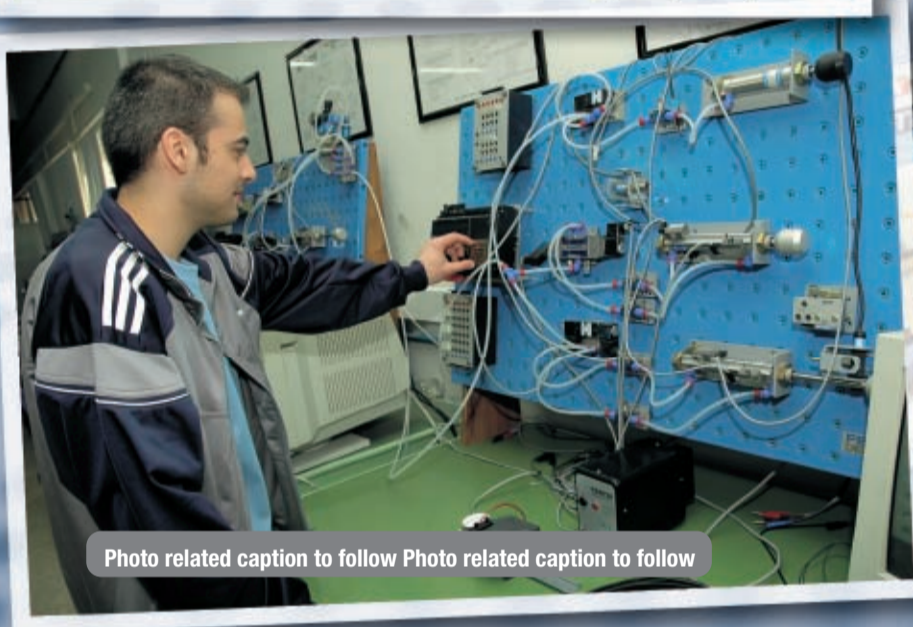


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DEVELOPING PEOPLE

ETC COURSES AND SCHEMES FOR GOZO

A number of schemes and a number of training courses organised by the Ministry for Gozo aimed at increasing employment are funded as a special project for Gozo under the Structural Funds Programme: Graduate Scheme, Fostering Entrepreneurial Skills Scheme, Customer Care and Tourism Training.

PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL MALTESE CRAFTS

MCAST is implementing a project intended to re-skill and advance the workforce in traditional Maltese crafts. The project targets mature students and it enables progression thus facilitating life-long learning. The project also provides candidates with flexible skills and entrepreneurial skills that encourage self-employment within the traditional crafts sector: Pottery, Silver Filigree, Bee Keeping, Traditional Lace Making, and Stained Glass.

RETRAINING & RESKILLING OF WORKERS FOR ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

A number of training courses also being given at MCAST through another project supported by EU funding are those designed to provide candidates with new and transferable skills relating to

engineering disciplines including new engineering techniques, entrepreneurship and self-employment in a commercial environment. The aim of the project is to improve the human resource base to enhance the competitiveness of the Maltese economy.

RETRAINING & RESKILLING OF WORKERS FOR ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

MCAST is also retraining and reskilling workers for the Electronics Industry through a project which provides trainees with flexible and transferable skills required within a knowledge-based economy. It targets mature students made redundant due to the restructuring of this sector. Places are reserved for females wishing to find employment within this sector.

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS FOR WOMEN RETURNING TO THE WORKFORCE

A project specifically designed for women (including single mothers) aims at encouraging, preparing and training more female participation in the labour force, through training courses in ICT skills, including the customer service sector.

RETRAINING & RESKILLING OF WORKERS FOR THE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

There is an increasing demand for skilled workers in the building and construction industry. It was precisely to start addressing this problem that one of the projects drawn up by MCAST and funded by EU Structural Funds consists of training courses designed to provide trainees with skills required for the expanding building and construction industry.

FOUNDATION TRAINING FOR ADULTS WITH NO FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS

Another project offered by MCAST consists of training courses specifically designed to target unemployed adults with no formal qualifications that would benefit from this specially designed Foundation Training Programme. This programme provides adults with several areas of vocational training (including care for the elderly) to improve their employment prospects.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT EXPOSURE SCHEME FOR HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE

A very successful project undertaken by the Employment and Training Corporation and funded by EU Structural Funds consists of a training programme which aims at re-training 400 registered unemployed persons aged 40 and over. These persons are trained in areas where they can be re-integrated in the labour market. This project encourages employers to consider

unemployed persons, aged 40 years and over, as efficient and productive and shows employers that the experience of these prospective employees pays.

The scheme consists of a total of 52 weeks divided in three phases. In the first four weeks the TEES Participants follow a core skills training programme highlighting motivation and self-esteem. They undergo a skills sampling and aptitude test to identify their job inclinations. During the 21 weeks following the first phase, the participants undergo training in a skill or trade on demand in the labour market. The last phase consists of 26 weeks during which participants are engaged with an employer for a 40 hour week work exposure, in the hope that they perform so well that the employer would offer full time indefinite employment at the end of the scheme.

Seventy three participants out of the 130 that started in the first intake are still in employment while participants of the second intake have also just concluded phase 2 and are now in the last phase of the scheme doing their work exposure with the employers and 77 out of the 160 that started this second intake are still in employment. The last intake of 170 participants were selected to participate in the scheme and placed on training phase 1.

For further information, please contact The Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) on: info@ppcd.gov.mt