

## **Assistance to civil society organisations**

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Parliamentary Secretary Dr Chris Said presented cheques to beneficiaries of the Civil Society Fund, which fund is aimed at assisting constituted bodies and representative organisations to keep abreast of developments in the European Union.

Dr. Said said that the process to financially assist constituted bodies and civil society organisations prior to Malta's EU accession will continue in a different format this year.

"The CSF which initially provided assistance to the constituted bodies and civil society organisations to familiarise themselves with the EU's institutions and policies prior to Malta's accession to the Union, will be re-designed as a Co-financing Fund for NGOs."

This year, 27 organisations have benefited from the 2008 Civil Society Fund.

Dr Said encouraged CSF beneficiaries to tap EU funding. He encouraged participants to be pro-active not only with regard to EU funding but also with regard to their active involvement in the consultation process.

"As of this year, both MEUSAC and MCESD will be housed in the same centrally-located building in Valletta to maximise accessibility and further synergise the consultation processes on EU related issues and on domestic issues respectively."