

# Funding 4 y EU

Issue 4

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## From the Editors

Welcome to the fourth issue of *Funding 4 yEU*, the periodical e-Bulletin issued by Forum Malta fl-Ewropa. We hope that you have had a good summer break.

*Forum Malta fl-Ewropa* had a busy summer period, gearing up and preparing for our forthcoming activities that include various seminars and dialogues, amongst others. Some other new initiatives are also lined up. Further details will be provided in forthcoming issues of our newsletters, as well as on our website.

This issue of *Funding 4 yEU* includes information about the 50 years celebration of ESF and also with regard to the assessment of applications following the call for proposals under the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013. We also invite you to read about a number of successful projects, which include TEES and an EQUAL project which focused on asylum seekers. This issue's funding experiences from Malta also include one featuring a Local Council – the Nadur Local Council – which managed to tap EU funding for the organisation of training seminars on EC Competition Law for the members of the Maltese judiciary. Also featured is a youth exchange, funded by the Youth in Action Programme, organised by the Forum Żghażaġh Laburisti.

As always, our issue includes funding-related news and some open calls. We trust you find it interesting!



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## From EUPU to EUPA....

Mauro Miceli – Communications and Activities Officer, EUPA

2006 brought an end to a Life Cycle of European projects being funded by the DG for Education and Culture. In 2000, the European Union Programmes Unit (EUPU), within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment, was entrusted with the arduous task of managing these funds, promoting the various actions and preparing reports for the European Commission.



2007 brings about a new challenge. With the launch of the new generation of Programmes for the period 2007 – 2013, a number of changes in Programme structures has been implemented. No longer do we find separate programmes for Soc-

rates and Leonardo da Vinci – these now both fall under the new Lifelong Learning Programme.

The Youth Programme has also been given a fresh look and apart from a change in logos, there was also a change in name, becoming the YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME. The EURO-MED YOUTH PLATFORM is also being managed by the Agency.

With the new generation of Programmes, we also have the setting up of the European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA). The Agency is now a separate legal entity from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment, allowing it to simplify certain bureaucratic measures and simplify procedures for beneficiaries.

In the coming weeks the EUPA should be launching a number of activities to promote the Programmes. A branding image of the Agency has also been launched with a new logo and a website being launched in a couple of weeks.

## 50 years of the European Social Fund (ESF)

Malta will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Social Fund during a four-day activity to be held in Malta and Gozo over the first week of September.

Since Malta joined the European Union in 2004, ESF has funded training for more than 7,000 people, leading to the creation or retention of more than 1,000 jobs in Malta and Gozo.

The ESF is the oldest structural fund; in fact, it was established by



the Treaty of Rome. ESF was set up in 1957 to support the European Union's employment objectives. Over the past 50 years, ESF has helped millions of EU citizens to reach their full potential in terms of training, skills and employment.

The ESF Anniversary Celebrations will be held at Freedom Square, Valletta on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007 between 10.00 – 19.30 and at the Marsalforn Promenade, Marsalforn on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2007 between 17.00 - 23.00.

## Assessment of Applications following the Call for Proposals under the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013

The Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister would like to announce that the project selection process with respect to proposals received following the launch of the first call under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) 2007-2013 is expected to be concluded by the end of 2007. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection process by this date. The target date has also been communicated to all interested parties who have attended the information sessions organised by the PPCD.



**EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**  
**EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND**  
**COHESION FUND**  
**MALTA 2007-2013**

The PPCD would also like to inform that following the information sessions, a number of clarifications raised in the sessions will be posted on the PPCD website (Useful Links and Downloads Section) in the coming days. The Operational Programmes, as well as revised application forms and guidance notes have also been uploaded in the same section of the website.

Potential applicants are reminded that the following Priority Axes and Focus Areas are open for project proposals. The call for ERDF project proposals under Operational Programme I, *Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life*, is restricted to project proposals under the following Priority Axes and Focus Areas of Intervention:

**Priority Axis 1:**

Focus Area - Enterprise Infrastructure, financial threshold:

€25 million;

Focus Area - Investment in RTDi and RTDi-related Infrastructure and ICT, financial threshold: €20 million.

**Priority Axis 2:**

Focus Area - Product Development;

Focus Area - Niche Market Development and Branding, financial threshold: €80 million;

**Priority Axis 6**

Focus Area - Internal Mobility, financial threshold: €25 million;

Focus Area - Education, Social and Health-related Infrastructure, financial threshold: €20 million.

Closing date for applications for all Priority Axes and Focus Areas under Operational Programme I is 7<sup>th</sup> September, at noon. Applicants should refer to the guidance notes for more details in this regard.

The call for ESF project proposals under Operational Programme II, *Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life* is restricted to project proposals under the following Priority Axes and Focus Area of intervention:

**Priority Axis 1:**

Focus Area – Information and Communication Technology, financial threshold: € 5 million;

**Priority Axis 2:**

Focus Area - Continuous Training and Education, financial threshold: €10 million.

Closing date for applications:

**Priority Axis 1** Focus Area: Information and Communication Technology -14<sup>th</sup> September at noon.

**Priority Axis 2** Focus Area: Continuous Training and Education—7<sup>th</sup> September at noon.

Applicants should refer to the guidance notes for further details in this regard.

## A Long Journey – A Safe Harbour

Since 2005, the Foundation for Social Welfare Services has been participating in an EQUAL-funded project, under the social and vocational integration theme, for asylum seekers. This provided the Foundation with a real chance to help the asylum seekers to restart their lives in Malta.



This EQUAL Project foresaw the development of a training package consisting of three modules namely English literacy, life skills and labour market orientation. Measures are currently being developed to help asylum seekers build a portfolio in order to increase chances for formal employment.

The Education and Training Corporation provided the English literacy courses, with 45 asylum seekers successfully completing this module. Face-to-face pre-interviews were organised with interested clients to assess their level of English. Three groups were created, each of which followed a total of 160 hours of training, divided over nine hours per week for small groups of maximum 15 persons. Two teachers were present in each class to ensure continuous attention and feedback.

The General Workers' Union developed the labour market orientation module,

which is based on a successful method used for long-term unemployed persons. The module is taught in small groups placing a strong focus on job interviewing, interaction and communication. The course has been such a success that discussions are currently underway with the Employment and Training Corporation, to provide it at national level for school-leavers.

The EQUAL 'Asylum Seekers Partnership' brings together an interesting mix of organisations. The partnership is managed by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services. Other organisations

participating in the project include Appogg, ETC, GWU and the Maltese Red Cross. This EQUAL partnership also comprises two reception centres.

The courses were accompanied by social support and recreational activities. Appogg set up a small vocational guidance team of experienced social workers to encourage asylum seekers to join the newly-created courses and to follow them from beginning to end.



## Local Council Experience—Training in EC Competition Law

The Nadur Local Council managed to secure a grant from the European Commission's DG Competition for the training of national judges in EC competition law. The project aimed at training Maltese judiciary in the application of EC competition rules as reformed by Regulation 1/2003,



providing Maltese national judges with deep, accurate and updated knowledge on EC competition law to guarantee the best execution of their duties in the application of EC rules on competition.

Secondly, it also sought to give other participants interested in learning more about the EC competition rules, the possibility to understand better the rules to be observed. This has been carried out through the organization of comprehensive training that was delivered over 5 weeks, between the 9 February and the 23 March 2007.

Participants had the opportunity to share and discuss important issues related to the abovementioned regulations and critical elements that characterise the Maltese situation. The training was carried out by AIGE (Associazione Italiana Giuristi Europei).

The total cost for this project was of € 64.000 of which approximately € 50.000 (75%) was financed by the European Commission.

## Training and Employment Exposure Scheme (TEES)



Through the TEES project, the Employment and Training Corporation has supported unemployed persons who are over forty years of age and provided them with training and work exposure.

The objectives of this project were: to convince employers that employees over 40 years of age can give very efficient and productive work, and value the concept that 'experience pays', and to re-train unemployed workers over the age of 40 years in areas where they can be reintegrated in the labour market.

The participants joined the scheme for a period of one year which was divided into different phases consisting in training and work exposure with an employer. During the first phase the participants went through a core skills training programme highlighting motivation and self-esteem. They also went through an exercise of skills sampling and aptitude testing to identify their job inclinations. In the second phase, the participants spent 20 hours a week for 21 weeks on specific training in a skill or trade selected and on demand in the labour market.

During the final phase the participants were engaged with an employer for a 40-hour week work exposure for 27 weeks. The aim of this initiative was that their performance would be so good that the employer would offer them full employment by the end of the scheme.

This project proved to be a positive experience for both the participants and the employers. The employers found the scheme an ideal opportunity to train the participants on the job, thereby accustoming them to the firm's particular requirements.

It provided the participants with the opportunity of receiving both generic and specific training and eventually the possibility of full time employment. Out of the 460 participants, 237 participants were kept in employment by their employers, 40 found other work during the scheme and 8 got self-employed. The rest of the participants either returned to the unemployment register or dropped out of the scheme.

The total cost of this project was of €3,642,547, of which €2, 731,910 were funded by the European Social Fund .



## Youth Exchange Organised by the Labour Youth Forum



Around 40 young people participated in a youth exchange held in Malta between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2007 and organised by the Labour Youth Forum Hamrun branch. During the exchange, entitled "Strengthening the voice of young people through Civil Society Dialogue in the European Union", European Union member country youth organisations from Malta, Cyprus and Italy met other country youth organisations from Egypt and Jordan. During the youth exchange, the participants discussed the various issues of importance to this seminar and discovered the islands of Malta.

The exchange sought to give a voice to youth, the future of tomorrow's world and increasingly strong actors of today's. The plenary session and workshops focused on the following main topics: Youth, human rights & equality; the voice of youth in sustainable development, society and the environment; Youth Volunteerism & Youth in need; Youth and civil Society in the European Union; the role of youth in tackling racism and xenophobia and cultural diversity.

The main goal of the exchange was to strengthen the role of the participants in civil society at home and abroad while enhancing international cooperation by finding bridges among youth networks worldwide and civil society.

## Some Open Calls

### Structural Funds 2007-2013

#### **Call for ERDF project proposals under Operational Programme I Priority Axis 1 & 2 & 6**

Closing date for applications for all Priority Axes and Focus Areas under Operational Programme I is 7th September.



#### **Call for ESF project proposals under Operational Programme II**

**Priority Axis 1—Deadline :** - 14th September & **Priority Axis 2—Deadline:** - 7th September .

Further Information: - [www.ppcd.gov.mt](http://www.ppcd.gov.mt)

### Youth in Action



Next Deadline: 1st September 2007 for project taking place between the 1st December 2007 and 30th April 2008.

N.B. When it comes to projects, especially Youth Exchanges and Youth Initiatives remember that these are youth projects, to be done by youth and for youth, from preparation to application to implementation and evaluation.

Further information: - <http://www.youthmalta.org/>

### Culture 2007-2013

#### **Support for cultural actions (Strand 1)**

Multi annual cooperation projects & Cooperation measures Deadline: 31/10/2007

Literary translation & Special measures: cooperation with third countries Deadline: 1/10/2007

#### **Support for European Cultural Bodies (Strand 2)**

Annual and Multi annual Operating grants Deadline: 5/11/2007

#### **Support for analyses and dissemination activities (Strand 3)**

Networks: support for evaluation or impact assessment activities in the field of European cultural cooperation and European cultural policy development

Further information: -

<http://www.culture.org.mt/> & [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/calls2007/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/calls2007/index_en.htm)



## Upcoming Events

#### **ICT Information Session, FP7**

Date: 4 September 2007 – Venue: Corinthia Marina Hotel

#### **Information Session on IPR Issues in FP7**

Date: 5 September 2007 – Venue: Malta Enterprise, San Gwann

#### **Information Session on Financial Issues in FP7**

Date: 14 September 2007 - Venue: Hilton Hotel

Participation is limited. For registration contact Anthea Frendo on [anthea.frendo@gov.mt](mailto:anthea.frendo@gov.mt) or tel: 23602141



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