

Funding 4 y EU

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Successful Training Day on EU Funding

The EU has more than 300 different funds and funding programmes. In 2007, the EU also launched a range of multimillion funding programmes on areas including research, business support, adult education, information technology, combatting poverty, as well as the new generation of Structural Funds. Through its funds and funding programmes, the EU contributes to training, work placements and studies abroad, environmental projects, arts and culture, the creation of conservation areas, foreign aid, environmental action... and many other types of projects. Most of these funds are available for projects everywhere - not limited to regional development areas. Some are, however, only available for not-for-profit organizations or entities. Although information on various EU funds and funding programmes is available, the practical dimension is often unclear to many.

For this reason, an intensive and interactive one-day session on the practicalities of EU funding, notably the preparation of proposals, evaluation and project management, was held on 16 February and attended by 110 participants. There was an overwhelming response to this initiative, organised by *Forum Malta fl-Ewropa* and the Office of the Parliamentary Secretary for Small Businesses and the Self-Employed. Participants included Local Councils, NGOs, voluntary and community organisations, managers of EU-funded projects, Programme managers, representatives of trade unions and employer bodies, as well as members of the business community. The training was delivered by Maria Rauch, an independent international consultant with extensive experience in EU funding. Since close to 100 requests for participation regrettably had to be turned down due to seating restrictions, *Forum* is planning to repeat the training programme by Maria Rauch in the coming weeks. Participation this time is strictly by invitation, since priority will be given to those on the 'waiting list' compiled for the event held on 16 February.

Inside this Issue:

New Publication for Forum Malta fl-Ewropa: *L-Unjoni Ewropea Għaliġa - Għawdex* 2

EU Finances Software Used for Special Effects 2

Life+ Programme (2007-2013) 3

Maltese participation in FP6 3

Some Open Calls 4

Photos Courtesy of DOI



Participants present for the Training Session on the practicalities of EU funding. The training was delivered by Maria Rauch (inset)

New Publication for Forum Malta fl-Ewropa: L-Unjoni Ewropea Ghalija - Ghawdex

The first three years of European Union membership have seen the co-financing of projects and initiatives taking place in Gozo benefiting, among other sectors, tourism, agriculture, the fishing sector, infrastructure, environment, education and employment, small and medium sized enterprises, voluntary organisations, local councils and youth. This was stated by the Hon. Michael Frendo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, during press conference marking the launch of a publication entitled *L-Unjoni Ewropea Ghalija - Ghawdex*.

The publication provides information about projects that were implemented in Gozo, not only through 10% of the funds under the Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004-2006 that were specifically earmarked for Gozo, but also through additional funding that the island managed to obtain through several other measures, schemes and programmes launched on a national basis.



Dr Gabriella Pace, Chief Executive Forum Malta fl-Ewropa, said that besides disseminating information on opportunities for financial assistance through European Union funding programmes, Forum has consistently used various channels to disseminate the experiences of non-government organizations, enterprise, local councils and individuals who have benefitted from EU funds. This publication, which is the first in a series planned and to be published by *Forum Malta fl-Ewropa* in the coming months, focuses specifically on Gozo and showcases a variety of projects and beneficiaries.

L-Unjoni Ewropea Ghalija - Ghawdex is a joint Ministry for Gozo and *Forum Malta fl-Ewropa* publication. It will be distributed to all households in Gozo in the coming days. Copies are also available from Forum offices as well as the Ministry for Gozo in St Francis Square, Victoria.



EU Finances Software Used for Special Effects

The EU is aware that the role of research in modern society is becoming ever more important. For this reason the EU is encouraging public-private research partnerships. One of the projects financed by FP7 and Marie Curie actions is the Furnace software. This software was developed by four European specialists and is used for special effects. This was used for a number of movies such as King Kong, Lord of the Rings, Da Vinci Code, Casino Royale, and Superman Returns.



The EU has just set up the Research Executive Agency and the European Research Council Agency which will be responsible for the implementation of certain aspects of FP 7 in order to ensure that the researchers will be provided with the necessary support

Life+ Programme (2007-2013)



The LIFE+ programme (2007-2013) follows the LIFE III programme (2000-2006). The deadline for the submission of project proposals by the national authorities to the European Commission was 15th January 2008. This programme is the EU Financial instrument that supports environmental and nature conservation projects.

Since 1992 this programme financed 2750 projects worth approximately €1.35 billion. The competent authority responsible for the Life+ programme in Malta is the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment. MRAE received applications worth over 5.5 million euros under the Life+ Nature and Life+ Information and Communication strands. These projects vary from restoration and conservation projects to projects aimed at rais-

ing awareness about environmental issues. The co-financing rates are usually 50%, but this can reach a maximum of 75% in some cases. The funds allocated to Malta under this programme amount to over 2.1 million euros (Lm 0.9 million)

Two projects that were financed by the LIFE III programme (2000-2006) are the Yelkounan Shearwater Project (Progett Garnija) and the Dwejra Costal Nature Park

Further details are available on <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>



Maltese Participation in FP6



Source: Ricerka

With regard to FP6, a total of 8,861 projects were funded by the European Commission. Malta participated in 98 projects, six of which were coordinated by Maltese organisations. A total of 101 participants were involved in these projects. In total Maltese organisation benefited from a total of 8.97 million Euros. Malta ranks second in the EU-27 for projects carried out per capita.

The organisations that participated in this Programme included the University of Malta, the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST), private organisations, Governmental institutions and non-profit organisations.

The Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) was the coordinator of one project and participated in a total of 13 projects. The University of Malta participated in 38 projects. The majority of the Maltese projects submitted fall under the Information Society Technologies (IST) section, with a total of 26 projects and over € 2.2 million in funding received. The projects funded in Malta vary from research projects to networks of excellence.

FP6 has been replaced by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). This is the key financial tool for supporting Research and Innovation at the European level, with the purpose of integrating Europe's research capacities, creating jobs and improving competitiveness in line with the Lisbon Agenda. The Framework Programmes have been the main financial tool through which the European Union supports research and development covering almost all scientific disciplines.

FP7 is organized into four programmes, corresponding to four basic components of European Research namely Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities.

Some Open calls ...

♦ MEDIA 2007 Programme



Call for proposals: Festivals

This Call for Proposals is for festivals taking place between 1 May 2008 and 30 April 2009. Festivals starting between 1 November 2008 and 30 April 2009 should apply for the deadline on 30 April 2008. Support of up to 35,000 Euro is available for festival organisers covering up to 50% of the following costs of promotion and advertising, equipment hire, subtitling and translation, print transport.

MEDIA 2007—Training

A new call for training activities has been issued. Its objectives are (1) the improvement of the European dimension of audiovisual training activities; (2) encouraging exchanges and cooperation, in supporting the networking of European training players; (3) encouraging the mobility of students and trainers in Europe; (4) strengthening the skills of European audiovisual professionals in order to improve the quality and potential of European audiovisual works.

Actions eligible for financing include training sessions in the following areas:

- Economic, financial and commercial management;
- New audiovisual technologies;
- Script development

Deadline for submission is 14 March 2008. Further details are available on http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/training/index_en.htm

♦ ERDF & ESF

A new Call for Project Proposals under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) 2007-2013 has been issued by PPCD. The call has been issued under Operational Programme I, *Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life* and Operational Programme II, *Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life*. The call closes at **NOON** on Friday, 22nd February 2008. The Operational Programmes, Application Forms and Guidance Notes, Eligibility and Selection Criteria, as well as further information can be downloaded from www.ppcd.gov.mt/english/downloads/callOPo8.zip.

The call for ERDF project proposals under Operational Programme I is restricted to project proposals under the following Priority Axes and Focus Areas of Intervention:

- Priority Axis 1: Focus Area - Enterprise Infrastructure. Financial Threshold: €15 million;
 Focus Area - Investment in Research Technological Development and Innovation (RTDi) and RTDi-related Infrastructure and ICT. Financial threshold: €10 million;
- Priority Axis 4: Focus Area - Upgrading Services of General Economic Interest - Energy. Financial threshold: €15 million
- Priority Axis 6 Focus Area - Urban Regeneration. Financial threshold: €10 million
 Focus Area - E-Accessibility. Financial threshold: €15 million

The call for ESF project proposals under Operational Programme II is restricted to project proposals under the following Priority Axes and Focus Areas of intervention:

- Priority Axis 1: Focus Area - Investing in the education system. Financial threshold: € 12 million
 Focus Area - Addressing Skills Mismatches. Financial Threshold: € 5 million
 Focus Area - Research and Innovation. Financial Threshold: € 5 million
 Focus Area - Information and Communication Technology. Financial Threshold: € 5 million
- Priority Axis 3: Focus Area - Female participation in the labour market. Financial threshold: € 7 million.
 Focus Area - Promoting an inclusive society. Financial threshold: € 6 million.
 Focus Area - Addressing labour market distortions and ensuring that work pays. Financial threshold: € 2 million.

The Innovative Activities Focus Area is also open under Operational Programme II, but project proposals submitted under this area must be linked to one of the other focus areas open under this call. For further information kindly contact Daniel Azzopardi (Daniel.azzopardi@gov.mt) or Claire Hollier (Claire.hollier@gov.mt).